



## **Joint Plymouth Community Parks + Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022**



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**Public Hearing:**

Township Board: May 8, 2018  
City Commission: May 7, 2018

**Adopted by Township Board:**  
May 8, 2018

**Adopted by City Commission:**  
May 7, 2018

**Printed:** May 2018

**Plymouth Township**

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**City of Plymouth**

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Paul Sincock, City Manager  
Steve Anderson, Recreation Director







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## Community Description

The 2018-2022 Joint Plymouth Community Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted by the Plymouth City Commission and the Plymouth Township Board to serve as a guide and decision making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The Plan presents an inventory of existing facilities and programs within the Plymouth community as well as an evaluation of opportunities and needs. The Plan considers the existing facilities in and around the City and Township, as well as the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs. The Plan also includes goals, objectives and a 5-Year Action Plan.

This 2018-2022 Plan represents the first Joint Parks and Recreation Plan cooperatively prepared and adopted by both the Township and City. While the City and Township are individual units of government, and maintain separate control of their land, facilities and budgets, collaborative planning can allow for better coordinated and more efficient systems. While the City and Township work closely with several public and private agencies that provide recreation opportunities for their residents, the jurisdiction and focus of this Master Plan is on the city- and township-owned and operated parks and recreation facilities and programs. The Plan is also intended to enable both the City and Township to continue to apply for funding assistance from various agencies and work toward implementing the documented recommendations. This Plan specifically provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth are 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 large 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 highly urbanized.

As documented in the Plymouth History guide (2016), Plymouth is one of Michigan's oldest townships, established by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan in 1827 – 10 years before Michigan became a state. Native Americans lived in the area for centuries. The Tonquish band of Potawatomi were the last, leaving the area just before the first European settlers arrived in 1824. The first settlers of European origin arrived in the area in 1824 and by 1825 there were enough people to make up a small settlement. The Village of Plymouth was incorporated in 1867 and became a city in 1932.

According to the 2010 Census, the City of Plymouth has a population of 9,132 people (a 1.2% increase from 2000) and the Township at 27,524 (a 1.0% decrease from 2000). More recent estimates (July 2017) published by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) have the City of Plymouth at 8,992 people and the Township at 27,566.

Major state highways and freeways include M-14, I-96 and I-275. These highways effectively connect the Plymouth community with the rest of the Detroit/Ann Arbor Metropolitan Area. The City is entirely surrounded by Plymouth Township. Other communities nearby include Northville Township and the City of Northville to the north, the City of Livonia to the east and Canton Township to the south. Salem Township (in Washtenaw County) is to the west.





## Planning Process

This Plan was developed utilizing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Guidelines. Following the MDNR Guidelines, and filing this adopted Plan with the MDNR, allows for both the City and Township to be eligible to apply for various MDNR administered parks and recreation related grant funds. The 5-Year Plan was prepared jointly by the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township over an approximately 6-month period. The previous City of Plymouth Recreation Master Plan 2012-2016 and the 2010 Plymouth Township Recreation and Open Space Plan were used as a foundation.

This section of the Plan documents the process used to develop the Plan as well as those involved with providing input.

## Background Studies

The necessary data to begin the formulation of the background studies for the plan was collected from various sources including: City and Township staff, City Department of Recreation, the previous City of Plymouth Recreation Master Plan 2012-2016, the 2010 Plymouth Township Recreation and Open Space Plan, as well as field observations.

The **Community Description** includes a brief introduction to the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and the jurisdiction and focus of the Plan.

The **Administrative Structure** section of the Plan describes how recreation is governed and operated within the City and Township. This includes information gathered from the City and Township outlining staff responsibilities, function of the City Recreation Department, and a fiscal analysis (as it relates to recreation) of the last few years for both municipalities.

The **Recreation Inventory** chapter provides an inventory of the parks and recreation facilities within the Plymouth community. This information was collected through a field survey conducted in December 2017. The location of each recreation facility is described and mapped, as well as an overview of the various programs, activities, and events offered throughout the City and Township. The chapter also includes a brief description of public school recreational facilities, other significant recreation-related facilities in the community as well as regional recreation facilities in and around Plymouth.

## Basis For Action

The Basis For Action section of the document analyzes factors inside and outside of the City and Township that may have an effect on the direction of recreation over the next five years. This portion of the plan also helps to provide the rationale for the goals, guidelines/objectives and recommended capital improvements. Several factors were analyzed including current recreation trends (on both national and state levels), comparison of City and Township acreage, staffing, budget levels to other typical parks and recreation agencies in the country, service area gaps, existing plans and reports, and results of the various input from residents, staff and elected officials.

## Input

The City and Township worked to gather input in a number of ways during the development of the plan as summarized below. Additional detail is provided in the Basis For Action section and Appendix.

### Joint Parks and Recreation Telephone Survey (Statistically Accurate)

The City and Township jointly funded a telephone survey of 325 adult residents of the community (225 from the Township and 100 from the City). The survey was conducted by EPIC-MRA based in Lansing and completed in the Fall of 2017. Additional detail is provided in the Basis For Action section and Appendix.

### Joint Parks and Recreation Online Questionnaire

During the development of the Plan, both the City and Township posted a questionnaire to their websites in order to give opportunity for people to provide written input for consideration. The availability of the questionnaire was published in the newspaper and email blasted. The questionnaire was available from January 8 through February 18, 2018 and 580 responses were collected. Additional detail is provided in the Basis For Action section and Appendix.

### Public Workshops (2)

The City and Township jointly hosted two public workshops on January 29, 2018 to brainstorm ideas and identify priorities for the next 5 years. Approximately 30 people attended the workshop held at the Plymouth Township Hall (1:00 - 3:00 pm) and approximately 11 people attended the workshop held at the Plymouth Cultural Center (6:30 - 8:30 pm). The workshops were published in the Plymouth Observer and email blasted. Additional detail is provided in the Basis For Action section and Appendix.

### Commission and Board Input

The City Recreation Director met with both the City Commission and Township Board at their regular meetings in February 2018. The Director gave each a brief overview of the project and planning process and then asked each body to brainstorm ideas for parks and recreation projects and/or programs. Additional detail is provided in the Basis For Action section and Appendix.

### **Action Program**

The Action Program section of the document outlines the direction that the City and Township would like to take over the next five years in order to maintain and improve recreation opportunities within the community. The Action Program includes goals and guidelines as well as a capital improvements schedule.

### **Public Hearing + Adoption**

The draft Recreation Master Plan was made available for public review April 5, 2018 at the Cultural Center, City Hall, Township Hall, City website and Township website. The public hearing was held in front of the City Commission on May 7, 2018 and in front of the Township Board on May 8, 2018. A brief overview of the purpose of the plan, process, and contents was presented.

The Plymouth City Commission adopted the Recreation Master Plan by resolution at their May 7, 2018 meeting.

The Plymouth Township Board adopted the Recreation Master Plan by resolution at their May 8, 2018 meeting.





## Administrative Structure

This section of the Plan documents how parks and recreational activities and resources are governed and administered in the City of Plymouth and in Plymouth Township. The functions of the various departments and staff with responsibility for recreation as well as budgetary expenditures and revenues are detailed.

Public Act 156 of 1917 (Local Government, Operate System of Public Recreation) authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. Section 1 of PA 156 of 1917 indicates that any city, village, county or township may:

1. Operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds;
2. Acquire equipment and maintain land, buildings, or other recreational facilities;
3. Employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; and,
4. Vote to expend funds for the operation of such a system.

## City of Plymouth

As is depicted in the organizational chart on the following page, the responsibility of managing, maintaining and improving recreation facilities within the City of Plymouth is primarily met by the Recreation Department. However, the ultimate authority for the provision of recreation in the City is held by the seven-member City Commission. As is described in Section 5.8 of the City Code, the Commission “shall provide for the public peace, health, and recreation, and for the safety of persons and property”. The City Commission is made up of seven residents who then elect a Mayor to lead the meetings and perform other ceremonial functions. Members of the City Commission may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms of office. City Commissioners are elected at large on a city-wide basis. The City Commission establishes the annual itemized budget for the recreation fund and generally oversees use of the budget. The Commission has the final say on large improvement projects, use of additional funds and land acquisitions. All decisions are based on recommendations from the City Manager, Recreation Department, and input from the public. Additionally, the Commission approves all grant applications and adopts the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## City Staff and Departments

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department falls under the purview of the City Manager and is responsible for a variety of tasks including:

- Program activities and organized sports offered by the City including facilitating enrollment and coordinating time and program locations
- Coordinate the use of multiple recreation facilities
- Provide referrals to volunteer sport organizations
- Recommend land, facility expansions and additional needs to the City Manager and City Commission
- Overseeing maintenance of recreational facilities with oversight from Municipal Services Department for the City Parks.
- Staffing and maintenance of the Cultural Center
- Overseeing and administering the City’s recreation fund

The Recreation Department includes two full-time staff (Recreation Director and Facility Manager) as well as a number of part time, seasonal and contractual staff.

## Plymouth Township

As is illustrated on the Plymouth Township Parks and Senior Center Organizational Chart, the Township Supervisor is the Chief Elected Official and is responsible for the daily operation of all departments within the Township. The Supervisor also presides as chair at meetings of the Township Board. The Supervisor also oversees a full-time Senior Transportation Manager at the Friendship Station (and 3 part-time Senior Transportation drivers) as well as 2 part-time parks foreman and 10 seasonal staff to maintain and improve the parks. The Township Hilltop Golf Course is managed via contract by a private company.

## City and Township Collaboration

In addition to developing this Joint 5-Year Plan together, the City and Township also currently collaborate on two other elements related to parks and recreation in the community including:

- Shared funding for senior citizen transportation
- Both contribute funding and/or facility usage to the Plymouth Community Council on Aging

## Relationships with Other Agencies

Both the City and Township have working relationships with each other as well as a number of public and private agencies to assist in providing a variety of programming and additional outdoor space including:

- **Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC)**  
The City partners with PCAC for children’s summer concert series in Kellogg Park.
- **Wayne County Parks**  
Green space for soccer, baseball, t-ball; senior Olympics, special events
- **Plymouth Canton Community Schools**  
Green space for soccer, baseball, and t-ball (with paid permit fee)
- **Miracle League of Plymouth**  
Miracle League Field for t-ball games and practices
- **TDM (former Visteon)**  
Green space for soccer
- **Plymouth Community Council on Aging (PCCA)**  
A nonprofit organized to coordinate programs that promote and safeguard the independence and well-being of senior citizens of the greater Plymouth community. The PCCA is sponsored by Plymouth Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Department of Recreation, Plymouth Community United Way and Senior Alliance.

- **Plymouth Community United Way**  
Funding for senior transportation and other senior programs.
- **Plymouth Chamber of Commerce**  
Marketing and special events
- **Plymouth Downtown Development Authority**  
Oversees programming and special events in downtown Plymouth and Kellogg Park including Friday night Concert's.
- **Annual Festival Organizations**  
Partner with the city and use city services to run and manage events including annual Ice Festival, Fall Festival, Art in the Park, etc.
- **Plymouth Garden Club**  
Annual plantings at Kiwanis Point Park, Township Hall, Garden Club Park

A number of schools, private organizations, leagues, etc. utilize City and Township park properties and facilities (with various fees/rental agreements) including:

- Plymouth Canton Little League
- Our Lady of Good Council
- Assorted Travel Baseball Programs
- Plymouth Reign Soccer Club
- Plymouth Hockey Association
- Over 60 Hockey League
- Over 60 Hockey Drop-In Program
- U of M Men's Club Team
- Michigan High School Hockey Development League
- Plymouth Figure Skating Club
- Women's Flames Hockey Team
- Kim Muir Learn to Skate Program
- Plymouth Prep Hockey
- PCC Kings Hockey (AAU)
- JC Auction
- Greater Canton Junior Baseball
- Plymouth Canton Little League

### Role of Volunteers

Both the City and Township incorporate and rely on a number of volunteers to provide youth sports, some senior citizen programs, etc. By far, the majority of the volunteers are coaches, assistant coaches and team managers for the youth soccer program (80-100 adult volunteers per season). Youth t-ball has 30-40 adult volunteers per season and senior citizen programs have 20-30 adult volunteers for programs throughout the year.

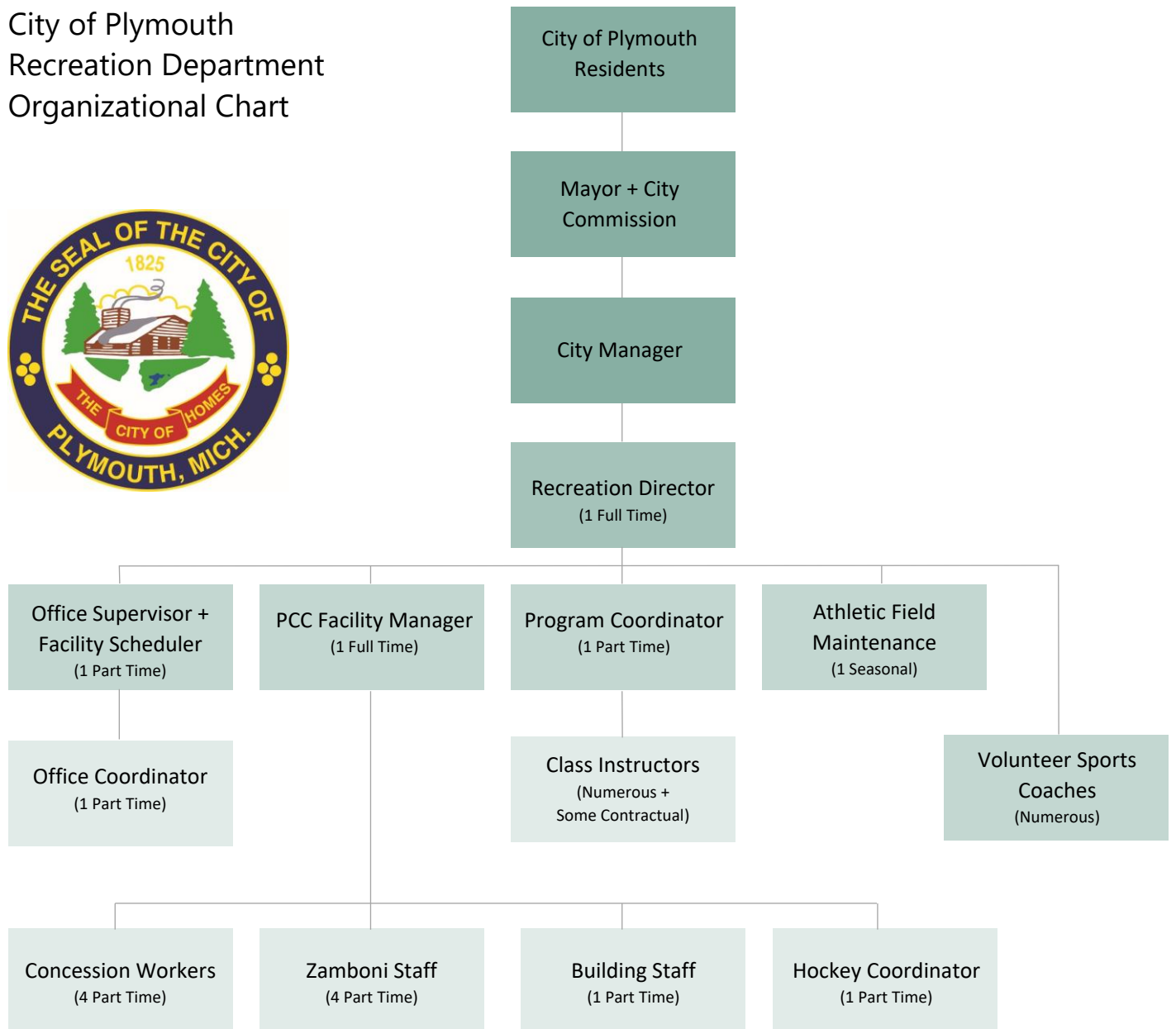
### Fiscal Analysis

The provision of recreation within the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township are funded through a variety of means. Revenues and expenditures over the past 4 years are summarized on the following pages to illustrate revenue and spending patterns related to parks and recreation in the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Historically, the revenues generated from parks and recreation facilities and programming fall below the total recreation expenditures. Both the City and Township support parks and recreation through general fund dollars, as do most municipalities. Over the past 4 years, the City has recovered between 63% - 77% of expenditures through revenue generation (not including grants, donations or transfers from the General Fund). Over the past 4 years, the Township has recovered between 7.5% - 13% of expenditures through revenue generation (not including grants/General Fund).

The National Recreation and Parks Association 2017 Agency Performance Review indicates that the **typical Parks and Recreation Agency with a population less than 20,000 (as does the City)** has 57% of their park and recreation operating expenditures are derived from general fund, 29% from earned revenue, 8% from dedicated levies, 1% from grants, 1% from sponsorships and 4% from other revenues.

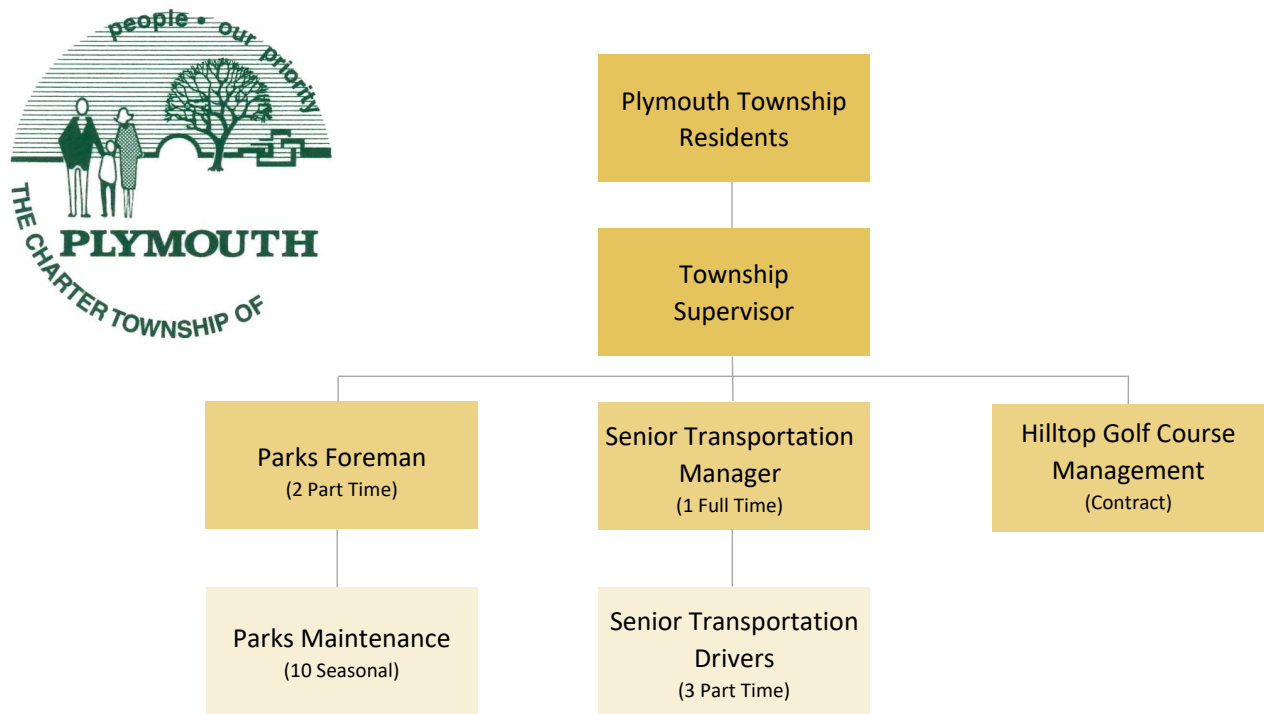
For typical **Parks and Recreation Agencies with a population between 20,000-49,999 (as does the Township)**, 61% of their park and recreation operating expenditures are derived from general fund, 26% from earned revenue, 7% from dedicated levies, 1% from grants, 1% from sponsorships and 5% from other revenues.

