

# MME 2023 Summer Workshop



Michigan  
Municipal  
Executives

**Growing Sustainability, Accessibility, and  
Community Building in Your Parks**

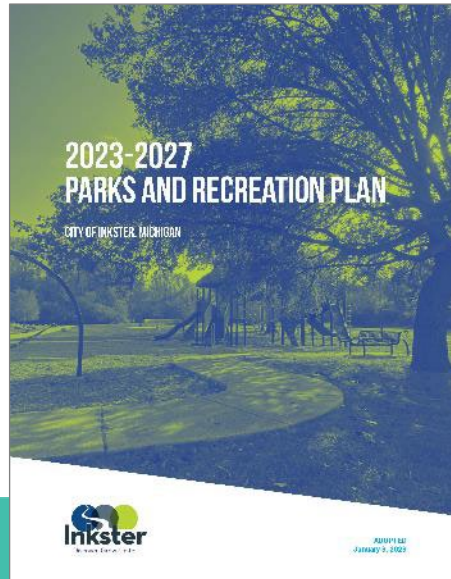
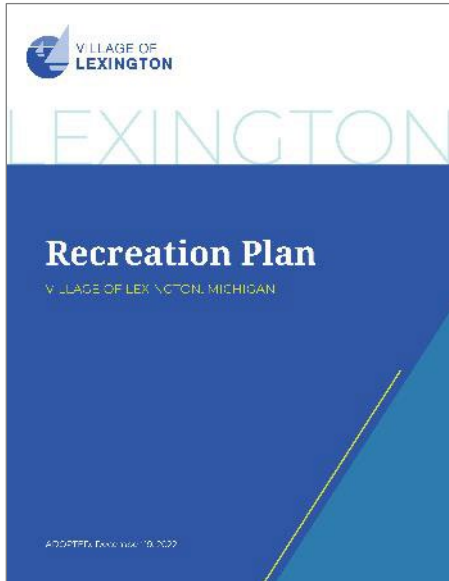


**JOHN JACKSON, AICP**

President

**PAUL URBIEL, AICP**

Senior Principal Planner



# Agenda

**Introduction: The Value of Planning for Parks**

**The Process**

**A Success Story: City of Royal Oak**

**Be Aware of These Dates!**

**Grant Funding Opportunities**

A photograph of a park scene, including a paved path, several trees, a bench, and a body of water in the background. The entire image is overlaid with a uniform red color filter. The text "Why Plan for Parks?" is centered in white serif font.

# Why Plan for Parks?

# Why Plan for Parks?

## Pragmatic Reasons:

- MDNR suggests updates every five years.
- Provide a roadmap for decisions over the next 5 years, as well as long range planning of projects.
- Address current and future needs.
- **Ensure eligibility for resources, including MDNR grants.**



# Why Plan for Parks?

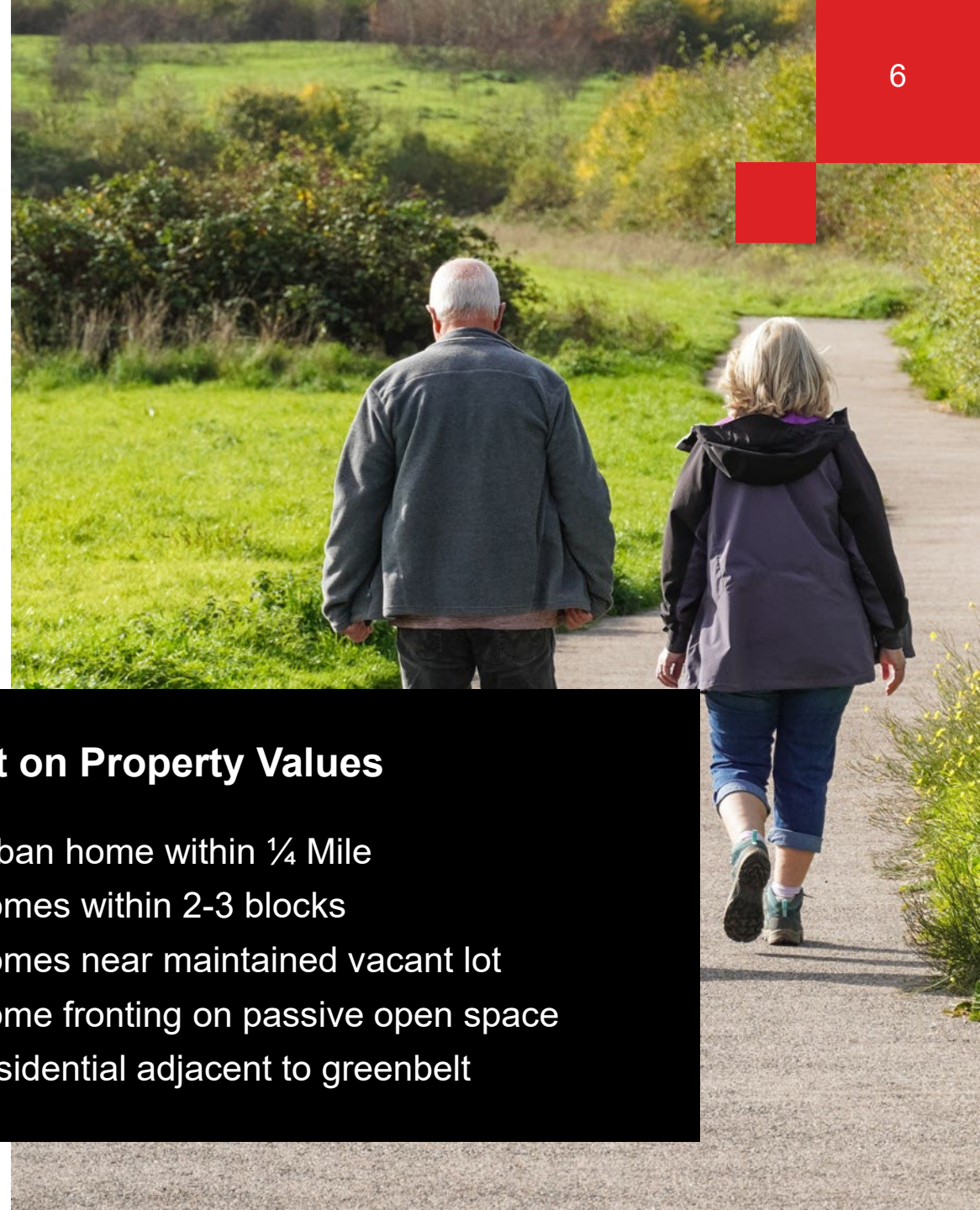
... And also, significant opportunities

Parks and recreation stewardship provides communities with the ability to:

- Stabilize and improve home values
- Improve community health

## Park Impact on Property Values

- 10% for urban home within ¼ Mile
- 10% for homes within 2-3 blocks
- 17% for homes near maintained vacant lot
- 20% for home fronting on passive open space
- 32% for residential adjacent to greenbelt



# Why Plan for Parks?

...And also, significant opportunities:

Parks and recreation stewardship provides communities with the ability to:

- Advance broader goals related to sustainability, inclusion, and community building.
- **Create an authentically community-supported vision!**

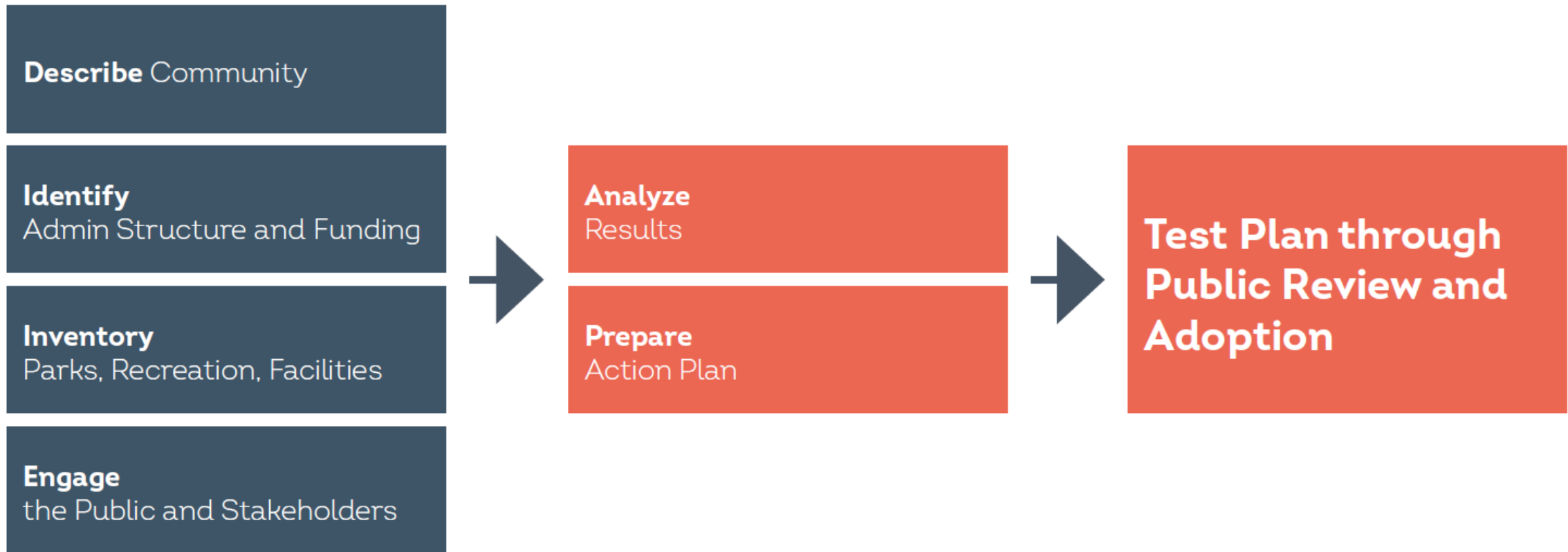


A photograph of a park scene, including a paved path, several trees, a bench, and a body of water in the background. The entire image is overlaid with a uniform red color filter. The text "About the Process" is centered in the middle of the image in a white serif font.

