



Parks and Recreation Board Agenda
Department of Public Services
851 South Eton-Conference Room
Tuesday, October 3, 2023
6:30 PM

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Announcements, Introductions of Guests & Chairpersons Comments**
- IV. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda** (*two minutes per person*)
 - No one may speak a second time until everyone in the audience has spoken.
 - The chairperson may alternate speakers pro & con on issues being discussed.
- V. Approval of the minutes of: September 12, 2023** (*regular meeting*)
- VI. Unfinished Business**
 1. Continued Discussion of Pickleball Complaints and Remediation Options
- VII. New Business- Written and submitted by 5pm Monday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, one week prior to the meeting.**
 1. Request For Special Meeting -Parks and Recreation Master Plan Draft Review - Tuesday, October 24, 2023
 2. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update
 3. 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates
- VIII. Miscellaneous Communications**
 1. E-mail received from John Rusche, 9.22.2023
 2. E-mail received from John Rusche, 9.25.2023
- IX. Reports From Staff**
- X. Items for Next Meeting**
- XI. Adjournment**

Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 at least one day in advance of the public meeting.
Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública.
(Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

*If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Connie Folk at the Birmingham Ice Arena (248) 530-1642.
Minutes are available for review at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009*

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Board strives to provide opportunities for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for present and future generations of residents and visitors through stewardship of natural, cultural and recreational resources. By continuously elevating the beauty and quality of the parks and recreation system of Birmingham, the Parks and Recreation Board will promote health and wellbeing, and strengthen the community.

Should you have any statement regarding the above, you are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through
ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/9819146679> **Meeting ID:** 981 9146 6679
You may also present your written statement to:
City of Birmingham, Parks and Recreation Board
851 South Eton, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 prior to the meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2023

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Jessica Einstein
Pam Graham
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Joseph Wrobel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Kupczyk and Steve Sweeney

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School
Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION: Scott Zielinski, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

PRESENTERS: Jane Dixon, McKenna

GUESTS: Tracey Boltik, Tom Boltik, Julie Ernst,
Linda Forrester and Oz Forrester

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS:

No announcements, introductions of guests & chairperson comments

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No public comments for Items not on the agenda

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Wrobel, seconded by Rusche, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, August 1, 2023, regular meeting as amended.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Jessica Einstein, Pam Graham,
Anne Lip, John Rusche and
Joseph Wrobel

Nays, None

Absent, None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Grant Received

PM Laird stated that the City of Birmingham received a \$25,000 grant that can be applied towards the trail improvements for the Booth Park section of that plan.

No Action Needed

Trail Improvements Concept Plan

PM Laird stated that the City Commission accepted the Trail Improvement Concept Plan and the department also asked to proceed with a RFP for construction drawings and those predevelopment activities that need to occur in preparation for the project development of the Booth Park section of the plan. The Oakland County grant will be applied towards that as well as there has been money budgeted in this fiscal year in order to do so and finally there is money budgeted in fiscal year 2024/2025 for the development of the Booth Park section.

No Action Needed

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Jane Dixon from McKenna reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board an update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (see exhibit A).

Dixon stated the facilities inventory and analysis has been done and the information has been placed in the mapping software, including to document amenities of the parks.

Dixon described the accessibility and walkability analysis and showed mapping on the walkability analysis of the parks. Dixon stated that there's limitation in terms of acquiring them, but something to think about as we look at who's accessing them.

Dixon showed the community engagement timeline. A full analysis of the public engagement process will be included in a future update.

Dixon stated the planning team will complete and begin final analysis of the public engagement process. The public survey will close September 18th. The planning team will also continue to develop plan recommendations and content.

Pickleball Update

PM Laird provided the Parks and Recreation Board with a summary of complaints/concerns related to pickleball to date. Some concerns expressed are foul language on the courts, noise levels- decibel levels, car traffic, cars utilize driveways of residents to turn around, cars park on both sides of Shipman and Southlawn, creating a only a singular lane for traffic, hours of the courts- needing hour adjustment in the fall/winter- should be dawn to dusk, concerns with portable lights, pickleball players do not comply with the hours, playing well into the dark at times.

PM Laird provided a report showing complaints/concerns that have come in using the gov pilot app. Staff has encouraged residents to file complaints using our gov pilot app rather than email, as the appropriate department is able to respond more quickly and efficiently.

PM Laird provided the parks board the number of pickleball reservations from June 1st - September 9th.

The Parks and Recreation Board discussed additional options such as extension of fencing, acoustic fencing, reservations, additional hours of open play, amending the pickleball rules and even charging for the use of the pickleball courts like what is used at the city dog park.

Linda Forrester stated that in regards to the parking issue maybe designate parking on one side of the street. As far as having the open hours there were people talking about the hours and that 8am-12pm based on other activities that occur in the city with construction/lawn crews starting at 7am. Maybe adding a sound barrier would help.

Tom Boltik he thanked the staff in enforcing the hours. He stated to get rid of the leagues.

Julie Ernst asked about the liability of lessons being given on the pickleball courts. Ernst asked about having young children on the court when playing pickleball courts. Ernst was also concerned about the dress code as well.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No miscellaneous communications

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

No reports from staff

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Revisit pickleball sound mitigation and security/gate access

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: October 3, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Scott Zielinski, Department of Public Services Director
Carrie Laird, Parks & Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Continued Discussion of Pickleball Complaints and Remediation Options

As the Parks and Recreation Board prepares to discuss the Pickleball Courts at Crestview Park and related concerns from neighboring residents in addition to requests and suggestions from Pickleball players, please find the following appended items provided as background and for review.

- September 12, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting - Pickleball Update Report [Agenda \(web link only\)](#)/Draft Minutes
- August 1, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting - Pickleball Sound Mitigation Report [Agenda \(web link only\)](#) / [Minutes](#)
- July 11, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting- Pickleball Update (verbal) [Agenda \(web link only\)](#) / [Minutes](#)
- Updated GovPilot report- through September 27, 2023
- Quote from Kimberly Fence
- Site Plan Layout
- City Map view of Crestview Park Pickelball Courts
- Photos

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Provide direction to staff regarding potential options to pursue for pickleball sound mitigation and/or adjustments to current operational practices.



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: September 12, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Carrie Laird, Parks & Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Pickleball Update

At the August 1, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting, the board expressed interest in reviewing complaints received by the City regarding the Pickleball courts.

The Department of Public Services (DPS) has received multiple complaints/concerns from one neighbor in particular on Shipman, who also attended the October 2022 Parks and Recreation Board meeting to express concerns.

Concerns expressed are as follows:

- Foul language on the courts
- Noise levels- decibel levels
- Car traffic
- Cars utilize driveways of residents to turn around
- Cars park on both sides of Shipman and Southlawn, creating a only a singular lane for traffic
- Hours of the courts- needing hour adjustment in the fall/winter- should be dawn to dusk, concerns with portable lights
- Pickleball players do not comply with the hours, playing well into the dark at times

Another resident on Shipman, expressed "dissent" via email in October of 2022, about the City's intention to provide *more* pickleball courts to an area that they believe is not patrolled or enforced enough with regard to no parking signs and the stop sign. Additional concerns expressed include: "inappropriate music, loads of traffic, terrible driving, and drawing a much different crowd, and it's become a rec center".

A resident on Southfield Rd, expressed concern in October of 2022, and more recently, in July and August 2023. Concerns include: nonstop noise from not only the sport but also yelling and screaming, parking on both sides of the street, parking across from her driveway, and speeding. The resident has requested the implementation of sound barriers of some kind.

Staff has encouraged residents to file complaints using our govpiilot app rather than email, as the appropriate department is able to respond more quickly and efficiently. A report showing the complaints/concerns for the pickleball courts is attached.

Additionally, Pickleball players have made the request for afternoon open play to promote an open and family atmosphere. Currently, the reservations are available between 12 pm and 8 pm and all six courts may be reserved by residents only. Open play is currently available between the hours of 9am-12 pm daily. A report showing the total number of reservations is attached.

Staff is considering removing three westerly courts from the reservation system and moving the paddle holder to the west entrance in order to provide 3 courts for open play between the hours of 9am and 8pm.

The Pickleball Court Rules are attached for reference.

Date Entered	Status	Concern Address	Department Assigned	Concern Type	Concern Description	Complainant Email
6/27/2023	Closed	1760 SHIPMAN BLVD	Code Enforcement	Other	Crestview Park - pickleball being played after 9:10pm. Thursday pickleball was ongoing after 9:45pm for instance.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
6/27/2023	Closed	1760 SHIPMAN BLVD	Police	Other	Crestview Park - children running a store to sell to pickleball players and also visiting homes near the park to ask them to shop.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/6/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	City of Centennial, CO issues moratorium on new pickleball courts within 500 feet of homes. The Crestview courts are roughly 100 feet from some homes with many homes within 500 feet. Document photos included. The documents are clear on harm to residents.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/7/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	Crestview Pickleball Hours: Thr signs at the park imply 9am -8pm. The Ciry website says 7am- 9pm in one spot and 9am- 8pm in another? Also, will the police be able to enforce these hours? The current city ordinance only allows endorcement between 10pm and 6am.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/7/2023	Closed		Miscellaneous	Other	Article: Judge orders pickleball courts on Cape Cod be closed. Article photos attached.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/9/2023	Closed		Miscellaneous	Other	Crestview Park - 5 courts of pickleball being played after 8:30pm on Sunday when signs now clearly state 9-8	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/10/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	Crestview Park - pickleball courts being used at 8:25am when they open at 9am	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/12/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	Crestview Park Pickleball: New York Times article on pickleball in photos. Hear from residents of Arlington VA, Wellesley MA, York ME, Scottsdale AZ, Longboat Key FL, West Linn OR on negative pickleball court impact to residents	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/19/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Pickleball - Police continue to clear the courts at 8pm (thank you!) otherwise no one would leave. After the police depart, new vehicles show up and start playing. The courts need a gate since people ignore the operating hours.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/23/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Park - pickleball being played during rain and post rain on wet courts. This has been witnessed two weekends in a row.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com

Date Entered	Status	Concern Address	Department Assigned	Concern Type	Concern Description	Complainant Email
7/24/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Article: Should pickleball be played in the rain? See attached image. The answer is no to avoid serious injury. If players cannot make good judgements about playing in the rain, following operating hours, foul language, car speed, driving beyond the sidewalk onto private driveways, etc, the courts should not be at Crestview.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/25/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Park - pickleball being played after 8:00pm on Monday evening.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/26/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Pickleball. Players on courts past 8pm on Tuesday and only departed when police arrived. Players on courts before 9am on Wednesday with roughly 30 cars there by 9:30am. If the players cannot follow rules, the courts should not be here.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/9/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	NBC Nightly News story on pickleball noise: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1AI6uiFqbmM	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/9/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Four picnic tables moved from their original location to the pickleball courts.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/14/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Paddletek, a leading manufacturer of pickleball equipment, recommends courts be at least 500ft from homes. See attached image. Crestview courts start at roughly 100ft.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/16/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Can someone please explain how the Crestview Pickleball courts were pushed through when Birmingham Country Club (BCC - 0.5 miles away) still cannot get courts approved for the same issues (home proximity, noise, traffic)? City Commioners recommended appropriate studies be done lfor residents near BCC. The park board also notes Crestview was at the bottom of their list until they ran low on funds.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/18/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Pickleball courts closed near Grand Rapids, MI due to noise - https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2023/08/neighbors-complained-of-noise-now-you-cant-play-pickleball-at-this-city-park.html?outputType=amp	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com

Facility Demographics - Summary Report

Rental Dates: 6/1/2023 - 9/9/2023

09/08/2023 09:46 AM

Total Rentals	
Rentals	1,676

Facility Categories	
Parks	1,676

Room Categories	
Pickleball	1,676

Facilities	
Crestview Park	1,676

Rooms	
Crestview Park - Pickleball #1	336
Crestview Park - Pickleball #2	255
Crestview Park - Pickleball #3	274
Crestview Park - Pickleball #4	272
Crestview Park - Pickleball #5	234
Crestview Park - Pickleball #6	305

Use Types	
Pickleball Court	1,676

Municipalities	
Beverly Hills	1
City of Birmingham	1,672
Troy	3

Residency	
Non-Resident	4
Resident	1,672



BIRMINGHAM

Pickleball Rules



Reservations available 12pm-8pm daily
(no charge) for residents only:
Visit www.play.bhamgov.org to reserve

- Pickleball Only
- Good sportsmanship is the rule, respect all players
- Limit Play to 1 hour if others are waiting
- Designated Open Play 9am-12pm daily- see Open Play rules
- Use the Pickleball Courts at your own risk
- No pets on courts
- No food, glass or alcoholic beverages
- No foul, combative or hostile language
- No amplified music
- No in-line skates, skateboards, bicycles, wagons, roller-skates or scooters
- Proper footwear required
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult
- Residents may reserve two (2) hours of court time per week for up to two (2) weeks
- Private classes are not allowed without written permission from the Parks & Recreation Office. In addition, the established fee of \$5/court for private classes applies for every 2 hours reserved
- Paddles/balls are available for rent at the Parks and Recreation Office

Parks & Recreation 248-530-1642

These rules are subject to change at any time and without prior notice.



BIRMINGHAM

Open Play Rules

(Mixed Skill Level)

9am-12pm Daily

- When courts are full, waiting players are to place their paddles in the paddle holder
- If there is a paddle or more up in the paddle holder, even if there are empty courts: Teams that have finished their game-losers come off the courts and allow the waiting player(s) to mix in
- If there are eight (8) or more waiting: The entire foursome should exit the court upon completion of their game
- As players remove their paddles from the holder, they should move the bar to the right to the next set of paddles waiting and so on. If players remove their paddles at the far right or end of the holder, they should slide the bar back to the left or beginning of the holder

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2023

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Jessica Einstein
Pam Graham
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Joseph Wrobel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sarah Kupczyk and Steve Sweeney

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School
Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION:

Scott Zielinski, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

PRESENTERS:

Jane Dixon, McKenna

GUESTS:

Tracey Boltik, Tom Boltik, Julie Ernst,
Linda Forrester and Oz Forrester

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON
COMMENTS:**

No announcements, introductions of guests & chairperson comments

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Wrobel, seconded by Rusche, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, August 1, 2023, regular meeting as amended.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Jessica Einstein, Pam Graham,
Anne Lip, John Rusche and
Joseph Wrobel

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Grant Received

PM Laird stated that the City of Birmingham received a \$25,000 grant that can be applied towards the trail improvements for the Booth Park section of that plan.

No Action Needed

Trail Improvements Concept Plan

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MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No miscellaneous communications

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

No reports from staff

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Revisit pickleball sound mitigation and security/gate access

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

DRAFT



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: August 1, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Scott Zielinski, Department of Public Services Director
Carrie Laird, Parks & Recreation Manager
Brendan McGaughey, Parks & Forestry Foreman

SUBJECT: Crestview Pickleball Courts-Sound Mitigation Options

INTRODUCTION:

Due to residential complaints associated with Pickleball, the City Manager requested the Department of Public Services review sound mitigation practices and requests the Parks and Recreation Board to review potential sound mitigation options provided by staff, and recommend appropriate prioritization and implementation of such avenues.

BACKGROUND:

Pickleball courts were deemed a priority project as part of the 2020 Parks and Recreation Bond. In April of 2022, after significant discussion and review of potential pickleball court locations, and in consideration of surveys on Engage Birmingham, Crestview Park was selected by the Parks and Recreation Board for Pickleball by way of a conversion of the existing tennis courts. It is common practice to create a Pickleball court by converting an existing tennis court as an alternative to new construction because of cost and time savings to create courts.

