

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE

2020-2024

PARKS & RECREATION PLAN



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION & HISTORY

The preparation of the Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides the City of River Rouge with a document to use as a decision-making guide to plan the resident's park and recreation needs. The previous Park and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2008 and has therefore, expired as a tool for gaining access to grant funding through the state agency, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These plans have a five-year life span.

This plan has been prepared to identify projects to schedule capital improvements for parks and recreation facilities. Short- and long-term recreation needs have been identified through this process. The plan was developed in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources standards and guidelines. The City of River Rouge is eligible to receive MDNR grant funding with the adoption and approval of this plan.

The area was originally settled by the French in the opportune location near two rivers. The city was not founded until 1922 when the City of Detroit expressed interest in annexing land in Ecorse Township. While the City of River Rouge was not officially founded until 1922, it has been deemed "A Bicentennial City," as it was first settled in 1808.¹ Rouge River has played an integral part in Metro Detroit's industrial scene as the waterways have been vital features to the industrial prosperity.²

River Rouge grew in the 1920s due to the Ford Motor Company. The City of River Rouge was a productive, middle-class suburb with ample opportunity. The city had its peak population in the 1950s when the industry was booming. However, the population dropped in the 1980s with the downturn of the automobile industry. The population loss has had other negative consequences such as housing vacancy and disrepair, vandalism, and reduced tax base.

In 2015 the City of River Rouge was selected as one of the top 10 "Rising Tide" communities in Michigan. The city saw an upswing in demand for family housing. During 2016, a team of planners, economic developers, and workforce experts collaborated to engage the public to update the Master Plan to guide the growth and development for the next ten years. The Master Plan was adopted in 2017.

River Rouge is a part
of the most
populous
county in the state.

Nearly 2 of every
10 Michiganders
lives in
Wayne County.

¹ <https://accesswayne.org/river-rouge/>

² <https://cityofriverrouge.com/>



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The City of River Rouge is located in southeast Michigan in Wayne County, along the shorelines of the Detroit River and Rouge River. It forms the northern boundary of an area commonly referred to as the “downriver communities,” extending from the City of Detroit boundary on the north to Monroe County in the south. The Interstate 75 Freeway and State Highway 84 (Fort Street) are both located less than one mile from the City’s western boundary. The City shares a common boundary with the City of Detroit to the north and the City of Ecorse to the south.

The City covers 2.65 square miles, a small city that is home to major industrial giants such as National Steel Corporation, Texaco, and Amoco Petroleum Products. The City is linked to Detroit in many ways; in addition to sharing a border, they are connected via two corridors: Jefferson Avenue, River Rouge’s principal

thoroughfare, and the Detroit River. River Rouge is also bounded on its northern side by the man made channel around wholly industrialized Zug Island.

DEMOGRAPHICS

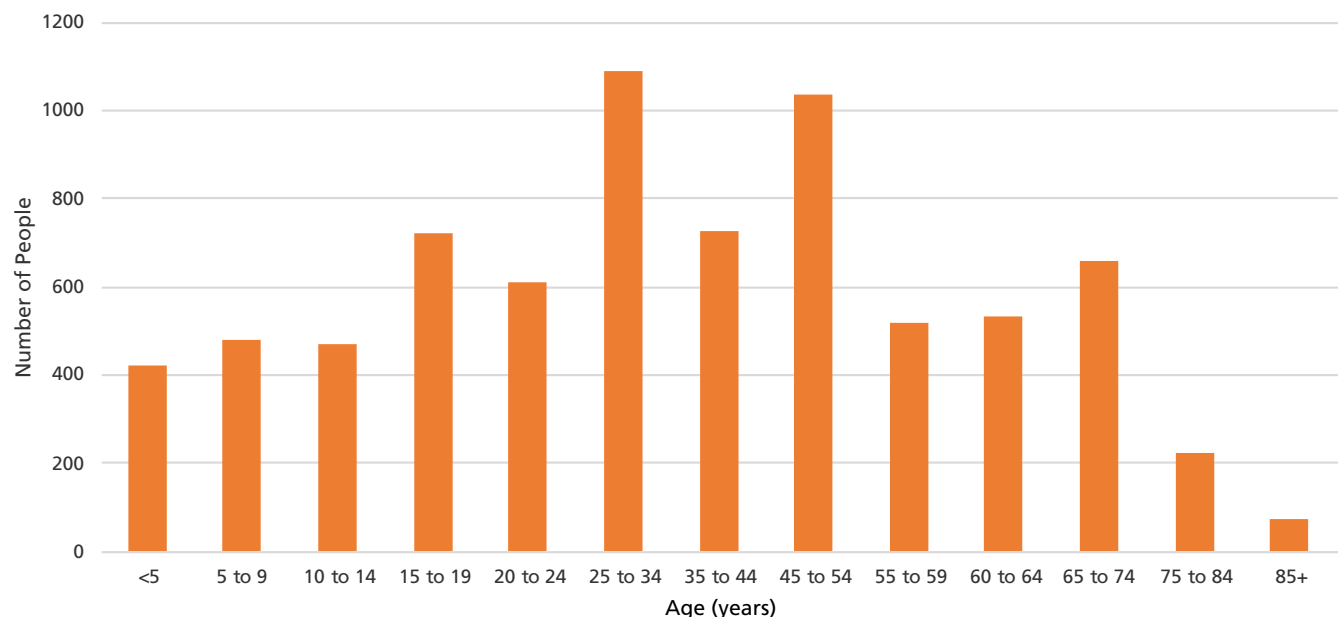
Population and Age

Understanding age and population trends are an important part of the planning process. Demographic trends allow municipalities to make informed decisions regarding the type and desired community facilities.

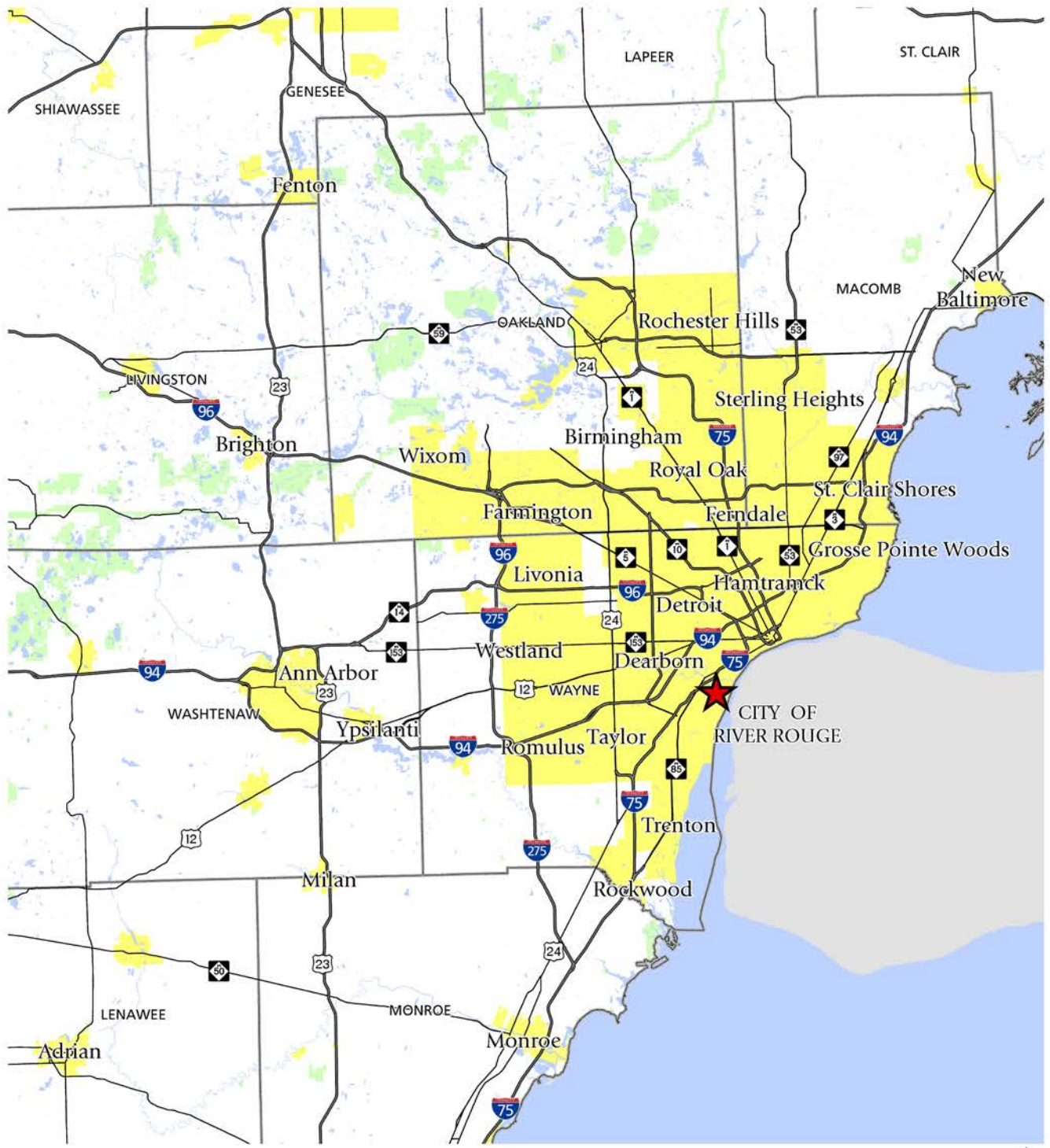
According to the American Community Survey (2017), River Rouge has a population of 7,559¹ and is expected to continue shrinking. The largest age category is 25-34 years old (24%), followed closely by 45-54 years old

¹ <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

Age Distribution by Life Stage in the City of River Rouge



Source: American Community Survey 2017



CITY OF RIVER ROUGE MASTER PLAN
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



(20.5%) which makes the median age in River Rouge young at 34.9 years old. Eighteen percent of the population is 14 years old or younger. The graph "Age Distribution by Life Stage" provides insight into how the City can adapt its parks and recreation programming and facilities to best suit the changing demographic groups.

