

2023-2027



# Fraser Parks and Recreation Master Plan





# Fraser Parks and Recreation Master Plan

City of Fraser, Michigan

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# Acknowledgments

*The content in this Plan reflects the ongoing collaboration between residents, stakeholders, and City Council and its appointed boards and commissions.*

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# 01

## Introduction

*The City of Fraser coordinated an open, public planning process to create a comprehensive vision for Fraser parks and recreation programs, satisfying the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.*

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 project future needs. The Plan includes all required elements of a Parks and Recreation Plan, and therefore qualifies Fraser 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 going forward.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan covers the years of 2023 through 2027, though it will be a useful planning tool beyond the five-year mark. The City's current Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2017. The City accomplished significant improvements during the ensuing years, including:

- Several updated playgrounds and parks equipment, including the completion of Phases II and III of McKinley Barrier-Free Park.
- Maintenance of grounds, facilities, and natural features at all City parks.
- Efficient and effective administration of parks and recreation functions.

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# 02

## Community Description

*Fraser is a community with predominately residential land uses, along with a handful of prominent commercial corridors, industrial centers, and an emerging central business district. Encompassing 4.1 square miles, Fraser is located in Macomb County, Michigan. The City borders several other communities, including Warren, Sterling Heights, Roseville, and Clinton Township. The City is situated in the greater Metro-Detroit area, approximately 18 miles north of downtown Detroit.*

Fraser includes a variety of suburban development types, including a number of industrial land uses, varying density residential land uses, and a centrally-located Community Business District—with typical auto-oriented suburban development along its key corridors.

Parks and recreation are critical components of a thriving community, and this Plan is an important document for the implementation of place-based improvements.

# Demographics

The Fraser Parks and Recreation Master Plan is updated and maintained to determine needs and opportunities that exist within the City. Consideration is given to:

- Estimates of the number of likely users of recreational amenities;
- Projections of what type of programs users will enthusiastically participate in;
- The facilities that are necessary to further the community's parks and recreation-related goals and objectives.

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) and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, analyzed and synthesized by McKenna.

## 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. The table below shows the relative populations of Fraser and nearby comparable communities.

**Table 1. Population**

	Fraser	Eastpointe	Roseville	Warren	Utica	Macomb County
2000	15,297	34,044	48,129	138,247	4,577	788,149
2010	14,739	32,944	47,830	135,791	4,757	837,490
2021	14,703	34,148	47,692	138,142	5,188	876,792
% Change from 2010 to 2021	-0.24%	3.66%	-0.29%	1.73%	5.63%	4.69%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Like many communities across southeastern Michigan, Fraser has experienced a slight decline in population since 2000; a loss of 594 persons. However, it should be recognized that the City's population basically remained unchanged from 2010 to 2021.

## Households

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

The average household size in Fraser was 2.30 persons in 2021. Of this information, combined with the age distribution, it is likely that the City of Fraser is comprised largely of older 2-person families that no longer have children living in their homes, or older residents living in their adult child's home.

## Housing Occupants

The make-up of housing occupants within a City can provide additional information about the community's profile.

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, approximately 71.9% of households in Fraser are owner-occupied. Parks and recreation amenities are frequently rated as important elements when individuals and families make locational decisions.

## 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 residents in their twenties, or those who have families with children. Further, families with children also have different needs than one another, depending on the ages of the children living in the home. For example, households with younger children will likely desire parks with restrooms, play equipment, splash pads, and other similar amenities. Households with older children, such as high school and college age, may require parks with a more robust trail network or exercise stations.

The table below compares the median ages of Fraser residents to surrounding communities.

**Table 2. Median Age**

	Fraser	Eastpointe	Roseville	Warren	Utica	Macomb County
Median Age	39.1	37.9	41.0	39.1	45.3	40.9

Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

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. To compare age structure, the percentage of the population in Fraser is divided into the following age groupings.

- Under 5 (Pre School)                      6.2%
- 5 to 19 (School Aged)                      15.0%
- 20 to 44 (Family Forming)                33.4%
- 45 to 64 (Mature Families)               26.6%
- Over 65 (Retirement)                    18.8%

The majority of the population of the City of Fraser are family forming and mature family members. The demographics imply that the City could potentially see an increase in population due to the nature of the age distribution. However, with nearly 46% of the population composed of mature families and those of retirement age, services to senior adults will be an important component of the City's decision-making processes related to parks and recreation.

Further, in recent years, changing trends in childcare show that grandparents are taking a larger role in assisting with childcare needs for parents. As such, parks facilities and playgrounds are more frequently utilized by seniors, older adults, and those of retirement age. For this reason, it is imperative that park design and amenities also accommodate this age group as well. These amenities can include more benches and seating areas, pavilions, walking paths, and other items.

## 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. The table below illustrates the median household income trend since 2010.

**Table 3. Median Household Income**

Year	Median Household Income
2010	\$54,302*
2015	\$50,927*
2020	\$59,471

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010, 2015, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, \* inflation-adjusted dollars

## Disabilities

While it is encouraged that all park and play equipment in the City is ADA compliant, the type of disability and number of residents impacted by disabilities will affect the design and accommodations within the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and on future improvements to City facilities. The Census Bureau reports that approximately 12.0% of residents under age 65 have a disability of some sort in Fraser in 2021.

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

Led by the efforts of the Fraser First Booster Club, the McKinley Barrier-Free park was completed in 2022, demonstrating Fraser's commitment to accessible parks and recreation opportunities. Accessibility remains a continuing priority for all aspects in the planning of parks, facilities, and recreation services in Fraser.



*The recently-completed McKinley Barrier-Free Park*

## 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



# Physical Characteristics

## Topography

Much like the entire Metro-Detroit area, the topography in Fraser is flat throughout the community. The elevation of the City of Fraser is approximately 610 feet. It is not likely that topography will play a role in play equipment or future needs for parks amenities or upgrades.

## Water Resources / Fish And Wildlife

Fraser 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 nearly entirely developed, without natural wooded areas that would be habitable for fish or wildlife populations.

## Soils

Soil characteristics have an important influence on the ability of land to support various types of equipment, drainage, and park target locations. Four specific soil characteristics influence their ability to be used for various purposes. These include the following:

- Bearing capacity: the ability to support the weight of trails, buildings, and vehicles
- Erodibility/stability: the susceptibility to withstand erosion hazards
- Drainage: the ability for soils to retain, drain, and receive water
- Resource value: the economic worth

Fraser's soil characteristics were identified as part of the larger Macomb County Soil Survey conducted in 1967 by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. Categories of soils with different characteristics and physical properties were identified as part of the survey. A number of individual soils types are present in the City. These individual categories are grouped together into several generalized classifications of soils that share similar characteristics. A total of nine of these grouped categories are located in Macomb County. Three of these cover the City of Fraser. The characteristics of these categories are described as follows:

- Conover-Parkhill-Locke Association
- Lenawee-Corunna-Lamson
- Hoytville-Sims-Nappanee-Blount

## 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.

The City also includes a few green space areas where County drains are located.

