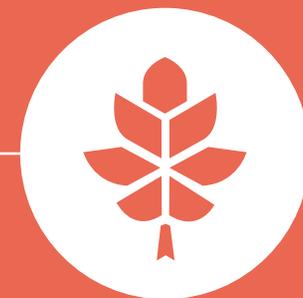


2023-2027 RECREATION PLAN

CITY OF ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN



Adopted December 19, 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you! The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents, and members of civic organizations in the preparation of the 2023-2027 Recreation Plan is greatly appreciated.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission Statement: 4
 Introduction 4
 Guiding Principles 5
 Description of the Planning Process 6
 Royal Oak Parks in a Snapshot 8
 Accomplishments 11
 Key Recommendations 12

2

THE ROYAL OAK COMMUNITY TODAY

Community Background 16
 Demographic Characteristics 17

3

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

City Structure 24
 Community Partnerships 26
 Annual Budget and Funding Sources 27

4

THE GREEN NETWORK

Municipal Facilities Inventory 32
 How to Read the Park Summary Pages 35

5

SYSTEM & FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Parks Provision and Equity 96
 Facilities Analysis 100
 Indoor Facilities Analysis 102
 Accessibility Assessment and Universal Access 104
 Sustainability Analysis 108

6

FORMULATING A VISION

Early Public Input: Engagement and Outreach 112
 Summary of Activities: In-Person Outreach 113
 Summary of Activities: Virtual Engagement 114
 What We Heard 117
 Visioning Survey Results 124
 Goals and Objectives 126

7

STRATEGIC ACTION PLANS

System-wide Action Plan 132
 Park-Specific Action Plan 138



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to the City of Royal Oak's 2023-2027 Recreation Plan! This Plan reflects a vision for the future of Royal Oak's parks and recreation facilities: their operations, maintenance, and enhancements for the next five+ years. It serves as a roadmap for future decisions by considering existing parks and programs in the City and the anticipated demand for additional and improved recreation facilities.

This Plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations. Royal Oak's Plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR's Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans.



MISSION STATEMENT: DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

To provide residents a variety of year-round recreation opportunities that are responsive to their needs, are enjoyable to their families, and contribute to their physical and mental well-being while maintaining and improving the aesthetic, functional, and sustainable value of all parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and open spaces. Royal Oak will continue to create resilient public spaces that are inclusive, accessible, and programmable, and that enhance the natural environment of the community.

INTRODUCTION

Royal Oak's 5-Year Recreation Plan was developed by the city in conjunction with the community's Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services Advisory Board and with strong citizen participation. The jurisdiction of this Plan is the City of Royal Oak, and it focuses on all aspects of parks, facilities, open spaces, recreation, and programming as overseen by the city's Department of Recreation and Public Service.

Planning for Parks and Recreation

This Plan is a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made over a five-year period, as well as a way to project future needs. The process taken to prepare the plan yields an understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation facilities and programming based on public engagement and industry trends going forward. Most importantly, this plan represents a concerted effort to reflect an authentic, community-supported vision for Royal Oak parks, garnered through significant public and stakeholder engagement.

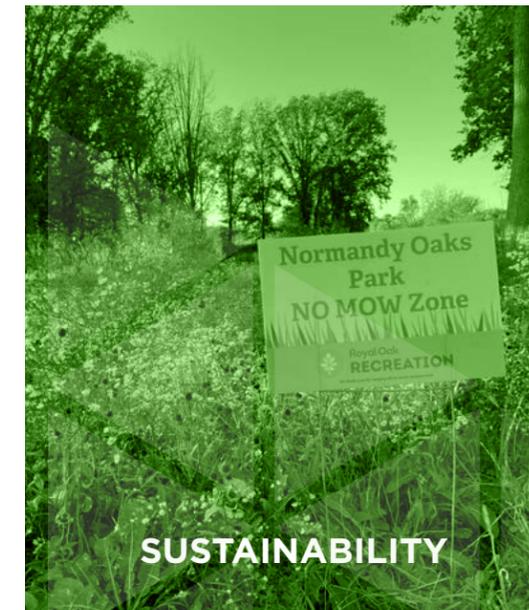
This Plan is influenced by and formulated in the context of related planning endeavors in the city, especially:

- » The Royal Oak Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S-CAP), adopted in 2022.
- » The Royal Oak Aging in Place Plan, draft under review at the time of this writing.
- » The 2022-2025 City Strategic Action Plan, published in 2022.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

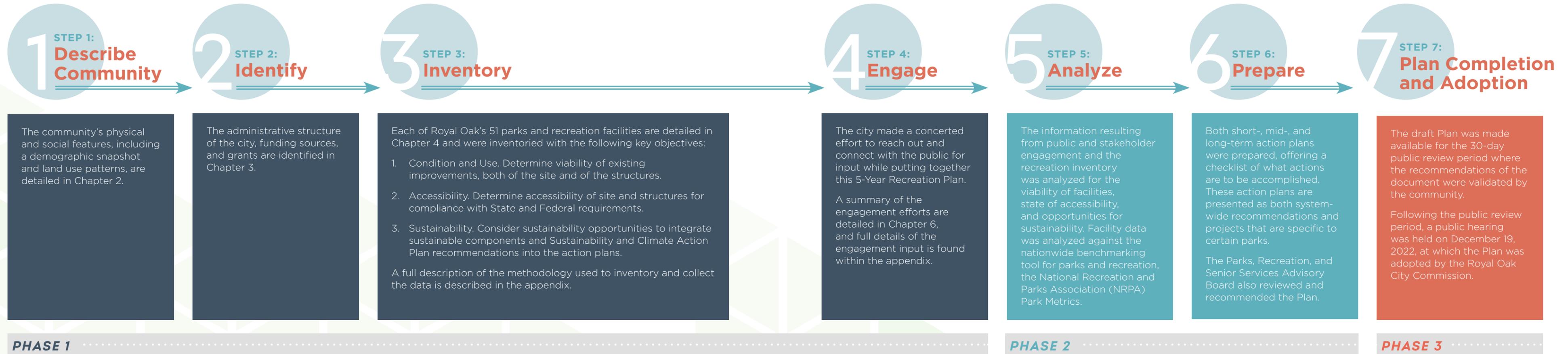
Royal Oak has a long history of championing park space. In the 1930s and 40s, the Royal Oak Parks Commission sought to implement their vision of playgrounds, parks, and preservation areas, creating a network of park spaces within the majority of the city's neighborhoods. Due to the diligence of past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

This Plan continues that vision, and sets forth goals and objectives designed to address current and future needs within the parks and recreation system in Royal Oak. The planning process, and its resultant recommendations, was guided by the four key principles listed below:



DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Royal Oak's 5-Year Recreation Plan was prepared according to the following process:





ROYAL OAK PARKS IN A SNAPSHOT

This Plan encompasses all 51 parks within the city, as well as a handful of indoor recreation facilities, occupying a total of 340 acres of land.

Royal Oak’s parkland makes up 4.5% of the total square miles in the City; these parks are classified by their size and service area into three primary categories: mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.

16

● MINI PARKS

- 13 Mile / Main Park.....p 36
- Barton Park North..... 37
- Barton Park South..... 38
- Bassett Park..... 39
- Cody Park.....43
- Fernwood Park.....49
- Franklin Park.....50
- Fries Park..... 52
- Fulton Park..... 53
- Hamer Finch Wilkins Park.....56
- Huntington Woods Park..... 57
- Maudlin Park.....66
- Rotary Park..... 79
- Royal Oak Arboretum.....80
- Wendland Park.....90
- Westwood Park..... 91

24

● NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Clawson Park.....p 42
- Dickinson Park.....45
- Dondero Park.....46
- Elks Park..... 47
- Fred Pieper / Optimist Park..... 51
- Grant Park.....54
- Gunn Dyer Park.....55
- Kenwood Park.....58
- Lawson Park.....59
- Lions Club Park.....60
- Lockman Park..... 61
- Maddock Park.....62
- Marais (Dickie Putnam) Park.....63
- Marks Park.....64
- Mark Twain (Dog) Park.....65
- Meininger Park.....67
- Miller Park.....70
- Milt Hey Hudson Park..... 71
- Pioneer Park..... 74
- Realtor Park..... 77
- Sullivan Park.....84
- Upton Park.....85
- Waterworks Park.....89
- Whittier Park.....92

11

● COMMUNITY PARKS

- Centennial Commons..... p 40
- Cummingston Park.....44
- Exchange Park.....48
- Memorial Park.....68
- Normandy Oaks Park..... 72
- Quickstad Park..... 76
- Red Run Park..... 78
- Starr Jaycee Park.....82
- V.F.W. Park.....86
- Wagner Park.....88
- Worden Park.....93

PARK SERVICE AREAS:

- **Mini-Parks:** 1/4-mile or less
- **Neighborhood Parks:** 1/4- to 1/2-Mile
- **Community Parks:** 1/2- to 3-Mile

BUILDING ON PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

The Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

The Royal Oak Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S-CAP) was adopted on May 9, 2022, after more than a year of development. The S-CAP incorporates sustainability initiatives and sets greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2050. It is a guiding policy document that outlines projects and programs to support the city's climate goals. Through a community-wide survey and several stakeholder workgroup meetings, objectives and action steps were identified to address sustainability, local environmental issues, economic prosperity, GHG reduction, social accessibility, inclusion, and equity.

The values of the S-CAP include:

- » Equity and access
- » Health and well-being
- » Economy
- » Natural ecosystems
- » Greenhouse gas emissions
- » Resilience

The S-CAP serves as a guide to all relevant departments' future budget planning, strategic goal planning, and master planning, including this 2023-2027 Recreation Plan. S-CAP action implementation is divided into six focus topics: energy and buildings, mobility, water, waste, green space, and quality of life. Most relevant to this Plan is the category of "green space". Top priorities include:

- » Increasing Royal Oak's tree canopy.
- » Providing a system of accessible parks and recreation opportunities.
- » Utilizing landscaping practices to maintain these spaces in a way that is sustainable and considerate of human, wildlife, and environmental health.

A city's park system, tree canopy, and other green features help reduce the heat island effect, improve air quality, capture stormwater runoff, increase carbon storage and biodiversity, and have positive effects on residents' physical and mental health. This Plan incorporates those goals and strives to further the efforts of the S-CAP.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past five-years, Royal Oak has continued its tradition of excellence in parks and recreation planning and implementation. Highlights from the Department of Recreation and Public Services include:

- » Redevelopment and opening of Centennial Commons, Lawson Park, and Normandy Oak's.
- » Participation in the Steering Committee for the development of the S-CAP.
- » Increased accessibility in parks (ex: Memorial Park, Sullivan Park)
- » Addition of active adult fitness equipment in parks.
- » Establishment of the city's first community garden.
- » Groundbreaking ceremony held for The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial at Memorial Park.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The goals and objectives described in Chapter 6 and the strategic actions described in detail in Chapter 7 are designed to maintain and achieve a system of accessible and quality parks, recreation opportunities, and open spaces in Royal Oak that meets the needs of everyone in the community. Public input, technical analysis, and the planning context provided by related planning endeavors provide the basis for recommendations that contribute to achieving this vision.

The following summarizes key strategic actions identified by this planning process to continue to provide an exceptional and comprehensive offering of recreation opportunities.

See Chapter 7 for a thorough explanation of these actions and the context in which they are recommended.

Summary of Strategic Actions

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES:

- » Address usability issues caused by drainage and flooding problems.
- » Explore the feasibility of the development and construction of a community pool, potentially to be co-located with a new community recreation center.
- » Concentrate resources on a subset of tennis courts, and re-purpose the real estate occupied by under-maintained and underutilized courts with greenspace or redevelop for other facilities.
- » Create new pickleball courts to accommodate a growing demand.
- » Explore a location for an outdoor amphitheater to facilitate additional cultural offerings in the parks.
- » Locate and develop a new skate park.
- » Redevelop the Royal Oak Golf Course Clubhouse.
- » Adopt a policy of incorporating native species in any park design or maintenance projects.
- » Use green stormwater infrastructure to mitigate significant flooding and drainage concerns in several parks.
- » Install gardens to support pollinator pathways as partner agreements and/or funding resources are identified.
- » Prioritize and invest more significantly in bicycle infrastructure in parks.
- » Support citizens of all ages and abilities by including paved accessible paths and increased seating options as part of all park redesign projects.
- » Evaluate the feasibility and seek partnerships for the addition of a satellite location for the provision of senior services.
- » Install a signed, accessible multi-use path connecting Worden, Worden East, and Quickstad Parks.
- » Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of adding an additional dog park.
- » Identify and prioritize maintenance requirements for the Salter and Meininger Centers.

ACTION ITEMS
pg 132

PROGRAMMING:

- » Ensure program offerings are appropriately multi-generational.
- » Add opportunities for cultural programming, such as art fairs, concerts, and additional non-recreational programming in parks.

ACTION ITEMS
pg 136

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION:

Create mechanisms to enhance communications, maintain positive public relations and increase awareness of Royal Oak Parks and Recreation offerings.

ACTION ITEMS
pg 137

PARK-SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

Align facilities with community needs, address maintenance issues, realize opportunities for sustainability and accessibility, and leverage the strong existing partnerships the city has to improve each Royal Oak park.

ACTION ITEMS
pg 138

This Plan is intended to both maintain the high quality of Parks and Recreation services and facilities, and to enhance them, in a sustainable and inclusive manner.



2

THE ROYAL OAK COMMUNITY TODAY

Royal Oak's Recreation Plan determines the needs and opportunities that exist within the city in consideration of how many people will use recreational amenities, what programs they will participate in, and what types of facilities they will need. By understanding the existing and past demographic trends, the city can appropriately anticipate and plan for the future needs of the community.



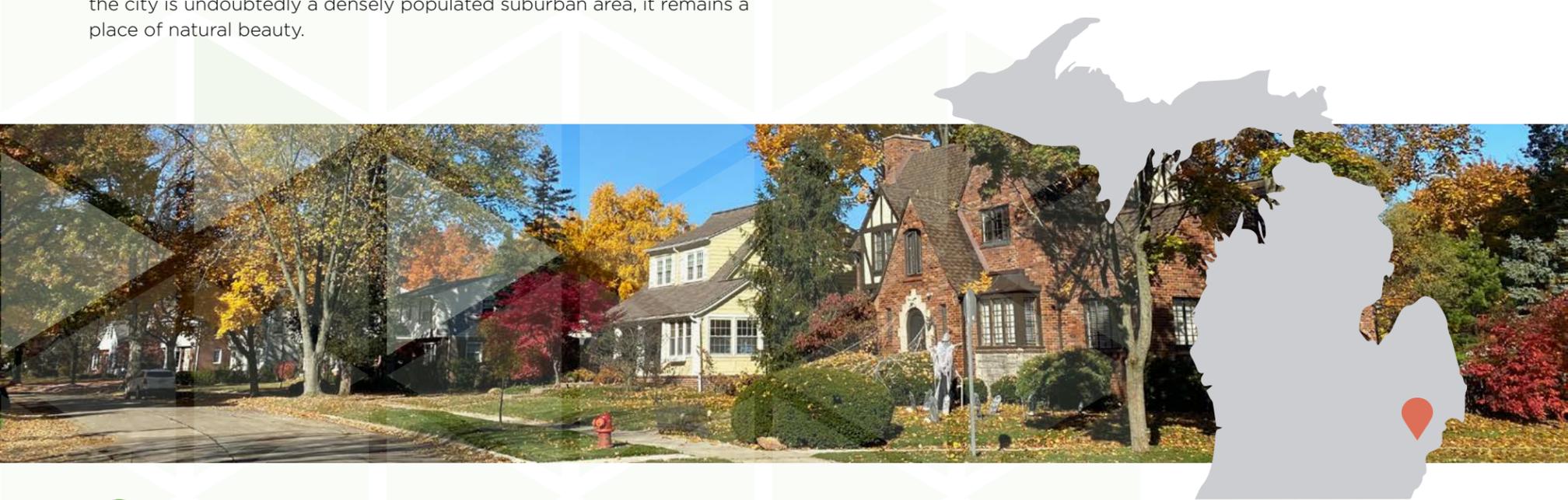
COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Royal Oak is located approximately 2 miles north of Detroit in southeastern Oakland County. Positioned along historic Woodward Avenue and bordered by I-696 to the south and I-75 to the east, the community enjoys easy access to Michigan's highway system. It is 11.79 square miles in size, with a population of 58,211 per the 2020 Census.

The city is a built-out community with very little vacant land and is completely surrounded by other developed communities, limiting the amount of land available for park and open space expansion. Trees line the streets throughout most of Royal Oak, creating a canopy over the roadways and sidewalks. Before being settled, Royal Oak was a densely forested area and this spirit remains throughout the community. While the city is undoubtedly a densely populated suburban area, it remains a place of natural beauty.

Per the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) the major land use in Royal Oak is single-family residential, which occupies approximately 61.9% of the land coverage. Commercial uses occupy nearly 10% of the total land area and are concentrated along the major roads of Woodward Avenue, Main Street, and Washington Street in the downtown area. Industrial uses are generally located in the northern and eastern areas of the city and cover roughly 2.4% of the city's land area.

While commercial uses are primarily located along the frontage of major thoroughfares, single-family residential properties are mainly situated in the interior areas. Major roads, commercial, and industrial areas act as boundaries between many residential areas, and as a result the residential areas have developed into well-defined neighborhoods.

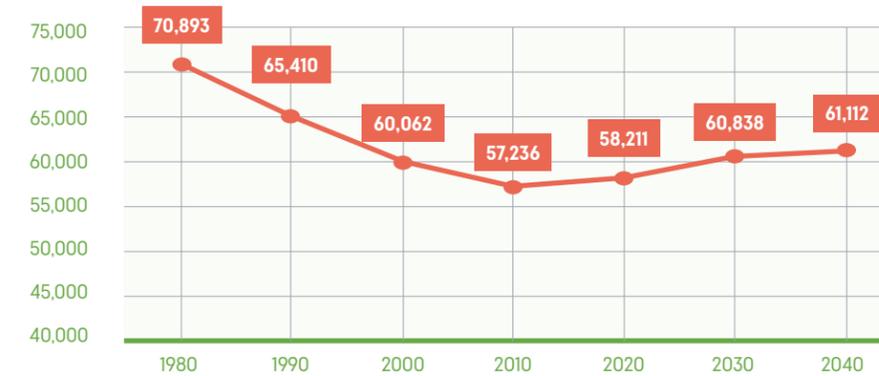


DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Royal Oak's current demographics¹ and trends provide the foundation for understanding of the types of recreation facilities and amenities that are needed in the future.

Population

Trends in the number of people residing in a community are an important indicator for parks and recreation planning: growing communities have different parks and recreational needs than communities with stable or declining populations. Per the 2020 Decennial Census, Royal Oak's population is 58,211 people. From 2010 to 2020, the city's population remained relatively stable, increasing by only 1.7%. SEMCOG forecasts that by 2040, the population will continue to grow to 61,112 residents. Royal Oak's ability to retain and attract residents indicates that the city continues to be a desired community and that its residents are aging in place.



1. The figures come from the US Census Bureau's Decennial Census (including 2020) and the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, which uses statistical sampling over a 5-year period to describe the average characteristics over the period of collection. Information for smaller geographic regions generally have a higher margin of error in statistical sampling, yet the ACS is considered very reliable and is a dataset that provides the most accurate portrayal of the changing population in the city and surrounding communities.

COMMUNITY PROFILE TAKEAWAYS

Royal Oak's population will shape park and recreation needs for the next five+ years. Relevant demographic trends include:

- » Modest population growth: SEMCOG's 2045 Regional Development Forecast predicts that by 2045, Royal Oak's population will be 61,612, an increase of 5.8%.
- » An increase in the youth population (those 5-years and younger and those between the ages of 5-9). Youth are the largest users of parks facilities and likely to participate in organized sports and recreation programming.
- » A slight increase to the average household size. Royal Oak remains a popular community for families with children. Parks facilities and the wealth of green spaces across the neighborhoods are likely one of the reasons people choose to raise their families in the Royal Oak.
- » Nearly 10% of the population has a disability. It's critical that pathways, playscapes, and other recreation amenities are accessible and welcoming to all users.
- » The median income and percentage of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher is larger than the surrounding area. Residents expect high quality parks and recreation service and programs that also provide an educational benefit.

Source: 2020 Census and the 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





Age Structure

From 2010 to 2020 the median age of Royal Oak residents has increased, and this trend is projected to continue over the next five years. The median age grew from 37.9 in 2010 to 40.7 in 2020 (increase of 7.4%). By 2026, the median age of Royal Oak residents is projected to reach 42 years. At the same time, the percentage of Royal Oak residents over the age of 65 is projected to grow over the next five years from 17.8% to 20%. These statistics strongly suggest that city residents are aging in place.

Table 1. Forecasted Age Structure, 2015-2025

AGE GROUP	2015 POPULATION	2025 POPULATION	PERCENT CHANGE
Under 5 Years	3,044	2,967	-2.5%
5-17 Years	6,267	5,634	-10.1%
18-24 Years	5,177	4,877	-5.8%
25-54 Years	28,124	26,762	-4.8%
55-64 Years	8,730	9,349	7.1%
65-84 Years	6,959	9,294	33.6%
85+ Years	1,209	1,673	38.4%
Total Population	59,510	60,556	1.8%

Source: SEMCOG

Households

Household growth has a different impact on demand for recreational services than population growth. If the population is growing faster than the number of households, this suggests that more children are being born to existing households. If households are growing faster than population, this typically suggests that more singles or couples are moving into the community.

