

City of Huntington Woods

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Public Comment Draft - October 3, 2025



Acknowledgments

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Chapter 1
**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**



Purpose: Planning for Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as a strategic tool to guide the development, maintenance, and programming of Huntington Woods' parks and recreational facilities. It fulfills State of Michigan requirements for recreation planning and positions the City to pursue grant funding for capital improvements.

Beyond regulatory compliance, this plan reflects the City's desire to respond to changing community needs, shifting demographics, and growing interest in sustainability, health, and inclusion. It aims to ensure that every resident has access to safe, welcoming, and well-maintained public spaces and recreation opportunities.

The Plan does not obligate funding or provide inflexible policies but rather provides a road map for the next five years of park and recreation improvements. It is a policy document designed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to advise the City Commission on actionable steps for the future of the city's facilities.

Executive Summary

The Huntington Woods Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a comprehensive roadmap for enhancing the City's parks, recreational amenities, and programming over the next five years. This plan was guided by robust community engagement, in-depth analysis of existing conditions, and a commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and long-term vitality.

Residents of Huntington Woods deeply value the City's high-quality parks and diverse programming but also expressed a desire for more modern, accessible, and inclusive amenities. Through public surveys, interactive mapping, guided park tours, pop-up events, and stakeholder meetings, the community identified specific priorities ranging from updated playgrounds and increased shade to improved communications and expanded programming for teens and seniors.

This plan translates community input into actionable goals and strategies, including investments in physical infrastructure, sustainability initiatives, and administrative improvements. Key themes include enhancing accessibility, modernizing outdated amenities, diversifying recreation offerings, and improving how the City maintains, programs, and communicates about its parks and recreation system.

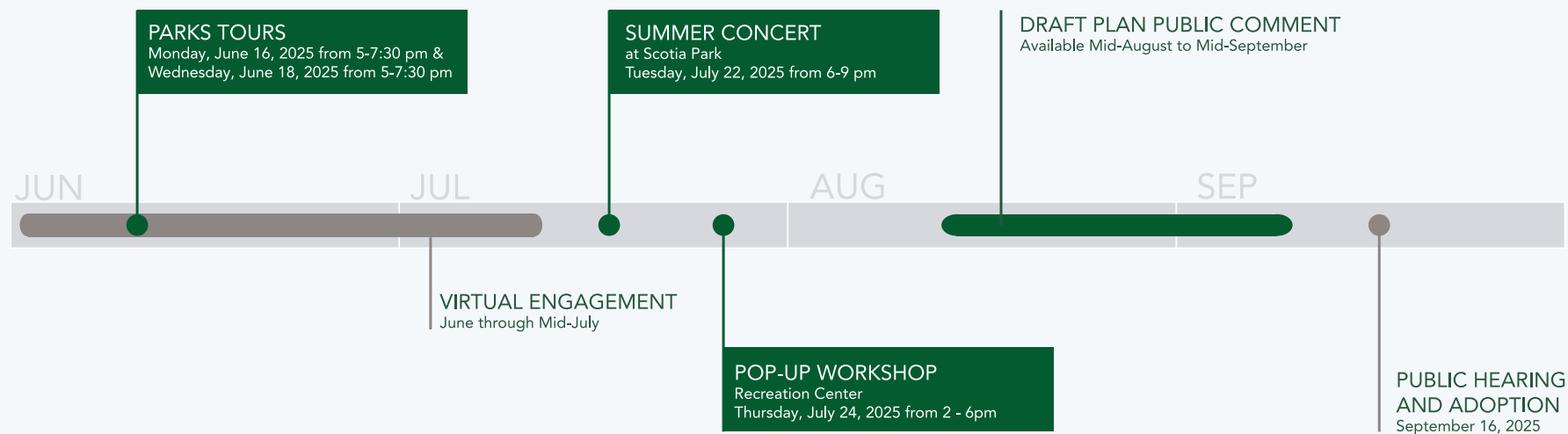
Chapter 2
**THE PLANNING
PROCESS**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Summary of Public and Stakeholder Engagement

This parks and recreation plan is guided by feedback from extensive community engagement, conducted between mid-June and mid-September. Outreach efforts included two guided parks tours, meetings with boards and commissions to gather targeted feedback, a pop-up input opportunity at the summer Concert in the Park, an in-person workshop at the Recreation Center, and an online survey and interactive comment map designed to gather broad input. The figure below shows the process of engagement from start to finish.

Figure 1: Engagement Opportunities



Summary of Activities: In-Person Outreach

Parks Tours – June 16th & June 18th

Two guided parks tours were conducted on June 16 and 18, 2025, each focusing on one half of the City's park system. Residents were encouraged to join the tours and share their ideas and opinions on each of the City's parks. Common themes that emerged during the tours include:

- » More spaces designed for older kids
- » A system for cataloguing bench location and need for maintenance or updates
- » Name plaques in adopted gardens and next to art installations
- » More non-infant swings
- » Sound barriers at Peasley Park, Elgin Park, and Val Jones Park



Alligator Park Tour

Summer Concert Pop-Up and Rec Center Workshop – July 22nd & July 24th

A pop-up event was held during the summer Concert in the Park on July 22, 2025. At this event, residents participated in a magnet board activity to solicit feedback on their vision for four Huntington Woods parks: Alligator Park, Reynolds Park, Scotia Park, and Val Jones Park. These parks were selected because they presented the greatest opportunities for change. During this activity, residents were encouraged to use magnet pieces to redesign these four parks with their own vision. A second in-person workshop with the magnet board activity was held at the Huntington Woods Gillham Recreation Center on July 24, 2025 for those unable to attend the concert. At these two workshops, residents most wanted to see the following:

- » More trees and shade structures, especially over play equipment
- » Accessible groundcover alternatives to woodchips in play areas
- » Updated play structure at Reynolds Park
- » More teen-oriented spaces and activities
- » Maintenance of the skatepark and hockey facilities at Val Jones Park



Summer Concert Pop-Up



Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting – July 17th

On July 17, 2025, a meeting was held with the Huntington Woods Environmental Sustainability Committee to discuss sustainability in the parks and top priorities moving forward. These priorities include:

- » Planting pollinator plants and rain gardens with native species
- » Creating a tree planting schedule and species guide
- » Installing permeable pavers
- » Providing sensory educational gardens

Planning Commission Meeting – July 28th

On July 28, 2025 the consultant team presented to the Huntington Woods Planning Commission to receive input on the planning process and ensure coordination with the city's Master Plan. The Planning Commission and public comment brought up the following topics:

- » The need for more visibility and engagement in the community around park upgrades
- » The desire for the adopt-a-garden program to receive more support and further coordination
- » The concern about the elimination of the skate park and inline skate rink at Val Jones
- » The potential need for the department to charge user fees

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – August 12th

On August 12, 2025 the consultant team met with the Huntington Woods Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to present a draft of the plan to the board and community members in attendance. During this meeting, the following items were brought up:

- » Public support for retaining the facilities at Val Jones park (particularly the skate park)
- » Public support for retaining and upgrading where necessary the tennis courts at the Gillham Recreation Center and 11 Mile / Huntington Park
- » General consensus that the top priorities for the Huntington Woods Parks and Recreation plan should be Val Jones Park, updating the play structure at Reynolds Park, and renovating the Gillham Recreation Center (including the pool, tennis courts, and locker room)

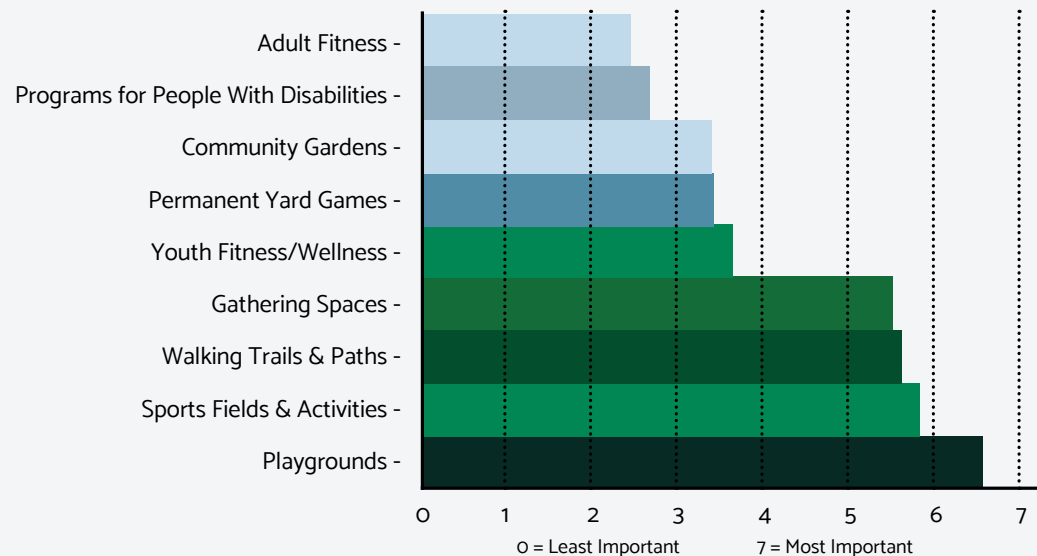
Summary of Activities: Virtual Engagement

Online Survey

An online survey was conducted between early June and late July to solicit residents' feedback on Huntington Woods parks and programming. The survey was circulated every week during this period through the City's e-newsletter. The survey was also posted on both the City and Parks and Recreation Facebook pages. It gauged residents' satisfaction with different parks and programming, and gathered their thoughts on existing barriers and future opportunities for activities and amenities in the parks and at the recreation center. Common themes from the survey responses include:

- » Updated, safe play structures, especially at Reynolds Park (22 responses)
- » Dog parks (17 responses)
- » Strategic planting of trees and placement of shade structures while maintaining open space for sports and play (12 responses)
- » Maintenance of the pool and improvements to the locker room facilities (9 responses)
- » Permanent restrooms at Reynolds Park and Val Jones Park (8 responses)
- » More concerts, community events, and programming options for a range of ages (6 responses)
- » Systematic maintenance and upkeep of landscaping and green spaces (5 responses)
- » Better communication about programming opportunities (5 responses)

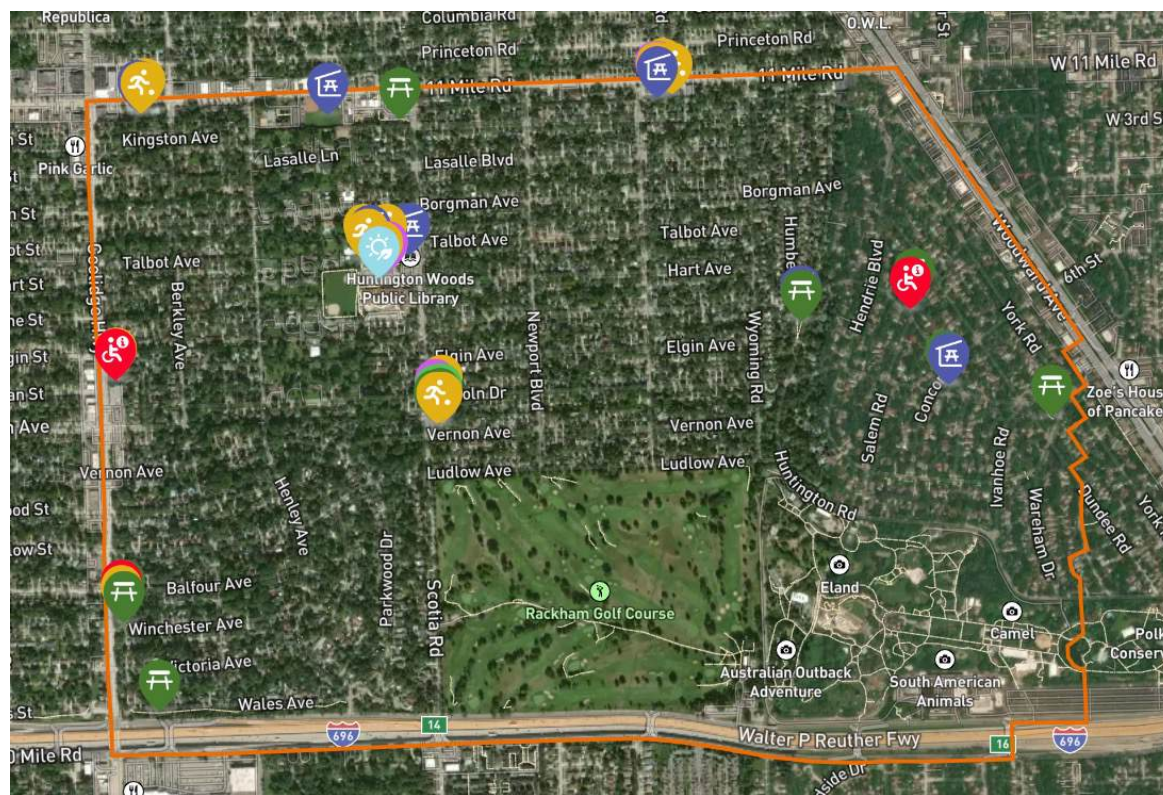
Figure 2: What Types of Recreation Activities Or Amenities Are Most Important To You



Comment Map

Huntington Woods residents were invited to interact with a virtual map of the community where they could pin a comment directly on a map of Huntington Woods. Comments focused primarily on the Gillham Recreation Center, Scotia Park, Reynolds Park, Peasley Park, and Val Jones Park and ranged from accessibility improvements to programming recommendations. Recommendations include:

- » Pavilions, shade structures, and swing benches
- » Updated play structures and improved skatepark
- » Accessible playground surface
- » More programming for young kids



What We Heard

Engaged stakeholders value the overall high quality of Huntington Woods parks and recreation. Conversations and survey results demonstrate high levels of satisfaction with most Huntington Woods parks and the current programming offered by the recreation center. Residents appreciate the amenities and facilities, but they want to see more communication between the City and the community before major changes or updates are made to the parks.

