



CITY OF ROMULUS

Parks & Recreation

MASTERPLAN

December 2014





Parks & Recreation Plan

2014 – 2019

City of Romulus

LeRoy D. Burcroff
Mayor

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Approved by a Resolution of adoption by the Romulus City Council
On January 12, 2015.

Approved and recommended for adoption by the City of Romulus Recreation
Commission by Resolution on November 11, 2015



CITY OF ROMULUS

Elected and Appointed Officials

LeRoy D. Burcroff
Mayor

Ellen Craig-Bragg
City Clerk

Stacy Paige
City Treasurer

City Council

John Barden, Mayor Pro-tern
Linda R. Choate
William Wadsworth
Celeste Roscoe
Harry Crout

Kathy Abdo
Sylvia Makowski

Recreation Commission

Tanya Cofield, Recreation Coordinator
Kathleen Abdo, City Council Representative
William Wadsworth, Chairman
Diane Poet, Vice Chairperson
Sandy Tenney, Recording Secretary
Daniel Lloyd, RHS Representative
Merrie Druyor
Gregory Ramsey
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The City of Romulus recognizes its obligation to provide recreation opportunities, facilities and services for its citizens. Recreational opportunities and a system of parks containing a variety of recreational facilities are essential to the physical and mental health of the residents of any community. The need for such facilities in Romulus is paramount given the City's location within the Greater Detroit Metropolitan Area and the impacts on daily living created by the location of the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (Metropolitan Airport), which occupies almost 1/3 of the city's land area or 11 sq. miles in the central portions of the City of Romulus.

Further, it is of primary importance to immediately under take programs that will contribute to the enhancement and improvement of the quality of living in the City. It is believed that the development and implementation of a carefully designed community-wide recreation plan is a key component of adding essential quality of life opportunities to all residents of the City of Romulus.

Purpose

The principal reasons for preparing a comprehensive recreation plan include the following:

1. To improve the physical environment and facilities of the community as a setting for human activities in order to promote the general health, safety, and welfare by making the City more functional, beautiful, decent, healthful, interesting and efficient.
2. Identify short and long-term recreation needs within the community and develop policy plans and programs to address these needs.
3. To put into writing the directions, policies and philosophy of the Recreation Department Staff, Recreation Commission, Mayor and City Council.
4. Prepare a capital improvement program with specific projects and the goal of implementing planned projects over a five-year period.
5. To qualify the City of Romulus to apply for recreation grant funding programs available through the State of Michigan.

City of Romulus DNR Recreation Grant History Updates

Since 1977, the City of Romulus has received seven (7) MDNR grants for recreation projects in the community.

**PROJECT NO. 26-01023 W
ELMER JOHNSON PARK – PROJECT YEAR 1977
2 LIGHTED TENNIS COURTS, ONE BASKETBALL COURT AND LWCF SIGN**

All City of Romulus Parks were closed in 2010. In 2014, Elmer Johnson Park was re-opened to the public.

The original grant project site was in need of repairs and was repurposed in August of 2015 and is now being utilized as a dog park

**PROJECT NO. 26-00945
ELMER JOHNSON PARK ARCHERY RANGE – PROJECT YEAR 1977
ARCHERY RANGE AND LWCF SIGN**

All City of Romulus Parks were closed in 2010. Range was unused prior to Elmer Johnson Park closure in 2010.

In 2014, stakeholders and private donors refurbished and restored the site. The Elmer Johnson Park Archery Range is operational.

**PROJECT NO. 26-01004 U
ST. JOHNS LODGE #44 PARK (FORMERLY KNOWN AS HENRY RUFF PARK)
PROJECT DATE 1980
2 LIGHTED BASKETBALL COURTS, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND LWCF
SIGN**

All City of Romulus Parks were closed in 2010.

The original site was in need of repairs and was repurposed in June of 2014 when the park was re-opened. The site is now basketball courts.

**PROJECT NO. 26-01239
CYPRESS PARK (FORMERLY KNOWN AS JIMMIE RASPBERRY PARK)
PROJECT YEAR: 1981**

Picnic equipment, perimeter fencing, basketball court, site improvement, play equipment and LWCF sign

All City of Romulus Parks were closed in 2010. Park remains closed.

PROJECT NO. BF89-292
HISTORICAL PARK – PROJECT YEAR – 1989
GAZEBO/BANDSHELL, SITE PREPARATION, EARTH BERM, FENCING,
RAILROAD SCREENING, PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING, BENCHES, TABLES, SEEDING,
TREE PLANTING, PAVED WALKS, PLAZA, PARKING AREA AND PHASE I SITE
ASSESSMENT.

Park remains open.

WITHDRAWN PROJECTS

Project No. 26-013667; Wyndclift Park, Acquisition of 8 acres, Project Year: 1984

Project No. TF90-206; Elmer Johnson Park, Acquisition of approximately 10 acre parcel, allowing for a park expansion at city-wide Elmer Johnson Park. Project Year: 1990

Community Description

Land development patterns in Romulus, including the location of residential neighborhoods and park sites, are strongly influenced by the presence of Metropolitan Airport, which occupies nearly 7,072 acres, or 11.05 square miles of land in the center of the City. The presence of the Airport has resulted in the uneven distribution of dwelling units and recreational facilities throughout the community.

Romulus' greatest periods of population growth occurred during the 1950's and 1960's. The pace of population growth has since leveled off. In 1970, the City's population hit a high of 24,857 persons, and then declined to 22,897 persons in 1990. The 2000 census recorded a slight population increase to 22,979 persons. Then another larger increase was recorded in the 2010 census showing a total population was 23,989. The decline recorded in the 1990 census was the City's first population decline. Since then, the Census estimates Romulus has gone through another decline of around 500 people. Future population growth in the City will depend on a number of factors, including:

- The amount of land available for home sites that are not adversely impacted by the Airport and ability to attract new housing developments.
- The image of the City as a quality place to live and raise a family; possessing sufficient opportunities for housing, shopping, education and recreation.
- The ability of the City to attract a much greater percentage of the area's work force to both live and work in Romulus.

The recommendations of the Recreation Plan are based on meeting the needs of approximately 25,000 residents. Romulus has few naturally occurring physical assets, such as water features or changes in topography, which readily lend themselves to certain recreational activities.

Residential uses in Romulus occupy 7,020 acres of land, or 30.5 percent of the City's total area. The Master Land Use Plan envisions the expansion of residential land and projects the eventual use of 5,640 acres for residential purposes at capacity development. Expansion of the City's

residential base will likely generate a corresponding need for the expansion of recreation facilities.

Even though this residential development may not occur for several years, the Recreation Plan provides for, or supports land reservations to meet the future recreation needs.

Recreation Inventory

Romulus owns six neighborhood parks, a Historical Park located in downtown Romulus and two community-wide park sites. Collectively, these nine parks currently offer approximately 80 acres of public open space for City residents. Additional land area frequently used for recreation purposes is available on eight school sites three Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority parks are located in the neighboring communities of Van Buren and Huron Townships and are readily accessible to Romulus residents.

Recreation Goals

The following goal statements offer a policy framework for meeting the City's current and anticipated recreation needs. They are intended to be broad enough to provide the City with enough flexibility to address the needs of the City residents over the expected timeframe of the Plan.

General Recreation Goals

1. Enhance and increase the quality of life for Romulus residents and visitors by providing a full range of recreation programs and facilities to meet these needs.
2. Avoid duplicating the development of public and commercial recreation opportunities that are available in nearby communities.
3. Coordinate the delivery of recreation opportunities that are provided by the Romulus School District, Wayne County, Romulus Athletic Center and the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority.
4. Provide a safe environment for participation for users of all ages.
5. Make available an environment that is universally accessible for all participants.

Neighborhood Recreation Goals

1. Reserve or acquire additional land needed to meet the anticipated neighborhood recreation needs of Romulus residents at capacity development.
2. Provide neighborhood parks where there is an expressed need and a willingness of the neighborhood to help police and protect such facilities.

3. Undertake a comprehensive program of updating and replacing playground equipment at each of the City's neighborhood parks.
4. Incorporate neighborhood recreation facilities into future plans for residential development in the City.
5. Utilize appropriate planning and zoning techniques, encouraging developers to incorporate open space into new residential development.

Community Recreation Goals

1. Expand and update both of the City's existing community parks to improve their ability to meet existing and anticipated recreation needs.
2. Target additional land that may be necessary to meet the City's Community recreation needs at capacity development.
3. Develop a series of pedestrian paths or linkages permitting the safe and convenient movement of people from residential neighborhoods to existing and proposed park sites and to similar facilities in neighboring communities.
4. Seek to develop programs that will offer recreation opportunities for the City's non-resident or visitor populations, also to include employees of Romulus businesses.

Administrative Goals

1. Monitor, expand and adjust program offerings to reflect changing recreation, income and transportation limitations preferences and age characteristics.
2. Work with neighborhood groups to establish cooperative agreements for the protection, maintenance and use of recreation sites and to enhance each other's programs, thus providing more variety for area citizens.
3. Provide necessary staffing and an administrative infrastructure to support the expansion of recreation opportunities.
4. Work with school administrators to jointly promote greater use of school and community facilities.

Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan comprehensively considers the full range of recreation improvements needed by the City. This program has both short and long-term components. The major elements of this program are described as follows:

Neighborhood Parks

- Undertake a comprehensive program of re-opening existing neighborhood park sites to include new equipment and facilities and replacement of used and outdated equipment.
- Acquire new neighborhood park sites to meet anticipated future recreation needs in conjunction with new residential development proposals.

Community Parks

- Expand the range of activities available at each of the City's two community park sites, with an emphasis on establishing Elmer Johnson Park as the centerpiece and focal point of the City's recreation system
- Develop Master Plan for phased development of 90 acres, at Huron River Dr, North of Eureka.
- Develop a master plan for phased development of the 260 acre Saterlee farm site located along Wick Road in the northwest quadrant of the City.
- Install a half basketball court in the Oakbrook Neighborhood & Dog Park.

Community Indoor Activities

- Continue to offer current programming and implement new programs according to the needs of residents.
- Implement programming to best utilize the RAC and continue to schedule classes through the Romulus Community Schools.

Park Linkage

- Develop a pedestrian and bicycle path system linking the City's residential neighborhoods to existing and proposed park sites, the RAC and possibly linking to similar facilities in neighboring communities. (See 2009 Master Plan- Sidewalk Plan)

Nonresident Recreation

- Require open space and encourage recreational opportunities to be provided in conjunction with the development of the Metro World Centre, north of the Metropolitan Airport, the Pinnacle Project south of the airport and the Athletic Center west of the airport.

Private/Public Partnerships

- Examine the potential and advantages of private/public partnerships to provide recreational opportunities and facilities. This could include corporations, quasi-public institutions, the Airport and the County of Wayne.
- Continue to encourage expanded membership in the RAC by offering competitive corporate rates, non-resident rates, sponsorships, etc.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Regional Settings

The City of Romulus is located in the south central portion of Wayne County, approximately 17 miles southwest of the Detroit Central Business District.

Five communities share a common boundary with Romulus. These communities include the cities of Wayne, Westland, and Taylor, Huron Township, and Van Buren Township. Four other communities abut Romulus at each of the City's four geographic corners. These communities are Canton Township, Dearborn Heights, Brownstown Township, and Sumpter Township.

The City's regional setting is enhanced by the location of Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (Metropolitan Airport) in the middle of the City. Metropolitan Airport is a gateway to the world and, as such, represents an important transportation hub for the greater metropolitan Detroit area and for the entire State of Michigan.

Romulus is bisected by two major multi-lane divided freeways. I-275 runs north and south, linking Romulus to I-75, and thus to Canada an international trade corridor, and south to Florida; I-94 runs east and west to downtown Detroit and Windsor, Ontario and west to Ann Arbor and Chicago.

Illustration I

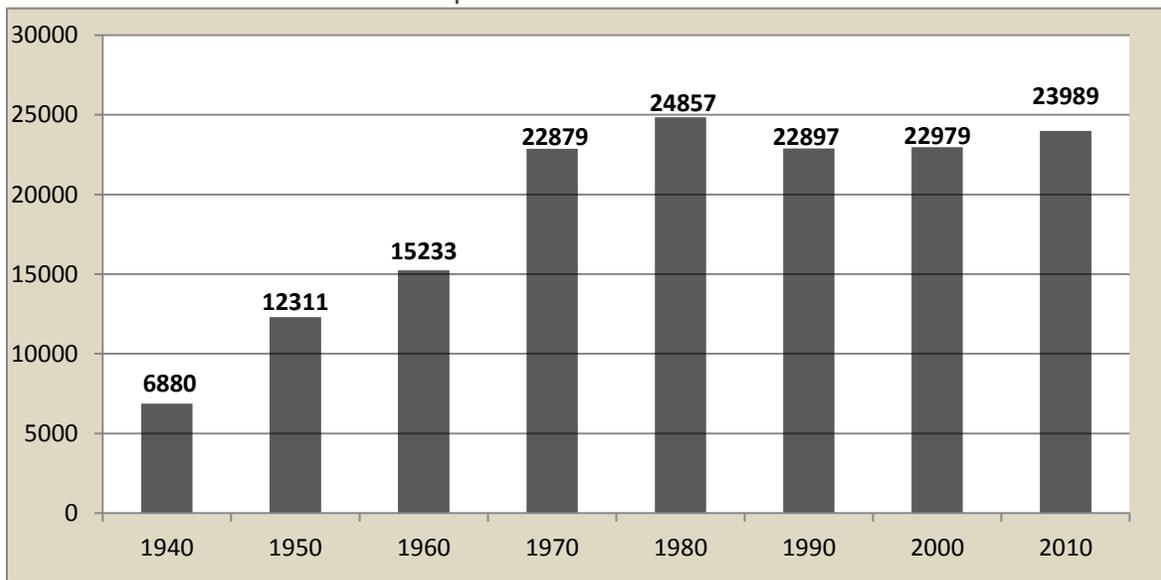


Population Growth Trends

The City of Romulus' population has more than tripled during the 50-year period between 1940 and 2000. The City's greatest period of population growth occurred between 1940 and 1950 and between 1960 and 1970. Population increases during these ten-year intervals were 5,431 persons and 7,646 persons, respectively. A considerably more modest increase of fewer than 2,000 persons occurred between 1970 and 1980. 1990 Census figures indicate a population of 22,897, or a loss of 1,960 persons since 1980 (see Table 1). The 2000 census population of 22,979 reveals a reversal in the trend of population loss. The 2010 census continues to show population growth to 23,989 residents.

