
[EXTERNAL] Fwd: Support info. - Voigt Park

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To Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>

Subject: Support info. - Voigt Park

To all it may concern,

We oppose the proposed changes to Historic Voigt Park.

Our support of maintaining the unique and natural environment of Historic Voigt Park, is in alignment with Detroit Parks and Recreation's goals and priorities, as illustrated below.

It is the responsibility of the HDC to protect & preserve the historic character of Historic Voigt Park for the benefit all Detroiters, the Historic Boston Edison's District and importantly for posterity !

Most sincerely,
Paul Kashat

DETROIT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION FAQ

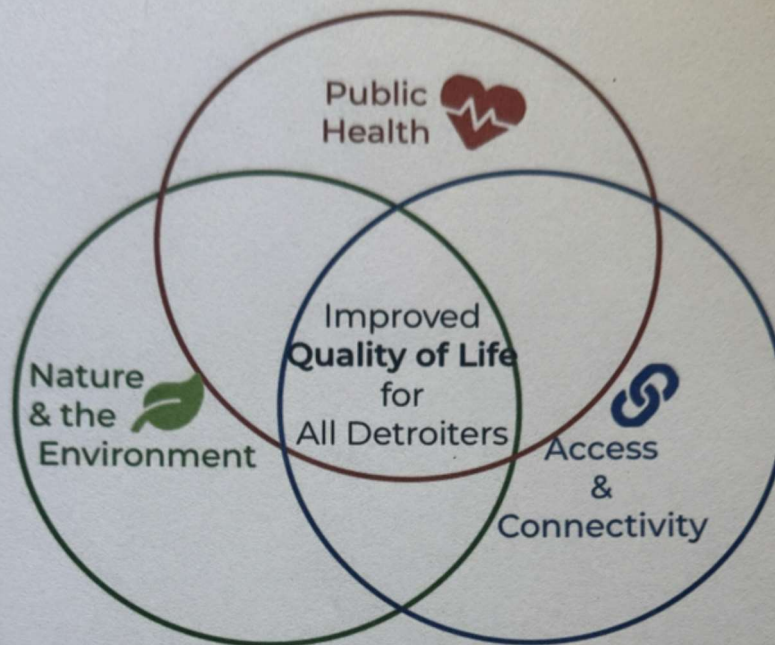
The Detroit Historic District Commission is a city agency that was formed by Detroit Ordinance 161-H in 1976. Its purpose is to ensure the preservation of historically and culturally significant areas of the City which are designated by the City Council as Historic Districts.

It is the Commission's job to ensure that changes proposed in historic districts preserve important historic characteristics and are compatible with the historic buildings. When proposing a change to the exterior of a property such as landscaping, paint colors, windows, or doors the homeowner or contractor submits an application for building permit to the Commission for review. If the work is appropriate the Commission (or the Commission's staff) will issue a certificate of appropriateness which allows the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department to issue a building permit.

Application forms and guidelines are

Private

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE of Detroit Parks & Recreation



Quality of Life lies at the Intersection of Our Goals

VISION

The vision of the **2022 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan** is to improve the quality of life for all Detroiters through parks, greenways, recreation centers, and programs, using an equity framework.

GOALS

Working toward the vision, the plan puts forth three main goals. DPRD strives to:

- Improve **Public Health**
- Protect and connect residents with **Nature & the Environment**
- Increase **Access & Connectivity** to parks & recreational opportunities

STRATEGIES

Each strategy addresses one or more of DPRD's goals. A full description of each strategy is featured in Chapter 3.

- 1.1 Marketing: Getting the Word Out
- 1.2 Invest in Staff
- 1.3 Strengthen Partnerships
- 2.1 Encourage Fitness & Athletics
- 2.2 Improve the Rec Center Experience
- 2.3 Facilitate Permitting & Programming
- 3.1 Focus on Maintenance
- 3.2 Integrate Environmental Design
- 3.3 Support Stewardship
- 4.1 Ensure Safe Access
- 4.2 Create an Inclusive Parks & Rec System
- 4.3 Connect the System

Regional Park Use

Regional parks tend to draw visitors from all across Detroit with their size and array of quality amenities. Unsurprisingly, the iconic Belle Isle was a popular response for the most visited regional park.

Greenway Use

Many respondents use several of Detroit's greenways, with over half of respondents reporting use of the RiverWalk and Dequindre-Cut. These areas are also popular with bicyclists.

Use Frequency

Responses indicated that approximately two thirds of surveyed individuals use neighborhood and regional parks regularly, while over half use greenways more than once per month.

