

Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan

May 1, 2024 – Update

Oakland County Parks and
Recreation Commission



**OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS**

Summary

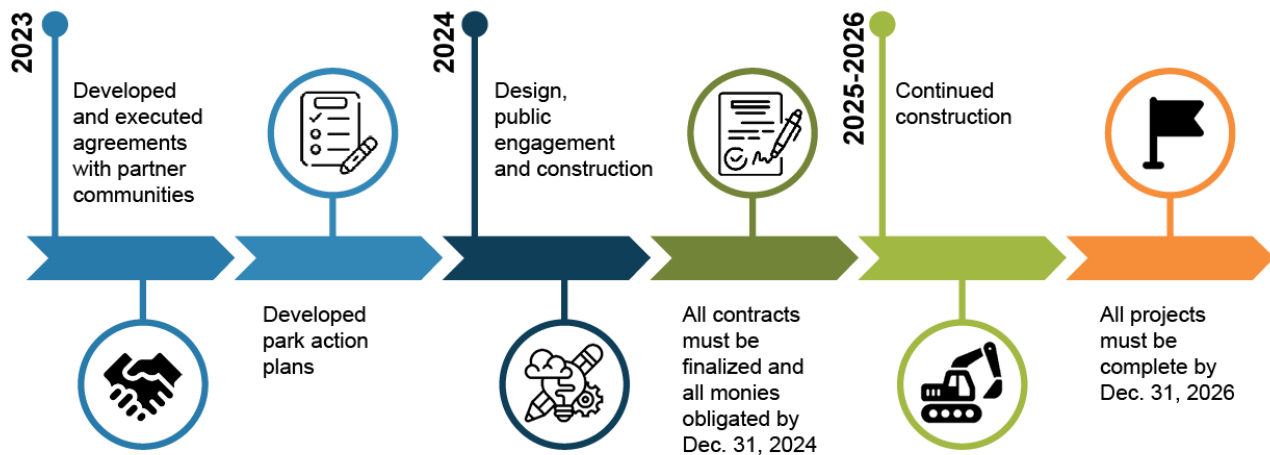
In October 2022, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan, a \$20.2M program aimed at enhancing park and recreation opportunities utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds (\$15M) matched with funding from Oakland County Parks (\$5.2M).

The dedicated funds support park improvement projects located in areas most disproportionately impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. Projects were selected that would have the following community impacts:

- Transform and eliminate historic inequities in the distribution of the benefits of the Oakland County Parks system and significantly enhance our capacity to serve residents of densely populated and diverse urban areas.
- Expand accessibility and use of existing community park facilities to serve regional recreational needs.
- Make investments in park infrastructure that will have the greatest impact in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Identified projects include improvements to the following existing OCP properties: **Catalpa Oaks, Lyon Oaks, Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks**. Long-term local partnerships that enhance community parks and expand the OCP system were established in **Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pontiac and Southfield**. Funding has also been allocated for capital grants and partnerships with local communities: **Hazel Park, Royal Oak Township, Oak Park, Pontiac and Southfield**.

Timeline



Hazel Park

Green Acres Park Project



Photo: New accessible playground at Green Acres Park

Project Agreement

License Agreement and Consent to Work – May 11, 2023

Summary Project Scope

The City of Hazel Park was allocated \$400,000 from OCP Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan for a new accessible playground with associated access routes, amenities, and manufacturer's warranty for play equipment, as well as planning assistance for future projects. With assistance and support of city staff, OCP completed the project for the City of Hazel Park.

Location

Green Acres Park is a 17.9-acre park owned and operated by the City of Hazel Park.

