2020
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
HAZEL PARK, MICHIGAN
Acknowledgments

Thank you.

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of the 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is greatly appreciated and we thank everyone who participated in its development. The content in this Plan reflects the ongoing collaboration between City residents, stakeholders, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the City Council.

In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of:

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Landscaping at City Hall municipal offices
INTRODUCTION
Welcome

Welcome to the City of Hazel Park’s 2020 - 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This Plan reflects a vision for the City of Hazel Park’s parks and recreation facilities: their operations, maintenance, and enhancements for the next several years. It serves as a roadmap for future recreation facilities and programs by considering existing parks and programs in and around the City and the anticipated demand for additional or improved recreation facilities.

This Plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations. The City of Hazel Park’s Plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR’s Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans.

Most importantly, this Plan will act as City of Hazel Park’s playbook for community building as it relates to parks and recreation over the next five or more years.
The City continually strives to provide parks and recreation facilities that are of the highest quality, which preserve open space, and are accessible to all residents. Despite Hazel Park’s constrained fiscal resources and its decreasing annual budget for Parks and Recreation over the last decade, The Department of Parks and Recreation has been highly adaptable, exhibiting a great deal of fiscal responsibility to ensure the best possible maintenance and highest use of its facilities. The Department has specifically had success with stabilizing its parks and recreation programming over the years, conserving resources by eliminating inefficiencies and concentrating investment in areas which best serve Hazel Parks residents. In addition, the department regularly ensures open space maintenance at three of the City’s parks.

Furthermore, the City is committed to providing recreation opportunities for residents of all ages. The City ensures equal maintenance of all athletic facilities and fields, despite utilization, at all of its parks. In addition, Hazel Park is supported by various stakeholders who support the Parks and Recreation Department in various ways. This includes neighborhood groups which regularly organize events and programs as well as volunteers, and philanthropic stakeholders who support the City with donated recreation facilities such as:

- Batting cages at Green Acres Park sponsored by Meijer;
- Caledonia Park, sponsored by the Sutar-Sutaruk Foundation;
- Jessica Nagle-Wilson Memorial Park which honors a former Hazel Park Police Officer; and
- Renovations at Scout Park where volunteers recently completed the installation of brand-new children’s play facilities, funded by Sutar-Sutaruk Foundation.

The development of the 2020 Parks and Recreation Plan will ensure the City of Hazel Parks’ eligibility for State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants that can support improvements at parks and recreation facilities throughout the City. This Plan demonstrates the importance of improving greenspace and physical activity to our community.
The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared with technical assistance from McKenna, a planning and design consulting firm, and with the active involvement of the City’s administration, the City of Hazel Park’s Parks and Recreation Board, and City Council.

Hazel Park’s previous Master Plan for recreation was adopted on June 28, 2000 and since then, the city has lagged in planning for the goals and future of its municipal recreation facilities programs.

Hazel Park has a pressing need to address the health and recreational desires of the community. This five-year plan presents and inventory of Hazel Park’s current open spaces, recreational facilities and programs. It also establishes a recommended action plan for preserving a viable parks and recreation system and to promote the health and welfare of this community.

Hazel Park’s open space and park system is an asset to the community and a resource that residents want to see protected and strengthened. This plan presents open space and recreational goals, objectives and actions that will guide the future of the City of Hazel Park.

Citizen input and action, through an online survey, public meetings, and a public hearing, played a critical role in the development of the plan. Through ongoing public engagement, core themes and strategic action elements that represent the entire community’s needs and interests were identified. This process strengthened the Parks and Recreation’s Departments’ role in serving the community. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use Hazel Park’s Parks and Recreation facilities - allowing the Parks and Recreation Department to provide better services and continue its mission of promoting the health and welfare of the community.

Following several discussions held by the Parks and Recreation Board and a draft review by the City Council the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was submitted to Hazel Park City Council for adoption. Throughout the process, all meetings were open to the public. Notices were posted beforehand, and where required, advertised in the newspaper, as provided by the Open Meetings Act. The planning process kicked off in January of 2019 and concluded with the adoption of the Plan in January 2020.
Planning process flow chart.

Task 1: Community Profile

Task 2: Recreation Inventory

Task 3: Public Participation

Task 4: Analysis

Task 5: Action Program

Task 6: Plan Completion and Adoption
Volunteer Tree Planting Event in Hazel Park
COMMUNITY SETTING
Community Description

A welcoming community, Hazel Park is known as the “Friendly City.” Hazel Park maintains its small town feel while offering the recreational and cultural advantages of an urban area. The City of Hazel Park is an inner ring suburb of Detroit and is located in southern Oakland County. The city is 2.8 square miles in area and is comprised mostly of single-family residential homes.

Native plantings and landscaping on a residential lot

All thoroughfares, aside from Woodward Heights are non-residential and contain a variety of land uses, including residential, commercial and industrial, There is 2.2% of land within the City that is dedicated to parks, recreation, and open space.

The Community Setting is a picture of the various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of the City of Hazel Park. This information provides valuable insight into determining future parks and recreation facility development, maintenance, and programming needs for the community.

Hazel Park was incorporated as a city in 1942 and its history dates as early as 1835. Throughout its past, Hazel Park has enjoyed a substantial level of citizen involvement, which has contributed to the high quality of life in the community.
View from Scout Park
Regional Setting

The City of Hazel Park is located on the southeastern edge of Oakland County, Michigan, and is bordered by four communities: Madison Heights to the north, Ferndale to the west, Warren to the east, and Detroit to the south. Hazel Park’s location at the intersection of three counties (Oakland, Macomb, Wayne) in the metropolitan region allows for easy access to Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne Counties. As shown in Map 1: Regional Location, the city is accessible within Metropolitan Detroit along multiple major routes:

- E. 10 Mile Road which divides Hazel Park to the south from Madison Heights to the north;
- E. 9 Mile Road represents the “halfway mark” of the rectangular city’s north and south ends;
- E. 8 Mile Road which divides Hazel Park to the north from Detroit to the south;
- Dequindre Road which runs along the eastern border of Hazel Park and divides Hazel Park to the west from Warren to the east;
- I-75 which splices through the city traveling north-south; and
- I-696 which runs along the northern border of the city traveling east-west.

The Walter P. Chrysler I-75 Freeway serves as a major artery through two miles of the city, running in a north-south direction from East 8 Mile Road to East 10 Mile Road. While the I-75 Freeway creates a stark divide between the eastern and western portions of the city, the greatest contrast in demographics can be seen between the areas above and below E. 9 Mile.
Map 1:

Regional Location
City of Hazel Park, Michigan

September 13, 2019

SOURCES
Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Takeaways

The City of Hazel Park’s population will shape the park and recreation needs for the next five years. The City’s driving demographic trends include:

- There was an increase in the population between the ages of 18 and 64 years. Adults find Hazel Park a valuable place to live. The town is becoming increasingly popular among young people and millennials with the 18-39 age groups having increased by 0.65% since 2010.

- The City of Hazel Park’s average household size has remained unchanged. This shows that families in the City have remained relatively stable despite the negative effects of the economic downturn.

- More than 25% of the City’s population has a disability. These figures are higher than both national and regional trends. Accessible parks, trails, playscapes, and other amenities are imperative to increase activity and participation among this population.

- The City’s median income and percent of the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher is lower than the surrounding area. The availability of quality and diverse recreation amenities will continue to have implications on the use and protection of these facilities by the community.

Source: 2010 Census and the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Population

Trends in the number of people residing in a community are an important indicator for parks and recreation planning. Growing communities have different parks and recreational needs than communities with stable or declining populations.

According to the 2012-2017 ACS estimates, the City of Hazel Park’s population is 16,587 which is a slight increase in population, approximately 1.0% percent between the 2010 and 2017 period. The City of Hazel Park’s population growth in the past five years indicates that Hazel Park continues to be a desired community and that its residents are aging in place.

Seniors

The age data in Table 1 further indicates that the slight population increase can be most attributed to the rise of Hazel Park’s adult population. Hazel Park’s population is expected to continue aging as seniors comprise greater numbers of the City’s population each year. Between 2010 and 2017, individuals age 55 years and older experienced the greatest population increase (+33.4%). Individuals 55 and older now comprise 28.4% of Hazel Park’s population compared to 21.5% of the population in 2010. The retention and growth of seniors in Hazel Park can be attributed to the aging Baby Boomers generation and the national increase of life expectancy. An aging population has distinctive needs which also has implications for various community needs. Hazel Park Recreation Department will find value in adjusting facilities and programming to better meet the needs and desires of this group.

Children and Youth

The number of youths fell by approximately ten percent between 2010 and 2017, as shown in Table 1. The greatest decrease occurred among children under the age of 5 with a loss of more than 40% of this age cohort between 2010 and 2017. Hazel Park is still recovering from the aftermath of the 2007-2009 Recession and as a result, families are having less children or deciding to have children later in life. The decrease in local youth should be taken into consideration with regard to Parks and Recreation. Park facilities and programs that were once intended for sole or primary use by children may be of better use if re-programmed and/or rehabilitated with features and activities for seniors.

### Table 1: Age Structure, 2010–2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2010 Population</th>
<th>2017 Population</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 Years</td>
<td>3,967</td>
<td>3,577</td>
<td>-9.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>-39.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 years</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>1,109</td>
<td>8.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-17 years</td>
<td>1,885</td>
<td>1,831</td>
<td>-2.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-64 years</td>
<td>10,606</td>
<td>10,921</td>
<td>2.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>1,849</td>
<td>2,089</td>
<td>12.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td><strong>16,422</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,587</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 Census and the 2012-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Households

This section analyzes the composition and characteristics of households in the City of Hazel Park. Household growth has a different impact on demand for recreational services than population growth. If the population is growing faster than the number of households, this would suggest that more children are being born to existing households. If households are growing faster than population, this typically suggests that more singles or couples are moving into the community.

The number of households in the City has increased by 7.02 percent since 2010. However, the number of family households with children has decreased by 15.86% between 2010 and 2017. Married-couple family households with and without children under 18 decreased by 17.5 percent and 4.8 percent respectively. The decrease in households with children under 18 as well as married-couple family households coupled with the increase in total population indicates that existing residents are not having more children and new residents may be choosing to start their families later.

Average household size is another indicator of community composition. Larger average household sizes generally mean more children and fewer single-parent families. Nationally, household sizes have been shrinking as young singles wait longer to get married and life expectancy increases for the senior population.

