



2023

ELEVATE OAK PARK

Parks & Recreation Master Plan & Asset Management Study



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Andrew Cissell, Chairperson

Mickey Alderman

Juanita Bell

Theresa Lorick-Henderson

Alexander Simpson

Ajai Tice

Dwight Thomas

Carian Warren

Beverly Wiggins

Julie Edgar, Mayor Pro Tem

Laurie Stasiak, Recreation Director

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

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Michael Seligson

Howard Tkatch

Gary Torgow, Chairperson

Erik Tungate, City Manager

Marie Walters-Gill

Staff Liaisons: Kim Marrone, Director of Community and Economic Development

Salam Habhab, City Planner

Recording Secretary: Jo Lynn, Deputy City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

Marian McClellan, Mayor

Julie Edgar, Mayor Pro Tem

Carolyn Burns, Council Member

Solomon Radner, Council Member

Shaun Whitehead, Council Member

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Erik Tungate, City Manager

Crystal VanVleck, Deputy City Manager of Community Services

Ebony Duff, City Attorney

CITY STAFF

Laurie Stasiak, Recreation Director

Maralee Rosemond, Recreation Coordinator

Courtney Flynn, Communications Director

Kim Marrone, Director of Community and Economic Development

Robert Barrett, Municipal Services Director

David DeCoster, Director of Public Works

Kara Grisamar, City Engineer

CONSULTING PARTNERS

SmithGroup (2022)

PROS Consulting (2022)



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Elevate Oak Park (2023 – 2027), is an update from the previous Five Year Master Plan of 2018 – 2022 and an extension of the City of Oak Park's Master Plan. Elevate Oak Park is based on a planning process that involved input from the community, stakeholders, and staff, building upon the needs, concerns and wishes of these groups. The Plan contains key findings and information gathered from the recently completed community needs survey, public meetings, demographic analysis, current, historic and future information and trends, and a comprehensive inventory and analysis of existing parks, facilities, recreation programs, and maintenance operations. Elevate Oak Park is intended to meet the state requirements for community recreation planning that are necessary to gain eligibility for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In addition, this Plan serves as a tool to guide the Recreation Department over the next five years, to better serve the community and provide quality parks, facilities and programs.



01.

PURPOSE &
BACKGROUND

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Elevate Oak Park is a collaborative effort by the Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council. It serves multiple purposes, including a guide for decision-making, public transparency and awareness of the City's current conditions and needs, a funding tool, and an aspiring vision for the future.

This Plan is the document that sets the vision and action plans for realizing the full potential of Oak Park's parks and recreation services and facilities now and in the future. The Plan presents an inventory of existing facilities and programs within the City, as well as an evaluation of current opportunities and needs and the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs.

Strongly rooted in findings from community engagement efforts, the Plan identifies the trends in the City and the Recreation Department's goals for future improvements. The trends specifically address social, demographic and cultural changes; the changing economy in the region; new uses for technology; the City's desire for non-motorized connections; and continuing the City's commitment to equity and accessibility.

Although there are other public and private organizations that provide recreation opportunities for the citizens of Oak Park, the jurisdiction of Elevate Oak Park includes only City-owned and operated recreation facilities and programs.

The Plan is intended to enable the City to continue to apply for funding assistance from various agencies to work towards implementing the documented recommendations and fulfilling the Recreation goals. This Plan provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

HOW THE PLAN WILL BE USED

With the purpose of providing a vision and policies that guide Oak Park parks and recreation, this Plan is intended to be used by many community groups to help realize that vision. This Plan will be used:

By the Public:

- To understand the goals and objectives of the Recreation Department and the community's common vision
- To understand the maintenance, operation and programming obligations
- To learn about the parks and recreation decision-making process

By City Staff:

- To measure success and planned accomplishments
- To plan for staff and funding allocations
- To utilize the existing park facility inventory
- To utilize the existing park programming inventory
- To plan future park improvements

By City Council:

- To guide future planning decisions around the vision for parks, the community center and the trail system as assets to the community and it's residents
- As a reference to the Master Plan guiding land use

By the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- To utilize as a guiding document for activities
- As policy framework for committee priorities

By Partners and Advocates

- To understand the goals and objectives of the Recreation Department and the community's common vision
- For projects and community design, development standards
- To meet gaps in parks and recreation services
- To serve as a framework for continuing meaningful partnerships with current and future partners

VISION, MISSION & GOALS

*“Together, let’s re-imagine a park system that’s **vibrant, equitable, flexible, sustainable & uniquely Oak Park.**”*

GOALS

Through the Elevate Oak Park engagement process, the following goals and objectives were formulated for the next five years. The goals and objectives are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed by residents, community stakeholders, City Officials, the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff. They also address observed deficiencies in the recreation resources in the area, demographic trends, current growth and forecasted development, the area’s natural and cultural resources, and recreation trends. The mission is to determine what the community needs, and work towards providing those facilities, amenities, and programs that will enhance the quality of life physically, socially, culturally, economically and psychologically for everyone in Oak Park.

These goals and objectives formulated by the community are viewed as the cornerstone of the recreation planning process, in theory they form the framework for public and private decision making. The primary goals were developed based on the responses of residents that took part in the public engagement process and the Needs Analysis Survey.



COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS

Continue to cultivate effective outreach and dialogue with community members of all ages and abilities.



PARTNERSHIPS

Expand parks and recreation resources through partnerships that provide benefits to the community and align with Oak Park’s overall vision and values.



PUBLIC SPACES & FACILITIES

Address the need for facilities to better relate to the needs and interests of Oak Park’s diverse community, and secure assets for the future.



MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Improve operational efficiencies and enhance the long-term viability of parks through innovative and sustainable practices.



PROGRAMMING

Continue to evaluate the needs and interests of Oak Park’s diverse population, ensuring programs are accessible and of interest to people of all ages and abilities.



FUNDING

Explore a variety of funding mechanisms to ensure the ongoing provision of recreation programs and quality open spaces.

PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

PLANNING PROCESS

The City of Oak Park began the development of Elevate Oak Park in 2022, when the project team met with city staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission and stakeholder groups to discuss issues and opportunities that are facing the recreation system.

Throughout the public engagement process, the project team conducted a series of analyses that explored demographics, recreation market trends, and community needs in order to vet community feedback with quantitative data. An existing condition analysis reviewed park metrics, facilities and operations to determine deficiencies in the recreation system. Benchmark cities of similar size were chosen in order to further analyze existing conditions and identify need-based gaps.

Analysis, stakeholder discussions, community meetings and public surveys heavily influenced the final concepts and recommendations of the Plan.

BY THE NUMBERS



3

Educational Institution
Stakeholder Meetings



4

City Council Meetings



4

Hybrid Community Engagement
Meetings



4

Parks and Recreation Commission
Meetings



7

Hybrid Stakeholder Meetings



127

Concept Survey Respondents



357

Statistically-Valid Survey Respondents

Choose your priorities for *mobility* within the community by placing a green dot on the ones that matter most to you.



ACCESSIBILITY

Walkable community for all, equitable access to transportation options and safe routes.



BIKE & PED INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY

Connecting neighborhoods to destinations – work, school, play.



STREETSCAPE DESIGN

Sidewalk furnishings (seating, lighting, plantings, wayfinding signage)



TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS & PARKING

Addressing the traffic impact of new development

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS



FEBRUARY 2022: PROJECT TEAM KICKOFF

Consultants and city management staff meet to discuss project intent and scope. Project team continues to touch base regularly throughout the planning process.

MARCH 2022: INITIAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Hold seven stakeholder engagement meetings to discuss the challenges and opportunities of each Priority Area. Vet what was heard with the general public at the first phase of public engagement meetings.

SPRING/SUMMER 2022: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION & SCHOOL DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT

Meet and discuss opportunities, challenges, potential design concepts and partnerships.

SUMMER 2022: STATISTICALLY VALID NEEDS ANALYSIS SURVEY

Gather data on community need through a statistically-valid mail survey.

SUMMER 2022: FINAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Create design concepts for Priority Areas based on initial community outreach. Present draft design concepts at the second phase of public engagement meetings in order to vet direction with the community.

FALL/WINTER 2022: FINAL PLAN & ADOPTION

Finalize draft plans through discussions with the Parks and Recreation Commission, city management staff and the public. Provide a 30-day review period for the community to review and comment on the Plan before adoption. Conclude the 30-day review period with a public hearing for final comment, and present findings and recommendations to City Council and Planning Commission for adoption.

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARIES

Throughout the plan, engagement summaries are placed adjacent to related topics. These summaries directly impacted the direction of design concepts and policy recommendations.

Stakeholder Discussions

Stakeholder meetings addressed the seven priority areas, and each stakeholder group was comprised of residents who lived near, or frequently used the Priority Area. There were seven meetings in total (one meeting for each Priority Area), and they were offered both online and in-person. Each meeting described the goals of the project, and provided an opportunities and challenges mapping exercise for participants to engage with. Precedent images were vetted and discussed for each Priority Area.

School District Discussions

The City met with Yeshiva Schools and Oak Park, Berkley and Ferndale school districts in order to discuss needs and challenges occurring on recreation land as well as coordinate shared facility use in the future.

Statistically Valid Needs Assessment Survey

ETC Institute administered a Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey for the City of Oak Park during the summer months of 2022. ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of Oak Park, collecting 357 completed surveys, with a precision of at least +/- 5.1 at the 95% level of confidence.

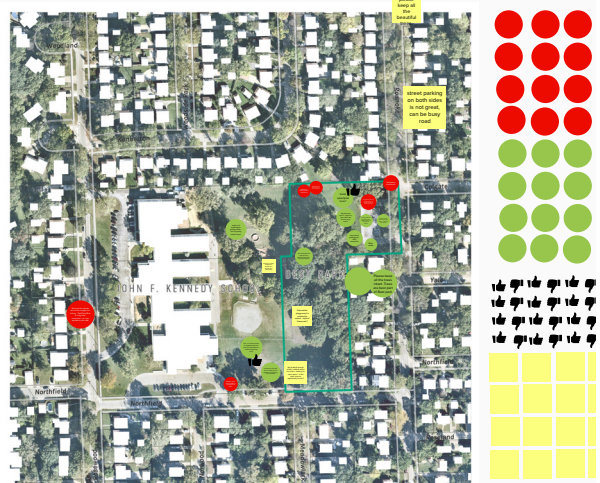
The survey summary provides insight into community need and preferences that guide the creation or modification of future recreation programs and facilities.

Community Engagement

The Elevate Oak Park planning process saw two phases of public engagement. The first phase was held directly after the conclusion of stakeholder discussions in order to vet what was heard from the stakeholders with the general public. The second phase was held in order to gain public input on draft design concepts for each Priority Area. For both phases of public engagement, two separate hybrid meetings were held at different times of the day in order to accommodate a diverse range of schedules. In-person meetings were held open-house style at the community center and Farmer's Market, and online engagement included a mixture of online discussions, meetings and an online concept survey.

After the draft was completed, a 30-day public review period was held in November, 2022. Residents were asked to comment and respond through a public survey link advertised on the city website. Generally, public comment supported the plan's recommendations, and gave further direction in regards to next steps and plan implementation. **(A copy of the public notice and review period comments can be found in the Appendix of this plan.)**

2. BEST PARK - FOCUS



Best Park Online Stakeholder Engagement: MURAL Board Mapping Activity

The background features a light green grid pattern. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent white circles of varying sizes, creating a layered, abstract effect.

02. OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

The City of Oak Park is centrally located within Metro Detroit and benefits from convenient freeway access. The City encompasses 5.18 square miles and is predominantly comprised of single-family residences. Almost all of Oak Park's residents are within two miles of the city center. Oak Park is known for its tight-knit neighborhoods, tree-lined streets, and wooded parks. The large, centrally located David H. Shepherd Park hosts the City's major events like the annual fourth of July festivities, Boo Bash, and Summer Blast. There are twelve smaller neighborhood parks that serve the neighborhoods.

The City has partnered with the Oak Park, Berkley and Ferndale school districts as well as Yeshiva Schools in order to coordinate public recreation and facility use.

The City of Oak Park leads with a culture of excellence that focuses on elevating opportunities, amenities and services for residents. The City is dedicated to providing a quality of life that its residents deserve and that inspires others to model. While it is a bedroom community in Metro Detroit, Oak Park is continually attracting new businesses and improving upon its public spaces and city services to provide a safe and desirable community to visit and live in.



Regional Consideration

The City of Oak Park was named the "fastest growing city" in the country in the late 1950's. It is optimally located in southeastern Oakland County with easy access to freeway and highway connections like I-696, US-10, and M-102 which provide regional linkages to I-75, the Southfield Freeway, and Woodward Avenue. Oak Park is adjacent to the cities of Detroit, Southfield, Berkley, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Huntington Woods, and the Charter Township of Royal Oak.

The City of Oak Park is regionally connected through a series of non-motorized routes that expand throughout Oakland County. The Oakland County Trails Master Plan has identified a framework of proposed routes that will improve regional connectivity to open space, parks, community resources and employment centers. Proposed non-motorized trail frameworks like the Joe Louis Rouge Greenway and the Rouge River Greenway have potential to directly connect the City of Oak Park to the City of Detroit and other Wayne County municipalities.

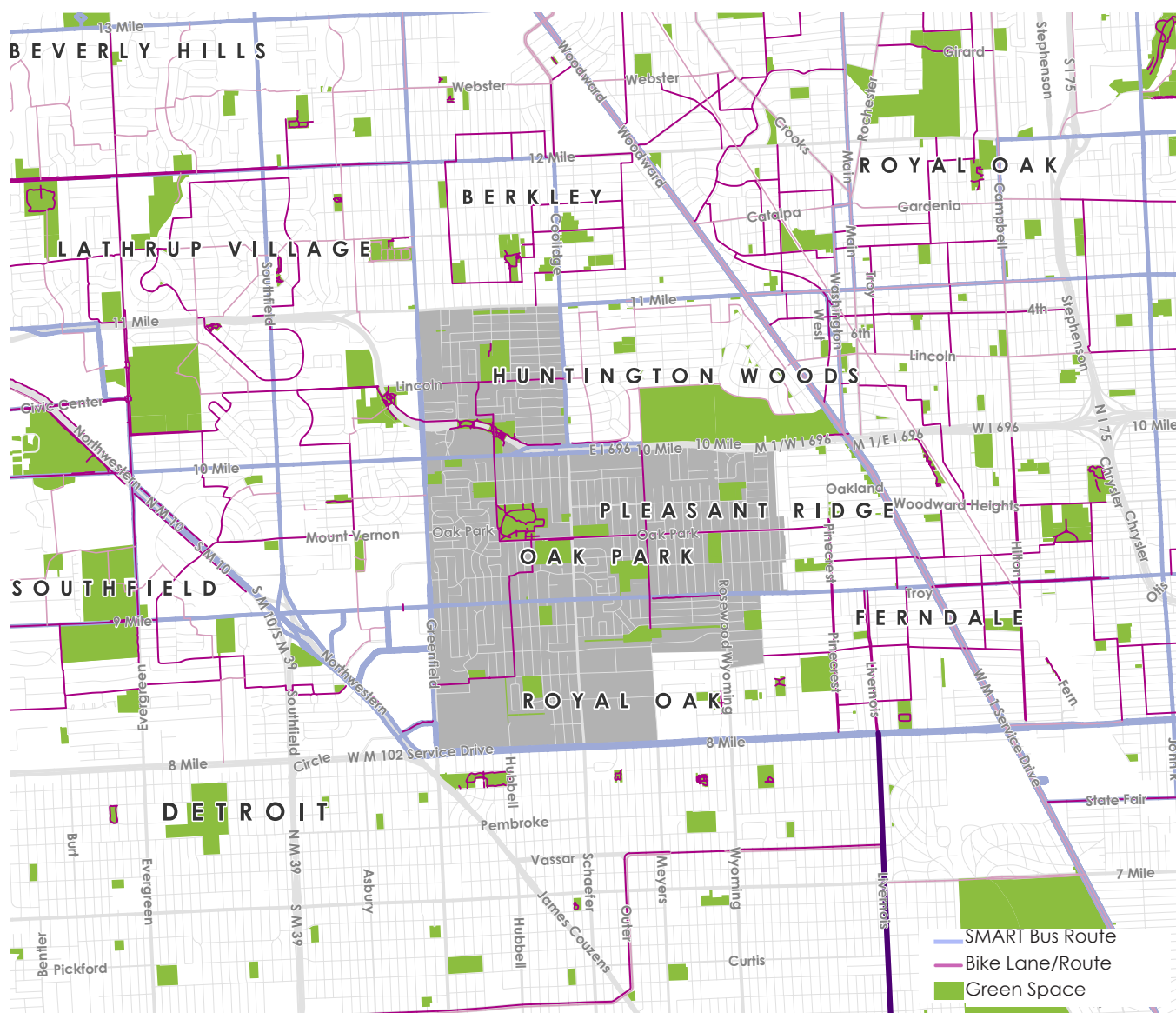


Figure 2.1: Regional Non-Motorized Context

Local Connections

Various non-motorized routes connect the community along corridors like Scotia Rd and Oak Park Blvd. Bike lanes connect the eastern portion of the city to Ferndale on Nine Mile, benefiting from the Nine Mile Redesign public improvement project. Oak Park's unique system of greenbelts along major corridors provides opportunities for off-street non-motorized connections within the city's trail system.

Retail nodes, employment centers, multi-family housing and other community destinations are serviced by SMART Bus Routes, connecting residents both locally and regionally.



Figure 2.2: Hierarchy & Groupings

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

DEMOGRAPHICS & LOCAL CONTEXT

A key component of Elevate Oak Park ("Plan") is a Demographic & Recreation Trends Analysis. The purpose of this analysis is to provide the Recreation Department ("Department") insight into the general makeup of the population they serve and identify market trends in recreation. It also helps quantify the market in and around the City of Oak Park ("City") and assists in providing a better understanding of the types of parks, facilities, and programs / services that are most appropriate to satisfy the needs of residents.

This analysis is two-fold – it aims to answer the who and the what. First, it assesses the demographic characteristics and population projections of residents to understand who the Recreation Department serves. Secondly, recreational trends are examined on a national and local level to understand what the population served wants to do. Findings from this analysis establish a fundamental understanding that provide a basis for prioritizing the community need for parks, trails, facilities, and recreation programs.

The Demographic Analysis describes the population within the City of Oak Park, Michigan. This assessment is reflective of the City's total population and its key characteristics such as age segments, race, ethnicity, and income levels. It is important to note that future projections are based on historical patterns and unforeseen circumstances during or after the time of the analysis could have a significant bearing on the validity of the projected figures.

The infographic below provides an overview of the City's populace based on current estimates of the 2022 population. A further analysis of each of these demographic characteristics (population, age segments, race, ethnicity, and income) can be found in the appendix.

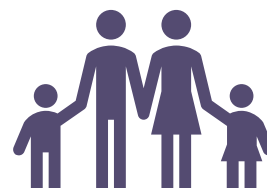


POPULATION

- **29,560** population in 2022
- **0.09%** Growth rate Since 2010
- **30,778** Population By 2036

AGE

- Median age: **39.8**
- Largest age segment: **35-54**
- **Continued growth of 75+ through 2036**

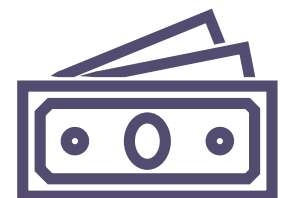


RACE/ETHNICITY

- **37%** White Alone
- **56%** Black Alone
- **2%** Hispanic

INCOME

- **Median household income: \$57,389**
- **Per capita income: \$32,115**



Population & Households

The City's population has had modest growth between 2010 to 2020, with an average annual growth rate of 0.09%. This is far below the national annual growth rate of 0.74% (from 2010-2022). Like the population, the total number of households also experienced a slight increase of 0.34% over the past 11 years.

The national average of household annual growth is 0.76%. Currently, the population is estimated at 29,880 individuals living within 12,569 households. Projecting ahead, the total population growth is expected to continue increasing at a small rate. By 2037, the City's population is projected to be at 30,583 residents living within 13,445 households. **(See Figures 2 and 3)**

Population and Average Annual Growth Rate

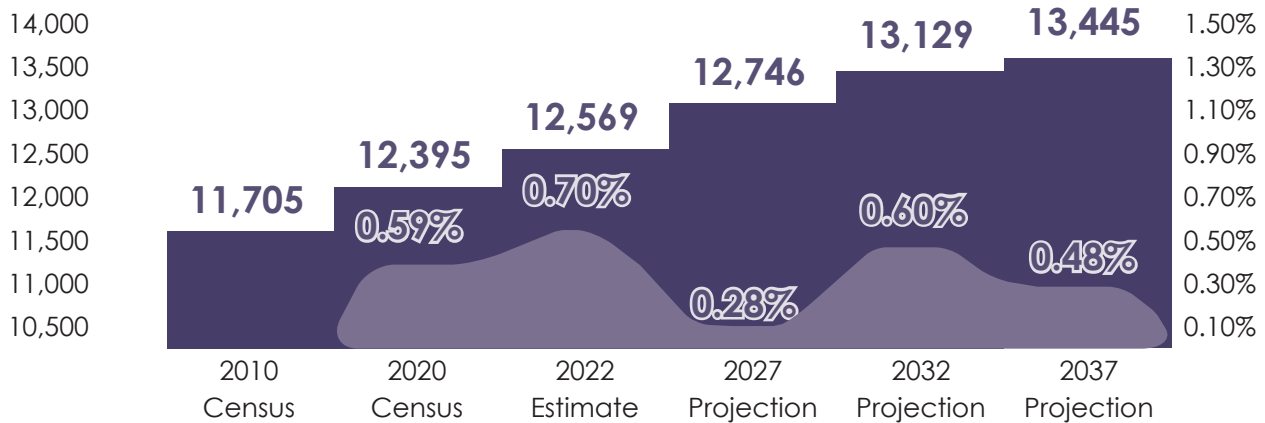


Figure 2.3: Service Area's Population & Growth Rates, PROS Demographic & Trends Report

Households and Average Annual Growth Rate

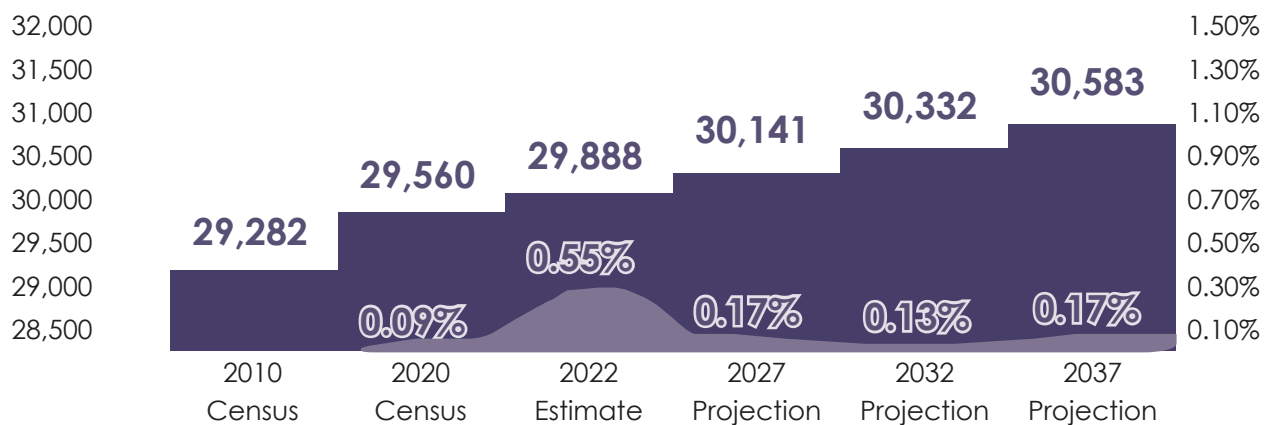
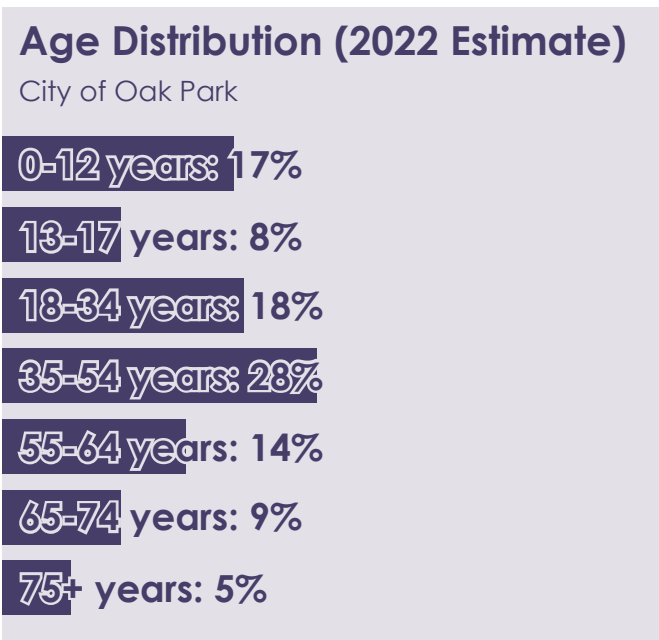


Figure 2.4: Service Area's Households & Growth Rates, PROS Demographic & Trends Report

Age

Evaluating the City's age segmentation, the population exhibits a minor aging trend, with approximately 28% of all residents being 55+ years old. The City's current median age is estimated at 39.8 years old which is slightly older than U.S. median age (38.8 years old). Assessing the population, the City is projected to continue a gradual aging trend. Within the next 15 years the 55+ population is expected to be around 35% of the City's total population. This is expected to be a result of increased life expectancies and most middle-aged adult residents "aging in place" while their children move elsewhere. (See appendix for more information)

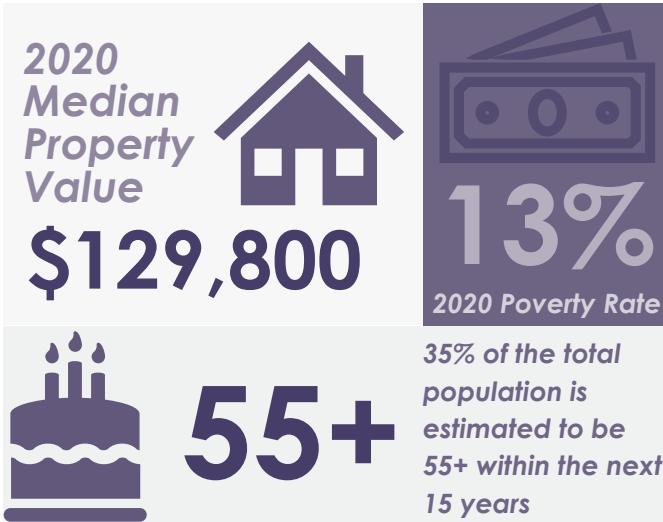


Data Source: PROS Demographic & Trends Report

Other Factors

Several other demographic factors and community trends within Oak Park are notable in terms of their potential influence on parks and recreation programs and facilities. These include:

- **Household Income:** The City's per capita income (\$32,115) and median household income (\$57,389) are both lower than the state (\$32,854 and \$59,234) and national averages (\$35,672 and \$65,712).
- **Race/Ethnicity:** The 2022 estimate shows that 56% of the population falls into the Black or African American Alone category, with White Alone (37%) representing the second largest category. Predictions for 2037 expect the population to become slightly more diverse, with a decrease in the White Alone population, accompanied by minor increases to all other race categories



Data Source: 2022 PROS Demographic & Trends Report

RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS

The Trends Analysis provides an understanding of national, regional, and local recreational trends as well recreational interest by age segments. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trend data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics.

LOCAL SPORT & LEISURE MARKET POTENTIAL

The following summaries describe sport and leisure market potential data for Oak Parks' residents, as provided by ESRI. The Market Potential Index (MPI) shows the likelihood that an adult resident will participate in certain activities when compared to the U.S. national average.

Overall, when analyzing the City's MPIs, the General Sports MPI data demonstrates well above average market potential index (MPI) numbers. When assessing each category market potential charts, four activities scored above 100. These above average MPI scores show that the City's residents have a rather strong participation presence when it comes to sports in football, basketball, softball, and baseball. Fitness had one activity score above 100, which was Zumba. These results become significant when the Recreation Department considers starting up innovative programs or building new facilities, giving them a strong tool to estimate resident attendance and participation. (See appendix for more detail)

- **General Sports.** Market potential above or equal to the national average in Football, Basketball, Softball and Baseball
- **Fitness Market Potential.** Zumba scores above national average in market potential. The three lowest scores are Weightlifting, Pilates and Swimming
- **Outdoor Activity Market Potential.** Overall, Oak Park is below the national average in all activities recorded. The most popular outdoor activities are Horseback Riding followed by Canoeing/Kayaking and then Freshwater Fishing
- **Commercial Recreation Market Potential.** Five activities scored above national average in recreation market potential, including:
 - » Attended a Dance Performance
 - » Attended Adult Education Course
 - » Danced/Went Dancing
 - » Visited a Theme Park
 - » Did Painting/Drawing

HOW DID COVID-19 IMPACT RECREATION TRENDS IN THE U.S.?

Approximately 232.6 million people ages 6 and over reported being active in 2021, which is a 1.3% increase from 2020 and the greatest number of active Americans in the last 5 years. There were more things to do as outdoor activities thrived, fitness at home became more popular, and team sports started back up after the COVID-19 hiatus.

Water sports had the largest gain in participation rates. Outdoor sports continued to grow with 53.9% of the U.S. population participating. This rate remains higher than pre-pandemic levels, with the **largest contributor being trail running.**

Generationally, fitness sports continue to be the go-to means of exercise for Boomers, Gen X, and Millennials. Over half of the Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z generation participated in one type of outdoor activity. Team sports were heavily dominated by generation Gen Z.

NATIONAL TRENDS

For more information, see the appendix.