# About the Process



# Parks and Recreation Planning Process



# MDNR Requirements



## Administrative Structure and Funding History

**History of Parks and Recreation Services in Mt. Pleasant**  
The State of Michigan and the City of Mt. Pleasant authorize how recreational activities and resources are organized within the public sector. Public Act 287 of 1937 (Local Government Officers' System of Public Recreation) authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. Section 1 of this act states that any city, village, county or township may:

- Operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds;
- Acquire equipment and maintain land, buildings, or other recreational facilities;
- Employ a professional staff and assistants; and
- Vote to expend funds for the operation of such a system.

The Mt. Pleasant City Commission first approved a parks ordinance in 1958. The City Commission receives input and recommendations concerning parks and recreation from the Parks and Recreation Commission (see figure 4) for administrative structure creation. Additionally, in 1976, Parks and Recreation departments were created by action of the Mt. Pleasant City Commission.

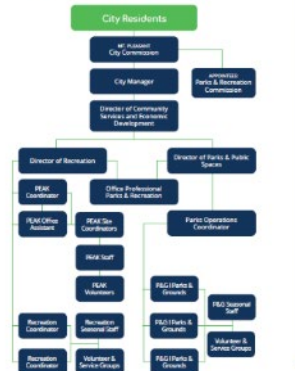
4 MT. PLEASANT 2000 - City of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

### Current Administrative Functions

The Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission is a citizen advisory board made up of seven city residents who address the City Commission on behalf of the community and the strategic plan for development of park facilities and recreation programs. Board members are appointed by the City Commission and serve a three-year term.

The Parks and Recreation Departments are served by eleven full-time staff members and a number of part-time employees who are responsible for managing Mt. Pleasant's parks and providing a range of recreation programs and services.

Figure 4- Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure



**VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Mt. Pleasant has been very fortunate to have a great group of volunteers dedicated to the community. Without their participation, recreational opportunities within the City would not be the same. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Departments work in partnership with numerous local organizations and businesses to provide recreation and leisure services. Examples of current partnerships include, but are not limited to:

- Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation
- Mary Kay
- Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
- Recreational Softball and Baseball
- Include County Commission on Aging
- Mt. Pleasant Drafts Bowlers
- Community for Arms
- Girls Youth Softball
- Mt. Pleasant Little League
- Mt. Pleasant Baseball Association
- Chrysler River Center Library
- WCI Radio and TV Club
- The Golf Center
- Senior Citizens Union Club
- Senior Citizens Center
- Friends of the Dog Park
- Chrysler River Rowing Club
- Chrysler Motorboat Club
- Chrysler Motorboat Club

BOOK 4 Recreational Parks and Public Spaces

**STRATEGIC VISION GOALS**

*Imagine Fun! Goals and Objectives*

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC VISION GOALS	DEPT. RESPONSIBILITY	DEPT. BUDGET	DEPT. PERSONNEL	DEPT. EQUIPMENT	DEPT. MATERIALS	DEPT. SUPPLIES	DEPT. SERVICES	DEPT. UTILITIES	DEPT. MAINTENANCE	DEPT. CONTRACTS	DEPT. OTHER
Goal 1: Diversify and expand existing opportunities	Develop new programs and services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goal 2: Access for all residents	Improve accessibility of parks and recreation facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goal 3: Design parks for all users	Improve park design and user experience	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goal 4: Use best practices	Adopt best practices from other municipalities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goal 5: Make parks a point of pride	Enhance park appearance and user satisfaction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



## 2025 Master Plan (IK2025)

The City of Kalamazoo City Commission adopted its Master Plan, *Imagine Kalamazoo 2025* (IK2025) on October 16, 2017. IK2025 is the guiding document for all planning and development in the city. It is also a visioning document informed by many residents and stakeholders and created to enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit Kalamazoo.

Like Kalamazoo, imagine fun creates positive and memorable experiences for everyone. Imagine fun is a mindset that encourages us to think outside the box and embrace the possibilities. Imagine fun is a way of life that encourages us to embrace the possibilities and create a better future for ourselves and our community. Imagine fun is a way of life that encourages us to embrace the possibilities and create a better future for ourselves and our community. Imagine fun is a way of life that encourages us to embrace the possibilities and create a better future for ourselves and our community.

**IK2025 - PARK ACTION ITEMS**

GOAL	ACTION ITEM	STATUS	DEADLINE
GOAL 1: Diversify and expand existing opportunities	Develop new programs and services	...	...
GOAL 2: Access for all residents	Improve accessibility of parks and recreation facilities	...	...
GOAL 3: Design parks for all users	Improve park design and user experience	...	...
GOAL 4: Use best practices	Adopt best practices from other municipalities	...	...
GOAL 5: Make parks a point of pride	Enhance park appearance and user satisfaction	...	...

## Grant Funding

Canton has received Federal and State funding for several projects since 1977, including grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI), Recreation Bond Fund (RBF), and the Michigan Arts Cultural (MAC) and Quality of Life Grant from the Michigan Department of Budget.

Table 10: State and Federal Development Grants Received by Canton Township

YEAR	GRANT #	FUNDING SOURCE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT	CURRENT USE / STATUS
1977	26-072201	LWCF	Follow Creek Golf Course	Acquisition of 113.45 acres	\$200,000	27 holes course in good condition
1985	26-01937	LWCF	Canton Recreation Complex Phase II	Development of parking lot, picnic shelters, soccer/football fields, landscaping, play center, storm drains, and catch basins	\$75,500	Multi-purpose park with athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and trails in excellent condition
1985	15-1069	MNRTF	Canton Recreation Complex Expansion	Acquisition of 50 acres	\$50,000	Multi-purpose park with athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and trails in excellent condition
1987	15-07-056	MNRTF	Canton Community Park Acquisition	Project Withdrawn	\$0	N/A
1989	BF09-360	RBF	Canton Recreation Complex Phase IV	Development of parking lot, walkway, soccer field, irrigation, pavilion, restrooms, playground, fishing pier, gazebo	\$302,644	Community Park in excellent condition
1989	15-89-031	MNRTF	Canton Recreation Center Development	Development of Recreation Center, lake recreation, trail paving, road & parking lot, graveling, 2 bridges, soccer field, picnic area, deckling hill, landscaping	\$193,660.59	Community Park in excellent condition
1992	BF92-195	RBF	Canton Community Center	Development of Canton Community Center, building construction, landscaping	\$450,000	Multi-purpose community center in excellent condition
1997	15-97-028	MNRTF	Ridge Road Park Development (Formerly Battista's L. Coleman Trust) Land Acquisition	Original acquisition of 218 acres for community park. Updated to purchase 132 acres for Trust) Land Acquisition	\$963,685.08	Site is being maintained until funding is secured for development. Park master plan prepared
1999	CM99-101	CMI	Community Center Expansion	Renovation and expansion of Recreation Center to include new fitness center, locker rooms	\$750,000	Multi-purpose community center in excellent condition
2000	N/A	MAC	Performing Arts Education Center	Construction of Performing Arts Center	\$300,000	400-seat theater with classrooms in excellent condition

## Volunteers

The City of Garden City has been very fortunate to have a great group of volunteers dedicated to the community. Without their participation, recreational opportunities within the City would be greatly reduced. The following are the groups that work directly with the Parks and Recreation Department, though there are other volunteer groups that partner with other City departments:

- GARDEN CITY YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (GYAA)**  
GYAA is a non-profit organization that provides youth sports programs for children in Garden City. The organization is supported by the City of Garden City and the Garden City Youth Athletic Association. The organization provides a variety of sports programs for children, including soccer, basketball, and tennis. The organization also provides a variety of other programs, including camps and clinics.
- KENNESAW CLUB OF GARDEN CITY**  
The Kennebec Club is a social and recreational organization that provides a variety of programs and services for its members. The club is located in Garden City and is open to residents of Garden City. The club provides a variety of programs, including golf, tennis, and social events. The club also provides a variety of other services, including maintenance and landscaping.
- GARDEN CITY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (GCHA)**  
The Garden City Hockey Association is a non-profit organization that provides hockey programs for children in Garden City. The organization is supported by the City of Garden City and the Garden City Hockey Association. The organization provides a variety of hockey programs for children, including ice hockey and roller hockey. The organization also provides a variety of other programs, including camps and clinics.
- GARDEN CITY FISHERS SKATING CLUB (GFC)**  
The Garden City Fishers Skating Club is a non-profit organization that provides skating programs for children in Garden City. The organization is supported by the City of Garden City and the Garden City Fishers Skating Club. The organization provides a variety of skating programs for children, including ice skating and roller skating. The organization also provides a variety of other programs, including camps and clinics.
- LION'S CLUB**  
The Lion's Club is a social and recreational organization that provides a variety of programs and services for its members. The club is located in Garden City and is open to residents of Garden City. The club provides a variety of programs, including golf, tennis, and social events. The club also provides a variety of other services, including maintenance and landscaping.
- GARDEN CITY HAWKS SKATING CLUB (GHC)**  
The Garden City Hawks Skating Club is a non-profit organization that provides skating programs for children in Garden City. The organization is supported by the City of Garden City and the Garden City Hawks Skating Club. The organization provides a variety of skating programs for children, including ice skating and roller skating. The organization also provides a variety of other programs, including camps and clinics.
- GARDEN CITY SOCCER CLUB**  
The Garden City Soccer Club is a non-profit organization that provides soccer programs for children in Garden City. The organization is supported by the City of Garden City and the Garden City Soccer Club. The organization provides a variety of soccer programs for children, including soccer and flag football. The organization also provides a variety of other programs, including camps and clinics.

