



2024 - 2028

FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Charter Township of
Plymouth, Michigan



DRAFT for 30-Day
Public Review and Comment
Adopted: January ____, 2024



MCKENNA

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Many thanks to all the residents and community members who participated in the public engagement efforts.

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01.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to Plymouth Township's 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan!

This comprehensive plan is designed to reflect the Township's vision for the future while providing a basis for decision-making for the next five years, as it relates to parks and recreation within Plymouth Township.

Parks and recreational facilities are essential assets for any municipality, as they promote a sense of community, enhance quality of life, provide numerous physical and mental health benefits, and more. This plan takes into consideration both existing parks and recreation programs, as well as the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities. Plymouth Township's 2024-2028 Plan was prepared in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR's) Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans. Plymouth Township's plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the MDNR and other agencies and foundations.

The Planning Process

Prepared with the technical assistance of McKenna, this plan is based on the following process:

Step #1: Describe the Community. Chapter 2 delves into the township's physical features and land use and offers a contextual demographic analysis.

Step #2: Inventory Facilities and Amenities. Chapter 3 details the township's parks and open spaces with the following components:

- Condition and Use: Assessment of the condition and functionality of current features, and identification of potential improvements.
- Accessibility: Determination of the accessibility of site and structures for compliance with State and Federal requirements.
- Sustainability: Exploration and identification of sustainable initiatives that can be incorporated into future park improvements.

Step #3: Identify Needs and Opportunities. Chapter 4 provides an overview of the municipal administrative structure, funding sources, and grant history.

Step #4: Engage Stakeholders. Chapter 5 includes a comprehensive overview of the plan's engagement activities, with extensive details listed in the appendix. The township proactively engaged with the public to gather input for the development of this plan through a multifaceted approach; this involved conducting an online survey, hosting an in-person event, and facilitating discussions with various stakeholders.

Step #5: Analyze the Results and Data. Chapter 5 examines the information resulting from public and stakeholder engagement and the recreation inventory and analyzes the viability of facilities, state of accessibility, and opportunities for sustainability. Facility data was analyzed against the nationwide benchmarking tool for parks and recreation, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Park Metrics.

Step #6: Prepare the Action Plan. Chapter 7 details an action plan, offering a checklist of what actions are intended to be accomplished over the next several years as funding and opportunities arise. The action plan offers both system-wide recommendations and projects that are specific to certain parks.

Step #7: Plan Completion and Adoption. The draft plan was made available for the 30-day public review period where the recommendations of the document were validated by the community. Following the public review period, a public hearing was held on January 23, 2024, and the plan was adopted by the Township Board of Trustees.

Why Plan for Recreation?

The MDNR requires that plans be updated every 5-years to ensure that the Township is eligible for State acquisition and development grants. This important guiding document:

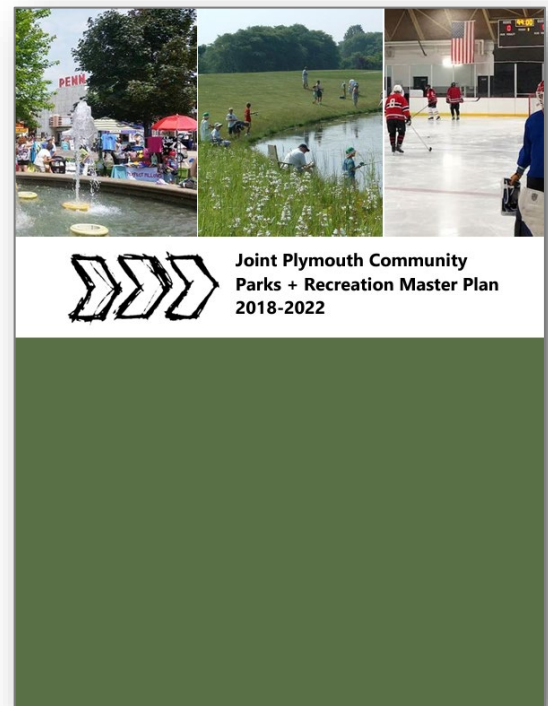
- Provides a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions over the next 5-years, as well as long-range planning of projects.
- Addresses Plymouth Township's current and future parks and recreation needs.
- Creates an authentically community-supported vision!





PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

The previous Joint Plymouth Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2018-2022) was used as an important foundation to the preparation of this plan, which was then completed as collaborative effort between the Township and the City of Plymouth. While this 2023 / 2024 update was completed separately by each municipality, the plans still allow the two communities to maximize shared resources and seek grants and other funding for recreational improvements in a collaborative fashion.





02.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Plymouth Township is located in northwestern Wayne County, Michigan. Wayne County is the largest county in the State in terms of population and encompasses the City of Detroit in addition to many suburbs, including the cities of Dearborn and Livonia. Although the western portion of Wayne County was once primarily an agricultural area, the communities surrounding the Plymouth area are now considered suburban and is largely built out.



History of Plymouth Township

Plymouth Township as we know it today began to take root around 1825, when pioneers from New England began to settle and farm in the area. Prior to this, Native Americans lived in the area for centuries. The Tonquish band of Potawatomi were the last, leaving the area when settlers arrived in 1824. As settlers continued to arrive, by 1825 there were enough people to make up a small settlement.

Soon enough, by 1827, the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan established the community as Plymouth Township, making it one of the oldest Townships in the state. Interestingly, Plymouth became a Township a full decade before Michigan even became a state. However, at this time, Plymouth did not hold the boundaries it had today and instead encompassed what we know today as Canton, Plymouth, and Northville. Its boundaries started to become more recognizable in 1834, when Canton Township split off from Plymouth Township and even more so when the Village of Plymouth (now the City of Plymouth) incorporated in 1867 and Northville became a township in 1898.

Like other communities in the area, transportation improvements played a major role in Plymouth Township's growth. It started off with a mere plank road constructed in 1850. Later on, the Howell and Lansing Railroad in the 1870s, an interurban trolley known as "The Dinky" in 1898, and paved roads in the early twentieth century. As time continued, the twentieth century brought new factories, and hence, more jobs and growth to the area. Some factories located in the area include Henry Ford's Phoenix Mill and the Burroughs Plant.

Post World War II, suburban development boomed. The National Interstate and Defense Highways Act of 1956 changed the course of the United States, authorizing the construction of highways throughout the nation. Michigan 14 (M-14) was constructed in 1956, followed later on by Interstate 96 (I-96) in 1959 and Interstate 275 (I-275), constructed in 1977. Due to the rampant expansion of freeways, Plymouth Township's population grew from 4,945 in 1950 to 23,028 by 1980.

Previously a general law township, Plymouth became a Charter Township in 1979. Charter Township status is a special township classification unique to the State of Michigan. Michigan Legislature created this classification in 1947 to provide additional powers, provide greater protection against annexation, and streamline administration governing a growing community.



Demographic Characteristics

The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the quality and quantity of parks and recreation facilities and programs necessary to serve Plymouth Township residents.

POPULATION

Trends in the number of people residing in a community are an important indicator for parks and recreation planning; growing communities have different parks and recreational needs than those with declining populations.

Since 2010, Plymouth Township's population has slightly increased, as indicated in Table 1. Within the last decade, the Township has only seen an addition of about 500 people. Recent projections indicate that Plymouth Township's population is expected to remain relatively stable with a slight increase of 1.8% through 2050. This means only approximately 515 more people are expected to live within the Township between now and 2050, under current projections.

Demographic Takeaways

Plymouth Township's population heavily influences the parks and recreational needs of the community. Demographic trends include:

- **Households with children are expected to slightly decrease by 2050.** Youth are the largest users of park facilities and are likely to participate in organized sports and recreation programming.
- **Plymouth Township has an aging population.** People who are in the pre-retirement and retirement stages of life make up approximately 40% of the Township's population.
- **Approximately 11% of the Township's population has a disability.** Township parks and amenities must be accessible to the entire population, so everyone can enjoy a high quality of life.

Table 1: Change in Population, Plymouth Township 2010-2050

2010	2020	PERCENT CHANGE (2010 TO 2020)	2050*	PERCENT CHANGE (2020 TO 2045)
27,524	27,938	1.5%	28,453	1.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SEMCOG
 * SEMCOG 2050 Forecast

HOUSEHOLDS

A household is defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. Household growth has a different impact on demand for parks and recreation than population growth. If the population is growing faster than the number of households, this indicates that more children are being born to existing households. On the other hand, if the number of households are growing faster than the population, this indicates that more singles and couples are moving to the community.

The number of households in Plymouth Township is expected to increase, as indicated in Table 2. However, the average household size is expected to decrease slightly. The Township's average household size, defined as the number of persons per household, is lower than the 2020 average household size in Wayne County (2.50) and the Southeast Michigan region (2.46). Due to the decrease in predicted household size but increase in population, it is likely that more singles and couples will be in Plymouth Township, but there will likely also be a decrease in the number of children born. This may indicate a less demand for park amenities that cater for young children.

As detailed in Table 3, approximately 50% of the households in Plymouth Township are couples without children, while approximately 25% of households are couples with children. The number of seniors that live alone has also significantly increased over the past decade.

Table 2: Housing Statistics, Plymouth Township, 2020-2050

	2010 *	2020	2050
HOUSEHOLDS (TOTAL NUMBER)	11,203	11,690	12,172
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	2.45	2.39	2.34

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SEMCOG
* SEMCOG 2050 Forecast

Table 3: Household Type, Plymouth Township, 2010-2021

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION	2010	2021*	PERCENT CHANGE (2010 TO 2021)
WITH SENIORS 65+	3,281	4,312	31.4%
WITHOUT SENIORS	7,922	7,307	-7.8%
LIVE ALONE, 65+	1,203	1,557	29.4%
LIVE ALONE, <65	1,680	1,885	12.2%
2+ PERSONS, WITH CHILDREN	3,284	2,828	-13.9%
2+ PERSONS, WITHOUT CHILDREN	5,036	5,349	6.2%
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	11,203	11,619	3.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SEMCOG
* ACS 2021

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Plymouth Township has an aging population, with most residents aged 50 years or older. In comparison, adults, young adults, and school-aged individuals are relatively equally distributed. Each of these age groups requires different facilities and programs. The township parks and recreation facilities and programs must address the different needs of an aging population while at the same time accounting for the youth and adults in the community. Healthy living, recreational, and cultural opportunities all play a major role in where people choose to live, raise families, and retire.

Changing Requirements

Pre-retirement and retirement populations account for more than 33% of Plymouth Township's total population.

An understanding of the age distribution in the township is essential in planning for future parks and recreation needs. As we pass through the various stages of life, our activity requirements change resulting in the need for different facilities and programs.

Table 3: Age Distribution in Plymouth Township, 2010-2021

AGE GROUP (YEARS)	LIFE PHASE	2010		2021	
		NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 – 4	PRESCHOOL	1,273	4.63%	1,689	6.08%
5 – 19	SCHOOL AGE	5,408	19.65%	4,066	14.64%
20 – 34	YOUNG ADULT	3,664	13.31%	3,786	13.63%
35 – 49	ADULT	5,951	21.62%	4,824	17.37%
50 – 64	PRE- RETIREMENT	6,692	24.31%	7,008	25.23%
65 +	RETIREMENT	4,536	16.48%	6,402	23.05%
TOTAL		27,524	100.0%	27,775	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SEMCOG, 2021

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Plymouth Township residents are significantly educated, as 54.4% of the Township population had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2021. Additionally, the median household income was approximately \$95,998 in 2021, which is significantly higher than Wayne County's median household income of \$52,830. However, Plymouth Township's 2021 median household income is a 15.2% decrease from its 2010 median household income, which was \$113,190. Additionally, Plymouth Township's poverty levels have risen slightly since 2010 with the percentage of households in poverty rising from 3% in 2010 to 5.6% in 2021.

DISABILITY

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that approximately 6.5% of Plymouth Township residents below the age of 65 have a disability of some sort. However, the most impacted populations are the 65 and over subgroups, of which about 24% identify as having a disability; the most prevalent disabilities within the population are ambulatory and independent living difficulties.

Ambulatory difficulties can encompass serious difficulties with walking or stairs, issues that often limit physical activity, leading to steeper decline in health. Considering these difficulties in planning for parks and recreation activities could result in positive health outcomes for a population that already experiences challenges on a day-to-day basis. Accommodations may include ramps or pavement improvements, or by installing audible and visually assisted crosswalks.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which took effect on January 26, 1992, prohibits discrimination, both intentional and unintentional, against individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities, and services provided by public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments, and any other agencies or special purpose districts of state or local governments.

Public recreation providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services that screen out, persons with disabilities; individuals with disabilities may not be excluded from services, programs, and activities because existing buildings or park facilities are inaccessible.

To comply with the ADA, municipalities have the following alternatives: alteration of existing facilities, acquisition or construction of new facilities, relocation of services or programs to an accessible facility, or provision of services at accessible sites. Recreation facilities must be examined to determine if their design creates barriers that prevent use by all segments of the population, including seniors.

ADA and MDNR policies mandate that communities work toward developing "inclusive recreation." Inclusive recreation identifies residents' interests and needs, then address these interests and needs with facilities and programs that are not only barrier-free but also adaptable so that all users can have a pleasant recreation experience together.

Disability data is collected for three age groups. Typically, as the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. Overall, approximately 10.5% of the township's population is estimated to have one or more disabilities. A quarter of those who are 65 years and older have one or more disabilities.



Table 4: Persons with Disabilities, Plymouth Township, 2021

AGE GROUP (YEARS)	TOTAL PERSONS	PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY	PERCENT OF PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY
0 – 17	5,408	147	4.4%
18 – 64	15,949	1,245	7.8%
65+	6,398	1,531	23.9%
TOTAL	27,775	2,923	10.5%

Source: U.S. ACS 2021



Physical Characteristics

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Plymouth Township ranges from 700 feet at its lowest elevation, to approximately 880 feet at its highest point. The area soils are varied as a result of the glacial action which passed through Michigan during the glacial age; the presence of five soils is typical: sand, clay, muck, loam, and alluvium. The eastern half of the township consists mainly of loam and sandy soils while the western half consists mainly of clay. The alluvium deposits follow the river and stream beds and are found primarily along open drainage areas.