Crestview Park was selected for court conversion by meeting set criteria: available (on street) parking, lower number of reservations for tennis compared to other tennis courts, sufficient room for six Pickleball courts, a shady area next to the courts to accommodate seating, current park activity levels, no directly adjacent homes located next to the courts (a street barrier between the courts and residences) and no conflicts with future projects.

In May of 2022, the City Commission approved Crestview Park court conversion project from two tennis courts to six pickleball courts. Further, the City Commission directed staff to convert the two existing tennis courts as soon as possible to pickleball due to the increasing demand for pickleball courts. The two tennis courts were changed to pickleball courts only (one over each tennis court) in June of 2022 in order to provide pickleball courts while staff prepared the Request for Proposals (RFP) to accomplish the six new pickleball courts.

Construction of the courts was completed approximately one year later (June 2023). At the time, an alternate of acoustic style fencing was included in the RFP, however, the contractor did not

provide a proposal for it. Staff notes there are funds budgeted for site furnishings and/or acoustic barriers such as fencing and landscaping.

With the opening of the courts, pickleball rules and regulations were posted, including hours of play and "Open Play" rules. Hours of pickleball are 9am-8pm daily. Within the daily hours, two separate blocks of time exist, open play hours and hours that reservations may be made by residents.

Open Play refers to a set time of day players can "meet up" with other players who may be looking for partners to play with. Hours for Open Play at Crestview Park are 9am-12pm daily. Reservations are available between the hours of 12pm-8pm daily for residents only. Reservations are not required, open courts may be used without a reservation, but to guarantee a resident the availability of a court, residents should make a reservation.

Since the opening of the six courts in June of 2023, there has been an abundance of activity. Neighboring residents have been in contact with city officials regarding parking and noise concerns, prompting staff to review some potential options to help with noise mitigation both online and by visiting other communities that provide pickleball courts .

DPS staff visited Grosse Pointe Shores where "Acoustifence®" is currently in use around one side of the single pickleball court, where they also require the use of "quieter" pickleball paddles and balls. A noise reduction was noticeable outside of the Acoustifence®. Difficulty of enforcement was also noted of the required equipment.

Unofficial decibel readings with a smartphone app were taken outside of the Crestview Park pickleball courts, and the highest achieved decibel level was 75 dB during some singular hits to the ball. Note that noise levels are not consistently at 75 decibels, other studies have shown an average of 70 dB over the course of a pickleball match. If "acoustifence®" alone was in place, this should reduce the noise by approximately 10 dB, to 65 dB (which is about as loud as an electric shaver) or 60 dB average over the course of a match (about as loud as a normal conversation). See the attached chart published by Yale University for more examples.

Below are potential options:

Option #1: Install "Acoustifence" (1/8" Paneling) Along Southern Fence

Estimated Cost: \$924 per 6' curtain/panel, 146' total: \$25,000-\$30,000 (with installation)

Pros: Timely, approximate 10-12dB reduction outside of the noise restricted area, green

Cons: Will restrict airflow and visibility, not aesthetically pleasing, moderate cost

Option #2: Require Sound Muffling Paddles

Estimated Cost: \$100-\$149 each

Pros: Timely, low cost

Cons: Still creates high-pitched sound, additional maintenance to restock City supplied paddles (if any), unable to constantly monitor

Option #3: Require Sound Restricting Balls *(ex. ONIX Fuse G2, not foam)

Estimated Cost: \$3/each

Pros: Timely, low cost

Cons: Still creates high-pitched sound, additional maintenance to restock City supplied balls (if any), unable to constantly monitor
*Still plastic balls, foam balls are the least noisy but not recommended for use outdoors

Option #4: Install Berm and Landscaping

Estimated Cost: \$7,500-\$15,000

Pros: Green solution, pleasing aesthetics, long-term noise reduction

Cons: Ineffective on its own, not irrigated, additional maintenance for DPS staff

Option #5: Completely enclose the pickleball courts with additional 12' fencing and a lockable gate, along with noise reduction paneling, require key FOB for membership/entry

Estimated Cost: \$125,000+ and annual administration costs of selling memberships, etc.

Pros: Highest achievable noise abatement

Cons: Expensive, low visibility, permanent electrical and fencing modifications required, courts would need to close during construction, additional maintenance and labor for membership sales required

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$75,000 was budgeted for noise abatement and site amenities for the pickleball courts at Crestview Park.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Regarding Pickleball:

- Pickleball Public Input Session-Parks & Recreation Board Meeting - May 11, 2021
- Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Agendas- Pickleball a monthly discussion item June 2021-November 2021
- Engage Birmingham – 2 Surveys on Pickleball Locations during the above listed timeframe
- City Commission Meeting-May 23, 2022
- Parks & Recreation Board Meeting- August 2, 2022
- City Commission Meeting- August 15, 2022
- Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Agendas September 2022-December 2022

SUMMARY:

The City is looking to provide noise abatement for pickleball while continuing to have successful use of the courts. The department has budgeted for noise abatement and additional site amenities.

DPS staff is asking the Parks and Recreation Board to make recommendations from the above listed options, and/or suggest other options to explore to help with noise reduction.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Acoustifence photographs and information
2. [Pickleball Paddles](#) and [balls](#) (as weblinks)
3. Decibel level chart

SUGGESTED PARKS & RECREATION BOARD ACTION:

Make a motion recommending the City pursue Options _____ for sound mitigation.

Attachment #1- Acoustifence Photographs & Information



Acoustifence® – Pelican Landing Pickleball Court

Acoustiblok Inc. was contacted about a noise issue with a Pickleball Court (Of which we supply many). Green Acoustifence Curtains were easily installed on the existing chain link fence. Per the customer: "No more complaints since the Acoustifence has been installed."



Product Name

AcoustiFence® Noise Reducing Fences

For Manufacturer Info:

Contact:

Acoustiblok, Inc.
6900 Interbay Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33616
Call - (813) 980-1400
Fax - (813)849-6347
Email - sales@acoustiblok.com
www.acoustiblok.com

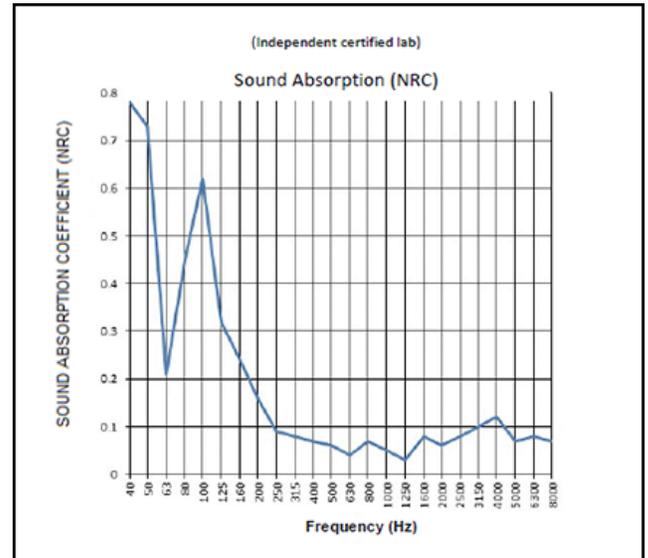
Product Description

Basic Use

AcoustiFence was originally developed by Acoustiblok, Inc. for noise isolation on offshore oil rigs, but has since proven successful in many other demanding outdoor settings, such as construction sites, commercial/industrial facilities, and residential communities.

AcoustiFence Noise Reducing Fences

AcoustiFence is a unique, heavy-mineral filled, barium free, viscoelastic acoustical material that is made in the U.S.A. Unlike fences or shrubs, this material does extraordinarily well in blocking direct sound, and a unique characteristic of the material sets it apart from other sound barriers when dealing with very low frequencies.



Sound Absorption Test Results

Benefits:

- Effectively reduces exterior noise
- Over 300 UL Classifications
- Easy to install
- Resistant to UV, dirt and water
- Resistant to corrosion, mold and mildew

Product Name

AcoustiFence[®] Noise Reducing Fences

AcoustiFence Noise Reducing Fences continued...

In frequencies of 50Hz and below, the heavy limp AcoustiFence material actually begins to vibrate from low frequency sound waves. In essence it is transforming these low frequency sound waves into mechanical movement and internal friction energy. Laboratory tests indicate that this transformation process inhibits these lower frequencies from penetrating AcoustiFence, reducing their level by over 60 percent relative to the human ear. In addition, AcoustiFence becomes an absorbent material in these frequencies with test results show an NRC (noise reduction coefficient) as high as 0.78 (with 1.00 being the max). As such it is clear that AcoustiFence not only reduces sound as a barrier, but also acts as an acoustical absorbent material in very low frequencies, as opposed to reflecting those frequencies back like most other barriers. It is worth noting that lead sheets (which are toxic) work in the same manner.

Green AcoustiFence

One of Acoustiblok's most popular products, designed as an advanced sound barrier that easily attaches to most types of fencing, is now available in a new green shade that easily blends into the environment. This makes it ideal for landscaping projects, residential home use and any outdoor applications where blending into the natural foliage is a concern.

Green AcoustiFence has the same sound deadening properties and features as our original black AcoustiFence. In addition, this new version features advanced reinforced edging and stainless steel cable ties. Made and sourced in the USA, It comes in 6x30 foot sections and is one of the most effective first steps in reducing noise for industrial, commercial and residential projects.

Product Name

AcoustiFence® Noise Reducing Fences

Sound Transmission Class (STC)

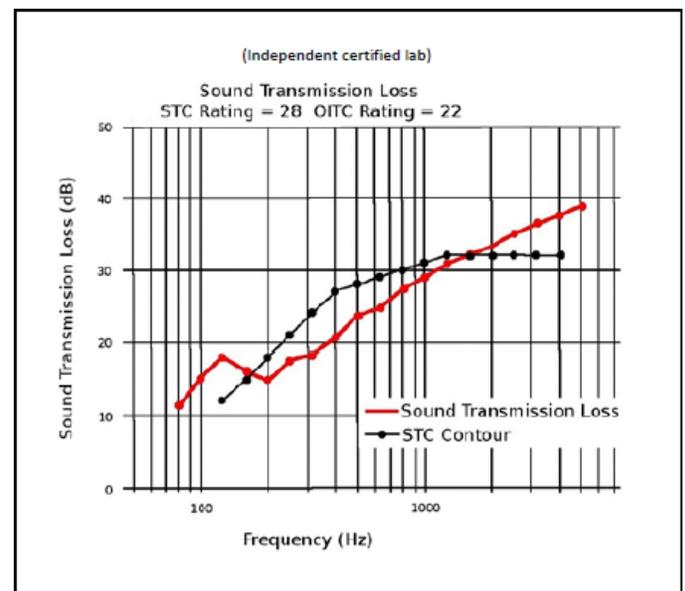
Sound Transmission Class (STC) is a single number that represents the sound blocking capacity of a partition such as a wall or ceiling.

STC numbers are often called out in architectural specifications, to assure that partitions will reduce noise levels adequately. For performance similar to laboratory test numbers, it is necessary to adhere closely to the construction materials and techniques used in the tested partition.

STC is calculated by comparing the actual sound loss measured when 18 test frequencies pass through a partition, with fixed values for each STC level. The highest STC curve that the measured sound loss numbers fit under, determines the STC rating of the partition.

STC calculations emphasize sound frequencies that match the human voice. A high STC partition will block the sound of human speech and block noise that interferes with human speech. To estimate high and low frequency performance, consult the Sound Transmission Loss graph included in STC test reports. Impact Insulation Class (IIC) measure transmitted impact noise and are specified for floor-ceiling assemblies only.

Acoustical test reports for numerous wall and floor/ceiling designs are available from Acoustiblok on request. All our test data is taken directly from independent 3rd party laboratories under NVLAP certification.



Sound Transmission Loss Test Results

Product Name

AcoustiFence® Noise Reducing Fences

Physical Properties

- Barium free
- Minimum STC 28 per ASTM E90-02 & ASTM E413-87
- Minimum sound attenuation 24 dBA @ 100Hz & 16dBA @ 40Hz
- Size - 6 ft.(1.83m) x 30 ft.(9.14m) x 0.125 in. (.3mm) – 180 ft² (16.83m²)
- Color - black or green
- High UV resistance
- Heat tolerance: 200°F (93°C) for 7 days, less than 1% shrinkage with no deformation.
- Freezes at -40°F (-40°C). Do not unroll or flex frozen material. Properties not affected by freeze/thaw cycles.
- No fungal or algal growth and no visible disfigurement, per ASTM D3273 and ASTM D3274 (rating=10)
- Tensile Strength - min. 365 PSI
- Weight per section: 185 lbs. (84Kg)

Material Specifications – Part # “Acoustifence 6x30 Industrial”

Acoustical Rating	STC 28 / OITC 22
Size	6 ft. (1.83m) x 30 ft. (9.14m) x 0.125 in. (.3mm) 180 ft ² (16.72m ²)
Weight	185 lbs. (84Kg)
Fastening	Black brass grommets every 6 in. (152mm) along top edge with four grommets spaced along the bottom edge. Commonly installed horizontally.
Color	Black
(This is an industrial product and minor surface blemishes are a possibility.)	



6900 Interbay Blvd
Tampa, Florida USA 33616
Telephone: (813)980-1440
www.Acoustiblok.com
sales@acoustiblok.com

Information herein is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, accurate. However, since conditions of handling and use are beyond our control, we make no guarantee of results and assume no liability for damages incurred by the use of this material/product. All material/products may present unknown health hazards and should be used with caution. Although certain hazards are described herein, we cannot guarantee that these are the only hazards that exist. Final determination of suitability of this material/product is the sole responsibility of the user. No representations or warranties, either expressed or implied, of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose or any nature are made hereunder with respect to the information contained herein or the material/product to which the information refers. It is the responsibility of the user to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Specifications subject to change without notice.



June 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Country Roads RV Property Owners Association, Inc. recently purchased and installed Acoustifence® on the Pickleball court within our community. Since being installed only a few years ago, the Pickleball court has been considered a nuisance by some of the nearby residents because of the sound that the paddle makes when hitting the ball. Pickleball is a mixture of badminton and tennis however; the ball is a large type of wiffleball.

The Board of Directors saw the need to keep the game because of its growing popularity and abate the noise for the neighboring homes. In researching on the internet, a Board member found the website for Acoustiblok, ® Inc. After much research the Board of Directors voted unanimously to purchase and install the Acoustifence®. Upon installation the neighboring homes noticed a considerable reduction of the repetitive ball play.

With our close proximity to Phoenix, Arizona, other communities have asked to see and test for themselves the Acoustifence® product. I have attached to our testimony the correspondence from Bill Booth, President of The USA Pickleball Association.™

I can attest that Acoustifence® material is not difficult to install, can be easily blended into the aesthetics particularly if you have existing wind screens and does abate any noise pollution.

Feel free to contact me personally if you have any questions about our Community's experience.

Sincerely,

Melissa Wood, CAAM®
Community Association Manager

Decibel Level Comparison Chart

Environmental Noise	<i>dB</i> A
Jet engine at 100'	140
Pain Begins	<i>125</i>
Pneumatic chipper at ear	120
Chain saw at 3'	110
Power mower	107
Subway train at 200'	95
Walkman on 5/10	94
<i>Level at which sustained exposure may result in hearing loss</i>	<i>80-90</i>
City Traffic	85
Telephone dial tone	80
Chamber music, in a small auditorium	75-85
Vacuum cleaner	75
Normal conversation	60-70
Business Office	60-65
Household refrigerator	55
Suburban area at night	40
Whisper	25
Quiet natural area with no wind	20
Threshold of hearing	0

Note: dBA = Decibels, A weighted

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2023

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Sarah Kupczyk
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Steve Sweeney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Kupczyk

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION: Scott Zielinski, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Leah Blizinski, City Planner
Brendan McGaughey, Parks & Forestry Foreman
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

PRESENTERS: Jane Dixon, McKenna

GUESTS: Jeff Boes, Nina Boes, Jack Burns,
Jessica Einstein, Ross Kaplan,
Andrea Lafontaine, Don Lawrence,
Veronika Lawrence, Antonia Lawrence,
Joan Ritter and Joe Wrobel

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS:

No announcements, introductions of guests & chairperson comments

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Joan Ritter asked the question about Japanese Knot weed which is an invasive weed and was located in several yards including her yard. Ritter coordinated a few years ago to hire a contractor to treat the invasive and it is coming back. Ritter inquired if the City of Birmingham would ever get involved with such a removal.

