



# CHAPTER 3: STRATEGIES



City of Detroit

**Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan**

2022-2032



## **OVERVIEW**

### *Strategies to Achieve Our Goals*

The feedback collected through a series of surveys, focus groups, public reviews, and other comments contributed to the formation of specific, actionable items towards Detroit Parks & Recreation (DPRD)'s main goals. Together these recommendations make up a comprehensive implementation strategy to improve the quality of life for all Detroiters. Each strategic action item features a detailed description for implementation. The table at the end of this section summarizes the goals being addressed, cost, priority level, and responsible division for each item. This chapter addresses:

1. Overarching Strategies
2. Public Health Focused Strategies
3. Nature & the Environment Focused Strategies
4. Access & Connectivity Focused Strategies

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## USER GUIDE

**1.1.1 Strategy title** and a description of implementation considerations, specific impacts, or potential resources needed.

*Time frame for Completion, Priority Level  
Division Responsible for Implementation, Cost Level*

### Priority Levels

- ★ low priority
- ★★ moderate priority
- ★★★ high priority
- ★★★★ top priority

### Cost levels

- \$ under \$10,000
- \$\$ >\$10K to \$100K
- \$\$\$ >\$100K to \$1M
- \$\$\$\$ >\$1M to \$10M
- \$\$\$\$\$ >\$10M





# 1. OVERARCHING STRATEGIES

This first section presents strategies to address common issues that residents have prioritized during community engagement. Each item addresses more than one of the plan's main goals while reflecting these commonly raised concerns. By addressing multiple concerns at once, these strategies can help DPRD better serve Detroiters efficiently and cost effectively. This section contains:

- 1.1 Marketing: Get the Word Out
- 1.2 Invest in Staff
- 1.3 Strengthen Partnerships



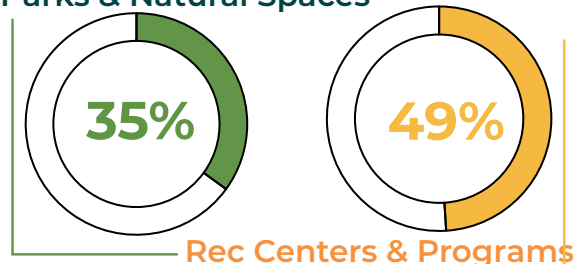
## Why Are These Strategies Needed?

Strategies in this section address several of this plan’s goals: *improving public health, protecting and connecting Detroiters to nature & the environment, and increasing access & connectivity to parks and recreational opportunities.*

We heard from an overwhelming number of that a lack of information is the number one barrier to all parks and recreation facility use. According to a city-wide survey, residents lacked information about parks and natural spaces (35%) and more still lacked information about recreation centers (49%).

Lack of Information prevents use of...

### Parks & Natural Spaces



for these percents of survey respondents.

Strategies for conveying useful information about recreation assets can improve broader efforts aimed at public health and environmental goals. For example, park signage can inform visitors about the permitting process, recycling initiatives, upcoming programs and park rules. These features encourage park pride, facilitate community cohesion, and foster feelings of safety and belonging.

Similarly overlapping goals were found in other marketing and communications strategies, as well as Staff & Partnerships, and Recreational Resource strategies. Implementing these strategies across the City’s park system can provide the most benefit to Detroiters in all quality of life measures.

“I’ve tried to participate... but it’s hard to find clear information.”

# STRATEGIES

## 1.1 MARKETING: GET THE WORD OUT!

### Addressing the Information Gap

*Detroiters must be able to access information about available programs and services, as well as park locations and amenities, in order to benefit from these resources. A lack of knowledge about parks and recreational amenities and programs appeared frequently among survey responses and focus group comments. Improved outreach and communications is essential to providing the best service to Detroit's residents, while continually gathering their input to prioritize community needs.*

**1.1.1 Create an events & programs calendar**, including programs offered by Detroit Parks & Rec and other organizations, through a comprehensive database of partner organizations.

*Immediate Marketing*

★★★★★  
\$



**1.1.2 Create seasonal program notifications** that provide information about programming two to three months in advance. Materials, such as mailers, print media, quarterly postcards, in-depth catalogs, as well as digital content on social media and the City websites, should be developed in partnership with sponsors to create cost-effective solutions.

*Immediate Marketing*

★★★★★  
\$\$



**1.1.3 Improve awareness of parks and recreational opportunities through online apps**, by revitalizing the Park Finder and City websites. Ensure the Parks and Rec apps and websites are easy to use and connect residents with information about programs, permitting, amenities, and project updates.

*Immediate Marketing & Public Space Planning*

★★★★  
\$

**1.1.4 Establish a database of groups that conduct extensive outreach** and develop partnerships to increase marketing success. The following groups should be included in the database: local nonprofits, youth organizations, block clubs and community organizations, as well as police precincts, libraries, district managers, schools, and state officials.

*Short term Public Space Planning*

★  
\$



**1.1.5 Advertise programs, events, and rules in parks using kiosks or yard signs** to increase visitor awareness. Include QR codes to online components with permit applications, park issue reporting, and a calendar of events.

*Immediate Landscape Design & Marketing*

★★  
\$\$



Roosevelt Park

## 1.2 INVEST IN STAFF

### Teaming Up to Get the Job Done

*Detroit Parks & Recreation maintains over 300 parks and needs additional staff and partner organizations with similar missions, in order to adequately serve all Detroiters. Having knowledgeable, friendly staff present at parks will help ensure Detroiters can fully enjoy their local parks. Taking steps to grow and support the staff and partner base can help achieve greater workforce equity, further sustainability goals, and foster bright futures for local youth.*

**1.2.1 Create park ambassadors;** a designated team of seasonal staff that can serve as informational, educational, and maintenance assets.

*Short term*

*Business Office & Grounds*

★★★★  
\$\$\$

**1.2.2 Create park-specific positions for repair staff** with tailored training programs and opportunities for advancement. Create a natural areas manager position and unit.

*Short term*

*Business Office & Park Development*

★★★  
\$\$

**1.2.3 Develop green careers for Detroiters.** Improve representation of local Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in existing and new green job opportunities across the City's parks & rec system. Uplift current BIPOC City of Detroit staff into new opportunities. Contract with BIPOC local organizations and provide exposure to workforce development opportunities.

*Long term*

*Business Office & Sustainability*

★★  
\$\$

**1.2.4 Extending the season for programming and maintenance** in Detroit parks, to encourage year-round park use. Strategies include winter

maintenance for walking paths, offering winter events, as well as year-round trash pick up, and restrooms in well-used areas. Facility needs include heating comfort stations, cleaning vault toilets or providing porta-potties.

*Short term*

*Grounds, Rec Operations, & Facilities*

★★★  
\$\$\$



GSD Pruning Honeylocusts



# 1.3 STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

## Connect with Communities to Increase Fun

Many existing parks, rec centers, and related resources are underutilized by Detroit residents. DPRD can expand existing opportunities by connecting with community members and partners to provide excellent Detroit-driven programs and services. One step to achieving improved quality of life for Detroiters is to enable them to visit parks more often and for longer visits.

**1.3.1 Continue to conduct community engagement** to keep communications open between the Parks & Rec staff and the public. This will help to ensure that programs and amenities align with the needs of each community.

*Immediate*  
*Public Space Planning*

★★★  
\$\$

**1.3.2 Establish gear libraries** to provide quality equipment for free temporary use. This increases access to sports and nature gear, while encouraging year-round park use, with seasonal gear, like snow shoes, skis, or kayaks. Staff at these check-out locations can demonstrate safe use and answer question. For more specific uses, see Public Health and Nature & the Environment sections.

*Immediate*  
*Rec Programming*

★★  
\$\$

**1.3.3 Strengthen partnerships for stewardship and programming.** Work with schools, NGOs, and other organizations with broad outreach, for support services in gap areas. Designate one person as a central partnerships liaison and work together on co-marketing strategies.

*Short term*  
*Rec Programming*

★  
\$\$

**1.3.4 Foster year-round use of parks and recreation centers, including outdoor winter sports opportunities.** Park and rec programming can be expanded to provide fitness and nature activities for all seasons. Local partner organizations are key in providing access to equipment, instructions, and outreach for a broader catalog of activities.

*Immediate*  
*Rec Programming*

★  
\$\$



Winter in the Woods at the DEN





McDuffy Park

## 2. PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES

Public health strategies reflect Detroiters' concerns and needs related to health within the parks and recreation system. Each public health goal is addressed by several strategies, which include recommendations created by experts and refined by the public. By addressing public health through the parks & recreation system, Detroiters can live happier and healthier lives, and feel confident in their city's resilient future. This section includes:

Indicator Evaluation

Design Insights: Health & Fitness, Park Safety

Strategies: 2.1 Fitness & Athletics, 2.2 Recreation Centers Experience,  
2.3 Park Permitting & Programming



## *Why Are These Strategies Needed?*

### **Matching Needs with Resources**

The following maps help highlight the public health needs of Detroiters. National trends indicate significant disparities in health outcomes for low-income and BIPOC households which are linked to lower rates of access to parks and green space among these communities. DPRD strives to improve the daily lives of Detroiters, and become a pillar of resiliency during natural disasters, public health crises, and other emergencies. Park amenities that encourage exercise and play can be effective investments in Detroiters' health, while green infrastructure, cooling interventions, and rec center services can mitigate the effects of climate events. In this way the parks and recreation system can play a key role in safeguarding our future.

### **Health, Fitness Pads & Walking Loops**

Figure 1 shows a composite health indicator of mental health and physical activity. Areas in red have the most residents with both poor mental health and low levels of leisure-time exercise, while tan areas have the fewest. Points on the map indicate the locations of fitness pads, in teal, or walking loops, in dark blue and white. These amenities expand opportunities for Detroiters to improve their health and fitness. Targeting services and amenities, such as fitness pads and walking loops, in areas experiencing high levels of poor health can provide accessible ways to improve health.

### **Urban Heat Island and Cooling Interventions**

Figure 2 shows the presence of urban heat islands, areas that are hotter due to concentrations of heat-absorbing surfaces. Areas experiencing mild temperature increase due to this are yellow, while the highest temperatures are in red. This map also shows the location of cooling centers, pools, and splash pads. These resources can mitigate the effects of high temperatures on Detroiters, while other green infrastructure interventions, such as tree canopy and green roofs, can reduce high temperatures. The highest temperature areas in red should be prioritized for cooling interventions, such as trees and green infrastructure.