Table 1

Population Growth Trends



Population projections included in the City's 1989 Master Plan anticipated a population increase to 26,000 persons by 1990, and an additional increase to 30,000 persons by the turn-of-the century. The decrease in population recorded by the 1990 Census results from smaller family sizes, the aging of the City's population, and a prior reluctance of developers to construct housing in Romulus.

The slight population increase recorded by the 2010 census best reflects opportunities for continued growth and new housing developments in portions of the City not adversely affected by the Airport. The major determinants of future population levels in the City include the following factors:

- The amount of land available for residential development (areas not affected by the airport, noise patterns of the aircraft, trains, freeways or industry).
- The image of Romulus as a quality place to live.
- The ability of Romulus to attract a much greater percentage of its work force to work and live in Romulus.

For recreation planning, it is assumed that the City will have a population of about 25,000 persons by the end of the planning period encompassed by the Recreation Plan. This is consistent with the population projections prepared by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). SEMCOG's projections anticipate a population level of approximately 22,685 by 2040.

Population Distribution

The distribution of residents throughout the City is significantly influenced by the presence of Detroit Metropolitan Airport in the City's geographic center and the predominantly industrial land use characteristics of land on the Airport's periphery. As a result of these two factors, the largest share of the City's population is located in several concentrated areas.

2010 U.S. Census data shows that nearly 40 percent of the City's 9,946 housing units are located west of Wayne Road. Another noticeable concentration is located south of Eureka Road (25%). Approximately 20 percent of the City's 2000 housing units are located north of 1-94, between Wayne and Merriman Roads. Throughout the City, dwelling units and residents are clustered together in identifiable neighborhoods, which frequently have strong physical boundaries.

The availability of existing recreation facilities in the City will be considered in relation to those established neighborhoods and the overall distribution of residents and housing units throughout the City (see Illustration 2)

Age Characteristics

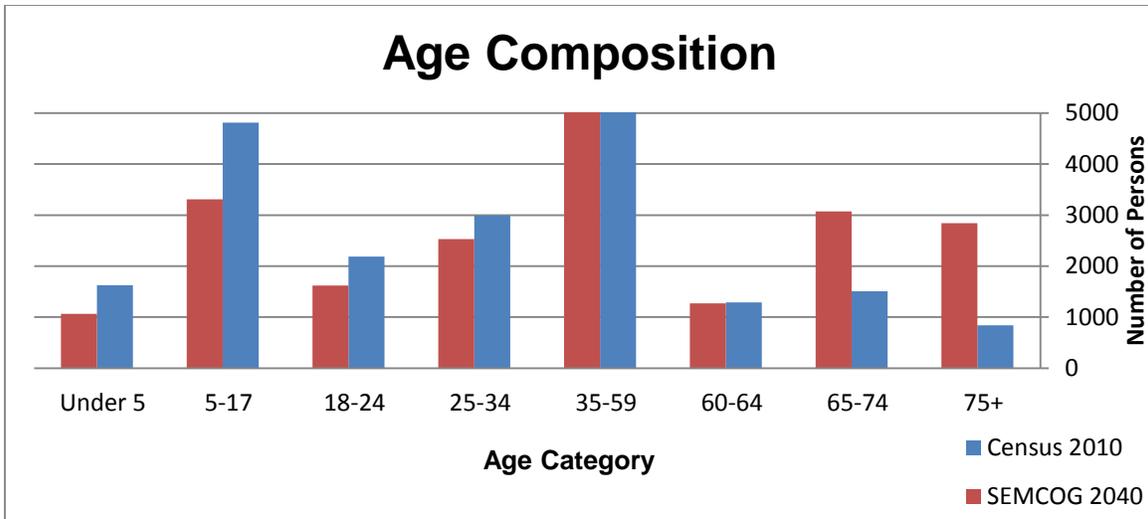
An important demographic variable influencing recreation planning is the age composition of a community and the extent to which this composition has changed over the years. The 2010 Census revealed some significant changes that are occurring in the age structure of the nation's population. The "BabyBoom" generation is aging. A close analysis of Table 2 reveals that the percent of the City's population over 50 is growing.

Table 2
Age Composition and Percent of Population
City of Romulus
2000-2010

| Age Category | Census 2000 | Census 2010 | Change 2000-2010 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Under 5 | 1,740 | 1,627 | -113 |
| 5-9 | 2,015 | 1,771 | -244 |
| 10-14 | 1,905 | 1,820 | -85 |
| 15-19 | 1,606 | 1,976 | 370 |
| 20-24 | 1,369 | 1,432 | 63 |
| 25-29 | 1,789 | 1,436 | -353 |
| 30-34 | 1,781 | 1,557 | -224 |
| 35-39 | 1,916 | 1,814 | -102 |
| 40-44 | 1,807 | 1,756 | -51 |
| 45-49 | 1,720 | 1,772 | 52 |
| 50-54 | 1,562 | 1,836 | 274 |
| 55-59 | 1,182 | 1,559 | 377 |
| 60-64 | 783 | 1291 | 508 |
| 65-69 | 582 | 927 | 345 |
| 70-74 | 473 | 578 | 105 |
| 75-79 | 356 | 393 | 37 |
| 80-84 | 241 | 232 | -9 |
| 85+ | 152 | 212 | 60 |
| Total | 22,979 | 23,989 | 1,010 |
| Median Age | 32.9 | 36.2 | 3.3 |

Source: US Bureau of the Census

Table 3
Age Composition



It is possible to obtain another perspective of the changes that are occurring to the age structure of the City's population by combining individual age groups into larger categories that more clearly resemble identifiable stages of a normal life cycle: pre-school, school, family formation, middle-age and senior citizens. Table 3 displays the percent of the City's population that is included in each of these categories. The table shows how the share of each of these categories has changed since 1960. Several important trends are evident as a result of this analysis.

Table 4
Age Distribution by Lifecycle Category
City of Romulus
(1960 - 2010)

| | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pre-School (0-4) | 12.8 | 13.1 | 9.3 | 8.4 | 7.5 | 6.8 |
| School (5-19) | 30.1 | 28.9 | 29.9 | 25.3 | 24.1 | 23.2 |
| Family Formation (20-44) | 32.8 | 37.5 | 41.1 | 41.5 | 37.7 | 33.4 |
| Middle Age (45-64) | 18.9 | 15.8 | 14.5 | 17.2 | 22.8 | 26.9 |
| Senior Citizens (65+) | 5.4 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 7.4 | 7.9 | 9.8 |

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census (1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010)

Perhaps the most consistent trend evident from Table 3 is the decline in preschool children as a percent of the City's overall population. Aside from a slight percentage increase between 1960 and 1970, this category declined from 12.8 percent and 13.1 percent in 1960 and 1970, respectively, to 6.8 percent in 2010. A decline is also noted in the school-aged category, with the largest decrease noted between 1980 and 1990. The family formation category has decreased as a percentage of the population since 1990. The middle-aged group experienced a steady increase since 1980. The senior citizen category remained relatively stable over the 20-year period between 1960 and 1980, with a steady increase noted since 1980 to 2010. The

median age for the City of Romulus has changed slightly e.g. 2000 32.9 years and 2010 36.2 years.

Table 5
Distribution of Population by Sex

| | 1980 | | 1990 | | 2000 | | 2010 | |
|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Males | 12,362 | 49.7% | 11,248 | 49.1% | 11,200 | 49% | 11,599 | 48% |
| Females | 12,495 | 49.3% | 11,649 | 51% | 11,779 | 51% | 12,390 | 51.6% |
| Totals | 28,857 | | 22,897 | | 22,979 | | 23,989 | |

Racial Characteristics

The 2000 Census displayed that approximately 68% of the City’s 22,979 residents were white. Thirty percent (30%) of the City’s population were black and another two percent (2%) of Spanish origin. The 2010 Census reveals a significant change in that the black population has risen to 10,251 or 42.7%, a comparative breakdown is displayed below:

Table 6
Racial Characteristics
2000/2010

| City of Romulus | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| | 2000 | 2010 |
| White | 15,019 | 11,752 |
| Black | 6,891 | 10,251 |
| Other | 1,069 | 1,986 |
| Total Population | 22,979 | 23,989 |
| Percent of Population | | |
| White | 68.0% | 54.3% |
| Black | 30.0% | 42.7% |
| Hispanic Origin | 2.0% | 3.0% |

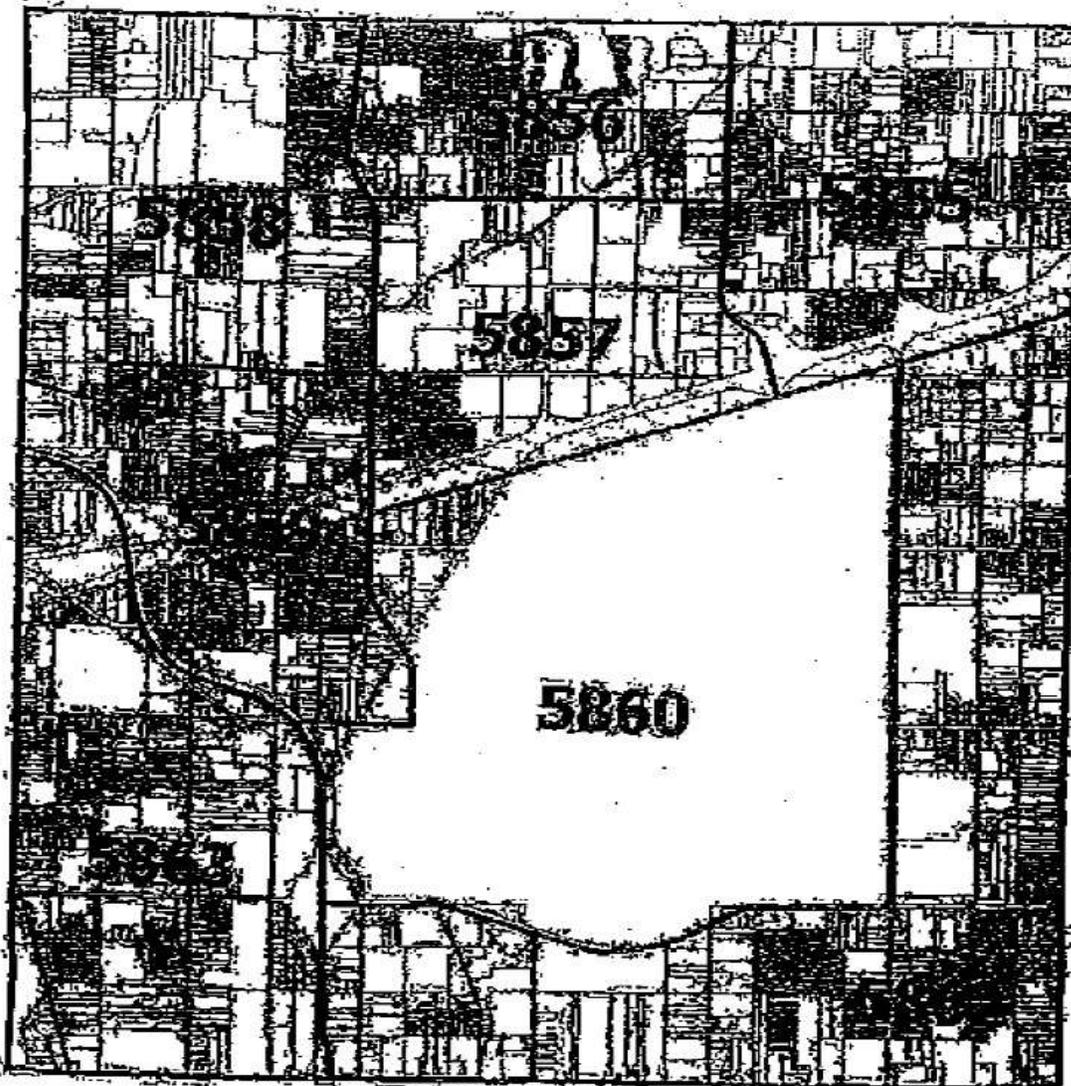
Economic and Household Characteristics

Economic characteristics, especially household income levels and the number of residents living in poverty, may influence the choice of recreation opportunities or leisure time pursuits. For example, a household with higher income levels may have more opportunities to participate in a wider range of recreational activities, especially those offered by private providers. The opposite may be true for households with lower incomes.

In 2010, Romulus reported a median household income of \$45,308, which is slightly higher than the overall Wayne County figure of \$41,504.

20.2 percent of the City's total residents were living below the poverty line in 2010. Households headed by someone over 65 years of age, or with a female head, are more likely to be living in poverty than other households. Households with a female head are even more likely to be living below poverty. Nearly twenty nine (28.9) percent of the City's households with this characteristic are below the poverty line.

Illustration 2
Housing Unit Distribution
2002 Census Tract Data



| Census Tract Characteristics City of Romulus | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| | 5855 | 5856 | 5857 | 5858 | 5859 | 5860 | 5862 | 5863 |
| Population | 2,443 | 2,364 | 2,078 | 3,999 | 3,372 | 18 | 6,609 | 2,096 |

While Romulus reports a lower proportion of its households and residents below poverty level than Wayne County as a whole, a large enough share of the City's population is impacted by poverty to suggest that privately available recreation facilities may be beyond the reach of many City residents.

Table 7
Occupation Characteristics of Romulus Population

| Occupation | 2000 # | 2000 % | 2010 # | 2010 % |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Management, professional, and related occupations | 1,861 | 17.7% | 1,912 | 18.9 |
| Service occupations | 1,811 | 17.2% | 2,114 | 20.9 |
| Sales and office occupations | 2,649 | 25.2% | 2,525 | 24.9 |
| Natural resources, construction and maintenance occupations | 1,337 | 12.7% | 1,008 | 9.9 |
| Production, transportation, and material moving occupations | 2,855 | 27.2% | 2,579 | 25.4 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 & 2010

Physical Characteristics

The physical setting of a community may influence the availability of recreation opportunities. The presence of varied topography, woodlands, and other natural water features, including lakes and rivers, often provide unique opportunities for diverse recreation activities. A community's land use characteristics also need to be considered in evaluating recreation needs and opportunities.

Topography

Romulus is characterized by a level surface topography, with few noticeable changes in elevation that offer any significant opportunities for recreation purposes. Generally, the City's land surface declines gradually in a southeasterly direction. The highest recorded elevation (670 feet above sea level) is in the northwest corner of the City near Cogswell Road. The lowest elevation of 625 feet is located in the City's southeast corner near the intersection of Inkster and Pennsylvania Roads.