## Partnering Organizations

- GARDEN CITY BUSINESS ALLIANCE**  
The Garden City Business Alliance is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of programs and services for its members. The alliance is located in Garden City and is open to residents of Garden City. The alliance provides a variety of programs, including networking, business development, and social events. The alliance also provides a variety of other services, including maintenance and landscaping.
- DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)**  
The Downtown Development Authority is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of programs and services for its members. The authority is located in Garden City and is open to residents of Garden City. The authority provides a variety of programs, including economic development, urban planning, and social events. The authority also provides a variety of other services, including maintenance and landscaping.
- FRIENDS OF THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
The Friends of the Historical Museum is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of programs and services for its members. The organization is located in Garden City and is open to residents of Garden City. The organization provides a variety of programs, including historical preservation, education, and social events. The organization also provides a variety of other services, including maintenance and landscaping.



# Community Engagement



**Kzoo imagine fun!**  
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Let your voice be heard! Join the City of Kalamazoo at one (or more!) outdoor events for a fun field day in your neighborhood park. Kalamazoo is in the process of updating its five (5)-year Master Plan and is seeking feedback on your favorite parks and what you envision for the future. Light refreshments will be provided.

JUNE 12	LA CRONE PARK 535 W. WATLISON ST 6:00-7:30PM
JUNE 23	SOUTHSIDE PARK INTERSECTION OF PALMER AVE AND RACE ST 11:00-12:30PM
JULY 10	WOODS LAKE PARK 2200 OAKLAND DR 6:00-7:30PM
JULY 26	ROCKWELL PARK RICE TRAIL BLVD 6:00-7:30PM


field days

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE VISIT: [WWW.KZOOIMAGINEFUN.COM](http://WWW.KZOOIMAGINEFUN.COM)

# Inventory

## Inventory of all Community-Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities:

- Size (acres)
- Park type
- List of amenities
- Accessibility ranking (overall score)



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK | 0.62 ACRES  
**Chandler Park**

Located in Neighborhood 4, Chandler Park offers residents a large, grassy open area and smaller playground for active recreation.

ACCESSIBILITY **2**




ADOPTED – January 16, 2023



COMMUNITY PARK | 16.9 ACRES  
**Alford Park/Carbide Dock**

This site is located just east of the Hydropower Plant and Power Canal, at E. Portage Avenue and Salmon Run Way. Closed in 2016 due to sediment issues, the park is expected to reopen in the near future with a slate of new amenities. The site has seen the recent construction of the LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and the surrounding area continues to generate local and visitor traffic. The site has great potential for further activating this portion of E. Portage.

ACCESSIBILITY **1**




ADOPTED – January 16, 2023

36 | Sault Ste. Marie Parks and Recreation Master Plan

ADOPTED – January 16, 2023

ADOPTED – January 16, 2023

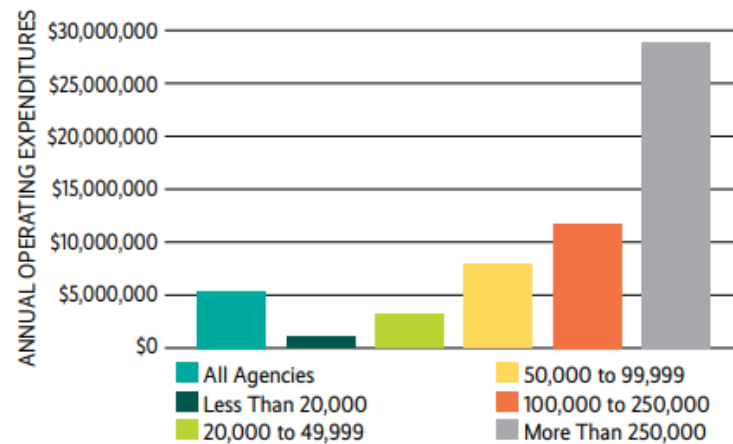
Parks, Recreation, and Trails Inventory | 37

# Key Facility Metrics

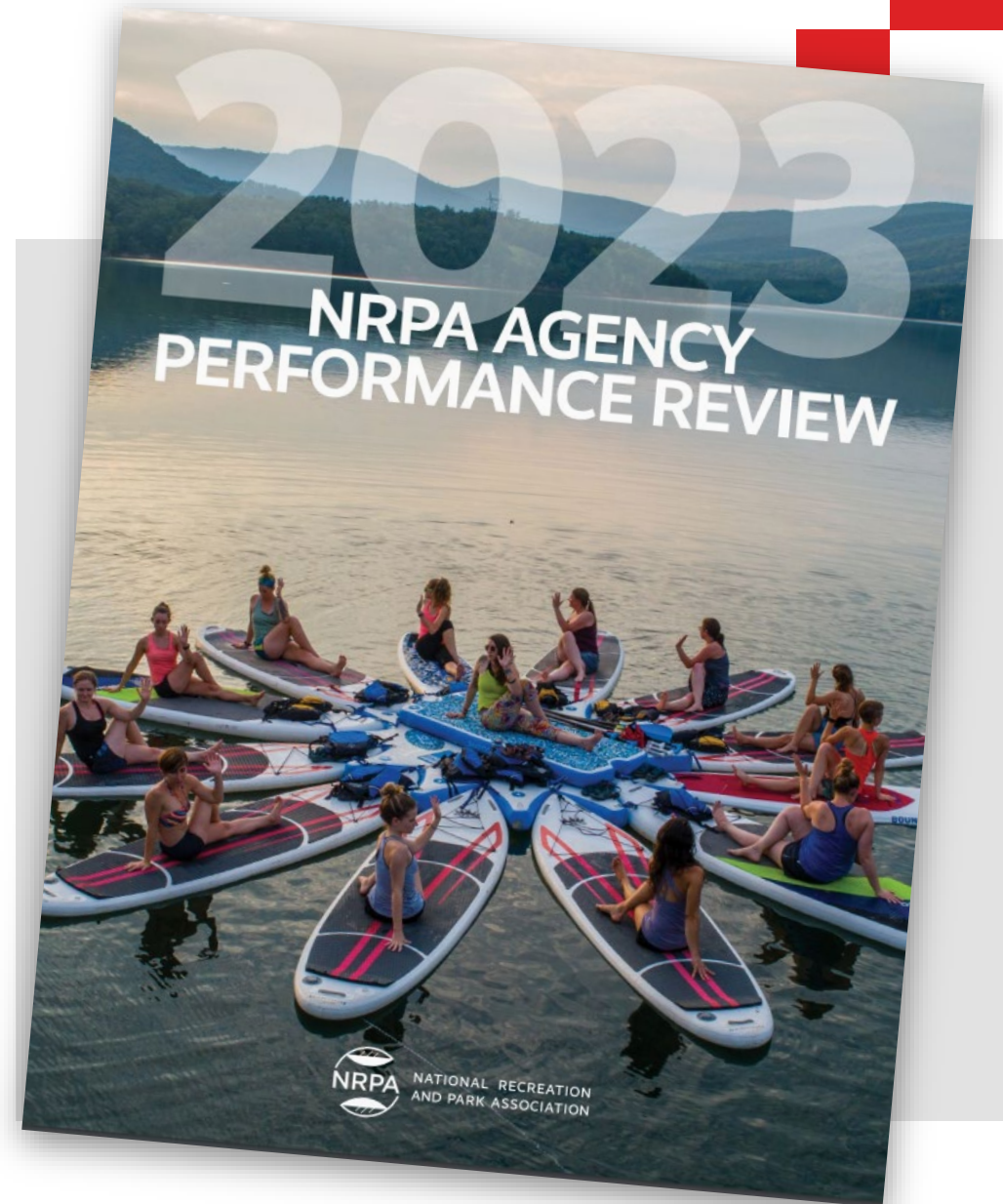
## NRPA Standards

- Analyze existing and recommended land and parks
- Budget / staff
- Facilities: indoor and outdoor
- Trails
- Programming

**FIGURE 13: ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)**



	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More Than 250,000
Median	\$5,500,000	\$1,200,000	\$3,255,771	\$8,005,757	\$11,834,432	\$28,878,054
Lower Quartile	\$2,045,100	\$573,150	\$1,996,538	\$5,338,200	\$6,147,332	\$14,735,128
Upper Quartile	\$14,841,451	\$2,482,403	\$6,279,749	\$13,413,924	\$21,753,741	\$53,898,865



# Sustainability Opportunities

**Climate**



**Life Cycle**



**Ecosystem**



**Low Impact Design**



# Sustainability Metrics

- Tree canopy (perimeter, interior trees per acre)
- Native plantings
- Permeable surfaces
- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Solar energy systems
- EV chargers
- Bicycle facilities
- Recycling facilities
- Transit access

**Tree Canopy:**

Expressed as number of trees/acre.  
(Collected: Perimeter Tree Count,  
Interior Tree Count, Estimated Canopy %)

