



PARKS, RECREATION AND NON-MOTORIZED MASTER PLAN

2022-2026

Adopted January 4, 2022



CITY OF
**Sterling
Heights**

PARKS, RECREATION AND NON-MOTORIZED MASTER PLAN

2022-2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Adopted by resolution of the
Sterling Heights City Council on
January 4, 2022

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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



JURISDICTION OF THE PLAN

The 2022-2026 Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan was prepared under the supervision of the Parks and Recreation Department and was adopted by the City Council. The Plan is intended to serve as a guide and decision-making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The Plan includes an inventory of existing recreation facilities and recreation programs as well as an evaluation of opportunities and needs within the community. The Plan also includes goals, guidelines and a 5-Year Action Program which outlines the improvements the City would like to focus on during the life of the plan.

The City works closely with several public and private entities that provide recreation opportunities for Sterling Heights' residents. However, the jurisdiction of this Parks and Recreation Plan includes only City-owned and operated recreation facilities and programs. In addition to serving as a decision-making and planning tool for the City Council, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Department, and other City offices, this Plan is also intended to enable the City to continue to be eligible and apply for funding assistance from various agencies in order to implement the 5-year Action Program.



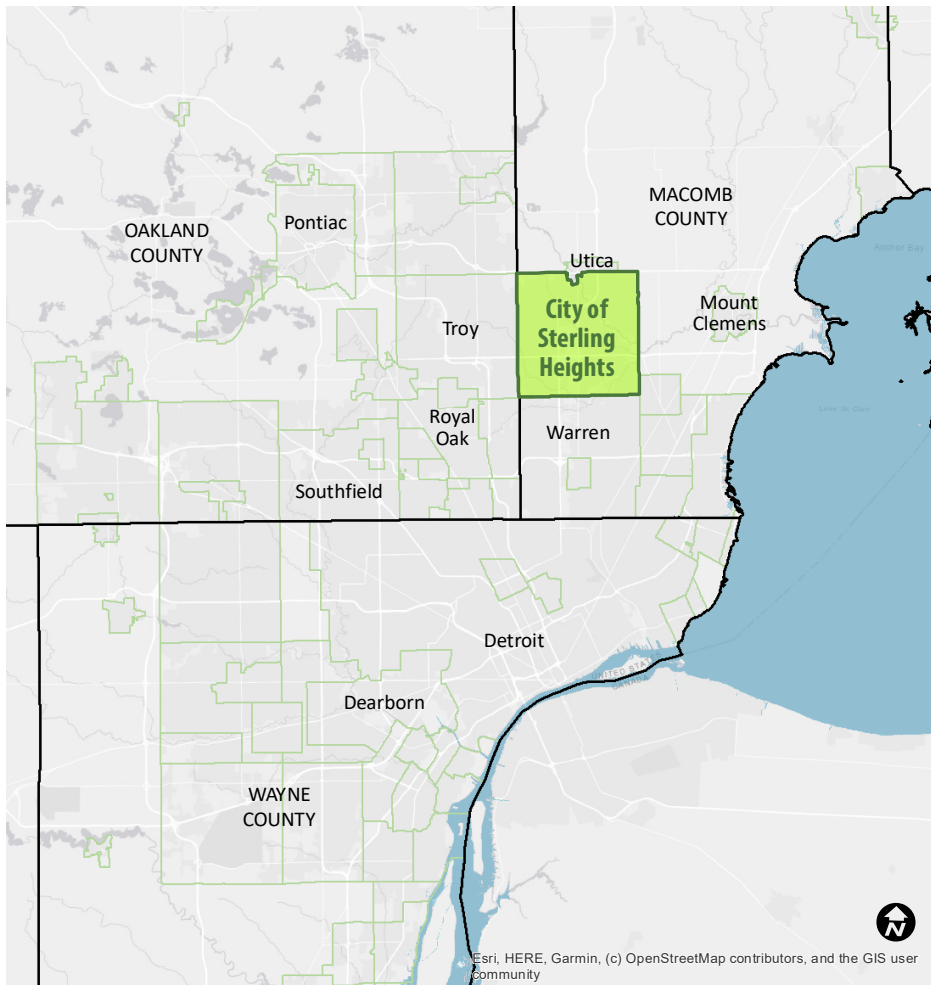
Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

REGIONAL SETTING

The City of Sterling Heights is located in southwest Macomb County, approximately fifteen miles north of the City of Detroit (see **Regional Context Map**). Sterling Heights borders Shelby Township and the City of Utica to the north, Clinton Township and the City of Fraser to the east, the City of Warren to the south, and the City of Troy in Oakland County to the west. The City of Sterling Heights is approximately six miles by six miles, or thirty-six square miles in area (excluding the southern portion of the City of Utica).

Sterling Heights is easily accessed by important transportation networks and facilities, including the major north-south State Highway M-53 (a limited-access freeway north of 18 Mile Road and divided highway south of 18 Mile Road) and the east-west State Highway M-59 (a limited-access freeway west of Van Dyke and divided highway east of Van Dyke). The City is also well connected to several interstates including I-75, I-94 and I-696. An important river route, the Clinton River, traverses through the City. With its headwaters found northwest of the City of Pontiac, the Clinton River flows for more than 80 miles through Oakland and Macomb Counties before flowing into Lake St. Clair.

Regional Context Map



At 130,428 residents (July 2020 estimate), the City of Sterling Heights is the 4th largest city in Michigan by population. According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), the City is projected to increase in population through 2045, reaching a population of 137,756. As of 2019 (American Community Survey 1-year estimates), the City had a median age of 42.2 years, with nearly 19% of the population comprised of residents who are 65 years or older and just under 18% of the population comprised of residents who are under 18 years old. Of the 51,367 total households in the City, 23.5% of households included one or more persons under 18 years of age. Individuals living alone accounted for 27.5% of total households. The average household in the City consisted of 2.56 persons and the average family consisted of 3.16 persons.

RECREATING RECREATION

In 2016, the City launched the ambitious and highly successful *Recreating Recreation* initiative. The initiative sought to leverage the City’s natural resource assets to provide its residents with a diverse mix of year-round recreational opportunities. The initiative included an opportunity for Sterling Heights residents to vote on a dedicated parks and recreation millage, which was approved in the Fall of 2016. Aided by this dedicated millage, a significant portion of the proposed improvements outlined in the City’s previous Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan (covering the period 2017-2021) were implemented.

Key projects completed in the last 5 years as part of the *Recreating Recreation* initiative include:

- Sterling Heights Community Center
- Dodge Park Farmers Market
- Refrigerated ice-rink at Dodge Park
- Outdoor splash pad at Dodge Park
- Mini turf soccer field at Dodge Park
- Multi-use skate park at the City municipal campus
- Hike/bike trail linking Delia Park and the City Nature Preserve
- Dog park at Delia Park
- Universally accessible canoe/kayak facilities along the Clinton River
- Capital improvements, including new playgrounds, at nearly all of the City’s 26 neighborhood and 5 major parks

This 2022-2026 Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan seeks to build upon the success of the *Recreating Recreation* initiative to continue to provide City residents with exceptional recreational opportunities and enhance their overall quality of life through a variety of recreational facilities and programs.



PLANNING PROCESS



The 2022-2026 Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan was prepared over an approximately 1 year period starting in the late 2020 and was ultimately adopted in January of 2022. This section documents the process used to develop the Plan as well as those involved with providing input and insight.

BACKGROUND STUDIES

In order to produce the most accurate picture of the City's existing conditions and to provide the basis for plan formulation, data was collected from various sources including the existing Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan, Sterling Heights, SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments), U.S. Census Bureau, and field observations.

The Community Description includes a brief introduction and overview of Sterling Heights, the jurisdiction of the Plan and the focus of the Plan.

The Administrative Structure section of the document delineates how parks and recreation are governed and operated within the City. This includes information gathered from the City outlining staff responsibilities, the function of the Planning Commission and City Departments, the City's relationship with the public school districts, as well as revenue and expenditure figures for the past several fiscal years.

An inventory of the City-owned recreation facilities was completed in early 2021. In addition to City-owned facilities, the inventory also documents the location of private facilities, school and county recreation facilities. The Recreation Inventory portion of the plan also discusses the various programs, activities and events offered throughout the City as well as a barrier-free status assessment at the City parks.

BASIS FOR ACTION

The Basis for Action portion of the document analyzes factors inside and outside of the City that may have an effect on the direction of recreation within the City over the next five years. This portion of the plan provides the rationale for the goals, guidelines and recommended capital improvements. Several factors were analyzed including current recreation trends (on both national and state levels), comparison of City facilities to national acreage and facility standards, service area gaps, existing plans and reports, participation data and results of community and staff input.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT METHODS

Throughout the course of the planning process, the City sought to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation. With this in mind, going beyond the State-required public hearing, the City facilitated an online citizen survey of parks, recreation and non-motorized needs. The survey was well publicized and generated responses from more than 900 persons. Additionally, the City facilitated a series of focus group discussions related to specific topics such as parks facilities and programming. The focus groups consisted of two to five participants, which allowed for more in-depth feedback on recreation needs and goals.

ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program establishes the goals, guidelines and capital improvements over the next five-year period. The Action Program was developed based upon numerous considerations, including expected demand and need, comparison to national planning standards, results of the community engagement opportunities, needs and priorities identified by the City, and available funding sources.

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION

A complete draft of the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan was made available on the City website and in print for public inspection starting December 1, 2021. After the public inspection period, a public hearing was held by the Sterling Heights City Council on January 4, 2022. Notice of the availability of the draft plan and the public hearing was published in the Macomb Daily Newspaper (**Appendix D**). The public hearing was opened, and no comments were received from the public; the public hearing was then closed (**Appendix E**). Following the public hearing, the Sterling Heights City Council adopted the plan by resolution (**Appendix F**).

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



The following describes how recreational activities and resources are governed in the City of Sterling Heights. The functions of the City Council, Planning Commission, City departments with responsibility for recreation, and local school districts are detailed in the following pages. Also detailed are the budgetary expenditures and revenues of the City departments with responsibility for recreation.

Public Act 156 of 1917 (Local Government, Operate System of Public Recreation) authorizes cities, villages, counties, cities and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. According to the Act:

Any City village, county or City may:

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

CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The City Council of Sterling Heights has ultimate authority for recreation within the City. However, the Council (and Mayor) appoints residents to various boards and commissions and hires staff and consultants to assist in implementing initiatives set forth by the Council. Included among these initiatives is the desire to establish a high-quality network of parks, non-motorized routes, recreational facilities and programs.

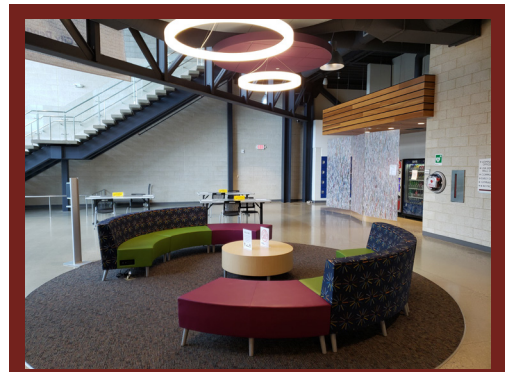
The primary role of the Sterling Heights Planning Commission is to establish an overall vision for future land use and development within the City. It accomplishes this through the creation and adoption of the City of Sterling Heights Master Plan. The vision of the Master Plan is implemented through a variety of mechanisms including zoning and development codes, sub-area and neighborhood studies, and the review of site plans and private development proposals. This Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Plan is a key implementation tool of the Master Plan, focusing in on specific recreation needs and identifying necessary capital and programming improvements.

CITY DEPARTMENTS AND STAFF

Sterling Heights operates under a Council/Manager form of government. The Mayor and City Council serve as the legislative branch of the City government structure, with the City Manager serving as the administrative branch. All City administra-

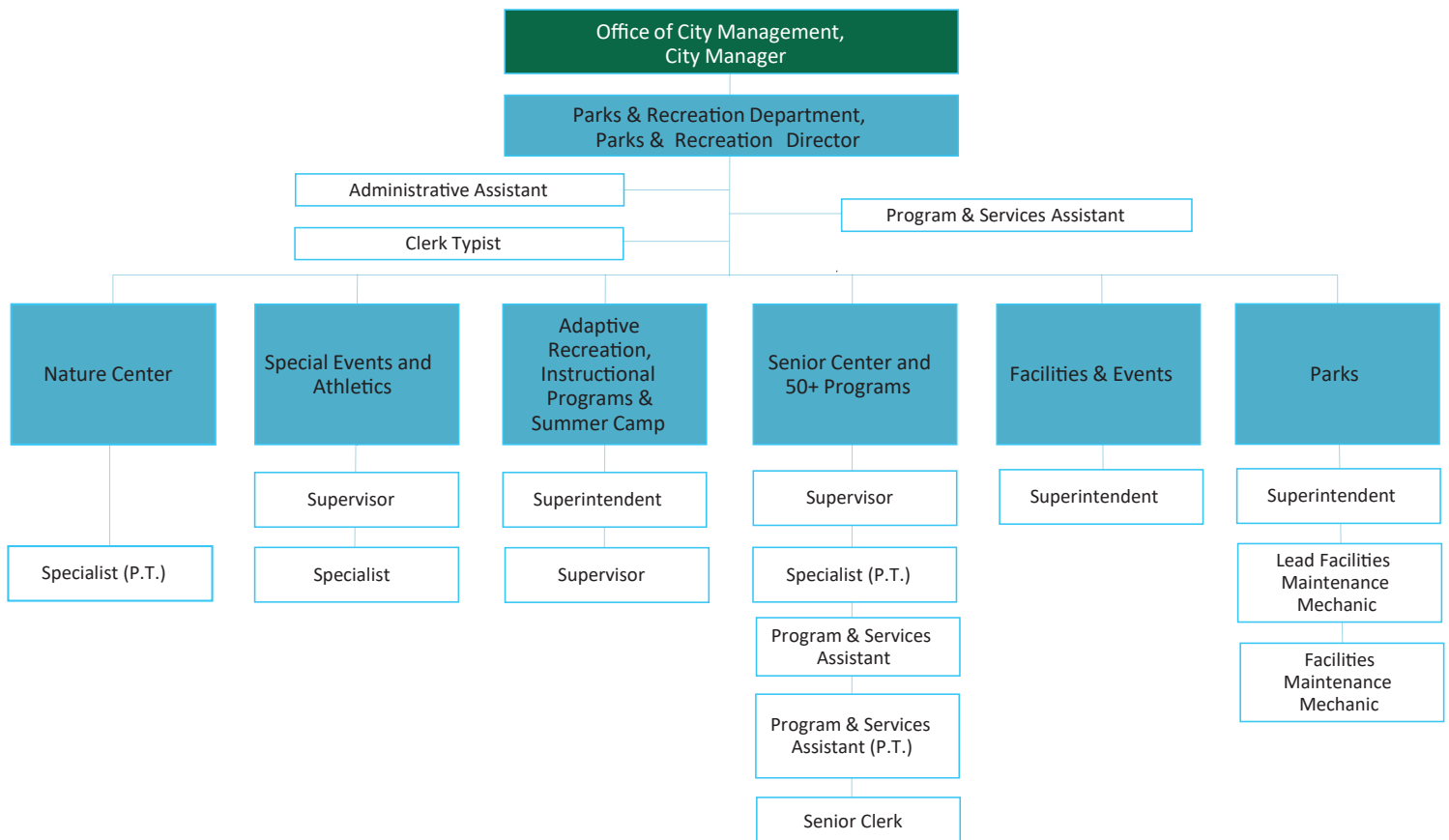
tive departments report to the City Manager. The Council and City Manager have delegated the lead responsibility for recreation to the City Parks and Recreation Department, working in conjunction with various commissions, departments and staff.

The responsibility for the administration of parks and recreation within Sterling Heights is summarized in the **Parks & Recreation Organizational Chart**. Parks and recreation is directly administered through the Parks and Recreation Department, which is headed by a full-time Parks and Recreation Director, along with an administrative assistant, clerk typist and program & services assistant. The department is further organized into six service functions: Nature Center; Special Events and Athletics; Adaptive Recreation, Instructional Programs & Summer Camp; Senior Center; Facilities & Events; and Parks. Each of these services has dedicated staff, which may include superintendents, supervisors, specialists and additional support staff.



The Parks and Recreation Department offices are located inside the Sterling Heights Community Center.

Parks & Recreation Organization Chart



FISCAL ANALYSIS

In order to understand the spending patterns related to parks and recreation in the City, annual parks and recreation expenditure/budget information was collected for fiscal year 2019/20 (actual expenditures), 2020/21 (amended budget) and 2021/22 (approved budget). These expenditures/budgets are highlighted in the **Fiscal Analysis Table** below. Expenditures/budgets are divided into three fund categories: the Parks and Recreation Department - General Fund; the Parks and Recreation Department - Millage Specific Fund (for the dedicated parks and recreation millage approved in the Fall of 2016); and the Parks and Recreation Department - Capital Projects Fund.

The Parks and Recreation Department - General Fund shows expenditures/budgets ranging from approximately \$3.4 million in 2019/20 to \$4.0 million in 2021/22. This fund includes personnel costs (such as staff wages, pensions and benefits), supplies, other charges (such as contracted services, utilities, training, software, and miscellaneous expenses), and capital outlay. The largest percentage of this fund is dedicated to personnel costs.

The Parks and Recreation Department - Millage Specific Fund reflects the ramping down of the City's major recreational improvement initiative. In 2019/20, nearly \$16 million in capital outlay was expended. The approved budget for 2021/22 shows \$360,000 in capital outlay, while the most significant cost is approximately \$3.0 million in debt service.

Fiscal Analysis Table
City of Sterling Heights, FY 2019/20 - FY 2021/22

Fund/Account	2019/20 Activity	2020/21 Amended Budget	2021/22 Approved Budget
Parks and Recreation Department - General			
Personnel	\$2,116,734	\$2,042,810	\$2,356,520
Supplies	\$127,840	\$230,320	\$259,240
Other Charges	\$1,133,865	\$1,522,860	\$1,432,260
Capital Outlay	\$20,675	\$0	\$0
TOTALS	\$3,399,114	\$3,795,990	\$4,048,020
Parks and Recreation Department - Millage Specific			
Personnel	\$476,989	\$726,750	\$808,000
Supplies	\$65,687	\$33,050	\$33,200
Other Charges	\$520,132	\$574,430	\$601,420
Capital Outlay	\$15,873,823	\$1,771,660	\$360,000
Debt Service	\$3,001,588	\$2,998,590	\$3,002,090
TOTALS	\$19,938,219	\$6,104,480	\$4,804,710
Parks and Recreation Department - Capital Projects Fund			
Machinery & Equipment	\$0	\$85,800	\$50,000
TOTALS	\$0	\$85,800	\$50,000

Source: City of Sterling Heights, 2021

The Parks and Recreation Department - Capital Projects Fund had no expenditures in 2019/20, but has an approved budget of \$50,000 for 2021/22.

ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

The City's community service programs, including parks and recreation, are greatly enhanced by the contribution of hundreds of volunteers. Over 150 volunteers currently serve on the City's 25 boards and commissions. Additionally, approximately 500 volunteers have assisted City departments in implementing various programs and special events such as the Memorial Day Parade, Sterlingfest, Playground Program and Sterling Christmas. Within the Parks and Recreation Department, volunteers are used to offer quality of life services such as youth athletics and senior programs. City park maintenance volunteers work to keep parks facilities clean. Recently, park maintenance volunteers worked to build the Dodge Park Mountain Bike Trail. The City's Community Relations Department spearheads the City's volunteerism efforts and maintains an organized "Volunteer Corps".

RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS, OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

The City has maintained good relationships with local and regional agencies and private organizations for the purposes of providing quality recreation facilities and programs to residents of the region. These entities include local public school districts, the State of Michigan (state parks and recreation areas), Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (Metro-parks), Macomb County (county parks), adjacent communities, and private organizations.

Local public school districts operating within the City include the Utica Community School District and Warren Consolidated School District. Most of the public school district facilities within the City feature recreational facilities and/or equipment which may be used by the general public. The City has secured cooperative arrangements with the school districts to be able to utilize these recreational facilities when not in use for school purposes. Examples include the indoor swimming pool at Henry Ford II High School, which has been used for Senior Aquatic Exercise, and school ballfields, many of which are used for youth baseball/softball.

CITY OF WARREN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

The City of Sterling Heights works cooperatively with the City of Warren to provide recreation programs and services. A formal interlocal agreement (approved by both City Councils) allows residents of Sterling Heights to purchase a membership to the Warren Community Center's parks and recreation amenities at rates currently charged to Warren residents. Members have access to both the state-of-the-art aquatics and fitness centers with amenities including an indoor water park, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. As of 2016, approximately 1,600 Sterling Heights residents used the Warren aquatic center.

RECREATION INVENTORY

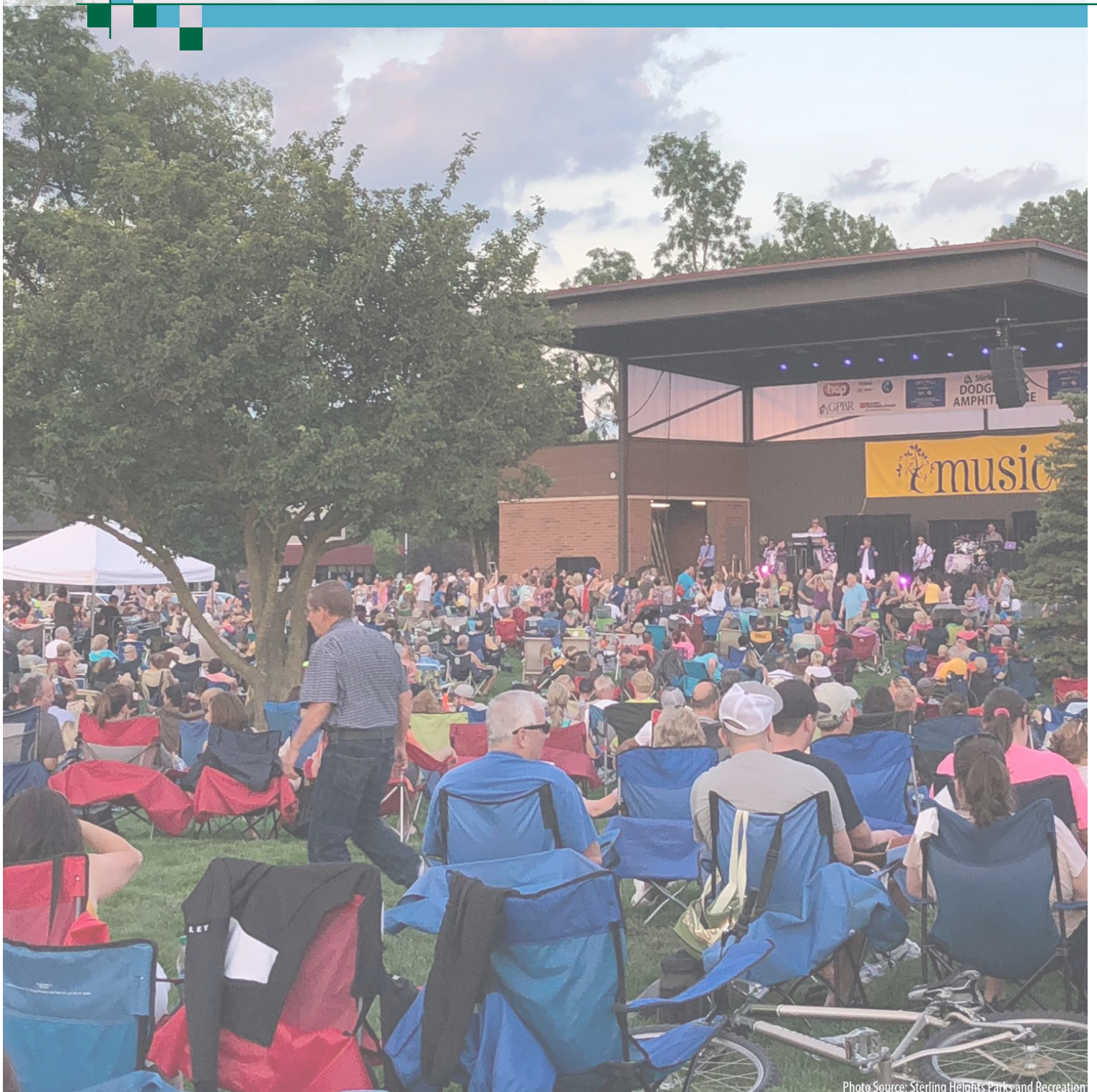


Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

A complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs and events is an essential component of any parks and recreation planning effort. It provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Program. Understanding what facilities, programs and events are available currently to the residents of Sterling Heights will assist in the future decision-making process.

This portion of the Plan comprises several components. Descriptions of the recreation opportunities within the City include public properties, public and private school facilities, private recreation opportunities, as well as other regional recreation areas. The inventory was completed in January 2021. During the inventory, barrier-free issues at each of the City parks were also identified.

NON-CITY RECREATION FACILITIES

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Utica Community Schools and Warren Consolidated Schools Districts operate 19 elementary schools, 4 junior high schools, 4 vocational or special education centers and 3 high schools in the City of Sterling Heights. The boundaries of these districts roughly bisect the community along 17 Mile Road and the Sterling Relief Drain. Together, these districts operate 34 school sites in the City, some of which may have school buildings which are no longer in operation or are undeveloped properties. In total, school owned properties comprise more than 600 acres of land in the City. School sites range from 7 acres to 50 acres, with an average size of about 18 acres. School sites are generally centrally located within residential neighborhoods. Junior and senior high schools generally have direct access to the City's major road system.

All of the school facilities have some form of recreational facilities or equipment, either inside or outside of the buildings. Typical elementary school offerings include climbing apparatus, swings, slides, play structures, basketball courts, baseball diamonds and open play fields.

Many elementary school sites provide separate playground areas for lower and upper elementary students. Junior and senior high school sites provide sites for organized athletic events, such as baseball, football, soccer, track and tennis. Most school sites contain gymnasiums, and two high schools have indoor swimming pools. These facilities, when available, are often used by the City to provide recreation programs.

STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

More than twenty state parks and recreation areas are located in the seven-county southeast Michigan region. These parks provide a wide range of day use facilities including hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, camping and cross-country skiing. The only state facility located in Macomb County is the undeveloped Wetzel State Park, in Lenox Township. Ten recreation facilities operated by the state are located to the west in Oakland County and are reasonably accessible to city residents. Belle Isle Park, located in the City of Detroit, is another state park in the region. When completed, the Iron Belle Trail will offer a non-motorized connection from Sterling Heights to Belle Isle Park. (The Iron Belle Trail is discussed further in the Non Motorized Assessment section of this report.)

HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) operates 13 regional recreation areas in southeast Michigan. These parks provide facilities for a wide range of recreational opportunities like picnicking, playgrounds, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, court games, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, and sledding. Three HCMA parks are located in Macomb County: Stony Creek in Shelby and Washington Townships, Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township, and Wolcott Mill in Ray Township.

MACOMB COUNTY

County Parks

Macomb County owns two parks in the county. The largest is Freedom Hill, which is located on the south side of Metropolitan Parkway in Sterling Heights. The amphitheatre at Freedom Hill is a popular outdoor performance venue, offering events and concerts of all kinds as well as recreational activities. Special events at the park include cultural and community festivals and specialized trade shows. The grounds include a state-of-the art stage, a covered pavilion and ample lawn seating. A newly remodeled banquet and event center is available for private events. The property includes a bike path, playground, covered picnic areas and nature trails. A special commemorative monument garden is located at the park, which honors those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The second county-owned park in Macomb County is William Tucker Park, which is located along the Clinton River spillway in Harrison Township. This 28-acre facility features space for picnicking and shore fishing.

County Trails

Beginning at Freedom Hill County Park, the Freedom Trail is a regional trail facility which runs along Metropolitan Parkway, connecting the City of Sterling Heights with communities to the east including Clinton Township and Harrison Township.

Area residents also have access to the Macomb Orchard Trail, a 24-mile linear park that is part of an abandoned rail system spanning from Shelby Township north and

east to the city of Richmond. Ultimately, when completed, the Macomb Orchard Trail will link 180 miles of trails in Southeast Michigan.

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

Several privately-owned recreation facilities are located in the City. These include:

- Three private golf courses, which provide 54 golf holes (or three full 18-hole layouts). These include the Rammler Golf Club, Plumbrook Golf Club and Maple Lane Golf Club.
- Wanda Park soccer complex, located on the north side of Clinton River Road, west of Saal Road, which is owned by the Polish Army Veterans Association and features 10 soccer fields of varying sizes.
- Numerous private fitness clubs and gyms

These facilities play a role in meeting the recreation needs of residents by offering specialized services and facilities in exchange for an established fee. In addition, several residential subdivisions and/or complexes have private recreation facilities on-site, such as swimming pools and playgrounds. The availability of these facilities must be considered in evaluating future recreation needs.

CITY RECREATION PROGRAMS

The City of Sterling Heights offers a broad and diverse array of parks and recreational programming for citizens of all ages, abilities and interests. Program offerings are designed to keep citizens active and engaged throughout the year. Programming is primarily administered by the Parks and Recreation Department. In some cases, programs are offered as a partnership with adjacent communities (i.e., the City of Warren or Clinton Township), private organizations (i.e., AYSO, Sterling Football Club) and school districts. Outlined below is a description and representative listing of the City's programs related to general parks and recreation, seniors, adaptive recreation, special events and nature education.

GENERAL PARKS AND RECREATION

The following is a listing of the types of general parks and recreation programs currently offered. Most of the exercise programs, classes, and indoor sports listed below take place at the newly opened (February 2020) and state-of-the-art Sterling Heights Community Center.

Health and Exercise Programs

- Yoga
- Zumba
- Karate
- General fitness
- Tai Chi Chu'an
- Dance
- Creative movement

Lessons/Classes/Camps

- Cooking
- Arts and crafts
- Gardening
- Youth sports instruction
- Learn to skate
- Home alone safety
- Heartsaver CPR
- Babysitting safety
- Summer Playground Program/Summer Day Camps
- Addiction and recovery
- Little Learners classes
- Teen events and classes
- Sporties for shorties
- Fairy garden classes

Athletics

- Open gym
- Gymnastics
- Tumbling
- Basketball
- Basketball – Adaptive Recreation League
- Softball
- Baseball
- Sand volleyball
- Indoor volleyball
- Kickball
- Tackle football
- Flag football
- T-ball
- Soccer
- Dodge ball
- Sports camps
- eSports leagues/tournaments
- Tennis lessons and camps

Through the City's interlocal agreement with Warren, residents can also enjoy the facilities and programs offered at the Warren Community Center. Notably, the Warren Community Center offers aquatics facilities and a fitness center.

The Sterling Heights Public Library also offers a variety of general programming throughout the year that complement the programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Sterling Heights Public Library is located in the municipal campus across the street from the Sterling Heights Community Center.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

The Sterling Heights Senior Center is located on the north side of Utica Road, adjacent to Dodge Park and across from the Sterling Heights Community Center. Many of the 50+ years and older related programs, classes and events are held at the Senior Center. Provided below is a representative listing of 50+ years and older programs currently offered by the City:



Sand volleyball courts at Dodge Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

- Cards/games
- Senior field trips and tours
- Crafts/art
- Zumba
- Dance
- Book club
- Investment club
- General knowledge classes - computers, health, gardening, driver safety
- Bowling
- Pickleball
- Bocce Ball
- Billiards
- Walking club
- Themed special events
- Congregate dining
- Bingo

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sterlingfest is the City's signature summer event and family festival. Sterlingfest offers a combination of arts and crafts, music, food and other activities over a three-day period. Sterlingfest mixes the tradition of an arts and crafts fair with the Jazz and Blues stage, a Suds 'n' Sounds stage, Kidzfest children's activities and entertainment stage, a family midway, local restaurateurs, fireworks and a main concert stage.

In addition to Sterlingfest, dozens of other special events are facilities by the City, a representative listing of which is provided below:

- Daddy Daughter Date Night
- Sterling Frights Halloween Party
- Sterling Christmas
- UCS-Sterling Heights Run/Walk
- Music in the Park
- Treasure Hunter's Market
- Healthy Living Expo
- Dodge Park Carriage Rides
- Pinewood Derby Race
- Family Photo Road Rally
- Mother & Son Outdoor Adventure
- Parking Lot Picasso's
- Family Fun Bingo & Trivia
- Sterling Coffeehouse (at the Community Center) concerts/performances
- Teen Night Out
- eSports Tournaments
- Great Outdoor Backyard Campout
- Grand Connections - program to enhance connections between generations

Special events are also offered at the newly constructed Dodge Park Ice Rink. Examples include Skate with a Cop night, Glow Stick Nights, Date Night and various costume theme nights.



The farmers market pavilion (top) and amphitheater (bottom) at Dodge Park both serve as venues for various special events

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

ADAPTIVE RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Department offers specialized programs designed for individuals with varying abilities. The majority of the adaptive programming is geared toward individuals with developmental, cognitive and/or physical impairments and Autism. The following adaptive recreation programs are currently offered by the City:

- Games and music nights
- Day camps
- Cooking classes
- Fitness
- Theatre
- Kickball
- Dance special events
- Bike club
- Prom

NATURE CENTER

The Sterling Heights Nature Center, located along Utica Road adjacent to Clinton River Park North, offers nature-focused educational programming and events throughout the year. Examples include nature walks (both guided and self-guided), field trips, arts and crafts classes, special exhibits, scavenger hunts, junior naturalist programs, archery, and canoeing/kayaking classes and trips.

CITY RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Sterling Heights operates and maintains a total of 31 city parks (not including special use facilities and natural resource areas) encompassing 870 acres within its jurisdiction. The land associated with the special use facilities and natural resource areas adds another 208 acres, bringing the total recreation acreage to nearly 1,100 acres. Following the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' recommended classification system for local and regional recreation open space and trails (see **Appendix A**), a description of each park by classification is provided below.

A summary matrix of City parks and the recreation facilities included at each park is included on the next pages (**Recreation Facilities Inventory Table**). The location of each City park, in addition to public school, county parks and private golf courses, is shown on the **Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Map**. The **City Park Classification System Map** shows the location of City parks, color-coded based on their park classification.

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Four special use recreational facilities are operated by the City of Sterling Heights. According to the MDNR, special use facilities cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.

Community Center

The Sterling Heights Community Center is located on a 5.9 acre property at the southeast corner of Dodge Park and Utica Roads. It is strategically located in the City's "civic center" across (Utica Road) from the Senior Center and across (Dodge Park Road) from the municipal complex.

Opened in early 2020, the 98,000 square foot, two-story Community Center is a state-of-the-art building that places focus on offering a wide variety of unique programs to meet the evolving needs of citizens. The expanded space allowed the City to launch a number of new programs that residents of all ages can enjoy. The Community Center helps support the City's 2030 Visioning Plan to create an active, progressive, and inclusive community.



Existing Recreation Facilities Inventory

City of Sterling Heights, 2021

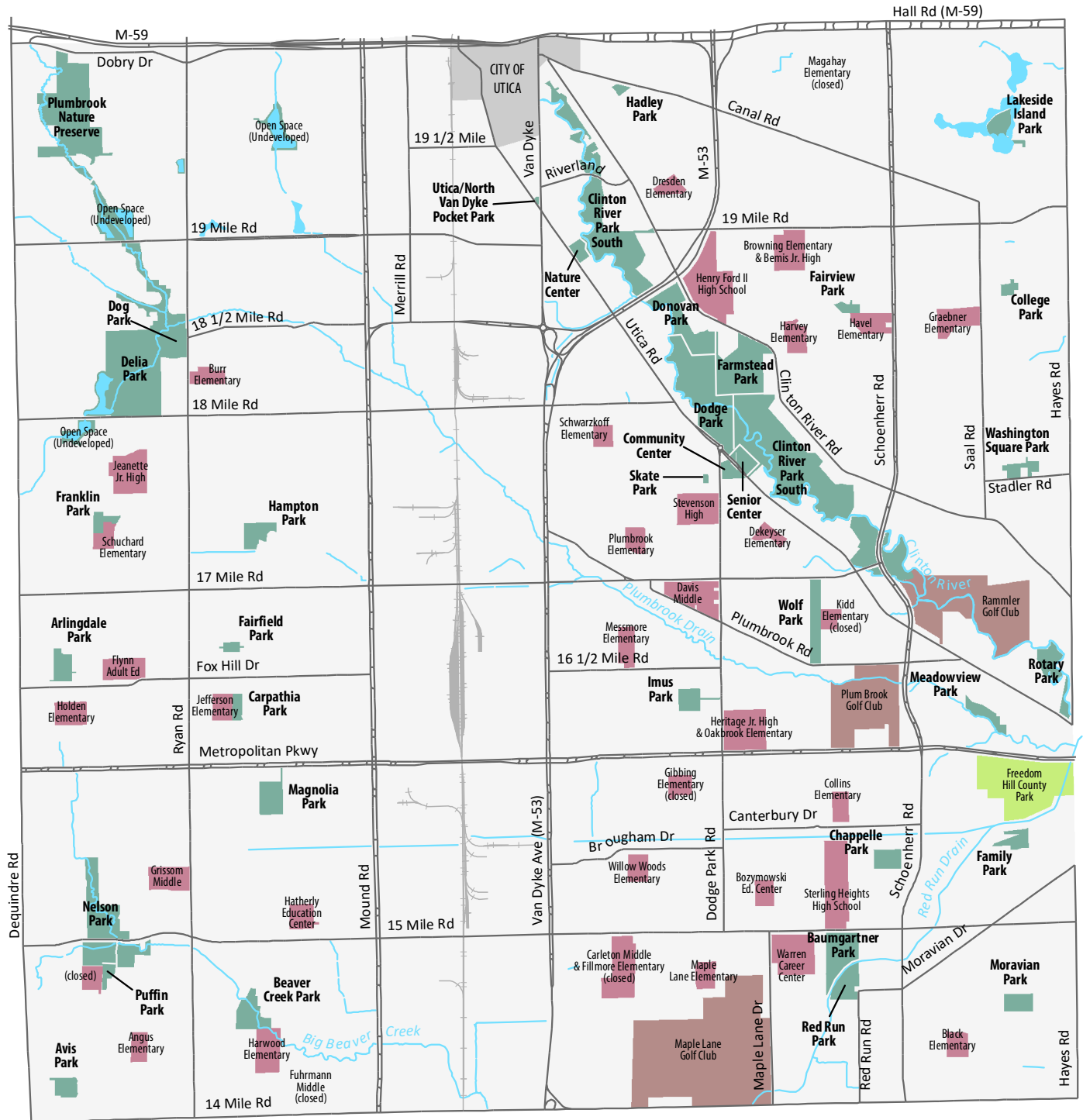
Park Name	Acres	Outdoor Sport/Active Facilities																Outdoor Support Facilities						Indoor Facilities				
		Baseball/Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Sand Volleyball Courts	Cricket Fields	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Basketball Courts	Ice Skating Rinks	In-Line Hockey Rinks	Skate Parks	Splash Pads	Slidding Hills	Horseshoe Pits	Playgrounds	Paved Trails (Y/N)	Soft Surface Trails (Y/N)	Amphitheatres	Dog Parks	Accessible Paddle Docks	Pavilions	Picnic Areas (Y/N)	Restrooms	Parking Areas (Y/N)	Gymnasiums (Y/N)	Multi-Purpose Rooms (Y/N)	Restrooms (Y/N)
Special Use Facilities																												
Community Center	5.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N	N	0	0	0	0	N	0	Y	Y	Y	Y
		Park Notes: Indoor recreation center with track, gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, restrooms, teen and tot rooms																										
Senior Center	9.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	0	0	N	0	Y	Y	Y	Y
		Park Notes: Senior Center includes classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, restrooms; Outdoor bocce ball court; Outdoor shuffleball court																										
Skate Park	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	0	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	N
Nature Center	6.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	N	0	0	0	0	N	0	Y	N	Y	Y
		Park Notes: Nature center includes animal exhibits and meeting rooms																										
Subtotal	23.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	--	--	0	0	0	0	--	0	--	--	--	--
Large Urban Parks																												
Dodge Park	81.2	0	1 (L)(MT)	0	4	0	0	0	1 (L)	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	Y	Y	1	0	0	5	Y	2	Y	N	N	N
		Park Notes: L = lighted; MT = Mini-turf soccer field; Farmers Market Pavilion; Ice rink is refrigerated; Natural gas fireplaces (2)																										
Nelson Park	65.0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	Y	N	0	0	0	1	Y	1	Y	N	N	N
Subtotal	146.2	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	--	--	1	0	0	6	--	3	--	--	--	--
Sports Complexes																												
Baumgartner Park	29.7	2 (L)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N	N	0	0	0	0	Y	1	Y	N	N	N
		Park Notes: L = lighted; Police training area																										
Delia Park	126.5	4 (L)	5	1	0	1	5 (L)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Y	Y	0	1	0	5	Y	4	Y	N	N	N
		Park Notes: L = lighted; Irrigated soccer and football fields																										
Subtotal	156.2	6	7	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	--	--	0	1	0	5	--	5	--	--	--	--
Community Parks																												
Clinton River Park North	84.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N	0	0	1	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	N
Clinton River Park South	176.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	N	0	0	0	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	N
		Park Notes: All-terrain trail (mountain bike trail)																										
Donovan Park	34.7	2 (L)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N	N	0	0	0	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	N
		Park Notes: L = lighted; All-terrain trail (mountain bike trail)																										
Farmstead Park	47.3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N	0	0	0	1	Y	1	Y	N	N	N
		Park Notes: Little library																										
Subtotal	342.4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	--	--	0	0	1	1	--	1	--	--	--	--

Existing Recreation Facilities Inventory (cont.)

Park Name	Acres	Outdoor Sport/Active Facilities																	Outdoor Support Facilities						Indoor Facilities				
		Baseball/Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Sand Volleyball Courts	Cricket Fields	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Basketball Courts	Ice Skating Rinks	In-Line Hockey Rinks	Skate Parks	Splash Pads	Sledding Hills	Horseshoe Pits	Playgrounds	Paved Trails (Y/N)	Soft Surface Trails (Y/N)	Amphitheatres	Dog Parks	Accessible Paddle Docks	Pavilions	Picnic Areas (Y/N)	Restrooms	Parking Areas (Y/N)	Gymnasiums (Y/N)	Multi-Purpose Rooms (Y/N)	Restrooms (Y/N)	
Neighborhood Parks																													
Arlingdale Park	11.8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	N	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Multi-purpose field																											
Avis Park	9.2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	N	N	N	N	
Beaver Creek Park	18.6	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	
		Park Notes: Story walk; four square court																											
Carpathia Park	5.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	N	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Park is adjacent to Jefferson Elementary which includes additional recreation facilities and parking																											
Chappelle Park	10.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	1	Y	0	N	N	N	
College Park	4.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	N	N	N	
Fairfield Park	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Multi-purpose field																											
Fairview Park	4.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Undeveloped natural area; Park is adjacent to Havel Elementary which includes additional recreational facilities																											
Family Park	9.5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	N	N	N	
Franklin Park	6.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Park is adjacent to Schuchard Elementary which includes additional recreation facilities and parking																											
Hadley Park	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	
		Park Notes: Story walk																											
Hampton Park	12.6	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	1	Y	0	Y	N	N	
Imus Park	10.9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	
Lakeside Island Park	10.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	Y		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Mostly undeveloped natural area																											
Magnolia Park	16.7	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	
Meadowview Park	10.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	N	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Mostly undeveloped natural area																											
Moravian Park	11.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	1	Y	0	N	N	N	
Puffin Park	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	Y	N	N	
		Park Notes: Mostly undeveloped natural area																											
Red Run Park	15.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Undeveloped natural area																											
Rotary Park	17.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N	N		0	0	1	0	Y	0	Y	N	N	
Washington Square Park	8.5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Y	N		0	0	0	0	Y	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Four square court; Little library																											
Wolf Park	19.2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Park is adjacent to Kidd Elementary which includes additional recreational facilities and parking																											
Subtotal	224.2	4	0	0	1	0	10	9	8.5	0	2	0	0	5	0	17	--	--		0	0	1	3	--	0	--	--	--	--
Mini Parks																													
Utica/Van Dyke Pocket Park	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: Passive urban plaza with gateway feature, walkways, benches and pedestrian scale lighting																											
Subtotal	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--		0	0	0	0	--	0	--	--	--	--
Natural Resource Areas																													
Plumbrook Nature Preserve	91.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	Y		0	0	0	0	N	0	Y	N	N	
		Park Notes: Maintenance building																											
City-Owned Open Spaces	93.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N		0	0	0	0	N	0	N	N	N	
		Park Notes: All properties are undeveloped natural areas																											
Subtotal	184.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--		0	0	0	0	--	0	--	--	--	--
All Recreation Facilities																													
Total	1,077.5	12	10	1	7	1	15	9	10.5	1	2	1	1	6	1	27	--	--		1	1	2	15	--	9	--	--	--	--

Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation Plan 2017 to 2021, updated by Sterling Heights and Wade Trim, June 2021.

Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Map



Facility Types:

- City Parks
- County Parks
- Public Schools
- Private Golf Courses

Base Layers:

- Primary Roads
- Railroads
- Water Features
- Water Bodies
- City of Sterling Heights
- City of Utica

February 2021
Source: Wade Trim

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Among other highlights, the Community Center features two multipurpose gymnasiums (Blue and Green Gym) outfitted for basketball, pickleball, volleyball and futsal, an indoor walking/running track. The Center includes dance and fitness studios, meeting rooms, and the largest City-owned indoor special event space. The Community Center is the central hub for the Parks & Recreation Department. It is also home to the USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Fame.

The Community Center has dedicated teen and tot rooms. The teen room is a unique space providing youth residents a gathering place to study, hang-out, and participate in special themed programming just for teens. The space has been designed with study areas, social spaces, a variety of new and retro games including a Nintendo Switch, Play Station 4, and bubble hockey.

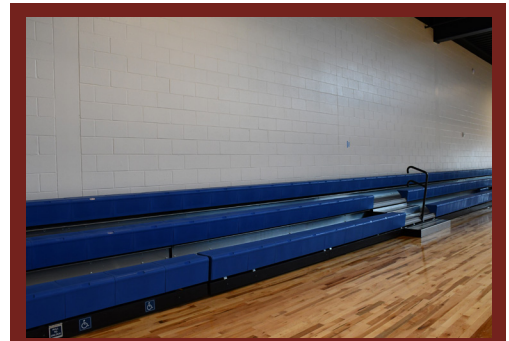
The Community Center has been designed to be a resource for residents and organizations within the boundaries of Sterling Heights. Room rental reservations are available for individuals and school sponsored groups for the purpose of wedding showers, graduation parties, school team/club banquets, baby showers, funeral luncheons, anniversary parties, retirements parties, birthday parties and holiday parties. Gym rentals are available for groups of 20 people or less for basketball, volleyball pickleball, futsal, and general athletics.