Outreach and Engagement

- Planning Open House – July 25, 2023
- Grand Opening – April 20, 2024

Status – Playground Replacement

The playground replacement project removed outdated equipment and expanded the playground area from 1,125 square feet to approximately 4,500 square feet. The new playground has an urban nature theme, is appropriate for children ages 2 to 12, and offers the following features:

- Six swings, including two infant swings and one accessible swing
- Three slides of varying heights
- Three musical play elements
- Two spring riders
- Three climbing structures
- Three bench seats with backs and shade structures around exterior of play area
- Several activity panels that promote sensory experience and imaginative play

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- Poured-in-place rubber surfacing enhances access to the main playground features

Status – Planning Assistance

The original scope of the planning assistance was limited to developing a pocket park plan for Hazel Park’s numerous small parks under five acres. Update of the city’s 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is due for renewal in 2025, has been incorporated into this scope. OCP and Hazel Park staff are working together to identify a planning consultant for these projects.

Hazel Park Community Center Modernization Project



Photo: Hazel Park Community Center

Project Agreement

Grant Agreement – August 21, 2023

Summary Project Scope

The City of Hazel Park was awarded a \$300,000 grant for upgrades to the Hazel Park Community Center. Upgrades may include HVAC improvements, door and window replacements, updates to floors, walls and ceilings, and bathroom improvements. The improvements will include the development of a community meeting and office space that can be used by OCP staff and other partners and groups.

Location

The Hazel Park Community Center is located at 620 W. Woodward Heights in the City of Hazel Park.

Status

Hazel Park has received 50% of the grant funds. City staff are working with AKA Architects to design and manage the project.

Lyon Township and Wixom

Lyon Oaks County Park



Figure: Inclusive playground renderings for Lyon Oaks County Park

Summary Project Scope

Increase opportunities for active outdoor recreation with a destination playground, flexible open space for exercise, accessible pickleball courts and improved trail connectivity to the Huron Valley Trail.

Location

Lyon Oaks is a 1,041-acre park in southwestern Oakland County in Lyon Township and the City of Wixom.

Outreach and Engagement

- **Grand Opening – Saturday, June 22, 2024**
- **National Demonstration Site** – The playground at Lyon Oaks meets the requirements to be a National Demonstration Site (NDS) for both inclusive play and for physical activity. Survey data will be collected on an ongoing basis which will be fed into a national database managed by PlayCORE. Site-specific data will be available for internal review and planning purposes. The data collected at Lyon Oaks will also be added to aggregate national data which will inform future playground design and development by the Center for Outreach, Research and Education (CORE).



Status

A detailed scope to reactivate the Woods Edge day use area and attract guests from a variety of user-groups and demographics was approved by the Parks Commission on November 1, 2023. This redesign has the following components:

- Replace the playground with a large, accessible playground which promotes both physical and social inclusion through universal design. The GameTime Statewide Funding Initiative grant covers 50% of the cost of the play equipment.
 - Pickleball courts designed to allow for guests with and without disabilities to play the game. Four courts will be able to serve 16 players at a time and will be connected to the parking lot, pavilion and restroom by accessible routes.
 - Restroom available year-round. Heat was installed in 2023 for the purpose of serving contact station staff. This improvement will extend the season of use for both playground and pickleball courts.
 - All areas of the reactivated space will be connected by access routes that, at a minimum, meet ADA requirements. Where possible, pathways will be developed for universal accessibility.
 - Paving project includes improvements to the trailhead, with accessible parking spaces in the proximity. The clearly marked and accessible trailhead will improve connecting the Woods Edge area with the Huron River Trail as well as the park's trail network.
 - Accessible parking is being installed as part of the existing, park-wide Lyon Oaks paving project. Because a focus on reactivating this area is on universal accessibility and making people of all abilities feel welcome and be able to participate, installation of three times the ADA minimum-required accessible spaces is incorporated into the design.
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Madison Heights

Red Oaks County Park – Gary McGillivray Play Garden



Photo: Ambassador Park walking path

Project Agreements

- Interlocal Partnership Agreement – August 7, 2023
- Park Action Plan – November 17, 2023
- Capital Improvement Plan – April 17, 2024

Summary Project Scope

The addition of Ambassador Park to Red Oaks – as the Gary McGillivray Play Garden – will provide land that is not located over G.W. Kuhn Drain and could support new infrastructure, including green restrooms. The Park Action Plan incorporates changes that will improve access and visitor experience at Ambassador Park. Ambassador Park improvements will focus on senior-friendly intergenerational amenities and features that will be dedicated as the Gary McGillivray Play Garden. OCP is committed to investing a minimum of \$1.5M from the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan in Red Oaks.

Location

Red Oaks is a 139-acre park located in southeastern Oakland County in the City of Madison Heights. The complex includes a nature center, nature preserve, waterpark, dog park, and golf course. The 7-acre Ambassador Park, located on 13-Mile Road, is now incorporated into the Red Oaks complex as the Gary McGillivray Play Garden. The Nature Center, Nature Preserve and Ambassador Park are operated by OCP and owned by the City of Madison Heights.

Outreach and Engagement

- Stakeholder Engagement / Parks Improvement Planning Report by OHM – September 1, 2022
- Survey – September 11-24, 2023
- Planning Open Houses – September 16, 18, and 22, 2023
- **Design Open House – August 5, 2024**

Status

OCP has contracted with Wade Trim for design and engineering services. The project is in the schematic design phase. Cost estimates generated through the design process will help identify which scope items will be funded by ARPA, which items will be funded by OCP capital improvement funds, and which items are part of a larger master plan scope to be funded in future years.

Oak Park

Oak Park Woods at Shepherd Park

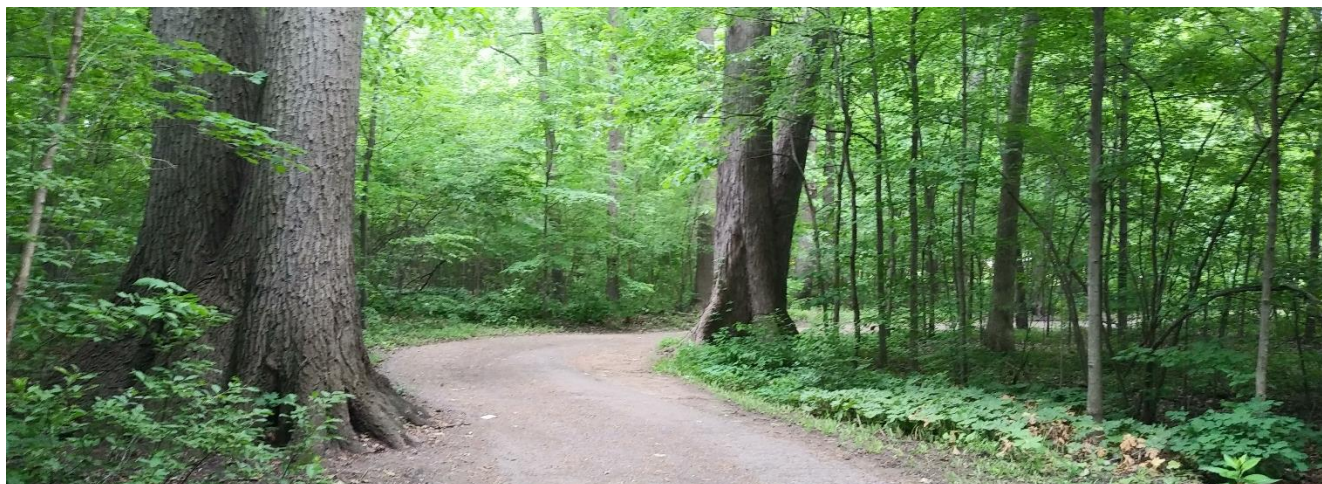


Photo: Woodland path at future Oak Park Woods at Shepherd Park

Project Agreements

- Interlocal Partnership Agreement – August 8, 2023
- Park Action Plan – January 30, 2024

Summary Project Scope

Develop an open space gateway with accessible trails, seating and gathering areas, and install a nature-themed playground. Updates to existing pavilions and restrooms are under consideration. OCP is committed to investing a minimum of \$1.5M from the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan in Oak Park Woods at Shepherd Park.

Location

Oak Park Woods at Shepherd Park is a 17-acre area located within David H. Shepherd Park in the City of Oak Park. The park is jointly operated by OCP and Oak Park and is owned by the City of Oak Park.

Outreach and Engagement

- Survey – September 13-October 9, 2023
- Planning Open Houses – September 26 and 27, October 5, 2023
- **Design Open House – July 10, 2024**

Status

OCP management will commence July 1, 2024, incorporating Oak Park Woods at Shepherd Park into the OCP system.

OCP has contracted with Wade Trim for design and engineering services. The project is in the schematic design phase. Cost estimates generated through the design process will help identify which scope items will be funded by ARPA, which items will be funded by OCP capital improvement funds, and which items are part of a larger master plan scope to be funded in future years.

Oak Park Event Hub – Farmers Market Structure

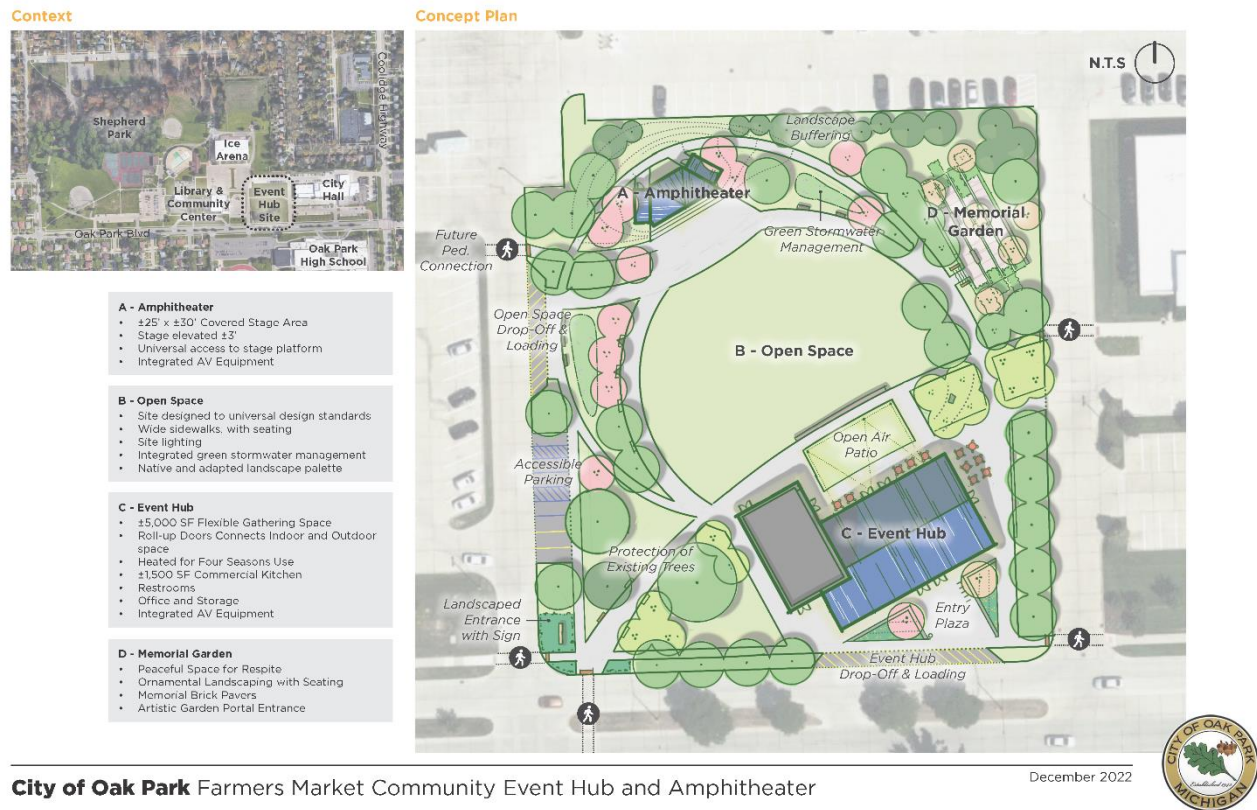


Figure: Oak Park Concept Plan

Project Agreement

Grant Agreement – August 8, 2023

Summary Project Scope

The City of Oak Park was awarded a \$500,000 grant to fund, in part, a four-season permanent Farmers Market building that will provide access to often subsidized locally grown Michigan produce. The Farmers Market includes a commercial kitchen to provide cooking classes and nutrition education and opportunities for hands-on experience in providing healthy foods. See C-Event Hub in schematic drawing above.

Location

The Oak Park Event Hub will be located at 13600 Oak Park Blvd. in the City of Oak Park.

Status

Oak Park has received 50% of the grant funds and is in the process of identifying contractors to implement the project.

Pontiac

Pontiac Oaks County Park



Photo: New accessible fishing pier at Pontiac Oaks

Project Agreements

- Interlocal Partnership Agreement – June 23, 2023
- Transition Period Plan – June 28, 2023
- Park Action Plan – October 3, 2023

Summary Project Scope

Provide a safe and welcoming environment by replacing outdated buildings, adding amenities and increasing accessibility. Management of shoreline vegetation and invasive species will provide clear views of Cregar Lake and Upper Silver Lake and visitors will be able to fish and launch canoes and kayaks off new accessible dock. Trail improvements, natural area restoration and forest management will provide quality experiences in nature. Assist the City with acquisition of additional parkland to increase park acreage. OCP is committed to investing a minimum of \$1.5M from the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan in Pontiac Oaks.

Location

Pontiac Oaks, formerly known as Hawthorne Park, is a 77-acre park in Pontiac. The park is operated by OCP and owned by the City of Pontiac.

Outreach and Engagement

- Survey – August 7-30, 2023
- Planning Open Houses – August 21, 22 and 26, 2023
- **Design Open House – July 16, 2024**

Status

OCP management formally commenced October 3, 2023, making Pontiac Oaks the 15th park in the OCP system. Pontiac Oaks improvements are being planned and executed in two phases:

Phase I addresses the immediate needs of the park to be safely open to the public.

- The fishing dock was replaced in Fall 2023
- Restroom renovation is underway; roof has been replaced; completion with full utilities is expected in Spring 2024

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- The playground has been cleaned up and replacement parts are ordered and expected to be installed in Spring 2024

Phase II is the development of an overall master plan for the park that considers the potential for property acquisition. OCP has contracted with DLZ for design and engineering services. The project is in the schematic design phase. Cost estimates generated through the design process will help identify which scope items will be funded by ARPA, which items will be funded by OCP capital improvement funds, and which items are part of a larger master plan scope to be funded in future years.

Crystal Lake Park Revitalization



Photo: view of Crystal Lake

Project Agreement

Grant Agreement – August 8, 2023

Location

Crystal Lake Park is a 43-acre park along the north side of Crystal Lake in the southwest portion of the City of Pontiac. Currently closed to the public, it is owned and operated by Pontiac.

Summary Project Scope

The City of Pontiac received a \$500,000 grant to reclaim and revitalize Crystal Lake Park so that its abundant environmental, recreation, and historic resources may be enjoyed and utilized by residents. Due to vandalism and deteriorated condition, the park has been closed. Funding will provide resources for cleanup of the park and repair and restoration of the amenities.

Status

Pontiac has received 50% of the grant funds and is in the process of identifying contractors to implement the project.

Royal Oak Township

Mack-Rowe Park



Photo: New playground at Mack-Rowe Park

Project Agreement

License Agreement – May 11, 2023

Summary Project Scope:

The Charter Township of Royal Oak was allocated \$300,000 from Oakland County Parks for a new accessible playground with associated access routes, amenities, and manufacturer's warranty for play equipment. With assistance and support of city staff, OCP completed the project for the Royal Oak Township.

Location

Mack-Rowe Park is a 5-acre park owned and operated by the Charter Township of Royal Oak.

Outreach and Engagement

- Planning Open Houses – June 17 and July 26, 2023
- **Grand Opening – May 18, 2024**

Status

The playground replacement project removed outdated equipment and expanded the playground area from 2,450 square feet to approximately 5,250 square feet. The new playground has an urban nature theme, is appropriate for children ages 2 to 12, and offers the following features:

- Six swings, including two infant swings and one accessible swing
- Four slides of varying heights
- Two musical play elements
- Two spring riders
- Three climbing structures
- Two bench seats with backs and shade structures around exterior of play area
- Several activity panels that promote sensory experience and imaginative play
- Poured-in-place rubber surfacing enhances access to the main playground features

Southfield

Catalpa Oaks County Park



Photo: Dog walkers enjoying Catalpa Oaks

Summary Project Scope

Improve the parking lot with new pavement and stormwater management. An accessible plaza with shaded gathering and seating areas will welcome visitors to the park.

Outreach and Engagement

- Stakeholder Engagement / Parks Improvement Planning Report by OHM – September 1, 2022

Location

Catalpa Oaks is a 24-acre Oakland County Park located in the City of Southfield.

Status

OCP has contracted with PEA for design and engineering services. The project is in the schematic design phase. Cost estimates generated through the design process will help identify which scope items will be funded by ARPA, which items will be funded by OCP capital improvement funds, and which items are part of a larger master plan scope to be funded in future years.

Southfield Oaks County Park



Figure: Southfield Oaks concept sketch

Project Agreements

- Interlocal Partnership Agreement – November 29, 2023
- Park Action Plan – March 28, 2024

Summary Project Scope

Natural resources management and park development of the former 9-hole golf course will provide quality experiences in nature with accessible trails, boardwalks and access to the Rouge River in a restored grassland and forest habitat. Gathering and seating areas will provide opportunities to socialize and relax in a natural setting. OCP is committed to investing a minimum of \$2M from the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan in Southfield Oaks.

Location

Southfield Oaks is a 39-acre area located within Beech Woods Park in the City of Southfield. The area is operated by OCP and owned by the City of Southfield.

Outreach and Engagement

- Survey – November 16 – December 8, 2023
- Planning Open Houses – December 5, 2023

Status

OCP management commenced April 1, 2024. The park is not yet open to the public.

OCP has contracted with Stantec for design and engineering services. The project is in the schematic design phase. Cost estimates generated through the design process will help identify which scope items will be funded by ARPA, which items will be funded by OCP capital improvement funds, and which items are part of a larger master plan scope to be funded in future years.

Beech Woods Park Playground Project

Project Agreement

Grant Agreement – November 29, 2023

Summary Project Scope

The City of Southfield was awarded a \$500,000 grant for the construction of an inclusive playground designed to provide a safe and engaging environment for children of all abilities. This inclusive approach promotes social interaction and enables children to develop valuable friendships while playing together.

Location

Beech Woods Park is an 82-acre park owned and operated by the City of Southfield.

Status

Southfield has received 50% of the grant funds and is in the process of identifying contractors to implement the project.

Waterford Township

Waterford Oaks County Park



Photo: 2024 5K PJ Run at Waterford Oaks

Summary Project Scope

Project will include creation of a new and expanded playground and an accessible plaza with shaded gathering and seating areas that will welcome visitors to the park and provide opportunities to socialize and relax. New trailheads with signage, as well as additional connectors to township sidewalks, will increase overall trail mileage and access in the park.

Outreach and Engagement

- Stakeholder Engagement / Parks Improvement Planning Report by OHM – September 1, 2022

Location

Waterford Oaks is a 199-mile Oakland County Park located in the center of Oakland County in Waterford Township.

Status

Waterford Oaks improvements are being planned and executed in two phases:

Phase I is focused on improvements to the Paradise Peninsula area to replace and expand the inclusive playground, update restrooms to be ADA-compliant with automatic locks to ensure they are open when the park is open, and to improve trail heads and trail access. Expected completion in Spring 2024.

Phase II is the development of an overall master plan for the park that considers the future of the current waterpark and Lookout Lodge sites. OCP has contracted with DLZ for design and engineering services. The project is in the schematic design phase. Cost estimates generated through the design process will help identify which scope items will be funded by ARPA, which items will be funded by OCP capital improvement funds, and which items are part of a larger master plan scope to be funded in future years.
