

Farwell Park

10 Year Master Plan

Detroit General Services Department

City of Detroit
June 2025



Farwell Park

10 Year Master Plan

General Services Department



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Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

Farwell Park has served the recreational needs for Detroit East Side residents and the wider city for over 50 years, providing a destination for wellness classes, youth camps, professional athletic programs, passive play, and gathering activities. The park's recreational facilities and its natural environment has changed over time, meeting the changing needs, demographics, and interests of the surrounding neighborhoods.

In the last ten years, the City of Detroit has increased their investment at Farwell Park, with specific guidance from the 2022 City of Detroit's Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan. These improvements included a new outdoor fitness center (2021), the renovation of 6 tennis courts (2023), the addition of a indoor gym to the Farwell Recreation Center, and surrounding green stormwater infrastructure (2024). Ongoing improvements to the Farwell Recreation Center may include energy efficient lighting, roof renovations, safety and security improvements, and exterior upgrades. These investments will address visitor desires for gymnasium amenities and programs, and increase the overall utility of the center (2022 City of Detroit's Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan).

The Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan is another guiding document that will support the investment at the park, focusing on the park grounds and outdoor amenities.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The goal of the Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan is to improve its park and recreational resources for Detroit's east side, provide residents with a safe and enjoyable park experience, and contribute to the overall regional park system in the City of Detroit. This Master Plan process was developed as a community-collaborative effort, where the local community's concerns and aspirations were key drivers to the physical and programmatic recommendations of the park.

WHY A MASTER PLAN?

A park master plan is an important tool to help the City of Detroit and the neighborhoods around Farwell Park leverage the full benefits the park has to offer. It provides an illustrative vision backed by actionable steps that helps the City and its partners prioritize improvements that can be developed with the impacted community.

As the overall guide for the design, programming, capital investment, maintenance and operations at Farwell Park, the Master Plan supports inter-agency coordination, budgeting and fiscal responsibility, transparency, accountability and benchmarking, and partnership building.

The master planning process is a critical element for realizing the community's vision, enabling a forum for open discussion about lived experience, concerns, and opportunities. This is also an important step in reviewing these ideas within the realities of available resources and capacities. Engaging stakeholders in defining what to include in the plan and how to achieve the vision also infuses a higher level of community interest and commitment that can last well into the plan implementation and help sustain a love for Farwell Park.



Executive Summary

MASTER PLAN TIMELINE



Engagement Workshop #1
60 attendees



Engagement Workshop #2
55 attendees



Focus Group
Farwell Recreation
Advisory Council
9 attendees

oct
11

nov
16

feb
03

feb
08

mar
08

Project Kickoff & Site Visit



Community Survey
44 responses

Project Background (Chapter 2)

Community Engagement Process (Chapter 3)

Existing Conditons and Observations (Chapter 4)



Community Engagement Process (Chapter 3)

Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan (Chapter 5)

Implementation Plan (Chapter 6)

Executive Summary

FARWELL PARK 10 YEAR MASTER PLAN

The preferred concept plan incorporates key elements prioritized by residents for Farwell Park, along with findings from park inventory, amenity assessment, resident and community engagement, and input from the General Services Department. These factors informed the development of the master plan and its components, as detailed in the table. These priorities, consistently expressed by the community, include:

Features	Description
Circulation	
Develop accessible walkways and paths throughout the park to ensure safe, year-round circulation, with a focus on meeting the needs of senior walking groups.	
Athletic Amenities	
Relocate and consolidate sports fields closer to the tennis courts and informal play areas to strengthen the athletic core of the park and improve usability.	
Play Amenities	
Install a new universal playground, tot lot, and splash pad to provide inclusive and engaging play opportunities for all ages. Designate a separate youth and teen activity area to support age-specific recreation. Preserve and maintain the existing fitness area and model plane flying zone as valued community assets.	
Park-wide Features	
Expand parking capacity within the park to accommodate visitors during events and reduce reliance on on-street options.	
Building Facilities	
Construct a restroom facility within the interior of the park to improve comfort and accessibility. Reopen and repurpose the Barcus Tennis Center to support youth summer camps and tennis equipment storage. Assess and plan for expansion of the Farwell Recreation Center to enhance indoor programming and community use.	
Natural Features	
Introduce new naturalized areas to enrich the park's seasonal beauty and biodiversity. Integrate green stormwater infrastructure—such as rain gardens and bioswales—to improve drainage and sustainability. Expand the existing community garden to support growing participation and local food access	



Executive Summary

FARWELL PARK 10 YEAR MASTER PLAN

The plan focused on the principles that the community members previously shared around circulation, adjacency of programs, a balance of landscapes, and overall site improvements:

- The park must be walkable and consider safe routes through and around the park;
- The park should expand the environmental features, including the community garden, to allow residents to engage longer with the park;
- The array of athletic facilities should remain at the park to accommodate different interests and park users;
- Support different age groups at the parks by providing spaces for safe play;
- Provide overall upgrades to the park facilities to make space for additional amenities in the future.





**Community members
share a collective
interest in expanding the
environmental features of
the park.**



Community members want to improve the park's accessibility, and make the park and recreation center more welcoming for all ages.
























Executive Summary

FARWELL PARK 10 YEAR MASTER PLAN COST ESTIMATE





The 10 Year Master Plan divides park improvements into phases, each spanning 0 to 3 years. The overall budget highlights the estimated costs to be incurred during that time. This approach allows the City of Detroit to implement changes strategically and effectively.

Master Plan Budget	\$8,942,420.00
Estimated Engineering Costs (20%)	\$1,788,484.00
Maintenance Costs (10%)	\$894,242.00
Misc Removal Costs (2%)	\$178,848.40
Estimated 10 Year Master Plan Budget	\$11,803,994.40

Farwell Park Master Plan Phasing

Feature	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Notes
Shelter							
Community Garden Expansion							Community-led effort
Farwell Hills							Two phases
Tree Canopy Expansion							Multiple phases
Bird Meadow							
Soccer Fields							
Tennis Court Parking Improvements with GSI							
Tennis + Pickle ball Courts							
8 Mile Parking Lot with GSI							
Bathroom							
Multi-Use Athletic Field							
Sunset Parking Lot with GSI							
Basketball + Chill Zone with GSI							
Softball Field							
Wet Meadow & Large Green Stormwater Area							
Barcus Tennis Center Improvement							
Football Field							
GSI for Rec Center Parking Lot & Tennis Courts							
8 Mile Basketball Courts							
Model Plane Flying							
Recreation Center Expansion							Long-term priority

LEGEND

-  General Improvements
-  Athletic Improvements
-  Landscape Improvements
-  Facility Improvements



2

Project Background

Introduction

OVERVIEW

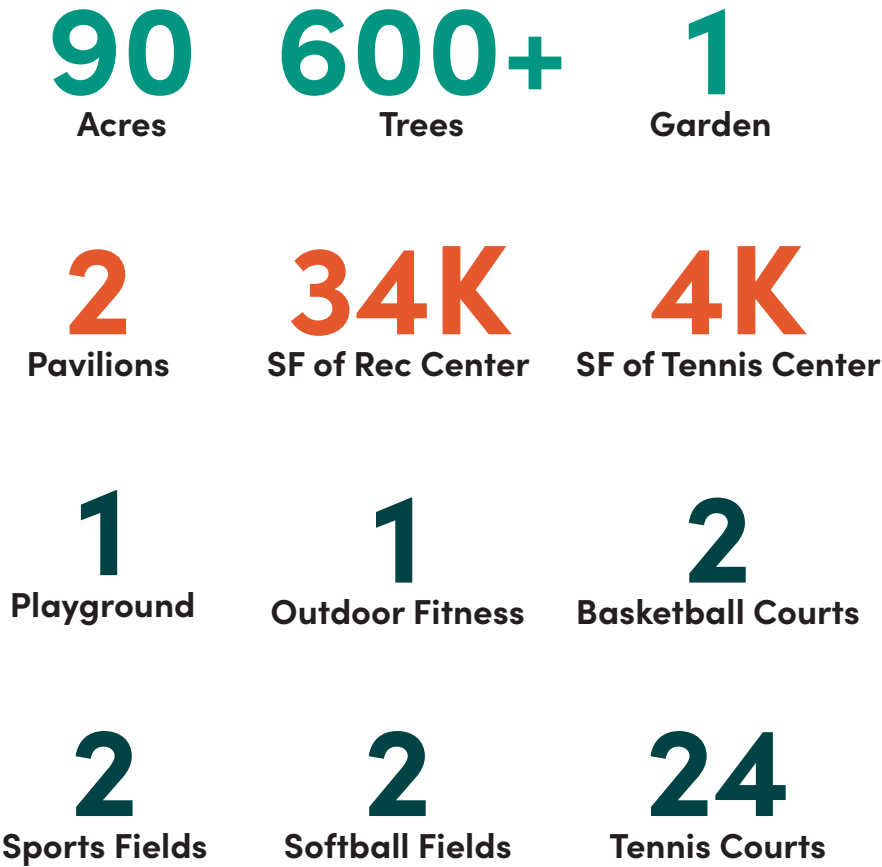
Farwell Park is one of thirteen regional parks in the City of Detroit. Located at 4444 E. 8 Mile Rd in the Farwell Park neighborhoods in District 3, the park is bound by East Eight Mile, Fenelon Avenue, East Outer Drive and Sunset Street.

The 90-acre park features a regional recreation center, a tennis building, multiple sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, playground, outdoor fitness equipment, and park shelters. Several groups use the park for activities such as youth sports, walking, and model plane flying, alongside regular community-wide events and programs.

The park’s main entrance is located at Outer Drive, and can be accessed by car, bike, and walking. About 115 parking spaces are provided near the front entrance of the Farwell Recreation Center. There is another curb cut to the west that provides direct access to the tennis courts and to the park’s service storage area behind the Recreation Center.

The park's exterior amenities are distributed throughout its 90 acres. Closest to the Recreation Center are the tennis courts, basketball courts, playground, outdoor fitness area, covered park shelters, and benches. These amenities are surrounded by green stormwater infrastructure that helps manage runoff from the impervious surfaces. Deeper within the park are athletic fields, recently planted trees by the Greening of Detroit, and retired softball diamonds. Along the park's northern edge visitors will find a community garden and public art installations. The majority of the park consists of open lawn areas, which are regularly maintained by a dedicated grounds crew.

FARWELL PARK AMENITIES







Informal Parking Lot

Model Plane Flyers

Community Garden →

Football/ Soccer

Tree Grove

Farwell Park Through The Years

PARK HISTORY

Farwell Park, previously known as Farwell Field, is named after Drusilla Farwell, a Detroit socialite with a passion for athletics and community. Drusilla King Farwell was born on August 3, 1867 in Hamilton, Ontario Canada. In 1898, she married George Farwell, a prominent businessman in Detroit who was known as the builder of the city's first auto showroom. Drusilla inherited his massive wealth upon his death in 1921, and became an avid philanthropist, supporting many institutions and organizations through her foundation, the Drusilla Farwell Foundation. Drusilla died on December 26, 1935 in Detroit, Michigan.

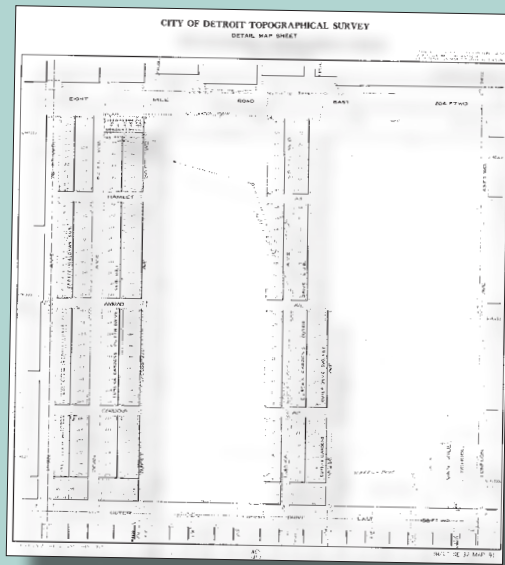
The City of Detroit incorporated Farwell Park into its public parks system in the 1950s, expanding its athletic programs. The park has since hosted a variety of facilities, including an ice skating rink, and a ski jump. Several historic master plans for Farwell Park show a commitment to athletic facilities, like ballfields, training courses, and competitive hockey rinks. Today, Farwell Park maintains its presence in the neighborhood as a recreational hub, with recent renovations to Farwell Recreation Center, the tennis courts, and outdoor exercise areas.



Photos of George and Drusilla Farwell and of Farwell Building
Source: Detroit Historical Society

Farwell Park Through The Years

Farwell Field was initially platted as two parks with Eureka Avenue, a residential street, running through the middle from East Eight Mile Road to East Outer Drive. There were over 150 homes along this street.



1925 Plat Plan of Farwell Field
Source: Detroit Parks & Recreation

Farwell Field was envisioned with an Olympic stadium hosting sports fields, training facilities, and parking. Detroit would apply to host the Olympic games (both Summer and Winter) 6 more times until the final bid in 1968. A later update to the master plan included additional tennis courts, baseball and football fields, a picnic grove, a pool, a hockey rink, and an ice skating rink. The ice skating rink was implemented in 1957.



1954 Olympic Stadium Concept Plan
Source: Detroit Historical Society

1925

1950

1954



Photos of Tennis Field house (1950s)
Source: Detroit Parks & Recreation

The Drusilla Farwell Foundation deeded the property known as Farwell Field to the City of Detroit for the purposes of public benefit and enjoyment. Drusilla enjoyed tennis, and so the foundation also gifted tennis courts and a field house. Eureka Avenue was razed to connect both halves of the property into one unified park. Farwell Field was approximately 107 acres at this time.



Photos of Ice Rink Construction (1957)
Source: Detroit General Services Department



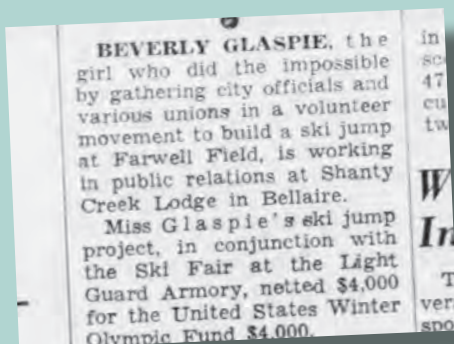
1976 Farwell Junior High School View book Cover Page
Source: Detroit Historical Society

The City of Detroit deeded a portion of the park to Detroit Public Schools. Farwell Junior High School was built the same year.

1961

1963

A 123 foot ski jump was built at Farwell Field to support more winter sports activities! The ski jump was thought to be used as a fundraising effort to support Detroit's bid in the upcoming Winter Olympics.



Light Armory relocated to Farwell Field and negotiated a lease with the City of Detroit to add parking on the north side of the park.

1970



2008 Farwell Recreation Center
Source: Dailey Company

Farwell Recreation Center was built to bring indoor recreation and extracurricular activities for the neighborhood. Additional park upgrades included the playground and the pavilions.

2008

2020s

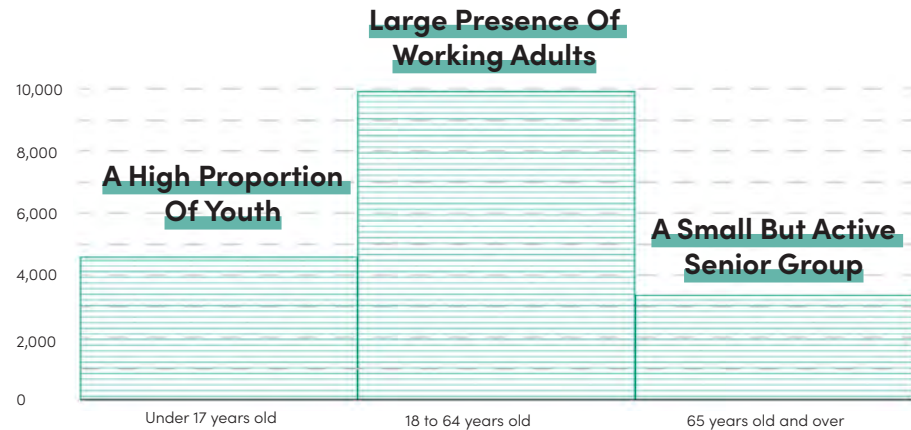
Farwell Park was included in the City of Detroit's Strategic Park Plan and benefits from a series of upgrades led by the General Services Department (Parks & Recreation) including new outdoor exercise equipment (2021), 6 tennis court replacements (2023) and the Farwell Recreation Center expansion to include an indoor gym (2024).

Community Profile

THE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A GLANCE

Farwell Park is located amidst the Farwell Park neighborhoods on the northeast side of Detroit, Michigan. The neighborhood is characterized by a physically intact community with streets lined by charming, well-constructed brick homes. The area includes four Detroit Public Schools and five public open spaces, including Farwell Park.

According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, approximately 7,400 residents and 6,082 occupied housing units are located within a one-mile radius of Farwell Park. Of these residents, approximately 4,500 are under the age of 17. While a lower proportion of the area demographics, senior population is expected to grow nearly 3% by 2025. This shift is evidenced by the high use of the park and the Recreation Center by seniors. Residents living within one mile, with particular attention to youth and seniors, are considered the primary user groups for the park, although there are many people who commute to use Farwell Park.



Source: ACS 2023 5-year data, Age Distribution

FARWELL PARK NEIGHBORHOODS QUICK FACTS

40/100
Walk score
Car Dependent

0.3mi
Transit Access
5-10 minute walk to Key Bus Route

2.2mi
Freeway Access
More than 10 minute drive to nearest freeway ramp

1.3mi
Library Access
More than 15 minute walk to nearest public library

0.0mi
Park Access
Less than 5 minute walk to park (1+ acre)

0.0mi
Recreation Center Access
Less than 5 minute walk to nearest city rec center

18%
Vacant/DBLA Land
Low rate of vacancy within 0.25 mile radius (2020)

2.8%
Senior Population Growth
Moderate projected growth within 1mi radius (2019-2024)

Access Data from the Detroit Vacant Schools Study (2022)
Source: City of Detroit

Krainz Woods

Van Zile School (Closed)

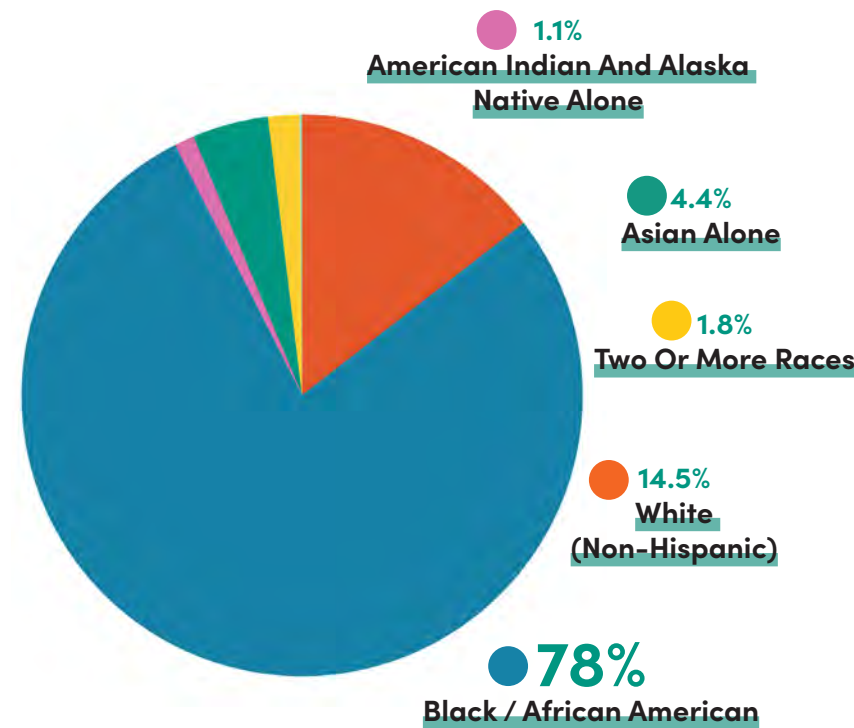
Mason Academy

Drone Capture of Farwell Park
Source: JIMA Studio

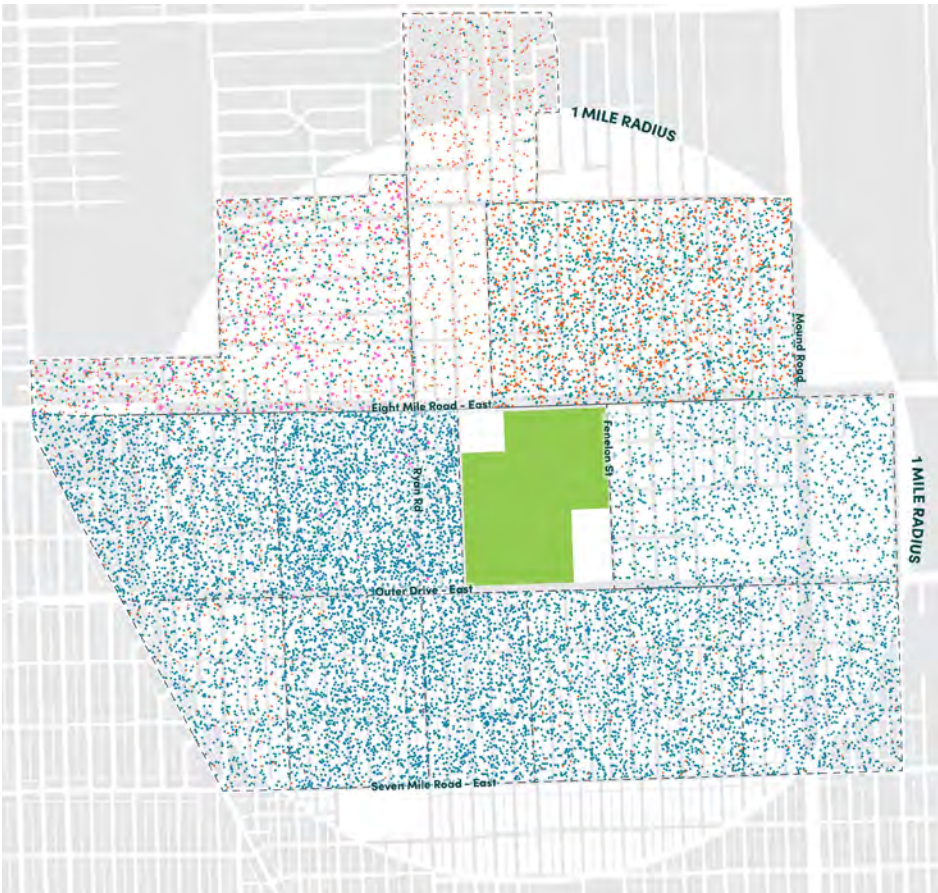
Community Profile

THE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A GLANCE

The Farwell Park neighborhoods' population is predominantly Black or African American, comprising approximately 78% of residents. The one-mile radius around Farwell Park extends into Macomb County, illustrating a noticeable demographic shift at Eight Mile Road, where there is a greater presence of other racial and ethnic groups.



Source: ACS 2022 5-year data, Race & Ethnicity



Demographic Data for Farwell Neighborhood by Black Groups Agglomeration
Source: American Community Surveys 2022 5-years

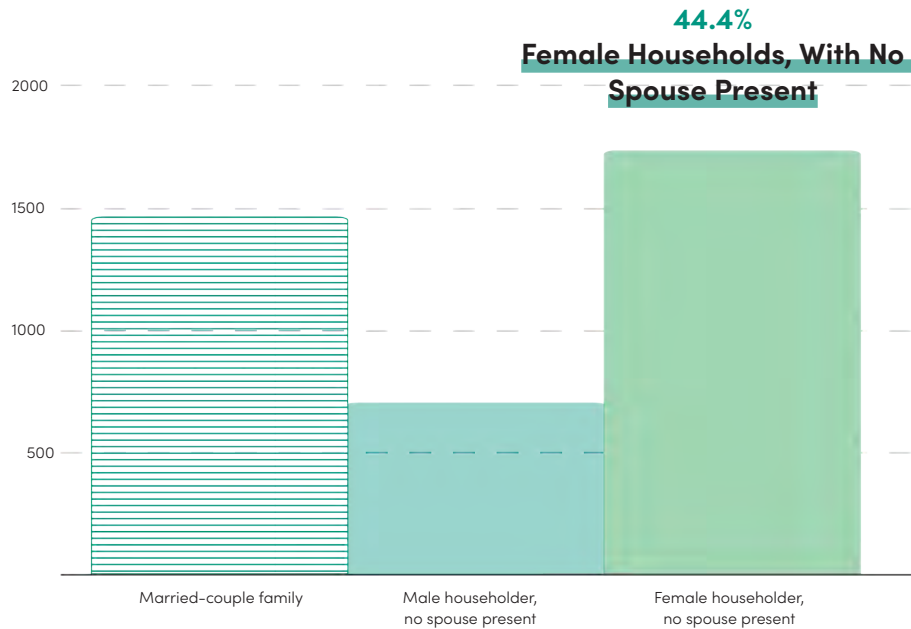


Community Profile

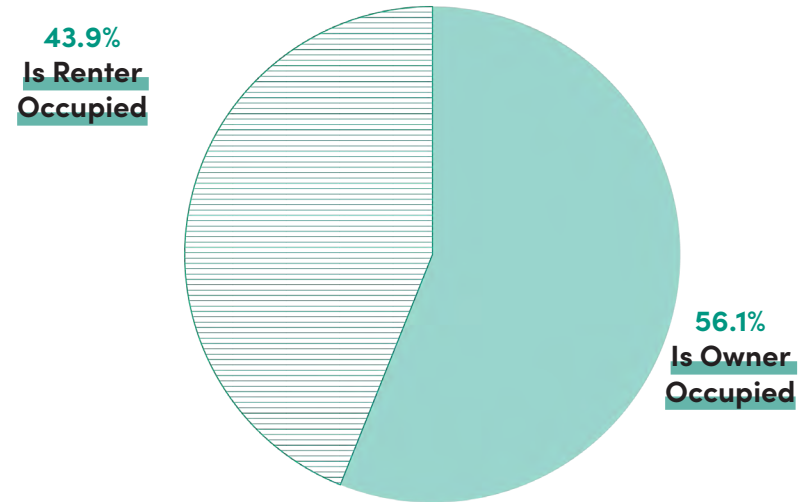
THE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A GLANCE

The Farwell Park neighborhoods observes a relative equal balance between homeowners and renters. Across all households, there is a higher proportion of single female households with children in the neighborhood, a group that may require more support and resources.

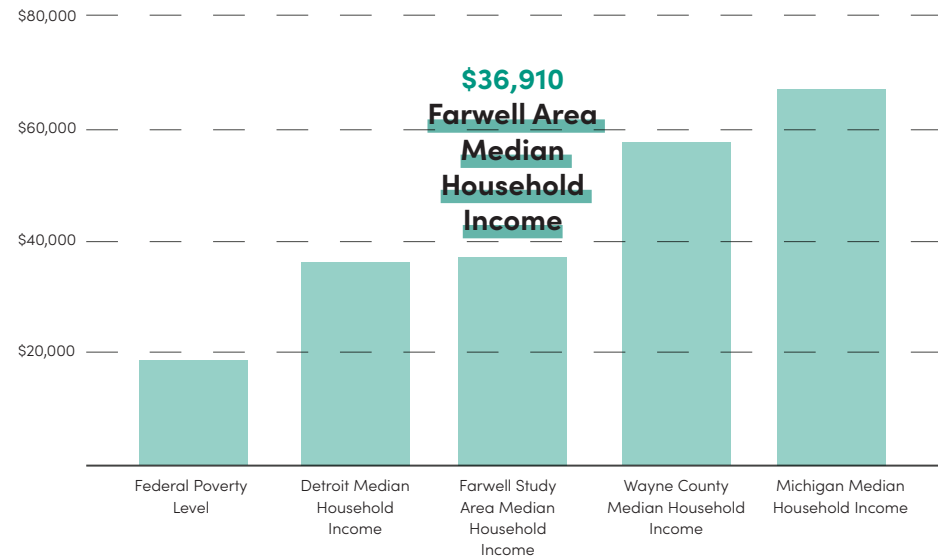
The residents in the neighborhood demonstrate similar financial pattern as that of the City of Detroit Median Household Income. Residents within a 1-mile radius of Farwell Park have a median household income of \$36,910, which is slightly higher than the city. This data point may be important when confirming programming and events costs at Farwell Park and at the Farwell Recreation Center.