RECREATION

	Participation Level
Basketball	27.1 Million
Golf	25.1 Million
Tennis	22.6 Million
Baseball	15.5 Million
Outdoor Soccer	12.5 Million

	Five-Year Participation Trend (2016-2021)
Pickleball	71.2%
Golf-Entertainment Venues	51.3%
Tennis	25.1%
Ultimate Frisbee	-40.4%
Roller Hockey	-26.1%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	-23.8%

GENERAL FITNESS

	Participation Level
Fitness Walking	115.8 Million
Treadmill	53.6 Million
Dumbbell Free Weights	52.6 Million
Running	48.9 Million
Jogging	48.9 Million
Stationary Cycling	32.4 Million

	Five-Year Participation Trend (2016-2021)
Trail Running	45.9%
Yoga	30.8%
Dance, Step & Choreographed Exercise	13.3%
Group Stationary Cycling	-33.5%
Traditional Triathlon	-26.4%
Cardio Kickboxing	-26.1%

OUTDOOR RECREATION

	Participation Level
Hiking	58.6 Million
Bicycling	42.7 Million
Fishing	40.8 Million
Camping	35.9 Million
Vehicle Camping	16.3 Million

	Five-Year Participation Trend (2016-2021)
Day Hiking	39.3%
Camping	36%
Skateboarding	35.8%
Adventure Racing	-39.1%
Traditional Climbing	-14.9%
In-Line Roller Skating	-8.2%

Data Source: 2022 PROS Demographic & Trends Report

03.

ADMINISTRATION

The following describes how recreational activities and resources are governed and administrated within Oak Park.

Public Act 156 of 1917 (Section 123.51 Public recreation system; powers of municipality) authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. The act states:

Sec. 1. Any city, village, county or township may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; vote and expend funds for the operation of such system.

CITY COMMISSIONS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The intent of this Commission is to provide advice to the Recreation Department, based on feedback from all segments of the City's diverse population. The Commission will develop strategies for connecting with representatives from City Council, neighborhood and school groups, organizations, synagogues, churches and other groups that are representative of the city's diversity, and will actively encourage citizen participation. The Commission will support the values of sustainability, equity, engagement, and sound economics in advocating for quality and safe recreation programs and facilities for the City of Oak Park. The Commission will assist with planning, promoting, executing and evaluating of public recreation, parks, programs and other special events.

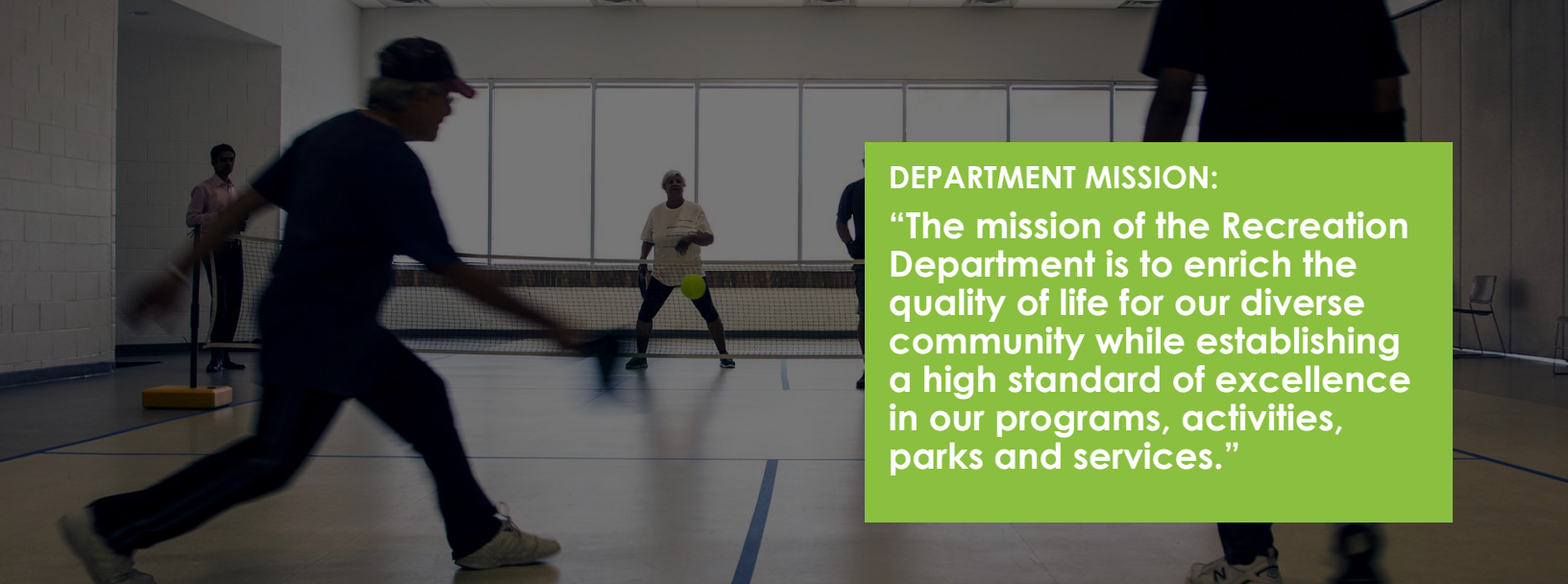
This Commission was appointed by City Council and established by Ordinance O-17-647 on June 19, 2017, as a combination of the previously existing Independence Day Commission and the Recreation Advisory Board. CM-06-244-17.

The Commission is composed of 9 members. In addition, one member of the City Council, as well as the Recreation Director, shall be appointed to serve as ex-officio members, but shall not be entitled to vote. The Commission members serve three year terms, which expire on August 31st. The Commission meets the third Wednesday of the month, at 7 p.m. at the Oak Park Community Center.



The following individuals are active members of this Commission:

- Andrew Cissell, Chairperson
- Mickey Alderman
- Juanita Bell
- Theresa Lorick-Henderson
- Alexander Simpson
- Ajai Tice
- Dwight Thomas
- Carian Warren
- Beverly Wiggins
- Julie Edgar, Mayor Pro Tem
- Laurie Stasiak, Recreation Director



DEPARTMENT MISSION:

“The mission of the Recreation Department is to enrich the quality of life for our diverse community while establishing a high standard of excellence in our programs, activities, parks and services.”

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Two city departments play major roles in the provision and administration of parks and recreation: The Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works.

Providing well-rounded recreational experiences and quality facilities for residents is the number one priority for the Recreation Department. The City aims to improve the quality of life for residents by continuously upholding a high standard of excellence in programs, activities and special events, and by providing safe, clean, well-maintained parks. Oak Park embraces and celebrates the diversity of its community, and all programs strive to reflect the needs of all residents equitably. Promoting diversity and inclusion in recreation events and programs creates a strong sense of community, connectedness and social cohesion. ***Below is a list of initiatives of the Recreation Department developed to support the vision of Oak Park's future:***

- Continue collaboration in programming through intergovernmental agreements with the City of Ferndale and the City of Hazel Park. These cooperative agreements result in increased programs, participation, and maximize the use of public resources.
- Combine neighboring recreation programs to allow for sharing of departmental resources and offer more regionally based programs, thus maximizing available space and assets.
- Collaborate with community and faith-based organizations to offer diversity-related programs and events.
- Continue to foster a cooperative relationship with the schools and encourage shared use of valued resources for students, faculty, and community members. Schools are an important reflection on the community and the City is fortunate to have several parks within close proximity to Oak Park, Ferndale, and Berkley School districts' facilities.
- Create activities that capitalize on the uniqueness, amenities and character of specific parks.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships; collaborate with community groups, businesses, healthcare facilities, organizations, Oakland County Parks, MParks (Michigan State association), and the Department of Natural Resources to expand programs and special events.
- Utilize volunteers to enhance program services and provide volunteers with an experience that will strengthen their connection and loyalty with the Recreation Department.
- Create community; building relationships with local businesses that provide alternate sources of revenue to provide community events at no cost or low cost to residents.
- Work with other city departments to maintain, enhance, and create safe city parks and resources to ensure environments for optimal program opportunities for our residents and guests

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works, David DeCoster, is responsible for the supervision and management of the Department of Public Works. This includes support and response to the City Manager in all areas of Public Works. The Department of Public Works has five divisions: Streets, Water Supply, Parks and Forestry, Motor Pool, and Facilities Maintenance.

Streets Division

The Streets Division's major responsibility is construction, operation and maintenance of over 86 miles of residential and major streets and city sidewalks. This includes snow removal, sidewalk maintenance, traffic sign installation, pavement striping, refuse collection stations, and supervision of rubbish and disposal service contracts.

Parks & Forestry

This division is in charge of the control and regulation of trees, including planting. This division is also responsible for the removal, development, maintenance, management and operation of parks, boulevards, municipal parking lots and markets.

Motor Pool

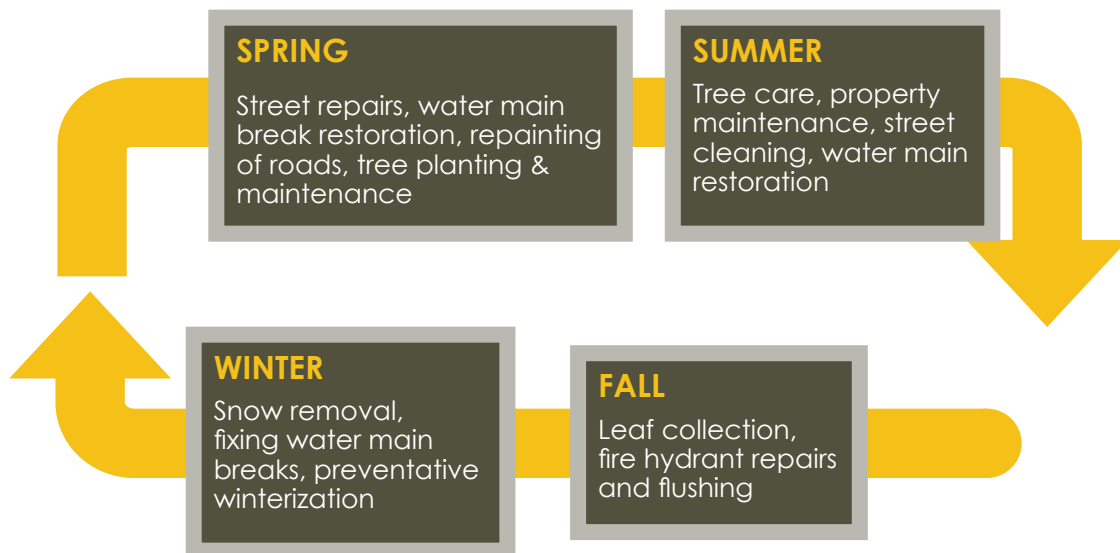
The Motor Pool Division is responsible for the purchase and maintenance of the City's fleet.

Facilities Maintenance

The Department of Public Works cleans and maintains 115 acres of public land, comprising nine City parks and the property around municipal offices and facilities. This responsibility includes services ranging from cutting the grass and landscaping to maintaining and cleaning park pavilions and picnic tables.

Water Supply

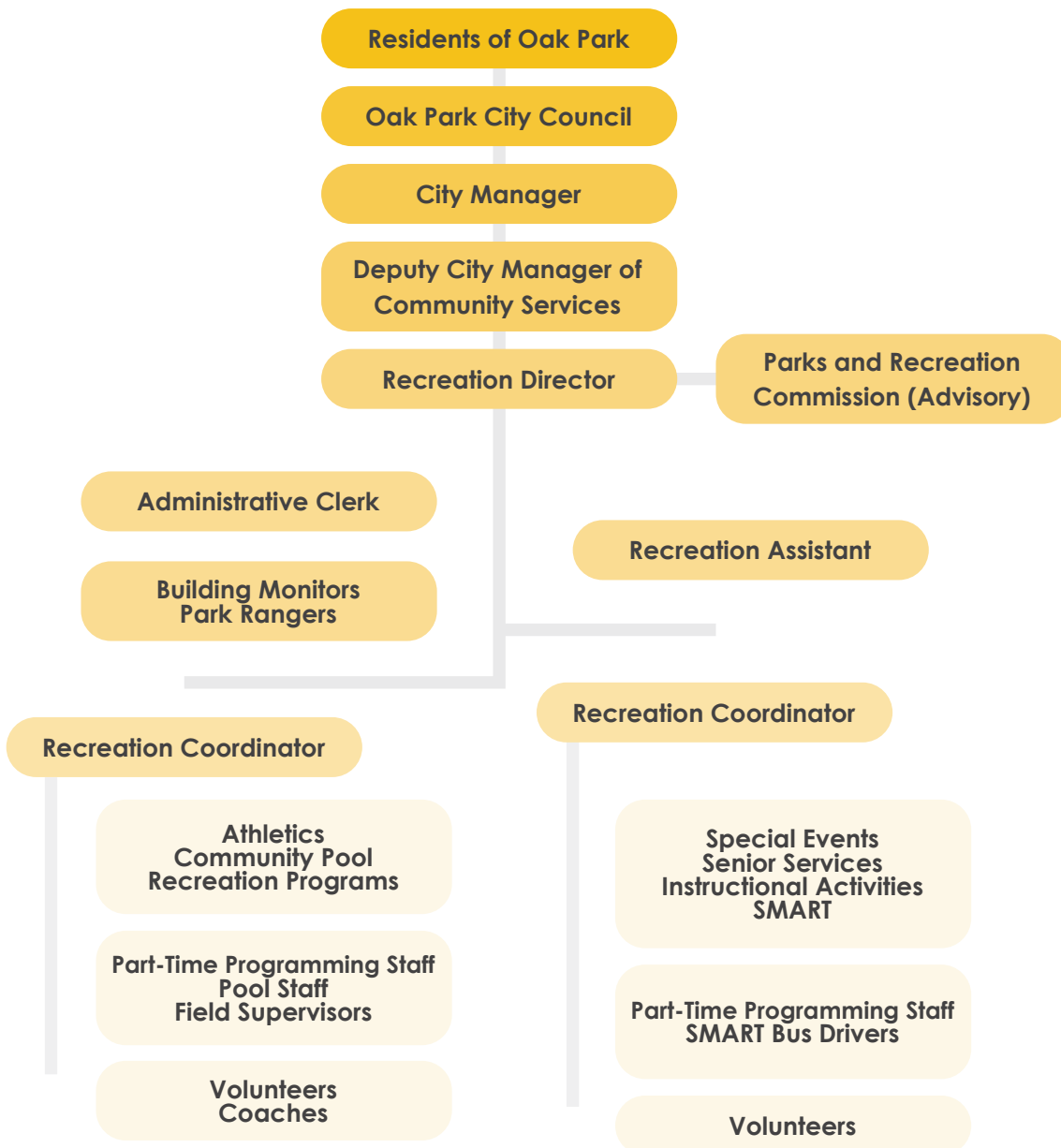
This division is responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of City water mains, service connections, meter installation, and all other facilities pertaining to the City water supply system. The Water/Sewer Division is also responsible for all pumping and storage facilities and is responsible for the pumping of water into and through the City water distribution system. All of Oak Park is served by public water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer facilities. Water is treated and supplied to Oak Park by GLWA.



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Recreation Department is headed by the Recreation Director, who plans, develops and directs the municipal recreation program; surveys the community's recreation needs and interests; and maintains recreation facilities.

All capital improvement budgets and Master Plans are subject to approval by the Oak Park Planning Commission and City Council. The Recreation Department Organization Chart (below) describes the complete structure of staffing.



ANNUAL & PROJECTED BUDGETS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

The City of Oak Park's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning tool which is analyzed annually and revised accordingly during the budgeting process. The goal is to identify and schedule capital improvements over a six-year period. The CIP is an opportunity to formulate strategic long-term policy decisions that extend beyond the current fiscal year. Each year, the City of Oak Park invests significant time and resources to design, construct, and maintain the infrastructure and facilities needed to deliver municipal services to residents and businesses. Because of the high costs associated with building and maintaining capital assets, the City must carefully balance the need for such assets with requirements to sustain a strong financial position.

The CIP can be quite useful as a primary guide in implementing the Master Plan and helps to position the City for potential federal and state funding. With thoughtful foresight and review as a result of a CIP, the many outstanding capital projects that communities are faced with implementing every year, can be viewed as one package, rather than as small, fragmented groups or lists, with no unified sense of focus and direction. The CIP often avoids reactive planning, and instead replaces it with balanced initiatives.

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Quality of life initiatives, such as those represented by parks, open space, and trails projects, are an important component of the Capital Improvement Program. The Recreation Department offers ball fields, picnic grounds and playgrounds. Funding for parks, open space, and cultural events comes from the dedicated Recreation millage, program and rental fees, and sponsorship dollars.

Budget & Expenditures

The table below summarizes the Recreation Department's expenditures for the next three fiscal years. Expenditures are limited to operational items such as salaries and benefits, office and program materials and supplies, utilities, facility and equipment maintenance.

Revenues are generated from program fees and charges, facility rental fees, grants, donations, sponsorships and a portion from city taxes. The operating budget for the Recreation Department is adopted annually by the City Council for the fiscal year, which runs from July 1st to June 30th. Capital improvements are introduced each year into the Operation Budget from the City's five year Capital Improvement Program (see **Chapter 4: Action Program** for a full list of CIP projects).

EXPENDITURES	YEARS		
Program	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Recreation Admin.	\$431,749	\$440,258	\$447,615
Athletics	\$30,859	\$30,872	\$31,164
Outdoor Recreation	\$85,351	\$83,950	\$85,256
Instructional	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Special Events	\$75,800	\$75,800	\$75,800
Municipal Pool	\$139,603	\$139,736	\$141,848
Senior Citizen Services	\$58,060	\$58,186	\$58,989
Total Expenses	\$846,422	\$853,802	\$865,672

REVENUE	YEARS		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Recreation Programs, Rentals, Sponsorships	\$389,500	\$389,500	\$389,500
Property Tax	\$264,670	\$270,045	\$275,525

Figure 3.1: Recreation Department's Expenditures(2022-2025)

FUNDING SOURCES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE (MDNR) GRANTS

The Recreation Department has received 9 Michigan Department of Natural Resource grants for development of projects since 1972.

GRANT NUMBER	APPLICATION YEAR	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	GRANT AMOUNT	CURRENT USE/CONDITION
26-00296	1972	Major Park: Combination restroom/shelter building	\$18,300.00	Shelter in fair condition, some lights were replaced in 2017. The sliding gate/bathrooms/and kitchen are all in fair condition but could use improvements. This shelter has a high volume of usage continually throughout the summer.
26-00612	1975	Best Park: Lighted magic square, and LWCF sign	\$20,569.52	Magic square has been removed.
26-00613	1975	Tyler Park: Develop two lighted tennis courts, and LWCF sign	\$21,001.37	No longer have tennis courts at Tyler Park, two baseball fields and a soccer field.
26-00614	1975	Major Park: Develop lighting at five existing tennis courts, and LWCF sign	\$11,085.80	Tennis courts in poor condition but lighting system still works adequately.
26-00866	1977	Major Park: Develop less than one acre for one basketball court, and LWCF sign	\$2,820.00	Outdoor basketball courts have been moved. We have 5 total hoops, two-full court and one half-court section.
BF89-283	1989	Shepherd Park Infrastructure: Replace ballfield lights at Merton Colburn Field, replace fencing at Merton Colburn and CP#2 ballfield, replace handicapped-capped accessible asphalt path through nature area	\$81,300.00	Asphalt is in fair condition. Fencing has some issues with it becoming raised up and rusting. Lighting structures are in good shape and used on a regular basis, some individual lights were replaced in 2022.
CM00-156	2000	Pool Renovation: Renovate the city's outdoor 50-meter pool and diving tank	\$495,000.00	Pool is used 7 days a week during the summer months. Some patchwork repairs were made in 2016 and 2017 including the zero depth area and locker room floors. New renovations need to be made moving forward including the pool deck area, the pump room, the deep areas, the kiddie features, and new filter sand.
26-01685	2008	Key Park Play Equipment: Development of play equipment at Key Park	\$50,000.00	Fair amount of usage, and the equipment is in fair condition. However there is some graffiti and it needs some general upkeep and maintenance.
26-01844	2020	Connector Park: development of Oak Park Connector Park	\$100,000	The park is not yet developed. The City is awaiting review of bid documents.

Figure 3.2: Michigan DNR Grants

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES & GRANTS

In addition to MDNR funding, the following grants and funding sources have supported the maintenance and development of Oak Park parks:

GRANT SOURCE	APPLICATION YEAR	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	GRANT AMOUNT	CURRENT USE/ CONDITION
Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund	2019	9 Mile Seneca Pocket Park: Fund the DNA climbing structure	\$50,000	Condition: excellent
KABOOM! Play Everywhere Grant	2019	9 Mile Seneca Pocket Park: Fund the DNA climbing structure	\$65,000	Condition: excellent
Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund	2021	9 Mile Linear Park: Fund the various recreation amenities throughout the park	\$45,000	Condition: excellent
Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund	2021	Mobile Recreation Program: Fund equipment and program supplies	\$20,000	Program was soft launched summer of 2022
Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign (in partnership with MEDC)	2021	9 Mile Linear Park: Fund amenities and public art	\$100,000	Condition: excellent

Figure 3.3: Additional Funding Sources



Figure 3.4: Nine Mile Redesign Concept Rendering

PRIVATE & PUBLIC SUPPORT

ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers continue to be a valuable resource to the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department intends to enhance the current volunteer program by actively recruiting volunteers to provide services such as organizing and event planning, event oversight and administrative assistance to the Recreation team.

The Recreation Department intends to create a more structured volunteer program, with a bank of available volunteers to help create a culture of civic involvement.



RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Recreation Department has developed many partnerships throughout the region to enhance the delivery of services to the public. It will continue to partner with adjacent municipalities, community and faith-based organizations, schools, area businesses, Oakland County Parks, MParks, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and others to enhance and expand programs and special events. Examples include:

- Collaboration with the City of Ferndale, Southfield and Hazel Park through intergovernmental agreements resulting in increased programming and maximizing the use of public resource like Oak Park indoor aquatic space.
- Cooperative relationship with three school districts within Oak Park (Oak Park, Ferndale and Berkley) to encourage shared use of valued resources such as sports and recreational amenities for students, faculty, and community members.
- Partnership with the Cities of Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge and Hazel Park to provide a combined sports league which ensures more teams and participation, utilizing shared resources among the cities. League play included soccer, basketball, t-ball and baseball.
- Coordination with Oakland County to incorporate mobility, recreation, infrastructure and utility plans at the local level, securing state and local funding for implementation (most recently seen in the Oak Park Complete Streets Plan). Partnership with Oakland County also encourages participation in county-wide programming, special events, and sharing of resources. The City is working with the Oakland County on a long term agreement for a partnership and investment to Shepherd Park.

The background features a light green grid pattern. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent white circles of varying sizes, creating a layered, abstract effect.

04.

**RECREATION &
PROGRAMMING**

COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION ASSET ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW

Oak Park's recreation system is composed of around 100 acres of parkland, with 12 distinct parks offering athletic fields, courts, play structures, picnic areas, trails and wildlife habitats. The park system also features a unique arrangement of greenbelts, which exist as open space currently, serving as natural community connectors. This land provides a framework for potential off-road trail system connections in the future. Greenbelts within the community include:

- Greenfield Greenbelt
- Albany Greenbelt
- Greenbriar Greenbelt
- Kingston Greenbelt
- Nine Mile Linear Park (*with access to the Seneca and Sherman Pocket Parks*)

In recent years, the City has identified the need to expand its park and trail system. Through the Nine Mile Redesign project, concept designs for the Nine Mile Connector Park have been identified and prioritized.

METHODOLOGY

Maintaining a complete inventory of recreation facilities is an essential component of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It provides a base of information to use in developing the action plan. Understanding what facilities are available to the residents of the City of Oak Park will assist in the future decision-making process.

Inventory from the 2018-2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was updated based on planning team site visits and documentation of trails, parks and green space within the Oak Park system. The recreation asset analysis includes several components for all community-owned parks and recreation facilities:

- Park Name
- Size in acres or length of linear parks
- A description of the general purpose or use of each park
- The park's primary service area
- The type and number of recreation and support facilities, including size, condition, and ADA accessibility of each facility

For a full summary of the asset inventory, see the chart on the following pages. **For a more in depth description of each site, see pg. 56-71 of Chapter 5, Our Future**

ASSET INVENTORY

Park Classifications

Park classifications are based on use and acreage and are standardized by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Pocket Park or “mini parks” are the smallest type of park (1.5 acres or less), designed to serve a specific age group or function.

Neighborhood Parks are typically smaller in size, ranging from 5-10 acres in size. These parks serve residents in a variety of age groups within the surrounding neighborhood. Uses include play and picnic areas, ball fields, open space for field games, shelters, and walking paths.

Specialty Parks are areas that include specialized recreational activities, from gardens, to outdoor theaters, nature centers and museums. There's no existing NRPA acreage standard, however Specialty Parks should serve the surrounding community and visitors alike.

Community Parks are larger than neighborhood parks and intended to serve large populations, providing a wide assortment of active and passive activities. Ranging in size from 15-50 acres, these parks are designed for both day and evening activities, providing amenities like large play structures, recreation fields, walking trails, and swimming pools and attracting users of all ages.

ADA Accessibility Grading/ DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities

The project team toured each park in the Oak Park Recreation system and developed the scoring based on visual evidence and conditions within the park. The project team based the rankings of each park on the DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities.

1. *None of the facilities meet the accessibility guidelines*
2. *Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines*
3. *Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines*
4. *The entire park meets accessibility guidelines*
5. *The entire park was developed using the principals of universal design*

Facility Condition

The project team toured each park in the Oak Park Recreation system and developed the scoring evaluation on visual evidence and conditions within the park. Below are observations and criteria for the facility rankings:

6. **Poor** – Provided aging infrastructure or paths, aging components in need of maintenance, stormwater issues, materials not up to codes such as play equipment and surfacing.
7. **Average** – Usable park elements and paths that have been maintained to codes and standards.
8. **Good** – Facilities that are accessible and park elements and paths that are maintained to codes and standards

Park Name	Address	Class		Condition		Play		Athletics								Miscellaneous Park Features												
		Classification	Size (acres)	Facility Condition	ADA Accessibility Score	Play Structure	Splash Pad	Baseball / Softball	Basketball (full)	Tennis	Pickleball	Soccer	Multi-Use Court	Handball	Volleyball	Pavilions	Stage	Restrooms	Nature Center	Ice Skating	Swimming Pool	Dog Park	Sledding	Outdoor Fitness	Paved Path Loop	Elevated Tree Walk	Indoor Recreation Space (sq. ft.)	Indoor Aquatic Space (sq. ft.)
Best Park	24271 Roanoke Ave	Neighborhood Park	3.7	Poor	1																							
Dewey Park	21600 block of Stratford Street	Neighborhood Park	6.7	Poor	1	0.5		2				1																
Key Park	23200 block of Scotia	Neighborhood Park	6.1	Average	2	1		1																				
Tyler Park	14450 block of Manhattan Street	Neighborhood Park	3.7	Average	2	0.5		2			1											1						
Victoria Park	25308 Church Street	Neighborhood Park	8.5	Good	4	2		1														1		0.21				
		Neighborhood Park Totals	28.7			4	0	4	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0.21	0			
Rothstein Park	25309 Church Street	Specialty Park	7.2	Average	3	1											1						1	0.51				
		Specialty Park Totals	7.2			1												1										
David H. Shepherd Park	24198 block of Church Street	Community Park	56.8	Average	3	3		2	2	8						2	1			1		1		0.70				
		Community Park Totals	56.8			3	0	2	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.70	0		

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	CLASS		CONDITION		PLAY		ATHLETICS								MISCELLANEOUS PARK FEATURES												
		Classification	Size (acres)	Facility Condition	ADA Accessibility Score	Play Structure	Splash Pad	Baseball / Softball	Basketball (full)	Tennis	Pickleball	Soccer	Multi-Use Court	Handball	Volleyball	Pavilions	Stage	Restrooms	Nature Center	Ice Skating	Swimming Pool	Dog Park	Sledding	Outdoor Fitness	Paved Path Loop	Elevated Tree Walk	Indoor Recreation Space (sq. ft.)	Indoor Aquatic Space (sq. ft.)
Lessenger Park	12701 Albany Street	School Park	7.3	Poor	1																1							
		School Park Totals	7.3			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
Harding Tot Lot(s)	26400 block of Harding Street	Pocket Park	0.4	Poor	1	2																						
Seneca Pocket Park	10500 Nine Mile	Pocket Park	0.11	Good	4																							
Sherman Pocket Park	8300 Nine Mile	Pocket Park	0.13	Good	4																							
Connector Park	10650 Troy	Pocket Park	0.12	Not yet built	-																							
		Pocket Park Totals	0.8			2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Oak Park Community Center	14300 Oak Park Blvd	Other		Average	3																					12,874		
Nine Mile Linear Park	West Nine Mile	Other		Good	4	2																		0.51				
Total			100.8			12	0	6	4	8	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	1.93	0	12,874	-

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Level of service is based on Oak Park's estimated 2022 population. Existing conditions and available acreage are compared to the 2022 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards for service level based on community size. Analysis results are compared to Oak Park resident priorities identified in ETC's Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey. **Generally, needs exist in all categories of parkland, outdoor/indoor facilities, and trail.**

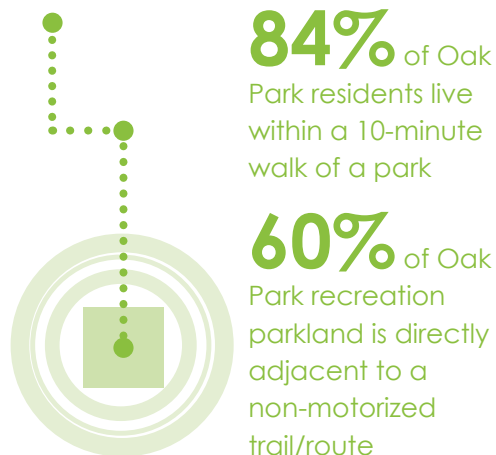
In addition, the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) Park Serve analysis gives further insight into who has access to parkland within the City, showing that **the majority of residents (84%) are within a 10-minute walk of a park.**



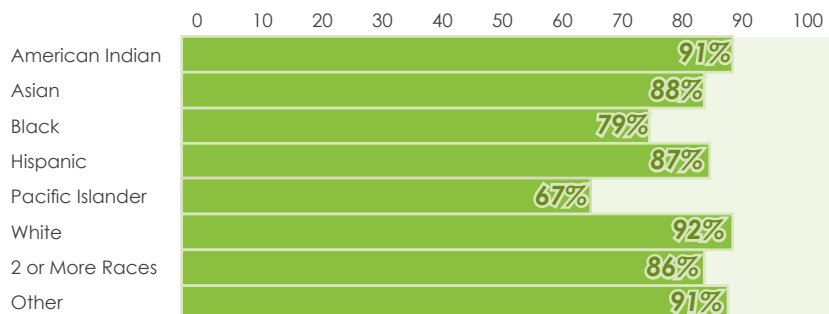
NRPA 2022 Median Metrics by Jurisdiction Population of 20,000-49,999

ITEM	CURRENT ACREAGE	SURVEY NEEDS ASSESSMENT PRIORITY	2022 ASSESSMENT	ADDITIONAL NEED
PARKLAND				
Neighborhood Parks	35.9 acres	Medium	Needs Exist	24 acres
Community Parks	56.8 acres	Medium	Needs Exist	33 acres
School Park	7.3 acres	n/a	Needs Exist	8 acres
Pocket Park	0.8 acres	n/a	Needs Exist	0.6 acres
Total Park Acres	100.8 acres	n/a	Needs Exist	65 acres
TRAILS				
Trails	1.93 miles	High	Needs Exist	5.5 miles
INDOOR FACILITIES				
Indoor Recreation	12,874 sq. ft.	High	Needs Exist	31,958 sq. ft.

