



DEARBORN
PARKS
& RECREATION

CITY OF DEARBORN

2026-2030 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN



DRAFT - OCTOBER 1, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Parks and recreation in Dearborn provides a wide range of community benefits. Recreation contributes to the mental and physical health of City residents, providing a place for exercise, physical activity, relaxation, play, and sports. Parks provide valuable open space and help to protect environmental resources.

The purpose of the City of Dearborn Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of the City over the next five-year period, through 2030. The Plan identifies existing parks and recreational opportunities, assesses the need for future recreational needs, provides direction for the future development of the City parks, and presents strategies to meet the recreational needs of a growing population.

Past parks and recreation plans for the City of Dearborn were adopted in 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. These plans guided the development of replacement playgrounds at various neighborhood parks, ballfield improvements and other park improvements. The purpose of this new updated Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of the City over the next five years. The current Master Plan is intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

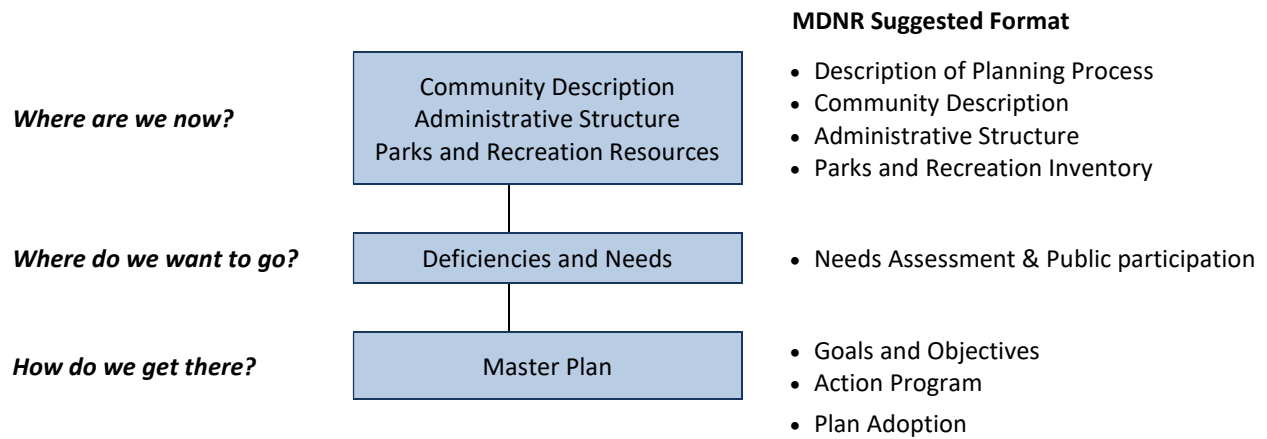
PLANNING PROCESS

The process used to generate the Plan consisted of three phases which are described below.

1. **Where are we now?** In this phase, the community's demographics and the administration of parks were reviewed and updated. The City parks were examined and mapped to document the existing resources. The information is organized into three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and parks and recreation resources.
2. **Where do we want to be?** The second phase in the planning process consisted of an analysis of the community's parks to determine deficiencies and needs. Public input was sought to solicit ideas and suggestions about recreation preferences and desired improvements through an online questionnaire and at a public open house meeting. Input was also solicited from city officials, community stakeholders, and staff.
3. **How do we get there?** Once needs were identified, the final phase involved the development of an action plan to support the community's vision for the parks and recreation system and provide for park development projects. Recommended projects were summarized in a capital improvement schedule, along with strategies for implementation. This phase also included preparation of a full draft of the Plan, which was presented to the City of Dearborn Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the public for review and comment prior to adoption.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) suggested format described earlier.

Figure 1. Planning Process

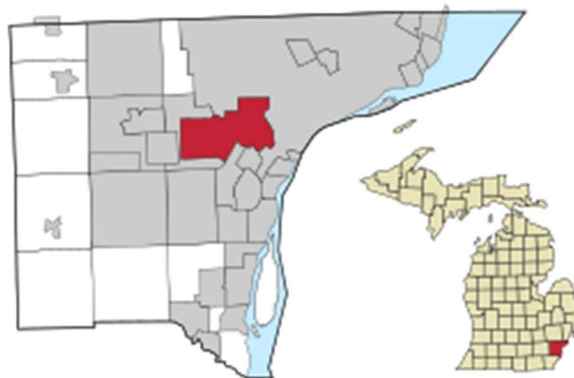


WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

The City of Dearborn Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the MDNR in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans* (IC1924, Rev. 4/16/2021). The first chapter, **Community Description**, includes a summary on both the social and physical characteristics of the city. The **Administrative Structure** chapter includes a description of how parks and recreation services are managed in the city, including budget and funding information. The next chapter, **Parks and Recreation Resources**, describes the existing city parks as well as those of the County and other parks located nearby. This chapter also includes an accessibility assessment and a description of the grant-assisted park projects. The **Needs Assessment** portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents, which helped in formulating the **Goals and Objectives** and **Action Program** chapters, which outlines an action plan with strategies for implementation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The City of Dearborn is an inner-ring suburb of Detroit in Wayne County, Michigan. Dearborn borders Detroit to the south and west and is roughly 7 miles west of downtown Detroit. As of 2020, it was the seventh-most populous city in Michigan and second most populous city in Wayne County. Dearborn has many major thoroughfares that go through it including US-12 (Michigan Avenue), M-39 (Southfield Freeway) and Interstate 94 (I-94).



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The City of Dearborn, founded in 1786 and incorporated in 1929 is home to a thriving business economy and also serves as the headquarters for major corporations, including Ford Motor Company, Carhartt, Hollingsworth, and Shatila Food Products. Thousands also advance their education each year at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Henry Ford College. Dearborn is the home of innovation and immigration. Over 30% of its population is foreign-born. In planning for the City's future parks and recreation needs, it is essential to understand the community being served—both the residents and the recreational resources available. The opening chapters of the Master Plan offer an overview of Dearborn's demographics and recreational assets, aiming to highlight the City's unique features and opportunities.

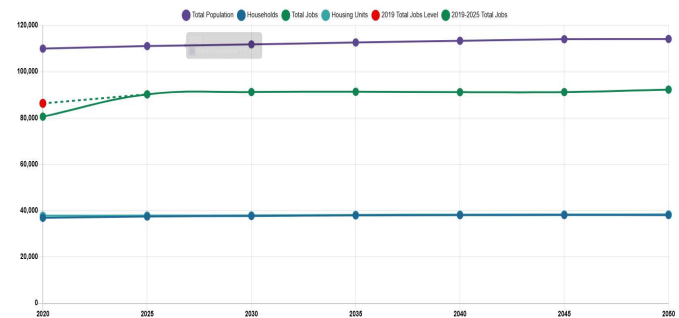
POPULATION TRENDS

Anticipated changes in the size, distribution, and age composition of the population will affect the need for future recreational facilities. According to the most recent census information (2020), Dearborn is home to 109,976 people, an increase of 2,264 people from its 2010 population of 98,153. The most recent population estimate for the city is 107,846 (July 2023, SEMCOG), indicating population decline.

Population projections for Dearborn predict a slight growth in population, with the number of people growing at 3.8% to 114,113 between 2020 and 2050 and the number of households increasing by 3.2% from 37,871 to 38,107. These projections, which were developed by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), indicate that the city's population and households will continue to grow. As a result, the recreational needs of City residents will most likely continue to grow in the future.

Figure 2. Dearborn Forecast Summary Report, 2020-2050

Dearborn - 2050 Forecast Summary Report



Source: US Census Bureau & SEMCOG 2045 Regional Development Forecast

Table 1. Dearborn City Population and Households, 2010 and 2020

Community	Population			Households		
	2010	2020	% change	2010	2020	% change
City of Dearborn	98,153	109,976	12%	37,871	38,107	3.2%
Wayne County	1,820,584	1,793,561	-1.5%	821,693	790,191	-3.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010 and 2020)

Table 2. Dearborn Youth and Older Adults Trends, 2020 and 2050

	2020	2050	% Change		2020	2050	% Change
Under 5	7,788	8,863	13.8%	65 to 84	12,274	12,878	4.9%
5 to 17	22,929	22,551	-1.6%	85+	2,445	3,262	33.4%

Source: SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

In addition to examining the number and distribution of people, it is important to understand the population characteristics of the community. Table 3 presents information on race, age, education, employment, income, disability status, and housing characteristics of the city.

Table 3. Census Profile, 2020/2023 ACS

	number	%		number	%
TOTAL 2020 POPULATION (Census 2020)	109,976	100.0%			
TOTAL 2023 POPULATION (ACS 2023)	107,846	100.0%			
AGE (ACS 2023)					
Under 5 years	7,743	4.0%	45 to 49 years	5,956	7.2%
5 to 9 years	7,995	5.3%	50 to 54 years	6,012	9.5%
10 to 14 years	9,615	4.7%	55 to 59 years	5,259	3.1%
15 to 19 years	8,925	6.3%	60 to 64 years	5,578	5.9%
20 to 24 years	7,524	7.2%	65 to 69 years	4,967	3.9%
25 to 29 years	7,560	9.4%	70 to 74 years	4,167	2.5%
30 to 34 years	8,211	6.8%	75 to 79 years	2,212	2.6%
35 to 39 years	6,946	9.8%	80 to 84 years	1,475	2.5%
40 to 44 years	5,793	8.2%	85+ years	1,903	1.1%
MEDIAN AGE (years) (ACS 2023)	35.5				
POPULATION & HOUSEHOLDS (ACS 2020)					
Homeownership Rate	65.2%				
Housing Units	39,334				
Households (Occupied Units)	36,935				
Vacant Housing Units	2,399				
HOUSEHOLD TYPES (ACS 2023)					
Married-couple family	15,111				
Male household, no spouse	905				
Female household, no spouse	1,563				
RACE AND ORIGIN (CENSUS 2020)					
American Indian and Alaska Native	178	91.9%			
Asian	2,796	88.0%			
Black or African American	4,435	0.4%			
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Island	17	3.1%			
Not Hispanic or Latino	95,037	0%			
Some Other Race	1,381	8.1%			
Two or More Races	6,132				
TOTAL	109,976	100.0%			

	number	%		number	%
HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (ACS 2023)					
Graduate / Professional Degree		14.3%	Some College, No Degree		17.3%
Bachelor's Degree		17.1%	High School or equivalent		21.2%
Associate's degree		10.0%			
JOBS BY INDUSTRY (ACS 2023)					
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	145	.4%	Construction	1,241	3.1%
Manufacturing	7,715	19.2%	Wholesale Trade	936	2.3%
Retail Trade	5,177	12.9%	Information	459	1.1%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	2,706	6.7%	Finance, insurance, real estate	2,051	5.4%
Professional, scientific & management	4,252	10.6%	Education Services	9,000	22.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	3,958	9.9%	Other services	1,214	3.0%
Public Administration	1,320	3.3%			
			Total	40,174	100%
POVERTY (ACS 2023)					
Persons in Poverty	31,418	29.8%			
INCOME (ACS 2023)					
Median Household Income (in 2022 \$)	\$51,670				
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME (ACS 2023)					
\$200,000 or more	2,792	7.2%	\$35,000 to \$49,999	4,187	10.8%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,055	5.3%	\$25,000 to \$24,999	3,722	9.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	5,506	14.2%	\$15,000 to \$24,999	5,661	14.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3,683	9.5%	\$10,000 to \$14,999	2,093	5.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5,738	14.8%	Less than \$10,000	3,334	8.6%
			Total Household (ACS 2023)	38,777	100.0 %
HOUSING TYPE (ACS 2023)					
Single Family Detached	29,649	76.5%			
Single Family Attached	2,494	6.4%			
Multi-Unit Apartment	6,469	16.7%			
Mobile Home or Other	165	0.4%			
Total Housing Units	38,777	100.0%			
HOUSING TENURE (ACS 2023)					
Owner occupied	25,301	58.9%			
Renter occupied	13,476	35.3%			
Vacant	4,197	5.9%			

	number	%		number	%
HOUSING VALUE (ACS 2023)					
Median Housing Value – in 2023 dollars	\$223,200				
Median gross rent	\$1,371				
HOUSING VALUE (ACS 2023)					
\$1,000,000 or more	414	1.6%	\$150,000 to \$99,999	6,463	25.5%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1,141	4.5%	\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,538	10.0%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	4,207	16.6%	\$50,000 to \$99,999	951	3.8%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	9,131	36.1%	Less than \$50,000	456	1.8%
			Total Owner-Occupied Units	25,301	100%

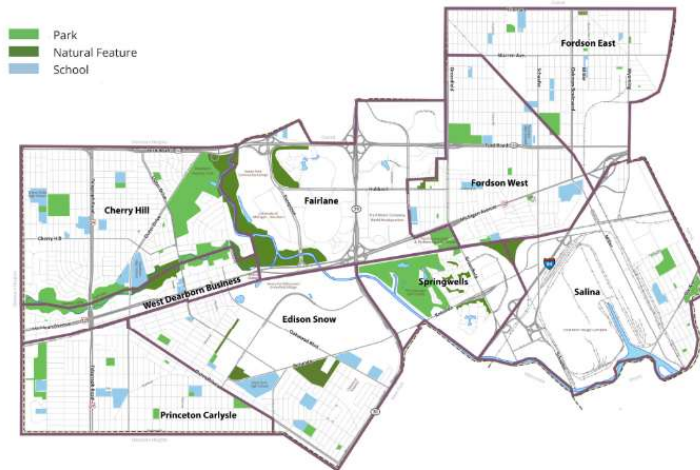
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020) & 2020 and 2022 American Community Survey (ACS)

NATURAL FEATURES

Like much of Michigan's southern Lower Peninsula, the landscape of the Dearborn area was formed through glacial action. The glacier's movement shaped the topography and created the different types of soils. Most of Dearborn is developed but some natural features, two surface water rivers and wetlands exist which are shown in Figure 3 below.

Wooded areas are found along the entire edge of both Rouge River spurs. They provide protective buffers for the waterways and protect the watershed from siltation and soil erosion damage caused by stormwater runoff. Approximately 3,358.9 acres or 21.4% of Dearborn has tree canopy as of 2022. The wooded areas also serve as a valuable wildlife corridor. Much of the heavily wooded areas around the river spurs are identified as freshwater forested and shrub wetlands that exhibit temporary flooding (a few days to a few weeks) or seasonal flooding (primarily during the early growing season).

Figure 3. Natural Features



Surface waters in the City of Dearborn consist of the Lower Rouge River and Upper Rouge River. The presence of these waterways in conjunction with their location determines the type and extent of floodplain within the community. In general, wetlands occur in association with these waterways at many locations. The river passes through several major districts of the city including West Dearborn Downtown, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Henry Ford Community College, The Henry Ford and Ford Field Park.

While the soil's poor drainage and wetness present some limitations for the development of recreation facilities, the Rouge River spurs provide great opportunities for outdoor recreation, particularly fishing and canoeing. The city owns and operates Dearborn Hills Golf Course which is located along the Lower Rouge River.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The City of Dearborn's history dates to its first written settlement in the 18th century when pioneering families laid claim to the land along the banks of the Rouge River. The Community Grew in the 19th century with the establishment of the Detroit Arsenal on Chicago Road (Michigan Avenue) linking Detroit and Chicago. Dearborn was founded in 1786 and incorporated as a city in 1929.

Dearborn is divided into various neighborhoods, corridors and districts. These include logistics and supply chain, advanced manufacturing, Arts & Culture District, Entertainment & Tourism District, and heavy residential areas with neighborhoods. The city's boundaries typically fall along major roadways within the city. The Michigan Avenue corridor is host to major destination commercial centers consisting of shops, restaurants and arts & entertainment experiences. Recently built Peace Parks are in the high traffic commercial districts to provide urban parks with larger gathering spaces.

Dearborn is likely most well-known for being the home of the world headquarters of Ford Motor Company and birthplace of its founder, Henry Ford. Its Dearborn campus, which is the largest employer in Dearborn, consists of research & development facilities, testing, finance and production facilities including the Dearborn Engine Plant and the Dearborn Diversified Manufacturing Plant.