Contrary to national trends, Hazel Park’s household size remained relatively unchanged at 2.47 between 2010 and 2017 – the same can be said about family size which remained the same at 3.13 between 2010 and 2017. The unchanging household and family size for Hazel Park shows that families and households in Hazel Park have remained intact since 2010 despite the impact of the economic downturn. This supports trends seen in the previous section, where it appears that the population in Hazel Park is aging in place while couples are waiting longer to get married and having less children given economic conditions between 2010 and 2017.
Disability

The type of disability and number of residents impacted will shape the design and accommodations made for these residents in the City Parks and Recreation Plan. The US Census Bureau reports that more than 25% of the City of Hazel Park’s residents have a disability of some sort, with the most impacted populations being the 35-64 (12.5%) and 65 and older (71%) subgroups. The table below shows the most prevalent disabilities by type within each of these age groups with ambulatory, cognitive, and independent living difficulties being the most prevalent.

Ambulatory difficulties encompass serious difficulties with walking or stairs, issues that limit physical activity, leading to steeper decline in health. Cognitive disability is a term used when a person has certain limitations in mental functioning and in skills such as communicating, taking care of him or herself, and social skills. Disabilities associated with independent living extend beyond the ability to live alone and/or become employed to include difficulty with independent travel (e.g. using public transportation systems), managing a personal budget, dealing with insensitive and discriminatory behavior by peers, problem solving, making adjustments to change, using community services, make complex decisions, and/or pursue complex activities.

Giving consideration to these difficulties in planning for parks and recreation activities could result in positive health outcomes for a population that already experiences great difficulty on a day-to-day basis. Accommodations could include upgrades to park equipment and furnishing, installation of ramps or pavement improvements in order to ease accessibility concerns for those who suffer from ambulatory difficulties, or installation of audible and visually assisted cross walks that are conscious of those who may be visually or hearing impaired.

Table 2: Resident Population with Disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability Type</th>
<th>Ages 35-64</th>
<th>Ages 65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>440 (9.99%)</td>
<td>542 (16.94%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>378 (8.58%)</td>
<td>242 (7.57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive</td>
<td>953 (21.65%)</td>
<td>519 (16.23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulatory</td>
<td>1,256 (28.53%)</td>
<td>795 (24.86%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Care</td>
<td>519 (11.79%)</td>
<td>358 (11.19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>856 (19.44%)</td>
<td>742 (23.20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,402 (100%)</td>
<td>3,198 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Characteristics

Hazel Park residents are generally less educated than residents of Oakland County with just 9.3% of the community holding a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 45.7% county wide. The City of Hazel Park is also a less affluent community with a median household income of $35,148, which is 52 percent lower than Oakland County’s median household income of $73,369.

Hazel Park’s low educational attainment and low household incomes will have implications for the city’s parks and recreation facilities. In many low-income communities, parks and recreation facilities may be the only place for children to be physically active outside of school and children’s use of these facilities is dependent on the quality and diversity of the amenities provided within. This population may have high expectations for involvement in programming. The availability of quality recreational amenities throughout the community will have a significant impact on the health of children and families within Hazel Park’s neighborhoods. As the City of Hazel Park plans future facility and programming investments, there should be an emphasis on value, the provision of multiple recreation options, and public/private partnerships.

Hazel Park is primarily comprised of single-family homes. There are few remaining sites on which to build new homes, so developers and homeowners renovate, enlarge, raze and/or rebuild on existing property. The 2012-2017 ACS estimates the median house value of a Hazel Park resident’s home as $55,500. Many Hazel Park neighborhoods have active neighborhood associations which work to boost the sense of pride neighbors take in owning and caring for their homes as well as preserving the character of neighborhood parks.

Neighborhood associations have a very strong relationship with the Parks and Recreation Department which provides these groups with meeting space at the community center. Neighborhood associations also support the Parks and Recreation Department with planning annual events.

Known as a city of neighborhoods, Hazel Park has been able to maintain lifelong residents, as well as enjoy a stable job market due to its history industrial uses and strategic location at the intersection of two significant highways in Metro Detroit. Hazel Park’s proximity to other suburbs that were developed with a quality urban character, such as Ferndale and Royal Oak, have placed it in a position to be the recipient of new investment in residential and commercial development as those neighboring communities become less affordable.
Physical Characteristics

The City of Hazel Park is a historic and developed community with very little vacant land. The majority of the City’s land use is single-family residential. All major thoroughfares (except Woodward Heights) are nonresidential and contain a variety of land uses including residential, commercial and industrial. 2.2% of the land within the City is dedicated to park, recreation, and open space. The City of Hazel Park has a non-traditional downtown which is anchored in the northern half of the city along John R. between 9 Mile and 10 Mile Roads. Over the last 5 years, this 1-mile commercial corridor has begun evolving into a lively area with a vibrant culinary district and growing retail district.

The I-75 Chrysler Freeway bisects the city north-south. Neighborhoods consist largely of single-family homes with a small variety of parks, commercial uses, and multifamily residences.
Hazel Park Fire Station
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING
Hazel Park has a Council-Manager form of government.; the five-member City-Council, chaired by the Mayor, appoints the City Manager.

The Hazel Park Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the coordination of all parks and recreation services, in addition to being responsible for the Senior Citizens Department. The Recreation Department works in conjunction with other branches of government including the Department of Public Works, which is responsible for all park maintenance and upkeep.

The Director of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the operation of all recreational facilities and programs. The Director serves as the staff liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and as the project manager on all recreation projects and programs.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that consists of up to seven members that are appointed by City Council and serve three-year terms. The Advisory Board is responsible for advising the Director of the City Administration and the City Council on recreation policies. The Hazel Park Recreation Department is a major provider of recreation services for Hazel Park residents and nonresidents. The City seeks to increase the use of its existing facilities and programs by providing programs that accurately reflect the needs of the community.
Administration

The laws of the State of Michigan and the City of Hazel Park govern how recreational activities and resources are governed within the public sector. Public Act 156 of 1917 “Recreation and Playgrounds” authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. Section I of this act states that any city, village, county or township may:

- Operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds;
- Acquire equipment and maintain land, buildings, or other recreational facilities;
- Employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants;
- Vote to expend funds for the operation of such a system.

The Charter of Hazel Park, Section 2.24.020 states, “The city shall have the power to acquire by purchase, gift, bequest or otherwise, and to improve, protect and equip for the benefit of the people of the city real property, improved or unimproved, and to employ personnel to maintain, improve and supervise such real properties and to organize park and recreation activities using such properties and/or other public or private properties by consent of the owners or directors.”

The City Manager oversees the administrative functions of the City, including the operations of all City Departments and Department Directors are all appointed by the City Manager, while the City Clerk is appointed by the Commissioners and then reports to the City Manager.
Department of Public Works

The Hazel Park Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for maintaining city streets, right of ways, and parks. Primary duties include, but are not limited to grass cutting, tree trimming, snow removal, street signage repair and replacement.

The Department of Public Works consists of two Superintendents who work closely with the City's Parks and Recreation Director to ensure oversight and maintenance.
Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Recreation facilities are open to the public 9:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m. Office hours for The Parks and Recreation Department are 9:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday. The Parks and Recreation Department provides a variety of programs for residents including:

YOUTH SPORTS
- Baseball
- Spring and Fall Soccer
- Basketball
- Flag Football
- Gymnastics
- Ballet
- Karate

YOUTH SERVICES
- Hazel Park Kidz Kamp - Summer camp program

ADULT ACTIVITIES
- Tai Chi, Karate
- Pilates and Yoga

SPECIAL EVENTS
- Bunny Brunch
- Daddy-Daughter Dance
- Mother-Son Dance
- Lunch with Santa
- Lighting Ceremony
- Senior New Year’s Eve Dance
- Memorial Weekend Festival, Hazel Park Art Fair

SENIOR SERVICES
- SMART Transportation
- Congregate meal program at the community center on a daily basis (Mon-Thurs)
- Senior card night

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for general oversight and maintenance of the following:

- The 15 City parks that serve both intensive and passive recreational needs
- The Viking Ice Arena located at 1555 Woodward Heights Blvd, 48030
- The Hazel Park Recreation Center located at 620 W. Woodward Heights Blvd, 48030

The Parks Department and the DPW work together to ensure all Parks and Recreation facilities are in working order through regular maintenance, trash pickup, labor activities related to special events, etc.

The Parks Department employs one full-time Parks Director who is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations, collaborating the Superintendents of the DPW, and regularly reporting to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding programming, activities, improvements, etc.
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board serves an important role in the Recreation Plan Process. The advisory board serves many purposes that include attending public meetings, listening to the community, promoting the participation of different stakeholders and groups in the community, providing critical input throughout the planning process, advising local government officials on the overall direction of efforts, and making recommendations to the City Manager. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets on a regular basis to discuss important topics and policies that will shape the creation and process of recreation programming, activities, and improvements in Hazel Park.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was established in 1962 by ordinance. It is charged with the duties detailed in Chapter 2.24 of the City Charter entitled Parks and Recreation Department. The ordinance states that the Parks and Recreation Board shall consist of no more than eight (8) members who are residents in the city or board of education members and appointed by City Council, with each member serving a two-year term. The Board is currently comprised of six members and serves solely in an advisory capacity and may not assume any legislative or administrative authority.

The Parks and Recreation Board objectives and duties include:

- Acting solely in a fact-finding, recommendatory and advisory capacity to the city council and city manager;
- Consideration and study of the reasonable needs of recreational facilities and activities in which the city might properly participate and;
- To formulate and to report to the city council and city manager estimates of public requirements for recreational facilities and for the costs thereof and the amounts which might properly be appropriated by the city council to provide and maintain such recreational facilities.

Senior Citizens Department

Through its Senior Citizens Department, the City of Hazel Park offers programs and events for its senior population which includes:

Programs & Activities

Offered Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to Hazel Park residents ages 55 and over, and the physically handicapped.

Transportation

Offered Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to Hazel Park residents ages 55 and over, and the physically handicapped. Cost is $1.50 per person for each one-way ride and $3 round-trip. Individuals can call (248) 546-4093 to schedule transportation services.

Meals

Lunch is served at the Hazel Park Senior Center Monday through Thursday around 11:00 a.m. Seniors can enjoy a nutritious meal with friends. A $3.50 donation per meal is recommended. Transportation is available at no charge for individuals who are unable to drive.