## Climate

According to U.S. Climate Data, the average temperature near Fraser 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

Fraser generally consists of seven land use types. Differing from zoning districts, land use types describe the overarching character of an area and how the land is occupied. The land use types are then described further and encoded by zoning districts with corresponding regulations. The existing land uses represented in Fraser include:

- **Single Family Residential:** Single-family homes occupy the majority of the City's total land area. Single-family residential areas typically include residential neighborhoods with detached one-family homes constructed on small-to-medium size lots.
- **Multi-Family Residential:** This classification includes land areas that are occupied by predominately residential structures containing dwelling units for three or more households. The Multiple Family classification includes apartments and attached condominiums. Multi-Family Residential land uses are found in the northwest and southwest portions of the City, typically in close proximity to commercial nodes.
- **Commercial:** The commercial land use category includes all commercial uses related to goods and services. Primarily focused around major road intersections and arterial corridors, the commercial category includes a wide-range of uses from big-box retail and grocery stores to smaller retail and services like dry cleaners and specialty stores. Most of the commercial land in Fraser is located along Utica Road in the northwest portion of the City, as well as on the southeast portion of the City along Groesbeck Highway, adjacent to industrial businesses.
- **Office:** The office land use classification often is associated with commercial land use, and most frequently these two use categories are mixed together. In Fraser, office uses are primarily located adjacent to the industrial areas.
- **Industrial:** This category includes manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, fabrication facilities, and other non-manufacturing industrial and utility uses. Fraser has a vast number of industrial land uses located throughout the east side of the City along all major road corridors. The existing industrial businesses include warehousing, processing, packaging, wholesale establishments, and more.
- **Public/Semi-Public:** Public/Semi Public uses are comprised of schools and municipal buildings such as the City Library or City Hall, and other municipally-owned parcels. These land uses are generally intended to provide a public service.
- **Park/Open Space:** This classification includes parcels (both improved or unimproved) that are used for public or private non-intensive recreational activities, including parks, golf courses, swimming pools, ice rinks, natural areas, and private outdoor recreational facilities.

## Transportation Systems

The City of Fraser's 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 Fraser. This neighborhood character is one of the greatest assets of the City. Fraser has a strong sense of community which will likely continue to flourish due in part to the street network in place.

The City has several major regional thoroughfares that connect Fraser to the larger Metro-Detroit area. These thoroughfares include:

- Groesbeck Highway (M-97)
- Utica Road
- 15, 14, and 13 Mile Road
- Garfield Road
- Masonic Road
- Kelly Road
- Mulvey Road
- Fruehauf Road
- Klein Road

# 03

## Inventory of Recreational Facilities and Programs Overview

*The physical inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections of all city parks and recreation sites. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded and reviewed with regard to location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition. The regional inventory consisted of review and compilation of regional park facilities.*

# Municipal Facilities

Currently within the City of Fraser, the City owns and operates nine parks - one **mini park** (defined as a small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood), six **neighborhood parks** (defined as typically multi-purpose facilities that provide areas for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, playgrounds, picnicking, etc.), and two **community parks** (defined as typically containing a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from several neighborhoods) See Map 2 for an illustration of these. All these facilities are owned and maintained by the City of Fraser.



Table 4 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 and basketball courts. Play structures are modular equipment while playground equipment includes swing sets, slides and jungle gyms.



Passive areas include picnic areas or nature/hiking trail/foot paths. Harrington Trails Park, Boris Park, McKinley Park, Pompo Park, Somerset Park, and Joe Blanke Park all have asphalt walks with benches and other seating options along the path. Restrooms at McKinley and Steffens Park are available to the public.

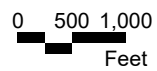
The inventory indicates that Fraser has a variety play equipment and facilities, but the City is dependent on public school and other private partners and institutional facilities to provide programming to citizens.

Map 1. Park Locations



LEGEND

-  City of Fraser Parks
-  City Boundary



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.  
Data Source: Macomb County 2021. McKenna 2022.



## Blanke Park

Neighborhood Park

6.4 Acres

Blanke Park offers a pleasant passive environment with a walking path, and features several memorial trees. It is difficult to access in any manner other than walking.



## Boris Park

Neighborhood Park

1.2 Acres

Boris Park offers updated play equipment and picnic facilities. It's paths and connections to the sidewalk network are challenged by deferred maintenance and a lack of parking makes the facilities challenging to access.



## Harrington Trails Park

**Neighborhood Park**  
**4.38 Acres**

Harrington Trails offers a walking path and updated playground and picnic facilities. Pedestrian connections to this park are incomplete, and the paths are challenged by deferred maintenance.



## Meadows Park

**Neighborhood Park**  
**1.6 Acres**

Meadows Park offers a pavilion, benches and play equipment, all of which are recently updated and in good repair.



## McKinley Park

**Community Park**

**14 Acres**

The multi-phase development of McKinley Park into a barrier-free facility was recently completed. The park offers multiple playground settings, a walking path, sledding hill and accessible restrooms and pavilion facilities.



## Reindel Park

**Neighborhood Park**

**4 Acres**

Reindel Park contains a baseball diamond and a walking path. It is challenged by a lack of parking access and deferred maintenance.





## Pompo Park

**Neighborhood Park**

**3.5 Acres**

Pompo Park features recently-updated facilities, including a half-basketball court, playground equipment, a tennis court, a volleyball court and a walking path. There is also a roller-hockey rink, which has not been updated or maintained.



## Somerset Park

**Mini Park**

**0.75 Acres**

Somerset Park, located adjacent to the historic Baumgartner House in the southeast corner of the City, features updated play equipment. It also has a sand volleyball court.



## Steffens Park

Community Park

21 Acres

Steffens Park, Fraser’s largest, is located adjacent to the City’s municipal complex. It features multiple sport courts with parking and concessions, picnic facilities with restrooms, and Fort Fraser, a wooden play structure that has been a staple in the community since 1999.





## Senior Activity Center

### Indoor Facility

The Senior Activity Center offers a variety of programs for Fraser's senior population. The facility features a gymnasium, a card room, a meeting room and City offices. From this facility, the City hosts programming and special events. All programming is exclusively for seniors at this facility due to grant funding restrictions.

Table 4. Existing Parks

	Blanke Park	Boris Park	Harrington Trails Park	McKinley Park	Meadows Park	Pompo Park	Reindel Park	Somerset Park	Steffens Park	Senior Activities Center
Acres	6.4	1.2	4.38	14	1.6	3.5	4	0.75	21	N/A
Type	NP	NP	NP	CP	NP	NP	NP	MP	CP	Indoor
Parking Spaces				X			X <sup>1</sup>		X	X
Concessions									X	
Restrooms				X					X	X
Storage						X			X	
Vending Machines										
Basketball Courts						X <sup>2</sup>			2	X
In-Line Skating Area										
Skate Park										
Tennis Courts						X			X	
Pickleball Courts									X	
Track										
Benches	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Fishing Pier										
Pathway	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Fitness Equipment										
Pavilion				X		X			3	
Picnic Areas			X	X		X		X	X	
Stage/ Band Shelter / Amphitheater										
Spectator Seating									X	
Ball Diamonds (Baseball/Softball)							X		2	
Swings		X	X	X		X				
Slides		X		X	X	X				
Jungle Gym/ Climbers				X	X	X				
Lighting		X	X	X					X	
Multiple Purpose Field									X	
Pool (Outdoor)										
Sand Volleyball Court					X		X	X	X	
Soccer									X	

1 Informally shared with Oakridge Shopping Center Property

2 One Half-Court

	Blanke Park	Boris Park	Harrington Trails Park	Mckinley Park	Meadows Park	Pompo Park	Reindel Park	Somerset Park	Steffens Park	Senior Activities Center
Metal Play Structure			X	X		X				
Modular Play Environment			X	X		X				
Number of Playgrounds		1	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	
Resilient Surface				X						
Timber Play Structure									X	
Fitness Center										
Gymnasiums										X
Ice Skating Rink										
Meeting Rooms										X
Pool / Boat Landing										
Stage										
Lake / Pond / Wetland					X					
<b>Condition</b>										
Current Conditions (good, fair, poor)	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair
<b>Accessibility</b>										
Accessibility Assessment (scale 1-5)	2	2	2	5	3	2	1	3	2	3
<b>Notes / Additional Amenities</b>										
				Barrier-Free		Roller Hockey	Roller Hockey			