While the township's suburban residential, commercial, and industrial developments have altered its physical environment over decades, the community's biggest environmental feature, the Rouge River, has remained relatively untouched. This can mostly be attributed to the Wayne County parks that surround the river, which may have otherwise been utilized for other land use purposes. Additionally, there are a variety of drains and creeks that meander across the township such as Tonquish Creek, Willow Creek, Fellows Creek, Johnson Drain, Ingall Drain, and Deer Drain. While largely underutilized today, these creeks and drains have the potential to provide recreational and environmental opportunities for the future.

EXISTING LAND USE

The Township is largely occupied by land devoted to single-family homes and has a history of agriculture, which has transformed into a suburban landscape over time. Commercial land uses are mainly concentrated along Ann Arbor Road (east of Canton Center Road), while industrial uses are generally clustered near the CSX railroad that cuts north through the township in an east-west fashion. The railroad serves as a boundary, as industrial development rarely extends south of it. Municipal parks are found nearby residential areas, with Hines Drive Park serving as a larger, regional recreational amenity.

The following table details the percent of land devoted each land use category. Per SEMCOG, recreation only accounts for less than 7% (excluding golf courses, which required a fee to use).

Single-family residential encompasses the highest percentage of the township's land area (31.50%), followed by industrial uses (10.38%).

Table 5: Land Use Coverage, Plymouth Township

LAND USE CATEGORY	PERCENT OF LAND COVER
Single-Family Residential	31.50%
Attached Condo Housing	1.87%
Multiple-Family Housing	1.22%
Manufactured Housing Community	1.99%
Agricultural / Rural Residential	2.88%
Mixed Use	0.00%
Retail	1.89%
Office	2.37%
Hospitality	0.40%
Medical	0.21%
Institutional	2.82%
Industrial	10.38%
Recreational / Open Space	6.80%
Golf Course	3.17%
Parking	0.24%
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities	1.70%
Vacant	12.62%
Water	0.78%
Not Parceled (roadways and other areas not covered by a parcel boundary)	17.16%
Total Land Cover	100%

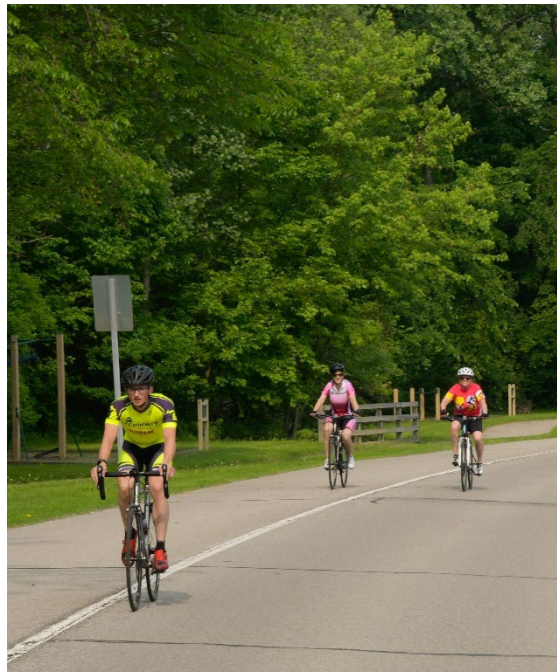
Source: SEMCOG, 2020

TRANSPORTATION

Road Network

Due to the community's status as a township, Wayne County maintains all public roads. The established street network favors a cul-da-sac pattern, which is not ideal for non-motorized travel. Streets that are well connected (in a grid like fashion), with shorter, more walkable blocks, are more enjoyable and effective for walking and biking. They are also safer as individuals can connect through the local street system, instead of having to travel along higher speed roadways (such as along N. Territorial Road or Beck Road).

The most heavily trafficked roadways of the township, excluding highways, are Ann Arbor Road, Sheldon Road, and Beck Road, with road having an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) count ranging from 10,000 vehicles in the lightest portions to 40,000 or more in the most heavily trafficked segments. Calming traffic and making it safer for pedestrians along these corridors, as well as other roads, is necessary to link neighborhoods and destinations, due to the established road network.



Transit

Unfortunately, Plymouth Township is not served by any public bus or transit routes. Bussing services are offered to seniors via the Plymouth Community Senior Transportation program. This program offers curb-to-curb pickup and drop off for residents who are 60 years and older and live within Plymouth Township or the City of Plymouth. With a fee of \$2.00 for a one-way ride, seniors can travel to any destination within the Plymouth community, as well as select nearby hospitals and medical facilities. In addition, there are monthly trips to stores such as Meijer, Walmart, and Target, which may be outside of Plymouth. However, reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance to utilize this service.

Airports

The Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) in Romulus is approximately 20 miles southeast of the township. The airport is the primary international airport for the Metro Detroit area and provides passenger and cargo service to the region. Additionally, Willow Run Airport (YIP) in Ypsilanti Charter Township, is a cargo, corporate, and general aviation airport located approximately 10 miles to the south. Closer yet is a public-use small aircraft airport on the border of Plymouth and Canton Township called Canton-Plymouth Mettetal Airport (1D2), which is owned and operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Sidewalks and Bike Paths

The township contains a network of sidewalks, but their presence and condition vary. In recent years, the administration has made a concerted effort to connect sidewalk gaps through a dedicated Sidewalk Gap Program. This includes recent sidewalk infill along N. Territorial Road, Ann Arbor Trail, McClumpha Road, Main Street, and Ann Arbor Road. Plymouth Township has budgeted \$900,000 for sidewalk gap projects in 2023. There are no dedicated or protected bike lanes within the township. Over the past several years the township has installed or required developers to install bike locks and bike repair stations in parks or in multiple-family or mixed-use developments. Pictured to the right is a bike repair station adjacent to the playscape in Township Park. A similar amenity was installed at Phoenix Mill (off Hines Park) as a result of that adaptive reuse development project. Without a bicycle infrastructure to support these facilities (that is, dedicated and protected bike lanes), these facilities will not be highly used.





03.

INVENTORY OF RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Plymouth Township contains 7 municipal parks and 1 additional site that is planned to be developed and preserved as future park space. The Township also maintains a senior center (the Friendship Station), which provides recreational opportunities to individuals 65 years and older. Several Plymouth-Canton Community Schools are also located within the township, providing some recreational opportunities for younger residents.

Hines Drive, a Wayne County-owned system of parks within the northeastern portion of the township is a major recreational asset and provides opportunities such as hiking and biking trails, playgrounds, pavilions, and boat launches. This system of parks provides access to the Rouge River and Phoenix, Wilcox, and Newburgh Lakes. In addition, there are a variety of private and commercial recreational facilities that help fulfill certain recreational needs in both the township and adjacent communities. Examples include private gyms, recreational centers, clubs, art, and dance studios, and more.

The Municipal Inventory

McKenna conducted an inventory of Plymouth Township's existing local and regional recreation facilities in summer of 2023. To assess every park, an on-the-ground site evaluation at each facility was conducted and a detailed inventory of the playground equipment and park facilities was recorded, noting their location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition (see the chart below for key process steps):

STEP	ACTION TAKEN
Arrive at subject park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photograph park signage (or absence thereof) • Photograph park standing at sign or from other edge location
Determine whether there's a typical pedestrian approach point(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photograph typical approach • Make note of any impressions • Make note of condition
Complete inventory of recreation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photograph recreation facilities • Review current plan inventory table • Revise current plan inventory table if change • Add new facilities or features not listed in current to table • Make note of condition
Complete accessibility assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current plan accessibility ranking (1-5) • Complete applicable sections of accessibility checklist (New England ADA Existing Facilities Checklist, 2017, and other ADA standards as required) • Determine proposed accessibility ranking (1-5)
Consider sustainability opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review sustainability priorities from previous plan • Make note of any new sustainability improvements or degradation • Complete applicable sections of sustainability checklist

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Each of Plymouth Township's parks and recreation facilities is identified by the amenities available and the scope of services they provide, specifically based on criteria developed by the National Parks and Recreation Association. The classification provides an understanding of the main function of each park. For planning purposes, the classification helps to identify gaps in the range of parks available to residents.

The following four recreation classifications apply to the township's parks, open space, and recreation areas: Mini-Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, and Special Use Facility:

MINI-PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	COMMUNITY PARK	SPECIAL USE FACILITY
Small, specialized parks, often less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A minipark may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Mini-parks usually serve people within a 1/4 mile radius.	Typically multi-purpose facilities that provide space more active recreation activities or programming, such as field/court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. These parks typically serve up to 5,000 residents located within a 1/4-to-1/2-mile radius.	Offers a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from many neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities. Community parks serve residents within a 1/2 to 3 mile radius.	Specialized or single purpose Recreation activities, such as historical areas, nature centers, dog parks, sports complex, golf courses, arboretums, etc. There are no specific standards for size or acreage since each site will vary, each site is unique to the community it serves.

BARRIER FREE ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, all of Plymouth Township’s facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

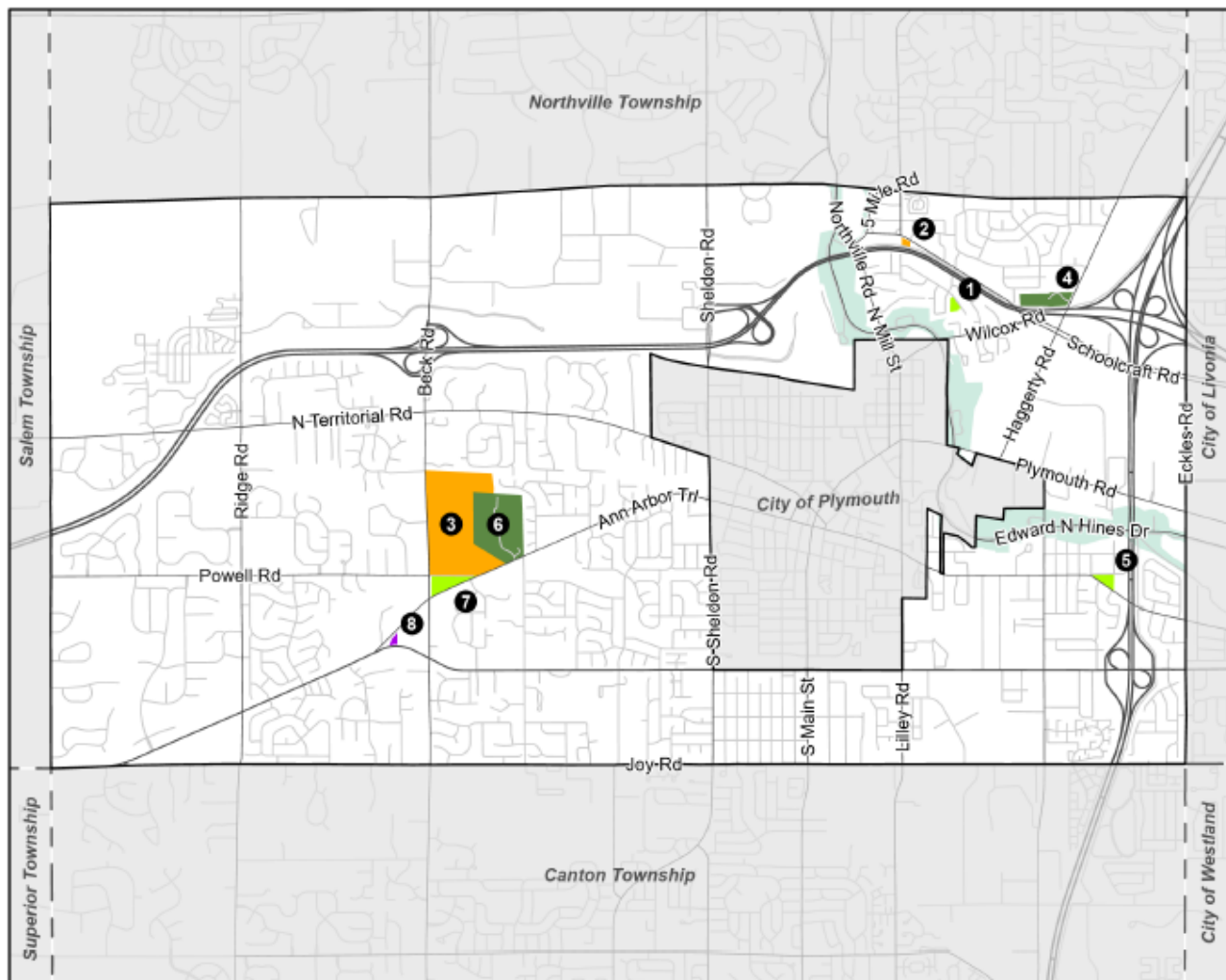
A five-level evaluation system was used to rank each facility’s accessibility. The system is described below, and the accessibility rankings can be found following the description of each park and facility owned by the township.

LEVEL 1.	The facility is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes few paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
LEVEL 2.	The facility is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
LEVEL 3.	The facility is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.
LEVEL 4.	The facility is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas area easily accessible.
LEVEL 5.	The facility park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

Township Owned Parks and Facilities

The following pages contain detailed information on each of the eight municipal facilities that function as usable, recreational space, as follows:

1. Brentwood Park
2. Friendship Station
3. Hilltop Golf Course
4. Lake Pointe Soccer Park
5. Miller Family Park
6. Plymouth Township Park
7. Triangle Park
8. West Pointe (Kiwanis) Park



Park Inventory Map

Plymouth Township
Wayne County, Michigan

December 6, 2023

LEGEND

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Facilities
- County Owned Parks
- Plymouth Township Boundary

- 1** Brentwood Park
- 2** Friendship Station
- 3** Hilltop Golf Course
- 4** Lake Pointe Soccer Park
- 5** Miller Family Park
- 6** Plymouth Township Park
- 7** Triangle Park
- 8** West Pointe Park



0 2,000 4,000
Feet

Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Plymouth Township, 2023. McKenna, 2023.