Figure 4.1: Needs Assessment based on NRPA Standards and Existing Conditions



Percent of Residents within a 10-minute walk of a park by race/ethnicity



Source: Trust for Public Land

*Excludes those that report Hispanic origin (which is captured separately from race by the U.S. Census)
Source: Trust for Public Land

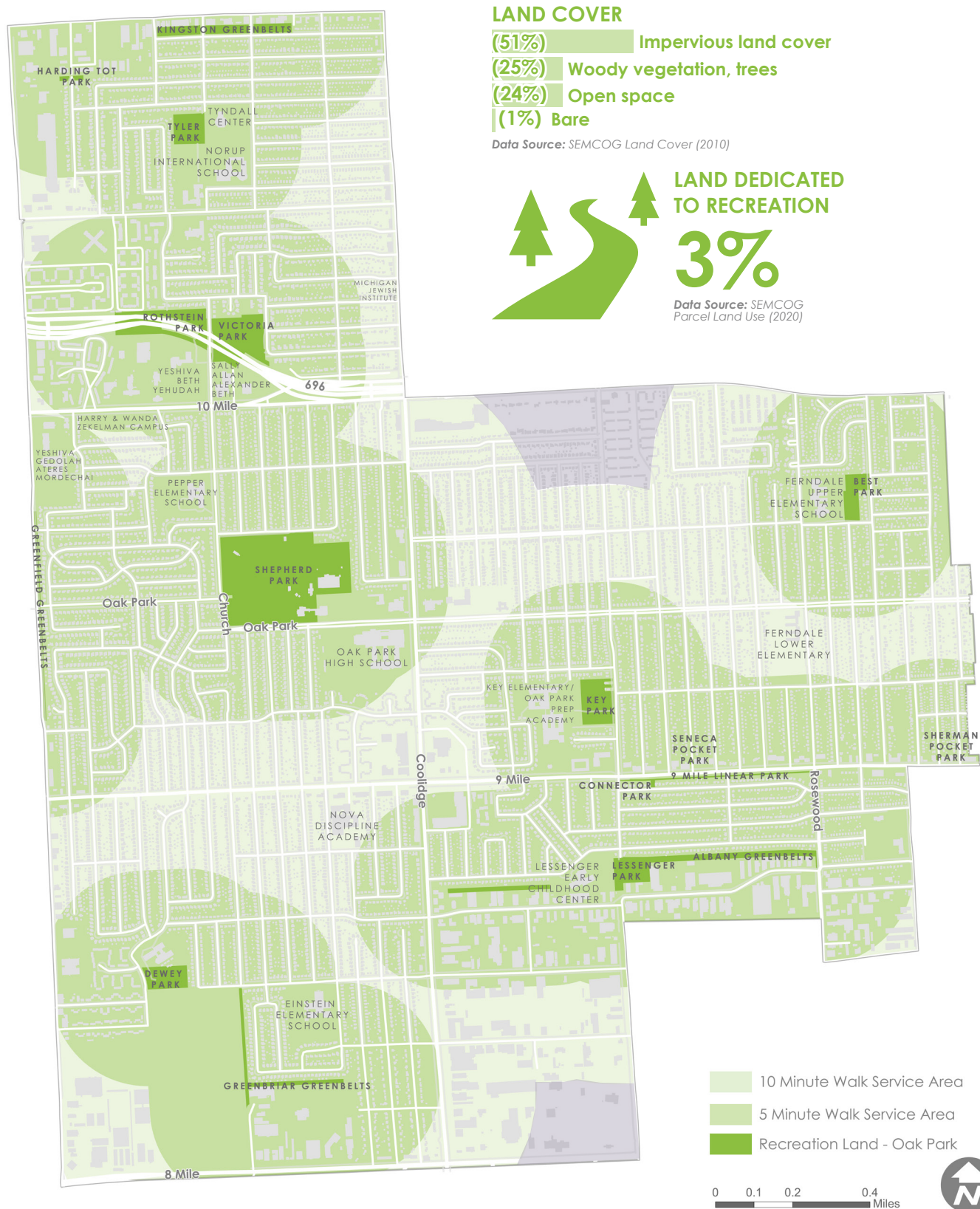


Figure 4.2: Recreation Land Primary Service Area

RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

As part of Elevate Oak Park, the consulting team conducted a Recreation Program Assessment of the services offered by the Recreation Department. The assessment offers an in-depth perspective of program and service offerings and helps identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities regarding programming. The assessment also assists in identifying core programs, program gaps within the community, key system-wide issues, areas of improvement, and future programs and services for residents and visitors.

The consulting team based these program findings and comments from a review of information provided by the Recreation Department including program descriptions, financial data, website content, and discussions with staff. For the full Program Assessment Report that addresses the program offerings from a systems perspective for the entire portfolio of programs, **see the appendix.**

AT A GLANCE:

- The Core Program Areas are well-rounded and meet many community needs.
- Program descriptions/goals effectively communicate the key benefits and desired outcomes of each Core Program Area.
- Based on findings from the statistically-valid community survey, there is a significantly high unmet need and value of importance among the community for adult fitness and wellness programs. While not as extreme as adult fitness and wellness, there is also a high unmet need and value of importance for adult art, dance, and performing arts programs.
- Current programs seem to be aligned with the community's age profile. The overall program portfolio has offerings for all ages, including many Core Program Areas that primarily serve adult and senior audiences, which make up a significant portion of the community.
- The Program Lifecycle Analysis depicts a distribution approaching the recommended distribution, but skewed towards new programs.
- Cost recovery is currently tracked for many Core Program Areas as well as Core Program Sub Areas. Staff have developed a good foundation for expanding cost recovery management as services grow and change.
- Several different pricing strategies are used, but opportunities exist to broaden the use of these strategies across all Core Program Areas.
- A broad array of marketing and communication methods are used. Active management of these methods should be used as community demographics and Recreation Department offerings change.
- The Recreation Department employs a variety of methods for gathering public input or feedback in terms of recreation programs, including satisfaction, cost recovery, and partnership goals. Additional methods that may be considered are discussed.
- The Recreation Department should consider developing a formal volunteer policy or handbook.
- The Recreation Department utilizes numerous partnerships and sponsorships, including full cost accounting and annual reporting to document of outcomes and ensure equity in partnerships.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The mission of the Recreation Department is to “enrich the quality of life for our diverse community while establishing a high standard of excellence in our programs, activities, parks and services.” In order to help achieve this mission, the Recreation Department provides a broad range of recreation and leisure programming for all ages. These program offerings are supported with dedicated spaces which includes parks, athletic facilities, aquatic facilities, community centers, and open space. See the Level of Service Analysis for a full inventory of Recreation Department assets.



EXISTING CORE PROGRAM AREAS

In discussion with the Recreation Department staff, eight Core Program Areas were identified that are currently being offered:

- **Adult Sports & Programs**
- **Aquatics**
- **Arts & Culture**
- **Fitness**
- **Rentals**
- **Seniors**
- **Special Events & Concerts**
- **Youth Activities & Sports**



Core Program Area Descriptions, Goals, & Example Programs

Core Program Areas	Description	Goals	Example Programs*
Adult Sports & Programs	Sports leagues, and programs offered for adults.	Provide the opportunity for sports development, sportsmanship and fun in a participation based atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kickball • Archery • Estate Planning Workshops
Aquatics	Aquatics programs offered for all ages, including water aerobics, swim lessons, pool rentals and a variety of open swim hours.	Provide quality aquatic programs to members of the community and provide a great place to swim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim Lessons • Water Aerobics • Open Swim
Arts & Culture	Programming including but is not limited to dance, visual arts, theater arts, culinary arts, crafts, and music.	Provide quality arts programs for members of the community to explore creative outlets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Eastern Belly Dance • Senior Tea • Senior Day Trips
Fitness	Programs that provide exercise, health education, and wellness activities to all ages.	Provide opportunities for all levels of fitness, and group classes/ programs across a broad spectrum of exercise based disciplines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatha Yoga • Zumba Gold • Tai Chi
Rentals	Variety of rooms, fields, shelters and pool facilities available to rent.	Provide places for members of the community to host events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool Rentals • Shelter Rentals • Community Center Rentals
Seniors	Programming offered to those ages 55+.	Provide quality opportunities for education, physical exercise, social interaction, and mental stimulation to the population of 55+ members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bingo • Ice Cream Socials • Watercolor Drop-in
Special Events & Concerts	Opportunity for community interaction and socialization.	Provide a diverse range of entertainment and education opportunities in a larger setting than traditional recreational activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winterfest • Concerts in the Park • Boo Bash
Youth Activities & Sports	Variety of programming offered to spark the interest of every age.	Provide a variety of youth activities to explore all interest and ability levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Soccer • Youth Karate • Summer Camp

*(See Appendices for full list of programs)

Marketing

The Recreation Department's current marketing efforts utilize several communication methods to connect with residents including:

- Printed Program Guides
- Online Program Guides,
- Website
- Mobile-friendly website
- Flyers/Brochures
- Email blasts and/or listserv
- Road signs/marquees
- Paid targeted advertisements
- TV advertisements
- Print newsletters
- Online newsletters
- In-Facility Signage
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- YouTube

Volunteer Partnerships

Today's realities require most public recreation departments to seek productive and meaningful partnerships with both community organizations and individuals to deliver quality and seamless services to their residents. These relationships should be mutually beneficial to each party to better meet overall community needs and expand the positive impact of the agency's mission. Effective partnerships and meaningful volunteerism are key strategy areas for the Recreation Department to meet the needs of the community in the years to come.

When managed with respect and used strategically, volunteers can serve as the primary advocates for the City and its offerings. Moving forward, it is recommended that the Recreation Department continue to conduct marketing of volunteer opportunities in order to increase awareness and the number of volunteers.

It is also recommended that the Recreation Department continue to track volunteers. Specifically, key performance indicators such as number of volunteers, volunteer hours, type of volunteers (e.g., community service, special event, intern, etc.) should all be tracked. This data can also be used in budget discussions showing how well the Recreation Department is able to leverage limited resources. A complete list of volunteer recommendations and best practices can be found in Appendix B of the Program Assessment Report (**see Plan Appendix**).

Recreation Program Partnerships

The Recreation Department currently works with multiple partners and sponsors throughout the community. These partnerships support facilitation of programs and sponsorships of community events.

As with the tracking of volunteers, tracking partnerships appears to be done well, and helps demonstrate the benefits of the Recreation Department to the community. The consultant team recommends that full cost accounting be conducted for all partnerships to quantify the shared level of equity and benefit. Also, if not done already, all partnerships should practice regular communication as well as annual reporting on performance and outcomes to renew potential and opportunities to strengthen the partnership.



BEST PRACTICE:

Policy Recommendations for Public/Private Partnerships

The recommended policies and practices for public/private partnerships that may include businesses, private groups, private associations, or individuals who desire to make a profit from use of the Recreation Department's facilities or programs are detailed below. These can also apply to partnerships where a private party wishes to develop a facility on park property, to provide a service on publicly-owned property, or who has a contract with the agency to provide a task or service on the agency's behalf at public facilities. These unique partnership principles are as follows:

01

Upon entering into an agreement with a private business, group, association or individual, the Recreation Department staff and political leadership must recognize that they must allow the private entity to meet their financial objectives within reasonable parameters that protect the mission, goals and integrity of the Recreation Department.

02

As an outcome of the partnership, the Recreation Department must receive a designated fee that may include a percentage of gross revenue dollars less sales tax on a regular basis, as outlined in the contract agreement.

03

The working agreement of the partnership must establish a set of measurable outcomes to be achieved, as well as the tracking method of how those outcomes will be monitored by the agency. The outcomes will include standards of quality, financial reports, customer satisfaction, payments to the agency, and overall coordination with the Recreation Department for the services rendered.

04

Depending on the level of investment made by the private contractor, the partnership agreement can be limited to months, a year or multiple years.

05

If applicable, the private contractor will provide a working management plan annually that they will follow to ensure the outcomes desired by the Recreation Department. The management plan can and will be negotiated, if necessary. Monitoring of the management plan will be the responsibility of both partners. The agency must allow the contractor to operate freely in their best interest, as long as the outcomes are achieved, and the terms of the partnership agreement are adhered to.

06

The private contractor cannot lobby agency advisory or governing boards for renewal of a contract. Any such action will be cause for termination. All negotiations must be with the Recreation Department Director or their designer.

07

The agency has the right to advertise for private contracted partnership services or negotiate on an individual basis with a bid process based on the professional level of the service to be provided.

08

If conflicts arise between both partners, the highest-ranking officers from both sides will try to resolve the issue before going to each partner's legal counsels. If none can be achieved, the partnership shall be dissolved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Core Program Area Recommendations

The eight existing Core Program Areas provide a generally well-rounded and diverse array of programs for the community. Based upon the observations of the consulting team as well as demographic and recreation trends information, Recreation Department staff should evaluate Core Program Areas and individual programs, ideally on an annual basis, to ensure offerings are relevant to evolving demographics and trends in the local community.

Findings from the statistically-valid survey conducted by ETC Institute point to a two high-priority service gaps in recreation programming. The Priority Investment Rankings (PIR) for recreation programming indicate that the community has both a high unmet need and high value of importance for:

- Adult fitness and wellness programs
- Adult art, dance, and performing arts programs

The Recreation Department currently provides such programs, but should consider the extent of the offerings as it re-evaluates its overall portfolio of services to the community, especially Adult fitness and wellness programs given the significantly high PIR. **(See full Program Assessment Report in Appendix for more information).**

Program Strategy Recommendations

In general, the Recreation Department program staff should continue the cycle of evaluating programs on both individual merit as well as the program mix as a whole. This can be completed at one time on an annual basis, or in batches at key seasonal points of the year, as long as each program is checked once per year. The following tools and strategies can help facilitate this evaluation process:

MINI BUSINESS PLANS

The consulting team recommends that Mini Business Plans (2-3 pages) for each Core Program Area be updated on a yearly basis. These plans should evaluate the Core Program Area based on meeting the outcomes desired for participants, cost recovery, percentage of the market and business controls, Cost-of-Service, pricing strategy for the next year, and marketing strategies that are to be implemented. If developed regularly and consistently, they can be effective tools for budget construction and justification processes in addition to marketing and communication tools.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & DECISION-MAKING MATRIX

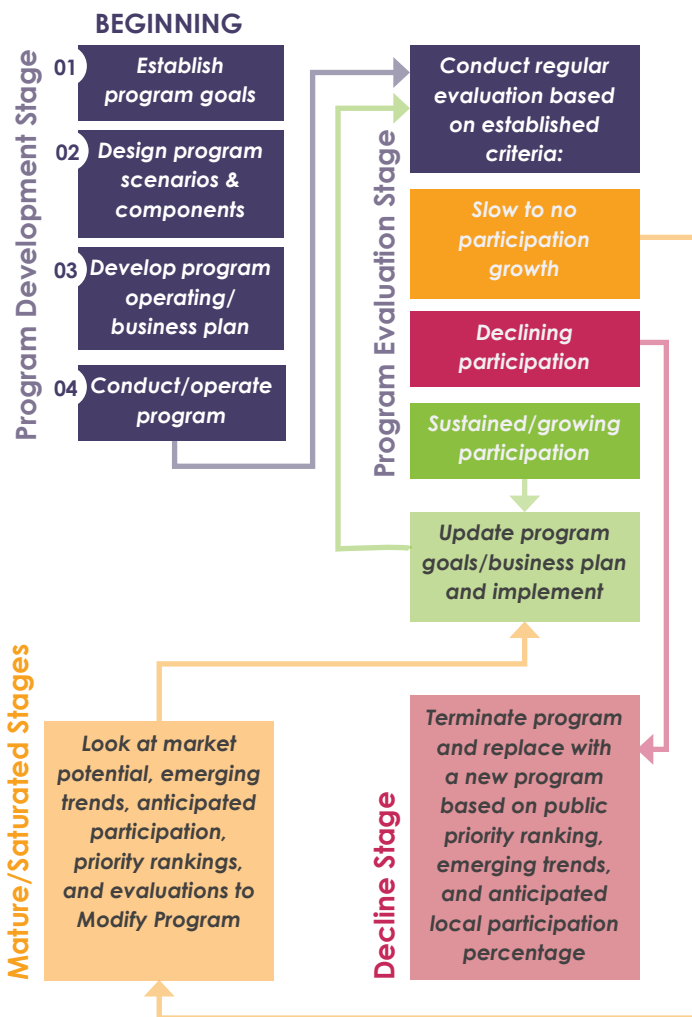
When development program plans and strategies, it is useful to consider all of the Core Program Areas and individual program analysis discussed in this Program Assessment. **Lifecycle, Age Segment, Classification, and Cost Recovery Goals should all be tracked, and this information, along with the latest demographic trends and community input, should be factors that lead to program decision-making.** Community input can help staff focus in on specific program areas to develop new opportunities in what group of citizens to target including the best marketing methods to use.

PROGRAM EVALUATION CYCLE (WITH LIFECYCLE STAGES)

Using the Age Segment and Lifecycle analysis, and other established criteria, program staff should evaluate programs on an annual basis to determine program mix. This can be incorporated into the Program Operating/Business Plan process. A diagram of the program evaluation cycle and program lifecycle is found to the right. **See the Program Assessment Report in the Appendix for more information.**

Other Program Strategy Recommendations:

- Continue to introduce new programs in order to address any potential unmet needs, particularly programs for young children.
- Continue to monitor demographic shifts and program offerings to ensure that the needs of each age group are being met.
- Program staff should be trained on the process of conducting a Cost-of Service Analysis and the process should be undertaken on a regular basis
- Set cost recovery goals at the start of each year in order to benchmark against the Recreation Department's goals annually.



BEST PRACTICE: Assessing Program Needs

- 01 Establish a plan including what age segment to target
- 02 Establish the message and methods
- 03 Create the social media campaign
- 04 Determine what to measure for success before allocating resources towards a particular effort



Figure 4.3: Evaluation Cycle with Program Lifecycle Logic Matrix

Marketing & Communication Recommendations

- Establish priority segments to target in terms of new program/service development and communication tactics (e.g., Teens, Seniors, etc.).
- Establish and review regularly performance measures for marketing; performance measures can be tracked through customer surveys as well as some web-based metrics.
- Leverage relationships with partners to enhance marketing efforts through cross-promotion that include defined measurable outcomes.
- Explore additional marketing mediums to maximize exposure to the identified target markets.
- As services grow, consider implementing additional public input methods such as pre-program surveys, regular/recurring user surveys, lost customer/suer surveys and non-customer/non-user surveys

Volunteer and Partnership Recommendations

- Track the full costs associated with each partnership, for each party.
- Identify measurable outcomes for partnerships, and to the extent possible, memorialize them in written agreements.
- Require annual reports of partners, if feasible.
- Review best practices provided in Program Assessment, Appendix B (**see Plan Appendix**) and implement as appropriate.



BEST PRACTICE:

Volunteer Management

In developing a volunteer policy, some best practices that the Recreation Department should be aware of include:

- 01** **Involve volunteers in cross-training** to expose them to various organizational functions and increase their skill. This can also increase their utility, allowing for more flexibility in making work assignments, and can increase their appreciation and understanding of the Recreation Department.
- 02** **Ensure a Volunteer Coordinator** (a designated program staff member with volunteer management responsibility) and associated staff stay fully informed about the strategic direction of the agency overall, including strategic initiatives for all divisions. Periodically identify, evaluate, or revise specific tactics the volunteer services program should undertake to support the larger organizational mission.
- 03** **Develop a good reward and recognition system.** The consultant team recommends using tactics similar to those found in frequent flier programs, wherein volunteers can use their volunteer hours to obtain early registration at programs, or discounted pricing at certain programs, rentals or events, or any other Town function. Identify and summarize volunteer recognition policies in a Volunteer Policy document.
- 04** **Regularly update volunteer position descriptions.** Include an overview of the volunteer position lifecycle in the Volunteer Manual, including the procedure for creating a new position.
- 05** **Add end-of-lifecycle process steps to the Volunteer Manual** to ensure that there is formal documentation of resignation or termination of volunteers. Also include ways to monitor and track reasons for resignation/termination and perform exit interviews with outgoing volunteers when able.

05.

OUR FUTURE

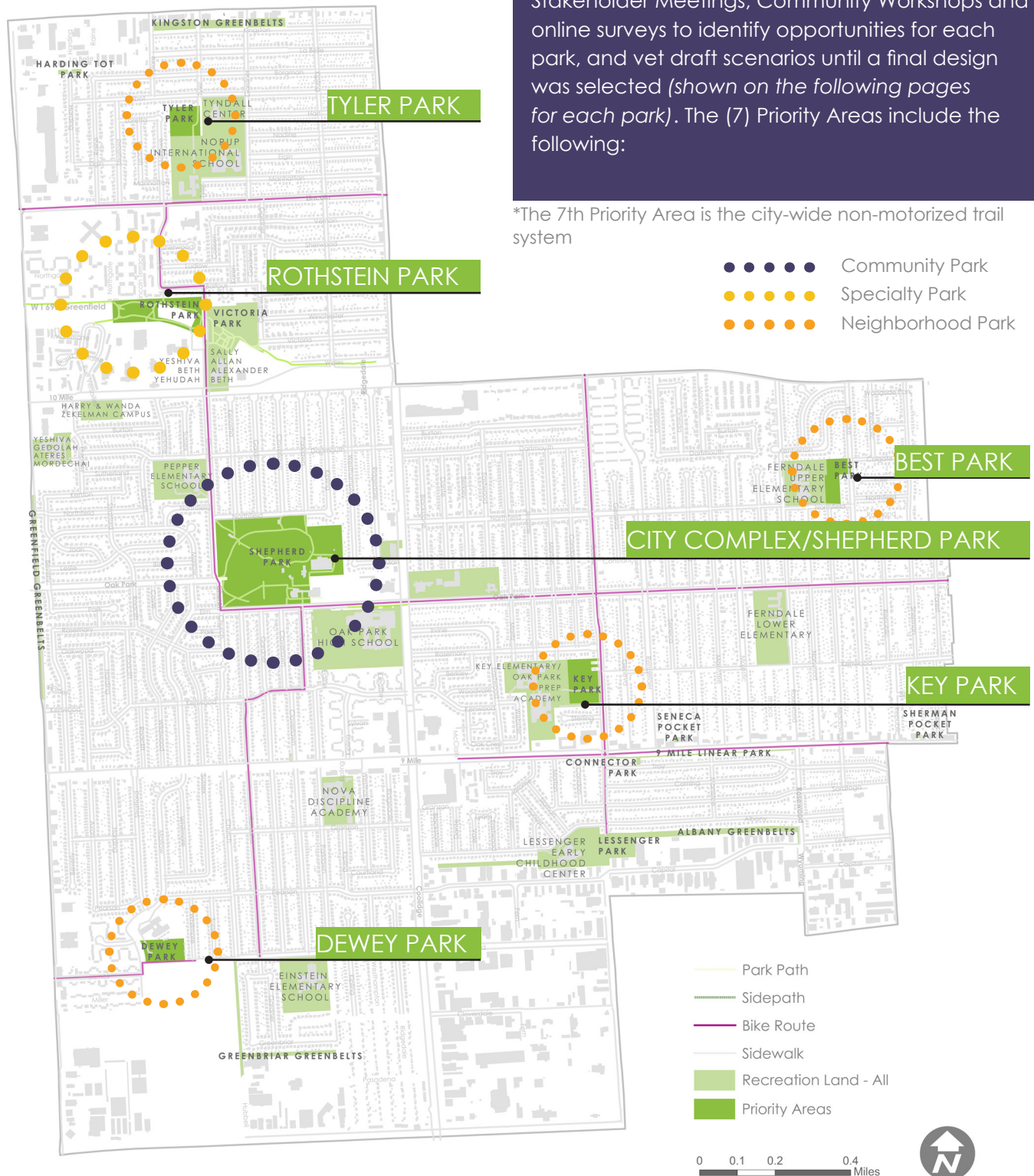
The following recommendations are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed by residents, community stakeholders, City Officials, the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff for the next five years. They also address observed deficiencies in the recreation resources in the area, demographic trends, current growth and forecasted development, the area's natural and cultural resources, and recreation trends.

These recommendations formulated by the community are viewed as the cornerstone of the recreation planning process and provide the framework for public and private decision making.

PRIMARY PRIORITY AREAS

Priority Areas were chosen through careful review of existing conditions and community need. Community discussions were held through Stakeholder Meetings, Community Workshops and online surveys to identify opportunities for each park, and vet draft scenarios until a final design was selected (shown on the following pages for each park). The (7) Priority Areas include the following:

*The 7th Priority Area is the city-wide non-motorized trail system





DESIGN CONCEPTS

The following design concepts were developed based on community feedback and inventory analyses, and evolved as follows:

- 01 Priority Park Needs Analysis.** Stakeholder groups for each priority area discussed and identified challenges and opportunities for their local park
- 02 Feedback Vetting Process.** Stakeholder input was vetted with the broader community
- 03 Needs & Inventory Analysis.** Community feedback was compared with existing inventory and market demand
- 04 Draft Concept Development.** A series of concept alternatives were developed based on the gathered information
- 05 Concept Review and Engagement.** Planning staff, city commissions, and the public reviewed and provided feedback on alternative concepts
- 06 Final Concept Selection.** A final concept for each priority was selected based on discussions with planning staff, city commissions and community engagement

The following applies to all concept plans:

- *References to a “Social Space” are intended to include bathrooms and covered seating and gathering areas.*
- *The City of Oak Park has met with each of the three school districts that have facilities in the city. Each school district has expressed interest in cooperatively working with the City to improve the city parks where adjacent to school property, and to allow public access to the school-owned outdoor recreation facilities.*

Identifying Funding Sources

The plans depict identified planned improvements for each priority area and will serve as a guide for future development. In developing funding plans for the following concepts, the City should consider federal, state and private grants, as well as sponsorships and partnerships for upgrading and expanding recreational facilities. Public grant sources to consider include the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the recent SPARK grant program (funded through ARPA), MEDC Public Spaces/Community Places, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Private funding sources to consider include the Kresge Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott and Ruth Mott Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation.

Tyler Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

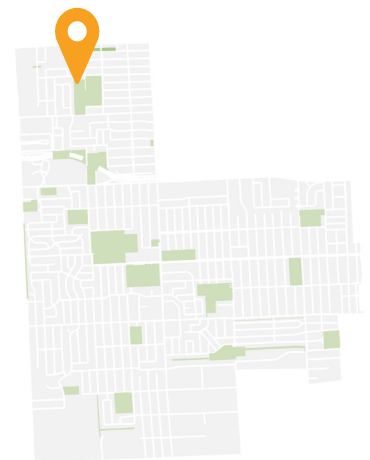


Amenity Inventory

- Size: 3.7 acres
- 1 swing set
- 1 baseball field with bleachers
- 2 soccer goals
- 1 hill for sledding
- Walking path connecting Talbot to Lincoln

Adjacent Conditions

- School facilities (2 swing sets, 1 large play structure)
- Bus route on Greenfield, bike routes along Lincoln and down to Rothstein/Victoria Parks
- Religious destinations south of park – park as connector



“This park could use event amenities like bathrooms, drinking fountains and food”

- Tyler Park Stakeholders

“More walkable connections to the school and surrounding area”

- Tyler Park Stakeholders

“We need shade and places to sit”

- Tyler Park Stakeholders



DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features

- Creating a loop path that connects the neighborhood from the north, east and south
- Installing a multi-age play area at the north end of the park, integrated into the expanded sledding hill
- Placing a social space adjacent to the play area
- Reconstructing two softball/baseball fields for middle school age groups, using synthetic or natural turf
- Restoring an open field at the north end to allow for open play or small soccer games



55

ELEVATE OAK PARK

35%

of respondents are in favor of concepts that show expanding and preserving the sledding hill



31%

of respondents like concepts with a social area



23%

of respondents like concepts with walking connections

* Out of 26 Concept Survey Respondents - Tyler Park

Best Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

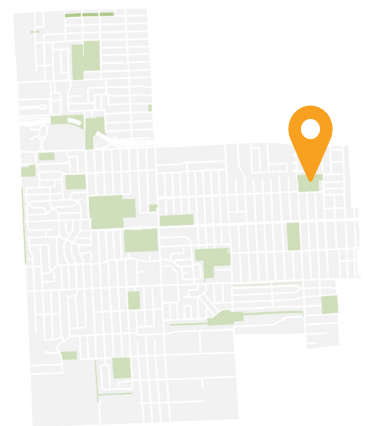


Amenity Inventory

- Size: 3.7 acres
- Naturalized area
- Parking lot
- Adjacent to school playground
- Picnic tables

Adjacent Conditions

- Adjacent to Ferndale Upper Elementary School
- Bike connection from Rosewood/Roanoke to Oak Park Blvd
- School Facilities - swing sets, tee ball field, large play structure



"Could we use the tree canopy for a tree house or zipline?"

