

City of Farmington Hills, Michigan

A Master Plan for Parks and Recreation



2008



Special Services Department
for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

City of Farmington Hills
Department of Special Services
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
2008 – 2012

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City of Farmington Hills, Michigan

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Introduction

The City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services has undertaken the process to prepare this five-year parks and recreation master plan. This plan is a road map for the parks, recreation, facilities, and programming decisions made in the next five years as well the projected future needs. This plan also makes the City of Farmington Hills eligible for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the plan has given the Department of Special Services a better understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programming in the City. The plan contains the following components:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Inventory
- Basis for Action Plan
- Action Plan

Community Description

The Community Description provides a snapshot of the demographic, economic, and physical characteristics of Farmington Hills. This section identifies current trends and future community composition that affects parks, recreation, and cultural decisions and is a factor in creating the goals and objectives.

Administrative Structure and Funding

The Administrative Structure and Funding contains a description and figure of the Department of Special Services structure. The expenditures and revenues, funding, and grant history of the City are also discussed in this chapter.

Parks, Recreation, and Facility Inventory

The Parks, Recreation, and Facility Inventory is a compilation of all public parks and facilities, schools, regional, local and quasi-public and private parks and facilities, and community recreation programs. It is important to understand what parks, facilities, and programs are available to Farmington Hills residents in order to assist in creating the Action Plan for future parks and recreation decisions. Some facilities included in the inventory are not open to the public or available without a fee, but they provide additional recreation opportunities for City residents.

Basis for Action Plan

The Basis for Action Plan includes a discussion of the planning and public input process as well as an analysis of the park land, service areas, and facilities in the City. The parks and recreation analysis uses a number of methods including comparing the community

to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process and phone surveys, consultation with the Department of Special Services and Parks and Recreation Commission, and by reviewing current offerings and programming. The analysis reveals that both active and passive recreation facilities are needed and desired in the City. The results presented in this section create the basis for the action plan.

Action Plan

The Action Plan is the culmination of the extensive information and analysis contained in the plan and presented in the goals and objectives and system wide recommendations. These describe recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Farmington Hills parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components. The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is also contained in this section. The plan organizes projects that will require significant capital investment in order to better manage the budget and equally distribute funds over a five-year period. The timing of the projects is flexible and may be changed depending on the availability of funding.

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Community Description

Chapter 1

Community Description

The Community Description is a picture of the various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of the City of Farmington Hills. This information provides valuable insight into determining future Department of Special Services facility development and programming needs for the community. Farmington Hills takes great pride in being a community that provides a high quality of life for its residents and offers a diversity of values and experiences.

Regional Setting

The City of Farmington Hills is located in the southern portion of Oakland County, approximately 15 miles northwest of downtown Detroit and consists of approximately 33 square miles. Farmington Hills is bordered by the City of Livonia (Wayne County) to the south, the City of Southfield and the Village of Franklin to the east, the City of Novi to the west, and West Bloomfield Township to the north. The City of Farmington is also located in the south central area surrounded by Farmington Hills. Farmington and Farmington Hills are currently divided into 26 different Census tracts that are used by the City for planning purposes. See *Map 1 – Regional Location*.

Demographic Characteristics

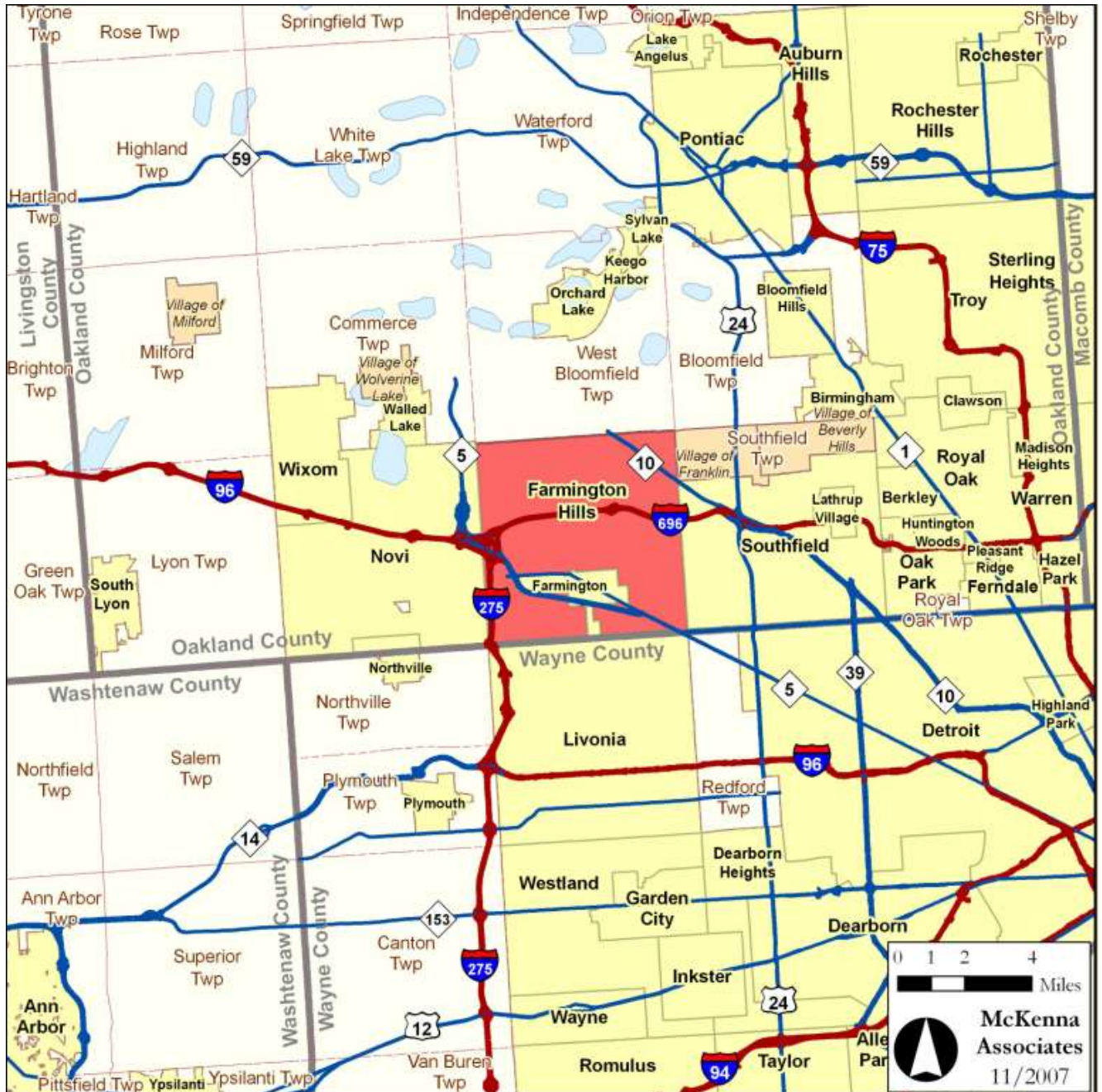
The following is a demographic report of the City of Farmington Hills which reveals some unique characteristics of the community. Age, household, ethnicity and disability statistics for the City are included. The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the quality and quantity of the Department of Special Services facilities and programs necessary to serve Farmington Hills residents.

Population. Recent projections indicate that the City's population is expected to steadily decrease at a fairly consistent rate. The population decreased approximately 2.0% from 2000 to 2006, as indicated in *Table 1.1*. The City previously saw an increase in population of 9.1% from 1990 to 2000 as well as significant increases averaging 20% over each decade dating back to 1970.

2000	2006	% Change (2000 to 2006)	2030 Projection	% Change (2000-2030)
82,111	80,486	-2.0%	76,823	-6.4%

Source: SEMCOG, City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services

Map 1
Regional Location



Population decline can be attributed to previous significant population increases from the 1970s as noted above, the fact that 96.7% of the City is currently developed, and the changing economic climate in both southeast Michigan and the rest of the state. As shown in *Table 1.2*, a majority of the surrounding area has experienced decline in the past seven years, with the exception of Novi, West Bloomfield Township, and Oakland County as a whole.

Area	2000 Population	2007 Estimated Population	% Change (2000 to 2007)
Farmington Hills	82,111	80,390	-2.1%
Farmington	10,423	10,356	-0.6%
Novi	47,579	54,658	14.9%
Southfield	78,322	78,243	-0.1%
West Bloomfield Twp.	64,860	65,949	1.7%
Oakland County	1,194,156	1,220,903	2.2%
Livonia	100,545	94,754	-5.8%
Wayne County	2,061,162	1,938,918	-5.9%

Source: SEMCOG

Housing. Households are defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. The number of households in Farmington Hills is expected to increase, as indicated in *Table 1.3*. Average household size, defined as the number of persons per household, has been declining and this trend is expected to continue. The City's growth has slowed over the past seven years and is anticipated to decrease slowly as evidenced by the population projections. The decrease in population but increase in households will mean additional demands from the current residents for the Department of Special Services facilities and programs. The decline in household size will create a more dispersed population if housing densities do not increase accordingly. Future parks and facilities will need to be dispersed accordingly.

Population	2000	2006	2010	2020	2030
Total	82,111	80,486	80,393	79,113	76,823
Households	2000	2006	2010	2020	2030
Total	33,559	33,650	34,968	35,724	35,761
Household Size	2000	2006	2010	2020	2030
Size	2.41	2.35	2.26	2.17	2.10

Source: SEMCOG, City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services

Households are classified as Families with Children, Families without Children, and Non-Families, which include persons living alone and two or more non-related persons living in the same home. In Farmington Hills, 29.5% of households are classified as Families with Children, 35.5% as Families without Children, and 35.0% as Non-Families. A significant number of households do not have children. The composition of households in Farmington Hills is important to help plan the desired Department of Special Services facilities and programs in a manner that is consistent with and proportionate to these

characteristics. There is a fairly equal distribution among the household types, thus a variety of offerings are necessary.

Age Distribution. An understanding of the age distribution in the City is essential in planning for future Department of Special Services needs. As we pass through the various stages of life, our activity requirements change resulting in the need for different facilities and programs. In Farmington Hills, the proportion of the population that is 65 years and older is forecast to grow significantly relative to the rest of the population. At the same time, the proportion of the population that is between the ages of 5 and 64 shows a slight decline. However, the residents from 35 to 64 years of age make up the majority of the population, while there is an equal distribution of those in the school age and young adult life stages. Each of these groups requires different facilities and programs. Department of Special Services facilities and programs should change to address the different needs of an aging population while at the same time account for the youth and adults in the community. Healthy living, recreational, and cultural opportunities play a major role in where people choose to live, raise families, and retire.

Age Group	Life Phase	2000		2030	
		#	%	#	%
0 – 4	Preschool	4,904	6%	4,336	6%
5 – 17	School Age	14,038	17%	11,118	14%
18 – 34	Young Adult	17,383	21%	14,474	19%
35 – 64	Adult	33,983	41%	24,997	33%
65 +	Retirement	11,803	14%	21,898	29%

Source: SEMCOG

Education and Community Ethnicity. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 48% of Farmington Hills residents have a bachelor's degree or higher and 20% hold a graduate or professional degree. The education level of the community is similar to adjacent Farmington, Novi, and West Bloomfield, but exceeds the level of Livonia, Southfield and Oakland County as a whole with 38%. Along with high education levels, the community is considerably diverse in race and ethnicity. In 2000, 17% of the population was non-white and 15.7% of the population is foreign-born. The diversity of the community is anticipated to continue to increase, thus Department of Special Services activities and programs should be flexible to address the changing community composition.

Persons with Disabilities. Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning future programs and appropriate locations for facilities and activities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all public services, including parks, recreation, and cultural facilities, be subject to barrier-free requirements. Public providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services. Disability data is collected for five age groups. As the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with the figures for Farmington Hills. Approximately 13.1% of the City's population has one or more disabilities, with nearly half of the population 75 years and

older having a disability. The Department of Special Services must account for the needs of these residents and examine the existing inventory for compliance.

Age Group	Total Persons	With a Disability	Percent
Age 5 – 15	11,922	496	4.2%
Age 16 – 20	4,410	587	13.3%
Age 21 – 64	49,067	5,071	10.3%
Age 65 – 74	5,786	1,317	22.8%
Age 75 +	5,610	2,609	46.5%
Total	76,795	10,080	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census 2000

Economic Characteristics

A variety of economic indicators suggest that Farmington Hills enjoys strong economic health and its residents are rather affluent. Residential construction had two large booms over the last 34 years since statistics were recorded, but have slowed drastically since 2000 according to recent data. The median household income of the City's residents is higher than Oakland County, Wayne County and southeast Michigan but is decreasing while all the others are increasing. Farmington Hills has fared better than the counties, region, and state in unemployment figures.

The relatively strong economic health of the City suggests that Farmington Hills residents will continue to demand high-quality services and facilities from the Department of Special Services and that increased funding is necessary to help fund these activities. This position is supported by the previous 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and City residents.

Construction Activity. The number of local building permits issued fluctuates with market demands, paralleling national economic strength. According to SEMCOG figures, the largest residential construction boom was between 1977 to 1979 and 1984 to 1989, when 21% and 39%, respectively, of the total building permits were issued for a total of 60% of the permits issued over the past 34 years (since 1973). Residential construction has slowed significantly since 2000, particularly in the last two years where there has been a net gain of only two housing units. Only 2.9% of the total building permits have been issued since 2000. New Department of Special Services facilities should be located appropriately to serve current City residents, and areas of existing residential concentration are ideal locations for new facilities.

Income. Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level where half of all households earn more and half earn less. In 2000, the median household income in Farmington Hills (\$67,493) was higher than in Oakland County (\$61,907), neighboring Wayne County (\$40,776) and all of southeast Michigan (\$49,979). However, from the 1990 Census to 2000, the City's

median household income has decreased at a rate of 3.1% while Oakland County and the surrounding area have increased an average of 7.5%.

Employment. Employment in Farmington Hills is healthy in relation to the region. According to Census figures, unemployment rates in the City in 2000 were low (1.5%) compared to Oakland County (2.5%), Wayne County (5.1%), the Detroit Metropolitan Area (3.7%), and the State of Michigan (5.8%).

According to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth figures for 2007, Farmington Hills (5.3%) is faring better than Oakland County (6.3%), Wayne County (9.3%), the Detroit Metropolitan Area (7.9%), and the State of Michigan (7.25%).

Physical Characteristics

The following is a description of the physical characteristics of Farmington Hills, including land use and natural features. This is important in understanding the potential for the type, location, and extent of Department of Special Services improvements.

Land Use. Approximately 84% of the area of Farmington Hills is developed compared to 93% of the City of Farmington as shown in *Table 1.6* below. Predominate land use for the Farmington Hills and Farmington is residential at 64% and 66%, respectively. The City contains 56% single family residential as of 2000 and Farmington is only slightly higher with 57%.

Land Use	City of Farmington Hills 2000 Acres (% Developed)	City of Farmington 2000 Acres (% Developed)
Residential Single Family	12,006 (56%)	972 (57%)
Residential Multiple Family	1,634 (8%)	161 (9%)
Commercial and Office	1,434 (7%)	198 (12%)
Institutional	915 (4%)	149 (9%)
Industrial	1,069 (5%)	71 (4%)
Transportation, Communication, and Utility	821 (4%)	38 (2%)
Cultural, Outdoor Recreation, and Cemetery	866 (4%)	76 (4%)
Active Agriculture	4 (0%)	0 (0%)
Grassland and Shrub	853 (4%)	0 (0%)
Woodland and Wetland	1,468 (7%)	30 (2%)
Extractive and Barren	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Water, Creeks, Rivers	68 (0%)	0 (0%)
Under Developed	170 (1%)	6 (0%)
Total	21,308	1,701

Source: SEMCOG

Environmental and Natural Features. An environmental feature, such as climate, and natural features, topography, hydrology, soils, and vegetation, are important to planning for the Department of Special Services. Natural features are not easily restored after they are impaired. These natural features provide numerous existing and potential parks, recreation, and cultural opportunities. All spatial data is provided by the Michigan Spatial Data Library.

Climate

There are no unusual climatic conditions which severely impede outdoor recreational activities in the City. The climate is humid continental modified by the Great Lakes. Temperature data obtained from the National Weather Service at Detroit Metropolitan Airport reveals an average annual temperature of 52.2 degrees in 2006. The average annual precipitation was 39.24 inches with an average annual snowfall of 36.23 inches in 2006. Due to the variations in the weather patterns in Southeast Michigan, local residents have the opportunity to enjoy many seasonal recreational activities.

Topography

The topography of the City of Farmington Hills is generally characterized by gently rolling terrain that increases in elevation in the Northwestern direction. The contour lines over the City show elevations ranging from 950 feet above sea level in the extreme northwest to 650 feet above sea level in the far Southeast corner. The average elevation is 800 feet above sea level.

Hydrology

The upper branch of the Rouge River winds its way diagonally through Farmington Hills and Farmington. The City is also located in the Main ½ and Middle 1 of the Rouge River watershed. This river and its tributaries provide distinctive and visually appealing natural features along 116.9 miles of waterways. Scenic wooded hillsides, which provide dramatic home sites in many subdivisions, are located along the Rouge River, Seeley Drain, and Pebble Creek. Large wetland areas are located in the Northwest areas of Farmington Hills, along the Minnow Pond Drain. Much of the land along the Rouge River or its tributaries is subject to seasonal flooding. The severity of flashing of the streams has increased in the past several years because of the increase in storm water runoff which causes erosion and water quality issues.

Soils

Soils in Farmington Hills consist of extensive strata of sands and gravels with pockets of clay. Organic soils are found in the wetlands along the Rouge River and its tributaries. Much of the land was never suitable for cultivation because of poor drainage or severe slopes. Consequently, several tracts of unspoiled woodlands exist in Farmington Hills and Farmington.

Vegetation

Wooded areas are scattered throughout Farmington Hills and Farmington. Major tree stands, which were largely located in undeveloped areas as recently as 1970, have often been preserved as private recreation space as a number of new subdivisions utilized the open space option in the Zoning Ordinance. In other cases, private land for

recreation was created as a component of a planned residential or cluster development. These woodland areas form part of the 1,083 acres of private recreation land. The land cover consists of five classes including the following: (1) Deciduous (aspen association, lowland deciduous forest, mixed upland deciduous, northern hardwood association, oak association, and other upland deciduous); (2) Coniferous (lowland coniferous forest, mixed upland conifers, other upland conifers, and pines); (3) Mixed (lowland mixed forest and upland mixed forest); (4) Shrub/low density tree (lowland shrub and upland shrub/low density trees); and (5) Mixed Non-Forest Wetland. Many of the forested and heavily vegetated areas are riparian or adjacent to riparian areas.



2

Administrative Structure

Chapter 2

Administrative Structure and Funding

The City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services provides a wealth of parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programming. Special Services collaborates with the Farmington Public Schools for the use of some facilities. The administrative structure and budget analysis for the department are reviewed in this section.

Administration

The City of Farmington Hills has a Council-Manager form of government. The Mayor and six members are elected at large. The City Council is responsible for establishing policies to guide the overall operation and development of Farmington Hills and making all decisions concerning land acquisition and purchase of major recreation facilities based on recommendations received from staff. The budget for recreation facilities and programs is adopted annually by the City Council, as part of the total annual budget after appropriate public hearings.

The Council appoints members to various boards and commissions which advise the Council on specific policy matters. The nine-member Parks and Recreation Commission was established in accordance with the City Charter. Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are held once per month or more often if necessary. Other appointed commissions that advise the Council on matters of recreation include the Farmington Area Arts Commission, Commission on Children, Youth and Families, Beautification Commission, Commission on Aging, Historic Commission, and Planning Commission.

Day-to-day administration of the City government is under the overall direction of the City Manager. Specific operations within the City government are administered by individual departments, each with their own director. Administration, operation, and supervision of parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programs are the responsibility of the Department of Special Services. This Department also provides technical support to the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to aid in developing policies and plans, and making decisions concerning operating and capital expenditures for recreation purposes.

The Department of Special Services is headed by a Director, who, in addition to overall supervision, performs the following tasks:

- Planning and design of new facilities and programs – This task is performed with the assistance of private consultants and staff where appropriate.

- Staff development – Workshops, seminars, and conferences that benefit staff in their work are identified by the Director, and appropriate staff is encouraged to attend at Departmental expense.
- Grant writing and fund-raising.
- Inter-governmental and agency cooperation – The Director initiates most contracts with other departments or agencies. Knowledgeable staff members are delegated to act liaison with the schools and other agencies where necessary.
- Evaluation of programs and facilities – The entire administrative staff is involved in ongoing evaluation of programs and facilities. This process is monitored by the Director.

In addition to the Director, the administration staff also includes an administration secretary, a clerk, a department aide, and various part-time staff. The Costick Center Facilities Supervisor oversees the day-to-day operation of the clerical/registration office. There is a Deputy Director who assists the Director with Special Services Administration. Certain tasks normally performed or monitored by the Director may be delegated to the Deputy Director as needed.

There are seven additional divisions in the Department of Special Services, in addition to the Administration, that are responsible for recreation and related services as outlined in the administrative structure and following sections.

Youth and Family Services. The Youth and Family Services Division provides after-school and summer programs for school-aged children and youth. It offers a safe, fun environment free from inappropriate influences. Supervised activities consist of recreational activities, social skill development, group discussions, and educational tutoring. The division is under the direction of the Youth and Families Supervisor, one part-time assistant, one part-time programmer, and numerous part-time employees.

Parks Division. City parks and grounds are maintained by the Parks Division. This division is under the direction of the Parks and Golf Superintendent and two maintenance supervisors. It employs eleven full-time laborers, 15 part-time laborers, up to 30 seasonal laborers, and two part-time gardeners. There is one full-time Naturalist and 6 part-time park rangers.