Housing

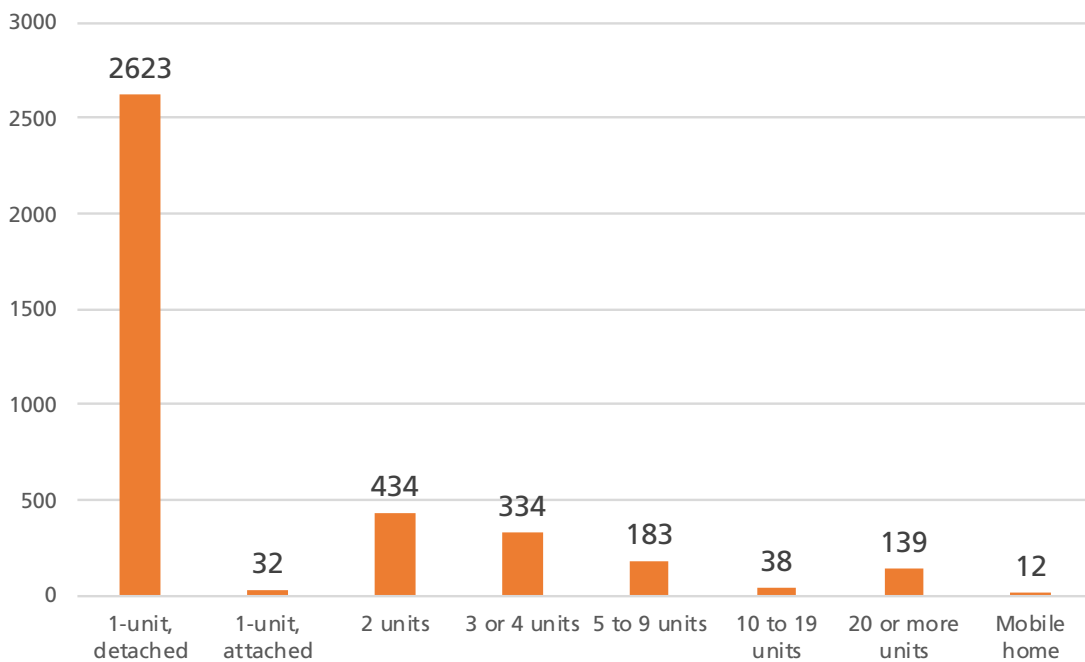
The total number of households in River Rouge is 3,795. A majority of the housing units are single-family detached homes totaling 2,623. Nearly 30% of households are considered multifamily units. Considering one-third of the housing units are multifamily, there is a need for green space for families to use for recreation who may not have a backyard. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recommends 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. There is a total of 41 acres of parks and recreation facilities in the City, which is lower than

the recommended amount. The City of River Rouge is an urban area lacking open green space. It is important for the City of River Rouge to consider securing more green space when the opportunity arises. For example, if a house is demolished, that land can be designated for green space. Fortunately, the City's parks are located within neighborhoods, for example, the five mini parks are located on corner lots surrounded by homes.

Education, Work, and Income

According to the American Community Survey, 15.6% of residents in River Rouge have a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately 55% of people are in the labor force but the City of River Rouge has a high rate of poverty at 36.1%. With over one-third of the population living with modest means, it is crucial to plan park and recreation activities that are affordable to the residents or free of charge.

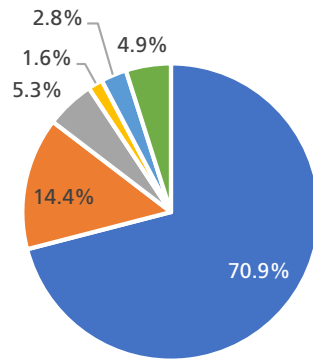
Housing Units in the City of River Rouge



Source: American Community Survey 2017

Commuting

- Car, truck, or van -- drove alone
- Car, truck, or van -- carpoled
- Public transportation (excluding taxicab)
- Walked
- Other means
- Worked at home



Source: American Community Survey 2017

Over 70% of people commute to work alone, while 14% carpool. Nearly 15% of people use public transportation, walk to work, or work at home.

The median household income in River Rouge is \$29,671, which is considerably lower than the national average of \$55,322. Partnering with local nonprofits to provide recreational opportunities can alleviate the cost burden for the people of the City of River Rouge.

Table: Household Income

	Median Household Income	% All Persons in Poverty
City of River Rouge	\$29,671.00	36.1
Wayne County	\$43,702.00	23.7
Michigan	\$52,668.00	15.6

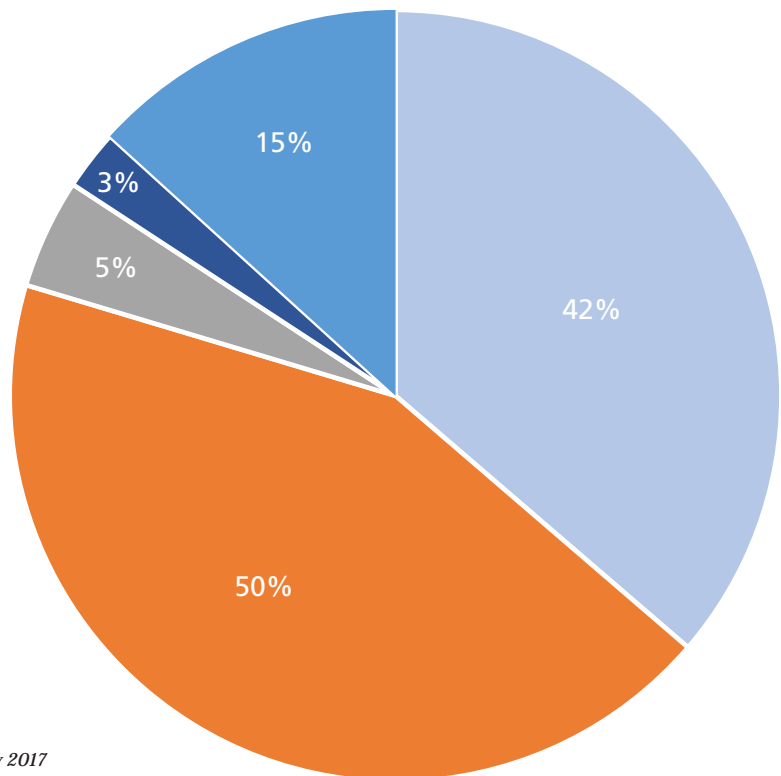
Source: American Community Survey 2017

Race

The City of River Rouge has a diverse distribution of races. The African-American population accounts for half of the population, while the Caucasian population is approximately 41.9%. The Hispanic or Latino population is classified as ethnicity and may be double counted in other racial groups.

Race and Ethnicity

- Caucasian
- African American
- Some other race
- Two or more races
- Hispanic or Latino



Source: American Community Survey 2017

Table: Recreational Expenditures

Recreation Expenditures	Total Spent Annually	% National Average
Entertainment/Recreation Fees and Admissions	\$771,955.00	59
Fees for Participant Sports, excluding Trips	\$136,966.00	56
Fees for Recreational Lessons	\$141,373.00	63
Membership Fees for Social/Recreation/Civic Clubs	\$251,106.00	60
Recreational Vehicles and Fees	\$117,916.00	61
Sports, Recreation and Exercise Equipment	\$206,555.00	58

Source: ESRI Recreation Expenditures Report

Recreation Expenditures

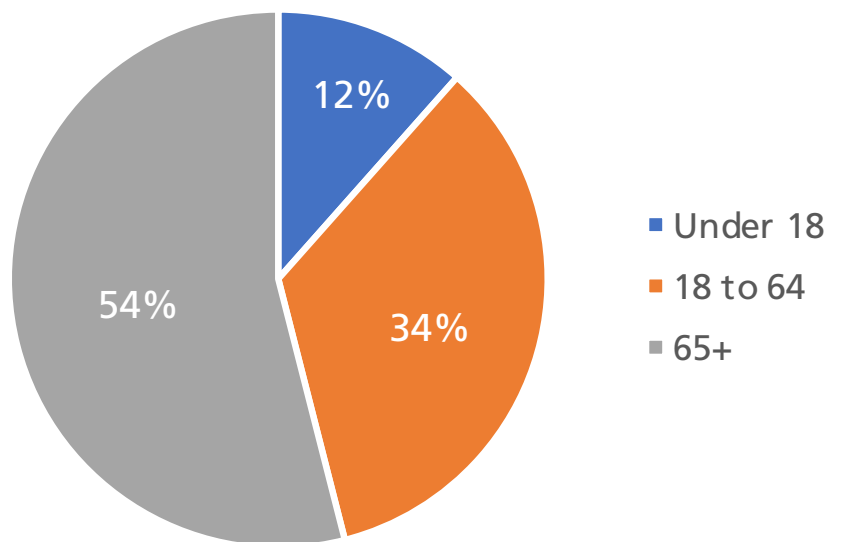
ESRI Business Analyst is a data source that anonymously collects and analyzes consumer data. The table “Recreation Expenditures” demonstrates how River Rouge residents spend disposable income. A total of \$6,633,138 was spent in 2018, most of which was spent on entertainment/recreation fees and admissions. People also spent \$206,555 on sports, recreation and exercise equipment. River Rouge residents spent a significantly lower amount than the national average annually according to the ESRI Business Analyst. Likely due to the high poverty rates, River Rouge residents spend between 58-63% of what households do on recreation on the national scale.

Disability

It is important to acknowledge that not all recreation facilities are equally accessible. A lack of accessibility features, such as paved pathways, can prevent certain individuals from being able to participate in certain activities. The disabled population is currently 20.1%, one in five people may have trouble getting to and enjoying parks if they are not planned with appropriate features. The corresponding “Individuals with a

Disability” chart shows the percentage by age. Over 34% of people aged 65 and older are reported to have some sort of disability. Therefore, the types of programs and facilities offered should be taken into consideration to include all people regardless of mobility.