Source: ACS 2023 5-year data, Household Types with children



Source: ACS 2023 5-year data, Owner v. Renter

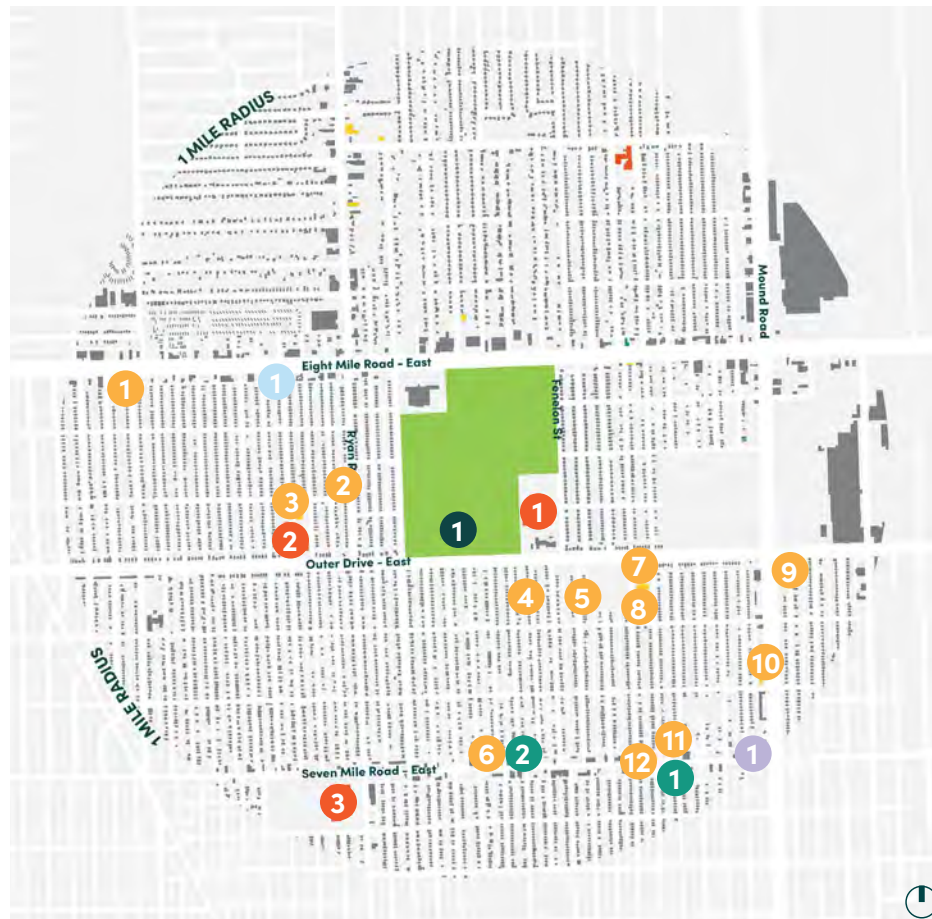


Source: Median household income in the past 12 months (in 2022 inflation -adjusted dollars)

Community Profile

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Farwell Park neighborhoods have a plethora of resources and assets within a 1-mile radius of Farwell Park. These are businesses and organizations that offer local social services and low-cost access to community, education, and support.



Source: JIMA Studio

Recreation Facilities

- 1 Farwell Recreation Center

K-12 Schools

- 1 Mason Academy
- 2 Dove Academy of Detroit
- 3 John J. Pershing High School

Day Care Centers

- 1 Circle Time Learning Center
- 2 Quality Child Care

Funeral Homes

- 1 Clora Funeral Home

Medical Offices

- 1 Ryan Family Dentistry

Churches

- 1 Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
- 2 True Gospel Tabernacle Church
- 3 Sanctuary Global Ministries
- 4 Intuit Activity
- 5 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
- 6 Victory Praise & Worship Center Church
- 7 Conant Congregation
- 8 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
- 9 East Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- 10 W.W. Missionary Baptist Church
- 11 Blessed Redeemer Church
- 12 Church of Our Father Missionary Baptist



Pershing High School
Source: DPSCD

Community Profile

THE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A GLANCE

Farwell Park is one of five public parks within a 1-mile radius. There are also three schools within the study area that host play and recreation facilities that often serve as resources to the surrounding community. The chart below shows the distribution of programs and amenities across these open spaces. Farwell Park stands out as the largest anchor green space for the neighborhood, with the most acreage and amenities.



Area Parks and Schools
Source: JIMA Studio

	Recreation Center	Library	Restroom	Parking	Pavilion	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Softball Field	Football Field	Running Tracks	Sledding Hill	Open Fields	Playground	Outdoor Gym	Community Garden	Walking Trails	Open Lawns	Natural Areas
Farwell Park	●			●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●		●	
Dorais Park											●		●				●	
Syracuse Park							●					●	●			●	●	
Hasse-Emery Park																	●	
Mason Academy		●		●														
Pershing High School				●			●	●	●	●					●			
Dove Academy of Detroit													●					

Farwell Park could have more direct connections to other nearby parks.

Dorais Park

Farwell Park

Drone Capture of Farwell Park
Source: JIMA Studio

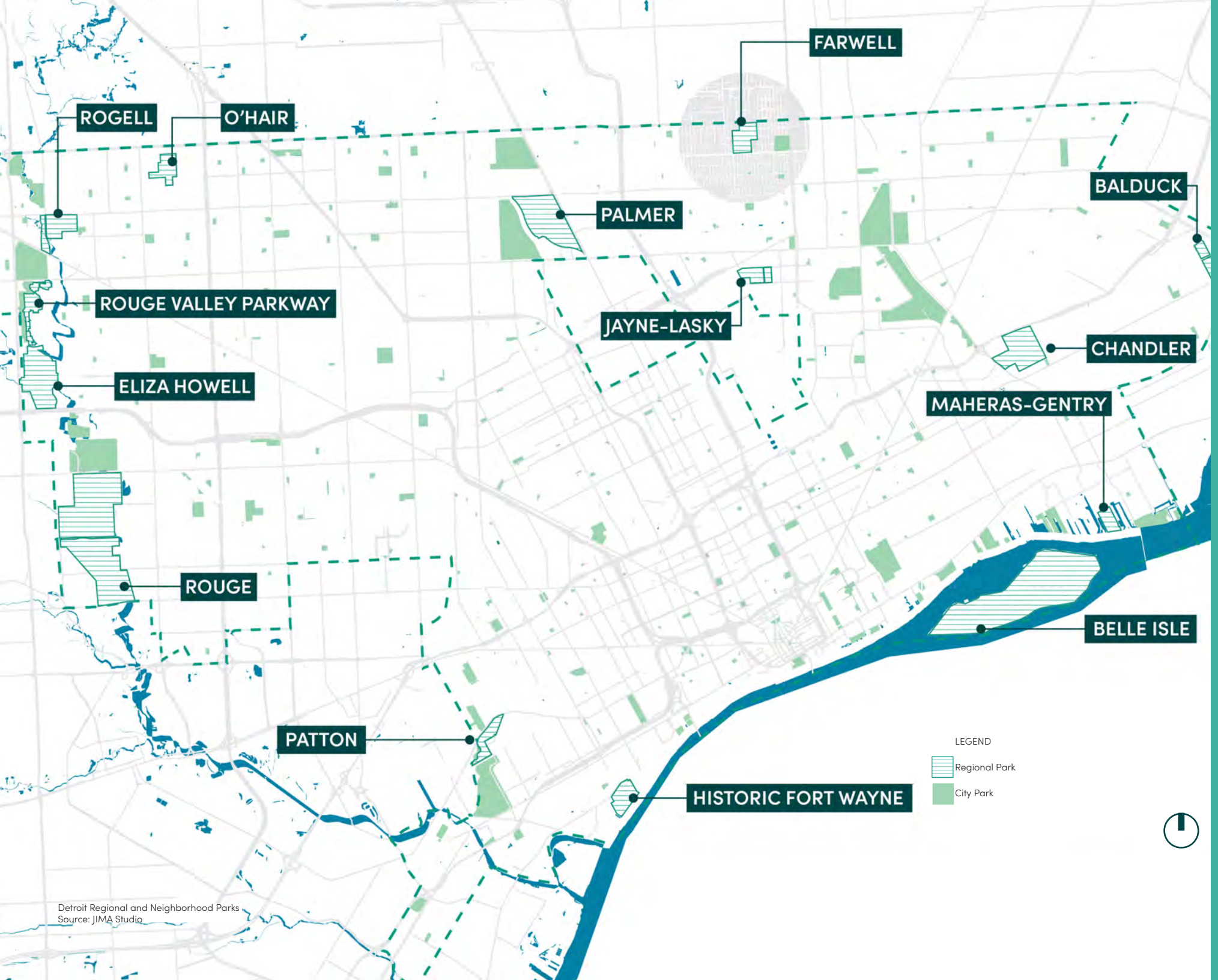


Community Profile

THE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A GLANCE

Farwell Park is one of Detroit's regional parks, with over 50 acres within the city limits. This chart shows the amenities distributed across these parks. Farwell Park stands out as a leader for athletic programming.

	Recreation Center	Boat House	Swimming Pool	Museum	Green House	Bandshell / Amphitheater	Restroom	Parking	Pavilion / Picnic Shelter	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Softball Field	Football Field	Soccer Field	Volleyball	Handball Court	Running Track	Velodrome	Mini Golf/ Golf / Disc Golf	Open Field	Dog Park	Playground	Skate Park	Outdoor Fitness	Community Garden	Walking Trail	Open Lawn	Natural Area	Sledding Hill	Aquarium	Swimming / Beach	Paddling Area	Splash Pad	Pond	River
Farwell Park	●							●	●	●	●	●	●							●		●		●	●		●								
Palmer Park						●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●					●	●	
Jayne-Lasky Park	●						●	●	●		●	●		●					●	●	●	●		●			●						●		
O’Hair Park							●	●	●		●	●		●						●			●	●		●	●	●	●						
Rogell Park								●						●								●				●			●						●
Rouge Valley Parkway																												●						●	
Eliza Howell Park								●	●			●		●								●	●			●	●	●	●	●					●
Rouge Park	●		●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●		●		●		●	●	●	●	●				●	●
Patton Park	●		●			●	●	●	●			●		●							●		●				●	●	●	●				●	
Historic Fort Wayne								●						●													●								●
Balduck							●	●	●		●	●		●						●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●					
Chandler Park	●		●				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●						
Maheras-Gentry Park								●	●		●	●								●		●					●	●		●				●	●
Belle Isle		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●				●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●



Previous Planning

CITY OF DETROIT PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2022, the City of Detroit released the Citywide Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan which includes specific near-term improvements and goals for Farwell Park. They included:

- Improve the Barcus Tennis Center for reuse.
- Provide outdoor fitness equipment and walking loops in all community & regional parks.
- Provide nature pockets in all parks over 10 acres and actively provide nature programs in all regional parks to ensure access to nature education and natural play for all.
- Provide at least one universally accessible playground in each Council district.
- Add gathering spaces and shelters throughout the park.
- Provide GSI interventions in all new and renovated parking lots and in all new hard surfaces over 0.25 acres.
- Plant trees in 100 parks to reach a minimum of 24% tree canopy cover in all parks.

The Citywide Parks And Recreation Strategic Plan also highlighted the strategies that would impact the regional parks system as a whole, thus benefitting Farwell Park. These strategies were reviewed with community members and considered as recommendations for the Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan. They include:

Make Parks and Rec Centers Active All Year

Offer programs and outdoor activities that can be enjoyed in every season, including winter sports. Partner with local organizations to help provide equipment, lessons, and promote these activities.

Promote Walking for Health

Add distance markers on all walking paths in parks. Simple signs can inspire more Detroiters to get outside and walk.

Encourage Independent Play and Exploration

Use signs to help people understand how to use new play areas and games, like gaga ball or pickleball. Add nature guides with fun ideas like scavenger hunts.

Build Sports Hubs at Major Parks

Create spaces with more sports options and leagues, especially for youth. Host open houses and events to introduce new programs and help connect kids to future opportunities.

Bring Nature into Every Park

Include natural areas and features like forest patches, pollinator gardens, and wildlife habitats in every walkable park. Encourage exploration and nature play.

Improve Green Infrastructure

Add more trees and Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in parks to manage flooding and climate change. Focus on areas with drainage issues and align with Detroit's Reforestation Plan. Include educational elements to help people learn about these efforts.

Make Parks Easier to Get To

Work with DDOT to improve transit access to regional parks and rec centers. Provide shuttles, mobile programming, and bus stops close to park entrances.

Design for Everyone

Parks should welcome people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities—including young kids, teens, seniors, people with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, and people who speak different languages. This means more bathrooms, signs in multiple languages, and activities for all generations.

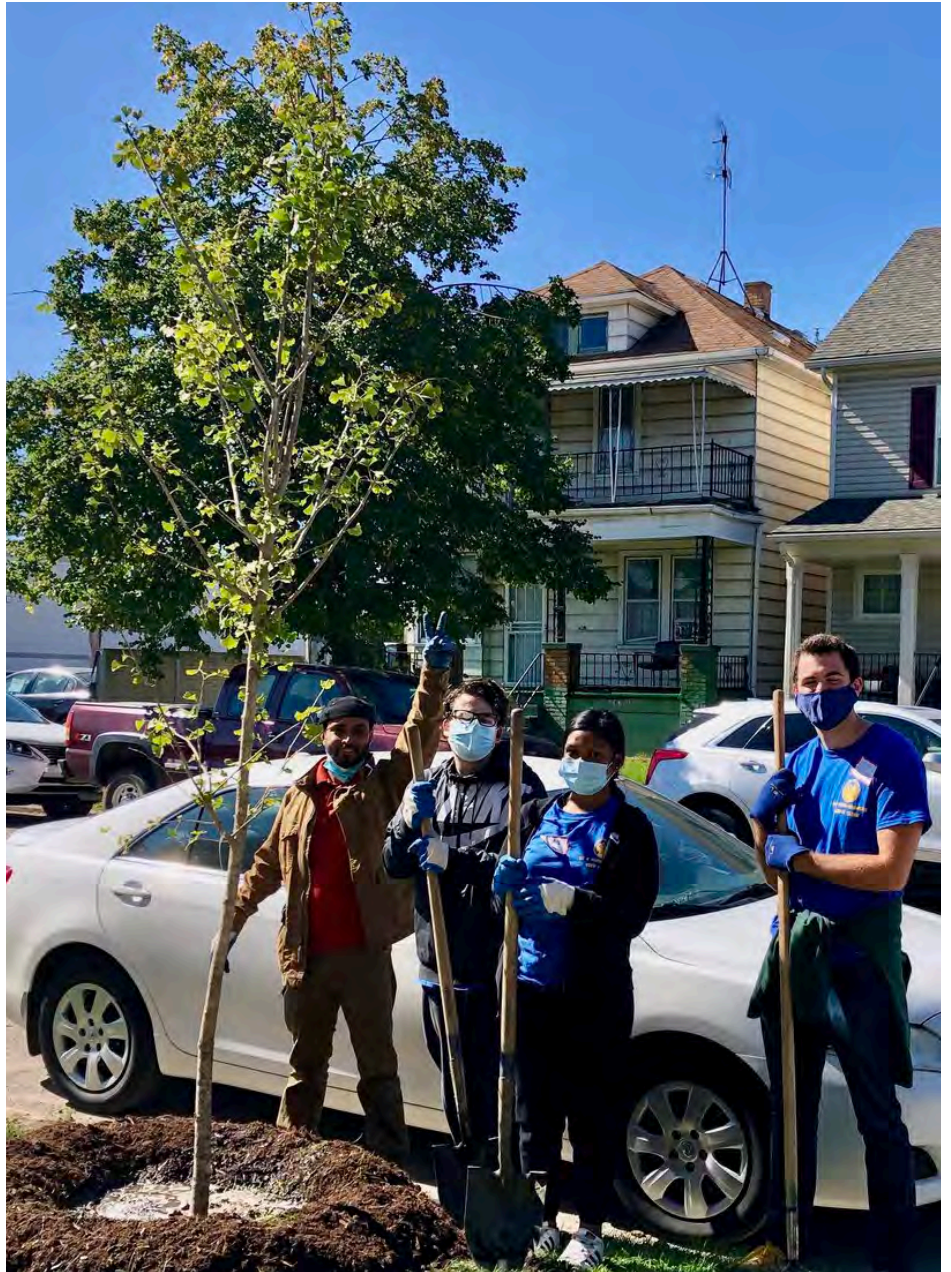
Go Beyond ADA: Make Parks Fully Accessible

Ensure all facilities, like pools and locker rooms, are accessible.
Partner with experts for assessments, staff training, and resources.
Create an online directory and map showing accessible park features.

Support Multi-Modal Transportation

Turn rec centers and big parks into transportation hubs by adding bike and scooter rentals, rideshare access, and clear info on SMART and DDOT bus routes. Improve nearby bus stops with shelters, lights, seats, and phone charging. Coordinate program times with transit schedules to make access easier.

The Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan provides recommendations and strategies aligned with the City of Detroit's goals for the Farwell Park as a regional park in the city. The plan will also be centered around community aspiration and perceived need, and respond to the existing conditions of the park. Through these elements, the 10 Year Master Plan will elevate a vision that is achievable, responsive, and community-driven.



Tree Planting
Source: Greening of Detroit

3

Community Engagement Process

Engagement Approach

COMMUNITY LED VISION

The engagement process aimed to reach a broad and diverse range of individuals, encompassing various ages, backgrounds, and connections to Farwell Park. The intention was to foster a sense of ownership and agency among neighborhood residents in shaping the long-term master plan. Recognizing that community members are the most knowledgeable about how and why the park should evolve, engagement activities were designed to serve as platforms for sharing local insights and lived experiences. Given Farwell Park's role as a long-standing community anchor with active programming and participation, the workshops were structured to capture and reflect existing uses and activities within the park.

The engagement strategy included three (3) large public workshops, four (4) focus groups, one-on-one conversations with approximately eighty (80) individuals, and an online survey. Participants included local residents, City of Detroit staff, and elected officials.

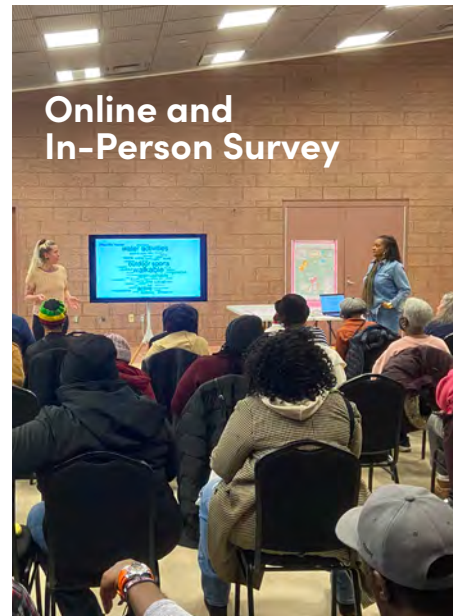
The engagement process yielded valuable insights and data collected through both structured activities and informal, organic interactions. Community members were engaged in accessible and familiar settings, with a range of activities designed to accommodate different levels of participation. This included both interactive and passive options to ensure inclusivity for individuals who preferred to engage at their own pace. The workshops were intentionally designed to be welcoming, inspiring, and authentic, while serving a critical purpose: to inform the design of the park. Community input directly influenced decisions regarding desired amenities, their placement within the park and surrounding neighborhood context, and how improvements should be prioritized and phased over time.



Engagement Approach

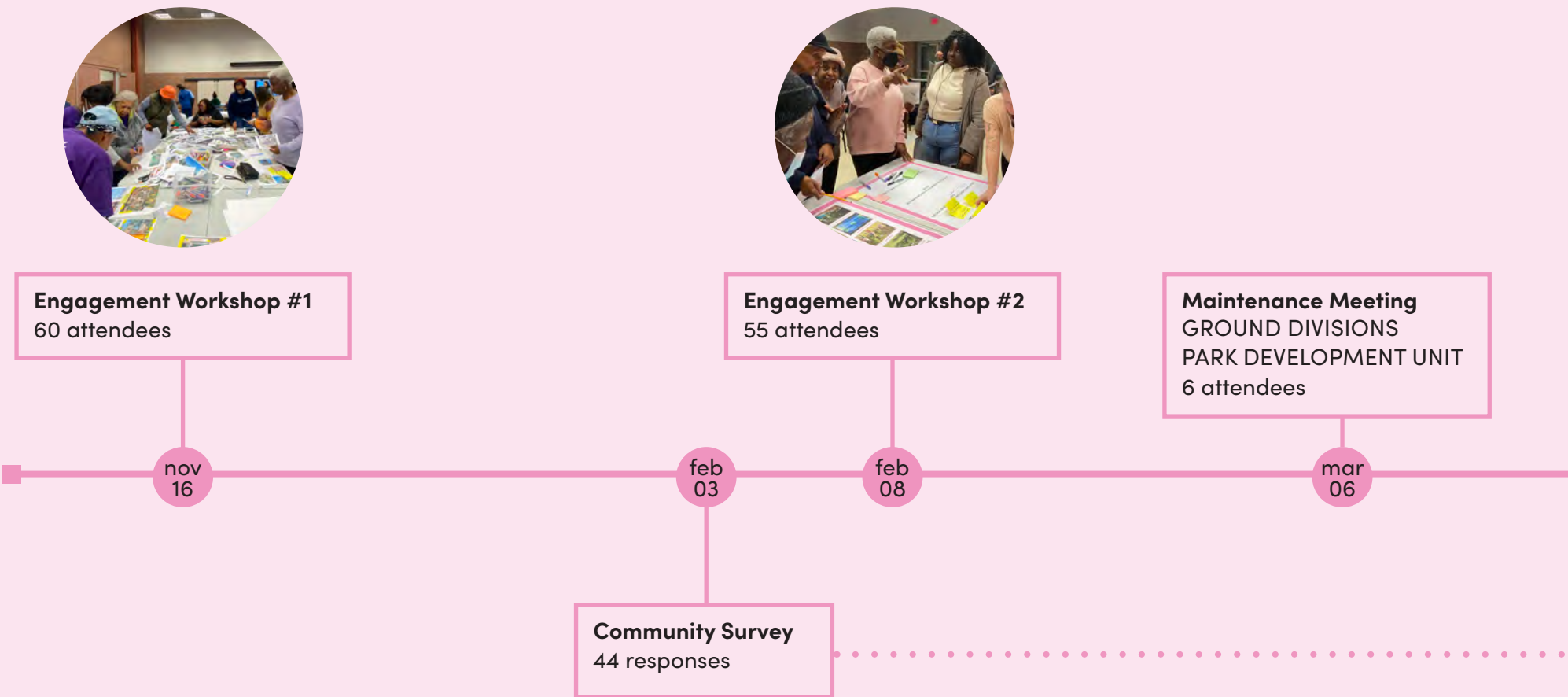
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan will be developed by and for the nearby community.
- Each resident should feel that their voice and opinions are reflected in the Master Plan.
- The engagement experience should feel welcoming, fun, accessible, and inspirational.
- Connections and collaborations are built across distinct groups of the community.
- The iterative process evolves the design approach through continual dialogue and feedback.



Engagement Approach

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



RESEARCH — SYNTHESIS —



Focus Group
FARWELL RECREATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL
9 attendees

mar
08



Focus Group
ACTIVE FARWELL
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
3 attendees

mar
15



Focus Group
YOUTH
10 attendees

mar
22



Engagement Workshop #3
45 attendees

apr
05

FEEDBACK

Engagement Approach

ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Workshop #1 - Discovery & Research

The first engagement event took place prior to the start of the design process, during the initial phase of research that included historical context, site analysis, and neighborhood demographics. Activities were designed to gather input on how residents currently use the park, what improvements they would like to see, how access and overall utilization could be enhanced, and which existing elements they considered successful. The event featured a mix of individual exercises, group dialogue, collaborative discussions, and, at times, negotiation among participants to reflect differing priorities and perspectives.

Workshop #2 - Feedback on 3 Preliminary Concepts

Based on the findings from the first engagement event, the design team developed three (3) distinct conceptual site plan options. At the follow-up event, a summary of the first engagement was presented, including how the community input was interpreted and how it directly informed the development of the three design options. The workshop also provided an opportunity to clarify, validate, and refine those findings through continued dialogue with participants.

Workshop #3 - Town Hall & Prioritization

The final engagement workshop was an opportunity to report out the summary of findings acquired thus far, and share how they were incorporated into the synthesized master plan. Residents were given an opportunity to peruse the drawings, ask questions, and then vote on which amenities should be prioritized through phased, incremental development.



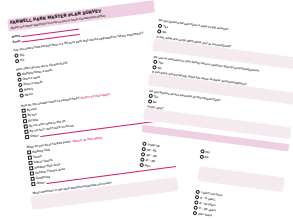
DURING WORKSHOPS

There will be times of gathering and presentation but more time will be spent in dialogue in smaller more intimate groups. We end with summary, questions, and next steps to keep the community informed.

WORD + DOT workshop 1



SURVEYS workshop 2



UNDERSTANDING EXISTING CONTEXT

Every place holds a unique history and a network of people connected to it. The process creates space for these valuable experiences and insights to be shared, acknowledged, and documented as part of the planning effort.

MAP IT OUT workshop 1



AFTER WORKSHOPS

Follow-up meetings are held with community to share findings that serve as the foundation for design concepts. Community members provide ongoing feedback throughout the process.

ACTIVE ACTIVITIES

Participants engage with the materials and collaborate with others to share ideas and insights

PASSIVE ACTIVITIES

Participants can engage at their own pace in solo activities in case they are not feeling social

community engagement activities

ENVISIONING FOR THE FUTURE

We must dream big. Our visioning excersizes focus on inspiring participants and giving them the tools to communicate visually want they want.

PRIORITIZATION workshop 3



DREAM COLLAGE workshop 1



CONCEPT FEEDBACK workshop 2



FRIENDS OF FARWELL workshop 1



Workshop #1

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Word + Dot Exercise

Participants selected their top words to capture their aspirations for Farwell Park. This process helped the design team understand what the community's big-picture goals were before beginning the design process.

Collage Exercise

Using printed materials gathered by the design team, participants created visual aspirations for their community. Participants were asked to connect back to the three words they chose during the Word + Dot exercise. The visual collages provided a deeper understanding of what elements resonated with participants.

Mapping Exercise

Participants mapped out their usual path of activity from arrival to departure on an abstracted map of the park. This illustrated how participants are currently using the space by revealing areas of gathering, desired pathways, and where connectivity may improve.

Friends of Farwell Game

Participants worked together to prioritize which amenities to incorporate into the park. Each team received a fixed budget of "Farwell Bucks" and a menu of amenities to "purchase." Team members then collaborated to determine the placement and connections between selected amenities, encouraging strategy and negotiation. The resulting maps, along with other data collected during this engagement, served as a foundation for developing preliminary concept frameworks for the master plan.

FARWELL PARK





Collage Exercise



Word + Dot Exercise



Collage Exercise



Friends of Farwell Game

Workshop #1

WHAT WE HEARD

Improved Walkability and Connectivity

The park's outer loop is frequently used by seniors who walk in groups for exercise. However, the existing sidewalk is in need of repair, and the section along 8 Mile Road can feel unsafe due to high-speed traffic. Additionally, there is a shortage of benches for resting along the route. Park usage is also significantly reduced at night because of inadequate lighting, which affects both general use and scheduled activities such as tennis. Improved lighting would extend safe access and allow tennis players to continue practicing into the evening.

Expanded Environmental Features

There is a desire for a stronger connection to the community garden, which feels isolated from the rest of the park. Participants would like to see more diverse landscapes, especially along the walking paths.

Inclusive Playgrounds for Multiple Age Groups

Many parents bring their children to the park, and would like to see playscapes that support multiple age groups and abilities, as well as splash pads and shelters to sit under while their children play.

Maintained Athletic Facilities

The Farwell community is extremely active and hopes to see more water-based activities and maintained sports fields.

Strategic Upgrades for Future Amenities

There was a strong focus on collective gathering within an inclusive, cultural, and accessible space. This includes strategically planning for potential, future amenities that are currently not feasible, such as an expansion to the Recreation Center.

The park should be green, floral, a sanctuary, and oasis for recreation, laughter, peace and community!

We need more fitness activities, a dome for athletes, and a swimming pool!

Expand the community garden!

Can you finish the outside walk trail but with rubber or a soft material? I had a hip replacement and doctor took me off concrete. I hope to finish a mile walk.

I am a walker.
I love dance.
This is a beautiful warm hearty center.
Exercise outside is great for freedom + BBQ.

We are in a walking group that walks five days a week outside the perimeter of Farwell in the summer. In the winter we walk inside the park.