Water

Few significant water features are evident in Romulus. The Huron River enters the far southwest corner of the City near Hannan Road. This portion of the river is included with the large lower Huron Metropark, located in the adjoining communities of Huron and Van Buren Townships.

Two water courses flow through portions of the City. Hale Creek crosses the southeast corner of Romulus; the Ecorse River is located in the northeast portion of the City.

Two small lakes, both the result of sand and gravel mining activities, are located in the central portion of the City north of the Airport. Both lakes are surrounded by vacant land and have some long-term open-space and recreation value. These lakes have been incorporated into the plans for the larger mixed-use development planned for this portion of the City.

Woodlands and Vegetation

Wooded areas have a value for recreation purposes. They enhance the setting of recreation sites and offer opportunities for picnicking, hiking and nature interpretation. The largest undisturbed woodlands in Romulus are generally confined to the less intensely developed western portion of the City.

Located off Wick Road, the City in 2001 obtained ownership of a 260-acre parcel that contains many stands of deciduous hardwoods amidst sporadic acres of wetlands. This land is readily adaptable to presentation as passive recreation. The City also has a 90 acre tract at Huron River Drive, north of Eureka that was donated for passive recreational purposes. (Ref. Saterlee Farm Site)

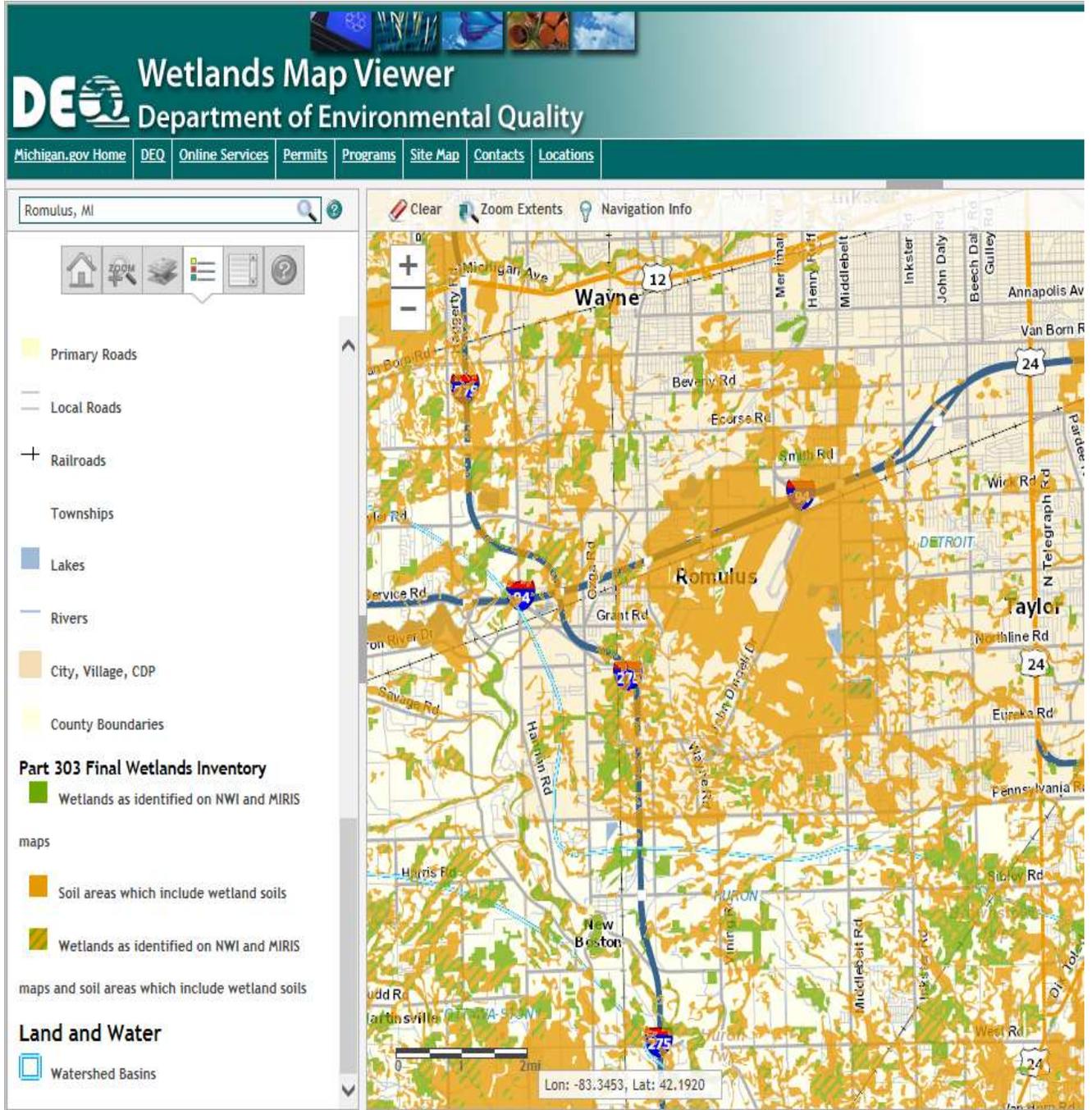
Wetlands

Like woodlands, undisturbed wetlands offer numerous benefits for recreation and open space purposes. Wetlands in Romulus were identified by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 1988 as part of a comprehensive inventory of physical characteristics of the entire State.

Numerous wetlands have been identified in Romulus as a result of this mapping process. Most of these wetlands consist of lowland areas covered by hardwood vegetation. Several less extensive shrubs, emergent and aquatic bed wetlands also exist within the City.

Wetlands are distributed throughout the community with the greatest concentration occurring in the western portion of the City (see Illustration 3).

Illustration 3
Wetlands



Soils

The soils in Romulus vary, but can be put into general soil associations. Romulus is comprised of primarily two soil associations, the Pewamo-Selfridge-Tedrow and the Granby-Gilford-Thetford associations. In general, loamy till, sandy loam, and sandy glacial outwash soils are most common in the City. Typically, these are poorly suited for development however development and engineering techniques may overcome these constraints.

Climate

There are no unusual climatic conditions that severely impede outdoor recreational activities in the City. The climate is humid continental modified by the Great Lakes. Temperature data obtained from the National Weather Service at Detroit Metropolitan Airport reveal the average warmest month is July with an average high of 84°F and January is the average coldest month with an average high of 32°F. June tends to be the month with the most precipitation averaging 3.52 inches of rainfall. Average annual snowfall for the city is 42.5 inches with averages of 12.5 inches in January, 10.2 inches in February and 9.6 inches in December. Due to variations in weather patterns in southeast Michigan, residents can enjoy seasonal recreation.

Transportation Systems

- Excellent access to highways, air, rail, and regional transit system
- Foundation of the regional street system supports accessibility
- Romulus experiences a disconnected local street system
- Also a disconnected non-motorized pathway system
- Presence of physical barriers to internal circulation and City connectivity exists; such as the airport, railroad crossings, and the interstate highways

Existing Land Use

The manner in which the land in a community is presently being used is one of the basic determinants of the general character of the community and its development potential. Existing land use patterns, particularly the quantity and distribution of residential uses throughout the community, will influence the need and location of recreation facilities.

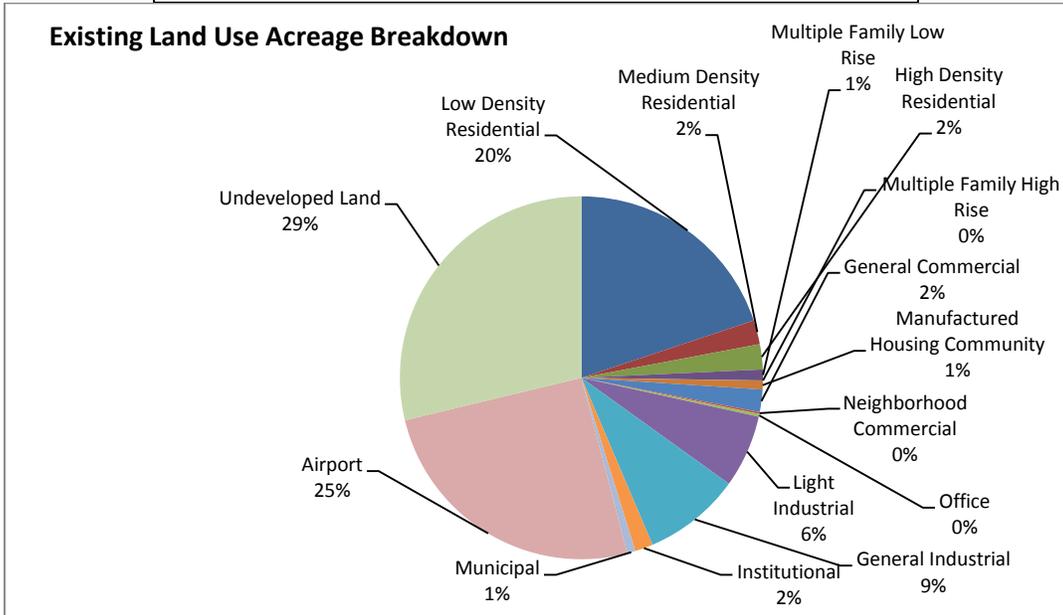
Romulus has a total land area of 23,003 acres, or 36 square miles. Slightly more than one-half of this total area is developed. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport is the City's single most dominant land use feature. In addition to occupying a large area of central Romulus (11.05 square miles), Metropolitan Airport also exerts a significant impact on the City's overall development pattern, particularly for those areas located along the periphery of the Airport. Residential uses, including single-family homes, multiple-family dwellings, and mobile home parks collectively occupy 7,020 acres of land, or slightly less than 30.5 percent of the City's total land area.

The public category includes schools, parks and other related government uses. Approximately 600 acres of land are included within this category. A summary of the City's developed and planned land uses are reflected in Table 8 and Figures 5 and B.

Table 8

| Existing Land Use Acreage Breakdown | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Existing Land Use Category | Acres | Percent of Total |
| Low Density Residential | 4,123 | 19.9% |
| Medium Density Residential | 443 | 2.1% |
| High Density Residential | 465 | 2.2% |
| Multiple Family Low Rise | 200 | 1.0% |
| Multiple Family High Rise | 3 | 0.0% |
| Manufactured Housing Community | 164 | 0.8% |
| General Commercial | 414 | 2.0% |
| Neighborhood Commercial | 34 | 0.2% |
| Office | 51 | 0.2% |
| Light Industrial | 1,343 | 6.5% |
| General Industrial | 1,798 | 8.7% |
| Institutional | 333 | 1.6% |
| Municipal | 152 | 0.7% |
| Airport | 5,244 | 25.3% |
| Undeveloped Land | 5,964 | 28.8% |

Source: Existing Land Use Map, LSL October 2002



The Master Plan seeks to increase the quality of land being used for residential purposes. To accomplish this, the Plan recommends concentrating residential development in those portions of the City that are least impacted by the nuisances associated with the Airport. One consequence of this policy is the need to upgrade and expand recreation opportunities to meet the needs of future City residents

RECREATION INVENTORY

RECREATION INVENTORY

Introduction

There are a variety of recreation facilities, provided by several different organizations that are available to residents of Romulus. The sources of these opportunities include the State of Michigan, Wayne County, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, City of Romulus, local school districts, and various private organizations. A description of the range of facilities available to City residents is provided as follows.

State Parks and Recreation Areas

There are 14 State parks and recreation areas in southeast Michigan that are within an hour's drive of the City of Romulus. These parks have a combined area of approximately 61,000 acres and provide a wide range of day use facilities including typical recreation picnicking, camping, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, among others. The closest State recreation area to Romulus is Maybury State Park, located on 8 Mile Road, two miles west of Northville. This park has facilities for hiking, picnicking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

Two State game areas are also located within a reasonable driving distance from Romulus. The closest of these two facilities, Pointe Mouille State Game Area, is located in Monroe County. A second game area, Algonac, is located in St. Clair County. These sites consist largely of natural areas that function as game preserves and which are also used for hunting, fishing and nature appreciation activities.

Regional Facilities

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMAI) operates more than one dozen regional recreation areas in southeast Michigan, four of which are reasonably accessible from the City of Romulus. These parks provide facilities for a wide range of recreational opportunities which include picnicking, playgrounds, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, court games, cross-country skiing, ice-skating and sledding among others. The four closest HCMA parks for Romulus residents are Oakwoods, Lower Huron, Willow and Lake Erie.