**Recycling Facilities:**

Yes/No/How Many

**Gardens and Landscaping:**

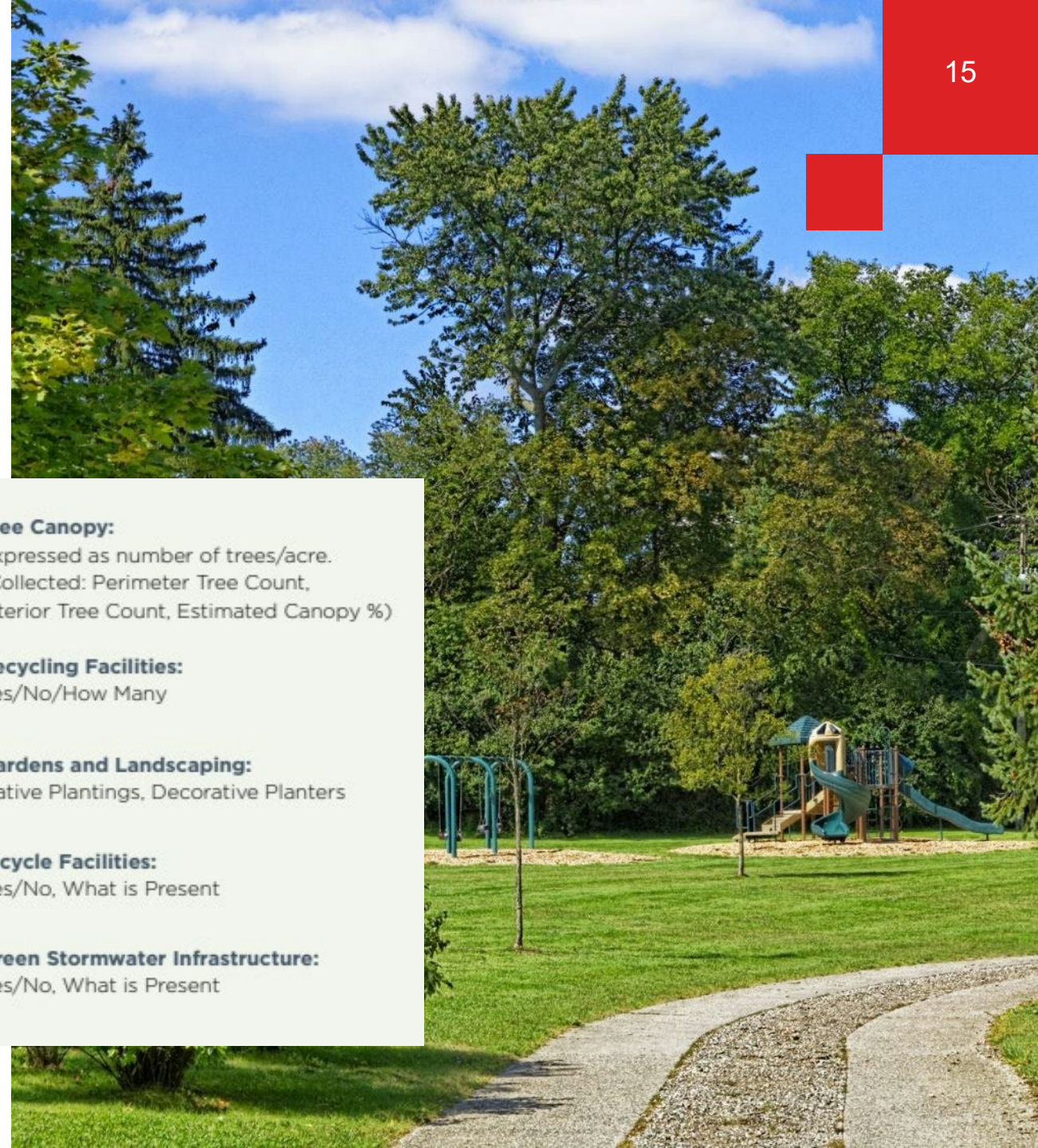
Native Plantings, Decorative Planters

**Bicycle Facilities:**

Yes/No, What is Present

**Green Stormwater Infrastructure:**

Yes/No, What is Present

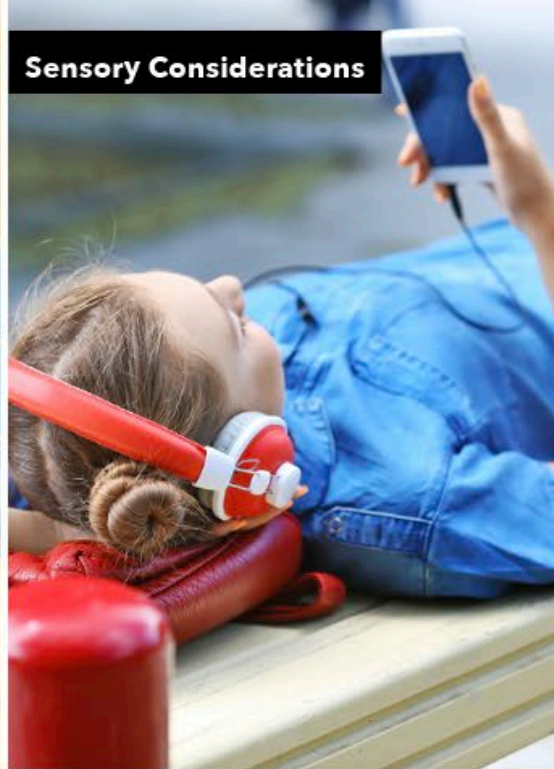


# Accessibility and Inclusion Opportunities

**Mobility Considerations**



**Sensory Considerations**



**Safety Considerations**



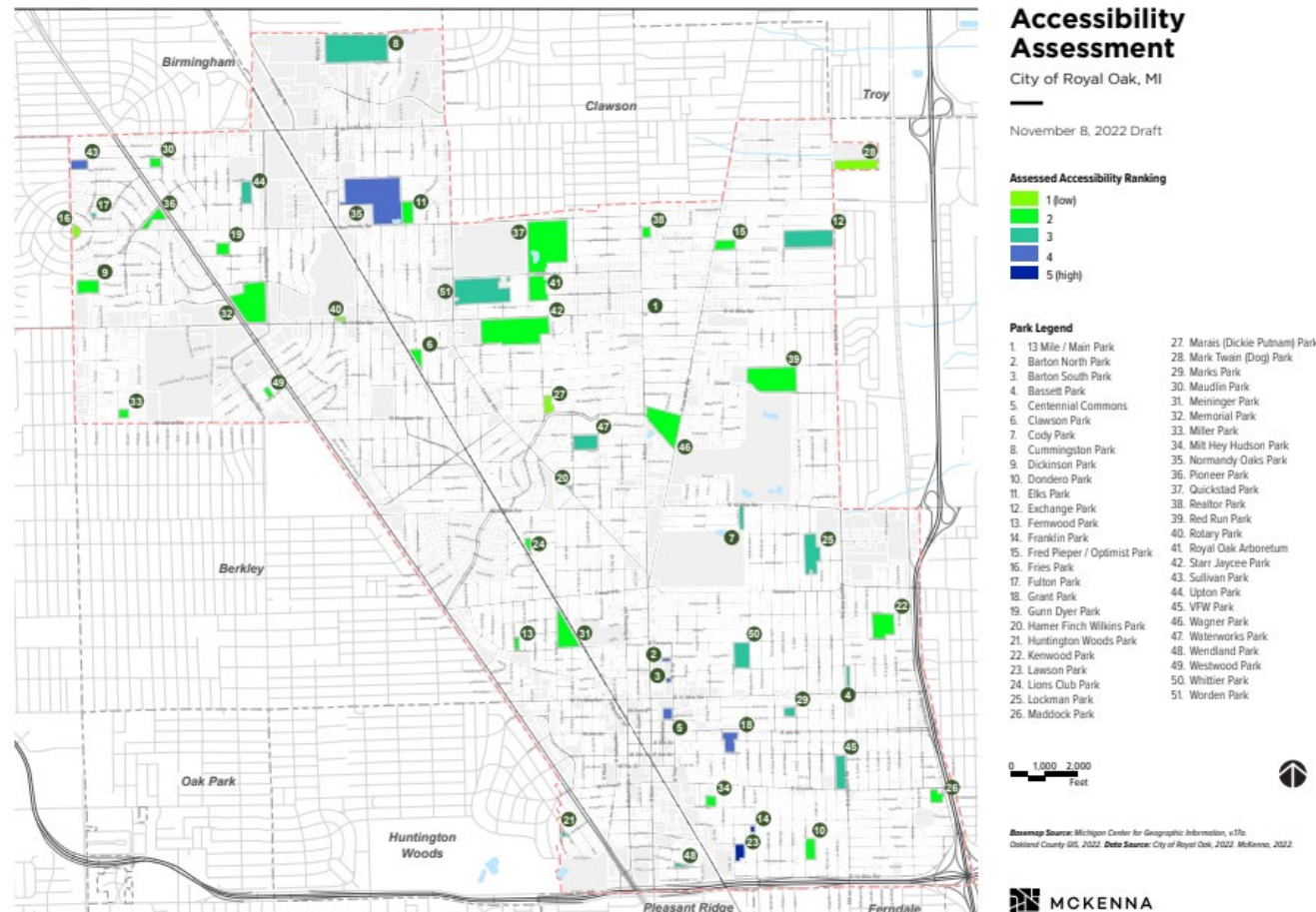
**Welcoming Considerations**





# Accessibility and Inclusion

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



# Accessibility and Inclusion

- Approach and entrances (ADA parking)
- Indoor facilities / restrooms (includes drinking fountains)
- Access and routes to equipment:

- ✓ Play areas
- ✓ Sports courts / activity areas

- Seating
- Fall zone (surface material)



Table 5. Accessibility Ratings of Parks and Recreation Facilities (with Parking), 2022

	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 1	Intex Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk along west edge of the park only, along Orinfield.	No	-
	Marals (Dickie Putman) Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk only, no amenities or internal sidewalks.	No	-
	Mark Train (Dog) Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk on N. Campbell, no internal sidewalk or ADA parking.	Yes	0
	Rotary Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk on south of the park, along 51 Mile only.	No	-
LEVEL 2	Cloveson Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, no internal sidewalk to playcourt / ball field.	No	-
	Dickinson Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, with limited accessibility to play structure, ball field, courts, etc.	No	-
	Dandera Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, no internal sidewalk to playcourt or tennis / basketball courts.	No	-
	Ellis Park	2	Sidewalk on west and south park boundary only, limited internal sidewalk to amenities.	Yes	2 ADA spaces
	Fernwood Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, amenities not accessible.	No	-
	Fred Pflizer / Optinist Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, no sidewalk to playcourts, fields, volleyball court or seating areas.	No	-
	Gare Dyer Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, no internal sidewalk to playcourts, ball field, or multipurpose field.	No	-
	Renewood Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, no internal sidewalks.	No	-
	Lions Club Park	2	Curb cut into the park is not accessible, internal pathway needs repair, playcourt equipment not accessible.	No	-