City of Plymouth  
Recreation Department  
Organizational Chart





Plymouth Township  
Parks + Senior Center  
Organizational Chart



### City of Plymouth

The City of Plymouth fiscal year begins July 1. From 2014-2018, both expenditures and revenues have remained fairly stable. The City funds parks and recreation primarily by the revenues generated from the various recreation facilities and programs and have been between \$1.18 - \$1.23 million per year. Revenues from hockey rentals and soccer are the two largest revenue generating programs. Contributions from the General Fund (listed under

Administrative Charges) have been \$200,000 each year since 2014. In terms of expenditures, Administration (salaries, equipment rental, repairs, maintenance, utilities, etc.) and the soccer program consume the majority of the recreation budget. Expenditures have ranged between \$1.20 to \$1.23 million per year.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>EXPENDITURES 2014-2018</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>budgeted</b>
Administration	\$ 855,794.46	\$ 941,066.52	\$ 881,533.80	\$ 911,530.00
Admin Reserve for Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,050.00
Parks + Public Property Capital Outlay	\$ 2,239.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Outlay	\$ 56,090.84	\$ 199,337.96*	\$ 56,754.66*	\$ 35,000.00
Recreation Vending	\$ 4,265.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Recreation Services	\$ 45,110.53	\$ 39,481.34	\$ 40,890.57	\$ 39,850.00
Adult Athletics	\$ 2,002.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Athletics	\$ 16,860.61	\$ 12,076.82	\$ 11,677.62	\$ 10,570.00
Miracle League	\$ 10,974.85	\$ 10,100.00	\$ 10,460.00	\$ 9,100.00
PCHA	\$ 43,483.84	\$ 81,811.20	\$ 36,318.37	\$ 30,710.00
Mini Mites	\$ 14,643.70	\$ 9,833.87	\$ 14,936.37	\$ 21,230.00
MSD Services	\$ 6,578.46	\$ 11,876.54	\$ 12,726.15	\$ 11,750.00
Soccer	\$ 115,016.59	\$ 98,178.19	\$ 112,579.19	\$ 106,850.00
Liquor	\$ 3,887.17	\$ 2,264.92	\$ 2,191.55	\$ 4,520.00
Classes & Special Events	\$ 25,232.77	\$ 26,388.28	\$ 24,540.30	\$ 38,920.00
Therapeutic Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Senior Programs - Classes	\$ 4,844.71	\$ 3,231.42	\$ 4,109.64	\$ 5,720.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,207,025.85</b>	<b>\$ 1,435,647.06</b>	<b>\$ 1,208,718.22</b>	<b>\$ 1,230,800.00</b>
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>REVENUES 2014-2018</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>budgeted</b>
General Revenues	\$ 62,798.04	\$ 191,148.54	\$ 46,834.60	\$ 39,050.00
Cultural Center	\$ 584,597.45	\$ 564,194.79	\$ 591,349.66	\$ 598,000.00
Administrative Charges	\$ 200,000.04	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 207,823.96	\$ 250,050.00
Program Fees & Charges	\$ 341,089.18	\$ 346,751.97	\$ 306,008.05	\$ 343,700.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,188,484.71</b>	<b>\$ 1,302,095.30</b>	<b>\$ 1,152,016.27</b>	<b>\$ 1,230,800.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES (ALL FUNDS)</b>	<b>\$ 1,188,484.71</b>	<b>\$ 1,302,095.30</b>	<b>\$ 1,152,016.27</b>	<b>\$ 1,230,800.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES (ALL FUNDS)</b>	<b>\$ 1,207,025.85</b>	<b>\$ 1,435,647.06</b>	<b>\$ 1,208,718.22</b>	<b>\$ 1,230,800.00</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ (18,541.14)</b>	<b>\$ (133,551.76)*</b>	<b>\$ (56,701.95)*</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

\* Ice Arena ADA Bleacher project is included in these figures.

## Plymouth Township

The Plymouth Township fiscal year begins January 1. From 2015 –2018, revenues are budgeted to increase from \$36,675 to \$202,000 per year. This is due to a budgeted Wayne County Parks distribution of \$162,000 in 2018. Revenues from rental fees have remained fairly stable. Expenditures have ranged between \$353,991 (2018) to \$544,265 (2016). While expenditures have increased for part time workers, equipment purchases, and

intergovernmental services, expenditures have decreased in most other categories including supervisory, overtime, benefits, recreation programming, contractual services, buildings/grounds maintenance, and utilities. General fund dollars have been off setting the difference between revenues and expenditures.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>EXPENDITURES 2014-2017</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>thru 12/31/17</b>	<b>budgeted</b>
Supervisory	\$ 32,076.89	\$ 51,969.31	\$ -	\$ -
Part Time	\$ 118,651.20	\$ 135,422.24	\$ 168,209.18	\$ 145,000.00
Overtime	\$ 4,134.83	\$ 23,595.04	\$ 2,476.34	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ 14,543.39	\$ 14,773.00	\$ 5,080.16	\$ -
Pension Non-REP	\$ -	\$ (7,810.83)	\$ (10,121.84)	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 11,802.76	\$ 16,047.97	\$ 13,057.57	\$ 6,120.00
Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 1,714.00	\$ 3,593.66	\$ 2,591.53	\$ 2,239.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,923.51	\$ 2,467.39	\$ 2,150.30	\$ 1,500.00
Uniforms	\$ 361.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 271.69	\$ 500.00
Recreation Program	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 115,325.50	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual Services	\$ 7,277.00	\$ 2,872.00	\$ 10,540.14	\$ 2,000.00
Telephone	\$ 2,994.88	\$ 3,686.78	\$ 2,798.69	\$ 2,500.00
Auto Expense/Lease	\$ 3,538.85	\$ 4,599.08	\$ 9,370.45	\$ 4,500.00
Utilities	\$ 52,212.20	\$ 54,527.49	\$ 46,669.14	\$ 35,000.00
Bldg/Grounds Maintenance	\$ 100,699.21	\$ 94,386.62	\$ 29,933.02	\$ 25,000.00
Intergovernmental Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,832.72	\$ 15,132.00
Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,401.52	\$ -
Recreation Grants		\$ 29.91	\$ -	\$ -
Forestry Grant	\$ 9,690.85	\$ 26,425.00	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment Purchases	\$ 28,974.34	\$ 877.10	\$ 40,470.48	\$ 114,000.00
Small Tools	\$ -	\$ 477.61	\$ -	\$ 500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 490,594.91</b>	<b>\$ 544,264.87</b>	<b>\$ 341,731.09</b>	<b>\$ 353,991.00</b>
<b>REVENUES 2014-2017</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>thru 12/31/17</b>	<b>budgeted</b>
Wayne County Parks Distribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 162,000.00
Rentals	\$ 36,675.00	\$ 39,225.00	\$ 44,160.00	\$ 40,000.00
Other/Misc. (including Grants)	\$ -	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 710.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 36,675.00</b>	<b>\$ 56,225.00</b>	<b>\$ 44,870.00</b>	<b>\$ 202,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES (ALL FUNDS)</b>	<b>\$ 36,675.00</b>	<b>\$ 56,225.00</b>	<b>\$ 44,870.00</b>	<b>\$ 202,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES (ALL FUNDS)</b>	<b>\$ 490,594.91</b>	<b>\$ 544,264.87</b>	<b>\$ 341,731.09</b>	<b>\$ 353,991.00</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ (453,919.91)</b>	<b>\$ (488,039.87)</b>	<b>\$ (296,861.09)</b>	<b>\$ (151,991.00)</b>



## Inventory

Developing a complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs, and events is an essential component of a Recreation Master Plan. It provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Program. Understanding what facilities, programs, and events are available to the residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township will assist in future decision- making processes.

This portion of the Plan includes several components. The first component is a description of the recreation facilities and programs that the City of Plymouth and/or Plymouth Township owns and operates. Recreation, social and cultural facilities located within the Plymouth community but owned and operated by outside agencies such as the public school district were also inventoried. A description of regional recreation facilities including those found within and just outside of the Plymouth community is also provided. The recreation facilities inventory includes an assessment of the barrier-free compliance status (using the MDNR guidelines) of City-owned and Township-owned park facilities. Lastly, this chapter includes a description of the facilities that were partially or completely acquired and/or developed using MDNR recreation grant funding.



## City of Plymouth Programs and Facilities

City records show that Kellogg Park was a declared public park as early as 1867. The City has slowly but effectively been adding to its supply of green spaces and public parks ever since. Plymouth's next addition to the parks was Hough Park dedicated in 1926. Plymouth continued its trend of investing in green spaces during the 1940's by purchasing the following parks: Auburn—Junction (Kiwanis Club Park); Burroughs-Coolidge (Lions Club Park); Holbrook- Caster Park; Hamilton Playground (Fairground Park); Forest-Sutherland (Garden Club Park); and Wing-Herald Park (Rotary Club Park). The Elm St. Playground (Smith Park) was added in May of 1956.

The origin of the Adopt-A-Park Program began in the early 1980's when the City Recreation Department began approaching local service groups to help in the improvement of the valuable green spaces in the City. This led to the names of the parks in the City as they are commonly known today.

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department offers a variety of programs for residents of the greater Plymouth Community. City of Plymouth residents contribute to the support of the City of Plymouth Recreation Department through property taxes, therefore, City of Plymouth residents are charged lesser rates for programs. An example of this would be that the Fall Soccer fees for WSSL age groups is \$142 for non-City residents and \$97 for City residents. All Cultural Center facility rentals are the same charge regardless of residency (per long-term property lease agreement with school district).

A sampling of the recreation programs available include:

- Arts, Crafts and Leisure Programs
- Kung Fu
- Karate
- Youth Hockey
- Over 60 Hockey
- Tai Chi
- Youth Soccer
- Yo-Yo/Juggling Camp
- T-Ball
- Cardio, Core and Fitness Classes
- Tumbling
- Pilates
- Adult Yoga
- Senior Exercise
- Senior Bridge



- Senior Woodcarving
- Bricks 4 Kidz
- Kids Fitness (Tiny Tigers, Little Ninjas)
- Coding and Stop Animation
- Civil Engineering (tweens/teens)
- Nuro Movement Class
- Daddy Daughter Dance
- Mother Son Tiger Game
- Coding
- Kickboxing
- Seminars
- Special Events

In addition to the above programs, many others are also available depending on the time of year, as the City's programs change for each of the four seasons. These programs and classes are available to all citizens in the City of Plymouth in addition to citizens living in the greater Plymouth Community. Programs, activities, and classes are provided for all ages. Most of the recreation programs and activities are held at City facilities such as the Cultural Center, but others, such as the youth soccer program, utilizes several area soccer fields in and outside of the City.

The City of Plymouth (and the Township) works closely with the *Plymouth Community Council on Aging (PCCA)* to provide social and recreation activities to seniors in the community. The PCCA offices are at Township Hall and the Township Friendship Station building is utilized by the PCCA who organizes and offers programs such as line dancing, cardio exercise, yoga, chair exercise, bingo, knitting, cards, lunches, and a variety of talks on subjects such as elder care, diabetes, etc. Day trips are also organized to a variety of restaurants and activities throughout metro Detroit.

The City also contributes funds to the *Plymouth Community Senior Transportation* program (shared funding with the Township) that operates out of the Township's Friendship Station. The program provides rides to residents 60 years old and older within and around the Plymouth community for a nominal fee.

The City-owned and Township-owned parks were inventoried in December 2017 with findings documented on the following pages. The City of Plymouth owns 17 public park and recreation facilities that encompass approximately 22 acres of land including the Plymouth Community Cultural Center and Ice Arena. Plymouth Township owns 7 public park and recreation facilities that encompass approximately 174.5 acres of land including Plymouth Township Park and Hilltop Golf Course. In addition, residents of the Plymouth Community are served by several properties owned by the school district, Wayne County, as well as private and/or non-profit recreation providers.

An inventory table has been developed that lists the various parks and recreation facilities in the Plymouth Community and the various amenities found at each park. In addition, narrative summaries for each City-owned and Township-owned park have been developed. An Inventory Map illustrates the location of each park and facility.

### City of Plymouth Grant History

When preparing a 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that information be provided concerning grants that have been received in the past for acquisition or development of recreation facilities. In the past, the City has received two grants for recreation facility development. A brief assessment of each project is noted and the most recent Post-Completion Self Certification Report PR1944

(completed by the City in 2016) are provided in the Appendix.

### City of Plymouth MDNR Grant History

<b>Grant Title:</b>	<b>Tonquish Creek Neighborhood Park</b>
<b>Grant Number:</b>	26-00087
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$8,632.50
<b>Year Awarded:</b>	1967
<b>Scope Items:</b>	Acquisition of four parcels of land totaling 1.72 acres for development of a neighborhood park.
<b>Current Status:</b>	Property remains in city-ownership for public outdoor recreation. Passive park with open space and walking trail. Maintenance is completed as needed.
<hr/>	
<b>Grant Title:</b>	<b>Plymouth Cultural Center Renovations</b>
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CM00-289
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$634,983.00
<b>Year Awarded:</b>	2000
<b>Scope Items:</b>	Dasher board system replacement, new emergency lighting, energy reduction system for lighting and refrigeration, exit signage, 2 hockey locker room addition, Zamboni equipment storage room addition.
<b>Current Status:</b>	Facility remains in city-ownership for public ice arena recreation. All scope items were installed and remain active in the same state as when installed.

**Joint Plymouth Community  
Park Inventory**  
2018-2022

Joint Plymouth Community Park Inventory 2018-2022			Map ID	Name	Type	Acres	Parking Lot	Permanent Restroom	Concessions	Outdoor Lighting	Storage / Equipment Facility	Picnic Areas	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Gris	Gymnasium	Practice Ball Diamond	Little League Field (60' bases)	Batting Cage	Tennis Court	Hockey / Ice Skating - Indoor	Play Equipment	Multi-Purpose Facility	Soccer Field	Basketball Hoop	Volleyball Court (Sand)	Walking/Jogging/Bike Path	Gazebo	Fishing	18-hole Golf Course	Spray Park	Swimming Pool - Indoor	Open Space	Track	Shuffleboard	Dog Waste Station	Drinking Fountain	Skate Park	Meeting Space		
CITY OF PLYMOUTH PARKS																																									
1	Cultural Center & Ice Arena	CP	4.23	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		1	X			1	X													X		X				
2	Don Massey Field	S	2.80	X																		X											X			X					
3	Knights of Columbus Park	NP	0.50																																		X				
4	Fairground Park	NP	2.52														1									1	1	1										X			
5	Garden Club Park	NP	0.66														1																				X				
6	Kiwanis Club Park	NP	0.77														1																				X				
7	Smith Park	MP	0.37																																		X				
8	Rotary Club Park	NP	0.71																																		X				
9	Jack Wilcox Park	MP	0.28																																		X				
10	Kellogg Park	CP	1.14		X																																X				
11	Caster Park	MP	0.42																																			X			
12	Lion's Club Park	NP	2.15																			X															X				
13	Point Park	MP	0.67							X																															
14	Starkweather Park	MP	0.24							X		X																	1								X				
15	Veteran's Memorial Park	S	0.75						X																																
16	Hough Park	MP	1.95																																			X			
17	Tonquish Creek Neighborhood Park	NP	1.72																																						
Total Acreage and Facilities			21.88								8					3	1		1						4	1	1	1	1												
PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARKS																																									
18	Plymouth Township Park	CP	70.00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X	X	X		4				X									X	1	X				X		X		
19	Hilltop Golf Course	S	86.00	X	X	X																																			
20	Lake Pointe Soccer Park	CP	12.09	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X							X			2		X							X			X				
21	Kiwanis Point Park	MP	2.00																																		X				
22	Miller Family Park	NP	3.67									X		X	X							X															X				
23	Brentwood Park	NP	1.67									X		X	X							X																			
24	Friendship Station / Senior Complex	S	0.98	X	X	X	X											4				X			2														X		
Total Acreage and Facilities			176.41									5																													
PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS																																									
25	East Middle School		21.00	X													1	2																							
26	Smith Elementary School		9.00	X	X												1	1																							
27	West Middle School		22	X																																					
28	Pioneer Middle School		19	X																																					
29	Bird Elementary School		10	X	X		X	X																																	
30	Isbister Elementary School		9	X																																					
31	Allen Early Learning Academy		13	X	X		X	X																																	
32	Starkweather Academy		10	X	X		X	X																																	
33	Farrand Elementary School		10	X																																					
34	Miller Woods		40																																						
Total Acreage and Facilities			163.00																																						
COUNTY PARKS																																									
35	Hines Park		405.00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2				3			X																					
Total Acreage and Facilities			405																																						

CP = Community Park  
NP = Neighborhood Park  
MP = Mini Park  
S = Special Use Park

**Joint Plymouth Community  
Park Inventory  
2018-2022**

Joint Plymouth Community Park Inventory 2018-2022			Map ID	Name	Type	Acres	Parking Lot	Permanent Restroom	Concessions	Outdoor Lighting	Storage / Equipment Facility	Picnic Areas	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Gills	Gymnasium	Practice Ball Diamond	Little League Field (60' bases)	Batting Cage	Tennis Court	Hockey / Ice Skating - Indoor	Play Equipment	Multi-Purpose Facility	Football Field	Soccer Field	Basketball Hoop	Volleyball Court (Sand)	Walking/Jogging/Bike Path	Gazebo	Fishing	18-hole Golf Course	Spray Park	Swimming Pool - Indoor	Open Space	Track	Shuffleboard	Dog Waste Station	Drinking Fountain	Skate Park	Meeting Space
OTHER FACILITIES																																								
36		St. John's Golf Course and Conference Center				184.00	X	X	X	X	X					1				6			X		X	1	2	4				1								
37		Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex (PARC)				15.80	X	X	X	X	X					1	4	1					X	1									1	X	1					
38		Blithe Family - Miracle League Plymouth				1.40	X	X	X	X	X		1	X				1																						
39		USA Hockey Arena				25.00	X	X	X	X	X										2		X																	
40		Victory Ice Arena				3.00	X	X	X	X											1																			
41		Western Wayne County Conservation Association				80	X	X	X													X												X						
42		TDM/Viejeon Soccer Fields				6	X	X	X														X			2														
43		Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC)				0.6	X	X	X														X											X						
44		Township Linear Park				19.64																																		
Total Acreage and Facilities						335.44						1			2	4	1	6	3	4	1	1	4	4	1	22	42	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
TOTALS						1,097.78						17			11	27	6	6	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	22	42	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

## Barrier Free Status of Parks (MDNR Rating)

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. Each City and Township park summary sheet included in this chapter notes an accessibility ranking (as defined and required by the MDNR) for the park.

