

Analysis of Land use Master Plans and Parks and Recreation Master Plans for Troy's Neighboring Communities.

All cities/townships/villages have a City Master Land Use Master Plan and a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

SUMMARY

While the definition of Parks is reasonably clear, the terms green space and open space have loose and flexible definitions. RO includes the cemetery and the "urban forest" and Clawson includes the green infrastructure like green roofs and building plantings. Rochester and Rochester Hills emphasize trails and History. Bloomfield Hills and Beverly Hills emphasize the green neighborhoods and all of the parks in the neighboring communities. Sterling Heights wants better non-motorized transportation. Most communities list schools and churches among their green spaces.

From the Rochester Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan pg 16 is the over broad statement: Green space millage funds are used to "permanently preserve natural green spaces, wildlife habitats and scenic views; protect woodlands, wetlands, rivers and streams; and expand the Clinton River Greenway and other trail corridors."

While green and open spaces can be considered separately from Parks and especially from recreational activities it is clear that the overlap is complicated. While most recreation is planned at parks, walking and biking is often done through green and open spaces (any area where there is a path) and on tree lined streets.

Most communities had a list of all parks and recreation sites and the community added schools and private and quasi-private areas such as cemeteries and churches to that list.

If the communities have a downtown area, town center, etc they describe plans or desires to make it walk-able, bike-able and "Green". Green may mean trees and plants between the businesses and the street, urban forest, green buildings etc.

All communities want to maintain or build on their downtown/community center area. If they have a clear downtown area like Royal Oak, Clawson or Rochester the plan proposes ways of preserving and enhancing that area. If there is a less clear community center area the Master Plans will suggest ways to build up areas that take on that role.

Green Space, defined by most of the documents, is often tied with a desire to make the city and especially the downtown friendly to walking or biking or "non-motorized transportation".

Many of the communities have done surveys asking about the present parks and green spaces and what the citizens would like to see. The most common conclusions were: improve and upgrade the present parks and improve the looks and walk ability of downtown/meeting areas, but acquiring more parks/land is not necessary.

Preserving parks, green and open space requires coordination and cooperation with all public, civic and private entities in the greater metro area. Many communities list parks and natural sites in adjoining communities. A 30 mile radius was used to make the parks and natural features list in one Master Plan.

Most documents refer to unique character, sense of place, place-making framework or other terms to describe special features in their city and their desire to preserve and enhance that.

Green definitions and demographics are mentioned as necessary and desirable for obtaining grants and most communities have received grants to install or improve parks or "green spaces".

The following communities' Master Plans were checked: Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bloomfield Township, Clawson, Royal Oak, Rochester Hills, Rochester, Shelby Charter Township, Sterling Heights, and Warren.

Rochester Hills calls it Natural Features.

Royal Oak calls it sustainable design and maintaining an "Urban Forest".

Clawson refers to "environmental sustainability and green infrastructure".

Village of Beverly Hills adds a "Natural Beauty Road" and houses of worship to its list.

Bloomfield Hills states that it is also renowned for its natural features, the rolling hills, streams, woodlots, and majestic tree-lined streets which contribute to the City's character.

Rochester Hills boasts a community which is active, accessible and pedestrian-friendly. It is well-maintained, with natural features, and many recreation and entertainment possibilities.

Rochester was more interested in preserving the history and character of the city and thus modest or intense greenbelts of landscaping were stressed rather than green spaces.

Shelby Township wants to insure "complete streets" so that walkers and bikes have sidewalks everywhere.

Sterling Heights indicates that it is challenged by a lack of a cohesive pattern of pedestrian and non-motorized accommodations and lays out a vision of locating pedestrian-oriented nodes within the existing framework of the City. Although Sterling Heights mentions green spaces and has a section on "Natural System Assessment" it is more for reference and not directly part of the action plan.

In the end, examining all of the Master Plans did not supply us with a good definition of "green spaces" or even "open spaces". In the future it might be wise to use more precise terms in official documents and leave the terms "green space" and "open space" to the colloquial writing.

Auburn Hills Master Land Use Plan 2008

ENVIRONMENTALLY PROGRESSIVE: In recent years, environmental sustainability, ground water quality, land stewardship and the aesthetic appearance of our community have been hallmarks of Auburn Hills' planning consciousness. Park-like roadways lined with trees, walking and bike paths linking the community and numerous parks are all evidence of the City's harmonious integration of planned development and natural resources. Auburn Hills has one of the strongest tree preservation policies in Michigan and actively encourages developers to utilize LEED™ Green Building practices, when feasible. The community has a long-term, strategic plan for a "River Walk" along the Clinton River that will link two major parks and enhance its downtown area as a destination for outdoor recreation. The Civic Center Campus (which includes the City's Administrative Offices, Public Safety Building, Community Center, and Library) is architecturally consistent with its original historic buildings and signals the community's interest in aesthetic appearance.[2008Master Plan]

2008 Master plan: 6% Recreational, 16% Vacant

Village of Beverly Hills Master Plan 2016

[pg 16]Natural Beauty Road: Although Evergreen Road is an arterial road, the curvilinear stretch between Beverly Road and Riverside Drive has picturesque features to protect this natural character. The Village designated the portion of Evergreen Road between Beverly Road and Riverside Drive as a Natural Beauty Road in 1984.

- Tree Maintenance: The village is graced with many large, beautiful trees.

[p18] Public 8.6%, Quasi public [houses of worship, private schools, cemeteries] 4.9%

[p34] Recommendations in this plan are to reconstruct streets to fit the context of the adjacent land uses – safe for motorists, but including streetscape and design details catering to the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists where appropriate.

[P36] Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability [p37] Low Impact development

[P44] Adopt a woodland ordinance to a) preserve landmark trees, b) require new development to replace or preserve trees, and/or c) establish a permitting process for tree removal.

[P46] Adopt a coordinated village-wide sustainability policy.

BEVERLY HILLS TOWN CENTER - CONCEPT PLAN + DESIGN GUIDELINES

[Appendix pg 2] To promote the development of the Village's unique character while enhancing its economic base by assisting in the retention and expansion of community valued businesses and encouraging new business to locate in Beverly Hills. Coordinating resources to create a "sense of place," expand the tax base for the economic benefit of the community, and elevate the quality of life of each of our citizens.

[Appendix p15] LANDSCAPING

Landscaping within pedways and sites act as both aesthetic and functional elements by improving the appearance of the street, providing shade, softening and defining the street wall and the pedway, calming

vehicle traffic, softening the mass of buildings, reducing the heat island effect and managing stormwater. Landscaping should be carefully selected and located so that it does not interfere with commercial activity, pedestrian movement, etc. and/ or create issues with maintenance. Landscaping guidelines are as follows:

Village of Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan 2018-2023

[P6] The Village of Beverly Hills is unique in that a majority of the tax funding is supported by village residents. The community has no industrial zoning and minimal commercial zoning limiting the business tax base.

[P7] Beverly Hills has received two grants through the DNR for recreation... The Village has partnered with other municipalities to receive grant funding for improvements at Riverside Park and the Rouge River corridor. Grants from the DTE Energy Foundation, have been received. Administration actively seeks grant opportunities to assist in funding improvements to the recreation system.

[P8] The Village manages 70.4 acres of open space; 37.4 acres are classified as park land utilizing both active and passive recreation. 33 acres are classified as conservancy and were deeded to the Village with use restrictions; therefore these spaces have limited recreational opportunities but serve as valuable nature preserves in an urban area.

[P12] In October 2017, Shawn Duke with Cardno, a professional infrastructure and environmental services company located in West Olive, Michigan, conducted a survey and determined that the majority of plant material in the wooded area is actually buckthorn, an invasive species.