The following are survey responses from residents:

- » *"I'd love to see better maintenance after improvements are made."*
- » *"I'd like to see the parks serve all ages of residents, not just adults"*
- » *"I hope for parks that are accessible, unique, and inclusive for the growing population."*
- » *"Our family would love a paved bike/hike trail, so kids can bike without dealing with all of the road intersections."*
- » *"Updated playground equipment, more gathering spaces, diverse offerings such as upgrades to the skatepark or equipment for disabled patrons."*
- » *"Playgrounds that are sun covered, accessible, and not on wood chips."*
- » *"I would like to see a whole park revamped at a time instead of little bits and pieces here and there that don't always work together."*
- » *"Hopefully to include more social media for awareness and more programming unique to resident needs."*



Figure 3: How Satisfied Are You With These Parks

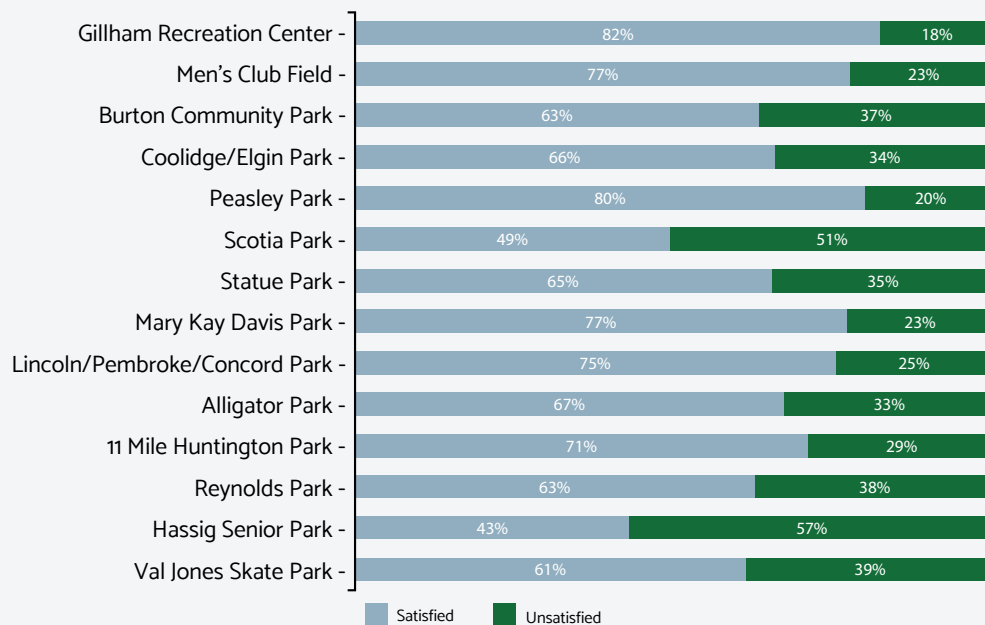
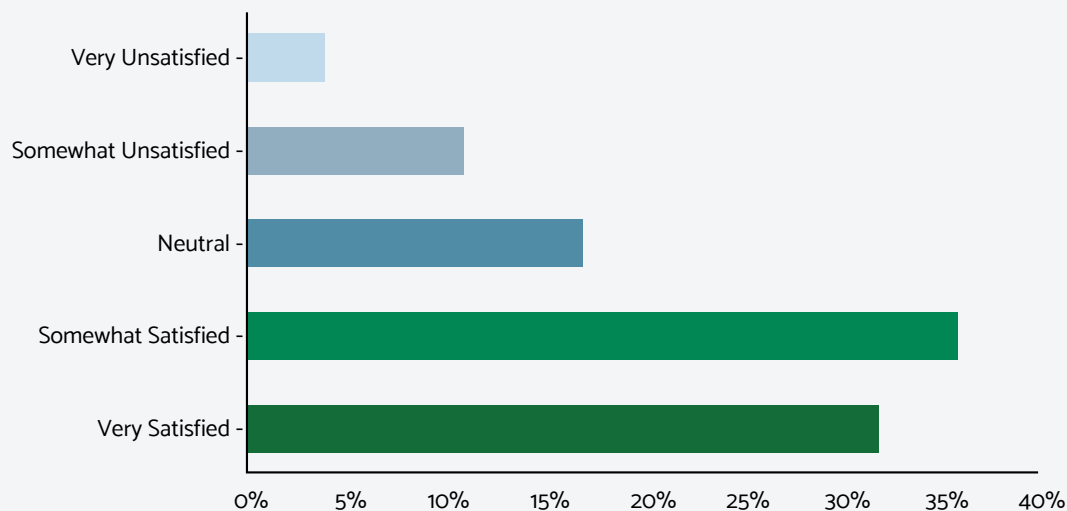


Figure 4: How Satisfied Are You With Recreation Programming



What's Working?

Programming & Events

- » Residents enjoy the summer Concerts in the Park and want to see them expanded into the spring and fall.
- » The recreation center offers high quality programming options for kids like fruit camp and latchkey.

Facilities & Amenities

- » The parks provide a wide variety of activities including tennis, pickleball, skateboarding, hockey, shuffleboard, playgrounds, and passive recreation.
- » Residents appreciate the existing bike facilities like bike parking and bike repair station.

What's Not Working?

Communication

- » Many residents called for better communication about proposed changes to parks and recreation facilities and more input from the community during this process.

Programming & Events

- » While summer programming is greatly appreciated, residents would like to see year-round programming and community events.
- » Many residents reported difficulty registering for programs and finding an up-to-date schedule of events and suggested that communication about programming options could be enhanced using social media.

Maintenance

- » Suggestions were made to create a more formalized process of adopting and maintaining adopted gardens to improve their general upkeep.
- » Residents noted that many Huntington Woods facilities are in need of repairs or updates, including the tennis courts, the skatepark, the inline hockey rink, the pool, and the Reynolds Park playground.

Accessibility

- » Many of the parks lack accessible parking, entrances, walkways, and play equipment and residents called for more overall accessibility.
- » While some parks have temporary restrooms, residents would like to see permanent restrooms installed in the parks where they would get the most use.
- » Residents called for more shade over play structures and seating areas.

Goals and Objectives

Parks and Facilities

Goal

1

Modernize and Diversify Park Infrastructure

- » Foster community engagement and support imaginative play for all ages and abilities
- » Provide comfortable and welcoming spaces that encourage longer and more meaningful use of park facilities

Administration and Organization

Goal

2

Strengthen Parks and Recreation Department Involvement

- » Ensure adequate staff time is dedicated to park upkeep and maintenance
- » Strengthen community trust and involvement by promoting transparency and open communication around park updates and improvements

Goal

3

Coordinate for Efficient Management of Facilities and Amenities

- » Promote long-term function and visual appeal of park spaces through proactive and coordinated care
- » Encourage collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Department to ensure consistent maintenance and thoughtful stewardship of facilities and amenities

Goal

4

Explore Alternative Funding Options

- » Reduce reliance on city resources through the proactive pursuit of grants and community-driven fundraising initiatives



Programming

Goal

5

Expand Programming and Recreation Opportunities for All Age Groups

- » Foster meaningful connections across generations through inclusive, family-friendly, and community-oriented programming
- » Create vibrant park spaces where people of all ages can gather, socialize, and participate in shared recreational experiences

Accessibility and Sustainability

Goal

6

Advance Environmental Sustainability in Park Design and Infrastructure

- » Promote environmental awareness by integrating educational features that connect residents with park ecosystems
- » Create healthier, more resilient park environments through green infrastructure

Goal

7

Improve Accessibility and Inclusivity Across All Parks

- » Support ease of use for a wide range of park users including parents with strollers, older adults, individuals recovering from injuries, and those with mobility challenges
- » Create unique experiences that cater to a wide variety of users and sensory activities.
- » Ensure all visitors can navigate, enjoy, and fully participate in park spaces through thoughtful design and infrastructure

Chapter 3
**STRATEGIC
ACTION PLAN**

Strategic Action Plan

Action Items In Order Of Priority

Table 1: System-Wide Strategic Actions

PRIORITY LEVEL	PARK / FACILITY	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION	ASSOCIATED PR MP GOAL
HIGH PRIORITY	Val Jones	• Resurface figure-8 bowl and paint with bright colors • Install sound barrier fencing along south and east sides • Replace chain-link fence with more inviting alternative • Repair and soundproof walls of in-line hockey rink • Open skate programming • Construct obstacle course	Modernize park infrastructure
	Aquatic Center	• Resurface pool • Renovate locker rooms • Install awning over kindergarten and shade sails over play structure	Modernize park infrastructure, Accessibility and sustainability
	Reynolds	• Update play structure and climbing structure with tactile and sensory play equipment • Replace woodchips with rubberized or cork surface	Modernize park infrastructure, Accessibility and sustainability
	Administration	• Create systematized maintenance schedule in partnership with DPW • Create a system for identifying and replacing park amenities with standard models • Create system for organization and maintenance of adopted gardens	Administration and organization
	Gillham Recreation Center	• Resurface tennis courts	Modernize park infrastructure
	11 Mile and Huntington	• Restructure management and maintenance of community gardens at the entrance to the City • Resurface tennis courts and install shielded lighting	Administration and organization, Modernize park infrastructure

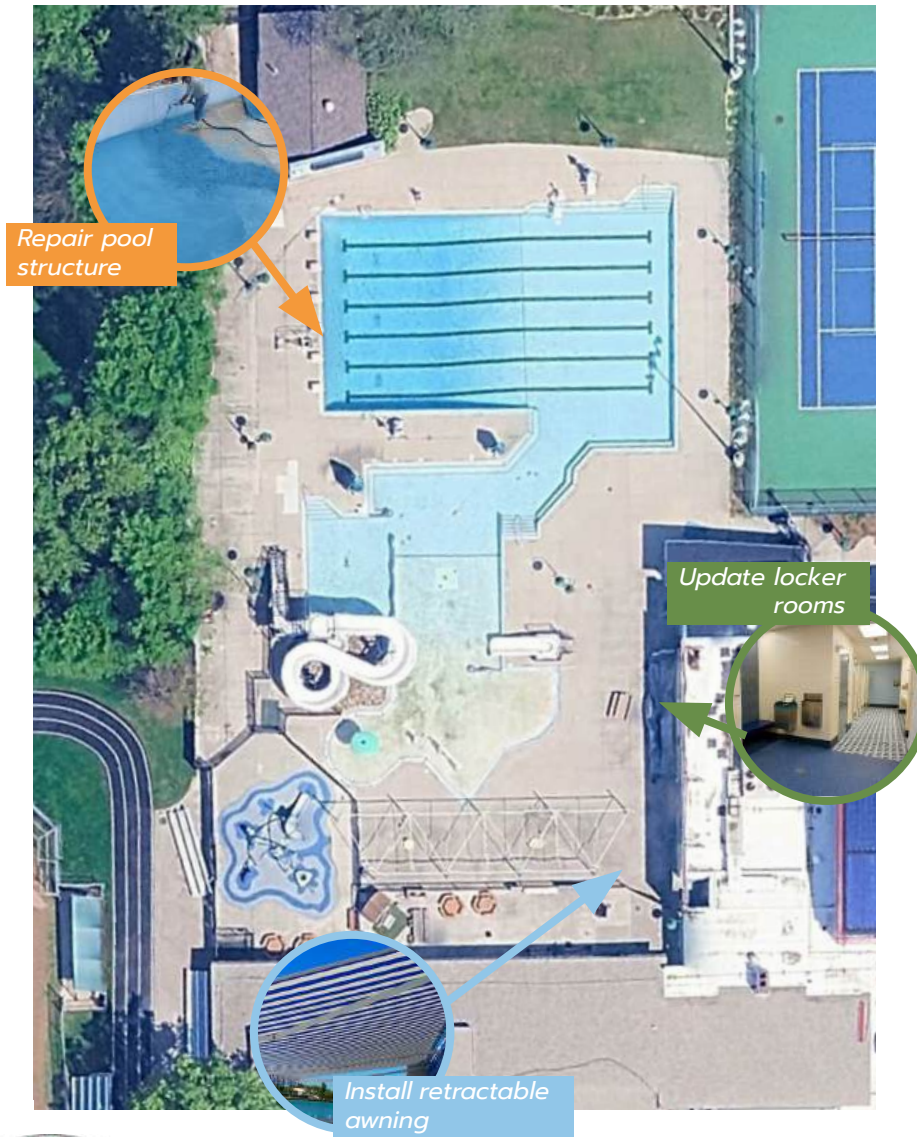
PRIORITY LEVEL	PARK / FACILITY	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION	ASSOCIATED PR MP GOAL
MEDIUM	Gordon Hassig	• Repair gazebo roof	Modernize park infrastructure
	Alligator	• Install shade structures and / or shade trees over play area / benches	Accessibility and sustainability
	Peasley, Coolidge/Elgin	• Install privacy fencing	Modernize park infrastructure
	Reynolds	• Install shade structure over picnic area, play structure, and benches	Accessibility and sustainability
LOW	New facility	• Create a walking / running path along the edge of the Rackham Golf Course	Accessibility and sustainability
	Alligator, Men's Club Field, Val Jones	• Install accessible entrances and pathways	Accessibility and sustainability
	All Parks / Facilities	• Install permeable pavement when constructing or updating paths and parking facilities	Accessibility and sustainability
	11 Mile and Huntington, Mary Kay Davis	• Install bike parking	Inclusivity and accessibility
	Scotia, 11 Mile and Huntington	• Install bike repair facilities	Inclusivity and accessibility
	Scotia, Lincoln / Pembroke / Concord	• Plant pollinator gardens or rain gardens with aesthetic landscaping and educational plaques	Accessibility and sustainability
	Alligator, Coolidge / Elgin, Peasley, Burton	• Update play equipment	Modernize park infrastructure
	Reynolds	• Install permanent restrooms	Accessibility and sustainability



Val Jones Skate Park



Huntington Woods Pool



Reynolds Park



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Chapter 4

THE HUNTINGTON WOODS COMMUNITY TODAY

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The City of Huntington Woods is a bedroom community located north - northwest of downtown Detroit. Woodward Avenue extends from Detroit into the suburbs and runs along Huntington Woods' eastern border. Woodward Avenue also connects Huntington Woods to Pontiac, the Oakland County seat, approximately 13 miles to the northwest. Huntington Woods borders Oak Park, Royal Oak, Berkley, and Pleasant Ridge and is within a few miles of Birmingham and Ferndale.

Major roads afford Huntington Woods a ready connection with the entire southeast Michigan region. The I-696 freeway defines the City's southern boundary, and provides a link with other highways including I-75, I-94, I-275, I-96, and US-24 (Telegraph Road). Eleven Mile Road along Huntington Woods' northern border and Coolidge Highway along the City's western edge connect Huntington Woods to neighboring communities.



DEMOGRAPHICS

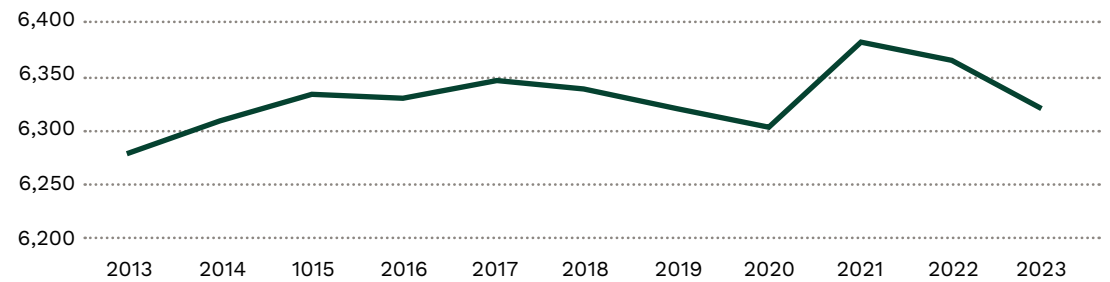
The Huntington Woods community's current demographics help to inform the strengths and opportunities of the Recreation Department as well as the types of amenities, programming, and facilities to channel investment towards for the next 5+ years.

Population & Households:

Huntington Woods experienced rapid growth following World War II, with the City's population peaking at 8,536 in the 1970s. The City experienced a fairly rapid decline in the 70s and 80s before stabilizing at roughly 6,200 residents in the early 2000s.

