



City of Southgate

Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2025 - 2029



Plan Adopted: December 4, 2024

DRAFT
for public review
10/17/2024

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Executive Summary

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Chapter 1: Executive Summary

The 2025 – 2029 Southgate Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for parks and recreation in the City. The Southgate Parks and Recreation Commission (SPRC) and Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) used the process to re-evaluate the recreation needs of the City, obtaining resident input through an online survey to help guide their decision making. This update builds on the ideas set forth in the previous plan, makes recommendations for meeting the community's future recreation needs, and presents an implementation strategy for parks and recreation improvement.

The purpose of this Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts in the City over the next five-year period, through December 2029. Once adopted, the Plan is the official document to be used by the City 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

Parks has made significant strides in improving the City's recreation facilities since completion of the previous plan. City residents are pleased by the improvements they have seen over the past several years, but recognize that there is still room for improvement. They were unequivocal in their desire to see continued maintenance and management of existing facilities. Access to passive use amenities such as picnic shelters, playgrounds, and walking paths is also a top priority.

Parks is actively working to bring the City's mini- and neighborhood parks up to date, with new equipment on order and scheduled for installation in late 2024 through early 2025. These additions will help to address resident desires for high quality play equipment and structures, and sets a precedent for future work to be completed at the remaining facilities. With many of the smaller parks having received attention, Parks and Recreation can turn its attention to larger scale projects such as a Miracle League field at Homer Howard Park. While the majority of residents feel that Southgate has the right number of parks, almost a third expressed interest in adding new properties which could accommodate expanded amenities and program offerings.

A summary of community needs can be found in Chapter 4 on page 22. A full set of survey data and other community input can be found in Appendix E on page 93.

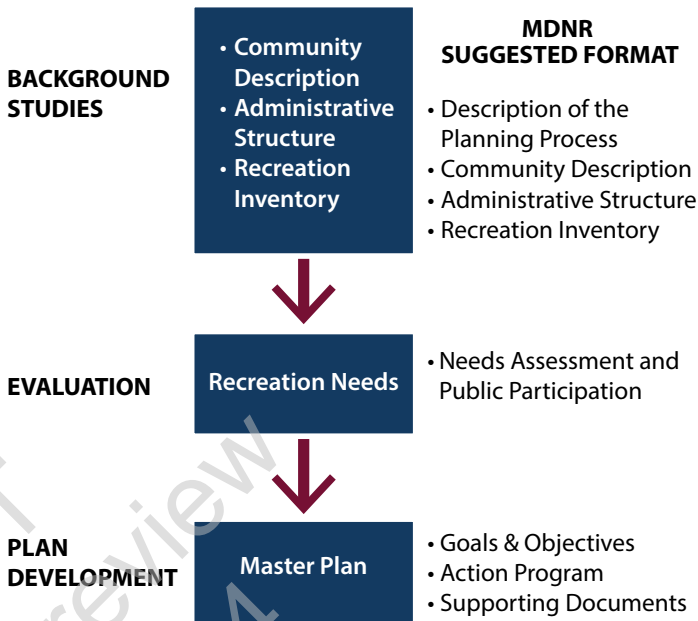


What The Plan Contains

This 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 4-26-2021).

- 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 SPRC members. 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 Southgate, which helped the SPRC 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 City'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 Southgate City Council.

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.

A Public Hearing were held in front of the City Council on December 4, 2024, after which the plan was officially adopted. The Master Plan was available for public review and comment electronically via Southgate's website and by request in hard copy form at City Hall and the Parks and Recreation Offices in the Southgate Ice Arena for one month prior to the public hearings.

Chapter 2: Goals & Objectives

Developing and articulating goals and objectives are essential to any long range planning process. They are equally important aspects of the recreation planning process. Goals generally provide long term policy direction, while objectives outline more specific actions that can be taken to accomplish these goals.

The following section includes recreation goals and objectives that are included in the Southgate Master Plan. They have been reviewed by the City for the purpose of assessing their relevancy in meeting the existing and future recreation needs in the community. The problem statement preceding each goal is intended to describe a particular recreation problem that should be addressed. The goals and objectives that follow are meant to provide some general policy directions that should be followed for the purpose of addressing the existing or anticipated problems. These statements of policy and the previous identification of recreation facilities and opportunities available to city residents will help form the basis for determining those recreation deficiencies in Southgate that need to be addressed.

City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Mission Statement

Enrich of the quality of life for the citizens of Southgate through the provision of enhanced recreation opportunities, parks and open space.

Diversity and Planning

Southgate is an established urban community with a diverse population representing a wide variety of individual needs.

GOAL

Establish and adhere to a long-vision plan which encourages development of an attractive community in which to live, work, shop and recreate for all residents.

OBJECTIVE

- Select and promote a particular concept of development from the array available to the City;
- Discourage environmental factors that could be detrimental to existing and future development;
- Maintain a balance between the natural and man-made environment;
- Conserve and promote natural ecology whenever possible;
- Investigate opportunities to utilize park space for stormwater management or other infrastructure purposes;
- Encourage the separation of incompatible land uses; and
- Work with local business leaders in developing an enhanced streetscape environment in the Downtown Development District.

Facility Maintenance

Southgate Parks & Recreation continues to address equipment issues at several park facilities. Years of neglect due to funding challenges and other factors lead to a decline in users and overall quality. Improving maintenance standards and ensuring a safe recreation environment is the top priority for the Department.

GOAL:

Establish and prioritize a maintenance and upkeep plan for the park system.

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure park facilities and equipment are safe, functional, and clean;
- Replace/upgrade park equipment and facilities as needed;
- Ensure safety surfaces under playground equipment meet regulated depth and fall zones;
- Remove barriers to accessibility;
- Refurbish athletic fields and game courts as needed;
- Provide appropriate directional signs and park furnishings;
- Develop stewardship plans for the parks and nature center with the goal of promoting ownership and community pride while reducing instances of vandalism; and
- Continue general park upkeep.

Recreation Facility Development

The need for recreation is multi-faceted and the conversion of open land and natural resources to a developed state occurs gradually, thus the loss of such valuable assets often go unnoticed until only marginal land or no land remains. The City of Southgate has reached the point where only marginal areas remain as open undeveloped land.

GOAL

Aware of the need to preserve natural assets and sufficient open space, the City of Southgate shall create a recreational plan that serves the aesthetic, education and physical demands of its population. Such a plan shall be based on the full spectrum of local recreation needs.

OBJECTIVES

- Adapt and use national recreation standards to determine the need for, and location of existing and future recreation sites and facilities;
- Provide adequate park and recreation space as an integral part of each development (subdivision, multiple and industrial park);
- Provide a variety of facilities to accommodate the recreation needs of all segments of the population;
- Acquire and utilize natural features (woodlands, flood plains etc.) for recreation sites and nature areas;
- Acquire and develop properties as is economically reasonable and feasible to provide service to underserved sections of the City;
- Coordinate with regional development groups, adjoining communities, and other stakeholders to develop and provide a comprehensive sidewalk/ bikeway network for recreation and community purposes;
- Enhance the environmental beauty of existing neighborhood parks with the addition of tree and shrub plantings; and
- Establish a tree management program for the parks prescribing appropriate pruning, pest and disease control, and tree removal/replacement.

Market Center Park

Market Center Park is highly popular as a central gathering point for residents and has acted as a catalyst for development. Continued careful deliberation will ensure the long-term success of the park and adjoining properties.

GOAL

Realizing potential for Market Center Park to become a focal point for development, the city shall continue to develop, upgrade and refurbish the site in a manner that best serves all the residents of the community.

OBJECTIVES

- Use professional site planning in the placement of all developed structures and activities on the site including placement of a new water feature, expansion of pavilion facilities, and path placement;
- Develop an comprehensive marketing platform to advertise the facility and encourage higher levels of community participation;
- Continue to develop public/private partnership for provision and management of food and entertainment services; and
- Focus on continued maintenance and repair of existing facilities.

Southgate Ice Arena Complex / Homer Howard Park

The City of Southgate has one of the most versatile and heavily used Ice Arenas and community park facilities in Southwestern Wayne County. The high rate of use of this community park continues to take its toll on the aesthetic beauty and physical condition. The park facility requires a high level of maintenance and upkeep. Many of the fixtures for the athletic fields and play equipment are old and need replacement or major repair. The challenge is to develop the resources that provide the means to make these upgrades and repairs. Improvements to the physical condition and aesthetic beauty continue to be a high priority for the near future.

GOAL

Realizing that an attractive Ice Arena Complex can be a focus of community pride and activity, the city shall continue to develop, upgrade and refurbish the site in a manner that best serves all the residents of the community.

OBJECTIVES

- Acquire additional land adjoining the site so that city-wide recreation services and facilities can be expanded;
- Use professional site planning in the placement of all developed structures and activities on the site;
- Evaluate specific amenity usage to determine appropriate programming for the site;
- Focus on maintenance and repair of existing facilities; and
- Evaluate and update the Master Plan for reconstruction of the rundown portions of the infrastructure, and beautification of the Ice Arena open space and grounds.
-

Administration And Communication

Improved communications in Southgate can yield more effective recreation services that maximize the area's recreation potential. A means of generating revenues through grants, sponsorships, and donations where possible should continue to be a priority to provide park projects.

GOAL

Continue to enhance communications and financial sustainability

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and update the park brochures and pamphlets for promotional purposes;
- Seek grant funding and donations;
- Investigate millage proposal opportunities for park maintenance and upkeep;
- Continue to evaluate and develop public/private partnerships;
- Continue to expand the use of web-based communication tools such as Facebook and Twitter for marketing purposes;
- Provide opportunities for volunteers and community stewardship projects;
- Evaluate fees and charge policies for programs and services and work to increase program cost recovery;
- Participate in state/regional recreation planning organizations; and
- Communicate the goals, objectives, and action plan outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Chapter 3: Action Plan

The City of Southgate action program recommends the continued development of a full range of recreational opportunities for its residents. Consideration is given to neighborhood/mini-parks and to community-wide facilities. Included in this section of the plan is a brief identification of the major recreation policy objectives that are being considered in the development of additional recreation projects and the enhancement of existing parks and indoor facilities.

As Southgate continues to grow, and its final residential areas are established, there will be a corresponding need for additional neighborhood park facilities. This need should be considered in conjunction with the approval of new residential developments. When possible, consideration should also be given to the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks in established areas of the city that are not adequately served by the existing open space.

Traditional recreation standards recommend the joint development of school facilities and recreation sites whenever possible. The city has a unique opportunity to join the school district in establishing recreation and open space facilities within the City of Southgate.

Efforts to beautify and enhance Southgate's community parks, i.e. Ray Torres, Kiwanis, Market Center, and Homer Howard Parks, should be continued, as heavy use of these facilities is anticipated in the years ahead. Southgate's neighborhood and mini-parks, however, must also receive attention to reverse years of decline and return them to a level where they can be utilized to their full potential.

Action Plan

The following outlines a list of specific actions and projects which are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period. Plans showing the parks improvements are included in the appendices to illustrate the proposed projects.

1. Maintain and improve all Southgate Parks

Southgate's nine mini- and neighborhood parks (Auxiliary Police Park, Cobb, Countryview, Kennebec, Lions, McCann, Rotary, Spruce, and Waverly) form the backbone of the City's recreation system. While these parks do not have the same regional draw as the Ice Arena complex or Market Center Park, they nonetheless play a crucial role in the well being of Southgate residents. Recent improvements in these facilities have had noticeable effect on the overall quality of the park system, and planned improvements will add to that perception. Additionally, items included in this step of the Action Plan have universal applicability to all of Southgate's parks and should be implemented accordingly.

- Maintain play structures and park furnishings/facilities;
- Remove dangerous/outdated structures and replace with ADA compliant amenities;
- Develop updated and consistent signage;
- Pursue grants, public/private partnerships, millages, and other funding sources;
- Strive to provide a varied park experience at each of these facilities, with additions that complement the nature of the neighborhoods they reside in;
- Ensure that all new amenities have appropriately designed access paths;
- Ensure safety surfaces under play structures meet regulated accessibility, depth and fall zones requirements;
- Develop and encourage volunteer and "Friends of the Park" style groups to assist with ongoing maintenance needs and improve park security; and
- Establish a tree management program based on the stewardship plan prescribing appropriate pruning, pest and disease control, and tree removal/replacement.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and resident input. They also respond to future parks and recreation trends, in particular environmental and economic trends.

2. Maintain and improve Market Center Park

Market Center Park has become a focal point for commercial and recreational development in the heart of Southgate. Careful consideration will ensure continued success for the park and surrounding facilities.

- Continue to participate public/private partnership for provision of food and entertainment; and
- Continue to market the facility to expand possible uses.

Justification: These actions respond to facility needs and resident input.

3. Maintain and improve Homer Howard Park

The Homer P. Howard Park Complex is the City's largest park facility with an area of 50 acres. This facility is adequate in size for a community of 32,000 to 35,000 people. Completed projects for new ball field lighting, backstop fencing and dugouts have improved the playing condition of some fields but improvements must be expanded to other playing fields if the City is to achieve maximum usage of the park and improve the aesthetics of the area.

- Upgrade ball field dugouts and bleachers to meet ADA standards, and better connect with adjacent sidewalks;
- Enhance existing sidewalks to create a 6 to 8 foot wide multi-use pedestrian/cycling loop through and around the park;
- Evaluate and upgrade drainage facilities as needed;
- Install irrigation at strategic sites;
- Replace roller hockey rink with Miracle League field;
- Replace play structure on Dix Toledo Road with universal access play facility; and
- Resurface and reconfigure tennis courts to include pickleball and padel courts.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and planning fair input. They also respond to future parks and recreation trends, in particular environmental and economic trends.

4. Maintain and improve Kiwanis Park

The Kiwanis Park facility has high visibility and its unique usage profile ensures continued exposure to residents. Smaller scale improvements will allow better access for residents and ensure higher usage rates during non-event times.

- Add sidewalk/pathway along Trenton Road to provide connection between new Bank Tower pedestrian bridge and northern and southern picnic shelters;
- Add walkways through park with low level (bollard) lighting; and
- Refurbish/upgrade southern parking area to improve accessibility.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

5. Maintain and improve Ray Torres Lions Park

The Lions Park facility benefits from its proximity to the Ice Arena complex and available parking spaces. The park is already a favorite with families and groups looking for picnic facilities, and will only become more popular as facilities are upgraded and improved.

- A new playscape and swings including wheelchair accessible swings were added in late summer 2024. New access paths were also added.
- Replace large picnic shelter.

Justification: These actions reflect recent park improvements and public input.

6. Maintain and improve Auxiliary Police Park

- Refurbish basketball court and add new backboards;
- Replace picnic shelter;
- Add ninja course; and
- Add trees/landscaping

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

7. Maintain and improve Cobb Memorial Park

- Add accessible pathway to all park amenities; and
- Add fencing and signage.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

8. Maintain and improve Countryview Park

- Remove existing play equipment;
- Re-purpose facility as a natural play area with balance beams, climbing boulders, and expanded trees/landscaping; and
- Evaluate the feasibility of adding a disc golf course.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

9. Maintain and improve Kennebec Park

- Add fencing and signage;
- Resurface basketball court;
- Replace picnic shelter; and
- Add accessible routes to amenities.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

10. Maintain and improve McCann Park

- Tot Lot being added in late fall 2024 with swings, concrete border, sidewalk adjustments, and picnic table with attached shade structure.
- Add signage.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

11. Maintain and improve Rotary Park

- Add accessible route to basketball court; and
- Evaluate feasibility of adding soccer nets in field area.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

12. Maintain and improve Spruce Park

- Remove basketball court;
- Add walkway loop and landscaping;
- Add park signage; and
- Add gathering grove with chess tables, cornhole pits, ping pong, or similar structures.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

13. Maintain and improve Waverly Park

- Swings and play structure being replaced in fall of 2024;
- Add accessible connections to play amenities and basketball court; and
- Add picnic tables with shade structures similar to Rotary Park amenities.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

14. Maintain and improve Southgate Nature Center

- Partner with local universities to develop an invasive species management plan.

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and public input.

15. Participate in the development of the City-wide pathway system

Interest in non-motorized trail development and interconnectivity between communities and regional attractions remains high. Southgate should take advantage of available funding and work cooperatively with regional development agencies and neighboring communities to develop a trail system through the community.

Continue to coordinate with City Council, Planning Commission, and others to establish a trail system;

Prepare survey of Southgate residents to determine most highly desired routes and the preferred form of proposed paths; and

Pursue funding opportunities through the MDNR, MDOT, and other available resources.

Justification: This action was identified through resident's opinions and public input. It also responds to national, regional, and economic trends.

16. Acquisition and Dispersal of Park Properties

While sale of park properties is generally discouraged, strategic liquidation of properties may be considered in extreme circumstances, especially if such a sale may lead to acquisition and development of new properties.

- Evaluate financial implications of the sale of park property;
- Investigate acquisition opportunities to expand existing park facilities, especially for development of soccer fields or other large-scale amenities; and
- Evaluate acquisition opportunities in underserved areas of the City, particularly on the northern end.

Justification: This action responds to identified coverage deficiencies and to land development patterns and trends.

17. Improve recreation programs

Expanded programming and special events at City parks helps to increase awareness of the park system and instill a sense of ownership and pride in area residents.

- Continue to expand park programming to facilities outside of the traditional Ice Arena property to include items like movies in the park, yoga, and other activities;
- Evaluate opportunities for larger scale regional events such as band competitions, dog shows and agility competitions, and similar activities;
- Continue to cooperate with Southgate Community Schools to develop programming at school properties; and
- Strive to maintain core recreation programs.

Justification: This action responds to national, regional, and economic trends.

18. Administration and communication

- Continue to improve recreation communication and outreach through use of social media, website improvements; park apps, and improvements online program registration systems;
- Continue to aggressively seek grant funding, sponsors, and donations;
- Continue to provide opportunities for volunteers and community stewardship projects;
- Continue to evaluate fees and charges for programs and services and work to increase program cost recovery;
- Continue to participate in state and regional recreation planning organizations;
- Hold park talks to seek input on resident desires for park improvements; and
- Communicate the goals, objectives, and action plan outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Justification: This action is recommended to implement the current master plan.

Project Schedule

Table 12 lists individual projects along with specific tasks to be accomplished, the objective the task refers to, a rough cost estimate, and potential funding sources. In addition, the projects are listed with a time frame for completion. Short-term (ST) projects are recommended for completion within one to two years while long-term (LT) projects may take longer to be completed, within five to six years. Mid term (MT) projects fall in between, from two to four years. Cost estimates are in 2024 dollars and will likely require adjustment depending on date of implementation, labor and material costs, and other factors.

Table 1. Action Plan

Project	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
Homer Howard Park			
Install irrigation	TBD	PRM, G, D	LT
Upgrade ball field dugouts and bleachers	\$320,000 - \$400,000	PRM, G, D	LT
Construct Miracle League Field	\$550,000 - \$600,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Add multi-use trail loop through park	\$600,000 - \$700,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Replace play equipment	\$220,000 - \$250,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Resurface/reconfigure tennis courts for pickleball, tennis, and padel courts	\$60,000 - \$80,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Kiwanis Train Park			
Add sidewalk along Trenton Road	\$80,000 - \$120,000	GF, G, D	ST
Add walkway through park with bollard lighting	\$100,000 - \$150,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Upgrade southern parking area	\$50,000 - \$80,000	PRM, G, D	LT
Ray Torres Lions Park			
Replace large picnic shelters	\$80,000 - \$100,000	PRM, G, D	LT
Auxiliary Police Park			
Replace picnic shelter	\$20,000 - \$30,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add ninja course	\$30,000 - \$40,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Refurbish basketball court	\$30,000 - \$40,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add trees / landscaping	\$ 10,000 - \$12,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Cobb Memorial Park			
Add fencing and signage	\$30,000 - \$50,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add signage	\$5,000 - \$10,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Add accessible pathways	\$10,000 - \$15,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Countryview Park			
Add natural play area	\$10,000 - \$15,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add trees / landscaping	\$ 10,000 - \$12,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Kennebec Park			
Add fencing and signage	\$20,000 - \$35,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Resurface basketball court	\$30,000 - \$40,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Replace picnic shelter	\$20,000 - \$30,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add accessible routes to amenities	\$6,000 - \$10,000	PRM, G, D	MT
McCann Park			
Add park signage	\$4,000 - \$6,000	PRM, G, D	ST

PRM = Parks & Recreation Millage, G = Grants, D = Donations, GF = General Fund

ST = Short Term, MT = Medium Term, LT = Long Term, OG = Ongoing Projects, TBD = To Be Determined

Table 1. Action Plan (cont.)

Project	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
Rotary Park			
Add soccer nets	\$4,000 - \$8,000	PRM, G, D	ST
Add accessible route to basketball court	\$5,000 - \$6,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Spruce Park			
Add walkway loop	\$60,000 - \$80,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add trees / landscaping	\$10,000 - \$15,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add park signage	\$5,000 - \$6,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add “gathering grove” and seating	\$30,000 - \$40,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Waverly Park			
Add accessible connections to amenities	\$18,000 - \$20,000	PRM, G, D	MT
Add picnic table/shade structure	\$5,000 - \$10,000	PRM, G, D	ST

PRM = Parks & Recreation Millage, G = Grants, D = Donations, GF = General Fund

ST = Short Term, MT = Medium Term, LT = Long Term, OG = Ongoing Projects, TBD = To Be Determined



Image source: Google / Ted Wychopen II

Implementation Strategies

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended to proceed as planned.

Apply for Local Funding

At the county level, the **Wayne County Recreation Millage** provides funding opportunities for local municipalities. Wayne County voters have consistently renewed a tax that funds county parks and distributes money to local communities for their parks. When submitting an application, a local municipality can receive an allocation of 15% of total millage funds generated from that municipality.

Apply for Federal Funding

The **Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) funds Transportation Enhancements (TE)** activities for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the TE activities. Activities which may apply to Southgate include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as walkways, curb ramps, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses; and
- Educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets, and signage; and

A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis.

The **Safe Routes to School (SR2S)** program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for a healthy lifestyle. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's SR2S program made schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program, as defined in the federal legislation, is to:

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in school areas.

The program provides mini grants for programming and major grants to help communities build sidewalks, crosswalks, and other infrastructure. Up to \$200,000 per school is available for infrastructure projects, and \$8,000 to build programming around the project. Communities must undergo an in-depth planning process prior to submitting an application. Deadlines are ongoing and awarded on a rolling basis. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required.

Apply for State Funding

At the state level, the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** and the **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and/or development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

- Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment;
- Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, the Great Lakes in particular, and facilitate their recreation use;
- Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and
- Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$400,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan DNR for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$500,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be in by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

The **Recreation Passport grant** program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$150,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Application are typically due on April 1st.

Local units of government may use the **Forest Stewardship** program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of \$2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

The **Detroit Edison Tree Planting program** began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy's voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in the Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in February.

Apply for Other Grant Funding

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as **Bikes Belong Coalition**. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: Facility, Education and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

The **Access for All** and the **Play is Essential for All** are small grant programs administered by the **mParks Foundation**. They are dedicated to increasing accessibility to area parks and recreation facilities. A maximum of \$5,000 is available to mParks members in good standing.

<https://www.mparksfoundation.org/access-for-all.html>

SEMCOG's Planning Assistance Program provides direct funding for local planning projects that move regional plans and priorities forward. The program has awarded over \$3.3 million through competitive grants to 90 projects ranging from planning projects on transportation safety and equity, trails and greenways, sustainable infrastructure, electric vehicles, and broadband accessibility.

Further information is provided at <https://www.semco.org/member-services/planning-assistance-program>

Created with proceeds from the \$1.4 billion sale in of the Buffalo Bills after the death of the late Ralph Wilson, the **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** began operations in 2015 with a focus on five key values that reflect the vision and philosophies of Mr. Wilson. Operating under a directive that all funds be awarded within a 20-year period, one of the core functions of the Foundation is to improve recreation accessibility in southeast Michigan and Buffalo, New York. In 2018 the Foundation launched its Parks & Trails Initiative with \$100 million in commitments for southeast Michigan. \$50 million was committed to help make connections and eliminate gaps in regional trail systems, with 20% earmarked for future maintenance and sustainability of these assets.

In 2016, the Foundation established permanent endowed **Legacy Funds** in the areas of Caregiving, Youth Sports, Community Assets, and Design & Access. Administered by the **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan**, the Legacy Funds are typically smaller grant awards intended to support localized projects. The two Legacy Funds which are most applicable to recreation planning include the Design & Access Fund, which supports projects working to increase the walkability and bikeability of local communities and/or increasing outdoor recreational activities, and the Youth Sports Fund, which supports projects bringing high-quality sports programs to youth.

Additional information is available at <https://www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org/>

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) was established in 1984 to provide service for Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties. While CFSEM coordinates with the Ralph Wilson Foundation and other granting bodies, they administer their own grant programs as well, focusing on arts and culture, the environment, and health and human services. Current priorities are sustainability, regional impact, leveraging funds, and collaboration between organizations. Competitive grants range from \$30,000 to \$75,000. A certified audit is required as part of the application process. Application deadlines are May 15 for a September decision, and August 15 for a December decision.

Full details are provided at <https://cfsem.org/for-nonprofits/>

Increase Support for Parks

Public support for Parks & Recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the City will be able to provide in the future. Continued public outreach such as meet and greet opportunities at area parks, ribbon cutting ceremonies, and similar functions which highlight the achievements of the park district while listening to the concerns of residents can help to ensure long-term support for parks and recreation.

Seek Other Sources of Funding

Southgate Parks and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Commission should continue to search for additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.



Community Background
Administrative Structure
Recreation Inventory
Needs Assessment & Public Participation
Action Plan
Goals & Objectives
Executive Summary
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Chapter 4: Needs Assessment & Public Participation

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks and recreation system. The needs provide the rationale for the goals and objectives and identify areas for future improvement. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends, park talks, a public meeting with public officials, staff, and residents, and other identified needs.



Lions Park. Image Source: Google/Rachel Ramirez

Comparison To Recreation Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has classified parks and recommended a minimum amount of desired parkland for a given population size. Although these guidelines are useful in pointing out minimum requirements, a community's recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community and not based on national guidelines.

According to the NRPA, parks and open spaces are categorized either close-to-home or regional parks. Mini, neighborhood, and community parks are close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. All of Southgate's parks are considered close-to-home parks. According to NRPA standards, the amount of close-to-home parkland recommended is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks and preserves are parks that serve a broader area (a service radius of about 40 miles) than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. This would include the state-owned, HCMA, and County parks and recreation areas described in the preceding pages. Other types of parks including school sites, greenways, and private recreation facilities, which can also contribute to the local park and recreation system.

According to these suggested parkland acreage standards, Southgate's parks fall short of the required minimum acreage for total close-to-home parkland (see Table 3 on page 23). Residents of the area are, however, well-served by the regional park facilities provided by the state, HCMA, and Wayne County. Adjacent township and city parks, private, and school recreational facilities are also available. Local park coverage is depicted in Map 1 on page 30.

Table 2. Facility Comparison - NRPA Metrics

	Existing	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
Number of residents per park	1,884.6	3,125	1,941	1,227
Acres of park land per 1,000 residents	6.4	5.4	10.6	17.2

Source: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>.