[P25] resident input: 1. Improve recreational facilities to encompass system wide recreation welcoming all residents to encourage healthy and active lifestyles. 2. Enhance biodiversity, protect wildlife and improve water quality of natural areas. 3. Use existing community resources efficiently and demonstrate fiscal responsibility

City of Birmingham 2018 Parks & Recreation Master Plan DRAFT · February 1, 2018

[P65] Approximately 315 acres of parks and facilities exist within Birmingham, with 231 acres owned by the City and managed by the Department of Public Services. The Birmingham Public Schools own the remaining 84 acres. Mini Parks 5.44 Neighborhood Parks 79.02 Community Parks 230.67 Total 315.13

[P65] Although it is important to consider the overall amount of park land in the City, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the City. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents in the City live and if the residents are within walking distance to a park, recreation, or school facility. The distance of 0.25 miles is often used as an established standard of how far people would be willing to walk to a park or recreation facility.

[P74] **COMMUNITY VALUES**

The community values that were brought forward during the community input process of the planning process included:

- **Natural Area Stewardship:** We value the efficient and effective management of our assets and stewardship of our parks and open space, to sustain them for future generations.
- **Inclusive Community:** We value creating, enhancing, expanding and promoting opportunities for all members of our community to participate in the enjoyment of parks and recreation services.
- **Health and Fitness:** We value the health and well-being of our residents and the benefits that parks, recreation, and open space offer.
- **Connectivity:** We value an interconnected parks and facilities network that provides access to the parks system across the City of Birmingham.
- **Customer Service:** We value our current parks and recreation system and take pride in managing and maintaining world class parks and facilities.

[P77] action plan Birmingham has an active resident base that includes runners, cyclists, soccer players, walkers, skaters, hockey players, golfers, etc. The health of the aging population will need to be maintained through private and public efforts.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase non-motorized transportation connections between parks, historical sites, community facilities and shopping districts that allow residents to cycle, walk and run.
2. Develop and promote programming that encourages active lifestyles for all ages.
3. Work with Oakland County to develop pathway connections with surrounding communities that include Beverly Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Twp., Royal Oak, Southfield and Troy with the existing Rouge River Corridor.
4. Promote the establishment of the Rouge River Corridor along the Rouge River to encourage the preservation, enhancement and an increase community understanding of this important watershed.
5. Develop a way finding program for the trail / greenway network that directs users of the non-motorized paths to City parks and other destinations.

[P79] Foster, promote and encourage cooperative relationship with public and private entities.

[P 80] Develop an interpretive signage program in parks to expand educational opportunities about environmental protection.

5. Create demonstration projects within parks to showcase native Michigan plants and promote appreciation for natural landscape techniques.
6. Develop and implement standards and timeline for achieving sustainable lawn care maintenance practices for parks and recreation facilities.
7. Implement a pilot “Pesticide Free Park” program at a City Park.

[P5 of 51 survey] Members of my household use Parks and recreation programs on a regular basis, and I believe that these services are important to quality of life. - 70% Although members of my household do not use Parks and recreation programs frequently, I believe that these services are important to quality of

life. -29% Parks and recreation programs are not important to quality of life. -1% [P14 of 51] Present parkland meets or exceeds needs. - 84%

[P13] Needs more hiking /biking trails -52% [p20 of 51] #1 and#2 priorities hiking and biking related

Birmingham Land-Use Plan 1980

Historically, a very high premium has been placed on meeting the open space and recreation needs of the citizens of Birmingham. Birmingham's first plan, prepared for the village in 1929, devoted a major component to open-space needs. The plan recommended purchase of flood-plain areas and development of greenbelts. It also recommended development of a golf course and neighborhood park facilities.

Bloomfield Hills Master Plan 2009

[P 1-2] Bloomfield Hills is also renowned for its natural features, the rolling hills, streams, woodlots, and majestic tree-lined streets only a few miles from busy expressways and employment centers.

[P2-2] F. **Natural Features** – topography, waterways, and woodlands that help shape the character of the community.

[P 2-3] Bloomfield Hills residents live in a small city with large horizons. The City is linked by major roads to a wide variety of cultural, educational and recreational organizations in the metropolitan area of southeast Michigan. Bloomfield Township which “surrounds” the City is home to outstanding public and private schools, sports venues, lakes and rivers, and several major commercial establishments. To the south, the City of Birmingham provides “downtown” atmosphere with high quality shopping, dining and entertainment. To the east, Troy offers the Somerset Collection, a nationally known shopping center boasting hundreds of retail and dining establishments. Bloomfield Hills is within easy driving distance of downtown Detroit.

Four sites provide opportunities for recreation and social activities: Bloomfield Hills Country Club, Bloomfield Open Hunt, Stonycroft Golf Club, and the Village Club. Since these are privately owned, residents often travel outside of the City for recreational needs.

Natural features, such as rolling topography, trees, and water features contribute to the City’s character. Although the City is largely built-out, conservation of those natural features is important to Bloomfield Hills’ quality of life. Residents who responded to the survey and attended workshops overwhelmingly supported efforts to enhance the natural environment. Some of the key natural features are shown on Map 3, *Natural Features* are described below.

Topography – Gently rolling hills and vistas along the roadways are notable in the City. The varying topography influenced construction of the meandering streets and placement of buildings, which helped create the diverse built environment in the City. While the value of the topography is apparent, it does complicate design for stormwater management.

Water Resources – Water features are not only important for their aesthetic benefits, but also for their important ecological roles. The City has four named lakes: Lake Placid, Endicott, Kingswood and Whay Lakes. Less visible features like watersheds, wetlands, and floodplains are also very important. The City currently enforces a wetlands preservation ordinance, a natural features setback regulation and floodplain protection provisions to help protect wetlands from the impacts of development. A general description of those features follows.

1. Bloomfield Hills lies within the “Main” Rouge River Watershed. In 2009, the Alliance of Rouge Communities updated the Watershed Management Plan that includes a number of recommendations to help protect the Rouge River and the entire watershed from adverse impacts.
2. Wetlands, found throughout the City, are areas of land where water is found on the surface or close to the surface, either permanently or seasonally. They serve as a storage area for excess surface water, decreasing the severity of floods, and are often habitats for fish, fowl and other wildlife. Certain larger wetlands and those connected to water bodies are regulated by the state. Exact boundaries of wetlands require a specific site study, but general locations according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are illustrated on Map 3, *Natural Features*.
3. Floodplains are areas of land adjacent to a river, stream, drain or lake where excess water flows and is stored when the normal capacity of the channel is exceeded. Development in floodplains is heavily regulated to help prevent property damage caused by flooding and to mitigate its effect on increasing flood elevations of downstream properties.

Woodlands - Woodlands and woodlots are often found in conjunction with other natural features. Most development in the City is abundantly landscaped with trees and shrubs. This landscape is a visual asset and supports the City’s wildlife. But the abundant habitat and lack of predators has led to overpopulation of some species, especially deer. An excessive deer population causes damage to landscapes, is a nuisance and increases the potential for collision with automobiles.

[P3-7] The intersection of Woodward and Long Lake is both the geographic and functional core of the City.

[P3-7] 4. **Tree Protection.** Another concern with the trend to larger houses is the need to remove mature trees to accommodate expansions and the addition of accessory structures, such as garages, pools and sport courts. The cumulative impact of such activities can visibly impact neighborhoods and have a detrimental effect on the environment. As noted later in this chapter, some form of tree removal, woodland protection or replanting ordinance may be appropriate to alleviate these concerns.