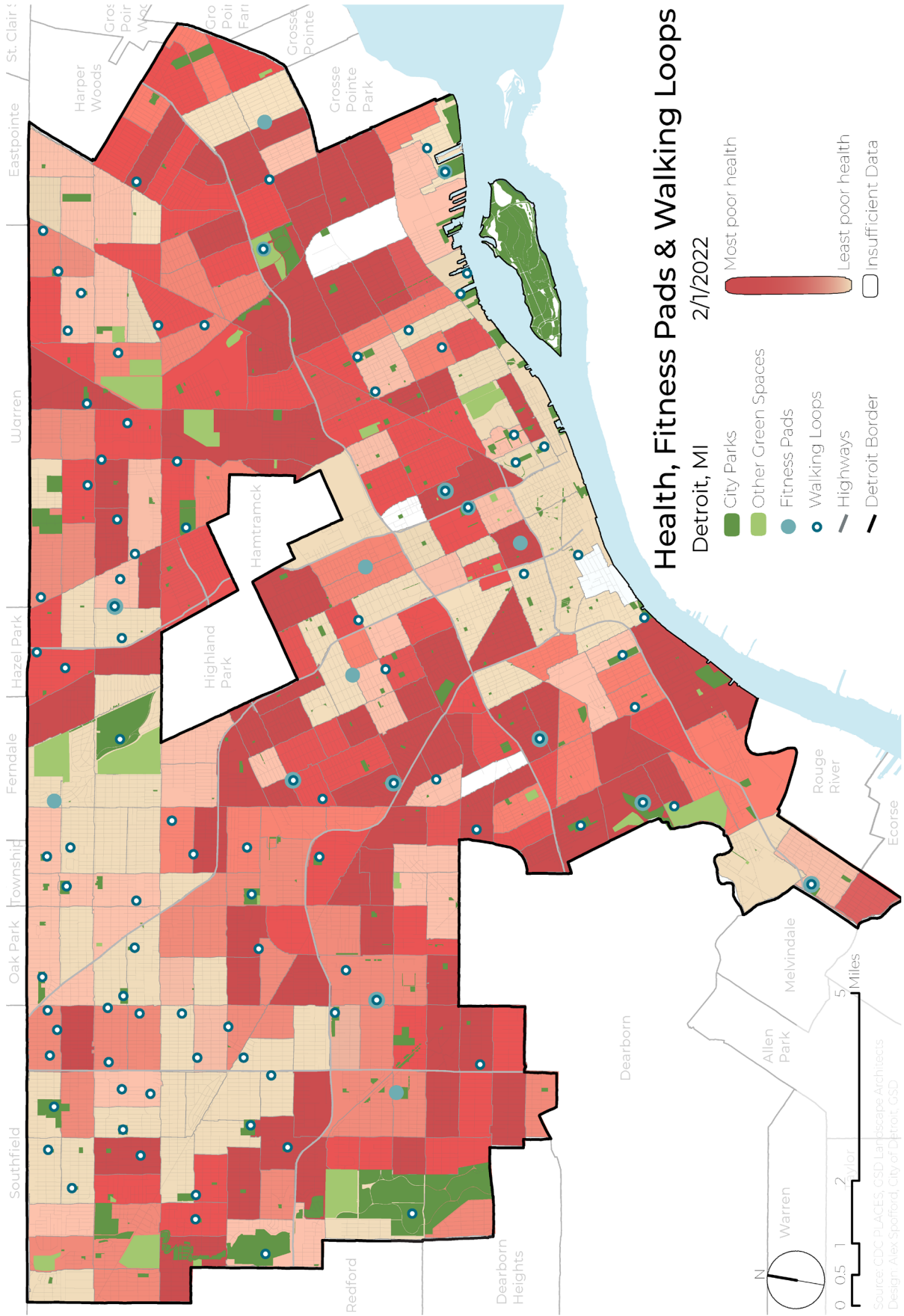


Figure 1 Health is measured by self-reported levels of activity and mental health quality from the CDC.



# STRATEGIES

## 2.1 ENCOURAGE FITNESS & ATHLETICS

### Supporting Everyday Play

*Parks and rec centers can be excellent resources for fitness and fun, even outside of regularly scheduled programming. These recommendations improve independent play in any season.*

**2.1.1 Support self-directed play** with informative signage, especially for new amenities and nature play. Provide posted instructions on how to play specific games such as for gaga ball or pickleball, and nature guides with activities like scavenger hunts.

*Short term*

*Landscape Design, Rec Programming*



\$\$

**2.1.4 Create sports hubs at regional parks** to provide a wider array of amenities and programs that focus on both diversity of offerings and capacity for leagues. Connect youth with future opportunities through athletics. Include outreach, such as hosting an open house to introduce new and upcoming programming.

*Short term*

*Landscape Design & Rec Athletics*



\$\$\$\$



**2.1.2 Encourage walking as fitness in parks** by adding distance markers to all walking loops. Information can be a simple motivator; signage can encourage Detroiters to take a few laps and get their heart rates up.

*Short term*

*Landscape Design*



\$\$

**2.1.3 Provide flexible amenities at neighborhood parks** to offer the most diverse opportunities where people live, including multi-use fields and courts such as shared courts for tennis, pickleball, futsal, and volleyball, as well as general open space for free play and pick up games.

*Short term*

*Landscape Design*



\$\$\$\$



## 2.2 IMPROVE THE REC CENTER EXPERIENCE

### Rec Centers as Resources & Community Hubs

*During community engagement Detroiters indicated that Rec Centers can sometimes be unwelcoming or inconvenient. The goal is to provide programs Detroiters want, at convenient times and locations.*

**2.2.1 Adjust center hours and fees** to reflect community needs. This includes evaluating a small increase in rec center membership fees, while increasing access to fitness and weight rooms for all members. Updating the fee structure can make fitness equipment in rec centers more accessible for those who do not have the resources to use private gyms.

*Short term  
Rec Operations*

★  
\$



**2.2.2 Improve facility conditions and set standards** for spaces and programs offered across all rec centers. According to survey and focus group responses, desired improvements include childcare areas, designated community meeting spaces, and resources for the arts and less commonly offered sports. Investments should ensure that centers have inviting, attractive exteriors and entries, pool improvements, and up-to-date technology.

*Long term  
Facilities*

★★★  
\$\$\$

**2.2.3 Expand and diversify staff.** It is essential to attract local staff who can connect to community members and make rec centers more welcoming. This can be achieved through marketing, competitive pay, and career advancement opportunities. Increasing maintenance staff is necessary to improve Detroiters' experience at rec centers and increase return visitor rates. Local staff can also address the need for varied multilingual services and culturally-specific programming.

*Long term  
Business Office, Rec Operations*

★★  
\$\$





Parks can be designed in various ways to include different social, fitness, and nature activities. As social spaces, parks are especially important during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, when other means of socialization may be difficult or unsafe. Natural areas provide opportunities to explore nature, enjoy a calm environment, and get a healthy amount of sunlight. It is important for cities to provide many different types of parks to ensure a range of health benefits suited to the needs and wants of residents.

Detroit’s parks serve the needs of the public by providing access to nature, promoting safe social interaction, and facilitating physical activity. Parks contribute the following health benefits:

*Increases:*

- Mood & Self-Esteem
- Physical Fitness
- Bone Strength
- Working Memory
- Lifespan
- Community Connection

*Reduces:*

- Stress, Anxiety & Depression
- Obesity & Diabetes
- Asthma
- Stroke & Heart Disease
- Blood Pressure, Cholesterol & Cortisol



Detroit RiverWalkers, March 2018

Outdoor fitness amenities in parks include fitness equipment and walking paths, which enable people to exercise outside year-round. Both require very little maintenance and are accessible to visitors of all ages and abilities. Trail markers indicating mileage or lap length on walking loops can motivate visitors and could also include information about local walking groups and fitness programs. Simple signage is an easy way to empower Detroit’s robust community groups and encourage others to participate.

**CASE STUDY: O’HAIR PARK**



**Accessible Fitness**

Exercise equipment allows visitors use their own body weight as resistance, as a free outdoor gym. O’Hair Park features a crosscountry ski station, rowing machine, and a pendulum, abs, and dips station.

**CASE STUDY: ZUSSMAN PARK**



**Walk, Run, & Roll**

The new walking loop at Zussman Park includes a marker indicating that 7 loops is equivalent to one mile. This path also features a 50 yard dash line to encourage younger park visitors.

# STRATEGIES

## 2.3 FACILITATE PERMITTING & PROGRAMMING

### Simple, Straightforward, Stress-free

*Survey respondents indicated that one of the greatest barriers to their use of the park and rec system is a lack of accessible information. Making the City's permitting and programming process easy and understandable can enable more participation and prevent event conflicts.*

#### 2.3.1 Make permitting easier and educate park users on the process.

Simplify the process and create a guide for permitting, including how to sign up, the fee schedule, and the park rules. Add this guide to kiosks, park shelters, and online. Make reservation information publicly available. In the long-term, develop a brochure of rental sites, to display what is available. Ensure that security deposits are included in permits, to encourage stewardship.

*Immediate  
Rec Events*

★★★  
\$

kids to experience a larger variety of activities. To achieve these goals, Parks & Rec should seek further partnerships to offer programming within centers and partnered schools, including intergenerational, and multilingual programs.

*Short term  
Rec Operations*

★  
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#### 2.3.4 Ensure consistent, long-term programming to build user base.

Engage with the community through focus groups when developing the schedule so that the timing and programs address community needs.

*Long term  
Rec Programming*

★★★  
\$\$\$



#### 2.3.2 Bring programming back to parks through partnerships.

Re-establish robust programming in regional parks and multi-sport hubs focusing on enabling kids to experience a wide variety of sports and games. DPRD can provide assistance with capacity building, supplies, and mobile recreation to encourage partner involvement.