Figure 6, on page 11, illustrates the city's existing land use. This map shows the clear distinction between residential districts, business districts, industrial districts and the city's primary natural feature, the Rouge River. The City of Dearborn, boasting 44 parks, are spread throughout the City's 24.5 square miles.

As presented in Table 4, the City of Dearborn has seen slow growth of occupied housing units from 2010 to 2022.

Table 4. Housing Units

Housing Type	Census 2010	ACS 2023	Change 2010-2023	New Units since 2023
Single Family Unit	27,954	29,551	1,597	54
Multi-Unit Apartment	10,101	9,410	-691	34
Mobile Home or Other	194	244	50	0
Total Net Housing Units	38,249	39,205	956	88
Units Demolished				-15
NET (Total Permitting Units – Units Demolished)				73

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile

Single family residential, commercial districts and industrial districts take up large portions of the land use in the City of Dearborn. The pattern of land uses in Dearborn is predominantly built out with a very small portion of the City ready for new development.

Table 5. 2020 Land Use Acreage

	Acres 2020	Percent
Single-Family Residential	3,963	25.3%
Attached Condo Housing	73	0.47%
Multi-Family Residential	282	1.8%
Mobile Home	0.0	0.0%

Agricultural/Rural Residential	5	0.03%
Mixed Use	2	0.02%
Retail	464	2.97%
Office	1,021	6.52%
Hospitality	154	0.99%
Medical	127	0.82%
Institutional	729	4.66%
Industrial	2,085	13.31%
Recreational/Open Space	1,138	7.27%
Cemetery	4	0.03%
Golf Course	470	3.00%
Parking	404	2.58%
Extractive	13	0.09%
Vacant	705	4.5%
Water	162	1.05%
Not Parceled	3,661	23.37%
TOTAL	15,666	100.00%

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile

1. **Agricultural / Rural Res** includes any residential parcel containing 1 or more homes where the parcel is 3 acres or larger.
2. **Mixed Use** includes those parcels containing buildings with Hospitality, Retail, or Office square footage and housing units.
3. **Not Parceled** includes all areas within a community that are not covered by a parcel legal description.
4. Parcels that do not have a structure assigned to the parcel are considered vacant unless otherwise indicated, even if the parcel is part of a larger development such as a factory, school, or other developed series of lots.

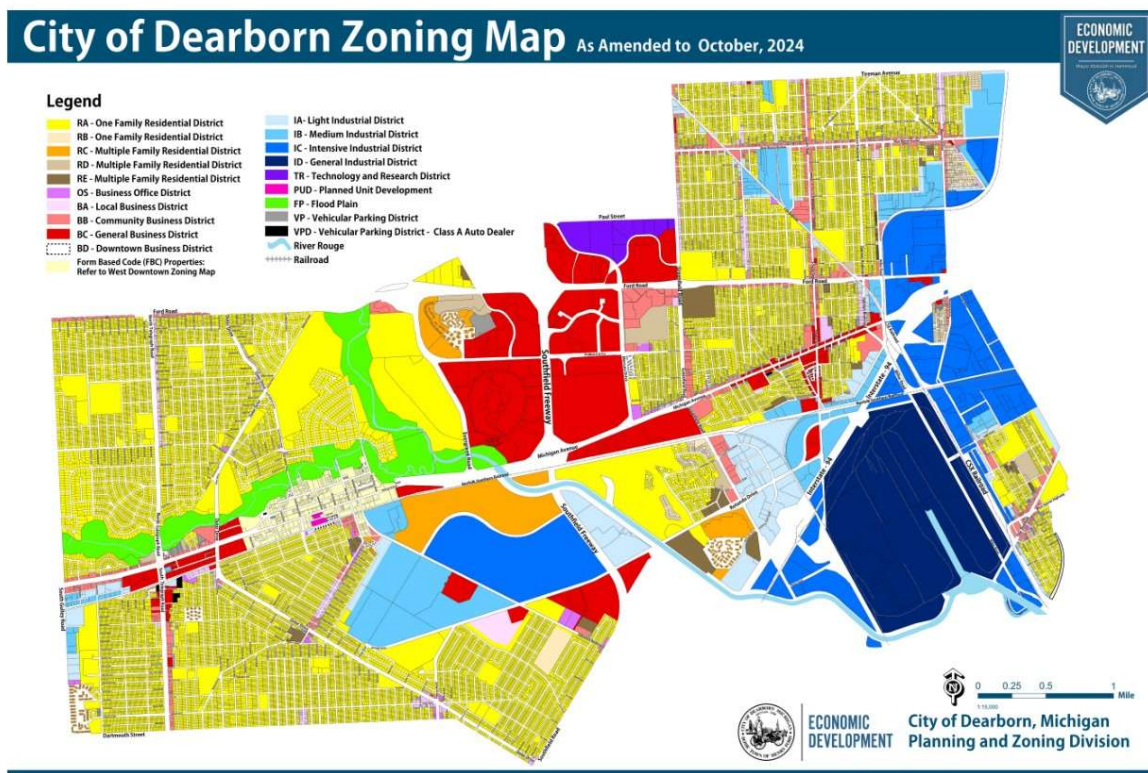
Table 6. 2020 Land Cover

	Acres	Percent
Impervious (buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots)	8,170	52%
Trees (woody vegetation, trees)	1,943	12.4%
Open Space (agricultural fields, grasslands, turf grass)	4,648.5	29.6%
Bare (soil, aggregate piles, unplanted fields)	722.3	4.6%
Water (Rivers, lakes, drains, ponds)	212.2	1.4%
Total	3,360.6	100%

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile

SEMCOG Land Cover data was derived from SEMCOG's detailed data and imagery. Acreages are approximate and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Figure 4. Existing Land Use



Source: City of Dearborn Website; As Amended to October, 2024

PLANNING INITIATIVES

While change is inevitable and growth in both population and housing will occur, the City of Dearborn is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for City residents.

Various initiatives and organizations have relevance to the current plan. They include:

- Dearborn 2030 Master Plan, adopted on September 9, 2014
- Initiatives led by the East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority
- Initiatives led by the West Dearborn Downtown Development Authority
- Initiatives led by the Dix-Vernor Business District Improvement Authority

Dearborn 2030 Master Plan

The City Master Plan is the foundation for future land use and planning decisions in the City. While the Future Land Use categories and map were updated in 2013, the City of Dearborn Zoning Map has been regularly amended; most recently in October of 2024. The Dearborn 2030 Master Plan included several community goals and actions that relate to Culture, Recreation & The Environment in the City, which still have relevance to this plan.

- Provide safe and accessible areas for recreation and social interaction within each neighborhood and district;
- Maintain and enhance Downtown public areas for community events and gatherings;
- Pursue recreation opportunities along the Rouge River;
- Create destination recreation opportunities in the two Downtown Districts;
- Create a consistent streetscape design in the two City Downtown Districts;
- Promote and protect the history and automotive heritage;
- Embrace ethnic diversity during continuous mass immigration;
- Create public art spaces and exhibits in public parks and on blank walls and in the Downtown Districts;
- Maintain and upgrade existing parks based on the recommendations of the City recreation plan;
- Seek grants from the MDNR to help implement the City recreation plan.

Downtown Development Authorities

The City of Dearborn has two Downtown Development Authorities. The East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority (EDDA) and the West Dearborn Development Authority (WDDA). Each represents their respective separate downtown district. The EDDA development district boundaries (1977) and tax increment financing boundaries (1983) remained unchanged during the plan amendment in 2008. The WDDA development district boundaries (XXXX) and tax increment finance boundaries (XXXX) remain changed during the plan amendment in XXXX. Both downtown development authorities are regulated by their own City Ordinance. Each board consists of the Mayor or his designee from the City Council and not less than 8 or more than 12 members, who serve for a 4-year term.

The purpose of both Economic Development Authorities is to assist each respective downtown district to halt deterioration in the downtown business district, to eliminate the causes of such deterioration and to promote economic growth in each downtown district. The primary duties of each downtown development authority is:

1. Prepare an analysis of economic changes taking place in the downtown district.
2. Study and analyze the impact of metropolitan growth upon the downtown district.
3. Plan and propose the construction, the renovation, repair, remodeling, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation or reconstruction of a public facility, an existing building or a multiple-family dwelling unit which may be necessary or appropriate to the execution of a plan which, in the opinion of the board, aids in the economic growth of the downtown district.
4. Develop long range plans, in cooperation with the city planning commission, designed to halt the deterioration of property values in the downtown district and to promote the economic growth of the downtown district, and take such steps as may be necessary to persuade property owners to implement the plans to the fullest extent possible.
5. Implement any plan of development in the downtown district necessary to achieve the purposes of this division, in accordance with the powers of the authority as granted by this division.
6. Make and enter into contracts necessary or incidental to the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties.
7. Acquire by purchase or otherwise, on terms and conditions and in a manner the authority deems proper; or own, convey or otherwise dispose of, or lease as lessor or lessee, land and other property, real or personal, or rights or interests therein, which the authority determines is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of this division; and to grant or acquire licenses, easements and options with respect thereto.
8. Improve land and construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, restore and preserve, equip, improve, repair and operate any building, including multiple-family dwellings, and any necessary or desirable appurtenances thereto, within the downtown district for the use, in whole or in part, of any public or private person or corporation, or a combination thereof.
9. Fix, charge and collect fees, rents and charges for the use of any building or property under its control or any part thereof, or facility therein, and pledge the fees, rents and charges for the payment of revenue bonds issued by the authority.
10. Lease any building or property under its control, or any part thereof.
11. Accept grants and donations of property, labor or other things of value from a public or private source.
12. Acquire and construct public facilities.

Dix-Vernor Business District Improvement Authority

The City of Dearborn has created the Dix-Vernor Business District Improvement Authority in 2011. The district is in the southeast portion of Dearborn and generally includes properties fronting the intersection of Dix and Vernor and extending towards Industrial to the west and Amazon to the east. Its primary goals are to enhance the public spaces within the district, delineate the district through consistent themes and styles, create a unified building style to be implemented and support economic growth and increased property values.

Dearborn Area Chamber of Commerce

The Dearborn Area Chamber of Commerce brings together business and the community through events, publications, fundraisers and projects to enhance the vitality and growth of the area and promote a quality business environment for the City of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. It is led by a Board of Directors whose core initiatives include Member Development, Community Promotion, Travel & Tourism, Government Affairs/Advocacy and Education.

The Dearborn Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership based non-profit who provides resources, events, education, exposure and tools to the businesses of the community. Representing and advocating for business in the community, the chamber offers many exciting ways to learn, inform and network.

The Henry Ford

The Henry Ford, the most prominent tourist attraction in the city, consists of five primary attraction centers. The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory Tour, Giant Screen Theater and the Benson Ford Research Center. It is an internationally recognized cultural destination that brings the past forward by immersing visitors in the stories of ingenuity and innovation that helped shape America. A national Historic Landmark with an unparalleled collection of artifacts, The Henry Ford is great for sparking curiosity and inspiring tomorrow's innovators. More than 1.7 million visitors annually experience its venues.

The Henry Ford is an independent 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization operated by a Board of Directors. They are supported by memberships, ticketed event purchases, income from the gift shop and restaurants and tax-deductible contributions. Its mission is to provide unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories, and lives from America's traditions of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation.

Dearborn Historical Museum

The Dearborn Historical Museum was founded in 1059 with the opening of the Detroit Arsenal Commandant's Quarters. The building was Dearborn's oldest structure in its original location and was used as a military headquarters from 1833-1875. Today, visitors can tour the building to experience exhibits that cover the range of Dearborn's local history. Many of the museum resources can be found on their website or by visiting their buildings. The museum hosts several events, offers memberships and accepts donations.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Dearborn is an incorporated city in Michigan whose role it is to serve the residents, businesses and visitors. The City of Dearborn is governed by a Mayor and a seven-member City Council, all elected by the voters of Dearborn who each serve four-year terms. The Mayor and City Council work together to govern and address the needs of the community. The city is also served by a city clerk and three judges who serve the 19th District Court, all of whom are elected by the voters of Dearborn. The Mayor then supervises all city department directors and their staff to ensure the delivery of Dearborn's high-quality public services.

The City of Dearborn has a Parks & Recreation Commission which was created in 1943 and is organized through the City's code of ordinances Article II – Administrative Services, Division 7 – Department Parks & Recreation, Section 2-365. It makes recommendations to the Recreation & Parks Department regarding policies, events, activities and programs, and arbitrates any disputes arising from them. Members of the Parks & Recreation Commission are appointed by the Mayor. The 21-member commission also has stewardship of the Parks & Recreation's three Halls of Fame and hosts the Annual Sports Awards Ceremony – at which new members are inducted.

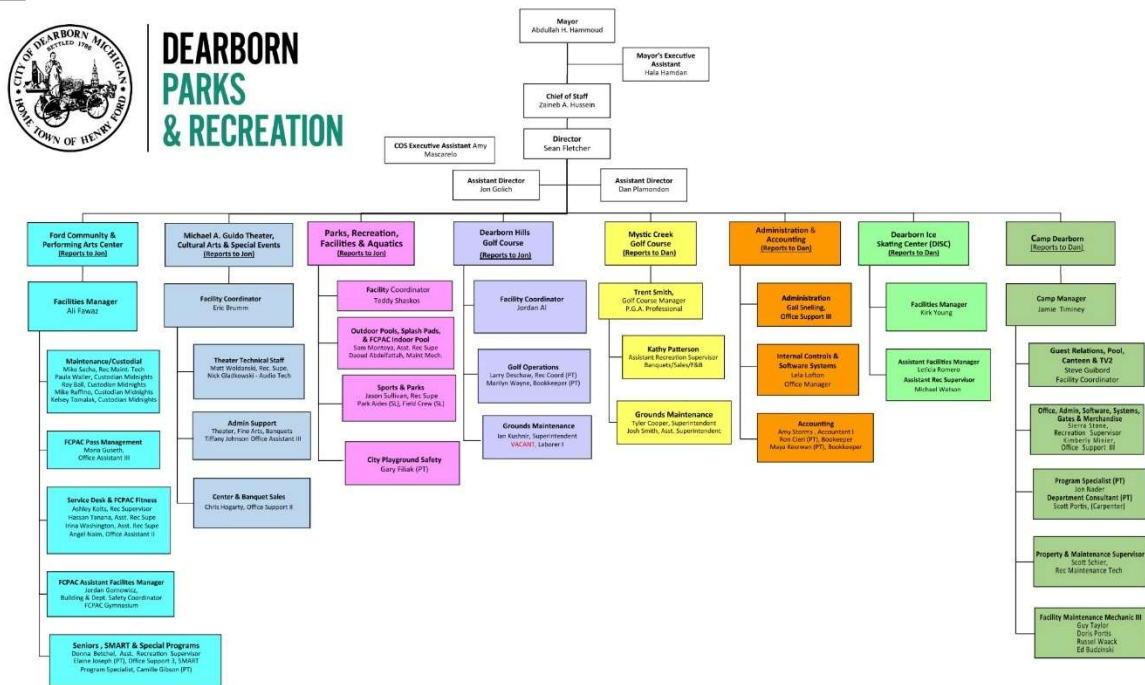
ADMINISTRATION

The City of Dearborn's Parks & Recreation Department is organized through the City's code of ordinances Article II – Administrative Services, Division 7 – Department of Parks & Recreation, Sections 361-368. It states that the Parks & Recreation Department shall be under the direction of the Parks & Recreation Director who shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Director has the authority for all employees who may be required to operate the department. The Duties of the Parks & Recreation shall include, but are not limited to:

1. To establish and conduct recreation and leisure time activities for the residents of the city.
2. To develop and maintain recreational facilities within the city.
3. To provide assistance and referrals and develop programs in the area of health services, transportation, youth services, social services, consumer affairs, veterans and senior citizens assistance, individual and group counseling, nutrition and meal programs, visits to shut-ins and recreation programs.
4. To be familiar with community organizations with special emphasis upon the organization, objectives and activities of existing social, health and medical care, welfare, old age assistance, veteran's agencies and youth programs.

