

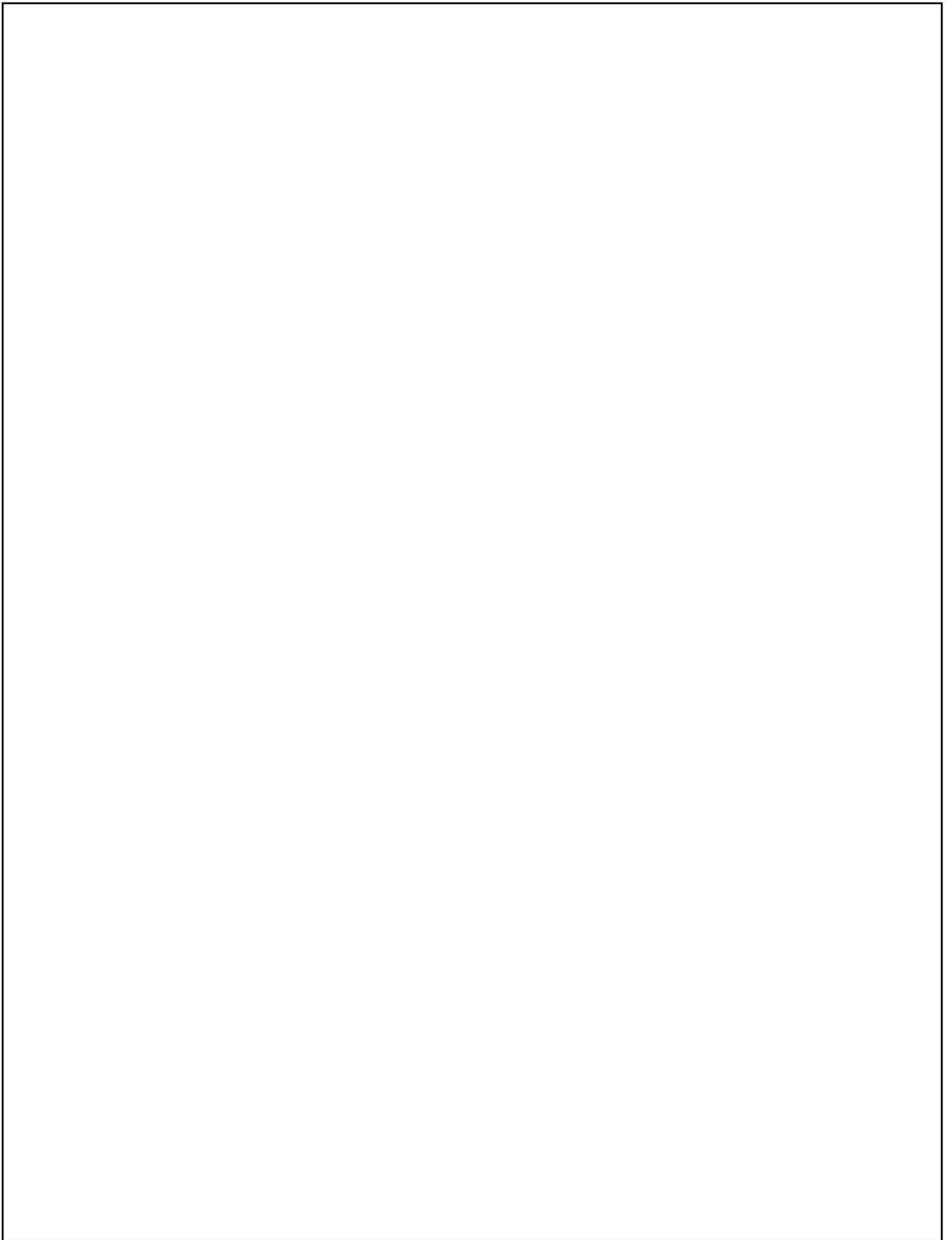


Royal Oak

Parks & Recreation
5 Year Master Plan
2017-2022

WESTWOOD
PARK

Royal Oak





Acknowledgements

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of the 2017 Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Master Plan is greatly appreciated.

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Introduction



Fernwood Park

Mission Statement

To provide residents a variety of year-round recreation opportunities that are responsive to their needs, are enjoyable to their families, and contribute to their physical and mental well-being while maintaining and improving the aesthetic and functional value of all parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and open spaces.



Waterworks Park

Statement of Purpose

This Master Plan has been developed by the City of Royal Oak in conjunction with the Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with strong citizen participation. The jurisdiction of this plan is the City of Royal Oak, and focuses on all aspects of parks, facilities, open spaces, recreation, and programming as overseen by the City of Royal Oak Department of Recreation and Public Service. **This plan is intended to both maintain the high quality of Parks and Recreation services and facilities, and to constantly improve them.** The 2017 Master Plan will qualify the city to apply for grant funding from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources over the next five years. Grant money will help the city carry out new projects identified in this plan.

While a large portion of this master plan is dedicated to taking inventory of strengths and needs within the Department, it is also meant to set a course to deal with future obstacles efficiently. Such obstacles include ever-changing demographics and population, funding challenges, environmental protection and the changing needs of our city. **This plan sets forth a set of goals and objectives designed to address current and future needs within the Parks and Recreation system in Royal Oak.**

Based on the information gathered, an analysis determined where the community is deficient or is providing a surplus of various recreation facilities and programs in comparison to national standards and community needs. The final 2017-2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* reflects which new facilities and improvements to existing facilities will best address the needs and desires of Royal Oak residents and visitors.

Community Description

The Royal Oak Community

Royal Oak is located approximately 2 miles north of Detroit in southeastern Oakland County. Positioned along historic Woodward Avenue and bordered by I-696 to the south and I-75 to the East, Royal Oak enjoys easy access to Michigan's highway system. It is 11.79 square miles with a population of 57,236, according to 2010 U.S. Census data.

As one of the first developments on the periphery of Detroit to experience increased growth, **Royal Oak is characteristically denser than its neighboring communities.** While the vast majority of suburban communities exhibit similar characteristics (predominantly residential with strip commercial development and no central focus) **Royal Oak is unique because of its established and thriving downtown surrounded by distinct neighborhoods.**

It is a goal of the City of Royal Oak to be recognized as a destination for entertainment, recreation and culture. Downtown Royal Oak is a focal point for culture in Southeastern Michigan. Royal Oak has seen continued investment and redevelopment. With a unique blend of restaurants, retail storefronts, theatres and galleries, people of all ages visit our community year round.

Located in the heart of downtown, the Royal Oak Farmer's Market, considered among the best in the state, is a point of pride for residents. The Farmer's Market operates May through Christmas every Friday and year round every Saturday and Sunday. The Farmer's Market is an excellent venue, hosting events throughout the year.

Downtown Royal Oak is also home to numerous events throughout the year. In 2016, Arts, Beats and Eats was hosted by the city for the seventh consecutive year. This

event draws over 400,000 people to downtown Royal Oak over the Labor Day Weekend. Other events are held within the city's many parks. Memorial Park is home to the Outdoor Art Festival and part of the Woodward Dream Cruise

Royal Oak's K-12 school system features 10 public schools and 3 parochial schools. Oakland Community College has a campus in Royal Oak as well. Universities like Wayne State University in Detroit, Oakland University in Rochester, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Dearborn and Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti are also within driving distance.

The community also has access to world renowned health care. The William Beaumont Hospital Campus is located on 13 mile, just west of Woodward. The entire campus is over 100 acres in size. Royal Oak residents also enjoy easy access to the Detroit Medical Center and the Beaumont-Troy Campus.

Detroit's SMART bus system also offers residents transportation along Woodward and other main thoroughfares in the city. The AMTRAK station in town offers residents an opportunity to travel by train to other metropolitan centers including Toledo, Chicago and Cleveland.



Summer Concert Series 'pop-up park'

A Pedestrian Friendly City

Royal Oak is committed to non-motorized transportation. In 2011, the city adopted the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP). (NMTP) seeks to make the city more pedestrian friendly. The NMTP, incorporated into the City of Royal Oak Master Plan, seeks to improve the mobility, health and environment for Royal Oak citizens while creating more ways for residents of Royal Oak to walk or bike downtown to shop rather than driving to other areas. The NMTP sets forth a plan to help Royal Oak citizens choose to walk, ride their bikes or use public transit instead of driving themselves. The Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is designed to work in conjunction with the goals and objectives of the NMTP.

Royal Oak is completely surrounded by developed communities, limiting the amount of land available for park and open space expansion. While Royal Oak was being developed, timbering took place to make way for progress however a concerted effort was put forth to preserve the natural beauty of the city's trees and to replant lost trees across the city. Currently the city contains over 23,000 trees. **It is a specific goal of the Royal Oak Parks and Forestry Division to maintain the "urban forest"**. Trees line the streets throughout Royal Oak, creating a canopy over the roadways and sidewalks. Before being settled, Royal Oak was a densely forested area. This spirit remains throughout Royal Oak. While the city is undoubtedly a densely populated suburban area it remains a place of natural beauty.

All of these characteristics combine to make Royal Oak a dynamic place to live and work. With a central location, many amenities, continued investment in the community and a

rich cultural and commercial tradition Royal Oak continues to be a premier community in Southeastern Michigan. The unique identity of Royal Oak requires Parks and Recreation services tailor-made to meet its specific needs. **This master plan sets forth a blueprint committed to not only continuing the excellent tradition of Park & Recreation services in Royal Oak but to continually improve and adapt to meet the needs and wants of the community.**

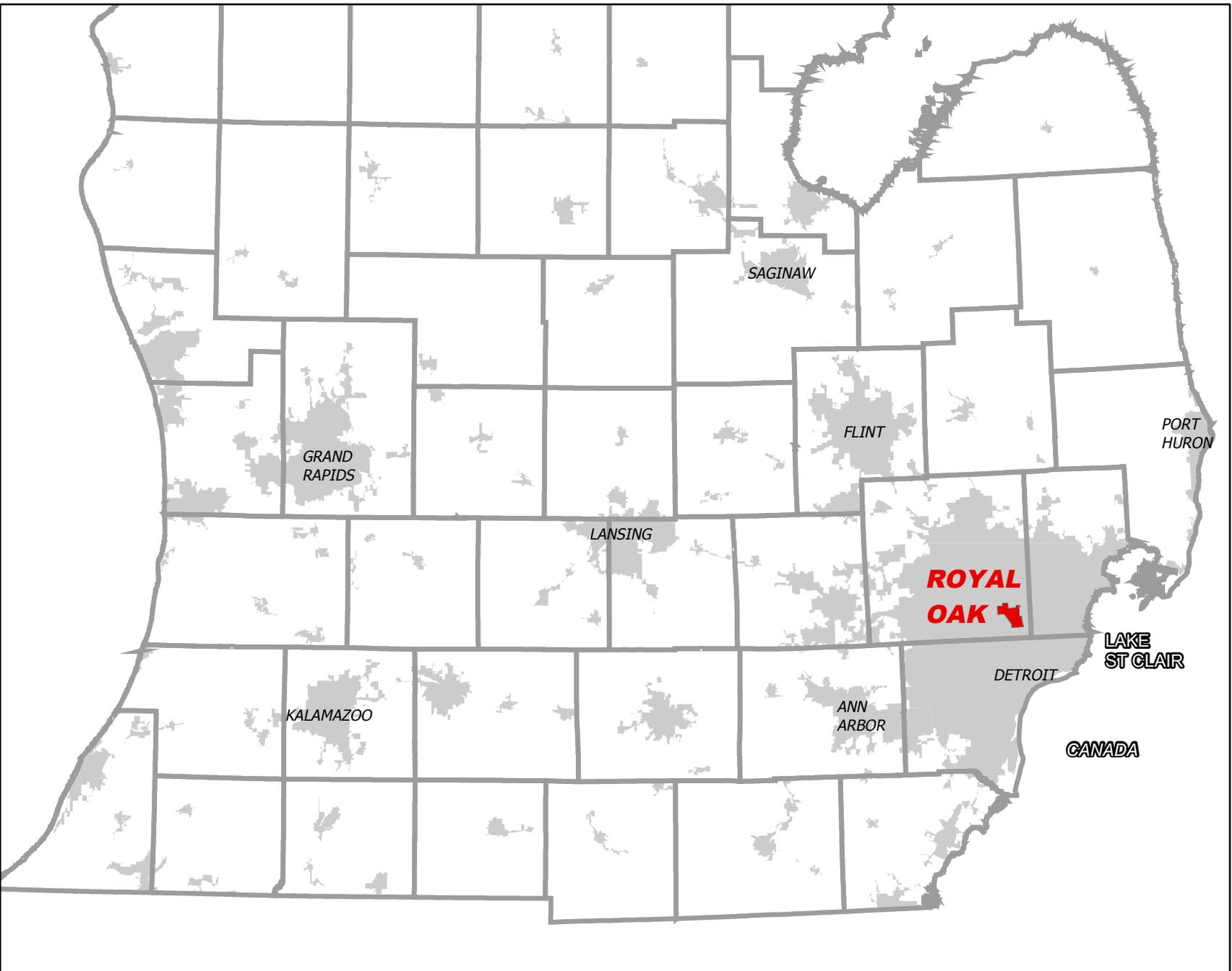


Royal Oak's legacy of a naturally forested area earned Royal Oak the title of "Tree City USA" from the National Arbor Day Foundation every year since 1976.

"The amount of green space and preservation of trees is very important to me. As home sizes overwhelm lots, and mature trees are cut down to build them, it is even more vital to treasure what makes our city healthy and beautiful"

-Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Survey Respondent

Map 2 - City in Relation to State



Administrative Structure

Administrative Structure

The City of Royal Oak is able to provide the high quality parks and recreation services and facilities it does because of the high level of coordination between various city departments, the city commission, the parks and recreation advisory board, private sector businesses and organizations, and various citizen and service groups.

City of Royal Oak Structure

The City of Royal Oak has operated under the "Council Manager" form of government since its incorporation on November 8, 1921. This form of government provides that the City Commission act as the legislative or policy making body. The City Commission is composed of six Commissioners and a Mayor elected by the city-at-large on a nonpartisan ballot. Three Commissioners are elected to four-year terms every two years to ensure experienced legislators at all times. The Mayor is elected for a two-year term.



The City of Royal Oak, City Hall

The City Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and regulations governing the city. city commission also appoints members of various statutory and advisory boards and commissions, and the City Manager.

The City Manager is the city's chief administrative officer and, as such, is held accountable for planning, coordinating, directing and executing all of the city's operations in a manner prescribed by law and conforming to the general policies and specific directives of the commission. The City Manager also appoints and supervises the heads of departments of the city.

Parks and Recreation Services

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board advises the Commission on policies affecting the operation of the Recreation and Parks & Forestry Services, and advises the Commission, City Manager, Director of Recreation and Public Service and Superintendent of Recreation on all other matters pertaining to Recreation programming and Parks & Forestry Services. The Board is comprised of nine residents appointed by the Commission to three-year terms. The Board meets the first Thursday of the month September through May and June, July and August as required. The Director of Recreation and Public Service and the Superintendent of Recreation are ex-officio members of the Advisory Board. **The enabling act for Parks and Recreation Services can be found in Chapter 142 of the City of Royal Oak City Charter. The enabling State of Michigan legislation is Public Act 156 of 1917.**

The day-to-day service and maintenance of facilities is provided by the Department of Public Service. The Director of Recreation

and Public Service has direct authority from the City Manager. The Director manages the city's auto parking, building maintenance, fleet maintenance, highways, parks and forestry, solid waste, street maintenance, and water/sewer/electrical. The Director performs administrative duties in addition to meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The Superintendent of Recreation is responsible for planning, developing and evaluating community recreation activities and programs. In addition, the Superintendent oversees both Senior Centers, including seven part-time employees, and the lease contracts of municipally owned facilities including the Lindell Ice Arena, driving range, golf course and Total Soccer.

Community Partnerships

Royal Oak has a tremendous amount of avenues and opportunities for volunteerism. There are over twenty community groups that direct their time and energy to parks and recreation.

The Royal Oak Nature Society (RONS) is a group formed exclusively to improve and maintain Royal Oak's two nature parks, Tanhave Woods and Cummington Park, and the Arboretum at Worden Park East.

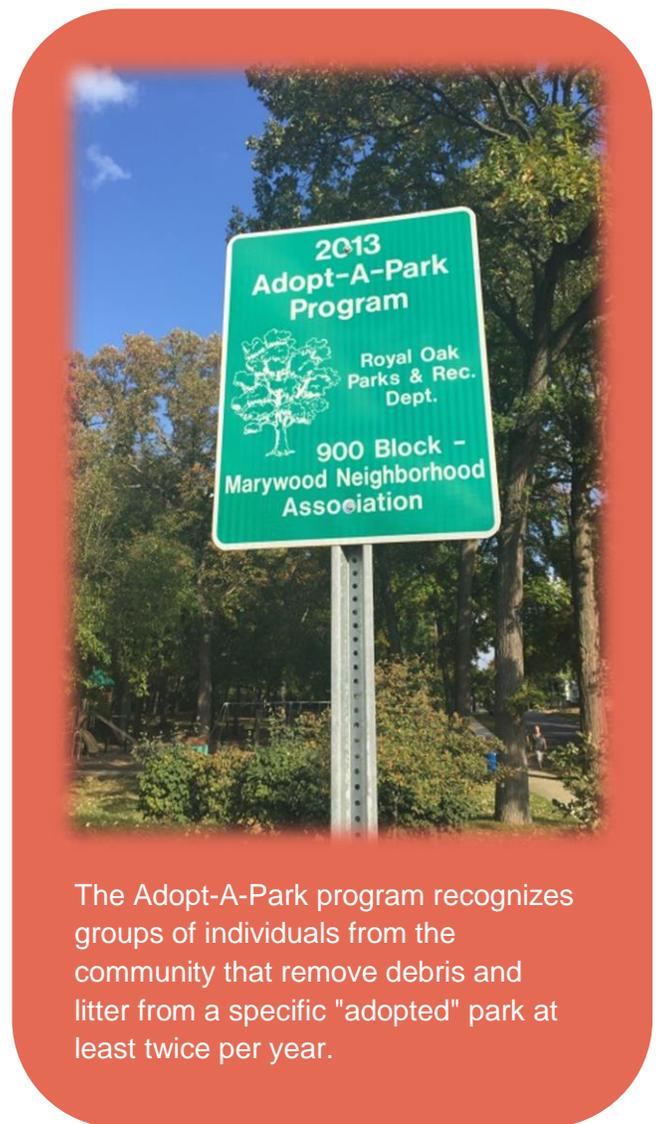
The City of Royal Oak is committed to assisting RONS in achieving its' goals (see Appendix B). There is a public demand for more nature-centered opportunities within the Parks and Recreation Department and RONS will play a major role in achieving that goal.

The city has developed an Adopt-A-Park Program in which citizens donate their time and resources to improve and maintain their neighborhood parks. The Adopt-A-Park program has not only encouraged volunteerism but also seeks out sponsorships from residents and businesses for park maintenance and specific projects. This program has been successful in lowering costs while also increasing community

ownership and the quality of local parks.

The city also plans on using other avenues to encourage volunteerism and donations to Parks and Recreation in Royal Oak. **The ROOTS (Royal Oak Opportunity to Serve) Committee was set up by the City of Royal Oak (Chapter 26 of the City Code) to organize the charitable contributions and volunteer opportunities within the city.**

Over the course of the next five years the Parks and Recreation Department has made it a primary goal to strengthen and extend volunteer efforts. The organizations listed above are just a few of the resources the city plans to utilize to assist in Park and Recreation services.



The Adopt-A-Park program recognizes groups of individuals from the community that remove debris and litter from a specific "adopted" park at least twice per year.

Budget

Revenues and Expenditures for Parks and Recreation services in Royal Oak are accounted for in several different funds. Budget summaries are provided in Table 1 on the following pages, including past, current, and projected budgets for each fund.

The Parks and Forestry division is funded from a general fund allocation. These funds are directed for the maintenance of all parks and cemeteries including playgrounds; baseball, volleyball, football and soccer venues; basketball and tennis courts; picnic areas; and walking trails, signs, lighting and parking. This division is also responsible for general duties outside of direct park maintenance including preservation of the urban forest, snow and ice removal and leaf pick-up.



Big Builders: One of many programs offered through the Department of Recreation. Big Builders enables children to learn by integrating K'nex with general knowledge in nature, space, science, transportation and day-to-day physics. The program illustrates theoretical knowledge in these fields through the use of stories, thinking, social games and model building.

The Recreation Department relies on revenue from programming to sustain its activities.

These revenues are used for the marketing, registration, equipment, supplies, facilities, budgeting and evaluation of recreation programming. The Department also oversees Senior Services, and all contracts with leased recreation properties in the City of Royal Oak including the Lindell Ice Arena. The Recreation Department is not responsible for operating costs at the Salter Center, which have been transferred to the Boys and Girls Clubs, although recreation programming is still run there.

Senior Citizens Services are funded through grants, licenses, charges, and contributions as well as money from the general fund. These funds are used for programming for seniors and the operational costs for the Mahany/Meininger Senior Center.



Memorial Park Pavilion is just one of many facilities residents and non-residents can rent for events. Other facilities available for rent are rooms at the senior/community center, ballfields, the gymnasium, the farmers market, and other picnic shelters in the Royal Oak community. Groups interested in renting a facility can find more information at:

<https://www.romi.gov/485/Facility-Pavilion-Rentals>

These funds also work in conjunction with other departments and community and volunteer organizations to provide Parks and Recreation services for the City of Royal Oak. Budget information for other entities that assist in Parks and Recreation services are not listed in this Master Plan.

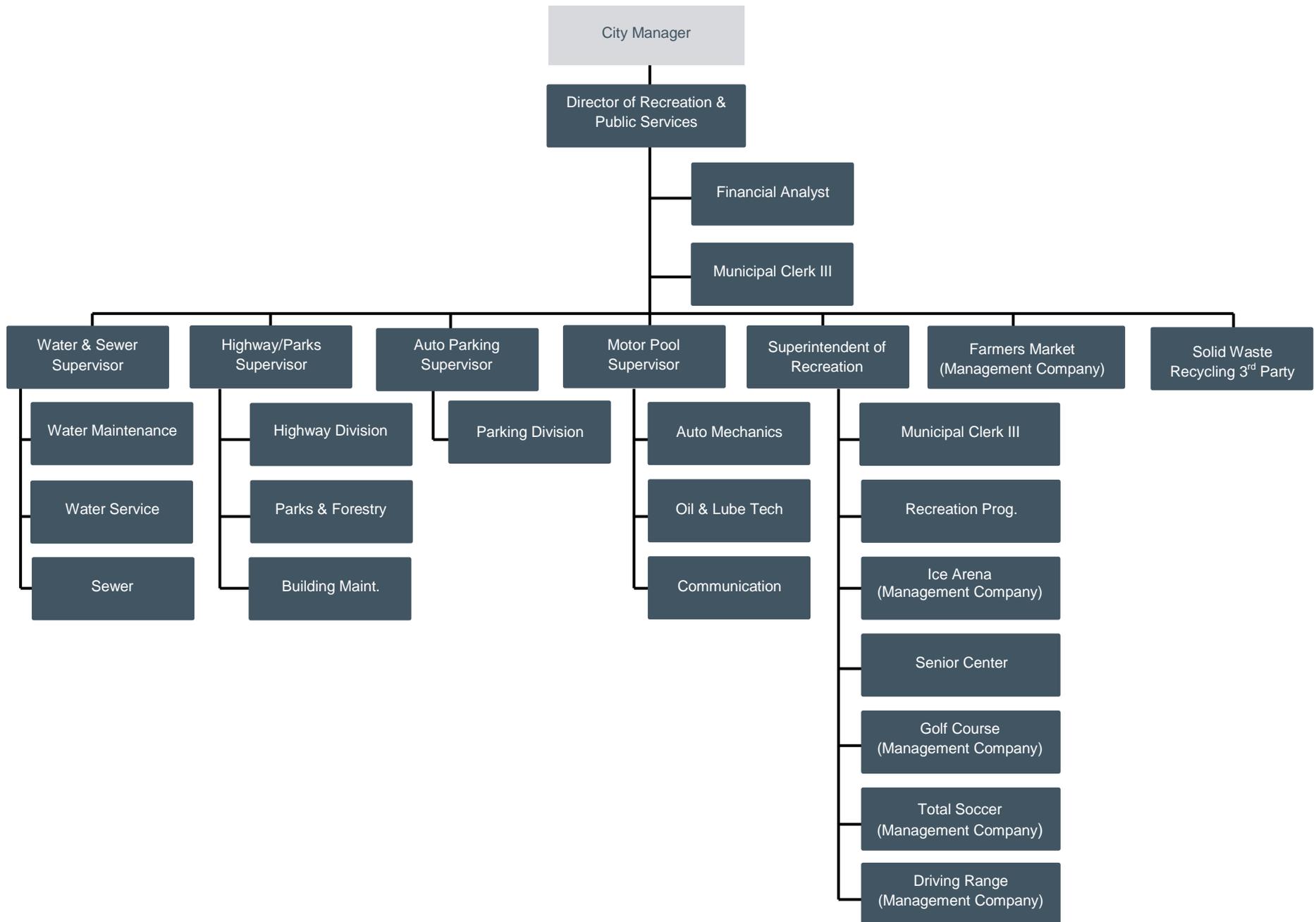
Table 1 – Budget Summary

Parks & Forestry Expenditures						
101.266 PARKS & FORESTRY	Personnel Services	Suppliers	Capital	Other	Debt	Total
2012-2013 Actual	164,950	31,670	0	279,870	0	476,490
2013-2014 Actual	193,540	77,140	74,240	266,110	0	611,030
2014-2015 Actual	239,040	67,780	61,800	336,080	0	704,700
2015-2016 Original Budget	158,150	142,150	75,000	275,230	0	650,530
2015-2016 Adjusted Budget (Dec)	158,150	142,150	75,000	340,230	0	715,530
2015-2016 Estimated Year End	212,200	83,750	75,000	356,430	0	727,380
2016-2017 Dept Request	232,650	76,250	463,000	313,980	0	1,085,880
2016-2017 Manager's Budget	232,650	76,250	463,000	313,980	0	1,085,880
2016-2017 Adopted Budget	232,650	76,250	463,000	313,980	0	1,085,880
2017-2018 Projected Budget	235,520	76,250	75,000	318,410	0	705,180
2018-2019 Projected Budget	238,470	76,250	75,000	322,930	0	712,650
2019-2020 Projected Budget	241,520	76,250	0	327,540	0	645,310
2020-2021 Projected Budget	244,640	76,250	250,000	332,250	0	903,140
Recreation Fund						
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Beginning Unrestricted Net Assets	182,825	234,905	197,115	153,785	104,755	49,865
Revenues and transfers from other funds	586,170	591,840	591,840	591,840	591,840	591,840
Expenditures and transfers to other funds	622,090	629,630	635,170	640,870	646,730	652,760
Net Change in Net Assets	(35,920)	(37,790)	(43,330)	(49,030)	(54,890)	(60,920)
Ending Unrestricted Net Assets	234,905	197,115	153,785	104,755	49,865	(11,055)

Table 1 – Budget Summary (cont.)