ILLUSTRATION 5

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
RECREATION FACILITIES**



Illustration 6
Regional Recreation Facilities

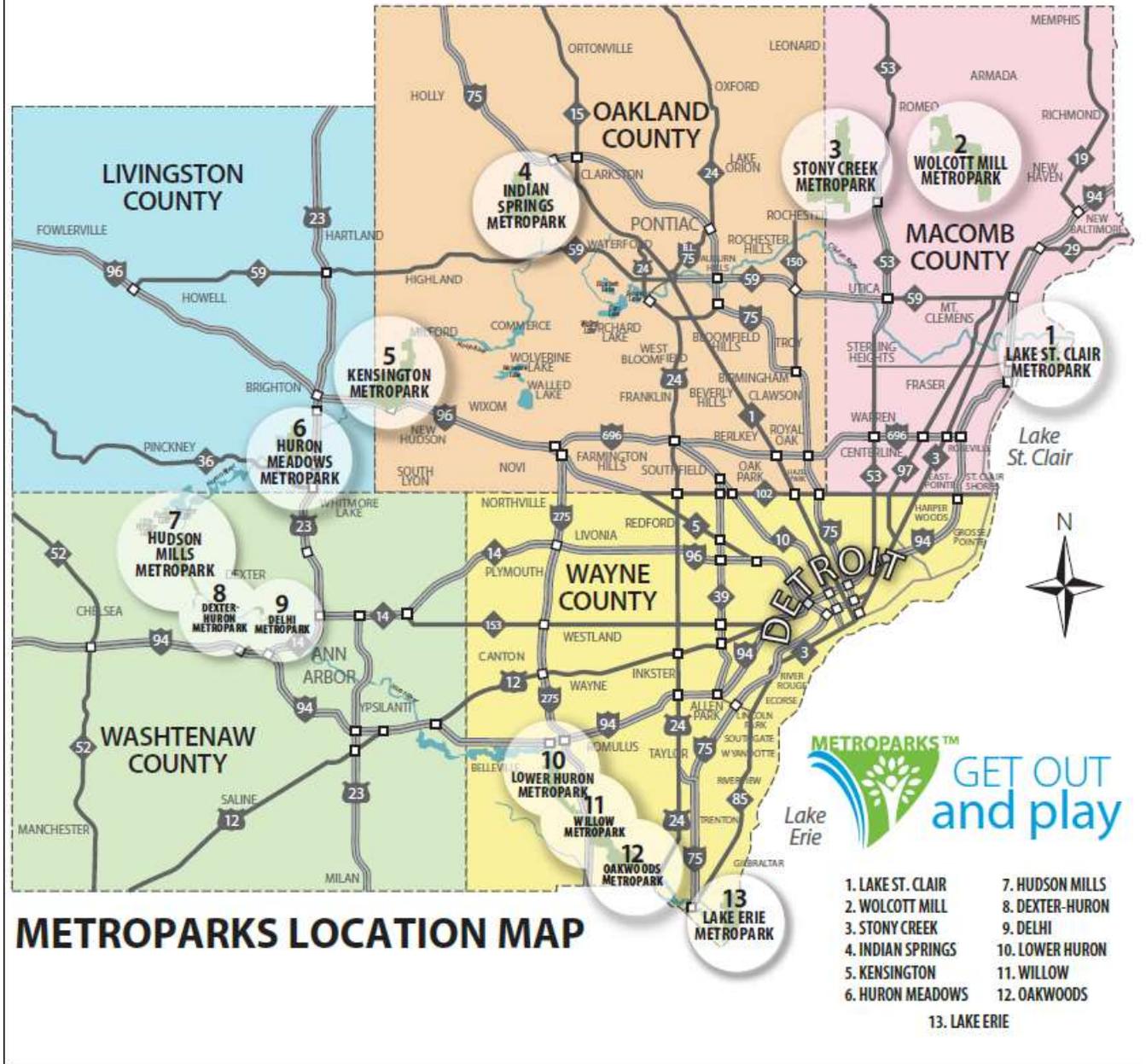


Illustration 7
Wayne County Parks



- 1 - Bell Creek – Redford
 - 2 - Family Aquatic Center at Chandler Park
 - 3 - Crosswinds Marsh – Sumpter
 - 4 - Elizabeth Park – Trenton
 - 5 - Gunsolly Mills - Plymouth
 - 6 - Hines Park -
 - 7 - Inkster Valley Golf Course
 - 8 - Lola Valley Park – Redford
 - 9 –Lower Rouge Parkway
 - 11 - Warren Valley Golf Course
 - 12 - William P. Holiday Forest & Wildlife Preserve
- Cass Benton Park & Disc Golf Course – Northville
 Inkster Park Nankin Mills Interpretive Center Bennett Arboretum - Northville



Wayne County Parks

Wayne County operates three regional parks within its boundaries. These parks utilize the recreation potential of the drainage system of the Rouge Basin. The William P. Holiday Park is located between Joy and Warren Roads and extends from the railroad tracks in Canton Township east to the Middle Rouge Parkway along the Tonquish Creek. Hiking and picnicking are popular attractions. The Lower Rouge Parkway consists of about 1,000 acres of partially developed recreation land. Developed areas include about 104 acres at Michigan Avenue and Inkster Road in the City of Inkster, and approximately 64 acres north of Michigan Avenue between Venoy Road and Wayne Road in the City of Wayne. Picnicking, baseball, football and tennis facilities are available. The undeveloped portions of the Parkway extend west along the Rouge River past Haggerty Road in Canton Township. The Middle Rouge Parkway has some 2,325 acres of land from Seven Mile in Northville to Ford Road. A wide range of facilities is provided, including two 18-hole golf courses that are open to the public. Wayne County also operates several smaller parks, but they are not considered regional in nature.

City of Romulus

The City of Romulus owns nine existing park sites distributed throughout the community. These include six neighborhood park sites, a Historical Park in downtown Romulus and two community-wide facilities. Collectively, these sites occupy approximately 81 acres of land. A description of each park site is included below and on the following pages.

Beverly J. McAnally Park (formerly Cordell Park)

Beverly J. McAnally Park is a one-acre neighborhood park/playground located at the end of Cordell Street in the northeast corner of the City. This park serves a small single-family subdivision known as Hyde Park, which includes approximately 100 families. The northern boundary of the site abuts an existing mobile home park. Access to the park is provided via a crosswalk through the mobile home park. Additional maintenance and equipment updating is required. Plans to remove play equipment and utilize as a sitting park with trees and benches.

A number of mature trees are located throughout the park. An open, undeveloped play area is located in the eastern half of the park.

Fernandez Park/Boise Parkway

These two sites are functionally part of a single linear open space area crossing one of the City's dense neighborhoods and located east of Wayne Road, along the City's northern boundary. Fernandez Park anchors the eastern end of this neighborhood open space corridor. The neighborhood, once the target of urban renewal, is greatly revitalized with much new housing, and the parkway and Fernandez Park plays very important role in this part of the City.

Fernandez Park occupies an area of approximately 3.5 acres. The southern half of the park is the more developed portion of the site and includes three basketball courts, and

picnic shelter. A meandering asphalt path connects this portion of the park to the more passively oriented northern half of the park. Assorted children's playground equipment, picnic tables, a horseshoe pit and grills are located in this half of the park. The entire site is wooded, especially the northern half. All facilities at the park have been updated with the exception of a restroom facility.

Boise Parkway extends from Fernandez Park in a southwesterly direction through the surrounding residential neighborhood. An asphalt path permits the safe movement of residents through the neighborhood to the park. This linear portion of the parkway is approximately 50 feet wide and 2,400 feet in length. Future plans are to install mile markers. There are no facilities along the parkway.

Jimmie Raspberry Park (formerly Cypress Park)

Jimmie Raspberry Park is located in the northwest portion of the City. This park serves a small neighborhood bounded by the railroad tracks, Wayne, Ecorse and Beverly Roads. The park occupies a 0.8-acre site bounded on the west by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad tracks. The entire site is fenced and heavily wooded. Assorted playground equipment, picnic tables, a basketball court, barbeque grills and an open play area are available at this site. Additional maintenance and equipment updating is required which will include slides, swings and a basketball pole.

Mary Ann Banks Memorial Park (formerly Kennedy Park)

This 1.4-acre park is located in the "Five Points" neighborhood immediately north of the Goddard, Ozga, Grant and Huron River Road intersection. A covered, wooden picnic shelter is this park's most prominent site feature. Assorted playground equipment along with a play structure is available at this site, including swings and sandbox, among others. A few large trees are located along the park's southern boundary with the church. A large, paved area at the north end of the site is flooded in the winter for ice skating and used in the summer for roller hockey. Additional maintenance, including landscaping and resurface paved area. Restroom facilities have been installed at this park.

Senior Citizen's Park

The 4.3-acre park located behind the Senior Citizen's Center is part of the larger Romulus school complex that includes the Romulus Community School District Administration Offices and bus garage. The Senior Citizen's Park includes an oval exercise track with fitness stations and large open play area. The eastern portion of the site is wooded and contains picnic equipment. The western portion of the site contains a large open lawn area currently used as a soccer/football field and also provides parking for community events such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Pumpkin Festival.

Oakbrook Neighborhood Park (formerly Merriman Park)

This park adjoins the existing Merriman Elementary School site located on the east side of Merriman Road south of Metropolitan Airport. Only part of this 9.2 acre site is developed for recreation purposes. An existing dog park replaced the baseball diamond and the tot lot has been updated. A six-foot wide concrete walk crosses the park

connecting the elementary to the Oakbrook Subdivision. There exists a tennis court that has fallen into a state of disrepair. Most of the park's playground equipment has been updated and future plans to include small basketball court. Fire hydrants need to be installed.

Park #1 (formerly Henry Ruff Park)

This park occupies a 1 8.9 acre site in the northern portion of the City at the intersection of Beverly Road and Henry Ruff Road. This park is one of the City's two major community-wide parks. The park includes two distinct areas. The more developed portion of the site, located south of a major storm drain, includes a paved parking lot, fenced baseball diamond, basketball and tennis courts, playground equipment and picnic areas which include a new pavilion. Access to the park is provided from both abutting roads. Two existing (but unused) baseball diamonds are located on the north side of the drain. Access of these diamonds is provided via a separate entrance to Henry Ruff Road. A dense stand of trees separates these two areas. The two northerly diamonds are unusable, overgrown with vegetation and require extensive refurbishing if they are to be used in the future. Future plans include connecting the northern and southern portions of the park via a bridge, installing new restrooms, re-constructing the basketball courts, baseball fields, soccer fields, parking lot and maintaining green space on the northern side of the park.

Elmer Johnson Park

This 35 acre site is the largest and most extensively used and developed City park site. It is located in the western portion of the City. Access is provided by way of a single driveway to Ozga Road. The boundaries of the park are irregular. Portions of this site have frontage on Shook Road to the east and Wick Road to the north. None of the remaining frontage is developed for ingress/egress purposes.

Two softball diamonds and large gravel parking lot occupy the central portion of the site. An inline hockey court, basketball court, two sand volleyball courts, two shuffleboard courts, a concrete barbeque grill, covered picnic shelter and children's playground are located in the southern portion of the park. An archery range is located to the east. A horseshoe area is available between the ball diamonds.

Restrooms are located on the west side of the park. Large portions of the site are undeveloped and most of the facilities and equipment require substantial maintenance, repair or replacement. Future plans include turning the inline hockey courts into more basketball courts and updating the restrooms, the baseball fields and concrete barbeque grill.

Historical Park

Prominently located at the east end of the City's central business district, the Historical Park is a highly visible 1.8-acre site and positioned to function as a gathering place centerpiece for community events. The park contains a gazebo, several benches, picnic tables and a handsomely landscaped sitting area around the gazebo. The park property also contains a historically sited railroad car "caboose", the old Freight House and the

City's museum building. Future plans could include renovating the Freight House into an outdoor Amphitheater.

Mt. Pleasant Park

This park is located on the southwest side of town and is currently being leased by Romulus Community Schools. Future updates to include new play structures and landscaping.

Recreation Center- Romulus Athletic Center

The RAC opened in the early winter of 2007. The 89,000 square foot facility consists of many facets, including:

- 7,000 square foot workout area with treadmills, elliptical machines, bicycles and other equipment, as well as free weights
- Five pools (lap, lazy river, zero depth/splash pad, deep pool with monster slide and hot tub)
- Upper deck track
- Gymnasium that can be divided into two full size basketball courts and volleyball courts
- Monitored teen room with televisions, video games, computers and more
- Concession stand and lounge area
- Banquet area connected to a commercial kitchen
- Climbing wall
- Five family locker rooms
- Day care room
- Multi-purpose rooms as are needed for classes such as yoga, dance karate, scrap booking, etc

Future plans for outdoor use include a splash pad, as well as developing the land to the west of the building into a neighborhood park. This park would include a walking track, pavilion, inline skating area, horseshoes, shuffleboard, restrooms and green space. It is located on the corner of Wayne Road and Northline Road, just west of the airport.

Senior Citizen's Center

The Senior Citizen's Center is an 18,000 square foot facility that was opened in 2006. It houses all of the senior programming. It is located on the corner of Shook Road and Bibbins Street, on the southern boundary of downtown Romulus. The Senior Citizen's neighborhood park abuts to the east side of the building and includes football and soccer fields. This center has many facets and offers a variety services, including:

Leisure/Educational Classes

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Crafts | Diabetic Education |
| Ceramics | Alzheimer's Education |
| Bowling | Culinary Class |
| Club #1 | Bible Study |
| Painting Class | Karaoke |
| Juicing Class | Social Hour |
| Healthy Eating Class | Manicures |
| Smart Driving Class | Grief Support |

Exercise Classes

Walking
Zumba

Recreational Activities

Bus Tours/Trips -Zoo, Sporting Events, Dinner Theater, Shopping, Fishing, Boat Tours, Museums, Apple Orchards, Casino
Luncheons/Lunch Outings
Bingo, Pinochle, Fun Night

Community Services

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Flu Shots | Free Legal Advice |
| Stroke Screening | Hair Cuts |
| Eye Screening | Massages |
| Foot & Blood Sugar Check | Transportation |
| Health Screening | Commodities |
| Lawn and Chore Service | Focus Hope |
| Snow Removal | Cell Phones |
| Minor Home Repair | Emergency Shelter |
| Community Policing | Adult & Youth Mentoring |
| Telecare Phone Program | Tax Preparation |
| Meals on Wheels | Workshops/Seminars |
| Daily Hot Meals at Senior Center | |

Special Activities

Parade of Lights
Pumpkin Festival
Craft Show
Paczki Day
Fun Fest
Senior Appreciation Day Picnic
Volunteer Luncheon
Gala
9/11 Memorial
Law Day
Black History Month
Victorian Tea
Western Tour
Senior Olympics
Cancer Walk
Strawberry Festival

ROMULUS SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

School Facilities

Additional land for recreation and open space purposes is available at the seven school sites located in the City. Approximately 170 acres of land are being used for school sites. In several instances, the school buildings and parking lots occupy small portions of larger sites that could be used for other recreation purposes. Halecreek School and Barth Elementary School include large vacant areas as part of their sites. These elementary and secondary school sites typically include playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts and multi-purpose rooms that are available for recreation purposes. Existing school-owned sites total approximately 170 acres of land. Not all of this acreage however, is completely developed.

Private Recreation Facilities

Recreation opportunities are also available through a number of private organizations that provide either facilities or programs for an established fee. The types of facilities that fall into this category include golf, bowling, ice skating rinks, racquet clubs, and health clubs, etc.