DPS Director Zielinski stated that normal order when it’s brought up is not for a back and forth with the public. But that item in general please contact the Department of Public Services at a later time to have a discussion. DPS Director Zielinski recommended to reach out to Carrie specifically about this item.

Chairperson Carmona suggested that an email on this be sent to the Department of Public Services so that they can respond regarding your concern.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Graham, seconded by Rusche, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 11, 2023, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham
Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp, John Rusche
and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan-Evaluation of the Current Plan Goals and Objectives

Jane Dixon from McKenna presented to the Parks and Recreation Board the progress of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which is shown in exhibit A.

Dixon moved into the Goals and Objectives Exercise with the Parks and Recreation Board members. The Parks and Recreation Board members ranked their goals and objectives.

Carmona commented that none of these goals are really mutually exclusive. So by ranking or eliminating, it means there the board is trying to look at how to be most efficient and all encompassing. Eliminating anything doesn’t necessarily mean that it’s not going to be reflected in the plan elsewhere.

Dixon clarified that through the prioritization process and the discussion that is occurring with the Parks and Recreation Board, McKenna will review the feedback and synthesize that into the plan's goals. At the October Parks and Recreation Board meeting there will be further discussion on the revised goals for the plan.

Collins stated that she is hearing from young families about how there are not a lot of family restaurants and what we can do to bring more families back to Birmingham.

Burns stated that one of the Parks and Recreation Board primary goals should be to conserve and protect the city's precious park system. Do not give up a single square foot of green space in our park system. Secondly, to see a goal that says the Parks and Recreation Board will support the city and NEXT initiative with regard to a new senior Complex which adjoins St. James Park.

No Action Needed

Trail Improvements Concept Plan

PM Laird reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board changes that have been made to the Trail Improvement Concept Plan. PM Laird stated that the plan has been reviewed by various applicable board reviews, including the Multi-Modal Transportation Board, Museum Board and the Martha Baldwin Park Board. PM Laird state that staff sustainability liaisons in addition to each of the city departments have examined this plan as well.

PM Laird stated the changes made to the Draft Concept Plan includes:

Booth Park Section:

Entry plaza: The addition of a rain garden in the swale area.

Addition of more sustainability features such as rain barrels, native plantings, utilizing chip stone, Pave Drain® block, and recycled or reclaimed products.

The addition of a Donor Bench and landscape bed. (We have a donor that would like to contribute a custom style bench, could serve as an art piece/destination selfie/photo opportunity).

Museum Section:

The addition of a boardwalk in the narrow section north of Willits street. The addition of a sidewalk along the south side of Willits street. An option for concrete pathway along Maple has been identified.

Linden Section:

The addition of a pedestrian bridge connection over the Rouge River, north of Maple, east of Baldwin. Widened 8' Sidewalk west of Baldwin, up to the Maple Rd pedestrian crosswalk.

PM Laird stated the Trail Improvements Cost Estimate totals \$2,967,990.82 , broken down into three sections: Booth Park Section: \$648,824.13, Museum Section: \$1,472,627.74, Linden Park Section: \$846,538.95. The previous cost estimate before the changes to the plan was \$2,095,531.62.

The City applied for a pre-development grant for trail improvements in the amount of \$25,000 (the maximum amount) through the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Grant Program, expected announcement early August. If awarded this will help to prepare construction drawings.

The City applied for round two of the MI Sparks Grant Program in the amount of \$350,000 for development of the Booth Park Section of the plan.

Ross Kaplan who previously was on the Parks and Recreation Board for sixteen (16) years and also the co-chair for Booth Park community built came up to the microphone and spoke.

Kaplan is concerned about the location the restroom which is front and center of the park and it will be a feature from not only the street, but also as an entrance to the park and there is a lot of underground and having it hidden with planters will reduce the path from 10ft. to 4ft.

PM Laird stated there is an option noted in the cost estimate to move the restroom into the Booth Park, further south.

Lipp thought the changes to the plan was very well done.

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Graham, to support the Trail Improvement Concept Plan and recommending that the plan be presented to the City Commission for acceptance.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham
Sarah Kupczyk, Anne Lipp, John Rusche
and Steve Sweeney

Nays, None
Absent, None

Crestview Pickleball Courts-Sound Mitigation

PM Laird stated due to residential complaints associated with Pickleball, the City Manager requested the Department of Public Services review sound mitigation practices and requests the Parks and Recreation Board review potential sound mitigation options provided by staff, and recommend appropriate prioritization and implementation of such avenues.

PM Laird stated that her and Brendan McGaughey, Parks & Forestry Foreman visited Grosse Pointe Shores where "Acoustifence®" is currently in use around one side of the single pickleball court, where they also require the use of "quieter" pickleball paddles and balls. A noise reduction was noticeable outside of the Acoustifence®. Difficulty of enforcement was also noted of the required equipment.

PM Laird stated unofficial decibel readings with a smartphone app were taken outside of the Crestview Park pickleball courts, and the highest achieved decibel level was 75 dB during some singular hits to the ball. Note that noise levels are not consistently at 75 decibels, other studies have shown an average of 70 dB over the course of a pickleball match.

If "Acoustifence®" alone was in place, this should reduce the noise by approximately 10 dB, to 65 dB (which is about as loud as an electric shaver) or 60 dB average over the course of a match (about as loud as a normal conversation). See the attached chart published by Yale University for more examples.

PM Laird stated the potential options are:

Option #1: Install "Acoustifence" (1/8" Paneling) Along Southern Fence
Estimated Cost: \$924 per 6' curtain/panel, 146' total: \$25,000-\$30,000 (with installation)

Pros: Timely, approximate 10-12dB reduction outside of the noise restricted area, green
Cons: Will restrict airflow and visibility, not aesthetically pleasing, moderate cost

Option #2: Require Sound Muffling Paddles

Estimated Cost: \$100-\$149 each

Pros: Timely, low cost

Cons: Still creates high-pitched sound, additional maintenance to restock City supplied paddles (if any), unable to constantly monitor

Option #3: Require Sound Restricting Balls *(ex. ONIX Fuse G2, not foam)

Estimated Cost: \$3/each

Pros: Timely, low cost

Cons: Still creates high-pitched sound, additional maintenance to restock City supplied balls (if any), unable to constantly monitor *Still plastic balls, foam balls are the least noisy but not recommended for use outdoors

Option #4: Install Berm and Landscaping

Estimated Cost: \$7,500-\$15,000

Pros: Green solution, pleasing aesthetics, long-term noise reduction

Cons: Ineffective on its own, not irrigated, additional maintenance for DPS staff

Option #5: Completely enclose the pickleball courts with additional 12' fencing and a lockable gate, along with noise reduction paneling, require key FOB for membership/entry

Estimated Cost: \$125,000+ and annual administration costs of selling memberships, etc.

Pros: Highest achievable noise abatement Cons: Expensive, low visibility, permanent electrical and fencing modifications required, courts would need to close during construction, additional maintenance and labor for membership sales required

Sweeney asked do we have to, are we as a board required to do some form of change? It's clear the pickleball courts are overwhelmingly popular for the city, it's popular everywhere. And the requested changes are for 5% of the residents nearby.

Sweeney stated that option #1 with landscaping would be acceptable. Kupczyk suggested option #2 and #3 would be low cost and for option #1 could arborvitaes on the south side or a mural on a fencing.

Graham suggested that option #1 makes sense and installing it on the south side and berms and landscaping should be investigated for future installations.

DPS Director Zielinski stated that complaints have been coming in on hours, noise, drivers turning around in driveways.

Kaplan stated that option #4 could be used as a test.

Nolan Thomas stated he plays at Crestview Pickleball courts. He stated it's a constant noise no different than a train going by. Thomas stated putting the entrance on the opposite side and rack holder might be a better location. Thomas stated requiring different paddles will not work. The safety of the children, cars and location of the entrance would be cheaper than what the options that were given.

It was moved by Sweeney, seconded by Graham that the City of Birmingham will continue to monitor the noise levels and to evaluate options for the future. But at this time the Parks and Recreation Board will not be moving forward with any of the recommendations.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham
Sarah Kupczyk, John Rusche and
Steve Sweeney

**Nays,
Absent,**

Anne Lipp
None

DPS Director Zielinski stated the complaints regarding pickleball will be provided at the September Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

DPS Director Zielinski stated that the Parks and Recreation Board information will be provided to the city manager's office.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No miscellaneous communications

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

No reports from staff

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

No items for next meeting

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2023

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Anne Lipp
John Rusche
Steve Sweeney
Joseph Wrobel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Kupczyk

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Katie Glasier, Seaholm High School
Archie Reynolds, Seaholm High School

ADMINISTRATION: Scott Zielinski, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Leah Blizinski, City Planner
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

GUESTS: Jack Burns, Jessica Einstein and David Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS & CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS:

No announcements, introductions of guests & chairperson comments

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No public comments

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved by Graham, seconded by Lipp, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, June 6, 2023, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins,
Pam Graham, Anne Lipp, John Rusche,
Steve Sweeney and Joseph Wrobel

Nays, None
Absent, None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

No miscellaneous communications

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

1. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

PM Laird reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Engagement Program. PM Laird stated that the second public engagement session will be Friday, July 14, 2023 at the City of Birmingham Movie Night.

PM Laird stated that McKenna has completed 40% of park inventory. PM Laird showed on the City of Birmingham website where information can be found regarding the Recreation Master Plan surveys and parks comment map.

PM Laird stated that at the August 1, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board meeting that McKenna will be providing an update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Collins suggested that the schools be contacted to identify the stakeholders of the school organizations.

2. Pickleball Update (*verbal*)

PM Laird stated that the hours for pickleball is 9am-8pm, open play hours are 9am-12pm and Birmingham residents may make reservations from 12pm-8pm daily, however all are welcome to use the pickleball courts but reservations take priority. The hours are being enforced and there is a park attendant monitoring the activity.

PM Laird stated that there have been some complaints about noise and parking from the neighboring residents. The parking situation has been visited by the police department.

PM Laird stated at the August Parks and Recreation Board meeting there will be a staff report for different ways, potential options for noise deafening. Pickleball has a distinct sound.

DPS Director Zielinski stated that any immediate issues that people are in violation of practices should be called in on the non-emergency police line if the park attendant is not available and if there are generalized complaints they should file on govpiilot.

PM Laird stated there has been a lot of positive comments and currently we have not opened it up for instructors or for large group happenings.

3. Lincoln Hills Updates (*verbal*)

DPS Director Zielinsk stated that construction is getting closed as finalizing the renovations for tee one cart path and some final work on irrigation that had to be put in based on re-grading the area and then the final landscaping will occur.

4. Dog Park Update

RC Folk provided to the Parks and Recreation Board the current revenue and expenses of the dog park that is located at Lincoln Hills Dog Park.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Chair Carmona adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm

Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

Gov Pilot Report as of September 27, 2023

Date Entered	Status	Concern Address	Department Assigned	Concern Type	Concern Description	Complainant Email
6/27/2023	Closed	1760 SHIPMAN BLVD	Code Enforcement	Other	Crestview Park - pickleball being played after 9:10pm. Thursday pickleball was ongoing after 9:45pm for instance.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
6/27/2023	Closed	1760 SHIPMAN BLVD	Police	Other	Crestview Park - children running a store to sell to pickleball players and also visiting homes near the park to ask them to shop.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/6/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	City of Centennial, CO issues moratorium on new pickleball courts within 500 feet of homes. The Crestview courts are roughly 100 feet from some homes with many homes within 500 feet. Document photos included. The documents are clear on harm to residents.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/7/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	Crestview Pickleball Hours: Thr signs at the park imply 9am -8pm. The City website says 7am- 9pm in one spot and 9am- 8pm in another? Also, will the police be able to enforce these hours? The current city ordinance only allows enforcement between 10pm and 6am.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/7/2023	Closed		Miscellaneous	Other	Article: Judge orders pickleball courts on Cape Cod be closed. Article photos attached.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/9/2023	Closed		Miscellaneous	Other	Crestview Park - 5 courts of pickleball being played after 8:30pm on Sunday when signs now clearly state 9-8	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/10/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	Crestview Park - pickleball courts being used at 8:25am when they open at 9am	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/12/2023	Closed		Parks	Other	Crestview Park Pickleball: New York Times article on pickleball in photos. Hear from residents of Arlington VA, Wellesley MA, York ME, Scottsdale AZ, Longboat Key FL, West Linn OR on negative pickleball court impact to residents	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/19/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Pickleball - Police continue to clear the courts at 8pm (thank you!) otherwise no one would leave. After the police depart, new vehicles show up and start playing. The courts need a gate since people ignore the operating hours.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/23/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Park - pickleball being played during rain and post rain on wet courts. This has been witnessed two weekends in a row.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com

Gov Pilot Report as of September 27, 2023

Date Entered	Status	Concern Address	Department Assigned	Concern Type	Concern Description	Complainant Email
7/24/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Article: Should pickleball be played in the rain? See attached image. The answer is no to avoid serious injury. If players cannot make good judgements about playing in the rain, following operating hours, foul language, car speed, driving beyond the sidewalk onto private driveways, etc, the courts should not be at Crestview.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/25/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Park - pickleball being played after 8:00pm on Monday evening.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
7/26/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Crestview Pickleball. Players on courts past 8pm on Tuesday and only departed when police arrived. Players on courts before 9am on Wednesday with roughly 30 cars there by 9:30am. If the players cannot follow rules, the courts should not be here.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/9/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	NBC Nightly News story on pickleball noise: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1A16uiFqbmM	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/9/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Four picnic tables moved from their original location to the pickleball courts.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/14/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Paddletek, a leading manufacturer of pickleball equipment, recommends courts be at least 500ft from homes. See attached image. Crestview courts start at roughly 100ft.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/16/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Can someone please explain how the Crestview Pickleball courts were pushed through when Birmingham Country Club (BCC - 0.5 miles away) still cannot get courts approved for the same issues (home proximity, noise, traffic)? City Commioners recommended appropriate studies be done lfor residents near BCC. The park board also notes Crestview was at the bottom of their list until they ran low on funds.	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com
8/18/2023	Closed		Parks	Parks - Trash/Debris	Pickleball courts closed near Grand Rapids, MI due to noise - https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2023/08/neighbors-complained-of-noise-now-you-cant-play-pickleball-at-this-city-park.html?outputType=amp	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com