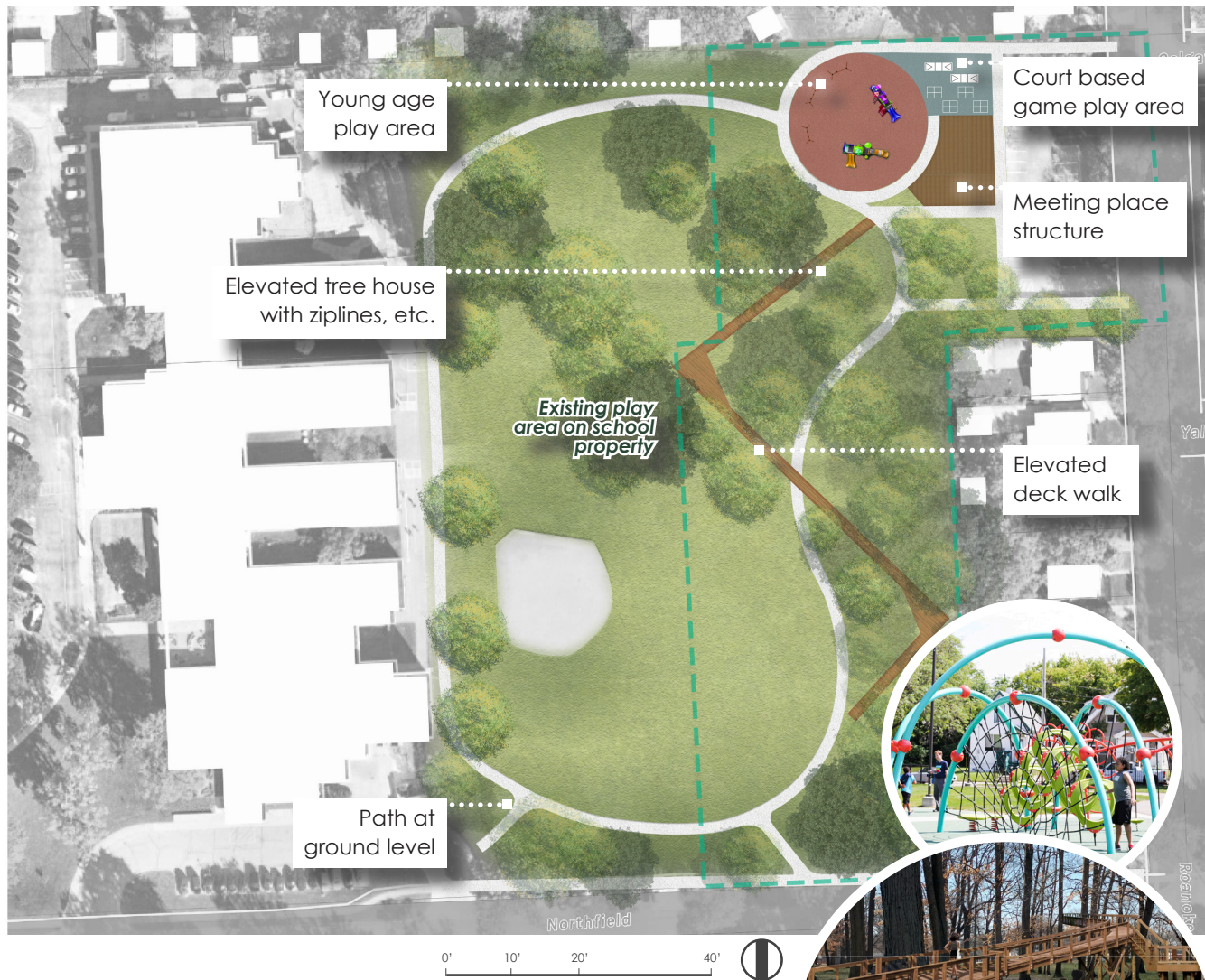
- City Planning Team

"ADA accessible walking paths"

- Best Park Stakeholders

"Preserve the tree canopy"

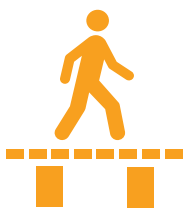
- Best Park Stakeholders



DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features

- Creating a play area to include opportunities for younger children, at the north end of the park
- Placing a social space adjacent to the parking lot and play area
- Creating a loop path that connects the neighborhood to the east and south, and to the school
- Creating a two-level path; one on the ground and one elevated as a boardwalk. The elevated boardwalk could include larger deck space and play features such as slides and zip lines



70%

of respondents are in favor of concepts that show an elevated walkway



26%

of respondents like concepts with a zipline

15%

of respondents like concepts with a walking path at ground level

* Out of 27 Concept Survey Respondents - Best Park



Dewey Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

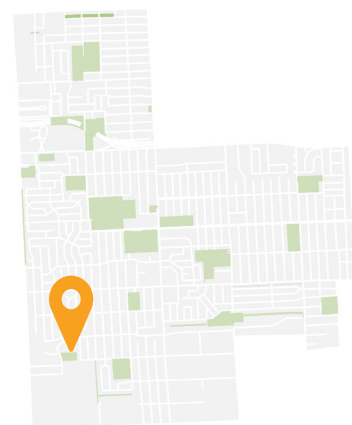


Amenity Inventory

- Size: 6.7 acres
- 1 swing set
- 4 half court basketball courts
- 1 kids basketball court

Adjacent Conditions

- School facilities - monkey bars
- Non-motorized routes on James
- Multi-family destinations to the southwest
- Greenbriar Greenbelts to the south
- Northland Center west of Greenfield
- Einstein Elementary School to the south



"Establish community ownership to keep the park clean"

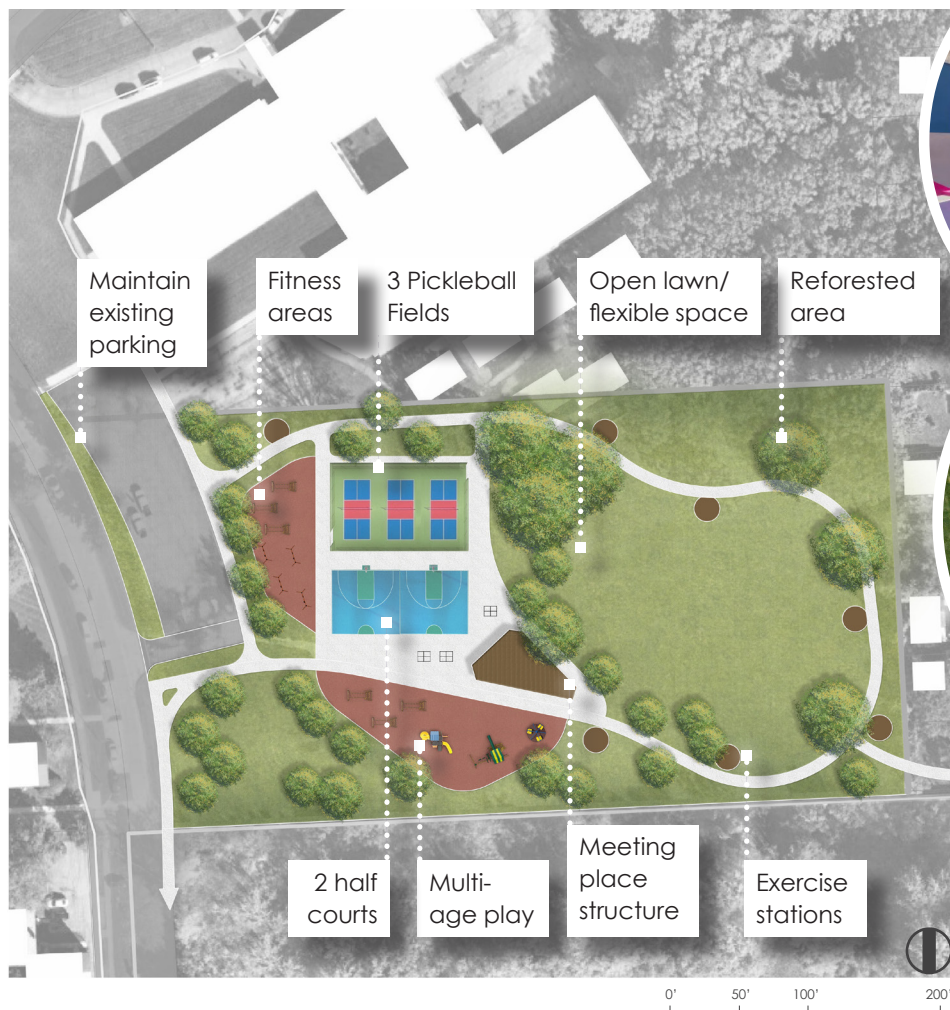
- Dewey Park Stakeholders

"We need a walking loop that connects to community bike routes"

- Dewey Park Stakeholders

"We need places to sit in the shade"

- Dewey Park Stakeholders



DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features

- Creating a play area to include opportunities for a range of ages on the southern edge of the park
- Upgrading the court area which could include basketball, pickleball, games, and other court uses
- Placing a social space at the center of the park
- Installing a fitness challenge area and stations along the path
- Creating a loop path that connects the neighborhood to the east and west
- Maintaining the flexible open lawn area at the east side of the park
- Installing a fitness challenge course at the western edge of the park



43%

of respondents are in favor of concepts that show a fitness station



22%

of respondents like concepts with a better integration of uses



34%

of respondents like concepts with a playground and amenities

* Out of 23 Concept Survey Respondents - Dewey Park

Key Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS



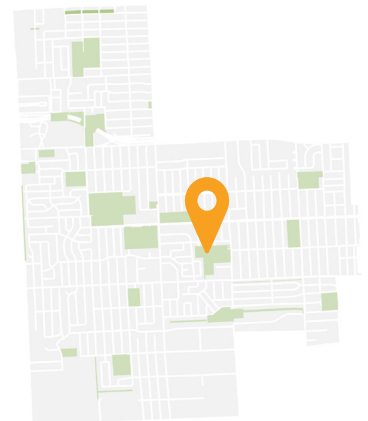
Amenity Inventory

- Size: 6.1 Acres
- Baseball field with bleachers
- Play structure
- Southside path connecting Oak Park Prep & Key Park

- Parking lot

Adjacent Conditions

- Oak Park Prep facilities - 2 soccer goals, outdoor basketball court, large parking lot
- Key Elementary facilities - playground, walking connections, parking lot & student drop-off/pick-up loop



"Better connections to the school and surrounding neighborhood"

- Oak Park School District

"More shade and places to sit near the playground"

- Key Park Stakeholders

"This could be an area for programming, games and events"

- Key Park Stakeholders

DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features

- Expanding the play area to include opportunities for a broader range of ages
- Installing two, multi-use court areas which could include basketball, pickleball, games, and other court uses
- Placing a social space at the center of the park
- Maintaining the flexible open lawn area at the north end of the park
- Creating a loop path that connects to the neighborhood and the school



41%

of respondents are in favor of concepts that show flexible space for multi-use recreation



27%

of respondents like concepts with a soccer field



14%

of respondents like concepts with connected, integrated uses

* Out of 22 Concept Survey Respondents - Key Park

Rothstein Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

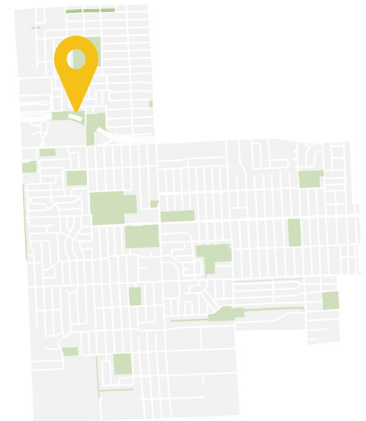


Amenity Inventory

- Size: 7.2 acres
- 1 play structure
- Vita course
- Lighted paved path
- Seating
- Wheelchair accessible concert stage

Adjacent Conditions

- Pathways connected to Victoria Park to the east
- Places of worship and institutional uses to the south
- Multi-family housing to the southwest and north
- Non-motorized connections to 10 mile, Church St, Greenfield



"Hard to access by car, so makes programming and events difficult"

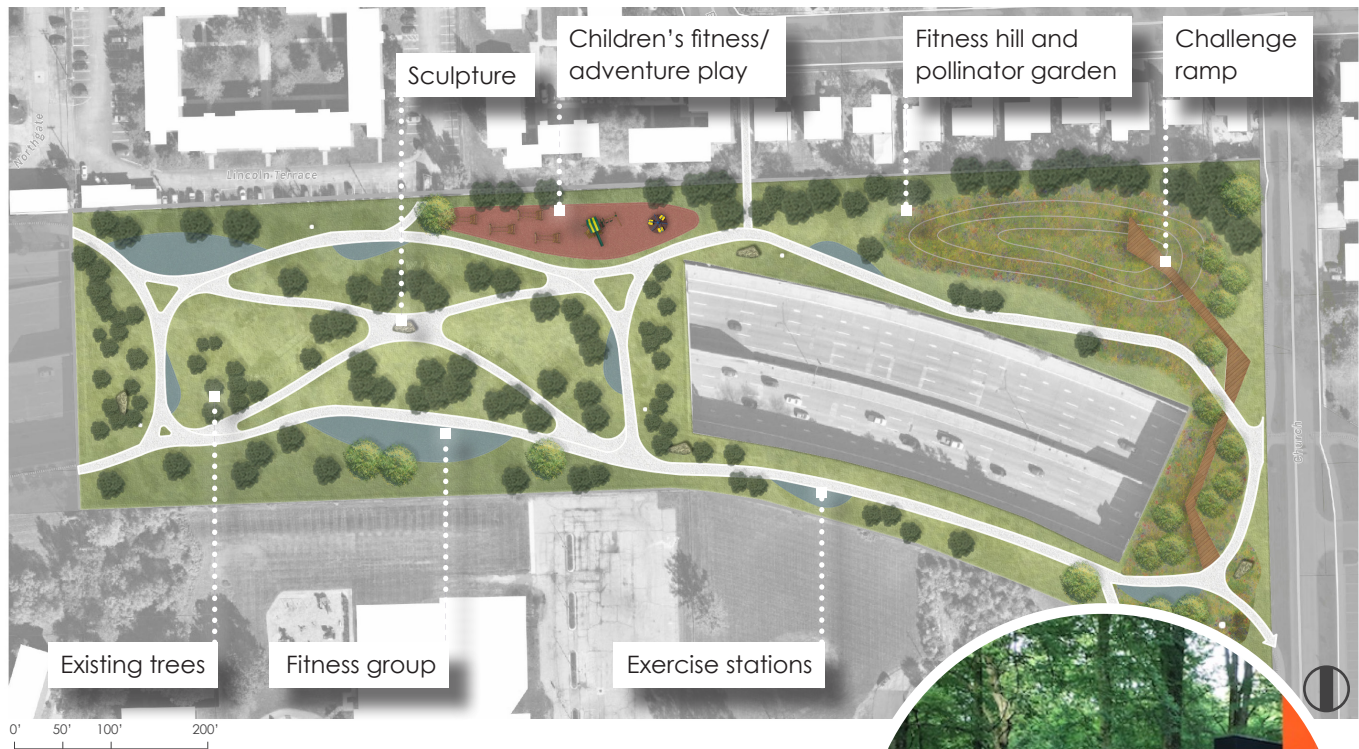
- Rothstein Park Stakeholders

"Lots of underutilized space and equipment"

- Rothstein Park Stakeholders

"This is an important walking connection to reach nearby schools and religious destinations"

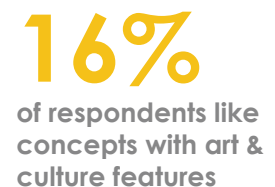
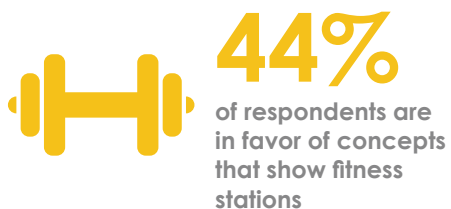
- Yeshiva Schools



DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features

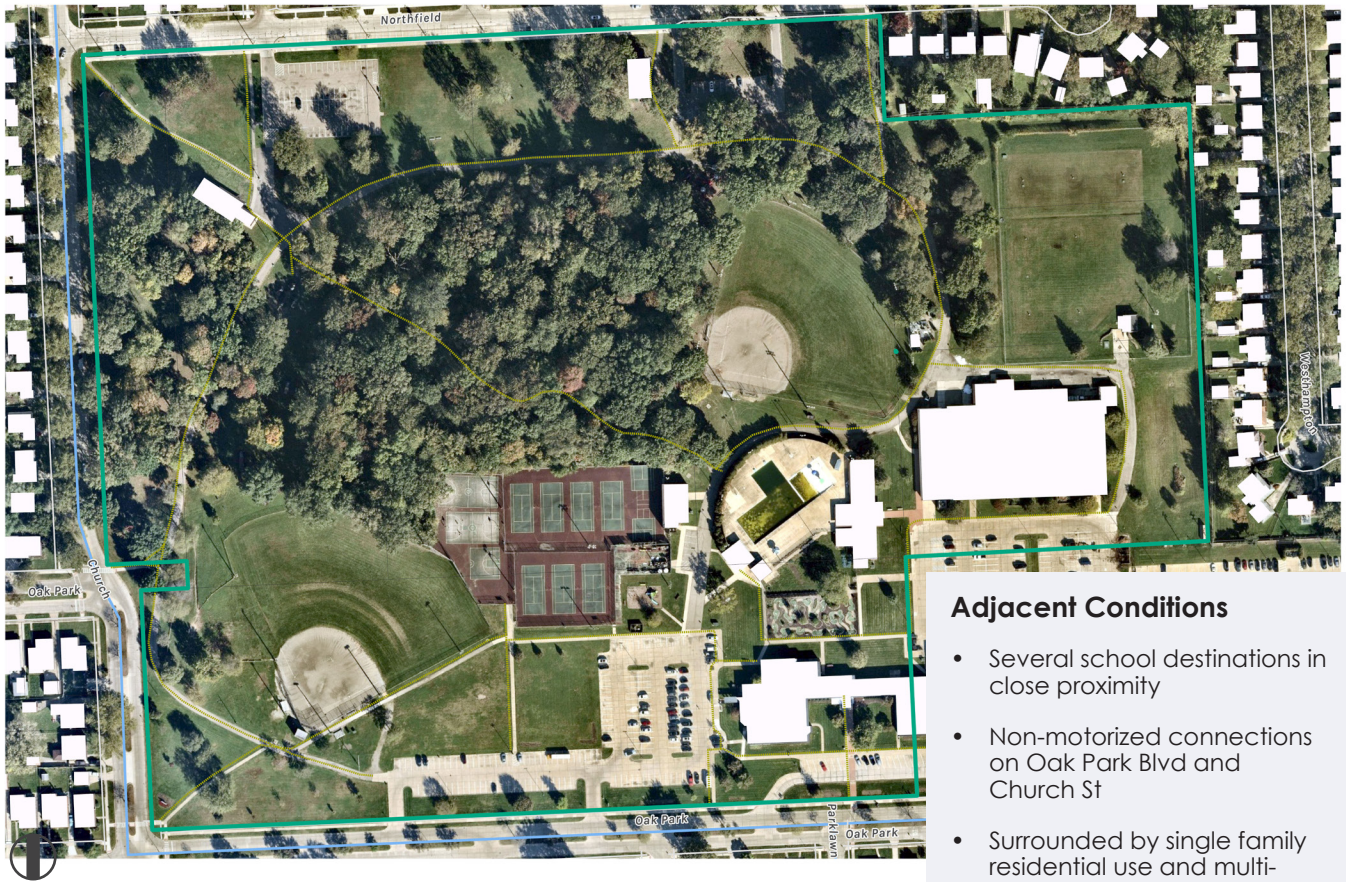
- Removing the plaza paving and overgrown landscape at the center of the park
- Creating a play area that is fitness and adventure play focused
- Building a climbing/fitness hill on the northeast corner of the park
- Installing an elevated ramp that connects to the top of the hill and includes climbing play
Creating a fitness challenge course throughout the park
- Removing overgrown landscape at the center of the park
- Creating a series of art installations or cultural pieces reflecting the Oak Park community



* Out of 25 Concept Survey Respondents - Rothstein Park

Shepherd Park & Community Center

EXISTING CONDITIONS

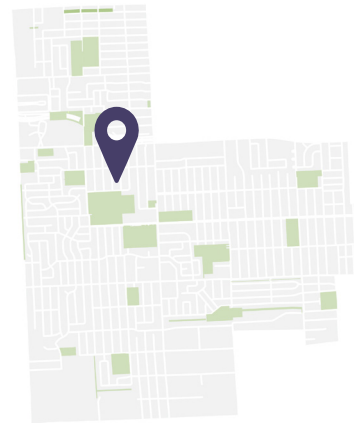


Adjacent Conditions

- Several school destinations in close proximity
- Non-motorized connections on Oak Park Blvd and Church St
- Surrounded by single family residential use and multi-family residential use along Coolidge and Oak Park Blvd

Amenity Inventory

- Size: 56.8 acres
- Grills with tables
- 2 pavilions
- Wooden train
- 3 play structures
- 1 wooden truck
- 3 play tunnels
- 4 play tires
- 2 basketball courts
- 2 lighted baseball courts with scoreboards
- 7 tennis courts
- 2 practice walls
- Nature path
- Walking trail
- Hill with sledding
- Indoor restrooms
- Outdoor pool



"Re-configure ice arena, community center & tennis court space"

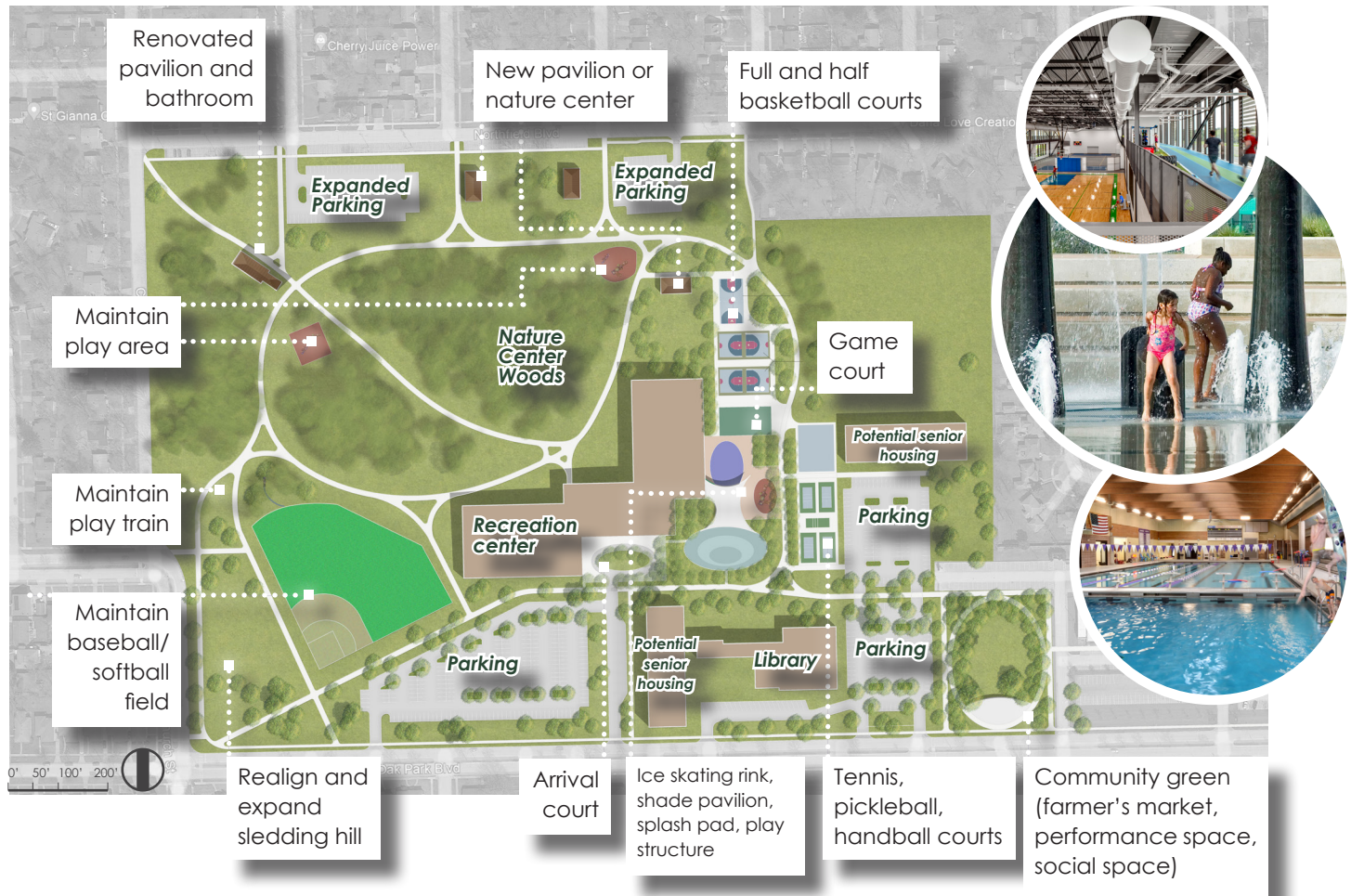
- City Planning Team

"We need a programming space for the library"

- City Planning Team

"Looking for an indoor/outdoor walking loop, incubator space, senior housing and better integration of space overall"

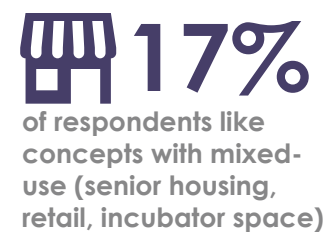
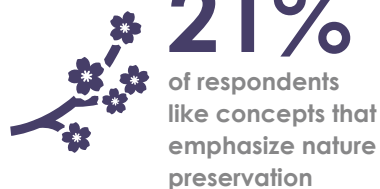
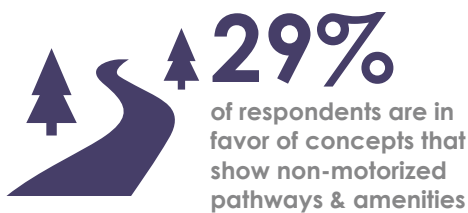
- Shepherd Park Stakeholders



DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features

- Creating a new indoor community recreation center with courts, pool facilities, social spaces, a walking track, and fitness and exercise rooms
- Removing one ball field and adding a new court area which could include basketball, pickleball, games, and other court uses
- In conjunction with the recreation center, adding a new outdoor splash pad/play area that could also include winter ice skating
- Increasing the amount of available parking, which may include a farmers market space
- In collaboration with Oakland County Parks and Recreation, create improved park facilities
- Upgrading existing picnic shelters and bathrooms, plays areas, and path system
- Removing the existing community center and ice arena and replacing with senior housing facilities
- Creating a new community plaza space, which could include outdoor performance facilities and the farmers market, and act as a community gathering place
- Adding a new picnic pavilion on the north side of the park



* Out of 24 Concept Survey Respondents - Shepherd Park

SECONDARY PRIORITY AREAS

Secondary Priority Areas are locations that were not identified as needing immediate attention, either because the area is in fair condition or it's already involved in a redesign process.

However, it's integral that the future of all recreation areas are being considered in the planning process. The following concept designs identify recommendations to be considered in the next five years.



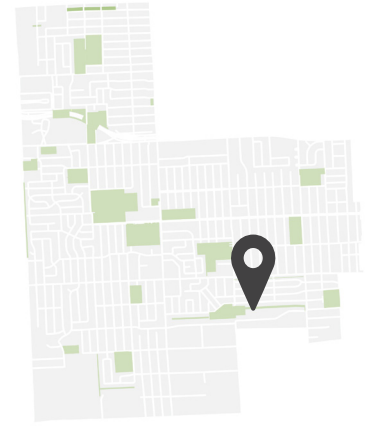
Lessenger Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Lessenger Park is located on Scotia, spanning nearly 7.3 acres. Adjacent to the Albany Greenbelt and the Lessenger Early Childhood Center, an opportunity exists to create a non-motorized route that connects the park, school, and nearby residential dwellings to local destinations. The City is currently in the process of developing a dog park to be opened in Spring 2023.

