

2023-2027 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

CITY OF INKSTER, MICHIGAN

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents, and members of civic organizations in the preparation of this 2023-2027 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, appointed Commissions, City Council, the Mayor's Office, and other stakeholders. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of:

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01. INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Department invites you to explore the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that covers the years 2023 through 2027. This updated plan was established through guidance by the Parks and Recreation Commission and public input.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan establishes a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions over the next five years and identifies future needs, such as park infrastructure investments and how the parks/recreation can better serve the community's existing needs. This plan includes all required elements of a Parks and Recreation Plan according to the stipulations set by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and therefore qualifies Inkster for state funding.

The Action Plan aims to restore the parks, highlight the natural beauty of the area, and allow residents of Inkster and surrounding communities to enjoy the beauty of the Rouge River and other natural elements.

Inkster takes great pride in being a place for residents to Discover. Grow. Unite. Parks and recreation are key elements to allow these opportunities for our residents.



Inkster Park



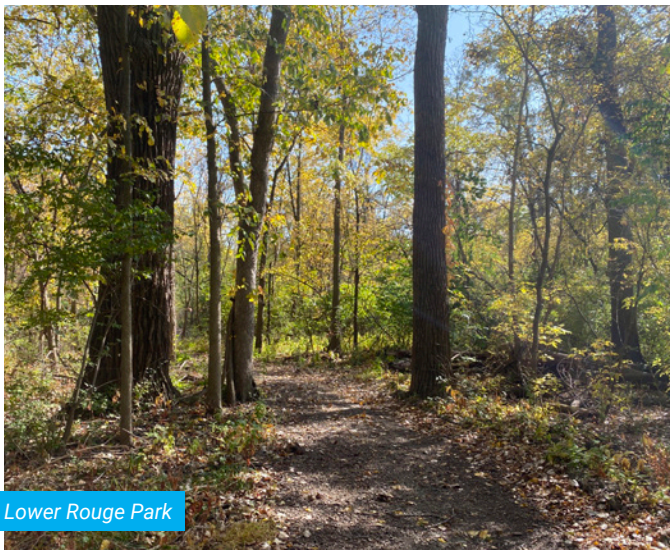
Brookside Park



Colonial Park



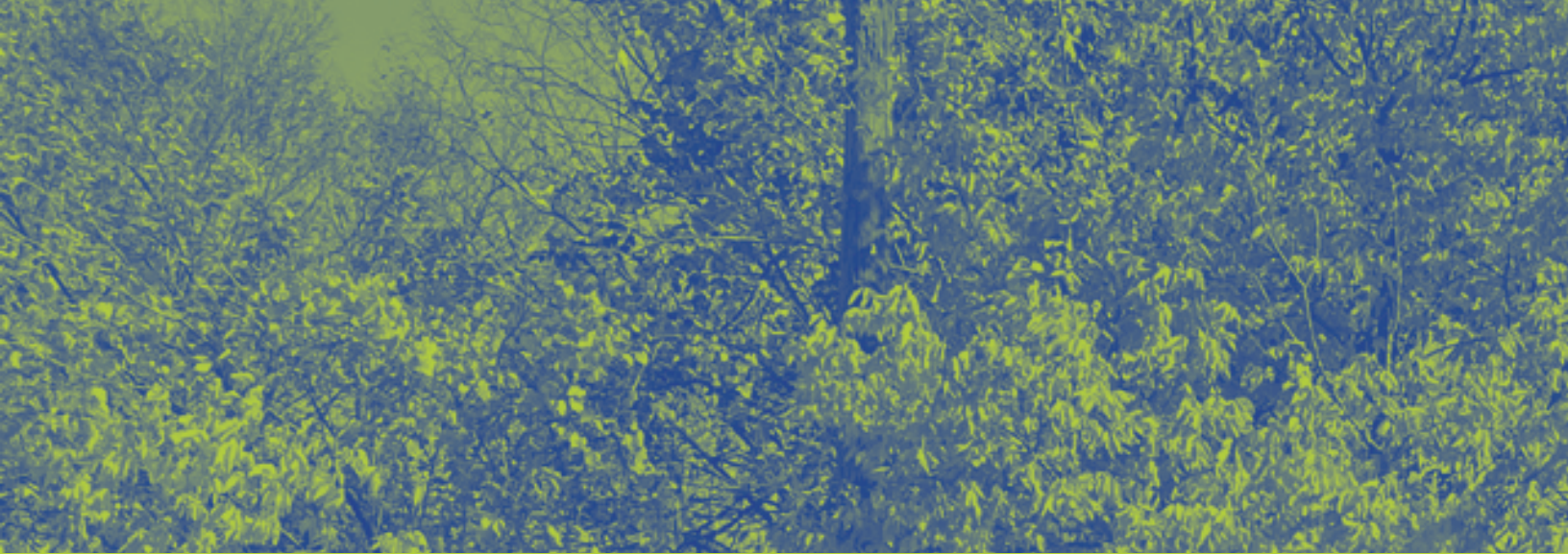
Demby Park



Lower Rouge Park



Manor Park



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02. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



The Community Description provides an overview of the composition of our community, in terms of both the demographics and natural features of Inkster. Demographic overview consists of population composition and trends, age and income distribution, residential characteristics, and disability status.

This information helps determine priority areas for future land development and investments in parks and recreation facilities and programs. By understanding current conditions and past trends, the City can appropriately anticipate and plan for community needs and interests as it relates to parks and recreational opportunities. This section provides an essential basis of understanding to provide the best possible opportunities for recreation, fitness, and resident's interaction with the natural physical features of Inkster.

Data is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Census, analyzed and synthesized by McKenna.

REGIONAL SETTING

Situated in Southeast Michigan and only eight miles from Detroit, Inkster is considered a suburb of Detroit and spans 6.25 square miles of Wayne County. Its municipal neighbors are the City of Westland to the west and south, the city of Garden City to the north, the City of Dearborn Heights to the east and south, and Dearborn just slightly further east. Michigan Avenue, a major highway that runs east to west through most of these cities, bisects the City into a northern and southern half.

The majority of the area in Metropolitan Detroit is built out urban, residential – Inkster is no exception, although it has a significant green space along the Lower Rouge River. The river and the abutting green space run just north of Michigan Avenue, bisecting the city further into a northern and southern portion, creating a beautiful tree canopy through the middle of the city.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Originally inhabited by Native Americans from the Ottawa, Potawatomi, Wyandotte, and Huron tribes, settlers began to occupy the area in 1825. The city is named after Robert Inkster, a Scottish immigrant who operated a steam sawmill on present-day Inkster Road near Michigan Avenue during the 1860s. Since then, Inkster's economy and population have been greatly impacted by the automobile industry.

In the 1920's people were drawn to Inkster for its proximity to the Ford manufacturing plant in Dearborn, and Henry Ford's five-dollar workday. The city's population and housing development also boomed in the 1940's from wartime production. Housing development continued well after World War II with a growing population and public housing projects. The city experienced its largest population increase between the 1950s and 1960s. Alternatively, Inkster has also been through periods of economic downturns, outward migration, and neglect starting in the Great Depression, reoccurring in the 1970s, and the housing market crash in 2008. The city's population decline has greatly impacted its spending ability, and the maintenance and expansion of parks and recreational programming has had to take cuts to allow for the continuation of other public services.

Throughout time, the Rouge River has run through the city surrounded by wetlands and forests. Parks and recreation plays a vital role in quality of life as well as an important factor when families make decisions on where to live. As the City has been dealing with population decline since the 1970s and the recession of 2008, it has had to make difficult financial decisions which led to maintaining parks on a very limited budget. Looking forward, the City aims to restore parks to their past glories as well as enhance them further to have more places for residents and regional neighbors to gather, play, stay active, and be part of the community.

INKSTER TODAY: DEMOGRAPHIC & SOCIO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Population

According to 2020 U.S. Census estimates, Inkster has a population of 26,066. Over the past forty years, the population has been steadily declining; however, it has leveled out more recently and remains around 25,000 residents. (Table 1) Inkster's racial composition is African American (74%), White (18%), 2 or more races (5%), Hispanic or Latino (4%), Asian (2%), and Native American (1%). Over time, Inkster has become an increasingly majority-minority community. (Table 2)

Table 1. Changes in Population Over Time

YEAR	POPULATION
1960	39,097
1970	38,595
1980	35,190
1990	30,772
2000	30,115
2010	25,369
2020	26,066

Table 2. Racial Distribution

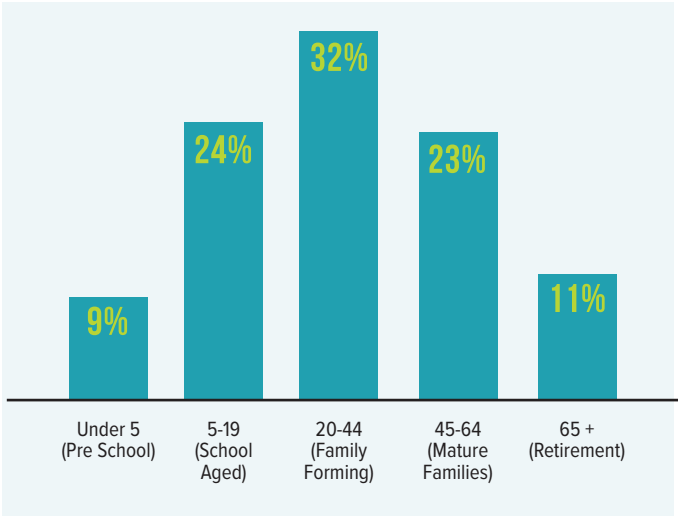
RACE	2000	2020
African American	68	74
White	25	18
Hispanic/Latino	4	4
Asian	3	2
Native American	0	1

Age Distribution

Overall, the Inkster population is evenly distributed across youth aged 19 and younger, adults of family forming age, and mature and retired adults. The median age in Inkster is 31.8, which remains unchanged from the City's median age in the year 2000. Based on the Age Distribution in Inkster, the largest portion of the population is considered Family Forming (ages 20 to 44). However, it is important to note that Inkster has a large youth population, roughly 31% of residents are under 18 years of age, which exceeds that of the county by 8%. This is important to note when determining the needs parks and recreation facilities must serve. It is also important to note Inkster's relatively large older adult population, which consists of 11% of the city's population. (Figure 1)

Families with younger children will have differing parks and recreation interests than older children/young adults, and older adults. While families with younger children look for parks with play equipment, splash pads, and restrooms, households with older children, such as high school or college aged, look for robust trail networks, exercise stations, or seating areas. Older adults look for recreational activities and shaded seating such as pavilions. Based on the age breakdown in Inkster, it can be surmised that a greater emphasis may be needed on programs directed at school aged children as well as older adults and seniors. Investing in parks and recreation needs to service these populations will enhance quality of life and help retain residents. It also helps attract first-time homebuyers, young-families and retirees to move to Inkster.

Figure 1. Age Distribution



Nationality

Although most residents were born in the U.S, Inkster has a growing population of foreign-born individuals and families. Since 2020, the foreign-born population makes up 5% of the City's population. The table below shows the distribution of these individuals based on their country of birth. It is possible that some of Inkster's foreign-born residents will have recreation needs that differ from U.S. born Inkster residents. For example, they may need language support to participate in public recreational programming; the City should be aware of this, and strive to host inclusive events. The City, and especially the Parks and Recreation Department, should make efforts to engage individuals from these populations when making decisions about Parks and Recreation to better service this portion of the population.

Table 3. Country of Origin of Foreign-Born Resident

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	LIVING IN INKSTER IN 2020
Iraq	333
Lebanon	237
Afghanistan	98
Nigeria	98
India	76
Vietnam	65
Scotland	62
Liberia	48
Russia	38
Mexico	31
Saudi Arabia	29
Costa Rica	27
Dominican Republic	19
Pakistan	11
Other Western Asia	10
Syria	9
Trinidad and Tobago	9
Jamaica	2

Housing

In 2020 Census estimates, 41% of Inkster's homes were owner-occupied. Whereas, Wayne County and the State of Michigan had 65.5% and 71.7% home ownership respectively. The median value of owner-occupied homes in Inkster was \$51,500, which is lower than the median for Wayne County (\$122,700) and Michigan (\$162,600). Investing in parks and recreation is a strategic investment to increase home values in the area.

Moreover, a low percentage of owner-occupied homes combined with a low median home value means that Inkster is a place where single-family homes are affordable to purchase. This could potentially be attractive to young families and first-time home buyers. Investing in parks and recreation can attract these types of home-buyers to the area.

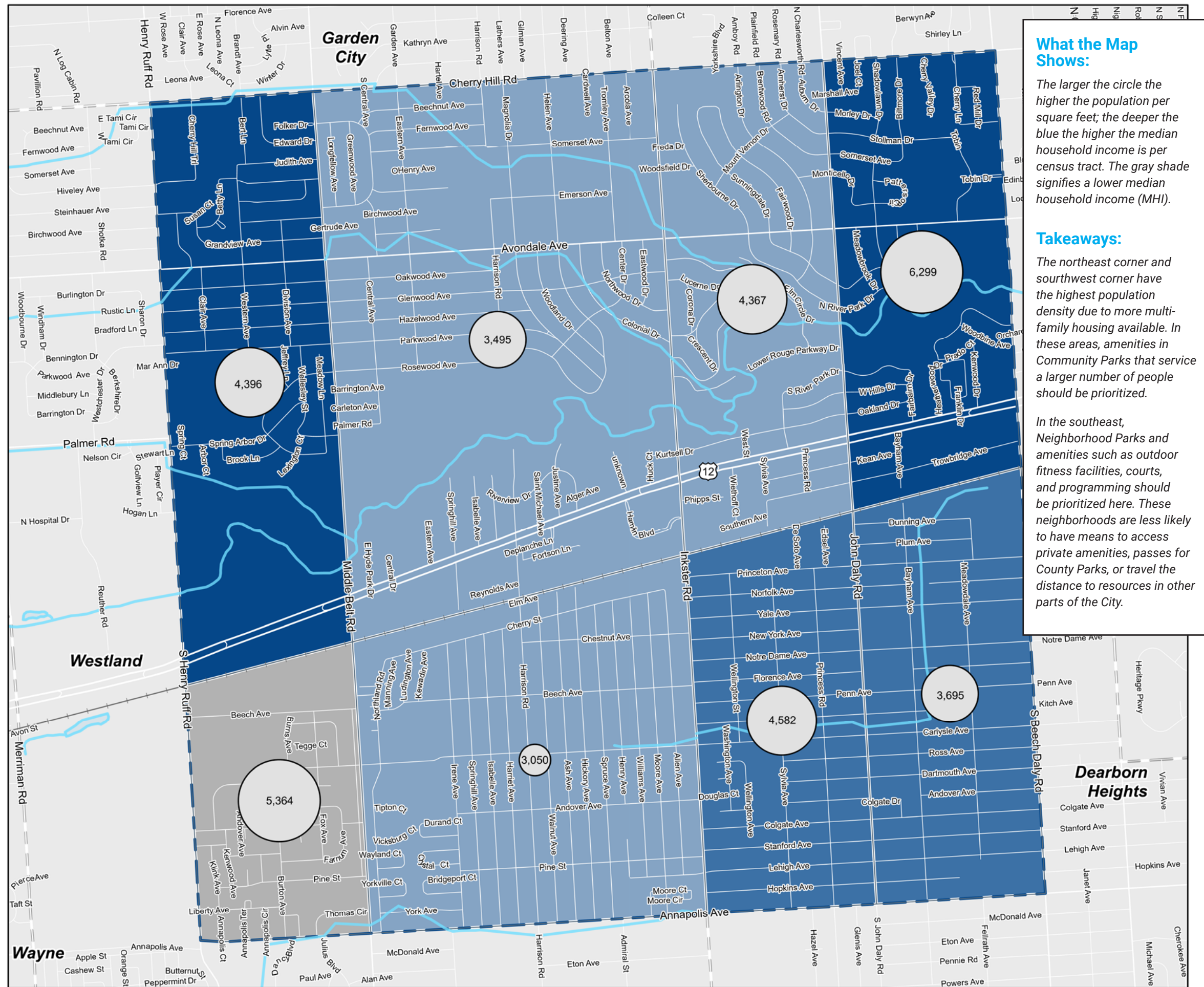
Household by Income

The current median household income (MHI) in Inkster is \$32,109; for Wayne County it is \$49,359 and state-wide it is \$59,234. About 36% of Inkster residents are in poverty, which exceeds the average for Wayne County (20%) and Michigan (13.1%). As a result, the City must seek grant funding for projects to close the parks and recreation budget gaps that exist due to a low tax base and resident's ability-to-pay.

A useful method of understanding household population for recreation purposes is to analyze population distribution geographically. Map 1 shows the distribution of population and median household income. Table 4 on page 11 shows the distribution of population, housing units, median household income, and the percentage of residents who are 65+ in each tract.

The City of Inkster is divided into eight census tracts, set by the U.S. Census Bureau, each with populations ranging from about 2,200-5,300 people. In summary, the population density and median household income is higher in the northern half of the city. The inverse is true for the southern half of the City, especially the southwestern portion. For example, tract 5706 on the southwest side has a population of 5,364 people and a median household income of \$23,929.

This information on population density and household income can help the City set priorities for where/how to invest recreational resources: Areas of higher population should have neighborhood and community parks that service more people, and areas of lower MHI should be within walking distance to outdoor amenities, such as fitness equipment and programming. The City should ensure the most vulnerable residents are able to access resources despite transportation or ability-to-pay barriers.