Table 6: Existing Recreation Facilities Inventory*

		AMENITY TYPE				HARD SURFACED AREA			PASSIVE AREA				ORGANIZED PLAY AREA					PLAYGROUND		
FACILITY	Area (in Aares)	Parking	Open Space	Drinking Fountain	Restroom	Basketball Court	Tennis / Pickleball Court	Running Track	Benche	Pathway (internal)	Pavilion / Gazebo	Picnic Area	Baseball / Softball Field	Football Field	Soccer Field	Lighting	Spectator Seating	Modular Play Structure	Swing Set	Climber
MINI PARKS																				
WEST POINTE PARK	0.8	-	■						■									■	■	
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																				
BRENTWOOD PARK	1.6	OS	■						■		■	■						■	■	
TRIANGLE PARK	8.0	AD	■						■	■								■		
MILLER FAMILY PARK	3.1	OS	■	■					■	■	■	■						■	■	■
COMMUNITY PARKS																				
LAKE POINTE SOCCER PARK	12	AD	■	■	1				■	■	■	■			■			■		
PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARK	62	AD	■	■	4				■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES																				
FRIENDSHIP STATION	1.0	AD			1				■							■				
HILLTOP GOLF COURSE	86	AD			2															

Legend:

OS – On Street Parking is nearby.

AD – Off Street Parking Lot is directly adjacent.

*Facilities that do not exist in any of the public parks, such as swimming pools, are not listed on this table.

The following table provides context on the accessibility rankings of each of the eight municipal recreational facilities:

Table 7: Recreation Facilities Accessibility Inventory, Detailed*

FACILITY	ACCESSIBILITY LEVEL	NOTES / OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY
WEST POINTE PARK	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park is largely inaccessible, as there are no paved pathways to reach the open space or natural features.
BRENTWOOD PARK	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor pavement abnormalities that may be difficult for those with limited mobility to maneuver. The park has plenty of resting areas, however benches could benefit from having additional stroller or wheelchair space. The sand and woodchips surrounding play equipment are not flush with the pavement and could prove to be difficult for those with limited mobility. Play equipment is not universally accessible.
TRIANGLE PARK	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benches have adjacent wheelchair and stroller spaces. However, there are not enough resting areas on the east side of the park.
LAKE POINTE SOCCER PARK	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavement abnormalities are apparent along the walking paths that may be difficult for those with limited mobility to maneuver. More resting areas should be placed around the walking paths, as there is only one bench. Those with limited mobility may find it difficult to access the soccer fields, as each field is surrounded by large berms. The pavilion features picnic tables that are wheelchair friendly.
MILLER FAMILY PARK	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few pavement abnormalities such as buckling or cracking that may prove to be difficult for people to navigate. In addition, wood chipping is not flush with the pavement, proving to be an issue for those with limited mobility. Benches have adjacent spaces for wheelchairs or strollers and picnic tables are wheelchair friendly. Plenty of benches and resting areas can be found across the park.
PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARK	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plymouth Township Park has many pavement abnormalities, such as buckling and cracking, within its sidewalks. Additionally, there are some parts of the park that have a steep slope that would be difficult for people with mobility issues to maneuver. The park does not have enough resting areas alongside its pathways, which could otherwise be solved with additional benches. However, the park does feature a universally accessible playground and wheelchair-friendly picnic tables. Play features, such as the wooden playground, are not accessible due to the wood chipping or sand fall zones that surrounds them.
FRIENDSHIP STATION	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
HILLTOP GOLF COURSE	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Brentwood Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK | 1.63 ACRES
ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 3

Located in the northeast part of the township, Brentwood Park is nestled within the Lake Pointe subdivision, situated along Brentwood Drive. The park is equipped with a play structure, swings, and a slide, along with benches, picnic tables, and a pergola for visitors to enjoy. In 2022, a new pergola, built by a local student (Emilyn S.) and her American Heritage Girls team, was made available for public use.

Additionally, a large plot of open space and a wildflower (pollinator) garden is located on the southern portion of the park.



Park Amenties and Facilites

- On-street parking
- Open space
- Benches
- Pavilion/gazebo
- Picnic areas
- Swing set
- Playgrounds
- Walking paths/trails
- Pocket wildflower garden

Opportunities

- ADA site and access improvements.
- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.
- Replace playscape surfacing and media.
- Improved landscaping and tree plantings
- Add tot lot.
- Consider multi-purpose field for open spaces.
- Add additional picnic tables.
- Addition of park lighting.
- Develop park map and wayfinding.

Friendship Station

SPECIAL USE FACILITY | 0.98 ACRES

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 4

Friendship Station is a senior complex located on approximately 1 acre of land in the northeast portion of the township along Schoolcraft Road. The building is utilized by a formal resolution by the Plymouth Community Council of Aging (PCCA), a non-profit organized to coordinate and operate programs and services which address the needs of senior citizens in the Plymouth community. The PCCA is supported by Plymouth Township and the Plymouth Community United Way.



A variety of activities and benefits are offered at the Friendship Station, including dancing, cardio exercise, chair exercise, yoga, bingo, knitting, luncheons, and a variety of talks on subjects such as elderly care, diabetes management, and more. The Friendship Station hosts a variety of day trips across Metro Detroit to restaurants and activities. The PCA publishes a monthly Senior Connection Newsletter which includes a senior event calendar.

The Friendship Station is also home to the Plymouth Community Senior Transportation program, which provides rides to residents 60 years old and older within and around the Plymouth Community for a nominal fee.

In 2017, an outdoor patio was installed. Between 2021-2023, a series of interior building improvements were made, ensuring that the facility is ADA compliant and COVID compliant.

Park Amenties and Facilities

- Off-street parking
- Benches and seating areas
- Pavilion
- Restroom facilities

Opportunities

- ADA site and access improvements.
- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.
- Sidewalk repair and connectivity improvements.
- Consider site drainage and stormwater improvements.
- Improve park signage and wayfinding.

Hilltop Golf Course

SPECIAL USE FACILITY (86 ACRES)

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 4

The Hilltop Golf Course, managed by AMV Ventures Inc. and owned by the township, is located adjacent (west) to Plymouth Township Park. Hilltop boasts an impressive 18-hole, par 70 course stretching across 6,009 yards. On-site, there are various offerings to cater to the needs of both beginners and experienced golfers, including lessons, memberships and leagues. Additional amenities include a clubhouse, bar and grill, golf shop, practice chipping/putting green, and a 107-space parking lot.



Recently, the site experienced sight-line improvements and the management of tree and brush growth. Additionally invasive species removal at the property entrance (the recently paved Powell Road) are planned for 2024. Use of the facility is not free; membership prices and greens fees are offered at a reduced rate for township residents.

Park Amenties and Facilites

- Off-street parking
- Golf course (18-hole)
- Restroom facilities

Opportunities

- ADA site and access improvements.
- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.
- Improved landscaping and tree plantings.
- Improve park map and wayfinding.

Lake Pointe Soccer Park

COMMUNITY PARK | 11.77 ACRES

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 3

Lake Pointe Soccer Park (opened in 2004) is in the northeast portion of the township between Schoolcraft and Haggerty Roads. The park features two irrigated soccer fields, a loop pathway around the park (approximately ½ mile), a picnic shelter with electricity and a grill (80-person capacity), tables and restrooms, and a playground area. The park is furnished with trash cans, bike loops, and benches. A traffic loop is available for convenient drop-offs and pick-ups, with five designated handicapped parking spots for easy accessibility. Additionally, there is a large parking lot with 120 spaces. On the southern side of the park, the 275 Metro Trail runs between the southern edge of the park and M-14.



In 2022, the Environmental Leadership Commission established a pollinator garden along the east edge of the parking lot (nearby to Haggerty Road).

Park Amenties and Facilities

- Off-street parking
- Open space
- Drinking fountains
- Benches / seating areas
- Pavilion / gazebo
- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds / swing set
- Soccer field
- Walking paths

Improvement Opportunities

- ADA site and access improvements.
- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.
- Replace playscape surfacing and media.
- Connect park walking loop with 275 metro trail
- Consider tot lot.
- Consider multi-purpose field for open spaces.
- Add additional picnic tables and grills.
- Addition of park lighting.
- Develop park map and wayfinding.
- Develop larger soccer fields.
- Walking paths and bike trails.

Miller Family Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK | 3.08 ACRES

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 4

Miller Family Park is situated at the intersection of Ann Arbor Trail and Ferguson and was generously donated by Claire Haske in memory of Pete, Adele, and Keith Miller. Nestled between residential areas, it serves as an excellent recreation area for families to walk or bike to. Within the park is a circular area that contains two playscapes, swings, and one climbing structure. In addition, it features a sheltered picnic area and open space which can be utilized for multiple purposes. These areas of the park are furnished with a drinking fountain, benches, bike loops, trash cans, and picnic tables.



In 2022, a new pavilion (pictured above) was erected as a dedication to former Trustees Kay Arnold.

Grant Funding History

YEAR	GRANT NAME	GRANT NO.	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1999	Miller Family Park	CM-99164	\$172,500.00	Development of a new park including landscaping, benches, drinking fountains, play structures for children, climbing sculptures, signage, and a sidewalk.

Park Amenties and Facilites

- On-street parking
- Open space
- Benches
- Pavilion / gazebo
- Picnic areas
- Swing set
- Playgrounds
- Walking paths

Opportunities

- ADA site and access improvements.
- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.
- Replace playscape surfacing and media.
- Sidewalk repair and connectivity improvements.
- Consider tot lot.
- Consider multi-purpose field for open spaces.
- Consider park system trash and recycling program.
- Add additional picnic tables and grills.
- Park lighting improvements.
- Develop park map and wayfinding.
- Consider site drainage improvements for the picnic shelter.

Plymouth Township Park

COMMUNITY PARK | 62.45 ACRES

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 3

In 1969, the Amrhein farm property was purchased and developed into Township Park, which is situated to the east of Hilltop Golf Course. The park covers provides a wide range of amenities, such as four picnic shelters, walking paths, a ¼ mile nature trail, two large playgrounds (one of which is ADA accessible and was added in 2017), a fishing pond with a dock, four baseball diamonds, a large sledding hill, and a spray/splash park.

Tonquish Creek flows through the nearby Hilltop Golf Course and Township Park, where visitors can enjoy interpretive signs and bridges that cross the river and connect to the park's northern side.

Township Park features four shelters that can be reserved and offer a range of amenities to cater to the needs of visitors. Three of the shelters have a capacity of 80 to 100 people and include facilities such as benches, electricity, and grills. The westernmost shelter is unique as it features a fireplace, alongside the park maintenance building. The newest four seasons pavilion, located at the top of the sledding hill, boasts both indoor and outdoor seating options for guests. The outdoor area is covered and can accommodate up to 120 people, while the air-conditioned indoor space spans 1500 square feet and has seating for 80. A snack bar and indoor restrooms are also available for guests' convenience.

The spray/splash area, built in 2003, is open from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day each year, weather permitting. The sprayscape includes approximately 2,600 square feet of space with 24 spray features.



In 2023, the Township began the reconstruction of the driveway at Township Park from Ann Arbor Trail up to the 4-Seasons Pavilion. This project is paid for with Federal ARPA funds. Sidewalks gaps have been filled in this immediate area, and new crosswalk now extend across Ann Arbor Trail.

Grant Funding History

YEAR	GRANT NAME	GRANT NO.	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1975	Plymouth Recreation Park	26-00607	\$16,124.80	Develop the park to include parking, road, site improvement for play area and sledding hill, picnic equipment, LWCF sign, sidewalks, creek improvements, landscaping, trails, and pond area.
1999	Miller Family Park	CM-99164	\$172,500.00	Development of a new park including landscaping, benches, drinking fountains, play structures for children, climbing sculptures, signage, and a sidewalk.



Plymouth Township Park (Cont.)

Park Amenties and Facilities

- Off-street parking
- Open space
- Drinking fountains
- Restroom facilities
- Baseball field
- Spectator seating
- Climber
- Benches
- Pavilion / gazebo
- Picnic areas

Opportunities

- ADA site and access improvements.
- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.
- Replace playscape surfacing and media.
- Develop park map and wayfinding.
- Sidewalk repair and connectivity improvements.
- Add pickleball and multi-purpose fields.
- Consider allowance of dogs and pet amenities (i.e. trash receptacles).
- Seasonal and winter activities.
- Expand walking paths and bike trails.

Triangle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK | 7.97 ACRES

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 3

In April 2021, the Township Board approved the formal creation of Triangle Park, making it the newest addition to the park system. Located on a triangular shaped piece of land between Beck Road and Ann Arbor Trail, just south of Hilltop Golf Course, the park provides 10-foot-wide pedestrian paths, winding throughout the site's open space. It is anticipated that the park will undergo further enhancements as future funding opportunities present themselves, including the addition of pathways, public art, native plantings, and a more serene, well-maintained wooded area.



Park Amenties and Facilities

- Open space
- Benches
- Picnic areas
- Walking paths / trails

Opportunities

- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.
- Improved landscaping and tree plantings
- Add additional picnic tables and grills.
- Addition of park lighting.
- Develop park map and wayfinding.
- Addition of historical signage.
- Addition of public art installations.

West Pointe (Kiwanis) Park

MINI-PARK | 0.82 ACRES

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT = LEVEL 1

West Pointe Park is a triangular open space located at the junction of Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail on the township's west side. The park's east side is a landscaped area with plantings that spell out "Plymouth" along with no-mow, wildflower areas (pollinator garden, not pictured). With a creek running through it, there are opportunities to incorporate sustainability elements in future improvements.



Today, the site lacks a clear identity as a park and would benefit from improvements that would make it more recognizable as such. Due to its size and location, West Pointe Park has limited potential as it is bordered on two of its three sides by major thoroughfares, and a majority of the open space is actually located within the road rights-of-way (and not usable, open space). Some improvements include the repurposing of the unused rights-of-way into non-motorized travel lanes, connecting this area to regional non-motorized networks and nearby facilities, such as Triangle Park and Plymouth Township Park.

Park Amenties and Facilities

- Open space

Opportunities

- ADA site and access improvements.
- Install rain gardens, and improvement non-mow areas.