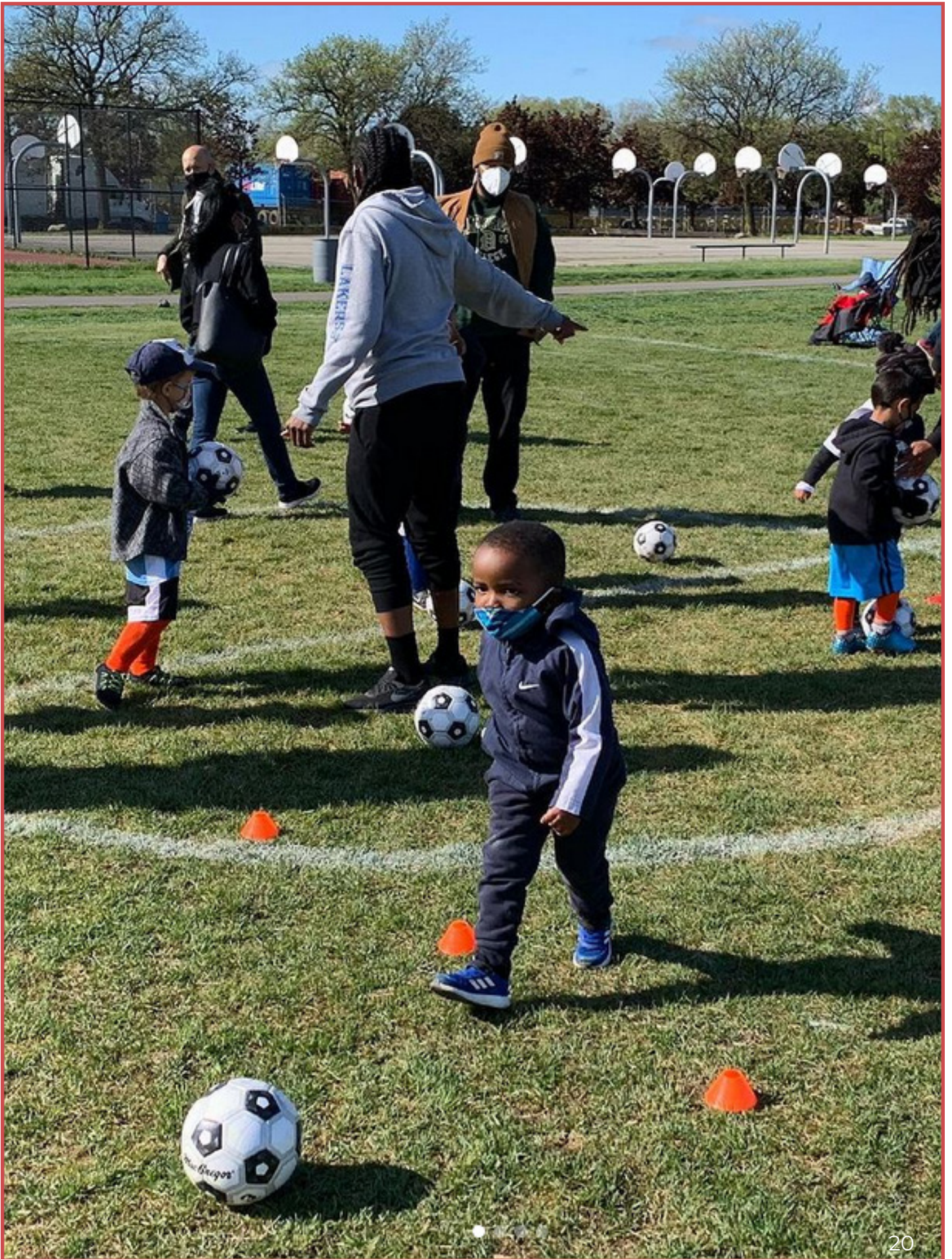
*Short term  
Rec Programming*

★★  
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#### 2.3.3 Expand drop-in rec activities.

Rec Centers should increase drop-in activities that are consistent, yet do not require attendance at every session. This can become the basis for an activities sampling program, enabling



# DESIGN INSIGHT #2

## Park Safety

Detroit is not unique in its interests in improving the safety, vitality, and vibrancy of its public parks. As national and international case studies have shown, the issue of park safety is complicated, and requires an integrative approach to design, programming, maintenance, and citizen involvement. By enabling a diversity of activities at many hours of the day, safety can be established naturally through neighbors looking out for neighbors. This concept of “eyes on the street” has been effective in preventing crime and improving community members’ sense of safety.<sup>1</sup>

### Qualities of a Safe Park

#### Safety Assets



clear **definition**  
**between public and**  
**private** space



**surrounding**  
**development** oriented  
toward the public space




the **presence of**  
**people**

#### Perceptions of Park Safety




**Lighting**  
functioning at peak and  
off-peak hours, for activities  
and safety



**Layout**  
easy to understand  
orientation, with notable  
points of interest



**Connectivity**  
open sight lines and  
active linkage with the  
surrounding neighborhood



**Visibility**  
identifiable entries, clear  
views across the site, formal  
and informal surveillance



**Access to Help**  
active spaces near park  
perimeters, presence of  
callboxes and safety pedestals



**No Presence of**  
**Potential Hiding Places**  
reduce dark corners, inactive  
spaces, overgrowth



**Maintenance**  
keep park equipment,  
facilities, and surrounding  
areas in a state of good repair



**No Vandalism**  
discourage through better  
design, and eliminate  
quickly if it occurs



**No Undesirable Uses**  
guard against “negative” uses  
nearby, program for “positive”  
activity

Three main qualities increase feelings of safety within neighborhoods and on streets: clear definition between public and private space, surrounding development oriented toward the public space, and the presence of people.<sup>2</sup> These attributes hold true for Detroit’s parks – robust occupancy of houses and businesses surrounding public greenspaces, and active use of the greenspace by local residents, will contribute toward a park’s recognition as being “safe.”

The following nine qualities contribute positively or negatively toward people’s perceptions of a safe public park<sup>3</sup>:

*Positive:*

- Lighting
- Layout
- Connectivity
- Visibility
- Access to help

*Negative:*

- Presence of potential hiding places
- Poor maintenance
- Vandalism
- Undesirable uses

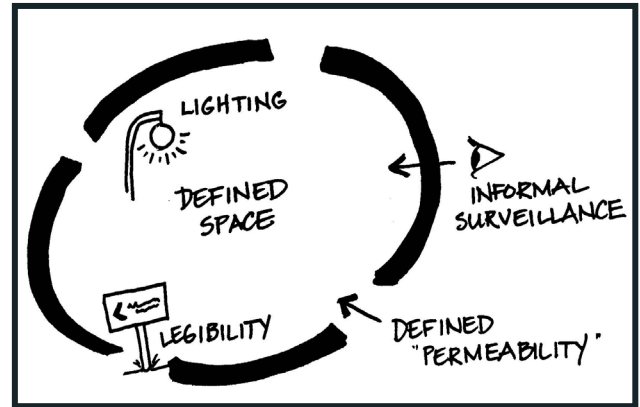


Illustration by Sarah Al-Hage

Accordingly, these points guide park designers and planners to work toward reducing areas of isolation, ensuring good visibility, designing for good cross-park access and circulation, planning for and encouraging diverse activity, and maintaining a “clean” park. These principles are part of the greater holistic approach, termed “defensible space,” “environmental crime prevention,” or “crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED),” endorsed by the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Division.

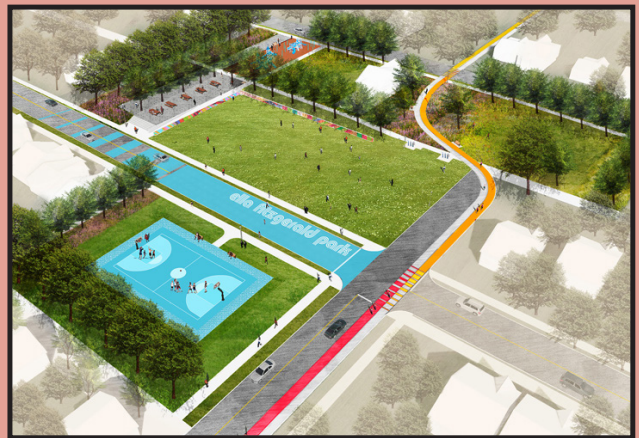
**CASE STUDY: WEISS PARK**



**CPTED in Practice**

Open sight lines, cross-site visibility, and amenities close to pathways, all work to create a sense of safety in the park and playground.

**CASE STUDY: FITZGERALD PARK**



**Eyes on the Park**

The park has many clear, open access points to the neighborhood and a variety of amenities to encourage a consistent presence of users throughout the day.



## NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES

This third section presents strategies shaped by feedback from Detroiters on the subject of Nature and the Environment. Not only does time spent in nature improve mental health and increase physical fitness opportunities, but also creates a healthy ecosystem for plantlife, wildlife and human life. Detroiters also want their parks and recreation system to address climate change effects, such as flooding and extreme heat events. The following strategies address these concerns and safeguard experiences in nature for years to come. This section includes:

Design Insights: Nature and GSI

Strategies: 3.1 Maintenance, 3.2 Park Design & Improvements, 3.3 Stewardship



## *Why Are These Strategies Needed?*

### **Matching Needs with Resources**

The following maps were developed to understand Detroit's environmental health and its impacts on residents. As with public health, environmental health and resiliency depend on forward thinking strategies to safeguard existing resources for all who reside in Detroit, Detroiters and wildlife alike. Implementing the Nature & Environment strategies can ensure the long term enjoyment of public spaces, as well as protect Detroiters' homes and livelihoods through healthy ecosystem management.

### **Air Pollution & Tree Canopy**

Figure 3 shows tree canopy coverage for Detroit's neighborhoods, with darker green indicating more tree canopy cover and lighter green indicating less. While Detroit's ambient air is generally within a safe range, industrial areas can accrue poor air quality if not properly mitigated. Plant life filters the air of many pollutants, while capturing and sequestering carbon. In a study focused on the greater Chicago region, "trees in leaf season removed an average of 1.3 tons per day of carbon monoxide, 4 tons per day of sulfur dioxide, 4.6 tons per day of nitrogen dioxide, 11.9 tons per day of ozone, and 9.8 tons per day of particulate matter."<sup>3</sup> Between 2010 and 2015, Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD), in partnership with The Greening of Detroit, planted over 7,000 trees in the Rouge River corridor. Parks can be a great place to increase tree coverage, especially in neighborhoods with low canopy percentages.

### **Flooding & Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Interventions**

Figure 4 presents a map of flooding damage claims from June 2021. Darker areas reflect households experiencing the effects of insufficient stormwater management. Colorful points throughout the map denote the location of various GSI created largely by DWSD. These interventions range from full-site stormwater management to green roofs, rain barrels, and bioswales. More information on GSI can be found on page 33. Flood damage hotspots may be suitable sites for future GSI interventions in parks.