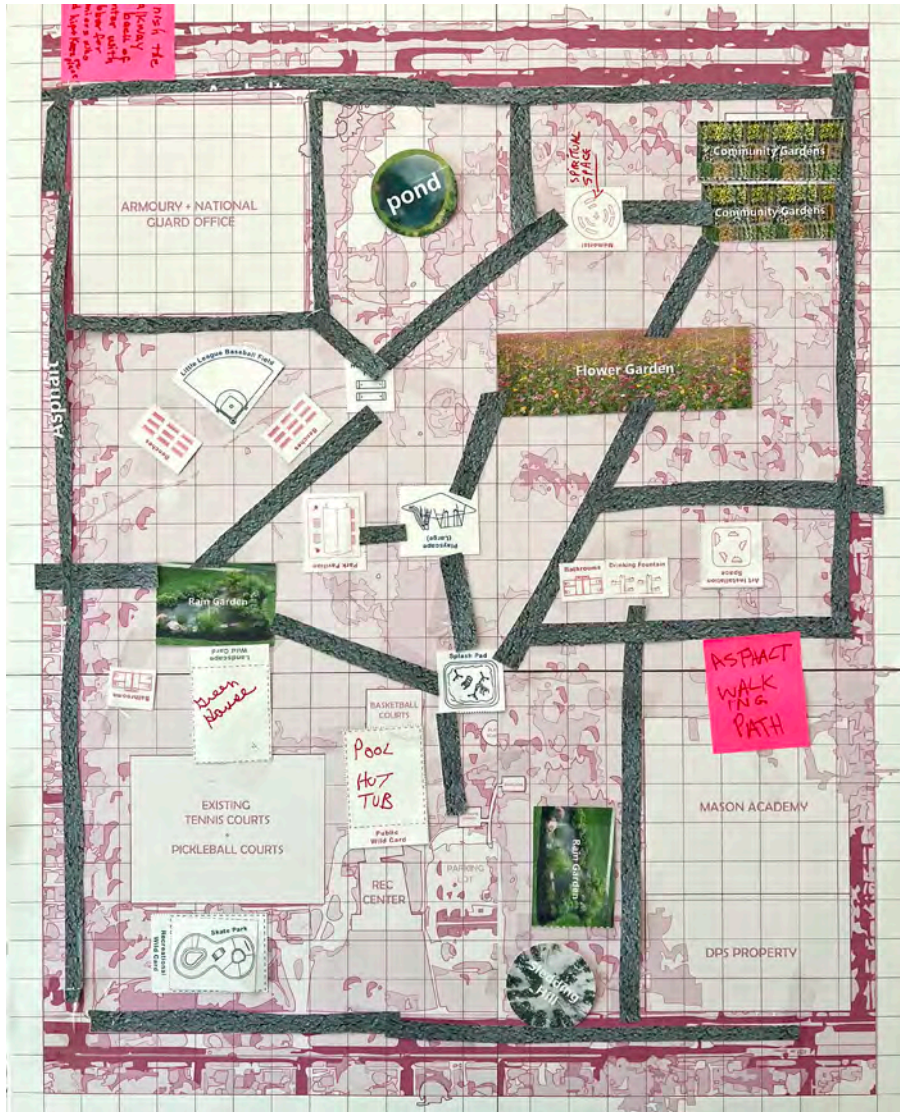
Participant Collage from Workshop #1



Most selected words during the Word + Dot Exercise

Workshop #1

WHAT WE HEARD



1 of 5 maps created during the Friends of Farwell Game

TOP PUBLIC USE AMENITIES

1. Bathrooms
2. Benches
3. Asphalt Paths
4. Drinking Fountain
5. Art Installation space
6. Memorial

TOP LANDSCAPE AMENITIES

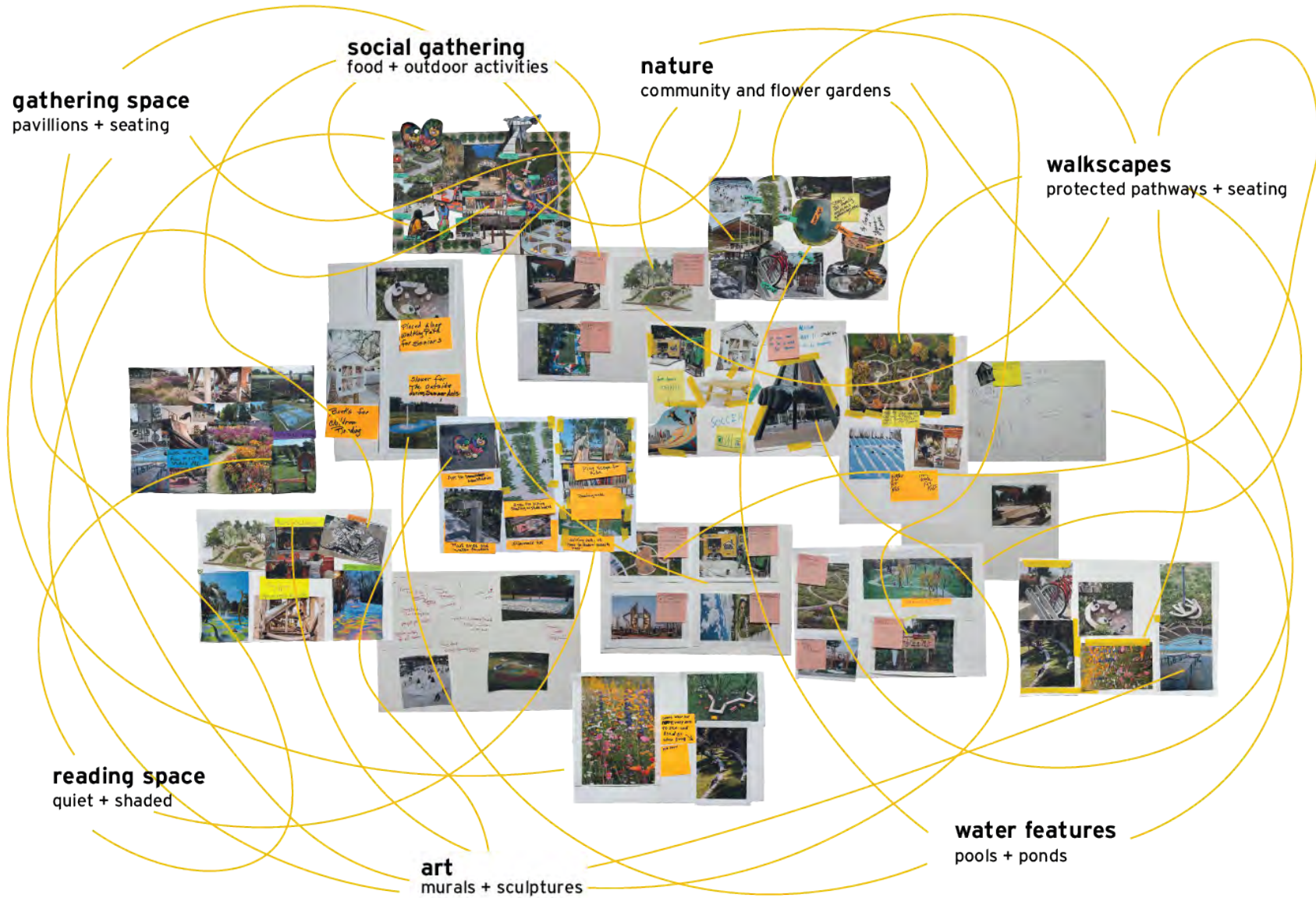
1. Community Gardens
2. Pond
3. Sledding Hill
4. Water Fountain
5. Flower Garden

TOP RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

1. Playscape (Large)
2. Little League Baseball Field
3. Horseshoe Toss
4. Splash Pad
5. 400m Track
6. Skate Park

WRITE INS

Pool
Hot Tub
Velodrome
Lighting
Play Park for Special Needs
Green House
Security Booth
Putt Golf Course



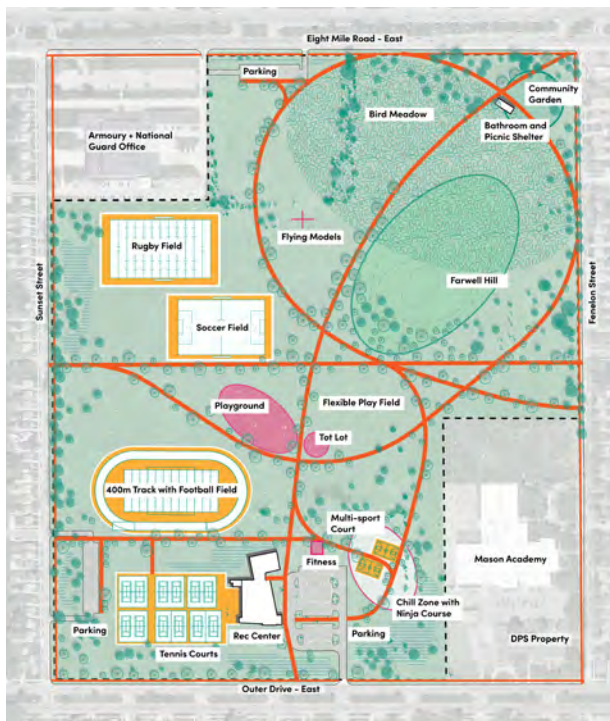
Common themes from the Collage Exercise

Workshop #2

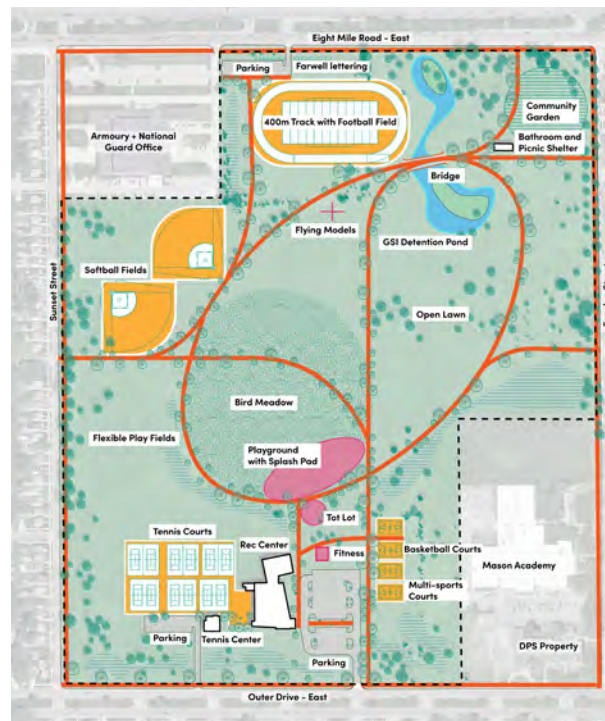
SMALL GROUPS FOR A DEEPER DIVE

To explore each preliminary concept plan in greater detail, individual stations were set up for each option. Each station featured a site plan, question prompts, and space for participants to leave comments using post-it notes. These stations fostered active discussions, debates, and collaborative brainstorming, allowing for a deeper understanding of community preferences. After visiting all the stations, residents shared their thoughts on which concept layout should be developed further as the foundation for the final design.

Concept A

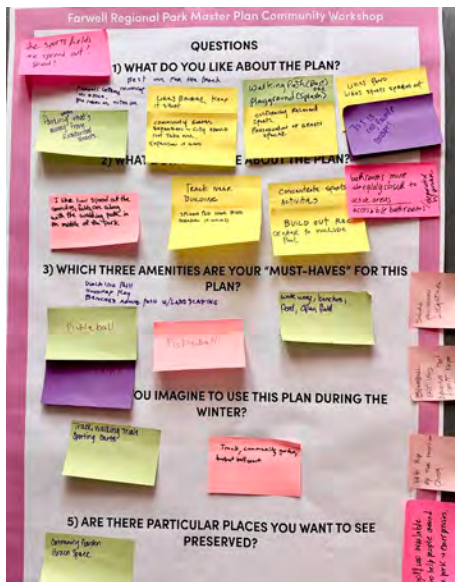


Concept B



Concept C





Written responses to prompts and concept site options



Sharing ideas and perspectives with one another



Group discussion around proposed options



Moderated discussions at each station

Workshop #2

WHAT WE HEARD

Walking Path Multiple walking loops around and through the park
Connectivity to the garden and sports facilities
Scenic walks with meadows, water, and a bridge
Avoid inclined walking paths
Include benches and places to rest

Landscaped Amenities Expand the community garden
Variety of meadows, bird gardens, and water features
Like the hill and natural areas
Have natural areas such as bird meadows away from the children's playground

Sports Activities Keep active and passive zones are separated
Pickleball, basketball, football, and baseball fields that are maintained
Parking lots near the sports fields
Rugby fields are not desired
Maintenance of athletic fields

There was discrepancy in opinions on whether the sports fields should be distributed vs. congregated, and whether they should be located near the Rec Centers vs. the arterial roads





One on One Outreach

AUDRA'S OUTREACH

Audra Carson, CEO of Izzie Global, worked behind the scenes, calling and meeting with individuals to inform them of the upcoming engagement workshops, and to make sure their voices were heard. Audra called over 65 individuals and maintained the Farwell Park Master Planning Facebook page. Some of the touch points included:

1 on 1 Meetings

Mr. Sanders - Keystone Fenelon Conley (KFC) Block Club
Ms. Hardman - Farwell Rec Center Manager
Ms. Moore - Binder Block Club + Farwell Community Garden
Laveta Davenport - Non-profit owner
Jac Kyle from Detroit Outdoors
Ms. Caine - Principal of Dove Academy
Mr. McCrary - Tennis Club
Mr. Wilson - President of Farwell Recreation Advisory Council (FRAC)
Mr. Blessitt - Retired Detroit Tiger
Ms. Cowans - Vernon Chapel

Direct Calls with City of Detroit

Council Member Scott Benson
Terry with Council Member Benson's Office
Kayanna Sessoms - District 3 Liason
Khalil Ligon - Planning and Development for Region 3

Focus Groups

Youth Groups
Farwell Recreation Advisory Council
Other Active Community Members



Survey

SURVEY

A digital survey was created to provide residents with a flexible way to share feedback at their own pace, especially if they were unable to attend an in-person meeting. The online survey was open from early February through early April. In addition, printed copies of the survey were distributed during Engagement Workshop #2 to gather additional responses. All data collected from the paper surveys was later entered into the Google Form allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the community context and residents' aspirations for Farwell Park.

SURVEY INSIGHTS

The survey results confirmed many comments recorded during the in-person workshops. The Farwell Park community includes a large number of legacy residents who have lived in the neighborhood for more than 20+ years. The community is well informed and are advocates for Farwell Park and quality of life. Some residents recalled attending previous Farwell Park visioning workshops in the past, and the park remains an important asset that continues to inspire civic engagement across residents.

FARWELL PARK MASTER PLAN SURVEY
Below are some questions to help us get to know Farwell Park better.

Name _____
Email _____

Are you aware that Farwell Park is a 90 acre park that will be upgraded for future enjoyment?
☐ Yes
☐ No

How often do you go to Farwell Park?
☐ Multiple times a week
☐ Once a week
☐ Once a month
☐ Rarely
☐ Never

How do you usually travel to Farwell Park? (Select all that apply)
☐ By foot
☐ By bus
☐ By bike
☐ By car and I park in the lot
☐ By car but I don't park in the lot
☐ Other: _____

What do you do at Farwell Park? (Select all that apply)
☐ Walking Club
☐ Tennis
☐ Indoor Sports
☐ Outdoor Play Area
☐ Outdoor Fitness Area
☐ Gardening
☐ Other: _____

What amenities in the park would bring people out more?

Do you believe Farwell Park is easy to get around?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, what are some difficulties you've encountered?

Do you or someone in your family have a need for special accommodations?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If you don't mind sharing, what are some of these accommodations?

Do you believe all are welcome at the Farwell Park?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, why?

WE WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE!

What is your age?
☐ under 18
☐ 18 - 25
☐ 26 - 40
☐ 41 - 65
☐ 65+

Do you live in the Farwell Park Neighborhood?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, where do you live?

How long have you lived here?
☐ I don't live here
☐ 0 - 5 years
☐ 6 - 10 years
☐ 11 - 20 years
☐ 20+ years

Workshop #3

PRIORITIES FOR A PREFERRED DIRECTION

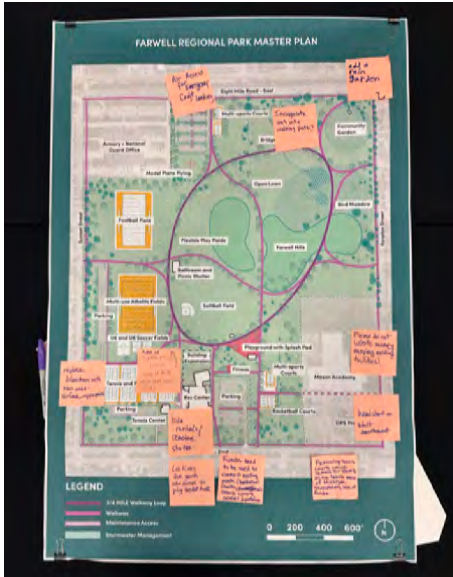
After receiving the critical feedback from Workshop #2, the focus groups and the digital survey, the consultant team returned to the community for Workshop #3 with a refined conceptual master plan that balanced all the desired amenities requested. The plan focused on the principles that the community members previously shared around circulation, adjacency of programs, a balance of landscapes, and overall site improvements. Community members were asked to review the concept to affirm the following goals, and its alignment with their preferences:

- The park must be walkable and consider safe routes through and around the park;
- The park should expand the environmental features, including the community garden, to allow residents to engage longer with the park;
- The array of athletic facilities should remain at the park to accommodate different interests and park users;
- Support different age groups at the parks by providing spaces for safe play;
- Provide overall upgrades to the park facilities to make space for additional amenities in the future.

In Workshop #3, residents were asked to vote on which amenities should be prioritized through a phased approach. The consultant team offered a voting system, where participants placed cards below a scale from 1-6, where 1 was defined as a low priority (I am OK without it) and 6 was defined as a high priority (I can't LIVE without it). Community members posted their preferences and reflected with their peers on what they expect in the first years of implementation.

The resulting prioritization show amenities in order of resident's preferences for implementation phasing. This will inform the Master Plan's implementation, to align with resident expectation that clearly communicate positive change for the park.

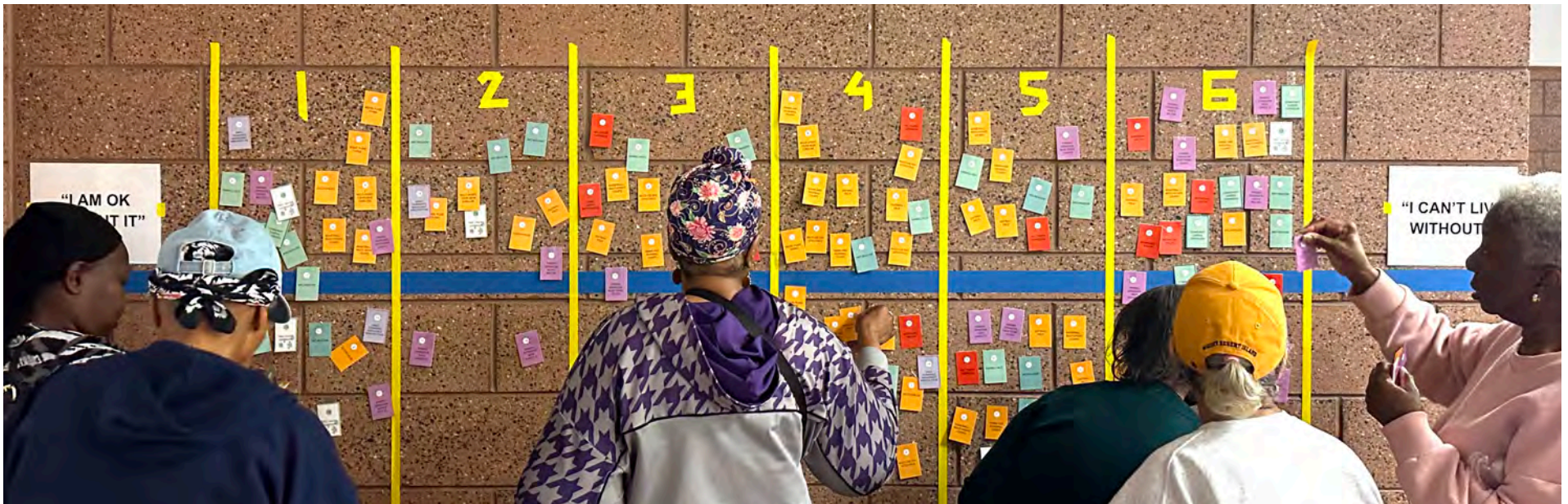




Final feedback on the site plan



Sharing ideas and perspectives

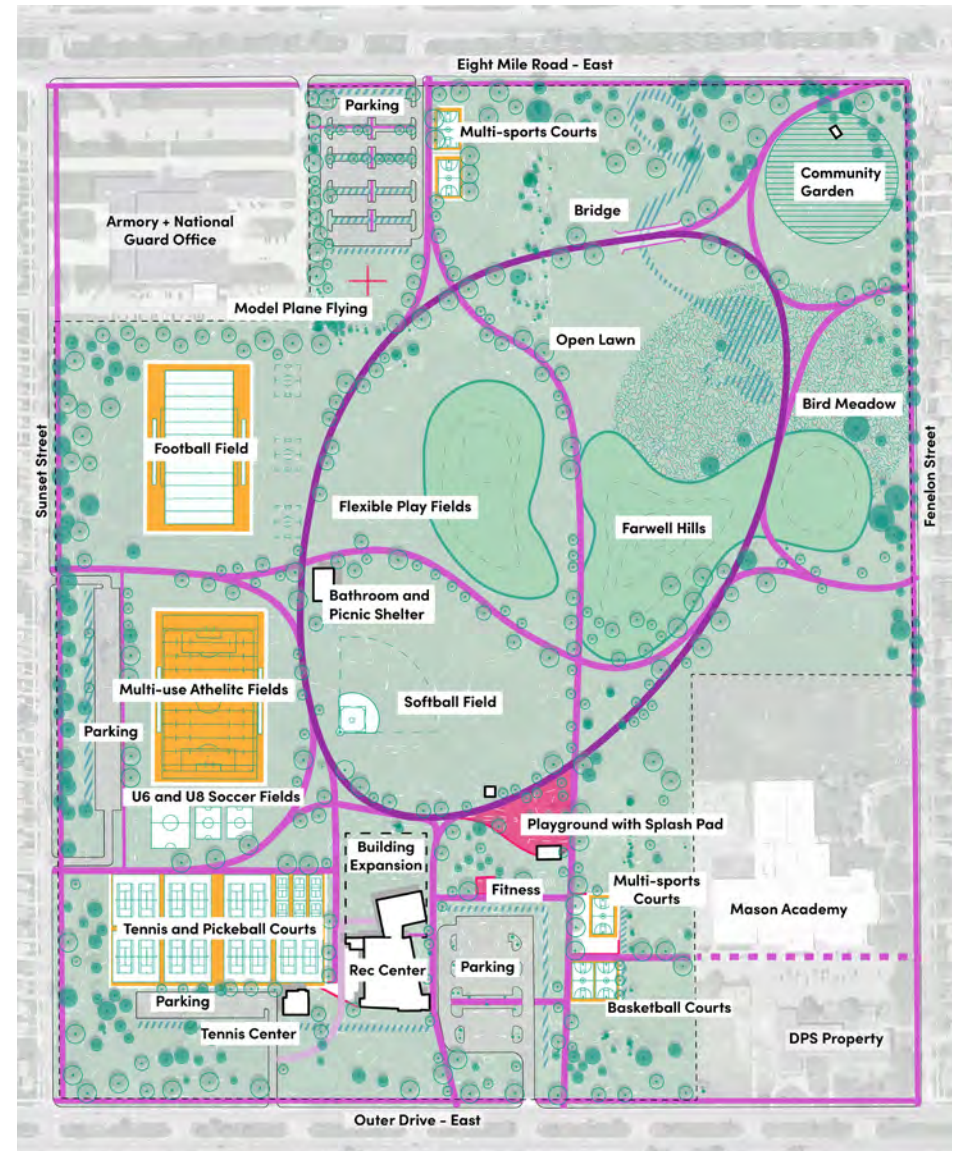


Taking turns prioritizing the amenities phased

Engagement Outcome

A COMMUNITY-COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The engagement process for the Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan successfully centered community voices, resulting in a design approach grounded in local knowledge, priorities, and aspirations. Through a combination of large workshops, focused discussions, and one-on-one interactions, the process not only captured a wide range of perspectives but also reinforced the community's role as co-authors of the park's future. By meeting people where they are—both physically and in terms of comfort with participation—the strategy ensured that diverse experiences shaped the vision for a revitalized Farwell Park. Ultimately, the input gathered laid a strong foundation for a master plan that reflects the values, needs, and everyday realities of the people it is meant to serve.



Conceptual Master Plan



4

**Existing
Conditions and
Observations**

Site Inventory

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND CONDITIONS

Farwell Park, located in Detroit’s East Side, offers residents and visitors a variety of recreational amenities. The park features open green spaces suitable for various activities for sports enthusiasts.

The design team conducted an inventory of Farwell Park’s elements and their condition in October 2024. Overall, the park appeared in good condition and well maintained. Notably, the park was free of trash, the grass was cut, the playground and outdoor fitness center were in use, and Farwell Recreation Center was open and operating. A detailed list of the park’s conditions are presented in the following chart.

Farwell Park Existing Features and Conditions

Features	Condition	Description
Building Facilities		
Recreation Center	Good	Recent renovation in 2024 added a new indoor gym and other improvements.
Tennis Center	Poor	Substantial repairs required including electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and facade.
Parkwide Features		
Parking	Good	Generous parking count with landscaping. Unpaved parking area by tennis courts.
Circulation		
Walkways	Good	ADA compliant and well maintained but with limited pathways within the park.
City Sidewalks	Poor	Considerable lengths of sidewalk are missing along Sunset & Fenelon Streets.

Farwell Park Existing Features and Conditions

Features	Condition	Description
Athletic Amenities		
Sport Fields	Fair	Well maintained but there is no striping for the designated sports programming.
Softball Fields	Poor	Unmaintained with missing base pads, striping or security fencing.
Tennis Courts	Fair	6 courts have been renovated, with recent damage to 2. The remaining 22 courts require complete renovations.
Basketball Courts	Fair	2 courts were recently resurfaced in 2020 by the Detroit Pistons. Surface shows recent cracking.
Play Amenities		
Playground	Fair	Safety surface needs repair. Structure is not considered universally accessible.
Fitness Area	Good	Well maintained and well used.
Model Plane Flying	Fair	Informal area not maintained by staff.
Park Shelters	Good	Well maintained and well used.
Natural Features		
Community Garden	Fair	Undefined planting bed areas and some damage to outdoor furniture.
GSI Bioswales	Good	Effective bioswales near parking and rec center. Can be expanded to other areas.
Tree Canopy	Fair	Mature trees provide shade and screening along Sunset and Fenelon. However, Farwell Park has only 13% of tree canopy.



Site Inventory

SUMMARY OF SITE GUIDELINES

Following site inventory and assessment, the design team defined various improvements to the park's existing features. These site guidelines focus on enhancing current facilities in a way that contributes to the long term vision of Farwell Park. A detailed list is presented in the following chart and integrated into the 10 Year Master Plan.

Existing Conditions Findings	
Features	Recommendations
Building Facilities	
Recreation Center	Expand programming to better connect the Recreation Center with neighborhood schools.
Barcus Tennis Center	Renovate building to support summer youth groups and tennis court users.
Parkwide Features	
Parking	Additional parking throughout the park can better support park games and events.
Circulation	
Walkways	Add more accessible walkways within the interior of the park to increase park use.
City Sidewalks	Repair existing sidewalks and connect missing segments to provide a continuous path around the park.
Athletic Amenities	
Sport Fields	Refurbish existing areas with updated field equipment.
Softball Fields	Refurbish the softball fields.
Tennis Courts	Improve existing tennis courts and accommodate pickleball
Basketball Courts	Connect basketball courts to pathways and host more youth programming.

Existing Conditions Findings	
Features	Recommendations
Play Amenities	
Playground	Add an universally accessible playground that considers multiple generations.
Fitness Area	Maintain area as is.
Model Plane Flying	Integrating this area as a more formal park use.
Park Shelters	Apply consistent shelter styles to add cohesion to the park.
Natural Features	
Community Garden	Improve and expand though volunteer effort.
GSI Bioswales	Add more green stormwater infrastructure, such as rain gardens and bioswale, throughout the park.
Tree Canopy	Remove invasive and non-native species, and plant more native trees.



Fall Fest at Farwell Park
Source: Detroit GSD

Site Inventory

FARWELL RECREATION CENTER

Farwell Recreation Center is the clear heart of Farwell Park, and serves as the epicenter for all park programming and event. The center offers daily programming for youth, families, and seniors, fostering community engagement and activity. In 2024, a \$4 million renovation enhanced the facility with the addition of a modern indoor gym, further expanding its amenities and appeal to a wide range of users.

Despite the investment in the indoor gym, there is still a lack of connectivity between the center and neighborhood schools. The center has fewer youth participants than the area demographics would suggest. Bridging better physical and programmatic connections between the Farwell Recreation Center and the neighborhood schools may remedy this disparity.