Each facility was given a rating of 1 through 5 (MDNR rating) with the following definitions:

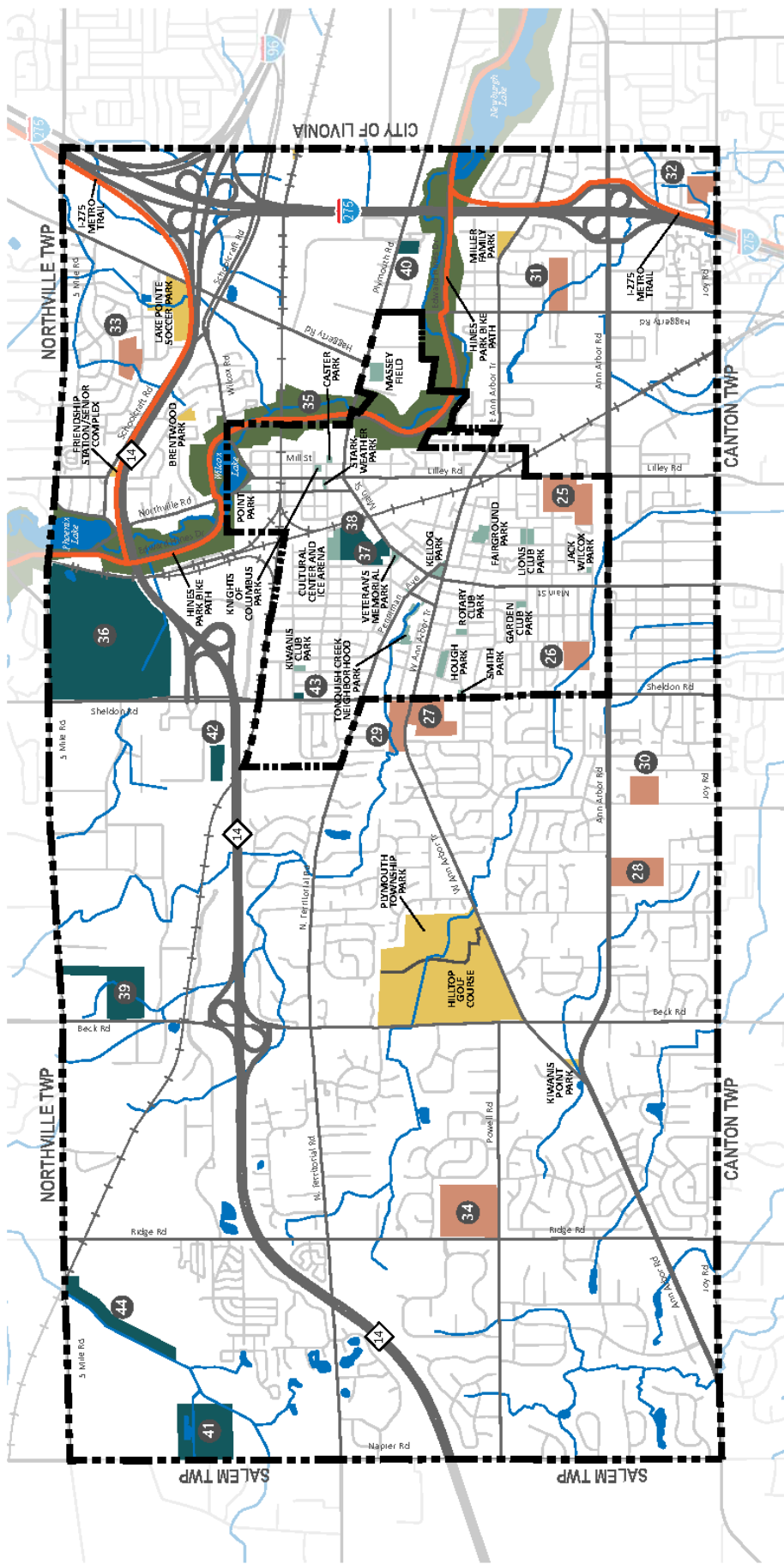
1. None of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
4. Entire park meets guidelines
5. Entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design

The barrier free status rating can change as ADA improvements are implemented over time.

In July 2004, the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (known as the Access Board) issued updated guidelines, entitled the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), for new or altered facilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) or the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-480).

The ADAAG guidelines should be referred to when designing new or renovated parks and recreation facilities.





### RECREATION INVENTORY

	City of Plymouth Parks
	Plymouth Township Parks
	Plymouth-Canton Schools

- 25. East Middle School
- 26. Smith Elementary School
- 27. West Middle School
- 28. Pioneer Middle School
- 29. Bird Elementary School
- 30. Isbister Elementary School
- 31. Allen Early Learning Academy
- 32. Starkweather Academy
- 33. Farrand Elementary School
- 34. Miller Woods

	County Parks
	35. Hines Park

### Other Facilities

- 36. St. John's Golf Course and Conference Center
- 37. Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex (PARC)
- 38. Bilkie Family- Miracle League Plymouth
- 39. USA Hockey Arena
- 40. Victory Ice Arena
- 41. Western Wayne County Conservation Assoc.
- 42. TDM/Visteon Soccer Fields
- 43. Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC)
- 44. Linear Park (Township owned)

### LEGEND

	Major Roads
	Other Roads
	Railroad
	Rivers and Streams
	Municipal Boundary

### RECREATION

INVENTORY MAP  
JOINT PLYMOUTH  
COMMUNITY  
PARKS & RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN  
2018 - 2022

Recreation Inventory Source:  
Inventory conducted by livingLAB,  
December 2017

**North**

feet

0 1,800 3,600

## Plymouth Community Cultural Center + Ice Arena

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 4.23ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 3

MDNR Grant: CM00-289 (2000)

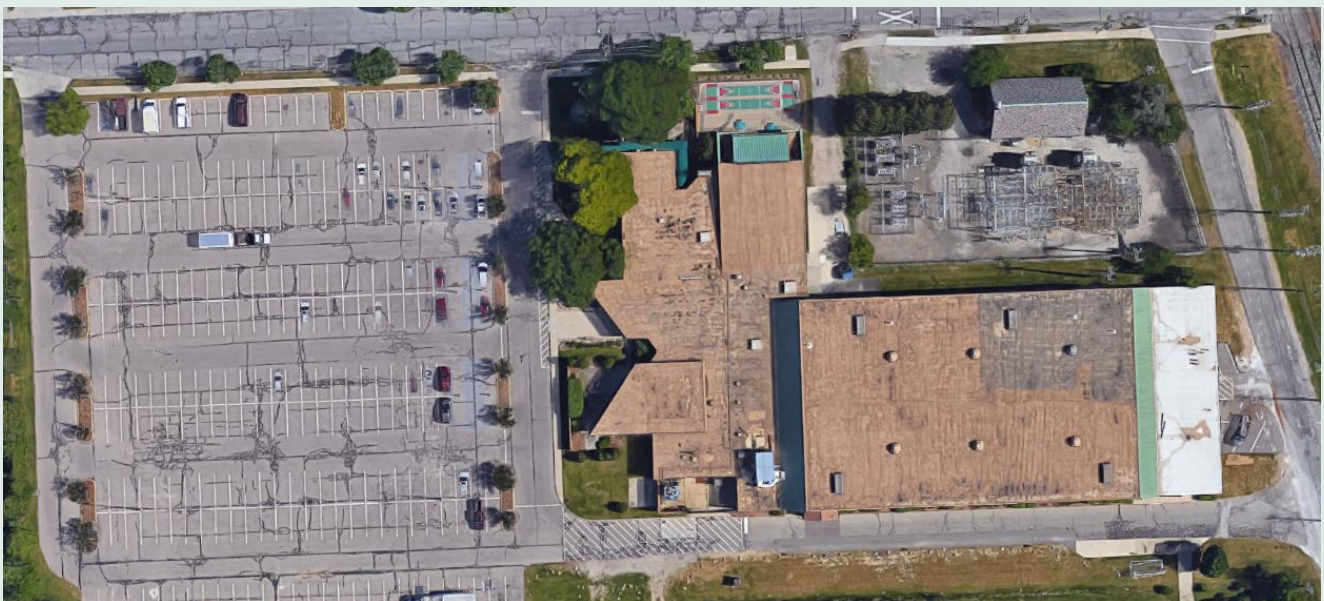


The Plymouth Community Cultural Center is the City's only indoor recreation facility, located on 4.23 acres north of the privately held Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center (PARC). The Plymouth Cultural Center offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities including the NHL-sized geo-thermal Ice Arena used by organized hockey leagues and teams as well as for figure skating and open skating. Related facilities include a concession stand, 2 large locker rooms, 4 small locker rooms, zamboni storage garage, equipment rooms, and an ADA accessible viewing area of the rink.

In 2010, the City of Plymouth Commission authorized the removal of the original 1971 ice arena compressor / boiler heating system with a geothermal based ice refrigeration plant and heat reclamation system. The geo-thermal system has significantly reduced utility and maintenance costs.

In 2012, the meeting and banquet rooms were updated. The large banquet room can accommodate up to 180 people and includes a stage. Meeting rooms that accommodate up to 50 people are also available for smaller meetings and seminars. The banquet and meeting rooms are complimented by full kitchen facilities. At regular times throughout the year, the Cultural Center's meeting rooms are utilized by the Rotary Club of Plymouth, Plymouth Community Council on Aging, Plymouth Hockey Association, Plymouth Figure Skating Club, JC Auction Services, Western Suburban Soccer League, and various recreation classes.

Other features at the Cultural Center include lounge areas, indoor bathrooms, vending machines, outdoor picnic tables, outdoor benches, outdoor shuffleboard, and bike rack.





## Don Massey Field

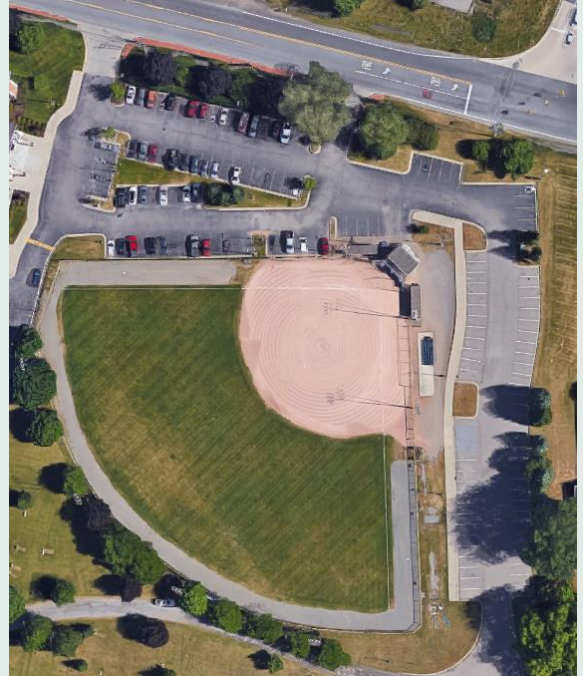
Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 2.8 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



This community park is located on Plymouth Road in the eastern portion of the City. Don Massey Field is on approximately 2.8-acres on the east side of the City adjacent to the 35<sup>th</sup> District Court and Riverside Cemetery. The City's largest baseball/softball field accounts for the sole recreation facility and the majority of the property at the park. The outfield is used for U-7/U-8 soccer fields. The baseball/softball field features a two-story press box building, batting cage, bleachers, covered dugouts, electronic scoreboard, outdoor lighting and a drinking fountain. Additionally, a paved parking area serves the park.



## Knights of Columbus Park

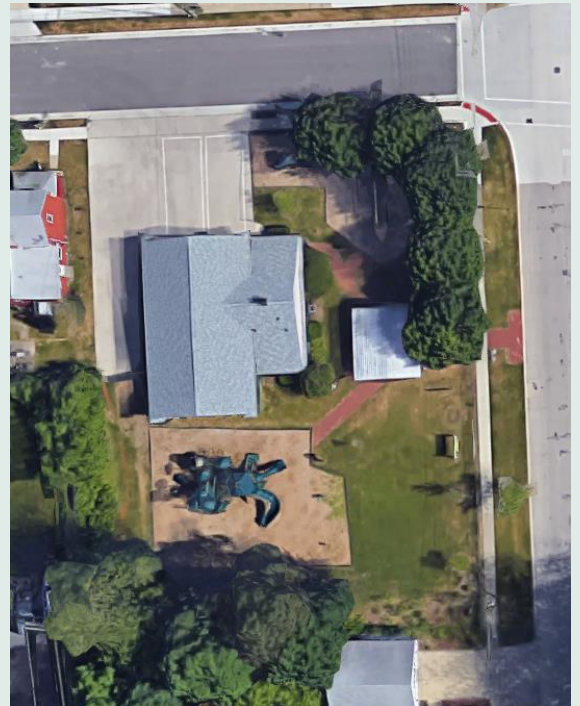
Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 0.5 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Knights of Columbus Park is a one-half acre neighborhood park located at the corner of Spring Street and Holbrook Avenue in the northeastern portion of the City. The primary recreation facilities at the Knights of Columbus Park include two playgrounds and a picnic shelter. The 5-12 year old play-structure and the picnic shelter are the two newest facilities at the park. The second older playground is designed for use by smaller children. The park also features two picnic tables, a bike rack, trash receptacles, and brick pathways.



## Fairground Park

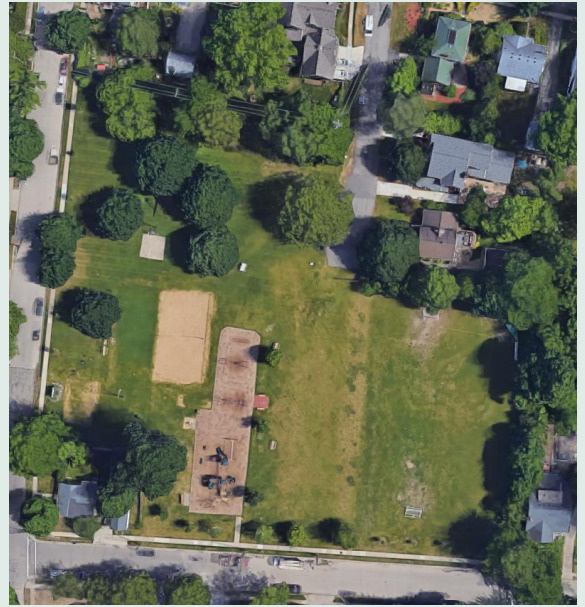
Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 2.52 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 2



Fairground Park accommodates a variety of recreation facilities including a sand volleyball court, a basketball hoop with concrete playing area, a playground, a baseball field and a soccer field. It is important to note that the soccer field and baseball field are not regulation size and share the same undefined playing area in the eastern half of the park. A small sledding hill for use by small children is in the northern portion of the park. Additional amenities at the park include picnic tables, trash receptacles and outdoor lighting. The Fairground Park Association donates money toward improvements and assists with clean up.



## Garden Club Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

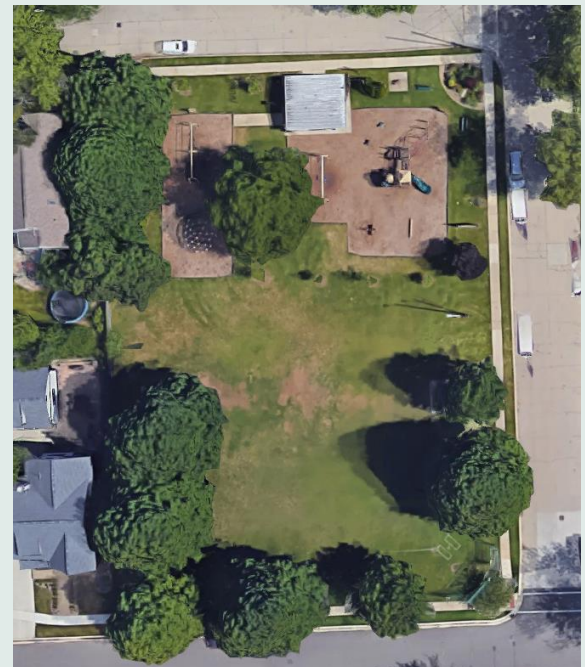
Approx. Acres: 0.66 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 3



Garden Club Park is located on a 0.66-acre parcel along Forest Avenue between Carol and Sutherland Avenues. This neighborhood park provides recreation opportunities for the neighborhoods located in the southwestern portion of the City of Plymouth.

Although it is a small park, several recreation facilities are found including one softball field (12 and under), a mini soccer field with two goals, a playground and a picnic shelter. In addition to the primary facilities, the park features benches, a bike rack, tire swing, swing set, picnic tables, a drinking fountain and trash receptacles. The park is also served by outdoor lighting.





## Kiwanis Club Park

Owner: City of Plymouth  
 Approx. Acres: 0.77 ac  
 MDNR Accessibility Rating: 2



Kiwanis Club Park is a small neighborhood park found in the City's northwest corner. The 0.77-acre park is located along the east side of Auburn Avenue between Junction Avenue and Farmer Street.

Facilities at the park include a softball field for children 12 years and under and two soccer goals (not a full soccer field). With funds from Wayne County, the City and the Kiwanis Club, the pavilion was re-roofed and new play equipment and walkways were added. Additional park amenities include picnic tables, bike rack, drinking fountain, dog waste station, and trash receptacles.

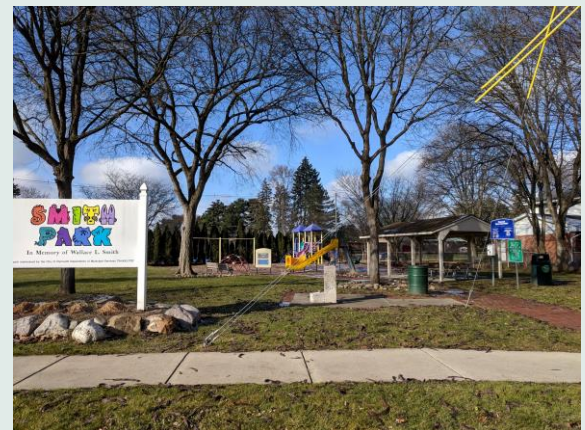


## Smith Park

Owner: City of Plymouth  
 Approx. Acres: 0.37 ac  
 MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Smith Park (0.37-acres) is located at the end of Elm Avenue, near Sheldon Road along the western edge of the City. Although the main access to the park is from Elm Avenue, pedestrians can access the park from the Sheldon Road side. Smith Park features a playground area with a swing set, slide and other play pieces. A shelter with a picnic table is another main feature at the park and is extremely popular during summer months. Park benches, drinking fountain (people and dogs), dog waste station and trash receptacles are additional amenities.



## Rotary Club Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

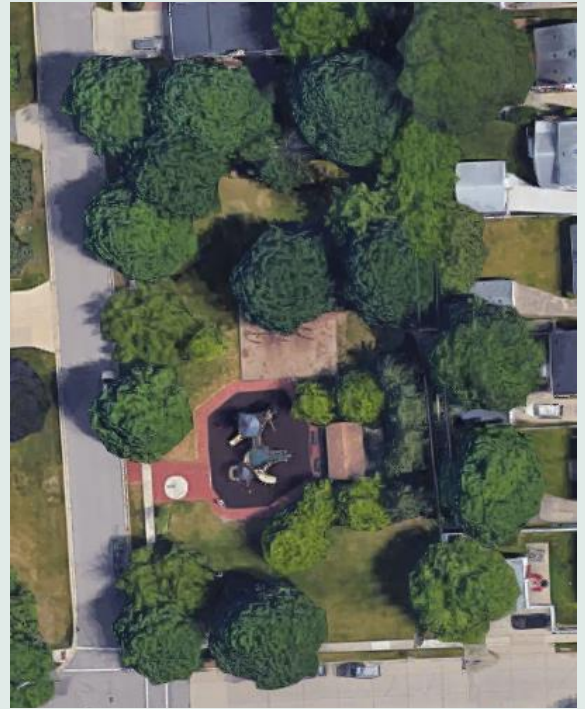
Approx. Acres: 0.71 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Classified as a neighborhood park, Rotary Club Park occupies 0.71 acres of land at the intersection of Wing Street and Herald Street, southwest of downtown.