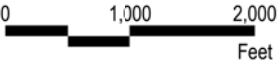
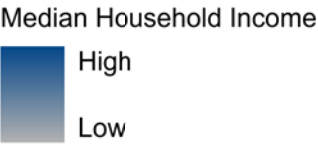
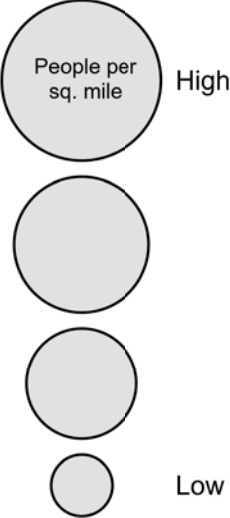


Map 1. Population and Household Income Distribution

City of Inkster, Michigan

November 3, 2022 - DRAFT

- LEGEND**
- Park
 - Railroads
 - Lake, River, Stream, or Dam
 - City Boundary
 - Other Municipal Boundary
- Population Density**



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
Data Source: US Census, 2020. McKenna, 2022.



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Table 4. Population Distribution and Median Household Income (MHI)

CENSUS TRACT	POPULATION	HOUSING UNITS	MHI	% OF 65+ RESIDENTS
5701	4,107	1,941	\$42,050	7
5702	3,043	1,152	\$29,367	7
5704	5,360	2,373	\$27,571	7
5705	3,646	1,639	\$40,542	15
5706	2,192	900	\$23,929	12
5708	2,935	1,341	\$29,662	16
5709	2,560	1,103	\$35,375	16
5710	2,245	1,036	\$38,167	20

Mobility and Self-Care Limitations

To best service the needs of the entire community, the recreation department must provide opportunities for a range of abilities. About 17% of Inkster's population under the age of 65 years old has a disability, which is a slightly higher rate than Wayne County (12%) and state-wide (10%). While the City should strive to make all parks and play equipment ADA-compliant, the type and number of residents impacted by a disability should impact the accommodations and design aspects in the City's Park and Recreation Plan.

Table 5. Inkster Residents with Disability, Mobility and Other Limitations

TYPE OF DISABILITY	PERSONS IN INKSTER 2020	PERSONS IN INKSTER 2000
Hearing	913	955
Vision	1,260	
Cognitive	2,210	2,135
Ambulatory	2,808	3,134
Self-care	837	1,096
Independent Living difficulty	1,913	2,728
Total	9,941	10,048

Parks and recreation plays an important role in the overall health of a community, and should aim to accommodate those who may already face additional challenges on a day-to-day basis. Wayne County is already adding ADA-compliant and more inclusive playscapes to Inkster Park and Colonial Park. Inkster should follow this lead and continue to install parks and recreations facilities that are accessible for all, with ramps or paved paths and audible and visually assisted cross walks for the visually or hearing impaired. These design considerations can improve quality of life and health for residents.

Summary: About 41% of Inkster residents own their own home, which is less than across Wayne County (62.5%) and state-wide (71.1%). The median value of owner-occupied housing units in the City was \$51,500, while the median household income was \$32,109 and 36% of Inkster residents live below the poverty line. The historical impacts of redlining in Inkster have been well documented. As a result, investment in public facilities has been lacking and some facilities are in disrepair. This has created a need for reinvestment in neighborhood parks, especially in the southern portion of the city.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Inkster is flat and nearly entirely developed. However, unique to the Metro-Detroit area, Inkster contains the Rouge River, which is surrounded by wetlands and woodlands that runs east-west through the middle of the city.

Water Resources, Wetland, and Wildlife

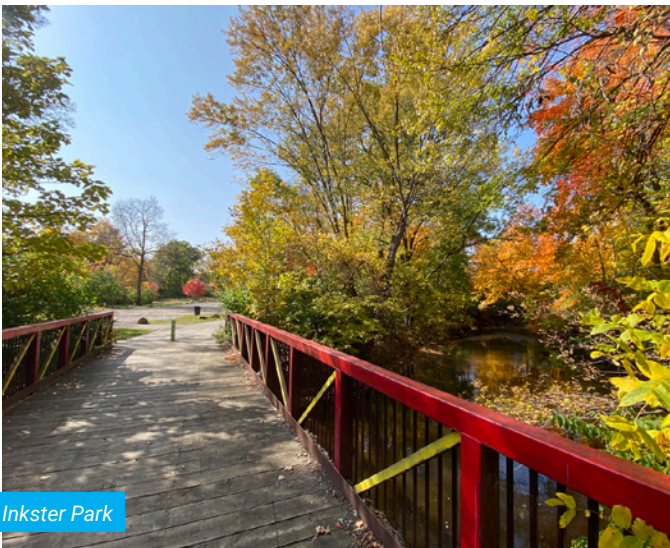
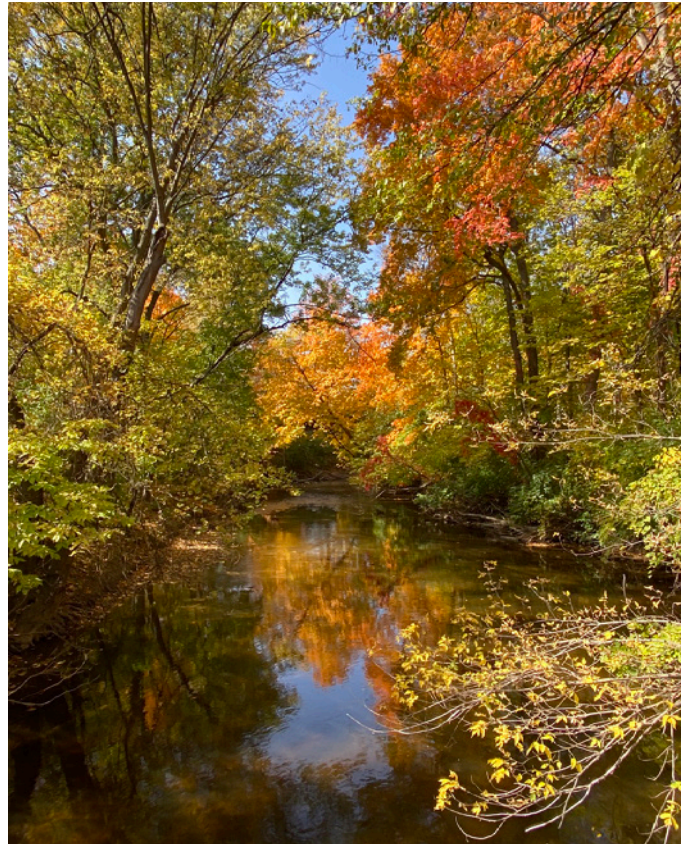
Along a portion of the Rouge River, in the center west of the City, is the Inkster Wetland. These wetlands were constructed and restored to be an area of stormwater detention during periods of high river flows and overbank flooding. This facility is a major component of the larger Rouge River Restoration Project. This wetland preservation area has become home to a variety of native wildlife including: frogs, fish, deer, waterfowl, and butterflies. In defined wetland or other low elevation areas, a wooden boardwalk (featuring helical piers) is proposed to be constructed to allow residents to interact with the wetlands. Such a boardwalk minimizes impacts to the surrounding wetlands and blends in with the natural environment.

Vegetation

Given that the City is nearly built out, most existing vegetation outside of the Rouge River corridor is planted landscaping. While many mature trees exist on residential lots and adjacent to roads, the urban canopy is still lacking. According to the Tree Equity Score, nine out of the twelve census block groups located south of Michigan Avenue have less than 30% of current canopy cover. This vegetation pattern remains true in many of the City's parks, where open fields are predominate in recreation areas. Parks can be part of a strategic initiative to ensure that the community has equitable access to trees.



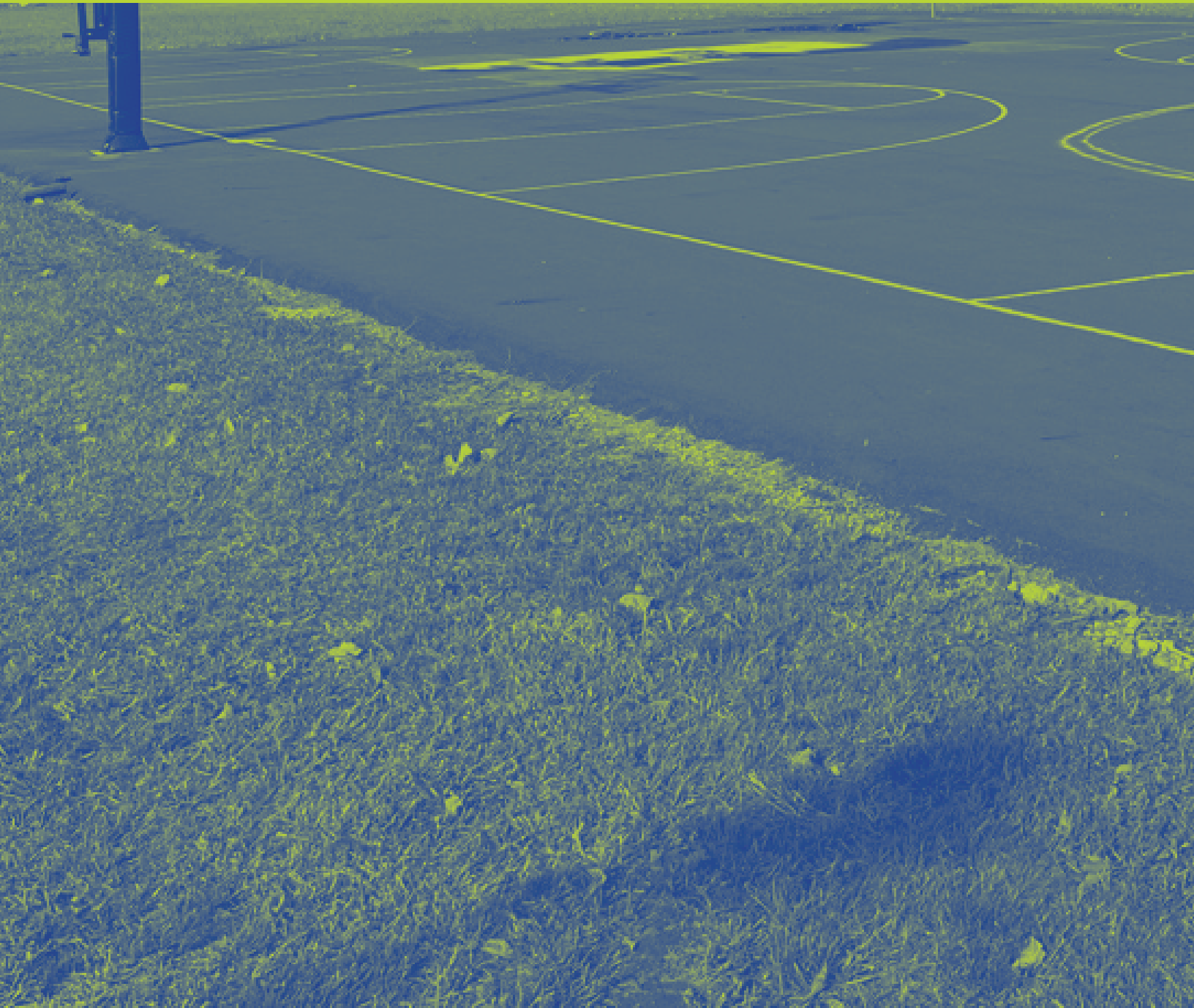
Downtown Park



Inkster Park



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03. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. Goals should be broad, address general needs, and establish the basis for setting specific objectives. The overall goal of the Commission is to provide quality recreational programs and facilities that serve the greatest proportion of residents within the community.

Following the goals are objectives. Objectives are measurable tasks to help carry out the purpose of the larger goal.

The following goals and objectives were developed through a series of workshops with Commissions, feedback from staff, and input through the public survey. The overarching themes of the goals and objectives:

1. Equipment Improvements
2. Safety/Security
3. Landscaping
4. Access
5. Sustainability

1. EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Goal 1.1 Enhance existing parks by improving the quality of amenities on site and/or adding features necessary for the enjoyment of our residents and increased use of the parks.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.1.A** Repair or replace equipment, such as playscapes, as they become obsolete or unsafe to ensure equipment is safe, usable, accessible, and family friendly.
- 1.1.B** Add features, such as trash bins, bathrooms, and electricity to increase usability, cleanliness, and safety of parks.
- 1.1.C** Offer a variety of recreational activities at parks to cater to all ages through the type of amenities provided.

Goal 1.2 Seek out public-private partnerships for recreation improvements and place-making opportunities.

OBJECTIVE:

- 1.2.A** Expand the Adopt-a-Park program to local/regional businesses to reactivate vacated school lots, increase the capacity of the Parks and Recreation Department, and add features to the parks.



2. SAFETY/SECURITY

Goal 2.1 Utilize CPTED* Principles to improve the safety and feeling of security within parks to increase use and enjoyment of parks.

OBJECTIVES:

- 2.1.A** Increase visibility of parks from neighboring residential houses and the surrounding neighborhood.
- 2.1.B** Add or repair features, such as fencing, to regulate inflow / outflow of people at parks.

Goal 2.2 Create a volunteer-based park safety watch program.

OBJECTIVE:

- 2.2.A** Create park ranger program.

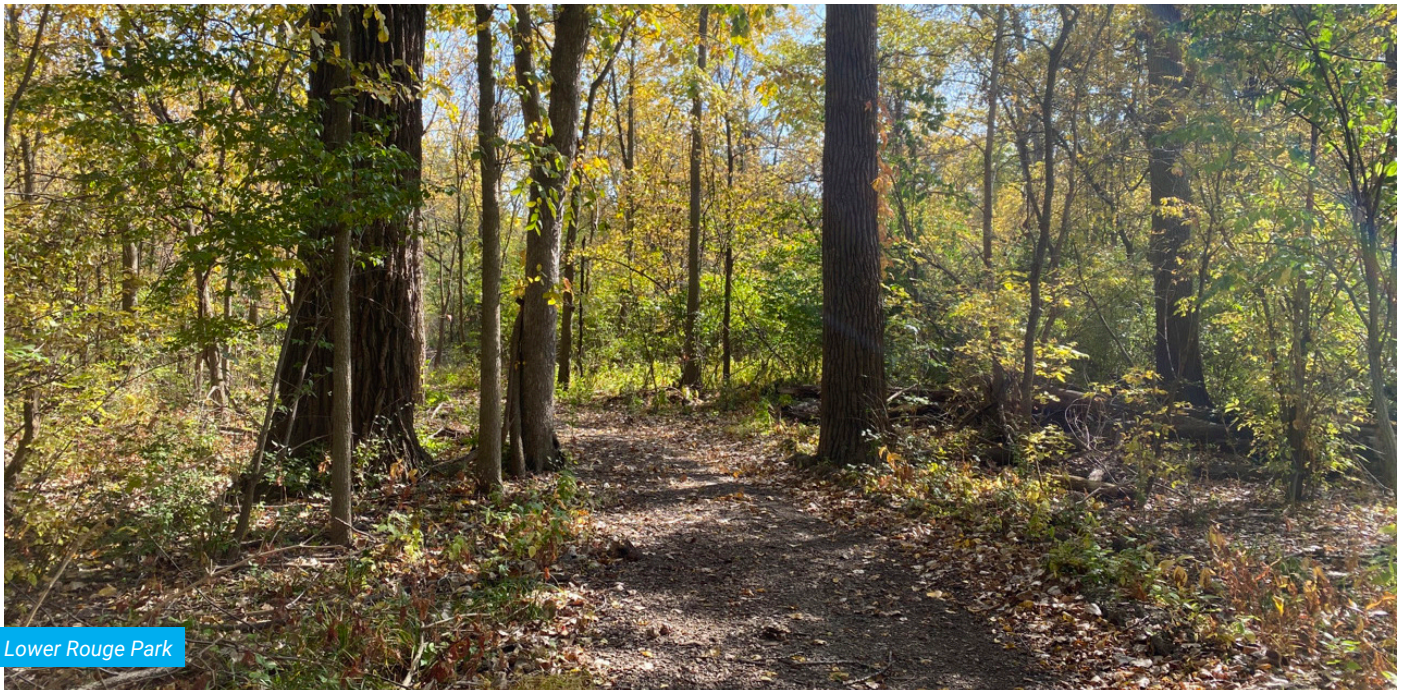
**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*

3. LANDSCAPING

Goal 3.1 Improve the landscaping of parks to offer greater visual plant variety, add shade, and add pleasant relaxing spaces for residents to walk through or sit and rest.

OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1.A** Increase capacity for maintenance of parks to preserve recreational uses on site.
- 3.1.B** Add landscaping variety, such as a variety of gardens, to parks with underutilized space. This will add unique features to the parks and offer a variety of activities in parks.
- 3.1.C** Convert vacant corner lots, vacant school green spaces, and/or Mini Parks to gardens.
- 3.1.D** Add trees for shade, improved drainage, and to improve the aesthetics of parks.
- 3.1.E** Address drainage issues in parks and prevent flooding or nearby properties/streets through landscaping design.



4. ACCESS AND ATTRACTIVENESS

Goal 4.1 Increase the use and accessibility of parks.

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.1.A** Increase access to and use of the Lower Rouge Parkway
- 4.1.B** Increase access to and use of the Rouge River.
- 4.1.C** Add paved access points to parks and features in parks.
- 4.1.D** Improve neighborhood connection and access points to the Inkster Greenway.
- 4.1.E** Improve ADA compliance for more inclusive parks.
- 4.1.F** Include multiple languages on park signs to alleviate language barriers.

Goal 4.2 Increase number and the variety of events hosted in public parks.

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.2.A** Increase programming to offer events that are attractive to residents and visitors and will contribute to economic development and tourism efforts in the city, especially for businesses along Michigan Ave.
- 4.2.B** Increase programming that offers fitness options in the parks.



5. SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 5.1 Improve the green design of parks and recreational facilities through enhanced tree canopy coverage, stormwater management, renewable energy sources, and variety of native plant species, as well as trash and pollution prevention.

OBJECTIVES:

- 5.1.A** Discourage leaving trash in parks and encourage recycling.
- 5.1.B** Prioritize solar and renewable energy options when adding lighting and electrical charging ports in parks for greater resiliency during storms and power outages.
- 5.1.C** Utilize parks or create pocket parks in neighborhoods with flooding issues to help prevent future floods and improve water drainage.
- 5.1.D** Improve the tree canopy coverage in parks.

Goal 5.2 Continue environmental stewardship of the Rouge River and natural features in the City.

OBJECTIVES:

- 5.2.A** Sustain environmental stewardship of the Rouge River.
- 5.2.B** Prevent runoff and other contamination from polluting the river and other bodies of water.
- 5.2.C** Add programming within the Department to educate youth about park and environmental services.



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The background is a photograph of a playground with various equipment like slides and climbing structures. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter. A solid yellow square is positioned to the left of the text.

04. INVENTORY

The section includes a comprehensive inventory of the City of Inkster's park and recreation facilities, programs, and events as well as a few privately owned recreational facilities. This inventory is an essential component of a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. This section was assembled with the help of the Commission, Staff, and public input.

In total, the City of Inkster has 17 public parks, one recreation center, a golf course, and designated wetland areas and other nature preservation areas: The City owns and maintains 14 of the parks as well as the recreation center and the County oversees three parks.

Map 2. City Park Inventory

City of Inkster, Michigan

October 25, 2022 - DRAFT

LEGEND

- Park
- Railroads
- Lake, River, Stream, or Dam
- City Boundary
- Other Municipal Boundary

1	Bel-Aire Park
2	Brookside Park
3	Colonial Park
4	Dartmouth Park
5	Demby Park
6	Downtown Park
7	Dozier Recreation Center
8	Floyd B. Simmons Multi Purpose Center
9	Inkster CSO Basin
10	Inkster Family Skating Center
11	Inkster Park
12	Inkster Valley Golf Course
13	Kennedy Park
14	King Memorial
15	Lemoyne Park
16	Lower Rouge Parkway
17	Manor Park
18	Moore Tot Lot
19	Parkwood Park
20	Wellington Park
21	Westwood Park
22	Wheatley Park



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
Data Source: McKenna, 2022.



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CLASSIFICATION OF RECREATION AMENITIES

The parks are classified based on the National Parks and Recreation Association's criteria (see Table below). The classification provides clarification to the main function of the 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 6. Parks Classification System and Level of Service

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.	Bel-Aire Park Dartmouth Square Park Manor Park Moore Tot Lot Wellington 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.	Demby Park Inkster CSO Basin Kennedy Park King Memorial Park Parkwood 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.	Brookside Park Lemoyne Park Whealey (Oakgrove) Park Westwood Park Colonial 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.	Inkster Park*
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.	Downtown Park Inkster Greenway Inkster Golf Course Dozier Recreation Center Family Skate Arena
Natural Resource Area	Lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics and/or buffering.	Lower Rouge Parkway (Including the Inkster Nature Trail) Wetland Buffering along the Rouge River

*County owned / operated

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 play
- » Safety, comfort, and access

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

BARRIER FREE ACCESSIBILITY

The American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Sault Ste. Marie parks and recreation facilities was conducted as part of the inventory in the summer of 2022. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

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

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility’s accessibility, described below. Each park facility was given an accessibility ranking, ranging from Level 1 (lowest score—not accessible) to Level 5 (highest score—universally accessible).

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

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

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

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

LEVEL 5. The 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.



Downtown Park



Pocket Parks

Bel-Aire Park



LOCATION:

NW Inkster at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and O'Henry Court

SIZE:

2 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1

This pocket park is tucked in a single-family residential neighborhood on the northwest side of the City. 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 shaded picnic area with picnic tables and a charcoal grill
- » Open field (passive/multipurpose grassy area)

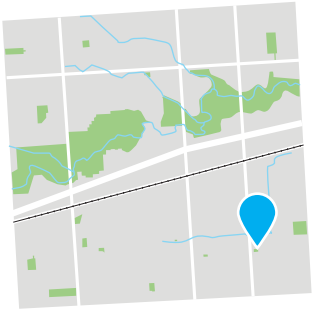
REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » The chains on the swings
- » The chain on the playscape's bridge
- » Poles for a volleyball net exist but needs a net and a sand box or lines for a outdoor volleyball courts
- » Lines for a volleyball area and/or soccer field need to be drawn

DEFICIENCIES:

- » The playground equipment on site in not safe or usable
- » Maintenance to the shrubs on parameter is needed
- » Shade is needed at and around the playscape
- » A paved path from the street to the picnic area and playground is needed
- » Interior trees within the park are lacking

Dartmouth Square Playground



LOCATION:

SE Inkster,
Dartmouth Street
between John Daly
Street and Baylan
Avenue

SIZE:

0.65 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

3



Dartmouth Park is in the southeast quadrant of Inkster on Dartmouth Street, between John Daly Street and Baylan Avenue, across the street from The Flats apartment complex. This park has several amenities in relatively good shape and overall is an asset to the neighborhood. General maintenance and improved accessibility components such as ramps into play areas and between play structures are recommended. Lighting should also be considered for this park.

AMENITIES:

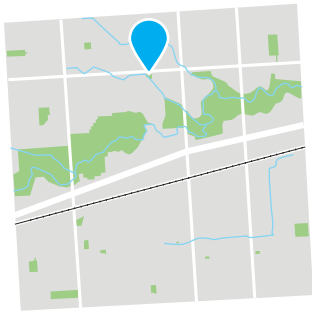
- » Large play structure
- » Swing set
- » Drop shot court
- » Tot lot with spring riders and a seesaw
- » Passive/multipurpose grassy area
- » Covered benches
- » Accessible drinking fountains
- » Large, mature interior trees

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » General maintenance

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Lighting to improve safety
- » ADA Compliance: features to improve physical accessibility, such as ramps
- » Landscaping variety



Pocket Parks

Manor Park



LOCATION:

NW Inkster on Colonial Drive between Avondale Avenue and Glenwood Street.

SIZE:

1.0 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1

This small park is tucked in amongst single family homes in the NW quadrant of the City and a short distance from Colonial Park. This park needs a new playscape and could benefit from other park enhancements, such as seating areas, interior trees, and other landscaping to enhance its aesthetics.

AMENITIES:

- » Playscape
- » Multiple slides
- » Passive, open field

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Playscape
- » New park sign

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Shade, especially around the playscape and picnic table
- » Landscaping
- » Paved paths and other ADA compliant features
- » Interactive features, such as a volleyball net, soccer field, etc.
- » Drinking fountain, restroom facilities



Pocket Parks

Moore Tot Lot



LOCATION:

SE Inkster on Moore Street between Carlyle and Beech Streets.

SIZE:

0.18 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1

The Moore Playground (Tot Lot) is in the southeast quadrant (center), off Moore Street between Carlyle and Beech Streets. This park has been neglected over the years and is in need of improvements, including accessible pathways, updated play equipment and picnic areas, and shade trees or a pavilion. An updated sign should also be included.

AMENITIES:

- » Open green space
- » Metal jungle gym
- » Bike rack
- » Picnic area

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » All amenities listed above need repairs

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Shade from trees or a pavilion
- » Ada features, such as paved paths
- » Interior trees
- » Stormwater management features



Pocket Parks

Wellington Park



LOCATION:

SE Inkster, Mid-block lined by Wellington and Washington Streets, south of the Carlyle and Inkster Road Intersection.

SIZE:

0.46 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1

Tucked in mid-block, this park is lined by single-family houses to the north and south, and Wellington and Washington Streets to the west and east of the park. This pocket park serves the immediate neighborhood and would benefit from upgraded play structures, accessible paths through the park, and shaded areas or picnic areas. Community gardens, whether perennial or annual, would also be a good addition.

AMENITIES:

- » Playscape (metal structure and slide)
- » Picnic tables
- » Multipurpose open green space

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Playscape update

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Shade at the picnic areas
- » Paved path through the park
- » Community garden
- » Interior trees
- » Stormwater management

Demby Park


LOCATION:

SE Inkster, bound by Pine, Hickory, and Spruce Streets to the north, east, and west, respectively.

SIZE:

2.0 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

4



Demby Park is at the southern edge of Inkster, in the southeast quadrant, bound by Pine, Hickory, and Spruce Streets to the north, east, and west, respectively. The park borders residential lots to the south and serves the adjacent multifamily and single family neighborhoods in the area, providing some unique amenities among Inkster parks. Demby Park is one of the few Inkster parks with a viable community building, and features multipurpose rooms, restrooms, and cooking areas. Surrounding the community building are community gardens and plantings, which are intentional sustainability/beautification components, along with the site's ample green space and some interior trees. On-street van accessible parking is available as well as accessible routes of travel to the community building and other areas of the park. Though in need of improvements, the play structure was originally funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

AMENITIES:

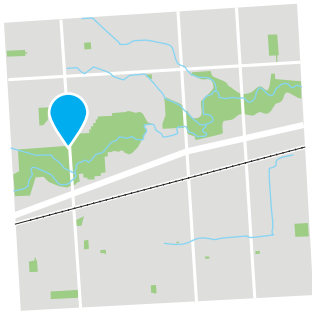
- » Multipurpose, open green field
- » Basketball courts, asphalt play areas
- » Play structure
- » Swing set
- » Community garden
- » Community building with multipurpose rooms, restroom, cooking space
- » Interior trees
- » Parking spaces with van accessible parking

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Replace play structure

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Sufficient interior tree, tree coverage



Neighborhood Park

Inkster CSO Basin



LOCATION:

Central Inkster,
Middlebelt Road just
north of Michigan
Avenue and south of
the Dozier Recreation.

SIZE:

3.6 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1

Just south of the Dozier Recreation Center, this site aims to complement the recreation facility with outdoor recreational amenities, such as basketball courts and a playscape. However, there are severe cracks in the concrete of the east basin wall that has caused the wall to swell. Consequently, the handicap ramp has settled 2 to 3 inches and the chain link fence is notably tilting outward. Alkali-Silica Reactivity (ASR) is also visible on the exterior concrete surfaces of the basin. Repairs must be made to the concrete and ramp for this to be a safe and accessible outdoor recreation area. Further enhancements can be made to improve the space and allow for greater access to the fields. There is a vision to enhance this space; in its current condition it offers limited usability to the public. Once Phase III of the Inkster Greenway is complete, this area will be accessible by the Greenway and connected to the county-owned parks to the east by means of the non-motorized path. This park has great potential to be a community park, especially if access to the river is added.

AMENITIES:

- » Basketball courts
- » Play scape on pavement

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Install basketball nets
- » Repair handicap ramp from parking area to the courts
- » Address the Alkali-Silica Reactivity (ASR) and cracks in the concrete

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Usable green space/fields
- » Seating areas along the basketball courts
- » Gardens, such as a rain garden that can improve the aesthetics and stormwater management from Inkster road
- » Better connection to the Dozier Recreation Center



Neighborhood Park

Kennedy Park



LOCATION:

NW Inkster, along Henry Ruff Road and Betty Lane, south of Cherry Hill. Borders Garden City.

SIZE:

5.4 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1

Located on the NW corner of Inkster, this underutilized large open field has great potential to be a community park. There were once baseball fields, basketball/tennis courts, and other outdoor sport fields; however, they have not been maintained and are now overgrown. Repairs to the parking lot along S Henry Ruff Road are needed for it to be usable and ADA compliant. Adding interactive features will greatly serve residents in this area, the space could also be converted into a Botanical Garden to serve the greater area and fulfill residents' interest for such as an amenity in the area.

AMENITIES:

- » Multipurpose, open green field
- » Baseball fence

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Baseball/softball field needs lines, grass removed, and gravel added
- » Courts for basketball or tennis, or other outdoor activities

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Restrooms
- » Drinking fountains
- » Recreational uses
- » Paved paths
- » Interior trees for sufficient tree canopy coverage



Neighborhood Park

King Memorial Park (currently closed)

LOCATION:

SW Inkster, Carlisle and Andover Streets.

SIZE:

4.4 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1



King Park is located at the eastern edge of Inkster, in the southwest quadrant, bordered by Carlisle Street to the north and west, Lovett Avenue to the east, and Andover Street to the south. This park has permanently closed, and its facilities are in generally poor condition, though the large field continues to be maintained. As a neighborhood park, King Park generally serves the adjacent Parkside Apartments, Lemoyne Gardens, and nearby single-family residential neighborhoods. In addition to officially reopening the park, upgraded facilities and additional accessibility improvements should be prioritized, including ADA parking, ramps, and paved entrances and pathways.

AMENITIES:

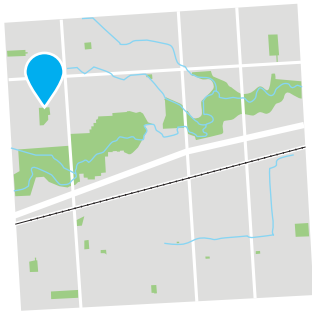
- » Pavilion
- » Play structure
- » Multipurpose field
- » Asphalt play area
- » Multipurpose, open green space with flood lights
- » Picnic areas
- » Interior, mature trees

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » All amenities listed above need repair/upgrades

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Park needs to be restored to be open, usable to the public



Neighborhood Park

Parkwood Park

(formerly known as Middle Park Manor)

LOCATION:

NW Inkster, on
Parkwood Street and
Jeffrey Lane.

SIZE:

7.6 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1



Situated in the northwest quadrant of Inkster, just north of the Inkster Golf Course, this park recently received a new playscape with various interactive amenities. However, this expansive green space has great potential to add other park amenities and recreational features, such as a soccer field, baseball field, gardens, and other landscaping. The park could be extended further as there is unused green space to the West and the South of the park.

AMENITIES:

- » Two new playscapes with monkey bars, slides, etc.
- » Funnel ball
- » Swing set with baby swing
- » Benches on the perimeter of the playscape
- » Large open field

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » One bench in need of repair
- » Updated park sign

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Shade, especially for the benches/seating areas at the playground
- » Interior trees
- » Lines for a soccer field or other interactive features on site
- » Stormwater management features
- » Paved path from the sidewalk to the benches/playground



Community Park

Brookside Park



LOCATION:

SW Inkster at Carlisle and Beech Street, adjacent to the Floyd B. Simmons Center and close to Lemoyne Park.

SIZE:

15.0 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

2

This park is located in the southwest quadrant, adjacent to the Floyd B. Simmons Multipurpose Center, bound by Carlisle Street to the south, Beech Street to the north, and residential lots off Irene to the east. Brookside is a large community park but has fewer amenities compared to nearby Lemoyne Park. However, it is heavily wooded, with approximately 80 percent canopy coverage of mostly large, mature trees. From the last budget cycle, the City invested in new basketball courts, which lead to resident-organized basketball tournament events with food trucks and guests from the region. Recommendations include dedicated parking (or more direct, shared parking with Floyd B. Simmons), additional ADA parking, installation of accessible pathways and restrooms, as well as picnic areas, pavilions, and lighting. Preservation of the wooded areas should be a priority when considering redevelopment of this park. This park was recently adopted through the Adopt-a-Park program to help with the continued maintenance needs of the park.

AMENITIES:

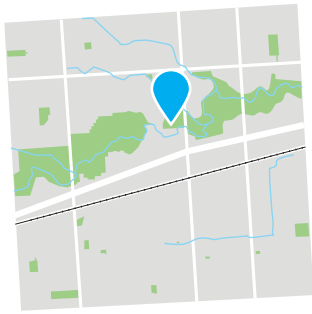
- » Basketball court, newly renovated (adjacent to the Floyd B. Simmons parking lot)
- » Interior, mature trees with 80% tree coverage
- » Multipurpose, open green space
- » Lighting

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » No significant repairs needed, further amenities can be added to enhance the park

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Paved path connecting the Simmons parking lot to the basketball court
- » Drinking fountains
- » Bathroom facilities
- » Floyd B. Simmons Health Center: Beaumont offers nutritional services on site. The City is working with hospitals to bring in additional medical services on site. Will pursue funding to maintain and revamp the building as well as add landscaping and connect the building services to the Brookside Park.



Community Park

Colonial Park

(County owned and operated)

LOCATION:

NW Inkster, adjacent to Inkster Road between Michigan Avenue and Avondale Street.

SIZE:

25.1 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

4

COUNTY OWNED



This county-owned park just north of the Rouge River and Rouge Parkway has been recently renovated by Wayne County. They installed a new playscape with shaded seating, bike rack and repair station, a pavilion, and other amenities as well as wetland area that is frequented by geese and other wildlife. This park is connected to the Inkster Park by the Inkster Greenway and is available to residents with a county park pass. There are restroom facilities available in the summer months.

AMENITIES:

- » Playscape
- » Paved paths
- » Shaded seating
- » Drinking fountains
- » Restrooms (available in the summer months)
- » Paved non-motorized path (the Inkster Greenway)
- » Parking, including handicap spaces
- » Wooded area

REPAIRS NEEDED (TO BE PROVIDED BY COUNTY):

- » None

DEFICIENCIES (TO BE ADDRESSED BY COUNTY):

- » Additional interior trees and shade around the playscape, low tree canopy coverage
- » Community garden, perennial or vegetable
- » Interaction, view of the river



Community Park

Lemoyne Park

LOCATION:

SW Inkster, Pine Street and Middlebelt Road.