Table 3. NRPA Close-to-Home Park Guidelines

Type of Park	NRPA Standard (Per 1000 pop.)	Required (Based on 29,474 pop)	Existing
Close-to-home Parkland	6.25 - 10.5 acres	181 - 304.5 acres	96.4 acres
Regional Parks	15 - 20 acres	435 -580 acres	73,000 ac.
Southgate Comm. Schools	-		174 acres

Table 4. Amenity Development Standards

Type of Amenity	% with this amenity	# of residents per amenity	Calculated # of amenities	Actual # of amenities	Deficiency / Surplus
Playgrounds	95	1,986	15	12	-3
Tot lots	45	6,642	4	8	4
Multi-use court	48	5,400	5	4	-1
Basketball courts	86	3,750	8	5	-3
Multi-purpose fields	68	4,362	7	12	5
Football field	35	8,004	4	1	-3
Multipurpose synthetic field	22	12,962	2	0	-2
Baseball - adult	54	7,954	4	4	0
Baseball - youth	79	3,107	9	7	-2
Softball field - adult	65	5,667	5	4	-1
Softball field - youth	62	5,339	6	8	2
Soccer field - adult	44	8,017	4	0	-4
Soccer field - youth	50	3,504	8	4	-4
Tennis courts	78	2,723	11	8	-3
Pickleball courts	18	3,446	9	0	-9
Ice rink	18	7,997	4	1	-3
Pool (outdoor)	53	8,637	3	0	-3
Community garden	51	8,773	3	0	-3
Skate park	39	11,100	3	0	-3
Dog park	67	11,100	3	1	-2
18-hole golf course	29	9,183	3	1	-2
Driving range	26	5,055	6	1	-5

Source: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>.

In recent years, the NRPA has presented data in a format that allows agencies to evaluate their amenities against amenities in comparable jurisdictions. Users are able to evaluate data based on a variety of factors such as jurisdiction size, number of acres managed, population density, and more. In the case of Southgate, the City would fall in the “20 - 49,999” category. Table 2 on page 22 shows the comparison to these standards.

The Southgate park system falls near the median value in terms of the number acres of residents served per par, but closer to the lower quartile limit for acres of park land available per 1,000 residents. Adding school properties and private recreation facilities would help to buffer those numbers, and it would be difficult to substantially add parkland acreage in a city as built-out as Southgate.

The NRPA recognizes that a “one style fits all” approach is not the best solution and suggests that each community develop systems that are best suited for their own needs. Strategic acquisition of land for future park development may be worth considering if the opportunity presents itself.

NRPA’s metrics suggest that Southgate’s existing facilities are somewhat lacking in commonly seen amenities (see Table 4 above). Some of the listed amenities are currently planned for development (e.g. pickleball courts) while others are somewhat questionable in nature (e.g. 3 golf courses in a 7 square mile area). Three deficiencies reported on this list that may deserve further evaluation are the skate park, community garden, and the lack of soccer fields outside of school properties.

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends on a national and regional levels provide insights into recreation activities and demonstrate activities with the greatest growth in popularity. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 5 lists the top ten recreation activities completed by persons aged seven years and older in the past year (2024).

The study shows a continued trend towards individual-based outdoor activities, with open water sports, outdoor activities, and snow sports all showing increases in participation. Team related sports, with the exception of soccer and lacrosse, have showed a steady decline in popularity in recent years, while trail related sports continue to grow in popularity.

These national trends are consistent with those observed in Michigan. According to the 2023 - 2027 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 86 percent of Michiganders participate in trail activities and "other" outdoor activities. A list of participation rates for the most popular activities in Michigan is listed in Table 7. Participation rates for the Detroit metropolitan area are provided in Table 8.

Other highlights from the most recent SCORP include:

- Four out of the top ten most popular activities involve walking or biking;
- 95 percent of Michiganders reported participating in at least one outdoor recreation activity;
- The total net economic value of outdoor recreation in Michigan was \$165 billion, while positive health impacts are estimated to save the state around \$2.8 billion in annual healthcare costs.

Table 5. Top Recreation Activities - NSGA Survey

Activity	Participation Rate (in millions)			
	National	Overall Rank	East North Central Region	Overall Rank
Exercise walking	110.2	1	15.8	1
Exercising with equipment	52.9	2	8.1	2
Hiking	51.8	3	7.2	4
Swimming	44.9	4	6.1	6
Running/jogging	43.1	5	6.4	5
Bicycle Riding	42.4	6	7.4	3
Camping	40.4	7	5.8	7
Weightlifting	36.8	8	5.0	8
Yoga	30.7	9	4.8	9
Fishing (fresh)	29.9	10	4.2	11
Work out at gym	29.1	11	4.2	10

Source: NSGA Sports Participation in the United States 2024

Table 6. Team Sport Growth - SFIA Survey

Activity	Participation Rate (in millions)		% Change 2022 - 23
	2022	2023	
Pickleball	8.95	13.58	52%
Tennis	23.6	23.84	1%
Basketball	23.15	29.73	6%
Golf	25.57	26.57	4%

Source: Sports & Fitness Industry / Topline Report 2024

Table 7. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities - Statewide

Activity	Participation Rate / (Rank)	
	Statewide	Detroit Metro
Going for a walk on local streets or sidewalks	80% (1)	79% (1)
Going for a walk on local unpaved trails/paths	62% (2)	58% (2)
Visiting the beach but not swimming	60% (3)	54% (3)
Visiting parks or playgrounds	58% (4)	43% (6)
Swimming at the beach	52% (5)	51% (5)
Sightseeing and/or scenic driving for pleasure	47% (6)	52% (4)
Day hiking on non-local, unpaved trails/paths	47% (7)	not rated
Visiting nature centers or historic sites	41% (8)	35% (10)
Motor boating, cruising	38% (9)	41% (7)
Bicycling on paved streets, paths, or sidewalks	37% (10)	37% (8)
Social gathering at park or natural area	not rated	37% (9)

Source: Michigan State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration have published a list of future trends compiled from different sources that will influence the direction of recreation planning and programming. These trends include an increase in:

- Environmentally sensitive lifestyles, natural areas management and water quality protection,
- Concerns for personal and family security, in the importance for wellness activities and a desire to preserve and maintain cultural heritage,
- Public costs, in the provision of leisure services through the public and private sectors and partnerships, a greater recognition of the economic value of parks, open space, and green infrastructure, and
- Senior citizens, fewer traditional family households, greater number of smaller households and an increase in cultural diversity of residents.

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. Conclusions regarding the implication of the trends noted combined with the demographic and physical characteristics of the City of Southgate are summarized below:

- As population increases, demand for recreation will likely increase;
- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the expected increase of seniors;
- There is and will continue to be a need for more linear parks along corridors to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian pathways for recreation and non-motorized transportation;
- With the increased popularity of exercise walking and fitness related activities, there will continue to be an increased importance on recreation contributing to walkable, livable, and sustainable communities; and
- The continued collaboration and partnerships between public, private, and non-profit agencies as well as with adjacent local municipalities for the provision of parks and recreation programs and facilities will continue to be critical to the future success of Southgate Parks and Recreation.

Online Survey

The City of Southgate made an online survey available to residents from May 20 to June 26, 2024, as part of an outreach program for the recreation plan update. The survey was advertised on the City’s website and on social media. 179 unique responses were received. The complete set of survey responses is provided in Appendix E beginning on page 93.

Survey participants overwhelmingly identified maintenance as a top priority, with almost 94% describing maintenance as “very important” or “important”. Access to passive-use facilities scored almost as high, with 91% voting in the same fashion. Of the six categories presented, all were rated very highly; even the least popular option, “Acquiring and developing new parks and recreation facilities”, saw over two thirds of respondents describing it as important or very important.

56% of participants indicated that Southgate has the right amount of parks, but over one third felt that the City does not have enough. Among those who had visited each park, most were satisfied with the offerings. Many respondents had not visited certain facilities in the past year, with the Waverly and Spruce Parks (88%), Countryview Park (87%), and the Senior Center (83%) having the fewest visitors. Market Center Park (82%) and Kiwanis Train Park (81%) had the highest visitation rates, with roughly half of respondents saying they visited the park between 1 to 5 times in the past year.

When asked what the City can do to better meet their recreation needs, many participants mentioned better maintenance, with updates to play equipment and improved pathways at the forefront. Walking and trail sports was a regular activity for 68% of residents, followed by outdoor park activities/playground visits (66%) nature activities (61%), and visits to Farmer’s Markets (60%). High quality play equipment and trails were frequently cited as reasons to visit neighboring parks and recreation facilities.

Programming was similarly viewed as important. Special events and concerts (81%) was viewed as important or very important, followed by Youth sports (77%) and Aquatics (72%). Senior programs and trips and Skills workshops (52%) were rated the lowest but were still above 50% in both instance.

Table 8. How important are the following

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important
Maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities	65.7%	28.1%	4.5%	1.7%	0.0%
Access to passive use facilities (e.g. picnic shelters, playgrounds, walking paths, etc.)	60.3%	30.7%	5.0%	1.7%	2.2%
Protecting natural resources	56.7%	30.3%	10.7%	1.7%	0.6%
Access to paths and trails	46.9%	39.0%	10.7%	2.3%	1.1%
Access to active use facilities (e.g. soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	41.3%	27.9%	21.8%	4.5%	4.5%
Access to recreation programs (e.g. special events, classes, sports leagues, etc.)	41.6%	37.6%	15.2%	5.1%	0.6%
Acquiring and developing new parks and recreation facilities	37.4%	31.3%	21.2%	3.9%	6.2%

Table 9. Does Southgate have the right number of parks?

Activity	
The right amount	55.9%
Too few / far too few	35.8%
Too many / far too many	8.4%

Table 10. How satisfied are you with area parks?

	All responses					Park visitors only			
	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat Unsatis.	Not Satisfied	Haven't Visited	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat Unsatis.	Not Satisfied
Auxiliary Police	1.1%	21.8%	13.8%	14.4%	48.9%	2.2%	42.7%	27.0%	28.1%
Cobb Park	9.2%	32.8%	17.2%	4.6%	36.2%	14.4%	51.4%	27.0%	7.2%
Countryview Park	0.6%	10.6%	2.4%	4.7%	81.8%	3.2%	58.1%	12.9%	25.8%
Homer Howard	2.9%	22.1%	9.9%	7.6%	57.6%	6.8%	52.1%	23.3%	17.8%
Ice Arena / Civic Center	8.1%	54.6%	16.7%	2.9%	17.8%	9.8%	66.4%	20.3%	3.5%
Kennebec Park	4.1%	16.6%	8.3%	9.5%	61.5%	10.8%	43.1%	21.5%	24.6%
Kiwanis Park	37.7%	43.4%	9.1%	2.9%	6.9%	40.5%	46.6%	9.8%	3.1%
Lions Park	13.8%	29.9%	18.4%	5.8%	32.2%	20.3%	44.1%	27.1%	8.5%
Market Center Pk	18.9%	42.9%	20.0%	9.7%	8.6%	20.6%	46.9%	21.9%	10.6%
McCann Park	1.8%	14.9%	12.5%	10.7%	60.1%	4.5%	37.3%	31.3%	26.9%
Rotary Park	6.4%	28.6%	9.4%	2.9%	52.6%	13.6%	60.5%	19.8%	6.2%
Nature Center	9.1%	29.6%	20.4%	10.2%	30.7%	13.1%	42.6%	29.5%	14.8%
Senior Center	7.4%	16.0%	3.4%	0.0%	73.1%	27.7%	59.6%	12.8%	0.0%
Southwinds Golf	6.9%	28.6%	3.4%	1.7%	59.4%	16.9%	70.4%	8.5%	4.2%
Spruce Park	0.0%	11.2%	5.3%	5.3%	78.2%	0.0%	51.4%	24.3%	24.3%
Waverly Park	0.6%	10.5%	5.8%	4.1%	79.1%	2.8%	50.0%	27.8%	19.4%

Table 11. How important are the following programs?

Community	Very important		Important		Neutral		Somewhat unimportant		Not important at all		Total Resp. #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Youth sports & fitness	83	48.3%	49	28.5%	28	16.3%	0	0.0%	12	7.0%	172
Adult sports & fitness	45	25.7%	61	34.9%	59	33.7%	1	0.6%	9	5.1%	175
Senior (50+) programs & trips	39	22.2%	53	30.1%	52	29.6%	5	2.8%	27	15.3%	176
Special events & festivals	69	39.0%	74	41.8%	27	15.3%	2	1.1%	5	2.8%	177
Summer camps	35	20.1%	60	34.5%	57	32.8%	4	2.3%	18	10.3%	174
Skills workshops (e.g. computer education, accounting, etc.)	29	16.7%	61	35.1%	58	33.3%	10	5.8%	16	9.2%	174
Nature education (e.g. stargazing, bird watching, plant ID, etc)	36	20.4%	77	43.8%	45	25.6%	7	4.0%	11	6.3%	176
Aquatics (e.g. swimming lessons, exercise, etc.)	51	29.3%	75	43.1%	36	20.7%	5	2.9%	7	4.0%	174

Table 12. What programs would you like to see more of?

	Number	Percent
Concerts and shows	79	46.20%
Family programs	75	43.90%
Youth sports programs – elementary school level	67	39.20%
Exercise and fitness	62	36.30%
Adult programs	60	35.10%
Special events	60	35.10%
Cooking	57	33.30%
Teen programs	57	33.30%
Swimming	56	32.80%
Programs for 50 & better	55	32.20%
Youth sports programs – preschool age level	55	32.20%
Art programs	54	31.60%
Music	54	31.60%
Safety classes	54	31.60%
After-school programs	51	29.80%
Preschool programs	50	29.20%
Gardening	45	26.30%
Travel & excursions	44	25.70%
Youth sports programs – middle school level	44	25.70%
Crafts	42	24.60%
Summer camp	41	24.00%
Therapeutic recreation	38	22.20%
Bowling	37	21.60%
Volleyball	36	21.10%
Dance	32	18.70%
Homeschoolers' programs	28	16.40%
Ice skating	28	16.40%
Soccer	28	16.40%
Tennis	26	15.20%

	Number	Percent
Babysitting	25	14.60%
Baseball	25	14.60%
Golf	23	13.40%
Gymnastics	20	11.70%
Horseback riding	19	11.10%
Basketball	16	9.40%
Football	16	9.40%
Karate	16	9.40%
Language arts	15	8.80%
Fencing	7	4.10%
Skiing (alpine & cross country)	5	2.90%
Other (Please specify)	9	5.30%
Total Unique Responses	171	
Total Responses	1,611	



Chapter 5: Recreation Inventory

The residents of the City of Southgate are well served by their park system and have access to a variety of local recreational resources. Southgate includes over 95 acres of public parkland and an outstanding ice arena with the ability to accommodate a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Community school facilities play a key role in providing both outdoor and indoor recreation. Wayne County boasts almost 27,000 total acres of parkland and other recreation opportunities; The Huron-Clinton Metropark includes an additional 6,200 acres of land, and the state operates nearly 2,000 acres of state-owned parkland in Wayne County. These recreation facilities are considered regional recreation resources.

This chapter details the recreation inventory of the City, schools, private, and regional recreation facilities using information compiled from previous recreation plans, a field survey, and City staff.

Local Recreation Facilities

City Parks and Recreation Facilities

Southgate manages 16 different recreation facilities, including 13 parks, the Southgate Ice Arena, South Winds Golf Course, and the Southgate Senior Center. The City's parks vary in size and activities from simple mini-parks to a large community park offering a wide range of recreational facilities including playgrounds, picnic areas, athletic fields, and natural areas.

A 1996 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) study recommended placing parks into one of five basic categories:

- Mini-parks or tot lots, generally one acre or less, with a service area of 1/4 mile,
- Neighborhood parks, ranging in size from 5 to 15 acres and with a service area of 1/4 to 1/2 mile,
- Community parks are generally larger (25+ acres), service a larger area (up to 2 miles), and often offer facilities suited for more intense recreation (e.g. swimming pools or soccer fields),
- Special use facilities may service one or more communities, and include attractions such as dog parks, ice arenas, and more, and
- Regional parks, which may be 200 acres or more, and service an area up to one hour's drive away (60 miles).

Each park category has an “acres per thousand people” value attached, providing an easy method for planners and parks staff to determine the adequacy of a park system. The NRPA has moved away from this mode, noting that park prescriptions need to be more sophisticated, and consider a range of variables which ensure the recreation needs of the community are being met by the parks system. Despite this disclaimer, the report is still widely referenced for comparison purposes, and offers a general idea of the level of coverage that is considered adequate for a typical park network.

Neighborhood parks serve as a social and recreational focal points for neighborhoods and are the basic units of a park system. Mini-parks or tot lots tend to be smaller and often focus on providing amenities for young children or senior citizens.

The distinction between park categories is somewhat subjective. While categories are based primarily on physical dimensions of the property, types of use plays a large role in differentiating one class from another. Both mini- and neighborhood parks function to provide small pockets of open space in developed neighborhoods. Southgate maintains 3 neighborhood parks and 5 mini-parks, each providing open space and playground equipment for neighborhood residents. Community parks, on the other hand, contain key elements that service the entire city. Special use facilities may be part of a larger park; in Southgate, they would include the South Winds Golf Course, the Southgate Nature Center, the Senior Center, and the Ice Arena. All of Southgate's recreation properties are depicted in Map 1 on page 30 and described in the following pages.

Map 1. Southgate Recreation Facilities

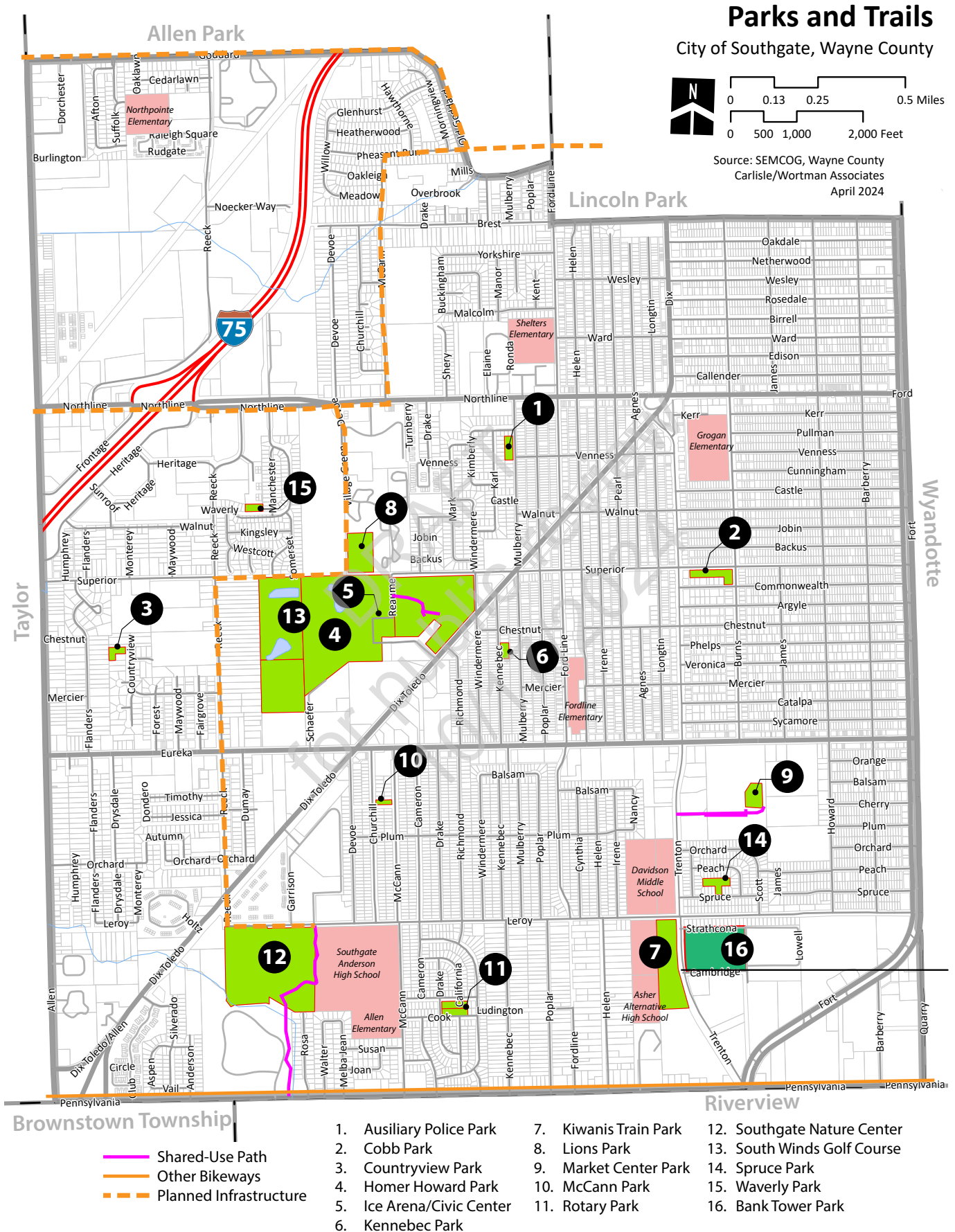


Table 13. Southgate Park Amenities

	Amenity Type	Mini Parks					Neighborhood Parks				Community Parks		Special Use Parks	
		Auxiliary Police Park	Countryview Park	Kennebec Park	McCann Park	Waverly Park	Cobb Memorial Park	Lions Park	Rotary Park	Spruce Park	Homer Howard Park	Kiwanis Park	Market Center Park	Southgate Nature Center
Access	Parking						X	X			X	X	X	X
	Handicap Access				X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Passive Use	Play Equipment		X		X	X	X	X	X			X		
	Benches					X		X	X			X	X	X
	Swings		X			X	X	X	X			X		
	Picnic Tables	X			X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
	Pavilion/Gazebo	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Drinking Fountain							X						
	Grills	X												
	Little Library	X				X						X		
	Restrooms							X				X	X	
Active Use	Baseball/Softball										X			
	Tennis/Pickleball										X			
	Basketball			X		X	X		X					
	Golf										X			
	Ice Hockey / Figure Skating										X			
	Roller Hockey										X			
	Soccer / Multi-use Fields													
Trails	Trails/sidewalk (asphalt/concrete)				X			X			X			
	Rustic Trails (dirt/mown grass)													X
	Boardwalk / viewing platform													X
Specialty Facilities	Senior Center										X			
	Event Space										X		X	
	Ice Arena										X			
	Natural Area / Wildlife Viewing													X
	Miniature Train Ride											X		
	Dog Park							X						
	Splash Pad												X	
	Amphitheater												X	

Mini-Parks

AUXILIARY POLICE PARK

SIZE: 1.0 acres

TYPE: Mini Park (passive)

LOCATION: Mulberry St. & Venness Ave

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Picnic shelter & grill
- Little Library

PLANNED AMENITIES (2024/2025):

- Ninja course, installation anticipated spring 2025 (see Appendix F)

Auxiliary Police Park is located on Mulberry Street between Kimberly and Castle Streets. The park was a former retention pond. The park is situated in the center of a large residential area and currently features a picnic pavilion. An asphalt pad remains from a former basketball court.



COUNTRYVIEW PARK

SIZE: 0.8 acres

TYPE: Mini Park (passive)

LOCATION: 14300 Countryview Drive

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Play Structure
- Bench
- Swings

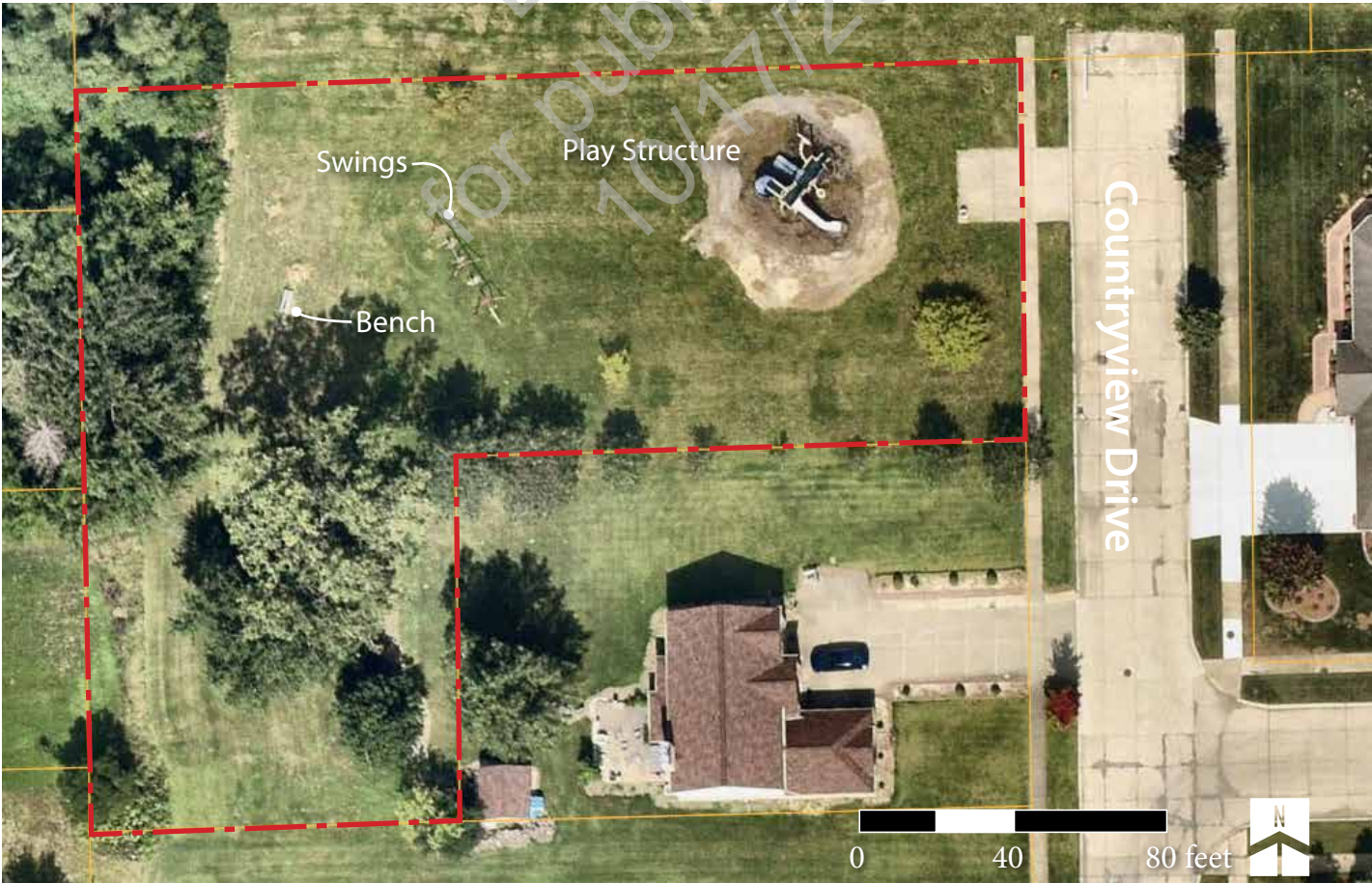
Countryview Park is located in the Stout and Tru Subdivision (north of Eureka and west of Reeck). The park features a play structure, swings, and a bench.



Figure 1. Auxiliary Police Park



Figure 2. Countryview Park



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KENNEBEC PARK

SIZE: 0.7 acres

TYPE: Mini Park (passive)

LOCATION: 14501 Kennebec Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Picnic shelter
- Basketball Court

Kennebec Park is located close to the city's center and services the people located in what is known as the "triangle" subdivision. Dix-Toledo Road, Eureka Road and Trenton Road bound this neighborhood area. Kennebec Park includes a pavilion and basketball court.



McCANN PARK

SIZE: 0.4 acres

TYPE: Mini Park (passive)

LOCATION: 15200 McCann Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Play Structure
- Benches
- Swings

PLANNED AMENITIES (2024/2025):

- New tot lot and swings, installation fall 2024 (see Appendix F)

McCann Park is located on McCann Street south of Eureka. The park was obtained during the process of subdividing the old McCann School site for housing and commercial development. The park currently features a play structure, swings, and park benches.