Senior Citizen Services						
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Beginning Fund Balance	607,989	574,579	514,849	401,289	321,599	231,489
Revenues and transfers from other funds	774,300	774,140	774,140	774,140	774,140	774,140
Expenditures and transfers to other funds	807,710	833,870	887,700	853,830	864,250	874,980
Net Change in Fund Balance	(33,410)	(59,730)	(113,560)	(79,690)	(90,110)	(100,840)
Ending Fund Balance	574,579	514,849	401,289	321,599	231,489	130,649
Ice Arena Fund						
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Beginning Unrestricted Net Assets	265,457	388,677	377,137	350,067	307,137	247,997
Revenues and transfers from other funds	1,391,500	1,394,900	1,394,900	1,394,900	1,394,900	1,394,900
Expenditures and transfers to other funds	1,268,280	1,406,440	1,421,970	1,437,830	1,454,040	1,470,600
Net Change in Net Assets	123,220	(11,540)	(27,070)	(42,930)	(59,140)	(75,700)
Ending Unrestricted Net Assets	388,677	377,137	350,067	307,137	247,997	172,297

Department of Public Service Organizational Chart



Inventory

Description of Facilities

An inventory of existing local and regional facilities was conducted by The City of Royal Oak in September of 2016. The inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections of city Parks and Recreation sites as well as consultation with officials within the department about strengths and deficiencies within the Parks. **This inventory of facilities includes the following attributes; name, location, acreage, equipment, quantity, quality, accessibility and condition.** Regional, school and private facilities inventories each consisted of a review of parks, recreation and wellness facilities throughout the region using brochures, internet resources and phone interviews.

Municipal Facilities

Currently there are a total of 51 parks in the City of Royal Oak consisting of 17 mini- parks, 23 neighborhood parks, 9 community parks, one community center, one senior community center, and 1 golf course. The city also features an urban plaza, located adjacent to City Hall, which is used for numerous special events, and two nature parks at Quickstad and Cummingston Parks.

Table 2 on page 17 outlines the existing inventory of facilities within Royal Oak's Park System. Play areas include various fields for organized sports (baseball, softball, football, soccer, etc.). Hard court areas include tennis and basketball courts along with eight Pickleball courts located at Whittier Park. Play structures include modular and timber equipment while playground equipment includes swing sets, slides, and jungle gyms. **Most of Royal Oak's Parks offer some type of play equipment.**

Table 3 on page 21 is an outline of the needs of the Parks System. Each park is listed with specific items which could be improved upon or require maintenance. **The needs assessment is designed to provide specific objectives for improving and maintaining each park.** The needs assessment was compiled through site inspections, interviews and public input.

What's The Difference?

Mini Park: Usually no larger than an acre. Mini parks provide greenery, a place to sit outdoors, and sometimes a children's playground. Mini parks serve a specific function or age group.

Neighborhood Park: 5 to 10 acres is optimal. The area is provided for recreational activities such as field games, court games, picnicking and playground areas. Serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.

Community Park: Usually between 30 and 50 acres. The focus of a community park is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.

School Facilities

Within the Royal Oak Neighborhood School District there are 6 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school, 1 community education center and 1 early childhood development center. The City of Royal Oak Recreation Department maintains a close working relationship with the School

District. As a result, the Recreation Department is able to use school facilities when they are available.

There was no official inventory done of all facilities within each school. It was observed that each elementary school has its own play equipment available outside for the children's use while the middle school and high school offer outdoor ball fields and hard court areas as well as indoor gymnasiums, cafeterias and auditoriums.

While the Recreation department can coordinate with schools for use of their facilities, the schools are designed to serve the children who attend them and therefore are not widely used by the department for general public use. Under certain conditions, they are used by the general population. Just as with parks, the schools tend to serve the areas that surround them. Elementary schools tend to serve the neighborhoods where they are located. The High School and Middle School are used to serve a larger population.



Resident of Royal Oak enjoying Wagner Park

Private Recreation Facilities

The residents of Royal Oak benefit exponentially from the amount of private recreational facilities throughout the city that address their needs. **Within the City of Royal Oak there are over 20 health and wellness centers ran independently of the city; ranging from yoga and dance studios to general health clubs like the YMCA.** There are private gyms within apartment complexes and condominiums throughout the city; however these are generally limited to residents of each complex. Royal Oak also enjoys the benefit of the private Red Run Golf Course. There are also numerous groups which provide youth programming such as the Judson Center and the Salvation Army, among others.

Public-Private Partner Facilities

The city leases facilities to private entities to run and maintain. These include Total Soccer, Grand Slam Baseball, Royal Oak Golf Driving Range, and Adventure Golf. The city also utilizes private contractors to operate the Royal Oak Golf Course, and the John Lindell Ice Arena. Proceeds are directed to the general fund, with the exception of revenue from the Royal Oak Golf Driving Range which is directed to the Recreation Department.

These facilities have proven useful for providing revenue while not requiring city personnel to operate and maintain them. The Recreation Department oversees contracts with these facilities.

The Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) has taken responsibility for the operating budget for the Salter Community Center. The BGCA is responsible for costs pertaining to the building including utilities, staffing, and minor repairs. Both the Recreation Department and the Boys and Girls Club run

programming out of the building, although both programs are run independently of one another. This has proven to be a valuable program not only for the city's budget but for young men and women throughout the city.

Regional Recreation Resources

Residents of Royal Oak are fortunate enough to enjoy the benefits of numerous regional recreation resources. Regional recreation areas are large facilities that serve a broad geographic area. Located in the Southeast corner of Oakland County, Royal Oak finds itself surrounded by one of the most prolific county parks systems in the state. According to the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) website, there are 13 county parks containing more than 65 miles of nature trails within them.

Oakland County also offers an array of recreational activities such as swimming, kayaking, camping, fishing and BMX racing plus many more. The OCPRC acts as a perfect compliment to the Parks and Recreation program in Royal Oak.

Part of the Detroit Zoo, including the main entrance, is located in Royal Oak. The Zoo offers residents the opportunity to see wildlife from around the world literally right in their backyard. Although the City of Royal Oak does not assume responsibility for funding the Zoo, it is a publicly funded entity which aims to provide affordable recreation for residents.

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

Currently there are no DNR grant-assisted projects within the Parks & Recreation Department in Royal Oak. Below is a list of previous grant funded projects with a brief explanation.

Ruth E Wagner Park Addition. In 1970 Royal Oak attained a grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to purchase 1.5 acres of land adjacent to Wagner Park.

Worden Park. In 1977 a grant from the LWCF funded five baseball diamonds, lighting for two diamonds, a play apparatus and a parking lot at Worden Park.

Meininger & Lockman Park Development. In 1978 improvements to Meininger and Lockman Parks were funded by a grant from the LWCF. Improvements included the burial of overhead wires at both parks, installation of play equipment and improvement of existing recreational facilities.

Starr/Jaycee Park. In 1980 the LWCF provided a grant for the installation of a shelter, new recreation facilities and parking at Starr/Jaycee Park.



Starr-Jaycee Park

Dickinson Park Acquisition. In 1985 the land for Dickinson Park was acquired using a grant from the LWCF.

Senior/Community Center Addition. In 1989 the Recreation Bond Program (RBP) provided a grant for an addition to the Salter Center to include additional rooms for preschool and arts & crafts.

Sullivan Park Development. In 1989 the RBP provided grant funding to install a play structure and a soccer field at Sullivan Park.

Park System Accessibility Improvements.

In 1993 the LWCF provided funding for accessibility improvements to pathways and play structures in Worden, Meininger and Lockman Parks.

Dickinson Park Developments. In 1994 improvements to Dickinson Park including improved drainage, new recreational facilities and accessibility improvements were funded by the LWCF.

Community Center at VFW Park. In 2000 the Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond Fund (CMIRBF) provided grant funding for improvements and expansion of the Salter Center.

Needs Assessment

Through an inventory and needs assessment the city has determined there are several deficiencies within the Royal Oaks Parks and Recreation System. Among them are the absence of an aquatic facility, a need for public gathering places in public parks, and a lack of aesthetic qualities such as flower beds public art and signs. General maintenance was also a concern. These needs are addressed in the goals and objectives, capital improvement and action plan sections of this master plan. It should be mentioned that none of these needs result in a threat to public health or well-being.



Newly resurfaced tennis courts at Waterworks Park

When comparing current facilities to the Suggested Facilities Development Standards provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the City of Royal Oak is proficient in most facilities it provides. These include facilities for the following activities: ice hockey, tennis, volleyball, baseball/softball, football, soccer, golf courses/driving ranges and two separate trail systems. The only exception would be basketball courts; the city does not have the recommended number of courts for a population our size. However, through the public input process it was determined that the community does not see this as a deficiency that needs to be addressed.

Looking at the service areas of parks within the city, there are several gaps in the southwest corner of the city. The city does not plan on exploring the possibility of purchasing land for parks in this area for several reasons. The public expressed little desire in either the public meetings or in the public survey for the city to purchase any additional park lands. The emphasis was placed instead on improving maintenance of existing parks.

77% of those surveyed ranked “improving maintenance of existing parks” as “very important.”

Second, The Detroit Zoo is located in the southwest corner of the city, providing a regional open space and recreation destination for residents in that area. Royal Oak also has two Community Centers and multiple Community Parks which serve the entire community.

Accessibility

The City of Royal Oak conducted site inspections of all facilities owned and operated by the city. The inspections were conducted by certified inspectors within the Maintenance Division of the Department of

Public Service. Each facility was rated on the 1-5 standard required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. **The city found that several facilities have accessibility issues; as a result, upgrading facility accessibility has become a priority in the Action Plan for the city over the next five years.**

Table 2 - Parks and Recreation General Inventory

Facility Name		Barton N	Barton S	Bassett	Beechwood	Clawson	Cody	MM Community Center	Salter Community Center	Cummingston	Dickinson Park	Dondero	Eagle Plaza	Elks	Exchange	Fernwood	Fries	Franklin	Fulton	Grant	Gunn/Dyer	Huntington Woods	Hudson/Mil Hey	Kenwood	Lawson	Lockman	Maddock	Marais
General Characteristics	Type	MP	MP	MP	MP	NP	MP	SU	SU	CP	NP	NP	MP	NP	CP	MP	MP	MP	MP	NP	NP	MP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
	Parking Spaces												28	1														
	Number of Students																											
	Acres	0.52	0.50	1.14	0.29	2.36	0.14		0.22	25.29	4.07	3.39	0.12	4.67	14.50	0.83	0.50	4.26	0.41	4.25	2.36	0.41	1.88	8.89	4.25	9.33	2.44	2.54
	Lighting												1															
Play Areas	Ballfields/Backstops					1					1	1		1	2						1	1			2	1		1
	Softball/Skinned Fields																											
	Soccer										1			1	2						1				2			
	Football																											
	Volleyball																								1	1		
	Multi-Purpose Field			1		1	1			1		1				1				1	1		1	1	1			1
	Archery Range																											
	Golf/ Driving Range																											
Ice Skating Outdoor										1			1						1	1								
Hard Court Area	Pickleball Courts																											
	Asphalt Play			1																								
	Tennis										2	2		2	2			2						2		2		
	Track & Field																											
	Basketball Courts										1	1		1	1	1									1			
	Basketball Backboards											4			2								1			2		
Play Structures	Play Structures	1		1		1	1			1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Number of Playgrounds																											
	Tot Lot/ Tyke Track	1																										
	Modular Play Equipment						1			2					1					1					1		1	
	Timber Play Structures	1				1	1			1		1		1	1				1		1	1	1			2		
	Metal Play Structures			1		1								1										1		1		
	Tire Climbers/ Tire Swings										1													1		1		
	Resilient Surfacing	S		S		S	Fi,S			S	Fi	S		S	S	S			S	Fi,S	S	S	S,Fi	S	Fi	S	Fi	
	Sandbox										1					1												1
Playground Equipment	Tetherball																											
	Swing Sets	1		1			1			2	2		1	2	3				1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
	Slides (Metal), freestanding										1				1			1			1							
	Jungle Jims/Climbers			1			1				1				1	1			1		1			1	1			

Table 2 - Parks and Recreation General Inventory (Cont.)

Facility Name		Barton N	Barton S	Bassett	Beechwood	Clawson	Cody	MM Community Center	Salter Community Center	Cummingston	Dickinson Park	Dondero	Eagle Plaza	Elks	Exchange	Fernwood	Fries	Franklin	Fulton	Grant	Gunn/Dyer	Huntington Woods	Hudson/Mil Hey	Kenwood	Lawson	Lockman	Maddock	Marais	
Playground Equipment (Cont.)	Spring Riders										1							1											
	Merry-Go-Rounds					1										1													
	Drop Shot																												
	See Saw																												
Fitness	Fitness Areas														1											1			
	Fitness Stations														1											1			
	Monkey Bars																												
	Chin Up Bars																												
	Rings																												
	Parallel Bars																												
	Balance Beams																												
	Vita Course																												
Grounds	Passive Areas	1	1		1							1	1				1			1		1	1		1	1	1	1	
	Picnic Areas	1	1				1			1	1	1		1	1					1			1		1	1	1		
	Nature/Hiking Trail/Foot Path									1																			
	Pavilion/Deck/Gazebo Reserve																										1		
	Pond/Lake/Fishing																												
	Boat Launch/Pier																												
	Historical Monument/Memorial																												
	Beach/ Swimming																												
	Dog Park																												
	Dog Run										1																		
Indoor	Gymnasium								2																				
	Conference Rooms								1																				
	Multi-Purpose Rooms							9	2																				
	Auditorium																												
	Kitchen							1																					
	Art Room								1																				
	Teen Room								1																				
	Auditorium																												
Game Room									1																				

Legend

CP-Community Park	Fi-Fibar
MP-Mini-park	S-Safety Surface
SU-Special Use park	PV-Pavillion
NP-Nieghborhood Park	

Table 2 - Parks and Recreation General Inventory (Cont.)

Facility Name		Mark Twain	Marks	Maudlin	Meininger	Memorial	Miller	Pioneer	Quickstad	Realtor	Red Run	Rotary	Starr/JC	Sullivan	Fred Piper Optimist	13 Mile/Main	Upton	V.F.W.	Wagner	Waterworks	Wendland	Westwood	Whittier	Woodsboro	Worden	Worden East	TOTALS
General Characteristics	Type	NP	NP	MP	NP	CP	NP	NP	CP	NP	CP	MP	CP	NP	NP	MP	NP	CP	CP	NP	MP	MP	NP	MP	CP	MP	
	Parking Spaces	1				18							1												1		50
	Number of Students																										0
	Acres	7.00	1.27	1.79	8.45	24.19	1.52	2.34	31.50	2.54	19.32	0.83	28.00	3.37	3.08	0.10	3.86	7.96	13.66	4.96	0.79	1.03	6.87	1.10	30.81	4.25	310.03
	Lighting				1	1	1																		1		5
Play Areas	Ballfields/Backstops		1			3					2		3		1			1		1					4		28
	Softball/Skinned Fields																										0
	Soccer								3		1									1			2		3		17
	Football					1							4														5
	Volleyball												2		1												5
	Multi-Purpose Field		1	1						1			2	1	1		1	1		1		1	1				24
	Archery Range																										0
	Golf/ Driving Range																										0
Hard Court Area	Ice Skating Outdoor				1																				1		6
	Pickleball Courts																6						8				14
	Asphalt Play																	1									2
	Tennis				2						2									2					5		25
	Track & Field																										0
	Basketball Courts																										6
Play Structures	Basketball Backboards				1						1																11
	Play Structures		1	1	1	2	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	41
	Number of Playgrounds					2																					2
	Tot Lot/ Tyke Track																		1								2
	Modular Play Equipment		1	1	1	1	2						1									1	1	1		1	18
	Timber Play Structures		1			1		1		1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1				1	28
	Metal Play Structures												1					1	1								8
	Tire Climbers/ Tire Swings		1															1		1							6
	Resilient Surfacing		Fi,S	Fi	Fi	Fi,S	Fi	S		S	S		Fi,S	S	S			S	S	S	S	Fi,S		Fi,S		Fi,S	
Playground Equipment	Sandbox				1		1																		1		6
	Tetherball																										0
	Swing Sets		2	2	2	1	2	2		4	2		1	2	1		2	2	2		2	2	2	1		2	64
	Slides (Metal), freestanding					1		1		1			1	2			1	1	2	1							15
Jungle Jims/Climbers							1		1	1		1				1	1		1	1						17	

Table 2 - Parks and Recreation General Inventory (Cont.)

Facility Name		Mark Twain	Marks	Maudlin	Meininger	Memorial	Miller	Pioneer	Quickstad	Realtor	Red Run	Rotary	Starr/JC	Sullivan	Fred Piper Optimist	13 Mile/Main	Upton	V.F.W.	Wagner	Waterworks	Wendland	Westwood	Whittier	Woodsboro	Worden	Worden East	TOTALS
Playground Equipment (Cont.)	Spring Riders		1	1		1	1			4			6					1	1			1	1	1		1	22
	Merry-Go-Rounds																										2
	Drop Shot																										0
	See Saw							1																			1
Fitness	Fitness Areas				1								1														3
	Fitness Stations				1								1														3
	Monkey Bars																			1							1
	Chin Up Bars																			1							1
	Rings																										0
	Parallel Bars																										0
	Balance Beams																										0
	Vita Course				1								1				1										3
Grounds	Passive Areas		1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1		1	32
	Picnic Areas		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	34
	Nature/Hiking Trail/Foot Path								1																		2
	Pavilion/Deck/Gazebo Reserve					1							3					1									6
	Pond/Lake/Fishing																										0
	Boat Launch/Pier																										0
	Historical Monument/Memorial																										0
	Beach/ Swimming																										0
	Dog Park	1																									1
	Dog Run				1														1								3
Indoor	Gymnasium																										2
	Conference Rooms																										1
	Multi-Purpose Rooms																										11
	Auditorium																										0
	Kitchen																										1
	Art Room																										1
	Teen Room																										1
	Auditorium																										0
Game Room																										1	

Legend

CP-Community Park	Fi-Fibar
MP-Mini-park	S-Safety Surface
SU-Special Use park	PV-Pavillion
NP-Nieghborhood Park	

Table 3 - Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

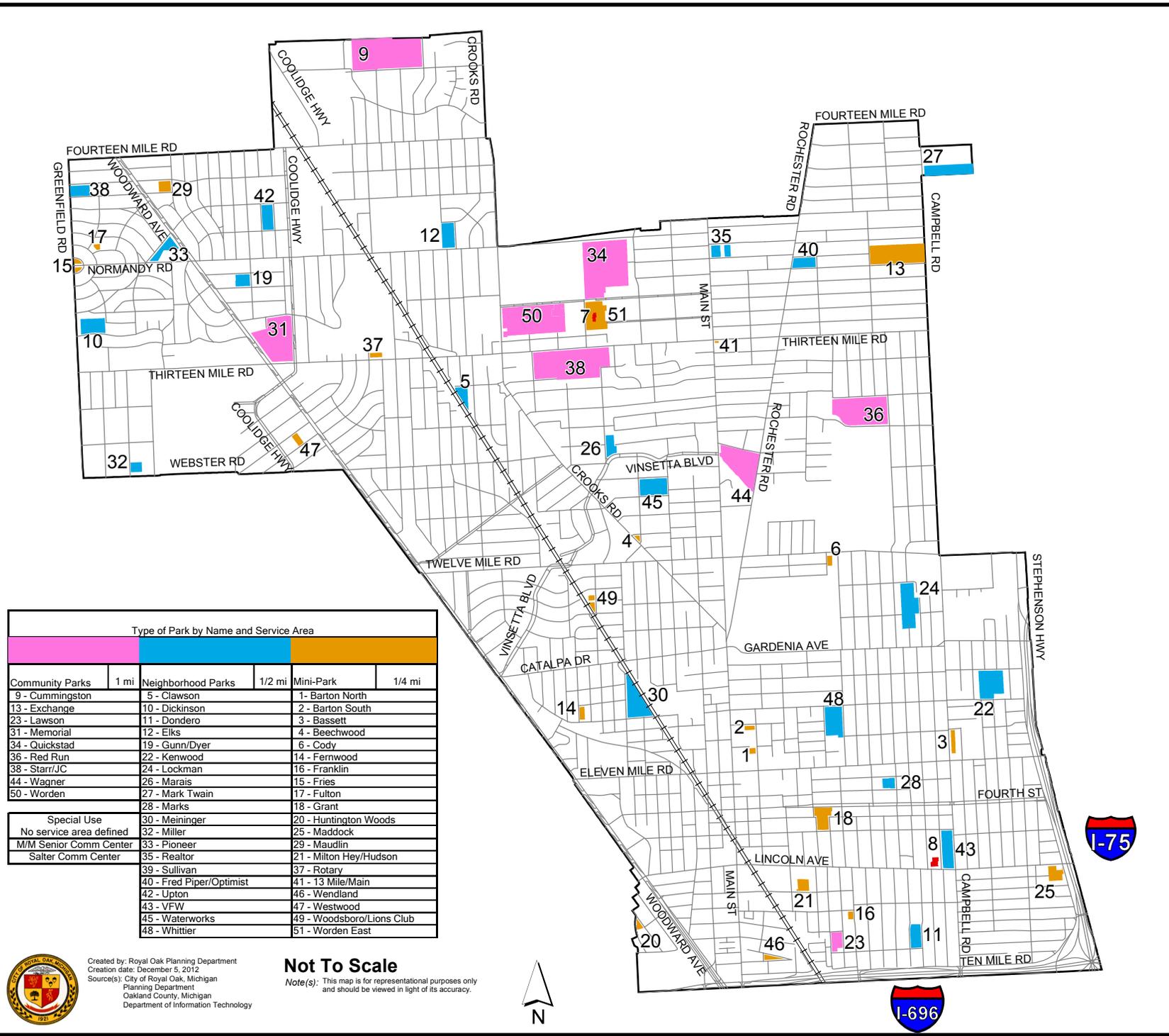
Facility Name		Barton N	Barton S	Bassett	Beechwood	Clawson	Cody	MM Community Center	Salter Community Center	Cummingston	Dickinson Park	Dondero	Elks	Exchange	Fernwood	Fries	Franklin	Fulton	Grant	Gunn/Dyer	Huntington Woods	Hudson/Mil Hey	Kenwood	Lawson	Lockman	Maddock	Marais	Mark Twain Dog Park	Marks	Maudlin	Meininger	Memorial	Miller				
Location	Type	MP	MP	MP	MP	NP	MP	SU	SU	CP	NP	NP	NP	CP	MP	MP	MP	MP	NP	NP	MP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	MP	NP	CP	NP				
General Improvements	New/update play equipment			x		x												x		x	x		x														
	Pavillions													x																		x					
	Fence needed			x	x																					x						x					
	Safety surface improvements needed			x		x														x	x	x	x														
	Turf improvments needed										x			x																							
	Court maintenance											x	x				x									x					x						
	Flower beds	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			
	Fybar	x		x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Routine maintenance on playing surfaces/equip	x		x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Restrooms needed														x																		x				
	Drinking fountain needed																																x				
	Parking Improvements														x									x						x				x			
Signage update	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Accessibility Improvements	Repairs to accesible walkways required	x								x																											
	Requires more accessible walkways			x	x		x				x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x		x			x		x	x	x			x	x			
	Accessible parking needed														x								x														
	Limited Accessibility															x							x				x	x									
	Provide more accessible picnic opportunities		x																				x														
	Access to playing fields needs to be addressed																																				
	Accessibility Rating (1-5)	4	4	2	4	2	2	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	1	3	3	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	2	3			

Table 3 - Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (Cont.)

Facility Name		Pioneer	Quickstad	Realtor	Red Run	Rotary	Starr/JC	Sullivan	Fred Piper Optimist	13 Mile/Main	Upton	V.F.W.	Wagner	Waterworks	Wendland	Westwood	Whittier	Woodsboro (Lions Club)	Worden	Worden East	
Location	Type	NP	CP	NP	CP	MP	CP	NP	NP	MP	NP	CP	CP	NP	MP	MP	NP	MP	CP	MP	
General Improvements	New/update play equipment						x		x				x		x	x					
	Pavillions				x																
	Fence needed															x					
	Safety surface improvements needed								x												
	Turf improvements needed		x									x	x				x		x		
	Court maintenance				x									x						x	
	Flower beds	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Fybar	x		x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
	Routine maintenance on playing surfaces/equip	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Bathrooms needed																				
	Drinking fountain needed																				
	Parking Improvements																	x			
Signage update	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Accessibility Improvements	Repairs to accessible walkways required																				
	Requires more accessible walkways	x	x		x		x	x			x		x			x					
	Accessible parking needed																				
	Limited Accessibility			x		x			x												
	Provide more accessible picnic opportunities																				
	Access to playing fields needs to be addressed																			x	
	Accessibility Rating (1-5)	3	3	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	

Map 3 - Park Classification

City of Royal Oak, Michigan



Type of Park by Name and Service Area			
Community Parks		Neighborhood Parks	
1 mi	1/2 mi	1/2 mi	1/4 mi
9 - Cummingston	5 - Clawson	1 - Barton North	
13 - Exchange	10 - Dickinson	2 - Barton South	
23 - Lawson	11 - Dondero	3 - Bassett	
31 - Memorial	12 - Elks	4 - Beechwood	
34 - Quickstad	19 - Gunn/Dyer	6 - Cody	
36 - Red Run	22 - Kenwood	14 - Fernwood	
38 - Starr/JC	24 - Lockman	16 - Franklin	
44 - Wagner	26 - Marais	15 - Fries	
50 - Worden	27 - Mark Twain	17 - Fulton	
	28 - Marks	18 - Grant	
	30 - Meininger	20 - Huntington Woods	
Special Use	32 - Miller	25 - Maddock	
No service area defined	33 - Pioneer	29 - Maudlin	
M/M Senior Comm Center	35 - Realtor	21 - Milton Hey/Hudson	
Salter Comm Center	39 - Sullivan	37 - Rotary	
	40 - Fred Piper/Optimist	41 - 13 Mile/Main	
	42 - Upton	46 - Wendland	
	43 - VFW	47 - Westwood	
	45 - Waterworks	49 - Woodsboro/Lions Club	
	48 - Whittier	51 - Worden East	

Not To Scale

Note(s): This map is for representational purposes only and should be viewed in light of its accuracy.

