



2022 - 2026

# ➤ Parks and Recreation Master Plan ‹

Southfield Michigan

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# > Introduction <

## Chapter One

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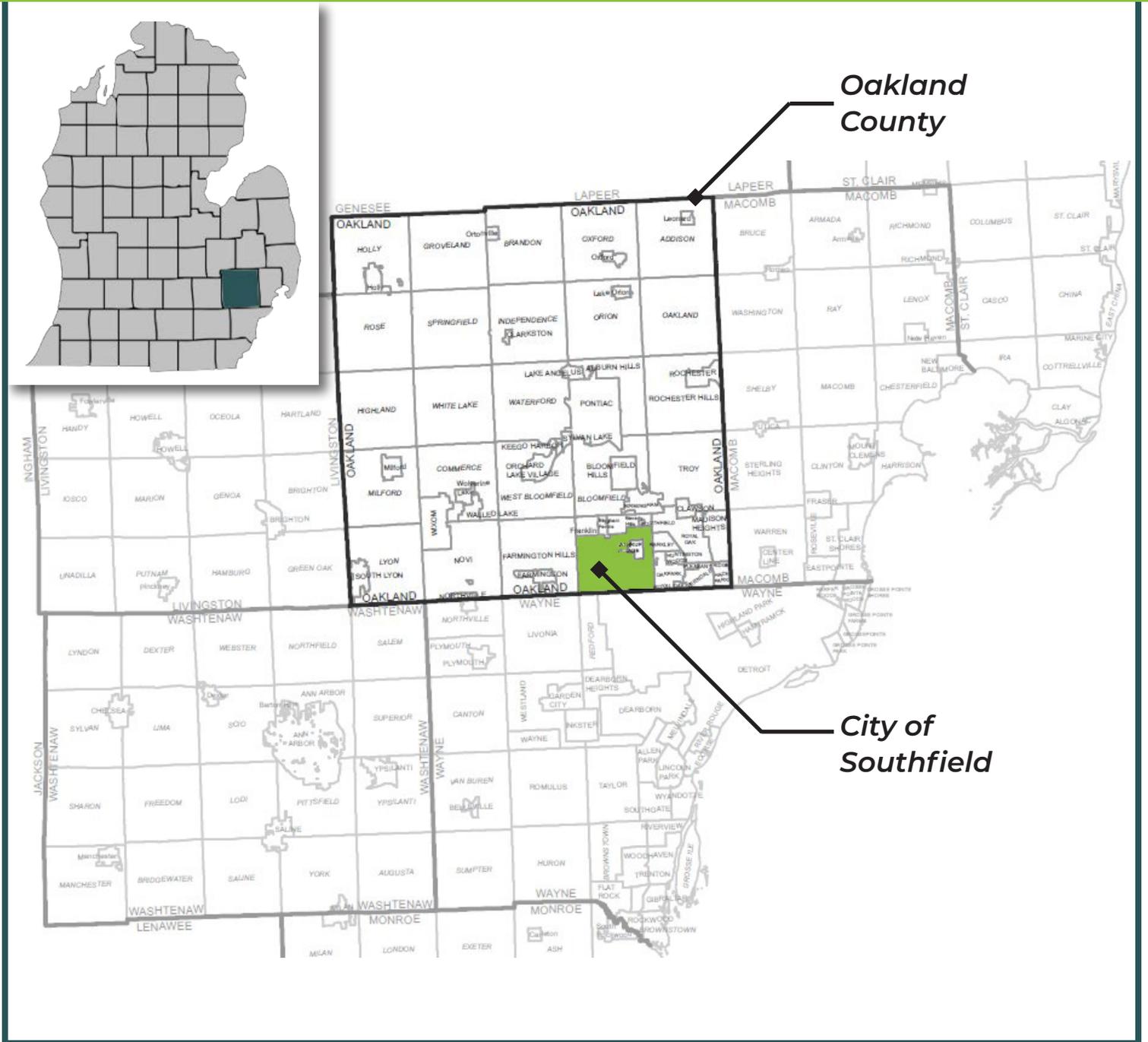
Welcome to the City of Southfield's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This is a five-year plan that reflects a vision for the future of the parks, recreational facilities, and programming for the residents of Southfield.

This Plan was prepared for and represents planning for the City of Southfield and no other local agencies.

The Parks and Recreation Board, Staff and City Council coordinated an open, public planning process to create a comprehensive vision for Southfield's parks, satisfying the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

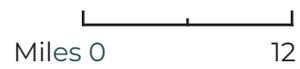
A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a road map for a Parks and Recreation Department's decisions (including facilities and programming) made in the next five years, as well as projected future needs. The Plan includes all the required elements of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and therefore qualifies Southfield for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the Plan gives the City a better understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation, historic and cultural facilities, and programming going forward.

# Map One



## Regional Location

*Oakland County  
Southfield, MI*





# > Community Description <

## Chapter Two

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The City of Southfield is a residential community and business center in southeastern Michigan. Comprised of over 26 square miles, Southfield is bordered by the City of Detroit, as well as several other communities in Oakland and Wayne Counties, including Farmington Hills, Redford Township, Franklin, Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills, Berkley, and Oak Park.

With over 780 acres of parkland, special events, and recreational programming, and miles of nature and fitness trails, Southfield truly has something for everyone.



## Demographics

The Southfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan was created to determine the needs and opportunities that exist within the City in consideration of how many people will use recreational amenities, which programs they will participate in, and what type of facilities they want and need. By understanding the existing conditions and past trends, the City can appropriate/anticipate and plan for the community and its future.

The data presented comes from the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

- The City of Southfield is experiencing a bit of growth in recent years. Southfield is just minutes from downtown Detroit, and many of the Detroit suburbs like Southfield are experiencing growth of young families. These families want the urban culture, diversity, feel and amenities of a large city while still enjoying the coziness of a smaller suburb. The recent increase in population is being experienced across several municipalities. However, the City has not yet regained its population from the Great Recession (2007-2009), which saw residents moving out of their communities.

**Table 2.1**

Population	Southfield	Redford Township	Berkley	Oak Park	Farmington Hills	Detroit
2010	71,715	48,289	14,970	29,408	79,725	713,898
2019	72,689	46,674	15,366	29,431	80,612	670,031
% Change	1.40%	-3.30%	2.60%	0.10%	1.10%	-6.10%

- A community as diverse as Southfield offers an attractive living environment to learn and grow. With a difference of preferences in recreation across ages and capabilities, it's important to understand this make up of the population. Older populations require accessible opportunities, with programming that can be enjoyed in groups, as well as individually. Young families look for fun that the whole family can enjoy. Young professionals too are always searching for ways to get out into their community and be active. Table 2.2 shows population percentage of these various age descriptions. This information helps to plan accordingly and provide for the generations represented in your community.

**Table 2.2**

Age	Southfield	Redford Township	Berkley	Oak Park	Farmington Hills	Detroit
% Under 18	18.4%	22.0%	20.3%	20.3%	19.0%	25.0%
% Over 65	20.4%	12.8%	12.6%	15.7%	19.5%	13.6%
% Female	54.8%	51.8%	50.8%	54.4%	51.5%	52.6%

- Accommodating populations with disabilities is necessary to attract potential residents and to retain those wishing to age in place. All of the data collected here shows that Southfield excels in maintaining residents throughout the years and in continuing to do so, must plan how to cater to each unique individual within the city. Table 2.3 shows not only the elderly populations we must consider when talking about universal design but our younger populations as well. As we age, ambulatory, cognitive difficulties, and hearing difficulty rise. But these afflictions, and more, affect all and can sometimes not be apparent just by looking at someone.

**Table 2.3**

Health	Southfield	Redford Township	Berkley	Oak Park	Farmington Hills	Detroit
Disability % under 65	12.9%	11.9%	6.5%	12.7%	6.4%	15.3%

- Understanding the income distribution, employment, poverty level, and number of disabled residents in Southfield is vital to parks and recreation planning because of the need to consider how residents will interact with provided amenities, afford various amenities, and how they will get to parks or other locations that provide recreational opportunities.

Southfield's residents are primarily middle-class, like much of the surrounding area. The economic decline in the early 2000's did not discriminate, affecting communities throughout the nation. Rebound has varied, but in recent years, communities have seen growth and opportunities. Providing recreation for the local workforce is one of many excellent ways to keep people happy, active, and attract those that may come into Southfield for work but live elsewhere. (see following page)

**Table 2.4**

Work Force	Southfield	Redford Township	Berkley	Oak Park	Farmington Hills	Detroit
Civilian Labor %	61.0%	66.0%	75.7%	65.6%	65.8%	54.4%
Median Household Income (\$)	55,705	57,216	86,905	52,584	83,268	30,894
Persons in Poverty	11.3%	15.2%	4.0%	14.3%	6.8%	35.0%

- This section analyzes the composition and characteristics of households in Southfield. Household size is an indicator of community composition. Larger average household sizes generally mean more children and fewer single-parent families. Nationally, household sizes have been shrinking as young singles wait longer to get married and life expectancy increases for the senior population.

**Table 2.5**

Households	Southfield	Redford Township	Berkley	Oak Park	Farmington Hills	Detroit
Households #	32,345	18,294	6,683	12,107	33,972	263,688
Persons Per Household	2.22	2.56	2.3	2.45	2.37	2.51
Living in Same House 1 year ago	84.7%	89.9%	90.4%	89.2%	85.8%	85.2%



## Physical Characteristics

### Topography and Soils

The topography of Southfield is primarily flat, and slopes to the southeast toward Detroit and the Detroit River. The elevation for the City is approximately 575 feet above sea level. The flat character of the lake plain contains valleys of the Rouge River and its tributaries. Soils range from clay to loam that is basic or slightly acidic. The alfisol soils are clay enriched. Many areas throughout the City drain poorly due to a high water table. The City's agricultural history from the late 1800s and early 1900s has created pockets of deep topsoil, but the rapid development of the 1960s and 1970s caused extensive soil disturbance and topsoil loss.

## Water Resources

The most significant water resource in Southfield is the Rouge River and its tributaries. The main branch of the Rouge River flows south from the northern border, crossing under I-696 and Telegraph Road and exiting at the southern boundary into the City of Detroit at Eight Mile Road. River tributaries include the Rummell Drain, Evans Branch, Tamarack Drain, and Pebble Creek. Land adjacent to these waterways is characterized by steeply sloped valley walls and wooded floodways. Artificial drainage of natural wetlands was used to accommodate development resulting in a net loss over time. The remaining wetlands are regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the City's own local wetlands protection ordinance. No natural lakes exist in Southfield, although some wetlands remain.

## Vegetation

The City of Southfield is within a deciduous eastern forest zone. Due to the rise of urban development and prior history as an agricultural community, few remnants of mature natural vegetation remain. Some woodlots have progressed from old field associations to mixed hardwoods. Many parcels containing woodlands are in public or quasi-public ownership. A degraded wet prairie association between Freeway Park and Lincoln Woods has been restored as part of a wetland mitigation project. Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve, Bauervic Woods Park, and Valley Woods Nature Preserve contain large caliper, native canopy trees, and understory. Berberian Woods Nature Preserve, within Valley Woods, is an excellent example of a near pre-settlement forested valley and is considered botanically significant statewide. Woodland preservation has also occurred in neighborhoods of significant lot development, particularly along the Rouge River floodplain. The City's woodland ordinance now regulates tree removals.

## Wildlife

The most common Michigan animal species reside in Southfield. Deer are plentiful throughout the City and are located on more extensive tracts and along the river corridors. Other mammal species include coyotes, foxes, raccoons, muskrats, opossum, mink, rabbits, squirrels, and mice. Garter snakes are the most common reptile in the area. Snapping turtles are frequent in Carpenter Lake, and soft-shell turtles bask on the mud banks of the Rouge River in Valley Woods Nature Preserve. Turkeys reside along wooded tracts, migrating songbirds, and waterfowl such as ducks and geese utilize the more extensive lots and nature preserves. Resident hawks preside over larger parcels along the river corridor and highways.

## Climate

The climate of Southfield and southeast Michigan is influenced by its location within significant storm tracks, the overall influence of the Great Lakes, and the urban "heat island" of metro Detroit. The most pronounced lake effect is in cloud cover. Southfield averages 176 sunny days per year. The US average is 205 sunny days. Most winter storms originate to the northwest throughout Michigan except in metro Detroit where much of the heaviest precipitation comes from southwest winds.

According to US Climate Data, the summer high is around 83.6 in July, and the winter low in January is 17.3. The growing season averages 180 days, with the last frost date in early May and a first frost date in late October. The snow average is 35.2 inches a year, and the rain average is 33.5 inches per year.





# > Administrative Structure & Funding <

## Chapter Three

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Southfield's local government representation is provided by elected City officials. The seven-member Southfield City Council, elected at-large, decides municipal budget and legislative matters. Council members are responsible for determining policy and adopting the annual municipal budget, which provides funding for Parks and Recreation programs and services. The Council president is chosen by Council members and presides over Council meetings. The Mayor, an elected official, is not a voting member of council. The Mayor reviews and presents the budget and has the power to veto Council actions, with five affirmative votes required to override a veto. Daily City operations are directed by the City Administrator, who is appointed by and accountable to City Council. The Administrator is responsible for ensuring that Council-mandated policies are implemented by City staff.