	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 3	Mudhook Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk on Lincoln only, no sidewalk or access from Stephenson or Hardwood. The internal sidewalk to some amenities from Lincoln is in poor condition.	No	-
	Maudlin Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, no internal sidewalks to the amenities. Play structure amenities are excellent.	No	-
	Memorial Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, limited internal sidewalks to playcourts / fields.	Yes	4 ADA spaces
	Hilber Park	2	Perimeter and internal sidewalks, amenities not accessible.	No	-
	Hill Hey Hubben Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk but limited access internally, redevelopment of park in progress to be completed in 2024, with improved accessibility.	No	-
	Pioneer Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to first playcourt only.	No	-
	Quickstart Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk along north, west and east park boundaries, soccer fields not accessible, and nature preserve pathway not paved.	No	-
	Realtor Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, no internal sidewalk to amenities.	No	-
	Red Run Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, swings and ballfields not accessible.	Yes	-
	Starr Jaycee Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk on northern park boundary only, internal sidewalk to park facility.	Yes	4 ADA spaces
LEVEL 4	Wagner Park	3	Perimeter and some internal sidewalks, amenities not accessible.	No	-
	Westwood Park	2	Perimeter and internal sidewalks, amenities not accessible.	No	-


	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 5	12 Mile / Main Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to landscape beds.	No	-
	Bassett Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk.	No	-
	Cody Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to play structures but not to sandbox or fields.	No	-
	Cornelington Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to playcourts.	No	-
	Exchange Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to some amenities, but not all.	No	-
	Fulton Park	5	Equipment accessible once within playcourt areas.	No	-
	Hamer Finch Wilens Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk.	No	-
	Huestigan Woods Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk only, equipment accessible within playcourt area.	No	-
	Lockman Park	5	Fully extend path to tennis courts doors.	No	-
	Maris Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to the play structures (paved fall zone structures).	Yes	1 ADA space
LEVEL 6	Hohlinger Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to play structure and tennis courts.	No	-
	Royal Oak Arboretum	5	Sidewalk for nature trail and to playcourts, multiple paved access points to the park.	Yes	8 ADA spaces
	Upton Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to playcourts.	No	-
	VFW Park	5	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to play structure and pavilion, but not to all amenities (i.e. soccer field).	Yes	4 ADA spaces

	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 3	Waterworks Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk (except along the park boundary on Magnolia). Internal sidewalk to playcourts and fitness equipment, sidewalk missing to swings and tennis courts.	No	-
	Westland Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to play structures.	No	-
	Whittier Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to playcourts, no internal sidewalk to the basketball and pickleball courts, or picnic areas.	Yes	1 ADA space
	Worden Park	3	Cut courts, create path to baseball diamonds and the tennis courts.	Yes	8 ADA spaces
LEVEL 4	Bullfinch Park	4	Perimeter sidewalk, with internal sidewalk to accessible playcourts, no internal sidewalk to soccer fields.	No	-
	Barton Park North	4	Paved path, connected to play structure and fitness equipment.	No	-
	Barton Park South	4	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to accessible courts.	No	-
	Centennial Commons	4	Perimeter and internal sidewalk.	Yes	2
LEVEL 4	Grant Park	4	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to play structures and fitness equipment. No sidewalk to soccer fields / picnic areas.	No	-
	Hammond Chase Park	4	Accessible paths throughout.	Yes	8 ADA spaces
	Franklin Park	5	Perimeter and internal sidewalk to all facilities.	No	-
	Lewis Park	5	Perimeter and internal sidewalk, accessible playcourts and amenities.	Yes	0

A photograph of a park scene, including a paved path, several trees, and a body of water in the background. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red color filter. The text is centered over the image.

Case Study:  
Royal Oak 2023-2028 Recreation Plan

### ROYAL OAK PARKS IN A SNAPSHOT




This Plan encompasses all 51 parks within the city, as well as a handful of indoor recreation facilities, occupying a total of 340 acres of land.

Royal Oak's parkland makes up 4.5% of the total square miles in the City; these parks are classified by their size and service area into three primary categories: mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.

**PARK SERVICE AREAS:**

- Mini-Parks: 14-40+ acres
- Neighborhood Parks: 10-12 Miles
- Community Parks: 10-12 Miles

 Royal Oak 2013-2027 Recreation Plan

<p>16</p> <p>● MINI PARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 Mile / Main Park..... p.36</li> <li>Barton Park North..... 37</li> <li>Barton Park South..... 38</li> <li>Bassett Park..... 39</li> <li>Cody Park..... 43</li> <li>Fernwood Park..... 49</li> <li>Franklin Park..... 50</li> <li>Fries Park..... 52</li> <li>Fulda Park..... 53</li> <li>Hart.....</li> <li>Hunt.....</li> <li>Mau.....</li> <li>Rolf.....</li> <li>Roy.....</li> <li>Went.....</li> <li>Wiss.....</li> </ul>	<p>24</p> <p>● NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clawson Park..... p.42</li> <li>Dickinson Park..... 45</li> <li>Dorileo Park..... 46</li> <li>Elks Park..... 47</li> <li>Fried Peacor / Optimist Park..... 51</li> <li>Grant Park..... 54</li> <li>Gunn Dyer Park..... 55</li> <li>Kenwood Park..... 58</li> <li>Lansing Park..... 59</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <p>● COMMUNITY PARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centennial Commons..... p.40</li> <li>Cunnington Park..... 44</li> <li>Exchange Park..... 48</li> <li>Memorial Park..... 68</li> <li>Normandy Oaks Park..... 72</li> <li>Quickstad Park..... 76</li> <li>Fed Run Park..... 78</li> <li>Star Jaycee Park..... 82</li> <li>U-City Park..... 86</li> </ul>
---	---	---

# 2023-2027 RECREATION PLAN

CITY OF ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN



*Adopted December 19, 2022*

# Strategic Issues -> Guiding Principles

### MISSION STATEMENT: DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

To provide residents a variety of year-round recreation opportunities that are responsive to their needs, are enjoyable to their families, and contribute to their physical and mental well-being while maintaining and improving the aesthetic, functional, and sustainable value of all parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and open spaces. Royal Oak will continue to create resilient public spaces that are inclusive, accessible, and programmable, and that enhance the natural environment of the community.

### INTRODUCTION

Royal Oak's 5-Year Recreation Plan was developed by the city in conjunction with the community's Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services Advisory Board and with strong citizen participation. The jurisdiction of this Plan is the City of Royal Oak, and it focuses on all aspects of parks, facilities, open spaces, recreation, and programming as overseen by the city's Department of Recreation and Public Service.

#### Planning for Parks and Recreation

This Plan is a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made over a five-year period, as well as a way to project future needs. The process taken to prepare the plan yields an understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation facilities and programming based on public engagement and industry trends going forward. Most importantly, this plan represents a concerted effort to reflect an authentic, community-supported vision for Royal Oak parks, garnered through significant public and stakeholder engagement.

This Plan is influenced by and formulated in the context of related planning endeavors in the city, especially:

- The Royal Oak Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S-CAP), adopted in 2022.
- The Royal Oak Aging in Place Plan, draft under review at the time of this writing.
- The 2022-2025 City Strategic Action Plan, published in 2022.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Royal Oak has a long history of championing park space. In the 1930s and 40s, the Royal Oak Parks Commission sought to implement their vision of playgrounds, parks, and preservation areas, creating a network of park spaces within the majority of the city's neighborhoods. Due to the diligence of past and current leadership, 92% of children, 65% of adults, and 91% of seniors in Royal Oak are within a 10-minute walk of a park.

This Plan continues that vision, and sets forth goals and objectives designed to address current and future needs within the parks and recreation system in Royal Oak. The planning process, and its resultant recommendations, was guided by the four key principles listed below:

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**ACCESSIBILITY**

**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**THOR ENGA**

### BUILDING ON PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

#### The Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

The Royal Oak Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S-CAP) was adopted on May 9, 2022, after more than a year of development. The S-CAP incorporates sustainability initiatives and sets greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2050. It is a guiding policy document that outlines projects and programs to support the city's climate goals. Through a community-wide survey and several stakeholder workgroup meetings, objectives and action steps were identified to address sustainability, local environmental issues, and equity.

The values of the S-CAP include:

- » Equity and access
- » Health and well-being
- » Economy
- » Natural ecosystems
- » Greenhouse gas emissions
- » Resilience

The S-CAP serves as a guide to all relevant departments' future budget planning, strategic goal planning, and master planning, including this 2023-2027 Recreation Plan. S-CAP action implementation is divided into six focus topics: energy and buildings, mobility, water, waste, green space, and quality of life. Most relevant to this Plan is the category of "green space". Top priorities include:

- » Increasing Royal Oak's tree canopy.
- » Providing a system of accessible parks and recreation opportunities.
- » Utilizing landscaping practices to maintain these spaces in a way that is sustainable and considerate of human, wildlife, and environmental health.

A city's park system, tree canopy, and other green features help reduce the heat island effect, improve air quality, capture stormwater runoff, increase carbon storage and biodiversity, and have positive effects on residents' physical and mental health. This Plan incorporates those goals and strives to further the efforts of the S-CAP.