Figure 3

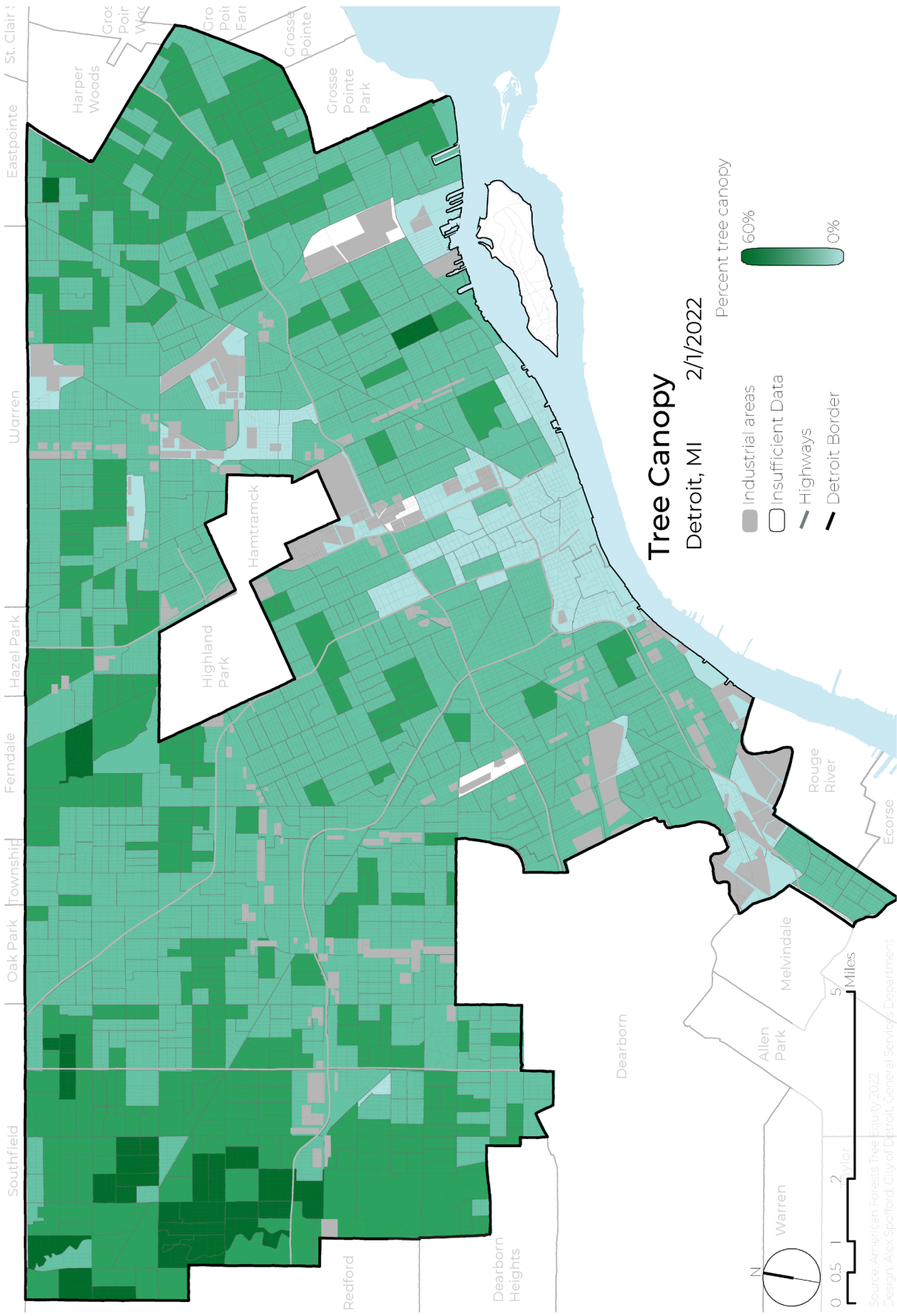
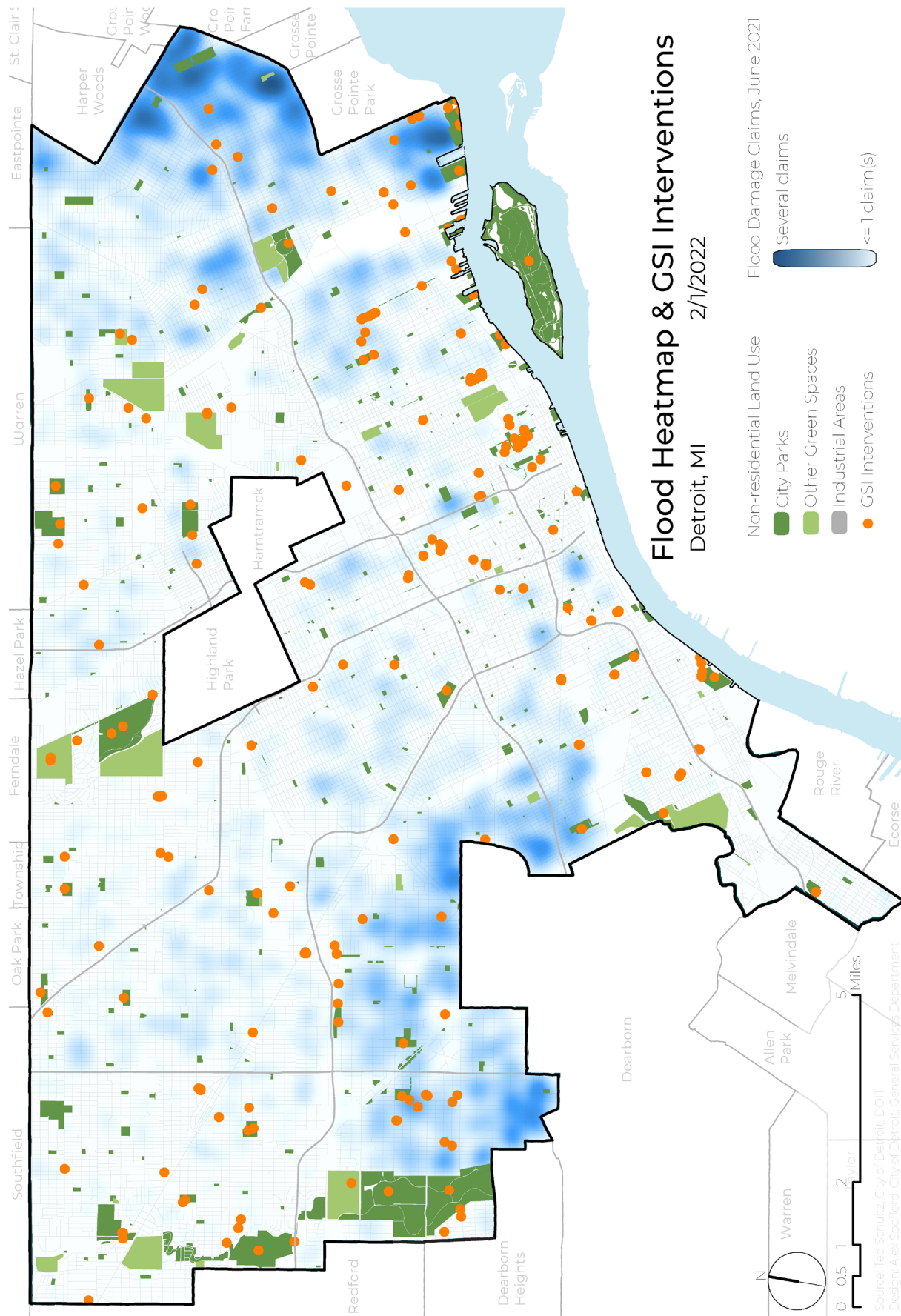


Figure 4








# DESIGN INSIGHT #3

## Natural Areas

Equitable access to nature is a challenge in most urban areas. While Detroit is well ahead of the national average for the percentage of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park, creating high quality natural spaces for Detroiters to explore within these parks remains a priority. Urban green space brings benefits not only to the environment, but also to urban residents. Documented benefits include improved mental health, mood, behavior, and cognitive development<sup>1</sup>. Many park renovations focus on active amenities, such as ball fields, sport courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas. The goal is to shift some of the focus onto enhancing natural spaces in every park, regardless of size.

### Natural Space Design Matrix

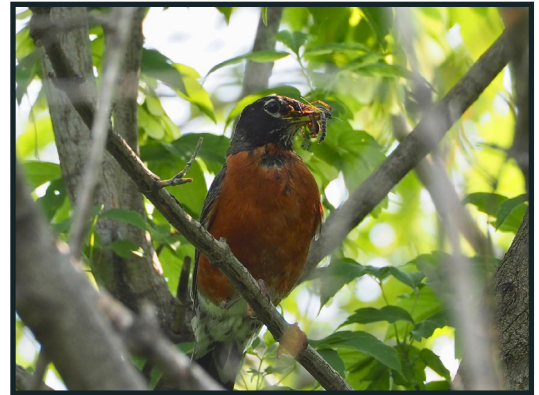
	Typology	Description	Benefits	Recommendations
	Meadow	Naturalized meadow area planted with seed mixes specific to bird or pollinator habitats	Attracts birds and pollinators, educational, reduced maintenance	400 square feet or more
	Nature Exploration Area	Arrangement of boulders, logs and other natural elements for seating area, agility course	Interaction with nature, natural seating, social, agility	Incorporate near playground or shady area
	Wetland or Rain Garden	Intentional bioswale to handle stormwater runoff and filter pollutants from water before returning to the water table	Habitat, stormwater management, educational	Determine size depending on area and volume of stormwater to manage
	Sensory Garden	Garden area evoking the five senses through plant material, including textures, smells, sounds, taste, colors. Often with seating or small paths for interaction and immersion in the garden.	Interaction with nature, educational, disability friendly (autism)	Include sensory connection technique signage: -5 things you can see -4 you can touch -3 you can hear -2 you can smell -1 you can taste
	Tree Planting Areas	Planting a diversity of trees in parks with wildlife in mind	Increase City's tree canopy and diversity	Implement a tree per acre or percent based formula

Studies show that cities support thriving animal and essential insect populations. One study states that there are, “in several cases, more diverse and abundant populations of native bees in cities than in nearby rural landscapes.”<sup>4</sup> As urban communities continue to grow in density, it is the responsibility of designers to include considerations for natural areas to support these essential populations.

Over 50 of Detroit’s parks are designated as community open space, totaling over 64 acres all together. Community open space parks are neighborhood parks on a lesser maintenance schedule due to minimal amenities, and offer a great opportunity to facilitate these natural spaces.