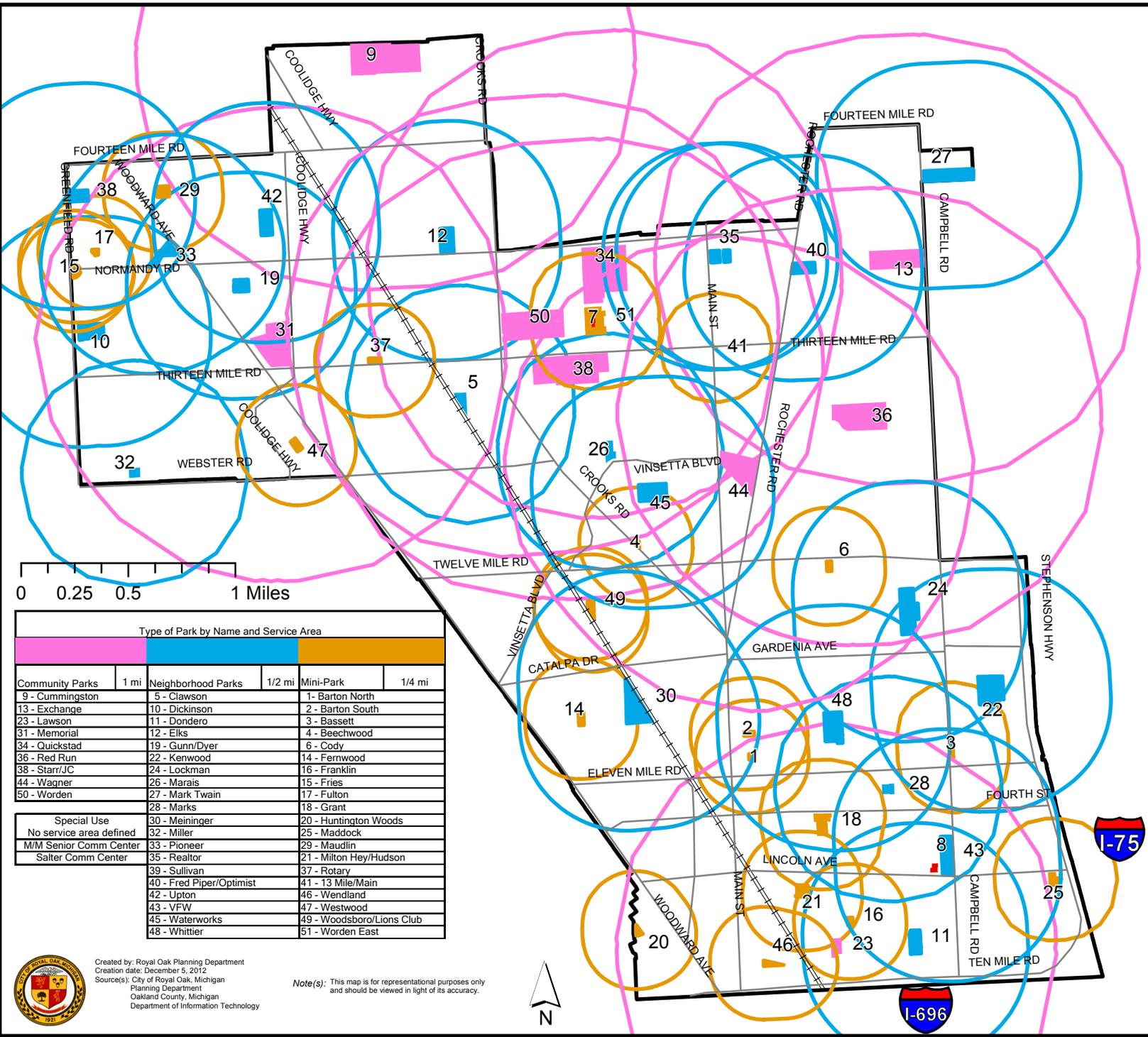


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 Creation date: December 5, 2012
 Source(s): City of Royal Oak, Michigan
 Planning Department
 Oakland County, Michigan
 Department of Information Technology



Map 4 - Park Service Area

City of Royal Oak, Michigan



Type of Park by Name and Service Area					
Community Parks		Neighborhood Parks		Mini-Park	
1 mi		1/2 mi		1/4 mi	
9 - Cummingston	5 - Clawson	1 - Barton North			
13 - Exchange	10 - Dickinson	2 - Barton South			
23 - Lawson	11 - Dondero	3 - Bassett			
31 - Memorial	12 - Elks	4 - Beechwood			
34 - Quickstad	19 - Gunn/Dyer	6 - Cody			
36 - Red Run	22 - Kenwood	14 - Fernwood			
38 - Starr/JC	24 - Lockman	16 - Franklin			
44 - Wagner	26 - Marais	15 - Fries			
50 - Worden	27 - Mark Twain	17 - Fulton			
	28 - Marks	18 - Grant			
	30 - Meininger	20 - Huntington Woods			
Special Use	32 - Miller	25 - Maddock			
No service area defined	33 - Pioneer	29 - Maudlin			
M/M Senior Comm Center	35 - Realtor	21 - Milton Hey/Hudson			
Salter Comm Center	39 - Sullivan	37 - Rotary			
	40 - Fred Piper/Optimist	41 - 13 Mile/Main			
	42 - Upton	46 - Wendland			
	43 - VFW	47 - Westwood			
	45 - Waterworks	49 - Woodsboro/Lions Club			
	48 - Whittier	51 - Worden East			

Created by: Royal Oak Planning Department
 Creation date: December 5, 2012
 Source(s): City of Royal Oak, Michigan
 Planning Department
 Oakland County, Michigan
 Department of Information Technology

Note(s): This map is for representational purposes only and should be viewed in light of its accuracy.



Inventory of Programming

Facility Rentals

- Gymnasiums rentals \$60 per hour
- Athletic field rentals \$75 - \$225
- Picnic pavilion rentals \$25 - \$100
 - Starr JC Park, 2 small with 4 tables, 1 large with 10 tables.
 - VFW Park, 1 large with 10 tables.
 - Memorial Park, 1 large with 10 tables

Royal Oak Nature Society

- Two nature preserves
 - Cummington Park and Tenhave Woods.
- Speaker programs.
- Nature walk programs.

Cultural Arts

- Annual Outdoor Art Fair
 - 105 artists



Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair

Day Camp

- Nine weeks – 450 participants, ages 5 –12.
- Teen Volunteer for Day Camp, ages 13+.

“I would like to see more classes like self-defense offered and adult fitness programs in general that aren't ‘low impact’.” -Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Survey Respondent

Adult Sports

- Men's and Coed Softball, spring, and fall seasons, 102 teams.
- Women's Volleyball
 - A and B Leagues
 - 2 full seasons, Fall and Winter
 - 36 teams
- Women's Soccer
 - Summer season
 - 9 teams
- Pickleball
 - Outdoor and Indoor
 - Year round
- Tennis
 - Coed Doubles Tennis League
 - 7 USTA tennis teams

“It would be nice to have learning programs for adults who are not yet seniors - art, languages, etc. during evenings and/or weekends for those who work.” -Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Survey Respondent

Adult Enrichment

- Ballroom Dance
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.
- Authentic Bellydance
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.
- Art Classes:
 - Watercolor Painting, Oil & Acrylic Painting, Drawing Basics
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer
- Line Dance
 - Beginner and Intermediate
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.
- Handbell Choir.

Adult Fitness

- Tai Chi
 - 10 classes per semester
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.
- Hatha Yoga
 - 4 classes per semester,
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.
- Water Aerobics,
 - 2 classes per semester
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.
- Fitness Factory
 - 17 classes per semester
 - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.
- Tennis Lessons
 - Spring and Summer seasons.
- Running Program
 - Spring, Summer and Fall.
- Adult Golf Lessons.

The Recreation Department is dedicated to providing residents a variety of year-round recreation opportunities that are responsive to your needs, are enjoyable to your families and contribute to your physical and mental well-being. New programs are always being added with residents in mind.

Preschool Program

- Four Seasons Preschool
 - Licensed through the State of Michigan
 - 33 week school year program
 - Ages 3-5, 3 classes, 56 students.

Youth Activities

- Youth Dance Recital Program
 - Pre-school through high school
 - 21 classes over 4 nights
 - Fall-Spring
 - 300+ participants
- Youth Karate program
 - Ages 4 – 12.
- Preschool Sports Starter and Kiddie Sports
 - Ages 3 – 6.
- Youth Basketball clinic
 - Ages 7 – 11.
- Tennis Lessons
 - Spring and Summer seasons
 - Ages 4 through high school.
- Kid Kicks summer parent and child program.
- Musical Theatre Dance Camp
 - Summer program.
- Preschool Summer Sports Camps.
- Summer Dance program
 - Age 3 – 3rd grade.
- Summer Computer Camp.
- Junior Golf Lessons

City Sponsored Youth Athletic Groups

- Royal Oak Sandlot League
 - Ages 5 – 17.
- Suburban Hockey Association
- Royal Oak Youth Football
 - Flag Football
 - Tackle Football
 - Cheerleading
 - Ages 6 – 13.
- Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association
 - Ages 4 through high school.



Summer Tennis

Public Input

Public Input Process

The City of Royal Oak put forth a concerted effort to reach out to the public for input while putting together this Master Plan. **Public input allows public officials to not only gauge community satisfaction with current services but also to garner new ideas for the department.** The public input process conducted by the City of Royal Oak was in compliance with the guidelines put forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the development of Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plans.

Public Survey

The first step undertaken by the city was to develop a Parks and Recreation Survey using a software program called Survey Monkey. The city-wide public survey was sent out September of 2016. Hard copy surveys were returned to city staff and were inputted into the Survey Monkey software by hand. The survey contained six general questions regarding Parks and Recreation Services. Results from the survey were integrated into the master plan when they were received in early December of 2016.

The Parks and Recreation 5 Year Master Plan survey yielded 625 responses from city residents.

After compiling possible goals and objectives from past master plans, with the inclusion of survey responses, city officials met with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at their regularly scheduled October meeting to discuss which goals and objectives should continue to be considered for the 2017 Master

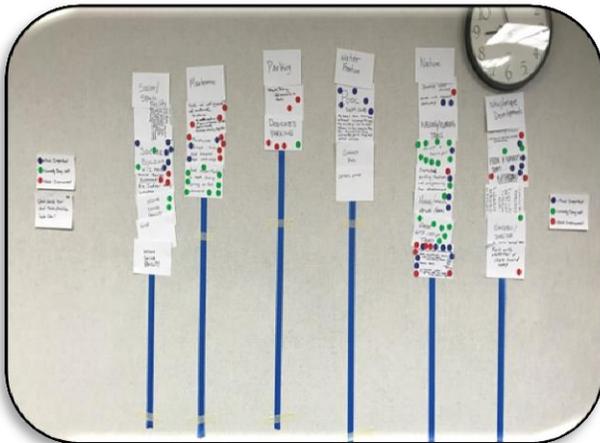
Plan. Feedback was gathered from general discussion with board members and written feedback was collected from all in attendance.

Public Workshops

The city also hosted two public workshops. Informational flyers were posted at city hall, both community centers, the library, and distributed to parks and recreation participants and leaders in the community. The workshop was also advertised through city-wide email, Facebook, the local newspaper DailyTribune, and the City of Royal Oak website. The first meeting was attended by 17 members of the public. The second meeting was attended by 4 members of the public.

The two meetings followed the same format; posters were created with the full inventory, and pamphlets with a map of all park locations were handed out to residents. Residents engaged in a storyboard workshop where they were able to share their ideas and provide feedback on each idea. These ideas were recorded on cards and then displayed on a wall to create an idea landscape. From there, patterns were recognized and ideas were prioritized. This was a great tool for getting all residents that attended involved including those who don't normally feel comfortable voicing their ideas.

Two questions were presented to residents. The first question read, 'What would your ideal park/facility look like?' and the second question read, 'What would your ideal program look like?' There was also a general discussion portion of the meeting designed to allow time for questions and concerns to be addressed by public officials. Both meetings were considered a success.



Draft Display

Will be added once more information is collected.

Will be added once more information is collected.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Recommendation

Will be added once more information is collected.

Public Hearing and City Commission Adoption

Will be added once more information is collected.

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives Overview

The City of Royal Oak used previous goals and objectives, public meetings, public surveys, and advice from the Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, interviews with staff, and input from the City Commission to determine which goals and objectives should be included in this Master Plan.

The Director of Recreation and Public Service, Superintendent of Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in conjunction with the City Manager's Office determined which goals and objectives from the 2013 Parks and Recreation Master Plan were still relevant for this plan and which goals and objectives needed to be added to the plan. New goals and objectives were also formed at two public workshops designed to gain public input. Specific needs and wants of citizens at the meetings were then integrated into the goals and objectives.

The city also issued a public survey in September of 2016 which included six questions regarding Parks and Recreation Services in the City of Royal Oak. The survey was posted on the City of Royal Oak website, Facebook, Twitter, and was also sent to residents of Royal Oak through email for citizen input. The information was used to determine which goals and objectives needed to be included.

When considering what types of goals and objectives to include, there were many factors at play. Expanding existing facilities or building new facilities is very difficult in Royal Oak because of limited space and resources. In most areas there is little or no space for new parks because Royal Oak is a fully developed community. Public opinion was strongly in favor of improving maintenance of

existing parks. The focus, therefore, with most of the goals and objectives was placed on maintenance and improvement of existing facilities, services and programs.

While this plan is not focused on expansion, it emphasized constant advancement of services and facilities. Emphasis was placed on continuing to evolve to meet new challenges and demands. **Development of new volunteer-based partnerships and programs was discussed to reduce costs for the department while increasing the level of community involvement and resident ownership of community spaces.**



Royal Oak residents enjoying the Little Free Library brought to them by the MOMS Club of South Royal Oak at Meininger Park.

A few groups in the community have installed Little Free Libraries at a handful of Parks. Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. The Little Free Library is a great addition to Royal Oak Parks, as it promotes literacy and builds a sense of community. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. For more information or to find a Little Free Library closest to you, visit littlefreelibrary.org

The goals and objectives process also served to reaffirm several commitments the Parks and Recreation Department has maintained for years; such commitments include continued maintenance and improvement of parks, facilities and the urban forest. The city will also continue to develop new programs to engage citizens and update facilities accordingly; like was done with the development of Pickleball courts at Whittier Park in 2010. **Public input displayed a strong demand for nature-based activities.** The city lists specific objectives in this plan to help foster nature areas and nature education in Royal Oak.

When asked, 'Which are the three additional recreation programs most needed in the city?' 44% of residents chose Nature/Eco/Conservation Center.

The goals and objectives process served as a great way to engage different groups within the community on what exactly needs to be accomplished over the next five years. As a result of the successful community outreach and multi-departmental city involvement, this Master Plan contains a comprehensive list of goals and objectives that can be used to serve the community over the next five years.

City of Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives

Programming

Goal 1. Continue evaluation of all programs and adjust the type and form of programs to suit community needs.

Goal 2. Improvement of existing programs.

Objective a: Maintain affordable rates for program participation.

Objective b: Continue good public relations for special events.

Objective c: Continually update program selection with respect to new ideas and interests especially in regard to hobbies and exercise.

Goal 3. Create new programs.

Objective a: Provide programming for teens based on input from teen focus groups.

Objective b: Institute mechanisms to fully integrate all programs for children/persons with disabilities.

Objective c: Create programs that provide inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth/preschoolers.

Objective d: Create new physical fitness and enrichment programs

Objective e: Explore possibility of creating music-based programming.

Goal 4. Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure, and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to all citizens.

Objective a: Continue leadership efforts in establishing collaborative programming, workshops, training, and networking opportunities for youth-serving community agencies which would result in enhanced services to area youth.

Objective b: Work with community organizations and colleges in facilitating a continuum of recreation and leisure programs for the community with an emphasis in neighborhoods with greater youth need.

Objective c: Solicit and apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs.

Objective d: Recruit and train a pool of volunteers and mentors to assist in implementation of various programs.

Administration and Organization

Goal 1. Investigate traditional and innovative ways to fund and reduce the costs of programming.

Objective a: *Seek alternative funding for services in order to increase revenue and decrease general fund contribution through requests to service clubs, private sector and professional organizations for sponsorship of various program and facility improvements.*

Objective b: *Generate advertising revenue for INSIGHT to offset the expense of production and distribution.*

Objective c: *Investigate traditional means to increase revenue.*

Goal 2. Provide staffing at levels commensurate to needs.

Goal 3. Create mechanisms to maintain positive public relations.

Objective a: *Continue to provide regular opportunities for public input.*

Objective b: *Continue working with neighborhoods to build partnerships and create ownership at neighborhood parks.*

Objective c: *Utilize technological and social networking tools.*

Goal 4. Investigate opportunities to partner with other recreation departments to maximize opportunities.

Goal 5. Continue and improve coordination with schools.

Goal 6. Integrate technology with operations to increase access and efficiency of services.

Objective a: *Ensure all facilities accept up-to-date forms of payment.*

Facilities

Goal 1. Provide facilities that meet the community wide recreation needs of Royal Oak residents.

Objective a: *Provide high quality ball diamonds, soccer/football fields, tennis courts, and ancillary facilities at community parks.*

Objective b: *Provide a focus on park and facility maintenance with emphasis on turf improvements, bleachers, additional trees, court resurfacing, playground upgrades, and other improvements identified in this plan.*

Objective c: *Explore the possibility of creating and preserving a dedicated public performance space for the Arts.*

Objective d: *Increase the number of permanent community gathering spaces in parks.*

Objective e: *Install an aquatic facility for community use.*

Objective f: *Assist in facilitating the objectives and strategies of the City of Royal Oak Non-Motorized Plan and expand walking and biking trails throughout the city.*

Objective g: *Improve availability of parking adjacent to neighborhood parks.*

Objective h: *Explore the possibility of constructing a new facility or expanding a current facility to include an aquatic facility, walking track, and fitness center.*

Objective i: *Identify priority locations for restrooms and drinking fountains and strategies for maintenance.*

Goal 2. Maintain a balanced system of parks and open spaces by having well operated and maintained facilities.

Objective a: *Continue to coordinate and assist in planned events in public spaces and parks.*

Objective b: Continue collaboration between city departments and community organizations to provide a high level of service to the community.

Objective c: Continue to remove existing physical barriers that limit use of parks and facilities by portions of the community.

Objective d: Selectively prune, trim, and remove overgrown vegetation to open up views and provide natural surveillance of public gathering places.

Goal 3. Continue to improve the aesthetic value of parks and facilities in accordance with the city brand.

Objective a: Improve the branding campaign for City Parks in part by updating and maintaining signage and other visual elements in accordance with the city brand.

Objective b: Establish permanent and temporary public art in Parks and Facilities.

Goal 4. Develop parks and facilities to become models of sustainable design. For more details, see page 30.

Objective a: Use stormwater Best Management Practices in developing/redeveloping all park sites.

Objective b: Protect/expand the tree canopy, expand native landscapes and minimize impervious area.

Objective c: Use parks as demonstration and education sites for green practices to promote environmental stewardship.

Recreational Land

Goal 1: Provide recreation land in the form of community parks, neighborhood parks, and mini-parks which is convenient and accessible to all residents.

Objective a: Investigate the feasibility and potential features of a downtown park utilizing city land including city hall parking lots.

Nature Parks

Goal 1. Explore the potential for a nature center in Royal Oak.

Goal 2. Increase awareness of Nature Parks.

Goal 3. Assist nature society in providing necessary improvements to the Nature Parks.

Objective a: Improve nature trails at Cummingston Park.

Goal 4. Increase diversity in the urban forest.

Goal 5. Provide necessary support for Royal Oak Nature Society projects.

Access to Facilities

Goal 1. Eliminate existing barriers to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and adopting a policy of “inclusive recreation”.

Objective a: Examine existing programs to ensure that they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents regardless of their social, economic, or physical status.

Objective b: Ensure that each play setting and activity area is accessible, that accessible play components are placed throughout each activity area, and that similar play opportunities are provided to children with disabilities.

Objective c: Install accessible routes of travel, connecting parking areas, drop off points, all activity areas and accessible activities.

Objective d: Provide an accessible surface and pathway that is firm, stable, slip resistant, and resilient at all public recreational facilities.

Objective e: Provide a means of getting on, through (experience), and off the equipment for children with a range of mobility impairments.

Summary of Actions and Capital Improvement Plan

The objective of this section is to set forth a series of actions and projects to remedy the needs of the department. These actions and projects are designed to satisfy community needs while achieving goals and objectives discussed earlier in this section. **The Summary of Actions (Table 4) lays out broad categories of concern, specific observations and recommended actions to remedy the need.** These broad areas of concern represent recurring trends that need to be addressed. **The Capital Improvement Plan (Table 5) puts forth a list of projects that are meant to supplement the suggestions in the Summary of Actions.** The Summary of Actions and Capital Improvement Plan set forth a road map to address major problems. Necessary actions and projects by the city may change as time goes on and needs change. Additional projects and actions may become necessary. Below is a brief explanation of each category, suggested action and capital improvements.

Existing Athletic Facilities

Through site inspections, public input and interviews with government officials, maintenance issues with existing sporting facilities emerged as a trend that needs to be addressed. The playing surfaces at several facilities need to be upgraded. Capital improvements will provide large scale upgrades to facilities, however the continued regularly scheduled maintenance will also be key to maintaining the high quality of facilities in Royal Oak.

Administration

The Department always needs to be searching for new ways to provide and fund services. By becoming more creative and efficient with service delivery the Department can provide more and better services to residents. Several ideas were presented as a

means to achieve this goal. Volunteerism has always been a big part of Park and Recreation services in Royal Oak. Efforts to maintain the Adopt-A-Park program aim to provide specific and productive purposes for volunteers and contributors. Partnership with the ROOTS organization will provide the city with more volunteers in Parks and Recreation. The city also plans to explore more options for funding. The Adopt-A-Park program has brought in revenue from contributors for specific parks. Traditional means of revenue production are also being explored to fund projects. Research for grants from the State of Michigan and Federal government is always being carried out as well.

General Facility Deficiencies

Public input, inspections and interviews with public officials pointed to some general deficiencies in our parks system. Playground equipment at multiple parks is in need of maintenance or replacement. The equipment in question poses no threat to the health and well-being of residents but is out of date. There is also a need for more public gathering places in the parks; including pavilions and bleachers for playing fields. There is a high demand for pavilion rental in parks. New pavilion construction is planned at Exchange, Normandy Oaks, and Red Run Parks in 2018. Public input also uncovered a need for more restrooms in parks; something that is being attached to the pavilion construction in 2018. The need was also expressed for new soccer fields which are to be installed in 2019 at Upton Park. Play structures in several parks across the city are out of date. Replacements are scheduled for the parks in question annually through 2019.

Nature/Ecological Programming and Facilities

Public input, specifically the city-wide survey, called for more nature-based programming and facilities in Royal Oak. The city plans to partner with the Royal Oak Nature Society (RONS) to satisfy this need. Programming is

already provided by the RONS but could be better publicized and expanded with the assistance of the city. Potential capital improvements include development and maintenance of trails at Cummington Park and better signage inside all nature parks. There were also some requests for a nature center to be built. This is not included in the CIP as of now due to lack of research. More investigation is needed to establish specific project costs and dates.



The Royal Oak Nature Society is a volunteer group that works with the City to protect and promote the usage of Royal Oak's two nature preserves, Cummington Park and Tenhave Woods.

Non-Motorized Transportation

The City of Royal Oak plans to expand non-motorized transportation throughout the city. The Parks Department can assist in this in several ways. **The first is to assist in the implementation of the Non-Motorized Plan, explained in the 2012 City of Royal Oak Master Plan. The plan calls for expansion of bike lanes and trails throughout the city.** The Parks and Recreation department can also constantly research tracks of land to develop its own trails and paths throughout the city.

Accessibility

The city is continuing its efforts to ensure that all parks are handicap accessible. Capital improvement projects to increase accessibility include the Dondero Park upgrades

scheduled for 2017 and improvements to parking at Worden, Mark Twain, Elks, Memorial and Whittier Parks between 2017 and 2019. Development of new paths, discussed in the previous category, and upgrading playground equipment, discussed in the "General Facility Deficiencies" category will also improve accessibility.



Eagle Plaza (Coming Spring 2017): A unique public project that used crowdfunding as a way to help fund the park. The park features public Wi-Fi, covered bicycle parking, mobile charging stations, rain gardens, bioswales, and a wayfinding kiosk highlighting downtown destinations. The goal was to raise \$60,000 in a month. The crowdfunding was such a huge success, businesses and residents from the community raised over \$100,000 in 30 days.

"I appreciate the attempts to make Royal Oak a bicycle-friendly community. Anything to continue encouraging that and making it better is wonderful."

-Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Survey Respondent

Why sustainable design is important?