Goal 2.b:

Remain aesthetically pleasing with pristine landscaping and abundant natural features.

5. **Additional Environmental Protection.** Bloomfield Hills currently has a 25 foot natural features buffer to prevent intrusion of activities that can negatively impact wetlands and streams. A series of regulations are also enforced to help limit problems with stormwater runoff and soil erosion, especially with new construction. The resident surveys and discussions during the Master Plan process identified support to “take environmental protection to the next level”. This might include regulations of important wetlands that are too small to be monitored by the state. Another option would be incentives or promotion of construction practices that limit pervious (paved) surfaces, such as the use of pervious pavers or pavement, to help reduce the impacts of structures built on single family lots. Finally, a continued campaign of public education and awareness can help promote practices by homeowners that reduce environmental impacts on the watershed.

P 3-11 Cranbrook Educational Community

Since Cranbrook is such a unique campus, with its mix of residential, educational and recreational facilities, it has been distinguished as its own land use category. Zoned I-1, this 300-plus acre property contains a variety

of educational, cultural, recreational and residential uses.

How Cranbrook corresponds to the Zoning Code

□ I-1 Institutional District Cranbrook is viewed as a jewel in the City, with its historic designation and the national recognition achieved for its educational programs and facilities.

P 3-14 Protection of Wooded & Tree Lined Corridors

Many roads in Bloomfield Hills have been carefully placed to offer a pleasant, experience as one travels through the City. With a few exceptions or gaps, most major streets are framed by relatively dense wooded areas. This is a distinct contrast to the busy streets lined with driveways, parking lots and minimal green space prevalent in many other communities. These green corridors were frequently noted during public involvement sessions as one of the City’s unique assets. There is public support to protect these visual corridors both when development occurs and when roadway and infrastructure improvements are made. Several actions could protect this asset:

Goal 3.f: Preserve and protect sensitive natural features and corridors.

Goal 3.d: Facilitate public awareness about environmental issues and individual actions that can minimize impacts.

1. Establish a protection policy for rights-of-way under City jurisdiction to ensure consideration of these areas during engineering and design.
2. Approach the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Road Commission for cooperation in preserving natural features during design and construction for those rights-of-way not under City jurisdiction. (This technique is often referred to as “context sensitive solution” in transportation jargon.)
3. Fill in gaps along roadways by amending the Zoning Code to require greenbelt plantings. A tree preservation ordinance and landscape renewal programs would help to maintain the desired natural feel and continuity.
4. Consider a special designation of scenic road corridors to provide additional assurances such features are treated with importance by road agencies.
5. Encourage appropriate and varied plantings on City and private properties.

P 3-19 One of the more important reactions discovered during the public involvement process was the desire for added protection of sensitive environmental features in the City. The City is home to several lakes, streams and a branch of the River Rouge, in addition to large wetland and woodland areas. To some degree, certain areas are protected at the State level by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Any disturbance in areas such as floodplains or regulated wetlands requires the review and approval of MDEQ before any activity can take place.

Based upon 430 responses:

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
3. Our city does not have public parks or recreation facilities.					
Pursue opportunities for public parks and recreation facilities.....	23.1%	23.8%	20.1%	27.8%	5.3%
Encourage private operation of parks and recreation facilities.....	13.1%	21.2%	22.5%	29.1%	14.1%

1. Our city is largely defined by the abundance and quality of its natural features.

Encourage public and private planting and preservation of long-lived trees .	72.6%	24%	1.5%	0.5%	1.5%
Encourage public and private planting and preservation of quality woodlands and plants such as shrub borders and specimen trees	68.3%	27.7%	1.5%	0.5%	2%
Preserve any wetlands not regulated by other governmental agencies . .	56.6%	25.2%	8.5%	4%	5.7%
Limit development density adjacent to lakes, rivers and wetlands	58.8%	30%	4.8%	2%	4.5%
Protect natural features along roadways to preserve views of natural habitat such as trees, streams, shrubs and similar plantings.	64.5%	30.1%	1.7%	0.5%	3.2%

CLAWSON Master Plan 2017

The DDA district runs, primarily, one property deep along 14 Mile Road and Main Street. On South Main Street the district ends at East & West Tacoma. On North Main the boundaries are Lincoln on the east side – Broadacre on the west. On West 14 Mile Road the boundary is North and South Jefferson. Along East 14 Mile the boundary is Bellevue on the south and on the north includes the Maplegrove Village Condominium complex. All properties within the DDA district are zoned for commercial use and designated as CC – City Center – with the exception of the Maplegrove Village Condominiums which are zoned RMD-1, residential.

Convenience - centralized location, walkability, ease of access

Downtown characteristics that need improvement



Diversity of Retail - kid friendly, boutiques, up-scale, trendy, grocery stores with local and organic food options



Curb Appeal and Creation of Park Area - more greenery/flowers, more seating, more facade improvements, fountain, gazebo, bandshell



Fill Empty Buildings and Vacant Lots - with retail or temporary use

Master Plan (2009) & Downtown Clawson Framework Urban Design Plan (2004)

The City's 2009 Master Plan includes a chapter dedicated to downtown. Specific goals address downtown and focus on attracting new businesses, improving the identity of downtown, and improving parking and transportation. This plan incorporates the 2004 Urban Design Plan (as an attachment), which recommended several strategies aimed at eliminating incompatible land uses and directing development/redevelopment in the "traditional" style. The plan defines traditional style as having the following elements: = A network of alleys and streets= Placement of buildings at the street, with "zero" setback= Restoration of historic building façades with appropriate materials and ground floor windows= Opportunities for on-street parking= A mix of uses that includes upper floor residential de Downtown entry features= Sign standards that are more pedestrian oriented, rather than "highway" oriented Additional strategies included: allowing for increased building heights while maintaining solar access for nearby parcels, and updating the streetscape with better landscaping selections that enhance, rather than detract from, storefront appearances

What We Saw

Downtown Clawson's streetscape has changed a great deal over the last half-century. In the past, the roadways served the automobile exclusively, with perpendicular parking along 14 Mile and a wide, four-lane road on Main Street through the heart of downtown. Today, much of the pavement has been reclaimed for sidewalks and planting strips, and Main Street now narrows to better manage traffic in the areas most heavily traversed by pedestrians. The wide right-of-way provides space for on-street parking and wide sidewalks, though in some locations outside the Core, the space available for sidewalks is not well-used or is inexplicably narrow. Much of the sidewalk in the Core features pavers, with patches of concrete. Sidewalks outside the core are mostly concrete with occasional patches of pavers. Landscaping in most of Downtown is minimal. Several planting strips can be found on South Main, while the northwest corner of Main and 14 Mile is largely hidden by planting. Street trees are young and do not yet provide significant shade. Placement of trees is highly inconsistent. Flower baskets hung from treetlamps add a touch of seasonal color. Streetlights, benches and trash cans are consistent and made with durable materials, though their placement and maintenance is sometimes haphazard. Trash can shells are used in several places to obscure on-the-ground utilities. One of the great strengths of Downtown is that nearly every dining establishment features outdoor dining; even when not in use, these dining areas make the district feel lively and inviting.

What Needs Work

Street trees are young and do not yet provide shade. While this will change with time, street trees are also not consistently spaced; in many cases, trees seem to have been left out of the planting plan to avoid placing them in front of businesses. Without further planting, the future stock of mature trees will not provide a consistent or continuous canopy. There is ample space for more plantings throughout Downtown, and especially along 14 Mile.