DRAFT CONCEPT

- Additional trees
- New sidewalks
- Proposed shade structure
- Proposed greenway connection



Harding Tot Lot

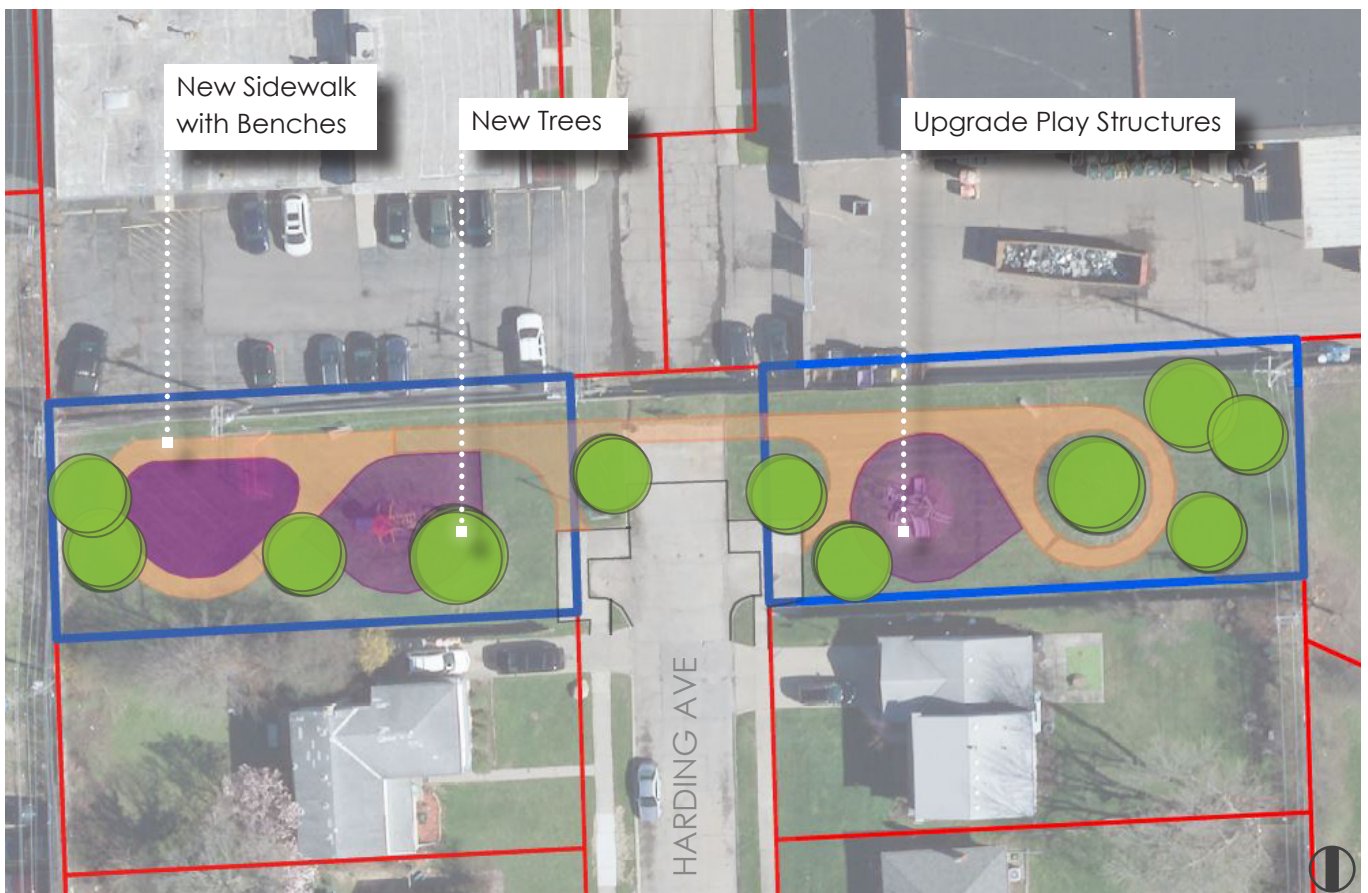
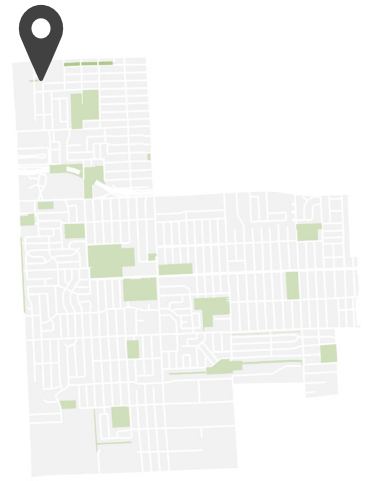
EXISTING CONDITIONS

Located on the far north end of Harding Street just south of Eleven Mile, the park features aging play facilities that could benefit from upgrades in the coming years. The park spans 0.4 acres, with access to 2 play structures.

DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features:

- Walkable, ADA accessible connections
- Tree canopy
- Upgraded play structures



Connector Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Connector Park is currently a small, vacant lot located on the south side of Nine Mile, to the east of Scotia, which borders the Linear Park to the north and Troy Street to the south. Once complete, this small pass-through park will act as an extension of the Linear Park, connecting the neighborhood to the south to the Nine Mile Corridor.

DRAFT CONCEPT

Description & Site Features:

- **Play Elements for Children** - small Zip Line, "Sensory panels" to increase awareness and social interaction, two play features (one spinning, one bouncing) that are accessible to children with mobility devices (for example a wheelchair)
- **Adult Amenities** - benches and a picnic table (accessible by wheelchairs)
- **Beautification Updates** - pedestrian-scaled lighting, new foliage and landscaping

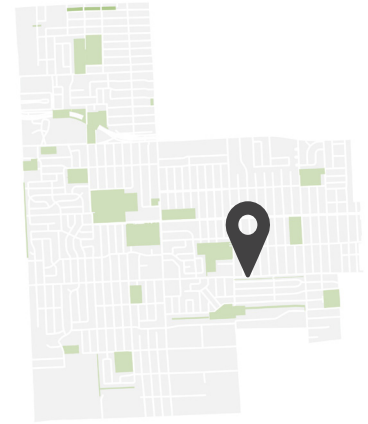


Figure 5.1: Connector Park Site Concept, Midstates Recreation

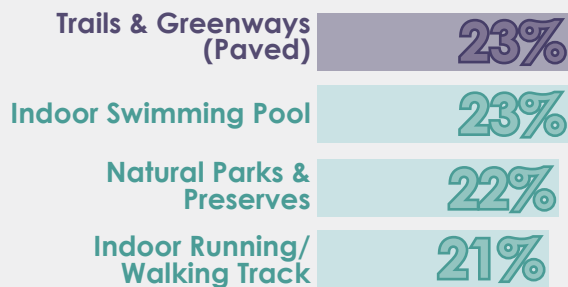
NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEM

WHY NON-MOTORIZED?

Through past planning efforts and recent engagement, city staff and residents have voiced the need for an accessible trail system that creates non-motorized connections to home, school, recreation opportunities, work, and other community destinations. By closing gaps in the local trail network, the City hopes to also provide regional connections to ongoing trail initiatives like the Rouge River Greenway and the Joe Louis Greenway, linking Oak Park to the broader metro Detroit area.

Priority routes were identified through an assessment of existing and planned infrastructure, park location, traffic volumes, and perceived bicyclist/pedestrian comfortability. Stakeholder discussions with bike advocates from local organizations like E-Z Roll helped to guide in route prioritization.

Facilities Ranked Most Important to Residents



Data Source: ETC Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

Stakeholders identified needs for:

- **Safe crossings** along Coolidge Hwy, Ten Mile, I-696, Eight Mile
- Nine Mile **bike lane extension**
- **Streetscape buffers**
- **Trail amenities**

COMPLETE STREETS

Complete Streets integrate people and place in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our transportation networks. Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. They make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from bus stops.

The Complete Streets Plan provides Oak Park with a framework to implement a comprehensive transportation plan that considers appropriate access for all legal roadway users.

Priorities

The following priorities have been identified by the City of Oak Park Complete Streets Plan as opportunities to provide vibrant thoroughfares for all types of transportation users.

- Nine Mile Road
- Eleven Mile Road
- Greenfield Road
- Coolidge Highway
- Bike Share System



Making Connections

Oak Park offers a unique network of greenways that provide opportunities for more comfortable off-road connections for users. Many parks and school playgrounds are in close proximity to each other, creating various nodes that form “destinations” within the non-motorized trail framework.

The creation of a primary “Green Loop” trail provides continuous access to these recreational destinations.

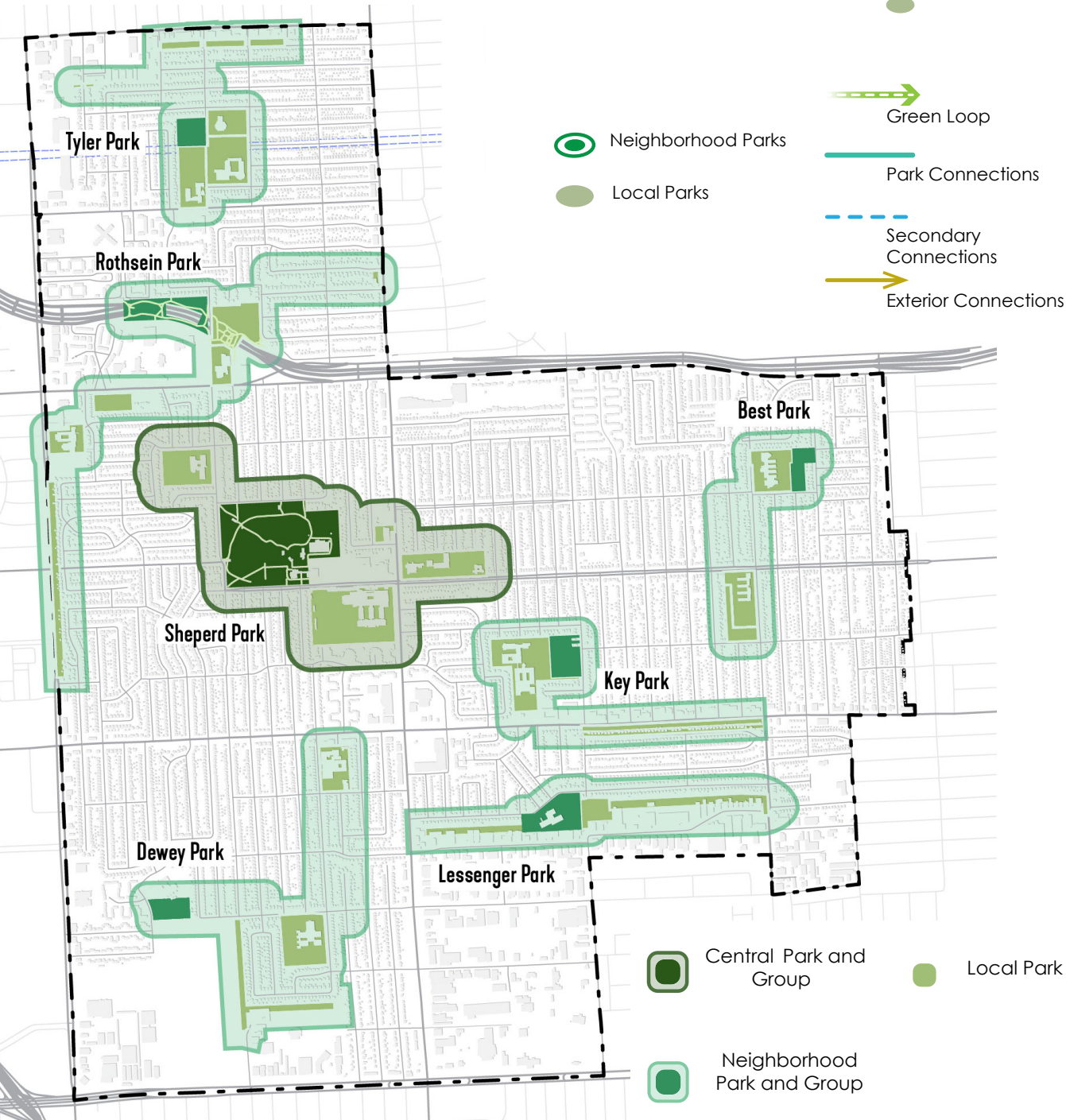
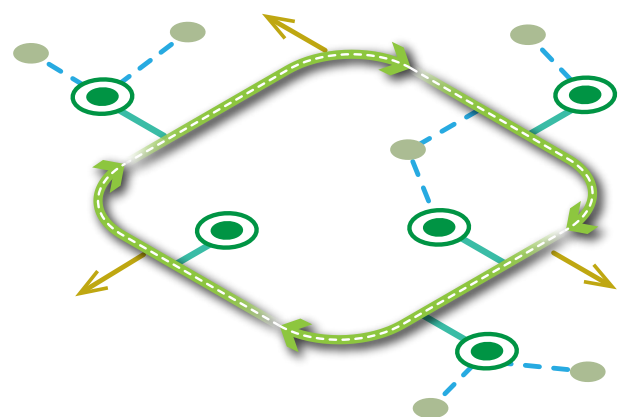


Figure 5.2: Green Spaces & Groupings

TyPOLOGIES

The physical design and amenities provided for each trail route should be carefully considered based on existing conditions and surrounding context. The following trail treatments may be appropriate:

- Shared-Use Trail
- Side Paths
- Separated Bicycle Lanes
- Separated 2-Way Cycle Tracks

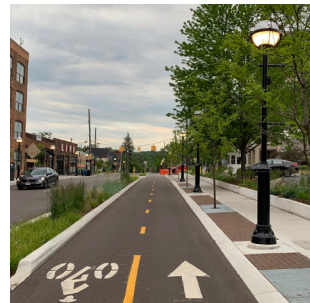
In addition, features and amenities like non-motorized crossing improvements, pedestrian bridges, gateway signage, benches, lighting, waste bins, wayfinding and bicycle racks should be considered along all routes.



Buffered Bike Lanes



Shared-Use Greenway Trail



Separated Bike Tracks



Advisory Bike Lanes

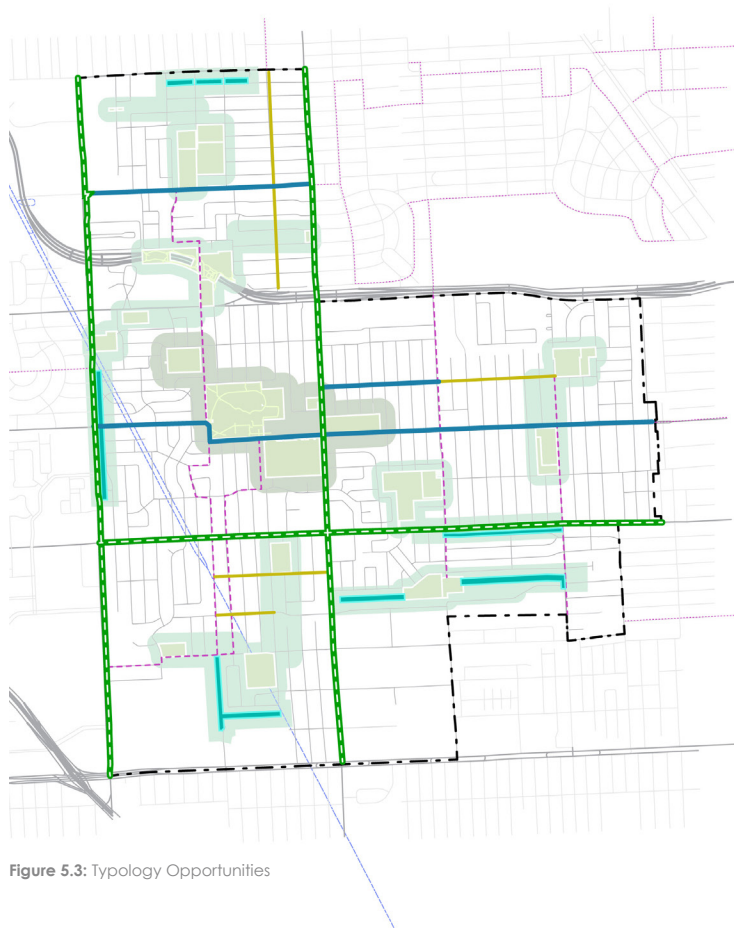
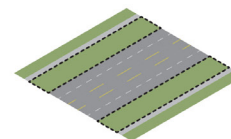


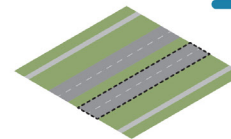
Figure 5.3: Typology Opportunities

Large R.O.W



Sidewalk buffers along streets with large R.O.W are an opportunity to create trails or enhance paths

Boulevards



The broad avenues with landscaped medians are an opportunity to turn one of the two pairs of separated lanes into a bike and pedestrian friendly track

Frontage Streets



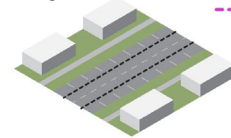
Frontage streets with curb parking that are perpendicular to other streets with curb parking can turn the parking lane into path or trails.

Greenways



Greenways are an opportunity to create a path through them

Existing Bike Paths



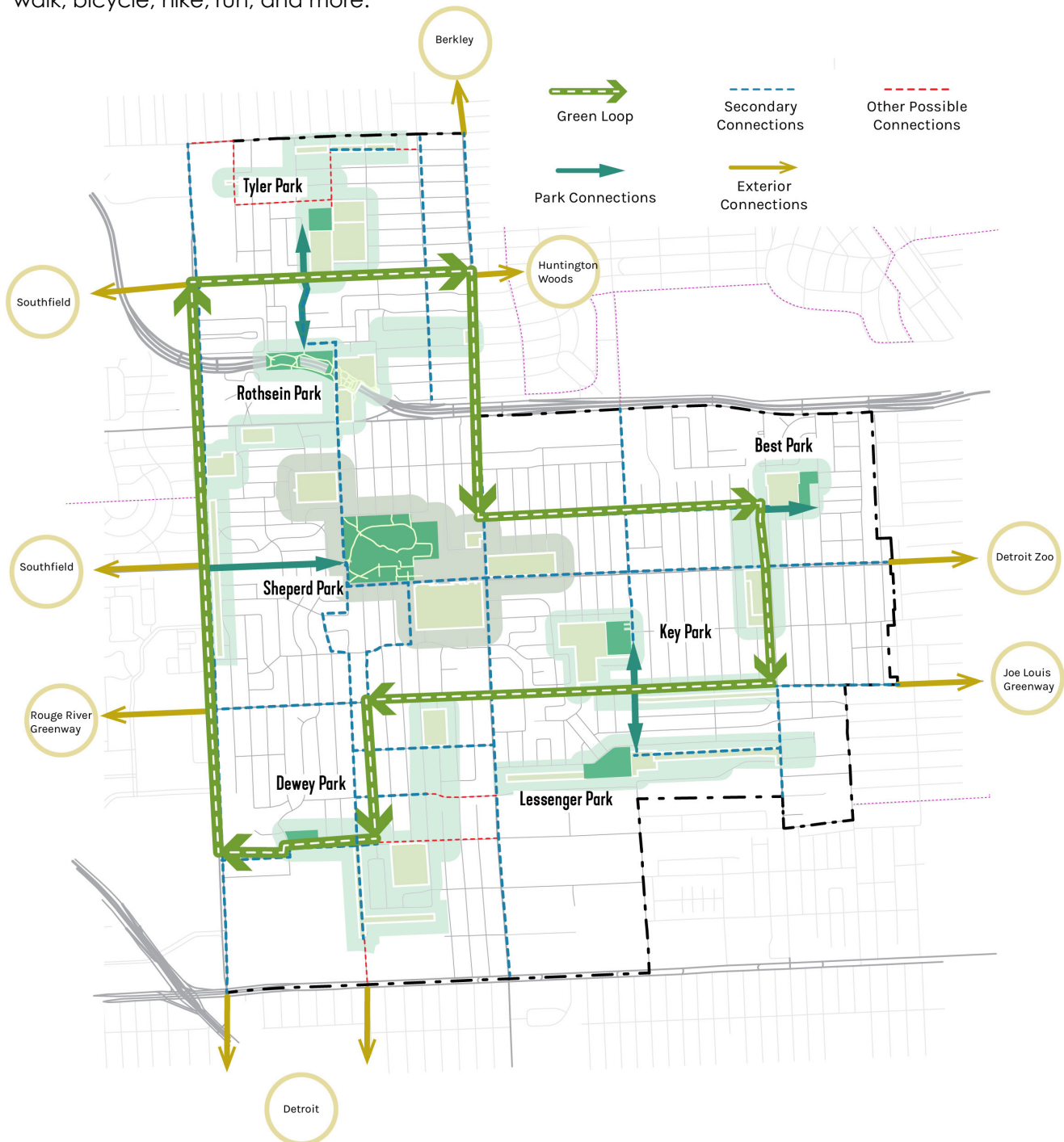
Bike paths could become part of the network if they are enhanced

PROPOSED TRAIL SYSTEM

Benefits of Greenways & Urban Trails

As a tool for improving mobility and active lifestyles, greenways and urban trails can provide a range of benefits including:

- Increased mobility and transportation options connecting residents to jobs, commercial areas, institutions, and other destinations.
- Improved community health through active living by creating safe and accessible places to walk, bicycle, hike, run, and more.
- Generating economic activity by adding to property value, attracting businesses and residents and contributing to tourism.
- Providing environmental benefits by managing stormwater, protecting and restoring habitat, and improving air and water quality.
- Enhancing cultural awareness and community identity by connecting to local heritage, interpretive opportunities and community recreation.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

HOW ARE THESE CREATED?

The development of goals and objectives is a key component of the planning process and takes into consideration several pieces of data presented throughout this document, including:

EXISTING CONDITIONS	Responsiveness to national and local recreational trends and demographics. See Chapter 2: Community Context
COMMUNITY INPUT	Input from various sources including the public, stakeholders, park staff, commissioners, and other entities with a vested interest in the parks system. See Chapter 1: Planning & Public Input Process
EXISTING RESOURCES	Revenues, expenditures, and resource capacity of Oak Park Parks and Recreation. See Chapter 3: Administrative Structure.
EXISTING NEEDS	Evaluation of existing park facilities with emphasis on park characteristics, accessibility, programming needs, maintenance, and geographic location. See Chapter 4. Recreation Inventory.





01. COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS

This section includes recommendations developing an effective communication plan, increasing awareness of parks and programs, elevating the Oak Park parks and recreation brand identity, and enhancing park stewardship.

Goal: Continue to cultivate effective outreach and dialogue with community members of all ages and abilities.

1.1 Elevate awareness of parks, facilities and programs through communication and engagement

1.2 Enhance stewardship of parks and public spaces

Why is communication important to Oak Park?

According to the ETC Needs Assessment Survey, one of the top barriers to using Oak Park parks, recreation facilities and programs during the past year was *not knowing what is being offered*.



Respondents top 3 preferred communication methods to learn about program and events:

- **City of Oak park magazine and Recreation Program Guide (76%)**
- **City Website (38%)**
- **Facebook (38%)**

Data Source: ETC Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey



02. PARTNERSHIPS

This section focuses on enhancing engagement with other recreational entities and civic groups and identifying opportunities for shared uses within the community and the region.

Goal: Expand parks and recreation resources through partnerships that provide benefits to the community and align with Oak Park's overall vision and values.

2.1 Continue to foster engagement and relationships with local and regional partners, identifying opportunities for shared resources.

Why are partnerships important to Oak Park?

100% of Oak Park parkland abuts or is in 1/2 mile walking distance to school property.

Historically, partnerships between the City and school districts has provided additional flexible facility access and space for programming needs.

In conversations with Oak Park, Berkley and Ferndale School Districts and Yeshiva Schools, continuing these partnerships to greater serve the community was identified as a strong priority.





03. PUBLIC SPACE & FACILITIES

This section speaks to the planning, development, improvement, and expansion of Oak Park's physical parks and recreation facilities.

Goal: Address the need for facilities to better relate to the needs and interests of Oak Park's diverse community, and secure assets for the future.

3.1 Develop new city facilities as needed, utilizing natural and sustainable design elements

3.2 Improve equitable access to parks and amenities to encourage participation and active lifestyles for all age groups and abilities.

3.3 Establish a connected non-motorized trail system

Why are public facilities important to Oak Park?

Facilities for specific activities such as walking loops, multi-use fields and multi-use courts should be created in areas with existing limited access.

UNMET FACILITY/AMENITY NEEDS:

Top improvements respondent households would be most willing to fund:

RESTROOMS (4,264 HOUSEHOLDS)

INDOOR SWIMMING (4,233 HOUSEHOLDS)

INDOOR RUNNING/WALKING TRACK (4,075 HOUSEHOLDS)



Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following parks and recreation facilities/amenities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Indoor swimming pool
- Trails & greenways
- Indoor running/walking tracks
- Natural parks & preserves
- Indoor walking track
- Restrooms
- Farmer's market pavilion/special event spaces
- Indoor gym
- Community center/recreation center
- Dog parks

Data Source: ETC Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey



04. MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Proposes strategies to maximize and secure both human and capital resources for the provision of excellent quality parks.

Goal: Improve operational efficiencies and enhance the long-term viability of parks through innovative and sustainable practices

4.1 Ensure the long-term maintenance and provision of facilities and programs through the strategic planning and management of human resources and funding

4.2 Enhance the long-term viability of park features

Why is maintenance important to Oak Park?

Oak Park strives to deliver the best service to residents through quality facilities. The ETC Needs Assessment Survey responses show residents find the maintenance of existing facilities to be a top priority for funding.

To ensure staff prioritizes maintenance of existing facilities given current capacity and resources, Oak Park Recreation needs to be strategic about financing, maintenance routines and standards, and new investments.

SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents most supported (rating "very supportive") the following improvements:



Data Source: ETC Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey



05. PROGRAMMING

Describes the need and desire for more relevant and diverse programming and park offerings.

Goal: Continue to evaluate the needs and interests of Oak Park's diverse population, ensuring programs are accessible and of interest to people of all ages and abilities

5.1 Provide a diversity of programs that are safe, welcoming, affordable, accessible, and of interest to Oak Park's diverse population

5.2 Establish unique places through non-traditional and specialty parks and programming

Why is programming important to Oak Park?

Oak Park provides a variety of recreation offerings to ensure all Oak Park residents have access to a variety of programs. Oak Park aims to promote inclusive programs which promote healthy lifestyles. Some of the most popular activities include picnic areas, recreation, play areas, walking loops, and larger events.

PARTICIPATION



26%

of respondent households participated in Parks and Recreation programs in the past 2 years

SCHEDULING PREFERENCES BY AGE GROUP

Children under 6	Saturday/Sunday afternoon
Youth (6-12)	Saturday/Sunday afternoon
Teens (13-17)	Saturday evening
Adults (18-59)	Saturday/Sunday evening
Older Adults (60+)	Wednesday/Thursday in afternoon or morning
Families	Saturday evening

UNMET PROGRAMMING NEEDS:

ADULT FITNESS & WELLNESS (4,537 HOUSEHOLDS)

SWIM LESSONS (2,656 HOUSEHOLDS)

ADULT ART, DANCE, PERFORMING ARTS (2,603 HOUSEHOLDS)

MOST VALUED PROGRAMS:

1. Adult fitness & wellness
2. Senior trips
3. Adult art, dance, performing arts
4. Swim lessons

Data Source: ETC Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey



06. FUNDING

This section proposes recommendations for securing funding streams through both traditional mechanisms as well as opportunities to establish alternative funding sources

Goal: Explore a variety of funding mechanisms to ensure the ongoing provision of recreation programs and quality open spaces.

6.1 Identify financial resources to fund improvements to public space and recreation facilities

6.2 Ensure that the funding available in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is spent efficiently based on community need

Why is funding important to Oak Park?

It's essential that the current funding structure supports the city's ability to deliver the appropriate level of service at high quality.

Operations could be expanded by:

- Establishing, growing, and strengthening partnerships to better leverage resources
- Broaden the use of different pricing strategies across all Core Program Areas
- Expand cost recovery management as services and programs grow and change

PARKS VALUE



47%

of respondent feel funding for parks and recreation should increase based on their perception of it's value

SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Top improvements respondent households would be most willing to fund:

Develop new walking trails and greenways	35%
Develop a new community recreation center	29%
Improve existing park restrooms	26%
Improve existing parks	22%

Data Source: ETC Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

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06.

ACTION PROGRAM

REMINDER: Actions are strategies that the Recreation Department will implement and maintain over the next five years.

The goals and objectives described in the previous chapter provide a multi-faceted approach for further improving the service and quality of the recreation system. The following action program builds on these goals and objectives, as well as other key findings from community engagement and the benchmarking, trend and demographic analyses. The action program is broken into two sections: **Action Plan and Capital Improvement Projects**. The action plan breaks down actions for Oak Park Recreation by four major categories: Goal, Time Frame, Tool, and Responsibility.

GOALS

How does each action align with the overarching goals of Oak Park Recreation?

01 Communication & Awareness

02 Partnerships

03 Public Spaces & Facilities

04 Maintenance & Operations

05 Programming

06 Funding

TIME FRAME

When will Oak Park Recreation aim to start each action?

Ongoing: Action requires continuous monitoring or effort

Short Term: Action will begin work within 1-2 years. Individuals and committees with responsibility (if needed) will meet at least once annually until action completion to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and alignment with goals.

Long Term: Action will begin work within 3-5 years.

Individuals and committees (if needed) that have responsibility for the action will meet at least once annually until action completion to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and alignment with goals.

TOOL

How will each action be completed or enforced?

- Regulation: Actions that require regular monitoring and enforcement
- Plan: Actions that require plans and analysis
- Policy: Actions that require new policies
- Program: Actions that require a new project effort
- Capital Improvement: Actions with designated funding
- Partnership: Partnerships include inter-departmental, public-private, local, and regional partnerships

RESPONSIBILITY

Which department in the City of Oak Park will champion each task?