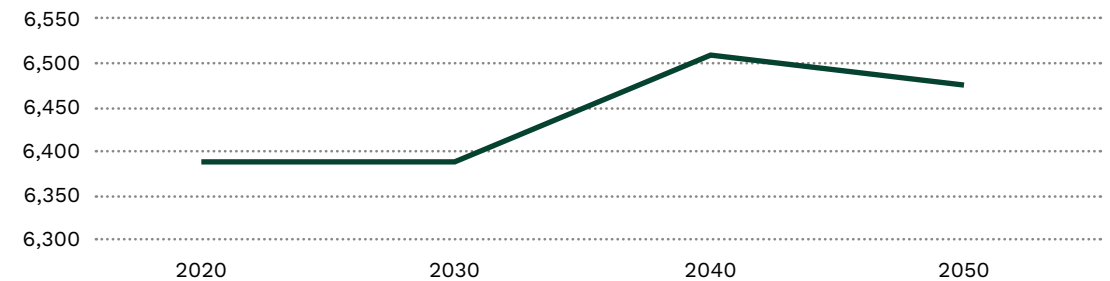
Over the past decade, Huntington Woods has demonstrated a slight increase between 2013 and 2023. According to U.S. Census Data, Huntington Woods had a population of 6,322 in 2023. SEMCOG estimates the population to increase to 6,476 by 2050.

Figure 5: Population Trends, Huntington Woods, 2013 to 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table S0101, 2013-2023

Figure 6: Population Projections, Huntington Woods, 2020 to 2050



Source: SEMCOG Forecast Projections



Household Size:

Table 2: Average Household Size, 2013- 2023

	2013	2023	% CHANGE 2013-2023
Huntington Woods	2.68	2.72	1.5%
Oakland County	2.47	2.38	-3.6%
Michigan	2.53	2.43	-4.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census Estimates 2013-2023; American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2013, 2023, Table S1101

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2023, S0101



Age

Huntington Woods is shifting towards an older populace. In contrast, the population over 65 is expected to increase greatly. This aging of the population may pose the City with challenges in the future related to aging in place, programming, and services geared towards older population needs. An aging population requires different types of recreation programming and facilities. It also can require the City to anticipate the need to attract younger families into the community in the future.

Table 3: Age Structure, 2023

HUNTINGTON WOODS		
Median Age		43.8
	COUNT	%
Total Population	6,322	100%
Under 5 years	361	5.7%
5 to 9 years	486	7.7%
10 to 14 years	334	5.3%
15 to 19 years	436	6.9%
20 to 24 years	272	4.3%
25 to 29 years	270	4.3%
30 to 34 years	232	3.7%
35 to 39 years	405	6.4%
40 to 44 years	425	6.7%
45 to 49 years	521	8.2%
50 to 54 years	633	10.0%
55 to 59 years	435	6.9%
60 to 64 years	427	6.8%
65 to 69 years	275	4.3%
70 to 74 years	338	5.3%
75 to 79 years	236	3.7%
80 to 84 years	160	2.5%
85 years and over	76	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2023, S0101

Table 4: Forecasted Population Change, 2050

HUNTINGTON WOODS		
Median Age		
	COUNT	% CHANGE 2020-2050
Total Population	6,476	1.4%
Under 5 years	298	-18.4%
5 to 17 years	1,235	-2.8%
18 to 24 years	359	-16.3%
25 to 64 years	3,100	-0.4%
65 to 84 years	1,281	14.1%
85 years and over	203	128.1%

Source: SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast



Age & Households

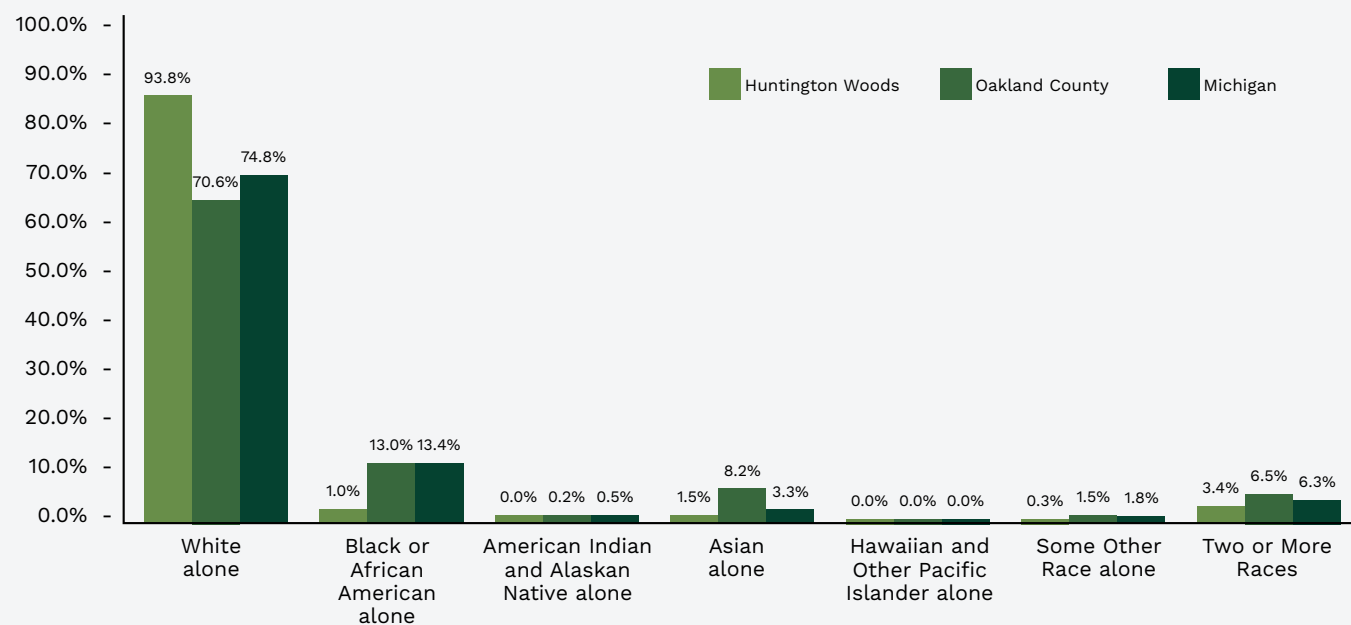
Table 5: Age and Households

HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OR MORE PEOPLE 65 YEARS AND OVER			HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OR MORE PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS	
	Count	%	Count	%
Huntington Woods	743	32.0%	805	34.6%
Berkley	1689	24.6%	1635	23.9%
Royal Oak	6777	23.1%	5168	17.6%
Oak Park	3620	28.5%	2909	22.9%
Pleasant Ridge	338	28.8%	300	25.6%
Oakland County	164041	31.0%	142387	26.9%
Michigan	1303759	32.3%	1105841	27.4%

Diversity

As of 2023, Huntington Woods hosts a predominantly white population at 93.8%. Compared to the County and State, the City shows a higher distribution of white population and lower distribution of other racial categories.

Figure 7: Diversity



Disability

As seen in the table below, 372 people in Huntington Woods indicated that they experience at least one disability. The Census Bureau defines each disability category as shown below:

- » **Ambulatory Difficulty:** Having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (DPHY).
- » **Cognitive Difficulty:** Due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions (DREM).
- » **Employment Disability:** Due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, the person has difficulty working at a job or business.
- » **Hearing Difficulty:** Deaf or having serious difficulty hearing (DEAR).
- » **Independent Living Difficulty:** Due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping (DOUT).
- » **Self-care Difficulty:** Having difficulty bathing or dressing (DDRS).
- » **Sensory Disability:** Conditions that include blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment. Used in the Americans with Disabilities report series.

Of the disabilities listed, a slight majority of the population experience hearing difficulties at 36.8%, making up 2.2% of the total population. Next, 32.5% of the disability population experience ambulatory difficulties and 25% experience cognitive difficulties. The remaining disability categories make up 20% or less of the disabled population with independent living difficulty at 20.4%, self-care difficulty at 17.5%, and vision difficulty at 11.6%. Compared to Oakland County, Huntington Woods generally displays a slightly lower percentage of people with disabilities. In terms of the distribution of disability categories within the disability population, Huntington Woods also displays a slightly lower distribution of disabilities, except for hearing difficulties. As a whole, Huntington Woods displays a lower distribution of people with disabilities compared to the County.

By assessing the different abilities of the Huntington Woods population, the City can better provide tailored services, programs, and opportunities based on the needs of the population.

Table 6: Population with Disabilities, 2023

HUNTINGTON WOODS				OAKLAND COUNTY		
Population with a Disability	372			144,691		
	Count	% of Total Population	% of Disability Population	Count	% of Total Population	% of Disability Population
Total Population	6,322	100%	100%	1,272,294	100%	100%
With a hearing difficulty	137	2.2%	36.8%	38,858	3.1%	26.9%
With a vision difficulty	43	0.7%	11.6%	22,960	1.8%	15.9%
With a cognitive difficulty	93	1.5%	25.0%	55,855	4.4%	38.6%
With an ambulatory difficulty	121	1.9%	32.5%	69,341	5.5%	47.9%
With a self-care difficulty	65	1.0%	17.5%	27,044	2.1%	18.7%
With an independent living difficulty	76	1.2%	20.4%	54,161	4.3%	37.4%



Education Levels

Huntington Woods' population displays a high level of education attainment. Over 80% (82.2%) of the populace holds a Bachelor's degree or higher. This is just over 30% more than the Oakland County levels of 50.2%. Additionally, almost the entire population (99.1%) that is 25 years old or older is a high school graduate or higher. Lastly, the number of Huntington Woods' residents with a graduate or professional degree exceeds the population having only a bachelor's degree.

Table 7: Educational Attainment, 2023

	HUNTINGTON WOODS		OAKLAND COUNTY	
	Count	%	Count	%
Population 25 years and over	4,433	100.0%	911,236	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	22	0.5%	17,147	1.9%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	16	0.4%	29,039	3.2%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	212	4.8%	162,021	17.8%
Some college, no degree	289	6.5%	170,576	18.7%
Associate's degree	251	5.7%	74,938	8.2%
Bachelor's degree	1,642	37.0%	258,455	28.4%
Graduate or professional degree	2,001	45.1%	199,060	21.8%
High school graduate or higher	4,395	99.1%	865,050	94.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,643	82.2%	457,515	50.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2023 Table S1501

Income and Poverty Levels

Huntington Woods' median household income of \$188,229 is considered higher than that of the comparative and peer communities. The City's households had a median family income of \$206,250.00. The per capita income is \$83,745.00, which is the second highest income.

According to the Five-Year American Community Survey, the percent below poverty level was 1.6% in 2023. This compares to 7.7% for Oakland County as a whole.

Table 8: Income and Poverty, 2023

	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME	PER CAPITA INCOME	PERCENT BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
	2023	2023	2023	2023
Huntington Woods	\$188,229.00	\$206,250.00	\$83,745.00	1.6%
Berkley	\$113,103.00	\$136,510.00	\$59,854.00	4.7%
Royal Oak	\$95,182.00	\$ 132,707.00	\$63,040.00	6.0%
Oak Park	\$65,882.00	\$75,240.00	\$37,249.00	14.2%
Pleasant Ridge	\$161,058.00	\$ 206,667.00	\$89,539.00	2.0%
Oakland County	\$ 95,296.00	\$125,653.00	\$55,114.00	7.7%
Michigan	\$71,149.00	\$90,947.00	\$39,538.00	13.1%
			B19301: 2023 Inflation-adjusted	
	S1901:2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars		Dollars	S1701

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2023



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Chapter 5

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

City Structure

The City Commission is the primary group which plans and approves parks and recreation development in the City. The City Commission establishes the budget for parks and recreation and appoints The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of nine members to advise them on policy matters related to the operation of the parks and recreation services. The City Manager implements the policy decisions of the City Commission and assigns the responsibility for the administration of parks and recreation services to the Parks and Recreation Director.

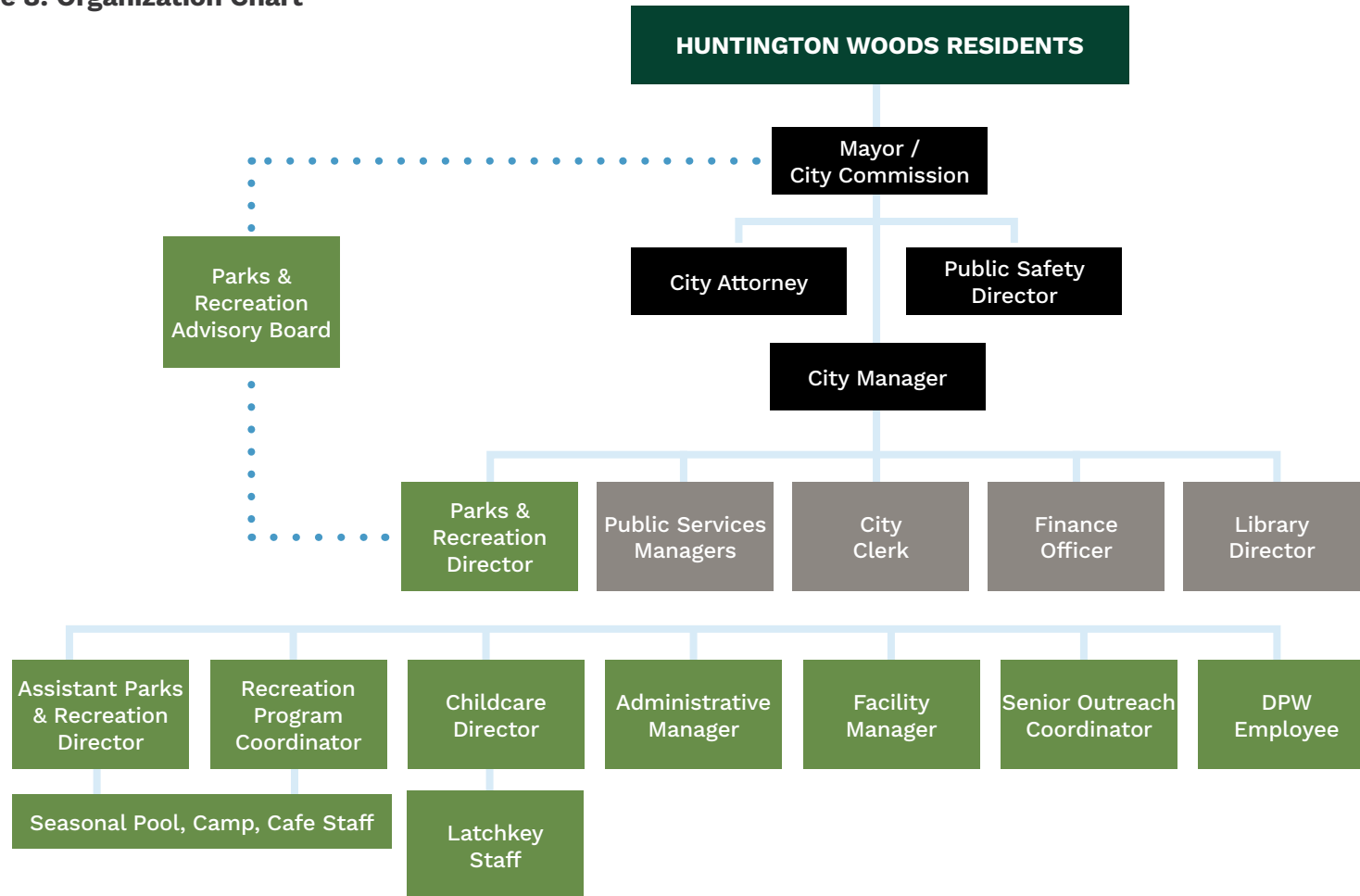


Administration

The Huntington Woods Parks and Recreation Department was originally established in 1942. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was established in 1970 for the immediate purpose of devising the first Parks and Recreation Master Plan (1971-1976), which put emphasis on the development of the City's parks. As of 2025, the Arts and Garden Advisory Board has merged with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Parks and Recreation Department is headed by a Director, who oversees the department as a whole and is assisted by seven full-time professional staff members and countless part-time staff. The Assistant Parks & Recreation Director oversees the City newsletter, classes, staff supervision and administrative duties. The Recreation Programmer is responsible for the aquatics facility, sport programs and special events. The Childcare Director oversees the latchkey, preschool and summer camp programs. The Administrative Manager handles payroll, program registrations, building scheduling and general office operations. The Facility Manager is responsible for the setting up and taking down of classes and overall maintenance of the building. The Senior Outreach Coordinator organizes a variety of programs for seniors such as the senior transportation program and a weekly lunch and speaker program. In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the parks department will contribute fifty percent of the salary of a DPW employee to dedicate 50% of their time specifically to park maintenance. Numerous part-time employees are an essential part of the Parks and Recreation Department. They include latchkey staff, pool staff, camp counselors, and Café staff.