Southfield's PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD consists of five members appointed by the Mayor for three-year terms. The City Treasurer serves as ex-officio Treasurer to this Board. There may also be up to two youth representatives. The primary responsibility is to review the activities of the Parks and Recreation Department to ensure diversified programming and quality recreational facilities for the residents of Southfield.



**By City Charter, the Director of Parks and Recreation oversees the department and receives operational direction from the City Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Board. The five-member Parks and Recreation Board, which meets monthly, is an advisory board and reviews department policy and budget. The Parks and Recreation Department consists of six functional divisions. They are administration, facilities supervisors, programmers, golf, and park services.**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Administration consists of a Director, Recreation Operations Manager, Office Manager, Clerk, Marketing Analyst, and a Budget Analyst.

#### **FACILITY SUPERVISORS**

This division includes the Facility Supervisor for the Southfield Pavilion and Parks and Recreation Building, Facility Supervisor for Beech Woods Recreation Center, and the Facility Supervisor for the Southfield Sports Arena & Pool.

#### **PROGRAMMERS**

The City has four programming positions including an overall programmer, two recreational programmers and one youth programmer.

#### **SENIOR ADULT SERVICES**

This division includes a Senior Adult Facility Coordinator.

#### **GOLF**

The Golf Division consists of an Operations Manager and a PGA Professional.

#### **PARKS SERVICES**

This division consists of the Parks Operations Supervisor, Account Clerk, Head Greenskeeper, Building Trades Technician, and Parks Maintenance Staff.

## **Parks and Recreation Funding**

### **Budget**

Historically, capital expenditures have been funded by outside grants and budget carryovers from prior years. Over the last five years, the City has diligently worked to fulfill its grant commitments and become fiscally sound. The City is now embarking on a planning phase for the anticipated Recovery Act funds that are reflected within this Plan.

Once adopted by Council, the Parks and Recreation Department budget constitutes a legally binding financial plan, in accordance with the Michigan Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act. The department's functional divisions operate out of their own budget and are responsible for coordinating activities between divisions.

The Southfield City Council has adopted the following budget for the Parks and Recreation Fund (Fund 208) through fiscal year 2022.

See Table 3.1 on following page

**Table 3.1**

<b>Park and Recreation Budget 2020-2022</b>			
	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
<b>Administrative</b>	4,774,362.10	5,256,832.88	5,091,645.00
<b>Golf</b>			
Evergreen	272,000.00	176,000.00	389,800.00
Range	12,000.00	97,300.00	97,750.00
<b>Park Services</b>	114,035.00	96,535.00	113,035.00
<b>Recreation</b>			
Front Desk	0	0	0
BW Office	130,000.00	90,270.00	160,090.00
BW Classes	30,000.00	25,359.00	38,135.00
Therapeutic	11,350.00	10,190.00	10,030.00
Pavilion	207,100.00	137,850.00	148,157.00
Special Events	10,000.00	7,350.00	22,175.00
Tennis	7,900.00	4,700.00	6,025.00
Adult Sports	76,900.00	19,200.00	70,000.00
Youth Sports	40,250.00	25,285.00	31,800.00
BW Camp	35,000.00	6,250.00	25,784.00
Latchkey	25,000.00	6,500.00	5,900.00
Kaleidoscope	45,000.00	22,400.00	22,400.00
Tadpole	46,000.00	16,250.00	25,200.00
Wildwood	50,000.00	19,050.00	33,600.00
Evergreen	89,000.00	25,400.00	44,800.00
Holiday Camps	23,000.00	12,600.00	19,990.00
Ice Arena	158,500.00	248,518.00	248,132.00
Pool	60,000.00	15,000.00	78,500.00
<b>Cultural</b>			
Burgh	15,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Concerts	26,100.00	10,508.00	13,500.00
Art Classes	3,300.00	5,370.00	14,850.00
Dance	40,000.00	22,960.00	35,220.00
<b>Seniors</b>			
Trips & Activities	125,000.00	70,565.00	113,330.00
SMART	164,030.00	183,447.00	216,228.00
Classes	19,566.00	15,189.77	33,563.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,610,393</b>	<b>\$6,629,880</b>	<b>\$7,109,639</b>

### Projects qualified for funds from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)

The Southfield Parks and Recreation is anticipating recovery money from the ongoing pandemic. Below is a table that describes where the predicted funding will be allocated and the associated years of completion.

**Table 3.2**

	Project Name	Amount	Anticipated Completion	Description
1	Outdoor Programming Support - Mobile Stage, Movie Screen and Sound System	\$300,000	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health and safety (safe distance socializing, behavioral health, recreational therapy, etc.)</li> <li>Response to increased demand</li> </ul>
2	Park Improvements for Health and Safety - Replacement of Playground Structures (6 parks)	\$750,000	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health</li> <li>Response to increased demand (400% increase in outdoor activities)</li> </ul>
3	Park Improvements for Health and Safety - Miller and Simms Park Development	\$250,000	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Response to increased demand</li> </ul>
4	Park Improvements for Health and Safety - Civic Center Tennis Courts	\$75,000	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Response to increased demand</li> <li>Replacing lost revenue</li> </ul>
5	Park Improvements for Health and Safety - Lincoln Woods Park Improvements	\$25,000	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Response to increased demand</li> </ul>
6	Outdoor Space Repurposing - Beech Woods Master Plan Implementation (Phase I)	\$280,000	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repurposing and improving infrastructure in response to public demand</li> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Addressing negative economic impact</li> <li>Replacing lost revenue</li> </ul>
7	Facility Improvements and Repairs - Civic Center Restrooms	\$200,000	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to public demand</li> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Replacing lost revenue</li> </ul>
8	Facility Improvements and Repairs - Evergreen Hills Golf Paths	\$125,000	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Response to increased demand</li> <li>Addressing negative economic impact</li> <li>Replacing lost revenue</li> </ul>
9	Facility Improvements and Repairs - Inglenook Park Restroom Roof Replacement	\$25,000	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Response to increased demand</li> </ul>
10	Facility Improvements and Repairs – Upgrades at Sports Arena, Pavilion, Front Lawn and Burgh Historical Park	\$100,000	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public health and safety</li> <li>Addressing negative economic impact</li> <li>Replacing lost revenue</li> </ul>

## Fees and Charges

Southfield park sites are free and open to the public. Certain facilities such as, Evergreen Hills Golf Course, Beech Woods Recreational Center, Southfield Sports Arena & Pool, are fully staffed and require an admission fee. Non-resident fees are nominally higher than resident fees.

While some facilities are available on a “per-use” basis, other facilities are available as rentals by reservation. Such facilities include rooms and spaces at the Parks & Recreation Building and the Beech Woods Recreation Center. Picnic shelters are available for rent at Civic Center Park, Beech Woods Park and Pebble Creek Park. Additionally, fields and courts are also available for rent by reservation at various sites.

## Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

The Southfield City Council has adopted a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan that can be found within the Appendix.

# Grant History

The City of Southfield has received several grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to fund the renovation or development of City parkland and natural areas. These funds include the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Michigan Natural Resources Trust (formerly known as the Michigan Land Trust Fund), and the Clean Michigan Initiative Grant.

See Table 3.3 on following page



**Table 3.3**

**Table 3: Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Grant History**

Project Year / Project Number	Park Name / Project Name	Grant Amount	Project Description
1975 / 26-00616	Bedford Woods & Valley Woods Nature Preserve	\$50,404	Acquire 15.4 acres of land located in northwestern section of Southfield, for public outdoor recreation.
1977 / 26-00935	Beech Woods Park Tennis Court	\$25,708	Develop 1 acre for lighted and fenced tennis courts, area landscaping, and LWCF sign.
1981 / 26-01170	Section 25 Mini Park	\$22,680	Acquire 3.81 acres for outdoor recreation.
1983 / 26-01285	Inglenook Park	\$60,800	Develop: grading and seeding, 2 softball fields, 3 soccer fields, foot paths, play lot/picnic area, parking lot, boundary fencing, landscaping, and LWCF sign.
1984 / 26-01354	Section 25 Park (Stratford Woods)	\$27,525	Develop: woodform playlot, grading, and seeding an open play field, picnic tables, sitting area, sidewalks, asphalt pathway and tree shrub plantings.
1986 / TF86-191	Meyer Leib Property	\$108,000	To acquire approximately 10 acres of lightly wooded land in the City.
1989 / BF89-466	Pebble Creek Park Development	\$376,500	Park development including tennis, softball, soccer, playlot, entrance road, parking, landscaping, restroom facility, picnic area w/shelter, walking trail, and fitness stations.
1989 / TF89-237	Section 24 Wetlands	\$218,800	To acquire approximately 13 acres of land as natural open space area.
1990 / TF90-393	Valley Woods Trail	\$120,000	Construction of trails, benches, fishing/viewing station, pedestrian bridge, stream bank stabilization and landscaping on the Rouge River.
1991 / TF91-833	Evergreen Woods Park	\$950,000	Acquire 35 acres of land adjacent to 45 acres of City-owned nature preserve. The expanded park would provide additional open space and natural areas for passive recreation use.
1993 / 26-01530	Civic Center Playscape	\$142,378	Develop adventure playscape for community-wide use utilizing universal design to be accessible to both handicapped and able-bodied children, at the city's major recreation and civic property.
1999 / CM99-271	Civic Center Tennis Complex	\$455,000	Reconstruct tennis complex at Civic Center site including 9 lighted tennis courts and 3 handball courts, related walks, signage, site furnishings, and landscaping.
2002 / TF02-148	Berberian Property Acquisition	\$1,753,500	Acquisition of 16 acres of natural property on the Rouge River to provide fishing access, protect wetland habitat, and complete the trail and wildlife corridor of Valley Woods Nature Preserve.
2003 / 26-01614	Inglenook Park Playscape Project	\$300,000	Develop new accessible playground at large community park. Work and improvements include new play equipment, resilient safety surfacing, walkways, and site furnishings.
2004 / TF04-112	Carpenter Lake Park Development and Lake Restoration	\$500,000	Development of a new public fishery and park site, including restoration of 6-acre Carpenter Lake, wetlands enhancement, barrier-free trail, fishing dock, and parking.
2014 / 26-01744	Pebble Creek Play Area Project	\$100,000	Renovation of play area including new accessible play equipment, safety surfacing, upgraded drainage, site furnishings, and native landscaping.
2014 / RP14-0115	Beech Woods Group Picnic Area Improvement Project	\$45,000	Improvement of the large group picnic area adjacent to the Beech Woods Recreation Center. Provide new picnic site furnishings, repair accessible ramp.
2014 / TF14-0275	Inglenook Park Renovation Project	\$280,000	Renovate Inglenook Park ball field complex. Replace back stops, player's benches, fencing and bleachers. Paved walkways. Construct playlot, restrooms, parking, and central shelter. Native tree plantings and permeable pavements will be incorporated.
2014 / TF14-0288	Horsetail Woods Acquisition Project	\$99,800	Acquire 5.9 acres of natural land adjacent to the 22-acre Horsetail Woods Nature Preserve.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

In addition, the City has received a variety of other grants and donations to fund parks and recreation projects. The following table includes joint projects with other departments such as the Southfield Storm Water Management Division of Department of Public Works

**Table 3.4**

Funding Source	Project Year	Park or Project Name	Grant Amount	Project Description
Denso Donation	2019-2022	Recreation programs	\$14,000	Support for recreational programs: Recreation on a Move and Camp on the Go
CARES ACT	2020-2023	Senior Center activities	\$55,710	Support for seniors' activities: drivers' wages, parts and maintenance of vehicles, software for transportation needs, blue light cleaning, PPE, training, etc.
Beaumont Hospital	2017-2022	Transportation of Southfield Seniors (TOSS)	\$42,500	Providing transportation to an average of 200 people per month to various Beaumont facilities
Ascension Health	2017-2022	Transportation of Southfield Seniors (TOSS)	\$105,000	Providing transportation to over 2,000 people per year to various Providence facilities.
State of Michigan	2022 -	Carpenter Lake	\$600,000	Project will include: parking lot improvements, and restrooms.
Community Development Block Grant	2017-2021	Transportation of Southfield Seniors (TOSS)	\$128,839	Support for seniors transportation programs: wages for drivers, dispatchers, and medical screeners.

# Partnerships, Volunteer & Sponsorship Opportunities

## Partnerships

Partnerships between the Department of Parks and Recreation and other entities facilitate and enhance the delivery of services to the public. Other entities may be other departments within the City, other agencies, such as adjacent municipalities, and state and federal agencies, but also non-profits, private businesses, and individuals.

The Department also enjoys a partnership with the 'field Zone, a youth center located in the lower level of the Municipal Complex that serves kids in grades 6 through 12. Run by Metro Detroit Youth Clubs, the 'field Zone offers programming such as sports leagues, fitness and wellness programs along with mentoring, academic tutoring, workforce development and community service and civic engagement. 'field Zone staff and participants have volunteered at Parks & Recreation special events such as Boo Bash and EGGS'travaganza.