The number of households in Royal Oak increased by 1.95% from 2015 to 2020. Over the same period, the percentage of married-couple family households with children who were only under 6 years old jumped by 7.9%. Moreover, the percentage of married-couple family households with children under 6-years and 6- to 17-years increased by 1.1%. These increases indicate that existing residents are choosing to start their families in the city.

Average household size is another indicator of community composition. Larger average household sizes generally mean more children and fewer single-parent families. Nationally, household sizes have been shrinking as younger singles wait longer to get married and life expectancy increases for the senior population.

From 2015 to 2020, Royal Oak's household size remained relatively constant, decreasing from 2.06 to 2.04. This minor decline in household size is a result of slight population growth combined with a growing number of residents who are over the age of 65.

Disability

The type of disability and number of residents it impacts informs the design and accommodations recommended of this Plan. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that approximately 9.7% of Royal Oak residents have a disability of some sort, with the most impacted populations being the 65 and over subgroups. The two most prevalent disabilities are:

- » Ambulatory and cognitive difficulties.
- » Hearing difficulties.

Ambulatory difficulties encompass serious difficulties with walking or stairs, issues that limit physical activity, leading to steeper decline in health.



Psychographics / Lifestyle Segments

Psychographics is a term used to describe characteristics of people and neighborhoods which, instead of being purely demographic, measure their attitudes, interests, opinions, and lifestyles. The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) has developed a system for categorizing U.S. neighborhoods into 65 different market segments (or “tapestry lifestyle groups”) based on demographic, lifestyle, and consumer traits. The most predominant tapestry lifestyle groups in Royal Oak are “Emerald City” and “In Style”, as detailed to the right.

While these tapestry lifestyle groups are a snapshot of today, over time, they will change, shifting demand on the parks and recreation system. For instance, the Emerald City population will partially evolve into families of their own, creating a greater need for youth amenities and park space. Similarly, the “In Style” segment will continue to age in place, and prioritize features such as walkability and accessibility.



“Emerald City” (represents 41.8% of Royal Oak households) are:

- » A young and mobile group.
- » More likely to be renters.
- » Single-person and non-family types make up over half of these households.
- » 50% of this group has a college degree and a professional occupation.
- » Median age is 37.4.
- » Median household income of \$59,200.
- » Very conscious of nutrition, they tend to buy and eat organic foods. They are also environmentally conscious and regularly buy natural, green, and environmentally friendly products. For fun, members of this group particularly enjoy attending art galleries, museums, and concerts.

“In Style” (represents 18.8% of Royal Oak households) are:

- » Primarily composed of married couples without children and single households.
- » Slightly older and already planning for their retirement.
- » 68% own their homes (and invest heavily in home remodeling).
- » Median household income of \$73,000 (often supplemented by investments).
- » Prefer organic foods (and they enjoy growing their own vegetables). They are also generous supporters of various charities and causes, and actively support the arts, theater, concerts, and museums.

Economic Characteristics

Royal Oak has a wide variety of housing styles and sizes with consistently rising property values. There are few remaining sites on which to build new homes, so developers and homeowners renovate, enlarge, raze, and/or rebuild on existing property. The 2020 ACS estimates the median value of a Royal Oak house is \$236,600.

Residents are also highly educated with 60.2% of the community holding a bachelor’s degree or higher and a median household income of \$83,350 (35% higher than the State’s median household income of \$58,540). Royal Oak’s highly educated population impacts the city’s parks and recreation needs as the population may have higher expectations for programming opportunities and the quality of recreation facilities. The population may also be interested in interpretative nature and cultural programming.

Furthermore, as incomes rise within a community, individuals and families may begin to take a market approach to recreation, meaning that affluent residents may be willing to pay for private or nonprofit recreation options if the provider offers a service that addresses their unique recreation needs. This trend indicates that as Royal Oak’s median household income rises, public recreation facilities will face more competition from private and non-profit providers. For example, residents may choose to belong to a private golf club because of differences in operation and access to other recreation amenities. As the City of Royal Oak plans future facility and programming investments, there should be an emphasis on value, the provision of multiple recreation options, and public/private partnerships.



3

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Royal Oak is able to provide high-quality parks and recreation services and facilities because of the high level of coordination between various city departments, the City Commission, the Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Advisory Board, private sector businesses and organizations, and various citizen and service groups.



CITY STRUCTURE

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

The City Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions, and regulations governing Royal Oak, and is also responsible for the appointment of members of various statutory and advisory boards and commissions, and the City Manager. The City Manager is Royal Oak’s chief administrative officer and, as such, is held accountable for planning, coordinating, directing and executing all of the City’s operations in a manner prescribed by law and conforming to the general policies and specific directives of the City Commission. The City Manager also appoints and supervises the heads of each department.



Royal Oak City Hall

Parks and Recreation Services

The day-to-day service and maintenance of facilities is provided by the Department of Public Service. The Director of Recreation and Public Service has direct authority from the City Manager. The Director manages the city’s auto parking, building maintenance, fleet maintenance, highways, parks and forestry, solid waste, street maintenance, and water/sewer/electrical. The Director performs administrative duties in addition to meeting with the Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services Advisory Board (the Advisory Board) .

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

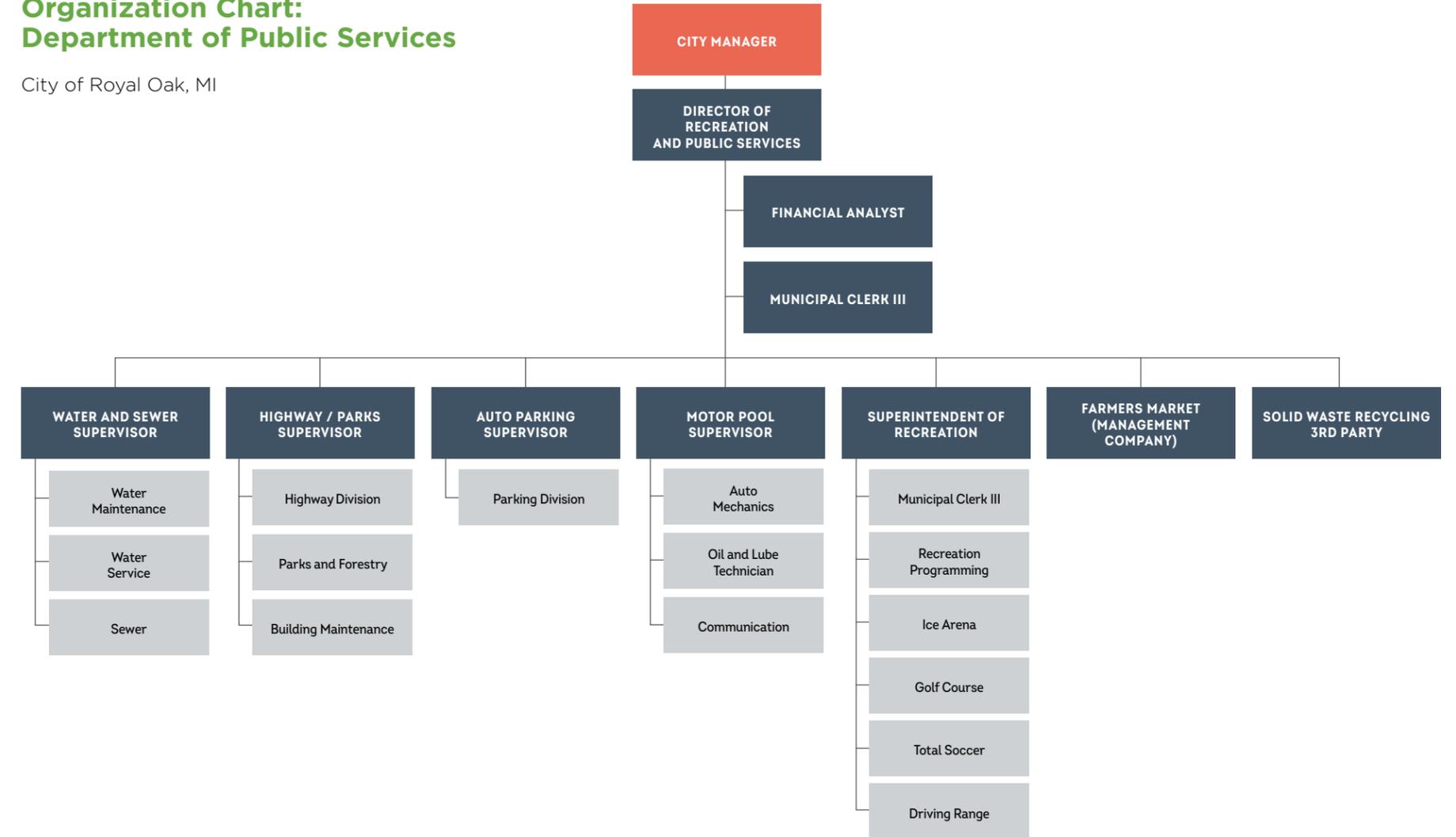
Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services Advisory Board

The Advisory Board advises the City Commission on policies affecting the operation of the Recreation and Parks and Forestry Services, and advises the Commission, City Manager, Director of Recreation and Public Service, and Superintendent of Recreation on all other matters pertaining to recreation programming and parks and forestry. The Advisory Board is comprised of nine residents appointed by the City Commission to three-year terms and meets the first Thursday of the month.

The Director of Recreation and Public Service and the Superintendent of Recreation are ex-officio members of the Advisory Board. The enabling act for Parks and Recreation Services is in Chapter 142 of the Royal Oak City Charter; and the enabling State of Michigan legislation is Public Act 156 of 1917.

Organization Chart: Department of Public Services

City of Royal Oak, MI



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers and Organizations

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

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



Adopt-A-Park Program

The city continues to offer its Adopt-A-Park Program in which citizens donate their time and resources to improve and maintain neighborhood parks. The Adopt-A-Park program has encouraged volunteerism, and seeks out sponsorships from residents and businesses for park maintenance and specific projects.

This program has been successful in lowering costs while also increasing community ownership and the quality of local parks.

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

Future Partnerships

Over the next several years, the city plans on using other avenues to encourage volunteerism and donations to its park system.

ANNUAL BUDGET AND FUNDING SOURCES

Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements, and Programming

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

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



Current Funding Sources

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

Senior Citizens Services are funded through grants, licenses, charges, and contributions as well as money from the general fund. These funds are used for programming for seniors and the operational costs for the Mahany/Meininger Senior Center. These funds also work in conjunction with other departments and community and volunteer organizations to provide Parks and Recreation services for Royal Oak. Budget information for other entities that assist in Parks and Recreation services are not listed in this Plan.

MILLAGES FOR RECREATION

In the November 2022 election, two critical millages were passed:

- » The Parks, Forestry, Recreation, Playgrounds, and Animal Shelter Millage (0.7 mills, generating approximately \$2.175 million over the next 5-years) will significantly contribute towards the necessary maintenance of all park facilities, including an annual dedication of \$500,000 towards improvements to existing playscapes, athletic fields, landscaping, and sustainability initiatives. A portion of the millage will also go towards the operation and staffing of the Royal Oak Animal Shelter.
- » Senior Services Millage (0.2 mills) will provide funding for services, activities, and programs for the elder community.

Table 1. Budget Summary

PARKS AND FORESTRY EXPENDITURES						
101.266 PARKS AND FORESTRY	PERSONNEL SERVICES	SUPPLIES	CAPITAL	OTHER	DEBT	TOTAL
2018-2019 Actual	424,640	110,480	296,770	320,320	0	1,152,210
2019-2020 Actual	371,270	119,660	379,750	395,570	0	1,266,250
2020-2021 Actual	488,690	148,260	18,750	318,550	0	974,250
2021-2022 Original Budget	643,680	157,200	679,200	454,440	0	1,934,520
2021-2022 Adjusted Budget (Dec)	650,580	165,200	679,200	446,440	0	1,941,420
2021-2022 Six Month Actual	317,700	53,080	343,690	191,080	0	905,550
2021-2022 Estimated Year End	612,170	174,000	601,000	418,540	0	1,805,710
2022-2023 Dept Request	694,660	171,200	18,000	548,330	0	1,432,190
2022-2023 Manager's Budget	694,660	171,200	18,000	548,330	0	1,432,190
2022-2023 Adopted Budget	694,660	171,200	18,000	548,330	0	1,432,190
2023-2024 Projected Budget	722,990	171,200	4,500	565,280	0	1,463,970
2024-2025 Projected Budget	754,360	171,200	4,500	577,410	0	1,507,470
2025-2026 Projected Budget	789,580	171,200	4,500	589,940	0	1,555,220
2026-2027 Projected Budget	829,710	171,200	4,500	602,880	0	1,608,290
ENDING FUND BALANCE						
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Recreation Fund	245,405	203,755	151,305	88,205	14,085	(72,435)
Ice Arena Fund	76,795	19,105	76,315	102,245	95,865	56,135
Senior Citizens Services Fund	145,134	126,434	150,974	154,554	134,414	91,804

Grant History

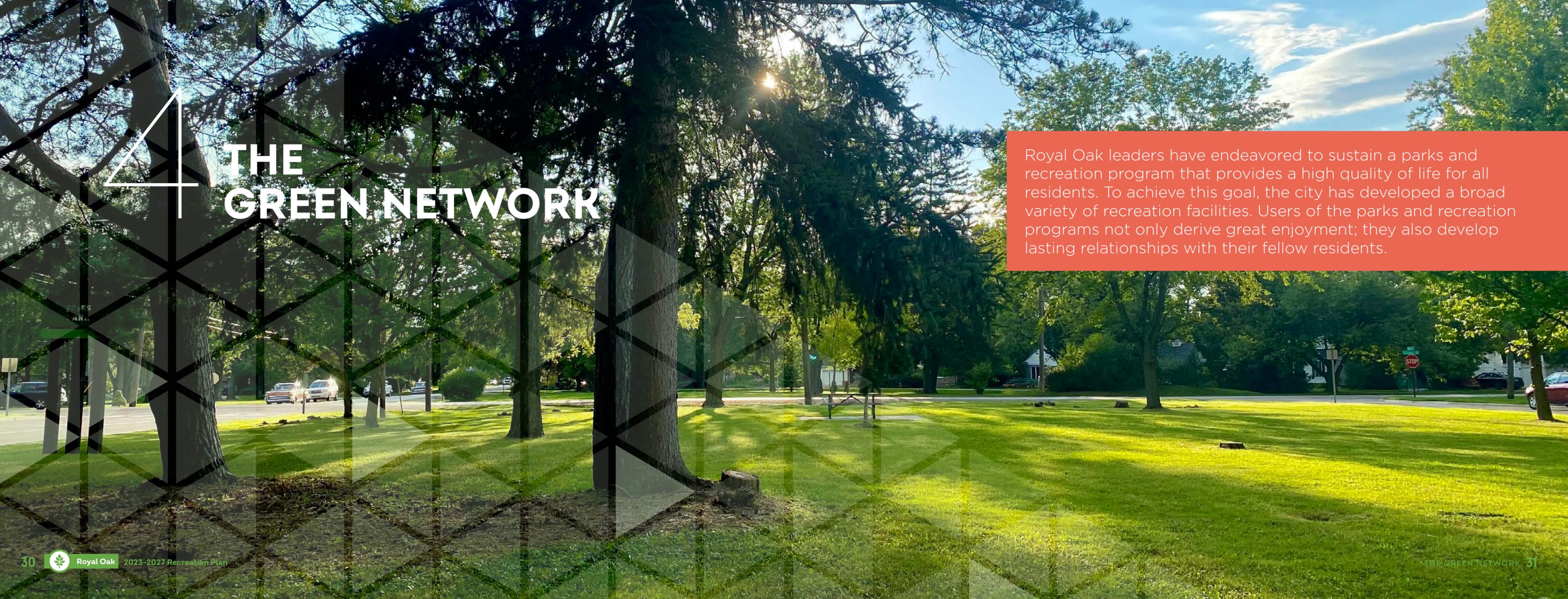
Royal Oak has been the recipient of 10 State grants totaling over \$1.3 million since 1970: Table 2 summarizes these recreation grants. Over the years, the community has also received funding from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Oakland County. The contributions from these grants have enabled the city to successfully complete parks and recreation projects and improve the quality of the recreation system. All the following grant awarded projects remain open to the public; no conversions of use have taken place.

Table 2. Royal Oak State-Funded Recreation Grant History

YEAR	GRANT NAME	GRANT NO.	AMOUNT AWARDED	FUNDING SOURCE	PROJECT RESULTS
1970	Ruth E. Wagner Park Addition	26-00198	\$18,500	LWCF	Acquisition of 1.50 acres of parkland.
1977	Worden Park	26-01023 R	\$75,000	LWCF	Creation of 5 ballfields (2 with lighting), a parking lot, and play structure.
1978	Meininger and Lockman Park Development	26-01060 E2	\$68,703	LWCF	Burial of overhead wires, and installation of drinking fountains, sidewalks, play structures, tennis courts, and a pavilion.
1980	Starr Jaycee Park	26-01106	\$90,249	LWCF	Creation of a disc golf course, physical fitness course, playscape, parking lot, and shelter.
1985	Dickinson Park Acquisition	26-01350	\$17,500	LWCF	Acquisition of 0.80 acres of parkland.
1989	Sullivan Park Development	BF89-427	\$15,000	RBF	Installation of a play structure, landscaping, and soccer fields, and the relocation of existing play equipment.
1989	Senior/Community Center Addition	BF89-429	\$225,000	RBF	Construct 3,000 square foot building addition to provide a pre-school and arts/crafts rooms.
1993	Park System Accessibility Improvements	26-01527	\$47,000	LWCF	Installation of paved walkways and accessible play equipment at 10 parks, including: Lockman (paved exercise trail); Meininger (paved walkways and play equipment); and Worden (paved walkways and play equipment).
1994	Dickinson Park Developments	26-01553	\$62,500	LWCF	Landscaping to improve drainage, relocation of the baseball diamond, creation of a soccer field and basketball courts, and installation of accessible play equipment.
2000	Community Center at V.F.W. Park	CM00-030	\$750,000	CMI	Renovation of an existing facility to create a community center and provide expanded space for Senior Citizen activities; renovation of one gymnasium and construct one new gymnasium.
TOTAL FUNDING:			\$1,369,453		

FUNDING SOURCE KEY:

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund (Federal)
 RBF = Recreation Bond Fund (State)
 CMI = Clean Michigan Initiative (State)



THE GREEN NETWORK

Royal Oak leaders have endeavored to sustain a parks and recreation program that provides a high quality of life for all residents. To achieve this goal, the city has developed a broad variety of recreation facilities. Users of the parks and recreation programs not only derive great enjoyment; they also develop lasting relationships with their fellow residents.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES INVENTORY

Description of Parks and Facilities

An inventory of existing facilities was conducted by Royal Oak’s consultant, McKenna, throughout the summer of 2022. The inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections at each of the 51 park sites, as well as the indoor facilities and consultation with officials within the department about strengths and deficiencies within the Parks. This inventory of facilities includes the following attributes: name, location, acreage, equipment, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition.

Each of the 51 parks and recreation facilities were inventoried with the following three key objectives:

1. Determine viability of existing improvements, both of the site and of the structures.
2. Determine accessibility of site and structures for compliance with State and Federal requirements.
3. Consider sustainability opportunities to integrate sustainable components and S-CAP recommendations into the 5- and 10-year action plans.

Classifications of Recreation Amenities

Each of Royal Oak’s parks and recreation facilities is identified by the amenities available and the scope of services they provide, specifically based on criteria developed by the National Parks and Recreation Association (see the table on the following page.). The classification provides an understanding of the main function of each park. For planning purposes, the classification helps to identify gaps in the range of parks available to residents.

The following four recreation classifications apply to Royal Oak’s parks, open space, and recreation areas: Mini-Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, and Special Use Park / Facility.

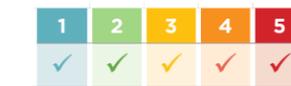
MINI-PARK (POCKET PARK)	Small, specialized parks, often less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Mini-parks usually serve people within a 1/4 mile radius.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Multi-purpose facilities that provide more active recreation activities, such as field/court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks typically serve up to 5,000 residents located within a 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius.
COMMUNITY PARK	Offers a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from many neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities. Community parks serve residents within a 1/2 to 3 mile radius.
SPECIAL USE PARK / FACILITY	Specialized or single-purpose recreation activities, such as historical areas, nature centers, dog parks, sports complex, golf courses, arboretums, etc. There are no specific standards for size or acreage since each site will vary, each site is unique to the community it serves.

Facilities Inventory and Conditions

To determine the viability of existing improvements and to plan for the future, the location and condition of all playground equipment, sport fields/courts, pavilions and picnic facilities, exercise equipment and ancillary amenities were documented.

The condition scores range from 1 (best condition) to 5 (worst condition).

SCALE OF AMENITIES CONDITIONS



- 1 = Good
- 2 = Above Average
- 3 = Average
- 4 = Below Average
- 5 = In need of Repair/Replacement

Inventory of Sustainable Features

The sustainability inventory cataloged existing features that currently contribute to sustainability and potential opportunities for the future. Key elements are summarized on the following parks-specific pages.

- 
Tree Canopy:
 Expressed as number of trees/acre.
 (Collected: Perimeter Tree Count, Interior Tree Count, Estimated Canopy %)
- 
Recycling Facilities:
 Yes/No/How Many
- 
Gardens and Landscaping:
 Native Plantings, Decorative Planters
- 
Bicycle Facilities:
 Yes/No, What is Present
- 
Green Stormwater Infrastructure:
 Yes/No, What is Present

Accessibility Assessment

An evaluation of Royal Oak's parks and recreation facilities was conducted as part of the inventory. Facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with certain criteria could safely and independently use the facilities. A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility; the scale is described in the table on this page.