Photo of Farwell Recreation Center entrance
Source: JIMA Studio



Photo of gymnasium at Farwell Recreation Center
Source: Dante Rionda

Site Inventory

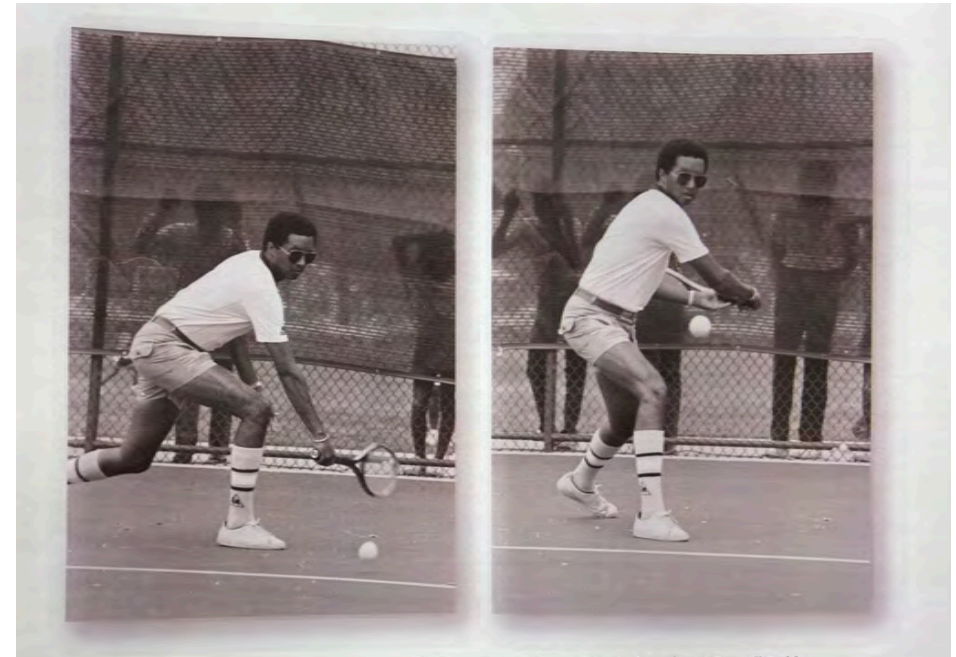
BARCUS TENNIS CENTER

The Harvey Barcus Tennis Center reopened in 1981 and was named after Harvey Barcus, an esteemed sports writer for the Detroit Free Press. Most notably, tennis star and civil rights icon, Arthur Ashe, helped to celebrate the opening ceremony. Most recently, the Barcus Center was used to house Farwell's youth summer camps and miscellaneous storage. Today, the Barcus Center is shuttered with limited use.

The 2022 City of Detroit's Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan identified the Barcus Center as a facility that should be reopened and renovated.



Harvey Barcus Tennis Center Building
Source: JIMA Studio



Arthur Ashe, professional tennis player at Harvey Barcus Tennis Complex at Farwell Field, 1981
Source: Copyright Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

Site Inventory

WALKWAYS

Farwell Park has few walkways that connect park users between the Farwell Recreation Center to the existing playground and shelters. There are also walkways that connect park users from Outer Drive to the tennis courts. These walkways are in fair condition, with some expected wear.

However, the pedestrian network to other parts of the park is incomplete, and vehicular access causes major interruptions to its flow. The park is internally disconnected with no other accessible surfaces moving into the interior of the park. If park users want to access the basketball court or the community garden, for example,

they must traverse over grass or leave the park altogether. More accessible walkways within the interior of the park could increase park use of its facilities.



Photo of various pathways and sidewalks in Farwell Park
Source: JIMA Studio



Photo of various pathways and sidewalks in Farwell Park
Source: JIMA Studio

Site Inventory

PARKING

The parking lot at Farwell Park is in good condition. The surface has been recently repaved, with clear stripping. There are landscaped buffers with trees and stormwater bioswales to offset on-site water management. There is also adequate lighting and security cameras throughout, and 2 electric vehicle charging stations.

There is a parking lot south of the tennis courts that is in poor condition. The asphalt has eroded and a gravel lot remains. This parking area is used by tennis court users and some park maintenance staff. This parking area can be improved to better support the tennis facilities.

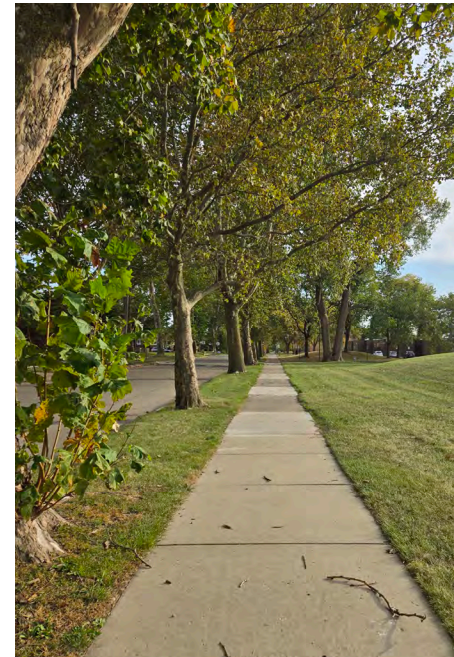


Photo of main parking lot at Farwell Park
Source: JIMA Studio

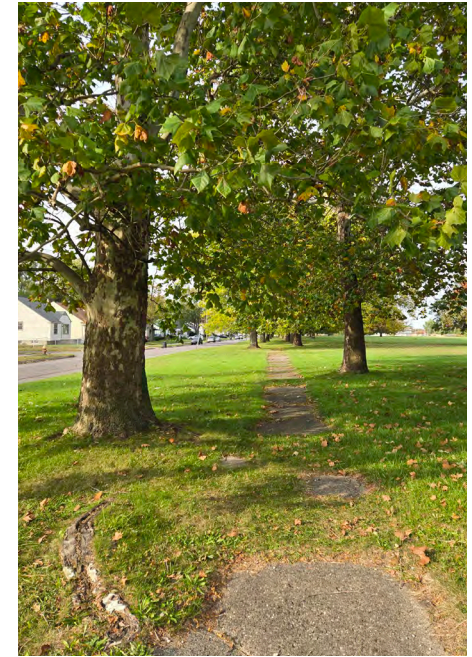
CITY SIDEWALKS


Farwell Park faces several connectivity and accessibility challenges. The surrounding sidewalks within the right-of-way are in varying conditions, impacting accessibility, ease of movement, and overall user experience.

There are several segments where the sidewalk discontinues, and does not lead to alternative accessible paths. Reconnecting these segments will provide a continuous path around the park to connect residents to Eight Mile East and Outer Drive by walking.



Photos of various pathways and sidewalks in Farwell Park
Source: JIMA Studio





**Undefined sports fields
make their intended
use unclear.**

Bird's eye of Farwell Park
Source: JIMA Studio

Site Inventory

SPORTS FIELDS

The sports fields at Farwell Park are generally well maintained. The lawns are cut and free of trash. However, the striping for the various games that are played here are missing (football, rugby, and soccer). This makes the sports fields altogether unclear what the uses and extends are.

There is also game equipment on the lawn that is in poor condition including football training equipment, viewing bleachers, and rugby goals. These would need to be replaced with new equipment to support the sports field's rigorous schedule at Farwell Park.



Photo of sports field at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JIMA Studio

SOFTBALL FIELDS

The existing softball fields are in poor condition, with uneven surfaces, missing field striping and base pads, and outdated backstop fencing. Additionally, there is no lighting to support evening use. While there are currently two fields in use, the site previously accommodated more; however, those additional fields have fallen into disrepair due to declining use. Observations confirm that the remaining facilities are largely unused, reflecting both feedback from City of Detroit staff and the broader trend of decreasing participation in softball. Despite this, residents have expressed interest in revitalizing and upgrading the existing fields.



Photo of softball fields at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JIMA Studio

Site Inventory

BASKETBALL COURTS

The basketball courts are located relatively far from the recreation center. They are also disconnected from the park's current circulation system, so it is necessary to walk through grass to access the courts. They are also situated in full sun and have limited seating available for spectators, which may be challenging for long-term use. The courts themselves are in fair condition with some cracking in the concrete foundation. They were resurfaced by the Detroit Pistons in 2020. Residents have expressed a desire for the basketball courts to be more connected to youth programming.



Photo of basketball courts at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JJMA Studio

TENNIS COURTS

Six (6) of Farwell Park's 24 tennis courts have been recently renovated with new surfacing, foundations, and netting. The remaining 22 require similar overhauls for appropriate use. Two of the recently renovated tennis courts need to be resurfaced again due to a special event that left holes in the surfacing. In addition to the request to improve the overall tennis courts, residents have also expressed a desire to accommodate pickleball.



Photo of tennis courts at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JJMA Studio

Site Inventory

PLAYGROUND

The playground is in fair condition. The safety surfacing needs to be repaired and patched in certain areas to avoid trip hazards. The playground equipment itself does not incorporate universal design principles, limiting accessibility and inclusivity. Residents have expressed opportunities for intergenerational play, universally accessible playgrounds, and additional shade from tree canopies.



Photo of playground at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JIMA Studio

MODEL PLANE FLYERS AREA

The model plane flyers group, a private club, flies small replica planes at Farwell Park. They have established a small area on the north side of the park for their hobby. They typically meet at least once a week as a small group. This area is in fair condition. Because this is not a formal park use, this area is unmaintained. Integrating this programs as a more formal park use would require more site clearing and maintenance.



Photo of airplane models at Farwell Park
Source:

Site Inventory

OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA

The outdoor fitness area is in good condition. It offers shade, seating, and the equipment is well maintained. The fitness center is also nearby the Farwell Recreation Center and the main parking lot, which receives a lot of use. It would be beneficial to Farwell Park to select the same shelter style as other shaded areas to add cohesion to the park. However, the fitness area is well maintained and should be preserved.

PARK SHELTERS

The park shelters are in good condition. They offer shade, seating, are connected to accessible routes, and provide space for outdoor cooking, but their design is inconsistent and lacks visual interest, featuring standard, uninspired “stock furniture.”



Photo of outdoor fitness area at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JIMA Studio



Photo of shelter at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JIMA Studio

Site Inventory

FARWELL COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Farwell Community Garden, located at the northeast corner of Farwell Park, has an active membership and holds significant importance for the community. Adjacent to the garden, public art along 8 Mile is highly visible, adding a unique aesthetic to the area. However, the area lacks dedicated walking paths for easy access, and the small support shed may not adequately meet the needs of its users. Residents have expressed a desire to expand the garden through volunteer efforts.



Photo of community garden at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: JIMA Studio



Photos of public art at Farwell Park, 2024
Source:

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

During major weather events, the park experiences areas of standing water, which limits its usability following storms. While there is some existing green stormwater infrastructure and site drainage near the Recreation Center, it is not sufficient to manage parkwide rainfall. Expanding these systems—with rain gardens and bioswales—could significantly improve stormwater management while enhancing the park's visual appeal and ecological function.



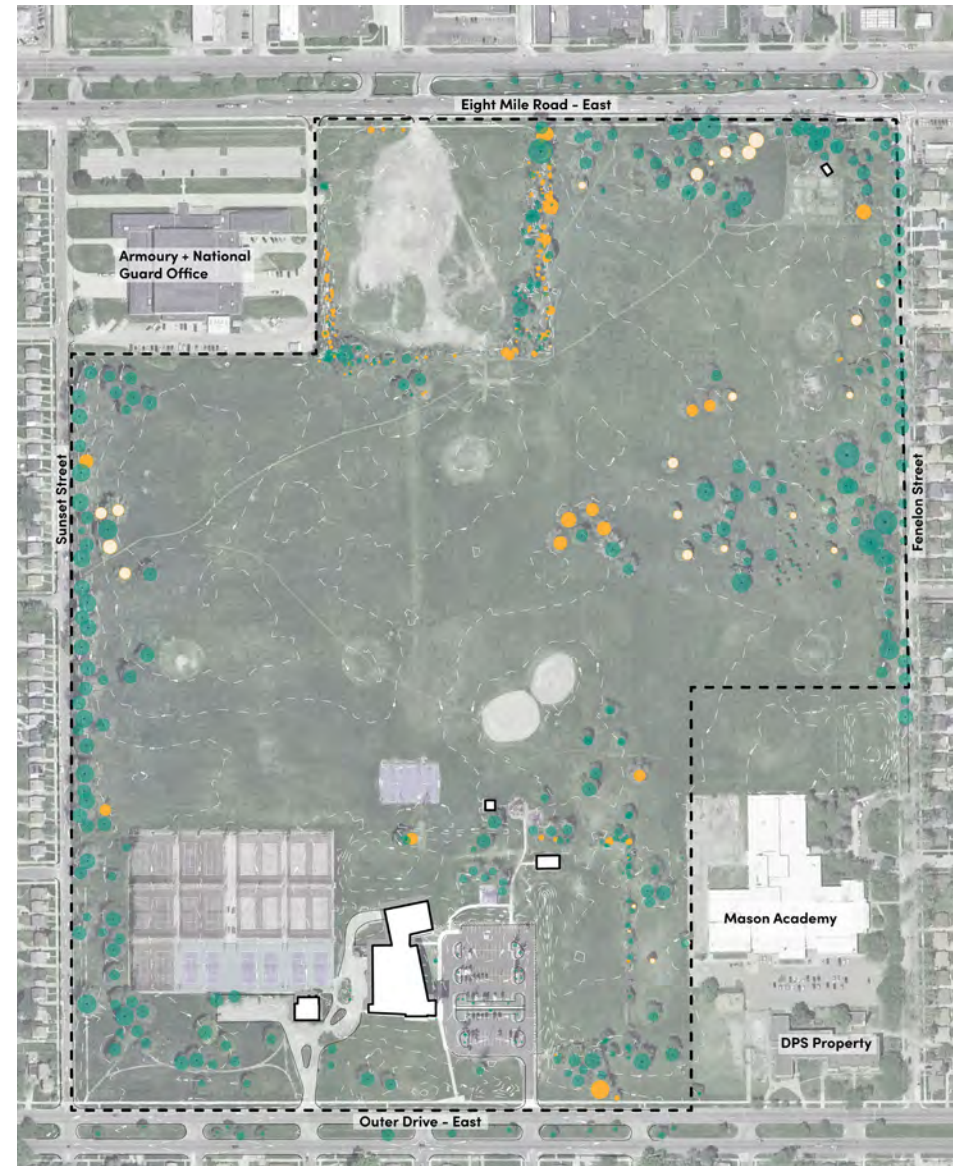
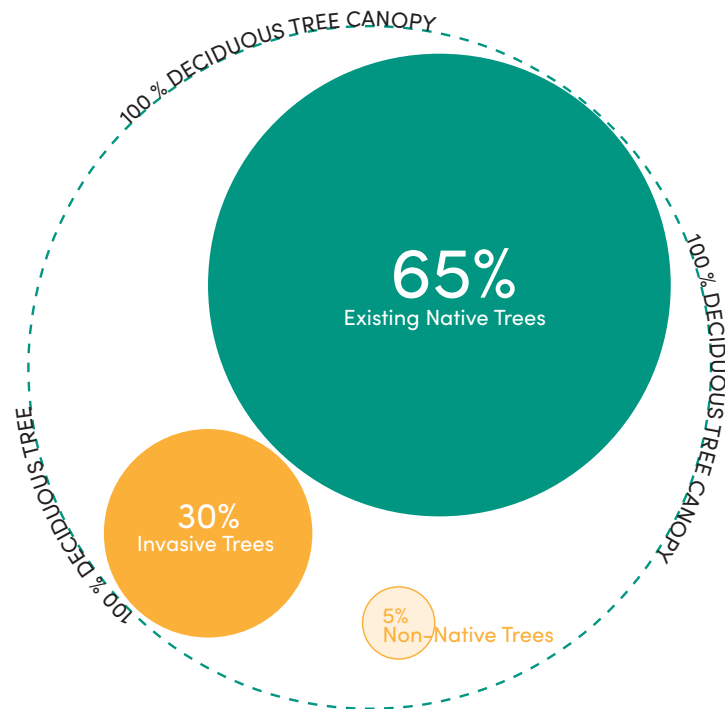
Photo of low point areas at Farwell Park, 2024
Source: Detroit GSD

Site Inventory

TREE CANOPY

The park features a beautiful tree canopy that is mostly in good condition. The trees are mature and well maintained, offering shade, screening, and defined park edges. However, the existing tree canopy is only at 13%, while the 2022 City of Detroit's Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan specify a goal of 24% canopy at all Detroit Parks.

Farwell Park presently has 600 individual trees, with 25 different species. 10 of those species are non-native exotics and/or invasive species. While the park has a robust and healthy tree canopy, removing invasive species and adding more native trees can directly support the local and regional ecosystem.

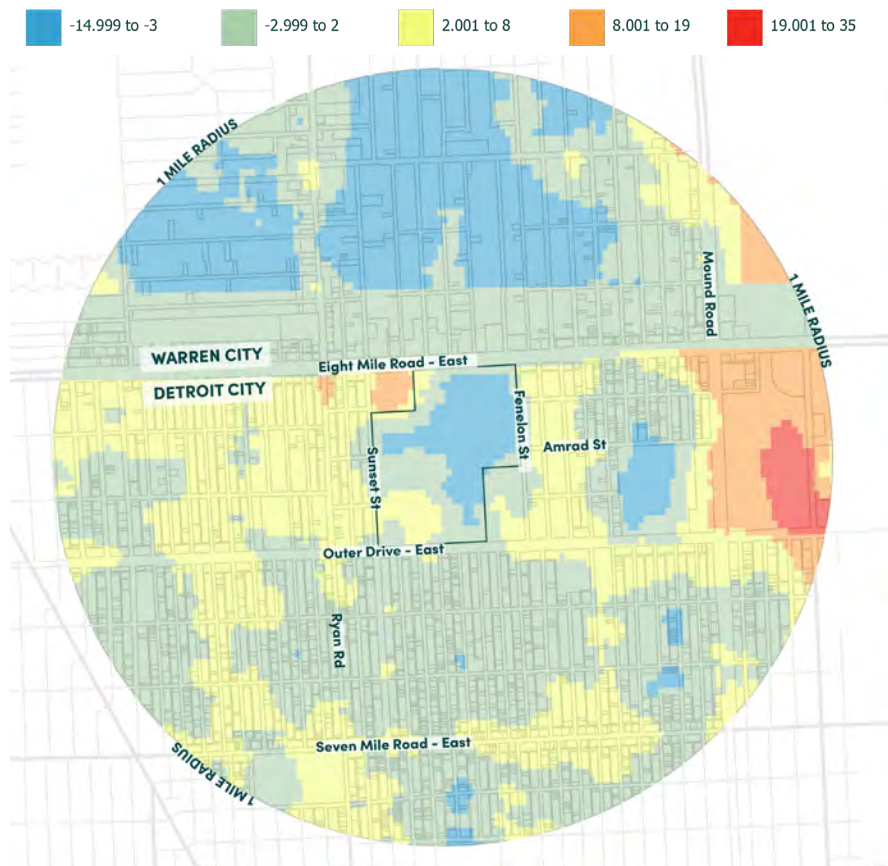


Source: Tree Data from ALTA Boundary Survey (2022), Detroit GSD

Site Inventory

URBAN HEAT

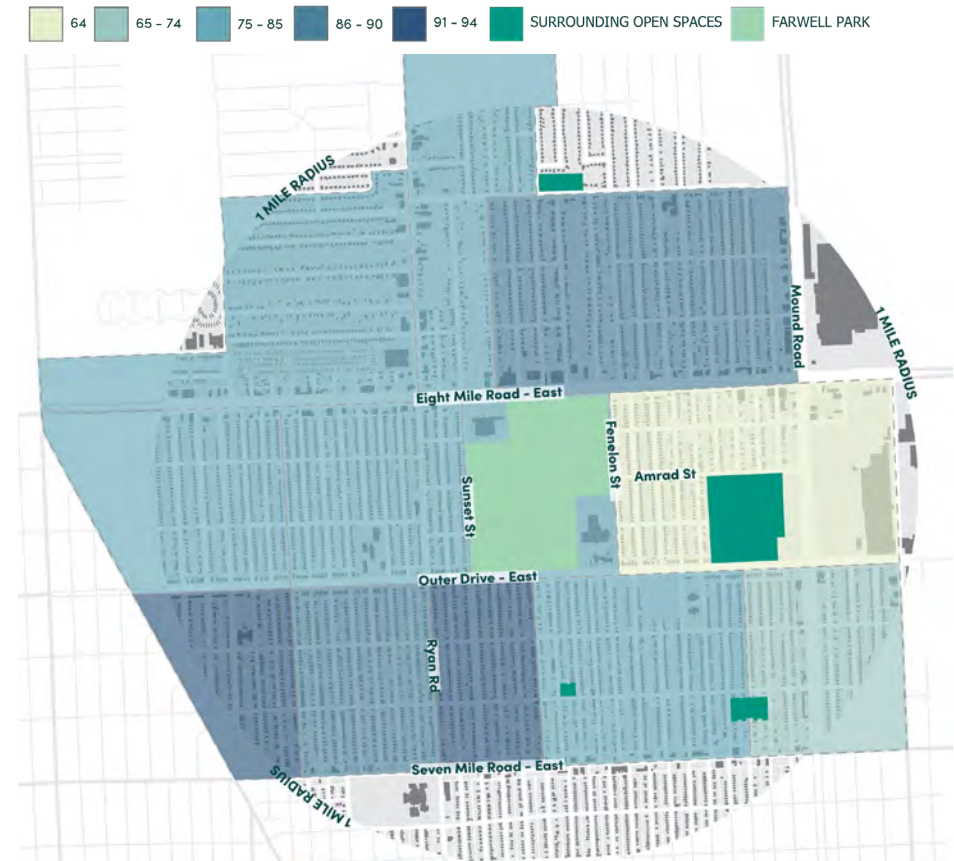
According to the National Integrated Heat Health Information System, the Farwell Park neighborhoods observe moderate urban heat island effect. The neighborhood benefits from its proximity to the trees at Farwell Park and Dorais Park but there can be further improvements.



Full Range Heat Anomalies - USA 2023
Source: ESRI, The Trust for Public Land

TREE EQUITY

According to the Tree Equity Score, the neighborhood surrounding Farwell Park has an average score of 75, which is a moderately higher score than other parts of Detroit. This can be improved by adding more trees to Farwell Park to achieve the 24% canopy cover goal of the 2022 City of Detroit's Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan.



Tree Equity Score by census block group level
Source: Tree Equity Score

Site Inventory

TREE CANOPY

Common Name	Botanical Name	Quantity	Native	Non-Native	Invasive*
1 Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	5			
2 Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	26			
3 Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	17			
4 Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	8			
5 Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	3			
6 Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	3			
7 Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	13			
8 Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	11			
9 Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	2			
10 Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	1			
11 Honeylocust	<i>Gledistia triacanthos</i>	72			
12 Kentucky Coffee Tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	3			
13 Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	20			
14 Goldenrain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	2			
15 Domestic Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	2			
16 White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	10			
17 Sycamore	<i>Planatus occidentalis</i>	80			
18 Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	68			
19 Sweet Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	1			
20 Black Oak	<i>Querus velutina</i>	13			
21 Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	8			
22 Littleleaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	38			
23 American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	64			
24 Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	2			
25 Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	154			

* Based on USDA PLANTS Database and "Not recommended for planting" from Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



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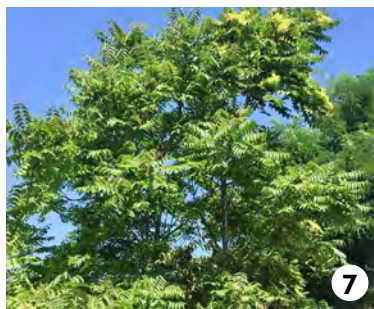
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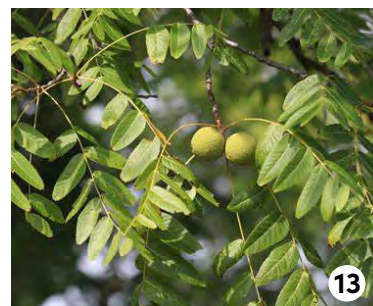
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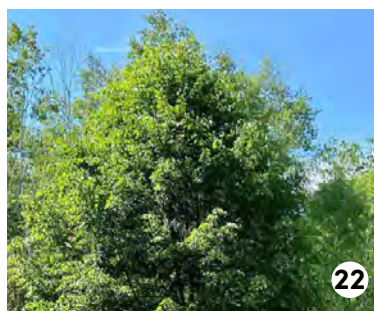
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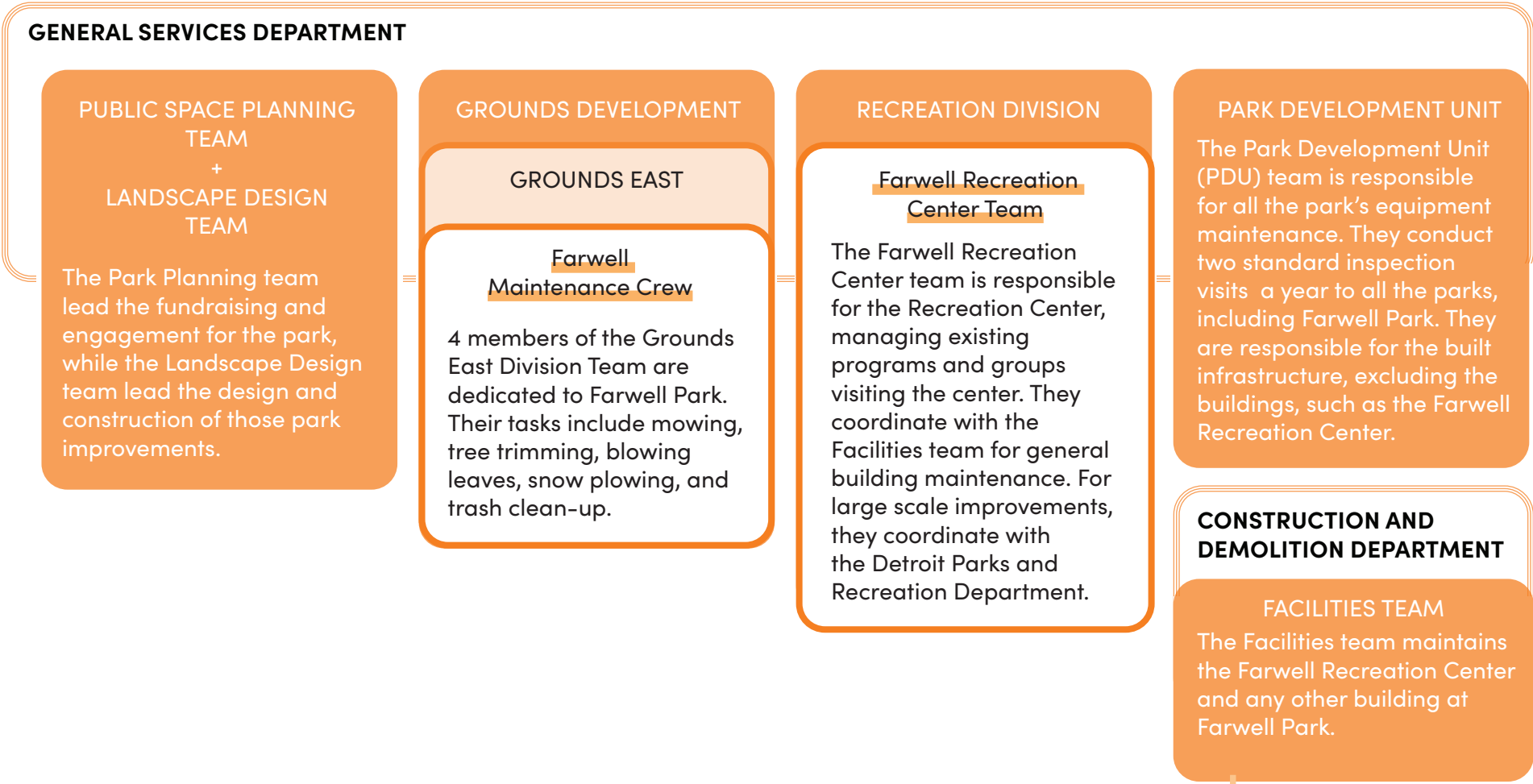


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Current Maintenance and Operations

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TODAY

Farwell Park is managed by the City of Detroit’s General Services Department. The park has a year-round dedicated team that leads the maintenance and operations of Farwell Park.



Current Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP TODAY

Farwell Park is fortunate to have a very engaged group of community organizations that currently have programs and collaborations:

The leader of Farwell Community Garden is also a leader of Binder Street Block Club, and they have successfully collaborated with Keep Growing Detroit since the creation of the garden. In the past, the garden has hired youth to assist in the garden and they are excited to do so in the future. The garden has volunteer days and participates with Motor City Makeover to ensure that their area of the park is cared for.

The senior walking group is a dedicated group of women who walk the perimeter of the park during the months of permissible weather and indoors at the Farwell Recreation Center otherwise. They walk 6 miles every day.

The block club group leadership of Keystone, Fenelon and Conley Streets (KFC) work together to ensure the security and maintained aesthetic of their blocks, which impacts visitor experience of Farwell Park.