## Non-Profits

The city has partnered with the Six Rivers Land Conservancy to oversee volunteer stewardship activities within natural areas, such as enlisting an AmeriCorps crew to remove invasive plant species at Berberian Woods, or directing volunteers from Lawrence Technological University in invasive removal along the Rouge River in Valley Woods. A long-standing relationship with Friends of the Rouge fosters community wide and corporate volunteerism for the annual Rouge River Clean-Up and green infrastructure projects, such as plantings and bioswales.

The Parks and Recreation Department has a strong partnership with Southfield Youth Assistance, a local non-profit prevention program focusing on youth and families in the area. Through this partnership some families are eligible for low-to-no-cost options including summer camp for kids.



## Lawrence Tech

Lawrence Technological University (LTU) is a private university located in Southfield that offers its students a variety of recreational facilities for intramural and team sports. They do have some on-campus facilities including a football stadium with new turf installed in 2016. In past years, they have rented a variety of spaces from Parks & Recreation including volleyball courts, tennis courts and the Sports Arena. These past partnerships have proven mutually beneficial by bringing in rental revenue to the city while filling an area of need for the university.

## **Interagency Relationships**

The City of Southfield works with many different agencies to benefit the Parks and Recreation Department. A multi-agency partnership with the City of Birmingham, Village of Beverly Hills, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development (OCPED), Oakland County Water Resources Commission, Six Rivers Land Conservancy and the Friends of the Rouge serve together to manage and promote the resources of the Rouge Green Corridor. The city participated in Oakland County's development of its Green Infrastructure Plan. The city also participates with OCPED and Oakland County Parks groups for Oakland Trails Advisory Council, Natural Areas Advisory Council, and the annual Heritage Conference.

Southfield Public Schools are the primary school district in Southfield. Other school districts, such as Birmingham and Royal Oak, extend into Southfield. Private, parochial, and charter school are also located in Southfield.

## **Business Partnerships**

Important partnerships with business organizations within the City include those with the City Centre Advisory Board and the Southfield Downtown Development Authority. Both have been important in establishing a vision for parks and recreation in the City.

The community has a year-round golf option through a partnership with NR Golf, which privately operates the heated tees at Beech Woods Driving Range from November 1- April 30.

The Best Western Premier has become a partner of the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department as a location for special events. Their ballroom has hosted our popular Daddy-Daughter Dance in recent years.

A partnership with Impulse Dance Academy has led to a dramatic rise in enrollment in our youth dance classes. Through the use of our facilities and marketing in our activities guide this collaboration has led to an expansion of offerings and the opportunity for students to perform at special events such as Senior Appreciation Night, Soulful Santa Celebration and the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Parks and Recreation collaborates with the Business and Economic Development Department for the Community Cup. This series of events brings Southfield businesses to our parks and facilities to promote philanthropy, networking, competition and team-building.

## **Volunteers**

The Parks and Recreation team will investigate the potential of developing a volunteer program that will provide a menu of opportunities ranging from park projects, special events, park clean-ups, and stewardship projects. This menu will give organizations, businesses, partners, and residents the opportunity to choose a volunteer experience that will match their interest and/or passion.

Volunteers continue to be a valuable resource for our parks and recreation team and will be proactively recruited, retained, and rewarded by our community members.

## **Sponsorships**

The Southfield Parks and Recreation Department offers several sponsorship opportunities for individual facilities and special events, from co-sponsorships of concert series to memorial trees and benches in a city park.

Sponsorship packages and opportunities are detailed on the City website and are coordinated through the Parks and Recreation Department.



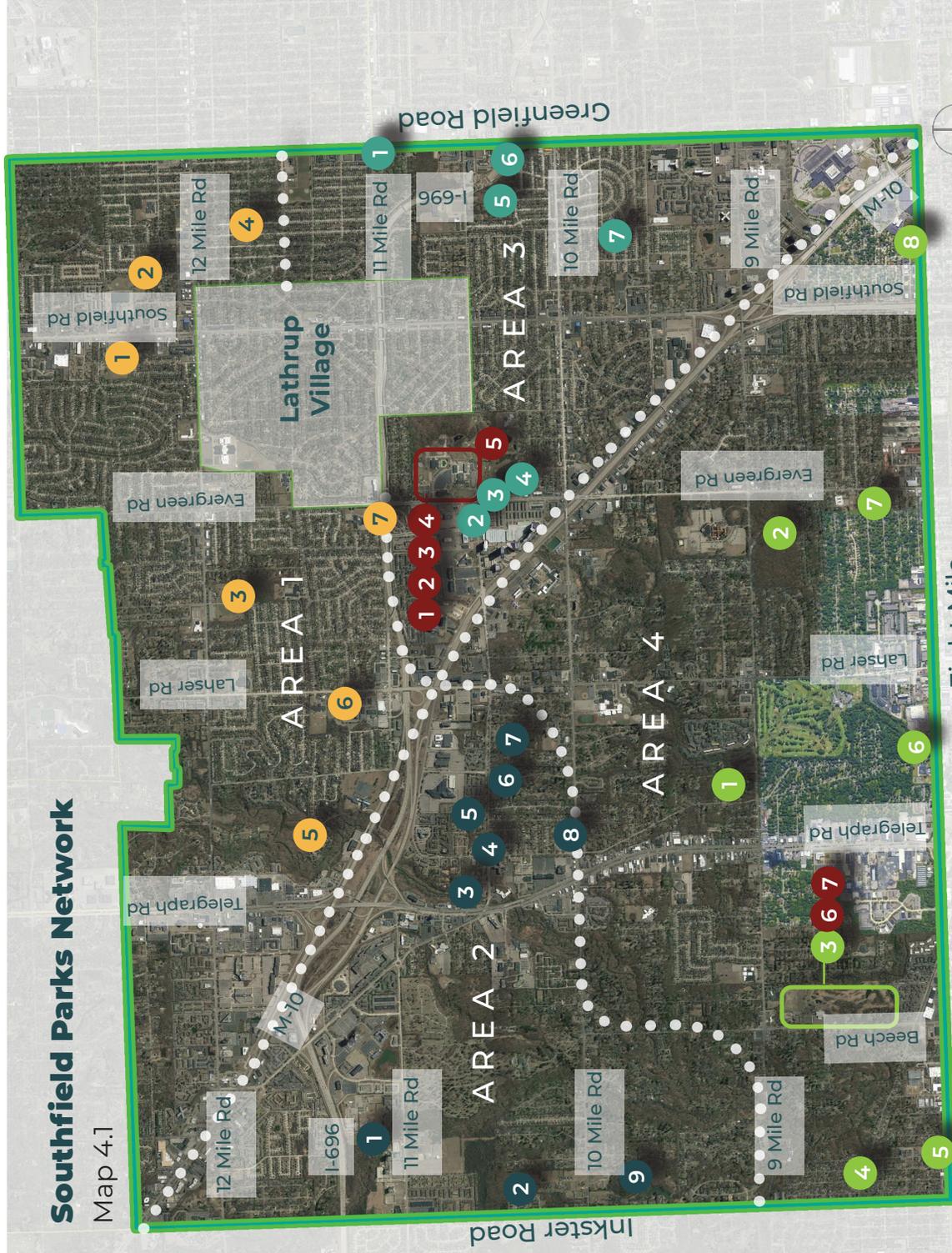
# > Recreation Inventory <

## Chapter Four

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# Southfield Parks Network

Map 4.1



Eight Mile



0 1 Mile

## Parks and Open Space

- 1 : Miller Park
- 2 : Bedford Woods Park
- 3 : Inglenook Park
- 4 : Simms Park
- 5 : Berberian Woods Nature Preserve
- 6 : Lahser Woods Park
- 7 : Evergreen Park

### Area 1

- 1 : Pebble Creek Park
- 2 : Robbie Gage Memorial Park
- 3 : Valley Woods Nature Preserve
- 4 : Burgh Historical Park
- 5 : Southfield Cemetery
- 6 : Mulberry Park
- 7 : Code House
- 8 : Southfield Ten
- 9 : Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve

### Area 2

- 1 : Eleven Mile/ Greenfield Park
- 2 : City Center Plaza
- 3 : Civic Center Park
- 4 : Mary Thompson House & Farm
- 5 : Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve
- 6 : Freeway Park
- 7 : Stratford Woods Commons

### Area 3

- 1 : Hunter's Lane Woods Nature Preserve
- 2 : Bauervic Woods Park
- 3 : Beech Woods Park
- 4 : Seminole Street Park
- 5 : John Grace Park & Community Center
- 6 : Horsetail Woods Nature Preserve
- 7 : Brace Park
- 8 : Baseline Plaza

### Area 4

## Buildings and Facilities

- 1 : Arts and Activities Building
- 2 : Parks and Recreation Building
- 3 : Ice Arena at the Southfield Sports Arena
- 4 : Outdoor Pool at the Southfield Sports Arena
- 5 : Evergreen Hills Golf Course
- 6 : Beech Woods Recreation Center
- 7 : Beech Woods

# City Parks and Facilities

The City classifies its parklands into five categories based on their size and function. While particular uses and purposes are described for each category, it is important to bear in mind that any of the City's types of parklands can use an integrated design approach. All of Southfield's parks can incorporate landscaping and green infrastructure features suitable for the types of recreation, conservation or uses in each park, but can also provide water quality, air quality, and resilience benefits. For example, playing fields can be designed and constructed to serve as storm water detention facilities during rainstorms, relieving flooding in adjacent neighborhoods and parking lots and playing surfaces may incorporate permeable surfacing. Consulting firm, OHM Advisors, along with city staff visited and conducted the inventory of each park and facility.

## **Community Parks and Recreation Facilities (25 Acres or greater)**

Community parks contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of City residents. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in small or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally 25 acres or greater in area and serve residents within one-half to three miles. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community.

## **Neighborhood Parks and Community Centers (3-24 acres)**

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the focus of recreation activity for the more immediate neighborhood around the park; typically a one-mile square township section, bounded on four sides by major roadways. Facilities may or may not include a small parking lot, open space, seating, picnic facilities and some athletic facilities such as ballfields or basketball courts.

## **Small Parks (Less than 3 Acres)**

Small parks or mini-parks are three acres or less in size and may represent only a single lot. Their purpose is dependent on their location, size and the needs of the immediate area. They may be developed as urban parks, neighborhood play areas, community gardens or as passive green space. The majority of Southfield's small parks are undeveloped.

## **Nature Preserves and Open Space**

Nature preserves (e.g. Carpenter Lake) may be of a variety of sizes, and have a primary focus of preserving and protecting natural areas in the City while still providing access to nature by the public. Other recreational facilities may exist on a nature preserve property if they do not conflict with the parks primary purpose, including parking areas, trails, nature centers, wildlife observation areas, fishing piers, picnic areas, restroom facilities, and small play areas. Some natural areas may be left undeveloped and held as open space only for green buffers, wildlife and floodplain recharge areas.

## **Historical and Cultural Sites**

Southfield historic and cultural sites are primarily utilized for passive areas and specialized recreation such as the gazebo concert series.



# Accessibility

The description of each park or facility includes an assessment of its condition for barrier-free access. A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described in more detail below and the accessibility rankings can be found in the list below. Guidelines provided by the MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) and conducted during aforementioned site visits.

**Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

**Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

**Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.

**Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

**Level 5.** The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreational facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Southfield's parks and recreation facilities has been conducted. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

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



# Area One



## **Miller Park - Neighborhood Park**

John R. Miller Park is a small neighborhood park that has accessible paved parking, paved court for single tennis and basketball courts, playground, two baseball fields, open field, and picnic seating.

**13.56 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**



## **Bedford Woods Park - Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood park that features two gravel parking areas, soccer field, open field, gravel walkways, picnic seating, playground, and two ball fields.

**14.72 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**



## **Inglenook Park - Community Park**

One of Southfields community parks, Inglenook has accessible parking with green infrastructure (pervious pavers), concessions, restrooms, paved walking trail, four ball fields, pavilion, picnic seating, safety lighting, accessible playground, and open space.

**42.41 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 4**

# Area One



## **Simms Park - Neighborhood Park**

Has street parking only, sidewalk loop path, pavilion, picnic seating, grill, safety lighting, accessible playground, open field, single ball field, court for single tennis and basketball courts.

**4.04 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**



## **Berberian Woods Nature Preserve**

Specially denoted area within the Valley Woods system. The land is heavily wooded with no formal access.

**25.9 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**



## **Lahser Woods Park - Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood park with accessible walking path connecting neighborhood, school playground and field facilities, open space, parking lot currently under construction, and picnic seating.

**15.79 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 2**

# Area One



## Evergreen Park - *Small Park*

Previous city owned lot that has been incorporated by Alice M. Birney school. Open field used for gym activities and other events.

**0.38 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**



## Area Two



### **Pebble Creek Park - Neighborhood Park**

Paved walking trail, playground, pavilion with bathrooms, single soccer field, open field, volleyball(grass), accessible paved parking, and single tennis court.

**15.42 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**



### **Robbie Gage Memorial Park - Neighborhood Park**

The site is wooded and undeveloped.

**16.77 Acres**



### **Valley Woods Nature Preserve**

Only small portion shown on map, the preserve spans the main branch of the Rouge River with existing walkways and room for expansion. The preserve is one of the most significant natural areas in the City.

