



2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

City of Harper Woods, Michigan

DRAFT *for* PUBLIC REVIEW · DECEMBER 22, 2023

Acknowledgments

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents, and members of civic organizations in the preparation of this 2024 – 2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan are greatly appreciated; we thank everyone who participated in its development.

The content in this Plan reflects the ongoing collaboration between residents, stakeholders, and City Council and its appointed boards and commissions. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of:

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Introduction

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made over a five-year period, as well as a way to pinpoint future needs. The Plan includes all required elements and therefore qualifies Harper Woods 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 facilities, and programming based on public engagement and industry trends.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan covers the years of 2024 through 2028, though it will be a useful planning tool beyond the five-year mark as well. The City's current Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2018, and resulted in the following improvements during the ensuing years:

- » *Updated sports equipment, benches, and paths at Salter Memorial Park.*
- » *Installed or refurbished basketball courts at Johnston and Salter Park.*
- » *Efficient and effective administration of parks and recreation functions in Harper Woods as well as maintenance of park grounds.*
- » *Added recreational equipment, such as cornhole, pickleball, or shuffleboard to the City parks.*
- » *Created a conceptual site plan for an indoor Recreational Community Center, proposed at Salter Park.*
- » *Applied for funding to create a community center that also functions as an indoor recreation facility as well as to create a new pocket park.*

02

Community Description

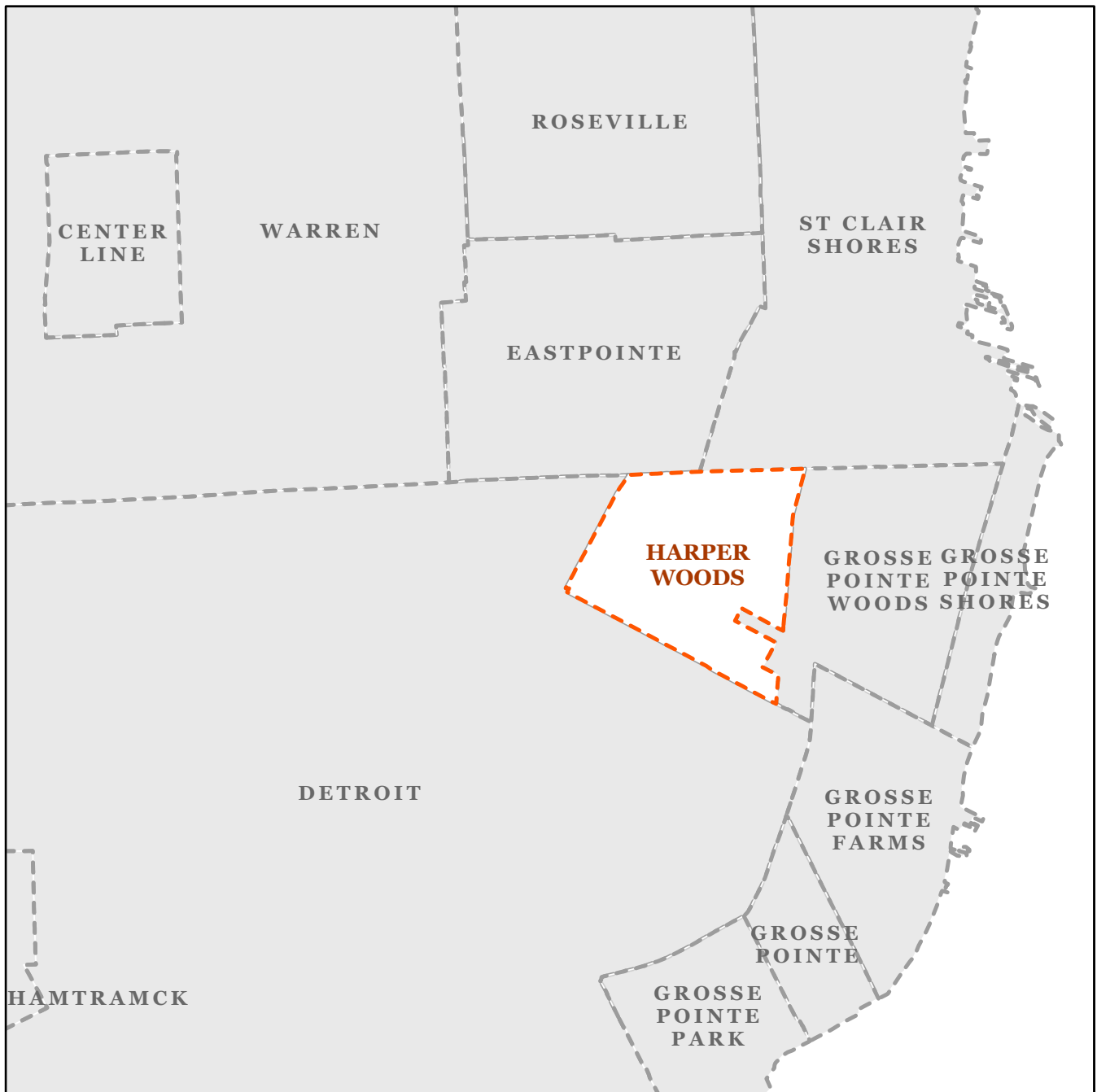
The City of Harper Woods is located in Wayne County, Michigan; it is a predominantly residential community with a handful of commercial corridors that serve both local and regional patrons. With a total area of 2.63 square miles, Harper Woods shares its northern border with the cities of St. Clair Shores and Eastpointe, its western and southern borders with Detroit, and its eastern border with Grosse Pointe Woods. The City enjoys excellent regional connectivity in all directions by way of Interstate 94 on the east side of the City.

Prior to European colonization, the area that is now Harper Woods was occupied and stewarded by several different tribes of the Anishinabe, which is a confederation between the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewewadmi (Potowatomi). Although these tribes were forced to cede land to European settlers in the 1600s, they remain active in other locations throughout Michigan today and work to combat the erasure of Native American Peoples from the public discourse. Acknowledging the history of the recreation land enjoyed by Harper Wood's residents today helps advance the Anishinabe's efforts and asks all people to learn about the land on which they live, work, and play.

The first Europeans recorded in Harper Woods were Caspar and Elizabeth Salter in 1850. The Salters built their log cabin on Pumpkin Hook Road, which was later renamed Kelly Road. Settlers developed the area for farmland prior to the Great Depression. Following WWII, between 1940 and 1950, the Harper Woods community changed from a farming community to a suburban community through rapid suburban development.

On October 29, 1951, Harper Woods officially became a city and was named after its then main thoroughfare, Harper Avenue. The City has since become a built-out community with tree-lined streets, homes of a variety of sizes and styles, commercial areas, and community facilities.

Harper Woods has gone through several evolutions; from its early years as a bedroom community for the City of Detroit, to a suburban cultural destination with its drive-in, teen clubs, and Eastland shopping mall, and then to its current form and character in the last decade as Eastland Center closed its doors and residents look to build new opportunities. Parks and recreation are a critical component of a thriving community. In fact, parks and recreation amenities are frequently rated as important elements when individuals and families are making decisions of where to live. This Plan is also an important document as it communicates and sets a path for implementation of place-based improvements, serving current residents and attracting potential residents and visitors.





MAP #

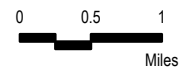
Location

Harper Woods, Michigan

January 20, 2023

LEGEND

-  Harper Woods Boundary
-  Other Municipal Boundaries



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Sources:
Wayne County, 2018.
State of Michigan, 2020.
SEMCOG, 2022.
McKenna, 2023.



Demographics

The Harper Woods 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is updated and maintained to determine needs and opportunities that exist within the City. By understanding current conditions and past trends, the City can appropriately anticipate and plan for the future needs of the community.

Data within this plan is sourced from the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) 2050 Projections and the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census, as well as the 2015 and 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The ACS samples a percentage of the community on such topics as population, housing, and age structure.

POPULATION

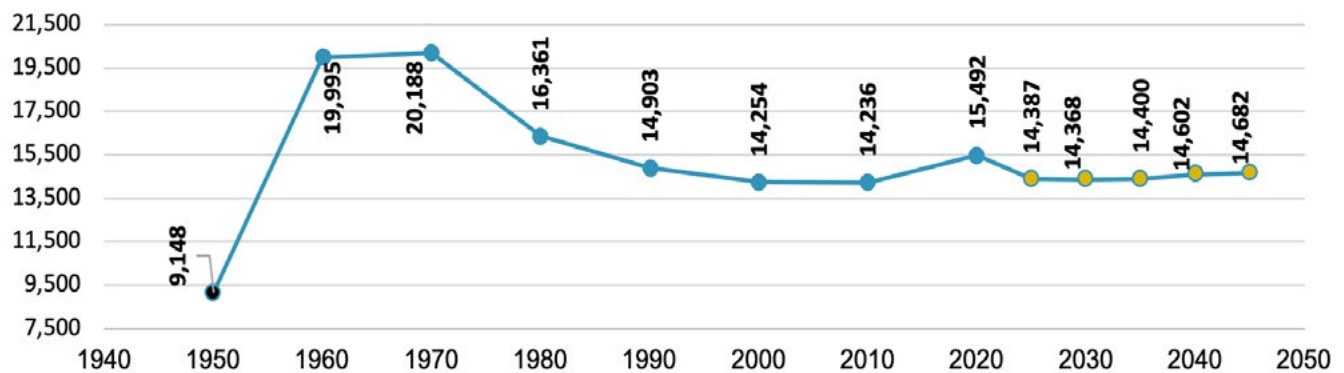
Population trends are important indicators for parks and recreation planning. Growing communities likely have different parks and recreational needs than communities with stable or declining populations. Table 1 shows the relative populations of Harper Woods to nearby communities.

Table 1: Population of Harper Woods and Surrounding Communities, 2000-2020

	Harper Woods	Detroit	Eastpointe	Grosse Pointe Farms	Grosse Pointe Woods	St. Clair Shores
2000	14,254	951,270	34,077	9,764	17,080	63,096
2010	14,236	713,862	32,442	9,479	16,135	59,715
2015	13,964	690,074	32,585	9,307	15,859	59,888
2020	15,492	639,111	34,318	10,148	16,487	58,874
% Change 2015-2020	10.94%	-7.39%	5.32%	9.04%	3.96%	-1.69%

Like many communities across southeastern Michigan, Harper Woods has experienced a decline in population since the 1970s. However, in recent years, the City has seen a dramatic increase in population. Despite this increase, Harper Woods’ population is projected to decrease in future decades per the SEMCOG 2045 forecast. These projections, however, were made prior to the approval of the townhomes and duplexes to be built on the grounds of the former Poupard Elementary School, which may help to either sustain or increase the City’s population. Being able to project a community’s future population, based upon previous decades, allows targeted strategy discussions for many city services, including parks and recreation.