# Community Engagement

- Plan imperatives: **comprehensive engagement and community-supported vision**
- Build on and advance **sustainability and aging-in-place goals related to parks**



# Interactive, Online Public Engagement Options



## VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS



**1,010**

Unique Website Visitors



**418**

Survey Responses



**799**

Online Comments

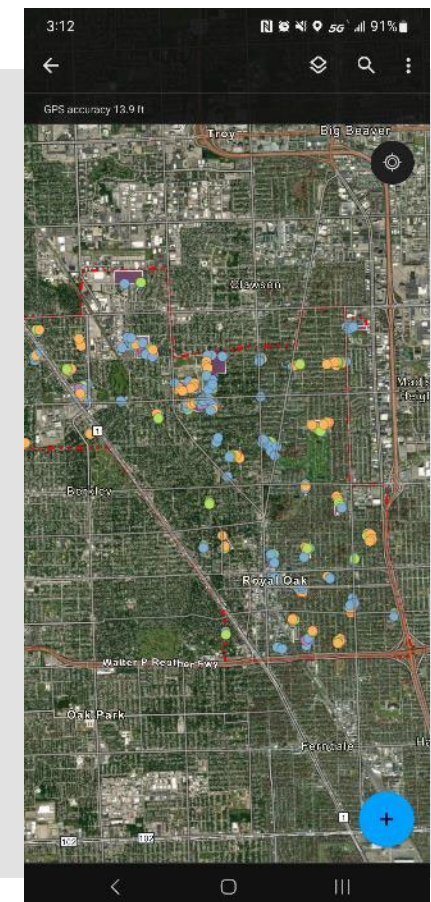
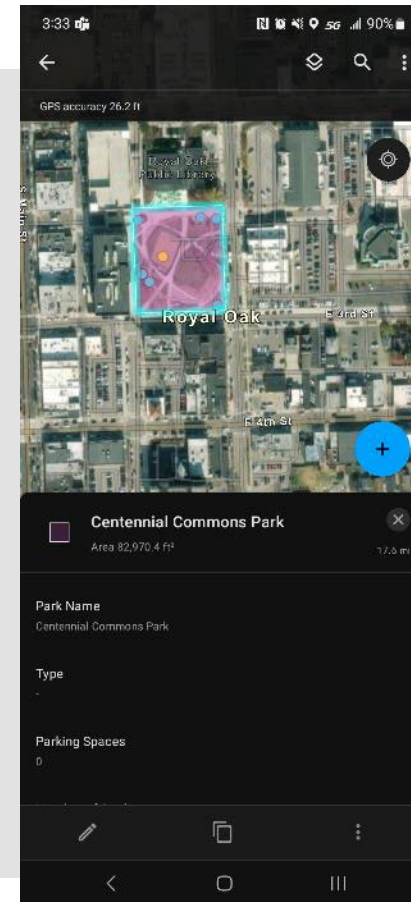
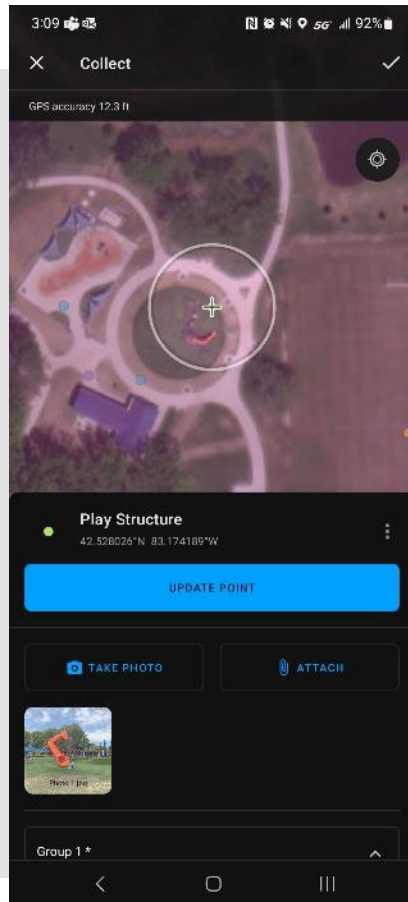
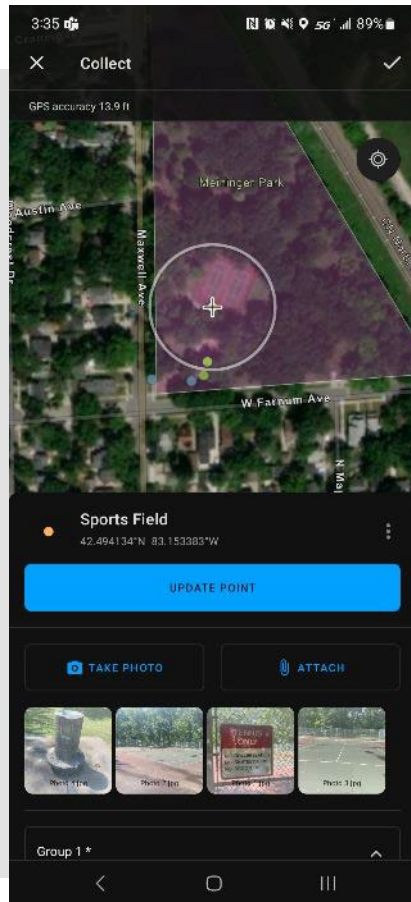


**3,200**

Responses to Online Comments

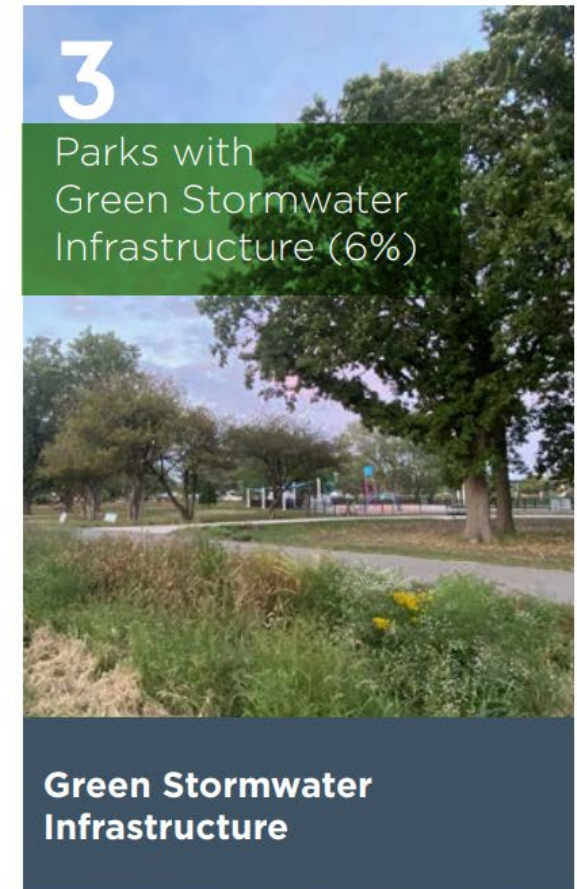
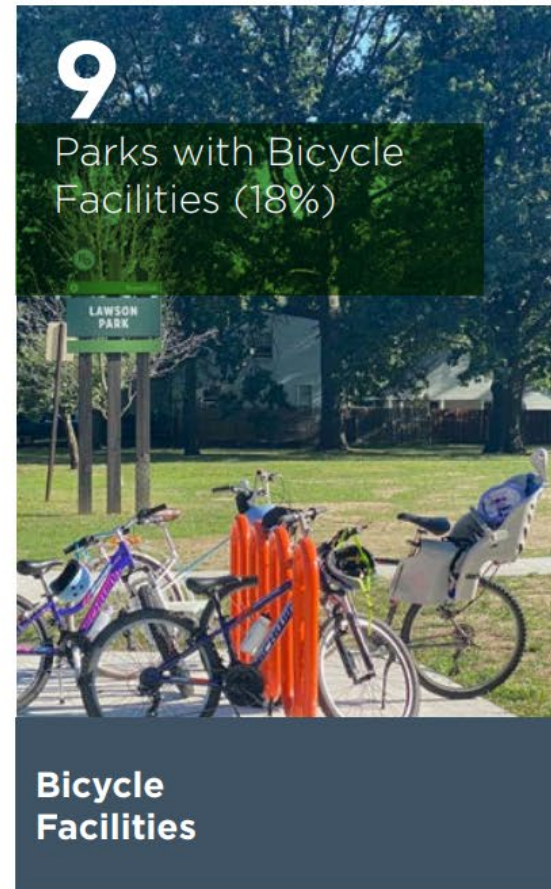
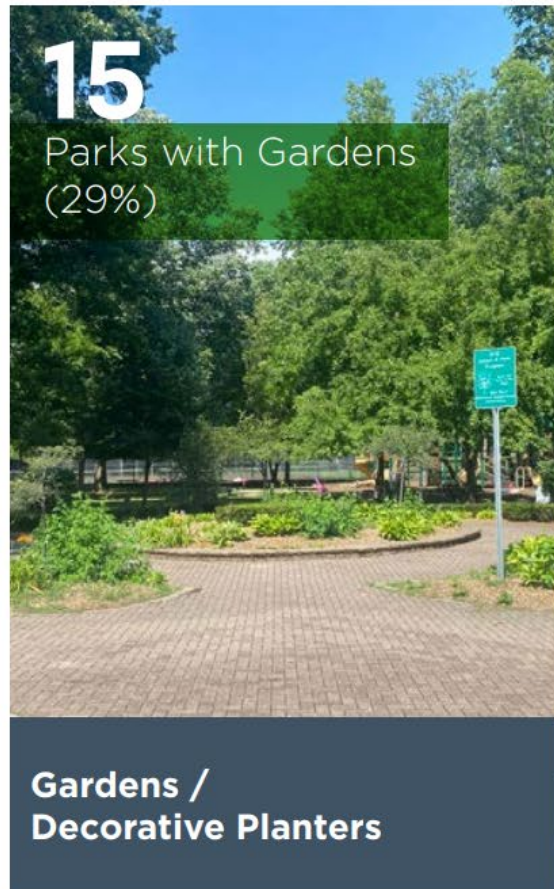