City Organizational Chart

Figure 8: Organization Chart



Community Partnerships

Volunteers, service clubs, and community groups play an active role in supporting the high quality facilities and services provided by the City of Huntington Woods. There are about 20 clubs and organizations that contribute to parks and recreation in Huntington Woods. The following are just a few of the many groups that actively support the Parks and Recreation Department:

- » The Huntington Woods Men's Club, a civic organization with over 100 members who support funding to special projects in the City;
- » Friends of the Huntington Woods Library;
- » Burton PTA, a volunteer organization whose activities primarily support and enhance Burton School;
- » The Huntington Woods Women's League, which is dedicated to promoting civic, cultural, educational and social welfare services in the City;
- » Huntington Woods Aquatics Club;
- » Teen Council;
- » The Adopt-A-Garden program;
- » Boy Scouts; and
- » Several babysitting co-ops: Babes in the Woods, Baby-sitting Co-op, and Tots About Town



Annual Budget and Funding Sources

Funding for parks and recreation activities in the City of Huntington Woods is generally supported by a tax levy for the purpose of maintaining facilities, the City's General Fund, user fees, and grants. A budget summary is presented in Table 9.

Program expenditures account for the majority of the departmental expenditures (44%), followed by administrative expenditures consisting primarily of personnel salaries and benefits (33%), and swimming pool expenditures (17%). Revenues are generated primarily from program fees and the City's General Fund.

Table 9: Current Budget Summary

	2024-2025 AMENDED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED
Revenues		
Tax Revenue	\$82,300	\$90,510
State Revenue Sharing	\$70	\$100
Special Programs	\$9,000	\$10,000
Recreation/Dream Cruise	\$6,500	\$5,000
Recreation/Dream Cruise	\$6,500	\$5,000
JULY 4th ACTIVITIES	\$1,500	\$1,500
Pre K	\$150,000	\$140,000
Fees And Rentals	\$7,000	\$18,000
Pool	\$280,000	\$300,000
League Fees	\$35,000	\$35,000
Classes And Trips	\$145,000	\$170,000
Senior Programs	\$11,000	\$11,000
Latchkey	\$275,000	\$250,000
Camp Fees	\$325,000	\$600,000
Interest Income	\$50,000	\$70,000
Bus Revenue	\$10,000	\$25,000
Transfer General Fund	\$610,000	\$800,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,500	\$1,000
Total Revenue	\$2,000,120	\$2,527,110
Expenses		
City Bus	\$52,690	\$66,180
Administration	\$807,830	\$819,130
Programs	\$1,045,850	\$998,120
Parks	\$152,000	\$202,000
Swimming Pool	\$422,370	\$434,710
Total Revenue	\$2,480,740	\$2,520,140



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Chapter 6
**SYSTEMS &
FACILITIES
ANALYSIS**

Facilities

This section compares Huntington Woods' parks and recreation facilities with national benchmarks for provision of facilities. In 2020, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) introduced a nationwide benchmarking tool known as NRPA Park Metrics. Each year, NRPA releases the Agency Performance Review, summarizing benchmarking data from 1,000 park and recreation agencies in the Park Metrics database. This database categorizes data by the size of the served jurisdiction. NRPA Park Metrics offers a comparison of Huntington Woods' parks and recreation facilities with data from similar-sized communities, providing a valuable perspective. This data is a foundation and will be complemented by community-specific insights and experiences to determine the best combination of facilities.

Indoor Facilities Analysis

Compared to communities of a similar size, Huntington Woods' programming far exceeds standard offerings. While their only indoor facility is the Gillham Recreation Center, the center serves as a gym, community center, senior center, teen/youth center, locker rooms for the aquatic center, and a space for programming. Not only is the recreation center facility a well-resourced, multi-purpose center but the programs it offers exceed the programming expectations for a community of this size. The main area where Huntington Woods could improve its indoor facilities offerings would be installing permanent restrooms in some parks as suggested by residents during community engagement sessions. Otherwise, the recreation center is an excellent, multi-functional indoor facility.

Table 10 shows the types of indoor facilities that are recommended, whether they are present in Huntington Woods, and the number recommended for a community the size of Huntington Woods. Additionally, the Huntington Woods Public Library is not included in this assessment, but offers free public restrooms, community space, and additional programming.

Table 10: Indoor Facilities Analysis using 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review^a

FACILITY TYPE	PERCENT OF AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE FACILITY	PRESENCE OF FACILITY IN HUNTINGTON WOODS	MEDIAN NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER FACILITY	NUMBER OF FACILITIES RECOMMENDED ^a	NUMBER OF FACILITIES CURRENTLY IN HUNTINGTON WOODS
Recreation centers	63%	Yes	9,875	0.6	1
Community centers	60%	Yes	10,000	0.6	1
Permanent restrooms	52%	Yes	2,359	2.7	1
Amphitheaters	43%	No	10,686	0.6	0
Senior centers	41%	Yes	13,966	0.5	1
Nature centers	35%	No	8,832	0.7	0
Aquatic centers	30%	Yes	13,933	0.5	1
Stadiums	19%	No	9,857	0.6	0
Indoor ice rinks	12%	No	8,054	0.8	0
Teen centers	11%	Yes	15,475	0.4	1
Arenas	9%	No	9,402	0.7	0

^aCalculated by dividing the total population of Huntington Woods (6,345 as of July 2024; U.S. Census Bureau) by the median number of residents served by the agencies in the under 20,000 population range (compiled by the National Recreation and Parks Association).

^bCommunity center, permanent restrooms, senior center, aquatic center, and teen center are all part of the Gillham Recreation Center and should not be counted as separate facilities.



Gilham Recreation Center

Outdoor Facilities Analysis

Huntington Woods meets or exceeds the needs of residents for most outdoor park and recreation facilities as shown in table 11. There is potential for single use courts such as volleyball courts. The facilities that are not currently in Huntington Woods have more specific uses such as ice rinks, water parks and racquetball/handball/squash courts. They also are not provided by as many peer communities, as evidenced by the lower percentage of agencies that provide the facility. In addition to this analysis outdoor recreation needs may be met by private facilities or nearby parks in adjacent cities.



Table 11: Outdoor Facilities Analysis using 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review

FACILITY TYPE	PERCENT OF AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE FACILITY	PRESENCE OF FACILITY IN HUNTINGTON WOODS	MEDIAN NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER FACILITY	NUMBER OF FACILITIES RECOMMENDED ^A	NUMBER OF FACILITIES CURRENTLY IN HUNTINGTON WOODS
Playgrounds	94%	Yes	2,000	3.2	4
Basketball courts*	85%	No	4,479	1.4	0
Diamond fields	80%	Yes	1,958	3.2	2
Rectangular fields	77%	Yes	2,578	2.5	2
Tennis courts*	74%	No	3,500	1.8	0
Dog parks	70%	No	10,188	0.6	0
Community garden plots	54%	Yes	8,800	0.7	1
Swimming pools	49%	Yes	9,745	0.7	1
Skate parks	47%	Yes	10,776	0.6	1
Pickleball courts*	45%	Yes	3,483	1.8	1
Volleyball courts*	41%	No	7,057	0.9	0
Fitness zones+	39%	Yes	8,274	0.8	1
Multiuse courts [^]	38%	No	3,900	1.6	0
Splash pads+	38%	Yes	13,391	0.5	1
Multiuse racquet courts [^]	38%	Yes	4,659	1.4	6
Walking/Running tracks+	38%	Yes	6,129	1.0	1
Disc golf courses	35%	No	9,402	0.7	0
Driving range stations	31%	No	3,548	1.8	0
18-hole golf courses	31%	Yes	11,904	0.5	1
Synthetic fields+	17%	No	11,028	0.6	0
Ice rinks	17%	No	8,338	0.8	0
9-hole golf courses	16%	No	17,500	0.4	0
Waterparks	12%	No	17,125	0.4	0
Racquetball/Handball/ Squash courts	9%	No	14,000	0.5	0

^ACalculated by dividing the total population of Huntington Woods (6,345 as of July 2024; U.S. Census Bureau) by the median number of residents served by the agencies in the under 20,000 population range (compiled by the National Recreation and Parks Association).

*Dedicated to a single sport (not multiuse).

+Fitness zones/exercise stations; splashpads/spray grounds/spray showers; walking/running tracks/loops; synthetic rectangular fields

[^]Multiuse courts: basketball, volleyball, etc.; multiuse racquet courts: tennis, pickleball, etc. (excluding racquetball/handball/squash courts)

Inclusion

Accessibility Evaluation of Existing Facilities

In Huntington Woods, assessing the accessibility of current park facilities is crucial for ensuring that all residents can fully benefit from the community's indoor and outdoor recreation spaces. Parks are important spaces for encouraging physical activity, improving mental health and fostering social connections. However, barriers such as cracked pathways, outdated playground equipment, or limited ADA accessible parking and paths can hinder the inclusivity of these recreation spaces. Accessibility issues can affect a large variety of individuals, some examples include: a mother using a stroller, a kid with a broken ankle, an individual in a wheelchair, or an elderly grandparent with a walking aid. Accessibility enhancements serve both individuals with disabilities and the general population which at some stage in their life will find themselves in need of a more accessible environment.

Conducting a thorough accessibility assessment allows Huntington Woods to identify areas for improvement, assess opportunities for increasing accessibility and create spaces that serve everyone. A more equitable community fosters well-being and contributes to a more vibrant public realm.

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 Huntington Woods' parks and recreation facilities was conducted as part of the inventory in the summer of 2025. 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 hearing impairment or is deaf
- » Uses a walking aid
- » Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system, based on MDNR planning guidelines for accessibility, was used to rank each of the indoor and outdoor facility's accessibility ranging from Level 1 (lowest score – not accessible) to Level 5 (highest score – universally accessible) as described in the table below.

Level 1	This park does not meet any of the accessibility guidelines. The park is not accessible to individuals with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes minimal paved areas and the facilities such as picnic areas and play equipment are not accessible.
Level 2	Some facilities at this park meet accessibility guidelines. The park is somewhat accessible to individuals 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	Most facilities at this park meet accessibility guidelines. The park is mostly accessible to individuals with a broad range of physical disabilities. While some of the play equipment or picnic areas are accessible and most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, the space may not be completely barrier-free.
Level 4	All facilities at this park meet accessibility guidelines. The park is completely accessible to individuals with a broad range of physical disabilities. Play equipment and picnic areas are mostly accessible and parking areas and pathways are paved.
Level 5	The entire park was designed using the principles of universal design. This design approach enables all spaces to be usable by everyone, regardless of age, ability or situation. Efforts to achieve universal design were made to the greatest extent possible.



Table 12: Accessibility Rating of Parks and Recreation Facilities (with Parking), 2025

	PARK NAME	ACCESSIBILITY SCORE	COMMENTS	PARKING	# OF ADA SPACES
Level 1	Alligator Park	1	No perimeter sidewalks. Curb cuts do not connect to internal pathway. No internal pathway to sandbox.	No	-
	Men's Club Field	1	No perimeter or internal sidewalks, amenities not accessible.	No	-
Level 2	Coolidge / Elgin Park	2	Perimeter sidewalks, internal sidewalk to seating area only.	No	-
	Lincoln / Pembroke / Concord Park	2	Perimeter sidewalks only, no sidewalk to seating areas.	No	-
	Peasley Park	2	Perimeter sidewalks, internal sidewalk to seating area, play structures and field, but amenities not accessible.	No	-
	Statue Park	2	Perimeter sidewalks only, no internal sidewalks.	No	-
	Val Jones Park	2	Perimeter sidewalks, ADA van accessible parking, no internal sidewalks.	Yes	1
	11 Mile / Huntington Park	3	Perimeter sidewalks, ADA van accessible parking, no internal sidewalk to pickleball court or community garden.	Yes	1
Level 3	Burton Elementary School	3	Perimeter sidewalks, ADA van accessible parking, internal sidewalks to play structures and field, but amenities are not accessible.	Yes	3
	Gillham Recreation Center & Aquatic Club	3	Perimeter and internal sidewalks, ADA van accessible parking, no internal sidewalk to all tennis court entrances.	Yes	3
	Lincoln / Scotia Park	3	Perimeter sidewalks and internal sidewalks to some amenities, but not all.	No	-
	Mary Kay Davis	3	Perimeter sidewalks and internal sidewalks to gazebo and seating areas, but not all.	No	-
	Reynolds Park	3	Perimeter sidewalks, ADA van accessible parking, internal sidewalks to picnic areas, play structures and adult fitness equipment, but play structures are not accessible.	Yes	2
	Gordon Hassig Senior Park	4	Perimeter and internal sidewalks to all facilities. All amenities are accessible.	No	-

How Can Huntington Woods Be More Inclusive?

The universal design of parks is a key mechanism for ensuring all individuals, regardless of age or ability, can enjoy the parks and recreation facilities in Huntington Woods. To implement universal design several key strategies should be considered:

- » Accessible Trails and Pathways: Developing accessible trails and pathways that allow for access to and between park facilities allows everyone to explore and enjoy the natural environment. Pathways should have curb cuts that are accessible from parking areas and crosswalks.
- » Inclusive Play Areas: The incorporation of universal design into playground equipment allows for children of all abilities to engage in play together. Best practices for inclusive playgrounds should include elements that touch upon a mixture of physical, social-emotional, sensory, cognitive and communication benefits.
- » Pop Up Play: Life sized board games or permanent yard games such as corn-hole, ping pong or ladder toss provide opportunity for inter-generational play. These games engage teens and young adults, who often do not have park specific features that cater to them.
- » Shade and Shelter: Providing an increased number of shade structures and shelters in Huntington Woods' parks and recreation areas with accessible seating areas allows park visitors to take refuge from the sun or rain.
- » Rest Areas and Seating: Installing rest areas and seating at regular intervals throughout parks accommodates individuals with varying mobility needs.
- » Restrooms: Installation of permanent restrooms that are ADA accessible in heavily used parks allows for increased length of stay for individuals using the park.



Sustainability

Why Plan for Sustainability in Huntington Woods Parks?

The climate of Huntington Woods and southeast Michigan is influenced by its location within the urban “heat island” of metro Detroit. There have already been noticeable health impacts as temperatures rise, leading to more dangerously hot days, and pollution increases. The more natural vegetation is replaced with buildings and pavement, the hotter the city gets.