Rotary Club Park includes open space areas and an active recreation area including a playground and a shelter with picnic tables. Additional facilities at the park include benches, dog waste station and trash receptacles.



## Jack Wilcox Park

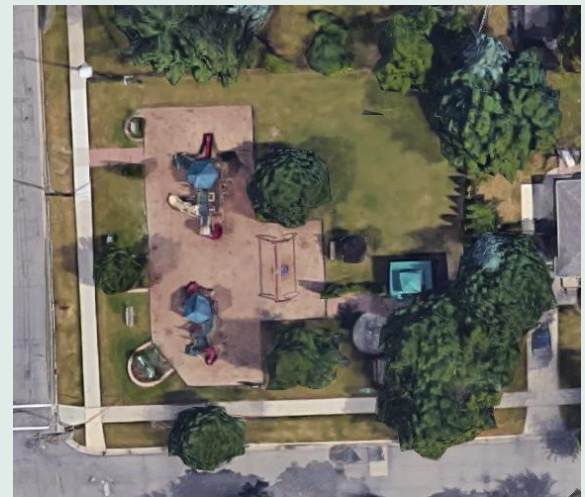
Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 0.28 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Jack Wilcox Park is a 0.28-acre park in the southern portion of the City at the corner of Dewey Avenue and Byron Avenue. This park features several recreation amenities including two playground structures and a shelter. Other features include benches, picnic tables, a grill, a drinking fountain (people and dogs), dog waste station and brick pathways.



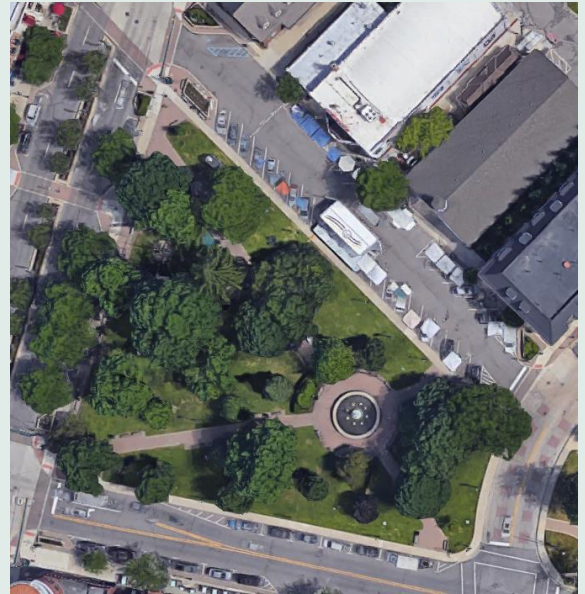


## Kellogg Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 1.14 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



With its central location in the heart of Downtown Plymouth, Kellogg Park is one of the City's most visible and busiest parks and community spaces. Kellogg Park includes a central water feature, drinking fountains, benches, trash receptacles and brick walkways. The park is most commonly utilized as a gathering, eating, people watching and resting spot for visitors and patrons of Plymouth's Central Business District. Many festivals and events are held at the park throughout the year including Art in the Park, Plymouth Fall Festival, Plymouth Ice Festival, Music in the Park Concerts, and private weddings.

## Caster Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 0.42 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Caster Park is located near the corner of Farmer Street and Holbrook Avenue in the northeastern portion of the City. This 0.42 acre mini-park is in close proximity to two other City parks: Starkweather Park and Knights of Columbus Park. Caster Park includes a gazebo, benches and walkways connecting to Holbrook Street and the Starkweather Lofts.

## Lion's Club Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 2.15 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Lions Club Park is a 2.15-acre neighborhood park located along Burroughs Avenue between Coolidge Street and Harding Avenue in the southeastern corner of Plymouth.

Lion's Club Park is comprised of two segments, divided by Burroughs Avenue. The parkland on the north side of Burroughs Avenue is undeveloped and maintained as natural open space along Tonquish Creek. The park's active recreation facilities are found on the south side of Burroughs Avenue including a large shelter with picnic tables, a playground area, grill, swing sets, benches, dog waste station, trash receptacles and outdoor lighting.



## Point Park

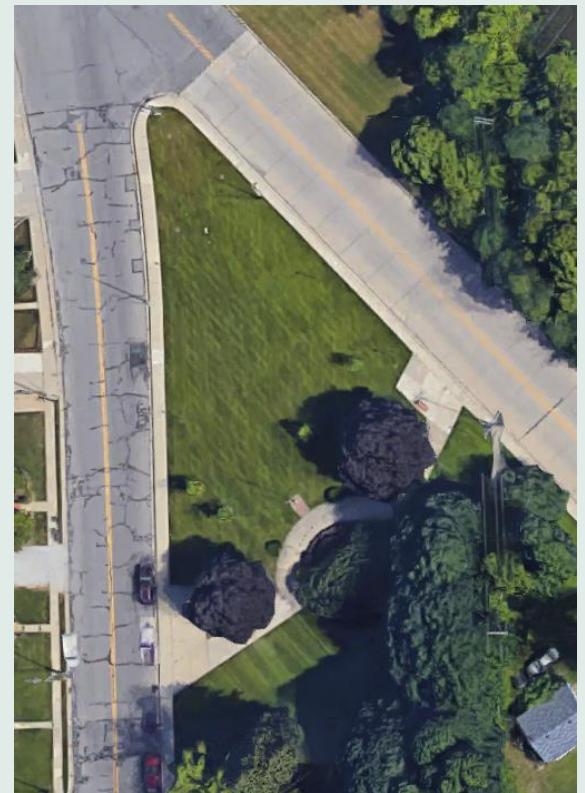
Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 0.67 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Point Park is a triangle shaped open space located in the northern portion of the City near Wilcox Lake at Starkweather Avenue and Mill Street. Point Park serves as an entryway to the northern portion of the City from Plymouth Township. Point Park does not include active recreation facilities. The park contains a central landscaping feature with shrubs that are shaped to spell "Plymouth," a flag pole, benches, paved walkways and outdoor lighting.





## Starkweather Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 0.24 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Starkweather Park is a small, 0.24-acre park on the north side of Caster Avenue between Starkweather Avenue and Mill Street in the northeastern corner of Plymouth. Facilities in the park include a gazebo, benches, dog waste station, landscaping beds, trash receptacles, brick walkways and outdoor lighting. The park is sometimes used as a location for private weddings.



## Veteran's Memorial Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 0.75 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Veteran's Memorial Park is located at the intersection of Main Street and Church Street, just south of the PARC facility in the center of Plymouth. The park includes open spaces, paved sidewalks and landscaping features. The park also features long-standing stone walls at its entrances and perimeter. The centerpiece of the park is the memorial plaza with a number of war memorials, flags and monuments. The park was privately funded by a conglomerate of veterans groups and multiple fundraising efforts. In addition, the local Veterans group established a park trust fund derived from the sale of a house located on Main Street in downtown Plymouth that was previously used for veteran's programs.



## Hough Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 1.95 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: N/A



Hough Park is a 1.95 acre mini-park located between Maple Avenue and Park Place in the western portion of the City.

The park is undeveloped open space with significant trees and natural areas. The park is utilized mainly by the neighboring residents for passive recreational purposes such as dog walking.

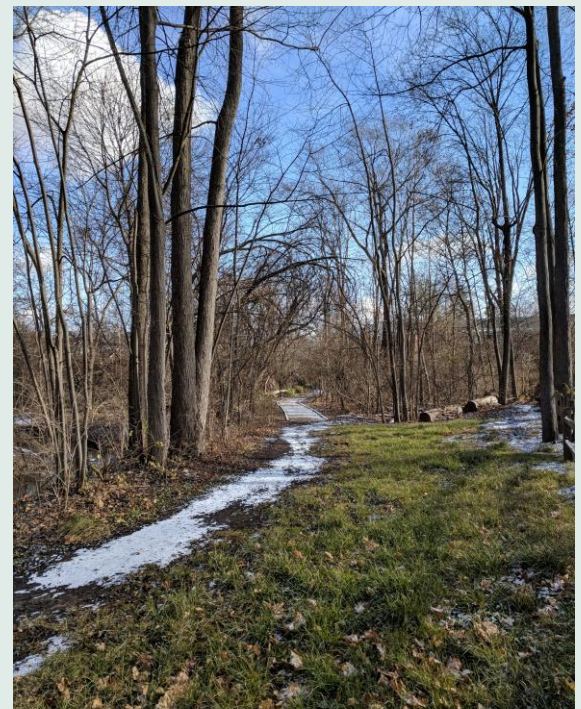
## Tonquish Creek Park

Owner: City of Plymouth

Approx. Acres: 1.72 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: N/A

MDNR Grant: 26-00087 (1967)



Tonquish Creek Neighborhood Park is a 1.72-acre neighborhood park and walking trail that is located north of Sheridan Street and connects to Harvey Street in the western portion of the City. The park is undeveloped open space with an informal walking trail, extensive trees, benches, lamp posts and natural areas. The park is utilized mainly by the neighboring residents for passive recreational purposes such as nature walks.

## **Plymouth Township Programs and Facilities**

As is noted in the Administrative Structure section of this Plan, the Township does not have a Parks and/or Recreation Department. Recreation programming opportunities are offered by the City of Plymouth, the Plymouth-Canton School District and a number of private or non-profit agencies within and surrounding the Plymouth Community.

Plymouth Township (and the City) works closely with the *Plymouth Community Council on Aging* (PCCA) to provide social and recreation activities to seniors in the community. The PCCA offices are in Township Hall and the Township Friendship Station building is utilized by the PCCA who organizes and offers programs such as line dancing, cardio exercise, yoga, chair exercise, bingo, knitting, cards, lunches, and a variety of talks on subjects such as elder care, diabetes, etc. Day trips are also organized to a variety of restaurants and activities throughout metro Detroit.

The Township's Friendship Station is also home to the *Plymouth Community Senior Transportation* program (shared funding with the City of Plymouth). The program provides rides to residents 60 years old and older within and around the Plymouth community for a nominal fee.

Plymouth Township handles all use requests and scheduling of fields and facilities within their parks. This includes a *reservation system* for the various shelters and pavilions at Plymouth Township Park and Lake Pointe Soccer Park. Township residents and Township resident groups are able to reserve the various shelters and pavilions prior to them being available to other non-Township groups and are also provided a discounted rate. Plymouth Township residents contribute to the support of the Township facilities through property taxes, therefore, Township residents are charged lesser rates for reservations. For example, a Township resident group can reserve the shelter at Lake Pointe Soccer Park for \$225 on a weekend while a non-resident group is charged \$450.

Plymouth Township owns 7 public park and recreation facilities that encompass approximately 176.4 acres of land including Plymouth Township Park and Hilltop Golf Course. In addition, residents of the Plymouth Community are served by several properties owned by the school district, Wayne County, as well as private and/or non-profit recreation providers.



## Plymouth Township Park

Owner: Plymouth Township

Approx. Acres: 70 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 3

MDNR Grants: 26-00607 (1975)  
and 26-01710 (2011)



The Amrhein farm property was purchased in 1969 and developed into Township Park which is located adjacent to the Township's 18-hole Hilltop Golf Course. The approximately 70-acre Township Park includes 4 shelters, walking paths, ¼ mile nature trail (2016), 2 large playgrounds (1 added in 2017 that is ADA accessible), fishing pond and accessible dock, 4 baseball diamonds (3 lighted and 1 planned), sledding hill, and spray/splash park. Other features include the Rockwell Sculptures installed in 1986 by Peter Rockwell, and Alexander's Express Train (play piece) for young children installed in 2014. Tonquish Creek traverses through the golf course and park with interpretive signs installed within the park.

The 4 shelters/pavilions are available for reservation. The 3 outdoor-covered shelters have an 80-100 person capacity with tables, electricity, restrooms attached or nearby as well as grills. The newest four-seasons pavilion is located at the top of the sled hill and adjacent to the ball diamonds and includes a covered outdoor area with seating for 120 as well as an indoor, airconditioned, 1500 square foot area with seating for 80 people, indoor snack bar and indoor restrooms.

The spray/splash area (2003) is open from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day each year (weather permitting). The walking paths (with benches) intertwine and can range in loop distances of 1/3 mile to nearly 1 mile. A park maintenance building is in the southwest corner of the park.



## Hilltop Golf Course

Owner: Plymouth Township

Approx. Acres: 86 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



The 18-hole Hilltop Golf Course (approximately 86-acres) and pro shop is a par 70, 6,009-yard course adjacent to Township Park. The golf-course is owned by the Township and managed by Billy Casper Golf. Lessons, memberships, leagues and footgolf are offered. The golf course includes a clubhouse, golf shop, practice chipping/putting green and parking lot. Residents receive a discount on membership prices and greens fees.





## Lake Pointe Soccer Park

Owner: Plymouth Township

Approx. Acres: 12.09 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



The 12-acre Lake Pointe Soccer Park (opened in 2004) is in the northeast section of the Township between Schoolcraft and Haggerty Roads. It includes two irrigated soccer fields, a loop pathway with benches (approximately ½ mile) around the park, a shelter/pavilion (80-person capacity) with grill, picnic tables and restrooms, and a playground area. The 275 Metro Trail runs between the south edge of the park and M-14.



## Kiwanis Point Park

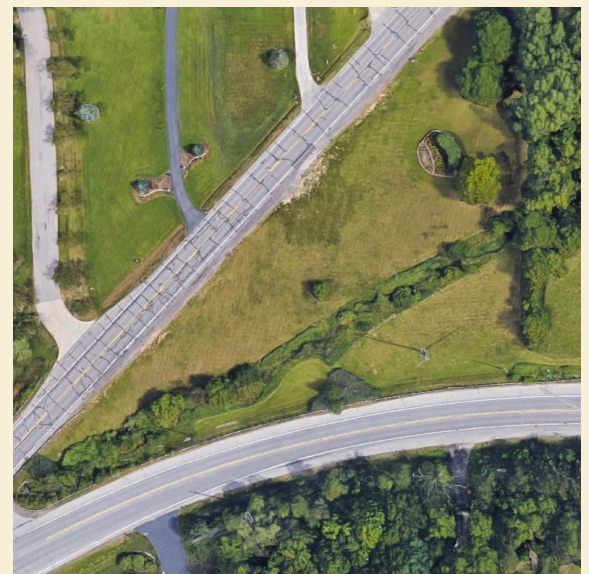
Owner: Plymouth Township

Approx. Acres: 4.57 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: N/A



The approximately 4.5-acre Kiwanis Point Park is a triangle of open space formed at the intersection/split of Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail on the west side of the Township. It includes a landscaped area with plantings that spell out “Plymouth”.



## Miller Family Park

Owner: Plymouth Township

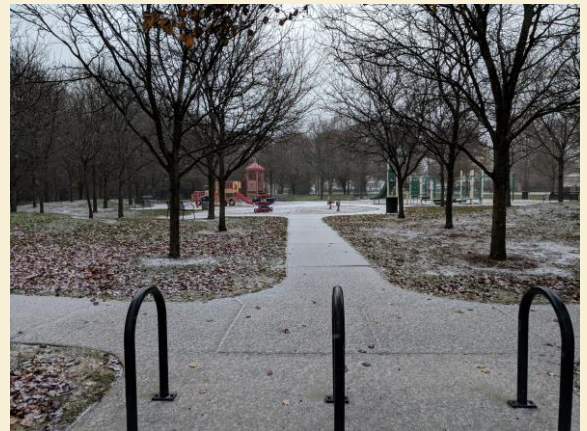
Approx. Acres: 3.67 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4

MDNR Grant: CM99-164 (1999)



Miller Family Park is an approximately 3.67-acre neighborhood park on the east side along Ann Arbor Trail. It includes open space, a playground area, drinking fountain, benches, bike racks and picnic tables. The park property was donated by Claire Haske in memory of Pete, Adele and Keith Miller.



## Brentwood Park

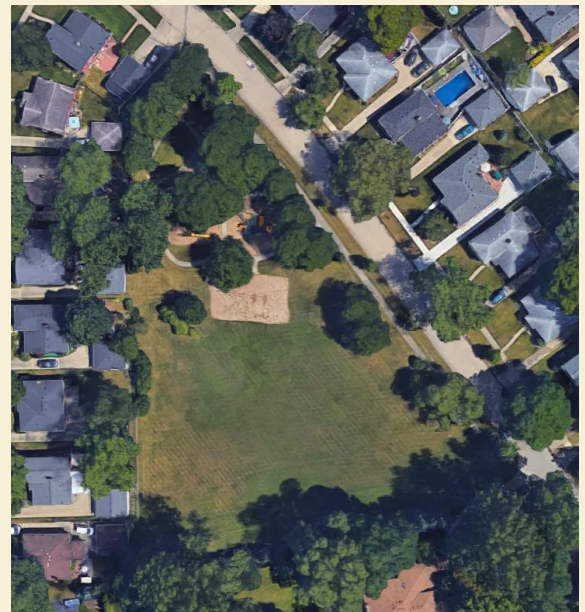
Owner: Plymouth Township

Approx. Acres: 1.67 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



Brentwood Park is an approximately 1.67-acre neighborhood park within the Lake Pointe subdivision, along Brentwood Drive, in the northeast portion of the Township. The park includes general open space, playground area, benches and picnic tables.



## Friendship Station/Seniors

Owner: Plymouth Township

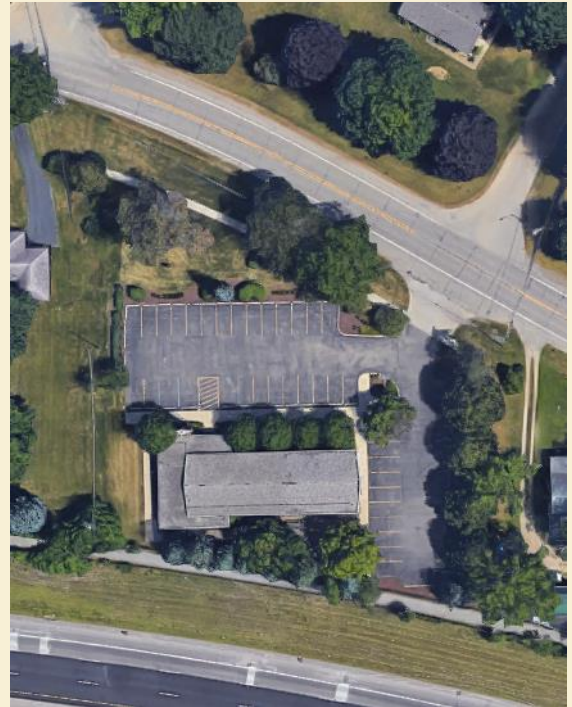
Approx. Acres: 0.98 ac

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 4



The Friendship Station Senior Complex is on approximately 1-acre of land in the northeast portion of the Township along Schoolcraft Road, just north of M-14. The building is utilized by the Plymouth Community Council on Aging (PCCA) – a nonprofit organized to coordinate programs that promote and safeguard the independence and well-being of senior citizens of the greater Plymouth community. The PCCA is sponsored by Plymouth Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Department of Parks and Recreation, Plymouth Community United Way and Senior Alliance. Activities at Friendship Station are varied such as line dancing, cardio exercise, yoga, chair exercise, bingo, knitting, cards, lunches, and a variety of talks on subjects such as elder care, diabetes, etc. Day trips are also organized to a variety of restaurants and activities throughout metro Detroit. The PCCA publishes a monthly “Senior Sentinel” newsletter highlighting the various activities.

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





## Plymouth Township Grant History

When preparing a 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that information be provided concerning grants that have been received in the past for acquisition or development of recreation facilities. In the past, the Township has received three grants via the MDNR for recreation facility development. A brief assessment of each project is noted and completed Post-Completion Self Certification Reports PR1944 are provided in the Appendix.