# GIS-Enabled Inventory



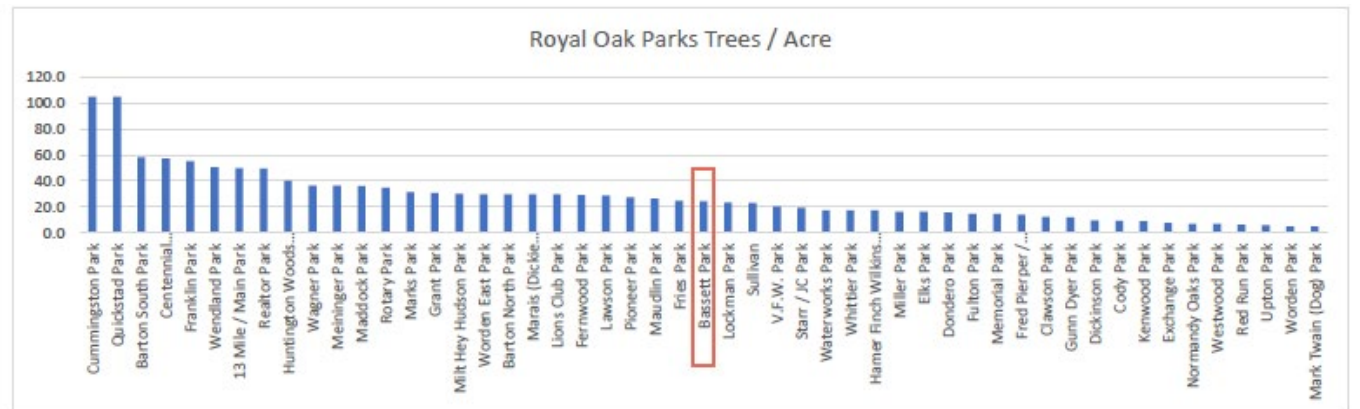
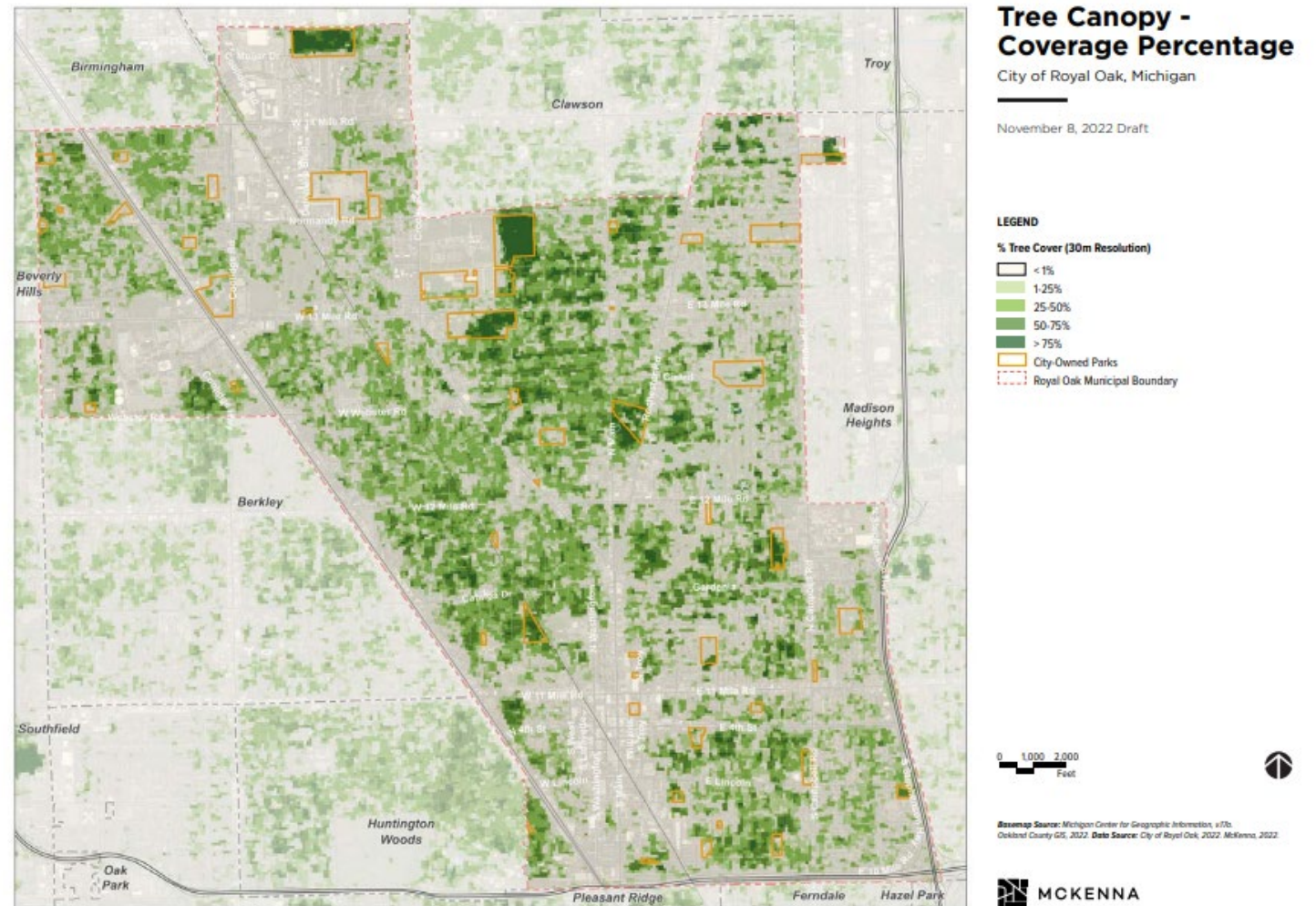


# Establishing Sustainability Benchmarks

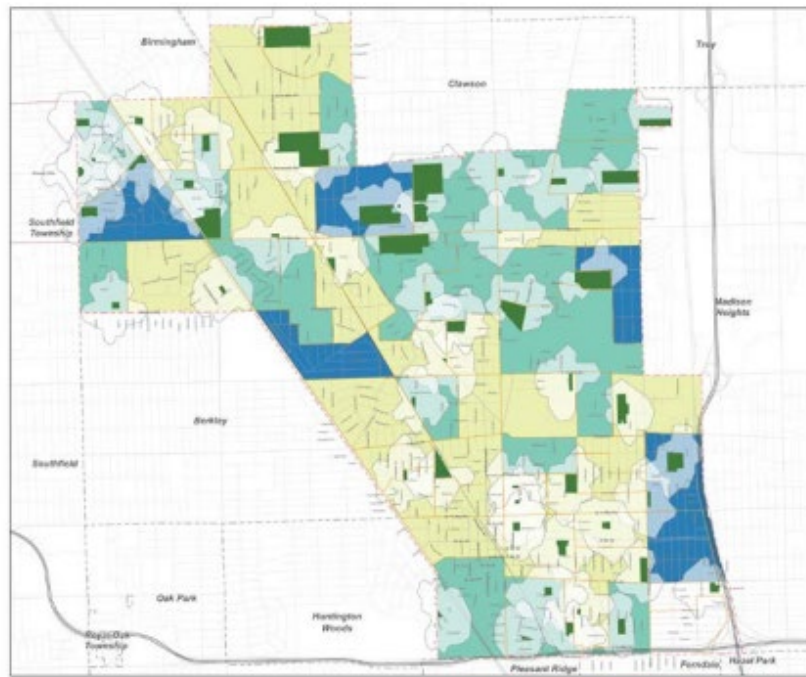


# Example: Tree Canopy

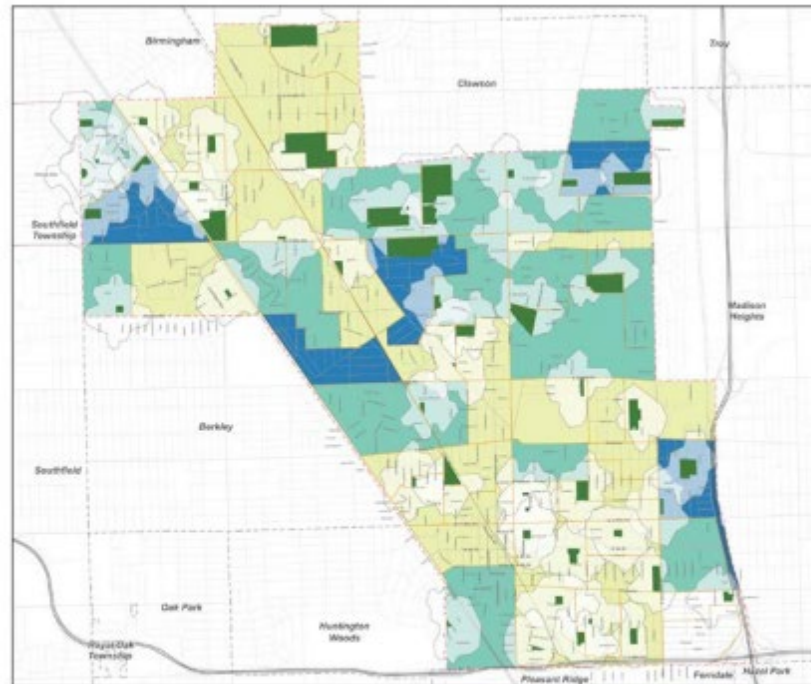
- Median: Basset Park (24.2 trees/ac)
- Maximum (non-nature park): Barton South (58.3 trees/ac)
- Minimum: Upton, Worden, Mark Twain (4.9 trees/ac)



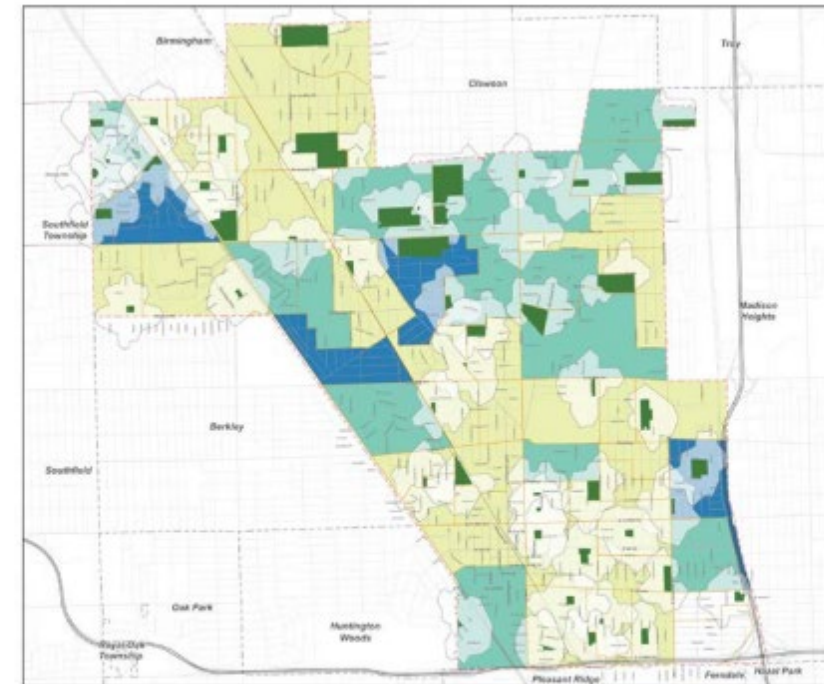
# Considerations for Equity



**Population of Children Ages 0-4**  
by Block Group



**Population of Children Ages 5-9**  
by Block Group



**Population of Children Ages 10-14**  
by Block Group

# A Documented Summary for the Public

MINI-PARK

## FRANKLIN PARK

E. HARRISON & MOHAWK AVENUE

0.56 ACRES

EST. 1941



ACTION ITEMS  
pg 14!