**LEGEND:**

Based on Field Observations, August - October 2022

X = one present;

# = identified present

**SERVICE AREAS:**

CP = Community Park

MP = Mini Park

NP = Neighborhood Park

**ACCESSIBILITY**

1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

# School Facilities

The Fraser School District includes the following five schools that are within the city limits:

- Fraser High School
- Richards Middle School
- Edison Elementary
- Eisenhower Elementary
- Emerson Elementary

The various recreation facilities offered at the schools include:

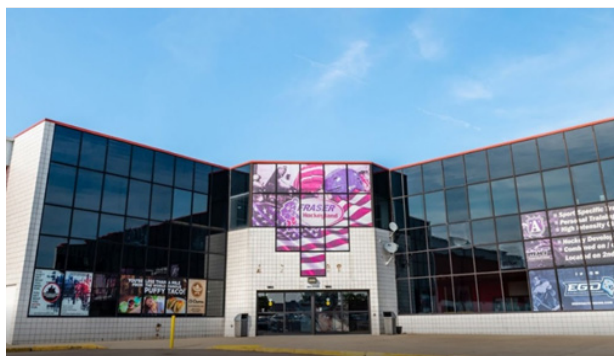
- 25-meter pool: Fraser High School
- Baseball and softball diamonds: Fraser High School
- Gymnasiums: all schools
- Running Track: Fraser High School
- Tennis Courts: Fraser High School
- Turf Field: Fraser High School
- Auxiliary Gymnasium: Fraser High School



# Other Recreation Facilities

The City of Fraser has multiple private recreation facilities in addition to the City's nine public parks. These include:

- Fraser Big Boy Arena: 5 arena hockey complex
- Fraser Lanes: 14 lane bowling alley
- Anytime Fitness: fitness center
- MAC Gym: fitness center
- Total Soccer: indoor soccer fields
- Somerset Swim Club: outdoor pool
- Indoor Golf Club of Michigan: golf simulator
- Fraser Soccer Club: outdoor soccer leagues (youth)
- Warfield Greens Golf Club: 9-hole par three golf course
- Fraser Aquatics: swimming lessons (ages 6 months to seniors)



# 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 Fraser. Table 5 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 the Metroparks system and surrounding counties.

**Table 5. Existing Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities**

	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	Lake St. Clair Metro Park	Oakwoods Metro Park	Stony Creek Metro Park	Willow Metro Park	Wolcott Metro Park	Buell Lake County Park	Flushing County Prairie	Formar Natural Preserve & Arboretum
Acres	4637	4913	4460	5624	7670				11,000	3614	1410			53	123	1539	2215	4357	1607	1258	770	1700	4461	1500	2380	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																										



	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	Lake St. Clair Metro Park	Oakwoods Metro Park	Stony Creek Metro Park	Willow Metro Park	Wolcott Metro Park	Buell Lake County Park	Flushing County Prairie	Former Natural Preserve & Arboretum
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		
Fishing	X	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
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
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					

# Historical Recreation Sites

The Baumgartner House is one of the oldest houses in the City of Fraser. Located adjacent to Somerset Park, it houses a myriad of items relevant to the City's history.

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



# Recreation Programs

A variety of recreation programs are offered in the City of Fraser. While many programs are organized by the Recreation Department, some private groups organize activities—mainly for youth—including the Fraser Soccer Club and Fraser Aquatics. The City partners with public and institutional entities to supplement recreation offering (e.g. a partnership with the City of Sterling Heights for youth baseball and the nonprofit organization Advancing Macomb for youth sports leagues, play days and drop-in recreation events). As previously mentioned, the City also hosts a variety of programs for seniors located at the Fraser Senior Activity Center.

## Senior Activity Center

The Senior Activity Center offers a variety of programs for Fraser’s senior population. The gymnasium hosts pickle ball, volleyball, basketball, and a morning indoor walking club. The Card Room hosts card games, club meetings, and craft workshops. The meeting room hosts classes and activities including bingo, yoga, tai chi and exercise. The City also coordinates trips and outings for seniors from the Activity Center.

## Farmers Market

The Recreation Department hosts a monthly farmers market from May-September in Steffens Park, featuring vendors selling produce and flowers, artisan goods, and food.

## Privately-Operated Programming

Several organizations operate recreational programming in Fraser, including:

**The Fraser Soccer Club** offers programs mainly for youths ages 4 to 12 years old. The club is comprised of three independent sessions in fall, winter, and spring.

**The Fraser Wrestling Club** was recently formed to teach the sport of wrestling to youth (K-8). The Club operates at the Richards Middle School.

**Fraser Aquatics** also offers a variety of exercise and swimming lesson programs to many age groups. These programs are located at the indoor pool in Fraser High School. The programs that Fraser Aquatics offers include:

- Swimming lessons for children aged 3-5 years (varying levels of skill)
- Swimming lessons for children aged 6+ years (varying skill levels)
- Exercise classes (slimnastics)
- Advanced swimming for competitive swimming
- Teen and adult lessons
- Adaptive aquatics (lessons for physically handicapped)
- Private lessons
- Diving lessons
- Lifeguarding courses
- Water safety instructor courses.

# 04

## Administrative Structure and Funding

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# Administrative Structure

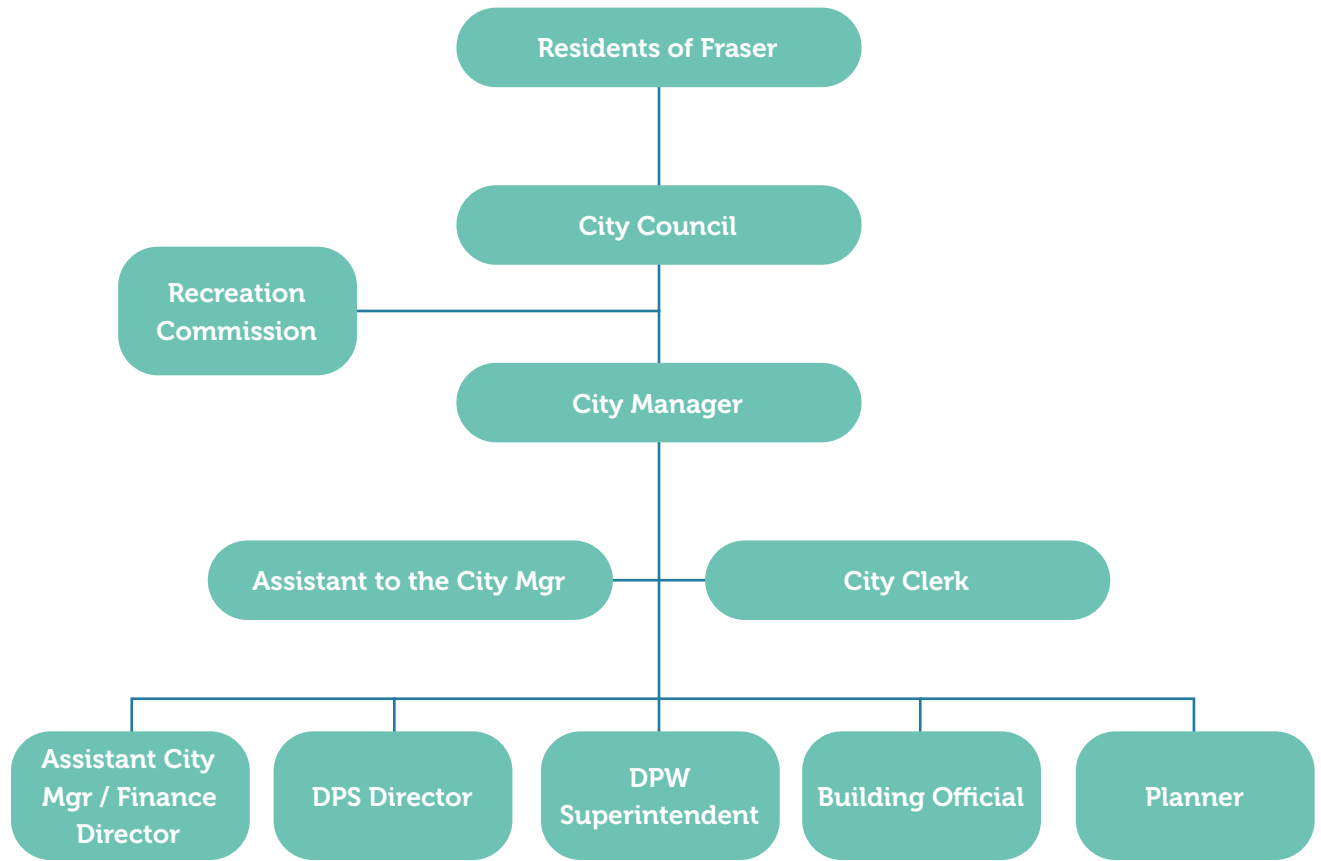
As the number of facilities and programs has changed over the years, the administrative structure has changed to better manage those facilities and programs. The organizational chart on the following page illustrates the administrative structure currently in place.