The most landscaped property, on the northwest corner of 14 Mile and Main, has no plantings intended to mature into canopy; the low vegetation is essentially intended to screen the building. The planting strips that separate sidewalks from parking lots on South Main are scrubby, especially on the west side of the street. The grass lawns that fall within the right-of-way are underutilized; some of them could be landscaped with more extensive plantings to beautify the area. The three vacant lots that dot Downtown are generally well-maintained, but the vast expanses of grass feel empty and inhibit pedestrian connectivity. There are several large expanses of paving that could benefit from more definition, which plantings and knee walls could help provide. Public parking lots are barren expanses of concrete or asphalt.

NOTE: Clawson would like more trees located in a planned manner to provide shade and a warm friendly atmosphere. Also green plantings add to this feeling.

Downtown lacks a public gathering place. Placement of street furniture is often puzzling and seems to have no regular pattern. For instance, one bench is placed in the middle of an alley, facing the street; it is unlikely to be used at this location. The northwest corner of 14 Mile and Main has an unusually high concentration of street furniture, as though the street treatment was attempting to compensate for the excessively wide sidewalk and the presence of a building out of character with the district. Placement of bike racks is unpredictable; several are too close to trash cans or benches to allow two bicycles to park. The racks are also drably colored and can be difficult to notice. Public utilities currently screened by trash can cages might be more effectively screened by plantings. Additional pedestrian-oriented lighting would be a benefit along paths and sidewalks. Alley in downtown can be made "green". Street furniture, including trash receptacles, should be maintained on a regular basis. After: Over time, a once-uninviting alley can be transformed through small improvements into a welcoming space where people may even choose to linger. The examples above are in Marshall (left) and Kalamazoo (right).

[Pg 57 and 58] are summary of all the things to make downtown more green and friendly

In discussions of the plan, the downtown's lack of a public gathering space was a common theme. The survey provided sample images of six different types of public gathering spaces: a miniature parklet, a permanent location for the farmer's market, a small concert stage, a playground, a small park with a focal point, and a formal square. Respondents were asked to rate each option as "very appropriate," "appropriate," or "not appropriate."

More than half of respondents rated the miniature parklet and the permanent location for the farmer's market as "very appropriate." The stage was the only other concept for which "very appropriate" was the most common answer. The playground was the only concept for which "not appropriate" was the most common answer. In general, and in the comments that followed at the end of the survey, there is broad support for a public space in downtown Clawson, if an appropriate location can be found. Some of the concepts presented in the survey are already provided for or could be supported at the City Park or the library.

[Clawson Master plan draft 2017 pg27] **PARKS AND RECREATION** within Clawson's boundaries is 45.8 acres of park land that is owned and maintained by the City. The largest park is City Park (36.9 acres). There, families and friends can enjoy lighted recreation facilities for active sports, such as, football, basketball and tennis. There is an also open green space for picnicking and other leisure activities.

The City of Clawson City Hall, City Park, Hunter Park, Parkland Park, Grant Park, Baker Park and Memorial Park comprise the City of Clawson parks facilities. There are also indoor and outdoor recreational facilities located at Kenwood and Schalm elementary schools, Clawson Middle School, and Clawson High School.

Clawson City Council adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2013

Rochester Master Plan 2025 adopted 2014

[P 12] Recreation – open space that is being used for City parks and recreational pursuits.

Open Space – areas such as flood plains, wetlands, private neighborhood parks and opens spaces, and similar uses.

[P 16] **Public Land**

Public uses are scattered throughout the City and include: the Civic Center off Sixth Street; the Public Library and Post Office off Olde Towne; the Fire Department located between Second and Third; the City's DPW yard off Wilcox; the Municipal Training Center off of Letica, the Mount Avon, Stony Creek, and Van Hoosen cemeteries; the school administration building on West University; the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority on Second Street; and the Older Persons' Commission on Letica.

Quasi-Public Land

Quasi-public land uses are also found throughout the City. Such uses include churches, private schools, Crittenton Hospital and private recreation centers such a swim club, dance studio and an ice skating center at the corner of Dequindre Road and Parkdale.

Utilities

Utility uses within the City include three wireless communication towers along the Clinton River Trail, a wireless communication tower near Dequindre and Parkdale, and the water tower on Parkdale.

Public Recreation

Public recreation uses are found primarily on the west side of the City. Included in this category are the Paint Creek Trailway and River Walk and the following parks: Elizabeth Park, Municipal Park, Halbach Field, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, Community Garden, Jaycee Field, Rotary Park and Howlett Park. The Clinton River Trail traverses the entire southern part of the City. The Rochester Avon Recreation Authority and the Older Persons' Commission are located in the City and managed through Interlocal government agreements. The City has adopted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2012-2016.

Open Space

Most of the City's open space is found on the east side of the City. A large floodplain area, which is unbuildable, is shown along the Clinton River on the southeast side of the City. A large network of open space and recreational areas, privately-owned by subdivision and condominium associations, is provided in the northeast portion of the City. Such areas also include open space buffers along the perimeters of new developments. One of the open spaces includes the historic Mount Moriah site.

CONCLUSION

The City provides a variety of residential land uses. While the housing stock appears to be in good condition, strong code enforcement and maintenance assistance programs should be provided. With little vacant land left in the City, future planning efforts should focus on promoting appropriate development of remaining vacant parcels and infill redevelopment. As new development and redevelopment of non-residential land uses occurs, proper integration with residential land uses, and/or the provision of appropriate transition areas with screening, should be encouraged.

[P 23] **Complete Streets**

“Complete Streets” is the concept that roads should be safe and available for all types of users, not merely automobiles. In many ways, Rochester’s streets already have some “complete streets” characteristics, including sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalks. However, improvements can be made. The gaps in sidewalks should be filled in where possible and illegal parking should be curtailed to ensure that cars are not blocking sidewalks.

Providing for safe connections from Main street to the Clinton River and Paint Creek trail way system is a paramount importance. Over the past few years several improvements have been made to the Paint Creek trail connection at the bridge. A connection from Main Street down to Diversion Street at the south entrance to the downtown must be considered for the future.

P 25 **Rochester / Avon Recreation Authority**

The Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA) operates the on-going recreation and leisure programming for both Rochester and Rochester Hills. The Authority runs a variety of sports teams, summer programs and enrichment activities to complement the offerings of the community education department. In addition to owning their own facilities, they have established an agreement with the school district and both cities to use their facilities.

[P33] **OVERALL COMMUNITY VISION** Rochester is a destination. The City features vibrant neighborhoods and a historic, traditional downtown. It is stable and safe. Rochester is a modern community with strong leadership, appealing to residents and businesses with progressive policies and quality local services. The City has a commitment to its heritage; a strong sense of community; plentiful natural features; a dedication to sustainability; and desirable recreation, entertainment and cultural opportunities. Rochester offers a variety of housing options, inviting diverse residents and supporting a vibrant business base attractive to young adults, families and retired persons. Rochester supports economic development with a pro-active atmosphere, efficient procedures and services, which enable businesses to thrive and grow.

[p34] The community is active, accessible and pedestrian-friendly. Its well-maintained, natural features, and many recreation and entertainment possibilities and rich cultural opportunities are highlighted by bright lights and a spirit of community.

[P80] **Open Space Preservation Techniques**

In a community like the City of Rochester, open spaces are important to maintaining the desired character and sense of community in the City. Even in areas where the Land Use Plan does not specifically call for an Open Space or Recreation use, open space preservation techniques can be used to preserve land for its natural value. The following paragraphs outline various ways in which open spaces can be preserved.

Conservation Easements Conservation easements are a legal restriction on private property which allows only certain described uses, such as farming, grazing, or open space. The easement follows the property, regardless of a change in property ownership. A non-profit conservation organization or a governmental unit usually acquires the easement. Some easements are purchased from the landowner; while some landowners choose to donate their land in order to decrease their property taxes and realize an income tax credit for their gift.

