

FARMINGTON HILLS

Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan

2019
-
2023



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1165

(248) 871-2410

R-1-19

RESOLUTION

IT IS RESOLVED, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby adopts the City of Farmington Hills 2019-2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.


Motion by: KNOL
Support by: BRUCE

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY, RICH AND STECKLOFF
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7 - 0

I, Pamela B. Smith, 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 January 14, 2019.



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk

DATE: January 15, 2019

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thanks to Ellen Schnackel (Director of Department of Special Services) and Bryan Farmer (Deputy Director) for their consistent and thorough dedication to this project.

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Richard Lerner, Mayor Pro Tem
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Randy Bruce, Council Member
Valerie Knol, Council Member
Theresa Rich, Council Member
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BACKGROUND

PURPOSE OF A PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the state agency in charge of conserving, protecting, and managing the state’s natural resources, rightfully boasts that Michiganders are never more than an hour’s drive from a state park or recreation area—even in the highly urbanized metro Detroit area.¹ Parkland that is not managed by the state typically becomes the responsibility of the local government, but the two entities collaborate in order to ensure that municipalities can meet their residents’ recreational needs.

In order to receive grant funding from the MDNR for recreational projects, municipalities write Park and Recreation Master Plans that inventory parkland, natural areas,

public and open spaces, and the recreation facilities they operate. The plan also looks at private and non-profit spaces, and school campuses within the community that function as a public good. Widening its scope to regional recreational opportunities and resources, the plan also considers the residents’ access to high-quality recreational space outside of the City of Farmington Hills. In addition to a physical inventory, the plan reports the community’s recreation preferences, uncovered through various forms of engagement, and assesses unmet recreational needs. Then, these are translated into short- and longer-term community goals, and actionable strategies the City can take to achieve these goals are identified. These plans are submitted to the DNR who reviews them to hold local governments accountable for using public dollars in accordance with the public’s wishes.

This document serves two major purposes. First, it serves as a guide when decision-makers must confront issues, changing trends, and plans for the location and design of future facilities; and secondly, it makes the City eligible for MDNR grants that help fund acquisition of new parkland and open space, or the development of recreational facilities, as reported in an adopted 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Beyond that, a Parks and Recreation Plan demonstrates that recreation is not as narrowly defined as it appears: recreation is closely tied to issues of public and mental health, placemaking, equity and accessibility, workforce retention, tourism, and the housing market. While the focus will be on improving recreational amenities and programming, attention will also be paid to where it overlaps with these other topics.

RECREATION AS AN INDUSTRY

For most of us, recreation is how we “get away from it all,” and all of our efforts to “escape” have turned into a huge industry! With 63% of Michiganders participating in outdoor recreation annually, it is no wonder that it has become the 4th largest industry nationwide. In Michigan, the recreation industry is responsible for 232,000 direct jobs and \$2.1 billion in state and local tax revenue.² Farmington Hills residents are avid contributors to the industry: residents spend substantially more than the national average on recreation.³

On a regional level, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has also found that 59% of business survey-takers said “access



to parks, trails, and paths influenced retention and recruiting” in Oakland County.⁴ Access to recreation is a significant pull to the area, and when it is lacking or inadequate, it does not go unnoticed. In addition to its intrinsic value, recreation also has the power to entice workers from other industries to the County who see recreation access as an added perk, separate from the benefits a company might offer.

PREVIOUS AND CONCURRENT PLANNING

The power of good planning lies in the strength of its connections to previous and concurrent planning efforts. Rather than duplicating work that came prior, this plan looks for synergies that reinforce linkages, both literally and figuratively, to bring the community’s recreational ideas to life. The plan starts by re-examining what has already been done at a local and regional scale in regard to recreation planning so that the City’s proposed strategies do not conflict with larger goals set by the County, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), or the State of Michigan.

THE HIGHLIGHTS

SEMCOG: Developing Regional Solutions

SEMCOG is an association of 170 local units of government that supports planning for the seven counties in the region as a coordinated effort. They work to align local plans to regional policies, share data, and help push projects through the grant process. In a presentation titled, “Leveraging Green Infrastructure Across Regional Plans,” SEMCOG shows how recreation is tied into larger

discussions of transportation, water resources, economic development, and access to core services. For example, funding for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) has spin-off effects like boosting recreation by way of creating connected bicycle and pedestrian networks. A regional survey reveals that 81% of respondents visit parks for trails, and that nearly three-quarters want to see more hiking and biking trails, and also want to see parks that are connected by trails.

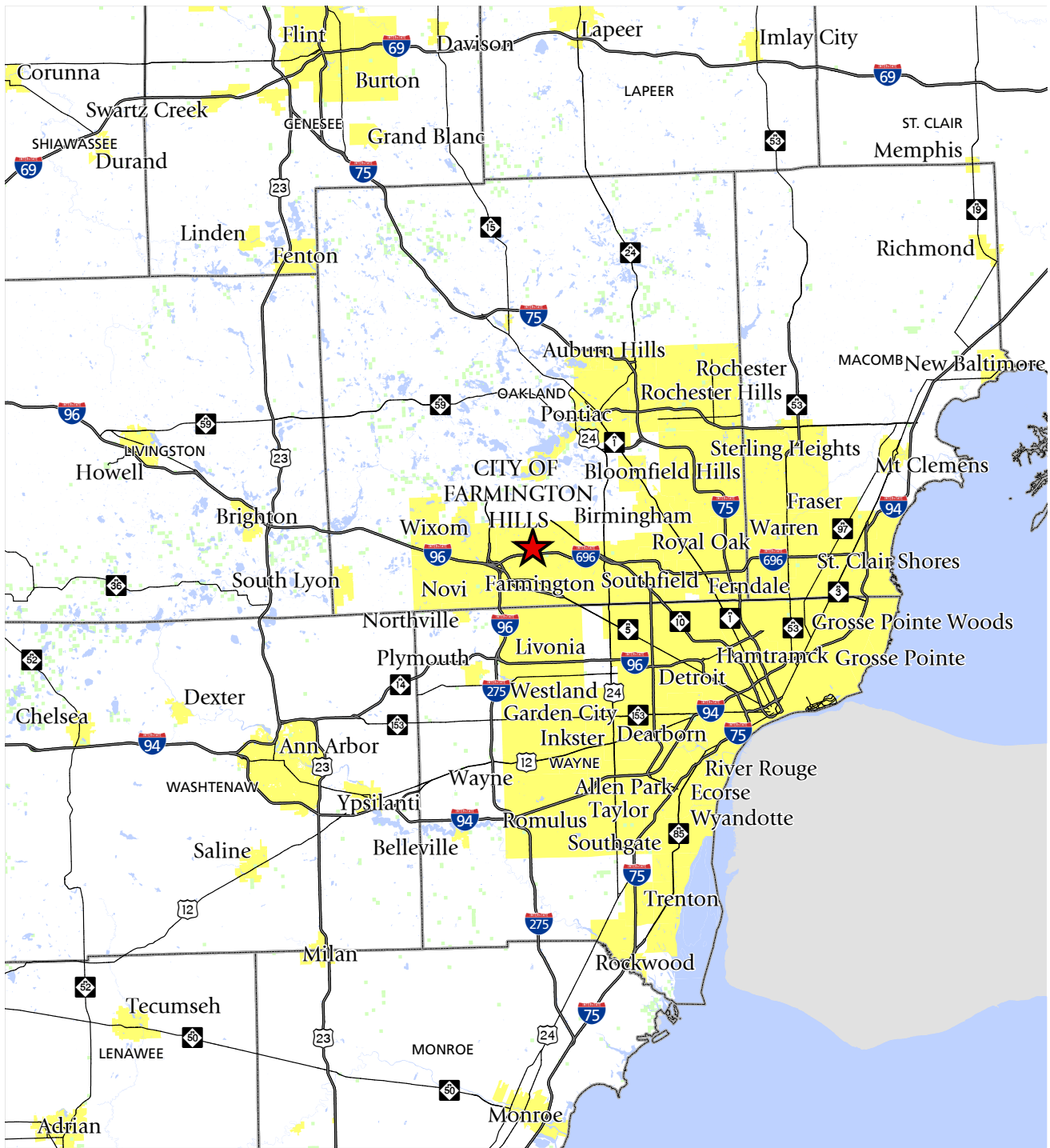
Oakland County 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan: 2018-2022

As a city within Oakland County, our respective success is mutually-dependent. Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department issued a survey in the summer of 2017 to gauge residents’ satisfaction with the available recreational experiences, but none of the 136 responses came from Farmington Hills residents.⁵ Survey respondents reported general support for spending funds to maintain and repair older facilities, prioritizing beaches, trails, nature centers, canoe and kayak launch sites, and picnicking areas and playgrounds. Interest in recreational programming remains strong for farmer’s markets, adult fitness and wellness programs, community festivals, food trucks, and artistic shows. The County has been busy over the last five years transitioning park components to become ADA compliant and accessible to power-driven mobility devices, and developing trail standards for planning and design, construction, and maintenance.

2014 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

In 2014, Farmington Hills completed a master plan that provided a thorough inventory of the City’s recreational offerings. As a way of inventorying residents—its most valuable asset—the City conducted

MAP: REGIONAL LOCATION



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS Regional Location

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan DNR Open Data Portal

- Freeways
- State Roads
- County Boundary
- DNR Lands / Parks
- Cities
- Lakes / Ponds
- Rivers / Streams



a survey, a community visioning session, and focus group interviews that asked them to share their vision for recreation planning. Written when communities were still rebounding from the most recent recession, it was clear that residents wished to see improvements to current facilities where perhaps the funding had slipped. Common themes were requests for facility upgrades, a multi-use cultural arts facility, programming for all ages and cultures with a focus on children and families, and better nonmotorized trail connectivity. The Action Plan was directly informed by these requests, and they were incorporated into the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan to ensure the projects are recorded and accounted for.

2009 Master Plan

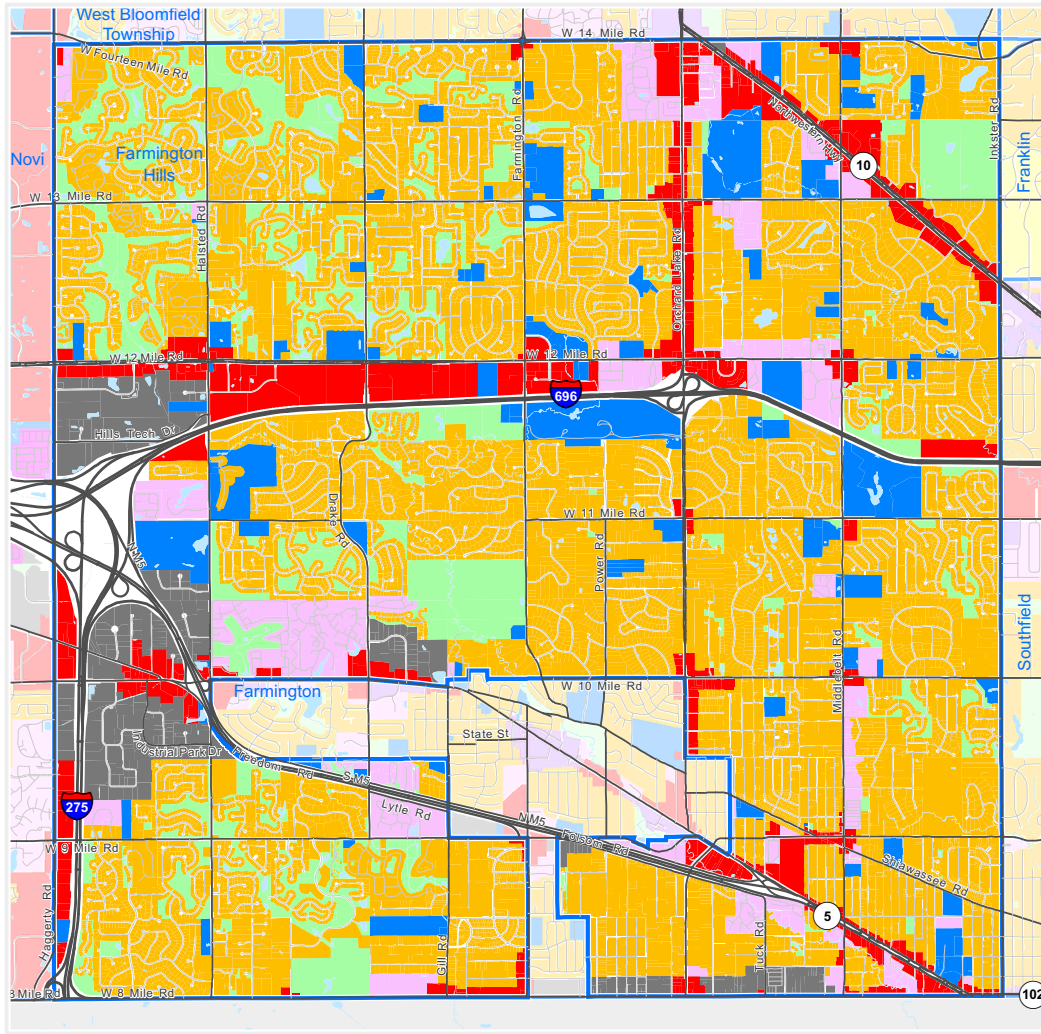
The Future Land Use Map, embedded within the Master Plan, is a map that guides development within a city, and in this case, outlines the recreational landscape from a 30,000 foot view. This map features 16 different types of land uses, four of which are directly related to recreation: private recreation, major parks, neighborhood parks, and community facilities. West of Farmington Road is dominated by subdivisions that host green space accessible only to its residents, with few public neighborhood parks as supplemental space. The major parks, larger in size, are clustered along Farmington Road except for the Sports Complex near the southern border. Community facilities, also generally larger parcels, are located near major corridors, for example, the Costick Activities Center on Eleven Mile Road, two country clubs Thirteen Mile Roads, Oakland Community College, adjacent to I-696. What this map shows is that most neighborhoods are not serviced as much by smaller parks, but seem reliant on driving to a major park or facility to engage in recreation.

While the Master Plan's goals do not expressly speak to recreation, an "emerging ideas" category was formed as a way to brainstorm better uses of land. Road diets fell into this category as a way to integrate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and public space along major corridors in designated redevelopment areas. More broadly, the plan prioritizes improving connectivity by way of filling sidewalk gaps and maintaining safe pedestrian crossings. The City has also been able to preserve 1,000 acres of open/recreation land as a result of zoning ordinances that permit smaller lots sizes without increasing density. With these action items in place, Farmington Hills has been able to expand and improve recreation even where space is limited.

Botsford Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

As a requirement of the Affordable Care Act, public and nonprofit hospitals are conducting CHNAs to look beyond their health care delivery system and step into communities to assess residents' health needs more holistically. Healthcare needs and the amount and quality of recreation opportunities dovetail to form a comprehensive plan for improvement access where needed. The CHNA surveyed both Farmington Hills and Farmington residents about healthy behaviors. The top major health issue reported by survey respondents was "overweight/inactivity" (35.7%). Regular physical activity plays a huge role in reducing the risk of fatalities for coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, and high cholesterol, making accessible recreation a component of preventative health care. Farmington Hills residents are highly insured. Only about 5% have no health care coverage, but the medical cost of obesity is on average about \$1,400 more.⁶

MAP: FUTURE LAND USE MAP



The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.

OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN
 Economic Development & Community Affairs
 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
 Executive Office Building
 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Bldg. 41W
 Waterford, MI 48328-0412
 248.858.0720
 www.oakgov.com/luz

Composite Master Plan City of Farmington Hills

- Legend**
- Single Family, 10 acres or greater
 - Single Family, 5 to 9.9 acres
 - Single Family, 2.5 to 4.9 acres
 - Single Family, 1 to 2.4 acres
 - Single Family, 14,000 to 43,559 sq. ft.
 - Single Family, 8,000 to 13,999 sq. ft.
 - Single Family, Less than 8,000 sq. ft.
 - Multiple Family Residential
 - Mobile Home Park
 - Commercial/Office
 - Industrial
 - Public/Institutional
 - Recreation/Conservation
 - Mixed Use
 - Reclamation Plan

This map represents a generalized future land use based on each community's master plan.

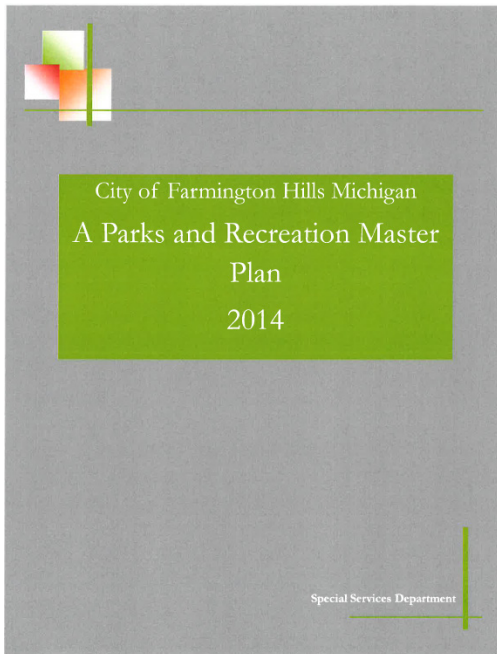
1 inch = 4,627 feet
 Map created on June 1, 2016

The upshot is that in the same survey, residents also reported they feel there are safe places, parks included, where they can be active. They even called out the free F2H fitness challenge. Still with sizeable portions reporting having these physical ailments, they believe access and deliberate recreational programming can make a difference in saving lives.

2017 Special Services Annual Report

The Special Services Department is comprised of eight divisions that manage hundreds of cultural and recreational programs across the entire age spectrum. Every year, the department creates an annual report to update its citizenry on the progress it has made in outreach,

programming, and events that showcase how active community members are. The youth summer camps are well-attended: close to 3,200 youth attended week-long day camps that taught various subjects such as art and theatre, science, sports, and went on field trips. Archery continues to grow in popularity. Over the last two years, the number of participants at Riley Archery Range has increased to almost 5,500. The Golf Club is seeing unprecedented visitors (over 60,000 rounds), the Costick Activities Center saw an average daily attendance of 850 people, After School programs care for hundreds of children, and Mayor's Youth Council stay busy volunteering in the community.



Farmington Hills is home to impressive recreational assets like the Nature Center where visitors learn from nature, Ice Arena to practice sports, and Longacre House to hold events. Community events account for almost 30% of Recreation Division’s activities. Some of the highlights include the Annual Great Campout, Fly & Fry, and the Fashion Show fundraiser. The DSS also mentions steps taken toward improving its carbon footprint through water bottle refill stations, installation of LED lights, and the increase of recycling bins in the parks.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

As its name suggests, Farmington Hills was not always a thriving city, but a community based on farming. In 1823, the first known visitor of European descent, Arthur Power, arrived from New York. He settled in what became Farmington Township (eventually incorporated into Farmington Hills) for its opportune location near Detroit and the Rouge River, and for its excellent soil. Power purchased 2,000 acres of land and later brought his family and two helpers to clear the land and build a new home.⁷

Now situated within Oakland County in southeast Michigan, the City of Farmington Hills is a part of the densest region within the state. The City is nestled among other larger cities such as Livonia (south), Novi (west) and Southfield (east), but also quieter municipalities like the Village of Franklin (northeast) and West Bloomfield Township (north). Its location at the southern edge of the county puts it about 15 miles from downtown Detroit, making it a traditional suburb within quick commuting distance to the “big city.” As a former Township, the City is shaped like a perfect square except for the area where the City of Farmington juts up from the south. The City covers an expansive land area of 33 square miles, with most residents living with fewer than 5.7 people per acre. Farmington Hills is proud to be repeatedly ranked as one of the safest cities in the United States.⁸

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

Farmington Hills has seen very consistent growth over the last seven years, adding just over 1,400 residents during that time. Surrounding communities and the county as a

whole saw similar slow growth, with Livonia being the only outlier. Looking to future growth, population projections can help a city prepare for impending change; however, uncontrollable factors can abruptly invalidate predications. For example, a war in another part of the world could mean that your city becomes home to refugees, or on the other hand, a company can uproot and take its workers with it and leaving your city substantially smaller. Currently, Farmington Hills is expected to grow at a similarly steady rate as it has been for the better part of the last decade. A growing population means that careful planning for two competing land uses, increased housing stock and recreational facilities, is a challenge for a city that is nearly built out.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age distribution is important to track regularly as different life stages will demand different types of recreational facilities, programs, and services. The stable population growth has been evenly distributed among the varying life stages, with one notable change among retirement-aged residents. The U.S. is aging, and the state of Michigan and Farmington Hills are in step with this trend. In 2000, the

median age was 38, and as of 2016 it was 43.5. If residents are to age in place, this trend is expected to continue for at least the next 10 to 15 years with the next largest age cohorts between 50 to 59 years of age to follow. A growing senior population is inevitably coupled with a decline among other age groups; in Farmington Hills this is especially prevalent among school-age children, as evidenced by the closing of public schools. Monitoring these changes allows the Department of Special Services to realign its offerings with age distribution changes. Since 2012, school enrollment for children aged kindergarten to 12th grade has decreased by about 774 students.⁹

HOUSING MARKET

Housing is a top contender with parkland for limited development space. As the population grows, more space must be allocated to residential uses, but also to recreation to meet the MDNR standard ratios of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Pressure on the housing market to expand can have negative spillover effects on the amount and location of new parkland, especially when housing is typically perceived as an income-generator for the City, and recreation as an expense.

TABLE: POPULATION CHANGE OVER TIME

MUNICIPALITY	2010	2012	2016	2040	% CHANGE 2010-2016
Farmington Hills	79,740	80,895	81,154	81,897	1.7%
Farmington	10,372	10,372	10,526	10,979	1.4%
Novi	55,374	55,374	59,211	58,233	6.5%
Southfield	71,758	72,167	73,100	73,055	1.8%
West Bloomfield Twp.	64,690	65,430	65,771	66,056	1.6%
Livonia	96,942	96,551	94,849	92,513	-2.2%
Oakland County	1,202,362	1,225,333	1,235,215	1,246,863	2.6%

source: Decennial census, ACS 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates

The community is best served when housing and parkland are seen as complementary uses, where high-quality recreational space is a much needed amenity that can increase housing values and the residents' quality of life. SEMCOG found that in Oakland County, residences within 15 meters (about 49 feet) of recreation land pay a 3.1% premium, proving recreation to be of meaningful economic value.¹⁰

Pressure on the housing market can be identified by some key indicators. The low vacancy rate, 1.2% for homeowners and 5.9% for renters, signifies a strong housing market, an undeniable component for maintaining strong and stable neighborhoods and schools. What it also signifies is a challenge for incoming residents to find housing and even for long-time residents who wish to upgrade or downsize to another type of housing unit. On top of that, median housing values are rising, household size is slowly shrinking, and the percentage of householders living alone is increasing. All of these indicators suggest that demand is exceeding housing supply; only 214 units have been built since 2010, and more than 1,400 people have moved into the City since then. More and denser housing types should be considered to accommodate the two largest generations and spare space for parks: an influx of newcomers (Millennials) and residents as they move through the life stages (Baby Boomers).

HOUSEHOLD TYPE & COMPOSITION

Farmington Hills has a diverse housing stock. Of the 37,130 housing units, the most common housing format is the single-family detached home (57%), but other housing formats are well represented. Single-family homes sit on large lots: 85% of them

TABLE: LIFE STAGE CHANGES, 2010-2016

LIFE STAGE	2010	2016
Preschool (under 5)	5.1%	5.0%
School Age (5-17)	17.7%	15.2%
Young Adult (18-34)	19.2%	19.4%
Adult (35-64)	43.2%	42.1%
Retirement (65+)	14.8%	18.3%

source: Decennial census, ACS 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates

are on lots that range from 14,000 to 43,559 square feet.¹¹ Structures with 5-19 units make up almost 22% of the housing stock, which sets an important precedent for continuing this type of development. Among these households, about 27% have children that are 18 years or younger, and on the other end of the age spectrum, about 31% of households have residents that are aged 65 and older, some of whom could be living in multi-generational homes. Combined, almost 60% of households have children or elderly folks living in them—a salient point for planning age-appropriate programs and amenities.

COMMUTING

Commuting and recreation are closely related when given a second thought. In southeast Michigan, commuting has been thought of as only auto-oriented, but regionally, residents are requesting a circuit of nonmotorized paths. While these requests are framed as desired recreational enhancements, they could also be strategically located to cross major employment or shopping centers to encourage commuters to walk or bicycle to work. In Farmington Hills, a paltry 0.9% of residents walk to work and 1.2% arrived at work by "other means." Commuting by car has profoundly negative consequences for air quality and a household's bottom

line. On average, Farmington Hills residents spend \$11,584 per year on transportation costs and dump 8.14 tons of greenhouse gas per household per year into the air.¹² Envisioning a future where commuting and recreation could be one and the same does not come without obstacles, but funding for trail development is available if valuable connections can be demonstrated.

SOCIOECONOMIC REVIEW

RACE & ETHNICITY & INCOME

In terms of recreational preferences, it is possible that they vary by race or ethnicity. But more likely, recreational preferences vary by class, where differences in income certainly influence a household's ability to partake in and consume recreation. In the U.S., race, more often than not, serves as a proxy for class. In Farmington Hills, this is less true than in other communities in southeast Michigan, but income disparities still fall along racial lines. The City has relatively recently become a multi-racial and multi-cultural city, but largely remains an upper middle-class community. With a low poverty rate (6.9%) compared to Oakland County (9.6%), and Michigan (16.3%), the household incomes are maintained at 29% higher than the state of Michigan (\$71,463 vs. \$50,803). The African-American population has nearly tripled since 2000, and the proportion of whites has dropped by 17 percentage points. The non-white population now makes up 34% of the City. A review of median household incomes in 2016 by race shows that all of them surpass the state of Michigan's at \$50,803. However, when compared to Oakland County's median household income of \$69,850, the incomes of African-Americans and residents identifying

with two races fall short by about \$17,000 and \$4,500 per year, respectively. This shortfall in income among racial minorities is a larger systemic problem than this plan can address, but the implications for recreational planning are not. The link between income and recreation is real: during the most recent recession, free activities such as going to the playground increased, and willingness to pay for nature-based recreation declined.¹³¹⁴ Understanding the range of income levels allows a city to offer programming that caters to all socio-economic groups.

ESRI Business Analyst and ArcGIS have teamed up to provide geo-demographic data, or simply put, analysis that connects "who" is living "where" within a local geography. The analysis combines household and housing characteristics (tenure, marital status, income), personal traits (age, gender, education, etc.), and consumer survey data to generate 14 different LifeModes groups. It is the triangulation of different sources that form a richer understanding of the residents' lifestyle preferences that can only otherwise be inferred from census data. There are four LifeModes that make up 87.5% of the City's population.

LIFE MODES

Affluent Estates (36%):

This group is described as well-educated, well-traveled, and active participants in their communities and in sports. It is unique to have such a sizeable concentration of them within the city limits considering that nationally this group accounts for less than 10% of the households. They are generally married couples, 90% of them are homeowners. There is no indication of a median age, but they have children ranging from grade-school aged to young adults. When

TABLE: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (MHI)

RACE / ETHNICITY	2000	2010	2016	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2016
African-American / Black	6.9%	17.4%	20.3%	\$52,614
Asian	7.5%	10.1%	10.8%	\$99,082
Caucasian	82.9%	69.7%	65.8%	\$72,547
Hispanic*	1.5%	1.9%	2.7%	\$84,306
Native American	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	\$75,500
Other Races	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	--
Two Races	1.9%	2.2%	2.3%	\$64,313

*Total percentages may exceed 100% because "Hispanic is double counted as a race and an ethnicity.

source: Decennial census, ACS 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates

it comes to spending money, they expect quality products and are willing (and able) to spend on services that save them time. This group has close to a monopoly over the northwestern section of the city and can also be found along the eastern border, and one pocket in the very south west corner of the city.

Upscale Avenues (19%):

Described as both "ambitious and hard-working," but also as "serious shoppers" who occasionally indulge in gambling, this group epitomizes the phrase "work hard, play hard." This is a more diverse group, but still primarily owners of older homes or townhomes, married, and with older children living in older suburbs. They are responsible with their money and shop for quality but still look for bargains at places like DSW. In their free time, they pursue fitness through bicycling, jogging, and aerobics. This biggest portion of this LifeMode abuts the western border and spills into Farmington.

Senior Styles (18%):

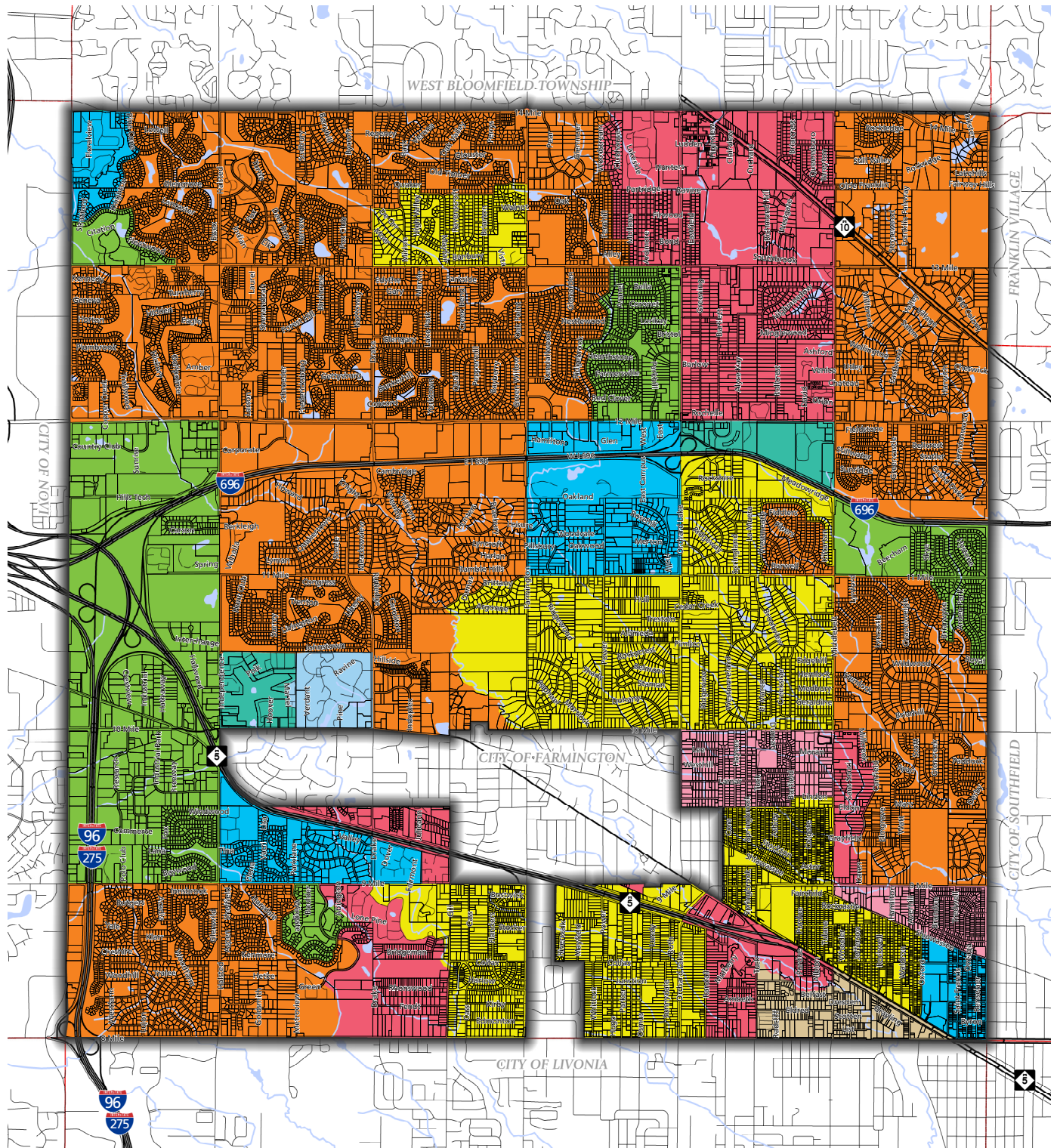
The U.S. is aging, so it is no surprise to find a prominent group of seniors living in Farmington Hills. Households are split in a few telling areas. Some are married empty-nester and some live alone; some are in single-

family homes whereas others are in retirement communities or high-rise apartments; affluent seniors can be "snow bunnies" while others are still working to save for retirement. This group has embraced cell phones but keeps landlines at home, and many prefer to read newspapers to stay current (and they are current) over digital media. They continue to subscribe to cable TV to watch major networks like the Weather Channel. Despite their age, this group follows a regular exercise routine. Seniors are clustered in three areas in the south near Grand River Avenue, south of Farmington by the City border, and in the north east section of the City.