Figure 1. Harper Woods Population, 1950-2045

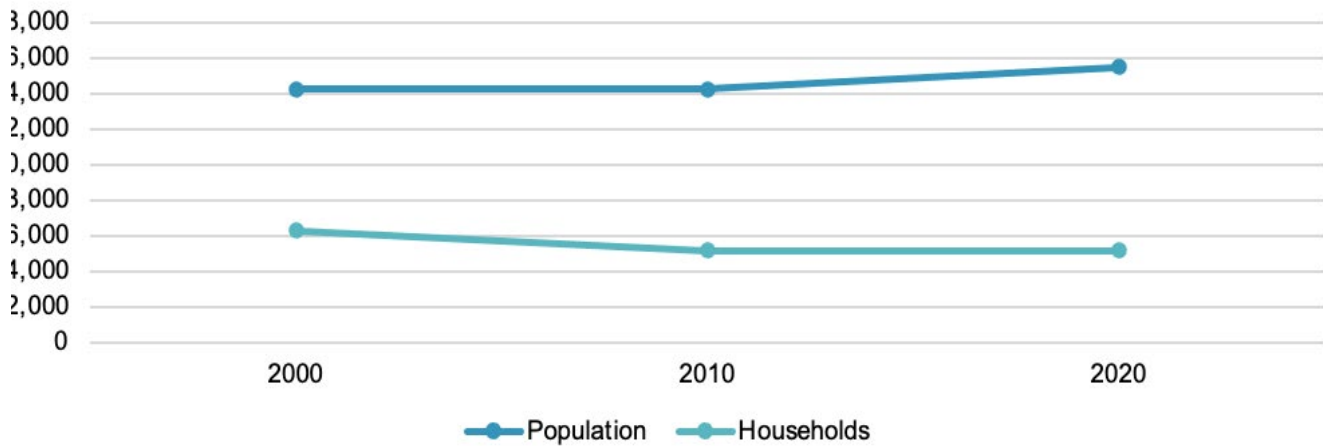


HOUSEHOLDS

Household growth has a different impact on demand for recreation services than population growth. If the population is growing faster than the number of households, this typically suggests that more children are being born within existing households. If households are growing faster than population, this typically suggests that more singles or couples without children (often newly married or older) are residing in the community.

Figure 2 shows that the population of Harper Woods has been steadily growing while the number of households continues to decline, suggesting there are many households with children or household with aging parents, meaning there is a current demand for children's and senior programming.

Figure 2. Population and Households, 2000-2020



Average household size is another indicator of community composition. Larger average household sizes generally mean more children and fewer single-parent families. Additionally, multi-generational living (two or more generations of adults living together) is becoming increasingly popular; grandparents or parents moving in with their children, or young adults moving home, may account for a portion of the increased household size. Nationally, household sizes have been shrinking as young singles wait longer to get married and life expectancy increases for the senior population. In Harper Woods, the 2020 average household size is 2.64 people, an increase of 0.3 people from 2015.

Housing Occupants

The make-up of housing occupants within a city provides

additional important information in planning for parks and recreational services. According to the 2020 American Community Survey, 63.1% of households in Harper Woods are owner-occupied. Several of the nearby communities, including Eastpointe, and Detroit, have a high percentage of renter-occupied properties compared to Harper Woods, while the Grosse Pointe's have very low rental rates.

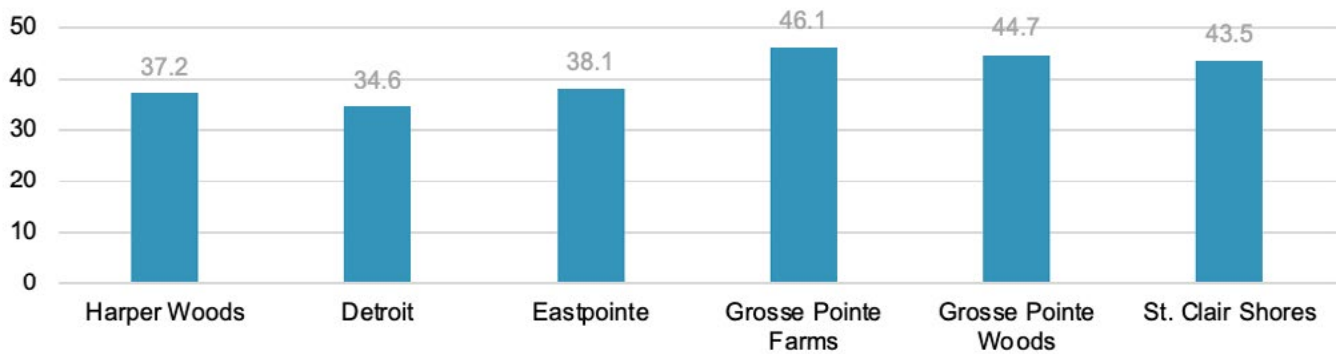


AGE STRUCTURE

The age of a community’s population is extremely important when planning for parks and recreation improvements. Older residents may have different needs than childless 20-somethings, or those who have families with children.

Figure 3 compares the median ages of Harper Woods residents to surrounding communities. Residents of Harper Woods are a healthy mix of all age groups. When considered with the household data in earlier sections, this suggests that the City of Harper Woods is going through a transition period. The population has dipped in previous years; however, the lower median age (37.6 years) compared to surrounding areas indicates that there is a younger population in the community.

Figure 3. Median Age in Harper Woods and Surrounding Communities, 2020



Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality’s population are in which stages of life) gives a nuanced view of the makeup of a community. In 2020, roughly 38% of the population fell between the ages of 25 and 54, while 25% fell under the age of 18. The number of children under 18 is expected to decrease by about 14% by 2045, per the SEMCOG 2045 forecast.

Table 1. Current and Projected Age Structure

Population	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	Population Change, 2020-2045	
								Number	Percent
Ages 0-4	878	780	852	840	806	824	824	44	5.6%
Ages 5-17	2,779	2,775	2,267	2,252	2,190	2,247	2,237	-538	-19.4%
Ages 18-24	1,467	1,193	1,215	1,162	1,166	1,164	1,147	-46	-3.9%
Ages 25-54	5,974	5,306	5,406	5,283	5,464	5,441	5,460	154	2.9%
Ages 55-64	2,209	1,861	2,010	1,904	1,693	1,788	1,881	20	1.1%
Ages 65 and over	1,601	1,914	2,637	2,927	3,081	3,138	3,133	1,219	63%
Total	14,236	13,829*	13,513	13,045	13,038	13,026	13,044	-785	-5.7%

**Note: This population discrepancy between Table 2 and the other Demographic figures is due to the fact that the ACS can only estimate population. As such, this differs from the total population recorded by the 2020 Census.*

The demographics imply that the City could potentially see an increase in population due to the nature of the age distribution. However, with a greater portion of the population being adults and people of retirement age, services to adults and senior adults will be an important component of the City’s decision-making processes related to parks and recreation.

INCOME

Household income data can have important planning implications. Current income levels suggest that City residents need quality and accessible public recreation, as residents are more likely to utilize public rather than private recreation facilities due to cost.

Table 3 below illustrates the median household income trend since 2000. The steep decline in median household income between 2000 and 2010 is attributed to the Great Recession, newer residents with lower incomes moving into the City, and unemployment increases during that time period. In 2000, 2.8% of the City's 16 and older population were unemployed. By 2010, the unemployment rate had increased to 15.1% and by 2020 the unemployment rate has declined once again to 9%. Since 2010, inflation has contributed to a slight increase in incomes, but the rising cost of living has meant that many residents do not feel the impact of these income gains. The City's 2020 median household income is below the state's median, which is \$59,234, and the national median at \$67,521.

Table 2. Median Household Income, 2000-2020

Year	Median Household Income
2000	\$65,553
2010	\$48,952
2015	\$48,820
2020	\$50,718

DISABILITIES

Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning future programs and appropriate locations for facilities and activities. Even if not permanently disabled, all persons may face some form of temporary disability during their lifetime.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which took effect on January 26, 1992, prohibits discrimination, both intentional and unintentional, against individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities, and services provided by public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments and agencies, and any other agencies or special purpose districts of state or local governments.

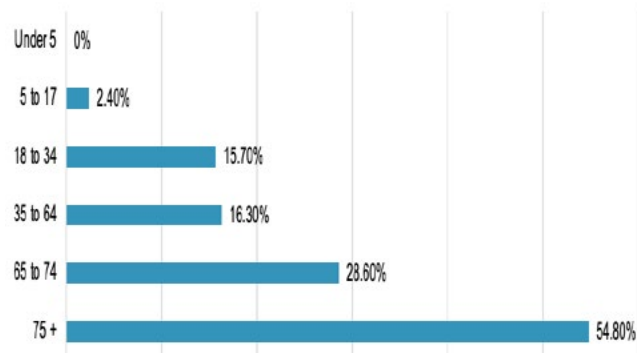
Public recreation providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services that screen out, or tend to screen out, persons with disabilities, unless they can establish that the requirements are necessary for the provision of the service, program, or activity due to legitimate safety requirements. Furthermore, individuals with disabilities

may not be excluded from services, programs, and activities because existing buildings or park facilities are inaccessible.

To comply with the ADA, municipalities have the following alternatives: alteration of existing facilities, acquisition or construction of new facilities, relocation of services or programs to an accessible facility, or provision of services at accessible sites. Recreation facilities must be examined to determine if their design creates barriers that prevent use by all segments of the population, including seniors. Programs must also be examined to be certain they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents regardless of their social, economic, or physical status.

In essence, the ADA and MDNR policies mandate that communities work toward developing "inclusive recreation programs." Inclusive recreation programs identify residents' interests and needs, then address these interests and needs with facilities and programs that are not only barrier-free, but also are adaptable so that everyone can have a pleasant recreation experience together.

Figure 4. Disability Population Percentage



Planning for parks and recreation could result in positive health outcomes for a population that already experiences difficulties on a day-to-day basis. Accommodations could include ramps or pavement improvements in order to ease accessibility concerns for those who suffer from ambulatory difficulties, or installing audible and visually assisted cross walks that assist those who may be visually or hearing impaired.



INCLUSIVE PLAY

For children with and without disabilities, the community playground can facilitate a positive environment for physical activity and inclusion.

The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), signed into law in 2010, detail enforceable standards for physical accessibility. However, these standards do not include elements designed for children with Down syndrome, sensory disorders, and visual and hearing impairments.

New attention has been focused on inclusive playgrounds and universal design that can serve a diverse population, including children with physical, cognitive, emotional and sensory disabilities.

The following elements are considered essential activities for inclusive play:

- » Sensory play
- » Music
- » Swinging
- » Spinning
- » Sliding
- » Socialization/imaginative
- » Safety, comfort, and access

Sources: United States Access Board, Landscape Structures; InclusivePlaygrounds.org

Physical Characteristics

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography in Harper Woods is flat throughout the community. Elevations gradually decrease from 600 feet on the western portion of the City to 585 feet on the east, a 15 foot change in elevation over two miles.

WATER RESOURCES / FISH AND WILDLIFE

Harper Woods has no major water body within or running through its boundaries. All drainage throughout the City is served by storm drains and underground pipelines. The City is entirely developed, without natural wooded areas that would be habitable for fish or wildlife populations.

SOILS

The Wayne County Soil Survey shows that Harper Woods has two major soil associations. The Pewamo-Blount-Metamora Association is nearly level to gently sloping land and is poorly drained. The Hoytville-Nappanee Association consists of nearly level land, very poorly to somewhat poorly drained that have a fine textured subsoil. The soil survey for Wayne County is general in nature, and the information it provides cannot be used as the basis for a construction project.

However, it provides a good look at the main characteristics of the soils in the area. The inability of the soils in the area to drain well indicates that any proposed open fields for recreation must be developed with a well-designed drainage plan so that the surfaces are not occupied with standing water after a period of rain. The nature of the soils also requires that the analysis of existing facilities takes into account the ability of open fields to drain adequately ensuring that facilities will be used to the fullest extent.

VEGETATION

The City is nearly built out. Most vegetation has been planted as landscaping. Many mature trees do exist in the City found adjacent to roads and in yards of single family homes.