Incorporating natural space designs brings many benefits for the human and animal residents of Detroit such as:

- Biodiversity
- Nature education
- Environmental health
- Low cost maintenance
- Partnership opportunities
- Ecotourism & birdwatching
- Public health improvements



Robin at Callahan Park - Diane Cheklich

Applying these concepts to neighborhood parks will transform underutilized parkland into intentional natural spaces creating an asset to the community, as well as native flora and fauna, and a patchwork of natural experiences throughout the city.

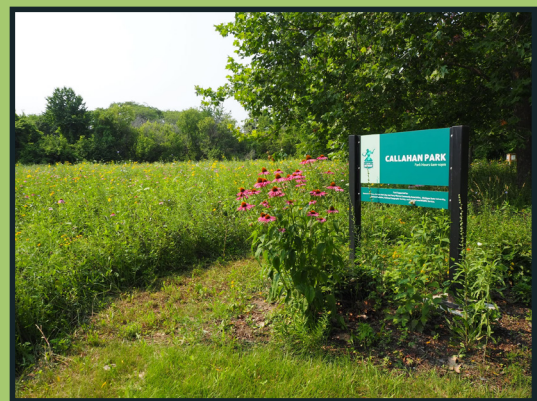
### CASE STUDY: BUTZEL FAMILY PARK



#### NATURE EXPLORATION AREAS

Recent renovations to Butzel Family Park incorporated natural elements of boulders and logs near the traditional playground. The feature is popular among kids for climbing and open-ended imaginative play and exploration.

### CASE STUDY: CALLAHAN PARK



#### NATIVE BIRD MEADOWS

Detroit Audubon transformed Callahan Park into a native bird meadow in 2019, including educational signage, benches, and pathways. As the park flourishes, there are plans to expand the project to other parks across Detroit.

# STRATEGIES

## 3.1 FOCUS ON MAINTENANCE

### Keeping Our Green Spaces Beautiful

*Park maintenance plays a key role in the public perception and use of Detroit's parks. While addressing every maintenance concern may not always be possible, implementing the following recommendations will address residents' primary concerns.*

**3.1.1 Increase Maintenance Capacity & Flexibility.** Increase capacity to meet a 7-10 day clean and cut schedule goal and to address high-use days, such as holidays and weekends, and high-use areas (or “hot spots”). This includes attracting and hiring additional staff, especially for trash removal, and developing crew shifts for weather-related flexibility.

*Immediate*

*Grounds & Park Development*

★★★★

\$\$\$

**3.1.2 Beautify Detroit by expanding natural areas.** Work with Floriculture to turn perennially wet areas into unmowed planted areas. Expand passive areas of large parks, allowing for natural grass meadows. Create a process for determining where these sites are by evaluating the grading and distance from residences. Intentional natural areas should be well kept by staff and volunteer groups.

*Immediate*

*Landscape Design, Grounds*

★★

\$

**3.1.3 Manage natural areas** to ensure that the natural areas are safe, clean, free of invasive weeds and welcoming. Maintenance of these natural areas requires dedicated staff with special training.

*Short term*

*Grounds*

★

\$\$\$



Floriculture at Erma Henderson

**3.1.4 Budget for long-term park repairs** and replacements. Increase the park repair budget to reflect 2.5% of the park's value, to ensure repair and replacement costs are available. Implement asset management tools to track and manage park assets. Include asset conditions, age, replacements, etc. Also incorporate natural areas as capital assets to be included in maintenance budgeting and improved sustainability.

*Immediate*

*Business Office & Park Development*

★★

\$

## 3.2 INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

### A Healthy Environment Supports Public Health

*Park management not only affects Detroit residents through recreational experiences, but it also affects the health of local wildlife communities. Designing parks to incorporate resilience strategies means safer, healthier neighborhoods for all who live in them.*

#### 3.2.1 Design with wildlife in mind.

Include wildlife considerations in the park design process, including timed lighting, soft shore restoration, and green bulkheads. Use trees and native plants to combat climate change and restore habitat. Highlight native ecosystems and separate natural and active park areas to keep high impact activities separate from sensitive wildlife areas, while using trails to provide access for people to enjoy nature with limited impact.

*Immediate*

*Landscape Design, Sustainability*

★  
\$

#### 3.2.2 Get residents out in nature by

including natural areas and nature play in all parks. Treat natural areas as an important amenity in every neighborhood park. Parks should support nature play and exploration by including forest patches, pollinator and rain gardens, and wildlife habitat.

*Immediate*

*Landscape Design & Rec Programming*

★★  
\$\$\$

#### 3.2.3 Invest in more green climate management including GSI and trees.

Work collaboratively to develop more Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) projects in parks, to address areas with high runoff as well as perennially wet areas, look at hydrology and old drainage systems. Increase the current number

of trees in parks to combat flooding, climate change and restore habitat, in alignment with Detroit's Reforestation Plan. Incorporate programming and educational opportunities into these initiatives.

*Short term*

*Sustainability*

★★  
\$\$\$

3.2.4 Expand park land to facilitate 10-minute walk access to parks for all Detroiters. Look at expanding existing parks and creating new parks using vacant land in gap areas.

*Short term*

*PSP & Landscape Design*

★★  
\$\$\$

*An extensive analysis of how to increase 10-minute walk access to parks is featured in Chapter 5 and 6.*



Rouge Butterfly Garden

## 3.3 SUPPORT STEWARDSHIP

### Fostering Pride and Connection to Nature

*DPRD's most ambitious goals rely on partner support and resident involvement. Expanding, cleaning, and connecting parks is a big task, but with the help of invested organizations and enthusiastic stewards, Detroit can have one of the best park systems in the country.*

#### 3.3.1 Launch an anti-litter campaign.

Partner with related agencies to launch a large-scale anti-littering campaign that is Detroit-focused. Include anti-dumping, bulk, yard waste, recycling, and trash education. Add recycle bins in high-use areas, where trash cans are already present. Coordinate with DPW on locations, pick-up and educational information.

*Immediate*

*PSP, Sustainability, & Marketing*

★★★★  
\$\$

#### 3.3.2 Refocus Adopt-a-Park to support stewardship.

Given the City's increased capacity for mowing and maintenance, Adopt-a-Park should be transitioned to a stewardship program to help keep the parks clean, beautiful, and programmed.

*Immediate*

*Public Space Planning & Grounds*

★  
\$

#### 3.3.3 Invest in youth stewardship.

Work with partners on creating a student or youth stewardship program, to invest in natural area maintenance, as well as provide Detroit youth with experience in nature and nature-related jobs.

*Short term*

*Business Office, Grounds, & Rec Programming*

★  
\$\$

#### 3.3.4 Get pollution out of parks.

Work with regional partners to address CSOs (combined sewer overflows), to ensure that rivers in public parks are safe for residents to use in the next ten years.

*Long term*

*Sustainability & Public Space Planning*

★★  
\$\$\$







## Sustainability & GSI

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) is key to sustainably managing stormwater, as well as protecting our urban centers and safeguarding the quality of life within them. Parks are already a component of the city's GSI network, due to their provision of trees and unpaved areas. They are also ideal sites for intervention with features such as bioswales, rain gardens, green roofs, and permeable surfaces. Mimicking systems of water retention and filtration already present in nature, this strategy minimizes the damage of climate change effects, like flooding, while bringing social and environmental benefits. These features can be versatile and cost-effective, making them one of the best first steps toward increased climate resiliency, improved habitat, and overall health benefits.

### Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Best Practices



#### TARGET

Provide GSI interventions in all new & renovated parking lots and any new hard services over 0.25 acres.

See Chapter 5 for more information.



Detroit increasingly turns to GSI solutions to counterbalance the abundance of impervious surfaces. Paved surfaces, such as roads, parking lots, and roofs, prevent stormwater from soaking back into the ground. Instead, stormwater collects in the sewers creating the potential for flooding. Flooded roads and basements, as well as combined sewage overflows (CSOs), can result in contamination of residents' homes and nearby water sources. The EPA's National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) regulates water pollution levels. Constructing GSI will help Detroit meet the EPA's clean water standards. These remedial strategies are especially important in areas with high levels of industrial pollution, which are often low income communities, as seen in Detroit.

GSI has been described as “a cost-effective, resilient approach to manage wet weather impacts that provide many community benefits”<sup>5</sup> such as:

*Benefits:*

- Natural Systems Education
- Lower Utility Bills
- Recreation Opportunities
- Social Interactions
- Health and Well-being
- Stormwater Management



Constructed Wetlands, 5416 Dubois

Not only does GSI enhance stormwater management, but it can also improve the quality of public green spaces for visiting residents and wildlife. DPRD strives to achieve the implementation targets on the previous page to manage stormwater, in parallel with other departments that are bringing GSI to streets and other public lands.<sup>6</sup>

**CASE STUDY: HOPE PARK**



**INCREASED PERMEABILITY**

Two existing paved parking lots at rec centers were removed and renovated, updating parking stalls with permeable block pavement and bioretention islands.

**CASE STUDY: LIUZZO PARK**



**BIORETENTION IN ACTION**

DWSD installed a series of bioretention practices, planted with native flowering perennials, as part of an effort to reduce stormwater runoff entering the combined sewer system while beautifying the park.



## ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY FOCUSED STRATEGIES

This fourth section presents strategies for improving access to parks and recreation facilities, as well as improving connectivity across the park system. According to national best practices, access means ensuring that residents can enjoy a quality park within a 10-minute walk of their home and ensuring that once there, everyone feels welcome in the park regardless of their age, gender, culture, spoken language, or abilities. To achieve this, DPRD needs to plan, design, and program inclusively for all Detroiters. The following strategies can bring Detroit's parks and rec system closer to the equitable, inclusive system it strives to be. This subsection includes:

Design Insights: Universal Accessibility, Equity, Indigenous Recognition

Strategies: 4.1 Accessibility, 4.2 Equity & Inclusion, 4.3 Greenways & Connections



Dequindre Cut

## *Why Are These Strategies Needed?*

### **Matching Needs to Resources**

This section features design insights into how to increase accessibility within parks through thoughtful design and programming. To support this, the following maps evaluate connectivity to and through Detroit's parks and rec system and across the city broadly. It is important not only to create recreational opportunities for all Detroiters, but also to address barriers to reaching these opportunities. Developing network connections can increase the range of activities available to Detroiters and boost park and rec facility use.