GenXurban (16%):

This is the second largest group nationwide. It is comprised of middle-aged, married-couples with families of fewer children. This group tends to live and work within urban areas in the same county, and commutes in its one or two vehicles. They own, but still have a mortgage on older single-family homes; they are well-insured and prudent investors. They are described as "news junkies" because they read a newspaper daily as well watch news on TV. GenXurban members like to read, scrapbook, play board games and cards, and

MAP: TAPESTRY SEGMENTATION



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

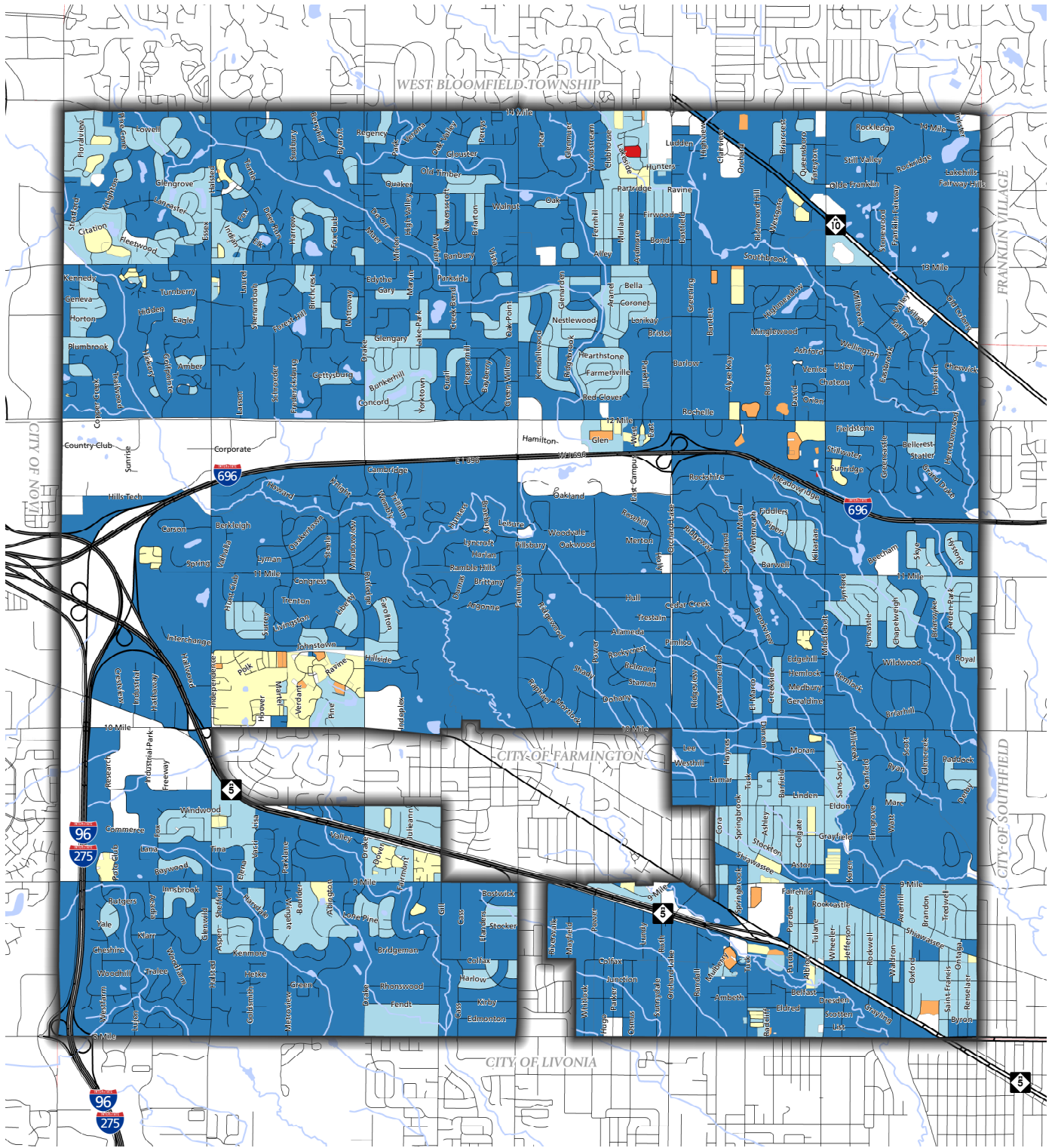
Tapestry Segmentation

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Farmington Hills, Esri Business Analyst

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| City Boundary | LifeMode Group: | Middle Ground |
| Freeways | Affluent Estates | Senior Styles |
| State Roads | Upscale Avenues | Rustic Outposts |
| Rivers / Streams | Uptown Individuals | Midtown Singles |
| Lakes / Ponds | Family Landscapes | |
| Parcels | GenXurban | |



MAP: POPULATION DENSITY



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS Population Density

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Farmington Hills, U.S. Census Bureau

	City Boundary		0.02 - 5.68		No Data / Uninhabited
	Freeways		5.69 - 13.06		
	State Roads		13.07 - 28.08		
	Railroads		28.09 - 70.30		
	Rivers / Streams		70.31 - 187.64		
	Lakes / Ponds				



aside from home activities, they enjoy dining out, going on walks, and going to museums and rock concerts. This group surrounds the City of Farmington on its southern and eastern sides.

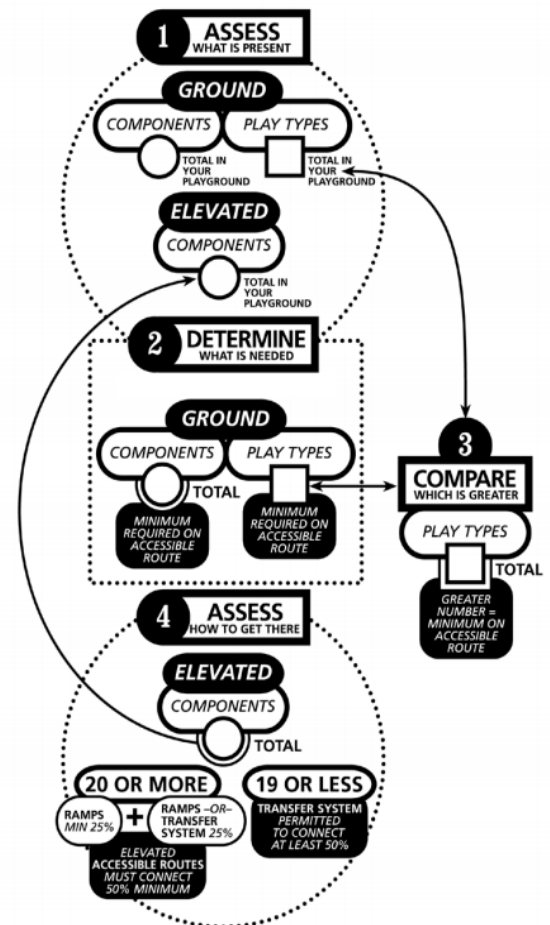
DISABILITY

Over one in ten residents has a disability in Farmington Hills. When disabled persons are categorized by age, the highest proportion of disabled residents is 65 years or older (33%), almost exactly on par with Oakland County. Physical and mental disabilities impact the way people can recreate and have consequential implications for how recreational facilities and programming are designed. The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is civil rights legislation that requires new site development to provide reasonable access for the disabled to recreational facilities. More specifically, the U.S. Access Board wrote accessibility guidelines to establish minimum requirements for new construction or altered play areas for children to enjoy and/or for their guardians to supervise them. The graphic above is the four-step process recommended for evaluating and applying these guidelines to the play areas in your community.¹⁵

Over 5,000 residents suffer from “ambulatory difficulty,” a designation made by the U.S. Census for those who have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.¹⁶ This is the most common disability found among Americans, especially for the elderly.¹⁷ About 1,250 have difficulty with their vision, meaning the person is either blind or has difficulty seeing even with glasses on.¹⁸ Together, these groups may rely on larger print signs, rails to lean on for stability, smoother surfaces on pathways, and ramps instead of stairs. While these features would make park use easier for everyone, they break down otherwise

insurmountable barriers for others. To ensure that recreational opportunities are accessible for differently-abled citizens, universal design has risen in popularity to build for the ever-widening mainstream market. Universal design means exactly what it sounds like: design features or products that everyone can use with ease. Universal design features are integrated into the overall design, are intuitive to use, require little physical efforts, minimize accidents, and most importantly are equitable.¹⁹ An example most often applied to parks are water fountains with varying heights to accommodate wheelchairs, children, and adults.

U.S. BOARD OF ACCESS PROCESS



This is the process laid out by the U.S. Access Board for applying accessible play area guidelines

RECREATION EXPENDITURES

ESRI Business Analyst is a proprietary data source that collects and analyzes consumer data. In a report titled “Recreation Expenditures,” purchases are anonymously compiled to reveal trends in Farmington Hills residents’ recreational preferences in comparison to national household spending. In all categories, Farmington Hills residents spend higher than the national average. Among the three major categories listed below, they spent an estimated \$41 million in 2017 based on recent consumer data. The largest expenditures went to entertainment and recreation fees, recreation lessons, and fees for participants, underpinning the valuable social element of recreation. Other purchases are presumably for health-related reasons (exercise equipment and bicycles), and still others to be more immersed in nature (hunting, fishing, water and winter sports).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

An inventory of the City’s natural features and development patterns create the parameters, either as

limitations or opportunities, for which parkland, open space, and recreation facilities can be transformed and/or expanded. This section examines the landscape to provide a physical context for future planning.

LAND USE

As of 2014, almost 93% of Farmington Hills’ land was developed, with over 57% of that land dedicated to residential uses. According to Oakland County’s Economic Development and Community Affairs Department, the “recreation conservation” land use category covers 1,922 acres across the City, accounting for 1.7% of the total 21,446 acres within the City limits. While this seems like a small percentage, recreation opportunities can also be found in other land use categories. Not all forms of recreation are space-hungry, and small developments can have a large visual impact that inspires recreational pursuits. For example, 17% of land use is called “street right-of-ways.” Areas along roads and sidewalks can be improved to be safer, more attractive, and equipped with the correct amenities and infrastructure to become connections to recreation or recreational spaces themselves! Moreover, 3.3% of the land remains vacant, which holds the

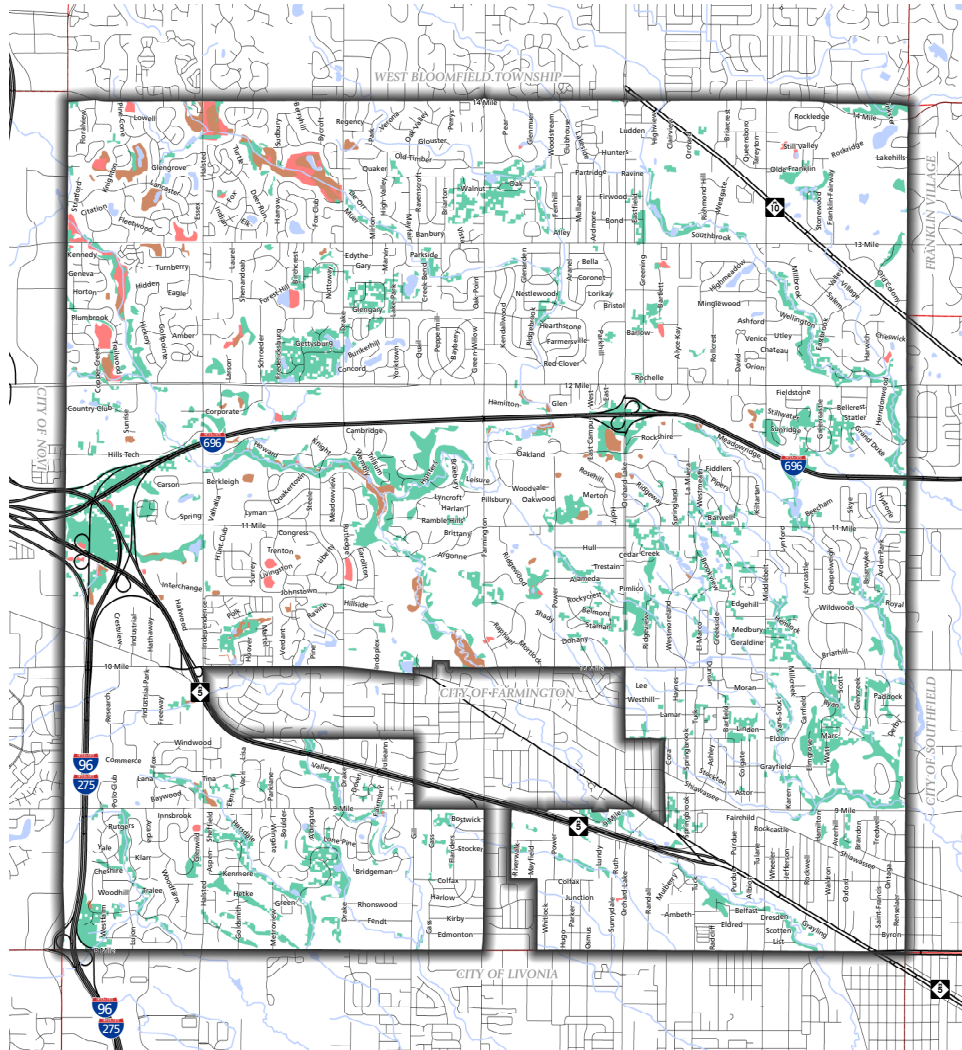
TABLE: EXPENDITURES BY TYPE OF RECREATION

TYPE OF RECREATION	AVERAGE AMOUNT SPENT	TOTAL SPENT	% SPENT ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE*
Entertainment / Recreation Fees and Admissions	\$850	\$29,706,402	34
Sports, Recreation, and Exercise Equipment	\$215	\$7,520,614	26
Recreational Vehicle and Fees	\$126	\$4,403,116	24

*The national index is household-based, and represents the amount spent for a product or service relative to a national average of 100.

ESRI Business Analyst Recreation Expenditures Report

MAP: WETLANDS



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
Wetlands

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Farmington Hills, National Wetlands Inventory

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| City Boundary | Freshwater Emergent Wetlands |
| Freeways | Freshwater Forested / Shrub Wetlands |
| State Roads | Potential Wetland Restoration Areas |
| Rivers / Streams | |
| Lakes / Ponds | |
| Parcels | |



B R I
Beckett & Raeder

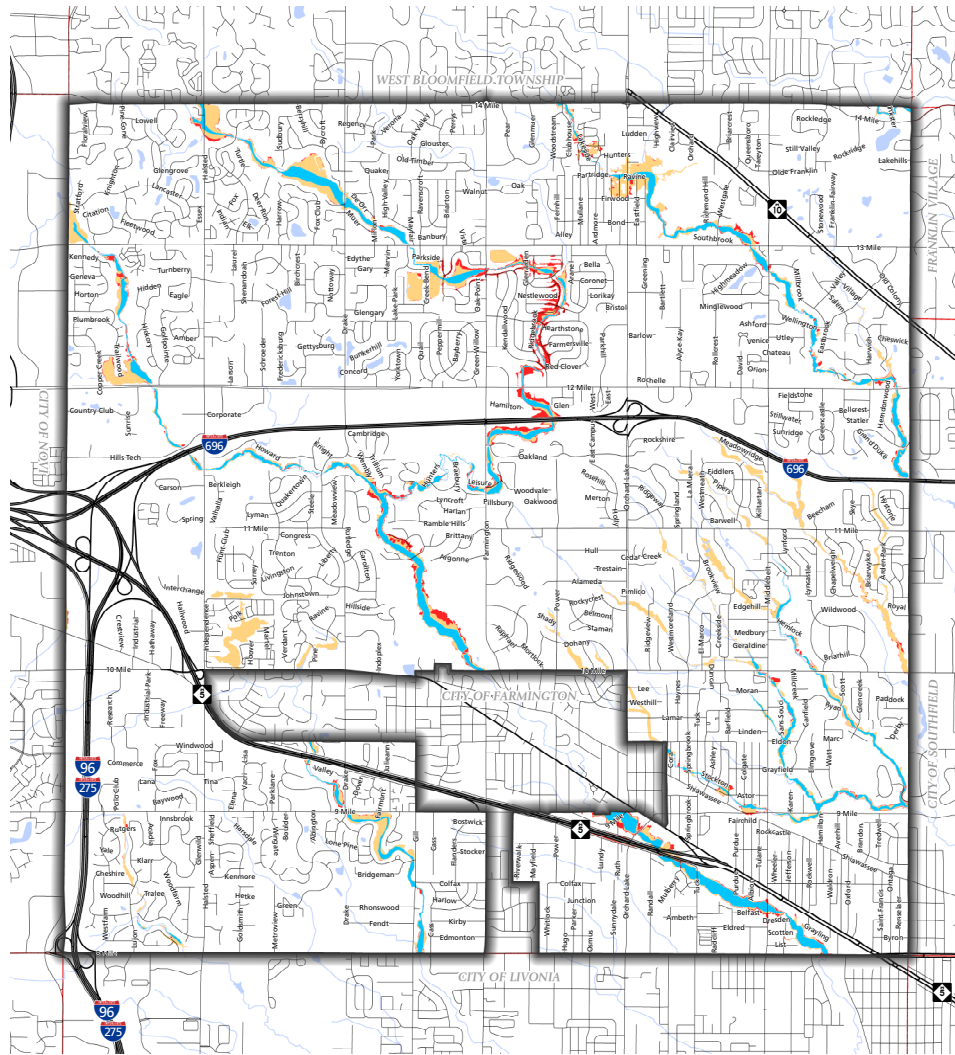
potential for further development of this type.

NATURAL FEATURES

The 117-mile Rouge River winds through the City of Farmington Hills and Farmington. Land along the Rouge River or its tributaries have experienced more severe seasonal flooding over the past several years. Increased instances of flashing streams due to higher volumes of storm water runoff have caused erosion. Farmington Hills' sensitive natural

features, like wetlands, account for little of the City's urban scenery. The map "Wetlands" shows that freshwater emergent and freshwater forested wetlands combined cover less than 2% of the City's total acreage. Freshwater emergent wetlands are concentrated in the northwest section of the City as a backdrop to subdivisions that were largely built around them along the Minnow Pond Drain. More promising for nature enthusiasts is the 9% of area designated for potential wetland

MAP: NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS National Flood Hazard Layer

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Farmington Hills, FEMA

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| City Boundary | Regulatory Floodway |
| Freeways | 100-Year Floodway (1% Annual Chance) |
| State Roads | 500-Year Floodway (0.2% Annual Chance) |
| Rivers / Streams | |
| Lakes / Ponds | |
| Parcels | |

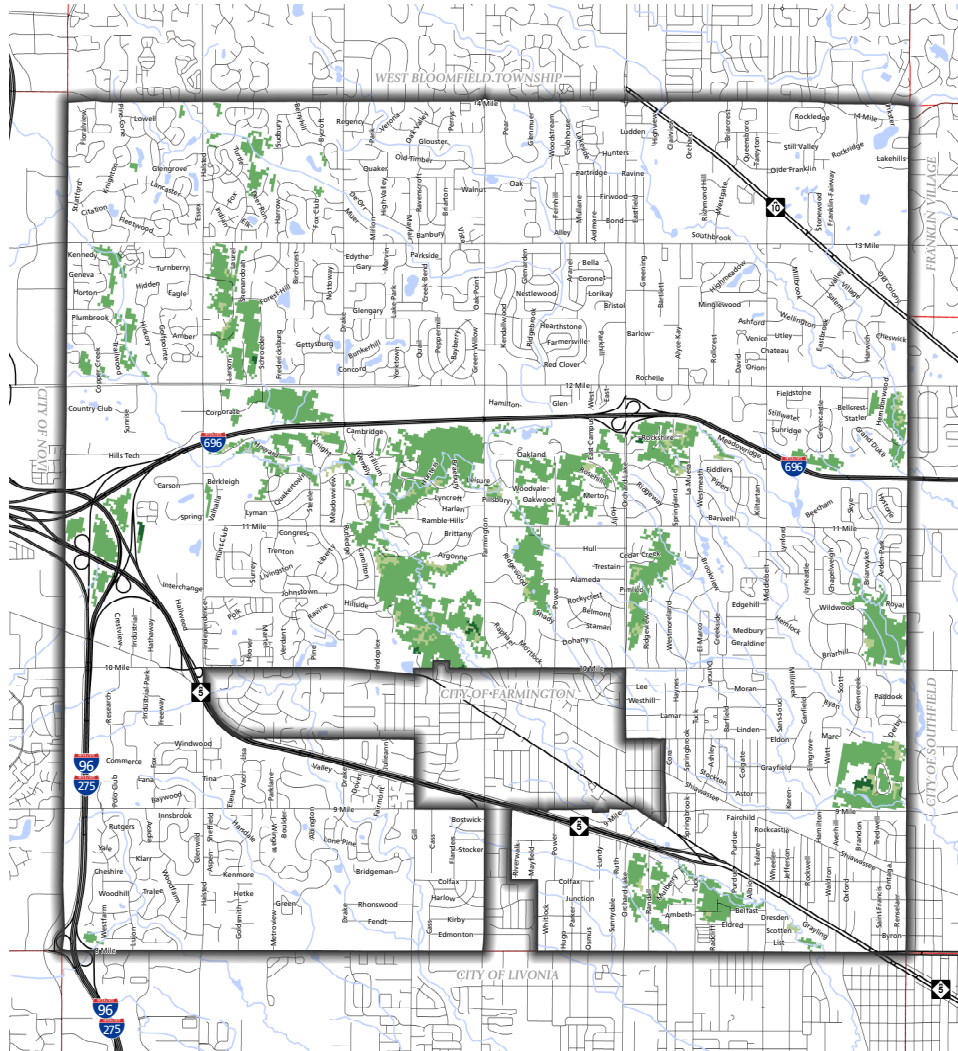


Beckett&Raeder

restoration. These areas, scattered in thin strands that hug water channels, have been determined salvageable because “manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics” is still possible for returning it to its function as an ecosystem.²⁰ Unfortunately, the largest patch of land with potential to restore now lies beneath the I-696, I-96, and M-5 interchange, likely hindering its chances of becoming a new recreational destination.

The preservation and restoration of wetlands will become increasingly important as climate change scientists predict more frequent and intense precipitation events will occur as temperatures rise. Wetlands are an asset not just for their beauty and tranquil setting but as nature’s sponge: efficient absorbers and cleaners of excess stormwater. Currently, Farmington Hills does not have a large-scale floodplain, but they are also expected to widen over

MAP: FOREST



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Forests

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Farmington Hills, Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium NED

- City Boundary
- Freeways
- State Roads
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes / Ponds
- Parcels
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest



B R I
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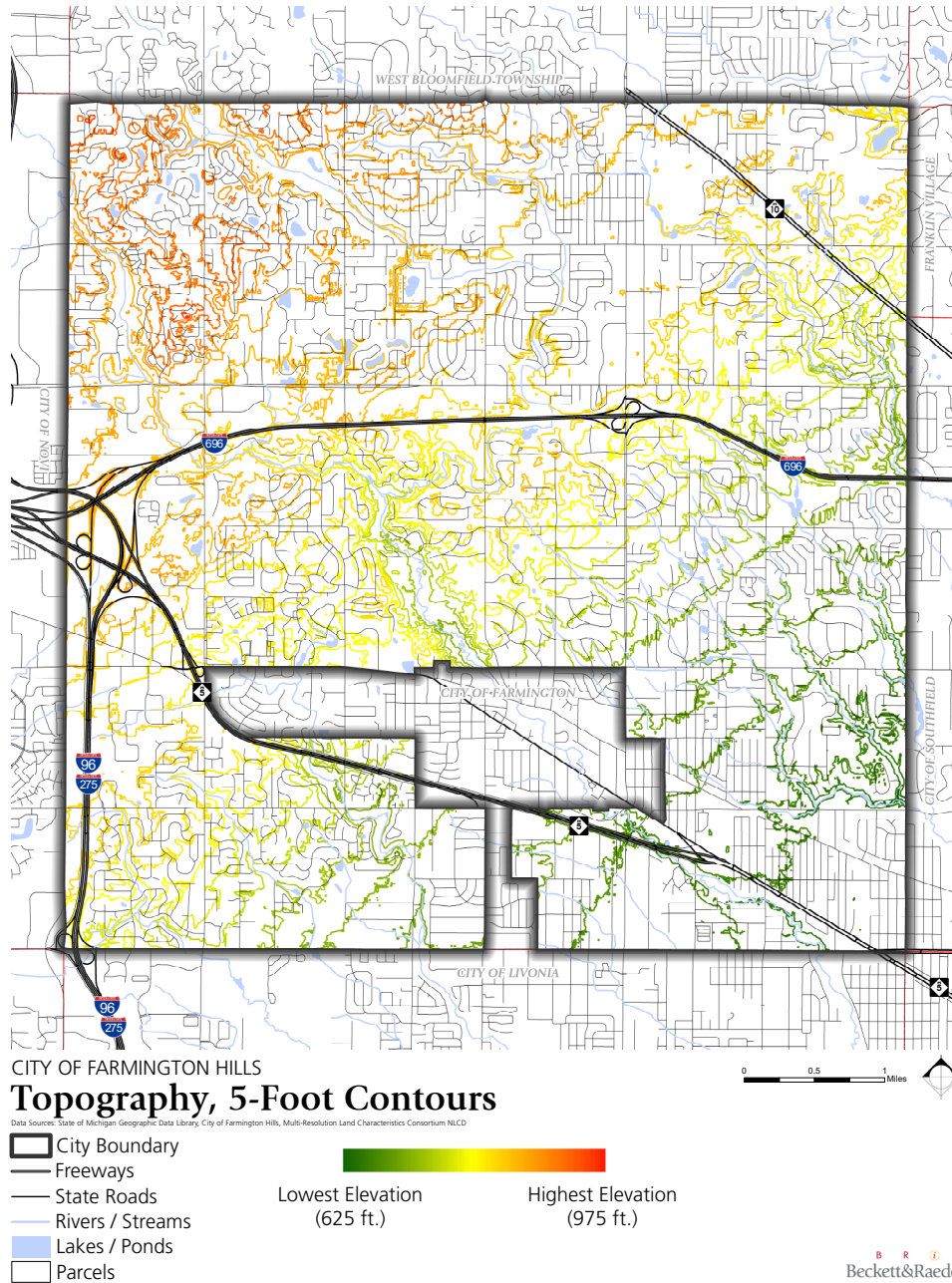
time as result of increased rainfall. Wetlands can help to mitigate the potential negative effects of flooding and contaminating water bodies.

TREES

As Mother Nature intended, much of the forested areas stand adjacent to riparian areas. Together they flourish as tree roots stabilize the riverbank to prevent erosion and also gain constant access to water. Most of the wooded land is deciduous

forests that contains the types of trees that contribute to the seasonal change Michiganders are accustomed to: colorful autumn, bare winter, floral spring, and leafy summer. The "Forests" map shows concentrations of forest by the predominant tree type, but the tree canopy has a more extensive spread over the City. The majority of Farmington Hills has 20-40% tree coverage. In comparison to the northern parts of Oakland County that have tree canopy coverage of

MAP: TOPOGRAPHY



up to 100%, Farmington Hills is tree-light. SEMCOGs regional policies call for increasing tree canopy as their benefits are seemingly boundless: removing pollutants from the air, cleaning groundwater, reducing excess stormwater, lowering temperatures, and their aesthetic value. Specifically, American Forests, a national nonprofit on forest conservation, recommends 50% tree canopy for suburban residential areas.²¹

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of Farmington Hills increases gradually in elevation moving northwest through the City by approximately 300 feet. Low-lying areas in the southeastern corner are between 600 and 700 feet. Patterns of marked elevation changes tend to follow water features such as streams, creeks, and drains. Peak elevations are 965 feet in the northwest corner.

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STRUCTURE & FINANCE

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

CITY COUNCIL & THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The City of Farmington Hills follows a Council-Manager form of government with the Mayor and six elected members. Upon research and recommendations from the appointed boards and commissions, the City Council establishes policies that guide the operation and development of the City. As decision-makers, their roles are pivotal to large-scale changes within the community concerning land acquisition and purchases of major recreation facilities. The City Council adopts the budget for recreation facilities and programs annually as a part of the total annual budget after appropriate public hearings are held. The Council also appoints members to various boards and commissions to help advise

them on specific policy matters. The nine-member Parks and Recreation Commission holds meetings monthly or more often when necessary. As previously mentioned, because Parks and Recreation touches upon several related topics, the Commission looks to other appointed commissions to advise on recreational planning:

- Farmington Area Arts Commission
- Commission on Children, Youth and Families
- Beautification Commission
- Commission on Aging
- Historic Commission
- Planning Commission
- Mayor's Youth Council

CITY DEPARTMENTS

The City Manager handles many of the daily administrative operations of the City, but the local government is divided into departments to ensure that specific areas of focus receive adequate attention. Each department

is headed by a director and supported by staff. The Department of Special Services (DSS) is responsible for the administration, operation, and supervision of parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programs. In addition, the DSS provides technical support to the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission in developing policies and plans, and also decides on operating and capital expenditures for recreation. The DSS has eight divisions that oversee specific areas of focus within the department. The size of staff fluctuates by season, but generally there are about 38 full-time (FT) staff and up to hundreds of part-time (PT) employees during peak summer seasons.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Special Services is a group of dedicated public servants. They pride themselves on having a staff that is constantly seeking self-improvement to better serve the community. To that end, the staff is involved in several professional organizations that stay atop of trends

related to recreational programs and services, and have pursued continuing education and certificate training²² so that Farmington Hills doesn't fall behind on providing top-notch services. On top of their professional development, staff volunteer thousands of hours annually to local, state, and national community service organizations. DSS employees participate in 52 organizations; a detailed list can be found in the Appendix.