Senior Division. Comprehensive recreation and social programs for Adults 50 and Better are offered to residents under the direction of a Senior Adult Supervisor. Other personnel required to administer this function include a Senior Adult Program Supervisor, a Senior Adult Specialist – programming, Senior Adult Specialist – SENEX adult day care, Nutrition Coordinator, a number of Community Service Coordinators, an Administrative Assistant, and numerous volunteers.

Cultural Arts Division. The Cultural Arts Division presents cultural programs to the Farmington/Farmington Hills community including a wide variety of classes, exhibits, events, and activities. The division also acts as a direct connection for the cities to area's various community organizations, the Arts Commission, Community Arts Council,

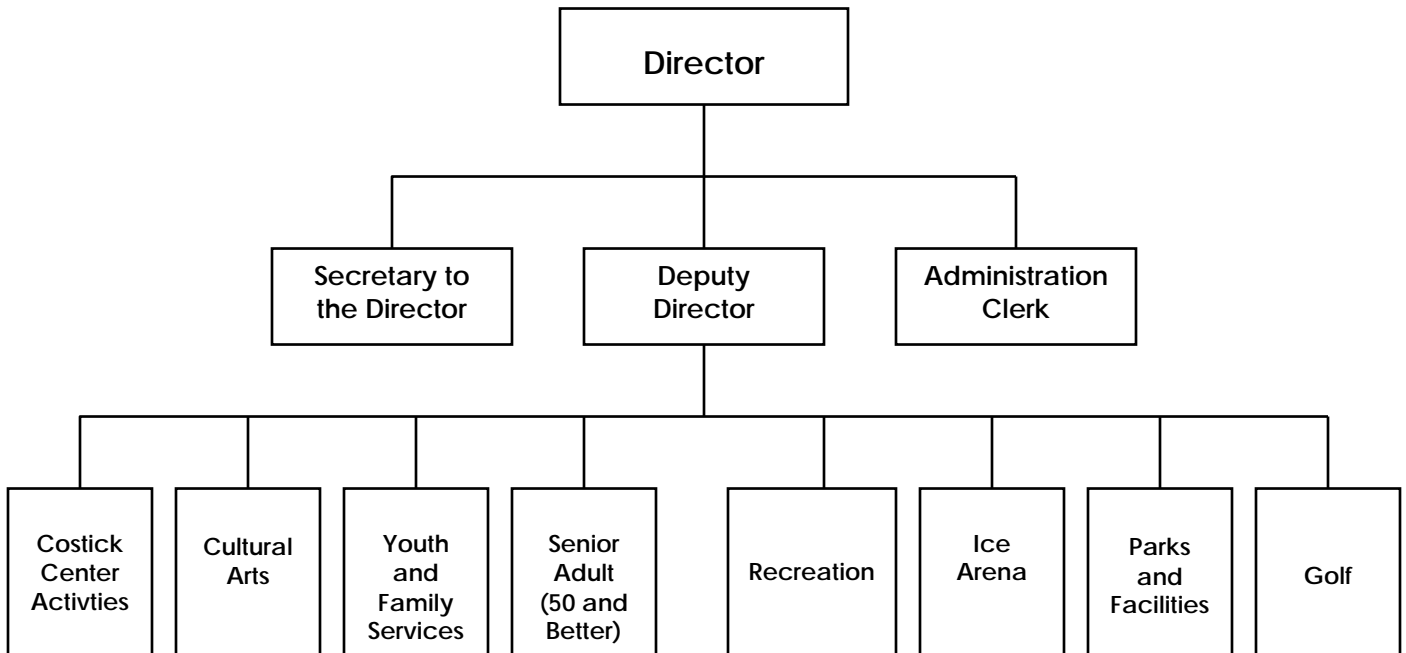
the media, and the citizens. It is under the direction of one Cultural Arts Supervisor, one full-time program coordinator, and two part-time employees. The Division regularly contracts 30 to 40 instructors, numerous performers, and artists.

Golf Division. Maintenance of the 18-hole Farmington Hills Golf Club is under the direction of the Parks and Golf Superintendent. The restaurant is operated by a private contractor. The golf course has one full-time Maintenance Supervisor, two full-time laborers, and several seasonal laborers assigned exclusively to the golf course. Typically there are three or four part-time driving range attendants and three or four golf ambassadors.

Recreation Division. The development and selection of recreation programs are under the direction of the Recreation Superintendent. Additional staff required to perform this function include four Recreation Supervisors, a part-time programmer, and numerous seasonal employees.

Ice Arena Division. The Ice Arena at Founders Sports Park is under the direction of a Manager. There are also three full-time staff (Assistant Manager, Maintenance Supervisor, and Secretary) and numerous part-time employees. A staff of 19 skating pros is supervised by a Director of Skating.

Figure 2.1
Department of Special Services Administrative Structure



Staff Involvement

The Department of Special Services staff is encouraged to increase their ability to serve Farmington Hills residents. This is accomplished through continuing education, certification training, and active involvement in professional organizations. In addition, Special Services staff donates thousands of volunteer hours each year with local community service organizations. The Staff are involved in over 52 professional and community service organizations at the local, state, and national level. The organizations are as follows:

Recreation Organizations

- Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA)
 - MRPA Marketing Committee
 - MRPA Foundation Committee
- National Recreation and Parks and Associate (NRPA) Member
- Northwest Parks and Recreation Association

Government Organizations

- Greater Detroit Association (GSA)
- Michigan Municipal League (MML)
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- State of Michigan Emergency Prescription Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Site

Facility Operations and Management

- Michigan Turfgrass Association
- Michigan State University Turfgrass
- Professional Community Center Facilities Management Organization

Senior Organizations

- Advisory Board of Area Agency on Aging 1B
- Geriatric Social Workers of Michigan
- National Council on Aging
- National Institute on Senior Centers (NISC)
- National Institute of Social Workers

Nutrition Organizations

- Michigan Nutrition Association Service Providers (MNASP)

Cultural Arts Organizations

- Artrain USA
- Artserve of Michigan
- Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA)
- Michigan Festivals and Event Association
- Detroit Institute of Arts
- Farmington Community Arts Council

Youth and Family Organizations

- Certifying Agency for Focus Hope
- Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Family
- Michigan After-School Partnership
- Michigan Youth Civic Engagement Collaborative

Golf Organizations

- Golf Course Superintendent's Association

Nature Organizations

- Audubon Society
- Friends of the Rouge
- Nature Conservancy
- Tropical Fish Society

Ice Sports Organizations

- Ice Skating Institute
- Michigan Amateur Hockey Association
- Michigan Arena Manager's Association
- Professional Skaters Association
- US Figure Skating Association
- USA Hockey Association

Local Community Boards/Committees

- Farmington Hills Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board Member
- Farmington Hills Non-Motorized Committee Member

Local Clubs/Service Organizations

- Farmington/Farmington Hills Exchange Club Board Member
- Goodfellow's Board of Directors
- Neighborhood House Member
- Optimist Club Board Member

Certifications

- American Red Cross (Water Safety Instructor, CPR, First Aid)
- Certified National Recreation and Parks Association Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO)
- Food Service Sanitation Certified
- Michigan Department of Agriculture, Certified in eight Pesticide Applicator categories
- National Incident Management Systems Training
- National Pool and Waterpark Lifeguard Trainer
- National Safety Council DDC-4 Defensive Driving Certified

Department of Special Services Funding and Grant History

The estimated Department of Special Services operating budget for the 2007/2008 fiscal year is \$6,741,234. The funding for the department comes from a number of sources, most notably the General Fund and the Parks Millage Fund. The initial millage was approved in June of 1986 and renewed for the second time in November 1997. The millage is set to expire on June 30, 2009. The funds are dedicated to the acquisition, development, and equipping of parks, recreational, and facilities in the City, supporting the senior program and debt payments for the Costick Activities Center, and providing some funds for Department of Special Services staff and programs.

Other important funding sources include the Nutrition Grant Fund which provides funds for meals and services to seniors, the Golf Course Capital Improvement Fund that was established in 1992 and is financed by a per round surcharge on green fees for improvements at the golf course, and Smart Grant Revenues that provide funding for transportation services for seniors, youth, and handicapped residents.

Table 2.1 summarizes the Department of Special Services expenditures from 2004 through the estimated budget for 2007/2008, and *Table 2.2* summarized the revenues from 2004 through the estimated revenues for 2007/2008. The City of Farmington Hills has also received eleven state grants for acquisition and development projects. *Table 2.3* summarizes the state recreation grants awarded to the City.

Division	Actual Expenditures			Adopted Budget	Proposed Budget
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Administration	1,773,050	1,805,783	2,072,465	2,100,793	2,100,593
Youth Services	344,092	337,390	411,538	409,849	409,849
Senior Services	818,722	849,266	751,448	771,733	771,733
Parks Maintenance	1,457,608	1,493,661	1,643,282	1,833,742	1,833,742
Cultural Arts	277,434	305,625	325,293	323,026	323,026
Golf Course	627,183	651,835	905,028	732,809	732,809
Recreation Programs	552,913	559,291	549,009	569,482	569,482
Total Expenditures	\$5,851,002	\$6,002,851	\$6,658,063	\$6,741,434	\$6,741,234

Source: City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, Fiscal Year 2007/2008.

Division	Actual			Budget	
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Adaptive Recreation	0	3,625	0	140	140
Adult Chorale	8,990	9,320	10,932	10,900	8,200
After School Recreation	30,441	32,168	31,706	30,000	26,300
Children's Travel	22,601	30,048	32,712	27,170	27,940
Classes	97,712	94,652	105,040	93,035	108,335
Cultural Arts	146,756	187,701	247,067	213,600	234,460
Day Camp	125,698	108,146	117,076	117,192	122,192
Farmington Contributions	226,058	165,569	178,324	240,000	240,000
Golf Course	733,042	1,033,062	1,073,646	1,252,834	1,316,750
Grounds & Recreation	15,475	19,400	14,940	14,000	15,000
Gym	30,105	32,302	24,509	33,130	35,530
Nature Programs	17,104	11,536	15,261	16,600	16,810
Parkey Series	398	120	0	720	0
Rental Fees	135,444	123,894	181,706	231,750	233,800
Safety Clinic, Safety Town	15,337	15,028	11,672	16,570	15,430
Seniors	332,358	376,847	225,340	209,795	244,912
Special Events/Functions	39,177	53,715	77,641	84,150	106,680
Sports	404,045	409,727	431,719	433,635	439,559
Summer Fun Centers	11,493	14,482	8,580	16,500	10,500
Teen Programs	23,197	24,381	18,422	25,258	25,258
Ticket Sales	710	(361)	3237	300	250
Transportation	57,537	63,109	94,731	118,440	121,940
Travel Trips	1,611	260	416	615	615
Youth & Family Contributions	147,182	165,551	140,139	165,000	165,000
Total Recreation User Charges	\$2,632,471	\$3,003,442	\$3,041,816	\$3,351,334	\$3,512,601

Source: City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

Funding Source	Project Year/Name	Grant Amount	Local Share	Total Funds	Project Results
Land & Water Conservation Fund	1978 – San Marino Golf Course	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$210,000	Construction of maintenance building
Kammer Trust Fund	1983 – Heritage Park	\$1,200,000	\$800,000	\$2,000,000	Acquisition of 211 acres
Land & Water Conservation Fund	1987 – Pioneer Park	\$155,000	\$155,000	\$310,000	Development of athletic fields at 15-acre site
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	1987 – Heritage Park	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$390,000	Development of 3 picnic areas, outdoor classroom, 2 miles of paved handicapped trails & parking areas
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	1988 – Heritage Park	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$400,000	Development of boardwalk & paved trail, outdoor arboretum, renovation of Visitor Center
Recreation Bond Program	1989 – Heritage Park	\$187,500	\$62,500	\$250,000	Development of Day Camp Center
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	1990 – Woodland Hills	\$661,200	\$200,000	\$881,200	Acquisition of 74 acres
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	1991 – Founders Sports Park	\$2,000,000 (2 grants received)	\$1,890,000	\$3,890,000	Acquisition of 85 acres
Recreation Bond Program	1996 – Founders Sports Park	\$100,000	\$586,000	\$686,000	Development of 3 new soccer fields
Michigan Department of Transportation	1997 – Founders Sports Park	\$240,000	\$105,000	\$345,000	Improve park storm drain pond
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	2000 – Heritage Park Nature Center	\$240,000	\$200,000 (split between City and Schools)	\$440,000	Development of Nature Center at Heritage Park

Source: City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, Fiscal Year 2007/2008.



3

Parks and Recreation Inventory

Chapter 3

Parks, Recreation, and Facility Inventory

Developing a complete inventory of the Department of Special Services facilities and programs is an essential component of a five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. Understanding what parks, facilities, and programs are available to the City of Farmington Hills residents will assist decision-making in the future. It should be noted that not all facilities listed in this chapter are available to the public, but they provide additional recreation opportunities for City residents. The inventory covers the following components:

- Public Parks and Facilities
- School Parks and Facilities
- Barrier Free Accessibility
- Regional Parks and Facilities
- Local Parks and Facilities
- Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities
- Farmington Hills Special Services Programs

Public Parks and Facilities

The City of Farmington Hills owns eleven parks and facilities and leases an outdoor soccer facility for use by the Department of Special Services. An inventory of the parks and facilities is described below and shown on *Map 2 – Parks and Recreation Inventory* and *Table 3.1 – Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory*. These parks and facilities are broken into categories based on size and function. These categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association and meant to aid in determining the primary purposes and uses of existing facilities in the City.

Mini and Neighborhood Parks

Mini parks are categorized as small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in size and serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, approximately less than one-quarter mile away. These parks usually serve a limited, isolated, or unique population. Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. The City of Farmington Hills owns four parks that can be classified as Neighborhood Parks. Also, a number of public school facilities and private open space meet this need by providing playgrounds and fields for City residents and can be classified as mini and neighborhood parks.

Bond Field. Bond Field is a 1.7-acre youth facility located on Ardmore Road and Thirteen Mile Road, one block west of Orchard Lake Road. The park consists of two baseball fields on property that was once part of Bond Elementary School.

Harmon Oaks Park. Harmon Oaks is a 1.7-acre natural green space located on Greening Road, one block east of Orchard Lake Road and two blocks north of Thirteen Mile Road.

Memorial Park. Memorial Park is a 2-acre park located at the corner of Eleven Mile and Middlebelt Road. The park provides residents of Farmington Hills with a place to honor and recognize family and friends who have passed away in a natural setting. The park contains new landscaping, sidewalks, and a granite memorial, and the City offers brick pavers, trees, benches, and birdhouses for purchase with an engraving or plaque to honor the deceased.

Olde Town Park. Olde Town Park is 3.7 acres and is located on the corner of Independence and Waldron Streets in the heart of the Olde Town subdivision. The park was the first developed in the City in 1976 and includes a shelter, two tennis courts, picnic tables, grills, and a playground.

Community Parks and Facilities

Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents in the City. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within one-half to three miles of the park. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community. Farmington Hills has five parks, including the leased soccer facility, that can be classified as Community Parks and four facilities that can be classified as Community Facilities.

Costick Activities Center. The Costick Activities Center is a 67,000 square foot community-oriented, multi-purpose facility located on 28 acres on the north side of Eleven Mile Road, one-quarter mile east of Middlebelt. The center contains a swimming pool, multi-purpose gymnasium, three soccer fields, administrative offices, and meeting rooms. Current offerings include a wide variety of social, recreational, and cultural activities, events, programs, and services. The center provides dedicated permanent space for the Farmington Hills Senior Adult program, a Teen Center for the Youth and Family Services Division, and the City Art Gallery. Senior offerings include outreach, home chore, homebound meals, congregate meals, socialization, volunteer opportunities, health services, recreation, travel trips, transportation, and support groups.

Farmington Hills Golf Club. The Farmington Hills Golf Club is a 6,413-yard, 18-hole golf course located on 190 acres on the east side of Halsted Road between Eleven Mile Road and the I-696 expressway. The golf club has a full service pro shop, restaurant, and driving range that is open to the public. The club also offers private and semi-private golf lessons as well as leagues in the spring and summer.

Farmington Hills Ice Arena. The Farmington Hills Ice Arena is a 70,000 square foot facility located on the southeast portion of Founders Sports Park on the north side of Eight Mile Road, one-quarter mile east of Halsted. The arena contains two ice surfaces that provide recreational and competitive skating for youth and adult hockey associations, public skating, instructional skating, and figure skating. The arena has a seating capacity for 1,200 people, concessions, locker rooms, lockers, meeting rooms, administrative offices, pro shop, and youth center. The arena is available for rent for private events.

Founders Sports Park. Founders Sports Parks is a 101-acre park that offers a variety of active recreation facilities and is located on the north side of Eight Mile Road, one-quarter mile east of Halsted. The park contains six premier soccer fields with drainage and irrigation, eight irrigated softball/baseball fields, four sand volleyball courts, two half-court basketball courts, one bocce ball court, disc golf, one shuffleboard court, restrooms, playground equipment, parking, trail system, ponds, and a maintenance facility. A number of picnic areas with grills are located throughout the park and along Bell Creek that flows through the park.

A notable addition to the park in 2008 will be the Riley Skate Park. The skate park is named after George Riley and the Riley Foundation who donated \$500,000 to the City for this endeavor. In addition to the Riley donation, funds have been generated through corporate donations, small business support, fundraising events, and individual support. The park was designed by Site Design Group and will be a 29,000 square foot concrete park for skateboarders and in-line skaters of all levels. The park is expected to attract 200 people per day, in addition to thousands for local and national competitions and camps, at no charge.

Heritage Park. Heritage Park is a 211-acre park that provides a variety of recreation amenities and facilities and is located on the west side of Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads. The park contains 4.5 miles of trails used for hiking and nature study in the warmer months and cross-country skiing in the winter. Amenities in the park include picnic areas and shelters, youth playground, in-ground grills, two sand volleyball courts, an in-line hockey rink, six horseshoe pits, and open field areas for informal sports and games. During the summer, weekly concerts are held in the concert venue, and in the winter a sledding hill is maintained. The facilities contained on the site include the Vagnozzi Visitor Center, Day Camp, Nature Center, and Studio-Stables buildings.

Jon Grant Community Center. The Jon Grant Community Center is located at the Farmington Hills Fire Department's Fire Station #3 located on Grand River. The center offers classes, meeting rooms, programs, a youth center, and rental opportunities to

residents in Farmington Hills as well as surrounding communities. The center offers spaces for meetings, shows, birthday parties, showers and other gatherings.

Longacre House. The Longacre House is located on Farmington Road adjacent to Heritage Park and was recently conveyed to the City of Farmington Hills and is managed by the Department of Special Services. The house was originally built in 1869 as a small six-bedroom Victorian but was redesigned and expanded into a 20-room Georgian country home in 1918. The grounds of the home include a stonewall fence and lush gardens. Longacre is open to classes, weddings, theme parties, receptions, business meetings, banquets, and social gatherings.

Pioneer Park. Pioneer Park is a 15-acre athletic complex located on the west side of Farmington Road, one-quarter mile north of Thirteen Mile Road. The park is open for public use except during regularly scheduled games and contains a comfort station and refreshment stand, two baseball fields and two soccer fields during the spring season, and four soccer fields during the fall season.

Soccer! Soccer! Soccer! Soccer! Is a 9-acre site that contains 4 soccer fields that were built with contributions from the owner. The site is located on Twelve Mile Road at Drake and is leased by the City from Little Caesars Enterprises, Inc. for one dollar per year.

Woodland Hills. Woodland Hills is a 74-acre park located on Farmington Road just south of I-696. The park contains 1.7 miles of primitive walking trail winding through the park with a focus of quiet observation of birds and animals in a variety of habitats, including meadows, hardwood forests, a pond, a river, and a creek.

School Parks and Facilities

Farmington Hills and Farmington residents also use recreation facilities at many of the schools in the community. The Farmington Public School District (FPS) serves Farmington Hills, Farmington, and a portion of West Bloomfield Township. The FPS District has 22 educational facilities, including two early childhood centers, 13 elementary, four middle, and three high schools. Early childhood and elementary schools include Alameda, Beechview, Eagle, Fairview, Flanders, Forest, Gill, Highmeadow, Hillside, Kenbrook, Lanigan, Longacre, William Grace, Wood Creek, and Wooddale. Middle and high schools include East, Farmington, Harrison, North Farmington, O. E. Dunkel, Power, and Warner. The school sites provide Farmington Hills and Farmington residents with access to an additional 365.75 acres of outdoor and indoor facilities to meet their recreational needs. A complete inventory of the Farmington Public Schools sites is listed in *Table 3.1* along with the City of Farmington Hills parks, recreation, and cultural facilities inventory.

The Department of Special Services has upgraded some ball fields, soccer fields, and other athletic facilities located on FPS District site to accommodate the varied recreational needs of students during school hours and recreational activities of the

general public, particularly organized sports, at other times. Special Services also provides maintenance of fields at some school sites, such as soccer fields, basketball backboards, and tennis courts.

In addition to the upgrades and maintenance provided by Special Services, the department also coordinates with FPS in providing a wide range of programs for the community. Some of the offerings by division include the following:

Cultural Arts

- Schools support cultural arts activities by supplying risers and other amenities.
- Festivals and events sponsored by Cultural Arts include school programs and exhibit student art work.

Ice Arena

- The Farmington Public Schools United Hockey Team uses the ice arena for home games and some practices.

Parks and Golf

- The high school golf teams use the Farmington Hills Golf Course and driving range for both girls' and boy's varsity and junior varsity practice.
- The Nature Center was funded and developed by and operates as a joint venture between the City and the schools.
- Parks Division supplies tents, bleachers, and other assistance to the schools for special events.