Economic Benefits

- Prevents combined sewer system overflow
- Reduces maintenance and operations costs
- Increases property values

Quality of Life Benefits

- Encourages partnerships & community support
- Promotes stewardship
- Educates the public about sustainability

Environmental Benefits

- Protects and enhances valued habitat systems
- Improves air quality through natural filtration of trees and foliage
- Reduces the urban heat island effect
- Reduces surface water runoff, keeping pollutants out of our waterways

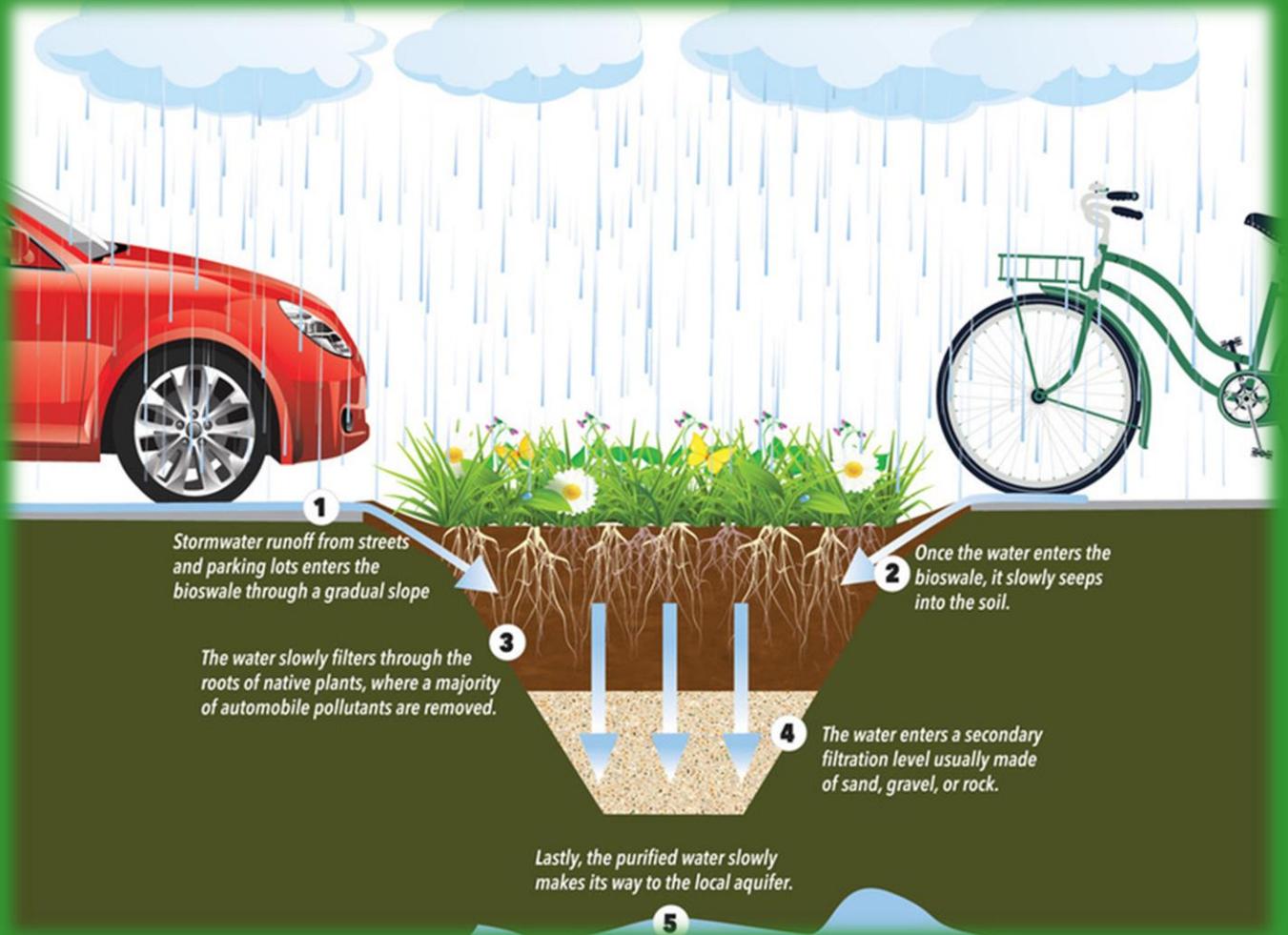


Photo by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

New Facilities

While most feedback reflected that residents in Royal Oak were not in favor of more parks, there were several new facilities that were requested. The first is a fitness center, swimming pool and/or splash pad; requested in the public workshops and in the survey. The city plans to investigate either expanding an existing community center or building a new facility to address these needs. Further investigation is necessary before these projects can be undertaken. There were also suggestions for a central park in downtown.

Visual Aesthetics

Public input, site inspections and interviews with public officials established the need to improve the aesthetic quality of our parks. Basic maintenance throughout the year provides some help to satisfy this need but further action is needed as well. The city has launched a new branding campaign and the Parks have used this campaign as a basis for new signage in the parks. Another idea is to bring art into the parks. **The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is committed to establishing a place for public art within the parks system.** The Commission for the Arts will play a role in this as well.



Bee Keeper // Alyssa Klash // Center Street Parking Deck

“Having a park downtown is ideal for parents of small children. I want to spend time in the shops or restaurants, but you need to balance some play time to keep everyone happy.”

-Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Survey Respondent

Future Projects

The 50-acre city-owned Normandy Oaks Golf Club in Royal Oak was closed in 2014 due to underutilization. The city sold 10-acres to developers for the development of multi-family residences and is in the process of looking at how it wants to develop a park on the remaining 40-acres with ideas from residents. The Normandy Oaks task force recommendation is to seek proposals from firms interested in designing a largely passive park with natural areas, soccer fields, nature trails and some other features. They also want firms to consider how the city should design a downtown park if a proposed \$100 million civic center development proposal is finally approved.

Table 4 - Summary of Actions

Existing Sporting Facilities	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Drainage issues on some fields	Upgrade existing field surfaces at Whittier Park
	Upgrade drainage systems in fields at Red Run Park
Some hard surface courts in need of maintenance	Upgrade tennis courts and nets at Waterworks, Lockinson, and Meininger parks

Administration	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
There may be a need for additional revenue sources	Research grants with the State and Federal governments
	Investigate use of user fees and TIF districts for CIP projects
	Acquire additional contributions from private firms and residents through Adopt-A-Park program

Nature/Ecological Programming and Facilities	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
There is a need for more nature-based programming	Expand existing programming through RONS
	Support RONS in advertising programming
	Partner with schools to develop programming
Maintenance and upgrades at nature parks	Improve informational signage at all nature parks
Capital improvements	Research the development of a nature center

General Facility Deficiencies	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Recreation equipment needs to be updated	Identify equipment in need of being replaced
	Replace playground equipment in need
There is a need for more public gathering places within parks	Build more pavilions
	Build or purchase more seating at athletic fields
	Establish more rental facilities in parks for parties, etc.
	Explore the possibility of building an outdoor performance facility in a park
Lack of restrooms in parks	Build additional restrooms as part of pavilions where necessary

Table 4 - Summary of Actions (Cont.)

Non-Motorized Transportation	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Need for additional paths throughout city	Explore purchasing tracks of land for trails and paths throughout the city
	Build more paths in current parks system
Implementation of the City of Royal Oak Non-Motorized Plan	Investigate opportunities for bike paths in the parks.
	Expand bike lanes throughout the city
	Assist in the implementation of the NMP wherever necessary and possible

Accessibility	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Accessibility improvements needed in some parks	Upgrade facilities to meet standards, as needed
	While upgrading and expanding parks, do so in a way that is in compliance with ADA standards
	Provide additional parking and resurface existing parking, where needed

New Facilities	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
New fitness/pool facility requested	Investigate feasibility of expansion of current community centers to include fitness center, pool and/or splash pad or building a new facility
	Explore possible funding sources
Central park in downtown area request	Explore city owned property for development of downtown park
	Seek out contributions from private companies and individuals

Visual Aesthetics	
Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Parks in need of more aesthetic value	Install public art in parks
	Incorporate city-wide branding campaign into parks
	Install new signs with new city brand in parks
	Continuously seek out ways to improve aesthetics in parks
	Install additional trees in parks, where needed
Improvements needed to existing aesthetic features	Upgrade and maintain flower beds and fibar in parks
	Continue regular maintenance of parks

Table 5 - Capital Improvement Plan

Year	Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2017	Exchange Park	Parking improvements	\$60,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, RP
2017	Memorial and Sullivan Parks	Provide ADA improvements.	\$35,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, RP
2017	Memorial and Worden Park	Install irrigation system for playing fields.	\$92,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, Prvt.
2017	City-Wide	Replace Fibar at necessary locations	\$40,000	GF, Prvt.
2017	Worden Park	Install lighting system for playing fields.	\$350,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, Prvt.
2017	Dickinson	Repair/resurface tennis courts	\$35,000	GF, RP, Prvt., CDBG
2017	Eagle Plaza Park	Downtown smart park incorporates technology, sustainable landscaping, and materials that have the lowest impact on the environment	\$250,000	Crowdfunding / MEDC
2017	Royal Oak Golf Course	Install a golf cart path, clubhouse deck, and repave the parking lot	\$421,000	Normandy Oaks Asset Sale
2017	Fulton and Kenwood	Upgrade/replace play structures	\$90,000	MNRTF, RP, GF, Prvt.
2017	Elks and Mark Twain Parks	Parking improvements	\$130,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, RP, CDBG
2017	City-wide	Upgrade signage	\$125,000	GF, Prvt.

Table 5 - Capital Improvement Plan (Cont.)

Year	Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2017	Worden Park	Resurfacing of parking lot	\$132,000	CDBG
2017	Memorial Park	Parking Improvements	\$125,000	GF, RP, Prvt.
2018	Exchange, and Red Run, Parks	Construct new pavilions with restrooms.	\$300,000	GF, LWCF
2018	Whittier, Dickinson, Exchange, and Red Run Park	Turf improvements.	\$230,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, Prvt.
2018	City-wide	Install/improve flower beds	\$57,600	GF, Prvt.
2018	Memorial and Gunn Dyer Parks	Upgrade/replace play structures	\$70,000	MNRTF, RP, GF, Prvt.
2018	Senior Center	Outdoor Renovations/Improve Recreational Use	\$43,500	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, Prvt.
2018	Normandy Oaks Park	Redevelopment of Normandy Oaks Golf Course into a city park	\$3,000,000	MNRTF, RP, GF, Prvt.
2019	Outdoor Amphitheater	Investigate/Plan for outdoor amphitheater. Size and location to be determined by study.	\$8,000	GF,CDBG
2019	Memorial Park	Install public announcing booth system.	\$45,000	GF
2019	Worden East Parks	Upgrade/replace play structures	\$70,000	MNRTF, RP, GF, Prvt.

Table 5 - Capital Improvement Plan (Cont.)

Year	Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2019	Lockman, Whittier, and Fernwood Park	Upgrade basketball equipment.	\$4,500	GF
2019	Swimming pool	Install swimming pool; location not determined	\$4,000,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, Prvt.
2019	Franklin, and Dickinson Parks	Repair/resurface tennis courts	\$30,000	GF, RP, Prvt.
2019	Downtown Park Development	Construction of a new downtown park	\$4,500,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, RP
2019	Upton Park	Construct new soccer field	\$75,000	MNRTF, LWCF, GF, Prvt.

KEY

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant Funds
TEA – Transportation Enhancement Activity Fund
MNRTF - MI Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund
Prvt. – Private Donations/Fundraising
GF – General Funds
LWCF- Land & Water Conservation Fund
RP- Recreational Passport Grant

Appendix A

Community Links

City of Royal Oak

The City of Royal Oak Master Plan (Including NMTP)

<http://www.romi.gov/301/Master-Plan>

The City of Royal Oak 2012-2013 Adopted Budget

<http://www.romi.gov/198/Budget-Documents>

The City of Royal Oak Recreation Department Website

<http://www.romi.gov/440/Recreation>

Community Organizations

Tree City USA Program

<https://www.arboday.org/>

Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools

<http://www.royaloakschools.org/>

Farmers Market

<http://www.romi.gov/389/Farmers-Market>

Royal Oak Opportunities to Serve (ROOTS)

<http://www.romi.gov/493/Royal-Oak-Opportunity-to-Serve-ROOTS>

Oakland County Parks

<http://www.destinationoakland.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Detroit Zoo

<http://detroitzoo.org/>

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Oakland County

<http://www.boysandgirlsclubs.us/>

Salvation Army- Royal Oak

http://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/usc_royaloak/

The Judson Center

<http://judsoncenter.org/>

Royal Oak Nature Society

<http://www.romi.gov/407/Nature-Society>

Woodward 5

<http://www.woodward5.com/>

Events

Arts, Beats & Eats

<http://artsbeatseats.com/>

Woodward Dream Cruise

<http://www.woodwarddreamcruise.com/>

Public-Private Partner Facilities

Royal Oak Golf Course

<http://www.romi.gov/603/Golf-in-Royal-Oak>

John Lindell Ice Arena

<http://www.romi.gov/675/Ice-Arena>

Total Soccer

<http://www.totalsoccerinc.com/HomeRoyalOak.html>

Royal Oak Driving Range and Adventure Golf

<http://royaloakgolfcenter.com/>

Appendix B

Royal Oak Nature Society

**The Royal Oak Nature Society Master Plans for
Cunnington Park, Tenhave Woods
and The Arboretum at Worden Park East
Version 4
*December, 2013***

*Questions or comments may be submitted
to the Royal Oak Nature Society via the web at
<https://www.romi.gov/407/Nature-Society>
or contact any Board Member listed inside this document*

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Preface

Tenhave Woods and Cummington Park are the jewels of the Royal Oak park system. The development that started almost 200 years ago with the first settlers, has taken this land from a wilderness to an urban environment. The amount of tree, shrub and wild flower species found in the two parks is amazing. I have been a Scout leader for over 40 years and have taught natural history in literally hundreds of forest campsites. Yet in the middle of Royal Oak, our two nature parks put all those forest campsites to shame. Our parks currently allow just a short walk to teach about Oak-Hickory, Beech-Maple and Southern Swamp communities. Aside from their value for teaching natural history both parks have a link to human history as they are remnant wood lots from the first farms within our city.

With this said, both parks have suffered due to the urban development that has occurred over half a century, however, it is not too late. With the commitment of the City and its residents, the Royal Oak Nature Society has made considerable effort to protect and restore the biospheres of the parks. We have at the same time made the parks much more available to the public and started development to turn them into world class educational facilities. It is important to make sure that the quality of these fragile parks is maintained for future generations. The parks are not only natural history classrooms, but windows through which to view what Royal Oak was like before its development.

*Robert Muller
Royal Oak Nature Society Naturalist*

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Introduction

In 2002, the Royal Oak Nature Society's completed its' first Master Plan. Because goals over the years are completed, changed or new ones added, the Nature Society in 2008 began revising the 2002 plan. Please review the new Master Plan (version 3.0) to find out what our goals are for these three Royal Oak natural areas: Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum in Worden Park East. Please feel free to make comments. Your input is important and will be taken into consideration as we continue to plan the future of these areas.

Continue Support of the "1999 Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Master Plan"

The Royal Oak Nature Society Master Plan for the Cummingston Park and Tenhave Woods directly supports goals and objectives listed in the 1999 Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Master Plan as excerpted below:

-Page 57: Analysis of Existing Facilities of Special Use/Conservancy Parks

"Interpretive signage and kiosks, accessible parking and pathways, and annual programs should be provided at each of these facilities. Nature and conservancy groups should be brought together to develop a program and master plan for proper development and enhancement of these facilities".

- Page 60: Recreation Deficiencies

"Safety and the perception of safety are important to increasing the use of existing parks." The Royal Oak Nature Society will utilize the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) concepts outlined to help address safety issues.

- Page 61 and 62: Program Goals and Objectives for Programming

"Seek alternative funding for services in order to increase revenue, and decrease general fund contribution through requests to service clubs, private sector and professional organizations for sponsorships of various programs".

- Page 63: Program Goals and Objectives for Facilities

"Improve and enhance the educational opportunities at Quickstad and Cummingston Park".

- Page 66: Summary of Action Items for Nature/Ecological Facilities and Programs

The need most requested in the survey was the development of a Nature Center both as an indoor facility and a new program. Recommendations were to add educational signage in parks, coordinate with school district to expand existing programs, create advisory/feasibility committee based on high amount of interest."

Increase Community Use of Tenhave Woods, Cummingston Park & Worden Park East Arboretum

Many Royal Oak residents still do not realize these nature preserves exist. It is the goal of the Nature Society to improve the natural management of these park lands so they continue to be vibrant spaces in the community and continue to be utilized for both nature education and recreation.

Educational programs are managed by the Program and Education Committees.

The **Program Committee** focuses on environmental education for the general public. It has been providing services, free of charge, since the spring of 2001. Their current services are listed below.

- **Nature Walks:** The Nature Society currently runs a series of free nature walks for the public year round in each park. There is no operating cost for this program. Walks are lead by Royal Oak Nature Society Naturalist volunteers. We plan to establish a naturalist training program.
- **Speaker Series:** Nature Society currently provides monthly speaker series (September to June) on nature based topics. These programs are held at the Royal Oak Middle School and are generally designed for people 10 years and older. The first several minutes before the beginning of the speaker program is considered the General Meeting for the Royal Oak Nature Society. Currently, there is no cost associated with these programs. Normally, 25 to 60 people attend each monthly program. The purpose of these programs is not only to educate the community about nature but to make them aware of Royal Oak's natural areas.
- **Programming for Outside Organizations:** The Nature Society provides help in creating programs utilizing the natural areas to meet the needs of outside organizations (Garden Clubs, Scout groups).

The **Education Committee** focuses on outreach to the local schools. The committee conducted a survey of grade school teachers in the Royal Oak School District. The purpose of the survey was to determine what type of environmental education outreach programs our organization could provide for teachers. The results determined three areas that the Education Committee will work with schools to provide:

- **Guest Speakers** (naturalists) to present programs to students in the classroom
- **Naturalist**-guided field trip in the parks
- **Nature Night** programs that teach environmental education to children and their families through the use of nature based displays and activities.

We also want to increase the positive usage of these three parks on a daily-basis. This will be done through creating a safe environment. New access points and trail systems at each park that encourage traffic through the parks, signage, and ongoing community events help achieve this goal.

What Will the Park Improvements Cost?

The overall costs for the improvements may be low because labor will be completed by volunteers, unless it is a technical or dangerous job. In addition, we will use natural materials to build the trail system. The following are estimates of the cost of action items:

Fund to Pay for Speakers	\$600/year
Fund to Cover Printing/Mail	\$300/year
Fund for Education Projects	\$250/year
Fund for Excavation Equipment	\$500/year

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2013

The following table breaks down the areas of work to be accomplished with specific action items: a timeframe for completing the task

- Immediate = Within One Year (before 2014)
- Short = 1 to 5 Years (before 2018)
- Long = Beyond 5 Years (2018 & beyond)

Plan for Tenhave & Cummingston Parks

Area	Action Item	Time Frame	Comments-Status
General Layout	Hard dirt trails should be lined 4' to 8' wide with brush cleared 8' high overhead as part of a maintenance program.	Ongoing	Use Nature Society volunteers
Projects	Invasive Species Removal		NCS

Cummingston Park - Master Plan

Area	Action Item	Time Frame	Comments-Status
Enhancements	Add signs at 14 Mile/Leafdale and on Torquay, directing visitors to the park.	Short	CITY to add signs
Fencing	Add a gate to the fence on Meijer Drive at the Crawfish Pond & possibly do some more grading work at the pond.	Short	Talk to Perry Getner about grading work at the pond

Tenhave Woods in Quickstad Park - Master Plan

Area	Action Item	Time Frame	Comments
General Layout	Remove trees & shrubs along the along the west fence line to allow more sunlight on the pond.	Ongoing	
Enhancements	Build a sidewalk from the main sidewalk up to the Normandy entrance turnstile	Short	To be done by the CITY
Enhancements	Make a wooden sign with park rules at Normandy entrance	Short	To be done by the CITY
Maintenance	Remove stumps from middle of trails	Immediate	Use Nature Society volunteers
Maintenance	Make sure that there are no breaks in the fence & that it is at least 8' high around the entire park	Ongoing	Park Patrol
Projects	Invasive Species Removal	Ongoing	NCS

Arboretum at Worden Park East - Master Plan

Area	Action Item	Time Frame	Comments-Status
General Layout	Describe plans for completion of trail system. Develop a landscape plan.	Ongoing	
Projects	Invasive Species Removal	Ongoing	NCS

Nature Center Master Plan

Our long term goal is to build an Environmental Education Center. This Project needs discussion and planning, with identification of location, milestones, a time line and funding.

Revision Notes

Version	Date	Content Changes
1.0	December 4, 2001	
2.0	March 4, 2002	-Added <i>What Will Park Improvements Cost?</i> ; -Added specific costs to park description tables; -Updated the Organization of the Royal Oak Nature Society to reflect election of Board; -Grammar and format changes
3.0	December 2009	Complete revision of version 2.0

Appendix C

Commission for the Arts Goals and Objectives

ROYAL OAK COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN 2016

Goal: Increase the VALUE of Arts and Culture

- Community engagement ongoing project evaluating at the many ways we value the Arts in Royal Oak.
- *"I value The Arts in Royal Oak because _____", " Art/Music is _____ to me, because _____."*
- 11 Mile Project
- Art Explored Live- Summer Concert Series
- Art Explored
- Celebration For The Arts

Goal: Increase the COLLABORATION amongst various local and regional organizations

- Partner with local and regional school districts/ Arts educators
- Assessment of businesses and non-profits currently providing Arts in our community
 - Inventory of art assets in our community
- Regional collaboration
- Symbiotic relationship with other local Arts organizations
- Community Arts Center

Goal: Generate AWARENESS of the Arts and Culture in the City of Royal Oak

- Seek local data regarding the importance of Art & Culture in our community
- Reach out to local Restaurant and Retail Association
 - One day a month Live Music in Royal Oak
 - Wine and Cheese stroll with Art stroll
- Heighten marketing and web presence
 - video for the Arts
 - Arts calendar
 - Investigate other cities with great art programs
- Create Business Award for the Arts Champion of the month/year
- Musician only loading zone during performances
- Music on Main Street

Goal: Become ADVOCATE and LEADERS for Art and Culture

- Expand role within The City Commission
 - Regularly attend and participate at City of Royal Oak Commission meetings during Public Comments
 - Present policies that nurture the Arts
 - Establish an list of city amenities where public art or event can happen
 - Annually attend and encourage The City of Royal Oak Strategic Planning Committee to include the Arts and Culture in City's Strategic Planning
- Provide training to assist our Commission
- Identify our "Arts Advocate and Leaders" in our community

Goal: Increase DIVERSITY & CULTURE

- Diversify Royal Oak Commission For the Arts

Attachment 2



- Local and regional collaboration partnering around the Arts
- Involve community Youths organization, Deaf and Blind community

Goal: Realize ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY to strengthen the current structure of our Commission

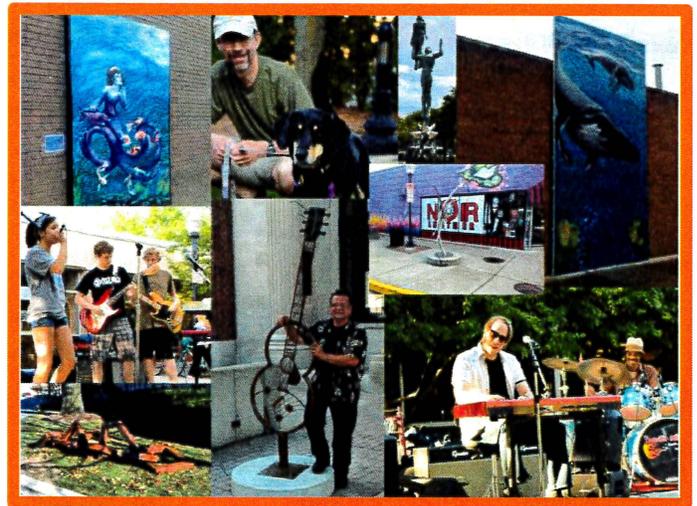
- Implement Practices and Procedures
- Become engaged in the recruiting and board candidacy
- Create a pool of volunteer data base
 - Establishing a Volunteer Coordinator
- Create an Event Committee

Goal: Execute a STRATEGIC VISION for the long and short term

- Implement annual Strategic Planning procedures
- Survey of community, community-at-large, diverse groups, stake holders and the never been reached before groups
- Generate a robust creative economy- defining the HOW? WHERE?

Goal: Become a SUSTAINABLE Commission

- Recruit and involve Volunteers
- Investigate Best Practices in other cities with strong Art Communities
- Define an Operational Budget
- Define Our Needs & Wish List



Appendix D

Public Input Process

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, October 6, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Mahany-Meining Senior Community Center - 3500 Marais

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Kanan, Andrea Makar, Todd Menig, Mike Ripinski, Mark Ryan, Jeff Plachta, and Jill Robinson

ALSO PRESENT: Greg Rassel, Director of Rec. & Public Service, Tod Gazetti, Supt. of Recreation, James Krizan, Assistant to the City Manager and Alannah Doak, City Intern

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Commissioner Mike Fournier, and Julie Bondy

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Ripinski, seconded by Kanan, to approve the minutes of September 8, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

II. City Commission Comments:

Commissioner Fournier was excused for the September meeting.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Business:

- a. Normandy Oaks Update – Oakland County sent a letter to City Manager Johnson supporting the city in our efforts to build the new park. Due to the counties limited capital budget and future capital projects in existing county parks they cannot commit monetarily to the new park.
- b. Master Plan Update – Alannah Doak presented an overview of the master plan process, including the results of the Parks and Recreation survey, summary of actions and the park inventory. The next step in the process is two master plan workshops for public input on November 3rd and December 8th.
- c. Discussion of Park Space for Lease – Tabled

V. Items not on the Agenda:

Andrea Makar informed the board there is a tiny library at Meininger Park courtesy of the MOMS Club. Mike Ripinski informed the board the Community Awards are October 18th.

Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting – November 3, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. @ Mahany-Meining Community Center – Master Plan Workshop

Motion by Ryan and seconded by Kanan to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

Tod Gazetti

Paul Kanan

Tod Gazetti, Superintendent of Recreation

Paul Kanan, Secretary

NOVEMBER 2016 • Monthly Newsletter of the Royal Oak Seniors

MISSION STATEMENT:
 The City of Royal Oak offers mature adults opportunities for lifelong education, fitness, nutrition and leisure activities.
 Supportive services that promote independence and quality of life are available for residents who are 62 and older or permanently disabled adults.
 "The City of Royal Oak's Recreation Department does not discriminate against any program participant or applicant for participation because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, condition of pregnancy, marital status, physical or mental limitation, legal source of income, family responsibilities, sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status of person, that person's relatives, or that person's associates or for any other reason(s) prohibited by law. The City of Royal Oak will take affirmative action to insure that all practices are free from such discrimination."

