

2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT



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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, functional, and sustainable value of all parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and open spaces.

Royal Oak has a long history of championing park space. In the 1930s and 40s, the Royal Oak Parks Commission sought to implement their vision of playgrounds, parks, and preservation areas, creating a network of park spaces within the majority of the city's neighborhoods. Due to the diligence of past and current leadership, 92% of children, 93% of adults, and 91% of seniors in Royal Oak are within a 10-minute walk to a park. Royal Oak's parkland makes up 4.5% of the total square miles in the City.



352 ACRES



51 PARKS



7 PAVILIONS



2 COMMUNITY
CENTERS



1 ICE ARENA
1 SEASONAL RINK

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past year has been one of exciting growth and transformation for Parks and Recreation in Royal Oak. We are proud to share some of the milestones that are helping us better serve you and strengthen the connections that make our community so special. Here are just a few highlights from 2025:

- Established our first-ever dedicated Parks and Recreation Department, overseeing all 51 parks and recreation facilities citywide and allowing us to better serve the community with more focused planning, programming, and support.
- Relocated our administrative office to City Hall, making it easier for residents to access services, ask questions, and stay connected with our team.
- Updated our fee schedule and launched a resident priority registration system, giving Royal Oak residents early access to programs.
- Redesigned The Insight program guide to make it easier to navigate and find the information that matters most to you.
- Secured long-term facility management agreements for three beloved community spaces: Royal Oak Golf Course, John Lindell Ice Arena, and Royal Oak Farmers Market.



These changes reflect our ongoing commitment to making parks and recreation more accessible, responsive, and enjoyable for everyone in Royal Oak. Thank you for being part of this journey. We invite you to stay connected and be a part of shaping the future of parks and recreation in Royal Oak.

Warmly,

Nicole McEachern, MPA, CPRP, CPO
Parks & Recreation Director

PARKS

We completed several exciting park improvement projects that enhanced the beauty, accessibility, and functionality of our public spaces. These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to creating welcoming, well-maintained parks for all residents to enjoy.

- Lockman Park
- 13 & Main Park
- Hamer Finch Wilkins Park
- Erb Arboretum



583

PAVILION
RENTALS



49

PLAYGROUNDS



8

BASKETBALL
COURTS



25

TENNIS
COURTS



15

PICKLEBALL
COURTS



2

WATER
FEATURES

RECREATION PROGRAMS

DROP IN ATTENDANCE



394
PINOCHLE



241
FITNESS



1,676
PICKLEBALL



1,293
BOUNCE VOLLEYBALL



1,337
STRETCH & STRENGTH

**TOTAL
RECREATION
PARTICIPANTS**

7,644



**YOUTH
ENRICHMENT**

423
PARTICIPANTS



**ADULT
FITNESS**

977
PARTICIPANTS



ATHLETIC FIELD USAGE



4,416
RESERVATIONS



24,845
HOURS OF USE



**ADULT
ENRICHMENT**

205
PARTICIPANTS

ADULT LEAGUES (PLAYERS)



224



360



235



YOUTH DANCE

520

DANCE RECITAL ATTENDEES

YOUTH SPORTS

279

PARTICIPANTS

MAHANY / MEININGER SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

With 5,136 activity sessions and 34,354 participants, the M/M Senior Community Center offered a wide range of programs that supported physical health, mental engagement, emotional well-being, and social connection. These included ongoing support groups, tax assistance, and other essential services that help older adults navigate life with confidence and care. In addition to programming, we served 5,240 nutritious meals and provided 13,154 transportation trips, helping seniors stay mobile and connected to essential services and community activities.

We also completed a major renovation, transforming the center into a beautiful, inviting space where older adults, gather, learn, and thrive.



“After my stroke, I had trouble speaking clearly and finding words and was discouraged by the diagnosis of aphasia and dysarthria.