### Plymouth Township MDNR Grant History

**Grant Title:** Plymouth Recreation Park

**Grant Number:** 26-00607

**Grant Amount:** \$16,124.80

**Year Awarded:** 1975

**Scope Items:** Develop 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.

**Current Status:** Township Park remains in Township ownership and good condition for public outdoor recreation.

### Plymouth Township MDNR Grant History

**Grant Title:** Miller Family Park

**Grant Number:** CM99-164

**Grant Amount:** \$172,500.00

**Year Awarded:** 1999

**Scope Items:** Development of a new park including landscaping, benches, drinking fountains, play structures for children, climbing sculptures, signage, and a sidewalk.

**Current Status:** Property remains in Township ownership and grounds and park elements are in good condition for public outdoor recreation.

**Grant Title:** Township Park Multi-Purpose Pavilion Development

**Grant Number:** 26-01710

**Grant Amount:** \$100,000.00

**Year Awarded:** 2011

**Scope Items:** Development including construction of a new multi-purpose pavilion including a drinking fountain, restrooms, fireplace, and picnic tables between the baseball diamonds and sled hill.

**Current Status:** Property and four-season pavilion remains in Township ownership and in good condition for public outdoor recreation.

## Other Township Properties

The Township owns 19.64-acres in the northwest portion of the Township, identified as Township Linear Park, on Inventory Map. The property is zoned as public land and intended for recreation and environmental protection of Johnson Creek. There are no facilities on the property.

## Public School Facilities

The Plymouth-Canton Community School District owns and operates 10 properties in the Plymouth Community. This includes 3 Middle Schools, 4 Elementary Schools, the Allen Early Learning Academy, Starkweather Academy and the 40-acre Miller Woods. These 10 properties amount to approximately 163 acres within the Plymouth Community. Facilities at each school property are detailed on the Inventory Table. While the School District continues to own the former Central Middle School property, they have entered into a land contract with the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC) that rents space to facilitate cultural events, fine arts and recreational activities. Many of the public school facilities include open space areas, playgrounds and indoor gymnasiums.

The 40-acre **Miller Woods** was purchased by the School District in 1968 from the Miller family who requested it be preserved. It was designated a nature preserve in 1991. The Friends of Miller Woods was formed in 1975 with the goal of inspiring responsible stewardship of the historic high forest through education and community awareness.



## Hines Park - Wayne County Facilities

In terms of total acreage, Wayne County's Hines Park (2300 acres) is the largest recreation facility comprising approximately 405 acres 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 City of Plymouth and the eastern portion of Plymouth Township. The segment of Hines Park within Plymouth is part a larger linear park and trail system operated by Wayne County Parks that stretches 17.5 miles along Hines Drive and the Rouge River from Northville to Dearborn, connecting communities in between. The 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 and Plymouth Township, four such facilities within Hines Park are found:

### *Wilcox Lake Recreation Area*

This area within Hines Park is found on the north side of Wilcox Lake in Plymouth Township. The Wilcox Picnic Area is located on Wilcox Lake. It features a small shelter, play equipment and fishing docks. Wilcox Lake is one of four impoundments built along the middle branch of the Rouge River by settlers in the 1800's to power a mill. The old Hardenberg Gristmill was built around 1850 and powered from the dam on Wilcox Lake, fostering the growth of a settlement that became the City of Plymouth. The historic mill was purchased by Henry Ford in 1922 and converted into a Village Industry Plant that produced taps (device used to manufacture screws). This cottage industry plant became an important manufacturer of small parts for the Pratt and Whitney airplane engine during World War II. The mill was given to the Wayne County Park Trustees by Ford Motor Company for incorporation into Hines Park in 1949.

### *Gunsolly Mills Recreation Area*

This recreation area is found along Hines Drive between Wilcox Road and Plymouth Road. Formally the home of a carding mill frequented by Henry Ford and his family to have their wool carded (carding cleans, separates, and straightens the wool fibers, producing lofty wool ready for spinning into yarn). This site now houses a picnic shelter with a children's play structure and a radio car race track that is open during daylight hours.

### *Plymouth Riverside Recreation Area*

This area is located within the City of Plymouth along the banks of the Middle Rouge River. One of the oldest picnic areas in Hines Park, this scenic area offers a combination of facilities and settings. The historic comfort station is architecturally significant and ADA accessible. Patterned after a train station, this structure was built in 1926 and is complemented with a picnic shelter and a play structure.



### *Haggerty Recreation Area*

This recreation area within Hines Park is found along Hines Drive southeast of the City of Plymouth. This area has two soccer fields, two ball diamonds, and a Tudor-style comfort station. This area is utilized for sport activities and is home to the First Responders Memorial.

### **Regional Nonmotorized Trails**

Two regionally significant nonmotorized trails travel through the Plymouth community, **the 275 Metro Trail** and the **Hines Drive Bike Path**. As noted on the TrailLink website, the 275 Metro Trail began back in the 1970s as the Michigan Department of Transportation's response to the then-fuel crisis. 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 with the paved trail running from Novi in the north and New Boston in the south. The Friends of the 275 Metro Trail is an active group of volunteers that advocate and assist with clean up activities.



The **Hines Bike Path** is 17.5 miles long within Hines Park and traversing along Hines Drive. A portion of the Hines Drive Bike Path helps to connect the northern and southern sections of the 275 Metro Trail. The Hines Bike Path and 275 Metro Trail connect to and provide access to numerous miles of other regional trail corridors in metropolitan Detroit.

### **Other Recreation Facilities/Offerings**

There are other private and/or non-profit entities within the Plymouth community that can assist in providing diverse and comprehensive recreation opportunities to the community. In addition to those described here there are a number of fitness studios/gyms in the Plymouth community.

### **Existing Residential Subdivision Open Space**

A number of the neighborhoods developed in Plymouth Township include common, shared open space (not owned by Township) that was set aside when the neighborhoods were approved for construction. These include neighborhoods such as Trailwood, Walnut Creek, Colony Farms, Westbriar Village, Ridgewood Hills, Plymouth Commons, Fox Pointe, etc. These areas remain as natural areas within the neighborhoods for passive and

active recreation and gathering areas for neighborhood residents.

### **The Inn at St. John's Golf Course and Conference Center**

The Inn at St. John's Golf Course and Conference Center is located along Sheldon Road in Plymouth Township. This 27-hole golf course located on approximately 184 acres also features a clubhouse building, pro shop, indoor golf range, hotel, restaurants, chapel and wedding and conference center.

### **Plymouth Arts & 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 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.

PARC is proposing a \$30 million public/private partnership to renovate the existing building as well as construct an 800-seat performing arts center between the existing building and the Cultural Center/Ice Arena.

### **Bilkie Family – Miracle Field**



The Miracle League of Plymouth is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing children with physical and mental disabilities an opportunity to play organized baseball. The league is non-competitive, with all players getting to bat and circle the bases

each inning. The Miracle League is for 5 and older with a Spring and Fall season. The Plymouth T-ball league uses the Bilkie Family Miracle League field for their programs. The City manages the Miracle League registration and janitorial services in exchange for using the field for T-ball.

### **USA Hockey Arena**

The 25-acre Compuware Sports Arena site is located on Beck Road in Plymouth Township. The multi-purpose ice sports facility is home to the USA Hockey's National Team Development Program. In addition, summer camps, open skate, and learn to skate/play programs are offered. The facility includes a restaurant/brewery and can also accommodate special events such as music concerts, trade shows and graduation commencements.

### **Victory Ice Arena**

The Victory Ice Arena (formerly Arctic Pond) is located east of the City on Plymouth Road in Plymouth Township. The facility is home to the Victory Honda AAA Hockey Club. The Arena was rebuilt in 2017/2018 and includes a pro shop, concession stand, and locker rooms.

### **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 property includes a clubhouse building and a number of outdoor shooting/archery ranges.

### **TDM/Visteon Soccer Fields**

Two irrigated soccer fields (11v11) were built by the City in 1993 on TDM/Visteon property (just north of M-14). The fields are maintained by the City with TDM providing water and electric. 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 & seminars, recitals, workshops, artist studio space, community-based enrichment activities & private rentals, all on site.

### **Plymouth YMCA**

The YMCA has an office in downtown Plymouth and partners with facilities, parks and other organizations to provide programs and services throughout the Plymouth/Canton area.

## **Significant Facilities Outside of Plymouth**

### **Plymouth-Canton Educational Park**

Commonly known as PCEP or "The Park", the 305-acre campus is just south of Plymouth Township and includes three public secondary schools – Salem High School, Canton High School, Plymouth High School. Facilities include swimming pools, performing arts auditorium, gymnasiums, an 8,000-seat football and field events stadium, two tracks, nature trail, numerous baseball and softball fields, soccer fields and tennis courts.

### **Maybury State Park**

The MDNR's Maybury State Park is just north of Plymouth 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 trail for hiking, biking, mountain biking, equestrians and cross-country skiing. Maybury also includes picnic areas, shelters, playground, restrooms, riding stables, and a fishing pond.





Miracle League of Plymouth



## Basis For Action

This section of the Plan is intended to further analyze a variety of factors within and outside of the Plymouth Community that may have an affect on recreation trends and/or planned improvements over the next five years. This chapter provides the rationale for the goals, objectives, and desired capital improvements. This rationale is based on analysis and consideration of many elements including: current recreation trends, comparison of parks to national benchmarks, service area gaps, demographic trends, existing plans, and results of community and staff input. It should be noted that each piece of information and analysis contained within this section must be considered as one piece of the puzzle and as one piece of the whole bigger picture. Each of the factors discussed contributes to the determination of need.



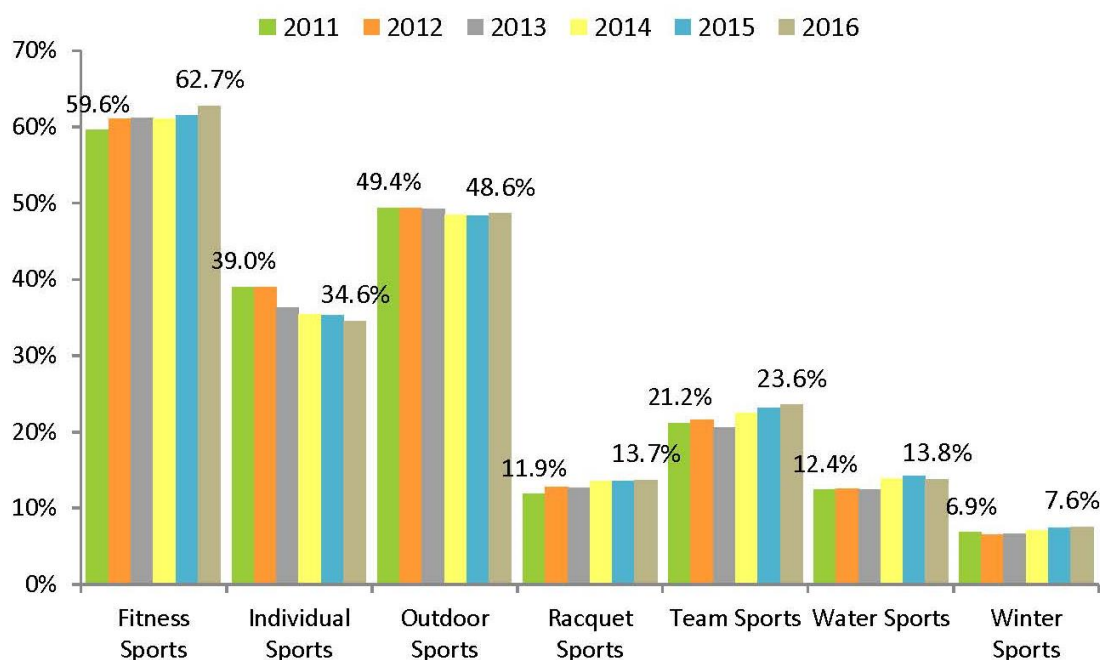
## Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally may provide insight into activities that can be expected to draw a large number of participants and activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. The Physical Activity Council published a 2017 Participation Report tracking sports, fitness, and recreation participation in the US. The data was collected via 24,000+ online interviews in 2016 and early 2017.

Sports and activities are grouped into 1 of 7 categories: Fitness Sports, Individual Sports, Outdoor Sports, Racquet Sports, Team Sports, Water Sports and Winter Sports. Most categories showed a moderate increase in participation from 2015 to 2016. Fitness sports/activities (such as dance, pilates, jogging, walking for fitness, aquatics, stair-climbing, weights) had the most gain, increasing 2% over the last year. Water Sports (such as canoeing, sailing, snorkeling, surfing, waterskiing) saw the greatest loss with a 3% decrease. Team Sports (such as gymnastics, baseball, cheerleading, hockey, soccer, volleyball) continued to gain momentum, adding 2% from 2015 and averaging a 5% increase over the last three years.



**Participation Rates: % of Individuals Ages 6+**



\*Winter Sports are based on season

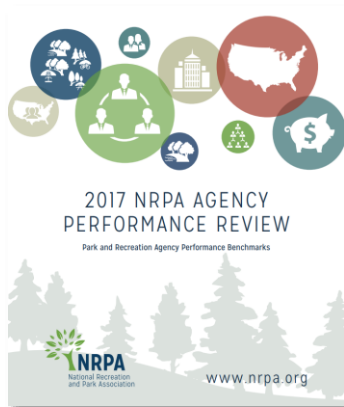
\*See Appendix for breakdown of sports included in each category



## National Benchmarks

An additional planning tool available for parks and recreation agencies is the *2017 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review*. The review provides for valuable benchmarks and insights that help:

- guide professionals in the evaluation of performance of their agencies
- make informed decisions on the optimal set of service and facility offerings based on demographics while also providing comparative agency data from other communities/agencies
- show prevalence of expanded activities and offerings of agencies throughout the nation



**Data is a valuable tool but not the final answer in terms of decision-making.** This benchmarking data and metrics can be used as a piece of the overall conversation as the City and Township move forward. The 2017 NRPA report contains data from 925 park

and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2014 and 2016. Additional data (by size of jurisdiction) was pulled from interactive tables at [www.nrpa.org/metrics](http://www.nrpa.org/metrics).

The data on the following pages highlights metrics for the typical park and recreation agency with a population of less than 20,000 (as is the case for the City of Plymouth) and a second page for typical agencies with a population of 20,000 - 49,999 (as is the case for Plymouth Township). A comparison of City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township (using SEMCOG 2017 population estimates) data is provided based on the most recent inventory and latest expenditure and revenue data. *This data and comparison is intended to continue to inform the Action Plan and discussions over the next 5 years. Every agency and community needs are different.*

A table is also included to benchmark the current facility offerings in the City and Township to other jurisdictions in the United States with similar populations. Details regarding size, condition, etc. are not considered and

comparison data is available for only a limited number of facility types.

The data includes a comparison to City or Township-only owned facilities as well as a column that combines the facilities owned by the Township and the City. Certainly, indoor and outdoor facilities owned by other public, quasi-public, or private entities can assist in providing many of the compared facility types (i.e. Wayne County, School District, PARC, etc.), however, those are not under the control of the City or Township in terms of use, scheduling, maintenance and/or improvements.

Items highlighted in red are those that fall below the benchmark for typical agencies in the same population range as Plymouth and/or Plymouth Township. The Township falls below the benchmark for all compared outdoor facility types with the exception of youth softball fields. Also, the Township's population (27,566) is just less than the benchmark for facilities such as a cricket field (1 for every 29,941 residents) and Dog Park (1 for every 29,683 residents). The City also falls below the benchmark for compared outdoor facility types for communities with less than 20,000 people, with the exception of playgrounds. The City has 1 playground for every 1,124 residents as compared to the benchmark of 1 for every 2,258 people. When combining the municipally owned facilities in the Plymouth Community, the communities exceed the benchmark for playgrounds and youth softball fields.

The comparison for Indoor Facilities is a bit more challenging as the benchmark data includes individual figures for Recreation Centers, Gyms, Community Centers, Senior Centers, etc. It is difficult to fully understand exactly what size these facilities may be or what types of offerings may or may not be included in each of these category types. When looking at the combined municipally owned facilities in the Plymouth Community, there are less of these types of indoor facilities per resident than the benchmark figures.

## The Typical Park + Recreation Agency

(population less than 20,000)

1 Park for every 1,331 residents

10.5 acres of parkland per  
1,000 residents

\$917,000 annual operating  
expenditures (median)

\$650,000 budgeted over next  
5 years for capital expenditures

Recovers 29% of operating  
expenditures through revenue  
generation (not including grants)

10.2 FTEs  
(full-time equivalents)  
(mix of full-time and part-time employees)

## City of Plymouth

(population 8,992)

SEMCOG July 2017

1 Park for every 529 residents

2.43 acres of parkland per  
1,000 residents

\$1.22 M annual operating  
expenditures (median)

Not Available

Recovers 63% - 77% of  
operating expenditures  
through revenue generation  
(not including grants | past 4 years)

6.5 FTEs  
(full-time equivalents)  
(mix of full-time and part-time employees  
does not include contractual or seasonals)

Source: 2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review

## The Typical Park + Recreation Agency

(population 20,000 - 49,999)

1 Park for every 1,901 residents

9.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents

\$2.7 M annual operating expenditures (median)

\$2.77 M budgeted over next 5 years for capital expenditures

Recovers 26% of operating expenditures through revenue generation (not including grants)

26 FTEs  
(full-time equivalents)  
(mix of full-time and part-time employees)

## Plymouth Township

(population 27,566)

SEMCOG July 2017

1 Park for every 3,938 residents

6.4\* acres of parkland per 1,000 residents

\$422k annual operating expenditures (median)

Not Available

Recovers 7% - 13% of operating expenditures through revenue generation (not including grants | past 4 years)

3.5 FTEs  
(full-time equivalents)  
(mix of full-time and part-time employees does not include Twp Supervisor; does not include contractual or seasonals)

Source: 2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review

*\* In addition, Township subdivisions often have larger lots as well as common open space as part of the subdivision development.*



## Plymouth Township and City of Plymouth Facilities Comparison

Bench Marked to 2017 NPRA Agency Performance Review - Facilities

Plymouth Township Population 27,566 (SEMCOG 2017)

City of Plymouth Population 8,992 (SEMCOG 2017)

Combined Population 36,558

### OUTDOOR FACILITIES

	Plymouth Township				City of Plymouth				Joint Plymouth Community			
	Number of Residents Per Facility Benchmark	Number of Facilities Owned by Plymouth Township	Number of Residents Per Facility Owned by Plymouth Township		Number of Residents Per Facility Benchmark	Number of Facilities Owned by City of Plymouth	Number of Residents Per Facility Owned by City of Plymouth		Number of Residents Per Facility Benchmark	Number of Facilities Owned by Township OR City	Number of Residents Per Facility Owned by Township OR City	
Playgrounds	3,010	5	5,513		2,258	8	1,124		3,010	13	2,812	
Basketball Courts	6,875	0	N/A		3,850	1 (a)	8,992		6,875	1 (a)	36,558	
Dog Park	29,683	0	N/A		9,695	0	N/A		29,683	0	N/A	
Community Gardens	26,639	0	N/A		8,500	0	N/A		26,639	0	N/A	
Diamond Fields: baseball-youth	5,509	4	6,891		3,167	1 (b)	8,992		5,509	5	7,311	
Diamond Fields: baseball - adult	21,277	0	N/A		8,106	0	N/A		21,277	0	N/A	
Diamond Fields: softball fields - adult	10,656	0	N/A		5,240	0	N/A		10,656	0	N/A	
Diamond Fields: softball fields - youth	9,157	4	6,891		4,994	0	N/A		9,157	4	9,139	
Rectangular Fields: soccer field	10,065	2	13,783		8,033	0	N/A		10,065	2	18,279	
Rectangular Fields: football field	16,914	0	N/A		7,860	0	N/A		16,914	0	N/A	
Rectangular Fields: lacrosse field	14,737	0	N/A		6,661	0	N/A		14,737	0	N/A	
Rectangular Fields: cricket field	29,941	0	N/A		0	0	N/A		29,941	0	N/A	
Rectangular Fields: field hockey	19,250	0	N/A		12,581	0	N/A		19,250	0	N/A	
Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	12,956	0	N/A		5,996	0	N/A		12,956	0	N/A	
Ice rink (outdoor)	21,698	0	N/A		7,955	0	N/A		21,698	0	N/A	
Multipurpose synthetic field	17,802	0	N/A		0	0	N/A		17,802	0	N/A	

Does not consider condition.