- City Manager's Office (CMO)
- Communications (Comms)
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Recreation Department (RD)
- Economic Development & Planning (EDP)
- Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Municipal Services (MS)
- Information Tech (IT)

COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS

Objective 1: Elevate awareness of parks, facilities and programs through communication and engagement

ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Develop a uniform and appealing system of park signs to welcome visitors and raise the level of awareness of park locations and available amenities	Short-term	Comms, DPW, RD
Develop wayfinding signage that will enhance a person's experience to maneuver the trail system	Short-term	Comms, DPW, RD
Continue to use design standards (logo, layout, content) consistently across all communication materials, including print and web-based media and products	Ongoing	Comms, RD, IT
Continue to utilize the City's website, email, and social media for real-time communication and up-to-date information	Ongoing/ Short-Term	Comms
Utilize traditional media channels (direct mail, flyers, newsletters) to reach a broad target audience	Ongoing/ Short-Term	Comms
Identify methods to make recreation registration more convenient and accessible to all segments of the population	Short-Term	Comms, RD
Establish priority segments to target in terms of new program/service development and communication tactics (e.g., Teens, Seniors, etc.)	Short-Term	Comms, RD
Explore additional marketing mediums to maximize exposure to identified target markets	Ongoing	Comms, RD
Establish and review regularly performance measures for marketing; performance measures can be tracked through customer surveys as well as some web-based metrics.	Ongoing	Comms, RD
As services grow, consider implementing additional public input methods such as pre-program surveys, regular/recurring user surveys, lost customer/user surveys and non-customer/non-user surveys	Short-Term	Comms, RD
Leverage relationships with partners to enhance marketing efforts through cross-promotion that include defined measurable outcomes	Short-Term	Comms, RD

Objective 2: Enhance stewardship of parks and public spaces

Communicate with user groups through word of mouth, surveys, community meetings, open houses and focus groups to ensure expectations are met in terms of facility and programming accessibility and function.	Short-Term	RD
Create a system to collect resident's general park improvement requests that can be utilized during the decision making process of improving and upgrading parks.	Ongoing	Comms, RD
Continue to coordinate stewardship and volunteerism within the Recreation Department's services to improve and maintain parks, assist with programming and special events, and build community	Ongoing/ Short-Term	RD, DPW
Continue to engage neighbors adjacent to parks where changes are being discussed	Ongoing/ Short-Term	Comms, DPW
Evaluate the need to expand office hours to better serve our residents	Short-Term	Comms, RD
Invite community members to propose locations for bicycle racks, corrals, and other storage to spark interest in non-motorized culture.	Short-Term	RD, Comms

PARTNERSHIPS

Objective 1: Continue to foster engagement and relationships with local and regional partners, identifying opportunities for shared resources

ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Continuously evaluate the Quad City network budget, agreements, and personnel time to ensure equal resource allocations. The Quad City network includes Hazel park, Pleasant Ridge, Oak Park, and Ferndale	Ongoing	RD
Continue to examine agreements and policies with public schools to maximize the benefit while minimizing the cost to both entities, including the use of facilities as well as cooperative program offerings	Ongoing/ Short-Term	RD
Maintain and continue to pursue private partnerships with organizations that have compatible values and goals and which result in mutual benefits.	Ongoing	RD
Track the full costs associated with each partnership, for each party	Short-Term	RD
Identify measurable outcomes for partnerships, and to the extent possible, memorialize them in written agreements.	Short-Term	RD
Require annual reports of partners, if feasible	Ongoing	RD

PUBLIC SPACES & FACILITIES

Objective 1: Develop new city facilities as needed, utilizing natural and sustainable design elements

ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Uphold baseline standards for all new facilities, including compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood, connectivity, safety, ADA accessibility, and environmental sustainability.	Ongoing	DPW, EDP, MS
Explore the feasibility and identify opportunities to add cold-month seasonal park features to extend the use of parks throughout the year	Short-Term	RD, DPW
Continue to seek opportunities to incorporate reforestation and native naturalized landscape projects, accompanied by green stormwater infrastructure and interpretive signage.	Ongoing	DPW, MS
Continue to increase environmentally sustainable practices in all city buildings and properties	Ongoing	CMO, DPW, EDP
Explore opportunities to add public art in parks and community centers.	Short-Term	RD, EDP
Consider supplying bathrooms, water fountains, trash bins, wayfinding signage, places to sit and shade structures at every park	Ongoing	RD, DPW
Plant additional trees of compatible varieties in Oak Park parks per state standards and the recommendations of staff arborists or relevant consultants	Ongoing	DPW

Objective 2: Improve equitable access to parks and amenities to encourage participation and active lifestyles for all age groups and abilities.

Develop ADA baseline recommendations for park improvements, ensuring each park has a network of accessible paved pathways	Short-Term	RD, DPW, MS
Provide communication, scheduling, and permitting resources to ensure facilities are available to everyone for personal, family, and community events through rentals and low/no-cost programming.	Ongoing	RD
Conduct parking studies as necessary to understand unmet demand, and areas of excess supply, specifically for parks like Rothstein (<i>identified as having vehicular access issues during the engagement process</i>)	Short-Term	RD, DPW
Utilize the Trust for Public Land's ParkServe Analysis within Chapter 4 to address access gaps within the park system	Short-Term	RD

Objective 3: Establish a connected non-motorized trail system

Ensure trail system includes consistent and informative wayfinding signage	Ongoing	DPW
Participate in city-wide streetscape design projects to ensure pedestrian facilities, open spaces, connections to nearby parks, signage, and historical interpretation are included where feasible.	Ongoing	EDP, DPW, RD, MS
Follow MDOT roadway maintenance project schedules and strategically coordinate on-street non-motorized route design based on this plan's recommended trail framework	Ongoing	DPW, MDOT, RD, EDP, MS
Develop and expand the non-motorized trail system to underserved portions of the community	Ongoing	DPW, MDOT, RD

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Objective 1: Ensure the long-term maintenance and provision of facilities and programs through the strategic planning and management of human resources and funding

ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Evaluate and adjust staffing needs to ensure the efficient administration of programs, facility use and future recreation trends.	Ongoing	PR, Comms, EDP, DPW, CMO
Ensure the importance and role of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PAC) is recognized throughout the City (both internally and externally), and continue to create sub-committees to address specific issues and initiatives as needed such as the park stewardship sub-committee.	Ongoing	RD, CMO
Ensure PARC is a diverse cross-section of Oak Park's population, representing different household types, interests, and abilities.	Ongoing	RD, CMO
Perform an annual asset inventory for all parks including but not limited to age of facility, facility condition, and needed improvements to meet code requirements.	Ongoing	RD, DPW
Continue to utilize community groups, private partners, and volunteers to assist in maintenance and beautification projects.	Ongoing	RD, DPW
Incorporate the National Recreation and Park Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) Standards into agency practices, to be updated on an annual basis.	Short-term	RD

Objective 2: Enhance the long-term viability of park features

Continue utilizing the year round beautification/landscaping-schedule.	Ongoing	DPW, PR
Develop a maintenance plan, incorporating certified professionals, which check the equipment, playscapes and facilities on a scheduled basis.	Short-term	DPW, PR
Conduct an annual inventory of park amenities and review of Elevate Oak Park to continue the planning process and make updates as needed	Ongoing	DPW, RD
Create a cohesive family of general park elements (signage, seating, light fixtures, etc.) to streamline maintenance processes.	Ongoing/ Short-Term	DPW, RD, EDP
In selecting park elements, consider materials that maximize long-term sustainability, minimize maintenance and management, and deter vandalism.	Ongoing	DPW, RD
Engage local conservancy and land trust organizations in helping to fund capital costs associated with landscape restoration.	Ongoing	DPW, RD
Explore innovative ways to approach maintenance to maximize environmental sustainability and reduce utility consumption, such as proactive and preventative maintenance.	Short-Term	DPW

PROGRAMMING

Objective 1: Provide a diversity of programs that are safe, welcoming, affordable, accessible, and of interest to Oak Park's diverse population

ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Based upon the observations of the Program Assessment as well as demographic and recreation trends information, Recreation Department staff should evaluate Core Program Areas and individual programs, ideally on an annual basis, to ensure offerings are relevant to evolving demographics and trends in the local community	Short-term	RD, Comms
Continue to expand and enhance the mobile recreation program	Ongoing	RD
The Recreation Department should consider the extent of program offerings for adult fitness and wellness given the significantly high Priority Investment Ranking (PIR) identified in the Program Assessment	Ongoing/ Short-Term	RD
Offer a range of recreation programs (athletic, educational, and social) for people with different abilities to ensure all community members have welcoming and accessible recreation and enrichment opportunities	Ongoing/ Short-Term	RD
Consider updating Mini Business Plans for each Core Program Area on a yearly basis to aid in program evaluation.	Ongoing	RD
Establish and track Lifecycle, Age Segment, Classification, and Cost Recovery Goals to utilize alongside demographic trends and community input during program evaluation	Short-Term	RD
Utilize the Age Segment and Lifecycle Analysis when evaluating programs and determining program mix	Ongoing	RD
Continue to monitor demographic shifts and program offerings to ensure that the needs of each age group are being met, particularly programs for young children	Ongoing	RD
Recreation Department staff should be trained on the process of conducting a Cost-of Service Analysis and the process should be undertaken on a regular basis	Short-Term	RD
Set cost recovery goals at the start of each year in order to benchmark against the Recreation Department's goals annually	Ongoing	RD

Objective 2: Establish unique places through non-traditional and specialty parks and programming

Promote total wellness and healthy living lifestyle opportunities through special events, programs and facilities	Ongoing	RD, Comms
Create activities that capitalize on the uniqueness, amenities and character of specific parks	Short-Term	RD, Comms
Continue to explore opportunities to regularly use parks in non-traditional ways to engage residents and maximize facilities (such as outdoor yoga, special neighborhood events)	Ongoing	RD

FUNDING

Objective 1: Identify financial resources to fund improvements to public space and recreation facilities

ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Develop plans and a means of generating and increasing revenues through federal, state and private grants, sponsorships and partnerships for upgrading and expanding recreational facilities. Grant sources to consider include the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the recent SPARK grant program (funded through ARPA), MEDC Public Spaces/Community Places, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.	Short-Term	RD, CMO
Continue to consider programs and facilities that have revenue-generating potential	Ongoing	RD
Keep apprised of current state and federal recreation guidelines and standards in order to position Oak Park for funding streams.	Ongoing	RD
Research local and federal transportation grants like TAP and RAISE that would support the implementation of the non-motorized loop trail system	Short-Term	RD, EDP, CMO
Establish a business development plan to support the parks direction and other staff in securing grant funding, growing partnerships and sponsorships, developing park and program business plans, and supporting overall revenue generation efforts.	Short-Term	RD
Investigate and pursue opportunities to install electric charging stations so that revenues can be invested directly in tree reforestation and habitat creation projects within the Oak Park Recreation System.	Long-Term	EDP, CMO
Continue to actively seek and encourage private-public partnerships to enable and enhance programs and facilities through donation, adoption, and sponsorship opportunities of physical park elements, recreation programs, and team and event sponsorships.	Ongoing	RD, CMO
Seek funding through private foundations such as the Kresge Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott and Ruth Mott Foundations and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundations.	Ongoing	RD, CMO
Engage the community in a public education and information campaign that assesses the potential support for a recreation millage that would help provide matching funds for grant pursuits, capital improvements, maintenance upgrades, and operating expenses.	Ongoing	RD, CMO

Objective 2: Ensure that the funding available in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is spent efficiently based on community need

Follow purchasing guidelines and utilize competitive bidding to obtain the lowest price on all projects	Ongoing	EDP, DPW, RD
Review and adjust the CIP every budget year to ensure it's alignment with priorities of the City and needs of the community	Ongoing	EDP, DPW, RD, CMO

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is an important component of a 5-year recreation plan. A CIP identifies a set of projects where it is anticipated and/or desired to have funding allocated to them. For the Oak Park Recreation system, there is a wide range of projects that have been identified. It is important to note that in many cases the total estimated budgets for projects within a year exceed the available budget for capital improvement projects. **The current CIP will be amended based on the recommendations from the Elevate Oak Park Plan.**

Consequently, Recreation Department staff works with partner agencies and other organizations seeking grant funds, matching funds, and other sources of funding necessary to implement as many projects as feasible.



PROJECT	YEAR	AMOUNT
Recreation Facility addition/renovation	25-26	\$15,000,000
Community Center and Library Roof Repairs	23-24	\$100,000
Community Garden	22-23	\$40,000
Fitness Park	23-24	\$150,000
Resurface/expand basketball courts at Shepherd	23-24	\$120,000
Swimming Pool renovation (zero depth area)	24-25	\$120,000
Dewey Park Playscape	24-25	\$70,000
Renovations to Shepherd Park Kitchen and Bathrooms	23-24	\$400,000
Community Center/City Hall HVAC Repairs	Total amount spread incrementally from 23-24 through 27-28	\$180,000
Splash Pad	23-24	\$1,000,000
Update City Signage (Parks, etc)	24-25	\$50,000
Pavilions Painting and Repair	23-24	\$25,000
Ice Rink Roof Repairs	22-23	\$80,000



07.

APPENDIX

ENGAGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS (SPRING/SUMMER 2022)

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION TAKEAWAYS

- More sidewalks for barrier free access and fitness around the park.
- Improve non-motorized connections to neighborhoods and to the larger community.
- Collaborate with schools to make sure each park has adequate play and recreation opportunities for children and youth.
- Emphasize the role of parks as community gathering places.
- Recognize each park's unique attributes and context while creating engaging and inviting places.
- Enhance the density of recreational activities at the parks while keeping in mind the neighborhood setting.
- Keep open spaces flexible for a wide range of uses, but also, provide more shade!

BEST PARK

ONLINE DISCUSSION

ENGAGE HERE!

Instructions

Zoom in and out by scrolling with your mouse. Click and drag to move around the board. For the purpose of this study, we want to focus on locations within the boundary of the City of Oak Park.

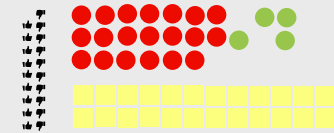
OPPORTUNITIES - Facilities, park elements or infrastructure that are functioning well the way they are, or with a little bit of TLC they could be great.

CHALLENGES - Areas within the Parks and Recreation system that need work. "Work" could be improved trails, better access, expanded programming, updated facilities.

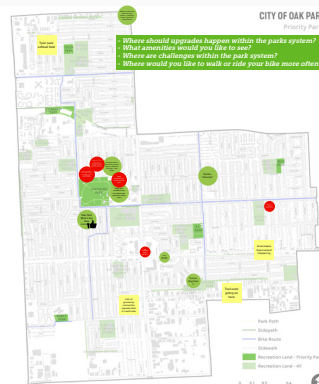
Click on a dot below and drag it to an area on the map that you think is an opportunity or challenge.

Add text to the dot or a sticky note to comment and explain why you put the dot in that area.

Visit the Amenity Ideas Board below for inspiration!



1. CONTEXT MAP



2. BEST PARK - FOCUS



CITY-WIDE Amenity Idea Board



BEST PARK Amenity Idea Board



IN-PERSON DISCUSSION

Programming/Activities:

- Increased programming for seniors and younger groups
 - » Activities, art classes
 - School renovation at Casa and Jackson Park – adult intramural greenspace lost – relocation opportunity?

Best Park Specific Opportunities/Challenges:

- Street parking on both sides – sometimes busy along Roanoke
- Surrounding streets need maintenance, especially for bikers
- Oak Park Blvd big bike connector – no cars parked on the side
- Parking on the east and south side of the park – no walking connection between the two
 - » Safe Routes to School connection opportunity here?
- Flag football, adult intramural teams, looking for open space to host games, potential opportunity within open space of Best Park
- Key priority is preservation of tree canopy
- Basketball/tennis courts caused issue in community here (noise complaints); some commentators wanted courts back
- New facilities and activities: Younger kid play space need, Ninja type challenge area, ice skating, pickle ball
- Neighborhood picnic amenity needs:
 - » Playspace, splashpads
 - » Tables

- » Grills
- » Covered picnic shelter, places to meet with friends and hang out
- » Shaded seating
- » Bathrooms
- Designated space for programming – food truck opportunity?
- Wayfinding opportunities
- Community garden
- Sign needs replacing, repair lawn under trees, leaf collection, tree maintenance, tree planting at west and north, sustainable storm water management, partner with schools to reduce litter, security, waste management, general cleanup
- Potential to highlight neighborhood history at each park
- ADA accessibility issue:
 - » Ramp at parking lots
 - » Paved waling connections throughout the park
 - » Modern Shade Structure/Gazebo

From Other Sessions

- Usually isolated
- Sitting areas
- Cornhole games
- New sound absorbing pavement
- Small court area

IN-PERSON DISCUSSION

Challenges:

- Path needed to the south of Northend, connecting Stratford, connect down to the Greenbriar Greenbelts to the west and Greenfield to the west
- No sidewalks on Greenfield – barrier to walkability
- Community groups need to organize and help maintain parks – business association, adopt a park?

Opportunities:

- Northend and Kenosha great non-motorized connections
- Gear play towards neighborhood younger children – older kids have basketball court
- Lots of open space, room for recreation
- Community garden?
- Path to walk playground connection – seniors would walk the path. Trail loop with interactive play and spaces to sit in the middle
- Safety and security – lighting, cameras
- MOGO bike station?
- Wayfinding – didn't know the park was here, thought it was private property (school)
- Vandalizing and maintenance issues
- Restoration of habitat, potential for wetland and boardwalks
- Fitness areas and destinations – opportunities to get children away from traffic and into greenspace

KEY PARK

ONLINE DISCUSSION

ENGAGE HERE!

Instructions

Zoom in and out by scrolling with your mouse. Click and drag to move around the board. For the purpose of this study, we want to focus on locations within the boundary of the City of Oak Park.

OPPORTUNITIES - Facilities, park elements or infrastructure that are functioning well the way they are, or with a little bit of TLC they could be great.

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Click on a dot below and drag it to an area on the map that you think is an opportunity or challenge.

Add text to the dot or a sticky note to comment and explain why you put the dot in that area.

Visit the [Amenity Ideas Board](#) below for inspiration!

1. CONTEXT MAP

CITY OF OAK PARK

Where should upgrades happen within the parks system?
What amenities would you like to see?
Where are challenges within the parks system?
Where would you like to walk or ride your bike more often?

2. KEY PARK - FOCUS

Idea Generation Click and drag the colored sticky notes (dots). Green shows that you like an image, red shows that you dislike an image. Don't see what you want? Place a sticky note telling us "what's missing?"

Indoor Recreation & Community Centers	Interactive Play Space	Recreation & Play Activities	Transportation Infrastructure	Social Interaction Spaces

IN-PERSON DISCUSSION

Connectivity:

- Scotia's relatively busy street depending on school getting out
- Connectivity opportunity – one existing connection on the southside
- Connection to street through houses on the east side

Amenities:

- Integrated fields park – football, cheerleading, kickball, soccer
- ADA accessible playground (SE side) – gets good use
- Need playset for younger kids to play
- Park playset maintenance issues here
- Increase shade via trees or a pavilion – include places to sit and hang out, especially when food truck comes (benches, picnic tables)
 - » Bball court?
 - » Bike racks
 - » Games
 - » Bikeway link
 - » Community garden

ONLINE DISCUSSION

Instructions

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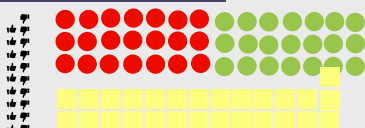
OPPORTUNITIES - Facilities, park elements or infrastructure that are functioning well the way they are, or with a little bit of TLC they could be great.

CHALLENGES - Areas within the Parks and Recreation system that need work. "Work" could be improved trails, better access, expanded programming, updated facilities

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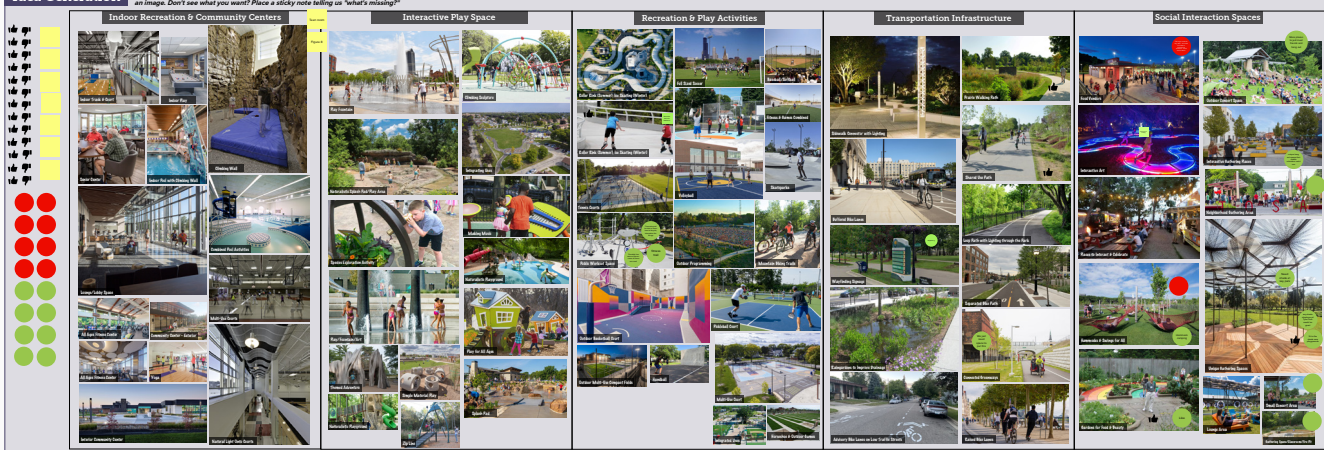
Add text to the dot or a sticky note to comment and explain why you put the dot in that area.

Visit the Amenity Ideas Board below for inspiration!



Idea Generation

Dot vot using the colored sticky notes (dots). Green shows that you like an image, red shows that you dislike



IN-PERSON DISCUSSION

Designed to be highly programmed – not used as such now

Opportunities:

- Use parking lot and field just south of the park in a more efficient way – privately owned
- JCC – used to exist here, supported, and served the community (indoor community space with recreation opportunities). Can this be recreated? Still a need/want from immediate community
- Religious connection, in close proximity to MF housing, schools, etc.
- Need ADA updating, no ramps currently
 - » Connect the 2 parks over 696 – enlarge 696 fly over to the east to merge with Victoria Park
 - » Install linear and heat cables to keep ice from falling on 696
 - » Looking for sidepath or bike lane to Shepherd from Rothstein
- Increase Programming: Small group events – pavilion with shade
 - » Summer concert series
 - » Art over the interstate
 - » Better utilizing the concert space, amphitheater, art space on concrete. (Art over the Interstate)
 - » Needs restrooms
 - » Partner with Jewish Community Garden
- Amenities:
 - » Need for bathroom facility
 - » Bike parking (covered), west, mid and east

- Maintenance:
 - » Refresh sound wall
 - » Refresh pavement
 - » Refresh benches
- Skating ribbon?
- Seniors and MF housing close, need amenities and activities for these populations
- Splashpad on existing concrete?
- Safety needs – cameras?
- Skate Park?
- Community garden

Challenges:

- Not easy to get to via driving – who can access this space?
 - » Needs signage and wayfinding, no one knows park is here
- Way to Southfield/Greenfield very dangerous
 - » Path to Rothstein from Greenfield has issues with posts, poles, broken glass, too narrow
 - » Apply Complete Streets/Zero vision to Greenfield north and south of I696
 - » Add MOGO station at Greenfield and 696 off ramp to connect to surrounding stations with non-car lanes

From Other Sessions

- Rusty exercise equipment
- Improve walking paths, biking, natural environment here – lots of people use this as a connector

ONLINE DISCUSSION

Instructions

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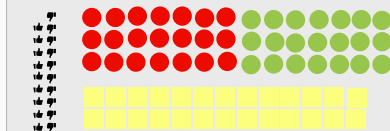
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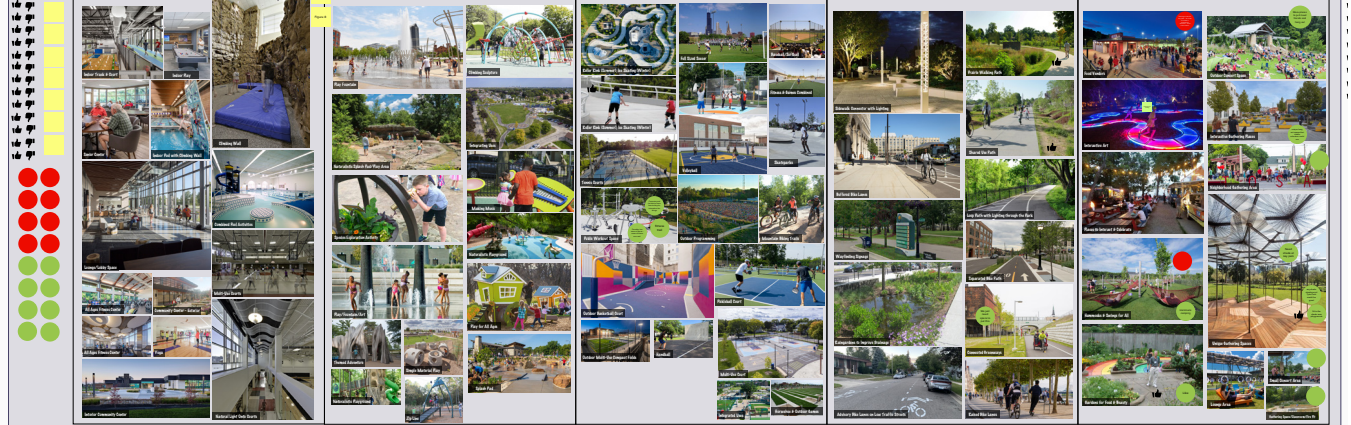
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Idea Generation Dot vot using the colored sticky notes (dots). Green shows that you like an image, red shows that you dislike an image. Don't see what you want? Place a sticky note telling us "what's missing?"

Indoor Recreation & Community Centers	Interactive Play Spaces
---------------------------------------	-------------------------



Exterior Facilities Desired

- Keep grills with tables, pavilions, wooden train, play structures, ball fields
- Food truck area – near concert bandshell
 - » City in process of updating guidelines and policies for food trucks
- Bandshell performing space for concerts, movie nights
- Pathway between the community center and
- Covered pavilion near the library, use this for outdoor events for the library
- Pool needs maintenance
 - » Used a ton during the summer – Ferndale, Huntington Woods
 - » Hard to haul stuff from the library across the woods
- Court areas: Potential for more flexibility in use to

include handball, fitness and games, pickleball, basketball and tennis.

- Outdoor fitness equipment/space for exterior exercise classes
- Splash pad
- Outdoor meeting places for classes – specific area for programming
- Restrooms
- Safety buttons
- Playground equipment, including equipment for all ages, ropes course, climbing
- Outdoor ice-skating ribbon
- More meeting/gathering spaces, more benches, comfortable chairs, fire pits
- Outdoor walking loop with benches; cross country skiing trail
- Bulletin board information centers, notices and information going on
- Outdoor skatepark – need maintenance, need accommodations for people watching (bathrooms, concessions)
- Miniature golf upkeep and programming
- Farmer's market pavilion, fruit trees
- Concrete pad for kids to learn how to bicycle, interactive
- Rain gardens
- More effectively use area north of ice rink- pollinator garden, horseshoe pits, corn toss, path surrounding area
- No specific support for skateboard park, or full-sized soccer

Indoor Recreation Desires

- Sauna and steam room
- Indoor walking loop, elevated and lit with natural light
- Senior programming
 - » Open up to other age groups who want to join
 - » Rochester older persons commission – looking for something similar, programming
- Senior activity room, crafts
- Ice skating rink is not open to the public – we need a public skating rink
- Large windows and natural light – “bring the outdoors indoors”
- Multi Use courts-racketball, volleyball, handball, basketball, pickleball
- Fitness rooms and equipment, suitable for all ages
- Flexible use rooms for yoga, fitness classes
- Indoor game rooms, (e.g., pool tables, foosball)
- Multi use pool area with slides, climbing walls, lap area, whirlpool
- Locker room
- Larger conference space
- Storage
- Office space for non-profit organizations
- Business incubator space
- Kitchen, snackbar
- Athletic pavilion

- Better surfacing at historic train to avoid mud
- North parking lot needs better trash bins, , etc.
- Place ice shavings in better place to not melt on paths

From Other Sessions

- Indoor Track
- New community center
- Concrete pad for kids to learn how to bike
- 5 and under parks/play spaces
- Bathrooms
- Pool
- Tennis court
- Half court basketball
- Pickleball
- Mountain bike trails
- Hammock camping
- Tennis court redo
- Bathroom maintenance

TYLER PARK

ONLINE DISCUSSION

ENGAGE HERE!