The Assistant City Manager (as acting Director of Recreation) works with the Recreation Commission to provide recommendations to City Council for the planning, administration and provision of parks and recreation in Fraser.

The purpose of the Recreation Commission is to provide positive leadership in encouraging and formulating a philosophy of recreation for the City of Fraser. It is a seven-member board, appointed by City Council. The primary responsibilities for the Recreation Commission include:

1. Explore ways to improve the city's parks and with each improvement ensure that all improvements comply with Federal ADA guidelines.
2. Provide support when needed and assist in implementation of new programs as requested by the city's Director of Recreation.
3. Seek grants and plan fundraisers to support the programs and improvements necessary to maintain and improve the existing parks within the city, with prior support and approval of the City Manager and/or City Council.
4. Recommend fee structure as per suggestion of the Director of Recreation for the usage of recreational facilities within the parks and establish guidelines related to the usage of those facilities as needed.

## Organizational Chart





# Parks and Recreation Funding

## Annual Budget

The Fraser parks budget is allocated in the City's general fund. Table 6 summarizes recent, current and projected expenditures for parks and recreation in Fraser.

**Table 6. Fraser Budget**

Department	2019-20 Activity	2020-21 Activity	2021-22 Amended Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
Parks Maintenance	\$259,871	\$686,136	\$481,224	\$276,070
Recreation	\$224,427	\$43,794	\$195,382	\$109,884
Senior Activity Center	\$153,836	\$35,348	\$195,382	\$109,884

## Current and Potential Funding Sources

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 Fraser. 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.

### 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.

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRANTS

Following is a summary of the three most well-known recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for communities that have an up-to-date and approved recreation plan on file with the state.

### 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)

Administered eligible projects include community recreation and railway improvements. These are grants of \$10,000 to \$250,000 to local units of government for development of facilities such as ballfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas; and including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through federal appropriations. The grant match basis is 50 percent MDNR/50 percent local.

### **Recreation Passport**

The Recreation Passport program is funded through proceeds of park passes purchased for admission to State Parks in Michigan. Grants of between \$7,500 and \$75,000 are available to communities mainly for the improvement of existing parks, though new park development is technically eligible.

### **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 Macomb 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.

### **PHILANTHROPY**

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.

### **LEASE OR CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS**

The City of Fraser 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 Fraser 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 7 provides a description of the projects for which the City received grant funding. The below project remains open to the public; no conversions of use have taken place.

**Table 7. Fraser Grant History**

Project Year / Project Number	Project Title	Grant Amount	Project Description
2012 / 12-021	McKinley Park	\$300,000	McKinley barrier free park improvements

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# 05

## Basis for Action Plan

*This Chapter describes the public input received, analysis of existing facilities, and basis for the Action Plan found in Chapter 6. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has adopted a set of standards, based upon those developed by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA), to determine the need for recreation facilities in each community. These standards establish 1) the specific recreation facilities such as tennis courts or soccer fields, which should be available based upon the population of the community; and 2) the “service areas,” or number and type of parks that should be available to residents within a certain distance of their homes. Each of these standards is applied to the existing inventory of community-wide and school district recreation facilities to determine if deficiencies are present. The results of this analysis is incorporated, in part, into the Action Plan that follows.*

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# Summary of Public Input

## Recreation Opinion Survey

The City conducted a public survey as part of public engagement for the update to its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The survey was accessible online, as well as in hard copy at City Hall, the Library and the Senior Activity Center for a period of six weeks in spring and summer 2022. The survey received 154 responses.

## Survey Findings

Overall, survey responses indicate a general satisfaction with the City's parks and recreation facilities. As the City moves into implementation phase of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, consideration should be given to the following items:

- General upkeep and maintenance responsibilities to all parks and trails, such as keeping a consistent budget and schedule for maintenance staff and tasks
- Constructing sidewalks to connect neighborhoods and parks to one another
- Equipment upgrades (including restrooms and benches) to Steffens Park and Fort Fraser
- Exploring options for youth programming
- Exploring opportunities for new amenities such as a splash pad, picnic areas, pavilions, and others

Respondents to the survey also suggested updating parks signage, an activity that is in process concurrent with the adoption of this plan in 2022.

## Visiting Fraser's Parks

When asked how often respondents visit Fraser's parks, responses indicate:

- 28% visit very frequently
- 29% visit fairly often
- 35% visit occasionally
- 8% visit never

Respondents were asked if they (or a household member) have visited the following recreation facilities in the past year. Responses include:

Park Facility	Yes	No
Joe Blanke Park	32%	68%
Joe Boris Park	21%	73%
Harrington Trails Park	34%	64%
Meadows Lane Park	23%	77%
McKinley Park	<b>83%</b>	17%
James Pompo Park	45%	55%
Charles Reindel Park	14%	85%
Somerset Park	48%	52%
Steffens Park	<b>91%</b>	9%

Further, respondents were then asked to indicate how their experience was when they visited each park facility. Responses include:

Park Facility	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Joe Blanke Park	31%	35%	30%	4%
Joe Boris Park	24%	76%	0%	0%
Harrington Trails Park	37%	50%	10%	3%
Meadows Lane Park	18%	47%	29%	6%
McKinley Park	<b>70%</b>	<b>29%</b>	1%	0%
James Pompo Park	<b>48%</b>	<b>49%</b>	0%	3%
Charles Reindel Park	0%	14%	29%	57%
Somerset Park	33%	54%	13%	0%
Steffens Park	20%	34%	31%	15%

## Existing Conditions

Respondents were asked to provide a short answer response listing what they like best about Fraser's parks. Of the 96 responses to this question, the most common answers include:

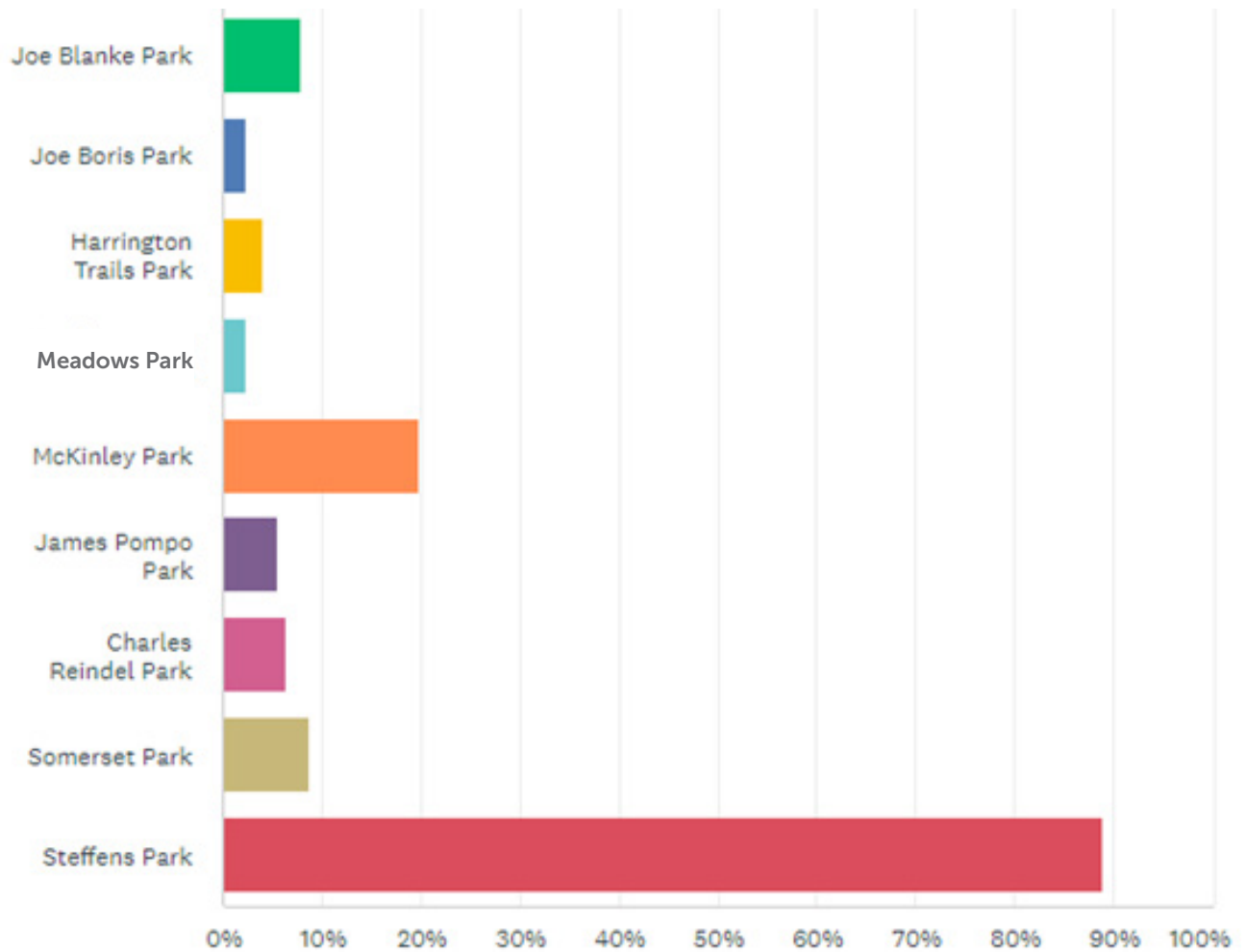
- Cleanliness and safety
- Play equipment and play structures
- Walking track and walking trails
- Each park has differing amenities
- Close to home

For suggested park improvements, the most common responses include:

- More seating and benches for parents (or caregivers) to use while kids are playing
- Pathways are in need of maintenance in Joe Blanke Park
- More sidewalks and pathways to connect neighborhoods to parks
- Bathrooms and public restrooms are needed at all parks facilities where they do not currently exist
- Steffens Park pickleball court improvements
- Updates and general maintenance at Fort Fraser
- Update park signage
- Updates and general maintenance to Steffens Park
- More parks programming such as a pickleball league

## Park Priorities

Respondents were asked to provide a response on which park should be the City’s highest priority for investment over the next 5 years. Responses include:



Next, respondents were asked to rank different ideas for park improvements. The responses include:

	1 Most Important	2	3	4	5	6	7 Least Important	THIS IS NOT A PRIORITY FOR ME.
Additional playground equipment, benches, picnic tables	27.08% 39	24.31% 35	16.67% 24	6.25% 9	7.64% 11	0.69% 1	0.69% 1	16.67% 24
Accessible entrances (i.e., better access to sidewalks, paved paths, etc.) to parks	15.33% 21	18.25% 25	18.25% 25	19.71% 27	4.38% 6	3.65% 5	0.73% 1	19.71% 27
Continued/enhanced maintenance of existing facilities	35.29% 48	27.94% 38	18.38% 25	9.56% 13	2.94% 4	2.94% 4	0.00% 0	2.94% 4
Additional portable restrooms	5.67% 8	12.06% 17	19.86% 28	24.11% 34	8.51% 12	6.38% 9	3.55% 5	19.86% 28
Development of a dog park	8.45% 12	5.63% 8	6.34% 9	14.08% 20	16.20% 23	7.75% 11	4.93% 7	36.62% 52
Development of a skateboard park/facility	2.74% 4	4.11% 6	4.79% 7	5.48% 8	15.07% 22	19.18% 28	2.74% 4	45.89% 67
Development of a disc golf facility	2.08% 3	3.47% 5	6.25% 9	7.64% 11	8.33% 12	9.72% 14	21.53% 31	40.97% 59

## Park Access

- 41% of respondents access Fraser’s parks by driving
- 8% access Fraser’s parks by biking
- 47% access Fraser’s parks by walking
- 4% access Fraser’s parks by a combination thereof

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on which methods of transportation they would like to use more to access Fraser’s parks. Responses include:

- 32% would like to be able to walk more to Fraser’s parks, using sidewalks and crosswalks
- 31% would like to bike more to access Fraser’s parks, using trails, road shoulders, and bike lanes
- 1.5% would like to use public transportation more to access Fraser’s parks
- 33% prefer to use their own passenger vehicle

### Overall Park Impressions

- 23% of respondents are very satisfied with the appearance, maintenance, and cleanliness of Fraser’s parks
- 55% are somewhat satisfied
- 17% are somewhat dissatisfied
- 4% are very dissatisfied

Respondents were asked what would make Fraser’s parks and recreation facilities more user-friendly for those with disabilities. Responses include:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Accessible parking	18.85%
▼ Accessible playgrounds	16.39%
▼ Accessible spectator viewing areas	11.48%
▼ Paved trails	22.13%
▼ Flatter grades/topography that are easier to traverse	11.48%
▼ Interpretive signage	5.74%
▼ More resting areas such as benches or shaded pavilions	27.05%
▼ Sidewalk maintenance to fix cracks, uneven pavers, root growth, etc.	23.77%
▼ N/A	54.10%

## Parks Information

- 25% of respondents would like to be informed about Fraser’s parks, facilities, and recreation programs by advertisements
- 30% would like to receive brochures/flyers
- 63% would like Fraser to publicize a community events calendar
- 53% would like to be placed on an email list