(a) 1 hoop in Fairground Park.

(b) Don Massey Field plus 3 practice fields

Source: 2017 NPRA Agency Performance Review



## Plymouth Township and City of Plymouth Facilities Comparison

Bench Marked to 2017 NPRA Agency Performance Review - Facilities

Plymouth Township Population 27,566 (SEMCOG 2017)

City of Plymouth Population 8,992 (SEMCOG 2017)

Combined Population 36,558

### INDOOR FACILITIES

	Plymouth Township			City of Plymouth			Joint Plymouth Community		
	Number of Residents Per Facility Benchmark	Number of Facilities Owned by Plymouth Township	Number of Residents Per Facility Owned by Plymouth Township	Number of Residents Per Facility Benchmark	Number of Facilities Owned by City of Plymouth	Number of Residents Per Facility Owned by City of Plymouth	Number of Residents Per Facility Benchmark	Number of Facilities Owned by Township AND City	Number of Residents Per Facility Owned by Township OR City
Recreation Centers	25,500	0	N/A	9,250	1 (d)	8,992	25,500	1 (d)	36,558
Gyms	23,000	0	N/A	9,162	0	N/A	23,000	0	N/A
Community Centers	27,320	0	N/A	10,500	0	N/A	27,320	0	N/A
Senior Centers	31,428	1	27,566	13,500	0	N/A	31,428	1	36,558
Fitness Center	32,224	0	N/A	9,660	0	N/A	32,224	0	N/A
Performance Amphitheater	31,934	0	N/A	10,795	0	N/A	31,934	0	N/A
Nature Centers	32,267	0	N/A	7,883	0	N/A	32,267	0	N/A
Ice Rink (Indoor)	24,167	0	N/A	7,500	1	8,992	24,167	1	36,558
Teen Centers	29,569	0	N/A	13,892	0	N/A	29,569	0	N/A
Indoor Track	32,279	0	N/A	17,500	0	N/A	32,279	0	N/A

(d) Cultural Center includes program, meeting and banquet space

Source: 2017 NPRA Agency Performance Review

## 10-Minute Walk to Park

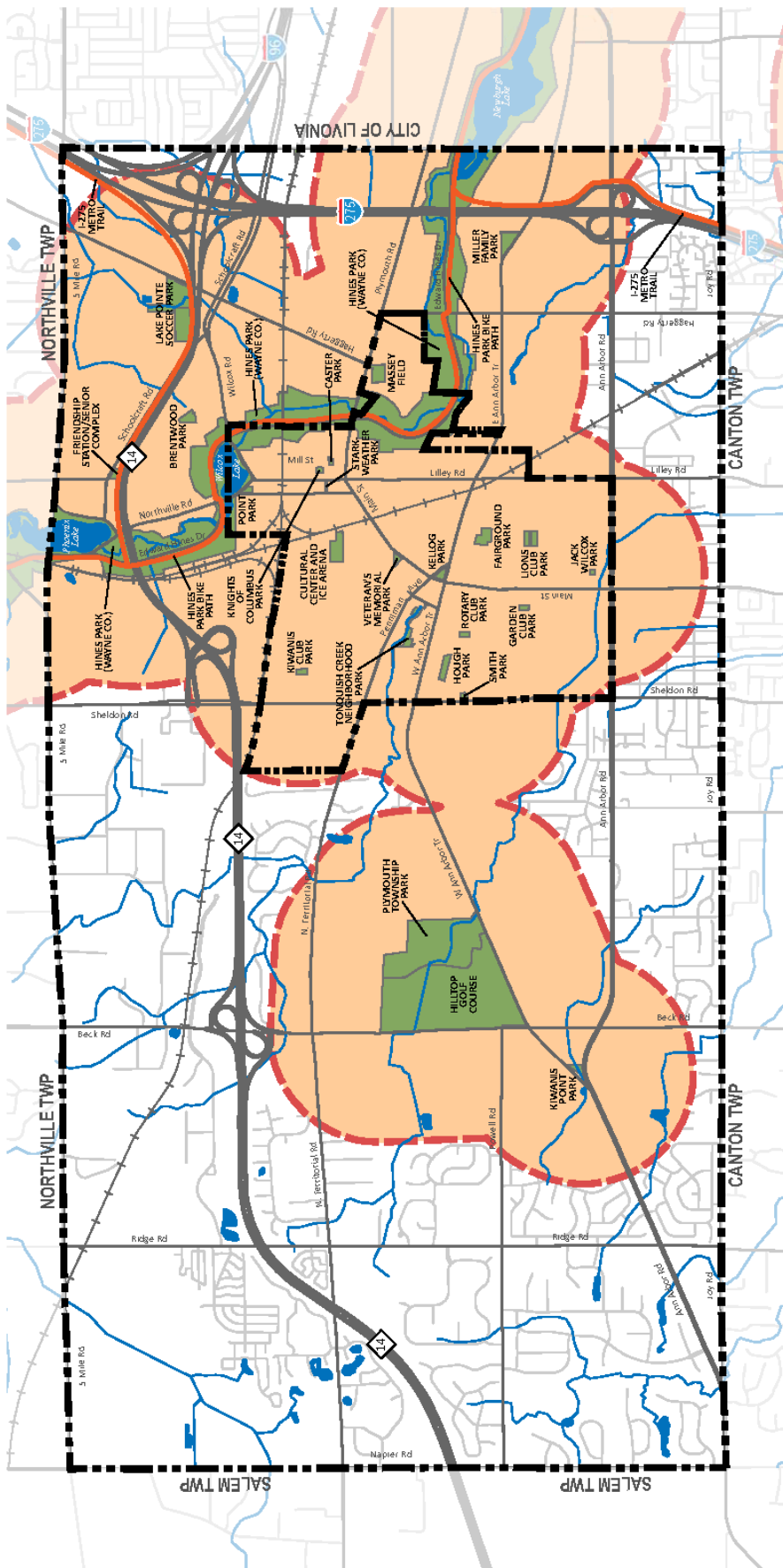
In 2017, a new parks advocacy campaign was launched by The Trust for Public Land, National Recreation and Park Association, Urban Land Institute, and supported by the US Conference of Mayors, establishing the goal that all Americans should live within a 10-minute walk (half-mile) of a high-quality park or green space. As noted in the campaign, studies show that high-quality parks provide a wide range of benefits to urban residents and cities themselves. These include:

- physical and mental health benefits, by providing opportunities to be physically active and to interact with nature
- economic benefits by boosting business and helping to revitalize neighborhoods
- community-building benefits by providing opportunities for neighbors to interact with each other and work together to improve their surroundings
- environmental benefits by cleaning and cooling the air and providing opportunities for environmental education

To illustrate the proximity of recreation areas to residents, a map has been created that shows the locations within the Plymouth Community where residents do and do not have a park within a 10-minute walk of their home. For the purposes of this analysis, the City parks, Township parks, and the County's Hines Park have been included. School and privately-owned facilities have not been included due to their lack of availability and/or control by the municipalities. Nuances of this analysis can certainly be argued – i.e. Kiwanis Point Park serves more as a gateway to the community as opposed to a park and school properties, open spaces within neighborhoods and private recreation related properties can and do provide some recreation benefits to residents of the community.

As is illustrated in the adjacent map, everyone within the City has a recreation area within 1/2 mile of their home. Many of the residents in the Township do not have a recreation area within a 10-minute walk of their home including the southern and western portions of the Township as well as residents in the northern portion of the Township that lies west of Sheldon and north of North Territorial.





## LEGEND

Major Roads

Other Roads

Railroad

Rivers and Streams

Municipal Boundary

Parks

10-Minute Walk to Park  
(one-half mile)

Recreation Inventory Source:  
Inventory conducted by livingLAB,  
December 2017



## 10 MINUTE WALK TO PARK MAP JOINT PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2018 - 2022



## Community Demographics

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community also play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and/or policy choices.

This section provides a brief summary of a handful of socioeconomic characteristics of Plymouth and Plymouth Township that may (along with a number of other pieces of data and information) influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

The U.S. Census Bureau serves as the primary source of data for this demographics section. Census statistics are presented for the City and Township in comparison to the County and State. In addition, a series of maps are included that illustrate a few relevant pieces of Census data by block group within the City and Township.

### Population Trends and Forecast

Between 1980 and 2010, the City experienced an 8.6% decline in population. The population is forecasted to remain relatively stable with a slight decline over the next 20 years. In 2000, the population was 9,022 and in 2010, 9,132 people resided in the City. The 2017 population (SEMCOG) estimated for the City was 8,992.

Between 1980 and 2010, the Township experienced a 19.5% increase in population. The population is forecasted to remain relatively stable with a slight increase over the next 20 years. In 2000, the population was 27,798 and in 2010, 27,524 people resided in the Township. The 2017 population (SEMCOG) estimated for the Township was 27,566.

### Population by Block Group

Population and population density characteristics can have a significant influence on parks and recreation planning. Where population is most dense, there is typically a greater need for park facilities. Conversely, it may not be as practical or economical to locate park facilities within sparsely populated areas.

The *Population Density by Block Group Map* illustrates the number of people living within the City and Township by block group (as defined by the US Census). The most dense portion of the City are those areas west of the

railroad tracks. In the Township, the most dense areas are to the south of Ann Arbor Road between Canton Center and Main Street as well as the area south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of Haggerty. Not surprisingly, the block groups that comprise some of the “industrial” portions of the Township contain the least number of people.

### Median Age

Knowledge of a community’s age distribution can also play a role in the planning of park facilities and programs. As mentioned earlier, whether an area is comprised of older or younger citizens can influence such things as the facilities that are most desired within parks. The *Median Age by Block Group Map* shows the median age for the block groups within the City and Township.

As shown on the map, block groups with higher median ages are in the Township with the two areas with the oldest population found in the southeast corner of the Township as well as the area just west of the City and south of M-14. The block group with the lowest median age is in the northeast corner of the City.

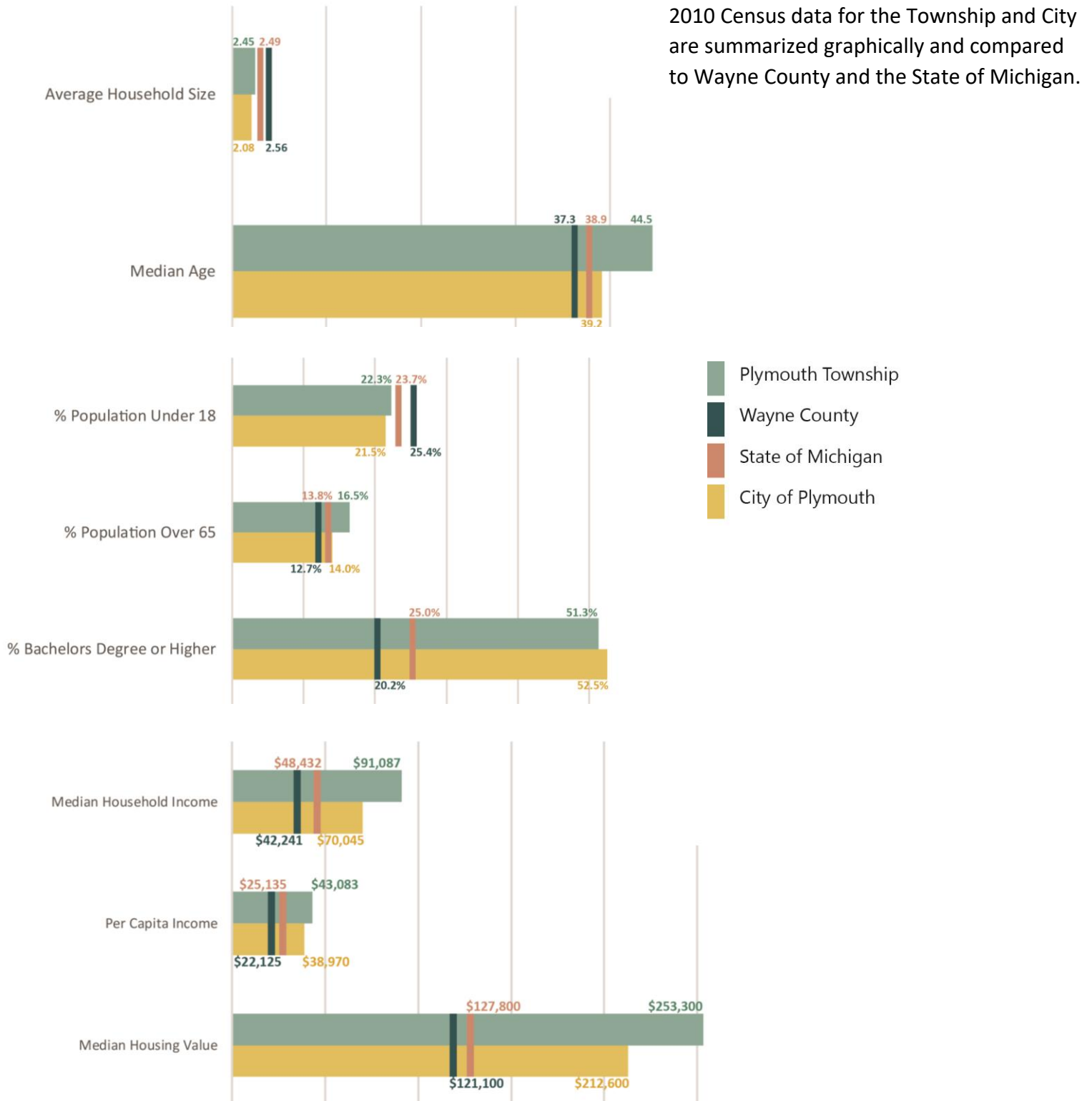
### Household Size

A household, as defined by the US Census, is all persons who occupy the same housing unit. A housing unit can be described as a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room used as a separate living quarters. A trend occurring nation-wide and characteristic of today’s population is the declining size of households. There are several factors that demographers have linked to the declining size. People are marrying later, postponing having children, and having fewer children. The number of single parent households is increasing, thus contributing to the decline in average household size.

Household size is an important factor when making recreation facility and program decisions. A high person per household figure can be an indication that an area is comprised of families with children and thus could justify family or youth-oriented recreation facilities. Conversely, an area with a low person per household figure may require recreation facilities more favorable to singles, adults or the elderly.

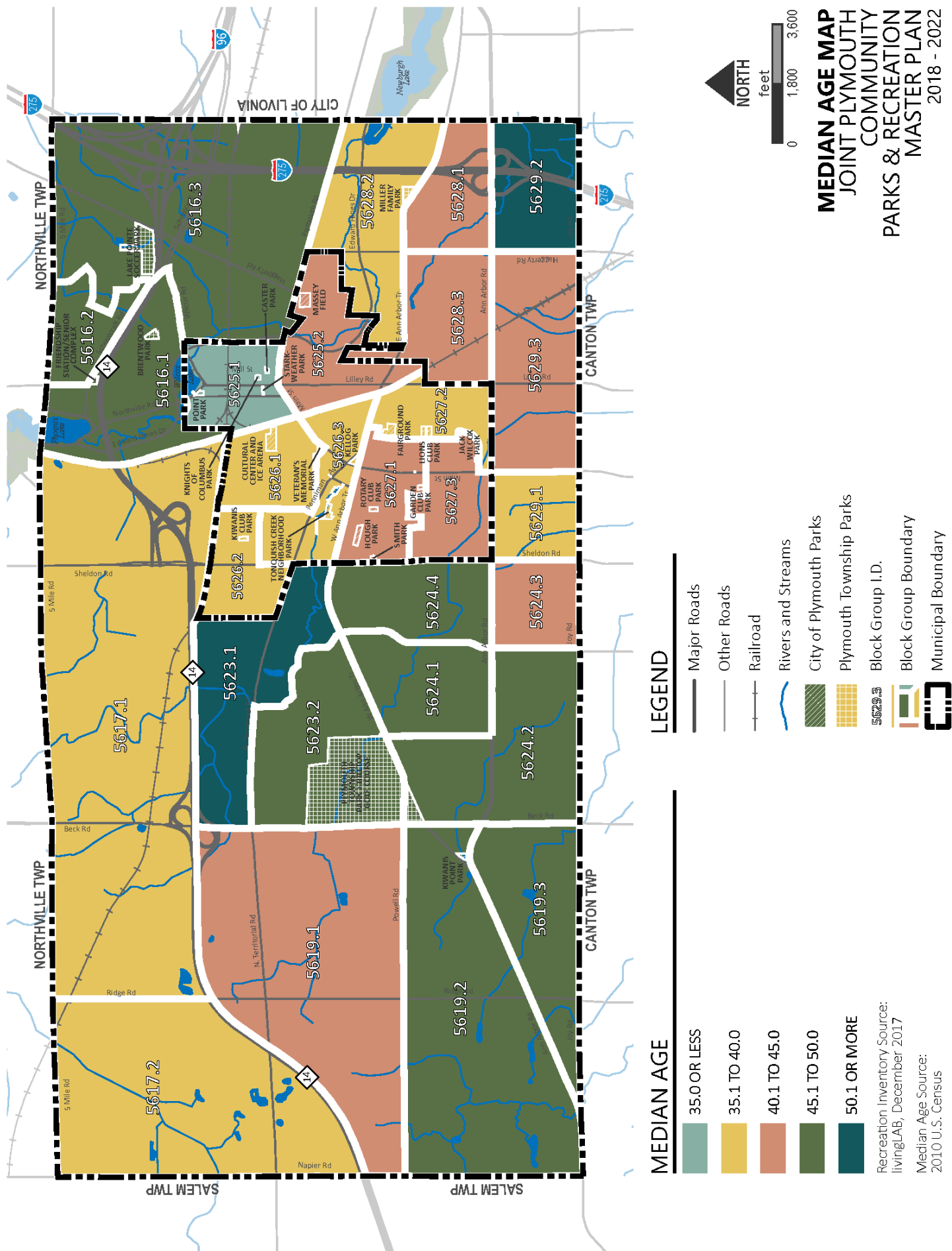
The geographic distribution of household size in the Plymouth Community is portrayed on the *Average Household Size by Block Group Map*. Several general conclusions can be discerned from the map. The Block Groups with a high persons per household average are