Recreation

- Approximately 30 baseball and 20 soccer fields used by the local clubs and Recreation Division are on school sites. The City and FPS share some of the maintenance costs on these fields.
- Recreation Youth Basketball utilizes many elementary school gyms for practice during the evenings.
- Recreation summer camps and various out of town activities utilize the school transportation for bussing.
- Middle school level lacrosse teams are organized and coached by Recreation and utilize the Costick Center fields.
- Recreation sponsored Safety Town activities hosted at the Farmington Community School.
- Summer recreation fun centers are hosted at various elementary schools.
- Elementary schools provide means for distribution of various brochures and flyers regarding Special Services sponsored events.

Youth and Family

- Schools provide transportation for after-school youth programs for middle school students to get to the various youth center sites.
- Special Services operates an after-school youth center program at Warner Middle School.

There are also 15 private and public schools located in Farmington Hills and Farmington that are not included in the inventory but serve the residents of the communities.

Elementary, Middle and High Schools

- Artstart Montessori Academy
- International School
- Mercy High School
- Our Lady of Sorrows
- St. Fabian
- St. Paul's Lutheran School
- Stepping Stone

Special Private and Public Schools

- Cloverdale School
- William Miller School – Boys and Girls Republic

Barrier Free Accessibility

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Farmington Hills parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings can be found in *Table 3.1 – Public Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory*.

- **Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may be completely barrier-free.
- **Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
- **Level 5.** The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

Map 2: Parks and Recreation Inventory

City of Farmington Hills, Michigan

1 Neighborhood Parks and Facilities

- 1 Bond Field
- 2 Harmon Oaks
- 3 Olde Town Park
- 3a Memorial Park

4 Community Parks and Facilities

- 4 Costick Activities Center
- 5 Farmington Hills Golf Club
- 6 Farmington Hills Ice Arena
- 7 Founders Sports Park
- 8 Heritage Park and Longacre House
- 9 Jon Grant Community Center
- 10 Pioneer Park
- 11 Soccer! Soccer! (**Facility is Leased by the City)
- 12 Woodland Hills

13 Public School Facilities

- 13 Farmington High School
- 14 Farmington Central High School
- 15 Harrison High School
- 16 North Farmington High School
- 17 East Middle School
- 18 O.E. Dunkel Middle School
- 19 Power Middle School
- 20 Warner Middle School
- 21 Beechview Elementary School
- 22 Eagle Elementary School
- 23 Flanders Elementary School
- 24 Forest Elementary School
- 25 Gill Elementary School
- 26 Highmeadow Elementary School
- 27 Hillside Elementary School
- 28 Kenbrook Elementary School
- 29 Lanigan Elementary School
- 30 Longacre Elementary School
- 31 William Grace Elementary School
- 32 Wood Creek Elementary School
- 33 Wooddale Elementary School
- 34 Alameda Early Childhood Center
- 35 Fairview Early Childhood Center

36 City of Farmington Parks and Facilities

- 36 Drake Park
- 37 Shiawassee Park
- 38 Water E. Sundquist Farmington Pavilion and Riley Park

 Elementary School	 Park
 High School	 Recreation Facility
 Middle School	 Lakes and Streams

Base Map Source: City of Farmington Hills, 2007
 Data Source: McKenna Associates, 2007



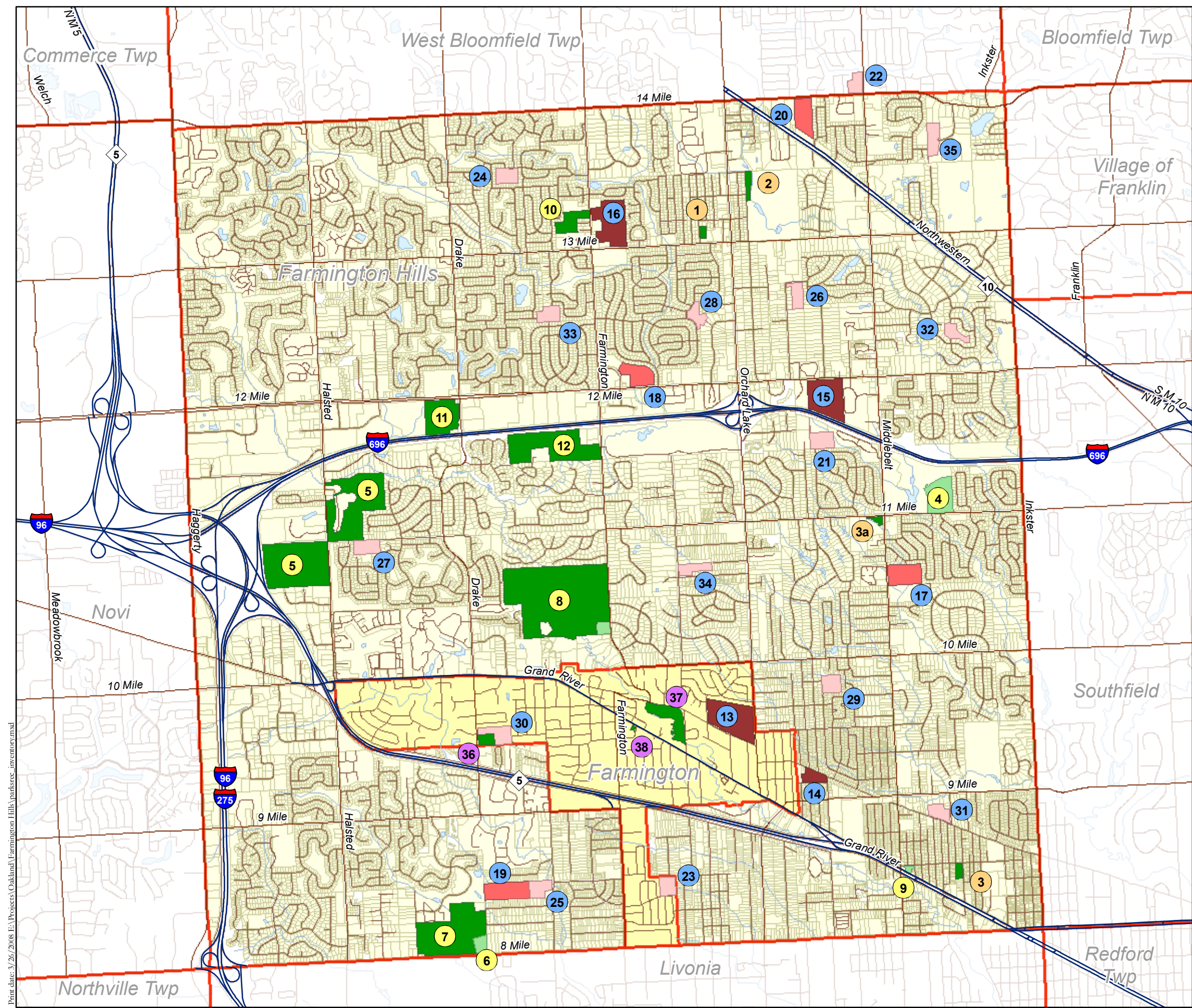
McKenna
ASSOCIATES
INCORPORATED



0

1 Miles

3/25/08



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Table 3.1 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Facilities Inventory																																			
Park/Facility Name	Acres	Accessibility	Baseball/ Softball	Basketball Courts	Bocce	Concert Venue	Concessions	Cross-Country Skiing	Disc Golf	Driving Range	Fitness Center	Football	Golf Course	Gymnasium	Horseshoes	Ice Skating Rinks	In-Line Hockey	Meeting Rooms	Nature Center	Nature/ Walking Trails	Parking	Pavilion	Picnic Areas	Playground	Restrooms	Shuffleboard	Sledding Hill	Soccer	Studio	Swimming Pool	Teen Center	Tennis Courts	Track	Volleyball	
Neighborhood Parks and Facilities																																			
Bond Field	1.7	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harmon Oaks Park	1.7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Memorial Park	2.0	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Olde Town Park	3.7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	X	X	X	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Community Parks and Facilities																																			
Costick Activities Center	28.0	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Farmington Hills Golf Club	190.0	5	-	-	-	-	X	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farmington Hills Ice Arena	92.0	5	8	2	1	-	X	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	1	X	1	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Founders Sports Park																																			
Heritage Park	211.0	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	X	1	X	X	X	X	1	X	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Jon Grant Community Center	-	5	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Longacre House	5.0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pioneer Park	15.0	4	2	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soccer! Soccer!*	9.0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woodland Hills	74.0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Parks and Facilities																																			
Farmington High School	43.5	5	4	2	-	1	X	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	2	-	1	-	8	1	3	
Harrison High School	42.2	5	2	1	-	1	X	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	3	-	1	-	8	1	3	
North Farmington High School	42.0	5	4	1.5	-	1	X	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	1	3	
East Middle School	23.0	5	1	1	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
O.E. Dunckel Middle School	19.3	5	1	1	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Power Middle School	32.0	5	1	1	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Warner Middle School	24.0	5	1	1	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Beechview Elementary School	10.0	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle Elementary School	8.5	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flanders Elementary School	10.0	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Elementary School	10.0	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gill Elementary School	7.0	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highmeadow Elementary School	8.1	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hillside Elementary School	10.0	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kenbrook Elementary School	8.0	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lanigan Elementary School	10.6	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Longacre Elementary School	8.0	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	2	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
William Grace Elementary School	7.2	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Creek Elementary School	8.4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wooddale Elementary School	10.0	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alameda Early Childhood Center	11.0	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairview Early Childhood Center	13.0	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	998.9	-	41	18.5	1	4	-	3	1	1	3	12	1	25	1	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	19	-	1	1	37	1	8	3	19	7	21		

*Leased Property

Regional Parks and Facilities

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While these parks are not used for formal programming by the City of Farmington Hills, they provide active and passive recreational opportunities to the residents of the community. Regional facilities are provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw Counties. The regional parks located within close proximity of the City are shown on *Map 3 – Regional Parks and Recreation*.

Michigan State Parks

There are a number of Michigan State Parks that provide recreational opportunities to Farmington Hills residents. These state facilities provide a variety of activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. There are no state parks located in Farmington Hills, but there are eight located within Oakland County:

- Bald Mountain Recreation Area (Lake Orion, Oakland County)
- Dodge #4 State Park- Cass Lake (Waterford, Oakland County)
- Highland Recreation Area (Highland Township, Oakland County)
- Holly Recreation Area (Holly Township, Oakland County)
- Ortonville Recreation Area (Ortonville, Oakland County)
- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area (White Lake Township, Oakland County)
- Proud Lake Recreation Area (Commerce Township, Oakland County)
- Seven Lakes State Park (Holly Township, Oakland County)

There are also seven state parks located within approximately 30 miles or less of the City:

- Brighton Recreation Area (Hamburg Township and Genoa Township)
- Island Lake Recreation Area (Green Oak Township)
- Maybury State Park (Northville Township, Wayne County)
- Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area (Metamora, Lapeer County)
- Pinckney Recreation Area (Pinckney, Livingston County)
- Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor (Detroit, Wayne County)
- W. C. Wetzel Recreation Area (Harrison Township, Macomb County)

County Parks

The Oakland County park system consists of 13 parks and more than 6,000 acres of land. One park, Glen Oaks, is located in the City of Farmington Hills on Thirteen Mile between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt Roads. The county parks offer year-round recreational opportunities including camping, hiking, swimming, boating, golfing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, ice skating, and ice fishing. The county parks also

include two waterparks, the state's first refrigerated toboggan run, two nature centers, two dog parks, five golf courses, motocross track, an adaptive recreation program, outdoor amphitheater, and conference and banquet facilities. The Oakland County parks are as follows:

- Addison Oaks (Addison Township, Oakland County)
- Catalpa Oaks (Southfield, Oakland County)
- Glen Oaks (Farmington Hills, Oakland County)
- Groveland Oaks (Groveland Township, Oakland County)
- Highland Oaks (Highland Township, Oakland County)
- Independence Oaks (Independence Township, Oakland County)
- Lyon Oaks (New Hudson, Oakland County)
- Orion Oaks (Orion Township, Oakland County)
- Red Oaks (Madison Heights, Oakland County)
- Rose Oaks (Rose Township, Oakland County)
- Springfield Oaks (Springfield Township, Oakland County)
- Waterford Oaks (Waterford Township, Oakland County)
- White Lake Oaks (White Lake Township, Oakland County)

The Genesee, Lapeer, Macomb, Wayne, and Washtenaw County park systems also maintain extensive park lands within 30 miles or less from Farmington Hills, providing additional recreational resources, including picnicking, playgrounds, swimming, and trails:

- Bell Creek County Park (Redford Township, Wayne County)
- Chandler Park (Detroit, Wayne County)
- County Farm Park (Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County)
- Crosswinds Marsh (Sumpter Township, Wayne County)
- Elizabeth Park (Trenton, Wayne County)
- Freedom Hill Park (Sterling Heights, Macomb County)
- General Squire Park (Dryden Township, Lapeer County)
- Hines Park (Wayne County)
- Independence Lake Park (Whitmore Lake, Washtenaw County)
- Inkster Valley Golf Course (Inkster, Wayne County)
- Linden County Park (Linden, Genesee County)
- Lola Valley County Park (Redford Township, Wayne County)
- Osborne Mill Park (Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County)
- Park Northfield (Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County)
- Parker Mill County Park (Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County)
- Rolling Hills County Park (Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County)
- Superior Center (Superior Township, Washtenaw County)
- Warren Valley Golf Course (Dearborn Heights, Wayne County)

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park district that encompasses the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston. Since its inception in 1940, the HCMA has obtained over 20,000 acres of park land, all

located in the metro Detroit region. The parks provide a variety of outdoor recreation and educational activities including picnicking, hiking, golf, biking, winter sports, golf, water-related activities, horseback riding, and special programs. The HCMA regional parks within approximately 30 miles or less from Farmington Hills are:

- Delhi Metropark (Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County)
- Dexter-Huron Metropark (Dexter, Washtenaw County)
- Hudson Mills Metropark (Dexter, Washtenaw County)
- Huron Meadows Metropark (Brighton, Livingston County)
- Indian Springs Metropark (White Lake Township, Oakland County)
- Kensington Metropark (Milford, Oakland County)
- Lake Erie Metropark (Brownstown Township, Wayne County)
- Lower Huron Metropark (Van Buren Township, Wayne County)
- Metro Beach Metropark (Harrison Township, Macomb County)
- Oakwoods Metropark (Huron Township, Wayne County)
- Stony Creek Metropark (Shelby and Washington Townships, Macomb County)
- Willow Metropark (Huron Township, Wayne County)
- Wolcott Mill Metropark (Ray Township, Macomb County)

Local Parks and Facilities

Bordered by six different communities (City of Farmington, Village of Franklin, City of Livonia, City of Novi, City of Southfield, West Bloomfield Township), City of Farmington Hills residents benefit from the proximity of neighboring communities' parks and recreation facilities. The following parks are located a short distance from the City:

City of Farmington

- Drake Park
- Shiawassee Park
- Walter E. Sundquist Farmington Pavilion and Riley Park

Village of Franklin

- Village Green

City of Livonia

- Beverly Park
- Bicentennial Park & Nature Preserve
- Bien Park
- Bluegrass Park & Nature Preserve
- Botsford Pool
- Broadmoor Park
- Castle Gardens Park
- Civic Center Park
- Clements Circle Park & Pool
- Community Recreation Center
- Compton Park
- Country Homes Park

- Devon-Aire Park/Ice Arena
- Dooley Park
- Elm Park
- Ford Field & Eddie Edgar Ice Arena
- Fox Creek Golf Course
- Greenmead Historical Site
- Greenwood Park
- Idyl Wyld Golf Course
- Jaycee Park
- Kleinart Play Field
- Robert E. McCann Park
- Meadows Park
- Mies Park
- Moelke Park
- Nash Park
- Pastor Park
- Quakertown Park & Nature Preserve
- Rotary Park & Nature Preserve
- Sheldon Park & Pool
- Veterans Park
- Whispering Willows Golf Course

- Wilson Acres Park
- Wilson Barn

City of Novi

- Brookfarm Park
- Elia Mae Power Park
- ITC Community Sports Park
- Lakeshore Park
- Novi Civic Center
- Rotary Park
- Wildlife Woods Park

City of Southfield

- Bauervic Woods Park
- Bedford Woods Park
- Beech Woods Park
- Brace Park
- Burgh Historical Park
- Carpenter Lake Park
- Catalpa Park
- Civic Center Park
- Freeway Park
- Inglenook Park
- John Grace Park & Community Center

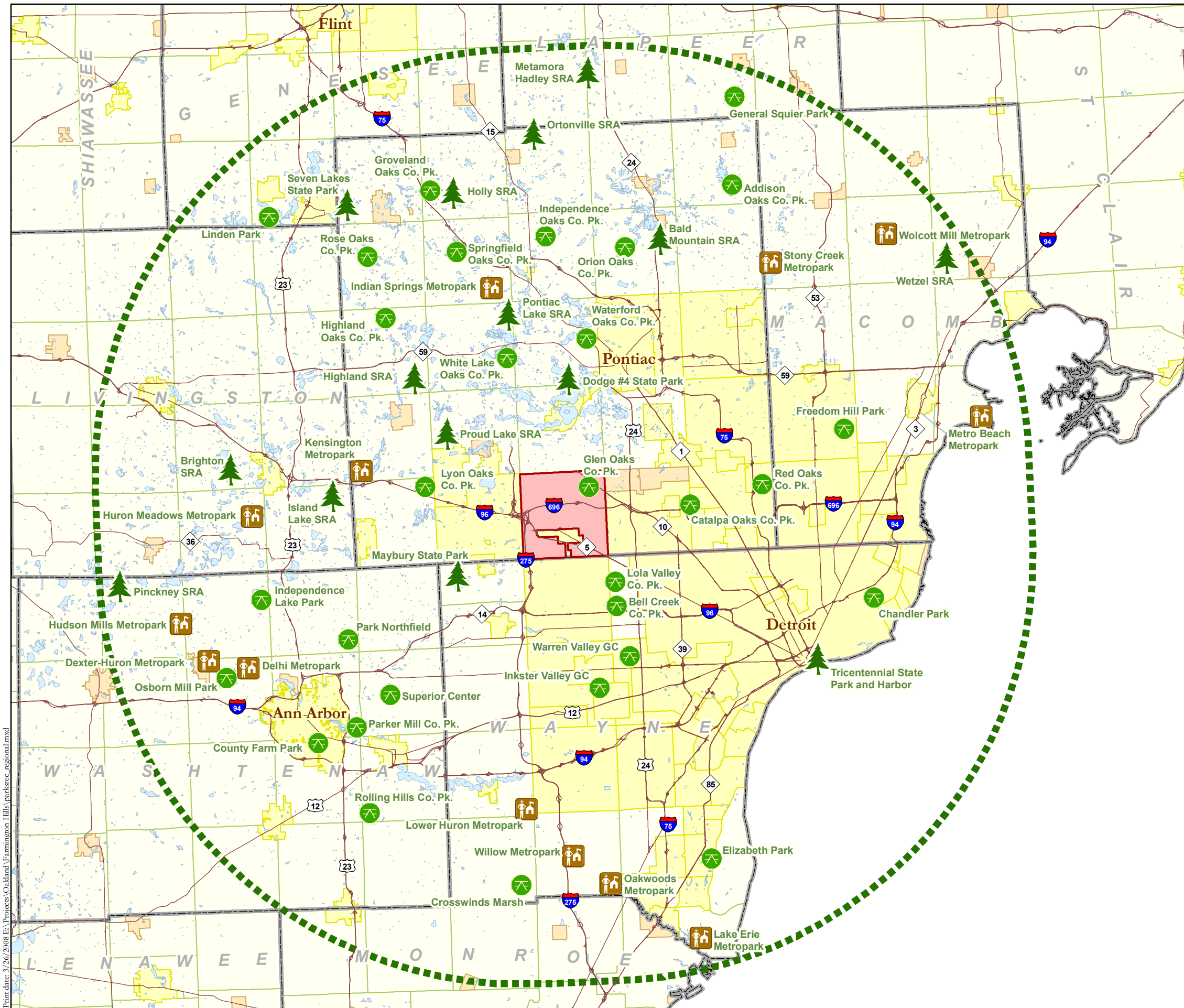
- John R. Miller Park
- Lahser Woods Park
- Lincoln Woods
- Mary Thompson House & Farm
- Pebble Creek Park
- Simms Park
- Stratford Woods Commons
- Valley Woods Nature Preserve








West Bloomfield Township

- Bloomer Park
- Bloomfield Knolls Park
- Community Sports Park
- Drake Sports Park
- Family Aquatic Center
- Karner Farm
- Marshbank Park
- Recreation Activities Center
- Schulak Farm
- Sylvan Manor Park
- West Bloomfield Woods Nature Preserve
- West Bloomfield Trail

Map 3: Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

City of Farmington Hills, Michigan



-  State Parks and Recreation Areas
-  County Parks
-  Huron-Clinton Metroparks
-  30 Mile Radius
-  City of Farmington Hills
-  Villages
-  Cities
-  Townships

Data Source: Mich Center for Geog Information, 2007



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Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities

The recreation needs of some residents in the Farmington Hills areas are provided by a number of quasi-public and privately owned recreation facilities in the City, ranging from private swim and tennis clubs to bowling establishments. Many of these facilities charge a membership fee and/or a separate user fee. This expense limits the accessibility of these facilities by many residents in the City.