The Parks & Recreation Department is organized and operates by the leadership of one (1) Director and two (2) Assistant Directors of Parks & Recreation. It is structured with eight (8) divisions, led by a division manager or coordinator and consists of 50 full-time employees and 700+ part-time and seasonal employees. The divisions include The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, the Michael A. Guido Theater, Cultural Arts & Special Events, Parks, Recreation, Facilities & Aquatics, Dearborn Hills Golf Course, Mystic Creek Golf Course, Administration & Accounting, Dearborn Ice Skating Center and Camp Dearborn.

Figure 5. Organizational Chart



FUNDING AND BUDGET

Funding for parks and recreation is appropriated from the city general fund. Of the General Fund revenue, the Parks & Recreation Department receives 23% in fiscal year 2026, a 4% increase from FY 2025. And 8% of the non-departmental net revenue received by the General Fund goes towards the Parks & Recreation Department.

Expenditures for equipment replacement and capital improvements are submitted each budget cycle and identified in the annual Capital Improvement Plan and financed through a variety of funding sources outside of the General Fund. They include revenue generated from tickets, fees & charges, support from other department budgets, Community Development Block Grants, Wayne County PEACE grants, Wayne County Parks Millage, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The city's fiscal year is July 1 – June 30 of each calendar year.

Table 7. Parks and Recreation Budget Summaries

	FY 2024 Actual Budget	FY 2025 Amended Budget	FY 2026 Adopted Budget
<u>Revenues</u>			
Administration	(\$753)	\$500	\$500
Sports Programs	\$56,560	\$86,080	\$58,530
Fitness/Athletic	\$65,407	\$161,700	\$91,773
City Parks	\$97,951	\$111,337	\$110,660
Playground Programs	\$0.00	\$40,000	\$0.00
Special Activities	\$21,609	\$128,500	\$0.00
Theatre	\$559,781	\$431,568	\$565,230
Fine Arts Programs	\$97,967	\$119,227	\$96,786
Aquatics-Community Center	\$50,521	\$43,450	\$55,600
Swimming Pools – Admin	\$93,378	\$189,750	\$93,750
Ford Woods Pool	\$39,195	\$39,870	\$40,663
Lapeer Pool	\$2,610	\$1,290	\$3,463
Dunworth Pool	\$175,976	\$148,050	\$190,650
Summer-Stephens Pool	\$2,830	\$1,217	\$3,981
Ten Eyck Pool	\$3,885	\$1,752	\$5,148
General Community Center	\$33,763	\$47,670	\$7,510
Facility Admin – Comm Center	\$960,356	\$1,029,196	\$1,213,355
Banquet/Conference Center	\$476,918	\$549,600	\$493,000
DISC	\$1,236,349	\$1,252,855	\$1,323,830
Camp Dearborn General	\$2,211,843	\$2,148,602	\$2,293,877
Camp Dearborn Concessions	\$43,014	\$155,000	\$141,649
Mystic Creek Golf Course	\$2,104,320	\$1,949,640	\$2,161,600
Dearborn Hills Golf Course	\$289,381	\$427,590	\$556,820
Senior Citizen Services	\$33,645	\$23,610	\$27,100
Smart Transportation	\$182,862	\$390,318	\$366,645
TOTAL	\$8,839,368	\$9,478,522	\$9,902,320

	FY 2024 Actual Budget	FY 2025 Amended Budget	FY 2026 Adopted Budget
Expenses			
Administration	\$1,470,949	\$1,513,448	\$1,292,916
Sports Programs	\$102,016	\$186,168	\$137,343
Fitness/Athletic	\$526,462	\$552,440	\$606,700
City Parks	\$486,983	\$492,919	\$683,930
Playground Programs	\$42,875	\$79,171	\$94,816
Community Center Programs	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Special Activities	\$281,286	\$318,640	\$85,000
Theatre	\$885,581	\$1,086,463	\$1,022,976
Fine Arts Programs	\$265,433	\$367,575	\$348,144
Morningside Splash Park	\$0.00	\$27,300	\$38,400
Aquatics-Community Center	\$573,155	\$692,177	\$706,576
Swimming Pools – Admin	\$344,484	\$378,100	\$379,681
Crowley Splash Park	\$23,408	\$31,235	\$40,978
Ford Woods Pool	\$363,688	\$395,266	\$423,291
Hemlock Splash Park	\$16,623	\$41,709	\$35,463
Lapeer Pool	\$33,784	\$14,453	\$78,783
Dunworth Pool	\$794,211	\$857,763	\$886,271
Summer-Stephens Pool	\$44,292	\$21,543	\$79,092
Ten Eyck Pool	\$48,910	\$22,964	\$77,777
Whitmore-Bolles Splash Park	\$36,211	\$38,600	\$34,437
General Community Center	\$66,625	\$86,849	\$63,449
Facility Admin – Comm Center	\$1,418,441	\$1,768,759	\$1,734,112
Banquet/Conference Center	\$461,582	\$521,046	\$574,928
DISC	\$1,270,848	\$1,593,925	\$1,430,988
Camp Dearborn General	\$2,449,414	\$3,122,404	\$3,067,197
Camp Dearborn Concessions	\$7,340	\$153,296	\$139,462
Mystic Creek Golf Course	\$1,925,799	\$2,190,002	\$2,061,557
Dearborn Hills Golf Course	\$697,355	\$975,779	\$997,373
Senior Citizen Services	\$314,869	\$295,372	\$262,708
Smart Transportation	\$182,862	\$390,318	\$366,645
TOTAL	\$15,137,586	\$18,217,684	\$17,753,993

VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers, service clubs, community groups and government agencies, play an active role in supporting parks and recreation in the City of Dearborn. They include:

Civic and Other Organizations:	Dearborn Area Chamber of Commerce Dearborn Historical Museum East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority West Dearborn Downtown Development Authority Senior Citizens Commission and the Senior Citizen Center
Community Arts Partners:	Dearborn Community Chorus Vanguard Voices Dearborn Youth Voices Dearborn Community Concert Band Dearborn Big Band Dearborn Youth Symphony Dearborn Youth Theater Dearborn Motor City Brass Band Dearborn Symphony Orchestra Ballet Americana
Community Sports Partners:	AIM Michigan MYSA Michigan FC Dearborn Soccer Dearborn Track Dearborn Dolphins Dearborn Baseball Dearborn Basketball Dearborn Tennis Dearborn Hockey Dearborn Youth Football (Lions) Tractor Youth Football Dearborn Figure Skating
Local Service Clubs:	Rotary Club of Dearborn Exchange Club of Dearborn ACCESS
Fraternal Organizations:	American Legion Post #364 Dearborn Masonic Lodge Dearborn Elks Lodge #1945 Dearborn Masons #172 Scottish Rite Valley
Scouting Groups:	Cub Scout Pack 1112 Girl Scout Troop 71174 Scouting 313

PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

The residents of the City of Dearborn have a variety of available parks and recreational resources. These facilities vary in terms of ownership (Federal, State, County, local, schools, and private), size (small neighborhood playgrounds of less than one acre to large community parks with thousands of acres), and type (playgrounds, sports facilities, community parks, etc.). The purpose of this chapter of the plan is to describe the full range of recreational facilities in and around Dearborn.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN DEARBORN

The City of Dearborn owns and operates forty-one (41) parks and open spaces totaling 1,062.93 acres. They currently include community, neighborhood, mini and Peace parks with play equipment, picnic facilities, sports fields, and landscape areas. Dearborn's seven (7) community parks are the largest green spaces in the City and offer the greatest array of recreational amenities. The city's fourteen (14) neighborhood parks provide residents with convenient access to greenspace within walking distances of nearby homes and neighborhoods. Sixteen (16) mini parks and tot-lots are sprinkled throughout the city, creating small green space in developed areas, and state-of-the-art Peace Parks are grant funded parks located in the west, east and south ends of Dearborn.

Figure 6. Dearborn City Parks

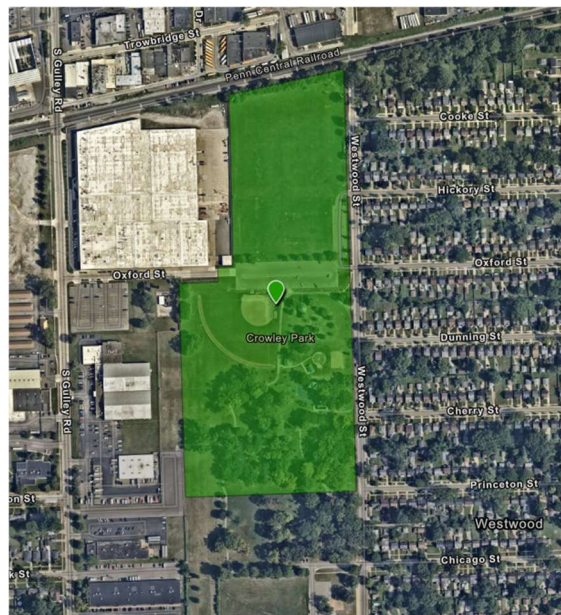


Community Parks

Crowley Park

Crowley Park is a 26.45-acre community park located at 2600 Westwood Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Play Equipment (All ages)
- Nature Based Play Equipment (All ages)
- Lighted and irrigated sports fields (baseball & softball)
- Picnic shelter(s)
- Splash Pad
- Walking Track
- Comfort Station
- Tennis Court
- Swings (Belt, toddler, accessible & face-to-face)



Ford Field Park

Ford Field Park is a 39.03-acre community park located at 500 Monroe Street. Its park site amenities include:

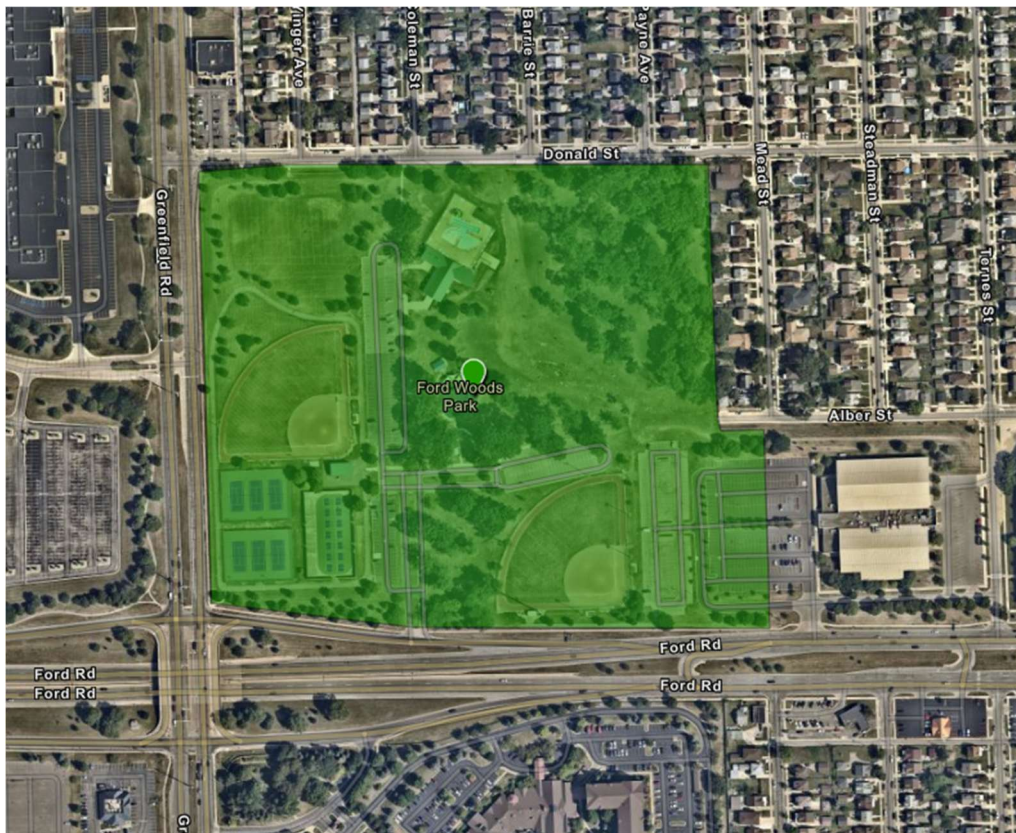
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 5-12)
- Softball Fields (2, 1 lighted)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Picnic Shelters (2)
- Walking trails
- River Rouge Access
- Tennis Courts
- Comfort Station
- Bocce Ball Courts



Ford Woods Park

Ford Woods Park is a 34.62-acre community park located at 15200 Ford Road. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structure (All ages)
- Picnic Shelters (2)
- Lighted Pickleball Courts
- Lighted Softball Fields
- Lighted Tennis Courts
- Football Field
- Walking Track
- Outdoor Aquatic Facility
- Comfort Station
- Picnic Tables & Benches



Hemlock Park

Hemlock Park is a 22.65-acre community park located at 13335 Hemlock Street. Its park site amenities include:

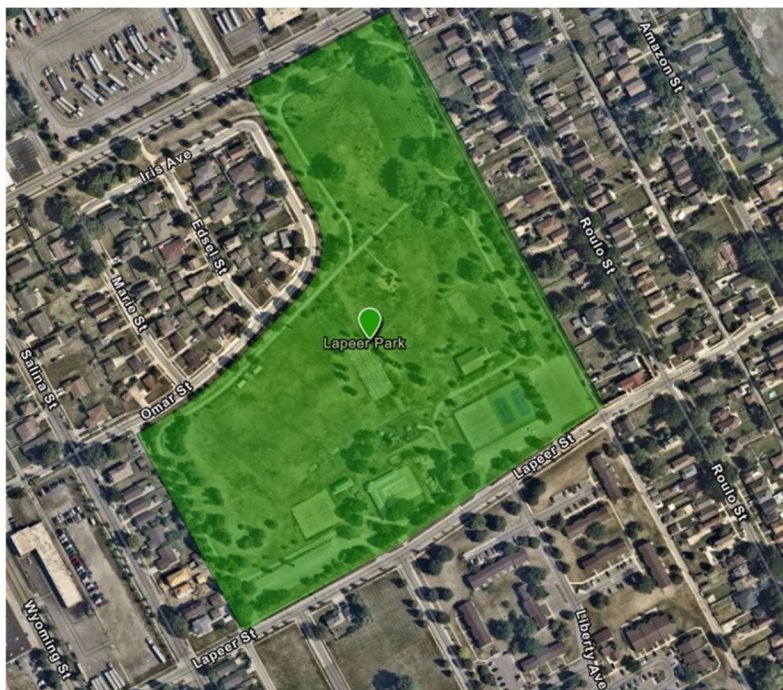
- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5 & 5-12)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Splash Pad
- Picnic Shelter
- Basketball Courts
- Soccer Fields
- Walking trail
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Hemlock Cabin
- Sledding Hill
- Comfort Station
- Swings (belt, toddler, accessible & face-to-face)



Lapeer Park

Lapeer Park is a 23.08-acre community park located at 9920 Lapeer Street. Its park site amenities include:

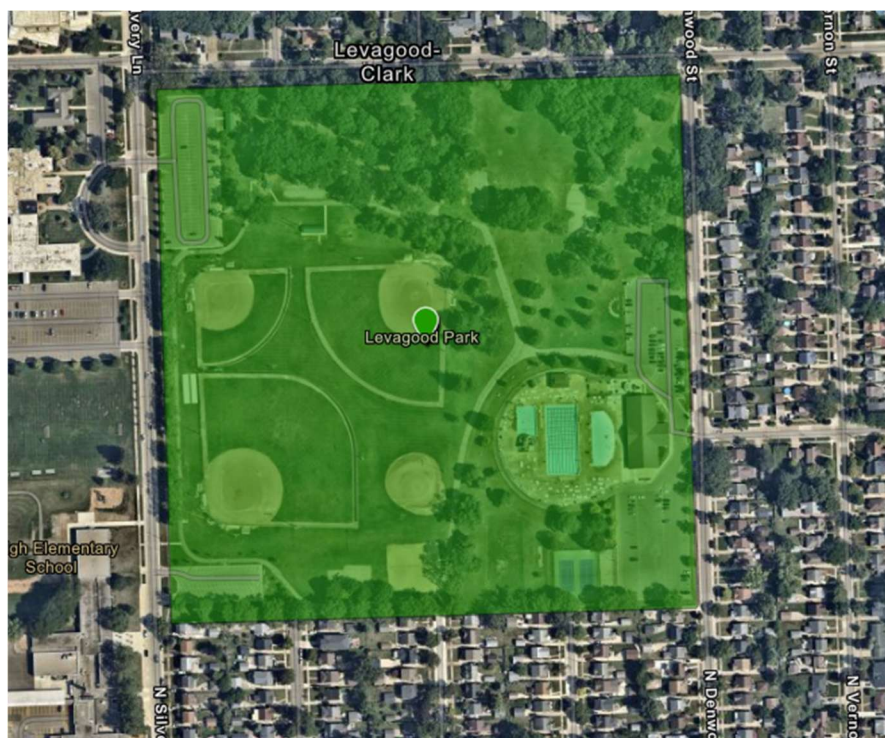
- Accessible Playground Structures (2: All ages)
- Outdoor Aquatic Facility
- Walking Track
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Soccer Fields
- Sand Volleyball Courts
- Picnic Shelter
- Comfort Station
- Parking Lot
- Swings (Belt, Toddler, Accessible & Face-to-face)



Levagood Park

Levagood Park is a 36.45-acre community park located at 950 N. Silvery Lane. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structures (4: All ages)
- Dunworth Outdoor Aquatic Facility
- Sand Volleyball Courts
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Parking Lots
- Tennis Courts
- Baseball and Softball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Comfort Station
- Walking Track
- Swings (Belt, Toddler, Face-to-Face)



Civic Center Park & Fields

The Civic Center Park & Fields is a 45.01-acre community park located at 15801 Michigan Avenue. Its park site amenities include:

- Playground Structure (Ages 5-12)
- Pickleball Courts (4)
- Softball Fields (2)
- Storage Building
- Life/Fitness Trail
- Parking Lot
- Walking Trail
- Soccer Field
- Picnic tables & benches
- Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

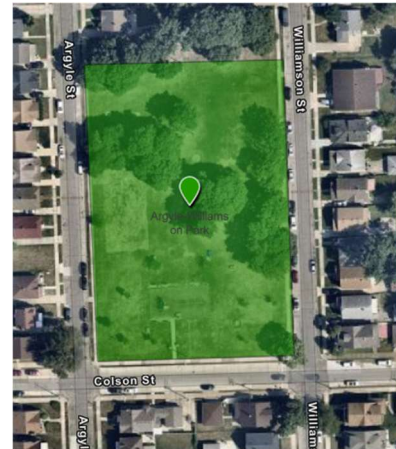


Neighborhood Parks

Argyle-Williamson

Argyle-Williamson Park is a 1.92-acre neighborhood park located at 5410 Argyle Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Equipment (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Bennington Park

Bennington Park is a 3.09-acre neighborhood park located at 15730 Andover Drive. Its park site amenities include:

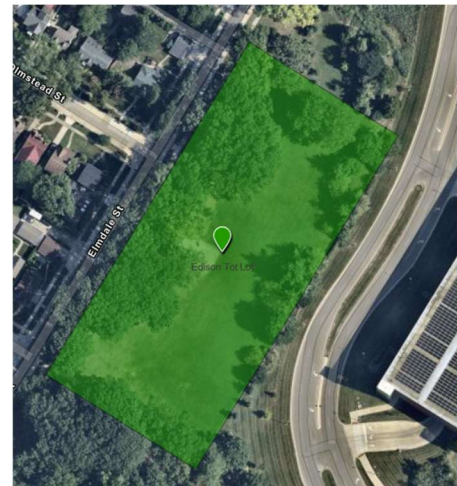
- Playground Equipment (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic tables & benches



Edison Park

Edison Park is a 3.02-acre neighborhood park located at 2410 Elmdale Street. Its park site amenities include:

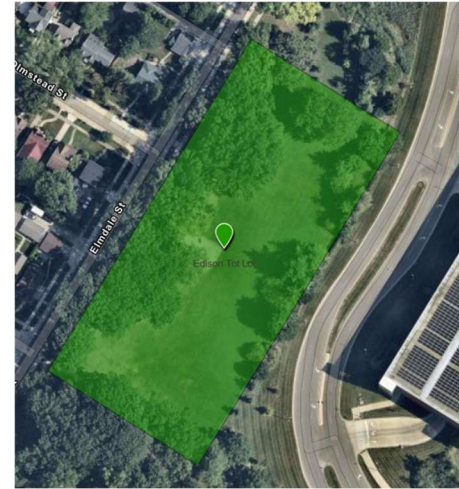
- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5)
- Picnic tables & benches



Geer Park

Geer Park is a 4.82-acre neighborhood park located at 14901 Prospect Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Picnic tables & benches
- Picnic Shelter
- Walking Track



Morningside Park

Morningside Park is a 0.96-acre neighborhood park located at 1314 Ferney Street. Its park site amenities include:

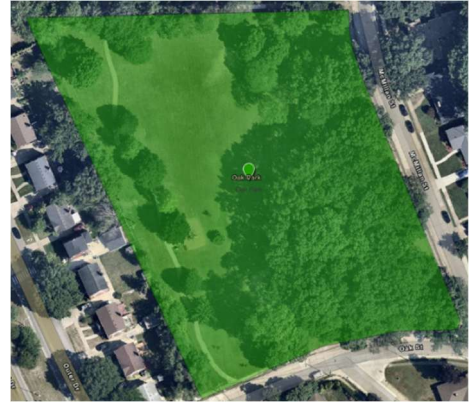
- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5 & 5-12)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Splash Pad
- Picnic Shelter
- Swings (Belt)



Oak Park

Oak Park is a 3.85-acre neighborhood park located at 1601 McMillan Street. Its park site amenities include:

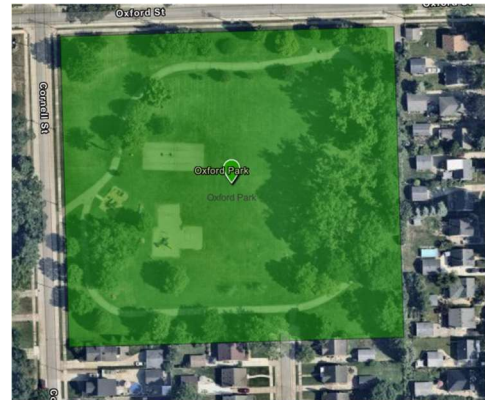
- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Ball Field
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Oxford Park

Oxford Park is a 5.12-acre neighborhood park located at 23751 Oxford Street. Its park site amenities include:

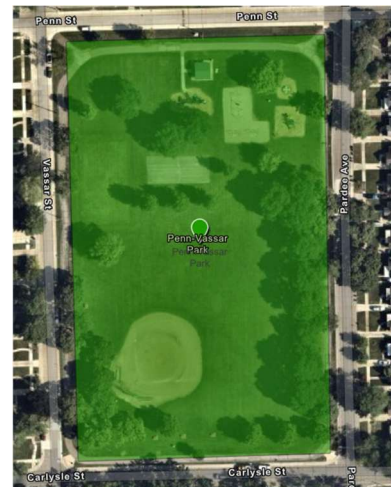
- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5 & 5-12)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Ball Field
- Walking trail
- Basketball Court
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Penn-Vassar Park

Penn-Vassar Park is a 5.08-acre neighborhood park located at 3600 Pardee Street. Its park site amenities include:

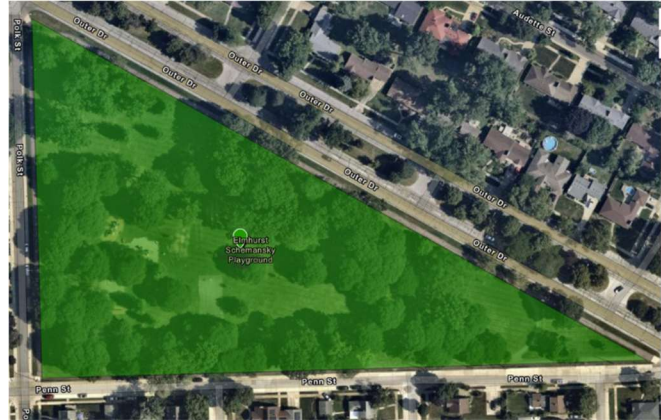
- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 5-12)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Picnic Shelter
- Baseball field
- Walking trail
- Basketball Court
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Schemansky Park

Schemansky Park is a 7.22-acre neighborhood park located at 21660 Outer Drive. Its park site amenities include:

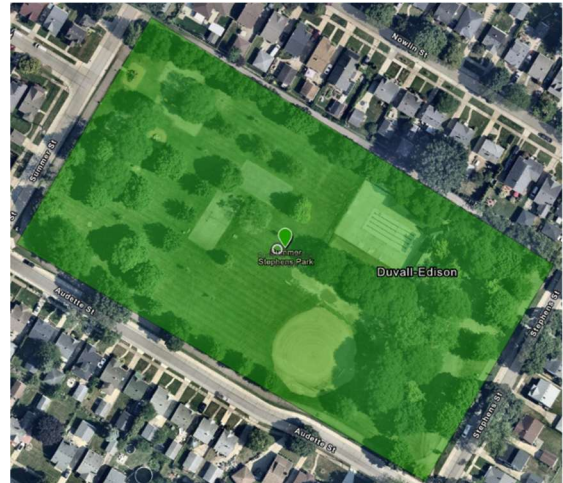
- Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5 & 5-12)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Walking trail
- Basketball Court



Summer Stephens Park

Summer Stephens Park is a 5.87-acre neighborhood park located at 22966 Audette Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Exercise Playground
- Walking Track
- Basketball Court
- Ball Field
- Outdoor Aquatic Facility
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)
- Sand Volleyball Court



Ten Eyck Park

Ten Eyck Park is a 7.29-acre neighborhood park located at 18541 Pine Street. Its park site amenities include:

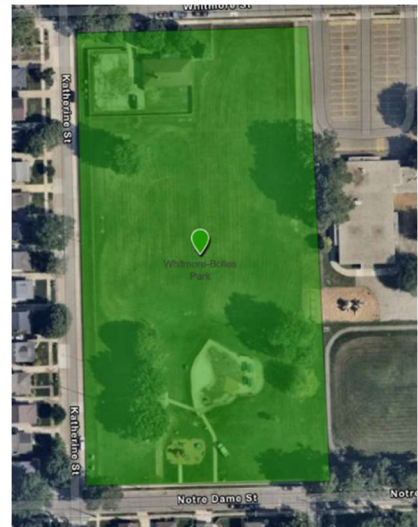
- Accessible Playground Structures (3: Ages 2-5 & 5-12)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Walking trail
- Softball Fields (3)
- Tennis Courts (2)
- Outdoor Aquatic Facility
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)
- Basketball Court



Whitmore-Bolles Park

Whitmore-Bolles Park is a 4.58-acre neighborhood park located at 21700 Notre Dame Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Comfort Station
- Splash Pad



Wyoming-Gould Park

Wyoming-Gould Park is a 1.56-acre neighborhood park located at 7500 Wyoming Street. Its park site amenities include:

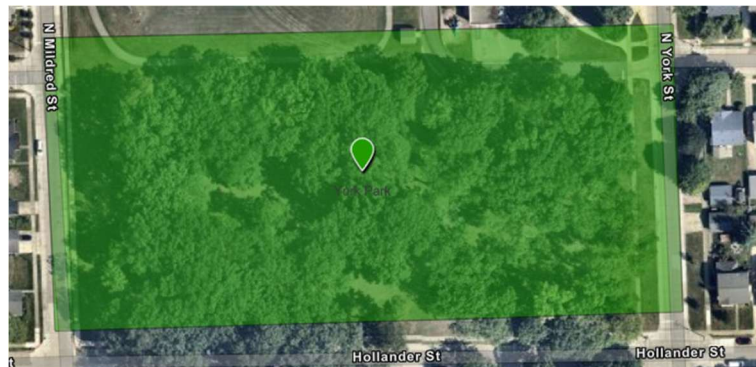
- Accessible Playground Structure (All Ages)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Walking trail
- Swings (Belt, Toddler & Accessible)



York Park

York Park is a 4.65-acre neighborhood park located at 23400 Hollander Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structures (2: Ages 2-5 & 5-12)
- Picnic tables & benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)

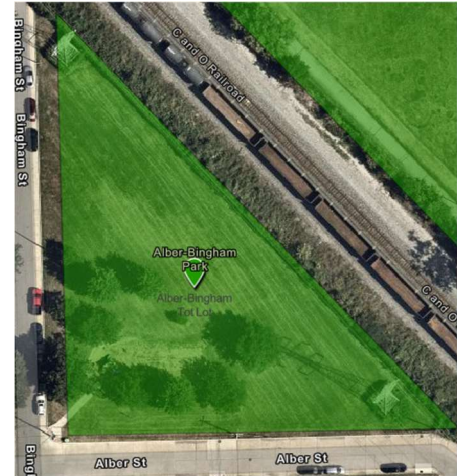


Mini Parks

Alber-Bingham

Alber-Bingham Park is a 0.98-acre mini park located at 5820 Bingham Street. Its park site amenities include:

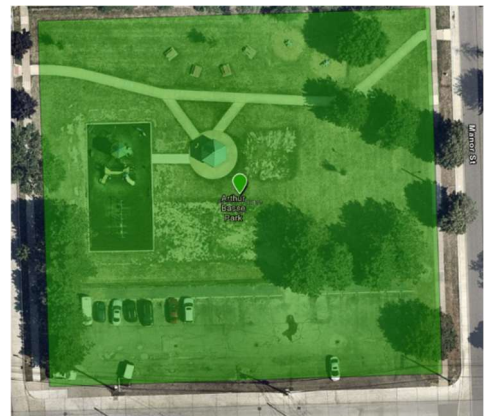
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches



Arthur Basse

Arthur Basse Park is a 1.24-acre mini park located at 7250 Miller Road. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 5-12)
- Standalone Dinosaur Play
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Picnic Shelter
- Swings (Belt, Toddler & Accessible)



Canterbury

Canterbury Park is a 2.63-acre mini park located at 9940 Whittington Street. Its park site amenities include:

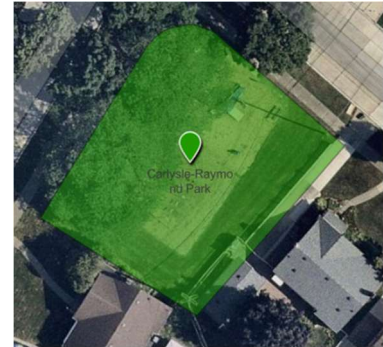
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Standalone truck play
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Carlisle-Raymond

Carlisle-Raymond Park is a 0.18-acre minipark located at 1900 Raymond Street. Its park site amenities include:

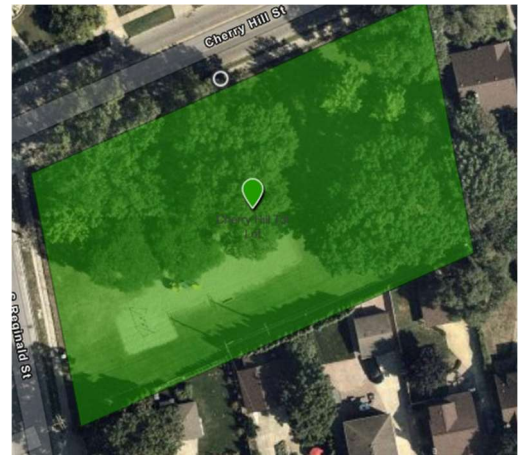
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Cherry Hill

Cherry Hill Park is a 0.84-acre minipark located at 22727 Cherry Hill Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 5-12)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Bike Repair Kit
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Columbia

Columbia Park is a 0.78-acre mini park located at 22340 Columbia Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Dearborn High

Dearborn High Park is a 0.30-acre mini park located at 23525 Fordson Drive. Its park site amenities include:

- Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches

Freda-Blessner

Freda-Blessner Park is a 0.96-acre mini park located at 10151 Blessner Street. Its park site amenities include:

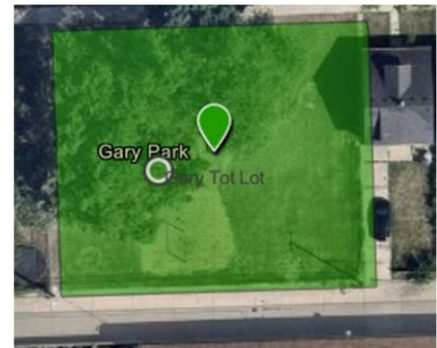
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Gary

Gary Park is a 0.28-acre mini park located at 8773 Gary Street. Its park site amenities include:

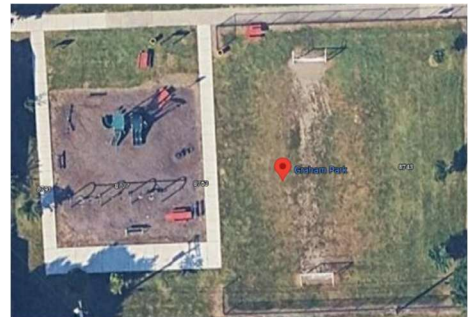
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Graham Street

Graham Street Park is a 0.28-acre mini park located at 8763 Graham Street. Its park site amenities include:

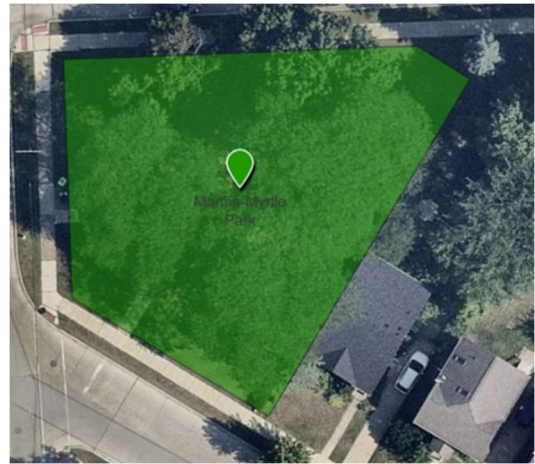
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt, Toddler & Accessible)
- Junior Soccer Field



Martha-Myrtle

Martha-Myrtle Park is a 0.25-acre mini park located at 23145 Myrtle Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)
- Bike Repair Station



Palmer-Jerome

Palmer-Jerome is a 0.61-acre mini park located at 4571 Palmer Street. Its park site amenities include:

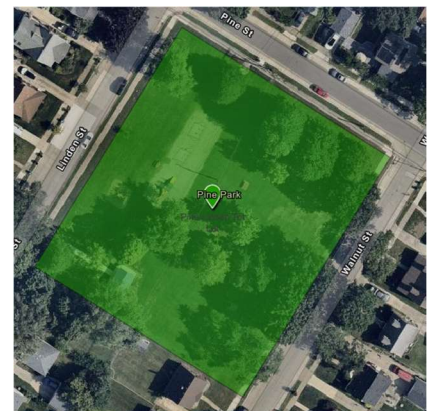
- Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)
- Funnel Ball



Pine-Linden

Pine-Linden Park is a 1.25-acre mini park located at 3431 Linden Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)
- Picnic Shelter



Riverdale

Riverdale Park is a 1.13-acre mini park located at 1437 Fairway Street. Its park site amenities include:

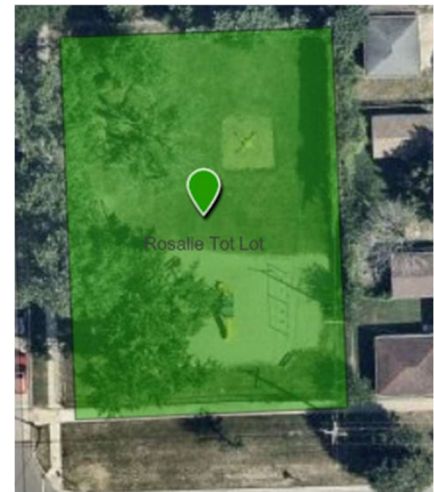
- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Rosalie-Hubbard

Rosalie-Hubbard Park is a 0.32-acre mini park located at 4910 Rosalie Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Tannahill

Tannahill Park is a 0.65-acre mini park located at 470 Tannahill Street. Its park site amenities include:

- Accessible Playground Structure (Ages 2-5)
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Swings (Belt & Toddler)



Peace Parks

Peace Park West

Peace Park West is a 24-acre peace park located at 22271 West Village Drive. Its park site amenities include:

- Walking Paths
- Sculpture Art
- Market Space
- Picnic Shelter
- Amphitheater
- Picnic Tables & Benches



Peace Park East

Peace Park East is a 1.23-acre peace park located at 13621 Michigan Avenue. Its park site amenities include:

- Walking Paths
- Picnic Tables & Seating
- Sculpture & Interactive Art

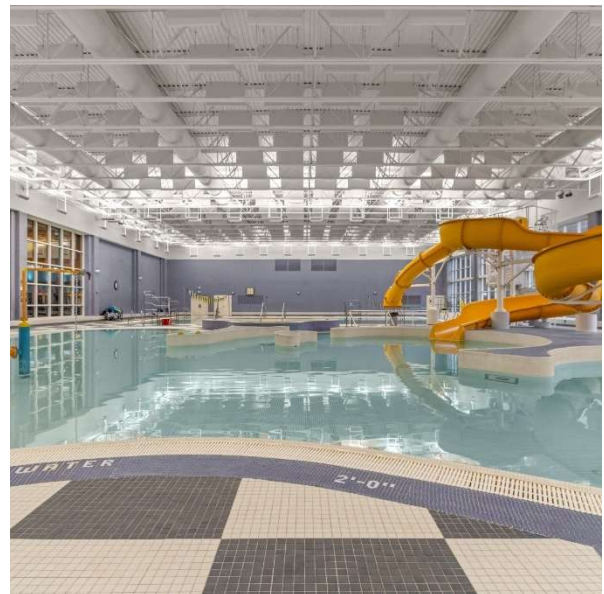
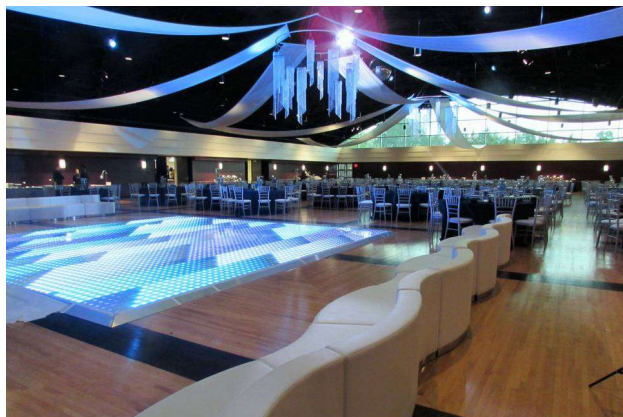


Other Parks & Recreation Facilities

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center is located at 15801 Michigan Avenue and is a multi-faceted modern recreation center that provides excellent opportunities for leisure, fitness, life enrichment and cultural arts activities. The Michael A. Guido theater hosts seasonal professional performances and services home to many local art organizations. The Center houses two (2) gymnasiums, a walking track, a lap and leisure pool, a newly renovated fitness center, group exercise studios, meeting rooms, the multi-use Lincoln Ballroom, the Dearborn Senior Center, the DMC Wellness Center, and the Padzieski Art Gallery.

The Center houses the administrative offices of the Dearborn Parks & Recreation Department.



Dearborn Ice Skating Center

The Dearborn Ice Skating Center (DISC) is a year-round public ice facility located at 14900 Ford Road. It features two (2) NHL-size ice rinks, seating for 1,500 spectators and facilities for ice hockey, figure skating, public skating and special events. It is the proud home of youth and adult hockey teams, leagues and learn-to-skate programs. It also has a full-service pro-shop which features hockey equipment and accessories, figure skating accessories, team apparel, skate sharpening and skate sales and repairs.



Dearborn Hills Golf Course

Dearborn Hills Golf Course is a 103.06-acre City owned and operated 18-hole golf course. Built in 1923 by Robert Herndon, it is reputed as Michigan's oldest public golf course and is listed on the State Register of Historic Sites.



Camp Dearborn

Camp Dearborn is located at 1700 General Motors Road, Milford, MI and is a 626-acre family oriented recreational retreat park. It offers a wide range of overnight camping options including cabins, tent lots and RV sites. Recreation amenities include a beach, miniature golf, bike trails, disc golf, The Canteen (ice cream and snacks), arcade, activity field, swimming lakes, picnic areas, athletic courts and the Mystic Creek Golf Course. Founded in 1948, it serves as a popular destination for outdoor activities including fishing, paddle boats and special events.

Mystic Creek Golf Course is a premier 27-hole golf championship course on the grounds of Camp Dearborn. It features three distinct 9-hole courses; the Lakes, the Meadows and the Woods. In addition to golf, the facility includes a 15,000 square foot clubhouse with a restaurant and a banquet center for events. Camp Dearborn recently went through a separate master planning process in 2024.



Dearborn Dog Park

The Dearborn Dog Park is a 2.2-acre park located at 16301 Michigan Avenue. Its park site amenities include:

- Two off-leash dog areas; one for larger dogs and one for smaller dogs
- Picnic tables & seating
- Dog Waste disposal stations
- Dog agility equipment



Schools and Churches

In addition to the City parks there are schools, churches, and private properties and open spaces offering recreation opportunities to the residents of Dearborn. The following is a brief overview of these facilities.

Public School Facilities

Dearborn Public Schools is the public school district serving the City of Dearborn who serves over 20,000 students with a K-12 curriculum and a unique K-14 early college program through Henry Ford College. The district offers diverse academic pathways including Montessori Programs, career and technical education, early childhood education and Dearborn Virtual K-12. The district has 37 schools, including several Blue Ribbon Schools and is well known for its high graduation rates.

Two of the public-school facilities immediately border a city of Dearborn Park; York Park and Whitmore-Bolles Park. Each of their 37 schools has recreational amenities that are open to the public.

Divine Child School

Divine Child School is comprised of two schools: a co-educational private, Roman Catholic high school and an elementary and middle school. Both schools provide faith-centered education, aiming to develop students both spiritually and academically. The high school offers a rigorous curriculum with honors in Advanced Placement courses, while the elementary and middle school focuses on instilling Catholic values from K-8.

Divine Child has an ongoing working relationship with the City Dearborn as it borders Levagood Park, only separated by Silvery Lane. Divine Child baseball and softball teams play their home games at Levagood Park on their respective fenced fields. Described as a public/private partnership, Divine Child assists the city with field maintenance and financially through field improvements while the city provides priority use of the baseball and softball facilities.

University of Michigan-Dearborn

The University of Michigan-Dearborn is a metropolitan public university founded in 1959 with a grant from the Ford Motor Company. A regional campus of the University of Michigan, it offers a distinct practice-based education with the benefit of a large university.

Henry Ford College

Henry Ford College is a community college that offers an affordable and diverse range of academic and workforce programs. Founded in 1928, the college serves approximately 13,000 students and transfers transfer pathways, skilled trades training, and a strong commitment to diversity and student success.

Dearborn Area Churches

The Dearborn area includes approximately 60 churches and mosques, some of which incorporate recreation facilities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and open grass areas. Dearborn Methodist Church, located on the south part of the city, houses a preschool and childcare facility. Dearborn churches include:

Private Recreation Facilities

The Environmental Interpretive Center

The Environmental Interpretive Center is a gateway to a 120-acre nature preserve on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, offering hand-on educational programs, community engagement, and sustainability initiative for students and the public. The center features indoor exhibits on the River Rouge watershed, a wildlife observation room, classrooms and access to outdoor trails for hiking, nature walks and exploring diverse habitats.

TPC Dearborn

Tournament Players Club (TPC) Michigan is a private, members-only club with an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus. Opened in 1990, it's known for its challenging links style layout. The club was originally built on land owned by Henry Ford and donated by the Ford Motor Company. In addition to the golf course, the facility offers a clubhouse with dining and event spaces.

Dearborn Country Club

The Dearborn Country Club is a private, family-oriented club with a historic 18-hole golf course designed by Donald Ross and a Tudor Revival-style clubhouse. Founded in 1925 by Henry Ford, the club was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the golf course, the club host social events, junior programming and has a pool.

Kidcadia Play Café

Kidcadia Play Café is a 10,000 square foot indoor playground and café located at 13939 Michigan Avenue. It is designed to provide a “whimsical escape” for children with a massive play structure, dedicated toddler area, imagination stations and encourages imaginative play. Other services offered include facility rentals and birthday parties in their private “Enchanted Chamber”.

Launch Family Entertainment

Launch Family Entertainment is a sprawling indoor fun center located at 5901 Mercury Drive. It offers a variety of attractions for all ages, including trampolines, a laser tag arena, bowling and a full arcade. The facility also offers a restaurant and bar as well as party rooms for events.

Recreation Programs

The City of Dearborn offers a comprehensive slate of recreation program. These programs are hosted at the facilities throughout their parks and facilities system. Programs are advertised on their website, social media pages and in their bi-annual activity guide.

City of Dearborn Programming Categories: Group Exercise

- Indoor Aquatics (Swim Lessons, Lap Pool, Pool Rentals)
- Outdoor Aquatics (Exercise, Lessons, Swim Team, Masters)
- Adult Sports (Slow Pitch Softball)
- Youth Sports (Baseball, Tennis, Junior Golf)
- Theater (Youth Theater, Children's Theater)
- Senior Services (Weekly Clubs, Fitness, Travel)
- Enabling Programs (Therapeutic Recreation)
- Ice Skating (Learn to Skate, Annual Ice Show, Ice Rentals)

City of Dearborn Community Events:

- Annual Sports Award Ceremony
- Annual Ice Show
- Dearborn Homecoming
- Dearborn Summer Market
- Haunted Trail Experience
- Martian Marathon
- Mayor's Neighborhood Walks
- Memorial Day Parade
- Music Under the Stars
- Mayor's Annual Arts Awards

Facility Rentals:

- Park Shelters (Crowley, Hemlock, Ford Field, Levagood)
- Hemlock Cabin
- Picnic Permits
- The Center (Pool Gymnasium, Lincoln Ballroom, Studio A)
- Athletic Field Permits
- DISC (Meeting Rooms, Ice Rental)
- Mystic Creek Golf Course (Banquet Center)
- Dearborn Hills Golf Course
- Camp Dearborn (Picnic/Shelters, Cabins/Cottages, Chalet)

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AROUND DEARBORN

Wayne County Parks

While Dearborn doesn't have a Wayne County Park within its boundary, Hines Parkway terminates at Ford Road on the northern border of Dearborn. This 2,300 acre park is a 17 mile floodplain of the Middle Rouge River. It is made up of the area surrounding both banks of the river, along with the historic Edward Hines Drive that traverses most of its length. Hines Park is located within the communities of Dearborn Heights, Westland, Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, and Northville Township. Due to the frequent flooding during rainstorms, the Wayne County Road Commission adapted the land into a Park in the early 1900's. This action not only kept polluting industries away from the river, it provided a controlled and non-disturbing way to prevent flooding of the surrounding homes while providing areas of respite and recreation for its visitors. Hines Park contains 30 individual parks that provide a variety of year-round recreation activities that includes athletic fields, picnic shelters, play structures, lakes, forested areas, paved and non-paved trails.



Figure 7 depicts the location of Hines Park and the other Wayne County parks and recreation facilities located around Dearborn.