Deed Restrictions Lot lines can be extended so that no open space is held in common among homeowners. Those open space areas can be deed-restricted to ensure that no development will occur on that portion of the property.

Open Space/Cluster Zoning Open space zoning or cluster zoning is a technique in which new homes are grouped together on a portion of the parcel so that the remainder can be preserved as unbuilt open space. Such open space exerts a low visual impact and respects the existing boundaries of important natural or environmental features. Open space developments also minimize the impact on infrastructure needs, especially road improvements. In order to be effective, an open space development needs to meet a minimum area requirement, which can be established by the City Planning Commission. This technique may provide one avenue for development of the area south of Mill Street.

Local Land Trust or Conservancies As land that is valuable for its scenic and recreation use is identified, various mechanisms can be used to acquire and maintain the permanent open space. Perhaps the most secure means of protection would be to grant those lands to a local land trust or conservancy. A land conservancy is a non-profit organization that protects land for its natural, recreational, scenic, or historic value. They are directly involved in land transactions and management, such as accepting donations of conservation easements or land, managing land holdings, and giving preservation advice to landowners. Such an organization acts as caretaker to insure protection and preservation of the land and resources for generations. Technical assistance in this endeavor is available from such organizations as the Land Trust Alliance and the Nature Conservancy, among others. There are also existing local land trusts in Michigan that can provide valuable lessons from their experiences. One such local land trust is the Six Rivers Land Conservancy, located in Oakland Township. Another group that is active in preserving land in Oakland County is the Michigan Nature Association.

[P80] **Screening.** When space is at a premium, screening or buffering by means of fences or walls along with landscaping can provide the appropriate transition. The intensity of the buffer is dictated by the relative difference between the neighboring uses. For example, an office use may be compatible with adjoining homesites by installing a modest greenbelt of landscaping. A commercial use, on the other

hand, may require a more intensive greenbelt in combination with a raised earth berm and/or a fence or wall. See illustration below. (Screening requirements can be enforced through the zoning ordinance.)

Rochester Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2006-2010

[Pg 5] The inventory of existing facilities is an essential step in the creation of a quality plan for recreation. This section inventories and describes the existing local (public, private and school sites) and regional (state and county) recreational facilities which are available to Rochester residents. The location of local recreational facilities is provided as Figure 2, located at the end of this chapter

[P26]

**Table 4: Recreation Space By Neighborhood -
Existing Acreage, Neighborhood Needs, and Deficiencies**

Type of Park	Existing Park Acreage	Standard (in Acres) ¹	Deficiency (in Acres)
Mini Park	1.7	2.7 - 5.5	1 - 3.8
Neighborhood Park/Playground ²	178.9	11.0 - 22.0	---
Community	68.5	55.0 - 87.8	---
School Parks ³	18.7	NA	NA
Other ⁴	68	NA	NA
CITY TOTALS	335.8	68.7 - 115.3	1 - 3.8

¹2005 Population data taken from SEMCOG Regional Development Forecast, October 2001, was used to determine the number of park acres per 1,000 persons prescribed by the NRPA standard.

²Includes the approximately 150.5 acres of private open space belonging to the Homeowner's Association of Creekside Village, Stony Creek Ridge, and Stony Pointe North.

³School parks are not maintained by the city of Rochester, but they are noted for reference purposes since they are located along the city boundaries. Acreage reported is the area of

City of Rochester's Park and Recreation Plan

7. Is your residence within walking distance of a park?

Yes	16	70%
No	7	30%

Additional Comment:

★ In regard to the 1 person that answered "no" – Would be nice though – would use more

8. Rank each of the following 5 items according to the degree of importance Rochester should assign to each issue when prioritize park planning.

	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Neutral		Less Important		Not Important	
Update existing park facilities	12	52%	7	30%	3	13%	0	0%	1	4%
Increase barrier-free access	4	17%	7	30%	8	35%	2	9%	2	9%
Increase recreational programming	3	14%	5	23%	8	36%	2	9%	4	18%
Create new parks	1	9%	5	22%	7	30%	6	26%	4	17%
Preserve natural areas	18	78%	3	13%	2	9%	0	0%	0	0%

9. What do you think are the most important component(s) or area(s) or parks?

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Natural areas (woodlands, wetlands)	22	96%
Gardens (display, community, etc.)	13	57%
Social gathering areas with paths and benches	12	52%
Children's Playfields	11	48%
Picnic facilities (grills, tables, shelters)	11	48%
Playgrounds	10	44%
Courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)	5	22%
Other (please specify)	3	13%
Adult Fields	2	9%

Shelby Township Master Plan 2017

B. Natural Resources

Natural Features

The natural environment is an important element that continues to shape the physical development and quality of life in the township. Natural elements such as streams, lakes, open spaces, woodlands and wetlands are a community resource that should be celebrated and preserved. In some cases, natural resources are protected by being on public lands or regulated by federal or state laws. Others can be conserved by directing development to areas on a site that can best sustain the physical changes to the landscape while minimizing impacts to the most sensitive natural resources. The Natural and Community Resources Map identifies lands within the township where there are unique or otherwise important resources, or where human activities could adversely impact resources on adjacent lands.

Recreational Facilities

Public parks, nature preserves, greenways and other open spaces provide access to the outdoors for passive or active recreation. These recreational amenities encourage healthy active lifestyles and help retain and attract residents. High quality and healthy natural systems also help protect public health with clean water, uncontaminated soils, and diverse wildlife and plant communities.

Parks and Recreation

Numerous and diverse recreational opportunities are provided throughout the community. As noted in the Community Snapshot Report and shown on the Community Facilities Map, there are several different types of recreational areas/ facilities including neighborhood, community and regional parks, and nature preserves. Both active community parks and passive open space account for land dedicated to recreational

uses in Shelby Township. The Township currently owns and maintains ten park facilities and more than 1,100 acres of parkland within township boundaries. The Township's parks and open space system is further addressed in the Shelby Township 2016-2021 Parks and Recreation Plan. Other resources within the Township include Stony Creek, a Huron Clinton Metropark and a private nature preserve off Schoenherr.

Greenways

Greenways provide opportunities to protect natural resources and wildlife habitat by offering interconnected green space throughout a community. Shelby Township provides a network of over 20 miles of non-motorized multi-use trails. Future connections are planned to connect River Bends Park to the greater regional trail system. Other key gaps in the non-motorized network resulting from the Mobilize Macomb county plan are identified on the Natural and Community Resources map. Connections to the greater trail network from neighborhoods are discussed more in the Linking Land Use and Transportation chapter.

Blueways

The Clinton River Watershed Council along with Macomb County support a regional system of blueways, or water trails, for paddle sports. The network extends from Shelby Township's River Bends Park to east to Lake St. Clair and west through Oakland County.

P8 Green Development: Best Practices

As a way of protecting natural resources and promoting overall sustainability, green development practices can contribute towards sustainability by ensuring that site and building projects minimize environmental impacts, resource consumption, and energy use, while simultaneously providing healthier living and working environments for people. Healthier environments not only attract residents and businesses, but have been shown to increase worker productivity, encourage healthy lifestyles that reduce medical costs, and build community stewardship. Shelby Township can promote a green philosophy through education and promotion to encourage their use across the township:

- Native species used in landscaping
- Recycling/composting to reduce waste
- Water conservation and reuse
- Low-Impact Development (discussed below)
- Appropriately scaled and placed accessory wind or solar energy units (discussed below)
- Adaptive reuse of buildings
- LEED or other green building practices
- Encourage use of alternative fuel vehicles through parking priorities and charging stations
- Vehicle trip reduction programs such as encouraging use of carpools, transit, or telecommuting
- Providing non-motorized transportation opportunities
- Requiring bike racks on public and private development sites

In some cases, the Township could provide incentives for projects that provide a high level of green development. For example, providing bicycle parking could require fewer parking spaces; adaptively reusing a building could provide more flexibility in use; or using Low-Impact Development tools and native species could reduce the amount of landscaping required.