VOLUNTEERS

The DSS has a core group of 350 volunteers who routinely log 25,000 hours per year to assist with running key programs at the Nature Center, Meals on Wheels, the Costick Center, among several others. The Department also hosts a program called Volunteer Days where they organize events such as a park clean-up on a specific day. Additionally, they also work to form partnerships with local businesses and provide them access to the City's large number of volunteers to help business owners on projects they otherwise couldn't accomplish. In some instances, this



summer camp

**DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

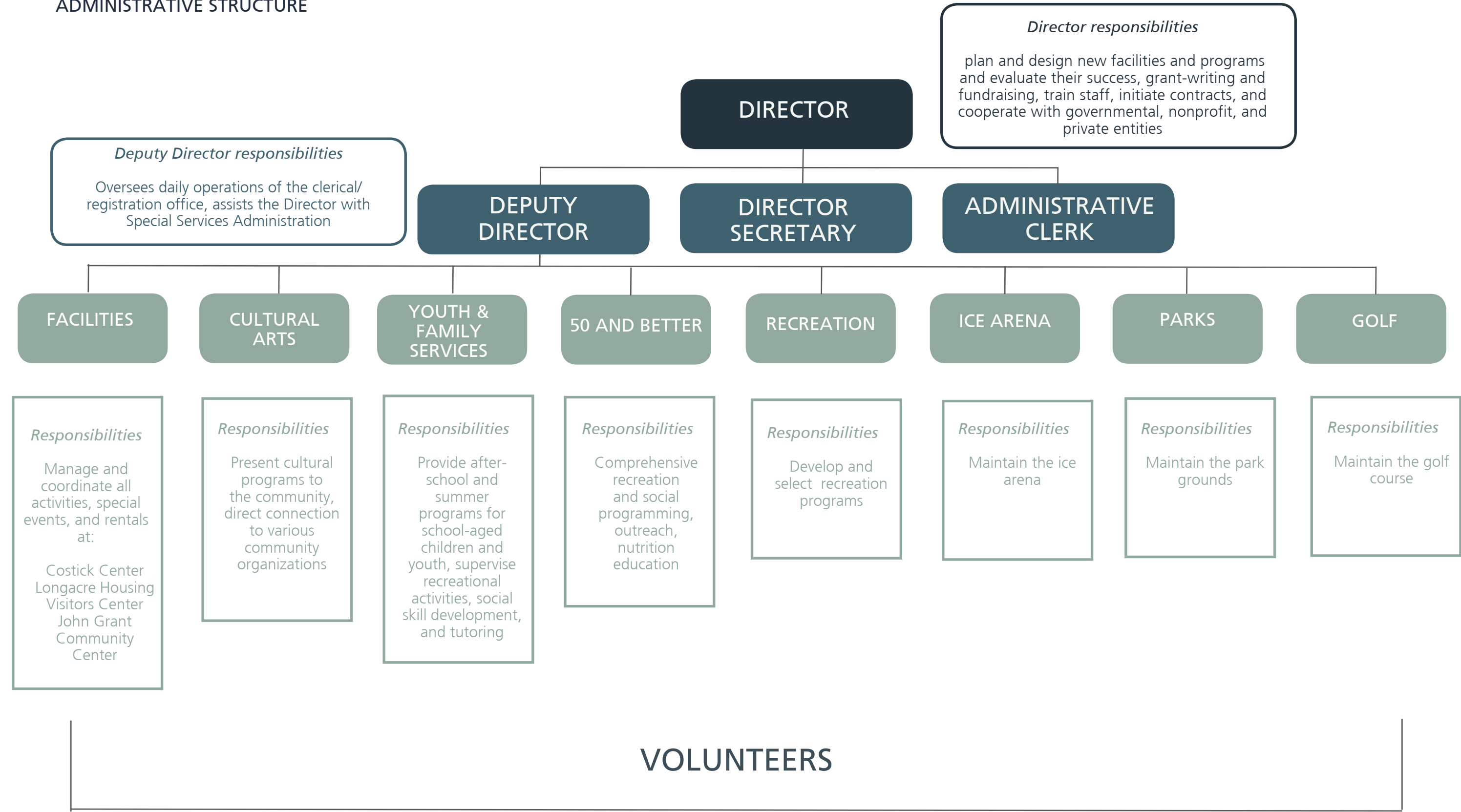


TABLE: DSS LEADERS AND STAFF

DIVISION OF DSS	LEADER	STAFF
Youth and Family Services	Youth and Families Supervisor	1 PT assistant, 1 PT programmer, number PT employees
Parks	Parks and Golf Superintendent	6 FT laborers, 15 PT laborers, up to 30 seasonal labors, 2 PT gardeners, 6 PT park rangers, 1 FT Naturalist
Senior	Senior Adult Supervisor	1 FT Senior Adult Programmer, 2 Senior Adult Specialist—Programming, Senior Adult Specialist—Outreach, Nutrition Coordinator, several Community Service Coordinators, volunteers
Cultural Arts	Cultural Arts Supervisor	1 FT Program Coordinator, 2 PT employees, 30-40 instructors, performers, and artists (by contract)
Golf	Parks and Golf Superintendent	1 FT Maintenance Supervisor, 1 FT laborer, several laborers assigned only to the golf course, 3-4 PT driving range attendants, 3-4 golf ambassadors, 1 contracted golf pro
Recreation	Recreation Superintendent	1 FT Recreation Supervisors, 2 FT Recreation Specialists, 1 PT programmer, several seasonal employees
Video	Manager	2 FT staff, 2 PT Staff
Ice Arena	Manager	1 FT Arena Supervisor, 1 FT Maintenance Supervisor, 19 skating pros (supervised by a Director of Skating), numerous PT employees
Facilities	Facility Supervisor	2 FT staff, number PT employees

has resulted in donations to the DSS in an exchange for a volunteer’s hard work. This devoted group of volunteers bolsters the quality of these recreation experiences and helps to foster a close-knit community.

BUDGET

The estimated 2018-2019 budget for the Department of Special Services is almost \$8.4 million, representing about a 13% increase over the last three years. Funding for the

department comes from various sources: user fees, park millage, a SMART grant, and the general fund. User fees comprise the largest funding source: almost half of the budget comes from the \$4.6 million spent by community members and visitors on recreation services. The park millage generates approximately \$1.3 million, and the SMART grant brings in about \$265,000. The remaining \$2.2 million is filled by 14.4% of the general fund.

TABLE: CURRENT AND PROJECTED BUDGET

DIVISION	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Administration	\$2,153,136	\$2,217,730	\$2,734,262	\$3,266,290	\$3,364,279
Youth Services	\$421,127	\$433,761	\$446,774	\$460,177	\$473,982
Senior Services	\$1,001,959	\$1,032,018	\$1,062,979	\$1,094,868	\$1,127,714
Parks Maintenance	\$1,760,272	\$1,813,080	\$1,867,472	\$1,923,496	\$1,981,201
Cultural Arts	\$482,481	\$496,955	\$661,864	\$831,720	\$856,672
Golf Course	\$788,600	\$812,258	\$836,626	\$861,725	\$887,577
Recreation Programs	\$603,699	\$621,810	\$790,464	\$964,178	\$993,103
Ice Arena	\$1,188,208	\$1,223,854	\$1,260,570	\$1,298,387	\$1,337,339
TOTAL	\$8,399,477	\$8,651,466	\$9,661,011	\$10,700,84	\$11,021,867

The park millage dates back to 1986, and has been renewed by voters for over 30 years. The millage was set to expire in 2019, and the voters once again showed their enthusiasm for recreation by approving a 10-year parks and recreation millage by a wide margin. The millage will continue at a rate of 0.478, or 48 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value for all property in the city. This would cost a homeowner approximately \$60 annually on a home valued at \$250,000. The renewed millage will be levied in July 2019 and is expected to collect about \$1.6 million in the first year. The money generated from the millage will continue to support existing programming and services as well as maintenance and improvement of some of the City’s favorite places: Costick Activities Center and Longacre House.

GRANT HISTORY

The City of Farmington Hills has a long history as grant recipients. The table “Grant History for Recreation Projects” summarizes the grants awarded to the City over the last 31 years, totaling over \$4.7 million, and briefly describes how that money was used to implement recreation projects and programs. Through various sources—state and county agencies and non profits— the City has used these funds to develop minor and major additions over the years that have become beloved community and regional assets such as Founders Sports Park and Heritage Park.

TABLE: GRANT HISTORY FOR RECREATION PROJECTS

FUNDING SOURCE	PROJECT YEAR	DESCRIPTION	GRANT AMOUNT	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
Oakland County Parks	Ongoing annually	Community Assistance Program	\$800-\$1,000	Mobile recreation equipment for events and programs
Land and Water Conservation Fund	1987	Pioneer Park	\$155,000	Developed 15-acre site with athletic fields
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	1987	Heritage Park	\$195,000	Developed three picnic areas, an outdoor classroom, two-mile of paved handicapped and parking area
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	1988	Heritage Park	\$300,000	Developed a boardwalk and paved trail, outdoor arboretum, and renovated the Visitor Center
Recreation Bond Program	1989	Heritage Park	\$187,500	Developed Day Camp Center
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	1990	Woodland Hills	\$661,200	Acquired 74 acres
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	1991	Founders Sports Park	\$2,000,000	Acquired 85 acres
Recreation Bond Program	1996	Founders Sports Park	\$1,000,000	Developed three soccer fields
MDOT*	1997	Founders Sports Park	\$240,000	Improved park storm drain pond
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	2000	Heritage Park Nature Center	\$240,000	Developed Nature Center
Michigan Recreation and Parks Association	2000	Get Michigan Moving Youth	\$5,000	Teen programming
Sam's Club Grant	2003	Support of Club 2nd Floor	\$1,000	Financial support for dance club
Amateur Softball Association	2010	Field equipment	\$2,500	Purchased field equipment
MDNR**	2011	Archery grant	\$2,000	Purchased archery equipment
MCACA***	2015	Programming	\$3,750	Youth theatre
MCACA	2016	Programming	\$9,000	Youth theatre
MCACA	2017	Programming	\$16,000	Youth theatre
TOTAL			~\$4,778,850	

*Michigan Department of Transportation **Michigan Department of Natural Resources ***Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging the public is a key criterion for good planning. When in charge of spaces that are open to the public, no serious effort could be made without seeking their input in a meaningful way first. Farmington Hills sought out the community's opinion in two different formats: two group visioning sessions and a community-wide survey. The two approaches allow for different types of interaction: a survey allows people to respond candidly in anonymity, and a face-to-face visioning session with City leaders and residents allows for productive exchange, consensus-building, and education. The combination of the two provides for breadth and depth on important recreation matters. The findings from all of the community engagement will influence the action plan, the set of strategies that guides the Department of Special Services'

decision-making over the next five years. This section summarizes the survey and visioning responses.

The public hearing was another opportunity for residents to voice their opinions after a 30-day review period. On January 14th, 2019 the public hearing was held and one person asked how the City plans to use social media as a means of communicating with a wider range of park users. The Department of Special Services has already hired a full-time marketing staff member to work increase their social media presence. The video division is also working with the marketing staff to push videos to be sent out through social media with information on activities taking place and how to sign up for programs. No comments were received during the review period.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The survey is designed to ask more specific questions that would be difficult to gather through group exercises such as questions that touch on personal sentiments about recreation space, how and when they prefer to use the parks, and what they'd like to see in the City's future. The questions were administered online and as hard copies at the Costick Activities Center. The survey was open for about three weeks starting from May 30, 2018 to June 18, 2018 and received 651 responses, an excellent showing. Announcements to promote the survey were pushed through several outlets to reach as many interested people as possible, including park users from outside of the City limits. The City published two press releases in the local papers, Home Town Life and the Daily Tribune, as well as sent out announcements in the E-newsletter and the paper newsletter, emails through the City's listserv, posts on Department of Special Services' social media accounts, and flyers posted throughout the City.

Residence (Q1 - Q3)

The vast majority (82%) of respondents were Farmington Hills

residents. For the 18% who live outside of the City limits, a follow up question asked about their interest in Farmington Hills parks and recreational services. About half of the responses came from neighboring Farmington residents (zip codes 48335 and 48336) who are frequent users due to the shared services agreement between the two cities.

Some more specific draws mentioned were the activities offered at Heritage Park, in particular the Nature Center, the Costick Activities Center, swimming and exercise classes, and youth camps and programming.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Sentiments on the Value of Recreation (Q4)

The question posed to survey-takers was designed to understand how valuable parks and recreation are to the residents' quality of life. The same question was asked in the 2014 Park and Recreation Master Plan, and its repetition helps decision-makers see how sentiments have changed over the last five years. The good news is that the results were favorable in 2014 and have remained almost exactly the same. In 2018, 98% of respondents believe that City parks

TABLE: PARKS ROLE IN QUALITY OF LIFE OVER TIME

STATEMENTS	2014	2018
Members of my household use city parks and facilities on a regular basis. I believe that these services are important to quality of life.	68.7% (314)	67.8% (304)
Although members of my household do not use city parks and facilities on a regular basis, I believe that these services are important to quality of life.	30.4% (139)	30.4% (136)
Visiting city parks and facilities on a regular basis is not important to quality of life.	0.9% (4)	1.8% (4)
TOTAL	457	448

and facilities positively contributed to their quality of life, regardless of whether they use them regularly. That is a powerful message from residents who almost unanimously view recreational spaces as a community asset.

FREQUENCY AND TIMING OF USE

Park Use (Q5)

This question listed all of the City-owned and managed parks and facilities and asked survey participants to record, on average, how often they, or household members, use the facilities. The answers were weighted by their frequency of use on a scale of 1 to 5. If a respondent reported visiting a site daily, his or her response would score a 1. Once compiled, an average weighted score is calculated to help determine the popularity of a site. The most commonly visited sites were:

- Heritage Park
- Costick Activities Center
- Nature Center (Heritage Park)
- Splash Pad (Heritage Park)
- Founders Park

Even though these sites are hardly ever visited daily, their final scores rose to the top due to the higher number

of visitors who frequent the parks weekly and monthly. Some sites are destined to score lower because of the seasonal nature of the facility, which is not to be interpreted as having less worth to the community per se. For example, 60% of respondents said that they never visit the Farmington Hills Golf Course, and 22% use it rarely. Keeping in mind that is closed for a large portion of the year and attracts visitors from outside of the City, it can be considered more of a regional gem than a local hotspot, according to these survey results. The same can be said of the Ice Arena at Founders Park that is used primarily in the winter, but the facility is open year-round. Also receiving a middling score, likely for being open half of the year, is the Archery Center, which continues to grow in popularity. A real indication of its success is that after being open for only three years, over 90% of survey-takers across several zip codes said they had heard of it.

One of the options available for each site was “never heard of it,” and this rang true for a handful of parks. Their role as smaller neighborhood facilities explains why residents from other parts of the City have had little interaction with any of these sites (listed in the table “Unknown Sites”).

Jon Grant Community Center



TABLE: UNKNOWN SITES

PARK OR FACILITY	“NEVER HEARD OF IT”
Harmon Oaks Park	63.9%
Bond Field	56.0%
Olde Town Park	44.1%
Memorial Park	37.7%
Jon Grant Community Center	23.3%

Day and Time of Use (Q7)

Days and times of park and facility use are personal, either based on preferences or when your schedule will allow you to recreate. Generally, during the week, use of recreational facilities is more popular in the evening (between 6 and 9 pm) and on the weekends facilities are in higher demand in the afternoons (between noon and 6pm). However, park and facility use is spread across the day. Understanding when people choose to use parks can help with tailoring programming and times to the community's preferences.

CONDITIONS

Condition of Parks (Q6)

Similar to the previous question, the parks and facilities were listed and survey-takers were asked to record the condition on a scale of "poor" to "excellent." Each condition was assigned a weight so that an average score could be calculated; a score of 1 is excellent and a score of 5 is poor. The condition of parks and facilities scored very well. Not a single park had an average score of less than "good." Of the 21 parks and/or facilities listed, 12 of them scored in the "excellent" range and the remaining nine fell into the "good" range. That is not to say that some respondents did not grade some facilities in "fair" or "poor" condition, but the number

of lower ratings had little effect on the overall score. Interestingly, three of the highest ranked parks in terms of their condition were also the most commonly visited (Heritage Park, Nature Center, Splash Pad), which is to say that the facilities and their maintenance are holding up well under intense use.

The bottom scoring quintile still received very few votes from the "poor" category, but their overall scores were slightly lower due to a higher proportion of reported "fair" conditions. As the table shows below, there is little difference between the highest and lowest scores.

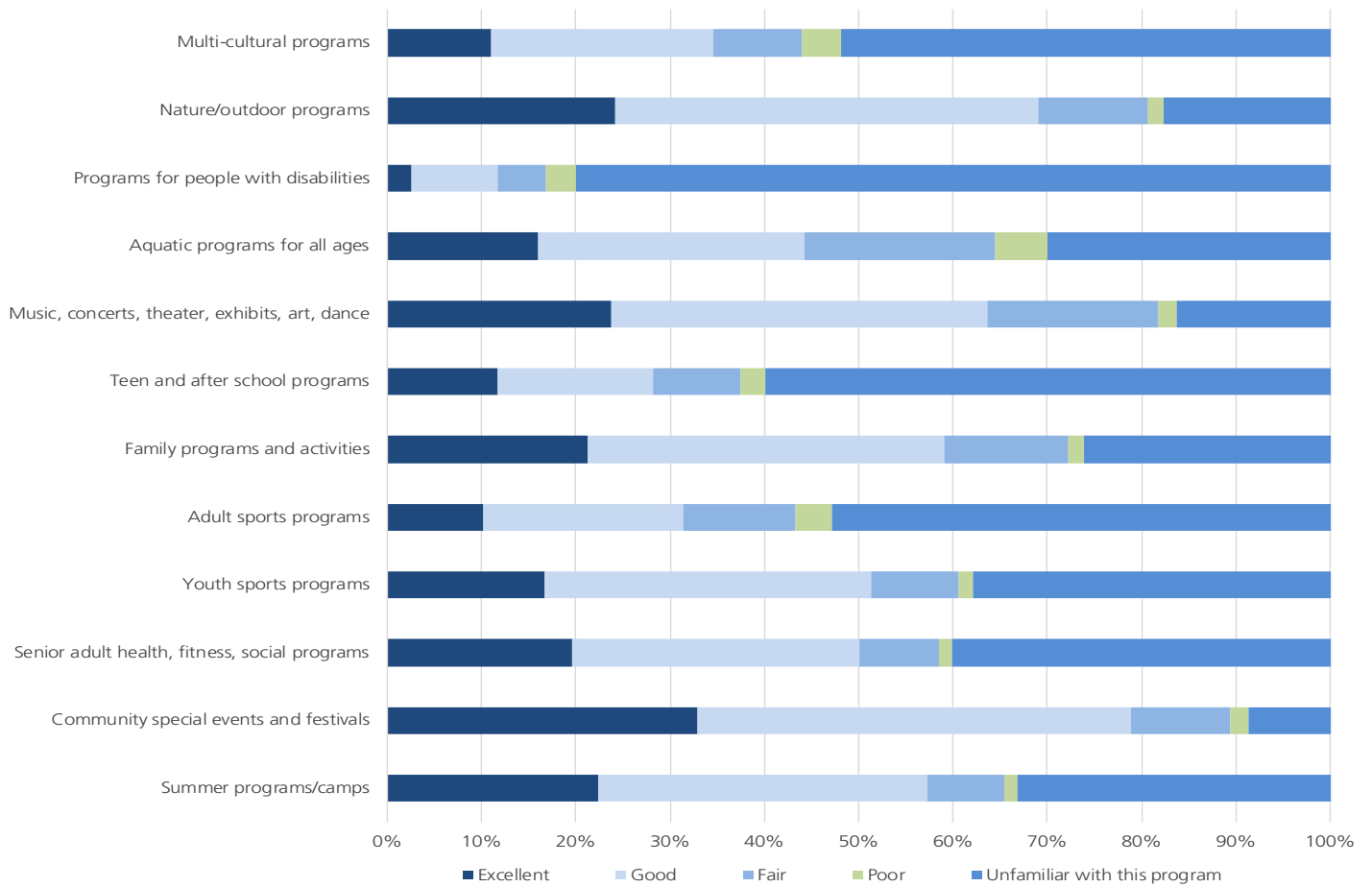
Condition of Programs (Q16)

The Department of Special Services' programs were also highly rated. None of the programs received very many votes for "poor" quality. When combining the ratings for "excellent" and "good," "community special events and festivals" was the highest regarded program, followed by "nature/outdoor programs," and then "music, concerts, theater, exhibits, art, dance." As expressed in other questions in the survey about a desire for a new pool with programming catering to different age groups, the category "aquatic programs for all ages" received the highest proportion of "fair" ratings

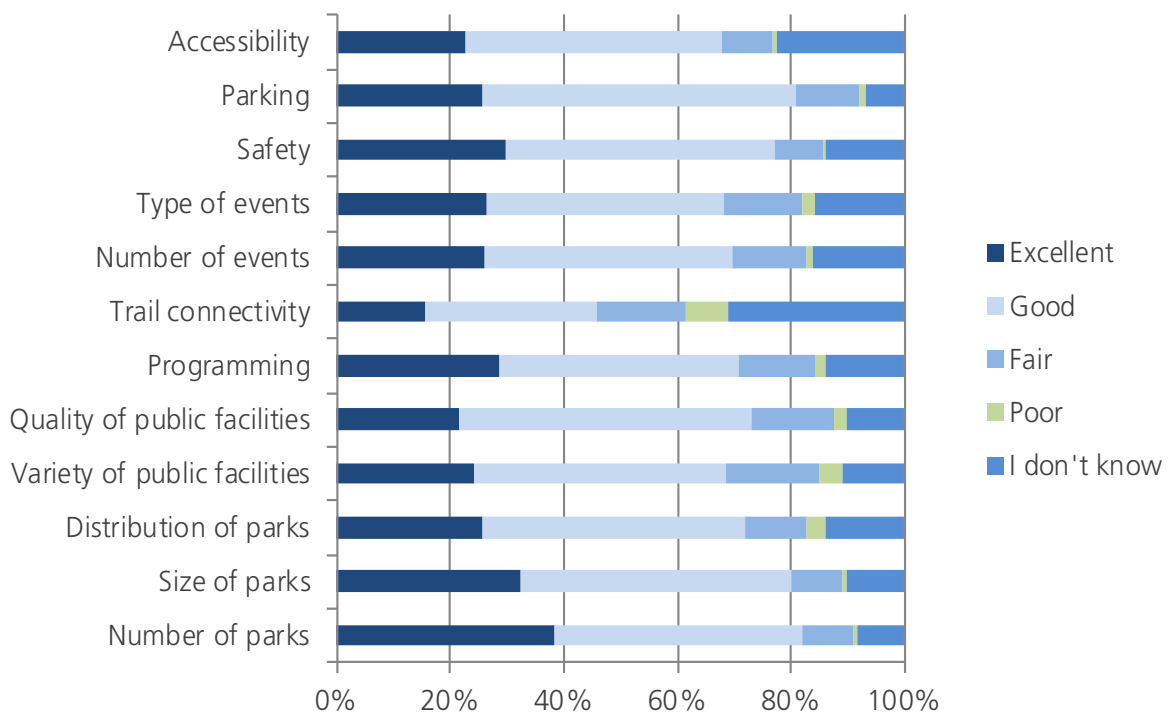
TABLE: HIGHEST AND LOWEST SCORE FOR PARK CONDITIONS

SITE	HIGHEST SCORE	SITE	LOWEST SCORE
Riley Archery Range	1.53	Costick Activities Center	2.17
Heritage Park	1.60	William Grace Dog Park	2.17
Nature Center	1.66	Soccer! Soccer!	2.19
Splash Pad	1.68	Harmon Oaks Park	2.22
Farmington Hills Golf Course	1.75	Olde Town Park	2.36

How would you rate the following programs?



How would you rate the following characteristics of Farmington Hills parks and facilities?



(20%). The other most prominent response was “I’m unfamiliar with this program,” receiving more than half the votes for “programs for people with disabilities (80%), “teen and after school programs” (60%), “adult sports programs” (52%), and “multi-cultural programs” (51%). This is not necessarily negative feedback as these programs are more heavily advertised towards the corresponding demographic group; for example, teen programs may only be marketed to parents with children aged 13 to 18.

Characteristics of Parks and Facilities (Q8)

When rating the characteristics of Farmington Hills’ parks and facilities, no characteristic received less than two-thirds of votes for “good” and “excellent” conditions, except for “trail connectivity” which received only about 46% of the higher-ranking votes. Visitors were most content with the number and size of parks, although distribution of parks garnered fewer higher votes than the other park-specific characteristics by about 10 percentage points. For example, north of W 12 Mile Road and West of Drake Road has few public parks, as does the southeast corner of the City. Visitors also found parking to be better than adequate: almost 81% of respondents rated parking as good or better. Where the scores dipped was for “accessibility,”

which could be reaffirming the notion that the distribution of parks limits residents’ ability to access parks easily, or it could be a reference to features lacking in the park that allow disabled users to move through the facilities with ease. In both case, accessibility should be improved. “Trail connectivity” has been a heavily treaded topic and was mentioned again in this question as unsatisfactory.

Reason(s) for Not Using Parks and Facilities (Q9)

The most common answer to the question, “What prevents you from using the recreational facilities more frequently?” was, “My schedule is too busy,” selected by over half of the respondents (51%). This is a challenge for a City to accommodate busy schedules, but further research could indicate how programming and services could squeeze into a busy lifestyle. The upshot is that 31% reported that “nothing prevents [them] from using recreational facilities more frequently,” but still close to 14% of respondents wrote that the “facilities do not suit my needs.” In the next few questions, they were asked in more detail to explain what types of facilities they wish to see in Farmington Hills.

TABLE: TOP PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS

FACILITIES YOU’D LIKE TO SEE	PRIORITIZED IMPROVEMENTS
Trails (mainly biking)	Walking/hiking trails
Exercise/fitness equipment	Biking paths
Dog-friendly facilities	Fitness and wellness program areas
Pool	Aquatic center
Amenities in the park (restrooms, recycling bins, drinking fountains)	Playgrounds

DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS

Facilities or Amenities Residents Would Like to See in Farmington Hills (Q10 & 13)

In an open response question asking what types of facilities or amenities survey participants would like to see in Farmington Hills, the responses were condensed to find common themes across the 448 replies. Later in the survey, respondents were asked to select their top five priorities from pre-determined options that should receive more attention for improvements. There is a large overlap in how the respondents answered two different questions. The first question (“What facilities or amenity would you like to see?”) asked residents to think about what is missing from the current offerings, and the second question was directed towards improvement of what is already in use. The overlapping answers indicate that the community is not sorely missing anything; their responses demonstrated a general consensus on the relatively narrow set of facilities the City should pay more attention to. The likeness of the responses reinforces that the survey participants do not want to see anything wildly different than what is already being offered, confirmed by previously answered questions that have shown they are generally very happy with the recreational facilities as they are.

CONDENSED RESPONSES FOR DESIRED FACILITIES

Pools were mentioned often, in various ways; some wish to see an outdoor pool, others a new updated year-round indoor pool, still others refer to updated locker rooms for the current pool. There are several references to the Livonia Recreation Center that has a fitness area and indoor pool with a slide, and child care that residents would like to

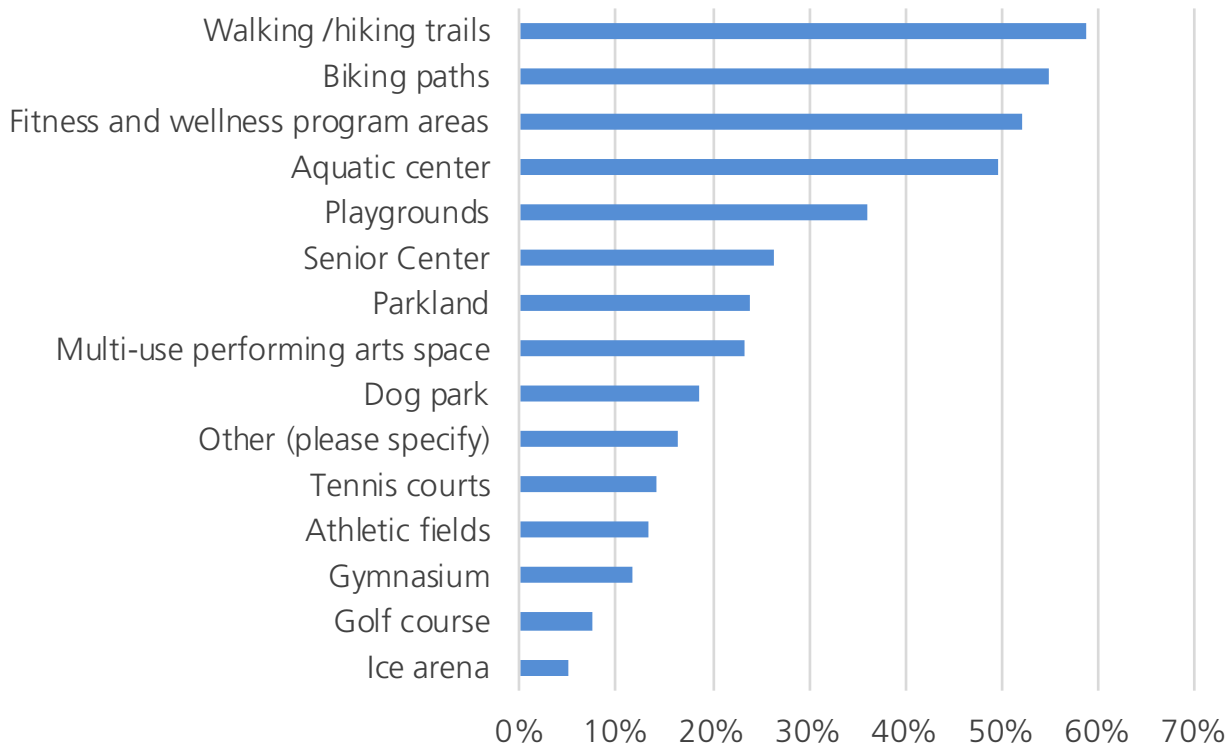
mimic closer to home. The comments also remarked on a better use of the pool, that it should be designed and programmed to serve children, adults, and senior citizens. It appears the demand for swimming exceeds the supply of pools.

Trails were a popular request. Both walking and biking trails were mentioned, but with a slight emphasis on biking trails that connect trails through different parts of the City that are not along main roads. Along with the trails, users want to see the accompanying amenities such as signage, bike racks, water refill stations, and trash and recycling bins. Walking trails was another popular response with the additional petition for ensuring they are handicap accessible.

Fitness and exercise were mentioned frequently with several ideas for improvements to the current offerings. Many hope to see an exercise area housed in a recreation center similar to a private gym. Some of the other ideas were to add fitness equipment to walking and running paths to be used intermittently as a part of a work out for trail users, group fitness classes, or family-oriented fitness to involve the entire family, or an outdoor fitness course.

Some frustration was expressed by the lack of **dog-friendly** parks and facilities in Farmington Hills. The remarks were also mentioned often in the previous question about what prevents survey respondents from using parks more frequently. Dog lovers wish to bring their pets with them when they recreate—to walk them on trails in parks throughout the City—instead of being limited to the one dog park. Or, some recommended developing more dog parks scattered geographically throughout the City to improve access.

Which of the following would be your top five priorities to receive more attention for improvement?



There were several pleas for an **amenities** update such as adding or updating restrooms at parks and facilities, along with trash and recycling bins, drinking fountains, trees for shade, and lighting where it is missing.

GETTING TO AND FROM

Preferred Method of Transportation to Parks (Q11)

Overwhelmingly, parks and facility users drive to parks: 96% of respondents drive a car or motorcycle to parks. The reliance on vehicles to access recreation speaks to what has been mentioned before—that residents do not have a connected nonmotorized trail system to take them there. Interestingly, the percentage of car users drops by about 30% when asked how survey-takers *prefer* to arrive at parks. The largest positive jump comes in the desire to walk/jog/run and bicycle to

parks, and even in the desire to reach parks by public transportation.