How we design our communities may also determine how well we cope with climate change in the future. Adding new trees in parks is one of the simplest ways to help fight the urban heat island effect. It is also wise to retain and protect existing trees, since their wide, mature leaf canopies provide ample cooling and they are much less costly than planting new trees. The type and position of new trees can also be planned to maximize cooling benefits—researchers found that planting deciduous trees to the west of a high-heat surface (parking lot, building, etc.) was the most effective method for shading and cooling.

Impervious (vegetated) surfaces that capture stormwater are now considered a part of the stormwater infrastructure system because they help control floods and naturally cleanse dirty rainwater. Instead of flowing straight to stormwater infrastructure, the water is slowed down by the vegetation and absorbed back into the soil. These features are referred to as green infrastructure (or bioretention)—rain gardens, wetlands, and swales are some of the features that improve water quality and make the community more attractive. As a bonus, these features also provide urban wildlife habitat and lower air temperatures.

A majority of Huntington Woods parks feature at least one environmentally friendly design element, but the abundance and variety of features can be improved:

Table 13: Current Sustainability Elements in Huntington Woods Parks

	NUMBER OF PARKS	PERCENTAGE
Parks with Gardens / Decorative Planters	9	64%
Parks with Bicycle Facilities	6	43%
Parks with Designated Native Planting Areas	2	14%
Parks with Recycling Facilities	12	86%
Parks with Green Stormwater Infrastructure	1	<1%

While some parks have a high percentage of tree canopy coverage others do not. Areas with large parking lots tend to have greater resulting heat island effect that should be mitigated with increased tree canopy coverage, such as Gilham Recreation Center & Aquatic Club and Burton Elementary School.

Table 14: Tree Canopy Coverage in Huntington Woods Parks

PARK	TREE CANOPY COVERAGE
11 mile / Huntington Park	24%
Alligator Park	63%
Burton Elementary School	18%
Coolidge / Elgin Park	61%
Gillham Recreation Center & Aquatic Club	16%
Gordon Hassig Senior Park	66%
Lincoln / Pembroke / Concord Park	46%
Lincoln / Scotia Park	15%
Mary Kay Davis Park	54%
Men's Club Field	4%
Peasley Park	49%
Reynolds Park	31%
Statue Park	58%
Val Jones Skate Park	35%



Scotia Park



Strategic Opportunities for Improvement

City-wide initiatives that are opportunities to advance sustainability in parks in the next 5-10 years include:

- 1. Increase Tree Canopy:** Prioritize perimeter trees, shade for facilities. Trees provide several valuable services, from cleaning the air to shielding people from hot temperatures.
- 2. Native and Low-Maintenance Plantings:** Attempt to plant only native plants in any new landscaping. Low-maintenance plantings do not require mowing, fertilizing, or irrigation to survive and are typically chosen based on their attractive appearance and resistance to extreme weather.
- 3. Bicycle Facilities:** In addition to more bicycle parking, deploy repair stations systematically to accommodate cyclists. Amenities that encourage biking and other non-motorized transportation help encourage more active and sustainable living.
- 4. Permeable Pavements:** Paving surfaces that are made of porous material or contain nonporous blocks spaced so that water can flow between the gaps enables stormwater to flow through it addressing flooding/drainage issues. In parking lots porous pavement can significantly reduce stormwater runoff.
- 5. Green Stormwater Infrastructure:** Rain gardens, trees, green roofs and other plantings that filter water, reduce the heat island effect and address flooding/drainage issues.

Adopt-a-Garden Maintenance Recommendations

To ensure that adopt-a-gardens remain well maintained the following best practices are recommended for improving maintenance coordination:

1. Create a spreadsheet containing information such as the location, plants species, and adopter of each garden.
2. Require that adopters of the gardens inform the program manager of their maintenance schedule.
3. Create an information page on the Huntington Woods website that gives residents more information about the program, which gardens are currently adopted, the requirements for being an adopter and garden maintenance schedules.
4. Place signage at each adopt-a-garden with information of who the adopter is that maintains the space and a QR code to learn more about the program and get in contact with the manager of the adopt-a-garden program.
5. Implement a transfer protocol after a certain period of time for gardens that are abandoned or no longer being maintained.

Native Plant Species Recommendations

Native plantings offer ecosystem services in suburban communities whether these habitats look like landscaping, rain gardens or green roofs etc. Native species have a key benefit of needing less care and water than other species once established in an environment. Native plantings, however, might have longer establishment times and greater initial costs that can be discouraging. Southeast Michigan has a large variety of native plant species with different sizes, colors, and thrive periods.

The following recommendations are made to ensure the successful use of native plantings in Huntington Woods:

- » Replace plants that are overgrown, aging, or diseased with native species after each season
- » Decrease pesticide use to increase pollination
- » Phase out the use of exotic plants that might be considered reliable or prolific as they can be potentially invasive and do not contribute to native biodiversity
- » Choose plant species that have blooming times that are attractive to beneficial insects
- » Plant flowers in clumps and choose different species to provide bloom through the season
- » Use native grasses for structural support
- » Consider the current state of the environment (soil type, pH, moisture, and light availability) when establishing native plants
- » Select plant species that match the conditions of the site



Chapter 7

PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY



Recreation and Inventory Collection Process

Description of Parks and Facilities

An inventory of existing facilities was conducted throughout the summer of 2025. The inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections at each of the 13 park sites, as well as the indoor facilities and consultation with the community about strengths and deficiencies within the Parks. This inventory of facilities includes the following attributes for each park: name, location, acreage, amenities and their quantity, inventory of sustainable features, accessibility assessment and feedback/opportunities.

Each of the 14 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 into the 5- and 10-year action plans.

Classifications of Recreation Amenities

Each of Huntington Woods' 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 Huntington Woods' 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.



Inventory of Sustainable Features

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



Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)



Recycling Facilities



Gardens and Landscaping



Bicycle Facilities



Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Accessibility Assessment

An evaluation of Huntington Woods' 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 are detailed in Chapter 6.



This park does not meet any of the accessibility guidelines. The park is not accessible to individuals with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes minimal paved areas and the facilities such as picnic areas and play equipment are not accessible.



Some facilities at this park meet accessibility guidelines. The park is somewhat accessible to individuals 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.



Most facilities at this park meet accessibility guidelines. The park is mostly accessible to individuals with a broad range of physical disabilities. While some of the play equipment or picnic areas are accessible and most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, the space may not be completely barrier-free.



All facilities at this park meet accessibility guidelines. The park is completely accessible to individuals with a broad range of physical disabilities. Play equipment and picnic areas are mostly accessible and parking areas and pathways are paved.

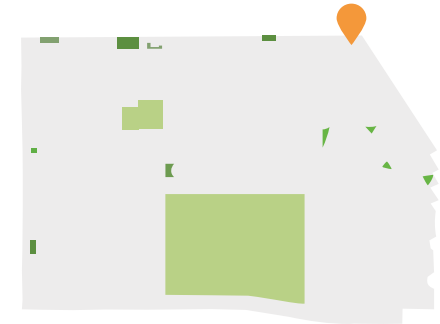


The entire park was designed using the principles of universal design. This design approach enables all spaces to be usable by everyone, regardless of age, ability or situation. Efforts to achieve universal design were made to the greatest extent possible.

Community Park

11 Mile / Huntington Park

Corner of W 11 Mile Rd. and Huntington Rd.



0.9 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Install bike parking
- » Renovate tennis courts
- » Shield lighting
- » Replace/maintain community garden
- » Update pickleball courts

Community Gardens in Suburban Settings

Community involvement is one of Huntington Woods' greatest strengths and community gardens offer further opportunities for building community. They provide space for residents to come together and socialize while practicing environmental stewardship. The benefits of community gardens in suburban settings include:

- » Community building
- » Ecological education
- » Physical and mental health improvement
- » Community beautification
- » Local ecosystems and wildlife support

We recommend that the Parks and Recreation department create a volunteer system for the community garden at 11 Mile / Huntington Park and ensure plot owners meet certain standards of upkeep of their plots. Organizing community-wide gardening events would be another way to increase community involvement and build interest in the community garden.

Accessibility Ranking:



Located on the northeast corner of Huntington Woods, 11 Mile / Huntington Park is primarily used for active recreation on the tennis and pickle ball courts. The northeast corner of the park has a community garden. The programming at this park includes tennis and pickleball lessons. In the winter months, a small hill is used by small children for sledding.

Amenities

- » Bench (4)
- » Community Garden (1)
- » Drinking Fountain (1)
- » Gardening shed and equipment (1)
- » Parking Lot (1)
- » Picnic Table (2)
- » Porta potty (1)
- » Recycling Receptacle (2)
- » Sledding hill (1)
- » Stand-Alone Pickleball court (1)
- » Tennis Courts with pickleball lines (2)
- » Trash Receptacle (2)

Sustainability Inventory

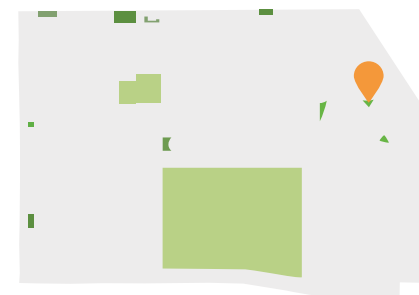
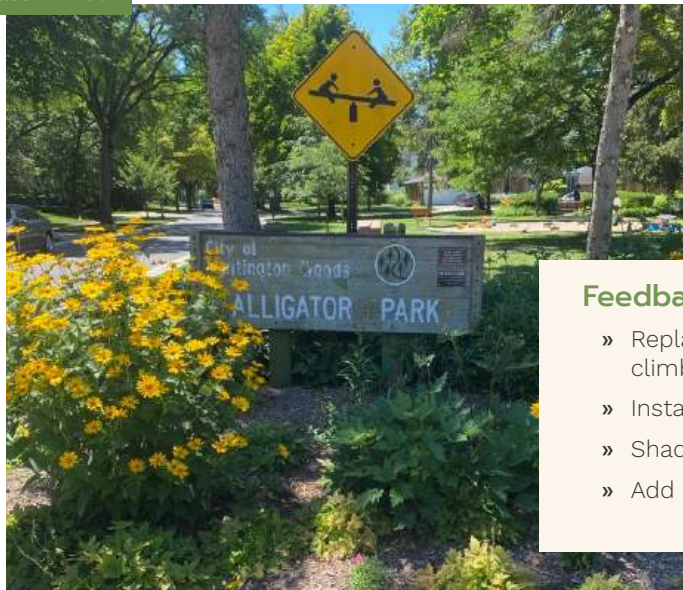
- 24%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
- Yes** - Recycling Facilities
- Yes** - Gardens & Landscaping
- No** - Bicycle Facilities
- No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Community Park

Alligator Park

Intersection of Nadine Ave., Pembroke Rd. and Salem Rd.



0.3 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Replace sandbox (suggestions: playground, climbing structure)
- » Install accessible paths
- » Shade play area
- » Add shaded seating looking towards play area

Accessibility Ranking:



Alligator Park is a triangular property located at the intersection of three streets. No city sidewalks border the park. "Peggy's Garden" is a highlight of this small park that provides benches for admiring the gardens. In the northeast corner of the park is a sandbox frequented by neighborhood children.

Amenities

- » Bench (4)
- » Garden beds (5)
- » Recycling receptacle (1)
- » Sandbox (1)
- » Stone walkway (1)
- » Trash receptacle (2)

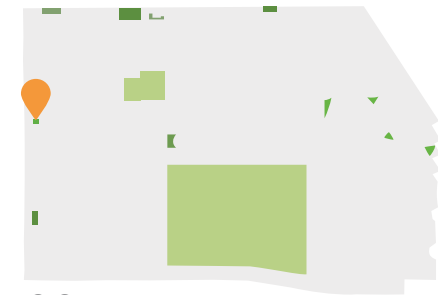
Sustainability Inventory

-  **63%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **No** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Mini Park

Coolidge/Elgin Park Mini Park

Intersection of Nadine Ave., Pembroke Rd. and Salem Rd.



0.2 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Install privacy fencing
- » Install accessible route to play equipment
- » Upgrade benches
- » Plant more trees

Accessibility Ranking:



The Coolidge/Elgin Park Mini Park is primarily a playground lot. Elgin Park was redone in October 2024 and now boasts a larger variety of playground equipment. The area is fenced in, and the entrance is located on Elgin Rd. to the north. To the south the park is bordered by a pharmacy.

Amenities

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| » Benches (3) | » Playground equipment (7) | » Recycling receptacle (1) |
| » Drinking fountain (1) | » Swings (4) | » Trash receptacle (2) |
| » Picnic tables (5) | » Play structure | |

Sustainability Inventory

-  **61%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **No** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **No** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Park & Recreation Facility

Gillham Recreation Center & Aquatic Club

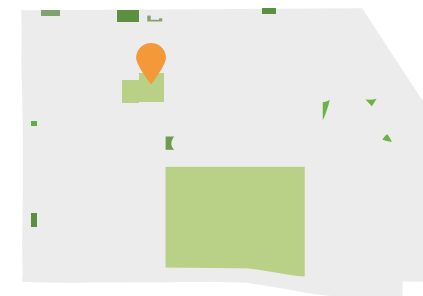
Corner of Talbot Ave. and Scotia Rd.



Accessibility Ranking:



The Gillham Recreation Center is the heart of Huntington Woods and provides a mix of active- and passive-use facilities. Outdoor recreation includes the aquatic club, and the adjacent outdoor grounds. The tennis court outdoor grounds are used for open play, sport leagues, latchkey programs, summer camps and tennis lessons. The indoor recreation center organizes various programs, activities, and events for residents of all age groups from preschoolers to seniors. This programming takes advantage of amenities offered by the recreation center, other Civic Complex facilities, and Huntington Woods parks.



2.7 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Resurface pool
- » Renovate locker rooms
- » Install shade sails, canopy, or pavilion
- » Resurface tennis courts
- » Add programming for teens and adults and improve communication about registration and scheduling
- » Add additional parking for events
- » Other suggestions: movie room, climbing wall, fitness center

Sustainability Inventory

-  **16%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **Yes** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Gillham Recreation Center

Indoor Amenities

- » Gymnasium – sports, special events, rentals, camps – 117 x 71 (8307 square feet)
 - One Basketball Court – 50' x 84'
 - Two Basketball Courts – 30' x 60' ea.
 - Two Volleyball Courts – 30' x 60' ea.
- » Multi-Purpose Room – meetings, rentals, classes, camps – 32 x 43 ½ (1392 square feet)
 - Seats 70 people
 - Kitchenette & water
- » Preschool Rooms (2) – preschool during school year, camps
 - Seats 20 people
 - Low rectangle tables
 - Small children's chairs
 - Sink/counter space
- » Senior Room – rental, senior cards, meetings, lounge – 25 x 13 (325 square feet)
 - Seats 12 people
 - Square card tables (3)
 - Kitchenette: water, microwave, coffee pot
- » The Corner – rental, senior cards, meetings
 - Seats 10 people
 - Card tables (4)
 - Small couch
- » Warming Room – latch key, camps, meetings, programs, rentals, classes
 - Seats 70 people
 - Fireplace

Outdoor Amenities

- » Lighted tennis courts (4)
- » Parking Lot (1)

Programming

The Huntington Woods recreation programming is a major asset and source of pride for the community. The recreation center offers programs for kids and teenagers, provides resources for seniors, and helps build a strong sense of community. The programs offered by the City of Huntington Woods range from summer camps and youth sports to adult fitness, classes for seniors, and community-wide events. For young families programming provides various childcare services and family activities, for teenagers it offers leadership experience and classes, and for seniors it provides both essential services and opportunities for socializing.