Low Impact Development/Stormwater Management

A more environmentally responsive strategy used to manage stormwater collection and disposal involving both private development sites and municipal projects is through the use of Low Impact Development (LID) methods. LID is an alternative approach to development aimed at conserving natural resources and protecting the environment by strategically managing rainfall

close to its source, minimizing impervious coverage, using native plant species, and conserving and restoring natural areas during site development or redevelopment. Design techniques are focused on the use of applications that are modeled after nature, rather than building costly infrastructure and water quality restoration systems.

While low impact design is encouraged wherever it can be applied, it is specifically warranted in areas where vegetation may be installed in lieu of impervious surfaces (i.e. pavement). It can be applied to open spaces, rooftops, streetscapes, parking lots, sidewalks, and medians. In many cases, these beneficial design alternatives offer a significant long-term cost savings, even when factoring in some additional maintenance costs. Design options to consider include use of rain gardens, native plant species, street trees (i.e. planter boxes, tree pits), bioswales and pervious pavement.

[P25] *Streetscape & Site Design*

Streetscape treatment should be used to signify an entrance and contribute to a sense of place.

Community amenities such as patio/seating areas, water features, art work or sculpture, pedestrian plazas with park benches or other features located adjacent to the primary entrance to the building(s) are highly encouraged and as an incentive, such areas should be calculated as part of the landscaping requirement.

Include amenities for bicyclists and pedestrians, including wider sidewalks, bike storage facilities, lighting and landscaping in the standards for site plan review.

[P26] *Landscaping, Buffers & Screening*

Development abutting residential should be screened with a mixture of treatment such as landscaping, walls, and fences.

Low-impact design: Bioretention (Rain Gardens) & Bioswales manages stormwater runoff locally, providing natural filtration to protect lake water quality. Low-impact design can be applied on private sites and in the right-of-way and should be considered in areas between the new or existing sidewalk where driveways are removed and in areas where the road median is installed. Plant species should be salt tolerant, provide aesthetic benefits and be low maintenance. Sidewalks should be designed to direct runoff into these areas, and maintenance agreements should be included as part of any approval.

[P30] Shelby Township has a growing non-motorized transportation system with most neighborhoods having sidewalks and pathways provided along major corridors. The Township Sidewalk Committee meets to prioritize improvements to the existing sidewalk network.

[P31] *Sidewalks within new residential subdivisions.*

Sidewalks are required within all new residential subdivisions. This practice should continue and exceptions should be granted only in unique circumstances. Where exceptions may be granted, internal path systems and/or pedestrian connections to schools, parks or other activity nodes that are known to generate pedestrian traffic should be otherwise be provided.

Sidewalks within existing residential subdivisions

As noted above, in many developed neighborhoods, sidewalk installation is inconsistent (i.e. no sidewalks, sidewalks on only one side of the street or installed in one phase of development and not the next adjacent phase). In such areas, the following efforts should be made:

Fill gaps in the sidewalk system where they exist as redevelopment may occur.

Prioritize gaps along collector streets.

Concurrent with capital improvement planning, construction of sidewalks along primary pedestrian routes within 1/2 mile to schools, parks or other activity nodes should be evaluated and implemented where feasible.

Where concerns regarding pedestrian safety exist and have been documented (such as pedestrian and vehicular accidents and/or re-occurring vehicular speeding) construction of sidewalks and other appropriate safety improvements should also be considered.

Shared pathways along arterials

Shared pathways (8 to 12 feet wide) should be required along both sides of arterials concurrent with new development and redevelopment projects. In addition pedestrian enhancement planning is also recommended concurrent with (re)development and/or capital improvement planning to provide improvements such as pedestrian refuge islands at key intersections where practical with collector and/or arterial roads and improved crosswalk pavement marking, signage and street lighting at local and/or major street intersections.

[P47] **Natural Features.** The types of development and allowable densities were determined, in part, by the location and extent of natural features. Natural rolling topography, stream corridors, woodlots and lakes provide highly attractive and marketable property for certain types of development. Lower overall development densities are proposed for properties containing significant natural features, although the use of clustered developments in buildable areas of properties, while conserving features, can provide a balance between the environment and development potential of the property.

[P52] This land use type consists of large-scale recreation, natural features, and open space. Stony Creek Metropark, the system of parks along the Clinton River, and the municipal complex are all intended to be preserved as public space for the long term.

Shelby Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2021

Shelby Township is 34.4 square miles in area

[P9] Shelby Township owns and operates ten park sites with a combined area of over 1,100 acres. These parks range in size from six acres to 626 acres. Most of these sites are classified as community parks with a service area extending beyond the abutting residential neighborhood.

[P35] **Goal One:** Enhance the quality of life for Shelby Township residents by providing significant recreation opportunities throughout the community and which are suited to current and anticipated population characteristics.

1. Provide a full range of indoor and outdoor recreation programs to meet the needs of all age groups and all levels of ability.
2. Ensure that indoor and outdoor recreation facilities are conveniently located to serve all existing and future neighborhoods while being accessible to all.
3. Monitor and adjust programs to reflect changing recreation preferences and demographic characteristics.

Goal Two : Preserve the Township's important natural features (woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, unique topography and wildlife habitat).

1. Incorporate properties with unique natural features when evaluating future park site acquisitions.
2. Encourage the adoption of planning and development tools that provide incentives for the preservation of natural features.

Goal Three : Ensure that all neighborhoods are adequately served by park facilities that are easily accessible to all neighborhood residents.

1. Evaluate future park land purchases based on the need to better serve the undeveloped northeast quadrant of the township.
2. Work with developers to secure neighborhood park sites as part of the development review process whenever possible.

[P36] Goal Four : Expand and update existing community parks to better serve neighborhoods in the northern half of the township.

1. Prepare a long-range development plan for the civic center site that incorporates additional community wide recreation opportunities.
2. Continue to expand the facilities and programs offered at River Bends Park concentrating on its unique environmental setting.
3. Consider the need for cutting edge recreation opportunities such as splash parks, in-line skating, and dog parks that address emerging recreation demands.
4. Continue to explore opportunities for providing a permanent indoor recreation facility in the township.

Goal Five : Enhance access to recreation facilities by expanding the scope of non-motorized trails.

1. Continue the expansion of the trail system along the Clinton River through River Bends Park.
2. Provide a network of non-motorized paths that connect to planned regional pathways and existing sidewalks.
3. Work with the Sidewalk Committee to coordinate annual capital improvement expenditures for sidewalks that improve access to existing parks.
4. Implement the suggested trails off Ryan Road near the Clinton River as recommended in the Forest Stewardship Plan of June 2010.

Sterling Heights Master Land Use Plan 2017

[P 83] Sterling Heights is defined by, and challenged by, a lack of a cohesive pattern of pedestrian and non-motorized accommodations and an orientation towards ease of vehicle-oriented mobility.

[P 83] The development of the urban design and placemaking framework for the City is developed by integrating three factors:

1. An understanding of current development trends in cities as they relate to concept formation
2. A review and critique of previous design guidelines and master plans for the City
3. An analysis and evaluation of existing conditions

Mixed use areas in walkable cities and pedestrian-oriented areas are experiencing a renaissance unlike anything seen in decades. Largely vacant office buildings are filling up with new businesses and residents, the ground floors are welcoming new shops and restaurants, and the streets and public spaces are returning to life. Walkable areas are finding renewed success.