Named after both Ben Franklin and the former Franklin school (since demolished) this mini-park in the south end offers tennis courts and facilities for smaller children, including a tot lot and sandbox. The park was recently renovated in 2021 and now features one tennis court, seating, and an updated play structure.

**AMENITIES**

	1	2	3	4	5
» Tennis Court	✓				
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Set	✓				
» Sandbox	✓				

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

7 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE

5

*I love this park. It's a small playground for little kids, [and] Lawson Park with the big kid playground is a block away. The design is great, fenced in, lots of trees, sand area and benches.*

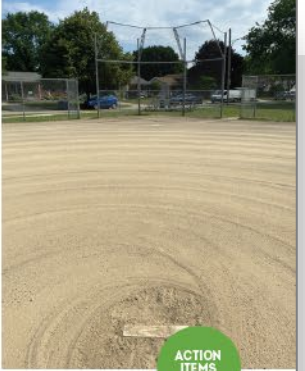
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

## FRED PIEPER / OPTIMIST PARK

ROCHESTER ROAD & MONTROSE

3.08 ACRES

EST. 1988



ACTION ITEMS  
pg 14!

Optimist Park is located on Rochester Road in the northern end of the city and was named after Fred Pieper, former city commissioner and coach. The park has a mix of active facilities for children and adults that are generally well maintained, including a ball field, volleyball court, sandbox, and tire swing. The park is well utilized, but is challenging to reach as a pedestrian from the west side of Rochester Road.

**AMENITIES**

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field		✓			
» Volleyball Court			✓		
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Sandbox		✓			
» Tire Swing		✓			

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

14 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE

2

# System-Wide and Facility-Specific Action Plan

## SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN

SHORT TERM: 1-3 YEARS  
MID TERM: 4-6 YEARS  
LONG TERM: 6-10+ YEARS

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES			
TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS	FACILITIES IMPACTED
<b>Drainage and Flooding</b> Goal #1	One of the clearest desires expressed through public input for this plan is to resolve drainage and flooding issues that affect the usability of several parks for a portion of the year.  As described in this Action Plan, Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) is one strategy that is aligned with plan goals and could alleviate these concerns, but the feasibility of installing GSI varies.	Commission or create an analysis of the causes of drainage issues, a tool kit for resolving them, and the relative feasibility of addressing them for each affected park.	<b>Priority parks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exchange Park</li> <li>Harwood Park</li> <li>Mark Twain Park</li> <li>Red Run Park</li> <li>Upton Park</li> <li>Sullivan Park</li> <li>VFW Park</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Amphitheater</b> Goal #1	The planning process identified a desire to activate parks with additional cultural programming, including outdoor concerts. Though some parks could potentially host this activity on a temporary basis, a permanent built facility does not exist.	Conduct a feasibility and locational study for the construction of an outdoor amphitheater.	TBD
<b>Tennis Courts</b> Goal #1	Royal Oak's tennis court provision is higher than national standards by approximately 25%. Many tennis courts in the City suffer from deferred maintenance, and the areas currently designated to tennis courts might be repurposed for facilities with higher demand, and/or decommissioned to add pervious surface and additional greenspace while allowing maintenance dollars to be concentrated on the remaining courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decommission 5-7 tennis courts, focusing on those that are in disrepair and/or underutilized.</li> <li>Replace with greenspace or redevelop for other facilities.</li> <li>Resurface courts that remain in use.</li> </ul>	<b>Candidates - one or all courts at:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exchange Park</li> <li>Mehlinger Park (1 only)</li> <li>Ellis Park</li> <li>Lockman Park (1 only)</li> <li>Red Run Park</li> <li>Harwood Park</li> <li>Waterworks Park (1 only)</li> </ul>
<b>Pickleball Courts</b> Goal #1	According to national standards, Royal Oak provides more than adequate pickleball facilities, however, engaged stakeholders expressed a need for additional courts, and the courts at Whittier and Upton will reach the end of their planned service life within the time frame of this Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install 8 new pickleball courts, consider utilizing obsolete/under-maintained facilities, including tennis courts.</li> <li>Long-term, reconstruct the pickleball courts at Whittier and Upton Parks.</li> </ul>	<b>Candidates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Run Park</li> <li>Waterworks Park (former storage space)</li> <li>Ellis Park</li> <li>Harwood Park</li> <li>Dickinson Park</li> </ul>

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES		
TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	
<b>Pool and Indoor Recreation Facility</b> Goal #1	In the planning process, residents and stakeholders expressed a strong desire for a community pool and, to a lesser extent, recreation facility.  If both are built, these facilities could co-locate.	
<b>Roller Hockey Rink</b> Goal #1	The planning process demonstrates in-line hockey rink, and candidates	
<b>Native Plants</b> Goal #2	The S-CAP and public input for this plan demonstrate a desire to increase the amount of native plants used in park landscaping.	
<b>Enhanced Bicycle Infrastructure</b> Goal #3	The planning process demonstrates that additional bicycle infrastructure in parks can help bolster the existing network in Royal Oak.	
<b>Passive Facilities and Increased Seating Options</b> Goal #3	Accessibility and passive recreation facilities are essential to allow residents to enjoy parks. Public input identified a need for additional seating and wheelchair accessibility.	



### PARK-SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
<b>12 Mile / Main Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install paved pathway to benches.</li> <li>Add public art installation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant screening wall to the south.</li> </ul>	
<b>Red Run Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install approved pathway and concrete pad to picnic table.</li> <li>Install shade seating and/or improve the tree canopy over seating and play area.</li> <li>Install a large bag dog.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the crosswalk at Troy by constructing a one's bump-out, which will also create a defined location for parallel on-street parking spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace playground equipment (from 2000, currently in above average condition).</li> </ul>
<b>Carver South Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install accessible picnic opportunities.</li> <li>Add public art installation.</li> <li>Improve the crosswalk across Troy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bump out the sidewalk along Troy for greater open space and to increase pedestrian safety.</li> </ul>	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
<b>Beacon Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the perimeter street trees along Campbell.</li> <li>Install seating amenities near the bus stop and a bike repair station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a paved pathway to the play area and seating.</li> <li>Create a pollinator garden at the south end of the park.</li> </ul>	
<b>Centralist Concrete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Display additional events seating, including additional tables for picnic options.</li> <li>Host additional events / cultural programming (e.g. outdoor movies, concerts, etc.)</li> <li>Expand availability of public wi-fi.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install restroom and drinking water facilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Clayton Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate a naming contest to raise awareness of Royal Oak park systems.</li> <li>Repair five football diamonds and update signage throughout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add street trees along East.</li> <li>Add an accessible paved path from East Street to play equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add approximately six perpendicular parking spaces, accessed from a new curb cut on East. (They require relocation of parking signs)</li> </ul>
<b>Cody Park</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a landscape buffer along 12 Mile Parkway.</li> <li>Replace the chain-link fence with a decorative fence and/or landscaping along Cody.</li> </ul>	

# Interactive Tool for Future Staff and Public Use

The image displays a web-based GIS application interface. The main map shows an aerial view of a residential area in Royal Oak, Michigan, with several parks highlighted in purple polygons. The parks are labeled: Kenwood Park, Whittier Park, Marks Park, Grant Park, and V-W Park. A sidebar on the right is open to the 'Edit feature' panel for Kenwood Park. The panel includes the following settings:

- Settings** (gear icon)
- Sports Field** (category)
- Group 1** (dropdown arrow)
- Feature Type**: Sports Field (dropdown)
- Sports Field Type**: Pickleball (dropdown)
- Surface Material**: Other (dropdown)
- Condition**: 1 (Excellent) (dropdown)
- Notes**: Clay? (text input)
- Attachments**: A photo of a blue and green pickleball court.

At the bottom of the sidebar are 'Update' and 'Delete' buttons. The map interface includes a toolbar on the left with various navigation and editing tools, and a bottom status bar with attribution text.

# Elevate the Plan, Implement More Effectively



A photograph of a park scene, including trees, a path, and a lake, with a red color overlay. The text "Schedule: Be Aware of these Dates!" is centered in white.

Schedule: Be Aware of these Dates!



# Typical Parks Plan Schedule

---

- Prepare Plan with Early Input – 4 - 6 Months
- Notice of Review Period
- 30 Day Review Period for New Plan or Update / 14 Days for Amendment
- Notice Public Hearing – at least one week prior
- Conduct Public Hearing
- December 31, 2028 Plan Adoption by City/Village Council
- February 1, 2024 Submit Plan to DNR
- December 31, 2028 Plan Expires

A photograph of a park scene, including trees, a path, and a lake, overlaid with a red tint. The text "Resources and Funding Opportunities" is centered in white.

# Resources and Funding Opportunities

# DNR Resources

GRANT	USES	GRANT AMOUNT	LOCAL MATCH REQ'D
<b>Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)</b>	Acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land	\$15,000 - \$500,000 (No max. for acquisition)	25%
<b>Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)</b>	Mainly for the improvement of existing parks, though new park development is technically eligible.	\$10,000-\$250,000	50%
<b>Recreation Passport</b>	Mainly for the improvement of existing parks, though new park development is technically eligible.	\$7,500 - \$150,000	25%
<b>SPARK Grants</b>	Support and enhance neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes or address the increased repair or maintenance needs in response to significantly greater use of public facilities in local communities that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic	\$100,000 - \$1,000,000	Eligible financial match is encouraged but not required.

**Growing Sustainability, Accessibility, and Community Building in Your Parks**

**Thank You!**

**MME Summer Workshop | July 24-27, 2023**