Figure 7. Wayne County Parks and Recreation Facilities

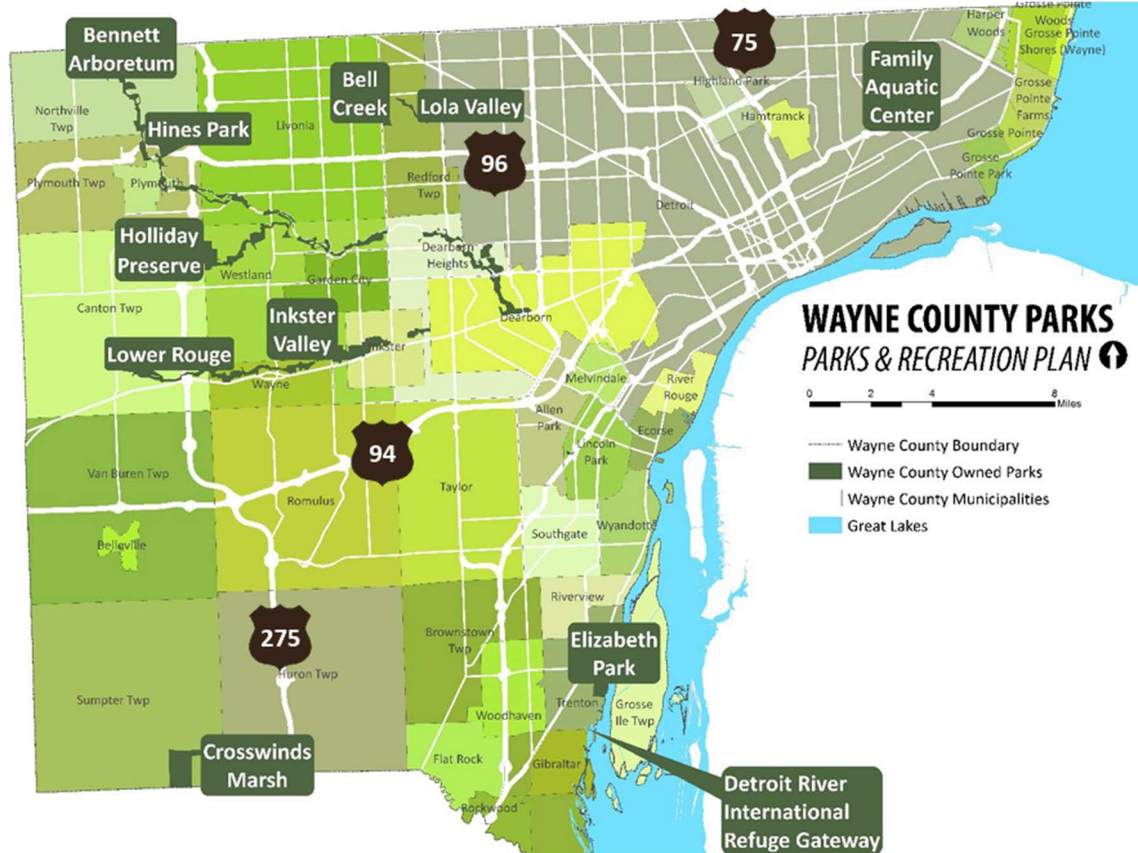


Table 8. Wayne County Parks and Recreation Facilities

Park	Location	Facilities	Acres
Bell Creek Recreation Area	Redford Township	Bell Creek features two regulation-size soccer fields, two ball diamonds, a multipurpose court, a picnic pavilion, two picnic areas and a play structure.	64
Bennett Arboretum	Northville	Bennett Arboretum is a jewel with an easy two-mile trail through the oldest county arboretum in Michigan. Bennett is a popular course for high school cross country teams in the fall.	90
Crosswinds Marsh	Sumpter Township	For nature enthusiasts with an interest in wetlands and wildlife, Crosswinds March is must-see. You can explore diverse habitats where more than 240 species of birds and 40 species of mammals have been identified.	1,056
Detroit International Wildlife Refuge	Trenton	The refuge consists of nearly 6,000 acres of unique habitat, including islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and waterfront lands within an authorized boundary extending along 48 miles of shoreline.	44
Elizabeth Park	Trenton	Elizabeth Park sits along the banks of the Detroit River and features over 1,300 feet of riverwalk for fishing and river watching. In addition, Elizabeth Park also offers activities such as football, cycling, in-line skating, hiking, cross-country skiing and ice skating.	162
Hines Park	Plymouth	This 2,300-acre park is a 17-mile floodplain of the Middle Rouge River. It is made up of the area surrounding both banks of the river, along with the historic Edward Hines Drive that traverses most of its length. Hines Park is located within the communities of Dearborn Heights, Westland, Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, and Northville Township.	2,300
Inkster Valley Golf Course	Inkster	Inkster Valley is an 18-hole, par-72 Championship golf course with water in play on 14 of the holes	400
Lola Valley Park	Redford Township	This park lines the bank of the Lola Valley Creek and is a popular picnic site since it was established in 1933. Its rolling green slopes along the river are known for winter sledding, disc golf and summer picnics.	58
Lower Rouge Parkway	Inkster	This 12-mile parkway is a large urban park along floodplains of the Lower Rouge tributary.	783
Wayne County Family Aquatic Center	Detroit	The Wayne County Family Aquatic Center includes a wave pool, Splish Splash Land with over 100 spray fountains and two 23-foot-high water slides	12
William P. Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve	Westland	The Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve contains approximately 550 acres along the valley of what is known as Tonquish Creek in the northwest part of Wayne County.	550
TOTAL			5,849

Federal and State Parks and Recreation Areas

The United States government owns and operates one outdoor recreational facility in Wayne County. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge was established in 2001 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). It consists of nearly 6,000 acres of unique habitat, including islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands within an authorized boundary extending along 48 miles of shoreline, including all of Monroe County's Lake Erie coastal areas. Units within Monroe County include the Brancheau, Strong, Fix, Lagoon Beach, Ford Marsh, Plum Creek Bay, Lady of the Lake, Holloway, Erie Marsh Preserve, and Gard Island. Not all units are open to the public.



State of Michigan facilities around Dearborn in Wayne County include the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center and Belle Isle State Park. The DNR Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) gives you a taste of Michigan's great outdoors in the heart of Downtown Detroit. It is located on Detroit's Riverfront in the historic former Globe Building with the Dequindre Cut Greenway running through its front yard. Experience exciting outdoor adventures with hands-on activities, exhibits and simulators – walk behind and touch a waterfall, step into a fishing boat and reel in a big fish, hit the trail on a mountain bike or snowmobile, and much more. At the OAC, you'll learn about how the DNR manages forests, wildlife and fish as you climb the roots and explore the canopy of a bur oak tree, hop aboard their airplane and see what's swimming in the aquarium.



Belle Isle Park, a 985-acre island park located in the Detroit River near downtown Detroit, provides spectacular views of Detroit to the North and Canada to the south. It's home to the James Scott Memorial Fountain, the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, the Belle Isle Aquarium, the Ralph Wilson Gateway (which serves as the southern trailhead for Michigan's Iron Belle Trail), a golf course and many more cultural and natural attractions. Visitors can also swim at the designated swim beach, ride bikes, fish, paddle and more.

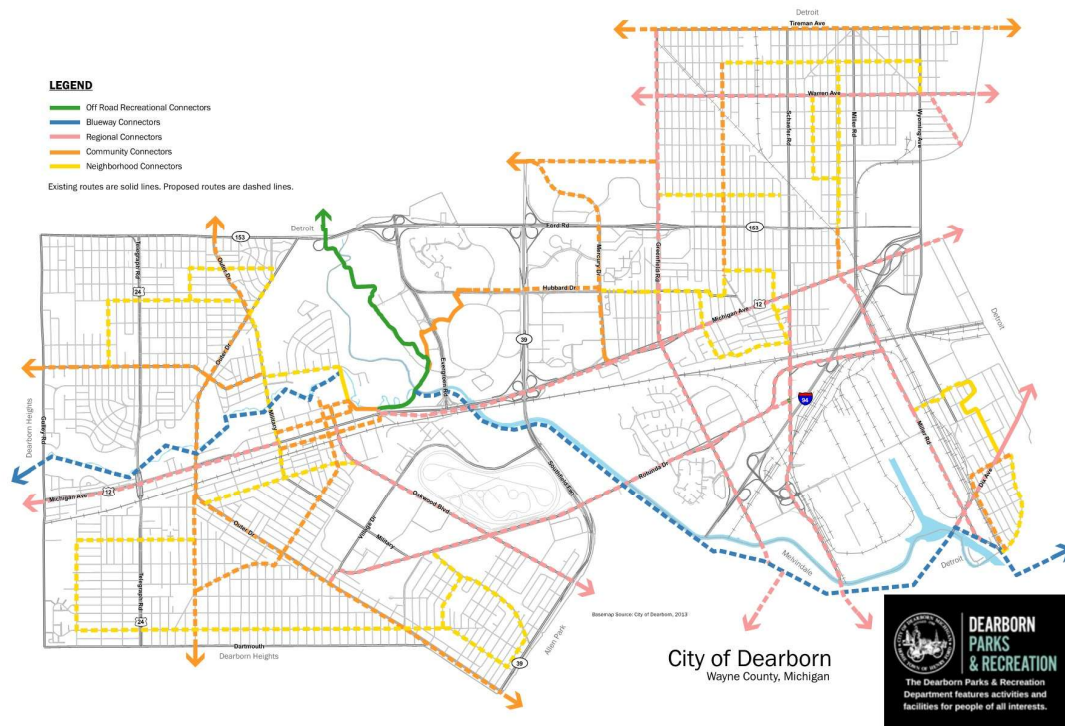


LAND AND WATER TRAILS

Non-motorized trail systems in Wayne County are extensive with major trails, complete streets visioning and within existing parks. Several plans helped build the land trail vision including the SEMCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan (2020) and the City of Dearborn Multimodal Plan (2019), and The Dearborn 2030 Master Plan. Figure 10 illustrates the network within the City of Dearborn developed by these plans which consist of neighborhood, community and regional connectors.

Water trails have become an important recreation resource in Michigan. Water trails are designated routes along a river, lake, canal, or bay specifically designed for people using small boats like kayaks, canoes, single sailboats or rowboats.

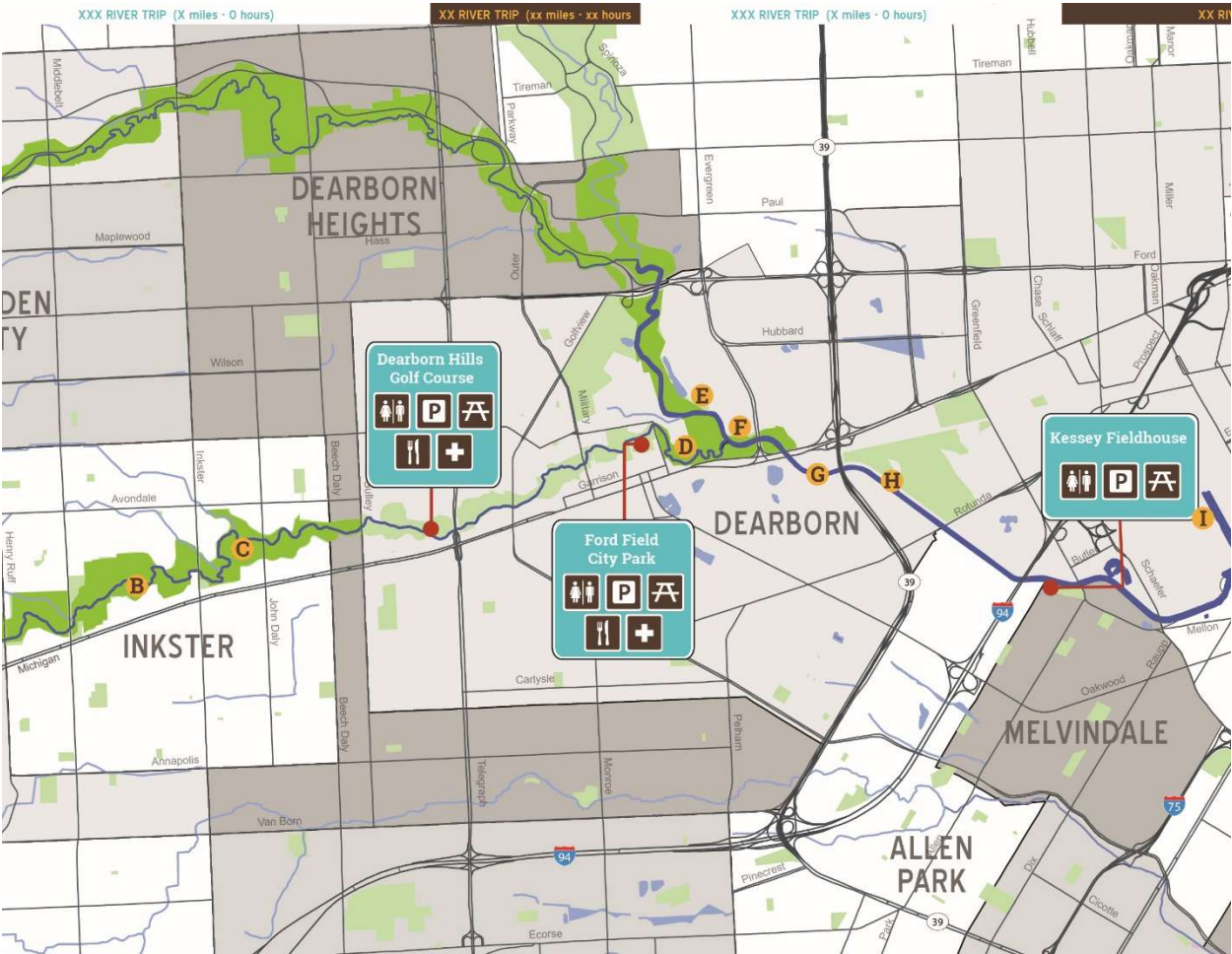
Figure 8. Dearborn Regional Nonmotorized Network



While Wayne County has yet to develop a comprehensive master plan for water trails, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, SEMCOG and The Michigan Great Lakes Water Trails help identify and designate water trails. They assist with possible launch sites and other improvements. Existing City-owned Ford Field Park along the Lower Rouge River provides access to the river through the pond where they can head upstream or downstream. The water trail through the Rouge River is overseen by the Friends of Rouge River in conjunction with the eleven communities along the route and Wayne County. They assist with access points, water quality monitoring, signage, woody debris management and safety plans.

Figure 9 depicts the lower rouge paddling map which includes Ford Field Park

Figure 9. Lower Rouge Paddling Map



Source: Friends of the Rouge

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND GRANT-ASSISTED PROJECTS

The city park system is intended for use by all people, regardless of their disability status. It is the intent of the city to comply with the appropriate accessibility standards and guidelines for play areas, outdoor developed areas, parking areas, and other facilities, which fall under the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All recent improvements to the city parks have been designed to comply with or exceed accessibility guidelines and standards, and to retrofit, when appropriate, those facilities which pre-date ADA standards.

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing access to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The ranking system suggested by the MDNR Guidelines was used to evaluate the accessibility of the city parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5 as follows:

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines; and
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Each of the parks was evaluated using the MDNR ranking system. The elements evaluated include parking areas, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, and support facilities such as restrooms and surfacing. Table 10 presents the results of this evaluation.

Table 9. Accessibility Assessment

<u>Park</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Crowley Park	3	Oxford Park	2	Columbia Park	1
Ford Field Park	3	Penn-Vassar Park	3	Dearborn High Park	1
Ford Woods Park	4	Schemansky Park	2	Freda-Blessner Park	2
Hemlock Park	3	Summer Stephens Park	3	Gary Park	3
Lapeer Park	3	Ten Eyck Park	2	Graham Street Park	3
Levagood Park	2	Whitmore-Bolles Park	2	Martha-Myrtle Park	3
The Center Park	3	Wyoming-Gould Park	4	Palmer-Jerome Park	2
Argyle-Williamson Park	3	York Park	2	Pine-Linden Park	2
Bennington Park	1	Alber-Bingham Park	3	Riverdale Park	3
Edison Park	3	Arthur Basse Park	4	Rosalie-Hubbard Park	2
Geer Park	2	Canterbury Park	2	Tannahill Park	3
Morningside Park	4	Carlyle-Raymond Park	2	Peace Park West	5
Oak Park	2	Cherry Hill Park	3	Peace Park East	5

It is the intent of the City of Dearborn that current and future park projects comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Deficiencies will be corrected with park renovation and improvements.