SIZE:

5.8 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

3



Less than a quarter mile from King Memorial Park in the southwest quadrant, Lemoyne Park is bordered by Pine Street to the north and Middlebelt Road to the east. Immediately adjacent to the park's west, a vacant parcel of land, a former school, has redevelopment potential to support additional housing or public uses, including the expansion of Lemoyne Park. With its proximity to Middlebelt, this larger park has a wider community reach, with the amenities to boot. Some improvements can be made, including re-using the existing multipurpose building, installing restrooms and drinking fountains, and maintaining walkways and improved accessibility to different areas of the park.

AMENITIES:

- » Ball fields
- » Basketball courts
- » Pavilion
- » Picnic area
- » Playground, asphalt area
- » Multipurpose building (out of commission)
- » Multipurpose, open green field
- » Few interior trees

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Re-commission the multipurpose building
- » Walkways and improved accessibility

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Restrooms
- » Drinking fountains
- » Additional interior trees for shade and sufficient tree coverage



Community Park

Westwood Park

LOCATION:

NE Inkster, north of Avondale Avenue between major roadways John Daly and Beech Daly Streets.

SIZE:

9.9 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

2



Located in the northeast quadrant of the City, this park hosts a playscape, a concession stand area, and a paved path to loop the park, as well as a football field and stands—the only park in the city to have a football field. A small parking lot to service the park can be found off Stollman Drive. However, there are not enough spaces to host football league events on site. Further parking should be added along Avondale Street to allow further access from the southern entrance of the park. Additional unused space is available for a community garden or butterfly garden. The park serves the most populated census block and services many multifamily units to the north and east of the park.

AMENITIES:

- » Football field
- » Playscape
- » Bench seating by the playscape
- » Paved walking loop

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Surrounding fence
- » Garbage bins spread throughout the park, especially by the football field
- » Lines on the parking lot
- » Lines of the football field and baseball field

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Restrooms
- » Drinking fountains
- » Lights
- » Interior trees
- » Landscaping, such as a garden
- » Stormwater management, drainage issues
- » Parking along Avondale Street in empty lot (26110 Avondale Street)



Community Park

Wheatley/Oakgrove Park



LOCATION:

SE Inkster, off S Beech Daly between Penn and Carlyle Streets.

SIZE:

8.3 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

3

Wheatley Park is located at the eastern border of the city, in the southeast quadrant, bound by Beech Daly Road to the east, Penn Avenue to the north, and Carlyle Avenue to the south. This large park is in active use and draws visitors from nearby cities in addition to Inkster residents. Sustainability components include community gardens and other plantings in addition to the wooded areas providing about 50 percent tree coverage. Recycling bins are also available on-site. Recommendations include improvements to the facilities, particularly the pavilion/restroom area, in addition to improved ball courts and accessibility provisions, such as paved and ADA parking, enhanced pathway access, and accessible seating at the baseball field.

AMENITIES:

- » Baseball field with backstops and dugouts
- » Wooded walking paths
- » Modular play structure
- » Picnic areas
- » Pavilion
- » Basketball courts
- » Multipurpose, passive green field
- » Accessible restrooms
- » Drinking fountains
- » Gravel parking areas
- » Garden
- » Lighting
- » Interior trees

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Restroom
- » Pavilion
- » Basketball courts

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Pathway access to each amenity on site
- » ADA compliant seating at the baseball field
- » Additional ADA parking



Large Urban Park

Inkster Park

(County owned and operated)

LOCATION:

Central East Inkster,
North of Michigan
Avenue.

SIZE:

76.5 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

5



A portion of the Lower Rouge Parkway between John Daly Street and Inkster Road is designated as the Inkster Park, owned and operated by Wayne County Parks with funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Recently, a new, accessibility-advanced playscape was installed that allows wheelchair access from the parking lot onto the playscape. The Inkster Greenway runs begins on the eastern border of the park and runs through the park across the Rouge River connecting it to the Colonial Park. Just on the other side of John Daley is a nature trail that could feed into the eastern entrance of Inkster Park, if connected and a pedestrian crosswalk is added on John Daly Street. While many improvements have been made it the park in recent years, work is still being done to open access to the river and add a canoe/kayak launch spot.

AMENITIES:

- » ADA compliant playscape
- » Monkey bars
- » Non-motorized pathway (Inkster Greenway)
- » Large pavilion with picnic tables
- » Parking, including ADA compliant spaces
- » Restrooms
- » Drinking fountains
- » Interior trees

REPAIRS NEEDED (TO BE PROVIDED BY COUNTY):

- » None

DEFICIENCIES (TO BE ADDRESSED BY COUNTY):

- » River access
- » Shade at the playscape
- » Sufficient trash and recycling bins



Natural Resource

Lower Rouge River



LOCATION:

Bisects the City, running from east to west.

SIZE:

X.X acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

1

The beautiful Rouge River winds through the City of Inkster from east to west just north of Michigan Avenue. Majority of the river is buffered by wetland and woodlands in the City of Inkster. There are few access points for residents to see the river, the City is currently working with the County to add access points at Inkster Park. However additional efforts should be made, specifically at the Downtown Park to add a board walk and seating areas along the river. Efforts should continue to be made to prevent erosion of the river, prevent flooding, and prevent runoff and non-point source pollution.

AMENITIES:

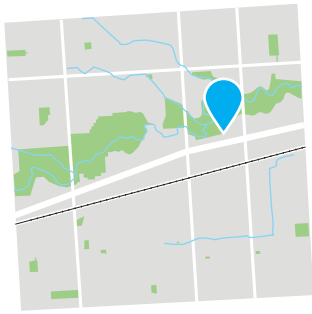
- » Nature trail (entrance off John Daly Street)
- » Wetlands (maintained by the golf course)

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » Erosion prevention
- » Clearing shrubs

DEFICIENCIES:

- » Sufficient access points that ADA compliant
- » River visibility
- » River walk/boardwalk
- » Pedestrian connection from the Inkster park to the nature trail



Special Use Park

Downtown Park



LOCATION:

Central Inkster, at Inkster Road and S River Drive adjacent to the former City Hall. It is just north of the Inkster Road and Michigan Avenue Intersection.

SIZE:

Potential for up to 17 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

2

This area adjacent to the former City Hall along Inkster Road and across the street from the Twin Towers Senior Living Facility was proposed following the 2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Since then, the City has installed a pavilion to allow for a gathering space for music or other special events. Additional enhancements should be made to fulfill the vision for this park, such as installing a paved path/ramp to the riverbed, adding a boardwalk along the river parallel to S River Park Drive, or adding an open-air shed space to host a Farmer's Market. Additionally, there are abandoned tennis courts in the vicinity that could be restored and included as part of this park. Near the abandoned courts is an opportunity to add seating or access point on the river bend of the Rouge River as well as a garden. There is great potential to transform this space and offer residents a nice relaxing downtown destination that provides a green contrast to the otherwise built-out commercial area along the Michigan Ave Corridor.

AMENITIES:

- » Pavilion
- » Rouge River

REPAIRS NEEDED:

- » River access: clear shrubs, grade the land, and add a paved path so residents can access the river
- » Demolish the former City Hall to use for recreational purpose, such as a Farmers Market

DEFICIENCIES:

- » River access
- » Public restrooms
- » Drinking fountains
- » Signage
- » Stormwater management to prevent runoff from entering the river
- » Lighting



Special Use Park

Inkster Greenway



LOCATION:

Central Inkster, starting at John Daly Road and ends at Justine Street.

SIZE:

1.5 miles completed, additional 1.5 mile (Phase 3) to be constructed to connect to Middlebelt.

ACCESSIBILITY:

2

This 10-foot-wide asphalt paved paths starts at the eastern edge of Inkster Park, near the head of the Inkster Trail in the Lower Rouge Parkway, and winds through the city along the Rouge River, ending in Justine Court. Once completed the non-motorized pathway will be approximately 4.5 miles long, and wind from the eastern to western portion of the city.

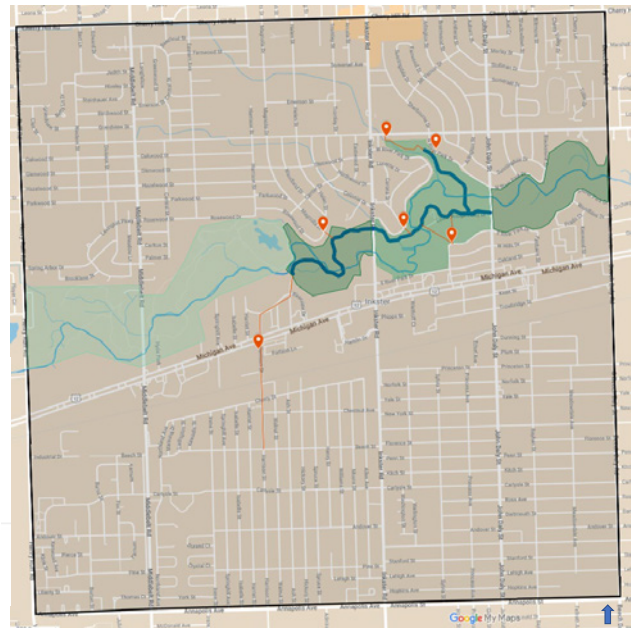
The City is currently working on funding the construction of Segment 3 which will extend the path through the wetlands to Middlebelt Road just south of the Inkster CSO Basin and Dozier Recreation Center. The portion of the path in the wetlands will be a 14-foot-wide boardwalk pathway. The asphalt and boardwalk path will provide accessibility for wheelchair users, road bikes, joggers, walkers, and in-line skaters.

DEFICIENCIES:

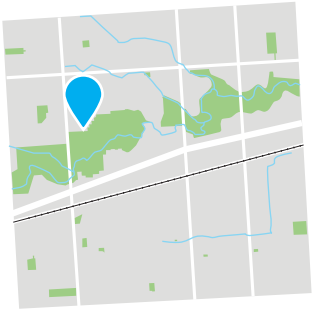
- » Residential Access Points
- » Connectivity with Parks and Neighborhoods south of Michigan Avenue

These proposed access points on the map below will better connect the non-motorized pathway to neighborhood and allow greater use and access for residents.

Figure 2. Inkster Greenway and Neighborhood Access Points



Dozier Community Center



LOCATION:

Central Inkster on Middlebelt Road just north of Michigan Avenue.

SIZE:

8.2 acres, 0.6 acres for the building

ACCESSIBILITY:

4



The Recreation Complex and Community Center offers a variety of recreational activities and programming, as well as meeting rooms to serve as a community space of varying uses. Rooms can be rented out for family and private events. Just behind the building are tennis courts and a playscape in need of repairs. Recent repairs have been made to update facilities on site, such as the restroom, however additional funds are needed to repair the roof and other maintenance needs. Additional plans and funding are set to add a Senior Wellness Center on the north side of the building.

AMENITIES

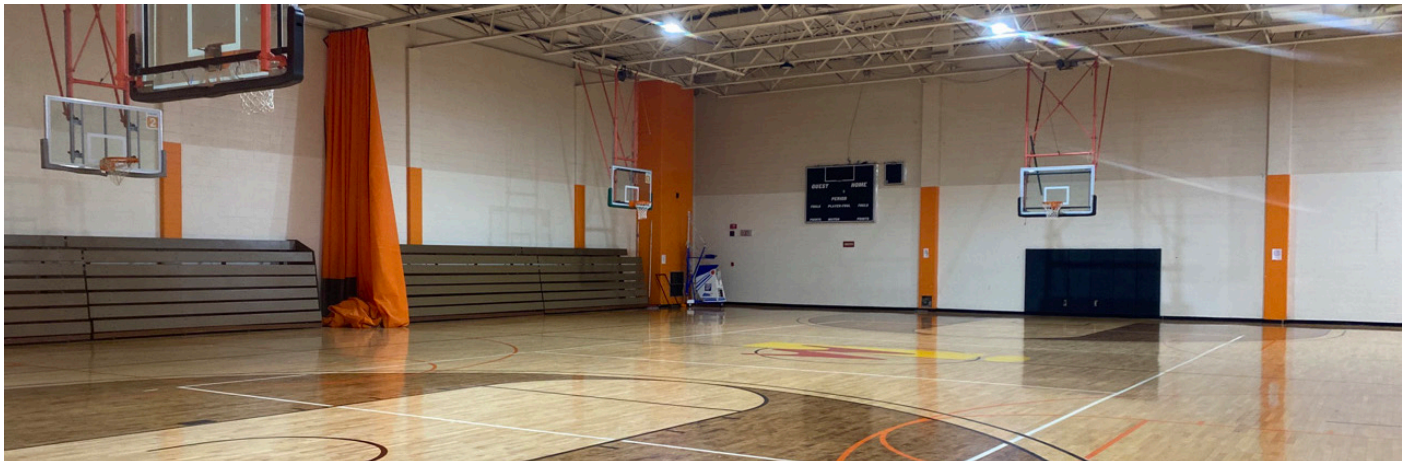
- » Gym with a basketball court and four additional side nets
- » Multipurpose room with kitchen space
- » Additional meeting rooms/event spaces
- » Locker room with a sauna in the men's locker room
- » Renovated restrooms
- » Game room with table tennis, pool, and table games
- » Racquetball courts
- » Weight room
- » Outdoor tennis courts
- » Storage space for the Parks and Recreation Department
- » Office space for the Parks and Recreation Department

REPAIRS NEEDED

- » Outdoor swimming pool out of commission
- » Tennis courts in need of re-pavement
- » New Roof
- » Playground behind the center in need of repair

DEFICIENCIES

- » Senior designated space, which will be addressed by the plans to build a senior center extension
- » Space for garden, shaded sitting space
- » Does not connect to the Inkster Greenway



General Services and Programming at Dozier Center

There is a weight room for residents with an Activity Pass, open gym times for a small fee, a game room, and other meeting rooms for rental. The Activity Pass includes access to locker rooms, open gym, and the Game Room, in addition to the weight room. The weight room is open Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m..

Programming for Youth

1. **Acting Program** – This program offers workshops in theater and motion picture performance.
2. **College Ready Program** – This program offers seminars and other college preparatory resources at Dozier Rec Center as well as courses in accounting, finance, marketing, and management.
3. **Creative Writing Program** – This program focuses on story-telling, poetry, song lyrics, scriptwriting, and public speaking to encourage and challenge the creative and expressive writing ability of Inkster's youth.
4. **Kids Count Program** – To foster entrepreneurship and business intelligence from a young age, this program teaches kids about how to market a business, hire and schedule employees, record transactions and balance an account, and manage inventory. This program is sponsored. Healthy Communities Small Grant
5. **Music Production Program** – This program offers training and education in song writing, music engineering and music business management.
6. **Opportunity Tennis Academy (OTA)** – This 8-week tennis program offers children ages 5 – 18 years old 2-hour tennis lessons and a social development opportunity. This Program is offered by Opportunity Tennis Academy and the USTA-Southeastern Michigan District.
7. **Physical Fitness Program** – This Divine Stand Dancers offers this dance program: They teach 9-19 year old residents the Majorette dance while incorporating jazz techniques and modern day hip-hop styles. Classes are offered Wednesday-Friday and every other Saturday from 4 to 7 pm. The classes cost \$30/month or \$10 for a drop-in class.
8. **Sports Management Program** – This program features sport teams and educational activities. The teams provide training in basketball and football for all ages and the educational opportunities cover topics ranging from team administration, coaching, sport agency, to sports team marketing.
9. **Youth Website Design Training Workshop** – This five-week training class on Saturdays is sponsored by Flagstar Bank and nonprofit called the Good Measure.
10. **The Greene League** -- This free-of-cost basketball league is sponsored by Commissioner Ray Brown through his organization called Hearts that Care. Th goal of the league is to provide mentorship, physical activity, and camaraderie to Inkster youth.

Programming for Senior Citizens at Dozier

The Inkster Commission on Aging offers services to senior citizens at the Twin Towers Senior Residence as well as Dozier Recreation center. The activities offered at Dozier include:

- » Fitness Activities
- » Computer Classes

Since 2006, a group of citizens and Inkster have been working with City Administration to create a Senior Center as an extension of the Dozier Recreation Center. After years of planning, construction plans are set and majority of the project is funded. Plans are to break-ground Spring 2023 and will offer additional benefits and support to senior residents.

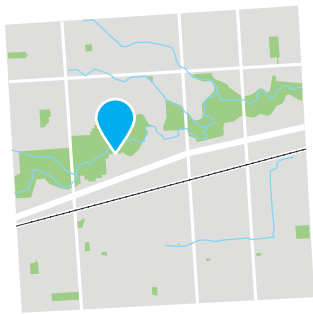
Special Annual Events

In conjunction with local community groups, the City hosts a number of community recreation events throughout the year. Among them are:

- » Easter Egg Hunt
- » Memorial Day Parade
- » Fishing Derby – in the community pool
- » Inkster Summer Fest
- » Jazz Fest
- » Halloween Party
- » Christmas Lighting ceremony

In addition to the above seasonal events, Inkster recreation offers: a car show, a tennis tournament, celebrity golf outing, a basketball tournament, and bike rodeo.





Inkster Valley Golf Course

(Privately Owned and Operated)

LOCATION:

Central West, entrance off Middleton Road just north of Michigan Avenue.

SIZE:

400 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

3



This Harry Bowers' designed 18-hole golf course opened in 1998. It is filled with an abundance of natural wildlife and it incorporates over 100 acres of wetland within its 400 acre surroundings. The clubhouse features a grill with variable seating up to 100 and offers a pro-shop. Professional golf instruction is available. There is ADA Compliant Parking and paved paths to the clubhouse as well as the start of the putting greens. The entrance off Middlebelt Road slightly south of the Dozier Recreation Center.