Analysis of these assessments is detailed in Chapter 5.

LEVEL 1	The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not accessible.
LEVEL 2	The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
LEVEL 3	The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.
LEVEL 4	The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
LEVEL 5	The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

HOW TO READ THE PARK SUMMARY PAGES

The following pages present each of Royal Oak's 51 parks, including a synthesis of the inventory and analysis conducted for this plan through the lenses of facilities, sustainability, and accessibility.

Park name, location, classification, and date of establishment.

Map of approximate location in the city.

Description of each park

Sustainable features present at each park.

Each park's score on a five-point accessibility scale, ranging from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest).

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

LAWSON PARK

1300 LONGFELLOW AVENUE

2.60 ACRES

EST. 1956



Lawson Park, renovated and opened in July of 2022, is one of the busiest parks in the City. The updated park offers mostly active, state-of-the-art amenities. It is located in the southern end of the City, adjacent to the I-696 freeway. Lawson Park is also one of five parks that offers outdoor fitness equipment, with multiple exercise stations and one of ten parks that offer a basketball court. Additionally, the park features a large pavilion that can be reserved online.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

- 18 TREES PER ACRE
-
-
-
-

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE

5

DRAFT OCTOBER 28, 2022 for Advisory Board Discussion




AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ballfield	✓				
» Basketball Court	✓				
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Sets	✓				
» Jungle Climber	✓				
» Outdoor Fitness Equipment	✓				
» Pavilion	✓				

ACTION ITEMS
pg XX

Click here or refer to this page for recommended actions for this park.

Quantity and type of recreation facilities available at each park, evaluated for their current condition/state of repair, ranging from 1 (best condition) to 5 (worst condition).

Selected quotes, received during this planning process, that reflect representative sentiments for individual parks.

Beautiful park. I love that saving the old trees were a priority and all the features flow together is such a thoughtful way. This is the gold standard for parks in Royal Oak.

THE GREEN NETWORK 57

13 MILE / MAIN PARK

112 EAST 13 MILE ROAD

0.10 ACRES



The smallest park in the city, 13 Mile/Main is located at the southeast corner of a major intersection, nearby several businesses. The park contains two landscaped beds (planters) sponsored by community businesses and organizations and serves as a gateway feature at this intersection.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY 50 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE 3



ACTION ITEMS
pg 138

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Decorative gardens/planters (2)		✓			

This is a great space for the community, but likely needs to be re-imagined.

BARTON PARK NORTH

215 PINGREE BOULEVARD

0.57 ACRES

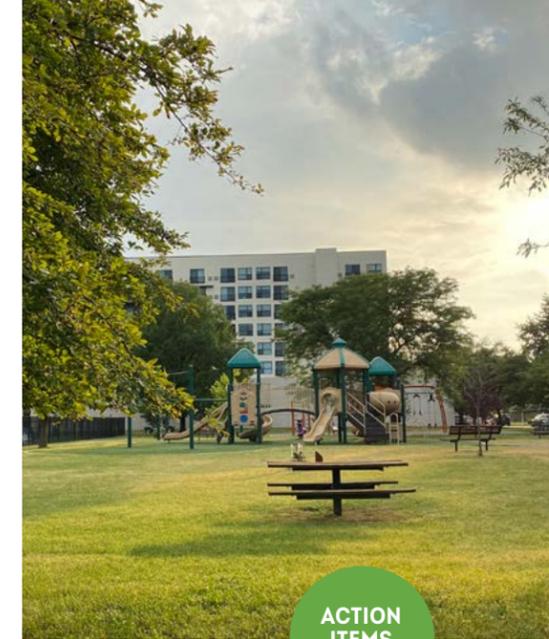
EST. 1985



Located just a few blocks from downtown, Barton Park North contains a playground, bicycle parking, and is one of five parks that contains outdoor fitness equipment. There is an opportunity for greater seating and a denser tree canopy, and public input suggested that pedestrian access to the park across Troy Street should be made safer.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY 58 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE 4



ACTION ITEMS
pg 138

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Set		✓			
» Outdoor Fitness Equipment	✓				

BARTON PARK SOUTH

333 N. TROY STREET

0.48 ACRES

EST. 1985



Within walking distance of downtown, Barton Park South offers shaded seating and a walking path for those near and in the city center. It contains well-manicured flower beds and other shrubbery, as well as a gazebo. Located one block from 11 Mile Road, Barton Park South is accessible via the SMART bus system.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

56 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 138

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Gazebo	✓				
» Chess Table (2)			✓		
» Memorial Signage	✓				

The Gazebo is great...a bit more seating, maybe another cover / shade area would be appreciated.

BASSETT PARK

120-248 NORTH CAMPBELL ROAD

1.31 ACRES

EST. 1956



Bassett Park was recently renovated and now features unique play equipment that emulates natural materials. Located along busy Campbell Road, it is accessible by public transit via the SMART bus system, with two nearby bus stops. The park has a decorative planter and a community-made "fairy habitat." Public input noted a concern regarding separation from Campbell traffic and general appreciation for the recent renovations.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

24 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 139

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structure with Sandbox	✓				
» Swing Set		✓			
» Climber	✓				

*Great recent updates.
Love the fairy garden!
Adorable place for creative play!*

CENTENNIAL COMMONS

203 SOUTH TROY STREET

1.90 ACRES

EST. 2022



Royal Oak's newest park, Centennial Commons offers several seating, gathering, and picnic options, a water feature, and a stage. Located in the heart of downtown Royal Oak adjacent to City Hall and the Royal Oak Library, the park is within walking distances of downtown restaurants and businesses. It is accessible by public transit via the SMART bus system, with three bus stops nearby. Centennial Commons includes a Veterans Memorial that honors veterans of all major U.S. wars.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ping Pong	✓				
» Water Feature	✓				
» Stage	✓				
» Chess Tables	✓				
» Veterans Memorial	✓				

Absolutely love this new park! It should be used as a model for the all future Royal Oak park updates.

This park would be a great place to have outdoor movies in the summer.



CLAWSON PARK

1901 ESSEX STREET

2.21 ACRES

EST. 1956



ACTION ITEMS
pg 139

Clawson Park offers picnic tables, swings, and a ball field. This park is tucked into the neighborhood near Crooks and Webster. In addition to standard swing sets, it also has an adult-child expression swing that promotes interaction and creative play. Public input identified the need for maintenance at the ball diamond, and a desire for a new park name.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field		✓			
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Sets (3)		✓			
» Tire Swing	✓				

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



11 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE

2

CODY PARK

1798 CODY ROAD

1.75 ACRES

EST. 1956



ACTION ITEMS
pg 139

Adjacent to 12 Mile Road, Cody Park offers several active recreation facilities. It has a bicycle rack at the park's entrance. The park features a large sandbox that contains several donated children's playhouses. This is one of five parks throughout the city that offers outdoor fitness equipment, with multiple stations.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Multipurpose Field			✓		
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Set			✓		
» Outdoor Fitness Equipment	✓				
» Sandbox		✓			

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



9 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE

3

“Adding greenery/trees along the roads would help to create separation from traffic and have the park feel more natural.”



CUMMINGSTON PARK

5199 ELMHURST AVENUE

30.12 ACRES

EST. 1925



ACTION ITEMS
pg 140

The northern-most park in Royal Oak, Cummingston is located between Coolidge Highway and Crooks Road, near the Troy border. The park contains the Cummingston Nature Preserve, a large, wooded area adjacent to the playground. Maintained by the Royal Oak Nature Society, Cummingston is one of two conservancy parks in the City. Dedicated on September 4, 1925, it is one of the oldest parks in Royal Oak. Public input identified a desire for additional educational programming and improved signage in the nature preserve.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structure			✓		
» Swing Set		✓			
» Nature Preserve		✓			

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



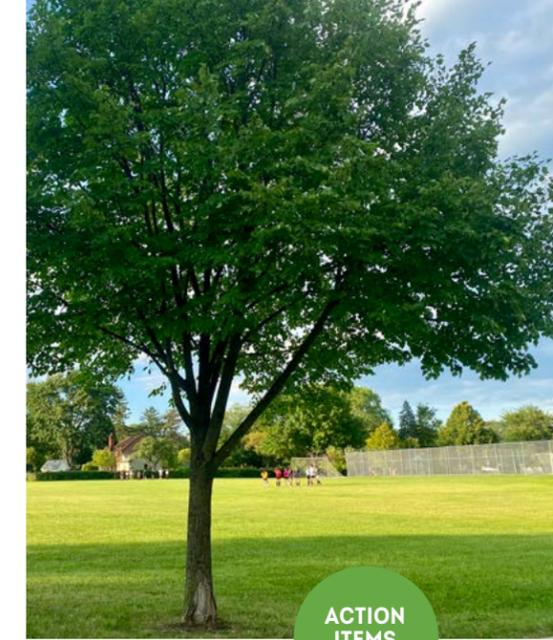
“ I LOVE this park. Thanks to the nature society! ”

DICKINSON PARK

4307 AMHERST ROAD

4.91 ACRES

EST. 1958



ACTION ITEMS
pg 140

One of the western-most parks, Dickinson is adjacent to Greenfield Road and named after Edward J. Dickinson who was a member of the city's Parks and Recreation Board for 20 years. Offering a mix of passive and active facilities, it one of ten parks in Royal Oak that contain a basketball court. The park is challenged by drainage issues and deferred maintenance for the sport courts and ball diamond.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field				✓	
» Multipurpose Field			✓		
» Tennis Court (2)				✓	
» Basketball Court				✓	
» Play Structures (2)		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Sandbox		✓			

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



DONDERO PARK

DONDERO & HOFFMAN

3.42 ACRES

EST. 1956



Dondero Park is located near the I-696 freeway and is one of the southern-most parks in Royal Oak, near the border of Pleasant Ridge. The park includes a well-maintained ball field and basketball court. Residents providing feedback expressed an appreciation for the sport courts and concern about pedestrian safety from traffic traveling near I-696. The park is named after George A. Dondero, former congressman and school board president.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



16 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field	✓				
» Tennis Court (2)		✓			
» Basketball Court		✓			
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Tire Swing	✓				

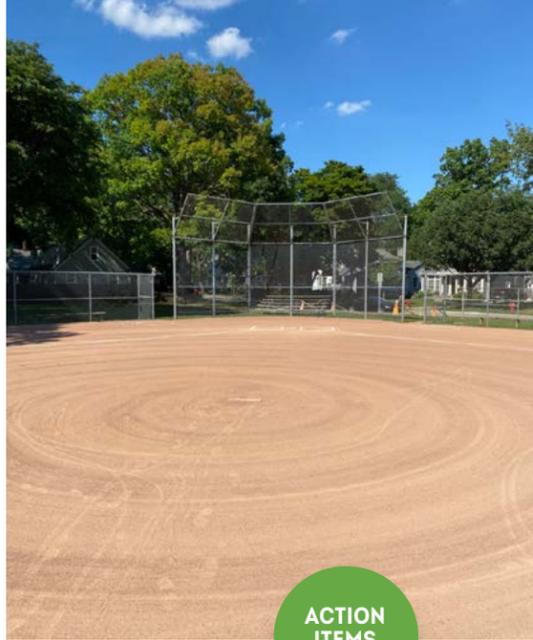
ACTION ITEMS
pg 140

ELKS PARK

2100 NORMANDY ROAD

4.32 ACRES

EST. 1952



Elks Park is adjacent to Normandy Oaks, on Normandy west of Crooks. The park offers several sports fields and courts. It is challenged by flooding issues, as well as under-maintained sport courts. The park's location and size offers great potential for redevelopment with new facilities as a complement to Normandy Oaks offerings. Public input identified this park as a potential location for a new skate park.

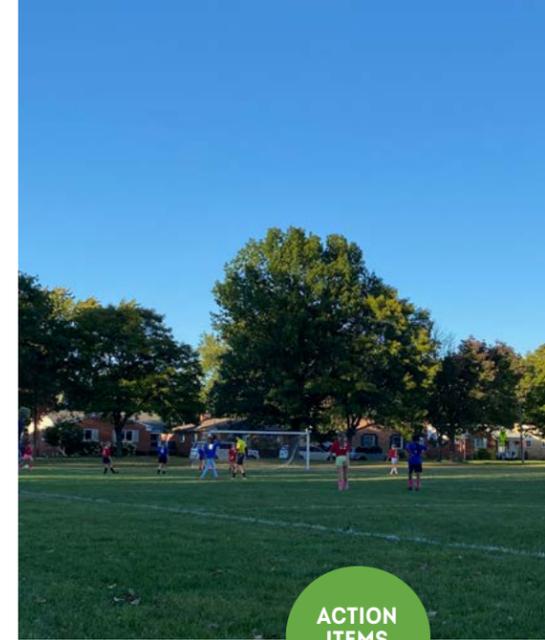
SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



15 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 140

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field					✓
» Multipurpose Field			✓		
» Tennis Court (2)					✓
» Basketball Court				✓	
» Play Structures (2)		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		
» Volleyball Court					✓



EXCHANGE PARK

1201 MONTROSE AVENUE

14.49 ACRES

EST. 1956



Located in the northeast corner of the city, Exchange Park offers a variety of active recreation facilities, and is one of ten parks in Royal Oak that contain a basketball court. Though it is located on Campbell Road, Exchange is not conveniently accessible by public transit. The park is challenged by flooding and maintenance issues. Public input included many suggestions for maintenance, new facilities and a desire for flooding mitigation.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

8 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ballfields (2)	✓				✓
» Multipurpose Field			✓		
» Tennis Court (2)				✓	
» Basketball Court			✓		
» Play Structures (2)			✓		
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			

Park is used quite frequently for children's sporting events and has a lot of people-would be great to add a covered structure with area for picnic tables for the families.

FERNWOOD PARK

701 LOCKWOOD ROAD

1.00 ACRES

EST. 1956

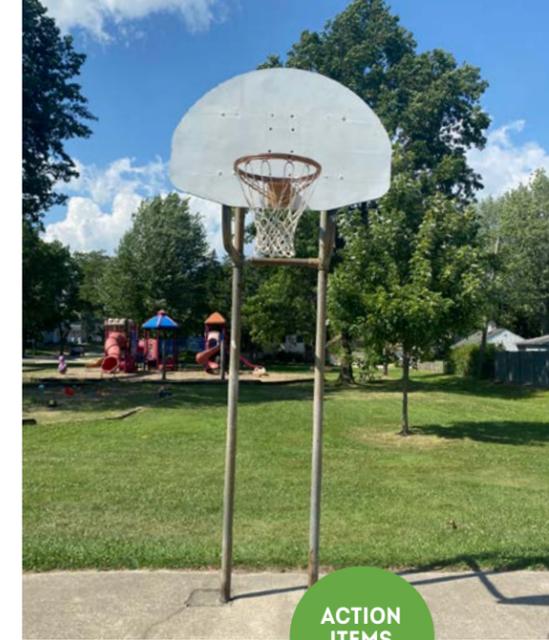
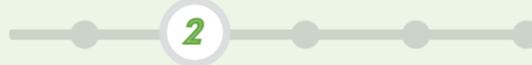


Fernwood Park offers playground equipment, a basketball court, and open space for unprogrammed play for neighbors near Catalpa and Maxwell. The park is challenged by outdated and under-maintained facilities. Public input identified replacement of the play structure, maintenance for the sandbox, and additional shade as desired priorities for this park.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

35 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Basketball Court					✓
» Play Structure				✓	
» Swing Set				✓	
» Sandbox				✓	

ACTION ITEMS
pg 141

MINI-PARK

FRANKLIN PARK

E. HARRISON & MOHAWK AVENUE

0.56 ACRES

EST. 1941



Named after both Ben Franklin and the former Franklin school (since demolished) this mini-park in the south end offers tennis courts and facilities for smaller children, including a tot lot and sandbox. The park was recently renovated in 2021 and now features one tennis court, seating, and an updated play structure.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 141

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Tennis Court	✓				
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Set	✓				
» Sandbox	✓				

I love this park. It's a small playground for little kids, [and] Lawson Park with the big kid playground is a block away. The design is great, fenced in, lots of trees, sand area and benches.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

FRED PIEPER / OPTIMIST PARK

ROCHESTER ROAD & MONTROSE

3.08 ACRES

EST. 1988

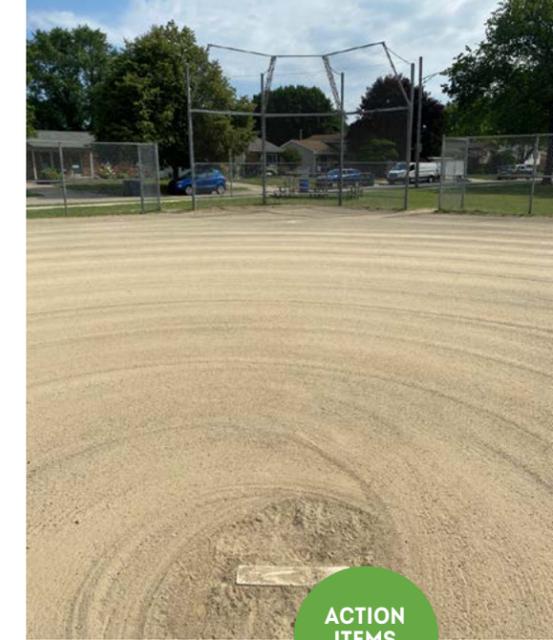
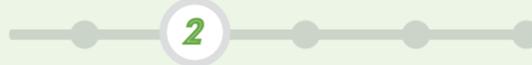


Optimist Park is located on Rochester Road in the northern end of the city and was named after Fred Pieper, former city commissioner and coach. The park has a mix of active facilities for children and adults that are generally well maintained, including a ball field, volleyball court, sandbox, and tire swing. The park is well utilized, but is challenging to reach as a pedestrian from the west side of Rochester Road.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 141

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field		✓			
» Volleyball Court			✓		
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Sandbox		✓			
» Tire Swing		✓			



FRIES PARK

NORMANDY & GREENFIELD ROADS

1.41 ACRES

EST. 1955



ACTION ITEMS
pg 142

Dedicated in 1955 and named after civic leader Arthur H. Fries (former City Commissioner for 15+ years), Fries Park offers a green, passive space for enjoyment. While there is a concrete pad for one picnic table, the park is does not offer any other built amenities. Located on Greenfield Road and adjacent to the city of Beverly Hills, this pocket park is accessible via transit, though it primarily serves the surrounding neighbors.

AMENITIES

None.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



This would be a great spot for some interesting seating, naturalized spaces with native plants that require less upkeep.

FULTON PARK

4230 NORTH FULTON PLACE

0.41 ACRES

EST. 1955



ACTION ITEMS
pg 142

Nestled within a neighborhood block in Royal Oak Beverly Hills, Fulton Park contains an active play-space for children. The park was most recently upgraded in 2017 with a new play structure, swing sets, and a tire swing. It also contains a sandbox and a free little library.

AMENITIES

- » Play Structure (5-12 years)
- » Swing Set (with baby swing)
- » Jungle Climbers
- » Sandbox

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structure (5-12 years)	✓				
» Swing Set (with baby swing)	✓				
» Jungle Climbers	✓				
» Sandbox	✓				

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



GRANT PARK

809 EAST FIFTH STREET

4.24 ACRES



Grant Park, south of 4th Street near downtown Royal Oak, offers a soccer field, outdoor fitness equipment, and playground equipment. While there is a MOGO bike rental station nearby, there are no bicycle parking facilities within the park. Public input identified a desire for restrooms, drinking fountains, and additional accessible paths.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



31 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 142

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Field		✓			
» Ball field			✓		
» Play Structures		✓			
» Swing Set		✓			
» Outdoor Fitness Equipment	✓				

Keep up the planting!

A walkway to the picnic area would be appreciated for those pushing strollers, walkers, wheelchairs or pulling a wagon with picnic supplies.

GUNN DYER PARK

3607 HUNTER AVENUE

2.36 ACRES

EST. 1956



Located south of 13 Mile and west of Coolidge, Gunn Dyer Park is within walking distance of dozens of businesses along the busy Woodward corridor in addition to surrounding neighborhoods. The park is challenged by flooding issues and outdated play equipment. Feedback in the planning process identified the need for better, accessible access to the soccer field.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



12 TREES PER ACRE



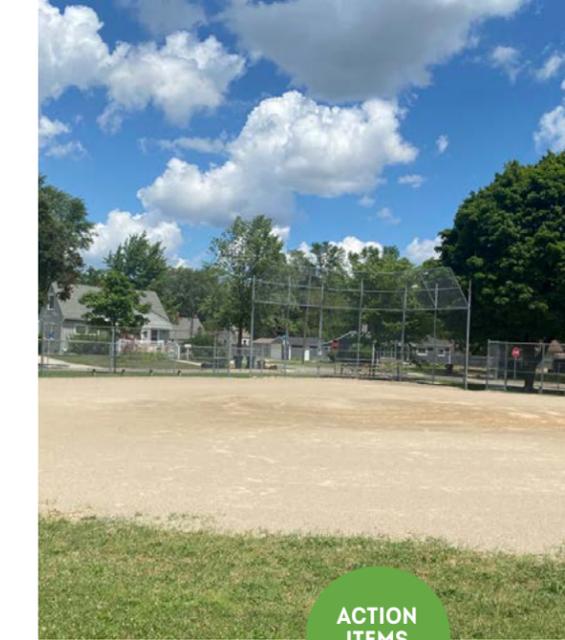
ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 142

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field		✓			
» Multipurpose Field		✓			
» Play Structure			✓		
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		
» Jungle Climber					✓



HAMER FINCH WILKINS PARK

706 WALNUT AVENUE

0.29 ACRES

EST. 1965



ACTION ITEMS
pg 143

Formerly known as “Beechwood Park”, Hamer Finch Wilkins Park was renamed in 2022 in honor of one of the first Black families to settle in Royal Oak. Formerly enslaved persons Elizabeth and Henry Hamer arrived in Royal Oak in 1857 and by 1872, they had purchased several acres of land. Descendants of the Hamers still own and occupy their family’s land. The park has a mature tree canopy but lacks amenities and offers little indication of the land’s history.