Public School Facilities Inventory

In addition to municipal facilities, public schools often provide recreation opportunities for residents of the surrounding neighborhood. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (PCCS) is unique, as the school district encompasses three municipalities: Plymouth Township, the City of Plymouth, and Canton Township. While residents of Plymouth Township have middle and elementary schools within its borders, youth attend high school in one of four high schools. Three of the high schools (Plymouth, Canton, and Salem), are located on a campus known as the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (P-CEP) in Canton Township. The fourth, Starkweather Academy, is an alternative high school for students with special needs and is located in Plymouth Township.

Of the 24 district schools, seven are located within Plymouth Township, and these contain a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, as follows:



Allen Early Learning Academy

Allen Early Learning Center is a preschool (children ages 2-4), located off Haggerty Road, north of Ann Arbor Road. The school offers extended day programs for after-school care and summer school for children grades K-8.

The preschool has four tot lots, a garden, swing sets, climbing structures, a soccer field, and two softball / baseball fields. The school also has a gymnasium for physical education and indoor sports activities.



Bird Elementary School

Bird Elementary is located on the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon Road, across the street from West Middle School. The school serves students grades K-5.

Previously, Bird Elementary had a variety of recreational features such as swings, playgrounds, soccer fields, softball/baseball fields, gaga ball, four square, basketball nets, and climbing structures.



Farrand Elementary School

Farrand Elementary serves grades K-5 and is located within the Lake Pointe neighborhood (off Haggerty Road).

Farrand offers climbing structures, playgrounds, basketball hoops, swings, two softball / baseball fields, soccer fields, gaga ball, a gymnasium for indoor activities, and painted pavement that includes foursquare and a map of the United States.



Isbister Elementary School

Isbister Elementary is located on Canton Center Road, south of Ann Arbor Road and serves children grades K-5.

Isbister has five swing sets, multiple climbing structures, a playground, and tire swings. In addition, there is a multipurpose court that has markings for hopscotch, foursquare, and basketball.



Pioneer Middle School

Pioneer Middle School is located near the corner of McClumpha Road and Ann Arbor Road, near Isbister Elementary. Pioneer has four baseball fields and five basketball hoops.

Pioneer offers after school sports including cross country, girls volleyball, boys' basketball, girls basketball, swimming, wrestling, and track.



West Middle School

West Middle School, serving grades 6-8, is located on the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon Road, across the street from Bird Elementary.

West features two soccer fields, two baseball fields, six basketball hoops, and a multipurpose field. Similar to the other schools, West has a gymnasium that is used for indoor activities.



Starkweather Academy

Starkweather Academy, a high school for students with special needs, is located off of Joy Road, east of I-275.

Starkweather has one baseball field, one soccer field, and a multi-purpose field.

Regional Recreation Resources Inventory

HINES PARK, A WAYNE COUNTY PARK

In terms of total acreage, Wayne County's Hines Park (at 2,300 acres) is the largest recreation facility in the immediate area, with approximately 405 acres falling within the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. The park encompasses the properties along both sides of Edward Hines Drive as it traverses through the Plymouth community. This linear parkway consists of undeveloped natural open spaces along Hines Drive with developed recreation areas and parking areas at points within the parkway. Each of these recreation areas are given a separate name. Within Plymouth Township, three such facilities are located:

Haggerty Recreation Area

This recreation area features two soccer fields, two ball diamonds, and a Tudor-style comfort station. This area is utilized for sport activities and is also home to the First Responders Memorial.

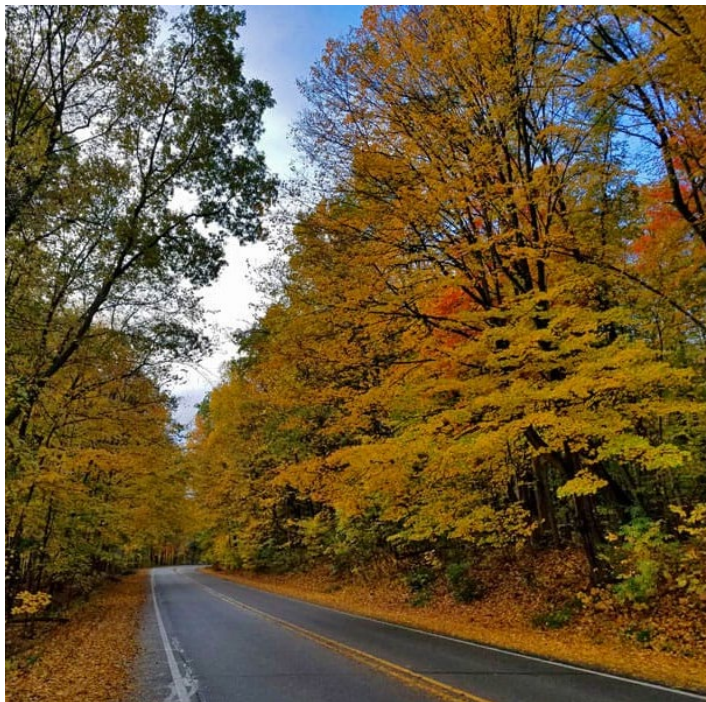
Gunsolly Mills Recreation Area

Gunsolly Mills Recreation Area is located along the east side of Hines Drive, just north of the Plymouth Road overpass and the Middle Rouge River flanks the east side of the park. Prior to its status as a park, it was formerly the home of a carding mill frequented by Henry Ford and his family to have their wool carded (the process of cleaning, separating, and straightening wool fibers, readying it for yarn spinning). Presently, Gunsolly Mills is home to a Radio Car (RC) racetrack, swing sets, a bathroom, grills, a playground, a gazebo, and an outdoor gym.

Wilcox Lake Recreation Area

The Wilcox Lake Recreation Area, situated to the north of Wilcox Lake. In the 1800s, settlers constructed four impoundments along the middle branch of the Rouge River, one of which was Wilcox Lake, to generate power for a mill. The Hardenberg Gristmill was constructed in the 1850s on Wilcox Lake, utilizing the power of the lake's dam. This led to the fostered growth of a community that eventually transformed into what we know today as the City of Plymouth. In 1922, the historic mill was purchased by Henry Ford and converted into a Village Industry Plant that produced taps, which are devices used to manufacture screws. In World War II, this plant became an important manufacturer of small parts for the Pratt and Whitney airplane engine. In 1949, after World War II had ended, the mill was given to the Wayne County Park Trustees by Ford Motor Company for incorporation into Hines Park.

Intersected by Hines Drive, the park is split into a north and south side. On the north side, the park features the Hines Park Trail, a playground, a swing set, a gazebo, and open space. On the south side of Hines Drive, the park has additional open space, restrooms, and a fishing dock.





REGIONAL NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

Two regionally significant nonmotorized trails travel through Plymouth Township: **the 275 Metro Trail** and the **Hines Drive Bike Path**. These two regional paths connect east of I-275 along Hines Drive. Additionally, they each connect to and provide access to many miles of other regional trail corridors throughout metropolitan Detroit.

The **275 Metro Trail** runs along the I-275 freeway from Novi to Willow. As noted on the TrailLink website, the 275 Metro Trail was initiated in the 1970s as the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) response to the ongoing fuel crisis at the time. The trail was ahead of its time, but construction standards were not up to the standards of today's pedestrian and bike trails, and the path fell into disrepair. Significant improvements have taken place over the past 5-years. The Friends of the 275 Metro Trail is an active group of volunteers who advocate and assist with clean-up activities.

The **Hines Bike Path** is 19.5 miles long within Hines Park and traverses along Hines Drive from Dearborn to Northville, connecting a variety of parks across multiple jurisdictions. Although named a "bike path" it is not strictly a bike path and can also be utilized for hiking, jogging, and roller skating.



SAINT JOHN'S RESORT AND GOLF COURSE

The Cardinal Golf Course at Saint John's (Sheldon and 5 Mile Roads) is currently under renovations to create a new Championship, 18 hole (par 72 course), set to open in 2024. This facility is located on approximately 184 acres of land and also features a clubhouse building, pro shop, indoor golf range, hotel, restaurants, chapel, and wedding and conference center.



PLYMOUTH ARTS AND RECREATION COMPLEX (PARC)

The non-profit PARC is located at the PARC complex (former Central Middle School) in downtown Plymouth. Their mission is to enrich lives through quality arts, education, and recreation programs for all ages. PARC signed a Purchase Agreement in 2015 to purchase the property from the Plymouth-Canton School District with private funds. PARC serves as the landlord of the facility and houses a number of tenants that run a variety of programs such as theater productions, youth sports, culinary arts classes, orchestra concerts and arts education.

Tenants range from the Michigan Philharmonic to the Detroit-based College for Creative Studies. The existing PARC facility also includes a swimming pool, gymnasium, and outdoor athletic fields.



PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Plymouth District Library serves both the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. It first opened in 1923 and was known as a branch of the Wayne County Library, named “Plymouth Dunning-Hough Library”. The Plymouth District Library offers a variety of books, computer labs, and study rooms for Plymouth community residents and visitors.

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association operates an approximately 80-acre parcel in the western portion of Plymouth Township. The association is a sportsman’s club created to promote the conservation of natural resources and wildlife in Michigan; the site includes a clubhouse building and several outdoor shooting/archery ranges.

TDM SOCCER FIELDS

Two irrigated soccer fields were built by the City in 1993 on TDM property (just north of M-14). The fields are maintained by the City of Plymouth with TDM providing water and electricity. TDMs adult teams utilize the fields on Thursday evenings and Sundays.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL (PCAC)

The Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) was founded in 1969 to provide quality fine and performing arts, and cultural opportunities to the greater Western Wayne County community. Programs and activities focus on ensuring accessibility to all the arts by all ages. The PCAC’s mission is to develop and to promote the appreciation and accessibility of the Arts for everyone in the greater community and in doing so, encourage and foster artistic excellence.

In 1995, PCAC acquired and renovated the current building on 774 North Sheldon and then dedicated it in January 1998 as the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts. In 2001 PCAC also received a donation of a second building, The Artsco House directly adjacent for artist studios, media center, additional classroom space and program offices. The PCAC complex now provides arts education classes, a theater program, concerts, lectures and seminars, recitals, workshops, artist studio space, community-based enrichment activities and private rentals, all on site.

PLYMOUTH YMCA

The YMCA, located in the PARC, partners with facilities, parks, and other organizations to provide programs and services throughout the Plymouth/Canton area.



USA HOCKEY ARENA

Originally known as Compuware Sports Arena, the USA Hockey Arena is a multi-purpose arena located off Beck Road, south of Five Mile Road. The arena encompasses approximately 170,000 square feet with one main seating level, private suites, and press boxes, and fits a total of 3,504 seats for hockey games and 4,500 seats for concerts and other performances. The arena features a pro shop and restaurant/brewery and people are able to rent the arena for hockey practice, games, ice skating, concerts, and more.

VICTORY ICE ARENA

The Victory Ice Arena (formerly Arctic Pond) is located on Plymouth Road and the facility is home to the Victory Honda AAA Hockey Club. The Arena was entirely renovated in 2018 and now includes a pro shop, concession stand, and locker rooms.



MAYBURY STATE PARK

Maybury State Park is located just north in Northville Township and contains almost 1,000 acres of gently rolling terrain, open meadow, mature forest, and a variety of wildlife and abundant wildflowers. The park includes numerous trails for hiking, biking, mountain biking, equestrians and cross-country skiing. Maybury offers picnic areas, shelters, playground, restrooms, riding stables, and a fishing pond.

Additional Recreation Options

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

There are also a variety of private / non-profit recreational facilities in and near Plymouth Township, including paid access to sports fields, gyms, classes, arts and dance studios, and more. However, the use of these facilities is limited to those who can afford the fees, they do address certain recreational needs.



SUBDIVISION PARKS

Subdivision parks play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for residents by providing recreational amenities.

Subdivision neighborhood parks, while contributing significantly to the overall recreational landscape of Plymouth Township, operate independently under the stewardship of dedicated homeowners' associations. This distinctive model allows for tailored care, maintenance, and programming, ensuring that the recreational spaces align closely with the preferences and needs of the specific community they serve.

While these subdivision parks are integral to the fabric of our community life, it is essential to recognize their distinct status within the Parks Master Plan. The private ownership and responsibility vested in homeowners' associations set these parks apart from the broader Plymouth Township Park system. This Master Plan duly acknowledges the presence and contribution of subdivision parks within the Plymouth Township landscape. Though not officially considered a part of the Plymouth Township Park system, their inclusion in this document is a recognition of their importance in shaping the recreational identity of our community.

Recreation Programs

Plymouth Township does not offer any general recreational programs to the public; however, the Township works closely with the PCCA to provide social and recreation activities to seniors. The PCCA office is in Township Hall and the Friendship Station building is utilized by the OCCA who organizes and offers programs and activities, which include health and wellness presentations, fitness classes, social events, and informative seminars and elder law.

Other providers in the area offer programming that supplements the overall offerings available to residents (typically for a fee). A comparison of the offerings in Plymouth Township to the 2023 NRPA metrics for agencies with 20,000 to 49,000 residents is detailed below:

PROGRAM TYPE	PERCENT OF AGENCIES THAT OFFER PROGRAMS	PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PROVIDES	OUTSIDE PROVIDERS
SUMMER CAMP	86%	No	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
SENIOR PROGRAMS	77%	Yes	Friendship Station (PCCA)
TEEN PROGRAMS	61%	No	Plymouth Family YMCA
PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	55%	No	Disability Network Wayne County Detroit (DNWCD)
STEM PROGRAMS	49%	No	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS	47%	No	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
PRESCHOOL	32%	No	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and Private Providers
BEFORE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS	19%	No	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
FULL DAYCARE	6%	No	Private Providers



04.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE & FUNDING

This chapter details how parks and recreational resources are governed and administered in the community. Plymouth Township provides all recreation administration, capital improvements, and functions, and the extent of the Township's jurisdiction directly corresponds with the municipal boundary. The Township is not currently part of a special or joint recreation authority and does not have a formal parks and recreation commission or board.