**61.46 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 2**

## Area Two



### **Burgh Historical Park - *Historical Site***

Municipal buildings, museum, historic buildings, open space, fountain, walking garden, picnic seating, lighting, accessible parking. Several restored historical structures are preserved on the property which was the original seat of Southfield Township, including the original township hall, fire hall, and public works garage. Other historical structures have been moved to the property, such as the Simmons House, 1854 Church, and the Parks House.

**7.9 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**



### **Southfield Cemetery - *Historical Site***

Historic Cemetery open to the public.

**5.46 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**



### **Mulberry Park - *Small Park***

Mulberry Park is an undeveloped park site off of Civic Center Drive in a residential neighborhood.

**0.93 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**

## Area Two



### **Code House - *Historical Site***

Historical building and open field with no parking or accessibility. An example of mid-19th century Green revival architecture, the structure has been restored.

**6.9 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**



### **Southfield Ten - *Small Park***

Outdoor Fitness Course in open space, no city parking or accessibility.

**2.0 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**



### **Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve**

Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve features interpretive nature trails and lake fishing access. The parking lot is constructed with porous pavement with a bioswale to handle surface water run off . The lake serves as a fish and wildlife habitat.

**43.58 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**

## Area Three

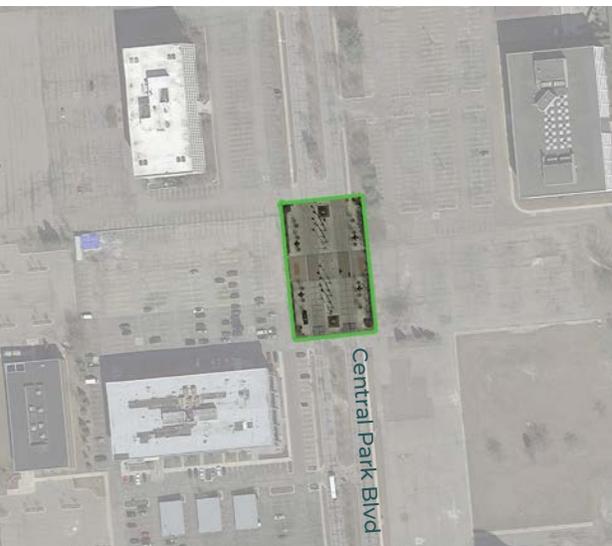


### **Eleven Mile/Greenfield Park - *Small Park***

City owned grass parcel with sign and memorial but no parking or accessibility.

**0.7 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**



### **City Center Plaza - *Small Park***

City Centre Plaza is part of existing road right-of-way on Central Park Boulevard which has been upgraded with landscaping and street furnishings. It has been the venue for various programs and events.

**0.68 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 5**



### **Civic Center Park - *Community Park***

City's main civic property and community park. Site includes library, Evergreen Hills Golf Course, civic and court buildings.

The Civic Center is home to the Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices, the Southfield Pavilion, the Arts & Activities Building, meeting rooms, restrooms, the pool and ice arena, and park maintenance operations.

Outdoor recreational facilities include nature trails, picnic area with shelter, playground, sand volleyball courts, ball fields, including Miracle Field, lighted handball and tennis complex, and walking trails.

**154.84 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**

## Area Three



### **Mary Thompson House & Farm - Historical Site**

The Mary Thompson Farm is the remains of the original homestead of one of the City's pioneer benefactors. The farm provided the land for the development of the Civic Center in the 1970s. Here you can find a community garden, restrooms, shelter area, gravel parking lot and restored farmhouse.

**19.4 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 2**



### **Freeway Park - Neighborhood Park**

Freeway Park can be considered one of Southfield's most unique park sites. The neighborhood park is an overpass on the I-696 expressway which connects residential neighborhoods to schools, religious institutions and commercial areas along the highway. Features playground, paved walking trail and parking (accessible), picnic seating, open space, and large paved areas.

**11.51 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**

### **Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve**

A wooded preserve and nature trail connected to Freeway Park with no formal parking.

**21.71 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**

# Area Three



## **Stratford Woods Commons - *Neighborhood Park***

A neighborhood park with accessible walking trail, street parking only, picnic seating, open space, and playground.

**5.1 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 4**



## Area Four



### **Hunters Lane Woods Nature Preserve**

Hunters Lane Woods Nature Preserve is an undeveloped nature preserve on a tributary of the Rouge River. There is no formal access or parking

**22.66 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**



### **Bauervic Woods Park - Nature Preserve**

Bauervic Woods Nature Preserve is one of Southfield's major nature preserves. There are extensive trails throughout the park, playground, picnic seating and gravel parking.

**80.44 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**



### **Beech Woods Park - Community Park**

Beech Woods Park is a community park which serves the entire community with its recreation center, tennis courts, playground, picnic shelter, open space and green infrastructure. There is also a driving range, including portions that are heated and lighted, for year-round play.

**81.85 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**

## Area Four



### **Seminole Street Park - *Small Park***

Small park within residential neighborhood featuring a playground and seating options.

**0.63 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**

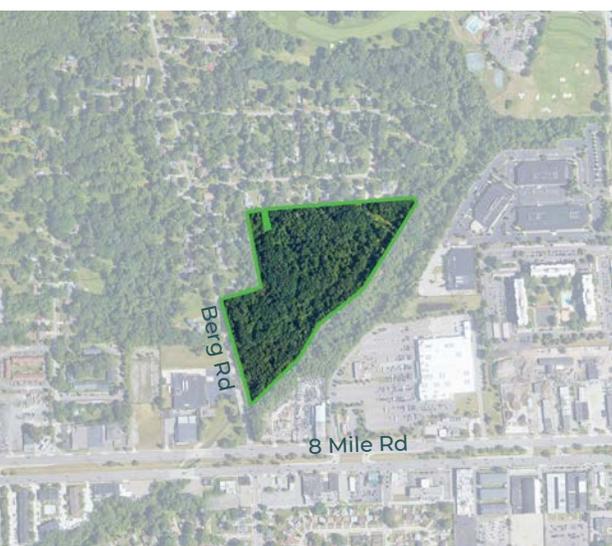


### **John Grace Park - *Neighborhood Park***

Small neighborhood park with single tennis court, playground, picnic seating and a ball field.

**4.61 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 3**



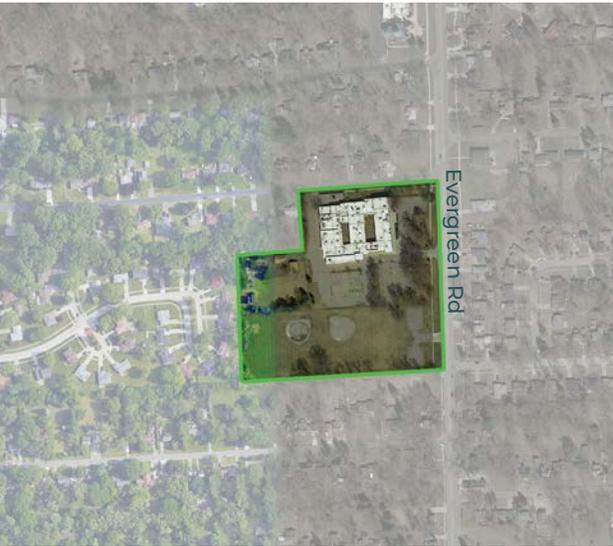
### **Horsetail Woods Nature Preserve**

Horsetail Woods Nature Preserve is located on a Rouge River tributary. The park is heavily wooded with no formal access or parking.

**23.11 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 1**

## Area Four



### **Brace Park - Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood park that is part of school district property with paved parking, picnic seating, open field and two ball fields.

**10.36 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 2**



### **Baseline Plaza - Small Park**

The historical marker was installed in 2016 near Eight Mile and Rutland to commemorate Michigan's role in the implementation of the Public Land Survey System. The 10-foot obelisk is part of the larger "Coasting the Baseline" project, which is a series of markers that celebrates Eight Mile Road (Baseline Road), which was the first successfully surveyed road in the United States using modern surveying methods.

**0.8 Acres**

**Accessibility Assessment : 5**



# Amenities Table

Table 4.1

Facility Name	Parking Lots	Concessions / Vending	Restrooms (Indoor or Outdoor)	Basketball Courts (Indoor or Outdoor)	Skate Park	Tennis Courts	Shelter or Covered Picnic Area	Stage/Band Shelter/Amphitheater	Ball Diamonds (Ball Fields)	Pathway / Trails	Multiple Purpose Field	Outdoor Pool	Sand or Grass Volleyball Court	Soccer	Play Equipment	Fitness Center	Gymnasiums	Ice Skating Rink
Baseline Plaza																		
Bauervic Woods Park	X									X					X			
Bedford Woods Park	X								X	X	X			X	X			
Beech Woods Park	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X		X		X	X	X	
Berberian Woods in VWNP										X								
Brace Park	X								X		X							
Bridge Street in VWNP																		
Burgh Historical Park	X		X					X										
Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve	X									X								
City Centre Plaza																		
Civic Center Park Municipal Campus	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Code House			X															
Freeway Park	X									X					X			
Horsetail Woods Nature Preserve										X								
Hunters Lane Woods Nature Preserve																		
Inglenook Park	X		X			X		X	X	X					X			
John Grace Park	X			X	X	X			X						X			
John R. Miller Park	X			X		X			X						X			
Lahser Woods Park	X									X	X							
Lincoln Woods																		
Mary Thompson House & Farm	X		X															
Mulberry Park																		
Pebble Creek Park	X		X			X	X			X	X		X	X				
Robbie Gage Memorial Park																		
Seminole Park															X			
Simms Park				X		X	X			X	X				X			
Southfield Cemetery																		
Stratford Woods Common										X					X			
Valley Woods Nature Preserve (VWNP)										X								
10 Mile Park											X							
11 Mile Park											X							

# Public School Facilities

Although school facilities are designed and intended for school use and are not available to the public all the time, they do satisfy some community recreational needs. The City is served by the Southfield Public School District. Southfield school facilities provide conventional recreation facilities targeted for the specific use and benefit of the enrolled school population. To a limited extent, the school facilities supplement the broader range of recreational opportunities provided to the public by the City.

All school sites provide some recreational facilities on their grounds as well as indoor facilities such as classrooms, auditoriums, and gymnasiums in the school buildings. The grounds serve a neighborhood park function by providing public open spaces for nearby residents to utilize.

## **The public school facilities located in the City are:**

- Southfield High School for the Arts and Technology
- Southfield Regional Academic Campus
- Levey Middle School: STEAM
- Adler Elementary School
- Birney K-8 School
- McIntyre Elementary School
- Stevenson Elementary School
- Thompson K-8 International Academy
- Vandenberg World Cultures Academy
- Bussey Center for Early Childhood Education
- Kennedy Learning Center
- University Middle & High School Academies
- MacArthur K-8 University Academy



# Private Facilities

Many of Southfield’s local recreational facilities are provided through the private sector. These facilities may be open to the general public and they may also require a membership fee. The following represents a listing of private recreation facilities in Southfield.

- **Franklin Athletic Club.** Located on Northwestern Highway between 12 Mile and 13 Mile Roads, the Franklin Athletic Club has facilities for court sports (racquetball, squash, wally ball), as well as personal trainers, swimming lessons, basketball and sports camps. Memberships can be purchased based on type of program or level of interest.
- **Cranbrook Swim Club.** Located on Evergreen Road south of 13 Mile Road, Cranbrook Swim Club offers amenities for swimming and tennis for members of all ages. Memberships are not guaranteed based on interest, but on Club capacity. It is common for potential members to be on a waitlist.
- **Plum Hollow Country Club.** Located on Lahser Road and W 9 Mile Road, the Plum Hollow Country Club is a private membership club with amenities extending beyond the golf course. Members can enjoy swimming, tennis, social events, dining facilities, and snack bar.

## Nearby Parks and Facilities

Surrounded by the City of Farmington Hills, City of Farmington, Redford Charter Township, City of Royal Oak, City of Detroit, City of Oak Park, City of Berkley, Village of Beverly Hills, and the City of Lathrup Village, Southfield residents benefit from the proximity of neighboring communities’ parks and recreation facilities.