Among the more widely used private recreation facilities available to City residents are noted below:

Golf

- Gateways Golf Course (Romulus)
- Riverview Highlands Golf Course (Riverview)
- Woodlands Golf Course in Van Buren Township (Van Buren)
- Taylor Meadows Golf Course (Taylor)
- Lakes of Taylor Golf Course (Taylor)

Bowling

- Michael B's Romulus Recreation Center, Romulus
- Wayne Bowl (Wayne)
- Town & Country Bowl (Westland)
- Taylor Lanes (Taylor)
- Lodge Lanes (Belleville)

Ice Arena

- Jaycee Park Arena (Westland)

- Garden City Civic Arena (Garden City)
- Taylor Sportsplex (Taylor)
- Wayne Community Center (Wayne)
- Artic Edge of Canton (Canton)

Health Club

- YMCA (Westland)
- Lifetime Fitness (Canton)
- Romulus Athletic Center
- Snap Fitness, (Belleville)

Racquet Sports

- Coliseum Racquet Club (Taylor)
- Wayne Community Center (Wayne)
- Dearborn Racquet & Health Club (Dearborn)
- The Fairlane Club (Dearborn)

ROMULUS PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

Youth Recreation Programs

| | |
|--|---|
| After School Dance- Ballet & Jazz After School Floor Hockey After School Soccer League Ballet, Jazz & Tap Classes Basketball Clinic Basketball League Cheerleading Clogging Daytime Baby Dance Classes Daytime Itty-Bitty Gymnastics Hip-Hop Dance Special Tips Interpretive Dance Golf | Gymnastics Karate Pee-Wee Tennis Safety Awareness/Self Defense Clinic Safety Awareness Classes Soccer Clinic Baseball Tae Kwon Do Tennis Track Club Horseback Riding Cedar Point Trip Pilate's Volleyball Clinic |
|--|---|

Adult Recreation Programs

| | |
|---|---|
| Clogging Co-Ed Softball League Golf Karate Kickboxing Men's Basketball League Yoga Men's Softball League | Open Basketball Tai-Chi Tae Kwon Do Volleyball Women's Basketball League Women's Softball League Pilate's Interior Design Zumba |
|---|---|

Leisure Programs

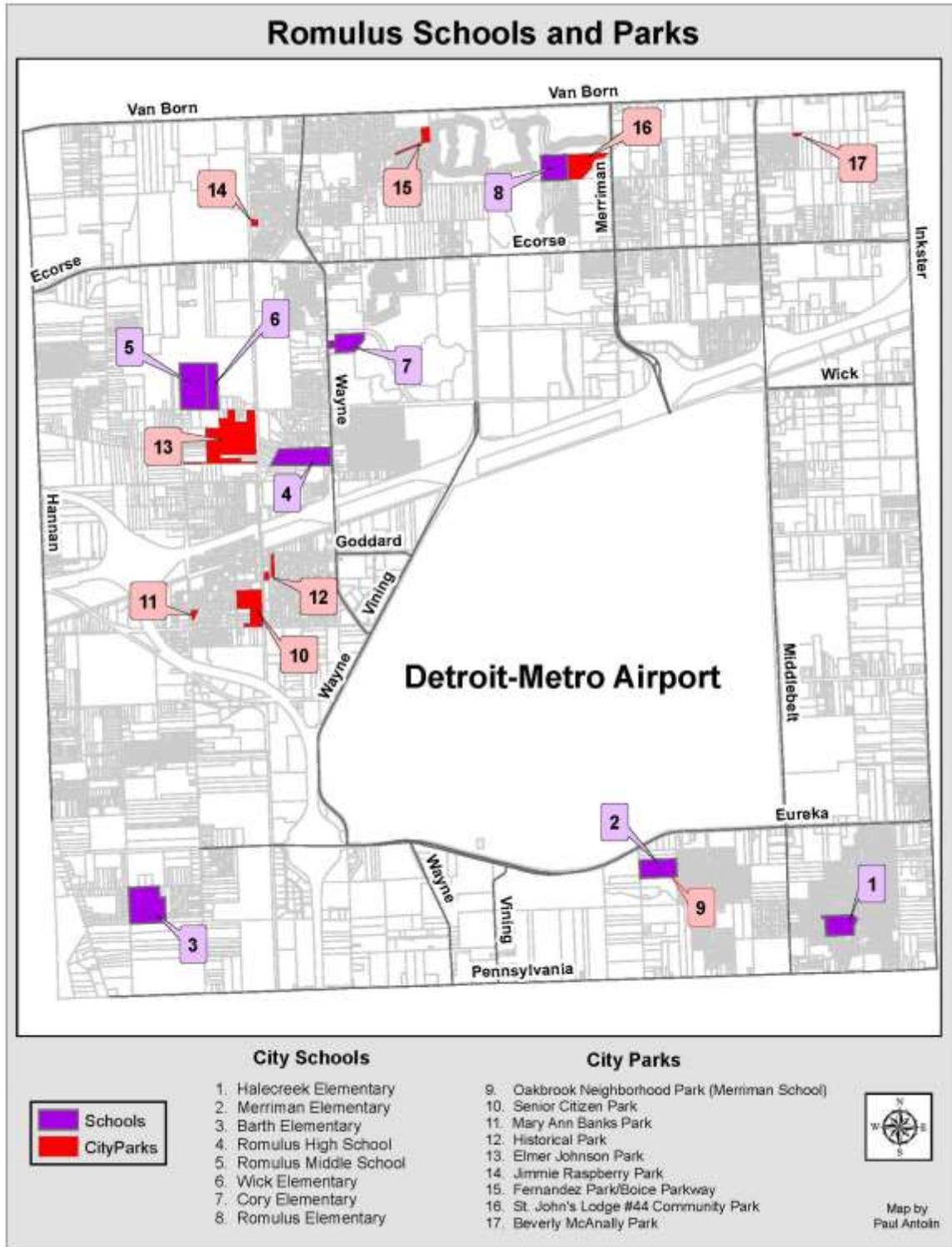
| | |
|---|--|
| Beading Ceramics Craft Classes Music in the Park | Quilting Summer Day Camp Super Saturdays |
|---|--|

Special Events

| | |
|---|--|
| Christmas Crafts/Lunch with Santa City Wide Garage Sale Daddy/Daughter Dance Decorated House Contest Easter Egg Hunt Field Trips Fourth of July Picnic Halloween Contest & Party | Holiday Roller Skating Junior Olympics/Youth Fitness Winter Special Olympics Mother/Son Dance Piston's Clinic Pumpkin Festival Punt, Pass & Kick SMASH Tennis Tree Lighting Ceremony |
|---|--|

Future Programming

| | |
|--|--|
| Archery Classes Aquatics Classes-Toning, Cardiovascular, Swimming Lessons, Lifeguard Lessons, Snorkeling, Scuba Diving Babysitting Classes CPR & First Aid Classes Fitness Evaluations Fitness Classes Aerobics, Step, Circuit Training, Sculpting | Flag Football Movie Night Under the Stars Roller Hockey Backyard Barbeque Scrap booking Summer Playground Program Swimming Classes After School Lessons AAU Boys/Girls Basketball Tournaments Tooling/Home Repair Classes Toddler Activities |
|--|--|



ADA Compliance

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all public service areas should be built with barrier-free accommodations. This section shows that all of the City's park and recreational facilities have been evaluated, which facilities are barrier free, and which are not. Included in the evaluation are transition steps to make the facilities ADA compliant. Most transitions will occur with the next renovation of the park, and all future improvements will be ADA compliant. The City's Parks and Recreation Director is responsible for ADA compliance. As park renovation programs are undertaken and new recreation facilities acquired, they will all be ADA compliant.

Accessibility Goals:

1. Ensure that all parks and recreation facilities are accessible to all Individuals; are ADA compliant and where possible, provide non-motorized links to promote walkability and connectivity.
2. Ensure barrier-free accessibility to all parks and recreation facilities; including paths, parking areas, transfer points, resilient surfacing, play equipment, picnic tables and shelters, bleachers, ball fields, restrooms and other amenities.
3. Ensure that as the City's aged park system and older facilities are upgraded and that they are brought up to comply with all ADA standards.

An evaluation of existing park and recreation facilities offers the following analysis:

1. Romulus Athletic Center: The new recreation facility that was opened in the early winter 2007 is fully ADA compliant.
2. Senior Citizen's Center: The new Senior Citizen's Center that opened in 2006 is fully ADA compliant.
3. Beverly J. McAnally Park: All park surfaces are either grass or cushionwood. Park access is not ADA compliant. Equipment is old and outdated and when replaced will be ADA compliant
4. Fernandez Park: Access throughout the park is ADA compliant. Play equipment is old and will be ADA compliant when replaced.
5. Jimmie Raspberry Park: All park surfaces are either grass or cushionwood. Park access is not ADA compliant. Park equipment and public areas need to be upgraded and replaced and will be brought up to ADA standards.
6. Mary Ann Banks Memorial Park: Sidewalk access is available to the park, however the park area itself is not ADA compliant. Play equipment and internal access will be ADA compliant when the park is upgraded. A new ADA compliant play structure was installed in 1997 and in 2008 a bathroom will be installed that will be ADA compliant.
7. Senior Citizen's Park: The fitness park is ADA accessible and compliant. The picnic facilities need to be brought up to ADA standards.
8. Oakbrook Neighborhood Park: The park is accessible by sidewalk from the adjoining neighborhood to the east and from the adjacent elementary school. All of the play equipment has been updated and is ADA compliant.
9. Historical Park: Located in the Romulus central business district, the park and its facilities are ADA compliant.

10. Beverly Road Tot Lot: This small neighborhood lot is not ADA compliant. Access and all play equipment needs to be made ADA compliant.

11. Elmer Johnson Park: Largest of all city parks, Elmer Johnson dates back to 1960. The park is not ADA compliant and will be the focus of improvements over the next ten years. All parking and access areas are gravel surfaced and almost all park equipment and facilities are in need to replacement and upgraded to ADA standards. In 2008, the City plans to upgrade existing bathrooms to be ADA compliant.

12. Park #1: The parking area is asphalt surface but there are no sidewalks that lead to the park area. Currently, the Parks Department is developing a plan to make all park areas ADA compliant. The topography of the land is rolling with some drainage issues. Park equipment is outdated and needs to be replaced and made ADA compliant.

ADA Compliance Budget Goals:

It is recognized that the City of Romulus, like so many other Michigan communities, is suffering from a difficult financial period. It is nonetheless the City's goal to be able to budget funds annually for park facilities and access upgrades that will all be ADA compliant. Refer to the Five Year Capital Improvement Program.

Grant Programs

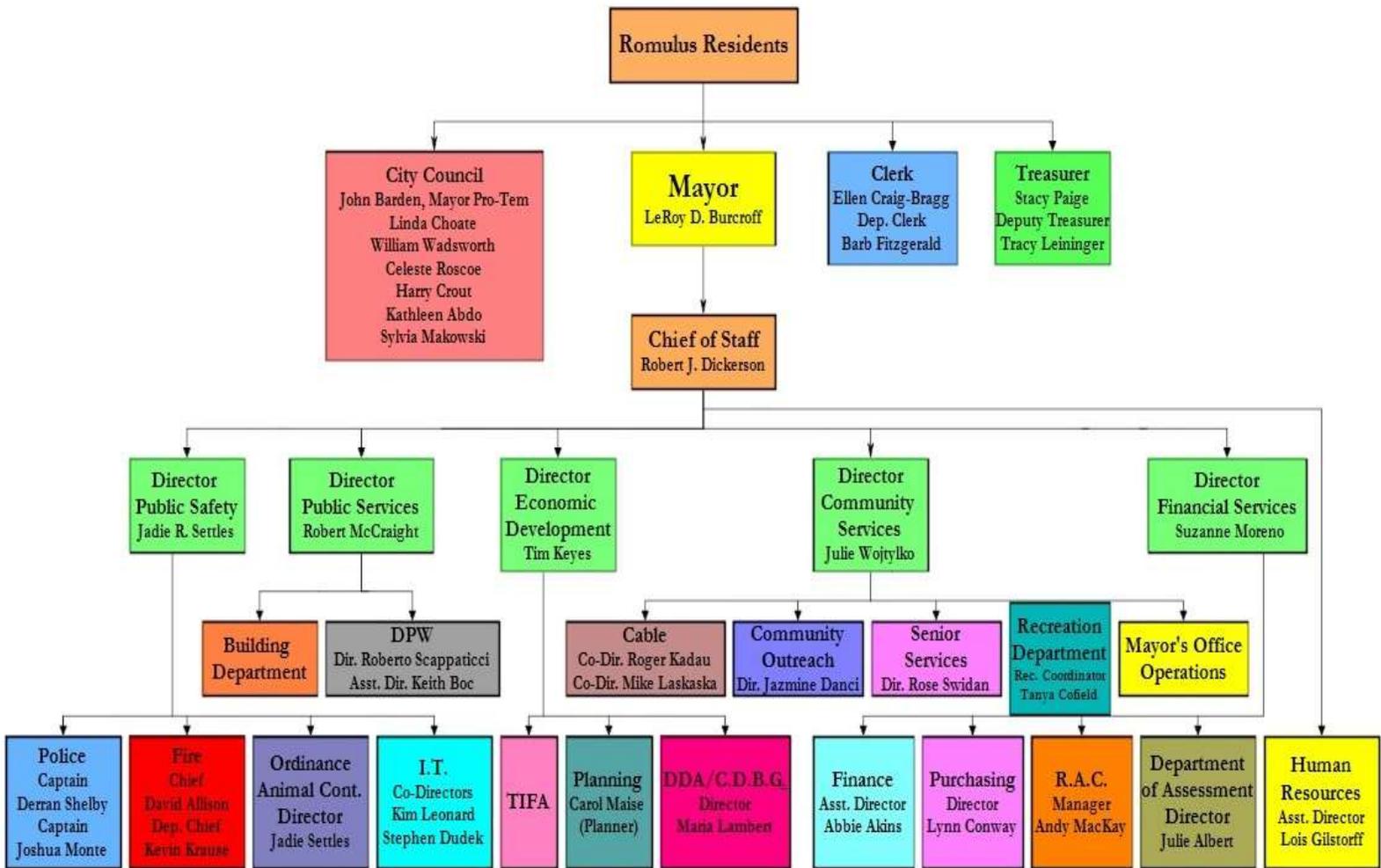
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds have been used in the past by the City to undertake planned improvements to the Historical Park site in Downtown Romulus. In the past, the City has applied for a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to fund the acquisition of a site along Wick Road to be added to the Elmer Johnson Park. CDBG monies were also used in 2003 to update parts of Fernandez Park and to re-surface the asphalt path at the Senior Citizen's Park.

Grant programs provide a mechanism to supplement funds available from the community. Since they are offered to other communities on a competitive basis, these sources should not be counted on to provide a consistent long-term source of community recreation funding. Consideration should be given to funding capital improvements as part of the annual budget allocation process.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Illustration 9
Administrative Structure

City of Romulus
Organizational Chart



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Organization

The City of Romulus is organized under a strong Mayor/City Council form of government. The City Council serves as a legislative branch of government, with the Mayor functioning as the City's chief administrative official. All departments report directly to the Mayor. Department heads, including the Parks and Recreation Coordinator, are appointed by the Mayor.