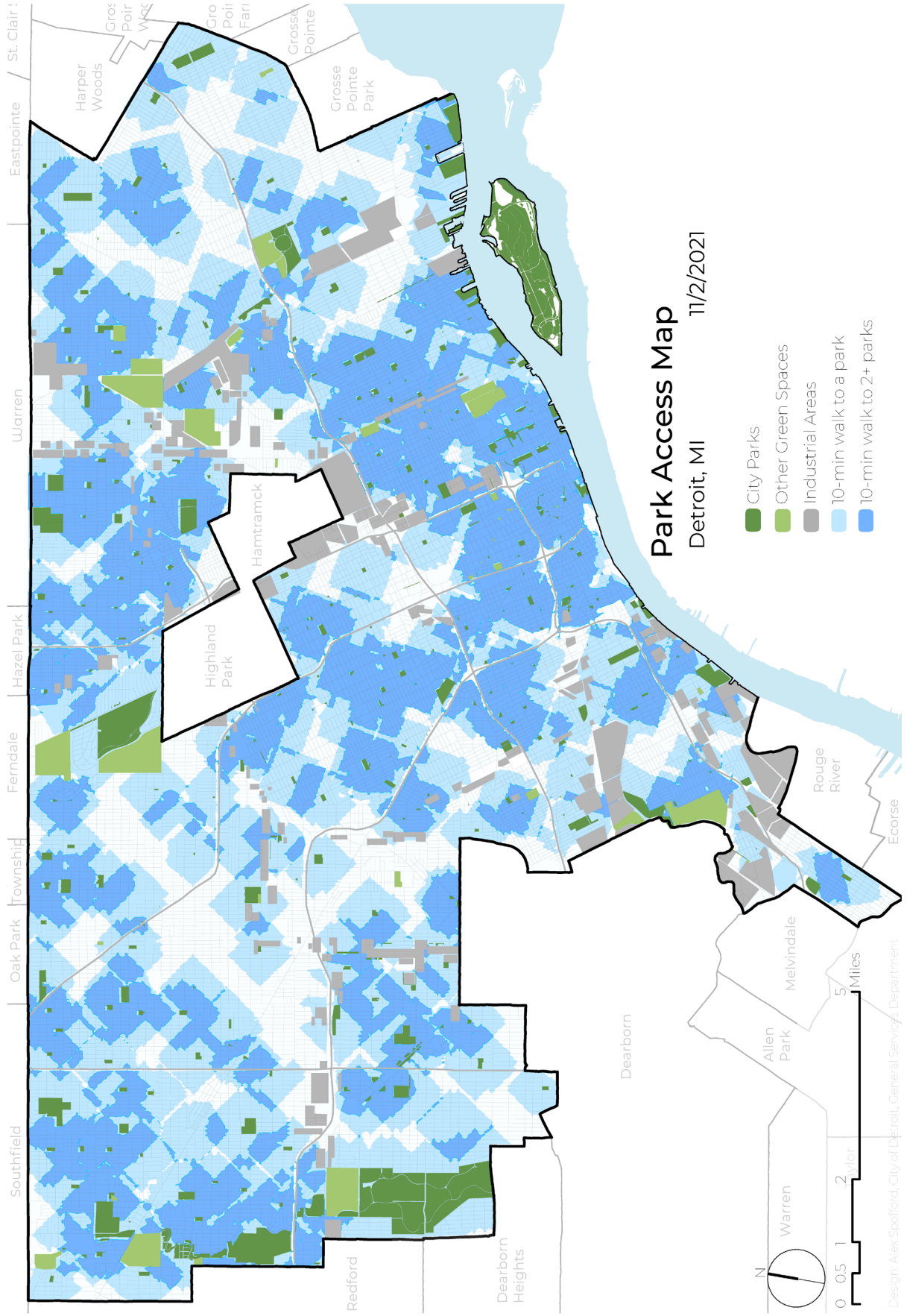
### **Park Access**

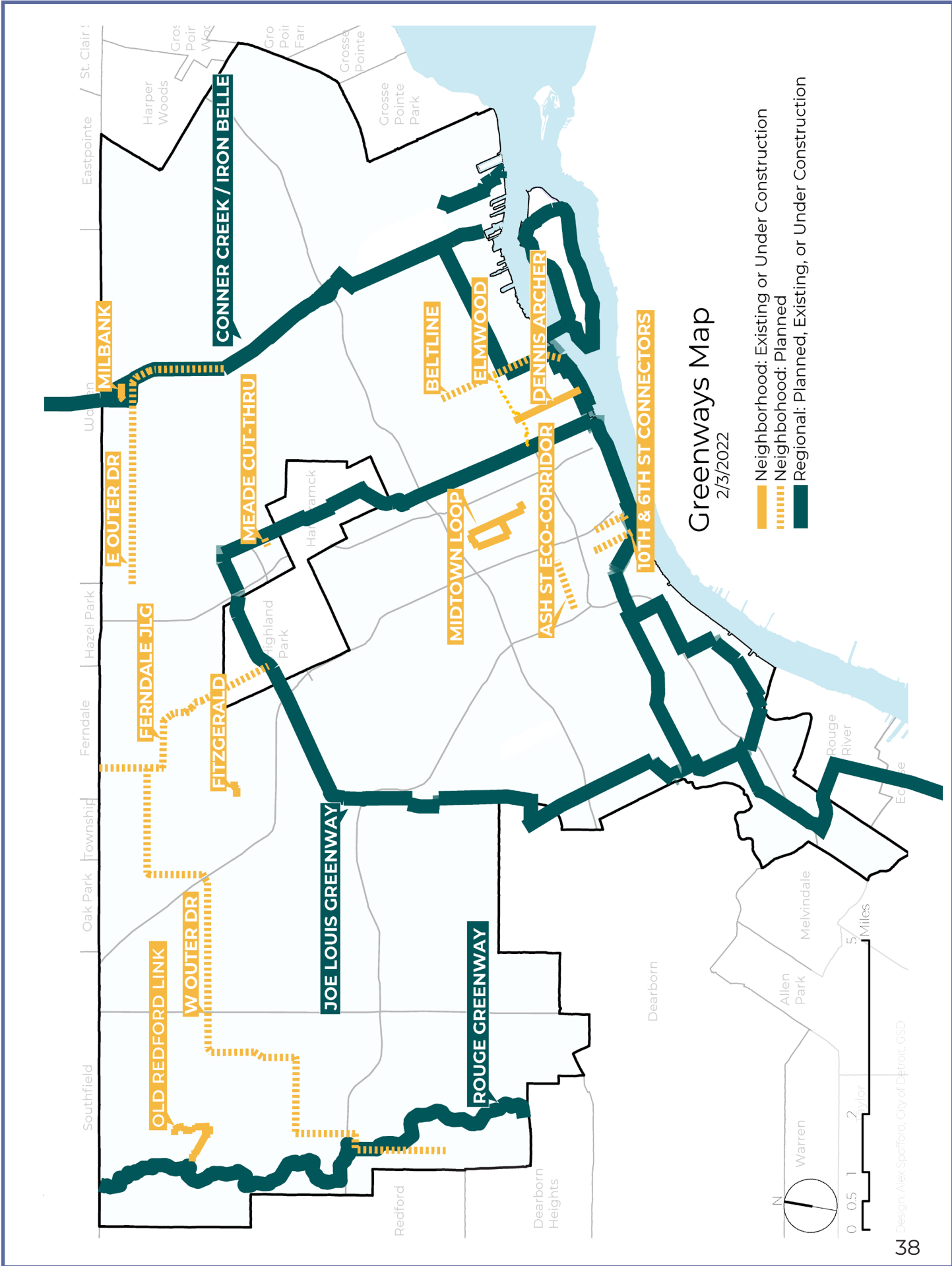
Figure 5 shows the walkable access of Detroit's parks. Detroit strives to increase access to parks and works toward ensuring that all Detroiters live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The Access to Parks map shows the distribution of parks throughout Detroit. Each park's "walkshed" is drawn at a 10-minute walk from its border, or approximately one half mile. This map shows which areas have overlapping walksheds and which areas have gaps. By considering the walkable access of Detroit's current parks, DPRD can plan for park amenities, improvements, and new parks, to maximize the opportunities available to Detroiters. More information on Access can be found in Chapter 5.

### **Greenways and Bicycle Infrastructure**

Figure 6 shows the current planned and existing locations of Detroit's greenways, which provide a safe space to travel by bike, on foot, or other non-motorized modes. Not only can greenways be a great resource for safe alternative transportation, but also they can facilitate outdoor recreation. This map shows regional greenways in green and neighborhood connecting greenways in gold. Much of Detroit's current bicycle infrastructure is located in Detroit's downtown, midtown, and riverfront areas. The planned expansion of greenways and supporting infrastructure can encourage healthy exercise, time in nature, and inexpensive, accessible transportation.

37 Figure 5





## DESIGN INSIGHT #5

### Universal Accessibility

Universal accessibility is a framework for designing public spaces that aims for inclusivity of all Detroiters, regardless of age and abilities. The diverse populations within Detroit's thriving communities embody a great variation of abilities and needs, some of which may not have been considered in the design of the built environment. Ensuring the universal accessibility of Detroit's parks can play a major role in increasing access to nature, healthy exercise, and social opportunities for all Detroiters. By providing universally accessible amenities, like fitness pads, and services, such as translators at rec centers and side-by-side braille signage at parks, Detroit's parks and rec centers can become a true resource for all.

### Universal Accessibility Can Look Like...



1. Include a selection of approaches into the play space.
2. Ensure a smooth, even, shock-absorbent surface.
3. Create safe spaces where children can explore, providing physical challenge with minimal hazards.
4. Provide seating and amenities of different heights and widths to accommodate all sizes and abilities.
5. Include separate 'quieter' areas allowing for low stress play experiences.
6. Consider opportunities for children at a wide range of developmental stages and abilities.

7. Create park elements that appeal to the five senses such as water, sand, and plant elements.
8. Provide considerations for all persons supervising and participating in play, including parents with disabilities, elderly guardians, and service animals.

The needs of children are especially important because parks are essential spaces for play and access to the benefits of nature. The “sounds, visual images, and scents found in nature have been shown to reduce stress, stimulate the senses, and benefit all children,”<sup>7</sup> especially those with mental disabilities. Outdoor play supports an active lifestyle as well as the development of creativity, problem solving skills, and social skills. The percentage of children exercising outside of school is much lower among those with disabilities than those without. Building parks that are not only up to standards, but also fun and exciting for all park users is a priority for ensuring equitable play.