AMENITIES

None.

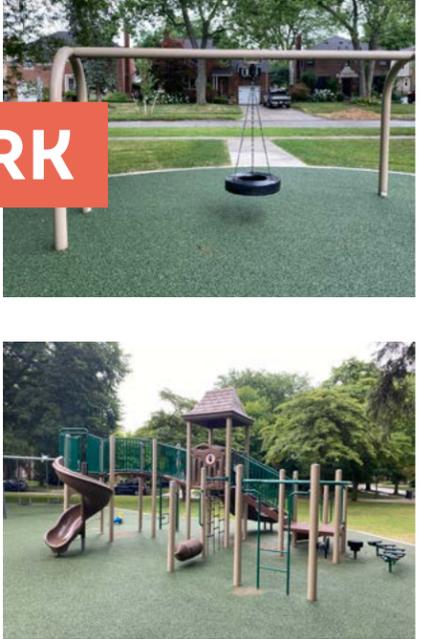
SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY 17 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE 3

HUNTINGTON WOODS PARK

25681 DUNDEE ROAD

0.55 ACRES



ACTION ITEMS
pg 143

Located in the very southwest corner of the city, adjacent to the City of Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods Park offers recently-updated play equipment. Public input about this park primarily indicated a desire for a new park name.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Set (with tire swing)	✓				
» Sandbox	✓				

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY 54 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE 3

“Can’t wait for this park to be designed!”

KENWOOD PARK

2000 FOREST AVE

8.83 ACRES

EST. 1956



Kenwood Park is adjacent to the I-75 freeway near the border of Madison Heights. It offers a several active facilities but lacks sufficient passive facilities like picnic tables and benches. The park is challenged by flooding issues and under-maintained tennis courts. Public input received about this park indicated a desire to address flooding and maintenance issues and identified Kenwood as a potential site for pickleball courts.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

9 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



LAWSON PARK

1300 LONGFELLOW AVENUE

2.61 ACRES

EST. 1956



ACTION ITEMS
pg 143

AMENITIES

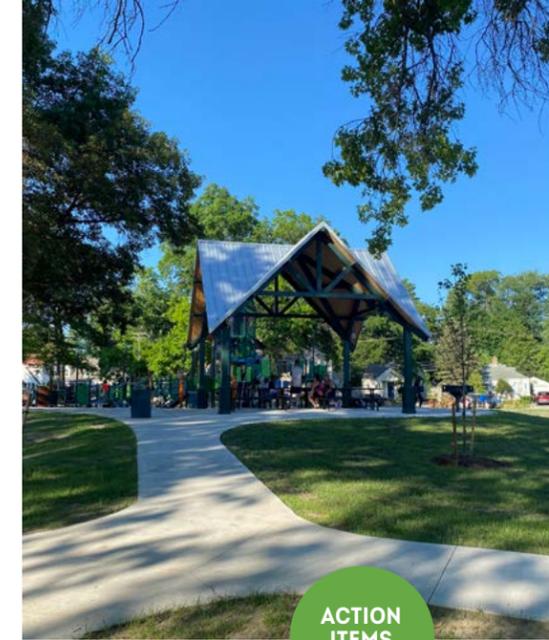
	1	2	3	4	5
» Ballfields (2)	✓				✓
» Soccer Field		✓			
» Tennis Court (2)				✓	
» Play Structure	✓				
» Multipurpose Field			✓		
» Swing Sets (2)	✓				
» Climber	✓				
» Tire Swing	✓				
» Sandbox	✓				

Lawson Park, renovated and reopened in July of 2022, is one of the busiest parks in the community. The updated park offers mostly active, state-of-the-art amenities. It is located in the southern end of the city, adjacent to the I-696 freeway. Lawson Park is one of five parks that offers outdoor fitness equipment, with multiple exercise stations, and one of ten parks that offer a basketball court. Additionally, the park features a picnic pavilion that can be reserved online.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

18 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 143

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field	✓				
» Basketball Court	✓				
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Sets	✓				
» Jungle Climber	✓				
» Outdoor Fitness Equipment	✓				
» Pavilion	✓				

Beautiful park. I love that saving the old trees were a priority and all the features flow together is such a thoughtful way.

LIONS CLUB PARK

1103 ORCHARD GROVE DRIVE

1.08 ACRES

EST. 1995



Formerly named “Woodsboro Park”, the park was renamed after the Royal Oak Lions Club, an affiliate to the international service club organization. Lions Club Park is near 12 Mile and Northwood Elementary school. It contains a play structure, swing sets, drinking fountain, and a picnic area.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 144

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)				✓	

“It would be great to update the current playset and also add a sports offering of sorts to accommodate older children and their parents.”

LOCKMAN PARK

1504 NORTH CONNECTICUT AVENUE

9.18 ACRES

EST. 1939



Located near the intersection of 12 Mile and Campbell, Lockman is adjacent to the Helen Keller Elementary school yard. Dedicated in June 1939, it is one of the oldest parks in Royal Oak. It has a dense, mature tree canopy over much of the park. It is one of ten parks in Royal Oak that contain a basketball court.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 144

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Tennis Court (2)		✓			
» Basketball Court		✓			
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		
» Tire Swing		✓			

“Love the shade and natural feel of this park as a forested area.”

MADDOCK PARK

2454 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE

2.57 ACRES

EST. 1970



Located near the I-75 freeway, Maddock Park is the eastern-most park in Royal Oak and offers several active and passive facilities, including picnic tables. Maddock Park was named after civic leader and former city commissioner Edwin A. Maddock.

Public input focused on addressing maintenance issues in this park.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



38 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 144

AMENITIES

- » Play Structure
- » Swing Sets (2)

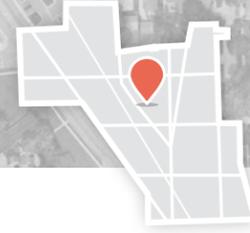
	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			

MARAIS (DICKIE PUTNAM) PARK

1002 W. WEBSTER ROAD

2.52 ACRES

EST. 1955



Marais Park is located just off of Vinsetta Boulevard north of 12 Mile and is home to 'Bicycle Hill'. It has little built amenity, but is utilized and valued by neighboring residents as an open space, and is popular for sledding for young children in the winter.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



30 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 144

AMENITIES

- » Sledding Hill

	1	2	3	4	5
» Sledding Hill				✓	

“Plant more trees on the backside of the park!”

MARKS PARK

2ND & BLAIR AVENUE

1.71 ACRES

EST. 1956



Marks Park offers play active recreation equipment with play structures, a soccer field, and seating areas. It is between 11 Mile Road and Fourth Street, east of Main Street. Marks Park has a make-shift sand box, with beach toys. Public input indicated a desire for updated seating (picnic tables and benches), bicycle facilities and drinking water facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

43 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 145

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Field		✓			
» Play Structures		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			

MARK TWAIN (DOG) PARK

CAMPBELL & OTTAWA

7.18 ACRES

EST. 1954

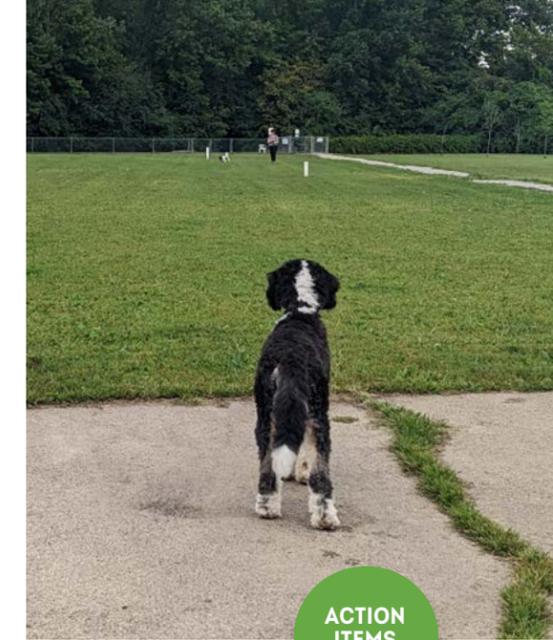


In the northwest corner of the city, Mark Twain Park is the only dog park in the community, and has an annual membership cost of \$40 for Royal Oak residents, and \$65 for non-residents. The membership covers fence/gate maintenance, waste management, and landscaping. There is also a wooded trail adjacent to the park, and the area is challenged by flooding issues. Public input clearly identified a desire to resolve drainage and flooding issues in the park.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

5 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 145

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Dog Run		✓			
» Nature Trail				✓	

MAUDLIN PARK

4101-4211 SAMOSET ROAD

1.79 ACRES

EST. 1956



ACTION ITEMS
pg 145

Named after Royal Oak mayor and civic leader Grant Maudlin, Maudlin Park offers a mix of passive and active facilities. One of Royal Oak's northern-most parks, it is located near 14 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, near the Birmingham border. The park is challenged by outdated play structure equipment and a relative lack of shade.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Multipurpose Field		✓			
» Play Structure				✓	
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



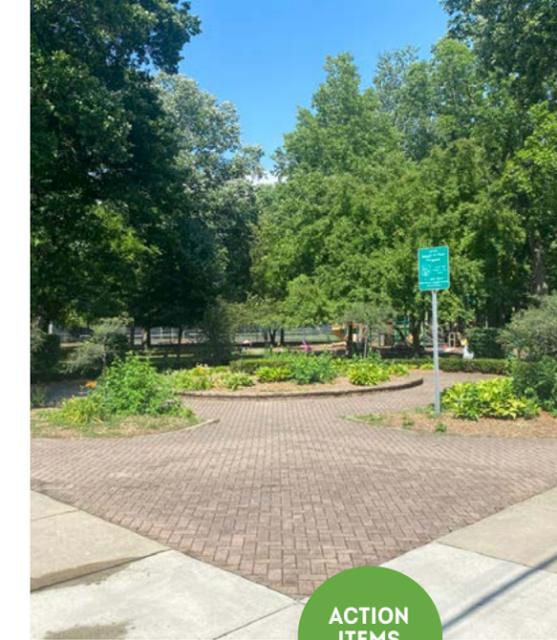
The play structure and slides need updating. More swings, a sandbox and additional play equipment would be awesome.

MEININGER PARK

611 MAXWELL AVENUE

8.13 ACRES

EST. 1985



ACTION ITEMS
pg 145

Meininger Park is located in the Catalpa Park neighborhood. The park has a significant mature tree canopy that is valued by residents. The park is challenged by outdated play equipment and under-maintained tennis courts.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Tennis Courts (2)			✓		
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		
» Sandbox		✓			

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



Add more picnic tables, these are popular due to abundant shade. Also, replace existing wood picnic tables that are nearing the end of their serviceable life.

One of our favorite parks because of the shade.

MEMORIAL PARK

31050 WOODWARD AVENUE

18.35 ACRES

EST. 1939



Located on the Woodward Corridor just north of 13 Mile, Memorial Park is accessible by public transit via the SMART bus system with three bus stops on the park's edge. The park hosts the regionally-attended Royal Oak Art Fair, and is a popular location to watch the Woodward Dream Cruise. Memorial Park is also home to the Royal Oak Leprechauns, part of the 15-team Great Lakes Collegiate Summer League, sanctioned and supported by Major League Baseball. It is one of five parks with a picnic pavilion that can be reserved online.



SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



11 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE

2

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ballfields (3)	✓				
» Skate Park			✓		
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Pavilion		✓			

“Plant more trees! I also like the idea of adding a trail/path here, and more trees would only enhance that type of feature.”



MILLER PARK

3102 GARDEN AVENUE

1.51 ACRES

EST. 1956



Miller Park is located within walking distance of William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak, near Coolidge and 13 Mile. It was named after Floyd J. Miller, founder of the Daily Tribute and member of various public service organizations. The park has playground equipment and a multipurpose field.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



16 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 146

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Multipurpose Field					✓
» Play Structures (2)		✓			
» Swing Set					✓

MILT HEY HUDSON PARK

617 E. HUDSON AVENUE

1.86 ACRES



Located in the southern end of the city, Hudson Park currently offers a playground, picnic tables, and a ball field and soccer field. The park is currently challenged by outdated equipment, and graffiti issues. However, a redesign of the park is slated for completion in 2024 with the following amenities: nature-themed playscape and swings, picnic pods with tables and seating areas, bike racks, an improved soccer field and a new, full sized basketball court.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



30 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 146

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Field			✓		
» Ball field				✓	
» Basketball Court				✓	
» Play Structure				✓	
» Swing Sets (2)				✓	

“This park needs love!”

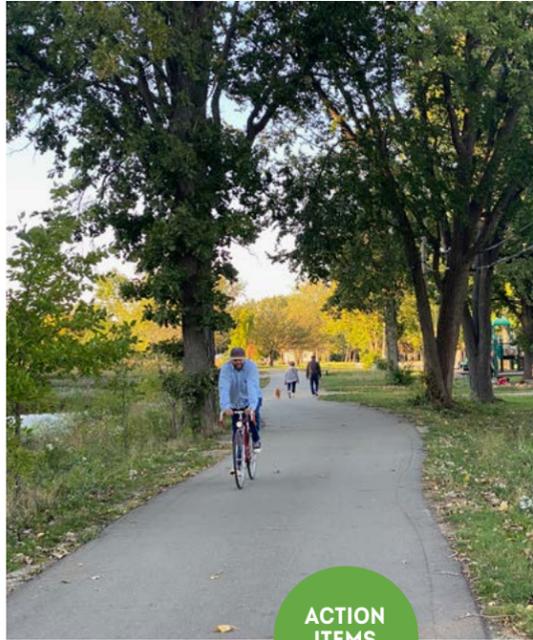


NORMANDY OAKS PARK

4234 DELEMERE BLVD

36.20 ACRES

EST. 2020



ACTION ITEMS
pg 146



The largest park in the city, and one of the newest, Normandy Oaks is a destination park for the larger Oakland County region and offers a splash pad, rentable pavilion with restrooms, walking paths, a food truck area with electrical hook-up facilities, and a soccer field. Formerly the Normandy Oaks golf course, Oakland County Parks and Recreation partnered with Royal Oak for the creation of the park. The park has green stormwater infrastructure, including bioswales, native plantings, and a large retention pond. There is also a naturalized area in the park that includes grasses, plants, flowers, and beehives maintained by a nonprofit. Normandy Oaks is beloved by neighbors and residents across the city for its facilities, walking paths and naturalized areas.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Field	✓				
» Multipurpose Field	✓				
» Play Structure	✓				
» Climber	✓				
» Walking Path	✓				
» Sledding Hill	✓				
» Splash Pad	✓				
» Pavilion	✓				
» Restrooms (Permanent)	✓				

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



7 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



Love this park! Excellent for biking and walking, grandson loves the splash pad. It's neat!

Would love to see more benches throughout the park, especially in the shaded pathways.

Love the paths, especially through the wooded area. Would love more trees throughout the park.



PIONEER PARK

4000 NORMANDY ROAD

3.02 ACRES

EST. 1955



**ACTION
ITEMS**
pg 147



Located in the northwest corner of the city, Pioneer Park is within walking distance of dozens of businesses along the Woodward corridor. It is also accessible by public transit via the SMART bus system, with a nearby bus stop. Pioneer's name is a tribute to the first pioneers to Royal Oak: D. Hubbard and D. Chase. A rain garden was installed in 2022.

The park is challenged by outdated play equipment, graffiti issues, and a lack of shading near equipment. Public input for this park indicated a desire for more shade trees, native plantings / natural elements, and concerns about pedestrian safety on Parkway Drive.

**SUSTAINABILITY
INVENTORY**



**27 TREES
PER ACRE**

**ACCESSIBILITY
SCORE**



AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structures (2)			✓		
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		
» Sandbox			✓		



QUICKSTAD PARK

NORMANDY & LEXINGTON

31.50 ACRES

EST. 1955



The 2nd largest park in the city, Quickstad is located adjacent to the Royal Oak High School athletic campus. It contains the Tenhave Woods nature preserve, offering walking paths amid acres of naturalized area. The park's three soccer fields are highly utilized by the Royal Oak Football Club.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 147

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Fields (3)		✓			
» Nature Preserve		✓			

Doesn't feel like you are in Royal Oak anymore, but in nature.

A winding walking path would be really great here.

Widen the path and paint part of it for bikes and part for pedestrians.

REALTOR PARK

132 AMELIA STREET

1.49 ACRES

EST. 1967



Realtor Park is located on Main Street between 13 Mile and 14 Mile Roads and is adjacent to a SMART bus stop and bike lane. The park was recently updated and features new play equipment, a well-maintained garden, and a wooded area. Realtor Park is valued by residents, who expressed a desire for more shade trees near the play structure.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 147

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Field			✓		
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Jungle Climber		✓			
» Community Garden					✓

RED RUN PARK

GIRARD & VERMONT

19.70 ACRES

EST. 1956



Red Run Park offers several sport courts and an ADA-accessible playground. The park is adjacent to Churchill Community Education Center, a Royal Oak School District property. Public input centered around challenges caused by flooding issues, a desire to redevelop or maintain the tennis courts, and a desire to add more pedestrian infrastructure and seating.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



6 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 147

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ballfields (2)					✓
» Soccer Field		✓			
» Tennis Court (2)					✓
» Basketball Court			✓		
» Play Structures (2)		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Jungle Climber		✓			

ROTARY PARK

2600-2698 WEST 13 MILE ROAD

0.80 ACRES

EST. 1971



Rotary Park is located directly south of the Royal Oak Golf Course on 13 Mile Road between Coolidge and Crooks. Surrounded by nearby apartment buildings, the park has no built amenities but offers a future opportunity for seating or public art.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



31 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 148

AMENITIES

None.

“Plenty of opportunity at this park to install additional amenities.”

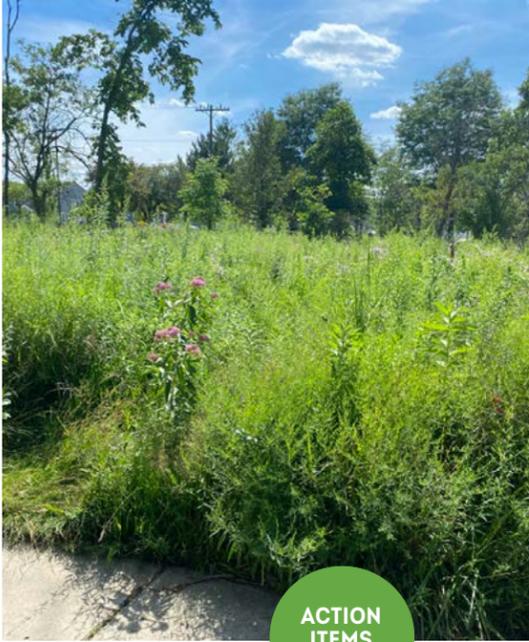
MINI-PARK

ROYAL OAK ARBORETUM

920 W. WINDEMERE AVENUE

7.81 ACRES

EST. 1958



ACTION ITEMS
pg 148



The Royal Oak Arboretum is located at Marais and Lexington, near Worden Park and the Royal Oak High School Campus. The Leo Mahany / Harold Meininger Senior Community Center is contained within the boundaries of this park. The park contains a "grow zone" with native plantings and a rain garden, walking trails, and updated playground equipment installed in late 2022.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Play Structures (2)	✓				
» Swing Sets (2)	✓				
» Nature Trail			✓		



SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



STARR JAYCEE PARK

1321 W. 13 MILE ROAD

28.78 ACRES

EST. 1955



ACTION ITEMS
pg 148



Starr Jaycee Park is one of the busiest parks in the city, offering a mix of passive and active facilities and a mature tree canopy. The only park in Royal Oak with more than one, Starr Jaycee contains three pavilions that can be reserved online. There is an 18-hole disc golf course throughout the park. Volunteer organization Great Lakes Steamers operates miniature train rides through Starr Jaycee on the first full weekend of the month May-October.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ballfields (3)		✓			✓
» Multipurpose Field			✓		
» Volleyball Court				✓	
» Disc Golf				✓	
» Play Structures (2)		✓	✓		
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Jungle Climber			✓		
» Tire Swing		✓			
» Sandbox		✓			
» Pavilions (3)		✓	✓		



SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

20 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



“The playscape with the shady trees make this park amazing year round.
The train rides are loved by the kids.”