CLIMATE

According to U.S. Climate Data, the average temperature near Harper Woods is 49.5 degrees Fahrenheit, with the average high at 59.3 degrees Fahrenheit and 39.8 degrees Fahrenheit. The yearly high temperature averages 84 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 27 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. This climate is suitable for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, such as biking, running, ice skating, hockey, etc.



EXISTING LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of the land in the City has been developed, leaving little room for new developments or parks. The primary land use in Harper Woods is single family residential and the remaining areas of Harper Woods are occupied by public schools, buildings, churches, transportation corridors and utilities. The existing residential areas have developed into well-defined residential neighborhoods with the more intense development along major roads, specifically, Kelly Road, Eight Mile Road, Vernier Street and the east side of Harper Avenue.

Major roads, commercial and industrial areas act as boundaries between many residential neighborhoods. As a result, basic recreational needs for the neighborhoods should be discussed within their own areas by providing for small parks and green areas that are accessible by foot without crossing major roadways.

As the City is now, there is little opportunity for any large-scale expansion of existing recreational facilities or acquisition of land for new facilities. However, the City can look to maximize existing green space and vacant single lots. For example, Salter Park offers underutilized green, park space that could accommodate an indoor recreation space. Additionally, the City is already in the process of creating a new small neighborhood park by obtaining two adjacent vacant residential lots and converting them into a pocket park. Additional opportunities for recreational expansion or acquisition in the future beyond these will depend greatly upon vacating land that is an existing use currently.

Table 3. Harper Woods Land Use, 2022

Land Use	Acres	%
Single Family	897.1	71.5%
Two Family	7.8	0.6%
Multiple Family	49.3	3.9%
Office	11.6	0.9%
General Commercial	53.5	4.3%
Local Commercial	2.8	0.2%
Industrial	84.8	6.8%
Park	23.3	1.9%
Public	45.6	3.6%
Semi-Public	77.8	6.2%
TOTAL	1,253.8	100.0%

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

The City of Harper Woods' circulation system, well-established since the 1960s, is a mature grid system. This pattern has been able to reasonably accommodate the increases in vehicular travel over the years by providing motorists with multiple options to reach a chosen destination.

As a result of the grid pattern, the land was divided into blocks which created neighborhoods for the residents of Harper Woods. This neighborhood character is one of the greatest assets of the City. Harper Woods has a strong sense of community which will likely continue to flourish due partly because of the street network in place.





Danbury Park vegetation in the autumn.

02

Inventory of Facilities and Programs

McKenna inventoried existing local and regional recreation facilities in October of 2023. The inventory consisted of an on-the-ground site assessment of every City-owned park, each of which staff walked in its entirety. An inventory of facilities was recorded for every park and indoor space and reviewed for location and acreage, plus quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition of amenities (See Table 3).

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Ecorse's parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. 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*

A five-level evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below, and the accessibility rankings can be found following the description of each park and facility owned by the City.



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

Level 2. The facility 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 facility 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 facility is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas area easily accessible.

Level 5. The facility 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.

Table 4. Accessibility Inventory Steps

Step	Action
Step 1. Arrive at subject park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Photograph park signage (or absence thereof) » Photograph park standing at sign or from other edge location
Step 2. Determine whether there's a typical pedestrian approach point(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Photograph typical approach » Make note of any impressions » Make note of condition
Step 3. Complete inventory of recreation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Photograph recreation facilities » Review current plan inventory table » Revise current plan inventory table if change » Add new facilities or features not listed in current to table » Make note of condition
Step 4. Complete accessibility assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review current plan accessibility ranking (1-5) » Complete applicable sections of accessibility checklist (New England ADA Existing Facilities Checklist, 2017, and other ADA standards as required) » Determine proposed accessibility ranking (1-5)
Step 5. Consider sustainability opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review sustainability priorities from previous plan » Make note of any new sustainability improvements or degradation » Complete applicable sections of sustainability checklist

Municipal Facilities

Currently within the City of Harper Woods, the City owns and operates 3 parks, as shown in Map 2. The City is in the process of creating an additional mini-park. In addition, the basement of the public library is used for meetings and aerobics classes. All these facilities are owned and maintained by the City of Harper Woods.

Table 6 illustrates the existing inventory of recreational equipment and fields at these facilities. Play areas include various fields for organized games such as baseball, football and soccer. Hard court areas include tennis courts. Play structures are modular equipment while playground equipment includes swing sets, slides, and jungle gyms. Fitness areas are defined as any fitness stations, chin-up bars, balance beams or some type of equipment to facilitate a workout. Passive areas include picnic areas or walking paths. Salter Park has an asphalt walkway and two pavilions with picnic tables and grilles, while Johnston Park has three picnic areas and Danbury Park has one. Johnston and Salter Park restrooms are available to the public.

Overall, the inventory indicates that Harper Woods has a variety play equipment and facilities, but the City is dependent on public school facilities to provide programming to the citizens. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department operates out of a trailer at Johnson Park; proper office spaces is needed for city employees. The Department employees and recreational programming would greatly benefit from having a community center that offers space for office as well as indoor recreational space that the Department could oversee.



Modular play equipment at Danbury Park.



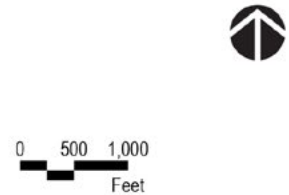
Publicly-Owned Community Facilities

City of Harper Woods, Wayne County Michigan

December 14, 2023

LEGEND

- Parks
- Public Schools
- City of Harper Woods Boundary



Esri Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: City of Harper Woods, 2023 McKenna, 2023.



CLASSIFICATION OF RECREATION AMENITIES

The parks are classified based on the National Parks and Recreation Association’s criteria (see Table X. below). The classification provides clarification to the main function of each park and who the park is intended to serve. Classifying parks also helps to identify gaps in the range of parks available to residents.

Table 5. Parks Classification System and Level of Service

Classification:	Description:	Harper Woods Park
Mini-Park (Pocket Park)	Small, specialized parks, often less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Danbury Park Adding Another: Roscommon Park
Neighborhood Park	Multi-purpose facilities that provide more active recreation activities, such as field/court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks typically serve up to 5,000 residents.	Salter Park
Community Park	Offers a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from many neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities.	Johnston Park
Large Urban Park/ Signature Park	Serves a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the area. The primary focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique natural features.	None
Special Use Park / Facility	Specialized or single-purpose recreation activities, such as historical areas, nature centers, dog parks, sports complex, golf courses, arboretums, etc. There are no specific standards for size or acreage since each site will vary, each site is unique to the community it serves.	None
Natural Resource Area	Lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics and/ or buffering.	None



Pocket Park

Danbury Park

LOCATION:

Northern border of the City, on Eight Mile

SIZE:

2.27 acres



This pocket park of 2.27 acres is on the northern boarder of the City, on Eight Mile, tucked between the Department of Public Work facility and the dead-end of Danbury Lane. With repairs and minimal enhancements, such as paved paths from the street to the pavilion and playscape to improve accessibility, this park has great potential to be a kid- and family-friendly park.

AMENITIES:

- » Playground with a swing set
- » A windy walking path from Danbury Lane to 8 Mile and the Church lot
- » A picnic area with tables and a charcoal grill
- » Open field (passive/multipurpose grassy area)

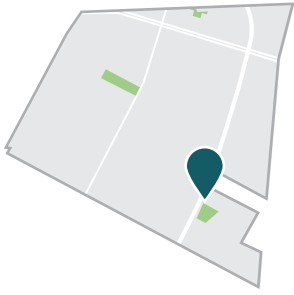
REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » None.

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Shade is needed at and around the playscape, as well as the picnic area. Lack of shade could be address by adding more trees for a greater tree canopy, or by adding a pavilion /
- » A paved Path from the street to the picnic area and playground is needed.
- » Interior trees within the park are lacking.
- » Drinking fountains.

Salter Park



LOCATION:

Southeast corner of the City, east of I-94

SIZE:

7.8 acres



Salter Park makes up 7.8 acres in the southeast corner, east of I-94. The park can be accessed from Harper Avenue and is connected to park Place, the Senior Housing apartments, via the walking path. This park has several amenities, such as a playground, walking path, pavilion picnic areas, and a new basketball court. This park is proposed as the home to a future indoor recreation community center.

AMENITIES:

- » Walking Path with benches and dog bages
- » Modular Playscape
- » Basketball Court
- » Passive/multipurpose grassy area
- » Covered Picnic Areas
- » Mature interior trees

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Drinking Fountains

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Exercise equipment along the walking path.
- » Lighting to improve safety.
- » Landscaping variety and additional tree coverage.
- » Daily access to the restrooms on site.

Johnston Park



LOCATION:

Center of the City, next to the high school.

SIZE:

12.27 acres



This community park of 12.27 acres is approximately in the center of the City next to the public high school grounds. It is a kid- and family-friendly park with a variety of activities. With its six half-court basketball courts, two Little League Baseball field, football field, concession stand, two tennis/pickleball courts, cornhole, modular playscape, picnic pavilion, and walking path, this park provides a great variety of recreational activities. The majority of the park is covered with mature trees. Minor enhancements, such as paved paths to all amenities and accessible wood-chip alternatives, would make this park would be more accessible. Additionally, this park houses the Parks and Recreation Department trailer.

AMENITIES:

- » Playground with a swing set and additional equipment
- » A walking path
- » A picnic area with tables and a charcoal grill
- » Open field (passive/multipurpose grassy area)
- » Baseball fields with dugouts, and batting cages

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Drinking Fountains.

DEFICIENCIES:

- » More available restrooms.
- » Benches around the basketball courts.

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School Facilities

The Harper Woods School District has two elementary schools, one junior high school and one high school located in the City of Harper Woods. All of these school facilities have some form of recreational facilities or equipment either inside or outside of the buildings.

The Grosse Pointe School District previously had one elementary school located within Harper Woods; however, that school facility has been sold and is being developed as duplexes and townhouses. The approved housing development will be adding community green spaces.

The existing school facilities, when available, are used by the Department of Recreation to provide recreation programs. Additionally, the public elementary schools have play structures and/or equipment such as swings and slides outdoor. The middle school and high school have ball fields, hard court areas and gymnasiums and a pool for indoor recreation.

Perhaps the most notable recreational amenity at the school facilities is the indoor swimming pool located at the Harper Woods High School. The City currently does not own any swimming facilities and the pool located at the high school is the primary opportunity for swimming in the City.

The recreational opportunities at school facilities primary focus is to provide recreational opportunities for the students in attendance at the respective schools. However, when coordinated with the school district, facilities can be used by the public under certain conditions. This practice is seen in many communities and, in general, school facilities have an average service area based on the amenities they have to offer. The amenities available are generally in direct correlation to the type of school. Elementary schools serve the residents of the neighborhoods in which they are located, while the middle schools and the high schools tend to serve a broader population base. Since the primary users of the recreation facilities are the students, the public should not depend greatly on school facilities to meet their recreational needs.

Private Recreation Facilities

Several privately-owned recreation facilities are also located in or near the City of Harper Woods. A total of six private or charter schools contain several acres of open space and indoor and outdoor facilities. Other private recreational facilities are located in adjacent communities. Although the use of these facilities is limited to those who can afford the fees, they do address certain recreation needs. Adjacent community facilities include ice rinks, golf courses, YMCA, and bowling alleys.