Senior Center

The Sterling Heights Senior Center, operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, is located on a 9.8 acre property on the north side of Utica Road immediately adjacent to Dodge Park. The Senior Center includes classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, indoor gymnasium, indoor walking track, restrooms and other amenities. Outdoor recreation facilities on the property include bocce ball courts. A large paved parking area serves the Senior Center.

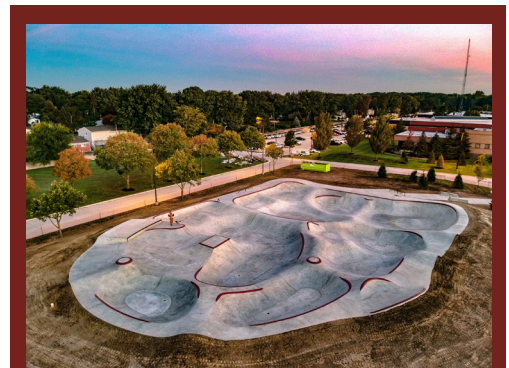
Skate Park

Located at the City's municipal complex between the District Court and Public Library, the Sterling Heights Skate Park is a unique recreational opportunity. Open year round, it can be used by various "extreme sport" enthusiasts including bicyclists and skateboarders, a user group that was previously underserved through facility offerings or programs. Opened in 2017, the skate park has quickly become a location with top potential for skating events and competitions.



Sterling Heights Community Center

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Sterling Heights Skate Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

Nature Center

The Sterling Heights Nature Center is located on a 6.9 acre property on Utica Road in the northern portion of the City. It is located immediately across the Clinton River from Clinton River Park North and is connected to the park by a pedestrian bridge and pathway. Indoor facilities include animal exhibits, auditorium and restrooms. A paved parking lot is also located at the site.

LARGE URBAN PARKS

Two parks, encompassing 146.2 acres of land, serve the entire population of Sterling Heights and function as a “large urban park.” According to the MDNR, large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. The focus of a large urban park is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.

Dodge Park

Located in the “civic center” of Sterling Heights at the intersection of Dodge Park Road and Utica Road, the 81.2 acre Dodge Park is one of the focal points of the City’s entire recreation system. The park is home to several unique facility types that are only found at this park: a lighted mini-turf soccer field, the Farmers Market pavilion (with a refrigerated ice rink during the winter), a splash pad, and an amphitheatre. Additional active facilities include 4 sand volleyball courts, a lighted basketball court, two playgrounds and horseshoe pits. Support facilities include 5 pavilions, 2 restroom facilities, picnic areas and a large parking lot.

The Clinton River Trail/Iron Belle Trail extends through Dodge Park, while the park also features an internal trail system. Dodge Park is part of the larger Clinton River Park System, a conglomeration of City parkland, natural areas and greenways along the Clinton River in Sterling Heights.



Inside the Nature Center

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Farmers Market pavilion at Dodge Park

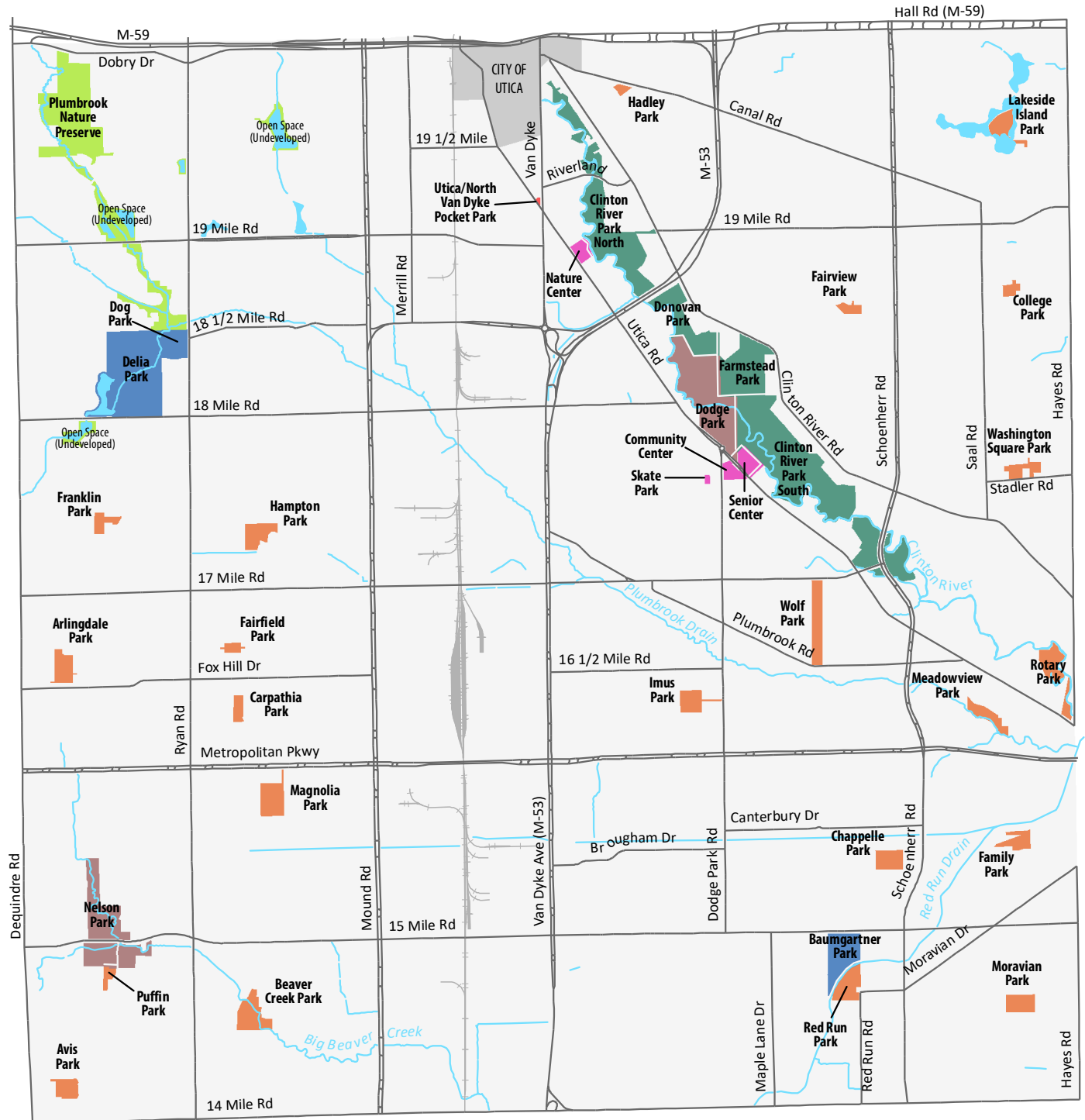


Dodge Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



City Park Classification System Map



City Park Classifications:

- Large Urban Parks
- Sports Complexes
- Special Use Facilities
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Natural Resource Areas

Base Layers:

- Primary Roads
- Railroads
- ~ Water Features
- ~ Water Bodies
- City of Sterling Heights
- City of Utica

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



February 2021
Source: Wade Trim

Nelson Park

James C. Nelson Park (Nelson Park) is a 65.0 acre park located on both sides of 15 Mile Road between Dequindre and Ryan Roads. The southern portion of the park (on the south side of 15 Mile Road) is generally undeveloped open space. The primary recreational facilities are located in the northern portion of the park. Active outdoor facilities include a soccer field, sand volleyball court, 2 playgrounds and paved trails. Support facilities include a pavilion, picnic areas, restrooms and parking.

SPORTS COMPLEXES

Two parks, encompassing 156.2 acres of land, serve the entire population of Sterling Heights and function as a “sports complex.” According to the MDNR, a sports complex consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.

Baumgartner Park

L.W. Baumgartner Park (Baumgartner Park) is a 29.7 acre park located in the southeastern portion of the City on the south side of 15 Mile Road. Included among its sports facilities are 2 lighted baseball/softball diamonds and 2 soccer fields. Amenities including bleachers, drinking fountain, playground, swing sets, picnic tables, restrooms and a paved parking lot are found at the park. A police K9 training course is also presently located at the park.

Delia Park

Joseph J. Delia Jr. Park (Delia Park) is a large 126.5 acre sports complex located in the northwestern portion of the City fronting both 18 Mile Road and Ryan Road. The park is generally divided into three functional areas. The portion of the park accessed by 18 Mile Road includes a front section and back section, separated by a creek but connected to each other by an access drive and pedestrian bridge. The portion of the park accessed by Ryan Road is connected to the other portions of the park by pedestrian trail but not through a vehicular connection.

Delia Park contains the largest concentration of athletic fields within the City, which include 4 lighted baseball/softball diamonds, 5 irrigated soccerfields, an irrigated football field, a cricket field, and 5 lighted tennis courts. Other active facilities include a sledding hill, playground, paved trails and soft surface trails. Amenities include 5 pavilions, 4 restrooms, picnic areas, concession building and parking lots.

Dog Park at Delia Park

The portion of Delia Park accessed by Ryan Road was recently renovated to include a new dog park. This facility allows for off-leash play and features picnic tables, fencing, water fountain, and dog bag dispensers. An “all dog” area is approximately 1.25 acres in size and a “small dog” area is approximately 0.75 acres in size. An annual pass is required to access the dog park. Dogs must also be licensed and current on vaccinations.



Nelson Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Delia Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

COMMUNITY PARKS

Four community parks are found within the City, encompassing 342.4 acres of land. Described below, all three of these community parks are part of the larger Clinton River Park System, a conglomeration of City parkland, natural areas and greenways along the Clinton River in Sterling Heights.

Clinton River Park North

Clinton River Park North is a 84.4 acre community park located along the Clinton River in the northern portion of the City.

The primary park facilities include a section of the Iron Belle Trail/Clinton River Trail (which extends through the park), playground area and picnic areas. A universally accessible paddle dock provides safe access to the Clinton River Water Trail. Otherwise, the park largely consists of natural open space. The park also features a gravel access drive with two gravel parking areas. Clinton River Park North is connected to the Nature Center by a paved trail and pedestrian bridge over the Clinton River.

Clinton River Park South

At 176.0 acres, Clinton River Park South is the largest park in the City by acreage. This community park is largely a natural open space area. However, it does feature a lengthy segment of the Clinton River Trail and various trail loops. Additionally, the park features a lengthy system of all-terrain bike trails for mountain bicycling enthusiasts. The park does not feature a parking lot; however, visitors can use the parking lots at either Dodge Park or Farmstead Park, whose pathways connect to Clinton River Park South. Additionally, the cul-de-sac at the end of Edison Court is used as trailhead parking.

Donovan Park

Gerald N. Donovan Park (Donovan Park; formerly named Jaycee Park) is a 34.7 acre community park which is part of the larger Clinton River Park System. It currently features 2 lighted baseball/softball diamonds, playground, picnic area and a paved parking area. Other amenities include bleachers, benches and a swing set. The Iron Belle Trail/Clinton River Trail extends through the park, as well as mountain bicycle trails. An additional acre of land was recently purchased from the adjacent church.

Farmstead Park

Farmstead Park is a 47.3 acre community park located in the central portion of the City with access from Clinton River Road. This park features one full sized soccer field, sand volleyball court, basketball court, playground structure, pavilion, restroom and trail system which connects to the Clinton River Trail. The park also features a paved parking lot.

Farmstead Park, Donovan Park, Clinton River Park North and Clinton River Park South are all part of the larger Clinton River Park System, a conglomeration of City parkland, natural areas and greenways along the Clinton River in Sterling Heights.



The Clinton River traverses through Dodge Park, Donovan Park, Farmstead Park, North Clinton River Park and South Clinton River Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Donovan Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Farmstead Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

A total of 22 neighborhood parks encompassing 224.2 acres of land are located within the City. According to the MDNR, neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Their focus is on informal active and passive recreation.

Arlingdale Park

This 11.8 acre park is located in the western portion of the City in the neighborhood bounded by Dequindre, 17 Mile, Ryan and Metropolitan Parkway. Recreational facilities include a multi-purpose field, tennis court, basketball court, swing set, playground and paved trail loop, along with picnic tables/area.

Avis Park

Avis Park is a 9.2 acre park located in the southwestern corner of the City in the neighborhood bounded by Dequindre, 15 Mile, Ryan and 14 Mile. Recreational facilities include a paved loop trail system, playground, tennis court and 2 pickleball courts. Benches, picnic tables/area and a swing set are also at the park.

Beaver Creek Park

Located in the neighborhood bounded by Ryan, 15 Mile, Mound and 14 Mile, this 18.6 acre park features a baseball/softball field, tennis court, sledding hill, 2 playgrounds (one is a toddler-aged playground) and a paved internal trail loop. Other amenities include a story walk*, four square court, benches, picnic tables/area, swing set and parking area.

*A story walk is a childrens book that is presented page by page at points along a trail. It is designed for parents and caregivers with young children to promote reading and exercise.

Carpathia Park

This 5.5 acre park is located in the neighborhood bounded by Ryan, 17 Mile, Mound and Metropolitan Parkway. Facilities at the park include a tennis court, basketball court, swing set, playground and an internal loop trail. Other amenities include benches, picnic tables and a parking lot. The park is adjacent to Jefferson Elementary, which includes additional recreation facilities

Chappelle Park

Thomas Chappelle Park (Chappelle Park) is a 10.9 acre facility located in the eastern portion of the City in the neighborhood bounded by Dodge Park, Metropolitan Parkway, Schoenherr and 15 Mile. Facilities include a sledding hill, swing set, playground, pavilion, picnic area and an internal loop trail.



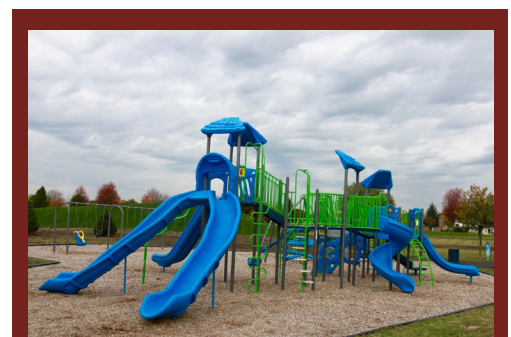
Arlingdale Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Beaver Creek Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Chappelle Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

College Park

The 4.2 acre College Park is located in the western portion of the City in the neighborhood bounded by Schoenherr, 19 Mile, Hayes and Clinton River Road. The park features 3 pickleball courts, basketball court, swing set, playground, picnic tables/area and a paved trail loop.

Fairfield Park

This 3.7 acre park is located in the neighborhood bounded by Ryan, 17 Mile, Mound and Metropolitan Parkway. Facilities include a swing set, playground area, multi-purpose field, picnic tables/area and trail which extends through the park and connects to the larger neighborhood.

Fairview Park

Fairview Park is a 4.6 acre park which is currently undeveloped open space. However, it is located adjacent to Havel Elementary school, which includes several recreational amenities. Fairview Park is located in the neighborhood bounded by M-53, 19 Mile, Schoenherr and Clinton River Road.

Family Park

Mark Sawyers Family Park (Family Park) is 9.5 acres in size and is located in the neighborhood bounded by Schoenherr, Metropolitan Parkway, Moravian and 15 Mile. Facilities include a baseball/softball field, tennis court, basketball court, swing set, playground, and picnic tables/area.

Franklin Park

This 6.5 acre park is located in the neighborhood bounded by Dequindre, 18 Mile, Ryan and 17 Mile. Facilities include a tennis court, in-line hockey rink, swing set, playground, paved internal trail loop, and picnic tables/area. The park is adjacent to Schuchard Elementary which includes additional recreation facilities

Hadley Park

Benjamin Hadley Park (Hadley Park) is a 2.5 acre park located in the north-central portion of the City in the neighborhood bounded by Canal, M-53 and Clinton River Road. This park features a swing set, playground, internal trail loop, story walk, picnic tables/area and parking area.

Hampton Park

Hampton Park is located in the neighborhood bounded by Ryan, 18 Mile, Mound and 17 Mile. The 12.6 acre park features a baseball/softball field, tennis court, 3 pickleball courts, basketball court, sledding hill, swing set, playground, paved trails, pavilion, picnic tables/area and parking area.



College Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Family Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Hadley Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Hampton Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

Imus Park

Leroy Imus Park (Imus Park) is 10.9 acres in size and is located in the neighborhood bounded by Van Dyke, 16 1/2 Mile, Dodge Park and Metropolitan Parkway. Facilities at the park include a sand volleyball court, basketball court, in-line hockey rink, playground, paved internal trail system, picnic tables/area, swing set and a parking area.

Lakeside Island Park

Lakeside Island Park is located in the northeastern portion of the City near Lakeside Mall. Access to the 10.7 acre park is provided from Island Drive. The largest portion of the park is an island which is connected by a pedestrian trail bridge. Aside from a natural trail, the park consists of undeveloped open space.

Magnolia Park

This 16.7 acre park is located in the neighborhood bounded by Ryan, Metropolitan Parkway, Mound and 15 Mile. Numerous facilities are found at the park including a tennis court, pickleball court, basketball court, sledding hill, swing set, playground, picnic tables/area, paved internal trail loop and paved parking area.

Meadowview Park

With the exception of a sledding hill, Meadowview Park is currently an undeveloped open space area consisting of 10.7 acres of land. It is located in the eastern portion of the City south of Utica Road.

Moravian Park

The 11.1 acre Moravian Park features a swing set, playground, pavilion and an internal trail loop. It is located in the southeastern corner of the City in the neighborhood bounded by Schoenherr, 15 Mile, Hayes and 14 Mile.

Puffin Park

Puffin Park, at 4.0 acres in size, is located adjacent to the southern end of Nelson Park and the former Warner Education Center. It formerly contained several recreation facilities which have since been cleared. Aside from a parking lot and pathway, the park now consists of open fields.

Red Run Park

Red Run Park is currently an undeveloped open space area consisting of 15.2 acres of land. It is located immediately south of Baumgartner Park, across the Red Run Drain. Access to the open space is provided from Red Run Street.



Lakeside Island Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Magnolia Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation



Moravian Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

Rotary Park

Rotary Park is a 17.7 acre park in the eastern portion of the City on the north side of Utica Road and adjacent to the Clinton River. The park largely consists of undeveloped open space; however, the front portion of the park includes a paved parking lot, swing set and playground. A universally accessible paddle dock providing access to the Clinton River Water Trail was recently constructed.

Washington Square Park

At 8.5 acres in size, Washington Square Park is located in the neighborhood bounded by Schoenherr, 19 Mile, Hayes and Clinton River Road. This park features 2 tennis courts, 1.5 basketball courts, swing set, playground, picnic tables/area and a paved internal trail loop.

Wolf Park

The 19.2 acre Kenneth Wolf Park (Wolf Park) is located within an ITC utility corridor and features a baseball/softball diamond and paved trails connecting from the homes to the west of the park and Rose Kidd Elementary school adjacent to the east. Additional recreation amenities are located on the school property, including a playground. The park is located in the neighborhood bounded by Dodge Park, 17 Mile, Schoenherr and Metropolitan Parkway.



Washington Square Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

MINI PARKS

According to the MDNR, mini parks are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. These parks are typically very small in size.

Utica/Van Dyke Pocket Park

Located at the northwest corner of Utica Road and Van Dyke Road, this is the only mini park in the City. At 0.5 acres in size, it is a passive urban plaza within the Van Dyke Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) business district that includes a gateway sign, walkways, benches and pedestrian scale lighting.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

The City operates one designated nature preserve and also maintains several undeveloped open space areas. According to the MDNR, natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.

Plumbrook Nature Preserve

Plumbrook Nature Preserve is a 91.0 acre natural open space area located in the northwestern portion of the City. A small parking area and maintenance facility are found at the entrance to the preserve at Dobry Drive. The Sterling Heights Nature Trail is located in the southern portion of the nature preserve with designated trail-

head parking spaces at the Beaumont Medical Campus parking lot. The nature trail connects Plumbrook Nature Preserve with Delia Park.

Open Space Areas

Several other City-owned open space areas are scattered throughout the City, totaling 93.6 acres of land.

LINEAR PARKS/TRAILS

Several linear park/trail systems are maintained by the City of Sterling Heights. A complete description of the non-motorized network within Sterling Heights is included in the Non-Motorized Existing Conditions Assessment chapter of this Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan.

PAST GRANTS

When preparing a Recreation Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that information be provided concerning grants that have been received in the past for acquisition or development of recreation facilities. In the past, the City of Sterling Heights has received 19 grants for recreation facility development between 1968 and 2002. Listed alphabetically by park name, an assessment of each project is provided on the following pages.

PAST GRANTS LISTING AND ASSESSMENT

Avis Park (2000) -- Project No. CM00-131

Scope: Development of a 9.7-acre neighborhood park with a basketball court, inline skating rink, tot lot, open play area and bike/hike path.

Current Conditions: Avis Park was recently renovated with new and/or updated recreational facilities as part of the City's *Recreating Recreation* initiative in between 2017-2019. This park now features a paved loop trail system, playground, tennis court and 2 pickleball courts. A new entrance sign was recently added.

Baumgartner Park (1968) -- Project No. 26-00171

Scope: Construction of a comfort station. Grading, seeding and tree planting.

Current Conditions: The park has undergone numerous improvements since 1968 and is maintained in good condition. Recent improvements include baseball diamonds, soccer fields (added in 2004/2005), play structures, passive play and picnic areas, and a renovated comfort station. Bleachers were replaced in 2001 /2002. Some ball diamond lighting was replaced 2001/2003. The baseball fields were reconstructed in 2003/2004. Field lights were replaced in 2018. Additional trees were planted with a DTE grant in 2006 and an ITC grant in 2019. Scoreboards were replaced in 2016. This park also received renovations, including a new playground, as part of the City's *Recreating Recreation* initiative in 2017/2018.

Beaver Creek Park (1972) -- Project No. 26-00343

Scope: Development of 11.5 acres which included site improvements, roads, parking, a Magic Square, tot lot, softball diamond, fencing, water system and landscaping.

Current Conditions: Beaver Creek Park was renovated with new and/or updated recreational facilities in the early 2010's through Community Development Block Grant Funds. This park features two playgrounds, baseball/softball field, tennis court, sledding hill, story walk, an internal trail loop system and parking lot.

Bike Path-Riverland to Van Dyke (2002) -- Project No. TF02-030

Scope: Construction of one mile of a 10 foot wide asphalt path along the east side of the Clinton River, part of a recreational path system linking Metropolitan Beach and Stony Creek Metroparks.

Current Conditions: The path (part of the Clinton River Trail) is heavily used and has been an asset to the community.

Terra Santa Park (Chappelle Park, 1993) -- Project No. BF93-284

Scope: A neighborhood park development including two tennis courts, a basketball court, picnic area, walking/jogging trail, tot lot, ice skating area and landscaping.

Current Conditions: This neighborhood park was renamed as Chappelle Park. Additional trees were planted in 2000 with a DTE tree planting grant. The park was recently renovated with new and/or updated recreational facilities as part of the City's Recreating Recreation initiative in 2017/2018. This park now features a sledding hill, playground, pavilion, picnic area and an internal loop trail.

Clinton River Park (1975) -- Project No. 26-00746

Scope: Development of entrance and park roads, parking areas, site preparation, seeding, bike and hiking trails, signs and trail markers.

Clinton River Park (1980) -- Project No. TF-399

Scope: Acquisition of three parcels totaling 55.88 acres with 2,500 feet of frontage along the Clinton River.

Clinton River Park (1986) -- Project No. TF86-013

Scope: Development of entrance road and parking areas, extension of major path system, multi-use ball fields, pedestrian bridge to the Nature Center, picnic and play areas, restroom and shelter with water and sewer.

Current Conditions: The park has since been divided into sections by name so that park users can more easily identify where they are at in the park. North Clinton River Park is the northernmost section. Donovan Park and Farmstead Park are cen-

trally located. Dodge Park is the section of park closest to City Hall. These parks are all highly utilized and received major renovations and upgrades as part of the City's recent *Recreating Recreation* initiative in 2017/2018.

Delia Park (1977) -- Project No. 26-00860

Scope: Acquisition of 119 acres.

Delia Park (1980) -- Project No. 26-01104R

Scope: Site prep, two baseball diamonds, entry road, parking lot, landscaping.

Delia Park (1981) -- Project No. 26-01168

Scope: Development of two baseball fields, tot lot, shelter with restroom, utilities, landscaping, signage, controlled entry and plaque.

Delia Park(1983) -- Project No. 26-01254

Scope: Development of two soccer/football fields with goal posts, two parking lots, bleachers and permanent plaque.

Delia Park (1985) -- Project No. 26-01345

Scope: Five tennis courts, entrance drive and parking lot, berming, grading and landscaping.

Current Conditions: Delia Park is a highly utilized park and the primary outdoor sports complex within the City. Current sports facilities include 4 baseball/softball diamonds, 5 soccer fields, football field, cricket field, and 5 tennis courts. Other active facilities include a sledding hill, playground, paved trails and soft surface trails. Irrigation was added to the soccer fields and a sled hill was built in 1999/2000. Scoreboards were replaced in 2001/2004. Additional trees were planted in 2009 with a DTE grant. The entrance road and half of the original gravel parking lot was paved in 2006. The baseball field lighting was replaced in 2014/2015. Additional renovations and upgrades were made as part of the City's *Recreating Recreation* initiative in 2017/2018, including new lighted tennis courts, dog park, restroom facility, parking lot paving, signage and trail connection to the Sterling Heights Nature Trail.

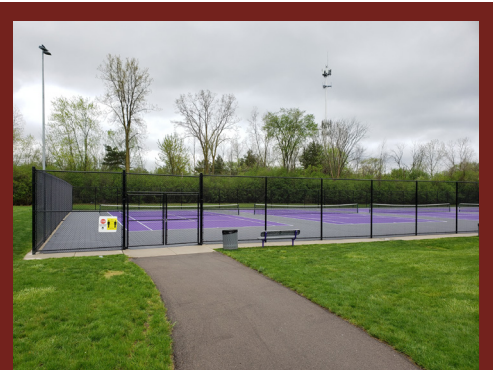
Magnolia Park (1978) -- Project No. 26-01060-TI

Scope: Picnic area, tot lot, two tennis courts, natural ice arena, 4 basketball courts, playfields, and landscaping and planting.

Current Conditions: Sport court renovations occurred in 2015. Additional renovations and upgrades were made as part of the City's *Recreating Recreation* initiative in 2017/2018, including a resurfaced parking lot and new signage. Current facilities include a tennis court, pickleball court, basketball court (renovated in 2021), sledding hill, playground and paved internal trail loop. Additional trees were planted in 2004 with a Community Forestry grant.



New splash pad at Dodge Park



New tennis courts at Delia Park

Nelson Park (1977) -- Project No. 26-01023-12

Scope: Acquisition of 10.8 acres on the south side of 15 Mile Road.

Nelson Park (1987) -- Project No. 26-01456

Scope: Picnic area, baseball field, tot lot, volleyball courts, paved bike/hike path, picnic shelter and restroom, parking lot.

Current Conditions: The park was recently renovated with new and/or updated recreational facilities as part of the City's *Recreating Recreation* initiative in 2017/2018. This park now features a soccer field, sand volleyball court, 2 playgrounds and paved trails. Support facilities include a pavilion, picnic areas, restrooms and parking.



Recent improvements at Nelson Park

Puffin Park (1972) -- Project No. 26-00342

Scope: Development of park which included site improvements, roads, parking, a Magic Square, tot lot, softball diamond, fencing, water and landscaping.

Current Conditions: No amenities are currently at this site. The tot lot play structure was removed because of age and deterioration and has not been replaced due to budget constraints. The parking lot was resurfaced in 2006/2007.

Section 6 Nature Preserve (1990) -- Project No. TF90-091

Scope: Acquisition of 160 acres of woodland/wetlands for preservation in its natural state for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Current Conditions: The grant monies were sufficient to purchase only 46.113 acres. The City went on to acquire additional acreage by donation and other means. The current Plumbrook Nature Preserve is now 91.0 acres in size and is preserved in its natural state.

Washington Square Park (1991) -- Project No. 26-01503

Scope: A neighborhood park development with two tot lots, picnic area, 2 tennis courts, basketball court, ice skating, volleyball court, park trail and landscaping.

Current Conditions: The park was recently renovated with new and/or updated recreational facilities as part of the City's *Recreating Recreation* initiative in 2017/2018. This park now features 2 tennis courts, 1.5 basketball courts, playground, picnic tables/area and a paved internal trail loop.

ADA ASSESSMENT

Recreational areas, facilities, and programs play an important role in the life of the community; therefore, it is essential that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these areas and any programs provided. With the passage

of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. An accessible playground is “one that, when viewed in its entirety, may be approached, entered and used by persons with varied disabilities”.¹

To evaluate the status of the existing public parks and recreation facilities owned by the City of Sterling Heights, each was inventoried and given a rating of 1 through 5 with the following definitions:²

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
4. Entire park meets guidelines
5. Entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design

The results of the inventory are provided in the **Barrier Free Status Table**. Through the improvements made as part of the City’s *Recreating Recreation* initiative, the majority of City park facilities now meet ADA guidelines. Photos highlighting typical accessible park facilities and design features are included on the following page. However, there is still room for improvement. In general, ADA improvements should be considered to establish hard-surface barrier free routes from parking areas to sports facilities and to provide more accessible bleacher seating. Such improvements would be most applicable to Baumgartner Park, Delia Park and Donovan Park.

Generally, the City’s indoor facilities, including the Community Center and Senior Center, are fully ADA compliant.

Barrier Free Status of City Parks City of Sterling Heights, 2021

Park Type/ Park Name	Accessibility Rating
Special Use Facilities	
Community Center	4
Senior Center	4
Skate Park	4
Nature Center	4
Large Urban Parks	
Dodge Park	4
Nelson Park	4
Sports Complexes	
Baumgartner Park	3
Delia Park	3
Community Parks	
Clinton River Park North	4
Clinton River Park South	4
Donovan Park	3
Farmstead Park	4
Neighborhood Parks	
Arlingdale Park	4
Avis Park	4
Beaver Creek Park	4
Carpathia Park	4
Chappelle Park	4
College Park	4
Fairfield Park	4
Fairview Park	N/A
Family Park	4
Franklin Park	4
Hadley Park	4
Hampton Park	4
Imus Park	4
Lakeside Island Park	N/A
Magnolia Park	4
Meadowview Park	N/A
Moravian Park	4
Puffin Park	N/A
Red Run Park	N/A
Rotary Park	4
Washington Square Park	4
Wolf Park	4
Mini Parks	
Utica/Van Dyke Pocket Park	4
Natural Resource Areas	
Plumbrook Nature Preserve	3

Source: City of Sterling Heights and Wade Trim, May 2021.

Chapter Footnotes:

1. The Americans with Disabilities Act and How it Affects Your Playgrounds. Landscape Structures, Inc.
2. Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 2014.

Accessible Improvements Typical of Sterling Heights' Park System





NON-MOTORIZED ASSESSMENT



WHY IS NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION IMPORTANT?¹

Non-motorized transportation, commonly referred to as bicycle and pedestrian travel, is vitally important to Michigan residents. Walking and biking serve as both a means of transportation, getting people to important places in their daily lives, and as a means of recreation, better connecting residents to nature and their community. Non-motorized transportation is important to the region and state because it contributes to increased mobility, safety, transportation choices, recreation, place-making, economic development, and the health of our residents. A few of these benefits are further described below.

Increased mobility and equity. Ensuring mobility options for all is paramount, particularly for our young people, seniors or those physically or financially unable to drive. The number of young drivers in the US has been decreasing steadily. In 1983, about 87% of 19-year-olds had drivers' licenses and in 2010, only 69.5% did.² A 2014 Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) study showed that 39 percent of households in Michigan reported someone in their home used a bike for transportation in the last year. A connected non-motorized network provides an opportunity to meet multiple mobility needs. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities that are coordinated and connected to transit can increase the range that people can travel. Infrastructure that supports bicycling and walking expands transportation options

Recreation and health. While some Michigan residents use the non-motorized system as a way to increase mobility, many use the system for recreational and health benefits. The correlation between land use patterns, transportation systems and public health are being recognized and studied by a number of agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health. There is a movement to integrate public health objectives in transportation decision-making because of the link to increased physical activity and reduction in air pollutants.

Economic development and talent attraction. Non-motorized transportation contributes to continued economic growth. The 2014 MDOT study on economic benefits finds that bicycling provides an estimated \$668 million per year in economic benefit to Michigan's economy, including employment, retail revenue, tourism expenditure, and increased health and productivity. In order to maintain and enhance economic viability, communities are seeking to attract millennials and knowledge-based workers. According to research by the Rockefeller Institute, more than 50 percent of millennials surveyed said they would consider moving to another city if it had more and better transportation options.

1 out of 3 Michigan residents are unable to drive due to age, physical or financial limitations.

-- SEMCOG Non-Motorized Plan



Cyclists at Dodge Park

Improved safety. Pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable roadway users. While crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists make up only 0.9% of the total crashes in Sterling Heights, they accounted for 24.0% of fatal crashes (6 of 25) from 2010-2014.³ Incorporating well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities encourages predictable behavior and alerts motorists to their presence, thus improving safety for all roadway users.

COMPLETE STREETS

Michigan Public Act 135 of 2010 defines Complete Streets as: "...roadways planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement of people and goods whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot, or bicycle."

Complete Streets is an approach to transportation planning – one that supports balanced mobility and the appropriate provision for safe and convenient travel by all the ground transportation modes: transit, walking, bicycling, motor vehicles and freight movement. The context of the road and surrounding land use play a pivotal role in what may be the appropriate Complete Street response. A rural road may not have the same solutions and provisions as an urban road. There is no "one size fits all" solution that can be applied to all roads and corridors.

PA 135 of 2010 provided for the appointment of a Complete Streets Advisory Council to educate and advise the State Transportation Commission (STC) and others on Complete Streets policies. The State Transportation Commission approved their Complete Streets Policy in 2012 and hundreds of Michigan communities have followed suit by passing their own local complete streets policies, including Sterling Heights and Macomb County. The City of Sterling Heights adopted a resolution in support of Complete Streets in January 2012 to be used by the City in the design, planning, and construction of public infrastructure improvements. The Macomb County Board of Commissioners adopted a Complete Streets Resolution in June 2014 stating that all future transportation projects will be approached with the Complete Streets Policy in mind.

Complete Streets

There is no one design prescription for complete streets. Ingredients that may be found on a complete street include: side-walks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, and more. A complete street in a rural area will look quite different from a complete street in a highly urban area. But both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.

-- National Complete Streets Coalition

FACILITY TYPES AND TERMINOLOGY AND STANDARDS

The Michigan Department of Transportation employs terms and definitions that are used by the Federal Highway Administration as it relates to the various types of non-motorized facilities. The following are the most common "facility types" and are based on the AASHTO: Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 2012. These are brief introductions to the common non-motorized facility types. Some of the facilities are for both pedestrians and cyclists such as Shared Use Paths and in some cases Wide Paved Shoulders and Side Paths. On-street bike lanes and marked shared lanes (sharrows) are facilities for cycling.

SHARED USE PATH

- Physically separated from motor vehicle traffic
- Used by pedestrians and bicyclists
- Two-way travel
- Examples include rail trails or trails such as the Clinton River Park Trail

SIDE PATH

- Shared Use Path located immediately adjacent and parallel to a road
- Depending on land use and frequency of curb cuts, may not be safe for bicyclists

BIKE LANE

- On-street
- Designated and marked for use by bicyclists
- Typically one-way travel in same direction as motor traffic
- Can be buffered and/or protected

MARKED SHARED LANE

- On-street
- Pavement symbol to help position bicyclists while sharing lane with vehicles

PAVED SHOULDER

- 4 to 8 feet paved width minimum
- Provides space for pedestrians/bicyclists but not marked as a bike lane

INFLUENCING CONDITIONS

In addition to obvious conditions related to land use patterns, density and presence (or not) of non-motorized facilities, there are a number of elements described in this section that can also directly influence connectivity and comfort for walking and cycling. Collectively being aware of these conditions will assist in the development of non-motorized goals and recommendations.

TYPES OF CYCLISTS

Before discussing factors or conditions specific to Sterling Heights that may influence non-motorized goals and recommendations, it is important to understand the general types of cyclists and how design decisions can impact the number of cyclists using facilities. Most people can be categorized as one of four types of cyclists.⁴

1. The **“Strong and the Fearless”** are the people who will ride regardless of designated facilities or roadway conditions.
2. The **“Enthusied and Confident”** are comfortable sharing the roadway with automotive traffic, but they prefer to do so with designated facilities.



Shared-Use Path



Side Path



Bike Lane



Marked Shared Lane (“Sharrows”)

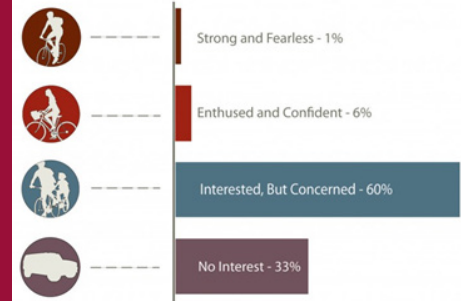


Paved Shoulder

3. The largest portion of people fall into the **“Interested but Concerned”** category. These people are curious about bicycling. They like riding a bicycle and they would like to ride more. They would ride if they felt safer on the roadways.
4. Finally, approximately one-third of the population falls into the last category of ‘cyclist.’ This is the **“No way, No how”** group that is currently not interested in bicycling at all, for reasons of topography, inability, etc.

When discussing or considering context sensitive solutions related to encouraging bicycling as a safe mode of transportation, it is the “Interested But Concerned” group of the population that should be kept in mind. This group represents the majority of latent demand for bicycle facilities. As such, their preference should be given significant consideration.

The Four Types of Bicyclists



Source: Portland DOT, 2006

ACCESS TO VEHICLES

Ensuring mobility options for all is paramount, but it is especially important for those that choose not to have a car and for our young people, seniors or those physically or financially unable to drive. A connected non-motorized network provides an opportunity to meet multiple mobility needs. As estimated by the American Community Survey (2013 5-year estimates), 6.6% (21,831) of occupied housing units in Macomb County, and 5.5% (2,727) of occupied housing units in Sterling Heights do not have access to a vehicle. In comparison, 7.8% of occupied housing units in the State of Michigan as a whole have no access to a vehicle (see **Access to Vehicles Table**).

Access to Vehicles
Sterling Heights and Macomb County, 2019

Vehicles Available per Occupied Housing Unit	Sterling Heights	Macomb County
No Vehicle	4.5%	5.5%
1 Vehicle	33.9%	36.1%
2 Vehicles	39.5%	37.8%
3+ Vehicles	22.1%	20.6%

Source: American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates

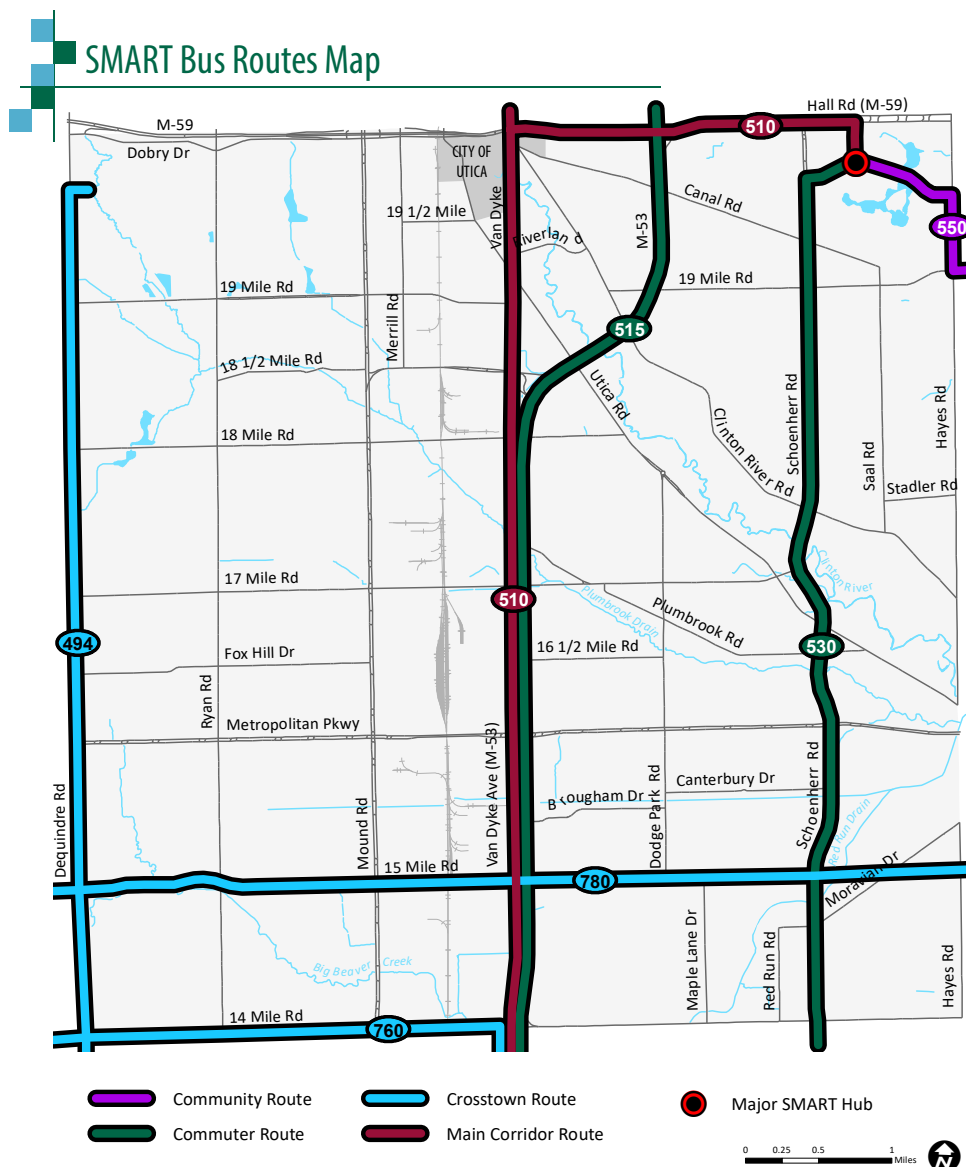
COMMUTING PATTERNS

There are a large number of factors that ultimately play into someone’s decision to commute via bike to and from work. These can include elements such as availability of showers and bike storage at the workplace, distance, weather, perception of risk, and not knowing how to safely navigate with vehicle traffic. That being said, Sterling Heights is a major place of employment in the region. According to SEMCOG data from 2016, 12,287 people live and work in Sterling Heights – which means they work from home or work fairly close to home. An additional 14,197 people commute to Sterling Heights for work from the adjacent communities of

Troy, Shelby Township, Clinton Township and Warren – as a resident of an adjacent community, it is logical to assume that some of these workers are within a bikeable distance to work. Even if we assumed half of those people are within a bikeable distance to work, that would mean 13,242 may be potential bike commuters.

RELATIONSHIP TO TRANSIT

Biking and walking provide important connections to public transportation. The first and last mile connection to transit is crucial. When people commute from their home to transit, they must decide how they will get there. In order to encourage more ridership, transit needs to provide safe, accessible, and convenient options that enable point to point connections. An American Public Transportation Association 2007 profile of passengers illustrated that nearly 60% of transit users walk to and from transit. Ensuring walking and biking are integrated with transit can increase and improve the transit experience.⁵ The **SMART Bus Routes Map** illustrates the locations of SMART bus routes within the City of Sterling Heights. De-



quindre, Schoenherr Road and Van Dyke are the primary north-south routes with Fourteen Mile, Fifteen Mile and Hall Road being major the major east-west transit corridors.

PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE CRASH LOCATIONS

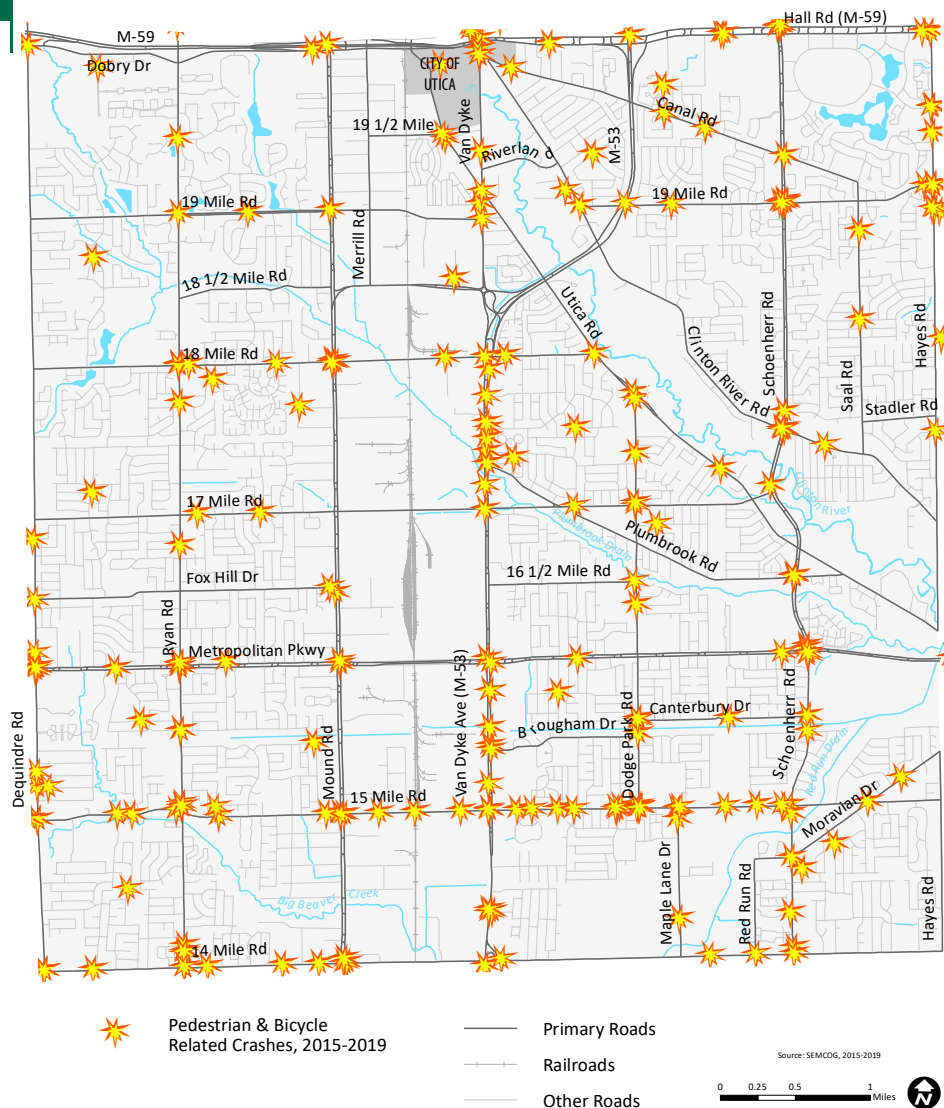
Pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable roadway users. According to SEMCOG, while crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists make up only 0.8% of the total crashes in Sterling Heights, they accounted for 26.5% of fatal crashes (9 of 34) from 2015-2019. Incorporating well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities encourages predictable behavior and alerts motorists to their presence, thus improving safety for all roadway users (see **Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes Table**).

Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes
Sterling Heights, Macomb County and SE Michigan, 2015-2019

Location	Percent of All Crashes	Of all Fatal Crashes, Percent that Involved Pedestrian or Bicyclist
Sterling Heights	0.8%	26.5%
Macomb County	1.4%	31.8%
Southeast Michigan	1.5%	28.0%

Source: SEMCOG

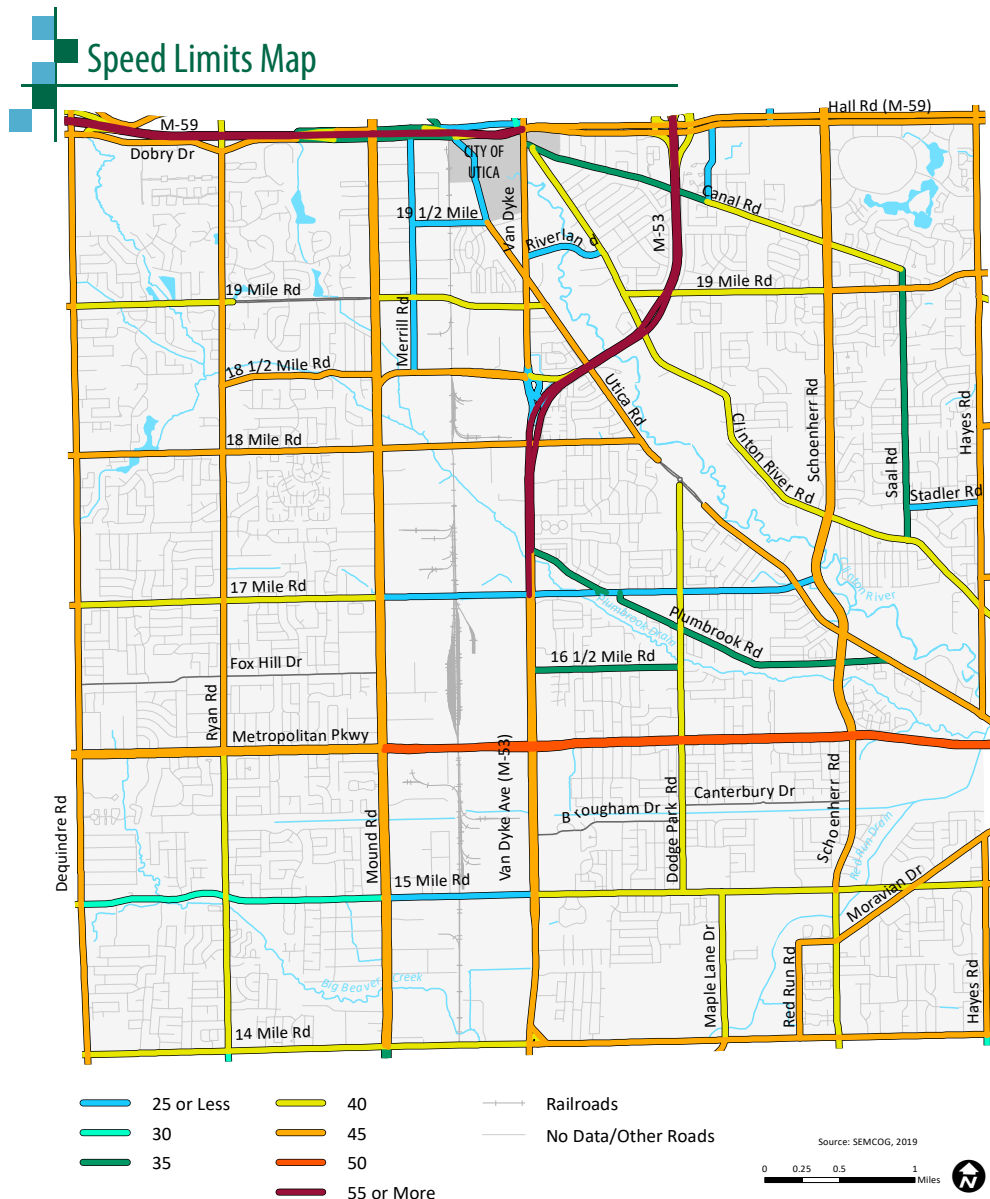
Pedestrian & Bicycle Accidents Map



Mapping SEMCOG data of accident locations that involved a pedestrian or a bicyclist assists in understanding where there may be higher rates of pedestrian and bike activity in the City. The **Pedestrian & Bicycle Accidents Map** indicates that people are walking and riding in all areas of the City, but encountering safety issues (regardless of fault) along the major road corridors including Van Dyke, Fifteen Mile Road, Ryan, Metropolitan Parkway, Dodge Park, etc. The map also illustrates that a significant number of crashes are occurring at intersections.

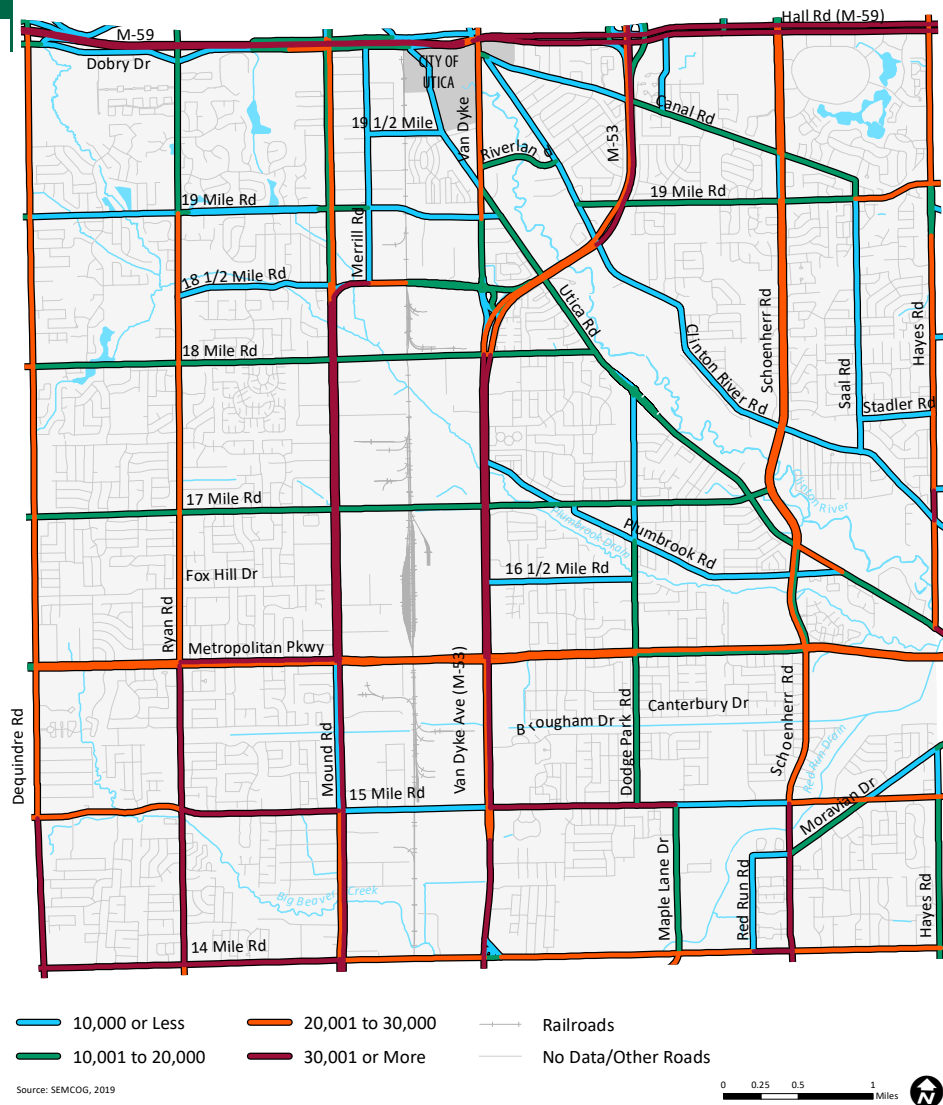
SPEED LIMITS AND TRAFFIC VOLUMES

The perception of risk is strongly considered when people are making decisions about whether or not to walk or bike to a destination. Traffic speeds and volumes are one factor people may use to assess that risk and many times are inversely correlated to levels of walking and cycling. Although studies are showing that traffic volumes appear to have greater impact on leisure cycling than commuter cycling. SEMCOG data from 2019 was used to map existing speed limits and traffic volumes



in Sterling Heights. Generally speaking, the higher speed roads and sometimes the higher volume roads will produce a less encouraging environment, or lower level of comfort, for walking and biking (see **Speed Limits Map** and **Traffic Volumes Map**).

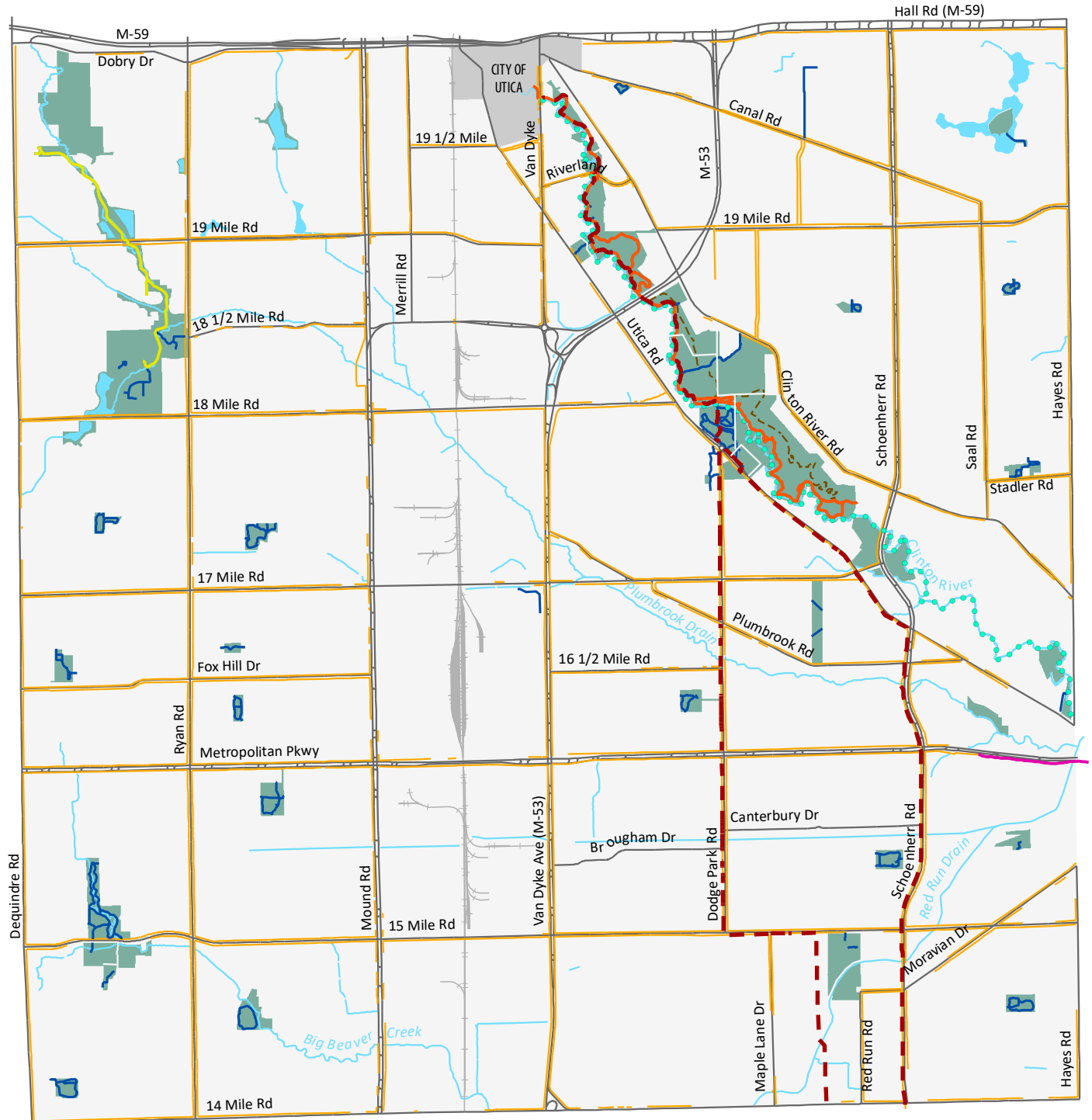
Traffic Volumes (ADT) Map



EXISTING NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES

The existing non-motorized facilities in Sterling Heights are illustrated in relation to parks, public schools, neighborhoods and other publicly owned (non-park) properties on the **Existing Non-Motorized Facilities Map**. The map includes existing sidewalks/safety paths along primary roads, off-road trails, shared use trails and the Clinton River Water Trail. The 7.38 miles of the Michigan Iron Belle Trail that is within Sterling Heights is also highlighted. The map also includes proposed sidewalks, side/safety paths and shared use trails based on current City data (also see **Existing Non-Motorized Facilities Table**).

Existing Non Motorized Facilities Map



Shared Use Trails:

- Clinton River Trail
- Freedom Trail
- Sterling Heights Nature Trail
- Other Shared Use Trails

Other Non Motorized Facilities:

- Iron Belle Trail Route
- Sidewalks/Safety Paths (Along primary roads)
- Off-Road Trails
- ... Clinton River Water Trail

Base Layers:

- City Parks
- Primary Roads
- Railroads
- ~ Water Features
- Water Bodies

- City of Sterling Heights
- City of Utica

May 2021
Source: Wade Trim

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



**Existing Non-Motorized Facilities
City of Sterling Heights, 2021**

Facility Type	Existing Miles
Shared Use Paths	21.40
<i>Clinton River Trail</i>	5.99
<i>Freedom Trail</i>	0.64
<i>Sterling Heights Nature Trail</i>	1.93
<i>Other Shared Use Trails</i>	12.84
Iron Belle Route in Sterling Heights	7.38
Side Paths/Safety Paths/Sidewalks (along primary roads)	138.77
Off-Road Trails	2.43
Clinton River Water Trail	7.52

Source: City of Sterling Heights and Wade Trim, 2021

SIDE PATHS/SAFETY PATHS/SIDEWALKS

There are more than 138 miles of sidepaths, safety paths or sidewalks along the primary roads in Sterling Heights, as is illustrated on the **Existing Non-Motorized Facilities Map**. These facilities are located adjacent to and parallel to the major roads, generally within the road right-of-way. These facilities have been constructed over time in the City and are built at varying widths – typically between 5 to 10 feet wide. Some are built with concrete and resemble a traditional sidewalk, and some sections are 8 or 10 wide asphalt paths. Depending on land use patterns and frequency of curb cuts, side paths may not be safe for bicyclists. Bicyclists are typically not safer on a sidewalk because they become almost invisible to the motorist. When a driver turns, either left or right, or into a driveway or alley, they are not looking for, or expecting to encounter, a bicyclist. If they do look and see a bicyclist they may still underestimate the speed a rider is traveling on the sidewalk - because it will likely be much faster than a pedestrian.



OFF-ROAD TRAILS (NATURE/MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS)

There are approximately 2.4 miles of off-road, dirt nature/mountain trails located within City owned parkland associated with the Clinton River. The Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association (CRAMBA) leads the maintenance and promotion of the trails.

CLINTON RIVER WATER TRAIL

The Clinton River Water Trail is 81.5 miles of river from the Clarkston area in Oakland County, through Sterling Heights and out to Lake St. Clair. There are 7.52 miles of the Clinton River Water Trail within Sterling Heights. Two ADA accessible paddle docks are located in the City, one at Clinton River Park North and a second at Rotary Park. The Clinton River Water Trail is a consortium of interested groups and communities, and is a project of the Clinton River Watershed Council and their WaterTowns initiative.



Clinton River Water Trail - paddle dock at Rotary Park

Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

SHARED USE PATHS

There are more than 21 miles of Shared Use Paths in Sterling Heights. These are off-road trails that are used by both cyclists and pedestrians and are typically within parks such as North and South Clinton River Park. Shared Use Paths in Sterling Heights are typically 8 to 10 feet wide, but in some cases are less. Current AASHTO standards call for new Shared Use Paths to be 10 feet wide with 2 feet of clearance on each side.

Clinton River Trail

The Clinton River Trail and trails connecting to it comprise a significant amount of the Shared Use Paths in the City. The 6 mile (not including secondary/connecting pathways) asphalt paved trail generally follows the east side of the Clinton River and associated floodplain, providing a scenic and natural environment. The trail connects to the City of Utica and a number of Sterling Heights parks and facilities including the Nature Center, Clinton River Park North, Donovan Park, Dodge Park, Farmstead Park, the Senior Center and Clinton River Park South where the trail begins/ends at the ITC utility corridor. The asphalt on the majority of the trail and connections to/from the trail are in good condition. A significant number of locations along the trail flood (as the trail is located within the Clinton River floodplain), with several locations flooding to the extent where it is not passable. In June 2015, there were 10 locations where the trail was flooded, 7 of which were impassable for a casual rider or pedestrian (as noted during June 2015 inventory ride of the trail). There are 3 bridges over the Clinton River where users can access the Clinton River Trail from the west side of the City. These include a bridge over the river on the north side of Riverland Drive, a bridge over the river at the Nature Center, and a bridge over the river at Dodge Park. Some limited wayfinding signage exists along the trail, however many of the map location panels are in poor condition and are offering limited value. However, new wayfinding signage has been designed and is in fabrication to be placed beginning in 2021.



Clinton River Trail

Sterling Heights Nature Trail

The Sterling Heights Nature Trail, newly constructed as part of the *Recreating Recreation* initiative, is a 1.9 mile crushed stone shared use trail connecting Delia Park with the Plumbrook Nature Preserve and Beaumont Medical Campus. Trailhead parking areas are found at the Beaumont Medical Campus (with designated Nature Trail parking spaces) and at Delia Park.

Iron Belle Trail Route

The Department of Natural Resources announced the official name of the Iron Belle Trail in January 2015. The trail (which has two routes) will traverse from Belle Isle Park in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. The Iron Belle includes a 774-mile biking route that heads north from Detroit, through Macomb County and on to northern Oakland County and beyond. The trail encompasses a number of already existing trails to wind its way through Michigan. The Iron Belle Trail routes through the City of Sterling Heights for more than 7 miles via Schoenherr Road, Utica Road and the Clinton River Trail, as is highlighted on the **Existing Non-Motorized Facilities Map**.



Sterling Heights Nature Trail

From south to north, the Iron Belle Trail begins in Sterling Heights at Schoenherr and 14 Mile Road and utilizes an existing 5 foot wide concrete sidewalk along the west side of Schoenherr for 2 miles to 16 Mile Road, including a section of narrow walk that directly abuts the Schoenherr Road bridge over the Red Run Drain. At Metropolitan Parkway (16 Mile Road), the Iron Belle Trail and the Metro Parkway Trail intersect. The Iron Belle Trail continues north along the west side of Schoenherr Road utilizing a 10 foot wide asphalt path that is in poor to fair condition. The Iron Belle route continues north utilizing a pedestrian bridge over the Plum Brook to Utica Road. The route heads west on the south side of Utica Road for approximately 1.3 miles where it crosses Utica Road near the Sterling Heights Community Center and Senior Center. The segment along Utica Road is a combination of concrete and asphalt in good to poor condition and of varying widths between 5 and 10 feet. After the Iron Belle route crosses Utica Road, it crosses the Senior Center drive and continues along the east side of Utica Road into Dodge Park and to the Clinton River Trail via a pedestrian bridge. The condition of the Iron Belle Trail that utilizes the Clinton River Park Trail is described in the Shared Use Path section above.

However, Sterling Heights is working with neighboring communities and regional partners to consider a potential alternative to the Schoenherr Road/Utica Road segment. From south to north, this alternative alignment would utilize the existing ITC corridor between 14 and 15 Mile Roads. As no trail currently exists, this would require the construction of a new shared use path within the ITC corridor and would also require a new pedestrian bridge crossing of the Red Run Drain. The alignment would then run along the south side of 15 Mile Road; currently, 5-foot wide sidewalks exist along this stretch. The alignment would then run along the west side of Dodge Park Road nearly 3 miles to Utica Road and Dodge Park. Much of this stretch is presently 5-foot wide sidewalk; however, the portion nearest Utica Road has been improved to 10-foot wide.

Chapter Footnotes:

1. SEMCOG/Metro Region Non-Motorized Plan, 2014.
2. Washington Post. Brad Plumer. August 7, 2013.
3. SEMCOG Traffic Crash Data. 2010-2014.
4. R. Gellar, Portland Office of Transportation.
5. First Mile, Last Mile. Advocacy Advance. August 2014.



BASIS FOR ACTION



Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation

Many elements must be considered prior to the decision-making process of establishing goals, guidelines and a prioritized capital improvements schedule for the next five years. A community must not base recreation improvement and service decisions solely on the voice of a handful of residents or the needs and wants of community officials, but must also be aware of recreational trends, national standards, community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings. This section attempts to consolidate the various factors that must be acknowledged and the abundance of aspects, perceptions, and ideas that need to be filtered and categorized with the end result of producing the prioritized needs of the community. Because there are so many factors that will ultimately determine needs, caution should be taken to not analyze each piece of information individually, but integrate them all to produce the “big picture.”

RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends occurring nationally may provide insight into activities that can be expected to draw a large number of participants and activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. Organizations such as the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Aspen Institute Project Play conduct national surveys that measure sports participation across the country.

According to the NSGA, based on a 2019 study,¹ the following sports segments experienced growth rates over the past year (ranked by rate of growth):

1. Fitness activities
2. Outdoor activities
3. Wheel sports
4. Team sports
5. Individual sports
6. Personal contact sports
7. Snow sports

The indoor sports segment remained relatively flat, while declining sports segments included open water sports and shooting sports.

Over the last 5 years, according to the NSGA, the fitness activities, open water sports, outdoor activities, and wheel sports segments have experienced increases over the last 5 years, while the individual sports and team sports segments have remained relatively flat. The remaining segments (indoor sports, shooting sports and snow sports) have experienced slight decreases over the last 5 years, but have seemingly flattened out in the most recent years.¹

The State of Play report from 2019, published by the Aspen Institute Project Play,² provides insights into youth sports (ages 6-12) participation trends between 2008 and 2018 (see the **Sports Participation Trends Table**). As shown in the table, the most popular sports in 2018, in terms of total participation, were:

1. Bicycling (4.7 million)
2. Basketball (4.2 million)
3. Baseball (4.1 million)
4. Soccer (Outdoor) (2.2 million)
5. Golf (1.4 million)

Over the past ten years, the sports that saw the highest percentage increase in participation were:

1. Lacrosse (150.0%)
2. Ice hockey (120.0%)
3. Gymnastics (47.8%)
4. Cheerleading (44.4%)
5. Softball (Fast-Pitch) (20.0%)

Conversely, the sports that saw the greatest decline in participation were:

1. Bicycling (-43.3%)
2. Wrestling (-36.4%)
3. Field hockey (-33.3%)
4. Soccer (Outdoor) (-28.8%)
5. Flag Football (-26.7%)

Sports Participation Trends

Children ages 6 to 12 who Participated on a Regular Basis, United States, 2008-2018

Sport	2008	2018	Change, 08-18	Total Participants in 2018 (in millions)
Baseball	16.5%	13.6%	-17.6%	4,100,000
Basketball	16.6%	14.1%	-15.1%	4,200,000
Bicycling	27.7%	15.7%	-43.3%	4,700,000
Cheerleading	1.8% (2013)	2.6%	44.4%	775,000
Field Hockey	0.6% (2013)	0.4%	-33.3%	118,000
Flag Football	4.5%	3.3%	-26.7%	989,000
Tackle Football	3.7%	2.8%	-24.3%	839,000
Golf	5.0%	4.9%	-2.0%	1,400,000
Gymnastics	2.3%	3.4%	47.8%	1,000,000
Ice Hockey	0.5%	1.1%	120.0%	324,000
Lacrosse	0.4%	1.0%	150.0%	296,000
Soccer (Outdoor)	10.4%	7.4%	-28.8%	2,200,000
Softball (Fast-Pitch)	1.0%	1.2%	20.0%	359,000
Swimming (Team)	1.6% (2013)	1.4%	-12.5%	417,000
Tennis	4.1% (2013)	4.3%	4.9%	1,300,000
Track and Field	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	307,000
Volleyball (Court)	2.9%	2.8%	-3.4%	846,000
Wrestling	1.1%	0.7%	-36.4%	218,000

Source: State of Play: Trends and Developments in Youth Sports. The Aspen Institute Project Play. 2019.

NATIONAL PLANNING STANDARDS

In the process of determining and prioritizing needs, it is not only important to understand the national trends in terms of participation levels and popularity, but it is also important to compare the provision of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to standard acreage and facility recommendations is another tool to assist in determining needs within the City of Sterling Heights. However, it should be noted that the latest available national standards were developed in the 1980's and 1990's and may not fully reflect today's needs and trends.

ACREAGE STANDARDS

The National Recreation and Park Association provides a recommended park classification system which recognizes that recreational facilities and open spaces serve various functions. The system categorizes recreational open spaces into various park classifications (see **Recommended Classification System for Parks and Open Spaces Table**). From the perspective of local municipal recreation facilities, the three most basic park classifications are mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks. However, other park classifications are listed which cover specialized recreational facilities, such as large urban parks, sports complexes, special use parks and natural resource areas. Recreation facilities commonly operated by outside entities, such as school parks and regional parks, are also included in the classification system.

Recommended Classification System for Parks and Open Spaces

Local Municipal Recreational Facilities	
Mini-Parks	
General Description	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.
Location Criteria	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.
Size Criteria	Between 2,500 sq.ft. and 1 acre.
Acres per 1,000 Population	0.25 to 0.5
Neighborhood Parks	
General Description	Remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.
Location Criteria	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads & physical barriers.
Size Criteria	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal size.
Acres per 1,000 Population	1.0 to 2.0
Community Parks	
General Description	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
Location Criteria	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance
Size Criteria	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Between 30 and 50 acres.
Acres per 1,000 Population	5.0 to 8.0
Large Urban Parks	
General Description	Serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
Location Criteria	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.
Size Criteria	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
Acres per 1,000 Population	Variable
Sports Complexes	
General Description	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.
Location Criteria	Strategically located community-wide facilities.
Size Criteria	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
Acres per 1,000 Population	Variable
Other Local or Regional Facilities	
School-Park	
General Description	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.
Natural Resource Areas	
General Description	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.
Regional/Metropolitan Park	
General Description	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.
Greenways	
General Description	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.
Special Use	
General Description	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single- purpose use.
Private Park/Recreation Facility	
General Description	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.

Source: Adapted from: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983; Mertes, J. D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.

Based on the park classification standards, and as noted in the Recreation Inventory section of this Plan, the City operates four special use facilities, two large urban parks, two sports complexes, four community parks, 22 neighborhood parks, one mini-park, and one natural resource area and several other City-owned open spaces.

For each park classification, the **Recommended Classification System for Parks and Open Spaces Table** outlines the desirable characteristics relative to size, function and amenities. For mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks, a recommended acreage provision per 1,000 people is also provided. Based on this acreage standard, and the City's population of 134,346 (2020 Census), the following amount of parkland should be provided within the City:

- Between 33.6 and 67.2 acres of mini-parkland
- Between 134.3 and 268.7 acres of neighborhood parkland
- Between 671.7 and 1,074.8 acres of community parkland
- Between 839.7 and 1,377.0 acres of total parkland (all three types combined)

A comparison of the City's existing park acreage against the recommended standard is provided in the **Recreation Acreage Deficiencies Table**. For the purposes of this analysis, sports complexes and large urban parks are included in the classification of community parks. The "all parks" category includes neighborhood parks, community parks, large urban parks, and sports complexes, but does not include natural resource areas or special use facilities. As shown in the table, the City presently contains 0.5 acres of mini parkland acreage, 224.2 acres of neighborhood parkland, and 644.8 acres of community parkland, for a total of 869.5 acres of parkland. Based on the park acreage per population standard, the City of Sterling Heights is deficient in mini parkland and community parkland, but falls within the recommended range for neighborhood parkland. For total parkland, the City falls within the recommended range, but is on the relatively low end of the recommended range.

It should be noted that the acreage standard analysis is based only on City-owned parks. This analysis is important given that the jurisdiction of this Plan covers City-

**Recreation Acreage Deficiencies
City of Sterling Heights, 2020**

Park Type	Acreage Standard per Population	Acreage Range Based on Standard (a)	Existing City Park Acreage	Surplus or Deficiency
Mini Park	0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000	33.6 to 67.2 acres	0.50	Deficiency
Neighborhood Parks	1 to 2 acres per 1,000	134.3 to 268.7 acres	224.20	Higher End of Range
Community Parks	5 to 8 acres per 1,000	671.7 to 1,074.8 acres	644.80	Deficiency
All Parks	6.25 to 10.25 acres per 1,000	839.7 to 1,377.0 acres	869.50	Lower End of Range

Recreation Inventory Source: City of Sterling Heights and Wade Trim, 2021.

Acreage Standard Source: Wade Trim, based on "A Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails", National Recreation and Park Association, 1983 and 1995

Notes: Sports Complexes and Large Urban Parks are classified as Community Parks for the purposes of this analysis; All Parks include Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Large Urban Parks, and Sports Complexes but does not include Natural Resource Areas or Special Use Facilities

Footnotes:

(a) Based on the 2020 Census population of 134,346 for the City of Sterling Heights.

owned parks. However, several other recreation facilities, including school facilities, are located within the City and serve its residents. Also, many parks are located just outside of the boundaries of the City. These recreation facilities should be taken into consideration in combination with the results of the acreage standard analysis for City-owned parks.

PARK SERVICE AREAS

As shown in the **Recommended Classification System for Parks and Open Spaces Table**, each park type is given a typical service area. The extent of the service areas within the City of Sterling Heights based on the NRPA standards is presented in the **Park Classifications and Service Areas Map**.

For mini-parks, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standard is a 0.25 mile service area. The lone mini-park is found in the northern portion of the City and serves the North Van Dyke business district. The remainder of the City is outside of the recommended distance from a mini-park.

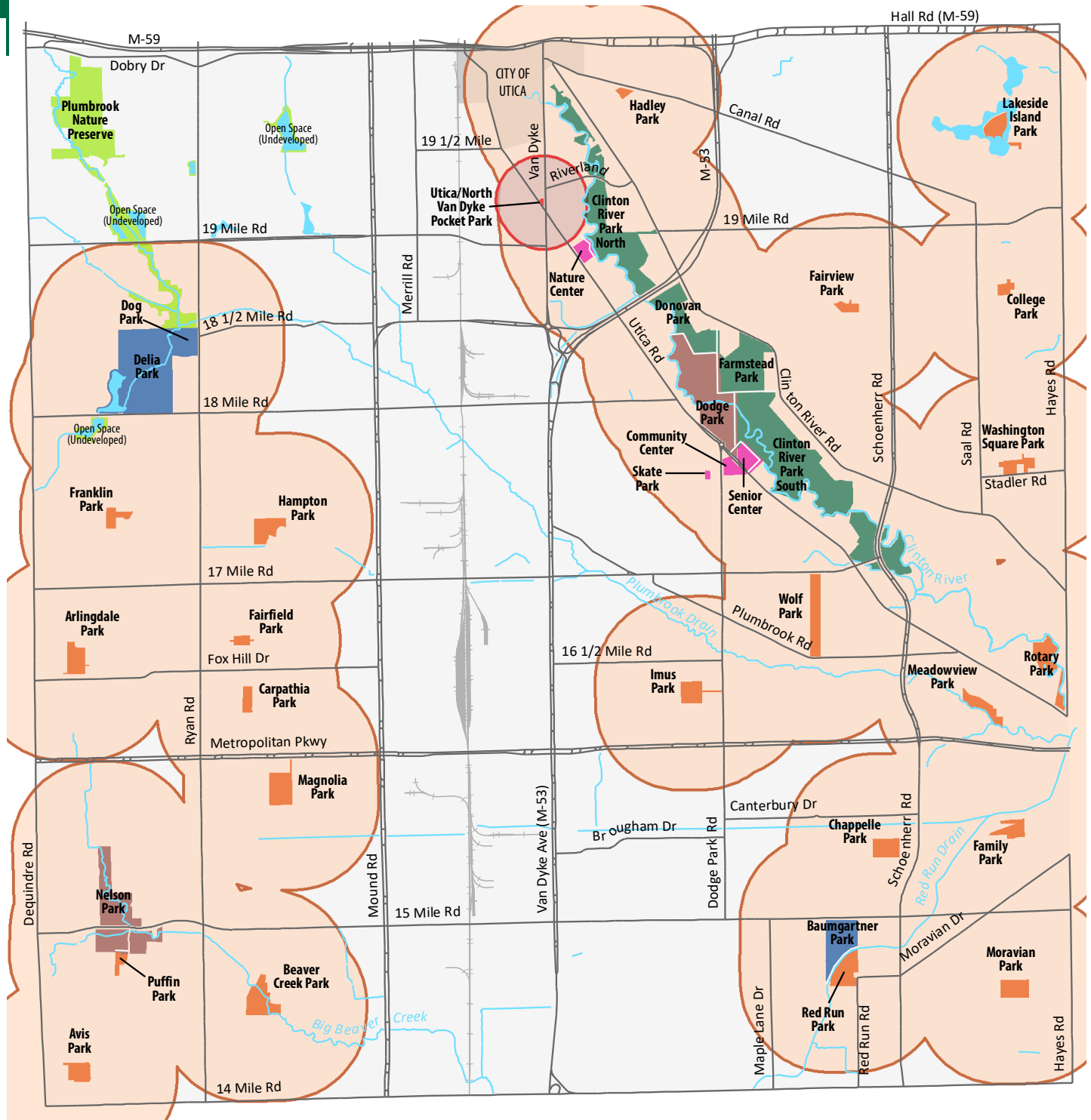
For neighborhood parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.25 to 0.5 mile service area (0.5 miles will be used for the purposes of this analysis). The 0.5 mile neighborhood service radius is shown on the **Park Classifications and Service Areas Map**. (Please note that community parks, large urban parks and sports complexes are included in the radius calculation for neighborhood parks because they function as neighborhood parks to residents within 0.5 mile of the park.) As can be seen, much of the City falls within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park. Neighborhood park gaps presently exist in the northwestern portion of the City (between 19 Mile and M-59), northeastern portion of the City (in the area bounded by M-59, Schoenherr, 19 Mile and M-53), and in the southeastern portion of the City (generally east of M-53 and west of Maple Lane/Dodge Park). The industrial corridor in the central portion of the City is also generally outside of the neighborhood park service radius, but few residents live within this area.

For community parks, the NRPA stipulates a 0.5 to 3 mile service area (3 miles will be used for the purposes of this analysis). Given the number and location of existing community parks within the City, all residents of the City of Sterling Heights are within 3 miles of a community park. (Please note that large urban parks and sports complexes are included in the radius calculation for community parks because they function as community parks to residents within 3 miles of the park.)

Large urban parks and sports complexes, according to the NRPA, usually serve the entire community. Because the City operates two large urban parks and two sports complexes, all residents of the City are located within the service radius of a large urban park and sports complex.

Special use facilities and natural resource areas do not have a specific service area.

City Park Classification and Service Areas Map



Park Classification and Service Areas:

- Large Urban Parks**
Usually serve the entire community
- Sports Complexes**
Usually serve the entire community
- Special Use Facilities**
Service area is variable dependent on specific use
- Natural Resource Areas**
No specific service area

- Community Parks**
3 mile service area. Large Urban Parks and Sports Complexes also function as Community Parks. With these park types combined, all residents of Sterling Heights are within 3 miles of a Community Park.
- Neighborhood Parks & 1/2 Mile Radius**
1/2 mile service area. Large Urban Parks, Sports Complexes, and Community Parks also function as Neighborhood Parks to residents within 1/2 mile.
- Mini Parks & 1/2 Mile Radius**
1/4 mile service area

Base Layers:

- Primary Roads
- Railroads
- Water Features
- Water Bodies
- City of Sterling Heights
- City of Utica

November 2021
Source: Wade Trim

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



FACILITY STANDARDS

The NRPA has also published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas, the number of facilities needed to service the population, as well as the land area needed. Standards for facilities usually located within neighborhood and community parks are provided in the **Recreation Facility Standards Table**.

These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify Sterling Heights' recreation needs.

When examining City-operated recreational facilities, recreation facility deficiencies were found for every facility type except trails, including: basketball courts (-16.5), tennis courts (-52), volleyball courts (-20), baseball/softball fields (-15), field hockey fields (-6), football fields (-5), soccer fields (-3), swimming pools (-6) and ice hockey (-1). The deficiencies noted in this comparison generally indicate the need for additional facility development within the City's park system for most types of facilities. However, it should be noted that this comparison considers only City-operated recreation facilities and does not factor in facilities provided by schools or private facilities. Additionally, the NRPA standards are somewhat dated and may not accu-

Recreation Facility Standards

Activity/Facility	Minimum Space Requirements	Units per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Basketball Court	2,400-3,036 sq.ft. (youth); 5,040-7,280 sq.ft. (high school); 5,600-7,980 sq.ft. (collegiate)	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ Mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access. Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq.ft.	1 per 100,000	½ hour to 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting number of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis Court	7,200 sq.ft. per court; 2 ac. per complex	1 per 2,000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood community park or near school site.
Volleyball Court	4,000 sq.ft.	1 per 5,000	½ - 1 mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access. Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ballfields				
Baseball	3-3.85 acres	1 per 5,000; 1	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex. Softball fields may also be used for youth baseball.
Little League	1.2 acres	lighted field per		
Softball	1.5-2 acres	30,000		
Field Hockey Field	1.5 acres	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, or soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football Field	1.5 acres	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, or soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Soccer Field	1.7-2.1 acres	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Swimming Pool	1 to 2 acres	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Trails	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	N/A

Source: Wade Trim, based on "Suggested Facility Development Standards", National Recreation and Park Association, 1983 and 1995

rately reflect the changing popularity of specific sports and/or specific local preferences for sports within the local area.

**Recreation Facility Deficiencies
City of Sterling Heights, 2021**

Facility	Standard per Population	Existing Within City Parks	Need Based on Standard (a)	Surplus or Deficiency
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	10.5	27	-16.5
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	1	-1
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	15	67	-52
Volleyball Court	1 per 5,000	7	27	-20
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000	12	27	-15
Field Hockey Field	1 per 20,000	0	6	-6
Football Field	1 per 20,000	1	6	-5
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	10	13	-3
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	6	-6
Trails	1 per region	1	1	0

Recreation Inventory Source: City of Sterling Heights and Wade Trim, 2021.

Notes: This analysis includes only City-operated recreation facilities. Other recreation areas within the City may also provide some of the above-listed facilities (i.e. school facilities, private facilities).

Footnotes:

(a) Based on the 2020 Census population of 134,346 for the City of Sterling Heights.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population, density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and policy choices. For example, if the elementary school enrollment in a particular area is growing, there may be a need to plan for more playgrounds and children's programs. Conversely, if the population of the community is aging, more recreational facilities may be needed for senior citizens. This section provides a brief summary of the socioeconomic characteristics of the City of Sterling Heights that may influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

2020 Census statistics, 2019 American Community Survey statistics, and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) forecasts serve as the primary sources of data for this demographics section. Census statistics are presented for the City of Sterling Heights as a whole, but are also presented for the 93 block groups that comprise the City. As a supplement to this analysis, a series of maps have been prepared to illustrate the relevant census data by block group.

CITY POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

Since its incorporation as a City in 1968, the population of Sterling Heights has been growing steadily. A total of 68,064 residents have been added to the population between 1970 and 2010, representing a growth of 110.4%. However, the bulk of this increase occurred in the 1970's, as the population grew by 47,364 residents

during the decade. Since 1980, the City has seen a slow, steady population growth. The City's 2020' population stands at 134,346, a growth of 23.3% since 1980 and a growth of 3.6% since 2010.

According to SEMCOG forecasts, the City's population is projected to continue to grow at a slow, steady pace and is expected to reach 137,756 residents by the year 2045 (2.5% increase from 2020). Recent population gains enjoyed by the City are, in part, attributable to net migration patterns within southeast Michigan, combined with movements to and from areas outside the region.

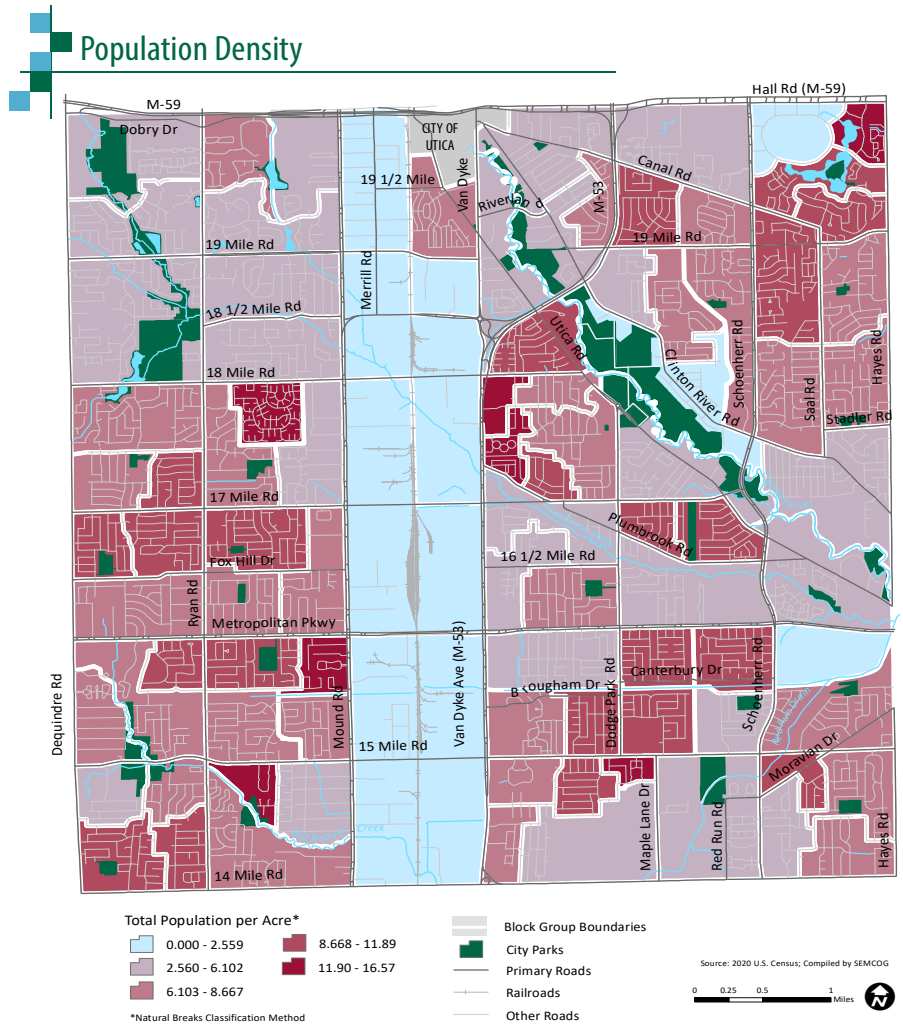
POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY

Population and population density characteristics can have a significant influence on recreation planning. In general, Sterling Heights is a built-out suburban community, making it practical for park facilities to be located throughout the City. However, there are certain portions of the City that have larger or fewer numbers of residents, and at varying densities. The **Population Density Map** shows the population density of the 93 block groups within the City. As shown on the map, the highest population densities are generally found in the following areas:

- The southwestern portion of the City, bounded by Dequindre, 18 Mile, Mound and 14 Mile
- The northeastern portion of the City, bounded by M-53, M-59, Clinton River Road and Hayes Road
- Selected block groups within the south-eastern portion of the City

The lowest population densities are generally found in the following areas:

- The central "industrial spine" of the City, bounded by Dequindre, M-59, Mound and 18 Mile
- In the northwestern portion of the City, bounded by Dequindre, M-59, Mound and 18 Mile



AGE

Knowledge of a community's age distribution plays an important role in the planning of recreation facilities and programs. As mentioned earlier, whether an area is comprised of older or younger citizens will greatly influence such things as the facilities that are most desired within parks.

As of the 2019 American Community Survey, the median age for the City of Sterling Heights stands at 40.6 years. This is an increase from 40.4 years in 2010. In 2010, 19,701 citizens were 65 years or older; this has increased to 23,885 citizens by 2019 (a growth of 21.2%). SEMCOG forecasts anticipate that by 2045, the City of Sterling

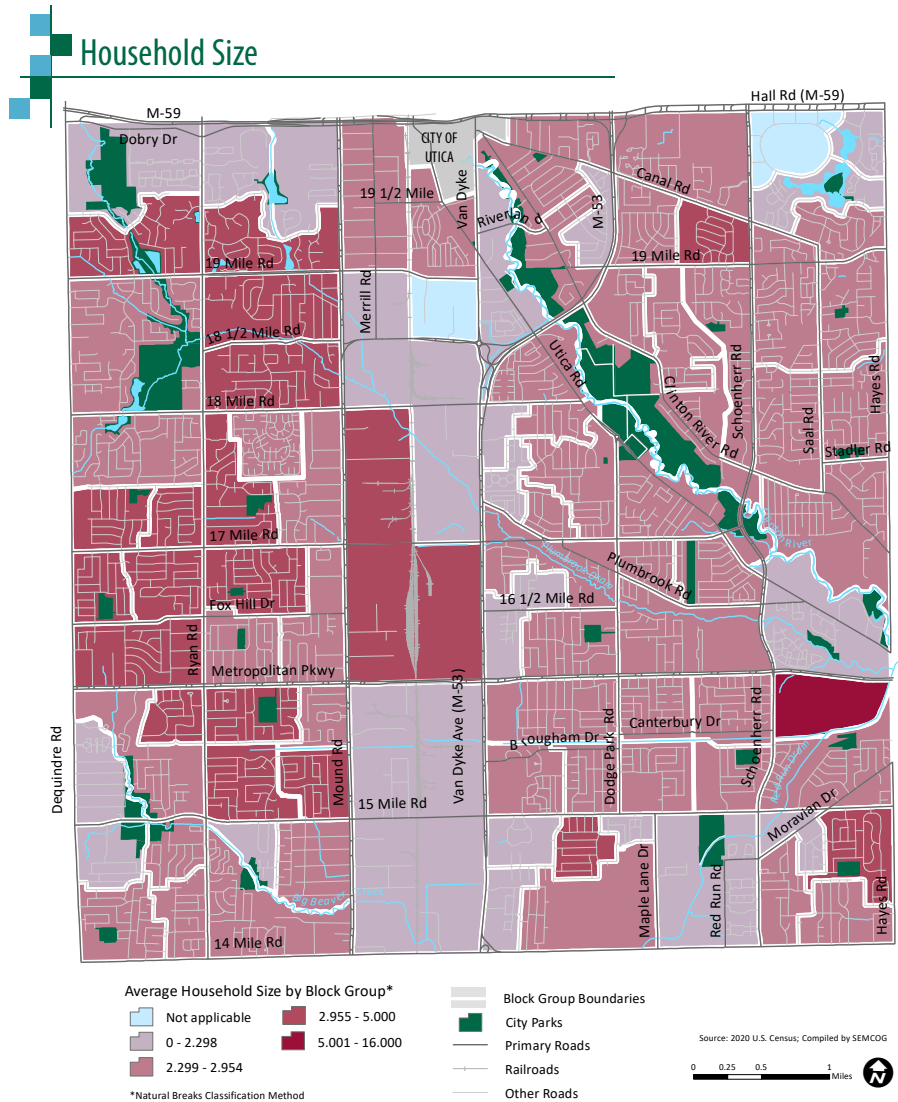
Heights will have 37,414 residents who are 65 years or older, a growth of 56.6% from 2019. These figures are a clear indication of an overall aging population and the need for the City to provide services and amenities to an increasingly aging population.