Neighboring civic organizations will be participating with the City of Detroit's Adopt-A-Park program and engaging with the Detroit Parks Coalition to obtain resources to care for the park.

The Farwell Recreation Advisory Council has an active tennis program that offers tennis classes and tournaments, hosts jazz concerts, and other seasonal events for area youth.



Farwell Park SWOT Analysis

Park Strengths

- 1 - Farwell Recreation Center as park heart and center of gravity
- 2 - Renovated tennis courts at regulation sizes
- 3 - Gym expansion extends indoor programming for the neighborhood
- 4 - Community garden offers personalization for the park
- 5 - Beautiful mature trees defining clear park edges

Park Weaknesses

- 1 - Disconnected play facilities limit visibility of child play
- 2 - Playground is outdated with limited universal design
- 3 - Incomplete / inaccessible pedestrian network limits park use
- 4 - Void area between Park and the DPS Schools
- 5 - Undefined sports fields make their intended use unclear

Park Opportunities

- 1 - Barcus Tennis Center to reopen and focus on youth athletics
- 2 - Previously excluded space offers more parkland near Armory
- 3 - Updated pavilions can feature inspiring places to rest
- 4 - Public art has visibility on 8 Mile to introduce the Park
- 5 - GSI can improve the park's stormwater management capacity
- 6 - Connectivity to Dorias Park for more Park amenities
- 7 - Additional tennis courts available for renovation
- 8 - Plant more native species to support local ecosystems

Park Threats

- 1 - Unclear future use for the vacant Van Zile School site
- 2 - Standing water limits park use after major weather events
- 3 - High speed traffic contribute to area noise and pollutants
- 4 - Area income variability may limit participation at Rec Center



5

**Farwell Park
10 Year Master
Plan**

Preliminary Alternative Concepts

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Farwell Park conceptual plans were derived from the community outreach, that included project team meetings, community workshops, targeted stakeholder focus groups and meetings, and survey findings.

Three alternative concept plans were presented at the second community workshop. All concepts showcase the following principles that were derived from the goals and preferences identified in the community-collaborative engagement process:

- The park must be walkable and consider safe routes through and around the park;
- The park should expand the environmental features, including the community garden, to allow residents to engage longer with the park;
- The array of athletic facilities should remain at the park to accommodate different interests and park users;
- Support different age groups at the parks by providing spaces for safe play;
- Provide overall upgrades to the park facilities to make space for additional amenities in the future.



Concept A

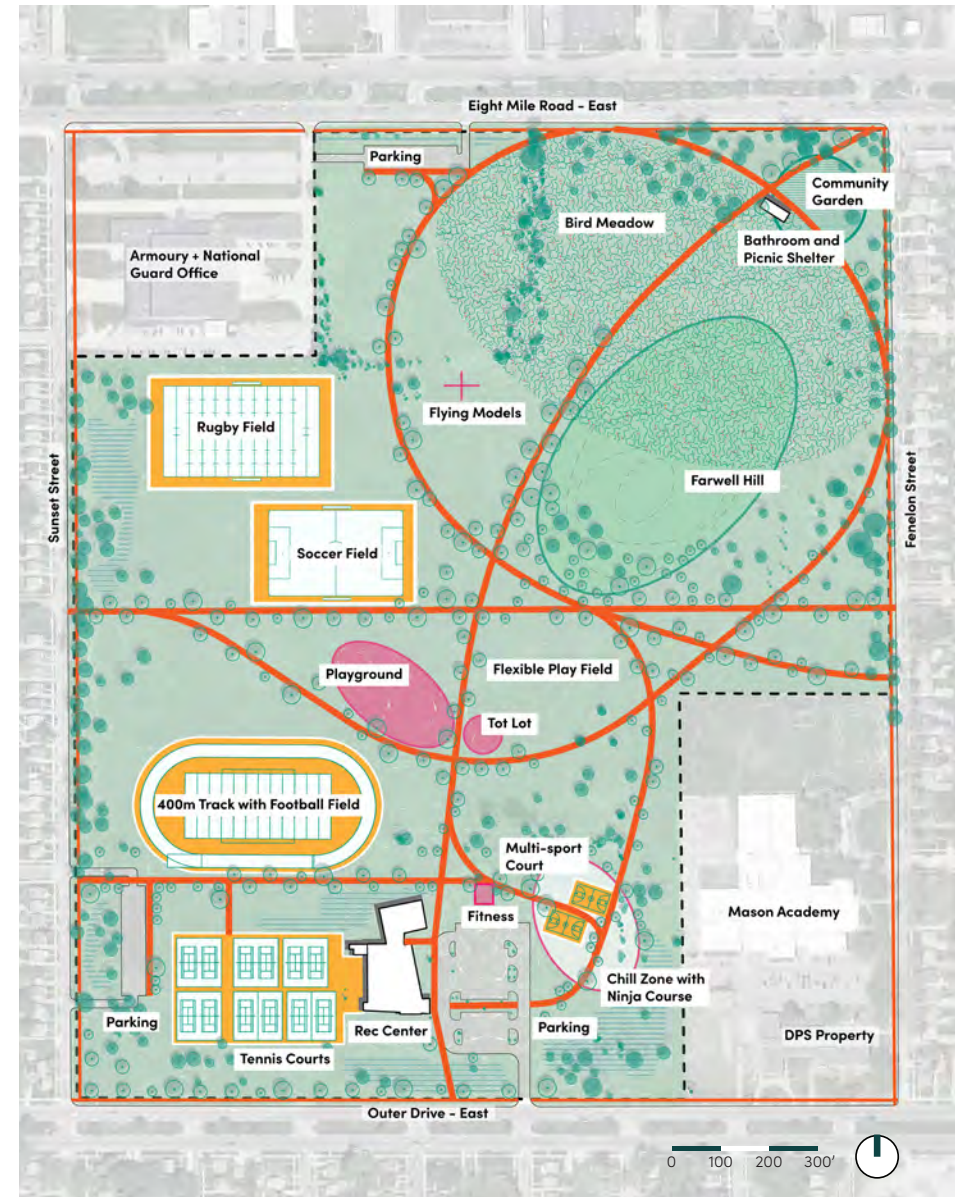
DESIGN COMPONENTS

Concept A integrates facilities that were elevated as desired for the park. They included:

- Large and small playscapes
- 400m Track
- Football & Soccer Fields
- Tennis and Basketball Courts
- Fitness center
- Public bathrooms, park pavilions and benches
- Community and flower gardens
- More trees and rain gardens

To accommodate these suggested facilities, Concept A proposed the following major shifts:

- Removal of the Barcus Tennis Center and 12 tennis courts
- New support building with restrooms near the community garden
- 100 additional parking spaces
- New pathways and improved sidewalks
- Expanded naturalized and stormwater management areas
- Expanded universal play areas that consider all age groups



Concept B

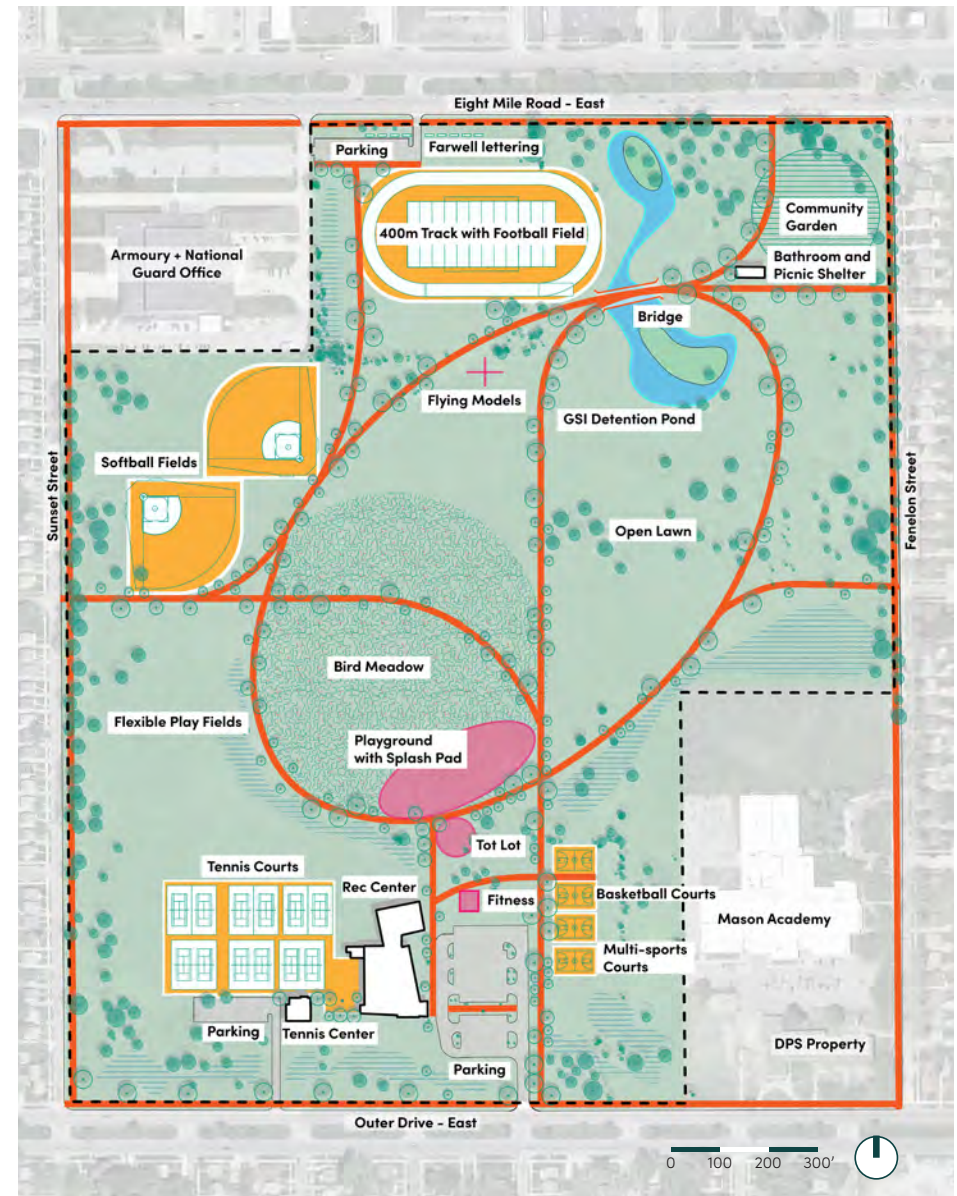
DESIGN COMPONENTS

Concept B integrates facilities that were elevated as desired for the park. They included:

- Large and small playscapes with splash pads
- 400m Track
- Football and Softball Fields
- Tennis and Basketball Courts
- Fitness center
- Public bathrooms, park pavilions and benches
- Community, flower gardens, and a pond
- More trees and rain gardens

To accommodate these suggested facilities, Concept B proposed the following major shifts:

- Renovation of the Barcus Tennis Center and removal of 12 tennis courts
- New support building with restrooms near the community garden
- 125 additional parking spaces
- New pathways and improved sidewalks
- Expanded naturalized and stormwater management areas including a detention pond
- Expanded universal play areas that consider all age groups



Concept C

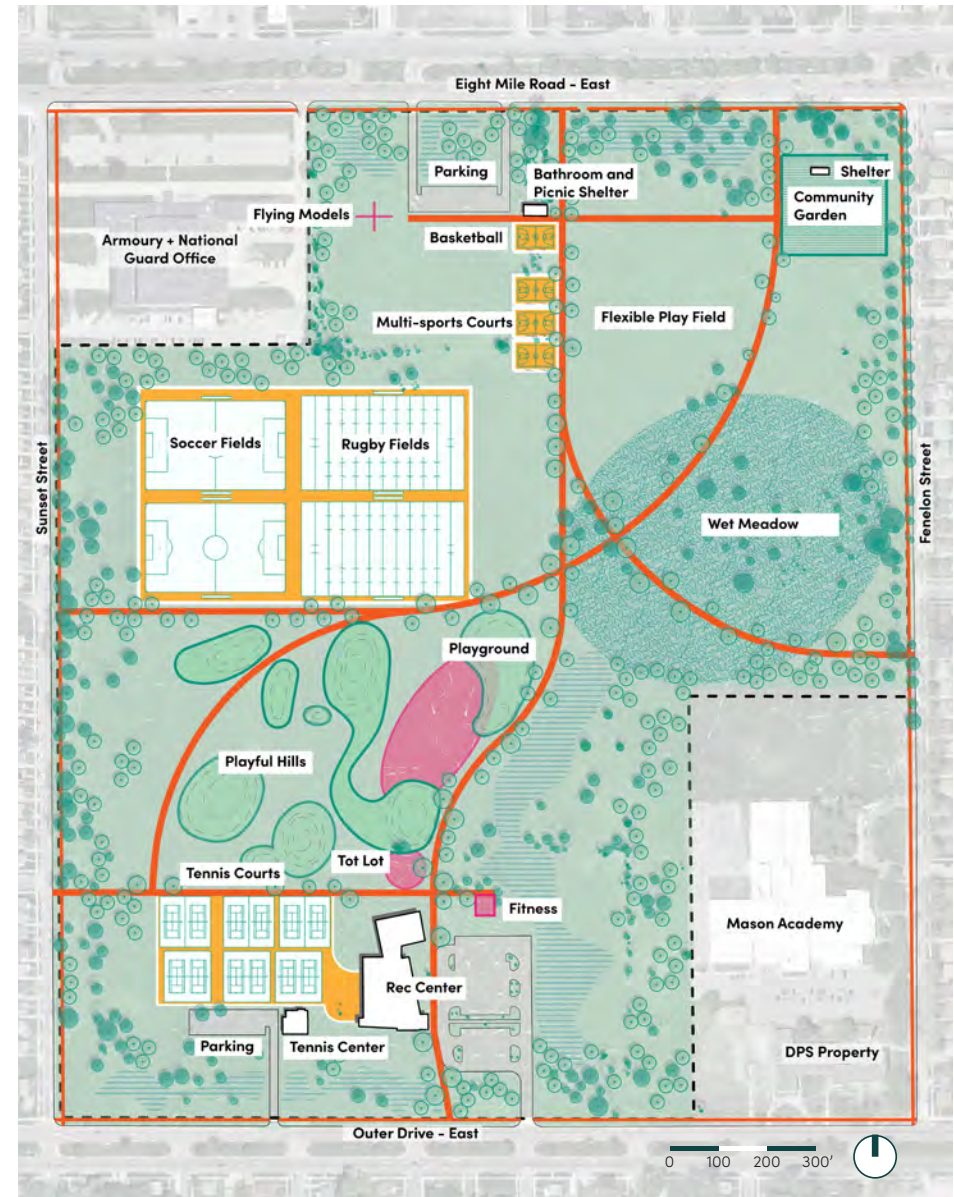
DESIGN COMPONENTS

Concept C integrates facilities that were elevated as desired for the park. They included:

- Large and small playscapes
- Rugby & Soccer Fields
- Tennis and Basketball Courts
- Fitness center
- Public bathrooms, park pavilions and benches
- Community and flower gardens
- More trees and rain gardens

To accommodate these suggested facilities, Concept C proposed the following major shifts:

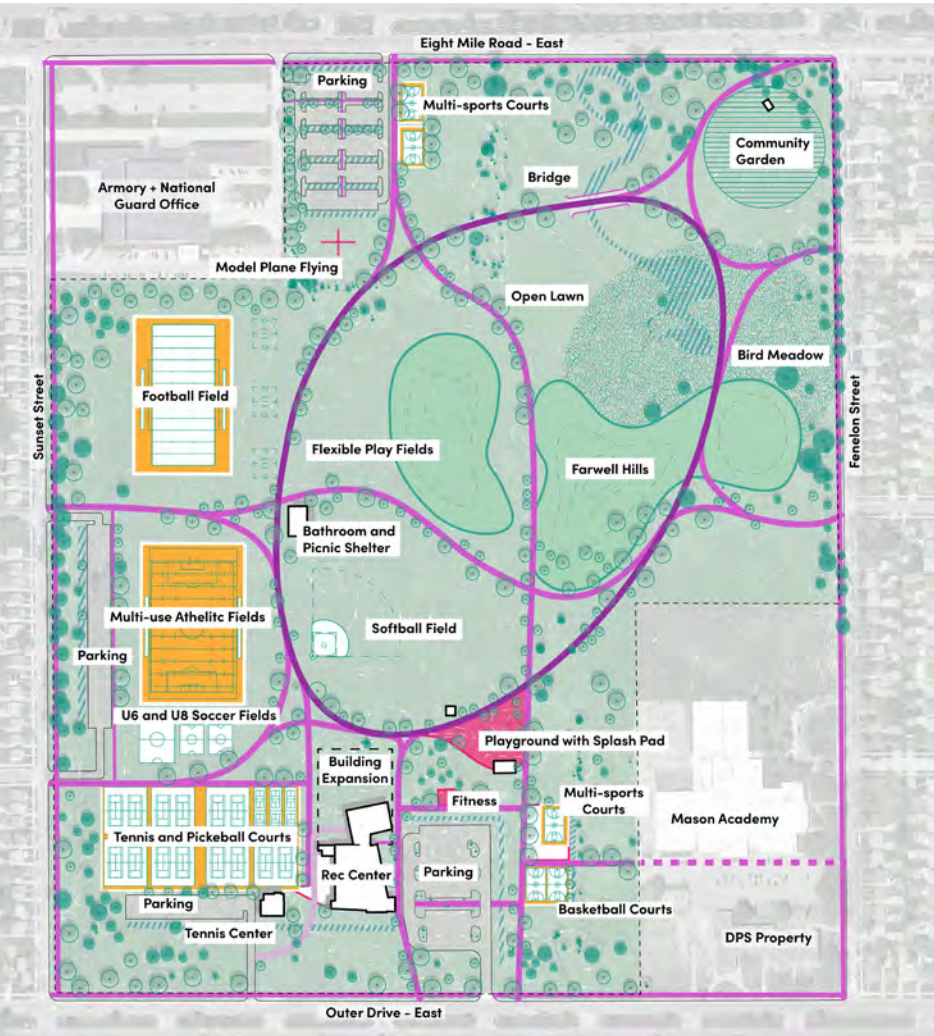
- Renovation of the Barcus Tennis Center and removal of 12 tennis courts
- New support building with restrooms near basketball courts
- 100 additional parking spaces
- New pathways and improved sidewalks
- Expanded naturalized and stormwater management areas including a wet meadow
- Expanded universal play areas that consider all age groups with natural earth mounds



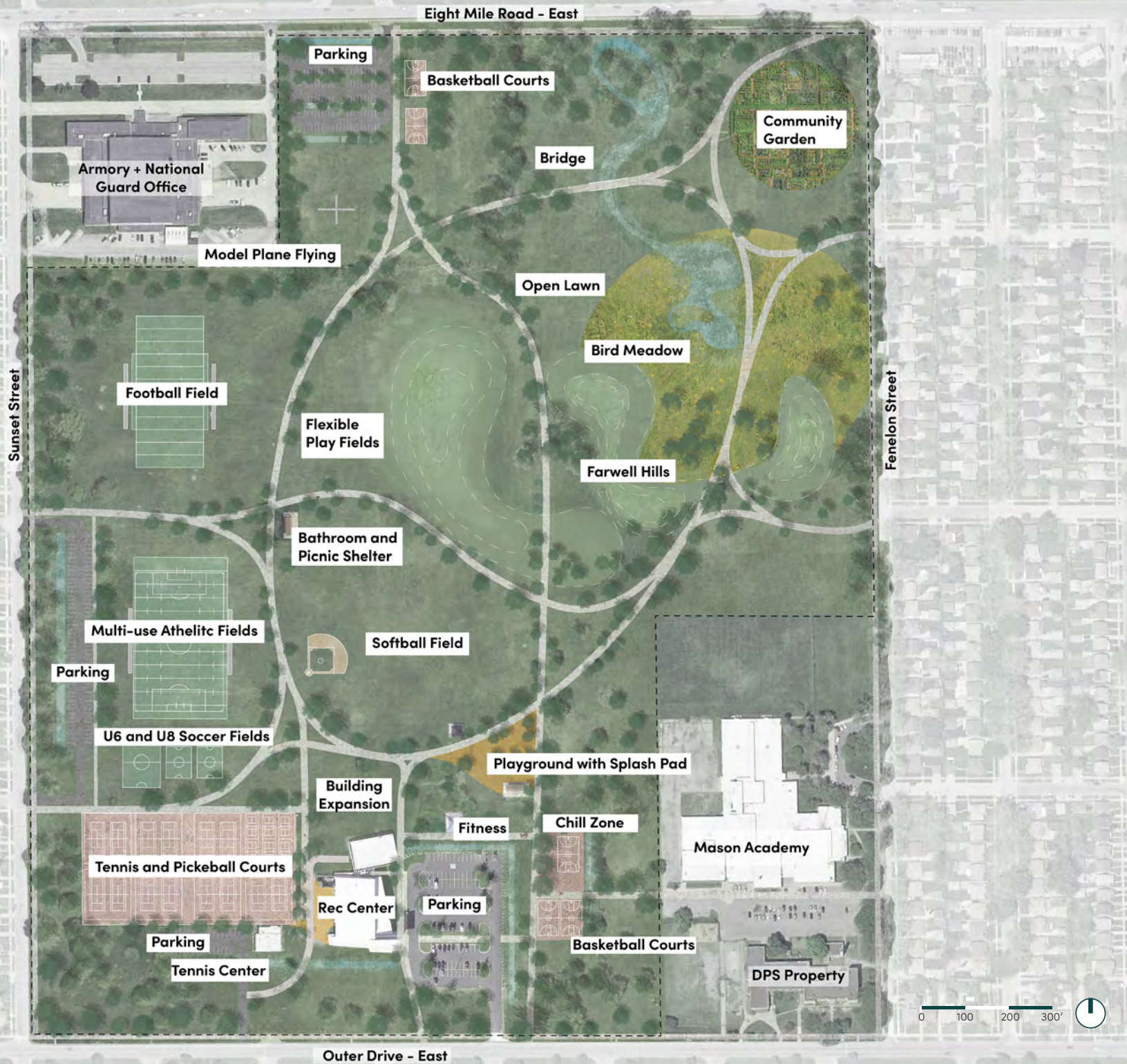
Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

PREFERRED CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

The preferred direction of the concept plan incorporates key elements residents prioritized for Farwell Park, as detailed in the table.



Features	Description
Circulation	
Develop accessible walkways and paths throughout the park to ensure safe, year-round circulation, with a focus on meeting the needs of senior walking groups.	
Athletic Amenities	
Relocate and consolidate sports fields closer to the tennis courts and informal play areas to strengthen the athletic core of the park and improve usability.	
Play Amenities	
Install a new universal playground, tot lot, and splash pad to provide inclusive and engaging play opportunities for all ages. Designate a separate youth and teen activity area to support age-specific recreation. Preserve and maintain the existing fitness area and model plane flying zone as valued community assets.	
Park-wide Features	
Expand parking capacity within the park to accommodate visitors during events and reduce reliance on on-street options.	
Building Facilities	
Construct a restroom facility within the interior of the park to improve comfort and accessibility. Reopen and repurpose the Barcus Tennis Center to support youth summer camps and tennis equipment storage. Assess and plan for expansion of the Farwell Recreation Center to enhance indoor programming and community use.	
Natural Features	
Introduce new naturalized areas to enrich the park’s seasonal beauty and biodiversity. Integrate green stormwater infrastructure—such as rain gardens and bioswales—to improve drainage and sustainability. Expand the existing community garden to support growing participation and local food access	



Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

IMPROVE INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO EXPAND PARK ACCESSIBILITY AND TO CONNECT KEY PARK FEATURES

While much of the park's activity lives in the Farwell Recreation Center, there are other important features in Farwell Park that cannot be easily accessed without traversing grass or leaving the park entirely. Incorporating new pathways help bring residents into the park interior where they can enjoy the park's diverse amenities – or simply get their steps in for the day!



ADD A COMPREHENSIVE PATHWAY SYSTEM

Build an asphalt pathway system that creates key entrances at all four sides of the park's perimeter with clear connections to the features across the park. This system should also include a 3/4 Mile walking loop with mile markers to provide walking and running groups a clear closed circuit.



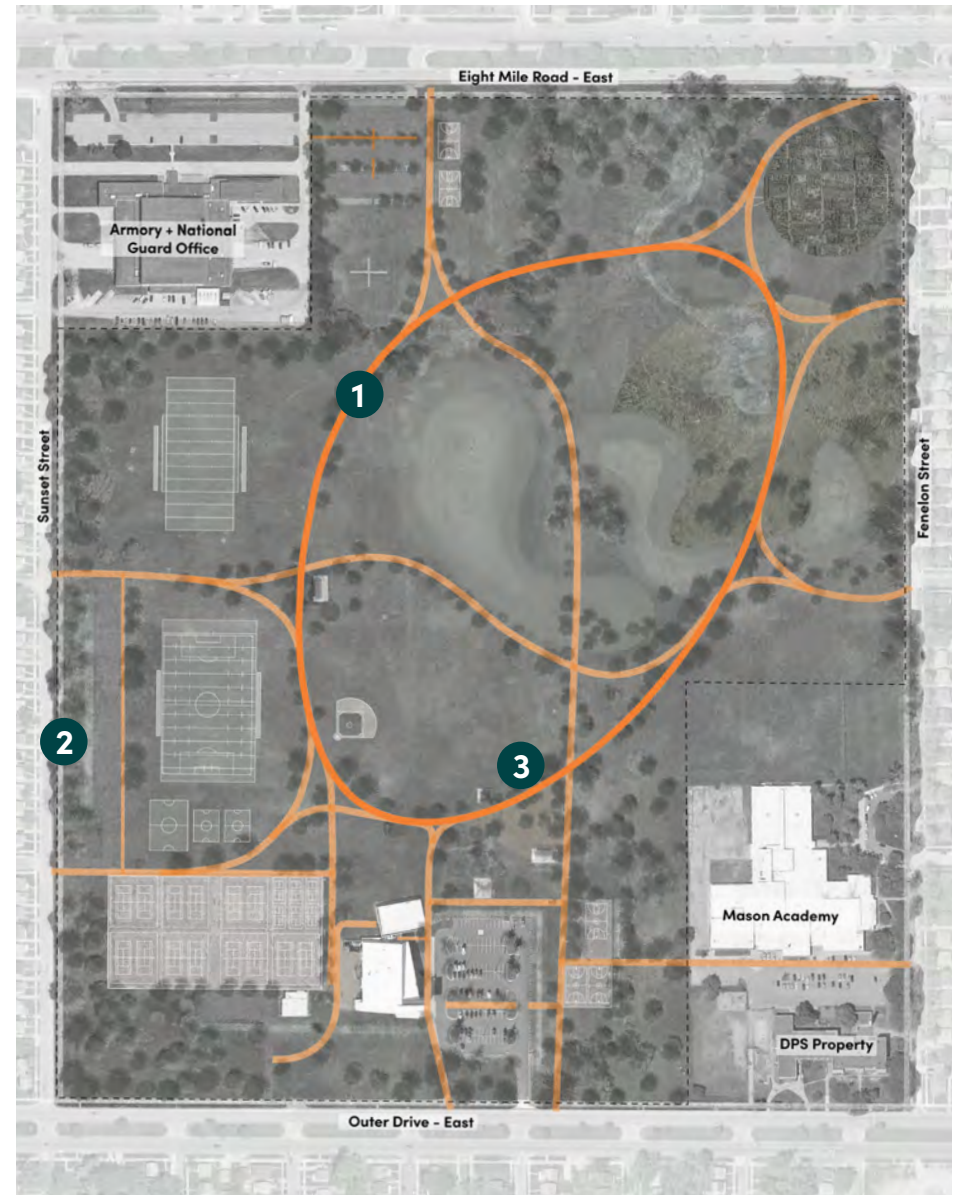
IMPROVE THE RIGHT OF WAY SIDEWALK NETWORK

Infill lengths of sidewalks where they are missing along Sunset and Fenelon Streets to improve access around the park, and into the park from the adjacent neighborhood streets.



INTEGRATE STANDARD PARK AMENITIES ALONG PATHWAYS

Add benches and refuse cans at key moments throughout the pathway system to allow park users to rest and dispose of garbage.



Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

IMPROVE EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES TO SUPPORT SUSTAINED USE AND PARK PROGRAMS

To ensure that Farwell Park remains a recreational hub for the region, it is important to invest in the existing athletic facilities. Many residents stressed the importance of maintaining the existing mix of athletic resources to elevate the park's uniqueness within the city.



REFURBISH EIGHT TENNIS COURTS

Repave and resurface eight tennis courts to bring the total number of courts to fourteen. This will accommodate the existing program with room to grow. The remaining tennis courts should be removed.



REFURBISH THE FOOTBALL AND MULTI-USE FIELDS

Regrade and restripe the football and multi-use fields to accommodate a mix of sports, including football, soccer, and rugby. Add bleachers to provide seating during game season.



RETAIN AND UPGRADE THE SOFTBALL FIELD

Improve the softball field area by refurbishing the surfacing and the backstop fencing.



Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES TO SUPPORT SUSTAINED USE AND PARK PROGRAMS

Additional flexible athletic spaces can accommodate the park's changing long-term athletic needs.



RELOCATE THE BASKETBALL COURTS

Relocate the basketball courts closer to Mason Academy as a gateway landscape that connects the school with the park.



ADD MORE BASKETBALL COURTS

Add basketball courts near Eight Mile Road to expand play options in the park at key entry points.



ADD YOUTH SOCCER FIELDS FOR AGE INCLUSIVITY

Incorporate youth size soccer fields to accommodate younger players and leagues at Farwell Park.



CONVERT TWO TENNIS COURTS INTO SIX PICKLE BALL COURTS

Repave and restripe two tennis courts into six pickle ball courts. Provide equipment for rent at the Recreation Center.



Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

EXPAND PARKING TO IMPROVE PARK ACCESS

Farwell Park is over 90 acres, and with expanded athletic and play features, it is likely to draw more daily users. It will be important to strategically expand and locate parking throughout the park to ensure that the increased volume does not become a nuisance along the adjacent residential streets.



ADD MORE PARKING SPACES TO THE PARK

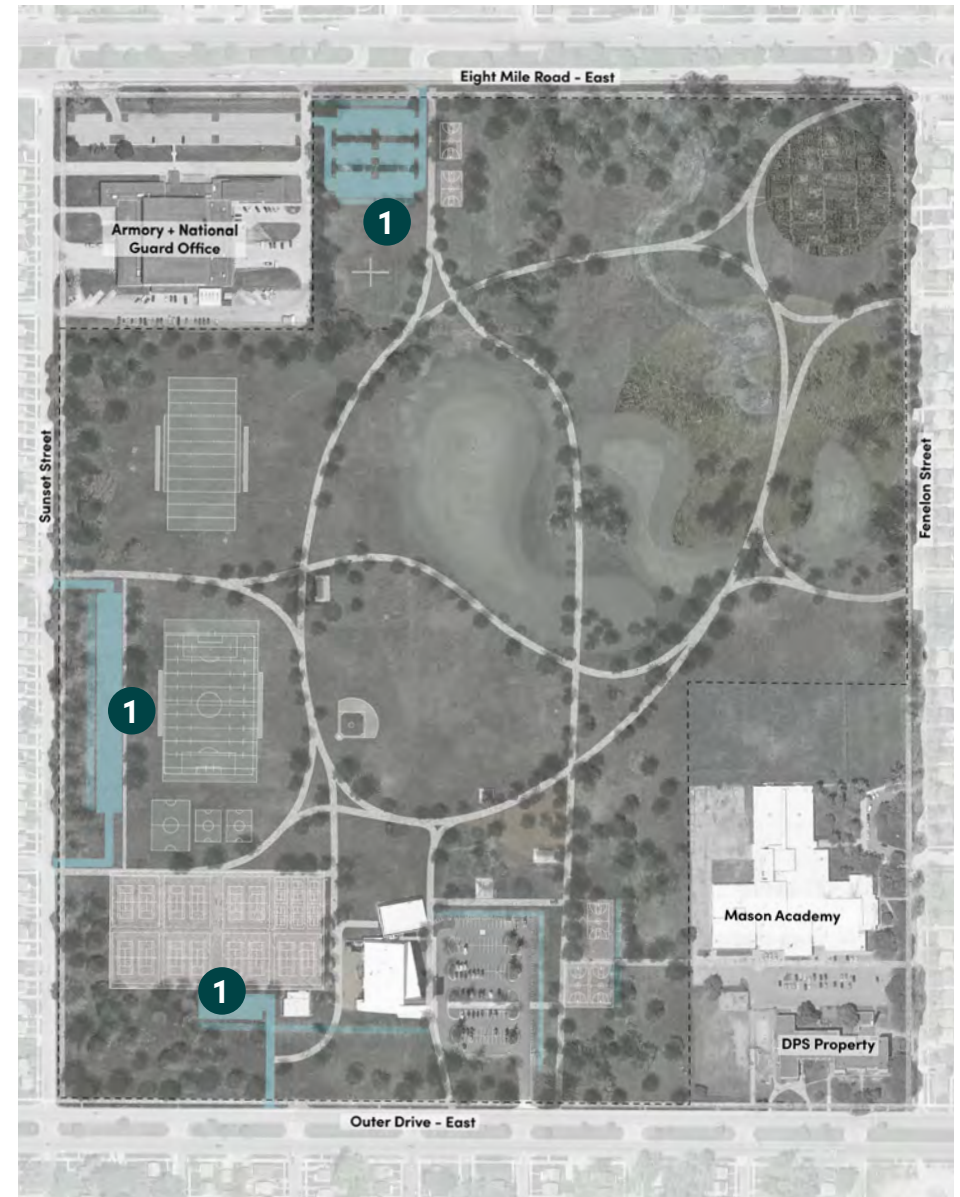
Expand and formalize the parking lot south of the tennis courts to accommodate up to 30 cars. This will be used to support the tennis and pickle ball courts as well as the Barcus Tennis Center.

Add 100 parking spaces along Sunset Street to support the football field, the multi-use fields, the softball field and the youth soccer fields. This parking area should be offset from the street to limit impact to the neighborhood.

Add 124 parking spaces at Eight Mile Road to accommodate overflow parking for major games, special events or shared parking agreements.

Each parking lot should integrate green stormwater infrastructure (i.e. rain gardens, bioswales, retention ponds, subsurface rain collection etc.) and landscaping to infiltrate water and mitigate run-off.

Please note that the existing parking for the Recreation Center off Outer Drive will remain as is.



Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

INVEST IN UNIVERSAL PLAY LANDSCAPES

Farwell Park is a destination for all ages, and the park spaces must reflect that. Having areas that appeal to different age groups ensures that most residents can be engaged, and sets the groundwork for safe play and connection.



INVEST IN AN INCLUSIVE UNIVERSAL PLAYGROUND

Remove the existing playground and replace it with a new state-of-the-art play experience that considers universal access throughout. Nature play and a splash pad should be considered.



ESTABLISH AN OUTDOOR TEEN ZONE

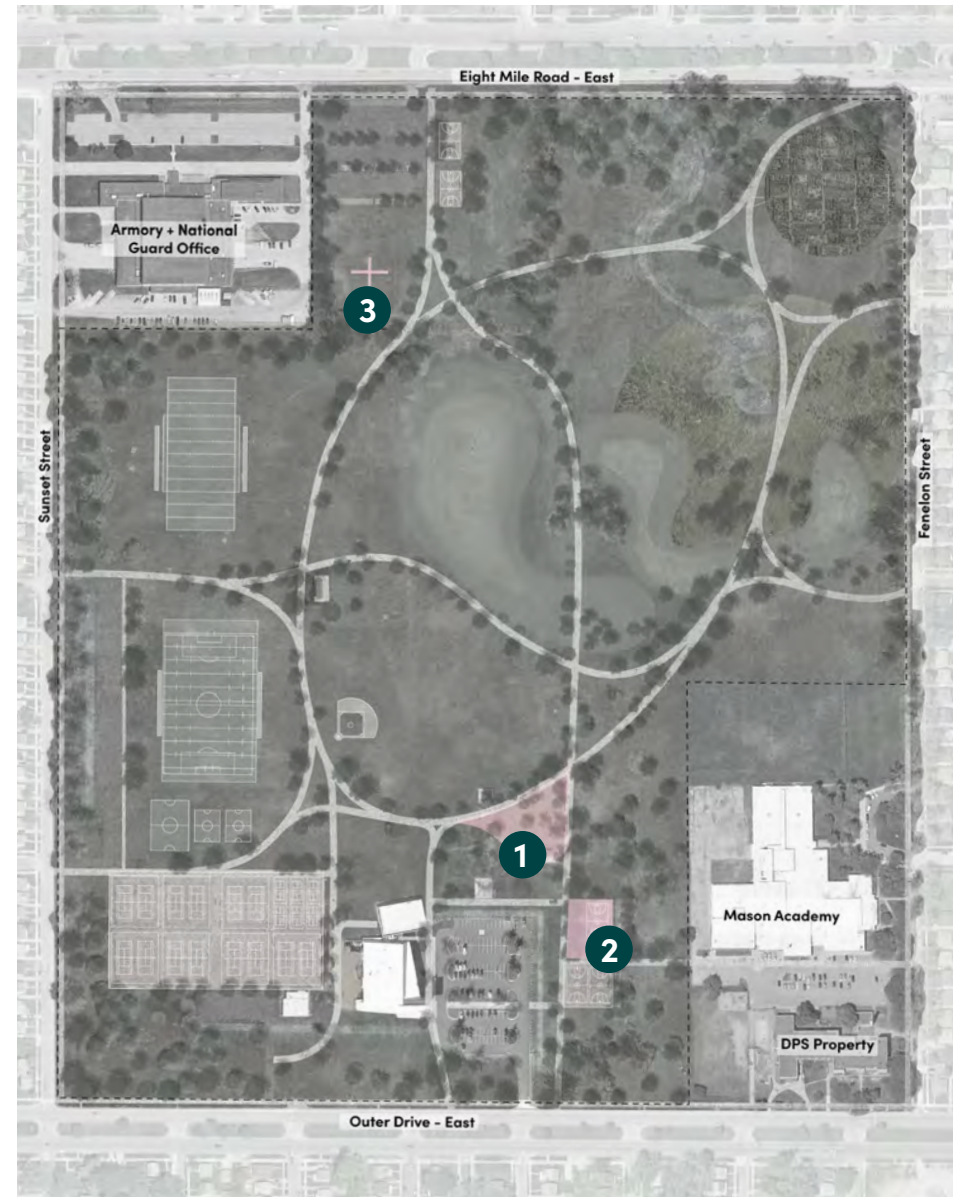
Establish an outdoor gathering area for teens where play and hanging out are encouraged.



FORMALIZE THE MODEL PLANE FLYING AREA

Clear brush, debris and grass to accommodate the novelty model plane flying groups that meet regularly in the park.

Please note that the existing fitness area will remain in place as is.





- 1** The Chill Zone provides expanded opportunities for play for youth and teens.
- 2** Clear pathways provide accessible routes within the park and improve connectivity to the neighborhoods.
- 3** The inclusive Universal Playground provides play experiences for all ages - making it easier for youth and seniors to connect.
- 4** More defined spaces for informal play and gathering help improve the overall use of the park.

Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

EXPAND NATURAL FEATURES FOR LOCAL HABITAT AND INTEREST

An citywide goal for the regional park system is to enhance landscapes to improve Detroiters' access to natural features. For Farwell Park, establishing diverse natural landscapes will improve the overall health of the park's ecosystem, and enhance its seasonal interest for its park users.



EXPAND FARWELL FIELD COMMUNITY GARDEN

This resident-led garden is a place of pride for park users. Provide additional space for more raised and in-ground beds for growing vegetables and herbs.



ADD A BIRD MEADOW

Use native plants to attract migratory birds and pollinators. Provide high and low points, and shared areas to create upland meadow, wet meadow, and understory meadow to increase biodiversity. Use boulders to protect these areas and signage to educate on the ecological value. Add a boardwalk to safely cross.



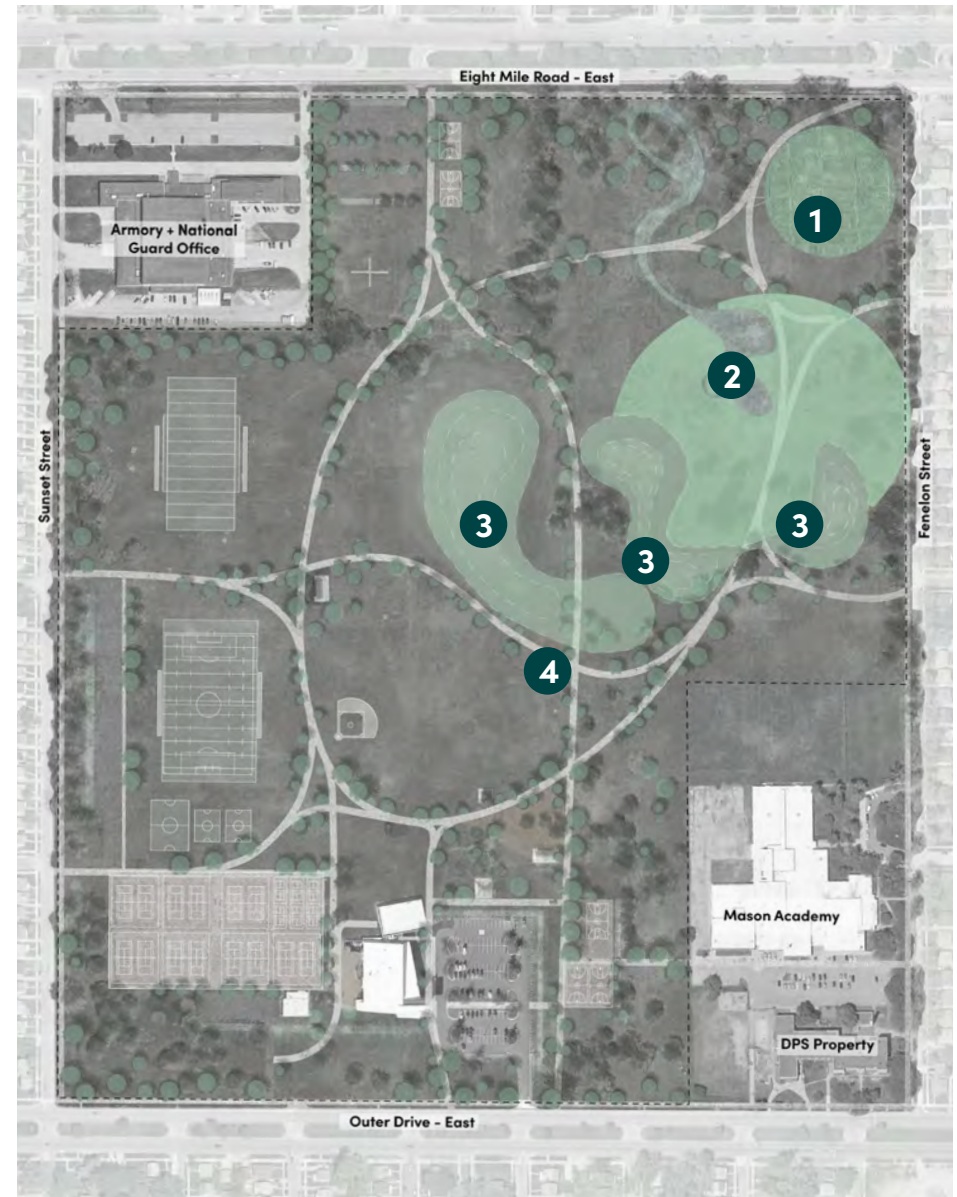
ADD THE FARWELL HILLS

Use clean fill to add undulated hills that add topography and height to the park experience, while creating visual interest.



EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY

Plant 100+ diverse mix of native evergreen and deciduous trees to improve the park's local habitat, and to balance against the deciduous tree count. Remove existing identified invasive tree species.





- 1** The Bird Meadow, with upland and wet meadows, supports wildlife, decreases lawn mowing and functions as a part of the stormwater management infrastructure in the park.
- 2** Educational signage provides information and site interpretation.
- 3** A boardwalk encourages viewing of wet meadow wildlife while keeping the pathway dry and accessible.
- 4** Farwell Hills provides elevation and views into the park.

Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan

IMPROVE BUILDINGS TO EXTEND PARK USE

Many residents expressed a desire to leverage the existing buildings at the park to support current or future programming. While the Farwell Recreation Center is the heart of the park, there are other facilities that can be better utilized to balance its demand throughout the year.



RENOVATE THE BARCUS CENTER

The Barcus Tennis Center has remained underutilized due to deferred maintenance. This building was first used as a tennis club house, and later a youth summer camp meeting house. The building needs upgraded utilities, exterior and interior improvements, and new furnishings.



ADD AN ACCESSORY BATHROOM AND SHELTER IN THE PARK INTERIOR

With increased anticipated use of the sports fields, an accessory building with bathrooms may be important to offset the demand of the Recreation Center during event days.



RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION EVALUATION

As demand for more programs and needs increase, the Recreation Center should be evaluated for future expansion. Some residents expressed interest in adult learning, performance space, and aquatic facilities.





- 1 Provide entrances at all the surrounding streets to connect the park to the neighborhoods. The walking system connects all the amenities within the park.
- 2 Expand athletic activities that are co-located on the western edge of the park, with parking to accommodate the increase in use.
- 3 Expand facilities to provide more spaces to support youth, senior, and family programming
- 4 Enhanced landscape features provide yearlong interest and habitat support through variation in topography and more plant diversification.

6 Implementation Plan

Farwell Park Implementation Plan

GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

This section offers guidance and additional resources for the Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan implementation strategy and is organized around three focuses:

- Phasing and Cost
- Park Maintenance
- Stewardship Opportunities

This section also includes examples of strategies, programs, and resources that could be helpful to the City of Detroit and the nearby community as they pursue plan implementation together.

To achieve the final vision, the 10 Year Master Plan breaks down each improvement into incremental steps that helps the City of Detroit and its partners approach the park's final form strategically. This prioritization list reflects both the expectations of residents nearby Farwell Park, as well as the current capacity and fundraising prospects led by the City of Detroit's Parks and Recreation Division.

LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT (2025)

In 2025, the City of Detroit was awarded a park improvement grant through the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO). The scope of this grant specifies the types of improvements to be made to Farwell Park, which aligns with the long-term vision of improving circulation, inclusivity, accessibility, and some athletic features. It specifically highlights:

- Replace 2 tennis courts
- Repair concrete sidewalks
- Install asphalt walkways
- Install 1 universal playground
- Install 2 picnic tables and 6 benches
- Install 8 trash cans, 3 grills, and 3 coal bins

This sizeable grant allows the City of Detroit to achieve a great deal of the Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan vision within the first year.



LEO GRANT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This plan illustrates the scope of the 2025 LEO Grant. Many elements of the 10 Year Master Plan vision will be developed through this grant.

LEGEND

Proposed Improvements

- Concrete Sidewalk Repair
- Asphalt Walkways
- ▲ Benches
- ★ Picnic Tables / BBQ Areas
- Universal Playground

Existing Facilities

- Site Removals
- To Remain As Is
- ▨ Repaired Tennis Courts
























Phasing and Cost

PRIORITIZATION AND PHASING





To achieve the long-term vision, the 10-Year Master Plan divides park improvements into manageable phases, each typically spanning 0 to 3 years. This approach allows the City of Detroit and its partners to implement changes strategically and effectively.

The prioritization of improvements reflects the aspirations of the Farwell community and the current capacity and fundraising outlook of the Parks and Recreation Department. The framework emphasizes the implementation of high-impact improvements early on, demonstrating the City's commitment in realizing the new vision for Farwell Park.

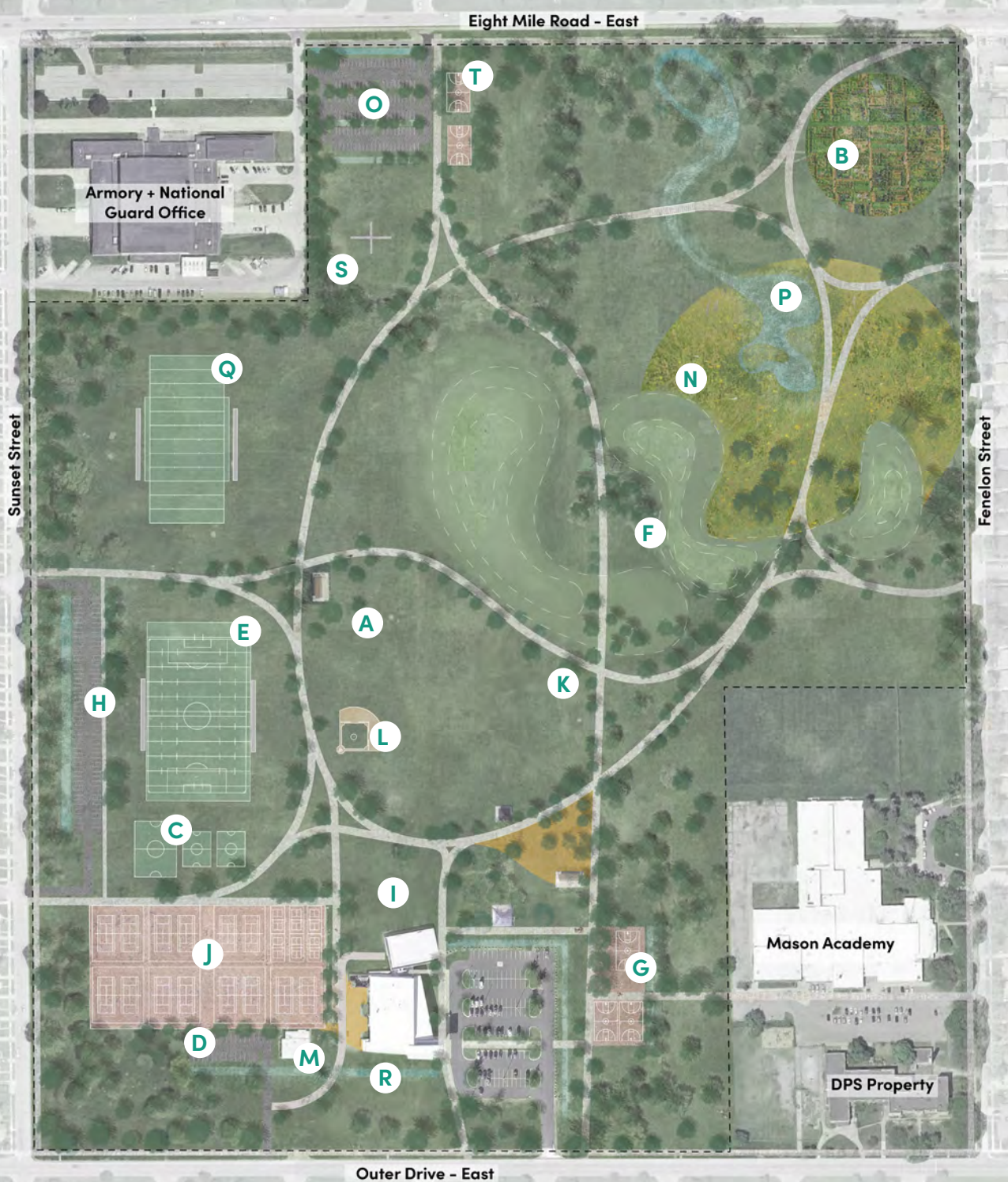
Farwell Park Master Plan Phasing

Feature	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Notes
Shelter							
Community Garden Expansion							Community-led effort
Farwell Hills							Two phases
Tree Canopy Expansion							Multiple phases
Bird Meadow							
Soccer Fields							
Tennis Court Parking Improvements with GSI							
Tennis + Pickle ball Courts							
8 Mile Parking Lot with GSI							
Bathroom							
Multi-Use Athletic Field							
Sunset Parking Lot with GSI							
Basketball + Chill Zone with GSI							
Softball Field							
Wet Meadow & Large Green Stormwater Area							
Barcus Tennis Center Improvement							
Football Field							
GSI for Rec Center Parking Lot & Tennis Courts							
8 Mile Basketball Courts							
Model Plane Flying							
Recreation Center Expansion							

LEGEND

-  General Improvements
-  Athletic Improvements
-  Landscape Improvements
-  Facility Improvements

Long-term priority



Park Improvement List

- A** Bathroom + Shelter
- B** Community Garden Expansion
- C** Soccer Fields
- D** Tennis Courts Parking Improvement
- E** Multi-use Athletic Field
- F** Farwell Hills
- G** Basketball/Chill Zone
- H** Sunset Street Parking Lot
- I** Recreation Center Expansion
- J** Tennis and Pickle ball Courts
- K** Tree Canopy Expansion
- L** Softball Field
- M** Barcus Tennis Center Improvement
- N** Bird Meadow
- O** 8 Mile Parking Lot
- P** Wet Meadow
- Q** Football Field
- R** Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- S** Model Plane Flying
- T** 8 Mile Basketball Courts

Phasing and Cost

10 YEAR MASTER PLAN COST ESTIMATE

This cost estimate is organized by the type of improvements needed to achieve the Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan: General, Athletic, Landscape, and Facility Improvements. The overall budget highlights the estimated costs to be incurred over 10 years. It should be noted that the Farwell Recreation Center expansion is not included in the immediate budget due to the anticipated cost, and the recent capital improvement completed in 2024.

Master Plan Budget	\$8,942,420.00
Estimated Engineering Costs (20%)	\$1,788,484.00
Maintenance Costs (10%)	\$894,242.00
Misc Removal Costs (2%)	\$178,848.40
Estimated 10 Year Master Plan Budget	\$11,803,994.40

Farwell Improvement List				
Feature	Notes	Quantity	Est. Cost	Total Cost
General Improvements				
Asphalt Walkways	Within the limits of farwell park, includes site preparation, 8' wide	116,800 SF	\$8/SF	\$934,400.00
Concrete Sidewalks	Within the row of farwell park, connecting segments of sidewalk, 6' wide	7,800 SF	\$12/SF	\$93,600.00
Invasive Tree Removal	Includes the removal and extraction of invasive species within the park limits	178 EA	\$2,000/EA	\$356,000.00
Park Entry Signage	Monumental sign at outer drive	1 EA	\$5,000/EA	\$5,000.00
Artist-Design Park Entry Signage	Park entry sign designed and built by local detroit artist at corner of the community garden	1 EA	\$3,500/EA	\$3,500.00
Park Entry Signage (small)	Neighborhood park signs on sunset, fenelon and eight mile	3 EA	\$1,000/EA	\$3,000.00
Drinking Fountain	Include near sport areas	1 EA	\$20,000/EA	\$20,000.00
Benches	Includes a standard concrete pad beneath	6 EA	\$2,500/EA	\$15,000.00
Picnic Tables	Includes a standard concrete pad beneath	2 EA	\$5,000/EA	\$10,000.00
Trash Cans	Includes a standard concrete pad beneath	8 EA	\$250/EA	\$2,000.00
Grills	Includes a standard concrete footing	3 EA	\$1,500/EA	\$4,500.00
Coal Bins	Includes a standard concrete footing	3 EA	\$850/EA	\$2,550.00
Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Standard bioswale areas nearby impervious surfaces (parking, buildings, paved play surfaces)	10,730 SF	\$9/SF	\$96,570.00

Phasing and Cost

IMPROVEMENTS COST ESTIMATE

Farwell Improvement List				
Feature	Notes	Quantity	Est. Cost	Total Cost
General Improvements				
Parking Expansion Near Tennis Courts	30 Surface parking spaces with trees, landscaped medians, and surface striping	10,000 SF	\$10/SF	\$100,000.00
Parking Expansion Near Sunset St.	100 Surface parking spaces with trees, landscaped medians, and surface striping	37,000 SF	\$10/SF	\$370,000.00
Parking Expansion Near 8 Mile Dr.	124 Surface parking spaces with trees, landscaped medians, and surface striping	38,000 SF	\$10/SF	\$380,000.00
Athletic Improvements				
Pickleball Court Installation	Includes site preparation, resurfacing and net installation	6 EA	\$125,000/ EA	\$750,000.00
Tennis Court Renovation	Includes site preparation, resurfacing and net installation	8 EA	\$150,000/EA	\$1,200,000.00
Basketball Courts	Includes site preparation, resurfacing and basket installation	3 EA	\$100,000/ EA	\$300,000.00
Youth Soccer Fields	Includes minimal grading, restoration of sand cap, reseeding, painting and striping and upgrading goal nets and frames	3 EA	\$25,000/EA	\$75,000.00
Multi-use Athletic Field	Includes minimal grading, restoration of sand cap, reseeding, painting and striping and upgrading goal nets and frames	1 EA	\$100,000/EA	\$100,000.00
Softball Field	Includes minimal grading, base replacement, striping, and upgrading the batting fence	1 EA	\$50,000/EA	\$50,000.00
Football Field	Includes minimal grading, restoration of sand cap, reseeding, painting and striping and upgrading goal posts, and other onsite training equipment	1 EA	\$100,000/EA	\$100,000.00
Model Plane Flying Area	Includes minimal grading and landscape grubbing	1 EA	\$20,000/EA	\$20,000.00
Universal Playground	Includes demolition, equipment and installation	1 EA	\$750,000/EA	\$750,000.00
Chill Zone	Teen-oriented landscape, includes equipment and installation	1 EA	350,000/EA	\$350,000.00

Phasing and Cost

IMPROVEMENTS COST ESTIMATE

Farwell Improvement List				
Feature	Notes	Quantity	Est. Cost	Total Cost
Landscape Improvements				
Farwell Hills	Includes grading, fill, slope stabilization and reseeding	19,556 CY	\$40/cu yard	\$800,000.00
Bird Meadow	Included native meadow seeding, rock barriers and informational signage	8 AC	\$20,000/acre	\$160,000.00
Wet Meadow	Includes grading, native meadow seeding and bridge installation, and overflow drainage	1.2 AC	\$20,000/acre	\$24,000.00
Community Garden Expansion	Includes site clearing, and more raised beds (50% ground coverage of 4' x 8' raised beds)	75,000 SF	\$35/SF	\$41,300.00
Tree Canopy Expansion	1.5" Caliper trees to replace removed trees	184 EA	\$1500/EA	\$276,000.00
Facility Improvements				
Barcus Tennis Center Improvement	Includes interior and exterior improvements, utility upgrades	3,500 SF	\$250/SF	\$875,000.00
Bathroom	Assumes similar addition construction and finishes	1 EA	\$500,000 EA	\$500,000.00
Shelter	Assumes similar addition construction and finishes	1 EA	\$175,000 EA	\$175,000.00
Building Facility Improvements (10+ years)				
Recreation Center Expansion	Assumes similar addition construction and finishes as the 2024 rec center expansion, consider indoor aquatic facility	25,000 SF	\$500/SF	\$12,500,000.00

*This estimate was performed considering 2025 USD Dollars.