Chore Assistance Program

The Senior Citizens Department connects senior citizens and others needing assistance with home maintenance with Community Services of Oakland and the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA).
Relationships with Other Agencies

City of Oak Park

The City of Hazel Park has an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Oak Park whereas both cities offer recreation programs at resident rates to residents of the other Municipality, which are not currently available within the other Municipality. The Municipalities have mutually agreed to operate certain recreation programs on this cooperative basis in order to maximize the use of available public resources.

Oak Park Recreation offers and provides Hazel Park residents with the following recreation programs at Oak Park resident rates at designated Oak Park locations:

- Use of municipal pool
- Rental of Community Center rooms, park shelters and ball fields
- Program registration
- Senior programs and dues; and
- Additional offerings at the discretion of the Oak Park Recreation Director.

Hazel Park Recreation offers and provides Oak Park residents with the following recreation programs at Hazel Park resident rates at designated Hazel Park locations

- Program registration
- Room rentals
- Rental of park shelters and ball fields
- Use of Hazel Park school pool
- Senior dues and Programs; and
- Additional offerings at the discretion of the Hazel Park Recreation Director.

Hazel Park and Oak Park each agree to offer and provide the following programs jointly at resident rates at locations designated by the Recreation Directors for each Municipality.

- Aquatic program;
- United States Tennis Association program;
- Youth soccer;
- Dance program;
- Baseball;
- Basketball;
- Mother-son events;
- Oakland County Parks collaborative events; and
- Additional offerings at the discretion of the respective Recreation Directors

Oakland County

The City of Hazel Park has an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Oak Park
The Parks and Recreation Department operating budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year is $312,777 – $69,326 of which is allocated for the Senior Citizens Department. While the total annual budget for the City of Hazel Park fluctuates year to year, it has been gradually declining at a rate of over 0.5%/year over the last decade (2014 data) with the City still recovering from the aftermath of the 2007-2009 Economic Recession. This represents a total average annual loss of approximately $97,000 each year since the economic downturn. These losses continue to present significant challenges for the Parks and Recreation Department, which seeks to provide quality recreation services despite severe fiscal constraints.

The various funds below describe the actual, adopted, and planned budget information for revenues and expenditures during the fiscal years between 2016/17 to 2019/20 (Table 3). Community Activities, Parks and Recreation Property/Programs, and the Ice Arena are all funded by the general fund account.

Primary funding for the maintenance and programming of Hazel Park’s recreation facilities comes almost entirely from sub-accounts of the City’s general fund. Alternative funding sources and revenues include bonds, passes and registration fees, and donations from individuals/ private organizations. Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will at times, contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the City.

Table 3: Recreation Revenue (Fiscal Years 2016–2020)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>$237,678</td>
<td>$238,836</td>
<td>$297,294</td>
<td>$251,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens Department</td>
<td>$67,335</td>
<td>$58,312</td>
<td>$61,566</td>
<td>$58,756</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viking Ice Arena</td>
<td>$1,042,705</td>
<td>$1,007,049</td>
<td>$936,017</td>
<td>$1,364,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,013</strong></td>
<td><strong>$297,148</strong></td>
<td><strong>$358,860</strong></td>
<td><strong>$310,134</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Hazel Park Adopted and Approved Budgets, 2016-2020
Parks and Recreation

Recreation facilities maintained under this activity include: four softball/baseball diamonds; a developed picnic area and shelter at Karam Park; 14 park areas of various sizes and stages of development; a municipal butterfly and pollinator garden at Hazel Park’s municipal offices between City Hall and the library; indoor ice-rink at Viking Ice Arena; a BMX park located at Fuller Park; and a .4-acre dog park located directly south of the Karam Park Site, which opened in 2014.

Community Activities

This line item includes expenditures incurred by the Parks and Recreation Department in connection with the Memorial Day Festival, Hazel Park Art Fair sponsored by the Hazel Park Art Council, and other city-wide annual events.

Viking Ice Arena

The Viking Ice Arena is a municipal sports complex serving the city of Hazel Park and the surrounding communities. The ice arena features two Olympic sized ice rinks appropriate for a variety of recreational programming opportunities. Activities also include learn-to-skate and various hockey leagues. The ice arena also features concessions and is ADA compliant. Various communities and schools enjoy utilizing the ice arena.
In November 2001, City voters authorized the City of Hazel Park to issue general-obligation unlimited tax bonds in an amount not to exceed $25 million. The bonds could be sold in one or more issues. The proceeds from the bond sales were used for the construction of the Municipal Ice Arena, known as Viking Ice Arena.

The Municipal Ice Arena houses two sheets of ice that cater to local amateur hockey teams, figure skaters, and public skating. Beginning in 2003, the City of Hazel Park took action to drastically reduce the arena’s operational costs.

In past years, certain one-time negative economic events and the inability of the Municipal Ice Arena to operate profitably created constraints in the City's ability to fund services provided to residents with matching revenues, thus reducing the City's financial reserves. City management along with City Council representatives continue to monitor the current financial situation and have implemented strategies to maintain the current financial levels until positive changes in the funding provided to municipalities throughout the state are implemented. These strategies included:

- Streamlining operations to provide essential services to residents in a more productive and efficient manner
- Reduce nonessential services provided to residents
- Receiving benefit cost concessions from all unions representing City employees
- Selling City property to create additional future tax base
- Strictly curtailing most capital improvement projects and expenditures

For the last several years, the City of Hazel Park has continually seen revenue growth from the Arena; and when the bond expires in 2024, the City of Hazel Park Ice Arena shall serve as a revenue source for the City.
Grant History

When preparing a Recreation Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that information be provided concerning grants that have been received in the past for acquisition or development of recreation facilities. As of December 2019, the City of Hazel Park has received the following grants from sources associated with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources totaling $589,395.08.

Table 4: City of Hazel Park Grant History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project No.</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Project Year</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26-00978</td>
<td>Scout Beecher Park Development</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Grant Closed</td>
<td>$100,739.08</td>
<td>Develop: site adjustment, site grading, and seeding, fencing, soil stabilization wall, 4 tennis courts, 2 ball diamonds, ballfields drainage, play center, parking lot, and landscaping, and LWCF sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-0108</td>
<td>Scout-Beecher Park Phase</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Grant Closed</td>
<td>$59,250</td>
<td>Development of a new restroom/storage area/concession stand and picnic shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-0188</td>
<td>Green Acres Park Development</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Grant Closed</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
<td>Develop: picnic shelter, with fireplace/barbecue, electrical service, water service, and burial of overhead wires, and LWCF sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TF722</td>
<td>St. Mary Land Acquisition</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>$90,000.00</td>
<td>To acquire 10 acres in Hazel Park, which is the largest single piece of undeveloped land in this highly urbanized city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF89-330</td>
<td>Green Acres Park Shelter</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Grant Closed</td>
<td>$80,850.00</td>
<td>Develop park shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TF98-078</td>
<td>Orin McPherson/Scout Park Development</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Grant Closed</td>
<td>$38,826.00</td>
<td>Construction of a lighted, barrier-free picnic/events pavilion at Orin McPherson/Scout Park to be used by the residents of Hazel Park and surrounding communities. The project will include accessible parking, barrier-free paths to connect park facilities, barbeque grills and trash receptacles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM-00-273</td>
<td>Karam Tot Lot Redevelopment</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>$204,730.00</td>
<td>The purpose of this project is to provide greater use of Karam Tot Lot by providing restrooms, off-street parking, a picnic pavilion and paths.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Number of Projects: 7, 2 withdrawn

Total Amount of Grant Given: $589,395.08

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, November 2019
View from Green Acres Park
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS INVENTORY
Hazel Park has various recreational amenities for residents and nonresidents to enjoy within its City border. The City maintains eleven parks, totaling over 36 acres of land, in addition to recreational facilities that include a community center and municipal ice arena.

In order to plan for the future of Hazel Park’s open space and recreation, it is important to create an inventory and evaluate the existing facilities, parks and land in order to understand their importance.

Opportunities for recreation are available year-round in Hazel Park. Fifteen parks with over 38 acres cover roughly 2.1% of the city’s total acreage, and the school district also provides recreational facilities. Residents can play baseball, softball, and volleyball, and enjoy playgrounds and picnic facilities. Indoor ice skating is available at the Viking Ice Arena which provides for open skating, lessons and ice hockey group.
City Parks and Facilities

Developing a complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs, and events is an essential component of a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. Understanding what facilities, programs, and events are available to the City of Hazel Park’s residents will assist decision-making in the future.

The following inventory and the adjoining Parks and Recreation Inventory Map details the amenities currently available at each of the 16 public facilities and the facility’s respective location.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a national, non-profit service organization dedicated to advancing parks, recreation and environmental efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. NRPA works closely with national, state and local recreation and park agencies, corporations and citizens’ groups in carrying out its objectives. As part of its activities, NRPA has created a hierarchy of park types which recognizes open space services at differing levels based on a number of characteristics including community need, park function, park location, and community size. NRPA provides a number of criteria that help communities establish a similar hierarchy for their communities, all of which are suggested but not required to be followed without modification by each community.

The City of Hazel Park is 2.8 square miles large, about 1,792 acres. While the percentage of acreage owned and maintained as a park by the City is less than half of the amount that many larger cities or more suburban communities have, more than 90% of Hazel Park residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The application of the categories established by NRPA (Mini, Neighborhood, Community, and Regional) have been modified to best reflect the character and use of parks and recreation facilities in the City of Hazel Park.

Specifically, the City of Hazel Park Parks and Recreation Department considers the following when inventorying and classifying the parks within the its system:

- **The range of park sizes within the City.** Hazel Park has parks and recreation facilities that range from 0.2 acres to 17.9 acres. Thirteen (13) of the City’s 16 parks are less than 4 acres large and, only one park is larger than ten acres: Green Acres Park. Due to the lack of variety in park size, specifically the City’s dearth of parks larger than ten acres, the City considers park size in conjunction with a variety of factors when establishing its hierarchy of park types.

- **The relationship of the parks to one another and their location within the City.** While there may not be many large parks, the City considers the park system and each parks’ location when establishing park type. For example, Scout Park, Tuski Park, and Felker Field are all located near each other and near the City’s downtown. Due to the parks’ proximity to each other and downtown, as well as their accessibility from other neighborhoods, the spaces are able to serve a larger area.

