

ROYAL OAK AGING IN PLACE PLAN



AGING IN PLACE PLAN JANUARY 2023 UPDATE

The Royal Oak City Commission has approved the final draft of the aging in place plan that was created by the Senior Services | Aging in Place Task Force. The plan provides a road map to not only improve services but grow our services with the anticipated growth in the senior population. The plan covers topics like transportation, how we provide information to seniors, making our buildings and outdoor spaces more welcoming and accessible, housing, community involvement and support services.

What comes next?

1. City staff has submitted the plan to the AARP for their Livable Communities Program. We have also been renewed as members of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The
2. The City Commission has asked staff to look at re-creating a separate board for senior services and programs. Staff will be reviewing this in the months ahead. In the meantime, staff will be working with the Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Board for reporting out on the plan's progress.
3. City staff will begin implementing the plan. The most immediate changes will be items that require fewer resources. We are just beginning the budgeting process for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which allows staff to start including these goals in their funding requests.

Although the plan was approved in December, staff have been working on some of the goals already. We do want to take a moment to celebrate elements of the plan as we make progress or complete things! Here are a few things that have already happened:

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- Action Step 1.2c Building pedestrian islands and voice signals at crosswalks where seniors might need a little more help crossing the street. Audible pedestrian crossing signals have been installed at Normandy and Crooks, and will be programmed this winter with the other traffic signal improvements there.

Transportation

- Goal 2.2 Provide opportunities for seniors to use other forms of transportation depending on their needs. Although this is not a specific action item, our engineering staff is creating an inventory of major transit stops to record their amenities and see what might be possible to improve the stops.

Community Engagement and Inclusion

- Action Step 5.3a Identify Volunteer opportunities within city departments. The Royal Oak Public Library hosted 247 volunteer shifts totaling 1,503 hours. Volunteers were all ages, which provides an intergenerational opportunity for volunteers.

ROYAL OAK AGING IN PLACE PLAN



- Action Step 5.3c Develop a program bringing therapy dogs into parks, library and other community spaces. The library hosted a "Therapy Dogs for Adults" with approximately 20 people attending. Stay tuned for future opportunities.

Health and Community Support Services

- Action Step 6.2a: Creating and maintaining a centralized bank of resources available to seniors. The library has recently added materials from the National Institute on Aging in a dedicated display for patrons to access without asking for assistance. Thank you to Liz Carnegie and SEEK (Senior Esteem Education and Knowledge) for providing materials.
- Action Step 6.3a: Propose a dedicated millage that would provide funding for senior services in Royal Oak. In the 2022 general election the voters approved a millage that is dedicated to support the senior center, and this plan.

You can see the plan and stay updated by visiting romi.gov/agefriendly.

ROYAL OAK AGING IN PLACE PLAN



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE

City of Royal Oak, Michigan

has created an action plan for becoming more age-friendly under the criteria established by AARP and has been renewed as a member of

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

THIS CERTIFICATION IS VALID UNTIL

December 21, 2025

Nancy A. LeaMond, Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer

COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS, AARP | WASHINGTON, D.C.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities,
a program of the AARP Livable Communities initiative,
is an independent affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network
for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.®



Age-Friendly Communities
Are Livable for
People of All Ages
aarp.org/livable