These parks and facilities supplement those located in the City with offerings such as active recreation, athletic fields, educational programs, golf, nature centers, playgrounds, and swimming. The following local parks and facilities are located within a short distance of the City:



### Berkley

- Jaycee Park
- Kiwanis Tot Lot
- Oxford Park

### Detroit

- Belle Isle
- Campus Martius
- Charles H. Wright Museum
- Comerica Park
- DIA
- Ford Field
- Little Caesar’s Arena

### Beverly Hills

- Beverly Hills Athletic Club
- Beverly Hills Village Park

### Farmington

- Franklin Hills Country Club
- George F. Riley Park
- Shiawassee Park

## **Farmington Hills**

- Tennis and Squash Club
- Farmington Hills Dog Park
- Farmington Hills Golf Club
- Farmington Hills Nature Center
- Forest Park Swimming Pool
- Founders Sports Park
- Heritage Park
- Memorial Park
- Olde Town Park
- Riley Archery Range
- Woodland Hills Nature Park

## **Lathrup Village**

- Annie Lathrup Park
- Goldengate Park
- Lathrup Municipal Park
- Sarrackwood Park

## **Redford**

- Allison Park
- Bell Creek County Park
- Detroit Memorial Park
- Glenhurst Golf Course
- Handy Park
- Jaycee Park
- Lola Valley Parkway
- Manning Park
- Phoenix Park
- Redford Park
- Vandenburg Park
- Volney-Smith Park
- Western Golf and Country Club

## **Royal Oak**

- Barton Park North
- Barton Park South
- Bassett Park
- Cummingston Park
- Detroit Zoo
- Dickinson Park
- Dondero Park
- Eagle Plaza
- Elks Park
- Exchange Park
- Franklin Park
- Fred Piper Optimist Park
- Gunn-Dyer Park
- Grant Park
- Hudson Park
- Kenwood Park
- Lockman Park
- Maddock Park
- Marais Park
- Mark Twain Park
- Marks Park
- Maudlin Park
- Meininger Park
- Miller Park
- Realtor Park
- Red Run Golf Club
- Red Run Park
- Royal Oak Golf Center
- Quickstad Park
- Starr Jaycee Park
- Sullivan Park
- Upton Park

- VFW Park
- Wagner Park
- Waterworks Park
- Wendtland Park
- Westwood Park
- Whittier Park
- Worden Park
- Worden Park East



# Regional Parks and Facilities

Regional parks serve a multi-community area and often 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 use active play areas such as ball fields or basketball courts. While the City of Southfield does not use these parks for the City's recreation programs, they do provide active and passive recreational opportunities for the residents of the community. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and Oakland County provide regional parks and facilities. The only regional park in Southfield is Catalpa Oaks, other regional parks within 60 miles of the City are shown on Map 4.2 on the following page.

## 1. Michigan State Parks.

Several Michigan state parks within 60 miles offer recreational opportunities for Southfield residents. These state facilities provide a variety of activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. There are no state parks in the City.

## 2. Oakland County Parks.

The Oakland County park system offers year-round recreational opportunities including camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, cross-country skiing, boating/canoeing/kayaking, and golf. Catalpa Oaks is maintained by Oakland County, but is located in Southfield.

- Catalpa Oaks features baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, playscape and swings, and picnic pavilions. Visitors can enjoy various activities, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, relaxing, and geocaching.

## 3. Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

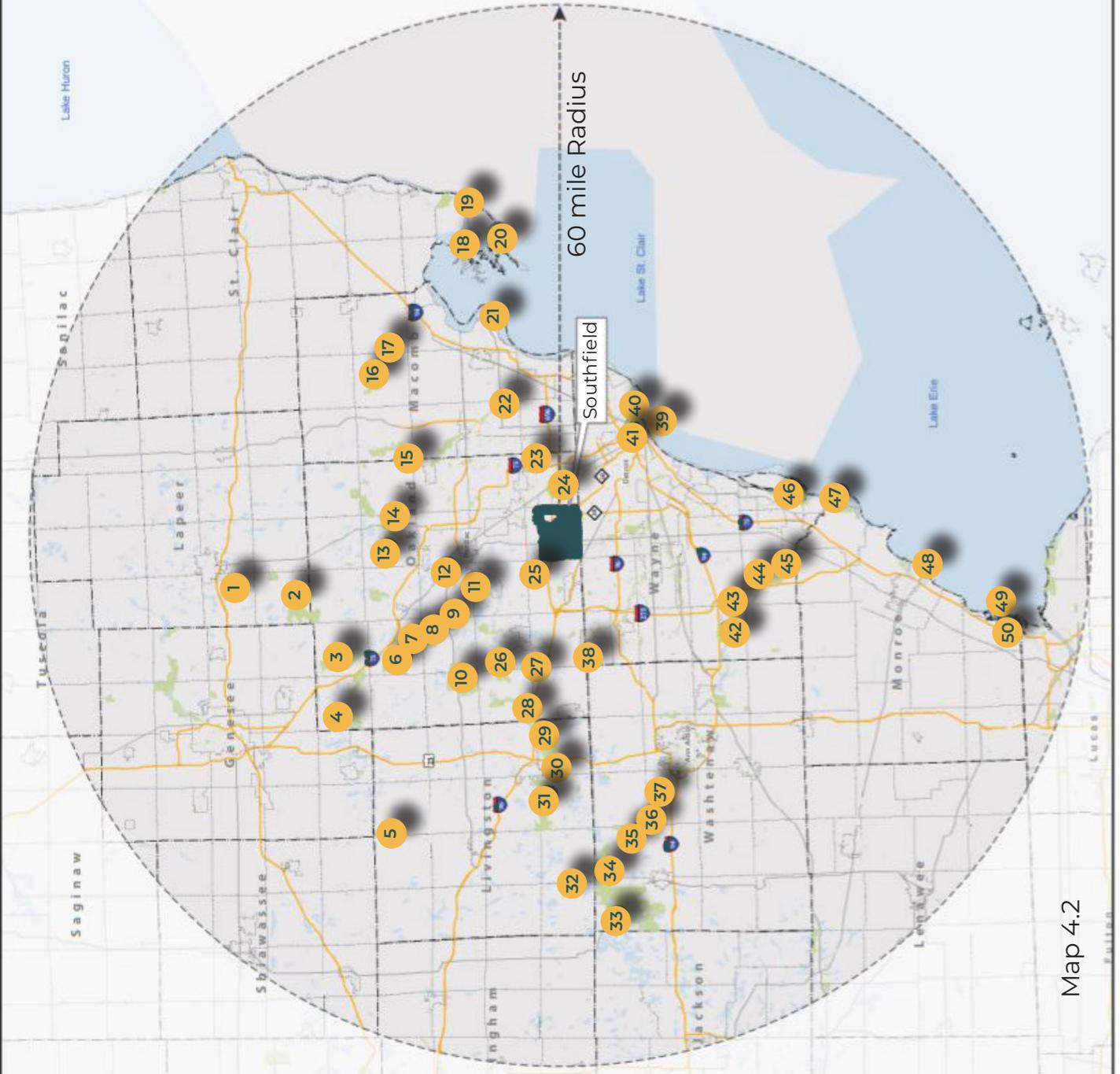
The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park district that encompasses the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Livingston. Since its inception in 1940, the HCMA has obtained over 25,000 acres of parkland, all located in the metro Detroit region. The parks provide a variety of outdoor recreation and educational activities including picnicking, hiking, golf, winter sports, water-related activities, horseback riding, and special programs. There are no Metroparks located in the City.

## 4. Lathrup Village.

Lathrup Village operates four primary parks. Because the Village is located in the middle of the City of Southfield, residents of both communities are able to enjoy these parks. Descriptions of the Village's parks from the Lathrup Village website are provided below.

- **Annie Lathrup Park.** Approximately two acres, Annie Lathrup Park's amenities include both active and passive recreation activities; including a walking/jogging asphalt path, two outdoor skating rinks, open green space and benches.
- **Goldengate Park.** Approximately 2 ½ acres, Goldengate Park's amenities include both active and recreation activities; including playlots, swings, picnic tables, and grills. The Park also provides trash cans, split rail fencing, and parking availability.
- **Lathrup Municipal Park.** Approximately two acres, Lathrup Municipal Park includes passive recreational activities; including picnic shelter and tables, dog park, children's garden, gazebo, brick-paver walkway, and open green space for resting and relaxing.
- **Sarrackwood Park.** Approximately ¾ of an acre, Sarrackwood Park has playground equipment, picnic tables, trash cans, split rail fencing, and a garden area.

# Regional Map of Recreation Facilities



1. Metamora – Hadley Recreation Area
2. Ortonville Recreation Area
3. Holly Recreation Area
4. Seven Lakes State Park
5. Oak Grove State Game Area
6. Springfield Oaks County Park
7. Indian Springs Metropark
8. Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
9. White Lake Oaks Golf Course
10. Highland Lake Recreation Area
11. Dodge #4 State Park
12. Waterford Oaks Waterpark
13. Orion Oaks County Park
14. Bald Mountain State Recreation Area
15. Stony Creek Metropark
16. Wolcott Mill Metropark Historic Center
17. Wetzel State Recreation Area
18. St. John's Marsh Wildlife Area
19. Algonac State Park
20. St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area
21. Lake St. Clair Metropark
22. Freedom Hill County Park
23. Red Oaks County Park
24. Detroit Zoo
25. Glen Oaks Country Club
26. Proud Lake State Recreation Area
27. Lyon Oaks County Park
28. Kensington Metropark
29. Island Lake State Recreation Area
30. Huron Meadows Metropark
31. Brighton Recreation Area
32. Gregory State Game Area
33. Waterloo State Recreation Area
34. Pinckney State Recreation Area
35. Hudson Mills Metropark
36. Dexter-Huron Metropark
37. Delhi Metropark
38. Maybury State Park
39. Belle Isle Park
40. Dequindre Cut
41. Detroit Garden Center
42. Belleville Boat Launch
43. Lower Huron Metropark
44. Willow Metropark
45. Oakwoods Metropark
46. Lake Erie Metropark
47. Pointe Mouillee State Game Area
48. William C. Sterling State Park
49. Woodtick Peninsula
50. Erie Marsh Preserve

Map 4.2

# Programming

The Department of Parks and Recreation offers a variety of different classes, programs and special events throughout the year. Athletics, cultural arts, and senior citizen programming represent major components of Southfield's offerings.

The recreation programming team will explore and be proactive in designing and implementing programs and events that reflect the needs of the community. Program areas may include, but are not limited to:

- Nature Education and Interpretation
- Health and Wellness Initiatives
- Outreach Programming in our Parks
- Stewardship
- Biking Programs
- Kids Camps
- Day Trips
- Kids Programs
- Holiday Events
- Fitness
- Senior Programs
- Live Music
- Seasonal Events
- Cultural Events



## Athletics

Southfield Parks and Recreation offers many athletic opportunities for all ages and abilities. This includes golf, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, tennis, football, futsal, volleyball, ice skating, hockey, swimming; just to name a few.

The City of Southfield is the home of Michigan's first baseball field for children with any physical or mental disability. The Easterseals Miracle League of Michigan is a charitable organization that provides children with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball as team members in an organized league. Other adaptive programs include wheelchair basketball, golf, and tennis. In addition to the many athletic programs offered by the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department,

some programs are made available due to partnering with community youth sports organizations. These programs take place at both City and school facilities.

## Cultural Arts

The Cultural Arts Division concentrates its efforts on cultural enrichment programming including classes and events in the visual and performing arts and special interests. Classes include dance (ballet, jazz, tap, Motown, ballroom, etc.), ceramics, painting, and drawing.

## Golf

The Golf Division runs course operations, a pro-shop, and a year-round driving range with heated tees, and offers several programs to area golfers including tournaments, golf leagues, and golf outings. A PGA Professional offers both private and group lessons and golf clinics.

At Beech Woods there is a 50-tee driving range, of which 30 are lighted, covered, and heated, and a PGA Professional on staff. Evergreen Hills Golf Course, located at the Southfield Municipal Complex is a 2,954 yard, par 34 course and offers clubs, pull-carts, and power carts for rent.

## Senior Adult Programs

The Southfield Senior Services offers comprehensive programs for adults aged 50 and up, including classes, trips, outreach programs, and other services. Their office is located within the Parks & Recreation Building.

TOSS (Transportation of Southfield Seniors) provides transportation services five days a week for doctor's appointments, dialysis, shopping, or other outings. Senior golf league, softball league, and two bounce volleyball teams offer 50+ aged residents the opportunity to participate in region-wide athletic competitions.

## Special Events

Special events allow opportunities for the community to come together and enjoy various activities that enhance their quality of life. These events also have an economic impact on the Community with so many people gathered in one location and spending monies on food, souvenirs, and lodging. It provides families with activities to share together. Special events promote feelings of being a part of a community and sharing an experience with other participants in a relaxed atmosphere. A great deal of interest in special events has been demonstrated via the public engagement process.



The vast majority of special events take place on the Civic Center site, either in the Pavilion or the front lawn. Other events are held at Beech Woods Park and Recreation Center, Mary Thompson Farm and the Burgh Historical Park. The redevelopment of Northland Mall will provide the potential for special event programs.

Many public events are also held at the Pavilion, which are sponsored by outside groups and organizations. They include art exhibits, antique shows, and international festivals, as well as trade shows and charity events. At 28,800 square feet, the Southfield Pavilion represents the 10th largest convention facility in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Some Southfield Parks and Recreation special events include:

- Boo at the Burgh
- Daddy-Daughter Dance
- Eat to the Beat concerts
- EGGS'travaganza
- Fishing Derby
- Gazebo concerts
- Juneteenth
- Celebrate Black History Month
- Family Fun and Safety Night
- Outdoor Movies
- Senior Appreciation Night
- Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Soulful Santa

Special events continue to be a high priority in our community. The parks and recreation team will continue to be creative and innovative in designing events that create an environment that is safe and brings a sense of community to Southfield. Potential future events can be found on the City website.