The Romulus Recreation Commission was created by the Mayor and City Council in 1974 to serve as an advisory body to City administrative and elected officials regarding the formation and implementation of City policies impacting the delivery of recreation services and programs. Nine (9) members sit on the Recreation Commission. Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. Each member serves a three (3) year term.

The Recreation Department includes one (1) full-time employee, which is responsible for directing specific recreation services and programs. The Recreation Coordinator is responsible for supervising the operation of City parks and recreation programs, including budgeting, staff supervision, long and short-range park planning, and liaison with the Mayor, City Council and other City Departments.

The Recreation Program Coordinator directs the City's recreation program offerings. The Recreation Program Coordinator is responsible for administering after-school, summer and adult programs. After-school programs are offered at four elementary school sites in the City. Activities offered through this program include soccer, basketball, floor hockey, etc. A summer program is also offered at these school sites. Other programs provided by the City include dance, gymnastic and karate classes, winter drop-in programs for youth and adults offering basketball and volleyball, junior Olympics, quilting, women's golf league, special field trips, horseback riding, canoeing, adult softball and camping for children. Special events are also organized by the Recreation Department including a 4th of July picnic, Lunch with Santa, Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and Daughter/Daddy and Mother/Son Dances.

Maintenance and City park sites are handled together by seasonal Recreation Department park maintenance workers and City Department of Public Works employees.

Recreation Financing

The principal source of funding for recreation programs in Romulus is the City's General Fund. For the current fiscal year, the Romulus Recreation Department is operating with a total budget of \$545,075. The amount of money being spent for various budget categories is noted as follows:

Romulus Recreation Department 2014-2015 Operating Budget

| Spending Category | Budgeted Amount | Percent of Total Budget |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Salaries | \$8,303 | 3.52 |
| Services | - | - |
| Maintenance | \$58,873 | 24.9 |
| Supplies Equipment | \$4,200 | 1.78 |
| Capital Improvements | \$165,000 | 69.8 |
| Total: | \$236,376 | 100% |

Personnel costs, including the wages, salaries and fringe benefits for staff, in addition to money allocated for contractual services, account for over 70 percent of the Recreation Department's current annual budget allocation. Money spent on various categories of supplies and equipment accounts for the next largest share of the Department's budget. The maintenance budget is \$58,873. This budget line-item does not account for all of the grounds and equipment maintenance expenses required by the City park system. \$165,000 was budgeted for Oakbrook Park and other capital items.

Other sources of funding, aside from the General Fund, have been used from time-to-time by the City for various recreation purposes. Examples of these other sources include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Wayne County Parks Millage that is allocated back to local units based on project approval. These programs provide funding on a periodic basis for capital improvements, either the acquisition of land to be used for recreation or open space purposes or for specific physical improvements.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In the broadest sense, a Recreation Plan should offer the community a series of policy guidelines for making consistent and rational public decisions regarding the delivery of recreation facilities and programs. Goals and objectives provide the policy guidelines or framework for recreation providers. The following goal statements reflect the City's long and short-term recreation needs identified in the previous section. Specific methods of achieving these goals are described in the following chapter.

General Recreation Goals

1. Enhance and increase the quality of life for Romulus residents and visitors by providing a full range of recreation programs and facilities to meet their needs.
2. To upgrade the community's entire park and recreation environment.
3. To provide new and traditional parks and recreation experiences for residents.
4. Avoid duplicating the development of public and commercial recreational opportunities that are available in nearby communities.
5. Coordinate the delivery of recreation opportunities that are provided by the Romulus School District, Wayne County, and the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority.
6. To develop and improve parks and recreation programs for the special needs population.

Neighborhood Goals

1. Provide neighborhood parks only where there is an expressed need and a willingness of the neighborhood to help police and protect such facilities.
2. Reserve or acquire additional land needed to meet the anticipated neighborhood recreation needs of Romulus residents at capacity development.
3. Undertake a comprehensive program of updating and replacing playground equipment at each of the City's neighborhood parks.
4. Incorporate neighborhood recreation facilities into future plans for residential development in the City.

5. Utilize appropriate planning and zoning techniques encouraging developers to incorporate open space into new residential development

Community Recreation Goals

1. Expand and update both of the City's existing community parks to improve their ability to meet existing and anticipated recreation needs.
2. Target additional land that may be necessary to meet the City's community recreation needs at capacity development.
3. Develop a series of pedestrian paths or linkages permitting the safe and convenient movement of people from residential neighborhoods to existing and proposed park sites as well as the RAC.
4. Provide recreation opportunities for the City's non-resident or visitor populations.

Administrative Goals

1. Monitor and adjust program offerings to reflect changing recreation preferences and age characteristics.
2. Work with neighborhood groups to establish cooperative agreements for the protection, maintenance and use of recreation sites.
3. Provide necessary staffing and an administrative infrastructure to support the expansion of recreation opportunities for all age groups from pre-school and teens to senior citizens.
4. Seek innovative alternatives to find the financial resources to fulfill the parks and recreation needs identified in this Recreation Plan.

RECREATION NEEDS

A community's recreation needs, both short and long-term, should be evaluated in relation to the amount of land available for recreation purposes, the types of facilities available at these sites and the range of programs and services offered to City residents. Unmet existing recreation needs and projected future needs relative to each of these areas are considered in the following analysis.

Several techniques are used for the purpose of projecting future needs. Frequently, these techniques rely on comparisons of existing facilities to commonly accepted standards. These standards suggest optimum conditions and provide a benchmark against which progress can be measured. The risk in using these standards is that they are not uniformly applicable to all communities and need to be evaluated in light of the unique physical, social and economic conditions that may characterize a specific community. The community's relationship to other recreation providers located nearby also needs to be considered.

Neighborhood Recreation Needs

These sites are intended to be areas for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus areas, skating and picnicking, among others. This type of park is optimally suited to serving a neighborhood consisting of up to 5,000 people and having a service radius of one-quarter to one-half mile. The desirable size of such a facility is approximately 15 acres. Between one and two acres of neighborhood park land should be provided for each 1,000 persons anticipated to reside within a given neighborhood area. Such facilities should be easily accessible to the neighborhood they are intended to serve, with consideration given to pedestrian and bicycle safety. This type of park may be appropriately developed in conjunction with an elementary school.

The need for neighborhood recreation sites needs to be evaluated in relation to each of the City's identified neighborhoods. Estimates of current and capacity population were developed for each of these neighborhoods as part of the City's Master Plan. Future neighborhood recreation needs for each of these neighborhoods is based on an estimated need of 1.5 acres of land per each 1,000 persons. The results of these calculations are reflected in Table 10. Each neighborhood area and the locations of parks and schools within each neighborhood are shown in Illustration 9.

**Table 10
Neighborhood Parks**

City of Romulus

| Neighborhood | Population Estimate | Capacity Population | Park Acres | School Acres | Total Acres | Current Need | Capacity Need |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1366 | 2297 | 1.0 | - | 1.0 | 2.1 | 3.5 |
| 2 | 632 | 3468 | - | - | - | 0.8 | 5.3 |
| 3A | 1365 | 5114 | 27.6 | - | 27.6 | 1.4 | 7.7 |
| 3B | 1680 | 6953 | - | - | - | 2.3 | 10.4 |
| 4 | 400 | 2095 | 0.8 | - | 0.8 | 0.6 | 3.2 |
| 5 | 288 | 2372 | - | - | - | 0.3 | 3.5 |
| 6 | 221 | 3142 | - | - | - | 0.2 | 4.7 |
| 7 | 78 | 2576 | - | 50.4 | 50.4 | 0.1 | 3.8 |
| 8 | 1660 | 5814 | - | * 15.0 | 15.0 | 2.3 | 6.7 |
| 9 | 223 | 3705 | - | - | - | 0.3 | 5.6 |
| 9A | 209 | 1021 | - | - | - | 0.2 | 1.5 |
| 10 | 659 | 2056 | 35.0 | - | 35.0 | 0.8 | 3.2 |
| 11 | 1489 | 1829 | - | 28.6 | 28.6 | 1.7 | 2.7 |
| 12 | 2394 | 2094 | - | - | - | 3.2 | - |
| 13 | 808 | 1049 | - | - | - | 0.9 | - |
| 14 | 1335 | 1664 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 17.1 | 2.0 | 2.6 |
| 15 | 1681 | 7537 | - | 16.7 | 16.7 | 2.4 | 11.3 |
| 16 | 321 | 4019 | - | 38.5 | 38.5 | 0.3 | 6.0 |
| 17 | 3368 | 8394 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 19.7 | 4.7 | 12.5 |
| 18 | 2874 | 6363 | - | 17.8 | 17.8 | 3.8 | 9.6 |
| Totals | 22979 | 73562 | 81.0 | 185.0 | 266.0 | 30.4 | 105.8 |

* Cory Elementary located directly across from Neighborhood 8

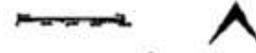
Source: City of Romulus Master Plan

ILLUSTRATION 10

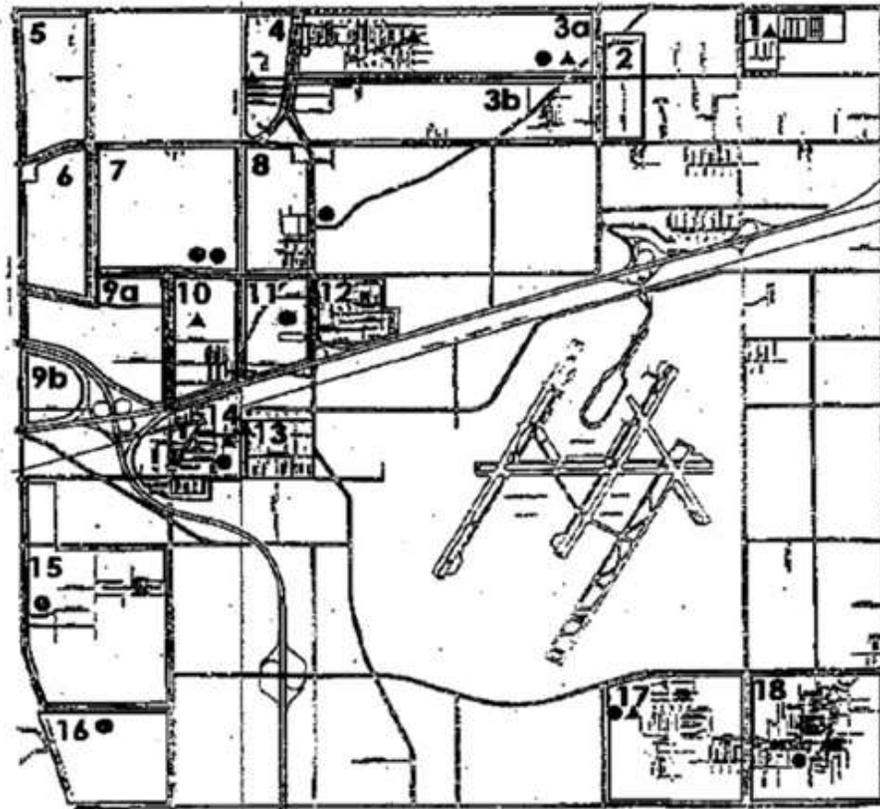
NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS

- ▲ CITY PARKS
- SCHOOL SITES

CITY OF ROMULUS
WAIVE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION



Geometric Planning & Management, P.C.
1100 W. 11th St.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



The results of this methodology suggest that the City has an overall surplus of neighborhood recreation needs to satisfy both current and capacity population levels for the City. This statistical evaluation, however, is misleading, as it fails to recognize the development characteristics of each site and the location of existing park land in relation to each of these neighborhoods, as well as population distribution patterns. Furthermore, a statistical evaluation of this kind may recommend the development of a park within neighborhoods where there realistically may not be a sufficient number of residents to justify the expense of developing and supporting such a facility. A far more meaningful way to evaluate park needs, both long and short-term, is to carefully evaluate each neighborhood and the availability of recreation facilities for each area. The results of this analysis are noted below and on the following pages.

Neighborhood 1 - This neighborhood is located in the northeast corner of Romulus and consists of a small single-family subdivision and a mobile home park. Future industrial development is planned for adjoining land to the south and east. One large parcel at the intersection of Middlebelt and Van Born is planned for multiple-family development.

Beverly J. McAnally Park is currently available to serve this neighborhood. The park is conveniently located to serve the single-family subdivision and the mobile home park. A pedestrian path provides access to the park for mobile home residents. This one-acre park appears to provide a sufficient recreation area to meet the needs of the neighborhood. Some additional improvements may be needed at this site if this neighborhood experiences additional residential development in the future. For example, if any multiple-family development occurs on the vacant property to the northwest, pedestrian access should be provided. It may also be possible to include some open space within any future multiple-family development so that it is located adjacent to the park, thereby providing for a better coordination of public and private recreation sites.

Neighborhood 2 - No existing recreation sites are located within this neighborhood. This neighborhood is, however, located adjacent to Park #1 on the west side of Merriman Road. This park is adequately located to realistically meet the recreation needs of the residents of this neighborhood.

The new 350-acre Gateway residential and golf course development is located within this neighborhood. The City's Master Plan envisions the development of this area for mixed-use purposes, including single and multiple-family neighborhoods, offices and some retail development. Any development within this area should include common open space, as well as a pedestrian circulation system linking this neighborhood to Park #1 on the east and Fernandez Park.

Neighborhood 3 - This neighborhood encompasses Romulus Elementary School, Park #1 and Fernandez Park. The population distribution patterns that currently exist within the neighborhood would not justify the need for any recreation improvements at this time. If however, the neighborhood develops for more consolidated single-family purposes, as envisioned by the Master Plan, neighborhood park site would be justified.

Neighborhood 4 - This neighborhood encompasses a small residential enclave located between Wayne Road and the C&O Railroad tracks and from Van Born south to Ecourse Road. The recreation needs of this neighborhood are being met by Jimmy Raspberry Park. This park is of sufficient size to adequately meet current needs. The only improvements that may be necessary to this park are the normal upgrading of equipment that may wear out due to age and use.

Neighborhoods 5 and 6 - These two neighborhoods are located along the City's western boundary and extend from Van Born Road to Tyler Road. The estimated population of these two neighborhoods could exceed 5,000. It is anticipated that the recreation needs of these residents could be met by Elmer Johnson Park and the two existing school sites located to the east.

Neighborhood 7 - Two schools are located within this neighborhood. These schools occupy adjoining parcels that encompass approximately 50 acres of land. Elmer Johnson Park is located across from this neighborhood. Sufficient land is available in the vicinity to satisfy the long-term recreation needs of this neighborhood now and at capacity development.