Gov Pilot Report as of September 27, 2023

Date Entered	Status	Concern Address	Department Assigned	Concern Type	Concern Description	Complainant Email
9/15/2023	In Progress	1703 SOUTHFIELD RD	Parks	Other	Pickleball noise. Can there be acoustical fencing added? The noise is incessant from morning until night, and it is very very disruptive. You would not think so, yet it is and improvement can be made. I see the road work done on Brown St did zero to keep cars from running the stop sign, so one would gather there are a few bucks for some attractive fencing to cut down on the incessant popping from early to late I have never wished for rain more	Millar20millar@gmail.com
9/18/2023	In Progress	1703 SOUTHFIELD RD	Parks	Loud Noise	Re: Pickleball court in Crestview Park. I attended the September 12th Parks and Recreation board meeting. It was disappointing to see the lack of knowledge and concern the board has of the pickleball courts they approved. A professional sound study by a licensed contractor needs to be performed and shared with the neighboring residents. This should have been a part of the original engineering, permits, and zoning for this conversion of the courts. The direction of play for all six courts is north to south. An independent study would pay particular attention to the properties 100 feet south of Southlawn. The study should disclose decibel levels at sidewalk, backyards, and at home structures. The two side fences on the east and west side of the courts are only 50 inches high. Installing gates on these inadequate height fences as suggested by the board is ridiculous. The gates on these low fences may help enforcement of playing hours, but it does nothing to address the decibe	julieernst@comcast.net

Gov Pilot Report as of September 27, 2023

Date Entered	Status	Concern Address	Department Assigned	Concern Type	Concern Description	Complainant Email
9/18/2023	New	1703 SOUTHFIELD RD	Parks	Loud Noise	Pickleball noise continued: New fences with sound proofing need to be installed as indicated by licensed contractor...not a boards opinion with little to no knowledge of Pickleball. There was plenty of money for the conversion and resurfacing now it's time for sound proofing. Other unaddressed issues include speeding, parking, foul language, improper attire, hour enforcement and infants on the Pickleball courts. Finally, open play issues: board members are not dealing with the cause of the hour shortage. The city needs to crack down on leagues play and individuals using the courts to run a business. These individuals are professionally giving lessons 4 to 6 hours at a time on one to three courts. I have no idea how they even reserve this (another board admitted issue with no solution). These professionals are laughing all the way to the bank on the city of Birmingham's dime. The board needs to start chipping away at the multiple issues imposed on neighbors from this total	julieernst@comcast.net
9/19/2023	New		Parks	Other	Dr Davies testimony on pickleball sound impact to residents. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gPP9I5_ilms	crestviewpickleball@gmail.com

KIMBERLY FENCE

KIMBERLY FENCE & SUPPLY INC.
WARREN, MI 48091
www.kimberlyfence.com

6470 E. 9 MILE RD.
OFFICE 586-920-2014 FAX 586-510-4939
sales@kimberlyfence.com

PROPOSAL/CONTRACT

Page 1
09/19/2023

Customer Information:

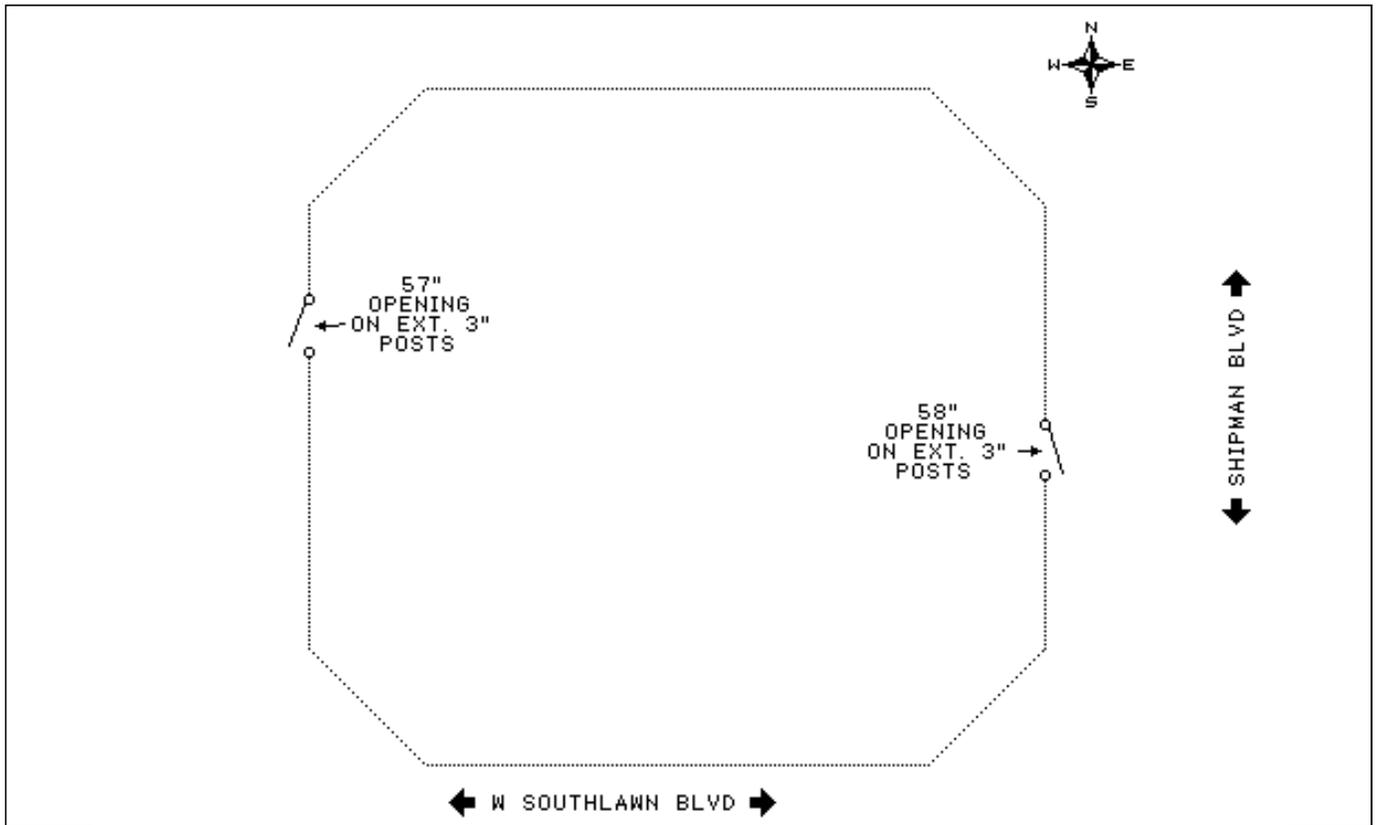
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM - ATTN: BRENDAN MCGAUGHEY
C-248-417-7773
851 S. ETON ST
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

Job Site Information:

E-BMCGAUGHEY@BHAMGOV.ORG
CRESTVIEW PARK - PICKLEBALL COURT
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

Job Description:

NO REMOVAL. INSTALL 2 - 4' TALL COMM. GALVANIZED CHAINLINK GATES ON EXT. 3" POSTS.
1 - 4' X 57" OPENING (WEST SIDE)
1 - 4' X 58" OPENING (EAST SIDE)



Approved & Accepted for Customer:

Contract Amount: \$ 1144.52
Down Payment: \$ 570.00
Balance Upon Completion: \$ 574.52

Accepted for KIMBERLY FENCE & SUPPLY INC.:

Customer Date

Salesperson Date

KIMBERLY FENCE

KIMBERLY FENCE & SUPPLY INC.
WARREN, MI 48091
www.kimberlyfence.com

6470 E. 9 MILE RD.
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Kimberly Fence & Supply is referred to as KFSI for this document.

*KFSI will, if applicable, remove & haul away old fence(s) & install new fence per manufacturer's specifications and/or ASTM standards.

*KFSI will reasonably clean up dirt (spoils) created from digging & place it as directed within the property. Dirt WILL NOT be hauled away without added costs agreed to in writing prior to starting the work.

*KFSI will assist customers in determining property lines upon request. Under NO circumstance will KFSI guarantee accuracy or accept responsibility for inaccurate placement of the fence. We suggest a survey prior to the start of the fence.

*KFSI will pull applicable fence permit. You must notify KFSI if you are part of a Home Owners Association (HOA) / Historical District. Their restrictions may differ from city or township regulations and may require separate permits.

*KFSI will call Miss Dig to mark public utilities. Miss Dig DOES NOT mark private utilities such as, but not limited to, electrical, gas, sprinkler lines, etc. Any damage to private lines will be at the customer's expense & responsibility to repair.

*KFSI retains the right to charge for what it determines to be unforeseen digging conditions. Each yard is entitled to 3 "Hand Dug" holes. In case of, but not limited to, Miss Dig conflicts, buried concrete, rocks and/or debris requiring in excess of 3 hand dug holes, a \$ 25.00 per additional hole charge may apply. Fence set to existing grade. Gate hardware installed @ installer's discretion unless noted. Restoration is excluded.

*Balance is due upon completion of the work. All materials remain the property of KFSI until paid in full. The customer agrees to allow KFSI access & right to remove materials in the event of non-payment. Partial balance payments may be required.

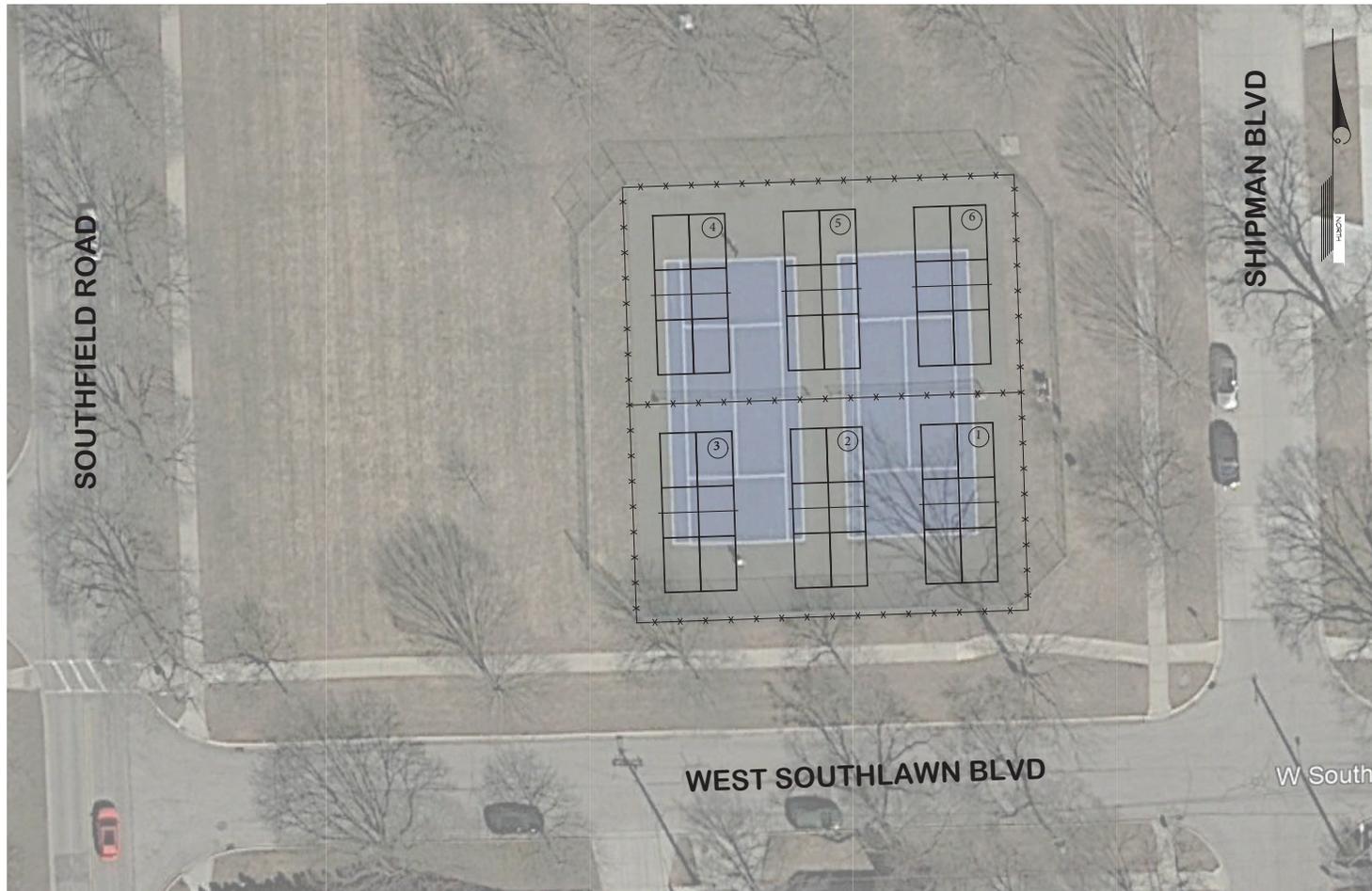
*The customer is not entitled to cancel or change the contract once initiated. Upon receipt of a written request, KFSI may, at its discretion, agree to terminate or change the contract. Returned credit card deposits are subject to a 10% fee. Any labor & material costs incurred prior to cancellation are non-refundable. Special order & non-stock items are non-refundable.

*The proposal/contract is valid for 30 days from the date on the proposal/contract unless otherwise indicated in writing by KFSI.

*Warranty info see www.kimberlyfence.com/faqs/

Initial _____

Initial _____



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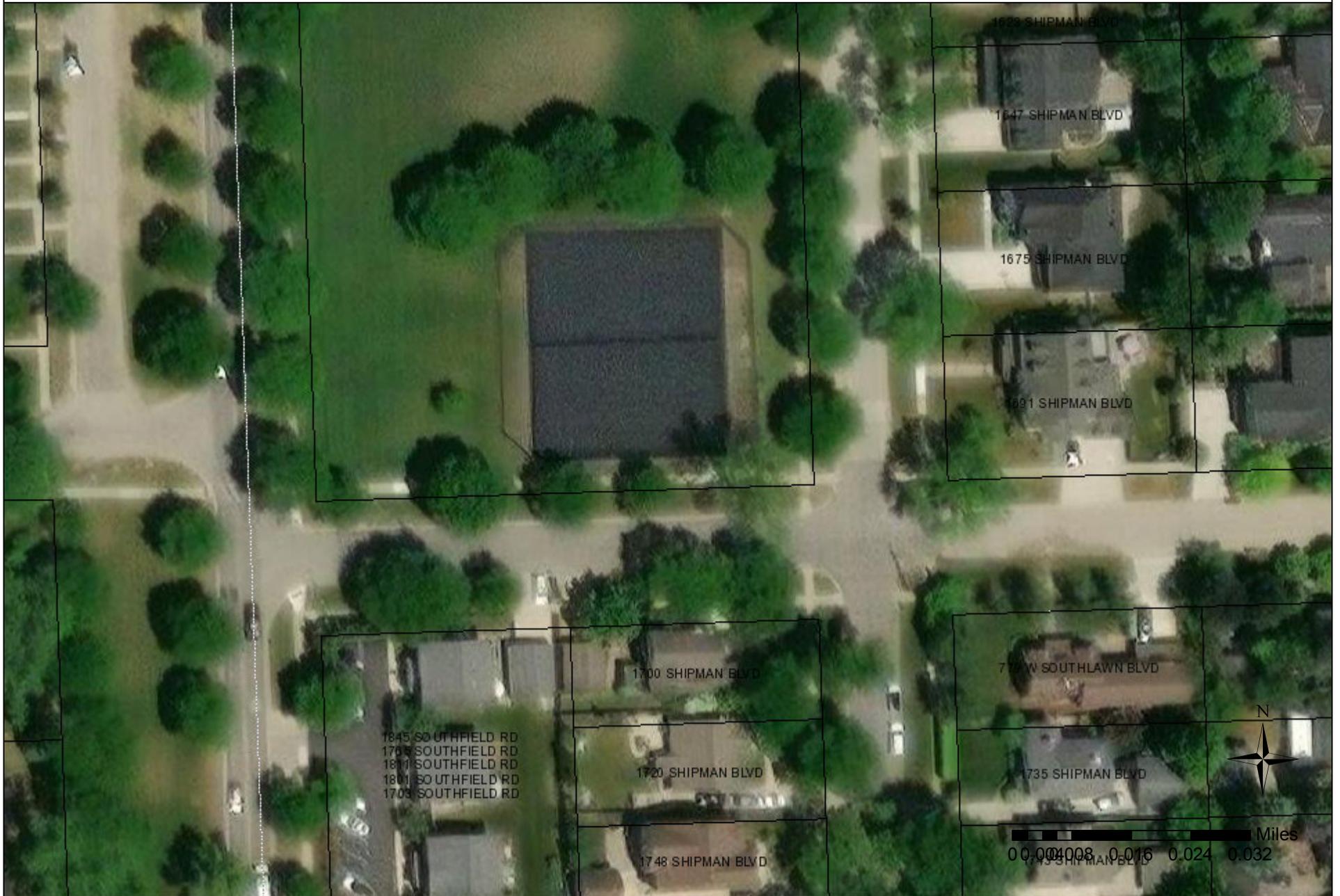
PROJECT: **CRESTVIEW PARK
PICKLEBALL COURTS - CONVERSION**

OWNER: **City of Birmingham**
Parks & Recreation Department

FDI FORESITE DESIGN, INC.
3039 SODDIE HWY BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202
ATHLETIC FACILITY PLANNING •
SITE PLANNING • CIVIL DESIGN •
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
PH: 205.845.2700
FAX: 205.847.2516
WWW.FORESITEDESIGN.COM

OWN: BSL
NOT TO SCALE
DATE: 10-22-2021
L1.01 C

Crestview





WILSON PARK
Pickleball Rules

- 1. Pickleball is played on a court that is 28 feet wide and 44 feet long.
- 2. The court is divided into two halves by a net that is 36 inches high.
- 3. The net is supported by two posts that are 3 feet apart and 3 feet high.
- 4. The net is strung with a net that is 21 feet long and 12 feet wide.
- 5. The net is strung with a net that is 21 feet long and 12 feet wide.
- 6. The net is strung with a net that is 21 feet long and 12 feet wide.
- 7. The net is strung with a net that is 21 feet long and 12 feet wide.
- 8. The net is strung with a net that is 21 feet long and 12 feet wide.
- 9. The net is strung with a net that is 21 feet long and 12 feet wide.
- 10. The net is strung with a net that is 21 feet long and 12 feet wide.