## Respondent Characteristics

### AGE RANGE

- 1% of respondents are aged 17 and younger
- 10% are aged 18-34
- 33% are aged 35-49
- 36% are aged 50-64
- 20% are aged 65+

### RESIDENT STATUS

- 97% of respondents are residents of Fraser
- 3% are not residents, but live in Macomb County

The last question of the survey was an open-ended question that asked respondents to provide any additional feedback pertaining to Fraser’s parks facilities that were not addressed in the survey. Some of the most common responses include (53 people answered this question in total):

- A few respondents noted they would like the City to construct a splash pad
- A Citywide parks and recreation facilities map should be added to the website
- More sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to parks facilities
- More sports and outdoor programming for youths
- More fitness equipment at parks facilities

# Recreation Deficiencies

## Service Areas

Map 2 illustrates the typical service area by mini, neighborhood, and community parks in Fraser. The map indicates that the majority of the City is underserved by pocket / mini parks. However, the City is largely served by a park of some capacity, be it a neighborhood park or a community park. The parks service area associations in the City of Fraser are as follows:

- Mini Park: 0.25 mile service area (Somerset Park)
- Neighborhood Park: 0.5 mile service area (Meadows Park, Blanke Park, Reindel Park, Harrington Trails Park, and Pompo Park)
- Community Park: 1 mile service area (McKinley Park and Steffens Park)

A small area in the northeast section of the City is not within the service area of any community, neighborhood or pocket / mini parks. In general, most residents have access to either a public park or private or public-school grounds. The area of the City that is underserved by parks is largely an industrial area with little residential development.

However, it should be noted that according to the calculations for minimum park acreage per number of residents (Table 9), Fraser lacks the number of recommended acres for both mini parks and community parks. The City exceeds the minimum requirement for neighborhood park acreage.

## Existing Facilities

Table 8 outlines 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 Fraser project area generally meets standards for multiple facilities such as sports fields/courts, swimming facilities, ice rink facilities, and other recreation activities.

The raw numbers do not address the quality of existing parks and recreation facilities. Upon closer examination, deficiencies or limitations are apparent because of the maintenance, level of development, and individual size of existing open space available.



## Accessibility

The City of Fraser includes one barrier-free playground, located at McKinley Park. Other facilities and equipment exist in recently-updated play structures, including in Boris Park, Meadows Park, McKinley Park, and Pompo Park. Much has been accomplished regarding accessibility in Fraser parks recently, and more can be done.

Explored further throughout this Plan is the need to achieve more accessibility to Fraser's parks in terms of ADA compliance and non-motorized connectivity.

## Program Deficiencies

Development of additional programs for teenagers and adults have been identified as a need in the community via the public survey. Throughout the duration of the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City of Fraser should also continue to provide programs and activities for seniors. Further, the City should continue to examine areas for improvement and expansion of program variety.

## Pedestrian Linkages

Many residents would like to see sidewalks, non-motorized trails, and paved pathways for pedestrian and bike use throughout the city linking community nodes to one another. The City's Master Plan update, adopted in 2021, notes the following corridors for future bike facilities:

- Utica Road
- Mulvey Road
- Garfield Road
- Klein Road
- Malyn Boulevard
- Kelly Road (from Malyn Boulevard to Masonic Boulevard)
- 14 Mile Road
- Masonic Boulevard
- 13 Mile Road (from Utica Road to Eveningside Drive)
- Hayes Road (from 14 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road)
- Eveningside Drive

The existing parks in the City are generally located along these corridors. To promote and ease accessibility from one park to another, as well as to surrounding neighborhoods, the City should seek funding for various types of non-motorized connections along major corridors.

## 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. Each of the City's nine parks should be updated to ensure ADA accessibility and compliance in terms of:

- Pathway resurfacing
- Sidewalk resurfacing
- Play structure equipment
- Benches and pavilions
- Signage

Further, the City should ensure that all citizens have access to all recreation 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.

The City of Fraser is committed to ensuring that all parks and municipal buildings are safe and welcoming to all visitors and citizens

# Analysis of Existing Facilities and Service Areas

Recreation facilities serving Fraser residents are compared to the MDNR standards in Table 9 and Table 7. These comparisons provide a general idea of deficiencies, but it must be understood that the MDNR standards are not intended to be followed to the letter. Needs of the population vary from one community to the next.



**Table 8. Outdoor Recreation Facilities Evaluation, City of Fraser<sup>1</sup>**

Facility Type	Percent of Agencies that Provide Facility	Presence of City Owned and Operated Facility in Fraser <sup>2</sup>	Median No. of Residents/Facility <sup>3</sup>	No. Recommended <sup>4</sup>	No. of City Owned and Operated Facilities in Fraser
Playgrounds	95%	Yes	1,986	7.3	10
Tot Lots	45%	Yes	6,642	2.2	2
Basketball Courts	86%	Yes	3,750	3.9	2.5
Tennis Courts	78%	Yes	2,723	5.3	5
Pickleball Courts <sup>5</sup>	18%	Yes	3,346	4.3	0
Diamond Baseball Fields (youth)	79%	Yes	3,107	4.7	3
Multipurpose Field	68%	Yes	4,362	3.3	2
Multipurpose - Synthetic	22%	No <sup>6</sup>	12962	1.1	0
Soccer Field	50%	Yes	3504	4.1	2
Football Field	35%	No	8,004	1.8	0
Dog Parks	67%	No	11100	1.3	0
Swimming Pool	53%	No <sup>7</sup>	8,637	1.7	0
Community Gardens	51%	No	8,773	1.7	0
Skate Parks	39%	No	11,100	1.3	0
Ice Rinks (Outdoors)	18%	No	7,997	1.8	0
Golf Course (18-hole)	29%	No <sup>8</sup>	9,183	1.6	0
Driving Range Stations	26%	No	5,055	2.9	0

<sup>1</sup> Based on NRPA Metrics published in the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

<sup>2</sup> Presence in City-owned and city-operated facility

<sup>3</sup> Based on data from communities with a population of less than 20,000 people.

<sup>4</sup> The figures in this column reflect the number of facilities needed to achieve a Median Number of Residents Per Facility in Fraser, based on the population of 14,703.

<sup>5</sup> Pickleball is offered on multi-purpose courts/facilities.

<sup>6</sup> Football fields, soccer fields, multipurpose synthetic field is present in Fraser, owned and operated by Fraser Public Schools

<sup>7</sup> Present in Fraser, owned and operated privately and by Fraser Public Schools.

<sup>8</sup> 9-hole golf course.

**Table 9. Comparison to Accepted Standards, City of Fraser**

Fraser Community Comparison to Accepted Standards	Recommended Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents <sup>1</sup>	Total Park Acreage in Fraser <sup>7</sup>	Recommended Acreage for the Population <sup>3</sup>	Surplus (+) / Deficiency (-)
Mini-Parks <sup>5</sup>	0.25	0.75	3.7	-2.95
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	20.99	14.7	+6.29
Community Parks	5.0	34.3	73.5	-39.2
Regional Parks	5.0	-	73.5	Not Applicable <sup>6</sup>
Special Use Facilities	Variable	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Linear Parks (approximate miles)	Variable	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Footnotes: 1 Based on National Recreation and Parks Association recommendations.

2 Includes all existing public acreage (2,662).

3 Based on 2021 population count of 14,703.

5 The need for mini-parks may also be addressed partially by subdivision common areas, apartment, condominium recreation areas (acreage not determined).

6 It would be misleading to assess the adequacy of regional park resources based on recommended acreage for the City's population, since the regional resource must serve a much broader segment of the metropolitan area.