- **Site Characteristics.** Often the City considers the specific characteristics of a property when determining the park type, including if the site has areas for passive and/or active recreation, if the site is accessible from nearby neighborhoods, and/or if the site provides a specialized activity or experience.

- **The surrounding communities.** The City of Hazel Park also considers residents’ access to parks and recreation facilities in nearby communities. This includes activities that augment the existing system, such as walking, picnics, biking, dog play etc.

- **Other available spaces.** The City of Hazel Park has twelve (12) school facilities located within its boundaries. Together, these facilities encompass eight (8) park sites on approximately 20 acres of greenspace and contain six (6) softball/baseball fields, one (1) football field, one (1) soccer field, six (6) tennis courts, and one (1) basketball court.
Accessibility Rankings

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility’s accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings can be found in the Inventory Tables starting on page 36.

Level 1  
The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 2  
The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 3  
The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.

Level 4  
The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

Level 5  
The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.
Table 5: Accessibility Rankings by Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Accessibility Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mini Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Sylvester Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutar-Sutaruk-Meyer Foundation Park / Caledonia Park</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuller Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-9 Park / Hazel Park Dog Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel Park Community Garden</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Nagle-Wilson Memorial Park</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuski Memorial Park</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madge Park</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felker Field</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel Park Art Garden</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel Park Salute to Heroes (War Memorial)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neighborhood Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karam Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy Memorial Park</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scout Park</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Acres Park</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viking Ice Arena</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel Park Community Center</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Mini Parks

Mini parks are categorized as small, specialized parks that usually serve the needs of residents in the immediate neighborhood. These parks usually serve a limited population or specific demographic group. For detailed information about accessibility rankings, see page 34.

Albert Sylvester Park

Accessibility Ranking
1

Acreage
0.2

Classification
Mini Park

Albert Sylvester Park is located in the southern portion of the city on East Milton Avenue between John R. Road and Highland Avenue. This park contains minimal landscaping and no tree canopy. The park also features a play structure with an enclosed slide, merry-go-round, bench, trash receptacle, and a sign. The park is most used by adolescents in the surrounding residential neighborhood though it is underutilized.
Sutar-Sutaruk-Meyer Foundation Park / Caledonia Park

Accessibility Ranking
2

Acreage
0.2

Classification
Mini Park

Sutar-Sutaruk-Meyer Foundation Park/Caledonia Park (also known as the “tot lot”) is located on the corner of E Granet Avenue and Caledonia Avenue – directly west of I-75. This park contains a good amount of tree canopy, brick pavers, a corner entrance with landscaping, and small trees that line the inner ring of the park and provide the park with a greater sense of place. The park also features a swing set, play structure, bench, trash receptacle, and a sign. The park is moderately utilized by children and adolescents that live in the surrounding neighborhood.
Fuller Park

Accessibility Ranking
1

Acreage
0.9

Classification
Mini Park

Fuller Park is located on Dequindre Road directly south of E. Woodward Heights Boulevard. This park contains an open grassy area and two large trees which provide a good amount of canopy on the site. The park also features a dirt bike course, two swing sets, climbing gym, monkey bars, slide, bike rack, trash receptacle, and a mural.

Fuller Park abuts an industrial district along Dequindre Road in the northeastern section of the city. In 2013, the northern half of the park was transformed into a Bicycle-Motor Cross (BMX) racing park with racing hills. The southern half is a tot lot with multiple play structures as detailed above. The park is highly utilized by adolescents and families with young children. The number of users has dramatically increased since the addition of the BMX racing hills.
K-9 Park/Hazel Park Dog Park

Accessibility Ranking
1

Acreage
0.4

Classification
Mini Park

K-9 Park/Hazel Park Dog Park is located directly south of the Karam Park Site. This park contains an area for small dogs and a larger area for big dogs, both surrounded by chain link fence with signage identifying their uses and park rules. There is also parking comprised of a gravel rock area located on site between the dog park and the city’s public works facilities.
The Hazel Park Community Garden Site (also known as Merrill Street Garden) is located on Merrill Avenue between East Elza Avenue and East Milton Avenue directly east of Hazel Park Advantage Alternative School. This park contains a great deal of tree canopy. The park features cedar planting boxes with vegetables and rain barrels surrounded by a chain-link fence, and a shed for tool storage.

The garden provides community development opportunities and is a demonstrative urban garden for residents to learn from, take part in, and enjoy. The primary goal of the garden is to promote urban agriculture, open space, and to encourage residents to gain access to healthy and locally grown foods. The users of the garden are mainly local residents and volunteers.
The Jessica Nagel Wilson Memorial Park Site is located in the City's southwest corner along West Maxlow Avenue between Ford Avenue and West End Street. This park contains several large trees which provide the site with lots of canopy. The park also features two play structures a climbing structure, two free standing slides, swing set, picnic table, bike rack, trash receptacle, and signage.

The park was renamed in 2013 in memory of Jessica Ann Nagel-Wilson, a Hazel Park police officer who was killed in the line of duty. This park is moderately used by families with young children and adolescents in the surrounding neighborhood.
Tuski Memorial Park

Accessibility Ranking
2

Acreage
1.0

Classification
Mini Park

The Tuski Memorial Park Site is located along Tucker Avenue between Vassar Avenue and Cayuga Avenue at the center of a residential neighborhood. This park contains a small plaza with two benches, a flower garden, and landscaping treatments, and a mature tree canopy throughout. The park also features a play structure, climbing structure, two swing sets, volleyball net, merry-go-round, free standing slide, bike rack, picnic table, trash receptacle, and a “Little Free Library” decorated with children’s art.

Community led groups have assisted in revitalizing the park by building signage, creating two patios, and modernizing playground equipment through fundraising and volunteer efforts. Users of Tuski Park consist of all age groups.
The Madge Park Site is located in the southern portion of the city along East Madge Avenue between Hughes Avenue and Russell Avenue in the center of a residential neighborhood. This park contains mature tree canopy and open space throughout. The park also features 2 play structures, 2 swing sets, cross bar, tetherball, bench, 3 picnic tables, drinking fountain, trash receptacle, and signage. Users are typically families with young children and adolescents in the surrounding neighborhood.
The Felker Field Site is a rectangular park bordered by Easterling Avenue to the west, Battelle Avenue to the east, North Felker Avenue to the north, and South Felker Avenue to the south. This park contains a wide-open field with mature trees providing some canopy along the borders. The park also features two swing sets (one with a tire swing), play structure, two climbing structures, two free standing slides, two climbing structures, tetherball, two bike racks, four benches, a baseball diamond with bleachers, and two trash receptacles.

Felker park is a focal point for the surrounding residential neighborhood. Users of the park include families with young children in the surrounding neighborhood.
The Hazel Park Art Garden is located at 21809 John R. Road. The Hazel Park Art Council is the steward of the land. The art garden contains several trees and manicured floral landscaping throughout. The park also features an art display of historic Hazel Park, a cement chess table and cement walkway. There is an on-site library and book collection for residents to freely utilize. The purpose of the Hazel Park Art Council is to promote the City’s cultural and artistic pursuits in order to create an aesthetically vibrant community. The Art Garden is thus highly utilized by users of all ages.
The Hazel Park War Memorial is adjacent to City Hall located on the corner of John R and 9 Mile Road. The memorial site features three marble plaques with accompanying statues and flags, honoring Hazel Park’s police, fire, and military veterans, respectively. The tribute seeks to commemorate the sacrifices made by those who put their lives in anger to serve the resident of Hazel Park both at home and abroad. This site is open to users of all ages.
Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as field games, court games, playgrounds, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks generally serve residents within one-half mile.

Karam Park

Accessibility Ranking
1

Acreage
2.3

Classification
Neighborhood Park

The Karam Park Site is located along Couzens Ave and connects six residential neighborhood blocks together between East Brickley Avenue and East Garfield Avenue, directly adjacent to Roeper School. This park site contains several trees and wide-open play area directly adjacent to the city’s industrial district and directly north of the city’s Public Works facility. This park also features an ant-shaped climbing structure, a children’s swing set, a bench, a tetherball pole, a climbing gym, an adult swing set, a new play structure with a gladiator course, an older play structure with a slide and monkey bars, a pavilion with six picnic tables, barbeque grills, and a bike rack. Karam Park is also the site of K-9 Park, the city’s first dog park – created in 2013 – and separates the play area at Karam from the city’s Public Works facilities. Users consist of adolescents and families with young children in the surrounding area.
The Kennedy Memorial Park Site is located on the city's east side along Merrill Avenue between East Otis Avenue and East Pearl Avenue. This park is also accessible from the east via East Roberts Avenue. This park contains a small planted flower garden, two plastic memorial benches, a children's swing set, a regular sized swing set, a rocking horse, a climbing turtle, picnic table, slide, children's climbing wall, and a trash receptacle.

Kennedy Park is located between residential and industrial uses.

KENNEDY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Kennedy Park also features a community garden program that is located in the southwest corner of the park. Plots are available for purchase through the Hazel Park Recreation Department, and users are contractually responsible for maintaining their plots. Residents of all age groups use Kennedy Park.
The Scout Park Site is centrally located in Hazel Park along Russell Avenue south of East Woodruff Avenue and north of East Otis Avenue directly adjacent to the Hazel Park Junior High School. The park features restrooms and a pavilion available for rental through Hazel Park Recreation Department. Scout Park is utilized throughout the year by all age groups.

In June 2019, the city received a grant from the Sutar-Sutaruk-Meyer foundation totaling $350,000 for a park and playground set to be built through volunteer work. Once constructed, this playground set will be the largest in Hazel Park with a wide range of amenities including a swaying boat, a maze, musical elements and special needs accessibility.

The park is set to be completed and open for play by the end of summer 2019.
Community Parks

Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from the community. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. Community parks generally serve residents within a three-mile radius. Community parks also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community.

Green Acres Park

Accessibility Ranking
4

Acreage
17.9

Classification
Community Park

The Green Acres Park Site is located along Lenox Street between West Browning Avenue and West Woodward Heights Boulevard directly west of the Roosevelt Invest School and the Hazel Park Community Center/Recreation Department. This site contains two baseball diamonds, one of which is sponsored by Meijer; batting cages that are also sponsored by Meijer, three pavilions, two playgrounds, a walking path, benches, barbecue grills, a sledding hill, softball field, restrooms, and a paved parking lot.

