

Public Review

Comments & Revisions



Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan

Public Review Revision Tracker

Comments were collected during 25 presentations of the plan including multiple open houses and online. While the plan received a lot of positive feedback from Detroiters, this appendix documents only questions and suggestions for change. DPRD's response to comments is featured on the right side of each row, indicating how the plan or DPRD's actions going forward will be edified by the comment. Public review took place between April and June of 2022.

| # | Comment Received | Action Taken |
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| 1 | There isn't anything about dog facilities! Or the need for dog parks. | Revised the typologies section in Ch. 1 to include more information on how locations for special amenities like dog parks are chosen. |
| 2 | For the trash-related strategy, add something about providing additional trash cans. | Incorporated "additional trash cans" into Strategy 3.3.1 in Ch. 3. |
| 3 | Include more information about the Park Steward program more. | The Park Stewardship program materials are included in the Appendices. |
| 4 | For the strategy that talks about reactivating partnerships in parks, add something about connecting with local artists/musicians to activate the space. | Incorporated "develop connection with local musicians and artists for park activation" into Strategy 2.3.2 in Ch. 3. |
| 5 | Better define what maintenance of natural spaces means. | Incorporated "development of natural area management plans" into Strategy 3.1.3 in Ch. 3. |
| 6 | Need for education for tree plantings. | In light of recent pushback from residents on street tree plantings, the new tree plantings initiative should be accompanied by efforts to educate Detroiters on the benefits of trees, and develop buy-in for any minimal care residents may provide to ensure the success of Detroit's growing urban forest. |
| 7 | How does DPRD work with private parks and groups that manage them (for example, Midtown Inc. at New Center Park or a private dog park in D3). | Expanded the Private Park subsection of the typology section in Ch. 1 to include the limitations of private parks and their role in City-wide park access. |
| 8 | Include invasive species management in strategies. | Clarified intention to manage invasive species across the parks system through nature space management plans in Strategy 3.1.3 in Ch. 3. |
| 9 | Define what multi-modal transit hubs are (featured in Strategy 4.3.3 & targets section). | A guide to multi-modal transit hubs will be developed featured in an additional Appendix. |
| 10 | Show Rouge Greenway connected to Hines Drive on map (JLG shows regional connections outside of Detroit, Rouge should as well). | The routes of Detroit's regional greenways are subject to revisions as they are developed in the near future. Maps will be updated accordingly. |
| 11 | Increase ecological health zones in Detroit, more healthy wildlife spaces in Detroit parks. | The importance of green spaces and wildlife habitat is featured throughout the plan, see Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of Ch. 3. |
| 12 | Add a few dog parks to existing parks. | See above comment about dog parks in the typology section of Ch. 1. |

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| 13 | Will there be funds to support [partner-led] programming? | The Park Stewardship program materials are included in the Appendices. |
| 14 | [There needs to be] communication between Stewards and Parks & Rec to know about programs and events. | The Park Stewardship program materials are included in the Appendices, outlining communications. |
| 15 | Bradby park is a priority and has a vacant rec center. | Included vacant centers to the facilities list. |
| 16 | Some parks (such as Skinner) say Playfield [on Google Maps] rather than park, can we get that changed to park? | No document changes added, but team action item to improve Google Maps accuracy created. |
| 17 | Marketing strategy: People are interested in staying engaged. Make sure social media announcements make it to community associations. | DPRD's new marketing and engagement strategy strives to build a network of key community representatives to assist in getting the word out through methods that work best for all community members. |
| 18 | How do you enforce permits in small parks? Can there be a way to check in advance if a shelter is taken? (3 Mile and Corrigan - hard to enforce). More communications on park and shelter permitting. | Incorporated "reservations and availability" checking to Strategy 1.1.5 in Ch. 3. |
| 19 | Promotion of events and programs - ensure they are coordinated with park stakeholders. | Incorporated the language "ensure coordination and encourage promotion" to Strategy 1.1.1 in Ch. 3. |
| 20 | Anti-litter campaign - make sure it focuses on teaching people how to dispose of coals! | Incorporated "provide coal disposal bins and education" to Strategy 3.3.1 in Ch. 3. |
| 21 | Have you considered the possibility of stewards seeking sponsorships from neighborhood businesses? 'Corporate' sponsors for stewardship groups? | The Park Stewardship program materials are included in the Appendices, covering sponsorships. |
| 22 | Safety: need for signage for park hours; no parking on the grass; help enforce ordinances & rules | Corrected typo from "Park Control" to "Park Patrol" and explained the benefits of Park Patrol and boulders on park borders. |
| 23 | Police and stewardship: Park stewards could have a relationship with the NPO (Neighborhood Police Officer program) to share concerns and stay connected. | The NPO may be a key point of communication for both Park Stewards and the new Park Patrol program participants, as well as other community leaders and folks with eyes on the parks. |
| 24 | What happens when there are no neighbors or community groups close to the park? Could a group that doesn't live in close proximity become the park's stewards? | The Park Stewardship program materials are included in the Appendices, featuring guidance on who can apply to be park stewards. |
| 25 | Need to inform city staff not to maintain natural areas, and educate people that think nature needs to look maintained. Suggestions: mow strips and signage. | Clarified intention to manage invasive species across the parks system through nature space management plans and included need for informational signage in Strategy 3.1.3 in Ch. 3. |
| 26 | Is there a clearing house for all things nature and habitat? Parkfinder App? | No document changes added, but created team action item to improve ParkFinder. |
| 27 | Is GSI polluting parks? Parkland is being taken for another purpose or can this be turned into an amenity? | Design Insight #4: Sustainability & GSI edited to feature beautification benefits of GSI and affirm that pollutants are addressed before all park renovations. |