Several cities close to Harper Woods have indoor ice-skating rinks. However, there is restricted/limited use of these facilities due to costs and limited availability of ice time. Distance to the facilities is also an impediment. Golf courses are the most accessible private recreational facilities in the area. There are over thirty courses, private and public, within thirty miles from the City. Chandler Park in Detroit is the closest public course to Harper Woods.

Regional Recreation Resources

Regional recreation areas are large facilities serving people within a broad geographic area. The region has been defined as the area within roughly a one-half to one hour driving radius of Harper Woods. Table 7 summarizes these regional facilities. The size and type of facilities vary, but in general these facilities are 200 acres or more in size.

In addition, nearby regional recreational facilities include parks and facilities owned and operated by Oakland, Genesee and Wayne counties and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

Historical Recreation Sites

There are no known recreational sites or structures that have historical significance.

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Table 7. Existing Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

Facilities on Site	Bald Mountain State Recreation Area	Brighton Recreation Area	Genesee Recreation Area	Highland Recreation Area	Holly Recreation Area	Island Lake State Recreation Area	Maybury State Park	Ortonville State Recreation Area	Pickney State Recreation Area	Proud Lake Recreation Area	Seven Lakes State Park	Sleepy Hollow State Park	Wetzel State Park	Delhi Metro Park	Dexter-Huron Metro park	Huron Meadows Metro park	Indian Springs Metro Park	Kensington Metro Park	Lake Erie Metro Park	Lower Huron Metro Park	Metro Beach Metro Park	Oakwoods Metro Park	Stony Creek Metro Park	Willow Metro Park	Wolcott Metro Park	Buell Lake County Park	Flushing County Prairie	Forman Natural Preserve & Arboretum	
Acres	4,637	4,913	4,460	5,624	7,670				11k	3,614	1,410			53	123	1,539	2,215	4,357	1,607	1,258	770	1,700	4,461	1,500	2,380	213	105	380	
Camping		X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X								X									
Picnic Areas		X	X	X	X					X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Concession Stands/ Bathrooms	X	X	X	X	X					X	X																		
Picnic Shelters		X																											
Playground/Play area		X																											
Boat Launch																													
Boat or Canoe Rental			X			X								X		X		X		X				X	X		X		
Swimming/Beach		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fishing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Cross Country Skiing	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Snowmobiling		X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X													X	X		
Sledding			X														X	X	X	X				X	X				
Ice Skating																			X	X				X	X				
Riding Stables		X	X	X	X		X			X																			
Nature Center/Visitor Center				X													X	X				X	X					X	
Hiking Trails	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Biking Trails	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X						X	X								X	X		
Golf															X	X	X	X	X				X						
Softball/Baseball fields			X																							X	X		
Marina																		X			X		X						

Source: Huron Clinton Metro Park Guide, Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Recreation Plan, Michigan State Parks, Oakland County Parks, McKenna

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Recreation Programs

A very large variety of recreation programs is offered in the City of Harper Woods. While many programs are organized by the Recreation Department, some private groups organize activities - mainly for youth - including the NU MEN (Neighborhood United: Maximum Effort Now) youth service organization, which focuses on leadership and basketball.

The Recreation Department utilizes many facilities to house its recreation programs. The City is dependent on the Harper Woods school facilities to provide its swimming, arts and crafts, martial arts, yoga, gymnastics and softball programs. Since the City does not have an indoor recreation facility, all indoor recreation programs are located at School sites. A verbal agreement between the City and the Harper Woods School Board gives the City use of the school facilities only after official school functions are finished for the day.

Recreation programming is scheduled three times per year. These program sessions include the Autumn Program, Winter Program and the Summer Program. The Recreation Department publishes a handout for each program throughout the year; the Autumn and Winter programs are often advertised together. Information concerning the Recreation Department's policies are listed as are the programs that are offered. This information is also broadcast on the City's closed-captioned TV network. The following is a representative list of the programs offered by the City in any given year.

CULTURAL ARTS

- » Youth Arts and Crafts
- » Youth Dance Lessons and Showcase
- » Pedal to Porch Storytelling and Bicycling Event

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES/LESSONS

- » Harper Woods Walking Club
- » Martial Arts
- » Zumba
- » Yoga

YOUTH ATHLETICS, NOT CITY SPONSORED

- » Soccer Clinics
- » Tennis
- » Swimming Lessons
- » Soccer Leagues

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB PROGRAMS

The Neighborhood Club provides recreation and cultural program serving Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes (Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores, and Grosse Pointe Woods). The Harper Woods Recreation Department coordinates its activities with the Neighborhood Club to best provide for its own residents, while not duplicating the programs provided by the Neighborhood Club (unless additional programs would be beneficial). Coordination includes scheduling and information.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

The Senior Club meets at the Harper Woods Library on the first Monday of the month. Besides several meetings and social events, several other activities are planned throughout the year. Activities from past years include pinochle, welcome back dinner dance, autumn party, Halloween party, Valentines Day party, St. Patrick's Day party, feather bingo party, and Holiday Party.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- » **Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Each year in November the lights on the City Christmas tree are turned on for the Christmas session. Afterwards, public officials and citizens sing Christmas carols together.
- » **Memorial Day Ceremony**
- » Additional special events include Fall Family Fun Day, an Easter Egg Hunt, Art Festival, and National Night Out. National Night Out is a selected night for businesses to stay open late.



A group of NU MEN student leaders.

04



Parks and Recreation Administration

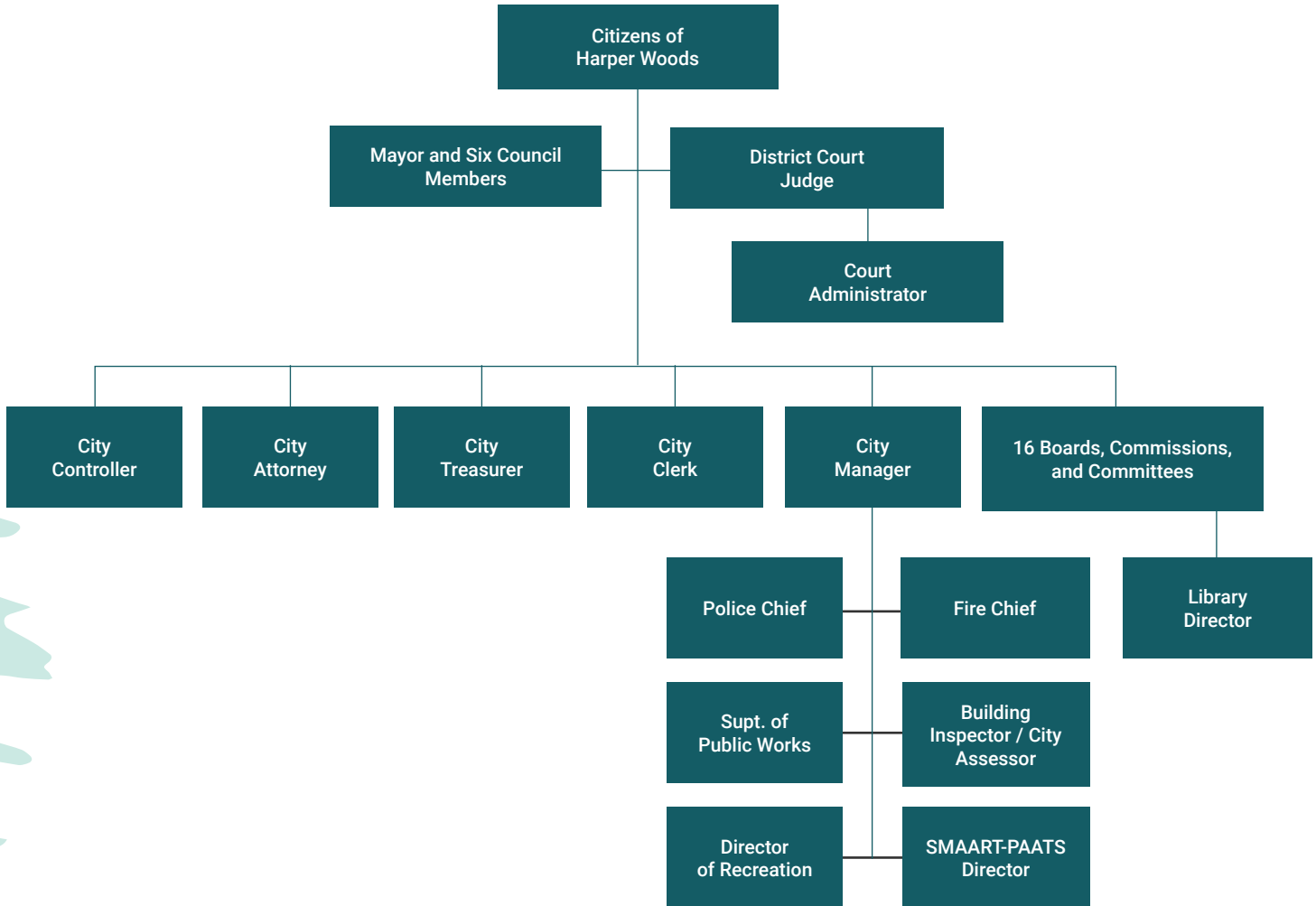
Administrative Organization

As the number of facilities and programs has changed over the years, the administrative structure has changed to better manage those facilities and programs. Figure 5 illustrates the administrative structure currently in place.

The Recreation Advisory Board is comprised of five Harper Woods residents who advise the City Council and the Director of Parks and Recreation on various park and recreation issues. Any suggestions and concerns of City residents concerning facilities and programs are brought up and discussed by the Board.

The Director of Parks and Recreation has direct authority from the City Manager. Several employees are supervised by the Director including: Administrative staff, crew leaders, maintenance professionals, seasonal staff – approximately 25-30 employees in total. The Director performs administrative duties in addition to meeting with the Recreation Advisory Board. The Director is also responsible for planning, developing, and evaluating community recreation activities and programs.

Figure 5. Harper Woods Administrative Structure



Parks and Recreation Budget

The funding for operating the city's parks and recreation system comes from the City's General Fund and is allocated annually during the City Budget process. The General Fund is the basic operating fund for Harper Woods as a whole. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, licenses and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees are typically channeled through the General Fund.

Maintenance of all city park facilities is by the DPW, which is also paid for out of the general fund. DPW draws capital resources from the Vehicles and Equipment Fund, which is a capital fund. Unfortunately, the City Budget is not set up in a way that allows for the separation of Praks and Recreation DPW staff wages or Parks and Recreation capital outlays from all other staff wages or capital outlays. However, the general Fund does have a line item titled "DPW & Parks and Rec," which is displayed in the table below, which encompasses staffing costs, maintenance, operations, and other capital projects.

Table 8 summarizes the Harper Woods budget for parks and recreation from 2022-2023. In 2022, the General Fund was used to fund new basketball courts in Salter Park and Johnson Park, as well as new exercise paths in Salter Park.

Table 8. Harper Woods Parks Budget

Item	2021	2022	2023	2024 Projected
General Fund (Parks & Recreation)	\$211,513	\$371,732	\$330,350	\$330,000

An additional funding source has been added through the creation of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Park Millage.



Parks and Recreation Funding

There are several existing or potential funding sources available for parks and recreation facility improvements. In addition to the City's General Fund, other potential sources of funding for parks and recreation include: a dedicated millage (such as a land acquisition millage), user fees, revenue bonds, donation of land and/or easements, and contractual agreements involving privatization. Following is a brief description of current funding sources and other potential sources the community may consider:

GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is the basic operating fund for the City of Harper Woods. It is also the traditional source of operating funds for parks and recreation. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees are usually channeled through the General Fund.