Phasing and Cost

CITY OF DETROIT FUNDING SOURCES

The City of Detroit can explore public and private funding sources to help execute the Farwell Park 10 Year Master Plan. Below is a shortlist of funding opportunities that support government entities in placemaking, landscape, athletic facility improvements, and general operations.

City of Detroit Funding Opportunities				
Fund Name	Source	Amount	Cycle	Focus
Tennis Venue Services Grant	USTA	Varies	Ongoing	Athletics
Grow the Game Grant	USA Pickleball Serves	Varies	November - January	Athletics
NBA Foundation	NBA Foundation	Varies	Rolling	Athletics
NFL Club Community Grants	NFL Foundation	Varies	November	Athletics
Pool Safety Grant Program	US Consumer Product Safety Commission	\$50,000 - \$400,000	July	Athletics
NFL Foundation	NFL Foundation	Varies	April - September	Athletics
Foot Locker Community Empowerment Program	Foot Locker	\$75,000	Rolling	General
Game On - Community Places to Play	Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation	\$100,000	Rolling	General
Detroit Bird City	Detroit Bird Alliance	Varies	Rolling	Landscape
DNR Community Forestry Grants	Department of Natural Resources	\$10,000 - \$150,000	March	Landscape
The Tree Equity Catalyst Fund	American Forest	\$100,000 - \$1,500,000	October	Landscape
Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program	Department of Natural Resources	\$300,000 - \$15,000,000	April	Landscape

FARWELL PARK 10-YEAR PLAN

What do you want to see at Farwell?

We are looking for your input to make this park space fit the needs of your community for the next ten years. Let us know what you would like to see - provide feedback on future amenities, what to prioritize and draft designs!

Visit the website to provide input and follow the project:



detroitmi.gov/Farwell

General Parks and Rec Inquiries (313) 224-1100

PLAN YOUR PARK

TAKE PART IN SHAPING YOUR COMMUNITY



Park Maintenance

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The park maintenance schedule reflects the expected yearly routine by the Grounds Maintenance Team and the Park Development Unit (PDU) for the park's vision. This was derived from a focus group with these two departments in their review of the draft master plan.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE BY PDU

Feature	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Lighting				
Furniture				
Paths				
Basketball Courts				
Chill Zone				
Tennis Courts				
Pickleball Courts				
Football Courts				
Soccer Fields				
Multi-sports Fields				
Playground				
Splash Pad				

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE GROUNDS

Activity	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Litter Pick-up				
Leaf Clean-up				
Grass Maintenance				
Athletic Fields Maintenance				
Meadow Seeding				
Controlled Meadow Burn*				
Exotic / Invasive Species Control				
Tree Planting				
Invasive Species Removal				
Specimen Tree Inspection				
Tree Pruning				

*The controlled meadow burning happens every 3 – 5 years, in Spring or Fall.

Stewardship Opportunities

FARWELL PARK STEWARDSHIP PLAN

The vision of the Farwell Park Stewardship Plan is to assist in guiding the park's transformation into a resilient, inclusive, and ecologically vibrant space that serves as a model for urban environmental stewardship. Farwell Park can become a community-centered, universally accessible, ecologically rich, urban park that supports year-round engagement, biodiversity, and sustainable land stewardship.

NEAR TERM APPROACHES

- Community Partnerships: Establish advisory boards, host volunteer events, and partner with local organizations to deepen and strengthen local personal connections.
- Tap Existing Volunteerism: Programs like Motor City Makeover can be used as a catalyst to encourage community participation through volunteer opportunities, such as planting events and park clean-ups.
- Educational Partnerships: Farwell Park is located between Dove Academy and Mason Academy, which is a unique opportunity for collaboration and outdoor education. In-park activities may connect youth to their immediate neighborhood and enable hands-on learning in educational programs and internships.
- Invest in Existing Stewards: The Farwell Park Master Plan workshops and focus groups has reignited a local commitment to the park. This provides a useful foundation to empower and invest with Farwell Park's existing stewards:
 - Farwell Field Community Garden
 - KFC (Keystone, Fenelon, Conley) Block Club
 - The Farwell Recreation Advisory Council

LONG TERM EFFORTS

To empower Farwell Park even further, it is important to have more support by the community. This may include the following:

- Establish "Friends of Farwell Park," or "Farwell Park Conservancy," as a partnering nonprofit organization to work with the City of Detroit in collaboration with existing stewards.
- Partner with residents to facilitate culturally relevant events in the park
- Host fundraising events for Farwell Park in the park

Stewardship Opportunities

COMMUNITY PARTNER FUNDING SOURCES

Community partners, block clubs, and nonprofit organizations that want to support the investment in Farwell Park may be eligible to apply for funding, in partnership with the City of Detroit. Below is a shortlist of funding opportunities that support small organizations in landscape, athletic facility improvements, and general operations.

Community Partners Funding Opportunities				
Fund Name	Source	Amount	Cycle	Focus
Middle States Build it Forward Grant	USTA	\$10,000-\$20,000	Ongoing	Athletics
Tennis Venue Services Grant	USTA	Varies	Ongoing	Athletics
Grow the Game Grant	USA Pickle ball Serves	Varies	July - August	Athletics
NBA Foundation	NBA Foundation	Varies	October - November	Varies
NFL Club Community Grants	NFL Foundation	Varies	Until October	Varies
Community Empowerment Award	DTE Foundation	\$50,000	May	General
AARP Community Change	AARP Foundation	\$25,000	March-May	General
Detroit Bird City	Detroit Bird Alliance	Varies	Ongoing	Landscape
Educational Grant Program	Wildflower Association of Michigan	\$1,250	December	Landscape
Michigan Botanical Foundation Grant	Michigan Botanical Society	\$100 to \$1,500	Ongoing	Landscape
Fruit Tree Planting Grant	The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation	Varies	Ongoing	Landscape

Programming Possibilities

PRESENT AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

The Master Plan vision aims to support and enhance the existing activities already taking place in the park, while creating new opportunities that promote access to all areas of the park. The chart below offers a proposed schedule that includes existing

programs and new ideas to keep park users engaged at Farwell Park. These additional activities are intended to strengthen community connections and encourage long-term stewardship of the space.

Activity

January

February

March

April

May

June

Facilitation of Events

Easter Festival

“Bike to work”
Cyclists Meetup

World Bicycle Day

Jazz Concert for
Juneteenth

Community Garden
Maintenance

Seed Planting
with youth at
the “Healthy
Eating” series

Planting Season

Planting Day
with Youth

Summer Fruits &
Vegetables at the
“Healthy Eating”
series

Schedule nature walks

● Winter Walk

● Spring Walk

Group Walks

Softball Practices

Basketball Practices

Football Practices

Soccer Practices

Tennis Practices

Pickleball Practices

LEGEND

- Existing General Activities
- Existing Sports Activities
- Existing Environmental Activities
- - - Proposed General Activities
- - - Proposed Sports Activities
- - - Proposed Environmental Activities

July

August

September

October

November

December

Perennial Plant Exchange Day

Pistons Basketball Tournament

Fall Festival

Kwanzaa in the Park

Events lead by the City or by organizations that are 501(c)3 non-profits.

Fall Fruits and Vegetables at the "Healthy Eating" series

Boost your immune system the "Healthy Eating" series

"Healthy Eating," a year round series that focuses on public health, plant growth, cooking, and bringing new people to the community garden.

Harvesting Season

● Summer Walk

● Fall Walk

Quarterly walks to observe the changes of the landscape throughout the seasons.

Summer Camp Sports Activities

Athletic Summer Camp days provide an opportunity to showcase the park's full range of sports facilities and amenities.

7 Appendix

Appendix

WORD + DOT FINDINGS

Choose 3 words to describe what you envision for Farwell Park.

WORDS	# OF DOTS
Walkable	22
*Water Activities	15
*Outdoor Sports	8
Active	7
Approachable	5
Historic	4
Positive	4
Social	4
Fun	3
Inspirational	3
Loyal	3
Natural	3
Youthful	3
Calm	2
*Carefree	2
*Down To Earth	2
Hopeful	2
Inviting	2
Professional	2
Trustworthy	2
Urban	2

*Community Write ins

FRIENDS OF FARWELL GAME FINDINGS

TOP AMENITIES:

1. Playscape (Large)
2. Little League Baseball Field
3. Horseshoe Toss
4. Splash Pad
5. 400m Track
6. Skate Park

RECREATION:	TOTAL USE:
Playscape (Large)	4
Little League Baseball Field	4
Horseshoe Toss	3
Splash Pad	3
400m Track	3
Skate Park	3
Playscape (small)	2
Football	2
Soccer	2
Ice Rink	2
Basketball	1
Fitness Center	1
Major League Baseball Field	0
Tennis	0
Pickleball	0
Disc Golf	0

TOP AMENITIES:

1. Bathrooms
2. Benches
3. Asphalt Paths
4. Drinking Fountain
5. Art Installation Space
6. Memorial

PUBLIC:	TOTAL USE:
Bathrooms	5
Benches	5
Asphalt	5
Drinking Fountain	4
Art Installation Space	4
Memorial	3
Park Pavilion	2
Dog Park	2
Bike Rack	2
Food Trucks	1
Gravel	1
Concrete	0
Bike Repair	0

TOP AMENITIES:

1. Community Gardens
2. Pond
3. Sledding Hill
4. Water Fountain
5. Flower Garden

LANDSCAPE:	TOTAL USE:
Community Gardens	4
Pond	3
Sledding Hill	3
Water Fountain	3
Flower Garden	3
Rain Garden	2
Trees	2
Meadow	1

WRITE INS:

- Pool
- Hot Tub
- Velodrome
- Lighting
- Inclusive Play Park
- Green House
- Security Booth
- Putt Golf Course

FRIENDS OF FARWELL GAME GENERATED MAPS AND ANALYSIS



AMENITIES

RECREATIONAL AMENITIES:

- Football Field
- 400m Track
- Splash Pad
- Skate Park
- Soccer Field
- Ice Rink
- Playscape (small)
- Playscape (Large)
- Horseshoe Toss
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Courts

PUBLIC AMENITIES:

- Bathrooms
- Benches
- Dog Park
- Food Trucks

LANDSCAPE:

- Community gardens
- Sledding Hill
- Water Fountain
- Pond

WRITE IN:

- Security Booth

Key Thoughts:

The goal was to get as many amenities as possible into the map for more accessibility and to uplift the use of the park

PATHWAYS



AMENITIES

RECREATIONAL AMENITIES:

- 400M Track
- Little League Baseball Field
- Skate Park
- Splash Pad
- Fitness Center
- Ice Rink

PUBLIC AMENITIES:

- Bathrooms
- Asphalt
- Memorial
- Benches
- Art Installations
- Park Pavilion
- Bike Rack
- Drinking Fountain

LANDSCAPE:

- Community gardens
- Flower Garden
- Trees
- Sledding Hill
- Rain Garden
- Water Fountain

WRITE IN:

- Lighting
- Pool
- Playpark for Special Needs

Key Thoughts:

Surrounding amenities with tree and natural growth
There is currently no lighting on the existing tennis courts and surrounding area
Adding a Playpark that is Special Needs Accessible
Bathrooms are spread out around the park

PATHWAYS



AMENITIES

RECREATIONAL AMENITIES:

- Little League Baseball Field
- Horseshoe Toss
- Splash Pad
- Skate Park
- Playscape (Large)

PUBLIC AMENITIES:

- Bathrooms
- Asphalt
- Memorial
- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Park Pavilion

LANDSCAPE:

- Community gardens
- Flower Garden
- Sledding Hill
- Rain Garden
- Pond

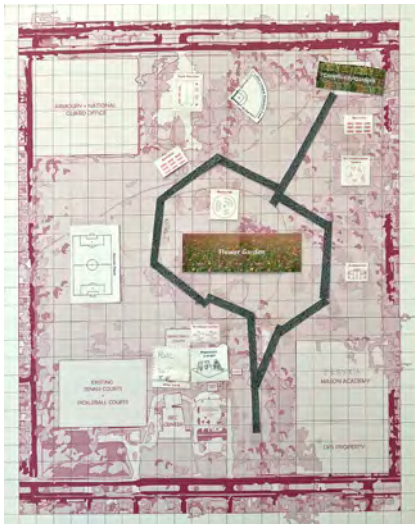
WRITE IN:

- Green House
- Pool
- Hot Tub

Key Thoughts:

The pathways were designed to be interconnected from zone to zone
"There should be access to walk anywhere you are within the park"
Asphalt was chosen because it is easier on the hips and joints.
The memorial is near the Flower Garden to create a spiritual zone for reflection.
They wanted to add a pool and hot tub to relax after their walks
There should be designated mile long pathways that neighbors can use to measure their walks.

PATHWAYS



AMENITIES

RECREATIONAL AMENITIES:

- Little League Baseball Field
- Soccer Field
- Playscape (Large)

PUBLIC AMENITIES:

- Bathrooms
- Asphalt
- Memorial
- Benches
- Drinking Fountain
- Art Installation
- Park Pavilion

LANDSCAPE:

- Community gardens
- Flower Gardens

WRITE IN:

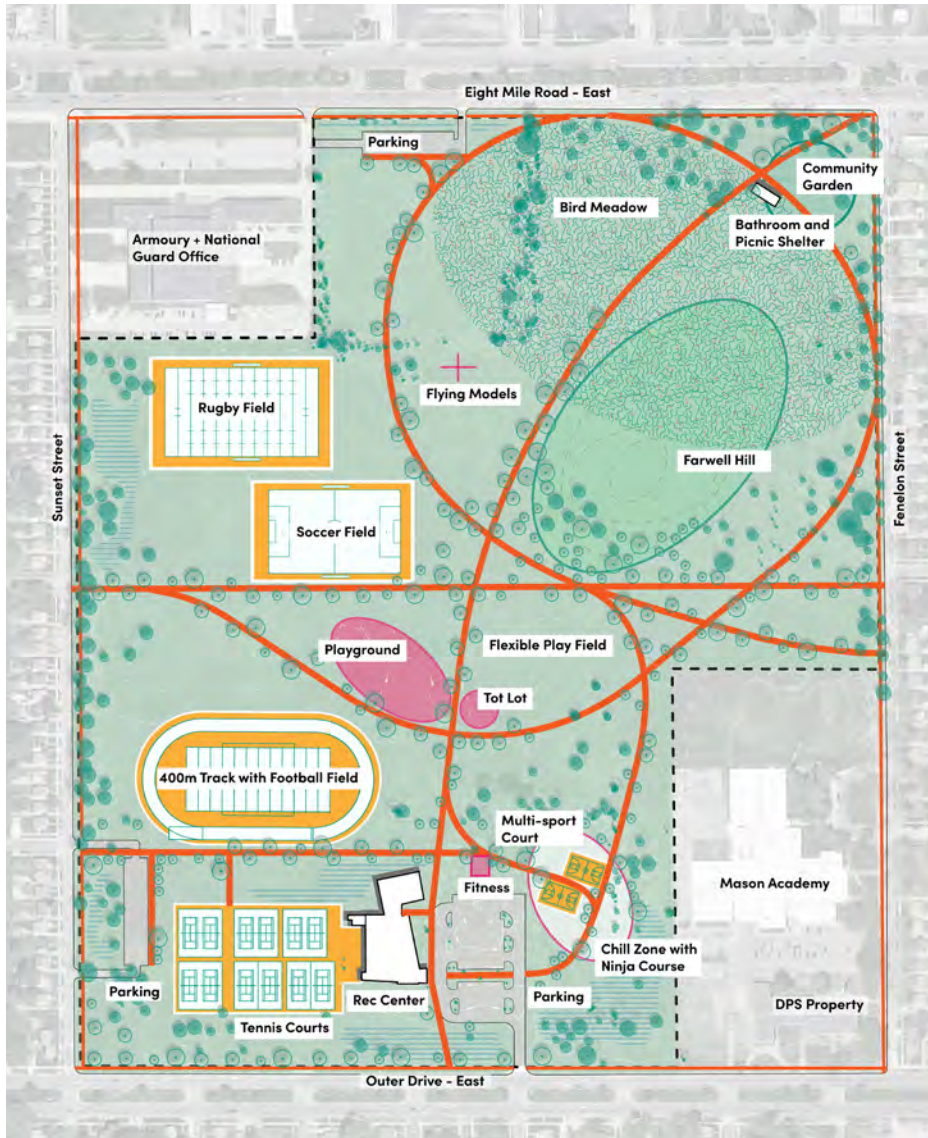
- Pool
- Hot Tub

Key Thoughts:

The pathway circles the Flower Garden and Memorial zone for a time of reflection
Pathway connects Farwell Recreation Center to the Community Gardens

Appendix

CONCEPT A



FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Features	Description
Circulation	
Walkways	Integrate an ADA compliant asphalt loop trail system that connects all proposed park entry points. Walkway system to include mile markers along central loop to support neighborhood walking groups.
City Sidewalks	Reconnect the network of city sidewalks around the full perimeter of the park.
Athletic Amenities	
Rugby & Soccer Fields	Restripe the existing athletic fields to accommodate professional games and practices.
400m With Football Field	Install a rubberized surface for a running track with a striped football field at the center.
Tennis Courts	Repair and upgrade the existing tennis courts surfacing for games and practices. Remove 12 of the existing courts .
Basketball Courts / Multi Sport Courts	Relocate basketball courts to Chill Zone teen area with multi-sport courts, and Ninja obstacle course. Install appropriate surfacing.
Play Amenities	
Universal Playground	Add a new universal ADA compliant playground with tot-lot, with appropriate surfacing and enclosures for site safety.
Fitness Area	Maintain the fitness area in its existing condition and make upgrades or repairs as necessary.
Model Plane Flying Area	Maintain the model plane flying area and clear vegetation as necessary.
Building Facilities	
Barcus Tennis Center	Remove the tennis center due to lack of use and deferred maintenance.

Appendix

Features	Description
Parkwide Feature	
Parking	Add (100) off-street surface parking spaces to accommodate increased use for upgraded amenities, with appropriate signage.
Natural Features	
Bird Meadow	Incorporate a native perennial meadow that supports migratory bird habitat.
Farwell Hill	Use clean fill to create a hill to add topography and interest to the park that is otherwise flat in experience.
Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Incorporate large-scale green stormwater infrastructure bioswales adjacent to impervious surfaces to manage on-site water and rain runoff
Community Garden	Maintain the community garden and repair the planting beds as necessary. Expand the support shed to include a bathroom to encourage prolonged use.
Tree Planting	Plant new trees along the walkways to provide adequate shade throughout the park

WORKSHOP FINDINGS

Likes

- "I like the separation between active and calm activities."
- "I love the idea of keeping the sports zones together, with track and tennis and the rec center. More synergy and easy to get to common activities."
- "Love the walking loops, makes it more interesting if walking, running, and multiple loops. You can do figure 8's and change course each time you use it."
- Walking paths & enhancement of natural areas & hills
- "Like track and football fields; you can see local athletes using them to train. It's a good gathering spot."
- Like the expanded garden

Dislikes

- Picnic tables and grills near bathrooms
- Need to keep the baseball sports
- Add benches to the hill
- Existing basketball court shouldn't be removed
- "Let's not remove things from the park; when amenities are removed, they aren't replaced."
- Replace rugby field with football field

Must-have amenities

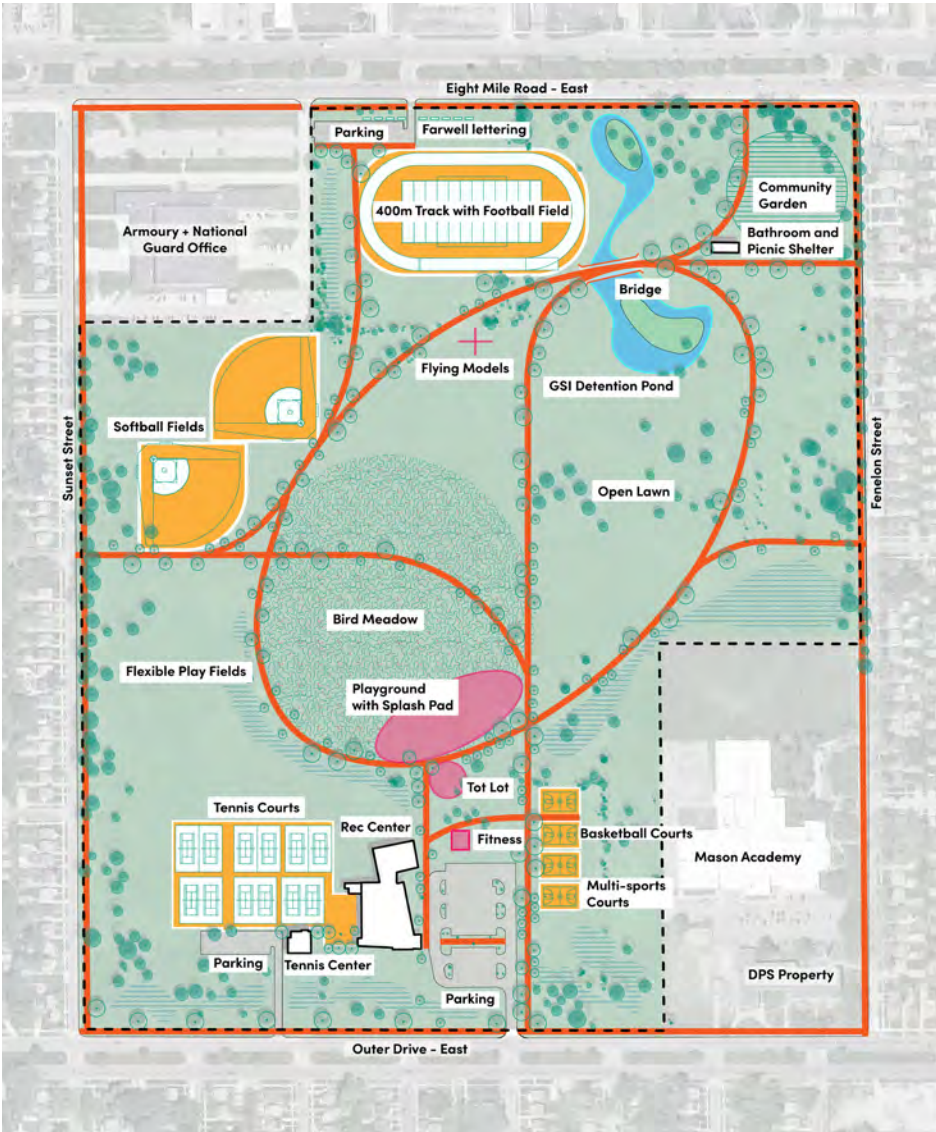
- 2 New tennis courts
- 1 Renovated tennis court for pickleball
- Bicycle/skate track
- Increased number of tennis courts to make Farwell Park a tennis hub like Palmer Park

Existing places to preserve

- Water features that can be turned off and on
- Veggie, herb, and flower garden

Appendix

CONCEPT B



FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Features	Description
Circulation	
Walkways	Integrate an ADA compliant asphalt loop trail system that connects all proposed park entry points. Walkway system to include mile markers along central loop to support neighborhood walking groups.
City Sidewalks	Reconnect the network of city sidewalks around the full perimeter of the park.
Athletic Amenities	
Softball Diamonds	Restripe and refresh the softball dirt fields to accommodate organized and pick-up games.
400m With Football Field	Install a rubberized surface for a running track with a striped football field at the center.
Tennis Courts	Repair and upgrade the existing tennis courts surfacing for games and practices. Remove 12 courts due to lack of use and deferred maintenance.
Basketball Courts / Multi Sport Courts	Relocate two basketball courts, integrating into a teen-oriented area and a multi-sport court with appropriate surfacing.
Play Amenities	
Universal Playground	Add a new universal ADA compliant playground with tot-lot, with appropriate surfacing and enclosures for site safety.
Fitness Area	Maintain the fitness area in its existing condition and make upgrades or repairs as necessary.
Model Plane Flying Area	Maintain the model plane flying area and clear vegetation as necessary.
Building Facilities	
Barcus Tennis Center	Renovate the tennis center as a youth camp and training facility.

Appendix

Features	Description
Parkwide Feature	
Parking	Add (125) off-street surface parking spaces to accommodate increased use for upgraded amenities, with appropriate signage. Add large format signage at Eight Mile to incorporate branding for the park.
Natural Features	
Bird Meadow	Incorporate a native perennial meadow that supports migratory bird habitat.
Open Lawn	Maintain lawn areas with regular reseeding and mowing.
Wet Meadow	Add a large scale detention pond to hold water during rain events to add a water feature to the park.
Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Incorporate large-scale green stormwater infrastructure bioswales adjacent to impervious surfaces to manage on-site water and rain runoff.
Community Garden	Maintain the community garden and repair the planting beds as necessary. Expand the support shed to include a bathroom to encourage prolonged use.
Tree Planting	Plant new trees along the walkways to provide adequate shade throughout the park.

WORKSHOP FINDINGS

Likes

- Like the sports fields spread out
- Like the track
- Like having parking spaces away from residential streets
- Like the bridge, as long as it's short
- Like the community garden expansion
- Best walking path option
- Like playground with a splash pad
- Like preservation of green spaces
- Like culturally relevant sports locations
- Like the pond
- Like how spaced out the amenities and fields are, along with the walking path in the middle of the park

Dislikes

- Bathrooms should be close to active areas
- "Splash pad near bird meadow is weird."
- The track should be near the building

Must-Have Amenities

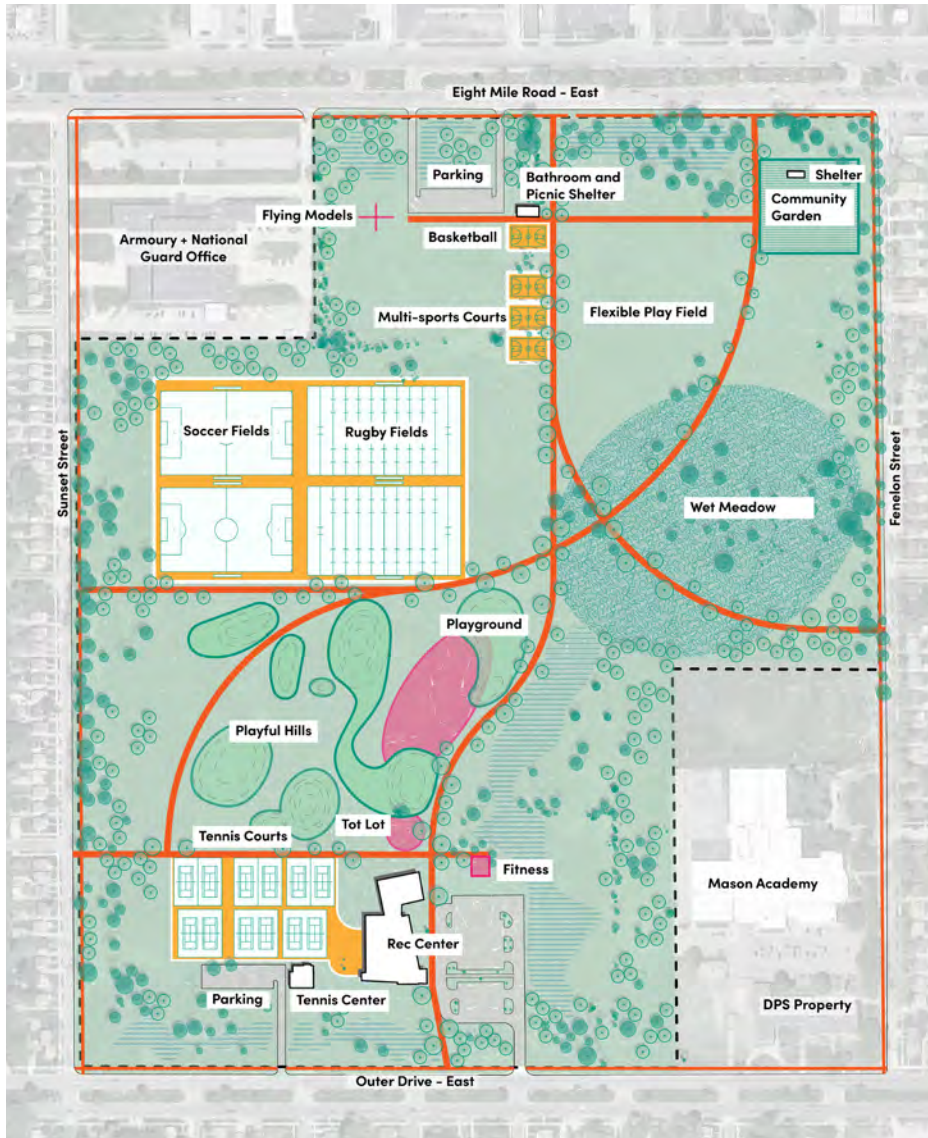
- Walking path
- Handicap Play
- Benches around path with landscaping
- Pickleball
- Walkways, benches, pond, open field
- Maintenance of fields

Existing places to Preserve

- Community garden
- Green Space

Appendix

CONCEPT C



FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Features	Description
Circulation	
Walkways	Integrate an ADA compliant asphalt loop trail system that connects all proposed park entry points. Walkway system to include mile markers along central loop to support neighborhood walking groups.
City Sidewalks	Reconnect the network of city sidewalks around the full perimeter of the park.
Athletic Amenities	
Rugby & Soccer Fields	Restripe the existing athletic fields to accommodate professional games and practices.
Tennis Courts	Repair and upgrade the existing tennis courts surfacing for games and practices. Remove 12 courts due to lack of use and deferred maintenance.
Basketball Courts / Multi Sport Courts	Relocate two basketball courts and integrate into a teen-oriented area with multi-sport courts. Provide appropriate surfacing for this area.
Play Amenities	
Universal Playground	Add a new universal ADA compliant playground with complementary tot-lot, with appropriate surfacing and enclosures for site safety.
Fitness Area	Maintain the fitness area in its existing condition and make upgrades or repairs as necessary.
Model Plane Flying Area	Maintain the model plane flying area and clear vegetation as necessary.
Building Features	
Barcus Tennis Center	Renovate the tennis center as a youth camp and training facility.