AMENITIES:

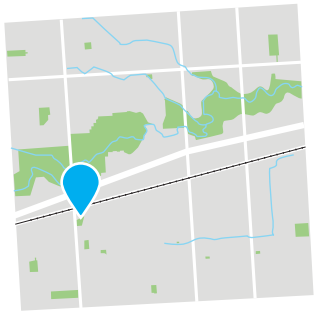
- » 18-hole golf course
- » Grille
- » Pro-Shop
- » Parking
- » Landscaping
- » Wetland maintenance

REPAIRS NEEDED (TO BE PROVIDED BY PRIVATE ENTITY):

- » None

DEFICIENCIES (TO BE ADDRESSED BY PRIVATE ENTITY):

- » None



Inkster Family Skating Rink

(Privately Owned and Operated)

LOCATION:

SW Inkster, Middlebelt Road just south of Michigan Avenue.

SIZE:

0.5 acres

ACCESSIBILITY:

3



After being closed for about 20 years, the indoor skating rink was purchased and reopened in 2021. A facelift as well as other upgrades and landscaping additions are needed to enhance this community asset.

AMENITIES:

- » Indoor skating rink
- » Restroom
- » Concessions

REPAIRS NEEDED (TO BE PROVIDED BY PRIVATE ENTITY):

- » Façade improvements

DEFICIENCIES (TO BE ADDRESSED BY PRIVATE ENTITY):

- » Landscaping
- » Stormwater management on site

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Facility Name				Amenities						Hard Surfaced Areas					Passive Areas					Play Areas										Play Structures & Grounds				Indoor Facilities								
	Acres	Type of Park	Ownership	Off-Street Parking Spaces	Concessions	Restrooms	Drinking Fountain	Storage	Vending Machines	Basketball Courts	In-Line Skating Area	Skate Park	Tennis Courts	Track	Benches	Fishing Pier	Pathway	Fitness Equipment	Pavilion	Picnic Table(s)	Stage/Band Shelter/ Amphitheater	Spectator Seating	Ball Diamonds (Baseball/ Softball)	Swings	Slides	Playscape/Jungle Jim	Lighting	Multiple Purpose Field	Pool (Outdoor)	Sand Volleyball Court	Soccer	Metal Play Structure	Modular Play Equipment	Resilient Surface	Timber Play Structure	Fitness Center, Gym, Meeting Rooms	Meeting Rooms	River / Pond / Wetland	CURRENT CONDITIONS (good, fair, poor)	ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT (scale 1-5)	NOTES	
Bel Aire Park	2	PP	City												X				X	X				*		X*		X		*									Poor	1	Amenities on site in need of repair. No paved path to amenities.	
Brookside Park	1	NP	City							X																		X			X							X	Fair	1	Newly placed basketball courts and stormwater Bioretention on-site. Park recently adopted by resident.	
Colonial Park (County)	25	CP	County	X		X	X				X				X		X		X	X	?				X	X	X		X				X						X	Good	4	Newly renovated by County. Missing a ramp/path connecting to playscape, but there are paved paths otherwise. Inkster Greenway connects this park to Colonial.
Dartmouth Square Playground	1	PP	City				X								X		X		X	X					X	X	X							X						Fair	3	Seating available and accessible.
Demby Park (Envision Community Building)	2	NP	City			X				X					X									X		X	X	X					X	X					X	Fair	4	Paved paths and variety of metal playground equipment.
Inkster Downtown Park	17	CP	City	X									*		X				X		X							X										X	Poor	3	Poor condition because space underutilized. Future Plans for how to use space exist.	
Dozier Recreation Center	8	SUP	City	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X	X								*	*	X		*				*			X	X		Fair	3	Elevator on site.
Inkster C.S.O. Basin	4	NP	City	X						X					X												X						X	X						Poor	2	Ramp on site but amenities in need of repairs.
Inkster Family Skate Arena	2	SUP	Private														X																							Fair	4	Handicap parking and ramps.
Inkster Park	82	SP	County	X		X	X				X				X		X		X	X					X	X	X		X					X					X	Good	4	Most inclusive play structure in the City. Paved paths throughout the park.
Inkster Valley Golf Course	400	SUP	Private	X	X												X		X																				X	Good	4	Handicap Parking and paved ramps.
Kennedy Park	5	NP	City	*									*										*					X												Poor	1	In need of features added to the park and repairs to parking lot.
King Memorial Park	4	NP	City												X					X							X	X	X											Poor	1	In need of attention.
Lemoyne Park	10	CP	City	X	?	?				X					X					X			X				X	X	X				X						X	Fair	3	Building on site, unclear if used for restrooms or concession area.
Lower Rouge Parkway	59	SP	County														X												X											Fair	1	Underutilized space, need better access to Nature Trail that starts on John Daly St..
Manor Park	1	PP	City																	X					X	*		X				X	X*						Poor	1	Repairs and accessibility features needed.	
Moore Tot Lot	0	PP	City																	X								X											Poor	1	In need of repair. Adopted by Fire Station.	
Parkwood Park	8	PP	City												X																								Fair	1	Add features to enhance the park and improve accessibility.	
Wellington Park	0	PP	City																								X		X				X							Fair	1	Add features to enhance the park and improve accessibility.
Westwood Park	10	CP	City		X			X			X				X		X					X	X																Fair	2	Included in Adopt-a-Park Program by resident and local organization.	
Wheatley/Oakgrove Park	8	CP	City	X		X	X			X*									X*	X							X	X	X				X						Fair	3	Adopt-a-Park: Adopted by family.	
TOTAL	248		21	8	2	4	4	2	1	5	3	0	1	0	11	0	8	1	6	9	1	1	2	4	4	10	5	14	0	0	1	6	5	0	0	1	2	6				
Percentage of parks that have the feature				38%	10%	19%	19%	10%	5%	26%	14%	0%	5%	0%	52%	0%	38%	5%	29%	43%	5%	5%	11%	19%	19%	53%	24%	74%	0%	0%	5%	29%	24%	0%	0%	5%	10%	29%				

LEGEND			
X	Element present	PP	Pocket Park
*	Element present but not usable	NP	Neighborhood Park
X*	Usable but in need of repair	CP	Commuity Park
?	Unclear if publically accessible	SP	Significant / Large Urban Park
		SUP	Special Use Park

REGIONAL FACILITIES OVERVIEW

Regional recreation facilities serve people within a broad geographic area. Map 3 highlights the regional recreation facilities within roughly one-half to one hour drive from the City of Inkster's boundary.

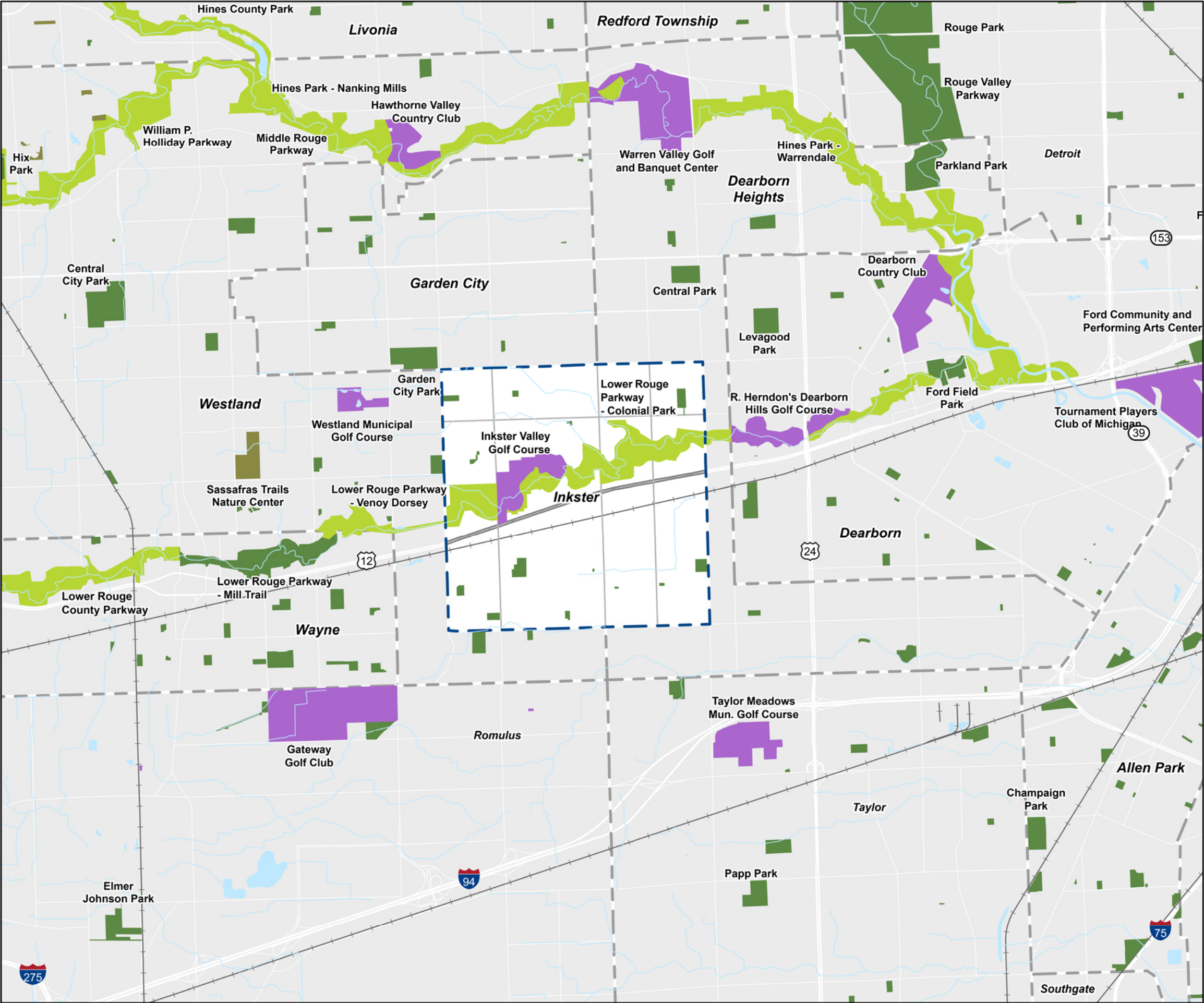
The parks highlighted in the regional map include:

Parks within 1/2 Hour Drive Buffer from Inkster Boundary

- » Crowley Park
- » Daly Park
- » Dem Park
- » Fairway-Riverdale Tot Lot
- » Firefighter's Park
- » Florence Park
- » Garden City Park
- » Lower Rouge County Parkway
- » R. Herndon's Dearborn Hills Golf Course
- » Stottlemeyer Park
- » Voss/Civitan Park
- » Central Park
- » Hines Park - Warrendale
- » Papp Park
- » Champaign Park
- » Ford Woods Park
- » Levagood Park
- » Ford Field Park
- » Lower Rouge Parkway - Venoy Dorsey
- » Hix Park
- » Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
- » Westland Municipal Golf Course
- » Sassafras Trails Nature Center
- » Hines Park - Nanking Mills
- » Central City Park

Regional Parks beyond 1/2 Mile, > 28 Acres

- » Hawthorne Valley Country Club
- » Parkland Park
- » Taylor Meadows Mun. Golf Course
- » Lower Rouge Parkway - Mill Trail
- » Dearborn Country Club
- » Tournament Players Club of Michigan
- » Warren Valley Golf and Banquet Center
- » Gateway Golf Club
- » Rouge Valley Parkway
- » William P. Holliday Parkway
- » Rouge Park
- » Middle Rouge Parkway
- » Hines County Park



Map 3. Regional Parks

City of Inkster, Michigan

October 27, 2022 - DRAFT

LEGEND

- Private Park
- County Park
- Metropark
- Municipal Park
- MDNR Park
- Conservation Area
- Lake, River, Stream, or Dam
- City of Inkster Boundary
- Other Municipal Boundary




Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
Data Source: SEMCOG 2022.





2023-2027 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN · CITY OF INKSTER, MI





05. ASSESSMENT OF RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE FACILITIES

The analysis provided in this section is based on a criteria set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) to determine the needs for certain recreation facilities in each community. NRPA is a national, non-profit service organization dedicated to advancing parks, recreation, and environmental efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. NRPA works closely with national, state, and local recreation and park agencies, corporations, and citizens' groups in carrying out its objectives. As part of its activities, NRPA has created and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has adopted these standards to establish:

1. the types of recreation facilities, such as basketball courts or soccer fields, that should be available based on population size; and
2. the “service areas,” or number and type of park, that should be available to residents within a certain distance.

The MDNR standards are not intended to be followed to the exact number; however, comparing these standards to the current inventory of Inkster highlights deficiencies. This analysis coupled with the parks and recreation interests of Inkster residents helps establish the basis for the Action Plan.

FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Table 7 outlines the types of usable outdoor facilities available compared to the national averages of municipal parks and recreation agencies serving populations of between 20,000 people and 50,000 people. While there is a surplus of multipurpose field in Inkster parks, the City has lower than average quantity of outdoor recreation facilities than most other municipalities of the same population size. In the coming years, attention should be given to the variety and quantity of outdoor recreation available to residents. Additionally, as **Table 8** displays, Inkster has a slightly lower total acreage of parks within the City than the national average. Acquiring and revamping the closed-down school parks and playgrounds will help to address the shortage of usable, accessible park space as well as the total park acreage per 1,000 residents. Inkster should look for state funding and public-private partnership opportunities to help address these deficiencies.



Table 7. Recreation Facilities Evaluation for Inkster

TYPE OF FACILITY	% OF AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE FACILITY	PRESENCE OF FACILITY IN INKSTER PARKS	NRPA MINIMUMS FOR NO. OF FACILITY/ RESIDENT ²	NO. OF EACH FACILITY NEEDED FOR 30,000 PEOPLE ³	NO. OF EACH FACILITY IN INKSTER PARKS	SURPLUS / DEFICIENCY	NOTES
Playground/ Playscape	53%	Yes	1/3,111	10	10 ⁽⁴⁾	Meets Standard	
Basketball courts	26%	Yes	1/6,839	4	5	1	Additional potential courts at CSO Basin
Tennis courts	5%	Yes	1/3,100	10	6	-4	Usable courts at Dozier
Baseball fields	11%	Yes	1/4,858	6	2 ⁽⁵⁾	-4	
Rectangular fields- multipurpose	75%	Yes	1/7,674	4	14	10	Need lines & equipment to be sports fields
Dog parks	0%	No	1/28,000	1	0	-1	
Outdoor swimming pool	0%	No	1/20,000	2	0	-2	
Rectangular fields: soccer-youth	5%	Yes	1/5,011	6	1	-5	
Community gardens	0%	No	1/24,5000	1	0	-1	
Multiuse courts: basketball, volleyball	0%	No	1/14,807	2	0	-2	Additional unmaintained courts, not usable
Rectangular fields: football	5%	Yes	1/19,351	2	1	-1	
Outdoor ice rinks	0%	No	1/13,123	2	0	-2	

Footnotes:

1. This table is based on NRPA Metrics published in the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review.
2. The Median Number of Residents per Facility is based on data from communities having a population of 30,000.
3. Rounded to the whole number. Based on 30,000 people to anticipate potential, desired population growth in the next five years and ensure there are sufficient facilities.
4. This considers only the usable playscapes: It does not count playscapes in need of repair that are unsafe to use in their current state.
5. The NRPA Metrics distinguish between baseball fields for adults and youth and softball fields for adults and youth. For the purposes of this analysis, these distinctions have been disregarded.

Table 8. Park Acreage Evaluation for Inkster

PARK CLASSIFICATION	NRPA GUIDELINE ACRES/1,000 RESIDENTS ⁽¹⁾	CITY RECOMMENDED ACREAGE ⁽²⁾	CITY OF INKSTER AND COUNTY PARK ACREAGE	SURPLUS / DEFICIENCY OF ACRES
Pocket Parks	0.25	6.52	4.6	-1.92
Neighborhood Parks	1	26.08	16.4	-23.17
Community Parks	5	130.44	153	22.56
Total Parks	10.6 (Median)	276.53	248.53	-28

Footnotes:

1. Based on the NRPA Agency Performance Review for Jurisdictions from 20,000 to 49,000 people.
2. Based on the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review for Places of a population of 26,088 people.



Inkster Park

SERVICE AREA

Map 4 shows the area of Inkster that is within a 10-minute walk, or 0.25 miles, and serviced by a park or recreation facility and includes pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, large urban parks, and special use parks and recreation facilities. The areas outside of the circles represent the areas underserved by parks. The majority of Inkster is served by a facility; however, a sizable residential area south of Michigan Avenue (central and east) and the center northern residential area between John Daly and Harrison Road are most underserved by parks. Considering median household income, efforts to address the lack of parks and recreation facilities south of Michigan Avenue should be prioritized.