ACCESSIBILITY (Q12)

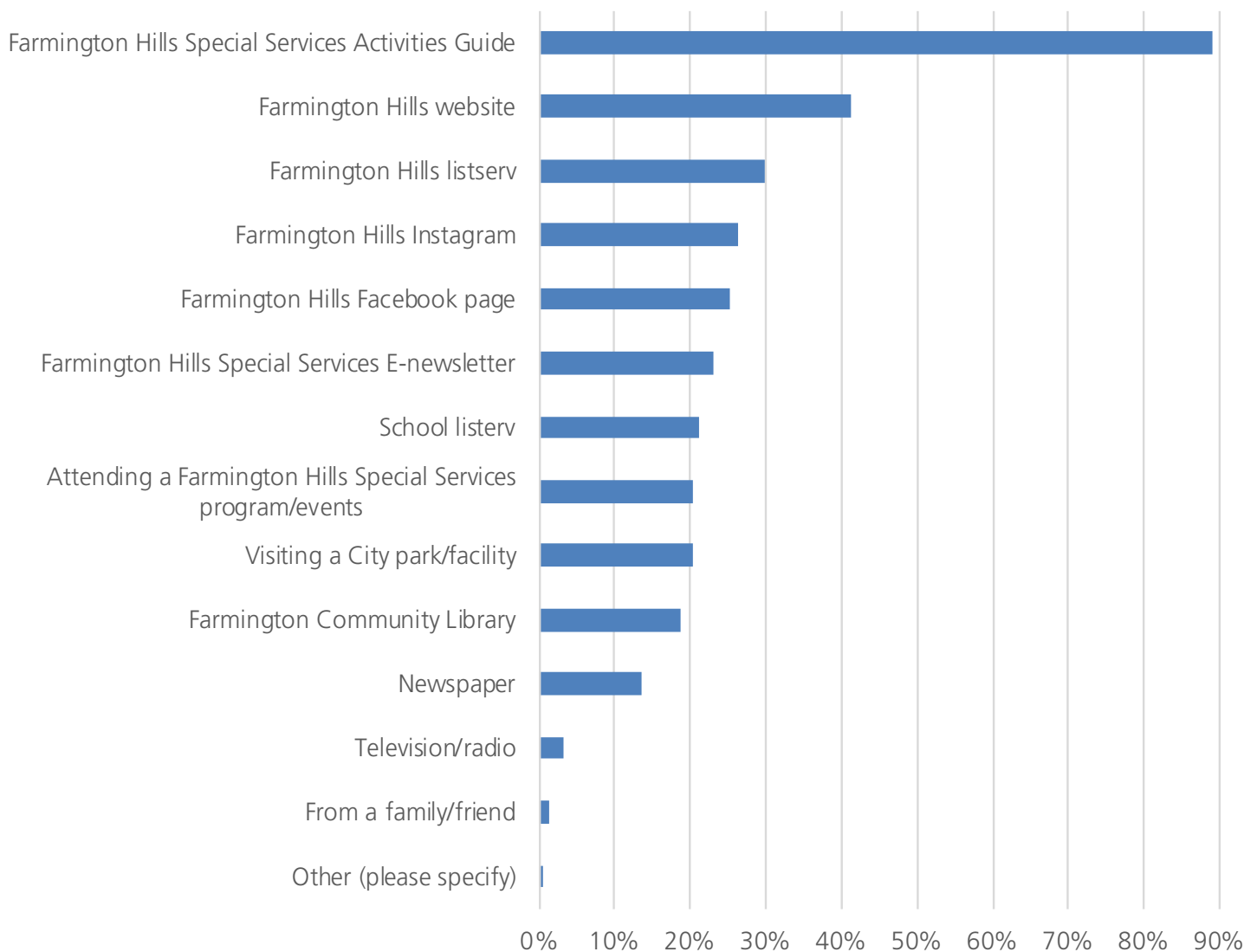
Having high-quality parks is not the only end goal. Having high quality parks that are accessible to people of all levels of mobility is what Farmington Hills strives for. The majority who responded to the question about how difficult it is to access parks if you are disabled, elderly, or mobility-constrained, answered “I don’t know.” No one responded that the parks were “impossible” to access, but 8.7% did say that it is “not easy at all.”

COMMUNICATION

Sharing Opinions with City Staff (Q14)

Survey participants generally feel that there are adequate ways to share their opinion with City staff (69%). About 23% feel the opposite, and

How do you or your family generally learn about Farmington Hills' Special Services programs and/or events. Check all that apply.



when asked how they would prefer to communicate their opinion to the Department of Special Services, the general preference is to communicate electronically. Close to 48% prefer email, another 20% through surveys, and 8% said more generically "online." Online communication has several avenues that DSS already pursues: email blasts, surveys, social media, or a message box on the DSS website. About 8.5% responded in the "other" category. Most of those responses explain that they are unsure of how to reach City staff, some clarifying that they have never needed to.

Learning About Farmington Hills' Special Programs and/or Events (Q17)

The Farmington Hills Special Services Activities Guide is the most wide-reaching and successful way to communicate everything that is offered by DSS. The Activities Guide outperforms all other forms of media designed to "get the word out;" 87% of respondents use it to learn about programming and events, compared to the next highest outlet, the Farmington Hills website (41%). While some media avenues reach fewer people than others, today's omni-channel world requires that

communication strategies be wide-ranging to reach all corners of the community.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic questions at the end of the survey are optional, but they provide a point of comparison with the systematically tracked demographic data from the census. Survey responses are compared to the census, when possible, to determine where resident opinion is over- equally- or under-represented. Because the survey was conducted prior to the visioning sessions, the City was able to use the results to decide who to reach out to for more input, and more precisely, what to ask. Overall the results skewed older, wealthier, and whiter than the community at large, with little representation from survey-takers under the age 35, below the median household income of about \$71,000, or from African-American and Asian populations.

Age (Q18)

Most respondents were aged 35 years or older. Only about 9% of the replies from Farmington Hills residents came from young adults or children. The age brackets were collapsed to mimic the life stages and the survey results were compared to the most recent census data to verify any gaps in representation by age groups (the school age bracket was left out of this table because it did not correspond with the census which counts children under the age of 5, whereas this survey did not). The results show an over representation by both “adults” and “retirement” age folks, and by the same token, an underrepresentation of “young adults” and children. As active users of the park and trail system, a youthful perspective is just as valuable as that of their parents and grandparents, but it is more challenging to intercept.

TABLE: AGE DISTRIBUTION COMPARISON

LIFE STAGE	2016 ACS	2018 SURVEY
Young adult (18-34)	19.4%	8.2%
Adult (35-64)	42.1%	65.7%
Retirement (65 +)	14.8%	25.0%

TABLE: RACE AND ETHNICITY

RACE/ETHNICITY	2016 ACS	2018 SURVEY
African-American/Black	20.3%	3.9%
Asian	10.8%	5.0%
Caucasian	65.8%	73.1%
Hispanic*	2.7%	1.1%
Native American	0.2%	0.3%
Other races	0.6%	0.8%
Two races	2.3%	1.7%

* Hispanic is considered an ethnicity that can identify as any race, sometimes totals exceed 100% when Hispanics are double-counted.

Annual Income (Q19)

The highest proportion of annual incomes falls into the \$100,000-\$200,000 bracket, and 63% of respondents make over \$75,000 per year. The median income as of 2016 in Farmington Hills was \$71,463, meaning that the input from higher income groups was captured more often in the survey than those below the median household income. There was very little representation from survey respondents who make less than \$25,000 or less; 2.8% of respondents reported an annual income of less than \$25,000 although, according to 2017 ACS 1-Year Estimates, 13% of the Farmington Hills population makes less than \$25,000 annually.

Disability (Q20)

Just over 81% of participants answered that zero people in their household have a physical disability.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN VISIONING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 25
DROP IN ANYTIME
BETWEEN
6:00-8:00PM

PLEASE JOIN US!



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

We are in the process of updating the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan and want to hear what community members think about our parks, programs, and facilities. Refreshments provided.

Meeting Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. Eleven Mile Rd.
Questions? Please call 248-473-1800



PLAY.
EXPLORE.
LEARN.
LIVE!

The remaining 19% of households have one or more persons with disabilities. This figure cannot be directly compared to the census because disability is recorded by individual and not by household. But, almost one in five households have a least one person with a physical constraint who must be taken into account when planning for recreation accessibility.

Race and Ethnicity (Q21)

The table "Race and Ethnicity" shows that Caucasians were overrepresented, and African-Americans and Asians were the inadequately represented in this survey. The widest margin for representation is found for African-Americans than any other race; only 3.9% were surveyed when the 2016 ACS 5-Year Estimates found they make up just over 20% of the population.

VISIONING SESSIONS & OUTREACH

Two visioning sessions were held

Bond Field

Please use the box to the right to record any ideas or comments you have in regards to this park. This is your chance to give the Department of Special Services your thoughts on the future of this site!



What is your vision for Bond Field?

Empty box for providing feedback on Bond Field.

in late September, each aimed at targeting groups that were missing from the survey. On September 25 2018 from 6 pm – 8 pm a drop-in session was held at the Costick Activities Center to collect input from City officials, staff, and any residents who could attend. The intention of an open format, as opposed to the more traditional two-hour sit-down session, was to be convenient for attendees who had limited time but wanted to participate. Food was also provided to encourage participation during dinner hour. To promote the event, a flyer was posted at the Costick Activities Center, on Special Services' website, Facebook, and sent out through all of the department's e-newsletter listservs. A press release explaining the event was published in the Oakland County Times and the Oakland Press.

Stations were set up so that residents could learn and contribute ideas at their own pace. The first station featured a two-minute PowerPoint presentation that was programmed on repeat for those interested in learning the background of the master planning process and the timeline for completing the plan. A staff person remained at this station all evening to answer questions and hand out copies of the slides to anyone who

wanted to take the information home. Here, attendees were also asked to describe the Farmington Hills park and recreation system now and how they would like to describe it in the future in one word or phrase. Comparing the two responses demonstrates the relative discrepancy between the residents' current perception and vision.

Next, participants were invited to wander through the rows of tables, each table displaying a sheet of paper with an aerial photo, park images, and one question: what is your vision for this park? Residents were encouraged to provide honest feedback and suggestions for improvements for the parks and/or facilities they frequent. The last station was a matrix of the 2014 Park and Recreation Master Plan goals and objectives. Attendees were given eight sticky dots (one for each goal) to place on a scale of "not important at all" to "very important." This exercise elucidates how relevant previous planning efforts still are and if they should be modified to reflect emerging changes in priorities. Participants were also allowed to suggest new goals if they felt one was entirely overlooked.

The second session was held at the City Hall Open House on September 30th from 12 pm – 3 pm. The questions were the exact same as the previous session with a slightly different approach: all of the questions were programmed onto surveymonkey and staff members intercepted passers-by at the event in attempt to "go to the people" and capture the hard-to-reach voices of parents and their children. Residents who completed the survey were offered either a complementary swim at the Costick Activities Center or a free open skate at the Ice Arena for the family. Between the two sessions a total of 71 responses were collected representing a wider

TABLE: FUTURE VISION BY SITE

SITE	FUTURE VISION
Heritage Park	A larger splash pad that includes shaded areas or more pavilion space; new play structures; structures geared towards older kids, and more options for food
Jon Grant Community Center	Improved connectivity to Olde Town Park; low to no cost access to meeting space for non-profits and youth groups
Olde Town Park	Improved maintenance: tennis courts, picnic areas, playground pieces, and water stations
Costick Activities Center	Improved pool facilities and building upgrades
Harrison High School	A multi-use facility that has indoor walking facilities, tournaments, social mixers, art and performance space, an aquatic center with update locker room facilities, senior and children programming on the weekends and weekday nights
Farmington Hills Golf Course	Golf tournaments for children in the summer, a fishing pond
Pioneer Park	To maintain its cleanliness
Woodland Hills	Maintain it as a rustic destination with restroom facilities and picnic table amenities; connect to OCC, Harrison High School, and the Costick Activities Center
William Grace Dog Park	Livelier open space; obstacles for the dogs
Memorial Park	Install a public restroom
Founders Sports Park	Improve gravel paths
Soccer! Soccer!	Install a public restroom

range of demographic groups that were not adequately captured in the community survey, namely among age group 18-34, African-Americans, and households closer to the City's median income.

VISIONING RESULTS

The following summary is a combination of the results from both visioning sessions. Questions about the community's vision were asked broadly about the parks and recreation system, and then on a park-by-park basis. In one word or phrase, community members expressed a vision for a park system that is "enriching," "affordable," "year-round," "family-friendly," "ecologically aware," "beautiful," "easy to reach from any part of the City," "educational," and "inclusive." In general, the residents were pleased with how the park system is managed and maintained, evidenced by little difference in their description of its current conditions and the future vision. More detailed feedback was given when asked specifically about each site. The table "Future Vision by Site" summarizes the findings.

GOALS UPDATE

The purpose of this exercise was to gauge any shifts in priorities since the last master plan was completed. The results demonstrated that over the last five years, residents have continued to support the goals outlined with very little change in priorities. All eight goals received the highest number of votes in the "very important" column, indicating strong backing for the established goals. Receiving the most votes were the nuts and bolts of recreation planning—maintaining and expanding current funding levels for programming and operational and maintenance staff. While these may sound like obvious goals, parks and recreation budgets are often the first to be cut in any downfall, and the residents' request to maintain funding speaks to its value. It's also important to note that funding and maintenance rank higher than park acquisition and nonmotorized connectivity.

Kids playing at the City Hall open house where Farmington Hills staff used ipads to survey families on their vision for parks and recreation



TABLE: GOAL UPDATE EXERCISE

2014 MASTER PLAN GOALS	NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL		SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT		VERY IMPORTANT
Maintain and expand the current funding levels for existing programs	0	3	7	16	35
Continue funding for operational and maintenance staff	1	0	3	21	35
Improve existing parks and recreation facilities	4	3	3	17	30*
Develop new parks and recreation facilities at existing sites	3	4	6	17	29*
Upgrade and maintain athletic fields	2	5	7	17	26
Explore opportunities and provide funding for park site and land acquisition	2	6	10	16	25
Improve nonmotorized connectivity in the City	5	3	20	10	21
Upgrade and maintain historic facilities	3	5	14	17	20

** Some participants indicated that this goal is important, but only for Harrison High School.*





INVENTORY

A thorough on-the-ground inventory was conducted on all of the existing parks, natural areas, and recreation facilities owned or leased by the City of Farmington Hills. Each park and facility was visited, and a detailed inventory of the number, type, level of accessibility, and condition of recreation equipment and facilities were documented in order to determine areas where the department can focus improvement efforts. The detailed inventory sheets can be found in the Appendix. The inventory is a valuable step in determining an appropriate budget and action plan for the next five years. Another inventory was also completed using mapping software to explore the regional parks and facilities, the quasi-public and private recreation facilities, and the school facilities, as a way to assess the supplementary opportunities for residents. The City

leverages their resources and funding to the maximum level by collaborating with other institutions and advocating for their services, when appropriate, instead of duplicating efforts or competing with other facilities in the area.

The City of Farmington Hills owns eleven parks, the Jon Grant Community Center and Costick Activities Center, and leases one facility. Formerly leased from the Farmington Public Schools, the City now owns the William Grace Dog Park but continues to lease Soccer! Soccer! Park from Little Caesar's Enterprises.

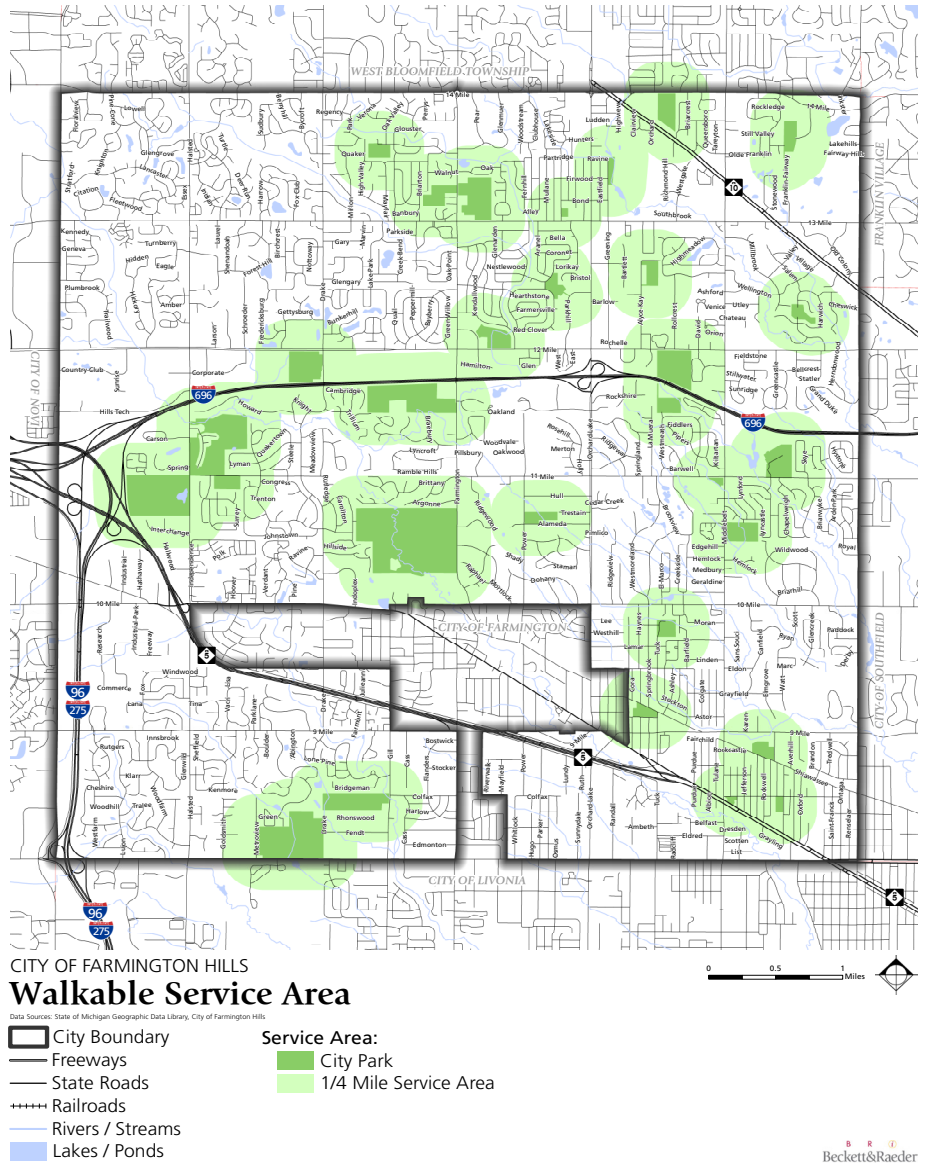
PARK SERVICE AREA

As a part of the inventory, MDNR's guidelines describe each public park's reach in terms of who the park is

TABLE: MDNR PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA	SIZE CRITERIA
Mini park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs	Less than ¼ mile in residential setting	2500 sq ft to 1 acre
Neighborhood park	Serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus on informal active and passive recreation	¼ to ½ mile distance and interrupted by nonresidential roads and other physical barriers	5-10 acres
Community park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus on meeting community-based recreation needs, and preserving unique landscapes and open spaces	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3-mile distance	Usually between 30-50 acres
Large urban park	Serves a broader purpose than community parks; used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, and preserving unique landscapes and open spaces	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community	Usually a minimum of 50 acres, 75 acres or more is optimal
Natural resource areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, visual aesthetics/ buffering	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable
Special use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use	Variable dependent for special use	Determined by projected demand; usually a minimum of 25 acres, 40 to 80 acres is optimal.
Park trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas; focus on recreational value and harmony with natural environment	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters. Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/ in-line skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft-surfaced.	

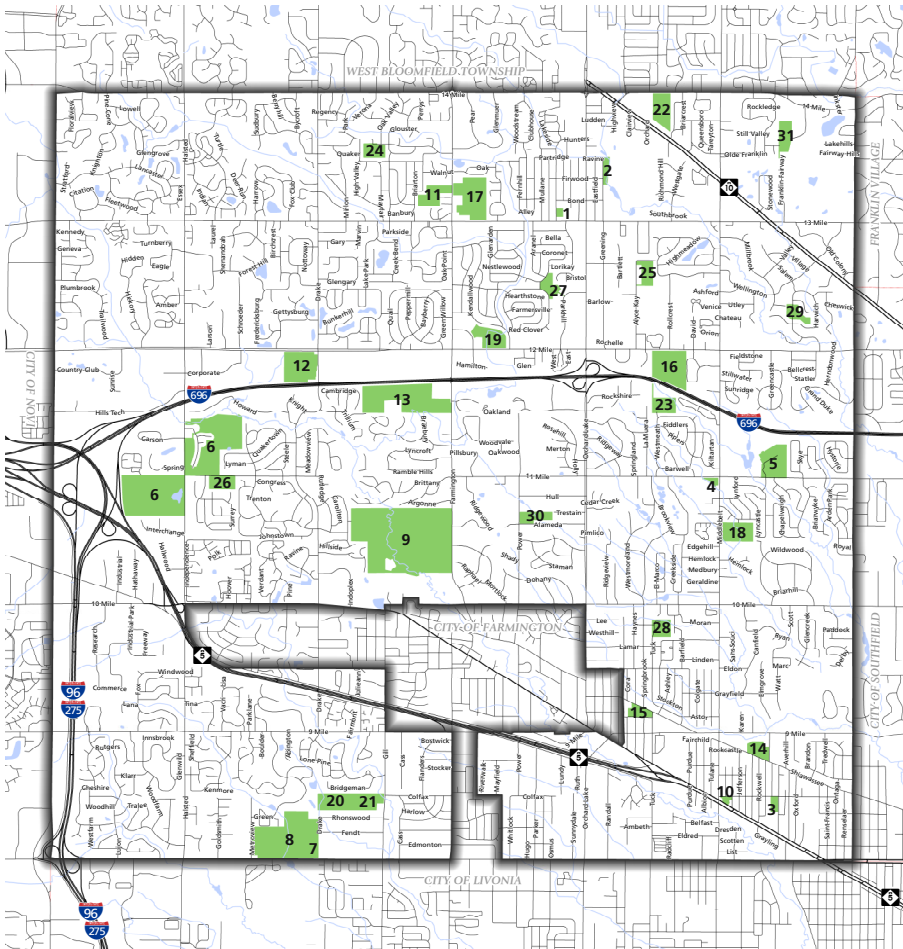
MAP: WALKABLE SERVICE AREA



servicing. For example, Olde Town Park is considered to have a local service area because it is a smaller park that typically draws visitors who are nearby or within walking distance, whereas the Costick Activities Centers service area is community-wide because its diverse facilities appeal to a wider audience and its size can accommodate more visitors. The table “MDNR Park Classifications” describes park service areas based on the size and the major functional use.

The map “Walkable Service Area” draws a one-quarter mile buffer around each public park or facility to gauge to what extent it can be reached on foot. The largest gaps in recreational space, represented by the white space on the map, exist on the western side of the city, particularly in the northwest and southwest corners. Part of the reason for this lack of public park development is that the subdivisions are laid out in such a way that there is ample private green space that residents have access to.

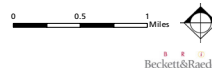
MAP: FARMINGTON HILLS RECREATION INVENTORY



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS Recreation Inventory

Data Source: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Farmington Hills

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Bond Field | 9 Heritage Park | 17 North Farmington High School | 25 Highmeadow Elementary School |
| 2 Harmon Oaks Park | 10 Jon Grant Community Center | 18 East Middle School | 26 Hillside Elementary School |
| 3 Old Town Park | 11 Pioneer Park | 19 O.E. Ducknel Middle School | 27 Kenbrook Elementary School |
| 4 Memorial Park | 12 Soccer! Soccer! | 20 Power Middle School | 28 Lanigan Elementary School |
| 5 Farmington Recreation Center | 13 Woodland Hills Park | 21 Gill Elementary School | 29 Wood Creek Elementary |
| 6 Farmington Hills Golf Club | 14 William Grace Dog Park | 22 Warner Upper Elementary School | 30 Amanda Early Childhood Center |
| 7 Farmington Hills Ice Arena | 15 Farmington Central High School | 23 Beechview Elementary School | 31 Fairview Early Childhood Center |
| 8 Founder's Sports Park | 16 Harrison High School | 24 Forest Elementary School | |



Beckett&Raeder

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENTS

An assessment of the accessibility of each park was completed. This assessment visually evaluated the accessibility of facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them for persons with mobility constraints. Barrier-free accessibility in parks and recreational facilities is extremely important for current and future programming. The assessment followed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' 1-5 scale for evaluating park accessibility in the 2018 "Guidelines

for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans":

- 1 — none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 — some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 — most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 — the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 — the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

BOND FIELD

Bond Field is located near the intersection of 13 Mile Road and Orchard Lake Road. This two-field baseball complex was once part of Bond Elementary School. The City of Farmington Hills currently provides programming and maintenance for Bond Field.

The parking lot is paved but there are no curb cuts for accessibility to the fields. Only some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines, giving the site an accessibility score of a two.

Major facilities

- Baseball field



SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
1.7	Sports Complex	Youth sports activities	2



COSTICK ACTIVITIES CENTER

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
28	Community Park	Multiuse facility and fields for active play	5

The City of Farmington Hills Costick Activities Center is the home to the Department of Special Services administrative offices. This 67,000 square foot building serves an array of recreational needs for the residents in the community.

The Costick Activities Center is used for an assortment of recreational programs, classes, and events. There are outdoor facilities that are also available that include a garden courtyard, three multipurpose sports fields, and green space. The courtyard is a charming outdoor area that includes a pergola, benches, picnic tables and gardens with beautiful flowers and plantings.

There are three entrances to the building with drop off and pick up locations, which allows for easy accessibility. Upon arrival inside the center, there are TV monitors listing the day's activities and locations. The facility has a noticeably friendly atmosphere.

Major facilities

- Administrative offices
- Gymnasium
- Meeting rooms
- Banquet room
- Art gallery
- Gift shop
- Pool
- Courtyard
- Multipurpose fields
- Senior Center



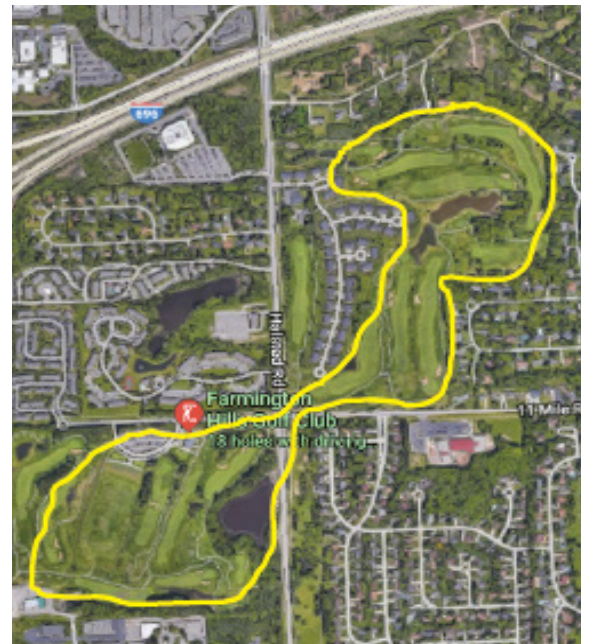
FARMINGTON HILLS GOLF COURSE

The Farmington Hills Golf Club is a public 18-hole golf course situated on 175 acres. This beautifully maintained course has 32 driving range stations and two practice greens. The clubhouse contains a full-service restaurant, a pro shop, and locker rooms. The golf club is open to the public and tee times can be made by phone.

Most of the facilities are accessible to all people. The course was marked down one point due to the fact that the tee boxes are not accessible by wheelchair.

Major facilities

- 18 hole golf course



SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
175	Special use	Focus on golf, special events	4



FOUNDERS SPORTS PARK

Founders Sports Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. This sports park is heavily used as it has numerous soccer and baseball/softball fields, where families can use multiple facilities at the same time. The parking areas and gravel pathways currently connect much of the park so that users can easily traverse to different zones.

The Ice Arena is a 70,000 square foot building that offers recreational and competitive skating for all skill levels. The facility contains two ice surfaces, locker rooms, meeting and party rooms as well as the administrative offices. Youth and adult hockey, public skating, Learn to Skate, and figure skating are some of the activities that are offered in the facility. The second floor contains a spectator area to view the rink, a soda shop, seating area, a dance floor, and meeting rooms. The upstairs facilities are used for after school programs, meetings, rentals, and social gatherings.

The Riley Skate Park is a premier location for skateboarders and in-line skaters. The park is all concrete with a variety of elements for skaters of all skill levels and ages. There is a picnic pavilion located to the west of the skate park that is available for the park users. The entire skate park is enclosed with a beautiful perimeter fence.

Founders Park also has an accessible fishing pier that is available for catch and release fishing. The fishing pier is a popular location for interpretive programming and hands-on learning activities. Only some of the facilities within Founders Sports Park are



SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
101	Sports complex	Multipurpose	3

accessible to persons with mobility constraints. Paved parking and paved pathways throughout the park would help make the amenities more accessible. As of now, it would be difficult for a wheelchair-bound person to get from the parking lot to the fields.

Major facilities

- Baseball/softball/soccer fields
- Play structure
- Concession/restrooms buildings
- Skate park
- Ice Arena
- Vaulted restroom
- Sand volleyball courts
- Disc golf course
- Basketball courts
- Pavilion
- Fishing pier

HERITAGE PARK

Heritage Park is centrally located in Farmington Hills. This beautiful nature park is home to a variety of amenities. The park includes picnic shelters, a playground, inline skating rink, sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, splash pad, picnic areas with grills, large areas of green space, and about 4.5 miles of trails for hiking and nature study. Numerous buildings include a Visitor Center, restrooms, a snack shack, Nature Center, the historic Longacre House and Spicer House and barn, Heritage and History Center, Stables Art Studio, Day Camp, amphitheater, and an archery range.

A number of children’s activities and day camps are held at Heritage Park. The park contains many educational opportunities; one example are trails guided with interpretive signage along with hands-on activities.

The Nature Center, located within Heritage Park, offers interactive exhibits, animal home exhibits, a bird viewing area, classrooms, native fish aquariums, a library and a hands-on learning touch station for kids. The Stables Art Studio is home to a variety of arts and cultural activities. This historic building offers a wide variety of art camps, sculpture, pottery, drawing, painting and cultural programs for children. The open-air Riley Archery Range allows both bows and crossbows with eight shooting lanes. People of all ages can enjoy this beautiful facility at a very affordable price. The range offers open shooting as well as scheduled

programs. Private rentals are available for corporate groups, schools, lessons, special events, and competitions. The amphitheater is handicap-accessible with an asphalt pad especially for spectators with restricted mobility. The amphitheater has a covered stage and a large green hill for stadium-style viewing. Some of the facilities within Heritage Park are accessible, giving it a rating of three per the MDNR guidelines. Paved parking and trails to the existing amenities would help raise its score.

Major facilities

- Picnic shelters
- Play structure
- Nature Center
- Splash pad
- Stables Art Studio
- Archery range
- Trails
- Longacre House
- Spicer House
- Heritage and history museum
- Day camp
- Amphitheatre

LONGACRE HOUSE

Farmington Hills Special Services Department hosts many classes and programs at this stunning historic facility. Originally built in 1869, the elegant building is rented by the public mainly for weddings, special events, bridal showers, and other social gatherings. The landscape is full of lush flower gardens and plantings and an attractive white gazebo is located in the garden area.

Most of the facilities are accessible at the Longacre House. A few of the garden amenities currently do not have paved pathways, making it difficult to navigate for wheelchairs.

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
211	Community park	Multiuse park	3



LONGACRE HOUSE

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
5*	Special use	Special use and recreational programming	4

*5 acres within Heritage Park



JON GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Jon Grant Community Center is located within the Farmington Hills Fire Department’s Fire Station #3. The facility contains two offices, a community room, and restroom facilities. The Community Center is used for programs, classes, and a rental space for special events. The entire facility is accessible for all people.

Community members can rent the facility for birthday parties, baby showers, and other gatherings. The facility provides community resources, helping those in need when it can.

Major facilities

- Community room
- Office space
- Restrooms



SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
3.7	Special use	Programs, classes, rentals	5

MEMORIAL PARK

Memorial Park offers a place for community members to honor and recognize those that have passed away. This park has a concrete walking loop with a memorial rock sculpture, topped off with a lighted flag pole. Memorial Park is wedged on the corner of two busy arterials, Middlebelt Road and West Eleven Mile, and serves as a place for a small respite from vehicular traffic.

This is a passive park that people can reach from existing sidewalks. The park has a variety of mature shade trees, creating an excellent place to rest and enjoy the scenery. There is a bench located in the grassy section of the park. Placing benches on concrete pads, off of the existing sidewalks, would make this park completely accessible.