The City of Dearborn has received many grants that have been used to develop and improve the city parks. Table 11 lists the grants which have been awarded to Dearborn Parks & Recreation. These include grants from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (mDNR), Michigan Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives Grants (mDOT TAP), Wayne County Parks Millage (WCPARC) funds and Michigan Cultural Arts & Culture Council Grants (MCACA). Additionally, the city has invested some of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds toward park system capital improvements. Post-completion self-certification reports are being submitted as part of the recreation plan submittal.

Table 10. Grant Assisted Projects

Park	Year	Grant Type	Project elements	Grant Award
Dearborn Hills Golf Course	1990	mDNR BF90-154	Golf Course renovations, bridges, clubhouse, parking, fences and cart paths	\$450,000
Dearborn Hills Golf Course	1991	mDNR TF91-175	Landscaping	\$300,000
Ford Field Park	1994	mDNR 26-01511	Shelter & Restrooms	\$143,317
Camp Dearborn	2011	mDNR TF11-053	Bridge over Huron River to connect to Kensington Milford bike trail	\$268,900
Ten Eyck Park	2009-2010	WCPARC	New Tennis Courts, in-line roller hockey, basketball court	\$90,000
Ford Field Park	2010-2011	WCPARC	Tennis renovations, acquisition and installation of spray features at Dunworth Pool	\$137,000
King Boring Field	2011-2012	WCPARC	Bleacher Renovations	\$120,000
Rouge Gateway Trail	2012	mDNR TF12-044	Non-motorized trail from trailhead to Ford Field	\$280,000
Hemlock Park	2012-2013	WCPARC	New splash pad	\$56,000
Ford Field Park	2012-2013	WCPARC	Asphalt pads for picnic sites and pickleball courts	\$95,000
Dearborn Parks	2013-2014	WCPARC	Video surveillance equipment	\$95,000
Whitmore-Bolles	2014-2015	WCPARC	Splash pad and restroom facilities	\$250,027
Michael A. Guido Theater	2015	MCACA	Theater Sound System	\$50,000
Rouge Gateway Trail	2014	mDOT TAP TAU824557-118198A	Construction of Rouge Gateway Trail Extension	\$502,000
Ford Woods Park	2016-2017	WCPARC	Contribution for construction of new pool	\$86,000
Dearborn Hills Golf Course	2017	mDNR TF17-0185	Lower Rouge River access and revitalization project	\$98,300
Lapeer & Levagood Parks	2017-2018	WCPARC	Lapeer: Sand Volleyball Court Renovation Levagood: Comfort station	\$83,000
Lapeer & Grant Parks	2018-2019	WCPARC	Graham: mini urban soccer park Lapeer: Sand Volleyball	\$100,000
Michael A. Guido Theater	2019	MCACA	LED theatrical lighting upgrade	\$50,000
Ford Field Park	2019-2020	WCPARC	New bathhouse at Dunworth Pool	\$80,484
Morningside Park	2020-2021	WCPARC	Splash Pad Contribution	\$82,564
Morningside Park	2021-2022	WCPARC	Splash Pad Contribution	\$94,092
Pine-Linden, Wyoming-Gould & Penn-Vasser Parks	2022-2023	WCPARC	Pine-Linden: Shelter improvements Wyoming-Gould Park upgrades Penn-Vasser: Park lighting upgrades	\$118,2321
Ford Woods, Ford Field, The Center & Levagood Park	2023-2024	WCPARC	Sport Court repairs	\$123,914
Cherry Hill Park	2024-2025	WCPARC	Playground & park bench replacement	\$127,669

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A critical component in the recreation planning process is determining the needs and desires of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks and recreation system. Needs and preferences provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives that lead to an action plan. To assess needs and desires, consideration was given to current recreation trends and input from community stakeholders, public officials, and residents of Dearborn.

PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum amount of parkland to adequately serve a given population size. The NRPA guidelines provide minimum recommended parkland and facility development standards that are applicable nationwide for recreation planning purposes. While the standards are useful benchmarks addressing minimum park acreage, a park and recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community it pertains to.

According to the NRPA, parks are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and regional parks. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are *close-to-home* parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities as described on the right. Close-to-home parks would include all the city parks. According to NRPA standards, the suggested amount of *close-to-home* parkland is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

NRPA Close-to-home Parkland:

Mini-Park: Addresses limited recreational needs; serves an area less than ¼-mile distance.

Neighborhood Park: Is the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreation and social focus of a neighborhood; focus is on informal active and passive recreation; serves an area ¼ to ½ mile distance and is uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.

Community Park: Serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks; focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs and preserving unique landscapes and open spaces; usually serves two or more neighborhoods at ½ to 3-mile distance.

Regional parks serve a broader area (40-mile distance) and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique areas. Regional parks would include the County parks as well as the federal and state-owned recreation areas described in the preceding chapter. The NRPA also recognizes other types of parks such as school properties that can contribute to the parks and recreation system.

Table 12 presents a comparison of the NRPA suggested parkland standards with existing parks based on a City population of 107,846 in 2023 and project population of 114,113 in 2050. According to these standards, local City of Dearborn parks do meet the recommended acreage for total *close-to-home* parkland. Dearborn residents are also well-served by the regional park facilities provided by Wayne County, federal, and state governments that are located nearby.

Table 11. Comparison to Suggested Parkland Acreage Standards

Type of Park	NRPA standard Acres/ 1000 Pop.	Suggested 2023 Pop. 107,846	Suggested 2050 Pop. 114,113	Existing
<i>Close to Home</i> Parkland	6.25 - 10.5 Acres	9.86 acres	9.31 acres	1,062.93 Acres
Regional Parks	15 - 20 Acres	63.37 acres	59.89 acres	6,834 Acres
Private Parkland				359.18 acres

STATE AND NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

In 2023, the outdoor recreation participant base grew 4.1% to a record 175.8 million participants: 57.3% of all Americans aged six and older. The number of participants increased through demographics and activities as new, more casual participants began hiking, biking, camping, running, and fishing. In 2023, 7.7 million Americans tried one or more outdoor recreation activities for the first time. New and young outdoor recreation participants are driving growth and increased diversity in the outdoor recreation participant base, including increasing numbers of women, people of color, and seniors. The growth that began in 2016 and accelerated during the COVID pandemic is showing few signs of slowing.

Table 12. National Sports Participation, 2023

Activity	Participation Percent
1. Hiking	20.0%
2. Fishing	18.2%
3. Running, Jogging, and Trail Running	17.9%
4. Camping	17.7%
5. Bicycling	17.2%

Source: Outdoor Participation Report, 2024, the Outdoor Foundation

These trends are consistent with trends observed in Michigan. According to a survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2023-2027 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Michigan's overall outdoor recreation participation rate is 95%. Eighty-six percent of Michiganders are involved in trail activities and "other" outdoor activities. Water activities logged 80% participation, snow activities 40% and wildlife activities 52%. The top 10 activities by frequency were ranked (see appendix B), with the percentages of Michigan residents participating and total annual occasions of participating included. From this list, the top three, in ascending order, were visiting the beach but not swimming (60% – 49,959,236), going for a walk on local unpaved trails or paths (62% – 380,532,847) and going for a walk on local streets or sidewalks (80% – 1,156,390,531).

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of the Dearborn area can be summarized as follows:

- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the high number of young families with children currently living in Dearborn as well as the expected increase of seniors in the future.
- There is a need for more parks as well as additional pathways and trails to accommodate both bicycle and pedestrian use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable community.
- The Rouge River is the greatest natural asset of the City. Encouraging its use for recreation while maintaining its ecological functions should be a priority.



PUBLIC INPUT

A critical component in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs and desires of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks and recreation system. Needs and preferences provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives that lead to an action plan. To assess needs and desires, consideration was given to current recreation trends and input from community stakeholders, public officials, staff, and residents of Dearborn.

Online Survey

Residents were invited to provide ideas and suggestions for the city parks and recreation system through an online survey available throughout the development of this plan starting in June of 2025. The survey was advertised on the city's website and through social media. The online questionnaire was designed to solicit feedback on suggestions for improvements to the city park system. 440 surveys and comments were received and compiled. Key findings from the survey are outlined below. A full review of the survey with responses can be found at the end of this plan.

Park & Facility Visitation

The most visited Community Parks are:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Ford Field Park
2	Crowley Park
3	Levagood Park
4	The Center
5	Ford Woods Park

The most visited Neighborhood Parks are:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Ten Eyck Park
2	Summer Stephens Park
3	Schemansky Park
4	Penn-Vasser Park
5	Whitmore-Bolles Park

The most visited Mini Parks are:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Cherry Hill Park
2	Dearborn High Park
3	Martha-Myrtle Park
4	Pine-Linden Park
5	Alber-Bingham Park

The most visited other Recreational Facility:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
2	Peace Park West
3	Camp Dearborn
4	Dearborn Ice Skating Center
5	Dearborn Hills Golf Course

The most used amenity at the Center:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Fitness Center
2	Indoor Aquatic Center
3	Michael A. Guido Theater
4	Senior Services
5	Padzieski Art Gallery

The most visited Outdoor Aquatic Center:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Dunworth Pool
2	Summer Stephens Pool
3	Whitmore-Bolles Splash Pad
4	Ford Woods Pool
5	Crowley Park Splash Pad

Park & Facility Improvements

The Center Improvement Priorities:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Additional Sport Courts
2	Additional Space for Senior Services
3	Addition of Indoor Turf Space

Park priority for new playground equipment:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Ford Field Park
2	Levagood Park
3	Cherry Hill Park
4	Ten Eyck Park
5	Summer Stephens Park

Park Facility and Program Preference

Respondents top five choices for preferred recreation activities in order of importance are:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Sidewalks/trails for walking
2	Nature Areas with Nature Trails
3	New Playground Structures
4	Bike Lanes & Bike Paths
5	Picnic Areas and Pavilions

Respondents top five choices for preferred recreation programs in order of importance are:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Children programs
2	Family programs
3	Teen Programs
4	Senior Programs
5	Concerts, Shows & Movies

Park Priorities

Respondents top priorities for general park improvements in order of importance are:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Maintain/renovate existing City parks
2	Enhance the management of the parks' trees and natural habitats
3	Improvements to Neighborhood Parks
4	Improvements to Community Parks
5	Improvements to the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

Arts Priorities

Respondents top priorities for the arts in the City of Dearborn in order of importance are:

2025 Survey Result	
1	Additional art events in Parks
2	Additional opportunities to attend performances in the parks
3	Public art in the parks
4	Additional opportunities to participate in art classes
5	Additional opportunities to participate in performances in the parks

As part of the survey, an open ended question was asked about any other considerations for the City of Dearborn Parks & Recreation System:

Common Comments

- Continue with park upkeep, maintenance and more frequent trash collection
- Add more natural areas, nature trails and passive recreation opportunities for hiking and biking
- Continue to upgrade existing park amenities and play structures
- Continue to prioritize the outdoor aquatic centers
- Provide more opportunities to access the Rouge River
- Add more performances at the Michael A. Guido Theater
- Bring back the Park Ranger Program to assist with enforcement, cleanliness and policy

New Park and New Park Amenity Ideas

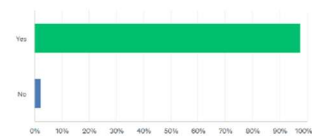
- Community Garden
- Skatepark
- Outdoor performance venue
- Waterpark
- Indoor turf space
- Create outdoor turf fields at existing sports field locations

Demographics

97.6% of respondents are City of Dearborn Residents

Are you a resident of the City?

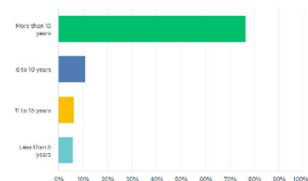
Answered: 418 Skipped: 21



76.5% of respondents have lived within the City of Dearborn for more than 15 years

How long have you lived in the City of Dearborn?

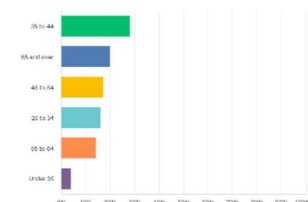
Answered: 413 Skipped: 27



65.6% of respondents are over 35 years old

How old are you?

Answered: 122 Skipped: 18



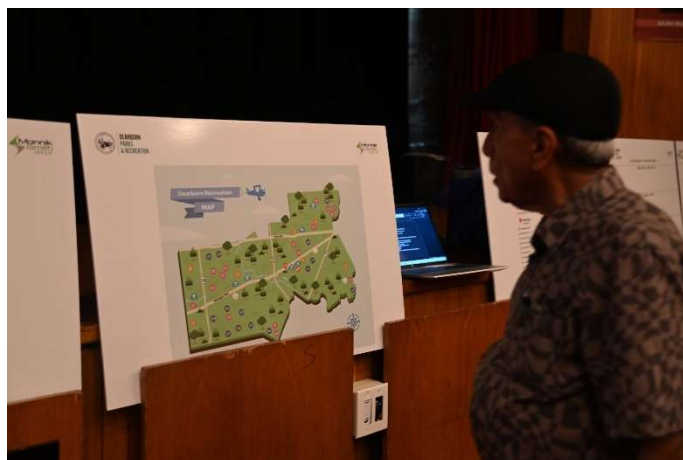
Public Input Meetings

Four (4) public input meetings were hosted throughout the City during the master plan process. Potential improvements derived from the online survey, current park conditions and needs were presented at a public meeting. A voting and comment charette exercise was held with attendees to gather more public feedback with similar questions that were asked in the survey.

1. Thursday, July 17 at Salina Elementary School
2. Wednesday, August 6 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting at The Center
3. Wednesday, August 13 at The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
4. Wednesday, August 27: Peace Park West

Suggestions were received from meeting attendees through the charette exercise and open comment. Some of the top themes from these meetings include:

1. Indoor or outdoor sports turf space should be a priority for the city
2. Create a nature-based play area, interactive creek and Pickleball courts at Lapeer Park
3. Replace playground at Schemansky Park
4. The newly instilled trash can program seems to be working
5. Continue to improve parks rather than build new or purchase new land
6. Create a marketing plan or social media blitz informing the residents better
7. Bring back the park ranger program that used to exist



VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

A separate virtual stakeholder meeting was held on Wednesday, July 16. An invitation was sent to all partner organizations, youth sports groups, performing arts groups and users of city parks & facilities. A conversation about their relationship with the city, park improvements, facility usage and organizational priorities were all discussed. Some of the top themes from this meeting included:

1. Scheduling can be challenging for some of the sports fields due to their high demand.
2. Logistics with pool usage and existing programming is a challenge at The Center
3. Addition of indoor sports turf
4. Continue to upgrade sports fields and lighting
5. Permanent pool scoreboard for swimming meets and events
6. Relationships between partner groups and the city is excellent

PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING

Once a draft Parks and Recreation Plan was completed, it was made available for the required 30-day public review from October 2, 2025 to November 3, 2025. The availability of the draft plan for public review was advertised in XXXX publication and available on the city's website. Copies of the draft plan were available for consultation at City Hall, The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center and the draft was also posted on the City website.

The Parks and Recreation Commission hosted a public hearing and considered the comments received from the public at a scheduled meeting on November 5, 2025, where minor changes were made to the document and the plan was recommended to the City Council at their December 9, 2025 meeting. The City Council subsequently adopted the Plan.

Copies of the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council resolutions, as well as the public notices regarding plan availability and public hearing, the minutes of the public hearing, and letters of transmittal are uploaded to the MDNR MiGrants website as required.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives were formulated to provide direction and a long-term vision for the City of Dearborn's park system. They are broad enough to encompass the suggestions expressed from the public, City officials, staff, as well as to meet the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographic changes, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's existing conditions, and recreation trends.

GOAL 1. PARK MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Maintain and improve the city parks to ensure clean, safe, attractive, and high-quality recreational experiences.

It is important to maintain and improve existing park facilities to ensure public safety and continued enjoyment. This includes upgrading aging equipment, removing barriers, and general park upkeep.