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| 28 | Expand the swimming metric to include adult numbers as well. | No document changes added, but team action item to record and track swim enrollment across demographics created. |
| 29 | Clarify if the rec center access target is for walking, bus, or driving. | The rec center access target aims for improved public transit access, as well as a more broad 1.5 mile range of access for every Detroiter by any mode. |
| 30 | How do people actually arrive to our rec centers and recreation facilities? Question as to whether the walking metric is the most important, less on the public transit focus, more of a walking, biking, personal vehicles. | Transit accessibility of rec centers is currently less than ideal, detracting users from choosing to take the bus. An informed transit schedule, good arrangement of stops, and existence of comfortable physical infrastructure can enable more Detroiters to choose public transit. |
| 31 | DPSCD Cross partnership questions: In a lot of communities the only playground is in the schoolyard; can DPRD facilitate these playgrounds becoming more accessible? | DPRD is working to develop a partnership plan with DPSCD and to discuss potential options for joint investment, design, and use of playground and other recreational spaces. |
| 32 | DPSCD Cross partnership questions: Schools are more of an anchor than rec centers in many neighborhoods; can DPRD make use of this existing community connection to improve rec opportunities? | Please see above. |
| 33 | Partnering with private facilities could encourage youth to engage in physical activity, such as climbing. How accessible can places like private gyms, universities, other private rec facilities be, especially to youth? | Private providers are important to consider when working to fill gaps in access, however, these facilities are not as accessible and may have financial barriers. Partnerships may be possible if sufficient need is apparent. |
| 34 | Expand gear libraries to rec centers. | Strategy 1.3.2 in Ch. 3 provides DPRD's goals for gear library establishment. DPRD strives to maintain gear libraries at rec centers, regional parks, and other areas with unique opportunities for outdoor exploration. |
| 35 | Define characteristics of major greenways and clarify the difference between regional and neighborhood greenways. | Revised Greenways title page in Ch. 6 to include the difference between regional and neighborhood scale greenways. |
| 36 | Clarify how the neighborhood greenways were selected. | Most neighborhood greenway projections were developed by Detroit's Planning & Development Department as part of neighborhood studies and plans. |
| 37 | Rouge Greenway should connect down to Hines drive [on the map]. Show Hines Drive connection & Gordie Howe Bridge (how the JLG crosses to Canada). | The routes of Detroit's regional greenways are subject to revisions as they are developed in the near future. Maps will be updated accordingly. |
| 38 | Plans to publish GIS Data on greenways? Datasharing? | No document changes added, but GIS Data available upon request. |
| 39 | Update all parks in Google, some listed wrong, greenways missing. | No document changes added, but team action item to improve Google Maps accuracy created. |