Inside...

- Staff Notes..... p 3
- Travelp 4
- Travel (cont'd) & Games.....p 5
- Play-Visit-Learnp 6
- Services, Interests.....p 7
- Health & Fitnessp 8
- Support.....p 9
- Community Linksp 10
- Menup 11
- Ongoing Activities.....p 12
- Calendarp 13
- Salter Centerp 14
- Salter Calendar.....p 15

Welcome Newcomers! **Monday, November 7 10:30 AM**
 Newcomer's orientation is open to anyone fifty or better. Discover the programs and services available at the Center. You'll learn how to register for classes, trips and programs. Meet the staff and receive a complimentary lunch.
 Call **(248) 246-3900** to reserve your spot.

SEMINARS: Food Safety & Nutrition
10:00 AM Tuesdays


 Presentations by Michigan State University Extension.
 Includes food demonstrations. *No Fee/Preregistration required.*

November 8 **December 13**
 Vegetarian Cooking Eating at the Holidays



Art Show

Come and view the pieces that our painting class artists have been producing.
 Thursday, November 10th, 9:15 - 11:45 AM

Veteran's Day November 11

The center honors our veterans by providing a free lunch for all veterans. We ask all participants to pre-register at the front desk here at the center by Nov. 7th, or call us at (248) 246-3900.

REMEMBER!
Memory Screening Day!!
Monday, November 14th
10 AM - 2 PM
No fee


 Call 248-246-3900 to reserve a spot.

THE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH

City of Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Community Workshops
 Help create a great Parks & Recreation Plan - contribute your vision and suggestions.
Thursdays at 7:00 PM
November 3rd & December 8th

At the Senior Community Center OR - take the on-line survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ROwebsite>



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Workshop

**What is YOUR vision for Royal Oak Parks & Recreation?
Attend a hands-on workshop!
Share ALL your ideas!**

WHEN?

***Thursday, November 3rd 7:00pm
&
Thursday, December 8th 7:00pm***

WHERE?

***Mahany-Meining Senior Center - Game Room
3500 Marias Royal Oak, MI 48073***

**Help create a great parks & recreation master plan for your
neighborhood and community.**

All are welcome! Come & Participate!

You can also help by taking a survey.
Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ROwebsite>

**The City of Royal Oak
Phone: 248-246-3200
211 S Williams St
Royal Oak MI, 48067**

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, November 3, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Mahany-Meining Senior Community Center - 3500 Marais

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Kanan, Andrea Makar, Todd Menig, Mike Ripinski, Mark Ryan, Jeff Plachta, and Jill Robinson

ALSO PRESENT: Greg Rassel, Director of Rec. & Public Service and Tod Gazetti, Supt. of Recreation
Alannah Doak, City Intern

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Commissioner Mike Fournier, and Julie Bondy

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Ripinski, seconded by Kanan, to approve the minutes of October 6, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

II. City Commission Comments:

Commissioner Fournier was excused for the November meeting.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Business:

- a. City of Royal Oak Parks and Recreation – Master Plan Community Workshop
The City Intern, Alannah Doak guided both residents and non-residents through a storyboarding exercise to find out what participants would like to see in their ideal park and what their ideal recreation program would look like.

This information will be presented as part of the master plan process; no action is needed at this time.

- b. Appointment of Board Member to the ROOTS Foundation (TABLED)

V. Items not on the Agenda: None at this time

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Tree Lighting – December 1, 2016 @ the R.O. Farmers Market

Next Meeting –December 8, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. @ Mahany-Meining Community Center

Motion by Ryan and seconded by Kanan to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod Gazetti

Tod Gazetti, Superintendent of Recreation

Approved,

Paul Kanan

Paul Kanan, Secretary

The Daily Tribune (<http://www.dailytribune.com>)

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Print Page

Royal Oak seeks residents' views on master plan for city's 50 parks

Workshop set for tonight at Senior Center

By Mike McConnell, The Daily Tribune

Wednesday, December 7, 2016



With Royal Oak planning a 40-acre park at the former Normandy Oaks golf course and possibly another park downtown, residents are being asked to weigh in on what features they want to see at the city's 50 parks.

City park officials are in the process of drafting a new master plan for the parks. A workshop at 7 p.m. Thursday is open to the public at the Mahany-Meining Senior Center at 3500 Marais.

"We want to hear what people are interested in," said Mike Ripinski, vice chair of the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. "It will also be helpful in our overall priorities with what we do with

Normandy Oaks, and a park downtown if that comes to fruition."

Residents will also have other chances to speak out about features at Normandy Oaks and a downtown park, which is part of a proposed \$100 million development of Royal Oak's civic center.

But the vast majority parks are smaller and spread throughout neighborhoods in the city where residents picnic, jog, walk dogs and children play sports and other games.

A master plan for the parks is updated every five years and is necessary for the city to get government grants for improvements at parks.

Royal Oak's last large recreational grant from the state Department of Natural Resources was for \$750,000 to construct a second gym at the city-owned Salter Community Center on Lincoln Avenue near Campbell Road, said Tod Gazetti, superintendent of recreation in the Department of Public Services.

That was 16 years ago. Now, officials such as Gazetti and others are crafting a new master plan for parks with an eye toward getting more funding from the DNR.

"Every year we do a survey of residents," he said. "What people have said they wanted ranges from a water feature to renovation of baseball fields, new playground equipment, picnic shelters and pathways."

Cost and circumstances come into play, of course. Water features are too expensive to put into a small neighborhood park with relatively low usage. Similarly, it makes little sense to create a quarter-mile pathway or nature trail around a smaller park, Gazetti said.

In the past few years the city has installed about \$110,000 worth of new playground equipment at two of the larger parks, funding much of it with city parking profits from the annual Arts, Beats & Eats festival.

Greg Rassel, head of the DPS, said the budget for parks in Royal Oak is just over \$1 million a year and half of the money goes to maintaining them.

“This year we are doing new place signs and some play structures,” he said. “We get money from (federal) community block grants and Arts, Beats & Eats, but it’s not included in our budget because we can’t depend on that money being there every year.”

Thursday’s workshop at the senior center is the last chance residents will have to offer suggestions for the parks master plan. Like the city’s master plan, it gives officials a goal to work toward in updating parks as recreational desires change over the years.

Royal Oak in the past couple of years has focused on investing more in city parks as part of an initiative started by outgoing Mayor Jim Ellison.

Parks and recreation funding took a hit during the lean years following the Great Recession.

The process of working to create the city’s largest park at Normandy Oaks over the past two years has drawn increased interest in how the city designs and funds its parks.

A park at Normandy Oak will be funded with about \$3.8 million the city gets for selling 10 acres of the former golf course to home developers. Details of amenities for the park, beyond the inclusion of soccer fields and nature areas, have yet to be determined.

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[Print Page](#)

URL: <http://www.dailytribune.com/general-news/20161207/royal-oak-seeks-residents-views-on-master-plan-for-citys-50-parks>

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MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, December 8, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Mahany-Meining Senior Community Center - 3500 Marais

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Menig, Mike Ripinski, Mark Ryan, Jeff Plachta, and Jill Robinson

ALSO PRESENT: Greg Rassel, Director of Rec. & Public Service and Tod Gazetti, Supt. of Recreation
Alannah Doak, City Intern

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Commissioner Mike Fournier, Julie Bondy, Paul Kanan, and Andrea Makar

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Ripinski, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes of November 3, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

II. City Commission Comments:

Commissioner Fournier was excused for the December meeting.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Business:

- a. City of Royal Oak Parks and Recreation – Master Plan Community Workshop
The City Intern, Alannah Doak guided both residents and non-residents through a storyboarding exercise to find out what participants would like to see in their ideal park and what their ideal recreation program would look like.

This information will be presented as part of the master plan process; no action is needed at this time.

V. Items not on the Agenda: None at this time

Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting – January 5, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m. @ Mahany-Meining Community Center

Motion by Ryan and seconded by Plachta to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod Gazetti

Tod Gazetti, Superintendent of Recreation

Approved,

Paul Kanan

Paul Kanan, Secretary

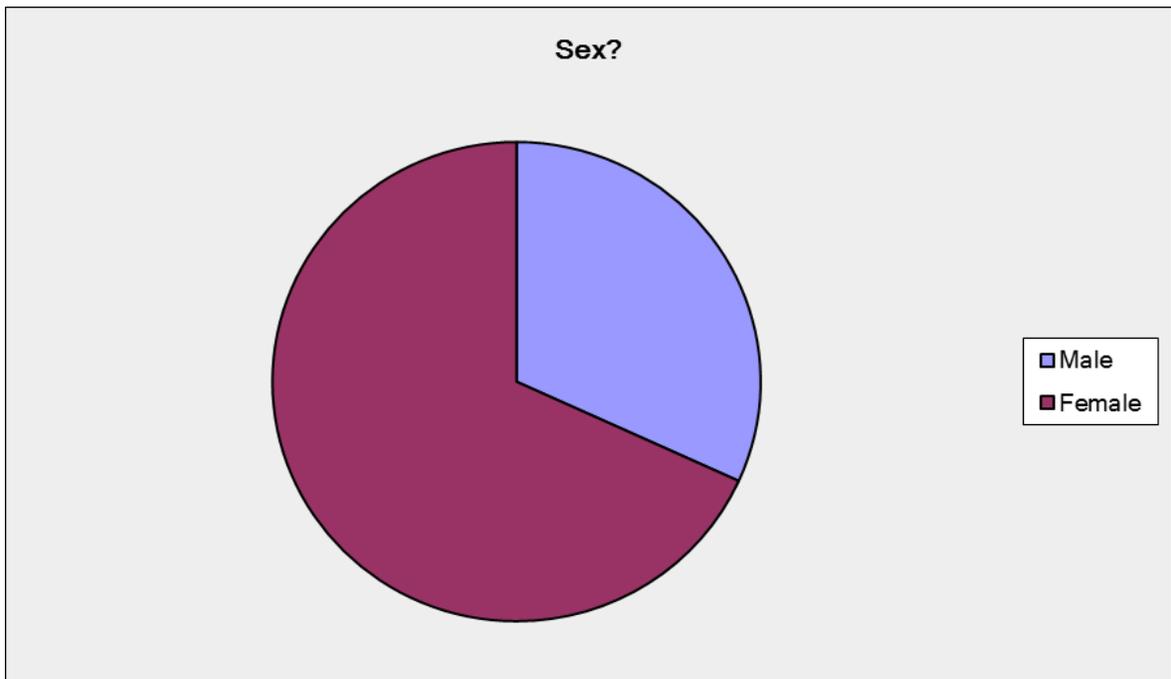
Appendix E

Public Adoption Documentation

Appendix F
Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Survey
Results 2016

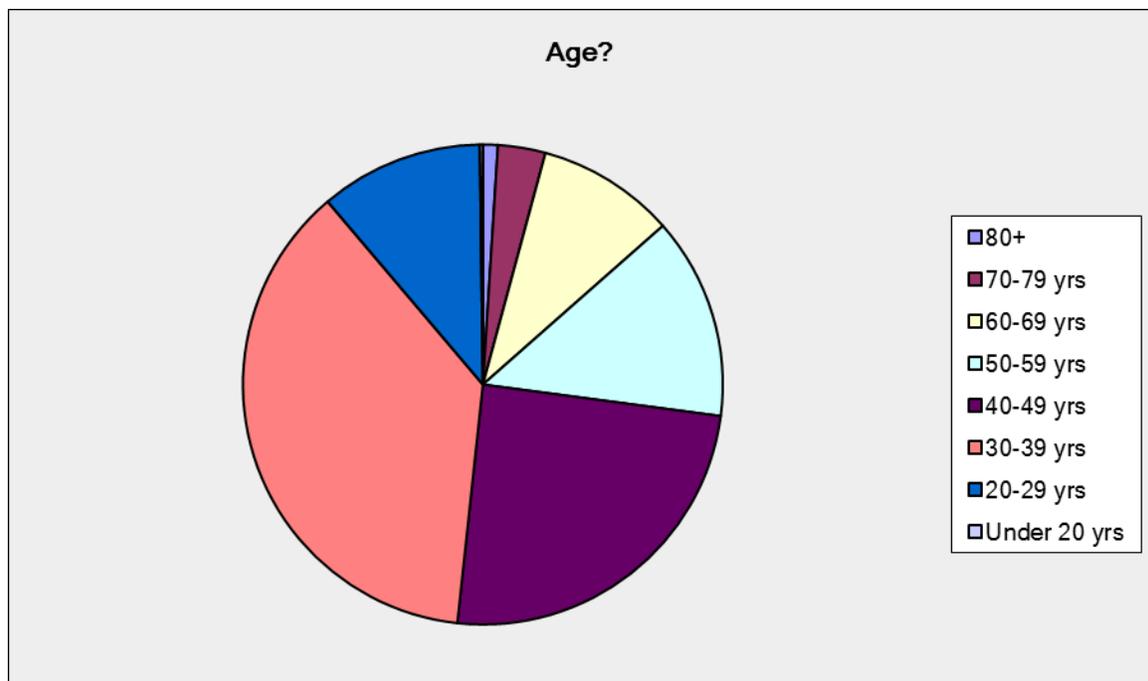
Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Survey 2016

Sex?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	31.8%	197
Female	68.2%	423
<i>answered question</i>		620
<i>skipped question</i>		5



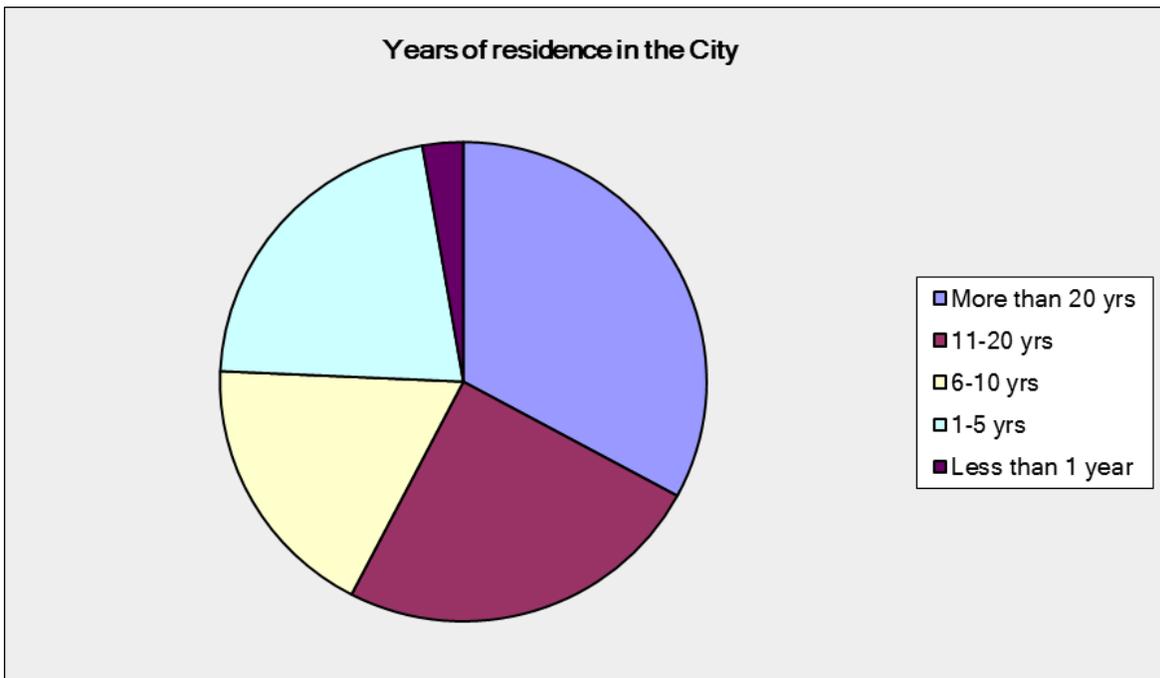
Age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
80+	1.0%	6
70-79 yrs	3.2%	20
60-69 yrs	9.3%	58
50-59 yrs	13.6%	85
40-49 yrs	24.6%	154
30-39 yrs	37.1%	232
20-29 yrs	11.0%	69
Under 20 yrs	0.2%	1
answered question		625
skipped question		0

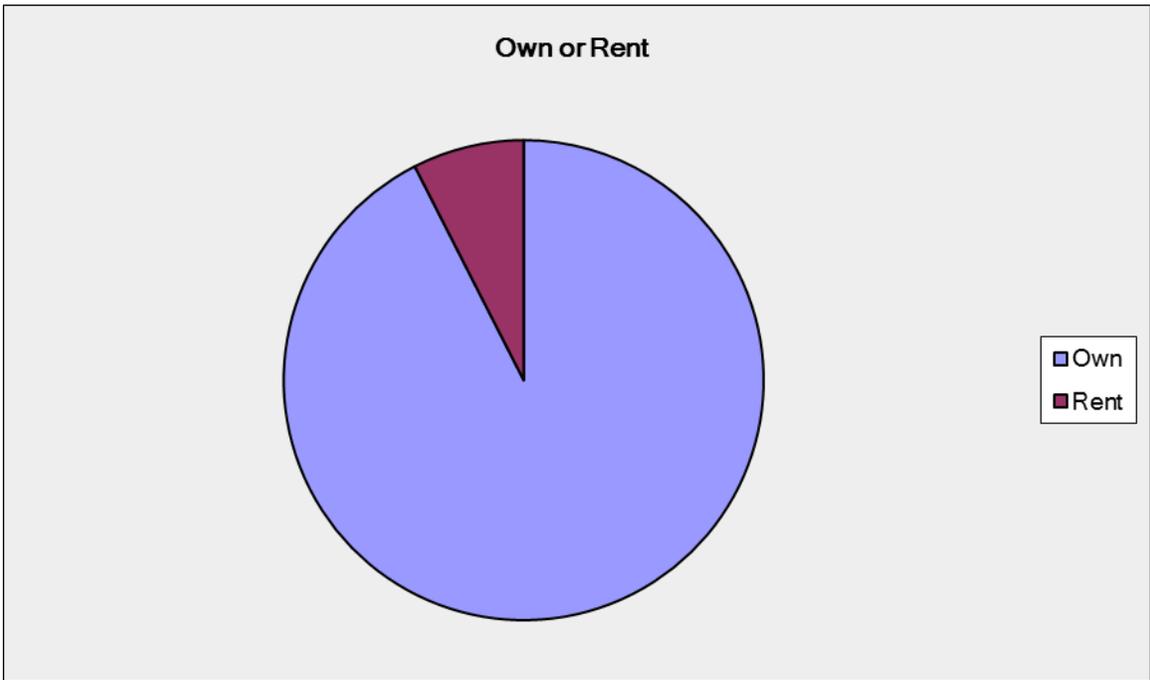


Years of residence in the City

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
More than 20 yrs	32.9%	205
11-20 yrs	24.7%	154
6-10 yrs	18.1%	113
1-5 yrs	21.6%	135
Less than 1 year	2.7%	17
<i>answered question</i>		624
<i>skipped question</i>		1

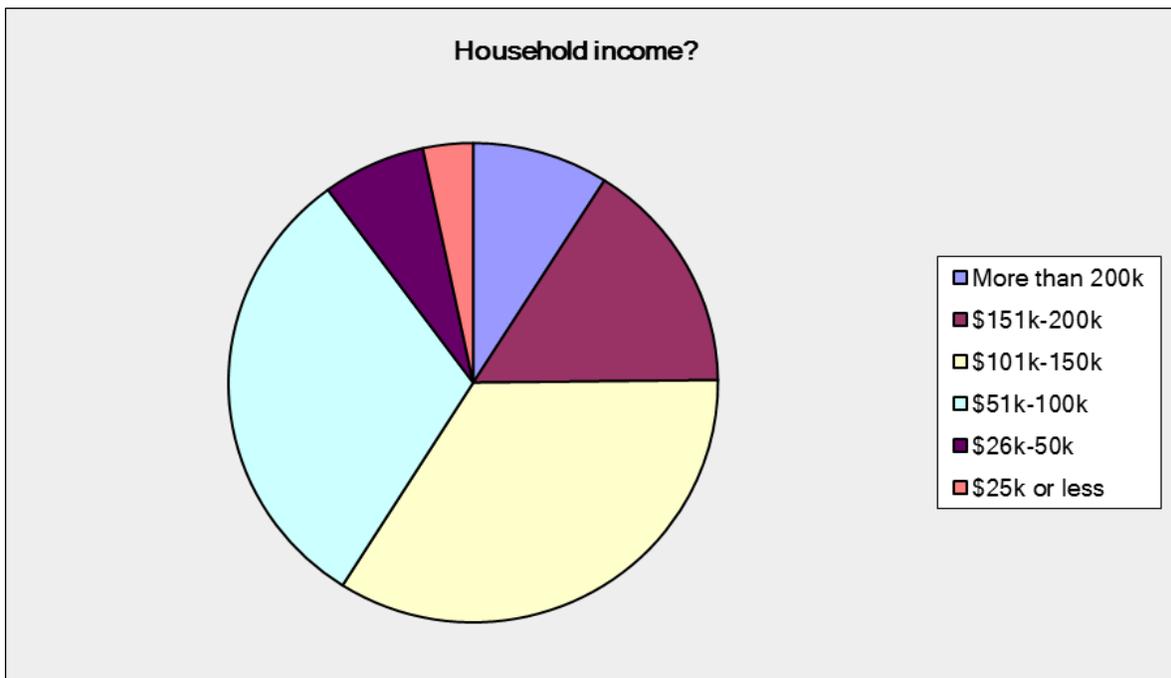


Own or Rent		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Own	92.5%	576
Rent	7.5%	47
<i>answered question</i>		623
<i>skipped question</i>		2



Household income?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
More than 200k	9.0%	54
\$151k-200k	15.8%	95
\$101k-150k	34.1%	205
\$51k-100k	30.9%	186
\$26k-50k	6.8%	41
\$25k or less	3.3%	20
answered question		601
skipped question		24



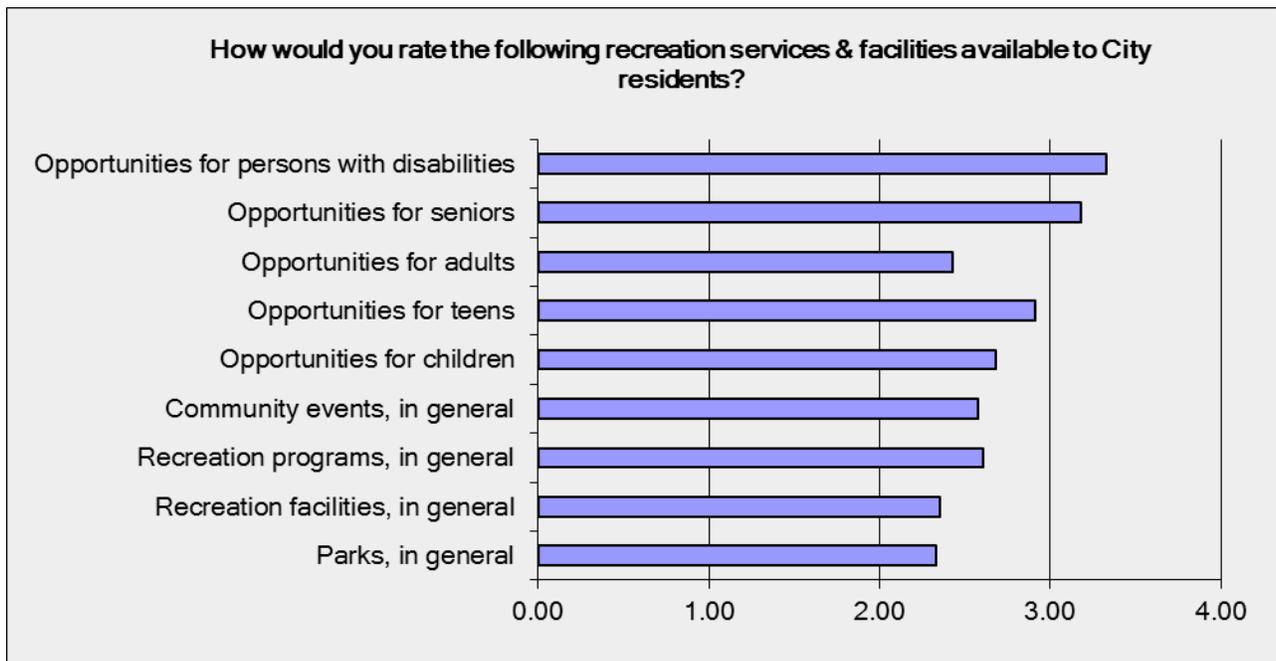
During the last 12 months have you...