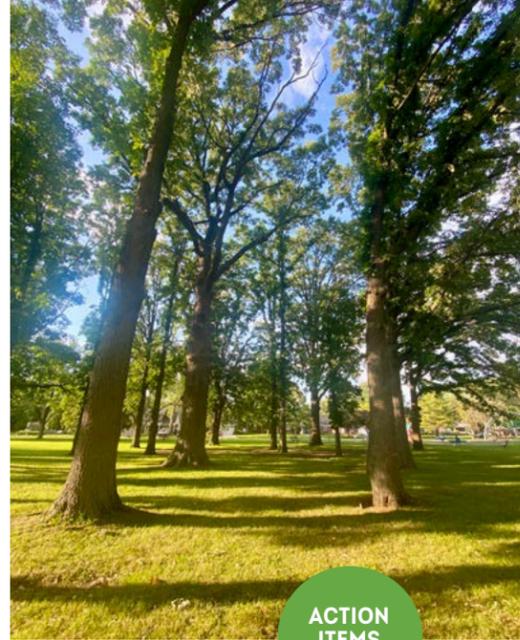


SULLIVAN PARK

4421 SAMOSET ROAD

2.86 ACRES

EST. 1955



ACTION ITEMS
pg 148

Located in the northwest corner of the city, Sullivan Park is within walking distance of dozens of businesses along the Woodward corridor and adjacent neighborhoods. Adjacent to Greenfield Road, the park is accessible by public transit via the SMART bus system, with a bus stop on 14 Mile. The park was named after William Sullivan; the first Royal Oak Fire Department was organized in his home in 1908. Sullivan was recently updated with new play equipment and a soccer field.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Field			✓		
» Play Structure	✓				
» Swing Sets (3)	✓				
» Jungle Climber	✓				

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



UPTON PARK

4300-4398 MANKATO AVENUE

3.86 ACRES

EST. 1956



ACTION ITEMS
pg 149

Located on the city's north end, Upton Park was named after the Upton Elementary School, which is directly adjacent to the open space. Upton Park has eight pickleball courts and is utilized frequently by the Southeast Michigan Pickleball Association. The park is challenged by flooding issues and a lack of trees.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Pickleball Courts (8)	✓				
» Multipurpose Field		✓			
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Sandbox		✓			

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE

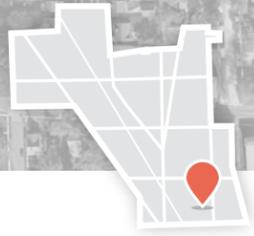


V.F.W. PARK

CAMPBELL & LINCOLN

5.76 ACRES

EST. 1942



ACTION ITEMS
pg 149



Located in front of the Jack & Patti Salter Community Center, V.F.W. Park offers a mix of passive and active facilities. It has a significant mature tree canopy. The park was dedicated on October 26, 1942. The park is adjacent to Campbell Road and is accessible by public transit via the SMART bus system, with two nearby bus stops. V.F.W. Park is one of five parks in Royal Oak with a large pavilion for gatherings, and has access to restrooms in the Salter Center.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ball field		✓			
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Gaga Ball		✓			
» Pavilion		✓			
» Sandbox			✓		

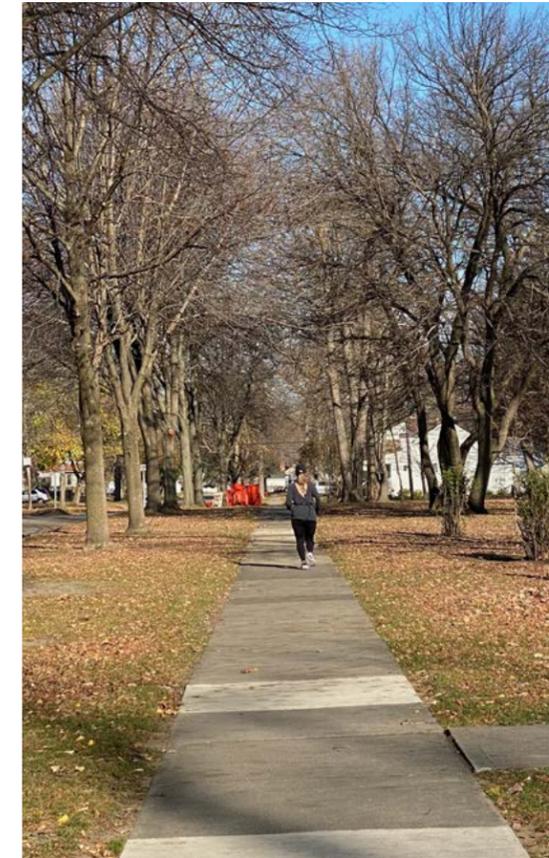
I would like to see more benches throughout this park.

The area by the road is relatively underutilized and densely planted trees would provide a nice ecological buffer for the park.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



WAGNER PARK

138-222 DETROIT AVENUE

14.09 ACRES

EST. 1956



Wagner Park offers picnic areas, playgrounds and an 18-hole disc golf course, all shaded by a significant mature tree canopy. Though it is located between Main Street and Rochester Road, the park is not conveniently accessible by public transit. The park is named after Ruth Wagner, a city commissioner and the 3rd woman to hold such office in Royal Oak.

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Disc Golf		✓			
» Play Structures (2)		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



I love Wagner Park. However, like many parks in the area, updated facilities and drainage are desperately needed.

WATERWORKS PARK

MARYWOOD & LLOYD

6.15 ACRES

EST. 1939



ACTION ITEMS
pg 149

One of the city's oldest parks, Waterworks Park is the site of the original location of the Royal Oak waterworks facility. Today, the park offers tennis courts, a soccer field, and play equipment with a recently-installed rubber fall surface. Waterworks also offers outdoor fitness equipment, with multiple exercise stations. The park hosts both neighborhood residents and ROFC soccer games. It is challenged by flooding issues and under-maintained tennis courts.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 149

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Field		✓			
» Tennis Courts (2)				✓	
» Ball field		✓			
» Play Structure		✓			
» Swing Sets (2)			✓		
» Sandbox		✓			
» Outdoor Fitness Equipment	✓				

This is a great park with some amazing trees. Further increase of the tree canopy in some less use areas (near other trees) can increase the urban forest.

Cross country skiing could be a great option for using the parks in the winter.



MINI-PARK

WENDLAND PARK

300-498 CALIFORNIA AVENUE

0.79 ACRES



Wendland Park is located near the I-696 freeway and is one of the southern-most parks in Royal Oak. The park contains a memorial to its namesake, Corporal Frank H. Wendland, who was the first soldier from Royal Oak that was killed in action in World War I.

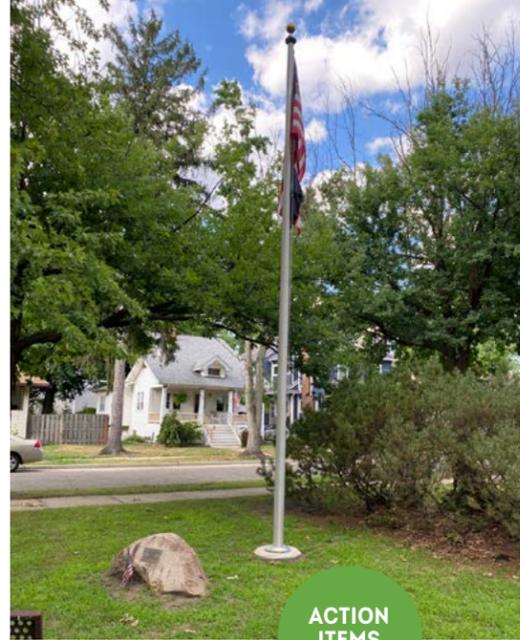
SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



51 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 150

AMENITIES

- » Play Structure
- » Swing Set
- » Sandbox



MINI-PARK

WESTWOOD PARK

3137 WARICK ROAD

1.03 ACRES

EST. 1954



Westwood Park offers two swing sets, two play structures, and a multipurpose field. It is near William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak and the Berkley border. The park is challenged by outdated play equipment and the field requires maintenance.

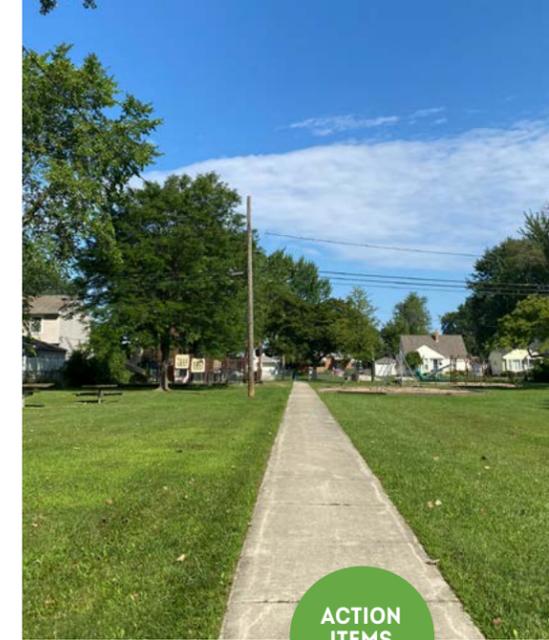
SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY



7 TREES PER ACRE



ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 150

AMENITIES

- » Multipurpose Field
- » Play Structures (2)
- » Swing Sets (2)



WHITTIER PARK

FARNUM & ALEXANDER

6.93 ACRES

EST. 1941



Named after poet and abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier, Whittier Park offers a variety of active facilities, including eight pickleball courts that are utilized frequently by the Southeast Michigan Pickleball Association. It is one of ten parks in Royal Oak that contain a basketball court. In addition to standard swing sets, Whittier also has an adult-child expression swing that promotes interaction and creative play. Public input included the sentiment that the neighborhood surrounding the park is at times overwhelmed by the amount of pickleball activity.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

17 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



ACTION ITEMS
pg 150

AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Soccer Fields (3)			✓		
» Pickleball Courts (8)	✓				
» Ball field		✓			
» Basketball Court			✓		
» Play Structure			✓		
» Swing Sets (2)		✓			
» Sandbox		✓			

WORDEN PARK

1403 LEXINGTON BOULEVARD

22.67 ACRES

EST. 1958



ACTION ITEMS
pg 150

The 3rd largest park in the city, Worden offers a variety of active facilities, including baseball, tennis, and ice skating. Located within the park's boundary, the John Lindell Ice Arena is operated by the Suburban Sports Group and offers skating lessons, public skate times, and youth and adult hockey. Public input for this park offered a variety of desired additional facilities, including a community garden, a roller hockey rink and a skate park.

SUSTAINABILITY INVENTORY

4 TREES PER ACRE

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



AMENITIES

	1	2	3	4	5
» Ballfields (4)		✓	✓		
» Multipurpose Field		✓			
» Tennis Court (6)	✓				
» Ice Arena		✓			

5

SYSTEM & FACILITIES ANALYSIS

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs serve as a basis for the development of the action plan. This task is accomplished using several analyses, including a comparison of the community to national recreation guidelines, information gathered during the public input process, consultation with the city, and a review of current offerings and programming.



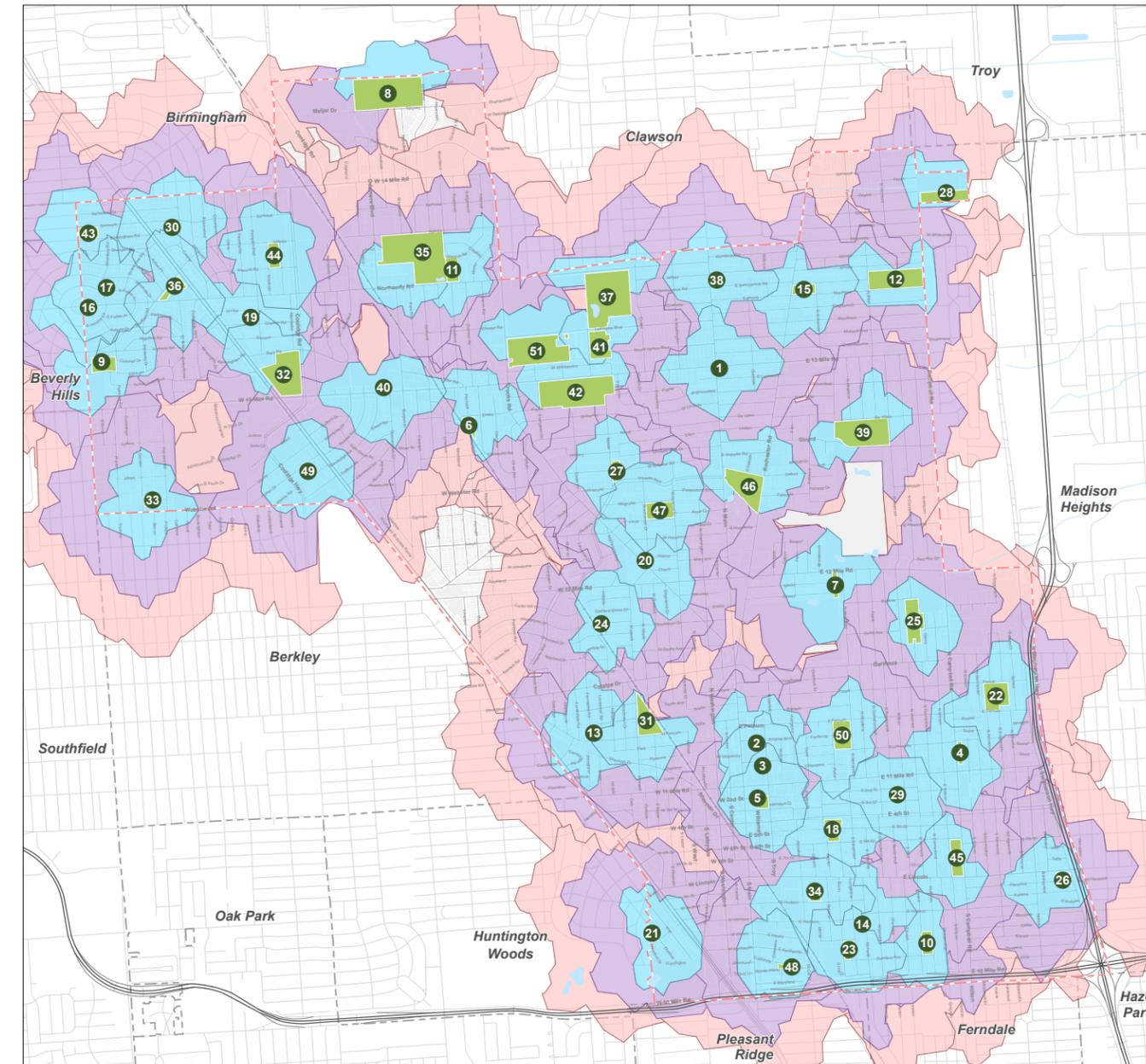
PARKS PROVISION AND EQUITY

Royal Oak is committed to inclusive policies and practices for all aspects of parks and recreation provision. Everyone deserves a great park!

To frame this Plan's analysis and inform recommendations, the team first analyzed the location of park facilities through the lenses of walkability and community composition (especially age and household income). This analysis guided Plan recommendations and can serve as a reference tool for future capital expenditures and decisions regarding equipment provision. The complete set of analysis maps is available in the appendix.

WALK TO A PARK!

Royal Oak's residents are generally very well served in their ability to access a park close to home. This walkability analysis, showing 5-, 10-, and 15-minute walking times from royal oak parks, identifies that very few residents do not have a convenient, walkable access to a city park.



Walkability Analysis

City of Royal Oak, Michigan

November 8, 2022 Draft

- City-Owned Parks
- Walk Time**
- Within a 15-Minute Walk
- Within a 10-Minute Walk
- Within a 5-Minute Walk

- Park Legend**
- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. 13 Mile / Main Park | 27. Marais (Dickie Putnam) Park |
| 2. Barton North Park | 28. Mark Twain (Dog) Park |
| 3. Barton South Park | 29. Marks Park |
| 4. Bassett Park | 30. Maudlin Park |
| 5. Centennial Commons | 31. Meininger Park |
| 6. Clawson Park | 32. Memorial Park |
| 7. Cody Park | 33. Miller Park |
| 8. Cummingston Park | 34. Miit Hey Hudson Park |
| 9. Dickinson Park | 35. Normandy Oaks Park |
| 10. Dondero Park | 36. Pioneer Park |
| 11. Elks Park | 37. Quickstad Park |
| 12. Exchange Park | 38. Realtor Park |
| 13. Fernwood Park | 39. Red Run Park |
| 14. Franklin Park | 40. Rotary Park |
| 15. Fred Pieper / Optimist Park | 41. Royal Oak Arboretum |
| 16. Fries Park | 42. Starr Jaycee Park |
| 17. Fulton Park | 43. Sullivan Park |
| 18. Grant Park | 44. Upton Park |
| 19. Gunn Dyer Park | 45. VFW Park |
| 20. Hamer Finch Wilkins Park | 46. Wagner Park |
| 21. Huntington Woods Park | 47. Waterworks Park |
| 22. Kenwood Park | 48. Wendland Park |
| 23. Lawson Park | 49. Westwood Park |
| 24. Lions Club Park | 50. Whittier Park |
| 25. Lockman Park | 51. Worden Park |
| 26. Maddock Park | |

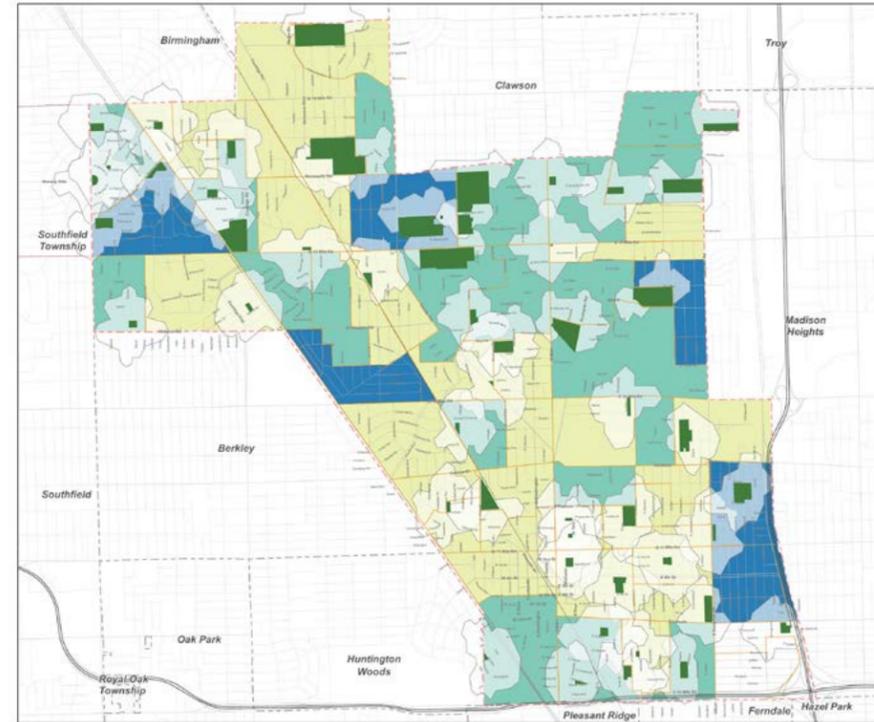


Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v17a. Oakland County GIS, 2022. Data Source: City of Royal Oak, 2022. McKenna, 2022.

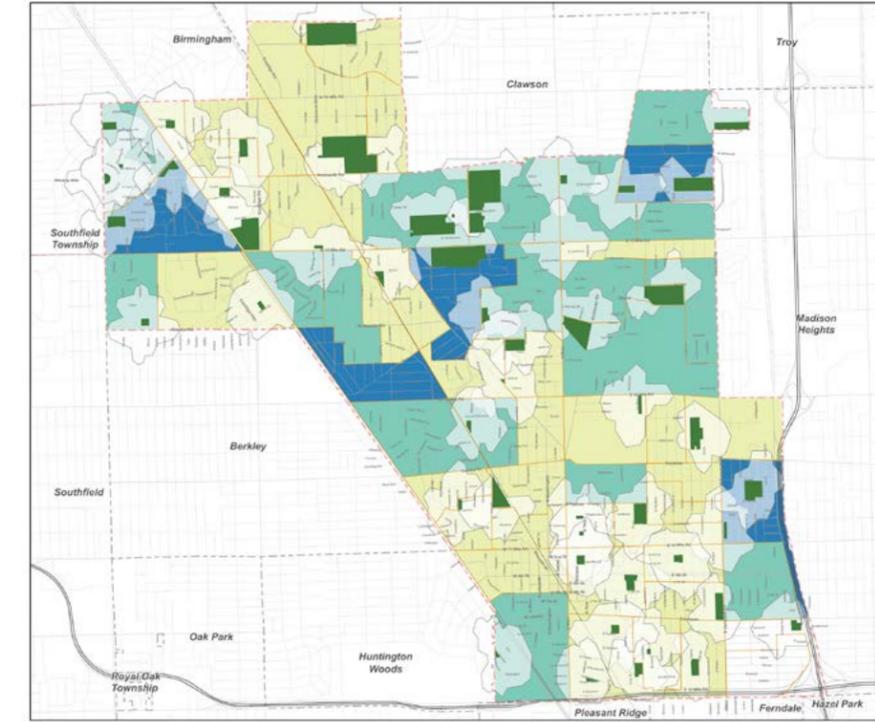


An understanding of population characteristics such as age and income is useful to ensure that parks and appropriate equipment are being provided and are convenient to those most likely to use them. These maps identify populations of children in three cohorts (0-4, 5-9 and 10-14). As with the population in general, many children have walkable access to a park. There are a few exceptions, most notably in the area between Woodward and Crooks both north and south of 12 Mile, where higher populations of children live and do not have a walkable city park available. School properties and other green space mitigate this condition to some extent.