Map 4. 10-Minute Walkability

City of Inkster, Michigan

October 28, 2022 - DRAFT

LEGEND

Park

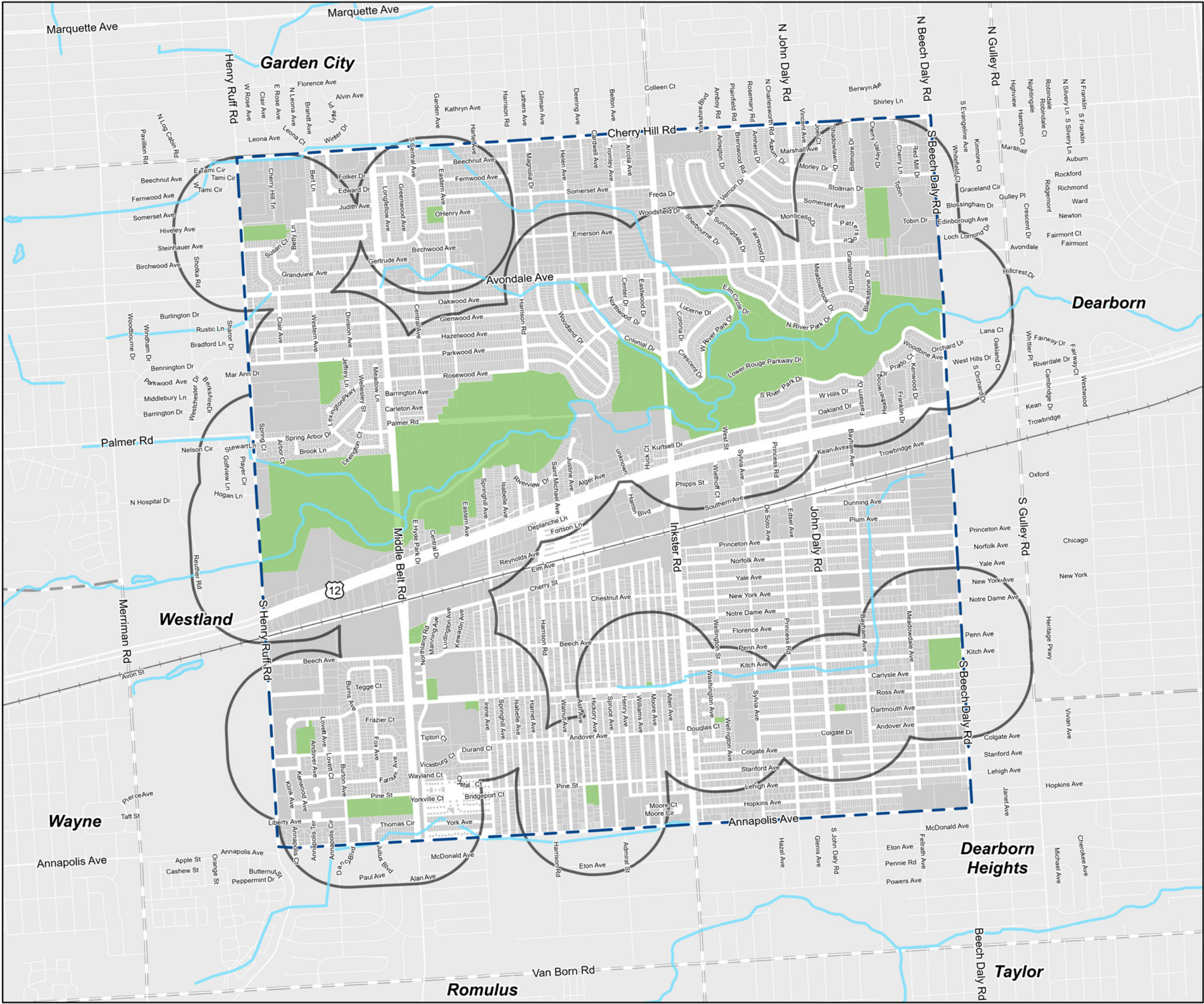
Railroads

Lake, River, Stream, or Dam

City Boundary

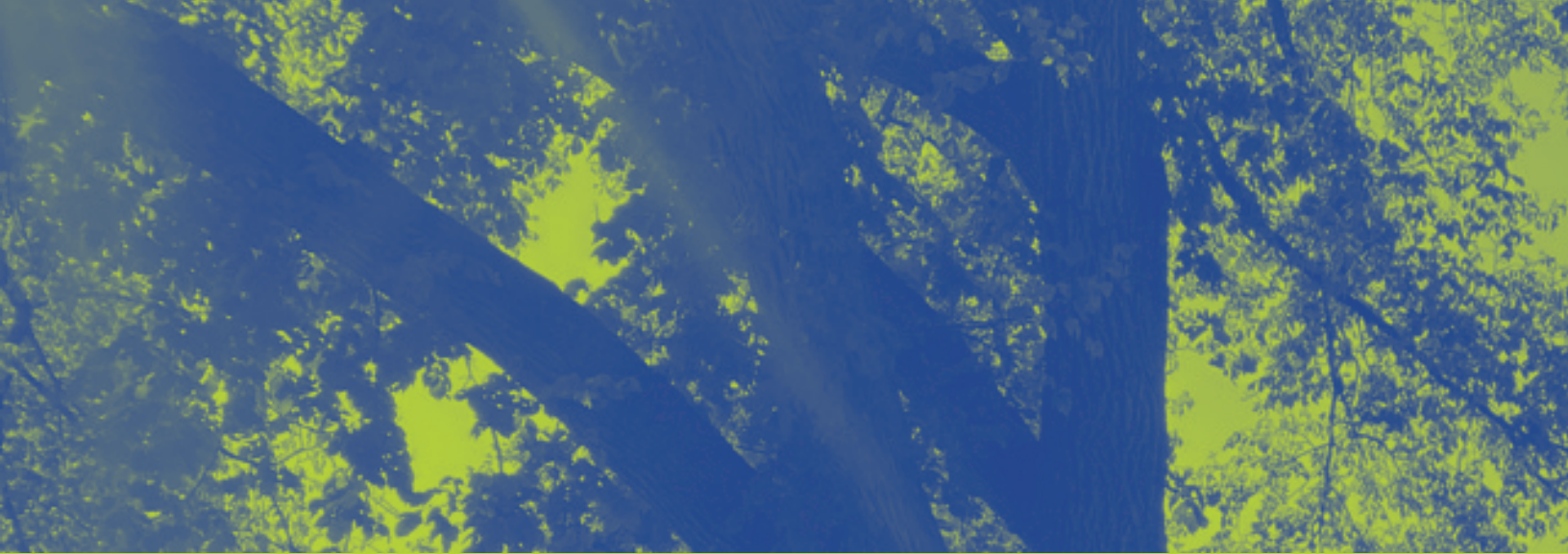
Other Municipal Boundary

10 Minute Walk



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
Data Source: McKenna, 2022.





2023-2027 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN · CITY OF INKSTER, MI

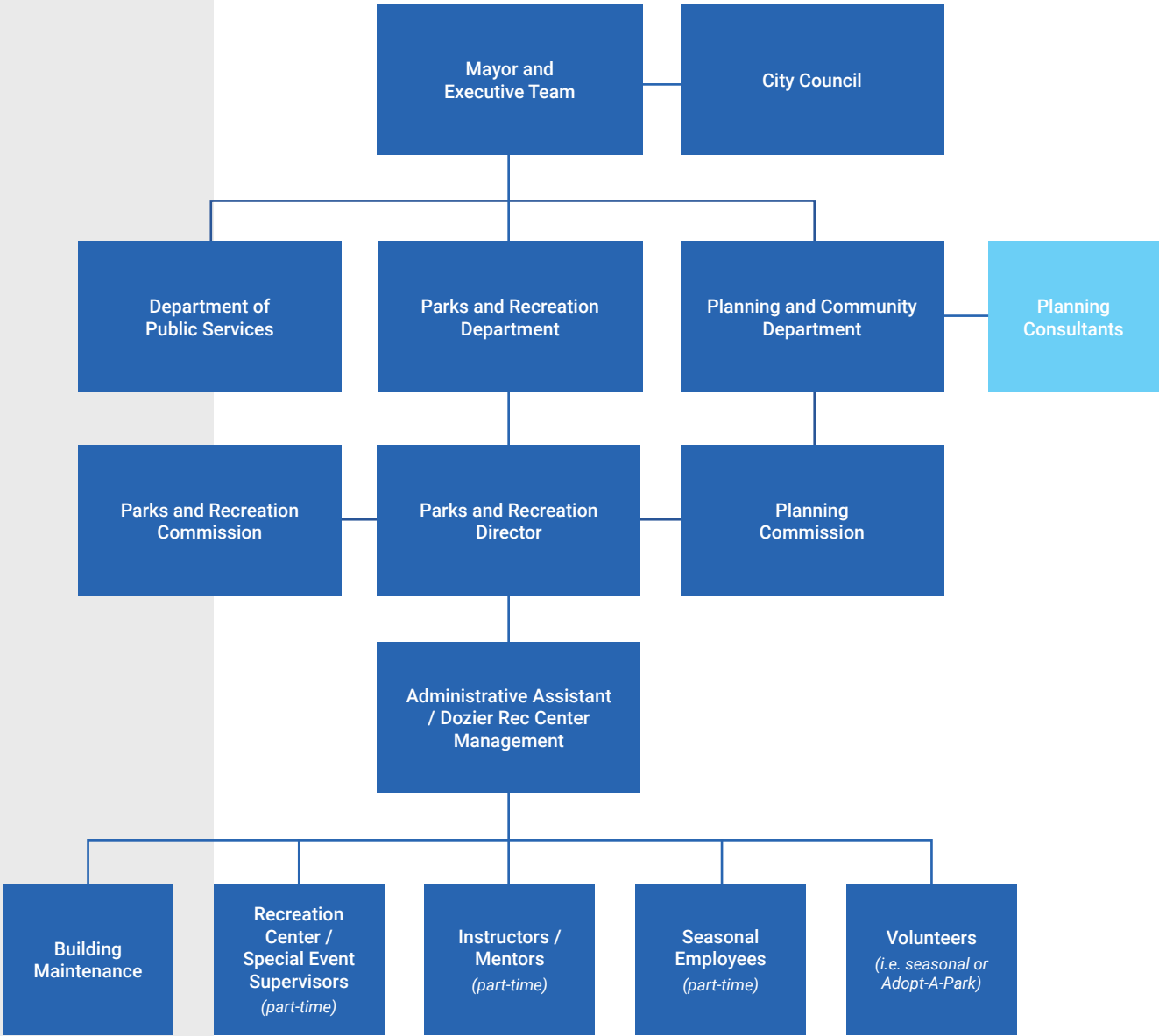




06. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The administrative structure and budget analysis for Inkster parks and recreational activity are presented in this section.

Figure 3. Administrative Structure of the City of Inkster’s Parks and Recreation Department



ROLE OF PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT

Role of Commission

The City of Inkster Parks and Recreation Commission is a citizen's advisory board created to oversee the planning, and development of recreation facilities and programs. All actions of the Inkster Parks and Recreation Commission are subject to the approval of the City Council. The Commission is comprised of up to nine members and meets the second Thursday of each month.

Parks and Recreation Department

The existing administrative structure of the City of Inkster Parks and Recreation Department is illustrated in the diagram above (Figure 2). The Parks and Recreation Director reports to the Mayor and the City Council makes the final decisions relative to site improvements, capital programming, and recreation budgeting. Ultimate authority for policy, budgets, and action is derived from the general population as represented by the City Council.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for making day-to-day decisions regarding financial expenditures based on a City Council approved budget and implementing development plans. The Parks and Recreation Department staff consists of the Recreation Director and one full-time staff personnel, the Administrative Assistant, who is the Dozier Recreation Center Manager, the Secretary, and the Athletic/Special Events Supervisor. Since 2009, the Department had to change from two to one full-time staff; however, budget permitting, the Department intends to reinstate the other full-time position. Several part-time and seasonal staff help carry out the department functions, and share some responsibilities with the full-time staff position. Due to the high level of visitation at the recreation center, it would be favorable for one full-time position to be dedicated to being the Recreation Center Manager to oversee operation of the center and allow for the other full-time position to be the Secretary and Special Events Supervisor.

The Parks and Recreation Director serves as the chief full-time professional in serving residents' recreation needs. In this capacity, they meet with members of the public on a day-to-day basis, develop recreation activities, and handle the administrative tasks related to the planning, acquisition, improvement, and maintenance of recreation space and facilities.

In planning for recreation development activities, the Parks and Recreation Director collaborates with other departments of city governments, specifically the departments of Public Services and Planning and Community Development. The Director also cooperates with regional recreation agencies such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Wayne County Parks. The Department of Public Services is responsible for maintenance of the parks.

ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Volunteers are utilized year-round to assist with special events (e.g. Easter Egg hunt, Halloween Party, tree lighting ceremony, etc.) or with park maintenance.

Adopt-a-Park Program

Resident volunteers and businesses can also contribute to the parks through the Adopt-a-Park Program. By adopting a park they can invest in improvements, maintain the park, and host community events on site. Park investments could range from trash cans to adding gardens; however, this is not required. The expectations of the program depend on the capacity of the resident or business; the contributions could solely be maintaining the park by weeding, picking up trash, or other cosmetic needs. This program is vital because it helps supplement the work and capacity of the Parks and Recreation Department. The program is organized and overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department and sponsors are approved by City Council. The parks currently adopted include: Moore Tot Lot, Brookside Park, Wheatley Park, Westwood Park.

CURRENT 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 Parks and Recreation Millage (the millage rate is 1.9430), user fees, brownfield/TIF capture, donations, and contractual agreements with the county or other private entities. Following is a brief description of current funding sources and other potential sources the community may consider:

Funding Sources

GENERAL BUDGET: The General Fund is the basic operating fund for the City. 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.

PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE: This property tax millage was passed by voters. It is currently at a rate of 1.9430 and is used to finance specific parks and recreation projects or for operation of recreation facilities. A millage is subject to periodic renewal by a vote of the people.

BROWNFIELD CAPTURE: Through the Brownfield Redeveloping Financing Act, Brownfield Tax Increment Financing (TIF) allows developers to receive tax revenue from the incremental increase in taxable value resulting from redevelopment. A portion of this capture can be set aside to invest in parks. The City's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is not currently active; however, reactivating the Authority could be a financial asset to the City when adding more parks and/or funding additional park projects. There are also additional funding sources for remediating brownfields to create parks.

FEES: Fees charged by the community to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. The City uses these fees to support 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.

WAYNE COUNTY: Partnership and collaboration with the County has allowed for the County budget and additional funds to be invested in Inkster recreation facilities.

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.

Potential Grants

Following is a summary of the three most well-known recreation grant programs now available to Inkster 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):

Administered eligible projects include community recreation and trailway 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.

Potential Bond Options:

BOND PROGRAMS: A number of bond programs could be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. There are advantages to investing in parks up front and paying it off over-time:

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.

ANNUAL AND PROJECTED BUDGETS FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Table 9. Parks and Recreation Budget for 2022-2023 Budget

PARKS AND RECREATION FUND REVENUE SOURCES:	
Property Taxes (General Budget)	\$447,000
Property Taxes (City Department...)	\$
Intergovernmental Transfers in the General Fund	\$65,190
Brownfield Capture	\$1,590
TIFA Capture	\$37,000
Wayne County Delinquent	\$27,400
Local Community Stabilization	\$2,000
Parks and Recreation Department Revenues:	\$94,000
Recreation Membership Fees, Court Rentals, Registration Fees, Building Rental, and Miscellaneous Fees	\$57,000
Donations	
Refunds & Rebates	\$12,000
Total Revenues	\$538,000
EXPENDITURES	
Dept. Public Service Maintenance	(\$30,000)
Parks and Recreation Department Operations (Salaries including overtime, Social Security, Health Insurance, Office Supplies, Utilities, etc.	(\$268,000)
Building Maintenance (Dozier Rec Center)	(\$40,000) YTD: (\$52,671), Projected End-of-Year Expenses (\$85,564).
Capital Improvements	(\$15,000)
Equipment	(\$2,500)
Equipment Maintenance	(\$40,000)
Total Expenditures for Department	(\$327,000)
Additional Dept paid out of P&R Fund	
Summerfest	(\$12,750)
Senior Citizen Activities	(\$3,000)
Administrative Services	(\$30,000)
Transfer out to Commission on Aging	(\$100,000)
Total Expenditures for Fund	(\$490,000)
Net of Revenues & Expenditures	\$48,000

Table 10. Status report for all grant-assisted parks and recreation facilities

AMOUNT	RECIPIENT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Wayne County Community Block Grant			
\$800,000	Dozier Recreation Center	This grant funds improvements to bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, lobby area, main hallway for gymnasium .	In Progress. Further improvements to Dozier needed, such as new roof, carpet/flooring, blinds, pool, kitchen, sound system, and banquet facilities. Pool drained and inactive.
Wayne County Mental Health Grant			
\$25,000	Parks and Rec Department	This allows the Department to hire high school aged students for summer positions. The positions lasts for 6-8 weeks and helps with a variety of work within the Department.	Continual. (Ranges from \$20,000-30,000 annually)
Senior Commission on Aging			
\$150,000	Dozier Recreation Center - Senior Wellness Area	This grant funds programming for seniors, such as sewing, painting, card games, etc.	In Progress. Partially Used – \$38,000 used for new digital marquee sign to communicate activities.
Federal Appropriation Funds			
\$2.5 million	Senior Wellness Center	Funds will be create a Senior Wellness Center adjacent to the Dozier Recreation Center. This 10,000 sq. ft. facility will include a 5,000 sq. ft. open space and welcome center, 1,000 kitchen, and additional space for senior dedicated restrooms, dedicated lounge and facilities lounge, arts and craft room, banquet facility, garden. Beaumont will offer nutrition services on site.	Pending. This covers 78% of the overall cost of the project (\$3.2 million). Seeking the remaining funds from Wayne County.
Department of Natural Resources Budget Appropriations			
\$150,000	Downtown Park	Created a Pavilion and open air park.	Completed. Received the grant in 2017, completed the pavilion in 2022.
State of Michigan Budget Appropriations allocated by the State Senate			
\$1.2 million	Renovate library and welcome center	We will have new cultural arts museum and outdoor amphitheater with help from the National League Cities for historical preservation.	Pending.
\$750,000	Sidewalk Improvements	The funds will be used to repair sidewalks throughout the City. Sidewalks along and leading to parks will be considered. Additional funding may be needed.	Pending.
Confluence Program			
\$650,000	Lower Rouge Greenway: Active, non-motorized greenway path along the Rouge River	Pedestrian and bike path that runs through the Lower Rouge Parkway, which include the Inkster Park, Colonial Park, and further along the river to the wetlands. The completed project will be a 4.5 mile trail that connects the parks along the Rouge River, allows for interaction with the river and wetlands, and connects people to the Dozier Center, the Golf Course, neighborhoods, and main corridors.	Completed. Received the funds in 2010.