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| 40 | Interest in separated multi-use paths / bike lanes (issue at Atwater/Riverfront). | The Department of Public Works currently maintains and expands bicycle infrastructure in Detroit and collaborates with Parks & Rec to create connections between recreational spaces. Separated multi-use paths are often safe, desirable, and encouraging of mode choice. Separated paths may be implemented if a resounding desire is heard from the community. |
| 41 | The disabled communities like to get out. They want to get up and go. Make sure they are aware of the programs -- more engagement, more partnership, more information sharing. | This feedback will be incorporated into the marketing strategy and DPRD will continue to consult the Office of Disability Affairs to strengthen outreach and communications. |
| 42 | Rec Programs for the disabled Detroiters: Swimming and empowering activities. Pickleball. | DPRD upholds design standards that foster inclusivity and access for all, broadly across the parks and rec system. Surveys and community engagement events during the development of new rec centers and renovations, as well as input to rec center staff, are all great opportunities for community members to express desire for specific activities at their local rec center. |
| 43 | Job Opportunities at the Rec centers/Parks | DPRD strives to expand and elevate its staff, as evidenced by Strategies 1.2.1, 1.2.2, and 2.2.3. |
| 44 | Work to schedule a test with [a blind /visually impaired] group to guarantee accessibility. | We work closely with the Office of Disability Affairs to develop accessibility strategies and vet our park and facility designs before construction. Currently our team is undertaking an accessibility inventory of all parks, which will inform which parks need urgent improvement to ensure access to all visitors. |
| 45 | I think only Central High School is the only school with a pool in our area, how do we know where the pools are? Can we make any of those public? | School pools are not currently accessible to the public. Shared pool access may be possible in the future, but is not currently being considered. Ch. 4 features a map of public, City-owned pools as well as an indication of access, at approximately 2.5 miles. As shown, there are many residences without reasonable pool access. |
| 46 | Need a rain / cold weather site. Either an underpass or an underused rec center gym. It would be ideal to have skate features near greenways, for accessibility and to activate hard to use spaces. Goal to have small skate features (like Boyer ramp) in more parks, so its more accessible for kids, and other Detroiters without cars. | A skate park facility may also be used as a cold weather site, if appropriately designed. Small skate park features are already being implemented to paths and plazas, as seen in Bieniek park's upcoming improvements. There are also many grants specific to the skate park amenity that can provide necessary funds. |
| 47 | Can we combine GSI features and skateparks? [A good] example is El Paso, where underground GSI has a concrete top that skate features were added to. | This suggestion was added to the design guide for amenities in Ch. 1. Future appendix material may be developed as a reference for best practices in skate parks and smaller features. |

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| 48 | What makes a partnership self-sustaining? | Self-sustaining partnerships are ones in which, after an initial investment of capital by the City to bring a facility up to running conditions, continued maintenance costs are successfully funded by partnership revenues. |
| 49 | I think it would be helpful to pull out a list of strategies that relate to regional parks (sports hubs, environmental education, etc) and integrate that into the planning processes with the parks organizations. Many of the park master plans include programming as well as capital improvements, and it would be nice to have one forum to integrate all city and community plans for a park. | DPRD can work together with Detroit Parks Coalition and individual regional park representative groups to decide which strategies from the PRSP are most meaningful and include them in park master plans. |
| 50 | There is a group of DPC [Detroit Parks Coalition] organizations (Chandler, Palmer, Eliza Howell, and now Patton) who are investing in GSI. [On strategy 3.2.3] if there is interest on [the City's] end, DPC could pull them together to do some kind of evaluation or case study on benefits, cost savings, or anything else that would be useful. [On strategy 3.3.3] many DPC orgs share this goal and would likely be willing to host and/or mentor students. This could be an opportunity for partnership or shared fundraising in the future. | DPRD looks forward to partnering and sharing expertise with DPC and other organizations. DPRD welcomes the support of such organizations to strengthen efforts to increase GSI and youth stewardship. |
| 51 | Error that Palmer park is listed as D3 not D2. | Error corrected. |
| 52 | Can we make better use of the Improve Detroit App so residents know they can use it to report issues, like lack of trash cans? Including QR codes would be good. | Implementation of QR codes has already begun with placement on picnic shelters for reservations. Broader advertisement of the Improve Detroit App should be part of the overall marketing and communications strategy. |
| 53 | There is a State owned section at the old State Fair grounds. Can you or have you reached out to the State to work with them to get this open and an asset? Currently just coyote habitat. | No changes to document, but team action item created to coordinate with the State to enable possible acquisition of the site. |
| 54 | Any plans to partner with DPSCD? For example; Renaissance does not have a baseball field, only softball. The high school boys could own the responsibility of maintenance for the fields at Peterson Park if they were made playable for high school regulation. I brought this up a long time ago but seems like this might be an open door for such an opportunity. | DPRD is currently working to establish a partnership with DPSCD. This idea should be included in future discussions, especially as it creates opportunities for youth engagement. |
| 55 | I think I was reading Chapter 1 or the executive summary where it had one line about the Anishinaabe. I really feel like the transition from how land was lived on by the Anishinaabe and the ownership of land that are parks just merits more than one line. | Ch. 3 features a Design Insight specifically aimed at appropriately recognizing the significance of indigenous history in Detroit. |