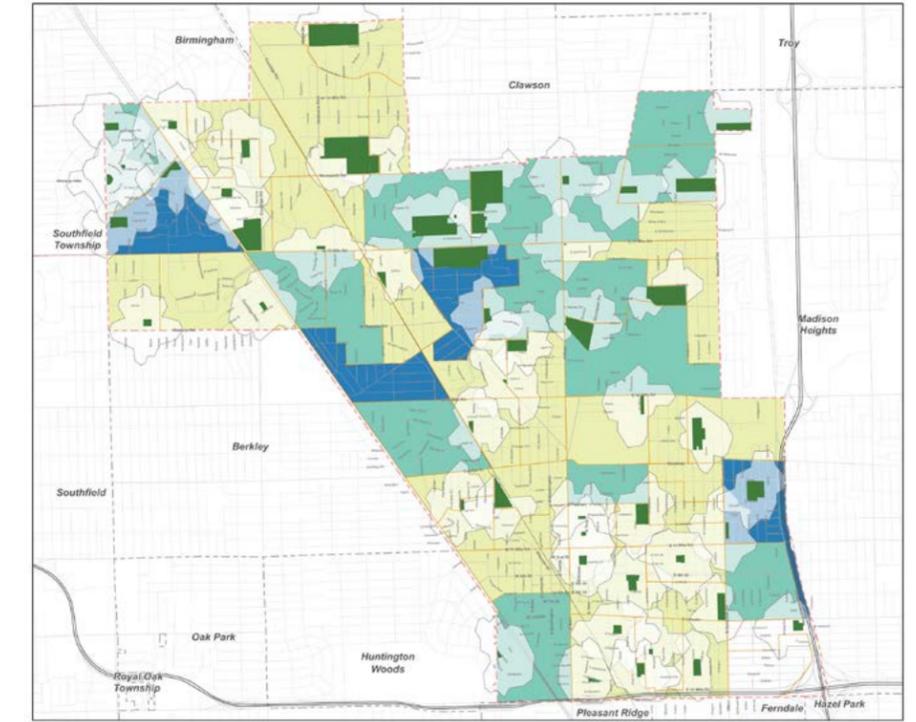
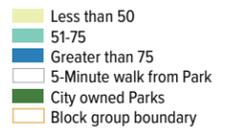
Future decisions about investment in facilities should be informed by these characteristics.



Population of Children Ages 0-4
by Block Group



Population of Children Ages 5-9
by Block Group



Population of Children Ages 10-14
by Block Group



FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Standards and Guidelines

Prior to 2020, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published the NRPA Areas and Facilities Standards to help agencies assess whether they had sufficient parks and recreation facilities. The Standards had not been updated in more than two decades, and the NRPA realized that a single set of standards could not possibly encompass the uniqueness found in every community across the country.

Consequently, NRPA replaced the single set of standards with the creation of a nationwide benchmarking tool for parks and recreation, called NRPA Park Metrics. Annually, the NRPA publishes the NRPA Agency Performance Review, which is a report that summarizes the benchmarking data contributed by 1,000 park and recreation agencies to the Park Metrics database. The Park Metrics database separates the data based on size of jurisdiction being served. Then, within each jurisdiction size, the data is further broken down into the lower and upper quartiles. Median values are presented as well.

The Park Metrics provide a snapshot of Royal Oak's parks and recreation program in comparison to data from similarly sized peer communities. This information must be combined with information about the community's specific needs and experiences to identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming. In the case of this Plan, the community engagement process and other analyses provided the necessary context.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Royal Oak has built a comprehensive range of outdoor park and recreation facilities. Table 3 reveals that the city provides almost every type of facility listed in the NRPA Park Metrics database. Whatever one's recreation interest might be, somewhere in the city there is a facility to foster that interest. Most communities in the 50,000 to 99,999 population range cannot make this claim.

Compared to peer to communities, Royal Oak clearly excels in terms of the range of outdoor facilities it offers.



Basketball court at Lawson Park

Table 3. Analysis of Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities in Royal Oak¹

FACILITY TYPE	PERCENT OF AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE THE FACILITY	PRESENCE OF THE FACILITY IN ROYAL OAK	MEDIAN NUMBER OF RESIDENTS / FACILITY ²	NUMBER OF FACILITIES RECOMMENDED	NUMBER OF FACILITIES CURRENTLY IN ROYAL OAK
Playgrounds	95%	Yes	3,807	15.29	49
Tot Lots	45%	Yes	16,112	3.61	5
Basketball Courts	86%	Yes	8,477	6.86	8
Tennis Courts	78%	Yes	6,413	9.07	25
Pickleball Courts	18%	Yes	11,999	4.85	15
Volleyball Courts	48%	Yes	23,735	2.45	3
Ballfields (youth)	79%	Yes	8,095	7.19	23
Rectangular Fields:					
Multipurpose	68%	Yes	13,151	4.42	17
Soccer	50%	Yes	8,224	7.07	16
Football	35%	Yes	30,599	1.90	5
Multipurpose - Synthetic	22%	Yes	34,104	1.70	0
Dog Parks	67%	Yes	56,084	1.037	1
Swimming Pool	53%	No*	40,264	1.44	*There are 2 water features
Community Gardens	51%	Yes	49,351	1.17	2
Skate Parks	39%	Yes	65,000	0.89	1
Ice Rinks (Outdoors)	18%	Yes	28,000	2.07	0
Golf Course (18-hole)	29%	Yes**	71,870	0.80	**1, 9-hole course
Driving Range Stations	26%	Yes	9,267	6.28	40

Table Footnotes:

1. Based on NRPA Metrics published in the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review.
2. Based on NRPA data from communities with a population of 50,000 to 99,999.
3. The figures reflect the number of facilities needed to achieve a Median Number of Residents per Facility in Royal Oak, based on the 2020 U.S. Census population of 58,211.



INDOOR FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Indoor park and recreation facilities are often more costly to build, staff, and maintain than outdoor facilities. Consequently, fewer peer communities have such facilities, as is reflected by the percentages in the table below. Royal Oak is fortunate to have two contemporary facilities serving residents: the Salter Community Center and the Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center.

Looking to the future, the City will continue to monitor attendance at these facilities relative to their capacity limits. As the population increases and changes in composition, there may be a need to expand and/or renovate the facilities to meet changing recreation preferences. Table 4 suggests a specific need for a nature center in the community; the impacts of climate change on the environment make indoor facilities especially important.

Table 4. Analysis of Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities in Royal Oak¹

FACILITY TYPE	PERCENT OF AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE THE FACILITY	PRESENCE OF THE FACILITY IN ROYAL OAK	MEDIAN NUMBER OF RESIDENTS / FACILITY ²	NUMBER OF FACILITIES RECOMMENDED	NUMBER OF FACILITIES CURRENTLY IN ROYAL OAK
Recreation Center	64%	Yes	40,817	1.42	1
Community Center	60%	Yes	44,933	1.29	1
Senior Center	41%	Yes	71,927	0.80	1
Performance Amphitheater	36%	No	60,477	0.96	-
Nature Center	31%	No*	72,210	0.92	*2 Outdoor Nature Preserves
Aquatics Center	25%	No	60,495	1.00	0
Stadium	17%	No	62,944	0.92	0
Teen Center	14%	Yes	57,770	1.00	1
Indoor Ice Rink	12%	Yes**	52,233	1.11	**1, Privately Operated
Arena	7%	No	68,208	0.85	0

Table Footnotes:

1. Based on NRPA Metrics published in the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review.
2. Based on NRPA data from communities with a population of 50,000 to 99,999.
3. The figures reflect the number of facilities needed to achieve a Median Number of Residents per Facility in Royal Oak, based on the 2020 U.S. Census population of 58,211.



ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS

The American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility.

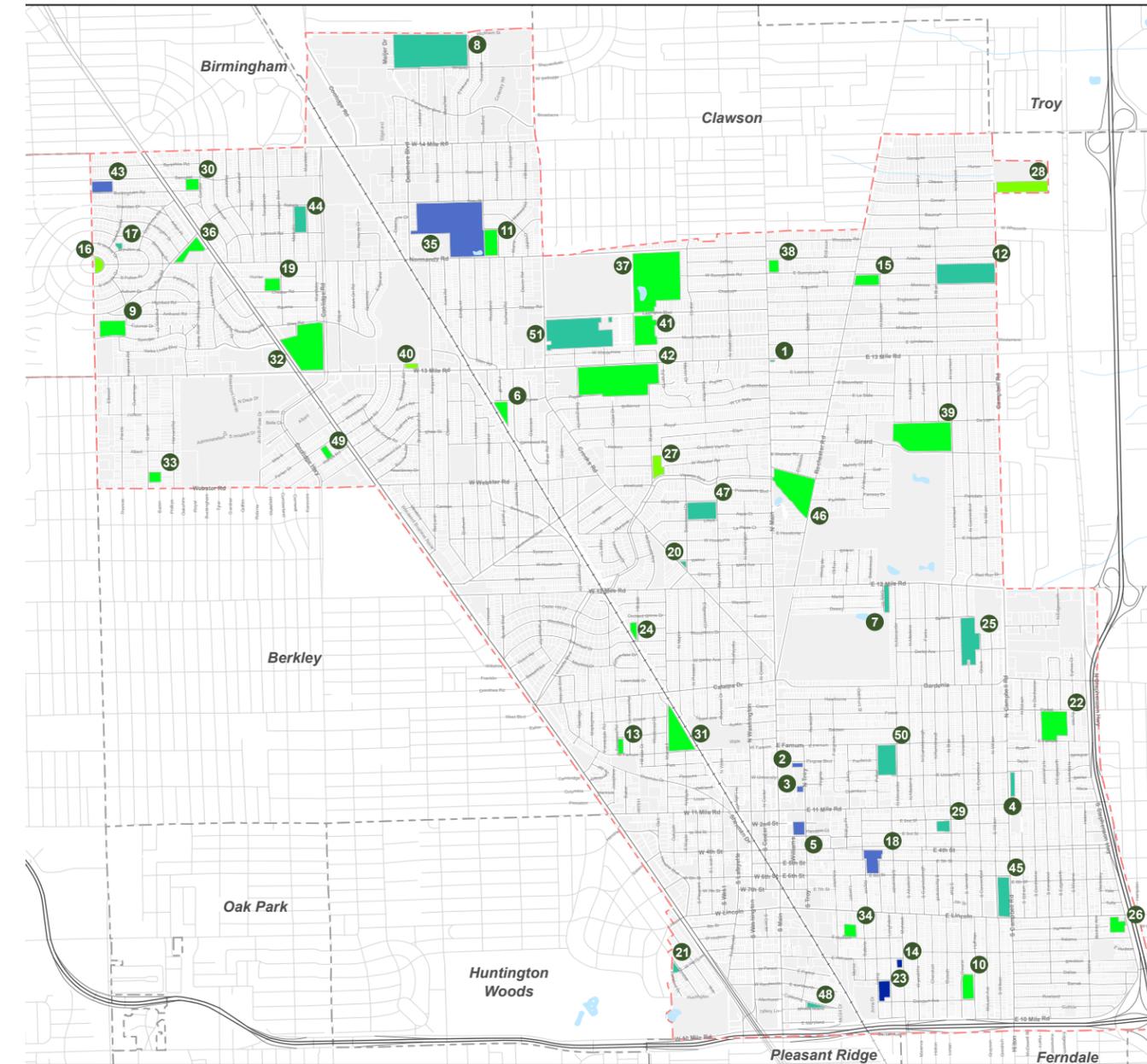
An evaluation of Royal Oak's parks and recreation facilities was conducted as part of the inventory in the summer of 2022. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- » Has limited sight or is blind
- » Uses a wheelchair
- » Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- » Uses a walking aid
- » Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility; the system is described in the table below, and the accessibility rankings are detailed in the table that follows.

As detailed in Chapter 4, each park facility was awarded an accessibility ranking, ranging from Level 1 (lowest score - not accessible) to Level 5 (highest score - universally accessible).

LEVEL 1	The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not accessible.
LEVEL 2	The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
LEVEL 3	The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.
LEVEL 4	The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
LEVEL 5	The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.



Accessibility Assessment

City of Royal Oak, MI

November 8, 2022 Draft

Assessed Accessibility Ranking

- 1 (low)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (high)

Park Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. 13 Mile / Main Park | 27. Marais (Dickie Putnam) Park |
| 2. Barton North Park | 28. Mark Twain (Dog) Park |
| 3. Barton South Park | 29. Marks Park |
| 4. Bassett Park | 30. Maudlin Park |
| 5. Centennial Commons | 31. Meininger Park |
| 6. Clawson Park | 32. Memorial Park |
| 7. Cody Park | 33. Miller Park |
| 8. Cummingston Park | 34. Miit Hey Hudson Park |
| 9. Dickinson Park | 35. Normandy Oaks Park |
| 10. Dondero Park | 36. Pioneer Park |
| 11. Elks Park | 37. Quickstad Park |
| 12. Exchange Park | 38. Realtor Park |
| 13. Fernwood Park | 39. Red Run Park |
| 14. Franklin Park | 40. Rotary Park |
| 15. Fred Pieper / Optimist Park | 41. Royal Oak Arboretum |
| 16. Fries Park | 42. Starr Jaycee Park |
| 17. Fulton Park | 43. Sullivan Park |
| 18. Grant Park | 44. Upton Park |
| 19. Gunn Dyer Park | 45. VFW Park |
| 20. Hamer Finch Wilkins Park | 46. Wagner Park |
| 21. Huntington Woods Park | 47. Waterworks Park |
| 22. Kenwood Park | 48. Wendland Park |
| 23. Lawson Park | 49. Westwood Park |
| 24. Lions Club Park | 50. Whittier Park |
| 25. Lockman Park | 51. Worden Park |
| 26. Maddock Park | |

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v17a. Oakland County GIS, 2022. Data Source: City of Royal Oak, 2022. McKenna, 2022.

MCKENNA

SYSTEM & FACILITIES ANALYSIS



Table 5. Accessibility Ratings of Parks and Recreation Facilities (with Parking), 2022

	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 1	Fries Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk along west edge of the park only, along Greenfield.	No	-
	Marais (Dickie Putnam) Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk only, no amenities or internal sidewalks.	No	-
	Mark Twain (Dog) Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk on N. Campbell, no internal sidewalk or ADA parking.	Yes	0
	Rotary Park	1	Perimeter sidewalk on south of the park, along 13 Mile only.	No	-
LEVEL 2	Clawson Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk; no internal sidewalk to playscape / ball field.	No	-
	Dickinson Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, with limited accessibility to play structure, ball field, courts, etc.	No	-
	Dondero Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, no internal sidewalk to playscape or tennis / basketball courts.	No	-
	Elks Park	2	Sidewalk on west and south park boundary only, limited internal sidewalk to amenities.	Yes	2 ADA spaces
	Fernwood Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, amenities not accessible.	No	-
	Fred Pieper / Optimist Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only. No sidewalk to playscapes, fields, volleyball court, or seating areas.	No	-
	Gunn Dyer Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, no internal sidewalk to playscapes, ball field, or multipurpose field.	No	-
	Kenwood Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, no internal sidewalks.	No	-
	Lions Club Park	2	Curb cut into the park is not accessible; internal pathway needs repairs; playscape equipment not accessible.	No	-

	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 2	Maddock Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk on Lincoln only, no sidewalk or access from Stephenson or Hardwood. The internal sidewalk to some amenities from Lincoln is in poor condition.	No	-
	Maudlin Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk; no internal sidewalks to the amenities. Play structure amenities are outdated.	No	-
	Memorial Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, limited internal sidewalks to playscapes / fields.	Yes	4 ADA spaces
	Miller Park	2	Perimeter and internal sidewalks, amenities not accessible.	No	-
	Milt Hey Hudson Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk but limited access internally; redevelopment of park in-progress (to be completed in 2024, with improved accessibility).	No	-
	Pioneer Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to first playscape only.	No	-
	Quickstad Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk along north, west and south park boundaries; soccer fields not accessible, and nature preserve pathway not paved.	No	-
	Realtor Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk only, no internal sidewalk to amenities.	No	-
	Red Run Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk, swings and ballfields not accessible.	Yes	-
	Starr Jaycee Park	2	Perimeter sidewalk on northern park boundary only, internal sidewalk to pavilion only.	Yes	4 ADA spaces
	Wagner Park	2	Perimeter and some internal sidewalks, amenities not accessible.	No	-
	Westwood Park	2	Perimeter and internal sidewalks, amenities not accessible.	No	-

	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 3	13 Mile / Main Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to landscape beds.	No	-
	Bassett Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk.	No	-
	Cody Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk; internal sidewalk to play structures but not to sandbox or fields.	No	-
	Cummingston Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to playscape.	No	-
	Exchange Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to some amenities, but not all.	No	-
	Fulton Park	3	Equipment accessible once within playscape area.	No	-
	Hamer Finch Wilkins Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk.	No	-
	Huntington Woods Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk only, equipment accessible within playscape area.	No	-
	Lockman Park	3	Fully extend path to tennis courts doors.	No	-
	Marks Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to the play structures (mulched fall zone structures).	Yes	1 ADA space
	Meininger Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to play structure and tennis courts.	No	-
	Royal Oak Arboretum	3	Sidewalk for nature trail and to playscape; multiple paved access points to the park.	Yes	8 ADA spaces
	Upton Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to playscape.		
	V.F.W. Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalks to play structure and pavilion, but not to all amenities (i.e. soccer field).	Yes	4 ADA spaces

	Park Name	Accessibility Score	Comments	Parking	# of ADA Spaces
LEVEL 3	Waterworks Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk (except along northern park boundary, on Magnolia). Internal sidewalk to playscape and fitness equipment, sidewalk missing to swings and tennis courts.	No	-
	Wendland Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk, internal sidewalk to play structures.	No	-
	Whittier Park	3	Perimeter sidewalk and internal sidewalk to playscape; no internal sidewalk to the basketball and pickleball courts, or picnic areas.	Yes	1 ADA space
	Worden Park	3	Cut curbs, create path to baseball diamonds and the tennis courts.	Yes	4 ADA spaces
LEVEL 4	Sullivan Park	4	Perimeter sidewalk, with internal sidewalk to accessible playscape; no internal sidewalk to soccer fields.	No	-
	Barton Park North	4	Paved path, connected to play structure and fitness equipment.	No	-
	Barton Park South	4	Perimeter sidewalk; internal sidewalk to accessible gazebo.	No	-
	Centennial Commons	4	Perimeter and internal sidewalks.	Yes	2
	Grant Park	4	Perimeter sidewalk; internal sidewalks to play structures and fitness equipment. No sidewalk to soccer fields / picnic areas.	No	-
	Normandy Oaks Park	4	Accessible paths throughout.	Yes	8 ADA spaces
LEVEL 5	Franklin Park	5	Perimeter and internal sidewalks to all facilities.	No	-
	Lawson Park	5	Perimeter and internal sidewalks, accessible playscape and amenities.	Yes	0



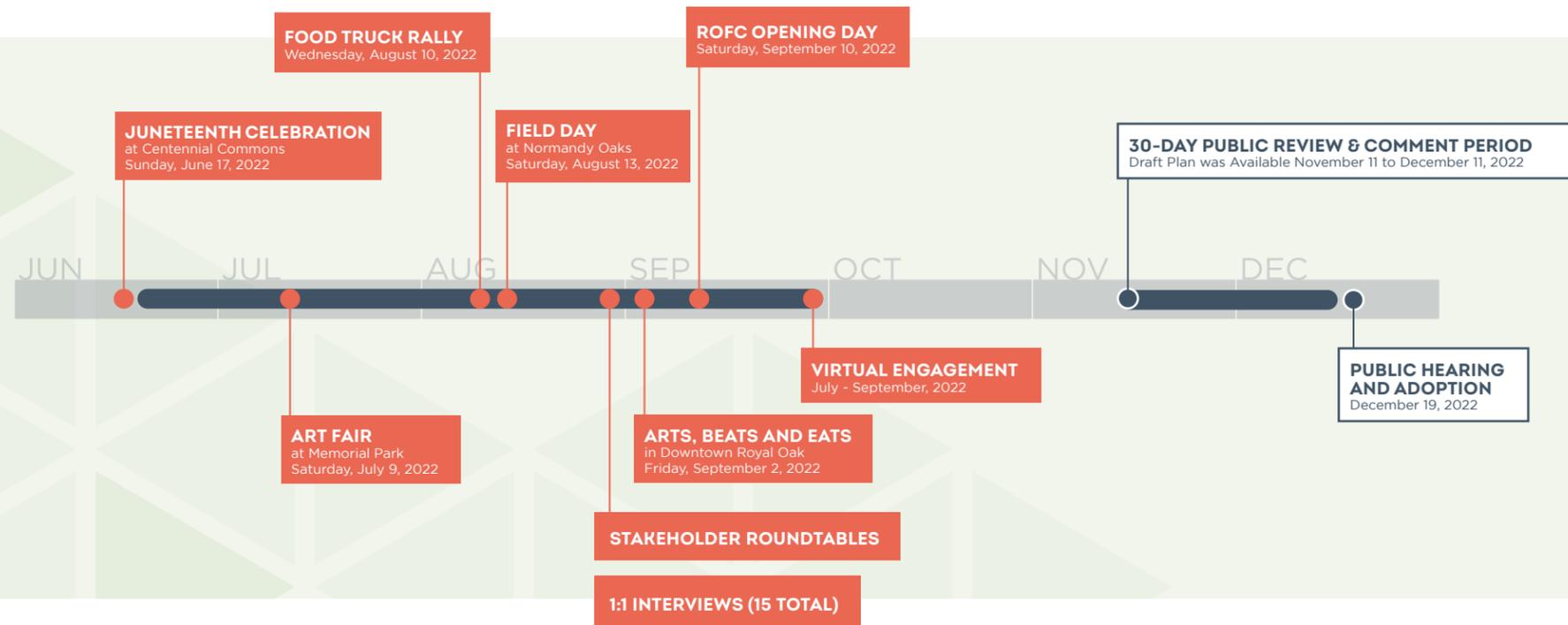


FORMULATING A VISION

This Plan's recommendations are underpinned by feedback from an extensive community engagement process. This chapter synthesizes 'what we heard' from Royal Oak residents and stakeholders, and translates that feedback and the technical analysis into Goals and Objectives.