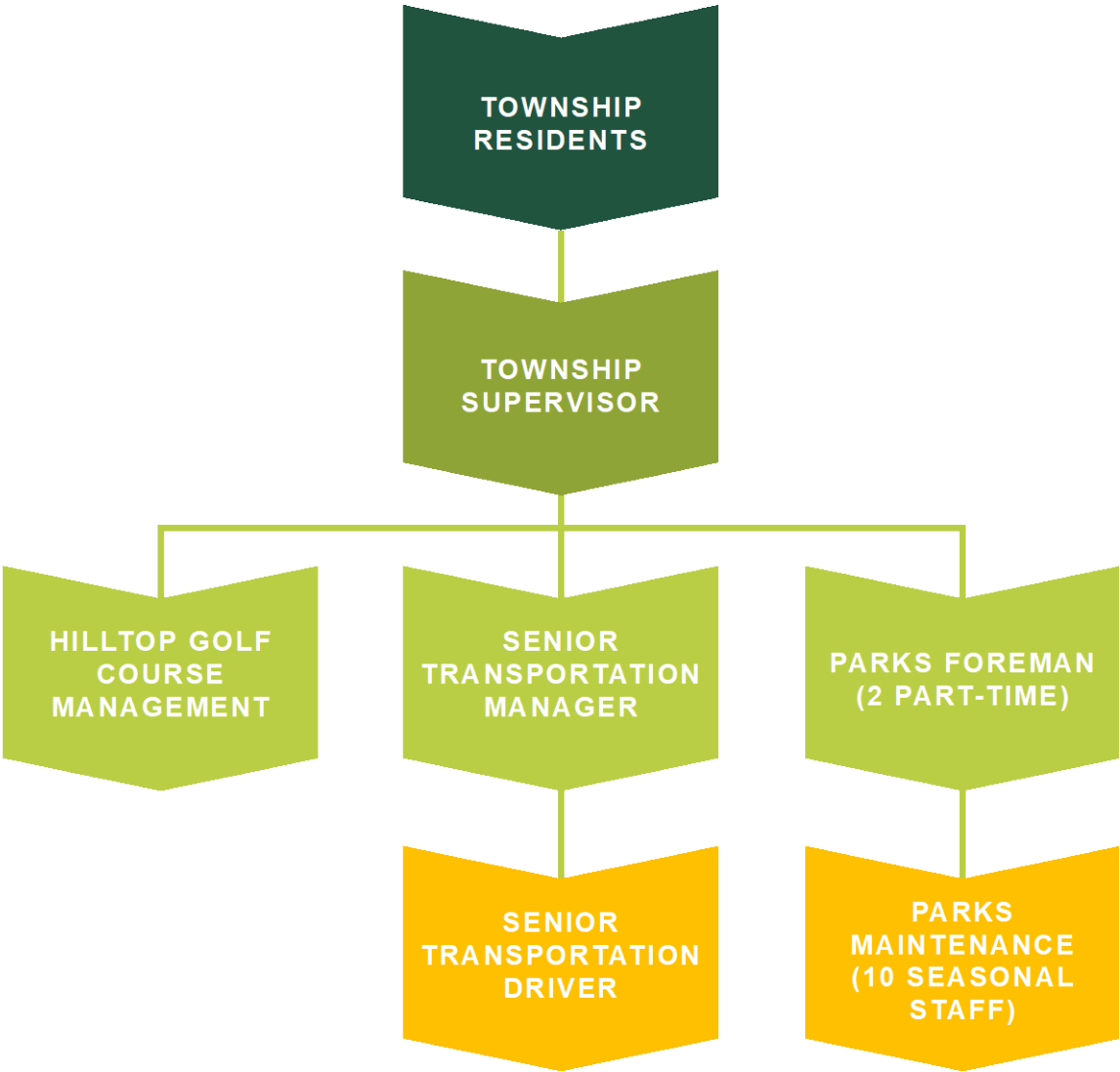
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION - SUMMARY

As a Charter Township, Plymouth is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Township does not have a full-time Parks and Recreation director but instead, the Township Supervisor is the Chief Elected Official and in addition to presiding as chair for Township Board meetings, is also responsible for the daily operation of all departments in the Township. The Supervisor oversees a full-time Senior Transportation manager at the Friendship Station as well as part-time and seasonal staff, who maintain and improve the parks. The Township Hilltop Golf Course is managed via contract by a private company.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Township maintains a working relationship with the City of Plymouth, as well as several public and private agencies to assist in providing a variety of programming and addition outdoor space. This includes, notably, the Plymouth Community Council on Aging (PCCA). The PCCA is a nonprofit organized to coordinate and operate programs and services which address the needs of Senior Citizens in the Plymouth Community. The PCCA is sponsored by Plymouth Township and the Plymouth Community United Way.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE





Budget and Funding

Funding to operate the municipal parks and recreation system comes from the General Fund and is allocated annually during the township's budgeting process. The General Fund is the basic operating fund for the township, and the fiscal year begins January 1. Maintenance of all township park facilities is managed by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Recreation user fees (such as pavilion rentals) are typically channeled through the General Fund. Table 8 on the following page summarizes the Plymouth Township budget for parks and recreation, a 30% decrease in funding for the Parks and Recreation Fund is anticipated through 2025.

Table 8: Parks and Recreation Department Budget

ITEM	2022	2023	2024 PROJECTED	2025 PROJECTED
Wages – Part Time	\$147,000	\$151,600	\$115,100	\$115,100
Wages – Overtime	-	\$100	\$100	\$100
Social Security / Medicare	\$11,300	\$11,600	\$8,800	\$8,800
Workers Comp. Insurance	\$3,200	\$3,700	\$3,900	\$4,000
Supplies – Office	\$200	\$400	\$1,800	\$400
Supplies – Operational	\$3,700	\$71,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Supplies – Fuel	\$5,600	\$8,500	\$8,900	\$9,300
Supplies – Uniforms	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Supplies – Janitorial	\$5,800	\$7,000	\$7,300	\$7,700
Contractual Services	\$79,300	\$90,700	\$86,000	\$86,000
Landscaping Services	\$73,400	\$85,900	\$52,000	\$44,400
Trash Collection Services	\$5,400	\$4,000	\$4,200	\$4,400
Physical Exams	\$0	\$600	\$600	\$600
Phones / Radios	\$2,200	\$2,700	\$2,800	\$3,000
Internet Services	\$3,400	\$3,500	\$3,700	\$3,900
Auto Expenses	\$4,700	\$3,000	\$3,100	\$3,330
Publishing Services	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100
Utilities – Electric	\$9,200	\$9,800	\$9,500	\$9,900
Utilities – Heat	\$6,600	\$7,500	\$7,900	\$8,300
Utilities – Water / Sewer	\$48,100	\$50,000	\$52,500	\$55,100
Land / Building Repairs	\$61,200	\$45,000	\$64,000	\$52,500
Equipment Repairs	\$18,000	\$11,300	\$15,000	\$15,000
Rental Equipment	\$26,200	\$24,300	\$24,500	\$24,500
Rubbish Collection Fund	\$25,800	\$26,800	\$28,200	\$29,600
Refunds / Rebates	\$700	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,700
Capital Outlay	\$41,300	\$203,100	\$50,000	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$584,800	\$824,700	\$571,600	\$557,700



ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

In addition to the General Fund, other potential sources of funding for parks and recreation are user fees, revenue bonds, grants, donation of land and/or easements, and contractual agreements involving privatization. The following is a brief description of other funding sources the Township may consider for future projects:

User Fees

Fees can be charged by the Township to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide support for park facilities. User fees are a potential source of funding in the municipality if additional specialized facilities and services were created.

Bond Programs

Several types of bonds can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities:

- 1) **General Obligation Bonds:** General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.
- 2) **Revenue Bonds:** Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.
- 3) **Special Assessment Bonds:** Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grants

Following is a summary of the three recreation grant programs available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for communities that have an up-to-date recreation plan:

- 1) **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Eligible projects include community recreation and trailway improvements. These are grants to local units of government for the development of facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails, and picnic areas; including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retrofitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through Federal appropriations. The grant match basis is 50% MDNR to 50% local. Grant amounts range from \$30,000 to \$500,000.
- 2) **Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF):** Eligible projects include the acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands, or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through the sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least 25% of the project cost are required. Grant amounts range from \$15,000 to \$300,000.
- 3) **Recreation Passport Grant:** Eligible projects will have the primary purpose of providing public recreation opportunities or facilities and infrastructure to support public recreation activity. The Passport grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but development of new parks is also eligible. Grant amounts range from \$7,500 to \$45,000.

Private Grants / Donations / Foundations

Grants from Michigan companies, philanthropic organizations, and foundations (such as DTE or the Kellogg Community Foundation), can be used to purchase and install equipment and infrastructure improvements (as specified by the terms of the grant). Businesses, corporations, private clubs, and community organizations may also contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Lease or Contractual Agreements

The township may increase the availability of recreation facilities to its residents by leasing sites and facilities from other recreation providers. For example, Plymouth Township could agree to help maintain school recreation facilities in exchange for guaranteed availability of the facility to the public. The township could also contract with private entrepreneurs to provide services at municipal-owned facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing municipal costs.

Public Use Conveyances

Administered by the MDNR, this program provides state lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

Historic Preservation Fund

The purpose of the Historic Preservation Fund grants is to identify, register and protect resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The funds that are sub-granted are used to help to strengthen preservation at the local level.

Grant History

Plymouth Township has received three MDNR grants for park development over the years. A brief assessment of each project is noted in the table below:

Table 9: MDNR Grants, 1975 - 2023

YEAR	GRANT NAME	GRANT NO.	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
1975	Plymouth Recreation Park	26-00607	\$16,124.80	Develop the park to include parking, road, site improvement for play area and sledding hill, picnic equipment, LWCF sign, sidewalks, creek improvements, landscaping, trails, and pond area.	These three properties remain in township ownership and are in good condition for outdoor reaction.
1999	Miller Family Park	CM-99164	\$172,500.00	Development of a new park including landscaping, benches, drinking fountains, play structures for children, climbing sculptures, signage, and a sidewalk.	
2011	Township Park Multi-Purpose Pavilion	26-01710	\$100,000.00	Construction of a new multi-purpose pavilion, with a drinking fountain, restrooms, fireplace, and the addition of picnic tables between the baseball diamonds and sledding hill.	
TOTAL				\$288,624.80	



05.

BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

As part of the public engagement process, the Plymouth Township launched a public survey that was available during the summer of 2023. In addition, an open house was hosted on July 18th, 2023, where members of the public were invited to provide feedback. The public had additional opportunities to offer feedback during the December and January public comment period.

Community Feedback

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Public Engagement process for the 2024-2028 Parks & Recreation Master Plan provides residents with an opportunity to actively contribute to the drafting and development of the final recreation plan. Throughout a span of seven months, residents engaged in various activities, including attending an Open House, participating in Resident Park Surveys, and joining public hearings with the Township Board. These initiatives aimed to gather valuable community feedback on thoughts and opinions concerning the future development of the Plymouth Township park system.

The Plymouth Township Recreation Plan was kicked off with an open house on July 18th, 2023, which served as an opportunity to inform the public about the Parks and Recreation Plan and to garner feedback. During the open house presentation, the Township welcomed any questions about the plan and planning process. Additionally, three posters that requested public feedback were placed at the front of the room so that, following the conclusion of the presentation, residents could provide written feedback. Residents were asked to write their answers on sticky notes and place them under the questions.

A public hearing was held to advertise the release of the draft plan and the adoption of the final plan in January of 2024 (full details on noticing are listed in the Appendices).



SURVEY

Survey Background

The Parks and Recreation Survey was available online and in paper form at Township Hall from June 29, 2023, to August 28, 2023. The flyer for the open house and public survey is pictured to the left, which featured a QR code and link that would direct residents to the public survey.

The survey consisted of 19 questions that included ranking, open answer, and single answer questions. The questions covered topics such as dogs in parks, a Joint Recreation Authority with the City of Plymouth, and more.

The paper survey included the same questions as the online survey.

Survey Demographics

When analyzing survey results, it is important to consider the demographic characteristics of survey takers; four demographic questions were asked, and they covered the topics of age, community of residence, residency tenure, and household size. The following statistics summarize the demographic characteristics of survey takers.

- **93% of survey-takers live in Plymouth Township.**
The remaining 7% reside in the City of Plymouth, Canton Township, Northville Township, Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Novi, and Salem Township.
- **54% of survey-takers have lived in Plymouth Township for 16 years or more.**
- **The age breakdown of survey-takers was relatively even between ages 35-49 (29%), ages 50-64 (32%), and ages 65+ (32%).**
Few respondents were in the age groups of 18-34 (7%) or under 18 (0%). This indicates that the Township should explore methods of reaching younger audiences in the future.
- **The majority (41%) of respondents have a household size of 2, closely followed by 38% of respondents who have a household size of 3-4.**



Share Your Vision!

Plymouth Township is updating its Joint Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the City of Plymouth, and we want to hear from you!

The Plan, last updated in 2018, is an important resource that strategically guides the development, maintenance, and programming of Township and City parks. Your input is critical to helping assess the needs of the community, and will be used to create recommendations for capital improvements, programming and new recreation amenities!

Please take the survey, link below, and join us at the July 18 Open House!

JOIN US AT THE OPEN HOUSE!

**July 18th, 2023
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Township Hall Offices
9955 N. Hagerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Take the Survey!
Scan the QR code or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/PlyTwpParks

SCAN ME



Survey Results Summary

The public survey received 840 responses over a two-month period. Several key themes and points of consensus emerged through Plymouth Township's public survey.