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| 56 | Add memorial bench/amenity program. | Information on memorials and donations can be found in the appendices. Additionally, the Parks & Rec website, currently undergoing updates, will have an informational page for this process. |
| 57 | Kids don't hear about things from email, they want it on their phones on instagram or tiktok promotions. | The marketing and communications team has recently made robust efforts to reach Detroiters through Instagram, Facebook, and NextDoor. Our strategy will continue to evolve to better reach all sections of the population. |
| 58 | Bilingual signs are needed, park rules posted, get info out about where amenities (parks) are. | The new system of analyzing park walksheds for population indicators includes information on languages spoken in the home. DPRD intends to use this information to place signage, provide interpretation, and other language related services, based on data. |
| 59 | Are there plans for replacing Johnson Rec Center. | Johnson Rec Center was sold and is now maintained with limited access to the public by a private entity. There is currently no plan to replace or reaquire Johnson Rec Center as a substantial recreation gap was not created and there is another partnered center nearby (Tindal Activity Center). |
| 60 | Need to address pool access - partner with schools (East English prep good pilot site). Could we revisit park hours? 10pm is too late. Issues with fireworks - could they be legalized in certain places and times so that they are controled. | DPRD is currently coordinating with DPSCD for potential access-improving partnership opportunities. |
| 61 | Need boating education program (Erma Henderson marina), rec center cleaning needs to be improved (Kemeny), have health-concern specific programming at rec centers (esp. where there are high health indicators). | This type of feedback is very important and should be collected during the programs planning phase of each recreational facility or center, such that programs reflect the needs and desires of the local community. |
| 62 | Where can I learn about considerations of safety and people with special needs? | Ch. 3 features several brief design guides that explain our approach to several considerations in park design including designing for enhanced safety and how to create a universally accessible park. |
| 63 | Medbury park area - Peck park is the closest park but is not very accessible, cross highway, paths not maintained in winter. | Residents of Medbury park area north of the highway are closet to Bennet park, which is approximately 12 minutes away on foot. |
| 64 | Use channel 10 for advertisements. | This may be a useful strategy for getting the word out about park improvements, events, and programs. Our marketing and communications team will take this into consideration. |
| 65 | Add page for vacant / under-used "unprogrammed centers": Evans, HFW Rec center, Balduck, Rogell AND how Delray is to be re-positioned to service yard and transition rec use to HFW rec center | These rec centers have been added to the Ch. 6 capital plan page for new rec opportunities. |

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| 66 | At the end of Chapter 6, expand the new rec centers for 1 page for each center: Lenox, Dexter-Elmhurst, Chandler Field House, Brennan Rec building. | The Ch. 6 capital plan page for new rec centers and partnership opportunities has been modified to reflect recent investment decisions, but does not reflect progress made in implementing the plan, as this will be compiled in the 5 year review document. |
| 67 | Change capital plan to emphasize parks that need improvements and have not had any recently. | Original draft of capital plan prioritized parks that received small investments, but had not yet been completed in the last plan. The capital plan has been reworked to prioritize parks that have not been invested in whatsoever since the last plan. |
| 68 | Include Canfield Greenway in possible future greenways map | The Canfield Greenway concept has recently been introduced to the Planning & Development Department (PDD) by the community members who created the concept. Following consideration and approval from the cross-departmental greenways team, the Canfield Greenway can be added to future greenway maps. |
| 69 | Include content on urban farming; its unique and important to Detroit. | No changes to the document, but team action item created to develop future appendix on urban farming to include current examples and information for those interested in participating. |