[P 83] This analysis focuses on how locating pedestrian-oriented nodes within the existing framework of the City can aid in transforming, both in the long and short term, the perception of livability in Sterling Heights. The nodes can become important components of the enhancement and revitalization of commercial and residential zones within the City, and may also become destinations-in their own right.

3. Pros and Cons of the consistent aesthetic for street furnishings and treatments

The use of stamped concrete and ornamental trees may be overdone and unnecessary. Current best practices emphasize clean and carefully implemented concrete installations. This, combined with the aesthetic of the street furniture could lead to a sameness among the areas where the guidelines are applied. It may be more effective to determine the character of a specific location before implementing the Guidelines.

[P85] The 2005 Master Land Use Plan was developed to analyze population trends, characteristics, and projections as well as to analyze the economic viability of commercial, industrial, and office land uses. This, combined with information gathered from citizen input, produced the goals and objectives put forth in the Master Land Use Plan.

The purpose of the existing Master Land Use Plan review was to identify areas where there may need to be adjustments made to reflect the current economic, physical, and demographic conditions within the City. The following are ten major critiques/observations from the review:

[P88] Green Spaces /Public Realm

Good sidewalks, convenient parks and unique gathering places can leave a lasting impression on a visitor to the node. Additionally, these public spaces will create comfort for the temporary or permanent resident of the City.

[P91] Most potential nodes have some level of vegetation, trees, grass, landscaping, etc. In many areas there is a significant amount of greenspace. However, there is a lack of the collective vegetation working together as a unit. There is potential to collaborate on these greenspaces and formulate a comprehensive asset for the focal point area.

Sterling Heights Parks, Recreation and Non-Motorized Master Plan 2017-2021

P26 Complete Streets

Michigan Public Act 135 of 2010 defines Complete Streets as: "...roadways planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement of people and goods whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot, or bicycle."

Complete Streets is an approach to transportation planning – one that supports balanced mobility and the appropriate provision for safe and convenient travel by all the ground transportation modes of transit, walking, bicycling, motor vehicles and freight movement. The context of the road and surrounding land use play a pivotal role in what may be the appropriate Complete Street response. A rural road may not have the same solutions and provisions as an urban road. There is no "one size fits all" solution that can be applied to all roads and corridors. PA 135 of 2010 provided for the appointment of a Complete Streets Advisory Council to educate and advise the State Transportation Commission (STC) and others on Complete Streets policies. The State Transportation Commission approved their Complete Streets Policy in 2012 and as of December 2014, 97 communities have passed their own local complete streets policies, including Sterling Heights and Macomb County. The City of Sterling Heights adopted a resolution in support of Complete Streets in January 2012 to be used by the City in the design, planning, and construction of public infrastructure improvements. The Macomb County Board of Commissioners adopted a Complete Streets Resolution in June 2014 stating that all future transportation projects will be approached with the Complete Streets Policy in mind.

Facility Types and Terminology and Standards

The Michigan Department of Transportation utilizes terms and definitions that are used by the Federal Highway Administration as it relates to the various types of non-motorized facilities. The following are the most common "facility types" and are based on the AASHTO: Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 2012. These are brief introductions to the common non-motorized facility types. Some of the facilities are for both pedestrians and cyclists such as Shared Use Paths and in some cases Wide Paved Shoulders and Side Paths. On-street bike lanes and marked shared lanes (sharrows) are facilities for cycling.

Warren Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2015

[Pg v] COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Recreation improvements need to consider the community's physical setting and the characteristics of the people being served. Based upon an examination of these factors, the following conclusions are drawn: Following a period of rapid growth, the City experienced four decades of population decline. Still, Warren holds the third largest population of all cities in Michigan and projections through the year 2030 anticipate a leveling off of this decline. Warren's population declines are largely the result of declines in younger age groups. Preschool and school-aged children declined in absolute numbers and as a percent of the City's total population. Older residents have increased significantly. The City's population is concentrated in several identifiable residential neighborhoods. The largest concentration of residents is located in the northeast section of the community. There are several major regional transportation routes, especially Mound Road, Van Dyke Avenue and the I-696 Freeway, dividing the City's residential neighborhoods and creating barriers to the convenient movement of residential traffic. The City's predominantly developed land use pattern, with little remaining undeveloped open space, places a greater importance on the community's existing parks to provide open space and recreation opportunities.

[Pg vi] RECREATION INVENTORY

A wide range of recreation facilities, provided by several different organizations, are available to Warren residents. For example, 17 State parks or recreation areas, two Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Parks, and one County park are reasonably accessible to City residents. The City of Warren owns, operates and maintains a total of 25 park sites. These include five community parks (City Square Park, Halmich Park, Shaw Park, Veterans Memorial Park, and Warren Community Center Park) and 20 neighborhood-level parks. These parks occupy approximately 347 acres of land. Individual park sites range in size from 2.6 acres (Altermatt Park), to a high of 74 acres (Halmich Park). The average park size is approximately 12 acres. The parks are relatively evenly distributed throughout the City. The four (4) quadrants of the City approximately contain six parks each. The distribution of parks is important, especially in an urbanized community like Warren that is divided into identifiable neighborhoods by the numerous transportation corridors that cross the City. The Warren Parks and Recreation Department operates the following four indoor recreation centers: Fitzgerald Recreation Center, Owen Jax Recreation Center, Stilwell Manor Recreation Center and the Warren Community Center.

[P3] WOODLANDS/ WETLANDS

Undisturbed woodlands and wetlands offer numerous benefits for recreational purposes. For example, these natural features enhance the setting of parks by providing opportunities for picnicking, hiking, and nature interpretation. Warren's urbanization has impacted the City's natural features and few significant woodlands and wetlands remain in Warren today. These natural features were altered to accommodate the land development activities that occurred in Warren since 1950.

TOPOGRAPHY/ WATER

Warren is located in a portion of Macomb County that was once a glacial lake bed, which explains the City's predominant level surface features. No significant changes in topography are evident in the City except along the banks of the Red Run Drain which crosses the northern portion of the City. The drain is the City's only significant water feature.

[P 96] FACTORS INFLUENCING PARK USE

When asked to rate the importance of factors that affect the overall experience of participating in Warren Parks and Recreation activities and programs, Safety and Security received the greatest response with 90% of respondents listing this issue as "very important." Cleanliness was deemed by 88% of respondents as very important, as was Overall Maintenance with 82% response. Overall Beauty was listed Very Important by 72% of respondents. Distance from home and ease of access was Very Important to 66% of respondents and The Facilities were very important to 65%.

Rochester Hills Master Land Use Plans

Rochester Hills points out [from the master land use plan 6.6] they wish to "Preserve intact significant natural features located in the City, and integrate natural feature preservation into land use decisions." Natural features highlighted vulnerable features like steep slopes, wetlands and flood plains mostly associated with the Clinton River.

Department Mission

The mission of the Parks Department is to ensure that a wide array of recreational opportunities, both passive and active, are available to people of all age groups, interests and abilities, while protecting and conserving the integrity of our natural and historical resources.

Responsibilities

The Parks Department is responsible for the operation, maintenance, planning, development and staffing of all City parks. Recreational activities are available year-round and include a lifeguarded swimming beach, fishing, boating, ice skating, and picnicking at Spencer Park; hiking / biking / skiing trails,

picnicking, a velodrome, a sledding hill and shelter rentals at Bloomer Park; and active sports facilities at Borden Park that include baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball, roller hockey rinks and batting cages.