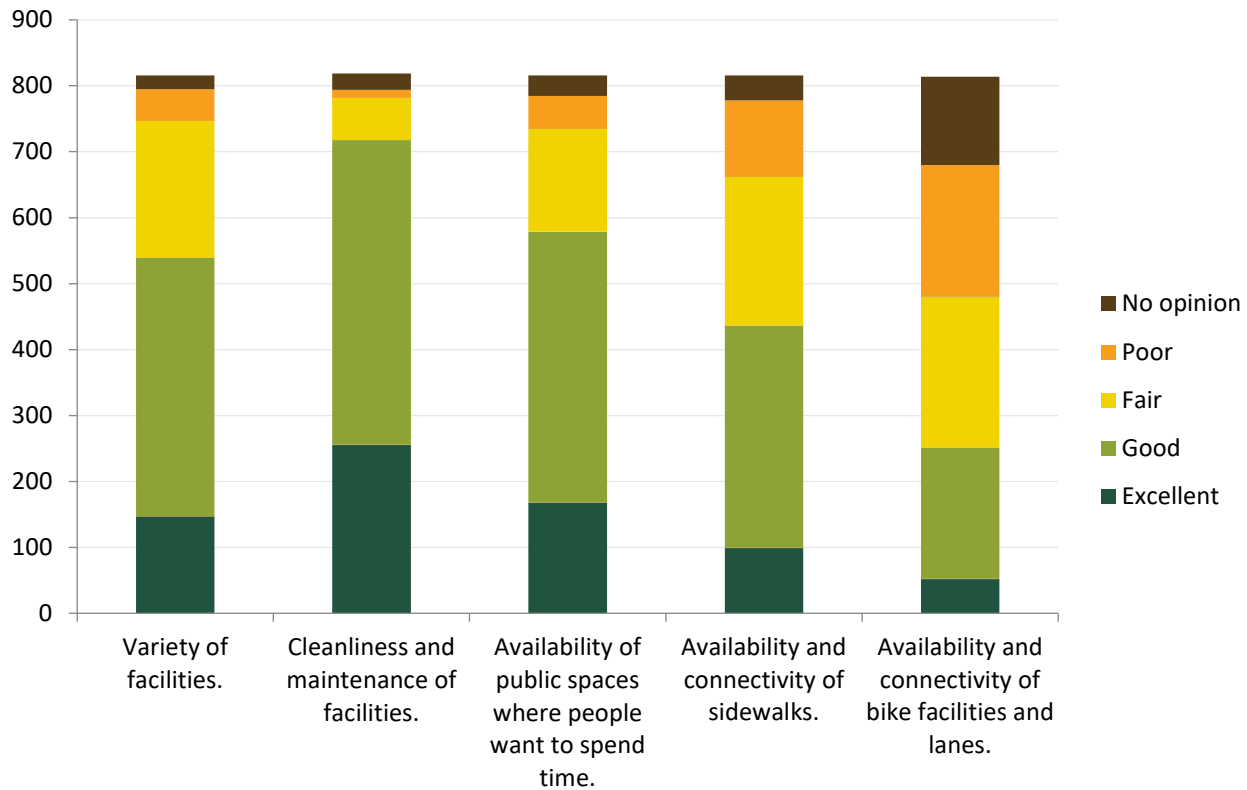
KEY THEMES

- **Dog-friendly Parks:** Presently, dogs are not permitted within parks. 63% of survey takers expressed interest in having the ability to walk dogs within Plymouth Township's parks.
- **Active Transportation:** Plymouth Township residents support additional means of access to Township parks via bike lanes, paths, and filling sidewalk gaps.
- **Investment and Improvements to Existing Parks:** The community has expressed interest in improvements to park infrastructure such as updates to public restrooms, increased lighting, playscapes, drinking fountains, and other infrastructure.
- **Variety of Recreational Opportunities:** Residents desire additional recreational opportunities such as pickleball, a community pool, dog parks, and nature trails.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Survey-takers have expressed their concern for sustainability and the preservation of woodlands. They find greenspace to be of great value and are eager for additions such as native plantings and pollinator gardens.
- **Joint Efforts with the City of Plymouth:** Many residents expressed interest in Plymouth Township collaborating with the City of Plymouth to have a Joint Recreational Authority.

Quality and Satisfaction of Plymouth Township Facilities

Survey respondents were asked a variety of questions that gauged the perceived quality of Plymouth Township Parks and Recreation facilities. The gathered responses are reflected in the graphics below.

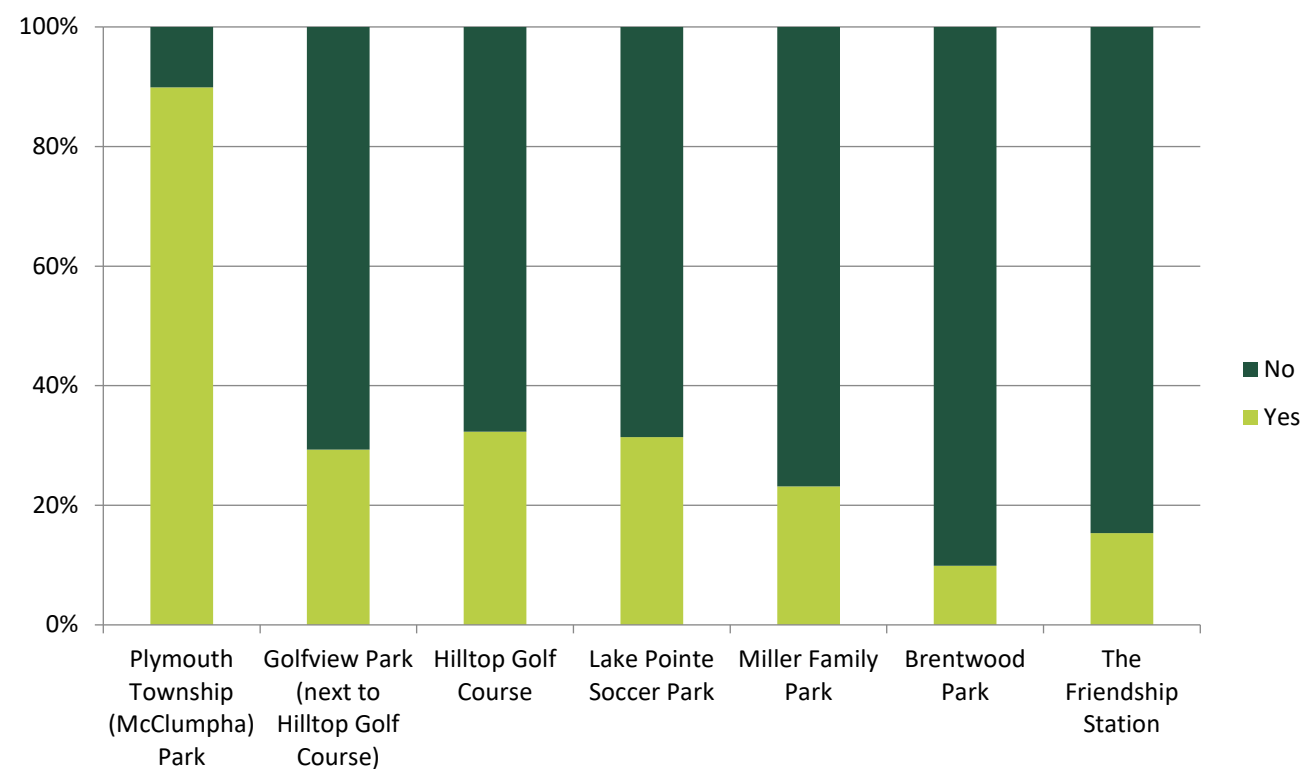
Rated Aspects of Township Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Sidewalks:



Overall, the cleanliness and maintenance of facilities was the highest rated aspect of Plymouth Township parks, followed by facility variety and availability of public spaces where people want to spend time. However, the lowest rated aspect was the availability and connectivity of bike facilities and lanes along with the availability and connectivity of sidewalks.

Participants generally view the Plymouth Township Park system positively, rating it as being in good and excellent condition. This positive assessment extends to the cleanliness and variety of park facilities, as well as the availability of passive public recreational spaces. However, the survey also identifies areas with lower perceived quality, specifically regarding the availability and access to connected networks of sidewalks and bike facilities. These results underscore opportunities for enhancing the overall perception of the park system and signal potential areas for improvement.

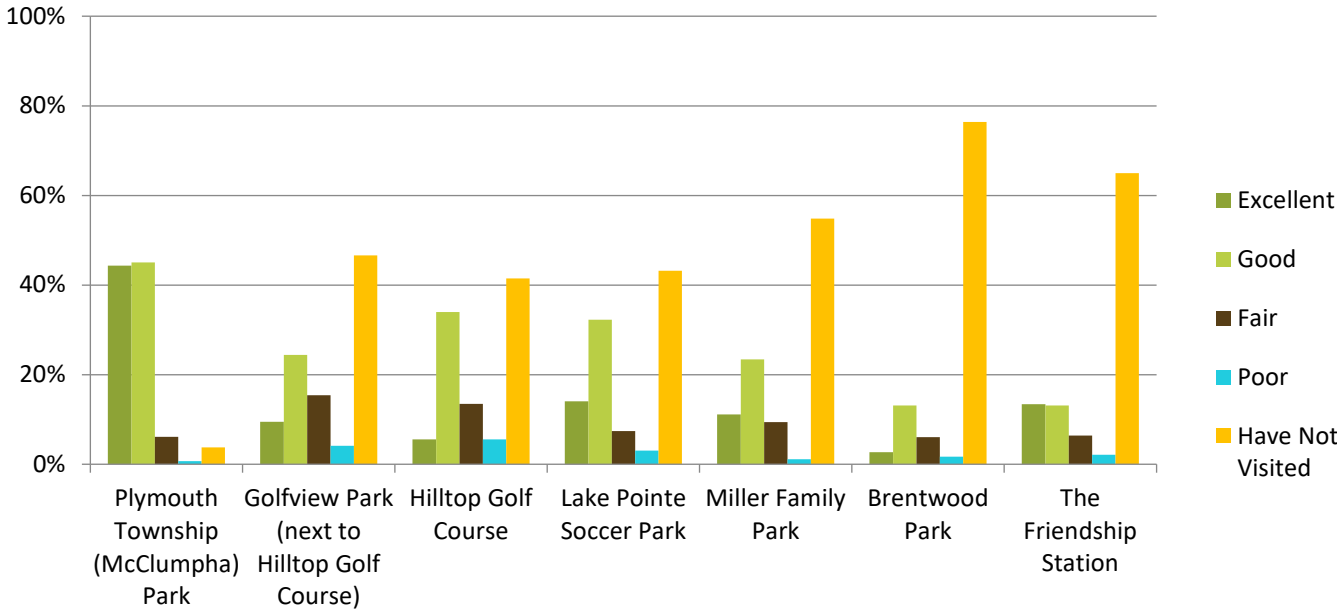
Whether or not Survey Takers and Their Families Have Visited Township Parks in 2023:



The Plymouth Township Park system emerges as a central and vibrant hub for community engagement, with over 50% of survey participants actively utilizing its diverse offerings. Particularly, Plymouth Township Park, positioned at the heart of the community, stands out as the most frequented destination, providing an large array of amenities, attended frequently by 89% of survey participants. The Community Parks, notably Lake Pointe Soccer Park and Plymouth Township Park, draw significant popularity, serving broader segments of the community. Although Neighborhood Parks registered lower visitation rates in the survey, they play a crucial role, catering to residents in closer proximity.

Among these, the Township's newest addition, Triangle Park, has swiftly become a focal point, with 29% of survey participants acknowledging regular visits. The survey also reveals a commendable frequency of park usage, with over 50% of respondents reporting weekly visits, underscoring the integral role of the local park system in fostering regular community interaction and recreation. This pattern of engagement reflects a well-utilized and appreciated resource that enhances the quality of life for Plymouth Township residents.

Plymouth Township Parks Rated by Respondent Experience:

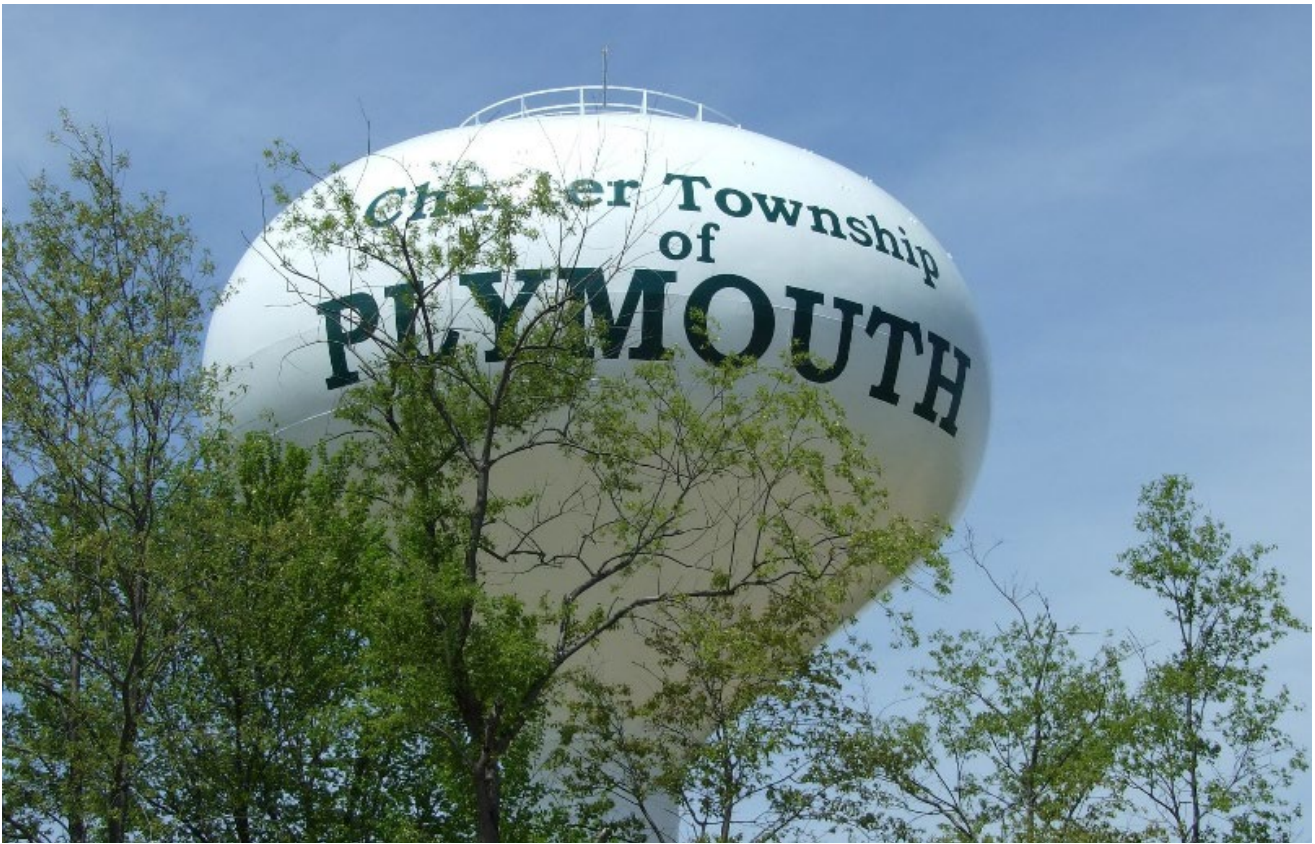


The Plymouth Township Park System is visited by 42% of survey participants, who have indicated that the overall experience of the park system ranges from Fair to Excellent. The majority of the parks meet or exceed the expectations of their guests, as a very low rate of surveyors indicated Poor park experiences. This is a great indicator of how the combination of park amenities, features, and management contributes to the overall park experience. While a large portion of survey participants indicated they have not visited the park, this offers an opportunity for increased marketing and outreach to raise awareness and attendance of the Plymouth Township Park System. Additionally, it would be beneficial to understand the reasons behind why some participants have not visited the parks. Continued follow-up surveys or focus groups could provide valuable insights into barriers or misconceptions that may be hindering park attendance. This information can then be used to tailor marketing efforts and address any concerns potential visitors may have.