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
...Used a City park or recreational facility?	93.9%	557
...Participated in a City recreational program?	36.3%	215
...Attended a City-sponsored community event	69.5%	412
<i>answered question</i>		593
<i>skipped question</i>		32



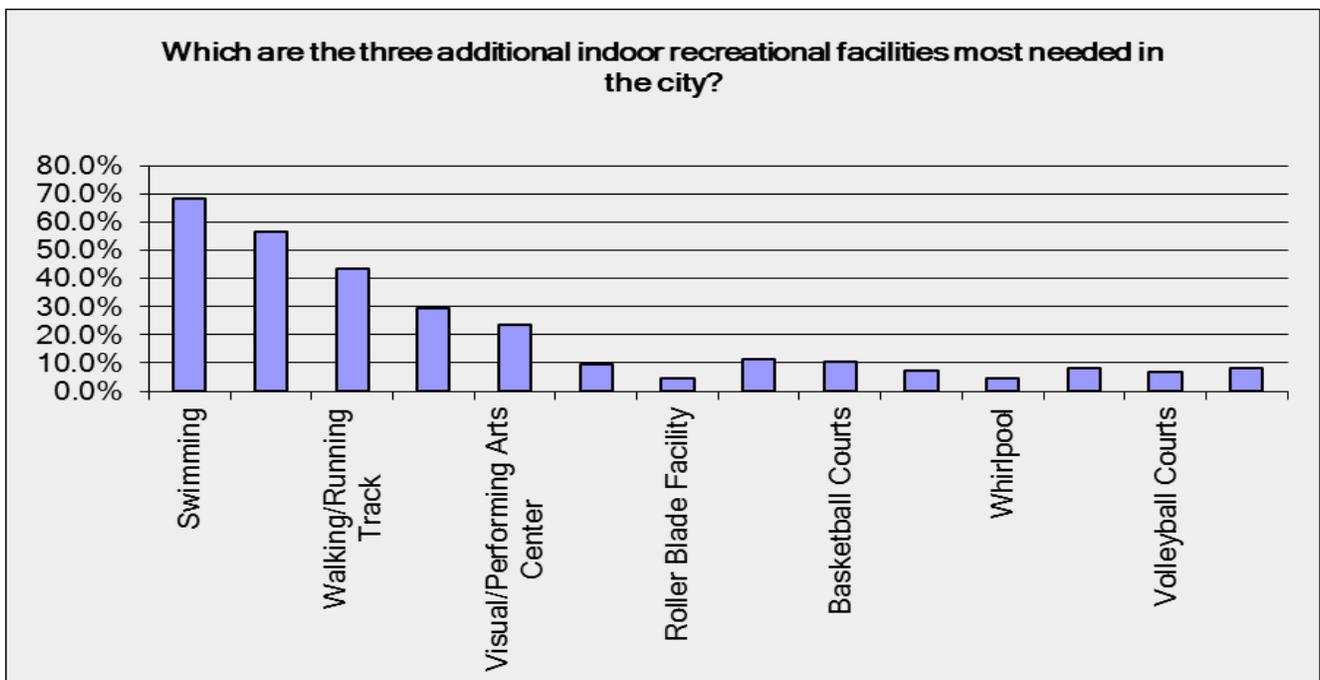
How would you rate the following recreation services & facilities available to City residents?

Answer Options	Poor	Adequate	Excellent	Uncertain	Rating Average	Response Count
Parks, in general	40	346	217	15	2.33	618
Recreation facilities, in general	71	344	110	89	2.35	614
Recreation programs, in general	54	275	140	143	2.61	612
Community events, in general	24	270	259	59	2.58	612
Opportunities for children	63	212	193	143	2.68	611
Opportunities for teens	103	153	49	304	2.91	609
Opportunities for adults	90	273	142	106	2.43	611
Opportunities for seniors	36	121	147	305	3.18	609
Opportunities for persons with disabilities	67	91	19	426	3.33	603
answered question						622
skipped question						3

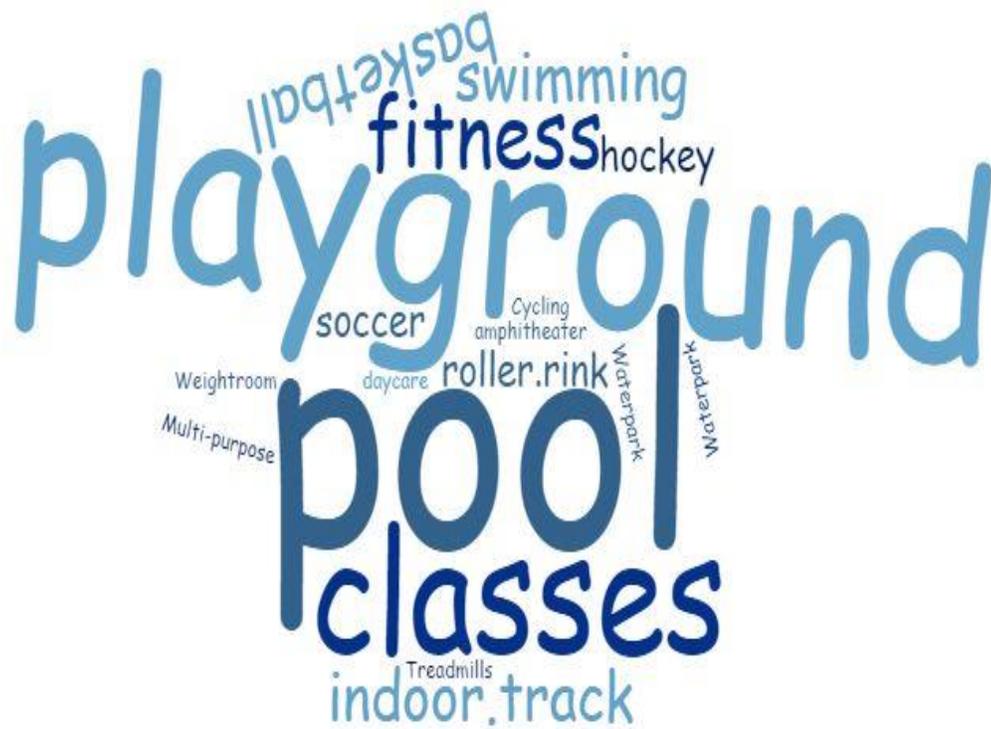


Which are the three additional indoor recreational facilities most needed in the city?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Swimming	68.3%	408
Fitness Center	56.6%	338
Walking/Running Track	43.4%	259
Nature/Eco/Conservation Center	29.5%	176
Visual/Performing Arts Center	23.5%	140
Tennis Courts	9.7%	58
Roller Blade Facility	4.4%	26
Weight Room	11.2%	67
Basketball Courts	10.4%	62
Racquetball Courts	7.2%	43
Whirlpool	4.7%	28
Game Rooms	8.0%	48
Volleyball Courts	6.7%	40
Dance Studio	8.0%	48
answered question		597
skipped question		28



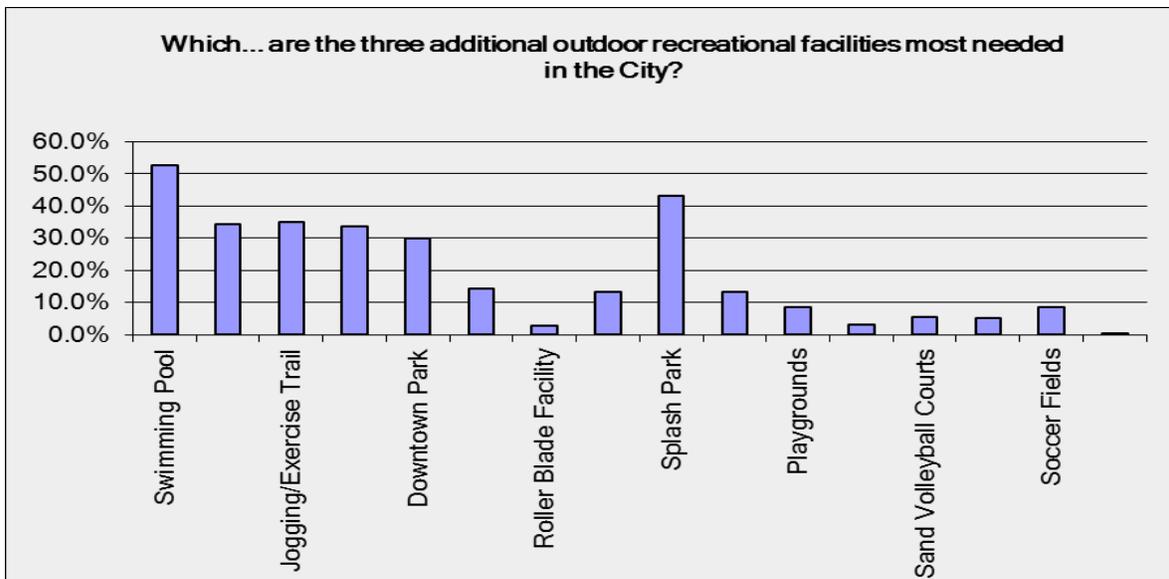
Other additional indoor recreation facilities suggested:



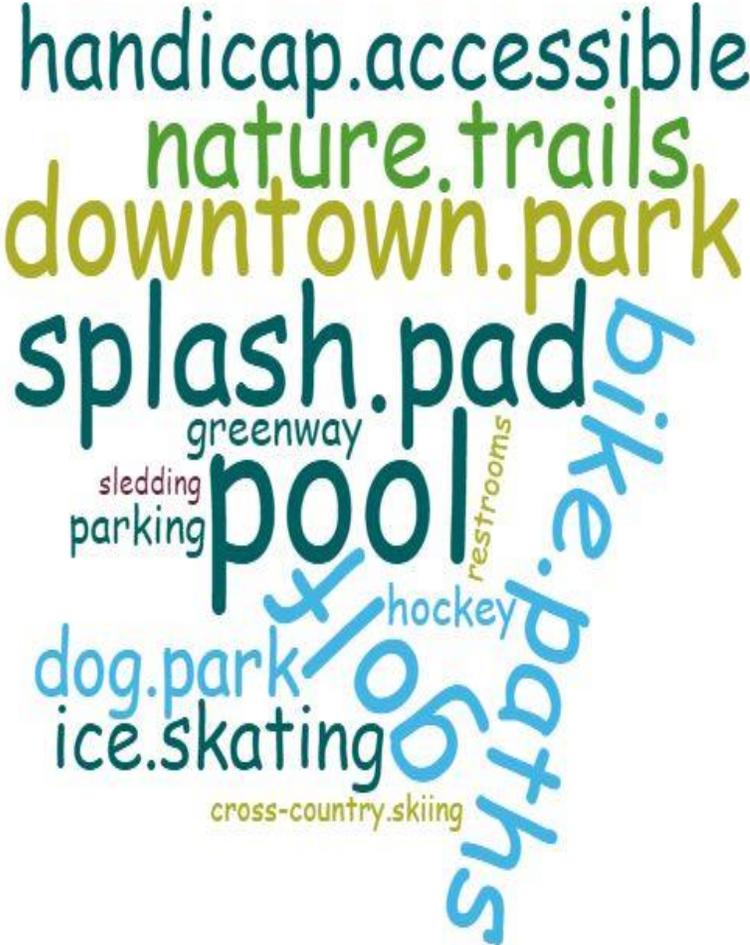
*Word clouds are created from comments the city received from residents. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in comments left by residents.

Which are the three additional outdoor recreational facilities most needed in the City?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Swimming Pool	52.6%	324
Bicycle/Non-motorized Paths	34.4%	212
Jogging/Exercise Trail	35.1%	216
Nature Trails	33.8%	208
Downtown Park	29.9%	184
Nature/Eco/Conservation Center	14.4%	89
Roller Blade Facility	2.8%	17
Dog Park	13.3%	82
Splash Park	43.0%	265
Picnic Shelters	13.1%	81
Playgrounds	8.4%	52
Softball Fields	3.2%	20
Sand Volleyball Courts	5.5%	34
Skateboard Facility	5.2%	32
Soccer Fields	8.4%	52
Football Fields	0.5%	3
answered question		616
skipped question		9



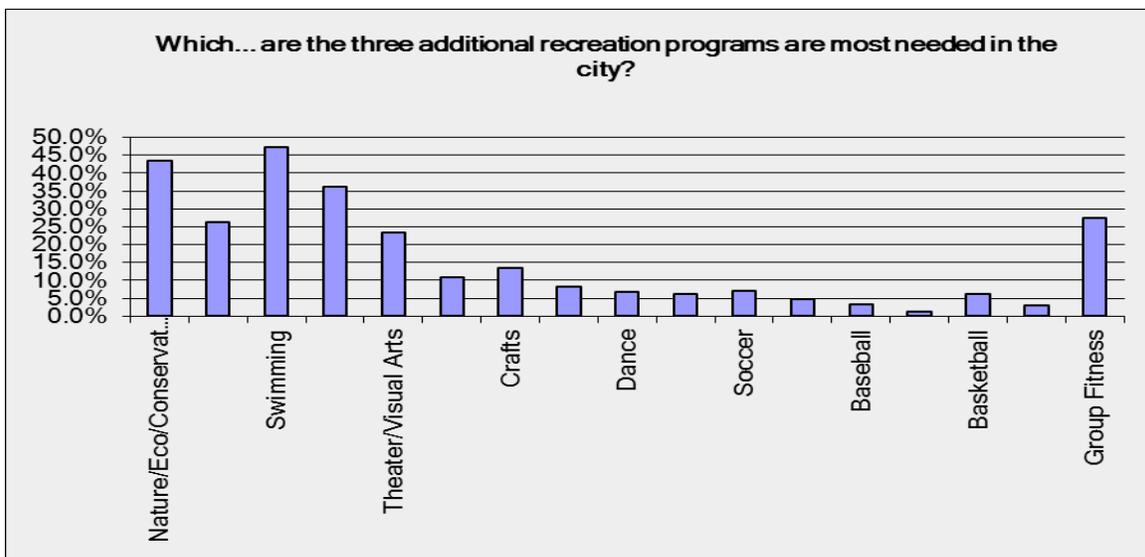
Other additional outdoor recreational facilities suggested:



*Word clouds are created from comments the city received from residents. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in comments left by residents.

Which are the three additional recreation programs are most needed in the city?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Nature/Eco/Conservation Center	43.4%	242
Music	26.2%	146
Swimming	47.2%	263
Summer/Day Camps	36.1%	201
Theater/Visual Arts	23.5%	131
Supervised Playgrounds	11.0%	61
Crafts	13.5%	75
Tennis	8.3%	46
Dance	6.8%	38
Volleyball	6.3%	35
Soccer	7.2%	40
Softball	4.8%	27
Baseball	3.2%	18
Football	1.4%	8
Basketball	6.3%	35
Rollerblade Hockey	3.1%	17
Group Fitness	27.5%	153
answered question		557
skipped question		68



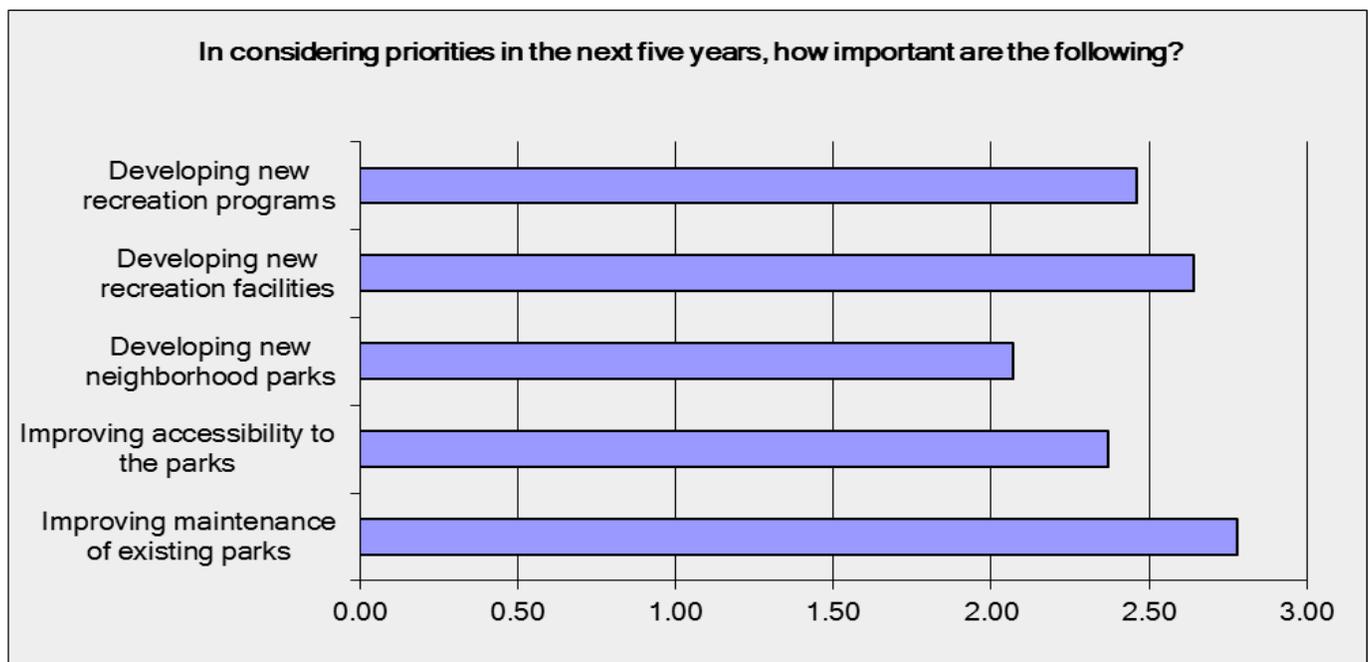
Other additional recreation programs suggested:



*Word clouds are created from comments the city received from residents. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in comments left by residents.

In considering priorities in the next five years, how important are the following?

Answer Options	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	No answer	Rating Average	Response Count
Improving maintenance of existing parks	9	125	477	6	2.78	617
Improving accessibility to the parks	88	258	222	46	2.37	614
Developing new neighborhood parks	178	237	180	19	2.07	614
Developing new recreation facilities	26	186	390	14	2.64	616
Developing new recreation programs	41	265	287	18	2.46	611
<i>answered question</i>						620
<i>skipped question</i>						5



Additional Comments



*Word clouds are created from comments the city received from residents. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in comments left by residents.

Q9 Other additional indoor recreation facilities suggested:

Answered: 87 Skipped: 538

#	Responses	Date
1	Bike park. bicycles	12/9/2016 7:56 AM
2	Indoor bike park.	12/8/2016 4:07 PM
3	gay pick up joint, to get laid	12/8/2016 1:33 PM
4	Bike park	12/8/2016 1:04 PM
5	bike park	12/8/2016 12:51 PM
6	Bike Park	12/8/2016 8:39 AM
7	rock climbing wall	12/8/2016 5:40 AM
8	game rooms	11/2/2016 7:08 PM
9	We need an city sponsored fitness and swim facility like Troy has.	11/2/2016 1:28 AM
10	Indoor play area for toddlers & preschoolers	11/1/2016 8:49 PM
11	Yoga studio	11/1/2016 6:41 PM
12	Soccer	11/1/2016 3:24 PM
13	Soccer fields	11/1/2016 2:37 PM
14	Royal Oak is in need of a full service recreation center. The only modern workout/fitness option is LA Fitness, which is always packed. The local YMCA is way over due to be torn down. There are a lot of small group exercise business in the area, but nothing that offers what a modern recreation facility would provide. Something similar to Troy's rec center or the Lifetime Fitness facilities would be nice.	11/1/2016 2:32 PM
15	Indoor playground area for residents. Since the library is lacking, this would be a great outlet for younger children.	11/1/2016 1:33 PM
16	I think the city needs a recreation center. Similar to Sterling Heights	10/17/2016 1:07 PM
17	indoor pickleball courts	10/3/2016 6:59 PM
18	Treadmills	10/3/2016 12:03 PM
19	Parking	9/30/2016 11:32 PM
20	Play space for kids	9/30/2016 5:55 PM
21	Giant indoor water park/hotel for regional draw. It's cold in this state often. What's better than going swimming to feel less cooped up?	9/30/2016 2:19 PM
22	yoga of all types	9/30/2016 1:32 PM
23	Indoor play ground for children of all ages and abilities	9/29/2016 7:22 PM
24	Something for teens? Arcade?	9/28/2016 11:58 AM
25	Build a city Recreation Center similar to Livonia, Troy	9/28/2016 11:01 AM
26	Children's indoor play area	9/27/2016 10:25 PM
27	dog park	9/27/2016 12:30 PM
28	Indoor play area for children. Drop in play.	9/27/2016 11:41 AM
29	None	9/27/2016 6:25 AM
30	Please make more events and locations dog friendly. Other progressive cities are being inclusive of our furry family members and I'd love to see more of this from Royal Oak.	9/27/2016 1:15 AM
31	Street hockey	9/26/2016 11:09 PM

32	Play areas for kids like indoor water park.	9/26/2016 10:38 PM
33	Teen drop in center to keep them out of trouble	9/26/2016 9:28 PM
34	We need a good Community Center such as the one on Livernois in Troy	9/26/2016 6:38 PM
35	We need a place for special needs children to be able to play safely.	9/26/2016 5:04 PM
36	Fitness Center should include exercise equipment, track, basketball, etc.	9/26/2016 4:01 PM
37	Aquatic center or community pool like many communities around us have. High school pool is not the same	9/26/2016 3:37 PM
38	Dog Parks	9/26/2016 2:31 PM
39	Definitely need a community center. We need a city pool and an indoor area that families can use or rent throughout the year for special events.	9/26/2016 1:50 PM
40	Soccer. ROYSA is huge in the community for the kids and seems to be growing, Total soccer Royal Oak does not compare to other indoor facilities in the tri-county area.	9/26/2016 12:36 PM
41	Expand classes for working adults. Those offered during daytime hours are great, but not accessible to working adults.	9/26/2016 12:04 PM
42	Let the market decide, dont burden the tax payer	9/26/2016 11:47 AM
43	Indoor play place.	9/26/2016 11:24 AM
44	pickle ball	9/26/2016 11:11 AM
45	We have a fitness center membership that will end in December and cannot afford membership for two even with discount. It has helped us and would like to continue.	9/26/2016 10:23 AM
46	Skate Park	9/26/2016 9:26 AM
47	Climbing wall	9/26/2016 8:10 AM
48	We need a community pool	9/26/2016 7:57 AM
49	Waterpark	9/26/2016 7:50 AM
50	The City of Royal Oak is in desperate need a fitness center with an indoor swimming pool, like the City of Troy. It must have reasonable monthly rates.	9/26/2016 6:32 AM
51	Swimming pool/Waterpark like Warren.	9/25/2016 10:08 PM
52	An indoor play place for kids, for winter play. I have to drive 20-30 minutes to get to an indoor play place. (Free -\$7 admission range)	9/25/2016 9:22 PM
53	Soccer field	9/25/2016 8:54 AM
54	I belong to the Y,, so i use those facilities	9/24/2016 8:41 PM
55	A water slide facility would be awesome!	9/24/2016 4:54 PM
56	I recommended and any needed indoor recreation facilities be left to the private sector rather than Royal Oak city government.	9/24/2016 8:54 AM
57	Something like warren community center would be great!	9/24/2016 7:29 AM
58	Indoor water park with community pool and other things so Royal Oak residents don't have to pay at other cities every year.	9/24/2016 6:09 AM
59	Indoor park. Parks are such a huge reason we love living in royal oak, but we really only have 6-9 months with them.	9/24/2016 6:01 AM
60	Something like the Troy community center would be amazing	9/24/2016 12:54 AM
61	Weight room, basketball courts	9/23/2016 11:59 PM
62	Splash Park	9/23/2016 11:30 PM
63	I wish Royal Oak had even 1/2 the amenities that Troy offers: Fitness Center, indoor & outdoor pool, variety of fitness classes, and kids classes / daycare.	9/23/2016 11:16 PM
64	Play place or open play for families with young kids. Ideally a big open space that would allow for running around, with drop-in hours. Maybe a bounce house in there as well.	9/23/2016 10:22 PM
65	Kids play or learning facility. There are so many parks so it's easy to keep busy in the summer but really lacking in the winter. Love this city but it seems more catered to adults and night life. Would love to see more family activities to keep families interested in Royal oak.	9/23/2016 7:58 PM

66	ski hill	9/23/2016 6:59 PM
67	The city needs a decent indoors recreation Center where all the updated facilities are house, not like now that swimming pool are in one center and programs for children, adult, and seniors are happening in different locations. Use Normandy oaks to build one.	9/23/2016 6:57 PM
68	a real community center with pool, fitness, classes, etc...	9/23/2016 5:02 PM
69	Obviously, a community center. Nothing lik the Salter center, though (outdated, smells, not really a "community center").	9/23/2016 4:47 PM
70	I would love to have a city pool and bathrooms at more of the parks.	9/23/2016 4:24 PM
71	I'm assuming roller blade facility is roller rink?	9/23/2016 3:35 PM
72	Water slide	9/23/2016 3:22 PM
73	Indoor soccer	9/23/2016 2:56 PM
74	A gym or rec center that only residents can use	9/23/2016 2:54 PM
75	Multi-purpose facility...include: an indoor playground; amphitheater for performing arts; adjustable-wall large room to accommodate events for various sized groups	9/23/2016 2:41 PM
76	Go-kart track	9/23/2016 2:33 PM
77	How about a kitchen for cooking classes?	9/23/2016 2:32 PM
78	Swimming facility	9/23/2016 2:26 PM
79	Just a city rec center in general	9/23/2016 2:04 PM
80	Walking/running track, basketball court	9/23/2016 2:03 PM
81	Please update the Royal Oak golf club!	9/23/2016 1:57 PM
82	More alternative work out classes- not changes same classes for adults yr after yr	9/23/2016 1:52 PM
83	We live across the street from Whittier Park and live the pickle ball courts! We'd love an indoor facility for use in the winter months.	9/23/2016 1:51 PM
84	indoor splash pad/water park	9/23/2016 1:50 PM
85	Cycling, in-line hockey	9/23/2016 1:48 PM
86	Let the market decided, not the tax dollar	9/23/2016 1:46 PM
87	FUN water area (in addition to a pool)	9/23/2016 1:31 PM

Q11 Other additional outdoor recreational facilities suggested:

Answered: 134 Skipped: 491

#	Responses	Date
1	Fishing opportunity would be good	12/10/2016 4:28 PM
2	bike park	12/9/2016 7:56 AM
3	Pump track/beginner/kids bike park	12/8/2016 4:07 PM
4	Skate park that allows bicycles.	12/8/2016 2:36 PM
5	nude pool	12/8/2016 1:33 PM
6	Bike park	12/8/2016 1:04 PM
7	bike park	12/8/2016 12:51 PM
8	Bike Park	12/8/2016 8:39 AM
9	Bike park	12/8/2016 8:11 AM
10	Bike park	12/8/2016 7:22 AM
11	Mountain bike trail	12/8/2016 6:15 AM
12	City bike park! Like Ann Arbor	12/8/2016 12:16 AM
13	Bike park would be great	12/7/2016 11:41 PM
14	BIKE PARK	12/7/2016 11:39 PM
15	Bicycle park	12/7/2016 11:25 PM
16	Not a facility but would love to see city garbage cans at parks so people have a place to put garbage they have or pick Up	12/7/2016 10:41 PM
17	Fitness equipment and facilities for older adults.	11/9/2016 9:57 AM
18	A community pool would be wonderful!	11/2/2016 7:00 AM
19	Splash pad would be a huge draw for new families with children!	11/2/2016 1:28 AM
20	More benches and tables in parks & near play structures. New park sign at Lawson park, pretty garbage cans in parks, trim trees in parks, remove or landscape berms at ends and streets & parks	11/1/2016 8:49 PM
21	Downtown park with bicycle links to Woodward	11/1/2016 7:57 PM
22	More/updated tennis courts (courts without cracks in the cement)	11/1/2016 7:35 PM
23	Downtown park	11/1/2016 6:41 PM
24	Restrooms at parks, paved walking and riding paths around parks	11/1/2016 2:37 PM
25	Definitely better upkeep at the parks!!	11/1/2016 1:33 PM
26	Another golf course	10/29/2016 4:12 PM
27	Fishing pond. I would love to see a pond incorporated into Normandy Oaks that would be large enough to allow for recreational fishing, but could also provide a nice backdrop for a biking trail.	10/17/2016 2:27 PM
28	Walking track like Madison Hgts.	10/9/2016 6:13 PM
29	would like to see backboards at the tennis courts so people can practice even if they don't have a partner.	10/9/2016 7:15 AM
30	Splash park, pool	10/7/2016 11:08 AM
31	downtown ice skating rink	10/3/2016 12:03 PM
32	Splash park (not part of the new downtown development proposal), downtown playground, nature center	10/2/2016 11:11 PM
33	Do a better job of upkeep in the parks before you build new.	10/1/2016 7:39 PM

34	Parking so residents can use the parks. If there are parking areas I haven't found them yet.	9/30/2016 11:32 PM
35	Current dog park is in disrepair.	9/30/2016 7:29 PM
36	A very long bike/jogging path- non motorized. Can there be one that goes alongside the train tracks? With a safety fence between the two of course, but it would be hugely desirable. There are no good paved bicycle paths in or near the city.	9/30/2016 2:19 PM
37	bikes	9/28/2016 10:41 PM
38	More public toilets in the parks (most parks don't have any)	9/28/2016 8:50 PM
39	Something water-related	9/28/2016 11:58 AM
40	cross country skiing at Normandy oaks and sledding hill.	9/28/2016 11:14 AM
41	Take better care of current park, rather than adding more. Normandy oaks should serve as a combined use sports facility. Soccer, baseball....	9/28/2016 11:01 AM
42	Soccer, running/bike paths	9/27/2016 12:33 PM
43	dog parks!!	9/27/2016 12:30 PM
44	More outdoor drinking fountains and regular maintenance of the part grass/trash/debris in city parks and property.	9/27/2016 1:15 AM
45	Street hockey	9/26/2016 11:09 PM
46	Splash pad for kids. A vibrant town square like downtown Birmingham has.	9/26/2016 10:38 PM
47	A city pool would be an excellent edition. Places like Oak Park and Huntington Woods have them with lower taxes and less people. A dog park that is well maintained and offers activities for small and large dogs. Updated equipment in existing parks that are safe and not rusted. More garbage cans in existing parks. Regular lawn mowing in existing parks.	9/26/2016 9:28 PM
48	Playgrounds are not needed, we have enough. But they really are not kept up well.	9/26/2016 9:12 PM
49	Accessible splash pad	9/26/2016 8:39 PM
50	Better kept parks (look at Birminghams public parks)... manicured and maintained. Need a park that is the same caliber as booth park in b-ham. Also look to Northvilles Ford Field Park playscape.	9/26/2016 8:27 PM
51	Tennis courts	9/26/2016 5:52 PM
52	We need more dog friendly nature trails and parks.	9/26/2016 5:04 PM
53	Aquatic center or community pool like many communities around us have	9/26/2016 3:37 PM
54	Cardio drum class	9/26/2016 2:31 PM
55	We need to keep up the parks that we have. For example: Red Run park needs their tennis courts fixed. They look horrible. We need to have proper (flushing toilets and sinks) restrooms at all of our outside recreational facilities.	9/26/2016 1:50 PM
56	Pool. Pool. Pool.	9/26/2016 1:46 PM
57	Upgraded/properly maintained disc golf courses	9/26/2016 1:07 PM
58	Some of the playground equipment really needs an upgrade.	9/26/2016 12:07 PM
59	Let the market decide, dont burden the tax payer	9/26/2016 11:47 AM
60	Update the play structures.. especially the four seasons preschool one and kenwood..i know the city has 2 in boxes since the spring and hqve not installed them.. why?	9/26/2016 11:24 AM
61	Play grounds for all ages and disable-ties	9/26/2016 11:18 AM
62	sledding hill	9/26/2016 11:11 AM
63	In disagreement with action taken to reduce traffic lanes DT, to make bicycle paths. I see few people using them. More than half the people ride on sidewalks anyways. We walk 2 to 3 miles per day and drive DT a lot. Feel bike lanes were not a good use of taxes.	9/26/2016 10:23 AM
64	Fence in the unused parks and turn them into DOG RUNS . 1. Arthur Fries Park 2. Rotary Club Park 3. Beechwood Park (Already has fence on 2/3 sides) 4. Franklin Park (Fenced on 3/4 sides already These parks would make great Dog runs. They have no play structures and it would (maybe) relieve the problem with dogs running free in other parks where kids are present.	9/26/2016 10:02 AM

65	Walking trails in the park areas, that's safe to walk.	9/26/2016 9:59 AM
66	Anything that would attract teens.	9/26/2016 9:26 AM
67	Add restrooms to parks!	9/26/2016 8:51 AM
68	Fitness stations at the parks	9/26/2016 8:10 AM
69	Bathrooms, Basketball courts, ice skating rink	9/26/2016 7:50 AM
70	Outdoor ice skating.	9/26/2016 7:13 AM
71	Slash pad. Walking/ bike paths should also be paved, black topped Making it easier for someone in a wheel chair to be pushed or a motorized wheel chair can enjoy the outdoors. The city has NO paths for handicapped people	9/26/2016 6:32 AM
72	Trail to tie into rail trails, on crooks perhaps. Splash pad/ice rink.	9/25/2016 10:08 PM
73	Upgrade on the parks. Every park has the same boring play structure.	9/25/2016 9:22 PM
74	As many trails, paths, and outdoor spaces as possible	9/25/2016 7:37 AM
75	I have lived in RO for 50+ years and have always felt we needed a municipal swimming pool. I think a skateboard pard, which i WOULDN'T USE, WOULD BE GREAT FOR KIDS	9/24/2016 8:41 PM
76	Handicap accessible park trails; wheel chairs are nearly impossible to use on unpaved trails. For comparison, check out the Red Oaks Nature Park. People in wheel chairs need to be able to enjoy nature as well as the rest of us.	9/24/2016 7:29 PM
77	Cross country skiing at the golf course or former golf course would be cool.	9/24/2016 4:54 PM
78	ALL city parks should have a walking or bike path.	9/24/2016 11:34 AM
79	Easy paved walking paths, especially for seniors, disabled . They should be accessible to parking, no bikes, no runners, we are neglected .	9/24/2016 9:42 AM
80	Disability accessible anything. Truly accessible, not just a ramp or a rail, but where the individual can participate.	9/24/2016 9:37 AM
81	Ice rink	9/24/2016 9:25 AM
82	Maintain the outdoor tennis courts better. Several are not useable.	9/24/2016 8:23 AM
83	Non motorized bike paths	9/24/2016 7:57 AM
84	A golf course not dominated by leagues. Somewhere you can play with your kids after work.	9/24/2016 4:31 AM
85	Please cut the grass timely, update the equipment and modernize! Get rid of woodchips, add recycled rubber. Gunn Dyer park has had no sign, just two old wood posts for 2 years and had a broken slide for the same which they finally just sealed off and never replaced! Why have arts beats and eats when you can't make small changes to our parks?	9/24/2016 12:54 AM
86	If you do basketball courts or tennis courts build them so they can be frozen in the winter for outdoor skating and hockey	9/24/2016 12:30 AM
87	Picnic shelters, Jogging exercise trail, bicycle path,	9/23/2016 11:59 PM

88	<p>(FYI, I have 2 kids: ages 3 and 7 months) This is a long sting of thoughts, sorry. Bear with me. -- Having a park downtown is ideal for parents of small children. I want to spend time in the shops or restaurants, but you need to balance some play time to keep everyone happy. Kids just can't sit still. Wish there was a playground within walking distance of the library. Even just some green space so they can run around. ... would be ideal next to the farmers market. Too bad it's all parking spots. We really enjoy our neighborhood parks: Worden park east (community center), tenhave woods, and Starr Jaycee. I feel lucky these are in such good shape. Sounds like a lot of the other parks don't get as much attention. Not sure if Realtor park is Clawson or Royal Oak, but that one seems outdated - it seems to serve a purpose for soccer though. But I would be bummed if this was the closest park to my house. The golf course is my top interest right now. A splash pad, nature area with a bike path loop (love Kensington's 8 mile loop). If you add regular playground equipment you could really serve parents that are trying to keep different age levels occupied. Have a central location with different activities branching off. I recently visited savanna Georgia. Forsyth Park had a large indoor cafe. A park ...with coffee for parents including a large indoor bathroom. Sold! The toddler play equipment and splash pad were immediately outside the cafe building. So smart. This is incredibly helpful for diaper changing, potty training - and caffinating parents. It also had other food. Maybe we can partner with some local restaurants that can help merge nature and convenience. I'm not talking about bad pizza - rest stop/mall food court, but a small scale, just a few tiny independent store fronts that can support the neighborhood (if they have kids or not). They would be small scale so it would feel like apart of the residential area. Like tiny markets. One side faces a street the other faces into the green area and serves as a central starting point that connects the other activities. trendy but low key mix of places like a bakery/deli, tacos, Italian. People my age pay extra to live in RO because they enjoy good food and entertainment. As my friends and I start families we don't want to give these things up. I like the idea of an indoor pool, but I can always just go to Goldfish in Birmingham for \$5. I'm not opposed to a county run park. Red Oaks waterpark is amazing. If we did have it, it would certainly elevate my perception of the city though. I would feel like I had the absolute best amenities.</p>	9/23/2016 11:58 PM
89	Splash Park, downtown as done in St. Joseph, MI	9/23/2016 11:23 PM
90	Outdoor pool / splash pad would be amazing!	9/23/2016 11:16 PM
91	Outdoor community swimming pool, NOT splash pad, swimming pool, swimming pool	9/23/2016 11:15 PM
92	Chess park - i.e. Washington Square NYC	9/23/2016 10:32 PM
93	More variety at playgrounds: add merry go round, see-saw, etc.	9/23/2016 10:30 PM
94	<p>More advantage taken of the area outside the library -- giant Adirondak chairs, outdoor games, etc. -- for during the summer would be fabulous! Also, efforts to be eco-friendly would be awesome to see. And the bike lanes -- that project was too short lived.</p>	9/23/2016 10:22 PM
95	Parking at Red Run park to keep cars off of Divillan.	9/23/2016 10:13 PM
96	County Park	9/23/2016 10:09 PM
97	Downtown ice rink Downtown outdoor performance stage	9/23/2016 10:09 PM
98	<p>Would love to see a little town square downtown where parents can come and hang out and kids can run around. It would promote getting to know your neighbors and a sense of community.</p>	9/23/2016 7:58 PM
99	Please do a better job of maintaining Royal Oak golf course. It is in very sad shape!!	9/23/2016 7:02 PM
100	<p>The city really needs an outdoor pool and splas park. It's a shame that our city doesn't have outdoor acuatic facilities like Troy or Huntington Woods.</p>	9/23/2016 6:57 PM
101	<p>Now that we have only one golf course let's get it repaired, fix the water, get someone in there who cares so we the residents have a decent course to play. Can't believe residents pay to play Royal Oak.</p>	9/23/2016 6:19 PM
102	Winter sled hill. Ice skating.	9/23/2016 5:34 PM
103	<p>It pains me to see what was once Normandy Oaks golf course sitting mostly vacant since its unnecessary closing. A few soccer games is all I have seen. Not that we don't have soccer fields all over the city now that sit unused most of the time. The best option would have been to let Oakland County keep it as a park. This is a monumental screw up by all those involved, you all should resign.</p>	9/23/2016 5:18 PM
104	<p>The baseball fields are in disarray. Yes, they're there, but so poorly so, that our team often considers going to neighboring cities for better fields. Real fields should have baseball dirt on them. Not gravel and ridden with weeds. Memorial is a dust bowl and games there are difficult to watch. On top of that, diamonds are shared between baseball and softball which seems good in theory until you actually try to use them in a game. Pitchers have to stride and land on the pitching mounds for other age groups (several in the few feet in front of them) which poses a safety risk. There is only 1 good field for 11U baseball. The other fields are dismal. A nice well maintained facility is so attractive for many reasons. Kids would be excited to play there and other teams would look forward to playing tournaments there. Memorial is not that venue for a multitude of reasons. It's a shame what's happened at the corner there. Please note that the backstops were replaced on several fields last spring and it is great. Truly thank you for doing that.</p>	9/23/2016 5:15 PM

105	Playground for toddlers similar to Clawson tot lot. Would love to have a community center in RO with pools, fitness stations, recreation hall. Would gladly pay towards a bond or additional taxes.	9/23/2016 5:11 PM
106	Sledding hill	9/23/2016 5:04 PM
107	More truly handicap accessible park options. Adapted swings are broken. Having a ramp up to a playstructure is not helpful if there are no accessible activities on the play structure!	9/23/2016 5:03 PM
108	Splash park. Most of all, BETTER-MAINTAINED CURRENT PARKS.	9/23/2016 4:47 PM
109	City pool and rest rooms at parks	9/23/2016 4:24 PM
110	BIG YES to the Dog Park and downtown park!!	9/23/2016 3:57 PM
111	Mountain bike trails if possible.	9/23/2016 3:19 PM
112	adult summer camps	9/23/2016 3:10 PM
113	Accessible softball/baseball field like the Miracle League at Southfield Civic Center	9/23/2016 3:02 PM
114	more green ways throughout the city	9/23/2016 2:59 PM
115	Replacement of the old play structure at Upton! This should be main priority! The parks we have need updates! Much can be done at what we have.	9/23/2016 2:57 PM
116	I would love for us to have a wave pool, with the kid area and floating river. With an indoor facility. I would rather support my city over Madison Heights or Troy!	9/23/2016 2:56 PM
117	Royal oak offers enough. Maybe start maintaining better what you already have?	9/23/2016 2:47 PM
118	rock climbing wall	9/23/2016 2:41 PM
119	sled hill, as initially stated in Normandy oaks proposal	9/23/2016 2:38 PM
120	Go-kart track	9/23/2016 2:33 PM
121	Red Run Park has sidewalks on three sides of it, but on the west side does not. A simple sidewalk or mulch path would be great park to walk/jog around. Suggestions have been passed on before, but rejected.	9/23/2016 2:26 PM
122	I would check most of these if I could, but the splash pad would be amazing!	9/23/2016 2:23 PM
123	Please take care of the existing neighborhood parks before making anymore! Maudlin park is is HORRIBLE shape. Never mowed. Old dangerous equipment. Never put mulch down, bushes over grown.	9/23/2016 2:21 PM
124	More well-maintained tennis courts are necessary, which could also be used as basketball.	9/23/2016 2:20 PM
125	Please have a bike path installed at the new park at Normandy Oaks.	9/23/2016 2:06 PM
126	My recommendation is to be more time accommodating to single and single working families. My kids miss on so much because I'm a single mom who works	9/23/2016 2:04 PM
127	A park with an area where kids can learn how to ride bikes like at Drake Sports Park in West Bloomfield. They call it a safety town pad.	9/23/2016 2:01 PM
128	Very nice dog park, great outdoor park facilities for families (well groomed park with nice cooking out/picnic facilities and very well kept public bathrooms	9/23/2016 1:58 PM
129	Golf. Please update the current existing Royal Oak Golf Course. The course needs an in-ground sprinkler system. I grew up playing on this course since 2000 and I still play at this course now, 17 years later. Please put money into improving our golf course. Thank you.	9/23/2016 1:57 PM
130	I visited a small park in Cleveland that had a sound garden- beautiful chimes, xylophones, bongos, etc. My kids and I played there for hours and I'd love to see something as unique in a Royal Oak park. In addition, a park built with the input of the special needs community would be wonderful.	9/23/2016 1:51 PM
131	In-line hockey	9/23/2016 1:48 PM
132	It would be really nice if there was a disabled swing for children with disabilities at the Starr Jaycee park at 13/Crooks. Our daughter can't use any of the playground equipment there unfortunately.	9/23/2016 1:47 PM
133	Let the market decided, not the tax dollar	9/23/2016 1:46 PM
134	Splash pads are huge for parents with toddlers right now.	9/23/2016 1:30 PM

Q13 Other additional recreation programs suggested:

Answered: 49 Skipped: 576

#	Responses	Date
1	Safe biking	12/8/2016 4:07 PM
2	gay nude nights at nude pool	12/8/2016 1:33 PM
3	Bike park	12/8/2016 1:04 PM
4	Bike Park	12/8/2016 8:39 AM
5	Cycling programs	12/8/2016 7:22 AM
6	game tables, for chess and checkers	12/8/2016 5:40 AM
7	You can't lump theater with visual arts. It should either stand alone or, if you must consolidate, put it with music.	11/9/2016 9:57 AM
8	Enrichment - like Birmingham or Troy	11/1/2016 6:41 PM
9	Would be nice to have learning programs for adults who are not yet seniors - art, languages, etc. during evenings and/or weekends for those who work.	10/31/2016 7:58 AM
10	instructional sports; how to play the (any) sport.	10/3/2016 12:03 PM
11	Something for kids to do in the summer	9/28/2016 11:58 AM
12	na	9/28/2016 11:01 AM
13	Adult rec programs	9/27/2016 12:30 PM
14	more diverse time offerings for children's activities. more adult activities overall (non-senior)	9/27/2016 11:41 AM
15	Dog friendly events/programs	9/27/2016 1:15 AM
16	Street hockey	9/26/2016 11:09 PM
17	Co-Ed adult kickball leagues (Oak Park does it well).	9/26/2016 9:28 PM
18	A city pool would be appreciated.	9/26/2016 5:04 PM
19	Let the market decide, dont burden the tax payer	9/26/2016 11:47 AM
20	Stuff to get families and neighborhoods back using the parks. simple stuff horse shoe courts, tether ball courts,	9/26/2016 11:18 AM
21	Self defense, adult fitness programs in general that aren't "low impact" or for seniors. The program's currently offered are pretty pathetic and I would not recommend them to anyone who is remotely in shape.	9/26/2016 8:10 AM
22	Visual art	9/26/2016 7:50 AM
23	Splash pad	9/26/2016 6:32 AM
24	Splash pad/ice rink	9/25/2016 10:08 PM
25	As I said, I do my exercise at the Y, and I also belong to many craft guilds, so I don't see the need for any more myself, but I do have an idea. My daughter lives in Minnesota and there in one of the suburbsthey have converted a closed school into a craft center with facilities for many crafts . Groups can hold meetings there, store supplies and equipment there--all for a minimal cost. This tyoe of facility is sorely needed. I belong to several guilds that would like a good meeting space.	9/24/2016 8:41 PM
26	Things with evening hours for us working adults! There's plenty of community activities for people who don't work during the day. I'd like to t be able to go swimming, or participate in crafts or other adult activities without having to lose time at work over it.	9/24/2016 7:29 PM
27	A community choir or comedy/improv group would be a nice balance to the many exercise programs.	9/24/2016 4:54 PM
28	Too many things, lplaces, are oriented toward, kids and athletics.	9/24/2016 9:42 AM
29	City pool	9/24/2016 12:48 AM

30	Supervised playground, sports	9/23/2016 11:59 PM
31	Current & revitalized community center (not a senior center) with Zumba, group fitness, and kids classes.	9/23/2016 11:16 PM
32	Swimming pool, swimming pool, swimming pool	9/23/2016 11:15 PM
33	outdoor group yoga	9/23/2016 10:32 PM
34	Art classes	9/23/2016 7:35 PM
35	Cooking classes	9/23/2016 5:27 PM
36	Put an aquatic / fitness center at the Normandy site. Indoor pool and workout facilities, outdoor pool for the summer. The facility would be used year round. Add some fitness/walking/biking trails on the remainder of the site. We really don't need more condos and big houses on little lots in the area.	9/23/2016 5:18 PM
37	Many of these options already exist but could be operated better. ROSL is one of them.	9/23/2016 5:15 PM
38	Bolster the nature walks	9/23/2016 5:04 PM
39	Kids programs of all kinds. Most of all, maintain and clean up the parks!	9/23/2016 4:47 PM
40	Supervised playgrounds are stupid. Very 1984, very helicopter parent. What data supports the need for supervision?	9/23/2016 3:22 PM
41	For toddlers - I have had a really hard time finding a reasonable priced summer program for my child - who will be 5 this year and there is plenty of stuff - but not really anything other than more daycare for the summer for 3 & 4 years old!	9/23/2016 2:56 PM
42	Kickball	9/23/2016 2:55 PM
43	cycling related	9/23/2016 2:47 PM
44	Fix the rest of the tennis courts please.	9/23/2016 2:26 PM
45	The hours are not accomitating and some kids things fill so fast	9/23/2016 2:04 PM
46	Group Fitness	9/23/2016 2:03 PM
47	Golf! The city decided to get rid of Normandy Oaks golf course and in the mean time, the last remaining public golf course in the city has desperately needed an upgrade. Please improve our golf course, I hope more people will choose to play at ROGC when it's properly updated and maintained.	9/23/2016 1:57 PM
48	Soccer for 30+ would be awesome.	9/23/2016 1:47 PM
49	Let the market decided, not the tax dollar	9/23/2016 1:46 PM

Q15 Additional Comments

Answered: 147 Skipped: 478

#	Responses	Date
1	Garbage/dog poop bins year round are necessary. People just throw them anywhere or don't pick up when it gets cold.	12/11/2016 5:18 PM
2	more kids on bikes	12/9/2016 7:56 AM
3	Better transit access to parks is needed.	12/8/2016 4:07 PM
4	more stuff in parks for lgbtq	12/8/2016 1:33 PM
5	I live off 13 Mile and we need a walking path for exercise, outdoors. I don't like walking the neighborhood as the sidewalks are too hard on the joints. A nice soft woodchip path would be so nice!	12/8/2016 10:31 AM
6	The proposal for repurposing the golf course into a large park is excellent. we should include a perimeter track for biking, running or blading with that similar to county parks have but all are so far away. We have parks with covered picnic areas and I rarely see them used (ex. park at Campbell and Lincoln). focus new parks to have more physical, open space, central for people to take friend and pets to.	12/8/2016 5:40 AM
7	BIKE PARK	12/7/2016 11:39 PM
8	Please consider adding a bike park to the list of options.	12/7/2016 11:25 PM
9	I would like to request that Kenwood Park receive a makeover of its playground facilities. We live just around the corner from the park (on N Dorchester Ave), and we walk to the park often. However, we very often choose to get in our car and drive to one of the many other parks Royal Oak has to offer which are much nicer and have better-maintained playgrounds. Kenwood's play equipment is old and very faded, and only has a very small structure which is toddler-appropriate. The equipment is covered in graffiti and the ground usually has much more litter and weeds than other playgrounds in Royal Oak. Furthermore, there is quite a bit of vandalism, such as broken wooden benches, or swastika's and expletives carved into the picnic table nearest the play equipment. I know Kenwood park is used often for soccer and baseball/softball, so I feel it is time for the park's play structures/area to be updated to the better standards of the other parks in Royal Oak. Thank you.	11/12/2016 5:13 PM
10	The waterworks park is great. However, the park is also used to house storage equipment, old scraps, desks, etc. Not only is it an eye sore, it is also a place for kids to gather and drink/smoke after hours, and creates a haven for rats/ other critters. It would be great if that portion of the park could be eliminated and replaced with grass/trees	11/7/2016 9:38 PM
11	Royal Oak has many small parks available to the public...in my opinion too many. I wouldn't mind sacrificing the overall number of parks in order to adequately maintain the remaining larger parks and making improvements such as new recreation facilities.	11/7/2016 8:55 AM
12	Thank you for improving Wagner Park's play facilities for kids. I would prefer a walking trail there instead of disc golf because of the drinking and pot smoking that goes on there.	11/4/2016 9:41 AM
13	I think the parks in Royal Oak are great. In light of the recent renovations to our neighborhood park, I would caution the city to be more careful about the contractors they use, the work was not done very well, as you know.	11/2/2016 5:14 AM
14	Need a new downtown park!	11/1/2016 7:57 PM
15	That's always been the saddest thing about RO. The community rec program is awesome for seniors and lackluster at best for everyone else. I've always been puzzled why they don't try harder to retain families.	11/1/2016 6:41 PM
16	I would like see the schools and parks work together more. For example rebuild high school tennis courts with lights and bubble for the winter	11/1/2016 3:24 PM
17	What is happening with Normandy Oaks??? I feel like the recreation programs cater mainly to senior citizens. There are hardly any and/or new programming for children. Please consider adding to your current children's offering and/or freshening up the offerings.	11/1/2016 2:51 PM
18	My main improvement suggestion is to better maintain and develop existing parks (do not add more!). A splash pad would be great, but only one that is for residents.	11/1/2016 1:33 PM
19	Would like to see the city commit to maintaining existing parks, including shoveling snow on the sidewalks by them in the winter, before creating new ones. Also would like to see the city work with the county on a county park, though I'm disappointed the city sold off valuable land before doing so.	10/31/2016 7:58 AM