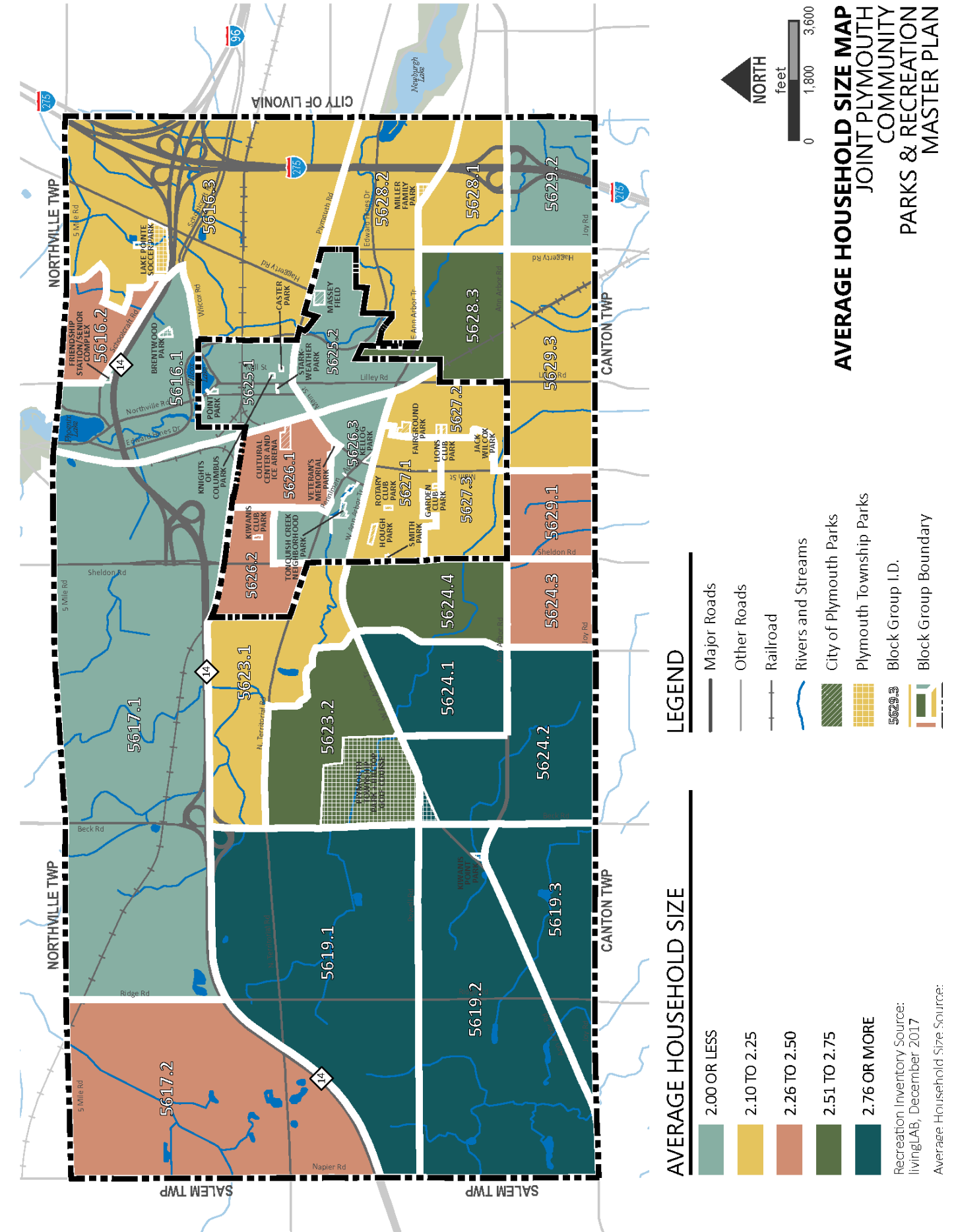
found in the south western portion of the Township. The lowest average household sizes are found in portions of the City, the northern portion of the Township as well as the Block Group in the southeast corner of the Township.











## Influencing Planning Initiatives

It is important to examine plans that have been developed by the City, Township, or other agencies over the past several years that may affect and/or influence the existing or future recreation areas and facilities in the Plymouth Community. A description of these is provided on the following pages.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Southeast Michigan (SEMCOG 2014)

In 2014, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) developed a Nonmotorized Plan that ties all of the components of the region's nonmotorized system together into an identified system and benchmarks the system that existed, identifies deficiencies, provides a vision to move forward and actions on how to get there. The 2014 Plan illustrates a regional/local gap desired to connect the 275 Metro Trail/Hines Bike Path through the Plymouth community and west to Ann Arbor Road and into Washtenaw County.

### Wayne County Parks 2018 Strategic Plan

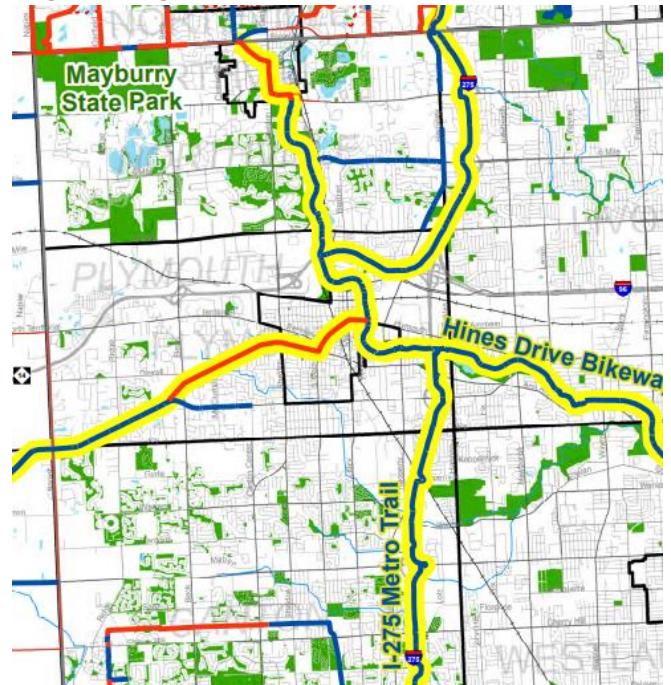
Wayne County Parks developed and adopted a 5-Year Recreation Plan in 2018 which documents 5 overarching goals, a number of objectives, as well as a variety of desired capital improvements throughout their park system. Goals include:

1. Create great county parks
2. Create great educational and recreational amenities
3. Develop program plans for each park and facility to maximize the value, use, and appreciation for the park or the recreational facility available for the community to enjoy and participate in activities that supports outdoor activities and nature appreciation
4. Empower and prepare our team
5. Model fiscal responsibility, accountability, and integrity to be a sustainable park and recreation agency

A few of the capital improvement projects approved or planned within the Plymouth community include:

- Swingset at Gunsolly Mills
- Outdoor gym at Gunsolly Mills
- Wilcox Lake Boardwalk
- Wilcox Lake Skate Park

## Regional Nonmotorized Corridors & Gaps Wayne County

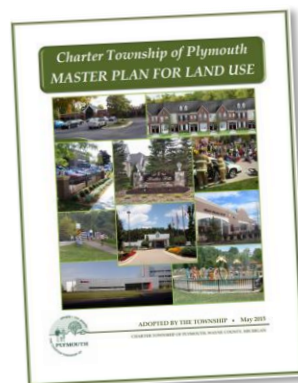


- Yellow line: Regional Corridor
- Blue line: Existing Facility or Route
- Red line: Gaps (Regional & Local)
- Dashed red line: Planned Bike Route
- Thin red line: Local Corridor-Preliminary Concept

### Plymouth Township Master Plan

The Charter Township of Plymouth Master Plan for Land Use was adopted in May 2015. It is a broad policy document used as a guide for land use and community

development decisions. The Plan includes analysis of a number of community features as well as goals and strategies. In relation to parks and recreation, the Plan includes a number of goals and strategies including:



*Goal D: Strive for a circulation system which will facilitate the smooth, safe,*

*and efficient flow of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.*

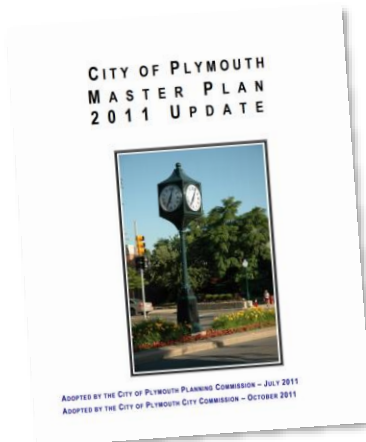
*Goal E: Promote active living and healthy lifestyles in Plymouth Township.*



### City of Plymouth Master Plan (2011)

The City of Plymouth Master Plan was adopted by the City Commission in 2011. The City is currently updating their overall Master Plan with adoption planned in 2018. The Master Plan included several goals and guidelines that relate to parks and recreation in particular including:

- Actively seek to provide amenities that do not currently exist, such as a full-service recreation center and aquatic center.
- Establish public/private partnerships and/or partnerships with neighboring communities to offset costs of providing these amenities.
- Establish a citizens' advisory committee to gauge interest and financial support for community facilities and amenities.
- Continue to invest in updates and enhancements to neighborhood parks.
- Establish activities and challenging play equipment for older children within neighborhood parks.
- Provide bike lanes in appropriate locations
- Create non-motorized connections to pathways in Hines Park and adjacent communities.



### City of Plymouth Strategic Plan

The City Commission updated their Strategic Plan in the Spring of 2018. The Plan includes 4 goals and associated tasks to focus on in the coming year. The 4 goals include Quality of Life, Financial Stability, Economic Vitality, and Service and Infrastructure. A number of objectives and/or tasks within the Strategic Plan relate to parks and recreation including items such as:

- Parks and recreation collaboration + partnerships
- Cleanliness
- Continue to host events
- Repair Kellogg Fountain and plan for future
- Define relationship with PARC
- Advance multi-modal interconnectivity between Township and City

### Input

The Plymouth Community worked to gather input in a number of ways during the development of the Plan as is summarized below. Additional details are provided in the Appendix.

#### EPIC-MRA Phone Survey 2017

The City and Township both funded a joint telephone survey in the Fall 2017 that focused on parks and recreation services. Lansing-based EPIC-MRA was hired to develop and conduct the survey of 225 respondents from the Township and 100 from the City. The phone survey gathered responses with a number of questions and organized the results based on Township responses, City responses as well as both combined. Some of the results are highlighted here (as noted in the EPIC-MRA summary document):

- Both City and Township residents are *very satisfied* with, and active within, the parks and recreational programming in the Plymouth Community.
- Both City and Township residents believe that their recreational facilities and programs *enhance the economy, property values, and quality of life* in the community.
- Nearly ½ of the Plymouth Community has at least one member of the household that *pays dues or fees to a recreational or fitness facility*.
- Nearly 1/3 of the Plymouth Community has at least one member of the household that *participates* in a recreational or athletic program offered through a league or association. Participation is highest in soccer (22%), hockey (10%), baseball (8%), golf (7%), basketball (6%), and swimming (6%).
- 8 of every 10 of those surveyed are in support of combining parks and recreational services offered by both municipalities as it relates to residents of both communities *paying identical fees* for all park facilities and recreational programs within the Plymouth Community.
- The *most visited* park/facility in the Plymouth Community was Kellogg Park (87%), Hines Park (69%), and Plymouth Township Park (69%).
- 87% were aware of the *Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC)*, 45% had participated in an event or program at PARC, 56% believe PARC adds a lot of value to the Plymouth Community.
- 68% feel that *sidewalks and walkability* of the community is very important to their recreational enjoyment.

- 20% are very interested in seeing a *Community Dog Park* developed.
- 45% prefer seeing *Hilltop Golf Course* kept open as a golf course, 29% prefer to close and repurpose, 26% undecided.
- The majority prefer *receiving information* via email (33%) and via direct mail (27%)

### **Plymouth Township Arts, Recreation and Heritage Committee**

The Plymouth Township Citizens Advisory Council on Arts, Recreation and Heritage provided input to the Township Board in Fall 2017. The Committee had met 5 times in 2017 to develop their recommendations. Ideas and recommendations included:

- Allow dogs on leash in Township Park and create a designated fenced-in off leash dog park.
- Increase walking/running options available in the Township and educate residents about options.
- Biking – provide maps, rentals, racks, educate and paint bike path markings
- Joint planning with the City of Plymouth with programs and activities varying by ages.
- Continued preservation of Miller Woods and woods just north of Township Park.
- Create Public Arts Commission for Plymouth Community
- Explore rotating art displays/fairs
- Inform Township residents about PARC collaborations with the DIA.
- Increase awareness in Plymouth Community of opportunities that exist to experience visual arts, performing arts, culinary arts and arts education.
- Incorporate history, historic homes/sites into Township calendar and website.
- Modify ordinances regarding historic preservation and demolition policies.
- Preserve/repurpose silos at 5 Mile/Ridge and Phoenix and Wilcox Mills
- Elevate Township history – collaborate with library, sponsor state historical marker, history module to potential mobile application
- Plan for Township 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2027.

### **Online Questionnaire 2018**

During the development of the Plan, both the City and Township posted a questionnaire to their websites as an informal opportunity for people to provide written input for consideration. The availability of the questionnaire was published in the newspaper and email blasted. The

questionnaire was available from January 8 through February 18, 2018 and 580 responses were collected – 178 reside in the City, 386 in the Township, and 16 in other communities. Many of the questions were open ended and revolved around programming and facility priorities. Comments are extensive and difficult to summarize and can be found in the Appendix.

### **Public Open Houses (2) January 2018**

The City and Township jointly hosted two open houses on January 29, 2018 from 1:00-3:00 at Township Hall and 6:30 – 8:30 at the Plymouth Cultural Center to brainstorm ideas and identify priorities for the next 5 years. Approximately 30 people attended the open house at Township Hall and 11 attended the session at the Cultural Center. Participants brainstormed ideas that were then documented on flip charts throughout the room. Attendees placed sticker dots (3 per person) next to the items they believed were their highest priority. Attendees also noted on a large map where they live and the 3 parks they visit the most. Ideas that received the most “sticker votes” are noted below with number of “stickers” in parenthesis. Complete results can be found in the Appendix.

### **Priorities from Session at Township Hall PROGRAM RELATED COMMENTS**

- Like to include/expand on PARC facility and programs (13)
- Partnerships with outside providers (don’t duplicate) (5)
- Senior programs (3)
- Programs for kids when they have a ½ day, on break, school day off, afterschool (3)
- Teen programs/facility – after school meet up (teen-led design) (3)
- Effective online communication of programs available (2)
- Veteran’s Programs (2)

### **FACILITY RELATED COMMENTS**

- Walkability/Sidewalks/Bike lanes – particularly to connect into downtown (12)
- Senior Center/Senior Outreach Services (10)
- Dog Park (5)
- Golf course – can it be profitable? If not, keep it as green space (5)
- Expand Farmers Market and include local farmers (2)

### **ADDITIONAL/GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Government doesn't belong with recreation (2)
- Have a strategy for funding (2)
- Why does the City and Township want to merge on this topic? Hasn't worked in past. (1)

### ***Priorities from Session at Plymouth Cultural Center***

#### **PROGRAM RELATED COMMENTS**

- Consolidate senior services (1)

#### **FACILITY RELATED COMMENTS**

- Walk and Bike Paths (7)
  - To Hines
  - To City
  - To Twp Park
- Important to maintain quality in upkeep and updating of Kellogg and Township Parks. They are heavily use. They are great! (5)
- PARC isn't funded by City/Twp but can assist with providing opportunities (4)
- Theater (pros and cons) (4)
- Pool/swimming (4)
- Repurpose golf course (baseball, soccer, bike trails) (3)
- More Soccer Fields (2)
  - Synthetic turf
  - Support facilities
  - Less reliance on school fields
  - Look to Township to provide fields
  - Multi-use fields that can be used by a number of organizations/leagues and events with fees
- Gym space needed (2)
- More Green Space (1)

#### **Commission and Board Input**

The City Recreation Director met with both the City Commission and Township Board at their regular meetings in February 2018. The Director gave each a brief overview of the project and planning process and then asked each body to brainstorm ideas for parks and recreation projects and/or programs. The following ideas and concepts were received from the City Commission in no particular order:

- Programs that promote diversity of populations
- Outdoor Ice Arena and/or Pavilion
- Bike Trails and walking connectors with Hines Park and other trails
- Programs to engage with Old Village
- Dog Parks
- Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields

- Natural Grass Athletic Fields
- Educational programs to promote fitness for residents
- Designated walking routes with distance markers
- Outdoor Pool (seasonal)
- Safe bike routes in the City

The following ideas and concepts were received from the Township Board in no particular order.

- Outdoor Public Swimming Pool
- Recreation Center
- Bike paths
- Connect to 275, M14 and Hines Park pathways
- Close the gaps in the sidewalk and bike paths thru the Township
- Sidewalks / Bike Trails on the Ann Arbor Trail Corridor
- Four seasons use of parks and facilities
- Walkability of Plymouth Community destinations
- Facilities that promote ADA accessibility
- ADA accessibility of woodchip pathway at Township Park
- Improvement to Hilltop Golf Course and Club House for better player experience
- Dynamic Senior Citizen Center / Wellness Center
- Wellness programs for Senior Citizens for health and diet education
- Promote Senior Citizen socialization

#### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held on May 7, 2018 in front of the City Commission and May 8, 2018 in front of the Township Board in order to gather final comments on the draft Plan. A brief overview presentation was given prior to public comments and Commission/Board discussion. Three members of the public commented at the City Public Hearing and no members of the public commented at the Township Public Hearing. Comments were supportive in nature and/or clarifying questions and did not result in any additional changes to the draft plan. Agendas and meeting minutes from both meetings are included in the Appendix.





## Action Program

The Action Program outlines the direction that the City and Township (individually and jointly) would like to pursue over the next five years to maintain and improve parks and recreation opportunities within the community. The City and Township are, and remain, two separate entities that worked together in the creation of this document. The Plan has been adopted by both the City Commission and the Township Board. The findings and results summarized in the Basis for Action section of this Plan were utilized to develop the goals, objectives and capital improvement opportunities(s) detailed on the following pages.

**The Plan is intended to serve as a guide and decision-making document for future recreation facilities and programs.** The Action Program outlines the improvements the City and/or Township would like to focus on during the life of the Plan. The Plan is not intended to solve all of the issues, concerns and desires related to parks and recreation, rather to identify and document them so they can be addressed and focused on in the upcoming months and years.

*Current funding and staffing levels at both the City and Township are not sufficient for all of the ideas and desires documented in this Action Program to be implemented – rather, this plan documents opportunities, desires and priorities for both communities to consider as they move forward.*

## Goals and Objectives

As has been done in past City and Township Parks and Recreation Master Plans, goals and objectives were developed to assist in providing direction to staff as well as the City Commission and Township Board.

*The goals and objectives are intended to be as significant as the capital improvement opportunities and serve to provide further guidance and direction to the City and Township over the next five years. It is envisioned that this Action Program will be reviewed on a regular basis and be utilized as a tool for decision making.*

The following goals and objectives were developed by reviewing language from previous plans, brainstorming with City and Township staff and leadership, as well as input from the telephone survey, workshops and online questionnaire. They are listed in no particular order of importance or priority.



## CONNECTIVITY + ACCESSIBILITY GOAL

Ensure connectivity and accessibility to and within the Plymouth Community via improved pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility.

### OBJECTIVES



Work to develop a **Community Connectivity (Nonmotorized) Plan** focused on opportunities to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and mobility. Focus on connectivity between the Township and City, downtown, Hines Park, 275 Bike Path, parks, and schools. Consider locations for sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, safe crossings, awareness and education.



Continue to focus on improving **barrier free and universal accessibility** at all City and Township facilities and parks including access to picnic tables, grills, paths, playing fields, parking areas, restrooms, play equipment, etc.



## NATURAL RESOURCES GOAL

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

### OBJECTIVES



When implementing improvements within Hilltop Golf Course, Township Park, Lion's Park and/or along Tonquish Creek, Johnson Drain or other waterbodies, do so in conjunction with the recommendations of the **Rouge River Middle One Subwatershed Management Plan**.