To meet the sports fields needs of Farmington Hills residents, the Department of Special Services has developed a joint use agreement for the use of the soccer fields at Soccer! Soccer!, as noted above, and a baseball field at St. Alexander Church located on Shiawassee Road near Inkster Road. Additional privately owned recreation facilities in Farmington Hills and Farmington and the surrounding area include:

Bowling Lanes

- Country Lanes
- Drakeshire Lanes
- Langan's

Fitness and Exercise Facilities

- Bally Total Fitness
- Farmington Gymnastics Center
- Fitness RX
- Metro Detroit Fitness
- Power House Gym
- Triad Health and Fitness
- YMCA

Golf Courses

- Franklin Hills Country Club
- Glen Oaks
- Independence Green and Fairways of Copper Creek

Museums/Arts/Zoo

- Civic Theater
- Detroit Institute of Art
- Detroit Science Center
- Detroit Zoo
- Governor Warner Mansion
- Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum
- Holocaust Museum
- Phoenix Theater
- Players Barn Theater

Sports Clubs

- Beechview Swim and Tennis Club
- Detroit Tennis and Squash Club
- Farmington Tennis Club
- Farmington Glen Athletic Club
- Kendallwood Club
- Piemontese Club
- Suburban Hockey
- Woodbrooke Hills Swim and Tennis Club

There are also many open space areas in Farmington Hills which help fulfill the need for neighborhood outdoor recreation space in many subdivisions. Provisions in the Zoning Ordinance are designed to encourage developers to set aside open spaces as integral planned components of new subdivisions. Although subdivision common areas enhance the appearance of residential areas in Farmington Hills, these areas address only a minimum of neighborhood recreation needs. Most subdivision common areas consist of open grassy areas, a pathway, and trees. Many common areas contain picnic tables and playground equipment, while a few contain ball fields and playfields for active recreation. There are approximately 1,083 acres of land dedicated as subdivision common areas. Most of these areas are located in the northwest and

southwest parts of Farmington Hills in subdivisions that have been developed in the past two decades.

In addition, many Farmington Hills residents also enjoy recreation facilities as part of their apartment or condominium complex. Often these consist of a swimming pool, tennis courts, and/or play equipment. Some of the newer complexes also contain amenities such as saunas, whirlpools, fitness centers, walking trails, shuffleboard, and volleyball courts.

Department of Special Services Programs

The City offers a wide range of programs to meet the year-round and seasonal needs of all segments of the population from youths to seniors. The Farmington Hills Activities brochure provides a detailed listing of all of the events and programs offered by the Department of Special Services. This brochure is mailed out three times per year and is on the City website. The list is a sample of the hundreds of programs offered throughout the year by each of the Special Services Divisions.

Activities/Special Events/Recreational Fun

- Concerts
- Youth theatre
- Longacre events
- Heritage Festival
- Holiday events
- Farmington Players Barn events
- Language classes

Adults 50 & Better

- Fitness and health programs
- Lifelong learning at Longacre
- Travel and day trips
- Computer classes
- Clubs and groups
- Support groups
- Cooking classes
- Dance classes
- Sports teams
- Cable productions

Cultural Arts

- Drawing and painting
- Music lessons, choir
- Theater
- Dance
- Arts Exhibits
- Youth Theatre, Choir
- Cable Productions

Early Childhood Programs

- Preschool
- Parent and tot classes
- Creative art, music
- Sports

Golf

- Driving range
- Private golf lessons
- Golf instruction/lessons

Health, Fitness & Safety

- Aerobics, cardio, express workout
- Pilates, yoga, toning classes
- Youth fitness classes
- Boaters safety
- Babysitter training
- Mid American youth classes

Ice Arena

- Public skate
- Parent and tot skate
- Adult drop-in hockey
- Learn to skate classes
- Farmington Hills Figure Skating
- Farmington Hills Hockey

Nature

- Nature Discovery Center
- Nature walks
- Safety clinics
- Nature photography
- Scout badge workshops
- Cable productions

Sports

- Gymnastics
- Tennis lessons
- Karate
- Cheer
- Basketball
- Winter sports
- Cricket
- Lacrosse

Swimming

- Swimming classes
- Senior swim
- Open swim
- Water fitness
- Scuba diving

Youth & Teens/Youth Center Program

- Dance classes
- Club 2nd Floor
- Mayor's Youth Council
- Half-day activities and field trips
- Arts and craft
- Bowling league
- Tutoring
- Battle of the Bands
- Cable productions



4

Basis for Action Plan

Chapter 4

Basis for Action Plan

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs serve as a basis for the development of the action plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process and phone surveys, consultation with the Department of Special Services and Parks and Recreation Commission, and by reviewing current offerings and programming.

Planning and Public Input Process

Planning Process. The Department of Special Services directed the update of the City of Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Citizen and City input played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the City's parks and recreation facilities. The plan process included seven tasks which are discussed below.

- **Task One: Community Description.** The first task was to obtain a description of the City of Farmington Hills's physical and social features. These features include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population features including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, types of households, employment, and income.
- **Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding.** The second task was to obtain and review the administrative structure of the City and the Department of Special Services. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for the City as well as the grant history of funding received by the City.
- **Task Three: Parks, Recreation, and Facility Inventory.** The parks, recreation, and facility inventory included site visits and written descriptions of facilities in Farmington Hills including public parks, schools, and quasi-public and private facilities. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation activities, types of equipment, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. A list of neighboring communities' facilities, State Parks, County Parks, and Huron-Clinton Metroparks within a short distance of Farmington Hills is also included. The Department of Special Services programs are discussed in the section as well.
- **Task Four: Public Participation.** McKenna Associates conducted focus group interviews with key people and community members involved or affiliated with the with Mayor's Youth Council, Interagency Council, Parks and Recreation

Commission, parks maintenance, nature groups, the EDC, Moms Club, cultural arts, youth sports, MCMR, seniors, and the Special Services staff.

On the evening of November 7, 2007 the Department of Special Services hosted a public visioning workshop to gain input from the general public. McKenna Associates facilitated the workshop to solicit comments on each of the Special Services Divisions and their offerings.

The City also contracted with Michigan State University to conduct telephone interviews with residents in the community. 404 interviews were completed to be statistically significant, and the information gathered was utilized to solidify the goals and objectives to direct the Action Plan.

Finally, a public hearing was held by the City of Farmington Hills City Council on and public meetings regarding the plan were held by both the Parks and Recreation Commission on a regular basis. See *Appendix A* for a summary of all public involvement.

- **Task Five: Analysis.** Based on the data collected from tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Department of Special Services and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Six: Action Plan.** Upon completion of the analysis, the 2004 recommendations and actions were reviewed and goals and objectives were created based on the 2004 plan and public input to provide a framework for the Action Plan. This results in the creation of the five-year plan and offers a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption.** Once consensus was reached among the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Department of Special Services, the Commission held a public meeting on March 11, 2008 to hear comments on the plan and to solicit public input prior to adoption. The plan was available for public review for one month prior to the meeting. The City Council held a public hearing and the plan was adopted by the City Council on March 24, 2008. See *Appendices D and E* for adoption documentation and meeting minutes.

Focus Group Interviews. Sixteen stakeholder interviews were held on a variety of topics related to the Department of Special Services throughout September and October of 2007. Participants were selected for their role or specific involvement with groups/organizations or activities. Those specifically interviewed include Mayor's Youth Council, Interagency Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, parks maintenance, nature groups, the EDC, Moms Club, cultural arts, youth sports, MCMR, seniors, and the Special Services staff. All groups were asked to discuss their specific concerns and issues they felt need to be included in the plan. Based on the responses, additional

questions were asked throughout the interviews. A summary of common themes can be found below which were considered in preparing the Action Plan and a complete summary of the comments received is provided in *Appendix A*:

- Lower age of adult classes to 16 years and older.
- Provide a lounge area/arcade for teens with wireless internet to hang out.
- Construct an aquatic center with a splash park.
- Provide a dog park and dog walking opportunities.
- Build a multi-use cultural/performing arts center with a performance space, classrooms, galleries, studios, practice areas and flexible meeting areas.
- Acquire additional small and large park land.
- Upgrade existing facilities.
- Provide more environmental education and protect existing natural areas.
- Provide an indoor Jungle Java type facility/climbing area/gym for drop-in use.
- Offer additional programming for youth and teens in the summer.
- Explore collaborative possibilities such as joint ownership/partnerships in the community.
- Explore grants and corporate donations for programs and facilities.
- Provide better signage and wayfinding in the parks.
- Increase promotion and marketing of Special Services Divisions to reach all ages and groups in the community.
- Offer consistent practice and game locations as well as rental fees for various sports groups.
- Facilitate better communication between the schools, City, and sports organizations for scheduling and maintenance. Conduct an annual meeting with all sports organizations.
- Provide storage space for all user groups at the various facilities.
- Provide more multi-cultural offerings and activities.
- Provide a permanent computer facility.
- Make the Costick Center more user-friendly and promote the use of the courtyard for events and gathering space.
- Provide online registration and ticket purchasing.
- Provide a fitness area for all ages.
- Address the internal communication between Department of Special Services staff to work more efficiently. The organizational chart or staff roles may have to be updated.

Public Visioning Workshop. A public visioning workshop was held at the Costick Center on November 7, 2007 to seek input from residents and users of the Department of Special Services offerings to gain a better understanding of the community desires related to current offerings and new facility and programming development. Approximately 50 participants attended the workshop which allowed residents to provide comments through small group discussion and large group presentations.

The workshop was highly successful at generating additional ideas and priorities while at the same time supporting the common themes discussed with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Special Services and during the focus group

interviews. Attendees were encouraged to discuss all possible ideas for what is needed in the City based on the seven Divisions of Special Services. A complete summary of the comments received is provided in *Appendix A*. A summary of common themes can be found below which were considered in preparing the Action Plan:

- Provide a large, centralized cultural arts facility for music, theater and art and expand the cultural arts programs.
- Increase the marketing and publicity of all of the Special Services offerings, programs and services on City's web page.
- Protect the City's existing green spaces.
- Educate more people about natural resources through programs.
- Build a dog park.
- Construct a splash park and aquatic center.
- Provide a fitness area/weight room.
- Expand and upgrade the existing facilities such as Costick and build new/acquire additional land to meet the needs of the expanding Special Services programming.
- Develop partnerships with OCC, Oakland County, service groups and organizations, and/or other cities to develop facilities.
- Address cultural diversity/community awareness.
- Provide more evening and weekend activities for older working adults.
- Develop multi-generational programs – young children and grandparents.
- Allow for phone and web registration.
- Offer more volunteer opportunities and facilities for youth.

Telephone Interviews. Michigan State University conducted 404 telephone interviews with residents in the community to gather further information regarding the Department of Special Services and what the community would like to see provided. The information was utilized to solidify the goals and objectives to direct the Action Plan. A complete summary of the interviews is provided in *Appendix A*. A summary of key interview results include the following, which were used to help prepare the Action Plan:

- 79.5% of the respondents are familiar with the facilities and programs offered by the Department of Special Services.
- 91.1% of the respondents rate the existing outdoor parks as excellent or good.
- 69.5% of the respondents rate the existing indoor facilities as excellent or good.
- 82.6% of the respondents rate the parks and recreation programs and activities offered by the City as excellent or good.
- 68.4% of the respondents say that although members of my household do not use Special Services programs frequently, they believe the services are important to quality of life.
- Out of all of the facilities listed, most are considered to meet the need of the community. The top three listed as most important are park land, walking or biking trails, and fitness and wellness programs.
- Out of all of the recreational programs listed, all are considered to meet the needs of the community. The top three listed that respondents would like to see

more of are multi-cultural programs and offerings, art/music/concerts/theater/dance, and family programs and activities.

- 78.4% of the respondents would like to see activities and programming on weekday evenings and on the weekend in order to participate.
- 76.5% of the respondents would be more inclined to participate in activities or use facilities if it were on a drop-in basis.
- 63.4% of the respondents preferred mailings to home as the best method to stay informed about Special Service programs and activities.
- 73.2% of the respondents rate the communication and marketing of the parks and recreation offerings from the City as excellent or good.
- 81.3% of the respondents are in favor of renewing the current millage to acquire, develop, and maintain new and existing facilities and programs.

Public Hearing. A public hearing was held at the Farmington Hills City Hall on March 24, 2008 by the Farmington Hills City Council to obtain comments from residents and users about the plan. The Council adopted the plan at the same meeting.

Park Land Analysis and Service Areas

Approximately 1,122 acres of parks and facilities exist within Farmington Hills, with 631 acres owned by the City and managed by the Department of Special Services. The remaining 366 acres and 125 acres are owned by the Farmington Public Schools and Oakland County Parks, respectively.

As required by the MDNR, the Farmington Hills park land and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA's updated guidelines were set more than 13 years ago, the MDNR still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results given that these guidelines were set over a decade ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, are encouraged to establish its needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation. Recreation needs are often better documented through public input rather than relying only on the national guidelines. The NRPA guidelines and the MDNR standards were considered in the development of the Action Plan but not weighted heavily. The information gathered during the many methods of public input directed the Action Plan directly.

Table 4.1 – Farmington Hills Public Park Land Acreage Analysis and the following discussion compares the amount of park land as it relates to the conditions of the City and the MDNR standards based on the 2006 SEMCOG population estimate of 80,486. Park classifications used by the MDNR are defined as follows:

- **Mini/Neighborhood Park.** Mini/Neighborhood parks serve an area up to a one-half mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size. Farmington Hills has four neighborhood parks and numerous school facilities that provide more than the recommended acreage for mini/neighborhood parks. The vast majority of the acreage (228 acres) is derived from school facilities and not owned by the City who owns approximately nine acres. If some of the schools were to close or change use, the City would likely face a mini/neighborhood park deficiency. Given the school district's vital role in providing park land, the Department of Special Services and school district should continue their on-going communication to ensure the needs for mini and neighborhood park land are met.
- **Community Park.** Community parks typically serve an area within one-half to three miles and are between 30 to 50 acres in size. The City owns 624 acres of community park land, thus exceeding the recommended 402 acres by 222. In addition to the City-owned land, there is 140 acres of school district land that is categorized as community parks. Despite exceeding the recommended park land, the schools still play an important role in providing large community facilities for City residents and Special Services programming.
- **School Park.** School properties can fulfill the requirements for other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use. For the purposes of this inventory all childhood centers and elementary school facilities were classified as neighborhood parks, and all middle and high schools were considered community parks.
- **Regional Park.** Regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local park land and help balance the deficiencies in facilities. Farmington Hills is fortunate to have a regional park within its borders. The Oakland County park, Glen Oaks, accounts for 125 acres of regional park land. The park does not fulfill all of the recommended acreage for regional park land, as there is a deficiency of 680 acres. However, it should be noted that a number of regional parks are within a short distance from the City despite not being within its borders.

According to the above guidelines, the City of Farmington Hills exhibits a surplus in all of the park land categories with the exception of regional parks. Overall, the City is providing an exceptional amount of park land for its residents although there is a definitive need to expand the current facilities and possibly acquire additional land for parks and facilities.

**Table 4.1
Farmington Hills Public Park Land Acreage Analysis**

Park Classification	NRPA Guideline Minimum Acres/1,000 Residents ¹	Recommended Acreage for Farmington Hills ²	Public City Park	Public Regional Park	Public School Park ³	City Total	Surplus (Deficiency)
Mini/Neighborhood Parks	0.25 – 2.0	20.1 – 161.0	9.1	0.0	226.0	235.1	74.1+
Community Parks	5.0	402.4	624.0	0.0	139.8	763.8	361.4+
Subtotal	-	422.5 – 563.4	631.1	0.0	365.8	9986.9	435.5+
Regional Parks	10.0	804.9	-	124.97 ⁴	-	124.97	(679.9)
Total	-	1,649.9 – 1,931.7	631.1	124.97	365.8	1,123.9	(807.8)

¹Source: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983.; Mertes, J.D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995.

²Based on 2006 SEMCOG population projection 80,486.

³All early childhood centers and elementary schools classified as neighborhood parks, and all middle and high schools classified as community parks.

⁴Glen Oaks, Oakland County Parks.

Although it is important to consider the overall amount of park land in the City, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the City. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents in the City live. The MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in Farmington Hills that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- Mini/Neighborhood Parks 0.25 – 0.5 miles
- Community Parks 0.5 – 3.0 miles
- Regional Parks 30 minute driving time

The parks and recreation service areas are shown on *Map 4 – Parks and Recreation Service Area*. For the purposes of measuring the service area, a radius of one-half mile was used for mini/neighborhood parks and two miles for community parks. The service boundary of Glen Oaks and all schools were not included in the analysis in order to fully evaluate the service area of the City-owned parks.

The areas in the northwest and northeast of the City are lacking easy access to all City-owned parks and facilities. The service area of the neighborhood parks is small, and the opportunity for development of additional small parks in the City should be explored. The parks should be scattered throughout all areas of the City, particularly in the areas underserved by both City and school park land, such as the northwest and southwest corners. The service area of community parks is larger and extends to a greater number of City residents. Acquiring larger parcels of land for community park development is more difficult. However, if the opportunity to acquire additional land comes available, the City should explore this in areas on the north and east sides to better serve the residents and address the need to expand the Costick Center.



Map 4: Parks and Recreation Service Area

City of Farmington Hills, Michigan

- 1 Neighborhood Parks and Facilities**
 - 1 Bond Field
 - 2 Harmon Oaks
 - 3 Olde Town Park
 - 3a Memorial Park

- 4 Community Parks and Facilities**
 - 4 Costick Activities Center
 - 5 Farmington Hills Golf Club
 - 6 Farmington Hills Ice Arena
 - 7 Founders Sports Park
 - 8 Heritage Park and Longacre House
 - 9 Jon Grant Community Center
 - 10 Pioneer Park
 - 11 Soccer! Soccer! (**Facility is Leased by the City)
 - 12 Woodland Hills

- 13 Public School Facilities**
 - 13 Farmington High School
 - 14 Farmington Central High School
 - 15 Harrison High School
 - 16 North Farmington High School
 - 17 East Middle School
 - 18 O.E. Dunkel Middle School
 - 19 Power Middle School
 - 20 Warner Middle School
 - 21 Beechview Elementary School
 - 22 Eagle Elementary School
 - 23 Flanders Elementary School
 - 24 Forest Elementary School
 - 25 Gill Elementary School
 - 26 Highmeadow Elementary School
 - 27 Hillside Elementary School
 - 28 Kenbrook Elementary School
 - 29 Lanigan Elementary School
 - 30 Longacre Elementary School
 - 31 William Grace Elementary School
 - 32 Wood Creek Elementary School
 - 33 Wooddale Elementary School
 - 34 Alameda Early Childhood Center
 - 35 Fairview Early Childhood Center

-  Public School Facilities
-  Neighborhood Parks
-  Community Parks
-  Neighborhood Park Service Area (0.5 mile radius)
-  Community Park Service Area (1.5 mile radius)

Base Map Source: City of Farmington Hills, 2007
Data Source: McKenna Associates, 2007

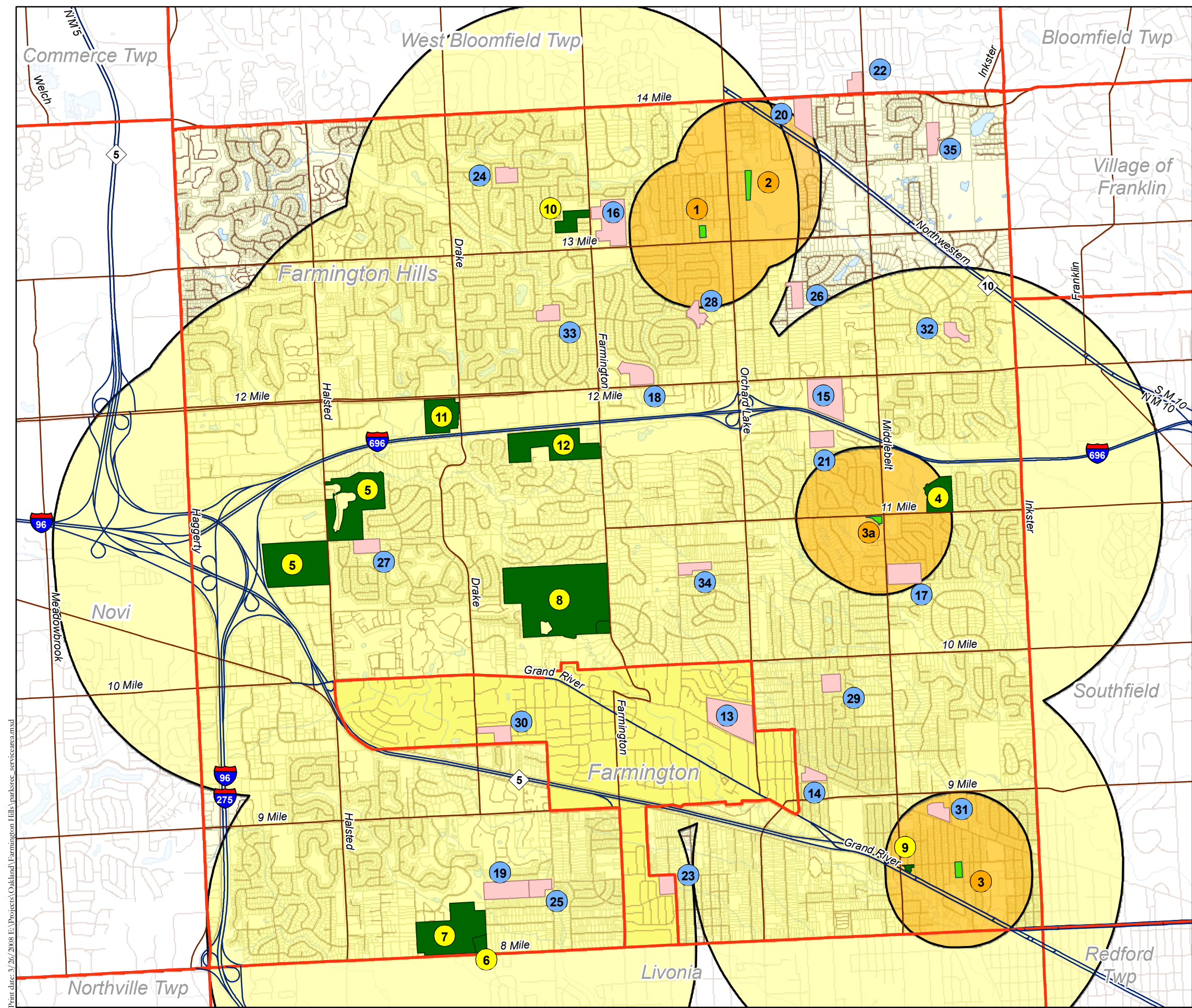


McKenna ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED



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3/25/08



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Facilities Analysis

In addition to park land, existing facilities were compared against the recommended guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and MDNR to determine if they are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions in Farmington Hills, information obtained during the public input opportunities, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. *Table 4.2* indicates the recommended guideline and facilities, the number of facilities in the City, and the surplus or deficiency of facilities. The comments below the table provide further prospective and assist in identifying key issues related to specific facilities.