The recreation center staff are always listening to the community for ways to enhance their programming and there is currently an opportunity to increase teen-oriented programming and activities as most programs are geared towards younger kids. While programming is organized through the recreation center, programs and events take place in the recreation center, the aquatic center, Burton Field, and various Huntington Woods parks.

Programs, Activities, and Events

» Infants / Kids

- After Camp Care (ACC)
- Before Camp Care (BCC)
- Fruit Camp
- Latchkey
- Preschool and Pre-K Programs
- Tennis Classes
- Specialty Camps (a wide variety of athletic, creative, and learning camps geared towards younger kids)

» Teens

- Junior Counselors (JC)
- Leaders in Training (LIT)
- Leadership, Education, and Development (LEAD)
- Tennis Classes

» Adults

- Basketball Drop-In
- Day Trips
- Pickleball in the Gym
- Pickleball Ladder League
- Tennis Classes
- » Seniors
 - AARP Driver Safety Program
 - Bingo
 - Blood Pressure Checks
 - Home Assistance Repair Program (HARP)
 - Monday Lunch Bunch
 - Movie Matinee

» All Ages

- Concerts in the Park
- Family Night
- Fourth of July Parade and Events
- Movie Under the Stars



Park & Recreation Facility

Gillham Aquatic Club

Corner of Talbot Ave. and Scotia Rd.



Aquatic Club

The aquatic center has many events including competitive swimming, swimming team, swimming lessons, masters swimming class, lap swim, family swimming, water exercise, general swimming, and special events.

Outdoor Amenities

- » Aquatic club (1)
 - Café/snack bar
 - Competitive pool
 - Diving board
 - Leisure pool with zero depth entry
 - Play structure
 - Play area
 - Slide
 - Spray/water features
 - Bubblers
 - Rain wall

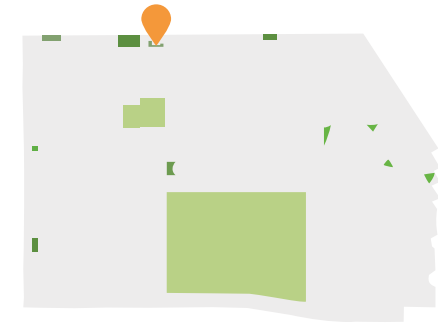
Programs, Activities, and Events

- » Infants / Kids
 - Hurricane Swim Team
 - Tropical Storm Pre-Swim Team
- » Teens
 - Hurricane Swim Team
 - Pool Party
- » Adults
 - Aquafit
- » Seniors
 - Master Level Swim Program
- » All Ages
 - Poolside Movie Night

Neighborhood Park

Gordon Hassig Senior Park

Corner of Scotia Rd. and Kingston Ave.



0.2 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Replace gazebo roof
- » Replace shuffleboard (suggestions: lawn games)
- » Improve pathway between fountain and gazebo area
- » Fix or replace fountain
- » Upgrade benches

Accessibility Ranking:



Gordon Hassig Senior Park is a part of the City Office and DPW complex. Amenities include picnic tables, shuffleboard courts, and a gazebo. The space is often used for senior events including the Fourth of July Senior Lunch. Access and parking to the park are through the City Hall Building.

Amenities

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| » Benches (9) | » Parking (shared with City Offices) (1) | receptacle (1) | » Storage unit for shuffleboard (1) |
| » Fountain (1) | » Picnic tables (4) | » Shuffleboard courts (2) | » Trash receptacle (1) |
| » Gardens (1) | » Recycling | » Small gazebo (1) | |

Sustainability Inventory

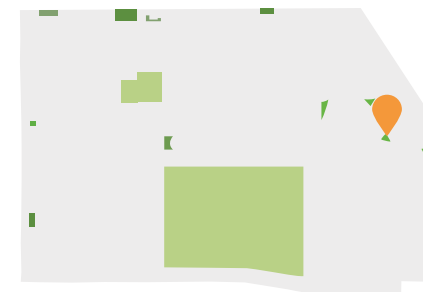
-  **66%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **No** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Community Park

Lincoln/Pembroke/Concord Park

Intersection of Lincoln Dr., Pembroke Rd., and Concord Rd.



0.3 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Remove and update picnic tables
- » Add pollinator garden or native species garden with educational plaques
- » Add plaques with names and descriptions in front of art installations and gardens

Accessibility Ranking:



Lincoln / Pembroke / Concord Park includes landscape beds, benches, trash receptacles and a drinking fountain. The park is bordered on all sides by City sidewalks. The park provides a passive space for enjoying nature.

Amenities

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| » Bench (3) | » Garden bed (4) | » Picnic table (1) | » Trash receptacle (1) |
| » Drinking fountain with hose (1) | » Pet waste station (1) | » Recycling receptacle (1) | » Wooden pole art (6) |

Sustainability Inventory

-  **46%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **No** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Community Park

Lincoln/Scotia Park

Intersection of Lincoln Dr., Scotia Rd. and Vernon Ave.



Accessibility Ranking:



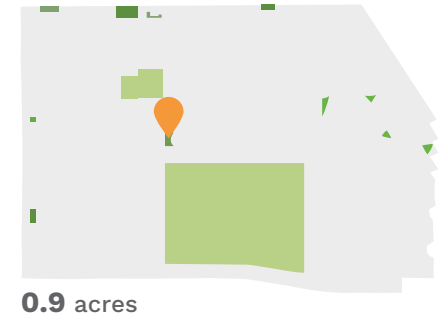
Scotia Park is a tranquil area for scheduling events, engaging in activities or enjoying a stroll. The park often hosts summer concerts on its seasonally available stage and is a central park to the City of Huntington Woods. It is also the central location for Fourth of July festivities. The renovation of the park originally included a rain garden with natural species but after further consideration they were found unsuitable for the park.

Amenities

- » Accessible pathway (1)
- » Benches (4)
- » Bicycle rack (2)
- » Drinking fountain (1)
- » Gardens (2)
- » Little library (1)
- » Picnic tables (4)
- » Recycling receptacle (2)

Sustainability Inventory

-  **15%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **Yes** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure



0.9 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Install teen activities (suggestions: zipline, yard games, climbing structure)
- » Install small amphitheater with naturalized seating
- » Plant trees or install pavilion to add shade, but maintain open space
- » Plant pollinator or native species garden with educational plaques
- » Additional pathways for walking through the park.
- » Other suggestions: hammocks, swing benches



Community Park

Mary Kay Davis Park

Intersection of Lincoln Dr., Dundee Rd., and Hendrie Blvd.



Accessibility Ranking:



Mary Kay Davis Park is also known as “Prom Park” as it hosts Berkley High School students, families and friends that gather to take photos before attending prom. It is a popular space for bench dedications through the “adopt-a-bench” program. It has also been used in the past for movies in the park events.

Amenities

- » Bench (stone and wood) (6)
- » Bike repair station (1)
- » Bird house (1)
- » Drinking fountain (1)
- » Flagpole (1)
- » Garden beds (2)
- » Gazebo (1)
- » Picnic table (3)
- » Recycling receptacle (2)
- » Trash receptacle (2)



0.6 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Install accessible paths to tables and benches
- » Install bike parking
- » Update entrance sign
- » Upgrade benches

Sustainability Inventory

-  **54%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **Yes** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Community Park

Men's Club Field

Along 11 Mile Rd.



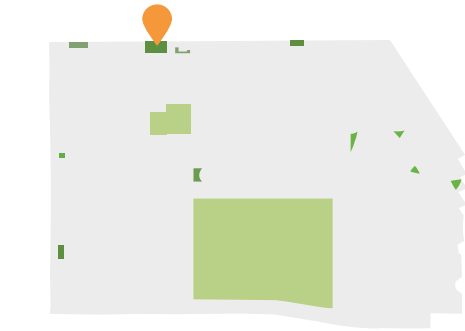
Accessibility Ranking:



The Men's Club Field is a popular park for sporting events including soccer, lacrosse and formerly baseball. The field can accommodate either one large sports field east to west or two smaller sports fields north to south. To the west the park is bordered by the Huntington Woods Lutheran Church and to the east there is a Parks Garage and Department of Public Works. Sporting event attendees tend to utilize the Lutheran Church parking lot. In the winter the field is often used for an outdoor ice rink.

Amenities

- » Bleachers (2)
- » Field Lights (7)
- » Open field reserved for sporting events (1)
- » Parking (owned by the Lutheran Church) (1)
- » Porta Potty (1)
- » Soccer goals (4)



2.3 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Provide accessible entrance
- » Plant perimeter shade trees
- » Update or remove bleachers
- » Add permanent restrooms and drinking fountain
- » Investigate need for drainage
- » Commission mural for back wall
- » Other suggestions: pavilion, skating rink, playground

Sustainability Inventory

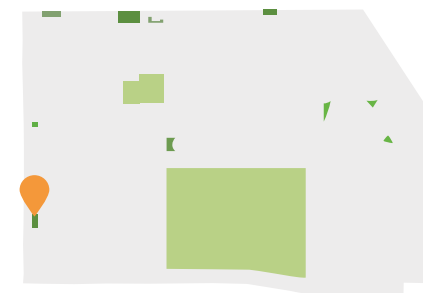
-  **4%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **No** - Recycling Facilities
-  **No** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **No** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Community Park

Peasley Park

Between Balfour Ave. and Winchester Ave.



0.7 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Install privacy fencing
- » Update play structure (accessible)
- » Add benches
- » Install permanent restrooms
- » Other suggestions: beach volleyball

Accessibility Ranking:



Renovated in 2019, Peasley Park has a large play structure with swings, accessible walkways and picnic areas. The park is a favorite for small children and provides ample shade. A small soccer field is located on the property and is used for practice purposes for young children. The park can be accessed on both Balfour Ave. and Winchester Ave. Handicapped parking spaces and curb cuts are provided at the Balfour Ave. entrance to promote accessibility.

Amenities

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| » Benches (2) | » Small soccer field (1) | » receptacle (1) |
| » Drinking fountain (1) | » Picnic tables (3) | » Sandbox (1) |
| » Fields (2) | » Play structures (2) | » Swings (1) |
| | » Recycling | » Trash receptacle (1) |

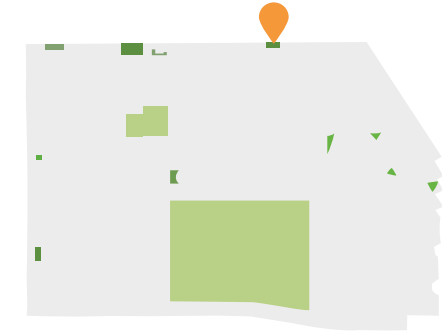
Sustainability Inventory

-  **49%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **No** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Community Park

Reynolds Park

Corner of W 11 Mile Rd. and Meadowcrest Blvd.



0.6 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Update playground (accessible) and replace woodchips with alternative surface
- » Install permanent bathrooms
- » Privacy fencing
- » Add shade
- » Add regular swings
- » Increase parking
- » Other suggestions: grills, pavilion

Accessibility Ranking:



Reynolds Park is a popular community park during the summer months as the park has a large variety of amenities including a small play structure, swings, exercise equipment for teens and adults and open grass for soccer for small children. The picnic table area is often reserved for birthday parties and other events.

Amenities

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| » Accessible pathway (1) | » Fitness zone (1) | » Porta potty (1) | » Swings (6) |
| » Bench (10) | » Exercise equipment for teens/adults (7) | » Recycling receptacle (2) | » Tire (1) |
| » Bicycle rack (1) | » Large play structure (1) | » Sandbox (1) | » Adult (2) |
| » Climbing rock (1) | » Parking (1) | » Small field (1) | » Infant (2) |
| » Drinking fountain (1) | » Picnic table (6) | » Small play structure (1) | » Trash receptacle (4) |

Sustainability Inventory

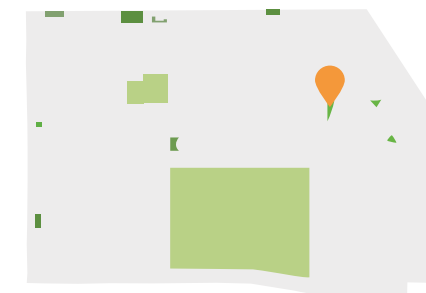
-  **31%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **Yes** - Recycling Facilities
-  **No** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **Yes** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **No** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Community Park

Statue Park

Intersection of Huntington Rd., Nadine Ave., and Humber St.



0.3 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Replace existing signage
- » Install bike parking
- » Fix statue water feature
- » Install drinking fountain
- » Maintain greenspace

Accessibility Ranking:



Statue Park's new rain gardens on the edges of the park help to mitigate stormwater runoff from the surrounding roadways. Statue Park is a popular location for adopt-a-garden programs and graduation parties. The park is surrounded by sidewalks and has picnic tables that are shielded from sunlight by mature trees.

Amenities

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| » Bench (2) | » Hose (1) | » Trash receptacle (1) |
| » Bird house (4) | » Pet waste station (1) | » Wooden pole art (1) |
| » Fountain (1) | » Picnic table (1) | |
| » Garden beds (5) | | |

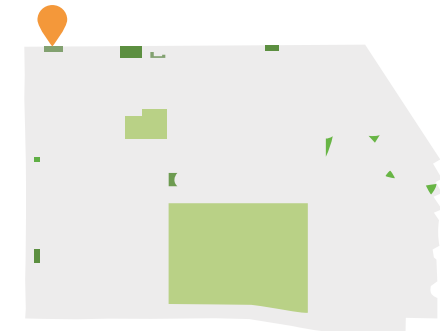
Sustainability Inventory

-  **58%** - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)
-  **No** - Recycling Facilities
-  **Yes** - Gardens and Landscaping
-  **No** - Bicycle Facilities
-  **Yes** - Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Community Park

Val Jones Skate Park

Corner of W 11 Mile Rd. and Berkley Ave.



0.9 acres

Feedback/Opportunities

- » Install sound barrier
- » Renovate skatepark and inline hockey rink (suggestions if redeveloped: beach volleyball, pickleball, obstacle course, community garden, track)
- » Install permanent restrooms
- » Repair drinking fountain
- » Update picnic tables
- » Replace fencing

Accessibility Ranking:



Val Jones Skate Park is a large active recreation park with an inline hockey rink and a large bowl with channel roll-in and grinding bars for skateboarding. Val Jones Skate Park closes at 8:00 pm and during the winter months. There are two park entrances located along Berkeley Ave. and 11-Mile Rd.