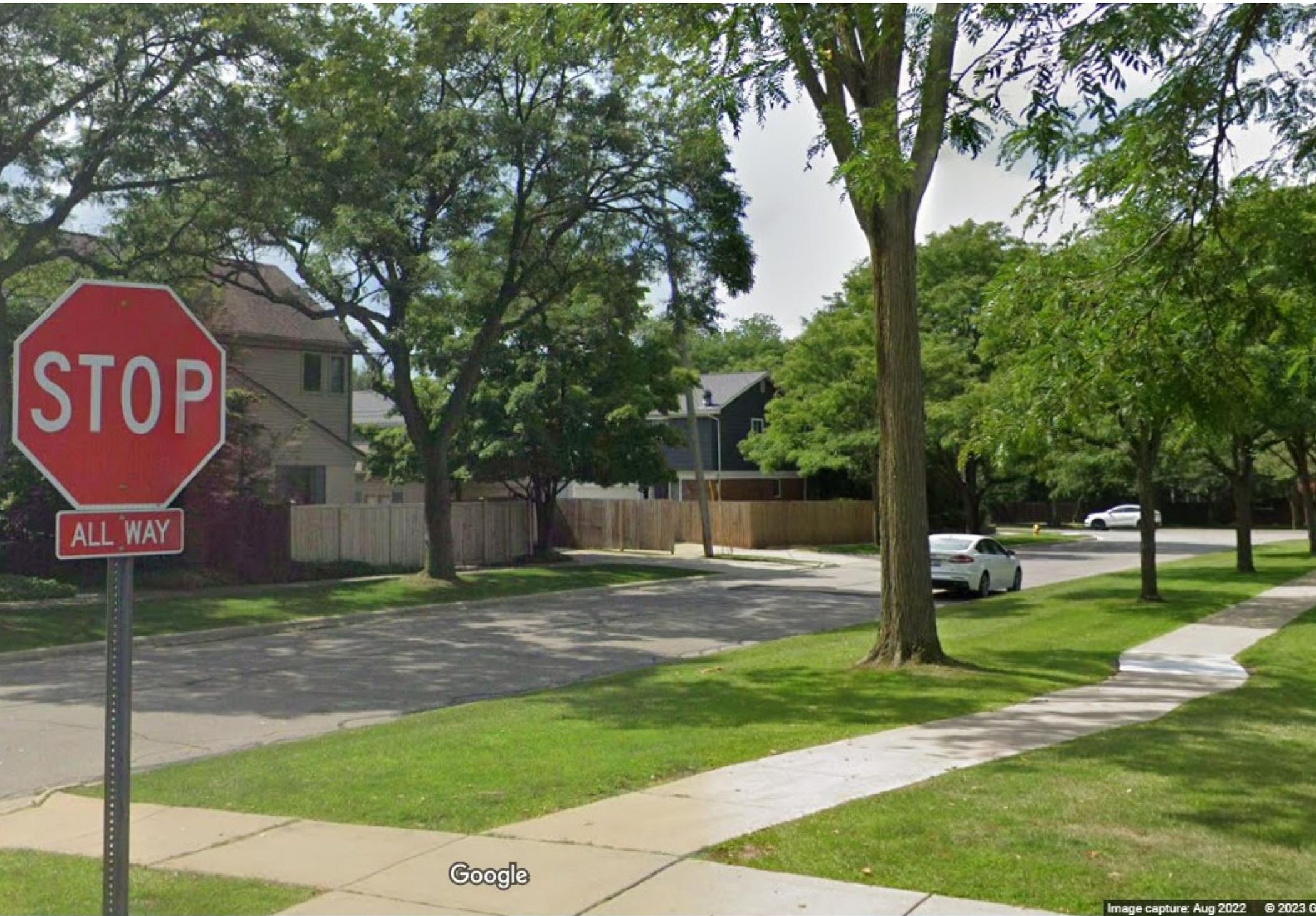
Play is permitted on the courts from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**Pickleball Hours:
9am-8pm**

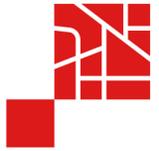
WILSON PARK
Open Play Rules

Open play is permitted on the courts from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.





Google



MCKENNA

Memorandum

TO: City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board
FROM: Paul Urbiel, AICP, Jane Dixon, AICP, and the McKenna Team
SUBJECT: **Agenda for Parks and Recreation Master Plan Discussion at the October 3, 2023 Board Meeting**
DATE: September 28, 2023

We look forward to providing an update of planning activities and progress toward the Parks and Recreation Master Plan draft with you at the October 3 Parks and Recreation Board meeting! During the meeting, we will briefly summarize progress and recent activities regarding the items below and be available to answer any questions.

IN THIS UPDATE

I. Document Working Outline

We are including this document to put the draft plan content we have been presenting to you and will discuss with you on 10/3 into context, and to give you a preview of the structure and the content of the draft plan document.

II. Public Engagement Summary

Since your last meeting, we have concluded the public engagement phase of this process. Enclosed in this memo is a section of the draft plan that summarizes all engagement activity to date and synthesizes the feedback themes that we heard and are incorporating into the analysis for the rest of the plan. **Please note* that the charts and graphics still contain placeholder images and charts that will eventually be reformatted to match the document style.

III. Sustainability Context

Included in this memo is draft plan content that introduces concepts in environmental sustainability, discusses how parks planning can help eventually participate in the City's forthcoming environmental sustainability goals, and 'low-hanging fruit' strategies for enhancing sustainability in Birmingham Parks.

IV. Strategic Action Plan Draft

Enclosed in this memo is a working draft of the Strategic Action Plan for your review. The Strategic Action Plan in its finalized form will represent recommended actions that result from the entirety of stakeholder engagement, technical analysis, and reviews with staff and this board. There are two portions of the Strategic Action Plan:

- 'System-Wide' Action plans, which represents a set of organizational actions and strategic initiatives that are not necessarily (or not yet) place-specific.
- 'Park-Specific' Actions, which are already targeted to specific parks and/or arose from public commentary or other analysis regarding more discrete issues.

HEADQUARTERS
235 East Main Street
Suite 105
Northville, Michigan 48167

O 248.596.0920
F 248.596.0930
MCKA.COM

Communities for real life.



We present this draft to you for your initial feedback and so we are able to answer any relevant questions at your meeting. It will continue to be refined by the consultant team and reviewed again with staff in advance of the draft plan's public release.

V. Next Steps

Following the October 3rd meeting, the planning team will continue our efforts to produce a draft document to discuss with you at your October 24th special meeting. We aim for this draft to be approximately 95% complete at that stage so that we can have a robust discussion with you and answer any questions you have regarding the plan direction before we finalize the full draft for an anticipated release for public comment on November 1st. Key future dates include:

Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 PM, DPS Conf. Room

**Special Meeting*

Final Draft Review with Parks and Recreation Board #4

30-Day Public Review and Comment Period

November 1 – December 4



Birmingham Parks and Recreation 2023 Master Plan

Working Document Outline

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Purpose: Planning for Parks and Recreation

B. Summary of Strategic Issues

- 1) Maintain excellence in service provision
- 2) Accessibility and Inclusion
- 3) Environmental Sustainability

C. Key Recommendations

2. THE BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY TODAY

A. Community Description

B. Demographics

Potential implications of community structure on future parks and recreation investments through the lenses of population (especially age distribution), economics, differing abilities

3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

A. City Structure

- 1) Parks and Recreation Services

Description of the parks and recreation department, staff or authority, including an organizational chart. Definition of who has authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants and purchase land on behalf of the community.

- 2) Role of the Parks and Recreation Board

Description of the roles of the park and recreation board and statutory authority.

- 3) City Organizational Chart

B. Community Partnerships

- 1) Volunteers and Organizations



- 2) Partnerships with Schools Districts and Other Public Agencies

C. Annual Budget and Funding Sources

- 1) Budget Tables for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements, and Programming
- 2) Current Funding Sources
- 3) Grant Funding

4. PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

A. Recreation Inventory Collection Process

Description of the methods used to conduct the recreation inventory.

B. Facilities Inventory

- 1) Park-by-park analysis of existing municipal facilities
- 2) Regional opportunities

5. SYSTEMS & FACILITIES ANALYSIS

A. Indoor Facilities Analysis

- 1) Comparison to national benchmarks

B. Accessibility and Universal Access

- 1) Accessibility Evaluation of Existing Facilities
- 2) How Can Birmingham Parks be More Inclusive?
- 3) Best Practices and Considerations for Universal Playground Design
- 4) Best Practices and Considerations for Public Restrooms

C. Sustainability Analysis

- 1) The Parks and Recreation Plan in Context
- 2) Why Plan for Sustainability in Birmingham Parks?
 - a. Climate
 - b. Life Cycle
 - c. Ecosystem
 - d. Low Impact Design
- 3) Strategic Opportunities for Improvement



D. Walk to a Park!

- 1) Walkability Analysis
- 2) Opportunities for Improving Equity in Parks Access

6. THE PLANNING PROCESS

A. Description of the Planning Process

B. Summary of Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- 1) Early Public Input: Engagement and Outreach.
- 2) Summary of Activities: In-Person Outreach
- 3) Summary of Activities: Virtual Engagement
- 4) What We Heard

C. Goals and Objectives

7. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

A. System-Wide Strategic Actions

B. Park-Specific Actions

C. Implementation Strategies

D. Funding Opportunities

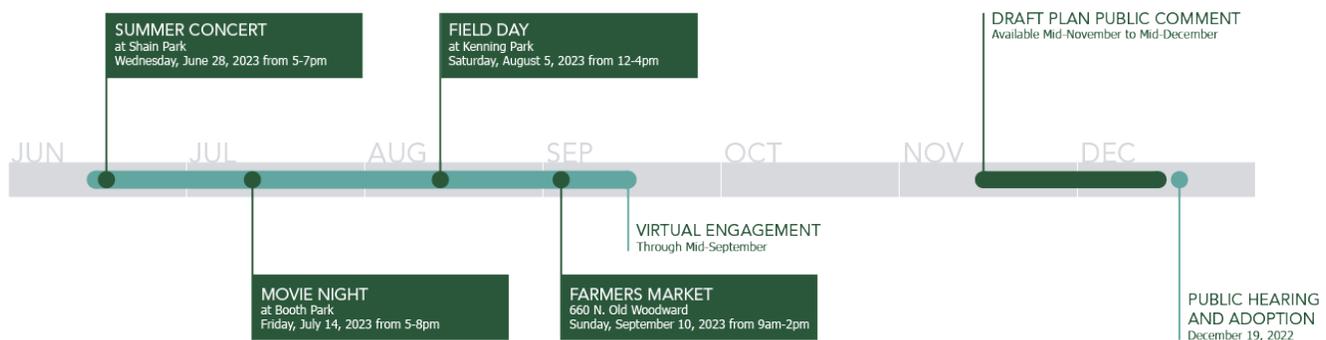


II. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Envisioning Excellence: Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Summary



ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Summary of Activities In-Person Outreach

FIELD DAYS

The planning team organized four community-wide ‘Field Day’ events from June through September to collect extensive input from the public, with a particular focus on Birmingham park users. These events aimed to gather feedback on the following topics:

1. Identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges specific to each park location.
2. Identifying and prioritizing sustainability considerations for the parks system.
3. Identifying and prioritizing inclusivity considerations for the parks system.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The project team held roundtable discussions on August 22 & 23, 2023 with a variety of stakeholder cohorts representing residents, public agencies, leagues, associations, and community organizations. At this meeting, the groups had robust discussions about stakeholders’ experiences, challenges, and opinions regarding the recreation programs, services, and facilities that Birmingham offers.

Summary of Activities Virtual Engagement

ONLINE COMMENT MAP

The public used an interactive city map to share feedback on Birmingham’s parks and recreational offerings. This feedback aimed to achieve the following goals:

- Generating ideas on how to improve spaces and allocate resources to benefit residents.
- Identifying specific parks and recreational preferences, concerns, and requirements.

ONLINE SURVEY

Participants completed a concise survey designed to gather both quantitative and qualitative insights regarding what residents appreciate about Birmingham’s parks and recreational services. It also aimed to capture their personal experiences with these amenities.

VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- 567 Visitors
- 210 Survey Responses
- 79 Map Comments
- 252 Responses to Online Comments

this will be a graphic

What We Heard

Engaged stakeholders generally acknowledged the excellent quality of park amenities and services. The conversations that the planning team had with park visitors consistently revealed a high level of satisfaction with the provision of parks and recreation in Birmingham.

WHAT'S WORKING / WHAT'S NOT?

Stakeholders offered the most feedback when asked about their thoughts on specific park facilities. This input was obtained through in-person discussions at Field Day events totaling 165 individual comments.

Those comments may be synthesized with following themes:

Photo of Priority Board with Votes



Key Results

WHAT'S WORKING?

Recreation Diversity:

- Residents appreciate a variety of recreational options, including night basketball, pickleball, and music events that bring the community together.

Community Gathering:

- Parks serve as gathering places for residents, promoting social interactions and community cohesion.
- Features like café tables and chairs are well-received and contribute to a pleasant park experience.

Natural Beauty:

- Residents value the well-maintained plantings, native flowers, and scenic landscapes of the parks.

WHAT'S NOT WORKING?

Facilities and Amenities:

- Many residents called for upgrades to existing facilities, such as playgrounds, baseball fields, and additional pickleball courts.
- Residents also recommended the addition of extra facilities, including public bathrooms, pavilions/picnic shelters, shaded areas, splash pads, and even the possibility of a swimming pool.
- Design changes to enhance safety and security, and to improve visibility, are crucial for ensuring the comfort of park users, particularly at Crestview and Booth Parks.
- Suggestions were made to upgrade and diversify playground equipment to cater to a broader age range.

