

# City of River Rouge Parks and Recreation Plan

2025-2029



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# Executive Summary

## Context

The City of River Rouge is a strong, connected, and vibrant community in southeast Michigan. The community’s commitment to well-being is exemplified through its robust parks and recreation system. This system enhances ecological function, provides a space for gathering and play, celebrates historical and cultural identity, and highlights the natural features of unique waterfront vistas. To maintain eligibility for Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants, communities are required to update their Parks and Recreation Plan every five years. This plan update will position River Rouge to maintain grant eligibility and promote the continued enhancement of parks and recreation services.

## Overview

The parks and recreation assessment indicated that the City has a diverse and well-maintained range of parks and recreation offerings. Most of the City has access to a nearby park facility. Most facilities are in good condition with minimal hazards; however, all could benefit from accessibility improvements. Overall goals and specific recommendations from on-site inventories and assessments highlight the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the system.

## Methodology

This plan uses census data, spatial data (e.g., GIS), on-site field research, and community engagement survey results. On-site field research was organized into three categories: facilities, accessibility, and sustainability. The team conducted 14 parks and recreation inventories in February and March of 2024.

- The **Facilities inventory** addresses the physical assets, such as benches and play structures.
  - The **Accessibility inventory** evaluates any barriers to access and play for all ages and abilities, following the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.
  - The **Sustainability inventory** observes the natural assets and infrastructure to facilitate resilience, ecological support, and healthy environments. The sustainability inventory is not required by the MDNR, but it aligns with broader City goals and was thus included.

Figure 1: Parks and Recreation System Categorical Designations

Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Tot Lots
Belanger Park Bryant Park Cicotte Park Great Lakes Field Memorial Park John Jakubowski Park	Burke & Henry Green Space Maple Street Park	Bromley Tot Lot Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot Division & Anchor Tot Lot Elm & Richter Tot Lot Maple & Goodell Tot Lot Polk Avenue Tot Lot

## Recommendations

The Parks and Recreation Plan recommends improvements to the parks and recreation system of River Rouge, while considering its current strengths. This information provides the City with an initial assessment to make informed decisions for the future of its community. The following goals speak to a long-term vision for River Rouge:

1. Enhance the local and regional park and facility system.
2. Improve the conditions of existing parks and facilities.
3. Promote climate-resilient parks and facilities.
4. Foster economic development through parks to encourage tourism.
5. Ensure that parks and facilities meet the needs of all residents, regardless of age and ability.

Each broad goal has a series of associated objectives and action items to guide implementation. Objectives are desired outcomes; action items are specific steps to take to achieve the objectives and goals. Below is an example of how they relate to one another:

- **Goal:** Enhance the local and regional park and recreation system.
- **Objective:** Execute a signage and wayfinding program across parks. ● **Action Item:** Require signage at each park and recreation facility.

Strengths of the parks and recreation system include high levels of maintenance, few hazards, and the use of certain natural resources such as the waterfront at Belanger Park. Opportunities for growth include improved lighting across parks, increased signage, repaved sidewalks, and elimination of barriers to access play areas.

## Capital Improvement Plan

The five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) provides recommendations for each park and recreation facility. The team estimated costs and timeframes to demonstrate the capacity needed to execute each improvement. Estimated cost ranges are organized as follows: \$ = < \$99,999, \$\$ = \$100,000-299,999, \$\$\$ = < \$300,000. The estimated duration is organized by short- (<2 years), medium- (2-4 years) and long-term (5+ years). There is no prioritization scheme in the CIP; the information provides City administration with information to assess future needs and priorities.

## Introduction

This River Rouge Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared to guide the development of parks and recreation facilities across the community over the next five years, from 2025 to 2029. It is intended to reflect the needs of the community by evaluating the current condition of the City's parks facilities and incorporating public input. The following aspects of the City's parks were evaluated:

- **Facilities:** physical assets, including all infrastructure and current conditions
- **Accessibility:** compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards
- **Sustainability:** key natural features, green stormwater infrastructure, and climate adaptation and mitigation measures

Grants from entities like the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) play an important role in providing the funds needed to undertake park improvements in River Rouge. This plan contains the necessary components to comply with the MDNR requirements for a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan, with the intent of maintaining the City of River Rouge's eligibility for funding to support parks and recreation projects.

This plan is structured to align with the format and contents prescribed by the MDNR guidelines. Audiences may have particular needs and preferences in reading this plan; readers are encouraged to read the plan in the order most appropriate for their purposes.



*The waterfront gazebo of Belanger Park.*



*Flag at Memorial Park.*

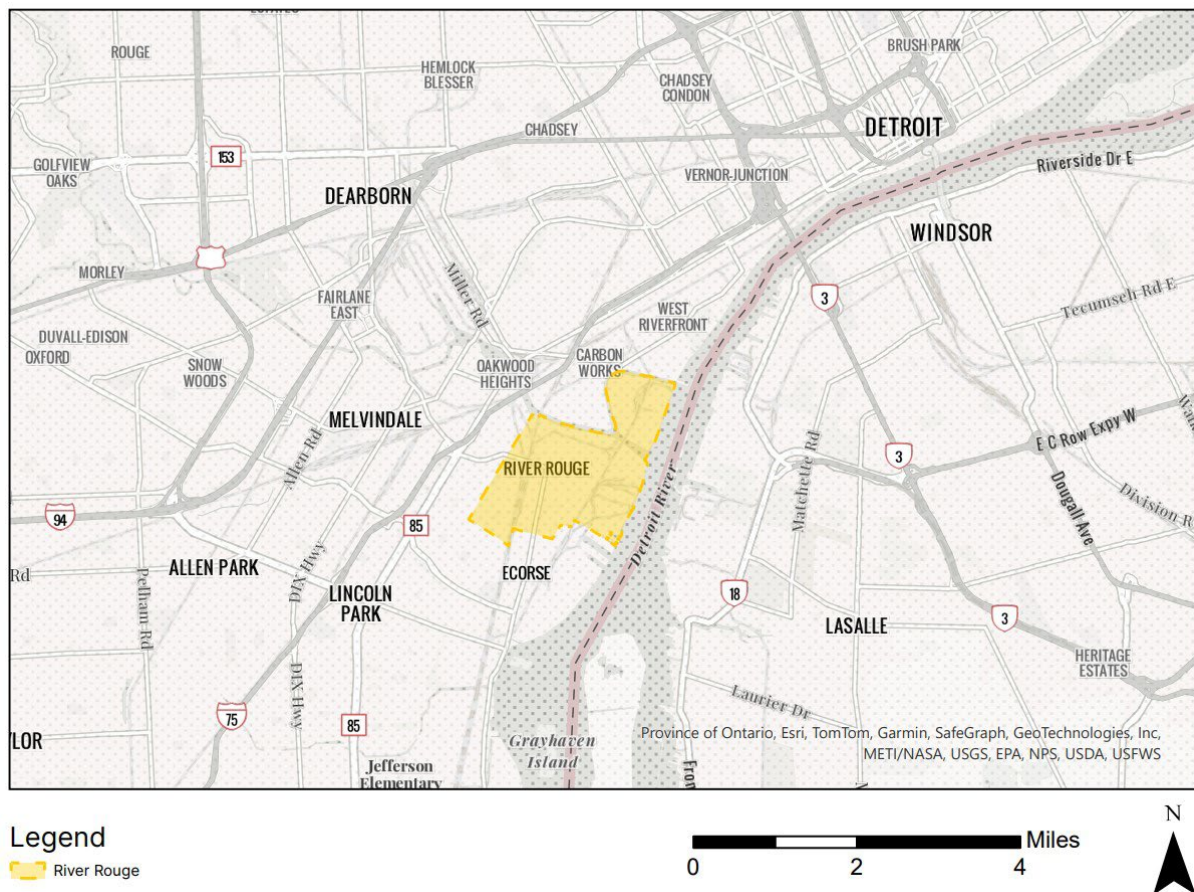


## Community Description

River Rouge is a diverse community with strong local pride. Situated in Wayne County, Michigan, the city encompasses 2.65 miles of land adjacent to the City of Detroit. River Rouge is one of the “downriver communities,” as a result of its geographic position down the Detroit River from Detroit. In addition to Detroit, River Rouge also borders Ecorse, another downriver community.

River Rouge has a rich industrial history, borne out of its advantageous position between the copper ore from Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and coal from eastern states.<sup>1</sup> Today, industry is still a dominant part of River Rouge, as power generation and manufacturing plants occupy a significant portion of the land at the periphery. Residential and commercial land uses are found closer to the thoroughfare of West Jefferson Avenue in the middle of town.

Figure 2. Regional Location



<sup>1</sup> “History of River Rouge.” City of River Rouge. Accessed April 9, 2024. <https://cityofriverrouge.com/history-of-river-rouge/>.

## Physical Characteristics

River Rouge is located in southeast Michigan and is bordered to the east by the Detroit River. It is also bordered to the north by the Rouge River. The Rouge River forks to separate Zug Island from the rest of the city before feeding into the Detroit River. Belanger Park is located on the Detroit River, capitalizing on its position by featuring a riverwalk and boat launch. The rest of the riverfront is occupied by industrial companies, including the Detroit Edison (DTE) Power Plant, US Steel, Shell Oil Products, and more.

River Rouge, like most of Michigan, has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons. Summers are warm and humid (July has an average high of 80.1°F), and winters are cold and snowy (January has an average low of 19.4°F, and an average of 6.02 inches of snow accumulates from November to May).<sup>2</sup> Parks planning requires planning maintenance for all seasons. Infrastructure must be able to withstand the cold, wet winters, and planning efforts should attempt to activate park spaces in all seasons.

River Rouge falls within a temperate deciduous forest biome. The predominant forest type is historically Maple Beech. As parks can provide open space and natural features, understanding the types of vegetation in the area can help guide planning for sustainability and landscaping.



*John Jakubowski Park.*

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<sup>2</sup> "Yearly & Monthly Weather - River Rouge, MI." Weather U.S. Accessed April 9, 2024. <https://www.weather-us.com/en/michigan-usa/river-rouge-climate>.

## Existing Land Use Characteristics

River Rouge's land area is mainly industrial and residential uses, with some commercial, public space, and mixed-use areas. Much of the industrial land is occupied by large power generation manufacturing plants. The residential areas are mostly low-density, single-family homes. Figure 3 shows the existing land uses in River Rouge.

Figure 3. Land Use



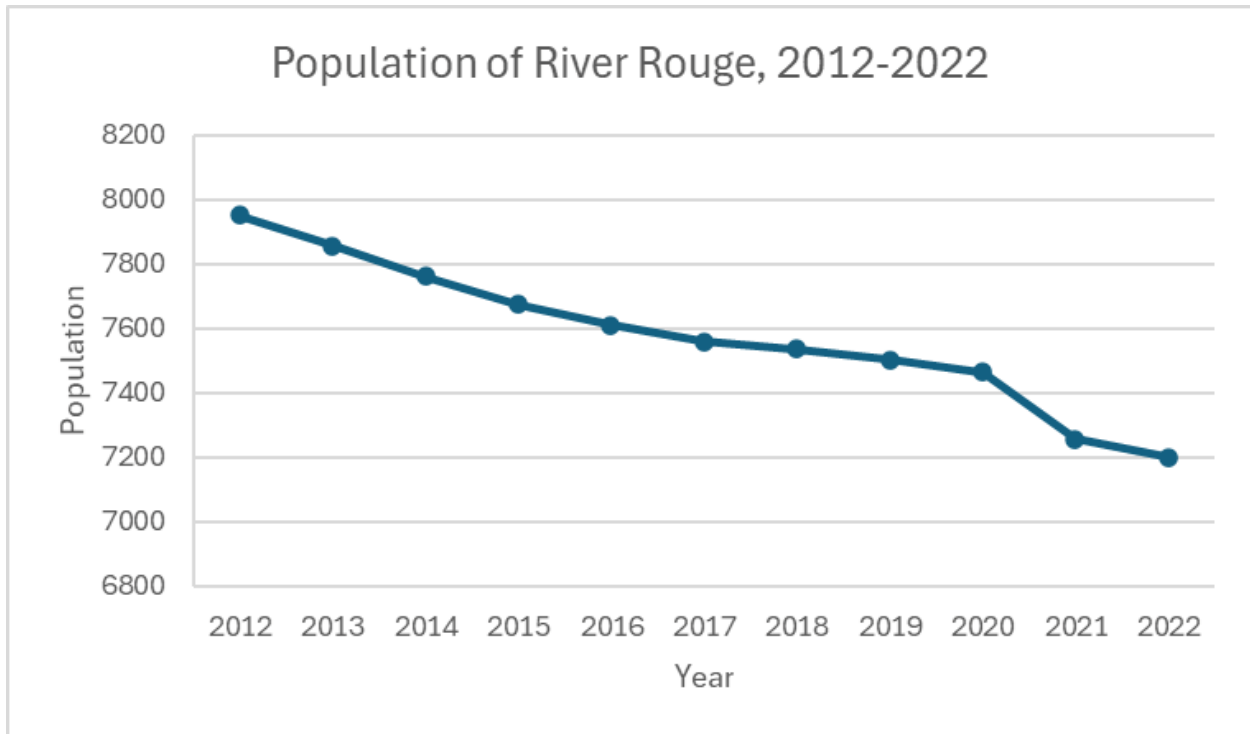
## Demographics

Understanding the demographic trends of River Rouge helps to plan for parks and recreation in an accessible, representative manner. These trends provide insight into the expected number of users of parks and recreation facilities, and what types of infrastructure and programming will provide the most benefit to residents. Unless otherwise noted, all data are sourced from the 2012 and 2022 American Community Surveys from the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Population

The size of the River Rouge population guides analysis of the existing parks' ability to fulfill the community's needs. A growing population indicates that the City may need to consider creating new parks or otherwise developing them to accommodate new residents, while a stable or declining population likely indicates that investment can be directed to maintaining and filling gaps in existing parks and recreation needs. Between 2012 and 2022, the population of River Rouge decreased by about 9.4% from 7,951 people to 7,200, indicating a decline.

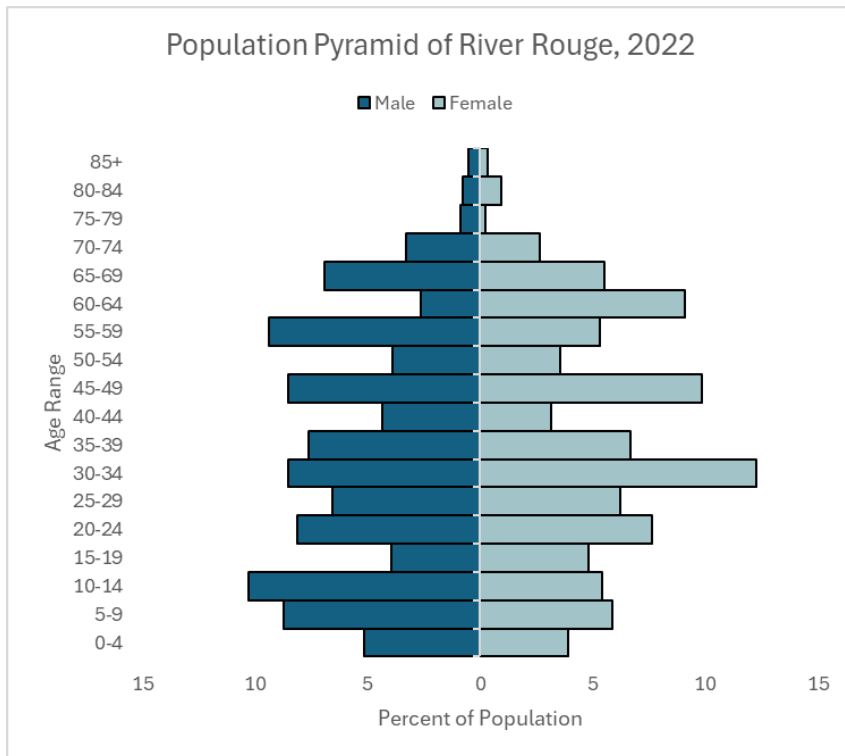
Figure 4. Population



## Age Structure

Communities with a larger proportion of younger residents will have different parks and recreation preferences and needs than those with older age distributions. River Rouge has a median age of 34.9 (younger than the median age of the State of Michigan at 40.3), and its age distribution has several peaks and troughs between the age groups from 5-9 to 65-69, showing a population with wide age diversity. As a result, River Rouge needs a variety of parks and recreation facilities to provide services to residents of all ages and allow them to harmoniously enjoy public spaces together.

Figure 5. Age Structure



## Race

River Rouge has a racially diverse population, with no race composing a majority as of 2022. The two most prevalent races are Black (46.3%) and white (36.6%). The Black population, however, has decreased since 2012, falling nearly 10% from 55.6%. Understanding the racial makeup of the community helps ensure that parks and recreation are developed in a manner that is inclusive for all. In particular, it is vital to ensure that parks and recreation facilities are distributed equitably through all the neighborhoods in the City.

Figure 6. Race and Ethnicity of River Rouge, Wayne County, and the State of Michigan

Year	State (Michigan)		County (Wayne)		City (River Rouge)	
	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022
Population	9,897,264	10,057,921	1,822,469	1,781,641	7,951 ±26	7200 ±25
White (%)	79.3 ±0.1%	75.7 ±0.1%	52.7 ±0.1%	50.8 ±0.1%	38.6 ±5.3%	36.6 ±7.6%
African-American or Black (%)	14.1 ±0.1%	13.6 ±0.1%	40.5 ±0.1%	37.6 ±0.2%	55.6 ±5.6%	46.3 ±7.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native (%)	0.6 ±0.1%	0.5 ±0.1%	0.3 ±0.1%	0.3 ±0.1%	0.1 ±0.1%	0.2 ±0.3%
Two or more races (%)	2.4 ±0.1%	5.4 ±0.1%	2.2 ±0.1%	5.2 ±0.2%	1.9 ±1.3%	16.1 ±5.4%
Hispanic (%)	4.4 ±0.1%	5.5%	5.2%	6.3%	6.8 ±2.8%	15.5 ±5.0%

## Household Characteristics

Household characteristics can provide insight into the demographic makeup of a community. Larger households likely have more children. Higher rent or home values potentially indicate that a population is wealthier or that properties in the area are in high demand. Outside of its industrial uses, the majority of River Rouge’s land area is residential. Over half of housing units are owner-occupied, but this has decreased from 58.7% to 50.5% between 2012 and 2022. The average household size has been fairly stable at 2.48 people. Understanding these characteristics offer important insights for parks development. Houses with children might seek more playground facilities.

Homeownership may indicate whether a family expects to spend a long time in the area and the kinds of public amenities they seek.



(Photo) Homes on Elm Street in River Rouge.

Figure 7. Household Characteristics

	2012 Population	2022 Population
<i>Total Housing Units</i>	3,826 ± 257	3,479 ± 305
<i>Owner-Occupied Housing Units (%)</i>	58.7 ± 4.9%	50.5 ± 6.8%
<i>Average Household Size</i>	2.74 ± 0.17	2.48 ± 0.28
<i>Median House Value (\$)</i>	49,600 ± 8,994	49,200 ± 10,482
<i>Median Gross Rent (\$)</i>	644 ± 98	731 ± 36
<i>Median Number of Rooms</i>	5.2 ± 0.1	5.2 ± 0.2

## Disability Status

Making parks and recreation facilities accessible to all is necessary to create an inclusive community. Inclusive parks and recreation facilities allow all residents to feel welcome and to recreate side-by-side. Understanding the proportion of the community's population with disabilities, and most common disabilities, allows park planners to plan for accessibility. Figure 8 shows six different disability categories and the corresponding number of people falling into this category in River Rouge in 2022.

The most common disability statuses in River Rouge are cognitive and ambulatory difficulties. Parks and recreation planning, therefore, should pay particular mind to increasing accessibility for these individuals. Ambulatory difficulties can be provided for through level, paved surfaces to ensure access with mobility devices. Cognitive difficulties can be addressed by a variety of means, particularly clear and legible signage that follows universal design principles.

*Figure 8. Population with a Disability*

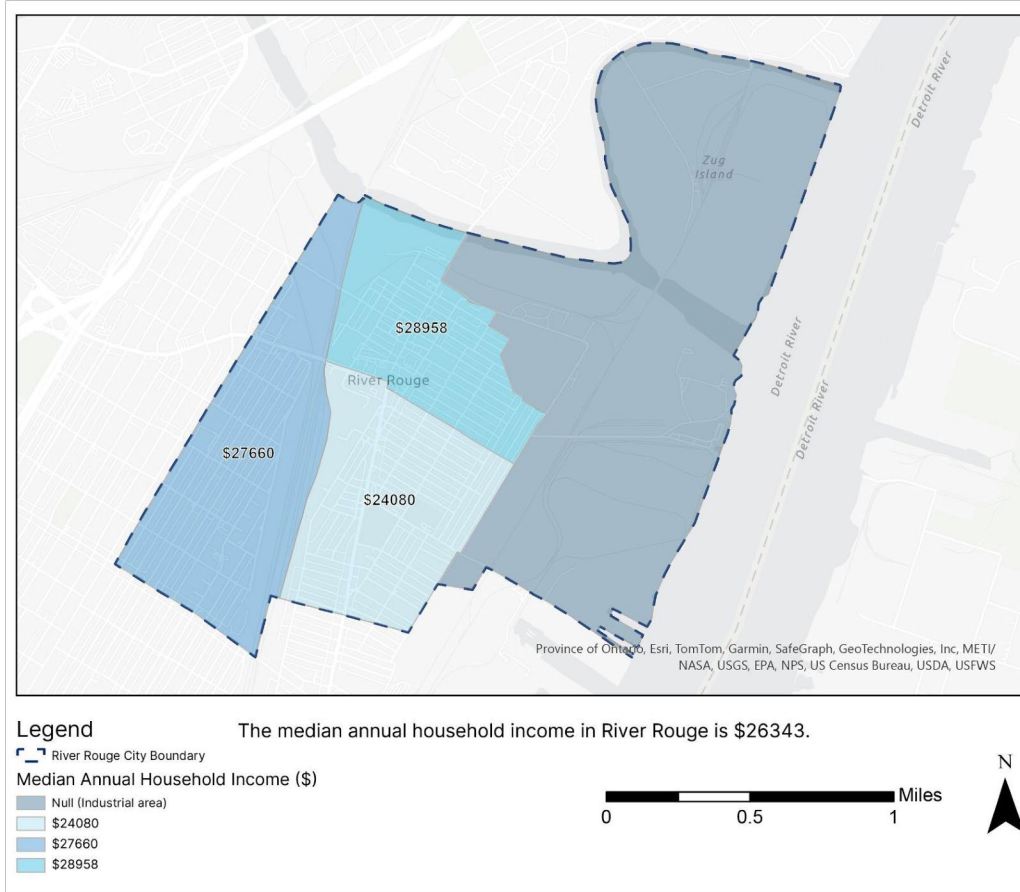
<b>Disability Type</b>	<b>2022 Population</b>
Hearing Difficulty	297 ± 118
Vision Difficulty	436 ± 157
Cognitive Difficulty	659 ± 191
Ambulatory Difficulty	640 ± 180
Self-Care Difficulty	220 ± 107
Independent Living Difficulty	563 ± 156
Total Disabled Population (%)	17.6%



## Income

Understanding the socioeconomic characteristics of a community prioritizes different types of parks facilities and programming. In some communities, public park resources provide a significant benefit to residents, providing access to open space and facilities that residents might not otherwise have access to. Knowing these socioeconomic demographics informs decision-making processes about what community resources are most needed.

Figure 9. Annual Median Household Income by Census Tract



## Employment and Industry

River Rouge has a rich history with industry, and much of the land is occupied by industrial uses, including power generation plants and steel mills. Many of the city’s inhabitants work in industry, although the workforce is diverse. This plan promotes a parks system that provides resources to individuals working in all industries, integrated with River Rouge’s land use.

Figure 10. Economic and Educational Indicators

	2012 Population	2022 Population	2012 Population	2022 Population	2012 Population	2022 Population
<i>Median Household Income (\$)</i>	48,471 ±188	68,505 ±307	41,504 ±348	57,223 ±563	26,588 ±2164	26,343 ±7362
<i>Families in Poverty (%)</i>	11.7 ±0.1%	8.8 ±0.1%	18.8 ±0.3%	15.3 ±0.4%	31.3 ±6.9%	36.7 ±9.0%

# Administrative Structure, Funding, and Programming

## Administrative Structure

The River Rouge parks and recreation program is managed by the City Council. During the 2020-2024 parks and recreation planning cycle, the former Recreation Commission was absorbed into the City Council. As a result, the City Council oversees and plans for parks and recreation initiatives. It delegates responsibility to the Department of Public Works to implement the maintenance and development of parks and recreation resources in the City.

The Superintendent of the Department of Public Works and the Recreation Maintenance Supervisor implement parks and recreation policy on a day-to-day basis through park maintenance. Field crews are hired to manage facilities. One attendant is also hired on a seasonal basis to serve as the guard and collect fees for Belanger Park.

## Parks and Recreation Funding

Parks and recreation funding is sourced from the City’s general budget, which is mostly derived from property taxes. This funding supports staff needs and park maintenance. The community plans to pursue additional grant funding to supplement the community’s own funding. The following metrics on expenditures for parks and recreation come from the City of River Rouge 2022-2023 Proposed Budget.

Figure 11. Recreation Expenditures

	2020-2021 (actual)	2021-2022 (projected)	2022-2023 (projected)	2023-2024 (projected)	2024-2025 (projected)
Recreation	\$184,710	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000

## Grant History

The following table displays MDNR grant funding received by the City of River Rouge for parks and recreation improvements.

Figure 12. MDNR Grant History

Year	Facility	Grant Number	Purpose	Amount
1989	Recreation Center (Roof)	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
1991	Milton Center (Restoration)	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
1995	Belanger Park	TF95-172	Redevelopment Plan for gazebo, landscaping, paved parking, trail, playground equipment, restrooms.	\$375,000
<b>Total:</b>				<b>\$636,450</b>

In addition to MDNR grant funding, the 2023-2024 Michigan general omnibus state budget included a \$500,000 award of environmental remediation funding for the City. This impacts Belanger Park, which is currently undergoing remediation.

## Programming Collaborations

Several parks and recreation programming partnerships exist between the City and public and private entities:

- Civic organizations such as Vision of the Youth provide assistance and leadership in community events, while providing community involvement opportunities for youth in River Rouge.
- Public bodies such as the River Rouge Economic Development Corporation contribute to programming throughout the community.
- The River Rouge School District partners with the City on parks and recreation programming and events, and maintains recreation facilities at their school properties.
- Additionally, community businesses (including industrial facility owners and some marijuana dispensaries) provide community benefits. These benefits include support of events and support of infrastructure such as tot lots.
- River Rouge was also included in a community benefits agreement for the new Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting Michigan to Canada. This support will fund an observation deck at Belanger Park.<sup>3</sup>



*Waterfront view from Belanger Park, including the construction of the Gordie Howe Bridge.*

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<sup>3</sup> "Observation deck to offer visitors rare view of Gordie Howe Bridge construction," Emma Keith, Detroit Free Press, June 21, 2019, <https://eu.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2019/06/21/river-rouge-gordie-howe-bridge-observationdeck/1522875001/>.

# Parks and Recreation Inventory and Assessment

## Assessment of Parks and Recreational Facilities

The following is a comprehensive inventory and assessment of River Rouge’s parks and recreation facilities. Each inventory assessed acreage, general purpose, service area, facilities, accessibility, and sustainability. This section also includes a description of recreation programs, public school facilities, and historical recreation sites, and a compilation of regional and private recreation facilities that could be used by River Rouge residents.

The following maps show the locations of parks and recreation facilities owned by the City of River Rouge, as well as the intended service areas for each park facility. Figures 14 and 15, in particular, demonstrate that the majority of residential areas in the city are served by one or more parks. The exception is a small region in the southwestern corner, which is near the nonprofit-run Walter White playground. *Figure 13. City-Owned Park Locations*

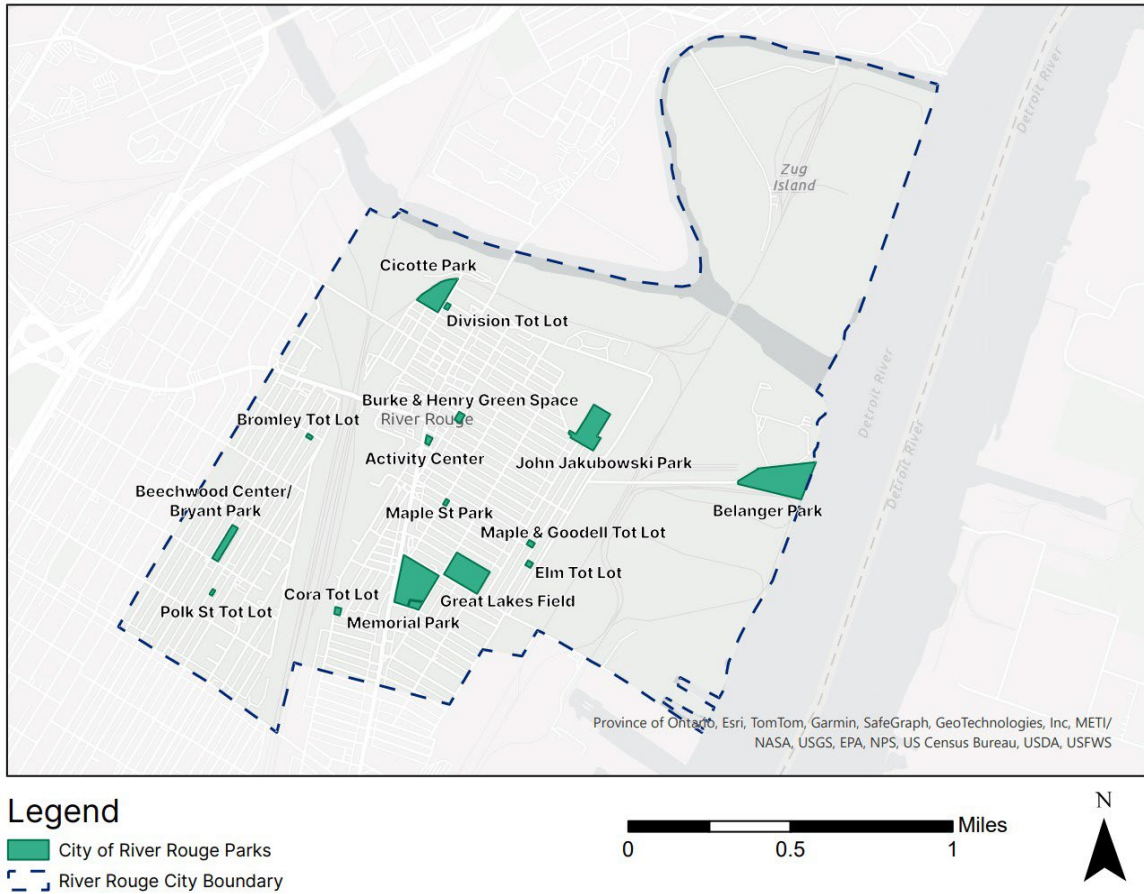
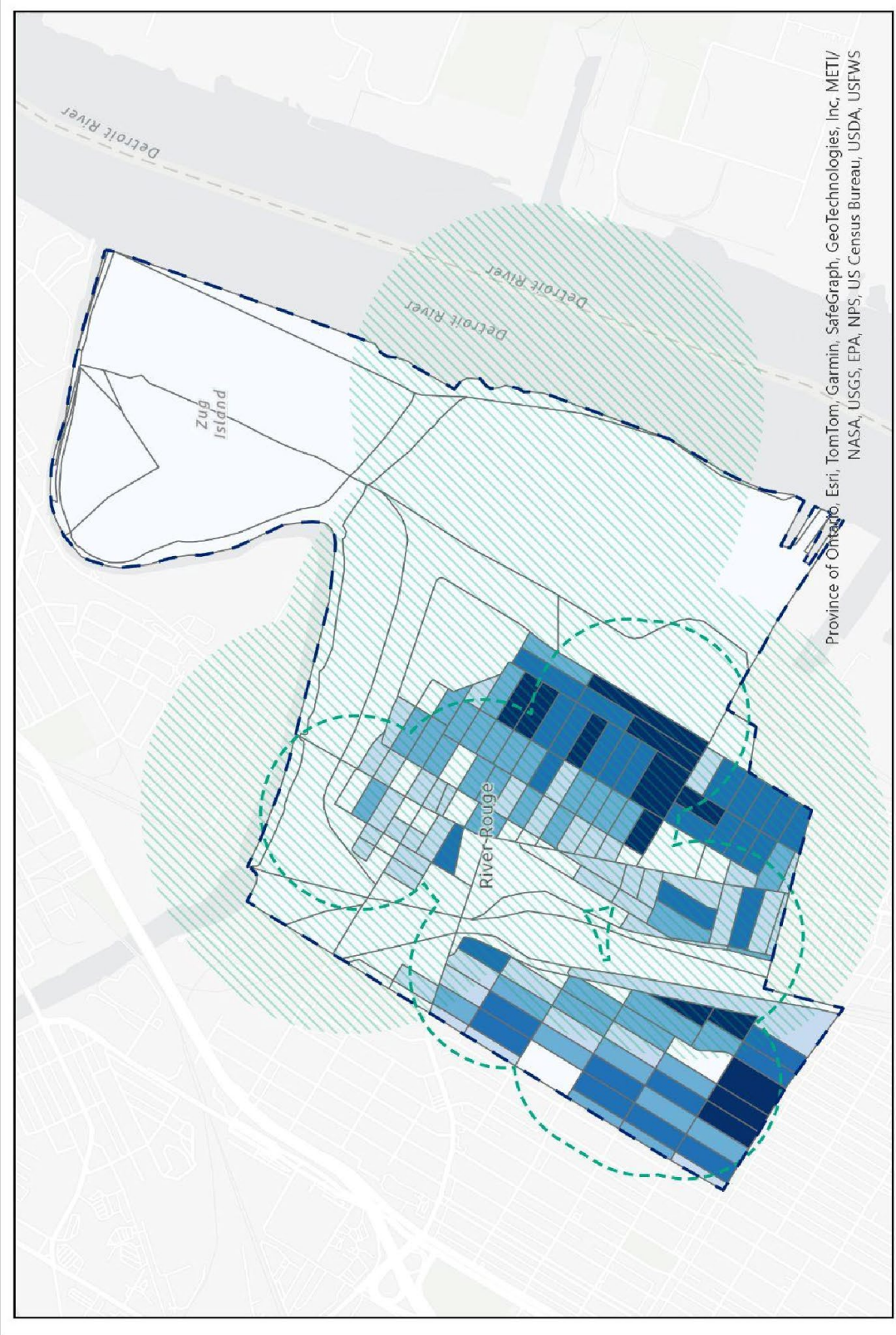


Figure 14. Park Service Area










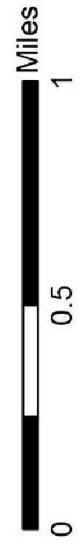
Figure 15. Overlay of Population and Park Service Area



Province of Ontario, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/  
NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

**Legend**

-  0.25 Mile Service Area (Mini Park)
  -  0.5 Mile Service Area (Neighborhood Park)
  -  River Rouge City Boundary
- Population**
-  0 - 17
  -  18 - 40
  -  41 - 61
  -  62 - 94
  -  95 - 144





## Park Categories

This assessment divides the River Rouge parks into three categories based on size, facilities, and purpose: Active Recreation Parks, Passive Recreation Parks and Tot Lots. These definitions are not official MDNR categorizations.

- **Active Recreation Parks:** Medium-sized or large parks that provide directed play opportunities through their facilities. Active recreation parks have one or more play structures or sports facilities.
- **Passive Recreation Parks:** Facilities that are primarily open space for unstructured use. They may have seating areas, such as benches, but they do not provide physical infrastructure to use in play.
- **Tot Lots:** Small parks, typically with one modular play structure. Some tot lots have an additional swing set or spring rider. These parks are located in a neighborhood on one or two City-owned lots, often on a corner. Sidewalks connect the tot lot to the surrounding neighborhood.

Figure 1 (repeated). Park Categorization

Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Tot Lots
Belanger Park Bryant Park Cicotte Park Great Lakes Field Memorial Park John Jakubowski Park	Burke & Henry Green Space Maple Street Park	Bromley Tot Lot Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot Division & Anchor Tot Lot Elm & Richter Tot Lot Maple & Goodell Tot Lot Polk Avenue Tot Lot

## Evaluating ADA Compliance

ADA standards ensure that individuals of all ages and abilities can access facilities and recreate with their peers. Each park inventory included a checklist of ADA compliance standards, and each park received a score based on how well it met the standards. The inventory evaluated accessibility considerations in River Rouge’s parks and recreation facilities, including the condition of sidewalks and paved pathways, availability of accessible parking, lighting, slopes, benches, and recreational facilities. A summary of each park’s performance is provided in Figure 17, and further described in Appendix D.

Figure 16. DNR Accessibility Grading System

Accessibility Grading	Definition
1	None of the facility/park meets accessibility guidelines.
2	Some of the facility/park meets accessibility guidelines.
3	Most of the facility/park meets accessibility guidelines.
4	The entire facility/park meets accessibility guidelines.
5	The entire facility/park was developed using the principles of universal design.

Figure 17. Accessibility Grades

Grade	Parks and Recreation Facilities
1	Cicotte Park
1	Tot Lots: Bromley
2	Bryant Park
2	Burke & Henry Green Space
2	Great Lakes Park
2	John Jakubowski Park
2	Maple Street Park
2	Memorial Park

2	Tot Lots: Cora & Haltiner, Division & Anchor, Elm & Richter, Maple & Goodell, Polk Avenue
3	Belanger Park
4	N/A
5	N/A



# Analysis of Existing Facilities

## Active Recreation Parks

### Belanger Park

9.5 acres

1 Belanger Park Drive



*The waterfront of Belanger Park.*

### General Use

- Belanger Park is a keystone park, providing a public waterfront and boat launch.
- Belanger Park allows residents and visitors to view the water, as well as the construction of the Gordie Howe Bridge and the existing Ambassador Bridge.
- Belanger Park is an access point for the Lower Rouge River and Detroit Heritage River Water Trails.
- Part of the park was closed at the time of assessment due to remediation of environmental contamination. Remediation is being conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and City of River Rouge.<sup>4 5</sup>**Facilities**

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<sup>4</sup> Ongoing Assessment at Belanger Park, Great Lakes Athletic Fields and John Jakubowski Park in River Rouge, *Telegram News*, August 15, 2023 <https://www.telegramnews.net/story/2023/08/31/news/ongoing-assessment-at-belanger-park-great-lakes-athletic-fields-and-john-jakubowski-park-in-river-rouge-update-august-15-2023/2393.html>.

<sup>5</sup> EPA Begins Contaminated Soil Cleanup at Belanger Park in River Rouge, Michigan, Allison Lippert, Environmental

Belanger Park includes a boat launch operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. River Rouge maintains waterfront seating and internal park space.

Amenities include:

- Large two-story tiered modular play structure
- 5 sets of swings
- 7 BBQs
- 27 benches
- 15 picnic tables
- Concession building
- Portable restrooms, including one ADA-compliant restroom
- 3 waterfront bench swings
- 1 permanent shade structure
- 1 waterfront gazebo
- Trash cans
- Fishing pier
- Boat launch
- Large parking lot to accommodate boat trailer parking

### **Accessibility Assessment**

Proposed Rating: 3

Overview: Belanger Park is accessible, but could benefit from further accessibility improvements.

- Rest Areas: Benches are present throughout the park. Two gazebos provide shade.
- Navigation: The parking lot is linked to the sidewalk, aiding navigation by individuals using mobility devices. There are few steep slopes in the park.
- Lighting: The park is well-lit by the waterfront, with less lighting elsewhere.
- Play Area: The play area was difficult to survey, as the site was closed due to environmental remediation. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices. The play area is separated from the paved area by grass and a plastic barrier.
- Accessible Features: The park contains accessibility improvements, including a ramp to the waterfront gazebo with a handrail and landing area. There are three portable toilets, one of which is accessible. The steps to the lighthouse include a full-length handrail.
- Belanger Park is listed on Google Maps with pictures.

## Sustainability Assessment

- The park lacks stormwater management practices like rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements to decrease runoff and pollution.
- The park lacks native, low-maintenance plants that would provide ecological benefits.
- The park lacks bicycle racks and public transit options.
- The park has no clearly labeled recycling and compost bins.

## MDNR Grant Funding Update

Belanger Park received MDNR grant funds (\$375,000) in 1995 for a redevelopment plan that included a gazebo, landscaping, paved parking, trail, playground equipment, and the addition of restrooms. Belanger Park has updated play equipment, pavement, and a gazebo with an accessible ramp. This funding has benefited the park by contributing to improvements that have since been maintained.



*MDNR Grant Signage near the boat launch.*



*Signage at the entrance to Belanger Park.*





## Bryant Park and McDonald Playground

1.58 acres

400 block of Beechwood Street



*Sign at Bryant Park.*



*McDonald Playground.*

### General Use

- Bryant Park and the adjacent McDonald Playground are large, recently updated park facilities within a residential neighborhood.
- Facilities include a basketball court, play structures, and adequate shade and rest areas.

### Facilities

Facilities were upgraded in the 2020-2024 parks and recreation planning cycle.

Amenities include:

- Modular play structure
- Merry-go-round
- 2 spring riders
- 3 swing sets
- 2 climbing structures
- 2 small play features
- Picnic table with permanent shade structure
- 3 benches
- 2 four square courts
- Basketball court
- 5 sets of portable bleachers
- BBQ
- Trash cans

## Accessibility Assessment

Proposed Rating: 2

Overview: Bryant Park could benefit from continued accessibility improvements.

- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Navigation: Sidewalks are narrower than 60 inches, but have been recently updated. There are limited slopes, but some larger slopes near the swing set.
- Play Area: The play area is surrounded by a small, raised barrier. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices.

## Sustainability Assessment

- Native planting beds reduce water consumption and maintenance demands.
- Shade is provided by trees located on the edge and the interior. ● This park lacks bicycle racks and recycling bins.



*The basketball courts at Bryant Park.*

## Cicotte Park

1.5 acres

72 W Cicotte Street



*Sign at Cicotte Park.*

### General Use

- Cicotte Park is a large open space with a baseball field. It is located within a neighborhood but near a main business corridor.
- This park could be used for softball, soccer, or other activities suitable to a large space.
- There are partial sidewalk connections to this park.

### Facilities

Amenities include:

- Portable restrooms
- 1 baseball field with dugouts and backstop

### Accessibility Assessment

Proposed Rating: 1

Overview: Cicotte Park, as an open space, has few accessible features.

- Navigation: The approach to the park is unobstructed. An uneven curb poses a potential hazard. There are no paved connections from the parking area, which poses challenges for individuals using mobility devices. The park's grass surface has no steep slopes.

- Lighting and Signage: The park has no lighting. Signage is visible and legible. However, it does not follow universal design principles, which recommend textured lettering to accommodate people that rely on tactical interaction.
- Cicotte Park is located on Google Maps, but does not have accompanying photos.

### Sustainability Assessment

- The park is composed mainly of grassy lawn.
- Thirteen perimeter trees provide canopy and habitat.
- The park lacks native, low-maintenance plants that would provide ecological benefits.



*The field of Cicotte Park.*

## Great Lakes Field

2.5 acres

Corner of Genessee Street and E Great Lakes Street



*Equipment building at Great Lakes Field.*

### General Use

- Great Lakes Fields is a baseball and softball facility, located on a large parcel downtown.
- The facility contains a baseball diamond and outbuilding.
- An August 2023 analysis determined that soils deeper than six inches exceeded the regulatory threshold for contaminants. The City will collaborate with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for next steps in cleanup, as this level did not qualify the site for EPA cleanup.<sup>6</sup>

### Facilities

Amenities include:

- 2 baseball fields with covered dugouts and backstops
- 1 baseball field with a backstop and dugout
- Large open grass space for soccer
- Equipment building
- Large parking lot with approximately 45 spaces
- Portable restroom
- 5 sets of bleachers fixed in place

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<sup>6</sup> Ongoing Assessment at Belanger Park, Great Lakes Athletic Fields and John Jakubowski Park in River Rouge, *Telegram News*, August 15, 2023 <https://www.telegramnews.net/story/2023/08/31/news/ongoing-assessment-at-belanger-park-great-lakes-athletic-fields-and-john-jakubowski-park-in-river-rouge-update-august-15-2023/2393.html>.

## Accessibility Assessment

### Proposed Rating: 2

Overview: The Great Lakes Athletic Fields park could benefit from accessibility improvements.

- Navigation: The route of entry is not obstructed. However, the parking area does not have a paved connection to the bleachers.
- Rest Areas: Bleachers are present, but accessing them requires crossing grass. This may be difficult for individuals using mobility devices. The handrail of the bleachers does not extend the full length, making it not fully accessible.
- Parking: Off-street parking spots are available, with designated accessible spots.
- Lighting and Signage: The park and neighborhood are well-lit. There are few signs, but signs are likely not crucial, given that most play in this park will be directed sports rather than the use of play structures.
- Facilities in the outbuilding were not examined.
- The site is listed on Google Maps with pictures, although Google Maps currently says it is permanently closed.

## Sustainability Assessment

- The park is composed mainly of grassy lawn.
- The site lacks bicycle racks. A nearby bus stop (Bus 125) offers public transit access.



*Fields at the Great Lakes Athletic Fields park.*

## John Jakubowski Park

6 acres

Corner of Harris Street and E Pleasant Street



*Bleachers and sign at John Jakubowski Park.*

### General Use

- John Jakubowski Park is a large, open recreational space for recreation and play. It has bleacher facilities and a small play structure.
- The park is located near industrial operations and a residential neighborhood.
- During an August 2023 analysis for deposition of airborne particulate matter, one sampling location exceeded EPA limits. The site has since been remediated by the City.<sup>7</sup>

### Facilities

*Amenities include:*

- 1 baseball field with a backstop and covered dugouts
- 1 swing set
- Paved perimeter pathway
- Permanent shade structure
- Large paved area for event set up or spectators chairs
- 1 bleacher set fixed in place

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<sup>7</sup> Ongoing Assessment at Belanger Park, Great Lakes Athletic Fields and John Jakubowski Park in River Rouge, *Telegram News*, August 15, 2023 <https://www.telegramnews.net/story/2023/08/31/news/ongoing-assessment-at-belanger-park-great-lakes-athletic-fields-and-john-jakubowski-park-in-river-rouge-update-august-15-2023/2393.html>.

## Accessibility Assessment

Proposed Rating: 2

Overview: John Jakubowski Park has some accessible features, but could benefit from further improvements.

- Rest Areas: The park contains one bench. There is an additional gazebo and shaded picnic bench. Bleachers are present; their handrail does not extend the full length.
- Navigation: An accessible paved walkway leads to the bleachers. However, the remainder of the park does not have paved connections and may be difficult to navigate by individuals using mobility devices. There are some steep slopes.
- Hazards: There is a substantial, unprotected gully between the park and the roadway due to a drainage ditch creating a potential fall hazard.
- Lighting: The park is not well-lit.
- The park is listed on Google Maps with pictures.

## Sustainability Assessment

- The park is composed mainly of grassy lawn. There are some peripheral trees.
- The park lacks bicycle racks.



*Field, gazebo, and bleachers at John Jakubowski Park.*



## Memorial Park

8.5 acres

W Jefferson Avenue



*Veterans' monument and armed forces flags.*



*A modular play structure at Memorial Park.*

### General Use

- Memorial Park is a large park with a variety of amenities, centrally located in the City.
- It is in a highly visible location with convenient access to the downtown business corridor, schools, and transit. The park is adjacent to the Great Lakes Field.
- It is a well-lit park. Its benches and play structures are undamaged and fairly new.
- The park offers historical monuments and dedication plaques to honor community veterans. It also has an Army tank and helicopter on display.

### Facilities

Amenities include:

- Splash Pad
- Large modular play structure
- Skate park with 4 features
- Fitness court with 18 features
- 5 swing sets for multiple ages
- 2 basketball courts
- Balance beam
- Pull up bar
- 19 trash cans throughout
- 29 benches
- 25 picnic tables
- 1 gazebo
- 1 large permanent shade structure

## Accessibility Assessment

### Proposed Rating: 2

Overview: Memorial Park has some accessible features, but it could benefit from continued improvements.

- Rest Areas: Benches are present throughout the park. There is abundant shade due to trees and gazebos, and shaded benches and picnic tables.
- Navigation: The sidewalks are in fairly good condition, but some have uneven conditions. Sidewalks on the periphery of the park are wider, closer to ADA guidelines.
- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Signage for facilities is legible with large letters. Signs do not have raised letters.
- Play Area: There are unobstructed routes of entry to certain areas of the park, such as the splash park and the basketball courts, but the playground is obstructed. Play structures involve engaging sound features. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices.
- Accessible Features: There are two portable toilets present, with one larger for accessibility needs.

## Sustainability Assessment

- There is abundant vegetation, with numerous trees and low-maintenance plants.
- There is a lack of recycling and trash infrastructure, which could decrease littering.
- The park lacks bicycle racks. A bus stop near the park (Bus 125) offers public transportation access.

## Passive Recreation Parks

### Burke & Henry Green Space

0.37 acres

Intersection of Burke Street and Henry Street



*Burke & Henry Green Space.*

#### General Use

- The Burke & Henry Green Space is an open lot within a residential neighborhood near the downtown corridor.
- The lot is almost entirely covered in mowed grass, with some sidewalks throughout.

#### Facilities

Burke & Henry Green Space does not have any built amenities.

## Accessibility Assessment

### Proposed Rating: 2

Overview: The Burke & Henry Green Space is not accessible.

- Navigation: The approach to the park is unobstructed. The sidewalks are in fair to poor condition with potential trip hazards. The grass surface presents challenges for navigation by individuals with mobility devices.
- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Lighting and Signage: There is no lighting or adequate signage for navigation. Signs state that alcohol and dogs are not allowed in the park, but do not have raised lettering. ● The park is not listed on Google Maps.

## Sustainability Assessment

- There are few low-maintenance plants — additions could enhance aesthetics.
- There is the potential to activate the space through a community garden, which could supply fresh produce.
- This park has ample shade.



*Burke & Henry Green Space from street view.*

## Maple Street Park

0.12 acres

Corner of Maple Street & Byron Street



*Sign at Maple Street Park.*

### General Use

- Maple Street Park is a small lot, landscaped as a sitting area or reflection space.
- Multiple benches and small landscaping trees surround a flower bed.
- Sidewalks surround the park.
- Maple Street Park serves as a small but impactful neighborhood gathering space.

### Facilities

Amenities include:

- 3 benches
- Trash can
- 4 planter boxes

## Accessibility Assessment

### Proposed Rating: 2

Overview: Maple Street Park has some accessible features, but could benefit from continued improvements.

- Rest Areas: There is adequate sitting area on benches.
- Navigation: Sidewalks surround the park but are narrower than ideal. There are few steep slopes.
- Lighting and Signage: There is no lighting for the park. The signage of the park is engaging, with a variety of colors and raised lettering. ● The park is not listed on Google Maps.

## Sustainability Assessment

- This park contains vegetation, including low-maintenance plants and young trees. Trees in the park were out of season at the time of survey. Shade will likely improve as the trees grow.
- The park is mainly composed of a grassy area, aiding permeability..



*Maple Street Park's seating area and open space.*

## Tot Lots

### Bromley Tot Lot

0.13 acres

Intersection of Bromley Street and Polk Avenue



*Playground at Bromley Tot Lot.*

### General Use

- The Bromley Tot Lot is a small park in a residential area, with compact playground facilities.
- Its proximity to residences and sidewalks promotes walkability, making it a valuable asset to a neighborhood.
- It also provides a rest area for parents and guardians.

### Facilities

*Amenities include:*

- Modular play structure
- Merry-go-round
- Spring rider
- 2 swing sets
- Picnic table with shade structure
- Trash can

## Accessibility Assessment

*Proposed rating: 1*

*Overview:* The Bromley Tot Lot is relatively inaccessible.

- Rest Areas: There is one picnic table, shaded under a gazebo.
- Hazards: There are potential trip hazards with a woodchip mound in the center of the lot, lifted canvas edges, and a barrier surrounding the play area.
- Navigation: Sidewalks leading to the tot lot are narrow and do not comply with ADA standards. The terrain is uneven.
- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Lighting and Signage: There is no lighting or signage.
- Play Area: A barrier around the play area creates an obstructed route of entry to this area. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices.
- The site is not listed on Google Maps.

## Sustainability Assessment

- The predominantly grass-covered lot allows for natural rainwater and runoff storage. ● The trees offer shade and a pleasant ambience.



*Bromley Tot Lot from street view.*



## **Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot**

0.22 acres

Corner of Cora Street and Haltiner Street



*Playground at Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot.*

### **General Use**

- The Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot is a small park in a residential area, with compact playground facilities.
- Its proximity to residences and sidewalks promotes walkability, making it a valuable asset to a neighborhood.
- It also provides a rest area for parents and guardians.

### **Facilities**

Facilities were upgraded in the recent parks and recreation planning cycle. Amenities include:

- Modular play structure
- 2 park benches
- 3 swing sets for multiple ages
- Trash can

## Accessibility Assessment

*Proposed rating: 2*

*Overview:* The Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot could benefit from accessibility improvements.

- Rest Areas: There are unshaded benches present within the park.
- Navigation: The approach to the park is unobstructed. There are no steep slopes.
- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Lighting and Signage: There is no lighting. However, signage with raised letters is present.
- Play Area: A barrier around the play area creates an obstructed route of entry to this area. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices.

## Sustainability Assessment

- Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot is covered by a permeable grass surface and low-maintenance plants.



*Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot from street view.*

## Division & Anchor Tot Lot

0.1 acres

Corner of Division Street and Anchor Street

### General Use

- The Division & Anchor Tot Lot provides a small park facility in a residential area, near Cicotte Park.
- It provides playground equipment for neighborhood children to use, with slightly larger facilities than other tot lots in the City.
- Its proximity to residences and sidewalks promotes walkability, making it a valuable asset to a neighborhood.
- It also provides a rest area for parents and guardians.

### Facilities

Facilities were upgraded in the recent park cycle. Amenities include:

- 2 picnic tables
- Modular play structure
- Tire swing
- Trash and recycling cans
- Portable/temporary restroom



*Modular play structure at Division & Anchor Tot Lot.*

## Accessibility Assessment

*Proposed rating: 2*

*Overview:* The Division & Anchor Tot Lot could benefit from accessibility improvements.

- Rest Areas: There is one unshaded bench present in the park.
- Navigation: The approach to the park is unobstructed. Sidewalks are in good condition and have been recently updated. There are some steep slopes throughout the park.
- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Lighting and Signage: There is no lighting. However, signage with raised letters is present.
- Play Area: A barrier around the play area creates an obstructed route of entry to this area. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices. The play equipment has some ground-level features. ● The Division & Anchor Tot Lot is not listed on Google Maps.

## Sustainability Assessment

- Large portions of this tot lot are shaded.
- The tot lot is mainly covered by permeable grass, ensuring good rainwater infiltration.



*Division & Anchor Tot Lot from street view.*

## Elm & Richter Tot Lot

0.11 acres

Corner of Elm Street and Richter Street



*Elm & Richter Tot Lot.*

### General Use

- The Elm & Richter Tot Lot is a small park in a residential area, with compact playground facilities.
- Its proximity to residences and sidewalks promotes walkability, making it a valuable asset to a neighborhood.
- It also provides a rest area for parents and guardians.

### Facilities

Facilities were upgraded in the 2020-2024 park cycle.

Amenities include:

- 2 swing sets
- Spring rider
- Modular play structure
- Merry-go-round
- 3 benches

## Accessibility Assessment

*Proposed rating: 2*

*Overview:* The Elm & Richter Tot Lot could benefit from accessibility improvements.

- Rest Areas: There are unshaded benches present within the park.
- Navigation: The approach to the park is unobstructed. There are no steep slopes.
- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Lighting and Signage: There is no lighting. However, signage with raised letters is present.
- Play Area: A barrier around the play area creates an obstructed route of entry to this area. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices.

## Sustainability Assessment

- The park is composed mainly of grassy lawn.
- The park does not have bicycle racks.



*Signage at the Elm & Richter Tot Lot.*

## Maple & Goodell Tot Lot

0.2 acres

Corner of Maple Street and Goodell Street



Maple & Goodell Tot Lot

### General Use

- The Maple & Goodell Tot Lot is a small park in a residential area, with compact playground facilities.
- Its proximity to residences and sidewalks promotes walkability, making it a valuable asset to a neighborhood.
- It provides a rest area for parents and guardians.

### Facilities

Amenities include:

- Modular play structure
- Merry-go-round
- Trash can
- 3 spring riders
- 4 swing sets
- 2 benches

## Accessibility Assessment

*Proposed rating: 2*

*Overview:* The Maple & Goodell Tot Lot could benefit from accessibility improvements.

- **Rest Areas:** The overall lack of shade from trees or built structures may present issues for visitors. There are benches present within the park.
- **Navigation:** The approach to the park is unobstructed. There are no steep slopes.
- **Parking:** Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- **Lighting and Signage:** There is no lighting. However, signage with raised letters is present.
- **Play Area:** A barrier around the play area creates an obstructed route of entry to this area. The play area has a wood chip fall area, which is inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices.

## Sustainability Assessment

- The park currently lacks vegetation beyond grass. It has few trees or plants.



*Maple & Goodell Tot Lot from street view.*



## Polk Avenue Tot Lot

0.3 acres

400 Block of Polk Avenue



*Polk Avenue Tot Lot.*

### General Use

- The Polk Avenue Tot Lot is a small park in a residential area, with compact playground facilities.
- Its proximity to residences and sidewalks promotes walkability, making it a valuable asset to a neighborhood.
- It also provides a rest area for parents and guardians.

### Facilities

*Amenities include:*

- Modular play structure
- Merry-go-round
- Spring riders
- Trash can
- Balance beam
- 2 swing sets
- 2 benches

## Accessibility Assessment

Proposed Rating: 2

Overview: The Polk Avenue Tot Lot has some accessible features, but could benefit from continued improvements.

- Rest Areas: The overall lack of shade from trees or built structures may present issues for visitors. There are two benches present within the park.
- Navigation: The approach to the park is unobstructed. Surrounding sidewalks are narrow but in good condition, having been recently updated. There are no steep slopes.
- Parking: Street parking is available, but there are no ADA-compliant spots.
- Lighting and Signage: There is no lighting. However, signage with raised letters is present.
- Play Area: A barrier around the play area creates an obstructed route of entry to this area. The play area has a wood chip fall area, inaccessible for individuals using mobility devices. The play structure contains one ground-only feature, and a sound feature. ● The Polk Avenue Tot Lot is not listed on Google Maps.

## Sustainability Assessment

- There is native vegetation and low-maintenance plants.



*Polk Avenue Tot Lot from street view.*

## Historical Recreation Sites

### City of River Rouge Historical Museum

The City of River Rouge Historical Museum holds various collections for residents and visitors to explore, including furniture from the late 19th century, a photograph collection, and special pieces relevant to the City's history. The museum occupies a 1928 building that has passed through various owners, such as National Steel.

## Public School Facilities

The River Rouge School District provides additional facilities for the community to access. Schools and amenities within the River Rouge boundary include:

### Sabbath Middle School

- Basketball and tennis courts
- Playground

### River Rouge High School

- Fitness court
- Track
- Baseball and soccer fields
- Swimming pool

### STEM Academy at Dunn

- Basketball court

## Other Facilities

### Walter White Community Resource Center & Garden

*Organization Owner:* Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network

- Baseball field
- Garden
- Basketball court
- Picnic areas
- Playground
- Community center

## Recreation Programs

### **River Rouge Activity Center**

The River Rouge Activity Center serves as the main community hub for City-run programs. The center serves seniors throughout the day and hosts after-school programs for teens. Senior-specific programs include daily lunches provided Monday through Friday, coffee, and access to a television. Activities are free or reduced-cost. The River Rouge Activity Center also hosts special events for seniors, such as luncheons and breakfasts, and coordinates field trips.

The center also provides free tax assistance and flu shot clinics.

## Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

Neighboring communities like Ecorse, Detroit, Melvindale, and all of Wayne County play a significant role in increasing the resources available to River Rouge residents. This regional inventory includes nearby municipal, county, state, and federal parks, and regional metroparks.

### Local Municipal Facilities

The City of River Rouge shares municipal boundaries with the City of Detroit and the City of Ecorse, which provide recreation opportunities for residents of River Rouge. The City of Melvindale is also west of River Rouge, and although there isn't a shared political boundary, residents have access to the community's recreation facilities. Figure 17 includes the closest facilities to River Rouge, between 1 to 4 miles away.

Figure 17. Local Municipal Parks and Recreation Facilities

	Size in Acres	Baseball Court	Basketball Court	Community Center	Event Facility	Fitness Courts	Fishing Pier	Gymnasium	Historic Monument	Interpretive Display	Paddle & Boat Launch	Pickleball	Picnic Area	Playground	Restrooms	Soccer Fields	Sledding Hill	Skate Park	Swimming Pool	Tennis Courts	Track	Volleyball Court	Walking Trails	Water Trails	
<b>City of Detroit</b>																									
Delray Park	11.9		X	X			X							X	X	X							X	X	
Historic Fort Wayne	90.5								X	X			X		X	X	X							X	
Forman Park	6.33																							X	
Kemeny Park	22	X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X	
Piwok Park	5	X	X	X										X	X			X							
<b>City of Ecorse</b>																									
Beach & Cicotte Park	1.52																								
Bernard Popp Municipal Field	3.38	X												X											
Bell & Visger Park	0.5												X	X											
Dingell Park	4.36						X		X				X	X	X								X	X	
East Glenwood Park	0.4		X										X	X	X										
Ecorse Recreation Center	0.06				X	X																			
Ecorse Rowing Center	0.5									X															
Ecorse Public Boat Launch	1.25									X			X		X								X	X	
Ethel V. Stevenson Senior Center	0.06			X									X		X										
Eli Cuingan Pepper Park	4.83	X	X										X		X				X				X		
Outer Drive & 15th Park	0.8					X							X	X											
Salliotte & 12th Park	0.5		X										X		X										
Senior Citizen Park	0.5						X			X			X	X											
Zukonik Pumping Station Park	0.7												X												

Figure 17 (Continued). Local Municipal Parks and Recreation Facilities

	Size in Acres	Baseball Court	Basketball Court	Community Center	Event Facility	Fitness Courts	Fishing Pier	Gymnasium	Historic Monument	Interpretive Display	Paddle & Boat Launch	Pickleball	Picnic Area	Playground	Restrooms	Soccer Fields	Sledding Hill	Skate Park	Swimming Pool	Tennis Courts	Track	Volleyball Court	Walking Trails	Water Trails	
<b>City of Melvindale</b>																									
De Luca Park	6.64	X											X	X											
Joseph F Coogan Park	2.58												X	X		X					X			X	
Judge Roy A McGinity Park	5.53												X		X	X									
Lankford Park	7.06		X										X	X	X		X	X		X			X		
Melvindale Veterans Memorial	5.19		X						X				X	X	X	X		X	X						
Melvindale Community Center	11.8		X												X										

## Wayne County Parks

Wayne County’s park system encompasses over 30 park spaces with a variety of amenities. These are the closest to River Rouge residents.

### Lower Rouge Parkway

- *Size:* 1,163.3 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 23 miles
- *Amenities:* Warren Valley Golf Course, Wayne County Aquatic Center, William P Holliday Preserve, Kinlock Park near Canton

### Hines County Park

- *Size:* 830.55 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 15 miles
- *Amenities:* hiking trails, picnic areas, natural areas along the Rouge River.

### Middle Rouge Parkway

- *Size:* 765 Acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 13 miles
- *Amenities:* Inkster Valley Golf Course and Lola Valley Park

### Crosswinds Marsh

- *Size:*634.17 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 25 miles
- *Amenities:* nature preserve in Huron Charter Township

### Elizabeth Park

- *Size:* 173.26 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 11 miles
- *Amenities:* riverside recreation area with walking paths in Trenton

## Metroparks

Michigan Metroparks are managed by the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority, which oversees 13 parks (25,000 acres) in southeast Michigan<sup>8</sup>. The following Metroparks are in Wayne County:

### Oakwoods Metropark

- *Size:* 1,681.82 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 19.5 miles
- *Amenities:* Hiking trails on Huron River

### Lake Erie Metropark

- *Size:* 1,607 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 21 miles
- *Amenities:* Golf course on Lake Erie

### Willow Metropark

- *Size:* 1,466.38 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 22 miles
- *Amenities:* golf course, skate park, walking trails and picnic areas

### Lower Huron Metropark

- *Size:* 1,385.82 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 22 miles
- *Amenities:* Hiking and biking trails on the Huron River

## Michigan Department of Natural Resources

### Belle Isle Park

- *Size:* 803.5 acres
- *Distance of River Rouge:* 14 miles
- *Amenities:* Belle Isle Nature Zoo, Belle Isle Aquarium, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Ann Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, James Scott Memorial Fountain, Giant Slide, athletic fields, picnic areas, lakes, and wooded areas

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife

### Mud Island Natural Area

- *Size:* 22.52 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 2.2 miles

### Grassy Island Natural Area

- *Size:* 65.14 acres
- *Distance from River Rouge:* 4.5 miles

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<sup>8</sup> Huron-Clinton Metroparks. April 22,2024 <https://www.metroparks.com/>

# Planning Process Description

## Planning Process

The MDNR provides a framework for developing a Parks and Recreation Plan to qualify communities for grant eligibility. Grants are instrumental in expanding resources for municipalities. The planning process was strategically implemented to support the City in continuously improving their parks and recreation system.

## Public Participation

Prior planning efforts gathered public feedback through a survey to River Rouge residents. The survey aimed to understand park usage, strengths, weaknesses, and priorities for improvements. The feedback from the survey informed planning recommendations, ensuring alignment with community concerns, needs, and desires.

## Parks and Recreation Inventory

Parks and recreation inventories conducted between January and April 2024 used on-site evaluations and online research to better understand the current state of parks and recreation facilities in River Rouge. The assessment included the size, general purpose, service area, amenities, accessibility, and sustainability of each park.

## Assessment

The assessment synthesized on-site and off-site research, spatial data, survey responses, and informal conversations with City staff. The parks and recreation system inventories played a pivotal role, documenting current conditions, exposing deficits, and identifying opportunities to set up a tailored action plan.

## Action Plan

An action plan is organized through goals, objectives, and action items. The goals serve as the guiding pillars to advance the parks and recreation system. Additionally, a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was generated to communicate estimated costs and timeframes for specific actions to be completed.



## Summary of Public Participation

In January 2024, the Council of Michigan Foundations conducted a parks and recreation survey for several communities throughout Michigan as part of a MDNR Spark Grant. The survey was distributed to River Rouge residents, available on digital platforms for an average of 3-3.5 weeks and at physical events for the duration of the event. The methods of digital and physical distribution are listed below:

### Digital

- City Facebook pages
- City newsletters
- Employee databases
- Teachers and administrators at schools
- QR codes posted at City buildings

### Physical

- In-person public events between December 2023 and January 2024.

The survey had 19 respondents, 95% of whom were residents of River Rouge. Questions sought to understand the most frequently used parks, each park's usage pattern, strengths and weaknesses of the parks, and future priorities.

### Purpose

Responses to this survey guide planning recommendations, highlighting areas that the public believes should be prioritized. Public feedback ensures that any initiatives undertaken as a result of the planning process align with the needs of the community, providing its residents with the greatest benefit.

### Key Findings (see complete results in Appendix B)

- Most respondents visit parks in River Rouge at least monthly, with 7 of 19 visiting daily.
- Reasons for not visiting the parks include park safety and lack of transportation, programming, parking, and amenities.
- Respondents would like to see the following amenities: trails, ball courts, seating, handicap access, sledding hills, better transportation, and events like jazz, arts and crafts, bingo, health fairs, and activities for children.
- Respondents prioritized Memorial Park, Bryant Park, and Belanger Park as places for renovations.

## Action Plan

### Basis for Action Plan

The action plan offers recommendations based on the shortcomings identified in the City's parks and recreational facilities. It draws from the inventories and public feedback, identifying specific areas where improvements are most crucial. The inventory offered a tangible analysis of the current conditions of parks and recreation facilities, revealing clear opportunities for improvement. Public participation was also essential in the development of this plan. Public suggestions and ideas guided goal-setting and objectives to ensure that park improvements meet community needs. Additionally, the action plan includes a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), identifying necessary enhancements for each park with estimated timeframes and costs.

### Addressing ADA Compliance

The ADA requires that parks and recreation facilities be built or altered to align with ADA Compliance standards. The City should continually evaluate and update its parks and recreation facilities to maintain accessibility and compliance in terms of:

- Play structures and programs
- Signage
- Sidewalk and pathway resurfacing
- Lighting
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains ● Benches and pavilions

### Recreation Deficiencies

River Rouge has a robust parks and recreation network that ties into the broader regional facilities available in the Detroit metropolitan region. Strengths of the parks and recreation system include high levels of maintenance, few hazards, and the use of certain natural resources, such as the waterfront at Belanger Park. However, remediating current recreation deficiencies will help improve the resources available to River Rouge residents.

The goals, objectives, and actions outlined here propose opportunities for further improvement of River Rouge's parks and recreation system. General opportunities include improved lighting, repaved sidewalks, updates to modular play structures, greater inclusion of ground-level play features, and elimination of barriers to play areas.

## Goals, Objectives, and Actions

The following goals, objectives, and action items advance parks and recreation within the City. Goals are broad and speak to a comprehensive, long-term vision for the City beyond the five-year plan constraints. Objectives are desired outcomes; action items are specific steps to take to achieve the objectives and goals. This scheme provides a basis for a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), opportunities to seek grant funding, and overarching City initiatives.

### Goal 1: Enhance Local and Regional Park and Recreation System

Figure 18. Objectives and Actions for Goal 1.

Objectives	Action
<b>1.1: Execute a signage and wayfinding program</b>	Ensure that signage at each park and facility states the name, equipment guidelines, and whether the facility received grant funding
	Design signs according to universal design principles
	Dedicate staff members to approve all signage to maintain consistency with City signage
	Require signage at each park and recreation facility
<b>1.2: Create public dashboard of parks and recreation facilities</b>	Create an interactive map (Google or ArcGIS) with parks and recreation facilities listed
	Include information about nearby regional facilities relevant to residents, such as website information, brochure, regional map, and regional programming
	List amenities present at each parks and recreation facility

<p><b>1.3: Conduct a walkability assessment</b></p>	<p>Use spatial data (e.g., GIS) to visualize and assess the walkability of residents and visitors to parks and recreation facilities</p>
<p><b>Objectives</b></p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p>
<p><b>1.3: Conduct a walkability assessment</b></p>	<p>Identify areas of the City underserved to site new facilities</p> <p>Publish walkability assessment map and associated data on a public interface</p> <p>Ensure that parks and recreation facilities have a safe street-level access and crossing points (e.g., pedestrian walkways)</p>



*Division & Anchor Tot Lot.*

## Goal 2: Continually Improve Conditions of Existing Facilities

Figure 19. Objectives and Actions for Goal 2.

Objectives	Actions
<b>2.1: Maintain updated, safe, and engaging facilities</b>	Update and repair worn equipment
	Implement a regular schedule for maintenance (e.g., removing litter, performing seasonal landscaping needs)
	Eliminate hazards (e.g., plastic cracks, dangerous trash)
	Schedule frequent removal of vandalism (e.g., graffiti)
	Ensure that sidewalks are clear year-round through City maintenance and by private property owners where appropriate
<b>2.2: Explore multimodal pathway network that accommodates cyclists, pedestrians, and individuals utilizing mobility devices</b>	Add bicycle parking and safe storage opportunities to encourage multimodal usage
<b>2.3: Explore grant opportunities for additional play structures such as fitness courts</b>	Compile MDNR report to identify funding opportunities
<b>2.4: Study current restroom distribution and ADA compliance</b>	Identify where restrooms are needed
	Schedule consistent repair and maintenance for permanent restroom facilities
	Follow Universal Design principles in construction and location of restrooms

### Goal 3: Establish a Climate Resilient Parks and Recreation System

Figure 20. Objectives and Actions for Goal 3.

Objectives	Actions
<b>3.1: Expand tree canopy within and between facilities</b>	Investigate tree ordinance amendment to zoning code to preserve and regulate urban trees and woodlands, specifically those managed by the City
	Inventory current tree canopy to identify gaps in shade cover, invasive species, and dangerous or dead trees
	Produce materials on the importance of tree canopy for public health benefits, aesthetics, and environmental improvements
	Prioritize tree health in park maintenance and renovation
<b>3.2: Increase opportunities to reduce solid waste</b>	Add composting and recycling options to parks and recreation facilities
	Clearly label waste receptacles (including recycling and composting) following Universal Design principles
	Provide abundant opportunities for waste disposal to decrease littering
	Review maintenance and trash pickup schedule
<b>3.3: Increase sustainability of landscaping and maintenance efforts</b>	Phase out application of chemical pesticides and other pollutants
	Prioritize native plant species
	Implement maintenance schedule (e.g., weeding, trimming, pruning)

## Goal 4: Foster Economic Development Through Parks to Encourage Tourism

Figure 21. Objectives and Actions for Goal 4.

Objectives	Actions
<b>4.1: Prioritize park improvements located near downtown corridors</b>	Use spatial data to identify the parks and recreation facilities that are connected to downtown corridors
	Ensure accessible paths to promote connection for all residents and visitors
	Add wayfinding signs to direct residents and visitors to locations at business corridors
	Connect parks and recreation facilities pathways to City sidewalk network
<b>4.2: Assess parking needs to accommodate increased facility usage</b>	Provide and maintain off-street parking at parks and recreation facilities, requiring ADA-compliant spots
	Ensure proximity of parking spots to parks and recreation facilities
<b>4.3: Promote year-round activities in parks to encourage frequent use</b>	Activate parks and recreation facilities year-round to provide recreation and educational areas
	Prioritize a variety of activities to respond to the diverse needs of residents and visitors
	Create a public calendar to inform residents and visitors of activities
<b>4.4: Leverage natural features (e.g., rivers) to highlight the uniqueness of River Rouge</b>	Encourage further parks and recreation facilities located along the waterfront
	Collaborate with industrial waterfront property owners to encourage community and recreational use

Objectives	Goals
<b>4.4: Leverage natural features (e.g., rivers) to highlight the uniqueness of River Rouge</b>	Install viewing facilities for the Ambassador Bridge and Gordie Howe Bridge
<b>4.5: Re-establish public recreation programming within the community</b>	<p>Investigate partnering with non-governmental organizations invested in health and wellness to provide programming</p> <p>Develop intergenerational activities and programs</p> <p>Use feedback from public participation process to inform program development</p> <p>Actively update programming to reflect the changing needs and desires of the community</p>



*Boat launch at Belanger Park.*



## Goal 5: Ensure That Parks Meet the Needs of Residents of All Ages and Abilities

Figure 22. Objectives and Actions for Goal 5.

Objectives	Actions
<p><b>5.1: Ensure that all parks + recreation facilities comply with ADA guidelines</b></p>	<p>Use DNR accessibility guidelines as a baseline for parks and recreation facilities compliance</p>
	<p>Incorporate accessible features to make sure all residents and visitors can enjoy parks and recreation facilities</p>
	<p>Ensure recurring resurfacing and additions of level, paved routes within parks and recreation facilities to connect to amenities</p>
	<p>Re-grade some parks and recreation facilities with unnecessary, hazardous slopes</p>
	<p>Connect parking locations to parks and recreation facilities with accessible routes</p>
<p><b>5.2: Inclusive programming</b></p>	<p>Encourage programming to promote intergenerational interaction in the community</p>
	<p>Organize physical activities for senior residents</p>
	<p>Ensure that residents and visitors are able to enjoy parks and recreation facilities and programming regardless of social, economic, cultural, or physical status</p>
<p><b>5.3: Update signage for ADA compliance</b></p>	<p>Follow Universal Design principles, providing raised letters and large print at ground level</p>

## Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule

The following proposed five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) serves as a tool for implementing the goals, objectives, and action steps. The improvements are organized on a park-specific basis informed by the needs of each park and recreation facility evaluated in the assessment. The following suggested improvements will be sourced primarily from grant funding, while general maintenance is sourced from the general fund.

Figure 23. Capital Improvement Plan.

Park/Recreation Facility	Proposed Improvements	General Opinion of Cost *	Time Frame **
<b>Active Recreation Parks and Facilities</b>			
<b>Belanger Park</b>	1. Complete environmental remediation	\$\$\$	Short Term
	2. Add lighting	\$\$	Medium Term
	3. Repair swing set chains and seats	\$	Medium Term
	4. Construct modern ADA-compliant restrooms	\$\$\$	Medium Term
	5. Design and build ADA-accessible kayak launch	\$\$	Medium Term
	6. Design and build amphitheater	\$\$\$	Long Term
<b>Bryant Park</b>	1. Repair picnic tables	\$	Short Term
	2. Repair swing set chains and seats	\$	Medium Term
	3. Repave sidewalks and paths to meet ADA standards	\$\$\$	Long Term

<b>Cicotte Park</b>	1. Install lighting	\$\$\$	Medium Term
	2. Regrade, reseed, and chalk field	\$\$	Medium Term
	3. Design and implement soccer fields	\$\$	Medium Term
	4. Update bleachers to meet ADA standards	\$\$	Long Term
	5. Repave sidewalks and paths to meet ADA standards	\$\$\$	Long Term
<b>Great Lakes Field</b>	1. Design and construct concessions building	\$\$\$	Short Term
	2. Complete environmental remediation	\$\$\$	Short Term
	3. Design and implement soccer fields	\$\$	Medium Term
	4. Construct modern ADA-compliant restrooms	\$\$\$	Medium Term
	5. Update bleachers to meet ADA standards	\$\$	Long Term
<b>Memorial Park</b>	1. Repair basketball hoops and nets	\$	Short Term
	2. Add ADA-compliant parking	\$\$	Medium Term
	3. Repair swing set chains and seats	\$	Medium Term
	4. Construct modern ADA-compliant restrooms	\$\$\$	Medium Term

	5. Design and Install tennis/pickleball courts	\$\$\$	Long Term
	6. Repave sidewalks and paths to meet ADA standards	\$\$	Long Term
<b>John Jakubowski Park (Harris Park)</b>	1. Install a protective barrier around the drainage ditch	\$	Short Term
	2. Monitor outcome of environmental remediation	\$	Short Term
	3. Repave sidewalks and paths to meet ADA standards	\$\$	Short Term
	4. Install lighting	\$\$\$	Medium Term
	5. Repair swing set chains and seats	\$	Medium Term
	6. Design and install tennis/pickleball courts	\$\$\$	Medium Term
	7. Construct modern ADA-compliant restrooms	\$\$\$	Medium Term

Passive Recreation Parks and Facilities			
Burke & Henry Green Space	1. Install benches and ADA-compliant picnic tables	\$\$	Medium Term
	2. Install permanent shade structure	\$\$\$	Medium Term
	3. Repair planter boxes	\$	Long Term
	4. Install lightning	\$\$\$	Long Term
	5. Repave sidewalks and paths to meet ADA standards	\$\$\$	Long Term
Maple Street Park	1. Install benches and accessible picnic tables	\$\$	Medium Term
	2. Install permanent shade structure	\$\$\$	Long Term
	3. Repave sidewalks and paths to meet ADA standards	\$\$\$	Long Term

All Park and Recreation Facilities			
	1. Install and maintain additional trash and recycling cans	\$	Short Term
	2. Update signage to meet universal design principles	\$	Medium Term
	3. Install bike parking	\$	Medium Term
	4. Install drinking fountains or refill stations	\$	Long Term

Tot Lots			
Bromley Tot Lot	1. Resurface to meet ADA standards	\$	Short Term
	2. Remove barrier to allow users of all abilities access to the play area	\$	Short Term
	3. Add ADA-compliant parking	\$\$	Medium Term
	4. Repair swing set chains and seats	\$	Medium Term
Cora & Haltiner Tot Lot	1. Remove barrier to allow users of all abilities access to the play area	\$	Short Term
	2. Add ADA-compliant parking	\$\$	Medium Term
	3. Install permanent shade structure	\$\$\$	Long Term
Division & Anchor Tot Lot	1. Incorporate shade for seating	\$	Short Term
	2. Remove barrier to allow users of all abilities access to the play area	\$	Short Term
Elm & Richter Tot Lot	1. Remove barrier to allow users of all abilities access to the play area	\$	Short Term
	2. Install permanent shade structure	\$\$\$	Long Term
Maple & Goodell Tot Lot	1. Remove barrier to allow users of all abilities access to the play area	\$	Short Term
	2. Repair swing set chains and seats	\$	Medium Term
Polk Avenue Tot Lot	1. Remove barrier to allow users of all abilities access to the play area	\$	Short Term

**\*General Estimation of Cost Key**

\$ = < \$99,999

\$\$ = \$100,000 - \$299,999

\$\$\$ = > \$300,000

**\*\* Time Frame Key**

Short Term: < 2 Years

Medium Term: 2-4 Years

Long Term: 5+ Years

# Appendices

## Appendix A. Team Member Biographies

### **Geoffrey Batterbee**

Batterbee is a first-year dual-degree student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program and the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan. Batterbee is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Environment at the University of Michigan in 2023. Batterbee has interned with the City of Ann Arbor's Public Services Administration, where he conducted research and drafted reports on a variety of issues relating to the City's public services. Batterbee has also conducted research on soil carbon sequestration and demographic perspectives presented in comprehensive planning documents and is eager to bring his research skills to River Rouge to support its planning efforts. On this team, Batterbee will lead the data analysis team and assist the writing team.

### **Elyse Cote**

Cote is a first-year student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Michigan. Cote is originally from Boston, MA. She completed a dual Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies and Environmental Studies at the College of the Holy Cross in 2023. After completing her degree, she worked at Gamble Associates in Cambridge, MA, an architecture and urban design firm. Cote was responsible for conducting extensive historical research, producing graphics for multiple clients, engaging in site inventory of commercial and industrial properties, running charrettes for a community of over 25,000 people, and writing proposals to secure over \$400,000 in projects. Cote's planning interests sit at the intersection of urban planning and design to investigate the relationship between our built and natural environments. On this team, Cote will assist the writing team and offer document creation skills through Adobe Creative Suite.

### **Rebecca Griswold**

Griswold is a first-year student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Michigan. Griswold is originally from Three Rivers, California. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration from San Francisco State in 2013. After completing her degree, she worked for San Francisco Recreation and Parks mapping trails and leading youth summer camps before moving to Barranquilla, Colombia to teach English. Upon returning to California, she worked for both Yosemite and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as a Social Science Technician and a Trailhead Ranger. Griswold

worked for the City of Woodlake in rural California for five years before pursuing her graduate degree.

As a planner, she helped launch the community parks and recreation program, oversaw state and federal housing and infrastructure grants, conducted zoning code enforcements, oversaw local cannabis compliance and regulations, and prepared annexations, subdivision agreements, planned development documentation, and environmental clearances. On this team, Griswold will organize client communication and assist the writing team.

### **Zhongyi He**

Zhongyi He is a first-year student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Michigan. He is originally from Beijing, China. He completed a Bachelor of Engineering in Urban Planning at Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture. He worked as an urban planning intern at the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, where he was involved in comprehensive planning and urban design projects. Among these, he assisted in the green space planning during the planning process of the Xiangjiang New District. His primary responsibilities included case analysis, technical drawing modifications, rendering, 3D modeling, and other tasks. He is proficient in software such as ArcGIS, Adobe CS, AutoCAD, and more. On this team, He will lead the graphics team and assist the GIS analysis efforts.

### **Jessie Williams**

Williams is a second-year dual-degree student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program and the Law School at the University of Michigan. Williams is from Traverse City, Michigan, which inspires her planning and law practice and informs her passion for land preservation, farmland conservation, and historic preservation. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Program in the Environment with a concentration in urban planning at the University of Michigan in 2022. Williams interned with the City of Traverse City's planning department, as well as Beckett & Raeder, Inc., where she helped draft parks and recreation and comprehensive plans for Michigan communities. Williams enjoys learning about and learning from communities in her home state, and helping to reflect community members' needs and visions through the planning process. On this team, Williams will help lead the writing team, format the deliverables according to MDNR guidance, and streamline communication.



## Appendix

### Appendix B. Public Participation Survey

The following is a complete compilation of the public survey data as presented by URGE Imprint from their Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) DNR Spark Grant 2024 Survey. The data was accurate as of January 31, 2024.

#### City of River Rouge

- As of January 28, 2024 there are 19 responses.
- 95% of respondents are residents.
- 68% are residents for 20+ years.
- How often do they visit parks in River Rouge?
  - Daily: 7
  - Weekly: 2
  - Monthly: 3
  - Seasonal: 1
  - Yearly: 2
  - Never: 1
- The parks they visit most frequently are:
  - Memorial
  - Beechwood
  - Center
  - Walter White
  - Jefferson
  - All
- The following reasons keep them from visiting a River Rouge park.
  - Lack of transportation
  - Lack of equipment
  - Safety of park
  - Lack of programming
  - Lack of parking
  - Lack of amenities
- The following amenities is what they would like to see at River Rouge parks:
  - Bike Trail
  - Tennis Courts
  - Walking Trail
  - Pickle Ball Court
  - More seating
  - Jazz in the park
  - Painting in the park
  - Activities

- for children o
    - Handicap access
    - o Sledding hill o
      - Transportation
  - for seniors o
    - Crafts
    - o Bingo o
      - Health fair
- The following parks should be prioritized for renovations:
  - o Memorial Park o
    - Beechwood Park
  - o Bellinger Park
    - (sic) o Bahiger
      - Park (sic) o Jefferson
        - Park
- Respondent breakdown: o 79% women o 16% men
  - o 5% no statement
    - Ages of
      - respondents: o
        - 25-34: 1 o
        - 55-64: 6 o
        - 65+: 12

## Appendix

### Appendix C. Facilities Inventory Matrix



*Fitness Court at Memorial Park.*



## Appendix

### Appendix D. Accessibility Inventory Matrix



*Sidewalk curb cuts at entrance to Cicotte Park.*

Item	BelangerPark	MemorialPark	Johnakubowski Park	BryanPark / McDonalds Playground	DivisionTotLot	BronleyTotLot	CoraTotLot	ElmTotLot	PolkTotLot	MapleCroskill TotLot	CroftPark	GreenSageat Blueberry	GreatLakesfield	MapleStreetPark
Resting / Entry														
Are there benches / places to rest?	Y	Y	Inadequate	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
(Y/N/inadequate)	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Are there clear hazards?														
Is there a pedestrian-safe entry point?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Approach and Entrance														
Is there an unobstructed route of entry?	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
					Small barrier to play structure	Small barrier to play structure	Small barrier to play structure	Small barrier to play structure	Small barrier to play structure	Small barrier to play structure	Small barrier to play structure			
If obstructed, please explain.			Ditches, chain											
ADA parking space (not including van access)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Access aisle part of accessible route to accessible entrance	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Accessible spaces closest to accessible entrance	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
If building, accessible ramp or lift if not at grade	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Navigability														
Is the site available (with pictures) on Google maps?	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Is there adequate lighting throughout the park to navigate it?	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Is there adequate signage throughout the park to navigate it?	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
If present, does sign use large font and textured lettering?	Partial	N	N	N	N	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	Y	N	N	N	Y
Inclusiveness for Play Areas														
Is there an unobstructed route of entry?	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Partial	Y
If separate play areas for diff. age groups, accessible route to each	Partial	Partial	N	Partial	N	N	N	N	Partial	N	Partial	NA	Partial	NA
Accessible route within play area to diff. components	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	NA	Partial	NA
Are there ground-only features? (#)	1	~1		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	NA	1	2
Can kids of all abilities use playground equipment such as slides, swings and climbers?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	NA	NA
Can all kids play side by side?	Y	N	Y	N	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	N	Partial	N	Partial	N	N
Is there enough shade to protect kids and their caregivers from the sun?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Are there rest areas for parents and guardians?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Are there activities that engage the senses in an interesting mix of shapes, textures and sounds?	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Partial	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Can all playground users enter the playground using the same route?	Y	Partial	N	N	Partial	N	Partial	Partial	N	Partial	Partial	Partial	Y	Partial
Activity Area														
Is there an unobstructed route of entry to each?	Partial	Partial	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
At sports court, at least one accessible route connecting both sides	N	Y	Partial	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	N	NA	N	NA

# Appendix

Accessible route to each side of team or player seating	NA	Y	Partial	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	N	NA	N	NA
At least one wheelchair space at team or player seating	NA	NA	N	N	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	N	NA	Y	NA
Are wheelchair spaces accessed by accessible route	Partial	NA	N	N	NA	N	NA	NA	N	NA	N	NA	Partial	NA
ADA Requirements														
Min 60 in outdoor pathways	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Partial	N	N	N	N	N	NA	N
48x60in turnaround space in every facility (play areas, activity areas)	Y	Partial	Y	Y	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	Y	Y	Y	Y
36x48in loading space next to any toilets, exercise machines, play structures or other facilities which require lateral transfer out of a mobility device	Y	Y		Y	Y	Partial	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA
Are there slopes greater than 1:12 or side slopes greater than 1:48?	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
If ramp is present, does it have a landing area?	N	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
If present, do ramps and stairs have handrails the full length, 34-38 in above the base	Y	N	NA	N	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
If stairs are present, are they solid with a min tread depth of 11 in?	Y	N	NA	N	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	N	NA	N	NA
Toilet Room														
Toilet room(s) exist	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
If present, at least one fully accessible	Y	Y												
Proposed ranking	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2

## Appendix E. Sustainability Inventory Matrix



*Trees and pathway through the Burke and Henry Green Space*



# Appendix

Item	BelangerPark	MemorialPark	Johnakubowski Park	BryantPark/ McDonalds playground	AnchorTotLot	BromleyTotLot	CoraTotLot	ElmTotLot	ParkTotLot	Maple&Goodell TotLot	CicottePark	GreenSpaceat Burke&Henry	GreatLakesfield	MapleStreetPark
Perimeter trees	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Est. #	30	23	20	7				1			13	4		3
Interior trees	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Est. #	82	34	7	9	4	1	3	1				2		2
Tree canopy coverage (Est. %)	40%	30%	10-15%	50%	50%	50%	70%	15%	0%	0%	10%	25%	0%	10%
Maturity of canopy														
Low-Maintenance planting bed	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Community garden, flowers or veg	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Green stormwater infrastructure	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Energy efficient improvements	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Solar panels	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
EV charging station	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Bicycle facilities	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Recycling facilities	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Transit access, within .1 miles/500 ft./150 yards	N	W Jefferson + Abbott Bus Stop: Bus 125	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	W Jefferson + Abbott Bus Stop: Bus 125	N
Other sustainable features (e. g., permeable pavers, etc.)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Opportunities / Ideas	Stormwater management practices like rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements	Recycling bins and bicycle racks	Bicycle racks	Bicycle racks and recycling bins		Consider using play structures made from sustainable or recycled materials			Community gardens and low-maintenance plants	Consider planting additional trees and low-maintenance plants	Low maintenance plants	Low-maintenance plants and possibly a community garden	Bicycle racks	