In 2010, the City included 28,200 citizens who were under 18 years of age. This figure declined to 26,773 by 2019 (a decrease of 5.1%). SEMCOG forecasts that by 2045, the number of citizens who are under 18 years of age will continue to decline to 23,308, a decrease of 12.9% from 2019. Although the youth population within the City is on the decline, the City cannot neglect the needs of this segment of the population, and can seek to provide amenities and services to the younger population segments as a means to maintain and attract younger citizens.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household size is an important factor when making recreation facility and program decisions. A high person per household figure can be an indication that an area is comprised of families with children and thus could justify family or youth oriented recreation facilities. Conversely, an area with a low person per household figure may require recreation facilities more favorable to singles, adults or the elderly. The **Household Size Map** illustrates the average household size by block group within the City of Sterling Heights.

As shown on the map, the pattern of household size by block group within the City is somewhat sporadic. Generally, it can be said that the western half of the City has more block groups with higher household size averages in comparison to the eastern half of the City. However, several outliers exist, such as the block group at the southeast corner of Metropolitan Parkway and Schoenherr Road (notably, this block group has only 16 total citizens).



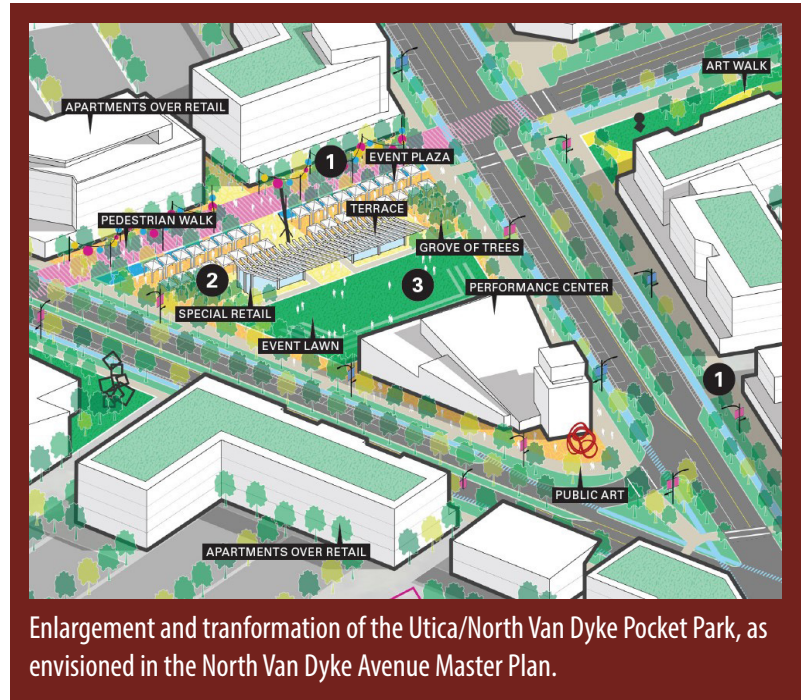
RELATED PLANS AND INITIATIVES

It is also important to understand the context of the existing parks and non-motorized system in Sterling Heights within the County, Region and State in order to make decisions about priorities and future improvements. There are a number of plans and initiatives that directly impact or influence parks non-motorized connections in Sterling Heights. Each initiative is described in further detail below.

NORTH VAN DYKE AVENUE MASTER PLAN (2021)

Adopted in 2021, the North Van Dyke Avenue Master Plan is a bold vision for the transformation of the Van Dyke CIA District, surrounding the intersection of Van Dyke and Utica Roads in the northern portion of the City. The Utica/North Van Dyke Pocket Park is currently located at the northwest corner of this intersection and serves as a passive urban plaza for the users of the business district.

Related to this plan, the North Van Dyke Avenue Master Plan recommends the development of numerous active and passive open spaces and green connectors. These recreation-related improvements would occur over time corresponding to the long-term transformation of the district. The Utica/North Van Dyke Pocket Park is proposed to be expanded in size and developed as an active urban plaza, framed by new multi-story mixed-use development. The enhanced space is envisioned to include amenities such as a performance center, event lawn, terrace, pedestrian walkway, public art installation and additional features.



Enlargement and transformation of the Utica/North Van Dyke Pocket Park, as envisioned in the North Van Dyke Avenue Master Plan.

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MASTER PLAN (2020-2024)

Macomb County completed a 5-year Parks and Natural Resources Master Plan in 2020. The purpose of the plan is to guide recreation and planning efforts in the region and meet necessary MDNR standards for eligibility for grant programs. The Master Plan includes an overall description of the County and overview of the administrative structure and financing for the department, an inventory of County Parks, a summary of public input, goals and objectives, as well as an action program and implementation strategies.

Macomb County maintains the Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheater within the City of Sterling Heights. This facility is located on the south side of Metropolitan Parkway, between Schoenherr and Hayes Roads. Within the 5-year Capital Improvements Plan/Action Plan, Macomb County is planning to undertake improvements to the Ralph Liberato Independence Hall building (hvac updates and restroom facility updates). In addition, Macomb County has established an action plan for numerous system-wide initiatives or focus areas, as follows:

- Barrier free accessibility enhancements
- Park design improvements
- Non-motorized connectivity projects
- Environmental stewardship
- Staffing for efficient administration, operation, programming and maintenance
- Park promotion
- Fundraising
- Public involvement

MACOMB COUNTY BLUE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE VISION (2014)

Embracing the quality of life, placemaking and economic benefits of green infrastructure as well as blue (water-related) infrastructure, Macomb County has identified and adopted a blue and green infrastructure vision of interconnected water routes, trail and natural corridors, recreation areas, walkable downtowns and coastal city hubs. This vision is highlighted in both the 2012 Macomb County Blue Economy Strategic Development plan and the Macomb County Blue & Green Infrastructure Vision Map.



The Blue & Green Infrastructure Vision Map was a result of work completed on the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Plan (2014) where it was recognized that it possessed a great number of interconnected water resources and green space areas. From major community parks to Lake St. Clair, these assets have sustained a natural connection. The County is focused on ensuring that these natural connections remain intact and vibrant. By expanding parkland and refining conservation areas, Macomb County can enlarge its parks and recreation presence. These areas can become prime nodes for recreational programming and enhance the County's environmental stewardship.

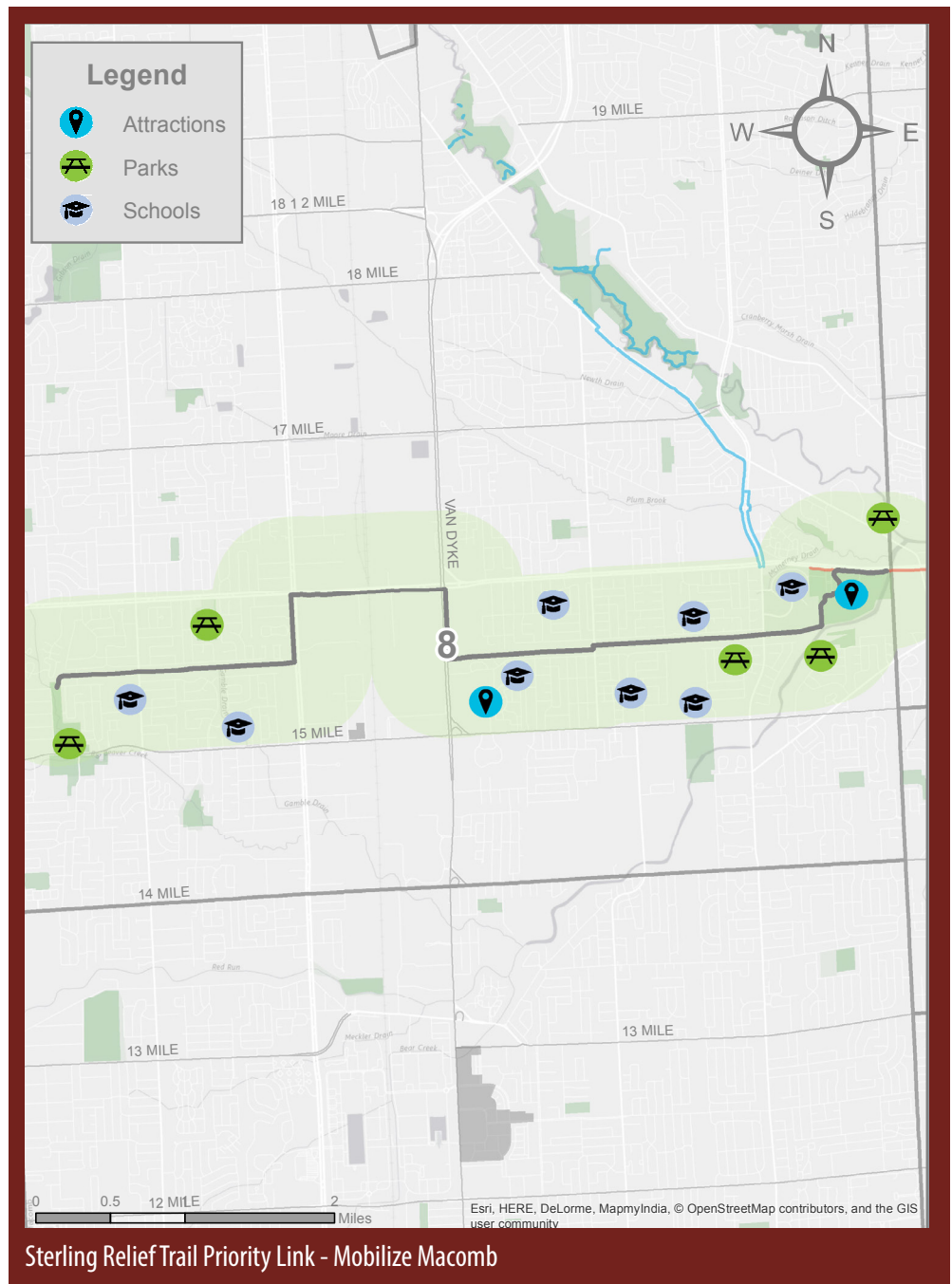
MOBILIZE MACOMB (2017)

Mobilize Macomb is the County's initiative to make Macomb's streets, trails and pathways friendly places for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities. The Plan is working toward encouraging residents to bike and walk to all the great destinations Macomb County has to offer: building connections, identifying gaps, and prioritizing links. The Plan included outreach to a number of stakeholders as well as an online forum for comments and input.

A key component of the Mobilize Macomb plan is the identification of eight "priority links." These priority links were identified based on the projected amount population the link will be able to serve, key assets (attractions) near the link, and financial resources. Of the eight priority links, two are within the City of Sterling Heights. These two priority links within Sterling Heights are described below.

Sterling Relief Trail

The Sterling Relief Trail has been identified as a regional corridor gap and a priority link by Macomb County. This trail has the potential to serve as a major east-west connection, connecting the Iron Belle Trail to the Freedom Trail and the Clinton River Trail. The tentative route will take users from Nelson Park in the western portion of Sterling Heights to Freedom Hill County Park in the eastern portion of Sterling Heights.



From west to east, the tentative route of the Sterling Relief Trail includes:

- Macomb County Drain Commission property east from Nelson Park to Mound Road
- Mound Road right-of-way north to Metropolitan Parkway
- Metropolitan Parkway right-of-way east to Van Dyke Avenue
- Van Dyke Avenue right-of-way south one-half mile
- Macomb County Drain Commission property east to Freedom Hill County Park

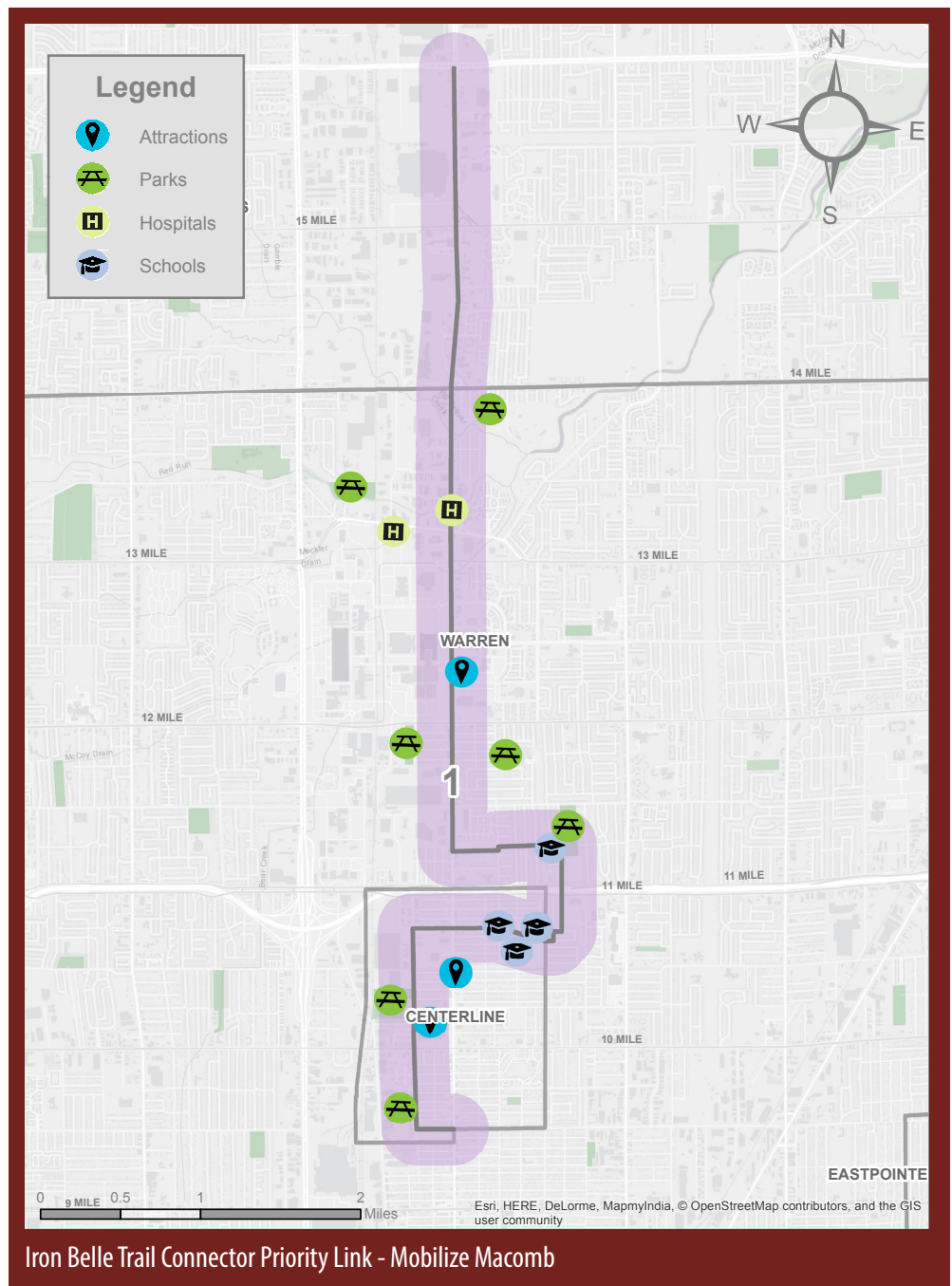
*The Sterling Relief Trail project was debated heavily at the Sterling Heights City Council level and although included in this document as a potential connection opportunity, there is no intent by the City to pursue this project at this time.

Iron Belle Trail Connector

The Iron Belle Trail Connector has been identified as a regional corridor gap and a priority link by Macomb County. An extension of the Conner Creek Greenway from Detroit into Macomb County, this route will connect Warren and Centerline to the rest of the system, build upon an existing greenway, provide north/south access and work as a connection to other major facilities and investments.

The cities of Warren and Center Line have actively worked to construct trail segments from Center Line south to the Macomb County/Wayne County border (8 Mile Road). Building on this momentum, a route connecting north from Center Line through Warren and Sterling Heights to the proposed Sterling Relief Trail is being recommended by Macomb County. This route would serve as a north/south connection to the greater regional trail network nexus at Freedom Hill County Park.

Within Sterling Heights, the tentative route would utilize the Van Dyke Avenue right-of-way from 14 Mile Road north to the proposed Sterling Relief Trail.



MICHIGAN'S IRON BELLE TRAIL

The Department of Natural Resources announced the official name of the Iron Belle Trail in January 2015. The trail (which has two routes) will traverse from Belle Isle Park in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. Proposed by Governor Snyder in 2012, the trail includes a 1,259-mile hiking route that heads west from Detroit and traverses across the state connecting up with the North Country National Scenic Trail. The Iron Belle also includes a 774-mile biking route that heads north from Detroit, through Macomb County and on to northern Oakland County and beyond. The trail encompasses a number of already existing trails to wind its way through Michigan.

Within Sterling Heights, the existing Clinton River Trail serves as the Iron Belle Trail route from the City of Utica to Dodge Park. From Dodge Park south to the Sterling Heights southern border (14 Mile Road), the Iron Belle Trail route is incomplete. Two alternative routes are being considered to connect from Dodge Park to the south city border, as follows:

Alternative 1

- Utica Road right-of-way southeast to Schoenherr Road
- Schoenherr Road right-of-way south to 14 Mile Road

Alternative 2

- Dodge Park Road right-of-way south to 15 Mile Road
- 15 Mile Road right-of-way east one-half mile
- ITC utility right-of-way south to 14 Mile Road

The MDNR is leading the effort and partners on the project include MDOT, the Michigan Trails Advisory Council, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, and the City of Sterling Heights.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (SEMCOG)

A Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for SEMCOG and the Michigan Department of Transportation Metro Region was completed in 2014. The Plan provides a framework for promoting bicycle and pedestrian travel through 10 regional strategies and over 60 actions. The project includes maps of existing and planned facilities and corridors. The Regional Non-motorized Corridors and Gaps in Macomb County Map highlights several priorities within Sterling Heights including the Clinton River Trail Corridor, Schoenherr Road, Metropolitan Parkway/Big Beaver Corridor and the Red Run Drain Corridor. These corridors serve as the primary arteries that connect to other more local corridors. The SEMCOG Plan recognizes that the plan is a living document and the regional corridors may change over time and facilities may need upgrading to accommodate more users.

PUBLIC INPUT

In the development of the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan, the City solicited citizen input through several means. This included an online citizen survey, virtual focus group discussions and in-person focus group discussions. A description of each is provided below. Additionally, the Sterling Heights City Council held a public hearing once a draft plan was prepared.

ONLINE CITIZEN SURVEY

An online Park, Recreation & Non-Motorized Planning Survey was facilitated in October 2021 as a means to engage the community and develop a better understanding of citizen needs, deficiencies and opportunities related to recreation. The survey was well publicized and solicited responses from 920 citizens.

The complete results of the survey are presented in the **Appendix**. A summary of the key results follows.

Profile of Survey Respondents

Of the respondents, more than 90% were citizens of Sterling Heights, and more than half have lived in the City for more than 20 years. In terms of age, there was a relatively even distribution of respondents across the various age segments, with the 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 years and older age segments ranging between a low of 17% and a high of 23% of respondents. The youngest age groups (12 and under, 13 to 18, and 19 to 24) had the lowest percentages of respondents, collectively at less than 3% of the total. The geographic distribution of respondents was relatively evenly distributed. With the City divided into four quadrants (separated by 17 Mile east/west and Van Dyke north/south), the northeast quadrant drew the largest percentage of respondents at 42%, followed by south-east (27%) and northwest (13%). The lowest percentage of respondents (11%) live in the southwest quadrant.

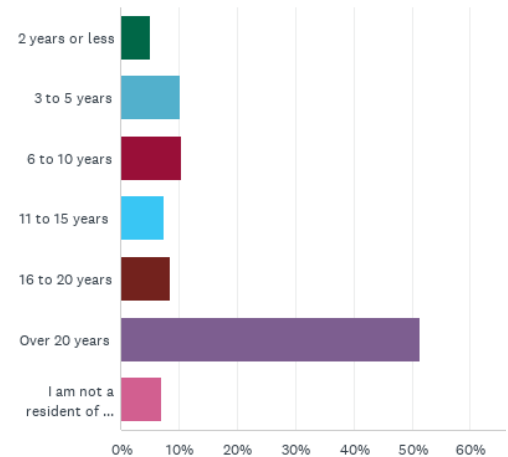


General Recreation Questions

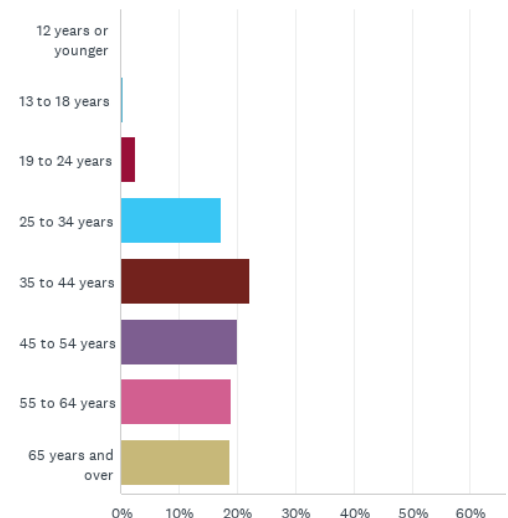
A series of questions were posed to assess the status of recreation generally being provided within the City. Overall, the respondents looked favorably on the availability and quality of park facilities and programs, and the effectiveness of the City's provision of parks and recreation.

When asked about the job being done providing recreational programs and facilities in the City, nearly 85% of respondents said excellent (39%) or good (46%). Only 2% of respondents said poor.

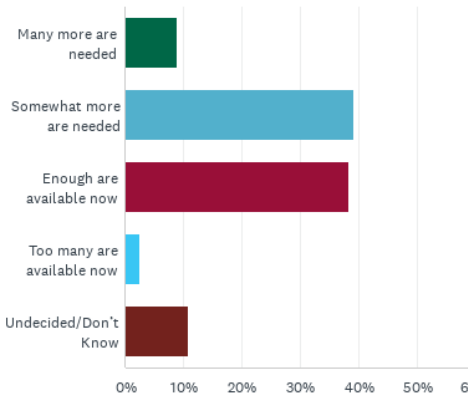
How many years have you lived in the City of Sterling Heights?



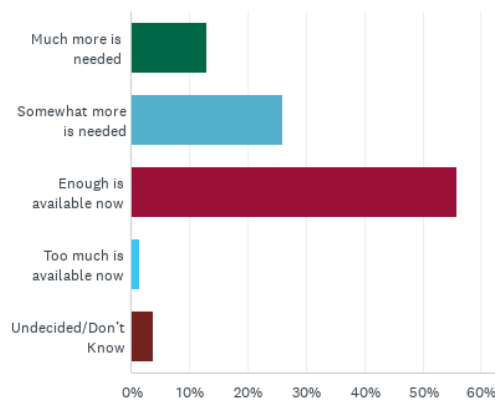
Please indicate the range in which your age falls.



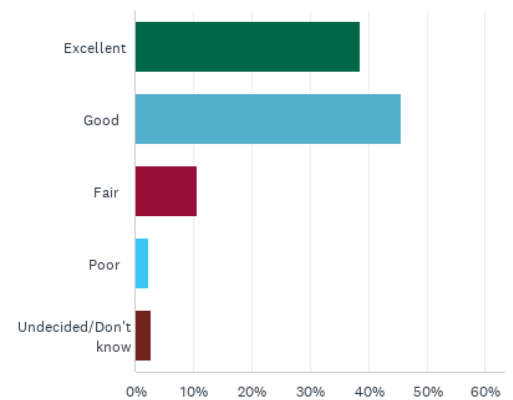
Thinking about the number of recreational programs, activities and facilities provided in the City of Sterling Heights, do you believe that overall...



Thinking about the number of parks in the City of Sterling Heights, do you believe that overall...



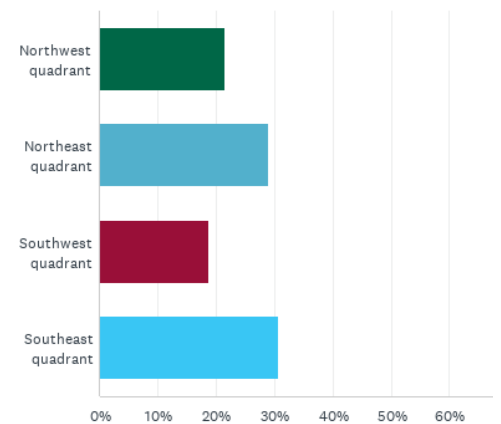
Overall, how would you rate the job being done providing recreational programs and facilities in the City of Sterling Heights?



Respondents were asked to compare the City's provision of parks and recreation programs and facilities to those being provided in neighboring cities or other parts of Southeast Michigan. In response, more than half of respondents indicated much better or somewhat better. Less than 10% of respondents indicated somewhat worse or much worse.

When asked about the number of recreational programs, activities and facilities, 39% of respondents felt that somewhat more are needed, while 38% felt that enough are available now. When asked about the number of parks within the City, more than 55% felt that enough are available now, while 26% felt that somewhat more are needed. Respondents were asked if there was a specific location in the City where more parkland should be developed, with the City's four quadrants as answer choices. The largest percentage of respondents said the southeast quadrant (31%), but the overall responses were fairly evenly distributed.

Is there a specific location within the City where you think more parkland should be set aside and developed?

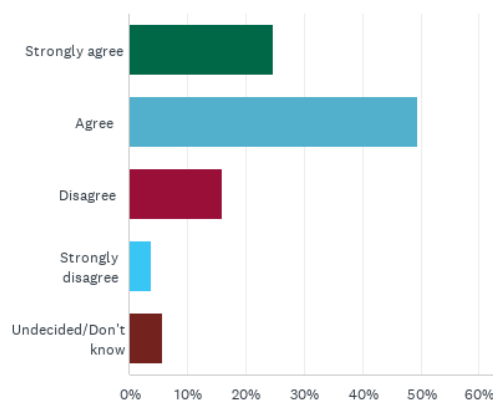


Recreation Access

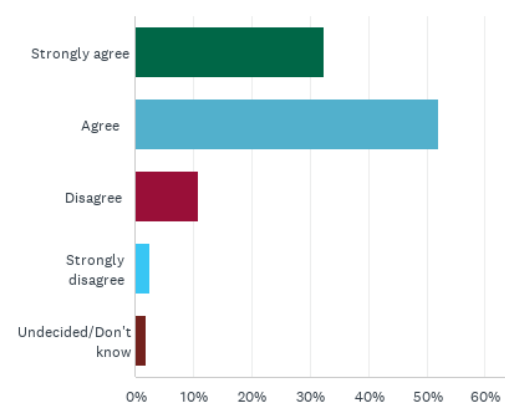
The survey posed several questions about access to recreation within the City. Asked whether it is convenient and safe to walk and bike within their neighborhood, respondents overwhelmingly agreed. Related to walking, only 13% disagreed. Related to biking, only 20% disagreed.

Most respondents either agreed (46%) or strongly agreed (27%) that it is convenient and safe to access the nearest City park by walking or biking from their home. Less than 25% disagreed. Most respondents either agreed (44%) or strongly agreed (24%) that it is convenient and safe to access

What is your level of agreement with the following statement: It is convenient and safe for me to ride bikes recreationally in my neighborhood.



What is your level of agreement with the following statement: It is convenient and safe for me to walk recreationally on sidewalks, trails, or streets in my neighborhood.



the nearest non-motorized pathway by walking or biking from their home. Less than 30% disagreed. Yet, when asked how people most commonly get to parks and recreation facilities within the City, 57% said car, while only 21% said bicycle and only 19% said walk.

Survey respondents were asked about the most common barriers they face when trying to access City parks or park facilities. An open-ended question, common responses included:

- Limited parking at certain parks and during certain peak times
- Congestion within certain parks at certain peak times
- Vehicular traffic on main roads hindering comfort and safety of pedestrian and/or bicycle travel
- Lack of pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, bike lanes, safe road crossings, benches to rest, etc.)
- Barriers or obstructions on pedestrian facilities, such as flooding, debris, overgrown vegetation etc.
- Distance from their house to the nearest park or non-motorized trail
- Limited access for persons with disabilities

Persons with Disabilities and Adaptive Recreation

Of all respondents, 6% indicated that a member of their household has a disability that limits access to city parks or park facilities. Of these respondents, the most common type of disability was a physical disability (81%), followed by illness (19%), cognitive disability (13%), learning disability (11%) and visual impairment (11%).

When reviewing the open-ended responses from the survey, the following type of comments were commonly noted as it relates to accessibility and adaptive recreation:

- Provide more programming opportunities for persons with disabilities
- Provide more park facilities designed for persons with disabilities
- Need for designated drop-off and pick-up areas for persons with physical disabilities
- Need for more handicapped parking spaces during special events

Activities, Programs and Facilities

A series of questions were asked to better understand desires and needs related to specific types of activities, programs and park facilities. Participants were asked to indicate their current participation and interest in certain **physical recreation activities**. The top 10 physical recreation activities in which respondents currently participate, were:

1. Hiking/walking (76%)
2. Bicycling (42%)
3. Running/jogging (29%)
4. Ice skating (24%)
5. Mountain biking (23%)
6. Canoeing/kayaking (22%)
7. Golf (19%)
8. Fishing (18%)
9. Swimming (18%)
10. Rollerblading (11%)

The top 5 **physical recreation activities** in which respondents don't currently participate, but have a future interest in participating, were:

1. Canoeing/kayaking (56%)
2. Swimming (54%)
3. Archery/shooting (38%)
4. Fishing (35%)
5. Cross country skiing (35%)

The top 5 **physical recreation activities** in which respondents neither participated nor had an interest in participating, were:

1. Lacrosse (84%)
2. Field hockey (80%)
3. Cricket (79%)
4. In-line hockey (79%)
5. Football (76%)

Participants were also asked to indicate their current participation and interest in certain **non-sport recreational activities**. The top 5 non-sport recreation activities in which respondents currently participate, were:

1. Concerts & special events (54%)
2. Fitness classes (17%)
3. Arts & craft classes (14%)
4. Educational & instructional classes (8%)
5. Plays & other stage productions (5%)

The top 3 **non-sport recreation activities** in which respondents don't currently participate, but have a future interest in participating, were:

1. Educational & instructional classes (66%)
2. Fitness classes (59%)
3. Arts & craft classes (54%)

The top 3 **non-sport recreation activities** in which respondents neither participated nor had an interest in participating, were:

1. E-sports leagues (77%)
2. Teen classes and activities (65%)
3. Outdoor youth camps (61%)

Respondents were given a listing of various types of **recreational facilities** and were asked to indicate whether more of such facilities should be developed or if enough of such facilities are available. Respondents indicated that more of the following recreational facilities should be developed (top 10):

1. Swimming pools (indoor) (65%)
2. Nature areas (58%)
3. Hiking/walking trails (57%)
4. Swimming pools (outdoor) (57%)
5. Multi-use pathways (53%)
6. Sledding hills (52%)
7. Canoe/kayak launches (41%)
8. Picnic pavilions (41%)
9. Fishing piers (41%)
10. Spray parks/splash pads (36%)



56% of survey respondents indicated a future interest in participating in canoeing/kayaking - more than any other physical recreation activity.

FOCUS GROUPS

A series of focus group discussions were held as a means to garner more in-depth feedback related to parks and recreation within the City of Sterling Heights. To identify focus group participants, the City issued a “call” within its bi-weekly newsletter. Numerous citizens responded and were able to participate in the discussions.

A total of six focus group discussions were facilitated, each related to a specific topic, as follows:

- Recreation and park facilities
- Non-motorized facility needs
- Adaptive recreation/accessibility needs
- Adult and family programming
- Age 50+ facilities and programming
- Teen facilities and programming

Five of the six discussions were held virtually, while the teen facilities and programming focus group discussion was conducted as part of a Sterling Heights Youth Advisory Board meeting.

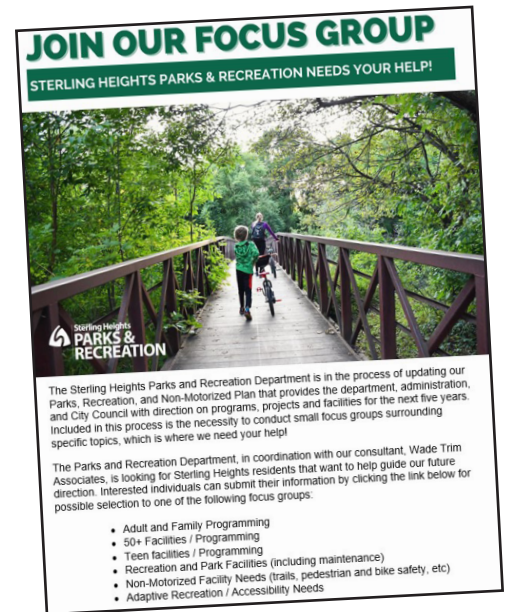
More detailed notes from each focus group discussion are included in the **Appendix**. Although each discussion revolved around a specific topic, there was considerable overlap of ideas and comments across the groups. A summary of the key results follows, organized by identified deficiencies/needs and ideas/opportunities.

Deficiencies/Needs

- With so many opportunities and choices, many participants expressed the need for additional information about parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs and special events generally available throughout the City.
- Need for more education and signage about trail use, safety and etiquette
- Maintenance issues related to trails and flooding - trail muddiness
- Numerous sidewalk gaps need to be fixed
- Need more activities and programs for older teenagers (age 14 to 18) and young- to middle-aged adults
- Popularity and high-use of the community center at peak times results in difficulty accessing facilities and programs. Difficult to access facilities if not part of a City-affiliated activity or program.
- Popularity and high-use of certain facilities at Dodge Park at certain times, particularly the basketball court, mini-soccer field and ice-skating rink, resulting in long wait times for participation.
- Congestion at Dodge Park when special events are held, deterring people from attending due to the crowdedness and/or lack of parking
- Need for more and/or better located ADA parking for special events
- Need for age 50+ programming that caters to more “active” lifestyles

Ideas/Opportunities

- Additional educational/informational signage along non-motorized facilities



- Additional signage for trail use and safety protocols for the sharing of trails between walkers, runners and bikers
- Add recycling facilities (receptacles) at City parks
- Monitor park facility use and add more of the most popular park facilities at different locations. An example of a popular facility commonly cited was the mini-soccer field at Dodge Park.
- Consider new/more park facilities for those activities which are growing in popularity, such as bocce ball, pickleball and disc golf.
- Offer a “wellness fair” with vendors with wellness information and other topics relevant to the age 50+ population
- Consider a seniors visiting seniors program, to reduce isolation
- Offer more winter recreation opportunities and programs. Ideas included a snowman making contest, snow sledding contest, holiday shows, holiday fundraiser for persons in need, and a pop-up holiday market

Chapter Footnotes:

1. NSGA Sports Participation Study Shows Growth in 2019. NSGA. Website accessed November 2021. <https://nationalsportsmedia.org/news/nsga-sports-participation-study-shows-growth-in-2019>
2. State of Play: Trends and Developments in Youth Sports. The Aspen Institute Project Play. 2019.

ACTION PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

The Action Program details the direction that the City of Sterling Heights wishes to take over the next five years (2022-2026) in order to improve the quality and diversity of recreation facilities and services, as well as non-motorized facilities within the community. The Action Program is intended to be a visioning document that will bring people together and generate enthusiasm and civic pride. Overarching goals, as well as topic-specific goals and objectives have been established to direct the parks and recreation program and the scheduling of capital improvements to implement the master plan.

Factors considered for this parks, recreation and non-motorized planning program are:

- Expected demand and need for future recreation activities
- Comparison of existing City parks and recreation facilities and programs with national trends and published standards
- Gaps in the existing non-motorized network and opportunities for future connections
- Results from the community engagement opportunities held during the development of the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan
- Needs and priorities identified by City officials, departments and staff
- Funding sources and availability

The City of Sterling Heights must continually seek creative and innovative ways to maximize resources and provide diverse and high quality recreation opportunities and facilities for its citizens. The City recognizes the vital role parks facilities and non-motorized connections play in stabilizing neighborhoods and the community. The City also understands that investment in the parks and non-motorized system is necessary for Sterling Heights to be a place where people and businesses are proud to call home. The provision of diverse and quality recreation, parks, open space and non-motorized facilities will continue to demand the dedication and attention of all stakeholders.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives were developed to assist in providing direction to City Council, City management, the Parks and Recreation Department, and other departments and staff as it relates to the provision of parks and recreation. Goals are long-term ideals or end products that are desired. Objectives for each goal have been developed to outline more specific actions that will assist in meeting the goal. The goals and objectives are intended to be as important as the capital improvement priorities.

OVERALL GOALS

1. The City of Sterling Heights strives to become a sustainable place, meaning that it is economically, environmentally and culturally sustainable. Recreation policy decisions should reflect careful consideration of all three factors. Decisions made today should benefit – not burden- future generations.
2. Enhance and increase the quality of life for the residents of Sterling Heights by providing a full range of recreation programs and facilities, open spaces, natural features, and non-motorized pathways to meet their recreational needs.
3. Support and encourage accessibility to and within City parks, as well as development of the local, county and regional non-motorized systems.
4. Provide open space and recreational opportunities through a combination of both major and neighborhood park sites which are easily accessible to the populations that they are intended to serve.
5. Provide a consistent level of funding to support the maintenance of the current facilities and the development of new facilities throughout the community.
6. Conserve existing biodiversity and features and explore opportunities to increase the area's ecological value and our access to nature.

PROGRAMMING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal P1 Continue the evaluation of all programs and adjust the type and format of programs to suit the needs of the residents.

Objective P1.1 Maintain participation figures for all programs in order to establish trends over time. Monitor trends for the purpose of forecasting future needs.

Objective P1.2 Facilitate regular discussions with citizens and stakeholders to monitor deficiencies, needs and ideas for improvement. Build upon the momentum accomplished through the focus group discussions as part of this planning process.

Objective P1.3 Maintain existing lines of communication to citizens and explore additional strategies and methods to communicate the availability and timing of programs and special events.

Goal P2 Improve existing programs.

Objective P2.1 Develop appropriate facilities and programs for the adults, youth, teens and senior citizens of the City.

Objective P2.2 Maintain affordable rates for program participation.

Objective P2.3 Continue good public relations for special events.

Objective P2.4 Continue to offer programs that accommodate adults and children with disabilities.

Goal P3 Create new programs.

Objective P3.1 Continually add program selections with respect to new trends and interest.

Objective P3.2 Add facilities that will allow for program growth.

RECREATION LAND AND FACILITIES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal R1 Provide recreation land in the form of special use facilities, large urban parks, sports complexes, community parks, neighborhood parks and mini-parks, which is convenient and accessible to all residents.

Objective R1.1 Be aware of real estate that may become available for use and/or expansion of public recreation areas, particularly in those areas of the City that are currently under served, and properties no longer utilized by the school districts, or other agencies within or adjacent to the City.

Objective R1.2 Consider acquisition of the former Fillmore Elementary School site for development as a new neighborhood park within an area that is currently under served by City park facilities.

Objective R1.3 Provide neighborhood park facilities for each of the City's neighborhoods, especially in deficient areas.

Objective R1.4 Evaluate underutilized public and private properties for possible City use as recreation facilities and/or parks.

Objective R1.5 Continue developing undeveloped neighborhood park sites where they currently exist.

Goal R2 Provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that meet the diverse recreation needs of Sterling Heights residents.

Objective R2.1 Build upon the momentum of the highly successful *Recreating Recreation* capital improvement program by continuously monitoring indoor and outdoor facility park use and needs, looking for areas where adjustments may be necessary to facilitate efficient facility access and use, with a focus on long-term maintenance and preservation of park facilities.

Objective R2.2 Continue the enhancement and development of the City's major park sites, including Dodge Park, Delia Park, Nelson Park, Baumgartner Park, Farmstead Park and Clinton River Park (North and South).

Objective R2.3 Provide high quality athletic and ancillary facilities for organized team play at major parks, including practice facilities.

Objective R2.4 Add new facilities which are presently not found within the community, or construct more of the most heavily utilized facilities, such as pickleball, mini-soccer, or disc golf.

Objective R2.5 Upgrade and/or add new amenities at community and neighborhood parks to support park users. Typical new or upgraded amenities would include picnic tables, trash enclosures, recycling bins, benches, bike racks, lighting, and restrooms.

Objective R2.6 Explore partnerships with public and private entities for additional access to indoor swimming pools for daily use by residents.

Goal R3 Improve, enhance, and protect open spaces and natural features throughout the City.

Objective R3.1 Utilize the City's existing natural features (woodlands, wetlands and floodplains), especially those within the Clinton River corridor and in Sections 5 and 6, for open space and recreation purposes.

Objective R3.2 Design storm water drainage improvements so that they can be a recreational and open space asset.

Objective R3.3 Maintain a program of tree planting at City parks.

Objective R3.4 Consider acquisition of the environmentally significant properties bounded by 17 Mile, Utica and Schoenherr Roads for open space preservation.

Goal R4 Incorporate recreation facilities into future plans for residential development.

Objective R4.1 Encourage new developments to reserve park and open space through planning and zoning requirements.

Goal R5 Maintain a balanced system of parks and open spaces by having well operated and maintained facilities.

Objective R5.1 Maintain a sustainable funding source for annual maintenance.

Objective R5.2 Continue the scheduling of operations, including quarterly inspections, to ensure all parks and facilities are neat in appearance and well operated and maintained.

Objective R5.3 All improvements and additions to parks should be done so with long-term maintenance in mind including materials and placement.

Objective R5.4 Design parks and facilities that deter vandalism. Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles such as use of transparent building materials, lighting, maintaining views, etc.

Objective R5.5 Collaborate with City operations and neighborhoods to enhance security and use in parks by both organized private and public programs and activities.

Objective R5.6 Encourage community cooperation to restore and maintain existing recreation facilities through community “clean up” days, “adopt-a-park” programs, and engaging students and like-minded community groups.

Objective R5.7 Construct a properly-sized park maintenance and storage building in a strategic location to enhance and improve overall park and trail maintenance efforts.

CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal C1 Continue to complete pedestrian sidewalk and safety path gaps along major corridors within the City.

Objective C1.1 Prioritize sidewalk gap completion focusing on those that are near and/or connect users to parks, trail systems, schools and retail areas.

Goal C2 Elevate the importance of pedestrians and cyclists throughout the City, particularly on designated pedestrian/bike oriented streets as documented on the **Action Program Map**.

Objective C2.1 When designated pedestrian/bike oriented streets are in need of repair or reconstruction, ensure the needs of peds/bikes are accentuated. Consider design elements to increase comfort and safety of peds/bikes such as: mid-block crossings, refuge islands, wide paved shoulders, protected bike lanes, wide sidewalks, tree plantings, medians, bioswales, etc.

Goal C3 Support and encourage the development of the regional non-motorized network within the City and surrounding communities.

Objective C3.1 Coordinate with SEMCOG, the MDNR, Macomb County and adjacent communities to elevate the awareness of the Iron Belle Trail route through Sterling Heights including consistent width, material, road crossings design as well as wayfinding and route confirmation signage.

Objective C3.2 Coordinate with Macomb County and adjacent communities to evaluate specific routes and construct the proposed Sterling Relief Trail and the Iron Belle Trail Connector “priority links”, consistent with the Mobilize Macomb Non-Motorized Plan.

Objective C3.3 Develop a non-motorized Wayfinding Signage Plan for the Iron Belle Route, Clinton River Path, Clinton River Water Trail, and various destinations within and around the City. Include incorporation of emergency markers.

Objective C3.4 Evaluate the intersection of Metropolitan Parkway and Schoenherr Road for highly visible design treatments to raise awareness and improve the safety of two state and regionally significant trail systems.

Goal C4 Expand the network of off-road, shared use trails within the City

Objective C4.1 In order to understand feasibility and cost, develop preliminary plans for 10’ wide shared use trails as noted on the **Action Program Map**.

Objective C4.2 Seek MDNR Trust Fund and/or MDOT/SEMCOG Transportation Alternative Program, as well as Safe Routes to School grants to assist in implementation.

Objective C4.3 Consider and investigate a special millage for design, construction and maintenance of safety paths, sidewalks and trails.

Goal C5 Continue to focus on improving barrier-free and universal accessibility at all City facilities and parks including access to picnic tables, grills, paths, playing fields, parking areas, restrooms, play equipment, etc.

Objective C5.1 All improvements designed on City properties should consider universal accessibility principles and practices.

Objective C5.2 Encourage and support staff to keep apprised of current state and federal recreation guidelines and standards.

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal M1 Investigate innovative ways to fund and reduce the costs of providing programs.

Objective M1.1 Apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs.

Objective M1.2 Continue the commitment to fiscal responsibility by exploring and seeking avenues to generate alternative revenue sources through donations, fees, foundations and partnerships.

Objective M1.3 Offer and develop programs and facilities that generate revenue that can be put back into the parks and recreation system.

Objective M1.4 Seek opportunities to incorporate recreation improvements into larger City projects in order to leverage dollars and ensure efficiency.

Goal M2 Provide necessary staffing and administrative infrastructure at levels commensurate with national standards, program needs and maintenance needs to support the expansion of recreation opportunities.

Objective M2.1 Work to aggressively expand the volunteer base to assist in maintenance, programming, beautification, etc.

Goal M3 Continue to market recreation services to potential users through a variety of media.

Goal M4 Create mechanisms to maintain positive public relations.

Objective M4.1 Continue to encourage public input.

Objective M4.2 Continue working with neighborhoods to build partnerships and create a sense of ownership at neighborhood parks.

Goal M5 Continue and improve coordination with other organizations.