Individuals with a Disability



Source: American Community Survey 2017



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

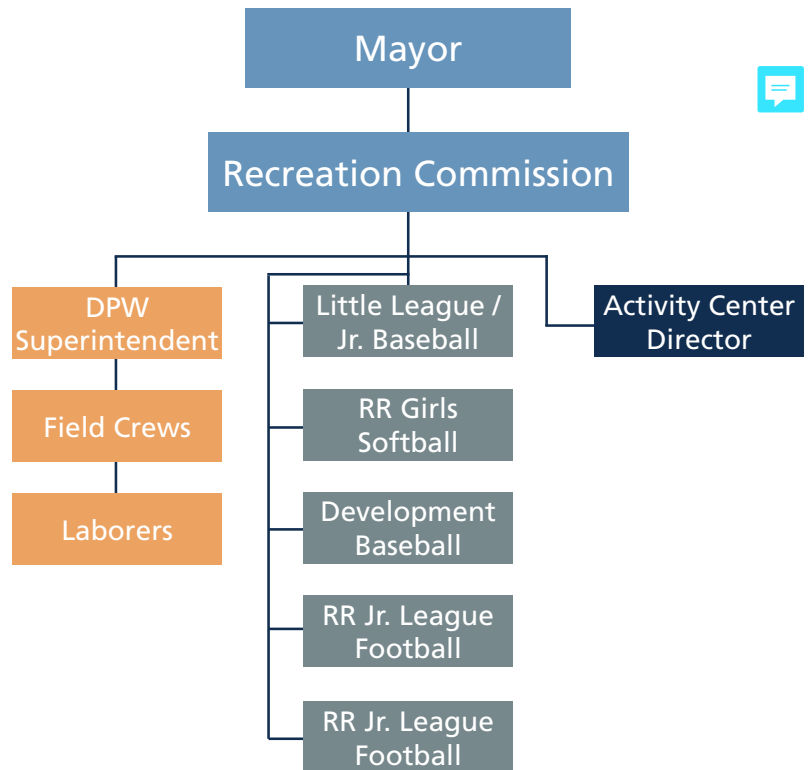
ORGANIZATION

Decisions about City-sponsored recreation programs are the responsibility of the Mayor and City Council, established under the Michigan Enabling Act 156 of 1917. The Mayor is the executive branch of local government and sits on City Council, who functions as the legislative branch of the City governmental structure. Three members of the Council serve as the Recreation Commission. The principal function of the Recreation Commission is to advise the full Council and the Mayor on recreation-related matters.

The parks and recreation staff and facility directors are responsible for implementing recreation policy established by the Mayor and City Council a responsibility that is shared with the Superintendents for the Department of Public Works (DPW). The Recreation Maintenance Supervisor oversees and monitors the individual sites.

PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERS

The City of River Rouge has relied on volunteers and partnerships to organize and facilitate youth programs, for example, a youth little league baseball and t-ball league is run by volunteers. There are several residents that volunteer as coaches, assistant coaches, and umpires to provide this experience for the City's youth. Also directed by volunteers and supported by donations is the junior football league that has three divisions: Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman for children 7-13 years old. There are also two junior cheer leading teams.



The City and the youth program groups partner to provide programs to improve the quality of life for the children of the area. The City provides the fields and field maintenance for the programs and coordinates schedules with the program leaders.

River Rouge Days is an annual event hosted by the Rouge Days Committee and the City. This popular community event is held at Memorial Park which is centrally located in the heart of the city. Some of the activities include a parade, car show, petting zoo, pony rides, monster trucks and a variety of music and bands.

The Vision of the Youth nonprofit was developed in 2017 by two graduates

Table: City Partners

Partnership	Major Contribution
Monroe County Community Credit Union	City wide clean up
DTE Energy	City wide clean up
US STEEL	City wide clean up/Donations/Picnic Tables
River Rouge School District	City wide clean up, All star turkey give away, alumni annual school picnic, River Rouge Days Parade
Telegram Newspaper	Advertisement
River Rouge Economic Development Corporation	Director Chester Weikel, Christmas decor, maintain vacant properties, maintain Memorial Park, maintain and clean all walkable areas on main streets.
Western Wayne Naacp Branch	President Gina Stewart, voter registration drives, offer scholarships, workshops, civil rights education
Sister Network, River Rouge Chapter	Margaret Harrington, Conduct monthly support meetings, conduct national educational outreach programs in the local community, provide breast health resources to local community
Downriver Community Conference	Weatherization, River Rouge Days
Michigan Works!	Summer youth employment
Wayne County Economic Development Corporation	Tax incentives
Downriver Community Federal Credit Union	City wide clean up
Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority	Community Benefits Plan
Downtown Development Authority	Main Street benches, pedestrian lighting, downtown improvements.
Vision Of The Youth Nonprofit	Movies in the park, Petting zoo, City wide clean up
Carmeuse Lime Corporation	City wide clean up
Downriver Community Federal Credit Union	City wide clean up
Mitchell Doig And Friends	Music Fest On The Waterfront
Wayne County	Senior Olympics
Bridgette And Mike Bowdler Jr.	No child without a Christmas, fall extravaganza
Songer Industries	Donations
Avenue Restaurant	Food donations
Michigan Marine Terminal-Walt Cytacki	Summer recreation
Mike Ward Services	Volunteer and donations
Tina And Ramone Hernandez	Weekly summer bbqs for youth with activities
International Precast Solutions	Assistance with amphitheater
Officer Shawn Horvath	Lunch with law enforcement, traffic stops with high school students, reading with students, Police vs student basketball, chili cook off
Churches	
True Worship Church	Volunteer
Love Joy Missionary Baptist	Volunteer
Runner For Christ Ministries	Volunteer
Fews Memorial Cme	Back to school rally, coat/hat/gloves giveaway, washing program, reading events
Gordy Church Of God	Volunteer
True Love	Volunteer
St. John Ame	Volunteer
Union 2nd Baptist	Pastor Brown, clothes/food pantry, community expo, jazz in the park, Trunk or Treat
True Covenant Church	Meet up and eat up healthy food summer lunch program, backpack giveaway
Grace Baptist Church	Community picnics



of River Rouge High School. The purpose of this corporation is to operate exclusively for education, recreation and charitable purposes. The goal of the organization is to assist the youth within the community to broaden their education experience, create quality of life activities, and providing part time jobs to teenagers. The Vision of the Youth provides community events such as an annual Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Movies Nights in the Park, Trick or Trunk & Haunted School, and a Day of Hope in the Community.

RECREATION FINANCING

The City of River Rouge has experienced major economic hardships. In the early 1990's, the City fought off receivership and revamped its spending patterns. Unfortunately, as a result, parks and recreation programs and facilities were decimated. In recent years, the Mayor and City Council have been committed to keep funding for parks and recreation in the budget.

Parks and Recreation services play a positive role in the economic impact for communities. The National Recreation and Park Association, an advocate for the advancement of public parks,

recreation, and conservation, studied the impact, effects, and benefits of Parks and Recreation services throughout the United States.¹ The study completed in 2018 showed that public park and recreation agencies generated \$154 Billion in economic activity and their operations and capital spending supported more than 1.1 million jobs in 2015. Because planning for parks and recreation is a key investment in the community's quality of life, high-quality parks and recreation services can help the economy to attract and retain quality businesses. When seen from that perspective, recreation spending is financially worthwhile.

The City's current projected annual budget for park operations, maintenance, recreation programming, and capital improvements total \$205,000. The budget for parks and recreation services is provided through the City's general fund. The budget includes wages for park security at Belanger Park, maintaining the ball fields, and replacing equipment and amenities as the needs arise.

¹ <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/research/economic-impact-study-summary-2018.pdf>



Table: Parks and Recreation Budget

	ACTUAL	ESTIMATED	BUDGET	PROJECTED	PROJECTED
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
RECREATION	\$110,845	\$169,078	\$143,825	\$145,000	\$145,000
SENIOR CENTER	\$49,295	\$53,800	\$58,900	\$60,000	\$60,000
TOTALS	\$160,140	\$222,878	\$202,725	\$205,000	\$205,000



PLANNING PROCESS

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines provides communities recreation standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association. These standards recommend minimums for different recreation facilities based on existing and projected population. These standards were reviewed and considered, but were not the deciding factor for recreational deficiencies, they were used only as a guide.

The City's existing land use characteristics have important implications for recreation planning purposes. Because the City is nearly fully developed, there is little remaining land available to accommodate the development of new parks or the expansion of existing ones. Additionally, the City lacks any undisturbed natural features, such as woodlands or wetlands that are readily adaptable for recreation purposes. The City's most significant natural resource, the Detroit River

Shoreline, is developed for nonpublic uses. The only exception to this pattern is Belanger Park along the river. The City's topography is predominantly level, with no significant natural grade changes that offer the potential for recreation. Therefore, planning for recreation will be about finding appropriate sites for infill development and enhancing existing parks

The planning process included a thorough inventory of the City's parks to determine if there were any deficiencies within the park system. Performing a recreation needs assessment is a useful tool to craft an action plan for the City for the next five years. Upon completion of the needs assessment, a list of goals and objectives were created based on the results. An action plan was then developed to describe specific actions to take, who is responsible for leading that action, and the desired time frame for completing each action.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Engaging the public is a key factor in the parks and recreation planning process. The purpose of gathering input from citizens is to help the City formulate long-range priorities, goals, and strategies. Gathering feedback from residents gives the City an idea of what is important for enhancing their quality of life. The public input sessions were advertised on the City's website, flyers in City Hall, flyers distributed through the school system and through email notifications.



The City of River Rouge offered two public input sessions to gather community feedback regarding the Parks and Recreation System. The first session was held on June 6, 2019 at the River Rouge High School. A group of high school students ages 14-17 participated in a variety of interactive activities to share their opinions about the parks and recreation opportunities. Real time voting was done to grade the City how well it provides parks and recreation services. The students also completed a questionnaire about what they would like to see improved within the City's parks and recreation system. About twenty-three students attended the after-school session

The second public input session was held on June 6, 2019 in the evening at City Hall. This session was a drop-in format where people could come and go at their convenience. A variety of posters were located around the community room that asked several questions about the parks and recreation system. The participants could complete the questions at the different stations and have the opportunity to talk with City officials about the parks and recreation plan. About twenty adults attended the evening public input session.

After the draft of the parks and recreation plan was completed, there was a 30-day public review and comment period held **DATES**. A public hearing was held on **DATE** as another opportunity for the public voice their opinions about the parks and recreation plan. **LIST PUBLIC COMMENTS HERE.**

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

The results of the Community Engagement meetings are summarized below.

Students - Question 1

What one word or phrase describes the River Rouge parks and recreation system?

The most popular student answers were "community-friendly," "repaired," and "more sports." The answers provided by the students indicate that there is a definite need for facility upgrades and improvements. After much discussion, the children would like to see the parks and recreation system cleaned up and improved as opposed to new facilities.