[I was] fortunate to find the aphasia support group in Royal Oak....The facilitators encourage and guide us, helping to expand our vocabulary, [build] confidence, and create a strong community essential in recovery.”

Justin Ledesma

Royal Oak Resident and College Admissions Counselor
Stroke Survivor, November 2021



FOUR SEASONS PRESCHOOL



In the 2024-2025 school year, Four Seasons Preschool welcomed 46 young learners. With more than 100 hours of creative art activities integrated into the curriculum, children explore self-expression while building essential cognitive and emotional skills.

Additionally, we are proud to share that Four Seasons Preschool successfully renewed its state licensing, affirming our commitment to high-quality early childhood education.

FARMERS MARKET



2,000-3,000

WEEKLY FARMERS
MARKET ATTENDANCE

1,200-1,500

WEEKLY ANTIQUE
MARKET ATTENDANCE

153

RENTALS

Celebrating 100 years in 2025, the Royal Oak Farmers Market remains one of the city's most iconic and active public spaces. What began in 1925 as a small open-air market has grown into a year-round destination, drawing thousands of visitors each weekend for its Farmers Market and Antiques and Collectibles Market.

In addition, the venue hosted a wide range of events this year, including food truck rallies, concerts, Pride celebrations, and two centennial events. It also served as the site for 153 rentals, including mitzvahs, weddings, and other parties and events. With a century of community behind it and a full calendar ahead, the market continues to bring people together in the heart of Royal Oak.

JOHN LINDELL ICE ARENA

With two NHL-sized rinks and a legacy dating back to 1971, the John Lindell Ice Arena remains a cornerstone of Royal Oak's recreation scene. Skaters of all ages filled six Learn to Skate sessions this year, totaling 1,274 registrations from 654 unique participants. The 45th Annual Ice Show brought 101 skaters to the ice and 927 to the stands. The Royal Oak Hockey Club had 257 youth players, while the adult hockey league saw 47 teams across its fall/winter and spring leagues. The arena is also home to local figure skating and high school hockey teams, serving as a vital hub for the community's ice sports.



1,274

LEARN TO SKATE
REGISTRATIONS



927

TICKETS SOLD TO
THE ICE SHOW



257

PLAYERS IN ROYAL
OAK HOCKEY CLUB

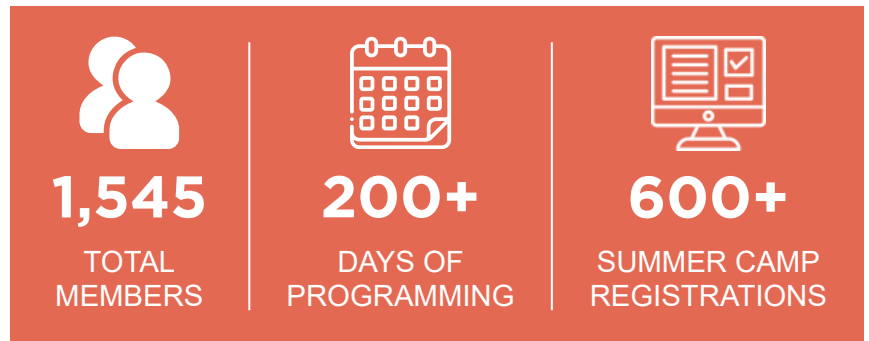


47

ADULT HOCKEY
LEAGUE TEAMS

METRO DETROIT YOUTH CLUB (SALTER COMMUNITY CENTER)

We are proud to partner with the Metro Detroit Youth Club at the Jack & Patti Salter Community Center. This year, the Club served 1,545 Royal Oak youth, with over 200 days of affordable, high-quality programming – for just \$50 annually! Daily attendance reached nearly 200 kids per day, and the Club's summer camp filled over 600 slots in just 25 minutes – 95% being Royal Oak residents or Royal Oak Public School students. Club members outperformed statewide averages in school attendance and grades: 86% earned A's or B's, and chronic absenteeism was just 12%, compared to the statewide average of 28%. Parents report 100% satisfaction and credit the Club with building confidence that carries into school, friendships, and family life.