Objective M5.1 Continue working and cooperate with Utica Community Schools, Warren Consolidated Schools, the City of Warren, Macomb County, the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority and community groups to establish cooperative agreements for the protection, maintenance and use of recreation sites, and the delivery of recreation opportunities

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The overarching Action Program recommendations are introduced and summarized in this section. Following this section, a detailed schedule of proposed parks and non-motorized improvements is presented in the Capital Improvements Schedule. Additionally, many of the overarching recommendations are highlighted on the **Action Program Map** (Parks & Non-Motorized Facility Improvements).

PARKS AND RECREATION

Following the success of the *Recreating Recreation* dedicated parks and recreation millage and capital improvement program build-out, the City seeks to continue the momentum for providing its residents with a diverse mix of year-round recreational opportunities. This has led to the identification of numerous proposed improvements and enhancements at City parks facilities. The location of these proposed improvements are highlighted on the **Action Program Map** and specific improvement projects are listed in the Capital Improvements Schedule.

All Parks Improvements

All developed City parks are proposed for miscellaneous enhancements for the benefit and convenience of park users. These enhancements include the addition of amenities such as picnic tables, trash enclosures, recycling bins, benches and bike racks. Tree planting is also proposed throughout the City parks system.

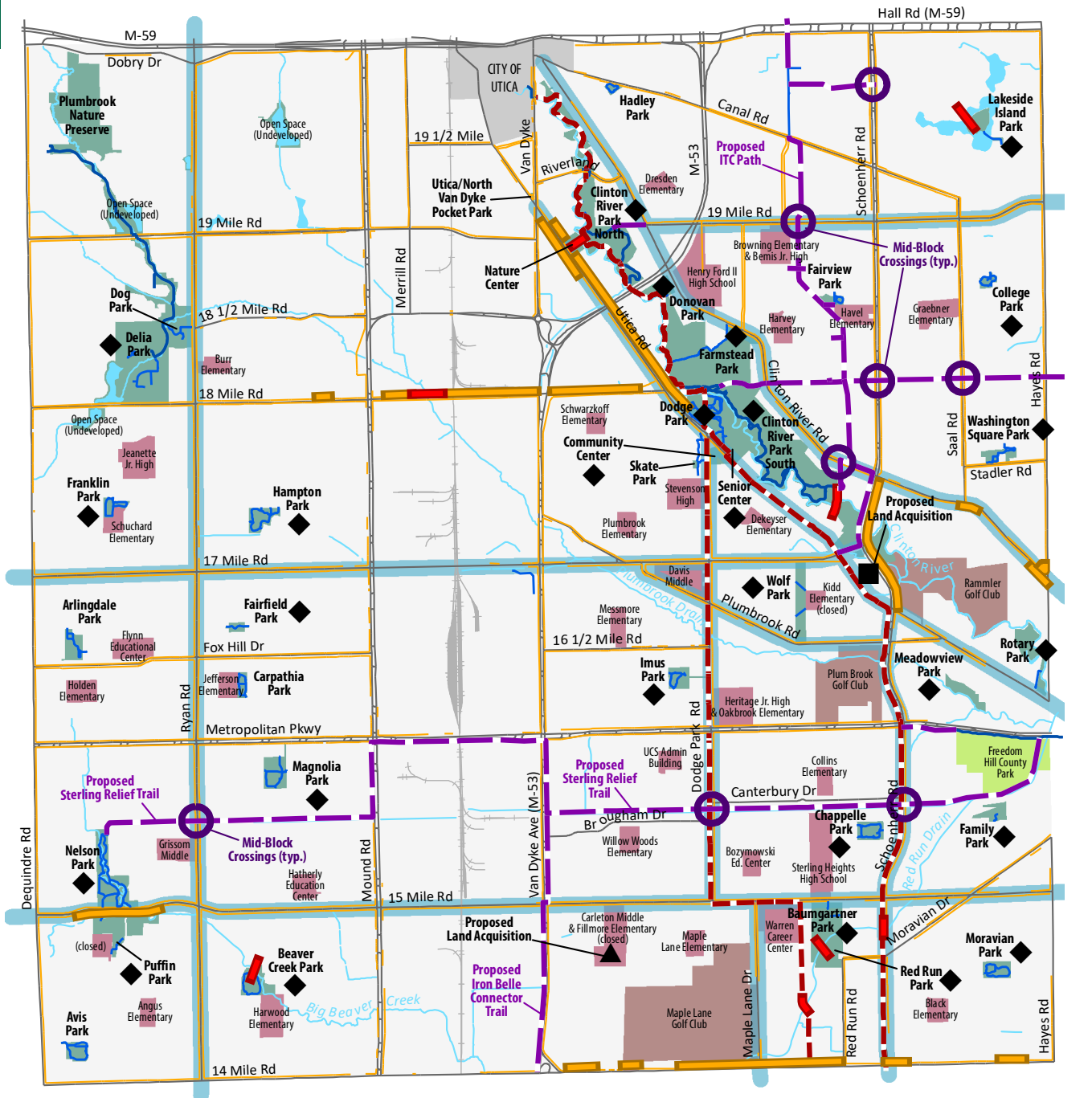
Park Specific Improvements

Numerous park-specific improvements are proposed and detailed within the Capital Improvements Schedule. These improvements include the construction of new park facilities, such as athletics courts, picnic pavilions and trail loops, and renovations and improvements to existing facilities, such as parking lot resurfacing and lighting enhancements.

Land Acquisition and Park Development

Two specific sites are targeted for potential acquisition and incorporation to the City's parks and natural open space system. The former Fillmore Elementary School site is being considered for acquisition and development as a new neighborhood park. This site is found in the southeastern portion of the City within a neighborhood that currently features no City park facilities. The City is also considering the acquisition of the environmentally significant properties bounded by 17 Mile, Utica and Schoenherr Roads for open space preservation.

Action Program Map: Parks & Non-Motorized Facility Improvements



Proposed Park Improvements:

- ◆ Parks Proposed for Improvements
- ▲ Acquisition & Development of New Park
- Land Acquisition for Open Space Preservation

Proposed Non-Motorized Improvements:

- Mid-Block Crossing
- Shared Use Trails
- Designated Pedestrian/Bike-Oriented Street
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Sidewalk Gap Priorities

Existing Facilities:

- City Parks
- Public Schools
- County Parks
- Private Golf Courses
- Iron Belle Trail Route
- Local/Regional Trails
- Other Shared Use Trails
- Sidewalks/Safety Paths (Along primary roads)

November 2021



Non-Motorized Transportation

Sterling Heights is committed to continuing to improve connectivity, mobility and safety within the City in order to provide transportation choices, recreation, contribute to placemaking, economic development, and the health of residents. This Plan includes a number of recommendations related to non-motorized improvements, which are summarized here, highlighted on the **Action Program Map**, and included within the Capital Improvements Schedule.

Sidewalks and Sidepaths

A high priority element for enhancing connectivity and walkability within the City is to systematically continue to complete gaps in the sidewalk/sidepath system along the major road corridors. A number of priority sidewalk gaps are identified on the **Action Program Map** and within the Capital Improvements Schedule and focus on: gaps adjacent to City parks; short segments that, when completed, will connect into a large network of completed sidewalks and trails; and, priorities identified by residents that provided input into the plan.

Iron Belle Trail

Michigan's Iron Belle Trail routes through the City of Sterling Heights. In the northern portion of the City, from the City of Utica to Dodge Park, the Iron Belle Trail route utilizes the existing Clinton River Trail pathway. From Dodge Park to the southern City limits, the current alignment uses existing sidewalk and safety path facilities along Utica Road and Schoenherr Road.

However, Sterling Heights is working with neighboring communities and regional partners to consider a potential alternative to the Schoenherr Road/Utica Road segment. From south to north, this alternative alignment would utilize the existing ITC corridor between 14 and 15 Mile Roads. As no trail currently exists, this would require the construction of a new shared use path within the ITC corridor and would also require a new pedestrian bridge crossing of the Red Run Drain. The alignment would then run along the south side of 15 Mile Road; currently, 5-foot wide sidewalks exist along this stretch. The alignment would then run along the west side of Dodge Park Road nearly 3 miles to Utica Road and Dodge Park. Much of this stretch is presently 5-foot wide sidewalk; however, the portion nearest Utica Road has been improved to 10-foot wide.

The Iron Belle Trail is a significant and exciting asset to have been selected to traverse through Sterling Heights. Numerous project recommendations to implement and enhance the Iron Belle Trail are included in the Capital Improvements Schedule.

Mobilize Macomb Priority Links

The Basis for Action section of this plan highlighted the Mobilize Macomb regional non-motorized planning effort. Key components of the plan are eight "priority links" to expand and enhance the County-wide non-motorized network. Two of these priority links - the Sterling Relief Trail and the Iron Belle Trail Connector - extend within Sterling Heights. This Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master

Plan supports the implementation of these priority links within Sterling Heights. Numerous project recommendations related to the Sterling Relief Trail and Iron Belle Trail are included in the Capital Improvements Schedule. However, the City anticipates close coordination with Macomb County as the lead entity facilitating the evaluation and construction of these links.

Shared Use Trails and Mid-Block Crossings

Numerous 8 to 10 foot wide, asphalt or crushed limestone, shared use (peds and bikes) trails are proposed in this Plan, as highlighted on the **Action Program Map** and included within the Capital Improvements Schedule.

Each of these additions includes locations where mid-block crossings (as opposed to at signalized intersections) would need to be considered in order to safely facilitate predictable crossings for peds/bikes. Treatment details will be unique to each location and will be determined during design but could include pavement markings, signage, pedestrian islands, curb extensions, stop lines, lighting, rapid flash beacons, HAWK signals, ADA ramps, evaluation of pedestrian clearance intervals (where signals are present or proposed), etc. Several of the more significant crossings will need traffic studies to understand traffic patterns and ensure appropriate and safe treatments are designed and implemented.

Designated Ped/Bike Oriented Streets

Several road corridors within the City have been highlighted as corridors that are Ped/Bike Oriented. These are corridors where the needs of ped/bikes should be accentuated and where a lower level of service for vehicles may be acceptable in order to provide better mode balance.

This designation recommends that, when road improvements are being planned and designed, the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists should be accentuated and design elements to increase safety and comfort should be considered. Treatment details will be unique to each corridor and determined during design, but could include elements such as narrower vehicular lane widths, mid-block crossings, refuge islands, wide paved shoulders, on-street protected bike lanes, wide sidewalks, tree plantings, medians, bioswales, lighting, respite, etc.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE

Potential capital improvements for this Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan have been established to provide a guide and foundation for decision makers, and to enable the City to apply for grant funding for proposed projects. The schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive nor exclusive. The schedule reflects a combination of items including the financial realities of the City, input from the public engagement activities, discussions with City staff, and input from the public hearing.

The Sterling Heights parks and non-motorized Capital Improvements Schedule for 2022-2026 is presented on the following pages.

Parks & Non-Motorized Facilities Capital Improvement Priorities (2022 - 2026)

Facility / Proposed Projects	Magnitude of Cost	Short-Term (0-2 Years)	Mid-Term (2-5 Years)	Long-Term (5+ Years)	Potential Funding Sources
Parks -- Capital Improvement Priorities					
All Parks					
Additional picnic tables, trash enclosures, recycling bins, benches, bike racks, and similar amenities	\$30,000 - \$40,000	X	X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP, Donations
Additional tree plantings	\$ 5,000	X	X		GF, Donations
Acquisition and Development of former Fillmore Elementary School Site					
Acquisition of Fillmore Elementary School site	\$ 1,500,000	X			GF, MNRTF
Prepare park master plan and evaluate former school building repurpose opportunities	\$ 20,000		X		GF, Donations
Former school building renovations - multi-purpose facility	TBD		X		GF, LWCF, Donations
New park signage, play equipment, internal trail loop, down-size soccer fields, parking lot improvements, landscaping, site amenities and accessibility improvements	\$ 500,000	X			GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Acquisition of Properties for Open Space Preservation					
Acquisition of properties bounded by Utica, 17 Mile and Schoenherr Roads - environmentally significant properties to remain as natural open space.	\$ 1,900,000			X	GF, MNRTF
Baumgartner Park					
Pedestrian bridge over Red Run Drain (est. 200 ft)	\$ 800,000			X	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Reconstruct baseball diamonds (2 total)	\$ 90,000	X			GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Beaver Creek Park					
Bridge over Big Beaver Creek (est. 100 ft ped only) and connections to neighborhoods	\$ 400,000			X	GF, MNRTF, CDBG
Parking lot resurfacing	\$ 320,000	X			GF, MNRTF, CDBG
New pickleball courts	\$ 50,000		X		GF, MNRTF, CDBG
Resurface athletic courts	\$ 25,000		X		GF, MNRTF, CDBG
Chappelle Park					
New parking lot	\$ 400,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Clinton River Park North					
Parking lot paving and lighting	\$ 475,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Nineteen Mile Road to Clinton River Park North shared use trail connection	TBD	X			GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Path replacement/repairs/erosion control (internal path)	\$ 300,000	X	X	X	GF, RP
Explore feasibility and potentially construct a new, 9-hole foot golf course	TBD	X		X	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Clinton River Park South					
Path replacement/repairs/erosion control	TBD	X	X	X	GF, RP
Expand Edison Court parking	TBD		X		GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
New signage	\$ 18,000	X			GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
College Park					
New parking lot	\$ 400,000			X	GF, LWCF, RP
Community Center					
Install fitness equipment along indoor track	\$ 15,000		X		GF
Delia Park					
New vehicular connection between south portion of park (along 18 Mile) and eastern portion of park (along Ryan Road)	\$ 1,500,000			X	GF, LWCF, RP
New internal trail loop	\$ 500,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Mid-block crossings at 18 Mile and Ryan Roads (engineering study needed)	\$15,000 - \$50,000 ea	X			GF, MDOT-TAP
Parking lot resurfacing (south lot)	\$ 200,000	X			GF, LWCF, RP
Parking lot lighting (south & north lots)	\$ 120,000			X	GF, LWCF, RP
New ADA compliant bleachers	\$ 700,000	X			GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
New pavilions (two total) near the dog park (with lighting)	\$ 70,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP

Parks & Non-Motorized Facilities Capital Improvement Priorities (2022 - 2026)

Facility / Proposed Projects	Magnitude of Cost	Short-Term (0-2 Years)	Mid-Term (2-5 Years)	Long-Term (5+ Years)	Potential Funding Sources
Parks -- Capital Improvement Priorities					
Dodge Park					
Lighting along main path leading to bridge	\$ 25,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Bike rental station (i.e. Zagster)	\$ 12,000	X			GF, Donations
New inclusive (universally accessible) merri-go-round by the west play area	\$ 40,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Lighting for the sand volleyball court	\$ 60,000			X	GF, LWCF, RP
Lighting for the pavilions	\$ 10,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Donovan Park					
New parking lot (second parking area)	\$ 400,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Parking lot lighting (for existing and new parking lots)	\$ 100,000		X	X	GF, LWCF, RP
New ADA compliant bleachers	\$ 300,000	X			GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
New internal trail loop	\$ 160,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
New vault style restroom facility	\$ 160,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Fairfield Park					
New picnic pavilion	\$ 60,000			X	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Family Park					
New internal trail loop	\$ 300,000			X	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Farmstead Park					
Replace playground with universally accessible playground	\$ 300,000	X			GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Parking lot resurfacing	\$ 450,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Franklin Park					
New downsize soccer field	\$ 75,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Consider feasibility of a new basketball court	\$ 5,000		X		GF
New basketball court	\$ 50,000			X	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Hampton Park					
Replace baseball field backstop	\$ 15,000	X			GF, RP
Replace fencing along Franklin Park drive	\$ 35,000		X		GF, RP
Imus Park					
Sand volleyball court renovation	\$ 15,000	X			GF, RP
Lakeside Island Park					
Pedestrian bridge to Lakeside Mall	\$ 1,000,000			X	GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Replace current pedestrian bridge	\$ 800,000	X			GF, MNRTF
New internal trail loop	\$ 300,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Bank stabilization & native plantings	\$ 35,000	X			GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Magnolia Park					
Athletic court resurfacing	\$ 50,000		X		GF, RP
Meadowview Park					
New internal nature trail loop	\$ 300,000			X	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Moravian Park					
Consider constructing new entrance off Maisano Drive (3rd entrance to park)	\$ 100,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Nature Center					
Replace pedestrian bridge over Clinton River	\$ 800,000		X		GF, MNRTF
Parking lot resurfacing	\$ 200,000		X		GF, RP
Create a more formalized outdoor archery range	\$ 38,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Replace nature center roof	\$ 40,000	X			GF, RP
Nelson Park					
Construct new 9-hole disc golf course	\$ 200,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Construct a new mini-soccer field (similar to Dodge Park)	\$ 350,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Parking lot resurfacing	\$ 400,000			X	GF, RP

Parks & Non-Motorized Facilities Capital Improvement Priorities (2022 - 2026)

Facility / Proposed Projects	Magnitude of Cost	Short-Term (0-2 Years)	Mid-Term (2-5 Years)	Long-Term (5+ Years)	Potential Funding Sources
Parks -- Capital Improvement Priorities					
Puffin Park					
Proposed land swap: trade portion of Puffin Park; gain additional land adjacent to park	\$ 5,000	X			GF
Develop neighborhood park (park is currently undeveloped) for playground, picnic pavilion, internal path loop, signage, landscaping, site amenities and accessibility improvements	\$ 500,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Resurface existing parking lot and construct expanded parking lot	\$ 120,000	X			GF, RP
Red Run Park					
Develop neighborhood park (park is currently undeveloped) to include new signage, park path installation, new play structures, landscaping and site amenities	\$ 500,000			X	GF, CDBG, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Rotary Park					
Parking lot resurfacing	\$ 120,000		X		GF, RP
New vault style restroom facility	\$ 170,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Senior Center					
Construct bocce ball enclosure	\$ 400,000	X			GF
Interior furnishings and updates	\$ 600,000	X	X	X	GF
Skate Park					
Finish installation of artificial turf around perimeter	\$ 80,000	X	X		GF, LWCF, RP
New pavilion (small)	\$ 60,000			X	GF, LWCF, RP
New drinking fountain	\$ 5,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Washington Square Park					
New pavilion (small)	\$ 60,000		X		GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Wolf Park					
New signage, park path resurfacing, landscaping, site amenities and accessibility improvements	\$ 125,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Install City-owned play equipment	\$ 125,000		X		GF, LWCF, RP
Miscellaneous					
Construct new park maintenance/storage facility; location TBD	\$ 1,000,000		X		GF
Non-Motorized -- Capital Improvement Priorities					
Clinton River Path					
Wayfinding signage, confirmation signs, emergency markers	\$30,000 - \$45,000	X			GF, DNR
Solar emergency call boxes (2)	\$ 20,000		X		GF
On-going path resurfacing/replacement	\$ 1,200,000	X	X	X	GF, DNR, MDOT-TAP
Lighting along path	TBD			X	GF, DNR, MDOT-TAP
General site amenities	\$ 20,000	X	X	X	GF
Bike fix-it stations (3) at Edison Street, Dodge Park and Clinton River Park North	\$ 12,000	X			GF
Clinton River Water Trail					
Water trail signage	\$20,000 - \$30,000	X			GF, LWCF, RP, CRWC

Parks & Non-Motorized Facilities Capital Improvement Priorities (2022 - 2026)

Facility / Proposed Projects	Magnitude of Cost	Short-Term (0-2 Years)	Mid-Term (2-5 Years)	Long-Term (5+ Years)	Potential Funding Sources
Non-Motorized -- Capital Improvement Priorities					
Iron Belle Trail					
Wayfinding and route confirmation signs	\$20,000 - \$30,000	X			GF, DNR
General site amenities	\$ 30,000	X			GF, DNR
Alternative Route 1:					
Schoenherr Road pedestrian bridge over Red Run Drain	\$700,000 - \$1,200,000		X		GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Shared-use trail (10 ft wide asphalt) along Schoenherr Road from 14 Mile to 16 Mile and along Metropolitan Parkway to connect Freedom Trail to Iron Belle Trail	TBD	X	X	X	GF, MNRTF, DNR, TAP
Alternative Route 2:					
Shared-use trail bridge over Red Run Drain	\$ 700,000		X		GF, MNRTF, DNR, TAP
Shared-use trail (10 ft wide asphalt) within ITC corridor from 14 Mile to 15 Mile, then along south side of 15 Mile, then along west side of Dodge Park Road to Dodge Park	TBD	X	X	X	GF, MNRTF, DNR, TAP
Pedestrian Bridges					
Schoenherr Road over Red Run Drain (Iron Belle Trail)	\$700,000 - \$1,200,000	X			GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Shared-use trail bridge over Red Run Drain (Iron Belle Trail)	\$ 700,000		X		GF, MNRTF, DNR, TAP
Baumgartner Park/Red Run Park over Red Run Drain	\$ 500,000			X	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP
Island Park to Lakeside Mall	\$ 1,000,000			X	GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Replace existing Nature Center to Clinton River Park North ped bridge	\$ 800,000		X		GF, MNRTF
Beaver Creek Park over Big Beaver Creek	\$ 400,000			X	GF, MNRTF
18 Mile Road over Plum Brook	\$ 400,000				GF
Kleino Road to Edison Court over Clinton River	\$ 1,000,000				GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Mid-Block Crossings					
Shoenherr Road south of Hall Road (with trail construction)	\$100,000 - \$225,000		X		GF, MDOT-TAP
19 Mile Road at ITC Corridor (with trail construction)	\$15,000 - \$50,000		X		GF, MDOT-TAP, SRTS
Shoenherr Road at 18 Mile Rd ROW (with trail construction)	\$100,000 - \$225,000		X		GF, MDOT-TAP
Saal Road at 18 Mile Rd ROW (with trail construction)	\$15,000 - \$50,000		X		GF, MDOT-TAP
Clinton River Road at Edison Street (with trail construction)	\$15,000 - \$50,000	X			GF, MDOT-TAP
Ryan Road at Sterling Relief Trail (with trail construction)	\$15,000 - \$50,000			X	GF, MDOT-TAP
Dodge Park Road at Sterling Relief Trail (with trail construction)	\$15,000 - \$50,000			X	GF, MDOT-TAP
Schoenherr Road at Sterling Relief Trail (with trail construction)	\$15,000 - \$50,000			X	GF, MDOT-TAP
Shared Use Trails					
19 Mile Road to Clinton River Park North Connection	TBD	X			GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Schoenherr Road between Utica Rd and Clinton River Rd (10 ft wide asphalt, boardwalk, bridge)	\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000	X			GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
18 Mile Road (vacant ROW) between Clinton River Rd and Hayes Rd (10 ft wide asphalt; approx. 1.2 miles; significant road crossing at Schoenherr Rd)	\$500,000 - \$800,000		X		GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
18 Mile Road connector into Clinton River Path (10 ft wide asphalt; approx. 1,200 ft)	\$90,000 - \$150,000		X		GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
ITC Corridor between Hall Road and Clinton River Road (10 ft wide asphalt; approx. 2.9 miles)	\$800,000 to \$1,200,000			X	GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Schoenherr Road to Freedom Trail connection (10 ft wide asphalt; approx. 1,000 ft)	TBD			X	MC, GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Sterling Relief Trail (10 ft wide asphalt; approx 6.5 miles)	TBD			X	MC, GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP
Iron Belle Connector Trail (10 ft wide asphalt; approx. 1.5 miles)	TBD			X	MC, GF, MNRTF, MDOT-TAP

Parks & Non-Motorized Facilities Capital Improvement Priorities (2022 - 2026)

Facility / Proposed Projects	Magnitude of Cost	Short-Term (0-2 Years)	Mid-Term (2-5 Years)	Long-Term (5+ Years)	Potential Funding Sources
Non-Motorized -- Capital Improvement Priorities					
Sidewalk Gap Priorities					
Clinton River Road, south side from Hayes to River Park Drive	\$20,000 - \$25,000	X	X		GF
18 Mile Road gaps, north side between Ryan and Utica Roads	TBD	X	X		GF
14 Mile Road gaps, north side between Van Dyke and Hayes Roads	\$180,000 - \$250,000	X	X		GF
15 Mile Road, south side near Nelson Park	\$70,000 - \$100,000	X	X		GF
Schoenherr Road, east side from Utica Road to Clinton River Road	\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000	X	X		GF
Utica Road, both sides between Dodge Park and North Van Dyke Roads	\$450,000 - \$650,000	X	X		GF
General Improvements					
Bike racks at public facilities and major bus stops	\$ 30,000	X	X	X	GF

GF = General Fund; CDBG = Community Development Block Grant; MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant; LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant; RP = Recreation Passport Grant; MDOT-TAP = MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program; DNR = Department of Natural Resources; MC = Macomb County

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Potential funding sources from outside entities for parks, recreation, and non-motorized projects change and evolve on a regular basis. Understanding available funding programs, their requirements and deadlines requires continuous monitoring. For each project, the Capital Improvements Schedule includes suggestions on potential funding sources. These sources include traditional funding methods such as general funds, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and private funding partnerships. Additionally, a dedicated millage is another traditional funding source for recreational and non-motorized improvements. For certain projects, the Capital Improvements Schedule also notes the potential to apply for grant funding through various programs offered by agencies such as the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. As a reference and resource, each potential grant funding program is more fully described below.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

MDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds designated by Congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. TAP was created by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), signed into law in July 2012. TAP continued as a set-aside to the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program with the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), signed into law in December 2015. Approximately \$24 million is available annually. Of this, \$17 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Economic Development (OED). Another \$7 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in urban areas with populations greater than 200,000 (SEMCOG is the MPO for Southeast Michigan).

Eligible activities that relate to the implementation of this Master Plan include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles. Includes new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, bus racks, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses.
 - Paved shoulders four or more feet wide
 - Curb lane width greater than 12 feet
 - Bike lanes
 - Pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks
 - Shared use paths 10 feet wide or greater
 - Path/trail user amenities
 - Grade separations
 - Bicycle parking facilities
 - Bicycle accommodations on public transportation
- Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists. Programs designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets and signage.

- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian and bicycle trails). Acquiring railroad rights-of-way; planning, designing and constructing multi-use trails; developing rail-with-trail projects; purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

A minimum 20% local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

The MNRTF provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and, 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization, or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Applications are due in April.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. Historically, the focus of this program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ballfields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$100,000. The match percentage must be 50% of the total project cost. Applications are due in April.

RECREATION PASSPORT

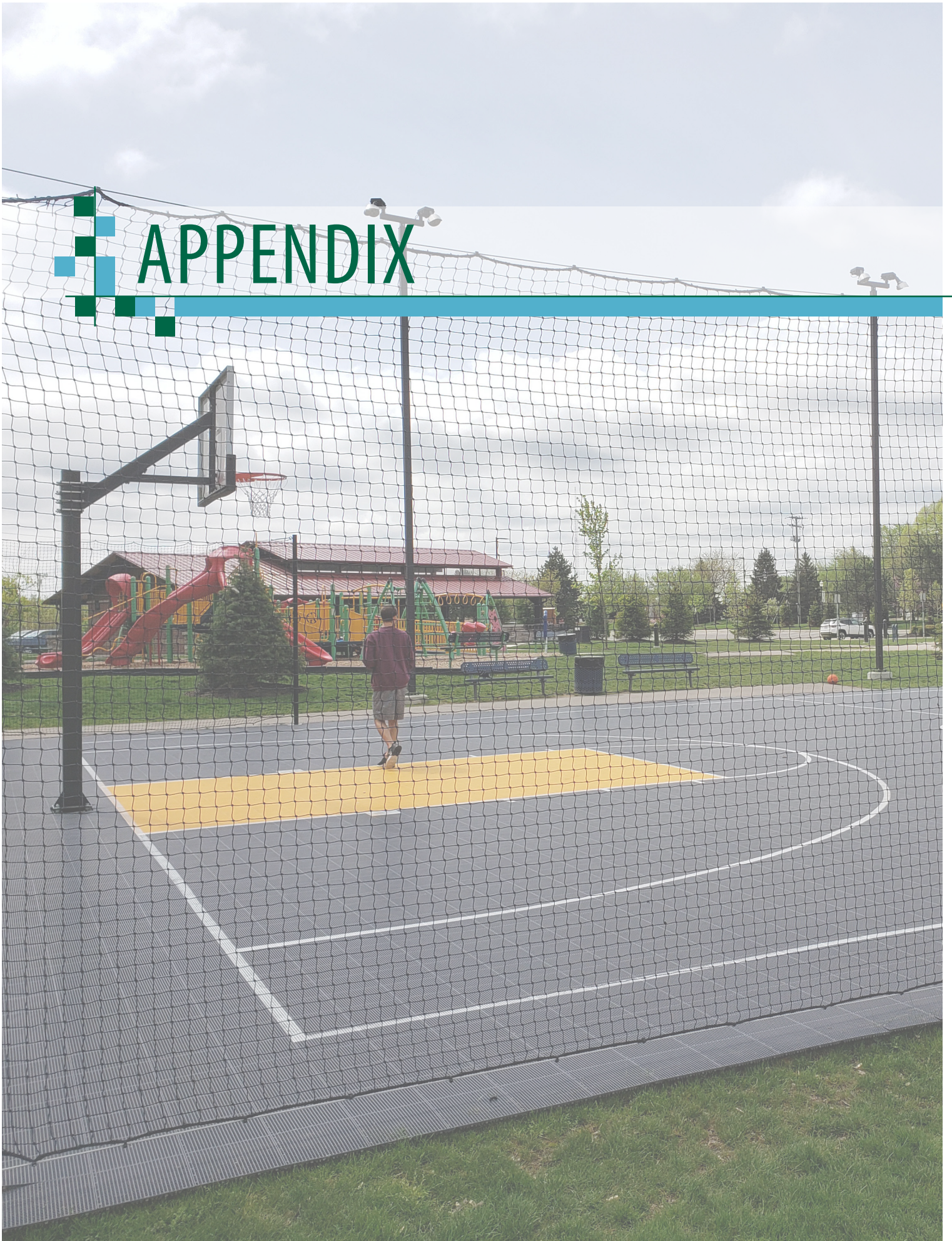
The Recreation Passport grant is a relatively new grant offered by the MDNR. The objective for the program is to provide funding to local units for the development of public recreation facilities. This includes the development of new facilities and the renovation of old facilities. The program emphasizes renovations to existing facilities and providing unmet recreation needs. In past years, the minimum grant request has been \$7,500 and the maximum grant request has been \$45,000, with a minimum match requirement of 25% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in April of each year.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need to succeed. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. Michigan's SRTS program makes schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program, as defined in the federal legislation, is: to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and, to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

To be eligible, schools must be registered, attend a day long training session, and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SRTS funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required. 70% of the funding must be used for infrastructure projects, 10% for non-infrastructure projects, and 20% for either.

APPENDIX



APPENDICES

- A. MDNR Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails
- B. Online Citizen Survey Results Summary
- C. Focus Group Discussions Summary
- D. Notice of Public Hearing and Availability of Draft Plan for Review
- E. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
- F. Resolution of Adoption
- G. Transmittal Letter to SEMCOG
- H. Transmittal Letter to Macomb County
- I. MDNR Plan Certification Checklist

A RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres / 1,000 Population
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	0.25 to 0.5 A
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼- to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	1.0 to 2.0 A
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable-depends on function.	Variable
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.	5.0 to 8.0 A
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.	Variable.
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	Variable.

<i>(continued)</i>					
Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres / 1,000 Population	
Regional / Metropolitan Park	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.	Located to serve several communities within 1 hour driving time.	Optimal size is 200+ acres, but size varies based on accommodating the desired uses.	5.0 to 10.0 A	
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	Variable.	
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.	Variable.	
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Variable.	
Private Park/ Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Variable.	

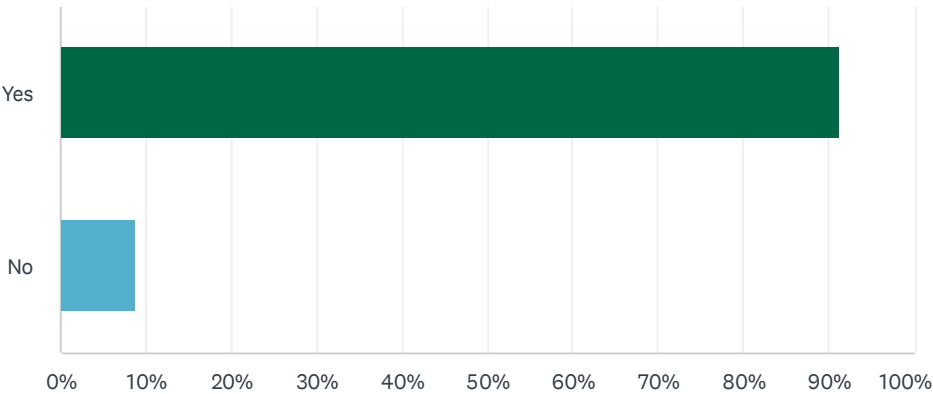
<i>(continued)</i>			
Classification	General Description	Description of each type	Acres / 1,000 Population
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters. Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard or soft-surfaced. 	Variable.
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters <u>located in independent r.o.w. (e.g., old railroad r.o.w.).</u> Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road r.o.w. 	Variable.
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	<p>Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.</p> <p>Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.</p>	Variable.
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	Variable.
Cross-Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	Variable.
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.	Variable.

Adapted From:

Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983.
Mertes, J. D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.

Q1 Are you a resident of the City of Sterling Heights?

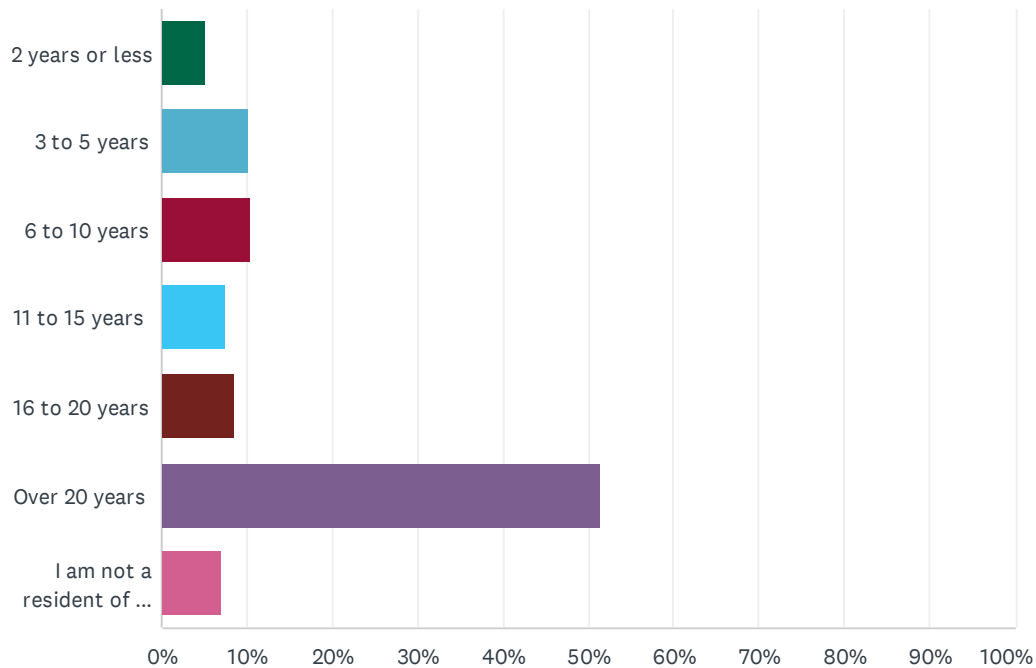
Answered: 913 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.24%	833
No	8.76%	80
TOTAL		913

Q2 How many years have you lived within the City of Sterling Heights?

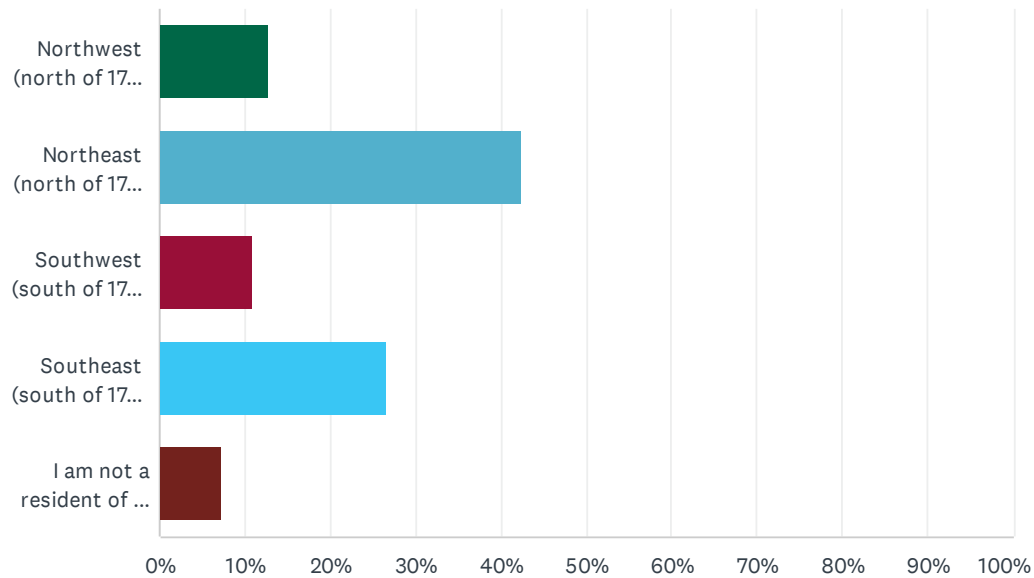
Answered: 916 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
2 years or less	5.02%	46
3 to 5 years	10.15%	93
6 to 10 years	10.37%	95
11 to 15 years	7.53%	69
16 to 20 years	8.52%	78
Over 20 years	51.42%	471
I am not a resident of the City	6.99%	64
TOTAL		916

Q3 In which quadrant of the City do you live?

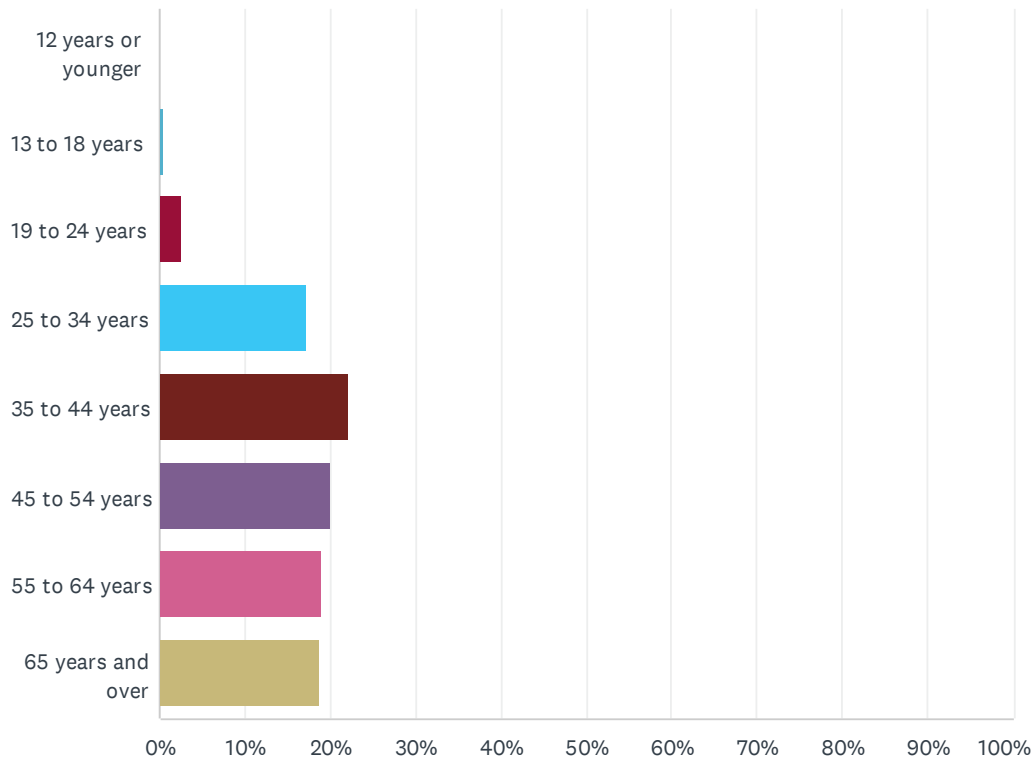
Answered: 916 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Northwest (north of 17 Mile and west of Van Dyke)	12.88%	118
Northeast (north of 17 Mile and east of Van Dyke)	42.36%	388
Southwest (south of 17 Mile and west of Van Dyke)	10.81%	99
Southeast (south of 17 Mile and east of Van Dyke)	26.64%	244
I am not a resident of the city	7.31%	67
TOTAL		916

Q4 Please indicate the range in which your age falls.

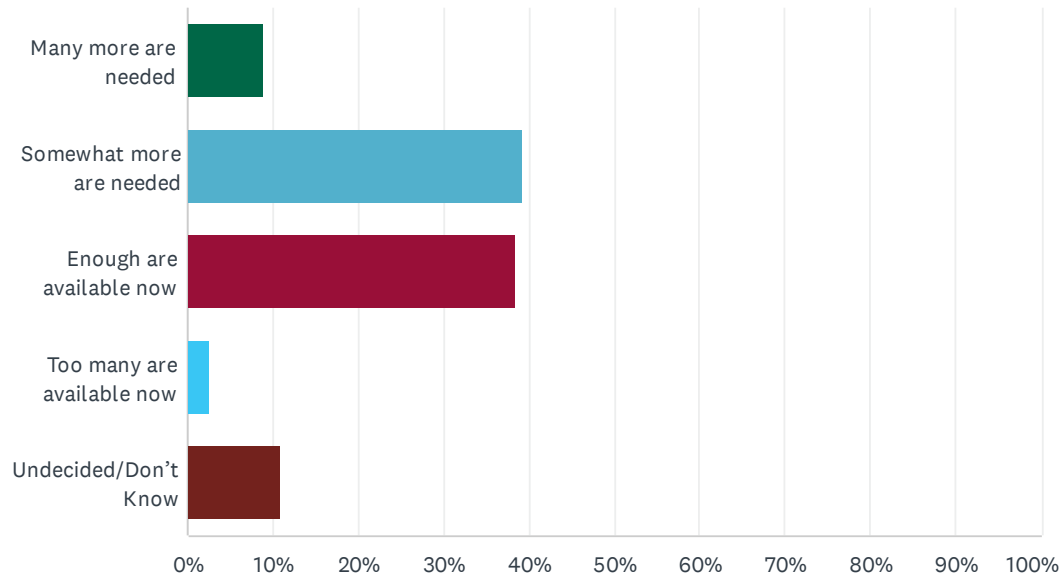
Answered: 916 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
12 years or younger	0.00%	0
13 to 18 years	0.33%	3
19 to 24 years	2.51%	23
25 to 34 years	17.25%	158
35 to 44 years	22.27%	204
45 to 54 years	19.98%	183
55 to 64 years	19.00%	174
65 years and over	18.67%	171
TOTAL		916

Q5 Thinking about the number of recreational programs, activities and facilities provided in the City of Sterling Heights, do you believe that overall...

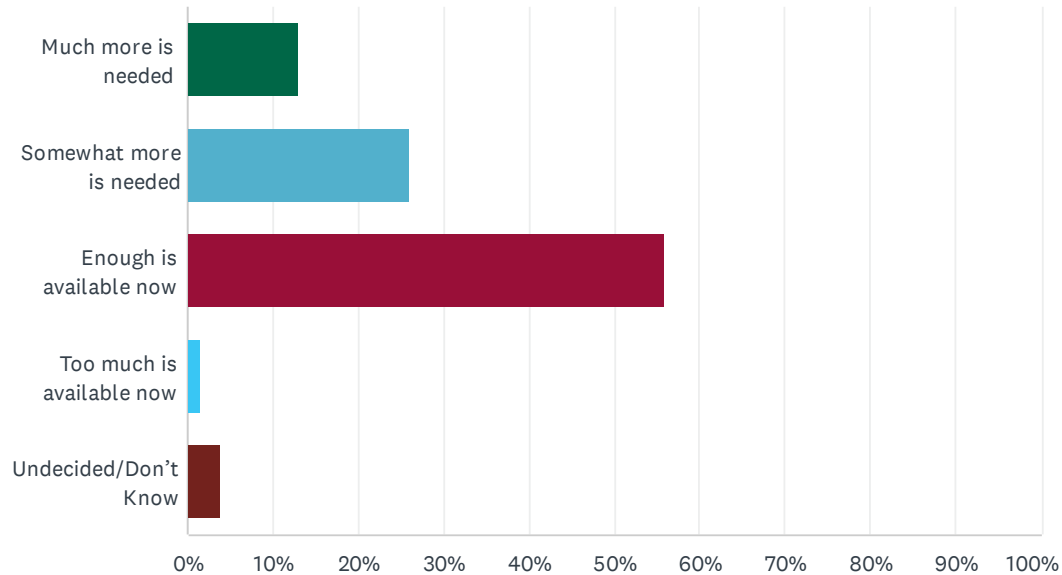
Answered: 798 Skipped: 122



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Many more are needed	8.90%	71
Somewhat more are needed	39.22%	313
Enough are available now	38.35%	306
Too many are available now	2.63%	21
Undecided/Don't Know	10.90%	87
TOTAL		798

Q6 Thinking about the number of parks in the City of Sterling Heights, do you believe that overall...

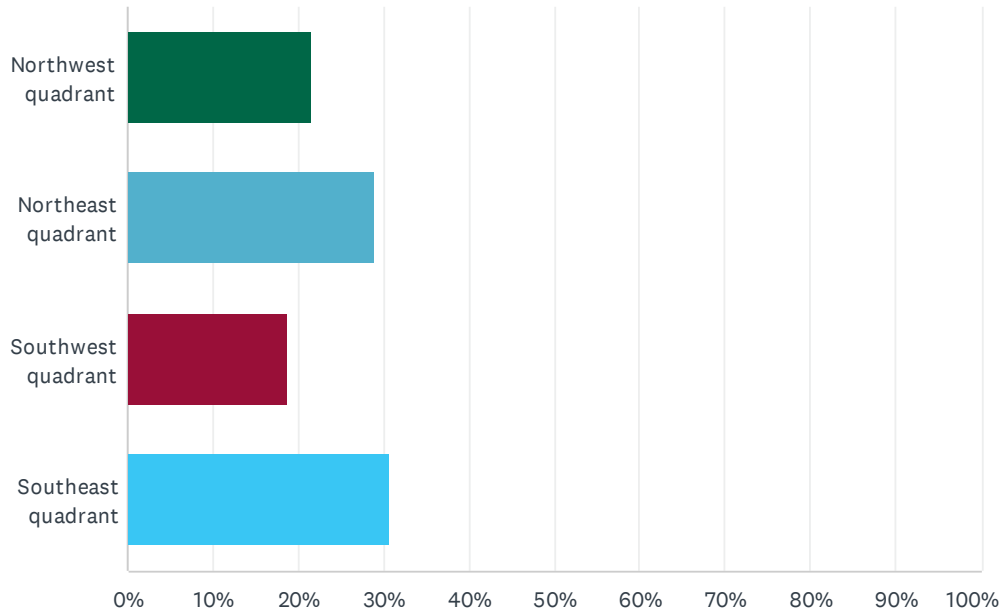
Answered: 797 Skipped: 123



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Much more is needed	12.92%	103
Somewhat more is needed	25.97%	207
Enough is available now	55.83%	445
Too much is available now	1.51%	12
Undecided/Don't Know	3.76%	30
TOTAL		797

Q7 Is there a specific location within the City where you think more parkland should be set aside and developed?