AMOUNT	RECIPIENT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Confluence Program			
\$2.563 million	Lower Rouge Greenway Phase III	<p>Needs additional funding to extend the pedestrian and bike path through the Wetlands, the Golf Course, and a connection to Middlebelt Road, just south of the Dozier Recreation Center/Middlebelt Road.</p> <p>The ability to bring trail users to the river and wetland water feature will further enhance the opportunities for outdoor field trips and nature-based education for local school children and interested nature lovers. A natural interpretive exhibit will explain the function of the wetland as well as identify much of the native wildlife including: frogs, fish, deer, waterfowl, and butterflies. In defined wetland or other low elevation areas, a wooden boardwalk (featuring helical piers) is proposed to be constructed to minimize impacts to the surrounding wetlands and blend in with the natural environment.</p> <p>2020 Cost estimates from Giffels Webster includes \$33,250 for soil erosion and sedimentation control, \$40,960 is stormwater drainage, \$1,142,118 for the asphalt trail, tree clearing and replacement, retaining walls and protective barriers along the trail, as well as \$292,670 for the Greenway Boardwalk.</p>	<p>Pending.</p> <p>Pathway maintenance not included in the cost estimate.</p>
Friends of the Rouge (FOTR)			
Funded by FOTR as part of their GO Budget	River Restoration	Friends of the Rouge dedicated time and money to clean up the river and add plant life.	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Four phases completed 2014.</p> <p>Additional funds of \$10,000 needed to dredge river to make it wider to improve water flow.</p>
National Fitness Campaign in partnership with Priority Health			
\$50,000	Outdoor Fitness Facility	The outdoor fitness facility offers an opportunity to increase one's physical fitness while being outside. It is ideal to complement a walking trail or Greenway to offer variety to outdoor exercise. This equipment, first of its kind for the City, will likely be installed adjacent to the Dozier Recreation Center or at a Community Park. The City is pursuing additional funding to install more outdoor fitness equipment in other City parks.	Pending.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES INVOLVED IN RECREATION

Schools

The Inkster Public School District was dissolved in 2013 by the State of Michigan. The students as well as the school property were absorbed into the four surrounding school districts of Taylor, Wayne-Westland, Dearborn Heights, and Romulus. Most of the property went to the Romulus School District. However, there are still former school parks and outdoor recreation left unattended or under-invested. In many cities, elementary school offer additional park and recreation amenities for nearby households when school is not in session. Dissolving the Inkster Public Schools has created further gaps in recreational opportunities for young children and families.

Given that 24.3% of the population of Inkster is school-aged (5-19 years old) it is important for the Parks and Recreation Department to address the resulting fewer recreation option since 2013. Using shuttered elementary schools as additional recreation options was part of the 2009 Inkster Parks and Rec Master Plan.

Charter and private schools exist in the City as well. These include American International Academy, Inkster Preparatory Schools, and Peterson Academy. The City, including the Recreation Department and Commission have relationships with this Institution; however they would like to deepen the relationship to co-host events and create further unity within the City.

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR)

Friends of the Rouge was incorporated to restore, protect, and enhance the Rouge River watershed through stewardship, education, and collaboration. The Organization's principal services include: Monitoring, Education, Restoration, and Recreation. The Organization's principal revenue sources include grants as well as contributions from metropolitan Detroit companies, communities, other corporations, and individuals.

FOTR has partnered with the City for many years to help restore and maintain the Rouge River, as well as host programming to allow residents the opportunity to learn about the river, the restoration work, and enjoy all the river and the beauty of the area has to offer.

They host various recreational programming opportunities in Inkster and the surrounding areas, such as STREAM Girls: FOTR began this day-long program in 2021 in partnership with Trout Unlimited and Camp Inspire in Inkster to engage middle school girls in hands-on science along the river. Trout Unlimited teaches stream surveying, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, fly casting, fly tying, and fish seining. The event takes place at Inkster Park along the Lower Rouge. FOTR continues to work with the City to apply for funding to support the trailhead and continual work to restore and tend to the Rouge River.

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan

The National Kidney Foundation has assisted with the Lower Rouge River Greenway that, once completed, will bisect the community and connect with six neighboring municipalities. They also work with the Friends of the Rouge to establish universally accessible kayak launches in Inkster as part of the Lower Rouge River Water Trail. They have also contributed to efforts to establish a Farmers Market, which has been on Wednesdays from May-October for the past two years. Additionally, NKFM has provided Enhance Fitness classes at Dozier Recreation Center for many years and have recently resumed programs. Their health programming emphasizes physical activity--such as PATH, the Diabetes Prevention Program, and nutrition education linked with physical activity--for Inkster residents. Many of their efforts involve collaboration with the Inkster Task Force.

Hearts that Care

This non-profit organization, led by Commissioner Ray Brown, sponsors a basketball league, called the Greene League. This league is free of charge for participants and offers an opportunity to mentor the youth while providing a chance to exercise and youth across the City to connect.



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07. THE PLANNING PROCESS

The City of Inkster's 2023-2027, Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared with the assistance of McKenna, a planning and design consulting firm. A key component of the development of the plan was the input of the City Administration, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the Citizen Input Committee. As a result, recommendations are made for the implementation plan that reflect the needs of the community that utilizes parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities.

The planning process included six (6) key tasks:

1

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTEXT

In order to develop the plan, the first step was to meet with the City leadership and discuss aspects of the City's physical and social environment. Furthermore, it was essential to understand the administrative structure of parks and recreation services. Additionally, the analysis included a review of the City's grant history and current and projected revenue and expenditures.

As a result of these discussions, further analysis of the City's land use and location of natural features was undertaken, along with a demographic profile of the community, including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, and types of households.

2

PARKS, RECREATION, AND FACILITIES INVENTORY

Through site visits, mapping, and written analysis, the full inventory of the City's parks and recreation facilities was completed. Among the information included are park acreage, barrier-free accessibility, recreation amenities, equipment, and other physical attributes.

3

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A survey was conducted online to elicit comments from the public regarding their specific parks and recreation needs. The survey was available for three weeks and was promoted online and in recreation facilities.

4

ANALYSIS

Informed by the data collected through the conversations with City Officials, our field analysis, and the results from the online survey, an analysis was performed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, and potential funding sources.

5

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A detailed implementation plan was developed based on the completion of the above analysis. This plan offers recommendations on what projects should be prioritized and be accomplished within the next five years. Additionally, long-range, community-wide objectives are also identified.

6

PLAN COMPLETION AND ADOPTION

The Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan was made available for comment for over 30 days. Inkster residents were encouraged to review the Plan and provide comments through the City's website, social media, and a public notice in the Telegram, the local newspaper. Residents were able to physically review the plan at the:

- » Leanna Hicks Public Library – Reference Desk
- » Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center – Lobby
- » City Hall – Clerk's Office

Comments received were incorporated into the final draft of the plan that was then distributed for review in preparation of adoption. The agencies that reviewed the plan to ensure consistence with both regional and state-wide planning programs included:

- » Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- » Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- » Wayne County Planning Commission

On January 2, 2022, the City of Inkster then held a public hearing at the City Council meeting. The public hearing was advertised and posted in accordance with Michigan law. This was and additional opportunity for residents to voice any opinions about the plan.

At the City Council meeting held on January 2, 2022, a request for action was made for the resolution submitted to approve and adopt the City of Inkster's 2023-2028, Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. A copy of the resolution was certified by the City Clerk and transmitted to MDNR, SEMCOG, and the Wayne County Planning Commission.



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08. PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Public input is a critical component for Parks and Recreation plans and is required through MDNR standards. An online survey, several public board meetings, and the state-mandated public review period and public hearing were all conducted to solicit community input.

SURVEY

Purpose

A public opinion (perceptive) survey was available for four weeks from October 14 through November 9. The survey was available in both online and hard copy. The online survey received 21 responses, while 5 hard copy responses were received. Though less robust participation than anticipated, the feedback received was thorough and has informed the creation of this Plan.

Outreach

A digital and hard copy flier were distributed through numerous channels including:

- » Organization-wide emails advertising the survey and encouraging wider distribution.
- » Targeted emails to specific public bodies and stakeholders.
- » Postings on the City website and social media channels.
- » Postings in City Hall.

Responses / Analysis

Selected responses have been compiled for analysis – a full copy of the results is available in the Appendix.

When asked which city-owned facility do people most frequently visit, Dozier Recreation Center, Colonial Park, and Inkster Park were shown to be the most popular.

Bel Aire Park	0%	0
Brookside Park	16%	4
Colonial Park	36%	9
Dartmouth Square Playground	8%	2
Demby Park	12%	3
Inkster City Park	36%	9
Inkster C.S.O. Basin	4%	1
Inkster Nature Trail	20%	5
Inkster Park Greenway (Bike Trail)	16%	4
Kennedy Park	0%	0
King Memorial Park	4%	1
Lemoyne Park	24%	6
Manor Park	4%	1
Moore Tot Lot	4%	1
Parkwood Park	8%	2
Wellington Park	4%	1
Westwood Park	20%	5
Wheatley (Oakgrove) Park	32%	8
Dozier Recreation Center	48%	12
Inkster Valley Golf Course	16%	4
Lower River Rouge Parkway	20%	5
I do not visit parks and recreation facilities	12%	3
	Answered	25

When asked which activities respondents or their family participate in, walking, cycling, and cultural events were the most popular activities.

None of the above	5%	1
Organized team sports	18%	4
Walking	82%	19
Cycling	45%	11
Other types of Exercise / Fitness / Casual sports	36%	8
Cultural events	44%	11
Classes / Enrichment programs	32%	7
Children's play	41%	9
Nature study / Gardening	41%	10
Hiking / Camping	18%	5
Boating / Fishing	5%	2
	Answered	23

When asked to rate different elements of parks and recreation facilities, most respondents gave a 'Neutral' rating, while two elements received 'Bad' ratings.

ELEMENTS:	POOR CONDITION		BAD CONDITION		NEUTRAL		GOOD CONDITION		EXCELLENT CONDITION	
Overall existing outdoor facilities	0%	0	45%	10	32%	7	23%	5	5%	1
Overall indoor facilities	5%	1	14%	3	59%	13	23%	5	5%	1
Variety of parks and recreation facilities	9%	2	23%	5	36%	8	32%	7	5%	1
Maintenance of parks and recreation facilities	9%	2	27%	6	41%	9	23%	5	5%	1
Availability of public spaces where people want to spend time and feel safe	5%	1	48%	10	29%	6	19%	4	10%	2
Availability of walking paths (including sidewalks)	9%	2	17%	4	39%	9	35%	8	0%	0
Availability of bike facilities and paths	4%	1	17%	4	52%	12	26%	6	0%	0

When asked to identify reasons respondents or their family members did not frequent parks or facilities, maintenance, lack of programming and equipment, insufficient security, and low quality programming were identified. Those that chose 'Other' as their reason focused on marketing and general lack awareness of programs offered.

FACILITIES RESPONDENTS USE:	% THAT USE:	#
None of the above	33%	8
I use private facilities and programs	10%	2
Facilities are not well maintained	33%	7
Program or facility not offered	29%	6
Facilities do not have the right equipment	24%	5
Security is insufficient	24%	5
Quality of programs is poor	24%	5
Too far from residence	0%	0
Fees are too high	0%	0
Participate in programs provided by other communities or organizations	0%	0
Poor customer service by staff	0%	0
I do not know the location of parks and facilities	10%	2
Availability of parking	0%	0
Registration for programs is too difficult	0%	0
Program times are not convenient	0%	0
Facilities are too hard to reach, poor access	10%	2
Other (please specify)		9

Respondents identified new or enhanced opportunities they would like to see in their community, with adult fitness, arts and crafts, at-risk youth, and swimming programs being the most popular.

OPPORTUNITIES RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDED:	% THAT AGREE	#
Adult Fitness and Wellness	32%	8
Arts and Crafts	36%	9
Programs for At-Risk Youths	40%	10
Baseball / softball	12%	3
Basketball	8%	2
Bicycling - Street Programs	12%	3
Bike Rental	20%	5
Cultural / Historical Programs	20%	5
Dance	8%	2
Disc Golf	4%	1
Dog Park (off leash)	12%	3
Hiking / Walking Trails	4%	1
Hockey	4%	1
Jazzercise / Zumba	12%	3
Martial Arts / Self-Defence	8%	2
Nature Education Programs	4%	1
Pickleball	0%	0
Playgrounds	12%	3
Programs for People with Disabilities	12%	3
Senior Fitness and Wellness	8%	2
Skateboard / Bike Park	4%	1
Sledding	0%	0
Soccer	0%	0
Special Events / Festivals	8%	2
Swimming	32%	8
Tennis	8%	2
Volleyball	4%	1
Youth Fitness / Wellness	16%	4
Youth/Teen Summer Camps	12%	3
Restrooms	4%	1
Community Gardens	16%	4
Natural Resource Management	4%	1
Golf Course	4%	1
Ice Arena	20%	5

Most facilities and programs were identified of falling short of community needs.

FACILITY	FALLS SHORT		MEETS NEEDS		EXCEEDS NEEDS	
Park Land	50%	12	29%	7	4%	1
Athletic Fields	54%	13	21%	5	0%	0
Playgrounds	63%	15	29%	7	0%	0
Ice Arena (indoor)	50%	12	4%	1	0%	0
Golf Courses	17%	4	46%	11	0%	0
Performing Arts Space	58%	14	17%	4	0%	0
Walking or Biking Trails	46%	11	38%	9	4%	1
Tennis Courts	50%	12	17%	4	0%	0
Lighting	63%	15	8%	2	0%	0
WIFI Connections	42%	10	21%	5	0%	0
Summer programs	58%	14	13%	3	4%	1
Community special events and festivals	46%	11	46%	11	0%	0
Senior adult health, fitness, social programs	30%	7	26%	6	9%	2
Youth and adult sports programs	67%	16	8%	2	0%	0
Family programs and activities	63%	15	17%	4	0%	0
Teen and after school programs	57%	13	4%	1	0%	0
Art, music, concerts, theater, dance	67%	16	8%	2	0%	0
Programs for people with disabilities	63%	15	4%	1	0%	0
Wellness and fitness programs	63%	15	4%	1	0%	0
Environmental/nature education programs	63%	15	4%	1	0%	0
Multi-cultural programs and offerings	58%	14	8%	2	0%	0

PUBLIC MEETINGS (PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD)

Purpose

Consultants met with the Parks and Recreation Commissioners, the Parks and Recreation Director on October 13 and October 20. To discuss the past parks and recreation plan, current initiative and struggles to maintain the parks, as well as the aspirations that Commissioners, residents, and City Administration had for the parks. City-wide to park specific information was discussed. There was an in-person and online meeting, each Commissioner was present to at least one of the meetings. Additional input from the Commissioners was received through email.

Outreach

The first meeting took place during the regularly scheduled Commission meeting. The following meeting took place online. For both meetings, pre- and post-meeting communication occurred over email.

Feedback (complete results in Appendix)

Feedback from the Commissioners was included throughout the Plan. A complete summary of their feedback is in the Appendix; however, the main points of feedback included to:

- » Restore the state of city-owned parks by replacing playground equipment and/or repaving court, drawing lines for baseball and soccer fields, adding volleyball nets.
- » Need greater variety in recreational and fitness activities in parks
- » Add security improvements
- » Increase landscaping varieties within parks, such as botanical garden, butterfly gardens, that provide places for residents to meander, sit, and relax
- » Add more trees for shade
- » Address the water drainage issues in parks
- » Acquire additional funding to supplement the operating budget
- » Make Park entry points clear
- » Expand programming to include outdoor fitness classes, food truck rallies, and live-music events

Public Review Period

- » **Purpose / Dates**
- » The public review period began December 1 and lasted through December 30. The purpose of this public review session is for members of the public and stakeholders to review the drafted 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Plan and share any comments or concerns with the information included and action plan proposed.
- »
- » **Outreach Techniques**
- » The announcement for the public review period of the drafted Plan was posted in print in the Telegram Newspaper, on a flyer posted in the Lobby of City Hall, and online on the City of Inkster Parks and Recreation Department webpage, the Parks and Recreation Commission webpage, and the Planning Department webpage. A link to a digital copy was made available online on all three pages. A physical copy of the drafted plan was available to review at City Hall.
- » **Feedback (complete results in Appendix)**

Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption

- » **Purpose / Dates**
- » **Outreach Techniques**
- » **Feedback (complete results in Appendix)**

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The background image shows a park scene with a chain-link fence in the foreground, a grassy field, and trees in the background. A solid blue rectangle is positioned to the left of the text.