Awareness of Parks:

- Suggestions were made for improved signage and directional markers to assist park users and enhance the visibility of park features.
- There were recommendations for better promotion of events and park activities.

Maintenance:

- While the overall maintenance of parks received praise, there were specific mentions regarding opportunities for improvement in the maintenance around Quarton Lake.
- Noise concerns, particularly those associated with activities like pickleball, were shared and associated with a desire to preserve a tranquil park environment.

Dog-Friendly Spaces:

- Suggestions were made to incorporate dog parks within neighborhoods and provide clear signage regarding leash regulations for accessible parks.



STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR PARKS

In the first two Field Days, participants were asked for their input on how Birmingham parks could become more sustainable. Respondents shared a range of ideas both in direct response to this question and as part of the overall park feedback activity. These ideas have been categorized into the following themes:

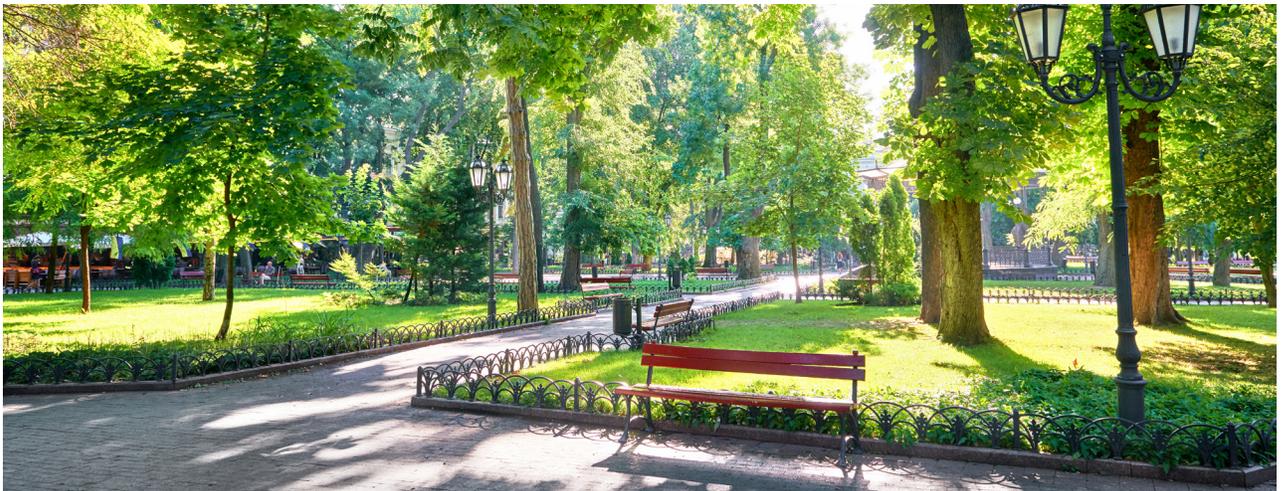
- **Recycling and Waste:** Residents called for increased recycling bins within the parks and the placement of waste bins closer to equipment.
- **Environmental Preservation:** Concerns included maintaining clean waterway edges, promoting native plantings, managing invasive species, and preventing fertilizer runoff into the Rouge River.
- **More Trees:** Requests for more street trees, shade trees, and trees along paths reflect a desire for shade, reduction in urban heat islands, and improvement of air quality.
- **Turf Maintenance:** Some suggested converting certain areas in parks into naturalized areas to cut down on the need for excessive lawn care and promote natural habitats.
- **Rain Gardens:** Some residents mentioned the need for more and increased effectiveness of rain gardens to help manage stormwater throughout the city.

PRIORITIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

After collecting and summarizing feedback on various sustainability ideas, staff presented a list of items for prioritization during the last two Field Days.

Participants were asked to vote for their top three priorities, ranking them as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most important. The results were then weighted and calculated to determine the final rankings. Pollinator Gardens

1. **Tree Plantings**
2. **Native Plantings and Low Mow Options**
3. **Solar Energy**
4. Community Gardens
5. Outdoor Classroom or Nature Center
6. Rain Gardens and Bioswales
7. Permeable Pathways



STRATEGIES FOR EMBRACING INCLUSIVITY IN OUR PARKS

In the first two Field Days, attendees were encouraged to share their thoughts on ways Birmingham’s parks could become more inclusive. Participants offered a diverse range of ideas, with some directly addressing this topic and others sharing their input as part of broader park feedback. These ideas have been categorized into the following themes:

- **Space for rest:** Some residents mentioned the need for more benches in the parks to allow rest points along walking paths.
- **Shaded Seating:** There were requests for shaded seating areas to allow parents to more easily enjoy watching their children play and to allow those who are more temperature sensitive an area of respite while visiting the parks.
- **Playground Upgrades:** Comments suggested upgrading playgrounds to include a greater variety of equipment that is usable to children with a wide range of abilities.
- **Walking Paths:** Several comments mentioned the need for paved or smooth surfaced walking paths to allow for ease of use by individuals who rely on mobility aids or have difficulty navigating uneven terrain.
- **Drinking Fountains:** Commenters also advocated for the addition of drinking fountains or bottle-filling stations at more parks to allow visitors to stay longer by having access to hydration while in the park.
- **Public Restrooms:** There were multiple requests for public restrooms in many of the most popular parks, which can allow for longer stays and convenience when using the parks.

PRIORITIZATION OF INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

After collecting and summarizing feedback on various ideas for inclusivity, staff presented a list of items for prioritization.

Participants were asked to vote for their top three priorities, ranking them as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most important. The results were then weighted and calculated to determine the final rankings.

1. **Shade Areas**
2. **Paved Pathways and Trails**
3. **Inclusive Playgrounds**
4. Benches and Sitting Areas
5. Fitness and Exercise Equipment
6. Sensory Sensitive Activities
7. Welcoming Programming
8. Fenced Play Areas



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The planning team conducted a series of roundtable discussions with stakeholders that represented the city's institutional partners, current and past members of appointed commissions and boards, residents, and other key stakeholders. In addition to the roundtable discussions, two individual interviews were conducted with participants who were unable to attend the in-person event but still wanted to offer feedback. The feedback, much of which aligned with conversations in Field Day events, centered on the following themes:

Sustainability and Conservation: Discussions covered rainwater management, native habitat preservation, and reducing lawns to promote environmental sustainability. Participants also emphasized the need for educating the community on environmental issues, including watershed and stormwater runoff, and fostering partnerships for green infrastructure and habitat restoration.

Connectivity and Accessibility: Emphasis was placed on improving connectivity and accessibility with calls for crosswalks, bike-friendly routes, and better park-to-park connections.

Park Amenities and Activation: Residents advocated for enhancing park activation through various activities like lawn games, the introduction of adult exercise equipment and outdoor fitness stations and exploring partnerships for community gardens and programming. The idea of creating community gathering points in parks, potentially involving food and beverage options, was also explored.

Aging in Place and Inclusivity: Participants discussed promoting aging in place through senior-friendly park amenities and incorporating universal design principles for accessibility. They also stressed the importance of integrating multi-generational recreation spaces in parks.

Arts and Education in Parks: Ideas included incorporating art and historical elements in parks through art walks and sculptures, using park signage for educational purposes, and promoting art-based park programming and activities.

City Plans Alignment: Aligning park development with the Birmingham 2040 Master Plan and neighborhood improvement strategies was emphasized, along with addressing safety concerns in unfenced parks/playground areas and expanding passive recreation spaces in neighborhoods.

Ownership and Recreational Facilities: Discussions delved into the costs and benefits of the city's ownership of a golf course, as well as considerations for the provision of other recreational facilities like a pool. Recurrent feedback suggested at a minimum, activating the existing golf courses and leveraging them for things like winter recreation.

Online Comments

The online comment map produced the most specific suggestions out of all the engagement opportunities. Commenters made suggestions for exact locations for paths, connections, facility upgrades and maintenance concerns. [Potentially include screenshot of map with comments or heat map]

Some of the novel comments received on the map suggested making the area around the rail road more walkable and park-like, construction of a bridge across the Rouge River to connect Lynn Smith with Linden Park, and installation of a putting green with several holes for practice.

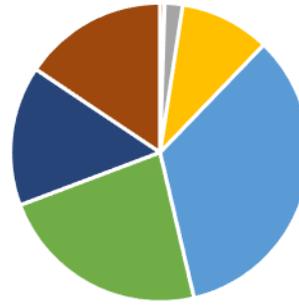
The most popular comments were:

- Provide picnic tables at Quarton Lake.
- Install a gate at the pickleball courts and lock it after hours at Crestview Park.
- Create demonstration sites for pesticide-free pollinator gardens around Quarton Lake.

Survey Results

PROFILE OF SURVEY TAKERS:

The majority respondent was a Birmingham resident, identified as a parent with children, and was aged 25 – 54 years old.



- What is your age group
- Under 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 and above

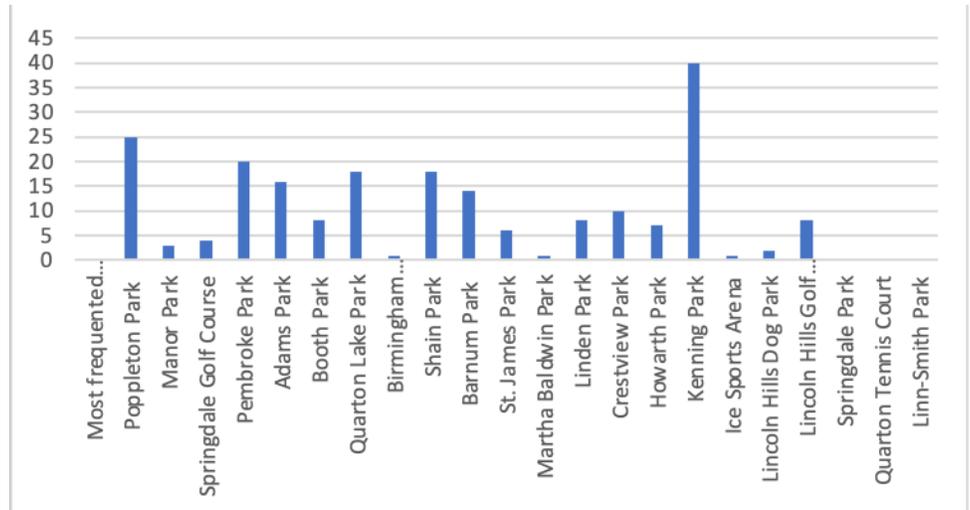
WHAT TYPE OF PARK USER ARE YOU?



- What type of park user are you?
- Sports enthusiast
- dog owner
- Cyclist
- Senior citizen
- Picnic and leisure seeker

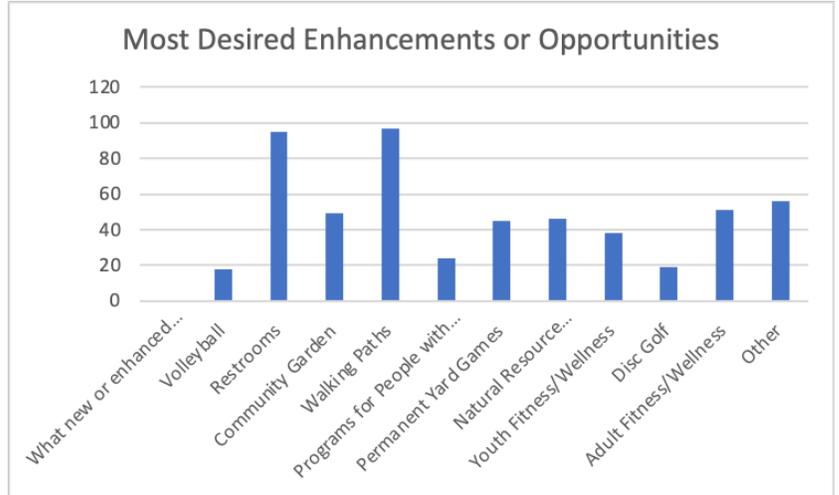
TOP 3 MOST FREQUENTED PARKS:

- Kenning Park
- Poppleton Park
- Pembroke Park



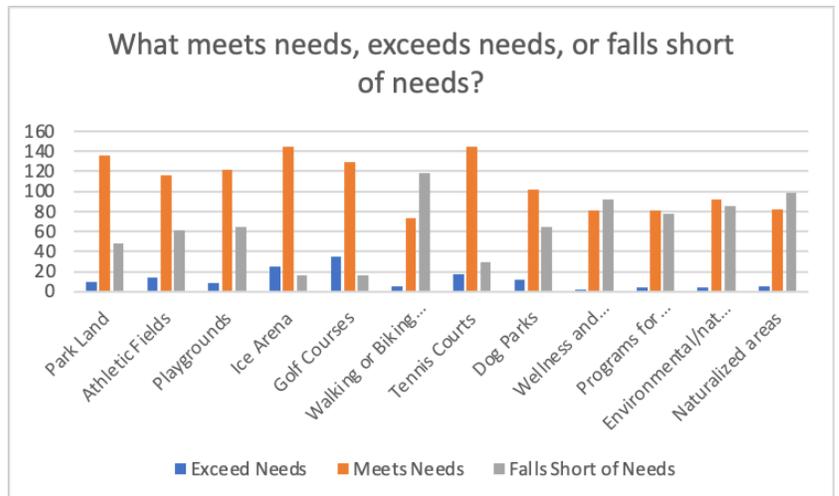
MOST REQUESTED ENHANCEMENTS OR NEW FEATURES:

- Walking paths (97)
- Restrooms (95)
- Adult Fitness/Wellness (51)
- Community Garden (49)
- “Other” items frequently mentioned:
 - » More pickleball courts
 - » Improvements for Ballfields #1 or #4 at Kenning Park
 - » Walkable access to a dog park or unleashed areas



EXISTING AMENITIES THAT ARE FALLING SHORT OF NEEDS:

- Walking or Biking Trails (118)
- Naturalized areas (98)
- Wellness and fitness programs (92)
- Environmental/nature education (85)
- Programs for people with disabilities (78)



Survey respondents were also asked to provide their ideas on how to make the parks more sustainable and inclusive. The most frequently mentioned themes are as follows:

TOP SUSTAINABILITY IDEAS:

Pollinator-Friendly Landscaping: Incorporate lots of pollinator-attracting flowers and plants to support local wildlife, particularly pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Nature Programming: Develop nature-focused programming in parks to educate and engage the community in environmental conservation.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations: Install EV charging stations to encourage sustainable transportation options.

Community Gardens: Create community garden spaces to promote local food production and community engagement.

Bike Infrastructure: Expand bike parking and trails by the river to encourage eco-friendly transportation.

Reduced Pesticide Use: Limit or eliminate the use of pesticides to support ecological balance.

Native Plantings: Use native plants for landscaping, rain gardens, and buffer zones along rivers to reduce harmful runoff.

Recycling and Trash Bins: Place recycling bins and trash receptacles throughout parks to encourage responsible waste disposal.

Solar Power Panels: Incorporate solar power panels in park facilities for sustainable energy generation.

Water Conservation: Implement water-saving measures, such as rain gardens and rainwater harvesting, to manage water runoff effectively.

TOP INCLUSIVITY IDEAS

Accessible Playground Equipment: Ensure that playgrounds have accessible equipment, including ramps instead of steps, to accommodate children with disabilities.

Permanent Public Restrooms: Install permanent public restrooms in parks to provide year-round access.

Pickleball Courts: Create more Pickleball courts to meet the high demand for this sport, with suggestions to build them near existing facilities and away from residential areas.