20	Don't need a downtown park with a band shell. Please please please maintain the existing parks we have in our neighborhoods. A plan to maintain the sidewalks free of construction debris year-round would be real nice. We claim to be walkable but only if you walk in the streets....	10/31/2016 6:30 AM
21	I would like to see more green infrastructure such as rain gardens incorporated into our parks. Not only do they help to deal with stormwater runoff, they also provide a visually appealing backdrop at our parks. I would also like to see a wider variety of seating options. I think including some swinging benches would provide parents somewhere nice to sit while also allowing for more movement. Additionally, I'd like to see the use of solar power for any lighting in our parks. Not only does this provide for a greener alternative to traditional coal based power, but it ensures that when we lose power for any extended period of time, we can still direct residents to locations with power for charging. It also builds off our "smart park" theme.	10/17/2016 2:27 PM
22	As a parks and rec grad from CMU our parks are pathetic. Glad u finally took down some of the fence line at grant park. But really the rest of it needs to come down on both sides. It's too hard to get all the leaves out of that area anyways. That's the park I try to maintain. But getting rid of the west and south side fence or at least fixing the south side fence would be better than leaving it the way it is.	10/17/2016 1:07 PM
23	I would like an outdoor swimming facility in the city	10/7/2016 12:49 PM
24	We need more park benches. Meninger park has these nice newer half round entry ways to the park but no where to stop and sit down to enjoy them. They would be a perfect spot to stop and enjoy the park on walks but there's no where to sit!	10/7/2016 11:08 AM
25	Parks are a mess. There is no point in having more parks or recreation activities if the city does not maintain (mow, pick up trash, etc.) current ones.	10/4/2016 3:59 PM
26	nurturing children via a community minded recreational program is critical for the future of Royal Oak. Something for everyone. NO KIDS BORED.	10/3/2016 12:03 PM
27	Adding a splash pad to a neighborhood park	10/2/2016 11:11 PM
28	I live on N. Troy St. There is a nice little park that hardly anyone uses because it is the neighborhood dog run. People don't pick up waste from their dogs. I'd love to be able to sit on the benches and eat lunch or read but it smells so bad in summer practically no one uses it. I'm not sure how to solve the problem caused by inconsiderate dog owners.	9/30/2016 11:32 PM
29	Park trash reciprocals are few and far between and are often removed too early. Parks that host soccer games should have extra trash reciprocals near the sidelines.	9/30/2016 5:40 PM
30	Please bring back the dedicated bike lanes on Main Street. There are no roads downtown that need to be 4 or 5 lanes wide. 1 lane in either direction with a center turn lane is plenty.	9/30/2016 2:19 PM
31	Let's do a better job of maintaing the parks we have. Take down dead trees, take out fallen limbs in a more timely manner.	9/30/2016 1:51 PM
32	We have lived in RO now for 17 years and my wife & I have always marveled at the amount of great parks there are in the city. But...it seems we have quantity over quality. I don't feel like the parks are taken care of well enough and maybe that is because we simply have too many to take care of. Maybe fewer parks that are better taken care of (like regular mowing, updated playground equipment, resurfacing tennis courts, new fences, new basketball hoops, etc.) would make more sense. After all, what message are we sending other residents from other cities that come visit when they see our numerous city parks that are not well taken care of.	9/29/2016 12:06 PM
33	Some parks are in GREAT shape while others are stuck in the 1970's. I'd like to see all of the parks have updated plastic equipment--not metal. Wood is Ok as long as it is sealed properly.	9/28/2016 11:58 AM
34	We would like to know what is going on at Normandy oaks Thanks	9/28/2016 11:14 AM
35	One thing I miss in the city is a community center with an nice indoor pool and an outdoor pool, fitness center, and childcare. I would pay for access to a community based program.	9/27/2016 10:25 PM
36	Improve pruning of ornamental bushes. Have noticed several where scrub brush growing inside of existing bushes. Improve pruning/suckering of Coolidge Blvd. trees and shrubs, between Webster and Normandy.	9/27/2016 10:06 PM
37	Great to hear the Parks & Recreation Department is looking to expand and improve! If you ever need help in getting the word out in the form of marketing, advertising, social media, graphic design or branding overall, I would love to join the team. I am an independent contractor and specialize in the above. Feel free to reach out! Ashley Poirier, Happy Royal Oak Citizen (248-701-2013) poi.ashley@gmail.com	9/27/2016 12:30 PM
38	Parks that exist need to be kept up before new parks are created.	9/27/2016 11:41 AM
39	I wish the city would pay more attention to the parks they currently have - broken glass, trash, weeds, and long grass are constant problems at Grant Park on 4th near the city offices. The medians aren't mowed or de-weeded often enough either.	9/27/2016 1:15 AM

40	Far more recreational opportunities for middle-aged adults. Kids, young adults & seniors receive the majority of the focus.	9/26/2016 11:09 PM
41	This city (and region) really needs a regional multi purpose performing arts center.	9/26/2016 10:38 PM
42	Rather than build new parks lets update and maintain the ones we have.	9/26/2016 9:28 PM
43	I feel our parks look shabby. They just need some better maintenance/care. The equipment is fine but weeding and mulching would make a world of difference. - downtown park with a play structure is long overdue. I would frequent more downtown eateries if I could incorporate a pro playdate into the mix.	9/26/2016 9:12 PM
44	Please, make improvements to Bassett Park. We need fencing along the street and modern playground equipment. The current playground is unsafe and littered. There are many neighborhood children that use this park. The wood is rotting. The equipment is in poor condition and antiquated.	9/26/2016 5:04 PM
45	Our parks are in poor condition. The tennis courts at Total Soccer have needed a new fence for years. The building is an eyesore. Grass is mowed sporadically. Quality of rec programs and facilities in general are inferior. I go to Troy for tennis and fitness classes. Better facilities and programs at a much lower price .	9/26/2016 4:36 PM
46	I am hoping that the Normandy oaks golf course parks opens before I am too old to use it. It is very discouraging to me that you are planning for the downtown civic park. I drive by Normandy oaks and see only soccer people in there. Take the fence down and open it up. Why are you asking if we want a pool when it has been discussed and is not affordable ? We don't need anymore dog parks, put in some walking paths and open the thing up!	9/26/2016 3:23 PM
47	Overall, impressed with the amount of parks within the community. It would be nice to have more running trails (not sure where though) and bike plans throughout the community.	9/26/2016 1:51 PM
48	We need to keep up the grass cutting and controlling the weeds that grow in the wood chip area of some of the parks. Some of our surrounding cities do not have any weeds in their wood chip areas. It would be nice if each park could have a bin for recycling. I am amazed at how many water bottles I see lying around at the park. Lets add recycling bins!!! Plus, we need to trim tree branches more often.	9/26/2016 1:50 PM
49	I am always disappointed in the garbage facilities at local parks. Particularly Starr Jaycee. It's disappointing that there are not garbage cans there year round, people use that park all through the winter. If just a few garbage cans were located throughout the Frisbee golf course, allowing people to dispose of trash at the beginning of certain holes, I think it would really cut down on the rubbish that accumulates all throughout that park.	9/26/2016 1:24 PM
50	Royal Oak has a sufficient number of parks. I would like to see the existing parks updated and better maintained.	9/26/2016 1:07 PM
51	Let the market decide, dont burden the tax payer	9/26/2016 11:47 AM
52	Keep and fix up the parks we have. I don't think we need more but DO NOT SALE ANY MORE. I think it you need to add parking to park that many events are at like soccer, my street is so screwed up every day they play soccer if I needed medical or fire department they can not get down my street. We use to have a great park system and parks that people came from other cities to us. Another thing you need more Trash cans in the parks and the need to be emptied more the once a season. also restrooms or even port a john in your big parks. Last note I love what the Pickle ball group did to the tennis courts at Upton park that were abandon. I wish you will and love the park and hope the start getting better care.	9/26/2016 11:18 AM
53	The parks in general need to be maintained better and many need updated playground equipment. Failure to mow grass, remove dead trees (which have been marked for removal for months), and maintain garden beds, etc. is unacceptable and really makes the city look bad. I understand that RO has many parks to maintain, but we pay some of he highest taxes in Michigan. Our parks, blvd road medians, and city green areas are an embarrassment compared to our adjacent neighbor cities along the Woodward corridor. We deserve better.	9/26/2016 10:49 AM
54	A lot of no parking near parks detract use of parks not in walking range.	9/26/2016 10:23 AM
55	See aforementioned comments about turning little used parks into Dog facilities. We need a splash pad. Some outdoor water fun for the summer. check out facebook page @ https://www.facebook.com/RoyalOakParks/ You will see that many parks need improvements. However we have a nice park system in Royal Oak. It could use some improvements and some help with Dogs as they are a big problem in the city (or at least dog owners anyhow)	9/26/2016 10:02 AM
56	Can we please get some "big kid" swings at Whittier Park?	9/26/2016 9:04 AM
57	Existing parks are adequate but equipment needs improved. Add restrooms (as a runner, I'd love to be able to run by a park and stop to use the restroom!). Add dog-friendly areas... for example, the Red Run park has a fenced in asphalt area that is NEVER used, and a area full of trees. Expand the fencing to include part of the treed area, sod over the asphalt, and make it a dog run! Royal Oak needs a community pool and splash pad!	9/26/2016 8:51 AM

58	When going through the park and recs guide each season, the Senior section is amazing. Everything else, not so much. Many cities are building community centers. It would be nice to have a full on community center, rental rooms, fitness rooms, swimming, even adding a library and classrooms. Peoria, AZ has beautiful centers. Here's a link https://www.peoriaaz.gov/newsecondary.aspx?id=1455 It's worth looking at and the pricing is amazing, well worth it But once you have a center you have to maintain it and keep it clean. The YMCA in Royal Oak is run down, the LA Fitness is overpriced and not maintained. Royal Oak is better than that and would need to make sure they keep up their facilities.	9/26/2016 8:42 AM
59	The salter center and senior center are not appropriate facilities for fitness classes (outside of basketball and volleyball at salter). Other cities and communities have thriving fitness centers that offer swimming, cardio, fitness classes and even sports. Royal Oak is definitely lacking here. Especially being located far away from state parks or metro parks, there should be a benefit of having somewhere local to workout...even if it is only an indoor facility.	9/26/2016 8:10 AM
60	Stop spraying pesticides on the grasses in the public areas.	9/26/2016 8:02 AM
61	City grass maintenance is poor. Compared to cities like ours I thing our grounds keeping looks horrible.	9/26/2016 7:56 AM
62	As a parent to two young children living in Royal Oak, there needs to be more indoor activities and facilities open to the community. My kids need more space and opportunities for healthy play during the cold months.	9/26/2016 7:50 AM
63	It would be nice to have have the garbage cans out year round. We still use the parks in the winter when we take our dog for a walk, and it would be nice to have the available.	9/26/2016 7:44 AM
64	We need a rec facility in Royal Oak with swimming and a fitness center.	9/26/2016 6:32 AM
65	Sullivan park at 14 mile and greenfield is in very poor condition please move up in the priority	9/26/2016 5:49 AM
66	Splash pad, outdoor ice rink, sledding hill	9/25/2016 10:08 PM
67	Too many trees are being cut down in the name of development. Existing parks need more attention like the tree planting I participated in last fall. Creating additional parks would be wonderful. Our city's name says it all: Royal 'Oak'.	9/25/2016 9:35 PM
68	Can we get movies in the park (for families) once a month from May to August. We love movies in the park, but we have to drive so far to go to them.	9/25/2016 9:22 PM
69	As a citizen of Royal Oak where can I find information about the location of all city parks and their ammenities?	9/25/2016 7:37 AM
70	Having a park or two in every neighborhood is a great feature of Royal Oak. It would be great if the neighbors in the immediate vicinity had more direct impact on designated use.	9/24/2016 4:54 PM
71	Need to address graffiti in parks. Increase Frequency of lawn mowing at parks. Splash pad would be awesome!	9/24/2016 4:42 PM
72	Need to enforce current leash laws on the books. Red run is being used as a dog park and I've been attacked many times. People ignore the signs	9/24/2016 11:45 AM
73	City has enough parks that I hey can't maintain. Put the money in roads, parking in the downtown.	9/24/2016 10:44 AM
74	I would love to see an indoor fitness center in the South Royal Oak area.	9/24/2016 10:22 AM
75	Look at difficult for disabled and seniors to find parking for the library, post office, city hall, police station even the farmers market. More handicapped reserved spaces. The general population pushes some of out.	9/24/2016 9:42 AM
76	Faster response to downed trees and tree limbs in parks. More timely mowing schedule. Much improved coordination with RO Schools on use and maintenance of schools recreational facilities, e.g. Royal oak Middle School track and baseball field.	9/24/2016 9:39 AM
77	Royal Oak is in dire neef of an community recreation facility with an indoor/outdoor pool and workout room. We are frustrated that we have to use other city's facilities for these types of activities.	9/24/2016 9:03 AM
78	Added programs should be accompanied by subtracted programs to keep undersubscribed programs to a minimum.	9/24/2016 8:54 AM
79	I think it would be very wise to take a hard, honest look at the condition of every existing park. Several have many elements that are past economic life. As much as I would absolutely love to see new downtown park, I think the existing parks need to be modernized because expanding. Many of the parks that come to mind as needing a little TLC are smaller neighborhood parks serving areas that might not have as easy access to entertainment as those near the central business district.	9/24/2016 8:23 AM
80	We frequent several parks. Many are in good shape, however mulch or dirt or both are desperately needed. The slides end with very high drop offs and small children cannot reach to the first step to get on the equipment. I love how many of the parks also have space to run or for neighborhood kids to make up games.	9/24/2016 6:01 AM
81	I would really love a public pool here.	9/24/2016 5:39 AM

82	I'm saddled with student debt and wouldn't be likely to use an exercise facility or classes due to extra cost, but aside from downtown find this city not safely walkable or bikable. I would love to be able to jog on a track or bike from the beaumont area to downtown without worrying about crazy drivers. Royal Oak has too much aggressive through traffic for 'share the road' bike lanes and needs designated bike (exclusive) paths somewhere. Also outdoor tracks accessible to adults without sneaking onto high school grounds like a creep would be likely very popular. There are some cute parks for kids but I'd love to see something like Ukraine's outdoor workout gyms. And NOT downtown due to parking issues.	9/24/2016 5:31 AM
83	Cut the grass regularly. Please fix gunn dyer park.	9/24/2016 12:54 AM
84	We have young children so any activities geared towards toddler/preschool children are great. A swimming pool or splash pad would be amazing!!!	9/24/2016 12:31 AM
85	Thanks for compiling out feedback!	9/23/2016 11:58 PM
86	I think we have a fine recreation department, programs & facilities. However as new age groups start using the facilities they may have new sports and pass times and we need to keep up with the times. We must keep ahead of the game. No pun intended...	9/23/2016 11:23 PM
87	Ive been wishing that Royal Oak had a community center like Troy for years. Ive been discussing moving to Troy with my husband b/c of the family ammenities. Id stay in RO if we even had just some that Troy offers!	9/23/2016 11:16 PM
88	We need a community outdoor swimming pool.	9/23/2016 11:15 PM
89	Wendland park is in dire need of updates! It is our neighborhood playground and the equipment is very old to the point of being unsafe (rusty, splintering wood). The park is the central point of our neighborhood and had allowed us to build a strong local community. Please help us with updates!	9/23/2016 10:43 PM
90	Start (or expand if it already exists) an adopt a park program for community groups to clean/plant flowers/mow/rake etc...	9/23/2016 10:30 PM
91	More fenced dog parks please! Great work overall though!	9/23/2016 10:30 PM
92	I think making best use of what we do have is key. The Normandy Oaks property, for instance -- developing that splash area would be a huge benefit to the city.	9/23/2016 10:22 PM
93	We really need a city pool, ideally outdoors for summer.	9/23/2016 10:15 PM
94	Partnering with the County to create a county park would be better then creating a new city park	9/23/2016 10:09 PM
95	Can't believe Royal Oak can't figure out a way to get a community pool. Seems like every other surrounding community has figured this out. Would also be nice to have a downtown green space where families can gather, listen to music, skate on an ice rink, watch an outdoor movie. Thank you and am curious to see the results.	9/23/2016 10:09 PM
96	The parks and facilities are in poor shape, dirty, unsafe, full of litter. Grass is not mowed. It is sad reflection on the city. Time to appoint an independent group of citizens to prepare recommendations for the city commission to review and take action.	9/23/2016 9:41 PM
97	Please, please, please expand recreational offerings for kids and teens! Options for classes are limited and it's the same three things over and over. Nearby Troy has so many more options!	9/23/2016 9:14 PM
98	Tennis courts suck and so do the roads. If you're gonna fix main go 20 more feet and do kenilworth by holiday. Embarrassing	9/23/2016 9:02 PM
99	We do not need the expense of a swimming facility, Troy has a beautiful one that is literally 5-10 minutes away.	9/23/2016 8:37 PM
100	Need to make city bike friendly and walker friendly. Need more sidewalks (even in industrial areas) and safe bike paths.	9/23/2016 8:11 PM
101	Fix the run down parks in our neighborhoods. City claims to have the funds but there are NO results.	9/23/2016 8:05 PM
102	Parks need bathrooms. More places where families can go. Definitely need more indoor areas that are family friendly.	9/23/2016 7:58 PM
103	The amount of green space and preservation of trees is very important to me. As home sizes overwhelm lots, and mature trees are cut down to build them, it is even more vital to treasure what makes our city healthy and beautiful	9/23/2016 7:34 PM
104	I would *love* to see parks with a purpose to visit. For example, a fit-park stationed with outdoor fitness equipment.	9/23/2016 7:19 PM
105	I live near starr jaycee park and in the spring/summer/fall seasons, it seems like it ALWAYS has long grass. the city can fine people for not maintaining their lawns.....maybe the city should be fined for not maintaining its own property?	9/23/2016 6:59 PM
106	Royal Oak has wonderful parks everywhere around the city. They need to be maintained, neighborhoods should be encouraged to look after their parks to recognize vandalism, etc. It would be nice to add shelters, swings and possibly tables to some.	9/23/2016 6:19 PM

107	We have a lot of parks that need maintenance. We should definitely concentrate on upkeep / improvement of what we have for the next 5 years.	9/23/2016 5:04 PM
108	Boy's Girl's club too far from center of city. Kids can't get there alone	9/23/2016 5:02 PM
109	Please maintain current parks better.	9/23/2016 4:47 PM
110	Because our park, that is a block from our house, isn't age appropriate for my 3-4 year old kids, we have to walk to farther parks. I think this is why the park is never played with. Many families in our neighbor have small children and those are the ones that use the playgrounds the most. It would be nice to have baby swings, smaller slides etc., so it gears to all ages.	9/23/2016 4:17 PM
111	Also maintaining and fixing up the Royal oak golf course would be much appreciated.	9/23/2016 4:10 PM
112	Royal Oak is already a bit high on taxes compared to nearby communities I am considering buying a home (Troy, Rochester, Farmington..). While I support new facilities, I do not support new millages to fund them. Any new facilities/programs need to be funded with existing taxes.	9/23/2016 3:59 PM
113	I think that Royal Oak residents would appreciate an additional dog park. Also, a green space in downtown area would be much appreciated.	9/23/2016 3:57 PM
114	We need a nice, outdoor swimming facility	9/23/2016 3:52 PM
115	When receiving my parks and rec guide every quarter, I am extremely disappointed with the lack of programming offered for children. There are pages and pages of senior activities and barely anything offered for kids. I spend a lot of time taking my children to other cities for camps and programs offered through other parks and rec programs.	9/23/2016 3:41 PM
116	SWIMMING POOL	9/23/2016 3:37 PM
117	New downtown central park would be awesome!	9/23/2016 3:35 PM
118	Our Schools, Recreation department and sports clubs do very well in keeping the cities residents provided for.	9/23/2016 3:25 PM
119	I'm excited for the new Normandy Oaks park.	9/23/2016 3:19 PM
120	Start with mowing the parks more often	9/23/2016 3:18 PM
121	Royal Oak does not compare well with other cities in regards to activities for children and in outdoor water activities. These types of activities might encourage more families to stay in Royal Oak instead of moving farther out to other communities	9/23/2016 3:01 PM
122	We need a community pool	9/23/2016 3:00 PM
123	My family & I have lived across the street from Upton park for more than 12 yrs. And in that 12 years we have had 2 boys, who are now 7 & 11. We have not been able to let our boys play at the play structure for most of there lives. Finding a litter box, slivers, and bees, when my 11 yr old was only 1-2 years old, has made enjoying a park across the street from you house not so so enjoyable!!!! We have talked to parks & rec. about it, but there is some much one only has time for. When we as tax payers leave it to the city officials to alot money for what is needed, it's seems that for the past 12 years Upton park has not been on the table for discussion. Maybe instead of building up so much around downtown, take in consideration for those who live in the north end of Royal Oak. I LOVE my city Royal Oak, and would'nt want to live & raise my kids anywhere else. But this one thing has bothered me, and I hope by me sending this, that i will get a responce as what we as citizens can do to help with improving this beautiful park that has so much possibilities! And also I would like to mention the park being a parking lot for the dream cruise, which is another thing that makes me angry. Make a parking lot for pickle ball on the north end so that residents & parents picking there children up from Upton, don't have to compete with their parked cars. We have had standing water issues over in the southeast & northwest corners of the park for years. When will these be fixed? Why ask an opinion about spending money on more things that are not necessary and not what needs fixing? Let's fix what we have & not build more of what we don't need! I hope that with sending my concerns as a tax paying citizen about a park in desperate need of help will get someone's attention, and answer to my questions on when something will be done. Thank you, Jessica Sabol	9/23/2016 2:57 PM
124	I appreciate having the trash bins at the parks. However, it would be great if they were there all year round.	9/23/2016 2:56 PM
125	Improve and better maintain the existing. Enough with the new developments when it appears that royal oak is struggling to maintain what they already have.	9/23/2016 2:47 PM
126	What other organization other than the Royal Oak Optimist club plant and maintain flowers in their park ?. They also clean their park in the spring.	9/23/2016 2:46 PM
127	I don't know if maintenance can be improved above the excellent job that is done.	9/23/2016 2:42 PM
128	PLEASE start work on Normandy Oaks!!!! the city closed the golf course and it sits as an eyesore now!!	9/23/2016 2:42 PM

129	Re park maintenance: glad to see fresh mulch under playscapes; concerned about dead wood/trees; would like Wagner park sign on both Main & Rochester & any other with same situation	9/23/2016 2:41 PM
130	I feel like the Normandy oaks proposal was a scam to bring the sale of land to vote. I think there is a legal obligation to develop the land and failure to do so is a breach for public trust, contrary to public vote and possibly criminal. Jim Ellison needs to decide how closely he'd like to be observed; these violations of public trust are almost always early signs of corruption.	9/23/2016 2:38 PM
131	Having a splash pad and pool would be phenomenal. I wouldn't have to join Troy Aquatic center. That alone is giving us reason to consider moving and we've only been here 2 years! Having a downtown like Plymouth or Bham is something else to strive for but not sure how doable it will be for RO.	9/23/2016 2:32 PM
132	Having moved from an area with many lakes, I most miss the water and opportunities to swim. A municipal pool would be a great addition. Something like Hartland's family-friendly aquatic center, or even an outdoor pool / splash park for the summer months, would be amazing. I also appreciate the attempts to make Royal Oak a bicycle-friendly community. Anything to continue encouraging that and making it better is wonderful. I'd also like to see park hours extended later into the evening. Hours seem inconsistent between parks, and I've found some that close as early as 8pm!	9/23/2016 2:29 PM
133	Swimming facility indoor or outdoor would be an awesome asset!	9/23/2016 2:26 PM
134	Just take care of our existing parks!!!! Compared to Berkley, Clawson and Bitminggsm our neighborhood parks took terrible. Especially for the taxes we pay. Thank you.	9/23/2016 2:21 PM
135	Please do not create more outdoor parks, the city of Royal Oak does not care for the parks we have. Weeds are overgrown, flowerbeds aren't planted and grass is rarely mowed. When it is mowed you should bail if for how long it is. It would be very nice to have an indoor community center, similar to Livonia or Romulus.	9/23/2016 2:15 PM
136	I believe if the city would like to attract more families with children additional parks are needed. In door as well as outdoor something comparable to the Troy aquatic center	9/23/2016 2:04 PM
137	A recreation center would be an asset to the city. While young people with income may be able to afford one of the many gyms in the city, families with limited means are out of luck unless they join a gym too. Most of the neighboring communities have a recreation center, Royal Oak needs one that everyone can afford and enjoy.	9/23/2016 2:03 PM
138	Swimming/Splash park type facilities are sorely lacking for a city as big as ours.	9/23/2016 2:02 PM
139	Please add "golf" to your survey. Why isn't it already an option. Golf is a sport, an expensive one that can bring revenue to the city if it is properly maintained.	9/23/2016 1:57 PM
140	Our family loves the Royal Oak parks and programs. We have been a Four Seasons Preschool family since we moved to the city and will always think of Mrs. Robb and Mrs. Olinski as two of our favorite fixtures in Royal Oak.	9/23/2016 1:51 PM
141	Let the market decided, not the tax dollar	9/23/2016 1:46 PM
142	Overall I feel like most facilities are in the north end of the city. I will not drive from 11 and Campbell area to 13 and crooks to enjoy a public service or provram. Please keep that in mind when making future changes and don't dare ask for a milage for this..... use the parking money I pay weekly for this and take it way from the downtown fund.	9/23/2016 1:45 PM
143	As a pedestrian and avid bicyclist I am increasingly concerned about inability to move safely in downtown. Putting up bike path signs and painting sharrows on crumbling roads does not make the city bikeable. Real, dedicated protected bike lanes could. I'm not sure this is fully possible in limited space but some bright engineers/designers could find a way.	9/23/2016 1:40 PM
144	I understand we have limitations when thinking of nature trails, etc. but we do have some large land areas that can be used. I think a community pool is very appealing to families. More families are moving into the city, families who love the amenities offered by the city but who also want a solid quality of life for their children. We have great plots of land that should stay that way, I love our parks. We just need to be smart about how we use them. I think a somewhat city-centered park would be an incredible addition to Royal Oak - a gathering place for those dining downtown, to walk around, providing an even more solid destination - have dinner, walk around, get a drink, etc. Appealing to more than just those who hit the bars. As our city moves toward more families and trying to attract a more youthful demographic and also placing an emphasis on tech-companies we have to think what will be a draw to those wanting to both live and invest in our community.	9/23/2016 1:39 PM
145	I think more funds / personnel should be allocated to keep the parks clean. Every week we have new graffiti at our closest park (Maddock Park). Also, Bassett Park looks pretty sad and gets a lot of eyes being next to Campbell - perhaps some new equipment or repurposing the park would make our city look better. Thanks!	9/23/2016 1:35 PM
146	I would love to see more activities at the Salter center for adults.	9/23/2016 1:34 PM
147	How about cutting the grass and shoveling snow at parks.	9/23/2016 1:26 PM