MILLAGE

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific parks and recreation projects or for operation of recreation facilities. The dedicated millage has gained favor in many communities because voters are increasingly wary of approving millage increases for non-specified purposes. Approval by voters is required before a millage can be assessed. A millage is subject to periodic renewal by a vote of the people.

USER FEES

Fees can be charged by the community to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities throughout Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, wave pools, use of lighted athletic fields, and use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in the municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

FOUNDATIONS

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is typically very limited.

BOND PROGRAMS

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities:

- » **General Obligation Bonds:** General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.
- » **Revenue Bonds:** Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. For example, revenue bonds could be issued for construction of a concession and restroom facility at one of the community parks.
- » **Special Assessment Bonds:** Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety of community improvement projects, including development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low and moderate income neighborhoods that qualify under the program; the City is a sub-recipient of Wayne County's CDBG program.

DONATIONS

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, PTO's (Parent Teacher Organizations/Associations) and community organizations will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRANTS

Following is a summary of the two viable recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for communities that have an up-to-date recreation plan:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor-recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, ballfields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least 25 percent of the project cost are required. There is no minimum or maximum amount for acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000.

There are three special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Proposals will receive special attention if they:

- » Are located within U.S. Census Bureau Metropolitan Statistical Areas;
- » Increase environmental education facilities statewide; but particularly in urban areas; and
- » Acquire land or develop trail ways that contribute to the development of a statewide trail network.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Eligible projects include community recreation and trail way improvements. These are grants to local units of government for development of facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas; and including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retrofitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through Federal appropriations. Grant match basis is 50% MDNR to 50% local. Grant amounts range from \$30,000 to \$500,000.

RECREATION PASSPORT GRANT

Eligible projects will have the primary purpose of providing public recreation opportunities or facilities and infrastructure to support public recreation activity. The Passport grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but development of new parks is also eligible. Funds are provided from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. Local contributions equal to at least 25% of the project cost are required. Grant amounts range from \$7,500 to \$45,000.

SPARK GRANTS

Michigan Spark Grants will support projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people's health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure and make it easier for people to enjoy both indoor and outdoor recreation. It is aimed at helping improve and redevelop existing public recreation in communities that have historically experienced barriers to accessing these types of grants. Funding priority will be given to areas with a high proportion of households that are struggling financially, a high number of residents with physical and mental disabilities, and a lack of public recreation opportunities. Grant amounts range from \$100,000 to \$1 million.

LEASE OR CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

The City of Harper Woods could consider contracts with private entrepreneurs to provide services at city-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Typically, the privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing the City's administrative costs.

PUBLIC USE CONVEYANCES

Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this program provides state lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

Grant History

Though the City of Harper Woods does not regularly receive grant funding for maintenance or improvements to its parks, it has been a recipient of grant funds for specific capital projects in the past. Table 9 provides a description of the projects for which the City received grant funding.

Table 9. Harper Woods Grant History

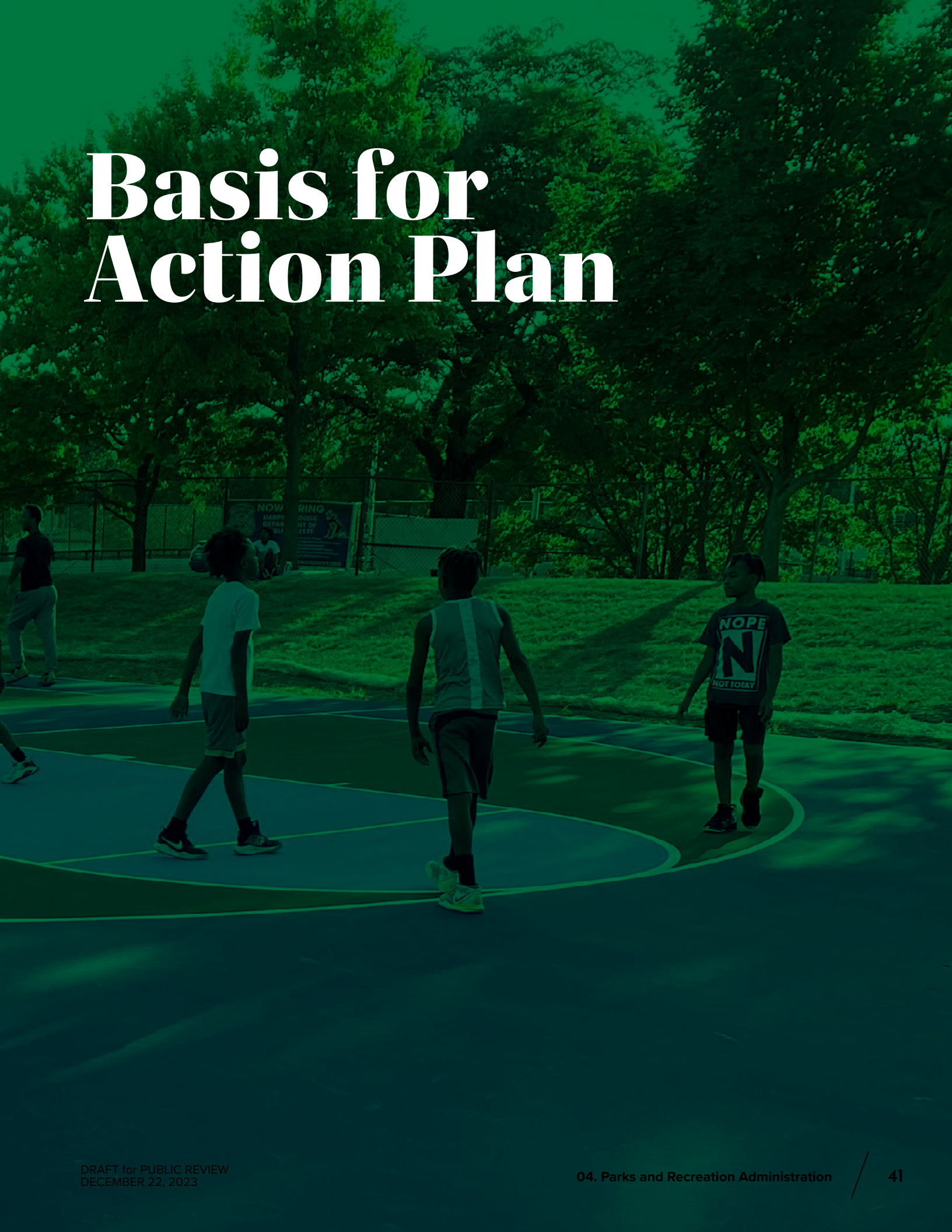
Project Year / Project Number	Project Title	Grant Amount	Project Description
1973 26-00516	Danbury Park	\$3,200	DNR Land and Water Conservation Grant to acquire 0.13 acres of land for outdoor recreation
1976 26-00745	Salter Park	\$201,380	DNR Land and Water Conservation Grant to acquire 9 acres of land for outdoor recreation
1978 26-01060 B2	Salter Park	\$147,355	Development of park, including infrastructure, picnic shelters, landscaping, tennis courts, drinking fountain, restrooms, and park signage through the DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund
1981 26-01195	Salter Park	\$85,000	Development of park, including playground, basketball court, handball/racquetball, shuffleboard, boundary fencing, landscaping, and park signage, also through the DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund
2023, Senate Appropriation Budget	Roscommon Pocket Park	\$20,000	This allocation in the state budget will help fund a portion of the costs to create a new pocket park.

The City has recently applied for funding for an indoor recreation / community center through the State of Michigan Community Center Grant, which is administered through the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO). At this time, the City is waiting to hear whether or not they will receive funding through their grant application.

05



Basis for Action Plan



Prior to 2020, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published the NRPA Areas and Facilities Standards to help agencies assess whether they had sufficient parks and recreation facilities. The Standards had not been updated in more than two decades, and the NRPA realized that a single set of standards could not possibly encompass the uniqueness found in every community across the country. Consequently, NRPA replaced the single set of standards with the creation of a nationwide benchmarking tool for parks and recreation, called NRPA Park Metrics. Annually, the NRPA publishes the NRPA Agency Performance Review, which is a report that summarizes the benchmarking data contributed by 1,100 park and recreation agencies to the Park Metrics database.

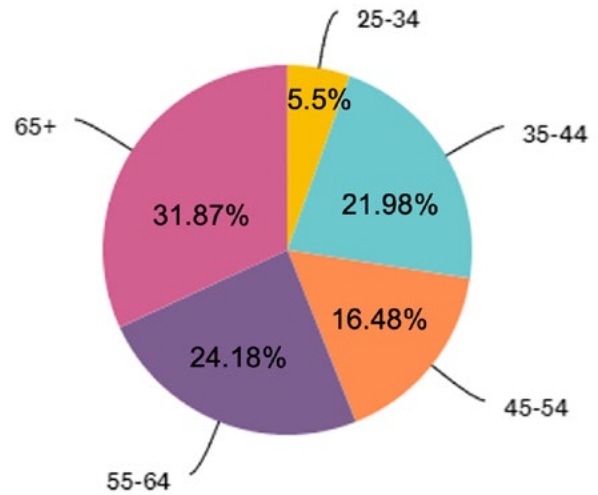
The Park Metrics database separates the data based on size of jurisdiction being served. Then, within each jurisdiction size, the data is further broken down into the lower and upper quartiles. Median values are presented as well. The Park Metrics provide a snapshot of Harper Wood's parks and recreation program in comparison to data from similarly sized peer communities. This information must be combined with information about the community's specific needs and experiences to identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming. The purpose of the community engagement process and other analyses plan was to gather such information.

Summary of Public Input

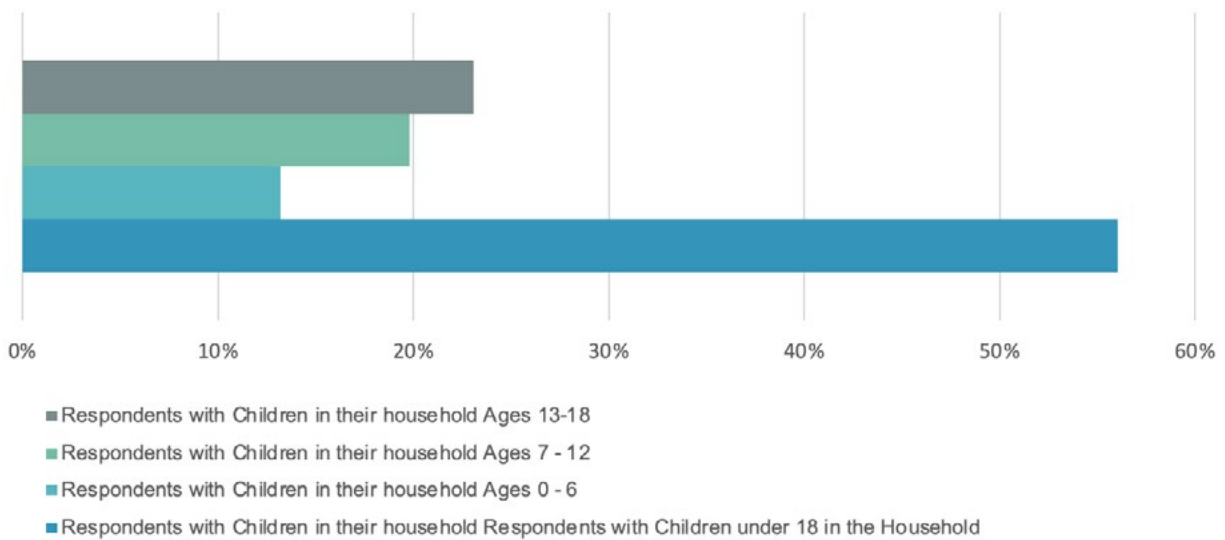
RECREATION OPINION SURVEY

An important component of the public engagement for the City of Harper Woods' update to its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the online and "hard copy" survey was taken by 142 residents and stakeholders between October 10, 2023 and November 20, 2023. About 90% of respondents identified themselves as Harper Woods residents; the other roughly 10% were a combination of people with relatives in Harper Woods, business owners, or visitors. The age breakdown of respondents is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Age Breakdown of Respondents



Respondents with Children in the Household



The City publicized the survey on its homepage and sent out an email blast to subscribers. Additionally, the survey was advertised at the October Planning Commission meeting and mentioned at the City Council meeting. Of the City-owned and school parks, respondents visit Johnston and Salter Park most frequently, for the primary reasons of walking, socializing, and using the playgrounds. Respondents who visit Danbury Park indicated visiting there for the same reason, just with a lower number of respondents.