Community Friendly	Small
Energetic	Repaired
Congested	Empty
Diverse	Not much
Dingy	Dirty
Eventful	Broken
Nice	Useless
Good	No rec center
Can be dangerous	Childish
Nothing to do	Run down
Boring	Rusty
More sports	Common
Broken parks	Basic
Not enough	Fun
Dirty	Big
Broken	Neighborhood friendly
Needs more things to do	Nice looking
No wifi	No net on baseball rim
Old	Big
Kid friendly (play scape)	Boring
Peaceful	No shade
Genuine	Basic
Dirty	

Students - Question 2

What do you like to do with your free time?

The student's answers varied. For the most part, they enjoy getting outside and utilizing the City for their activities. DZ Football, listening to music, and football were high on their list.

Read	Hang outside
Sleep	Go to the park
Watch TV	Walk around the city
Play sports	Hang at the school
Listen to music	going to the library
Go shopping	Chilling in stores or food places
Go out places	Stay at home
Go to movies	Staying after school
Go to the park	Basketball
Baseball	Play video games
Football	Sleep
Play games	SLEEP!
Basketball	Listen to music
Make-up	Play video games
Dance	Watching TV
Soccer	Going downtown
Workout	Walking my cat
Play sports (football)	EAT!
Football	Soccer
Working at stores	DZ Football

Student - Question 3

What would you like to see improved in the parks and recreation system?

The students gave their answers and voted for their favorite improvements. Three tables each voted for multiple basketball courts, a swimming pool and making the parks cleaner/better. Overall, facility improvements and upgrades were recorded and were considered in the action plan process.

Better slides	Air pollution
New designs/ architecture	New paint on the equipment
Make them cleaner/ better cleaning system/ cleaning materials	More activities for youths after school activities, and senior activities
Tennis	Better equipment
Fix benches	More events
A fountain	Food trucks
Baseball courts	Less trash
Seasonal events	Public restrooms
Food stance	Stores closer to parks
Water fountain	More recycle bins
Better swings	Less dangerous
Better equipment (slides)	Concession stands or small store
Drinking fountain	Rec center
More recreation programs	The public lighting
A sports program for little kids (baseball and flag football)	Pool
A pool	Swimming pool
Cleaner parks, and better seating areas	More activities
Be clean	Multiple basketball courts

Student - Question 4

If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing in the River Rouge Parks and Recreation System, what would it be?

The students voted and the results show that the responses were evenly distributed among several improvements. The recommendations for nice basketball courts, more programmed activities, a new recreation center and updated park and recreation facilities were included.

A mini 5 and under section for kids	More activities
Add more sport courts (other than tennis and basketball)	Add more neighborhood/ park watch
Rec center	Pools everywhere
Water fountain	Ice rink

Sanitary products	Lighting
First aid	New grass
Parking lots	Repave the parking lots
Basketball courts	Roads
Water parks	Stench removal
No pollution	Clean environment
Bathrooms	The new equipment
Actual recreational center	The smell
Add more exercise equipment for the public population	A minimal
Cleanliness	Less danger
Get us a dome!	Football fields
Safety equipment	Landscaping (trees, rocks)
Provide shaded areas	

COLLECTIVE SENTENCES	A	B	C	D	F
Providing safe parks to go to.	8	6	4	1	0
Providing clean and beautiful parks to go to.	2	5	5	7	0
Providing safe roots to get to where I have to go.	3	10	5	1	0
Providing fun events to participate in.	7	5	3	2	2
TOTALS	20	26	17	11	2

	T	F
I think of River Rouge Parks and Recreation in a positive way.	15	8
I like to visit parks in River Rouge.	15	6
I participate in recreation programs for River Rouge.	2	19

Student - Question 5

The students were asked to grade City on how they perform at the following task on the "A" through "F" grading scale ("A" being the highest ranked answer). For the most part, the overall grades received were A's and B's indicating that the City is doing a good job. The average Grade given to the City was a "B". There is room for improvement and the planning process will assist in the future success of the City.

The students were asked to give a "True" or "False" answer to the following sentences. 65% of the respondents think of the River Rouge parks and recreation system in a positive way. 65% also like to take time to visit the parks in the City. Only two students reported that they participate in recreation programs. These results confirm that the students enjoy the parks and choose to spend their time enjoying them.

Summary of results

Evening Input Session Results

There were posters set up around the room with questions listed. Recorded below are the results of the feedback. The respondents indicated that the parks and recreation facilities are important to

the community and worthy of taxpayer support. A majority of the people would like the City to focus on improving the existing facilities before developing new facilities. Sixty-three percent of the people strongly agree with the expansion of the parks and recreation facilities even if it raised their taxes.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Place a sticker in the appropriate box	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Parks and Recreation facilities are important to our community and worthy of taxpayer support.	14	1	1	0	0
The City should update the current facilities before developing new facilities.	5	4	1	0	1
Organized recreation programs are available to the public.	7	5	1	1	1
I am satisfied with the upkeep and maintenance of the community parks.	8	4	0	0	0
I would support the expansion of Parks and Recreation facilities even if it raised my taxes.	10	2	0	4	0

Officials in River Rouge are interested in prioritizing the key park improvements. Please share your input on what may make these parks more inviting.

Place a sticker: We want you to tell us what improvements are most needed. Place a tally next to the park that is a priority for improvement.	Number of Stickers	Tell us how the parks can be improved. Please write your priorities in the boxes below for the parks you think need improvements.
Activity/ senior center	2	
Anchor/ division center		
Beechwood center	8	Need to reflect the only facility on that side of River Rouge
Belanger Park	5	Amphitheater bathrooms boat storage and launch concession stand lower rates, daily children activities, bathrooms
Bromley Tot Lot		
Buck Weeber Gymnasium	2	Open the gym back up
Cicotte Park		
Cora Tot Lot		
Burke/ Henry Green Space		
Elm/ Richter Tot Lot		
Great Lakes Field	1	Turn down ice arena
Harris Park		
Maple Street Park		
Memorial Park		
Teen Center	1	

An outdoor amphitheater was the top choice that people indicated the City should plan for. The second most popular choice was improvements to the senior center. A teen center was

also ranked high on the list. These suggestions assist the City in planning for future improvements and for budgeting purposes to complete the improvements.

Please indicate which of the following recreation facilities and activities the City of River Rouge should plan for and develop.	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
Baseball fields	1	2	1
Basketball courts			
softball fields			1
soccer fields		1	1
Community gardens			
Cultural events	3		
Dog park			1
Indoor athletic facilities	1		
Nature programs	1		
Nonmotorized trails	1		
Outdoor movies in the park	1	2	1
Outdoor performance amphitheater	8	2	
Pickle ball courts			
Senior center	6		1
Skateboard park			
Teen center	2	1	5
Tennis courts			
Volleyball courts			
Water activities	1		1
Educational entertainment performing arts program			

The cost of programs and/or equipment was the top answer as to what prevents people from using parks and recreation facilities.

What can the City of River Rouge do to improve the Parks and Recreation facilities and programs?

- » I use them for most events
- » Use parks for outdoor events, (cooking, birthday parties- children)
- » Highly educational entertainment and more events tailoring these parks
- » No alcohol in the park safety for children

Place a sticker next to the answer that best describes what prevents you from using Parks and Recreation Facilities in River Rouge.	Sticker number
Not enough recreation areas close to my house	1
I'm not interested in the programming/facilities available	1
I feel unsafe at parks/recreation facilities	0
The parks/facilities are poorly maintained	0
Cost of programs and/or equipment	2
Hours of operation are not convenient	0



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RECREATION INVENTORY

INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

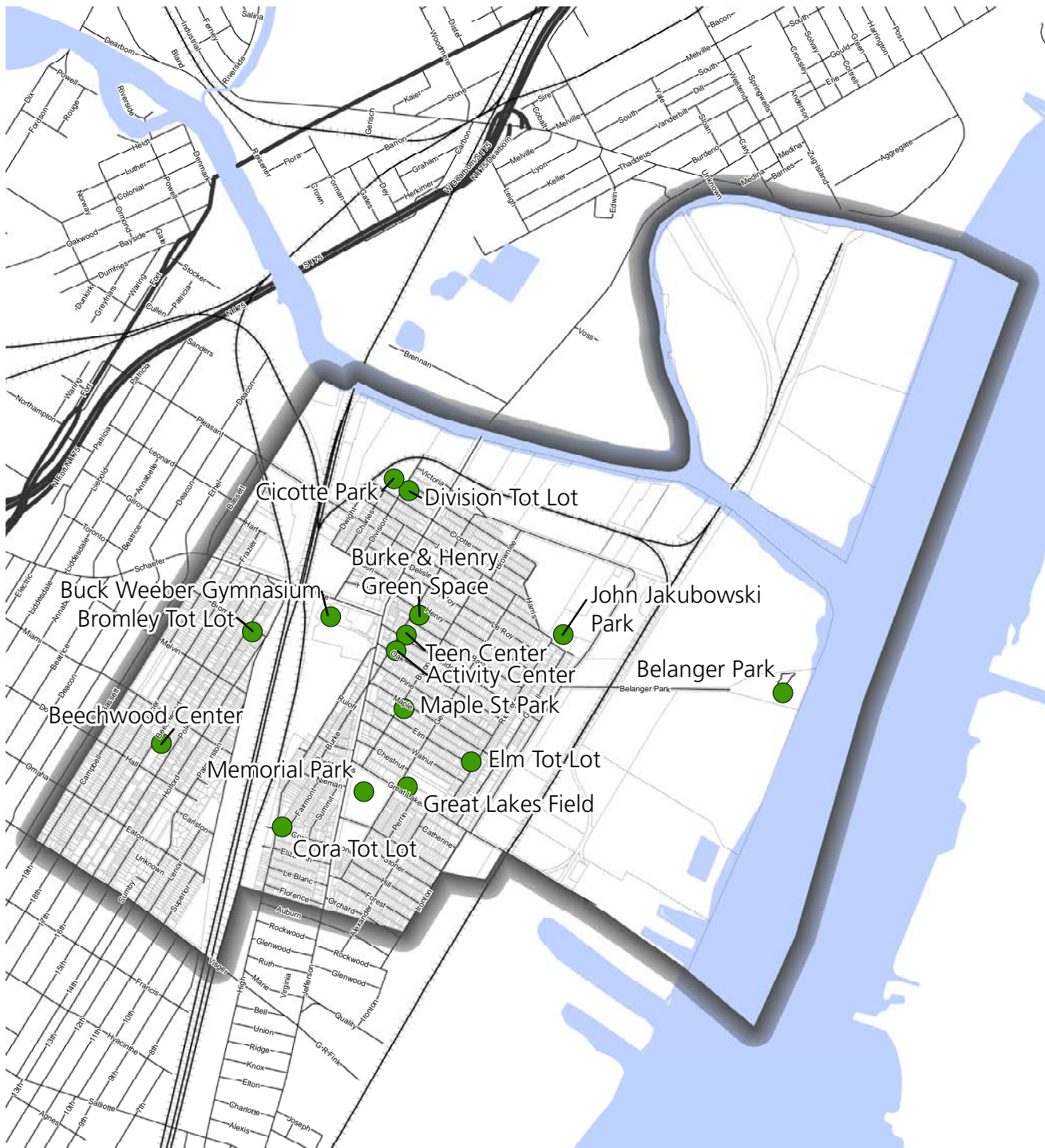
A thorough on-the-ground inventory was conducted on all of the existing parks, natural areas, and recreation facilities owned or leased by the City of River Rouge. Each park and facility were visited and a detailed inventory of the number, type, level of accessibility, and condition of recreation equipment and facilities was documented in order to triage improvement efforts. The inventory is a valuable step in determining an appropriate budget and action plan for the next five years. The detailed inventory sheets can be found in the appendix. 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 of River Rouge has about 41.06 acres of parks and recreation facilities. Most of the park facilities are mini parks scattered throughout the residential neighborhoods. However, Belanger Park,