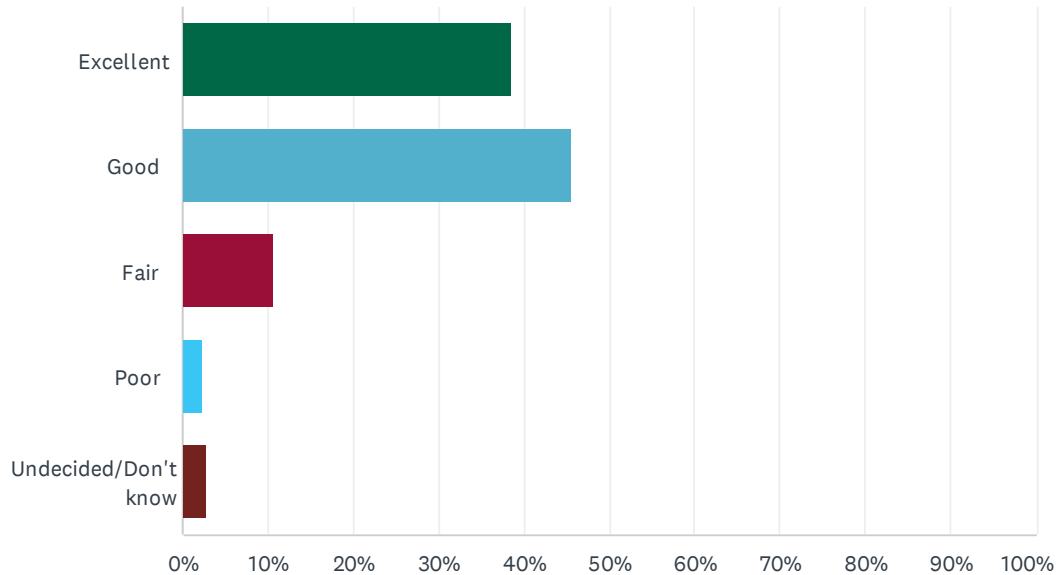
Answered: 564 Skipped: 356



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Northwest quadrant	21.45%	121
Northeast quadrant	29.08%	164
Southwest quadrant	18.79%	106
Southeast quadrant	30.67%	173
TOTAL		564

Q8 Overall, how would you rate the job being done providing recreational programs and facilities in the City of Sterling Heights?

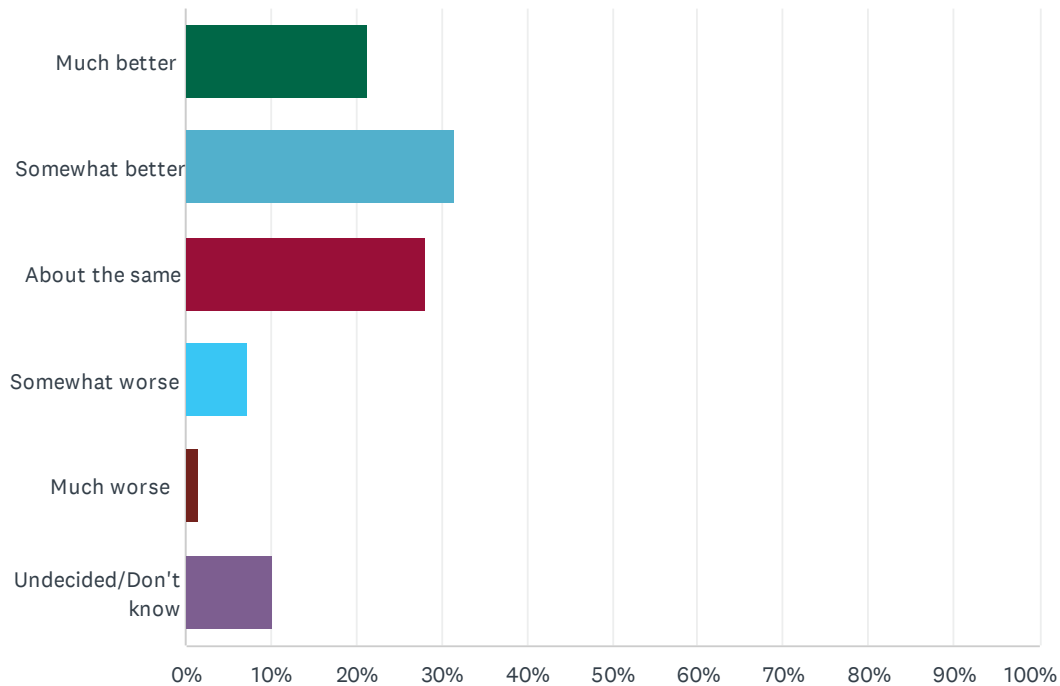
Answered: 800 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	38.63%	309
Good	45.63%	365
Fair	10.63%	85
Poor	2.25%	18
Undecided/Don't know	2.88%	23
TOTAL		800

Q9 Based on what you may know or have heard or read about recreational programs and facilities that are provided in neighboring cities or other parts of Southeast Michigan, would you say that the programs provided in the Sterling Heights are better, worse, or about the same as programs provided in other areas?

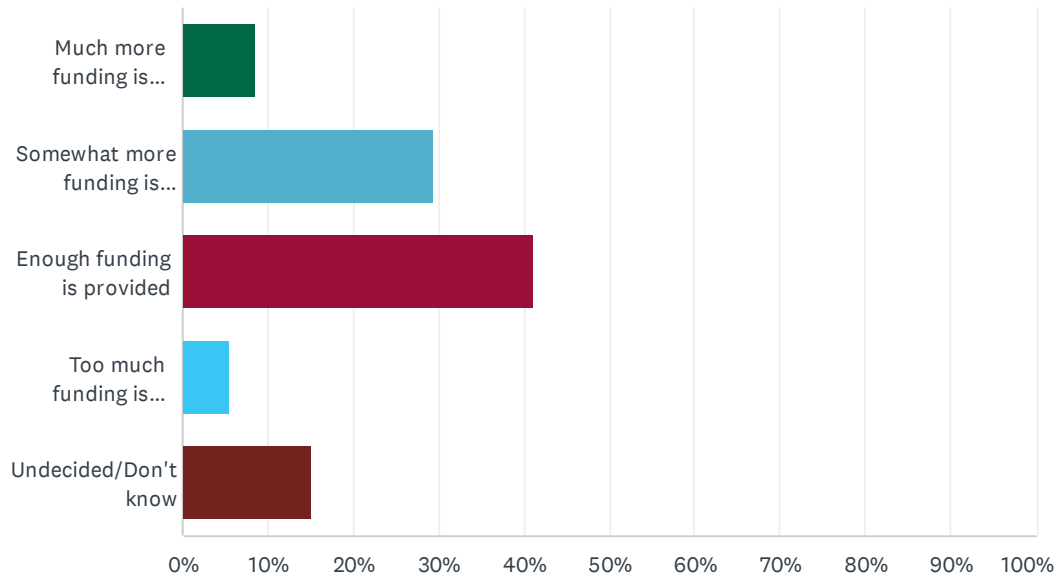
Answered: 796 Skipped: 124



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Much better	21.36%	170
Somewhat better	31.53%	251
About the same	28.14%	224
Somewhat worse	7.29%	58
Much worse	1.51%	12
Undecided/Don't know	10.18%	81
TOTAL		796

Q10 What is your belief about the funding needed to support the current and desired recreational programs, activities and facilities in the City of Sterling Heights?

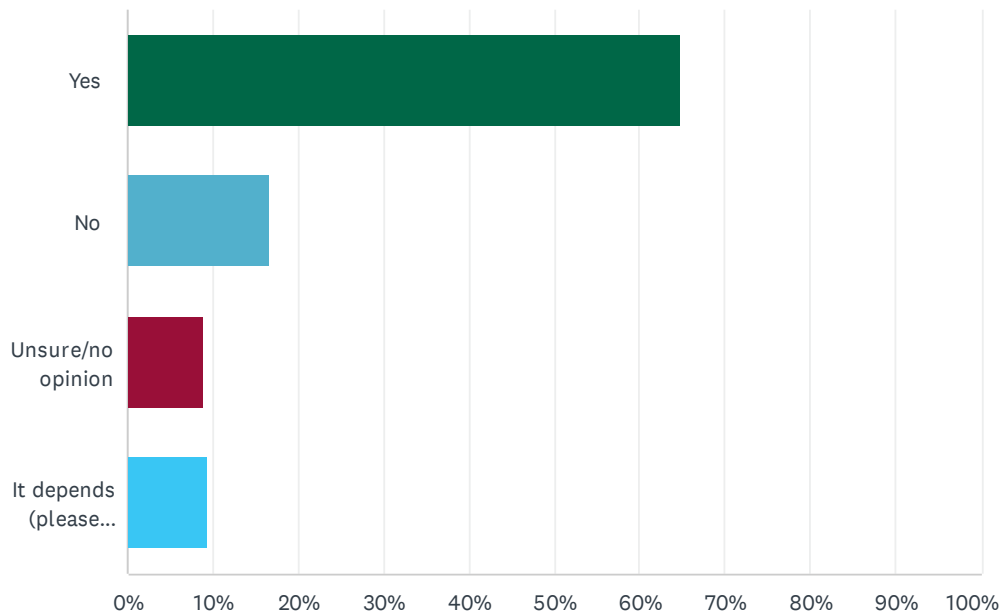
Answered: 791 Skipped: 129



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Much more funding is needed	8.60%	68
Somewhat more funding is needed	29.46%	233
Enough funding is provided	41.21%	326
Too much funding is provided	5.56%	44
Undecided/Don't know	15.17%	120
TOTAL		791

Q11 Would you be in favor of the City implementing tobacco and smoke free parks (includes cigarettes, vape products, chewing tobacco, marijuana, etc.)?

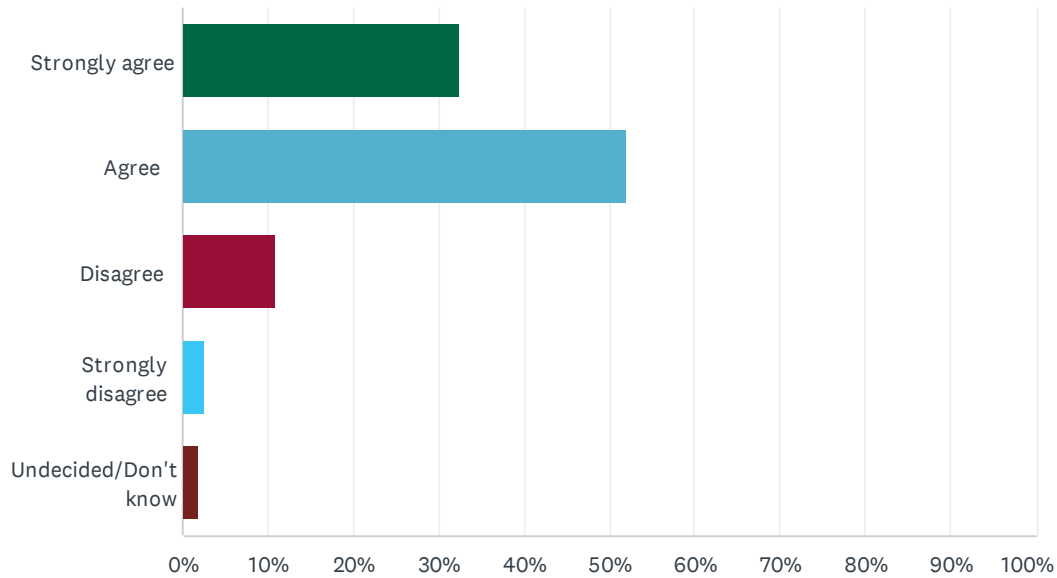
Answered: 802 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	64.84%	520
No	16.71%	134
Unsure/no opinion	8.98%	72
It depends (please explain)	9.48%	76
TOTAL		802

Q12 What is your level of agreement with the following statement: It is convenient and safe for me to walk recreationally on sidewalks, trails, or streets in my neighborhood.

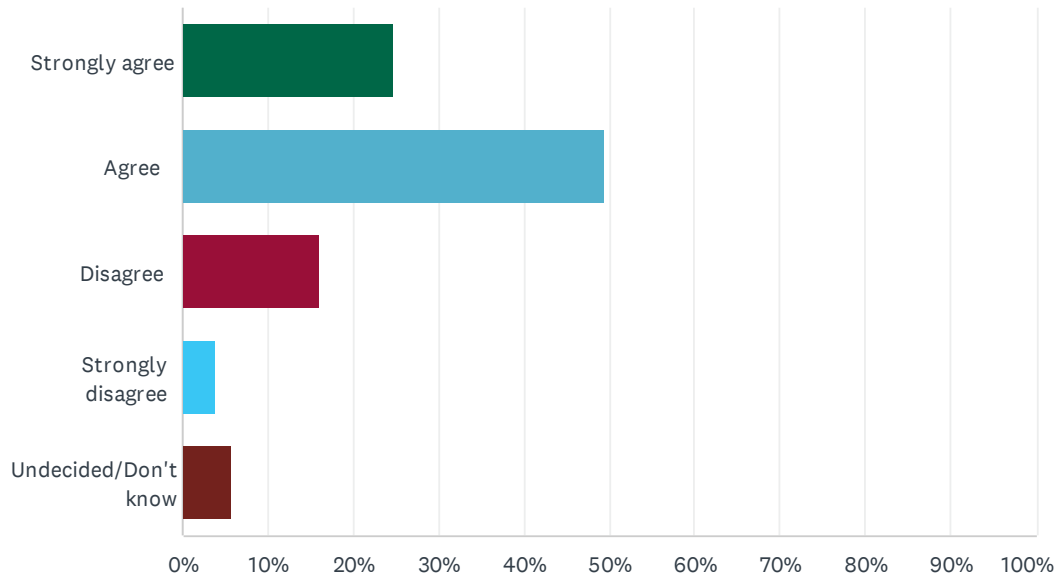
Answered: 772 Skipped: 148



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	32.51%	251
Agree	52.07%	402
Disagree	10.88%	84
Strongly disagree	2.59%	20
Undecided/Don't know	1.94%	15
TOTAL		772

Q13 What is your level of agreement with the following statement: It is convenient and safe for me to ride bikes recreationally in my neighborhood.

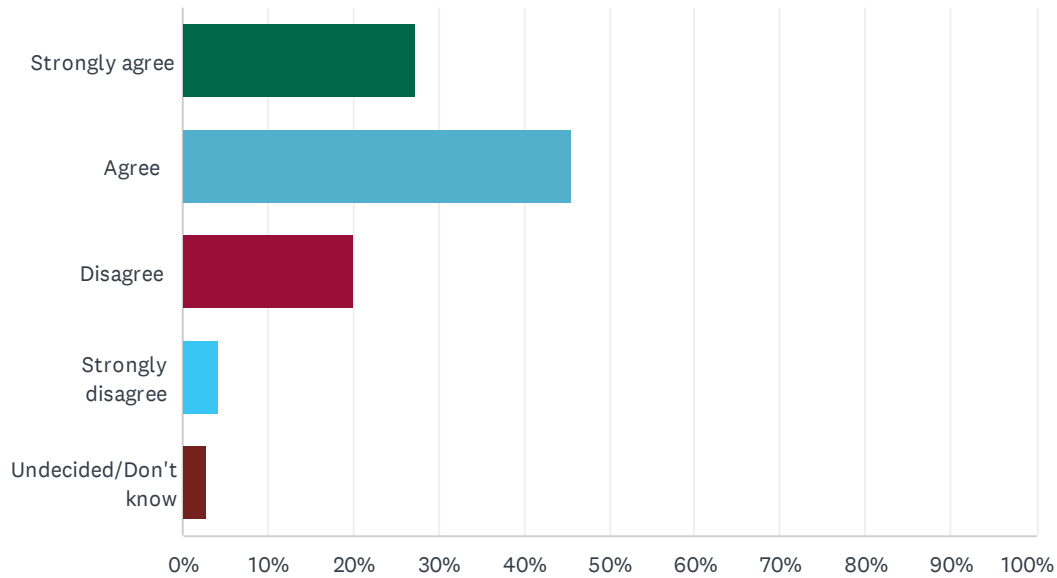
Answered: 773 Skipped: 147



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	24.84%	192
Agree	49.55%	383
Disagree	16.04%	124
Strongly disagree	3.75%	29
Undecided/Don't know	5.82%	45
TOTAL		773

Q14 What is your level of agreement with the following statement: It is convenient and safe for me to access the nearest City park by walking or biking from my home.

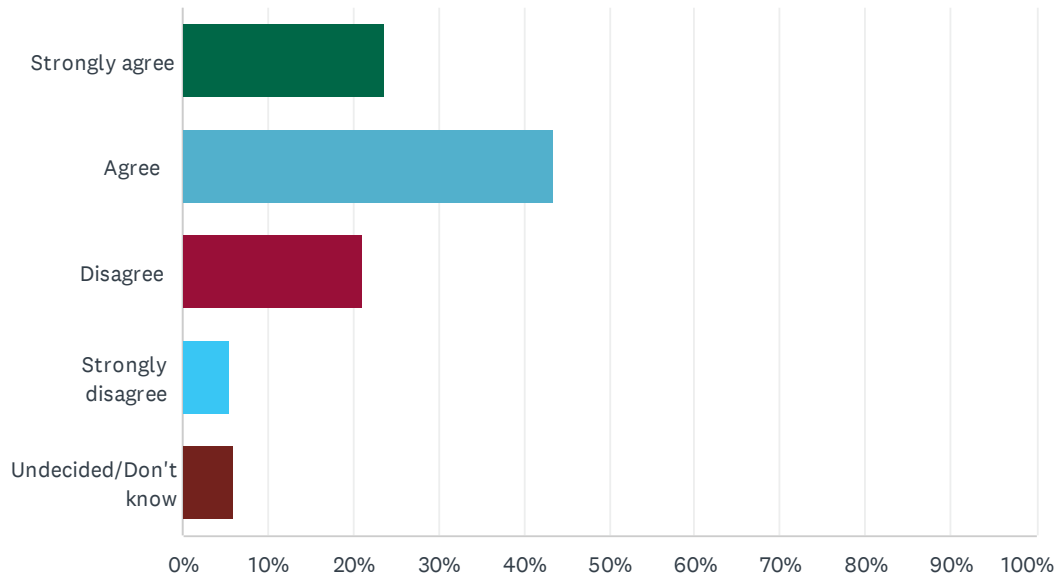
Answered: 772 Skipped: 148



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	27.20%	210
Agree	45.73%	353
Disagree	19.95%	154
Strongly disagree	4.27%	33
Undecided/Don't know	2.85%	22
TOTAL		772

Q15 What is your level of agreement with the following statement: It is convenient and safe for me to access the nearest non-motorized pathway by walking or biking from my home.

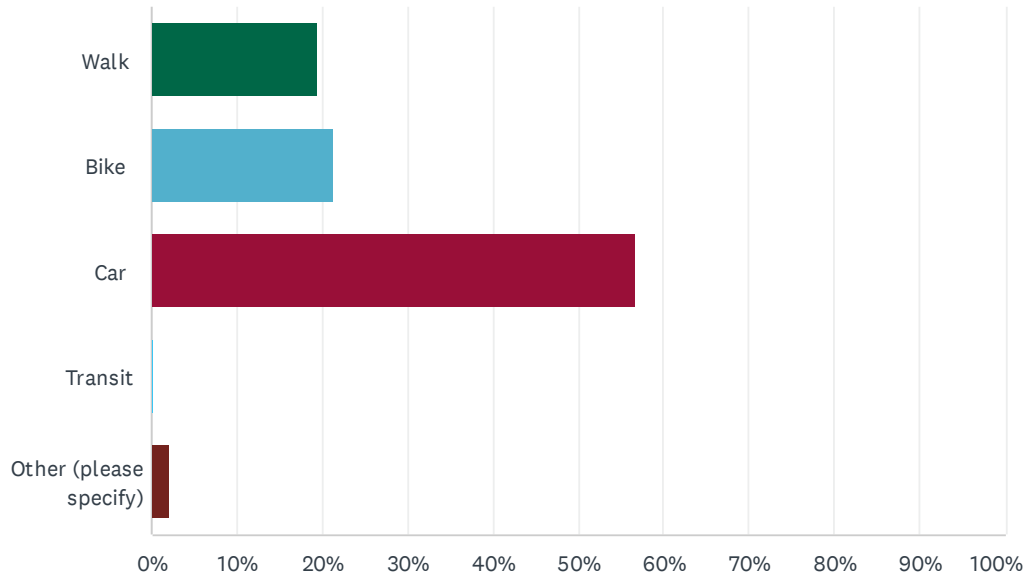
Answered: 769 Skipped: 151



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	23.67%	182
Agree	43.56%	335
Disagree	21.20%	163
Strongly disagree	5.59%	43
Undecided/Don't know	5.98%	46
TOTAL		769

Q16 How do you or members of your household most commonly get to parks and recreation facilities within the City?

Answered: 771 Skipped: 149



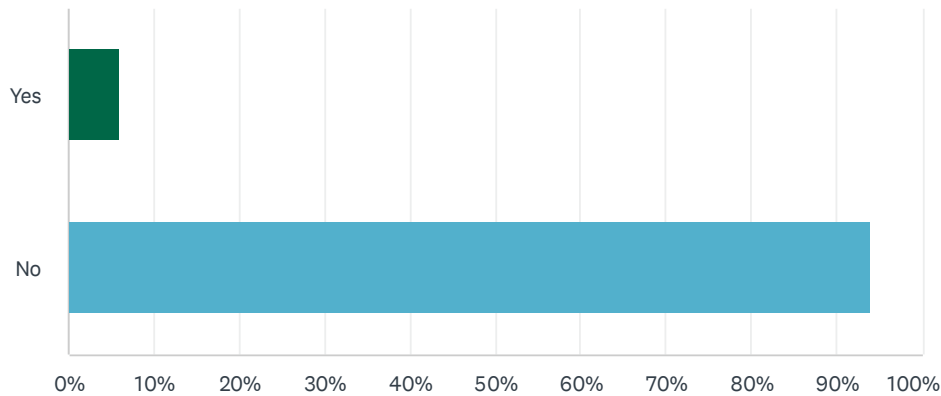
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	19.46%	150
Bike	21.27%	164
Car	56.81%	438
Transit	0.26%	2
Other (please specify)	2.20%	17
TOTAL		771

Q17 What are the most common barriers that you or members of your household face when trying to access City parks or park facilities?

Answered: 637 Skipped: 283

Q18 Do you or any members of your household have a disability that limits access to City parks or park facilities?

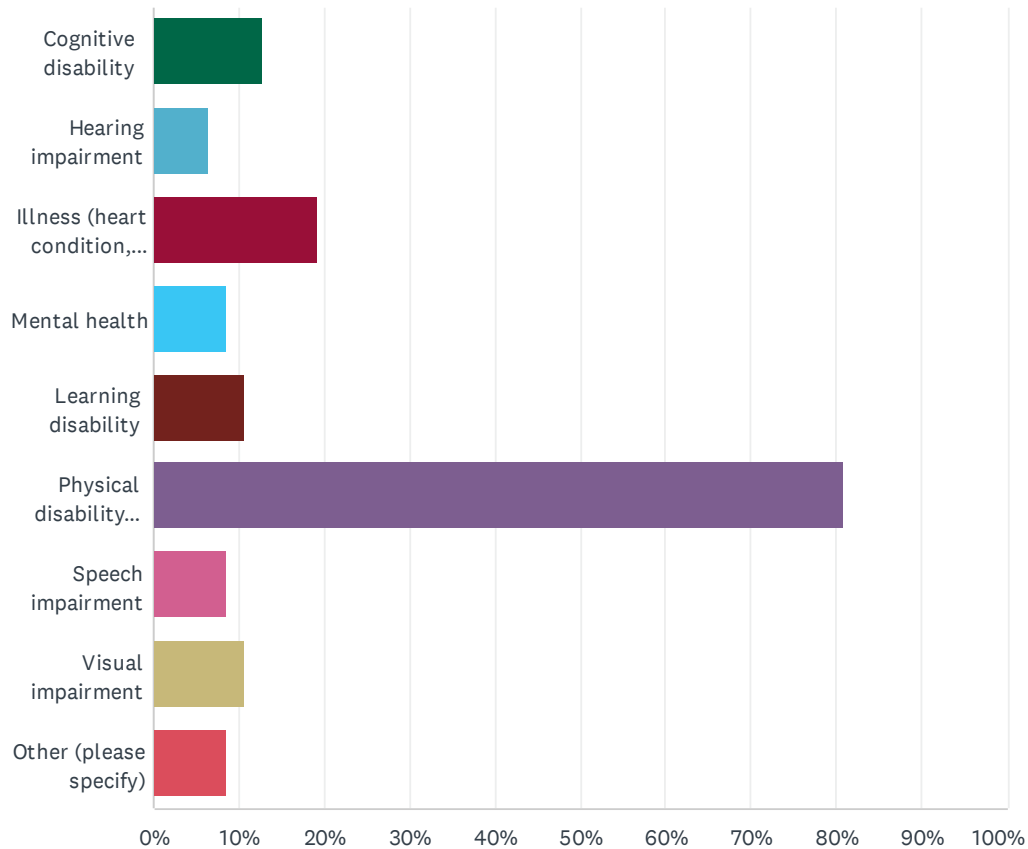
Answered: 767 Skipped: 153



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	6.00%	46
No	94.00%	721
TOTAL		767

Q19 So that we can develop accommodations for all users of Sterling Heights parks, we would like to know a little more about the nature of the disability. Please indicate from the list below all disabilities that apply.

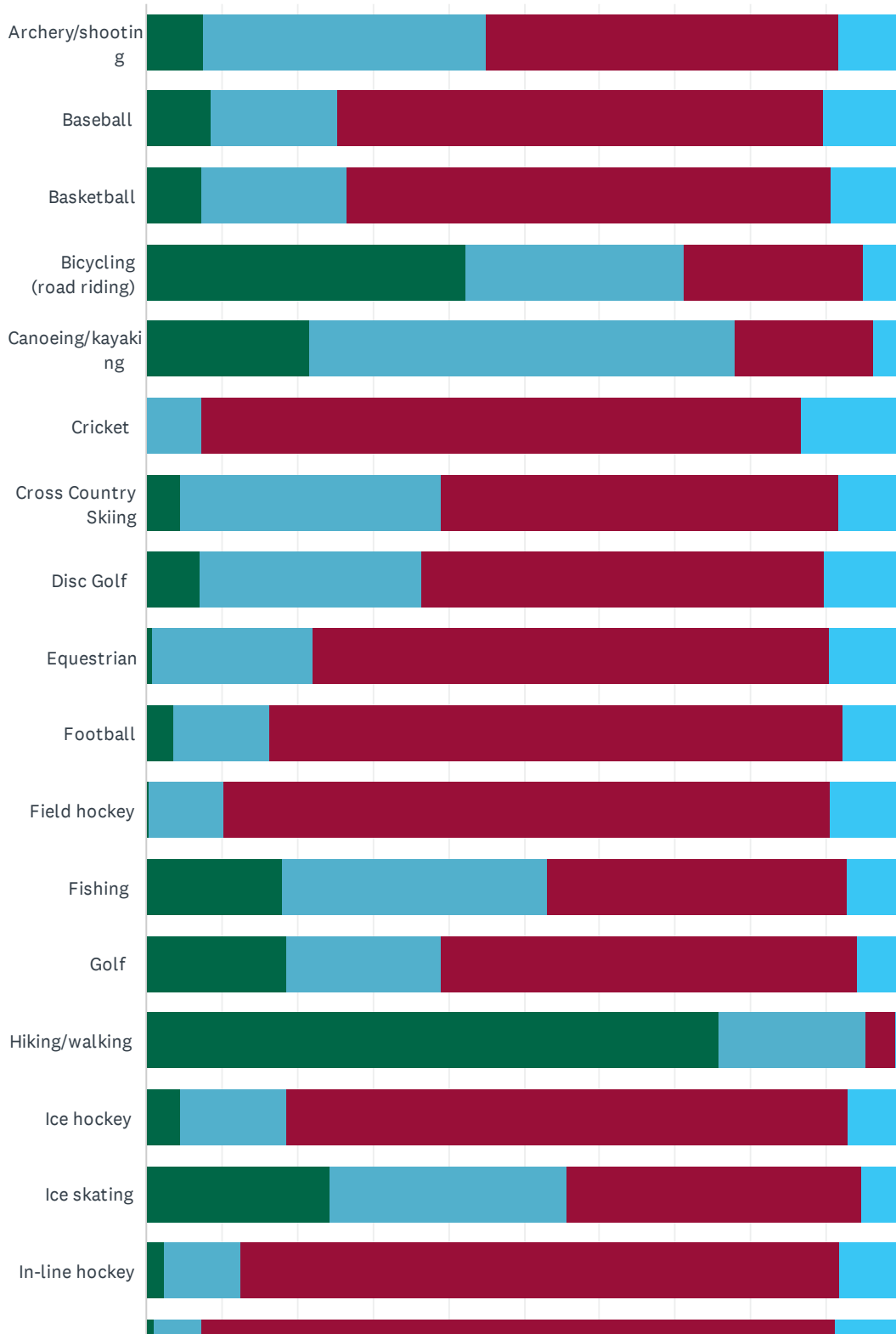
Answered: 47 Skipped: 873



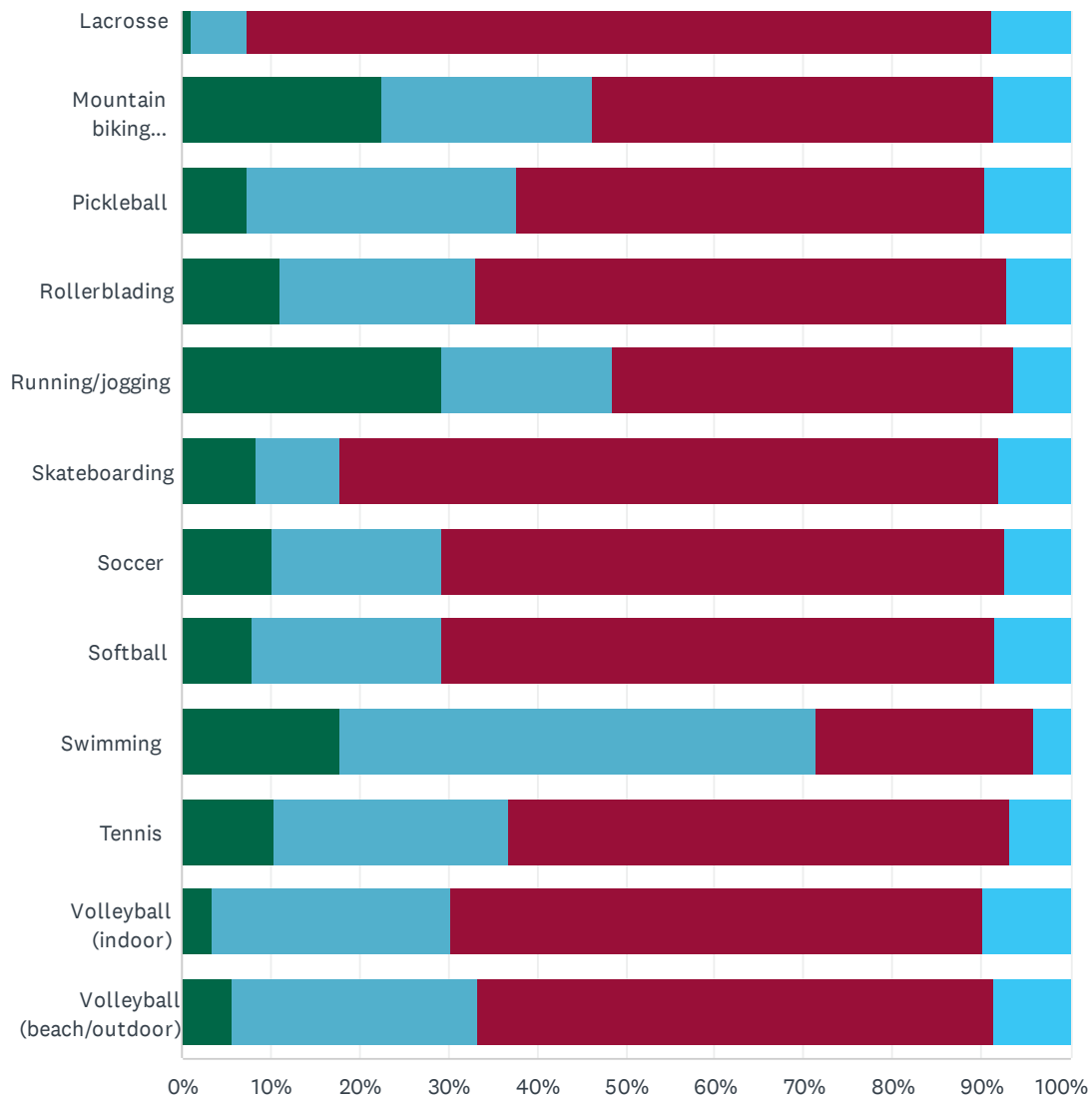
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cognitive disability	12.77%	6
Hearing impairment	6.38%	3
Illness (heart condition, diabetes, cancer, etc)	19.15%	9
Mental health	8.51%	4
Learning disability	10.64%	5
Physical disability (mobility problems)	80.85%	38
Speech impairment	8.51%	4
Visual impairment	10.64%	5
Other (please specify)	8.51%	4
Total Respondents: 47		

Q20 The following is a list of several specific types of physical recreational activities. Please mark the answer that most accurately describes you and/or your family's participation.

Answered: 688 Skipped: 232



Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey



Currently Participate
 Future Interest in Participating
 Not Interested
 Undecided/Don't Know

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey

	CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE	FUTURE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING	NOT INTERESTED	UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Archery/shooting	7.52% 49	37.58% 245	46.63% 304	8.28% 54	652
Baseball	8.49% 55	16.82% 109	64.20% 416	10.49% 68	648
Basketball	7.44% 48	19.22% 124	63.88% 412	9.46% 61	645
Bicycling (road riding)	42.37% 286	28.89% 195	23.70% 160	5.04% 34	675
Canoeing/kayaking	21.71% 145	56.29% 376	18.41% 123	3.59% 24	668
Cricket	0.15% 1	7.23% 47	79.38% 516	13.23% 86	650
Cross Country Skiing	4.56% 30	34.50% 227	52.58% 346	8.36% 55	658
Disc Golf	7.08% 46	29.38% 191	53.38% 347	10.15% 66	650
Equestrian	0.77% 5	21.35% 139	68.20% 444	9.68% 63	651
Football	3.69% 24	12.62% 82	75.85% 493	7.85% 51	650
Field hockey	0.46% 3	9.71% 63	80.43% 522	9.40% 61	649
Fishing	17.91% 118	35.20% 232	39.76% 262	7.13% 47	659
Golf	18.71% 122	20.40% 133	55.06% 359	5.83% 38	652
Hiking/walking	75.97% 509	19.25% 129	4.03% 27	0.75% 5	670
Ice hockey	4.48% 29	14.04% 91	74.23% 481	7.25% 47	648
Ice skating	24.39% 160	31.25% 205	39.02% 256	5.34% 35	656
In-line hockey	2.48% 16	9.91% 64	79.41% 513	8.20% 53	646
Lacrosse	1.08% 7	6.19% 40	83.90% 542	8.82% 57	646
Mountain biking (off-road riding)	22.56% 148	23.63% 155	45.27% 297	8.54% 56	656
Pickleball	7.38% 48	30.31% 197	52.77% 343	9.54% 62	650
Rollerblading	11.13% 72	21.95% 142	59.81% 387	7.11% 46	647
Running/jogging	29.20% 191	19.27% 126	45.11% 295	6.42% 42	654
Skateboarding	8.47% 55	9.40% 61	74.11% 481	8.01% 52	649

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey

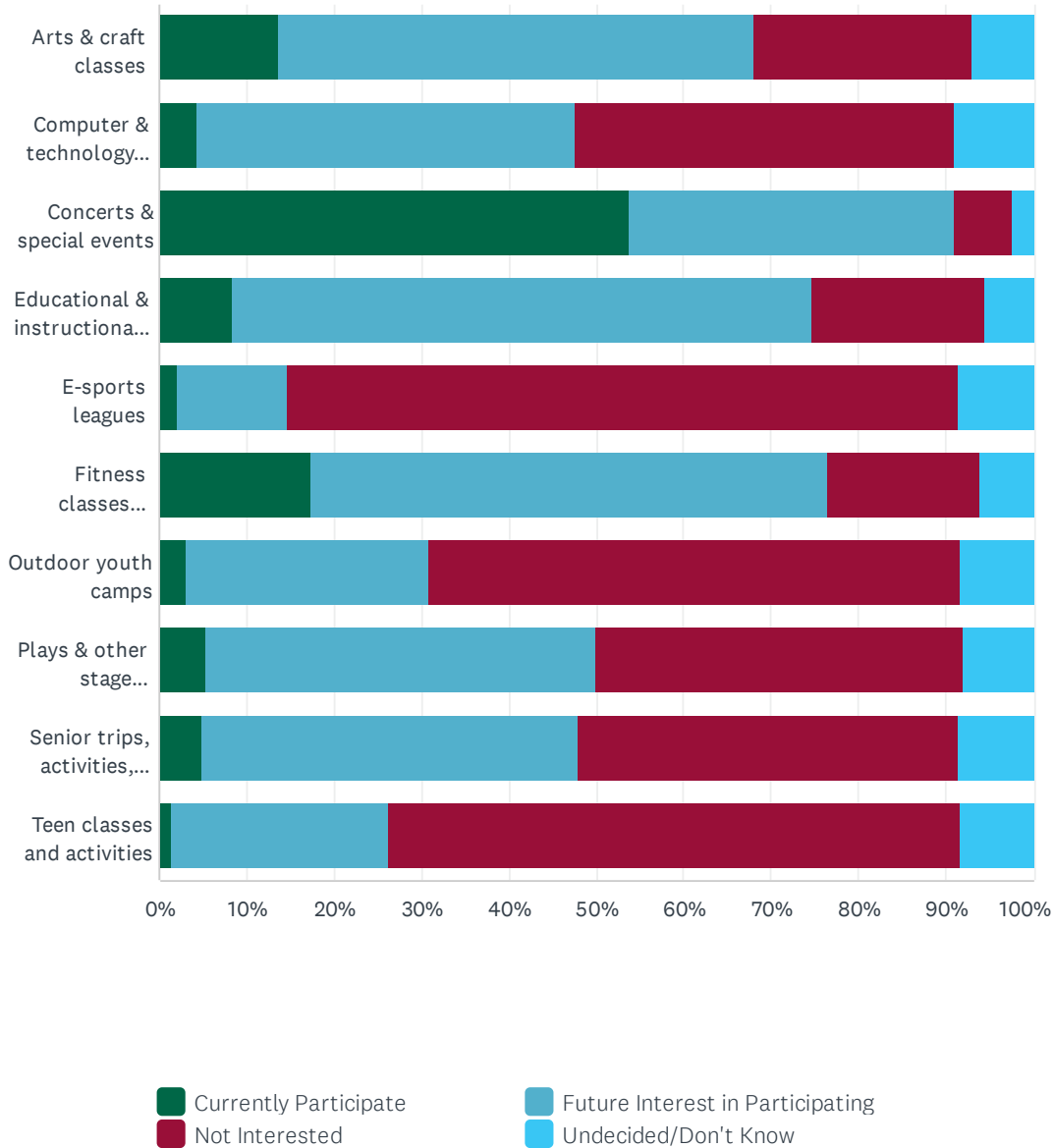
Soccer	10.29% 67	19.05% 124	63.29% 412	7.37% 48	651
Softball	8.06% 52	21.09% 136	62.48% 403	8.37% 54	645
Swimming	17.71% 116	53.74% 352	24.43% 160	4.12% 27	655
Tennis	10.49% 68	26.23% 170	56.48% 366	6.79% 44	648
Volleyball (indoor)	3.41% 22	26.78% 173	59.91% 387	9.91% 64	646
Volleyball (beach/outdoor)	5.72% 37	27.67% 179	58.11% 376	8.50% 55	647

Q21 Are there any other physical recreational activities that were not listed that you or other members of your family would be interested in now or in the future? (Write-in up to 3 activities)

Answered: 377 Skipped: 543

Q22 The following is a list several specific types of non-sport recreational activities. Please mark the answer that most accurately describes you and/or your family's participation.

Answered: 678 Skipped: 242



Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey

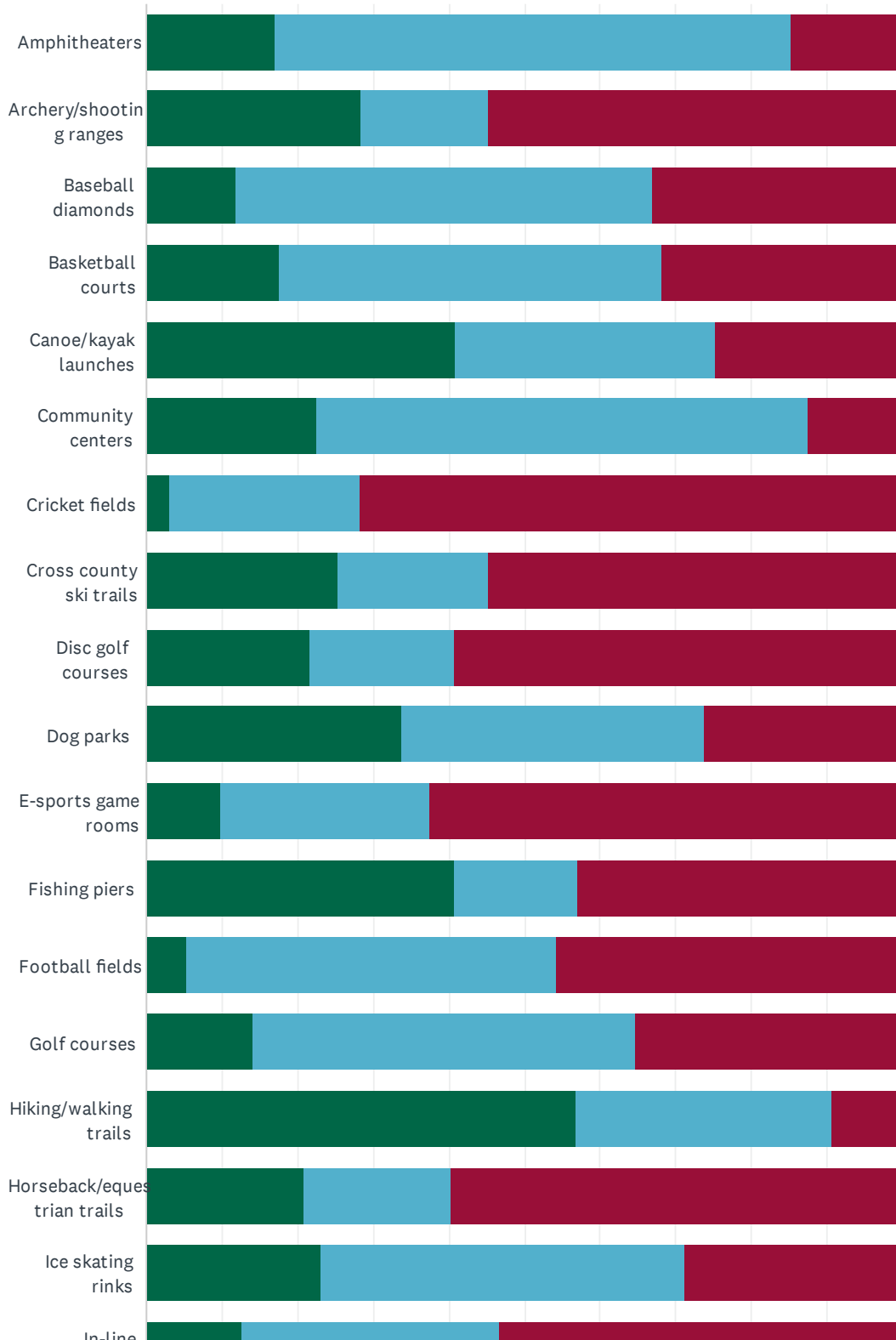
	CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE	FUTURE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING	NOT INTERESTED	UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Arts & craft classes	13.73% 88	54.29% 348	25.12% 161	6.86% 44	641
Computer & technology classes	4.33% 28	43.28% 280	43.43% 281	8.96% 58	647
Concerts & special events	53.79% 355	37.12% 245	6.67% 44	2.42% 16	660
Educational & instructional classes (personal finance, cooking, health topics, etc.)	8.38% 55	66.16% 434	19.97% 131	5.49% 36	656
E-sports leagues	2.03% 13	12.64% 81	76.76% 492	8.58% 55	641
Fitness classes (aerobics, dance, yoga, etc.)	17.30% 113	59.11% 386	17.46% 114	6.13% 40	653
Outdoor youth camps	3.11% 20	27.84% 179	60.65% 390	8.40% 54	643
Plays & other stage productions	5.26% 34	44.67% 289	42.04% 272	8.04% 52	647
Senior trips, activities, meals	4.86% 32	43.01% 283	43.47% 286	8.66% 57	658
Teen classes and activities	1.40% 9	24.77% 159	65.42% 420	8.41% 54	642

Q23 Are there any other non-sport recreational activities that were not listed that you or other members of your family would be interested in now or in the future? (Write-in up to 3 activities)

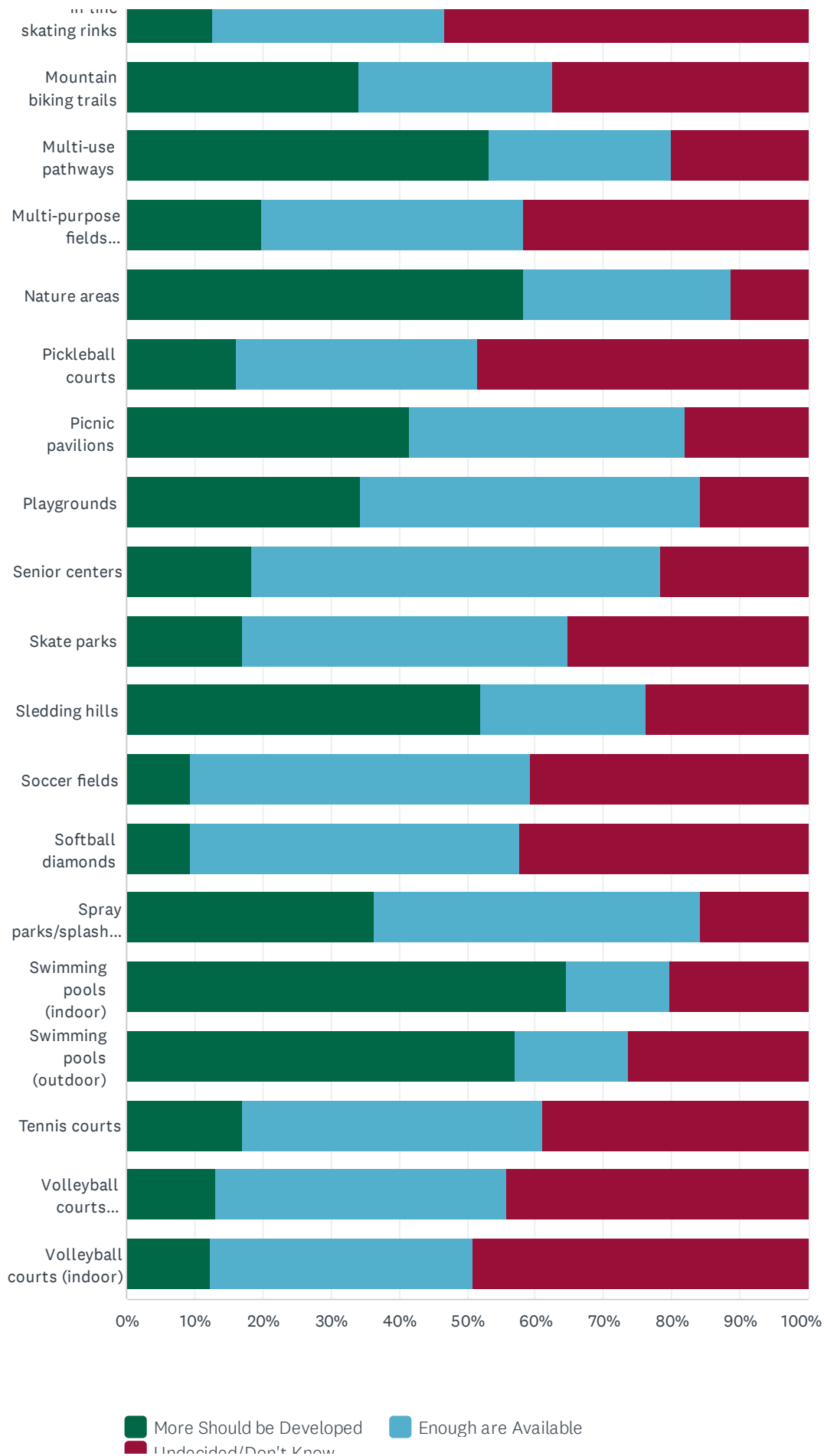
Answered: 304 Skipped: 616

Q24 The following list includes several specific types of recreational facilities. For each facility listed, please mark the answer that best represents your opinion related to the amount of each facility available.