Additional survey questions pertained to the appearance, maintenance, and overall condition of the existing parks and facilities as well as community programming led by the Parks and Recreation Department. Additionally, we asked respondents to choose improvements and/or additions they'd like to see developed at each park facility. Requested enhancements to the parks include Wi-Fi, restrooms open daily, accessibility to parks and the equipment for people of all ages and abilities, and While most respondents answered that they did not participate in the city-coordinated youth and adult programming activities, such as dance, Zumba, yoga, arts and crafts, tennis and pickleball, many respondents have participated in the community programs. The breakdown of the community events respondent has participated in over the following are included in Figure X.

Individual responses on the condition:

"I think the City of Harper Woods has beautiful, well-maintained parks."

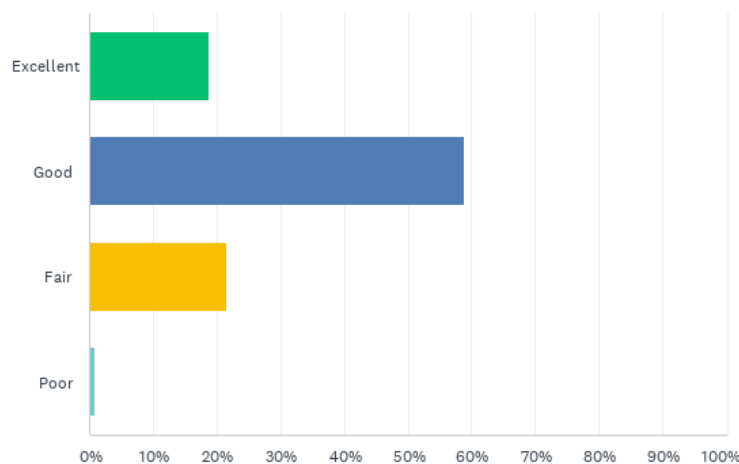
"I like that animal waste bags have been provided and additional waste cans have been added."

"Adequate but dated."

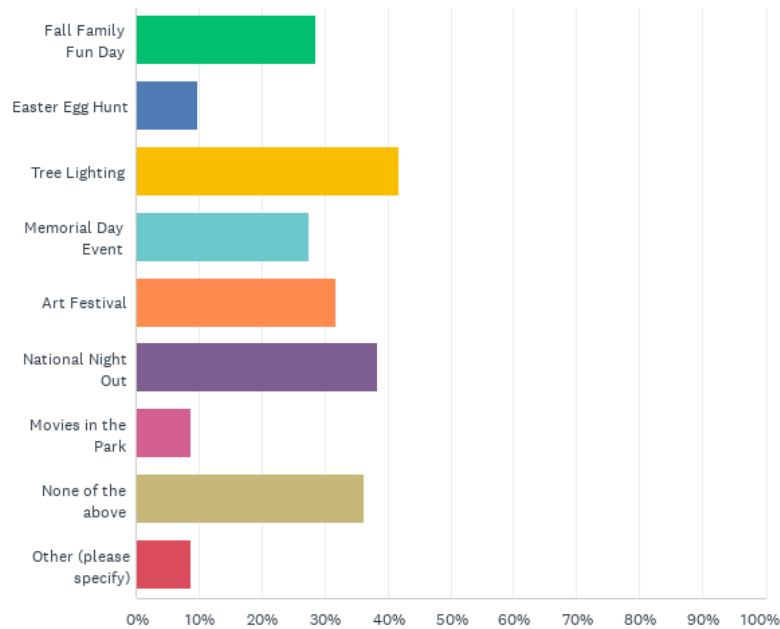
"The Park and Rec. do a great job, unfortunately some people coming to Salter leave behind their mess. People leaving their garbage in the parking lot and during warmer weather people leaving their trash out or left to fly around."

"Love that the trees are getting bigger [at Salter], maybe a couple more? The grass looks perfect always."

Q4 Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL of the City Parks you have visited?



Q9 Community Programs - Check ALL that you have participated in over the past 12 months:

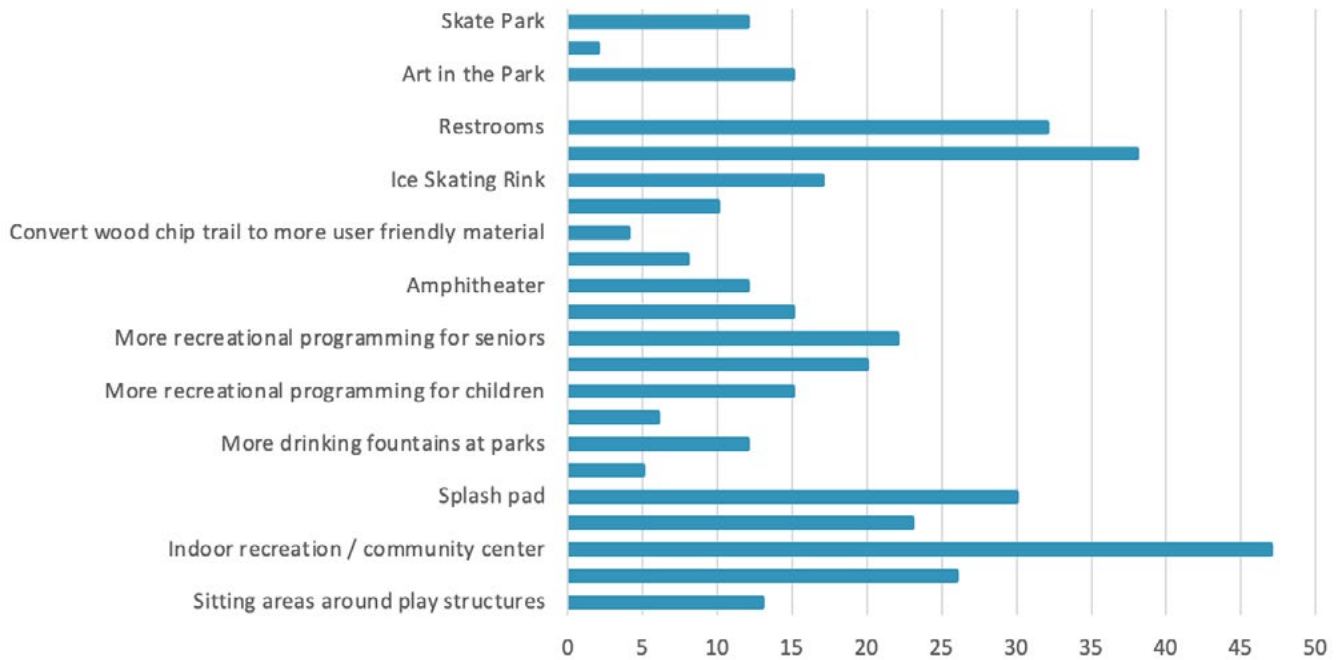


In terms of additional recreational programming respondents would like the City to host, the most interest was in a summer concert series and year-around indoor recreational option (basketball, pickleball, dance, etc.). The following figure shows the interest in additional programming. Written comments also mentioned dog parks and activities, use of the high school pool, cooking classes, soccer, plant exchange and markets, and fitness classes.

The overarching priorities for enhancements for the Parks and Recreation Department to work on in the next five years are summarized on Table X. Written comments included enhancing accessibility, improving advertisements of current recreational opportunities and classes, adding more summer programming for kids, improving the park rental system.



Project Priorities for Parks and Recreation Department over the next 5 years



Improvements and/or additions:

“I would love to see the community center be built. I believe that it would be a great place for residents to gather. I think by capturing resident’s information it will led make it easier to market community events hosted in the parks.”

“From driving by they look okay. I have no way of knowing if any of them are handicap accessible, or if it would be safe for a handicap person to visit any of them.”

“Make more Senior oriented & upgrade events.”

Analysis of Existing Facilities and Service Areas

Recreation facilities serving Harper Woods residents are compared to the NRPA/MDNR standards in Tables 9 and 10. These comparisons provide a general idea of deficiencies, but it must be understood that the NRPA/MDNR standards are not intended to be followed to the letter. Needs of the population can vary from one community to the next, and the results should be considered in the context of each city involved. The analysis of existing recreation facilities is summarized in Table 9 through 11.

Map 3 shows the general service area boundaries based on national standards for mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks. These facility categories are from the NRPA 1983 Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Even though they are not used in the 2022 NRPA Parks Metrics benchmarks, they have been retained for illustrative purposes to bridge the gap between the two evaluation systems.

Table 10. Outdoor Recreation Facilities Comparison to Standards for Harper Woods (Agency with Less Than 20,000 Population)

Facility	Median No. of Residents per One Facility ¹	% Agencies that Provide Facility ¹	Existing Municipal/ Public Facilities	Recommended No. for 15,492 People ^{2,4}	Surplus/ (Deficiency)
Playgrounds	2,014	95%	5	7.7	-2.7
Basketball courts	3,729	86	1 + 6 Half Courts	4.2	-0.2
Diamond fields: baseball field – youth	3,114	79	3	5.0	-2.0
Tennis courts (outdoor)	2,805	76	2	5.5	-3.5
Rectangular fields: multi- purpose	3,859	69	1	4.0	-3.0
Dog parks	11,100	68	0 On-leash at Salter	1.4	-1.4
Diamond fields: baseball / softball field – adult	5,800	63	0	2.7	-0.7
Diamond fields: baseball softball field – youth	5,079	62	2	3.1	-1.1
Community gardens	8,178	52	0	1.9	-1.9
Swimming pools (outdoor)	9,745	51	0	1.6	-1.6
Rectangular fields: soccer field – youth	3,600	50	0	4.3	-4.3
Multi-use courts – basketball, volleyball	5,093	49	0	3.0	-3.0
Tot lots	5,816	48	1	2.7	-1.7
Rectangular fields: soccer field – adult	6,955	42	0	2.2	-2.2
Skate parks	10,726	41	0	1.4	-1.4
Rectangular fields: football field	8,637	35	1	1.8	-0.8
Pickleball (outdoor)	3,252	31	2	4.8	-2.8
Regulation 18-hole courses	9,587	29	0	1.6	-1.6
Multiuse courts – tennis, pickleball (outdoor)	4,868	27	4	3.2	0.8
Multipurpose synthetic field	9,518	25	0	1.6	-1.6
Ice rinks (outdoor)	8,045	18	0	1.9	-1.9
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field / field hockey	9,786	11	0	1.6	-1.6
Overlay fields	8,707	9	0	1.8	-1.8

1. Based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards for 2023.
2. Based on U.S. Census 2020 population of 15,492.
3. Two backboards were considered to be equal to one court for the purposes of this analysis.
4. Rounded up to the nearest whole number. The figures in this column reflect the number of facilities needed to achieve a Median Number of Residents Per Facility in the City of Harper Woods.