EARLY PUBLIC INPUT: ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

This Plan is built on a foundation of robust engagement and a thorough, multi-pronged effort to solicit input from a wide variety of stakeholders over several months in 2022.



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: IN-PERSON OUTREACH

Field Days

The consultant team from McKenna and Advisory Board members staffed four community-wide 'Field Day' events throughout the summer. These activities sought to gather broad feedback from the public, especially Royal Oak park users, on the following:

- » A future vision for Royal Oak Parks.
- » Place-specific current strengths, deficiencies, opportunities, and challenges.
- » Facility and program priorities.

City staff also conducted listening sessions, using the input mechanisms for the Field Day sessions, at other events where a preponderance of park users and Royal Oak residents were in attendance. These additional outreach efforts included attendance at a Food Truck Rally at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, and at the opening day celebration of the Royal Oak Football Club (ROFC), which hundreds of Royal Oak soccer players and their families attended.

Roundtable Discussions

The project team held a roundtable discussion event on August 11, 2022 that hosted a cross-section of stakeholders representing residents, public agencies, leagues, associations, and community organizations. At this meeting, the group had a robust discussion about stakeholders' experiences, challenges, and opinions regarding the recreation programs, services, and facilities that Royal Oak offers.

FIELD DAY EVENTS

The consultant team and Advisory Board staffed four community-wide 'Field Day' events throughout the summer:

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

June 19, 2022 at Centennial Commons Park

ART FAIR

July 9, 2022 at Memorial Park

SUMMER FIELD DAY

August 13, 2022 at Normandy Oaks Park

ARTS, BEATS AND EATS

September 2, 2022 in Downtown Royal Oak

SUPPLEMENTAL LISTENING EVENTS

City staff also conducted listening sessions, at other events where a preponderance of park users and Royal Oak residents were in attendance:

FOOD TRUCK RALLY

August 10, 2022 at Royal Oak Farmers Market

ROFC OPENING DAY

September 9, 2022 at Normandy Oaks Park



Individual Interviews

McKenna conducted 15 one-on-one telephone interviews with stakeholders that lasted approximately 30-minutes each. The individuals interviewed represented a wide variety of backgrounds (such as a former Downtown Development Authority chairperson), partner institutions (such as the Royal Oak School District) and community groups identified by City staff as having relevant stakes and input for the planning process.



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

From mid-June to mid-September, the public was able to offer input through a dedicated project website. Two primary communication outlets were offered, which mirrored the exercises conducted at the in-person, Field Day events:

- » **Online Exercise #1:** The public commented on an interactive map of the city and provided park- and feature-specific feedback about the Royal Oak park and recreational portfolio. The objectives for this exercise included:
 - Identifying the location of specific parks and recreation needs, including a specific social media solicitation for comments related to accessibility released in August 2022.
 - Generating ideas about where space and resources could better serve residents.
 - Providing options for feedback from many residents.
- » **Online Exercise #2:** Participants took a brief visioning survey that sought to capture qualitative information about what residents value about parks and recreation provisions, and their own experiences with Royal Oak parks.

VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS



1,010
Unique Website Visitors



418
Survey Responses



799
Online Comments



3,200
Responses to Online Comments



Survey data: October 26, 2022





WHAT WE HEARD

Several key themes and points of consensus emerged through the engagement performed for this process.

Engaged stakeholders in this process value:

- » **Access to Neighborhood Parks:** Royal Oak residents benefit from the extensive provision of parks and recreation facilities available to them, and they highly value this aspect of their community.
- » **Natural Spaces:** Especially popular are the naturalized areas, including Tenhave Woods, Cummington Park, and the Royal Oak Arboretum, which allow residents to feel surrounded by and connected to nature.
- » **Sustainability Initiatives:** The City's efforts toward sustainability are obvious to and appreciated by many stakeholders. In conversations about parks, this especially was evident in positive responses to naturalized areas, and strategies such as 'no-mow' prairies employed at the new Normandy Oaks Park.
- » **Investment / Improvements to Existing Parks:** The community is desirous of improvements to many parks; those most commonly mentioned include seating, restrooms, accessible paths, bicycle infrastructure, and increased shade/tree canopy.
- » **Recreation Programming for Residents of All Ages:** Both for youth and for seniors, engaged stakeholders voiced support for continued provision of age-inclusive recreational offerings.
- » **Maintenance:** Conversations around maintenance primarily centered around drainage and flooding issues, and the age and state of repair of play equipment and other amenities.
- » **Aligning Facility Provisions to Current Demands:** There is a perception among those engaged that certain offerings should be increased due to demand, especially the availability of pickleball courts, facilities for dogs and an outdoor swimming pool.

The best thing about my favorite Royal Oak park is ...

The best way to improve our parks is to ...

A perfect day at the park involves ...



Early Public Input Exercise: What's Working / What's Not?

The most significant quantity of feedback solicited and received was facility-specific commentary on the perceptions of parks and facilities, garnered through an interactive mapping exercise. This feedback was received both in-person at Field Day events and virtually through an online comment map. Comments were received on each of the city's 51 parks. 799 individual comments were received, and more than 3,200 'up' and 'down' votes were cast by visitors who agreed or disagreed with the comments. Approximately 18% of the comments were 'Likes', another 18% were 'Dislikes', and the remaining 64% were ideas for the future of Royal Oak parks and facilities. The synthesis of the comments and 'votes' received is summarized through the following themes:

'WHAT'S WORKING?' KEY RESULTS:

Residents highly value their access to Royal Oak's parks.

- » Both the quantity of parks available to residents city-wide and the quality of the facilities and programming were frequently mentioned.
- » Proximity to neighborhood parks throughout the city is highly valued, though challenges with access (primarily for pedestrians and bicyclists) were also frequently mentioned.

Providing access to nature and add natural elements are appreciated.

- » Stakeholders identified a desire to continue to preserve and add natural features.
- » The tree canopy is valued by residents, though there are opportunities to increase it.

Residents are cognizant of and appreciate recent investments in park spaces.

This is exemplified by reaction to the new and recently redeveloped parks such as Normandy Oaks, Centennial Commons, and Lawson Park.

'WHAT'S NOT WORKING?' KEY RESULTS:

Drainage and flooding is a persistent problem in several parks.

- » Standing water compromises access to and the usability of sport courts and other facilities.
- » In addition to mosquito control problems, poor drainage contributes to the difficulty of spring mowing maintenance due to wet conditions.

Lack of accessibility.

- » Many facilities are not accessible for all abilities. Specific opportunities for wheeled access, and a desire for better and safer pedestrian connections, were pointed out throughout the system.

On-going maintenance.

- » Maintenance concerns and comments about outdated facilities accounted for almost half of the 'dislike' comments received.
- » The most commonly-reported maintenance concerns were drainage and flooding issues (29% requested maintenance), playground equipment (20%), and tennis courts (20%).

TOP MAINTENANCE ISSUES IDENTIFIED:



Early Public Input Exercise: Ideas for the Future

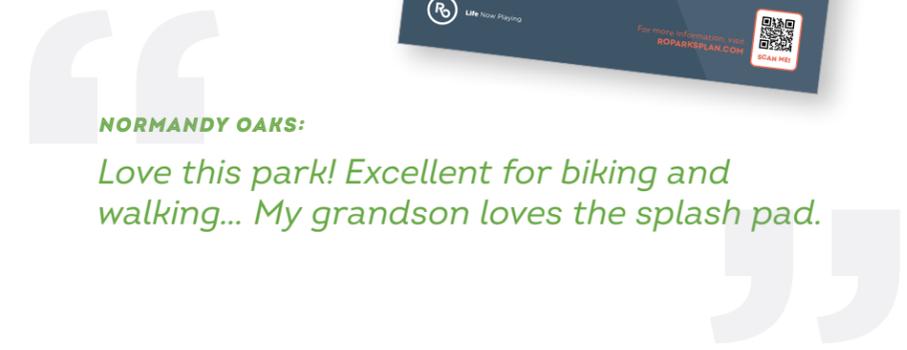
The majority of ideas received for modifications to existing parks and facilities were suggestions for specific additions to particular parks. These comments inform the park-specific action plan (see Chapter 7). Other re-occurring comments included suggestions to maintain or update equipment (usually play structures and sport courts), increase the tree canopy or add landscaping areas, and increase accessibility to and within parks.

CATEGORIES OF "IDEAS" COMMENTS	PERCENT OF RESPONSES
Add Facilities to Existing Parks	57.8%
Maintain / Update Existing Equipment	22.3%
Increase Tree Canopy / Shade	7.6%
Increase Accessibility	4.4%
Modify Operations	3.0%
Add Programming	1.6%
Relocate / Remove Facilities	1.4%
Add Native Plantings / Other Landscaping	1.1%
Rename Park	0.5%
Create a New Park	0.3%
Other Ideas	9.5%

Within the category of "Add facilities to existing parks", the most common facilities requested were:

- » **Bicycle Facilities** (identified for 27 of the 51 parks)
- » **Seating Options / Benches** (identified for 22 parks of the 51 parks)
- » **Restrooms** (identified for 14 parks of the 51 parks)

Other commonly-mentioned desired amenities included additional play structures, pickleball courts, dog park facilities, and internal pedestrian paths.





Roundtable Discussions Results

Participants discussed a series of open-ended questions related to the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for the future of recreation in Royal Oak. Key emerging ideas from the focus group included:

THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUES:

The focus group shared that the most pressing issues facing the Recreation and Public Services Departments are **safety** (ex: crosswalks to safely access parks), **maintenance** (especially related to courts and fields), and **accessibility**. A poor diversity of offerings was also mentioned, which sparked an important discussion: while there are a variety of sports fields and playgrounds across the city, **there is a general lack of space to informally hang out and gather, and a lack of unique amenities** (such as arboretums, dog parks, skate parks, etc.). These spaces for social interaction and enjoying nature are critical components to a high-quality of life.

SUCCESSES TO CONTINUE:

Participants acknowledged the success of the city's Recreation Department thus far, and that all aspects of parks and recreation should continue to be prioritized in the future. This includes **maintaining and expanding the number of events** the city hosts (as this draws a diversity of folks and creates a true 'community' environment); **the mature tree canopy** and the need to restock it (such as continuing the residential tree planting program); **enhancing the existing parks and open spaces**; and **employing and training talented Department staff**.

IMPROVE USABILITY:

There was consensus that Royal Oak's parks and recreation facilities must be **more welcoming and intuitive**, in order to maximize use and to allow residents of all ages and abilities to enjoy. Discussion focused on amenities that could encourage usership or duration of usership, such as: **pedestrian-scale lighting, sensory elements** (ex: music, textures, etc.), and **a variety of seating** (not limited to a bench adjacent to a playground or ball field, but all over the parks: i.e., seating to do work, or read, gather, etc.), and **restroom facilities**.

EXPAND PROGRAMMING:

While participants expressed satisfaction with the overall quality of Royal Oak recreation programs, the wealth of athletic programs over others was noted. There is an opportunity to **expand programming related to cultural aspects**, such as performance art, fine art, music, etc. Tying marketing into the parks was also discussed as one avenue to **raise awareness** for the variety and number of municipal parks within the community. **Internal collaboration amongst the various athletic and user groups** is one aspect that all participants wished to see more of in the future as they are often working towards a similar end goal.

Individual Interviews Synthesized

McKenna conducted individual interviews with stakeholders that represented the city's institutional partners, current and past members of appointed commissions and boards, residents and other key stakeholders. Feedback centered on themes of: facilities, sustainability, accessibility, programming, administration, and maintenance:

FACILITIES

Trees and the Urban Canopy: Many stakeholders expressed a desire to increase the number of trees in the parks, especially with native species.

Public Restrooms and Drinking Fountains: The inclusion of restrooms in more parks is important to both parents and older residents, easing use of the parks for both groups. The lack of serviceable drinking fountains was also a concern.

Walking Paths: The desire for additional walking paths through parks was almost universal amongst interviewees.

Seating: Most interviewees mentioned a need for more benches throughout the parks, especially along walking paths.

New Community Center: While the Salter Center was generally well regarded, there was indication that stakeholders felt that a dedicated community center would be an asset.

New Park Space: It was suggested that the southwest portion of the city is underserved in recreation, and would benefit from additional usable green space.

SUSTAINABILITY

Rain Gardens: Given the flooding issues that many Royal Oak residents have experienced in the last 5-10 years, rainwater control was an important issue for multiple stakeholders.

Elimination of Pesticides and Fertilizers: Interviewees recommended that the parks eliminate any pesticides and fertilizers they may still be using, especially on the golf course to support biodiversity.

ACCESSIBILITY

Pedestrian and Cyclist Crossing Connections: An almost-universal concern was how accessible the parks are for pedestrians and cyclists. Given that many of the parks do not have dedicated parking spaces, accessible access to the parks by all modes of transportation is especially important.

PROGRAMMING

Programming in Neighborhoods: While the current programming was certainly appreciated by interviewees, many pointed out that neighborhood parks could offer smaller-scale community events, perhaps aided by partnerships with neighborhood associations.

Intergenerational Programming: Interviewees suggested enhancements to existing senior services (such as the Royal Oak Senior Essential Services (ROSES) program) and the addition of programs to allow teens to engage with seniors.

ADMINISTRATION

Communication: Some interviewees indicated that Royal Oak could benefit from increased or improved communication about infrastructure changes and projects in the parks.

MAINTENANCE

Parks: Overwhelming the comments about daily maintenance were positive, moderated somewhat by comments about spring mowing.

Community Centers: The Senior Center and the Salter Center could benefit from additional investment in maintenance and upgrades.

CENTENNIAL COMMONS:

Absolutely love this new park! A model for the all future park updates...

The seating options are great.



STARR JAYCEE:

The playscape with the shady trees make this park amazing year round.

The train rides are loved by the kids.



VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

The residents of Royal Oak are passionate about their city, parks, and neighborhood. As part of community engagement efforts, a five-question visioning survey was made available. This survey included four substantive questions and one demographic question. Between its launch on June 30 and the final response on October 23, the survey received 430 responses.

The majority of comments were positive in nature: Royal Oak residents love the parks, from the tree coverage and playgrounds to the quantity, quality, and proximity of the parks. With that strong foundation to build upon, respondents also noted concerns about a variety of issues, including under-maintained parks, accessibility, and drainage.

Q1:
The best thing about my favorite Royal Oak Park is...

This question engaged respondents on what they enjoy most about the parks and received the second most responses (381) of the four substantive questions. Most frequently discussed as the best thing about Royal Oak Parks was **trees**, with 63 mentions, followed by **walking** (37).

Respondents appreciate open space and greenspace in their community and enjoy spending time among nature.

New park **Normandy Oaks** was also mentioned 30 times in response to this question.

Residents value the location and number of parks, as well as the proximity to their homes.

Q2:
The best way to improve our parks is to...

This survey question asked respondents to share how the parks could be improved and received the most responses of the four substantive questions. Of the 407 responses, 34 mentioned **adding a community pool** as the best way to improve Royal Oak parks. 28 respondents mentioned wanting to **spend more time with their dogs** in Royal Oak parks. While Royal Oak currently has one dog park (Mark Twain Park), residents would like to add more dog parks throughout the city. Respondents also mentioned a desire for more **dog runs, dog waste bags, waste bins, and dog water fountains**. 19 respondents mentioned a need for a new or improved **skate park**, comparable to neighboring cities. Residents desire increased **accessibility** and **age-inclusivity** for both young children and the elderly, including all-age-accessible play structures. Residents would also like to improve Royal Oak parks by **adding more trees, fixing drainage issues, and updating playscapes** (safe fall surfaces, removing graffiti).

Q3:
A perfect day at the park involves...

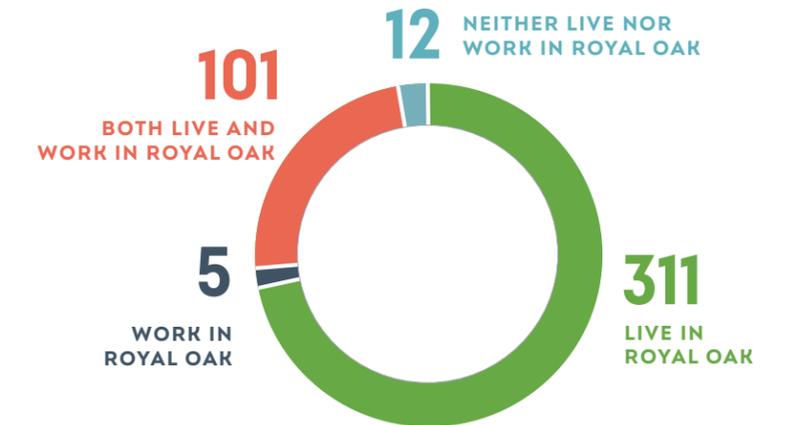
This question engaged respondents to share the ways in which they currently most enjoy utilizing the parks. It received the least responses of the four substantive questions (335). The most frequently mentioned words included: **shade** (57), **picnic** (54), **walking** (50), and **playing** (47). Residents appreciate spending leisure time in the parks. Many of the responses that mentioned walking described spending time with family and loved ones. Residents enjoy walking to, from, and in the parks with their children, grandchildren, and pets. Respondents also experience a variety of activities in the parks, including playing tennis, pickleball, volleyball, and with their children and grandchildren.

Q4:
What other big ideas do you have for Royal Oak Parks?

This question allowed respondents to provide a variety of ideas for the parks and received the second least responses of the four substantive questions (351). The most popular “big idea” was **a community pool**. 95 of the 351 responses (27%) mentioned the need for a pool in Royal Oak, comparable to neighboring communities. Many respondents also mentioned the need for a **“full service” community center** that has a pool, fitness center, offers classes, and accommodates residents of all ages. Other ideas included adding a new **skate park** and increasing the number of **restrooms** in parks. Finally, some respondents mentioned the possibility of **removing outdated equipment** and under-maintained fields/courts from some parks and using them as open/green space with the addition of **more trees and native plants**.

Q5:
Do you live or work in the City of Royal Oak?

The overwhelming majority (73%) of survey respondents live in Royal Oak. Another 24% of respondents both live and work in the city. Five respondents only work in Royal Oak, and 12 respondents neither live nor work in Royal Oak. Of the 12, some are previous residents, as indicated in responses to other survey questions.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Goals and Objectives

Goal #1:

Provide a system of accessible and quality parks, recreation opportunities, and open spaces that is welcoming, beautiful, and meets the needs of everyone in the community.

- » Address maintenance issues and strategically replace or update parks equipment.
- » Align recreational facilities and equipment provisions with national standards and community input.
- » Assist nature society in providing necessary improvements to the nature parks.

Goal #2:

Develop parks and facilities to become models of sustainable design.

- » Integrate native plantings and sustainability into park renovation and maintenance practices.
- » Increase diversity in the urban forest by deploying appropriate and diverse species when adding or replacing park trees.
- » Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure to mitigate park flooding, where possible and appropriate.
- » Support roll out of a Community Garden(s) pilot program by deploying Community Gardens in park(s).
- » Evaluate the use of ecologically-friendly materials for park play areas.
- » Consider products to reduce Royal Oak's carbon footprint, alternative energy sources, and designs that foster sustainability when constructing facilities and amenities (i.e., solar panels, geothermal, etc.).

Goal #3:

Increase and diversify access to parks for people of all abilities.

- » Eliminate existing barriers to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and adopting a policy of "inclusive recreation".
- » Address ADA-accessible deficiencies in existing parks.
- » Support and advocate for pedestrian accessibility and connectivity, including addressing safe street crossings for park access.
- » Enhance the Royal Oak bicycle network by adding bike facilities (parking, paths, repair equipment) to parks and recreation facilities.

Goal #4:

Ensure that indoor recreational buildings are well-maintained and offer appropriate facilities.

- » Perform necessary maintenance at the Salter Community Center and Mahany / Harold Meininger Senior Community Center.
- » Evaluate the feasibility and need for additional indoor recreation facilities.

To guide decision making, Royal Oak developed a detailed list of goals and objectives based on the previous 2017-2022 Recreation Master Plan and the results of analysis and public input. The goals and objectives in this section provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation in Royal Oak.

These goals and objectives should be reviewed annually by City staff and the Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services Advisory Board, and modified, as necessary.



PROGRAMMING

Goals and Objectives

Goal #5:

Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure, and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to community members of all ages and socioeconomic statuses.

- » Periodically evaluate current programming to ensure multi-generational program offerings.
- » Diversify programming based on results of evaluation.
- » Add opportunities for cultural programming, such as art fairs, concerts and additional non-recreational programming in parks.

Goal #6:

Utilize traditional and innovative ways to fund and reduce the costs of programming.

- » Investigate opportunities to partner with other recreation departments to maximize opportunities.
- » Pursue partnerships and programming that yield self-funding or revenue-positive offerings that are aligned with community needs.

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

Goals and Objectives

Goal #7:

Continue and improve coordination with institutional partners.

- » Formalize and conduct periodic information-sharing sessions between recreation institutional partners, including Royal Oak School District, Royal Oak Football Club, Royal Oak Sandlot League, Royal Oak Nature Society, etc.
- » Align efforts of the various city departments regarding adopted plans and policies and coordinate those efforts to maximize results (e.g., the S-CAP, Aging in Place Plan, and Strategic Action Plan).

Goal #8:

Provide staffing at levels commensurate to needs.

Include staffing impacts in the evaluation and consideration of new programming opportunities or partnerships.