Neighborhood 8 - No existing recreation sites are located within the boundaries of this neighborhood, although Cory Elementary School is located opposite the neighborhood on the east side of Wayne Road. With the exception of the existing single-family subdivision located at the intersection of Wayne and Wick Roads, the remainder of this area is planned for multiple-family development. The development of this neighborhood for multiple-family purposes should incorporate some recreation areas intended to serve the needs of future residents. A pedestrian circulation system should also be developed linking these multiple-family sites to Elmer Johnson Park located in the adjoining neighborhood located to the southwest.

Neighborhood 9A and 9B - Both of these neighborhoods are sparsely populated and, as such, would not justify the development of any park sites to serve the needs of this neighborhood. Neighborhood 9A is located directly opposite the entrance to Elmer Johnson Park. This park provides sufficient area to satisfy the recreation area needs of these two neighborhoods.

Neighborhood 10 - Elmer Johnson Park is located within this neighborhood and is sufficient to meet the needs of those residents who either live there now or who may reside there in the future.

Neighborhood 11 - Romulus High School occupies a 28-acre site within this neighborhood. While the high school may not appropriately be considered a neighborhood-level recreation facility, it does provide ample area to accommodate neighborhood recreation needs if they are needed. Residents in this area are also located close to Elmer Johnson Park to the west. A pedestrian linkage between this neighborhood and the park should be considered.

Neighborhood 12 - This neighborhood has already achieved capacity development and little vacant land is available to accommodate any future park sites. In order to meet the

recreation needs of the 2,000 plus residents that live within this neighborhood, a pedestrian path should be developed which links this neighborhood to Elmer Johnson Park and the two school sites located to the west.

Neighborhoods 13 and 14 - These two neighborhoods encompass the City's Downtown Development District and surrounding residential development. Three parks and one school site are located in the area. The Senior Citizen's Park is located behind the building adjoining the Romulus Community School District administration sites. Aside from the heavily used walking track located in the senior citizen park, this site contains few other outdoor recreation improvements. Mary Ann Banks Memorial Park is a 1.4-acre park located in the Five Points area near the intersection of Goddard, Ozga and Grant Roads. Historical Park a 1.8- acre site is located on the east side of the railroad tracks south of the Post Office at the easterly end of downtown.

The City's Master Plan envisions the redevelopment of Downtown Romulus and the eventual re-establishment of this area as an important development focal point. To accomplish this objective, it will be necessary to expand and strengthen the existing commercial base and stabilize the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Improving existing recreation sites located within the neighborhood can assist in this process.

Expansion of land and further amenities

at Historical Park and improvements to Senior Citizen Park can contribute greatly to the City's long-term goals. Sufficient land area is available within this area to meet future recreation needs, although the range of available equipment and facilities should be expanded.

Neighborhoods 15 and 16 - These two neighborhoods are located in the southwest corner of the City. Less than 2,000 residents currently live in these two neighborhoods combined. The Master Plan, however, views this area as being well suited for single-family development in the future. It has an estimated capacity population of approximately 11,500 persons. Two elementary school sites (Mt. Pleasant and Barth) currently serve this area. These two sites collectively occupy over 50 acres of land. As this area develops for residential purposes, a City park will be necessary. This need is also reflected in the Master Plan. It is likely that one of these school sites could be utilized for this purpose, providing ample space for a park site of a size sufficient to meet the long-term recreation needs of neighborhood residents.

Neighborhoods 17 and 18 - These two neighborhoods are among the most heavily populated areas of the City. Approximately 2,500 residents currently live in these two neighborhoods. At capacity development, these two neighborhoods could support a population approaching 15,000 persons. A combined elementary school/neighborhood park (Merriman School and Oakbrook Neighborhood Park) are located on a 19.7-acre site in Neighborhood 17. Merriman School is now closed but is proposed to be repurposed for a community distribution center called the Romulus Outreach Center. The old park has been converted to a dog park and neighborhood park with upgrades to all existing playground equipment. Both sites are accessible to residents in the adjoining single-family subdivision.

Halecreek Elementary School is located in Neighborhood 18 to the east. This school occupies only the eastern half of this 17.6-acre site, leaving the remaining area to the

west as a potential park site if such an improvement is determined to be needed or desired.

Community Parks

These parks are frequently areas of diverse environmental quality and may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. They may also feature an area of natural quality for more passive outdoor recreation activities, such as walking, viewing, sitting and picnicking. Community parks are intended to serve several neighborhoods located with a one to two-mile radius and should be easily accessible to these neighborhoods.

Community-wide recreation needs are examined by comparing anticipated recreation needs to the availability of existing City or school-operated facilities. Ideally, community parks should be provided at a ratio of between five and eight acres per 1,000 persons. Applying these standards to the City's estimated population of nearly 24,000 persons yields a need of between 115 and 184 acres. At capacity development, this demand would range somewhere between 360 and 600 acres.

Several sites are currently available in the City: Park #1, Fernandez, Historic, Mary Ann Banks, McAnally, Oakbrook and Elmer Johnson Park. These parks provide over 100 acres of community park land for City residents. Park #1 nor Elmer Johnson's is completely developed, hampering their ability to adequately meet the community's needs. Additional land may be necessary elsewhere in the City to meet long-term community wide recreation needs. It may not be realistic however, to expect that the acreage projection noted above could realistically be achieved for active recreation purposes.

A conservation easement 260 acre parcel along Wick Road and Ecorse Road in the City's northwest quadrant community referred to as the Saterlee farm site. This parcel has in the past been viewed as a prime opportunity for the City to develop a large scale open space with ample acreage for development of a City owned 18 hole golf course or a passive park. The site is heavily wooded and contains numerous acres of wetland. A portion of the site, approximately 50 acres, was formerly used as a landfill and is in the process of being cleaned up. Looking ahead, this resource could, as funding becomes available, first be developed with walking/hiking trails, picnic facilities for passive recreation and studied long term for possible golf course or other more intense recreational uses.

Regional Parks

Regional recreation needs in southeast Michigan are met, in large measure, by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA). Regional parks are usually located contiguous to, or encompassing, an area of natural resource quality for outdoor recreation, and will typically feature recreational activities that take advantage of the unique natural settings. Often, these activities include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail use. It may also include assorted playfield and/or playground areas. These parks are intended to serve

several communities located within a one-hour driving time. Frequently, these parks will exceed 200 acres in area.

Three of the HCMA's 14 regional parks are located in close proximity to Romulus. Lower Huron Metropark is located along the City's southwestern boundary. A portion of the park actually extends to the City, occupying 60 acres of land along the Huron River. Willow Metropark and Oak Woods Metropark are located only a few miles to the south of Romulus in Huron Township. These three sites encompass more than 4,500 acres of land. The convenient location of these parks in relation to Romulus and their easy accessibility for City residents compensates for the limited amount of land available within the City for Community recreation purposes.

Facility Needs

In addition to the need for additional park sites identified earlier, the City also has a need for improved or upgraded equipment at most of its existing park sites. These needs are identified in more detail as follows:

Neighborhood Parks - All of the City's neighborhood parks benefit from a regular maintenance program. The heightened emphasis on maintenance in recent years has, in fact, significantly enhanced the image of these sites. Nevertheless, many of these sites are showing clear signs of age and deterioration due to age and use. To avoid the inevitable physical decline that often accompanies this aging process, a comprehensive systematic program of park upgrading should be undertaken for each of the City's neighborhood parks. This program would focus on the replacement of old, and seldom used, playground equipment with more contemporary devices. For example, none of the City's neighborhood parks contain a playground structure that offers numerous opportunities for spontaneous play by children. Paved walks and exercise stations could also be incorporated into some of these sites. A program of replacement and improvement should be designed for each site to ensure City-wide uniformity. Playground surfacing needs to be restored at all parks.

Community Parks - The neighborhood park needs identified above also applies to the City's two community parks. Neither Elmer Johnson Park nor Park #1 fully utilizes its available land area to its fullest advantage for recreation purposes. A comprehensive improvement plan is needed for both sites. At Elmer Johnson Park, the first priority should be to replace worn out and aged equipment. This includes most playground equipment, backstop fencing, player benches and rebuilding of the ball fields themselves. The restrooms need upgrading, the parking lot should be re-graveled or paved and the 10 acres leading to Wick Road should be opened for access and use. Long term improvements could see the park facilities expanded to add to the variety of uses available. The park requires a lot of maintenance.

Among the greatest challenges facing Park #1 is the need to physically integrate the southern half of the park with the two ball diamonds located north of the drain. Access to the ball diamonds is provided by an unimproved gravel road to Henry Ruff. These two ball diamonds are currently unusable and if they are to be reactivated in the future, will require complete replacement. Pedestrian bridges need to be built to provide adequate access over the drain.

Golf Course

One regulation golf course is currently located in the City. Gateway Golf Club is an 18 hole Golf Course located south of Van born Road, west of Merriman Road. Recognizing the increased popularity of the sport and demand in southeast Michigan, the City sponsored the preparation of a feasibility study to investigate the need for the development of a municipal golf course in Romulus. This study was completed in August, 1989.

Based on a review of golf course needs, costs, revenue, competing courses, and funding/development options, the feasibility study concluded that the Romulus market area could support two golf courses. This conclusion was arrived at using the standard criteria of 23,000 to 25,000 persons per golf course ratio, along with a critical look at compelling course play and demographic projections and history. The possibilities of additional support from conference/convention developments and airport expansion were factors that were in 1989 considered in terms of forecasting. In spite of continued popularity of golf, and with the recent opening of Gateways and the number of new golf courses opened in adjacent Romulus neighboring communities in the past decade, it would seem prudent to re-examine the market before the City proceeds with developing a City owned golf course project. While several new golf courses have been built in southeast Michigan since 1989, several have announced financial difficulties and even closure. Before any action is taken on this issue a fresh examination of the economic feasibility should be carefully reviewed.

Other Needs

The City's geographic setting, especially the location of Metropolitan Airport within the City's boundaries, creates some special recreation needs that may be unique to Romulus. Expansion of the Airport has served as a catalyst for growth in the City. This growth is directly related to an increase in visitors to the City for short periods of time. A large number of motels are located in the City to serve these visitors, most of which are located north of the Airport along or proximate to Merriman Road, the main entrance to the Airport. Consideration should be given to addressing the recreation needs of these individuals, through private initiatives encouraged by both the City of Romulus and County of Wayne.

RECREATION PLAN

RECREATION PLAN

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood recreation needs are currently being met by six existing City owned park sites and six elementary schools, either alone or in combination with each other. While these facilities have been largely successful in meeting the needs of surrounding residential neighborhoods, improvements, both short and long-term, are needed to better meet current and projected neighborhood recreation needs.

The plan for improving neighborhood recreation facilities has two components. The first of these involves the comprehensive upgrading of existing parks to include new equipment and facilities. This would be accomplished through the preparation and implementation of a capital improvement program detailing the upgrading of these sites. The second component requires the acquisition and development of new parks that may be needed to meet the needs of future residential areas. Each of these is described in more detail below and on the following pages.

Upgrade Existing Parks

Each of the City's neighborhood parks was analyzed for the purpose of inventorying the condition of existing equipment and facilities and to identify improvements that are needed for each site. The results of this process are noted below.

All Neighborhood Parks - All neighborhood parks need grounds attention. The base of all play structures and equipment requires the adding of woodchips or other soft material suitable for children's safety purposes. Playground equipment needs to be moved, removed or replaced to conform to safety standards.

Beverly J. McAnally Park - Play equipment and the basketball court is the principal uses of this small park. The larger play structure needs re-painting. Approximately 80 feet of 4-foot chain link fence needs to be replaced. The basketball court needs to be resurfaced and new backboard structures need to be installed.

Fernandez Park – One tennis court has been turned into a regulation size basketball court. Future plans include updating with new spectator benches. The playground equipment has all been re-painted.

Jimmie Raspberry Park - Play equipment, swings, and grills need replacement. The basketball court needs one new backboard pole. Sections of fencing along the east and west property lines has been repaired. Large areas of the lawn needs extensive reseeding in order to make the park more attractive.

Mary Ann Banks Memorial Park - Upgrading of this park entails replacing the slide, the climber, and maintenance on other play equipment, replacement and relocation of park benches. This park has received restrooms.

Senior Citizen Park - The existing exercise/fitness path is the principal attraction of this park. Recent improvements to the park were intended to build on the popularity of the path by adding picnic tables and grills. There is still a need for benches and possibly a small shelter or gazebo. Additional improvements include the placement of playground equipment within the exercise/fitness path.

Oakbrook Neighborhood Park - Because of its size and location adjacent to Merriman Elementary, this site has great potential for greater use than in the past. The park has been redeveloped into a dog park and neighborhood park. All of the play equipment has been updated. Future plans include installing a basketball half court. Lighting should be strongly considered.

Historical Park - Over the past few years, this downtown facility has been continuously improved to the point that it truly does act as a centerpiece for downtown Romulus. In 2002, a MDNR grant request was made purchase an additional 1.1 acres to the site. This would allow the park to cross Hunt Street and offer even more of a downtown focal point for community events such as parades, festivals and concerts in the park.

Beverly Road Tot Lot - The existing children's tot-lot, located in the City's urban renewal neighborhood on Beverly Road between Carnegie and Fourth Streets, contains a sand box and children's play equipment. This site encompasses two residential lots, which together measure 130 feet by 100 feet. No work is needed on this small parcel, with the exception of planting shade trees, landscaping and repainting play equipment.

Acquisition and Development

Additional land should be obtained for new neighborhood park sites. This can be accomplished in conjunction with future residential development proposals to ensure that park land is, in fact, available in the event that the need to develop a park becomes a necessity.

Several areas of the City have been targeted for future residential development. These include the northern and western portions of the community. The first of these is located in the southwest corner of the City, south of Wabash Road and west of Huron River Drive. A neighborhood park in this area could be developed either as a freestanding site on City-owned acreage or along with one of the two existing elementary school sites located within this portion of the City. A second neighborhood park site may also be needed in the northern portion of the City within an area bounded by Beverly, Ecorse, Wayne and Henry Ruff Roads. A third neighborhood park is needed in the southern portion of the City. Another priority location for a neighborhood park is an area of subdivisions north of 1-94, east of Wayne Road, south of Wick and east and north of Metro World. This area consists of the Highlands, Shadow Woods and Wyndclift Estates subdivisions, a combined 730 lots. The City should attempt to secure or acquire park land acreage when Metro World advances to development phases, adjacent to these neighborhoods.