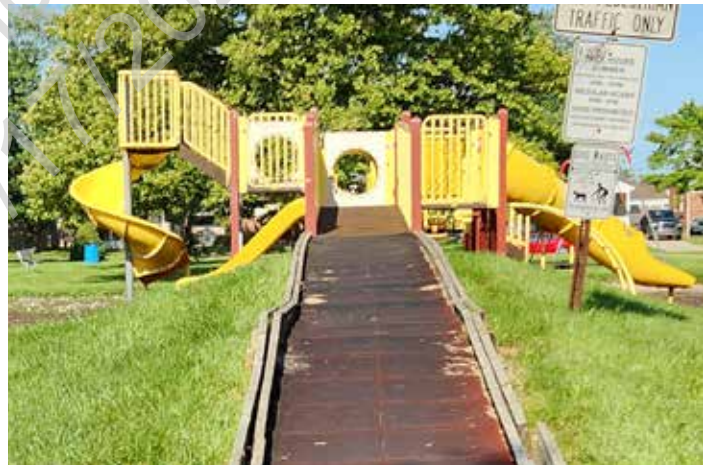
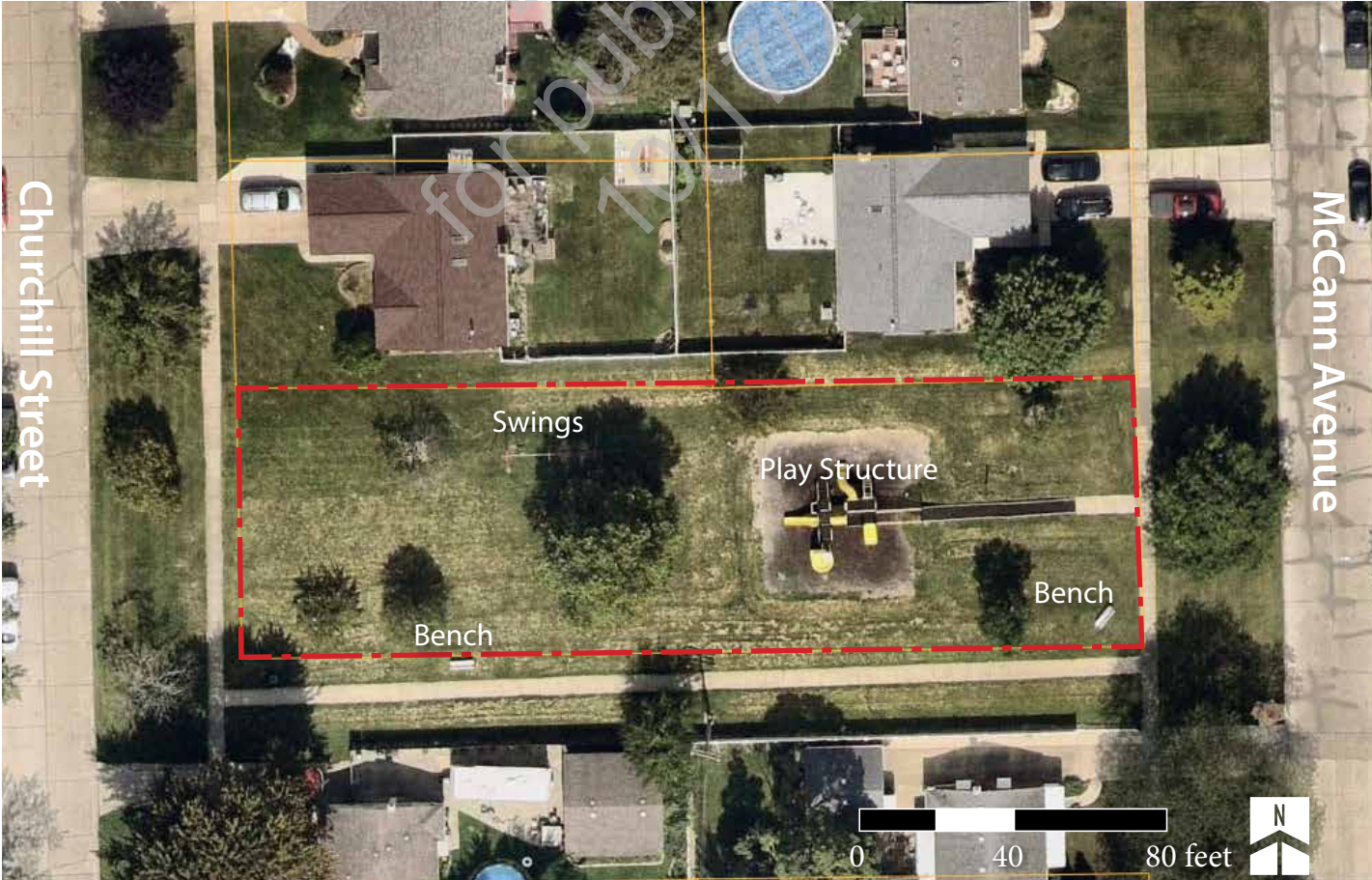


Figure 3. Kennebec Park



Figure 4. McCann Park



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WAVERLY PARK

SIZE: 0.7 acres

TYPE: Mini Park (passive)

LOCATION: 15800 Waverly Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Basketball Court
- Swings
- Play Structure

NEW AMENITIES (2024):

- Updated basketball court

PLANNED AMENITIES (2024/2025):

- New playscape and sidewalk, installation anticipated fall 2024 (see Appendix F)



Waverly Park is located on Waverly Street between Reeck and Manchester. The park currently features a basketball court, tot lot area with swings, and a play structure. Numerous deciduous and evergreen trees fill the landscape.



Figure 5. Waverly Park



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Neighborhood Parks

COBB MEMORIAL PARK

SIZE: 2.6 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood (passive/active)

LOCATION: 13899 Superior Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Play structures (2)
- Picnic shelter
- Basketball court
- Parking lot
- Swings

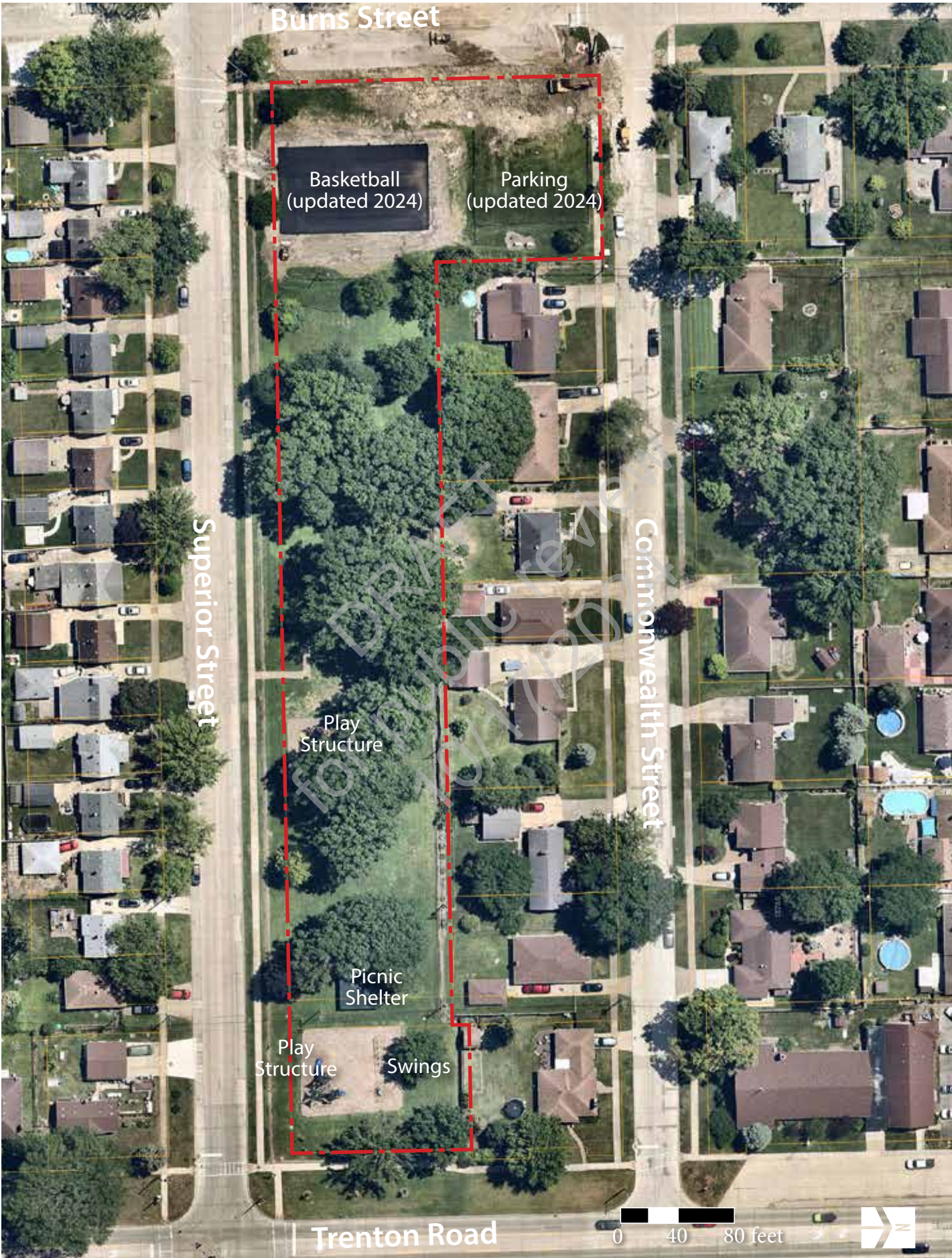
NEW AMENITIES (2024):

- Updated basketball court, parking

Cobb Park is located close to the City's center, bounded by Trenton Road, Superior and Burns Streets. The site is L shaped with a part of the park also being bounded by Commonwealth Street. The park is equipped with a pavilion, basketball court, and two play structure, which were upgraded in 2021. The park maintains a lovely wooded character, despite significant tree losses in recent years due to an Emerald ash borer infestation.



Figure 6. Cobb Memorial Park



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RAY TORRES LIONS PARK

SIZE: 5.2 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood (passive/active)

LOCATION: 14300 Reaume Parkway

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Dog park (large and small dog enclosures)
- Picnic shelters (2)
- Play structure and various climbing equipment)
- Swings
- Benches
- Restrooms
- Parking

Ray Torres Lions Park is located in the center of the city and is 5.2 acres in area. Lions Park is surrounded on the west by a natural wooded area and by an apartment complex on the north and east. The park offers a wide range of activities which includes one large and one small picnic pavilion, restrooms, swings, playground structures, and multiple pieces of climbing equipment. The playground structure was updated in 2021.

Southgate's dog park makes up the majority of the western side of the park, and is broken into separate enclosures for large and small dogs.

The park's wooded nature makes it an excellent picnic setting, as evidenced by its popularity with families and groups seeking a pleasant gathering spot. While a significant number of trees were lost to the Emerald ash borer, it still retains a large number of mature trees which add to the pleasant setting.

A large parcel of forested space abuts the park, part of the former Aquinas High School campus.. The sensitive nature of this property makes it unsuitable for building development, but could present an opportunity for the City in the form of a passive-use park.



Figure 7. Ray Torres Lions Park



ROTARY PARK

SIZE: 2.0 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood (passive/active)

LOCATION: Ludington St & Drake St

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Play structure and tot lot
- Picnic tables with shade structures
- Basketball court
- Multi-purpose playing field

Rotary Park is located in the southern portion of the city. Ludington, Drake and Cook Streets bound the park. A residential area forms the boundary for the east side of the park. The park was refurbished in 2018 with new play equipment and picnic tables with shade structures. A basketball court and large multi-purpose play space makes up the western part of the property.



Figure 8. Rotary Park



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SPRUCE PARK

SIZE: 1.4 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood (passive)

LOCATION: 13690 Spruce Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Picnic shelter
- Open space



Spruce Park is also located in the southern portion of the city, servicing the residents located in what is known as the “fruit belt” subdivision. The park is located on Spruce Street between Trenton Road and Balsam Street. The site is surrounded on three sides by residential areas. The park consists of a pavilion and a former basketball court.



Figure 9. Spruce Park



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Community Parks

Community parks tend to be larger in size and/or serve as a city-wide focal point. These parks typically include a variety of active-use facilities and sports fields or some other distinguishing feature which makes the park unique. Southgate's community parks tend to be small for the category, but each include unique features which fulfill a specific function within the community.

KIWANIS (TRAIN) PARK

SIZE: 9.2 acres

TYPE: Community Park (passive use)

LOCATION: 13901 Leroy Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Play structures
- Historic barn
- Picnic pavilions (2)
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Miniature railroad

PLANNED AMENITIES (2024/2025):

- Pedestrian bridge
- Pathway w/lighting

Kiwanis Park is a former Wayne County roadside park. Kiwanis is located in the southeast portion of the city, bounded by Trenton and Leroy Roads. The park has a large stand of oak trees and is well suited for picnic activities. The size of this park and its location along a major thoroughfare give this facility special prominence, and make it a prime candidate for continued upgrades. The proximity of this park to the open space owned by the School District (Ascher School) provides opportunity to plan development that will add more diverse recreation features to the entire open area.

The play structures were upgraded in 2019 and feature train-themed equipment. The southern picnic pavilion was added in 2020. Development of the Bank Tower Park (see page 56) will include a new pedestrian bridge over Trenton Road and a pathway with lighting that could bring more visitors to the park.

The City has a partnership with the Great Lakes Live Steamers railroad train club to operate scale model trains which can pull a variety of children and adults on rides. These train outings are held monthly during the warm weather season. Some of the events are done with a theme such as a haunted train ride at Halloween and some extra outings are for special parties and groups. The largest park event, the Winter Wonder Fest, includes train rides, a tree lighting ceremony, and a chance for the kids to meet Santa.



Figure 10. Kiwanis Park



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MARKET CENTER PARK

SIZE: 2.3 acres

TYPE: Community Park (special use)

LOCATION: 13901 Leroy Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Amphitheater
- Restrooms
- Pavilion
- Event space
- Water feature



Constructed in 2014, Market Center Park is Southgate's newest recreation property and serves an important role as a gathering place for the community. The land was donated by the Southgate Shopping Center, with the hopes of revitalizing the area and increasing foot traffic for retailers in the complex.

Market Center is positioned near some of Southgate's most popular commercial and entertainment destinations and could become a focus point for further commercial development in the City. The first phase of park development included installation of a large pavilion, an amphitheater-style seating area, and landscaping and lighting. Subsequent phases expanded the pavilion space and incorporated a water feature which doubles as plaza space during events. A new decorative concrete patio was added in 2024.

The park has proven hugely successful and regularly hosts farmers markets, concerts, and special events like food truck rallies.



Figure 11. Market Center Park

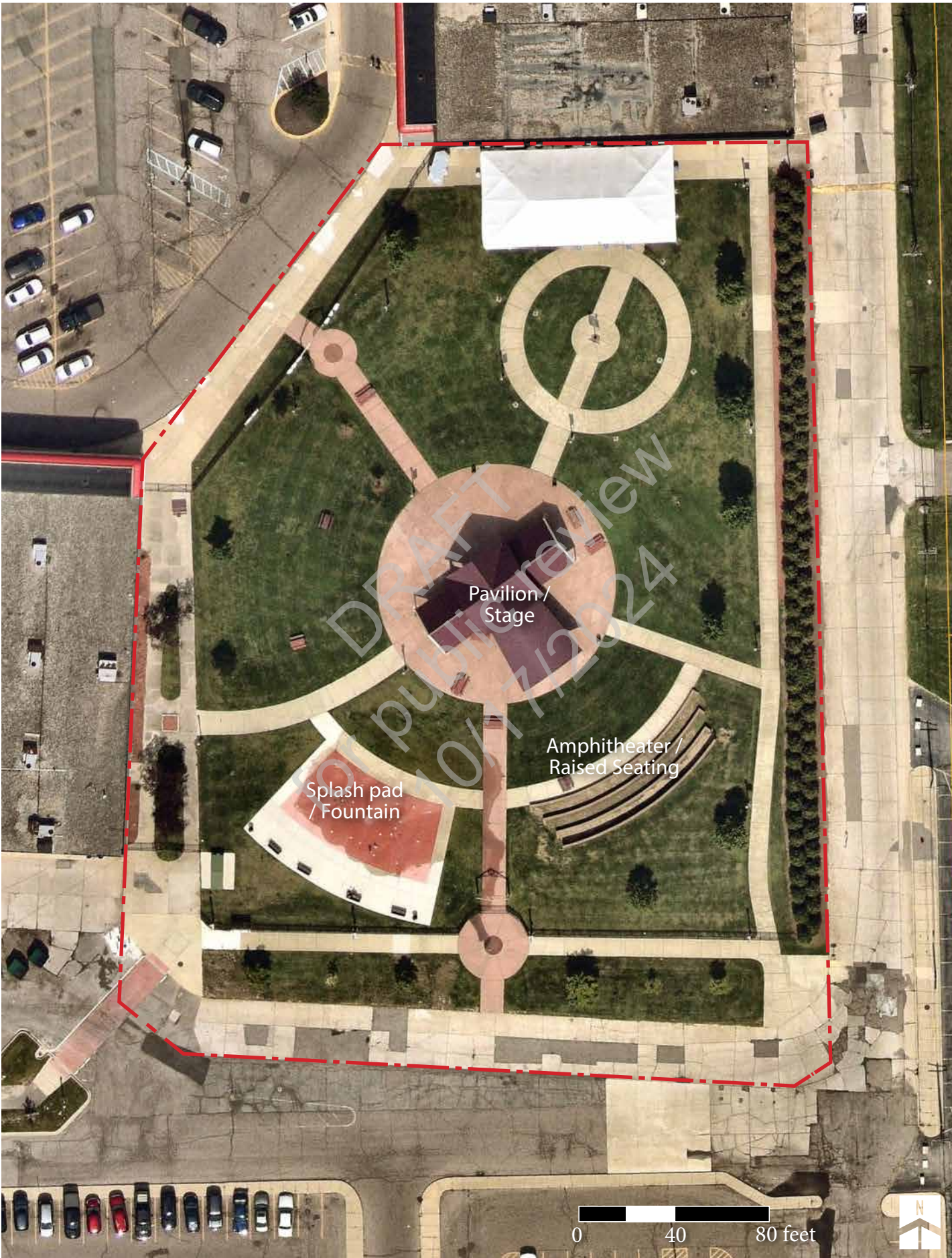


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HOMER HOWARD PARK

SIZE: 9.2 acres

TYPE: Community Park (special use)

LOCATION: 13901 Leroy Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Amphitheater
- Restrooms
- Pavilion
- Event space
- Water feature

PLANNED AMENITIES (2024/2025):

- Tennis, pickleball, and padel court (see Appendix F)

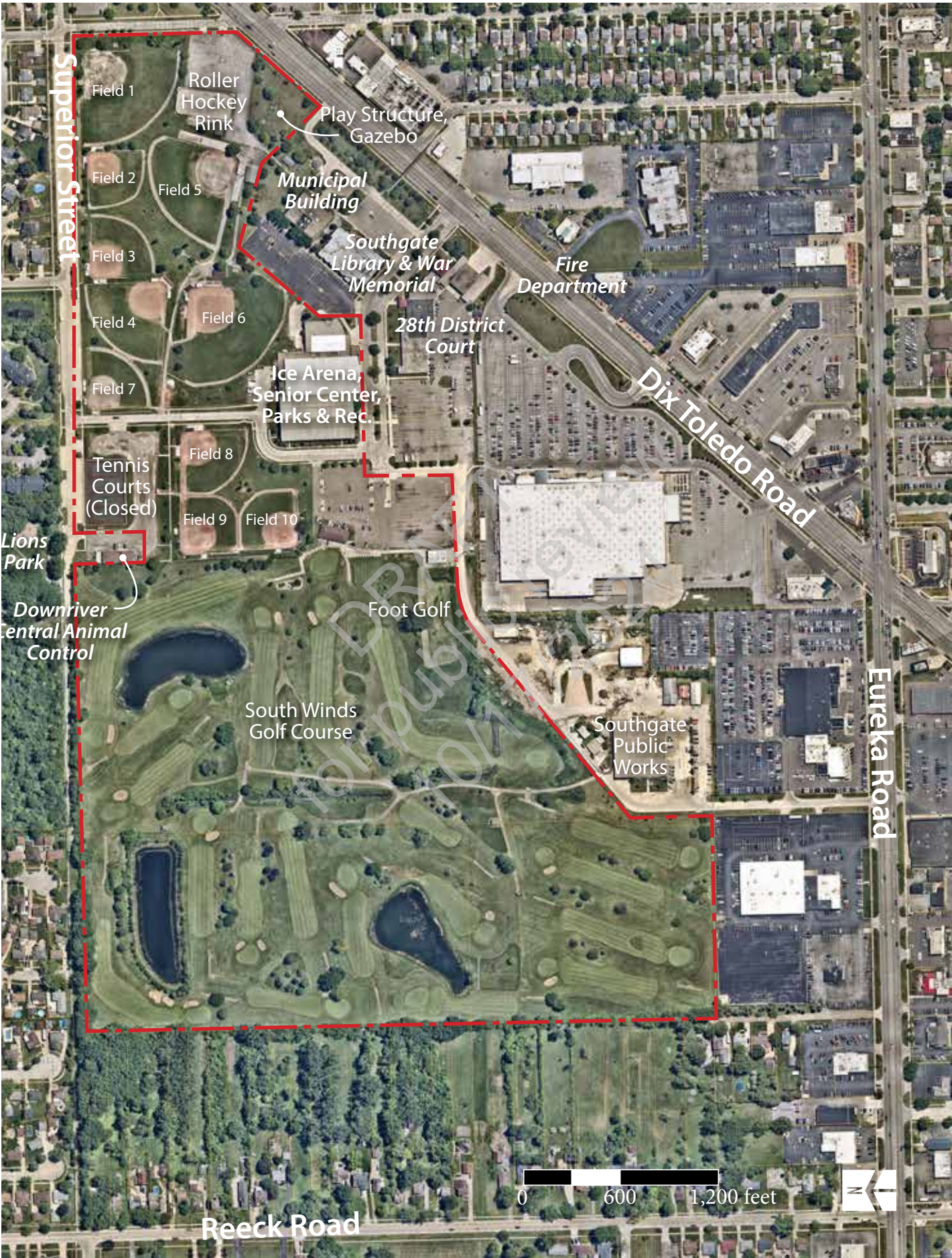
The heart of Southgate recreation lies in the City's 122-acre municipal complex. Roughly 20% of the total area includes non-recreation uses such as the Southgate Library, City Hall, Public Works, the Southgate Police and Fire Departments, District Court, and shared parking. The remaining 80% is comprised of Homer Howard Park, Lions Park, the South Winds Golf Course, and the Southgate Ice Arena, which houses banquet and acts as Southgate's community and senior center. The individual parks and recreation components are described below.

Homer Howard Park is the largest park in the city, containing ten ball diamonds (three of which are lighted for night play), an outdoor roller hockey rink, a picnic site with a pavilion and play apparatus. Restrooms are provided within the park and are open daily and during times of organized activity. Homer Howard Park is adjacent to the City's Ice Arena Complex. The existing tennis courts are planned for resurfacing as a mixed tennis, pickleball, and padel complex. The existing inline hockey rink is being removed in favor of a new Miracle League field, with a new play structure and pavilion nearby.

The South Winds Golf Course is owned by the City and managed by Davey Golf for operations and maintenance. The course is an 18-hole, executive course, and has four par 4's, and fourteen par 3's. The total yardage is 3,433. The course also has a practice area with containment net, and golf lessons by a PGA Pro. Rental clubs, pull carts and riding carts are available to golfers. The course has several leagues, tournaments and outings in addition to open play.



Figure 12. Municipal Complex / Homer Howard Park



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Special Purpose Facilities

Special purpose facilities include features or amenities which are not typically found in a traditional park, and which serve an entire community or region. Southgate features several facilities which fit this category, and they are described below.

Southgate Nature Center

Operated jointly with the Southgate Community School District, the Southgate Nature Center provides residents a rare opportunity to interact with nature in the City. The 45-acre Nature Center is located immediately west of Anderson High School and Allen Elementary School, and presents an excellent educational tool for educators. The Frank and Poet drain and a number of vernal ponds dot the facility, and provide habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species.

Southgate Ice Arena

This facility, mainly used for indoor ice skating activities, is located within the Homer Howard Park Complex. The arena was built in 1973 through a Building Bond Issue totaling \$750,000 and was expanded in 2001 to include a second ice sheet. The building received a makeover for its main entrance in 2016. The arena is home to Southgate Figure Skating Club, Downriver Hockey Club, MSE Adult Hockey and Downriver Unified High School Hockey Team.

This facility includes a banquet hall with a seating capacity of 350 people. The hall has multiple uses including senior citizen meetings and parties. Additional meeting spaces are also available; "The Loft" overlooks both arenas and seats up to 75, while Conference Room seats 25 and Party Room holds 45. These spaces are regularly leased for parties and conferences.

Senior Citizen Center

In 1986, the City opened a Senior Citizen Activity Center in the Ice Arena complex. This area was designated for use by the senior citizens and was funded through the use of Community Development Block Grant funds. The senior center has a small meeting room/library, a billiards room, a kitchen for Meals on Wheels, two arts and crafts rooms, a gift boutique, and an activity room.



Figure 13. Southgate Nature Center



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School Facilities

Public school properties contribute significantly to recreation opportunities in the community, providing both indoor and outdoor recreation space. Four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school are present in the City of Southgate. The elementary schools consist of Allen, Fordline, Grogan, NorthPointe - IB, and Shelters. Asher School is utilized by the Southgate Schools as an Adult Education Center which also provides daycare for its students. Davidson Middle School (6-8) and Anderson High School (9-12) both contain a number of recreational facilities utilized by the community.

The City of Southgate Parks and Recreation Department has an agreement with the Southgate School system to use both indoor and outdoor sports and classroom facilities for its recreation programs. The City recreation programs are second only to school activities in the priority list for use of school facilities. In general, the ability to schedule school facilities for recreation purposes is a challenge because of the large number of team sports that use the high school and middle schools gymnasiums. Adult education programs and scout groups also compete heavily for space in the multi purpose rooms that are shared with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Three private schools offer limited recreation opportunities. St. Pius Catholic Elementary, Christ the King Lutheran Elementary, and the Montessori Center of Downriver all include some form of open space and/or recreation uses. St Pius has open space for a small soccer field and they have a multi purpose activity center. Christ the King has an extensive amount of open space for soccer and other sports. Their facility backs up to the Nature Center.



Adjacent Communities Recreation Facilities

Southgate's Downriver neighbors offer a variety of recreation facilities and programming. While many of the programs offered by these communities are limited to residents, park facilities are generally open to all visitors.

- The City of Allen Park maintains slightly over 110 acres of park properties. Millward Park, on the city's south side, provides a number of active use facilities including several soccer fields.
- Brownstown Township offers limited recreation opportunities for outside residents. Thorn Park includes a playground and splash pad; the splash pad is limited to residents only in the late-afternoon hours.
- The City of Lincoln Park operates 19 parks within the city limits. Jaycee Park, near the city's southern border, offers a small playground facility. Youth Center Park, less than a mile from Southgate's northern border, includes a playscape and pavilions; pavilion rental is limited to Lincoln Park residents.
- The City of Riverview maintains 12 parks with several located just south of the border with Southgate. Memorial Park, east of Fort Street, includes a playscape and a small wading pool.
- The City of Taylor operates 21 different facilities in its system, including two golf courses and a sportsplex. Heritage Park, just north of Northline Road and less than a mile from Southgate's border, includes a petting zoo, nature area, botanic garden, and fishing pond.
- The City of Wyandotte includes over 20 recreation facilities including a skate park, riverfront facilities, and more. The Wyandotte dog park is limited to city residents.