Amenities

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| » Bicycle rack (1) | » Large figure-8 bowl with channel roll-in and grinding bars (1) | » Porta potty (1) |
| » Drinking fountain (1) | » Picnic tables (3) | » Recycling receptacle (1) |
| » Inline hockey rink (1) | | » Trash receptacle (1) |

Sustainability Inventory



35% - Tree Canopy (Expressed as the estimated Canopy %)



Yes - Recycling Facilities



No - Gardens and Landscaping



Yes - Bicycle Facilities



No - Green Stormwater Infrastructure

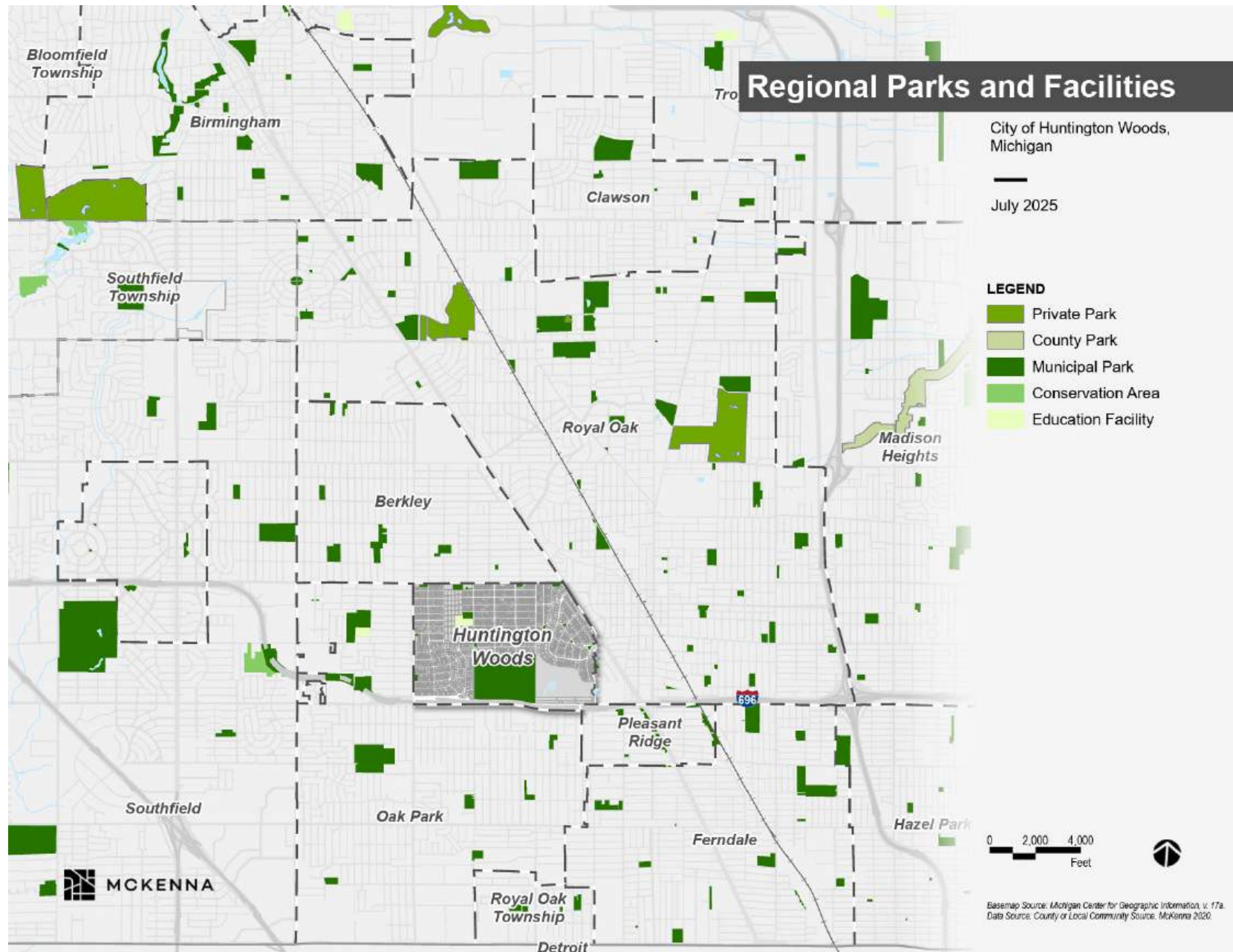




Oakland County Park - Independence Oaks

Regional Opportunities

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While these parks are not used for formal programming by the City of Huntington Woods, they provide active and passive recreational opportunities to the residents of the community. Regional facilities are provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and Oakland County Parks System. The regional parks located within close proximity of the City are shown on Map 1 - Regional Parks and Facilities.



Addison Oaks:

Addison Oaks is a scenic 1,139-acre Oakland County park in northeast Oakland County with two lakes and spring-fed ponds. The park includes camping facilities, over 20 miles of trail systems for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and winter fat tire biking, boat, kayak, and bike rentals, an 18-hole disc golf course, fishing, geocaching, picnicking, and group picnic shelters.

Catalpa Oaks:

Catalpa Oaks is another Oakland County park with nearly 24 acres of open space in Southfield, just west of Greenfield Road. The park currently features six soccer fields, playgrounds (including a universally accessible playscape), a 0.8-mile aggregate perimeter pathway around the park, and sizable pavilion which can accommodate up to 100 people.

Glen Oaks Golf Course:

Oakland County's Glen Oaks Golf Course features an 18-hole, par 70 course with challenging par 3 holes crossing streams, with rolling terrain. The 122-acre course includes a 1920's English-style stone clubhouse designated as a Michigan Historical Building serves as a beautiful setting for banquets, weddings and golf outings (food service provided by Oak Management). There's also a formal garden ideal for outdoor weddings.

Independence Oaks:

The largest Oakland County Park is this naturally-maintained 1,285-acre park near Clarkston. Independence Oaks includes the Wint Nature Center which offers interactive exhibits, interpretive programs; a youth group overnight camping area; over 12 miles of natural and paved trails; a swimming beach; archery range; volleyball courts; and a boat launch for non-motorized boats. In winter, cross-country ski equipment is available for rent, depending on staff availability and amount of snow. Twin Chimney Shelter provides a sweeping view of 68-acre Crooked Lake and is popular for outdoor wedding ceremonies and receptions.

Orion Oaks:

Orion Oaks County Park preserves more than 916 acres of environmentally sensitive green space and is known for its popular dog park. The 24-acre dog park features enclosures for off-leash play, two trails, field area, picnic pavilion and modern restrooms. There is also access to the dog dock on Lake Sixteen for dog-only swimming. The park also offers 10 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails, geocaching and fishing on Lake Sixteen, with a wheelchair accessible fishing pier. A small boat launch is also provided for non-motorized boats.

Red Oaks:

At this 163-acre Oakland County park built on the Red Run Drain, golfers, dog lovers and sports enthusiasts will find clean, safe facilities and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. It includes a dog park, golf course, nature center, soccer complex, water park, and 1.3 mile trail system.

Springfield Oaks:

Springfield Oaks County Park's 332 acres is home to the annual Oakland County Fair, the historic Ellis Barn, the Springfield Oaks Golf Course and a Community Service Garden.

Waterford Oaks:

Waterford Oaks is a 185-acre park near Pontiac, and headquarters of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. The park includes the Waterford Oaks Wave Pool, a bicycle motocross (BMX) track; more than 3 miles of hiking trails, a universally-accessible playscape, two platform tennis courts; sand volleyball courts, a winter family sledding hill; and outdoor fitness equipment.

White Lake Oaks:

White Lake Oaks is a scenic 18-hole, par 70 course. The 197-acre course has a well-manicured, player-friendly layout with front nine open and back nine tight, featuring wetlands and woodlands. The new clubhouse features a pro shop, club room, garden patio, and banquet facilities for groups up to 200.

Walkability Analysis

Parks are essential ingredients in healthy communities—access to parks facilitates increased physical activity and many health benefits. If access to a park is convenient without the use of an automobile, those benefits also include reduced car trips and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

To frame this Plan's analysis and inform recommendations, the team first analyzed the location of park facilities through the lens of walkability. Huntington Woods' 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 walk times from Huntington Woods parks identifies that very few residents, if any, do not have convenient, walkable access to a city park.

An understanding of age is useful to ensure that parks and appropriate equipment are being provided and are convenient for those most likely to use them. To prioritize future park facility investment, walkability access was overlaid with the presence of children (ages 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14) and residents 65 years or older. Maps 2-6 show 5-minute walk access overlaid with the four age ranges.

As with the population in general, many children have walkable access to a park. The western portion of the city generally has the most children of all ages. The eastern portion of the city trends towards fewer children ages 0-4 and 10-14. The distribution of parks with active recreation and children-centered opportunities are relatively split between the eastern and western portions of the city.

Notably, the city has a high percentage of population age 65 and older. However, a majority of passive recreation and open green space opportunities are concentrated on the eastern portion of the city. This could suggest that efforts to enhance passive recreation, open green space opportunities and gathering places with shade and rest areas should be focused on the western portion of the city.



Walkability Analysis: Ages 0-4

City of Huntington Woods, Michigan

July 2025

LEGEND

- Mini/Pocket Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Park/
Facility
- 0-5%
- 5.1-10%
- 10.1-20%
- 5-Minute Walk from
Parks

0 500 1,000
Feet



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: County or Local Community Source, McKenna 2020.



Walkability Analysis: Ages 5-9

City of Huntington Woods,
Michigan

July 2025

LEGEND

- Mini/Pocket Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Park/
Facility
- 0%-5%
- 5.1%-10%
- 10.1%-20%
- 5-Minute Walk from
Parks

0 500 1,000
Feet



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: County or Local Community Source: McKenna 2020.



Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Public Comment Draft - October 3, 2025

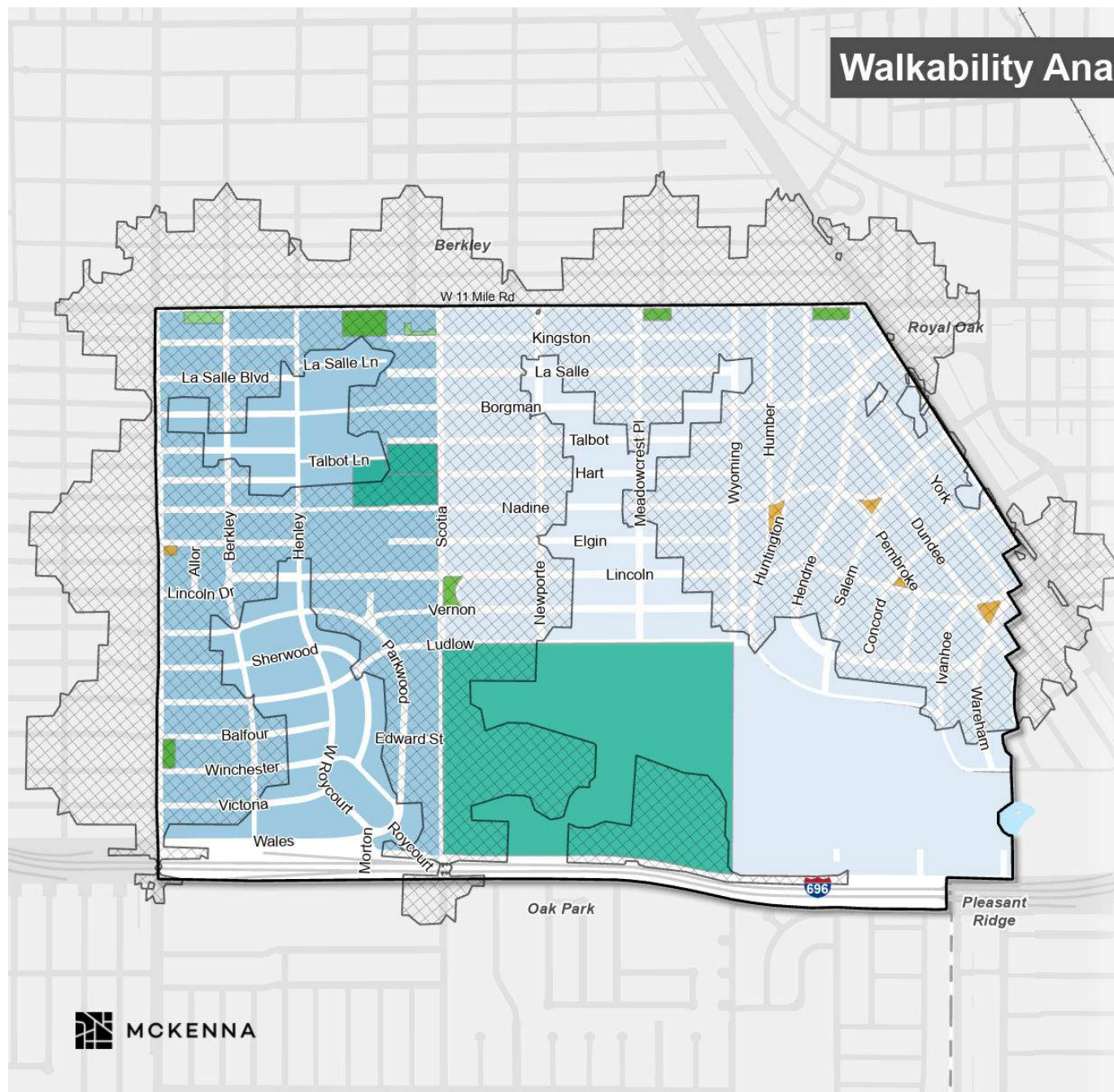
Walkability Analysis: Ages 10-14

City of Huntington Woods,
Michigan

July 2025

LEGEND

- Mini/Pocket Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Park/
Facility
- 0%-5%
- 5.1%-10%
- 10.1%-20%
- 5-Minute Walk from
Parks



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: County or Local Community Source: McKenna 2020.

Walkability Analysis: Ages 65 Years and Older

City of Huntington Woods, Michigan

July 2025

LEGEND

-  Mini/Pocket Park
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Special Use Park/Facility
-  0%-5%
-  5.1%-10%
-  10.1%-20%
-  5-Minute Walk from Parks

0 500 1,000
Feet



Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Public Comment Draft - October 3, 2025

Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: County or Local Community Source: McKenna 2020.