Green Acres is the City's largest park. It borders the City of Ferndale and Roosevelt Elementary School. It features a variety of recreational opportunities including multiple baseball fields, a volleyball court, and well-maintained walking paths to serve users throughout every season. It also serves as the central location of the Hazel Park Recreation Center and the Hazel Park Recreation Department Offices. Green Acres is enjoyed by users of all ages.
The Viking Ice Arena is located along E Woodward Heights Boulevard in the northeastern section of the city. Hazel Park Ice Arena features both NHL and Olympic size rinks and is home to numerous local competitive and recreational programs and tournaments, as well as learn to skate and public skating programs. The arena also holds annual special events including the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Game to benefit United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit, and the Tier 1 Elite Bantam Major Showcase, featuring AAA teams from Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit. The Hazel Park Ice Arena is Home to The Honeybaked Hockey Association, High School Teams (including Bishop Foley High School, Lamphere High School, Regina High School, Warren Mott High School, and Warren Sterling High School), Adult Senior Leagues sponsored by Labatt Hockey, and Wolverine Speed Skating which offers training to skaters of all ages and skill levels.
The Hazel Park Community Center is a publicly owned recreation facility serving the City of Hazel Park and the surrounding communities. It is home to the Hazel Park Recreation Department and the Hazel Park Senior Citizens Department. The facility features activities for seniors, civic and volunteer groups, as well as after school programming for youth in the area. The community center is ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant, making it available for all to enjoy. The users of the community center include all age groups. The Hazel Park Community Center is in fair condition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazel Park Community Center</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility Ranking</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acreage</strong></td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classification</strong></td>
<td>Community Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Hazel Park Community Center is a publicly owned recreation facility serving the City of Hazel Park and the surrounding communities. It is home to the Hazel Park Recreation Department and the Hazel Park Senior Citizens Department. The facility features activities for seniors, civic and volunteer groups, as well as after school programming for youth in the area. The community center is ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant, making it available for all to enjoy. The users of the community center include all age groups. The Hazel Park Community Center is in fair condition.
School Facilities

The Hazel Park School District is the City’s governing school district. The schools are placed in central locations of residential districts, making them easily accessible for students and residents. The school district and the Hazel Park Recreation Department have joint utilization of school facilities and offer areas of open space for students and residents to enjoy after hours. It is important to note that the Hazel Park School District is solely responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of school facilities.

The City of Hazel Park maintains a working relationship with the Hazel Park Public School District. As is detailed in the next chapter, the school district provides some recreation programming at various facilities throughout Hazel Park.

Public School Facilities

A total of thirteen public school properties were inventoried for available recreation facilities. While school facilities are not accessible at all times and are not maintained or upgraded by the City of Hazel Park, they do play an important role in the provision of recreation opportunities and facilities to residents.

Access Academy:
Access Academy is located along E. 8 Mile Rd. just east of the I-75 freeway. This school allows high school students, up to the age of 21, to take classes. Access Academy does not have any dedicated park or greenspace.

Edison School:
Edison School is located at 570 E. Mapledale. The site has a basketball court, a playground, and other play structures on approximately 1 acre of greenspace.

Hazel Park Advantage Alternative School
This school site is located at 1620 East Elza Ave and maintains play structures and a swing set on more than 2.5 acres of greenspace.
Hazel Park High School: Hazel Park High School is located at 23400 Hughes Ave. The school site is directly adjacent to the GRBA Field, a 9-acre site with a football field, baseball field, softball field, and soccer field just north of the school building. On the south side of the school site is a set of six tennis courts.

Hazard Park Junior High School: Hazel Park Junior High School is located directly adjacent to (west of) the newly renovated Scout Park site. The school maintains two softball fields on the 2.5-acre greenspace between the school building and Scout Park.

Hoover Elementary School: Hoover Elementary School is located directly across the street from Hazel Park High School and the GRBA Field site. The school maintains play structures and a single softball field on a 1.5-acre site directly adjacent to (north of) the school building.

INVEST Roosevelt Alternative High School: The INVEST Roosevelt school site is located directly adjacent to (east of) Green Acres Park. The school maintains two play structures on over 2 acres of park and greenspace.
Michigan Cyber Academy

Michigan Cyber Academy is located along E 8 Mile Road, west of Merril Ave in a shopping plaza. The site allows individuals to earn an accredited diploma from home. The school site does not maintain any dedicated park or recreation space.

United Oaks Elementary School

United Oaks Elementary is located at the corner of Jarvis Ave and Russell Ave. The school maintains two play structures and an asphalt playground area adjacent to the school in addition to one acre of greenspace east of the school site.

Webster Early Childhood Center

Webster Elementary School is located at the corner of Jarvis and West End Street. South of (and behind) the school site is 1 acre of park and greenspace with two play structures.

View from the Bleachers—Hazel Park High School Track & Football Field
Hazel Park Growers and Makers Market
Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball field or courts. While these parks are not used for formal programming by the City of Hazel Park, they provide active and passive recreational opportunities to the residents of the community. Regional facilities are provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and Oakland County Parks System. The regional parks located within close proximity (30 miles) of the City are shown on Map 3 - Regional Parks and Facilities. While the following describes the nearly 6,000 acres of natural landscapes and outdoor recreation provided through the Oakland County Parks System.

*Lyon Oaks County Park*
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Oakland County Parks

Oakland County offers a tremendous park and recreation system for all of its residents to appreciate.

Addison Oaks:
Addison Oaks is a scenic 1,139-acre park in northeast Oakland County with two lakes and spring-fed ponds.

Catalpa Oaks:
Catalpa Oaks' nearly 24 acres of open space is nestled in Southfield, just west of Greenfield Road. The park currently features six soccer fields, a baseball diamond and softball field. Fields are reserved by permit.

Glen Oaks:
The Glen Oaks Golf Course features an 18-hole, Par 70 course with challenging Par 3 holes crossing streams, with rolling terrain. The 122-acre course includes a 1920's English-style stone clubhouse designated as a Michigan Historical Building serves as a beautiful setting for banquets, weddings and golf outings (food service provided by Oak Management). There's also a formal garden ideal for outdoor weddings.

Groveland Oaks:
Groveland Oaks County Park is a summer family favorite, with picnicking, swimming and family camping on 362 acres near Holly.

Highland Oaks:
Highland Oaks offers 302 acres of picturesque rolling hills, wetlands and old pastures. Located within the headwaters of the Shiawassee River, Highland Oaks preserves sensitive habitat while providing recreational experiences in a natural setting.
Independence Oaks:
Enjoy year-round recreation in this naturally-maintained 1,285-acre park near Clarkston.

Lyon Oaks:
Lyon Oaks in Wixom preserves 800 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands within a 1,041-acre park. The park features a 13-acre, fenced dog park.

Orion Oaks:
Orion Oaks County Park preserves more than 916 acres of environmentally-sensitive green space.

Red Oaks:
At this 163-acre park located in Madison Heights built on the Red Run Drain, golfers, dog lovers and sports enthusiasts will find clean, safe facilities and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends.

Red Oak Park is the closest located county park and is readily accessible for Hazel Park residents, being just north of John R. Road.

Rose Oaks:
Rose Oaks Park preserves 640 acres of gently rolling open meadows and wooded uplands, including approximately 200 acres of valuable wetlands and frontage on several glacial lakes within the site.
Springfield Oaks:
Springfield Oaks County Park’s 332 acres is home to the annual Oakland County Fair, the historic Ellis Barn, the Springfield Oaks Golf Course and a Community Service Garden.

Waterford Oaks:
Waterford Oaks is a 185-acre park near Pontiac, headquarters of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

White Lake Oaks:
White Lake Oaks is a scenic 18-hole, par 70 course. The 197-acre course is a well-manicured, player-friendly layout with front nine open and back nine tight, featuring wetlands and woodlands. The new clubhouse features a pro shop, club room, garden patio, and banquet facilities for groups up to 200.
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks**

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks Authority is a prominent regional authority with beautifully maintained park and recreation land in Southeastern Michigan. Hazel Park residents have access to these metropolitan parks within the region. The nearest one is Lake St. Clair Metropolitan Park. It is located at 31300 Metro Parkway, Harrison Township, MI 48045. Twenty-two miles from Hazel Park, it offers unique nature trails, beach and shoreline access with scenic views of Lake St. Clair. It also has facilities that include a swimming pool, a waterslide, and ice-skating in the winter. The park encompasses 770 acres in total area. Lake St. Clair Metro Park gives residents access to wetlands and other well-preserved nature access that is limited to Southeast Michigan.
Barrier Free Accessibility

LEVEL 1
The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

LEVEL 2
The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

LEVEL 3
The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.

LEVEL 4
The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

LEVEL 5
The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of the City of Hazel Park’s parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility’s accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings can be found in the Inventory Tables starting on page 39.
**Inclusive Play**

*For children with and without disabilities, the community playground can facilitate a positive environment for physical activity and inclusion.*

The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), signed into law in 2010, detail enforceable standards for physical accessibility. However, these standards do not include elements designed for children with Down syndrome, sensory disorders, and visual and hearing impairments.

New attention has been focused on inclusive playgrounds and universal design that can serve a diverse population, including children with physical, cognitive, emotional and sensory disabilities.

The following elements are considered essential activities for inclusive play:

- Sensory play
- Music
- Swinging
- Spinning
- Sliding
- Socialization/imaginative
- Safety, comfort and access

*Sources: United States Access Board, Landscape Structures; InclusivePlaygrounds.org*

*Image Source: www.playlsi.org*
Programming

An understanding of the programs and events which are currently offered by the City of Hazel Park as well as programs offered by other entities within the city will help identify programming needs and avoid the duplication of services.

Hazel Park recreational programming serves all facets of the city’s population including children, adults and seniors. Programs are often coordinated with the Hazel Park School District, neighboring cities, and Oakland County.

The City hosts much of its recreational programming at the Hazel Park Community Center. The Community Center has a variety of rooms that are home to various events and programs. It also has two kitchens and a dining hall that may be rented for private use.

Hazel Park Recreation Department also provides residents and nonresidents with the opportunity to rent park facilities. This includes park pavilions, which are available May through October.

The majority of programs are offered in the Hazel Park Community Center and in the surrounding parks. Programs include sports, classes, festivals and seasonal events.

Schedule of Annual Events

FEBRUARY

Daddy Daughter Dance - A special opportunity for dads and daughters to enjoy dinner and dancing.

MARCH/APRIL

Mother Son Dance - A special opportunity for moms and sons to enjoy dinner and dancing.