ATHLETIC PARTNERS

Royal Oak Parks and Recreation partners with local athletic organizations to provide high-quality sports programs for youth and adults, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and community pride.



Southeastern Michigan Pickleball Association (SMPA)

With 4,874 court visits in 2025, SMPA continues to grow the sport of pickleball through leagues, clinics, and tournaments for players of all skill levels.



Royal Oak Sandlot League

Serving approximately 1,000 players, this long-standing program offers baseball and softball for youth ages 4-18, emphasizing skill development and sportsmanship.



Royal Oak Titans

With over 130 athletes participating in football and cheer for ages 5-13, the Titans provide a supportive environment for youth to learn, compete, and grow.



Royal Oak Football Club (ROFC)

ROFC serves 3,000 athletes in soccer leagues and clinics for ages 4-18, offering both recreational and competitive opportunities throughout the year.



Royal Oak Leprechauns (Northwoods League)

Drawing over 30,000 fans in 2025, the Leprechauns offer family-friendly summer baseball, community events, and youth clinics that connect young athletes with collegiate-level players.



Total Soccer Royal Oak

Total Soccer Royal Oak offers various soccer leagues, clinics, and camps for a variety of ages and skill levels. The facility sees approximately 2,500 youth and adult players per week.

ROYAL OAK GOLF CLUB

(GOLF COURSE)

In 2025, Royal Oak Golf Club's 9-hole course recorded 30,351 rounds of golf. Over the summer, 477 players took part in 23 leagues. Youth participation remained a strong focus, with more than 250 kids attending junior golf camps and over 1,500 rounds played through the Youth on Course program, which helps make the game more accessible to young golfers. Seniors stayed active and connected through biweekly scrambles held throughout the season. The course also hosted several community fundraisers, including long-running events that support local programs like the Royal Oak Marching Band. Royal Oak residents account for 67% of all rounds of golf, cementing the course's strong connection to the community.



ROYAL OAK GOLF CENTER

(MINI GOLF, DRIVING RANGE)



This year, Royal Oak Golf Center visitors hit over 135,000 buckets of range balls and played more than 30,000 rounds of mini golf. Youth participation grew through programs like PGA Jr. League and Midnight Golf Program: Detroit and partnerships with 30+ high school teams. Over 1,800 private lessons and 175 group classes helped players sharpen their skills. The center also collected donations of clubs, bags, and shoes for local schools and the Midnight Golf Program. For the third year in a row, the Royal Oak Golf Center was named a Top 50 Golf Range in America.



SPECIAL EVENTS

ART FAIR

The Royal Oak Art Fair is a juried show held in Memorial Park, showcasing fine art and crafts from artists nationwide. Visitors browsed and purchased work in painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, glass, wood, and more. With food vendors and a relaxed outdoor setting, the fair offered a great mix of creativity, community, and summer fun.

77 ARTISTS
3,000+ PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE



WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE

What began as a fundraiser to build a soccer field, the Woodward Dream Cruise has become North America's largest one-day automotive event, drawing nearly one million people and 40,000 classic cars each year. The 16-mile route runs through nine Metro Detroit communities, including Royal Oak, with cruisers traveling from all across the country to join the celebration.

500+ CLASSIC CARS
10,000+ PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE

GREAT MARSHMALLOW DROP

For over 30 years, Oakland County Parks has hosted the Great Marshmallow Drop, a favorite spring tradition. This year, we were thrilled to partner with them to bring the event to Worden Park on April 18, 2025. Kids of all ages gathered to watch thousands of marshmallows fall from the sky, each one a chance to win a prize.

15,000 MARSHMALLOWS DROPPED
3,000 GOODIE BAGS PASSED OUT
10,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE





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