Instructions

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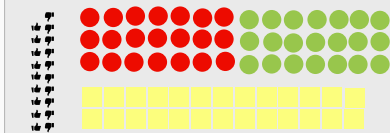
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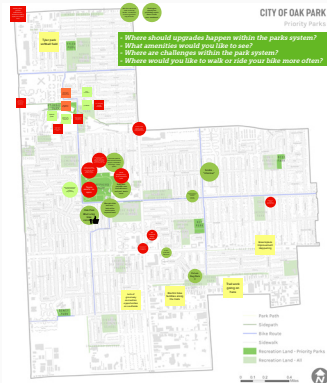
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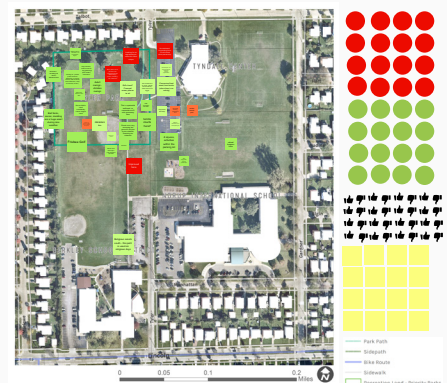
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1. CONTEXT MAP

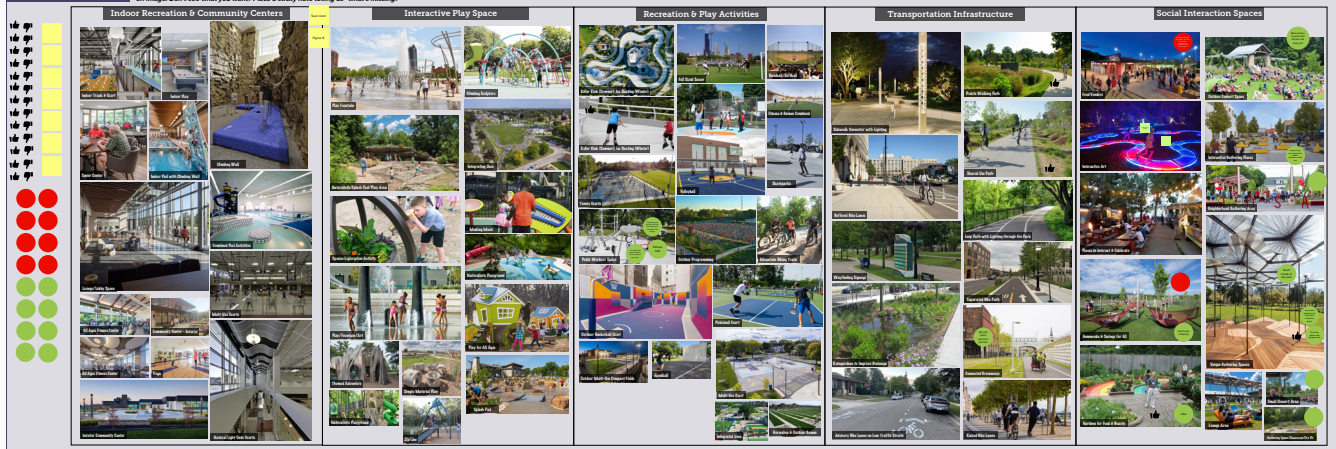


2. TYLER PARK - FOCUS



Idea Generation

Dot vot using the colored sticky notes (dots). Green shows that you like an image, red shows that you dislike an image. Don't see what you want? Place a sticky note telling us "what's missing?"



IN-PERSON DISCUSSION

Opportunities:

- Frisbee Golf
- Flooding on the field and on the connector from south/north
- Parking lot activities? 4 square and things we can paint on
- Programming and activities at the park like fireworks and sledding – need amenities like drinking fountains/water bottle filling stations, and bathrooms. Campfire space?
- Looking for shade , not a ton of trees, and

places to sit, grill, more picnic tables

- Adult swings
- East/West connection with the school? Or just general walking loop?
- Signage

Programming:

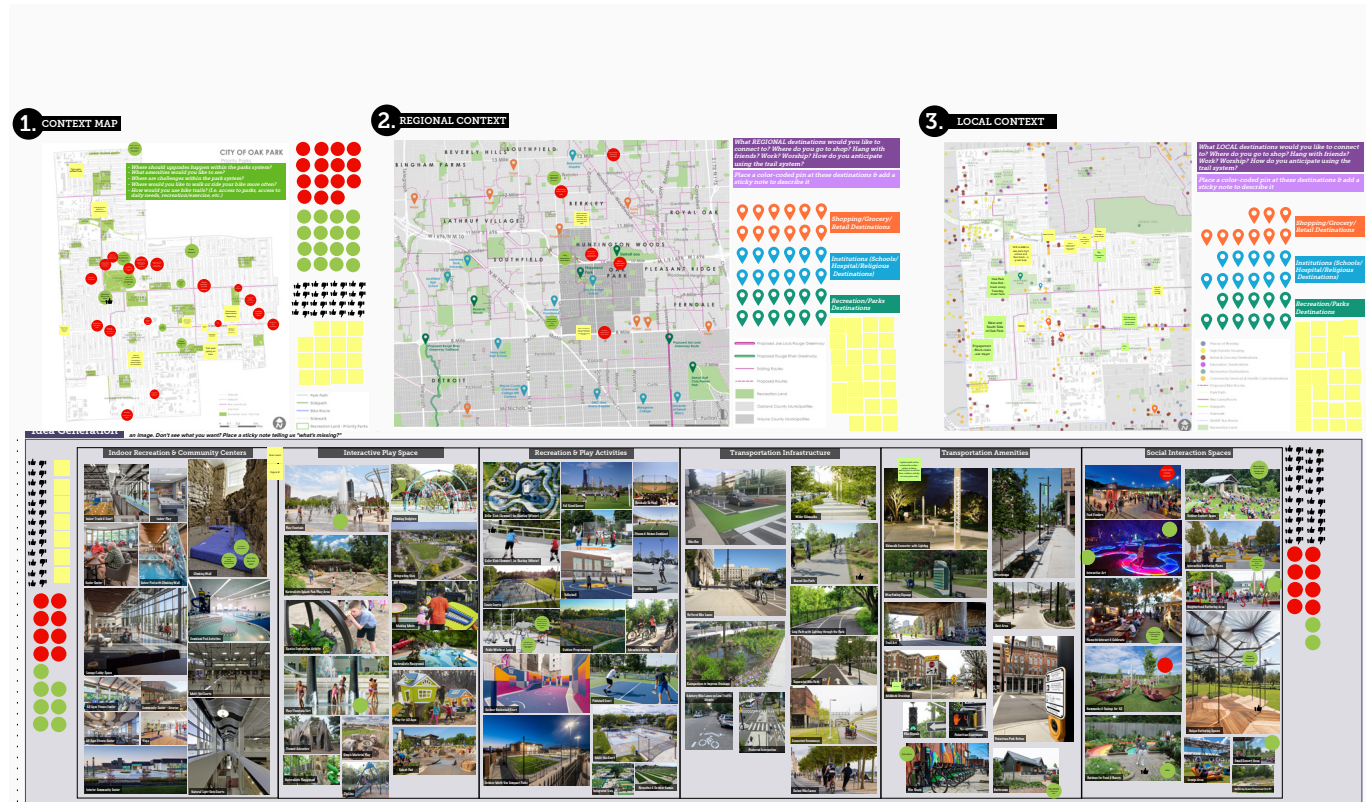
- Youth groups – capitalize on schools, usable schools and pavilion potential

From Other Sessions

- Tyler – structure for shelter

TRAIL SYSTEM

ONLINE DISCUSSION



IN-PERSON DISCUSSION

Connectivity:

- Coolidge, 12 Mile, 696, and 8 Mile, car friendly, can't cross easily or ride a bike
- 9 Mile protected bike lanes just stop at McClain, need connections west (Collaborate with Ferndale, that's who funded this)
- Looking for a recreational loop path through the community that wouldn't be used up by programming all the time
- Potential loop connector (currently pleasant for walkers/bikers): Greenfield, Rothstein Park area.
- Retail destination – Northland shops just south of Ascension Hospital north of 8 Mile

- Create a 4 corners traffic calmed intersection at 9 Mile and Coolidge.

- Connect to local parks

- Connect to regional bus stops (such as 10 Mile and 8 Mile and Meyers)

Bikeway Use:

- Most respondents noted a recreational bike riding emphasis; however a notable number of people also indicated they would use bikeways to get to specific destinations such as the grocery store, grandkid's home, gyms, schools, parks, and related places.
- Trial should be for walking and jogging as well as riding bikes.
- The path should create a network that is connected.

Regional Destinations

- Proposed greenways at 8 Mile going south-the proposed Rouge River and Joe Louis Greenways
- The Detroit Zoo
- Berkley and Royal Oak, and to generally visit other cities
- Restaurants on 11 Mile

Streetscape:

- Consider buffer for children who play at 9 Mile linear park, businesses, high speeds here
- Small park or greenspace needed on the east side near 9 mile

Programming:

- Ask business community about adopt a park to help with park maintenance. Some people interested!
- Engage Oak Park Slow Roll – meets every Tuesday

Maintenance:

- Need snow removal in winter months
- Need bathroom maintenance at Shepherd Park

Trail Amenities Needed:

- Bike and pedestrian signals (especially with turning lanes)
- Bathrooms along trails
- Automatic lighting
- Outdoor fitness areas/small destinations along the way
- A preference was noted from attendees for bikeways that are separated or effectively buffered from traffic

Challenges:

- Cars in bike lanes on 9 Mile
- No sidewalk exists on 8 Mile east of Greenfield or on Greenfield just north of 8 Mile

- West and South side of Oak Park under resourced
- No sidewalk along McClain

From Other Sessions

- Walking trail & amenities (lighting, Narcan vending machines, Defibrillators dog waste disposal opportunities along the trail)
- Bike lanes causing traffic pattern issues
- Scooters – worry about speeds, clashing with cars/pedestrians, areas scooters shouldn't be allowed?
- EZ Roll – Oak Park, Paul to send us his routing for the group. They have trouble getting into areas now that their group is so large (Paul4OakPark@yahoo.com) Paul Levine leads, confined to busy streets for routing
- 9 Mile linear park – more trees and landscaping, artwork
- 11 Mile bike lane?
- Wayfinding signage – between parks (Rothstein to Victoria, Shepherd, Library, Post Office, Community Center, Public Safety, Hospital and so forth)
- Four Corners (Coolidge & 9 Mile)
- Covered bike parking
- Opportunity for bike lane to extend all the way to 8 Mile
- Oak Park Blvd is a big bike connector
- Lots of greenway connection opportunities on the southside
- Scotia “sharrow” can be expanded upon
- 9 Mile protected bike lanes
- No sidewalk along McClain
- Bike pump and repair station along the trail
- Electric bike facilities along the trails

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - PHASE 1 (JUNE 2022)

Online Engagement (MURAL Board)

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Signage improvements at each park
Collaborating with schools - helping each other upgrade facilities

In-Person Open House Response & Comment Summary

PRIORITY SORT:

- Open Space:
 - » Arts and Culture (5)
 - » Placemaking (4)
 - » Recreation & Play (4)
 - » Environmental Sustainability (2)
 - » Public Safety (3)
 - » Comments:
 - Slow roll is age inclusive, makes their own routes
 - Recreation and play is most important because we want to create an experience to make people want to stay
 - Priorities are different for each park, need to respond to parks needs
 - Street design for accessibility – pedestrian & trails
 - Better use existing infrastructure – i.e. mini-golf restoration etc.
- Mobility:
 - » Accessibility (4)
 - » Bike & Pedestrian Infrastructure & Safety (6)
 - » Streetscape Design (3)
 - » Transportation Impacts & Parking (3)
 - » Comments:
 - Regional bus system need
 - Emphasis on complete streets, prioritizing pedestrian and bike
 - Creating bike lanes for hybrid bikes (motorized)

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT VETTING:

- Best Park:
 - » Naturalistic Play (3)
 - » Multi-Use Path through the Park (2)
 - » Picnic & Food Truck Area (4)
 - » Shade & Tree Canopy Preservation (2)
 - » Comments:
 - Better define entrance to park, especially on Northfield
 - Is it important to define school from park? Can public use school grounds?
 - Run programs at park that take advantage of trees
- Key Park:
 - » Integrated Uses (2)
 - » Walking Paths (1)
 - » Play for all ages (1)
 - » Comments:
 - Shade and Places to sit
 - Make it look like a park! Doesn't feel there is anything there
 - Create a bike path on Scotia to connect to 9 Mile
- Trail System:
 - » Connected Greenways (1)
 - » Trail amenities – bathrooms
 - » Separated bike path (1)
 - » Streetscape buffer (2)
 - » Mid-block crossings
 - » Trail amenities – lighting & signage (2)

- » Advisory bike lanes (2)
- » Comments:
 - Streetscape design and safety concerning transportation
 - Lean on the community to put together wayfinding needs list – set destinations (locally known areas/names)
 - 9 Mile needs extension for bike lane – lots of struggles with user safety here
- Tyler Park
 - » Campfire space (3 positive, 1 negative)
 - » Bathroom & concession stands (2 positive, 1 negative)
 - » Connected uses (2 positive)
 - » Picnic areas (4 positive)
 - » Comments:
 - Picnic area is a great opportunity
 - Maintain baseball diamond
 - Campfire space not a great idea with trees, houses, schools
 - Concession stand – would have to be super tiny – maybe a food truck would work better instead
 - City needs to be better about communicating what's out there – new businesses and events, programming, more up to date website
 - Park visitors use the Tyndall Center parking lot after hours; works fine
 - Add trees, picnic shelter, exercise equipment
 - Need to clarify with school use of pay area, path connections that are needed, how to connect to Lincoln Street
- Shepherd Park/Community Center
 - » Skatepark or skating ribbon (1 positive, 2 negative)
 - » Programming (art fair) (3)
 - » Summer Concerts (3)
 - » Comments
 - People go here in the summer – utilize what's the infrastructure that's existing
 - Ways to cancel out noise? – think about the integration of uses
 - Connection issues here – we need to be able to drive here in order for programming to be successful (2)
 - Skatepark might be better at Shepherd (discussion at face-to-face meeting was very negative about skatepark here)
 - Can we have signs on freeway that notes park name?
 - City should connect with religious leaders to get input
 - Make it look like a park! Doesn't feel there is anything there
- Rothstein Park
 - » Community garden (3)

» Comments:

- Be careful not to add cement – preservation of nature
- Trail system should be updated, previous sidewalks, shared use paths; connect walking loop to area east of Library;
- Public safety (2)
- Concerts/festivals (2)
- Nature and garden area (2)
- Lighting (2)
- Walking and jogging (3)
- Recreation and games: Box hockey, gaga pit, skatepark – noise issue potentially
- Space east of Library- picnic table get used, especially as social space for high school students; library does use this area for outdoor programs; a covered space would be helpful; integrate into walking path; no good reason parking lots are different; drop off/parking in front is well used.
- Open and unprogrammed lawn space west of community center is well used and needed.
- Make court areas more multi-use
- Bathrooms need relocating, and need more
- A splashpad would be nice, but does not need to be large or complicated so as to require monitoring
- Consider the idea for a seasonally convertible space like at Campus Martius
- Enlarge sledding/fitness hill
- Amenities in park should have better sign
- Walking trail could have fitness stations

- A flexible use structure that could be used for performances, events, farmer's market
- Water stations
- Can the public get access to the ice arena for skating?
- A new community /recreation center should: be spacious; useful to everyone; include more meeting rooms/class rooms ; support the library for programmable space; include space for children to be cared for so parents can participate in programs; have a communications focal point that the community can check into to learn of events and programs; act as a community "Hub"; have the potential to serve food but not include an actual café that sells food; encourage food trucks to frequent the area near the recreation center on a regular basis; become an important place for kids to use; network with health care companies to reduce costs to residents; be senior friendly and a safe place that encourages seniors to come out and socialize

• Dewey Park:

- » Loop path with new playspace
- » New shelter and bathrooms, perhaps located as center piece in park
- » Wayfinding signage
- » Seating and shade
- » Lighting (1)
- » Note: Mobile recreation van parks in lot and offers activities

- General Park System:
 - » Comments:
 - Signage improvements at each park
 - Collaborating with schools, helping each other upgrading facilities; need better lighting and security phones
 - Drinking fountains/bottle fillers
 - Bike racks
 - More MOGO stations
 - Can we fit a full soccer field into Key or Tyler?
 - Wi-Fi would be helpful in each park
 - Consider giving each park a "personality"
 - Celebrating the cultural diversity of the community and making sure everyone is welcome.
 - An information center with events posting would be helpful at each park

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - PHASE 2

In-Person Booth at Farmer's Market (Fall 2022)

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

KEY PARK

Which scenarios do you prefer for Key Park? Place a green dot on the scenarios you like, and a red dot on the scenarios you dislike. If you'd like to provide a comment, write your ideas on a sticky note.

KEY PARK
CONCEPT PLAN A

KEY PARK
CONCEPT PLAN B

KEY PARK
CONCEPT PLAN C

Is parking 200 spaces?

figures along path

Basal Hills parking lot

TYLER PARK

Which scenarios do you prefer for Tyler Park? Place a green dot on the scenarios you like, and a red dot on the scenarios you dislike. If you'd like to provide a comment, write your ideas on a sticky note.



TYLER PARK
CONCEPT PLAN A



TYLER PARK
CONCEPT PLAN B



TYLER PARK
CONCEPT PLAN C

Include - Grills
- Tables
- Benches

Address Driveway

DO NOT NEED SKATE?

DEWEY PARK

Which scenarios do you prefer for Dewey Park? Place a green dot on the scenarios you like, and a red dot on the scenarios you dislike. If you'd like to provide a comment, write your ideas on a sticky note.



DEWEY PARK
CONCEPT PLAN A



DEWEY PARK
CONCEPT PLAN B



DEWEY PARK
CONCEPT PLAN C

SHEPHERD PARK

Which scenarios do you prefer for Shepherd Park? Place a green dot on the scenarios you like, and a red dot on the scenarios you dislike. If you'd like to provide a comment, write your ideas on a sticky note.

makes better
concent space

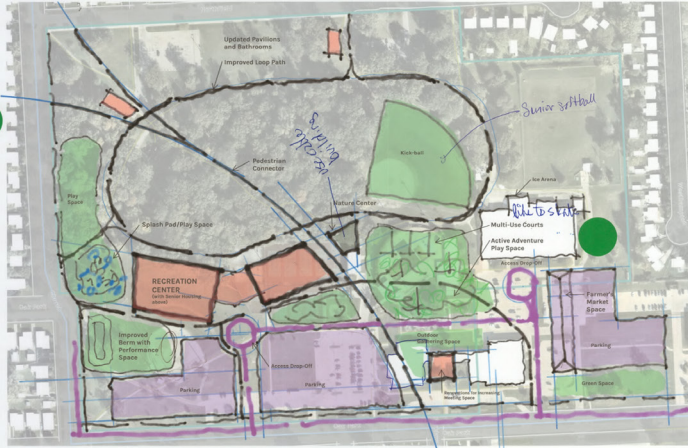
make path specific -
need to know what it is

Box Hopper.
More space
Walking through
things and call out
things

NEED
Basketball
court floor

WALKING PATHS
IMPORTANT
Paved walk
with bike lane
HARDWARE/OUTDOOR
INCLUDE

EXPAND FROM EX CENTER



CONCEPT PLAN A



CONCEPT PLAN B



CONCEPT PLAN C

Will Future Multi-Use
More
Exercise stations
along the path

SPURRY PAD!
skate board area
Bike path



ROTHSTEIN PARK

Which scenarios do you prefer for Rothstein Park? Place a green dot on the scenarios you like, and a red dot on the scenarios you dislike. If you'd like to provide a comment, write your ideas on a sticky note.



ROTHSTEIN PARK
CONCEPT PLAN A



ROTHSTEIN PARK
CONCEPT PLAN B



BEST PARK

Do we need a bathroom?
No!

Which scenarios do you prefer for Best Park? Place a green dot on the scenarios you like, and a red dot on the scenarios you dislike. If you'd like to provide a comment, write your ideas on a sticky note.

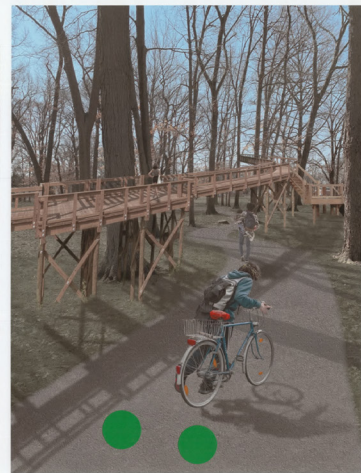
more practical



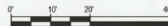
Seating good.
sheds.

Food trucks are good
but city has to make the laws.

BEST PARK
CONCEPT PLAN A



BEST PARK
CONCEPT PLAN B



NATURE BASED
LANDSCAPE
IMPACT RIVER.



PRECEDENT IMAGERY



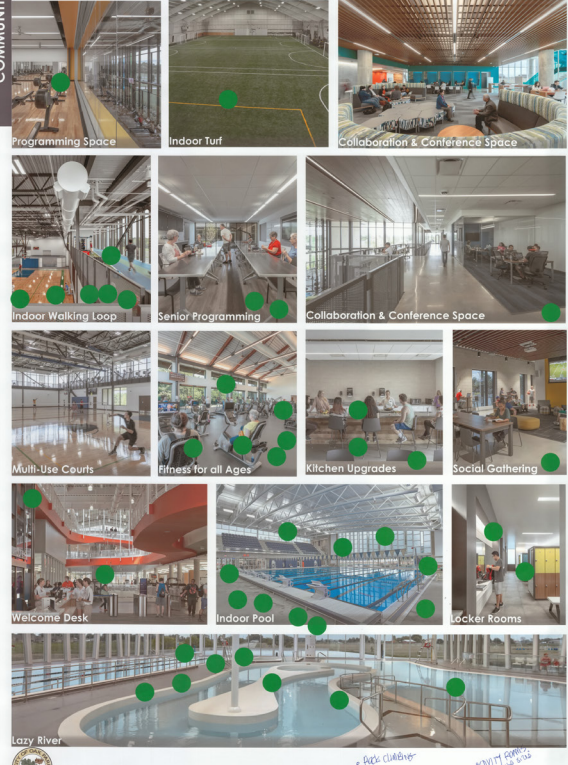
PRECEDENT IMAGERY



PRECEDENT IMAGERY PLAY & OUTDOOR SPACE



PRECEDENT IMAGERY COMMUNITY CENTER

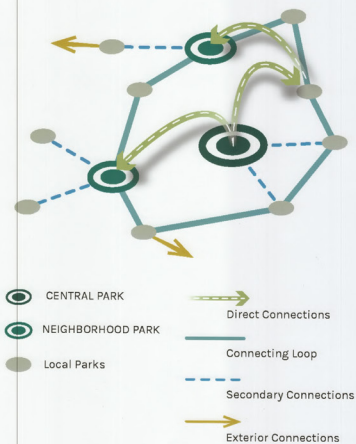


NON-MOTORIZED

CONCEPT 1: DIRECT CONNECTIONS

- Mileage for Routes
- Connecting North Side

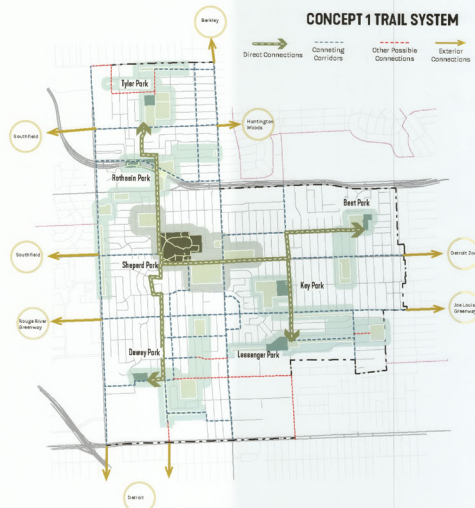
CONCEPT 1: Direct Connections



CONCEPT 1



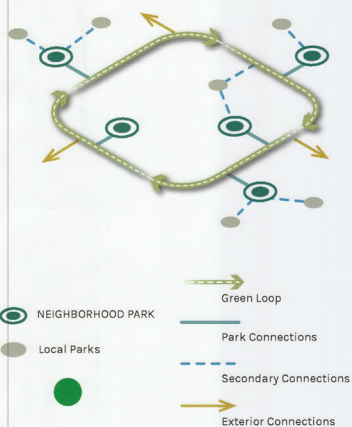
CONCEPT 1 TRAIL SYSTEM



NON-MOTORIZED

CONCEPT 2: GREEN LOOP

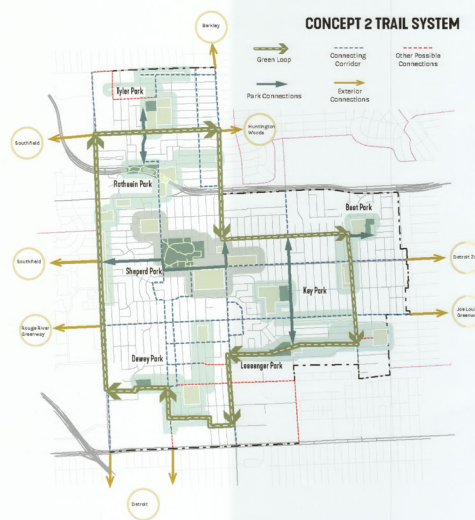
CONCEPT 2: Green Loop



CONCEPT 2



CONCEPT 2 TRAIL SYSTEM



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - PHASE 2

Online Concept Survey (Fall 2022)

TYLER PARK

Which concept do you like? Why?	What would you add to the park that we have not considered?
Concept A, it really appears to maximize the space in this park and spread things out well	
A. Seems like most well rounded plan	keep the trees intact..if city is really on board a play area closer to the school for little one similar to what was torn down
Concept A is excellent. Adding/improving upon the sledding hill will guarantee usage during the winter months, possibly making it a 'hidden gem' of an amenity when the snow falls. The perimeter path and covered shelters help make it feel like this is a place for people, moreso than an empty field. Overall great concept.	Social space covers this, but water fountains (preferably with water bottle filling stations) are important. The wayfinding signage from the precedent imagery will be important, as this park is set back pretty significantly behind houses and buildings.
Concept A. A nicer playground at the North end of the park would be fantastic. Our family greatly misses the playground that used to be at the South end of the park. The idea of a social space with roofing and restroom is also nice. That being said, with all the plans that are being proposed I hope that some nature will remain. There are several beautiful large trees at the North end of the park close to the sledding hill. I hope those trees will stay because they add a lot of "outdoor" feel to the park that cannot easily be replaced!!	Keep the larger trees at the North end of park.
Plan A because of the expanded sledding hill.	
Plan A, because it: -includes the most amenities -creates the longest walking path -is the best use of space without different sport fields overlapping	For all parks, drinking fountains (especially those with an area for dogs to get water too!)
B, because an expanded sledding hill would be great option to reduce crowding at Shepherd Park, and having a loop around the whole park is great for walking/exercising.	N/A
Concept A seems to have a better use of the grounds. Free space on both sides of a large soccer field, one near the school and one more in the public park, seem like a better distribution for the whole community	Not necessarily park specific, but connected greenways would be great. I know there are plans and discussions for these.

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
A I like the idea of social areas. Please. Add drinking fountains to our parks!	Tennis courts
Concept A. It offers more social use and provides families with multiple options to host family parties and gatherings.	Playground equipment. Our kids already do not get outside enough. But, having an incentive to do so might help.
C because it isn't doing too much like the other ones	trees
A and B (with natural grass). Sled hill + play area is a great idea.	Please add bike parking. The ones on 9 mile are ok, but not great. they are not as secure and break easier than the metal U style ones, or the circle shape ones like Detroit has on Livernois.
Plan A: I like the variety of options it offers for families and people of all ages, allowing for diverse gathering types. Would like to clarify that this will not result in city taxes increases and residents footing the total bill for this.	Landscaping: native perennial flowers with volunteers helping with upkeeping
A, sledding hill	Nothing
Concept A. It adds the most value with added shelter and allows for a play area with baseball fields and an open turf field for recreation.	I do not have anything to add.
B efficient multi use. Hope the hill stays, though	Tennis
A seems like it has the most going for it and uses all of the land. B is my 2nd choice	
All appear to be interesting! Concept A looks appears more inclusive for the neighborhood children, teens, and adults!	
Concept Plan A: I like the expanded sledding area, the paths, and the large play area.	I'm not sure about adding but I'm not thrilled that the play area is pushed right up to the parking lot. It seems like it could be hazardous. A splash pad type feature (not full but like the misters at the zoo or the one at the Greenfield Village playground) might be nice, but I understand the Berkley one is very close.
Concept A. I chose this because you have separation between the soccer field and the baseball diamond, allowing better maintenance of the soccer field. Having a baseball diamond on a soccer field will damage the fields and make them dangerous.	Drinking fountains

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
I like b best due to the entire space being addressed and having grown up playing softball, having turf surfaces would be a great benefit to reduce weather cancellations/delays.	Additional sport offering - volleyball; power sourcing, fence line
Concept A because of the size of the play area, the loop path, and the two covered social spaces.	n/a
a	
Keep the pool open until Labor Day	Keep the pool open until Labor Day
I like concept A the best because it has 2 social areas, 1 of which is located near the play area.	N/A

KEY PARK

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Concept A, I like the way the courts are laid out and all of the main attractions are centered in the park	I would maybe consider a space that is multi use for baseball and soccer
All three concepts are great, however if I have to choose I think concept A is best. Good pathways around the park, many courts for various uses, this (along with the other concepts) defines Key Park as a space dedicated to sports and physical activity. That said, concept B is great as it adds a soccer field to the city's inventory, and the additional trees to the west are nice. Concept C expands the play area in the southeast, which would be a great neighborhood amenity.	The existing Key Park is very light on amenities so any additions are going to be welcome.
Plan A has the best use of space.	
Plan A: -most flexibility in the use of space - even though it is designed as a baseball/softball field, the open space allows for others to play soccer or other sports if desired -nicest (longest?) loop path	For all parks, drinking fountains (especially those with an area for dogs to get water too!)
B. Soccer field allows more opportunities for play/ activities than a baseball field.	Not sure.
	The 9 Mile linear park needs activity structures for older residents, everything there is for those 12 and under, we were promised something but so far nothing. We can't all get to the central city area
C more sunny	Nothing

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Concept A. It seems to be the most multi-use layout with a beautiful pathway.	Six Cornhole lanes. This could potentially open up Oak Park to be a premier destination for tgr spring and summer cornhole leagues in the area. But, actually contact a person that knows what they're doing. Proper spacing, adherence to game rules and regulations, etc.
A and C because of the separated courts. I'm not sure about soccer vs baseball field. I like the extra greenspace at the end of the baseball field in A. More play areas are good.	bike parking! Is there a consideration to remove the east side car parking lot and have only the school lots? there looks to be over 100 car parking spots on the west side.
Plan B: having a soccer field diversifies the outdoor recreation offerings to serve a greater group of residents and visitors. Would consider having a theme for each park to encourage greater audience engagement. Not sure if soccer and court ball parks are the same audience.	Some type of fall and winter activity that would engage residents year round.
B. Soccer field better for neighborhood than another empty ballfield	Dedicate some greenspace for wildflower
I do not have an opinion. All three look good potentially. It depends on who frequents the park and what they would want that is needed. I frequent Shepard Park.	No opinion
A integrity of ball field. Should consider multi use with soccer field too.	Soccer
I have no idea if a soccer or baseball field would get more use, but I like the social area in the middle near all of the options more. I like C the most	
Concept B includes more variety of sports area/ recreation	Shelter for hygiene (toileting/sanitation), maybe a bike station (to repair, lock up while engaging in activity)
This park is far from me, so I don't have much of an opinion!	
C. I like the option of multiple pickle ball courts.	
B - the introduction of a soccer field would be a great change!	A volleyball court
C, it is similar to A but improving the orientation to the sun is the key component that makes C a better plan	na
B	

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Keep the pool open until Labor Day	Keep the pool open until Labor Day
I like concept B because it includes a soccer field.	