- 1.1 Upgrade or repair aging play equipment, paved surfaces, park structures, and furnishings;
- 1.2 Improve the parks' accessibility by removing barriers to universal access;
- 1.3 Continue renovations and improvements to outdoor aquatic facilities

GOAL 2. ROUGE RIVER CORRIDOR

Capitalize on the Rouge River for land and water recreation.

The Rouge River corridor serves as the primary natural asset and recreation corridor for the City. It connects one park near the downtown and is one of the community's focal points. It provides a framework for developing land and water trails to connect parks and community facilities thereby promoting active lifestyles and enhancing the health and well-being of City residents.

- 2.1 Plan and implement an extended blue trail along the Rouge River;
- 2.2 Continue to develop and promote water recreation with new canoe/kayak landings, creation of additional opportunities for fishing; and
- 2.3 Work with the Friends of the Rouge, Wayne County and other state and regional agencies to protect the water quality of the Rouge River remove invasive species and restore natural habitat.
- 2.4 Create connectivity to additional parks, city owned properties or neighboring municipalities

GOAL 3. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE NETWORK

Make it safer and easier for more residents to walk and bike in the city.

There is an opportunity to plan for and continue to develop an interconnected network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities that provide safe and efficient travel between key places within Dearborn including parks, neighborhoods, schools, downtown, and neighboring communities.

- 3.1 Ensure parks are bicycle-friendly with pathways that are sufficiently wide, available bicycle parking, and appropriate amenities such as drinking fountains, fix-it stations, and rest areas;
- 3.2 Update the City-wide multimodal plan containing a mix of on street and off-street bicycle accommodations to connect the City parks, neighborhoods, and community facilities; and
- 3.3 Create more natural trails for hiking, mountain biking or nature walks.

GOAL 4. MAJOR SPORTS PARK AND FACILITY EXPANSION

Seek feedback and study the importance of a major sports facility, sport field improvements or an expansion of The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

There is feedback throughout this planning process that supports the development of an indoor sports facility, outdoor sport field improvements or an expansion of The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center. This would include the transition of grass turf fields to artificial turf fields, the addition of a new indoor sports turf facility or an expansion of existing facilities to accommodate the demand for indoor sports programming.

- 4.1 Complete a feasibility study specific to the development of an indoor sports turf space;
- 4.2 Collaborate with city partners and stakeholders to determine levels of demand
- 4.3 Collaborate with City Administration to find community support, sponsorships and other potential funding opportunities for such development or expansion.

GOAL 5. OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE VENUE

Seek feedback and study the importance of an outdoor performance venue

There is feedback throughout this planning process that supports the development of an outdoor performance venue. Additional feedback included residents wanting more performances, concerts, movies and/or special events to attend which provide a sense of community and gathering of the community.

- 5.1 Complete a feasibility study specifically on the development of an outdoor performance venue;
- 5.2 Collaborate with city partner organizations and existing event organizers to determine whether an outdoor performance venue should be a priority;
- 5.3 Collaborate with City Administration to find community support, sponsorships and other potential funding opportunities for such a development.

ACTION PROGRAM

The following describes the specific projects and actions which are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period. Illustrations and plans showing the proposed park improvements and actions are also included to depict the proposed actions.

1. Maintain and upgrade existing city parks (all parks)

This action includes replacing old equipment which is in a state of disrepair, outdated, or is dangerous, as well as improving the appearance of the parks and properties through appropriate landscaping and upkeep. All upgrades must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and efforts should be taken to remove all existing barriers to universal access. Proposed projects include:

- A. Replace or upgrade aging play equipment as needed.
- B. Remove barriers to universal access.
- C. Ensure safety surfaces under playground equipment meet regulated depth and fall zones.
- D. Refurbish parking, walkways, sports courts, and other concrete and paved surfaces as needed.
- E. Replace and add park furnishings such as benches, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers and signs.
- F. Maintain buildings, structures, and picnic shelters in good condition with roof repair, exterior painting, and other renovations.
- G. Manage and improve existing tree canopy and vegetation.

Park improvements were identified during the park site audits and are denoted below as immediate action items, intermediary action items and long-term action items:

<u>Park</u>	<u>Immediate Action</u>	<u>Intermediary Action</u>	<u>Long-Term Action</u>
Crowley Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove exposed spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovate asphalt walking trail 	N/A
Ford Field Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update benches Remove unused flagpole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve connectivity to play structure Restripe parking lots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pave gravel areas & drives Address erosion along Rouge River access
Ford Woods Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update benches Remove dead trees 	N/A	N/A
Hemlock Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update benches Remove dead trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace pea gravel safety surface Restripe basketball courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurface basketball courts
Lapeer Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace soccer goals 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add second picnic shelter
Levagood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update benches Weed playground surface Crack fill basketball court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace pea gravel play surface Add connectivity to ball fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace older play structures Add second picnic shelter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tighten sand volleyball nets 		
The Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety netting over softball fields for foul balls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light northern field • Update play structure • Light pickleball courts
Alber-Bingham Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Add more EWF 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add walking trail around park perimeter • Update swings
Arthur Basse Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add seating to picnic gazebo • Add EWF to dinosaur play area 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update picnic gazebo • Replace dinosaur play equipment
Caterbury Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more EWF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Update swings • Replace standalone truck climber
Carlisle-Raymond Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Update swings
Cherry Hill Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add second park entrance
Columbia Park	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Update swings • Replace teeter-totter
Dearborn High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more EWF • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add park connectivity to sidewalks • Add park connectivity to play structure • Replace play structure
Freda-Blessner Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more EWF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update swings • Add walking trail around park perimeter
Gary Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	N/A
Graham Street Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Replace soccer nets • Weed play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate/seed small-sided soccer field 	N/A
Martha Myrtle Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update swings • Update play structure • Add trail connectivity into the park
Palmer-Jerome Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Replace funnel-ball bucket 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add connectivity to play amenities
Pine-Linden Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update swings

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Add connectivity to play amenities
Riverdale Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed play surface • Update benches 	N/A	N/A
Rosalie-Hubbard Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure
Tannahill Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed play surface 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update swings
Argyle-Williamson Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Replace sidewalks • Add picnic shelter • Add park connectivity
Bennington Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add park connectivity to play structure
Edison Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Add park connectivity to play amenities
Geer Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more seating 	N/A	N/A
Morningside Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	N/A
Oak Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Remove or replace ball field backstop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Update swings • Add picnic shelter • Add park connectivity to play structure
Oxford Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Remove or replace ball field backstop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure
Penn-Vassar Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Replace exposed bench 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add connectivity to play structure
Schemansky Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove dead trees(s) • Replace basketball net 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Add connectivity to play structure
Summer Stephens Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Replace sand volleyball net • Remove or replace funnel-ball game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove older exercise/metal structure • Remove or repair existing concrete and unused pad
Ten Eyck Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace pea gravel play surface • Repurpose tennis courts to pickleball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structures
Whitmore-Bolles Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Add connectivity to

			play structure
Wyoming-Gould Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add shade trees/structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add picnic shelter • Upgrade soccer field
York Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update benches • Move bike rack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove pea gravel play surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update play structure • Add connectivity to play structure • Add picnic shelter
Peace Park West	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peace Park East	N/A	N/A	N/A

2. Rouge River Corridor

This action includes:

- A. Continue to develop and promote water trails with new canoe/kayak landings, creation of a second river access point and additional opportunities for fishing.
- B. Operate or find a partner operator to provide water recreation opportunities or rental of canoe/kayaks on the Rouge River.
- C. Partner with neighboring municipalities, Wayne County and the Friends of the Rouge to create a regional water trail.

3. Pedestrian and Bicycle Network

This action includes:

- A. Update the City-wide multimodal plan containing a mix of on and off-street bicycle accommodations to connect the city parks, neighborhoods, and community facilities.
- B. Ensure parks are bicycle friendly with pathways that are sufficiently wide, available bicycle parking, and appropriate amenities such as drinking fountains, fix-it stations, and rest areas.
- C. Work together with the Motor City Mountain Biking Association to identify existing parkland or city owned property where nature or mountain biking trails can be constructed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Table 13 lists the individual projects along with the specific tasks to be accomplished, the project objective reference, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. Projects identified in the annual Capital Improvement Plan have also been added to this project schedule. Short-term (ST) projects are recommended for completion within one to two years while long-term (LT) projects may take longer to be completed, within five to six years. Mid-term is between the two (MT). On-going projects (OG) include activities occurring on a regular basis.

Table 13. Capital Improvement Schedule

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
2026 Capital Improvement Plan				
Parks & Recreation: Reinvestment into City Park Amenities	1	\$186,724	General Fund	ST
Camp Dearborn Asphalt Resurfacing	1	\$431,882	General Fund	ST
Camp Dearborn Full Hookup Installation	1	\$1,260,000	General Fund	ST
Camp Dearborn broadband, wireless internet and amenities	1	\$641,674	MEDC Grant	ST
Camp Dearborn electrical hookups, new cabins, pads, electrical	1	\$294,359	MEDC and Gen. Fund	ST
Camp Dearborn Comfort Station	1	\$921,490	MEDC and Gen. Fund	ST
Mystic Creek Asphalt Repairs	1	\$51,000	General Fund	ST
Mystic Creek Clubhouse & Restroom Roof & Gutter Replacement	1	\$80,675	General Fund	ST
Dearborn Hills Golf Course Irrigation Replacement	1	\$274,230	General Fund & ARPA	ST
Dearborn Hills Golf Course Secure of Lake Banks	1	\$34,072	General Fund	ST
Parks & Recreation Security Cameras	1	\$226,921	Gen. Fund & IT	ST
Neighborhood Pool Renovations at Ten Eyck, Summer Stephens & Lapeer	1	\$6,001,035	MEDC Grant	LT
Splash Pad Improvements at Crowley & Hemlock Parks	1	\$369,360	General Fund	MT
Crowley Park Inclusive Playground	1	\$1,493,286	General Fund & WCPARC	MT
Pine-Linden Park Shelter	1	\$62,045	WCPARC	ST
Ford Woods Inclusive Playground	1	\$1,503,014	Gen Fund, CIP, Private	MT
Playground Equipment in Neighborhood Parks	1	\$1,974,693	Gen. Fund, CIP, CDBG	MT
Parks & Recreation Storage Facility	1	\$97,777	General Fund	ST
Wyoming-Gould Park Updates (Playground, soccer field, fence)	1	\$314,231	CDBG and WCPARC	MT
Dunworth Pool Updates	1	\$1,496,615	GF, Bonds & ARPA	MT
Morningside Park Splash Pad	1	\$775,546	GF, WCPARC & PEACE	MT
Additional Trash Receptacles for City Parks	1	\$224,167	CDBG	ST
Comfort Station Upgrades at Hemlock, Ford Woods and Crowley	1	\$300,000	General Fund	MT
Park Bench Replacement	1	\$400,000	General Fund	MT
Hemlock Cabin Refurbishment	1	\$83,113	General Fund	LT
Parks Signage Replacement	1	\$200,000	CDBG	LT
Arthur Basse Park play structure	Q	\$215,000	CDBG	LT
Crowley Park Tennis Court Resurfacing	1	\$588,332	General Fund	MT

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
Lapeer Tennis & Basketball Court Resurfacing	1	\$363,972	Gen. Fund & CDBG	MT
Ford Woods Pickleball Courts	1	\$100,000	Gen. Fund & CDBG	MT
Lapeer Park Soccer Field Installation	1	\$79,904	CDBG	MT
Hemlock Park Soccer Field Installation	1	\$309,886	Gen. Fund & CDBG	LT
Dearborn Ice Skating Center Roof replacement	1	\$363,868	Gen. Fund & Facility Maint. Reserve	LT
Dearborn Ice Skating Center Alarm Replacement	1	\$117,000	General Fund	MT
Theater Restoration including sound, lighting, control board	1	\$361,138	Ticket Fees	LT
Levagood & Crowley Parks Ball Diamond Lighting	1	\$1,185,441	Gen. Fund, Grant & Don.	MT
Ford Field Playground Fence	1	\$18,900	Facilities Fund	MT
Michael A Guido Stage Rigging Replacement	1	\$112,500	Ticket Fees	ST
Michael A. Guido Curtain Replacement	1	\$115,000	Ticket Fees	ST
The Center Theater Glass Curtain Wall Flashing	1	\$3,578,751	General Fund	MT
The Center Aquatic Center Renovation	1	\$231,161	General Fund	LT
The Center Roof Replacement	1	\$2,098,274	General Fund & MEDC	ST
The Center Fitness Area Remodel	1	\$817,203	General Fund	MT
Lapeer Park Junior Soccer Fields	1	\$72,211	General Fund	ST
PEACE Park South Completion	1	\$9,971,201	Wayne County	LT
Pedestrian/Bike Network and Water Trails				
Central Trailway Loop	3	\$750,000	General Fund	ST
Street Alley Sidewalk Repairs	3	\$4,047,211	Major Street, Sewer, Water, Gen. Fund	ST
Update Multimodal Plan	3	TBD	TBD	ST
Michigan Avenue Streetscape Improvements	3	\$2,125,000	General Fund	LT

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

To accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides a limited amount of money for parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned.

Apply for Federal Funding

At the federal level, MDOT, in conjunction with SEMCOG, funds Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis. Activities may include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges, and underpasses;
- Provision of safety and educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling; and
- Acquisition, planning, designing and constructing abandoned railway corridors.

Apply for State Funding

At the state level, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) continue to be the primary funding sources for park land acquisition and development. The Recreation Passport grant also offers some state funding to local units of government.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource-based preservation and recreation. Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000 in 2025. Applications are typically due by April 1st each year.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, which distributes funds to the MDNR for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has recently been on meeting community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields, and walking paths. Minimum grant requests were \$30,000 and maximum grant requests were \$500,000 in 2025. The match percentage is 50% of the total project cost. Applications are due by April 1st each year.

The Recreation Passport grant program offers funding for the development of outdoor public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$150,000 in 2025. The local match obligation was 25% of the total project cost. Applications are usually due by April 1st each year.

Other funding programs conducted in partnership with the MDNR are available through other state government divisions, such as the Fisheries Division (Fisheries Habitat Grant Program) and the Forest Resources Division (Community Forestry Grant Programs).

Other funding conducted in partnership with the MDNR is available through other state government divisions, such as the Fisheries Division (Inland Fisheries Grants) and the Forest Resources Division (Community Forestry Grants). The Inland Fisheries program considers projects that enhance habitat and fisheries, riparian property for public fishing use, water quality, and ecology. Minimum grant requests are \$25,000 and maximum requests are \$1.5 million depending on the theme in 2025. The local match obligation is 10% of the total project cost. Applications are due in early 2026.

Municipalities may use Community Forestry grants to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. Grant requests range from \$5,000 to \$30,000 depending on project category.

DTE Energy Foundation and Consumers Energy (CE) also offer tree planting grants for up to \$4,000 for DTE and \$3,000 for CE to local municipalities in its service areas. Applications are due in October (DTE) or July (CE) with awards announced in June for the DTE Energy Foundation program.

Apply for Other Grant Funding

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/ pathways or greenway-related facilities such as PeopleForBikes. PeopleForBikes is sponsored by the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: facility, education, and capacity building. In the past, requests for funding could be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications for 2025 are not yet announced.

The DALMAC Fund also contributes grants to expand bicycling in Michigan. A total of \$173,079 were awarded in 2025 with typical grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The next round of applications will be due on March 1, 2026.

The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation provides active lifestyle grants including for Parks, Trails & Green Design projects. The Foundation launched its Parks & Trails Initiative in southeast Michigan with an \$100 million commitment. In addition, the Foundation is beginning to explore green infrastructure investments that focus on improving water quality, reducing combined sewer overflows, improving habitat and improving climate resiliency. The Foundation is now accepting requests for trail projects or planning projects that; 1. Are regionally significant; 2. Connect Communities and Key Anchor Assets; 3. Have significant community support; 4. Demonstrate capacity to operate and maintain the spaces after they are built; and 5. Garner additional leverage investment that is at or near 2/3 of the total project cost.

Seek Other Sources of Funding

The City of Dearborn should investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should continue to be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.