Overall, the positive feedback from those who have visited the parks, coupled with the opportunity to reach a larger audience, positions the Plymouth Township Park System well for growth and increased community engagement.

Maximizing Resources

Key to providing quality services is the maximization and efficiency of shared resources. Plymouth Township is looking at potential future partnerships, including the City of Plymouth and Wayne County. This includes exploring a joint recreation authority with the City of Plymouth in the future (which was supported by 62% of survey takers).



Analysis of Existing Facilities and Service Areas

Prior to 2020, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published the NRPA Areas and Facilities Standards to help agencies assess whether they had sufficient parks and recreation facilities. The standards had not been updated in more than two decades, and the NRPA realized that a single set of standards could not possibly encompass the uniqueness found in every community across the country. Consequently, NRPA replaced the single set of standards with the creation of a nationwide benchmarking tool for parks and recreation, called NRPA Park Metrics. Annually, the NRPA publishes the NRPA Agency Performance Review, which is a report that summarizes the benchmarking data contributed by 1,100 park and recreation agencies to the Park Metrics database.

The Park Metrics database separates the data based on the size of the jurisdiction being served. Then, within each jurisdiction size, the data is further broken down into the lower and upper quartiles. Median values are presented as well. The Park Metrics provide a snapshot of Plymouth Township's parks and recreation program in comparison to data from similarly sized peer communities. This information must be combined with other details about the community's specific needs and experiences to identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming. The purpose of the community engagement process and other analyses reported on earlier in this plan was to gather such information.

Recreation facilities serving Plymouth Township residents are compared to the NRPA standards in Tables 10 and 11. These comparisons provide a general idea of deficiencies, but it must be understood that the NRPA standards are not intended to be followed to the letter. Needs of the population can vary from one community to the next, and the results should be considered in the context of each municipality involved.

Table 10: Outdoor Recreation Facilities Comparison, Plymouth Township

FACILITY TYPE	MEDIAN NO. OF RESIDENTS PER FACILITY ¹	PERCENT OF AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE FACILITY ¹	EXISTING MUNICIPAL FACILITIES	EXISTING SCHOOL FACILITIES ⁶	TOTAL EXISTING PUBLIC FACILITIES	RECOMMENDED NO. FOR PLY. TWP. ^{2,4}	SURPLUS / DEFICIENCY
PLAYGROUND	3,028	95%	6	4	10	9	+1
BASKETBALL COURT ^{3,5}	7,117	86%	0	8.5	8.5	4	+4.5
TENNIS COURT	5,815	76%	0	0	0	5	-5
DOG PARK	28,000	68%	0	0	0	1	-1
BASEBALL FIELD (YOUTH / ADULT)	5,033 \ 19,556	79% \ 55%	4 \ 0	7 \ 1	11 \ 1	6 \ 1	+5 \ -
SOFTBALL FIELD (YOUTH / ADULT)	9,060 \ 11,802	62% \ 63%	0	6 \ 0	6 \ 0	3 \ 2	+3 \ -2
FIELD - MULTIPURPOSE	7,674	69%	0	0	0	4	-4
FIELD - SYNTHETIC	25,330	25%	0	0	0	1	-1
FOOTBALL FIELD	18,785	35%	0	0	0	1	-1
SOCCER FIELD (YOUTH / ADULT)	4,947 \ 10,775	50% \ 42%	0 \ 2	6 \ 0	6 \ 2	6 \ 3	- \ -1
GOLF COURSE ^{6,7} (18 HOLE)	32,990	29%	1	0	1	1	-
SWIMMING POOL	25,191	51%	*Splash Pad	0	1	1	-
COMMUNITY GARDEN	26,741	52%	0	0	0	1	-1
PICKLEBALL COURT	9,257	31%	0	0	0	3	-3
SKATE PARK	32,000	41%	0	0	0	1	-1
TOT LOT	11,195	48%	0	4	4	3	+1

Footnotes:

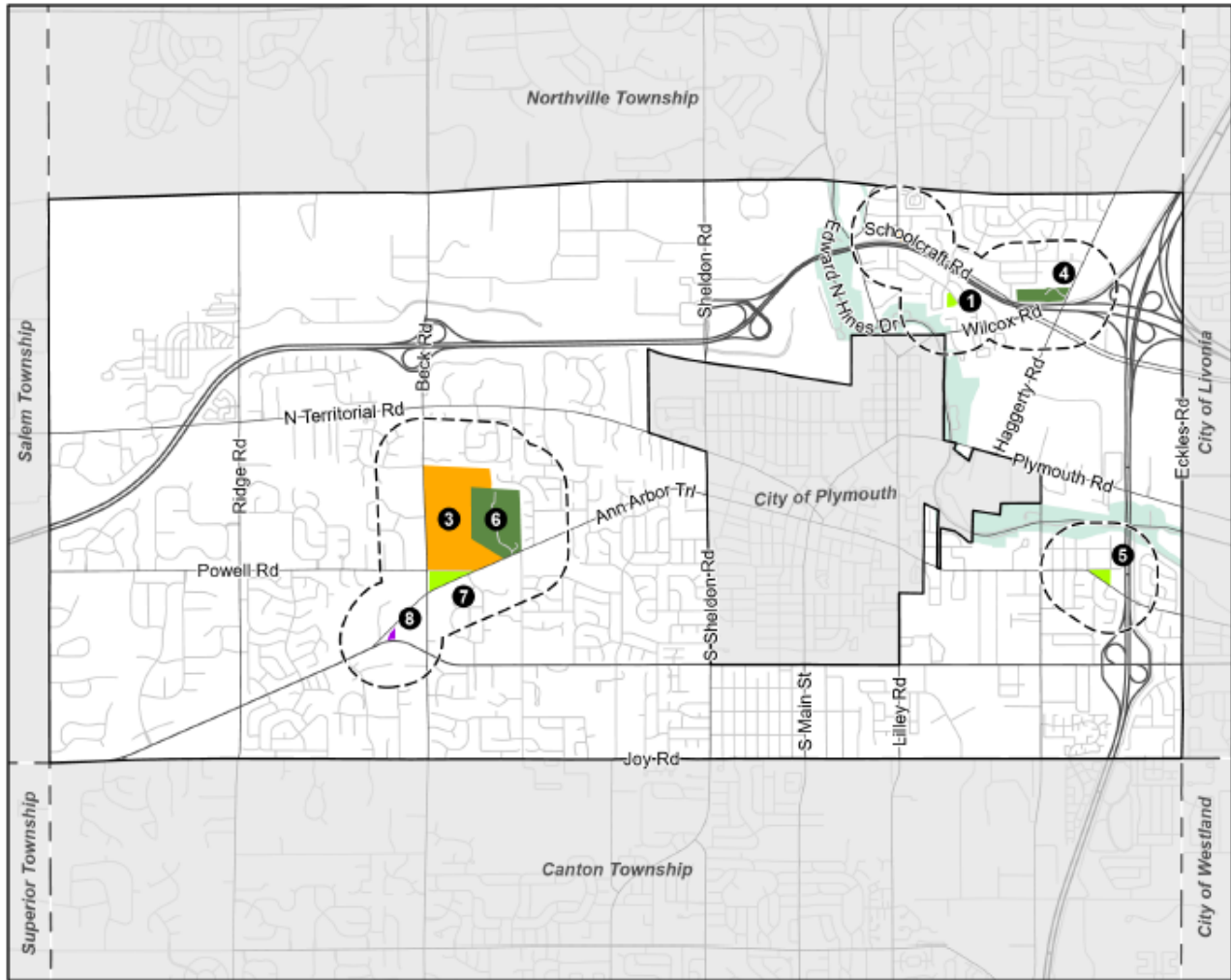
1. Based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards for 2023.
2. Based on a U.S. Census 2020 population of 27,938.
3. Two backboards were considered to be equal to one court for the purposes of this analysis.
4. Rounded up to the nearest whole number. The figures in this column reflect the number of facilities needed to achieve a Median Number of Residents Per Facility in Plymouth Township.
5. Not regulation courts.
6. Includes facilities at Allen Early Learning Academy, Bird Elementary School, Farrand Elementary School, Isbister Elementary School, Pioneer Middle School, West Middle School, and Starkweather Academy. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools not located within Plymouth Township's boundaries are not a part of this evaluation. School facilities are not necessarily available to the community during school hours or summer months when the school is not in session.
7. Requires a user fee.

Table 11: Indoor Recreation Facilities Comparison, Plymouth Township

FACILITY TYPE	MEDIAN NO. OF RESIDENTS PER FACILITY ¹	PERCENT AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE FACILITY ¹	TOTAL EXISTING PUBLIC FACILITIES	RECOMMENDED NO. FOR PLY. TWP. ³	SURPLUS / DEFICIENCY
RECREATION CENTER	24,380	63%	0	1	-1
COMMUNITY CENTER	26,696	59%	0	1	-1
SENIOR CENTER	31,199	41%	1	1	-
PERFORMANCE AMPHITHEATRE	30,283	37%	0	1	-1
NATURE CENTER	32,000	33%	0	1	-1
AQUATICS CENTER	31,645	28%	0	1	-1
STADIUM	31,000	20%	0	1	-1
ICE RINK	24,838	13%	0	1	-1
TEEN CENTER	31,645	12%	0	1	-1

Footnotes:

- 1 Based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NPRA) Standards for 2023.
- 2 Includes school facilities.
- 3 Based on a U.S. Census 2020 population of 27,938.



Walkability Service Area Map

Plymouth Township
Wayne County, Michigan

December 7, 2023

LEGEND

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Facilities
- County Owned Parks
- 10 Minute Walk Buffer
- Plymouth Township Boundary
- 1** Brentwood Park
- 2** Friendship Station
- 3** Hilltop Golf Course
- 4** Lake Pointe Soccer Park
- 5** Miller Family Park
- 6** Plymouth Township Park
- 7** Triangle Park
- 8** West Pointe Park



0 2,000 4,000
Feet

Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Plymouth Township, 2023. McKenna, 2023.



Sustainability Practices

TREE CITY – TOWNSHIP TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Plymouth Township takes pride in its commitment to environmental sustainability through the Residential Tree Planting Program, a significant component of its Tree City initiative. The program is designed to enhance the community's ecological well-being by encouraging green neighborhoods, expanding the overall tree canopy, and preserving the distinctive character of tree-lined streets. An integral aspect of the program is its provision for residents to replace trees lost over time due to factors such as disease. The program allows residents to plant trees in public rights-of-way, typically between the sidewalk and the street, or within designated common areas of subdivisions managed by Homeowners Associations (HOAs). While the trees themselves are provided at no cost, property owners are responsible for the installation and ongoing maintenance of the trees throughout their lifespan. This initiative not only contributes to the visual appeal of Plymouth Township but also fosters a sense of environmental responsibility among its residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION (ELC)

The Plymouth Township Environmental Leadership Commission (ELC), established in 2019 through Ordinance No. 1016, Amendment No. 23, plays a pivotal role in advancing environmental initiatives within the Charter Township of Plymouth. With a specific focus on local environmental education, programs, stewardship, sustainability, and outreach, the ELC serves as a dedicated citizen commission. Enacted to address the needs and interests of both residents and guests of Plymouth Township, the ordinance underscores the significance of environmental leadership as a public purpose.



The commission's responsibilities are clearly defined in its mandate. Primarily, the ELC is tasked with educating residents, businesses, and visitors about environmental

stewardship, policies, sustainability, and best practices. Moreover, the ELC actively engages in collaborative efforts by forming partnerships with individuals, government agencies, businesses, and other environmental organizations. This cooperative approach aims to foster community participation in local environmental protection, awareness, education, and enhancement projects. Additionally, the ELC acts as a valuable resource, providing information to address inquiries from residents and others about environmental protection issues and policies, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and sustainability of Plymouth Township.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM INCENTIVES

A Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program designed to fund tree plantings as a component of new development is a strategic initiative that integrates urban forestry into the development process while ensuring sustainable and environmentally friendly urban landscapes. In this program, developers, as part of their financial obligation to the community, contribute funds equivalent to the property taxes they would pay, with the earmarked purpose of supporting tree plantings and green infrastructure.

As part of the PILOT Program, a predetermined percentage of the developer's financial contribution is specifically allocated to the planting, maintenance, and care of trees within and around the new development. This funding can be utilized for selecting appropriate tree species, planting them in strategic locations, and implementing sustainable maintenance practices. Additionally, the program could incorporate community engagement initiatives to involve residents in the tree planting process, fostering a sense of ownership and environmental stewardship.

By incorporating a tree-focused PILOT Program into new developments, Plymouth Township can achieve multiple goals, including enhancing the aesthetics of urban areas, promoting biodiversity, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and contributing to overall environmental sustainability. This approach aligns with the broader trend towards green urban planning and development practices that prioritize the well-being of both residents and the environment.