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# ➤ Parkland Analysis & Service Areas ◀

## Chapter Five

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# Parkland Analysis

Table 5.1 evaluates Southfield’s park acreage in comparison to the guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). However, the standards are general in nature and do not reflect the quality of the facilities, the character of the community, or other local differences that impact community recreation facility needs. Thus in evaluating the results, the actual conditions and trends present in the City must be taken into account.

Park Classification	NRPA Acreage Guideline	Recommended Acreage	Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficiency
<b>Mini Parks</b>	0.25	17.93	7.3	-10.63
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	2	143.48	155.22	11.74
<b>Community Parks</b>	5	358.7	307.8	-50.9

The guidelines for recommended acreage of park land in a community is based upon population. Southfield has a very large population and not enough acres of park space to accommodate the large population. Private and special use facilities, such as Plum Hollow Country Club and Golf Course are not included in the land acreage analysis.

Development of the City Centre and Northland Mall sites will assist in providing park land acreage for Southfield; however, additional parks or expansion of existing parks should be considered in the future in order to accommodate the large population of Southfield.

## Sources

**1** Source: Lancaster, R.A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J.R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995. Based on minimum acres/1,000 residents. **2** Based on City population of 71,739 as of the 2010 US Census. **3** For the purposes of evaluating recommended acreage for Neighborhood and Community Parks, school facilities are counted at one-third (1/3) of their acreage for comparison purposes. Middle School and under are considered Neighborhood Parks and High Schools are considered community parks, due to the increase in size of the campus



# Service Area Analysis

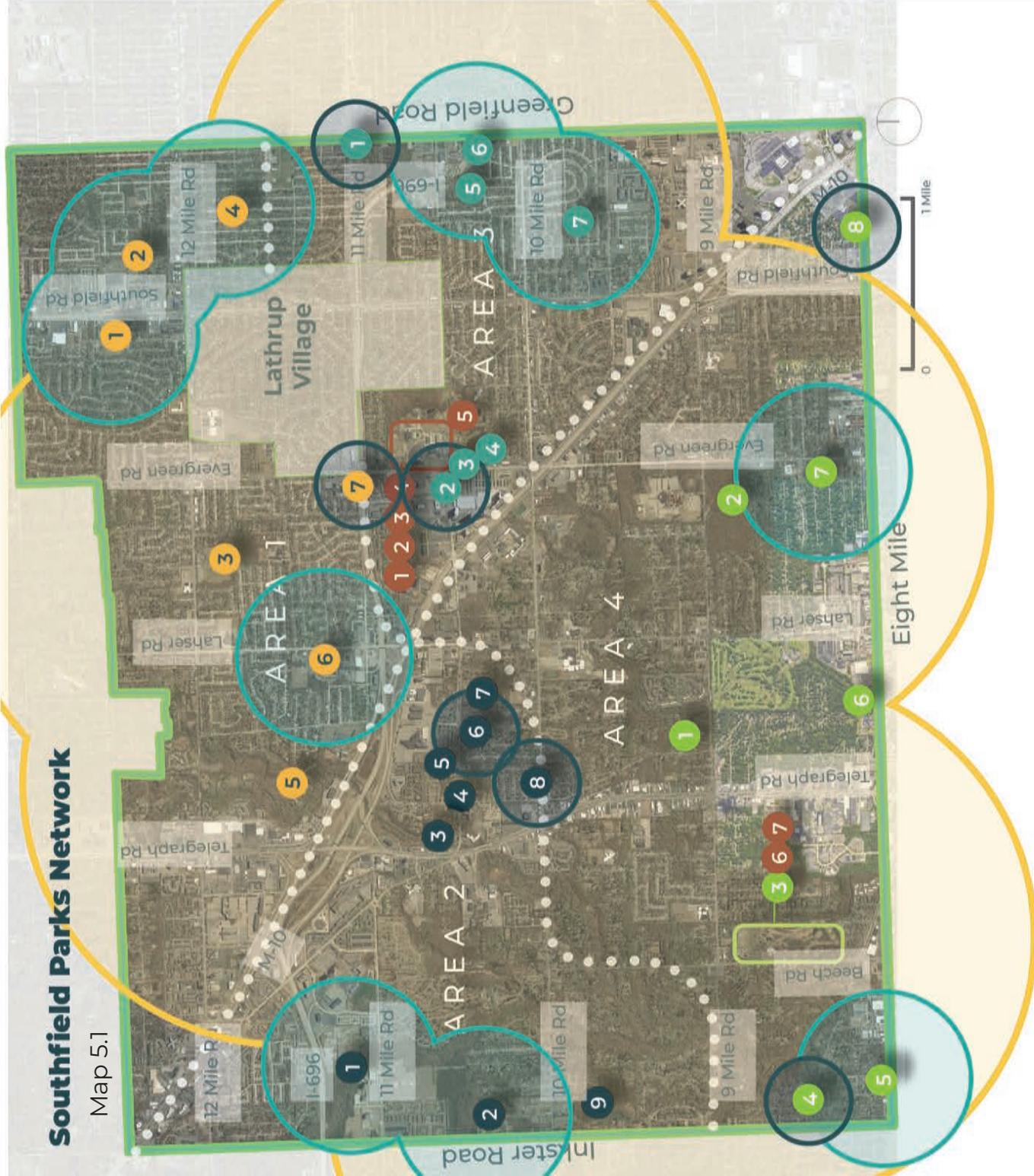
When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to closely consider where residents in the City live. The MDNR offers a recommended service area for each type of park. The recommended service radius for each park type was used to determine the areas in Southfield that lack easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- **Mini Parks** Less than 0.25 miles
- **Neighborhood Parks** 0.25 – 0.5 miles
- **Community Parks** 0.5 – 3.0 miles

This service area is reflected in Map 5.1 on the following page. For purposes of evaluation, a radius of 0.25 miles was used for mini parks, 0.5 miles for neighborhood parks, and 1.5 miles for community parks and natural resource areas.

# Southfield Parks Network

Map 5.1



## Parks and Open Space

- 1 : Miller Park
- 2 : Bedford Woods Park
- 3 : Inglebrook Park
- 4 : Simms Park
- 5 : Berberian Woods Nature Preserve
- 6 : Lahser Woods Park
- 7 : Evergreen Park

### Area 1

- 1 : Pebble Creek Park
- 2 : Robbie Gage Memorial Park
- 3 : Valley Woods Nature Preserve
- 4 : Burgh Historical Park
- 5 : Southfield Cemetery
- 6 : Mulberry Park
- 7 : Code House
- 8 : Southfield Ten
- 9 : Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve

### Area 2

- 1 : Eleven Mile/ Greenfield Park
- 2 : City Center Plaza
- 3 : Civic Center Park
- 4 : Mary Thompson House & Farm
- 5 : Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve
- 6 : Freeway Park
- 7 : Stratford Woods Commons

### Area 3

- 1 : Hunter's Lane Woods Nature Preserve
- 2 : Bauervic Woods Park
- 3 : Beech Woods Park
- 4 : Seminole Street Park
- 5 : John Grace Park & Community Center
- 6 : Horsetail Woods Nature Preserve
- 7 : Brace Park
- 8 : Baseline Plaza

### Area 4

1.5 mile Radius

.5 mile Radius

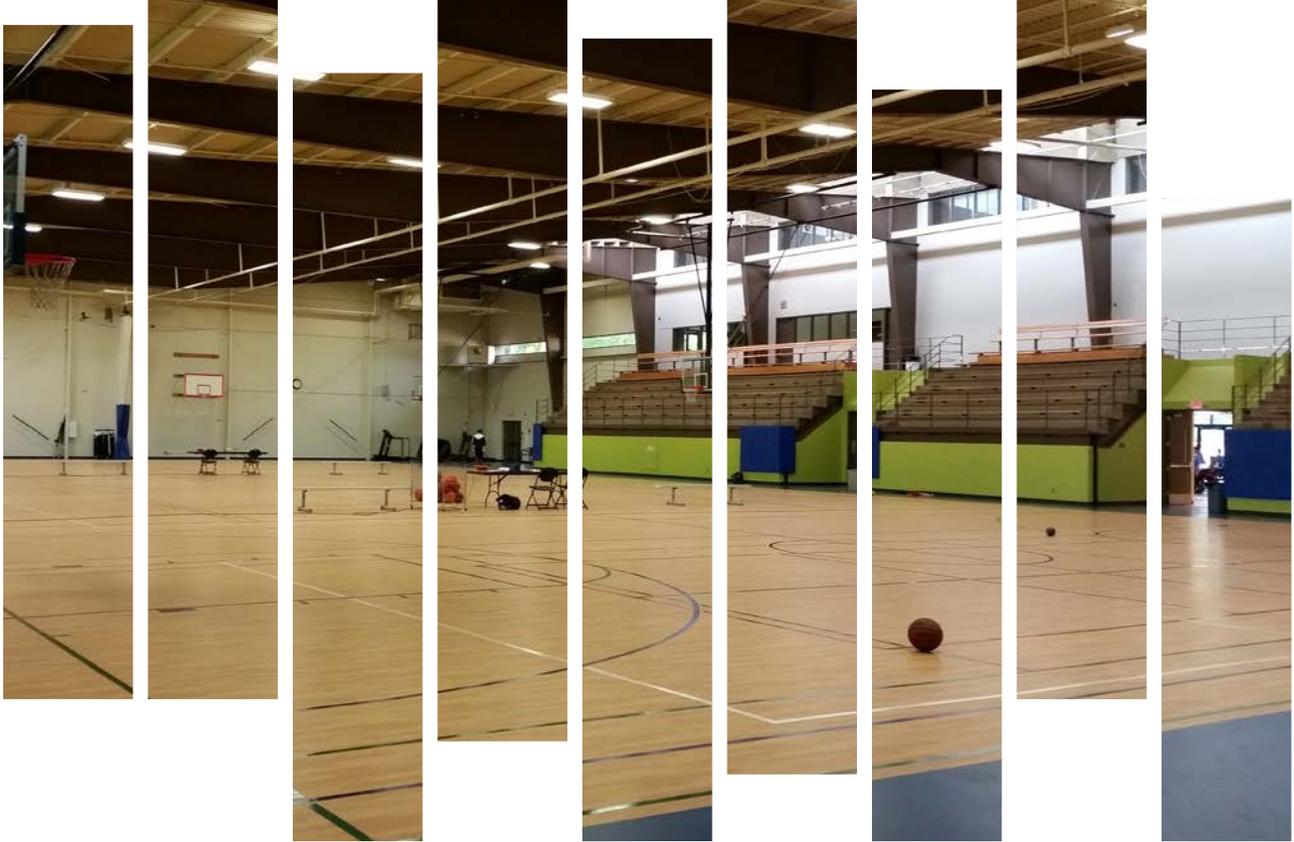
.25 mile Radius

# Amenities Analysis

The City's existing recreation facilities were compared against the guidelines set by the NRPA and MDNR to determine if the existing facilities are adequate to meet the needs of residents in comparison to national standards. Table 5.2 identifies the NRPA guideline for each facility type, the recommended number of facilities and the existing number of facilities in the City, and the surplus or deficiency. With a large population such as Southfield, several amenities are needed to accommodate the residents. As funding allows, the following facilities should be considered based on the public request for additional facilities:

- **Swimming Pools.** Public input from the online survey and the Community Open House indicates that an indoor swimming pool is desired/needed in the City. The outdoor pool receives a great deal of use in the summer months, but an indoor pool would allow children and adults to enjoy swimming and engage in water therapy all year round. Residents expressed that they go to neighboring communities for indoor swimming and indoor swimming programs.
- **Basketball Courts.** Indoor/outdoor basketball courts were recognized in the survey. The City should consider development additional basketball courts to meet the demands of the public.
- **Nature Center.** There has been a lot of attention given to the more passive recreations, a trend that phoenixes from COVID-19 but is sticking around. The desire for a nature center is one of these, and thus a nature center is generational and fits into the trend of wanting to connect to the outdoors and acknowledgement of global warming and climate changes.
- **The City** is currently working on constructing **playgrounds** that will begin to shorten the need gap of playgrounds.
- **Outdoor Amphitheater.** The City currently uses a mobile stage for its outdoor performances, and the public indicated in both the survey and the public open houses that there is a need for a permanent structure for outdoor performances.
- **Other Facilities.** Other facilities requested during the public input process include, but were not limited to, a waterpark/splash pad, a dog park, walking trails, natural green spaces, and performance arts.