Bunny Brunch - Enjoy lunch with the Easter Bunny and an Easter Egg Hunt.

APRIL

Annual Spring Clean - Join as city, schools, churches and community service groups pitch in to clean eleven community parks, roads and properties.

MAY

Memorial Weekend Festival - This five-day festival includes a carnival, refreshment tent including live music, baseball exhibition games, car show, bingo, and culminates with the Memorial Day Parade.

JUNE–AUGUST

Kids Kamp - Kids enjoy a fun, safe, educational experience during the summer months.

Hazel Park Art Fair - Hosted by the Hazel Park Art Council (HPC), the Art Fair is a unique festival with an eye on benefiting the community is a part of and enhancing the local quality of life for everyone involved.

NOVEMBER

Tree Lighting Ceremony - held at the Hazel Park Viking Ice Arena, 1555 E. John R Road. Join the community in welcoming the holiday season and seeing Santa!

DECEMBER

Lunch with Santa in cooperation with Hazel Park Youth Assistance - Enjoy lunch and letters with Santa.
Memorial Day Festival

The Memorial Day weekend Festival is an annual celebration of Memorial Day to honor local veterans. The Memorial Day festival includes a carnival, entertainment, a petting zoo, and many other activities.
Hazel Park Art Fair

The Hazel Park Art Fair was established in 2011 and showcases local talent – benefiting the community as well as its many local nonprofit efforts. The goal of the Hazel Park Art Council is to bring art, in all its forms, to the community, and make art accessible to everyone. The City provides space and logistical assistance to the Hazel Park Art Council for the Hazel Park Art Fair.
Senior Services

The Hazel Park Recreation Department supports many programs and events that senior citizens may participate in. Hazel Park offers a transportation service that is available for residents over the age of 60 and for residents who have a disability.

Transportation
The City works in conjunction with Oakland County to provide transportation services.

Meal Program
The Hazel Park Recreation Department also supports a meal program for seniors. This is hosted at the Community Center. Seniors may participate in social events after the meal program, which includes Bingo and various card games.

Events and Outings
The Hazel Park Recreation provides events and outings. These trips comprise traveling to several locations around metropolitan Detroit. Previous activities have included traveling to Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers play, trips to the casinos in Detroit, and visits to the Huckleberry Railroad in Genesee County. Hazel Park also hosts events throughout the year on various holidays including Christmas, New Year’s Eve and Saint Patrick’s Day. Events include dinner, music and entertainment for residents.
Hazel Park Nature Initiative

The Hazel Park Nature Initiative is a newly established group of resident volunteers who implement projects and promote policy changes that encourage both public and private property owners to plant native landscaping which provides food for native life including birds, bees, butterflies, bats and bugs — also known as “the five B’s.”

Volunteer projects engage and educate the public on various options while updates to local ordinances will ultimately transform the city’s natural landscape. Through the Nature Initiative, the city and private property owners will work together to cultivate habitats that attract and sustain beneficial native wildlife in the city. To start reaching this goal, the Nature Initiative is currently planning a new nature area in Hazel Park that will feature diverse native gardens.

The creation and amendment of ordinances that address traditional lawns will provide alternatives to replace monocultures of turfgrass on both public and private property throughout the city. This includes low-maintenance alternatives such as clover or native landscaping made of various annuals and perennials. The program is currently working with city departments to incorporate these features on both public and private property.

For its first major project, the Hazel Park Nature Initiative recently installed a municipal butterfly and pollinator garden at Hazel Park’s municipal offices between City Hall and the library, facing the intersection of Nine Mile and John R roads. The hope is that in time, this all-natural garden will attract pollinators that are crucial to the environment’s health. This first garden occupies a hill where Hazel Park Neighborhood Enrichment has planted flowers for many years. The new garden features black-eyed susan, purple coneflower, stonecrop, butterfly weed, little bluestem and swamp milkweed, with plans for common milkweed to be added in the cooler months, and in the spring, common blue violet.

The garden uses mulch as natural weed control. This avoids the use of pesticides and herbicides that are deadly for pollinators. Next year, the volunteers plan to install signage so that visitors can identify the different plants and learn about how they benefit pollinators, and how pollinators benefit us.
Native landscapes can incorporate attractive and beautiful elements like wildflower beds, native flower- or fruit-bearing shrubs and trees, and more, supporting local wildlife by providing suitable homes, nest sites and food sources. These alternative lawns avoid the use of chemicals, can be lower maintenance, and often include elements like rain gardens, bioswales for cleaning and controlling water runoff, and compost. While reduced maintenance will be a primary benefit to property owners, the Nature Initiative encourages well-maintained lawns through intentional landscaping.

The program has developed various options that would be guided by city ordinance to the extent appropriate and is currently working with residents in the neighboring city of Ferndale to develop a training program for city staff and code enforcement officers. Through these actions and other steps identified in the Action Plan, the Nature Initiative will help property owners discover the best ways to make this an environmentally friendly option for all residents, without creating a nuisance for neighbors.

Ultimately, City Council will have to vote on the changes, and public hearings will be held with the community. This will offer residents the opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, and make suggestions for ordinance amendments. By making this initiative visible and accessible for all residents, the community can come together and learn at the same time.

From left, Amy Aubry, mayor pro tem of Hazel Park, and Grace Vatai, naturalist and co-owner of Mulberry Hill Wildlife, fill feeders for wildlife at the Mulberry Hill Wildlife Habitat in Hazel Park. The duo co-authored the Hazel Park Nature Initiative, which promotes alternative yards and healthy ecosystems.
In progress playscape construction at Scout Park
BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN
An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs serve as a basis for the development of the Action Plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including information gathered during the public input process and surveys, comparing the City to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, and consultation with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Board.

The City of Hazel Park Department of Planning and Economic Development and Parks and Recreation Board coordinated and conducted a series of charrettes at the beginning of the planning process for robust and open community input. Participants at such events included residents, specific parks and recreation stakeholders, and community organizations’ representatives. In total, there were four methods used as part of this program that have resulted in meaningful public engagement.
Online and Print Surveys

The City of Hazel Park launched online surveys related to the City’s overall parks and recreation program specifically. Links to the surveys were made available at the City of Hazel Park Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update website and on social media. The surveys were made available for 45 days. At the end of the survey period, the City received the following number of survey responses:

- 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey: 56 responses

Most of the completed surveys were from residents between the ages of 25-34 and 35-44, 28% and 26% of all responses respectively. Individuals aged 45-54 and 55-64 made up 19% and 23% of responses respectively. Just 4% of the responses were from individuals 65 years old and older. No responses were received from individuals 24 and younger.

Generally, residents were familiar with the facilities and programs offered by Hazel Park Parks and Recreation (77%). While most reported using parks for exercise, fitness, and casual sports (60%) followed by cultural events (52%), and children’s play (46%).

Overall the survey sought to gauge to what degree residents value the parks and recreation system, if the current parks and recreation facilities meet the needs of residents, and what should be the Department’s future priorities.

Overwhelmingly, participants recognized that parks and recreation programs are important to their quality of life, regardless if they use the programs on a regular basis (100% of all respondents). Respondents rated the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities, availability of public spaces, and overall existing outdoor facilities to be generally good or fair. Examining areas where improvements are most needed, roughly 25% of respondents rated overall indoor facilities as poor and roughly 40% of respondents cited the availability of bike facilities and paths to be poor. Similarly, while Park Land (60%) and the Indoor Ice Arena (70%) appears to meet or exceed the needs of residents Aquatic programs (68%), Playgrounds (47%), Walking/Biking Paths (56%), Summer Programs (48%) Nature Activities (46%) fall short of the needs of the community.

When asked what new or enhanced opportunities residents would like to see within the City, nearly 62% of all respondents choose swimming, followed by hiking/walking trails (50%), adult fitness, restrooms and arts and crafts (45% each, special events/sledding (44%), playgrounds, nature education programs (42% each) bicycling, cultural/historical programs, and nutrition education (40% each) . These responses were very similar to the open-ended questions that asked what residents felt are the top three recreational priorities for Hazel Park in the next 10 years. The word cloud below shows the most frequently used phrases for respondents’ number one priorities.

Senior equipment facilities safer updated
Update playground equipment better New parks trails
bike play Community kids fitness Walking paths
Charrette Workshops

On March 21, 2019, the Hazel Park Planning and Economic Development department conducted Charrette Workshops with a number of stakeholders. The Charrette Workshops ensured that representatives from specific stakeholder groups were able to provide feedback about their organization’s perceived parks and recreation needs. The input received at the Charrette Workshops reflected the needs of the specific residents that were present the Charrette Workshops. Common themes that emerged were:

- The need to improve park programming and event participation with things such as an “Adopt-a-Park” program that encourages resident responsibility
- The need for improved marketing and advertising of all city parks and annual recreation programming including the Memorial Day Fair and Hazel Park Art Fair. With this, residents also noted the need for improvements to the city’s website so that information about the city’s parks is comprehensively displayed and easily navigable online. This includes a city-wide map which shows the locations of all parks, natural spaces, bike lanes/non-motorized connections, and other recreation features.

Hazel Park Historical Museum
Major Themes from Community Engagement

Throughout the public engagement process people were generally positive about the parks and recreation facilities in Hazel Park. However, several community values emerged throughout the process that can be used to prioritize improvements to the system. These include:

**NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP**
Throughout the engagement efforts, many comments were made about the desires to preserve and maintain natural areas and open spaces within the City. When asked what the City of Hazel Park priorities for the next ten years should be nearly one-quarter of respondents mentioned the need to improve and replace existing park facilities and equipment.

**INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**
The City of Hazel Park was able to engage many types of residents throughout the planning process and what emerged was a desire for the parks and recreation system to accommodate the variety of users in the City, ranging from young children to seniors. Improvements that were suggested in order to keep parks inclusive of the City’s diverse community included restrooms at park facilities, and barrier-free playgrounds and pathways.

**HEALTH AND FITNESS**
Roughly three fifths of survey respondents reported that they use the parks system for fitness and casual sports. Over 10% of survey respondents believed that health and fitness related improvements should be a priority – 30% of these respondents indicated a need for more senior fitness activities and programs. They believe there is a need for improved or enhanced walking and running trails, adult and youth fitness classes, and improved organized sports facilities and programs like pickleball and lap swim.