Private Recreation Facilities

Southgate also features a number of privately owned and operated recreation facilities in the city. It is beyond the scope of this document to list every possible private recreation option, but some businesses that provide recreation services for a fee to Southgate residents include:

Gyms & Fitness Centers

- Anytime Fitness
- Crunch Fitness
- Downriver Family YMCA
- Fitegrity Athletics
- Planet Fitness

Dance Instruction

- Creative Characters
- Dance Avenue

Gymnastics

- Downriver Gymnastics
- Mills Gymnastics USA

Martial Arts

- Metro Jiu-Jitsu
- Royce Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy

Yoga Studios

- Yoga 4 Peace

Multi-purpose Facilities

- Zodiac Raquetball Club - offer tennis, raquetball, workout center, walleyball, and pickleball

Bank Tower Redevelopment

The 14-story Southgate Tower on Trenton Road is slated to be redeveloped as a residential complex with 215 market-rate apartments. Rebranded as the Bank Tower, the development will include a new public park around the tower which will complement the offerings provided by Kiwanis Park. New planned amenities include pickleball courts, putting greens and exercise stations. Wayne County is funding construction of the new park as well as a new pedestrian bridge across Trenton Road.



Recreation Programs And Services

Southgate offers a number of different youth and adult programs for area residents. Several of the programs are operated in conjunction with other recreation groups such as the Southgate Figure Skating Club. A partial list of available programs includes the following:

Youth Programs

- Dance
- Basketball
- Fall/Spring Soccer
- Girls Softball
- Flag Football
- Tennis - USTA Partnered
- Mad Science Workshops
- NHL Street Hockey will be new offering
- Learn to Skate Classes
- Advanced Ice Skate Classes
- Ice Dance Classes
- USFS Skating Skills Classes
- Freestyle Skate Sessions - 7 Days a week

Adult Programs

- Fall Softball
- Fall & Spring Softball
- Tennis

Senior Center Programs

- Mini-bus transportation
- Medical Equipment Loan Program
- Hot Meals Program
- Card playing and billiards
- Arts and crafts
- Senior trips
- Tai chi
- Bingo

Youth Organizations

- Southgate Little League - Spring & Fall Baseball and Softball
- Southgate Vikings - Fall Football
- Downriver Hockey Club - Learn to Play Program, Youth Hockey Teams for all ages and Divisions
- Southgate Figure Skating Club - Synchronized Skating, Hosts Ice Sports Industry and US Figure Skating Competitions, Annual Ice Show & Exhibitions



Regional Park Facilities

In addition to the local recreation facilities, there are a variety of regional recreation facilities and opportunities available to Southgate residents withing roughly a one-hour drive. There are over 51,000 acres of state-owned parks and recreation areas, nearly 21,000 acres of Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) metroparks, and over 1,300 acres of Wayne County parks and preserves around the City of Southgate. These regional facilities incorporate large areas and provide opportunities such as swimming, boating, hiking, hunting, camping, and golfing, which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Map 2 on page 59 depicts the location of the regional parks and Table 14 on page 60 lists the recreational activities they offer.

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

One of the largest regional recreation facilities near Southgate is the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which is located along the Detroit River south of Wyandotte. It is along the major flyway for many migratory birds and a great place to see waterfowl. The refuge includes 465 acres of islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along both the Detroit River and the Lake Erie shorelines. It contains Humbug Marsh, Grassy Island, and Mud Island. The refuge manages land for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and for Detroit Edison and includes, within its boundaries, several existing parks and state game areas.

State of Michigan Parks

There are several state-owned facilities located within a short drive of Southgate including Sterling State Park, Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, and Erie State Game Area. The state-owned facilities provide opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, swimming, boating, and hiking.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority operates more than a dozen parks in southeast Michigan. The parks closest to Southgate include Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods Metroparks along the Huron River, and Lake Erie Metropark on Lake Erie's shoreline. They provide a wide range of recreation opportunities including picnicking, play, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, court games, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, tobogganing, and sledding.

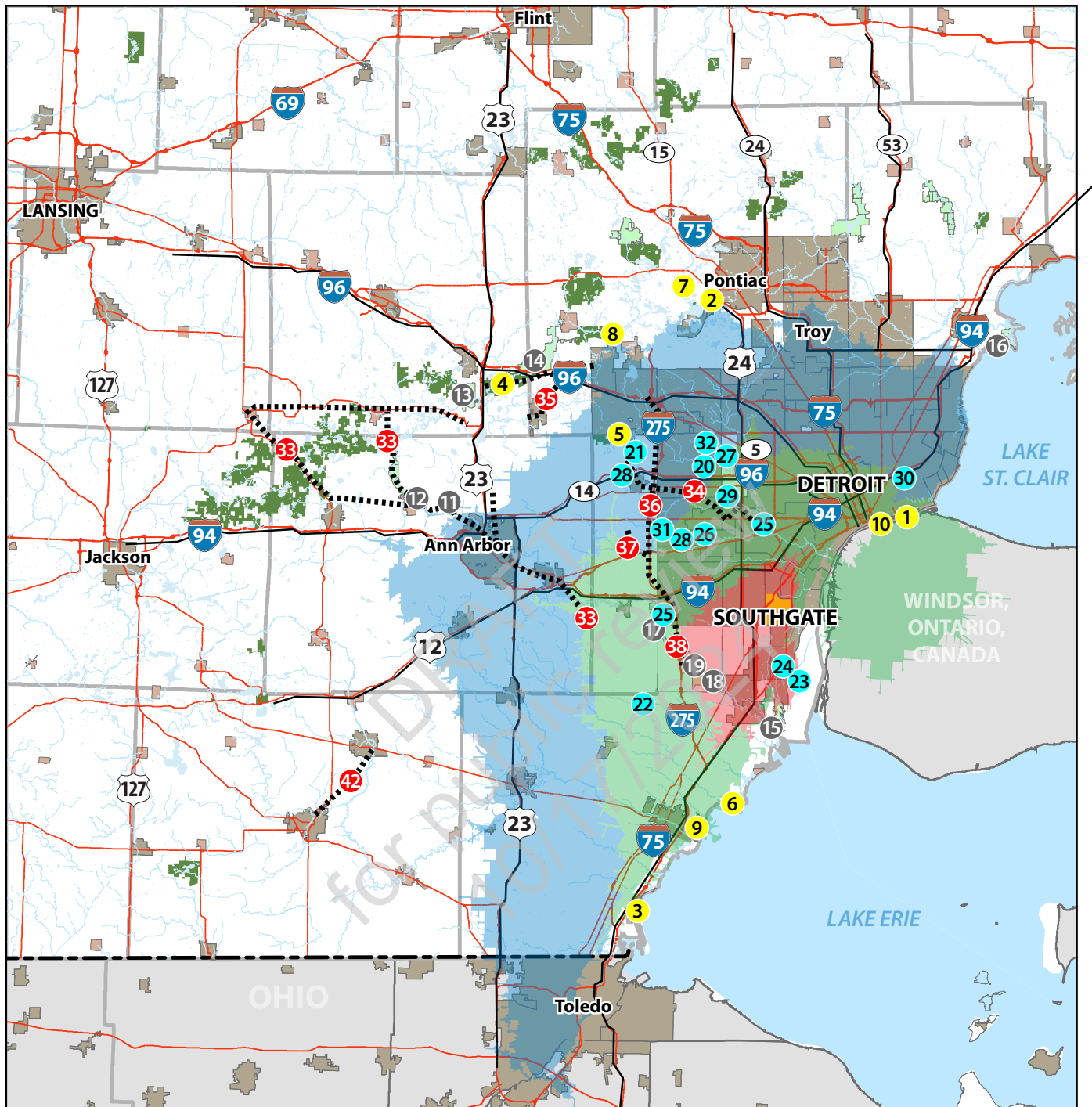
Wayne County Parks

Wayne County Parks also provide large parkland areas with opportunities for active sports, picnicking, exercise, play, and nature viewing. The Lower Rouge Parkway, Crosswinds Marsh, and Elizabeth Park are the closest of the County Parks to Southgate. The Lower Rouge Parkway is a greenway along the Rouge River including three park areas: Colonial, Inkster, and Venoy parks, which include active sports fields, picnic areas, playground, and restrooms. Crosswinds Marsh, located in Sumpter Township, includes 1,000 acres of wetland preserve offering hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, picnicking, canoeing, fishing, and a variety of environmental education programs. Historic Elizabeth Park consists of 162 acres of land along the Detroit River featuring a Victorian shelter and a riverwalk. Activities include softball, fishing, cycling, in-line skating, hiking, cross-country skiing, and ice-skating.



Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Image Source: Detroit News

Map 2. Regional Recreation Facilities



- | STATE PARKS | METROPARKS | COUNTY PARKS | MAJOR TRAILS |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Belle Isle State Park | 11. Delhi | 20. Bell Creek | 33. Border-to-Border |
| 2. Dodge #4 State Park | 12. Dexter-Huron | 21. Bennett Arboretum | 34. Hines Park Greenway |
| 3. Erie State Game Area | 13. Huron Meadows | 22. Crosswinds Marsh | 35. Huron Valley Trail |
| 4. Island Lake Rec Area | 14. Kensington | 23. Detroit Int'l Wildlife Refuge | 36. I-275 Metro Trail |
| 5. Maybury State Park | 15. Lake Erie | 24. Elizabeth Park | 37. Lower Rouge River Trail |
| 6. Pointe Mouillee Game Area | 16. Lake St. Clair | 25. Hines Park | 38. Metroparks Trail |
| 7. Pontiac Lake State Rec Area | 17. Lower Huron | 26. Inkster Valley Golf Course | |
| 8. Proud Lake Rec Area | 18. Oakwoods | 27. Lola Valley Park | |
| 9. Sterling State Park | 19. Willow | 28. Lower Rouge Parkway | |
| 10. WG Milliken State Park | | 29. Warren Valley Golf Course | |
| | | 30. Wayne County Aquatic Center | |
| | | 31. WP Holliday Forest & Preserve | |
| | | 32. Kinloch Park | |

Regional Recreation Opportunities

City of Southgate



DRIVE TIMES
 15 minutes or less
 30 minutes or less
 60 minutes or less

Carlisle/Wortman Associates
 September 2024



Table 14. Regional Recreation Amenities

Category	Name	Acres /miles	Approximate distance from City Hall in miles	ACTIVE-USE ACTIVITIES										PASSIVE-USE ACTIVITIES													
				Baseball / Softball Fields	Basketball	Disc Golf	Golf	Horseshoes / Shuffleboard	Sand Volleyball	Skate Park	Soccer / multi-use field	Tennis & Pickleball	Zip Line	Banquet Fac / Spec Events	Visitors Center	Community Ctr/ Indoor Fac	Fitness Center / Equipment	MI State Park Explorer	Nature Programs	Geocaching	Metal Detecting	Dog Parks / Trial Course	Pet Friendly Area	Playground	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Radio Control Flying
STATE PARKS	Belle Isle State Park	982	25																								
	Dodge #4 State Park	139	48																								
	Erie State Game Area	3,653	28																								
	Island Lake State Rec Area	4,000	47																								
	Maybury State Park	1,000	34																								
	Pinckney Rec Area	11,000	54																								
	Pointe Mouillee St. Game Area	4,040	11																								
	Pontiac Lake State Rec Area	3,745	47																								
	Proud Lake State Rec Area	4,700	43																								
	Sterling State Park	1,300	18																								
	Waterloo Rec Area	20,000	26																								
	WG Milliken State Park	31	21																								
METROPARKS	Delhi	81	44																								
	Dexter-Huron	122	54																								
	Huron Meadows	1,576	51																								
	Kensington	4,543	47																								
	Lake Erie	1,607	9																								
	Lake St. Clair	770	44																								
	Lower Huron	1,258	16																								
	Oakwoods	1,756	7																								
	Willow	1,700	9																								
COUNTY PARKS	Bell Creek	56	21																								
	Bennett Arboretum	142	31																								
	Crosswinds Marsh	1,050	13																								
	Detroit Int'l Wildlife Refuge	5,047	13																								
	Elizabeth Park	162	5																								
	Hines Park	2,300	29																								
	Inkster Valley Golf Course	97	16																								
	Lola Valley Park	26	21																								
	Lower Rouge Parkway	1,000	18																								
	Warren Valley Golf Course	290	17																								
	Wayne County Aquatic Center	205	26																								
	WP Holliday Forest & Preserve	550	24																								
	Kinloch Park	-	19																								
TRAILS	Border-to-Border Trail	20 mi	24																								
	Hines Park Greenway	17 ml	21																								
	Huron Valley Trail	12.2 m	45																								
	I-275 Metro Trail	33 mi	13																								
	Lower River Rouge Trail	4 ml	21																								
	Metroparks Trail	16 mi	16																								

Table of Contents	Executive Summary	Goals & Objectives	Action Plan	Needs Assessment & Public Participation	Recreation Inventory	Administrative Structure	Community Background
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Accessibility Assessment

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing barrier-free access in order to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Guidelines (2006) was used to evaluate the parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5 and is described as follows:

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines,
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines,
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines,
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines, and
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Each of the parks was evaluated using this ranking system. The specific elements considered include parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restrooms, and surfacing. Table 10 provides the results of this assessment.

The City of Southgate continues to work towards making all Parks and Recreation Facilities barrier free in accordance with standards from Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All new construction has been and will continue to be designed with ADA standards in the building specifications. Current deficiencies regarding accessibility are mainly the result of older equipment or facilities which pre-dates ADA standards. It is the intent of the City of Southgate to retrofit these facilities with park upgrades and renovation projects.

Table 15. Accessibility Assessment

Park	Rank	Description
Auxiliary Police Park	1	No accessible routes are provided.
Cobb Memorial Park	2	Individual amenities accessible. Accepting bids in fall 2024 to improve connections which would increase score to 4.
Countryview Park	1	No accessible routes are provided. Equipment is dated and not compliant.
Homer Howard Park	2	Most of the sports facilities including dugouts are not compliant. Planned new features including Miracle League field will meet or exceed ADA requirements
Ice Arena & Senior Center	3	Facility is ADA compliant.
Kennebec Park	1	No accessible routes are provided.
Kiwanis Train Park	3	Individual amenities are accessible, but not connected to each other. New sidewalk and pathway additions should increase score.
Lions Park	3	With the exception of older play equipment, most amenities accessible.
Market Center Park	5	Entire park is designed with universal accessibility in mind.
McCann Park	2	New equipment will be accessible. Sidewalks are accessible.
Rotary Park	3	Play equipment accessible and connected to sidewalks.
Southgate Nature Center	2	Asphalt walkway accessible, but remainder of trails are dirt and therefore not accessible.
South Winds Golf Course	2	Club house is accessible, but course itself is not.
Spruce Park	1	No accessible routes are provided.
Waverly Park	1	Playground technically accessible but outdated and no accessible routes are provided. Accessible playscape being developed as of fall 2024.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grant Fund Status

The City of Southgate has received grants from MDNR, Wayne County, and other sources over the years. A list of the MDNR projects and their status is included in Table 16.

Table 16. Grant History

Grant Number	Application Year & Source	Description	Grant Amount	Current Use / Condition
26-00567	1975 LWCF	Lions Park Development: Site improvement, pedestrian walks, 1 pavilion, 2 picnic shelters, landscaping, benches, trash receptacles, luminaries, utilities, LWCF sign.	\$46,339.18	All items have exceeded 40-year expected life span.. Replacements for pavilions and benches recommended.
26-00781	1976 LWCF	Golf Course Land Acquisition: Acquire 12.2 acres of land for golf course development.	\$30,219.00	Course remains in excellent condition and sees heavy use.
26-01104 A1	1980 LWCF	Homer Howard Park Development. Restroom-storage facility, water source, shelter (picnic), picnic equipment, four lighted tennis courts, asphalt walkways, service drive and LWCF sign	\$74,695.81	Restroom facility conversion issue has been addressed. Tennis courts in poor condition and are being replaced. All items have exceeded 40-year expected life span.
26-01402	1985 LWCF	Mulberry Park (now Auxiliary Police Park) Development: Basketball court, shelter, play equipment, site improvement including fence and gate, drainage, LWCF sign.	\$15,287.41	All items are approaching their 40-year expected life span and are in poor condition. Replacement is required.
TF88-196	1988 MNRTF	Kiwanis Park: Construction of picnic area and playground.	\$25,350.00	Picnic gazebo in good condition. Play structures have been replaced.
BF89-500	1989 Bond Fund	Restroom at Lion Park, Ball Diamonds and tennis courts at Homer Howard	\$74,250.00	Lions Park restrooms are reaching the end of their 40-year life span, but are in fair condition. Tennis courts are in poor condition and are being replaced.
BF89-501	1989 Recreation Bond Fund	Neighborhood Park Courts: Resurface outdoor basketball play courts at Cobb, Rotary, Kennebec, and Spruce Parks. Install volleyball courts at Cobb, Rotary, and Spruce Parks.	\$29,300.00	Courts at Cobb have been replaced. Rotary court is fair, Kennebec and Spruce poor. All have exceeded 20-year expected life. Volleyball courts have been removed.
BF90-301	1990 Recreation Bond Fund	Homer Howard Park Improvements: Field lights, dugouts, and sidewalk.	\$56,000.00	Amenities have exceeded 20-year life span and are in fair condition.
BF-91-167	1991 Recreation Bond Fund	Homer Howard Park Improvements: Replacement of field lighting, renovation of dugouts and replacement of fencing and backstops on Kennedy/Boyle.	\$60,750.00	Amenities have exceeded 20-year life span and are in fair condition.
TF98-106	1998 MNRTF	Southgate Nature Center: Acquire in fee simple terms two parcels of land totaling 22.37 acres adjacent to Anderson High School.	\$525,000.00	Park is popular and regularly visited. Invasive species are a problem.
CM99-233	1999 Clean Michigan Initiative	In-Line Skating Center Development: Construction of an asphalt surface for in-line skating at Homer Howard Park.	\$125,325.00	Facility has exceeded 20-year life span and is in poor condition. Slated to be replaced.
TF15-0227	2015 MNRTF	Market Center Park Pavilion & Lighting	\$49,500.00	Park is in excellent condition and heavily used.

Chapter 6: Administrative Structure

The Department of Parks and Recreation is divided into the following major components: General Recreation, Ice Arena, Senior Citizen Center, and Golf Course. Each component has its own goals/objectives and separate operating budgets.

The Department Director is responsible for all recreation functions and reports to the Mayor through the City Administrator. The Mayor is ultimately responsible for the enforcement of all city ordinances and establishing policies and procedures pertaining to all city departments.

The City Council, consisting of seven officials elected for four-year terms, is involved with the Parks and Recreation Department in a number of ways. It is the Council's responsibility to determine the allocation of city funds for both operation and capital improvements. The Recreation Department works with the City Council in establishing ordinances which pertain to recreation services.

A Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) was established by City Council to address the recreation needs of the City. The PRC meets on the second Wednesday of each month, allowing participation in the decision making and implementation of recreational programs by a representative cross-section of City residents. Commission members are appointed by City Council.

The Recreation Department also works with the Southgate Community School District and local recreation booster clubs in coordinating both recreation facilities and activities. This relationship helps to promote community sponsored activities, and encourages shared use of the facilities. The arrangement enables the Department to offer a wider range of programming options in the most cost efficient manner possible.

General Recreation

The following section provides a description of each of the four major components that make up the Southgate Parks and Recreation Department. The four divisions are made to coincide with the four sections of the City's budget that pertain to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Recreation Department:

The Parks and Recreation Department offers various programs and activities. Programs are not limited to residents of the City, but residents do receive access to these activities at a discounted rate. Organized youth programs include softball, soccer, basketball, dance, and inline hockey. The coordination and care of parks and athletic facilities falls under the recreation division of the City's budget. These facilities include picnic areas, neighborhood parks, and athletic fields. A discussion of Southgate's park facilities, including detailed park descriptions and amenities, can be found in the Recreation Inventory beginning on page 23.

Ice Arena:

The Ice Arena provides a balanced program of open skating, figure skating, and hockey programs year round. The arena has a conference room, loft, party room, and banquet hall available to rent for meetings, private parties, or weddings.

Senior Center:

The Senior Center Activity Center provides a daily range of activities for the elderly residents of Southgate. Daily hot lunch programs, arts and crafts, bingo, parties, card games, and other activities are offered. Special bus outings, senior trips, and health screening programs are offered on a frequent basis throughout the year.

Golf Course:

The Southwinds Golf Course Club House, managed by the Crystal Gardens group, offers a great selection of food and beverages to patrons. The group also manages Market Center Park building area and private rentals of the park. The course is an 18 hole executive course.

Funding & Budget

The City of Southgate Parks and Recreation Department budget is divided into three main subcategories:

- Recreation
- Golf Course
- Senior Citizens

The Recreation subcategory outlines revenues and expenditures associated with a variety of ice rentals,

ice events, youth sports, adult sports, instructional classes, and special events. The Ice Arena, Golf Course, and Senior Center budgets cover costs and revenues associated with the operation of each respective facility.

The fiscal year for all City departments begins on July 1 and continues through June 30. A summary of the 2024 - 2025 budget is provided in Table 17, as well as forecasted budgets for the next season.

Table 17. Parks & Recreation Budget Summary

Park/Recreation Fund	2022-23 Activity	2023-24 original budget	2023-24 amended budget	2023-24 activity thru 2/29/24	2023-24 projected activity	2024-25 adopted budget
REVENUES						
CURRENT PROPERTY TAX	774,716	793,000	793,000	802,716	802,720	875,880
DELINQUENT PERS PROP PK				355	355	
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES				142	142	
COMMERCIAL FACILITIES TAX				2,263	2,625	
PENALTY & INTEREST TAX REV				818	820	
LOCAL COM STABILIZATN SHARE				9,438	9,440	
TRANSFER FROM TIFA					155,560	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	774,716	793,000	793,000	815,732	971,662	875,880
EXPENSES						
PERMANENT EMPLOYEES						41,750
OPTICAL INSURANCE						72
FICA						3,195
HOSP. INSURANCE						13,900
CITY HAS CONTRIBUTION						2,500
RETIREE HEALTH CARE SAVINGS						835
EMPLOYEE LIFE INSURANCE						25
RETIREMENT 401K						2,925
DENTAL INSURANCE						500
PARK SUPPLIES	1,779			10,273	10,275	10,000
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	43,941	25,017	25,017	25,642		60,034
COMMUNICATIONS				673	900	900
CAP OUTLAY - LAND IMPROVMNT	9,846	50,034	50,034	40,879	1,146,000	1,775,000
CAP OUTLAY - SPLASH PAD	28,884					
BUILDINGS/BLDG IMPROVEMENT	37,025			19,055		
CAP OUTLAY - MACH & EQUIP	102,187	26,300	26,300	51,488		75,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	223,662	101,351	101,351	148,010	1,157,175	1,986,636
NET OF REVENUES/ APPROPRIATIONS	551,054	691,649	691,649	667,722	(185,513)	(1,110,756)
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	823,557	1,374,610	1,374,610	1,374,610	1,374,610	1,189,097
ENDING FUND BALANCE	1,374,611	2,066,259	2,066,259	2,042,332	1,189,097	78,341

Table 18. General Fund Budget Summary

General Fund	2022-23 Activity	2023-24 original budget	2023-24 amended budget	2023-24 activity thru 2/29/24	2023-24 projected activity	2024-25 adopted budget
RECREATION						
PERMANENT EMPLOYEES	91,488	106,145	106,145	68,683	106,145	111,110
PART TIME EMPLOYEES	129,157	169,012	169,012	63,841	95,000	158,700
OVERTIME	5,328			24,016	30,000	
OPTICAL INSURANCE	46	100	100	26	75	36
FICA	17,898	20,625	20,625	12,402	20,625	22,091
HOSPITAL. INS.	13,489	12,000	12,000	7,862	12,000	12,000
REC RETIREE HEATH CARE SVGS	2,066	2,012	2,012	1,783	2,012	2,209
EMPLOYEE LIFE INS	51	60	60	47	60	60
RETIREMENT CONTRIB.MUNI PRE	173					
RETIREMENT 401K	7,056	7,042	7,042	6,239	7,042	7,731
DENTAL INSURANCE	327	265	265	524		528
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,803	2,000	2,000	1,082	2,000	2,000
OPERATING SUPPLIES ICE	35,945	35,000	35,000	39,563	40,000	37,000
YOUTH OP SUPPLIES	17,496	16,000	16,000	11,026		16,000
REPAIR & MAINT. SUPPLIES	406			50		
PROFESSIONAL FEES	22,184	16,000	16,000	20,230	25,000	20,000
REC ONLINE REGIS FEES	11,960	12,500	12,500	6,644	12,500	12,500
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,276	2,000	2,000	1,591	2,000	3,300
COMMUNICATIONS	1,718	1,900	1,900	750	1,560	1,740
TRAVEL & TRAINING	2,062	2,500	2,500	2,971	2,971	5,000
MEAL ALLOWANCE	188			1,247		
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	439	200	200	192	300	500
PUBLIC UTILITIES	180,342	156,150	156,150	105,962	193,121	202,777
PUB. UTILITIES - BANQUET HALL	16,809	17,200	17,200	10,024	18,093	18,997
PUB. UTILITIES - CONCESSIONS	1,240	1,575	1,575	579	1,045	1,097
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	47,734	26,000	26,000	13,138	26,000	30,000
RENTALS	6,459	2,600	2,600	1,876	3,000	2,500
CAP OUTLAY LAND IMPROVEMNT	1,250			22,261		
TOWER PROJECT PARK GRANT				56,070		
TOWER PROJ - PARK NON GRANT				811		
BUILDING ADDITIONS	7,559					
CAP OUTLAY - MACH & EQUIP	13,234					
TOTALS	639,183	608,886	608,886	481,490	600,549	667,876
SENIOR CENTER						
PART TIME EMPLOYEES	53,123	65,700	65,700	37,318	60,524	60,000
FICA	4,064	4,896	4,896	2,855	4,630	4,590
OFFICE SUPPLIES	79	300	300	39	200	300
OPERATING SUPPLIES	1,677	1,000	1,000	2,159	2,500	2,500
PROFESSIONAL FEES	1,895	500	500	974	1,500	2,500
COMMUNICATIONS	1,713	2,200	2,200	935	1,890	2,400
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				318	318	400
PUBLIC UTILITIES	11,533	11,000	11,000	6,672	11,650	12,500
TOTALS	74,084	85,596	85,596	51,270	83,212	85,190

Table 19. Golf Fund Budget Summary

Golf Fund	2022-23 Activity	2023-24 original budget	2023-24 amended budget	2023-24 activity thru 2/29/24	2023-24 projected activity	2024-25 adopted budget
REVENUES						
SALES	18,675	20,000	20,000	8,548		
SOUTH WINDS RENTAL FEE REV	8,400	11,200	11,200	4,200	8,400	8,400
GREEN FEES	254,104	210,000	210,000	119,746	220,000	245,000
TOURNAMENT FEES	89,562	107,000	107,000	51,567	102,000	
FOOTE GOLF REV	447	600	600			
GOLF CART FEES						110,000
GOLF RANGE FEES						1,500
GOLF MERCH SALES						12,000
INTEREST ON DEPOSITS	2,171			602	1,000	1,200
OTHER REVENUES	(130)					
MISC REVENUES	115					
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	373,344	348,800	348,800	184,663	331,400	378,100
EXPENSES						
OPERATING SUPPLIES	10,241	10,000	10,000	11,568	20,000	15,000
REPAIR & MAINT SUPPLIES	21,813	14,000	14,000	5,259	14,000	14,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES	272			4	200	1,200
SERVICE CONTRACTS	247					
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	279,155	275,375	275,375	169,716	249,153	289,140
COMMUNICATIONS	599	600	600	237	600	650
PRINTING & PUBLISHING						500
PUBLIC UTILITIES	14,820	16,500	16,500	9,098	15,000	17,000
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	756			670	670	
RENTALS	10,489	16,500	16,500	1,650	8,000	8,000
DEPRECIATION	7,963					
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	346,355	332,975	332,975	198,202	307,623	345,490
NET OF REVENUES/ APPROPRIATIONS	26,989	15,825	15,825	(13,539)	23,777	32,610
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	539,653	566,643	566,643	566,643	566,643	590,420
ENDING FUND BALANCE	566,642	582,468	582,468	553,104	590,420	623,030

Parks & Recreation Department Staff

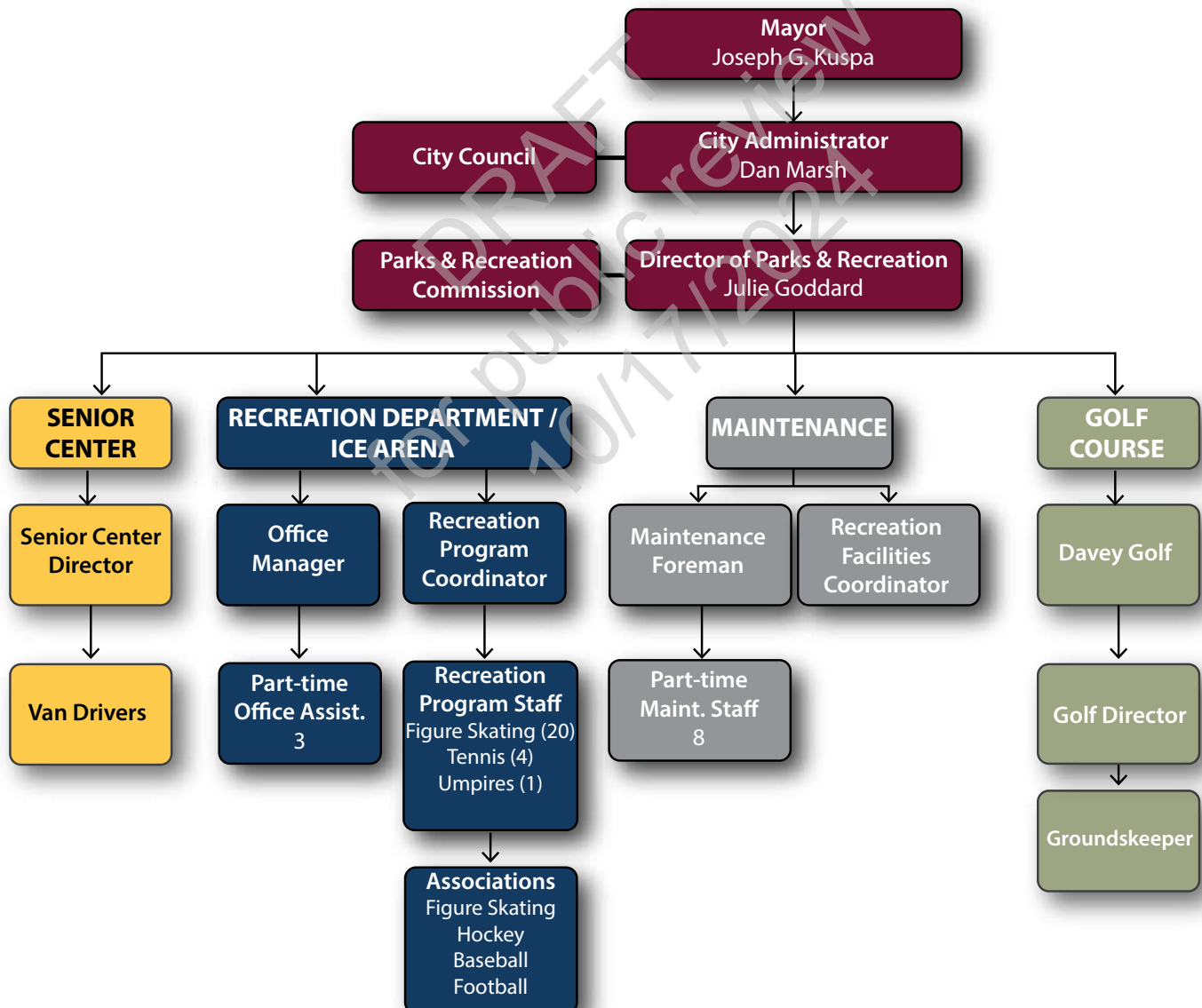
Personnel employed by the Southgate Recreation Department are categorized as full-time if they work 80% of the year and average 40 hours per week. The City employs approximately 100 part-time staff throughout the year.