Table 5.2	MDNR Standard	Recommended Facilities	Existing Facilities	Surplus / Deficiency
Ball Fields	1 per 5,000	14	16	2
Basketball Court (outdoor)	1 per 5,000	14	4	-10
Basketball Court (indoor)	1 per 5,000	10	4	-6
Skate Park	1 per 50,000	1	1	0
Golf-Driving Range	1 per 50,000	1	2	1
Golf Course (9-hole standard)	1 per 25,000	3	1	-2
Racquetball/Handball (3-4 wall)	1 per 20,000	4	3	-1
Ice Hockey/Skating (in and out)	1 per 100,000	1	2	0
Multi-Purpose Athletic Field	1 per 10,000	7	3	-4
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	7	6	-1
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	4	1	-3
Tennis Court	1 court per 2,000	36	14	-22
Trails	1 system per region	1	11	10
Volleyball Court	1 court per 5,000	14	7	-7
Running Track	1 per 20,000	4	0	-4
Playgrounds	1 per 3,607	19	11	-8
Dog Park	1 per 50,000	1	0	-1
Nature Center	1 per 75,000	1	0	-1
Performance Amphitheater	1 per 75,000	1	0	-1



# ➤ Planning Process ◀

Chapter Six

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# Plan Elements

With the 2017-2021 Southfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan set to expire at the end of the year, the City elected to re-up for the next five year period. In doing so, the City can adjust to any changes from the past years, receive new input from community members, and continue eligibility for MDNR funding. Citizen input played a crucial role in the development of this plan. Substantial public engagement undertaken as part of the process in developing this Plan. Attention was also paid to other important planning documents that the City has developed in the past that are relevant to the scope of this plan. These include the Non-Motorized Pathway & Public Transit Plan adopted in 2012, the Northland Redevelopment Plan, Southfield City Centre Vision and Redevelopment Plan that were both adopted in 2016, and the Beech Woods Master Plan of 2021. Recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those stakeholders who have participated throughout these processes and especially those who use the City's parks and recreation facilities. The process for developing this plan included tasks that are described below.

**Task One: Community Description.** The first task was to obtain a description of Southfield's physical and social features. These features include land use, community facilities, environmental and natural features, as well as population characteristics including age distribution, household size, and income. The Community Description can be found in Chapter 2.

**Task Two: Parks and Recreation Inventory.** The parks and recreation inventory includes written descriptions of facilities in Southfield. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. Each park was visited to ensure accurate and updated information early in the Plan process. The Inventory can be found in Chapter 4.

**Task Three: Administrative Structure and Funding.** The administrative structure of the City's parks and recreation facilities and programs, as well as budget and funding information, can be found in Chapter 3.



**Task Four: Public Participation.** The following public participation methods were conducted as part of the process of preparing this plan:

**Communication and Marketing Overview-** The City of Southfield set a goal for an equitable approach to community outreach and to engage a diverse cross section of the community. To achieve these goals, it was important to implement an intentional communication plan to receive detailed feedback on the plan. With residents obtaining information in various ways, a multi-pronged marketing approach was completed in attempt to obtain as robust and varied feedback as possible. With COVID-19 impacting the engagement process, in person options with safety measures and digital options were all offered. The marketing and communication strategy was activated October 13 – November 10, 2021. The various outreach methods are listed below and can also be found within the Public Engagement appendix.

1. Television (local programming)
2. Print (various local newspapers and newsletters)
3. Digital (email blasts and website posting)
- 4 Posters and lawn signs (strategically placed throughout community)
5. Social media

**Master Plan Survey -** A written survey was provided to the community for input. This survey was made available electronically on the Parks and Recreation page of the City's Website, as well as the Open House sessions and at locations throughout the City. The City advertised the survey through the City's webpage, the City's Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor accounts, notification to the neighborhood homeowners associations, and email blasts from the City to all the recreation participants that had current email addresses on file with the City. The feedback can be found within the Appendix. The survey received over 400 responses with over 1,400 individuals clicking the link.

**Public Community Open Houses -** The Community Open Houses were put on as a joint effort between the City of Southfield, OHM Advisors, and Woods & Watts team members. The open houses took place in the evenings of October 27 and 28, 2021 where residents could come to the Southfield Pavilion and participate in different engagement stations. The stations included multiple visual preferences activities, drawing worksheet, open discussion forum, survey station, and boards with input for each individual park and facilities as a "protect, add, remove, and keep" format. Over both nights feedback generated can be found as a breakdown within the appendix. The information gathered from these nights were valuable and different than just a survey can convey. The major themes included:

1. Economics
2. Passive recreation
3. Indoor pool and pool programs
4. Connectivity/Accessibility to and throughout the parks
5. Cultural/Performance arts

The Open Houses were advertised through the City's webpage, the City's Instagram and Facebook accounts, notification to the neighborhood homeowners associations, an email blast from the City to all the recreational participants that had current email addresses on file with the City, an advertisement in the Southfield Sun. Additionally, articles were included in both the Southfield Sun and the Oakland Press following interviews with staff members.

The Open Houses allowed the community to come together with each other and with all the different organizations involved in the formulation of the Plan.

**Stakeholder Meeting** - On 10/20/2021 local community leaders came together in a brainstorming session as a part of the initial community input process. The 25 participants from religious institutions, businesses, and non-profit organizations brought a wide range of ideals and viewpoints. Priorities from this session were developed and can be found in the appendix.

**Planning Commission Public Hearing** – On 12/01/2021 the Southfield Planning Commission held a Public Hearing to receive public comments regarding the Plan. Residents commented on what they would like to see in the future for Southfield parks and facilities. Meeting notes can be found within the appendix.

**Review Period** – On 12/01/2021, the Parks and Recreation Board authorized distribution of the plan. The Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was made available for public review and comment from 12/01/2021 through 12/31/2021 The Draft Plan was available at the Parks and Recreation office, various satellite locations, as well as on the City website.

**Planning Commission Recommendation** - The City Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan on 01/19/2022.

**Parks & Recreation Board Recommendation** - The Parks and Recreation Board recommended approval of the plan on 01/19/2022.

**Public Hearing** - After conducting a public hearing on 01/27/2022, the Southfield City Council approved the plan.

**Task Five: Analysis.** Taking data collected in tasks one through four, relevant information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of City staff and consultants, the desire of the residents, and potential funding sources. The formulation of the Plan is a cyclical process, and builds upon each iteration as well as with information in the City from other documents.

**Task Six: Goals and Objectives.** From the previous tasks, goals and objectives were created by the City as a measure to guide ideals and how to focus future development. For the Plan, the goals and objectives were reviewed from previous master plans and other city documents. The goals are meant to be broad with the objectives narrower and obtainable items that will help reach the goals. The City has done well to cover a wide range of topics in this Plan for the upcoming five year period.

**Task Seven: Action Plan.** Taking into account the analysis, goals and objectives and public input results, a five-year plan was created. The Plan provides the City with a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources. The Five Year Capital Improvement List can be found in Chapter 9.

**Task Eight: Plan Completion and Adoption.** The Public Review Period lasted from 12/01/2021, to 12/31/2021. A Public Hearing was held on 01/27/2022, and the Plan was adopted by the City Council.



# > Public Input <

## Chapter Seven

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# Survey Results

## Written Survey Synopsis and Themes

- 1.** The largest number of participants that participated were in the 35-54, but half of the participants were 55 and above. Most do not have children, and there are either one or two adults in their household. 54% of the participants consider themselves Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American and 40% consider themselves Non-Hispanic White, Caucasian Euro-American.
- 2.** Quality of life in the City of Southfield is good, and there is great acceptance and nurturing of diversity. Most of the residents that took the survey plan on staying in Southfield and would recommend the city to others.
- 3.** Overall, the participants feel the communication and marketing of the City's parks and recreation is good or better than good. Mailers to homes and emails were the best method for communication of activities taking place with email being the best means to communicate real-time updates.
- 4.** Almost all register for programs on-line.
- 5.** Top parks visited by a vast majority:
  - a. Inglenook Park
  - b. Civic Center Park
  - c. Beech Woods Park
  - d. Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve
- 6.** Top facilities visited regularly
  - a. Southfield Pavilion
  - b. Beech Woods Recreation Center
  - c. Parks & Recreation Building
- 7.** Of those that took the survey, 80% or greater stated they NEVER participate in:
  - a. Attended a Game at the Miracle League Field at Civic Center Park
  - b. Attended a Volbrecht Planetarium Show (Virtually)
  - c. Attend a Senior Services Drop-in Program
  - d. Played Racquetball at the Civic Center Park
  - e. Fished at Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve
  - f. Rented a City Park Picnic Shelter
  - g. Used the Beech Woods Wellness Center
  - h. Golfed at Evergreen Hills Golf Course
  - i. Skated at the Sports Arena Rink
- 8.** Activities most participated in are:
  - a. Attended One of Our Free Concerts
  - b. Visited the Parks & Recreation Department's website
  - c. Visited a Neighborhood or City Park
- 9.** Overall parks are considered accessible.
- 10.** Overall parks are considered relatively safe during the day, and a little unsafe at night.

11. Weekday evenings are overwhelming the days and times for recreational programming. Weekend afternoons were next.
12. A majority do use other communities' recreational services at least monthly. Why?
  - a. Indoor pool/splash pad
  - b. Hiking at Heritage Park
13. Important activities
  - a. Celebrate Black History Month
  - b. Winter Fest
  - c. Family Fun & Safety Night
  - d. Juneteenth
  - e. Outdoor movies
14. Classes and programs attended
  - a. Open gym at Beech Woods Recreational Center
  - b. Fitness classes
  - c. Swim lessons
15. Respondents either felt the fees were reasonable or undecided. Typically, the undecided does not participate in an activity that has a fee, so they have no opinion.
16. Bike and walking trails were the only overwhelming facilities to "Fall Short" of demand.
17. Of the desired improvements the additions that are most important are:
  - a. Walking paths
  - b. Indoor pool
  - c. Nature Center
  - d. Improved outdoor pool
  - e. Outdoor fitness
  - f. Splash pad

Those that scored evenly important:

- a. Dog Park
- b. Roller skating
- c. Outdoor movies
- d. Additional Picnic Shelters for renting
- e. More special events



# Open House Results

Most of the attendees over the two-day event were 55 years of age or older. That demographic put a higher importance on passive recreation activities and programs. Trails, interaction with nature, cultural arts, pool programming, and music festivals scored very high. The top five reactions from each of the categories are as follows. The number in parenthesis is the number of dots, votes, or repeated thoughts:

- 1.** Activities the attendees participate in
    - a. Walking trails/track (5)
    - b. Winterfest (4)
    - c. Outdoor music events at the Civic Center and the Burgh (3)
    - d. Daddy Daughter Dance (3)
    - e. Black history programming (2)
    - f. Tennis/Tennis lessons (2)
  
  - 2.** Activity Preference
    - a. Walking Trails (21)
    - b. Natural Areas (20)
    - c. Picnic (9)
    - d. Dog Park (8) \*
- \* Note: Dog parks usually score low with this demographic, and to make the top five in many categories shows the range of this need.
- 3.** Additions or changes to existing programs, special events and activities
    - a. Nature talks/Nature Center (6)
    - b. Theater event- live musicals, local band concerts, operas and plays (5)
    - c. More outdoor yoga and other exercise classes (3)
    - d. Higher backboards at Beech Woods (2)
    - e. Martial arts classes (2)
    - f. Open the indoor walking tracks (2)
    - g. Teen/youth fitness classes/activities (2)
  
  - 4.** Workbooks \*
    - a. Activities they currently enjoy
      - i. Swimming (5)
      - ii. Walking trails (5)
      - iii. Bike trails (4)
      - iv. Splash park (4)
    - b. Passive recreation they would like to see in the city
      - i. Fairs/Festivals (2)
      - ii. Fishing (2)
      - iii. Connecting with nature (2)
    - c. Active recreation they would like to see in the city
      - i. Aerial/Climbing opportunities (5)
      - ii. Sledding

- d. Drawings
  - i. A drawing of bigger slides at playgrounds (2)
  - ii. A drawing of a study and collaborative workspace for young adults and professionals with free Wi-Fi (2)
  - iii. A drawing of an indoor pool
  - iv. A drawing of an indoor café' at one of the recreation facilities
  - v. A drawing of a bicycle path on Beech Road
  - vi. A drawing of a roller skate rink

\*Younger participants

**5. Protect**

- a. Mary Thompson House and Farm- the Farm (4)
- b. Beech Woods Park- the natural feel and sense of place (3)
- c. Southfield Cemetery- Protect and upkeep the gravestones (2)
- d. Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve- Wetlands (2)
- e. Civic Center Park- Nature trails

**6. Add**

- a. Facilities
  - i. Indoor pool (14)
  - ii. Nature center (11)
  - iii. Senior center (6)
  - iv. Indoor walking (4)
- b. Non-specific Park additions
  - i. Restore free/discounted programs/activities for senior activities (13)
  - ii. Dog park (8) \*
  - iii. Walking trails (6)
  - iv. More walking trails (3)
  - v. Disc golf (2) \*

\* Note: These activities usually score low with this demographic, and to make the top five in many categories shows the range of this need.

- c. Freeway Park- New Playground Equipment (4)
- d. Beech Woods Park- Pitch and putt golf (4)
  - Create more natural buffers/berms for the residents from the park (3)
  - Disc golf (3)
- e. Freeway Park- Year-round trails (3)

**7. Remove**

- a. Beech Woods Park- Conceptual amphitheater (6)
- b. Freeway Park- Old, rusty, unsafe playground equipment (3)
- c. Beech Woods Park- Concession stand (2)
  - Outdoor basketball (2)
- d. Carpenter Lake Park- Rock Garden (2)

**8. Keep**

- a. Inglenook Park- Keep the park (2)

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# ➤ Goals & Objectives ◀

## Chapter Eight

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Goals and objectives formulated by the community are the cornerstone of the recreation planning process as they form the framework for public and private decision making. The purpose of this Plan is to provide a basis for public policy decisions and technical coordination in recreational development and to inject long-range consideration into the determination of short-range actions.