	NRPA Minimum Guideline ¹	NRPA Recommended Facilities ²	Public Farmington Hills Facility	Public Regional Facility ³	Public School Facility	Total Facilities	Surplus (Deficiency)
Baseball/ Softball	1/5,000	16	12	0	29	41	25
Basketball	1/5,000	16	3	0	15.5	18.5	2.5
Football	1/20,000	4	0	0	12	12	8
Golf Course 9 Hole	1/25,000	3	0	0	0	0	(3)
Golf Course 18 Hole	1/50,000	2	1	1	0	2	0
Ice Rink	1/50,000	2	4	0	0	4	2
Playground	1/3,000	27	3	0	16	19	(8)
Running Track	1/20,000	4	0	0	7	7	3
Soccer	1/10,000	8	17	0	20	37	29
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	4	1	0	7	8	4
Tennis	1/2,000	40	2	0	17	19	(21)
Volleyball	1/5,000	16	7	0	14	21	5

¹ Source: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983.; Mertes, J.D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995.

² Based on 2006 SEMCOG population projection 80,486.

³ Glen Oaks, Oakland County Parks.

School Facilities

Neighborhood and community park land, as well as a number of the facilities included in *Tables 4.1* and *4.2* are owned by the Farmington Public Schools. Schools provide limited hours and access to the general public and do not serve primary parks and recreation functions. National recognized sources suggest that school sites satisfy only some of the recommended park space. Currently, school sites comprise 97% of the recommended mini/neighborhood park acreage but only 18% of the recommended community park acreage. Additionally, the total acreage of school sites is currently included in the park land analysis, while a large portion of the site is dedicated to educational and not recreational functions.

In terms of specific facilities in the City, a number are located at school sites as well. There are 100% of the football and track facilities located at the schools. Furthermore, 89% of the tennis courts, 88% of the swimming pools, 84% of the playgrounds and basketball courts, 69% of the baseball/softball fields, 67% of the volleyball courts, and 55% of the soccer fields are located on school property. Given that a large percentage of the mini/neighborhood park land and heavily-used facilities are located on school sites, it is evident that there is a need for additional City-owned facilities as noted specifically below.

Athletic Fields (Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Football, Running Tracks)

The different types of athletic fields are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need.

- **Baseball/Softball Fields.** The analysis of the baseball and softball fields in the City indicates a large surplus in facilities. Despite demonstrating a surplus, during the focus groups the participants identified a need for fields of the proper size and with lighting. Key issues in regards to the City-owned fields should be maintenance and upgrades. The Department of Special Services should also continue their relationship with the schools for continued use of their fields.
- **Soccer Fields.** According to the national guidelines, there is a significant surplus of soccer fields in the community. The reality of the numbers is that there has been a considerable increase in the number of youth and adults participating in soccer in not only Farmington Hills but the surrounding area and Michigan as a whole. The large numbers of participants results in a large demand for practice and game fields. The soccer fields also experience strain due to their use for other sports' practices and games. The City should consider purchasing the property at the site of Soccer! Soccer! to ensure the continued use of the fields before acquiring additional property. However, if the demand continues to increase and the need arises, the City should consider the development of additional fields. The Department of Special Services should also examine the current usage of the soccer fields by soccer and other user groups, such as football practice or cricket. The City may need to specifically delineate practice and games fields in order to provide quality soccer facilities and meet the needs of other sports.
- **Football Fields.** The provision of football facilities is met entirely by the Farmington Schools at the present time, as there are no facilities owned by the City. The analysis reveals there is a surplus of fields, however, based on the focus groups there is a shortage of fields for football practice. This especially affects the youth football leagues that are often shuffled around to different fields in order to accommodate the older leagues and school teams. A need for additional practice facilities for football and other sports as noted above in the soccer discussion is evident and should be explored.

- **Running Tracks.** Running tracks are provided by the Farmington Schools and appear to meet the current and expected needs of the community.

Court Sports (Basketball/Gymnasiums, Tennis, Volleyball)

The different types of courts are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need.

- **Basketball Courts/Gymnasiums.** The basketball courts and gymnasiums are heavily used and show a surplus of only two-and-a-half courts based on the national guidelines. A majority of these facilities are also located at the schools, thus limiting the flexible use of the spaces. Based on their popularity of use by residents, school activities, organized clubs and teams, and recreational users, there is a shortage of basketball and gymnasium facilities. During the focus groups, the residents identified a need for unprogrammed use of the gymnasiums in the City, such as daily play time for children with parental supervision. It should also be noted that high school boys and girls basketball, cheer, gymnastics, and wrestling compete during the winter, thus creating a need for additional courts and gym space for practices and games/competitions. The change in the sport seasons at the high school level may come to limit the amount of gym time available, and the Department of Special Services and other recreation providers may have to limit the number of teams or reduce practice time. The City should consider the inclusion of basketball courts/gymnasiums in any future expansion or construction of facilities.
- **Tennis Courts.** A total of 19 tennis courts are located in the City, of which only two are owned by the City and the remaining are school facilities. According to the national guidelines, there is a deficiency of 21 courts. The Department of Special Services may want to consider constructing additional tennis courts at existing parks or include them in future parks as the need arises.
- **Volleyball Courts.** The need for indoor and outdoor volleyball courts is being met according to the national guideline for the City. At this time there does not appear to be a need for additional volleyball courts.

Ice Rinks

The national guideline reveals that there is a surplus of ice rinks in the City. This surplus is attained through the use of two outdoor facilities in Olde Town and Heritage Parks. The indoor arena in Farmington Hills is owned by the City and contains two sheets of ice. The rink is utilized by both City and outside recreation providers for hockey and figure skating. It is the intention of the City for the arena to be self-sustaining; however participants in the focus groups revealed that the rink is in need of funding to continue. The popularity of skating continues to rise as does the cost of participating, and users frequently travel to neighboring communities to participate in their clubs and on their teams. The City should explore monetary support for the arena on a yearly basis.

Playgrounds

Currently a majority of the playgrounds in the City are located at school facilities, and there is a deficiency of eight according to the national guideline. There is a need for additional playgrounds at City facilities which could possibly be included at existing or new facilities as they develop. The playgrounds should be ADA accessible and be located throughout the City to better serve the entire population.

Swimming Pools

Based on the guideline, the City has an adequate amount of swimming pools. However, this is misleading in that the City owns one pool and the remaining seven are owned by the schools. During a number of focus group sessions and the public workshop, residents and Special Services staff voiced the need for an additional aquatic facility. The construction of a new facility or addition to the Costick Center has been discussed and funds from the current millage have been slated for the project. The City should continue to pursue an aquatic facility to serve the needs of the community and explore all options of location and design of the facility.

Golf Courses

The City is fortunate to have a City-owned golf course within its boundaries, as well as a County-owned course. The national guideline indicates there is a deficiency in 9-hole courses and the needs are being met for 18-hole courses. There are a number of other courses located within a close proximity of the City that fulfill the golf needs of residents. The City has also recently undertaken significant measures to upgrade the Farmington Hills Golf Club. At this time there is no need for the City to pursue additional golf course facilities.

Community Center

The Farmington Hills community is fortunate to have the Costick Activities Center and the Jon Grant Community Center, along with the community facilities located at Heritage Park. The majority of the programming is offered at the Costick Center, and the need for a larger community center to hold more classroom/meeting space, additional gymnasiums, performing arts space, fitness center, and an aquatic center has been identified by a number of participants in the focus groups and at the public workshop. A recent trend in recreation programming is the development of large, modern multi-purpose centers that provide a wide variety of opportunities for all ages in communities the size of Farmington Hills. The City could possibly explore moving the day camp facility to the Costick Center. However, the City should explore the possibility of upgrading and expanding the existing Costick Center before acquiring additional land for a new center in order to measure the community's support for the facilities.

Passive Recreation

In addition to active recreation facilities, it is important to the City to provide opportunities for passive recreation and unprogrammed activities, such as walking, jogging, picnicking, nature observation, or just sitting in the park reading a book. A number of the parks in the City, such as Heritage Park and Woodland Hills, have exceptional dedicated areas for passive recreation. When developing and improving parks it is important to incorporate walking paths, picnic areas, benches, open spaces, and other amenities that further enhance the passive recreation opportunities. The City should specifically explore linking the parks through greenways and trails.



5

Action Plan

Chapter 5

Action Plan

By using the comprehensive planning process of trend identification, focus groups, telephone interviews, surveys, and public meetings, the City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Farmington Hills parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

A complementary component of the Action Plan is the Capital Improvement Plan. Action strategies that may require significant capital investment from the community have been organized into a five-year plan. The specific projects have been prioritized in the Capital Improvement Plan in order to better manage the Department of Special Services budget and equally distribute the projects over a five-year cycle. The timing of these projects may be influenced, moved, or eliminated depending upon economic conditions, available funding, and/or grant awards. However, the spirit and intent of the project priorities are well defined in the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Action Plan is organized into four sections:

- Mission Statement
- Department of Special Services Goals and Objectives
- System Wide Recommendations
- Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mission Statement

The Department of Special Services shall be responsible for those municipal services designed primarily oriented toward the advancement of the physical and intellectual comfort and well-being of the inhabitants of the City, cultural activities, and the improvement and beautification of the environment of the City.

Within the Department of Special Services there may be services such as, but not limited to, parks, recreation, Council of the Arts, senior citizen, youth services, beautification, ecology and public health. (Farmington Hills City Charter)

Department of Special Services Goals and Objectives

To provide a guideline for decision making, the Department of Special Services has developed a list of goals and objectives based on the previous 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the results of analysis and public input. The following goals

and objectives are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation for the City of Farmington Hills. These goals and objectives should be reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

Goal #1: Maintain or expand the current funding levels for existing programs.

Objectives:

- Continue current funding levels for Senior programs.
- Continue current funding levels for Youth and Teen programs.
- Continue current funding levels for Cultural Arts programs.
- Provide funding for multi-cultural programs.
- Provide funding for family programs and activities.
- Provide funding for health and fitness programs.
- Provide funding for environmental and nature education programs.
- Increase evening and weekend programming.

Goal #2: Continue funding for operational and maintenance staff.

Objectives:

- Continue funding for Parks Division staff.
- Continue funding for Senior Division staff.
- Continue funding for Recreation Division staff.
- Continue funding for Cultural Arts Division staff.
- Explore hiring new staff to meet the needs of individual Special Services Divisions.

Goal #3: Develop new parks and recreation facilities at existing sites.

Objectives:

- Construct a performance space at the Costick Activities Center.
- Provide playground improvements to Heritage Park, Founders Park, and Olde Town Park.

Goal #4: Continue to improve existing parks and recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- Provide continuous improvements to Costick Activities Center and purchase additional space within the building for Special Services' use.
- Identify and provide funding for annual improvements to Special Services' facilities and parks.
- Continue the "greening" of the parks and facilities through improvement such as turfgrass stewardship, stormwater improvements, lighting upgrades, and energy audits.

Goal #5: Continue to upgrade and maintain historic facilities.

Objectives:

- Allocate funding for upgrades and maintenance at the Heritage Park stable.
- Allocate funding for upgrades and maintenance at the Heritage Park barn.

- Allocate funding for upgrades and maintenance at the Spicer House and Nature Center.
- Allocate funding for upgrades and maintenance at the Longacre Caretaker's House.
- Allocate funding for upgrades and maintenance at the Longacre House.

Goal #6: Continue to upgrade and maintain athletic fields.

Objectives:

- Identify necessary upgrades and improvements to the athletic fields.
- Continue funding for athletic field renovation program.
- Provide facility and program upkeep to offset the costs of facilities operations.
- Evaluate equipment and replace as deemed necessary on a continual basis.
- Continue funding for Maintenance Division operations.
- Continue the environmental programs such as turfgrass stewardship at the athletic fields.

Goal #7: Explore opportunities and provide funding for park site and land acquisition.

Objectives:

- Acquire park land in the northwest and southeast corners of the City to better service all Farmington Hills residents.
- Acquire property along the Rouge River and its tributaries to complete the greenways and provide watershed protection.
- Explore possible sites for a dog park.

Goal #8: Improve non-motorized connectivity in the City.

Objectives:

- Provide funding for and construct additional sidewalks.
- Provide funding for and construct bike trails.
- Provide funding for and construct walking paths.

Goal #9: Expand the current facility and develop a family aquatic center.

Objectives:

- Expand the current aquatic facility at the Costick Activities Center site.
- Expand the current aquatic programming for all ages.

Goal #10: Develop a marketing plan for the Department of Special Services.

Objectives:

- Address better methods of marketing and informational outreach to Special Services program and facilities users.
- Explore ways to reach out to multi-cultural community.
- Upgrade website and provide internet registration for programs and activities.

System Wide Recommendations

In addition to capital investments into programs and facilities, the Department of Special Services must also evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The following are system wide recommendations that should be evaluated annually and used in the long-range planning of parks and recreation.

- **Staffing.** The Department of Special Services needs to annually monitor staffing levels and office facility needs for efficient administration, operation, programming, and maintenance of all Divisions. Staffing should be increased currently in the Cultural Arts, Senior, Facilities, and Recreation Divisions to address increasing program offerings and growth in the number of participants.
- **Barrier-Free Accessibility.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier-free accessibility at all public facilities. It is important to provide access to Farmington Hills's facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents may enjoy them. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier-free accessibility with improvements to proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access.
- **Continued Public Involvement.** The City and the Department of Special Services should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and recreation facilities and programming. This can be accomplished with focus groups, public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at Special Services events.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. *Table 5.1 – Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan* incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes. It should be noted that the Parks Millage Fund is the funding source for all of the proposed projects and expenditures.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2008 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. In funding levels are lower than

required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

Year	Capital Improvement	Estimated Cost
Year 1: 2008/2009		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$506,281
	Debt Retirement (Ice Arena)	\$494,700
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Bicycle Route Improvements	\$200,000
	Cultural/Senior Staff and Facilities	\$120,000
	Decentralizing Youth Centers	\$100,000
	Athletic Field Renovations	\$45,000
	Maintenance and Equipment	\$40,000
	Comfort Stations	\$8,000
	Playground Improvements	\$8,000
	Costick Center Improvements	\$7,500
	Year 1 (2008/2009) TOTAL	\$1,729,481
Year 2: 2009/2010		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$594,400
	Founders Sports Park	\$400,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$315,000
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Debt Retirement (Ice Arena)	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$70,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$55,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Playground Improvements	\$40,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$40,000
	Year 2 (2009/2010) TOTAL	\$2,209,400
Year 3: 2010/2011		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$612,232
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Debt Retirement (Ice Arena)	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Playground Improvements	\$64,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$55,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$40,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Year 3 (2010/2011) TOTAL	\$1,646,232

Year 4: 2011/2012		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$723,299
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$250,000
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Debt Retirement (Ice Arena)	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$55,000
	Playground Improvements	\$64,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$50,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Year 4 (2011/2012) TOTAL	\$2,002,299
Year 5: 2012/2013		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$746,430
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Debt Retirement (Ice Arena)	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$55,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Playground Improvements	\$35,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$30,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Year 5 (2012/2013) TOTAL	\$1,741,430
	Years 1 – 5 TOTAL	\$9,328,842

Table 5.2 – Future Projected Capital Improvement Plan – 2013 and Beyond incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement beyond the five years of the plan or within the next ten years for planning purposes. It should be noted that the Parks Millage Fund is the funding source for all of the proposed projects and expenditures noted in this table as well.

Table 5.2 Future Projected Capital Improvement Plan – 2013 and Beyond		
Year	Capital Improvement	Estimated Cost
Year 6: 2013/2014		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$768,823
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Debt Retirement (Ice Arena)	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$70,000

	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$35,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Playground Improvements	\$6,500
	Year 6 (2013/2014) TOTAL	\$1,755,323
Year 7: 2014/2015		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$791,888
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Debt Retirement (Ice Arena)	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$55,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$30,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Playground Improvements	\$6,500
	Year 7 (2014/2015) TOTAL	\$1,758,388
Year 8: 2015/2016		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$815,645
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$55,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$30,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Playground Improvements	\$6,500
	Year 8 (2015/2016) TOTAL	\$1,632,145
Year 9: 2016/2017		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$840,114
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$55,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$30,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Playground Improvements	\$6,500
	Year 9 (2016/2017) TOTAL	\$1,656,614

Year 10: 2017/2018		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$865,317
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$70,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$35,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Playground Improvements	\$6,500
	Year 10 (2017/2018) TOTAL	\$1,701,817
Year 11: 2018/2019		
	Operation and Maintenance Staff	\$891,277
	Maintain Existing Senior Programs	\$200,000
	Facility and Program Maintenance	\$155,000
	Maintain Existing Youth/Teen Programs	\$150,000
	Maintain Existing Cultural Arts Programs	\$150,000
	Maintenance Division Operations	\$55,000
	Athletic Field Renovation Program	\$45,000
	Improvements to Heritage Park Historic Buildings	\$30,000
	Improvements to Costick Activities Center	\$15,000
	Founders Sports Park	\$10,000
	Playground Improvements	\$6,500
	Year 11 (2018/2019) TOTAL	\$1,707,777
Years 1 – 11 Anticipated Projects		
	Family Aquatic Center	\$4,000,000
	Performance Space	\$2,000,000
	Park Site Acquisition	\$1,500,000
	Bicycle Route Improvements	\$400,000
	Years 1 – 11 Anticipated Projects TOTAL	\$7,900,000
	Years 6 – 11 TOTAL	\$10,212,064
	Capital Improvements (2008 – 2019) TOTAL	\$27,440,906



Appendices

Appendix A

Public Involvement

Stakeholder Focus Group Interview Comments September and October, 2007

Farmington Hills Mayors Youth Council

- North Farmington not as involved as the rest of the youth
- Adult classes for 16 years of age and older (not current 18 and older)
- Offer a lounge area and arcade for teens with wi-fi, books, "hang-out" areas, etc.
- More separation between "kids" and "teens"
- Basketball courts to drop-in and play
- More welcoming visuals at the facilities
- Aquatic center and water park

Interagency Council

- Dog park and dog walking opportunities
- Wellness center
- Partner with OCC to create performance arts space
- Adaptive reuse of existing buildings
- Sculpture and art
- Benches in parks
- Vest pocket parks

Parks and Recreation Commission

- Dog park
- Acquire more small and large park land
- Cultural center
- Aquatic facility/splash park/outdoor swimming facility
- Evening senior programs
- Performing arts center
- Bandshell in Heritage Park
- Improved soccer facilities
- Reduce negative signage in parks
- Tennis courts
- Bike trails
- Expand nature programs
- Add some lighting to fields

Parks Maintenance

- Education regarding bio-swales needed
- Maintenance needs to be brought on earlier with projects
- Maintenance not able to stay on top of projects and daily issues

- Founders Parks is falling apart
- Expanded arts facilities/performance space
- Dance room with dance floor and mirrors
- Storage space for arts, sports, etc.
- Need better signage and wayfinding- DPW makes it look junky
- Lack of vehicles
- Cost of use of facilities should be evaluated

Nature Group

- Education programs
- Hold on to what we have/protect wild areas
- Collaborative possibilities- NC, MNA, joint ownership/partnerships
- Protect Heritage Park
- Protect Woodland as natural
- Environmental education
- Add nature issues to website, talk about sustainability
- Reduce mowing in parks
- Dog park
- No more private memorials
- Discuss invasive species
- Bulletin boards with nature information

Farmington Hills EDC

- E-mail database
- Yearly memberships for golf course
- Get into EDC marketing mailer
- Japanese business community
- BOSCH- orientation for new employees

Moms Club

- Pool with spray pad
- Indoor aquatic center
- Jungle Java type facility/climbing area
- Indoor park/gym area that has activities and is cheap and open during the days for drop-in
- Shady park with playground
- Upgrade dance classes
- Gymnastics classes
- More play structures are Heritage Park
- Remove poison ivy in high traffic areas
- Longer summer camp hours
- Add rubber surfaces to playgrounds

Cultural Arts/Arts Commission

- Multi-use facility with a performance space/stage, classrooms, galleries, studios, practice areas and flexible meeting areas
- Continue to promote and market the arts programs

- Need more arts staff
- Suggest working on grants and corporate donations for programs and facilities
- Computer space/lab
- Dance rooms with wood floors
- Storage space
- TV studio/radio capabilities
- Recording studio
- Black box theatre with movable seating
- Register and buy tickets online

Youth Sports

- Need proper baseball fields (correct size)
- There is a discrepancy between the different sports and the rental fees they pay- need to be the same
- Need to offer consistent practice and game locations for groups
- Difficult to use school facilities because school functions take precedence
- Better communication between schools and City needed for scheduling
- Ice rink needs a subsidy from the City to continue and keep ice time reasonable
- City needs to promote hockey programs, not just figure skating
- Need storage at facilities
- Maintenance and garbage an issue at fields
- All groups suggested a meeting with all sports organizations each year