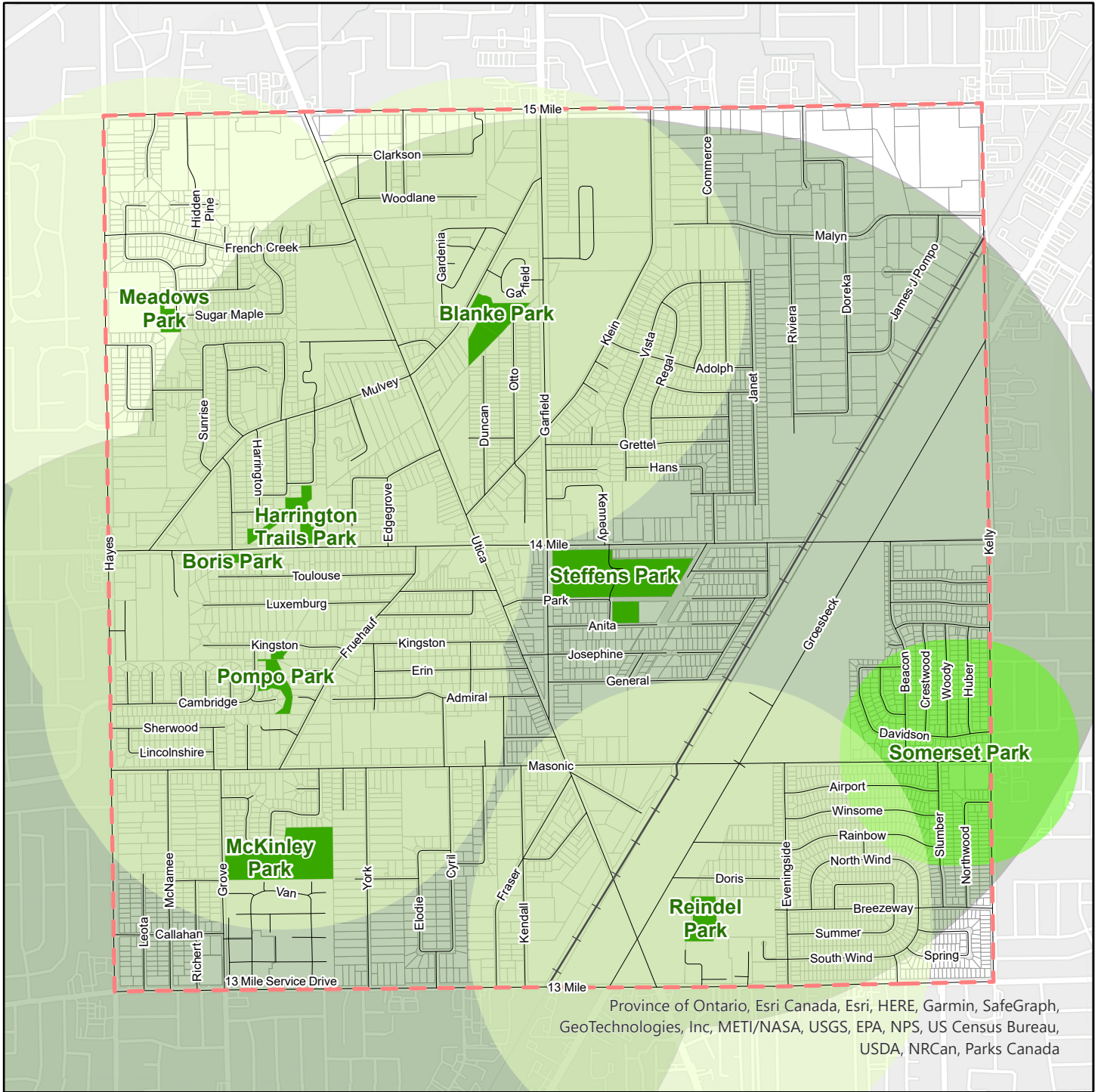
7 Equals sum of City Parks acreage.

**Table 10. Analysis of Existing Facilities, City of Fraser**

Type	Recreation Standards <sup>1</sup>	Fraser Community Facilities	Comments
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.	Somerset Park is the City's only Mini-Park, totaling approximately 0.75 acres. Only residents in the southeast end of the City have access to this park, and lack of parking limits access to those not within walking distance.	<p>The NRPA recommends 0.25 to 0.50 mini-park acreage per 1,000 residents.</p> <p>A mini-park should be located within a five-minute walk from all residents. More mini-parks should be developed throughout the City as land acquisition or residential development/redevelopment opportunities arise so that all citizens can walk to one in five minutes or less. Since mini-parks are small, vacant lots can be bought and turned into parks.</p>
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.	Fraser has several parks classified as a neighborhood park even though they are less than 15 acres. These parks include Reindel Park, Boris Park, Blanke Park, Harrington Trails Park, Meadows Park, and Pompo Park. These parks have numerous facilities for outdoor recreation.	<p>One to two acres of neighborhood parks are recommended per 1,000 residents.</p> <p>There are a number of improvements to the City's Neighborhood Parks planned as part of this document's Action Plan.</p>
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.	The City of Fraser has two community parks within its boundary, Steffens Park and McKinley Park. McKinley Park has become a popular destination in the area as a barrier free park. Steffens Park includes Fort Fraser, which is a large wooden play structure. Fort Fraser offers a unique play experience for City residents and those in adjacent communities.	<p>The NRPA's standard requirement for community parks is 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents.</p> <p>If areas cannot be identified within the City where additional Community Parks can be developed, then partnerships with neighboring communities and school districts to share facilities should be considered.</p>

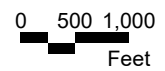
Type	Recreation Standards <sup>1</sup>	Fraser Community Facilities	Comments
Regional/ Metropolitan Parks	Regional parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail use. Many also include active play areas.	The Area is well served by regional parks and facilities.	Regional parks typically serve several communities within a one-hour drive. Partnerships with regional local, county, and state facilities may be explored to fill existing voids within the City's park and recreation system.
Special Use/ Conservancy Parks	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.	The City of Fraser has one 9-hole par three golf course within its boundary, the Warfield Greens Golf Course.	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.	Several Fraser parks provide passive areas in the form of walking paths with path-side benches and landscaping, especially adjacent to drains and waterways. Examples of these include Harrington Trails Park, Blanke Park and Pompo Park.	A City-wide design and planting plan should be created to guide future enhancement of passive areas in the City park system such as gardens, landscaping, 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.	Not Applicable.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources: Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983, Lancaster, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).



**LEGEND**

- 0.25 Mile Service Area (Mini Park)
- 0.5 Mile Service Area (Neighborhood Park)
- 1 Mile Service Area (Community Park)
- City of Fraser Parks
- City Boundary



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.  
Data Source: Macomb County 2021. McKenna 2022.



# 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 public engagement. Existing parks, 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 City with input from the public.*

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# 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.

## Facilities

**1. Goal:** *Improve and enhance the recreational opportunities at Fraser Parks, especially at Steffens Park and Reindel Park.*

**Objective:** Monitor and repair/replace outdated playground equipment with newer structures as necessary.

**Objective:** Include greater variety of play equipment that appeals to all ages.

**Objective:** Comply with ADA requirements at minimum.

**2. Goal:** *Provide, promote, and encourage the establishment and maintenance of non-motorized trails, paths and connections.*

**Objective:** Monitor and maintain the multi-purpose pathway system in City parks.

**Objective:** Connect park paths to the City's sidewalk system.

**Objective:** Advocate for and pursue opportunities to connect the City's parks to non-motorized networks within Fraser and regionally.