the City's largest park at 9.5 acres in size located along the Detroit River, and Memorial Park, 8.5 acres located in the heart of the City, are two examples of neighborhood parks.

As a part of the inventory, MDNR's guidelines also describe each public park's reach in terms of who the park is servicing. For example, the Tot Lots are considered to have a local service area because they are smaller parks that serve the immediate areas, typically drawing visitors who are within walking distance. Whereas Memorial Park has a service area that is community wide. It serves the entire community because its diverse facilities appeal to a wider audience and its size can accommodate more than a handful of visitors. The table "Park Service Area and Classifications" explains how the MDNR classifies park service areas based on the size and the major functional use.










RIVER ROUGE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Parks and Recreation Inventory

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, ESRI Basemap, Wayne County GIS, City of River Rouge

-  City Boundary
-  State Roads
-  All Roads
-  Railroads
-  Rivers / Streams
-  Parks / Recreation

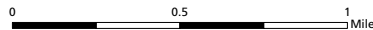


Table: Park Service Area and Classifications

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ mile in residential setting	2,500 sq ft to 1 acre
Neighborhood Park	Serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is 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 is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as 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	Serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as 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
Regional/Metropolitan Park	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use, or historic/cultural use	Within one hour driving time	Optimal 200+ acres but depends based on accommodating desired uses
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans 2018.

Classification	Recommended Acres/1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage for City of River Rouge	City of River Rouge Acreage	Surplus/Deficiency
Mini Park	0.25-0.5 Acres	1.9 - 3.8	2.19	0.29
Neighborhood Park	1.0-2.0 Acres	7.5 – 15	38.87	23.87
Community Park	5.0-8.0 Acres	37.8 – 60.5	0	-37.8
Regional Park	5.0-10.0 Acres	37.8 – 75.6	0	-37.8
TOTALS		85 – 154.9	41.06	-51.44

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Park Land Analysis

City of River Rouge parkland is summarized in the following table based upon a total population of 7,559. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), a reputable non-profit dedicated to recreation, the City of River Rouge falls below the recommended parkland by 43.9 acres. The overall shortfall is an accumulation of deficiencies in the Community Park classification and Regional Park classification. Nearly all of the parks in River Rouge are small pocket parks located within a neighborhood setting. However, it is not recommended at this time that the City acquire parkland at that scale. Given the density of the region, larger parks are available in proximity to the City, and greater acreage is not a priority at this time.

Accessibility Assessments

An assessment of each park's accessibility was conducted. This assessment visually evaluated the accessibility of facilities (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them for persons

with mobility constraints. Barrier-free accessibility in parks and recreational facilities is important for current and future programming. The assessment followed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' scale for evaluating park accessibility in the 2018 "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans" on a scale of 1 to 5.

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 principals of universal design



ACTIVITY CENTER - Mini Park

Size: 0.13 Acres

Location: Intersection of W. Jefferson and Oak Street

Accessibility Score: 2

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Kitchen	1	Good	Refrigerator/Freezer, meal programs.
Activity Area	1	Good	People gather and socialize.
TV	1	Fair	Available for use by all. Plan for TV replacement.
Restroom	2	Fair	Not accessible.
Office	1	Good	Facility director runs the programs and organizes the events.
Tables	9	Good	Used for luncheons and activities.
Exterior Amenities			
Bench	2	Excellent	New, high-quality material.
String Lights	2	Excellent	Creates a nice ambiance.
Landscaping	1	Excellent	Beautiful planter boxes with plants, flowers and trees.
Picnic Table	1	Good	Nice wood table for the outdoor courtyard.

Accessibility Notes:

- » Entrance was not accessible.
- » No accessible parking.
- » Restrooms need upgrades to meet accessibility codes.

Comments:

- » Nice activity space for older adults.
- » Outdoor space is new and neatly kept.
- » Very active center.



ANCHOR & DIVISION TOT LOT - Mini Park

Size: 0.18 Acres

Location: Near 72 W. Cicotte Street

Accessibility Score: 1

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Play Structure	1	Good	Wood chips not flush with path, parts of climbing ladder broken.
Tire Swing	1	Excellent	The matting underneath the swing was exposed.
Grill	2	Good	
Trash Receptacle	1	Good	
Picnic Table	2	Good	

Accessibility Notes:

- » No accessibility to play structure.
- » A paved path would make it accessible.

Comments:

- » Fill in wood chips.
- » Repave the path.
- » Fix broken fencing.
- » Mow and string trim on a regular basis.



BEECHWOOD CENTER - Mini Park

Size: 0.99 Acres

Location: Near 449 Beechwood Street

Accessibility Score: 2

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Basketball	2	Fair	Lined courts, but pavement was cracked with weeds growing through. Bleachers available.
Play Structure	1	Good	Free standing slide and bars.
Swings	4	Good	
Picnic table	4	Fair	Plan for replacement.
Grill	2	Fair	Plan for replacement.
Trash receptacle	3	Good	
Bench	3	Good	A bench was built surrounding a tree, good shade.

Accessibility Notes:

- » No accessibility to play structures.
- » A paved path would make it accessible.
- » Building has a wheelchair ramp.
- » The sidewalks that lead to the basketball courts and bleachers are accessible.

Comments:

- » Beautiful setting with mature trees.
- » There is a wooden stage. Could be updated and leveled.
- » The building was closed at the time of inventory.
- » There is a basement with a kitchen.
- » The center is leased by a non-profit organization.
- » Suggested improvements: resurface basketball courts. Mow and weed on a regular basis.



BELANGER PARK - Neighborhood Park



Size: 9.5 Acres

Location: Intersection of Marion Avenue and Belanger Park Drive

Accessibility Score: 2

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Volleyball	1	Poor	Long grass, no lines, deteriorating nets
Play Structure	1	Excellent	Nice large play structure with a separate slide.
Swings	16	Good	Some need new seats, make sure chains are secure.
Boat Launch	2	Good	Dock located between the boat launches.
Picnic Shelter	2	Good	Gazebo is accessible.
Picnic Table	5	Excellent	Located in gazebo, no accessible tables.
Grill	6	Fair	Not accessible. Plan for replacement.
Parking Lighting	5	Good	Lights along water and throughout parking lot.
Trash Receptacle	17	Good	Located throughout the park.
Bench	13	Good	Some facing the water. Three swinging benches.
Lighthouse	1	Good	
Concession stand	1	Fair	Plan for upgrades. Has overhang with picnic tables.
Restrooms	4	Fair	Plan for flush toilets.
Parking area	2	Good	Boat trailer parking available for boat launch.
Extended Fishing Pier	1	Good	

Accessibility Notes:

- » Paved pathway through the park was accessible.
- » Playground was not accessible, and the matting was exposed.
- » Add a few accessible picnic tables.
- » Relocate grills to make them accessible. Place on concrete pad connected to a paved pathway.

Comments:

- » Nice park along the Detroit River with beautiful water views.
- » Mature trees throughout the park.
- » Routine maintenance needed (mowing, weeding, trash pick-up, fix chains on swings).
- » Plan for new signage for park and boat launch.
- » Add restrooms.
- » Add recycle bins.



BELANGER PARK PLANNING EFFORTS

Belanger Park will be one of the few public places where construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge can be viewed on both sides of the Detroit River. The hope is that its new features will make it a tourist attraction that generates income for the City to enhance the city's recreation program.

The Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is the Canadian federal Crown corporation responsible for administering the construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Project. Over the past four years, the City has sent representatives to all the bridge meetings conducted by the WDBA. This bridge would be a positive impact to the City of River Rouge for economic development.

The WDBA has visited Belanger Park to see the potential for the proposed park improvements. The proposed project timing is for 2020 and consists of "the construction of an observation platform at Belanger Park that would allow students, residents and tourist to view ongoing construction of the GH Bridge project." Some of the features would include wayfinding signage, benches, binoculars, a photography area, and subsidized access to the park.

The engineers have designed a sanitary pump and forcemain system that will run from the bathrooms down Belanger Park Drive to the first catch basin. The City has committed \$6,000 for the topographic/ boundary survey and \$10,000 to draw up the construction plans.

Because the Gordie Howe Bridge will be the longest cable-stayed bridge in North America, its construction will garner worldwide attention. The parking lot will be reconfigured to accommodate school bus parking for the educational programming that will take place for students to learn about the process at the

park. The River Rouge Board of Education has been asked to serve as ambassadors to the educational institutions in southeast Michigan and to invite their students to come down to Belanger Park to view the construction first hand.

Bathrooms will be updated and other potential improvements include a concession and souvenir stand to generate additional income. A band shell/ amphitheater type structure is proposed to have "bridge concerts" in the summer.