Major facilities

- Memorial rock
- Internal walkways
- Lighted flag pole
- Bench

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
2	Mini park	Passive use	4



OLDE TOWN PARK

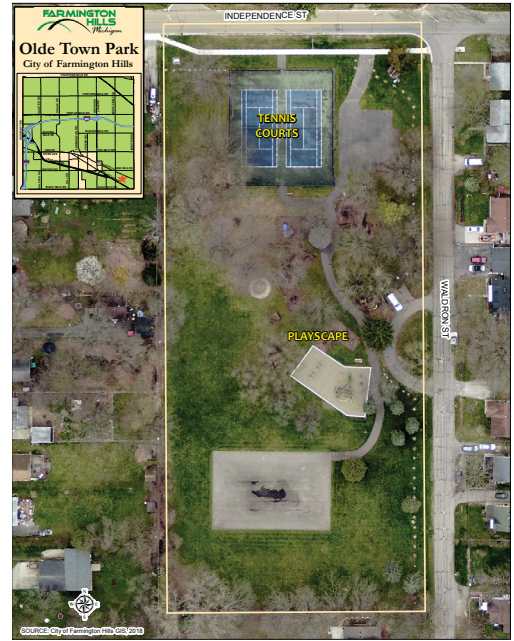
Olde Town Park is located within a neighborhood in the heart of the Olde Town Subdivision. The park includes numerous active play amenities including tennis courts, an inline skating rink, and a playground. A picnic shelter is also available in the park, along with a few picnic tables and grills for the community to use. The main playground is barrier free with fun modern play options. This park is located in the southeast corner of the City and is easily accessed by the adjacent neighbors. There is currently a sidewalk that links the park to the main streets surrounding the park. What makes it truly a neighborhood park is that there is no parking available; it must be accessed by foot or bicycle.

Some of the park amenities are easily accessed by paved pathways. Other amenities such as play structures and grills are located in grassy areas in the park, a couple of which are handicap accessible.

Major facilities

- Tennis courts
- Inline skating rink
- Picnic shelter
- Playground/ play structures

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
3.7	Neighborhood park	Active play	3



PIONEER PARK

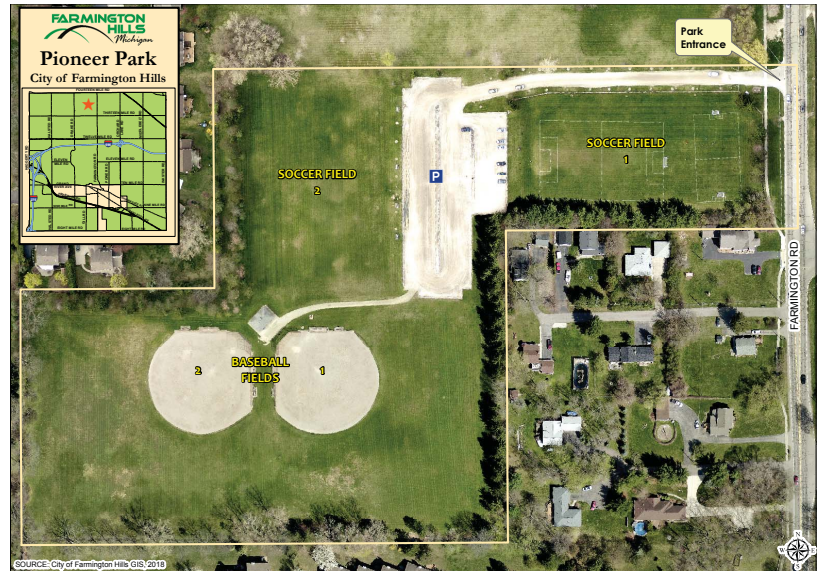
Pioneer Park is designated for youth sports. This park is surrounded by residential homes, making it very easy for people to navigate to. The park contains two full size soccer fields and two baseball/softball fields. There is an accessible restroom/ concession building located near the ball diamonds. During the fall season, the park is used mainly for soccer. By rearranging the fields, the City is able to line four fields for the fall soccer program.

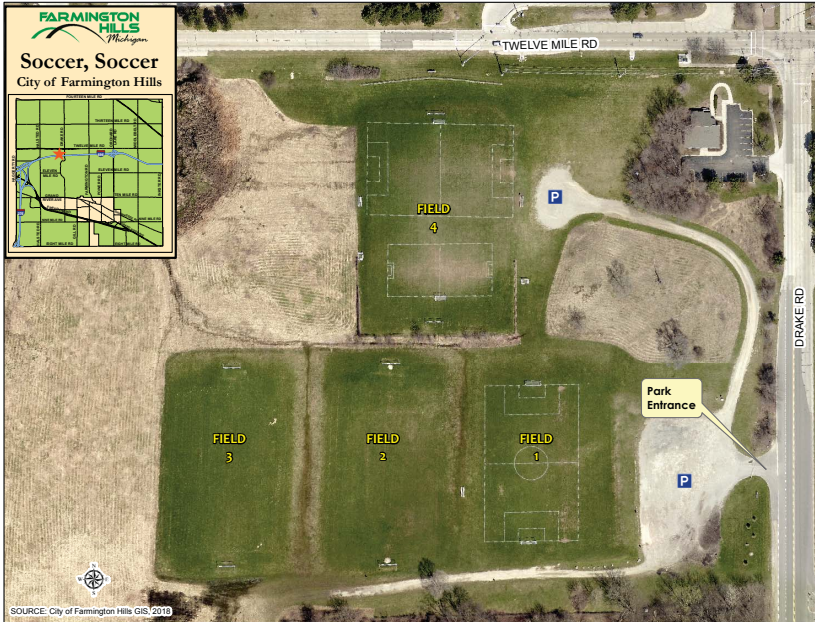
The site is not handicap-accessible. Paving the existing parking areas and developing paved pathways to the amenities would make this park more accessible.

Major facilities

- Baseball/softball fields
- Soccer fields

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
15	Community park	Sports complex	2





SOCCER! SOCCER!

This popular soccer park is located on the corner of 12 Mile and Drake Road. The site contains four large soccer fields and a parking lot. The City of Farmington Hills leases the park from Little Caesar’s Enterprises but provides maintenance of the facility.

The park is currently not handicap accessible due to the lack of hard surface areas.

Major facilities

- Soccer fields
- Bleachers

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
3.7	Neighborhood park	Active play	3



HARMON OAKS PARK

Harmon Oaks is a wooded area made up of mature hardwoods and wildflowers. The property is located near the intersection of 13 Mile Road and Orchard Lake Road. The wooded area serves as a buffer between the existing neighborhood and a local golf course.

Since the park is made up of a thick stand of trees and wildflowers, there is no accessible point of entry. The park is not accessible to anyone.

Major facilities

- Wooded area
- Sign

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
1.7	Natural Resource Area	Buffer for golf course	1



Harmon Oaks stand of trees between the golf course and residential neighborhood



Fields at Soccer! Soccer! Park

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
42.2	Community facility	Community center	N/A*

* Building will be renovated and its accessibility was not assessed



HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

Due to decreasing enrollment, the school board voted to close Harrison High School in the 2019-2020 school year. After losing about 1,000 students in four years, the school could not afford to stay in operation. The City of Farmington Hills saw this as an opportunity to keep the building and its athletic fields in use for community members to enjoy. City Council approved the purchase of the 245,000 square foot property for \$500,000 and has plans to convert it into a recreation center by late 2020.

The City plans to repurpose the school into a Community Recreation Center. A large number of programs held at the Costick Center will move to the new facility. This will provide expanded space for Senior Citizen programming at the Costick Center. The new facility will provide space for the expansion of the City's visual and performing arts programming and shows, athletic/fitness classes, clinics, games and tournaments as well as a destination aquatic center.



Major facilities

- Football/soccer fields
- Running track
- Baseball/softball diamonds
- Tennis courts
- Swimming pool
- Auditorium
- Gymnasium
- Meeting rooms



WILLIAM GRACE DOG PARK

SIZE (acres)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
9.9	Neighborhood park	Active play and social interaction	2

This popular dog park has been repurposed from old Elementary School grounds into a place for dogs and their owners to socialize. As of October 24th, 2018 the City of Farmington Hills owns the land, ending the lease agreement with Farmington Public Schools. The dog park area has two fenced-in zones, one for large dogs and the other for dogs under 22 pounds. The entrance to the dog park is controlled by a key fob system for those that participate. Dogs must be registered with the Department of Special Services in order to be allowed in the park. A water source is located just outside the fenced in area to fill drinking bowls for the dogs. There are benches located throughout the park for the pet owners to sit and relax while dogs play.

The park also contains a very nice playground with many different features for children of all ages outside of the dog park’s fenced area.

A paved parking area leads to the fenced-in dog park; however, there are several curb stops in front of the entrance, preventing easy accessibility for those not on foot. Removing the curb stops and adding paved pathways within the dog park would make the park more accessible for people of all abilities.

Major facilities

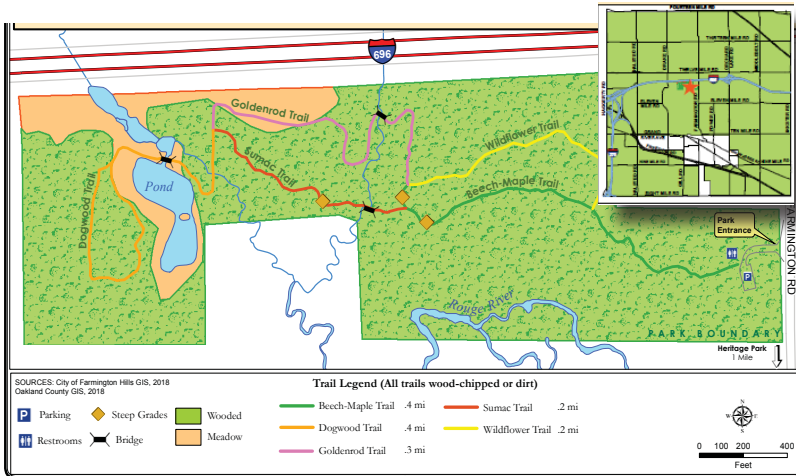
- Dog park
- Dog bag dispensers
- Play structure
- Lighted parking lot



SIZE (distance)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
1.7 miles	Community Park	Trails	1

TRAILS - WOODLAND HILLS

Woodland Hills is located down the road from Heritage Park and sits alongside I-696. Around since the 1990s, it is a space dedicated to five walking trails that wind through the varying topography of the park. On the western side of the park is a pond surrounded by vegetation that creates a tranquil experience of bird watching. The property features different natural scenes including a river, meadow, and forest.



Due to the change in grade (slope) and the trail material, the park is not accessible for wheelchair users.

Major Features

- Trails
- Pond
- Signage
- Benches



TRAILS - HERITAGE PARK

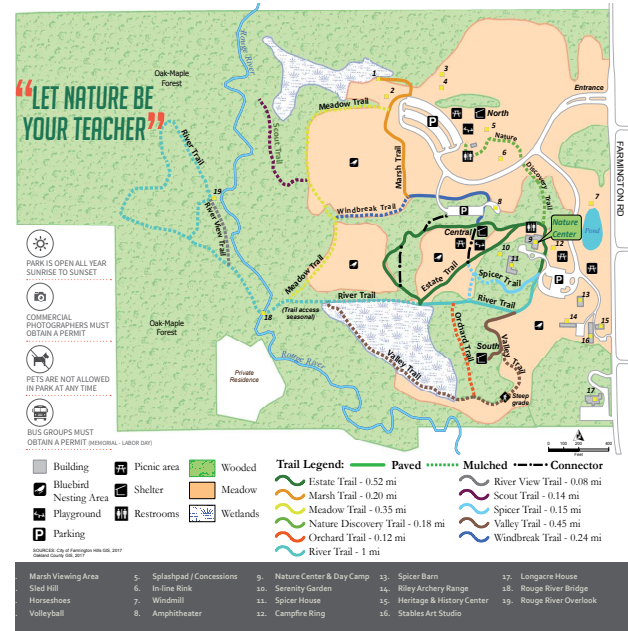
In addition to the highly programmed parts of Heritage Park, the backside of the park features a network of trails of varying distances, materials, and experiences. The trails are used for hiking, cross-country skiing, and habitat observation. The trails traverse rivers, wooded areas, slopes, meadows, and wetlands, which offers diverse natural settings for its users. An interconnected system allows users to walk small or large loops depending of their fitness level with signage and maps to guide them back to their starting point.

The steepness of some of the slopes and the trail material make many of the trails in this park inaccessible for wheelchair use.

Major Features








- Trails
- Wetland boardwalk
- Signage
- Wild life

SIZE (distance)	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE/USE	ACCESSIBILITY
3.4	Community park	Trails	1



CONCEPTUAL TRAILS FRAMEWORK PLAN

City Park Path & Connectivity Route Type Matrix

Representative Image	Facility Name	Definition	Surface	Width	Longitudinal Slope	Cross Slope	ADA* Compliant	ODA** Compliant	Walking	Jogging***	Dog Walking	Roller Blading	Skateboarding	Biking
	Paved Trail	A maintained and accessible paved route that connects recreational destinations	Asphalt (preferred) or Concrete	5' (minimum) 8' (preferred)	Access Route: 8.33% (max 50') 10% (max 30') Trail: 8.33% (max 200') 10% (max 30') 12% (max 10')	2% (maximum)		●	●	●				
	Unpaved Trail	A maintained and accessible unpaved route allowing access to a park's natural areas.	Wood Chips or Slag	5' (minimum) 8' (preferred) 10' (maximum)	8.33% (max 200') 10% (max 30') 12% (max 10')	2% (preferred) 5% (maximum)		●	●	●				
	Primitive Trail	A non-maintained and non-accessible route established by informal foot traffic. Persons using this trail do so at own risk.	Native Soil, Rocks, Tree Roots	1-2'	Follows existing topography	Follows existing topography			●	●				
	Shared Use Path	A non-motorized, multi-modal, multi-directional path, generally not adjacent to a roadway.	Asphalt or Concrete	10'-14' (per AASHTO) 8' - rare circumstances (per AASHTO)	5% (max) 8.33% (max w/ handrails)	2% max	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Side Path	A non-motorized, multi-modal, multi-directional path, generally adjacent to but separated from a roadway.	Asphalt or Concrete	10'-14' (per AASHTO) 8' - rare circumstances (per AASHTO)	5% (max) 8.33% (max w/ handrails)	2% max	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Bike Lane	A non-motorized path, generally alongside a drive lane within the roadway. Can be buffered, protected, or separated.	Roadway Material	4' (min w/o curb) 5' (min w/ curb)	Follows roadway topography	Follows roadway topography	N/A	N/A						●
	Shared Lane	An on-street pavement marking symbol promoting the sharing of the roadway between motorized and non-motorized uses.	Roadway Material	N/A	Follows roadway topography	Follows roadway topography	N/A	N/A						●

* - Americans with Disabilities Act

** - Outdoor Developed Areas Accessibility Guidelines

***- Jogging prohibited at Woodland Hills

ROUTE TYPE MATRIX

The Department of Special Services also took this opportunity to evaluate, organize, and plan for trail use in and connecting its park system. The impetus for this additional section was based on the public's desire for more and better maintained trails and to provide the DSS with guidelines related to cost-effective trail planning that meets user demand.

To start, each trail was thoroughly inventoried. While walking every mile of trail in Woodland Hills and Heritage Park, a GIS collector app was utilized to place points indicating areas of significance and to add notes and photos that are tied geographically to that point. After collecting data on trail condition, tread material, alignment, width, accessibility, and feasibility for change, a matrix was created to catalogue and define different trail types.

The matrix provides a visual representation for each trail type, a definition, the appropriate surface material, allowable trail width, and slope ranges based on the Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). AASHTO is a highly-regarded, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that strives for excellence in all major modes of transportation. Its guidelines are a standard for responsible transportation planning, utilized by both state and local agencies, and referenced in the "Conceptual Trail Framework Plan."

For the trail system within the parks, the matrix itemizes three major categories: Paved, Unpaved, and Primitive Trails. The categories describe generally a trail's surface material, its level of accessibility, and

its expected uses. Applying these categories to different trails allows the department to unify, over time, trail materials and trail development/construction standards that promote a cohesive, yet varied, trail system serving the broad needs of the users.

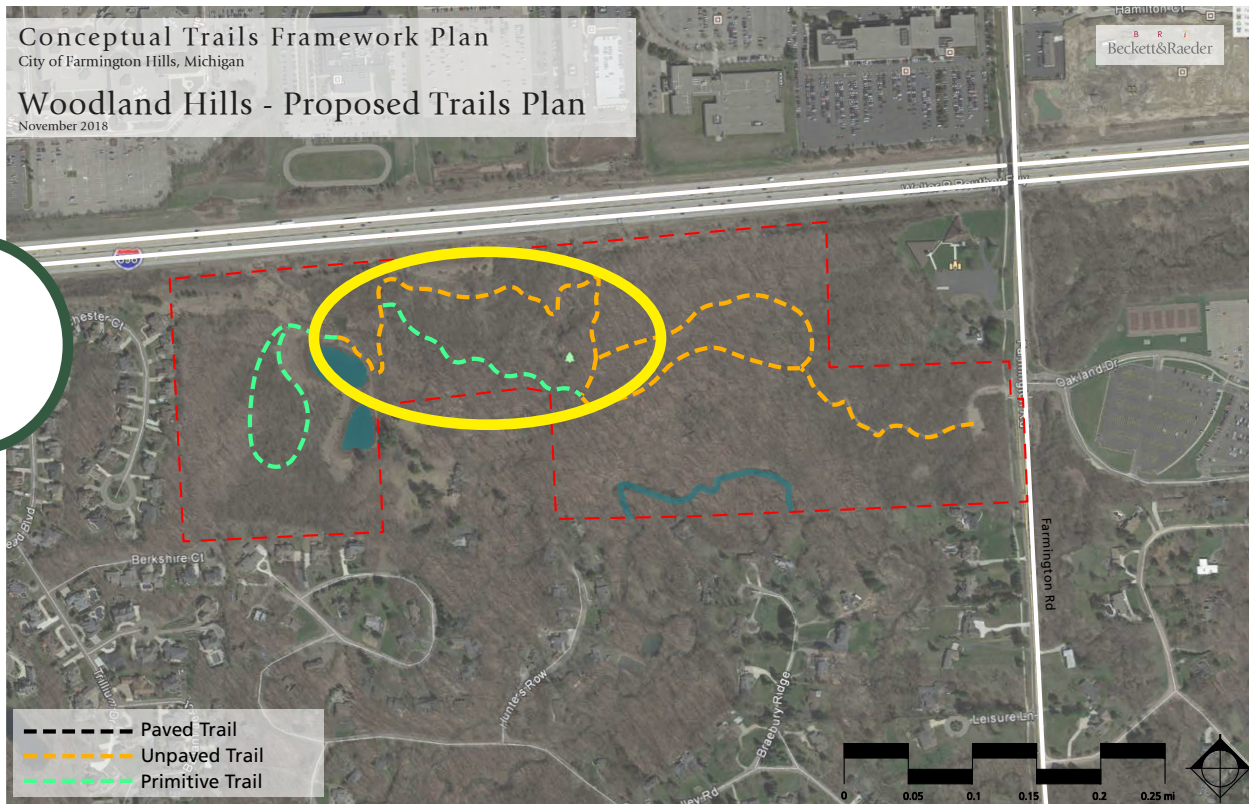
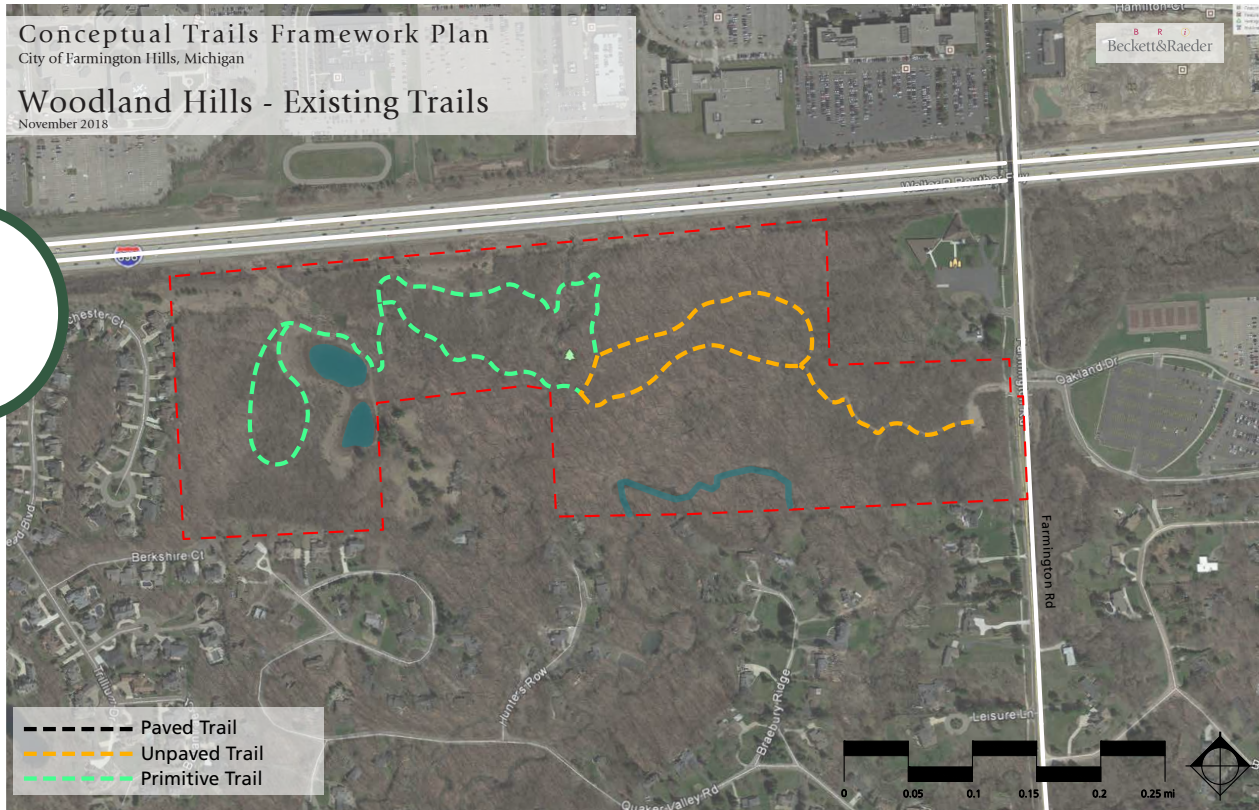
For the trail system that connects the parks, the matrix itemizes four major categories: Shared Use Path, Side Path, Bike Lane, and Shared Lane. Like the trail system within the parks, the categories for connectivity routes generally describe surface material, level of accessibility, and expected uses. But the connectivity routes also define whether they are on, adjacent to, or physically separated from a roadway. As the connectivity routes will typically be developed within an existing road right-of-way (ROW) of potentially local or county/state jurisdiction, physical space limitations and other factors may dictate the type of route that is feasible in a given location.

HERITAGE PARK TRAILS

The concept for the transformation of the Heritage Park trail system is one of improved organization and focused investment of limited resources. This transformation is likely a multi-step process. As currently laid out, all three trail types exist and overlap within the park. Further, duplicating routes creates confusion for first time visitors and increases maintenance efforts for limited recreational gain.

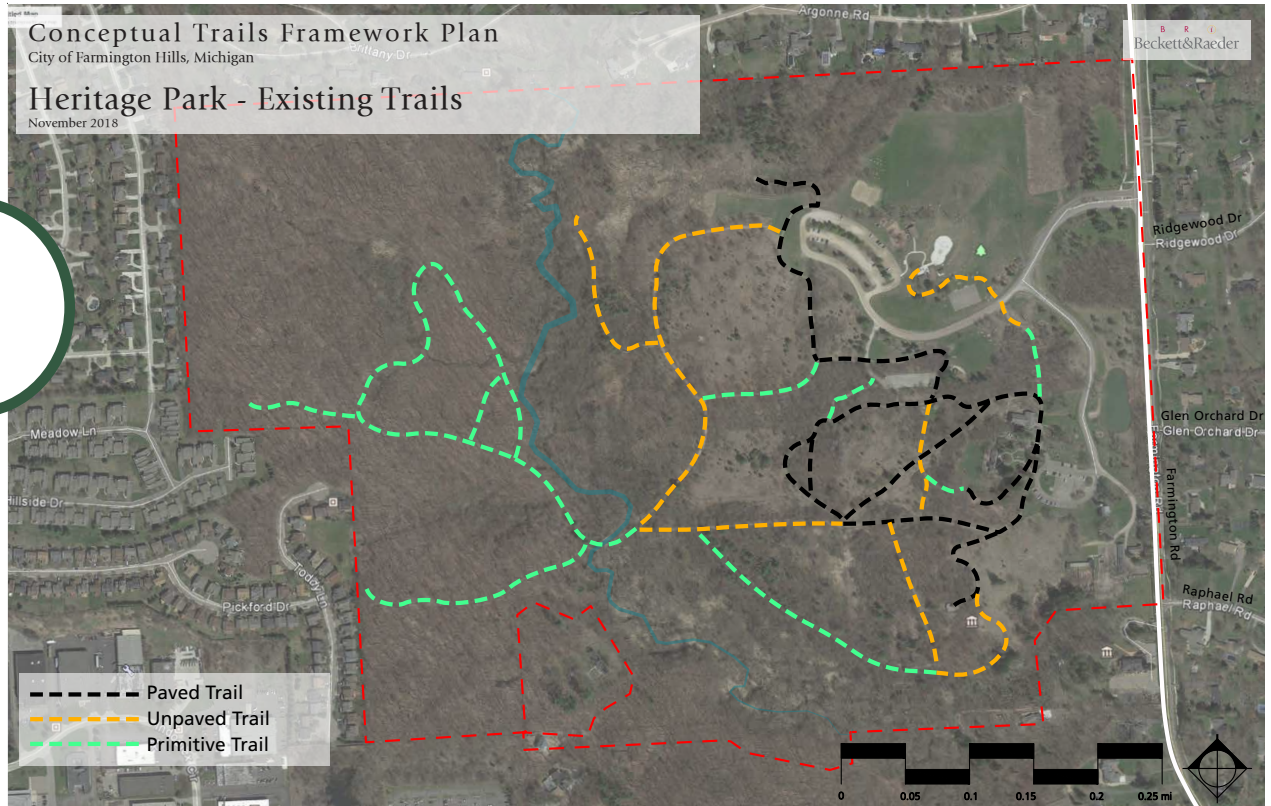
The over-arching concept is one of generally organizing the most highly developed and accessible trails (Paved Trails) in the most highly developed portion of the park. The trail system then graduates to a moderate level of trail development and accessibility (Unpaved Trails) in the more natural areas of the park's interior before fully transitioning to the lowest level

WOODLAND HILLS: EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAIL



HERITAGE PARK TRAILS: EXISTING TRAIL

1



of trail development and accessibility (Primitive Trails). The Primitive Trails are proposed in the more remote portions of the park where terrain and natural features would be negatively impacted by a high level of trail development.

Other recommended major changes include adding a proposed trail from Farmington Road, paralleling the entry road to improve connectivity to the Nature Center and Splashpad. The Heritage Park – Proposed Trail Plan also proposes the completion of a loop trail connecting the Splashpad and North Shelter parking lot to the River Trail, which is currently only accessible from the south parking lot. To help reduce maintenance spending and to protect the safety of users, the plan recommends removing two legs of existing Primitive Trail that

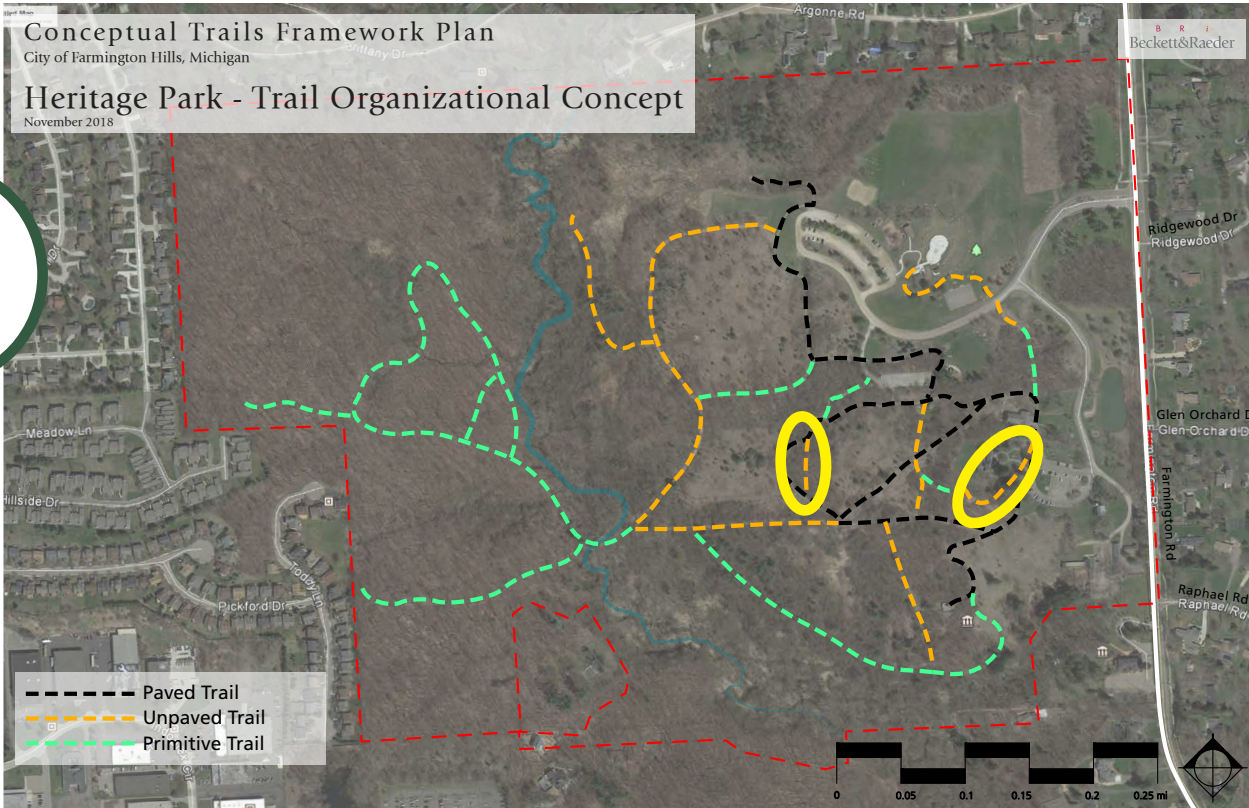
approach private properties in the adjacent subdivisions.