In addition to these services, the Parks Department hosts a number of annual events and provides for a variety of environmental and cultural heritage educational opportunities at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

Plan is a continuing effort by the City to establish updated recreational goals and objectives for the community that will focus on organizational policies, maintenance, and facility development over the next five years and beyond. This plan will also make the City eligible for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to assist the City in reaching its recreational goals. The City of Rochester Hills enjoys unique, long-standing relationships with its bordering communities and its two school districts for the provision of recreation programming. The Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA), established through the support of the City of Rochester Hills, City of Rochester, Rochester School District, and Avondale School District, has focused on the development, operation, and scheduling of classes for sporting and leisure time activities with the communities. RARA has the primary responsibility for recreation activity programming in the area.

Rochester Hills PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2016-2020

The Older Persons' Commission (OPC) provides recreation programming, education, enrichment and supportive services to adults 50+ in Rochester Hills, the City of Rochester, and Oakland Township. It is the OPC's mission to provide high quality programs and services that stimulate and advance active and healthy living for all ages of older persons. The 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Rochester Hills focuses on six critical areas as further elaborated on in *Chapter 6 Goals and Objectives*:

1. Preserve the quality of the current park system and enhance facilities to incorporate a broader array of active and passive recreational opportunities.
2. Continue to ensure the development of high quality parks facilities and strive for innovation in development at new facilities.
3. Improve the current park trail and pathway system with improved access, safety and amenities within and between the various recreation sites and other key destinations throughout the community.
4. Ensure the delivery of diverse, high-quality programming.
5. Ensure the preservation of significant nature features with the City and reduce impacts to the environment at existing facilities.
6. Continue to provide parks and recreation facilities in a fiscally responsible manner

The City of Rochester Hills is just over 32 square miles

By and large, the City of Rochester Hills is now a mature community, with few large tracts of vacant land available for development. Further, the vacant land that is left often contains natural features such as steep slopes, wetlands, or floodplains that serve as development constraints. In terms of parks and recreation planning, these natural feature areas provide great opportunities for enhancing the City's green infrastructure through conservation and development of wildlife corridors and greenways.

The City of Rochester Hills Green Space Advisory Board (GSAB) was established by the City Council in 2005

The City of Rochester Hills owns and maintains over 1,000 acres of parks and trails in 14 parks and two trail systems. The developed parks range in size and scale from small neighborhood parks to a 207 acre former state park

Building upon the extensive 82-mile bike path system along major roadways in Rochester Hills, two segments of multi-jurisdictional trailways are located within the City's boundaries.

Protection of the Clinton River and adjacent property is of utmost importance to the City. Many of the City's steep slope areas are in need of restoration and/or protection from further erosion. The City established a Steep Slope Ordinance and continues to consider the acquisition of property along the Clinton River corridor a priority.

Floodplains

Significant floodplain areas exist along the Clinton River valley as well as Paint Creek, Stoney Creek, Galloway Creek, and Sargent Creek. The City currently has a Floodplain Ordinance that protects floodplains and requires permits for any activities within the floodplain. The City will maintain updated FEMA maps as they become available.

Wetlands and Watercourse

The Natural Features Inventory identified 1,839 acres of wetland within the City, accounting for 10% of the total land. Of the 1,310 acres of the City's designated open space, approximately 40% of it is wetland. The City adopted a Wetland and Watercourse Ordinance to protect natural features by prohibiting development within a lake or stream or within a wetland that is greater than two acres in size or continuous to a lake or stream without a permit. Given the amount of protected and available vacant wetland area, the ordinance is providing significant protection to the wetlands.

Woodlands

The woodland areas in the City make up roughly 3,190 acres, or 17% of the City's total land. Of the 1,310 acres of the City's designated open space, approximately 45% is woodland. The areas identified in the City are valuable assets and are protected by the City's existing Tree Conservation Ordinance and Street Tree Ordinance.

Natural Areas

Natural areas are public and private lands that are primarily undeveloped and include land devoted to passive recreational use or lands retained for visual or natural resource protection purposes. Natural areas typically contain wetlands, woodlands, watercourses, floodplains, or passive recreation areas. The City currently maintains many acres of natural areas, and it continues to pursue acquisition of significant areas identified in the inventory. A large portion of these areas is associated with the Clinton River and its tributaries.

The natural areas were ranked and prioritized by Niswander Environmental based on a number of factors, such as size, connectivity, existing corridors, wetlands, woodlands, and ability for parcel assemblage. The top five priority sites are:

1. Bloomer Park
2. Oakland University
3. Riverbend Park
4. Northeast Stoney Creek
5. The Clinton River Corridor

[p16] These five areas should be protected to the greatest extent possible, as these sites are an integral part of protecting the City's remaining natural resources. For more information on the Natural Features Inventory, please refer to the City's Master Land Use Plan.

Green space millage funds are used to "permanently preserve natural green spaces, wildlife habitats and scenic views; protect woodlands, wetlands, rivers and streams; and expand the Clinton River Greenway and other trail corridors." When evaluating potential properties to be purchased with green space funds, the committee looks at the following criteria:

1. Water resources (rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands, floodplains)
2. Habitat protection (wildlife habitat and woodlands)
3. Recreational/historical value (Clinton River or other stream/trail corridors, adjacency/connectivity, scenic views, passive recreation, historical/cultural, community planning)
4. Other factors (unique factors, market value, development risk, steep slopes, size)
5. Adverse factors (environmental hazards, high costs, unique detractors)

The City established a stewardship and property management program to allow the restoration of stream banks, maintenance of the health and quality of rivers and streams, removal of invasive species, protection of boundaries, as well as education of the public in land and water conservation

Royal Oak Parks & Recreation Master Plan – 1999

The scope of this plan included an analysis of all existing city-owned parks and recreation programs. The plan was intended to establish goals and objectives so that a basis was set forth for future decision making in regards to future improvements. Furthermore, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a community to have an up-to-date recreation plan in order to qualify for grant programs. The plan includes an action plan which spells out which improvements should occur over a five-year period. This plan has since been amended and updated in 2006.

Mission Statement

To provide residents a variety of year-round recreation opportunities that are responsive to their needs, are enjoyable to their families, and contribute to their physical and mental well-being while maintaining and improving the aesthetic and functional value of all parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and open spaces

Trees line the streets throughout Royal Oak, creating a canopy over the roadways and sidewalks. Before being settled, Royal Oak was a densely forested area. This spirit remains throughout Royal Oak. While the city is undoubtedly a densely populated suburban area it remains a place of natural beauty.

Currently there are a total of 51 parks in the City of Royal Oak consisting of 17 mini- parks, 23 neighborhood parks, 9 community parks, one community center, one senior community center, and 1 golf course

The city leases facilities to private entities to run and maintain.

The public expressed little desire in either the public meetings or in the public survey for the city to purchase any additional park lands. The emphasis was placed instead on improving maintenance of existing parks.

Why sustainable design is important?

Economic Benefits Prevents combined sewer system overflow Reduces maintenance and operations costs Increases property values

Quality of Life Benefits Encourages partnerships & community support Promotes stewardship Educates the public about sustainability

Environmental Benefits Protects and enhances valued habitat systems Improves air quality through natural filtration of trees and foliage Reduces the urban heat island effect Reduces surface water runoff, keeping pollutants out of our waterways

Codes consist of requirements for trees on city land and easements to maintain and cut only damaged or deceased trees.

note: It is a specific goal of the Royal Oak Parks and Forestry Division to maintain the “urban forest” with tree lined streets.