Universal design strives to create spaces that are usable by all, thereby fostering diversity, community, and understanding. Detroit parks should incorporate these design insights to address mobility, visual, hearing, sensory, and other disabilities, to ensure equitable play and park enjoyment. DPRD’s recently built inclusive amenities include:

- Splash pads & spray parks
- Restroom stalls & sinks
- Parking
- Paths & entryways



Guide to Creating Accessible Spaces

As a baseline, park designers should consider such aspects as clearances and reach heights, slope, materials, and amenities. To truly strive for universal access, park spaces should encourage “open-ended, social, and creative play,” be engaging at “high-access points” and situate most of the play at ground level.<sup>8</sup> Great examples of accessible play can be found in both traditional playscapes and natural exploration areas, including features such as sound panels, sand and water play, and aromatic gardens.

### CASE STUDY: CLARK PARK



#### INNOVATIONS COMING SOON

The new playground at Clark Park was built with universal accessibility in mind. It features an accessible play mound, splash pad, climbing boulders, seating, and separate swings suited for toddlers, those with disabilities, and older children. These designs encourage creativity, social connection, nature exploration, and active play.

### CASE STUDY: JAYNE PARK



#### SPLASHY FUN FOR EVERYONE

Splash pads and spray parks are extremely versatile amenities, featuring motion-sensor water features, flat ground good for walking and rolling, and minimal obstacles. Children of all ages, parents, and even service animals can enjoy the cooling effects of this amenity.




# STRATEGIES

## 4.1 ENSURE SAFE ACCESS

### Safety and Fun for All

*Equity concerns must be addressed across Detroit's parks and recreation system, in order to serve the diverse population that calls Detroit home. Parks and facilities should be designed, adapted, and improved to support all Detroiters. The following strategies enable more Detroiters to get involved in their communities and feel safe doing so.*

 **4.1.1 Ensure convenient transit options** to regional parks and rec centers by working with DDOT. Create shuttles to programs and activities, as well as mobile programming brought to neighborhoods. Work with transit providers to ensure bus stops at key access points, supporting those without personal vehicle access.

*Short term*

*Public Space Planning*

★  
\$\$\$

**4.1.2 Address road safety on the way to parks** through traffic calming measures with DPW, targeting speeding issues near parks, which are a concern for pedestrians and potential public transit users. Improvements can involve stop signs, speed bumps, and bump outs. Make sure sidewalks and crosswalks to parks are in good condition, especially those from bus stops to the park.

*Long term*

*Landscape Design*

★★  
\$\$

**4.1.3 Focus on improved safety measures to and in parks and rec centers.** Park security should increase safety without creating a barrier of social discomfort for some visitors. GSD's blight remediation team, and BSEED's blight enforcement team should focus on routes to parks. DPD's ParkControl can extend the season

and hours for parks. GSD's Security team can close parks down at night by locking the gates to parking lots. Simple signage on who to contact for various issues, as well as clear park rules, can also facilitate safety.

*Immediate*

*Business Office, Security, Blight*

★★★  
\$\$\$



## 4.2 CREATE AN INCLUSIVE PARKS & REC SYSTEM

### Universal Standards for World Class Parks

Accessibility for those with disabilities is an area for improvement in Detroit's parks and recreational facilities. The following recommendations strive to substantially exceed the standards set by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with an emphasis on safe transportation and inclusive amenities.

**4.2.1 Create inclusive parks for all ages and abilities**, including the very young, under 5 years, teens and seniors, as well as residents with mental and emotional disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, and people of different cultures and languages. This requires inclusive park design, multilingual signage, additional bathrooms and intergenerational programming.

*Short term  
Landscape Design*

★★★  
\$\$\$\$



**4.2.2 Expand rec programs to be inclusive to all**, by budgeting for adaptive equipment and services, as well as providing programs focused on the needs and interests of specific groups.

*Short term  
Rec Programming*

★★  
\$\$\$

**4.2.3 Ensure that all parks and rec information is accessible**, both online and through print for older residents and households without computer or internet access. Information should also be made available across other languages, tailored to the needs of each community. All information, including the DPRD website and public meetings, should use ASL multi-lingual services.

*Immediate  
Marketing*

★★  
\$

**4.2.4 Strive beyond ADA to universal accessibility**. For rec centers, all facilities should be accessible, including lifts for pools and accessible locker rooms and showers. The City should coordinate with partners who are already doing this work, to provide infrastructure assessments, staff trainings and resources. Additionally, an online directory and a mapping tool for accessible park amenities should be developed and kept up to date. (For a definition and additional information on universal design in parks, see the Universal Accessibility Design Insights on pages 39-40.)

*Short term  
Facilities, Landscape Design*

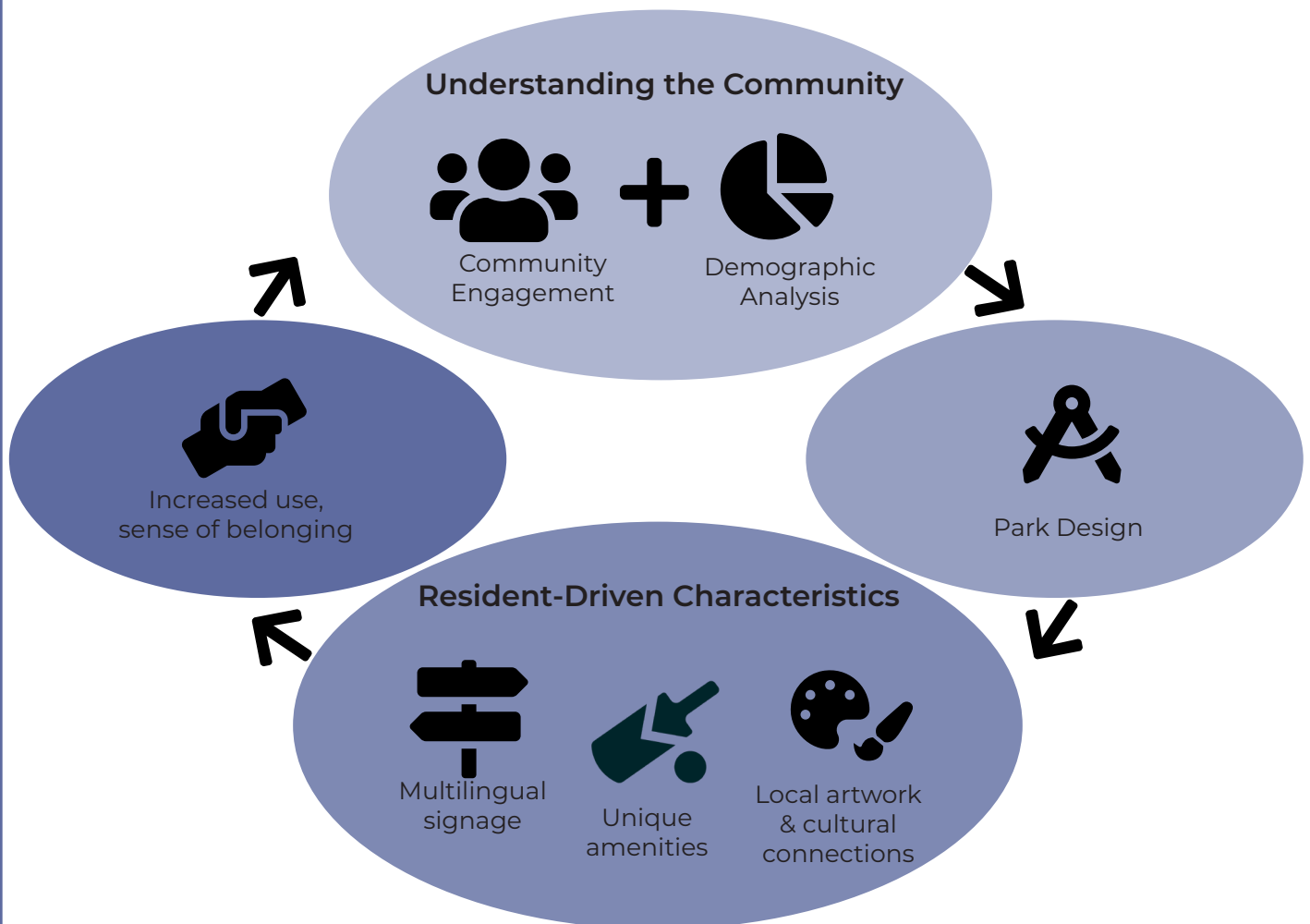
★★★  
\$\$\$\$

# DESIGN INSIGHT #6

## Equity

Parks are a hub for exercise, play, and community building, open to anyone regardless of income, race, gender, physical abilities, age, or any other factor. However, just because a park is accessible to the public does not mean it is a welcoming space for the local community. It is DPRD's duty to make sure these spaces meet the specific needs and desires of the neighborhoods they serve. By engaging with communities to understand their specific characteristics, such as languages spoken or culturally meaningful activities, parks and recreation centers may be designed and programmed to reflect the unique communities of Detroit and serve them well.

### Building Belonging through Community-Centric Design



To best serve all Detroiters, it is important to acknowledge that not all communities are the same and want the same amenities in their parks, and that the City has limited resources that must be shared across the city. Whenever a park is created or renovated, it is critical to conduct community engagement and analyze the demographics of those served by the park. During community engagement, residents can express their interests in potential park amenities, guiding the type of special resources a park may have. Demographic analysis, such as locating populations of non-English speakers, helps identify the need for translated signs, materials, and programs.

### Community-Centric Elements

- Sports: cricket, futsal, pickleball, etc
- Translations: signs, rules, program posts
- Artwork: community-produced, cultural
- Cultural design aspects:
  - color palettes, symbols, images
- Names: community chosen & significant

Right: Mural commemorating Bangladeshi community in Detroit and Hammtramck by Victor Quinonez, 2018



By putting the community at the center of park designs, we support equitable provision of outdoor and recreational resources. Park amenities that reflect a specific neighborhood's culture and passions, alongside community-inspired artwork, build a sense of belonging and can make parks the hubs of communities.

### CASE STUDY: JAYNE PARK



#### CRICKET ON THE RISE

A Cricket Pitch was built at Jayne Lasky in 2017, at the strong request of the community. Banglatown is home to the Bangladesh Cricket Association and draws visitors from the metro region. The pitch was so successful, it was fully booked before the field was completed, and a second was completed in 2021.

### CASE STUDY: ROOSEVELT PARK



#### SUPPORTING MULTICULTURALISM

Roosevelt Park, both historically Irish and currently serving Latinx communities. A community engagement event featured English and Spanish materials and interpreters, as well as Irish and Hispanic dance teams, celebrating the unique community.