MCMR

- Need a performing arts facility central to the community for all
- Willing to share spaces with the City and schools
- Need a space for spontaneous activities such as poetry slams
- Non-traditional sports such as cricket
- Women-only days or times at facilities
- Better aquatic facility
- Better marketing to reach all groups in the community- put a welcome note in the programs in Arabic, Japanese, Hindu/Urdu, Albanian, and Korean
- Programming for youth in the summer
- More cultural offerings such as days where one culture is featured through food, dance, sports

Seniors/Council on Aging

- Better wayfinding on the trails in Heritage and Woodland Park
- Lower rates at the golf course
- Another large pool
- Monthly brochure to show all offerings in the City, not just senior offerings
- Permanent computer facility
- Upgrade facilities before purchasing land
- More attendants at the parks
- Dog park

- Make Heritage Park more accessible
- Amphitheatre needs a permanent stage
- Horseshoe pits and bocce ball
- Better lighting at Spicer House
- Informal picnic areas near the creek
- An area setup like a “living room” would be great for casual conversation, sitting, reading, etc.
- Promote the use of the courtyard at Costick

Special Services Staff

- Fitness areas
- Better directional signage at parks and facilities
- Staff roles need to be better defined
- Another indoor pool and gym
- Pursue land for parks
- Parking and lighting are an issue
- More active recreation land
- Address conflicts between City and sports organizations with scheduling and maintenance
- More meeting and storage space for community groups
- Divisions need to work together better/communicate more
- Better community center needed
- Online registration
- Better department website
- Bus or vehicle for department to use
- Sponsorships for activities, partnerships with City organizations
- Offer childcare
- Environmentally-friendly products and practices
- Address caregiver issues with seniors
- Music and paging system in the Costick Center
- Revamp the Costick Center to offer a bright, warm, and welcoming place
- Wellness center
- Hours of Costick should be evaluated
- Revise the organizational chart
- Use the Costick courtyard more

Public Visioning Workshop Notes November 7, 2007

Cultural Arts

- Centralized, larger cultural arts facility – music, theater & art (500 – 900 seats)
- Larger & more cultural arts programs for all ages (create regional center)
- Place for community, arts groups to meet, work together and have storage
- Marketing and publicity on web page

Parks

- Want to protect City's green spaces
- Dog park
- Preserve indigenous plant species and address invasive species
- Splash park and aquatic center
- Mini workout for seniors and senior fitness club
- Educate more people about natural resources through programs
- Entry sidewalk at Heritage Park

Facilities

- Promotion and awareness of Costick and Golf Course
- Either expand existing facility or build new multi-use facilities with storage and areas for community groups to meet and perform as well as expand Dept. Programming
- Splash park
- Develop partnerships with OCC, County, or other cities to develop a regional performing and visual arts facility
- Expand Costick aquatic facility for expanded senior and family use
- Indoor track

Youth & Families

- Volunteer opportunities for youth
- Satellite facilities for youth
- High tech/computers for youth
- Quality programs should get investment
- Update Costick Center to A+ facility

Administration

- Offer phone registration
- Work with service groups and organizations
- Multipurpose space
- Develop list of activities by age level
- Want comprehensive calendar of events
- More sports fields
- Develop land by Inkster/Old Town Center
- More multi-cultural programs
- Land acquisition

Adults 50 & Better

- Concerts for older adults
- Emergency phone for park users
- Assess elderly depression/mental wellness
- Develop multi-generational programs – young children and grandparents
- Address cultural diversity/community awareness
- More evening and weekend activities to address older working adults
- Increase communication about programs and services
- Transportation on the weekends

Recreation

- Splash park
- Zero-depth entry pool
- Recreation center with a weight room
- Indoor walking and jogging
- One-day Master Classes
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Curling – outdoors
- More indoor space for all ages

Telephone Survey Results January, 2008

City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services (Parks and Recreation) Master Plan – Results of Telephone Survey

Prepared by Sarah Nicholls, Ph.D., Departments of Community, Agriculture, Recreation & Resource Studies, and Geography, Michigan State University, January 2008.

Method

The purpose of the telephone interview portion of the master plan process was to build upon the results of the focus groups conducted. Specifically, while the focus groups generated a large volume of qualitative data, telephone interviews containing close-ended questions based on the focus group results enabled collection of sufficient quantitative data to begin generalization beyond these initial discussions. Thus, while the focus groups concentrated on *identifying* and *understanding* recreational needs within the City of Farmington Hills, the telephone interviews facilitate *confirmation* and preliminary *prioritization* of opinions and issues.

Since a resident phone list could not be provided by the City, phone numbers were obtained via a systematic search of the AnyWho White Pages (http://www.tollfree.att.net/qry/wp_fap). A random sample of phone numbers was then drawn from this master list. Phone calls were placed on weekday (Monday through Thursday) evenings (from 6pm to 9pm) and weekend afternoons (1-6pm). The telephone interview process commenced Monday January 7 and concluded Saturday January 19.

Of the 3,044 phone numbers called, 584 (19.2%) were identified as “bad” numbers (fax machines, businesses, or out of service), resulting in a valid list of 2,460 numbers. Of these 2,460 valid numbers, a total of 405 surveys were completed, representing a response rate of 16.5%. However, while a total of 629 potential respondents (25.6%) refused to participate in the survey (verbally terminated the interview process or simply hung up), contact could not be made with the resident(s) of the remaining 1,426 (58.0% of) numbers (answering machines, no answer, or busy). Thus, considering only the phone numbers dialed with whom direct contact with a person was established (1,034) numbers, an effective response rate of 39.2% was recorded. The timing of the calls – in particular with respect to the holding of the Michigan Primary on January 15 and the beginning of the new school semester – likely accounts for a good proportion of the hang-ups and no answers.

The number of completions exceeds the minimum of 382 necessary to generate results representative of the City of Farmington Hills population (~84,000 in 2006 according to the U.S. Census Bureau) with a 5 percent confidence interval and at a confidence level of 95 percent.

Results

Results are presented on a question-by-question basis in the order in which they were asked to respondents.

1) Are you familiar with the facilities and programs offered by the Special Services Department? (n = 404)

Response	n	%
Yes	321	79.5
No	83	20.5

2) Overall, how would you rate the existing outdoor parks in the City of Farmington Hills? (n = 404)

Response	n	%
Excellent (1)	155	38.4
Good (2)	213	52.7
Fair (3)	18	4.5
Poor (4)	3	0.7
Mean	1.66	
Don't know (5)	15	3.7

3) Overall, how would you rate the existing indoor facilities in the City of Farmington Hills? (n = 404)

Response	n	%
Excellent (1)	78	19.3
Good (2)	203	50.2
Fair (3)	34	8.4
Poor (4)	7	1.7
Mean	1.91	
Don't know (5)	82	20.3

4) Overall, how would you rate the parks and recreation programs and activities offered by the City of Farmington Hills? (n = 401)

Response	n	%
Excellent (1)	123	30.7
Good (2)	208	51.9
Fair (3)	21	5.2
Poor (4)	3	0.7
Mean	1.73	
Don't know (5)	46	11.5

5) Which one of the following three statements comes closest to the way you feel about parks and programs in your community? (n = 402)

- Members of my household use Special Services programs on a regular basis, and I believe that these services are important to quality of life. 28.4%
- Although members of my household do not use Special Services programs frequently, I believe that these services are important to quality of life. 68.4%
- Special Services programs are not important to quality of life. 3.2%

6) I am going to read a list of facilities. After each one, please tell me if you feel the facilities currently available in the City of Farmington Hills fall short of meeting the needs, meet the needs, or exceed what is needed in the community. (*List of facilities is ranked by mean.*)

Item (n for item)	Fall Short of Need (1)	Meet the Need (2)	Exceed the Need (3)	Mean	Undecided
Park land (404)	4.7%	59.2%	25.7%	2.23	10.4%
Athletic fields (402)	9.2%	56.5%	19.7%	2.12	14.7%
Playgrounds (404)	9.7%	59.9%	14.1%	2.05	16.3%
Gymnasiums (404)	11.1%	56.2%	6.4%	1.94	26.2%
Fitness and wellness program area (404)	13.1%	54.2%	7.7%	1.93	25.0%
Aquatic center (404)	13.4%	53.0%	6.4%	1.90	27.2%
Performing arts space (404)	16.6%	49.3%	8.2%	1.89	26.0%
Walking or biking trails (404)	23.8%	54.7%	9.9%	1.84	11.6%
Tennis courts (402)	16.2%	42.8%	4.7%	1.82	36.3%
Dog park (403)	22.6%	15.9%	2.2%	1.50	59.3%

7) Which two facilities I just mentioned do you think are most important to the future of the City of Farmington Hills? (n = 734 mentions) (*List of facilities is ranked by number of times each was mentioned.*)

Item	Rank	Mentioned by (n - %)
Parkland	1	186 – 48.1%
Walking or biking trails	2	141 – 36.4%
Fitness and wellness program area	3	102 – 26.4%
Athletic fields	4	75 – 19.4%
Playgrounds	5	58 – 15.0%
Performing arts space	6 =	45 – 11.6%
Aquatic center	6 =	45 – 11.6%
Gymnasiums	8	37 – 9.6%
Dog park	9	32 – 8.3%
Tennis courts	10	13 – 3.4%

Note: two facilities were mentioned by 347 respondents, while another 40 respondents mentioned only one facility. Eighteen respondents did not provide any answer. Percentages listed are of the 387 respondents who provided at least one response, thus, the total percentages exceed 100%.

8) I am going to read a list of recreational programs. After each one, please tell me if you feel the programs currently available within the City of Farmington Hills meet the need, fall short of meeting the needs, or exceed the needs of the community. (*List of programs is ranked by mean*).

Item (n for item)	Fall Short of Need (1)	Meet the Need (2)	Exceed the Need (3)	Mean	Undecided
Summer programs (404)	6.2%	58.2%	13.9%	2.10	21.8%
Community special events and festivals (404)	11.1%	62.6%	17.6%	2.07	8.7%
Senior adult health, fitness, social programs (404)	6.4%	53.2%	11.4%	2.07	29.0%
Youth and adult sports programs (402)	6.5%	63.9%	10.2%	2.05	19.4%
Family programs and activities (404)	10.6%	59.2%	9.7%	1.99	20.5%
Teen and after school programs (403)	12.4%	42.2%	11.2%	1.98	34.2%
Art, music, concerts, theater, dance (404)	15.6%	55.7%	13.4%	1.97	15.3%
Aquatic programs for all ages (404)	11.9%	55.2%	9.2%	1.96	23.8%
Programs for people with disabilities (404)	8.7%	25.5%	6.4%	1.95	59.4%
Wellness and fitness programs (404)	11.4%	63.6%	6.7%	1.94	18.3%
Environmental/nature education programs (402)	17.4%	46.0%	10.4%	1.91	26.1%
Multi-cultural programs and offerings (404)	15.6%	44.6%	8.9%	1.91	30.9%

9) Which two programs I just mentioned would you like to see more of in the City of Farmington Hills? (n = 704 mentions) (*List of programs is ranked by number of times each was mentioned*).

Item	Rank	Mentioned by (n - %)
Multi-cultural programs and offerings	1	106 – 29.0%
Art, music, concerts, theater, dance	2	89 – 24.4%
Family programs and activities	3	77 – 21.1%
Teen and after school programs	4	64 – 17.5%
Senior adult health, fitness, social programs	5	62 – 17.0%
Community special events and festivals	6	58 – 15.9%
Wellness and fitness programs	7	52 – 14.2%
Youth and adult sports programs	8	50 – 13.7%
Programs for people with disabilities	9	44 – 12.1%
Environmental/nature education programs	10	39 – 10.7%
Aquatic programs for all ages	12	34 – 9.3%
Summer programs	11	29 – 7.9%

Note: two programs were mentioned by 339 respondents, while another 26 respondents mentioned only one facility. Forty respondents did not provide any answer. Percentages listed are of the 365 respondents who provided at least one response, thus, the total percentages exceed 100%.

10) What is the best time for you, or any member of your household, to participate in activities or use facilities? (n = 390)

Response	n	%
Weekday morning	33	8.5
Weekday afternoon	51	13.1
Weekday evening	114	29.2
Weekend	192	49.2

11) Would you, or any member of your household, be more inclined to participate in activities or use facilities if it were on a drop-in basis? (n = 404)

Response	n	%
Yes	309	76.5
No	95	23.5

12) What is the best method for you to stay informed of parks and recreation activities in the City of Farmington Hills? (n = 402) (*List is ranked by percentage response*).

Response	n	%
Mail to home	255	63.4
Internet	50	12.4
Email	44	10.9
Newspaper	27	6.7
TV/radio	17	4.2
Pick-up information	9	2.2

13) Overall, how would you rate the communication and marketing of parks and recreation offerings from the City of Farmington Hills? (n = 403)

Response	n	%
Excellent (1)	62	15.4
Good (2)	233	57.8
Fair (3)	73	18.1
Poor (4)	25	6.2
Mean	2.16	
Don't know (5)	10	2.5

14) The existing special ½ mill levy has been the funding source for parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities in Farmington Hills. A ½ mill levy is equal to \$75 per year on a home valued at \$300,000. Would you be in favor of renewing millage to acquire, develop, and maintain new and existing facilities and programs? (n = 395)

Response	n	%
Yes	321	81.3
No	74	18.7

15) Are there any facilities or programs not mentioned that you would like to see offered?

A total of 99 respondents (24.4%) provided an answer to this question. Of the 99 sets of comments provided (with survey number in parentheses) ...

- ... 14 (14.1%) were specific complaints
- ... 11 (11.1%) specifically mentioned the need for more programs and/or facilities for youth
- ... 10 (10.1%) specifically mentioned the need for more/better aquatic programs and/or pool facilities
- ... 8 (8.1%) specifically mentioned the need for more programs and/or facilities related to the arts
- ... 8 (8.1%) specifically mentioned the need for more programs and/or facilities for seniors
- ... 6 (6.1%) specifically mentioned the need for a skateboard park

16) Is your age between? (n = 401)

Response	n	%
18-24	13	3.2
25-34	31	7.7
35-54	196	48.9
55-64	82	20.4
65 plus	79	19.7

Note: for comparative purposes, the proportion of the population 65 and over within the City of Farmington Hills was 16.9% as of 2006 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This translates to 21.5% of the population aged 18 or over, the age group considered in the telephone surveys.

17) How many adults age 18 and over currently live in your household? (n = 401)

Response	n	%
One	75	18.7
Two	231	57.6
Three	63	15.7
Four	29	7.2
Five	3	0.7
Mean	2.14	

18) How many children under the age of 18 currently live in your household? (n = 401)

Response	n	%
None	221	55.1
One	63	15.7
Two	80	20.0
Three	26	6.5
Four	7	1.7
Five	2	0.5
Six	2	0.5
Mean	0.88	

Note: for comparative purposes, the average household size within the City of Farmington Hills was 2.40 as of 2006 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

19) Which racial/ethnic group best describes your household? (n = 382)

Response	n	%
African American	27	7.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	3.7
Caucasian	312	81.7
Latino/Hispanic	4	1.0
Native American	0	0.0
Interracial	16	4.2
Other	9	2.4

Note: the ‘Other’ racial/ethnic categories listed were as follows: Arab American (1), Greek (1), Indian (3), Jewish (1), Middle Eastern (2) and Romanian (1)

Note: for comparative purposes, the proportions of residents by racial/ethnic grouping within the City of Farmington Hills was as follows in 2000 (the most recent year for which data are available) according to the U.S. Census Bureau – African American, 6.9%; Asian, 7.5%; Caucasian, 82.9%; Latino/Hispanic, 1.5%; Native American, 0.0%; two or more races, 1.9%; other, 0.5%.

20) Gender (by observation) (n = 398)

Response	n	%
Male	149	37.4
Female	249	62.6

Note: for comparative purposes, the male:female ratio within the City of Farmington Hills was 48.1:51.9 as of 2006 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A higher than proportionate response by females is typical of most telephone surveys.

Appendix B

Department of Special Services Divisions Goals

Department Of Special Services Divisions Goals

Each of the divisions of the Department of Special Services have established specific goals related to the services each provides.

Administration Goals

- Provide administrative oversight and support to each division within the department so that staff will be empowered to provide the best services for Farmington Hills residents.
- Research the pursue Federal, State and private grants, and other funding sources to maximize spending dollars for capital growth and land improvements.
- Assure that all personnel in the Department adhere to well-defined policies and accepted procedures to provide maximum service while continuing to work with other agencies to enrich the community's quality of life.
- Constantly evaluate services, programs, classes, activities, and recreational opportunities to meet the needs of a changing community.
- Continue oversight of the Farmington Hills Golf Club. Develop a marketing plan for the new course and driving range.
- Provide education and training opportunities for staff.
- Continue to monitor the operations of all divisions ensuring that expenditures are minimized while attempting to maximize revenues.

Youth and Family Services Division Goals

- Continue to increase program enrollment.
- Offer Summer Program Field Trips presenting members the opportunity to visit 40 "fun-filled" venues.
- Successful implementation of incentive programs such as Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Community Laws and Norms, Emergency First Aid, and Life Skills dealing with decision making, conflict resolution, and communication skills both verbal and non-verbal.
- Find new and creative ways to provide sustainable funding for existing programs to continue to strengthen community partnerships.
- Have all Youth Center Members receive Photo ID cars through RecTrac program, and use RecTrac for performance indicators.
- Add new enrichment opportunities for After School Youth Members such as, the Craft Club and Scrapbooking, while maintaining existing programs like Girl Power and Guy Time.

- Implement on-going community services programs with the Senior Division, the Goodfellows, and other service organizations such as Sojourn Bears project for cancer patients, Holiday shopping, and gift box packaging.
- Continue to offer group tutoring in partnership with Club Z, a professional tutoring organization.
- Sponsor events in partnership with our Recreation Division, Farmington Public Schools, the Farmington Family YMCA, and other community youth organizations, in order to continue to engage the youth in our communities in the good decision-making process.
- Offer a Winter/Spring Camp Retreat at the Lions Bear Lake Camp Grounds, a Lions Club organization for:
 - Able-bodied campers partnered with special needs campers.
 - Middle School Leadership Campers
- Acquire funding to support the new Family Center, located in the southeast quadrant of Farmington Hills on Fire Station #3 property.
- Work with the Farmington Hills Mayor's Youth Council, Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families, and the Farmington Hills City Council to identify needs, and develop partnerships and strategies to increase the quality of life for children, youth and families in Farmington Hills and Farmington.

Senior Division Goals

- Enhance awareness of programs and service available to Adults 50 and Better by increasing community visibility through publications, local cable, and the City's website.
- Improve transportation service to best meet the demands while increasing awareness of the need for donations to continue this necessary service.
- Increase participation in the Congregate Meals program by offering an alternative salad/soup bar menu to meet the demand for a healthy meal alternative.
- Continue promotion of participation in the adult day/respite through ongoing mailings to local churches, doctor's offices, and local agencies along with an effort to reach family caregivers.
- Broaden the scope of intergenerational activities by offering joint programs with Youth and Family, as well as encouraging senior participation in Senior Adults Giving to Education (S.A.G.E.).
- Promote senior computer knowledge by increasing classes and programs with Farmington Community Schools and Farmington Community Library.
- Expand efforts to offer evening and weekend programming designed for the working Adults 50 and Better.
- Promote programming to attract the cultural and ethnic diversity of our community.
- Actively access community resources for grants, sponsorships, fund-raising, and corporate partnerships.
- Establish programs to promote the arts in cooperation with Cultural Arts Division.

- Encourage the participants to register and use the swipe/identification card system for activity tracking purposes.

Parks Division Goals

- Continue to develop and expand the new programs and features of the Nature Center in Heritage Park in cooperation with the Farmington Public Schools, City Naturalist, and other interested nature organizations.
- Increase maintenance efficiency by greater utilization of satellite maintenance facilities at Heritage Park and Founders Sports Park.
- Work closely with other Special Services Divisions to review and evaluate programs to control operational costs within the Department.
- Solicit input and financial participation from athletic and other user associations in determining priorities in maintenance and facility improvements on park sites.
- Assist Golf Division during critical establishment of the new Farmington Hills Golf Club.
- Continue to use available computer resources to log and better track labor and material costs, in anticipation of the implementation of the new citywide financial package.

Cultural Arts Division Goals

- Continue to add new cultural programs, classes and workshops to keep variety and maintain support for successful programs.
- Seek support for cultural programs via sponsorships, partnerships, and grants.
- Add new events/attractions in order to expand the Farmington Community Arts Council's Festival of the Arts and involve a larger number of community organizations.
- Continue support for Farmington Youth Theatre, by including as many children and adults as possible in performance experiences.
- Unite Farmington/Farmington Hills arts community for identification of needs and mutual support to achieve community goals.
- Offer new concert and performance experiences to community.
- Continue to increase awareness of cultural programs, and Special Services Department as a whole, via promotion, marketing, and community contact.
- Support the call for public art within the Farmington Hills and Farmington area.
- Promote new artists for exhibits at City Gallery and City Halls.

Costick Activities Center Goals

- Investigate the possibilities of reconfiguring existing space or developing additional areas of the facility for events, programming, etc.
- Continue to closely monitor the building's use and require the best use of time and space in each program/rental area.
- Continue to increase customer convenience by reviewing front office operations and surveying front line customer service practices.

- Increase public awareness by developing and implementing a marketing plan for the Costick Center.
- Continue to make facility cleanliness and maintenance a top priority by making improvements and upgrades to the overall appearance, without sacrificing functionality or service levels.
- Work with other Special Services Divisions to ensure the Costick Center meets their needs to the best of its ability.
- Continue to create and maintain partnerships with local organizations in an effort to successfully operate the City's Volunteer Center.