A web-cam is proposed on the upper railing of the light house where the bridge construction could be live-streamed on the web and generate additional income. A time-lapse video recorder could keep a "Smithsonian" record of the construction progress.

Further proposed improvements include a watercraft storage structure where private boats up to 22' long could be stored on racks and rented by our citizens. Watercraft recreation could be further enhanced to generate revenue. The boat launch facility could be reconfigured to accommodate jet skis and kayak launching.



BROMLEY TOT LOT - Mini Park

Size: 0.13 Acres

Location: Intersection of Bromley and Polk Avenue

Accessibility Score: 1

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Play Structure	1	Fair	A separate slide was available as well.
Swings	6	Fair	Disrepair, chains rusted.
Picnic Shelter	1	Fair	Cover for picnic tables. Slats from roof were missing.
Trash Receptacles	1	Good	

Accessibility Notes:

- » No accessibility. Sidewalks surround park.
- » Plan for accessibility improvements such as concrete pad for picnic shelter. Paved path to picnic shelter.

Comments:

- » Great neighborhood park.
- » Beautiful mature trees.
- » Needs some regular maintenance.
- » Repair fencing, replace swings, fix picnic shelter roof.



GREEN SPACE AT BURKE AND HENRY - Mini Park

Size: 0.37 Acres

Location: Intersection of Burke Street and Henry Street

Accessibility Score: 2

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Sidewalk	1	Good	Sidewalks on two sides of the park and through the middle.
Bench	1	Good	

Accessibility Notes:

- » Sidewalks surround park on two sides with a path down the middle.
- » Plan for accessibility improvements such as concrete pad for bench.

Comments:

- » Nice corner lot with lots of green grass.
- » Mature shade trees.
- » Add a picnic table in the future.



CICOTTE PARK - Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.49 Acres

Location: Near 72 W. Cicotte Street

Accessibility Score: 1

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Softball field	1	Good	Regrade infield, fencing is good.
Restrooms	1	Good	Port-a-john
Trash Receptacle	2	Good	

Accessibility Notes:

- » No accessibility.
- » Plan for accessibility improvements such as concrete pad for spectators.
- » Plan for accessible restrooms.

Comments:

- » Softball field in good condition.
- » Located across the street from a tot lot.
- » Suggested improvements: infield leveling on a yearly basis. Routine maintenance to include mowing, weeding, and trash pickup.
- » Add netting for foul ball protection.



CORA AND HALTINER TOT LOT - Mini Park

Size: 0.22 Acres

Location: Near 260 Haltiner Street

Accessibility Score: 1

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Play Structure	1	Good	Free standing slide and climber
Swings	8	Fair	Missing a swing
Bench	1	Good	

Accessibility Notes:

- » No accessibility.
- » Plan for accessibility improvements such as concrete pad for bench.

Comments:

- » Beautiful tree canopy.
- » Fencing intact and grass was neat.
- » Nice tot lot overall.
- » Repair swing.
- » Repair section of fence.



ELM AND RICHTER TOT LOT - Mini Park

Size: 0.11 Acres

Location: Near 305 Richter Street

Accessibility Score: 1

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Play Structure	1	Fair	
Swings	2	Poor	Chain swings, one unusable, chain tied up
Bench	1	Poor	Bench was bent and not level

Accessibility Notes:

- » No accessibility.
- » Plan for accessibility improvements such as concrete pad for bench.

Comments:

- » Small corner mini park in neighborhood.
- » Routine maintenance such as mowing and weeding needed.
- » Fix broken swing.
- » Fix broken section of fence.



GREAT LAKES FIELD - Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.4 Acres

Location: Intersection of Genessee Street and E. Great Lakes Street

Accessibility Score: 2

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Lighted baseball field	1	Good	Infield needs graded, low spots in the outfield.
Trash receptacles	4	Good	
Batting Cage	1	Excellent	Looks new.
Bleachers	3	Good	Located on paved surface for accessibility.

Accessibility Notes:

- » Spectator bleachers are accessible.
- » Porta johns are located on paved area for accessibility.

Comments:

- » Field is used regularly.
- » Nice storage building in park.
- » Suggestions for improvement include:
 - Repair fencing around the backstop and dugouts.
 - Regrade the infield every few years.
 - Add netting for foul ball protection.
 - Mow and weed regularly.



HARRIS PARK - Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.98 Acres

Location: Northwest corner of Marion Avenue and Belanger Park Drive

Accessibility Score: 1

Accessibility Notes:

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Baseball field	1	Poor	No drainage, grass overgrown, weeds.
Dugouts	2	Poor	Fencing is in need of being replaced.
Picnic Shelter	1	Poor	Plan for removal
Parking lot	1	Poor	Cracked pavement throughout, no parking lines.
Bleachers	2	Fair	Some pieces are cracked.

» Spectator bleachers are on pavement for accessibility.

Comments:

- » No restrooms.
- » Park needs regular maintenance such as mowing, weeding, and trash pickup.
- » Fences are rusted.
- » Suggestions for improvement include:
 - Repair fencing around the backstop and dugouts.
 - Regrade the infield every few years.
 - Remove pavilion.
 - Improve drainage around first baseline dugout.



Location: Intersection of Maple Street and Byron Street

Accessibility Score: 1

Accessibility Notes:

- » Park is not accessible. Sidewalks surround the

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Bench	2	Good	
Lending Library	1	Good	A place to borrow books.
Landscaping	1	Good	The landscaping was well taken care of.

park.

- » Benches on paved connection path would help with accessibility.

Comments:

- » The park is well maintained.
- » The park has a sign for identification.



MEMORIAL PARK - Neighborhood Park

Size: 8.5 Acres

Location: W. Jefferson Road between E. Great Lakes Street and Abbott Avenue

Accessibility Score: 2

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Basketball Court	1	Fair	Lines are faded.
Play Structure	1	Fair	Needs ground covering.
Swings	8	Fair	Plan for replacement.
Picnic Shelter	1	Good	Accessible.
Picnic Tables	7	Good	
Gazebo	1	Good	Not accessible.
Trash Receptacles	11	Good	
Veteran's Memorial	1	Excellent	Memorial to all military groups, tank and helicopter are displayed.
Paved pathway	1	Good	
Paved blacktop	1	Good	Former basketball court, hoops have been removed.
Skate Park	1	Good	Some paint chipping.
Bench	10	Good	Located throughout the park.

Accessibility Notes:

- » Sidewalks surround the park for good accessibility.
- » Play structure has a significant drop to the base.
- » Benches on paved connection path would help with accessibility.

Comments:

- » Heavily used park due to central location.
- » Splash park is coming soon.
- » Nicely maintained.
- » Veteran's Memorial is beautiful.
- » Suggestions for improvement include:
 - Install missing handrails on play structure.
 - Fill loose material under play structure.
 - Weed removal.
 - Fix fencing throughout the park.
 - Resurface path near play structure.



483 POLK AVENUE PARK - Mini Park

Size: 0.27 Acres

Location: Located on Polk Avenue between Eaton Avenue and Hall Avenue

Accessibility Score: 1

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes / Suggested Action
Open Space	1	Good	New Park location for future development.

Accessibility Notes:

- » Open Space located off of a sidewalk system.

Comments:

- » Great location for a pocket park.



Table: Grant Improvement Projects

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	GRANT AMOUNT
Recreation Center Roof 1989 BF89-465	Duct repair, flat roof, ice arena roof, install dehumidifier, insulation BD, repair heat & ventilation. Replace 2x6 R.B. tag, retrofit exhaust fans	\$93,750
Belanger Park 1995 TF95-172	Redevelopment Plan for gazebo, landscaping, paved parking, trail, playground equipment, restrooms.	\$375,000
Milton Center Restoration 1991 BF91-206	A/C replacement, asphalt paving, barrier free design, basketball nets, boiler replacement, electrical improvements, glass replacement, interior water damage, paint, plumbing, roof replacement	\$167,700
TOTAL		\$636,450

The City of River Rouge has had grant assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources since 1989. A total of \$636,450.00 has been awarded to the city through three grants for improvement projects.

park includes three lakes, 150 acres of wooded area and spectacular views of the Detroit and Windsor skylines. Rentals are available for watercraft, bike, and snow sports. Food and ice are also for sale. A Recreation Passport is required for entry.

REGIONAL INVENTORY

The regional park system surrounding the City of River Rouge is extensive. There are hundreds of parks ranging in size within a ten-mile radius. The “Regional Inventory” Table highlights the City parks, County parks, private facilities, and parks that are over 100 acres in size that would be considered destination parks. Although the City itself is lacking in parks that create a regional draw, the public has access to regional recreation network.

Meanwhile, facilities maintained by Wayne County located within ten-miles of River Rouge include the Middle Rouge Parkway (765 acres) and the Lower Rouge Parkway (1,163 acres), which are in Westland and Inkster, respectively, as well as Hines County Park in Livonia, and Crosswinds Marsh and Elizabeth Park, both of which are south of the City. Recreation in these County facilities are varied but include trails for walking and hiking, as well as passive recreation space. The Middle and Lower Rouge Parkways also accommodate specific activities including swimming and golf.