Per the 2023 NRPA report, the typical park and recreation agency operates seven buildings and agencies serving populations of less than 20,000 often operate three buildings.

Table 11. Indoor Recreation Facilities Comparison to Standards for Harper Woods, Michigan (Agency with Less Than 20,000 Population)

Facility	Median Number of Residents per One Facility ¹	% Agencies That Provide Facility ¹	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended No. for 15,492 People ²	Surplus/ (Deficiency)
Recreation centers (including gyms)	9,745	63%	0	1.6	-1.6
Community centers	8,829	59	0	1.8	-1.8
Senior centers	14,000	41	0	1.1	-1.1
Performance amphitheaters	11,100	37	0	1.4	-1.4
Nature centers	10,633	33	0	1.5	-1.5
Aquatics centers	11,650	28	0	1.3	-1.3
Stadiums	9,250	20	0	1.7	-1.7
Teen centers	14,593	13	0	1.1	-1.1
Indoor ice rinks	8,000	12	0	1.9	-1.9
Arenas	5,531	8	0	2.8	-2.8

1. Based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NPRA) Standards for 2023.
 2. Based on U.S. Census 2020 population of 15,492.



Table 12. Analysis of Existing Parks and Facilities

Type of Facility	Recreation Standards ¹	Harper Woods Community Facilities	Comments/ Recommendations
Mini-Parks	Mini-Parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Danbury Park is the City's only Mini-Park, totaling approximately 2.2 acres. Only residents in the north end of the City have access to this park, and lack of parking limits access to those not within walking distance.	The City is actively working on creating a Pocket Park, to be known as Roscommon Park, which we convert two vacant residential lots into a park.
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide areas for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks are generally 15 acres or more in size and serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within ¼ to ½ mile radius from the neighborhood they serve.	Salter Park is classified as a neighborhood park even though it has less than 15 acres. Salter Park has many facilities for outdoor recreation including a walking trail.	Work with MDOT for a more user-friendly highway overpass to connect the park with the portion of the City that is West of I-94. Install more accessible material at the playground rather than woodchips.
Community Parks	Community Parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from several neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas for intense recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities.	Johnston Park is classified as a community park with about 12-13 acres. It contains facilities found in no other park in the City including ball diamonds and batting cages.	Work with the School District to improve the underutilized land behind the building to improve the aesthetics and utilize additional recreational opportunities. To make the park more accessible, the paved trail should lead to every court (basketball, tennis/pickleball) and the pavilion picnic area. Alternative material at the playscape should be used instead of woodchips.
Regional Parks	Regional parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail use. Many also include active play areas.	The city is well served by regional parks and facilities, despite having none within the City boundaries.	Regional parks typically serve several communities within a one-hour drive. Partnerships with regional local, county, and state facilities should be explored to fill existing voids within the City's park and recreation system.
Special Use Facilities	Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities, such as golf courses, nature centers, outdoor theaters, interpretative centers, or facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment. Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment may be the primary focus with recreation use as a secondary objective.	No special use parks are located within the City.	If areas cannot be identified within the City where these facilities can be developed, then partnerships with neighboring communities and school districts to share facilities should be considered, if and when the community desires these types of facilities.
Passive Parks	The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas and other pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments and fountains, and historical features.	No parks contain passive recreation facilities in the City.	A City-wide design and planting plan should be created to guide future development of passive areas in the City park system such as gardens or reflection pools.
Linear Parks	A linear park is any area developed for one or more modes of recreation travel, such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, canoeing, horseback riding, and pleasure driving.	There are no identifiable linear parks within the City.	Small looped non-motorized pathways can be developed within Johnston Park.
All Parkland	All parkland areas within the City are considered herein. For communities with less than 20,000 residents, the national median parkland provided is 13 ac per 10,000 residents.	22.34 acres of parkland exists.	Based on population, the City should have at least 18.7 acres, thus fulfilling the minimum park acreage. The City should continue focusing on creating new mini-parks to fill the gaps in service area and allow residents to be within a 10 minute walk of a park.
All Parks	All parkland areas within the City are considered herein. For communities with less than 20,000 residents, the national median parkland provided is 1,225 residents per park.	Harper woods has 3,873 people per park.	An additional pocket park can be considered if land becomes available to improve this metric.

Recreation Deficiencies

FACILITIES

Tables 10 and 11 outline recreation standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association and by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These standards recommend minimum standards for different recreation facilities based on existing and projected population. According to this analysis, the Harper Woods project area is underserved by almost every type of outdoor and indoor facility.

To get a better understanding of what recreational amenities are not accessible in the community, public school facilities are also shown on Table 6. In most cases, the deficiency levels decreased when the City's and the schools' facilities were combined. The exceptions are volleyball courts and dedicated soccer fields.

The raw numbers do not address the quality of existing parks and recreation facilities, or the proportional desire of the public for each type of facility. Out of the facilities that are underserved, the public has voiced that they are most interested in a Community Center (as opposed to an ice rink or dog park, which are also absent). This is in addition to other high-demand under-provided facilities, such as fitness equipment.

ACCESSIBILITY

All parks do not meet accessibility requirements, mainly due to the lack of accessible pathways to all park improvements (though there are many accessible pathways throughout the system). A detailed inventory and analysis should be completed by a certified playground inspector to identify problem areas and develop a strategy for replacement and improvements. Modern equipment with transfer points and ramps, resilient surfacing, and accessible pathways are required to ensure safe integrated play by all residents of the community.

PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES

Many residents would like to see non-motorized trails and paved pathways for pedestrian and bike use throughout the city linking major open space with parks and school facilities.

PROGRAM DEFICIENCIES

While the city provides a very large and wide variety of sports and programs for school age children, there may be a need to provide more activities for adults and for teenagers after school hours. While better promotion of existing programs can increase participation, varying schedules (e.g. late-night basketball) may attract adults that work shift hours. Development of additional programs for teenagers and adults have been identified as a need in the community. Finally, it is important for the City to not duplicate or compete with the School District's programming, since the School facilities are those that are used by the City for indoor recreation programming, and the partnership is an important one.

ADA COMPLIANCE

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all citizens have access to all facilities provided by the City regardless of physical disability. All three City parks could be brought into further compliance with the ADA requirements so all citizens can participate and enjoy the park system and facilities. Also, some programming is not accessible due to physical barriers such as the dance program in the basement of the library. The City should ensure that all citizens have access to all programs.

SAFETY

Safety and the perception of safety are important to increasing the use of existing parks. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a program adopted nationally that increases the perception of safety for a normal user and the perception of risk for a would-be offender. CPTED "is [the] proper design and effective use of the built environment which can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and an improvement in the quality of life" (National Crime Prevention Institute, 1986). Four principles are utilized: 1) the placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way as to maximize visibility (Natural Surveillance); 2) the physical guidance of people coming and going from a space by the judicious placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping and lighting (Natural Access Control); 3) the use of physical attributes that express ownership, such as fences, pavement treatments, art, signage and landscaping (Territorial Reinforcement); and 4) Maintenance.



Park Service Areas

City of Harper Woods, Wayne County Michigan

December 14, 2023

LEGEND

- Parks
- Public Schools
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- City of Harper Woods Boundary



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: City of Harper Woods, 2023. McKenna, 2023.



06

Action Plan

This Chapter of the plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with the thorough analysis of the physical and demographic attributes of the community, followed by extensive public engagement. Existing parks and recreation facilities and programs were inventoried and evaluated. An assessment of need was then developed that considered both accepted recreation standards and the specialized needs of persons with disabilities. Finally, these needs were analyzed and reviewed by the Harper Woods Recreation Advisory Board and Planning Commission with input from the public.

The limiting factor in the Harper Woods parks and recreation system is the lack of facilities that are under City control and available for recreation programs. The City provides an impressive number and variety of programs using alternate facilities. The Harper Woods School District facilities are utilized by the City when they are available. However, in order to increase and offer quality programs and services that are suggested by the survey respondents, facilities are needed.

The overriding need is for a community recreation facility that provides space for indoor programs, activities and offices for the Parks and Recreation Department. One potential way to develop such a facility is to encourage cooperation among other public and private entities, including the Harper Woods School District and the communities that constitute the Grosse Pointes. This cooperation is ongoing, particularly regarding the programs that the Neighborhood Club offers. However, opportunities should be explored for providing a regional recreational facility that could serve the needs of Harper Woods as well as the region mentioned. The proposed indoor recreation facility would significantly help in satisfying this need.

Goals and Objectives

Goals should be broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable results that the community works toward accomplishing.

1. Facilities

Goal 1.1

Develop an indoor community recreation facility that meets the recreational needs of the public and provides office space for the Parks and Recreation Department.

- 1.1.A** Meet the recreational needs of Harper Woods residents in terms of program, equipment, and facilities.
- 1.1.B** Provide increased program capacity.
- 1.1.C** Maintain community competitiveness, ability to retain, engage, and attract residents.
- 1.1.D** Provide facilities that decrease the City's dependence on Harper Woods School District's facilities and resources.

Goal 1.2

Improve and enhance the recreational opportunities at Salter, Johnston, and Danbury Park.

- 1.2.A** Monitor and repair/replace outdated playground equipment with newer structures as necessary.
- 1.2.B** Include greater variety of play equipment that appeals to all ages.
- 1.2.C** Comply with ADA requirements at minimum.
- 1.2.D** Based on community feedback, add additional recreational opportunities.

Goal 1.3

Add or enhance interactive passive opportunities at parks to support socialization and relaxation outdoors.

- 1.3.A** Expand passive recreational opportunities such as chess or checker tables or social activities that appeal to families and senior residents.
- 1.3.B** Incorporate natural features to the park that contribute to the local ecosystem as well as offer appealing features to residents, such as butterfly or pollinator gardens, rainwater gardens, community vegetable / flower gardens, or ponds/fountains.

Goal 1.4

Bring awareness to the any new city park and programming.

- 1.4.A** Utilize the City's web page and communication channels to inform residents of current recreational opportunities through the City and new opportunities as they are added.
- 1.4.B** Monitor and expand upon communication channels to ensure residents know about all the amenities at parks, park locations, and recreational opportunities.

2. Programming

Goal 2.1

Continue evaluation of all programs and adjust the type and format of programs to best suit diverse community needs.

- 2.1.A** Monitor and adjust rates for program participation as needed to maintain affordable options while covering costs to be able to expand recreational opportunities.
- 2.1.B** Continue strong public relations for special events.
- 2.1.C** Expand promotion of current programs.
- 2.1.D** Maintain and expand mechanisms to fully integrate all programs for children / persons with disabilities.

Goal 2.2

Create new programs based on community interest.

- 2.2.A** Provide programming for teens consistent with input collected during planning process.
- 2.2.B** Continually update program selection with respect to new ideas and interests, especially in regard to hobbies and exercise, when possible.
- 2.2.C** Create new programs that provide inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth/preschoolers.
- 2.2.D** Organize physical activities for older residents.
- 2.2.E** Create partnerships to offer after-school childcare services and/or programming for children during summer months.