Answered: 676 Skipped: 244



Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey



Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey

■ Undecided/Don't Know

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey

	MORE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED	ENOUGH ARE AVAILABLE	UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Amphitheaters	16.95% 110	68.41% 444	14.64% 95	649
Archery/shooting ranges	28.35% 184	16.80% 109	54.85% 356	649
Baseball diamonds	11.88% 77	54.94% 356	33.18% 215	648
Basketball courts	17.51% 114	50.54% 329	31.95% 208	651
Canoe/kayak launches	40.92% 268	34.35% 225	24.73% 162	655
Community centers	22.51% 147	65.08% 425	12.40% 81	653
Cricket fields	3.11% 20	25.04% 161	71.85% 462	643
Cross county ski trails	25.35% 164	19.94% 129	54.71% 354	647
Disc golf courses	21.71% 140	18.91% 122	59.38% 383	645
Dog parks	33.64% 219	40.25% 262	26.11% 170	651
E-sports game rooms	9.88% 64	27.62% 179	62.50% 405	648
Fishing piers	40.74% 264	16.36% 106	42.90% 278	648
Football fields	5.40% 35	48.77% 316	45.83% 297	648
Golf courses	14.17% 91	50.47% 324	35.36% 227	642
Hiking/walking trails	56.88% 372	33.64% 220	9.48% 62	654
Horseback/equestrian trails	20.81% 134	19.57% 126	59.63% 384	644
Ice skating rinks	23.03% 149	48.22% 312	28.75% 186	647
In-line skating rinks	12.66% 81	33.91% 217	53.44% 342	640
Mountain biking trails	34.06% 220	28.48% 184	37.46% 242	646
Multi-use pathways	53.25% 344	26.63% 172	20.12% 130	646
Multi-purpose fields (football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, etc.)	19.78% 127	38.47% 247	41.74% 268	642
Nature areas	58.24% 378	30.51% 198	11.25% 73	649
Pickleball courts	16.17% 104	35.46% 228	48.37% 311	643

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Survey

Picnic pavilions	41.46% 267	40.53% 261	18.01% 116	644
Playgrounds	34.26% 221	49.92% 322	15.81% 102	645
Senior centers	18.36% 119	60.03% 389	21.60% 140	648
Skate parks	17.00% 110	47.91% 310	35.09% 227	647
Sledding hills	51.93% 336	24.42% 158	23.65% 153	647
Soccer fields	9.49% 61	49.77% 320	40.75% 262	643
Softball diamonds	9.33% 60	48.37% 311	42.30% 272	643
Spray parks/splash pads	36.43% 235	47.75% 308	15.81% 102	645
Swimming pools (indoor)	64.68% 423	14.98% 98	20.34% 133	654
Swimming pools (outdoor)	57.08% 371	16.62% 108	26.31% 171	650
Tennis courts	17.00% 110	44.05% 285	38.95% 252	647
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	13.16% 85	42.72% 276	44.12% 285	646
Volleyball courts (indoor)	12.17% 78	38.85% 249	48.99% 314	641

Q25 Are there any other recreational facilities for either physical or non-sport recreation that were not listed that you or other members of your family would be interested in now or in the future? (Write-in up to 3 facilities)

Answered: 261 Skipped: 659

Q26 Is there anything else you would like to add related to recreational programs, facilities and activities within the City of Sterling Heights?

Answered: 342 Skipped: 578

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Plan Update

Focus Group Discussion Notes

Focus Group Topic: **Adaptive Recreation & Accessibility Needs**

Date: November 11, 2021

Time: 4:00pm

Focus Group Guiding Questions

Note: Some questions may not be applicable to all focus groups.

1. Please share your thoughts about **adaptive recreation/accessibility** within the City
2. What are the most common barriers for persons with developmental, cognitive, and physical disabilities?
 - Related to programming
 - Related to facilities
 - Related to special events
 - Related to mobility
 - Other needs or concerns

Notes:

- Likes the splash pad and the music in the park at Dodge Park
- Handicap area after gate near the splash pad – would be nice to have a space to easily house items at/near the splash pad for disabled kids or disabled parents/grandparents
- Sufficient accessible parking
- Lower picnic tables
- Need adaptive playgrounds and sport opportunities (i.e., wheelchair basketball)
- Adult field trips (ball game, restaurant, etc.) – could be a good opportunity for disabled & independent adults
- Handicap parking for special events (farmer's market, music in the park, etc.)
- Designated parking at senior citizen's center for handicap parking for events
- Accessible ground cover in all the playgrounds in the city
 - Safety surface & barrier free ramps
- Changing tables in the bathrooms accessible for a very large kid – for older children or adults that may need help
- Senior track appears to work well for handicapped individuals
- Accessibility to bathrooms (paved trail) at the parks (for events and regular use)
- More adult programming
- POHI group runs programs and may benefit from accessible programming in Dodge Park
- Accessible buses & transportation options for seniors and disabled individuals
 - Better communication about the availability of programs

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Plan Update

Focus Group Discussion Notes

Focus Group Topic: **Adult & Family Programming Focus Group Needs**

Date: November 5, 2021

Time: 5:00pm

Focus Group Guiding Questions

Note: Some questions may not be applicable to all focus groups.

1. Please share your thoughts about ***adult & family programming focus group needs*** within the City
 - Specific programs that should be offered which are not
 - Quantity/quality of special events
 - Facility/space/equipment issues related to programming
 - Location of special events and programs
 - Other related topics

Notes:

- Parks and facilities are well outfitted – if one park doesn't have it, then one of the other parks does
 - Can be difficult to figure out what amenities each park has (clearer communication)
 - Be sure to continue to pay attention to up-and-coming sports to ensure sufficient facilities (volleyball courts at dodge park is always busy, soccer and pickleball too is always busy). Add additional courts at other parks.
 - Only one park that has tennis courts, add additional courts at more of the parks.
- Parks feel very accessible: short drive, bike ride, or walkable in most cases.
 - No clear sidewalk access at Utica to dodge park for one resident (hop on trail at nature center and go from there – feel street is too unsafe)
- Bathrooms at the parks are nice, often to choose to visit parks that have them
- Programs that require registration were most popular with families with young kids to get them active
 - Rec center has some pick-up game activities that are attended frequently and are done well. Major issue is that there are often too many people so it becomes difficult to actually participate (only select times to be able to use the facilities/programming, can be frustrating because waiting a long time to actually use facilities)
 - More time availability or sign-up times to manage everyone's ability to participate
 - Good variety of programming options
- Swimming lessons would be a nice provision – offer the swim classes at a different facility where the water is heated (Maybe at the City of Warren?)
- More activities targeted for kids and young adults aged 18-24
 - Appears to have more activities for the young families not as many options for young-middle aged adults and even older teenagers (14-18)

- Senior/older adult programs occur during the day, which inhibits participation for adults between 25-50.
- Better advertisement of events and programming
- Special events should be sure to consider timing of events, for the most part they are very fun and fairly accessible
 - Sometimes busy and have to walk a bit to get to the event
 - Would deter people from going frequently because it gets very crowded (parking an issue during the concert, farmer's market nights)
 - Loved the Thursday night events, lots to do and to see, but just very busy
 - Something else similar to this for the winter (maybe not the same frequency as during the summer but a good option for socialization in the winter months)

Additional Comments Received:

- Activities that are growing and popular that would be nice: bocce ball and disc golf.
- Additional soccer turf fields due to popularity (indoor court with walls and turf)
- There aren't as many swings as there used to be; would like to see more swings at the neighborhood parks around the city
- Options to take the outdoor activities indoors in the winter months (additional facilities to allow more people to go at a larger spread of time).

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Plan Update

Focus Group Discussion Notes

Focus Group Topic: **Age 50+ Programming Needs**

Date: November 3, 2021

Time: 5:00pm

Focus Group Guiding Questions

Note: Some questions may not be applicable to all focus groups.

1. Please share your thoughts about **age 50+ programming** within the city
 - Specific programs that should be offered which are not
 - Quantity/quality of special events
 - Facility/space/equipment issues related to programming
 - Location of special events and programs
 - Other related topics

Notes:

- Facility/space/equipment issues related to programming
 - Only two bathrooms in all of Dodge Park 5-mile trail
 - Needs additional drinking fountains or water filling stations
 - Rest stops with cart services to help get back to parking lot (emergency or otherwise)
- Maintenance
 - Paths are well-maintained
 - Flood lights on a timer? Stay on all the time or only when people are using them?
- Issue with selling drugs in parks deters elderly people from visiting parks
- Dodge Park – the walkers and the skateboards/bikes (need an alert system – better signage)
 - Some signage exists, more is needed at each park merging entrances
- City offered classes from community center to senior center and then causes trouble getting to the farmer's market, the classes, library, and the concert (parking issues)
 - Move programming to different days
 - Creates access problems with programming classes (yoga)
- Farmer's market needs more farmer's goods – not just a social scene
- If group is not city-affiliated, it is difficult to get and use space (community groups)
 - Cost prohibitive (enough availability)
 - Time prohibitive
 - Extensive rules, etc.
- Magnificent track at new community building
- Not many other activity options other than pickleball, track.
 - Many empty rooms for planned activities but then weren't formalized
- A workout gym would be nice, but significant cost
 - Swimming pool at Warren is great and easy to work
- Senior center is depressing

- They don't offer that many services for people who are over 50 and active (mostly for immobile persons)
 - Should offer art classes from an instructor
 - More classes that support the community like the programming already offered for Medicare info, care of the caregiver, mental health, etc.
- Senior Expo/Wellness Fair with vendors to expose seniors to Medicare, blood pressure checks/providers, outdoor activities, city programming, etc.
- Senior books in Sterling Heights only talks about death amenities
- Gardening programming
- Decorations/Wreath making
- Offering discounts to seniors for these programs
- Better communication about other events/programming in other local communities (not necessarily only in Sterling Heights)
- Cooking demographics for 1 or 2 people only
- More daytime programming, especially in the winter
- Field trips for seniors (i.e., community trip to DIA, museums, fun trips)
- Ask Sterling Heights to evaluate/compare programming against other cities
- Make sure there is programming for both active senior crowds and limited senior crowds
- Seniors visiting seniors program (ambulatory seniors visit homebound seniors, create a buddy sort of system, and reduce isolation)
- Magnolia Park has safety issues (guns/drugs?)
- Make the recreation amenities website into a grid so it's easier to follow
- Community garden would be a nice facility
- City should provide transportation to and from community facilities and specific programming
 - Better communication about that service
 - Extend the hours of this service
- Senior webpage with hotlinks to all the things the seniors need (increase communication!)
 - City website can be challenging

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Plan Update

Focus Group Discussion Notes

Focus Group Topic: **Park Facility Needs**

Date: November 3, 2021

Time: 8:00am

Focus Group Guiding Questions

Note: Some questions may not be applicable to all focus groups.

1. Please share your thoughts about **parks facilities** within the City
 - Facility types that should be offered which are not
 - Design/quality/maintenance issues for facilities
 - Facility needs by user groups (sports, different age groups, etc.)
 - Facility needs by area/section of the City
 - Facility needs by season (winter, summer)
 - Safety needs or concerns
 - Open space/natural resource facilities needs
 - Other related topics

Notes:

- Facility types that should be offered which are not
 - Hampton Park has no restroom at all – would be nice to have a restroom at each park
 - Recycling receptacles
 - Swimming pool/aquatic facilities
 - Versus renting from Warren for SH residents
- Design/quality/maintenance issues for facilities
 - Swing safety
 - Concerns get handled very efficiently – fixed before I even know it's an issue
- Facility needs by user groups (sports, different age groups, etc.)
 - Trash cans and recycling bins near to the facilities
- Facility needs by season (winter, summer)
 - More lights or come on earlier and can be shut off earlier in Dodge Park
 - Couldn't meet there in the evenings
 - Even just a few lights in the pavilion so people aren't left in the dark
 - Keeping restrooms open year-round
- Safety needs or concerns
 - More lights in pavilion
 - Sufficient police presence
 - Has a park monitor at the little league events and it is good
 - Safe crosswalks for busy streets (to increase park access)
- Other related topics
 - Better communication on how people should report parks safety issues

- E-sports makes city recreation wholly inclusive
 - E-sports are coming to HS
 - The City is already ahead by implementing E-sports in the city
- Offer recreation rentals (e.g., skis, sleds, canoes, etc.)
- Promote winter sports and recreation opportunities
- Offer adult tennis lessons

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Plan Update

Focus Group Discussion Notes

Focus Group Topic: **Teen Facilities and Programming**

Date: November 15, 2021

Time: 6pm

Format: Youth Advisory Board Meeting

Focus Group Guiding Questions

Note: Some questions may not be applicable to all focus groups.

1. Please share your thoughts about **parks facilities** within the City
 - Most popular/well utilized park facilities
 - Facility types that should be offered which are not
 - Design/quality/maintenance issues for facilities
 - Facility needs by user groups (sports, different age groups, etc.)
 - Facility needs by area/section of the City
 - Facility needs by season (winter, summer)
 - Safety needs or concerns
 - Open space/natural resource facilities needs
 - Other related topics

Notes:

- Most popular/well utilized park facilities
 - Dodge Park
 - Basketball courts
 - Very heavily utilized; very often you need to wait in order to play
 - Mini-soccer field
 - Also very heavily utilized; very often you need to wait in order to play
 - Would like to see more of this type of facility at Dodge Park and/or other parks
 - Would like to see a opportunity where secure/rent soccer balls and basketballs
 - Walking trails/nature walks
 - Excellent and well used amenity
 - This season, mosquitos have been a significant issue deterring park/trail use in certain areas
 - Love the reading areas and peaceful contemplation opportunities within Dodge Park
 - Farmers market pavilion is a great area for reading, in the morning
 - Dodge Park ice skating
 - Very crowded on Saturdays, possibly need another ice skating rink elsewhere

- A concern is that Dodge Park has gotten the most attention, with the best facilities. Would like to see better distribution of park facilities across the park system.
- Facility types that should be offered which are not
 - Outdoor exercise stations workout stations
 - Lockers at park facilities
 - Would love to see spaces for outdoor yoga
 - Kidd Elementary School – opportunity for development of a new park
 - Would love to see a butterfly house at the Nature Center
- Design/quality/maintenance issues for facilities
 - Imus Park needs better maintenance
 - Delia Park soccer fields condition is poor after heavy rains
- City's trail system
 - Some of the trails are narrow, results in safety issues for different trail users
 - Dodge Park bridge – heavily utilized, many bikers cross it very fast
 - After flooding – mud on the trail, sand on the trail
- Special event opportunities:
 - Youth Advisory Council is interested in helping organize and volunteer at special events. This allows for students to earn their school-required volunteer hours.
 - Idea to hold a scavenger hunt
 - Successful scavenger hunt event held at Jimmy John's Field, using the Goose Chase App, organized by teachers at Henry Ford/Stevenson
 - Art Contest event for kids and teens
- Winter season opportunities:
 - Snow man building contest
 - Snow sledding contest
 - Winter Show – Holiday songs
 - Fundraiser for needy persons during the holiday season
 - Turn the Farmer's Market into a pop-up holiday market
 - Food trucks – holiday themed food
- Comments about programming:
 - Youth would like to see some of the non-sport programming, such as arts and crafts
 - Drawing and painting programs, like Painting with a Twist locations
- Thoughts and strategies for communicating information about parks and recreation facilities, programs and special events
 - Parks newsletter helps, but other communication methods are needed
 - Create a City parks and recreation app with notifications
 - Consider creating a text message/notification systems
 - Better coordination with the schools to advertise City programs and events

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation & Non-Motorized Plan Update

Focus Group Discussion Notes

Focus Group Topic: **Non-Motorized Facility Needs**

Date: November 1, 2021

Time: 8:00am

Focus Group Guiding Questions

Note: Some questions may not be applicable to all focus groups.

1. Please share your thoughts about **[parks or non-motorized] facilities** within the City
 - Facility types that should be offered which are not
 - Design/quality/maintenance issues for facilities
 - Facility needs by user groups (sports, different age groups, etc.)
 - Facility needs by area/section of the City
 - Facility needs by season (winter, summer)
 - Safety needs or concerns
 - Open space/natural resource facilities needs
 - Other related topics

Notes:

- Facility types that should be offered which are not
 - *Landing pads for individuals who want to go close to the water*
 - *Educational Plaques at ruins/sites in the woods/along trails (Dodge Park, Clinton River Park North)*
 - “The abandoned early 20 century drag line excavator (“Crane” on the CRAMBA map) and tall sifter are of great interest to anyone who has seen them. Why were they there? What was the park used for in years past? An historic signpost describing the equipment’s past purpose would be very informative – if anyone knows. Was the soil excavated, and are the berms throughout the park a result of excavating?”
 - *More dock/platforms along river for viewing/fishing*
 - *Bike park with obstacles (example: [Bike Park at The Jones Center in Springdale, Northwest Arkansas — The Jones Center.](#))*
 - *Bike tire pumps throughout the park*
- Design/quality/maintenance issues for facilities
 - *Trail muddiness (lasts for 3 or so days)*
 - *Trail sandiness after flooding*
 - *Pathways that go under bridges because of roads are often unusable due to water/flooding/mud*
 - *Need an at-street crossing to make it safe to cross the street and alternative to go around instead of going under the bridge (on the way to Utica)*
- Facility needs by area/section of the city

- *New trail extension in areas where there are sidewalks that abruptly stop and start (on the way to trails and around the city)*
- *Bike lanes on roadways may be used if they feel safe (maybe separated from traffic?)*
- *Clinton River trail at Van Dyke should have a crosswalk to heritage park by City of Utica.*
- *Few more benches in Edison Court or along the water way.*
- **Safety needs or concerns**
 - *Signage for bikers to signal audibly when approaching walkers (sign near main bridge in Dodge Park)*



- *Signage to walk bikes over bridge (bridge farmers market)*
- *Overgrown shrubs on sharp corners (blind corners) in Dodge Park – danger for walkers/bikers*
- *Sloped bike trails near a bank (icy in the winter and too close to the edge)*
- *Farmstead Park to Donovan Park (along Clinton River Road along entrances from farmstead park to Donovan park): needs a bike lane and complete sidewalks along the roadways*
- *Wayfinding signage (Edison Court trail & bridge names)*
 - *“The main bridge should be given a name so that the bridge will not be confused with the Nature Center Bridge.”*
- **Other related topics**
 - *Freedom trail is loud; many users prefer to use other trails*

Additional Comments Received:

- Missing numbered emergency markers along the trail should be replaced. Since that are useful in estimating distance (almost 0.1 mile per marker) a numbered reference marker should be installed at the main entrance bridge (approx. #17.5). Since runners are measuring their running distances, I would suggest that the numbering system be in actual miles and tenths of a mile. (i.e., "Emergency Marker 13" would become "Mile Marker 1.3")
- After the new Dodge Park bridge was reconstructed some years back, Loop D became part of the main trail, and what was the main trail is now used as loop. The emergency markers should reflect this change, elimination the "D loop" designation on the main trail.
- It would be very useful to have a good trail map that can be downloaded, showing not only the mail paved trail, but accurately showing the dirt bike trails and scenic designations. There is a reasonably good map published by the CRAMBA (Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association), but the park needs one that includes more of the park's artifacts as well as a latitude/longitude grid that would work well with smart phones. One specific artifact that hardly anyone using the park knows about is the remains (pylons) of an historic early 1900's dancehall-speakeasy just about 300 ft near emergency marker #21. People are

shocked when I lead them to this site. There are at least four abandoned water wells in the park.

- There are many places where debris have been dumped in years past. The worst is the so-called "Rock Garden" (broken concrete) off the SW bike trail. It's treacherous walking in that area and a blot on the otherwise beautiful landscape. It would be nice to have concrete slabs cleaned out. Interestingly there are also abandoned wells in that area whose accessibility is inhibited by the broken concrete.
- More greenways connecting the Dodge Park pathways to other paths and parks would be nice. Getting to metro beach from Dodge Park is relatively safe considering the wider sidewalks on the way to 16 mile. Perhaps existing sidewalks could be widened as they are repaired in the future. Dedicated street greenways would also be a welcome fix. The bridges and fish dock in the northern end of the Dodge Park trail are getting a bit worn and may need a little more upkeep. This wood also seems to have lost its treated qualities as with a small amount of rain the planks feel like they are ice.
- My main safety concern is street crossings. I ride the sidewalk due to safety concerns and many of the crossings are poorly timed and controlled for bike and pedestrian use. An example of this is crossing Clinton River Road to travel west on Riverland. I use this route when there is flooding on the path and have to rush across due to a short window time. Auto traffic trying to turn right (south) onto Clinton River Road does not usually know to yield. Perhaps a short period with a red arrow for auto traffic in areas like this would help.
- Another safety concern of mine is the speed of e-bikes. Most users maintain a safe speed, however, like cars there are some that feel they must top out. Perhaps a posted speed limit could be set with reminders along the trail.
- In general, I enjoy riding the trails and feel anything outside of that (street/sidewalk) is unappealing due to safety, scenery and ride quality. This makes trying to get to shopping centers and anywhere that's east or west of the Dodge Park system difficult and dangerous. I would like improved/widened sidewalks and greenways if possible. I think this would promote foot traffic and bicycle traffic. Adding greenways and sidewalks to areas that have none (Clinton River Road/sections of Hall/other secondary and surface streets) would also positively impact non-motorized travel. Being forced into a street does not seem safe or appealing to the average citizen.



MICHIGAN GROUP

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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STERLING HEIGHTS (PO# SO-1487000)
40555 UTICA ROAD

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48313
Attention: Andrea Bara

**STATE OF MICHIGAN,
COUNTY OF MACOMB**

The undersigned Cyndy Slater, being duly sworn the he/she is the principal clerk of Macomb Daily, macombdaily.com, published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character, which are duly qualified newspapers, and the annexed hereto is a copy of certain order, notice, publication or advertisement of:

STERLING HEIGHTS (PO# SO-1487000)

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VICKI ARSENAULT
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
My Commission Expires May 11, 2026
Acting in the County of _____

Sworn to the subscribed before me this 8 Dec, 2021

Vicki Arsenault
Notary Public, State of Michigan
Acting in Oakland County

City of Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026

Notice of Public Hearing and Availability of Draft Plan for Review

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Sterling Heights City Council on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Sterling Heights City Hall, located at 40555 Utica Road, Sterling Heights, MI, 48313. The public hearing is being held to receive comments from citizens and consider the adoption of the Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan, 2022-2026.

A parks, recreation and non-motorized master plan assists the City in identifying recreation needs. The plan will serve as a guide to document priorities for improvements. When approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the plan qualifies the City for recreation grants, which are administered through the MDNR. The proposed plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the City, an inventory of existing facilities, a recreation needs analysis, goals and objectives, and capital improvement priorities for the next five years.

A copy of the draft Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026 is available for public review and can be downloaded from the Parks & Recreation page on the City website, at www.myshpr.net. A hard copy is also available for public inspection at the Parks & Recreation Department Offices, located in the Community Center at 40250 Dodge Park Road, Sterling Heights, MI, 48313. Any comments on the draft plan can be submitted by mail to the Parks and Recreation Department at the address above or by e-mail to recreation@sterling-heights.net.

Published on December 01, 2021 Macomb Daily Newspaper

Advertisement Information

Client Id:	559638	Ad Id:	2253444	PO:		Total:	\$131.80
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CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022
IN CITY HALL

1. Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Mayor Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk, gave the Invocation.
3. Council Members present at roll call: Deanna Koski, Michael V. Radtke, Jr., Maria G. Schmidt, Liz Sierawski, Michael C. Taylor, Henry Yanez, Barbara A. Ziarko.

Also Present: Mark Vanderpool, City Manager; Marc D. Kaszubski, City Attorney; Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk; Carol Sobosky, Recording Secretary.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Koski, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Councilman Yanez requested that Consent Agenda Item 9-D be pulled off of the Consent Agenda and moved to Consideration Item 10-C.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

5. **REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Vanderpool reminded that, in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 17, City offices will be closed for business. He advised that there will be no disruption in the refuse collection schedule. The Sterling Heights Public Library will be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a

display in their lobby, providing an overview of Dr. King's life and contributions. Biographical material for all ages will be highlighted, so he encouraged people to stop in and look at this educational display.

Mr. Vanderpool reminded residents that Christmas trees can still be set out at the curb through February 2; after that date, trees will not be allowed to be set out at the curb.

Mr. Vanderpool requested that City Council convene a Closed Session at the conclusion of tonight's agenda, pursuant to Sections 8-H and 8-E of the Open Meetings Act for Council to consult with the City Attorney regarding a confidential written legal opinion and trial or settlement strategy in connection with Macomb County Circuit Court Case No. 20-00308-NI.

Mr. Vanderpool highlighted an article published in today's Detroit Free Press newspaper, entitled "Ten Metro Detroit Cities Have the Biggest Home Sale Surges of 2021," and he pointed out that Sterling Heights was the leader on this list, with a 31 percent increase in home sales. The population of Sterling Heights continues to grow and be a focal point and destination place for people across the state and Midwest. He credited a number of reasons, including great public and parochial schools, great services in the community, low taxes, plentiful high-paying jobs, being an inclusive, welcoming community, resulting in being one of the most diverse cities in the State of

Michigan. He added that the City has invested millions of dollars in quality-of-life services attracting young residents and families, including the park systems, bike/hike trails, skate park, ice rink, and Dodge Park. He noted that he had a conversation with an employee at a nearby business who mentioned his grandparents love living in Sterling Heights, and he and his fiancé are thinking of buying a home in Sterling Heights. When asked why, he responded it is in large part because of the recreational amenities that have been constructed and built out over recent years. Mr. Vanderpool stressed these investments are paying off, and he highlighted this article as one more example of good leadership, commending the Mayor and City Council for taking the lead and many of these investments over recent years.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Vanderpool for this good news. He recognized Macomb County Commissioner Joe Romano, who is present at tonight's meeting.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Mayor Taylor stated this is a public hearing to consider adoption of a proposed Parks, Recreation, and Non-Motorized Master Plan for 2022 through 2026. He invited Parks and Recreation Director Kyle Langlois and Wade Trim Senior Project Manager Adam Young to give the presentation.

Parks and Recreation Director Kyle Langlois stated this is a presentation of the Parks and Recreation Non-Motorized Master Plan, developed as a guide for the Parks and Recreation Department to follow over the next five years. This process began over fifteen months ago, with the finalization tonight and over the next month. He informed that the last Master Plan was being developed at about the same time the *ReCreating Recreation* Initiative was unfolding, and it resulted in a high level of completion from the Community Improvement Plan. Mr. Langlois noted he is eager to move the City forward in the realm of recreation. He introduced Senior Project Manager Adam Young from Wade Trim, noting that Wade Trim was selected through a rigorous Request for Proposal process to complete their last Master Plan and compiled this new plan as a follow-up to what they were able to achieve through *ReCreating Recreation* and their last Master Plan.

Senior Project Manager Adam Young from Wade Trim provided a summary of the Master Plan, with the purpose of the plan being to build on the successful *ReCreating Recreation* Initiative and continue that momentum forward, looking at additional investments and improvements to the Parks and Recreation non-motorized system in the City. The plan serves as a guide and a decision-making document for the City. He stressed it is important to know that the intentionally-ambitious five-year Action Plan is not set in stone

and does not commit the City to any specific projects. It positions the City to be able to seek and secure funding through the State of Michigan, ensuring the City is grant-eligible through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) through December 31, 2026. Mr. Young outlined the considerations that went into the plan, including existing facilities inventory, accessibility for all individuals, providing greater access, non-motorized assessment including sidewalk gaps, recreation trends, national planning standards, community demographics, including regional and state plans, related plans and initiatives, and public input. He noted they looked at the Iron Belle Trail, and the statewide drive over the last number of years to get that trail in place. They conducted an online citizen survey and were pleased with receiving over nine hundred responses. He added that over eighty-five percent of respondents indicated the City is doing an excellent or a good job in providing recreation, and they held focus group discussions, including meeting with a teen group at a Sterling Heights Youth Advisory Board meeting to get feedback and thoughts from the younger generation.

Mr. Young explained the Action Program is the key component of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan, and includes a schedule of proposed improvements to parks, trails, and facilities. He outlined improvements to include new amenities and enhancements to all city parks, such as picnic

tables, benches, bike racks, etc. There are significant improvements proposed at certain city parks, such as new athletic courts, trail loops, and parking lot rehabilitation or paving. They have targeted some land acquisition sites for either conservation or for proposed development of future neighborhood parks. He outlined some of the non-motorized improvements outline in the plan, which include connections where there are currently sidewalk gaps, looking to improve and enhance the Iron Belle Trail route through the City. The shared use trail extensions are proposed in order to connect neighborhoods with parks, schools, and business districts, and they are also looking at signage and safety enhancements.

Mr. Young reviewed the adoption schedule, noting that the draft plan has been in place beginning December 5, 2021, available on the City's website for viewing and downloading. The City Council is holding the Public Hearing tonight as required, and they are being asked to consider the plan for adoption this evening. He stated they would like to have this plan adopted and submitted to the MDNR by February 1, so they would be eligible to apply for grants yet this year.

Mr. Langlois stated this has been an extensive process, and unique opportunities have been presented to solicit feedback from residents. They

are excited about the plan being considered this evening, and he offered to answer questions.

Mayor Taylor opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Taylor closed the Public Hearing.

Moved by Sierawski, seconded by Taylor, **RESOLVED**, to adopt the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan for the period 2022 to 2026.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski felt this is a great continued step in the right direction, adding that they need to improve their modes of transportation other than motorized vehicles. She appreciated the hard work that has gone into this plan, and she is pleased that this allows them to seek grants sooner rather than later. She acknowledged that grants are not always "free money," but she is in favor of getting the most from their dollars spent. She is in support of this plan.

Councilman Radtke commended those who put this plan together, stating he read it and it is excellent. He recalled being asked by residents regarding a third entrance to Magnolia Park, and he questioned whether there is an update on whether they plan to take back the sidewalk. He pointed out that residents are forced to go through a muddy area between two properties to get "through the back door" of Magnolia Park.

Mr. Langlois clarified it is Moravian Park. He has not been able to acquire any information as to how it turned from a catwalk to a closed-off area, but they will continue to research it. If they discover they have access, he assured it will be their plan to open it to the residents off of Maisano Drive so they can access the park from that location.

Councilman Radtke noted there is a map with circles depicting the average walking distance for residents to access a park, and although the homes fall within the circles, the residents cannot access the park without going out to a major roadway and walk at least a mile to get to the park they can see from their homes. He felt the map shows the need for a community center or park in the 15 Mile / Van Dyke area, so he urged people to talk to him and his colleagues about repurposing the former Fillmore Elementary School site to something they can use. He read about a park on Red Run, and he questioned whether it is marked with a sign to inform them it is a park they can use. He added he was not even aware the City owned a park on Red Run. He questioned whether the City is planning on doing a land swap at the site of the former Puffin Park with the hopes of building a play structure for the residents.

Mr. Langlois replied that is correct, and they are still working through the appraisal process, which is very cumbersome. He noted that property was

purchased with grant funds through the State and National Park Service, so it is a high-level appraisal that has to take place. He clarified it is not a land swap but it is through a mutually-agreeable arrangement that will allow a road to go through the park to a new subdivision.

Councilman Radtke stated that Baumgartner Park now has soccer fields and a new playscape but does not have a sidewalk linking it to the area around it. He recalled they have a shared use path on Dodge Park, starting at 16 Mile Road going north, so residents on the east side of 15 Mile comments they get a lot of bike traffic coming off that shared use path directly onto the sidewalk south of 16 Mile Road. He suggested expanding that shared use path from 16 Mile Road to 15 Mile Road, the residents would appreciate it. He noted he talked to one resident in a wheelchair who explained it is difficult to maneuver when she comes up to a bike, because one or the other has to go off onto the grass so the other person can pass. Councilman Radtke felt that other than the few items he mentioned, the plan is excellent. He loved what they are doing with the parks and felt there is room for them to continue improving to make it the best park system in the state.

Councilwoman Schmidt thanked everyone who participated in this hard work. She reminded that this document is not etched in stone, but is a wish list, and she compared it to Strategic Planning. She noted that the acquisition of

Fillmore School was mentioned by Councilman Radtke and is also mentioned in the report, and as an employee of the district, she has received many phone calls from staff who are being displaced from that building this week and are insisting the City has already purchased that building or has an agreement to take over the building. She requested that Mr. Langlois dispel these rumors. Mr. Langlois clarified there is no plan in place at this point to purchase or take over Fillmore Elementary. He acknowledged it is part of their proposal, but there is no agreement. He stressed they would need to secure funding to be able to do that, which would be through grant funding. He estimated they would be two years away from that, and he acknowledged that he is not privy to the school district's information regarding the plans for all of their buildings. He assured it is not related to this plan.

Councilwoman Schmidt thanked Mr. Langlois for clearing up that issue, and she wanted to make sure everyone is aware the City has not acquired that building. If they acquire the building with grant dollars, they still have to fund it to fill it. She felt what is presented is encouraging and an extension of *ReCreating Recreation*, and she appreciated their help.

Councilwoman Koski noted that this is their "wish list." She referred to the comments of the bike / hike path from the east to the west along the Sterling Relief Drain. She requested an explanation of the plan.

Mr. Langlois believed Councilwoman Koski is referring to one of their concept plans which is actually a County plan referencing a previous plan discussed at City Council.

Councilwoman Koski replied to inquiry that is correct.

Mr. Langlois explained that plan was included in their plan as a future potential opportunity for non-motorized transportation. It was noted that it was debated heavily at City Council level, so there are no plans to pursue a trail at this time, but it is an opportunity so it was determined important to be included in the plan.

Councilwoman Koski inquired as to whether that is something they are doing tonight as far linking Freedom Hill.

Mr. Langlois replied that is a separate plan and a separate section of the trail. He clarified the section on the agenda this evening is not directly behind homes but is on the other side of the drain, so they are two completely separate plans with two completely separate trail concepts.

Councilwoman Koski questioned whether the other plan would be added to it if it were done, because it would extend all the way to Nelson Park.

Mr. Langlois again emphasized there are no plans for that.

Councilwoman Koski clarified it is part of a "wish list" and might be something that can be done.

Mr. Langlois replied it is an item that should be considered moving forward if they want to extend and expand their non-motorized inventory of trails.

Councilwoman Koski questioned whether any thought has been given to the former Belvedere Dance Hall.

Mr. Langlois replied that Belvedere Park, now part of Rotary Park, has some pieces of the old building in the back of the park. They have talked internally about producing some programming that incorporates some of those landmarks along the Clinton River and in the park system, although there are no immediate plans to renovate or do anything with it. He clarified it is in a very sensitive area of the park in terms of wetlands, so it is difficult to get to and from the main part of Rotary Park.

Councilwoman Koski thought of it as a tourist attraction.

Councilwoman Ziarko thanked those involved who put this plan / vision together. She requested, as they move forward and each project comes up, that City Council is kept in the loop as to what they are doing. She felt that would give them an opportunity to discuss it or ask questions. She felt it is a great vision.

Councilman Yanez questioned as to the criteria they use when purchasing property and whether it is to expand a park or create a new park.

Mr. Langlois cited two examples for which they have an interest. One parcel included in their Master Plan as property that would be desirable for the City to acquire is located south of 17 Mile Road, along Utica Road, to possibly expand their greenbelt along the Clinton River at the south end of what would be South Clinton River Park. He added another reason for interest in acquisition is for conservation purposes to maintain natural parkland and to plant additional trees. Mr. Langlois explained when they look at acquiring a parcel such as the Fillmore Elementary School site, it provides a potential opportunity to provide a park in that area of the City where there is no park in that area. He summarized the two things they look at are whether it provides opportunities to conserve natural public lands and increase tree canopy, or whether a property that becomes available has a utility to the residents and Parks and Recreation Department. This was the criteria used when the City recently purchased an acre from the church adjacent to Donovan Park to be used for additional parking to support the activities at the park.

Councilman Yanez felt the Iron Belle Trail is a fantastic project, and he did not know if any other state has a trail that goes from north to south for the entire length of their state. He questioned what kind of signage would be provided

along that portion of the trail in the City, especially for people who do not live in Sterling Heights, which could spur economic activity in the area.

Mr. Langlois replied there are multiple potential routes for the Iron Belle Trail to work their way through Sterling Heights. He felt one of the more attractive routes would be through Baumgartner Park, across 15 Mile to Dodge Park to the north, and this would bring them past various shops along the way, including Coaches Ice Cream, and would proceed past the Community Center into Dodge Park. He explained the Iron Belle Trail has specific signage, so that would be the goal to have that along the entire trail, with the expectation to support local businesses along the trail.

Councilman Yanez questioned whether there are any phone apps that bicyclists/ hikers can use that would show landmarks, or whether one could be created.

Mr. Langlois felt they have looked at this a number of times; however, there are not canned apps they have discovered so they would most likely have to enlist the services of an app-building company to build what they are looking for.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Langlois and Mr. Young for their presentations. He noted the disc golf course has been talked about for a long time, and he questioned whether there are any updates on it.

Mr. Langlois explained there was a difference of opinion on how it should be built, although he added that does not mean that Nelson Park does not offer a great opportunity for a disc golf course. He noted that they will need to get Puffin Park built out first because there is some shared space, and the original plan called for disc golf using the parking lot at Puffin Park and extending into the south portion of Nelson Park. He anticipated it will be a nine-hole disc course, and not a large eighteen-hole tournament-quality disc golf course.

Mayor Taylor commented that Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing new sports, and he is glad to see they are planning expansion of those services.

Councilwoman Schmidt recalled playing a fun game called "Kick Golf" and added she would not mind finding a spot for that in one of the parks.

Councilwoman Ziarko recalled it was "Footgolf."

Councilman Radtke noted this plan refers to the annual agreement between the City of Warren and the City of Sterling Heights with regard to Warren's pool and the City's Community Center. He questioned what the current agreement allows, noting he receives a lot of calls from residents about the swimming pool.

Mr. Langlois explained when they initially signed the intergovernmental agreement, it was for the use of the Community Center, and at that time, it included use of the Warren pool for Sterling Heights residents, whether it was

for annual passes, monthly memberships, or drop-in daily passes, which they were offering at that time. The City of Sterling Heights pays an annual fee to the City of Warren, and in turn, it affords Sterling Heights residents an opportunity to use those facilities at their resident rates. He assured that plan remains in place, although there have been changes since Covid-19 has come about. Since reopening after the Covid-19 shutdown, it has only been reopened to annual passholders and monthly passholders, but they have not reopened the doors to daily passholders in order to better manage the capacity. He added they feel it is also a better experience for the users, and that policy is in place for both Warren residents and Sterling Heights residents. It is a departure from the initial plan, but he assured the residents of Sterling Heights are not being singled out, and this was a Covid-driven decision. He advised they are in the final few months of the initial agreement period, so they will be going back to discussions later this month as to what the next five years looks like and whether both cities are interested in continuing that agreement. Mr. Langlois felt that having access to facilities of another municipality is important to great regional partnership. The pool is in close proximity to the Sterling Heights border, so it provides the residents of this city the great opportunity to use a community pool and workout facility.

Councilman Radtke commented there is a lot of debate about community pools. At this time, the City can use the Warren community pool at their residents' rates, which is good, although he felt it may be difficult for some to pay for a monthly or yearly membership if they only want to use it occasionally. He would like to see other partnerships pursued, both for swimming lessons and recreation.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

7. ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

A. Mayor Taylor stated this is to consider introduction of an ordinance to amend Chapter 25 of the City Code by adding Article 1 to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. He invited Assistant City Attorney Donald P. DeNault, Jr. to give a presentation. Assistant City Attorney Donald P. DeNault, Jr. explained this is to discuss an introduction of the Non-Discrimination Ordinance, which their office prepared and Council enacted in 2014. It is being presented to them in its initial form and has not been modified, and he added it has not needed modification. In the last seven years, the courts have ruled on a few things that have enhanced protections against discrimination in certain areas, but this ordinance was only intended to cover areas not yet covered by case law or standard federal laws. He cited the example of Title 7 of the Civil Rights

Act, protecting against discrimination by employers who have fifteen or more employees, and this ordinance would afford protection regardless of the employer's size. It would cover what the Supreme Court covered in its opinion last year, which includes sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. He offered to answer questions.

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for public comments.

- Jon Matthews – in favor of proposed ordinance; this ordinance could make the difference of where people live and work; questioned the timeline of how a non-discrimination investigation; comfortable and proud of this ordinance.
- Benjamin Orjada – in favor of Council adopting this ordinance; claimed this is deeply personal for him; even if this becomes redundant some day at a federal level, it will offer protection today; felt the City and its residents deserve this.
- Brandy Wright – concerned that some were more concerned about the controversy this may bring up rather than protecting some of the City's residents; acknowledged there may be a vocal minority; should not let a fear of controversy to stop them from doing what is right; urged Council to pass this ordinance.
- Jade Cruz – in favor of this ordinance; may be redundant in future, and may be controversial now, but felt this sends the right message; skills and past performance, should be looked at for jobs, and how a home is maintained should be looked at for home ownership, rather than gender identity or sexual orientation.

Moved by Radtke, seconded by Sierawski, **RESOLVED**, to introduce the ordinance amending Chapter 25 of the City Code by adding Article 1 to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Councilman Radtke felt this is long overdue, noting the City has become more inclusive than it was years ago.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski echoed Councilman Radtke, and she felt everything Council does should be the "right thing" for the most people. She commented people are entitled to rights, she is happy to be a part of it, and she will be voting in favor of the ordinance.

Councilwoman Ziarko stated she voted for this the first time and will be voting for it again today. She has no problem with it and feels it is the right thing to do, although she hopes things have changed over the last seven years and they do not see a repeat of what happened the last time this was passed.

Councilwoman Schmidt commented that she voted in favor of this in 2014 and will be voting in favor of it again tonight. She felt it was unfortunate they had to repeal it, but she felt it is time for Council to bring it back and make this decision.

Mayor Taylor felt there is a difference between the current discussions on this and the hatred and mean-spirited comments that were said in 2014. He felt progress has been made in the last seven-and-a-half years, and he is inspired to see no one here opposing it. He credited former colleague Doug Skrzyniarz who helped to get this passed in 2014.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

8. ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

A. Mayor Taylor stated this is to adopt the first amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for the 2021/22 fiscal year. He opened the floor for public comments, but no one in the audience spoke.

Moved by Sierawski, to adopt the first amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for fiscal year 2021/22, as amended.

Mayor Taylor clarified that motion would not include the amendments for the Deputy Police Chief and the Fire Inspector. He advised if she would like to make the motion to include the Deputy Police Chief and/or Fire Inspector, she would have to make the motion outlined in Suggested Action No. 1, and if she only wants one or the other of those two positions, she can just leave one out of the motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski clarified she would like to make the motion to include those two positions, so she withdrew her motion on the floor.

Moved by Sierawski, seconded by Yanez, **RESOLVED**, to amend the first amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for fiscal year 2021/22 to fund the Deputy Police Chief and Fire Inspector job classifications in the amount of \$120,000, with an offsetting reduction in the contribution to Other Postemployment Benefits.