Recreation Deficiencies

While there are multiple private recreation providers in the Plymouth area and several school facilities, the Township is limited in the quantity of recreational facilities and the location of those amenities to residential neighborhoods. The *diversity* of parks and recreation facilities is a critical factor to improve upon moving forward, as well as the accessibility of facilities and how individuals can safely access recreational destinations without a personal vehicle. The expansion of park and recreation facilities and improved accessibility and access is supported not only by the inventory, but also through the public engagement responses.

Reliance on School Sites

Cooperation between the Township and the Plymouth Canton Community Schools (P-CCS) School district allows for the use of additional recreational facilities for the citizens. The school district facilities are primarily used by the students and are available occasionally for use by other citizens.

Need for Future Park Space

The area designated as a future linear park is 19.64 acres and is located in the northwest portion of the community, west of the Ridge Road and Five Mile Road intersection. The property is zoned as public land and is intended for the recreation and environmental protection of Johnson Creek. There are no facilities on the property at this time.



06.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

This chapter is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with the analysis of the physical and demographic attributes of the Township. Existing parks and recreation facilities and programs were then inventoried and evaluated. An assessment of needs was then developed that considered the accepted recreation standards. Finally, these needs were analyzed and reviewed, with input from the public.

The results of this effort are presented in the following statement of long-range goals, objectives, and the action plan.

Long-Range Goals and Objectives

The long-range goals and objectives of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan serve as the strategic framework guiding the development, enhancement, and sustained excellence of recreational resources within a community. These goals are forward-looking, extending beyond immediate needs to outline a vision that aligns with the evolving demands and aspirations of the community over an extended time horizon. By setting long-range goals, the master plan provides a roadmap for the systematic growth and improvement of parks and recreational facilities, ensuring that they remain responsive to demographic shifts, changing preferences, and emerging trends in recreational programming.

Goals are broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable projects and results that the township will work toward accomplishing, consistent with the goals.

The establishment of clear objectives within this Plan contributes to effective governance and resource allocation. Objectives delineate specific, measurable outcomes that, when achieved, contribute to the realization of broader goals. Whether it's expanding green spaces, improving accessibility, fostering environmental stewardship, or enhancing community engagement, these objectives serve as benchmarks for progress. They provide a structured approach to the implementation of the master plan, allowing for the systematic evaluation of accomplishments, adjustments in strategy, and adaptive responses to the evolving needs of the community.

In essence, the long-range goals and objectives of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan serve as a visionary and practical framework that promotes the sustained well-being, inclusivity, and vibrancy of the community through thoughtful and strategic investments in recreational resources.

GOAL #1: CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESS

Ensure connectivity and access to and within parks and recreation facilities with improved pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility.

OBJECTIVES:

- Improve the accessibility to recreation facilities, particularly for youth, young adults, families, and seniors.
- Provide multi-modal connections to and within park facilities.
- Fill gaps in the sidewalk network.
- Complete crosswalk improvements at intersections and create mid-block crossings and improve non-motorized access to park entrances.
- Hold universal access as the minimum standard when retrofitting or installing new equipment, beyond ADA requirements.
- Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by employing a complete streets design on all streets.

GOAL #2: SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Ensure long-term adaptability and provide recreational opportunities that do not compromise environmental quality over time.

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote and support environmental stewardship.
- Use durable, low-maintenance and natural / native materials in new construction or landscaping.



In the fall of 2022, more than 50 volunteers planted 20 trees in Township Park, thanks to a grant from DTE, ReLeaf of Michigan, and Plymouth Township. DPW staff and the Environmental Leadership Commission were also involved in the organization and success of this event.

GOAL #3: NATURAL RESOURCES

Preserve and protect the natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands, while maintaining public access and use.

OBJECTIVES:

- Preserve and enhance the biodiversity of park areas by implementing habitat restoration projects, maintaining native plant communities, and protecting critical wildlife habitats.
- Safeguard water bodies within park boundaries by implementing erosion control measures, promoting responsible stormwater management.
- Design and integrate natural play areas that engage children with the natural environment, fostering a sense of connection to and appreciation for nature.

GOAL #4: RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Offer Plymouth Township residents a range of activities that meet the needs of all segments of the population, including youth, young adults, families, and seniors.

OBJECTIVES:

- Expand the variety of recreation facilities available and encourage inter-generational facilities.
- Coordinate with the school district to upgrade their recreational amenities and the environmental qualities of the school sites.
- Develop a comprehensive trail system that provides recreational opportunities while minimizing disturbance to sensitive habitats and promoting connectivity for wildlife.
- Increase Marketing of Park system and provide continued engagement with residents and their park experiences.

GOAL #5: PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES

To elevate the overall quality of life for community members by prioritizing the development, maintenance, and accessibility of high-quality facilities within our park system. Creating public spaces and amenities that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of our community.

OBJECTIVES:

- Maximize the use of parks and recreation facilities by upgrading existing facilities to make them safer and more accessible to better serve the public.
- Increase public awareness of the existing parks and recreation facilities to strengthen community support for parks and recreation.
- Ensure that natural resources and outdoor experiences are accessible to all members of the community, including those with disabilities, by incorporating universal design principles into park facilities.
- Create uniform signage for all parks and ensure that all parks are visible on Google.
- Ensure park amenities are suitable for a large variety of age groups and recreation styles.
- Convene a joint Plymouth Community sub-committee in partnership with the Plymouth Council on Aging, to begin discussions by both Township and City Staff and Leadership to support additional senior facility staffing and expand programming opportunities.

GOAL #6: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Continue to develop parks and recreation facilities based on a sound fiscal policy.

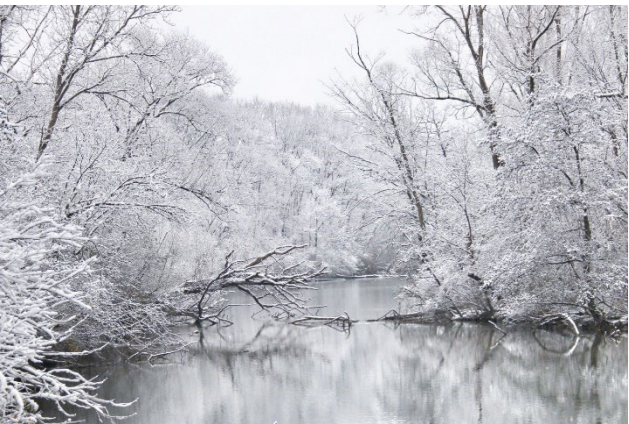
OBJECTIVES:

- Seek alternative funding with the use of sponsorships, state and federal funding programs, public-private partnerships, and other private funding sources.
- Maintain an update to-date five-year park and recreation plan to ensure grant eligibility with the MDNR.
- Utilize this plan as a tool for municipal decision making and review the Action Plan on a regular basis.

2024-2028 Strategic Action Plan

This section summarizes the specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. The Township has taken a comprehensive approach to preparing this plan to fully evaluate and prioritize projects based on the cost benefit, impact to the community, and operational costs.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. Costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2023 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.



5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

The tables on the following pages detail a series of opportunities, by park facility. The key below applies to each table.

KEY			
SCALE OF INVESTMENT			
\$	<\$50,000	\$\$\$	\$100,000 - \$250,000
\$\$	\$50,000 - \$100,000	\$\$\$\$	\$250,000+
POTENTIAL PARTNERS / FUNDING SOURCES			
ASR	Additional Staffing Resources	PD	Private Donations
CS	Corporate Sponsor	PS	Public Schools
G	Grants	V	Volunteers
GF	General Fund		
ESTIMATED TIME FRAME			
SHORT	1-3 years	LONG	6-10+ years
MID	4-5 years		

Parks and Recreation Action Plan, by Park Facility

BRENTWOOD PARK											
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE			STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME
Replace media below play structures and swing sets.	\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Sidewalk Repair and Connectivity Improvements	\$	GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Provide additional tree plantings throughout the park.	\$	PD,V			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Consider Location for Tot Lot	\$\$	G,CS			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Consider allowance of Dogs and Pet amenities (I.e. Trash Receptacles)	\$	GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Consider Open Spaces for Multi-Purpose Field	\$	G,CS	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider areas for Picnic Tables and Grills	\$	G,CS	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		

FRIENDSHIP STATION											
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE			STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME
ADA Accessibility Improvements	\$\$	G,GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Sidewalk Repair and Connectivity Improvements	\$	GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Consider various stormwater opportunities, i.e. rain gardens, non-mow areas.	\$	G, GF, V			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Consider Site Drainage and Stormwater improvements	\$\$	GF, ASR			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Increase availability of Senior Programs and Activities	\$	GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		

HILLTOP GOLF COURSE											
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE			STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME
Consider various stormwater opportunities, i.e. rain gardens, non-mow areas.	\$	G, GF, V			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Develop Park Map and Wayfinding	\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
ADA Accessibility Improvements	\$\$	G,GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID

LAKE POINTE SOCCER PARK												
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE		STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME		
Replace media below play structures and swing	\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider Soccer Field Spectator Seating and Park benches	\$\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	MID		
Connect Park walking loop with 275 Metro Trail, remove unnecessary curbs.	\$\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Develop Park Map and Wayfinding	\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Walkway and Sidewalk Improvements	\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Site grading of berms an accessible walk paths more accessible.	\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT			
Consider various stormwater opportunities, i.e. rain gardens, non-mow areas.	\$	G, GF, V	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT			
ADA Accessibility Improvements	\$\$	G,GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	MID			

MILLER FAMILY PARK												
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE		STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME		
Replace media below play structures and swing sets.	\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Sidewalk Repair and Connectivity Improvements	\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider various stormwater opportunities, i.e. rain gardens, non-mow areas.	\$	G, GF, V		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider site drainage improvements for the Picnic Shelter	\$\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider Open Spaces for Muti-Purpose Field	\$	G, GF		1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider areas for Picnic Tables and Grills	\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT			
Consider allowance of Dogs and Pet amenities (I.e. Trash Receptacles)	\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT			
Consider Location for Tot Lot	\$\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	MID			
Consider Park System Trash and Recycling Receptacle Program	\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT			

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARK											
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE			STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME
Replace media below play structures and swing sets.	\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Sidewalk Repair and Connectivity Improvements	\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Consider various stormwater opportunities, i.e. rain gardens, non-mow areas.	\$	G, GF, V			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Park Map and Wayfinding Improvements	\$	GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Improve Park ADA Accessibility	\$\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Add Multi-Aged Playscapes, Swings, and Equipment	\$\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	MID		
Consider location for Disc Golf	\$	G, GF, V	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		

TRIANGLE PARK											
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE			STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME
Consider greater park Development Plan	\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Consider Park System Trash and Recycling Receptacle Program	\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT
Consider Location for public art and historic signage	\$\$	G, GF			1	2	3	4	5	6	MID
Consider allowance of Dogs and Pet amenities (i.e. Trash Receptacles)	\$	GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider Site Lighting Improvements	\$\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	MID		
Addition Park Signage and Wayfinding	\$	GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Installation of Cardio & Outdoor Fitness Equipment	\$\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	MID		

WEST POINTE PARK											
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE			STRATEGIC GOALS						TIMEFRAME
Sidewalk Repair and Connectivity Improvements	\$	G, GF	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		
Consider various stormwater opportunities, i.e. rain gardens, non-mow areas.	\$	G, GF, v	1	2	3	4	5	6	SHORT		

Comprehensive Policy Considerations

The implementation recommendations are a culmination of a robust and comprehensive decision-making process, drawing insights from multiple sources to ensure a well-informed and community-driven approach. Public input has played a pivotal role, providing a diverse range of perspectives, preferences, and needs from the very individuals who will be the primary beneficiaries of the proposed initiatives. This inclusive approach helps align the recommendations with the aspirations and desires of the community, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement.

Additionally, the incorporation of best practices and observational findings ensures that the recommendations are not only rooted in local context but also draw from successful models and approaches implemented in similar settings. This combination of data, community input, and informed analysis provides a solid foundation for the implementation recommendations, emphasizing a holistic and evidence-based strategy for the development and improvement of parks and recreational amenities.

In addition to park specific changes, the following are policy recommendations to implement system-wide improvements to all park and recreation spaces in the community:

Seek Opportunities to Expand Green Space

This includes increasing the number of parks (smaller parks in neighborhoods). The current availability of public facilities is not equitably distributed across the Township.

Connectivity and Access

Partner with Wayne County to prioritize missing sidewalk and bike lane connections to Hines Park. Conduct Study of Sidewalk Connectivity and conditions for inclusion in Capital improvements Planning

Sustainability and Resiliency

Partner with Wayne County to remove invasive species in Hines Park (such as honeysuckle).

Natural Resources

Preserve natural areas within the park system by implementing rain and community gardens. Increase access to walking and bike trails, further connect these paths to regional trail systems. Identify protected forest and wooded areas for long term preservation.

Range of Recreational Opportunities

Identify areas within the existing parks to implement multi-purpose open space fields and activities. Provide park amenities that cater to a large range of age groups and demographics. Identify locations for Pickleball, Volleyball, and other outdoor field activities.

Provide High Quality Facilities

Identify all existing playscapes and structures within the park system that require additional upkeep and maintenance. Consider locations within parks for new amenities and structures. (i.e. picnic tables, play structures). Explore providing additional family bathrooms into larger community parks.

Fiscal Responsibility

Develop and Capital Improvements Program to include Parks & recreation Improvements over the next 3-5 years. Coordinate with surrounding communities to establish Joint Parks & recreation Authority, to allow for the leveraging of resources and programs to residents.



07.

APPENDICIES

APPENDIX A:

Publication of Public Hearing for 30-Day Public Comment Period

Below:

Notice posted at Township Hall

Draft Plan advertised on the Township's Facebook

APPENDIX B:

Publication of Public Hearing for Plan Adoption

APPENDIX C:

Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting with a Public Hearing

APPENDIX D:

Resolution of Plan Adoption by the Board of Trustees on January 23, 2024