09. ACTION PLAN

The following table summarizes the actions that the City and its partners should take during the next five years and beyond to address the park and recreational needs in the community, enhance residents' experience and quality of life, and manage the natural resources within the City. These activities are consistent with the public input received, the vision of City Administration and the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Goals and Objectives laid out in Section 2 of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Table 11. Action Plan Summary

1. EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS			
Goal 1.1 Enhance existing parks by improving the quality of amenities on site and/or adding features necessary for the enjoyment of our residents and increased use of the parks.			
Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
1.1.A Update Playscapes to be safe, usable, accessible, and family friendly.	Make minor repairs to playscapes in otherwise good condition.	Repairs: Bel Aire Park; bench at Parkwood Park	High
	Provide shade over metal slides or replace them with slides of a different material that don't get too hot in the sun.	Demby Park; Lemoyne Park; Manor Park; Wellington Park; Wheatley Park	High
	Remove playscapes beyond the state of repair. Replace these structures if the budget allows and based on grants received.	Remove: Manor Park; Moore Tot Lot; behind Dozier Recreation Center	Medium
	Provide shade at or adjacent to playscapes at seating area to protect children and their caregivers sitting next to the playscape from the sun.	All parks (except Colonial Park).	High
	Prioritize the installation of modular playscapes and/or swings at Pocket Parks in poor condition.	Manor, Moore Tot Lot	High
1.1.B Add features, such as trash bins, bathrooms, and electricity to increase usability, cleanliness, and safety of parks.	Add outdoor sport equipment (Volleyball nets, soccer lines and/or nets, football goal posts, baseball/softball lines).	Bel-Air (volleyball net), Kennedy (soccer, football and/or basketball)	Medium
	Add proper trash/recycling bins.		High
	Add restrooms / drinking fountains.	These are present at the large parks. Add to Neighborhood and Community Parks where currently missing. .	Medium
	Add electricity ports to picnic areas / pavilions.	Include electricity as new pavilions are installed. Add to current or anticipated high traffic parks, such as Inkster Park, Westwood, Lemoyne, and Downtown Park. This electricity could be generated by small solar roof panels.	Medium
	Add Storage Facilities		Medium
	Add new signage with park name and hours of operation, as well as rules and regulations, where applicable, to promote safety and shared understanding of park usage.	Manor Park; Parkwood Park; Kennedy Park; etc.	Medium
1.1.C Offer a variety of recreational activities at parks to cater to all ages through the type of equipment provided.	Add a network of outdoor exercise equipment.	(List from Mayor's Office).	High
	Add an off-leash dog park.	Westwood, Kennedy, or Downtown Park	Medium

Goal 1.2 Seek out public-private partnerships for recreation improvements and place-making opportunities.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
1.2.A Expand the Adopt-a-Park program to local/regional businesses to reactivate vacated school lots, increase the capacity of the Parks and Recreation Department, and add features to the parks.	The Recreation Department, that oversees the program, should create a criteria to clarify the responsibilities of participants and promote the program so more business adopt parks and help revamp and maintain the parks.	Criteria and promotion materials should be posted online, through the Chamber of Commerce, and additional outreach means.	High
	Encourage businesses to adopt parks of the former schools that closed since 2013 to reactivate the parks and add recreational options by reusing the vacated school grounds.	Focus efforts in the SE quadrant of Inkster: Vacated schools parks south of Michigan Ave, specifically in the areas outside of the current 10-minute park walkability zone.	High
	Establish an Adopt-a-Garden program and criteria for what is required of participants. This program is ideal for organizations or businesses seeking smaller commitments/contributions while still participating and increasing the variety of park features.	Mini-Parks, Neighborhood, and Community Parks with space for gardens.	Medium

2. SAFETY/SECURITY

The following goals, objectives, and actions are based on the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to reduce the incidence and fear of crime. The four principles are 1) Natural Surveillance, 2) Natural Access Control, 3) Territorial Reinforcement, 4) Maintenance.

Goal 2.1 Utilize CPTED Principles to improve the safety and feeling of security within parks to increase use and enjoyment of parks.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
2.1.A Increase visibility of parks from neighboring residential houses and the surrounding neighborhood.	Add lighting, or motion sensor lighting, to parks to help with visibility within parks after dusk.	All.	Medium
	Remove shrubs that block the view inside to the park from outside the parameter.	Lemoyne Park	High
2.1.B Add or repair features, such as fencing, to regulate in- /out-flow of people at parks.	Repair fencing to allow access from selected access points.	Westwood	High
	Add Fencing around the perimeter to regulate access points and park boundaries.	Wheatley	Medium
	Add park entry and wayfinding signage to guide people to access points. Such signage can be on roadways for cars, or along sidewalks for pedestrians. Signage for the director on nearby parks can also help with connectivity of green spaces.	All city-owned parks.	High

Goal 2.2 Create a volunteer-based park safety watch program.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
2.2.A Create a park ranger program.	Work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to increase park oversight and help monitor the safety of parks through a volunteer program.	City-wide.	Medium

3. LANDSCAPING

Goal 3.1 Improve the landscaping of parks to offer greater visual plant variety, add shade, and add pleasant relaxing space for residents to walk through or sit and rest.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
3.1.A Increase capacity for maintenance of parks to preserve recreational uses on site.	Expand maintenance routines to include removing grass and weeds growing through the courts.	Kennedy Park; Lemoyne Park	High
	Work with community partners to organize park spring and summer clean-up days.	City-wide.	High
3.1.B Add landscaping variety, such as a variety of gardens, to parks with underutilized space. This will add unique features to the parks and offer a variety of activities in parks.	Add a botanical garden or butterfly garden to an existing park. This garden would need to include walkable paths and seating to enjoy the scenery.	Possible location: Downtown Park by the abandoned tennis court & river bed; Westwood Park, Kennedy Park; etc.	Medium
	Identify locations and sponsors (to fund, maintain, and/or recruit volunteers/ participants, could be residents or businesses, or grants) for community fruit/ vegetable gardens.	City-wide.	Medium
3.1.C Convert vacant corner lots, vacated school green spaces, and/or Mini Parks to gardens.	For Mini Parks with playscapes that need to be removed/replaced, evaluate if a garden should be installed at the Tot Lots/ Mini Park instead of playscapes. Discuss with Commissioners and neighbors.	Mini Parks	High
	Create a input form for residents to nominate existing Mini Parks, vacant school green spaces, or vacant lots to be gardens.	Make available on website and paper form at City Hall, the Dozier Rec Center, and the Library.	High
	The City should acquire property to allow for community gardens.	Locations need to be identified.	Medium
	Work with the Commissioners, community partners, and or business in the Adopt-a-Garden or Adopt-a-Park program to implement community vegetable/perennial gardens.	City-wide.	Medium
	Apply for grants to support these efforts.		High
3.1.D Add trees for shade, improved drainage, and to improve the aesthetics of parks.	Increase each park to a tree canopy coverage of at least 50%.		High
	Add trees near playscapes and next to benches at playscapes that are cemented into the ground.	Parkwood Park	High
3.1.E Address drainage issues in parks and prevent flooding or nearby properties/streets through landscaping design.	Add raingarden to improve water filtration and drainage to prevent flooding. Raingardens differ from community/ perennial gardens based on the grading, the soil, and types of plants used in creating the garden.	Westwood Park	Medium

4. ACCESS AND ATTRACTIVENESS

Goal 4.1 Increase the use and accessibility of parks.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
4.1.A Increase access to and use of Lower Rouge Parkway.	Improve signage and community maps to show entry points to Lower Rouge Parkway.	City-wide, especially along Michigan Ave and other main-road corridors.	High
	Improve the connections between the Parkway and residents in the southern portion of the city, south of Michigan Ave.	Inkster Greenway; Lower Rouge Parkway; Inkster Park.	High
4.1.B Increase access to and use of the Rouge River.	Add points of contact with the Rouge River.	Downtown Park, CSO Basin and at County-Owned Parks (Inkster and Colonial Park)	Medium
	Add seating at locations where the river is visible.	Downtown Park, Inkster Park	High
	Add a boardwalk along a portion of the river. This could be an extension of the Inkster Greenway that is for pedestrians.	Downtown Park. Or as a connection between the Inkster Park and the Downtown Park.	Medium
4.1.C Add paved access points to parks and features in parks.	Ensure each park has paved entry ways and paved paths to the playscapes, sports fields, or gardens.	City-owned parks where missing (Bel-Aire, Manor, Westwood, etc.)	High
	When adding new equipment and features, ensure there are paved walkways to the location.	Where applicable.	High
4.1.D Improve neighborhood connection and access points to the Inkster Greenway.	Connect neighborhood sidewalks to the Inkster Greenway.	Refer to Figure 2 on page 46	High
4.1.E Improve ADA Compliance for more inclusive parks.	Ensure at least 80% of all parks are ADA Compliant.	City-wide.	High
	Enhance the overall park portfolio of equipment present to cater to varying physical and mental abilities.	City-wide.	High
4.1.F Include multiple languages on park signs to alleviate language barriers.	Install multi-lingual directions on signs in parks, starting with the Community, Special Use, and Large Urban Parks.	Colonial, Westwood, Lemoyne, and Inkster Park as well as Downtown Park.	High

Goal 4.2 Increase number and the variety of events hosted in public parks.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
4.2.A Increase programming to offer events that are attractive to residents and visitors and will contribute to economic development and tourism efforts in the city, especially for businesses along Michigan Ave.	Host a/regularly scheduled food truck rally(ies).	Downtown Park.	Medium
	Create space for a Farmers Market and other such economic development opportunities adjacent to parks and/or by natural resources such as the Rouge River.	Downtown Park	Medium
	Host event(s) that celebrate the city's rich history and assets.		Medium
4.2.B Increase programming that offer fitness options in the parks.	Organize fitness/wellbeing classes in the park, such as Zumba, yoga, and other interactive activities.		High

Goal 4.3 Transform underutilized/neglected parks by adding amenities, features, or activities unique to the City that attract residents and fulfill community needs.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
	Establish creative funding structures to redevelop this park; this may include a combination of Adopt-a-Park program, grant funding, etc.		High

5. SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 5.1 Improve the green design of parks and recreational facilities through enhanced tree canopy coverage, stormwater management, renewable energy sources, and variety of native plant species, as well as trash and pollution prevention.

Objective	Action Item	Applicable Facilities	Priority
5.1.A Discourage leaving trash in parks and encourage recycling.	Ensure there are trash and recycling bins by each park entrance.		
5.1.B Prioritize solar options when adding lighting and electrical charging ports in parks.	Seeking funding and sponsorships for solar options.		
5.1.C Utilize parks or create pocket parks in neighborhoods with flooding issues to help prevent future floods and improve water drainage.	Identify neighborhoods vulnerable to floods and vacant lots in the vicinity to add water retention and filtration systems.		
5.1.D Improve tree canopy tree coverage.	Connect with regional, state, and national organizations to help with tree donations and tree plantings.		

Goal 5.2 Continue environmental stewardship of the Rouge River and natural features in the City.

5.2.A Sustain environmental stewardship of the Rouge River.	Prevent erosion of the river.		
	Maintain and clear shrubs from the river to maintain proper flow.		
5.2.B Prevent runoff and other contamination from polluting the river and other bodies of water.	Add raingarden and bioretention at runoff points where main roads cross the river to prevent pollution.	Priority locations: Inkster, Middlebelt Road	
5.2.C Add programming within the Department to educate youth about park and environmental services.	Offer educational opportunities, either to existing programming at Dozier, to a new program at Dozier, or with a partner organization, to inform youth about park/plant maintenance and native species, environmental stewardship of the Rouge River as well as offer experience tending to gardens.	Dozier Rec Center + Select Parks	



Wellington Park

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. [Table 12](#) incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities.

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Table 12. Capital Improvement Parks and Recreation Plan

FACILITY/PROGRAM	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	ESTIMATED COST	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
Bel Aire Park	Repair playscape and swings		X				\$50,000 - \$60,000	GF, G, P3
	Add park entry and MDNR Program Recognition plaque for past funding		X				\$500 - \$1,000	GF, G, P3
	Repair Volleyball Net		X				\$500 - \$1,500	GF, G, P3
	Set up Adopt-a-Park with a local business	X					N/A	P3
Brookside Park	Add pavilion with electricity port		X				\$25,000 - \$30,000	GF, G, P3 (DTE)
Colonial Park (County)	Work with the County to add Multi-lingual signs	X					\$500 - \$1,000	Work with the County
Dartmouth Square Playground	Add Lighting (solar-powered)				X		\$5,000 - \$7,000	GF, D (DTE)
	Add features for ADA Compliance				X		\$15,000 - \$20,000	GF
	Add garden						\$3,500 - \$7,500	AG, FI
Demby Park (Envision Community Building)	Add interior trees	X	X				\$5,000 - \$7,000	D (ADF)
Inkster Downtown Park	Add green stromwater management on site to prevent runoff from entering the river	X	X				\$1,500 - \$2,000	G, P3
	Add lighting		X				\$5,000 - \$7,000	GF
	Add Farmers Market					X	\$5,000	G, D, P3 (NKFA, FI)
	Add a Boardwalk along the River			X	X	X	\$150,000 - \$200,000	G, P3
Dozier Recreation Center	Install building upgrades - replacement of meeting lounge flooring, replace carpet on 2nd floor, and other miscellaneous upgrades.	X					\$60,000	G
	Replace Workout Equipment	X					\$25,000	G
	Repair Air Conditioning	X					\$100,000	G
	Replace Outdoor Playscape		X				\$30,000	GF, D
	Add MDNR Program Recognition plaque as well as multilingual signs and flyers.	X					\$1,000	GF
	Expand programming to add physical group classes (such as Zumba, yoga, etc.) at Dozier and in public parks throughout the summer	Recruit Instructors	Start Offering Classes				\$5,000	GF, G (NKFA)
Inkster C.S.O. Basin	Add raingarden to prevent runoff and/or bioretention landscaping to prevent runoff from entering the river.					X	\$1,750	G, P3, VD (FOTR)
	Update the 2016 project plan from Hubbel, Roth & Clark to repair the extensive cracking and ASR deterioration.			X			\$50,000	GF, G
	Address Structural Damage including, but not limited to, partial wall removal, install new vertical and horizontal reinforcement, replace PVC chain link fence (Cost based on estimates projected for 2018).				X		\$220,000	SRF, G
	Replace and Install ADA ramp					X	\$22,000 - \$25,000	GF
Inkster Park	Multi-lingual signs	X					\$500 - \$1,000	Work with the County
Inkster Valley Golf Course	N/A						-	
Kennedy Park	Park re-design (including bathrooms, seating, unique attraction like botanical garden, fitness/sport area, new park sign and updated MDNR Program Recognition plaque)			X			\$250,000 - \$300,000	G (Erb)
	Install pavilion with electricity port				X		\$25,000 - \$30,000	P3 (DTE)
King Memorial Park	Install garden				X		\$3,500 - \$7,500	D, P3 (AG, FI)
	Add park sign						\$500-\$1,000	GF

FUNDING SOURCE KEY:	ADF	Arbor Day Foundation	ERB	Erb Foundation	GF	General Fund	P3	Public/Private Partnership
	AG	Adopt-a-Garden	FI	Feeding Inkster	MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	SRF	State Revolving Fund Loan
	D	Donations	FOTR	Friends of the Rouge	NKFA	National Kidney Foundation of Michigan	VD	Volunteer Day
	DTE	DTE Foundation	G	Grants	NRPA	National Recreation and Parks Association		

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FACILITY/PROGRAM	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	ESTIMATED COST	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
Lemoyne Park	Install Pavilion with electricity port (powered by solar)		X				\$25,000 - \$30,000	GF, G, P3 (DTE)
	Repair the courts		X				\$3,500 - \$5,000	GF, D
	Remove shrub on perimeter to increase visibility and safety	X					N/A	D, VD
Lower Rouge Parkway	Work with the County to add new, multilingual signage and wayfinding sigs			X			\$500 - \$1,000	Work with the County
	Connect path to John Daly Road and add crosswalk to connect the Trail to Inkster Park / the start of Inkster Greenway				X	X	\$7,000 - \$9,500	GF, G, P3 (FOTR, NKFA)
Manor Park	Remove playscape	X					\$500 - \$1,000	GF
	Install new signs		X				\$500 - \$1,000	GF
Moore Tot Lot	Remove playscape	X					\$500 - \$1,000	GF
Parkwood Park	Repair 1 bench				X		\$800 - \$1,000	GF
	Plant 20 interior trees		X				\$5,000	D (ARB)
	Install sail cloth over the playscape for shade			X			\$10,000 - \$15,000	D
	Install new sign		X				\$500 - \$1,000	D
	Park re-design (increase activities on site, add potential garden, etc.)			X			\$100,000 - \$150,000	GF, G, P3
Wellington Park	Plant interior trees		X				\$5,000	D (ARB)
	Add MDNR Program Recognition plaque				X		\$500-\$1,000	G
Westwood Park	Install pavilion with electricity port (powered by renewable energy)			X			\$25,000 - \$30,000	GF, G, P3 (DTE)
	Add lighting (powered by renewable energy)			X			\$5,000 - \$7,000	GF, G, P3 (DTE)
	Add raingarden/green stormwater for improved drainage and prevent the park from flooding		X				\$1,500 - \$2,000	GF, G, P3 (FOTR)
	Plant interior trees		X				\$5,000	G, D (ARB)
	Repair the fencing				X		\$500 - \$800	GF
	Add park entry sign and wayfinding signs	X					\$1,500	GF
Wheatley/Oakgrove Park	Add fencing at the perimeter		X				\$2,000	GF
	Add park entry signs and wayfinding signs	X					\$1,000	GF
All Facilities	Add trash/recycling bins	X					\$1,500 - \$2,500	
	Add bathrooms and drinking fountains		X Apply for Grants	X Construction Begins	X Project Completed		\$150,000 - \$160,000	
	Build partnerships with organization (such as Arbor Day Foundation) to supply trees.	X					N/A	
	Plant trees through spring volunteer days and paid summer positions for high-schoolers through the Wayne County Mental Health grant.		X	X			\$2,500	
	Add outdoor fitness equipment.		X				\$30,000 - \$40,000	G
	Create Park Ranger Program.				X	X	\$50,000 - \$60,000	

FUNDING SOURCE KEY:

ADF	Arbor Day Foundation	ERB	Erb Foundation	GF	General Fund	P3	Public/Private Partnership
AG	Adopt-a-Garden	FI	Feeding Inkster	MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	SRF	State Revolving Fund Loan
D	Donations	FOTR	Friends of the Rouge	NKFA	National Kidney Foundation of Michigan	VD	Volunteer Day
DTE	DTE Foundation	G	Grants	NRPA	National Recreation and Parks Association		

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