The goals and objectives, as outlined in this chapter, were revised and edited from the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and developed through the Parks and Recreation Committee and confirmed by the results of the public engagement process.

Goals address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives measure results that the community works towards accomplishing. The following goals and objectives are numbered for identification purposes only.

Each goal is considered to carry an equal degree of importance.

## **GOAL 1:**

### **PURSUE THE PARKS AND RECREATION PRIORITIES SET FORTH IN THE CITY'S SIGNIFICANT PLANNING AND POLICY DOCUMENTS.**

including the Non-Motorized Pathway and Public Transportation Plan, adopted in March 2012, the Southfield City Centre Non-Motorized and Transit Sub-Area Plan, adopted in April 2013, The Southfield DOA Non-Motorized and Transit Sub-Area Plan, adopted in May 2013, the Valley Woods Senior Campus Community Revitalization Plan, adopted in May 2014, the Non-Motorized Pathways and Pedestrian Amenities Plan, adopted in April 2015, the Capital Improvement Program, adopted in December 2015, the 2016 Sustainable Southfield Plan, adopted in June of 2016, the Southfield City Centre Vision and Redevelopment Plan, adopted in November 2016, and the 2016 Northland Redevelopment Plan, each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

- A. Plan and implement improvements to further the policies embodied in these important planning documents.
- B. Plan and implement improvements to extend and eliminate gaps in the City's non-motorized trail system.
- C. Develop the plaza space and front lawn area envisioned northwest of Civic Center Drive and Evergreen Road.
- D. Develop approximately a mile and a half of shared use pathway from Northland Drive to Nine Mile Road, to provide connectivity for the green spaces to be developed with at the Northland Mall site.
- E. Assure that the Northland Mall redevelopment incorporates the green space elements of the redevelopment plan for that site.
- F. Develop programming and events appropriate to newly developed or redeveloped locations and the interests of users.
- G. Develop funding sources to accomplish this goal.

## **GOAL 2:**

### **PLAN AND IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO ENHANCE UTILIZATION OF UNDEVELOPED OR UNDERDEVELOPED PARKS.**

- A. Engage in future visioning sessions related to individual park's needs.
- B. Plan for the improvement of parks and related facilities envisioned by the plans discussed above.
- C. Develop programming appropriate to these locations that reflect resident interests.
- D. Develop funding sources to accomplish this goal.

## **GOAL 3:**

### **PROVIDE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSE EXPERIENCES.**

- A. Provide special events and programs that are desired by and reflect the interests of the community.
- B. Provide additional space for public events by bringing the visions for new park development at the City Centre and Northland Mall sites to fruition.
- C. Develop new parks and facilities for the benefit of all residents.
- D. Establish partnerships with organizations and neighboring communities.
- E. Provide affordable opportunities and experiences for all residents.
- F. Communicate with user groups through word of mouth, surveys, and evaluations to ensure we are meeting expectations.
- G. Maintain fiscal responsibility.
- H. Identify current uses of Southfield's facilities, programs, and events.

## **GOAL 4:**

### **PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.**

- A. Preserve native species and remove invasive species within natural areas working with Friends of the Rouge and other community partners.
- B. Educate the public regarding the natural resources within the community.
- C. Continue to implement green infrastructure practices in order to manage storm water runoff at parks and facilities.
- D. Preserve mature woodlands, wetlands, and water resources along Rouge River and tributaries.
- E. Develop parks in an environmentally sustainable manner which demonstrates innovative design, including maintaining tree cover on public and private lands.
- F. Follow environmental regulations and utilize green friendly practices.

## **GOAL 5:**

### **ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.**

- A. Maintain cooperative efforts between City Departments, Boards, and Commissions.
- B. Partner with local sports teams (local youth sports organizations, college teams, and professional teams).
- C. Partner with county, state, and adjacent communities.
- D. Partner with local school districts, colleges and universities, private organizations, non-profits, and National programs.
- E. Partner with businesses and corporations.

## **GOAL 6:**

### **CONTINUE BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL PARKS AND FACILITIES IN SOUTHFIELD.**

- A. Maintain and expand first-rate customer service practices/continue to evaluate and train.
- B. Continue fiscal responsibility by allocating resources properly and seeking alternative funding sources, when applicable.
- C. Incorporate effective uses of technology.
- D. Extend professional development of staff to promote training, workshops, classes, conferences, etc.
- E. Ensure the use of quality products to maintain standards with services, staff, and facilities.
- F. Continue to evaluate service delivery of programs and events.

## **GOAL 7:**

### **CREATE AND MAINTAIN ACCESSIBILITY AT ALL PARKS AND FACILITIES IN SOUTHFIELD.**

- A. Inventory current buildings, facilities, and parks for accessibility.
- B. Promote current facilities for accessibility.
- C. Update existing facilities using universal design practices.
- D. Convene listening sessions with advocacy groups for persons needing accommodations.
- E. Continue to partner with users in evaluating ease of accessibility.

## **GOAL 8:**

### **FOCUS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY PARKS, FACILITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS.**

- A. Assess and promote special events that create economic gains for local businesses.
- B. Support multi-modal transportation efforts throughout the City, including a community-wide bikeable / walkable trail and mass transit network.
- C. Promote curb appeal by encouraging placemaking efforts throughout the City.
- D. Extend sponsorship opportunities to local businesses and corporations.

## **GOAL 9:**

### **MARKET AND PROMOTE SOUTHFIELD'S PARKS AND FACILITIES TO ATTRACT VISITORS OF ALL AGES.**

- A. Develop parks and recreation brochure to highlight amenities and services at each facility.
- B. Develop a Parks and Recreation "branding" strategy that contributes to the overall identity that is unique to Southfield.
- C. Promote the department and broaden the parks and recreation outreach through City website and social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
- D. Educate the public on existing facilities and potential future developments.
- E. Develop annual report to highlight successes, improvements that have transpired during the previous year, as well as promote the value of facilities, parks and events.
- F. Convene a marketing committee to develop strategies for promoting awareness of parks and recreation opportunities in Southfield amongst residents, businesses, and the community at large.
- G. Update logo and create themes and initiatives in marketing programs and events.
- H. Develop monthly cable program and video library of activities and events.

## **GOAL 10:**

### **ENCOURAGE THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES IN THE CITY.**

- A. Establish partnerships for historic preservation activities.
- B. Identify and access all historic sites in parks and recreation facilities.
- C. Seek certification for local historical sites for granting opportunities.
- D. Find and maintain adaptive uses for historic buildings.
- E. Promote use of historical sites for appropriate programming and rental opportunities.

## **GOAL 11:**

### **ENCOURAGE METHODS AND PRACTICES THAT WILL IMPROVE RESIDENTS' OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE.**

- A. Promote total wellness and healthy living lifestyle through special events, programs, and facilities.
- B. Support the development/expansion of multi-modal trails that promote Southfield as a bikeable/walkable community.
- C. Encourage security at parks and facilities, including an emphasis on lighting, wayfinding signage, improved sightlines, continuous partnership with the police and possible ranger program.
- D. Facilitate residents' ability to share knowledge and facilitate partnerships.
- E. Develop sense of community through placemaking design. i.e. - Civic Center front lawn
- F. Develop sense of community through events offered collaboratively with partners and stakeholders.



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# > Action Plan <

## Chapter Nine

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# Action Program

## Capital Improvements for Existing Facilities

The Parks and Recreation Department has just undergone a fiscal planning process to develop a Capital Improvement Plan for the next five years. This table is found on the next page. This table details future spending at its facilities and is considered its Action Plan for the next five years. See following page.

**SOUTHFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN - ACTION PLAN**

Park	Projects	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	SUBTOTAL
Bauervic Park	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
	Playground structure Repair/Replace	\$15,000.00		\$150,000.00			\$165,000.00
	Parking lot				\$100,000.00		\$100,000.00
	Picnic shelters (new or improvements of existing)					\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
	Trail System					\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Bedford Woods Park	Playground structure	\$200,000.00					\$200,000.00
	Parking lot		\$100,000.00				\$100,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
	Landscaping			\$50,000.00			\$50,000.00
Beech Woods Park	Trail System					\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
	Master Plan Implementation - Phase I:		\$2,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00			\$5,000,000.00
	Master Plan Implementation - Phase II:			\$1,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00		\$4,000,000.00
	Master Plan Implementation - Phase III:				\$2,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00
Beech Woods Driving Range	Master Plan Implementation - Phase IV:					\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
	Bail machine	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
	Site Improvements - siding, roofing, walkways, updates	\$20,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$520,000.00
	Signage and site furnishings/Fence		\$30,000.00				\$30,000.00
Carpenter Lake	Parking lot		\$200,000.00				\$200,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
	Restrooms			\$300,000.00			\$300,000.00
	Picnic shelter				\$100,000.00		\$100,000.00
City-Wide Bike Trail System	Development Study			\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00
	Replace/ resurface/ initiate bike trail system				\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00
Civic Center Arena	Replace scoreboards	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
	New public stands					\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Civic Center - Recreation Area	Project Study - Civic Center Campus	\$30,000.00					\$30,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
	Basketball courts			\$300,000.00			\$300,000.00
	Baseball and handball fields				\$500,000.00		\$500,000.00
	Parking lot					\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
	New Recreation Facility - study		\$30,000.00				\$30,000.00
	Aquatics (Zero-Depth/Covered Pool)		\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00			\$3,000,000.00
	Lights and signage					\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
	Dog Park - study and development		\$10,000.00	\$300,000.00			\$310,000.00
	Tennis courts: improving (painting/sealing) - replacing	\$75,000.00			\$250,000.00		\$325,000.00
Civic Center Play Area	Playground structure	\$200,000.00					\$200,000.00
	Walkways, benches and trash cans		\$150,000.00				\$150,000.00
Evergreen Hills Golf	New Golf Carts (32 new carts)	\$40,075.00					\$40,075.00
	Golf paths - Assess/Repair/Replace	\$60,000.00	\$90,000.00		\$150,000.00		\$300,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00

	Pro Shop improvements (including ADA requirements)								
Freeway Park	Playground structures	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00						\$100,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00						\$200,000.00
	Walking paths		\$100,000.00						\$15,000.00
	Parking lot			\$100,000.00					\$100,000.00
	Park furnishings and development				\$200,000.00				\$200,000.00
Inglenook Park	Restrooms repairs		\$75,000.00						\$75,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00						\$15,000.00
	Walkway and drainage			\$75,000.00					\$75,000.00
	Replace play-structure / fitness equipment					\$300,000.00			\$300,000.00
Lahser Woods Park	Resurfacing pathways		\$25,000.00						\$25,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00						\$15,000.00
	Lights, benches, trash cans			\$50,000.00					\$50,000.00
Lincoln Woods - Development	Development study			\$15,000.00					\$15,000.00
	Signage			\$15,000.00					\$15,000.00
	Implementation: interpretive trail system, furnishings				\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00
Mary Thompson Farm	Renovate water line & backflow system		\$50,000.00						\$50,000.00
	Signage/Fence	\$30,000.00	\$15,000.00						\$45,000.00
Miller Park - Development	Basketball courts, baseball fields, fencing, painting	\$550,000.00							\$550,000.00
Park Service	2 New trucks and Kubota	\$100,000.00							\$100,000.00
	2 new mowers	\$80,000.00							\$80,000.00
	Chemical Rinse Pad		\$50,000.00						\$50,000.00
	Parking lot & gas shed				\$100,000.00				\$100,000.00
Pebble Creek Park	Cement repair at picnic structures		\$95,000.00						\$95,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00						\$15,000.00
	Parking lot repairs					\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00
P&R	Mobile Stage	\$200,000.00							\$200,000.00
	Entrance improvements (ADA requirements)				\$100,000.00				\$100,000.00
	Pavilion improvements				\$100,000.00				\$200,000.00
Robbie Gage Park - Development	Signage			\$15,000.00					\$15,000.00
	Implementation: Phase I					\$150,000.00			\$150,000.00
Seminole Park - Improvements	Playground structure		\$150,000.00						\$150,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00						\$15,000.00
	Park furnishings			\$45,000.00					\$45,000.00
Simms Park - Development	Basketball courts, baseball fields, fencing, painting	\$550,000.00							\$550,000.00
Stratford Woods Commons	Signage		\$15,000.00						\$15,000.00
	Playground structure			\$150,000.00					\$150,000.00
	Enhance lighting and signage				\$50,000.00				\$50,000.00
Valley Woods Nature Preserve Site	Development Study			\$35,000.00					\$35,000.00
	Signage		\$15,000.00						\$15,000.00
	Development - 10 Mile to Civic Center				\$350,000.00				\$750,000.00
	Development - 12 Mile to Northwestern					\$750,000.00			\$750,000.00
General	Parks and Spaces Inventory		\$50,000.00						\$50,000.00
	Irrigation Inventory - Assess Golf Course and Campus		\$20,000.00						\$20,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,390,075.00</b>	<b>\$5,265,000.00</b>	<b>\$7,075,000.00</b>	<b>\$7,550,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,225,000.00</b>	<b>\$27,505,075.00</b>		



# > Appendix <