WOODLAND HILLS

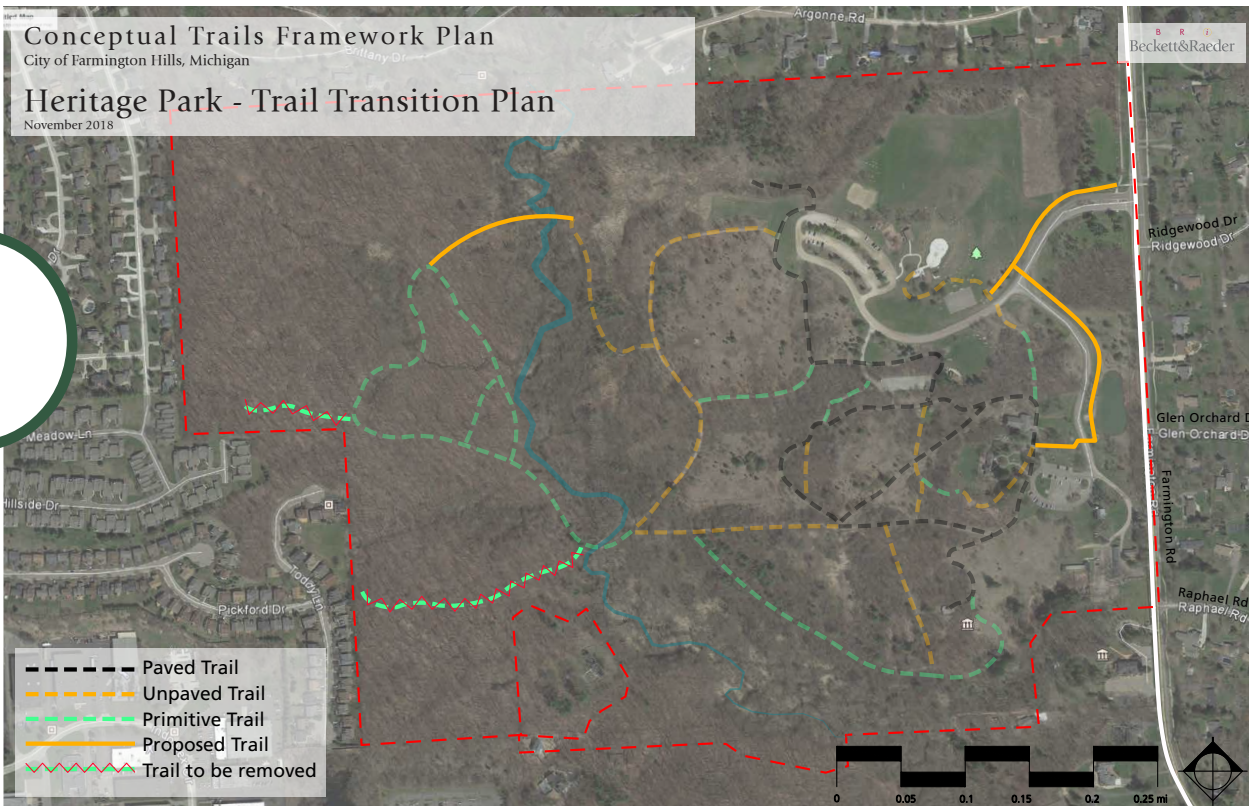
By comparison to Heritage Park, Woodland Hills would see limited change in the next five years as its current trail system is already reasonably organized and not overly developed. The Woodland Hills – Proposed Trail Plan mimics the existing conditions with no Paved Trails, Unpaved Trails focused on the park’s east expanse graduating to Primitive Trails in the western, more natural portion of the nature park. A section of existing Primitive Trail is proposed to be upgraded to Unpaved Trail to ensure a higher level of accessibility to the scenic pond, which could be considered a destination of this park.

HERITAGE PARK TRAIL ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPT & TRAIL TRANSITION

2



3



CITYWIDE CONNECTIONS

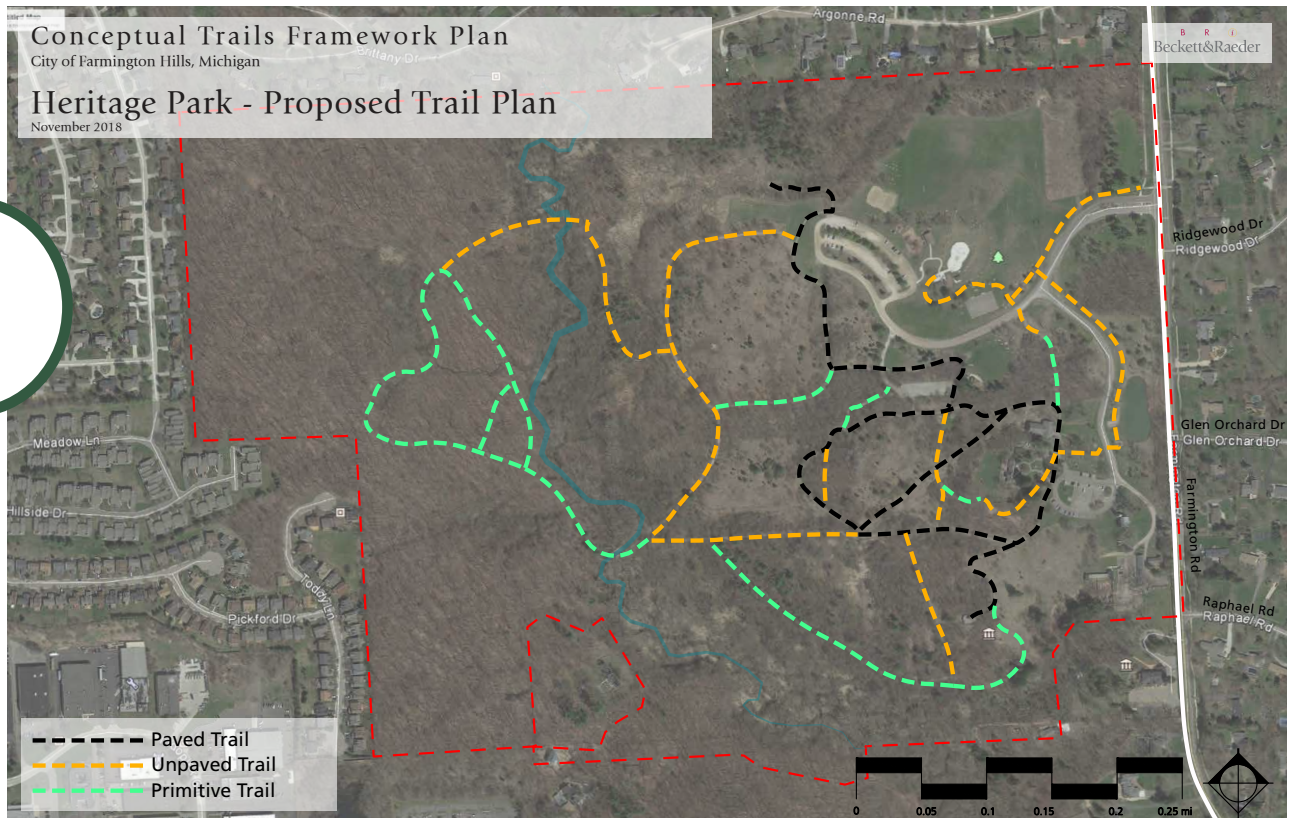
More than improving trails with parks, the City wants to improve connections between sites. The "Recreation Connectivity Plan" outlines existing and proposed nonmotorized connections as an exercise to fill in the gaps and link major community facilities and assets. The timeline for implementing a system at this scale is beyond the 5-year scope of this plan, but the planning effort records the desire and the will to make this happen in the future. It is also important to note that this type of system-wide planning would involve several local agencies to collaborate on the research, funding, and installation of nonmotorized paths.

The proposed nonmotorized paths, starting from the northern part of the City, would connect Pioneer Park to I-696, where the paths would extend both east and west to

connect to Harrison High School and the Costick Activities Center. If the path were to continue southbound down Farmington Road, it would connect Woodland Hills Park, Heritage Park, and the City of Farmington's Shiawasse Park. Continuing south, it would then turn on 8 Mile Road to Founders Sport Park. It was also important to incorporate the soon-to-be I-275 trailhead for the already established path along the freeway, which has the potential to be a major recreational and regional asset. If implemented, the nonmotorized system would be greatly expanded and create a loop throughout the City that connects popular recreation destinations. Further studies are needed to determine the exact routes, as important factors such as topography and land ownership were not consulted in making the map. Instead, the map represents a vision and a stepping stone to more in-depth planning.

HERITAGE PARK PROPOSED TRAIL PLAN

4

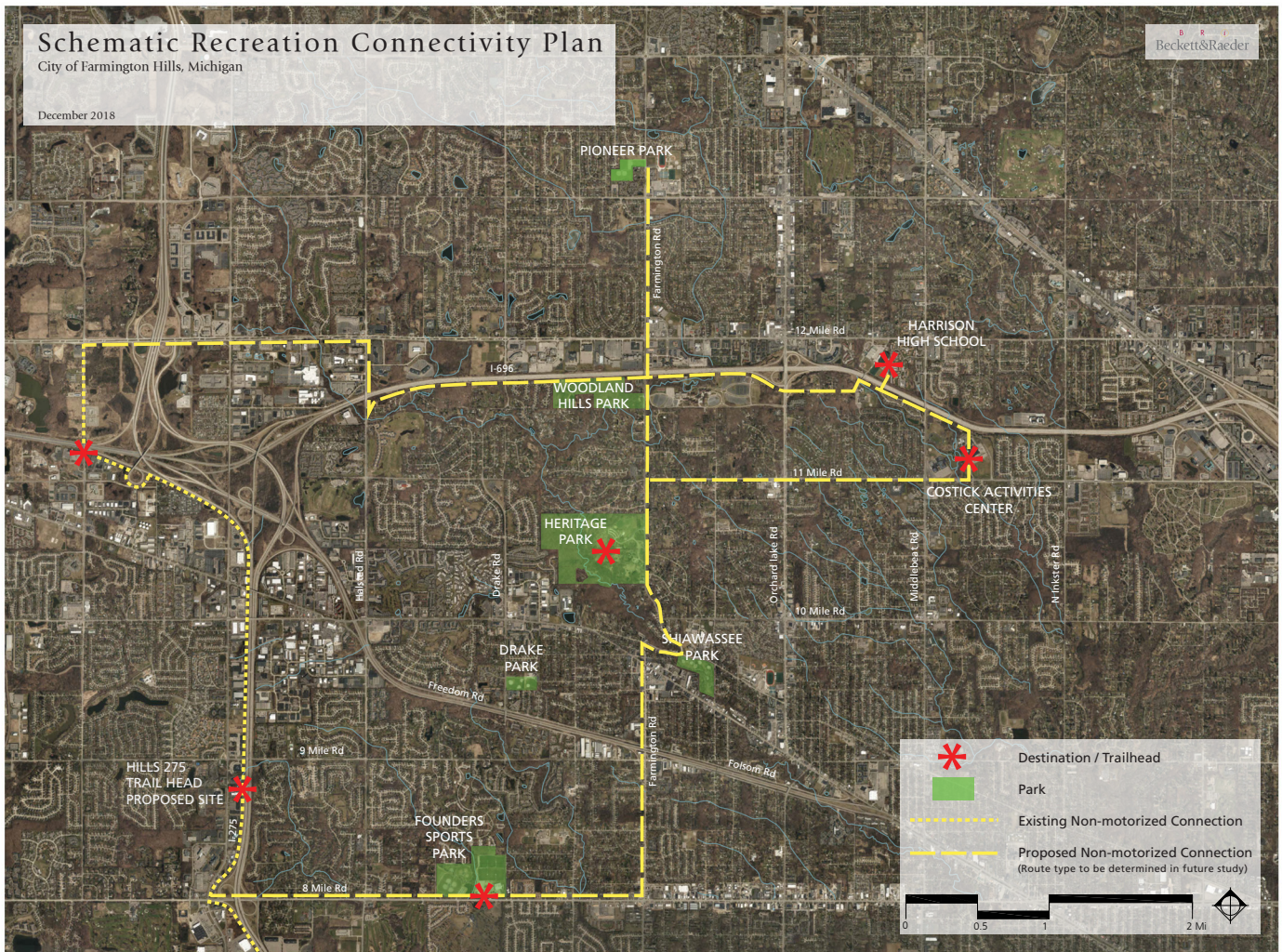


Schematic Recreation Connectivity Plan

City of Farmington Hills, Michigan

December 2018

Beckett & Raeder



SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES

The City of Farmington Hills and the Farmington Public School District have an excellent partnership. The City currently owns and operates 628 acres of parks and facilities. The schools offer 305 acres of indoor and outdoor amenities for the residents of the area to use. The schools and the City collaborate to offer top notch facilities for the people in the community. They share some services to help each other accommodate all of the users.

The City of Farmington Hills performs maintenance work on the middle school and elementary school baseball

fields, including dragging and lining for games. In exchange, the City of Farmington Hills provides the schools with meeting and event space at its variety of community centers free of charge. The City schedules youth sports affiliate association practices and games on the school fields, and uses Drake and Shiawasee Parks. The City also supplies portable restrooms on most of the Farmington Public School soccer and baseball sites in the spring, summer and fall to accommodate the users. The City of Farmington Hills is currently in the process of purchasing Harrison High School from the Farmington Public Schools. The school will graduate its last senior class in 2019.

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS

The City of Farmington Hills residents take full advantage of what the beautiful state parks have to offer. These state facilities provide a variety of activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-county skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Some of the closest state parks include:

- 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)
- 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)

REGIONAL PARKS

An investigation of the surrounding regional parks and facilities was organized to compare what types of amenities are available within a short drive for Farmington Hills residents. Local residents are fortunate to live close to such a wide variety of facilities throughout the region. Even though the City of Farmington Hills Special Services Department does not manage or program the following facilities, the diverse recreational opportunities at hand add to the richness of their experience as is a boon to quality of life. Regional facilities are provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and a number of nearby counties including: Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw.

COUNTY PARKS

The Oakland County park system is extremely well developed with over 6,000 acres of park land. There are a variety of recreational facilities and programs offered through Oakland County that serve the people of Farmington Hills. There are 12 parks within the County that offer countless outdoor opportunities that include but are not limited to: hiking, camping, swimming, boating, biking, cross country skiing, ice skating, fishing and much more. The Oakland County parks are listed below:

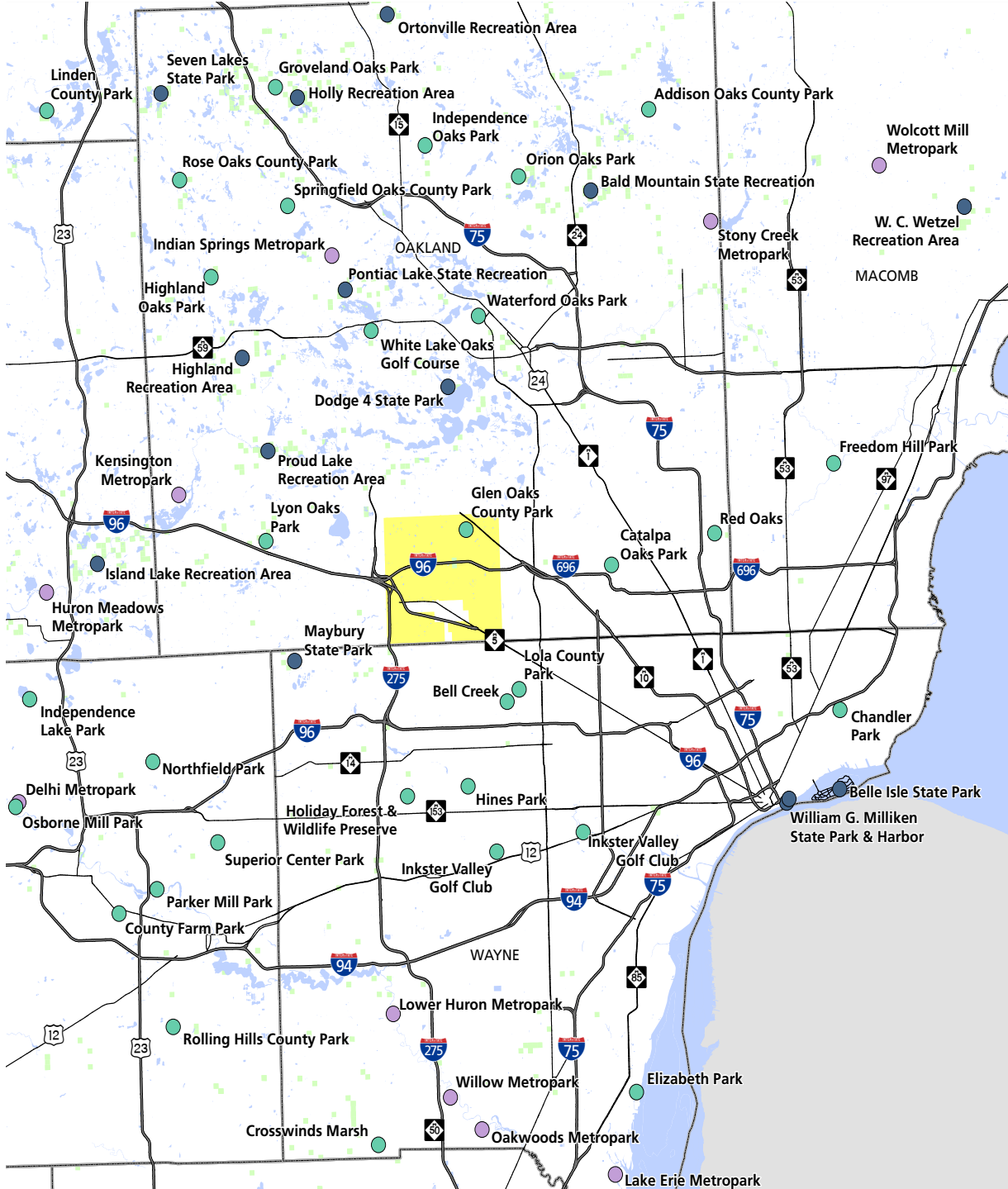
- Addison Oaks
- Glen Oaks
- Catalpa Oaks
- Groveland Oaks
- Highland Oaks
- Independence Oaks
- Lyon Oaks
- Orion Oaks
- Red Oaks
- Rose Oaks
- Springfield Oaks
- Waterford Oaks

TABLE: RECREATIONAL INVENTORY BY SITE

Park/Facility Name	Acres	Accessibility	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Amphitheater	Concessions	Multipurpose Sports Fields	Batting Cage	Soccer	Volleyball	Tennis Court	Track	Walking/biking Trail	Play Structure	Swings	Other Play Equipment	Hockey/Inline Skating	Swimming	Golf/Driving Range	Gymnasium	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Grills	Restrooms	Park Lighting	Signage	Parking Lot	Trash Receptacles	Dog Bag Dispenser	Benches	Bike Rack	Drinking Fountain	Bleachers	Scoreboard	Disc Golf	Fishing Dock	Splash Pad	Meeting Rooms	Gazebo	Banquet Rooms
Neighborhood Parks																																								
Bond Field	1.7	2	2																							1	2						1							
Harmon Oaks Park	1.7	1																							2															
Memorial Park	2	4																									1	1												
Olde Town Park	3.7	3									2			1		8	1				1	1	1			1	1	4		4										
Community Parks																																								
Costick Activities Center	28	5					3											1		1	1	3		3	1	1	2	5		8		2						3	3	
Farmington Hills Golf Club	175	4																	1					4		1	1	7		7									1	
Founders Park	92	3	8	2		2			7	4				1	2							10		4		1	3	20	2	10	1		18		1	1				
<i>Farmington Hills Ice Arena</i>	*	5				1											2							2		1	1	6		1	1	2		2				2		
<i>Riley Skate Park</i>	*	4																			1	3				1	1	2		5	1	1								
Heritage Park	211	3			1	1							10	2		2	1				1	30	6	4		**	3	30		30							1			
Jon Grant Community Center	2.6	5																					2	1	1	1	1			1							2			
Longacre House	5	4																						2		1	1	2		2							1	2		
Pioneer Park	15	2	2			1	1		1															2	1		1	10			1									
Soccer! Soccer!	9	1							4																		1	4												
William Grace Dog Park	9.9	2												1	14	4									1	1	1	2	6	6		1								
Woodland Hills	74	2																																						
Schools																																								
Farmington High School	43.5	4	4			1	2	2	1		8	1						1		1				1			1							4	3					
Harrison High School	42.2	4	2			1	2				7	1						1		1				2		1	1						4	3						
North Farmington High School	42	4	4				2	2	2		10	1						1		1				1			1						4	3						
Farmington STEAM Academy	18.6	4	1				1		1			1								1							1													
Visions Unlimited	5	4		1			1						1	2	6					1							1													
East Middle School	23	4	1				1		1			1								1				1			1							1	1					
Power Middle School	32	4	1	7			1							1						1				1			1													
Warner Middle School	24	4	1	4			1		2			1		1						1		7		1			1	1												
Beechview Elementary School	10	4	1				1							1						1		3					1	2												
Forest Elementary School	10	4		1			1						1	1	12					1		4					1	2												
Gill Elementary School	7	4	1				1							1	10					1							1													
Hillside Elementary School	10	4		1			1							2	14	1				1							1	2												
Kenbrook Elementary School	8	4	1	1										1	4					1							1	2												
Lanigan Elementary School	10.6	4	1	2									1	1	10					1		9					1	2												
Wood Creek Elementary	8.4	4		2			1							1	11					1		10					1		2	2										
Alameda Early Childhood Center	11	4					1							1	8												1													
TOTALS	935.9		30	21	1	7	21	4	19	4	27	6	13	18	91	15	4	4	1	16	4	80	7	30	4	12	34	107	10	76	5	6	36	12	1	1	1	7	1	6

* Farmington Hills Ice Arena and Riley Skate Park are included in Founders Sports Park total acreage count **There are several signs through the park to guide visitors to major amenities and to mark trails

MAP: REGIONAL RECREATION



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS Regional Recreation

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan DNR Open Data Portal

- Farmington Hills
- Freeways
- State Roads
- County Boundary
- DNR Lands / Parks
- Lakes / Ponds
- County Parks
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- State of Michigan Parks



- Orion Oaks
- Red Oaks
- Rose Oaks
- Springfield Oaks
- Waterford Oaks

The surrounding counties of Genesee, Lapeer, Macomb, Wayne, and Washtenaw also provide a myriad of recreational opportunities and park lands. Some of the parks are listed below:

Genesee County

- Linden County Park

Macomb County

- Freedom Hill Park

Lapeer County

- General Squire Park

Washtenaw County

- County Farm Park
- Independence Lake Park
- Osborne Mill Park
- Park Northfield
- Parker Mill County Park
- Rolling Hills County Park
- Superior Center

Wayne County

- Bell Creek County Park
- Chandler Park
- Crosswinds Marsh

- Elizabeth Park
- Hines Park
- Inkster Valley Golf Course
- Lola Valley County Park
- Warren Valley Golf Course

HURON CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (HCMA)

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority is a regional park system that was created in 1940 by the citizens of southeast Michigan. The vision is to offer year-round access to natural resource areas and outdoor experiences. The Authority is committed to enhance the quality of life for the people of southeast Michigan by providing excellent public services, stewardship, and programming. The HCMA has a seven-member Board of Commissioners that run the Metroparks consisting of more than 55 miles of paved hiking/biking trails, 7 regulation golf courses, 10 full-services interpretive centers, and three mobile learning centers. Listed below are the list of parks within HCMA:

- Delhi Metropark (Ann Arbor)
- Dexter-Huron Metropark (Dexter)
- Hudson Mills Metropark (Dexter)
- Huron Meadows Metropark (Brighton)

TABLE: QUASI-PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Planet Fitness	Powerhouse Gym	YMCA	Franklin Hill Country Club
Country Lanes	Drakeshire Lanes	Civic Theater	Detroit Zoo
Pilates and Barre Studio	Holocaust Museum	Total Sports Complex	Farmington Glen Athletic Club
Beechview Swim and Tennis Club	Farmington Gymnastics Center	Anytime Fitness	Phoenix Theater

- Indian Springs Metropark (White Lake Township)
- Kensington Metropark (Milford)
- Lake Erie Metropark (Brownstown Township)
- Lake St. Clair Metropark (Harrison Township)
- Lower Huron Metropark (Van Buren Township)
- Metro Beach Metropark (Harrison Township)
- Stony Creek Metropark (Shelby and Washington Townships)
- Willow Metropark (Huron Township)
- Wolcott Mill Metropark (Ray Township)

QUASI-PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

There are numerous quasi-public and private recreation facilities in and around Farmington Hills that supplement the public side of recreation. In addition, residential subdivisions, apartment complexes, and condominiums also offer private open space areas, swimming pools, tennis courts, and pathways to its residents. These facilities include fitness facilities, sports clubs, golf courses, museums, and variety of entertainment facilities.

PARK LAND ANALYSIS

MDNR, as a part of its guidelines, has published state standards for communities to compare against their own inventory. The state’s standard ratio of facilities per population, dimensions of facilities, and distances to reach residents are suggestions that should be balanced against the needs and desires of the residents from the survey and visioning sessions.

The table “Comparison to State Standards” should be read with a grain of salt in some instances where the City appears to be “under performing.” In reality, the City works within a recreational system that is supplemented by school campuses, non profits, and private facilities, and is not expected to meet all of its residents’ needs alone. But, only the City’s facilities are evaluated, because while they are in partnership with many entities, they only have control over the land that they own. From a residents’ perspective, there could be ample access to basketball courts at their local school, whereas the table shows that the City only provides two basketball courts when the state recommends 18 for its population size. Once schools are added, the City has a total of 20 basketball courts.

TABLE: NRPA PARK LAND ANALYSIS

CLASSIFICATION	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	FARMINGTON HILLS	COUNTY PARK GLEN OAKS	PUBLIC SCHOOL	SURPLUS/ DEFICIENCY
Mini park	22.9 - 47.8	0	0	0	-22.9
Neighborhood park	91.5 - 183	9.1	0	0	-82.4
Community park	475.5 - 732	618.9	0	305	+191.9
Regional park	457.5 - 915	0	125	0	-332.5
TOTAL	1029.4 - 1877.8	628	125	305	-245.9

Another reason not to rely too heavily on school facilities is that they may not be open year-round and would only be available to the public for limited hours, if at all.

The population count is based on about 91,500 residents from the 2012-2018 ACS population counts between the cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington, and the result of any calculation was rounded up (i.e. 1.8 was rounded to 2).

In terms of evaluating parkland purely by acreage, the National Recreation and Park Association has a developed population based standards. More specifically in the table “NRPA Land Analysis,” the findings are calculated on a recommended size per 1,000 people. Then a comparison of the range of parkland offered to the recommended standard shows if Farmington Hills has a surplus or deficient. The City shows a deficit in every category except for community parks. Regional parks are largely outside of the City’s power, but these findings show that in the future more effort can be made to develop smaller-scale mini and neighborhood parks that are easy to walk to.

DSS RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Farmington Hills Department of Special Services offers hundreds of recreational programs year-round for people of all ages and abilities. The Department distributes a brochure three times a year highlighting all the seasonal offerings known as the Activities Guide. The Activities Guide outlines the time, place, and cost of each program, along with a registration form. The brochure can also be found on the City’s website along with program descriptions and schedules.

The 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is largely focused on land and programming park and open space, and less so on classes and events. That being said, the DSS does track attendance at each program to gauge its popularity and to determine if it is worthwhile to continue offering them.

A general inventory of offerings can be found in the Appendix.

TABLE: CITY COMPARISON TO STATE STANDARDS

FACILITY	SUGGESTED STATE STANDARD (per person)	STATE SUGGESTED NUMBER	FARMINGTON HILLS NUMBER (within radius)	RADIUS	COMPLIANCE WITH STATE STANDARD
Badminton	1 per 5,000	18	0	0.25-0.5 mile	below
Basketball	1 per 5,000	18	2*	0.25-0.5 mile	below
Handball	1 per 20,000	5	0	15-30 minute	below
Ice Hockey	Indoor - 1 per 100,000	1	1	15-30 minute travel time	✓
Tennis	1 per 2,000	5	2*	0.25-0.5 mile	below
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	18	4		below
Baseball/softball	1 per 5,000	18	26	0.25-0.5 mile	✓
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	5	0	15-30 minutes	below
1/4 mile running track	1 per 20,000	5	0*	15-30 minutes	below
Football	1 per 20,000	5	4*	15-30 minute	below
Soccer	1 per 10,000	9	12	1-2 miles	✓
Golf driving range	1 per 50,000	2	1*	30 minutes	✓
18-hole golf course	1 per 50,000	2	1*	30 minutes	✓
Archery range	1 per 50,000	2	1	30 minutes	✓
Swimming pools	1 per 20,000	5	1*	15-30 minutes	below
Skeet and trap field	1 per 50,000	2	0*	30 minutes	below

* The number provided by the City of Farmington Hills falls below the state standard, but when school campuses or facilities outside of the city boundaries (that meet the radius requirement) are counted, then the state standard is met.



IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of conducting an inventory and multiple community engagement events is to craft an action plan that successfully incorporates all that was learned during the process. The action plan represents thoughtful steps that an agency can take to improve its recreation system within a 1 to 5 year time horizon. The action plan is categorized by major themes that emerged from residents and on-the-ground assessments, and was considered against budgetary constraints:

- Accessibility
- User experience
- Connectivity
- System wide (environment and communication)

The tables are structured by a broad overarching goal that is followed by some firmer objectives to explain more specifically how to advance the broader goal. Progressing to the list of action items, the narrowest in scope, each is attached to a specific facility and a time frame deemed appropriate. The action plan is meant to clarify the departments' shorter- and longer-term goals to ensure that tax payer dollars are spent according to the public's input.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility can mean more than one thing, but in the context of recreation planning, the goal is to make parks easier to navigate for users who have mobility constraints. This is most commonly achieved by connecting

nodes of activity with surfaces that can be traversed by a wheelchair (electric or traditional). On top of that, conventional play structures or even picnic tables that were not designed to safely entertain less-abled persons are recommended for replacement. Many of these action items recommend paving pathways and updating features so that they can service all users. The benefit to improving accessibility is that it makes parks generally safer and user-friendly for everyone, not just the intended group.

nearly directly translated from desired outcome to action item. While there are many ways to implement improvements, these actions are based on expanding facilities' capacity to accommodate users, trying to ensure their comfort by sheltering them from sun, wind, or rain, and upgrading amenities that have fallen into disrepair to a higher quality version. The biggest change here will be the conversion of Harrison High School into a multi-use community center. Its footprint is large enough to greatly expand the types of recreation available to residents of all ages and interests, and even attract neighboring residents. In addition to the community input, the inventory helped inform where upgrades can be made, for example, resurfacing the tennis courts in the neighborhood park, Olde Town.

USER EXPERIENCE

Primarily through the two visioning exercises, park users expressed what types of upgrades would improve their experience. Their ideas were

TABLE: ACCESSIBILITY

Increase park access for persons of all ages and abilities

1. Incorporate design features and/or materials that improve ease of use and safety for all visitors 2. Incorporate features that improve visitor's safety		
Facility	Action	Time line
William Grace Dog Park	Remove curb stoppers from entrance	1-2 year(s)
Founders Sports Park	Pave the parking lot	5+ years
	Replace tables with ADA picnic tables	3-4 years
Costick Activities Center	Updated the locker rooms to include more privacy in family locker room	3-4 years
	Install slip resistance surfaces on locker room floors	3-4 years
Pioneer Park	Pave pathway from parking area to restrooms and spectator area	5+ years
	Pave the parking lot	3-4 years
	Replace drinking fountains with varying heights	5+ years
Heritage Park	Pave parking lot and provide barrier free spaces	5+ years
Olde Town Park	Pave pathways to connect the park's amenities	5+ years

TABLE: USER EXPERIENCE

Upgrade facilities at existing parks to improve visitor's experience (NOT INCLUDING TRAILS)

1. Protect visitors from the elements to encourage year-round use 2. Provide adequate level of service to meet current and projected demand 3. Replace or repair amenities that are in below average condition		
Facility	Action	Time line
Founders Sports Park	Increase its use as a tournament location	Ongoing
Harrison High School	Provide an indoor walking loop/track	2-3 years
	Consider creating a "maker's space" to teach trades skills	2-3 years
	Develop an aquatic center	2-3 years
	Provide space for sports tournaments and clinics	2-3 years
	Use space for art classes and theatre performances	2-3 years
	Provide a café and/or worker's space	2-3 years
	Maintain the outdoor athletic fields	2-3 years
Costick Activities	Maintain space that is dedicated to the arts	Ongoing
	Expand senior programming	Ongoing
	Improve customer service through upgraded site design	3-4 years
Heritage Park	Provide more shaded areas for visitors; expand pavilion space or build a canopy near the splash pad	3-4 years
	Replace existing play structures	5+ years
	Provide more food options on a regular basis (i.e. food trucks)	Ongoing
William Grace Dog Park	Add shaded areas and amenities within the fenced area	3-4 years
Olde Town Park	Continue to replace play structures	Ongoing
	Resurface the tennis courts and consider the addition of pickleball courts	3-4 years

CONNECTIVITY

The City is fortunate to have several fantastic parks, but what is lacking in some key spaces is a safe and comfortable nonmotorized network between them. Gleaned from the inventory process, both existing trails within parks and intra-park connections could be strengthened. Both were listed as top priorities for improvement and implementation in the community survey. The trail matrix and the connectivity plan from the inventory section is the first step in addressing where and how to improve gaps in the system.

