



Image Source: OaklandCountyLakesMI.org

Chapter 1: Executive Summary

The 2021 - 2025 City of Berkley Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for parks and recreation in the City. The Plan builds off of the 2016 - 2020 document. Berkley officials used the planning process to re-evaluate the recreation needs of City residents, reaching out to a variety of stakeholders and offering multiple forms of public input platforms to obtain resident input. Officials also reviewed updated demographic data to help inform their decisions.

The purpose of this Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of Berkley over the next five-year period, to December 2025. Once adopted, the Plan is the official document to be used by the community to guide decisions regarding parks and recreation. This Plan is also intended to meet the State's standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

Key Plan Findings

Berkley's recreation properties are cherished amenities in the community, and residents indicated that continued maintenance and management of existing facilities and programming is a priority. Most of the desired improvements were relatively low-scale changes, with new play equipment, improved seating and picnic facilities, and more shade and trees being typical responses.

The major exception to the rule involves the Berkley Community Center. According to data collected for this plan, there is a clear desire to see a new community center built in the community. What is unclear is exactly what form that new center might take. Most residents are willing to fund a bond to construct a center, but they will not support a millage without clear and concrete plans for both the scope of the project and a definitive ongoing maintenance plan.

The community also expressed a desire to see expanded trails or other forms of non-motorized facilities throughout the park system and beyond.

A complete summary of community needs, survey data, and meeting responses can be found beginning on page 18.

What The Plan Contains

The City of Berkley Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans (IC 1924, revised 11-20-2018).

- The plan begins with this Executive Summary and a description of the processes used to prepare the plan.
- Goals & Objectives were obtained by compiling input from community members, staff, and City officials. They provide a broad set of values which drive recreation development in the City;
- The action program then provides steps and strategies for implementing the Plan.
- The public participation portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents of Berkley, which helped the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board formulate the Plan's goals and objectives.
- A detailed recreation inventory describes the existing parkland and recreational facilities of the community as well as those of the region and state.
- A description of the community's administrative structure follows, including information on funding and budgets.
- The Plan then presents a community description, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community.
- Finally, the appendices include supporting materials, such as a copy of the public input survey, and resolutions and notices that document the Plan's adoption by the City Council.

Planning Process

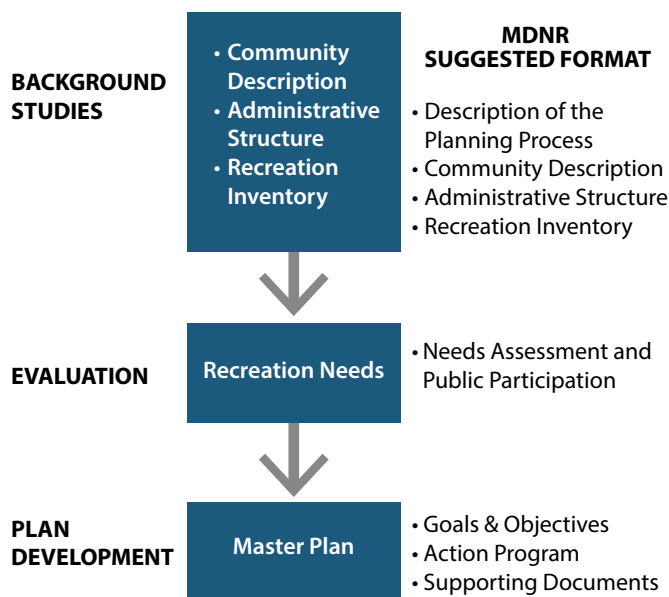
The process used to draft the Plan consists of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development. Each is described more fully below:

Background Studies. This phase involved gathering and updating data from the U.S. Census, existing documents and plans, and from field observations. The data is organized into two main categories: *community description* and *recreation inventory*.

Evaluation. The second phase in the planning process evaluated and analyzed the data compiled to determine recreation facility deficiencies and needs. Public input to assess recreational needs was also sought at this level. A written survey and a public hearing were conducted to receive residents' opinions and ideas for the park and recreation system. Input from City officials and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board were also used.

Plan Development. The last phase in the process involves Plan development and adoption. Based on the deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed. Strategies to implement the Plan were also discussed.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier:



This Plan was developed with input from local officials, staff, and residents. An online survey was made available to gather input on needed improvements to the community's recreation facilities and programming. The survey was also available in hard copy form by request. Six virtual meetings were held with a variety of stakeholders including sports groups, seniors, and park staff. Input from local officials and the members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board were also used.

The Plan was recommended for adoption at the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's meeting on November 12, 2020. The Plan was then adopted by the City Council on December 21, 2020, following a public hearing. The Master Plan was available for public review and comment electronically via the city website and by request in hard copy at the Community Center and City Hall for one month prior to the public hearing.

Table 1. Input Participation

Participants	Rec. Inventory, Resource Inventory, & Community Description	Public Input	Goal Formulation	Action Program	Public Hearing	Plan Adoption
City Council		√			√	√
City Planning Commission		√			√	
Park & Recreation Board	√	√	√	√	√	
City Residents		√	√		√	