Golf Division Goals

- Complete the criteria to achieve full accreditation in the Environmental Stewardship Program.
- Complete criteria to accreditation with the Audubon Society.
- Continue working on landscaping around the clubhouse, tunnel, and on the course.
- Continue with tree replacement plan.
- Expand golf lesson program and driving range usage.
- Continue to market the course, driving range, and clubhouse.

Recreation Division Goals

- Continue to offer a wide variety of recreation programs for residents of all ages at affordable prices.
- Heighten community awareness through increased marketing of programs and services.
- Maintain an effective and efficient staff by providing proper training and supervision.
- Continue to upgrade and expand programming at the 2nd Floor (Teen Center).
- Enhance our current website to better promote our activities/facilities.
- Continue to promote the use of Tele Trac (phone registration).
- Utilize RecTrac to monitor participation, registration, and facility allocations for all Special Services programs to increase efficient use of all resources.

Ice Arena Division Goals

- Promote and expand the use of the ice arena.
- Provide residents with a first class facility at an affordable price.
- Expand and promote the meeting/party facility.
- Work cooperatively with recreation and youth services to promote the 2nd Floor (Teen Center) area.
- Continue to support User Associations.
- Maintain a highly trained and qualified arena staff.
- Maintain efficient operation of equipment to extend working life span.
- Continue to host and conduct hockey tryouts and tournaments to generate additional revenue and attract teams from the greater Detroit metro area.

Appendix C

Funding Sources

Funding Sources

The proposed recreation improvements proposed in the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan can be financed with a combination of resources. There are several potential funding sources currently being utilized and many that are available for parks and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades as described below.

Past/Current Funding Sources

General Fund. The General Fund is the basic operating fund for the City of Farmington Hills. The General Fund contains the budgetary and financial controls for all the City's activities and functions which are not accounted for in other specialized funds. A wide variety of revenues, including recreation user charges, provide the resources for the operation of this fund. The Department of Special Services funding is an expenditure of the fund.

Parks Millage Fund. The Parks Millage Fund provides for the accounting and budgeting of \$.5000 Mill that was initially approved in June of 1986 and renewed a second time in November 1997. The current millage is set to expire on June 30, 2009. The funds are dedicated to the acquisition, development, and equipping of parks and recreational and cultural facilities in the City. The funds also support the senior program and debt payments for the Costick Activities Center.

Nutrition Grant Fund. The Nutrition Grant Fund provides meals to Farmington and Farmington Hills residents, 60 years and older and is funded primarily by Federal grants through the Older American's Act and a local grant match. The Special Services Senior Division provides nutrition services both on-site at the Costick Center and to homebound older adults.

Golf Course Capital Improvement Fund. The Golf Course Capital Improvement Fund was established in 1992 for golf course equipment and capital improvements. The fund is financed by a per round surcharge on green fees and interest income.

User Fees. The City currently charges reasonable fees to the users of specific recreation facilities and for enrollment in recreation programs such as senior services, sports, cultural arts, camps, events and clinics, golf course fees, travel, and rental fees for facilities. User fees provide substantial support for park and recreation facilities and programs and contribute to the City's General Fund.

Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project. This project was created in 1992/1993 to administer \$300,000 million dollars from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and additional state and local funding to demonstrate storm water remediation techniques in an urban watershed. The state funding included an \$822,000 319 Grant from the State of Michigan, and managed by Wayne County, for Best Management Practices (BMP) demonstration projects. The City of Farmington Hills is located in the Rouge River Watershed.

Available Funding Sources

Recreation Bond. A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. *General Obligation Bonds* are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. *Revenue Bonds* are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenue. The bonds are then retired by using income generated by the project.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The City of Farmington Hills has received over \$3 million dollars in funding from the MNRTF for acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities. MNRTF provides funding assistance for the acquisition of land or rights in land for recreation or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty. This fund is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. The available development grants are between \$15,000 and \$500,000 and there is no limit on the amount for acquisition projects because they depend upon the value of the property. A local minimum match of 25% is required for all projects. This grant is generally utilized for implementing large park projects and land acquisition. Applications must be postmarked by April 1st for both acquisition and development projects and August 1st for acquisition projects only.

Each year the Trust Fund Board of Trustees decides on special initiatives on which proposals will receive special attention. Those for 2008 include:

1. Acquisition of land or development of trailways that provide linkages to recreation opportunities. Projects that contribute to the state trailway system will be given a higher priority.
2. Acquisition of land open to hunting or development of hunting-related recreation facilities, such as shooting ranges. Specific seasons in which hunting will be allowed must be identified. Highest priority will be given to land in the southern Lower Peninsula, land that is open for all DNR-established hunting seasons, and shooting ranges.
3. Acquisition of DNR-established winter deer yard, or acquisition of land that connects or provides a buffer area to land that is already protected and that provides critical wildlife or is of ecological value.
4. Acquisition of land or development of facilities in urban areas.

5. Development projects that provide universally accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. Highest priority will be given to projects that provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities.
6. Fees charged to enter the proposed project site. Highest priority will be given to applications for projects for which no fee will be charged to enter the site.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The City of Farmington Hills has received over \$200,000 from the LWCF for the development of recreation facilities in the City. LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for public outdoor recreation. This fund is directed at community recreation and trailway improvements that preserve natural resources. A local match of 50% required for all projects, but the 2008 funding has yet to be determined. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and a fourth criterion based on the type of proposed project and are subject to final approval by the National Park Service. Applications are due March 1st for grants.

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU is the successor to the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorizing highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs, including regional pathways and trailway systems. This is a reimbursement program that originally comes from the Federal Highway Administration and is administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Communities are eligible for funds to develop, construct, maintain, and rehabilitate trails and trail facilities for both non-motorized and motorized trail uses.

Cooperative Resources Management Initiative. This program supports tree planting programs that improve tree species diversity, age/class diversity, reduce current and long-term maintenance costs, increase awareness, education and technical knowledge of trees and natural resource, provide wildlife habitat, improve aesthetics, encourage community/volunteer participation, increase water and air quality, and expand/improve tree cover throughout communities. Eligible projects are separated into three types: Community tree planting projects (\$10,000 maximum), projects organized by a non-profit or non-governmental agency on public land (\$5,000 maximum), and outdoor classroom/education sites (\$5,000 maximum). Applications are due in November of each year (with a possible second round in March).

Urban and Community Forestry Program – Community Forestry Grants. This program provides funds for projects that address the urban forestry needs municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, and volunteer groups throughout Michigan. These projects may include tree inventories, management plans, tree planting educational workshops and trailing materials, and other maintenance activities. Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources, such as management and planning, education and training, tree planting, and library resources, are looked upon highly. Applications are due each summer with maximum grant requests of \$20,000.

Community Forestry Program – Arbor Day Mini-Grants. This mini-grant program is designed to provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forestry activities related to Arbor Day. Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources, including tree planting on public land, Arbor Day celebrations, and natural resource library reference material acquisition, are looked upon highly. Applications are due each fall with maximum grant requests of \$200.

Community Forestry Program – DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants. The DTE Energy Tree Planting program is conducted through a partnership with the MDNR to increase the number of properly planted, established, and maintained trees within the service territory of DTE Energy. Tree planting projects such as parks, right-of-way, public streets, nature study areas, schools grounds planting, and neighborhood revitalization projects all qualify. All trees must be planted on public land or land open to the public. Applications are due each fall with maximum grant requests of \$3,000.

Conservation Easements. A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique can also be used to preserve open space if it is not feasible or practical for the City to acquire the land. Rather than obtaining fee simple, or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an easement to the property.

Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships. Reduced funding for the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands. The City should consider creating a different fee structure for the use of facilities by recreation providers and non-residents. The fees could be utilized for facility development, maintenance and upgrades, and/or programming. The fees from the various users would ensure continued high quality parks and facilities for City of Farmington Hills residents.

Donations. Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Foundations. A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

Appendix D

Resolution of Approval

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1165
(248) 871-2410

R-51-08

RESOLUTION

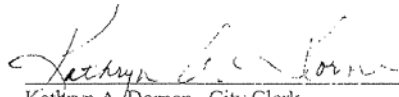
IT IS RESOLVED, that City Council hereby adopts the City of Farmington Hills Five Year (2008-2013) Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Motion by: MASON
Support by: OLIVERIO

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: BATES, BRICKNER, BRUCE, ELLIS, MASSEY, MASON, AND
OLIVERIO
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

I, Kathryn A. Doman, the duly authorized City Clerk of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills at the regular city council meeting held on March 24, 2008.


Kathryn A. Doman, City Clerk

DATE: March 25, 2008



RESOLUTION

**TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
2008 – 2012 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

At a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, held at the Costick Activities Center in said City on the 11th day of March, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Judy Antishin, Lee Hehman, Norma Henderson, Larry Hutchison, Paul Jacokes, Joseph Miller

ABSENT: Carl Christoph, Cheryl Ruffolo

The following Resolution was offered by Joseph Miller and seconded by Paul Jacokes.

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2008 and 2012, and

WHEREAS, focus group interviews with key individuals in the community were held in October 2007, the Department of Special Services sponsored a public Visioning Workshop on November 7, 2007, telephone interviews were conducted by Michigan State University to gather input from community residents in January and February 2008, and comments were sought during the 30-day public review period from February 12, 2008 to March 11, 2008, which were incorporated into the plan; and

Appendix E

Notices and Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION COSTICK CENTER DECEMBER 11, 2007

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jacokes at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Hehman, Larry Hutchinson, Paul Jacokes, Joe Miller.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Christoph, Norma Henderson, Judy Antishin, Cheryl Ruffalo.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Boyer, Director of Special Services, Mayor Jerry Ellis, Masha Silver, Heather McPhail Associate Planner from McKenna Associates, Recording Secretary Selena Wilson.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: In observance of Comm. Mary Foran who passed away.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for November 13, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission were not discussed or approved.

Commissioner Lee Hehman indicated he found no reflection in the last minutes indicating he was not allowed to record the meetings and he currently has a copy of the Michigan Open Meeting Acts of 1977, which specifically addresses commissions and recording of meetings via recording, videotape or television. Chairperson Jacokes commented it is only allowed by permission of the Chairperson and permission has not been granted. Chairperson Jacokes indicated if Mr. Hehman believes he is permitted to record the meeting over objections, then a lawsuit needs to be filed. Comm. Hehman disagreed. Ms. Silver indicated this is a public meeting and agrees Comm. Hehman is allowed to record the meeting. Mr. Dave Boyer indicated the meeting is being recorded by the Recording Secretary presently and Comm. Hehman is welcomed to listen to the recording. Comm. Hehman proceeded to tape record the meeting. Chairperson Jacokes commented his recording will not be an official meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Ms. Masha Silver – Friends of the Rouge – distributed contribution packets and information to everyone present concerning the Rouge River. She indicated Friends of the Rouge does a lot work with schools and encouraged the commissioners to participate in the Rouge Cleanup called Fishing in the Rouge, which occurs the 1st Saturday in June. Ms. Silver also encouraged the commissioners to become

Members of Friends of the Rouge and all donations will be accepted and appreciated. Comm. Joe Miller inquired of any state grants. Ms. Silver indicated they have grants from the State, Ford Motor Company and others. Comm. Hehman inquired if the City of Farmington Hills interacts and/or participates with Friends of the Rouge as a city. Mr. Boyer indicated yes and the City has a liaison that coordinates with the Friends of the Rouge.

Mayor Jerry Ellis commented that the City of Farmington Hills should honor Mary Foran in a special way through the city for all she has done for the City of Farmington Hills. Mr. Boyer indicated he has spoken with Linda and some ideas have been suggested. Comm. Hehman inquired if anyone knows how Mary Foran would want to be remembered. Mr. Boyer indicated they are considering special ways to honor Mary Foran.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondences will be accepted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Dave Boyer indicated McKenna Associates conducted the focus groups and highlighted from each focus group and public workshops and looked for similarities that arose in different categories and highlighted 25 main points. The compilations were divided into two groups and the results were distributed. Several drafts were made to compile the Phone Interview Questions. The Focus Groups Summary and Public Workshop Notes were used to develop appropriate questions for the Phone Interview Questions. Most of the different groups had the same or similar interests.

Ms. Heather McPhail explained the Phone Interview Questions in more detail and outlined the structure of the calls to be made. The commissioners discussed the re-arrangement, elimination and addition of the phone interview questions.

Comm. Larry Hutchinson clarified that the callers are not asking for money. Ms. McPhail indicated no solicitation of money is being asked for. The calls will take approximately seven minutes each and three attempts will be made to contact a person. Their goal is to reach 400 people over the age of 18 and 50 trained students will be conducting the calls.

Comm. Joe Miller inquired when the calls will commence. Mr. Boyer indicated January 7, 2007 is the target date with 30 days for completion. Mr. Boyer indicated the Observer will present a story on the upcoming survey calls, and it will be broadcasted on cable and the city website. Comm. Miller inquired if the survey includes Farmington. Mr. Boyer indicated no.

Mr. Boyer indicated the goal for the Master Plan completion is March to be submitted for grants. Thereafter, the Commission makes a presentation to City Council. Ms. McPhail indicated the interviews should be completed by February 4, 2008 and then a 30 day review notice will be published. February 12, 2008 will be the review period. Draft Plan will be presented to the Commission on January 8, 2008. Public notices must be sent out by February 27th or 28th, 2008. 30 day notices end on March 10, 2008. City Council will review it again on March 17th or 24th, 2008. April 1, 2008 is the deadline for the grants.

Comm. Hehman commented that many people today do not have landlines, they have cell phones. Mr. Boyer indicated they can go online and complete the survey, consideration will be taken of their survey, but it will not be included in the 400 count.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Comm. Hutchinson inquired of any movement on the parcel of land next to Heritage Park. Mr. Boyer indicated he has not been able to observe that piece of property as of yet.

Comm. Miller commented that Mary Foran was interested in Christmas and that could be a possible consideration to commemorate her life.

Comm. Hehman commented that next month on Mackinaw Island there will be a celebration of the RTU connecting 500 miles of bike trails in Michigan and it would be nice if Farmington Hills could connect up with those bike trails. Mr. Boyer indicated the City has a non-motorized transportation committee that has been investigating that opportunity and has had several meetings concerning that venture.

Comm. Hehman commented that the City could use more places for recreation and suggested the vacant Sam's Club building on Haggerty Road. Mayor Ellis indicated Wal-Mart is paying the rent and taxes are being paid. Until the owner decides to move on the property, they have no control.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation will be the Holiday Party at Cheryl Ruffolo's home on December 21, 2008 at 7 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COSTICK CENTER
JANUARY 8, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jacokes at 7:32 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Hehman, Larry Hutchinson, Paul Jacokes, Joe Miller, Norma Henderson, Judy Antishin, Carl Christoph

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cheryl Ruffolo

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Boyer, Director of Special Services, Masha Silver, Heather McPhail, Associate Planner from McKenna Associates, Selena Wilson, Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for November 13, 2007 and December 11, 2007 were approved.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Ms. Masha Silver read into the record the Open Meetings Act of the State, Section 15.263 Meetings of Public Bodies; Attendance. “The right of a person to attend a meeting of a public body includes the right to tape record, to videotape, to broadcast live on radio and to telecast live on television the proceedings of a public body at a public meeting. The exercise of this right shall not be dependent upon the prior approval of the public body.” Ms. Silver commented the only way you can ask people to refrain from recording or otherwise is if they are creating a public disturbance, such as putting a camera in your face or unfit conduct. Ms. Silva brought this article to the attention of the board because she felt Chairperson Jacokes improperly used his authority by indicating Member Hehman could not tape record the meeting.

Ms. Silver also requested that the minutes reflect times when people leave the meeting early or arrive late and also name tags be presented at the meeting for identification.

Ms. Silver commented it was the recommendation of the subcommittee to use the Visitor’s Center as a museum. Mr. Boyer agreed and indicated there is an interested person in the community that has all the information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondences will be accepted as noted.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Dave Boyer reported the Budget for 2008 will be a zero percent growth this year, which is a challenge with health care costs rising 15 percent, pension contributions increasing 2.6 percent and salaries rising 3 percent. Commissioner Judy Antishin inquired if any staff will be dismissed. Mr. Boyer indicated no. Commissioner Lee Hehman commented about the budget for Michigan having a \$356 million surplus. Mr. Boyer reported his understanding was that money was borrowed with a 44 year back pay period, which made it appear to be surplus.

Mr. Boyer reported they are currently awaiting the millage report and there is a possibility of surplus at the end of this millage, proceeding into the new millage. The aquatic facility is not completed, but a surplus is expected.

Master Plan – Ms. Heather McPhail presented a draft of the Master Plan to everyone present. A self addressed envelope was enclosed for mailing back the worksheet feedback and a copy of the calendar. The worksheet is for the feedback on the plan errors, opinions or changes. Ms. McPhail indicated Chapters 4 and 5 are blank for the members’ initial input. She indicated the survey was started last night and an update will be given in the future. Commissioner Hutchinson inquired if the update could be mailed to the members. Mr. Boyer indicated yes. Chairperson Jacokes inquired of return date for worksheet. Ms. McPhail requested the worksheet by January 15, 2008 and also the draft plan for Chapters 4-5. Following that a complete plan by February 5, 2008. Another meeting on February 12, 2008 to review the draft plan.

Ms. McPhail briefly went over the draft plan as presented to the members highlighting the chapters.

Commissioner Norma Henderson commented she will be working on the election and also will be out of town and indicated the worksheet and review of the plan may not get in on time by her. Mr. Boyer indicated his staff will also review the draft plan as well.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Chairperson Jacokes inquired of the acquisition on the museum. Mr. Boyer indicated the presentation was a year ago and funds were budgeted in the historical preservation and they are maintaining the insurance and it should open in the spring of 2008.

Commissioner Hutchinson inquired if the online survey for the public regarding the Master Plan was operating. Mr. Boyer indicated not as of yet.

Commissioner Hehman inquired of the status of the parcel of land at Heritage Park. Mr. Boyer indicated they are still reviewing that property for potential action to be taken. Commissioner Hehman inquired of grant money being used. Mr. Boyer indicated with grant money there is a 50 percent match requirement.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation will be Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Notice of a 30-Day Public Review Period
City of Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission**

Notice is given to any and all interested parties that the draft City of Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning February 12, 2008 at the Department of Special Services, Costick Activities Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, during regular business hours or online at <http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us/>.

The City of Farmington Hills is preparing a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of Department of Special Services facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to the Department of Special Services, Costick Activities Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Please contact the Department of Special Services at 248-473-1820 with questions or comments.

**MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COSTICK CENTER
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jacokes at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Hehman, Paul Jacokes, Norma Henderson, Judy Antishin, Carl Christoph

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Miller, Cheryl Ruffolo, Larry Hutchinson

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Boyer, Director of Special Services, Cheryl Oliverio, Masha Silver, Heather McPhail, Associate Planner from McKenna Associates, Recording Secretary Selena Wilson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Correction: page 2, “may not be turned in” should be ‘may not get it in on time.’”

Correction: page 1, “Detroit being a 356 million surplus” should be Michigan has a \$356 million surplus”

Correction: page 2, Ms. Silver’s comments under Commissioner Comments should go under Public Discussion.

The minutes for January 8, 2008 were approved as amended.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Ms. Masha Silver commented the minutes for December 11, 2007 that were approved indicated Cheryl Ruffolo as being absent and the minutes that came with the Master Plan does not indicated whether she is absent or present.

Ms. Silver indicated she had some remarks on the Master Plan, but would like to wait until the Master Plan is discussed to outline her input. Chair Jacokes indicated now is the time for public comment and her comments concerning the Master Plan should be outlined at this time under Public Comment.

Ms. Silver commented she has a problem with the way things are stated and not sure of the format. For example, it states the acreage of parks and then in another area it mentions public schools as park acreage and she has spoken with Ms. McPhail about items under the private school list.

Ms. Silver commented it would be more appropriate to have different designations other than just park and feels it would be more appropriate not to include soccer soccer in the park acreage, because it is not owned by the City currently. Also, she commented she feels it is inappropriate to call Harmon Oaks a park because it is a green space and there are no trails, no parking and there are “no parking” signs every so many yards on the side of the green space. Ms. Silver reported she learned today a forest would have to be 60 meters wide to be called a forest and the above area should be included as a wooded area.

Ms. Silver inquired of the language when it talks about things being done, for example: site visits, how many Commissioners have visited all of the parks and are aware of prohibition of parking and no trails.

Ms. Silver indicated there are more items she would like to address as the Master Plan is presented. Chair Jacokes reiterated this is Public Comment and the appropriate time for Ms. Silver to express all of her concerns. Ms. Silver indicated as a member of the public, she should be allowed to speak on the issues as they arise, which she is allowed to do at the City Council meetings, not just during Public Comment. Ms. Silver requested she be afforded the right to speak on the issues as they arise during the Master Plan presentation. She also indicated the only reason she is being denied this right in such a gruff manner is because the Chair does not like her saying things. Chair Jacokes indicated Ms. Silver has the right to say anything during Public Comment and also indicated that people have objected to public comments being made throughout the meeting. Ms. Silver indicated she has appeared in the minutes of the City Council minutes other than in Public Comment and she feels that this meeting should be run as an open meeting just like City Council meetings, and many of the people present don't like people coming in speaking at the meetings and there have been objections today about the name indicators should have been two-sided and also that some of the members present today are not showing their names.

Ms. Silver indicated she will be gruff as well and commented that Chair Jacokes told Mr. Hehman it was unconstitutional to record a meeting and the Chairperson being a lawyer having said such words, and she objects to a member of the public not having the right to take part in a discussion.