Goal 2.3

Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to all residents.

- 2.3.A** Seek alternative funding such as private contributions to offset program costs through requests to service clubs, private sector, and professional organizations for sponsorships of various programs.
- 2.3.B** Solicit and apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs.
- 2.3.C** Recruit and train a pool of volunteers and mentors to assist in implementation of various programs.
- 2.3.D** Establish a Teen Advisory Council of high school aged youth and young adults.

3. Administration and Organization

Goal 3.1

Investigate innovative ways to fund and reduce the costs of programming.

- 3.1.A** Create a nonprofit entity to raise funds and contribute to the efforts of Parks and Recreation Department.
- 3.1.B** Seek partnership opportunities with local businesses, the county, or neighboring municipalities to increase parks and recreation services.
- 3.1.C** Look to other municipalities for creative ways on how to increase revenue streams for parks and recreation.

Goal 3.2

Continue recruiting staff to meet programming and maintenance needs.

- 3.2.A** Partner with the school district / high school to offer employment opportunities.
- 3.2.B** Advertise and actively recruit staff.
- 3.2.C** Continue to seek new revenue streams, partnerships, and/or grant funding to support hiring additional staff.

Goal 3.3

Market recreation services to potential users.

- 3.3.A** Provide updated programming on the City's website and social media.
- 3.3.B** Continue coverage of recreation program on seasonal Recreation Department newsletter, and distribute electronically by email and/or posting on the City's website.
- 3.3.C** Place park signage at visible locations.

4. Access to Facilities

Goal 4.1

Eliminate existing barriers to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and adopting a policy of "inclusive recreation."

- 4.1.A** Examine existing programs to ensure that they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents regardless of their social, economic, or physical status.
- 4.1.B** Ensure that each play setting and activity area is accessible, that accessible play components are placed throughout each activity area, and that similar play opportunities are provided to children with disabilities.
- 4.1.C** Ensure that landscape areas and picnic areas are accessible.
- 4.1.D** Consider expanding hours that parks and restroom facilities are open to the public.
- 4.1.E** Work with the school district to open and help maintain recreational areas at the elementary school.

Goal 4.2

Eliminate safety concerns.

- 4.2.A** Work with Police Department and other Departments to add call buttons at each park.
- 4.2.B** Add pedestrian scale lighting where needed.

5. Sustainability

Goal 5.1

Add leisure and natural features to the parks that contribute positively to the local biodiversity and utilization of green spaces.

- 5.1.A Prevent flooding in parks by adding green stormwater infrastructure, such as rain garden, bioswales, etc.
- 5.1.B Add interesting natural features to the parks, such as pollinator plants, butterfly gardens, and/or community gardens.
- 5.1.C Become a WaterTown through the Clinton River Watershed Council to receive greater resources and support in adding green stormwater infrastructure to parks and hosting educational opportunities for residents.
- 5.1.D Administer an adopt-a-garden program to increase landscaping and desired gardens to parks and green spaces.

Goal 5.2

Utilize natural features at parks as educational opportunities.

- 5.2.A Become a WaterTown through the Clinton River Watershed Council to receive greater resources and support in offering community events and educational materials regarding green stormwater management.
- 5.2.B Include informational signs at green infrastructure and biodiversity landscaping features added to parks.
- 5.2.C Offer educational material on the City website to share resources and information on how to add natural features to residential properties.

Goal 5.3

Maintain a healthy tree canopy.

- 5.3.A Increase tree coverage within parks and throughout neighborhoods by planting new, noninvasive durables trees to fill gaps in the tree canopy or replace dying trees.

Action Plan

Table 12 is a summary of actions that the City and its partners should undertake during the next five years, and beyond; these activities are discrete and consistent with the Goals and Objectives, public input received, and the analysis of the City’s parks and recreation needs.

Table 13 outlines the Capital Improvement Program for parks and recreation with specific capital improvements, their estimated costs, and the year(s) that the actions are proposed to be undertaken. It should be noted that the CIP is based on the anticipated financial resources of the City, leveraging private resources and grants. This helps to ensure that the projects are aligned with the operational and financial realities of the City’s resources and are not simply a pure reflection of community desires. The City has taken a comprehensive approach to preparing the Master Plan to fully evaluate and prioritize projects based on the cost benefit, impact to the community, and operational costs.



Recreation Advisory Board member and International Pickle Ball Ambassador George Cotton, III after a game of pickle ball at Johnston Park.

Table 13. Summary of Action Items, City of Harper Woods

Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommended City-Wide Action Items
A. Community Recreation Facility	<p>Need Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Residents, other stakeholders, and strategic partners have expressed strong desire (25+ years) for an indoor Community Recreation Facility. » Facility to house administrative offices and recreation equipment. » May lead to less dependency on school and other public facilities. » Centralized location for programming and activities. » Allows for year-round fitness and recreational activities. » Secured spaces would help expand programming options. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue pursuing state, federal, and private grants to fund the development of an indoor recreational facility and community center. 2. Determine priority of this activity in context of all City / public facility needs, and other pressing demands including City Hall upgrades. 3. Pursue funding and partnerships to support new recreational opportunities and activities at the proposed community center once completed. 4. Explore leveraging resident support for a dedicated Parks and Recreation millage.

Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommended City-Wide Action Items
B. Natural Features at Parks	<p>Need Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Residents would like the larger parks to feel for embedded in nature rather than feel like they are in a city/suburb. » Interest in a greater variety of green features and landscaping that is more interactive and contributes to local biodiverse and stormwater management, such as butterfly/pollinator gardens and rain water gardens. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add more landscaping screening, including but not limited to interior and perimeter trees. 2. Administer an Adopt-a-Garden program to increase the number and variety of natural features and gardens in the parks. 3. Add educational signage as gardens are added.
C. Funding Efforts	<p>Need Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Need greater funding streams that can be supported by a nonprofit entity that can obtain private dollars for park and recreational enhancements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the Recreational Advisory Board to create a non-profit entity that can seek additional private funding dollars. 2. Coordinate with staff to submit for public and private grants.
D. Public Awareness Efforts	<p>Need Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Residents are not aware of the location and amenities of each park. » Lack of information or awareness on the programming options offered by the City. » Residents are not aware barrier-free or inclusive play features. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize Engage Harper Woods and the City’s website to share information about the City’s recreational classes/opportunities and the various parks, including their location, amenities, special events, and ongoing enhancements. 2. Include a map online that shows each park. 3. Use Engage Harper Woods to gather feedback from residents on parks and recreation services.
E. Teen Facilities and Programs	<p>Need Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Harper Woods teens and young adults need “third place” options other than home and school. They expressed a desire for places with recreation, food and drink, technology, and programming, as well as informal gathering space. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure the plans for the Community Recreation Facility satisfy teen needs, as well as serve young adults, seniors, and the greater community. 2. Work on “placemaking” and parks and recreation best practices for teens. 3. Consider establishment of Teen Advisory Council to help guide activities.
F. Develop Playgrounds	<p>Moderate Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing equipment may need replacement or repair over life of this plan. » Maintain industry standard fall zones. » Work with the School District to add/replace modular play equipment as it breaks or wears. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use resilient surfacing instead of woodchips to make accessible to all citizens (ADA compliance at minimum). 2. Replace and repair equipment as it becomes obsolete or unsafe, utilizing modular equipment.

Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommended City-Wide Action Items
G. Geographic Distribution	<p>Moderate Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Service Area Analysis identifies lack of coverage (mitigated by location of Harper Woods School District Elementary Schools). » The proposed Roscommon Pocket Park will contribute to the need for parks within walking distance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to identify vacant or under-utilized land for future acquisition, prioritized in an area not currently serviced by a pocket or neighborhood park. 2. Coordinate with school districts on existing school sites, should they become available for acquisition in the future or can organize a partnership to open playgrounds for public access.
H. Facility Deficiencies	<p>Moderate Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Based on National Standards (NRPA), the City’s parks and recreation facilities are deficient in a number of domains. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the addition of an indoor recreational / community facility, with is a top priority, evaluate opportunities to develop additional recreational facilities (on an annual basis). 2. Look for partnership opportunities with schools or adjacent municipalities.
I. Safety	<p>Low Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Though relatively few unsafe conditions were documented during the planning process, it’s important to continuously study the safety of equipment and improve when necessary. » Always design future facility upgrades and capital improvements with safety perception in mind. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct annual inspections of facilities and improvements. 2. Consider Community Policing Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles when designing / installing new equipment or facilities.
J. Maintenance	<p>Low Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Trash pick-up and general maintenance is an ongoing need. » Additional landscaping and green features requested, such as butterfly/pollinator gardens, which requires more meticulous maintenance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuously evaluate playground structures for maintenance / safety deficiencies, and prioritize repair / replacement when present. 2. Administer volunteering opportunities for ‘Adopt-a-garden’ to expand landscaping at parks while reducing the burden of maintenance.
Future Park-Specific Improvements		
A. Danbury Park	<p>Future Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Trees for shade or a pavilion structure for increased usage of picnic facilities. » Add parking and signage. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add interior trees for greater shade. 2. Additional parking should be developed or acquired before pavilion structure is constructed. 3. Investigate the feasibility of additional parking, including potential for shared parking between City’s DPS site (west of park) or church (south of park), or develop parking on parkland.

Table 15. 5-Year Capital Improvement Program

Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Estimated Costs	Potential Funding Sources
A. City Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Become a WaterTown with Clinton River Water Shed to allow for greater partnership opportunities with installing and providing educational material on green stormwater infrastructure to improve soil drainage. » Create a nonprofit entity to fundraise and apply for grants. » Share information about park locations, park amenities, and recreational programming online. » Look to partnerships or increasing staff for more recreational opportunities. » Address park and city tree canopy. 	X	X	X			Staff Time Staff Salaries	Clinton River Watershed Council Ralph Wilson Foundation Additional private dollars, program fees, and business sponsors.
B. Johnston Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Repair the drinking fountains. » Additional trees and landscaping. » Work with School District to improve the unused space behind the High School. » Add exercise equipment along walking paths. » Allow for greater restroom access. 		X	X	X	X	\$20,000 (Water fountains and restroom) Ongoing Increased Cost for maintenance of restrooms \$15,000 exercise equipment	Community Development Block Grant. General Fund. Wayne County Parks Millage grant. Private Sources (foundations, other). General Fund. National Kidney Foundation
C. Salter Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add indoor recreational and community center. » Add gardens with educational elements. » Add interior trees and landscaping in the parking lot. » Add exercise equipment along walking paths. 	X	X	X		X Equipment	\$250 per garden installation, ongoing maintenance. About \$250 per tree \$15,000 Exercise Equipment	Clinton River Watershed Council Land and Water Conservation Fund Donations. Adopt-a-garden. General Fund
D. Danbury Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Add interior trees for greater shade. » Additional parking should be developed or acquired before pavilion structure is constructed. » Investigate the feasibility of additional parking, including potential for shared parking between City's DPS site (west of park) or church (south of park), or develop parking on parkland. 	X Trees	X Parking	X Parking	X reevaluate need for pavilion	X Pavilion	About \$250 per tree	Donations / Tree Plaques General Fund
E. Roscommon Pocket Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Obtain funding to cover construction expenses. » Promote the new location on-line and at the Library and City Hall. 	X	X					1) Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) 2) Land and Water Conservation Fund

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