SYSTEM- WIDE

Environment

Some ideas that were shared and discussed with the Department of Special Services are better implemented at a larger scale than focused on targeted sites. Nature is an asset at sites across the city, so efforts to preserve and enhance it are not limited to a specific place. For example, invasive species have appeared that have a detrimental effect on native species and require a wider perspective than site-by-site removal. Another system wide approach to consider is future land acquisition. Because the City just purchased a large property that requires time intensive renovation and reprogramming for the next few years, it is recommended that any new parcels are dedicated to environmental preservation. While wetlands, fields, or wooded areas do not generate taxes, they do contribute to existing property values in addition to providing invaluable ecosystem

services that will become increasingly important in the face of climate change.

Where possible, residents wish to see some smaller but very important eco-friendly amenities at parks such as recycling bins and water refill stations to reduce waste. Going even one step farther than the public's suggestions, the City has committed to investigating where it could install solar panels to generate renewable sources of energy on its land.

Communication

In some ways, technology has made sharing and receiving information easier than ever, but on the other hand, with so many different platforms, messages have to be disseminated in dozens of different places to reach the correct audience. That is to say, communication can always use improvement. The three major objectives are designed to improve internal communication in regards to reviewing and advancing the master plan goals, improving communication with citizens, and providing system-wide signage that effectively communicates to residents how to get to parks. Many of the survey-takers felt that they could reach the department if needed to share a concern or ask a question, but the department wants to go farther to reach avid park users who are difficult to reach: children and teenagers. The City already has a Mayor's Youth Council in place, which is a good start for engaging them on their visions for the recreation system. It is also believed that pushing news and updates through social media, and focusing on growing its number of followers, will help build a stronger relationship with the youth.

TABLE: CONNECTIVITY

Improve nonmotorized connectivity within the park system

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect parks, open space neighborhoods, and civic institutions through a nonmotorized network 2. Improve the quality of existing trails 3. Update materials and design to align with trail typology 4. Develop designated trail heads for existing paths and trails 		
Facility	Action	Time line
Woodland Hills	Consider updating Goldenrod Trail to mulch to create an ODA* compliant loop	3-4 years
	Create an overlook boardwalk over the pond	5+ years
Heritage Park	Focus resources on design solutions in sections of the trail system that are prone to flood	Ongoing
	Repair, replace, or add bridges to increase their height safely above the river	Ongoing
	Add trail segments that create connections within the system	Ongoing
	Maintain paved trails near developed sections of the park and less developed trails in the more natural areas of the park	Ongoing
	Update trail materials to be consistent with their designated typology	5+ years
Farmington Hills Golf Course	Cart path repair	Ongoing
	Promote cross country skiing or winter walking	1-2 years
Intra-city connections	Develop trailhead* at 22000 Haggerty Road to access I-275 path.	1-2 years
	Develop a trail network to connect the I-275 trail, Woodland Hills Park, Oakland Community College, Harrison High School, and the Costick Activities Center	5+ years
	Expand sidewalk on Farmington Road between Heritage Park to and Pioneer Park to be multi-use	3-4 years

**Trailhead for multi-use side paths are identified as having dedicated parking for four or more vehicles, and trailhead amenities such as shelter, picnic tables, benches, signs, etc., which provide direct access to a multi-use side path (10-14')*

TABLE: SYSTEM WIDE - ENVIRONMENT

Preserve and/or expand precious natural features within the park system

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide eco-friendly amenities at the parks 2. Continue to use parks and recreation as a learning environment for nature 3. Focus acquisition of additional land as conservation effort over programmed park space 	
Action	Time line
Prioritize land acquisition near waterways, wetlands, meadows, and wooded areas for preservation	Ongoing
Consider land acquisition of open fields if demand for athletic fields surpasses existing sites	Ongoing
Strategically expand tree canopy coverage in parking lots, near paved paths, where there is frequent ponding, and where visitors go for passive recreation	Ongoing
Continue to remove invasive species that could cause harm to the ecosystem	Ongoing
Investigate the installation of solar panels on public buildings or in parking lots to generate renewable energy	Ongoing
Investigate the installation of solar panels on public buildings or in parking lots to generate renewable energy	Ongoing

TABLE: SYSTEM WIDE - COMMUNICATION

Improve internal and external communication

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand avenues for two-way communication with the City's youth 2. Reinforce internal department communication on master plan issues 3. Improve signage to guide users through the park system 	
Action	Time line
Schedule regular engagement sessions with the Mayor's Youth Council on recreational matters	Ongoing
Proactively improve the number Department of Special Services social media followers	Ongoing
Meet annually with the Recreation Commission to discuss the progress and relevance of action plan's implementation	Ongoing
Create a cohesive design for wayfinding signage within the parks to direct users to its major facilities	Ongoing
Expand interpretive signage within parks to extend its educational reach	1-2 years
Create a cohesive design for directional signs to help users find facilities within the park system	Ongoing

APPENDIX

TABLE: DSS EMPLOYEES PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Recreation Organizations	<p>Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MParks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MParks Programmer Committee • MParks Youth and Teen Initiatives Committee • Young Professionals Committee • Women in Recreation Education and Development (WIRED) <p>National Recreation and Parks and Associate (NRPA) Member No Child Left Inside Coalition Oakland County Trails, Water, and Land Alliance Northwest Parks and Recreation Association</p>
Government Organizations	<p>Greater Detroit Association (GSA) Michigan Municipal League (MML) National League of Cities (NLC) State of Michigan Emergency Prescription Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Site</p>
Facility Operations & Management	<p>Michigan Turfgrass Association Michigan State University Turfgrass Professional Community Center Facilities Management Organization</p>
Senior Organizations	<p>Advisory Board of Area Agency on Aging 1B Geriatric Social Workers of Michigan National Council on Aging Michigan Association of Senior Centers on Senior Centers (MASC) National Association of Social Workers</p>
Nutrition Organizations	<p>Michigan Nutrition Association Service Providers (MNASP)</p>
Cultural Arts Organizations	<p>Culture Source Kickstart Farmington Creative Many Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Michigan Festivals and Event Association Detroit Institute of Arts Farmington Community Arts Council Farmington Art Foundation Interagency Council</p>
Youth & Family Organizations	<p>Certifying Agency for Focus Hope Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Family Michigan After-School Partnership Michigan Youth Civic Engagement Collaborative</p>
Golf Organizations	<p>Golf Course Superintendent's Association</p>

Nature Organizations	Michigan Alliance for Outdoor and Environmental Education Farmington Area Naturalist National, Oakland and Detroit Audubon Societies Nestwatch Safari Club International Friends of the Rouge National Wildlife Federation National Association for Interpretation The Xerces Society
Ice Sports Organizations	USA Hockey Michigan High School Athletic Association Serving the American Rinks Amateur Athletic Union US Figure Skating Association Professional Skaters 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 Xemplar Club Board Member Goodfellow's Board of Directors Neighborhood House Board of Directors Optimist Club Board Member

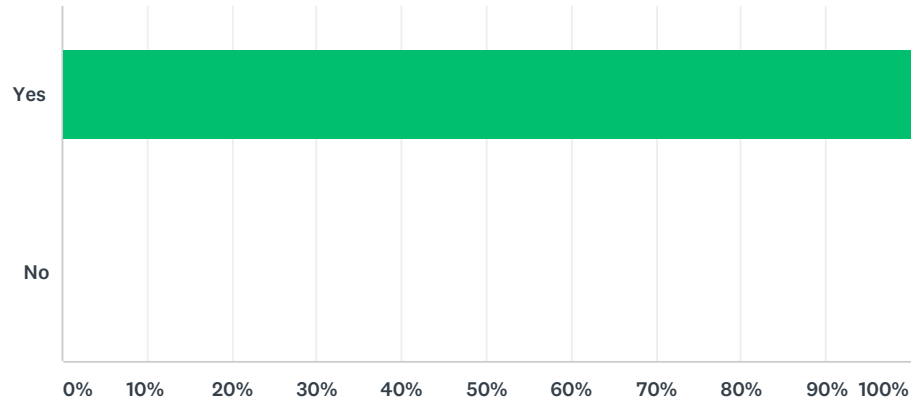
DSS PROGRAMMING

YOUTH	ADULT	SPORTS	50 + BETTER	SPECIAL EVENTS	CULTURAL EVENTS
Parent/tot classes	Fitness and health	Skating lessons	Fitness and health	Holiday parties	Music
Dance classes	Dog obedience	Hockey	Lifelong learning	Concerts	Dance
Mayor's Youth Council	Swimming	Gymnastics	Travel and day trips	Theater	Exhibits
Swimming	Dance	Tennis	Computer classes	Longacre events	Choir
Arts and crafts	Tai Chi	Karate	Support groups	Movie nights	Cable productions
Bowling	Nature programs	Cheer	Cooking classes	Dances	Ceramics
Field trips/day camps	Hiking	Basketball	Dance classes	Scout Saturdays	Drawing
Babysitter training	Geocaching	Cricket	Sports teams	Volunteering	Painting
Boaters safety	Music lessons	Soccer	Special events	Campouts	Theater
Nature programs	Softball	Archery	Swimming	Parent/child events	Field trips
Safety town	Arts and crafts	Golf	Archery	Hay Day	Language classes

SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 Are you a Farmington Hills resident?

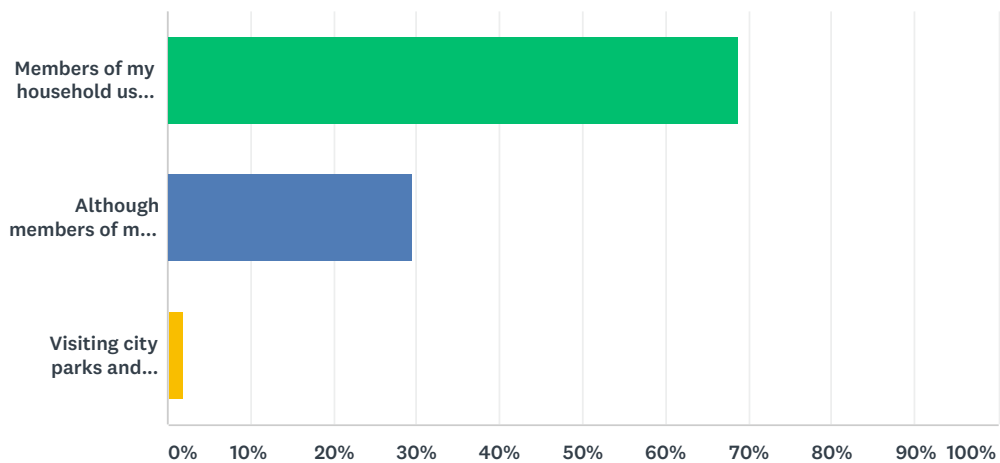
Answered: 534 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	534
No	0.00%	0

Q4 Which of the following three statements comes closest to how you feel about city-operated parks and facilities in Farmington Hills?

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



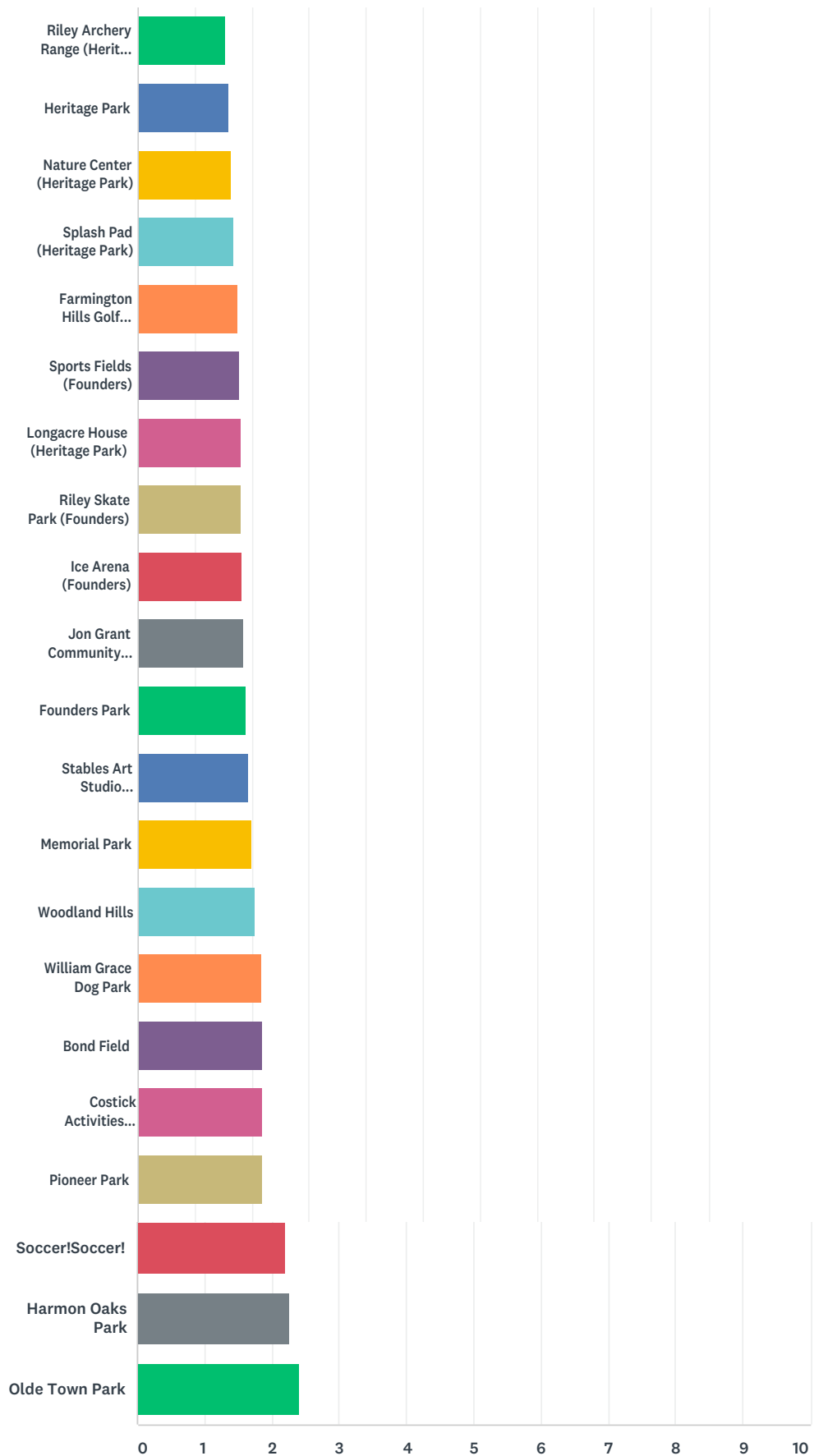
Q5 How often do you or members of your household use the City of Farmington Hills Special Services recreational facilities?

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



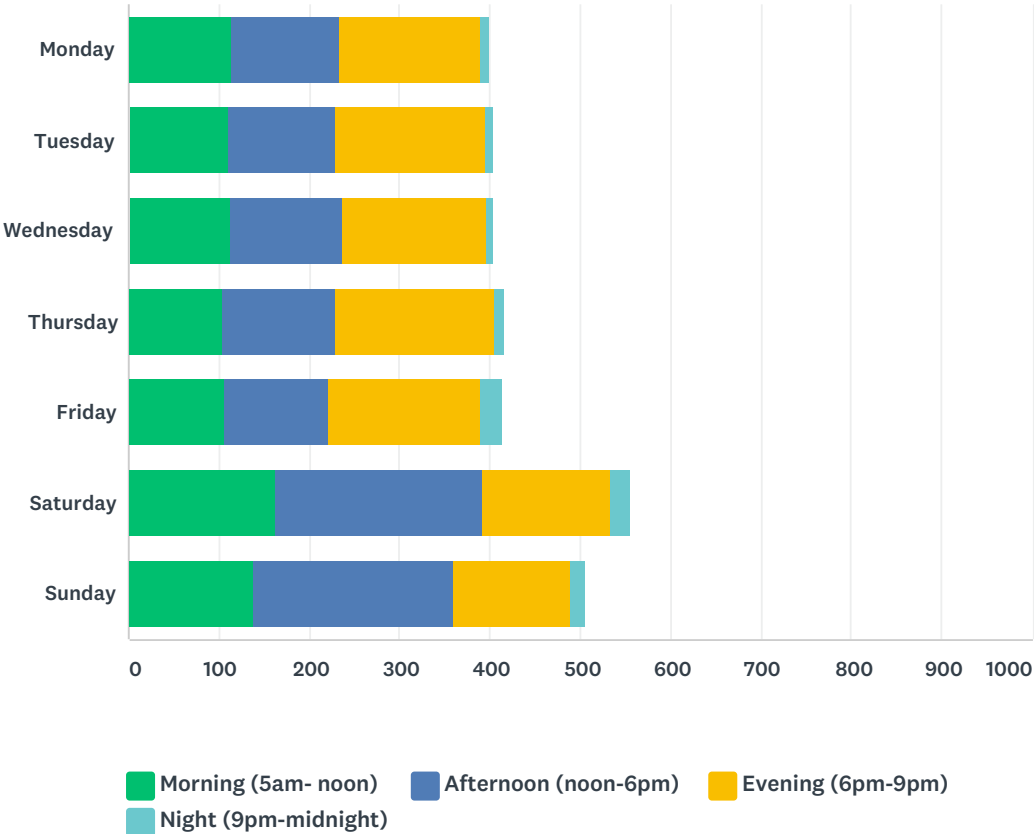
Q6 How would you rate the condition of the existing parks and/or facilities?

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



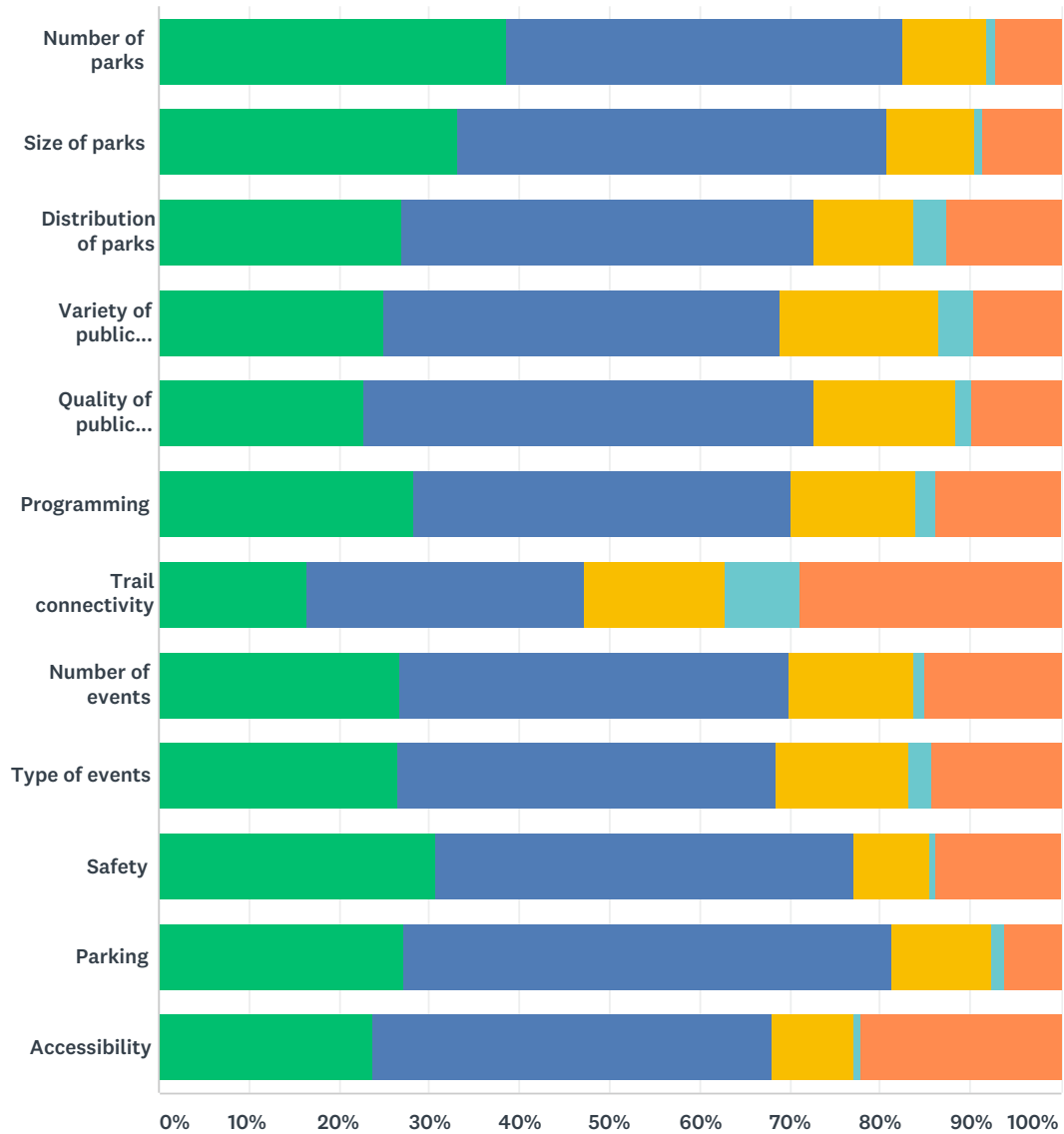
Q7 What day and time do you generally like to use recreational facilities? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



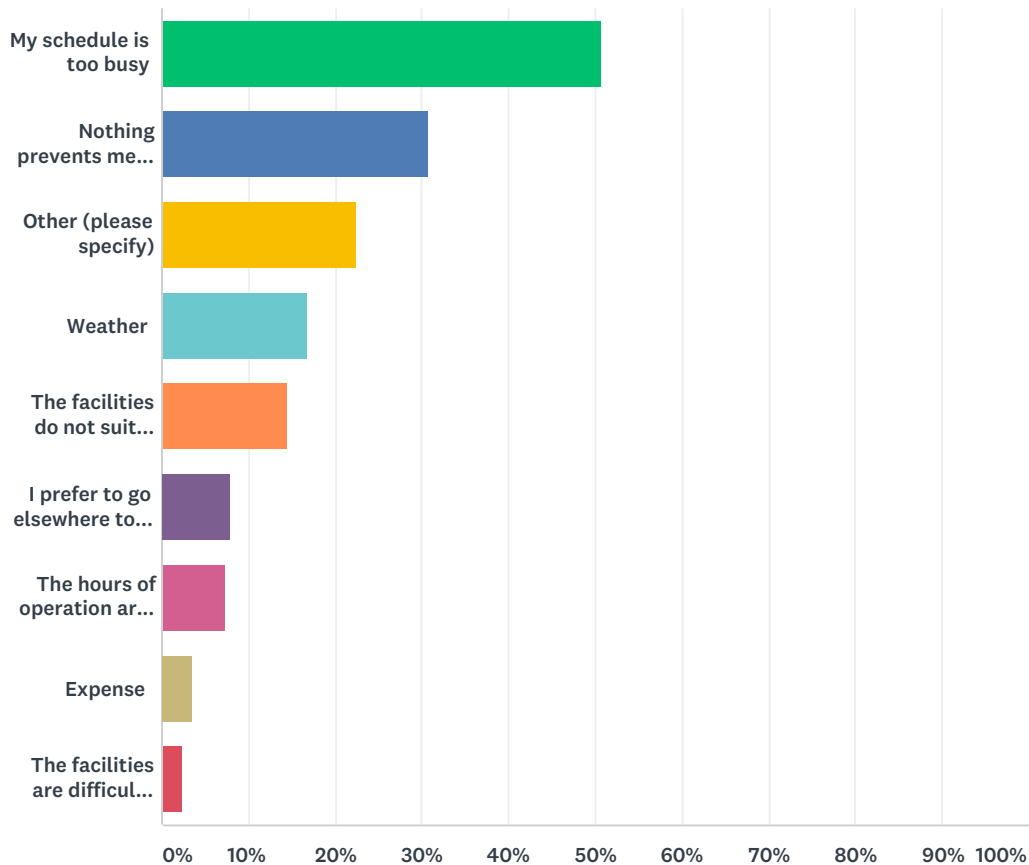
Q8 How would you rate the following characteristics of Farmington Hills parks and facilities?

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



Q9 What prevents you from using the recreational facilities more frequently? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



Q10 What type of facility or amenity would you like to see in Farmington Hills' parks and/or facilities?

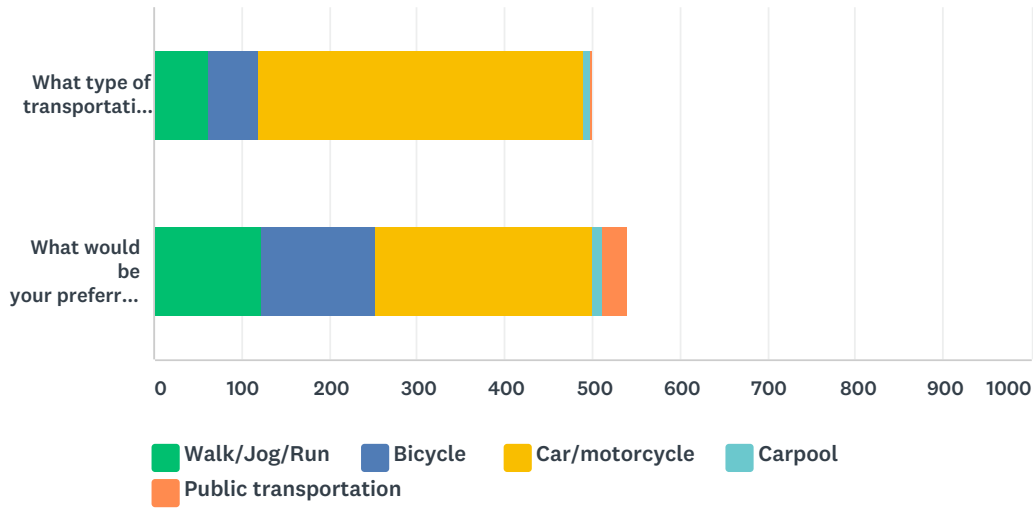
Answered: 387 Skipped: 147

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	A bigger pool: I swim at Costick Center 3 days a week	6/19/2018 2:47 PM
2	Security needs to be present when there are Adult functions like family gatherings which are Ethnic sometimes the parking is aggressive to say the least. Like the last sat. or sunday prior to the start of school.	6/17/2018 9:10 PM
3	Outdoor pool?	6/17/2018 9:02 AM
4	More restroom access/availability	6/16/2018 7:40 PM

Not all answers are displayed for Q10 because they are space prohibitive. If you'd like to see them, please contact the Department of Special Services.

Q11 Please answer the two questions below about methods of transportation to parks in Farmington Hills. Please check all that apply.

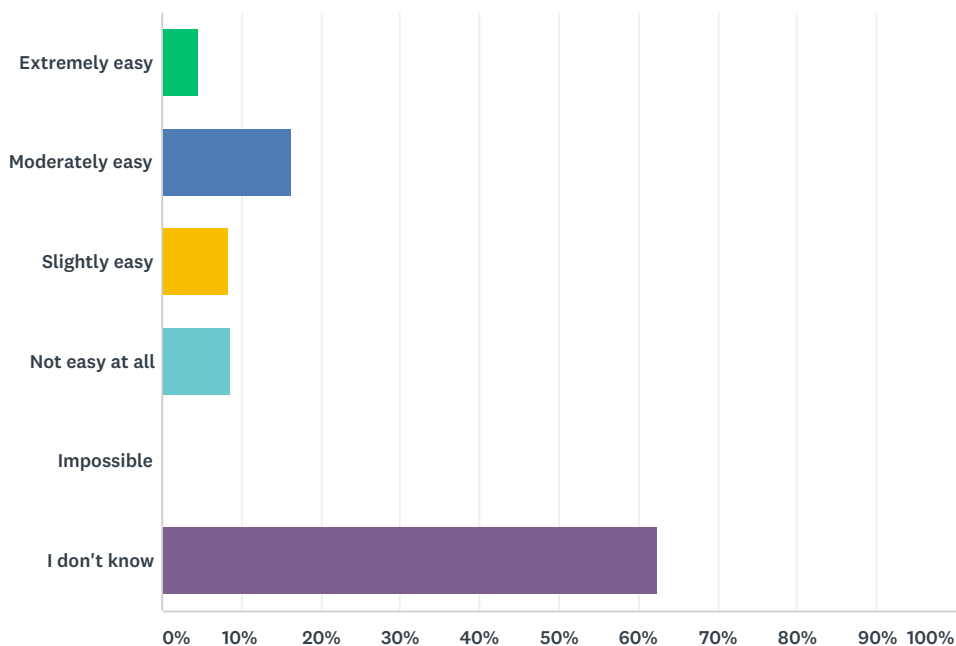
Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



	WALK/JOG/RUN	BICYCLE	CAR/MOTORCYCLE	CARPOOL	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
What type of transportation mode do you typically use to get to a park?	16.06% 62	14.51% 56	96.37% 372	2.07% 8	0.52% 2	386
What would be your preferred method of transportation to get to a park?	32.02% 122	34.38% 131	65.09% 248	2.89% 11	7.61% 29	381

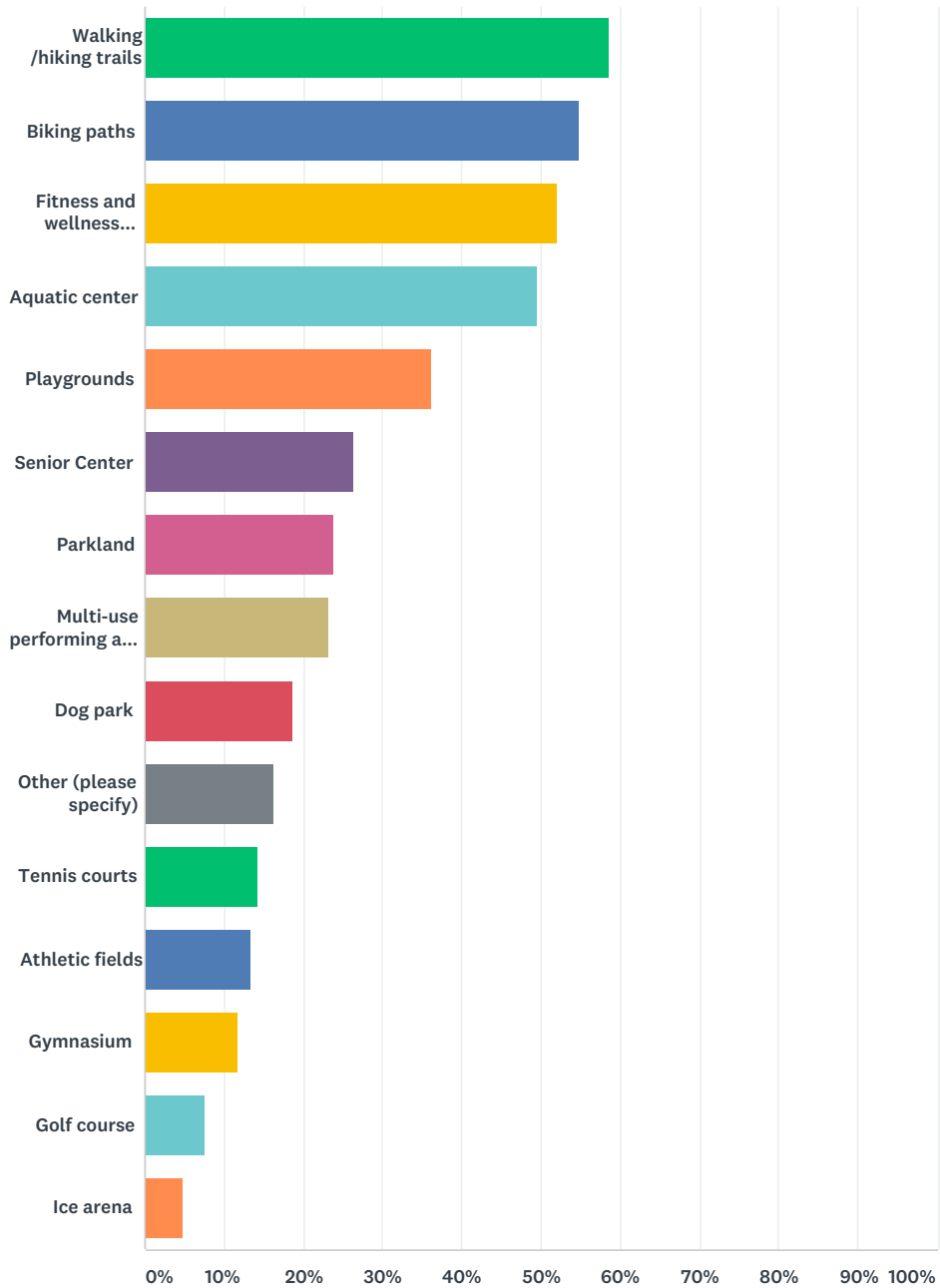
Q12 How easy is it for people who are disabled, elderly, or mobility-constrained to access the parks in Farmington Hills?