# STRATEGIES

## 4.3 CONNECT THE SYSTEM

### Getting There & Enjoying the Journey

*While the majority of Detroiters drive to their destinations, approximately 25% of residents are without access to a personal vehicle, including some youth, elderly, disabled populations. DPRD strives to improve connections to parks and other key destinations for all Detroiters, whether they are walking, rolling, or riding. Along the way of improving access, residents can also increase their fitness and have fun.*

**4.3.1 Improve path infrastructure and maintenance in and around parks** for wheelchairs, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized modes. Increase connections from bike routes to parks, especially from major bus routes and dense commercial corridors. Ensure there is winter maintenance for walking paths and bike lanes along major routes. Invest in safe bike parking and repair stations. Transition to protected bike lanes, especially sidepath protected bike lanes.

*Long term*

*Landscape Design & Grounds*

★★  
\$\$\$\$

**4.3.2 Develop an educational campaign for greenways & the bike lane network.**

Implement an educational biking tour program to introduce people to greenways and biking safety. Add wayfinding signs from bus stops and major thoroughfares to parks and rec centers.

*Long term*

*Public Space Planning & Marketing*

★★  
\$\$



**4.3.3 Create multimodal hubs at rec centers and major parks,** through infrastructure improvements, providing information and access to bike and

scooter rentals, ride sharing, as well as SMART and DDOT bus schedules and route changes. Make sure bus stops are located near parks and rec centers, and consider upgrading those stations with shelters, lighting, seating, and charging stations. To ensure success of multimodal hubs, program times should be aligned with transit schedules.

*Short term*

*Public Space Planning*

★  
\$\$\$

**4.3.4 Create a connected network of greenways** with safe walking and biking routes to connect people to parks, rec centers, and other destinations. This will require detailed, accurate information about the greenways network and investment in gap areas. More information on greenways is in Chapter 6.

*Long term*

*Public Space Planning & Landscape Design*

★★★  
\$\$\$

**4.3.5 Develop blue and green connection corridors.** Invest in connectivity across the parks, to create habitat corridors for wildlife and trail systems for residents to use on foot or with small watercraft.

*Long term*

*Public Space Planning & Landscape Design*

★★  
\$\$



# DESIGN INSIGHT #7

## Indigenous Recognition

Drawn by abundant natural resources and access to the Great Lakes, Native Americans once inhabited all the lands in and around Detroit. The Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa, known collectively as the Council of Three Fires, have remained consistently in the Detroit area, despite over a century of colonization and warfare. Several Detroit parks occupy land with particular significance to Native Americans, including the Detroit Riverfront, Rouge River, Belle Isle, Springwells/Historic Fort Wayne, and Fox Creek, among others. Detroit Parks and Recreation can recognize Native American history and ongoing presence by developing a Tribal Consultation policy and standing Native American Advisory Council, and by issuing a land acknowledgment.

*Michigan has twelve federally recognized Native American tribes* and many others that are unrecognized.



*In Detroit*, many tribes actively maintain cultural and spiritual ties to the land, including

Additionally, Detroit has several Native American nonprofits including the North American Indian Association and American Indian Health and Family Services.



the **Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi** (1), the **Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe** (2), and the non-federally recognized **Wyandot of Anderdon Nation**.

*Today 2,574 Detroiters identify as Native American* according to the 2019 US Census.

## What is a Tribal Consultation?

Federally recognized Native American Tribes are Nations, so these consultations are government-to-government meetings for joint decision making. Consultations can take the form of in-person meetings, written or digital correspondence, or a standing Native American Advisory Council with members from local Tribes.

Listed below are best practices for a successful Tribal Consultation. The process may look different with a standing Native American Advisory Council.

### **Best Practices:**

1. Send a formal letter inviting affected Tribes to comment.
2. Carefully consider and respond to all comments before making a decision.
3. Invite Tribes to contact the City of Detroit at any time with questions or concerns.
4. Whenever possible, arrange for in-person meetings and site visits with Tribal leaders.



Indigenous history signage in a Canadian park; a practice DPRD hopes to start in its parks.

## When is a Tribal Consultation appropriate?

According to National Park Service (NPS) standards, a Nation should be consulted about decisions affecting park lands or resources to which they have a historical, cultural, or spiritual relationship. These decisions may include property acquisition, park plans, major development projects, archaeological permitting, access to ceremonial sites, and matters of historical interpretation. The City of Detroit should collaborate with local Tribes, as well as with experts in history and archaeology, to identify specific Native American ties to park lands and recognize them appropriately.

### **CASE STUDY: ROMANOWSKI**



#### **Garden & Medicine Wheel Area**

DPRD partnered with the American Indian Health & Family Services (AIHFS) to create a traditional indigenous garden in Romanowski. While not currently maintained, the garden remains available for reinvestment and use.

### **CASE STUDY: HISTORIC FORT WAYNE**



#### **Burial Mound in a Detroit Park**

DPRD staff have worked to transfer ownership of the Fort Wayne Mound, a 1,000-year-old Native American Burial Mound, to the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP).



# STRATEGIES TABLE

## Priority Levels



low priority  
moderate priority  
high priority  
top priority

## Cost levels

\$ under \$10,000  
\$\$ >\$10K to \$100K  
\$\$\$ >\$100K to \$1M  
\$\$\$\$ >\$1M to \$10M  
\$\$\$\$\$ >\$10M

#	Strategy	Overarching	Public Health	Nature	Connectivity	Priority Level	Cost Level	Responsible Division(s)
<b>Stage: Immediate (1 year)</b>								
1.1.1	Create an Events & Programs Calendar	X				****	\$	Marketing
1.1.2	Create Seasonal Program Notices	X			X	****	\$\$	Marketing
1.1.3	Increase Awareness through Apps	X				***	\$	Marketing, PSP
1.3.1	Continue Community Engagement	X				***	\$\$	Public Space Planning
1.3.3	Strengthen Partnerships	X	X			*	\$\$	Rec Programming
1.3.4	Foster Year-Round Park & Rec Use	X	X	X	X	*	\$\$	Rec Programming
1.1.5	Advertise Programs, Events, & Rules in Parks	X				**	\$\$	Landscape Design, Marketing
2.2.3	Expand & Diversify Staff		X			**	\$\$	Business Office, Rec Operations
2.3.1	Simplify the Permitting Process		X		X	***	\$	Rec Events
3.1.1	Increase Maintenance Capacity	X				****	\$\$\$	Grounds, Park Development
3.1.2	Expand Natural Habitat Areas			X		**	\$	Grounds, Landscape Design
3.1.4	Budget for Long-Term Park Repairs	X				**	\$	Business Office, Park Development
3.2.1	Design with Wildlife in Mind			X		*	\$	Landscape Design, Sustainability
3.3.1	Launch Anti-Litter Campaign	X				****	\$\$	PSP, Sustainability, Marketing
3.3.2	Refocus Adopt-A-Park	X				*	\$	PSP, Grounds
4.2.3	Ensure Info is Accessible		X		X	**	\$	Marketing
4.1.3	Focus on Safety				X	***	\$\$\$\$	Business Office, Security, Blight
<b>Stage: Short-Term (2-4 yrs)</b>								
1.1.4	Develop Outreach Database	X				*	\$	Public Space Planning
1.2.1	Create Park Ambassadors	X		X		****	\$\$\$	Business Office, Grounds
1.2.2	Develop Repair Staff Opportunities	X				***	\$\$	Business Office, Park Development
1.3.2	Establish Gear Libraries	X	X	X		**	\$\$	Rec Programming
1.2.4	Extend the Season: Programs & Maintenance	X	X	X		***	\$\$\$	Grounds, Rec Operations, Facilities
2.1.1	Support Self-Directed Play		X	X		*	\$\$	Landscape Design
2.1.2	Facilitate Walking Fitness		X			**	\$\$	Landscape Design

#	Strategy	Overarching	Public Health	Nature	Connectivity	Priority Level	Cost Level	Responsible Division(s)
<b>Stage: Short-Term (2-4 yrs) contin.</b>								
2.1.3	Provide Flexible Amenities		X			**	\$\$\$\$	Landscape Design
2.1.4	Create Sports Hubs at Regional Parks		X			**	\$\$\$\$\$	Landscape Design, Rec Athletics
2.2.1	Adjust Rec Center Hours & Fees		X			*	\$	Rec Operations
2.3.2	Re-establish Programming in Parks		X			**	\$\$\$	Rec Programming
2.3.3	Expand Drop-in Rec Activities		X			*	\$\$	Rec Operations
3.1.3	Manage Natural Areas			X		*	\$\$\$	Grounds
3.2.2	Get Residents Out in Nature			X		**	\$\$\$	Landscape Design, Rec Programming
3.2.3	Invest in Green Climate Management			X		**	\$\$\$	Sustainability
3.3.3	Invest in Youth Stewardship			X		*	\$\$	Business Office, Grounds, Rec Programming
4.1.1	Ensure Convenient Transit Options				X	*	\$\$\$	Public Space Planning
4.2.4	Strive Beyond ADA; Universal Accessibility				X	***	\$\$\$\$	Facilities, Landscape Design
4.2.1	Create Parks Inclusive for All Ages & Abilities				X	***	\$\$\$\$	Landscape Design
4.2.2	Expand Inclusivity in Rec				X	**	\$\$\$	Rec Programming
4.3.3	Create Multi-Modal Hubs				X	*	\$\$\$	Public Space Planning
<b>Stage: Long-Term (5-10 years)</b>								
1.2.3	Develop Green Careers	X		X		**	\$\$	Business Office, Sustainability
2.2.2	Improve Facility Conditions & Set Standards		X			***	\$\$\$	Facilities
2.3.4	Build Consistency in Long-Term Programs		X			***	\$\$	Rec Programming
3.2.4	Expand Park Lands & 10-min Access			X		**	\$\$\$	PSP, Landscape Design
3.3.4	Get Pollution Out of Parks			X		**	\$\$\$	Sustainability, PSP
4.1.2	Work on Safe Routes to Parks with DPW		X		X	**	\$\$	Landscape Design
4.3.1	Improve Path Infrastructure & Maintenance				X	**	\$\$\$\$	Landscape Design, Grounds
4.3.2	Develop Educational Campaign for Greenways, Bike Lanes				X	**	\$\$	Public Space Planning, Marketing
4.3.4	Create a Network of Greenways				X	***	\$\$\$	PSP, Landscape Design
4.3.5	Develop Green & Blue Corridors			X	X	**	\$\$	PSP, Landscape Design