STATE AND COUNTY PARKS

The only State of Michigan park located within a ten-mile radius of River Rouge is Belle Isle Park, located in the Detroit River. The facility features Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, the Belle Isle Aquarium, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, a giant slide, athletic fields, picnic areas, Belle Isle Nature Zoo, the James Scott Memorial Fountain, and more attractions popular with all ages and interests. The

QUASI-PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

Numerous quasi-public and private recreational opportunities throughout the region provide recreational opportunities to residents. Many golf courses and recreation centers in the area are membership based, which can limit people from participating due to high fees. Although very few golf courses

Table: Regional Inventory

Wayne County Parks and Recreation Facilities		
Facility Name	Facility Description	Acres
Lower Rouge Parkway	Warren Valley Golf Course, Wayne County Aquatic Center, William P. Holliday Preserve, Kinloch Park	1163.3
Hines County Park	Expansive park with hiking trails set on the Rouge River	830.55
Middle Rouge Parkway	Includes Inkster Valley Golf Course and Lola Valley Park	765
Crosswinds Marsh	Nature preserve in Huron Charter Township	634.17
Elizabeth Park	Riverside recreation area with walking paths in Trenton	173.26
State of Michigan		
Facility Name	Facility Description	Acres
Belle Isle Park	Includes 3 lakes, 150 acres of wooded area, Belle Isle Nature Zoo, Belle Isle Aquarium, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, giant slide, athletic fields, picnic areas, Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, James Scott Memorial Fountain.	987
Private Facilities		
Facility Name	Facility Description	Acres
Lakes of Taylor	Golf Course	334.5
Detroit Golf Club	Private golf club in Detroit	290.01
Tournament Players Club of Michigan	Private golf course in Dearborn	211.88
Westburn Golf Course	Public golf course located in Rockford	193.74
Dearborn Country Club	Golf Course	159.8
Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club	Country Club located in Grosse Ile Township	152.31
Glenhurst Golf Club	Public golf course in Redford Township	107.9
Ford Field	Professional Football Field for the Lions	14.75
Comerica Park	Professional Baseball Field for the Tigers	14.49
Regional Parks over 100 acres		
Facility Name	Facility Description	Acres
Oakwoods Metropark	Large park with wooded hiking trails set on the Huron River	1,681.82
Lake Erie Metropark	Large park with golf course maintained by Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority	1,607
Willow Metropark	Large park facility on the Huron River with a golf course, skate park, and other outdoor activities	1,466.38
Lower Huron Metropark	Expansive park set in woodlands and on the Huron River	1,310.38
Rouge Valley Parkway	Operated by City of Detroit	397.9
Palmer Park	Public park with hiking and biking trails, and an 18-hole golf course, maintained by the City of Detroit	276.6
Bicentennial Park	Municipal recreation area with walking trails and athletic fields in Livonia	270.6
Riverview Highlands Golf Course	Public golf course maintained by the City of Riverview	257.45



are in close proximity to River Rouge, several, including Taylor Meadows Golf Club, Lakes of Taylor Golf Club, and R Herndon's Dearborn Hills Golf Course are within 10 miles of the City. In Michigan's climate, indoor facilities are important and allow residents to stay active in the winter months. Private membership-based gyms and fitness centers are too numerous to list in full but are located in surrounding cities: Allen Park, Melvindale, and Dearborn. Other quasi-public recreation facilities are provided through municipalities themselves. Patton and Kemeny Recreation Centers, which are maintained by the City of Detroit, are

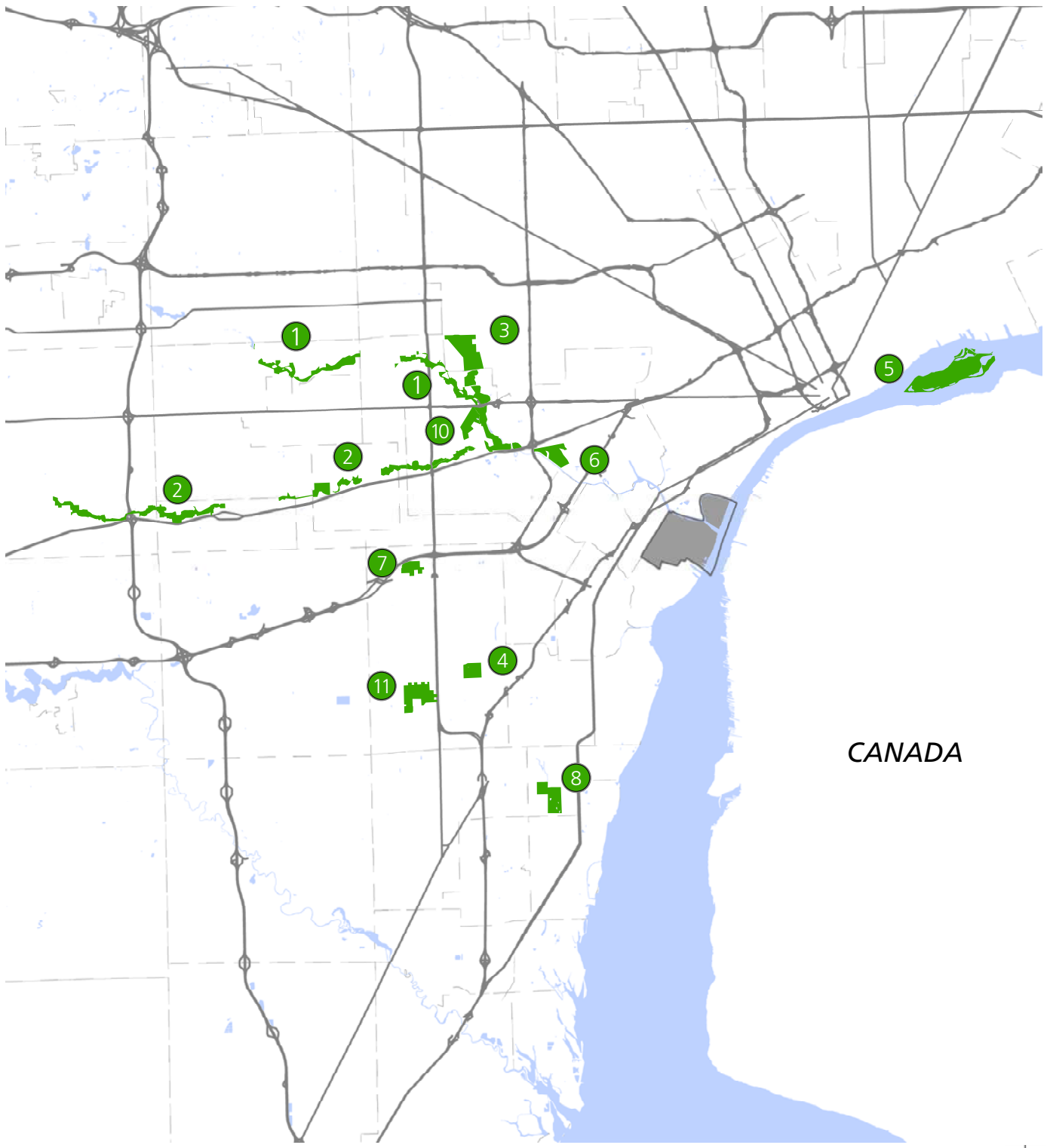
located nearby in the Detroit's southern neighborhoods. Other facilities including RollerCade Indoor Skating Rink in Detroit and Game on Sports Center in Taylor are run privately and provide important youth-oriented activities. Several surrounding quasi-public facilities are listed below:

- » Kemeny Recreation Center
- » Patton Recreation Center
- » RollerCade Indoor Skating Rink
- » Melvindale Civic Arena
- » Allen Park Civic Arena
- » Taylor Recreation Center
- » Game on Sports Center
- » Dearborn Ice Skating Center
- » Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
- » Dearborn Racquet and Health Club

REGIONAL PARKS

A wide variety of large park facilities with several recreational uses surround River Rouge. Comerica Park and Ford Field are under 100 acres, but both facilities play an integral role in providing top notch recreational opportunities. Heritage Park is located roughly six miles to the southwest of River Rouge in the City of Taylor. The facility features open green space, athletic fields, trails for walking and hiking, and a petting farm. Meanwhile, an array of facilities is located to the north of River Rouge in the City of Detroit. Rouge Valley Parkway and Eliza Howell parks are located adjacent to one another in the City's far western extent and provide scenic hiking and walking trails, while the historic and expansive Palmer Park is located along Woodward Avenue between Six- and Seven-Mile Roads. Other municipally maintained facilities accommodating specialized activities, including R. Herndon's Dearborn Hills Golf Club and Taylor Meadows Golf Club are located in surrounding areas.

The Huron-Clinton Metropark System is a regional authority operating in five counties in southeast Michigan to preserve natural landscapes and provide recreational opportunities. Four of the district's facilities, Willow Metropark, Lake Erie Metropark, Oakwoods Metropark, and the Lower Huron Metropark, are



RIVER ROUGE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
REGIONAL PARKS (100+ ACRES)

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, ESRI Basemap, Wayne County GIS



- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| City Boundary | Middle Rouge Parkway | Taylor Meadows Municipal Golf Course |
| State Roads | Lower Rouge Parkway | Riverview Highlands Golf Course |
| All Roads | Rouge Valley Parkway | R. Herndon's Dearborn Hills Golf Course |
| Railroads | Heritage Park | Tournament Players Club of Michigan |
| Rivers / Streams | Belle Isle Park | Lakes of Taylor Golf Club |
| Lakes / Ponds | Dearborn Country Club | |

each set on the Huron River. Although these parks are located further from River Rouge, their large expanse (over 1,000 acres each) and wide variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, swimming, and athletics, creates a regional draw.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

The River Rouge School District is located within City of River Rouge but hosts student from neighboring cities. There are four schools in the district: one high school, one middle school, one elementary school, and a STEM academy. Ann Visger Preparatory Academy is the district's elementary school and located along West Jefferson Street in the community's dense residential neighborhoods. Although the school property itself does not feature recreational amenities, Memorial Park is situated immediately north of the campus and includes youth-oriented play facilities. Meanwhile, Sabbath Middle School located further north in the community on Frazier Street features basketball and tennis courts as well as a playground. The high school students have the district's football field and track situated immediately west of the campus and

programmed for the high school's sports teams. The high school also features an indoor gymnasium, weightlifting room, and a pool that maintains a schedule for public use. The district's STEM Academy at Dunn, which is located four blocks northeast of the high school includes an outdoor basketball court. While the City does not maintain the school facilities, they still provide a wide range of recreational opportunities to the public and form a social center for the community.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The River Rouge Activity Center was formerly known as the Detroit Edison building. The Activity Center was developed into a Senior Center to provide a gathering space for older adults. The center offers Project Hope, Meals on Wheels, monthly food commodities, games, field trips, and a variety of civic services.

Youth sports leagues are run and funded by volunteers and donations. Holiday and special events are organized and funded by various nonprofit organizations.





GOALS & OBJECTIVES

IMPLEMENTATION

A parks and recreation master plan is the process for creating a framework for River Rouge's recreation system based on the inventory, community profile, community engagement, budget, and professional capacity. A list of goals and objectives are derived from these factors to serve as a guide for decision-makers when it is time to approve annual budgets or face difficult development trade offs. It is important to remember that parks and recreation are an essential component to a city. It is well documented through the National Recreation and Park Association that parks and recreation facilities improve residents' health and wellness and social equity. The conservation of land can also help in the fight against climate change by improving air quality through tree canopy coverage, reducing stormwater runoff, and the potential to protect the watershed through natural resource management.

"Increasing access to recreation facilities is an essential strategy for preventing childhood obesity."

"In distressed neighborhoods... where vacant lots are converted into small parks... residents in those neighborhoods reported significantly less stress and more exercise."

Source: NRPA Role of Parks and Recreation Health and Wellness



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives offer policy direction and framework for recreation providers. The goals and objectives were developed to be realistic to the financial, social, and physical realities of the City.

GOAL – A goal is the vision or idea of the future or results that are desired to be achieved. Goals are generally long-term concepts.

OBJECTIVE – Objectives are used to help reach your goals. Objectives are a series of precise steps that are measurable to achieve the goals.

ACTION PLAN - Action items are specific in nature and used as an organizational strategy to achieve the goals listed in the plan.

GOAL 1

Develop parks and recreation programs and facilities that reflect the needs of the community.

Objectives

- » Offer affordable youth programming.
- » Provide a wide variety of programs for people of all interests.
- » Seek sponsorships and alternative funding to offset program costs.
- » Solicit and apply for grants to provide recreation and cultural arts programs.
- » Design and implement facility improvements to existing park and recreation centers.

GOAL 2

Improve the park infrastructure and amenities that improves the park user's experience.

Objectives

- » Create and implement an annual maintenance plan for each park in the City.
- » Establish a campaign to increase park and recreation funding.

- » Eliminate existing barriers to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier free amenities and connectivity.
- » Replace or repair amenities that are outdated or unsafe.

GOAL 3

Improve the parks and recreation services and amenities through partnerships and collaborations.

Objectives

- » Continue coordination with the local schools and other recreation providers.
- » Partner with surrounding municipalities to pool resources for recreation opportunities.
- » Recruit and train volunteers to assist in program implementation.
- » Collaborate with area churches and non-profits to facilitate park maintenance and landscaping improvements.
- » Collaborate with public safety to enhance security in parks.
- » Continue coordination with volunteer youth sports organizations to provide facility upgrades.

GOAL 4

Increase public awareness of parks and recreation services and opportunities.

Objectives

- » Establish a unique identity for the park system through signage.
- » Build credibility through brand recognition.
- » Identify content and develop an effective marketing plan.





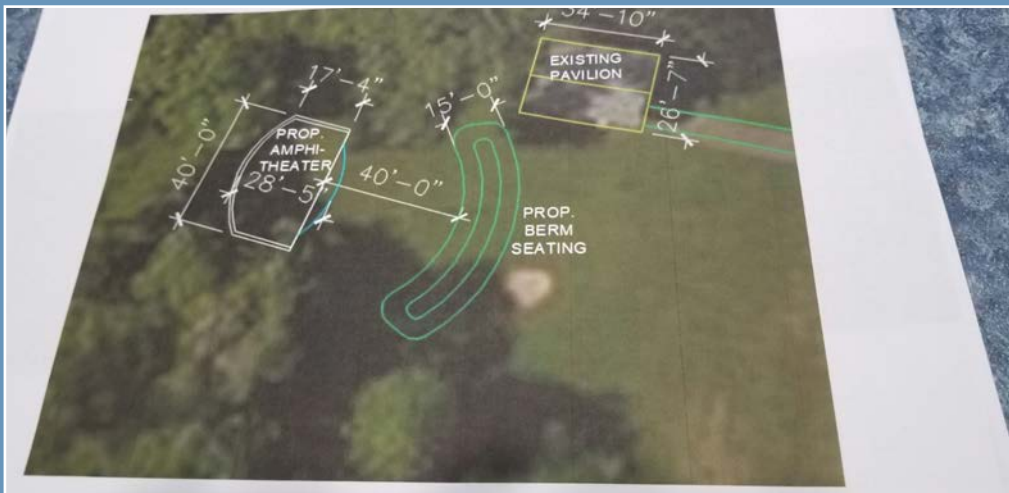
ACTION PROGRAM

The City of River Rouge has developed an achievable action plan for the next five years. The action item list prioritizes improvement projects and has established a timeline for completion.

Parks and Recreation Action Plan			
Park	Action Item	Goal	Priority
Activity Center	Design and implement building and parking renovations.	1	Medium
	Improve barrier free access.	2	High
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Anchor	Repair and improve playground components.	2	Medium
	Provide a paved pathway for accessibility.	2	Medium
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Beechwood Center	Basketball courts improvements.	2	Medium
	Design and implement building improvements.	1	High
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Belanger	Design and install amphitheater	2	High
	Install accessible picnic tables.	2	Low
	Install recycle bins.	2	Low
	Construct modern restrooms.	2	Medium
	Provide new signage at boat launch.	4	Low
	Repair and upgrade playground elements.	2	Medium
	Design and install accessible kayak launch.	2	Medium
	Extend fishing pier	2	Medium
Design and install new signage.	4	Low	
Bromley	Repair and upgrade playground elements.	2	Medium
	Improve barrier free amenities.	2	Medium
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Burke and Henry	Improve barrier free amenities.	2	Low
	Install new bench and picnic table with shade.	2	Medium
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Cicotte Park	Regrade infield on a biannual basis.	2	Medium
	Pave a path to spectator area.	2	Low
	Design and implement a soccer field.	2	Medium
	Design and install a driving range.	2	Low
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low

Cora	Repair, upgrade and add playground equipment	2	High
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Elm & Richter	Repair and upgrade playground elements.	2	High
	Add a cement pad for accessibility.	2	Low
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Great Lakes Field	Add hitting nets.	3	Medium
	Design and construct new ball diamonds.	2	Medium
	Design and construct restrooms and concession building.	2	Medium
	Add netting for foul ball protection.	3	Medium
	Develop a walking track around the perimeter of the field.	2	Medium
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Harris	Install new fencing.	3	Medium
	Repave parking area and add accessible parking.	2	Medium
	Add drainage throughout the park.	3	High
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
	Add driving range.	2	Medium
	Design and implement soccer field.	2	Medium
	Update the track.	2	Low
	Create a new dog park. Design areas for small dogs and larges, benches, water station.	2	High
Jefferson Bridge Area	Create a fishing area.	2	Medium
	Design and install a kayak launch.	2	Medium
	Add benches.	2	Medium
Maple Street	Install benches on concrete pad off of the sidewalk.	2	Low
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Memorial Park	Improve basketball courts.	2	Medium
	Repair and upgrade playground elements including inclusive and accessible elements.	2	High
	Add fitness equipment in the park.	2	Medium
	Design and implement accessibility improvements.	2	Medium
	Replace and repair fencing throughout the park.	2	Medium
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
Teen Center	Design and implement building and parking renovations.	1	High
	Provide barrier free amenities.	2	Medium
	Design and install new signage.	4	Low
	Design and implement a dance studio	1	High

Proposed Improvements to Belanger Park





PLAN ADOPTION & TRANSMITTALS

letter of transmittal



Date: 12.11.19
From: Carrie Klingelsmith
To: Wayne County
Economic Development
500 Griswold Street
Detroit, MI 48226
Project: City of River Rouge Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Enclosed: Final Adopted City of River Rouge Parks and Recreation Master Plan

 *i*
initiative

Remarks:

Please find enclosed an electronic format of the final adopted draft of the City of River Rouge Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your review.

Sincerely,



Carrie Klingelsmith
Project Professional

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
535 West William, Suite 101
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Petoskey Office
616 Petoskey St., Suite 100
Petoskey, MI 49770

Traverse City Office
921 West 11th St., Suite 2E
Traverse City, MI 49684

Toledo
419.242.3428 ph

734 663.2622 ph
734 663.6759 fx

231 347.2523 ph
231 347.2524 fx

231 933.8400 ph
231 944.1709 fx

www.bria2.com

letter of transmittal



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APPENDIX

Post Completion Self Certification Forms - MDNR

Public Input Sessions and Results

Ad for Public Review

Ad for Public Hearing

City Council Meeting Minutes

Public Comments

MDNR Checklist



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [X] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of River Rouge

PROJECT NUMBER: BF91-206

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Milton Center Restoration

PROJECT SCOPE: Replace roof & boiler; correct electrical & plumbing violations/water d

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: City of River Rouge, Tina Laginess, Councilwoman, 10600 West Jefferson Avenue, 313-842-8700, River Rouge, MI 48218, tlaginess@cityofriverrouge.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Monthly maintenance

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
We are currently evaluating hours and programs for site.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<i>I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.</i>		
<u>Karl J. Laub</u> Please print	 Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>10/4/19</u> Date
<u>Carrie Klingel Smith</u> Please print	 Witness Signature	<u>10/4/19</u> Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of River Rouge

PROJECT NUMBER: TF95-172

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Belanger Park Redevelopment Plan

PROJECT SCOPE: Improvements to Belanger Park.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of River Rouge	Contact Person Tina Laginess	Title Councilwoman
Address 10600 West Jefferson Avenue	Telephone 313-842-8700	
City, State, ZIP River Rouge, MI 48218	Email tlaginess@cityofriverrouge.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). Yes No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) Yes No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. Yes No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. Yes No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. Yes No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
 Monthly maintenance _____

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
 See below in the comment box. _____

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Park entry fees
 Resident: 1.00 daily 5.00 yearly
 \$1.00 yearly senior citizens
 Non Resident: 10.00 daily 45.00 yearly
 Boat launch fees
 Residents: 5.00 daily 25.00 yearly
 15.00 senior citizens yearly
 Non-residents: 15.00 daily 100.00 yearly

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION


I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

karl J. Laub
Please print


Grantee Authorized Signature

10/4/19
Date

Carrie Klingelsmith
Please print


Witness Signature

10/4/19
Date

**Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [X] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of River Rouge

PROJECT NUMBER: BF89-465 PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Recreation Center Roof

PROJECT SCOPE: Reroof ice arena/community building.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: City of River Rouge, Tina Laginess, Councilwoman, 10600 West Jefferson Avenue, 313-842-8700, River Rouge, MI 48218, tlaginess@cityofriverrouge.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [X] Yes [] No
The facility is obsolete do to failing structure and outdated mechanical systems.

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No
The facility has mold issues and and has been declared unsafe by the building dept.

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.
The building is unsafe for regular maintenance

Yes No

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Building is closed.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<i>I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.</i>		
<u>Karl J. Laub</u> Please print	 Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>10/4/19</u> Date
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