Safe Access to Parks Without a Car: Improve safe access to parks without the need for a car, emphasizing the importance of pedestrian and bicycle-friendly pathways.

Programming for People with Disabilities: Provide programming tailored to individuals with disabilities and their caregivers to make parks inclusive for everyone.

Fully Enclosed Playgrounds: Create fully enclosed playgrounds to ensure the safety of children, including those with disabilities who may be prone to running away.

Improved Signage and Enforcement: Enhance safety in parks by posting and enforcing ordinances effectively, particularly those related to leash rules for dogs.

Nature Trails and Walking Paths: Develop nature trails and walking paths that are wheelchair-accessible, potentially paved with smooth surfaces, to cater to individuals with disabilities.

More Seating and Picnic Tables: Install more benches and picnic tables, ensuring there are shaded areas and accommodations for people with disabilities.



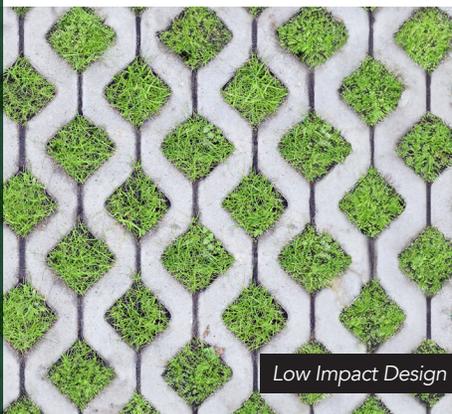
III. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONTENT

Sustainability in the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Park facilities have robust potential to help a community achieve environmental sustainability goals. This planning process occurred concurrent with the early stages of an effort, led by City planners and the Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee, to develop a sustainability and climate action plan for the entire city. Given that the goals and policies that will set the agenda for Birmingham are not yet adopted, this plan endeavors to illustrate the 'art of the possible' for how parks can eventually participate in meeting those goals, and to begin to align policies for parks provision to best advance the sustainability conversation in Birmingham.

In this plan, sustainability in parks is viewed through the four lenses of opportunity shown below. Although these categories have some overlap, we have broadly defined them to address the following topics:

1. **Climate.** This category of sustainability addresses the negative effects of a warming climate and how parks can be used to mitigate these effects. In particular, this category focuses on increased air temperatures and extreme heat events and how vegetation/trees can help with cooling.
2. **Life Cycle.** This category of sustainability addresses how parks can change their construction and maintenance practices to lower the impact on the environment. This category addresses things like recycled construction materials, low-maintenance plantings, nature-conscious building design, and more.
3. **Ecosystem.** This category of sustainability addresses how parks can support native plants and animals and provide habitat for these species.
4. **Low Impact Design.** This category of sustainability addresses how parks can be used to capture stormwater, helping to reduce flooding and clean water as it flows into streams and back into the ground.



Why Plan for Sustainability in Our Parks?

CLIMATE

The climate of Birmingham and southeast Michigan is influenced by its location within the urban “heat island” of metro Detroit. Climate change is already having noticeable health impacts as temperatures rise, leading to more dangerously hot days, and pollution increases, affecting those with lung conditions.

The more natural vegetation is replaced with buildings and pavement, the hotter the city gets. Two factors create the urban heat island effect: the loss of trees and vegetative cover to development (since tree canopy and plantings function to cool cities and waterways by shading surfaces, buildings, and waterways, deflecting solar radiation and transpiring water back to the atmosphere) and the construction of dark surfaces (especially pavement

and rooftops) that absorb heat and re-radiate that heat. A 2020 study in Scientific Reports magazine found that greenery alone can mitigate the urban heat island effect by up to 21%.

In general, research has found that trees can reduce local temperatures by up to 5°F, providing significant relief during summer months. For example, when comparing two hypothetical parks where one has 30% less trees than the other, the park with less trees would be an average of 4°F hotter. This poses a great risk to public health, given that heat wave mortality risk increases by 2.5% for each 1°F increase in air temperature.

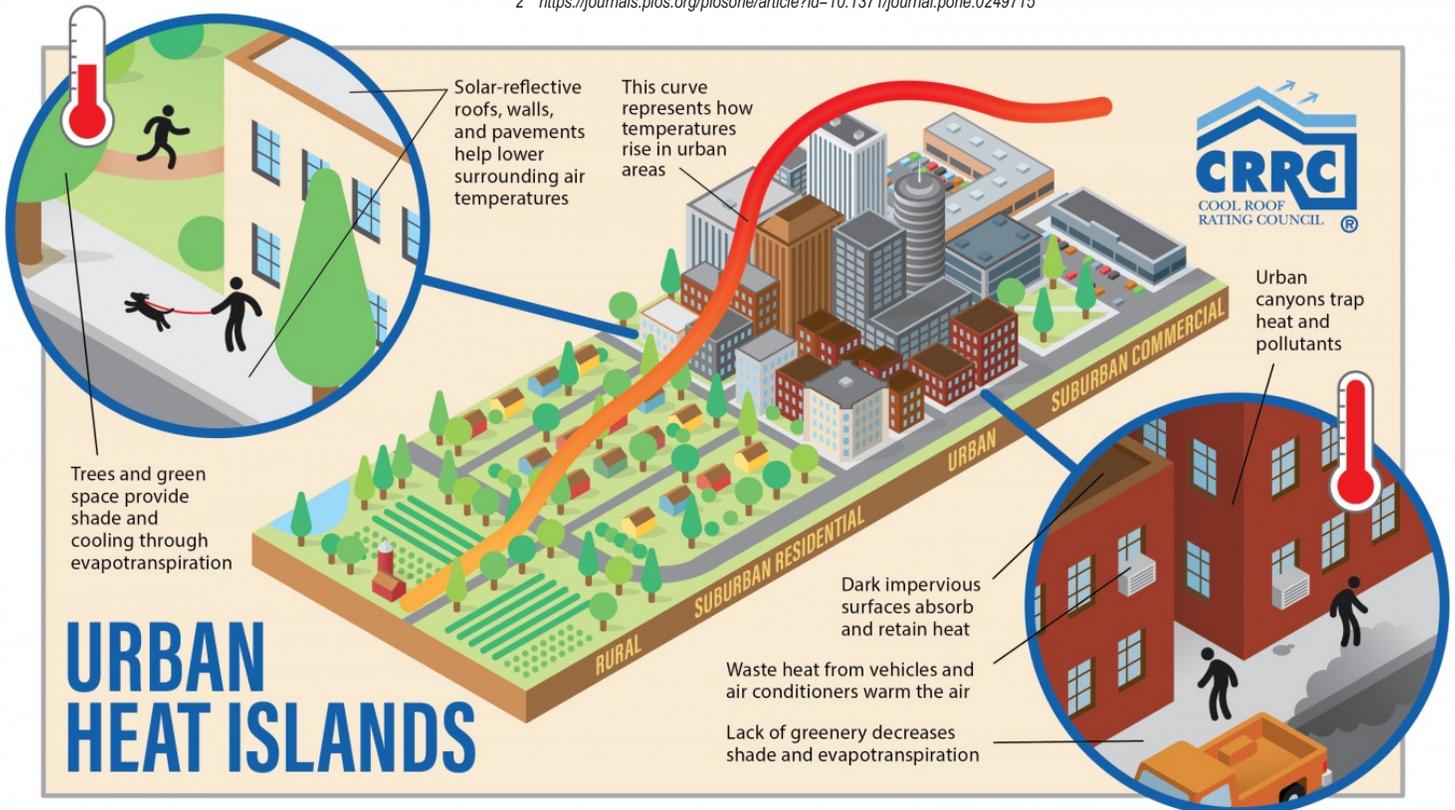
How we design our communities may also determine how well we cope with climate change in the

future. People are exposed to climate change through changing weather patterns (for example, more intense and frequent extreme events) and indirectly through changes in water, air, food quality and quantity, ecosystems, agriculture, and economy.

Adding new trees in parks is one of the simplest ways to help fight the urban heat island effect. It is also wise to retain and **protect existing trees**, since their wide, mature leaf canopies provide ample cooling and they are much less costly than planting new trees. The type and position of new trees can also be planned to maximize cooling benefits—researchers found that planting deciduous trees to the west of a high-heat surface (parking lot, building, etc.) was the most effective method for shading and cooling.

1 <https://dirt.asla.org/2023/03/15/more-urban-trees-could-cut-summer-heat-deaths-by-a-third#:~:text=New%20research%20published%20in%20The,heat%20islands%20by%2040%20percent.>

2 <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0249715>



Life Cycle

MAINTENANCE

Lawn maintenance, a substantial obligation for the operation of a suburban city's park system, is a significant undertaking of both time and money—the cost of labor, fertilizer, pesticides, and equipment all add up to make turf grass one of the costliest park features. Lawns are also water intensive and are becoming more expensive as the climate warms. According to *The Handbook of Water Use and Conservation*, roughly 2 trillion gallons of water are used on lawns annually—half of which isn't even taken up by the grass as it is evaporated or runs-off due to over-watering.

As such, replacing lawn areas with drought-resistant, zero maintenance plants is one of the most effective ways to eliminate park maintenance costs. This is not to say that all parks should be lawn-free – lawns will still be needed for sports and other activity areas—but many lawn areas that are under-used can be replaced. Michigan State University has compiled an extensive list of drought-resistant plants which are also visually pleasing for parks and gardens, and their guide provides advice on the soil conditions best suited for each.¹

Heat is also a considerable factor in the wear and tear of surface parking lots and asphalt roads. Increased temperatures lower the structural integrity of asphalt roads, leading to buckling and cracking over time. When feasible, park roads and sidewalks should be constructed of concrete, which is considerably more durable than asphalt even though concrete roads come with higher construction costs.² This measure is a simple way to reduce maintenance and improve sustainability over time.

BUILDING MATERIALS

New techniques of nature-conscious building have emerged over the last five years, including using bio-conscious construction materials and incorporating habitat into building design. These technologies can be evaluated for future built elements in Birmingham parks.

Beyond green roofs, which use vegetation to capture stormwater, some engineers are now considering roof ponds, which can capture water and provide habitat for waterfowl in areas that otherwise lack open water. Initial research has found that roof ponds are about equally effective in maintaining indoor thermal comfort as other passive heating and cooling strategies.³

Additionally, some companies are finding ways to change the composition of construction materials themselves to reduce carbon emissions and make it easier to grow plants on the surface of buildings – the London School of Architecture has been experimenting with a bio-concrete that lets moss grow on the surface, step toward incorporating green infrastructure into previously unexplored aspects of development.⁴

New parking lots at parks that experience frequent and higher amounts of flooding could benefit from additionally installing pervious (or permeable) pavement materials. Pervious pavement allows stormwater to infiltrate into the soil, which minimizes wear on the pavement. The type of permeable pavement design can influence the durability of the surface, which can include pavers, porous asphalt, or pervious concrete.

However, permeable pavement costs twice as much as regular pavement, and it also requires regular maintenance to clean out debris that will stop water from filtering through the pavement. As such, permeable pavers are not appropriate everywhere, though they can make a big difference where employed.



Drought resistant yarrow

Ecosystem

As development pressures continue to increase along bird migration corridors and impinge upon pollinator and wildlife habitat, scientists, conservation groups, and gardening clubs are encouraging people to forsake much of their relatively lifeless lawns and to cultivate native shrubs and plants that have many benefits to the landowner and the environment alike.⁵ Cities can also participate in these efforts by improving the habitat conditions on parks and other institutional properties.

LAND HABITAT

Tree planting alone is not enough to boost habitat quality and encourage new species to thrive in parks.⁶ Replacing some lawn with a variety of native plants, shrubs, and trees of differing size classes is necessary to encourage native birds, insects, and wildlife. In essence, a diversity of land plantings is needed to provide adequate habitat. The best practice used by parks planners today is to create “multifunctional” green spaces – spaces which serve humans and other species at the same time through amenities enjoyed by all, like gardens and nature trails.

WATER HABITAT

Where already present or planned, retention ponds can provide habitat for marine animals, native plants, and birds. Planting these ponds with native wetland grasses provided habitat for birds and small amphibians in particular which take refuge in the tall brush. To keep both retention ponds and detention basins clear of mosquito breeding, it is necessary to keep the inlets, outlets, and the bottom of the pond clean of debris; maintain erosion; and maintain the vegetation around the ponds.

Even smaller detention features such as rain gardens provide valuable habitat in local parks.



A detention pond in Mary Beth Doyle Park, Ann Arbor

LOW-IMPACT DESIGN

Stormwater infrastructure, hidden in the streets around us, usually goes unnoticed on a dry day. However, these systems play a vital role in every community, including Birmingham, because Michigan is one of the most water-rich and rainy states in the country. Stormwater infrastructure has traditionally consisted of solely storm drains and pipes, which directly dispose of the water into the Rouge River.

However, impervious (vegetated) surfaces that capture stormwater are now considered a part of the stormwater infrastructure system because they help control floods and naturally cleanse dirty rainwater. Instead of flowing straight to the river, the water is slowed down by the vegetation and absorbed back into the soil. These features are referred to as **green infrastructure** (or bioretention) – rain gardens, wetlands, and swales are some of the features that improve water quality and make the community more attractive. As a bonus, these features also provide urban wildlife habitat and lower air temperatures.

Figure 1: Historic Rainfall 2010 vs 2020



Sources: Oakland Water Authority

Term	Definition
Rain Gardens	An attractive, sunken landscape filter planted with flowers and blooming shrubs. Rain gardens are designed to absorb storm water run-off from impervious surfaces such as roofs and parking lots.
Swale (aka Bioswale)	An attractive, sunken landscape filter planted with grasses and other low-maintenance shrubs. swales are designed to absorb storm water run-off from impervious surfaces such as roofs and parking lots.
Green Roof	Green roofs are roofs planted with vegetation that absorbs stormwater. Green roofs provide a 50%-90% annual runoff reduction and reduce energy for heating and cooling
Detention Pond	A man-made pond which is used to collect and store stormwater during heavy rains. Detention ponds store water for a limited amount of time, after which is soaks into the soil.
Wet Meadow	A low-lying marshy area, home to a variety of native plants and animals, that captures water and generally stays wet during most of the year. Wet meadows occur where land is flooded in some seasons and moist in others, such as along the shores of rivers or lakes.
Urban Forest	Areas of tree canopy cover that exist in multiple forms throughout the city, such as woodlots, private landscapes, street trees, and park trees.
Permeable Pavement	Paving surfaces that are made of either a porous material that enables stormwater to flow through it, or nonporous blocks spaced so that water can flow between the gaps.

Green infrastructure features **lower the impact** that storms have on the community by reducing the burden on pipes, reducing flooding, and providing numerous environmental benefits.

The link between increased runoff volume (despite managing discharge rate and water quality) and degradation of downstream surface water bodies has become a key issue in managing storm water runoff. Low-impact practices (managing storm water at its source rather than on a site or regional-wide basis) have become a preferred method for managing storm water.

Communities around the US are increasingly starting to think of trees as a key part of the stormwater infrastructure system. Trees act as a “living utility” by intercepting stormwater and absorbing it before it becomes a burden on municipal pipes and waterways. For example, the City of Ann Arbor maintains an extensive street tree network that captures 65 million gallons of stormwater each year, amounting to approximately \$4 million in infrastructure savings for the City. As cities trend toward more invocative definitions for “utilities,” it may be time for Birmingham to consider the inclusion of natural features, beyond green infrastructure, as a formal infrastructure asset.⁷ Parks are the ideal location to begin considering the individual value of trees.

What are the benefits of GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

Water Quality



Green infrastructure reduces the amount of polluted stormwater runoff entering our rivers and lakes. In cities with combined sewer systems, green infrastructure is being used to reduce sewer overflows during storms.