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



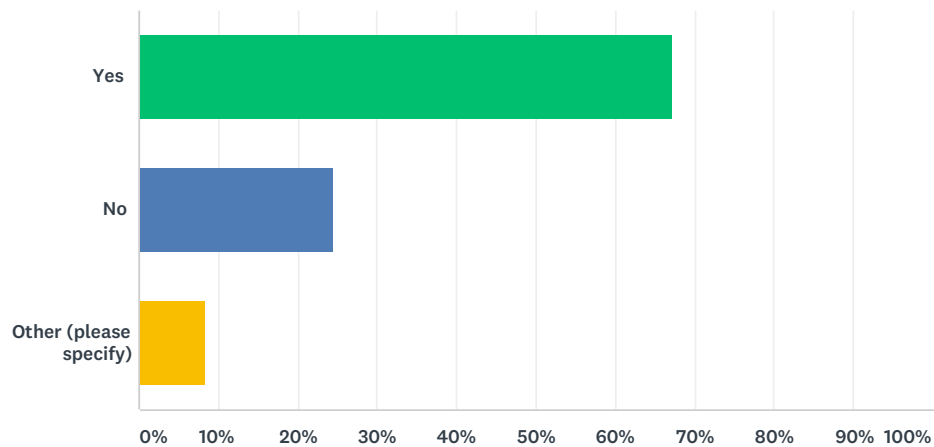
Q13 Which of the following would be your top five (5) priorities to receive more attention for improvements?

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



Q14 Do you feel there are adequate ways for you to share your opinions about parks and recreation matters with City staff members?

Answered: 387 Skipped: 147



Q15 How would you prefer to communicate your opinion with the Department of Special Services?

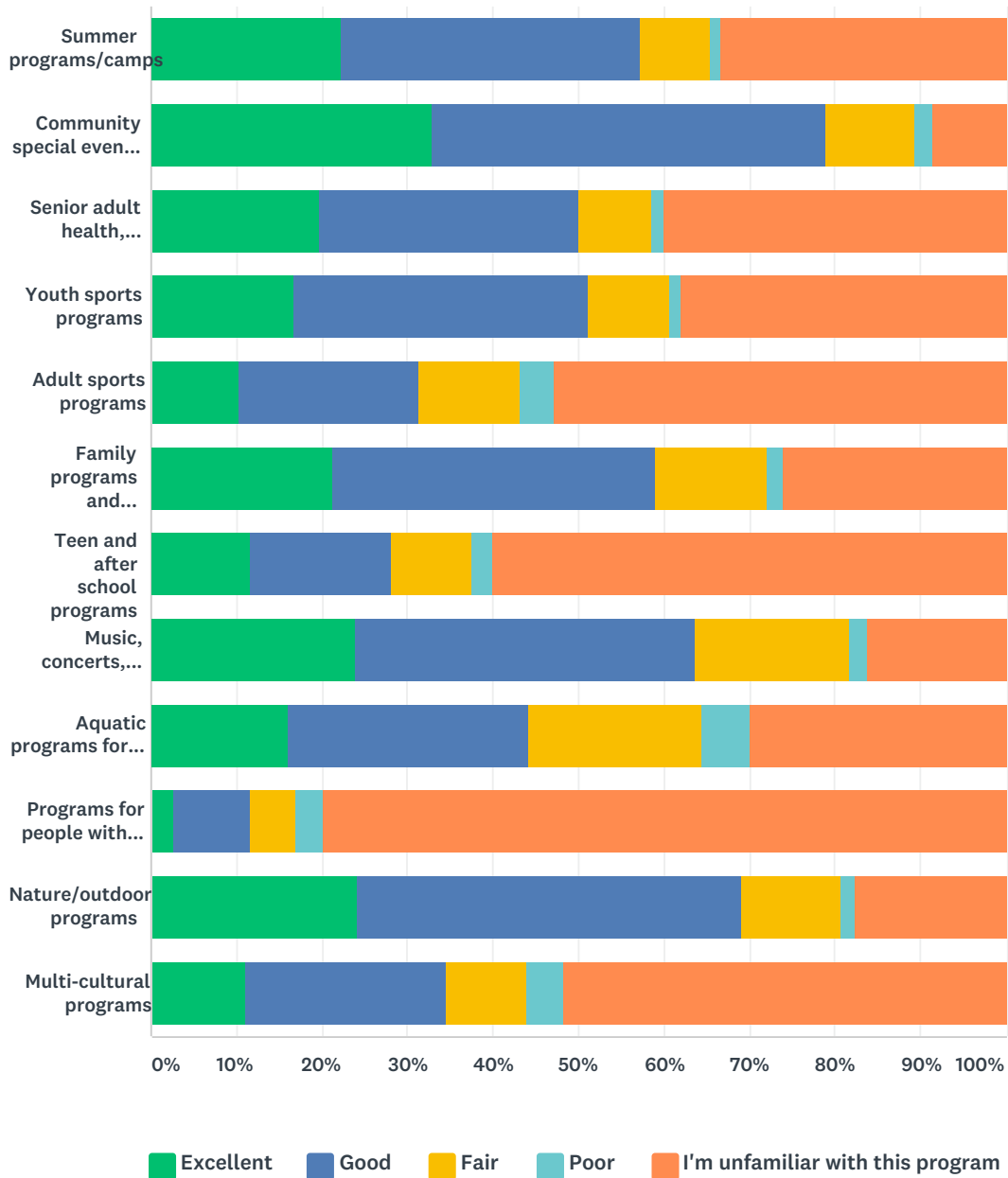
Answered: 111 Skipped: 423

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Email if needed	6/12/2018 7:13 AM
2	Text	6/11/2018 4:21 PM
3	surveys after each activity. social media communication. newsletters	6/11/2018 1:36 PM
4	Do not have time right now	6/9/2018 3:27 PM
5	Public meetings	6/7/2018 9:42 AM
6	Email or phone	6/6/2018 7:39 PM
7	email	6/4/2018 9:16 AM
8	Survey responses are fine. Beyond that, email or phone.	6/4/2018 7:07 AM
9	Email	6/3/2018 8:06 PM
10	Survey	6/3/2018 2:30 PM
11	Online	6/2/2018 1:01 PM
12	Open community discussion.	6/1/2018 11:23 PM
13	They aren't always open to suggestion.	6/1/2018 7:31 PM
14	What are my choices currently?	6/1/2018 7:57 AM
15	Email	5/31/2018 7:13 PM
16	via email	5/31/2018 4:29 PM
17	Surveys or emails are good.	5/31/2018 9:45 AM
18	email	5/31/2018 7:04 AM
19	Email	5/30/2018 11:35 PM
20	Email and/or survey	5/30/2018 11:00 PM
21	Email	5/30/2018 9:47 PM

Not all answers are displayed for Q10 because they are space prohibitive. If you'd like to see them, please contact the Department of Special Services.

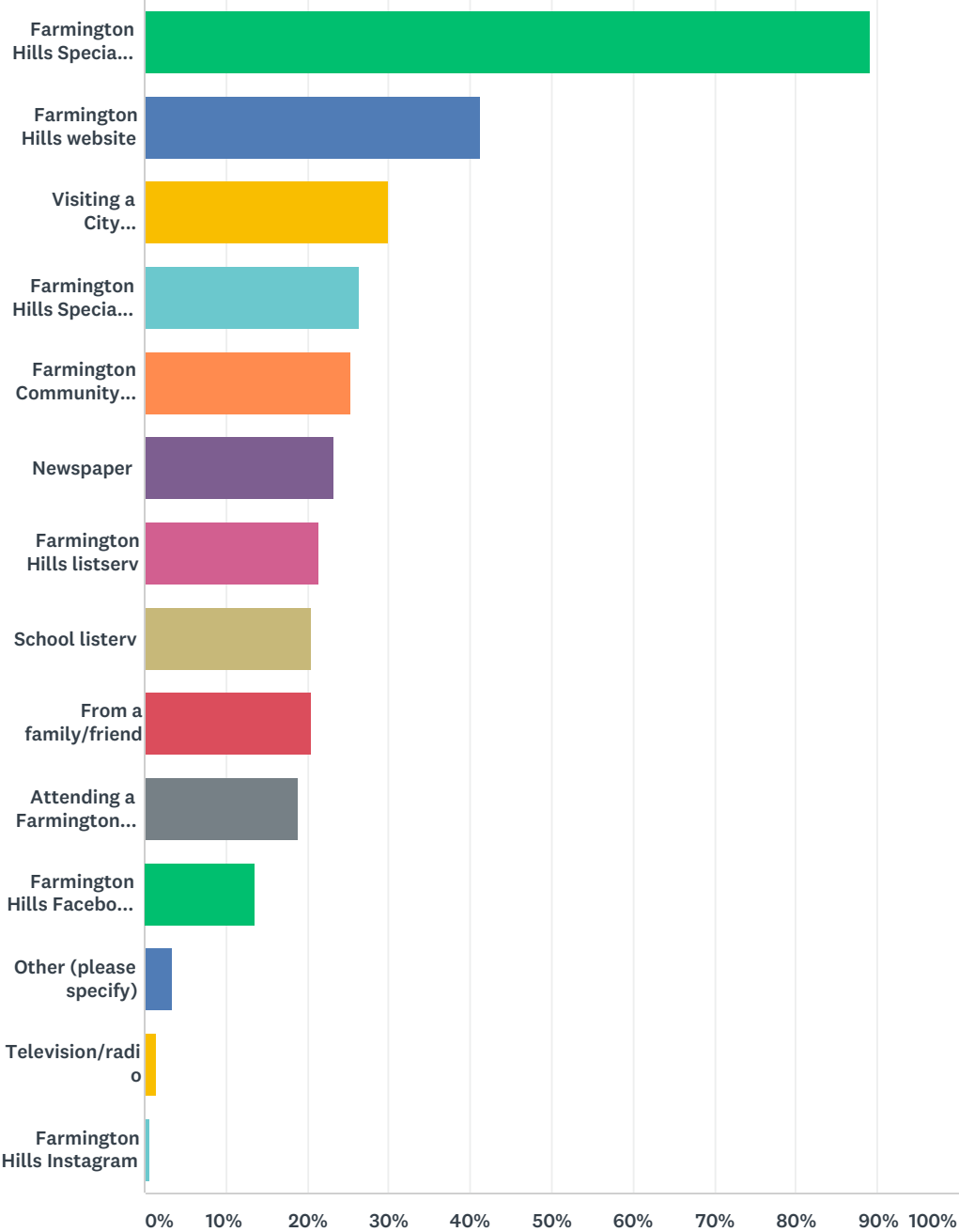
Q16 How would you rate the following programs?

Answered: 367 Skipped: 167



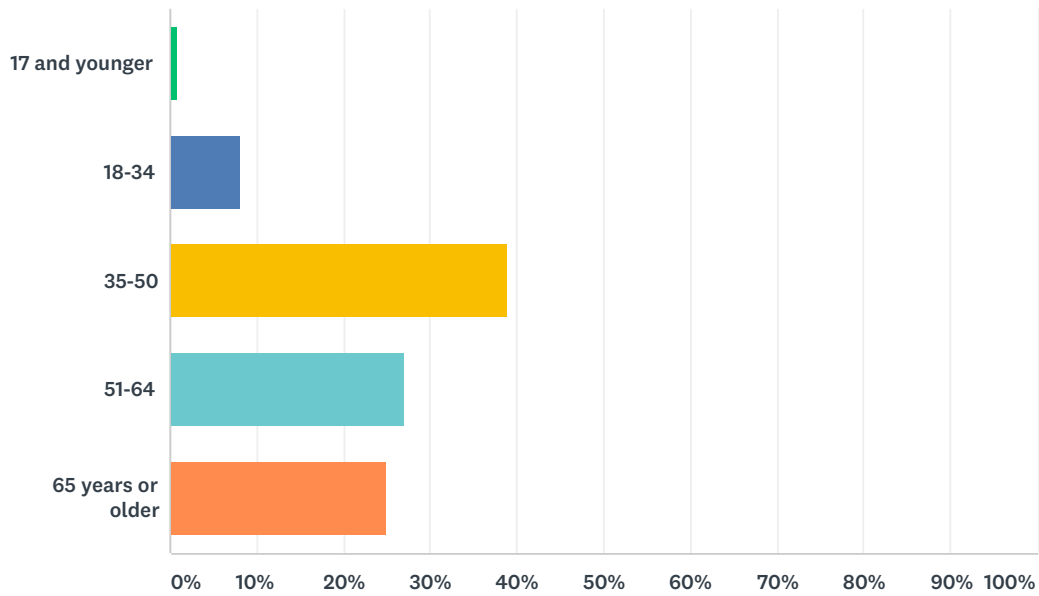
Q17 How do you or your family generally learn about Farmington Hills' Special Services programs and/or events? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 367 Skipped: 167



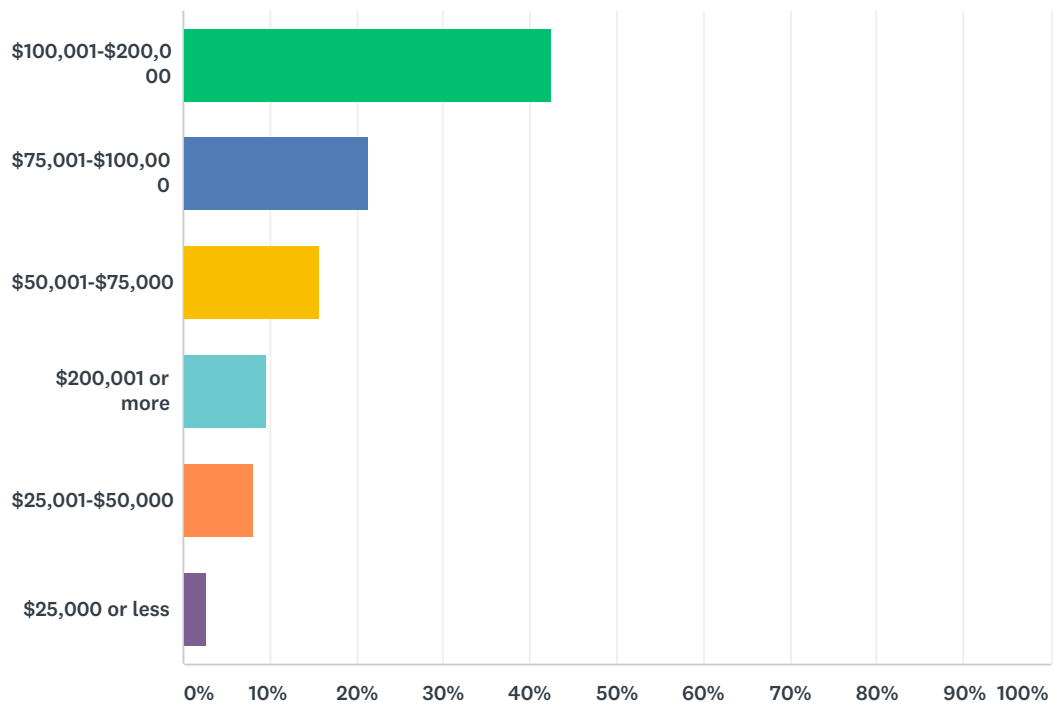
Q18 What is your age?

Answered: 364 Skipped: 170



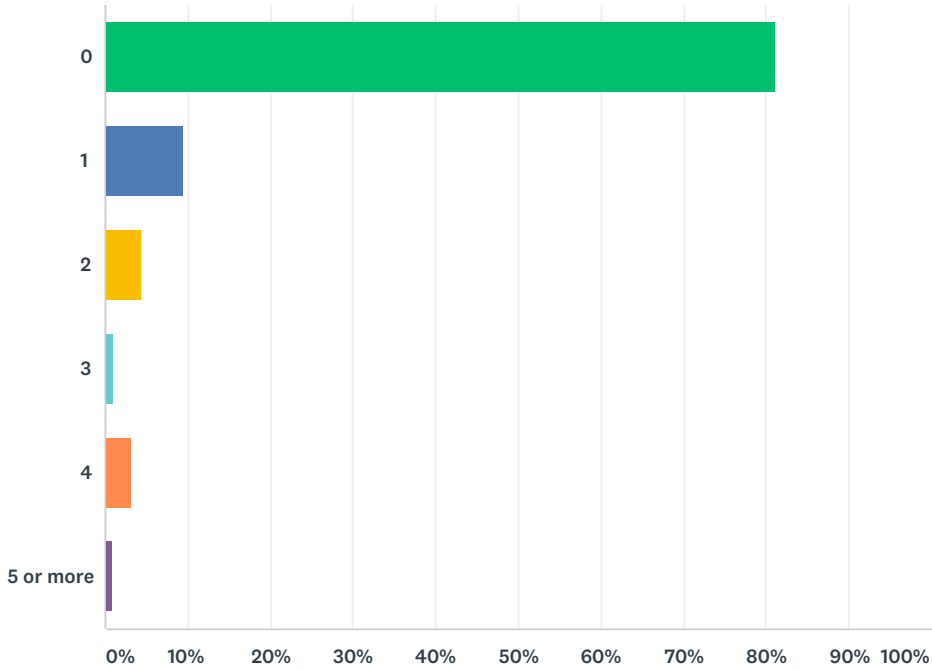
Q19 What is your annual household income?

Answered: 320 Skipped: 214



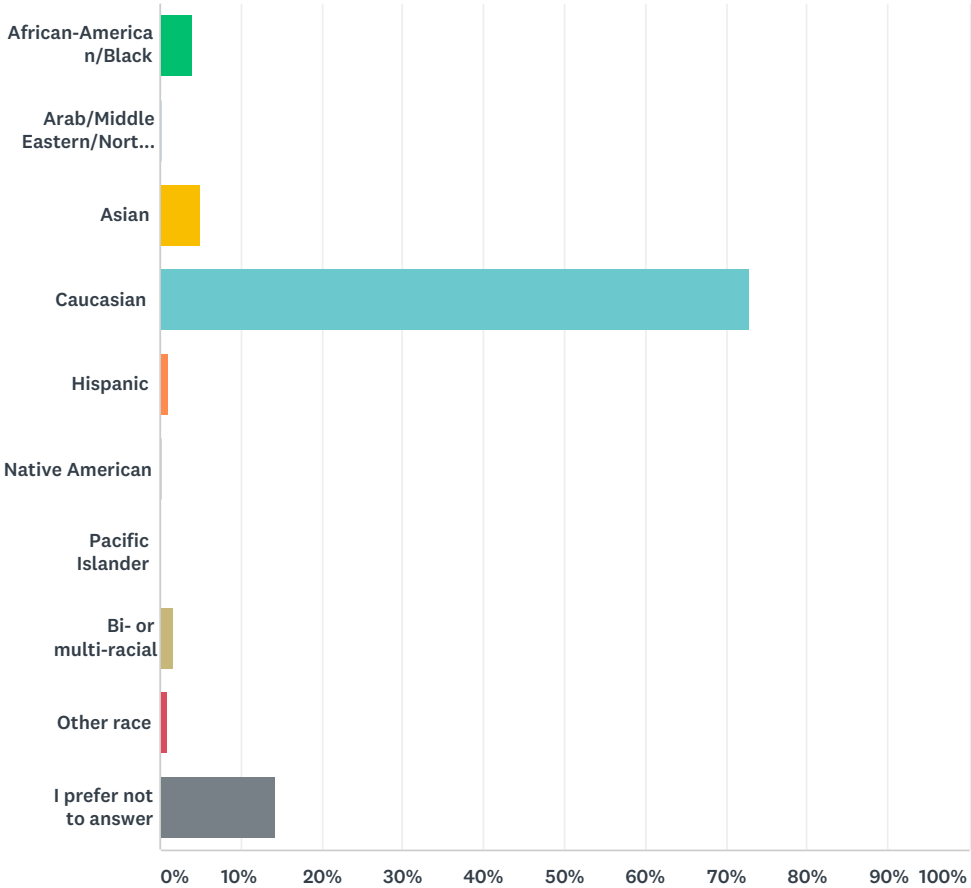
Q20 How many people in your household have a physical disability?

Answered: 361 Skipped: 173



Q21 Which race or ethnicity do you identify with?

Answered: 360 Skipped: 174



PARK INVENTORY SHEETS

Name of Park: Founders Sports Park - Riley Skate Park			
Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills			
Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills			
Location: 35500 8 Mile Road			
AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters	1	E	Located within Riley Skate Park
Picnic tables	3	E	Located within Riley Skate Park
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting			
Signage	1	E	Riley Skate Park Rules
Parking lot			
Trash receptacles	2	E	
Benches	5	E	
CAMPING			
Camp sites			
Camp Fire			
OTHER			
Bike Rack	1	E	

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Soccer! Soccer!
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 32000 12 Mile Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer	4	E	Limited bleachers
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms	2	F	Port-a-jons
Park lighting			
Signage			
Parking lot	2	F	Not paved
Trash receptacles	4	G	No recycling bins
Benches			
CAMPING			
Camp sites			
Camp Fire			
OTHER			
Bike Rack			

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Farmington Hills Golf Club
 Owing Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 37777 11 Mile Court

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting			
Signage			
Parking lot	1	E	12 barrier free spaces
Trash receptacles	7	E	Exterior of club house
Benches	7	E	Near driving range
CAMPING			
Camp sites			
Camp Fire			
OTHER			
Bike Rack			
18 Hole Golf Course	1	E	
Driving Range	1	E	32 stations and two practice greens
Restaurant	1	E	
Locker Rooms	2	E	

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Memorial Park
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: Corner of Middlebelt Road and 11 Mile Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting			
Signage	1	G	
Parking lot			
Trash receptacles	1	G	
Benches	1	G	
CAMPING			
Camp sites			
Camp Fire			
OTHER			
Bike Rack			
Flag Pole	1	G	Lighted
Sidewalks	3	G	Brick areas overgrown

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Founders Sports Park - Ice Arena
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 35500 8 Mile Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey	2	E	2 Ice surfaces
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms with Locker Rooms	2	G	Barrier free
Park lighting	1	G	
Signage	1	E	
Parking lot			
Trash receptacles			
Benches			
INTERIOR			
Meeting Rooms	2	E	
Game Room	1	E	Tv's and game tables, day camp
OTHER			
Bike Rack	1	E	
Scoreboard	2	E	
Tables	6	G	Snack bar and vending machines
Water Fountains	2	G	

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Founders Sports Park
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 35500 8 Mile Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)	9	G	Nice fencing
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer	7	E	No seating, no lights
Volleyball	4	E	Sand volleyball
Basketball	2	F	half courts, cracked, crested
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure	1	E	New, 3 benches, not barrier free
Swings	2	G	Rusting
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables	10	G	
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms	2	G	Restroom/concessions/covered area
Park lighting			
Signage			
Parking lot	2	F	Not paved
Trash receptacles	several	G	Trash and recycling throughout
Benches	5	F	
OTHER			
Dog bag dispenser	2	E	
Vaulted Toilet	1	F	Needs upgraded, too small for area
Disc Golf Course	1	G	9 hole course in the woods
Fishing Pier/Pond	1	E	Barrier free, catch & release
Kiosks	2	G	Map was missing from one.
Maintenance Building	1	G	Used for mowers and other tools

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: William Grace Dog Park
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 29040 Shiawassee Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure	1	G	
Swings	14	G	Rusting
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms	1	F	Port-a-jon
Park lighting	1	G	One light in dog park.
Signage	1	G	
Parking lot	1	F	Needs resurfaced, lighted, not ADA
Trash receptacles	4	G	
Benches			
DOG PARK			
Fencing	2	G	2 zones for large and small dogs
Water	1	F	Located outside fence
Dog bag dispenser	6	G	Spaced appropriately
Bench	10	G	6 in Dog Park, 4 playground

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Pioneer Park
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 29885 Farmington Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)	2	G	Backstop is peeling up
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer	2	G	Fields can be for multipurpose
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms	1	G	Concessions connected
Park lighting			
Signage			
Parking lot	1	F	Not paved
Trash receptacles	10	G	A few recycling bins as well
Benches			
OTHER			
Bike Rack	1	G	
Bleachers	2	F	Need to be upgraded

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Heritage Park			
Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills			
Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills			
Location: 24915 Farmington Road			
AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Play structure	2	G	Not accessible, small one needs mulch
Swings			
Inline skating rink	1	F	Cracking
Archery Range	1	E	Built in 2015, 8 shooting lanes
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters	1	G	12 picnic tables
Picnic tables	Several	G	Located throughout park, add ADA
Grills	4	F	1 near picnic shelter, add more with side tables
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms	2	E	Barrier free
Park lighting			
Signage	Several	E	Interpretive signs throughout
Parking lot	3	F	not paved
Trash receptacles	Several	G	located throughout park
Benches			
ART STUDIO			
Classroom	1	G	
Restroom	1	G	Barrier free
OTHER			
Bike Rack			
Splash Pad	1	E	Barrier free
Snack Shack	1	E	Near splash pad, 6 new picnic tables
Amphitheater	1	E	Barrier free path to level pad
Barn	1	G	Historic, storage
Storage for Maintenance	1	G	Behind archery range
Trails	10	G	Throughout park with hands on learning
NATURE CENTER			
Classrooms	2	G	
Exhibits	Several	G	Bird watching area, animal displays
Restroom	2	G	Barrier free
*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent			

Name of Park: Olde Town Park
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: Corner of Independence and Waldron Streets

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court	2	G	Cracking and peeling
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure	1	E	New, barrier free
Swings			
Other play equipment	8	E	not accessible
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters	1	G	
Picnic tables	1	G	
Grills	1	G	Far from picnic area, not accessible
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting			
Signage			
Parking lot	0		No parking lot, 2 barrier free spaces
Trash receptacles	4	G	no recycling bins
Benches	4	G	
OTHER			
Bike Rack	1	E	
Paths		E	Paved throughout the park
Inline skating	1	P	A lot of cracking, peeling

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Jon Grant Community Center
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 29260 Grand River Avenue

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting	1	E	Parking area, sidewalks
Signage			
Parking lot			
Trash receptacles			
Benches			
BUILDING			
Multipurpose Room	1	G	Can be split into 2 rooms
Office	2	G	
Restroom	2	G	Barrier free
OTHER			
Bike Rack	1	E	

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Harmon Oaks
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 28000 Greening Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting			
Signage	2	F	Small signs, hard to see
Parking lot			
Trash receptacles			
Benches			
CAMPING			
Camp sites			
Camp Fire			
OTHER			
Bike Rack			
Wooded lot	1	G	1.7 acres of trees

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Longacre House			
Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills			
Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills			
Location: 28600 W. 11 Mile Road			
AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,E,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting			
Signage			
Parking lot			
Trash receptacles	2	E	
Benches			
OTHER			
Gazebo	1	E	
Banquet Facilities	1	E	Used for weddings, showers and other special events
Tables/Chairs	3	E	Seating just outside main entrance
Office	2	E	historic building

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Bond Field
 Owing Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 31500 13 Mile Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)	2	G	Fencing is rusting and leaning
Multi-purpose sports fields			
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail			
Play structure			
Swings			
Other play equipment			
Hockey			
Horseshoe pits			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming			
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium			
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms	1	F	Port-a-jon
Park lighting			
Signage	0		Hard to locate
Parking lot	1	G	No connection to field
Trash receptacles	2	F	No recycling bins
Benches	4	F	Located in the dugouts
CAMPING			
Camp sites			
Camp Fire			
OTHER			
Bleachers	2	F	Made of wood, could be replaced

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Name of Park: Costick Activity Center
 Owning Agency: City of Farmington Hills
 Party Responsible for Maintenance: City of Farmington Hills
 Location: 28600 W. 11 Mile Road

AMENITY	QUANTITY	CONDITION (P,F,G,E)*	COMMENTS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
PLAY FACILITIES			
Lighted baseball field			
Baseball field (no lights)			
Multi-purpose sports fields	3	G	No specator areas
Batting cage			
Soccer			
Volleyball			
Basketball			
Tennis Court			
Running track			
Walking/biking trail	1	E	Concrete path from road to center
Play structure			
Outdoor swimming			
Indoor swimming pool	1	F	Older pool, could be bigger
Golf/driving range			
Racquetball			
Gymnasium	1	E	6 basketball hoops, stage area
Boat launch			
PICNIC FACILITIES			
Picnic shelters			
Picnic tables	3	G	Located in Courtyard
Grills			
PARK "SUPPORT"			
Restrooms			
Park lighting			
Signage			
Parking lot	2	E	Barrier free drop off areas
Trash receptacles			
Benches			
ACTIVITY CENTER			
Classrooms	5	G	Used for classes and programs
Banquet Rooms	2	G	Can be split into smaller rooms
Art Gallery	1	E	Display for art programs
Gift Shop	1	G	Resale shop
Courtyard	1	E	Pergula
Kitchen	1	E	Commercial
Locker Rooms	2	G	Need some updating, slippery floor

*P=Poor F=Fair G=Good E=Excellent

Endnotes

- 1 <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10366-121638--,00.html>
- 2 Outdoor Industry Association
- 3 ESRI Recreation Expenditure Report
- 4 http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/Economics_of_Green_Infrastructure_-_Mangus_456989_7.pdf
- 5 Oakland County Parks 5-Year Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022. Section 2.7
- 6 <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>
- 7 <http://michiganhistory.leadr.msu.edu/farmington-hills/early-history-2/>
- 8 https://web.archive.org/web/20110710235646/http://muniweb.fhgov.com/egov/docs/1291046351_377685.pdf
- 9 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2008-2012 & 2012-2016
- 10 http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/Economics_of_Green_Infrastructure_-_Mangus_456989_7.pdf
- 11 Master Land Use Plan
- 12 <https://htaindex.cnt.org/fact-sheets/?lat=42.484357917055824&lng=-83.38725909590721&focus=place&gid=12168#fs>
- 13 Michigan Recreation & Park Association. "Parks and Recreation: Why it Matters in Michigan"
- 14 <https://prezi.com/msmrmdddcopz/the-impact-of-the-great-recession-on-outdoor-recreation-in-the-us/>
- 15 U.S. Access Board. "Accessible Play Areas: A Summary of Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas." Page 17.
- 16 <https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/statistics/cbfff.php>
- 17 <https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/statistics/cbfff.php>
- 18 <http://disabilitystatistics.org/faq.cfm#Q3>
- 19 <http://www.universaldesign.com/what-is-ud/>
- 20 <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetlands-restoration-definitions-and-distinctions>
- 21 <http://semcog.org/Reports/GIVision/files/assets/common/downloads/Green%20Infrastructure%20Vision.pdf> (pg 8)
- 22 A complete list of certifications are listed in the appendix