Councilman Yanez noted the robust discussion about a Fire Inspector at the time the original budget was acted upon. He recalled the Fire Chief had indicated they were way behind in commercial fire inspections. He stressed these are very important, and he explained some communities opt for a plan

where they put their focus on extinguishment, while other communities, such as Troy, decided to put their money into fire prevention and inspection, and maintain a volunteer suppression department. Councilman Yanez emphasized that ensuring buildings are safe is an absolute importance for a safe community. He explained that none of the safety features in a building, such as lit-up exit signs, panic-bar exit doors, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, etc., matter unless they are working, and they cannot ensure they are in working order unless someone inspects it. He commented that it takes four to six months to certify an inspector for buildings, so when this is delayed, it is for a period of six months or longer. He felt they need to get someone approved now to get this process started, pointing out that they had to pull one of their inspectors off for approximately one year to handle marijuana grow houses. He stressed his work with the Fire Department tells him the importance of this position for the safety of their first responders, workers in the City, and the overall view of the safety in the City. He understands the concern about how this position will be paid, and he hopes that during Strategic Planning, they will have a plan or program presented as to how they are going to move forward with fire inspections. He supported the motion on the floor to include the Deputy Police Chief and the Fire Inspector.

Mayor Taylor questioned why the City would not hire someone already certified if that process takes four to six months.

Councilman Yanez replied that it has been the City's policy, and he believes they may be required contractually, to promote through the ranks. The firefighters are not certified until they move into that position, and they do not hire inspectors from the outside. He added, however, that the City may present a plan at Strategic Planning that would allow that to occur. He felt if they are going to wait until the next budget year, which starts July 1, they are "kicking the can down the road" for another six months.

Mayor Taylor inquired as to whether this would be hiring a firefighter and promoting a current firefighter to inspector.

Finance Director Jennifer Varney replied her experience is that the past fire inspectors have been promoted from within, and eventually it would trickle down to hiring a firefighter from the outside. The ordinance reflects that both positions cost a total of \$345,000, but she only budgeted \$120,000 for six months. She indicated she had to make assumptions when budgeting, noting that the Deputy Chief's position has not yet been negotiated. She assumed someone would be promoted, so budgeting the salary differential between a Captain and a Deputy Police Chief, and eventually hiring a police officer from the outside. She added it would be similar for a fire inspector.

Councilman Radtke stated he brought this amendment forward and felt both positions are critical. He agreed with Councilman Yanez and appreciated the explanation. He pointed out they had a fire inspector dealing with the illegal marijuana grow operations, which are high hazard areas, sparking building fires, so he felt the addition of a fire inspector is essential. He also felt the Deputy Police Chief is essential, mainly because they have been requesting a lot from their first responders over these last couple of years. He credited the Police Chief for doing an excellent job but pointed out he has been working very hard and could use some support. They have talked about the implementation of a lot of policies and procedures, including better speed enforcement and better organizational enforcement. He is glad they found money in the budget to pay for them for at least the next six months, and he is looking forward to voting in favor of this motion.

Councilwoman Schmidt clarified that she does not oppose these two positions, but she pointed out the City has procedures in place for hiring and creating positions. She questioned whether the Police Chief and the Fire Chief have approached Mr. Vanderpool to formally make requests on these two positions.

Mr. Vanderpool replied they do not have a formal recommendation from either the Fire Chief or the Police Chief on either one of these positions. He

acknowledged they are positions that have been discussed, and he is not disputing the need, but Administration is concerned because they have not had a chance to analyze possible options. He clarified that fire inspections are taking place, noting that in 2021, they anticipate completing over 1,800 fire inspections of buildings, and in 2020, they actually completed 1,937 building inspections, which is significant. They conducted over eight hundred hazardous inspections in 2020, so the inspections are being done, but they have not had a chance to analyze this, because they have not received formal requests from the chiefs. He emphasized they appreciate the interest, but it is Administration's job to always put forth the most cost-effective recommendations. With respect to the firefighter inspector, there is a good chance they could hire multiple fire inspectors with a more cost-effective approach. The approach being recommended through this amendment is the most expensive approach, hiring a sworn firefighter who will make almost \$100,000 after five years to conduct inspections. He suggested a more effective model used by the City is in the Building Department, where they have hired retired police officers. They are paid \$26 per hour, with no benefits, pension or legacy costs, and that model has become a model for other communities. He expressed confidence that the model will work well in the Fire Department by hiring part-time retired firefighters that are certified. They

would be able to hire many more for the same amount or lower, but he reiterated they have not had an opportunity to analyze it. The Deputy Police Chief position has to be negotiated, and it is hard to send the Human Resources Manager into the negotiating room and negotiate the best deal for the City, when the position is already funded. They do not know the salary, they would have to design an assessment process which would have to be negotiated, and that is not included in the budget amendment. Mr. Vanderpool feels it needs to go through a thorough process in order for Administration to make a good recommendation to City Council.

Councilwoman Schmidt assured she is not against these positions and she can see a valid need for these positions, but she felt this is not the correct process. She felt that approving these positions with funding for six months and talking about it at Strategic Planning as to how they will further fund it is "kicking the can down the road." She recalled there was a split vote on last year's budget, but they were able to bring back some of the positions that were eliminated without raising taxes. She commended Administration for doing that. She did not feel an emergency funding of these positions is not the right way to do this. She understood that promotions are from within in the Fire Department, but in the Police Department, they have to test and be vetted, so it is a different process.

Mr. Vanderpool replied to inquiry that Councilwoman Schmidt is correct in the way the Police and Fire Departments do their hiring. A Deputy Chief position in the Police Department has to be negotiated and formalized, and it would have to go through an assessment center. There would be testing criteria to select from, with both internal and external candidates; however, they do not have a recommendation from the Police Chief, the Human Resources Director, or the Chief Financial Officer to elaborate any further on costs and process.

Councilwoman Schmidt stated that, because of that fact, she is not comfortable supporting the motion on the floor.

Councilwoman Ziarko agreed with Councilwoman Schmidt of being in favor of these positions, adding that she would possibly be in favor of hiring three fire inspectors, as well as a Deputy Chief in the Police Department, but not tonight. She felt some of what has been discussed could be put off and discussed at Strategic Planning, where they may be able to plan for this process. She noted part of that would involve labor negotiations through the Police Department. She questioned that if they know they will need someone in six months and they will be promoting from within, why they cannot start training now on their free time, knowing they are preparing themselves for the opportunity which may present itself down the road.

Mr. Vanderpool replied that is a possibility and a big part of their succession planning. With respect to illegal grow operations, they are working on a succession plan with the individual who is currently handling it. They might be able to create a unique contractual relationship upon his retirement and/or identify an individual they have to work in conjunction or as a replacement. He stressed these things take time to research, and the budget process allows them to bring forth these ideas through a very structured budget process. He noted there are many departments who request positions for very important purposes, so they use a collaborative approach before they make a formal recommendation to City Council. He noted that in the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding, there was \$300,000 set aside for illegal grow inspections, and they are looking at a plan to fund additional inspection services, noting it could be through a contractual arrangement. He stressed they need more time to analyze this and submit a meaningful recommendation.

Councilwoman Ziarko questioned whether there is something requiring a "Fire Inspector" title before a firefighter can conduct an inspection.

Mr. Vanderpool replied that years ago, they negotiated a provision through the collective bargaining agreement where they could do company inspections, but it is difficult to do because of the workload. He explained

medical runs are their primary workload now, but they have the ability for firefighters to do inspections. He clarified they are firefighters and not necessarily trained to do inspections, but there are rudimentary parts of an inspection a firefighter can handle. The Fire Chief has created a task force, and he will share it with City Council when he receives it. The task force is looking at the twenty-seven assisted living facilities that disproportionately result in a preponderance of runs in the community. If they can address that, it may free up more time for more company inspections and/or create revenue to fund additional inspection services.

Councilwoman Ziarko stated she is not comfortable with the way this is being done tonight. She felt in order for the City to work as successfully as it has, the Council needs to be here to direct and approve. She does not feel they should be influenced by one person, especially if the request is not coming from the department head. She questioned how many people are on the committee to discuss the needs as they are setting up the budget.

Ms. Varney explained the process, noting that next week, all budget requests are due from the department heads for 2022/23. She explained that they review all of these in the Budget office, and she and the City Manager meet with every department head and their directors to discuss the justification and finding a more cost-effective way to get what they need. She added that

nearly everyone wants more personnel, but they have all been challenged to find the most efficient ways to get their jobs done. Ms. Varney stated they collaboratively come up with everything they would like to fund, she then has to "put the puzzle together" to see how much money they have to fund those things. She commented that, unfortunately, there is never enough to fund everyone's request, so they analyze the needs of the entire city and try to prioritize everyone's wants and try to find out the most important needs they can fund that year. She added that, in the case of personnel, they need to look at funding those positions for the foreseeable future.

Councilwoman Ziarko stated she is in favor of the Appropriations Ordinance as it was introduced and presented. She hoped her colleagues would agree that in three weeks, one of the focal points they will put on strategic planning would be the Fire Inspector and Deputy Police Chief positions. She hoped that in that time, they could get some negotiations started in the Police Department to determine how that position would be funded, the union in which they would belong, the salary, and who they would answer to besides the Chief. She explained that she will be voting against the motion on the floor even though she is in favor of the other positions introduced, adding that she feels the process by which they are adding these positions is wrong.

Councilwoman Koski recalled requesting a Deputy Police Chief for at least the last ten year, and it was always put off. She was confident that the Chief did not formally request the Deputy Police Chief position because they were asked to wait until the manpower study was complete. She pointed out that the City has grown over the years, and she felt the Police Chief needs help with all of the projects they have. She recalled the Police Department had four captains but did not have a Deputy Chief. She felt this position is long in coming, and it will take some time to get that position in place, considering the negotiations, the time to find the right person, and to conduct the testing. She anticipated this could take until July, so they will be well into the budget process before this person is selected. She expressed her favor of this tonight, cautioning that it will not happen immediately because there is work that has to be done, but she is voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Taylor stated when a position is budgeted in a formal budget presented by City Administration, the job description and funding for the position are clearly defined. He noted this proposal is to promote a current firefighter to fire inspector, but the end result will actually be hiring a new firefighter.

Ms. Varney clarified the new position is a fire inspector, but it will get filled through promotion, eventually resulting in hiring down the line.

Mayor Taylor agreed with Councilwoman Schmidt and Councilwoman Ziarko that he is fully in support of the policy of dedicating city resources to increasing fire inspections if they have a way to do it. He mentioned discussions about reducing contributions to post-employment benefits, but he felt that is "moving money from one pocket to another." He questioned why they were budgeting for post-employment benefits if they did not need it in that fund. He understands there have been some new assumptions, but he recalled when he spoke with Ms. Varney about it, the new positions included in the budget and the changes in the assumptions get them to a break-even point. If they now opt to add \$120,000 for the Deputy Police Chief and Fire Inspector positions, they will be below the break-even point.

Ms. Varney explained they received the actuarial report, which reduced the recommended OPEB contribution by \$2 million. She noted the City has traditionally funded over and above the recommended amount, which is why they went from 6 percent to 80 percent in fifteen years. She expressed her confidence that reduction is permanent, but she cautioned it is never guaranteed, so she was comfortable taking half of that reduction, which is \$1 million, to fund the positions already discussed, and to get rid of the use of fund balance. She would prefer to keep overfunding OPEB by \$1 million, which was what the original First Amendment did; however, when she had to

find the money to fund these positions, one option is to overfund OPEB by over \$800,000 rather than \$1 million. She reminded that overfunding OPEB by \$1 million has been very successful in getting the City to the funding status they are at.

Mayor Taylor appreciated the explanation, adding it makes perfect sense. He added that it may turn out doing more fire inspections is more valuable to the community than putting more money into their OPEB fund. He stressed his objection is the same as it was last May, which is that multiple departments have things they want, and there are only two of these being featured. He noted that they are not seeing requests from other departments that could possibly save lives, keep drinking water clean, improve child literacy, etc. He does not like setting this precedent that occurred when they approved the fire lifts for the last budget, and it is occurring again when they are amending this budget. He questioned why a sworn firefighter has to be doing the inspections, and why it could not be done as Mr. Vanderpool outlined, with the hiring of part-time personnel.

Councilman Radtke suggested the City Council recess for a few minutes and request that the Fire Chief come to the meeting to answer some of these questions.

Mayor Taylor replied he is not comfortable interrogating a city employee, noting the Fire Marshall is present tonight and he could ask him certain information if he felt it was needed tonight.

Councilman Yanez replied that their union fire department is a seniority-based department, which means when one person leaves, everyone moves up. He stressed that is how it has always been in the 40-hour positions, and that is why they have sworn firefighters in that position.

Mayor Taylor inquired as to whether the current Fire Inspectors do fire extinguishment.

Councilman Yanez replied that they are busy doing inspections.

Mayor Taylor understood it is a union issue. He indicated he would like to know more about fire inspection, assuring he means no disrespect to the firefighters or to the model they have been using in their department. He felt doing inspections is a different job classification than putting out fires, and Mr. Vanderpool indicated that for the cost of a Fire Inspector, they could possibly hire two or three part-time employees who could do more fire inspections, resulting in a safer community. He acknowledged it has always been done through promotions, but he questioned whether public safety is more important, or whether it is more important to do things "the way it has always been done." He stated he is not comfortable voting in favor of this

tonight and would like an explanation of why the hiring of multiple part-time inspectors, which seems to protect the public and is a more efficient use of City resources and taxpayer dollars, would not be the model they use.

Mr. Vanderpool commented that he spoke with Chief Edmonds at length last night about this, and he is not recommending the Fire Inspector position at this time. He mentioned he would be contacting Councilman Yanez today to share his concern about doing it at this time. Mr. Vanderpool clarified he has not been privy to other conversations if they have been occurring.

Councilman Yanez stated he would love to talk with the Fire Chief as to his feeling of why they do not need another fire inspector, and he requested that the Fire Chief contact him so he can discuss it. He noted the term was used in the discussion tonight as "emergency funding," and he assured that is not the case, pointing out that City Council can revise the budget as they feel is necessary. He agreed City Council receives direction from City Administration, but this is something City Council can bring up. He talked about the votes on this last year, recalling that it was voted down 6-1 because there was concern about raising taxes to pay for this. He felt they now have the money to pay for this position, but it still seems to be an issue. He questioned how many buildings are not being inspected, and how many buildings have not been inspected within the last five years. He questioned the plan to fill the positions

recommended in the manpower study, including a plan for the fire inspection position they discussed last year. He questioned if it is possible to hire retirees for the positions of part-time fire inspectors, and why this has not been investigated and negotiated. Councilman Yanez stressed he appreciates and respects all of the thoughts and comments of his colleagues, but he felt their City could be safer with the filling of these positions.

Mayor Taylor emphasized that his vote no on this motion is not because he does not want the City to be safer, but he felt there may be a way to make the City even safer than proposed without adversely impacting the Fire union. He felt they need an opportunity to study it more. With regard to the Deputy Police Chief position, he is not sure how it will impact pending negotiations. He clarified he is not doing this but felt it may be better if a Council member, without objection, would direct City Administration to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Command Union to create a Deputy Police Chief position and bring it to City Council for approval within thirty (30) days. If everyone agreed, then City Administration could move forward with a timeline, and they would come back with a cost. Council could then consider a specific amendment to the budget for that amount. He assured he would like to hire a Deputy Chief tomorrow, and although the Police Chief and his department are doing an incredible job without having a Deputy Police Chief,

especially considering the size of the City, he felt there is a process that needs to be followed. He acknowledged that the budget can be amended at any time throughout the year, but he indicated he will be voting no on the amendment for the reasons he stated.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Yanez, Koski, Radtke.
No: Schmidt, Sierawski, Taylor, Ziarko.
The motion failed 3-4.

Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Schmidt, **RESOLVED**, to adopt the first amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for fiscal year 2021/22, as introduced.

Councilman Yanez appreciated the Mayor's comments and understood his perspective on getting more information. He felt that there is not such an urgency to fill either of these two positions that they cannot wait to fill these until after their Strategic Planning Session to move forward, so he stated he will vote no on the amendment; however, he would like to motion to postpone.

Moved by Yanez, seconded by Koski, **RESOLVED**, to postpone the first amendment adoption to the Appropriations Ordinance for fiscal year 2021/22 to the February 1, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Sierawski, Yanez, Koski.
No: Taylor, Ziarko, Radtke, Schmidt.
The motion failed 3-4.

Councilwoman Ziarko would like City Administration to bring up at Strategic Planning the Deputy Police Chief position, and if negotiations could start on

it, she would appreciate it. She added she would like to know if the Fire union would be willing to let junior members of the department be trained for fire inspections so they could do it in off hours.

Mayor Taylor felt this request would be more appropriately made at the end of the Council meeting. He questioned whether the Fire Inspector position and the suggestion to hire part-time retired inspectors would require a Memorandum of Understanding from their union.

Mr. Vanderpool replied affirmatively. He assured they are happy to follow through with that direction from Council, but he cautioned they have to coordinate it with two unions, which could take weeks. He added that they cannot demand this meeting, so he hoped Council will give them some latitude on the timing. He assured the direction will be clear, but to have it prior to Strategic Planning may be ambitious.

Mayor Taylor stated he does not want to require it in thirty days.

Councilman Radtke requested that this discussion take place at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Taylor stated they will talk about it at the end of the meeting, but he does not want to give the impression that this is not a high priority for him. He stressed having a Deputy Police Chief is a very high priority to him. He understands Councilman Yanez's concerns, and agreed they are irrefutable

that they are not doing enough fire inspections as conveyed by the experts.

He would like to see them be able to do the most fire inspections in the most cost-effective way.

Mayor Taylor called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, which is to adopt the first amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for fiscal year 2021/22 as introduced.

Roll Call Vote (on original motion): Yes: Taylor, Ziarko, Radtke, Schmidt, Sierawski.

No: Yanez, Koski.

The motion carried (5-2).

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor stated this item is consideration of the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 9-D, which has been moved to Consideration Item 10-

C. He opened the floor for public comments, but there were no comments from the audience.

Moved by Koski, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended:

- A. To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2021.
- B. To approve payment of the bills as presented: General Fund - \$376,602.97, Water & Sewer Fund - \$209,391.80, Other Funds - \$256,458.76, Total Checks - \$842,453.53.
- C. **RESOLVED**, to approve a Purchase Agreement between the City of Sterling Heights and DTE Electric Company for the city-wide conversion of street lighting to energy-efficient LED technology at a cost of \$527,217 and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City.
- D. This item was moved to Consideration Item 10-C.

- E. **RESOLVED**, to approve the Clinton River Maintenance Agreement between the City of Sterling Heights and Outdoor Escorts, LLC, d/b/a Clinton River Canoe & Kayak and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
- F. **RESOLVED**, to reject the bids received and purchase six (6) Argus MI-TIC thermal imaging cameras, model #320-3, from Premier Safety, 33596 Sterling Ponds Boulevard, Sterling Heights, MI 48312, at a total cost of \$26,923.93.
- G. **RESOLVED**, to waive the competitive bidding requirements in accordance with City Code §2-217(A)(9)(a) and (b) and approve the purchase of parts and labor from Michigan CAT, 12550 23 Mile Road, Shelby Township, MI 48315, for the repair of the Caterpillar 938K front-end loader at a total cost of \$14,008.71.
- H. **RESOLVED**, to suspend Governing Body Rule of Procedure No. 2 and hold the second regular meeting of the Sterling Heights City Council in March on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. and direct the City Clerk to provide the appropriate notice as required by Michigan's Open Meetings Act.
- I. **RESOLVED**, to receive the lawsuit, Ronald Ervin v City of Sterling Heights Police Department; 41-A District Court Case No. S-21-3058-GZ.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

10. **CONSIDERATION**

A. Mayor Taylor stated this is to consider a nomination to the City of Sterling Heights Board of Review. He opened the floor for public comments, but no one spoke.

Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to nominate Patrick Rye for consideration as an appointee to the Board of Review at the January 18, 2022, regular City Council meeting.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

B. Mayor Taylor stated this is to consider appointments to City of Sterling Heights Arts Commission. He noted there are two openings, with one term expiring June 30, 2024, and the other term expiring June 30, 2025. Mayor Taylor opened the floor for public comments, but no one spoke.

Moved by Radtke, seconded by Taylor, **RESOLVED**, to appoint Debie Thao to the Arts Commission to a term ending June 30, 2025, subject to the appointee meeting the qualifications set forth in Charter §4.03 and taking the oath of office within two weeks.

Councilman Radtke explained Ms. Thao was recommended by the liaison for the Arts Commission. He added she likes what the City is doing, and would like to contribute, and he felt she will be a great addition.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

Moved by Radtke, seconded by Taylor, **RESOLVED**, to appoint Barbara Ann Chudzik to the Arts Commission to a term ending June 30, 2024, subject to the appointee meeting the qualifications set forth in Charter §4.03 and taking the oath of office within two weeks.

Councilman Radtke stated Ms. Chudzik was also brought forward by the liaison, and he was confident she will do an excellent job on this Commission.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

C. Mayor Taylor stated this was originally on tonight's agenda as Consent Agenda Item 9-D, but was moved to Consideration Item 10-C. This is to consider approval of an Agreement for Construction and Maintenance of Non-Motorized Waterfront Trail to facility the construction and maintenance

of a 1.35-mile non-motorized recreational gravel trail along the north side of the Red Run Drain and Sterling Relief Drain, between Metropolitan Parkway and Schoenherr Road. He invited Jamie Burton, of Hubbell Roth & Clark, to speak on this.

Jamie Burton, of Hubbell, Roth and Clark, stated Jeff Bednar, of the Macomb County Public Works Office, is also present this evening. Mr. Burton stated that Hubbell, Roth and Clark does a tremendous amount of work in Sterling Heights, he is also working for Macomb County Public Works, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner, and other parties in this project. He provided some background on this project, informing that Oakland County is the fiduciary and secretary of the Drainage Board for the Red Run Drain, and a number of years ago they put together a project with their partners in Macomb County involving the maintenance and operation plan for the Red Run Drain. He indicated part of that project is to do some streambank stabilization behind Freedom Hill. It was a landfill, and the river is moving, so they have spent a lot of money on the streambank stabilization. It became obvious through Macomb County Planning that a waterfront trail amenity along that location would be a great addition since they were already working on it. He noted that the Sterling Relief Drain is a tributary to the Red Run Drain, and he showed it on a map. Sterling Heights owns the underlying

property for the drain easement, and the Sterling Relief Drainage Board holds an easement over the top of the entire drain. This is a 2022 project that went out for bid and is ready for construction of a road base, which will require large equipment to facilitate the construction. He explained the thought was to leave it in place if they are considering a trail, so the road would lead to a trail; however, that trail needs to be managed and maintained. Mr. Burton explained they are here tonight to ask for the agreement to not only build this but also for Sterling Heights to maintain only the portion on the Sterling Relief Drain, and Macomb County will handle the portion behind Freedom Hill. It is a 1.3-mile gravel trail going along the drain, and with the plantings proposed, it will be an amenity. He stated they will be mirror-imaging what was done on the other side of Schoenherr. He assured there is no cost to the City for the installation of the 10-foot-wide trail with 6-foot-wide mowed zones, which is funded by grants and the Red Run project, as well as by the Macomb County Department of Roads. A cost of \$17,000 annually is what has been estimated to maintain this aggregate trail, which is a fine gravel on top of a road base. He added there has been talk about the ability to use this loop in 5-K runs. He explained on the north side behind the church property, it is about 250 feet away from the homes that are on Brougham Drive, so it does not back up to residential homes. He mentioned that visible from

Schoenherr, there is a berm, and this trail runs on the top of the berm. It will not be subject to flooding and it will be ADA-compliant and asphalt-compliant for bicycles, so it will provide great recreational opportunities for 5-K events, Freedom Hill events, walking, etc. He added it will be a better way for police to patrol this area. He reiterated that it is actually a 10-foot-wide road, but he assured each end will be secured with bollards and fencing so that ATV's, snowmobiles, and other vehicles will not have quick access to this area. He talked about the vegetation and plantings proposed. He offered to answer questions.

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for public comments.

- Ben Orjada – questioned whether this will have operating hours similar to other city parks.

Mr. Langlois replied this trail would be held to the same operating hours as the rest of the park system. In April through September, those hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in October through March.

- Joe Romano – stated he is County Commissioner and on the Drain Board for the Sterling Relief Drain; clarified this is grant-funded and he is 100 percent in favor of this trail; relayed questions he has had from residents:
 - Where parking will be for people who want to use the trail and concern that parking will spill onto residential streets?

- How will they monitor people using the trail to “see a free concert” at Freedom Hill with regard to noise and leaving their garbage?
- Will path be closed in winter so it is not accessible to ATV’s and snowmobiles, and who will maintain the locks on it?
- Concerned noise will carry to residential area.
- Why do they need this when there is already a bike trail from Van Dyke to Utica Road?

He is in favor but felt most people will still use Dodge Park trail systems, which is much more extensive than 1.3 miles, and cost to maintain it is the City’s responsibility at \$17,000 annually, plus an additional liability to the City; claimed these are the questions and concerns from residents and he had no answers.

- Nathan Inks – expressed support for this proposal; having another access point to that trail is a benefit.

Moved by Radtke, seconded by Taylor, **RESOLVED**, to approve the Agreement for Construction and Maintenance of Non-Motorized Waterfront Trail and Temporary Construction Agreement and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents required in conjunction with this approval on behalf of the City.

Councilman Radtke felt this is an excellent amenity and he is glad the County brought it forward. He indicated there will be bollards to keep ATV’s and snowmobiles off the path. He noted that as far as cleaning the litter, he believed the City would be responsible, although he assured the City will deal with it as they do in all parks. He felt \$17,000 annually is a great deal. He admitted he does not have an answer for where people will park, but he pointed out they have parking at Freedom Hill. He questioned Mr. Burton as

to whether the County would be willing to set aside a parking area so people can access this trail.

Mr. Burton replied he does not know the answer to that question, clarifying he does not represent Freedom Hill. He commented that Freedom Hill is a county park that already has somewhat of a trail going through the area already, with the Freedom Trail nearby. He clarified that the jurisdiction of the City of Sterling Heights ends behind the church, so the property directly behind Freedom Hill will be maintained by the County. He also clarified that the City reserves the right within this agreement to place and post limitations on access at any point of their portion of the trail.

Councilman Radtke pointed out the County will be putting in this road regardless of what the City says, so the question is whether the City wants to keep the trail being built and paid for by the County, or whether they want to make the County tear it out after they build it. He has heard comments from residents in the south end of the City that they feel excluded from a lot of the amenities, and he agreed that area near 15 Mile and the Sterling Relief Drain lacks park access for residents. He felt this is a perfect way to add those residents in to receive an amenity and provide them with a place to bike and hike, adding that the existing pathway along 16 Mile has curb cuts, whereas this would be a 1.3-mile trail where there would be no cars. Councilman

Radtke recalled the cost of putting in a path from Delia Park north, which was close to \$1 million, and this path is at almost no cost, other than the \$17,000 a year for the maintenance, which he felt is well worth it. He stated he will be voting in favor of this proposal and he urged his colleagues to do the same. Councilwoman Schmidt questioned whether there will be fences on both sides of the trail.

Mr. Burton replied there is existing fencing on Schoenherr, noting the Sterling Relief Drain is fenced in. There is a gate kept closed for maintenance purposes, but there will be an opening to the gate with bollards. He advised that the City can always put a gate on it at some point. He added there is not a gate at the other end because it connects to 16 Mile Road, but he assured there will be bollards and controls for limited vehicle access.

Councilwoman Schmidt questioned what would stop people exiting concerts at Freedom Hill from using this trail as an exit from the parking lot.

Mr. Burton explained if someone were to go off the back of the parking lot to get down to this trail, they would have to have a four-wheeler. He clarified the trail is not physically connected to the parking lot, which is at a higher elevation than the trail. Access at Schoenherr is fenced and has bollards, so there is no exit at that point, and there is a 10-foot vertical separation from the pathway to the road, so anyone trying to exit would have to drive on the

sidewalks along Metro Parkway to get to a vehicle access, and that would be a police issue.

Councilwoman Schmidt questioned how police officers will access this path from Schoenherr if it is fenced and has bollards.

Mr. Burton replied they have a lock box key, they wave the bollards down, drive over them, then put them back up. He assured a car could not squeeze through there without significant damage.

Councilwoman Schmidt pointed out there are only two curb cuts along 16 Mile Road between Utica Road to Schoenherr Road, and that is only the Freedom Hill entrance, so she did not feel curb cuts are a reason for her to think the existing pathway is not safe. She agreed with Commissioner Romano's earlier reference that "there is no such thing as a free lunch," pointing out the County wants the City to maintain this path at a cost of \$17,000 per year, so she considered that a gift "with strings."

Councilman Yanez explained he pulled this off of the Consent Agenda because he had a number of questions. He referred to a rendering included on Page 290 of their agenda packet showing people using this park, and he observed a wide gap in the existing gate. He questioned whether the County still owns the gate. He further questioned whether this pathway is ADA-compliant when it is gravel.

Mr. Burton explained that ADA for outdoor spaces can be any type of material as long as it is hard-packed, wheel-chair accessible with the correct width, slopes, and depth. Wood chips, grass, or asphalt can be used, but gravel is very typically used for hike/bike trails. He assured they are 100 percent compliant with ADA.

Councilman Yanez questioned whether this gravel will throw up a dust.

Mr. Burton explained when it first goes in, the answer is yes, but after one or two rain events and the dust comes out, it will not be dusty.

Councilman Yanez questioned whether Sterling Heights will be responsible for the entire 1.3-mile trail.

Mr. Burton replied that the County will handle their portion, so the City's portion equates to just slightly over one-half mile.

Councilman Yanez reiterated many of the same questions raised by Commissioner Romano earlier. He referred to the letter from the County that was included in the agenda packet, referring to this as a "gift," yet he questioned that this "gift" will cost the City an amount of \$17,000 per year. He expressed concern about patrolling this path, especially during concerts at Freedom Hill, and he noted his concern about possible parking on subdivision streets to gain access to the path. He questioned the noise that

could emanate from this path, and he did not see any bollards on the artist's renderings. He questioned what the annual \$17,000 will be paying for.

Mr. Langlois replied that the majority of the \$17,000 estimate is grass-cutting on each side of the trail. They have a contractor who cuts the grass throughout all of the park system. The trail design indicates a grass shoulder on each side, providing people an opportunity to get off of the trail to rest or congregate, and they can do so safely off the trail. Within that estimate, there is a certain number of hours per day or week to drive the trail, pick up litter, and do occasional grooming, although he added it is a shorter trail than the 5.5-mile Clinton River trail, or the 2-mile nature trail. He felt it is a minor maintenance expense on an ongoing basis, especially since it is not in a flood plain. He addressed Councilman Yanez's concern about dust, noting they are using a slightly larger aggregate that sits nicely but does not blow away. He replied to further inquiry it is compacted.

Councilwoman Yanez stated he was not comfortable with spending \$17,000 of taxpayers' money annually without having this discussion, which is why he requested the item be pulled. He stated he is not against it. He recalled there was a lot of concern by residents about invasion of privacy when the pathway was going in from Delia Park to the nature center, but he did not believe any

of those concerns were realized. He expressed some concern about liability, even though they are held harmless.

Mr. Kaszubski replied to inquiry that he has reviewed the documents.

Councilman Yanez questioned whether there is any situation where someone could get hurt at this facility and sue the City.

Mr. Kaszubski replied that anyone can sue anybody, but the City enjoys a broad grant of governmental immunity, especially with pathways. It is not considered a sidewalk so they do not have to worry about that aspect. He felt it would be very rare that there would be liability under governmental immunity.

Councilman Yanez commented that, after hearing the presentation, he is satisfied that the City will get the benefit from this project, and he felt a significant number of people will utilize it. He indicated if they start getting complaints from people in the abutting neighborhood that there are problems, it will have to be addressed. He does not believe they will see a number of the problems for which people have expressed concerns because they have not come to fruition in other project areas. He indicated he will be in support of this project.

Councilwoman Koski questioned whether there will be a berm behind the church. She questioned the portion for which the City will be responsible, and whether that is from Schoenherr to the connection to the Red Run drain.

Mr. Burton replied that the path will be on top of the berm as it runs along the Sterling Relief drain from Schoenherr to Red Run. He noted on the aerial where the City's portion would be.

Councilwoman Koski inquired as to whether there will be gates.

Mr. Burton replied there are gates at Freedom Hill to open the back parking lot. He explained there is quite a difference in elevation coming up to Schoenherr, coming up to a regular parking lot behind a guard rail from 16 Mile Road, so there is no gate but there are bollards to prevent motor vehicles, ATVs, and snowmobiles from gaining access. Although it is currently open, they will close it off with plantings so people are discouraged from four-wheeling there.

Councilwoman Koski recalled when Freedom Hill began having concerts, the neighbors were experiencing problems with noise, and they were very unhappy. She understands there will be limited hours for this path to be open, and it will be according to park rules. She questioned whether people will try to use this pathway to see a concert for free, or whether they will have the ability to close off that path during concerts. She felt the fact that they cannot

totally close off the path indicates to her they will have no control with who will be utilizing that path in the evening during the concern season. She anticipated this will be a problem with the residents. She questioned why Sterling Heights should have to pay \$17,000 to maintain it, and she felt it is the responsibility of the County to maintain the drain and keep it mowed.

Mr. Burton assured if it becomes a problem on City property, there is nothing in this agreement that prohibits the City from putting another gate or fence at their property line. They can also make that decision to fence it off so they can close it during concerts, and he added that would only amount to 50- to 60-feet of fencing. He clarified the grant for the trail was started by Macomb County Planning Executive's Office and was supported through the Department of Roads. They brought it to the Drainage Board, but the Drain Code legally prohibits them from maintaining recreational facilities. Their job is to keep the water clean and flowing through the drain. He noted it is the Red Run Drainage Board that is coordinating all of this and bringing these entities together. The County can leave their road they are putting in as access under the grant, which pays for surfacing it, but the two drainage districts cannot maintain this trail as a recreational facility.

Councilwoman Koski inquired if the City opts to call it an "access road" rather than a "trail," will the County maintain it.

Mr. Burton replied affirmatively, but cautioned it will not be ADA-compliant, it will not be snow-plowed, and it will not be open to the public.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski inquired as to what will happen if the City does not approve this.

Mr. Burton believed if this is not approved by the City, the Macomb County Executive's Office and the two drainage boards would have to attempt to keep their grant for Sterling Relief intact, and that includes the plantings. There would be no gates, no trail, gravel would be left in for access if the County chooses, or they can ask that the gravel not be put in, and they "walk away." He clarified the grant was written for access and plantings, and if it is decoupled, the plantings on the Sterling Relief drain may go away with that grant. He assured they would try to keep that portion, but there would be no trail.

Councilwoman Ziarko understood they still have the ability to gate off their end at Schoenherr.

Mr. Burton replied they would not take down the fence but would access it through the maintenance gate that is already there.

Councilwoman Ziarko stated she can walk to the drain, and she would probably use the path if it was put in; however, she has to consider the best interest of the residents who live there. She felt the explanations provided

this evening resolved a lot of the concerns expressed, with one being motorized vehicles leaving Freedom Hill after a concert. She questioned whether the drain will be altered, or whether it will remain as is.

Mr. Burton replied that the drain configuration will be the same, but it will be planted differently. He clarified the work on the Sterling Relief drain is all vegetation, and there is no earth work planned. The trail will be graded and built along the top of the berm.

Councilwoman Ziarko referred to the earlier comment that this will look like the drain on the west side of Schoenherr; however, she expressed concern that the drain on the west side of Schoenherr is not being maintained the way it should, and she outlined some of the issues. She questioned who will be putting in the landscape and felt the artist's rendering in the agenda package is more reflective of what the trail will look like in twenty-five years. She stated she is not opposed to this, and they have addressed some of her concerns. She compared the liability as the same for those who walk in Dodge Park along the Clinton River, with the same danger of water at both locations. Gaining access by four-wheelers is an issue and can still happen, even with precautions in place. She questioned whether there is \$17,000 in the *ReCreating Recreation* fund to cover the maintenance of this trail.

Mr. Langlois replied there is not currently money in *ReCreating Recreation* to cover maintenance of this trail. This is a new amenity that has come up since that was established, so there would have to be a budget amendment to increase the cost of mowing that would take place.

Councilwoman Ziarko referred to the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan that was approved this evening, and this was reflected as the beginning of the Sterling Relief trail. She questioned what happens when they get to the west side of Schoenherr. She stated she would use this trail, but she is concerned that they will not get what they are promised.

Mayor Taylor stressed the City is allowed to have nice amenities. He questioned how many miles of trails there are in the City.

Mr. Langlois replied that, not including sidewalks, they have close to twenty-five miles of trails.

Mayor Taylor suggested if the concern is the cost of maintenance on the trails, possibly they should all be ripped out. He added that people can do things they are not supposed to do, they can litter, make noise, use a parking lot to get to the trails, etc. for any of the trails in the City. He emphasized the City has trusted Mr. Langlois with their Parks and Recreation Plan over the past decade. He pointed out that they saw figures tonight reflecting that Sterling Heights had more properties sold in the last twelve months than any other

city in Metro Detroit by a wide margin. He has heard many comments from residents who indicate they have moved into this City because of their parks. Mr. Langlois believed that there will always be people who love the amazing job the City has done with their park system. This trail would be a piece of the non-motorized transportation system that continues to further their non-motorized goals around the City. He admitted there are pros and cons to everything, and the Mayor and City Council are here to weigh those. He felt the benefits of having these types of paths outweigh the negatives.

Mayor Taylor pointed out the good the Parks and Recreation program has done for the City in the last five years in terms of recreational opportunities. He felt this is a gift because they are getting 1.3 miles of trail, which is several acres of property. He questioned how much money is being spent to create this path.

Mr. Burton replied that the cost to create it is \$600,000.

Mayor Taylor felt the benefit to the residents to have these amenities outweighs the \$17,000 annual maintenance cost. He did not feel parking will be a major issue, noting that many people will divert from the trail along 16 Mile and use this new trail instead. He cited other trail heads, where there may be seven or eight cars, but he did not anticipate a problem. He added that people litter everywhere, including at Dodge Park, but they do not stop

events because of it, but the City deals with it. He wished there would be interconnected trails to every community, and the more trails they have, the closer they will be in getting to that position.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Ziarko, Koski, Radtke, Sierawski, Taylor, Yanez.

No: Schmidt.

The motion carried (6-1).

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for comments from the audience.

- Jon Matthews – talked about Covid-19 and prevention; urged keeping up with sanitation practices, vaccinations/boosters, wearing masks in large crowds, and maintaining social distancing.

12. REPORTS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATION AND CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Vanderpool stated he has nothing further to add at this time but will wait for the direction the Council will provide.

Mayor Taylor questioned how much time it would take for City Administration to come back to City Council with a proposal for creation of a Deputy Police Chief position.

Mr. Vanderpool stated he had an opportunity to confer with Ms. Varney, and they are currently putting the budget together. In less than ninety days, they will have the proposed budget. He assured they will work to incorporate both the Deputy Police Chief position and the Fire Inspector position initiatives into the proposed budget and provide City Council progress reports each month. He assured if they can do it quicker, that will be reflected in the progress

report. He assured the direction of Mayor and Council is clear, and they are committed to getting both initiatives done in the way he has outlined, gathering as much information as possible and incorporating a good recommendation for Council to consider in the proposed budget.

Mayor Taylor noted they will get the draft budget in March, consider it in April, vote on it in May, and it would be effective July 1, 2022. He questioned the mechanics that need to happen to get a Deputy Police Chief position authorized by the union, and establish roles, responsibility, testing, etc.

Mr. Vanderpool replied that is happening parallel to the budget preparation. He stated April 12 is the first budget hearing, and they will have a detailed presentation on each at the April 12 hearing. If there is consensus to proceed, they will do so. He clarified they do not have to wait until the budget is approved before starting the mechanics, including getting the assessment lined up for the Deputy Police Chief, so they are ready to go. He felt they will be able to update Council through the progress reports on what they have been able to achieve, and the steps remaining. He reiterated if they can get it done quicker, Council always has the option to exercise the budget amendment.

Mayor Taylor inquired as to when Mr. Vanderpool anticipates a Memorandum of Understanding will be brought to Council.

Mr. Vanderpool replied that thirty days would be ambitious because they have to get two unions together, present the idea with good data, have the position fully defined, and their proposal has to be complete. They have to allow the two unions time to review it. He admitted it might be a quick decision for them, but he anticipated it will take them a few weeks to look at it closely and consider it. He felt the more realistic time frame would be a good proposal in thirty days, possibly negotiating it within those thirty days, but in the meantime, they will be prepared to incorporate both ideas in the proposed budget.

Mayor Taylor stated he agrees with Mr. Vanderpool's proposal to getting a proposal to the union within thirty days. He agreed they cannot control how long it will take the union to consider it. He questioned whether the two unions are the Fire Inspectors and the Police Chief.

Mr. Vanderpool clarified they are dealing with three unions: Firefighter's union, Command Officers union; and the Executive union, in which the Deputy Chief position would be placed. He reiterated that will require some coordination.

Mayor Taylor questioned whether anyone has any objection to the plan as outlined by Mr. Vanderpool this evening with regard to the Deputy Police Chief and Fire Inspector positions.

Councilman Yanez questioned whether Mr. Vanderpool proposed to the Firefighters union to use a retired Fire Inspector to do the marijuana inspections.

Mr. Vanderpool replied they have had some very conceptual discussions rather than proposals to look at these more creative cost-effective ideas. He relayed, to the union's credit, they expressed no opposition. He felt they are willing to talk about these ideas, and they need to get it done.

Councilman Yanez felt if they have had these discussions already regarding the marijuana inspections, he is not sure why they are in their current position. He questioned what happens if the union rejects their proposal, and whether this will mean "kicking the can down the road" again.

Mr. Vanderpool assured he will provide Council with the progress reports as mentioned, but if all of these efforts fail, it will be Council's decision to hire the full-time Fire Inspector as proposed. He assured they have not been "kicking the can down the road" and he felt they are one of the most aggressive enforcement communities on illegal marijuana grow operation. They have shut down hundreds of illegal grow operations, so they have been incredibly proactive, in large part to the Fire Department, the City Attorney, and their Building Inspectors.

Councilman Yanez felt that was able to be done because they took a Fire Inspector off of normal inspections in order to have him on the marijuana grow inspections.

Councilwoman Ziarko requested a list of companies and organizations in the City that do self-inspections.

There were no objections.

Mr. Vanderpool replied to inquiry that he is clear on that direction.

Councilman Radtke requested, without objection, that Mr. Vanderpool provide them with a report on the pathway at the back of Moravian Park and also the ITC Corridor from the west side. He would like to see some of these paths opened up, noting that bollards blocking bike access also block wheelchair access.

There were no objections from the Mayor or Council members.

Councilman Yanez wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. He stated he is grateful they can have these robust and honest discussions on how they spend taxpayer dollars.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

14. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

15. CLOSED SESSION PERMITTED UNDER ACT 267 OF 1976

Mr. Kaszubski stated there are two items for closed session this evening.

Mayor Taylor indicated they will be going into Closed Session and may return.

Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Schmidt, **RESOLVED**, to recess into closed session.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Yanez, Ziarko, Koski, Radtke, Schmidt, Sierawski, Taylor.

No: None.

The motion carried, and the meeting recessed into Closed Session at 10:24 p.m.

Council returned from Closed Session at 10:44 p.m.

Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Attorney to pursue all available remedies to abate the nuisance and code violations existing at 14700 Fifteen Mile Road.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

16. ADJOURN

Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Radtke, **RESOLVED**, to adjourn the meeting.

Yes: All. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

MELANIE D. RYSKA, City Clerk

**Resolution of Adoption
Sterling Heights City Council**

Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026

WHEREAS, the City of Sterling Heights has undertaken a planning process to determine the parks and recreation, non-motorized transportation, and open space conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2022 through 2026, and

WHEREAS, the City of Sterling Heights began the process of developing a Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Sterling Heights were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 4, 2022 to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of Sterling Heights has developed the plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation, non-motorized transportation, and open space conservation, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Sterling Heights City Council voted to adopt said Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Sterling Heights City Council hereby adopts the Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan, 2022-2026.

Certification

I, Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk of Sterling Heights, do hereby certify that the following action was taken at the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, January 4, 2022:

Moved: Sierawski

Seconded: Taylor


Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk





Letter of Transmittal

WT189-02

500 Griswold Street, Suite 2500 • Detroit, MI 48226
313.961.3650 • 313.961.0898 fax • www.wadetrtrim.com

If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

SEMCOG
1001 Woodward Ave., Suite 1400
Detroit, MI 48226

Date: January 24, 2022

Attn: To Whom it May Concern Re: City of Sterling Heights
Adopted Parks and Recreation Plan

Re: Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-
Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026

Transmitted By: ☒ Regular Mail ☐ Overnight Delivery
☐ Hand Delivered
☐ Picked Up By:
☐ Other:

We are transmitting 1 copy of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate for Payment No.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discs	<input type="checkbox"/> Prints	<input type="checkbox"/> Specs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract Change Order No.	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/> Product Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Tracings
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Change Req. No.	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Measure Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Samples	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Orders No.
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop Drawings	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Adopted Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026			

For your: ☐ Action ☐ As Requested ☒ Information ☐ Review/Comment ☐ Use
☐ Approval ☐ Distribution ☒ Records /Files ☐ Signature

Remarks: As is required by the MDNR, enclosed is a copy of the Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026 for your files and information.

Job No. STL6006 01D

By: Adam Young, AICP

cc:



Letter of Transmittal

WT189-02

500 Griswold Street, Suite 2500 • Detroit, MI 48226
313.961.3650 • 313.961.0898 fax • www.wadetrtrim.com

If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

Macomb County Department of Planning and
Economic Development
One S. Main Street, 7th Floor
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Date: January 24, 2022

Attn: To Whom it May Concern Re: City of Sterling Heights
Adopted Parks and Recreation Plan

Transmitted By: ☒ Regular Mail ☐ Overnight Delivery
☐ Hand Delivered
☐ Picked Up By:
☐ Other:

Re: Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-
Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026

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<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Change Req. No.	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Measure Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Samples	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Orders No.
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop Drawings	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Adopted Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026			

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Job No. STL6006 01D

By: Adam Young, AICP

cc:

**COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN****CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR through MiRecGrants **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than February 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2022-2026

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.

County

Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

City of Sterling Heights

Macomb

January 2022

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

☒ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**☒ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)

☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart

☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming

☒ Current Funding Sources

☒ Role of Volunteers

☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

Recreation Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:

☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities

☐ Articles of Incorporation

☒ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)

☒ Accessibility Assessment

☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

☐ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**☒ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

☒ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

☒ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

☒ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice December 1, 2021

Type of Notice Newspaper - Macomb Daily

Plan Location Online and at Rec Dept. Office

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 34

☒ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice December 1, 2021

Name of Newspaper Newspaper - Macomb Daily

Date of Meeting January 4, 2022

☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

☒ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 4, 2022

☐ 2. Official resolution of the n/a Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____

☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 24, 2022

☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 24, 2022

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

City of Sterling Heights *includes the required content, as indicated*
(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

Mr. Kyle Langlois, Parks and Recreation Director January 24, 2022
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.



Florida • Georgia • Michigan • Nebraska
New York • North Carolina • Ohio
Pennsylvania • Texas

500 Griswold
Suite 2500
Detroit, MI 48226
www.wadetrim.com



Photo Source: Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation