



CITY OF PONTIAC
OFFICE OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGER
LOUIS H. SCHIMMEL

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Pontiac, Michigan 48342
Telephone: (248) 758-3133
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Dated: April 4, 2012

ORDER NO. S-175

RE: Adoption of 2012-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

TO: Sherikia Hawkins, City Clerk
Allan Feys, Director, Department of Public Works

The Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act (Public Act 4 of 2011) in Section 17(1) empowers an Emergency Manager to issue the orders the Manager considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Act and any such orders are binding on the local officials or employees to whom they are issued. Section 19(1) provides that an Emergency Manager may take on one or more additional actions with respect to a local government in receivership: (dd) Exercise solely, for and on behalf of the local government, all other authority and responsibilities of the local government of the chief administrative officer and governing body concerning the adoption, amendment and enforcement of ordinances or resolutions of the local government... (ee) Take any other action or exercise any power or authority of any officer, employee, department, board, commission, or other similar entity of the local government, whether elected or appointed, relating to the operation of the local government. The power of the emergency manager shall be superior to and supersede the power of any of the foregoing officers or entities...; and 19(2) ...the authority of the chief administrative officer and governing body to exercise power for and on behalf of the local government under law, charter, and ordinance shall be suspended and vested in the Emergency Manager.

A public hearing was conducted on January 27, 2012.

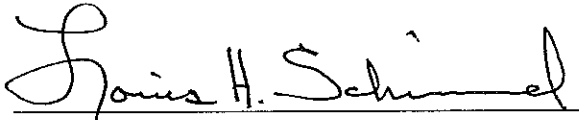
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The City of Pontiac Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2012-2016 is adopted.
2. The City Clerk is to file a copy of this plan with the Department of Natural Resources for review and acceptance.

The Order shall have immediate effect.

Copies of the documents referenced in this Order are to be maintained in the offices of the City Clerk and may be reviewed and/or copies may be obtained upon submission of a written request consistent with the requirements of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act and subject to any exemptions contained in that state statute and subject to any exemptions allowed under that statute (**Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, et. seq.**).

This Order is necessary in order to carry out the duties and responsibilities required of the Emergency Manager as set forth in the **Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act (Public Act 4 of 2011)** and the contract between the State of Michigan and the Emergency Manager.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Louis H. Schimmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Louis H. Schimmel
City of Pontiac
Emergency Manager

cc: State of Michigan Department of Treasury
Mayor Leon B. Jukowski
Pontiac City Council



City of Pontiac Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2012 - 2016

Louis Schimmel, Emergency Manager

Leon Jukowski, Mayor

City Council

Lee Jones, President

Patrice Waterman, President Pro Tem

George Williams

Mary E. Pietila

Randy Carter

Donald Watkins

Kermit Williams

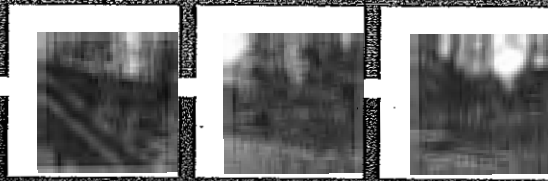
Public Hearing: January 27, 2012

Plan Adopted: April 4, 2012

Assistance Provided By:



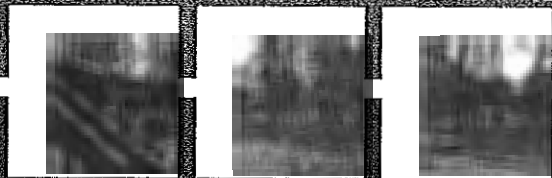
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Section 1

Community Description



The 2012-2016 Pontiac Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared by the City of Pontiac to serve as a guide and decision making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The Plan presents an inventory of existing facilities and programs within the community as well as an evaluation of opportunities and needs. The Plan considers the existing facilities in and around the community, as well as the anticipated demand for additional or-improved facilities and programs. The Plan also includes goals, objectives and a 5-Year Action Plan.

The jurisdiction of this Recreation Master Plan includes the geographical limits of the City of Pontiac.

The Plan is also intended to enable the City to apply for funding assistance from various agencies to work toward implementing the documented recommendations. This Plan provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

The City of Pontiac is located in Oakland County, Michigan, approximately 25 miles northwest of Detroit and covers about 20 square miles of land (see Regional Setting Map). The City has a total population of

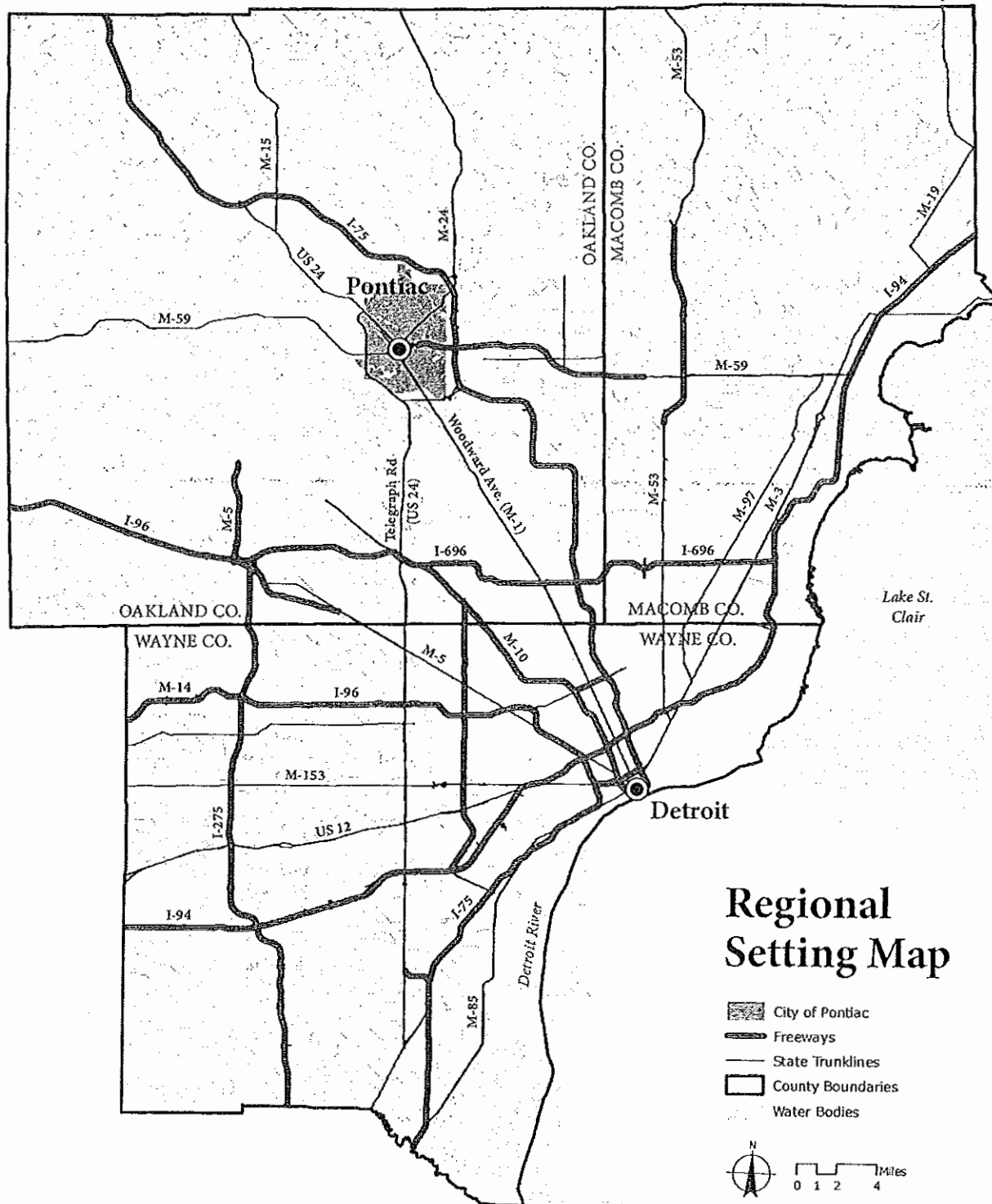
59,515 residents according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The Clinton River generally traverses east-west through the heart of the City.

Pontiac's history is deeply rooted in the transportation industry, from the wagons carrying New York state farmers looking for better land in the 1820's, to its position as a General Motors "anchor" city. The City has been highly dependent on the automobile manufacturing industry, which resulted in lost jobs, high unemployment rates and very tight City budgets as the industry has declined over the last several decades.

Since then, the industry has sought to transform its employment base from traditional assembly-line jobs to engineering, testing and global leadership operations. The success of this transformative effort will undoubtedly have a critical economic impact in the City and surrounding areas.

Pontiac's central location in Oakland County offers convenient access from all areas of the Detroit metropolitan area. Interstates 75 and 696, M-59, M-1, and U.S. 24 connect Pontiac to downtown Detroit and neighboring communities. Pontiac is the terminus of Woodward Avenue, a major northwest-southeast highway in Detroit, while Telegraph Road (U.S. 24) is the main north-

south route through greater Detroit. Mass transit within the City of Pontiac is available through the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), either on fixed route busses or by small bus advanced reservation.



Section 2



Planning Process

The following is a general description of the planning process used to develop the City of Pontiac Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Background Studies

The data necessary to assemble the background studies for the plan were collected from various sources including: City Staff, Oakland County, Friends of Clinton River Trail, MDNR, and field observations. The Community Description, Administrative Structure, Recreation Inventory, and Basis For Action sections were drafted and reviewed and modified by City staff and consultants. The Inventory of city-owned park facilities was completed in April 2011.

Online Survey

An online survey was created and posted to the City of Pontiac website from June 15, 2011 through October 4, 2011. A flyer and a number of emails were sent out to a variety of stakeholders encouraging completion of the survey. Hard copies were also made available at the Bowen's and Peterson Senior Centers. Seventy-three (73) surveys were fully completed and 123 were partially completed. Survey results were used to assist City staff in the development of the Action Program.

Staff Meetings

City staff and consultants met to review draft documents, conduct the inventory and discuss project status throughout the development of the Plan including meetings in January, April, August and November 2011.

Action Program

The Action Program outlines the direction and priorities for the City of Pontiac parks and recreation as funds are available. The Action Program includes overall goals and objectives that fall into one of four categories:

- Maintenance and Crime Prevention
- Staffing and Partnerships
- Funding
- Non-Motorized Improvements

In addition, the Action Program includes a Capital Improvements Schedule highlighting near-, mid-, and long-term priorities for many of the park properties.

Public Hearing

The draft Master Plan was made available for public review on December 16, 2011 at City Hall and on the City website. The public hearing was held on January 27, 2012 in front of City Council.

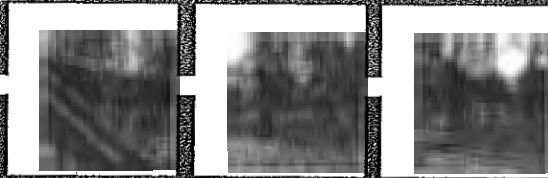
Adoption

The Pontiac Parks and Recreation Master Plan was approved by resolution on

_____.

Section 3

Administrative Structure



The following describes how parks and recreation facilities, activities and resources are governed and administrated within the City of Pontiac. The function of the various entities with recreation responsibilities and the overall administrative hierarchy of the City is outlined. Additionally, City expenditure and revenue trends are summarized.

Public Act 156 of 1917 (Local Government, Operate System of Public Recreation) authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate local recreation facilities and recreation systems. The Act states that a city, village, county or township may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds, acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreation facilities, employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants and vote and expend funds for the operation of systems.

City Organizational Structure

City Council/Emergency Manager

The City of Pontiac is currently in receivership under Public Act 4 of 2011 after having been determined to be in a condition of financial emergency. As such, an Emergency Manager has been appointed by the Governor to oversee all City finances and

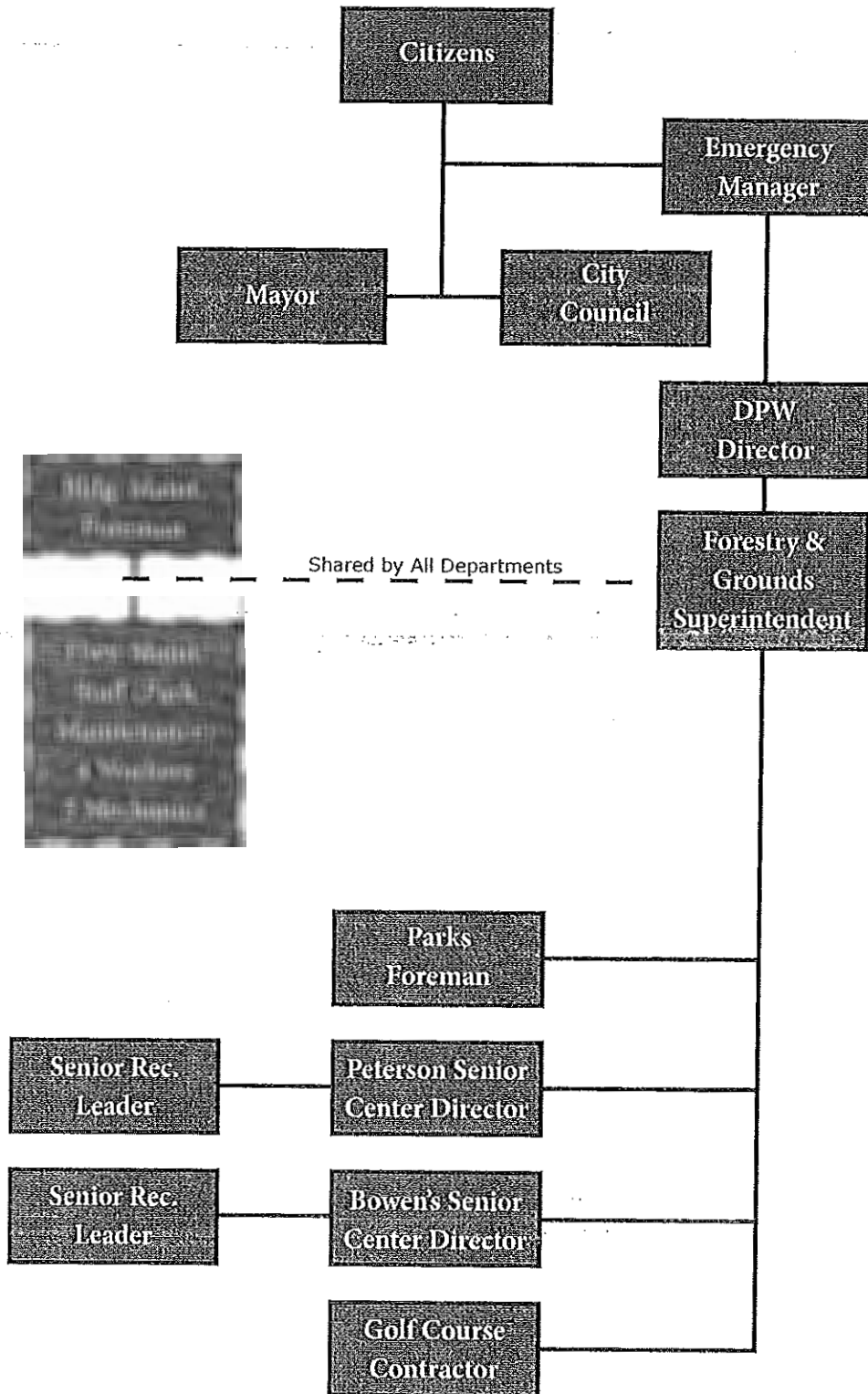
operations. According to the Act, the actions of the City Council are subject to written approval of the Emergency Manager. Thus, the ultimate authority for the provision of recreation in the City is held by the Council with approval by the Emergency Manager. In this manner, the budget and activities of the various departments with responsibility for recreation in the City are established. Additionally, the City Council with approval of the Emergency Manager has the responsibility for the adoption of this 5-Year Recreation Master Plan.

Department of Public Works & Utilities

Administrative functions related to the operation of the City's parks and recreation programs have been delegated to the City's Department of Public Works & Utilities (DPW). The DPW is currently led by an Interim Director, with supervisory responsibility for parks and recreation in addition to such functions as streets, cemeteries, buildings and grounds, public sewer and water.

The Forestry & Grounds Superintendent of the DPW has primary administrative responsibility for parks and recreation within the City. In overseeing parks and recreation, the Superintendent calls upon the experience and resources of numerous staff.

City of Pontiac Recreation Organizational Chart



For parks, vehicle and recreation building maintenance, the Superintendent utilizes a Building Maintenance Foreman as well as highway maintenance staff workers and mechanics (these employees are shared by the other divisions of the DPW). The Forestry

& Grounds Superintendent also oversees a Parks Foreman with responsibility for parks maintenance. Each of the two senior centers in the City is operated by a director and senior recreation leader. Finally, the Pontiac Golf Course is managed by an independent contractor.

Recreation Partnerships

The City of Pontiac maintains relationships with the Pontiac School District and a variety of private recreation groups to coordinate the use and maintenance of recreational facilities and facilitate a broad array of recreational programs. A description of these partnerships is provided below.

Sports Leagues

Several private recreation leagues are active within the City of Pontiac. The City allows these leagues to utilize City parks, and in many cases, relies on the private leagues to maintain the facilities that they utilize during the course of the season. These private sports leagues include:

- Coach Genevieve Sports: Adult Co-Ed Kickball; Youth Play-Action Flag Football; Youth Wizards Soccer; Youth Diamond Girls Softball
- Pontiac League of Athletic Youth (PLAY): Youth Pontiac Saints Football and Cheerleading; Youth Pontiac Saints AAU Basketball and Baseball

- Pontiac Cobras: Youth Baseball; Youth Basketball
- Michigan Youth Football and Cheer Conference (MYFCC) Pontiac Panthers: Youth Football and Cheerleading
- Yapo Warriors: Shoot Out Basketball Camp

Adopt-a-Park Program

The City has established an Adopt-a-Park program in order to reduce maintenance costs through volunteers. Several formal Adopt-a-Park agreements have been formalized by the City. City parks currently benefiting from the program include:

- South Kiwanis Park
- Cherrylawn Park
- Richardson Park
- Pontiac Public Library Grounds

Fiscal Analysis

The tables on the following page provide an overview of revenues and expenditures related to recreation within the City of Pontiac. The City General Fund Revenues and Expenditures Table highlights City general fund revenues and expenditures, including recreation expenditures, over three fiscal years. The Other Recreation Related Funds Table indicates other funds (not included in the City's general fund) that are related to, or typically used for, recreation purposes for Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

As shown in the tables, given the City's large deficit, only modest expenditures for parks and recreation are designated in the City's general fund for FY 2011/2012. To supplement these limited dollars, however,

several other recreation-related sources are available. These include a Senior Activities Millage of approximately \$350,000 per year, the usage of approximately \$50,000 per year on park improvements through

the CDBG program, a MDNR grant for the development of the Clinton River Trail, and a modest Golf Course Fund.

City General Fund Revenues and Expenditures

Description	FY 2009/10 Actual	FY 2010/11 Estimated	FY 2011/12 Proposed
Revenues			
Property Taxes	\$12,066,732	\$10,734,919	\$8,187,270
Income Taxes	\$10,018,216	\$8,700,000	\$8,700,000
State Revenue Sharing	\$10,474,714	\$10,001,002	\$8,006,297
Other Revenues	\$12,311,690	\$9,191,264	\$8,782,125
Total Revenues	\$44,871,352	\$38,627,185	\$33,675,692
Expenditures			
Recreation Expenditures	\$833,776	\$887,553	\$613,748
<i>Dial-a-Ride</i>	\$169,916	\$137,799	\$121,456
<i>Howard Dell Center</i>	\$21,294	\$5,245	\$15,806
<i>Galloway Park</i>	\$15,031	\$16,855	\$8,494
<i>Parks</i>	\$552,778	\$598,617	\$464,867
<i>Recreation</i>	\$74,757	\$129,037	\$3,125
All Other Expenditures	\$42,502,928	\$36,093,099	\$41,619,014
Total Expenditures	\$44,170,480	\$37,868,205	\$42,846,510
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$700,872	\$758,980	(\$9,170,818)

Source: City of Pontiac Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2011/2012

Other Recreation Related Funds

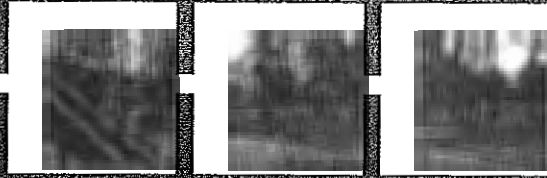
Fund	Estimated FY 2011/12 Revenues	Estimated FY 2011/12 Expenditures
Senior Activities Millage*	\$348,138	\$713,951
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**	\$50,000	\$50,000
Clinton River Linear Park Trail Grant	\$435,000	\$435,000
Golf Course Fund	\$16,047	\$16,047

*After FY 2011/12, the Senior Activities fund balance will be estimated at \$702,536

Source: City of Pontiac Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2011/2012

Section 4

Recreation and Resource Inventory



Developing a complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs, and events is an essential component of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. Understanding what facilities, programs, and events are available to the residents of the City of Pontiac will assist in the future decision-making process.

In order to include the most up-to-date facility information, a field survey of parks and recreation facilities was conducted by City staff and Wade Trim in April of 2011. After the field survey, recreation inventory tables were prepared and are provided on the following pages. The location of each recreation facility is shown on the Recreation Inventory Map.

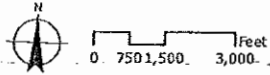
This section of the plan includes several components. The first component is a description of the recreation facilities and programs that are owned and operated by the City. Recreation, social and cultural facilities located within the City but owned and operated by outside agencies such as the public school district are also inventoried. A description of regional recreation facilities is also provided. The recreation facilities inventory is followed by an assessment of the barrier-free compliance status of City-owned park facilities. Lastly, this section includes a description of the facilities that were partially or completely developed using State recreation grant funding.

City-Owned Parks or Facilities

In total, the City of Pontiac owns 29 public parks and/or recreational facilities, totaling 505.82 acres of land. These include 9 community parks, 9 neighborhood parks and 11 mini parks. A profile of each community park is included on the following pages, while brief descriptions of the neighborhood and mini parks are also provided.

In addition to the city parks, the City owns and operates one golf course, the Pontiac Municipal Golf Course, and two senior centers, Bowen's Senior Center and Peterson Community Center.

Recreation Inventory Map



1 Municipal Parks or Facilities:

1. Aaron Perry Park
2. Beaudette Park
3. Crystal Lake Park
4. Galloway Park
5. Hawthorne Park
6. Jaycee Park
7. Murphy Park
8. Oakland Park
9. Rotary Park
10. Art Heaton Park
11. Baldwin Park
12. Cherrylawn Park
13. Charlie Harrison Park
14. Lakeside Park
15. Neighborhood Park
16. North Kiwanis Park
17. Richardson Park
18. South Kiwanis Park
19. Art Dunker Park
20. Dawson Pond Park
21. Fisher Street Park
22. Indian Village Park
23. Madge Burt Park
24. Motor & Montana Park
25. Pontiac Optimist Park
26. Shirley & Willard Park
27. Steed Park
28. Stout Street Park
29. Washington Park Tot Lot
30. Bowen's Senior Center
31. Peterson Senior Center
32. Pontiac Municipal Golf Course

A Educational Institutions:

- A. Alcott E.S.
- B. Bethune CHANCE School
- C. Crofoot School (Former)
- D. Edison Berque Academy (Former)
- E. Emerson School (Former)
- F. Franklin School (Former)
- G. Frost Preschool (P.E.A.C.E. Academy)
- H. Herrington E.S.
- I. Jefferson Whittier E.S.
- J. Kennedy Center/Owen E.S.
- K. Le Baron School (Former)
- L. Longfellow School (Former)
- M. McCarron School (Former)
- N. Owen School (Former)
- O. Pontiac H.S./Pontiac H.S.
- P. Pontiac Central H.S. (Former)
- Q. Twain School (Former)
- R. Washington School (Former)
- S. Webster School (Former)
- T. Whitman E.S.
- U. WHRC E.S./Int'l Tech Academy
- V. Wisner Center
- W. Notre Dame Prep. H.S.
- X. Pontiac Academy Charter Sch.
- Y. Trinity Christian Academy

Municipal Park or Facility

Educational Facilities:

Public Schools

Former Public School Sites

Other Educational Facilities

..... Clinton River Trail

..... Clinton River Trail-Temporary Route

State or U.S. Highways

Railroads

Municipal Boundaries

Rivers and Streams

Water Bodies

Parcels

Source: City of Pontiac; Oakland County

Recreation Facilities Inventory: City-Owned Parks

Map No.	Name	Type	Acres	Playgrounds	Baseball/Softball Fields	Tennis Courts	Soccer Fields	Volleyball Courts	Shower/Pavilion	Picnic Area (Y/N)	Parking Area (Y/N)	Outdoor Bathrooms (Y/N)	Outdoor Lighting (Y/N)	Fishing Dock (Y/N)	Golf Course (Y/N)	Walking Track/Paved (Y/N)	Seating Areas (Y/N)	Notes
Community Parks																		
1	Aaron Perry Park	CP	36.68	1	6					Y	Y	Y	Y					Dell Community Center has been leased to Playmaker University. Restroom is closed.
2	Beaudette Park	CP	55.23	1	1	4	1			Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Vehicle access to park is blocked by barricade.
3	Crystal Lake Park	CP	29.90	1						Y	Y	Y	Y					4 tennis courts no longer used.
4	Galloway Park	CP	63.86	1	2	4				Y	Y	Y	Y					
5	Hawthorne Park	CP	166.58	1						Y	Y	Y	Y					
6	Jaycee Park	CP	18.22	1	1					Y	Y	Y	Y					Access to adjacent baseball field (owned by car dealership) has been closed off.
7	Murphy Park	CP	45.54	1	1					Y	Y	Y	Y					Other facilities include sledding hill and cricket field. Former Holland Community Center is closed.
8	Oakland Park	CP	15.01	1	1	4				Y	Y	Y	Y					Also includes a skate park. Restroom is closed.
9	Rotary Park	CP	14.88	1	4	1				Y	Y	Y	Y					Hayes Jones Community Center and outdoor pool is closed.
Community Parks Subtotal				9	12	16	2	0	1	4								
Neighborhood Parks																		
10	Art Heaton Park	NP	0.31		2													
11	Baldwin Park	NP	2.90	1						Y								
12	Cherrydown Park	NP	5.21	1	1	2				Y								
13	Charlie Harrison Park	NP	1.37	1	2					Y								
14	Lakeside Park	NP	4.35	2						Y								
15	Neighborhood Park	NP	1.93	1	2					Y								
16	North Kiwanis Park	NP	27.05	1	1					Y								
17	Richardson Park	NP	4.04	1						Y								
18	South Kiwanis Park	NP	5.59	1	2					Y								
Neighborhood Parks Subtotal				9	2	11	0	1	0	1								
Mini Parks																		
19	Art Dunlop Park	MP	0.43	1	4													
20	Dawson Pond Park	MP	0.39							Y	Y							
21	Fisher Street Park	MP	0.43	1														
22	Indian Village Park	MP	0.39	1						Y								
23	Madge Burt Park	MP	0.18	1														
24	Motor & Montana Park	MP	0.19	1														
25	Pontiac Optimist Park	MP	1.26	1														
26	Shirley & Willard Park	MP	2.14	1	2					Y								
27	Steed Park	MP	0.45	1														
28	Stout Street Park	MP	1.07	1														
29	Washington Park Tot Lot	MP	0.24	1														
Mini Parks Subtotal				10	0	6	0	0	0	0								
Other Facilities																		
30	Bowen's Senior Center	n/a	3.00								Y							
31	Peterson Community Center	n/a	0.46								Y							
32	Pontiac Municipal Golf Course	n/a	191.01								Y							
Other Facilities Subtotal				0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
Trail Facilities																		
Clinton River Trail			n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y							
Trail Facilities Subtotal				0	0	0	0	0	0	0								

Legend: NP = Mini-Park; NP = Neighborhood Park; CP = Community Park; Y = Yes
Recreation Inventory Sources: Waco Trim field survey, April 2011.

Brandegee Park



Crystal Lake Park

Crystal Lake Park is a beautiful area with a large lake, walking trails, and picnic grounds. The park is located in the heart of the city and is a great place to spend a day with family and friends. The lake is surrounded by trees and flowers, and there are many beautiful views of the water. The walking trails are well-maintained and offer a great way to enjoy the outdoors. The picnic grounds are large and open, with many tables and benches for your convenience. Crystal Lake Park is a truly beautiful area and is a great place to spend a day with family and friends.



Community Foundation
Galloway Park

The community foundation has been successful in its efforts to raise funds for the park. The park is a beautiful area with many trees and flowers. It is a great place for children to play and for families to enjoy. The foundation has been able to raise a lot of money for the park and has been able to improve it in many ways. The park is now a beautiful area with many trees and flowers. It is a great place for children to play and for families to enjoy. The foundation has been able to raise a lot of money for the park and has been able to improve it in many ways.



WINDMILL CREEK HISTORICAL PARK

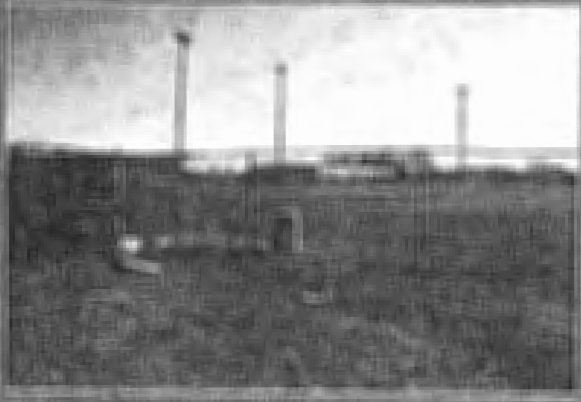
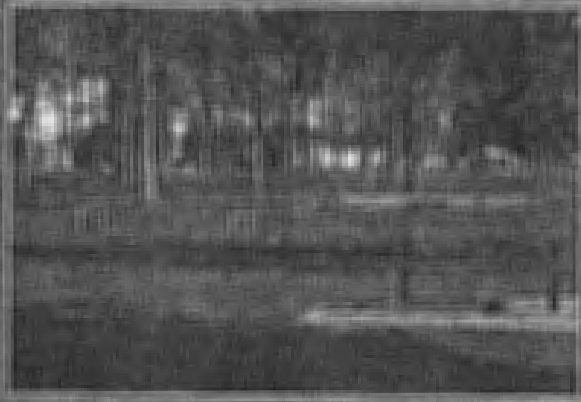
The Windmill Creek Historical Park is a beautiful area of land that has been preserved for the enjoyment of the community. The park features a large, historic windmill that was built in the early 1900s. The windmill is a two-story structure with a large, circular base and a tall, narrow tower. It is surrounded by a large, open field that is perfect for picnicking and playing. The park also has a small, historic building that was used as a schoolhouse. The building is a one-story structure with a gabled roof and a small porch. It is surrounded by a large, open field that is perfect for playing. The park is a beautiful area of land that has been preserved for the enjoyment of the community.



Community Field Studies

Troyce Park

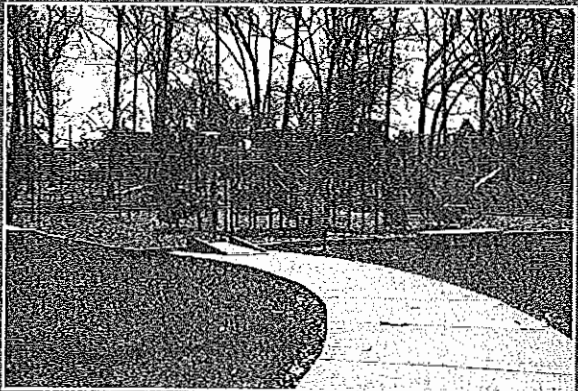
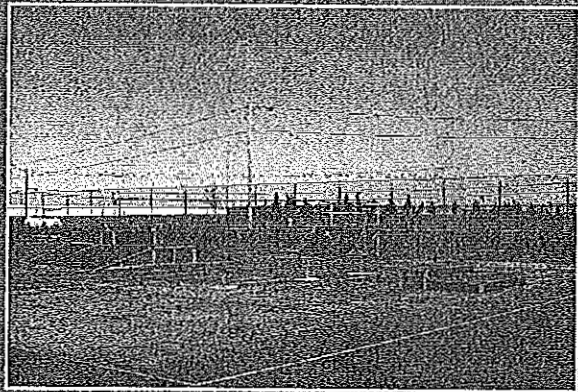
The Troyce Park area is a large, open space that is used for various community activities. It is a popular spot for families and friends to spend time together. The park features a large grassy field, a playground, and a picnic area. There are also several trees and bushes scattered throughout the area. The park is located in the center of the city, making it easily accessible to everyone. It is a great place to enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise. The park is also a good place to teach children about nature and the environment. There are many different plants and animals that live in the park, and it is a great place to observe them. The park is a valuable asset to the community, and it is important to keep it well-maintained. There are many different ways to improve the park, and it is important to involve the community in the process. The park is a place where everyone can enjoy themselves, and it is a place where we can all make a difference.



Community Park Profiles:

Oakland Park

Oakland Park is located on the south side of Montcalm Street in the north central portion of the City. This 15 acre park features a new playground area, one ball field, two basketball courts, and a skate park facility (former tennis courts). Other amenities include picnic areas and a parking area. Due to poor condition, the outdoor restroom facility has been closed.



History of the City

Rotary Park

Rotary Park is a beautiful area of land that was donated to the city by the Rotary Club. It is located in the heart of the city and is a great place for families to enjoy. The park features a large playground with many different slides and swings, a baseball field, and a picnic area with tables and benches. There are also many trees and flowers that make the park a very attractive place. The Rotary Club is a very active organization and they have done a lot of good work for the city. They have helped to build many schools and hospitals and they have also helped to improve the city's infrastructure. Rotary Park is a testament to the good work that the Rotary Club has done for the city and it is a place that everyone should be proud of.



Neighborhood Parks

A total of 9 neighborhood parks are located in Pontiac, serving the residents of the surrounding area and providing a variety of active and passive recreational facilities. Listed below, these neighborhood parks total 52.75 acres of land and offer 9 playgrounds, two ball fields, 11 basketball hoops, and one soccer field.

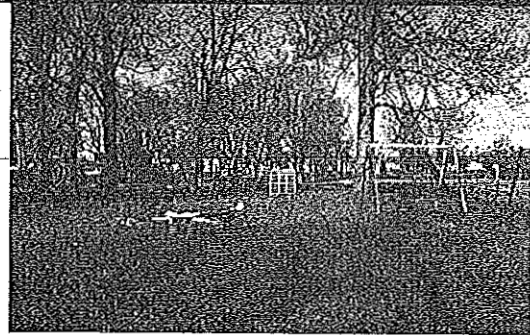
- Art Heaton Park
- Baldwin Park
- Cherrylawn Park
- Charlie Harrison Park
- Lakeside Park
- Neighborhood Park
- North Kiwanis Park
- Richardson Park
- South Kiwanis Park

Mini Parks

Mini parks are small parks, typically consisting of a playground and open space, that serve the citizens living in the immediate vicinity. In total, 11 mini parks are located in Pontiac, each ranging between one-fifth of an acre to two acres in size. The mini parks in the City are listed below.

- Art Dunlop Park
- Dawson Pond Park
- Fisher Street Park
- Indian Village Park
- Madge Burt Park
- Motor & Montana Park
- Pontiac Optimist Park
- Shirley & Willard Park
- Steed Park
- Stout Street Park
- Washington Park Tot Lot

Neighborhood Park Photos



Cherrylawn Park



Lakeside Park



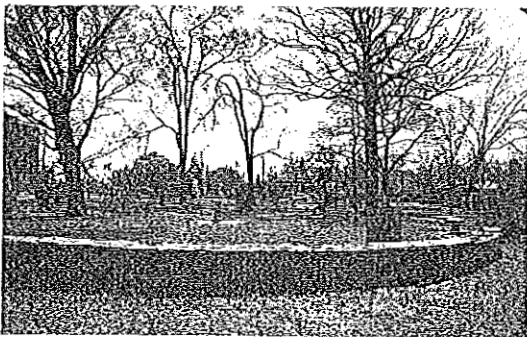
Neighborhood Park



Charlie Harrison Park



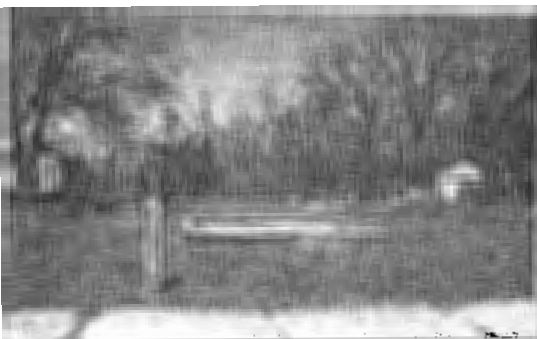
Art Dunlop Park



Indian Village Park



Madge Burt Park



Washington Park Tot Lot

Other Facilities

A description of additional City-owned recreation facilities is provided below.

Bowen's Senior Center

The Robert W. Bowen's Senior Center is located on Bagley Street near Orchard Lake Road just outside of downtown Pontiac. Indoor facilities include a computer room, meeting room, hall, and kitchen. This center offers a variety of programs and activities for the City's senior citizens. It is currently utilized by groups such as the Golden Opportunity Club, Red Hats Society and the Visually Impaired Person (VIP) group.

Peterson Senior Center

The Ruth Peterson Senior Center is located on Joslyn Avenue in the north central portion of the City. Indoor facilities include meeting rooms, kitchen, lunchroom, exercise area, offices and a stage for plays and other performances. Similar to Bowen's Senior Center, the Peterson Center offers programming and a meeting location for various senior groups.

Pontiac Municipal Golf Course

In operation for more than 70 years, the Pontiac Municipal Golf Course encompasses 190 acres of land in the southern portion of the City. Most recently redeveloped in the fall of 1993, the 18-hole course also features a practice putting green, clubhouse and restaurant. Discounts are provided for City of Pontiac residents. Formerly managed by the City of Pontiac, the golf course is now managed by a private contractor (since April of 2010).

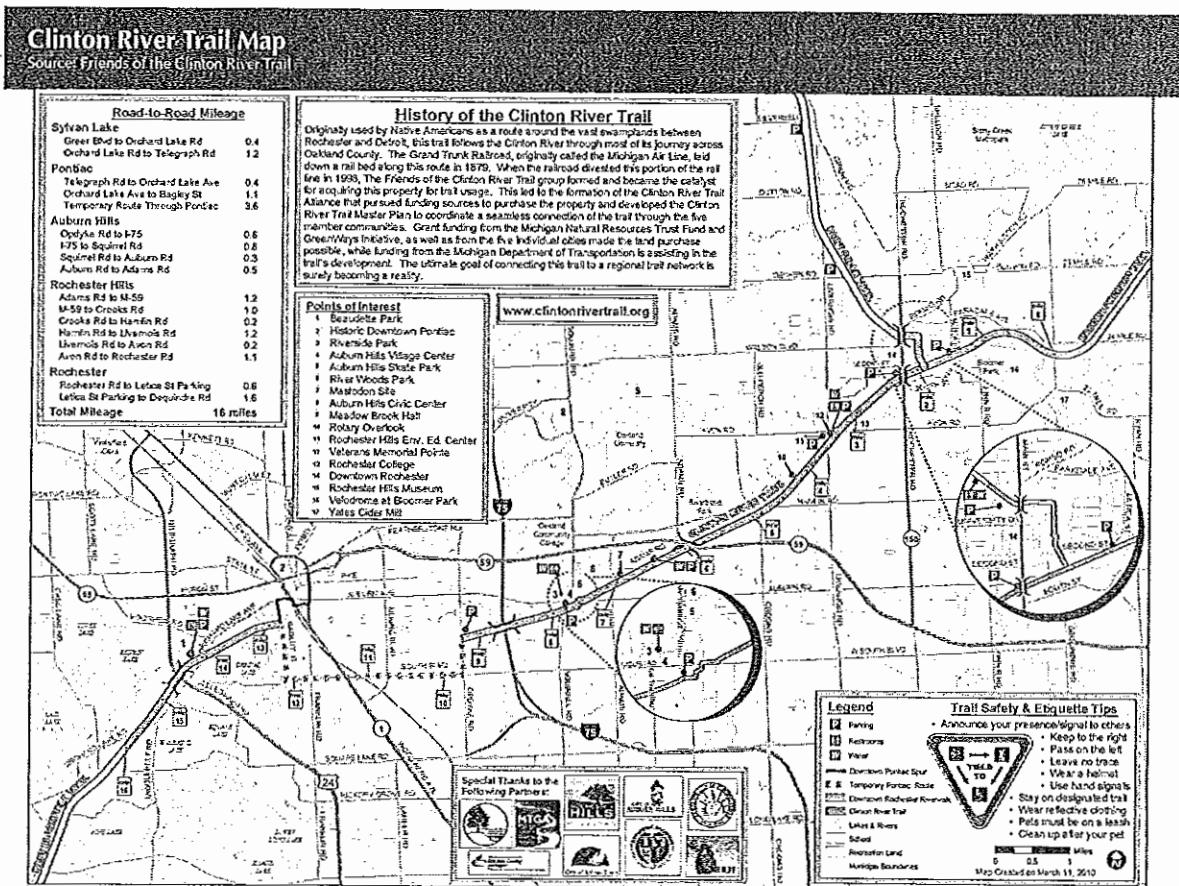
Clinton River Trail

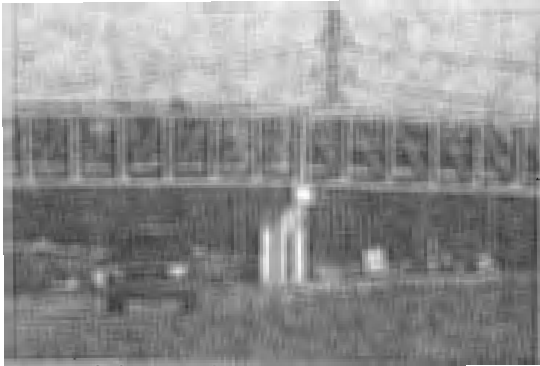
The Clinton River Trail is a 16-mile trail within an abandoned rail line traversing through the heart of Oakland County, including the cities of Pontiac, Sylvan Lake, Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills and Rochester.

It connects with the existing West Bloomfield Trail to the west, the Macomb Orchard Trail to the east, and Paint Creek Trail to the north. The Grand Trunk Railroad (originally called the Michigan Air Line) established the rail corridor in 1879. In 1998, when the railroad divested this portion of the rail road, the City of Auburn Hills purchased a 2-mile section which was the catalyst for the formation of the Friends of the Clinton River Trail group and future acquisitions of the property for use as a public trail. Each

community manages/maintains their own portion of the trail, while the Clinton River Trail Alliance (comprised of representatives from each community) meets monthly to plan and coordinate trail activities.

As shown on the Recreation Inventory Map, the City of Pontiac's portion of the Clinton River Trail begins at the Bloomfield Township border and runs northeast toward downtown Pontiac. While traveling along this section, trail users cross over Telegraph Road (U.S. 24) by way of a new pedestrian bridge, pass by Beaudette Park, and cross over the Clinton River. A newly constructed "Downtown Pontiac Spur" then extends from Bagley Street and ends at downtown Pontiac. Currently, a "temporary route" is in





*Photo of the newly completed Clinton River Trail bridge over Telegraph Road.
Photo Source: m-bike.org*

place along Bagley Street and South Boulevard, which connects to the Auburn Hills portion of the Clinton River Trail at Opdyke Road. However, this sidewalk-based route is a non-recreational feature and serves only as a temporary connection. Ultimately, a new "northern route" is planned to be constructed, which will connect the Downtown Pontiac Spur with the Auburn Hills portion of the Clinton River Trail at Opdyke Road.

The historical and proposed development of the Clinton River Trail in Pontiac is part of an ongoing four phase approach, as follows:

- Phase 1 -- Original acquisition under grant TF01-115 (completed)
- Phase 2 -- Downtown spur via MDOT/Pontiac funding (completed)
- Phase 3 -- Bridge over Telegraph (completed)
- Phase 4 -- Connection from downtown to Clinton River Trail at Auburn Hills (future)

Educational Facilities

A variety of educational facilities are located within the City of Pontiac that offer recre-

ational opportunities, such as playgrounds and ball fields, for residents in the vicinity. These include public school facilities owned and operated by the Pontiac City School District, as well as private schools. The Recreation Inventory Map, included earlier in this chapter, shows the location of each school facility. As shown on the map, active school facilities are differentiated from closed school facilities.

A listing of the educational facilities within the City of Pontiac and the recreational facilities located at each school site is provided in the table on the following page. A brief description of each educational facility is provided below.

Pontiac City School District Facilities

Alcott Elementary School

Alcott Elementary School is located on Kennett Road in the northwestern portion of the City. The school is situated on a 10.12 acre property and features one playground, one ball field and two basketball rims.

Bethune CHANCE School

This grades 7-12 alternative education school is located on Lake Street in the southwestern portion of the City. Situated on a 12.96 acre site, the school facility offers one playground and four basketball rims.

Crofoot School (Former)

The former Crofoot School site is located on Pike Street, west of downtown. No recreation facilities are located at the 3.05 acre site.

Recreation Facilities Inventory: Educational Facilities

Map No.	Name	Acres	Playgrounds	Ball Fields	Basketball Rims	Tennis Courts	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Volleyball Courts	Golf Bathrooms (Y/N)	Golf Course (Y/N)	Walking Track/Track (Y/N)	Notes
Pontiac City School District Facilities													
A	Alcott Elementary School	10.12	1	1	2								
B	Bethune CHANCE School	12.96	1	1									
C	Crofoot School (Former)	3.05											
D	Edison Perdue Academy (Former)	5.21	1		3								
E	Emerson School (Former)	5.41	1	1	1								
F	Franklin School (Former)	8.59	2										
G	Frost Preschool (P.E.A.C.E. Academy)	9.99	1		1								
H	Herrington Elementary School	17.92	2	1	1								
I	Jefferson Whittier Elementary School	7.32	2	1	10		1						Field is multi-use: soccer and football.
J	Kennedy Center/Owen E.S.	24.51	2							Y			
K	Le Baron School (Former)	4.49	1										
L	Longfellow School (Former)	6.49	1	1									
M	McCarroll School (Former)	7.15	1										
N	Owen School (Former)	3.76	1										
O	Pontiac H.S./Pontiac M.S.	120.20		1	9	2	1		Y				
P	Pontiac Central H.S. (Former)	16.25			6	1							No nets at tennis courts.
Q	Twain School (Former)	9.46	1	2									
R	Washington School (Former)	10.91					1						
S	Webster School (Former)	4.82	1	1									Field is multi-use: soccer and football.
T	Whitman Elementary School	17.36	3	4			1						
U	WHRC E.S./Intl Tech. Academy	13.71	1										
V	Wisner Center	21.34		1		1	1		Y				
	Pontiac City School District Facilities Subtotal	341.02	22	10	24	15	4	5					

Other Educational Facilities													
W	Notre Dame Prep. High School	70.50		2		6	1		Y				Field is multi-use: soccer and football. Site includes Grimaldi Indoor Athletic Center.
X	Pontiac Academy Charter School	9.72	2		2								
Y	Trinity Christian Academy	1.50											
	Other Educational Facilities Subtotal	81.72	2	2	2	6	1	0					

Grand Total													
--------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Legend: Y = Yes

Recreation Inventory Source: Wade Trim field survey, April 2011.

Edison Perdue Academy (Former)

The former Edison Perdue Academy site is located on Pike Street, east of downtown. The 5 acre site features a playground and basketball hoops.

Emerson School (Former)

The former Emerson School site, located in the northeastern portion of the City, features one playground, one ball field and one basketball hoop.

Franklin School (Former)

The former Franklin School site is located on the southern border of the City. The site includes two playgrounds.

Frost Preschool (P.E.A.C.E. Academy)

Located in the east central portion of the City, this site features a playground and basketball hoop.

Herrington Elementary School

This school is located on Bay Street in the east central portion of the City. Recreation facilities include two playgrounds, one ball field and one basketball hoop.

Jefferson Whittier Elementary School

Jefferson Whittier Elementary School is located in the southern portion of the City. Recreational amenities include two playgrounds, one ball field, one multi-use soccer/football field, and five basketball courts.

Kennedy Center/Owen Elementary School

The Kennedy Center and Owen Elementary School site is located along Baldwin Avenue in the northern portion of the City. The 25 acre site includes two playgrounds and walking paths.

Le Baron School (Former)

Featuring one playground, the former Le Baron School site is located off Joslyn Avenue in the north central portion of the City.

Longfellow School (Former)

The former Longfellow School site, located in the east central portion of the City, includes a playground and ball field.

McCarroll School (Former)

With one ball field on 7 acres, the former McCarroll School site is located between Aaron Perry Park and Oakland Park.

Owen School (Former)

Located on Columbia Avenue, the former Owen School site features a playground on approximately 4 acres of land.

Pontiac High School/Pontiac Middle School

The 120 acre Pontiac High School and Middle School campus is located in the northeastern portion of the City. In addition to indoor recreation facilities, the site offers a variety of outdoor facilities including 9 tennis courts, one ball field, two football fields, and one soccer field.

Pontiac Central High School (Former)

The former Pontiac Central High School site, located west of downtown, features one football field and six tennis courts (no nets).

Twain School (Former)

Offering a playground and basketball court, the former Twain School site is located northeast of downtown.

Washington School (Former)

The former Washington School site is located on Genesee Avenue along the western

edge of the City. The 11 acre site features one multi-purpose soccer/football field.

Webster School (Former)

The former Webster School site, located on Huron Street west of downtown, features a playground and ball field.

Whitman Elementary School

Located in the north central portion of the City, numerous facilities are found at Whitman Elementary School, including three playgrounds, two basketball courts and one soccer field.

WHRC Elementary School/ International Technical Academy

This 14 acre facility is located just east of downtown and features one playground.

Wisner Center

The 21 acre Wisner Center site is home to Wisner Stadium (football), where Pontiac High School games are played. According to World Stadiums.com, Wisner Stadium was constructed in 1941 and can accommodate 6,600 spectators. Other facilities at the Wisner Center, located along Chavez Avenue, include one ball field, one soccer field, outdoor bathrooms and a walking track.

Other Schools

Several private school facilities are located in the City of Pontiac, which may offer recreational opportunities for nearby residents. These include:

- Notre Dame Preparatory High School
- Pontiac Academy Charter School
- Trinity Christian Academy

Regional Recreation Facilities

Several regional recreation facilities are located within or near the City of Pontiac. A brief description of these facilities is provided below.

Pontiac Silverdome

The Pontiac Silverdome is a privately owned indoor stadium located in the eastern portion of the City. The 80,000+ seat stadium was the home of the Detroit Lions from 1975 to 2001 and the Detroit Pistons from 1978 to 1988. The stadium is now used for a variety of sporting, entertainment and other special events.

State Recreation Areas

Several state operated recreation areas are located outside of Pontiac. These large facilities offer a variety of activities, such as camping, fishing and hunting, to area residents. The following state recreation areas are located in close proximity to Pontiac:

- Dodge #4 State Park (approx. 5 miles west of Pontiac)
- Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area (approx. 10 miles west of Pontiac)
- Bald Mountain State Recreation Area (approx. 10 miles north of Pontiac)
- Proud Lake State Recreation Area (approx. 15 miles west of Pontiac)
- Highland Recreation Area (approx. 15 miles west of Pontiac)

Huron-Clinton Metroparks

The Huron-Clinton Metropark system maintains numerous major park facilities in Southeast Michigan. The closest Metroparks to Pontiac include:

- Kensington Metropark (approx. 20 miles southwest of Pontiac)

- Indian Springs Metropark (approx. 10 miles northwest of Pontiac)
- Stony Creek Metropark (approx. 15 miles northeast of Pontiac)

Oakland County Parks

A total of 11 parks are owned and operated by Oakland County. These parks provide a variety of recreational opportunities and specialized facilities. The closest Oakland County park to Pontiac is Waterford Oaks, located just west of the City limits. The other Oakland County parks include:

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

Non-Motorized Trails

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the Clinton River Trail passes through the City of Pontiac, connecting to several other regional non-motorized trail systems in the county and region.

The Oakland County trail system is a vision to link pathways and greenways throughout Oakland County and Southeast Michigan. The County concept includes a hierarchy of pathways. The primary corridors in the system consist of trails such as the Clinton River Trail. Other major existing trails in Oakland County include:

- Paint Creek Trail
- Polly Ann Trail

- Lakes Community Trail
- Headwaters Trails
- West Bloomfield Trail
- Huron Valley Trail
- Milford Trail
- I-275 & M-5 Metro Trails

These regional trail systems are indicated on the Oakland County Trail Network Map on the following page.

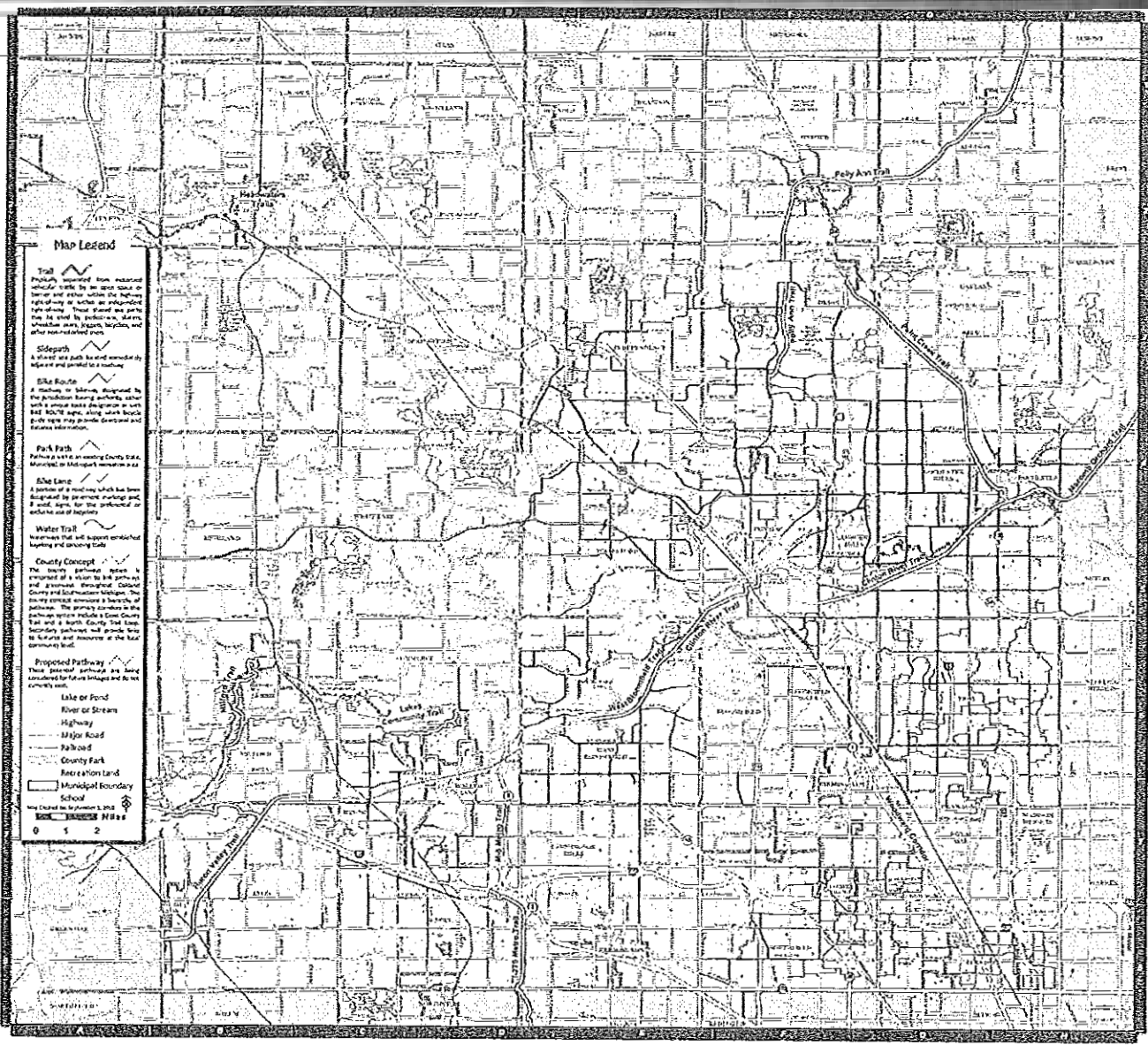
Barrier Free Status of City of Pontiac Parks

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. An accessible playground is "one that, when viewed in its entirety, may be approached, entered and used by persons with varied disabilities".¹

To evaluate the status of the existing public parks and recreation facilities owned by Pontiac, each was inventoried for their accessibility status (as defined by the MDNR) during a field survey conducted in April of 2011. Each facility was given a rating of 1 through 5 with the following definitions:²

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines;
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines;
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines;
4. Entire park meets guidelines; and,
5. Entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design.

Map of the City of St. Louis, Missouri, showing the proposed trail system.



Barrier Free Status of City Parks		
Park Name	Park Type	Accessibility Rating
Aaron Perry Park	CP	2
Beaudette Park	CP	2
Crystal Lake Park	CP	2
Galloway Park	CP	2
Hawthorne Park	CP	2
Jaycee Park	CP	2
Murphy Park	CP	2
Oakland Park	CP	3
Rotary Park	CP	2
Art Heaton Park	NP	2
Baldwin Park	NP	2
Cherrylawn Park	NP	2
Charlie Harrison Park	NP	2
Lakeside Park	NP	2
Neighborhood Park	NP	2
North Kiwanis Park	NP	2
Richardson Park	NP	2
South Kiwanis Park	NP	2
Art Dunlop Park	MP	2
Dawson Pond Park	MP	2
Fisher Street Park	MP	2
Indian Village Park	MP	2
Madge Burt Park	MP	2
Motor & Montana Park	MP	2
Pontiac Optimist Park	MP	2
Shirley & Willard Park	MP	2
Steed Park	MP	2
Stout Street Park	MP	2
Washington Park Tot Lot	MP	2
Bowen's Senior Center	n/a	3
Peterson Senior Center	n/a	3
Pontiac Municipal Golf Course	n/a	3
Clinton River Trail	n/a	3

Rating:

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
4. Entire park meets guidelines
5. Entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design.

The results of the inventory are provided in the Barrier Free Status of City Parks Table. The inventory revealed that most of the City's parks have some accessible facilities, but the majority of facilities are not accessible. Commonly, many of the City's parks do not provide paved walkways to the various recreational facilities. In several parks, playgrounds and other play areas feature raised edging or curbing that prevent access by disabled persons.

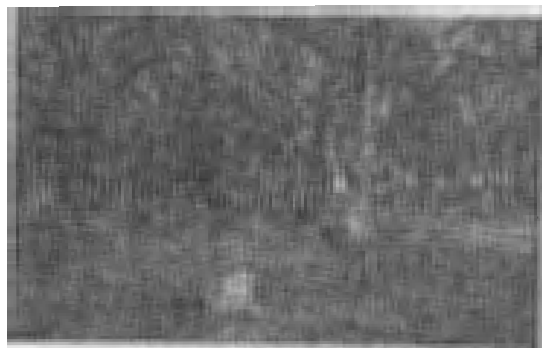
City of Pontiac Grants History

When preparing a Recreation Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment requires that information be provided concerning grants that have been received in the past for acquisition or development of recreation facilities. Therefore, the recreation grant history for the City of Pontiac was obtained from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Grants Management Division.

Over the years, the City has received 12 grants from the MDNR for recreational facility development (16 total grants were awarded; however, four grant awards were withdrawn). A description and assessment of each grant, including name, grant number, year, scope and current status is provided below.

Hawthorne Park

- Grant Number: 26-00110
- Year: 1968
- Project Description: Acquisition of approximately 36 acres as an addition to an existing city park.
- Status: This park acreage remains active as part of Hawthorne Park.
- Photo(s): See below photo of Hawthorne Park.



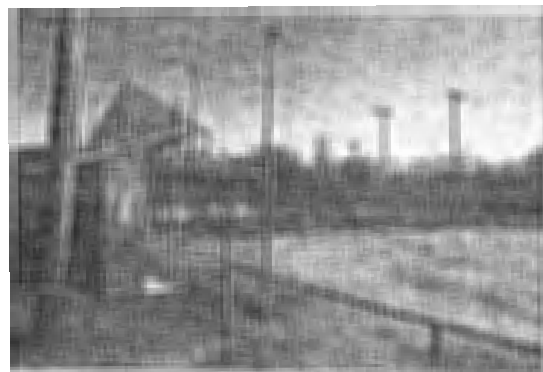
Pontiac Parks & Playground (19 Sites)

- Grant Number: 26-00148
- Year: 1968
- Project Description: Purchase of modern playground/park equipment for 19 parks and playgrounds. These sites included: Hawthorne Park; Beaudette Park; Oakland Park; Indian Village Park; Jaycee Park; Southwest Civic Park; Richardson Park; North Kiwanis Park; Osmun Street Play Lot; Murphy Park; Optimist Park; Aaron Perry Park; South Kiwanis Park; Terry Lake Picnic Area; Osmun Lake Picnic Area; Rotary Park; Hayes Jones Center Play Area; Fisher Street Playground; and Cherrylawn Street Playground.
- Status: Given the age of playgrounds and related facilities, which were constructed more than 40 years ago, many have since been replaced. However, several parks continue to utilize the equipment.
- Photo(s): See below photo of playground equipment at Cherrylawn Park.



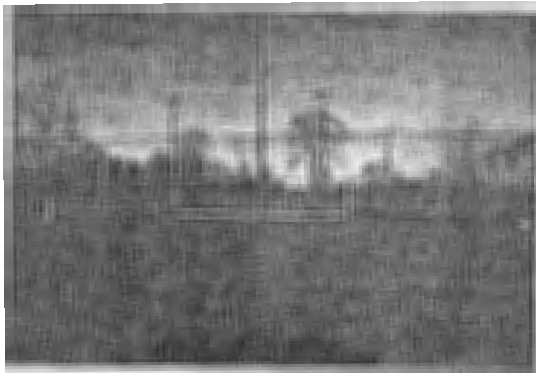
Galloway Lake Park

- Grant Number: 26-00789
- Year: 1976
- Project Description: Development of Galloway Park, to include two lighted softball fields with fencing, bleachers, dugouts, press box, storage facilities, and LWCF sign.
- Status: The softball fields and related equipment remain at Galloway Park. The facilities are generally in poor condition and are in need of repairs.
- Photo(s): See below photo of softball field, dugout, bleachers, and lighting at Galloway Park.



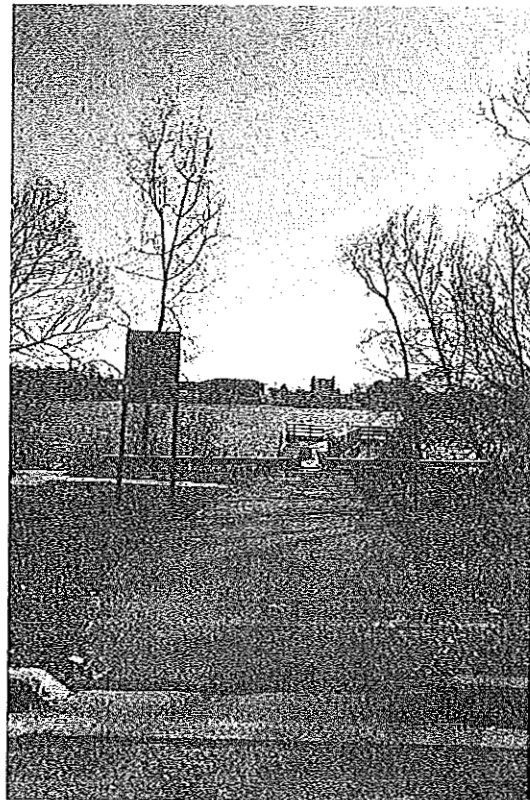
Galloway Lake Park

- Grant Number: 26-00886
- Year: 1977
- Project Description: Develop comfort station, four lighted tennis courts, two fenced basketball courts, roads, parking, fencing, security lighting, and LWCF sign.
- Status: These facilities remain at the park. The basketball courts and comfort station are in fair condition; the tennis courts are in poor condition and appear to be unused.
- Photo(s): See below photos of comfort station and tennis courts.



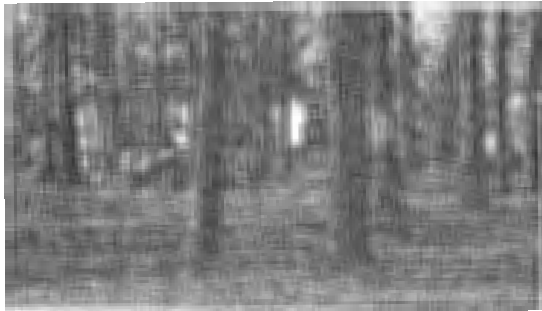
Galloway Lake Park

- Grant Number: 26-01472
- Year: 1987
- Project Description: Development of access road, picnic area, parking, walkways, fishing pier, play center, and landscaping.
- Status: These facilities remain at the park. Due to its poor condition, the fishing dock is currently closed for repairs.
- Photo(s): See below photo of the fishing dock and walkway.



Playground Equipment at Murphy Park

- Grant Number: BF89-551
- Year: 1989
- Project Description: Replace worn out playground equipment.
- Status: This playground equipment remains at the park and is in fair condition.
- Photo(s): See below photo of playground equipment.



Hawthorne Park Renovation

- Grant Number: TF97-232
- Year: 1997
- Project Description: Renovate a boat launch and pave a parking lot.
- Status: This boat launch remains active and is in good condition.
- Photo(s): See below.



Hayes Jones Pool Improvement

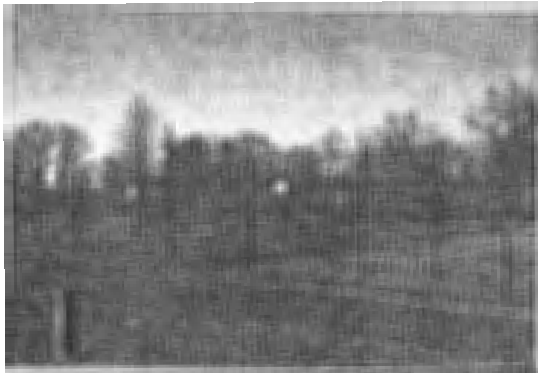
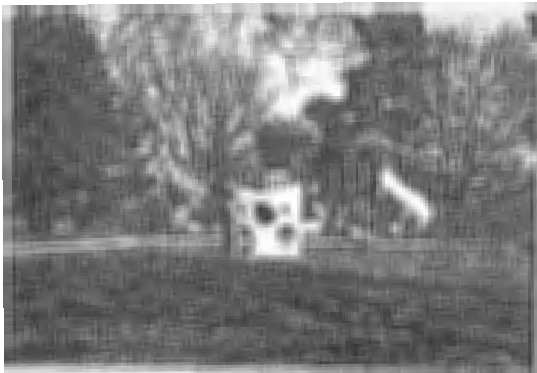
- Grant Number: BF90-234
- Year: 1990
- Project Description: Replace the swimming pool at and make improvements to the Hayes Jones Community Center.
- Status: Due to maintenance and funding issues, the community center and pool are currently closed.
- Photo(s): n/a

Clinton River Trail Acquisition

- Grant Number: TF01-115
- Year: 2001
- Project Description: Acquisition of 1.7 miles of railroad right-of-way to provide a segment of the non-motorized Clinton River Trail network.
- Status: The property acquisition led to the construction of the trail for this 1.7 mile segment.
- Photo(s): n/a

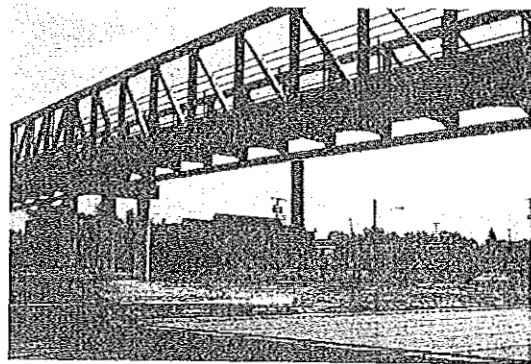
Beaudette Park Improvements

- Grant Number: CM99-278
- Year: 1999
- Project Description: Removal and replacement of the basketball and tennis courts and playground equipment, a new welcome booth, concrete walkway and improvements to the park entrance.
- Status: These facilities remain at the park and are in good condition.
- Photo(s): See below photos of the playground, tennis court and basketball courts.



Clinton River Trail Pedestrian Bridge

- Grant Number: TF08-040
- Year: 2008
- Project Description: Pedestrian bridge structure, approach, and ramps.
- Status: Construction of the Clinton River Trail bridge over Telegraph Road is complete and open for trail use.
- Photo(s): See below.



Chapter Footnotes:

1. The Americans with Disabilities Act and How it Affects Your Playgrounds. Landscape Structures, Inc.
2. Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Section 5

Basis for Action

Many elements must be considered prior to the decision-making process of establishing goals, guidelines and a prioritized capital improvements schedule for the next five years. A community must not base recreation improvement and service decisions solely on the voice of a handful of residents or the needs and wants of community officials, but must also be aware of recreational trends, national standards, community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings.

This chapter attempts to consolidate the various factors that must be acknowledged and the abundance of aspects, perceptions, and ideas that need to be filtered and categorized with the end result of producing the prioritized needs of the community. Because there are so many factors that will ultimately determine needs, caution should be taken to not analyze each piece of information individually, but integrate them all to produce the "big picture."

Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally may provide insight into activities that can be expected to draw a large number of participants and activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts national surveys that measure activities by participation and percent change from the previous survey. The definition of participation includes those persons seven years and older who have participated in the activity more than once during the year of the survey.

The National Sports Participation Trends Table lists the top sports by total participation in 2010 and 2000, percentage change from 2000 to 2010, and rank by percentage change.

In 2010, the top five sports in which people participated were:

- Exercise Walking (95.8 million)
- Exercising with Equipment (55.3 million)
- Swimming (51.9 million)
- Camping (vacation/overnight) (44.7 million)
- Bicycle Riding (39.8 million)

National Sports Participation Trends, 2000 to 2010

Sport	Participation in Millions		Percent Change 2000 to 2010	Rank by Change
	2010	2000		
Exercise Walking	95.8	86.3	11.0%	14
Exercising with Equipment	55.3	44.8	23.4%	11
Swimming	51.9	60.7	-14.5%	27
Camping (vacation/overnite)	44.7	49.9	-10.4%	23
Bicycle Riding	39.8	43.1	-7.7%	21
Bowling	39.0	43.1	-9.5%	22
Aerobic Exercising	38.5	28.6	34.6%	7
Hiking	37.7	24.3	55.1%	4
Workout at Club	36.3	24.1	50.6%	5
Running/Jogging	35.5	22.8	55.7%	3
Fishing	33.8	49.3	-31.4%	37
Weight Lifting	31.5	24.8	27.0%	9
Basketball	26.9	27.1	-0.7%	20
Billiards/Pool	24.0	32.5	-26.2%	35
Golf	21.9	26.4	-17.0%	30
Boating, Motor/Power	20.0	24.2	-17.4%	31
Target Shooting	19.8	14.8	33.8%	8
Hunting with Firearms	16.3	19.1	-14.7%	28
Soccer	13.5	12.9	4.7%	17
Baseball	12.5	15.6	-19.9%	32
Tennis	12.3	10.0	23.0%	12
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	11.1	15.4	-27.9%	36
Softball	10.8	14.0	-22.9%	33
Volleyball	10.6	12.3	-13.8%	26
Football (tackle)	9.3	7.5	24.0%	10
Skateboarding	7.7	9.1	-15.4%	29
Scooter Riding	7.4	11.6	-36.2%	38
In-Line Roller Skating	7.4	21.8	-66.1%	39
Skiing (alpine)	7.4	7.4	0.0%	19
Mountain Biking (off road)	7.2	7.1	1.4%	18
Paintball Games	6.1	5.3	15.1%	13
Snowboarding	6.1	4.3	41.9%	6
Target Shooting - Airgun	5.3	3.0	76.7%	1
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	5.2	4.7	10.6%	15
Water Skiing	5.2	5.9	-11.9%	24
Hockey (ice)	3.3	1.9	73.7%	2
Muzzleloading	3.1	2.9	6.9%	16
Wrestling*	2.9	3.8	-23.7%	34
Skiing (cross country)	2.0	2.3	-13.0%	25

*No data in 2000; figures from 2006 utilized for participation and percent change.
Source: National Sporting Goods Association, 2010.

In terms of change over the past ten years, the top five fastest growing sports were:

- Target Shooting - Airgun (76.7%)
- Hockey (ice) (73.7%)
- Running/jogging (55.7%)
- Hiking (55.1%)
- Workout at Club (50.6%)

In terms of change over the ten years, the top five declining sports were:

- In-line Roller Skating (-66.1%)
- Scooter Riding (-36.2%)
- Fishing (-31.4%)
- Backpack/wilderness camp (-27.9%)
- Billiards/pool (-26.2%)

National Planning Standards

In the process of determining and prioritizing needs, it is not only important to understand the national trends in terms of participation levels and popularity, but it is also imperative to compare the provision of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to standard acreage and facility recommendations is another tool to assist in determining needs within the City of Pontiac. However, it should be noted that the latest available national standards were developed in the 1970's and 1980's and may not fully reflect today's needs and trends.

Acreage Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association provides a recommended park classification system which recognizes that open space has various functions. The system categorizes open space as either mini parks, neighborhood parks or community parks. The desirable characteristics relative to

size, function, amenities and acreage provisions per 1,000 people (where available) are identified in the Recreation Classification System Table.

According to the population standards for the three types of parklands, the City of Pontiac, with a total population of 59,515 (2010 Census), should provide the following amount of parkland:

- Between 14.9 and 29.8 acres of mini parkland;
- Between 59.5 and 119.0 acres of neighborhood parkland;
- Between 297.6 and 476.1 acres of community parkland; and,
- Between 372.0 and 624.9 acres of total parkland (all types).

A comparison of the City's existing park acreage against the recommended standard is provided in the Recreation Acreage Deficiencies Table. As shown in the table, the City presently contains 7.17 acres of mini parkland, 52.75 acres of neighborhood parkland, 445.90 acres of community parkland, and 505.82 acres of total parkland. Thus, based on the park acreage per population standard, the City of Pontiac is deficient in mini and neighborhood parkland, but falls within the recommended range for community and total parkland.

It should be noted that the acreage standard analysis is based only on City-owned parks. This analysis is important given that the jurisdiction of this Recreation Plan covers City-owned parks. However, several other recreation facilities, including school facilities, are located within the City and

Recreation Classification System

Mini-Parks	
General Description	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs
Location Criteria	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting
Size Criteria	Between 2,500 sq.ft. and 1 acre.
Acres per 1,000 Population	0.25 to 0.5
Neighborhood Parks	
General Description	Remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.
Location Criteria	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads & physical barriers
Size Criteria	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal size
Acres per 1,000 Population	1.0 to 2.0
Community Parks	
General Description	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
Location Criteria	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance
Size Criteria	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Between 30 and 50 acres.
Acres per 1,000 Population	5.0 to 8.0

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Recreation Acreage Deficiencies

Park Type	Acreage Standard per Population	Acreage Range Based on Standard (a)	Existing City Park Acreage	Surplus or Deficiency
Mini Park	0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000	14.9 to 29.8 acres	7.17	Deficiency
Neighborhood Parks	1 to 2 acres per 1,000	59.5 to 119.0 acres	52.75	Deficiency
Community Parks	5 to 8 acres per 1,000	297.6 to 476.1 acres	445.90	Within Range
All Parks	6.25 to 10.25 acres per 1,000	372.0 and 624.9 acres	505.82	Within Range

Recreation Inventory Source: Wade Trim field survey, April 2011.

Footnotes:

(a) Based on 2010 Census Population of 59,515 for the City of Pontiac.

serve its residents. Also, many parks are located just outside of the boundaries of the City. These recreation facilities should be taken into consideration in combination with the results of the acreage standard analysis for City-owned parks.

Park Service Areas

As shown in the Recreation Classification System Table, each park type is given a typical service area. For community parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.5 to 3-mile service area (the median of this range, 1.75 miles, will be used for the purposes of this plan). For neighborhood parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.25 to 0.5-mile service area (the median of this range, 0.375 miles, will be used for the purposes of this report). For mini parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.25-mile service area.

The extent of the service areas within the City of Pontiac based on existing parks and their park classification is shown on the Park Service Areas Map. This map effectively shows the locations within the City that are out of range of a certain type of park facility. Presently, all portions of the City are within 1.75 miles of a community park. However, there are numerous portions of the City that are not within 0.375 miles of a neighborhood or community park or are not within 0.25 miles of a mini park, neighborhood park or community park.

As with the acreage standard analysis, this service area analysis was conducted by only considering City-owned parks. A variety of other school- and privately-owned recreation facilities are found within the City or are located just outside of the City limits.

Facility Standards

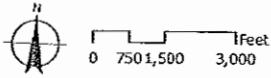
The NRPA has also published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas, the number of facilities needed to service the population as well as the land area needed. Standards for facilities usually located within neighborhood and community parks are provided in the Recreation Facility Standards Table. These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify Pontiac's recreation needs.

The Recreation Facility Deficiencies Table provides a comparison of the City's public park facilities against published recreation facility standards based on the City's 2010 population of 59,515. The public school recreational facilities within the City have also been factored into the comparison against published standards. The table reveals several deficiencies and surpluses within the City.

When the City and school sites are both considered, several recreation facility deficiencies are found, including volleyball courts (-8), tennis courts (-7), swimming pools (-3), ice hockey rinks (-1) and a trail (-1). Surpluses are found for the remainder of the facilities, including significant surpluses for basketball courts (+17.5) and baseball/softball fields (+14).

When only the City's recreation facilities are applied against the NRPA facility standard, deficiencies occur within several categories. These deficiencies include tennis courts (-28), volleyball courts (-8), soccer fields (-4), swimming pools (-3), football fields

Park Service Areas



① Municipal Parks:

1. Aaron Perry Park
2. Beaudette Park
3. Crystal Lake Park
4. Galloway Park
5. Hawthorne Park
6. Joyce Park
7. Murphy Park
8. Oakland Park
9. Rotary Park
10. Art Heaton Park
11. Baldwin Park
12. Cherrylawn Park
13. Cherie Harrison Park
14. Lakeside Park
15. Neighborhood Park
16. North Kiwanis Park
17. Richardson Park
18. South Kiwanis Park
19. Art Dunkin Park
20. Dawson Pond Park
21. Fisher Street Park
22. Indian Village Park
23. Madge Burt Park
24. Motor & Montana Park
25. Pontiac Optimist Park
26. Shirley & Willard Park
27. Steed Park
28. Stout Street Park
29. Washington Park Tot Lot

- Municipal Boundaries
- Rivers and Streams
- Water Bodies
- Parcels

Source: City of Pontiac; Oakland County
July 2011

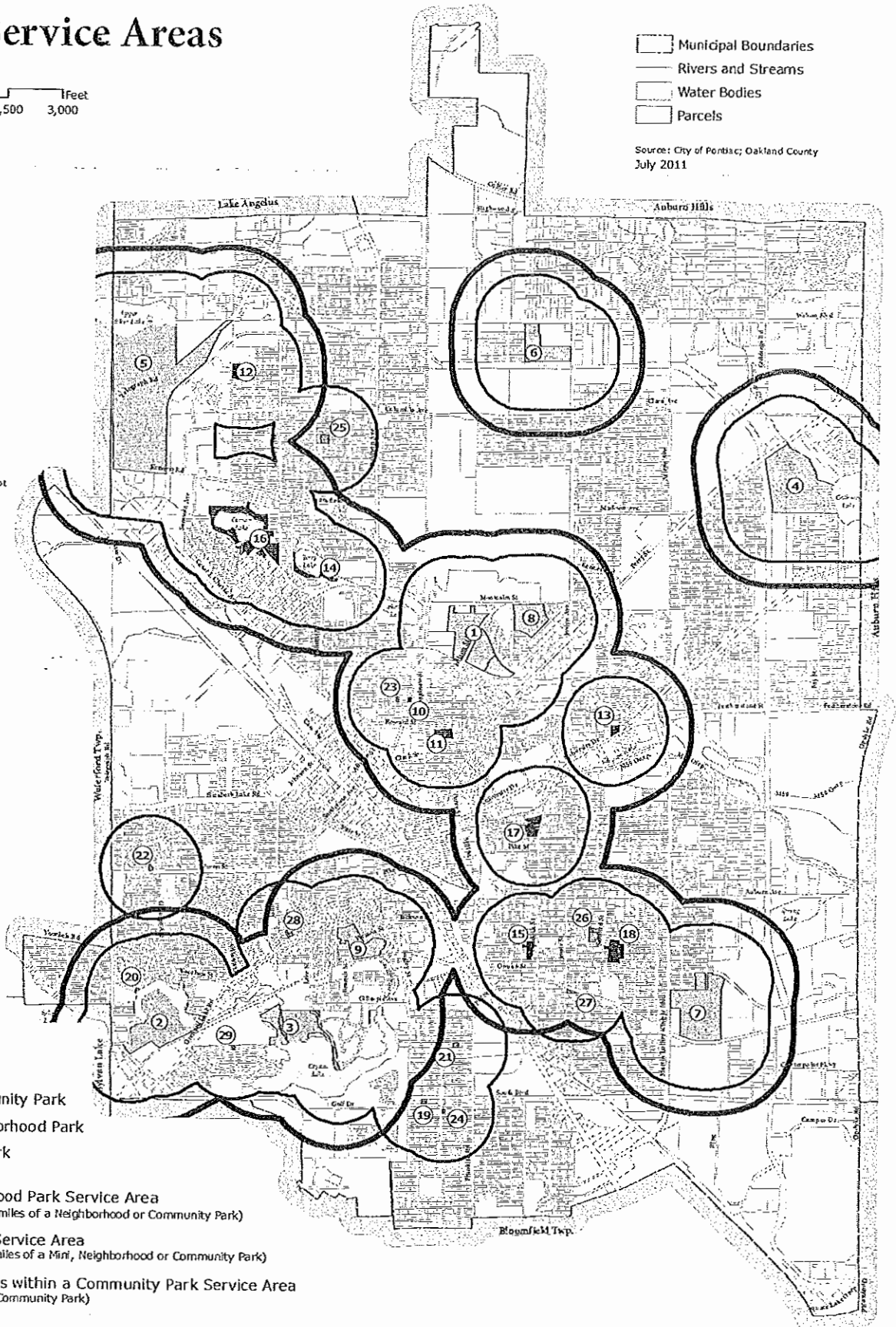
Park Classes:

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini Park

Neighborhood Park Service Area
(Within 0.375 miles of a Neighborhood or Community Park)

Mini Park Service Area
(Within 0.25 miles of a Mini, Neighborhood or Community Park)

Note: Entire City is within a Community Park Service Area
(Within 1.75 miles of a Community Park)



Recreation Facility Standards

Activity/Facility	Minimum Space Requirements	Units per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	2,400-3,036 sq.ft. (youth); 5,040-7,280 sq.ft. (high school)	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ Mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq.ft.	1 per 100,000	½ hour to 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration including travel time affecting number of units.
Tennis Court	7,200 sq.ft. per court; 2 ac. per complex	1 per 2,000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood community park or adjacent to school site.
Volleyball Court (Outdoor)	4,000 sq.ft.	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ballfields				
Baseball	3-3.85 acres	1 per 5,000;	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex. Softball fields may also be used for youth baseball.
Little League	1.2 acres	1 lighted field per		
Softball	1.5-2 acres	30,000		
Football Field	1.5 acres	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Soccer Field	1.7-2.1 acres	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Swimming Pool	1.5 to 2 acres	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Located in community park or school site.
Trails	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	N/A

Source: Data from Roger A Lancaster, Ed., *Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*, Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983, pages 60-61.

Recreation Facility Deficiencies

Facility	Standard per Population	Existing City Parks	Existing School or Other Facilities	Total Existing Facilities	Need Based on Standard (a)	Surplus or Deficiency
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	16.5	13	29.5	12	+17.5
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	0	0	1	-1
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	2	21	23	30	-7
Volleyball Court	1 per 5,000	4	0	4	12	-8
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000	14	12	26	12	+14
Football Field	1 per 20,000	0	5	5	3	+2
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	2	5	7	6	+1
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	0	0	3	-3
Trails	1 per region	0 (b)	0	0 (b)	1	-1

Recreation Inventory Source: Wade Trim field survey, April 2011.

Footnotes:

(a) Based on 2010 Census Population of 59,515 for the City of Pontiac, rounded to the nearest whole number.

(b) The Clinton River Trail is not a completed route through the City of Pontiac and thus is not considered a full trail route for the purposes of this analysis.

(-3), ice hockey rinks (-1), and a trail (-1). Surpluses exist for basketball courts (+4.5) and baseball/softball fields (+2).

This data can be used in conjunction with other factors contained within this plan, such as the results of the focus group meetings and recreation opinion survey. It should again be noted that these standards are somewhat dated and may not accurately reflect the popularity or decline in popularity of various recreation activities.

Community Demographics

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population, density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and policy choices.

For example, if the elementary school enrollment in a particular area is growing, there may be a need to plan for more playgrounds and children's programs. Conversely, if the population of the community is aging, more recreational facilities may be needed for senior citizens. This section provides a brief summary of the socioeconomic characteristics of the City of Pontiac that may influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

The 2010 U.S. Census serves as the primary source of data for this demographics section. Census statistics are presented for the City of Pontiac as a whole, but are also presented for the 17 census tracts that

comprise the City. As a supplement to this analysis, a series of maps have been prepared to illustrate the relevant census data by census tract.

City Population Trends and Projections

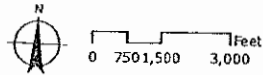
Since the 1970's, the City's population has declined significantly. With a peak of 85,279 residents recorded by the 1970 Census, the City's population now stands at 59,515 residents as of the 2010 Census. This equates to a population decline of more than 30 percent over the 40 year span. However, according to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) 2035 Population Forecast, which was produced in 2007-2008, the City's population is slated to increase from its current mark and will reach 68,596 residents by 2035.

Population and Population Density

Population and population density characteristics can have a significant influence on recreation planning. In general, Pontiac is a densely populated urban community making it practical for park facilities to be located throughout the City. However, there are certain portions of the City that have larger or fewer numbers of residents, and at varying densities. The Population Density map shows the population density of the 17 census tracts within the City.

As is shown on the map, higher densities are generally found in the central, northwestern, and southwestern portions of the City (particularly Census Tracts 1412, 1413, 1417, 1420, 1422 and 1426). Lower densities are found in the southeastern corner of the City (Census Tract 1423) and immedi-

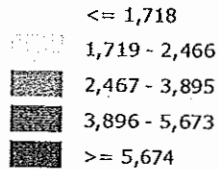
Population Density



① Municipal Parks:

1. Aaron Perry Park
2. Beaudette Park
3. Crystal Lake Park
4. Galloway Park
5. Hawthorne Park
6. Jaycee Park
7. Murphy Park
8. Oakland Park
9. Rotary Park
10. Art Heston Park
11. Baldwin Park
12. Cherrylawn Park
13. Charlie Harrison Park
14. Lakeside Park
15. Neighborhood Park
16. North Kiwanis Park
17. Richardson Park
18. South Kiwanis Park
19. Art Dunlop Park
20. Dawson Road Park
21. Fisher Street Park
22. Indian Village Park
23. Madge Burt Park
24. Motor & Montana Park
25. Peniac Optimist Park
26. Shirley & Willard Park
27. Stead Park
28. Stout Street Park
29. Washington Park Tot Lot

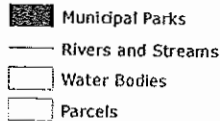
Population Per Sq. Mile
by Census Tract:*



*Natural Breaks Classification Method

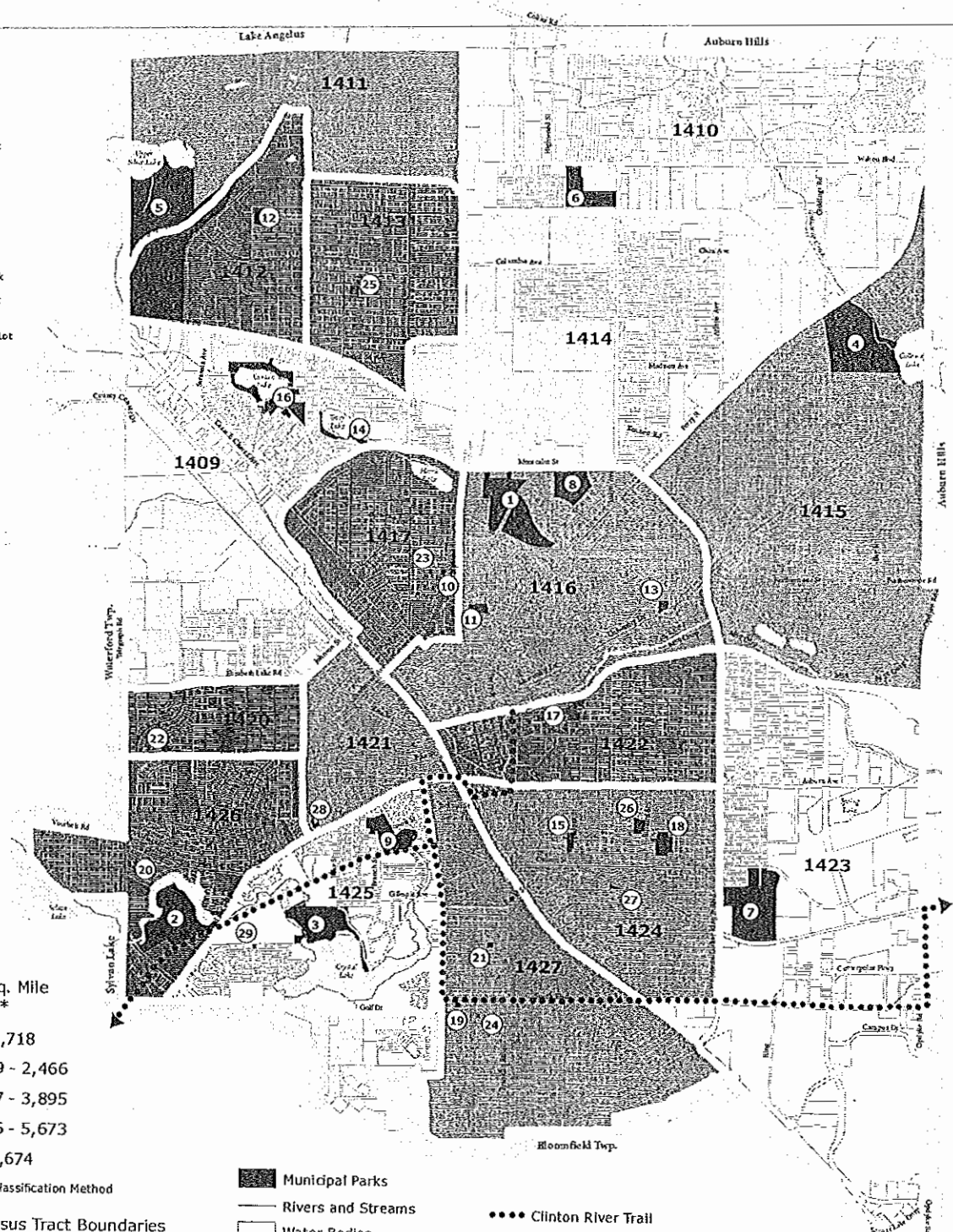
2010 Census Tract Boundaries

1413 Census Tract ID Number

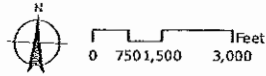


..... Clinton River Trail
..... Clinton River Trail Temporary Route

Source: City of Portia; Oakland County; 2010 U.S. Census;



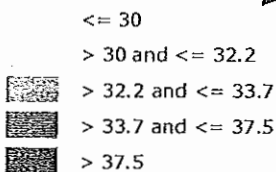
Median Age



① Municipal Parks:

1. Aaron Perry Park
2. Beaudette Park
3. Crystal Lake Park
4. Galloway Park
5. Hawthorne Park
6. Jaycee Park
7. Murphy Park
8. Oakland Park
9. Rotary Park
10. Art Heaton Park
11. Baldwin Park
12. Cherrylawn Park
13. Charlie Harrison Park
14. Lakeside Park
15. Neighborhood Park
16. North Kwan's Park
17. Richardson Park
18. South Kiwanis Park
19. Art Dunlop Park
20. Dawson Pond Park
21. Fisher Street Park
22. Indian Village Park
23. Madge Burt Park
24. Motor & Montana Park
25. Pontiac Optimist Park
26. Shirley & Willard Park
27. Steed Park
28. Stout Street Park
29. Washington Park Tot Lot

Median Age
by Census Tract:*



*Natural Breaks Classification Method

2010 Census Tract Boundaries
1413 Census Tract ID Number

Municipal Parks

Rivers and Streams

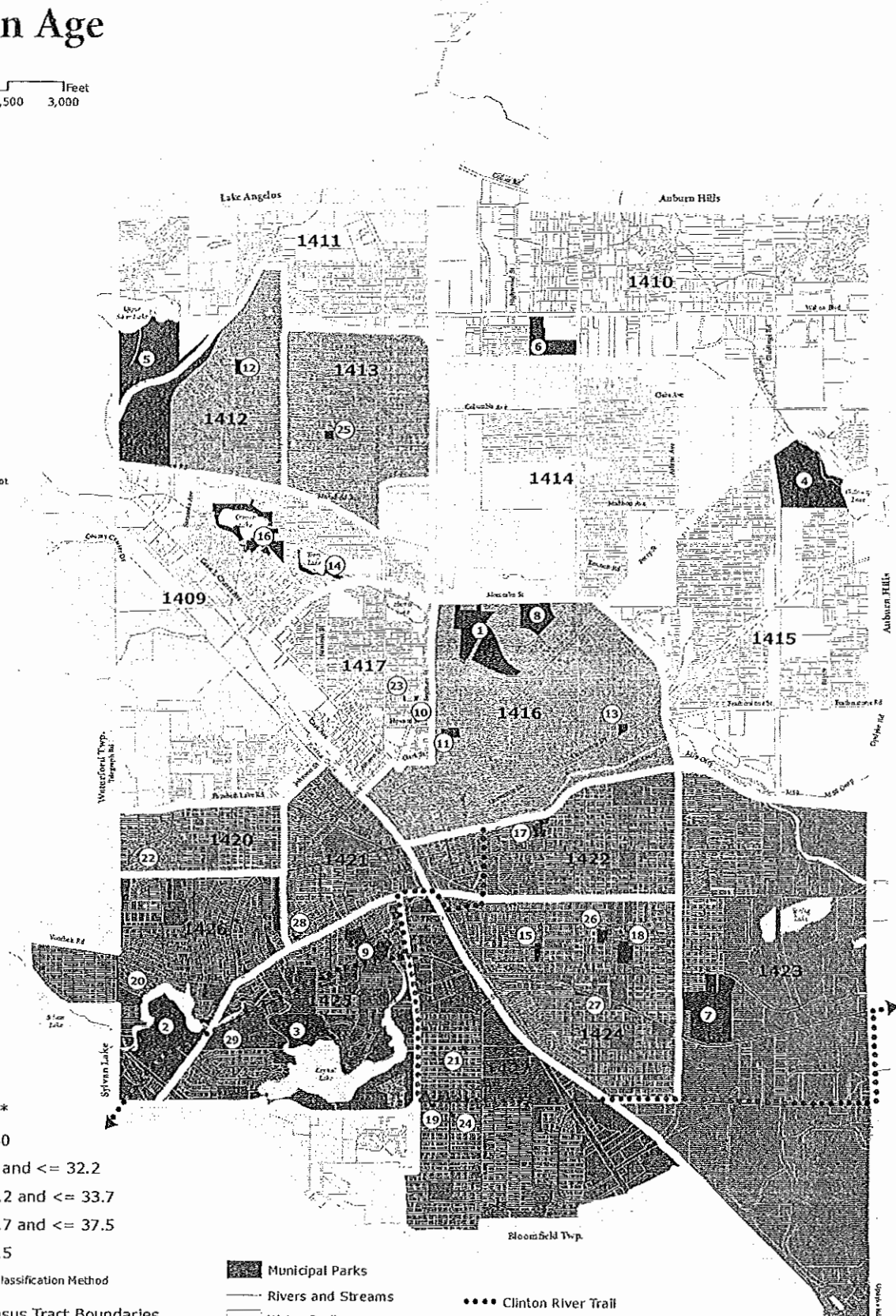
Water Bodies

Parcels

Clinton River Trail

Clinton River Trail Temporary Route

Source: City of Pontiac; Oakland County; 2010 U.S. Census;



ately adjacent to Crystal Lake (Census Tract 1425).

Median Age

Knowledge of a community's age distribution plays a crucial role in the planning of recreation facilities and programs. As mentioned earlier, whether an area is comprised of older or younger citizens will greatly influence such things as the facilities that are most desired within parks. The Median Age map shows the median age for the census tracts within the City.

The map shows a clear geographic distinction between the northern portion of the City, which is relatively young, and the southern portion of the City, which is relatively old. The three oldest census tracts in terms of median age are found in the southwestern corner of the City (Census Tracts 1425, 1426 and 1427), while the next five oldest census tracts are in the southern and southeastern portions of the City (Census Tracts 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423 and 1424). The youngest census tracts in terms of median age are found just northwest of downtown (Census Tract 1417) and in the northeast corner of the City (Census Tracts 1410 and 1415).

Consistent with the age characteristics of the different sections of the City, the City may want to consider providing recreation facilities that serve a younger or older population as necessary.

Household Size

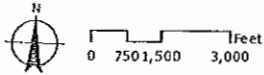
A household, as defined by the US Census, is all persons who occupy the same housing unit. A housing unit can be described as a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room used as a separate living quarters.

A trend occurring nationwide and characteristic of today's population is the declining size of households. There are several factors that demographers have linked to the declining size. People are marrying later, postponing having children, and having fewer children. Nation-wide, married couple families still comprise the largest and economically most powerful household. However, the number of single parent households is increasing, thus contributing to the decline in average household size.

Household size is an important factor when making recreation facility and program decisions. A high person per household figure can be an indication that an area is comprised of families with children and thus could justify family or youth oriented recreation facilities. Conversely, an area with a low person per household figure may require recreation facilities more favorable to singles, adults or the elderly.

The Household Size map illustrates the average household size by census tract within the City of Pontiac. Again, a clear geographic distinction is found between certain areas of the City.

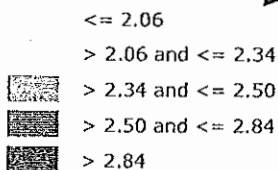
Household Size



① Municipal Parks:

1. Aaron Perry Park
2. Beaudette Park
3. Crystal Lake Park
4. Galloway Park
5. Hawthorne Park
6. Jaycee Park
7. Murphy Park
8. Oakland Park
9. Rotary Park
10. Art Heaton Park
11. Baldwin Park
12. Cherrydown Park
13. Charlie Harrison Park
14. Lakeside Park
15. Neighborhood Park
16. North Kiwanis Park
17. Richardson Park
18. South Kiwanis Park
19. Art Dunlop Park
20. Dawson Pond Park
21. Fisher Street Park
22. Indian Village Park
23. Madge Burt Park
24. Motor & Montana Park
25. Pontiac Optimist Park
26. Shirley S. Willard Park
27. Stead Park
28. Stout Street Park
29. Washington Park Tot Lot

Average Household Size
by Census Tract:*



*Natural Breaks Classification Method

2010 Census Tract Boundaries

1413 Census Tract ID Number

Municipal Parks

Rivers and Streams

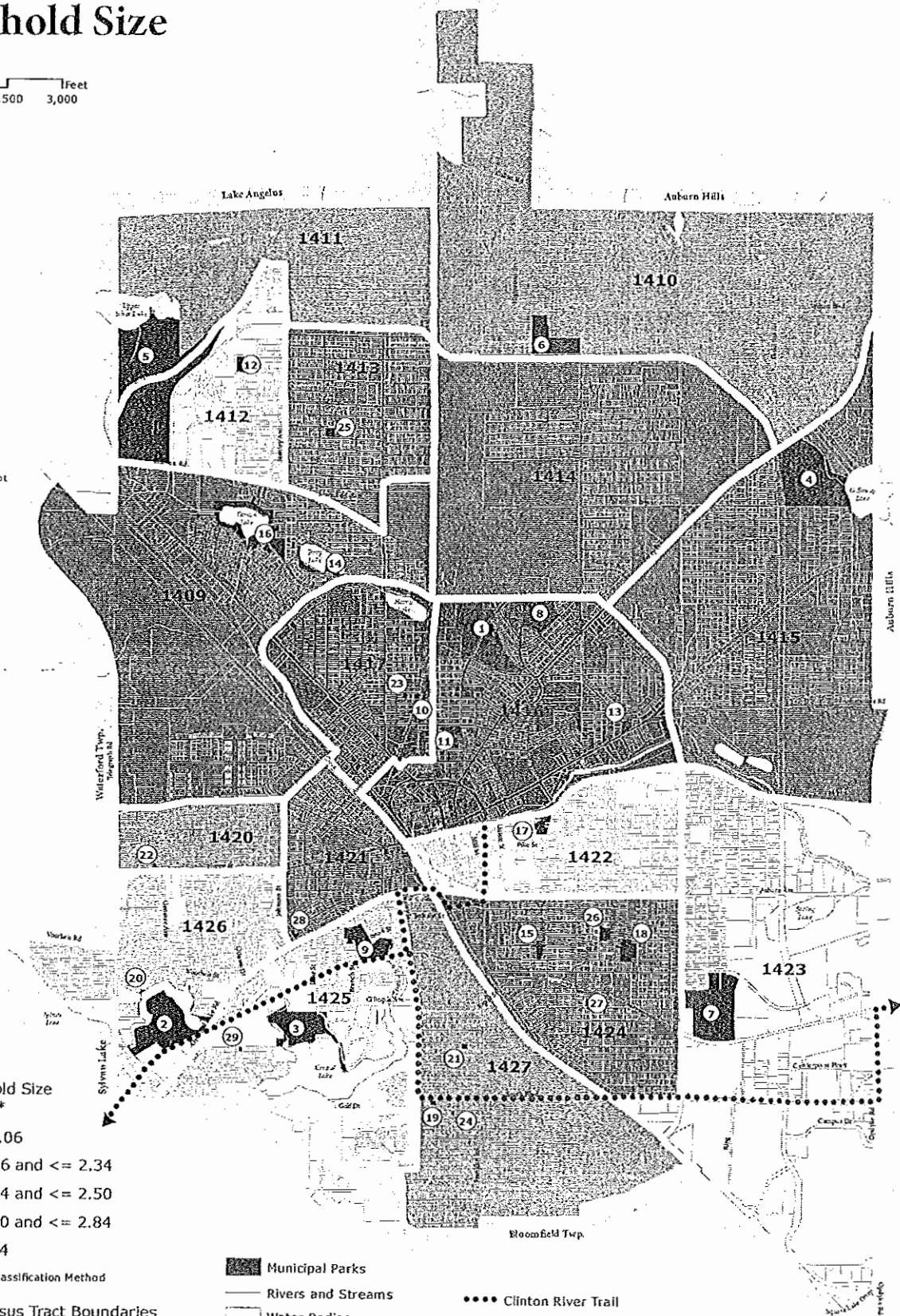
Water Bodies

Parcels

Clinton River Trail

Clinton River Trail Temporary Route

Source: City of Pontiac; Oakland County; 2010 U.S. Census;



Downtown Pontiac and the neighborhoods immediately to the northwest, north and northeast feature the largest average household sizes in the City. These include Census Tracts 1409, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417 and 1421. The northern edge of the City (Census Tracts 1410 and 1411) and the southern half of the City (Census Tracts 1420, 1422, 1423, 1425, 1426 and 1427) feature relatively lower household sizes.

Related Planning Initiatives

There are several related planning initiatives that are significant in terms of their relevance to the provision of recreation within the City of Pontiac. Each initiative is described in further detail below.

Oakland County Parks Strategic Plan 2008

The Oakland County Parks Strategic Plan provides a tactical approach to the continuation and development of future park and recreation activities and serves as a guide in future acquisition and improvement of parks, recreation facilities and programs. The Strategic Plan was developed through community input, staff and key leader interviews, review of existing documentation, and analysis of County Recreation Commission operations. The 10-year vision consists of various goals and implementation strategies related to land, recreation facilities, programs and services, and operational and financial sustainability.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2007

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department completed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in March 2007. The pur-

pose of the plan is to guide recreation and planning efforts through 2011 and to meet necessary MDNR standards for eligibility for grant programs. The Master Plan includes an overall description of the County and overview of the administrative structure and financing for the department, an inventory of County Parks, a needs assessment and summary of public input, goals and objectives, as well as a capital improvement plan and implementation strategies.

Oakland County Trails Master Plan

The Oakland County Trails Master Plan (2008) was developed to provide a framework for creating a connected system of greenways and trails throughout Oakland County. This non-motorized system is envisioned to serve a diverse range of users, providing safe and well-maintained linkages to important natural, cultural and civic destinations and other points of interest within and outside of the county.

The development of the Trails Master Plan was overseen by the Oakland Trails Advisory Council, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services. These agencies serve in a leadership role in the development of a connected non-motorized system, but rely on the determined efforts of numerous local municipalities, trail commissions, friends groups and property owners for trail implementation.

The Oakland County Pathway Concept Map, included on the next page, illustrates the vision to link pathways and greenways throughout Oakland County. All of the ex-

AKLAND COUNTY Pathway Concept



isting primary trail systems are shown on the map, as well as the concept for future connections. These connections are either in the design/development phase, under consideration, or under review, and have been identified as such because of their

importance in linking the natural, cultural, historic and community amenities in Oakland County.

An important focus of the Oakland County Trails Master Plan was the bridging of several primary "gaps," or critical missing links that exist in the major trail system. One such gap was identified for the Clinton River Trail within Pontiac. The Trails Master Plan identified two potential connector routes, a "southern route" (using the right-of-way along South Boulevard) and a "northern route" (through downtown and along the Clinton River) which were assessed based on their opportunities and constraints. Ultimately, the northern route was identified in the Plan as the "preferred primary connector route."

Oakland County's Green Infrastructure Visioning Project

Oakland County's Green Infrastructure Visioning Project focuses on identifying an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions, guides sustainable development, and provides associated economic quality of life benefits to our communities.

Green infrastructure networks consist of the following components:

- Hubs: Hubs anchor the network and provide an origin or destination for

wildlife. Hubs range in size from large conservation areas to smaller parks and preserves. Hubs provide habitat for native wildlife and help maintain natural ecological processes.

- Sites: Smaller ecological landscape features that can serve as a point of origin or destination or incorporate less extensive ecological important areas.
- Links: The connections that hold the network together and enable it to function. Links facilitate movement from one hub to another.

Using the natural areas information developed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) as a starting point for analysis, the Oakland County Planning's Environmental Stewardship Group has been working with the local communities of Oakland County to identify and map local green infrastructure elements. This process has been completed and has resulted in the creation of a Green Infrastructure Vision for the entire County (see graphic on next page). With a County-wide vision in place, local communities are then encouraged to establish recommendations for best land management practices, rank conservation priorities and identify funding needs, and address green infrastructure goals through local plans and ordinances.

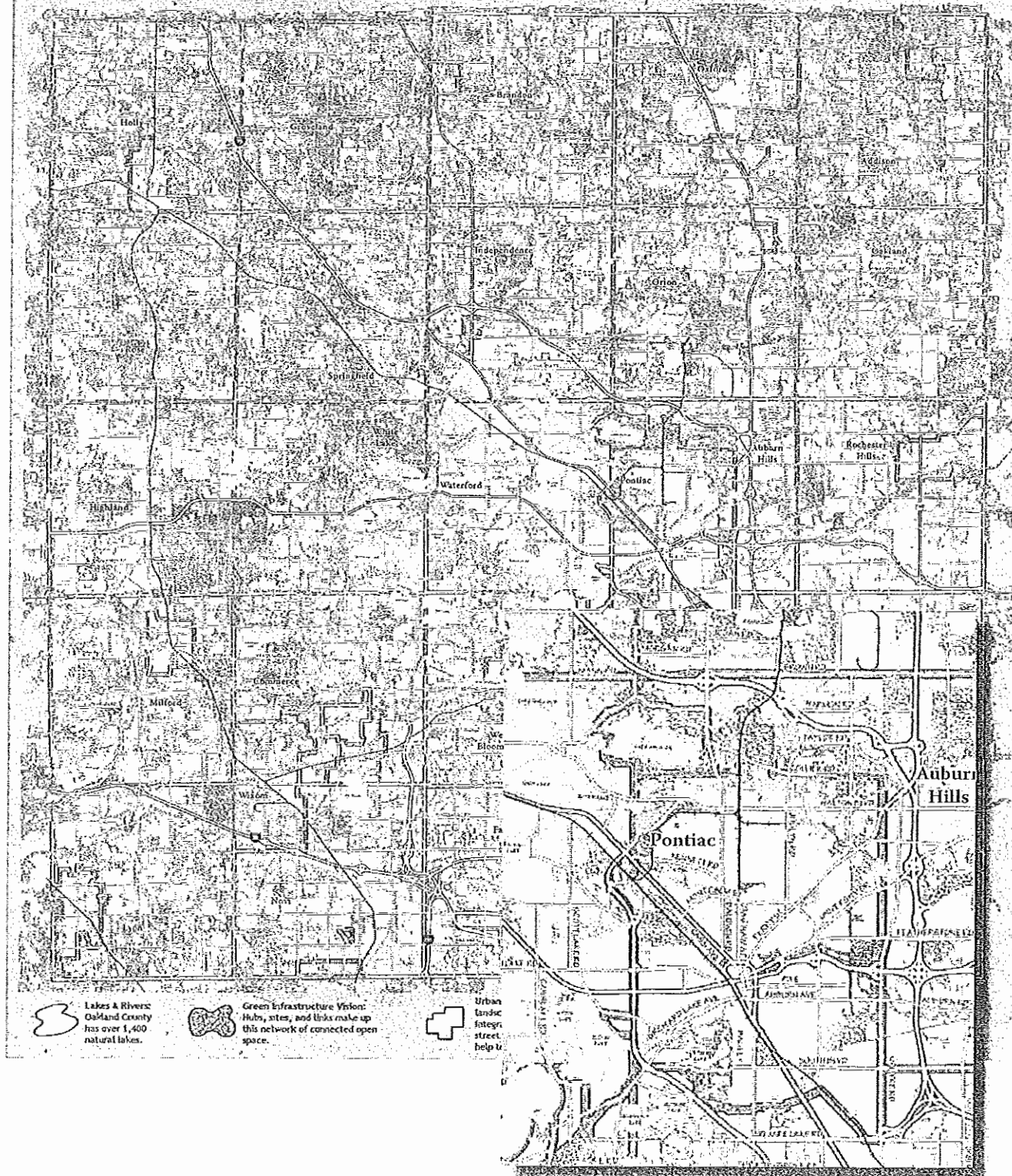
Clinton River Trail Master Plan

The Clinton River Trail Master Plan was completed in 2003 as a vision for the design and implementation of the trail. The Plan ad-

Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision Map

Source: Oakland County Environmental Stewardship Service

Mark A. Benedict and Edward T. McMahon, of the Conservation Fund, defined the term green infrastructure as: "an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations."



ressed the two most significant challenges of the trail's implementation: crossing eighteen major road corridors; and determining the best way to circumnavigate the existing trail gap in the City of Pontiac. Additionally, the Master Plan provided recommendations

for the key elements of the trail's design, including pathway construction, trail/road intersections, staging areas, interpretive approach, bridges and overlooks.

Clinton River Trail Phase IV Conceptual Alignment

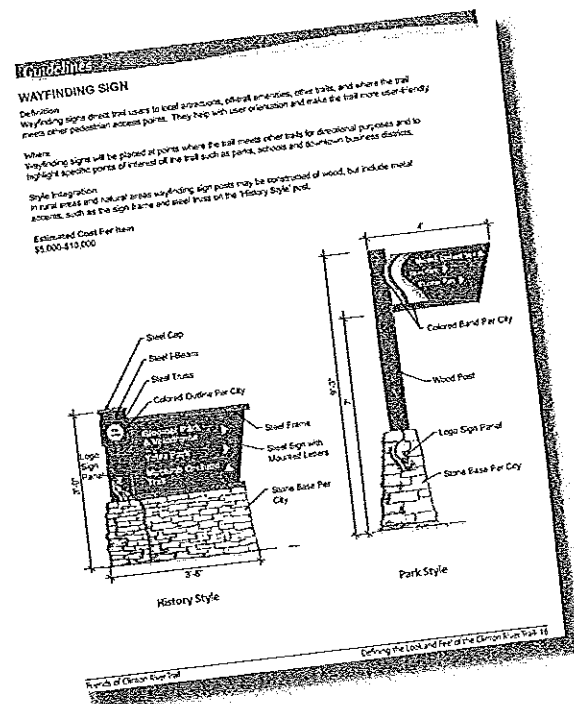
The proposed Phase IV of the Clinton River Trail through the City of Pontiac traverses from Woodward Avenue, east to Opdyke Road, generally following the Clinton River. In November 2009, staff from the City of Pontiac, Oakland County Planning, Oakland County Water Resources Office, the Friends of the Clinton River Trail and Wade Trim walked the proposed connector route in order to develop a conceptual alignment and cost estimate.

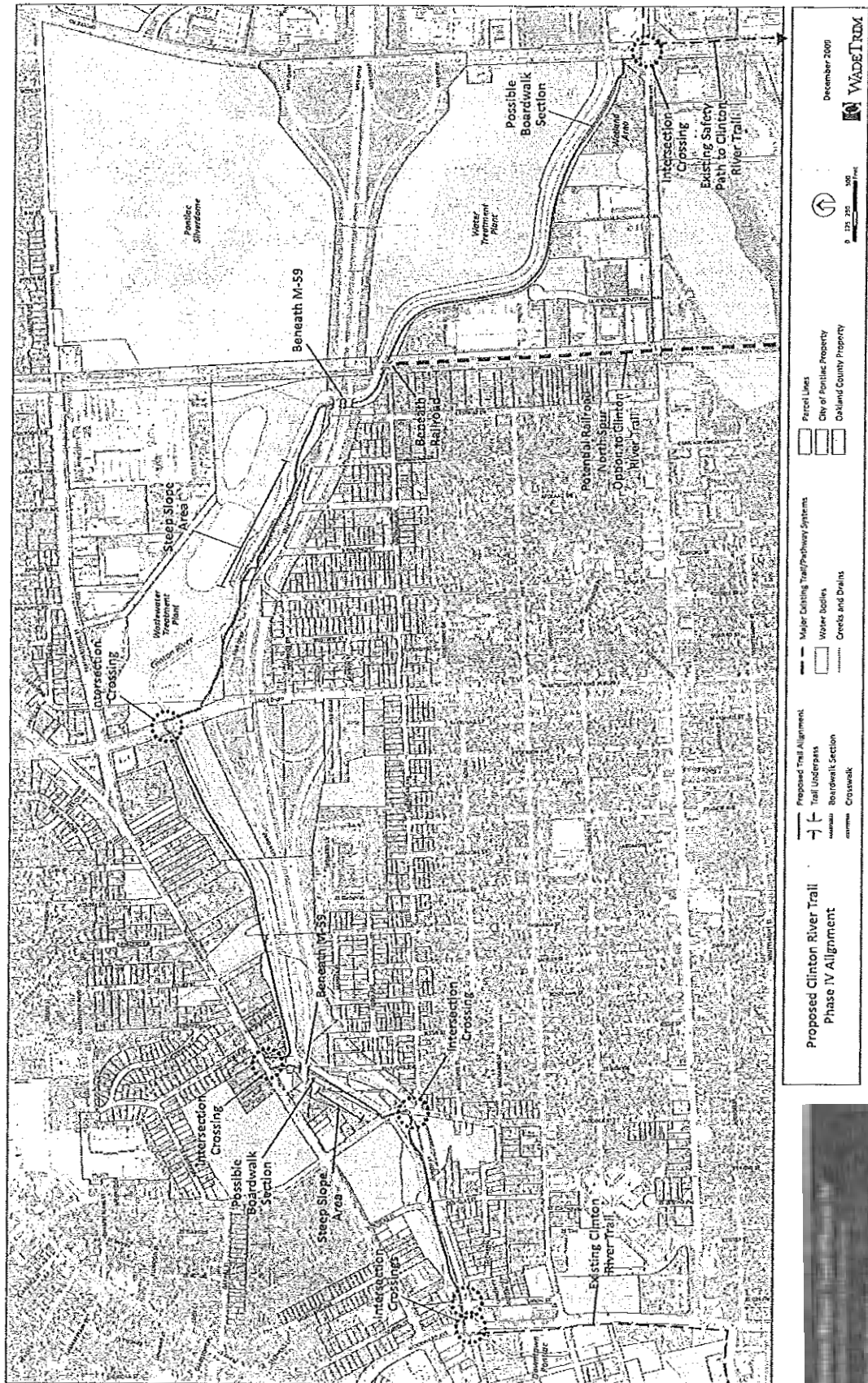
The proposed alignment was selected for various reasons, but primarily due to property ownership (desire to stay within right-of-way or within City or County-owned property), constructability, ability for the trail to also be used for access/maintenance of the river, and consideration of providing a desirable setting for the trail user. The conceptual alignment for Phase IV is illustrated on the graphic on page 54.

Defining the Look and Feel of the Clinton River Trail

Recognizing a need to establish a consistent "look and feel" for the Clinton River Trail across its various governmental jurisdictions, the Friends of the Clinton River Trail

completed a design guidelines report in 2010 to serve as a supplement to the guidelines established in the 2003 Clinton River Trail Master Plan. Applicable to both rural and urban environments, the 2010 guidelines report established a signature look for the design of various trail amenities that allows flexibility for customization across the municipalities yet also provides a unifying design scheme.



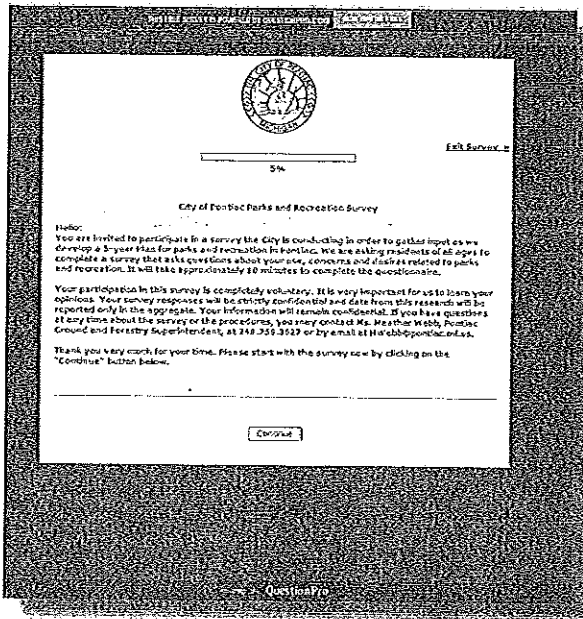


City of Pontiac Public Input

In the development of the Master Plan, the City solicited input via an online survey. In addition, a public hearing was held once a draft plan was prepared.

Survey

An online survey was created and posted to the City of Pontiac website. A flyer was developed and a number of emails sent out to a variety of stakeholders encouraging completion of the survey. The survey was available June 15, 2011 through October 4, 2011. Hard copies of the survey were also printed and made available at the Bowen's



and Peterson Senior Centers. Seventy-three (73) surveys were fully completed and 123 surveys were partially completed. The survey results reported include anyone that answered any question (the entire survey didn't need to be completed in order for responses to be counted). Detailed survey results can be found in the Appendix of this Master Plan. A few highlights of the results include:

- Nearly 65% of the surveys were completed by people who have lived in the City for more than 20 years.
- Geographically, the majority of the respondents live in the Northwest, Northeast, or Southwest sections of the City.
- The largest number of respondents were between the ages of 50 to 55.

Survey respondents also indicated:

- Many more programs, activities, and facilities are needed
- Enough parkland is available
- The job being done providing recreational programs and facilities in the City was rated fair to poor.
- Much more funding is needed

The physical recreation opportunities that are currently participated in the most include:

- Walking/Hiking
- Bicycling
- Jogging
- Basketball
- Picnicking
- Fishing

The non-sport activities that are currently participated in the most include:

- Computer and technology classes
- Fitness classes
- Concerts

In terms of facilities, the following items received the most votes for "many more should be developed":

- Hiking/Walking trails
- Bicycle Paths
- Mountain biking trails

- Indoor swimming pools
- Outdoor swimming pools

The results of survey were considered in the development of the Action Plan.

Public Hearing

The draft plan was made available for public review on December 16, 2011. A public hearing was held in front of City Council on January 26, 2012.

Section 6

Action Program

The Action Program details the priorities and direction for the City of Pontiac parks and recreation facilities and services over the next five years (2012 – 2016). As are many Michigan communities, the City of Pontiac is experiencing severe financial constraints. In fact, the City has been under the direction of a state appointed Emergency Manager since 2009. In the near term, City funding for any major redesign or renovation of park facilities is not in the realm of possibility (unless significant outside funding and/or grants are received). This Action Program was prepared with these realities in mind. However, as Pontiac has done in years past, there are a number of opportunities for partnerships and cooperative ventures, as well as opportunities to leverage the little funding that the City does have budgeted for parks and recreation with other grants and donations.

The Action Program includes priority goal statements and related objectives as well as a table summarizing priority capital improvements for the next five years.

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives were developed to assist in providing direction to City management, Council and staff. Goals are long-term

ideals or end products that are desired. Objectives for each goal have been developed to outline more specific actions that will assist in meeting the goal. The goals and objectives are intended to be as important as the capital improvement priorities. They are listed in no particular order of importance or priority.

Maintenance and Crime Prevention

The condition and level of vandalism at many of the Parks is a continual reminder of the state of the City. There are a number of facilities such as light poles, dug-outs and comfort stations throughout the park system that are either obsolete or have been vandalized to the point where repair is not cost effective. Not addressing these issues in a timely manner degrades the aesthetics of the parks, is a strain on thinly stretched maintenance personnel and budgets, discourages use by law abiding citizens and families, and many times can attract more criminal activity.

GOAL

Dedicate resources to remove obsolete and unsafe elements from parks and design all new improvements with crime prevention and minimal maintenance in mind.

OBJECTIVES

- o Remove obsolete fixtures and facilities as outlined in the CIP table with particular focus on Community Parks such as Aaron Perry, Beaudette, Crystal Lake, Galloway, Oakland and Rotary Parks.
- o Repair facilities that are damaged in a timely manner so as to encourage use and discourage vandalism.
- o Improvements at parks should adhere to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and strategies in order to deter criminal behavior.
- o Design and select materials for minimal maintenance

Funding

With the City under the supervision of an Emergency Financial Manager, funding continues to be a critical issue.

GOAL

Aggressively pursue and seek creative and unique sources and partnerships in order to increase funding for park maintenance, operation, programs and improvements.

OBJECTIVES

- o Modify City code to allow for advertising and signage at City parks.
- o Continue to seek grants from national, state, regional and local agencies and private foundations.
- o Seek to establish endowments for parks to ensure long-term maintenance of existing and/or new facilities.
- o Utilize partnerships with other governmental or school organizations in order to recognize desired improvements.

Staffing and Partnerships

Staffing dedicated to maintenance, improvements, operations and programming for parks and recreation facilities has declined significantly over the last several years. While it is desirable to increase the number of staff for parks and recreation, it is recognized that partnerships with other organizations and volunteers will be essential to move the parks and programs forward.

GOAL

Increase staffing levels as funding permits and seek to foster partnerships with organizations and volunteers in order to maintain a higher level of maintenance and offerings within the City.

OBJECTIVES

- o Establish a Baseball/Softball Commission with appointees from each existing League. Commission would be responsible for organizing, scheduling, facility maintenance, improvements and grievances at Aaron Perry and Jaycee Parks. Commission would not be City funded.
- o Seek funds (internally or externally) to increase staffing related to management, operations, programming and maintenance at the parks and senior centers.
- o Continue conversations with Oakland County regarding a possible County Park within the City limits.

- o Foster relationships with the Public and Private schools to seek opportunities for joint agreements regarding use, maintenance, improvements and long-term youth programs.
- o Consider and be open to partnerships with private organizations for the joint management of facilities
- o Bolster the Adopt-A-Park program and adoption of Right-of-Way areas throughout the City
- o Encourage the establishment of a non-profit "Friends" of Pontiac Parks group that can secure grants and donations that the City is not eligible for and can assist in improvements at City Parks.

Non-Motorized Improvements

The ability to maneuver in and around the City without a vehicle is not only desirable, but for many people, essential. In addition to walking or bicycling as a means to get to various destinations within the community, a complete and connected, well-maintained non-motorized system is beneficial to residents' health, fosters a sense of community, encourages economic development, provides safe routes to school, etc.

GOAL

Provide a complete, connected, universally accessible, and well-maintained non-motorized network.

OBJECTIVES

- o Focus efforts to secure funding for the design and construction of the final segment (Phase IV) of the Clinton River Trail and/or the CN Railroad north spur option.
- o Continue to coordinate and partner with the Friends of the Clinton River Trail in order to assist with the completion, improvement and maintenance of the system including events, signage, surface improvements, etc.
- o Encourage and facilitate discussions with City staff and consultants to ensure existing and proposed work within public rights-of-way meets the intention of the Complete Streets movement.
- o Support the recommendations that evolve out of the Downtown Pontiac Livability Study (currently in progress).

Capital Improvements Schedule

Potential capital improvements for this Parks and Recreation Master Plan have been established to provide a guide and foundation for decision makers, and to enable the City to apply for grant funding for proposed projects. The schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive or exclusive. The schedule reflects a combination of items including the financial realities of the City, input from the opinion survey, discussions with City staff, and input from the public hearing.

City of Pontiac

Capital Improvement Priorities ('12 - '16)

City of Pontiac Capital Improvement Priorities ('12 - '16)				On-Going			Potential Funding Sources
Magnitude of Cost				Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+ yrs)	
Aaron Perry Park							
Remove Obsolete/Unsafe Elements (light poles, comfort station, dugouts)		TBD	X				Maintenance
Install New Dugouts (4) (open structures with roofs)		\$20,000 - \$25,000	X				Baseball Tomorrow/Private
Replace Playground Equipment		\$30,000 - \$50,000		X			CIF/Private/Grants
Improve Softball Fields (backstops and grading)		\$10,000	X				Baseball Tomorrow/Private
Improve Parking along Edison Street		TBD	X				Baseball Tomorrow/Private
Improve Soccer Fields (grading/seed)		\$10,000	X				Maintenance/CIF/Private
Demolish Former Police Mini Station (if no tenant available)		TBD		X			
Beaudette Park							
Remove Obsolete/Unsafe Elements (light poles at softball field)		TBD	X				Maintenance
Improve Boat Launch (small motor/canoe/kayak)		\$10,000 - \$20,000	X				Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)
Install Gate to Close to Vehicles During Winter (Dec-Feb)		\$5,000 - \$7,000	X				Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)
Crystal Lake Park (Candidate For Sale)							
Remove Obsolete/Unsafe Elements (all remaining elements)		TBD	X				Maintenance
Candidate for Sale (closed for nearly a decade)		---				X	
Galloway Park							
Remove Obsolete/Unsafe Elements (ballfields, dugouts, lights, tennis courts)		TBD	X				Maintenance
Sell/Lease Former Ewalt Community Center		---				X	
Repair Fishing Dock		less than \$5,000	X				Maintenance
Add Pavillion (3) (22' x 34')		\$90,000 to \$150,000	X	X			CIF/Private/Grant
Add Playground Equipment		\$30,000 to \$50,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant

City of Pontiac

Capital Improvement Priorities ('12 - '16)

City of Pontiac Capital Improvement Priorities ('12 - '16)						
	Magnitude of Cost	Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+ yrs)	On-Going	Potential Funding Sources
Hawthorne Park						
Repair Comfort Station	\$5,000 to \$10,000	X				Maintenance
Add Pavillion (1) (22' x 34')	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant
Picnic Tables	\$1,500 each	X				General Fund
Jaycee Park						
New Playground Equipment	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant
Add Pavillion (1) (22' x 34')	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant
Repair Comfort Station	\$5,000 to \$10,000	X				Maintenance
Improve Dugouts, Backstop, Storage, Press Box.	TBD	X				Private
Murphy Park						
Small Pavillion (1) and Small Bleachers at Crickett Field	\$15,000 to \$30,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant
Replace Playground Equipment	\$30,000 to \$50,000	X				KaBoom! Grant/CIF
Basketball Court	\$75,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant
Oakland Park						
Remove Obsolete Comfort Station	TBD	X				Maintenance
Add Pavillion (1) (22' x 34')	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant
Convert Tennis Courts to Basketball Courts	\$10,000		X			CIF/Private/Grant
Resurface Existing Basketball Courts (2)	\$10,000 - \$15,000	X				CIF/Private/Grant
Seek Tenant for Old Fire Station or Refurbish	---				X	

City of Pontiac
Capital Improvement Priorities ('12 - '16)

Project Description	Magnitude of Cost	Timeframe			Potential Funding Sources
		Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+ yrs)	
Rotary Park					
Demolish Hayes/Jones Community Center/Pool	TBD			X	
Replace Playground Equipment	\$30,000 - \$50,000	X			CIF/Private/Grant
Basketball Court Improvements	\$5,000 - \$10,000	X			CIF/Private/Grant
Establish Trailhead for Clinton River Trail	\$10,000 to \$15,000		X		Private/CIF
Cherrydown Park					
Replace Playground Equipment	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X		CIF/Private/Grant
Add Pavillion (1) (22' x 34')	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X		CIF/Private/Grant
Neighborhood Park					
Replace Playground Equipment	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X		CIF/Private/Grant
North Keweenaw Park					
Replace Playground Equipment	\$30,000 to \$50,000		X		CIF/Private/Grant
Indian Village Park					
Stone Wall Repairs	\$3,000 to \$5,000	X			Maintenance
Art Dunlop Park					
Replace Playground Equipment	\$10,000 to \$15,000		X		CIF/Private/Grant
Remove Courts	\$1,000 to \$3,000		X		Maintenance

City of Pontiac

Capital Improvement Priorities ('12 - '16)

Project Description	Magnitude of Cost				Potential Funding Sources		
	Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+ yrs)	On-Going			
Clinton River Trail							
Acquire Railroad ROW, including the north spur of the CN Railroad				X			MNRTF, General Fund
Design/Construct Clinton River Trail Connector (Phase IV)	X						MNRTF, MDOT TE, CIF
Clinton River Trail Wayfinding/Signage	X						MNRTF, LWCF, Private, CIF
Improve Clinton River Trail Surface (approx. 1.5 mi limestone)		X					LWCF, Private, CIF
Limit Vehicular Access Through Design (Restrict Dumping)		X					General Fund
Prepare New 5-Year Master Plan							
Prepare New 5-Year Plan (Start 2016)		X					General Fund, CIF

Costs are derived from a variety of sources and illustrate magnitude of costs for the purpose of capital expenditure planning. Estimates are based off of conceptual level planning only.