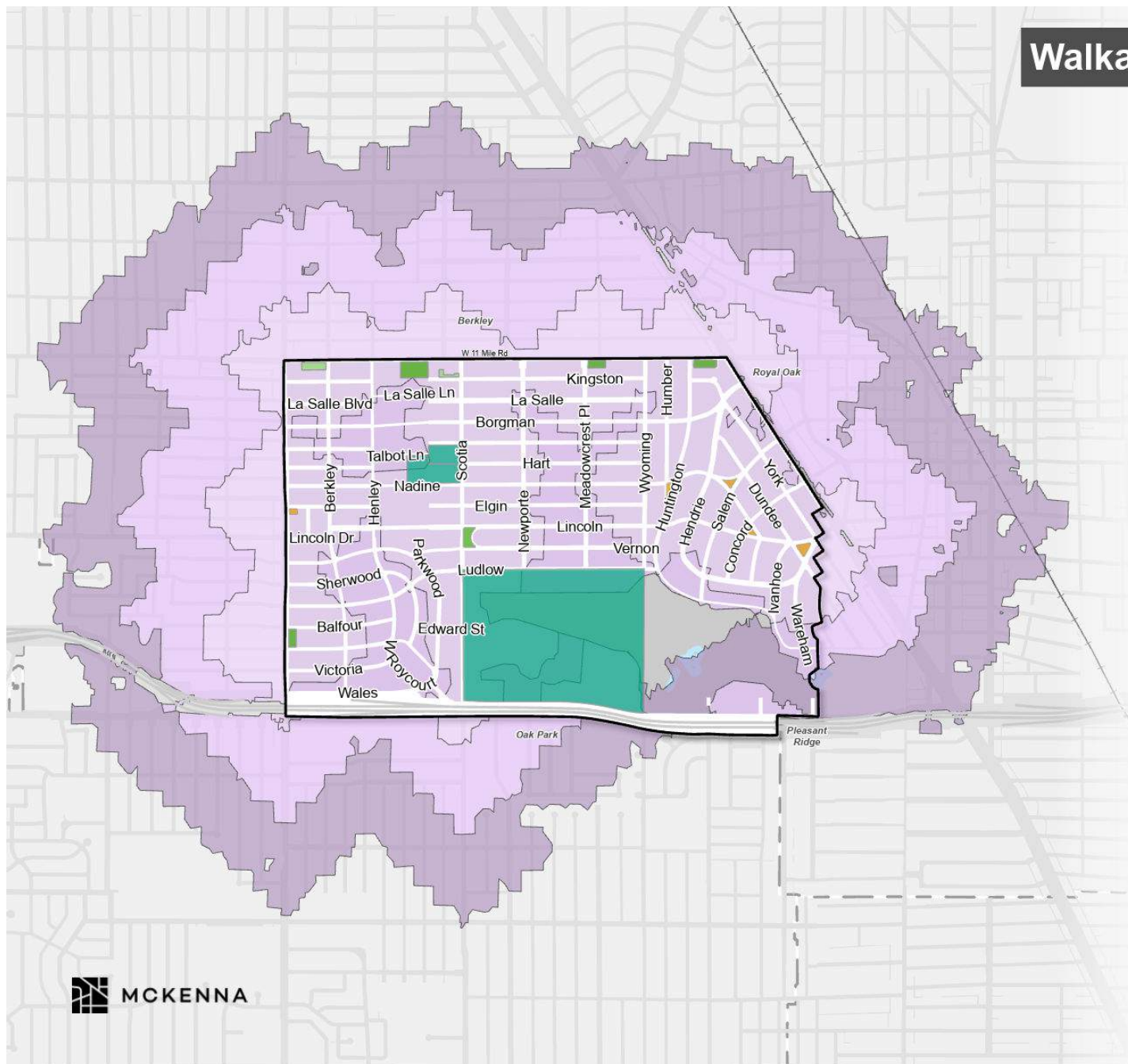
Walkability Analysis

City of Huntington Woods, Michigan

July 2025

LEGEND

- Mini/Pocket Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Park/
Facility
- 15-Minute Walk from
Parks
- 10-Minute Walk from
Parks
- 5-Minute Walk from
Parks



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: County or Local Community Source, McKenna 2020.



Actions & Implementation Master List

The following table is a list of broad recommendations. When implementing these recommendations, the City of Huntington Woods should put out resident surveys to involve the public in the decision-making process and to ensure that updates and improvements meet the needs of the community.

Collaborators

(AGB) Arts and Garden Board
 (BES) Burton Elementary School
 (CC) City Commission
 (CHW) City of Huntington Woods
 (DPW) Department of Public Works
 (ESC) Environmental Sustainability Committee
 (GLLC) Great Lakes Landscape Company
 (PRAB) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
 (PRD) Parks and Recreation Department
 (SOCS) South Oakland County Soccer

Funding sources

(ASR) Additional Staffing Resources
 (BI) Bond Issue
 (D) Donations
 (G) Grants
 (GF) General Fund
 (MC) Men's Club
 (NF) National Fitness Campaign Grant
 (V) Volunteers
 (WC) Women's Club



Table 15: Implementation Strategies

PARK	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION	COLLABORATORS	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE
Administration	Create a systematized maintenance schedule	PRD, DPW	GF
	Create system for identifying and replacing park amenities	PRD, DPW	GF
	Send surveys to residents before major park updates or changes are made	PRD	GF
	Create a tree planting schedule and species guide determined by the Environmental Sustainability Committee	ESC, PRD, DPW	GF
	Create a system for organization and maintenance of adopted gardens	PRAB (AGB), PRD	GF
	Pursue grant funding for all applicable projects and explore fundraising as an alternative source of funding	PRD	GF
Programming	Introduce teen-focused programming (e.g. outdoor movie nights, lawn games, sports leagues, etc.)	PRD	GF
	Create more intergenerational/family programs (e.g. lawn games, potlucks, trivia and game nights, etc.)	PRD	GF
	Update City website to reflect current programming and events schedules (or direct users to another platform)	PRD	GF
	Introduce tennis tournaments.	PRD	GF
	Introduce coed sports league teams	PRD	GF
All Parks	Consistent amenity design (benches, tables, etc.)	DPW, PRD	GF
	Where possible, use permeable pavement for all future paths and parking areas	CC, DPW	D, G, GF
	Install sensory/tactile play equipment in at least one park	CHW, CC	BI, G
11 Mile and Huntington Park	Renovate tennis courts	CC, DPW	BI, G
	Restructure management and maintenance of community gardens at the entrance to the City.	PRAB (AGB), PRD	G, V
	Shield all tennis court lighting	PRD, DPW	BI, G
	Install one bike parking facility	PRD, DPW	D, G

PARK	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION	COLLABORATORS	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE
Alligator Park	Install shade cover over play area	CHW, CC	BI, G
	Replace sandbox with accessible play structure	CHW, CC	BI, G
	Install permeable, accessible paths with curb cuts that link to existing paths	CHW, CC	D, G, GF
	Plant pollinator garden or native species garden with educational plaques	PRAB (AGB), ESC	G, V
Aquatic Center	Resurface pool	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
	Renovate locker rooms	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
	Install shade sail or awning	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, D, G
Burton Community Park	Install shade cover over play area	CHW, BES	BI, G
	Update play equipment to be sensory and accessible	CHW, BES	BI, G
Coolidge/Elgin Park	Install privacy fencing along 11 Mile	CC, PRD, DPW	G, GF
	Install permeable, accessible route to swings	CC, PRD, DPW	D, G, GF
	Replace woodchips with rubberized or cork surface	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
Gillham Recreation Center	Resurface tennis courts	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
Hassig Senior Park	Replace gazebo roof	CC, PRD, CITY	D, G
	Replace shuffleboard with outdoor lawn games	CITY, DPW	G, GF
	Improve sidewalk between the fountain and gazebo to be permeable and accessible	CC, PRD, DPW	D, G, GF
Lincoln / Pembroke / Concord Park	Remove or replace outdated picnic tables	CC, PRD, DPW	D, G
	Plant pollinator garden or native species garden with educational plaques	PRAB (AGB), ESC	G, V
Mary Kay Davis Park	Install permeable, accessible paths to tables and benches	CC, PRD, DPW	D, G, GF
	Install one bike parking facility	CC, PRD, DPW	D, G
	Update entrance sign	CC, PRD, DPW	GF
Men's Club Field	Plant perimeter trees to shade sidelines	MC, CHW	G, GF
	Provide permeable, accessible entrance path	MC, CHW	D, G



PARK	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION	COLLABORATORS	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE
Peasley Park	Install privacy fencing along 11 Mile	CC, PRD, DPW	G, GF
	Update play structure with accessible equipment	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
	Install non-infant swings	CHW, CC	BI, G
	Replace woodchips with rubberized or cork surface	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
Reynolds Park	Update play/climbing structure	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
	Install shade structure	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, D, G
	Replace woodchips with rubberized or cork surface	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
	Install permanent restrooms	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G, GF
Scotia Park	Install zipline, outdoor lawn games, climbing structure, or other teen-oriented activity	CC, PRD, DPW	G, GF
	Plant trees or install pavilion to increase shade while maintaining open space for gatherings	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, D, G
	Conduct a feasibility study for installing a small amphitheater with naturalized seating.	CC, PRD, DPW	G, V
Statue Park	Replace existing signage	CC, PRD, DPW	GF
	Install one bike parking facility	CC, PRD, DPW	D, G
Val Jones Skate Park	Install sound barrier along all fencing facing homes	CC, PRD, DPW	G, GF
	Renovate existing skatepark and inline hockey rink	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G
	Install permanent restrooms	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G, GF
	Provide permeable, accessible entrance path	CC, PRD, DPW	D, G, GF
	Repair existing drinking fountain	CC, PRD, DPW	BI, G

Funding Opportunities

There are several existing or potential funding sources available for parks and recreation facility improvements. In addition to the City's General Fund, other potential sources of funding for parks and recreation include: a dedicated millage, user fees, revenue bonds, donation of land and/or easements, and grants.

Grant Funding

In addition to the funding sources mentioned above, grant funding can be an important funding resource. Securing grant funding for parks and recreation initiatives is a pivotal component in seeking to enhance facilities and recreation opportunities throughout the city. There are a variety of Local, State, and National grants that can help fund improvements and repairs to existing facilities, installation of universally designed playgrounds, and amenities like shade and suitable surfacing. The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential grant resources for the city to explore.

Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

- » The MNRTF provides grants for the acquisition of land for public recreation and the development of outdoor recreational facilities. It's a key funding source for projects that improve parks, trails, and other outdoor spaces across Michigan.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Recreation Passport Grant Program

- » This program offers funding to local governments and school districts to enhance public outdoor recreation facilities.

Spark Grants

- » These Michigan Department of Natural Resources support projects that aim to create safe, accessible recreational spaces, improve community health, introduce new recreational experiences, enhance existing park infrastructure, and make indoor and outdoor recreation more accessible for residents and visitors alike.

Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

- » MEDC provides grants and incentives to support various community and economic development projects. While not exclusively for parks and recreation, MEDC grants can be a valuable resource for matching funds that are crowd-sourced for projects that enhance the quality of life within communities, including park improvements.

National Fitness Campaign

- » The National Fitness Campaign offers grant opportunities and resources specifically to support fitness equipment.

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA)

- » MCACA offers grants for arts and cultural projects that can enhance parks and recreation facilities through art installations, cultural programs, and more.



Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program

- » This grant supports projects related to managing and preventing invasive species in parks and natural areas.

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Grants

- » NRPA offers several grant programs for park and recreation agencies, including the 10-Minute Walk Campaign and the Parks Build Community initiative.

AARP Community Challenge

- » AARP provides small grants to fund projects that improve livability and enhance the quality of life for older adults, including those related to parks and recreational amenities.

Outdoor Foundation Grants

- » This organization offers various grants aimed at getting more people outdoors and supporting initiatives that enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.

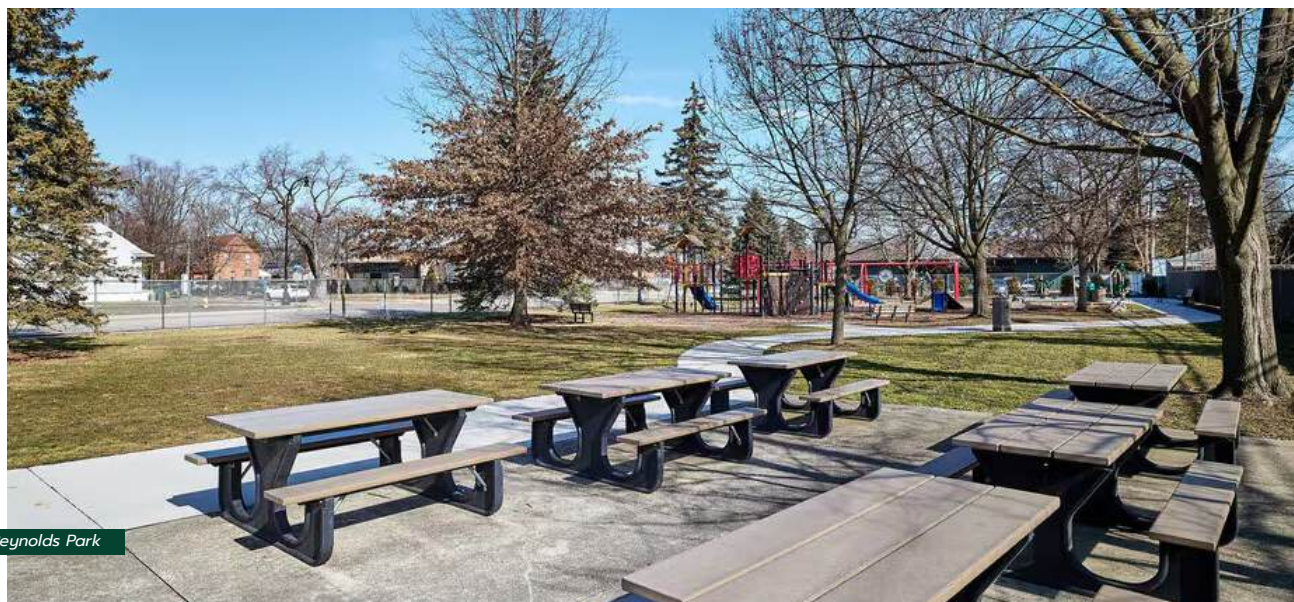
Nature Michigan Grant Program

- » The Michigan Environmental Council provides grants for projects that focus on conservation, wildlife, and outdoor experiences.

Healthy Food Access Grant Program

- » This program, offered by the Michigan Fitness Foundation, supports projects that increase access to healthy food in community areas such as community gardens, which can complement park spaces.

Community foundations and local charitable organizations are also vital contributors to parks and recreation initiatives. Many of these organizations offer grants and sponsorships tailored to community development projects. Their support can be instrumental in financing specific amenities. Furthermore, the establishment of partnerships with nonprofit organizations and local businesses can open up additional funding avenues. Collaboration can lead to sponsorships, in-kind donations, and volunteer support for park projects, which can significantly offset costs and increase community engagement.



Reynolds Park

Cost Table

*These cost estimates are based in 2025 dollars and costs are expected to vary and should only be used as general estimates.

		Individual Item Cost
	Resurfacing tennis courts	\$4,000 - 1\$8,000
	Bike parking (Barco Products)	\$200 - \$400
	Bike repair (Barco Products)	\$800 - \$2,000
	Accessible picnic tables (Barco Products)	\$700 - \$1,400
	Bench (Barco Products)	\$500 - \$1,000
	Shade structure (Barco Products)	\$5,000 - \$10,000

		Individual Item Cost
	Small play structure	\$5,000 - \$10,000
	Large play structure	\$40,000 - \$100,000
	Permeable, accessible paths / surfaces	<u>Path</u> : \$50 - \$60/ sq ft (3 ft wide) <u>Parking Lot</u> : \$20 - \$30/sq ft
	Privacy fencing (Lowes Slip fence)	\$89 /6 ft panel
	Sound barrier fencing (Acousti fence)	\$769 ?6 ft wide x 10 ft high panels
	Resurfacing pool	\$15,000 - \$50,000



		Individual Item Cost
	Renovate locker rooms	\$1,000 – \$50,000
	Gazebo roof	\$1,000 – \$2,500
	Lawn games (permanent cornhole)	\$800 – \$2,000
	Lawn games (permanent ping pong)	\$2,500 – \$7,000
	Lawn games (permanent foosball)	\$7,000 – \$10,500
	Rubberized playground surface (poured in place surface)	\$18 – \$22/sq ft

		Individual Item Cost
	Park entrance signage	\$1,000 – \$3,000
	Plant trees	\$100 – \$500
	Install / repair drinking fountain	\$1,500 – \$3,500
	Permanent restrooms	\$20,000 – \$250,000

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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