Permanent full-time personnel employed by the City include the following:

- Director of Parks & Recreation 1
- Recreation Maintenance Supervisor 1

The golf course retains several seasonal employees for the pro shop and restaurant operation. The course is owned and managed by the city but the clubhouse and restaurant are operated by the Crystal Gardens. Southgate turned management of the restaurant facilities over to Crystal Gardens in 2012. Crystal Gardens is a banquet, conference, and entertainment services organization based in Southgate. The management of the course itself is handled through contractual agreements with a golf pro and groundskeeper who maintains the course.

Figure 14. Organizational Chart



Volunteers & Partnerships

Southgate Parks and Recreation works cooperatively with the Southgate Community School District and volunteer sports organizations to offer recreation services to area residents. The Parks Department and the school district allow shared use of facilities and operate maintenance agreements which ensures equitable use for both park program participants and school participants utilizing city facilities. Continued cooperation between these two entities provides City residents the best possible access to recreation facilities while minimizing associated infrastructure and maintenance costs.

Several other sports groups and clubs have working relationships with the City as well. The Southgate Figure Skating Club, which supports close to 200 skaters, operates a number of competitions and works with the City on improvements for the ice arena. The Downriver Hockey Club operates 12 teams and a Learn to Play program. The Southgate Little League provides competitive sport for close to 300 players, while Southgate Vikings offers football and cheer activities.

One of the more unique clubs in southeast Michigan is the Great Lakes Steamers train club. The club maintains a series of tracks at Kiwanis Park, offering rides on 1/8 scale trains at various dates throughout the year. The Annual Christmas and Halloween Runs remains wildly popular.

A number of other service clubs and community groups exist in Southgate. While not all of these clubs currently provide active support to Southgate Parks and Recreation, they do offer the potential for providing volunteer labor and financial support for City parks and facilities in the future. A partial list of groups includes:

Local service clubs:

- Kiwanis Club
- Lions Club
- Rotary Club
- Knights of Columbus
- American Legion Post 478

Scouting Groups:

- Great Lake Field Service Council
- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan

Recreation Use Groups:

- Southgate Figure Skating Club
- Downriver Hockey Club
- MSE Adult Hockey
- Southgate Little League Baseball
- Southgate Vikings

Other clubs:

- Creative Character Dance
- Great Lakes Steamers



Image Sources: Great Lakes Steamers

Chapter 7: Community Background

Southgate is located in the heart of the downriver section of southeastern Wayne County. Southgate's name was chosen, in part, as a reflection of its status as the southern gateway to Detroit; the City is less than three miles south of the southernmost tip of Detroit. The Detroit River, forming the boundary between the United States and Canada and acting as a major shipping route, is located approximately two miles east.

Southgate was historically a part of rural Ecorse Township. Street grids were platted as early as the 1920s, but development did not begin in earnest until shortly after World War II. Southgate's population ballooned in the decade following the war, growing from 2,000 residents in 1940 to 10,000 by 1950. The City was officially incorporated on October 8, 1958.

Wayne County is located in the heart of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) region. SEMCOG is the regional planning agency that conducts planning studies and maintains a comprehensive database of information about each community it serves. It is a source for some of the population and land use related data included in this report.

Figure 15. Site Context - State of Michigan

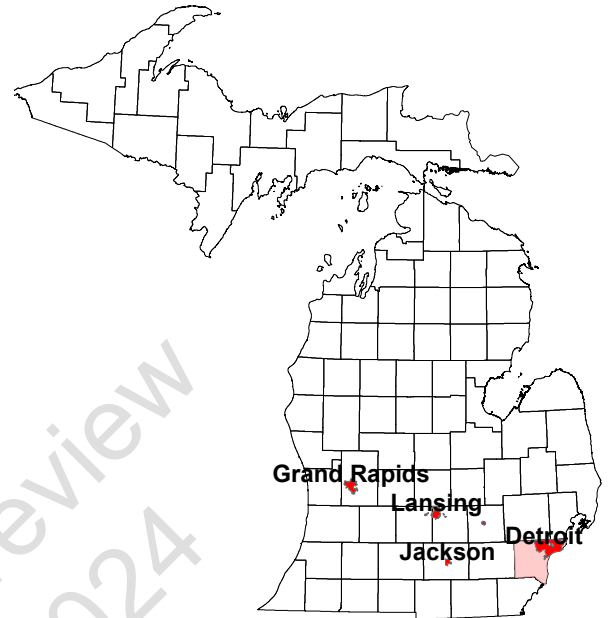


Figure 16. Site Context - Wayne County

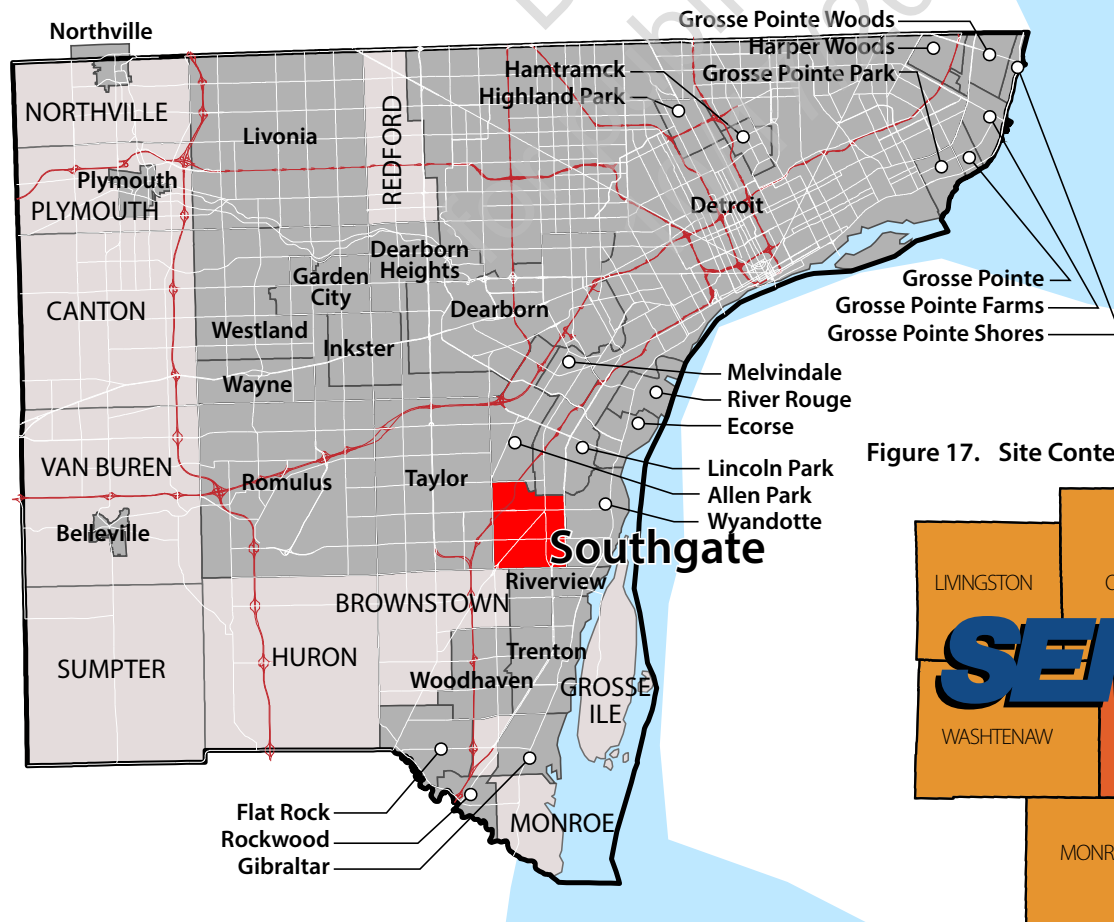


Figure 17. Site Context - SEMCOG

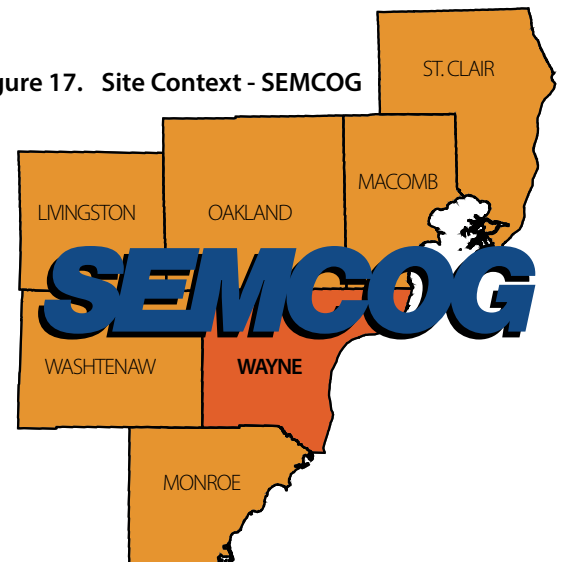


Table 20. Population Data, Southgate Region

Community	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	2023 SEMCOG Estimate	% Change 2010 - 2023	2050 SEMCOG Estimate	% Change 2020 - 2045
Southgate	30,771	30,136	30,047	30,014	29,474	-1.9%	30,464	1.5%
Allen Park	31,092	29,376	28,210	28,638	28,245	0.1%	27,814	-2.9%
Brownstown Twp	18,811	22,989	30,627	33,194	33,309	8.8%	36,099	8.8%
Lincoln Park	41,832	40,008	38,144	40,245	39,694	4.1%	39,109	-2.8%
Riverview	13,894	13,272	12,486	12,490	12,277	-1.7%	12,444	-0.4%
Taylor	70,811	65,868	63,131	63,409	62,036	-1.7%	63,388	0.0%
Wyandotte	30,938	28,006	25,883	25,058	24,357	-5.9%	23,596	-5.8%
Wayne County	2,111,687	2,061,162	1,820,650	1,738,700	1,779,481	-2.3%	1,804,908	3.8%
SEMCOG Region	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,830,489	4,804,188	2.1%	5,138,535	6.4%
State of Michigan (7-1-22)	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	10,034,113	10,037,261	1.6%	10,608,242	5.7%

Source: American Community Survey, US Census, SEMCOG

Population

Wayne County, including the nineteen communities that make up the Downriver area, has experienced population declines since the 1970s. Influenced in large part by migration from the City of Detroit, Wayne County lost a third of its population between 1970 to 2023. The population loss appears to have slowed down in recent years, falling from an 11.7% decline between 2000 to 2010 to a 2.3% loss between 2010 to 2023. SEMCOG is forecasting modest increases from 2020 to 2050, the first such increases in decades.

Compared to the rest of the county, Southgate's population has been relatively stable. Following a period of explosive growth immediately after World War II, the City peaked in population at 33,909 in the 1970s. In each of the subsequent decades, Southgate has lost an average of just under 3% of its population, with a 1.9% loss between 2010 and 2023. The City's population stands at 29,474 as of 2023, a slight increase from the 29,333 reported in 2016. SEMCOG forecasts slow but continued growth through 2050, with a projected population of 30,464. See Table 20 for more detail.

While Detroit and the communities within Wayne County have suffered from these losses in recent years, southeast Michigan as a whole has remained relatively stable. The region has seen modest growth overall, with more significant population gains typically seen in rural areas. Brownstown Township, Southgate's southwestern neighbor, is typical of this trend, experiencing an 8.8% increase between 2010 and 2023.

Table 21. Age Group Distribution

Age Group	US Census 2000	US Census 2010	US Census 2020	ACS 2022
19 and under	23.8%	22.8%	20.1%	21.4%
20 to 44	36.7%	32.8%	33.7%	34.6%
45 to 64	23.3%	28.1%	27.9%	25.3%
65 and older	16.2%	16.3%	18.4%	18.7%

Source: American Community Survey, US Census, SEMCOG

Table 22. Median Age

Year	Southgate	Wayne County	State of Michigan
2010	40.4	36.5	38.1
2011	40.4	36.9	38.5
2012	42.5	37.2	38.8
2013	41.9	37.6	39.1
2014	42.7	37.7	39.3
2015	43.2	37.8	39.5
2016	43.5	37.8	39.6
2017	44.2	37.9	39.6
2018	44	37.9	39.7
2019	43.6	37.6	39.7
2020	42.2	37.9	39.8
2021	42.1	37.9	40.2
2022	40.3	38	40.3

Source: American Community Survey

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, the largest age group in Southgate is young adults ages 20 to 44 (see Table 21 on page 71). Children under the age of 19 make up 21.4% of the population while seniors age 65 years and over make up 18.7%. Like most of the State of Michigan, Southgate is seeing a steady rise in the size of their senior population. Yet while this group continues to grow, recent data suggests a shift towards a younger population. Increases in the young adult (5.5%) and children under 19 (9.6%) populations outpaced senior growth (4.8%) and older adult losses (-6.7%) beginning in 2020 (see Figure 18), and the City’s median age (see Table 22 on page 71) reflects that shift. Unlike Wayne County and the state as a whole, Southgate’s median age has been steadily dropping since 2016 (Figure 19 below).

Other indicators paint a mixed picture as well. The number of households with seniors increased by 4.8% between 2010 and 2021, while the number of households with children dropped by 9.5%. All told, while the trends outlined above provide promising indicators of growth within the community, there is still strong evidence that the City is aging, much like the rest of Michigan. From a recreation standpoint, the prudent course of action is to maintain a balance of amenities which appeal to both younger families and older adults.

Figure 18. Southgate Age Group Percentages

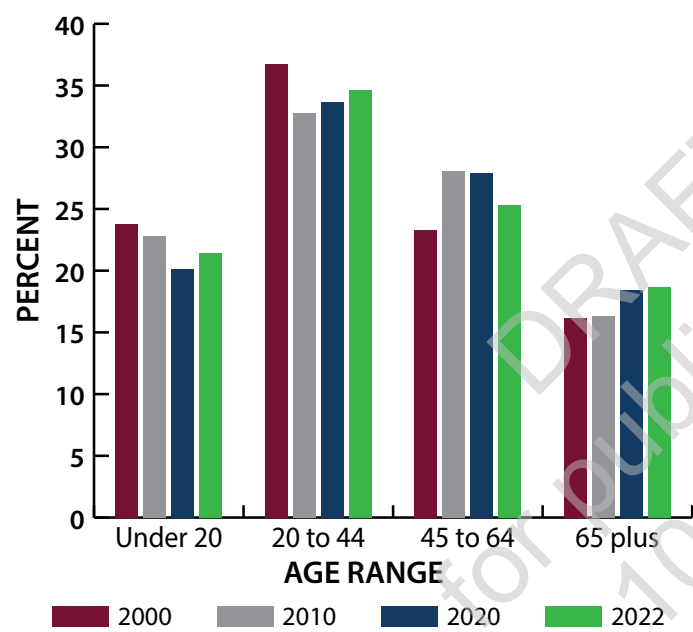
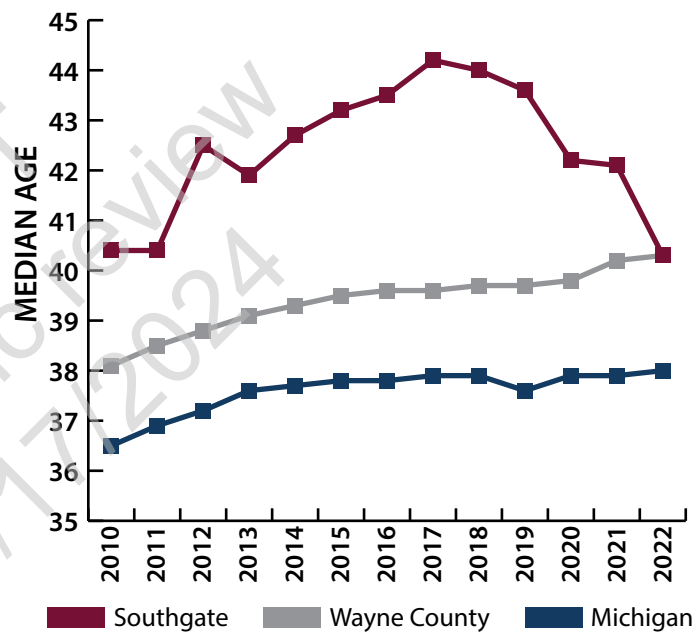


Figure 19. Median Age Comparisons



Southgate Ice Arena. Image source: Google / Arturo Garcia

Housing

According to ACS 2021 estimates, there are 13,375 housing units in the city, a drop of 369 units from 2010. Southgate's housing units consist primarily of single-family detached units (70%) with most of the remaining housing being multi-family residential units (29%). Attached units, duplex, and mobile homes account for the remaining residential units.

94% of Southgate's housing units are occupied, with 63% of occupied units owner-occupied and 31% renter-occupied. The percentage of vacant units remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2021, falling from 6.3% to 6.0%.

The median housing value in 2022 was \$152,400, rebounding from a low of \$84,900 in 2015, and surpassing pre-recession values. Gross rent has steadily increased since 2011, with the median gross rent reaching \$1,048 in 2022.

Table 23. Southgate Housing Values & Gross Rent

Year	Median Home Value	Median Gross Rent
2010	\$131,000.00	\$761.00
2011	\$116,300.00	\$749.00
2012	\$100,800.00	\$772.00
2013	\$88,200.00	\$794.00
2014	\$85,900.00	\$792.00
2015	\$84,900.00	\$798.00
2016	\$87,900.00	\$814.00
2017	\$95,400.00	\$824.00
2018	\$103,200.00	\$830.00
2019	\$112,300.00	\$876.00
2020	\$125,800.00	\$905.00
2021	\$133,300.00	\$958.00
2022	\$152,400.00	\$1,048.00

Source: American Community Survey

Table 24. 2020 Land Cover

Land Cover	Description	Acres	Percent
Impervious	buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots	2,121.90	48.20%
Trees	woody vegetation, trees	388	8.80%
Open Space	agricultural fields, grasslands, turfgrass	1,816.20	41.30%
Bare	soil, aggregate piles, unplanted fields	57.3	1.30%
Water	rivers, lakes, drains, ponds	17.2	0.40%

Source: SEMCOG



Southgate Anderson High School. Image source: Wikipedia

Land Use

Categorizing land use change can be challenging. Incomplete data, shifting use parameters, and differences in opinion on what constitutes a land use category can all complicate the evaluation process. For purposes of this study, we are using existing land use data as described in the City's most recent comprehensive plan update (2011). The data is old, and there may be some discrepancies between on-the-ground conditions and those shown in the plan. To supplement this information, we are also using SEMCOG land use information. Their categories are somewhat different from those shown in the City's plan, so a direct comparison between the two sources is not possible. SEMCOG's data does, however, offer the option to compare 2015 and 2020 land uses.

The major discrepancy between the two data sets revolves around Transportation, Communication, and Utilities (TCU), which covers the easement space on roads, railroads, and utility lines. The City's parcel data does not include that category, and there is roughly a 1,000 acre difference between the acreage reported in the City's and SEMCOG's data. If that missing acreage is added to the vacant category for the City, the two data sets are fairly similar in their results. See Table 25 below for a comparison of the two data sets. The "modified" City data is used for discussion purposes in the following paragraphs.

Southgate is approximately 70% developed with the majority of undeveloped parcels located in the northwestern corner of the City. Open areas in the northwest are primarily zoned light industrial. A small undeveloped area in west-central Southgate, zoned single family residential, is classified as wetland in MIRIS and NWI maps. Several small vacant parcels, zoned commercial, are located on major thoroughfares throughout the City.

Residential land use occupies 45% of the City's total acreage, with single-family detached residential (37.7%) dominating. 1940s and 50s era bungalows in a traditional grid pattern dominate the housing market, with a few more recent developments scattered along the northern, north-central, and southern portions of the City. Southgate's Old Homestead district, bounded by Superior, Trenton, Eureka, and Fort Street, is dominated by one-and-a-half story bungalows and two-story colonials. According to SEMCOG data, multiple family housing has increased in recent years, with an almost 21% increase in total acreage since 2015.

Commercial land use occupies about 10 percent of the City's land area, with Eureka acting as the main commercial corridor. The Southgate Shopping Center, one of metro Detroit's first major strip malls, opened in 1958 at the intersection of Eureka and Trenton Roads. Big box-style stores in the northwest and southeast and a variety of owner-operated stores along Dix Toledo Road comprise the remainder of the commercial operations.

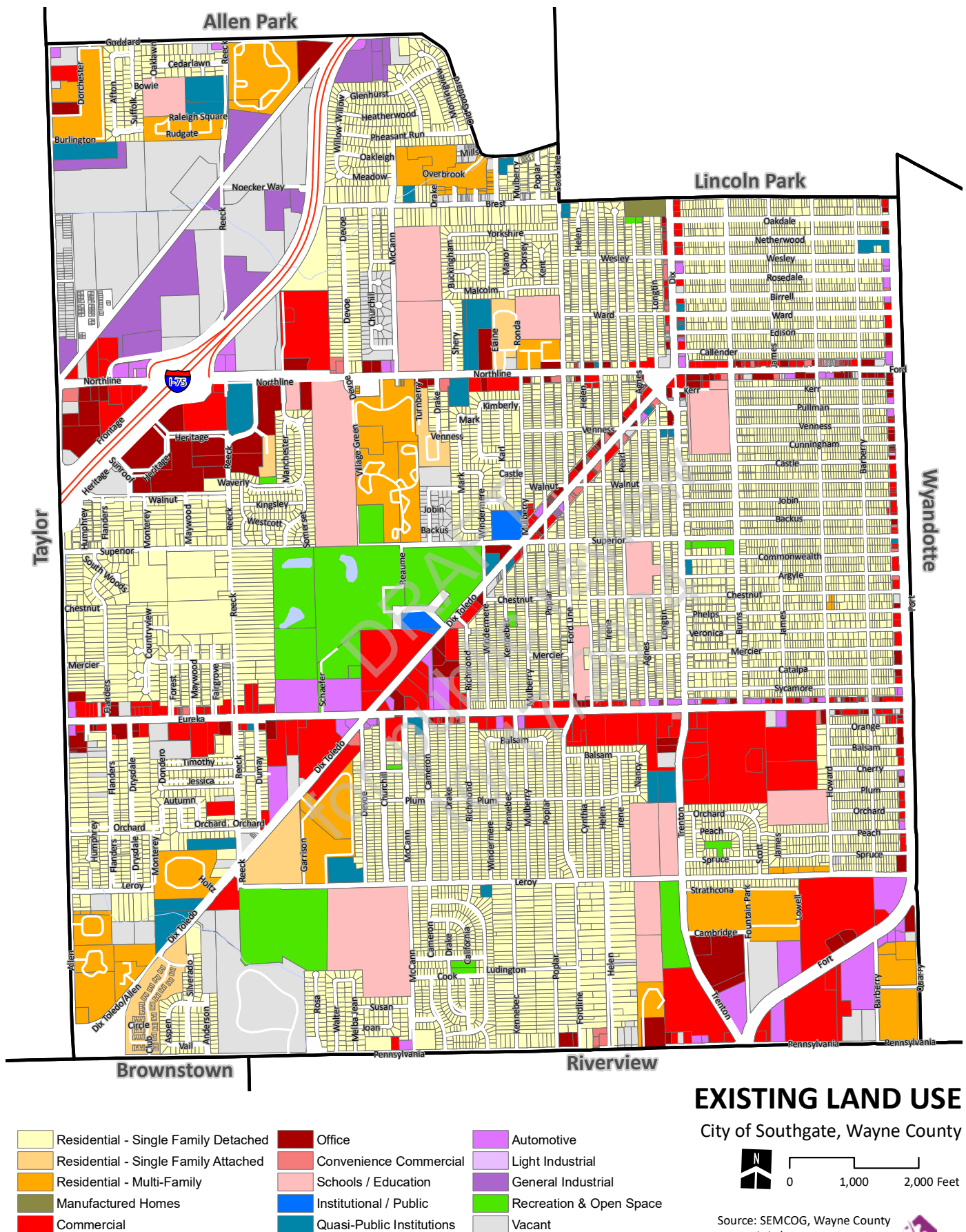
Light industrial facilities are limited to the northwestern corner of the City. Industrial facilities in this area focus primarily on packaging and/or research. Restricted office zones are located along the western half of Northline road, with a few other areas located near the southern edge of the City. Automotive uses are included as part of the overall industrial group in the City data, pushing the total up to 3.4%.