**CONNECTIVITY**
Many residents largest concern about the park system was not the parks themselves but the system of connectivity that gets residents from their homes or from local business to parks. Over 20% of survey respondents and many more at the Charrette Workshops mentioned a need for improved bicycle paths, sidewalks, and other non-motorized paths to connect parks all over the city.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**
A large number of residents expressed mild satisfaction with the parks and recreation system in Hazel Park. At the Charrette Workshops, many residents agreed that the city of Hazel Park is doing its best despite strained fiscal resources. Nearly 30% believed that the City’s priority for the next ten years should be maintaining, updating, and advertising the existing system.
Approximately 37.75 acres of parks and facilities exist within Hazel Park, owned by the City and managed by the Department of Public Services. The Hazel Park Public Schools own the remaining 20.5 acres.

As required by the MDNR, the Hazel Park parkland and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA’s updated guidelines were set more than 13 years ago, the MDNR still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results given that these guidelines were set over a decade ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, are encouraged to establish its needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community’s desires for recreation. Recreation needs are often better documented through public input rather than relying only on the national guidelines. The NRPA guidelines and the MDNR standards were considered in the development of the Action Plan but not weighted heavily. The information gathered during the many methods of public input directed the Action Plan directly.

Table 5 and the following discussion compares the amount of parkland as it relates to the conditions of the City and the MDNR standards based on the 2017 ACS population estimate of 16,587. Park classifications used by the MDNR are defined as follows and described in further detail in Table 6.

**MINI/NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

Mini/Neighborhood parks serve an area up to a one-half mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size. Hazel Park has eleven (11) mini-parks, three (3) neighborhood parks, and eight (8) school facilities that provide less than the recommended acreage for mini and neighborhood parks.
COMMUNITY PARK
Community parks typically serve an area within one-half to three miles and are between 30 to 50 acres in size. However, since the City of Hazel Park is only 2.8 square miles many of the City’s community parks are smaller than the guidelines, but serve a community-wide function. The City owns roughly 18 acres of community parkland, 65 acres less than the recommended acreage for community parks. In addition to the City-owned land, Hazel Park Public Schools contributes 17.5 acres of land since it is categorized as a community park. With public school parks included, Hazel Park’s community parkland deficiency decreases to 47.5 acres.

SCHOOL PARKS
School properties can fulfill the requirements for other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use. For the purposes of this inventory all childhood centers and elementary and middle school facilities were classified as neighborhood parks, and Hazel Park Advantage, Hazel Park High School, Hazel Park Junior High School, and Roosevelt Invest School were considered community parks.

REGIONAL PARK
Regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local parkland and help balance the deficiencies in facilities. Hazel Park does not have a regional park within its borders. However, it should be noted that a number of regional parks are within a short distance from the City despite not being within its borders.

• According to the above guidelines, the City of Hazel Park exhibits a deficiency in all of the parkland categories. Overall, the City is providing an exceptional amount of parkland for its residents given the constraint of its municipal boundaries and relatively dense land use.

Table 6: Hazel Park Public Parkland Acreage Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Classification</th>
<th>NRPA Guideline Minimum Acres/1,000 Residents1</th>
<th>Recommended Acreage for Hazel Park2</th>
<th>Public City Park</th>
<th>Public School Park3</th>
<th>City Total</th>
<th>Surplus (Deficiency)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini Parks</td>
<td>0.25-0.5</td>
<td>4.20-8.30</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>-0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>1.0-2.0</td>
<td>16.60-33.20</td>
<td>12.10</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>16.60</td>
<td>-16.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>5.0-8.0</td>
<td>82.90-132.70</td>
<td>17.90</td>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>33.90</td>
<td>-49.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>103.70-389.30</td>
<td>3775</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>58.25</td>
<td>-66.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3 All early childhood centers and elementary schools classified as neighborhood parks, and all middle and high schools classified as community parks.
Although it is important to consider the overall amount of parkland in the City, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the City. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents in the City live and if the residents are within walking distance to a park, recreation, or school facility. The distance of 0.25 miles is often used as an established standard of how far people would be willing to walk to a park or recreation facility.

The parks and school facilities walkability areas are shown on MAP 4 and MAP 5. For the purposes of measuring the walkability area in the City, a radius of one-fourth mile from each park was used.

According to the Trust for Public Land, 91% of Hazel Park residents live within a 10 minute walk of a park despite the fact that just 3% of the city’s land is used for parks and recreation. This indicates that the land used for parks and recreation in Hazel Park is almost evenly dispersed throughout the city.

There are few service gaps within the City in regard to City owned recreation facilities within one fourth mile. The primary areas without nearby City owned facilities are in the northwest part of the City; the northeast part of the city; and the southwestern edge and midwestern area of the city along 8 mile.

When the school facilities are added to the walkability analysis, service gaps remain unchanged. The areas described above still have limited access to a park.
Walkability: City-Owned Parks

Map 4:


Legend:
- Hazel Park Boundary
- Hazel Park Major Roads
- Walkability Buffer - 1/4 Mile
- Main Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks

City of Hazel Park, Michigan
September 13, 2019
Map 5: Walkability: City-Owned Parks and School Facilities
City of Hazel Park, Michigan
September 13, 2019

Legend
- Hazel Park Boundary
- Hazel Park Major Roads
- Walkability Buffer - 1/4 Mile
- School Facilities
- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks

Data Source: City of Hazel Park 2019.
Facilities Analysis

In addition to parkland, existing facilities were compared against the recommended guidelines set by the NRPA and the MDNR to determine if they are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions in Hazel Park, information obtained during the public input opportunities, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. Table 7 indicates the recommended guideline and facilities, the number of facilities in the City, and the surplus or deficiency of facilities. The comments below the table provide further prospective and assist in identifying key issues related to specific facilities.

Table 7: Facilities Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Classification</th>
<th>NRPA Guideline¹</th>
<th>Recommended Facilities²</th>
<th>Public Hazel Park Facilities</th>
<th>Public School Facilities</th>
<th>Total Facilities</th>
<th>Surplus (Deficiency)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archery Range</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball / Softball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>+7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Driving Range</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Course (9-Hole)</td>
<td>1/25,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course (18-Hole)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Rink</td>
<td>Indoor 1/100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoor depends on climate</td>
<td>depends on climate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>1/3,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>+12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running Track</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>1 system per region</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


² Based on 2013-2017 American Community Survey Population Estimates, 16,587

A number of the facilities included in Table 7 are owned by Hazel Park Public Schools. Though schools provide limited hours and access to the general public, they complement the existing parks and recreation system within the City of Hazel Park. Parks and schools work together in Hazel Park to provide residents a recreation system. Management of recreation facilities should be done in coordination to ensure that, despite the geographic constraints of providing parks and recreation facilities in a fully developed city, residents have access to their desired amenities.
Volunteers Planting Trees in Hazel Park
ACTION PLAN

6
By using the comprehensive planning process of trend identification, roundtable discusses, surveys, and public meetings, the City of Hazel Park’s Parks and Recreation Department has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Hazel Park parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

A complementary component of the Action Plan is the Capital Improvement Plan. Action strategies that may require significant capital investment from the community have been organized into a five-year plan. The specific projects have been prioritized in the Capital Improvement Plan in order to better manage the Parks and Recreation Department budget and equally distribute the projects over a five-year cycle. The timing of these projects may be influenced, moved, or eliminated depending upon economic conditions, available funding, and/or grant awards. However, the spirit and intent of the project priorities are well defined in the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Action Plan is organized into four sections:

• Vision, Mission, and Community Values
• Department of Public Services Goals and Strategies
• System Wide Recommendations
• Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Resident volunteers digging holes for Planting Trees in Hazel Park
Mission and Focus Area

To provide a guideline for decision making, the Parks and Recreation Board has developed a mission statement and list of identified community values. Together, these will guide the development of the goals and strategies for the department’s future projects, and other efforts.

Focus Areas

Public input and feedback from the Parks and Recreation Board throughout the development of this Plan, helped to define the following focus areas to guide implementation of the Parks and Recreation Plan to ensure that Hazel Park’s park and recreation programs and services advance the community in a way that reflects the needs and desires of the whole City.

Natural Area Preservation and Stewardship

The community has expressed a strong interest in enhancing natural areas and features through interpretive signage, nature programming, restoring natural habitats, and stewardship of existing parks and open space, to sustain them for future generations.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Hazel Park residents want the ability to participate in most activities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department in addition to being able to get around the facilities safely regardless of their physical abilities. All members of the community want to feel included as opportunities to expand parks and recreation services become available.

Health and Fitness

Hazel Park values the health and well-being of its residents and the benefits that parks, recreation, and open space offer. The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking to further expand services that promote active lifestyles for residents of all ages.

Connectivity

Many residents expressed interest in connecting city parks through a system of non-motorized paths throughout the city. An interconnected parks and facilities network can provide increased access to the parks system across the City of Hazel Park.

Fiscal Sustainability

Most residents of Hazel Park recognize parks and recreation as an essential service for a high quality of life. Secure and sustainable funding to improve and expand facilities and programming is a high priority for Hazel Park. Despite strained resources, the City has maintained its parks and recreation facilities over the years and will continue practices such as maximizing the potential of existing facilities to ensure the longevity of its recreation assets. Going forward, the Parks and Recreation Department is also seeking to upgrade existing systems by eliminating barriers at city parks in order to encourage increased usage by residents of all abilities.

Mission

The following Mission presents how the City of Hazel Park Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Board will achieve the Vision:

“The Mission of the Hazel Park Parks and Recreation Department is to enrich the lives of Hazel Park residents by providing quality parks and recreation facilities, green spaces, programs, and services to the community.”
Goals and Objectives

To provide a guideline for decision making, the Parks and Recreation Department and City Council developed a list of goals and objectives based on lessons learned since the Great Recession, and the results of analysis and public input. The following goals and objectives are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation for Hazel Park.

As recommended in the Action Plan, these goals and objectives should be reviewed annually by the Parks and Recreation Board and modified as necessary.
GOAL 1

Foster an inclusive and unique community.

Hazel Park is enriched by a strong core of highly engaged residents, including its city council, boards, commissions, and planning and historical preservation teams. Numerous special events are held throughout the year, such as the Memorial Day Festival and Parade and the Hazel Park Art Fair. Working together to create a strong sense of an inclusive community, it is only made stronger by the partnerships, trust and collaboration of the stakeholders and elected officials.