Strive to **protect and restore water quality**, stream channels and riparian corridors in public parks by implementing erosion control measures, soft shoreline stabilization techniques and "no mow" areas.



Utilize **environmentally-friendly design and construction standards**, including Low Impact Development (LID) techniques and stormwater best management practices when making improvements to City and Township parks and facilities.





## PARTNERSHIPS GOAL

Coordinate with other recreation providers and entities in order to provide the community with diverse program and facility opportunities that are cost effective and efficient.

### OBJECTIVES



The City and Township should leave open all options to pursue opportunities to **develop partnerships (public-public or public-private) that would benefit the greater good** of the community. As with all municipal projects, the final policy and project approval rests with the respective Township Board or City Commission.



Cooperate and collaborate with the Township, City, Schools, Wayne County and nearby communities to avoid duplication and **reduce redundancy**.



Work through details toward establishing an agreement, process, and/or memorandum of understanding where residents of both Plymouth communities would **pay identical fees** for all park facilities and recreational programs within the Plymouth Community.



Consider formal **partnerships to invest in green space** improvements and/or maintenance in exchange for reduced rate/free use of property by City and Township programs.



Maintain **high levels of communication** and cooperation with the various service clubs, associations and athletic organizations.



## PROGRAMS GOAL

Coordinate with other parks and recreation providers and supporters to ensure quality, diverse, accessible, and affordable programs for all residents of the Plymouth Community.

## OBJECTIVES



Convene a Joint Plymouth Community sub-committee, in conjunction with the Plymouth Council on Aging, to begin discussions by both the Township and City staff and leadership **to coordinate and expand senior facility and programming opportunities.**



When offering programs and/or expanding programs, seek **a diversity of options that are inclusive of all ages and abilities.** In addition to senior programming, seek opportunities for youth programs that coincide with the school calendar and are held on school ½ days and full day breaks as well as programs for Veteran's.



Strive to implement **4-season programming at Township Park** with possible ideas including fitness classes, special events, tournaments, etc.



Convene Joint Plymouth Community sub-committee to discuss ideas and methods of developing a **shared, online community resource.** The resource would serve as a central location and calendar for all recreational opportunities in Plymouth – including public, quasi-public and private program providers. This could involve stakeholders such as the Library, Schools, Township, City, YMCA, PCCA, PARC, etc. The goal of the community resource is to improve residents' ability to know what programs are offered and by whom.



## FACILITIES GOAL

Where appropriate and possible, seek opportunities to improve and expand existing and potential future parks and recreation facilities.

### OBJECTIVES



A Feasibility Study could be conducted and include analysis of various potential locations, designs, financing, etc. The Study could be used as a decision-making tool by leadership to determine public support for moving forward or not. These facilities may include **a multi-use facility/community center/wellness center** including consideration of elements such as indoor recreation, outdoor pool, indoor pool, indoor walking/running, gymnasium, senior facility, congregate meal space, fitness area, synthetic turf surface, tennis/pickleball courts, etc.



Continue to seek opportunities and partnerships with public and private land owners for the development of **additional turf/field sport facilities in the Plymouth Community**.



Continue to make improvements at the **Cultural Center** in order to remain as one of the premier ice facilities in the area. Potential improvements include addition of an outdoor ice arena and pavilion, LED lighting upgrade, and ADA restroom remodel.



A number of the **play structures** in City of Plymouth parks are aging. Plan for replacement of play structures at a number of City Parks as proposed in the Capital Improvement Priorities table. Consider making a variety of unique destinations with modern and challenging equipment.



Continue to work to improve the **ADA accessibility** at all parks by providing elements such as barrier free play equipment, pathways to and from facilities, bleachers, playground surfacing, etc. All new additions to parks and facilities should be designed to be universally accessible to ensure access and use by people of all abilities.



Maintain **Kellogg Park** as a focal point in downtown Plymouth and a gathering space for the community. Planned and/or potential improvements include replacement of the fountain as well as renovations based on a future park design.



Pursue options for feasibility of a **Dog Park** in the Plymouth Community.





## FACILITIES GOAL (cont'd)

Where appropriate and possible, seek opportunities to improve and expand existing and potential future parks and recreation facilities.

## OBJECTIVES



Be aware of **real estate, and underused public and private properties** that may become available for use and/or expansion of public recreation areas, particularly in those areas of the Plymouth Community that are currently underserved, and properties no longer utilized by the school districts, or other agencies within or adjacent to the Plymouth Community. Evaluate for use as recreation facility and/or park.



Through Township analysis of **Hilltop Golf Course**, make a determination regarding viability of golf course. If the decision is made by leadership to not keep the property as a golf course, maintain as parkland and develop a Concept Plan (with community design process). In conjunction, include concept plan for Township Park to ensure both properties are planned as one large recreation area in terms of connectivity and access.



## OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE + FUNDING

Strive to ensure effective and efficient operation and maintenance of public parks and facilities within the Plymouth Community and seek alternative funding sources and partnerships to assist in implementation.

### OBJECTIVES



Ensure investment into **high quality maintenance and upkeep** of public parks, particularly those that are heavily used such as Kellogg Park, Cultural Center and Township Park.



Continue the commitment to **fiscal responsibility** by exploring and seeking avenues to generate alternative revenue sources through donations, fees, foundations, grants, and partnerships.



All improvements and additions to parks should be done so with **long-term maintenance in mind** including materials and placement. Review proposed improvements with maintenance staff for input.



Current **funding and staffing levels** at both the City and Township are not sufficient for all of the desired improvements and programs to be implemented. Operationally, consider and plan for additional staffing needs if significant programming and/or facility expansion are desired.



Township Board consider **policy to allow dogs on leash** at Township Park.



**Review Master Plan on an annual basis** (a few months prior to annual Board/Commission budget meetings may be ideal) to ensure continued progress and focus.

## Capital Improvement Opportunities

The capital improvement opportunities for this Parks and Recreation Plan have been established for two primary reasons:

- to function as a planning framework and guide for the Township Board, City Commission and municipal staff; and,
- to enable the Township or City to apply for grant funding for proposed projects.

The capital improvement opportunities table is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive or exclusive. The table reflects the results of brainstorming, data gathering, analysis and input from a variety of sources gathered during the planning process. It is likely that the opportunities and plan may change at some point during the next five years due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, funding alternatives, community opinion and/or available grants. *Funding availability is a key factor in the Township's and City's ability to implement the proposed capital improvement opportunities.*

The following capital improvement opportunities table details the desired improvements for the years 2018-2022. The opportunities are listed by short-term (1-2 yrs), mid-term (3-5 yrs), long-term (greater than 5 yrs), as well as on-going opportunities for those items that should be revisited/evaluated each year. It is difficult to predict desires, funding availability, etc., in the years to come. However, it is important to note that parks and recreation capital projects undertaken by the Township and/or City should address the goals set forth in this Plan.

Abbreviations for potential funding sources are provided in the table and listed below.

TBD = To Be Determined

MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

RPGP = Recreation Passport Grant Program

PPPE = Parks & Public Property Expenditures (City)

WCPM = Wayne County Parks Mileage

CDBG = Community Development Block Grant

GF = General Fund

Joint Plymouth Community  
Capital Improvement Opportunities  
2018-2022

	Magnitude of Cost				Potential Funding Sources			
	Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+yrs)	On-Going				
<b>CITY OF PLYMOUTH GENERAL ITEMS</b>								
Outdoor Ice Arena / Summer Pavillion	\$ 5,000,000		X		Private Funding, MNRTF, WCPM			
PCC Building Generator	\$ 400,000	X			Gen. Fund, Rec. Fund, Grant Funding			
Community Connectivity Plan (Nonmotorized)	\$25,000 - \$50,000	X			General Fund, Shared with Township			
Benches, Drinking Fountain, Picnic Table Replacement @ Various Parks	\$ 20,000			X	WCPM, PPPE			
<b>Cultural Center &amp; Ice Arena</b>								
LED Lighting Upgrade	\$ 17,000	X			Rec. Cap. Imp.			
ADA Bathroom Remodel	\$ 120,000	X			TBD, RPGP			
<b>Don Massey Field</b>								
Top Dressing Infield (each year)	\$ 2,500			X	Rec. Fund., WCPM			
Removal or Replacement of Lighting	\$ 300,000	X			Private Funding, MNRTF, WCPM			
ADA Bathrooms	\$ 90,000		X		Rec. Cap. Imp. WCPM, MNRTF, RPGP			
<b>Knights of Columbus Park</b>								
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 5,000	X			WCPM, PPPE			
Tot Play Structure	\$ 25,000	X			Private Donation, MNRTF, WCPM, PPPE			
<b>Fairground Park</b>								
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 5,000	X			WCPM, PPPE			
Tot and Child Play Structures	\$ 120,000	X			Private Donation, MNRTF, WCPM, PPPE			
Pavillion	\$ 75,000		X		WCPM, PPPE			
<b>Garden Club Park</b>								
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 5,000	X			WCPM, PPPE			
Child Play Structure	\$ 75,000		X		Private Donation, MNRTF, WCPM, PPPE			
<b>Kiwanis Club Park</b>								
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 5,000	X			WCPM, PPPE			
Tot Play Structure	\$ 15,000	X			Private Donation, MNRTF, WCPM, PPPE			
<b>Smith Park</b>								
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 5,000	X			WCPM, PPPE			
Misc. Play Equipment	\$ 15,000	X			Private Donation, MNRTF, WCPM			
<b>Rotary Club Park</b>								
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 7,500	X			Private Donation, WCPM			
<b>Jack Wilcox Park</b>								
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 5,000	X			Private Donation, WCPM, PPPE			
<b>Kellogg Park</b>								
Fountain Replacement	\$ 750,000	X			Private Donation			
Park Design + Renovations	\$ 1,500,000		X		TBD			
<b>Lion's Club Park</b>								
New Sign	\$ 2,500	X			PPPE			
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$ 5,000	X			WCPM, PPPE			
Child Play Structure	\$ 125,000		X		Private Donation, MNRTF, WCPM, PPPE			
<b>Starkweather Park</b>								
Roof Replacement on Gazebo	\$ 5,000	X			PPPE			
Landscape / Hardscape	\$ 10,000		X		Private Donation, PPPE, WCPM			
<b>Tonquish Creek Neighborhood Park</b>								
Footbridge Replacement	\$ 25,000	X			Private Donation, PPPE, WCPM, LWCF, RPGP			
Pathway Safety Lighting Replacement	\$ 20,000	X			Private Donation, PPPE, WCPM, LWCF, RPGP			
<b>TDM (Visteon) Soccer Fields</b>								
Storage Shed	\$ 10,000	X			Rec Fund, Private Donation			



Joint Plymouth Community  
Capital Improvement Opportunities  
2018-2022

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP GENERAL ITEMS									
	Magnitude of Cost				Sho	Mid	Long	On-Going	Potential Funding Sources
Senior Health and Wellness Center	\$	5,000,000					X		TBD
Community Connectivity Plan (Nonmotorized)		\$25,000-\$50,000	X						GF, Split with City
Phoenix Lake - Launch Area (kayak, canoe livery)	\$	2,000,000					X		TBD
Plymouth Township Park									
Garbage Cans / Grills	\$	10,000	X						GF, WCPM
Replace Wooden Playstructure	\$	300,000		X					GF, WCPM, MNRTF, RPGP, Private Donation
Sand Volleyball Courts (2)	\$	50,000	X						GF, WCPM, MNRTF, RPGP,
Nature Trail - ADA Conversion	\$	100,000		X					GF, WCPM, MNRTF, RPGP, CDBG
Pavillion/Shelter Repairs	\$	250,000	X						GF, TBD
Batting Cages at Ball Diamonds (4)	\$	45,000	X						GF, WCPM, Private Donation
Road & Lot Resurfacing	\$	450,000	X						GF, WCPM, CDBG
Picnic Tables (40)	\$	20,000	X						GF, WCPM
LED Lighting for Ball Diamonds	\$	400,000		X					GF, WCPM, MNRTF, RPGP, Private Donation
Security Measures for entire Park	\$	100,000		X					GF, TBD
Open Air Picnic Area Leveling	\$	20,000		X					GF, WCPM, MNRTF, RPGP, CDBG
Pre-Fab Storage Shed for North End of Park	\$	20,000		X					GF, TBD
Concrete leveling by Four Seasons Pavilion	\$	8,000	X						GF, TBD
Hilltop Golf Course									
New Cart Paths (entire course)	\$	565,000					X		GF, TBD
Trim / Remove Trees	\$	40,000					X		GF, TBD
Club House Improvements	\$	500,000					X		GF, TBD
New Golf Carts (60)	\$	158,000					X		GF, TBD
Beverage Cart	\$	13,600					X		GF, TBD
Turf Maintenance Equipment	\$	120,000					X		GF, TBD
Lake Pointe Soccer Park									
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$	4,000	X						GF, WCPM, Private Donation
Volleyball Court	\$	20,000		X					GF, WCPM, RPGP
Update Security Cameras	\$	5,000	X						GF, TBD
Strip and Sod 11v11 and 9v9 Game Fields	\$	85,000		X					GF, WCPM, RPGP, Private Donation, Split with City
Miller Family Park									
Grills (6)	\$	5,000	X						GF, WCPM
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$	5,000	X						GF, WCPM
Brentwood Park									
Safety Surfacing under Play Structures	\$	5,000	X						GF, WCPM
Covered Picnic Structure	\$	60,000					X		GF, WCPM
Tree Planting	\$	3,000	X						GF, WCPM
Play Structure	\$	75,000		X					GF, WCPM
Friendship Station / Senior Complex									
Folding Tables	\$	4,000	X						GF, WCPM
Office Addition	\$	50,000		X					TBD
Security System	\$	5,000	X						TBD

## Potential Funding Sources

Potential funding sources from outside entities for parks, recreation, and nonmotorized projects change and evolve on a regular basis. Understanding available funding programs, their requirements and deadlines requires continuous monitoring. A few of the more common funding sources have been detailed here as a reference and resource. These are in addition to traditional funding methods such as the general fund, millages, bonds, Community Development Block Grants, DDA's, etc.

### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds designated by Congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Additionally, investments made through TAP support place-based economic development by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability, and improving quality of life. MDOT and SEMCOG are responsible for selecting TAP projects in southeast Michigan and has a considerable amount of information and frequently asked questions on their website for reference ([www.michigan.gov/tap](http://www.michigan.gov/tap)). The most competitive aspects for MDOT TAP funding are:

- to connect and develop documented regional or statewide bicycle and pedestrian transportation networks
  - broad public engagement and strong support
  - project coordinated with other infrastructure work, economic development, or community improvement initiative
  - strong, detailed maintenance plan, including sources of funding
  - high match (40% and higher, ability to pay is considered)
  - high constructability level
- Constructability on a typical trail project is measured by use of industry design standards, secured right-of-way, and ease of obtaining all necessary permits and approvals.

Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, villages, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, state and federal natural resource or public land agencies, nonprofits responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs, and tribal governments. MDOT may partner with a local agency to apply for funding and implement the project. Other

organizations, such as townships or trail groups, may work with an eligible agency to apply. Grant coordinators are available to assist you by providing more information on the program, guidance on competitive projects, and how to best develop a competitive application.

### MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), provides grants to local governments and the DNR (with approved plan) to secure and develop lands for recreational purposes. Trail projects connecting communities to one another and to natural resources are a priority of the Trust Fund Board and are routinely awarded grants through the MNRTF. Additionally, since the MNRTF is a state source of funds, it can be used as match for TAP or other federal grant projects. Providing legal pedestrian access to the Great Lakes Shoreline (acquisition) and the Iron Belle Trail (among other items) were additional priorities for the Trust Fund Board in recent years. Applications are due April 1st and applicant must have a MDNR approved Recreation Plan. Development grant maximum is \$300,000 with a 25% local match.

### LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The LWCF Federal program provides matching grants to local governments and the MDNR (with approved plan) for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Applications are due April 1st, the maximum grant request is \$300,000, and there is a 50% local match.

### RECREATION PASSPORT PROGRAM

PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaced the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) - or window sticker - for state park entrance. All local units of government are eligible. Applications are due April 1st. Maximum grant request in 2018 was \$150,000. Renovation of existing facilities has been a focus of the program.

### CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CMAQ)

The primary goal of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) is to reduce traffic congestion and enhance air quality. These funds can be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation

facilities and pedestrian walkways (new construction), bike lanes on existing streets, or non-construction projects such as bike share equipment. Funds are available to counties designated as non-attainment areas for air quality, based on federal standards. The standard local match is 20%. Applicants are required to work with Metropolitan Planning Organizations or Regional Planning Agencies in selecting projects that are most effective in reducing congestion and transportation related emissions in a cost effective manner. Additional MDOT CMAQ program details at [michigan.gov/cmaq](http://michigan.gov/cmaq).

#### **DALMAC FUND**

Established in 1975 to promote bicycling in Michigan, the DALMAC Fund is administered by the Tri-County Bicycle Association and supported by proceeds from DALMAC. The DALMAC Fund supports safety and education programs, bicycle trail development, state-wide bicycle organizations, and route mapping projects. Applications are due March 1. They are reviewed by the DALMAC Fund Committee and approved by the Board. Grants are made by May of the year they were submitted. Applications can be found at [www.biketcba.org](http://www.biketcba.org).

#### **DTE ENERGY FOUNDATION TREE PLANTING**

The DTE Energy Tree Planting program is conducted in partnership with the MDNR. The program began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy's voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions.

Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$3,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50-50 local match. Applications are typically due in summer.

#### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an international movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. In Michigan, the program is funded under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and administered by The Michigan Fitness Foundation and MDOT. Developing a SRTS Plan is a process that involves schools, cities, and community groups working together to develop a plan that helps students walk or bike to school safely and in greater numbers.

The Michigan SRTS program offers communities two kinds of opportunities to receive Federal funding for a SRTS program: The Mini Grant and the Major Grant. The Mini Grant is a programming only grant to help schools build a culture of walking, biking, and rolling among students. Mini grants fund things such as a walking school bus, incentive program, remote drop site, and bike rodeos. Schools can apply once a year for up to \$5,000 each or up to \$25,000 for multiple schools. Applications open in January.

The Major Grant is to help communities build sidewalks, crosswalks, and any other infrastructure improvements that may be needed to make it possible for students to walk, bike, and roll safely to school. There is up to \$200,000/school available for infrastructure, and up to \$8,000/school for the same programmatic activities funded by mini-grants. Application deadlines are on-going and quarterly. Major Grants require an in-depth planning process prior to submitting an application. Funding details can be found at [www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org).

#### **RALPH C. WILSON, JR FOUNDATION GRANTS**

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation was formed in 2015 and funded after the passing of Ralph Wilson, a Detroit who founded and owned the Buffalo Bills football team. The Foundation accepts grant applications in western New York and Southeast Michigan and has 4 focus areas. One area of focus is "Livable Communities" where the foundation is seeking to contribute to strong and sustainable communities and supporting access and design to public spaces that support healthy living. More information at [www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org](http://www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org).

In addition to applying directly to the Foundation, the Foundation has provided funds to the Community **Foundation for Southeast Michigan for the management of Ralph Wilson Legacy Funds**. The Legacy Funds are seeking requests for funds for Design & Access (increase walkability/bikeability and outdoor recreation opportunities) as well as Youth Sports Fund (high-quality sports programs to youth). Applications were due in January in 2018. [www.cfsem.org/fund/ralph-c-wilson-jr-funds/](http://www.cfsem.org/fund/ralph-c-wilson-jr-funds/)

## **APPENDIX**

Public Input Details

Post Completion Self-Inspection Reports

Resolutions of Adoption

Letters of Transmittal

Certification Checklist