Goal #9:

Create mechanisms to enhance communications, maintain positive public relations and increase awareness of Royal Oak parks and recreation offerings.

- » Integrate technology with operations to increase access and efficiency of services.
- » Evaluate existing methods of publicity and outreach to identify potential improvements.



STRATEGIC ACTION PLANS

The system-wide recommendations, as well as specific improvements to each of the 51 parks, are summarized in this section. Some projects are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination with other agencies, while other projects are park-specific improvements that require largely monetary investment. Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities



SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN

SHORT TERM: 1-3 YEARS
 MID TERM: 4-5 YEARS
 LONG TERM: 6-10+ YEARS

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES				
	TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS	FACILITIES IMPACTED
TIME FRAME: SHORT TERM	Drainage and Flooding Goal #1	One of the clearest desires expressed through public input for this plan is to resolve drainage and flooding issues that affect the usability of several parks for a portion of the year. As described in this Action Plan, Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) is one strategy that is aligned with plan goals and could alleviate these concerns, but the feasibility of installing GSI varies.	Commission or create an analysis of the causes of drainage issues, a tool kit for resolving them, and the relative feasibility of addressing them for each affected park.	Priority parks: » Exchange Park » Kenwood Park » Mark Twain Park » Red Run Park » Upton Park » Sullivan Park » V.F.W. Park
	Outdoor Amphitheater Goal #1	The planning process identified a desire to activate parks with additional cultural programming, including outdoor concerts. Though some parks could potentially host this activity on a temporary basis, a permanent built facility does not exist.	Conduct a feasibility and locational study for the construction of an outdoor amphitheater.	TBD
	Tennis Courts Goal #1	Royal Oak's tennis court provision is higher than national standards by approximately 250%. Many tennis courts in the City suffer from deferred maintenance, and the areas currently designated to tennis courts might be repurposed for facilities with higher demand, and/or decommissioned to add pervious surface and additional greenspace while allowing maintenance dollars to be concentrated on the remaining courts.	» Decommission 5-7 tennis courts, focusing on those that are in disrepair and/or underutilized. » Replace with greenspace or redevelop for other facilities. » Resurface courts that remain in use.	Candidates – one or all courts at: » Exchange Park » Meininger Park (1 only) » Elks Park » Lockman Park (1 only) » Red Run Park » Kenwood Park » Waterworks Park (1 only)
	Pickleball Courts Goal #1	According to national standards, Royal Oak provides more than adequate pickleball facilities, however: engaged stakeholders identified a need for additional courts, and the courts at Whittier and Upton will reach the end of their planned service life within the time frame of this Plan.	» Install 8 new pickleball courts. Consider utilizing obsolete/under-maintained facilities, including tennis courts. » Long-term, reconstruct the pickleball courts at Whittier and Upton Parks.	Candidates: » Red Run Park » Waterworks Park (former storage space) » Elks Park » Kenwood Park » Dickinson Park

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES				
	TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS	FACILITIES IMPACTED
TIME FRAME: SHORT TERM	Pool and Indoor Recreation Facility Goal #1	In the planning process, residents and other stakeholders expressed a strong desire for a community pool and, to a lesser extent, a new indoor recreation facility. If both are built, these facilities could potentially be co-located.	Conduct a feasibility study for the development and construction of a community pool, potentially to be colocated with a new community center. 1) Investigate public / private partnerships and funding streams, to facilitate financing and development of these facilities. 2) Determine priority of this activity in context of all City / public facility needs. 3) Identify best location for facility, prioritizing accessibility for all community members. 4) Develop a Conceptual Site Plan, a use program, and cost estimates.	TBD
	Roller Hockey Rink Goal #1	The planning process demonstrated a desire for an in-line hockey rink, and candidate sites are available.	Add an outdoor roller hockey rink to a park with appropriate space and access.	Candidate parks: » Elks, » Red Run, » Exchange
	Native Plants Goal #2	The S-CAP and public input for this Plan both identify a desire to increase the amount of native plantings used in parks landscaping.	Leveraging the Royal Oak Green Infrastructure Evaluation plant material recommendations, adopt a policy of incorporating native species in any park design or maintenance projects.	All
	Enhanced Bicycle Infrastructure Goal #3	The planning process demonstrated a desire for additional bicycle infrastructure in city parks. In turn, parks can help bolster the existing nonmotorized network in Royal Oak.	» Prioritize and invest more significantly in bicycle infrastructure in parks served by existing nonmotorized routes and/or adjacent to schools. » Strategically install additional amenities, including repair stations.	Priority parks: » Wagner Park » Realtor Park » Grant Park » VFW Park » Lockman Park » Meininger Park » Upton Park » Worden East / Senior Center
	Passive Facilities and Increased Seating Options Goal #3	Accessibility and passive recreation facilities are essential to allow residents to age in place. Public input identified a need for additional options for seating and wheeled accessibility.	Include paved accessible paths and increased seating options as part of all park redesign projects.	All



PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES				
	TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS	FACILITIES IMPACTED
TIME FRAME: MID TERM	Skate Park Goal #1	In the planning process, residents and other stakeholders expressed a desire to develop a new skate park. Though the city has an existing skate park, deferred maintenance has left it nonfunctional.	Design and install a new skate park.	Candidates: » Red Run Park (former tennis courts) » Waterworks Park (Former Storage Space) » Elks Park (as part of redevelopment)
	Golf Course Clubhouse Goal #1	The Royal Oak Golf Course clubhouse is in need of roof repair. Much of the building has reached or is nearing the end of its effective lifespan.	Reconstruct the Golf Course Clubhouse.	Golf Course
	Accessible Park Connections Goal #3	A goal of this plan is to provide increased accessibility to all parks. There is a critical mass of physically adjacent and proximate facilities around Worden, Worden East, and Quickstad and the Meininger Senior Center, and the Royal Oak High School campus.	Install a signed, accessible multi-use path connecting Worden, Worden East, and Quickstad.	» Worden Park » Royal Oak Arboretum » Quickstad Park
	Dog Park Goal #3	Public input identified a desire for a dog park serving the southern area of the city. Dog parks have historically been located in Meininger and Lockman but are no longer operated due to operational challenges.	Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of adding an additional dog park.	TBD
	Senior Center Renovations Goal #4	The Senior Center requires modest exterior renovations.	Perform necessary maintenance/repair/renovation at the Senior Center.	Meininger Senior Center
	Maintenance Planning Goal #4	The Salter Center is challenged by deferred maintenance, especially on the exterior and approaches to the building. The condition of the paths and entrances reduce the accessibility of the Center. A comprehensive facility assessment would identify and anticipate coming maintenance and facility update needs.	Conduct a comprehensive facility assessment for the Salter and Meininger Centers to identify and prioritize coming maintenance requirements.	N/A

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES				
	TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS	FACILITIES IMPACTED
TIME FRAME: LONG TERM	Bicycle Parking Goal #3	The planning process demonstrated a desire for additional bicycle infrastructure in city parks. In turn, parks can help bolster the existing nonmotorized network in the city.	Adopt a policy of bicycle parking as part of any new capital projects, eventually to include all city parks.	All
	Additional Senior Programming/Facilities Goal #3	The provision of senior services is concentrated in Royal Oak, especially at the Meininger Senior Center. Residents would benefit from additional locations for these services, especially if they are located where more residents could access them by walking. Stakeholder input for this plan identified possibilities for a satellite location in the downtown. As the Royal Oak population ages, a location such as this proximate to denser housing and the existing senior population would become increasingly useful.	Evaluate the feasibility and seek partnerships for the addition of a satellite location for the provision of senior services.	TBD
	Gardens to Support Pollinator Pathways Goal #2	The S-CAP and public input for this Plan identify a desire to support pollinator pathways and otherwise support natural systems with landscaping and plant choices in parks. Support of pollinator pathways will likely require formal partnerships for maintenance and/or additional funding streams to balance staff with those potential new obligations.	» Identify partners for maintenance of potential new gardens that support pollinator pathways. » Install pollinator-supporting gardens as partner agreements and/or funding resources are identified.	Consider all parks; prioritized sites identified in the planning process: » Bassett Park » Exchange Park » Fries Park » Grant Park » Gunn Dyer Park » Hamer Finch Wilkins Park » Kenwood Park » Meininger Park » Wagner Park
	Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Goal #2	Many parks suffer from flooding issues, which compromises usability. The City has recently deployed green stormwater infrastructure along roads and in select parks. This progress can be built upon to address park flooding issues.	Install green stormwater infrastructure, where possible and appropriate. Prioritize the parks identified in this planning process as having the most acute problems and usability challenges from flooding and drainage.	Priority Candidate Parks: » Exchange » Kenwood » Mark Twain » Red Run » Upton » Sullivan » VFW » Wagner



PROGRAMMING				
	TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS	FACILITIES AFFECTED
TIME FRAME: SHORT TERM	Cultural Programming Goal #6	The planning process identified a desire to activate parks with cultural programming.	Add opportunities for cultural programming, such as art fairs, historical events, art exhibits (including partnerships with the Arts Commission), concerts and additional non-recreational programming in parks.	Consider all parks; prioritized sites identified in the planning process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hamer Finch Wilkins Park » Centennial Commons Park » 13 Mile / Main Park » Memorial Park » Normandy Oaks Park » Pioneer Park
	Multi-Generational Programming Goal #5	The draft Aging in Place Plan identifies a need to provide multi-generational programming, especially options for older residents. Public input for this Plan identified a need for increased programming options for young children.	Periodically evaluate current programming to ensure multi-generational program offerings. Diversify programming based on results of evaluation.	All

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION				
	TOPIC AND ASSOCIATED GOAL	FINDINGS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS	FACILITIES AFFECTED
TIME FRAME: ON-GOING	Stakeholder / Partner Communication Goal #7	Stakeholder input identified a desire for better and broader-reaching coordination between the City and its recreation partners, especially the Royal Oak School District, Royal Oak Football Club, Royal Oak Sandlot League, and the Royal Oak Nature Society.	Organize and conduct an open house/information sharing forum at least annually to encourage partners to collaborate with each other and more efficiently communicate issues and plans to the City.	N/A
	Communications / Maintenance Goal #9	Public input and feedback regarding current operations identified a need for easier resident feedback about specific park maintenance issues / improvement ideas.	Utilize an online issue-reporting tool (such as https://seeclix.com/) to organize feedback and aid responsiveness. Publicize the availability of it to organize resident feedback.	All
	Communications / Public Relations Goal #9	Royal Oak is unusual in the amount of neighborhood parks available to residents. Many residents are not aware of the full breadth of park availability, especially for parks that are not in their neighborhood. A goal of this plan is to maintain positive public relations and increase awareness of recreation offerings.	Using the current inventory collected as part of this planning process, enhance the City's current resources for identifying available parks and recreation facilities by creating an online, interactive map of City facilities. Identify locational features, available equipment, and other 'know before you go' information about each park (such as the availability of restrooms, barrier-free parking, etc.).	All
	Parks 'Passport' Goal #9	Royal Oak is unusual in the amount of neighborhood parks available to residents. Many residents are not aware of the full breadth of park availability, especially for parks that are not in their neighborhood. A goal of this plan is to maintain positive public relations and increase awareness of recreation offerings.	Create a 'park passport' program that raises awareness about all of Royal Parks. This might include prizes or rewards for visiting all parks and completing the 'passport'.	All



PARK-SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN

SHORT TERM: 1-3 YEARS
 MID TERM: 4-5 YEARS
 LONG TERM: 6-10+ YEARS

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>13 Mile / Main Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install paved pathway to benches. » Add public art installation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plant screening wall to the south. 	
 <p>Barton North Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a paved pathway and concrete pad to picnic table. » Install shaded seating and/or improve the tree canopy over seating and play areas. » Install a gaga ball pit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improve the crosswalk at Troy by creating a curb bump out, which will also create a defined location for parallel on-street parking spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace playground equipment (from 2000, currently in above-average condition).
 <p>Barton South Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install accessible picnic opportunities. » Add public art installation. » Improve the crosswalk across Troy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Bump out the sidewalk along Troy for greater green space and to increase pedestrian safety. 	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Bassett Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Complete the perimeter street trees along Campbell. » Install seating amenities near the bus stop and a bike repair station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a paved pathway to the play area and seating. » Create a pollinator garden at the south end of the park. 	
 <p>Centennial Commons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Deploy additional movable seating, including additional tables for picnic options. » Host additional events / cultural programming (e.g., outdoor movies, concerts, etc.). » Expand availability of public wi-fi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install restroom and drinking water facilities. 	
 <p>Clawson Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Initiate a renaming contest to raise awareness of Royal Oak's park system. » Resurface baseball diamond and update/replace bleachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add street trees along Essex. » Add an accessible paved path from Essex Street to play equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add approximately six perpendicular parking spaces, accessed from a new curb cut on Essex. (May require relocation of park sign).
 <p>Cody Park</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a landscape buffer along 12 Mile frontage. » Replace the chain link fence with a decorative fence, and/or landscape along Cody. 	



PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Cummingston Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add accessible paved path connecting the sidewalk to nature conservancy entrance. » Add trail marking and educational signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add accessible pervious surface paths within nature center. 	
 <p>Dickinson Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install an accessible paved path from the Springer sidewalk to the north of the park, east to Fairmont. » Resurface baseball diamond and update/replace backstop, bleachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Complete perimeter trees along Springer, add perimeter trees along north park boundary. » Redevelop tennis court. » Resurface basketball court. 	
 <p>Dondero Park</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install curb bump outs on Hoffman, creating a defined location for parallel on-street parking spaces and helping to calm traffic.
 <p>Elks Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop a park design plan, including additional parking, the addition of a pavilion and restroom facilities, the inclusion of a tot lot, replacement of play equipment, and renovation of the baseball diamonds, basketball court and volleyball court. Consider the inclusion of a skate park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Redevelop park facilities per the results of the park design plan. 	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Exchange Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Initiate a renaming contest to raise awareness of Royal Oak's park system. » Replace play structure (from 2001). » Resurface baseball diamond and update/replace backstop, bleachers. » Resurface basketball court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Complete perimeter trees along Springer, add perimeter trees along north park boundary. » Add perimeter trees along Blair, Montrose and northern park boundary. » Redevelop the Campbell parking area and add bioswales. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Decommission tennis court and add rain garden.
 <p>Fernwood Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace playground equipment (from 1999). » Upgrade basketball equipment. » Install shaded seating and/or improve the tree canopy over seating and play areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install perimeter street trees along Austin. » Add evergreen screen along the east park boundary. 	
 <p>Franklin Park</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install street trees along Harrison and Mohawk. 	
 <p>Fred Pieper / Optimist Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install ADA crosswalks to the park entrance on Rochester Road, potentially accompanied by pedestrian refuge islands/signaling as part of Rochester Road reconstruction. » Resurface/maintain volleyball court. 		

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Fries Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop a park design plan, focusing on seating, community gardens, a public art installation, lighting along Greenfield, and a paved pathway throughout the park space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install street trees along Greenfield. 	
 <p>Fulton Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a paved pathway into the park and to amenities, including seating. » Plant perimeter tree wall. 		
 <p>Grant Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add bicycle repair station / enhanced bicycle infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Construct restrooms and drinking water / bottle filling facilities. 	
 <p>Gunn Dyer Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add paved accessible path on west side of park, connecting existing Chester and Hunter sidewalks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Upgrade play structure. 	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Hamer Finch Wilkins Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop a park design plan, focusing on seating, decorative gardens, a historic marker/educational signage, a public art installation, lighting along Crooks, and replacement of the chain link fence along Crooks with a decorative fence or landscaping to better delineate the parking boundary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Enhance sidewalk crossings to the three park entrance points. 	
 <p>Huntington Woods Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Initiate a renaming contest to raise awareness of Royal Oak's park system. » Install ADA crosswalks to the park entrances. » Install street trees along Dundee and Hereford. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a paved pathway into the park and to amenities, including seating. 	
 <p>Kenwood Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a paved pathway into the park (connecting the Farnum and Forest sidewalks) and to amenities, including seating. » Plant interior trees, especially south and west of play structure to provide shade, and west of swings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Construct a pavilion and restrooms. » Install bioswales proximate to athletic fields to ameliorate flooding and drainage issues. 	
 <p>Lawson Park</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install restrooms and drinking water / bottle filling facilities. 	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Lions Club Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add basketball or multi-use court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Enhance crossing to park entrance (across Hilldale) to incorporate striped cross walk, ADA ramp at park entrance. » Upgrade / replace play equipment (age unknown). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Evaluate feasibility of rain garden at southern end of park.
 <p>Lockman Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Upgrade basketball equipment. » Add bicycle repair station / enhanced bicycle infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace play equipment (from 2005). 	
 <p>Maddock Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace playground equipment (from 1994) and fall surfaces. 		
 <p>Marais (Dickie Putnam) Park</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plant perimeter and interior trees in northern portion of park. 	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Mark Twain (Dog) Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add paved pathway. » Add rain garden and drainage infrastructure to resolve drainage issues. » Add separate small- and large- dog runs. 		
 <p>Marks Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace existing picnic table and benches, add additional benches along accessible paths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace playground equipment (from 1997 but still in good condition) and fall surfaces. » Add accessible path connecting all play equipment. 	
 <p>Maudlin Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace all play equipment (from 1995). » Install a paved pathway into the park and to amenities, including seating. » Renovate / complete accessible path to equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install street trees along Buckingham. 	
 <p>Meininger Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace picnic tables and add additional seating within the park (under the tree canopy) and at/near the entrance plazas to create more opportunities for picnicking and passive recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a pervious compacted gravel/ADA accessible walking path through the tree canopy. 	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Memorial Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Deconstruct skate park. » Add perimeter safety netting around ball diamonds. » Construct ADA-accessible bleachers and expand seating capacity. » Install synthetic turf for ball diamonds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add accessible walking path throughout park. » Redevelop restroom facilities; consider adding facilities in closer proximity to spectator seating at baseball diamonds, especially Field #3. 	
 <p>Miller Park</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add adult exercise equipment. 	
 <p>Milt Hey Hudson Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Redevelop park per currently in-progress design process (2024). 		
 <p>Normandy Oaks Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Create pedestrian crossing at Kent, Elmhurst or Linwood to facilitate pedestrian access from the south. Include striped cross walk, crossing signage, ADA ramp. Add new connection to park walking path as necessary. » Add additional shade trees near play equipment, within the circulation ring and west of the pavilion. 		

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Pioneer Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace all play equipment (from 1999). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add additional shade trees near play equipment, south of the northern play structure location. 	
 <p>Quickstad Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improve/maintain irrigation system for soccer fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add lighting to soccer field(s), designed for minimal impact on Tenhave preserve. » Add accessible path connecting north and south park boundaries, increasing access to east side of soccer fields and supplementing trail network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Widen/convert the existing paved path along the western park boundary to a signed/striped multi-use (bicycle/pedestrian) path.
 <p>Realtor Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add additional shade trees immediately west of the playground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add accessible path to play equipment and picnic table. 	
 <p>Red Run Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Resurface ball diamonds. » Add seating and a paved pathway through the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » If additional facilities (e.g., pickleball and/or skatepark) are added (refer to System-Wide Action Plan): Add parking area in southeast area of park (approximately 25 spaces possible), accessed from Vermont and/or Girard, with bioswales for increased stormwater and landscape buffers between proximate residential on Vermont. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Construct new pavilions with restrooms.

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Rotary Park</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add seating and a paved pathway through the park. 	
 <p>Royal Oak Arboretum</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add street trees along Lexington. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Incorporate GSI into next parking lot renovation.
 <p>Starr / Jaycee Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace picnic tables. » Resurface / maintain sand volleyball courts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add accessible pathway to train tracks / loading area from the parking lot and the 13 Mile sidewalk. » Add accessible path to play structure from 13 Mile sidewalk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Modify grading and update/reconstruct train track.
 <p>Sullivan Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Evaluate feasibility of rain garden / retention pond south of the play structure and associated drainage infrastructure to improve drainage and flooding issues. » Add additional seating adjacent to the playground and throughout the park. 		

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Upton Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add shade trees to shade play equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Construct new pavilion with restrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reconstruct pickleball courts.
 <p>V.F.W. Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add pathways and benches under tree canopy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add additional landscape buffer along Campbell frontage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace chain link fencing along Campbell and Lincoln with ornamental fence. » Replace play structure (from 2002).
 <p>Wagner Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add enhanced signage to disc golf course. » Connect the playground areas with a paved pathway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace mature trees as necessary to maintain tree canopy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Design/evaluate potential for redevelopment of disc golf course.
 <p>Waterworks Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Replace picnic tables. » Redevelop interior storage area (see system-wide actions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add interior trees, especially near northwest corner (Beechwood and Magnolia). » Complete/densify perimeter trees, especially on Magnolia. 	

PARK	SHORT TERM	MID TERM	LONG TERM
 <p>Wendland Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install a paved pathway to the seating areas. » Connect the two playground areas with a paved pathway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Create curb cuts into the park, and sign with crosswalks (only one curb cut off Rhode Island Avenue). 	
 <p>Westwood Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Install trees along internal paved pathway. » Replace playground equipment (from 1997). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Create an ADA curb cut into the park (both entrances at Warick and Parker, with crosswalks). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add approximately six perpendicular parking spaces (utilizing impervious surface) off Warick at the park entrance and relocate the sidewalk.
 <p>Whittier Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Renovate basketball court. » Add additional seating options near the playground. » Add accessible path to memorial trees / garden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add young child playground equipment to existing playground » Add restrooms and drinking water facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reconstruct pickleball courts.
 <p>Worden Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop a park design plan to reconfigure ball diamonds and provide lighted soccer fields, more efficient use of athletic fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Resurface parking lot. » Install irrigation system for playing fields. 	



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