A considerable number of respondents do not use parks or greenways at all. Many respondents indicated that they either did not know where to find their local park or greenway, or that none are located near them.

What to Do in the Parks?

Exercise, Socialize, Revitalize

Parks are a place of physical activity, relaxation, and community building for many Detroiters. When asked what respondents like to do in Detroit parks, and allowed to choose multiple responses or write their own response, park activities ranked as shown above.

Key Park Activities

From these responses the importance of key activities can be seen. For example, throughout the survey, respondents expressed a desire for swimming opportunities both in parks and recreation centers. Respondents were keen to point out that parks are a great place to host or participate in community and cultural activities. Additionally, several

Preferred Park Activities:

87%	Walk or bike
80%	Relax in nature
62%	Exercise
70%	Socialize
53%	Active recreation in nature
43%	Play with kids
40%	Athletics / sports
30%	Pass-through to other places
27%	Dog walking
36%	Other
	- Community & cultural events
	- Appreciate nature
	- Swimming and water activities
	- Picnics
	- Educational activities
	- Use amenities (e.g. restroom)

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The third section of the survey asked respondents to consider their priorities related to their family's health and wellbeing while using Detroit parks, recreation centers, and greenways.

Clean & Safe

'Clean Amenities and Facilities' ranked highest among Very Important public health concerns, followed closely by 'Safe Places to Go'. Year-round fitness and safe social-distancing were indicated as either Very Important or Important by most respondents. Mental health services received the lowest rankings of importance and the highest rate of neutral responses.

Building Community & Traveling Safe

Common write-in responses relayed a strong interest in cultural activities and opportunities for community connection. Building strong community networks can lay the groundwork for successful responses to emergencies. Respondents also noted the need for transportation that is clean, safe, and reliable. For Detroiters, accessibility and public health go hand in hand. Concerns about health and safety in transportation can prevent residents from reaching parks and recreational opportunities.

What do Detroiters have to say

When asked what is most important to public health, respondents left the following comments:

Education and connection for the community. Real things that bring different communities together. Detroit together, common identity and interest among Detroiters.

It would be nice to have transportation available in neighborhoods, families, and children, & families without

IMPORTANCE RANKINGS



Key Natural Space Activities

Respondents indicated use of these spaces for specialized activities including yoga and meditation, skiing, hammocking, swimming, and riding horses. Many respondents also wished to state their appreciation of nature and mentioned activities including plant identification, drawing, and camping. Natural spaces are a great place to have a picnic or enjoy one's lunch, as several respondents commented. These write-in responses highlight the versatility of natural spaces.

6%

Other

- Enjoying nature
- Biking
- Dog walking
- Other exercise
- Picnicking
- Educational activities
- Socializing
- Bunting

Learning & Loving Nature

Opportunities for nature education received the highest rate of positive response, followed closely by trees in parks and greenways, accessible natural spaces, and maintenance. Respondents feel that these issues are important or very important. Write-in responses throughout the survey reflect respondents' desire for more educational opportunities in nature including informational signage and youth education.

15

Barriers to Natural Space

Greatest Challenges

The most common barriers to natural space use are a concern about dumping and trash and a lack of awareness about where these areas are. Over one third of respondents held these concerns, while nearly one third also had concerns about visibility, lines of sight, and general safety in these areas. Many respondents also indicated that they do not know how to use such spaces.

Other Common Concerns

Respondents submitted 79 comments concerning other reasons that they do not use Detroit's natural spaces. The most common issues include cleanliness and maintenance concerns, such as mowing and trail conditions, as well as social discomfort from other park visitors, such as vehicles driving on the grass.

Inappropriate behaviors, weapon possession, noise, and unauthorized camping.

A lack of nearby natural spaces or transportation to existing spaces was mentioned by 14 individuals.

A desire for natural space amenities, such as benches, bathrooms, and lighting received a total of 10 comments.

What keeps you from using natural spaces:

36.7%	Dumping / trash
34.6%	Unknown location
28%	Visibility / sight lines
9%	Unknown use
7%	Animals / wildlife
3%	Other
	- Cleanliness & maintenance
	- Social discomfort

What do Detroiters have to say?

When asked what was most important to respondents, nature and the environment, respondents left the following comments:

I love the flowers, especially Daffodils, that bloomed in last year's park this year.

Maintain natural structures such as the Berman Park Log Cabin.

Park tends to tell about the species found in area.

Use streams, natural phenomena, or social media videos.