GOAL 2

Provide parks and recreation facilities that are beautiful and high quality, that respect history, offer a variety of experiences, both passive and active, are well maintained and that are accessible to all residents of the community.

The variety of Parks and Recreation facilities in Hazel Park is important to residents and it is expected that these community assets are preserved and strengthened. This is true for existing parks and recreation though continued maintenance and the improvement for both existing and new green spaces, facilities and recreational areas.

OBJECTIVES

- Seek partnerships with local organizations, clubs and institutions to provide a more expanded variety of organized activities and programs – particularly at underutilized park sites - within the community.
  This includes:
  a. Senior Walking Clubs.
  b. “Theatrical” programming that involves schools, library, and residents
  c. Seasonal, including winter activities.
  d. Art and cultural programs.
  e. Teen and youth programming during the summer
  f. Continue to celebrate the community by participation in festivals, community functions and events

- Analyze and improve universal accessibility.
- Incorporate art and murals into park design.
- Encourage central entry areas for sitting and gathering in park design.
- Maintain and update park equipment and facilities as needed, such as playground equipment, ball fields, open space areas including natural landscaping.
- Implement a standardized park design for all City of Hazel Park Parks including signage, installation of trees, tree transplanting, improved landscaping, benches, bike racks, and waste receptacles.
- Support and encourage new developments to include areas for active and passive recreation.
GOAL 3

Create a community of healthy residents by providing opportunities that promote and encourage active lifestyles and mobility.

Hazel Park has an active resident base that includes runners, cyclists, walkers, etc. The health of the aging population will need to be maintained through private and public efforts.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase non-motorized transportation connections between parks, historical sites, community facilities and shopping districts that allow residents to cycle, walk and run.
- Develop and promote programming that encourages active lifestyles for all ages.
- Develop a wayfinding program for the trail / greenway network that directs users of the non-motorized paths to City parks and other destinations.
GOAL 4

Provide recreation programming and facility opportunities that meet the needs and interests of the entire community.

Residents have indicated that recreation outlets and activities are important to their quality of life. Providing well balanced activity choices, including passive and active opportunities, along with flexible structure is essential.

GOAL 5

Coordinate and partner with other entities and residents to ensure the availability and opportunity for comprehensive, quality services and facilities.

Parks and recreation services, along with all government services, must evaluate and provide cost effective opportunities for residents.

The Hazel Park Recreation Department must explore opportunities with private partnerships and Oakland County Parks to jointly provide services and facilities to minimize duplication. The department should also recruit civic and business organizations, whenever possible, to assist with park improvement projects.

OBJECTIVES

- Create opportunities that go beyond the traditional team sports such as educational components, individual sporting pursuits, training/self-improvement courses.
- Provide additional environmental-oriented programs and use parks as outdoor classrooms and art theater.
- Coordinate with the Hazel Park Art Council regarding public art at parks. Coordinate location, lights to illuminate, sprinkler locations, etc.

OBJECTIVES

- Recruit civic and business organizations for assistance with park improvement projects.
- Partner for grants & outside funding and increase opportunities for donation, sponsorships and fundraising efforts.
- Foster, promote and encourage cooperative relationship with public and private entities.
- Promote a system for people to approach the City with ideas to collaborate for park improvements.
- Provide volunteer opportunities in program delivery and improvement projects.
- Establish “Adopt-A-Park” program to encourage collaboration with residents and neighborhood groups with maintaining and increasing participation at underutilized City parks.
- Review and update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years to maintain a current assessment and ensure grant funding eligibility.
**GOAL 6**

Operate the parks and recreation department in an effective and efficient manner so as to maintain a high level of customer service.

The Hazel Park Recreation Department has worked to phase out non-essential recreation and maximize highly utilized services over the last 5-10 years. By phasing out non-essential programs, Hazel Park has become better able to conserve money for other necessary programming. The Recreation Department must continue exercise fiscal responsibility to adapt to a decreasing budget.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Expand web-based marketing efforts to inform residents of programs and events.
  - Update and maintain the city’s website for improved access to the following information:
    i. All city-owned and operated parks and recreation facilities (with locations and programming).
    ii. Recreation opportunities offered via the interlocal governmental agreement between Oak Park and Hazel Park.
- Continue to use existing community resources efficiently and demonstrate fiscal adaptability and responsibility.
- Review Parks and Recreation Master Plan annually to establish priorities and responsibilities with Parks and Recreation Board.

**GOAL 7**

Improve the quality and number of services, activities, and programs for seniors and adults 55 and over to meet the social, educational, health, recreational, and social service needs of the city’s growing senior population.

The City of Hazel Park has a high and growing senior population base with the population of individuals over 65 increasing by 13% between 2010 and 2017. It is imperative that the City of Hazel Park plan for future improvements to its parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of this ever-expanding and changing older population.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Expand parks and recreation programming and activities to encourage older adults to stay active, healthy, and involved with other active members of the community.
- Host a diverse set of senior activities and programs at the Hazel Park Community Center to increase participation in municipal recreation, fitness, and wellness programs among older adults.
- Increase the level of programming which provides helpful information, lifelong learning, and enables individuals to acquire new skills that contribute to their continued independence.
- Reprogram many of the city’s underutilized park facilities for senior and adult use by providing opportunities for both independent and guided exercise, increased accessibility, and ease with use.
GOAL 8

Restore native and natural habitats to create sustainable development in the areas of conservation, renaturalization, and implementation of natural landscapes and greenspaces throughout the city.

The Hazel Park Nature Initiative focuses on restoring native and natural habitats to benefit the environment and provide educational opportunities throughout the city for residents and local business owners. The success of the Hazel Park Nature Initiative is dependent on the support of all aspects of the city: the residents, city administration and various city departments, especially Parks and Recreation and Public Works. The Parks and Recreation Department should partner with the Hazel Park Nature Initiative to promote the expansion of these activities on both public and private property throughout the city.

OBJECTIVES

- Habitat Creation - Restore native and natural habitats for the 5 B’s (bats, birds, bees, butterflies, and bugs) throughout the community and teach residents and businesses how to incorporate these ideas onto their property.
- Land Management - Find land management solutions to minimize flooding and erosion utilizing plants and other landscaping.
- Education - Create educational opportunities for residents through nature themed events.
- Training – Train Code Enforcement and other City staff on recognizing and understanding well-maintained native gardens.
- Community - Increase community involvement to foster an appreciation of nature and encourage a stronger sense of personal connection.

Hazel Park resident planting native plants in the community garden
System Wide Recommendations

In addition to capital investments into the parks and recreation system, the Parks and Recreation Department must also focus on maintenance of the park system.

The following items describe system wide suggestions that should be coordinated each year.

**Barrier Free Accessibility**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier free accessibility at public facilities. It is important to provide access to the City of Hazel Park facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents can enjoy the facilities. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier free accessibility with improvements to proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access.

**Park Design Improvements**

As the park system evolves and each park undergoes its own degree of improvements, it is important to clearly mark park entrances and visually unify the parks so residents are aware that facilities they use are part of Hazel Park’s park system. This can be accomplished by a uniform set of design themes that symbolize Hazel Park parks and are used in the design of lighting, benches, signs, waste receptacles, bike racks, and other amenities. Tree transplanting and improvements is a community focus for all public areas.
Non-Motorized Connectivity Center
The City of Hazel has been committed to the development of non-motorized systems locally as well as regionally. This was substantiated with the City Commission’s 2011 support of Complete Streets principles for the City of Hazel Park. The Department, in cooperation with Oakland County and surrounding communities, and other supporting agencies, should continue to seek opportunities for planning, land acquisition, access easements, and non-motorized trail development to assist this effort within the community.

Restoring Native and Natural Habitats
As opportunities become available the Parks and Recreation Department should work with the Hazel Park Nature Initiative to assess opportunities in the community for planting, protection, and management of native species.

Recreation Programming
The City of Hazel Park Parks and Recreation Department is only one of several sources of recreation programming for community residents. To complement these other resources, the Parks and Recreation Department should continue partnerships with local stakeholders, agencies, and adjacent communities to combat local deficiencies.

Staffing
The Parks and Recreation Department needs to annually monitor staffing levels and office facility needs as needed for efficient administration, operation, programming and maintenance of the parks and recreation system.

Park Promotion
The Parks and Recreation Department should use creative promotional approaches to increase awareness of the features available at the various parks. Promotional ideas could include: park maps and park events. Increased awareness of the parks will increase appreciation and support for the park system and could also generate a spirit of volunteerism with maintenance, development and fundraising projects.

Fund Raising
Develop new and creative ways to raise funds for park improvements, such as events, service projects and local fund raising. Continue and expand the popular recognition program for donations of benches, trees and other amenities.

Public Involvement
The Parks and Recreations Department should continue to solicit residents’ suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and programming. This can be accomplished with public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at special events.
Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve primarily staff time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require primarily investment.

The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan incorporates the top priority for capital improvement in the next five years. Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are strictly preliminary.

Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements and engineering plans are developed. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.
The following capital improvements are conceptual and subject to change based on annual prioritization; actual funding sources are largely undetermined during conceptual planning, thus, potential funding sources will be investigated and sought as projects move from the conceptual phase to design / funding phase. The City will use this Action Plan as a basis for budgeting, filling in cost estimates as they are developed.

**Table 8: Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

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<td>Inclusive/accessible playground enhancements2</td>
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<td>Native Plant/Natural Habitat restoration on public property</td>
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<td>Site furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, tables)</td>
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<td>Implement Wayfinding Signage</td>
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<td>Design and Implement Non-Motorized Parks/Trails Connections</td>
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<td>Improvements to BMX track</td>
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<td>Non-motorized access paths and extended walking paths</td>
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<td>Install drinking fountains</td>
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<td>Extend walking path</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upgrade play equipment</td>
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<td>Repair Bleachers</td>
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<td>Install new tables and seating</td>
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<td>Tree plantings and landscaping for improved appearance</td>
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<td>Improvements to the baseball diamond to increase usage</td>
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<td>Hazel Park Salute to Heroes (War Memorial)</td>
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<td>Potential Funding Source(s)</td>
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<td>Upgrade play equipment and play structures</td>
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<td>Install wayfinding signage directing visitors to adjacent dog park</td>
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<td>Install drinking fountains</td>
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<td>Improved tree cover and shade</td>
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<td>Upgrade play equipment (e.g. broken swing sets)</td>
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<td>Installation of roofs on bathrooms and pavilions</td>
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