Any new neighborhood park sites should be between five (5) and ten (10) acres in size and be centrally located within the neighborhood that is intended to serve. It should also include equipment and improvements designed to provide areas for both active and passive recreation. Common improvements that should be considered at each site include open playfields, assorted playground equipment and picnic areas, among others. Neighborhood residents who will be the likely users of the park should be given an opportunity to input into the design process.

The City should attempt to acquire the 15 vacant acres behind the Senior Center and fronting Olive St. The property is currently owned by Romulus Community School District and is listed for sale. It is currently used by the Romulus Little League Football Association. It has an existing walking track and 3-5 acre old growth hardwood forest.

Community Parks

Improvements are needed to both of the City's two community parks so that they are better equipped to meet the needs of existing residents. It may also be necessary to consider the need for an additional community park site that may be needed at such time as the City approaches capacity development.

Elmer Johnson Park

This is the larger of the City's two community parks and occupies approximately 35 acres of land in western Romulus. The park has irregular boundaries that extend approximately one-half mile in width at one point between Ozga and Shook Roads (see Illustration 17). The only access to the park is provided from a narrow entrance to Ozga Road. One of the most important improvements planned for this site is the expansion of the park boundaries in a northerly direction to Wick Road opposite the elementary and junior high schools. Actually City records indicate that two parcels have been acquired and account for an additional 24 acres of land. The City will be soliciting citizen's input in the future on development of the entire park site.

Numerous improvements are needed at the park. In 2002, the City applied for an MDNR grant to assist with needed reconstruction of the two ball fields and replacement of all fencing, backstops and bleachers. The parking lot needs drainage and paving improvements and should also be studied with the goal of providing a safer flow of traffic through the park.

A related circulation improvement involves the need to construct a pedestrian path system throughout the park. This system should be designed to connect the various park activity areas, as well as providing an opportunity for recreational walkers or runners. A portion of the path system should meander through the site's heavily wooded areas and could serve as an interpretive natural area. This could be used for educational purposes by the two schools located on the opposite side of Wick Road.

Replacement of the existing restrooms to meet barrier free requirements is also a high priority. The replacement of the current play equipment with a new playground structure and ancillary equipment is also needed, longer term plans should include installation of new electronic scoreboards at each ball field. Within the next year, a master plan for full

development of Elmer Johnson should be undertaken to take full) advantage of the potential acquisition of additional acreage to be added to the park site.

A grant to acquire a ten-acre parcel with frontage on Wick Road and which abuts the existing park boundaries to the south was applied for by the City in 1989. Acquisition of the site would permit the extension of an entrance road to Wick Road opposite the elementary and junior high schools, as well as the proposed golf course site located to the north. City records do not reflect that the acquisition ever occurred.

Park #1 (formerly Henry Ruff Park)

Ultimate planned improvements to this site are designed to connect the northern and southern portions of the park and allow the site to function as a single consolidated site. This will be accomplished by first clearing the brush along the drain separating both halves of the site, thereby providing a visual linkage between the northern and southern portions. An improved pedestrian trail and footbridge over the drain will permit direct access between both sites.

Long term improvements include the reconstruction of both of the northerly ball diamonds, the construction of a soccer field on an unused portion of the site next to the existing diamonds, maintaining green space installing a pavilion and restrooms and moving, removing or replacing existing playground equipment.

Civic Center Park

In conjunction with any plans for improvements to the civic center complex, there is a need to include some open space for employees working at this complex. Specific plans for this site could include improvements to a small wooded area located on the Civic Center site to offer a picnic area for employees. Benches, tables and a walking path are among the specific improvements planned for this site. Landscaping improvements to the entire Civic Center site are also desirable to enhance the park-like appearance of the site.

Romulus Athletic Center (RAC)

The Indoor RAC in Romulus opened in the early winter of 2007. This was quite an accomplishment for the City, because development of an indoor recreation center had long been a goal of numerous community residents and officials. Components of a center were considered in 1988 in conjunction with the planned expansion of the Civic Center site. Again in 1996 components of a center were considered along with the school system in conjunction with expansion of the area around Romulus High School. In 1999 a city-wide opinion survey on a proposed community center/swimming pool complex was jointly sponsored by the City and school system. In spite of a favorable survey, the actual vote on a September 1999 one mill ballot question failed by 30 votes, e.g. 743 yes and 773 no votes.

This RAC includes many facets, all have been considered while establishing programming. The Center is a membership-based facility, keeping in mind that it is very

economical for Romulus residents. A park sits directly west of the RAC parking lot. Currently, it is green space. Future needs include playground equipment, pavilions, restrooms, inline hockey court, horseshoes, shuffleboard and other assets conducive to a park setting.

Park Linkages

The City's existing and proposed park sites (including schools) would be significantly enhanced by the development of a pedestrian path system linking recreation sites in the City. Such a network would provide safe access to parks and schools for pedestrians and bicyclists. The use of such a network could also provide enjoyable recreation experience by itself.

A path could assume several physical forms. Existing sidewalks could be utilized in those locations where they exist. At a minimum, the paths should be located a sufficient distance off the traveled road surface to minimize vehicle and pedestrian conflicts. The implementation of this system would occur in two ways. First, parts of the system could be constructed as a separate recreation improvement. Other portions of the network could be added by requiring developers to incorporate a sidewalk along the road frontage or as part of any site development plans.

Non-Resident Recreation

Planned improvements to Metropolitan Airport will significantly enhance the City's role as gateway to the world. Significant spin-off development is expected in Romulus as a direct consequence of the airport's expansion. In order to accommodate this anticipated demand, approximately 1,100 acres of land have been planned for the development of a major regional employment center located north of the Airport and I-94.

This area is planned to include a mixture of compatible land uses, including multiple-family, office/institutions, office research facilities, hotels, retail businesses, entertainment and health services, and open space or recreation areas. The open space component of the plan proposes that land be set aside in the central portion of the district. This area extends from the intersection of the ring road and Smith Road to the 55-acre lake. This open space will provide a buffer between the office/research and the commercial in this area and could provide the location for walking and jogging paths, as well as some park furniture. The district needs concentrated open space, so it is recommended that efforts be expended to accomplishing this land use type, especially through the preservation of the better stands of trees.

ACTION PROGRAM

ACTION PROGRAM

The concluding section of the Romulus Recreation Plan refines the recommended facility improvements for various park sites. It includes a detailed improvement program that prioritizes and establishes a schedule for making improvements over a period of time. Cost estimates and preliminary source of funding for each improvement are also listed. The City recognizes that the scheduling of these improvements may need to be periodically modified to accommodate either changing recreation needs or the availability of necessary funding. Cost estimates may also need to be revised periodically. Long-range improvements not likely to be implemented over the next five years are also noted.

The program that follows is ambitious but realistic. It is based on the commitment of a dedicated annual budgetary allocation for capital improvements.

What is proposed for the capital improvement program is the re-submission of the two **MNRTF** (Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund) grant requests for Elmer Johnson and Satterlee Farm Site improvements and re-programming of proposed local match funds.

Long term, to meet the City's goal of upgrading all existing parks and acquiring additional park acreage a permanent source of capital funding should be considered. Several area communities have asked taxpayers for a portion of a mill, dedicated for a specific time and for specific purposes. For example, two tenths of a mill increase for five years would raise over \$200,000 per year and one million dollars in five years.

Ultimately, it will be the City Council's decision on what level of funding might be acceptable to the citizens of the City and what level of park and recreation facilities they are able and willing to provide.

Five Year
Parks and Recreation
Capital Improvement Program
2014 – 2019

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Improvements</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> | <u>Funding Source</u> |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| 2014-2015 | All Parks Spread ADA compliant surfacing at play equipment areas | \$3,000 | General Fund |
| | Elmer Johnson Park Repair all fixtures in restrooms, according to ADA standards | \$15,000 | General Fund |
| | Install a Spacenet (playground equipment) | \$10,000 | Wayne County Millage |
| | Replace fencing around inline hockey area | \$12,000 | General Fund |
| 2015 - 2016 | Elmer Johnson Park Replace all ball field backstops, benches, bleachers, rebuild ball fields, asphalt parking lot, replace park equipment. New scoreboards & repair lighting. Add small area for dog park. Install new entrance on Shook Road | \$500,000 | \$330,000 MNRTF \$170,000 General Fund |
| | Mary Ann Banks Park Re-asphalt parking lot to allow for better accessibility | \$40,000 | General Fund |
| | Park #1 Clean-up unused acres and Sponsorships improve accessibility | \$16,000 | General Fund |
| | Add a bridge to connect the park & add a parking lot on the north side of the park to make the entire park accessible | \$16,000 | General Fund |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | Recreation Center Park Add playground equipment, surfacing & clear for green space | \$80,000 | Wayne County Millage/Sponsorship |
| 2016 – 2017 | Apply for grant to begin development of Saterlee farm site, grade road, provide small parking area, start nature trail system | \$200,000 \$60,000 | \$140,000 MNRTF General Fund |
| | Park #1 Replace play equipment with ADA compliant equipment | \$30,000 | General Fund |
| | Elmer Johnson Park | | |
| | Remove old play structure & install a new accessible structure | \$35,000 | General Fund / Wayne County Millage |
| 2017 - 2018 | Park #1 Level and resurface tennis courts, new fencing & nets | \$20,000 | General Fund |
| | Replace softball backstop & fencing | \$10,000 | General Fund |
| | Build accessible restrooms Replace outdated play equipment with accessible equipment. Add small fenced in dog park | \$50,000 \$20,000 | Wayne County Millage General Fund |
| | Historical Park | | |
| | Purchase of additional property and site improvements | \$150,000 | General Fund/ Wayne County Millage |
| | Additional parking and Black top | \$20,000 | |
| | Permanent bathroom facility | \$50,000 | |
| | Outdoor Amphitheater | | Grant/Sponsorship |
| 2018 - 2019 | McAnally Park Convert into a sitting park | \$15,000 | General Fund |
| | Install wall on north side of park | \$20,000 | General Fund |
| | Fernandez Park Update all play equipment to | \$30,000 | General Fund |

| | | |
|---|----------|----------------|
| comply with ASTM standards | | |
| Build accessible restrooms | \$52,000 | General Fund |
| Repair lighting in picnic shelter and basketball court area | | |
| Elmer Johnson | \$30,000 | General Fund |
| Replace all outdated playground equipment with accessible equipment | | |
| Oakbrook Neighborhood Park | \$10,000 | General Fund |
| Install a half basketball court and concrete chess table and foosball table | \$10,000 | Grant Matching |
| All Parks | \$40,000 | General Fund |
| Replace the remaining outdated Sponsorships play equipment according to current standards | | |

*RECREATION PLAN MAP
PARK SITE MAP*



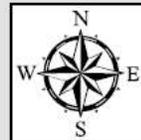
City of Romulus

Beverly McAnally Park
(Cordell St. -North of Beverly Rd.)



City of Romulus
Dept. of Public Works (DPW)
12600 Wayne Rd., Romulus, MI 48174
Phone: (734) 942-7579
Fax: (734) 942-1110

 CityPark_Beverly_McAnally_Park



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Map by Paul Antolin



City of Romulus

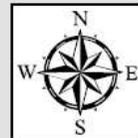
Fernandez Park

(Off Columbus St. & Avalon St.)



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 **Fernandez Park**



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City of Romulus

Mary Ann Banks Park

(Goddard Rd & Ozga Rd. - North of Five Points)



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 **Mary Ann Banks Park**



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Map by Paul Antolin

Illustration 14



City of Romulus

Jimmy Raspberry Park (Cypress Park)

(Off Cypress St. & Hunt St.)



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 Jimmy Raspberry Park



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City of Romulus

Oakbrook Neighborhood Park

(Merriman Rd.-South of Eureka next to Merriman Elementary)



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 Oakbrook Neighborhood Park



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Map by Paul Antolin

Illustration 16



City of Romulus

Historical Park

(Hunt St. -North of Bibbins St.)



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 Historical Park



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Map by Paul Aniolin

Illustration 17



City of Romulus

ELMER JOHNSON PARK

(Ozga Rd. between McBride & Wick Rds.)



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 CityPark_Elmer_Johnson



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Map by Paul Antolin



City of Romulus

Park #1 (Formerly Henry Ruff Park)

(Beverly Rd & Henry Ruff Rd.)



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 **Park #1 (Formerly HenryRuff Park)**



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Map by Paul Antolin

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

PLANNING PROCESS

The Planning Process for updating and rewriting the City of Romulus Recreation Plan began in the January 2014.

Plan Development Process

The Director of Community Services made a significant effort throughout the spring and summer months, to meet with all organized sports groups, senior citizens, youth groups and neighborhood park neighbors, to solicit their input, ideas and suggestions on recreational needs, priorities, programs and ways to expand recreational opportunities throughout the community. This effort was bolstered and strengthened by support and participation from the City's Recreation Commission and Recreation Program Coordinator.

Due to economics the Parks & Recreation Department and all City Parks were closed in 2011. The process of re-opening all parks and returning community recreation programs began in January 2014. The City currently offers a wide variety of recreation programs to all age groups and numerous sports associations. Each of these groups was invited to offer input, ideas and suggestions for detailing the City's recreational needs. The overwhelming results of this process are clearly the need to upgrade all of the City's parks and recreational facilities as a first priority. Because of age and use, most facilities are badly deteriorated and in serious need of replacement, repair and heavy duty maintenance. Therefore, the emphasis of the Recreation Plan for 2014 to 2019 is to focus on upgrading all existing Parks and Recreation facilities.

Key Persons and Public Involvement

Key persons involved in the planning process include the Community Services Director, Recreation Coordinator, Community Outreach Director, Community Services Executive Assistant, Economic Development Director, Finance Director, Building Director and Chief of Staff. As mentioned previously, public volunteers were solicited for organized sports such as baseball, softball and soccer to senior citizens. Typical senior programming to special needs has also been incorporated. Recreation Commission members generally are individuals who are very active within the community and through interaction are able to bring additional input to the recreational planning table. The effort to be inclusive of all ages, neighborhoods and special needs individuals and Community groups is ongoing.

Plan Approval Adoption Progress

Recreation Commission

Following completion of draft copy of the Recreation plan, it was reviewed in detail by the Romulus Recreation Commission. At a meeting held November 11, 2014, the Commission unanimously approved the Plan and recommended it for review approval and adoption by Romulus City Council.

City Council Adoption

Study Session held December 22, 2014

Final Adoption January 12, 2015