Commissioner Lee Hehman indicated he would like to know who objected to the name signs, because he is unaware of any objections and suggested that they are afraid to identify themselves and may be cowards. Judy Antishin requested she be identified as referring to this comment. Chair Jacokes inquired if Commissioner Hehman wanted to insult people. Chair Jacokes indicated he is enforcing the rule that public comment only be discussed under Public Comments.

Mr. Dave Boyer interceded and explained the process, which will be a 30 day review for the plan and any corrections, deletions and/or suggestions can be submitted in writing. Ms. Silver inquired when the meeting will be so her comments can be heard while everyone is present. Ms. McPhail reiterated Mr. Boyer's remarks concerning submission of comments in writing. Also, the public hearing will be held by the City Council in March and a final document will be submitted. Ms. Silver inquired of Chair Jacokes of the specific rule that forbids public comment throughout a meeting. Chair Jacokes was unsure of the rule. Ms. Silver indicated if the Chairman enforces rules, he should be able to point to the rule and indicated Chair Jacokes is very insulting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondences will be accepted as noted. Commissioner Judy Antishin commented that some of the activities the seniors cannot afford. Mr. Boyer indicated there is a scholarship program to offset the fees and costs.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Master Plan - Mr. Dave Boyer presented and distributed hard copies of the Master Plan to the Commissioners present. Commissioner Hehman inquired of any major changes. Mr. Boyer indicated there were no major changes, some modifications. Commissioner Antishin inquired if changes had been made to the calendar. Mr. Boyer indicated yes and they are forthcoming.

Ms. Heather McPhail reported that the telephone surveys were completed in three weeks and the public response was good. Results of the surveys were distributed for discussion. Ms. McPhail highlighted some responses, such as the public would like to see indoor facilities improved, more weekend and drop-in activities, more senior programs, continuation of hard copy brochures mailed to their residences. Commissioners discussed and commented on the Master Plan and Part 6 was clarified.

Ms. McPhail also discussed Chapter 5, The Action Plan denoting the goals and objectives of Special Services and indicated those line items are within the budget. Goals were expanded and resulted in 10 new goals. Commissioner Hehman commented that the capital improvement plan is a great idea, but it seems things are in reverse and that the higher needs of the people were not being met, such as walking trails, dog parks, playground equipment and maybe should be shifted around every few years. Mr. Boyer agreed and indicated they rotate items around in the millage because of the uncertainty when situations arise and what is needed at a certain time. Mr. Boyer indicated that items 6 through 11 can be changed around at any time and these are merely guidelines for the future.

Mr. Boyer indicated that any further comments can be given to Ms. McPhail for her attention. Ms. McPhail indicated there will be another draft of the plan at the next meeting and a meeting with City Council on March 24, 2008. She asked for all revisions, comments or questions be sent to her by the end of next week. Commissioner Hehman discussed Table 2.2 for further clarity. Mr. Boyer commended Ms. McPhail on her hard work and a job well done.

Commissioner Hehman commented on a conflict in the statement on page 41, a surplus of soccer fields. Mr. Boyer indicated it should say the number of fields that are required, not specific for the age group.

Millage - Mr. Boyer distributed the guidelines used for the current millage and a draft. The debt retirement that was paid off was the Costick Center and Founders Sports Park. The plan is to maintain existing youth and senior programs, cultural arts, park staff, and recreation. They will be developing new and improving existing facilities. Under fixed costs were playground improvements made to all three playgrounds. The biggest expense was Founders Sports Park and money was borrowed upfront and was paid over the life of the millage. Mr. Boyer indicated the Longacre House is under property acquisition with ongoing maintenance issues within the building.

Mr. Boyer reported money that is earmarked for programming and staffing is estimated at \$900,000 of the millage. In the draft 1-14-08, it was projected out for the next 10 years. The Ice Arena needs some help with continued ongoing programs. Commissioner Hehman inquired if the Arena was in addition to the debt retirement. Mr. Boyer indicated no. Commissioner Carl Christoph inquired if the debt retirement is coming out of the new proposed millage, and if so, will it cause alarm in the millage renewal. Mr. Boyer indicated that is his recommendation, but currently the money is coming out of the general fund. When the Ice Arena was first proposed, there was a market for it and then other communities acquired Ice Arenas, so the demand decreased for the facility. The prime time usage pays for the facility and the non-prime time usage offsets the debt retirement. Mr. Boyer indicated taxpayer money has not been invested into the facility. Commissioner Christoph commented the public needs to be clear on the millage and the debt retirement allocations. Mr. Boyer agrees and indicated the facility needs constant upkeep and maintenance. Commissioner Christoph commented that the responsible thing to do is have the Parks Rec. areas pay for their facilities and to indicate we want \$200,000 to keep it going versus asking do I want the debt paid off at the Ice Arena versus trash pickup.

Mr. Boyer indicated the \$200,000 must come from somewhere and, unfortunately, cuts will have to be made, but at the same time the City is trying to maintain and also expand programs that are available.

Commissioner Hehman inquired if concession operations are ongoing. Mr. Boyer indicated Battle of the Bands and other activities occur at the Ice Arena. Commissioner Christoph commented they may generate revenue, not necessarily profit and the purpose of the Battle of the Bands is for the youngsters to have activities to occupy their time. Mr. Boyer indicated initially that area was proposed to be a restaurant, but it probably will not happen at this point.

Commissioner Hehman inquired of the highlighted red areas on page 49. Mr. Boyer responded that area indicates how the millage is used for those items. Ms. Silver inquired of the capital improvements. Mr. Boyer indicated capital improvement is the language used by the DNR.

Mr. Boyer encouraged the Commissioners to look over the plans and further discussion will be had at the next meeting. Commissioner Hehman inquired if the numbers will change. Mr. Boyer responded the numbers may change minimally, but the bottom line numbers should remain the same. Commissioner Hehman inquired of a break down of the division operations. Mr. Boyer indicated at the bottom of the page it is broken down as maintenance and current staffing, primarily all staffing. Ms. Antishin inquired if they could call Mr. Boyer if there were any questions and when is the next meeting. Mr. Boyer indicated if there were any questions, please call him and there are two meetings in March, the regular Parks and Recreation meeting and the City Council Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Christoph inquired of the food service facility at the golf course, if Mr. Boyer has been in dialogue with them. Mr. Boyer indicated they are struggling through the winter months and currently working on a sign for better advertisement. Commissioner Christoph suggested a lighted sign. Mr. Boyer indicated they do very well in the summer and received favorable write-ups in the newspaper and it will be evaluated.

Ms. Antishin commented she noticed a huge crowd at the Ice Arena on Sunday night. Mr. Boyer indicated it might have been a hockey tournament.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 p.m.

**MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COSTICK CENTER
MARCH 11, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jacokes at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Hehman, Larry Hutchinson, Paul Jacokes, Joe Miller, Norma Henderson, Judy Antishin,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cheryl Ruffolo.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Boyer, Director of Special Services, Cheryl Oliverio, Masha Silver, Heather McPhail Associate Planner from McKenna Associates, Recording Secretary Selena Wilson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for February 19, 2008 were corrected as follows:

Correction: Page 1, add Cheryl Oliverio’s name under Others Present.

Correction: Page 1, third paragraph from the bottom, add another word “soccer”

Correction: Page 2, first paragraph, line 5, “ran” should be “run”.

Correction: Page 2, third paragraph from the top, line 2, Judy Antishin requested her name be identified in the minutes referring to Mr. Lehman’s inquiry.

Correction Page 2, last paragraph, line 3 change “lower” to “higher”.

The minutes for February 19, 2008 were approved as amended.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Ms. Masha Silver commented she is very pleased to see the Americans with Disabilities Act at the bottom of the agenda because she has a hearing disability. Ms. Silver asked that the members speak up for her benefit and apologized if she has mispronounced anyone’s name because of not hearing it correctly.

Commissioner Lee Hehman inquired if there had been changes made from the last draft. Mr. Boyer indicated yes.

Ms. Silver commented on the Action Plan at pages 45-46 that she felt the plan is fantastic and on pages 47-48 she agrees with the staff increase which is needed, especially in the park with the part-time park rangers. Ms. Silver indicated one person on duty at a time covering all the parks is not sufficient, nor safe for themselves and the public.

Ms. Silver commented no more splash parks should be developed in the city until better planning is in place and certainly no splash parks in Heritage Park. She encouraged the city to buy more property for parks and a dog park is needed and should be well maintained.

Ms. Silver commented the city needs to charge more when other communities use the city's facilities so all expenses can be covered sufficiently. She indicated she is not aware of the present fees. Also, she indicated more green spaces need to be added in and around the city.

Ms. Silver commented she agrees with the Vatican, although she is not Catholic, on the new list of deadly sins, especially environmental irresponsibility.

CORRESPONDENCE :

The correspondence will be accepted as noted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Mr. Dave Boyer indicated the 2nd draft was updated and completed today. Any additional changes need to be submitted by Friday, March 14, 2008. The final draft will be submitted to City Council on Monday, March 24, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the study session for adoption of the Plan. Commissioner Lee Hehman indicated he gets off work at 6 p.m., but will try to make arrangements for coverage. If not, he may be a few minutes late.

Commissioner Hehman indicated he thought the dog park was included in this Plan. Ms. Heather McPhail indicated it is included under Public Input section.

Mr. Dave Boyer indicated at City Council Meeting the plan will be discussed with a presentation and discussion of the proposed millage.

Ms. McPhail highlighted major plans that have changed such as update of the community description, all data and demographics, administrative updates, groups and affiliations, funding and expenditures and Parks & Recreation inventory has been updated to make sure there are no incorrect assumptions. Also included in the plan were public comments, views and opinions.

Commissioner Joe Miller inquired if responses were received from all the phone calls. Ms. McPhail indicated yes. Comm. Miller also inquired of the ambassadors on page 11. Mr. Boyer indicated that's a nice word for a golf ranger.

Mr. Boyer remarked a resolution needs to be approved for part of the requirements for the DNR to finalize the Master Plan and he wants to present that resolution at the upcoming City Council meeting.

Commissioner Miller made a motion for a resolution for approval of part of the requirements for the DNR and Commissioner Norma Henderson supported the motion.

VOTE:AYES: Joe Miller, Norma Henderson, Larry Hutchinson, Paul Jacokes.
NAYS: Lee Hehman.
ABSTAIN: None.

Resolution Approved.

Comm. Hehman indicated his vote may change after he has had an opportunity to read the Master Plan as presented.

Mr. Boyer reiterated to the members to review the plan and submit any changes or questions by Friday, March 14, 2008.

Commissioner Norma Henderson indicated she reviewed all of the numbers. Mr. Boyer indicated the numbers have been revised.

Commissioner Hehman inquired of the trails being upgraded and also the back part of Heritage Park needs maintenance attention. Mr. Boyer indicated those items are addressed in the operating budget and funds have been allocated in the budget. Mr. Boyer reported there is an upcoming meeting to discuss those items, along with the issues at Longacre House.

Commissioner Larry Hutchinson inquired on page 46 under Objectives concerning continuing current levels of cultural arts programs having the ability to expand and/or eliminate some programs. Mr. Boyer indicated that is addressing the millage and that number remains the same, but the programs can be modified.

Commissioner Miller inquired if the previous millage was included in the Master Plan. Mr. Boyer indicated the Master Plan is separate from the millage.

Millage - Mr. Boyer distributed a draft of the millage dated 3-4-08. Mr. Boyer reported that he met with the finance director and the comptrollers twice to discuss the budgets. The debt retirement on the ice arena was originally \$200,000 and was reduced to \$150,000 because the full 200,000 was not needed and the \$50,000 was allocated in a different part of the budget. Another change was the increase in maintaining youth programs and cultural arts programs to \$150,000 each.

Mr. Boyer indicated no grant opportunities are in the millage.

Commissioner Miller indicated the expenditures did not add up. Mr. Boyer explained the millage and how calculations were accounted for. Mr. Boyer reported the major expenditures 5.9 are extended out to the last year for park and acquisitions because it could be the 1st year or the 2nd year.

Mr. Boyer explained the millage page by page for the commissioners.

Mr. Boyer indicated the current staffing levels will be carried through on the current millage with a three percent increase per year. The second page reflects the proposed new staff to be added to the millage because of the increasing senior programs, also an increase in Cultural Arts. Mr. Boyer indicated if an expansion is developed, more programs will be added

Commissioner Miller inquired of the Boys and Girls Club being listed at 1.2 million. Mr. Boyer indicated yes and agreed that was a high price and the city is looking for property along the watershed.

Ms. Silver inquired if the purchase of the Club would include access on Inkster Road. Mr. Boyer indicated no and that access would have to be negotiated because the property is landlocked and would be of no value to anyone without access.

Mr. Boyer reported on developing new facilities and art space budgeted at 2 million dollars. They are in preliminary stages of extending out on the west end of the Costick Center and also acquiring the Chapel, which is the D-wing. Another meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2008 to further discuss the negotiations.

Commissioner Judy Antishin inquired of the number of Sisters still on the premises. Mr. Boyer indicated less than 80.

Commissioner Hehman confirmed the D-wing expansion would commence next year and the cost would be \$300,000, including upgrading the façade. Mr. Boyer indicated \$300,000 is for improvements in the facility and the upgrading of the façade would come from other funding.

Mr. Boyer reported that the existing facilities at Heritage Park will be maintained, along with the stables being repainted this spring, and maintaining of the barn. Commissioner inquired of the \$20,000 being allocated for the barn museum. Mr. Boyer indicated it may become part of that fund. Mr. Boyer reported the proposal for the barn is to be open on the weekends for the public, schools and tours as a historical museum.

Mr. Boyer reported for the athletic fields \$60,000 has been allocated for new equipment as needed. Also, the facility upkeep will offset the cost expenditures for the additional new spaces that will be added in the future.

Mr. Boyer reported Founder's Sport Park improvements are allocated. The skate park is scheduled to open in June 2008.

Mr. Boyer reviewed the maintenance and contractual services and park land acquisitions.

Commissioner Henderson commented every 4 years we need \$15,000 more. Mr. Boyer indicated it is actually more than that.

Commissioner Hehman inquired if the bicycle path improvements were in a specific area. Mr. Boyer indicated there is no particular area.

Mr. Boyer indicated the family aquatic center will be discussed during a presentation of various aquatic centers. Mr. Boyer showed preliminary plans for the expansion.

Mr. Boyer indicated they visited 4 aquatic centers located in Wayne, Canton, Livonia and Dearborn. A presentation was presented showing the pros and cons of existing aquatic centers in the surrounding areas. All the above aquatic centers are connected to the recreation centers.

Commissioner Hutchinson inquired of the effect of the surrounding pools in the area if an aquatic center is developed in Farmington Hills. Chairperson Paul Jacokes commented the swim clubs encouraged the aquatic centers because of overload at their facilities. Mr. Boyer commented the aquatic center would provide different services than a swim club.

Commissioner Hutchinson inquired of the capacity of the proposed performing arts auditorium. Mr. Boyer indicated tentatively it is a minimum of 400 seats. Commissioner Hutchinson inquired if the youth could leave their paraphernalia in the facility. Mr. Boyer indicated that is not the proposed purpose of the building, but a backstage area is proposed for storage.

Commissioner Miller made a motion for a resolution to present the Master Plan to City Council and Commissioner Henderson supported the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Joe Miller, Norma Henderson, Larry Hutchinson, Paul Jacokes, Lee
Hehman.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Resolution Approved.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS: Commissioner Antishin commented she spoke with Mary Foran's daughter and Commissioner Antishin arrived before the start of the meeting to speak with Mr. Boyer concerning information on the donations from the Friends of the Park and possibly resolve some direction in honoring Mary Foran. Mr. Boyer indicated donations so far have been \$560 and checks are still coming in. Mr. Boyer commented that Mary's daughter should have Mary's wishes granted and that Mary loved Heritage Park and Mary would love to see a tree go there and Mr. Boyer commented that would be the direction they would follow and the ultimate goal is that it would happen this summer.

Commissioner Henderson commented she encountered Mr. Paul Homer and he is still teaching at North Farmington High School. Commissioner Henderson commented that Commissioner Hutchinson was on WRCJ with her cousin on a program called DSO Unmasked. Commissioner Hutchinson commented the first hour of the program is spent interviewing the guest solo and the second hour a member of the orchestra is selected and that member can bring in music of his or her own choosing and Commissioner Hutchinson selected all bass solo music and some jazz and classical music.

Commissioner Miller indicated his son plays the bass, also.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adjourned 8:47 p.m.

**CITY OF FARMINGTON
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

THIS IS PUBLIC NOTICE that the Farmington Hills City Council will conduct a public hearing to receive input on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Monday, March 24, 2008, 7:30 p.m. The public hearing will take place during the regular council meeting held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Comments mailed will be noted for the public record.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Publish: March 2, 2008

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PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN FOR 2008 – 2013

Special Services Director Boyer began this discussion, and provided the following summary to City Council:

The City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services has undertaken the process to prepare the five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan is a road map for the parks, recreation, facilities, and programming decisions made in the next five years, as well as the projected future needs.

- An essential task in the planning process is to determine the needs of the community. This was accomplished by comparing the community to national guidelines, information gathered during the public input process and phone surveys, consultation with the Department of Special Services and Parks Commission, and by reviewing current offerings and programs.
- The Plan was also developed to meet the guidelines and grant requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Since 1987, the City of Farmington Hills has received \$3,685,700 in grant funding to enhance parks and recreation opportunities for Farmington Hills residents.

Heather McPhail and Courtney Miller, representing McKenna and Associates, presented the following PowerPoint presentation to City Council regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process:

Why Do a Parks and Recreation Master Plan?

- Provides a road map for parks and recreation decisions over the next 5 years, as well as long range planning of projects
- Address the City's current and future parks and recreation needs
- Make City eligible for MDNR development and acquisition grants

Planning Process:

- Task One: Community Description
- Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding
- Task Three: Parks, Recreation, and Facility Inventory
- Task Four: Public Participation
- Task Five: Analysis
- Task Six: Action Plan
- Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption

Plan Highlights and Updates:

- Update the description of City's physical and social features, including demographics
- Review the administrative structure of the Department of Special Services and funding
- Create a parks, recreation, and facility inventory and classify parks for analysis

Public Participation Process:

- Focus Group Interviews

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- Public Visioning Workshop
- Telephone Interviews
- Reviewed highlights of Public Participation

Action Plan:

- Parks and Facility Analysis
- Goals and Objectives
 1. Maintain or expand the current funding level for existing programs
 2. Continue funding for operational and maintenance staff
 3. Develop new parks and recreation facilities at existing sites
 4. Continue to improve existing parks and recreation facilities
 5. Continue to upgrade and maintain historic facilities
 6. Continue to upgrade and maintain athletic fields
 7. Explore opportunities and provide funding for park site and land acquisition
 8. Improve non-motorized connectivity in the City
 9. Expand the current facility and develop a family aquatic center
 10. Develop a marketing plan for the Department of Special Services

Next Step:

- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be sent to the MDNR, SEMCOG, and Oakland County for review and certification by the end of March
- The plan will be used as a tool to direct short and long-term parks and recreation decisions and should be reviewed on a regular basis over the next 5 years.

Ms. McPhail and Miller indicated they would be happy to answer any questions or provide more information if Council had questions.

Mayor Ellis opened the public hearing at 8:39 p.m.

Masha Silver, resident, stated that she has attended and participated in all the meetings that pertained to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. She would like to see approval of all the things that are being asked for in this plan, however, she thinks the number one priority needs to be land acquisition and she does not feel that this plan adequately addresses that. She stated that the survey done shows consistency regarding the top three important desires of the residents. These priorities are park land, walking and biking trails, and providing fitness opportunities. She stated that she would also like to see an aquatic center. When looking at the Parks and Facility Analysis map, she felt that to highlight Soccer-Soccer as a city park is misleading because it is not owned by the City and it is up for sale at this time by the actual owners. In addition, she commented that Harmon Oaks is not a park, due to the fact that it does not have a parking lot and easy access and she felt this should not be listed as such. She added that this is a piece of green strip, which is desirable, but again it has no paving or parking. She concluded that she is very much in favor of dog parks, and there are positive benefits to these types of parks. She feels that the City cannot share a dog park with another community or governmental entity and that it would be important for Farmington Hills to maintain control over this type of park by itself.

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There being no further public comments, Mayor Ellis closed the Public hearing at 8:49 p.m.

Motion by Mason, second by Oliverio, that City Council hereby adopts the City of Farmington Hills Five Year (2008-2013) Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Councilmember Bruce stated that while he is a little reluctant, he will support the motion. He stated that staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission have done a great job in putting the Master Plan together. He commented that while there has been a lot of discussion and emphasis placed on an aquatic center, he has been on City Council for five years and no one has ever approached him requesting more pools, but that he has received requests for items such as a cultural art center. He stated his concern is that these types of plans often become self-fulfilling prophecies, and that once something is put into print, it becomes credible. He added that perhaps the survey done was not broad enough in scope.

Councilmember Brickner thanked staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission for their work and indicated that the Soccer-Soccer park designation should indicate that the City does not own it; but that this land is leased property.

Councilmember Massey concurred. He stated that while he didn't see any mention of dog parks in the output section, this type of park is included in the overall plan. He commented that he believes that in 1992 there was a request on the ballot which asked voters to approve a millage/monies for acquisition of land, but unfortunately that failed.

Mayor Pro-tem Bates thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff for their work on this project and noted that an incredible job was done. She confirmed Mr. Massey's statement on a previous failed millage question to buy land and noted there is only so much money to work with and that land is expensive.

Councilmember Mason thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff for their work. He noted that in the study session on this agenda item, Council addressed the line item regarding dog parks. There was feedback and while it is not called out specifically, it is implicitly included and he will support the document as proposed.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Acknowledgements



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