



City of Detroit

Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan

2022-2032

Pending City Council approval, Nov. 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Authors

Dara O'Byrne, Chief Parks Planner
Juliana Fulton, Deputy Chief Parks Planner
Alexandria Spofford, Parks Planner

Steering Committee

Brad Dick, Group Executive
Sandra Yu-Stahl, former Director of General Services
Tim Karl, Chief of Landscape Architecture
Rosemary Edwards, Ground Maintenance Superintendent
Keith Flournoy, Deputy Director of Recreation
Crystal Perkins, Deputy Director of the Business Office
Jamal Harrison, Deputy Director of Operations
David Sumners, Manager of Park Development Unit

Additional Contributors

Rhea Bautista, Capital Manager
Christina Peltier, Joe Louis Greenway Project Lead
Jeff Klein, Deputy Chief of Landscape Architecture
Maria Galarza, Strategic Partnerships Manager
Arianna Zannetti, Assistant Chief of Landscape Architecture
John DeRuiter, Assistant Chief of Landscape Architecture
Farhat Chaundhry, Associate Landscape Architect
Rayshaun Landrum, Associate Landscape Architect
William McCarley III, Professional Landscape Architect
Ozell Gothard, former Associate Landscape Architect
Ted Schultz, Enterprise Team Supervisor
Thomas Veldman, GIS Analyst
Erin Kelly, Environmental Consultant
Joel Howrani-Heeres, former Director of Sustainability
John Armstrong, Assistant Director of Recreation
Erin Casey, former Assistant Director of Recreation
Michele Flournoy, Urban Designer
Christopher Stamp, Director of Office of Disability Affairs

Data Providers

U. S. Census
Center for Disease Control
Environmental Protection Agency
The Trust for Public Land
American Forests

Thanks to all other departments, organizations,
and individuals who helped realize the plan!

Land of the Fox, Anishinabewaki, and Potawatomi nations.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CHAPTER 1:
CONTEXT

CHAPTER 2:
VISION & ENGAGEMENT

CHAPTER 3:
STRATEGIES

CHAPTER 4:
IMPLEMENTATION

CHAPTER 5:
ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 6:
CAPITAL PLANS

APPENDICES

Appendix A: PRSP Survey
Appendix B: CNA Survey
Appendix C: Focus Group
Appendix D: Public Review
Appendix E: Metrics & Inventory
Appendix F: Policies
Other Documents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

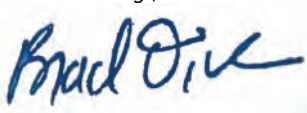
On behalf of the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Division, we are pleased to provide a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan to guide our investment and improvement strategies for the next 10 years.

We have come a long way from decades long disinvestment in our parks and recreation system leading up to the City's historic bankruptcy. The 2017 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan allowed DPRD to refocus on providing high quality public space throughout the city, with a focus on improving quality of life for all Detroiters. A few months after the 2017 plan was released, the Mayor allocated \$12 million to implement the first phase of the PRIP's Capital Improvement Plan. In the first 18-months from the plan's launch, 40 neighborhood parks across the city received full renovations, many of which had not seen improvements since the 1960s. In total, we have improved over 150 parks and added new parks to increase access for residents in neighborhoods across the city. We continue to prioritize community engagement, equity, and access to parks and recreation in our work. We were recently awarded the 2022 National Planning Award for Advancing Diversity and Social Change for the Joe Louis Greenway Framework Plan.

The Covid-19 pandemic showed how important parks are to our communities, providing safe places for people to gather, walk, and connect. Through the 2022 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, DPRD aims to be a leader in providing equitable access to parks, green spaces, and other recreational opportunities by utilizing an equity framework to shape decisions and meaningfully prioritize investments.

I would like to thank all of the City staff from departments and divisions across the City who provided their input and expertise in the creation of this plan, but most importantly the community members and park organizations who ensured this plan reflects the needs and priorities of the residents. This plan will enable us to strategically focus on connecting communities with our parks, greenways, recreational programs and facilities, to positively impact quality of life for Detroiters.

Sincerely,



Brad Dick
Group Executive