BEST PARK

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Concept B sounds amazing! I love the idea of a multi level walkway through the wooded area of the park and the opportunities that brings with it	
B. Seems like a unique idea even in the whole area. Would utilize the trees which are the best feature of best	
Concept A is great, adding a few amenities to help enhance the features already existing in the park. Meandering pathways help connect the park and the school's existing play areas to the neighborhood.	For those meandering pathways, ground-level lighting (3-foot posts) should be installed to illuminate the park, as the trees shade the space significantly hours before sunset. Signage at both the southern pathway entrance and the parking lot should be installed.
Plan B, ONLY if it does not mean a lot of the trees will be cut down. Personally, I like the park the way it is now. With all the undisturbed large trees it actually provides a sense of nature that not a lot of parks in the area have. I do know though that my kids would enjoy elevated board walks and zip lines. I just hope the trees will stay to maintain the forest area!! Our children enjoy running back and forth between the play area and the trees to play and it gives them the ability to roam a bit and enjoy a sense of freedom. I like the idea of another play area for younger children.	Please keep the large trees in this park!
B ziplines are cool!	
Plan A -better walking path -court area for games	For all parks, drinking fountains (especially those with an area for dogs to get water too!)
B, for sure! Love the idea of an elevated boardwalk.	Can't think of anything.

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Concept B sounds great - very interesting addition, and makes for a better destination park	I would love to see more bicycle park space. Personally, a mountain bike skills area or dirt jump area would be great. There are skate parks within the area that attract lots of kids on bikes, a bike specific area might be a nice and unique addition.
concept b	senior structures, nothing available for seniors at present, 2 mile walk to the city hall area, too far for seniors
B! Ziplines, elevated area	Na
Concept B. This is an "out-of-the-box" design and I love it.	Nothing.
I guess A but there's already a playground so why does there need to be another one?	
I like both. B might be a little adventurous for oak park but I think it would be worth trying. I like the new paths in both, as well as the added activities.	:D bike parking please
Plan B: like the walking path and the concept of keeping the play area further from school area.	I would consider keeping this part simple because it is connected to a school and to help keep costs low
B. Unique	Nothing
I like concept A I also like walking paths. The longer paths that loop are nice.	No opinion.
B more play structures. No games that require equipment maintenance	A small pavilion for parties and a water splash pad would be awesome here
A it's not a dumb idea w/ zip lines.	freebie golf would be less effort, you could reach out to disc craft in wixom see if they will chip in
Concept B with the elevated trail walk/zip line.	
Concept B appears to offer diverse course of activity	Handicap assessable stations, for all the parks (I failed to mention on the other surveys)
B sounds amazing. I like the board walk and zip line sound. Seems hazardous to put the young age play right next to the parking lot without a fence.	
B. Zip lines and possibility for rock climbing!!	Outdoor billets for rock climbing
I like the boardwalk a lot	
I much prefer the zip line and picturesque features that b offers. This makes the area stand out as compared to other park spaces.	Garden space
I like them both	n/a

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Keep the pool open until Labor Day	Keep the pool open until Labor Day
B because it has a zipline option	

DEWEY PARK

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Concept C seems like it would really maximize the usage of this park with activities, rather than just another baseball diamond	
I like concept A, the fitness stations around the pathway and playgrounds to the south are excellent. Connecting the park to the neighborhood via path on the east is essential.	Signage throughout the neighborhood should be installed as it is set back behind a school and has few access points.
C Fitness is important.	
Plan A -most variety in usage of space	For all parks, drinking fountains (especially those with an area for dogs to get water too!)
A & C. These options keep the park useful to everyone, and for those of us south of 9 mile and west o Coolidge, having a fitness activity option would be amazing.	Nothing. I am just so excited that Dewey Park is going to be an actual park maintained by the city!
All seem fine.	See earlier comment Re: biking specific challenge/entertainment facilities.
B	NA
Concept C. This doesn't include a baseball diamond or soccer field. Oak Park doesn't need one of these at EVERY park in the city. It's just a cost-saving measure and doesn't add any benefit to the park.	Nothing.
I guess B because the baseball field leaves the most open space. Why not leave open space in any of these plans?	More trees
I really like A. all ages playground plus gathering area seems like what they need in the south west side, there's not much nearby, but I think bathrooms need to be included in all parks. but I think baseball field or courts would also be an improvement from what is there now. I think this is the park with the most potential to improve and bring in tons of people.	I cant tell from the picture, but a walk\bike trail to Northend Ave and James\Stratford (on the south west) is needed. in addition to bike parking every park I think bathrooms should be there too.

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Plan A: like the multi-use aspects of recreational facility. The variety of options is a strong factor.	
B. Restrooms	Add a bathroom to the other options
I do not have a favorite. I think the best concept would be for optimal use for the people that frequent the park. I do not frequent this park.	No opinion.
B - baseball bringing in league play here would be a plus	Play equipment for young children. The neighborhood is due to turn over to younger families in the coming decade
I like A the most but not feeling the FUTSAL. you had me at "challenge course" though	
A, appears to offer a wider of areas, the mini station a plus	Handicap assessable areas where possible
No opinion do not use park.	
Between a and c. Futsol is very cool, but also love the idea of fitness activities	
A - I like that both the fitness and challenge features are included	Bathrooms/drinking fountains for all options
A I like the size of the social space	na
C	
Keep the pool open until Labor Day	Keep the pool open until Labor Day
Plan A because it offers fitness stations as well as an area for young children	

ROTHSTEIN PARK

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Option A seems like it would bring more usefulness to the park	
A. Seems more practical for long term usage	
Both concepts are fine, but I'm leaning slightly more Concept A. The addition of equipment would help to activate the space and give people more reason to spend time there besides walking through.	Might require some agency approval, but signage above I-696 would increase awareness -- perhaps similar signage to the 'City of Oak Park' decorative fencing along Coolidge above 696.
Plan A. A play area that is fitness and adventure focused sounds nice!	
Both are interesting	

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Plan B -with some immediately surrounding parks providing play and engagement, it would be nice to add more arts and culture to our city's portfolio	I'm wondering if elements of both plans for this park could be combined. In the open space lawn area of Plan A, include some of the interactive art and sculptures thought of for Plan B - it's the best of both worlds! For all parks, drinking fountains (especially those with an area for dogs to get water too!)
B. It's so close to Victoria Park, that I don't think you need another playground there, and having something that is more quiet would be nice.	Nothing.
Concept A appears to give a lit more entertainment and utility to a great park that I would like to use more.	The park is central to Oak Park, and would be a centerpiece of a bike route or greenway through oak park, connecting Royal Oak, Ferndale, and potentially further. I think it should be more emphasized as a destination, and routes should head more directly to it, with some shaded shelters and greenscape along the way
concept a	All areas of the city needs some sort of fitness structure. We are a city spread out over a large area and it is difficult for some to travel such distance.
A fun stuff for kids	NA
Neither. Concept A is ridiculous and just a waste of money. Concept B is just another way to spend as little money as possible while city officials can gloat about being "cultured."	A disc golf course. Oak Park doesn't have a single course. This is a huge oversight.
B - simple, natural	
Climbing area from A would be fun.	There's like 500 car parking spots within 1000 ft of both Rothstein and Victoria park, why is any more being considered? How bike parking spots are there? What about a Mogo station?
Would prefer a combination of the two. Plan A feel like too much and Plan B feels like too little. Perhaps a combination of the two concepts. Love the art scape.	Merge the two park ideas
A. Makes good use of old pavement area	Bathroom, parking area

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Ugh. They are drastically different. I like both. I think concept A is a bit busy. We have a lot of senior citizens in this area. We also have kids that play in the park by the State police station. Can we have a compromise between the two concepts?	I would like the option of something in between these two concepts.
B events plaza	Art themed play area
A it's more useful	
A for physical opportunities	Consider the handicap with some of the activities offered
Concept A: I love the sound of adventure play and climbing. My kids would love this! I could care less about fitness stations.	Please consider kids with disabilities when choosing playground equipment and other park amenities!
A. Seems awesome	
I really like that A features the Karl the open space that's surrounded with walking trails	
A just looks more fun	restrooms and covered seating
Keep the pool open until Labor Day	Keep the pool open until Labor Day
Plan A because the options presented seem awesome.	Plan A may need an additional parking plan (not just along *Church St.)

SHEPHERD PARK

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
	Disc golf course would be great in this park
A. Provided community actually has more access to rink than now. I like the general improvements common to all plans. The sledding hill is iconic	

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
<p>I like Concepts A and C the most, in part because it consolidates all the parking along the southern part of the area, leaving the park to the north and west dedicated to people and the neighborhood. The two circular drop-off spots in Concept A will act as good entryways for those arriving by car. For all concepts I love the idea of an indoor/outdoor nature center. The rec center in Concept A that sort of "opens up" to the path and forested area is great. (In previous discussions, wasn't aware of senior housing plans. I like the idea of multi-use/multipurpose facilities in theory, in practice however I'd defer opinions to those specialized in senior housing construction; could see this being an issue for residents when popular city events take place.) Love the idea of a performance space in Concept A, especially as a warm-weather reuse of the existing sledding hill. The sledding hill must remain across all plans. Dedicated farmer's market shed in Concept A is great, and given a nice design could be an eye-catching element for the overall park. Good utilization of what is currently parking and an undefined green field.</p>	<p>On Oak Park Blvd, add parallel parking spots for a few reasons: increase parking supply without having to dedicate more space within the site, but also can be used for dedicated food truck parking during special events. Across all concepts, especially Concept A where a road is added connecting the two circular drop-off areas, traffic calming measures like speed humps, raised pedestrian crossings, and bollards should be implemented to ensure the safety of pedestrians in the area. For new parking lot spaces, add dedicated EV charging spaces. Clearly marked bike racks and spaces for electric scooter parking. Bonus points for ebike charging stations. At Oak Park Blvd and Coolidge, install marquee signage to indicate the city's gemstone park and public amenities are all located here. Water fountains and water bottle filling stations throughout.</p>
Plan A. Maintain ice arena	
B Senior Housing is important	
<p>Plan B -I love the business skills incubator; as Oak Park continues to redevelop it will be important to engage our community to create and keep businesses in Oak Park -Dedicated Farmer's Market space with easy access -Walking path with the most options</p>	<p>For all parks, drinking fountains (especially those with an area for dogs to get water too!)</p>
<p>C, far and above. It seems the option that would server the widest range of Oak Park residents.</p>	<p>It's frustrating that the ice arena does not seem to serve local residents. It's very alienating to be in that parking lot and have folks from other cities act as if we are the outsiders. If you are going to renovate it, then it should have some open recreational time and skate rental.</p>

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
Concept A routes a great pedestrian path through the park, connecting its extreme corners. It's such a large park, and would be another focal point for Oak Park, especially if well connected to Rothstein and 9-Mile corridor. IN addition, the concentrated parking seems like a more efficient use of space	I think commercial zoning near the parks is maybe a desireable trait. If parks are good draws for people, a few spots that are zoned for food and beverage retail would be great. Food/beverage carts or trucks could also easily fill this role, and these things fit well with the farmers market. I would only add that availability of food and beverage should be more constant and consistent than an irregular farmers market.
A: I would love both indoor and outdoor skating rinks! Living in Michigan skating rinks allow us to embrace our long cold winters and create a sense of community. Nothing like being able to drop into an outdoor skating rink and just go. But we also need an indoor rink for the days when it is not cold enough. I have been saying for years that we really need our own skating rink	NA
Concept A.	A disc golf course.
c - mostly leaves things how they are	more space/trees and less STUFF
B. I like the extra paths through the park, and the covered farmers market area. I dont think we need to expand any of the parking lots. I have not used the ice arena, so I wont comment on keeping it or not. I think more pavilions are needed.	More bike parking!! it is ok at the library but I'm not a huge fan of the style of bike racks, and definitely could use more all over the park.
Plan C: I like this plan as is	Maybe incorporate volunteer groups to help upkeep the landscaping and cleaning
A. The sledding hill is one of the main outdoor activities in our area. There are people on it every day there is snow. But this option needs a farmers market space	Add in dirt hiking paths through wooded area, I'd tree species, add wildflower areas
Ugh I don't know. Each concept has their own benefit. Do we need senior housing? I like the better walking path. We have a lot of people the frequent this park. We need a new pool, and new play equipment for the children. Absolutely need more parking for the gatherings that happen on the weekends during the summer. I would roller skate this park if I could.	Just keep the trees. We like the shade they offer us while we walk.

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>What would you add to the park that we have not considered?</i>
A because it keeps the ice arena which needs to become a community asset again with lessons, reasonable open skate times and hockey integrated into local school districts. Maintained tennis courts with lessons and high school cool teams as well.	Baseball court. AND the most elaborate play area anywhere! Areas to accommodate young and older children. Keep the train too!
C best use of space	
C, because it appears to include a little of all; senior housing opportunities, community events center rally located, sports areas . . Just so much goodness	Appears to have everything, just want to mention handicap assessable areas!
Concept B because there are more trails through nature and splash pad is more central. But where is the library?	
A - ice rinks are closing in the area and this space can serve for so many youth athletes, it should not be removed	
C because it includes an additional picnic pavilion	additional restrooms
a	
Keep the pool open until Labor Day	Keep the pool open until Labor Day
Plan C would be my first choice because it has an additional pavilion	

TRAIL SYSTEM

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>Are we missing anything?</i>
I like both! Can we have a loop, but also direct connections?	
Strongly in favor of Concept 2's Green Loop. If there is future expansion of greenways in the region, this concept feels like it has the highest likelihood of connecting with them. Additionally, a loop introduces the idea of a sort of 'park tour' that can be used to advertise the parks and trail, along with mile markers to indicate distance traveled. I also fully admit bias to this concept as well because I live along a street on this loop (Rosewood).	How does the existing 9 Mile Linear Park infrastructure tie into this plan? How do future plans for road diets on 9 Mile west of Coolidge and on Coolidge between 696 and 12 Mile tie into this? Is the loop considering park and school infrastructure exclusively, or should the loop trail consider commercial areas as well -- for example, new Oak Park business developments on 11 Mile in the Water Tower District, or the businesses along 9 Mile? Again, signage to aid in placemaking, as well as mile markers. Bike lanes should ideally be separated from car traffic -- paint-only bike lanes or advisory sharrows should be used as an absolute last resort. Paint doesn't protect bikers from cars. For intersections where car traffic and the trail interact, wherever possible raised crossings should be implemented, making it clear that people on the trail are given precedence here; make it feel like cars are temporarily entering the trail and should yield to users, not the other way around. Traffic calming measures should be implemented to help make the trail feel less hostile to its users.
Concept 2 -provides more options for biking around the city. I'm not always looking to go to Shepherd Park, so creating a loop around Oak Park will allow me the option to bike to that park, but also better options for checking out other places.	Bike repair stations at strategic points along the trails would be helpful. For all parks, drinking fountains (especially those with an area for dogs to get water too!)
Two. It gives far more options for neighborhood bike rides and walks, especially for children.	This is my favorite possibility! We've been needing this for so long!

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>Are we missing anything?</i>
I think the direct route is the better choice here. As much as I love the loop idea, Oak Park has at least two great major park areas that should be front and center of the access. If there are going to be sufficient spurs and side loops, put the major route straight through the good stuff.	The north/south connection to 9 Mile should be emphasized a bit more. It's a major artery, even for the small amount of bike traffic. A clear bike route north to shepherd et al is desirable - it's not clear to me as a cyclist the best, safest, and most enjoyable route north from 9 mile. The obvious right hand turn leads into a parking lot. Otherwise I think this is well covered, but separated bike paths have been shown to increase bike usage as a transit option, and I love the possibility.
Concept 2, inclusive for all residents	
Concept 2, includes the entire area, inclusive for all residents, more potential to unite all areas	
It is hard for me to understand these concepts but I would like to say that I detest bike lanes as both a car driver and someone who bikes frequently.	I really miss having water fountains in some of the parks. Also the park next to Bais Yakov is very sunny. I know trees were planted perhaps they will eventually provide shade but there is no shady area as of now making it very uncomfortable on sunny days.
None. This is a monumental waste of taxpayers money. Because, you see TONS of cyclists using the bike lanes foolishly created along 9 Mile Rd, right? Stop trying to make cycling happen in Oak Park. It is utilized by a small minority of people and are loathed by the vast majority of residents.	Yes. The fact that an overwhelming majority of your residents do not want this in any way, shape, or form.
2 - loops are always better than out and backs	
More space for not cars! I think 1 is probably the easiest, but the connections shouldnt start\end at the park, they should continue to where the road ends.	I think 9 mile, Coolidge, and Greenfield all need a road diet and bike lanes added. Oak Park Blvd could remove on street car parking and a bike large lane. The minimum protection should be 'buffered' with the flimsy plastic sticks. Ideally all bike lanes should be separated from cars, even if they are combined with ped\rolling like Livernois. I don't like how in the loop design the protection would start and end on coolidge\other streets. I think if the road has a bike lane it should continue to the end of the road, or jurisdiction. The beginning and end of bike lanes on a road invites cars to be aggressive while merging. It also says 'bikes are only important here, not everywhere'.

<i>Which concept do you like? Why?</i>	<i>Are we missing anything?</i>
Plan 2: like how it doesn't bring extra foot traffic throughout the residential areas. Like how it feeds into the adjacent neighborhoods.	Would like an opportunity to discuss further at city council mtg?
B. I like the ability to exercise long distance by running or cycling. HOWEVER, the community might better benefit from a.	Waypoints with water, bike repair, small workout areas, etc.
Concept 2. I like circles. Having something open ended is not fulfilling.	Nope. You got this.
Concept 1 bike paths on major streets are not always designed safely and do not get as much use as the investment might anticipate.	
Concept 2 gives more options to people who live farther from the parks w/ the trail	
Concept B	
#2 because it is all include to every route around the city, can reach all parks	Great ideas!
Concept 1: direct connections between parks would help us to utilize those spaces more and the directness would help kids be able to make it on their own bikes.	
2. Let us travel all over the city safety	
	Water stations w/ dog bowls
Concept 2 The green loop, I can travel around the whole city of Oak Park, visit all of our city parks and end back up where I need to be as long as I follow the loop	na
2	
Keep the pool open until Labor Day	Keep the pool open until Labor Day
	Would love a trail system through out the city. Just did a short one of my own. Started at Rosewood and OPBLVD walked to Sheperd park, did the trails in the park and then walked to the 9 mile linear park. 13000 steps, 2 hours First time to Shepard park , would enjoy discovering other highlights in the city
concept 2	

30 Day Public Review Period (November, 2022)

According to a statistically valid survey conducted amongst Oak Park residents the following are the top four priorities for park improvements... Please choose which type of trail/greenway is your priority (you can choose from than one)

"Improve existing parks (fix tennis courts)

New walking trails and greenways (where these would go who knows)

Improve existing restrooms

New community recreation center (you can't afford it)"

I would make improving existing parks the first priority, but in general agree with these four priorities.

Yes, agreed.

The ordering is fine, but I do not think an indoor aquatic center for the recreation center is a good idea (if that is still in consideration). I've seen surrounding communities like Troy, Livonia, and Dearborn struggle to maintain their facilities. They are expensive, and that burden could fall to taxpayers. One of the big draws of Oak Park is our outstanding city services at a reasonable tax rate; I wouldn't want to compromise that with the addition of an expensive indoor aquatic center.

I agree these should be the top 4, but I believe the order should be different...new comm rec center, improve existing parka, improve existing restrooms (and add more), new walking trails

yes

Yes

No

New community rec center I feel is highest priority

Most definitely, as a senior I know it is important to stay active and connecting the parks with walkways makes that possible. Also a new recreation center gives up options to exercise in a safe environment in the colder months.

Yes

"My priorities:

50% improve and maintain what already exists

40% new community center but not swallowing up more than 50% of the green space around the existing community center

10% new walking trails and greenways"

yes. I think the order is good

I agree

I agree with this priorities. I would also like to see even more parks made (even little parks, with plenty of trees, scattered throughout our city).

I would move parks up and maintain restrooms

Restrooms

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

According to a statistically valid survey conducted amongst Oak Park residents the following are the top four priorities for park improvements... Please choose which type of trail/greenway is your priority (you can choose from than one)

Yes, I agree with these priorities.

"1. Community Center
2. Improve Restrooms
3. Improve existing parks
4. New Walking trails"

Yes I agree

Rec center #1

Yes

Yes

Agree with trails and greenways; would add bike paths as well to that. Have typically not used the rec center.

Yes, I agree.

Improve existing parks with sustainable materials for children & community as a whole! Examples: Tear out old rusted out BBQ pits in park replace with earth friendly options, update shelter areas and add more lighting around park areas for night time security, build new earth friendly play scapes for children, update bathrooms, and implement a community center that will have better resources for people of color! Improve restrooms and park kitchen areas, Do something about diseased trees in city!

Yes

I would like a dog park as first priority.

Yes

"1. Improve existing Parks
2. New walking Trails & Greenway
3 New Community Recreation Center"

No. #1 priority is a DOG PARK. Next is Improve restrooms. then yours are OK.

Yes, I agree with the priorities.

"Improve existing restrooms - make more available since many people use the parks (30%)
New walking trails and greenways (25%)
New community recreation center with maybe an indoor pool for seniors to have physical exercise/therapy (25%)
Improve existing parks (20%)"

Library, recreation center, new trails and greenways, restrooms

"No. Of these listed priorities
1 walking trails and green ways
2 improve parks
3 improve existing restrooms
4 new community rec center

Otherwise,

1 remove leaf pickup program, it's damaging to the roads.

According to the statistically valid survey, new walking trails and greenways were listed as a top priority. Please chose which type of trail/greenway is your priority (you can chose more than one).

[More Details](#)

● New walking trails in our parks	22
● A connected greenway	22
● Indoor walking path	17
● Other	7



According to the statistically valid survey, new walking trails and greenways were listed as a top priority. Please chose which type of trail/greenway is your priority (you can chose more than one).

According to the statistically valid survey, new walking trails and greenways were listed as a top priority. Please chose which type of trail/greenway is your priority (you can chose more than one).

A connected greenway;

New walking trails in our parks;Indoor walking path;

Indoor walking path;

A connected greenway;

A connected greenway;

A connected greenway;Indoor walking path;New walking trails in our parks;

New walking trails in our parks;A connected greenway;

A connected greenway;

Indoor walking path;

A connected greenway;Indoor walking path;

Indoor walking path;

New walking trails in our parks;benches ;

A connected greenway;

A connected greenway;

A connected greenway;

Indoor walking path;New walking trails in our parks;

New walking trails in our parks;

A connected greenway;New walking trails in our parks;

New walking trails in our parks;

Indoor walking path;

A connected greenway;New walking trails in our parks;Bicycle trails ;

Indoor walking path;

A connected greenway;Indoor walking path;

According to the statistically valid survey, new walking trails and greenways were listed as a top priority. Please chose which type of trail/greenway is your priority (you can chose more than one).

Indoor walking path;

New walking trails in our parks;A connected greenway;

None;

New walking trails in our parks;

New walking trails in our parks;

New walking trails in our parks;Indoor walking path;

A connected greenway;

New walking trails in our parks;A connected greenway;

New walking trails in our parks;A connected greenway;Bike paths;

A connected greenway;

New walking trails in our parks;

New walking trails in our parks;Built with earth friendly materials and solar lighting ;

New walking trails in our parks;A connected greenway;Protected Bike Lanes;

New walking trails in our parks;

A connected greenway;

Indoor walking path;

New walking trails in our parks;Indoor walking path;

Dog Park;

New walking trails in our parks;Indoor walking path;

Indoor walking path;

Indoor walking path;A connected greenway;

A connected greenway;New walking trails in our parks;

"We encourage you to review the full Elevate Oak Park Plan, which can be accessed at oakparkmi.gov or any Oak Park building, and provide any additional comments on the draft plan."

Fix the tennis courts or use the space for something else. My neighbor has young kids that want to learn and are waiting for this improvement. I don't understand why we could potentially afford indoor walking trails or a new recreation center, but can't even upkeep existing facilities. Truly a shame.

I absolutely love the proposed improvements to the existing parks.

Just wanted to reiterate the priority of having a space for younger kids to enjoy at Best Park! Even a baby swing would make a huge difference! Thanks!

Pocket parks and closing roadways is a joke. Fix/improve what we already have and then evaluate where we can grow

Enjoyed the temp closure of gardner for the pocketpark/social district. It was annoying to forget it was there at times, but that's temporary and over time a new route/driving habit would become established. If it's decided not to move fwd with that plan, and alternative closure in the area I hope would happen - I think it's great to continue to grow that area and follow the suit of what other communities

No comments

"We encourage you to review the full Elevate Oak Park Plan, which can be accessed at oakparkmi.gov or any Oak Park building, and provide any additional comments on the draft plan."

"Senior housing was mentioned in the plan but it is unclear where it would be. It should not be part of the plan for the central park/recreation area because there is not enough space there. A small senior living building would be contentious because it would be very hard to fairly allocate the living spaces. Even a small building would negatively impact the traffic in that area. A better idea would be to offer more services to help seniors stay in their homes. Can the city buy and tear down the old apartment buildings south of the high school? That would be a good place for senior housing.

I like the idea of an indoor olympic size pool to replace the existing pool.

I am very worried that the founding concept of Oak Park to preserve natural areas is being undermined. Preserve the forest. Preserve the supporting grassed areas around the forest. Preserve and maintain the International Forest. Preserve our hill."

please include ample bike parking in all parks

Basketball courts, bike racks, restrooms and benches should be at every park

In Regards to the indoor community center and indoor water park I'm really excited about these! There's no place for kids birthdays within 30 minutes of OP (think zapzone and airtime trampolines, etc) the revenue OP could generate from rentals and party packages if planned and managed well would be amazing!

Thank you!

None

No comment

The plan looks amazing and will bring so much to the city

"No additional comments.

Question- when referencing walking trail/greenway - will the current trail be expanded in width and/or extended to connect to other parks?

No sure I truly understand the purpose?"

City needs to do something to eradicate unwanted rodents and other species that are damaging property!

I love the ambition to improve recreation here. I do wish we could adjacently improve bike infrastructure to promote safe bike travel. That would mean protected bike lines (protected by concrete and/or physical distance, not those unserious flex posts).

Please provide a dog park!

When I have time.

My suggestion is to implement an ordinance that states dog owners be fined for not picking up their dog's poop in Shepherd Park. There should be signs posted around the park stating this ordinance . This will prevent walkers and kids from stepping in poop as we walk and kids when playing .

"Linda Moragne - Note - In No. 5, it should say Please choose (not chose) ...You can choose more than one.

I am a writer - proofreader so I had to bring that to your attention."

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD



Parks & Recreation Master Plan Open for Public Comment

The draft Elevate Oak Park Plan, which is also the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is now available for review and public input. This plan also includes a recreation assessment and asset management study. The public comment period is open for 30 days and you can provide your comments by taking our [survey](#). Comments can be sent to Deputy City Manager of Community Services Crystal VanVleck at cvanvleck@oakparkmi.gov or Recreation Director Laurie Stasiak at lstasiak@oakparkmi.gov.

Elevate Oak Park is based on a planning process that involved input from the community, stakeholders, and staff, building upon the needs, concerns and wishes of these groups. The Plan contains key findings and information gathered from the recently completed community needs survey, public meetings, demographic analysis, current, historic and future information and trends, and a comprehensive inventory and analysis of existing parks, facilities, recreation programs, and maintenance operations. This Plan serves as a tool to guide the Recreation Department over the next five years, to better serve the community and provide quality parks, facilities and programs.

To view the draft plan click [here](#).

To view the presentation on the draft plan given at the Nov. 7 City Council meeting click [here](#).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RECEIPT

12/08/22

**MICHIGAN GROUP**

Account: 552758	Date: 12/08/22
Name:	Start Date: 12/11/22 Stop Date: 12/11/22
Company: City of Oak Park	Class: 1201 - Legal Notices
Address: 14000 Oak Park Boulevard OAK PARK, MI 48237	Ad ID: 2412055
Telephone: (248) 691-7542	Ad Taker: CRCSTIMMEL
Fax:	Sales Person: Celeste Stimmel (200309)
Description: CITY OF OAK PARK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HE	Words: 164
	Lines: 32
	Agate Lines: 72
	Depth: 4.0
	Inserts: 3
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	PO Number:

Ad sample

CITY OF OAK PARK**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON****PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (2023-2027)**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Oak Park, Oakland County, Michigan will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2023-2027). The public hearing will be held on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as can be held, in the Council Chambers, 14000 Oak Park Boulevard, Oak Park, Michigan.

The Five-Year Plan details the City's plans for parks, facilities, capital improvements and programs. A copy of the proposed Plan is available at: City Clerk's Office, City of Oak Park, 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Michigan 48237, Telephone: (248) 691-7544; the Oak Park Recreation Department, 14300 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Michigan 48237, Telephone: (248) 691-7555; Oak Park Library, 14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Michigan 48237, Telephone: (248) 691-7480 or on the City's website at www.OakParkMI.gov.

T Edwin Norris, City Clerk

Total: **\$408.13**Paid Amount: **\$0.00**Amount Due: **\$408.13****Publication**

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