Table 25. City & SEMCOG Land Use Comparison

General Land Use Category	Southgate 2011 Comprehensive Plan		Southgate 2011 Comprehensive Plan - Modified		SEMCOG 2020 Data	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Recreation	167.68	4.9%	167.68	3.8%	162.30	3.7%
Residential	1,994.69	58.6%	1,994.69	45.3%	1,891.60	43.1%
Commercial	456.94	13.4%	456.94	10.4%	579.30	13.2%
Industrial	149.85	4.4%	149.85	3.4%	63.00	1.4%
Public Use	289.17	8.5%	289.17	6.6%	326.80	7.4%
Vacant/Other	346.40	10.2%	1,346.00	30.6%	1,370.50	31.2%
TOTAL	3,404.74	100.0%	4,404.33	100.0%	4,393.50	100.0%

Source: SEMCOG

Map 3. Existing Land Use



Open space and recreation land uses account for only 3.8% of the City's land area, totaling almost 168 acres. The largest of Southgate's parks is the Homer Howard complex in the center of the City. Homer Howard Park is part of Southgate's municipal complex, an area which includes the ice arena, City Hall, police and fire departments, the 28th District Courthouse, Downriver Animal Control facility, the Southgate Veteran's Memorial Library, and the Southgate Senior Center, as well as the park facilities themselves.

Figure 20. Land Use Percentage

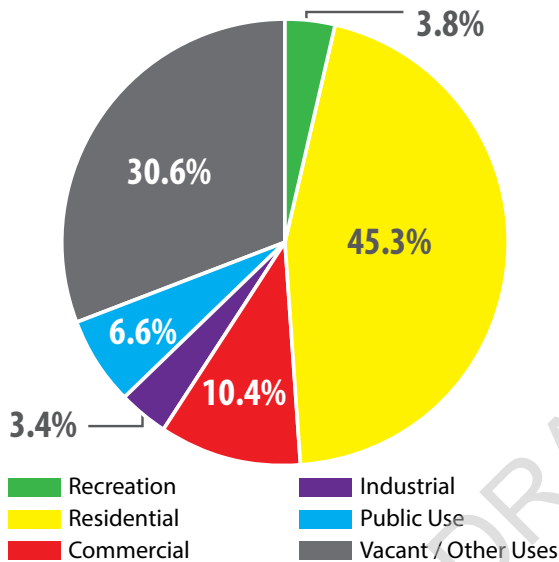


Table 26. 2020 SEMCOG Existing Land Use

Land use	Acres 2020	Percent
Residential - Single Family Detached	1659.9	37.7%
Residential - Single Family Attached	61.8	1.4%
Multi-family Residential	268.9	6.1%
Manufactured Home	4.1	0.1%
Commercial	315.2	7.2%
Convenience Commercial	12.7	0.3%
Office	129.0	2.9%
Recreation	167.7	3.8%
Public Use	8.5	0.2%
Quasi-Public	64.6	1.5%
Educational	216.0	4.9%
Automotive	79.2	1.8%
General Industrial	70.5	1.6%
Light Industrial	0.1	0.0%
Vacant & Other Uses	1346.0	30.6%

Source: 2011 Southgate Comprehensive Plan

Table 27. 2020 SEMCOG Existing Land Use

Land use	Acres 2020	Percent	Acres 2015	Change 2015 - 2020	% Change 2015 - 2020
Single-Family Residential	1549.7	35.3%	1541.6	8.1	0.50%
Not Parceled	1012.8	23.1%	1012.8	0	0%
Vacant	336.3	7.7%	367.9	-31.6	-8.60%
Retail	322.8	7.3%	305.4	17.4	5.70%
Institutional	281.9	6.4%	288.2	-6.3	-2.20%
Multi-Family Housing	251.9	5.7%	208.7	43.2	20.70%
Office	149.0	3.4%	151.7	-2.8	-1.80%
Hospitality	107.5	2.4%	109.2	-1.7	-1.50%
Recreational / Open Space	111.8	2.5%	106.7	5	4.70%
Industrial	63.0	1.4%	87.1	-24.2	-27.70%
Attached Condo Housing	83.8	1.9%	83.7	0.1	0.10%
Medical	44.9	1.0%	54.3	-9.4	-17.40%
Golf Course	50.5	1.1%	50.5	0	0%
Agricultural / Rural Residential	6.5	0.1%	6.5	0	0%
Parking	6.4	0.1%	6.4	0.00	0%
TCU	5.5	0.1%	5.5	0	0%
Mobile Home	4.2	0.1%	4.2	0	0%
Water	3.0	0.1%	3.0	0	0%
Mixed Use	2.0	0.0%	0.0	2	-

Source: SEMCOG

Transportation

The City's transportation network offers easy connection to surrounding communities and the region as a whole. I-75 cuts through the northwestern corner of the City, while the eastern border is roughly defined by Fort Street (M-85). Dix Highway runs south into Southgate, at which point it turns southwest and becomes Dix Toledo Road. Eureka Road, the City's main commercial corridor, runs east-west through the southern third of the City and is home to a number of restaurants, shopping, and entertainment venues. Three SMART bus system lines serve the City, two of which offering service into downtown Detroit.

Detroit Metropolitan Airport, located five miles west of the City, offers direct flights to a number of national and international cities. The Conrail Shared Assets Lincoln Secondary train line runs through the northwestern corner of the City.

Climate

Southgate receives an average annual rainfall of 31.7 inches, and 29.6 inches of snow. The area sees an average of 176 sunny days each year, and 112 days with measurable precipitation. The average high temperature in July is 86 degrees Fahrenheit, and average low in January is 16.9 degrees. According to the Michigan Environmental Council, climate change may have a significant impact on the state. Temperatures will grow significantly warmer. Overall, precipitation is forecasted to increase, but the majority of the increase will occur in the spring months, with prolonged drought periods possible in summer months. Rain events will be "flashy", with heavy downpours, and storm events will grow more severe. The Great Lakes could face a significant decrease in volume, with nearby Lake St. Clair losing up to 20% of its surface area.

Natural Features

Geology & Topography

The southeast Michigan area was heavily influenced by glacial activity that scoured much of the upper Midwest 14,000 years ago. Just north and west of Detroit, morainal deposits left by the receding glaciers formed large, rolling hills. Downriver, by contrast, is quite flat; as the Erie lobe of the ice sheet retreated, the area was covered by glacial paleolakes Lake Maumee and Lake Elkton. Flat mud plains remained to form new land after ice dams broke and the lakes receded.

Soils

According to USDA soil surveys, the area is primarily covered in poorly drained Ziegenfuss clay with a typical slope of one to two percent. Soil permeability is slow to very slow, and depth to ground water is 0 inches. Most development opportunities, from housing construction to recreation uses, are considered limited to very limited. The USDA notes that any future plans for development of areas for recreation uses may require costly soil reclamation and drainage accommodations, as well as special design and intense maintenance.

Vegetation

The pattern of vegetation is influenced by topography, soils, and human impact. Historically, Southgate was dominated by beech-maple forests. These forests allow little light to reach the understory, which limits the ability for shrub growth.

Modern development has drastically changed the vegetative makeup of the City. Southgate's streets and parks include a large number of planted trees. A few relatively undisturbed wooded areas near less densely developed subdivisions, along the drain systems, and near the Southgate Nature Center. Despite the relative scarcity of natural areas, hawks, geese, ducks, coyote, and deer are still present in the City.

Water Resources

Despite being less than two miles from the Detroit River, Southgate's water resources are limited. Retention ponds at the site of the former municipal golf course (now the South Winds Golf Course), a few ponds at the Southgate Nature Center and a few retention ponds at developments make up the extent of the City's water bodies. Two open drain systems, the Grams Drain and the Frank and Poet Drains, hint to the City's agricultural past. The Asmey Drain and Sutliff and Kenope Drains are largely buried. The south branch of the Ecorse River is briefly visible in the northwestern quadrant of the City. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE, formerly DEQ) shows large areas of wetland-indicative soils throughout Southgate, especially in the western edges of the City, the National Wetlands Inventory only indicates a few pockets of true wetlands remaining in Southgate.

Related Planning Initiatives

Several significant planning and development efforts have taken place at local levels which have relevance to parks and recreation in Southgate.

Figure 21. Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative Map

Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative

The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative (DLGI) is a community-driven regional effort dedicated to coordination of non-motorized transportation efforts in the 18-city Downriver area. DLGI works with communities to design and implement trail projects, including pedestrian, cycling, and water-trail facilities. Recent successes include the addition of linkages that will act to complete a 30-mile greenway from Flat Rock, Michigan, to the Oakwoods Metropark in Huron Charter Township.

DLGI's plans for Southgate are relatively limited, but could form the backbone of an interconnected trail system for the community. The DLGI plan calls for trails running north along Reeck Road, moving through Homer Howard and Ray Torres Lions Club Parks, ultimately connecting with paths along Goddard Street in Lincoln Park. A western spur would follow Northline, connecting to multi-use trails in Taylor. Gaps in the sidewalk system on Taylor's eastern edge would need to be filled in.



Source: Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative

Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision

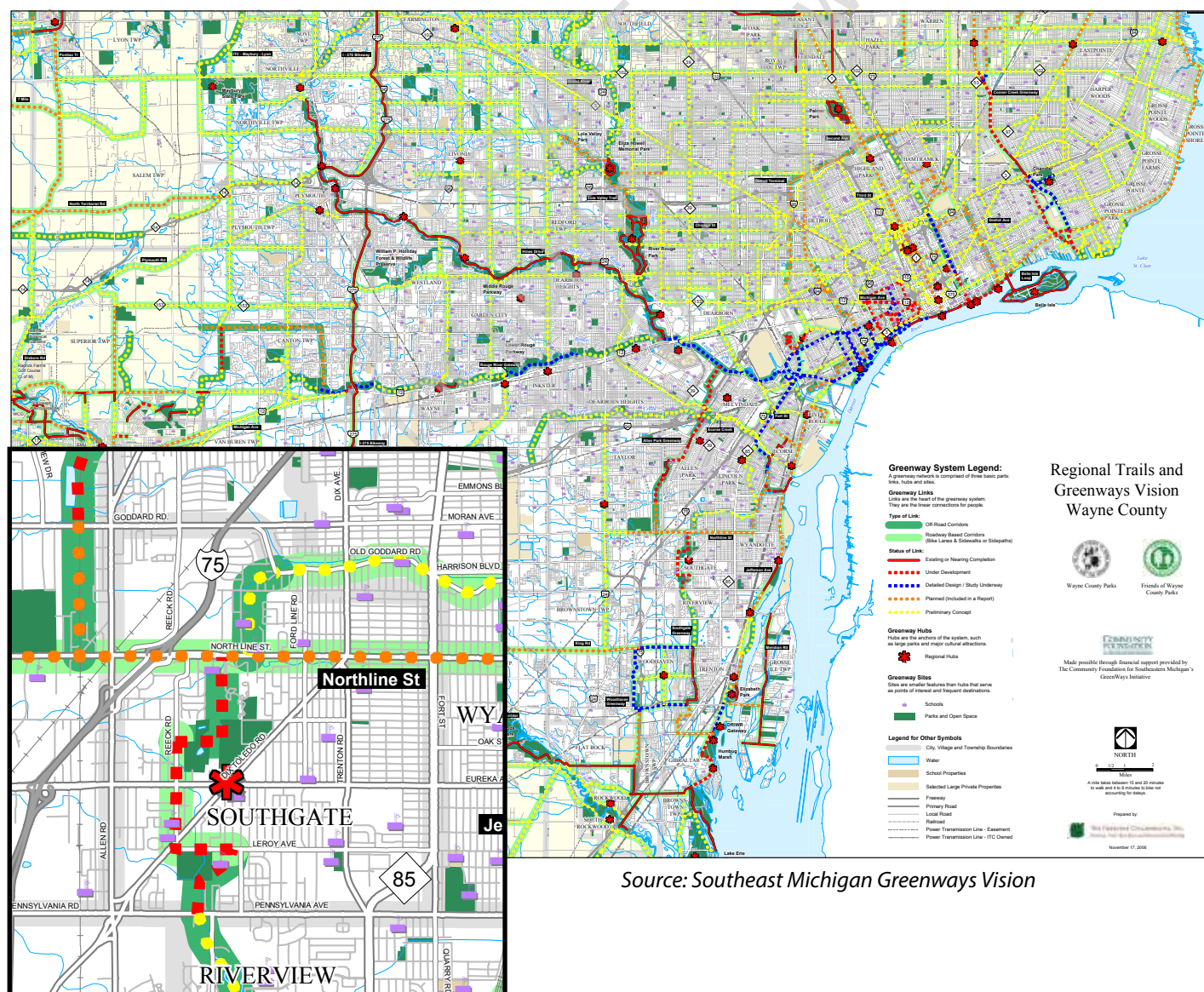
In 2006, the seven-county region of southeast Michigan updated the Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision (SEMGIV) to reflect the desired non-motorized connections in the region. This initiative was facilitated by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Counties worked together with local municipalities and community interest groups to develop a long-term vision for a connected system of greenways and trails. Figure 22 depicts the vision for Wayne County.

While the Vision is mostly conceptual, it does show the potential for trail and greenway development throughout the region, and highlights the importance of interconnectivity between communities. In Southgate, the plan shows a conceptual north/south route

beginning in Ecorse and running through Lincoln Park. It continues along Old Goddard Road, traveling through the Overbrook Village Apartments before turning south along McCann and Reek Roads. The route then turns east along Leroy Avenue before shifting south and continuing into Riverview. Significant sections of the alignment are shown as off-road corridors, and portions of the route are already existing or near completion.

An additional planned route along Northline Street is also described, connecting between Taylor and Wyandotte. This route is primarily roadway based, utilizing bike lanes and sidewalks to complete the connection.

Figure 22. SEMGIV Regional Trails & Greenways Vision



Source: Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision

SEMCOG 2045 Regional Transportation Plan / 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for SE Michigan

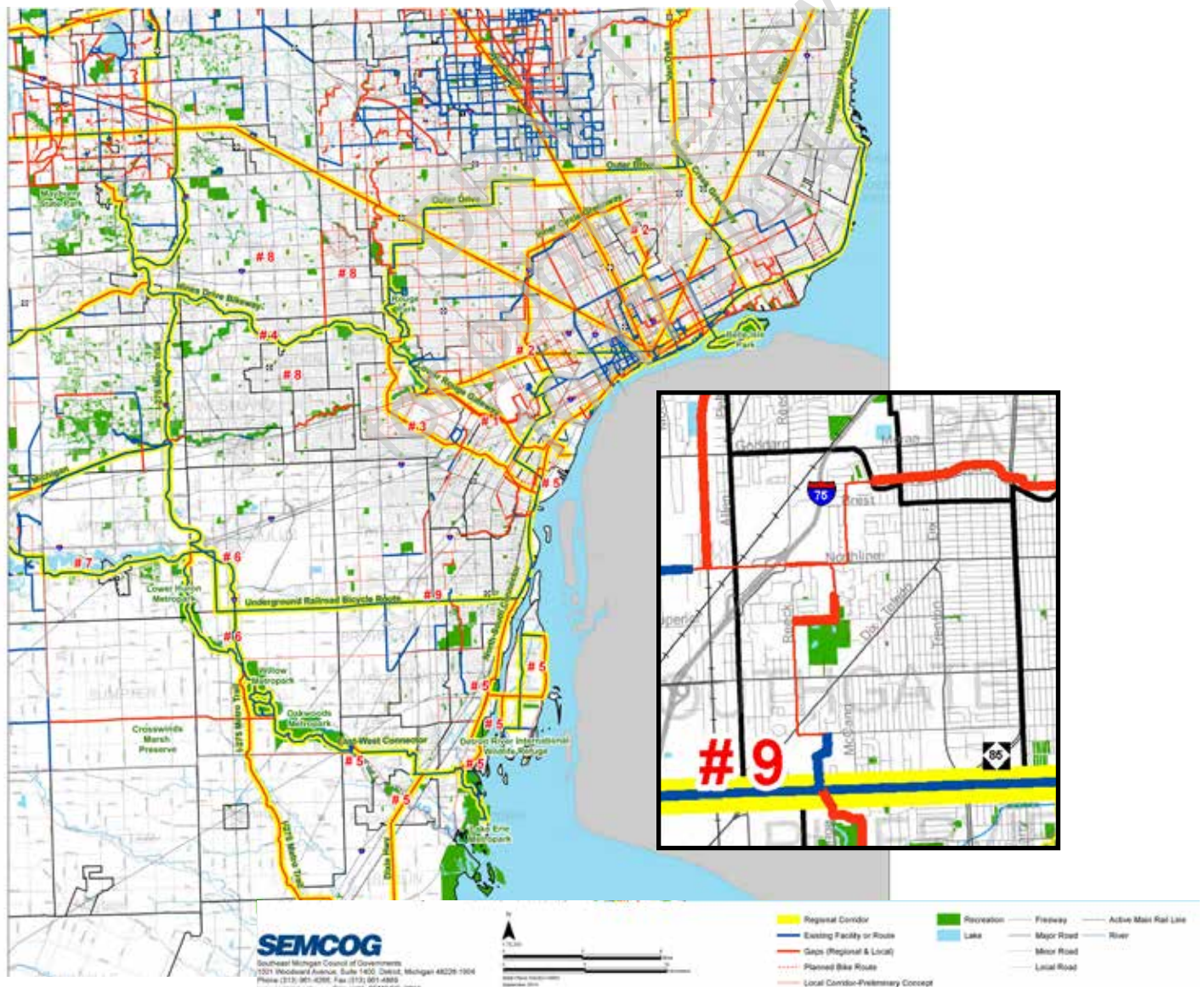
The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan provides broad transportation recommendations for projects across the seven-county region, with a budget of over \$5 billion proposed for transportation infrastructure improvements. While this plan focuses on motorized infrastructure, it does provide a chance to look at upcoming projects and plan accordingly for other related infrastructure improvements. Generally speaking, road infrastructure improvements represent opportunities for adding to bicycle networks and implementing complete street programs.

The 2014 SEMCOG plan is a joint effort between Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 10 regions and incorporating

60 different action items. SEMCOG's larger regional focus places more emphasis on existing non-motorized transportation options, and details several larger trail efforts that overlap efforts in the DLGI plan.

As with the DLGI and SEMGIV concepts, plans for Southgate are limited in nature. All three concepts show the same general configuration of a north/south route through the center of the City and an east/west route along Northline Road. The major difference in SEMCOG's plan is the inclusion of the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route, running east-west along Pennsylvania Road. The trail would connect with an expanded I-275 Metro Trail to the west, and a North-South Connector trail along the Detroit River between Belle Isle in the north and the Lake Erie Metropark and Pointe Mouillee State Game Area to the south.

Figure 23. SEMCOG Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

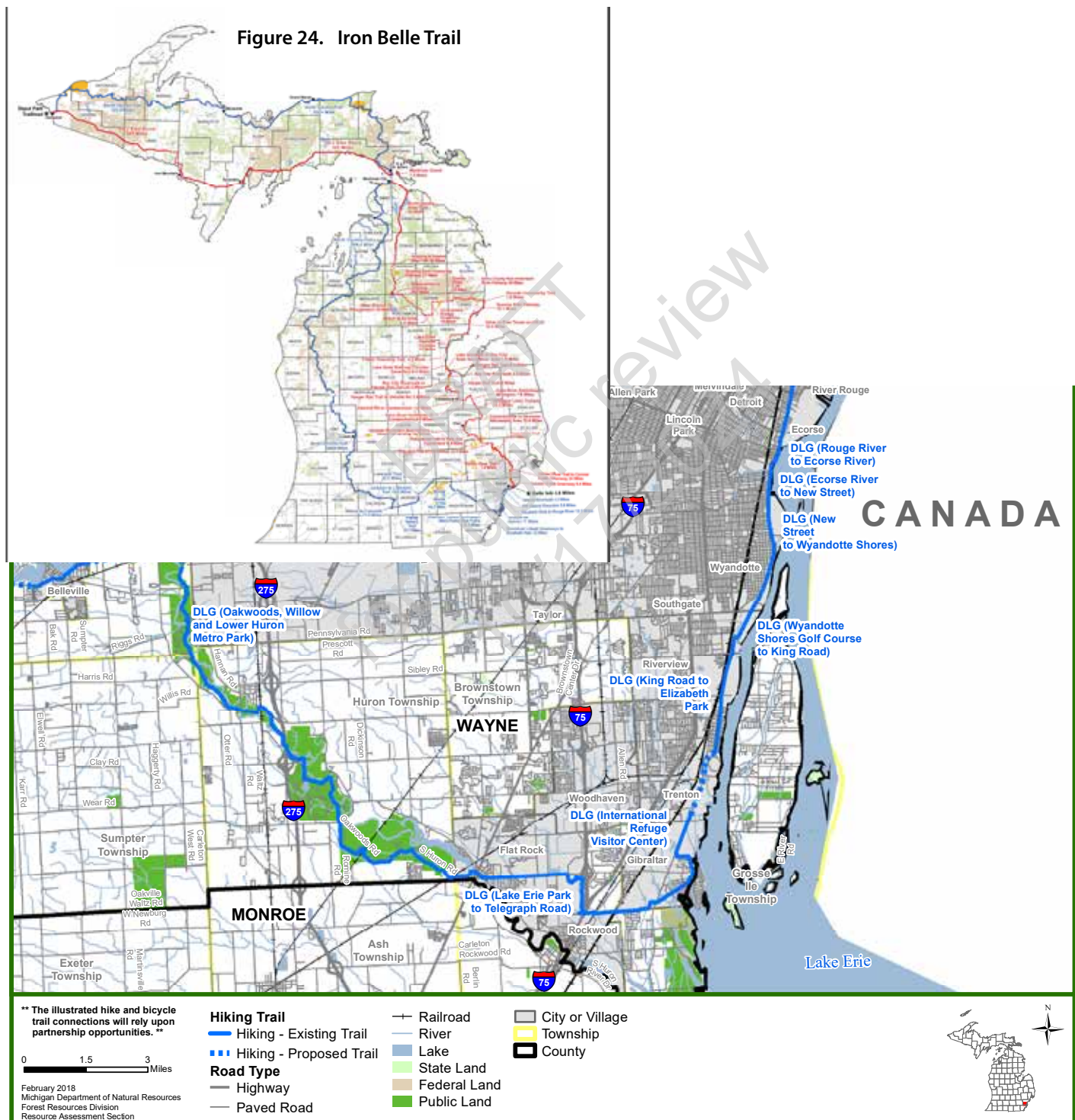


Source: SEMCOG

State of Michigan Iron Belle Trail

The ambitious project by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) connects a series of trails from Detroit's Belle Isle to Ironwood in the far west of the Upper Peninsula. The trail includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. The 791 mile long biking trail uses existing multi-use trails on the east side of the state and follows US-2 in the Upper Peninsula.

The trail will not directly pass through the City but will run one mile east if measured along West Jefferson/ Biddle Avenue, or roughly 1.6 miles east if measured along Northline Road/Ford Avenue. Both the proposed route along Northline/Ford or the Underground Railroad Trail route along Pennsylvania Road would give Southgate residents easy access to the Iron Belle system and numerous destinations around the state.



Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

DRAFT
for public review
10/17/2024

Appendix A: Public Notices

DRAFT
for public review
10/17/2024

A - Public Notices
B - Minutes of Public Hearing
C - Resolution of Adoption
D - Letters of Transmittal
E - Public Input Summary
F - Park Design Plans

DRAFT
for public review
10/17/2024

Appendix B: Minutes

DRAFT
for public review
10/17/2024

A - Public Notices	
B - Minutes of Public Hearing	
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for public review
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Appendix C: Resolution of Adoption

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10/17/2024

A - Public Notices
B - Minutes of Public Hearing
C - Resolution of Adoption
D - Letters of Transmittal
E - Public Input Summary
F - Park Design Plans

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Appendix D: Letters of Transmittal

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F - Park Design Plans
E - Public Input Summary
D - Letters of Transmittal
C - Resolution of Adoption
B - Minutes of Public Hearing
A - Public Notices

DRAFT
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Appendix E: Public Input Summary

City of Southgate Community Survey Results

The City of Southgate made an online survey available to residents from May 20 to June 26, 2024, as part of an outreach program for the recreation plan update. The survey was advertised on the City's website and on social media. 179 unique responses were received.

The survey responses were analyzed to determine if entries were human generated, i.e. not bots. Only two duplicate IP addresses were found; one appeared to be the result of two people from one household entering their opinions. The other IP address had six entries, but each entry was significantly different, minimizing concerns about "ballot stuffing".

The following pages provide a summary of the results. For open-ended questions, responses are provided verbatim; no edits have been made for grammar or spelling errors except to redact identifying answers as necessary. The top result for each question is highlighted in yellow.

1. Are you a Southgate resident?

	Number	Percent
Yes	169	94.4%
No, but I operate a business in Southgate	3	1.7%
No, I live in another community (please specify location)	7	3.9%
Total Responses	179	15.6%

Note: A data configuration error prevented respondents from entering their location if they were from outside of the City.

2. Which of the following categories best describe your household? (Choose all that apply)

Category	Number	Percent
With seniors	24	13.4%
Without seniors	32	17.9%
Senior citizen (65+) living alone	7	3.9%
Live alone, under the age of 65	8	4.5%
2 persons or more, with children 13 to 18 years	46	25.7%
2 persons or more, with children under 13 years	79	44.1%
2 persons or more, no children in the household	44	24.6%
Total Unique Responses	179	
Total Responses	240	

Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%.