Appendix

Features	Description
Parkwide Feature	
Parking	Add (100) off-street surface parking spaces to accommodate increased use for upgraded amenities, with appropriate signage.
Natural Features	
Wet Meadow	Incorporate a native perennial meadow that absorb site water.
Play Earth Mounds	Use clean fill to create small play hills to add topography and interest to the playground areas to expand perceived play space.
Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Incorporate large-scale green stormwater infrastructure bioswales adjacent to impervious surfaces to manage on-site water and rain runoff.
Community Garden	Maintain the community garden and repair the planting beds as necessary.
Tree Planting	Plant new trees along the walkways to provide adequate shade throughout the park.

WORKSHOP FINDINGS

Likes

- Like wet Meadow with stream
- Middle walkway is important, connectivity to garden with a scenic walk
- Like play hills and flexible play
- Walking paths
- Like that the entrance to the park is not on residential streets
- "Flying models is a childhood memory."
- Shelter and community garden with pathways
- Sports areas are near 8 mile and Outer Drive, which makes it easy access for parking, monitoring traffic, and safety
- Universal area for fields
- "Tot lot! Inclusive for seniors and youth!"

Dislikes

- Sports should be near rec center with paths to rec
- Lighting on walking path is important
- "Don't like the playful hills; need horizontal paths"
- Garden Founder Ms. Moore should receive funds
- No rugby, use pickleball, basketball, football, soccer, and softball

Must-Have Amenities

- Better maintenance of softball field
- Basketball, softball, and team sports / leagues
- Increase the size of the community garden (2x) plus water activities
- Baseball field back

Existing places to Preserve

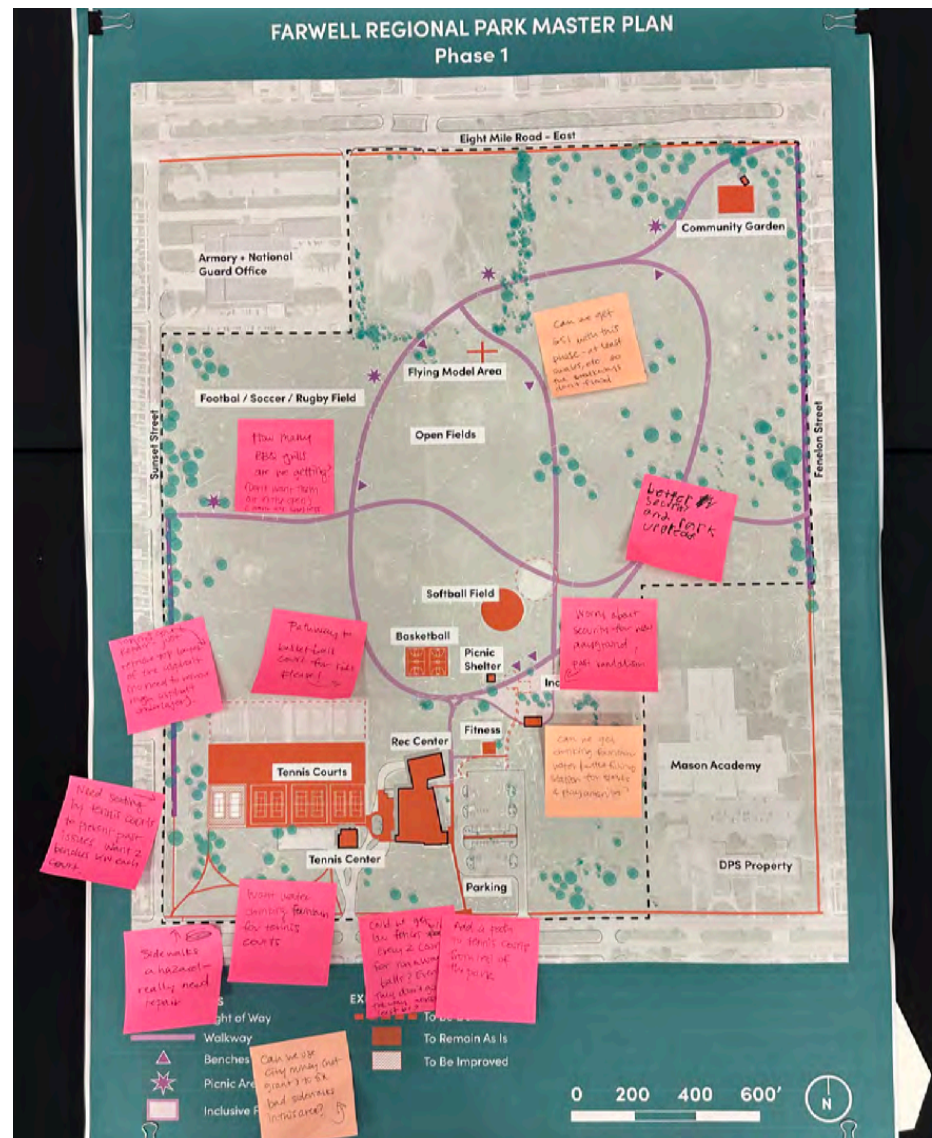
- Garden, tennis courts, and natural areas

Appendix

CONSOLIDATED MASTER PLAN BOARD WITH COMMENTS



LOE 2025 PLAN



Appendix

PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP FINDINGS

Cards	1
Farwell Hills	5
Bird Meadow	5
Green Stormwater Management Infrastructure	5
Wet Meadow	4
Soccer Fields	3
Model Plane Flying	3
Community Garden Expansion	3
Tree Canopy Expansion	3
Parking Expansion Near 8 Mile Dr.	3
Basketball + Multi-Sports Courts	2
Softball Field	2
Multi-sports Courts Near 8-Mile Dr.	2
Parking Expansion Near Tennis Courts	2
Tennis + Pickleball courts	1
Multi-use Athletics Field	1
Football Field	1
Rec Center Expansion	1
Parking Expansion Near Sunset St.	0
Tennis Center Improvement	0
Bathroom + Shelter	0

Cards	4
Multi-use Athletics Field	7
Tennis + Pickleball courts	5
Soccer Fields	4
Model Plane Flying	4
Bathroom + Shelter	4
Football Field	3
Parking Expansion Near Sunset St.	3
Softball Field	2
Farwell Hills	2
Green Stormwater Management Infrastructure	2
Tennis Center Improvement	2
Rec Center Expansion	2
Multi-sports Courts Near 8-Mile Dr.	1
Wet Meadow	1
Community Garden Expansion	1
Tree Canopy Expansion	1
Parking Expansion Near Tennis Courts	1
Basketball + Multi-Sports Courts	0
Bird Meadow	0
Parking Expansion Near 8 Mile Dr.	0

Cards	2
Wet Meadow	4
Basketball + Multi-Sports Courts	3
Model Plane Flying	3
Parking Expansion Near Sunset St.	3
Soccer Fields	2
Multi-sports Courts Near 8-Mile Dr.	2
Bird Meadow	2
Tree Canopy Expansion	2
Green Stormwater Management Infrastructure	2
Parking Expansion Near 8 Mile Dr.	2
Tennis + Pickleball courts	1
Football Field	1
Farwell Hills	1
Rec Center Expansion	1
Multi-use Athletics Field	0
Softball Field	0
Community Garden Expansion	0
Parking Expansion Near Tennis Courts	0
Tennis Center Improvement	0
Bathroom + Shelter	0

Cards	5
Basketball + Multi-Sports Courts	6
Softball Field	6
Parking Expansion Near Tennis Courts	4
Rec Center Expansion	4
Tennis + Pickleball courts	3
Football Field	3
Farwell Hills	3
Wet Meadow	3
Community Garden Expansion	3
Tree Canopy Expansion	3
Multi-use Athletics Field	2
Parking Expansion Near Sunset St.	2
Parking Expansion Near 8 Mile Dr.	2
Tennis Center Improvement	2
Bathroom + Shelter	2
Soccer Fields	1
Bird Meadow	1
Green Stormwater Management Infrastructure	1
Model Plane Flying	0
Multi-sports Courts Near 8-Mile Dr.	0

Cards	3
Parking Expansion Near 8 Mile Dr.	5
Tennis Center Improvement	5
Tennis + Pickleball courts	3
Soccer Fields	3
Multi-sports Courts Near 8-Mile Dr.	3
Parking Expansion Near Tennis Courts	3
Rec Center Expansion	3
Softball Field	2
Model Plane Flying	2
Farwell Hills	2
Bird Meadow	2
Wet Meadow	2
Community Garden Expansion	2
Parking Expansion Near Sunset St.	2
Basketball + Multi-Sports Courts	1
Multi-use Athletics Field	1
Football Field	1
Tree Canopy Expansion	1
Green Stormwater Management Infrastructure	0
Bathroom + Shelter	0

Cards	6
Bathroom + Shelter	14
Community Garden Expansion	10
Soccer Fields	7
Bird Meadow	7
Parking Expansion Near Tennis Courts	7
Farwell Hills	6
Tree Canopy Expansion	6
Parking Expansion Near Sunset St.	6
Basketball + Multi-Sports Courts	5
Multi-use Athletics Field	5
Green Stormwater Management Infrastructure	5
Parking Expansion Near 8 Mile Dr.	5
Tennis Center Improvement	5
Rec Center Expansion	5
Football Field	4
Wet Meadow	4
Tennis + Pickleball courts	3
Softball Field	3
Multi-sports Courts Near 8-Mile Dr.	2
Model Plane Flying	0

Appendix

SURVEY FORM

FARWELL PARK MASTER PLAN SURVEY

Below are some questions to help us get to know Farwell Park better.

Name _____

Email _____

Are you aware that Farwell Park is a 90 acre park that will be upgraded for future enjoyment?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

How often do you go to Farwell Park?

- ☐ Multiple times a week
☐ Once a week
☐ Once a month
☐ Rarely
☐ Never

How do you usually travel to Farwell Park? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ By foot
☐ By bus
☐ By bike
☐ By car and I park in the lot
☐ By car but I don't park in the lot
☐ Other: _____

What do you do at Farwell Park? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Walking Club
☐ Tennis
☐ Indoor Sports
☐ Outdoor Play Area
☐ Outdoor Fitness Area
☐ Gardening
☐ Other: _____

What amenities in the park would bring people out more?

Do you believe Farwell Park is easy to get around?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, what are some difficulties you've encountered?

Do you or someone in your family have a need for special accommodations?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If you don't mind sharing, what are some of these accommodations?

Do you believe all are welcome at the Farwell Park?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, why?

WE WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE!

What is your age?

- ☐ under 18
☐ 18 - 25
☐ 26 - 40
☐ 41 - 65
☐ 65+

Do you live in the Farwell Park Neighborhood?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, where do you live?

How long have you lived here?

- ☐ I don't live here
☐ 0 - 5 years
☐ 6 - 10 years
☐ 11 - 20 years
☐ 20+ years

Appendix

SURVEY FINDINGS

What amenities in the park would bring people out more?

18 Responses

Inclusion that consist of all community

Additional parking

Pickleball

Swimming pool, gardening path

Pool, hot tub, walking paths

Splash area for kids, dog park, pool, walking track

Swimming pool, for adults and children's use, put it back in the master plan

A small community garden would be cool

Shade structures, water features, picnic tables & shelter, benches, garden storage and entertainment, restrooms, dog amenities, play area, exercises equipment, handicap accessible, more parking, bring in more surrounding business

Paved area for hobbyists to fly their planes, flooded area for skating, create a nature area, with high grass, security cameras, splash park, benches in field along path, outdoor field lighting, baseball diamonds, outdoor drinking fountains, bathrooms outside, BBQ grill, walking paths

More fitness activities, dome for athletes, swimming pool

Walking + fitness, picnics

Exercise, picnics

Soccer arena, boxing arena, after school homework

Additional tennis courts

Rubber walking track outside

A walking trail around the park

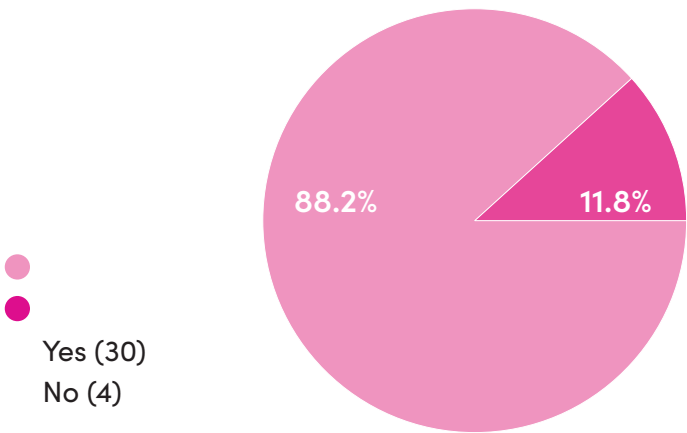
Baseball/softball field, upgraded tennis court, walking path, football field, soccer/volleyball field, swimming pool, skating rink, more swings and activities for kids and one universal field

Appendix

SURVEY FINDINGS

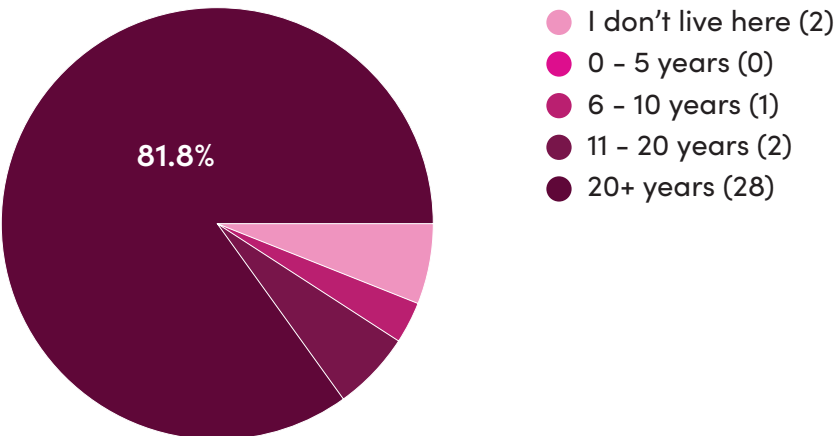
Do you live in the Farwell Park Neighborhood?

34 Responses



How long have you lived at Farwell?

33 Responses



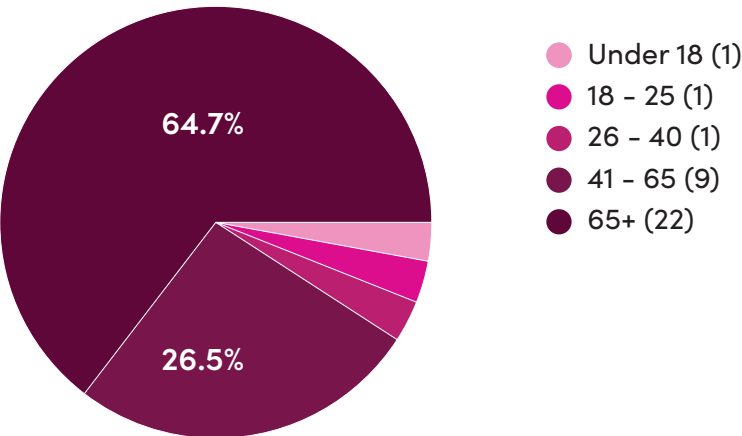
If not, where do you live?

4 Responses

7 Mile/Dequindre
7 Mile + Nevada
Orleans (8 Mile/Dequindre)
Ann Arbor
I was raised in the neighborhood. I work at Dove Academy in the neighborhood, I live in Warren

What is your age group?

34 Responses

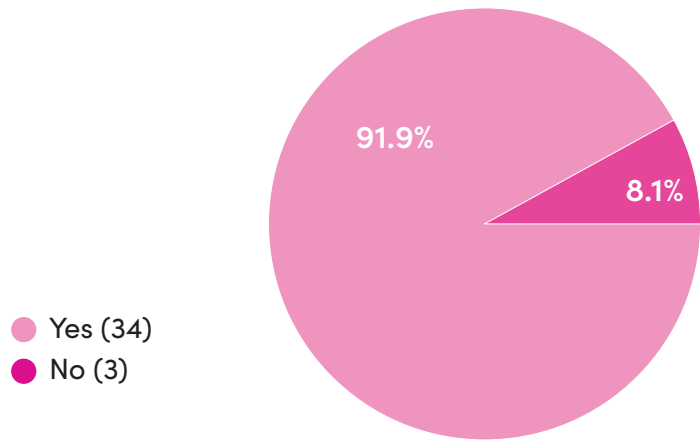


Appendix

SURVEY FINDINGS

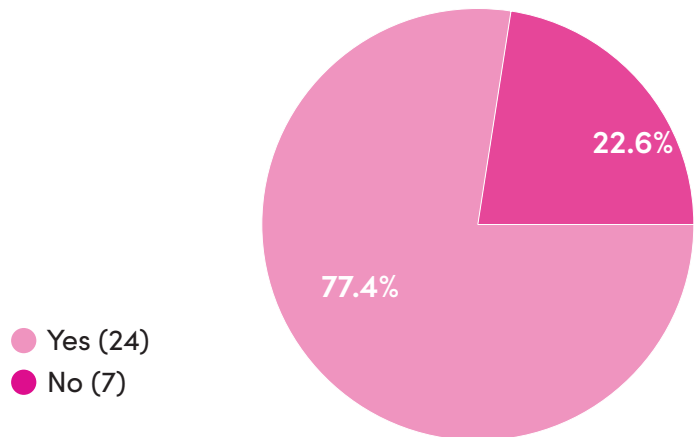
Are you aware that Farwell Park is a 90 acre park that will be upgraded for future enjoyment?

37 Responses



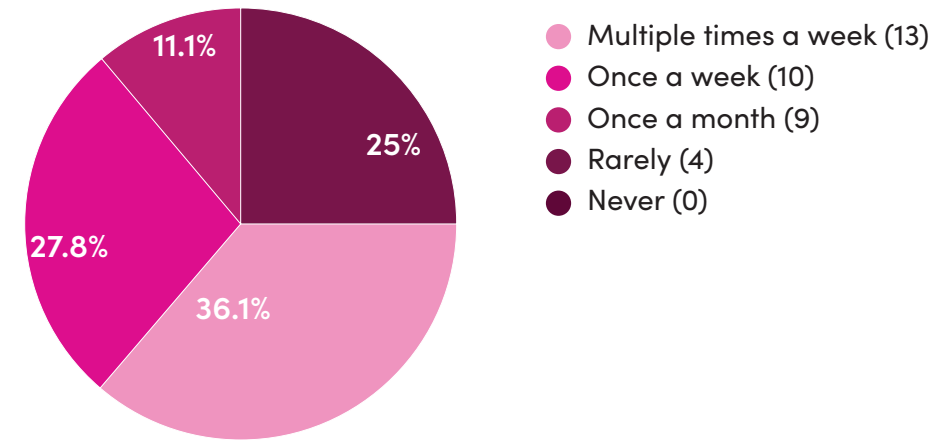
Do you believe Farwell Park is easy to get around?

31 Responses



How often do you go to Farwell Park?

36 Responses



If not, what are some difficulties you've encountered?

6 Responses

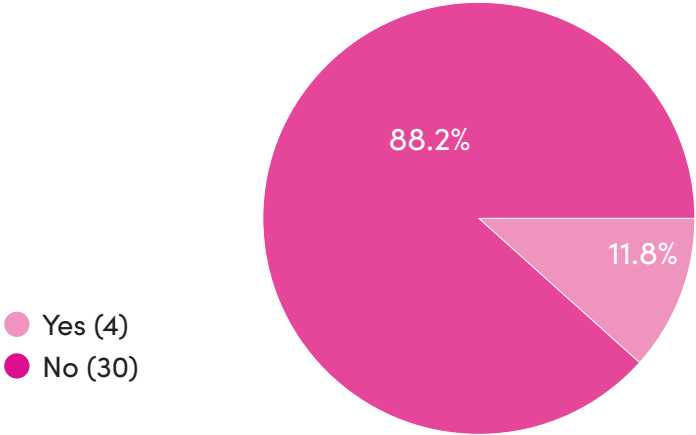
Sidewalks need repairs or not present at all.
 We need more sidewalks
 Walking on grass
 Walking paths in order to get into the park w/o walking on the grass
 Walking path, fix up north parking off 8 mile
 None, i love farwell park

Appendix

SURVEY FINDINGS

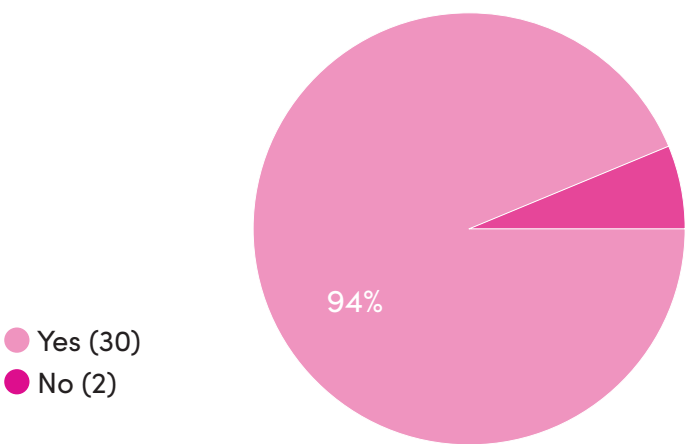
Do you or someone in your family have a need for special accommodations?

34 Responses



Do you believe all are welcome at the Farwell Park?

32 Responses



If you don't mind sharing, what are some of these accommodations?

2 Responses

Handicap accessible parking spaces

If not, why?

2 Responses

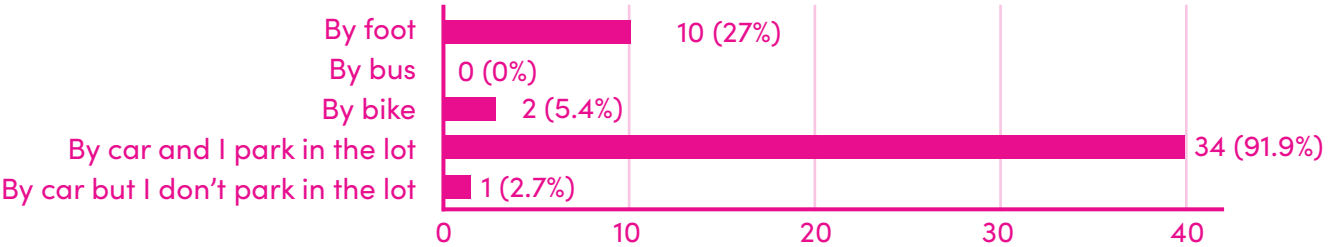
I believe all are welcome however we need to engage our youth more

Some children cannot attain membership due to parents not available to sign membership required for entry is restricting some from entry including seniors

SURVEY FINDINGS

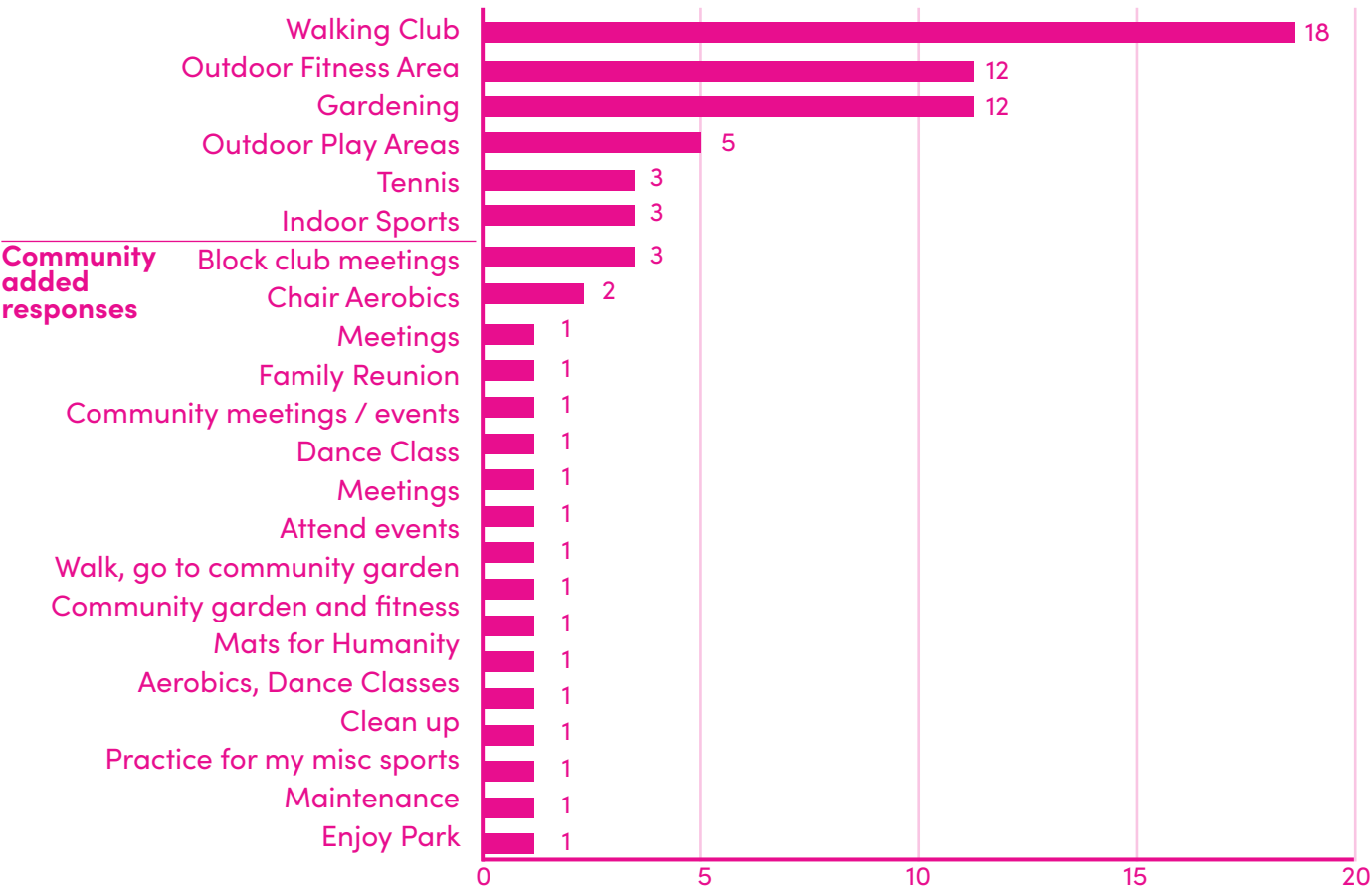
How do you usually travel to Farwell Park?

37 Responses



What do you do at Farwell Park?

37 Responses



Community
added
responses

Farwell Park

10 Year Master Plan

General Services Department

For more information and updates:

<https://detroitmi.gov/farwell>



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