**1. Goal:** *Meet the recreational needs of Fraser residents in terms of program, equipment, and facilities.*

**Objective:** Maintain community competitiveness, ability to retain, engage, and attract residents.

**Objective:** Explore and pursue opportunities to develop a comprehensive community recreation facility that meets the recreational needs of the public.

## Programming

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

**Objective:** Maintain affordable rates for program participation.

**Objective:** Continue strong public relations for special events.

**Objective:** Expand promotion of current programs.

**Objective:** Maintain and expand mechanisms to fully integrate all programs for children / persons with disabilities.

**2. Goal:** *Create new programs.*

**Objective:** Provide programming for youth consistent with input collected during planning process.

**Objective:** Continually update program selection with respect to new ideas and interests, especially in regard to hobbies and exercise, when possible.

**Objective:** Create new programs that provide inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth/preschoolers.

**Objective:** Organize physical activities for older residents.

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

**Objective:** 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.

**Objective:** Continue existing and seek new partnerships for programming with non-profit, institutional and public-sector partners.

**Objective:** Solicit and apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs.

## Administration and Organization

**1. Goal:** *Investigate innovative ways to fund and reduce the costs of programming, and scale programming offerings according to demand.*

**Objective:** Provide programming for youth consistent with input collected during planning process.

**2. Goal:** *Provide staffing at levels commensurate to programming and maintenance needs.*

**Objective:** Provide programming for youth consistent with input collected during planning process.

**Objective:** Continually update program selection with respect to new ideas and interests, especially in regard to hobbies and exercise, when possible.

## Access to Facilities

**1. Goal:** *Build on significant recent progress to continue to eliminate barriers to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and adopting a policy of “inclusive recreation.”*

**Objective:** Examine existing programs to ensure that they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents regardless of their social, economic, or physical status.

**Objective:** 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.

**Objective:** Ensure that landscape areas and picnic areas are accessible.

# Action Plan

Table 11 is a summary of actions that the City and its partners should undertake during the planning period, 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. The activities are less defined than those found in which is a Capital Improvement Summary describing specific capital improvements.

**Table 11. Summary of Action Items, City of Fraser**

Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Connectivity and Accessibility	Need Identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged residents expressed a desire for increased pedestrian connection to park entrances, as well as a desire for additional access to walk and bike to Fraser parks.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Repair missing connections between the park pathways and the existing sidewalk network, and supplement the existing sidewalk network adjacent to parks (e.g., Harrington Trails Park, Boris Park.)</li> <li>2. Maintain and repair parks pathways to ensure ADA Compliance.</li> <li>3. Add bicycle parking at parks as appropriate to supplement the City's nonmotorized transportation network.</li> <li>4. Renovate existing restrooms at Steffens Park.</li> <li>5. Study increased restroom provision at neighborhood parks.</li> </ol>
Youth Facilities and Programs	Need Identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged stakeholders identified a need for additional sports and outdoor programming for youths.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Study and plan for programs, activities, and public space improvements that cater to the needs of young Fraser residents (study "placemaking" and parks and recreation best practices for teens).</li> <li>2. Consider establishment of Youth Advisory Council to help guide activities.</li> </ol>

Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Develop Playgrounds	<p>Moderate Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing equipment may need replacement or repair over life of this plan. The facilities at Fort Fraser in Steffens Park are of particular concern with regard to current state of repair.</li> <li>• The City has made significant recent progress in updating playgrounds to industry standard.</li> <li>• Maintain industry standard fall zones.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replace and repair equipment as it becomes obsolete or unsafe, utilizing modular equipment.</li> <li>2. Use resilient surfacing and make accessible to all citizens (ADA compliance at minimum).</li> </ol>
Facility Deficiencies	<p>Moderate Need:</p> <p>Based on National Standards (NRPA), the City's parks and recreation facilities are deficient in some areas. Stakeholders also identified specific recreation needs including the following that may be good to develop based on public input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitness equipment at neighborhood parks</li> <li>• Enhance baseball diamonds at Steffens Park (bleachers, storage facilities, fencing, drinking fountain / bottle filling).</li> <li>• Develop a steering committee to guide the future improvements of Reindel Park.</li> <li>• Renovate restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opportunities to develop these facilities should be investigated over the course of the time period covered by this plan (on an annual basis).</li> <li>2. Community need for these facilities is offset by existing school facilities and partnerships.</li> </ol>
Safety	<p>Moderate Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Always design future facility upgrades and capital improvements with safety perception in mind.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct annual inspections of facilities and improvements.</li> <li>2. Consider Community Policing Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles when designing / installing new equipment or facilities.</li> </ol>



Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Maintenance	<p>Moderate Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many outdoor hard courts need resurface or replacement.</li> <li>• Steffens Park ball fields require resurfacing.</li> <li>• The Senior Center interior requires paint and maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake annual evaluation and budgeting process so that maintenance of hard surfaces and addressing indoor facility maintenance is prioritized.</li> <li>2. Continuously evaluate playground structures for maintenance / safety deficiencies, and prioritize repair / replacement when present.</li> </ol>
Geographic Distribution	<p>Future Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents and stakeholders engaged during public process <b>did not</b> indicate a dissatisfaction with location / distribution of parks, and Fraser fares well regarding neighborhood parks provision compared to national standards.</li> <li>• National standards indicate that there is more opportunity for mini parks, so that every Fraser resident is within a five-minute walk of a park.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify vacant or under-utilized land for future acquisition, prioritized in an area not currently serviced by a pocket or neighborhood park.</li> </ol>

Table 12 summarizes proposed capital improvements that the City may undertake in the next five years. While this period may not be sufficient to accomplish all of the stated goals and objectives, the table prioritizes those projects that may be achievable within the next five years. Items in the Capital Improvement Schedule are prioritized based on need.

**Table 12. Capital Improvements**

Facility/ Program	Proposed Improvements	General Opinion of Cost	Priority
Steffens Park	1. Reconstruct the Fort Fraser play structure.	\$\$\$\$	Short Term
	2. Enhance baseball diamonds (bleachers, storage facilities, water facilities)	\$\$	Short Term
	3. Improve soccer field turf.	\$	Medium Term
	4. Resurface parking lot.	\$\$	Medium Term
Reindel Park	1. Resurface baseball diamond.	\$	Short Term
	2. Renovate and widen existing path to ADA standards.	\$	Short Term
	3. Install play structure.	\$	Medium Term
	4. Develop a basketball court.	\$\$	Medium Term
Boris Park	1. Renovate and widen existing path to ADA standards.	\$	Short Term
	2. Install approximately 8 parking spots on the western edge of the park.	\$\$	Medium Term.
Blanke Park	1. Renovate and widen existing path to ADA standards.	\$	Short Term
	2. Add additional seating options and adult exercise equipment.	\$\$	Short Term
Harrington Trails	1. Renovate existing multipurpose path to ensure accessibility.	\$\$	Short Term
	2. Connect existing path to sidewalk system on 14 Mile Road.	\$	Short Term
	3. Install additional shade trees along walking path.	\$	Short Term
Senior Activity Center	1. Repaint interior and replace carpet.	\$	Short Term
	2. Resurface parking lot.	\$\$	Short Term
	3. Reconfigure front entrance and develop billiards room.	\$	Medium Term

#### COST

\$: <\$50,000

\$\$: \$50,000-\$150,000

\$\$\$: \$150,000 - \$300,000

\$\$\$\$: \$300,000 +

#### PRIORITY

Short Term: 1-2 Years

Medium Term: 3-4 Years

Long Term: 5 Years +





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