3. Please describe your current living situation.

Category	Number	Percent
Single family home	175	97.8%
Apartment	2	1.1%
Manufactured / mobile home	0	0.0%
Attached condominium or duplex	1	0.6%
Other (Please specify)	1	0.6%
Total Responses	179	0.0%

4. How important are the following items to you and your family?

Community	Very important		Important		Neutral		Somewhat unimportant		Not important at all		Total Resp. #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities	117	65.7%	50	28.1%	8	4.5%	3	1.7%	0	0.0%	178
Acquiring and developing new parks and recreation facilities	67	37.4%	56	31.3%	38	21.2%	7	3.9%	11	6.2%	179
Access to active use facilities (e.g. soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	74	41.3%	50	27.9%	39	21.8%	8	4.5%	8	4.5%	179
Access to passive use facilities (e.g. picnic shelters, playgrounds, walking paths, etc.)	108	60.3%	55	30.7%	9	5.0%	3	1.7%	4	2.2%	179
Protecting natural resources	101	56.7%	54	30.3%	19	10.7%	3	1.7%	1	0.6%	178
Access to paths and trails	83	46.9%	69	39.0%	19	10.7%	4	2.3%	2	1.1%	177
Access to recreation programs (e.g. special events, classes, sports leagues, etc.)	74	41.6%	67	37.6%	27	15.2%	9	5.1%	1	0.6%	178

5. Does Southgate have too many, too few, or the right amount of parks?

Category	Number	Percent
Far too many	4	2.2%
Too many	11	6.2%
The right amount	100	55.9%
Too few	56	31.3%
Far too few	8	4.5%
Total Responses	179	

6. How satisfied are you with existing Southgate parks & recreation facilities?

Community	Highly satisfied		Satisfied		Somewhat unsatisfied		Not satisfied at all		Don't know/ Haven't visited		Total Resp. #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Auxiliary Police Park	2	1.1%	38	21.8%	24	13.8%	25	14.4%	85	48.9%	174
Cobb Park	16	9.2%	57	32.8%	30	17.2%	8	4.6%	63	36.2%	174
Countryview Park	1	0.6%	18	10.6%	4	2.4%	8	4.7%	139	81.8%	170
Homer Howard Park	5	2.9%	38	22.1%	17	9.9%	13	7.6%	99	57.6%	172
Ice Arena / Civic Center	14	8.1%	95	54.6%	29	16.7%	5	2.9%	31	17.8%	174
Kennebec Park	7	4.1%	28	16.6%	14	8.3%	16	9.5%	104	61.5%	169
Kiwanis Train Park	66	37.7%	76	43.4%	16	9.1%	5	2.9%	12	6.9%	175
Lions Park	24	13.8%	52	29.9%	32	18.4%	10	5.8%	56	32.2%	174
Market Center Park	33	18.9%	75	42.9%	35	20.0%	17	9.7%	15	8.6%	175
McCann Park	3	1.8%	25	14.9%	21	12.5%	18	10.7%	101	60.1%	168
Rotary Park	11	6.4%	49	28.6%	16	9.4%	5	2.9%	90	52.6%	171
Southgate Nature Center	16	9.1%	52	29.6%	36	20.4%	18	10.2%	54	30.7%	176
Southgate Senior Center	13	7.4%	28	16.0%	6	3.4%	0	0.0%	128	73.1%	175
Southwinds Golf Course	12	6.9%	50	28.6%	6	3.4%	3	1.7%	104	59.4%	175
Spruce Park	0	0.0%	19	11.2%	9	5.3%	9	5.3%	133	78.2%	170
Waverly Park	1	0.6%	18	10.5%	10	5.8%	7	4.1%	136	79.1%	172

7. How well do existing facilities meet your family's recreation needs?

Community	Completely		Adequately		Somewhat		Does not meet at all		Don't know/ Haven't visited		Total Resp. #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Auxiliary Police Park	6	3.6%	17	10.1%	18	10.7%	23	13.7%	104	61.9%	168
Cobb Park	18	11.0%	41	25.0%	33	20.1%	9	5.5%	63	38.4%	164
Countryview Park	5	3.0%	8	4.9%	5	3.0%	10	6.1%	136	82.9%	164
Homer Howard Park	8	4.9%	22	13.4%	20	12.2%	16	9.8%	98	59.8%	164
Ice Arena / Civic Center	18	10.8%	74	44.6%	30	18.1%	3	1.8%	41	24.7%	166
Kennebec Park	7	4.3%	17	10.5%	11	6.8%	18	11.1%	109	67.3%	162
Kiwanis Train Park	51	30.2%	78	46.1%	17	10.1%	7	4.1%	16	9.5%	169
Lions Park	18	10.9%	48	29.1%	31	18.8%	8	4.8%	60	36.4%	165
Market Center Park	31	18.3%	58	34.3%	35	20.7%	19	11.2%	26	15.4%	169
McCann Park	5	3.1%	22	13.6%	12	7.4%	18	11.1%	105	64.8%	162
Rotary Park	11	6.8%	33	20.3%	16	9.8%	5	3.1%	98	60.1%	163
Southgate Nature Center	13	8.0%	43	26.4%	37	22.7%	15	9.2%	55	33.7%	163
Southgate Senior Center	6	3.7%	20	12.3%	11	6.8%	0	0.0%	125	77.2%	162
Southwinds Golf Course	12	7.3%	40	24.2%	7	4.2%	2	1.2%	104	63.0%	165
Spruce Park	1	0.6%	15	9.3%	5	3.1%	10	6.2%	131	80.9%	162
Waverly Park	1	0.6%	14	8.8%	9	5.7%	7	4.4%	128	80.5%	159

8. In the past year, how many times have you visited Southgate's parks?

Community	12 or more		6 to 11 times		1 to 5 times		0 - have not visited		Total Resp. #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Auxiliary Police Park	4	2.40%	9	5.30%	34	20.10%	122	72.20%	169
Cobb Park	18	10.80%	14	8.40%	53	31.70%	82	49.10%	167
Countryview Park	3	1.80%	5	3.10%	12	7.40%	143	87.70%	163
Homer Howard Park	10	6.10%	10	6.10%	29	17.60%	116	70.30%	165
Ice Arena / Civic Center	18	10.90%	15	9.10%	70	42.40%	62	37.60%	165
Kennebec Park	2	1.20%	5	3.10%	28	17.30%	127	78.40%	162
Kiwanis Train Park	23	13.70%	32	19.10%	81	48.20%	32	19.10%	168
Lions Park	17	10.20%	18	10.80%	55	33.10%	76	45.80%	166
Market Center Park	15	8.80%	33	19.40%	91	53.50%	31	18.20%	170
McCann Park	3	1.80%	8	4.90%	32	19.60%	120	73.60%	163
Rotary Park	8	4.80%	11	6.70%	36	21.80%	110	66.70%	165
Southgate Nature Center	14	8.20%	15	8.80%	64	37.60%	77	45.30%	170
Southgate Senior Center	2	1.20%	2	1.20%	25	15.00%	138	82.60%	167
Southwinds Golf Course	2	1.20%	15	8.90%	37	22.00%	114	67.90%	168
Spruce Park	0	0.00%	2	1.20%	17	10.50%	143	88.30%	162
Waverly Park	1	0.60%	4	2.40%	14	8.50%	145	88.40%	164

9. What can Southgate do to better meet your recreation needs?

- 2 more benches in Dog Park big and little area. Adult swings for adults in Lions Park. Seniors and Teens swing too. 2 more picnic tables.o.
- A decently designed skatepark or skate plaza would be nice. Put it in an easily patrolled area. Great exercise for those not interested in team sports. We've been poorly represented in this area of downriver. Northern communities are constantly opening skateparks.
- A park for walking. Something with a paved walk way
- Add a bike trail at one of the parks that will include Ebikes so children and seniors can ride safely.
- Add a play scape to police auxiliary park
- Add more recreation classes for children
- Add play ground to kennebec park
- Add the park back to site #1
- Adding more activities for special needs children.
- Advertise park doings and plans
- Agnes Park need attention, even if is closed.
- All the current parks and trails are perfectly fine at this time.
- As a kid playing baseball at Howard park,the concession stand was open. Would like it be be open again for all to enjoy.As for parks,maybe get ideas from Woodhaven and Taylor. A nice bike path would be nice
- At least make Countryview park safe by cutting grass, adding ground cover and fixing the red slide. It's unsafe and unusable for younger kids because of how high off the ground it is.
- Auxiliary park used to have playground equipment. It was demolished and never replaced and now it just sits empty an open field with a Pavillion. It has so much potential. The kids in the neighborhood would benefit from having a place to play with in walking distance.. it's so sad to see it empty.
- Auxiliary police park needs to have a playground and glass cleaned up. Routine lawn maintenance. it was supposed to be completed but sits empty. It's rather sad
- Better playground equipment
- Better upkeep of parks. No picnic tables in parks!
- Bigger and better facilities. Look at Thorn Park. Plenty to do. Spaced out. Adequate seating. Safe. Well maintained. Nice splash pad. Good for all ages. Open bathrooms.
- Build an outdoor gym
- Clean up the baseball fields.
- Clean up the parks. There's always trash cans overflowing, weeds and tall grass
- Community Garden
- Complete the base fields area, outside concession, park area around city hall. It's an embarrassment.
- Complete the park on mulberry st between Dix and Northline - there is NOTHING there - we have small children again in the area and have to travel in car to visit another park - it's not fair!!!
- Cut the grass each week, upgrade equipment if needed
- Designated bike lanes; bike paths; pickleball courts;
- Easier access to property rentals for parties.
- Fancy new bathrooms at Lions Park, but I've never seen them open. Z
- Fence in play areas so children can't run into the street
- Figure out the tick problem in the nature center and add more paths to be able to enjoy more of it since it's usually too muddy to walk off cement trail. Or add bike trail somewhere in Southgate
- Fix the tennis courts.
- Free classes, keep the parks/fields mowed and clean
- garbage cans, trails, bikeing, paintball
- Get a better ice scheduling system for the ice rink. It's crazy to have to email one person 14 times to schedule ice. Every other rink around here has an online scheduling system.
- Grooming, updating. Tennis courts are dilapidated.
- Have more park activities, make the splash pad more accessible at any time. Pavillon's added to parks that don't have them.
- Have more parks that are accommodating for people with all different abilities and ages like the one on Trenton and superior
- Have police drive by to supervise Cobb Park. There are teens who use disgusting words towards females of all ages.
- Host more rec prgm in house and not YMCA. Outdoor pool.
- I go to market center park often, I don't know who own parking lot in shopping area but wish it was repaved and improved lighting. Kind of an eye sore for the amount of events that go on.

QUESTION 9 RESPONSES (CONTINUED)

- If something could be done to help remove some of the goose droppings at the golf course that would be amazing!
- Increase the grass cutting frequency, possibly spray for insects like ticks and mosquitos. McCann play equipment is pretty rough, as are the trails in the nature center.
- Install a sidewalk on Leroy between Kennebec and Trenton leading to the Train park.
- Invest in Homer Howard Park as a flagship park for city. Invest in maintenance staff for park and recreation upkeep. Having a new park is useless if no one is maintaining it!
- Investigate pickleball courts
- Keep the Northpoint School Park up better. Cobb Park needs better monitoring trash
- Keep them maintained and upgraded
- Keep updating the parks. Increase police patrols near parks especially the train park. The nature center needs some clean up work on the trails.
- Looking at the map, there is no question that there is need for at least 3 additional CITY parks, NORTH of Northline. One in the North Pointe Area, one west of Dix, and one east of Dix. I'm a senior, but the young families with kids would appreciate a park to walk to.
- Maintain grounds and equipment. Update equipment
- Maintaining the parks with cleanliness and safety. There are trees in Cobb Park that are 100% hollow now that could fall down at any moment and they're still there. There is so much glass and trash at every park that I visited and it's not cleaned up at all. citizens have to do it.
- Make the outdoor splash pad bigger with more things that spray water. Add some ATV trails at the nature center.
- Making sure the bathrooms are clear and the garbage cans are not overflowing. The litter in the park is pickup and the grass is cut not a foot high.
- McCann park is next to my house. Needs to be cleaned up for sure. Also pretty sure there are two guys selling drugs out of that park. They have two cellphones. Linger around separate but also show up together. I would the opportunity to purchase some of that land to add to my lot size.
- McCann park needs to be updated. It does not meet the appearance of the neighborhood homes. It looks run down, but it's aged. Rotary park was never fully completed. The fence came down for equipment and was never fixed properly on the remaining fenced side. Some neighbor girls have destroyed areas.
- More benches and picnic tables, more swing sets
- More benches and tables in parks, nicer walking trails in the parks, more activities available at the senior center (Brownstown offers so much more). And wouldn't it be great to have a sled hill in the winter!
- More bike paths
- More exercise activities for older adults 55+
- More fitness classes and more play ground for kids.
- More frequent maintenance/upkeep.
- More golf programs, group lessons, etc. would also love a park with a fitness trail/fitness equipment for outdoor workouts.
- More parks closer to Goddard. We mostly go to the school park since its closer. more benches at parks. Maybe another splash pad. Would love a kids scooter/ bike/Rollerblade park.
- more pickleball courts, maybe rehab the old tennis courts near lions park??
- More playgrounds
- More playscapes for children to play on. There are a lot of open parks with just fields.
- More police presence
- More shaded walking trails. Control ticks at the nature center
- More stuff for Seniors.
- More Tennis Courts - Night Tennis, more greenspace, way to many abandoned buildings that could become greenspace.
- More things for kids to do and more players for kids to use, more like Riverview, Woodhaven and Brownstown.
- More timely lawn and landscape maintenance
- Mosquito control, better upkeep of the grounds. Toddler friendly equipment, walking/ biking path
- most are clean, so just keeping clean, making sure kids aren't writing on them.

QUESTION 9 RESPONSES (CONTINUED)

- My previous and current vet literally advise against going to the Nature Center or walking dogs anywhere near it - massive tick problem. McCann park is full of teen thugs and broken equipment. It's never used. I live nearby. What a waste. Turn it into an adult picnic area with horseshoe area, etc.
- Need a park in the area close to Lincoln park, and more restroom facilities at the parks & watering stations
- Need more adult recreation programs
- Need to put more time and money into keeping things clean.
- Offer lower cost sports for large families.
- Offer more programs for younger kids
- Offer swim lessons at the HS pool,
- Open up the bathrooms everyday. Need to hire people to open and maintain the bathrooms everyday not just when the pavilion is rented out. YOU need to check for litter and empty trash cans more frequently.
- Parking is difficult for events at the Market Center Park.
- Pickle Ball Courts
- pickle ball, bike rentals/trails
- Pickleball courts!!! Way behind the times there. Work on weed, bug and tick control. Establish bike routes.
- Play structures for smaller children, would be nice to have a soft play area. If not a park could incorporate something into the library.
- Please get paths that are longer so we don't have to cross traffic to use them. Like loop ones that you only have to loop 3 times to get 3 miles. Love paths with art installations. Events like what Beacon park in Detroit offers would be great.
- Provide more parking and maintain the parking lots better for the Civic Ctr
- Put more play equipment at the park Lions Park has so much on used space and they need to put bigger place structures in
- Repair ball diamond for adults
- Safe walking / biking paths.
- Shade at playgrounds
- Spend money on the small parks so families don't have to get in the car to go to The Train Park
- Spruce park is the closest to our house and there is nothing for the kids to play on there.
- Stop cutting down trees!! I'm horrified by what's happened at my beloved Cobb park right now. It had shade and nature and was so lovely and serene and now you are pouring it all with concrete for a parking lot?! Who would think that is a good idea?
- Stop tearing down trees. Nature is important and it's being destroyed by unneeded cement parking.
- Take better care of the baseball fields!!!!!!!!!!!!
- The auxiliary police park has nothing at all in it for years now. That entire area of the triangle should be able to access that park with their children. And there is nothing there. That is not acceptable. Many of the parks have things for very small children to play on and nothing for the older ch
- The ballpark needs to be updated badly to accommodate for rain, makeup games, lights. The fields are lacking from the city and we need to make them better with more than 300 kids/families in the league, we need to make sure we accommodate for the upcoming families that are growing the league.
- The baseball fields need serious work. In comparison to updates that have been made to other parks in the city, the baseball fields are neglected. We need to make sure the kids of Southgate have the same opportunities as Taylor, and other surrounding cities.
- The homeless men stumbling into the nature area at the train park are certainly keeping people from visiting that area. I watched one barely able to stand stumble toward the nature area and relieve himself after nearly falling over.
- The nature center needs better upkeep, the golf course needs to be closed and turned into a second nature center it is a waste of money as is, the fences need to be removed at market center park or it needs to be demolished
- There are no parks for those that live between Goddard/Northline, Dix/Fort St
- There zero parks in area bordering allen park.
- ticks are an ongoing issue in the nature center
- Time frames need to be accelerated. My kids will have outgrown the need for a park by the time Kennebec or Auxiliary Park is completed.
- Update equipment. Clean parks more frequently. Bathrooms.
- Update playground equipment
- Update the playgrounds

QUESTION 9 RESPONSES (CONTINUED)

- Walking trails
- We need more homeschooling programming and activities geared toward the disabled community (particularly those with intellectual/developmental disabilities). Accessible play structures for wheelchairs.
- We need to maintain and take care of the existing facilities and parks. The dog park has been a disaster as what the plans are. One minute open to everyone than it's not. The ice arena brings a lot of people to our city and is not kept up. I visit a lot of ice rinks and saddens me how many don't like
- Why isn't the grass cut at Kennebec Park? Why isn't there more to the "park"? Is Park a good term for a space with a basket ball court, a pavilion, garbage can that's overflowing and too tall grass? Other parks seem to have new equipment and are better maintained but this one isn't.
- Would like a city pool area

Question 9 Park Mentions	#
Auxiliary Police Park	5
Civic Center	2
Cobb Park	4
Dog Park	1
Homer Howard Park	2
Ice Arena	3
Kennebec Park	3
Kiwanis Train Park	5
Lions Park	3
Market Center Park	3
McCann Park	4
Southgate Nature Center	9
Southgate Senior Center	1
Southwinds Golf Course	2
Spruce Park	1

Question 9 General Topics	#
Maintenance & upgrades	37
Play equipment	17
Paths, biking	11
Safety	9
Paths, walking	8
Ticks, insects	7
Baseball	6
New parks	6
Pickleball	6
Restrooms	6
Minor features (benches, drinking fountains, etc.)	5
Parking	4
Splash pad	4
Exercise equipment	3
Fencing	3
Picnic facilities, pavilions	3
Pool	3
Tennis	3
Accessibility	2
Communication	2
Concession stand	2
Programming, children	2
Programming, cost	2
Programming, general	2
Programming, senior	2
Programming, special needs	2
Shade	2
skate park	2
Trees	2
Community garden	1
Countryview	1
Golf	1
Paintball	1
Park/property rental	1
Programming, adult	1
Sidewalk	1
Sled hill	1

10. Do you visit neighboring community, county, state, or other regional recreation facilities?

	Number	Percent
Yes	146	82.0%
No	32	18.0%
Total Responses	178	15.6%

11. If yes, please tell us where you visit and what attracts you to that park.

- Allen Park
- Allen Park , Wyandotte, riverview
- Allen park Kiwanis park. Closest to our house, has baby swings
- Bandshell in Lincoln Park. Park in Riverview by City Hall. Huroc in Flat Rock. We enjoy outdoor concerts and follow a few bands.
- Bike trails, music nights, farmers markets
- Bishop park and heritage park. I visit for interesting walking trails
- Bishop Park Elizabeth Park Lake Erie Metro Park What attracts me is the water and the large open space. And the fact there is a walking path.
- Bishop Park in Wyandotte - the water
- Bishop Park in Wyandotte for the location, and Heritage Park now and then for the nice long (though, oppressively sunny) walk.
- Bishop Park in Wyandotte, like sitting by the water. Erie Metro Park, very peaceful, love to picnic there with family, Elizabeth Park in Trenton, love walking there.
- Bishop park, bike paths at Metro Parks
- Bishop park, brownstown Woodhaven they are better kept
- Bishop park, Elisabeth Park
- Bishop park, Elizabeth Park walking paths
- Botanical gardens. Love these parks for the beauty of them and always changing.
- Brownstown and Livonia; lots of playground equipment
- Brownstown and Woodhaven splashpads/ tiny tots. Metroparks for paths and disc golf and pools
- Brownstown sr ctr - the choice of trips, Bishop Park - the water, walking paths, shady areas to sit, Sterling State Park - trails, beach, water
- Civic Center Park and Thorn Park
- Clean well maintained parks with open restrooms that are maintained and clean
- Cleaner and safer
- Detroit wildlife refuge, huroc Park, metroparks, wyandotte river walk, Detroit Riverwalk. We like the trails to walk and bike and getting into nature. Play pickleball
- Elizabeth park
- Elizabeth Park and Bishop Park. Water is main attraction!
- Elizabeth park and Sterling State Park. The big attraction is the water at each park.
- Elizabeth park, Allen park playscapes, Trenton, Wyandotte.
- Elizabeth park, Trenton. Bishop Park, Wyandotte. Updated playscapes, more choices.
- Garden City Park. Have had family picnics. Family lives near there.
- Golf
- Heritage in Taylor and Council Point in LP, both for their walking paths.
- Heritage park and other parks located in Taylor and the city of Allen Park
- Heritage park because they have a nice playground, walking area, a pond with wildlife and many activities for both kids and adults
- Heritage Park in Taylor and the Park by Brownstown Police department. Both are maintained well and provide bathrooms as well as numerous things to play on for all ages in the parks.
- Heritage park in taylor, has walking trails, playgrounds, restrooms & watering stations to fill bottles & areas of shade & resting areas
- Heritage Park in Taylor. Allen Park parks.
- Heritage Park- variety parks in flat rock brownstown. They have clean well maintained parks.
- Heritage park. The pond and the walking trails and the view. The farm.
- Hiking trails, disc golf
- I visit a lot of rinks and hear many complaints about our ice rink. This rink brings a lot of people to our community. Hotels restaurants and stores all profit from this facility.
- Independence in Taylor - trails, ice cream, gardens. Trento nature oreserve
- Innovation Hills in Rochester Hills, MI
- Lake Erie metro park and others, they have access to the water
- Large and inviting. Brownstown
- Lincoln park tots park for little kids, any other splash pads because they are open all the time and have washrooms.

QUESTION 11 RESPONSES (CONTINUED)

- Lower Huron metropark new space playground. Picnic area, brand new huge playground and area to set an area up for cornhole
- Many of the metro and state parks
- Metro parks
- Metro parks and state parks in Michigan.
- Metro Parks have the best trails. Bishop Park has downtown and the river. Any place that has a lot of shade is nice.
- Metro parks or others close by with playscapes and trails (Bishop Park, Huroc Park, etc.)
- Metro, willow
- Metropark's, open space, restrooms
- Metroparks, open space.
- No teens who use aggressive, violent language towards females walking by or near to facilities.
- Outdoor open space where you aren't on top of other people but still allows kids to be busy. Adult seating for viewing children at play. Well maintained, grass cut short, no weeds, etc.
- Parks. Splash pads
- Play scape and water park in Brownstown on King and Telegraph.
- Playgrounds that appease multiple ages from toddler on up to upper elementary. Where you're able to have clear lines of sight to watch the kids. Preferably no mulch and fenced in.
- Playscape for kids
- Pools or park equipment geared to special needs children. I have a special needs 3 year old who loves parks and water.
- Riverview Young Patriots Park. Beautiful pond, walking trail, gazebo
- Riverview, Trenton. Variety of classes, times, days and cost.
- Safe walking / biking paths. Debris cut back so you can see your surroundings.
- Skateparks and trails. Ex: Woodhaven
- Splash pads, newer parks, no woodchips
- State parks have great walking trails
- State parks.
- State recreation areas and metro parks for hiking and biking
- Taylor Heritage Park
- Taylor Heritage Park. Mix of walking trails, history and athletic. Fields all in one place.
- Taylor rec center
- Taylor, Trenton, and Wyandotte. Playground equipment, soccer/base ball fields, walking paths/ ponds, fishing.
- Taylor's heritage park has long track/trail and a pond my kids like to fish
- Telegraph and West Road park in Woodhaven. It has a couple of great playscapes for kids of all ages, along with "safety town" and the splash pad.
- The metroparks because they have bike trails and you can see wildlife.
- The metroparks for the trails and waterparks
- the park on king and telegraph so large and lots to do
- The variety of playscapes and walking paths
- Their eagerness to support their own little league programs come first and it shows in the care of the fields, the branding, the facilities (bathroom and concession), and the support to make sure games get played after rain delays.
- Thorn park (larger splash pad), bishop park (different playground equipment), heritage park (multi purpose park), Elizabeth park (horse rides)
- Thorn park in brownstown. Excellent Splashpad, big kid equipment and little kid equipment
- Thorn Park. Tons for all ages. Super nice splash pad. Nice; open; safe; clean; bathrooms always open. Bishop... by the water. Concession stand. Bathrooms. Multiple play areas. Elizabeth Park. Nice play facilities. Open bathrooms. Pony rides. Safe. Heritage park. Pond. Buildings. Ice cream.
- Throne Park. My little one loves the sandbox with the excavator digger and the road with the little houses to play in. Also the splash pad.
- Trenton pool woodhaven splash pads
- Trenton, off King Rd. HUGE park with bike path, very well maintained. No ticks. Safe. No teen thugs.
- Walking trails and better structural playground equipment
- Water parks better facilities
- Wayne County Metroparks, I like the long biking trails and water features/ponds/lakes/picnic areas
- We love areas with more natural and animals such as Cross Winds Marsh, Erie Metro
- Wooden park on flat rock it's a huge park with one point of enter/exit
- Woodhaven
- Woodhaven ... pickleball courts
- Woodhaven and Riverview parks for diveristy in playground equipment

QUESTION 11 RESPONSES (CONTINUED)

- Woodhaven (hall & west), Riverview (colvin & hamann), Flatrock (Gibraltar & Aspen)for the splash pad /playscape combo. Thorn park in brownstown for the little village, Duda Park in Allen park - cool slide, merry go round, climbing tree.
- Woodhaven and Taylor for the Splash pad/outdoor waterpark
- Woodhaven and Trenton. Cleanliness and appropriate behavior of attendees.
- Woodhaven on Hall Road. Nice bike/walking path .
- Woodhaven on Telegraph. Huron metro parks, sterling state park
- Woodhaven parks because they are clean, maintained and beautiful. Each park has a nice walking path around parks!
- Woodhaven trenton and new boston all have clean safe parks with updated playground equipment
- Woodhaven Uncle Sam Jam
- Woodhaven, Brownstown Communities centers. Mostly for family gatherings. The play area with the mini houses and roadway is and was favorite for my grandkids. Other parks in Oakland and Macomb counties...again for family affairs.
- Woodhaven, heritage, metroparks, Elizabeth park, and flat rock. Safety, appearance, and practical plays cape for all ages. Have you played at the train park? It's pretty. Not practical.
- Woodhaven, Riverview and Brownstown have more and better play areas with more for the kids to use plus they have bathrooms that are usually open
- Woodhaven, Trenton, Riverview, Garden City facilities cleaner, better staffing.
- wyandotte
- Wyandotte - the water views and proximity to businesses
- Wyandotte Bishop Park for the view/feel of the water and Heritage park I. Taylor for the walking paths and the lovely pond.
- Wyandotte, Trenton, Flatrock ... water locations
- Wyandotte, Trenton. Parks with LOTS of trees, CLEAN,
- Wyandotte/Trenton/ Taylor- water, pickleball/tennis courts, walking trails
- Young children's activities 2 and under. Water park.
- Young Patriots Park

Question 11 City & Park Locations (with more than one response)	#
CITIES	
Woodhaven	20
Taylor	17
Trenton	14
Wyandotte	14
Brownstown	12
Riverview	8
Allen Park	7
Flat Rock	4
Garden City	2
Lincoln Park	2
Livonia	1
New Boston	1
Rochester Hills	1
Heritage Park	17
SPECIFIC PARKS	
Bishop Park	16
Elizabeth Park	11
Metroparks (general)	8
Thorn Park	5
Lake Erie Metropark	3
State parks (general)	3
Young Patriots Park	2

Question 11 Reasons for visiting park (topics with more than one response)	#
Play equipment	26
Trails	26
Splash pad, water park	14
Clean, well maintained	11
Water, pond	14
Large open spaces	7
Restrooms	7
Safe	6
Variety of ages	6
Nature	5
Picnic facilities	4
Disc golf	3
Outdoor concerts/bandshell	3
Park size	3
Pickleball	3
Close to family	2
Shade	2
Sports fields	2

12. What type of activities do you or your family regularly participate in? Choose all that apply.

	Number	Percent
Walking and trail sports	121	68.00%
Outdoor park activities / playground	118	66.30%
Nature activities	108	60.70%
Farmer's market	107	60.10%
Water activities	106	59.50%
Picnicking	92	51.70%
Movie nights / concerts in the park	81	45.50%
Field sports (baseball, football, soccer, etc.)	68	38.20%
Dog park / dog walking	63	35.40%
Court sports (tennis, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	51	28.60%
Canoeing / kayaking	46	25.80%
Golf	43	24.20%
Hunting or fishing	38	21.40%
Educational programming	36	20.20%
Off-trail / rustic hiking	34	19.10%
Kite flying	29	16.30%
Painting or photography	28	15.70%
Sledding	26	14.60%
Figure skating / hockey	24	13.50%
Horseback riding	23	12.90%
Community gardening	22	12.40%
Geocaching	14	7.90%
Mountain biking	14	7.90%
Senior programs	12	6.70%
Paint ball	10	5.60%
Skateboarding	10	5.60%
None of the above	4	2.30%
Snowmobiling	3	1.70%
Cross country skiing	1	0.60%
Other (Please specify)	10	5.60%
Total Unique Responses	178	
Total Responses	1,342	

QUESTION 12 OTHER RESPONSES

- ATV trail ridding.
- Camping
- Bike riding
- bird watching
- Calisthenics
- Camping, arts n crafts
- Disc Golfing
- Fitness classes
- I use the R/C track in Hines Drive Park
- Outdoor concerts
- RC Cars, boats, airplanes. Model rockets. Archery (not hunting)

13. Do you take advantage of Southgate's recreation programming?

	Number	Percent
Yes	74	41.8%
No	103	58.2%
Total Responses	177	15.6%

14. How do you feel about the fees charged for Southgate's programs?

Category	Number	Percent
Just about right	71	40.6%
Too high	27	15.4%
Too low	0	0.0%
Don't know / haven't used	77	44.0%
Total Responses	175	

15. How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?

Community	Very important		Important		Neutral		Somewhat unimportant		Not important at all		Total Resp. #
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Youth sports & fitness	83	48.3%	49	28.5%	28	16.3%	0	0.0%	12	7.0%	172
Adult sports & fitness	45	25.7%	61	34.9%	59	33.7%	1	0.6%	9	5.1%	175
Senior (50+) programs & trips	39	22.2%	53	30.1%	52	29.6%	5	2.8%	27	15.3%	176
Special events & festivals	69	39.0%	74	41.8%	27	15.3%	2	1.1%	5	2.8%	177
Summer camps	35	20.1%	60	34.5%	57	32.8%	4	2.3%	18	10.3%	174
Skills workshops (e.g. computer education, accounting, etc.)	29	16.7%	61	35.1%	58	33.3%	10	5.8%	16	9.2%	174
Nature education (e.g. stargazing, bird watching, plant ID, etc)	36	20.4%	77	43.8%	45	25.6%	7	4.0%	11	6.3%	176
Aquatics (e.g. swimming lessons, exercise, etc.)	51	29.3%	75	43.1%	36	20.7%	5	2.9%	7	4.0%	174

16. Which of the following recreational programs would you like to see more of? Check all that apply

	Number	Percent
Concerts and shows	79	46.20%
Family programs	75	43.90%
Youth sports programs – elementary school level	67	39.20%
Exercise and fitness	62	36.30%
Adult programs	60	35.10%
Special events	60	35.10%
Cooking	57	33.30%
Teen programs	57	33.30%
Swimming	56	32.80%
Programs for 50 & better	55	32.20%
Youth sports programs – preschool age level	55	32.20%
Art programs	54	31.60%
Music	54	31.60%
Safety classes	54	31.60%
After-school programs	51	29.80%
Preschool programs	50	29.20%
Gardening	45	26.30%
Travel & excursions	44	25.70%
Youth sports programs – middle school level	44	25.70%
Crafts	42	24.60%
Summer camp	41	24.00%
Therapeutic recreation	38	22.20%
Bowling	37	21.60%
Volleyball	36	21.10%
Dance	32	18.70%
Homeschoolers' programs	28	16.40%
Ice skating	28	16.40%
Soccer	28	16.40%
Tennis	26	15.20%

	Number	Percent
Babysitting	25	14.60%
Baseball	25	14.60%
Golf	23	13.40%
Gymnastics	20	11.70%
Horseback riding	19	11.10%
Basketball	16	9.40%
Football	16	9.40%
Karate	16	9.40%
Language arts	15	8.80%
Fencing	7	4.10%
Skiing (alpine & cross country)	5	2.90%
Other (Please specify)	9	5.30%
Total Unique Responses	171	
Total Responses	1,611	

QUESTION 16 OTHER RESPONSES

- Activities for children with special needs I.E. autism
- Classes/programs for Special needs individuals
- Mental Health, Neurodivergent, sensory affirming events
- None
- Pickleball (4 responses)
- Youth and adult Archery!!!

17. Would you support a millage to help maintain and improve Southgate parks?

	Number	Percent
Yes, up to 0.25 mill (\$25.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	55	31.3%
Yes, up to 0.5 mill (\$50.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	35	19.9%
Yes, up to 1.0 mill (\$100.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	20	11.4%
Yes, up to 2.0 mill (\$200.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	26	14.8%
I would not support paying a millage	40	22.7%
Total Responses	176	15.6%

18. In a few words, why would you or why would you not support a millage?

- A good community is important. Good schools, good city programs, decent people move in.
- A small increase to improve what is available for future generations is worth the investment.
- Anything to better the community
- As long as it goes directly to improving ALL neighborhood parks
- Because I have kids who like to play outside.
- Because taxes on Southgate are already higher than other cities
- Better services make a better city, make better citizens
- Better to keep the money in the city, rather than paying it to a company
- Brings community together
- Everything I supported a millage, it went to something other than what it was supposed to fund.
- fixed income
- For our kids
- Getting people outside and working in the community is very important
- Good parks = good community
- Historically Southgate has wasted millage money other than what the millage was for.
- I always support local taxes
- I believe the funding from mileages are necessary for capital improvements
- I do not like to see run down or destroyed parks in my neighborhood.
- I don't approve of what the money is being used for.
- I don't live in Southgate but my child goes to Southgate schools
- I feel southgate taxes are very high now and supporting higher taxes will put seniors in a hardshio
- I feel we currently pay enough in our taxes to maintain current programs.
- I feel we're not doing a good job with the current one. A bunch of projects but not one done.
- i felt the last one wasn't used correctly.
- I have kids that enjoy visiting different parks and would love for ours to be updated
- I know the cost of renovations and updating on a civic scale is high, it would be necessary to.
- I support any mileage that betters the city. That's how you attract residents and businesses.
- I think it's important for people to get outdoors and stop spending so much time glued to electronic
- I think these programs keep our house values up and improves the community feel.
- I think we have passed enough millages in Southgate. Where is the tax money from Marijuana?
- I think we need to keep spending consistent money to maintain our facilities and offer new things
- I want to live in a nice community that has things for myself and my family to enjoy
- I want to see more things come to the city.
- I would for the greater good. But I doubt anyone is going to take care of our neighbourhood park.
- I would support a mileage if I could see that the parks were being kept up and they are all updated
- I would support a mill for maintaining what we have
- I would support a millage if it kept the cost of activities more affordable to free
- I would support a millage, improving the area we live in can only help the city as a whole.
- I would support a minimal millage. We don't use enough of the programs for parks to justify a higher
- I would support one if there was a clear timeline for each park with listed funds req. to complete
- I would support the smallest one because our taxes have continually gone up for the past few years a
- I would to create a better community life for all
- I would we need better parks so we don't always have to go to neighboring cities
- I'm all for supporting city improvement

QUESTION 18 RESPONSES (CONTINUED)

- I'd support if the money wasn't used on programs that are not useful
- If it helps build our fields for baseball/softball then I'm all for it.
- If the millage brings real benefits I would fully support it
- If you want nice things, you need to be willing to pay for them!
- I'm not a resident, only operating business
- Improving and maintaining parks is important because it keeps them safe and welcoming.
- Improving our city is important
- In principle yes, though frankly seems like things are good now.
- In the long
- Investment in the community is important
- It will make citizens happy they live here and want to move here
- It's important to invest in our community, to invest and provide educational outlets for kids.
- It's a positive impact
- Just recently had first child and want to see the community I live in grow
- Just think too much money already being taken from homeowners. No increase in salary.
- Living on limited income
- Makes the community attractive to potential new residents.
- Money needs to come from somewhere. \$50 a year per household seems reasonable to help.
- Need places for those of all income levels to come together and enjoy activities without prejudice.
- No guarantee on them being helpful long term
- Only if I knew that the money would significantly improve the existing infrastructure.
- Parks and community attract younger homeowners!
- Parks are important :)
- Parks are important. Nature, family time and just relaxing
- Parks are very important especially for a healthy outlet for young adults. So to seniors & disabled
- People will move to Southgate if we have nice parks and activities
- Population culture has changed. Huge reduction of number of children. Combine parks, everyone drives.
- Prices always go up and you have to pay more for everything. Park maintenance is no different
- Rising costs are not sustainable without dedicated recreation funding.
- Taxed enough
- Taxes and inflation are killing us already. Southgate parks are perfectly fine and do not need more
- Taxes are already high
- Taxes are already high for people on a fixed income
- Taxes are getting too high for the average property in Southgate which I live in. Parks are good.
- Taxes continue to go up, there are no parks in my area at Goddard and Allen that Southgate owns.
- Taxes keep rising and I'm not seeing a raise in the Southgate atmosphere to support it
- The growth of my community is important to me. \$200 a year is negligible for my family.
- The money approved for a millage always seems to destroy nature and wildlife in Southgate.
- To help keep the parks around for future generations
- To support new and upkeep to existing parks
- To keep our parks as is
- Too much fat in our government as it is already
- We already are paying a millage
- We enjoy the parks and some of the events the city puts on. It also could draw people from Southgate.
- We just had 2
- We just had a millage for the parks within the past 5 years so it
- We just had an increase but the funds were not used properly! Allocate the funds for proper use!
- We need to do better at maintaining our land/parks especially for our children they are our future.
- We need to invest in our communities
- We passed a Millage recently for parks and the results have been not great so far.
- We pay a lot already, and don't see the results of that money
- We voted twice and supported where we are now with the last 2 millage for parks

QUESTION 18 RESPONSES (CONTINUED)

- When my home needs maintenance, extras get cut my budget. I feel the City should do the same.
- Why should I go to other cities for their programs?
- Work on getting rid of the rats first and all the random cats having baby's
- Yes
- Yes I would support, Our city is in major need of improvements

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for public review
10/17/2024

19. Are there any other recreation-related items we should be aware of?

- A safety bike path at one of the many parks so children and seniors can ride all kinds of bikes safely.
- All of my kids did summer and school sports. Fees for summer programs too high. Girls fast pitch was not available. Parents were out of control. Boys sports seem to get special treatment.
- And one of these parks, we should build an RC track with on road and off-road course. Teaming up with a local business, like Nankin would be very beneficial to the community
- Bathrooms at Lion's Park would be very nice. I love that park the way it is (please don't over-improve it!), it's great for my kids (fenced in, away from traffic), until someone needs to use the bathroom. And they're *right there*. Six of them, counting the baseball diamonds.
- Bike trails
- Building a safe place for new moms. I know the library has a program, would be nice for that to expand.
- Check the trees in the park and take them down if they are hollow. Clean the parks.
- Each new housing development should require a pocket park regardless the size of the development.
- How about a pond where people could operate small RC boats similar same as the Coan Lake in Heritage Park in Taylor
- I see there is caution tape around the rotary sign. With initial attention to the grounds, the girls should have never been able to rock it nearly over. The dome is gone. The fence is still pulled back from the heavy machinery back in 2017/18. The McCann park is a missed opportunity.
- I support all little league programs and I'd like to see the city do the same, full scale. Southgate Kids should come 1st and outside residents and travel teams should be 2nd for field availability. In my wildest dreams, Southgate creates an indoor baseball facility.
- I'd love to see a community pool!
- I'm 62. Lifelong resident. Parks are nice to have just to relax and have family time
- Improve aesthetics at Cobb Park and other parks
- It helps everyone in long run. Everyone benefits!
- look at Trenton and everything they offer for child development and growth.
- N/A (3 responses)
- Need patrols ticketing and removing people that don't belong at he parks. I have seen bums or people with pets when the signs say no pets allowed.. I do not want that around my child. That is why we don't stray to far from home and have not visited other parks because of safety.
- No
- Not that I can think of
- Parks and recreation needs more maintenance staff! Nothing is being checked on, maintained, or fixed when broken. Why build nice new things if no one is going to maintain them or regularly check on their upkeep!
- Possibly more adult programs at the library
- Quit tearing down adult trees
- Shuffle board is fun and horse shoes.
- Special Ed programming is a desperate need. Both school aged and for adults. Many of us have left the public school system and need social and recreational outlets.
- The city festival needs to be moved back by city hall, it's not accessible at its current location
- The fact that the premier park has not been started should be addressed.
- The tear down of trees and nature.
- Themed concerts in the parks, like country music, classic rock, jazz
- Ticks at the nature center
- We need bathrooms at the softball fields
- We need pickle ball courts
- We need to fix and maintain our tennis courts and add pickleball courts
- With softball coming to our city we need to make sure the fields are properly drained and able to have games played at night and even after a nightly rain. My sons have played here for years and it's gone to shit over the last few years. As a community we need to take pride in these fields.
- Would like lighted pickle ball courts

City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Plan Community Input Survey



Southgate Michigan PARKS & REC

Thank you for taking the time to express your opinions regarding Southgate's parks and recreation offerings. The survey will remain open until **5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2024**. Hard copies should be returned to Julie Goddard, Director of Parks and Recreation, 14700 Reaume Parkway, Southgate, MI 48195. Responses received after June 14 will be reviewed but will not be included as part of the survey results.

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Are you a Southgate resident?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but I operate a business in Southgate
- ☐ No, I live in another community (please specify)

2. Which of the following categories best describe your household? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ With seniors
- ☐ Without seniors
- ☐ Senior citizen (65+) living alone
- ☐ Live alone, under the age of 65
- ☐ 2 persons or more, with children 13 to 18 years
- ☐ 2 persons or more, with children under 13 years
- ☐ 2 persons or more, no children in the household

3. Please describe your current living situation.

- ☐ Single family home
- ☐ Apartment
- ☐ Manufactured / mobile home
- ☐ Attached condominium or duplex
- ☐ Other (Please specify)

PARKS

Southgate owns and operates 12 parks, an ice rink/ Community Center in the City Hall campus, and the Southwinds Golf Course. The City partners with Southgate Community Schools to operate the Southgate Nature Center, which include a walking trail that is part of the Downriver Linked Greenway system. Eight schools lie within the city borders, offering additional recreation opportunities on a limited basis. A map is provided on the following page.

4. How important are the following items to you and your family?

a. Maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities

Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b. Acquiring and developing new parks and rec facilities

Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

c. Access to active use facilities (e.g. soccer, football, baseball, etc.)

Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

d. Access to passive use facilities (e.g. picnic shelters, playgrounds, walking paths, etc.)

Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

e. Protecting natural resources

Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

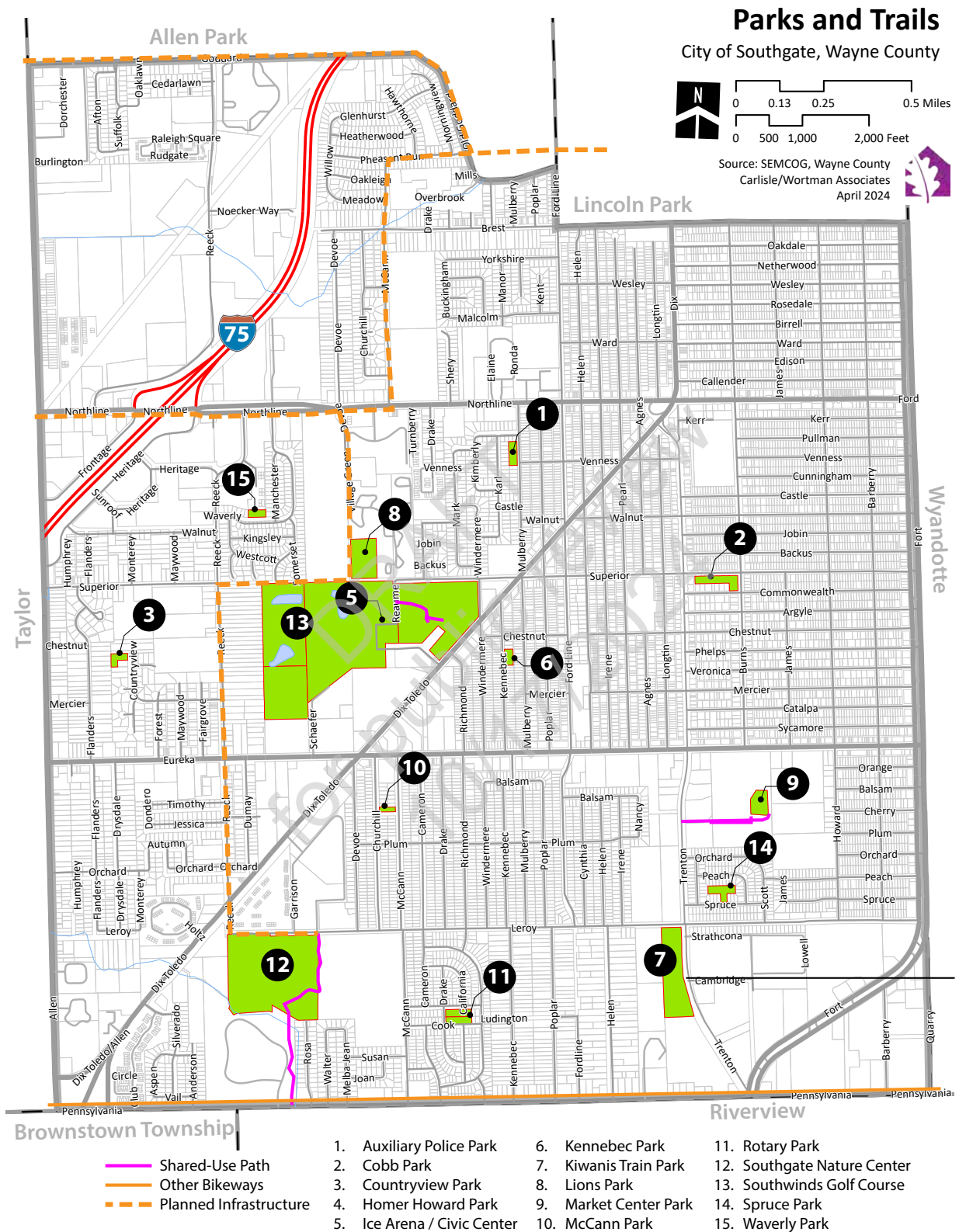
f. Access to paths and trails

Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

g. Access to recreation programs (e.g. special events, classes, sports leagues, etc.)

Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Plan Community Input Survey



City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Plan Community Input Survey

5. Does Southgate have too many, too few, or the right amount of parks?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Far too many | ☐ Too few |
| ☐ Too many | ☐ Far too few |
| ☐ The right amount | |

6. How satisfied are you with existing Southgate parks & recreation facilities?

a. Auxiliary Police Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

b. Cobb Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

c. Countryview Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

d. Homer Howard Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

e. Ice Arena / Civic Center

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

f. Kennebec Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

g. Kiwanis Train Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

h. Lions Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

i. Market Center Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

j. McCann Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

k. Rotary Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

l. Southgate Nature Center

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

m. Southgate Senior Center

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

n. Southwinds Golf Course

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

o. Spruce Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

p. Waverly Park

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Highly satisfied | Satisfied | Somewhat unsatisfied | Not satisfied at all | Don't know/haven't visited |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |



City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Plan Community Input Survey

7. How well do existing facilities meet your family's recreation needs?

a. Auxiliary Police Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

b. Cobb Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

c. Countryview Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

d. Homer Howard Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

e. Ice Arena / Civic Center

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

f. Kennebec Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

g. Kiwanis Train Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

h. Lions Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

i. Market Center Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

j. McCann Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

k. Rotary Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

l. Southgate Nature Center

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

m. Southgate Senior Center

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

n. Southwinds Golf Course

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

o. Spruce Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐

p. Waverly Park

Completely ☐ Adequately ☐ Somewhat ☐ Does not meet at all ☐ Don't know/haven't visited ☐



A - Public Notices

City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Plan Community Input Survey

12. What type of activities do you or your family regularly participate in? Choose all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ☐ Field sports (baseball, football, soccer, etc.) | ☐ Picnicking | ☐ Movie nights / concerts in the park |
| ☐ Court sports (tennis, pickleball, basketball, etc.) | ☐ Outdoor park activities / playground | ☐ Educational programming |
| ☐ Figure skating / hockey | ☐ Skateboarding | ☐ Sledding |
| ☐ Golf | ☐ Dog park / dog walking | ☐ Horseback riding |
| ☐ Senior programs | ☐ Farmer's market | ☐ Hunting or fishing |
| ☐ Walking and trail sports | ☐ Community gardening | ☐ Mountain biking |
| ☐ Cross country skiing | ☐ Painting or photography | ☐ Off-trail / rustic hiking |
| ☐ Snowmobiling | ☐ Kite flying | ☐ Paint ball |
| ☐ Nature activities | ☐ Canoeing / kayaking | ☐ Other (please specify) |
| ☐ Water activities | ☐ Geocaching | |

PROGRAMMING

Southgate offers a variety of programming options throughout the year including sports leagues, enrichment courses, and special events.

13. Do you take advantage of Southgate's recreation programming?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. How do you feel about the fees charged for Southgate's programs?

- ☐ Just about right ☐ Too high
☐ Too low ☐ Don't know / haven't used



City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Plan Community Input Survey

15. How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?

a. Youth sports & fitness

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

b. Adult sports & fitness

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

c. Senior (50+) programs & trips

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

d. Special events & festivals

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

e. Summer camps

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

f. Skills workshops (e.g. computer education, accounting, etc.)

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

g. Nature education (e.g. stargazing, bird watching, plant ID, etc)

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

h. Aquatics (e.g. swimming lessons, exercise, etc.)

Very important Important Neutral Somewhat unimportant Not important at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

16. Which of the following recreational programs would you like to see more of? Check all that apply

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Preschool programs | ☐ Basketball | ☐ Art programs |
| ☐ Teen programs | ☐ Tennis | ☐ Music |
| ☐ Adult programs | ☐ Exercise and fitness | ☐ Travel & excursions |
| ☐ Programs for 50 & better | ☐ Ice skating | ☐ Special events |
| ☐ Youth sports programs – preschool age level | ☐ Gymnastics | ☐ Therapeutic recreation |
| ☐ Youth sports programs – elementary school level | ☐ Dance | ☐ Golf |
| ☐ Youth sports programs – middle school level | ☐ Cooking | ☐ Fencing |
| ☐ After-school programs | ☐ Crafts | ☐ Horseback riding |
| ☐ Homeschoolers' programs | ☐ Gardening | ☐ Language arts |
| ☐ Family programs | ☐ Concerts and shows | ☐ Babysitting |
| ☐ Volleyball | ☐ Summer camp | ☐ Safety classes |
| ☐ Soccer | ☐ Swimming | ☐ Other (Please specify) |
| ☐ Baseball | ☐ Karate | _____ |
| ☐ Football | ☐ Skiing (alpine & cross country) | _____ |
| | ☐ Bowling | _____ |
| | | _____ |
| | | _____ |
| | | _____ |

City of Southgate Parks & Recreation Plan Community Input Survey

OTHER	
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19. Are there any other recreation-related items we should be aware of?

- [illegible]

DRAFT
for public review
10/17/2024

Thank you again for participating in the survey. Additional questions or comments can be addressed to Julie Goddard, Director of Parks & Recreation, at jgoddard@southgatemi.gov.



City of Southgate 2025 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Community Input Survey

Southgate Parks & Recreation is seeking community input regarding recreation opportunities in the community. The results of this survey will be used to inform the recommendations of the 2025 - 2029 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The survey is available on the City website and can be accessed directly at:

<https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/SouthgateRec25>

Hard copies of the survey are available upon request for those who prefer to work on a paper copy, and can be picked up at the Civic Center at 14700 Reaume Parkway. The survey will remain open until **5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2024**. Hard copies should be returned to Julie Goddard, Director of Parks and Recreation, 14700 Reaume Parkway, Southgate, MI 48195. Responses received after June 14 will be reviewed but will not be included as part of the survey results.

Thank you for taking the time to help us better understand the recreation needs of Southgate residents. Your responses will have a direct impact on the future of parks, trails, and recreation services in the community!



14700 Reaume Parkway | Southgate, MI 48195 | Phone: (734) 258-3035 | E-mail: jgoddard@southgatemi.gov

Homer Howard Park - Tennis, Pickleball, & Padel Court Reconfiguration
Anticipated Spring 2025



Police Auxiliary Park - Ninja Course
Anticipated Late Fall 2024/Spring 2025

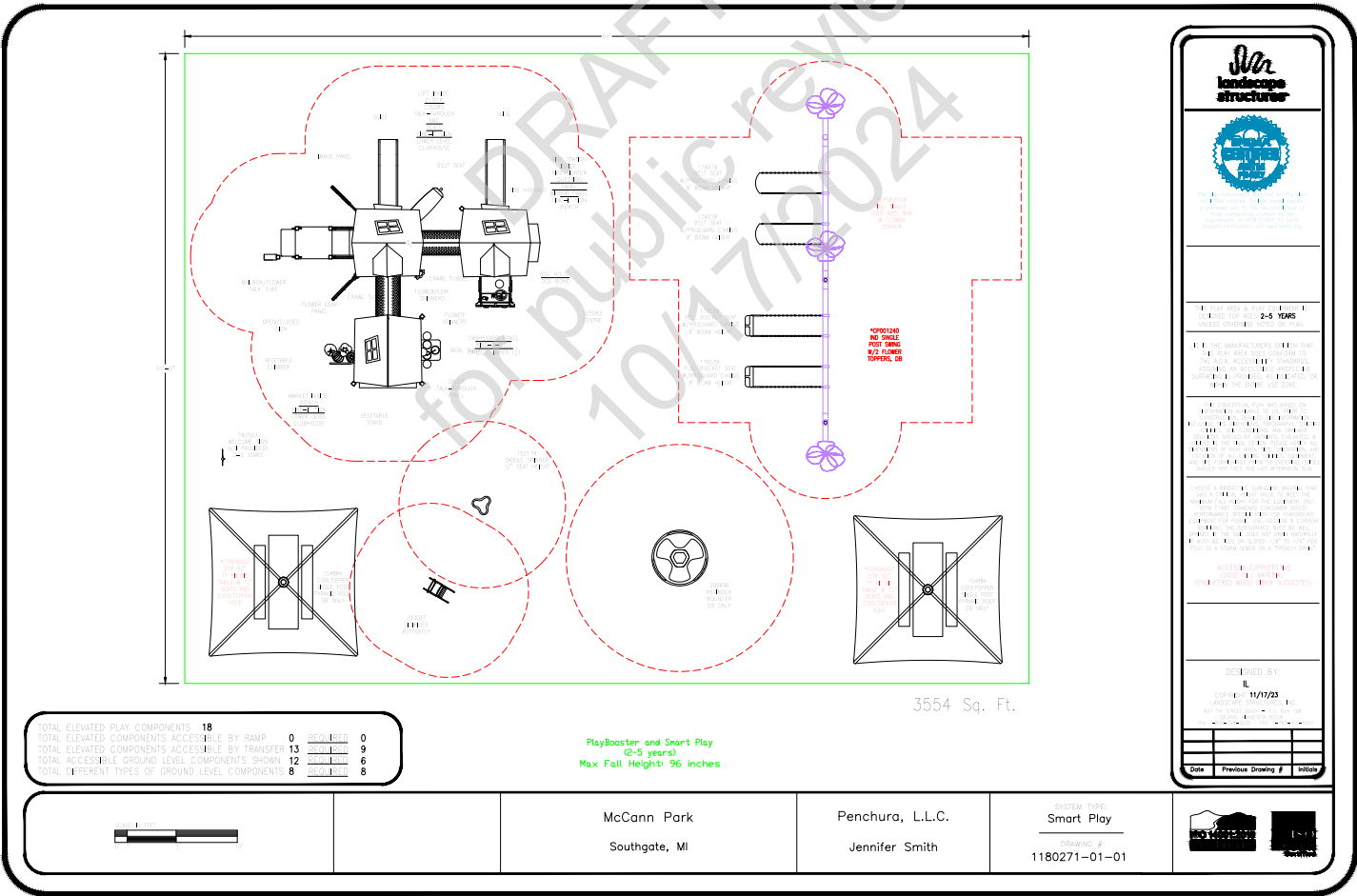


F - Park Design Plans
E - Public Input Summary
D - Letters of Transmittal
C - Resolution of Adoption
B - Minutes of Public Hearing
A - Public Notices

McCann Park - Playground Structures
Anticipated Fall 2024



McCann Park - Playground Structures
Anticipated Fall 2024



Waverly Park - Playground Structures
Anticipated Spring 2025



A - Public Notices



SCALE IN FEET:



0' 5' 10' 20'