Reduce Flooding



Green infrastructure can reduce flood risk by slowing and reducing stormwater runoff into waterways.

Water Supply



Harvesting rainwater is good for outdoor irrigation and some indoor uses. Water infiltrated into the soil recharges groundwater and increases flow into rivers.

Quality of Life



Green infrastructure provides aesthetic benefits to the area by increasing the amount of a community’s green space.

Recreation



Green infrastructure can provide recreational and tourism opportunities including increased access to hiking, hunting, fishing, and bird watching.

Economic Growth



Green infrastructure can increase residential property values located near trails, parks, and waterways. In addition, green infrastructure is one way to attract and retain the knowledge-based workforce in our region.

Traffic Calming



Green infrastructure techniques along roads can also be used to slow traffic and provide a buffer between the roadway and pedestrians.

Habitat Connections



Green infrastructure can provide needed links in habitat corridors to strengthen and support rare and important plant and animal areas in the community.

Air Quality



Increased vegetation positively impacts air quality through carbon sequestration, the capture of fugitive dust, and removal of air pollutants.

Individual Health



Green infrastructure encourages outdoor physical activity, which can have a positive impact in fighting obesity and chronic diseases.

Public Finances



Green infrastructure can reduce a community’s infrastructure costs by using natural systems rather than built systems, and by avoiding building lengthy new stormwater pipes.

Energy and Climate



Implementing techniques such as green roofs, increased tree plantings around buildings, converting turfgrass to no-mow areas, and reclaiming stormwater for use onsite can reduce energy consumption and save money.

Opportunities for Improvement

CLIMATE

Out of the 231.4 acres of parkland in Birmingham, only 84.39 acres—or 36%—are covered by trees. This lack of trees presents a risk to both sustainability and public health because trees provide several valuable services, from cleaning the air to shielding people from hot temperatures.

The main ways to reduce temperatures and the urban heat island effect are by:

- Creating parks, green rooftop parks, gardens, and green spaces.
- Promoting green infrastructure stormwater management techniques in site design, including the trees, green roofs, permeable pavements, and other plantings that filter water and reduce heat island effects.
- Making buildings more energy-efficient.
- Minimizing the use of dark surfaces (such as parking lots and black roofs) that absorb heat and re-radiate that heat during the evenings, when the cities would otherwise cool down.

There are opportunities to plant additional trees in almost every city park, even when excluding areas reserved for sports or already natural spaces. The US Forest Service recommends that urban areas maintain a minimum of 40-60% tree coverage to stave off the negative impacts of climate change, both for people and the natural environment. Since this figure is also accounting for street trees, even more coverage would be required in parks to reach the target coverage.

The location of new trees will vary from park-to-park. However, new trees should be targeted toward areas where people are at the greatest risk for heat, while still avoiding dedicated sports areas. There are numerous open lawn expanses which have high temperatures that are great locations for new trees. As a part of the roundtables conducted during this Plan, participants indicated that trees would be especially welcome adjacent to bleachers and sport spectator areas. Additionally, all new plantings should align with the city's existing Public Tree Management Plan.

LIFE CYCLE

Today, only four (4) of the city's 25 parks have low-maintenance planting beds. Low-maintenance means that the plants do not require mowing, fertilizing, or irrigation to survive—instead, the plants are specifically chosen for their attractive appearance and resistance to extreme weather. These plantings require less city resources to maintain and help improve the overall sustainability of the parks system.

It should be noted that low-maintenance planting beds do not necessarily have to capture stormwater, but some do. These double-duty features are covered under the Stormwater Plantings section below.

Adams, Quarton, Barnum, and Booth Parks all currently have low-maintenance planting beds which take different forms. In Booth Park, the beds are very simple and include mulch, leafy trees, decorative stones, and well-sculpted hedges. Except for the occasional hedge trim, these features require no additional maintenance.

Adams Park's low-maintenance plantings are integrated with the playground design, providing play space and also improving the park's appearance. These beds include mulch, leafy trees, low-growing flowering shrubs such as lavender, and decorative boulders (used for play).

In contrast, the planting beds near the dock at Quarton Lake have more of a naturalized look—they swap out mulched beds for mid-height grasses and hardy shrubs, but are still contained within a defined area. Additionally, at Barnum Park, the low-maintenance areas are scattered across the hillside where they act as an attractive wildflower meadow and landscape feature.

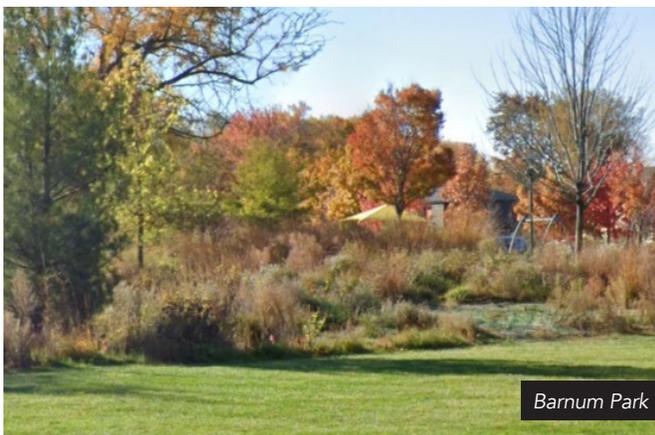
There are **opportunities to add low-maintenance planting beds in almost every park in the city.** Most of the city's parks have under-used lawn space adjacent to sports fields and picnic areas that can readily be

converted into meadows or re-landscaped to eliminate costly mowing and watering. Planting beds should be prioritized in large, sunny turf areas which require intensive management. Meanwhile, planting beds do not have much utility in forested parks like Pump House Park and nature areas, and other sustainability measures should be pursued in these locations.

Today, Birmingham has already made excellent progress in reducing the use of fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides in local parks. Fertilizing is limited to the turf areas of parks only, and insecticide/herbicide is only used to control infrequent major outbreaks. As such, the most intensive management component for the many park lawns is mowing. On average, each park in Birmingham gets mowed once per week (26 times annually, excluding winter). Lawn equipment contributes 50% of particulates in local airways, making them one of the most polluting forms of gas-powered equipment.⁸ Replacing these lawns with low-maintenance plantings would not only reduce long-term maintenance costs, but also increase overall sustainability and air quality by reducing the use of gasoline-powered lawn equipment.



Booth Park



Barnum Park



Adams Park

LOW-IMPACT DESIGN

Locations

Not every Birmingham park is equally suitable for green infrastructure. Green infrastructure requires both a water source and well-drained soils, so that the plants get adequate water but do not drown during long flood events. Planting hardy plants which are drought and flood resistant can help expand the range of locations where green infrastructure is possible.

When it comes to parks, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) recommends focusing on two types of locations for green infrastructure:

- **Park Lawns:** Large open space areas managed as turf present options for constructing native plant grow zones in areas not generally accessed by the public.
- **Parking Lots:** In parking lots, bioretention areas, bioswales, and porous pavement are techniques that can significantly reduce stormwater runoff. Inset parking lot islands can double as bioretention areas when coordinated with engineering design.

Most Suitable Parks

The most suitable parks for near-term green infrastructure projects are parks that have both well-drained soils and ponding during storms. These locations can accommodate large-scale green infrastructure projects, such as detention ponds and wet meadows, which capture lots of storm water. As Michigan starts to get more and more severe storms during the summer season, these large features will be especially important to reduce flooding.

The following table was compiled using data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the park inventory performed in 2023 by staff. It should be noted that USGS can only estimate where ponding occurs, and there are likely many more parks which experience ponding during storms.

Although these parks are the best opportunity today, it's important to remember that **green infrastructure comes in many different forms and can be successfully incorporated into almost any park.** Only a few parks may have the water needed to support a wet meadow, but almost every park in the city can support a swale. As shown above, Martha Baldwin park is neither well-drained nor does it have frequent water ponding, but it has successfully supported a large bioswale since 2018.

In the future, Birmingham should/will continue to pursue the opportunities for new green infrastructure at other parks across the city.

Built Amenities

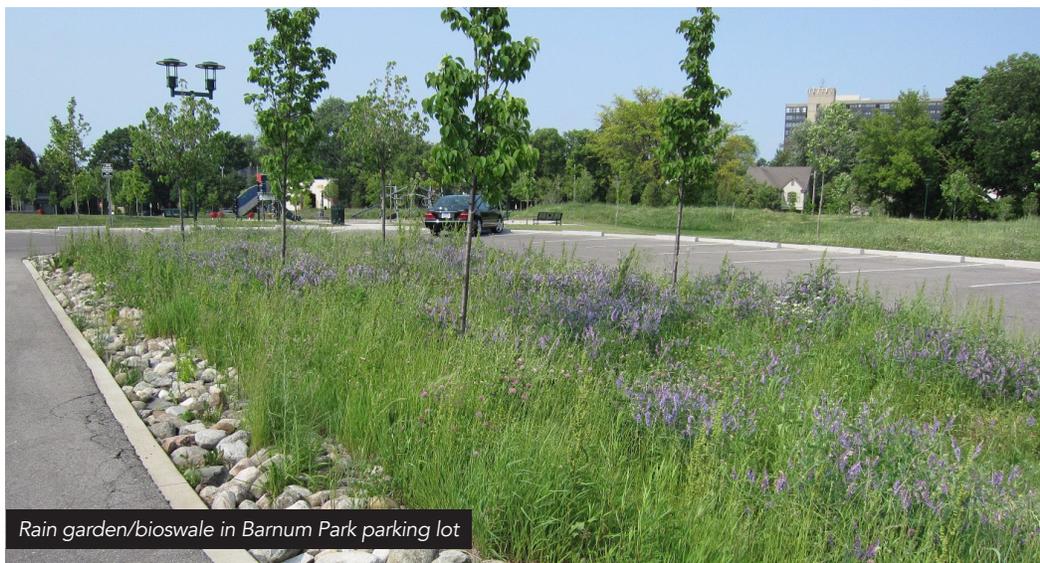
Over the past decade, local governments across the country have been continuously upgrading their buildings and facilities to become more energy-efficient through things like LED bulbs and low-flow faucets. However, very few have taken the leap from efficient to sustainable when considering their building and operations. Currently, none of the city's recreation buildings include sustainability enhancements such as backup solar panels, green roofs, or recycled construction materials. As such, there is ample opportunity for improvement when it comes to site-level sustainability.

Most existing recreation buildings are located adjacent to sunny, open parks, which makes them perfect locations for rooftop solar panels. These panels would not only reduce the environmental impact of the building, but also provide a vital backup source of power during blackouts. As winter storms increase across Michigan, municipalities are increasingly being called upon to provide public warming centers during crisis events. Adding solar panels to the Racquet Club, Ice Area, and other existing park buildings with suitable roofs would help improve sustainability and resilience.

However, sustainability is not just considered at the building-level, but at the community-level. Parks which provide built amenities that encourage walking, biking, and other non-motorized transportation help encourage more active and sustainable living. Amenities which help encourage these activities include safe walking paths, cross-walks, bike racks, and more. However, only seven (7) of Birmingham's parks

have a bike rack, and many of these have limited spaces. As such, there is opportunity at every single city park for additional bike racks, thereby accommodating cyclists from within and around the community.

Further discussion of sidewalks, cross-walks, and accessibility for walkers and people who use mobility devices can be found under the Accessibility section of this plan.



Rain garden/bioswale in Barnum Park parking lot

Table 6: Birmingham parks most suitable for near-term green infrastructure projects

PARK	PONDING	WELL-DRAINED ¹	BOTH	GI ALREADY PRESENT?
Lincoln Hill Golf Course	✓	✓ ²	✓	
Pump House Park	✓	✓	✓	
Linden Park	✓			
Quarton Lake Park	✓			
Redding Well Site	✓			
Springdale Golf Course	✓	✓ ³	✓	
Poppelton Park	✓			
Barnum Park	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. James Park	✓			
Greenwood Cemetery ⁴	✓	✓		
Shain Park		✓		
Kenning Park		✓		
Adams Park		✓		✓
Derby Well Site		✓		
Manor Park		✓		
Martha Baldwin Park				✓

1 Soil that is classified as either well-drained, moderately well-drained, or somewhat poorly drained by the USGS Soil Survey as of September 21, 2023.
 2 Southern and northern portions of course only; central portion near creek is not sufficiently drained.
 3 East portion of course only; western portion near creek is not sufficiently drained.
 4 Although the Cemetery is not a park for the purposes of this Plan, it does serve as a park-like space for the community and as such has been included above for future consideration of green infrastructure.

ECOSYSTEM

Continuous plantings, which are vegetated areas that are not separated by large patches of lawn or pavement, are important for the wellbeing of humans and wildlife. Continuous stands of trees provide people with relief from hot summer days, allowing them to take advantage of parkland without putting themselves at risk. Continuous trees and groundcover plantings also provide a “highway” for birds, small mammals, and insects by allowing them to move from place to place safely and expand their habitat. Furthermore, continuous plantings help break up large lawns and paved areas, creating a wider variety of views and experiences for park-goers.

Out of the city’s 25 parks, only 18 have continuous rows of perimeter or interior trees. Several parks, such as Kenning Park on the northeast corner of S Eton and E Lincoln streets, have entire sides that are devoid of trees, both along the street and on the interior. Additionally, very few of the city’s parks have continuous areas of ground-cover plants, such as grasses, flowers, and shrubs—only Barnum, Quarton, Linden, and Linn Smith Parks have areas with continuous groundcover.

Oftentimes, tree-planting programs target open spaces in parks but do not consider the possible connections with existing tree stands. While it’s important to avoid overlap between trees, new trees should be strategically located to “connect” with existing ones as they grow, thereby creating a network for people and wildlife. Similarly, when new ground plantings are planned, efforts should be made to avoid gaps larger than 10 feet between beds to encourage wildlife habitat. Today, the greatest opportunities for improvement in continuous planting exists in Kenning Park, Poppleton Park, Crestview Park, the South Well Site, and Martha Baldwin Park. All of these parks have sections of existing trees around the perimeter and some trees on the interior, which could be connected through minimal additional plantings to create a continuous network. There is also ample opportunity in the city’s golf courses, although additional planning would be required to ensure the sport aspects of the courses are not impaired.



Quarton Park



IV. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

DRAFT System-Wide Action Items

Category	Associated Goal	Objective	Topic	Findings	Action / Recommendations	Potential Facilities Affected	Time Frame
Inclusion	1	1.1	Universal Playgrounds	The Parks and Recreation Bond Priority list recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board and reviewed by the City Commission identifies several parks for the installation of inclusive playgrounds.	Install playground equipment at identified parks that meet best practices for universal playground design and accessibility.	<i>Prioritization TBD.</i> <i>Candidates:</i> Lincoln Well, Pumphouse, Linden, Pembroke, St. James, Springdale, Crestview, Howarth, Poppleton, Kenning, Springdale	TBD
Inclusion	1	1.1	Restrooms	Permanent restrooms are essential for inclusion, public convenience, and to support park programming and events.	Install restrooms at strategic park facilities, focusing on parks with pavilions/picnic areas, sport fields, and those away from convenient public restrooms.	<i>Prioritization and Recommended Facilities TBD.</i>	TBD
Facilities	1	1.1	Splash Pad	Engaged stakeholders expressed a desire for a water feature at specific parks. The Schedule II bond issue identifies resources for a splash pad.	Conduct a feasibility study for the development and construction of a splash pad, including identifying/creating staffing capacity for ongoing maintenance, identifying location, prioritizing accessibility for all community members and the lack of disruption of existing park and/or recreation functions, developing a conceptual site plan, and cost estimates.	TBD	TBD
Gathering and Placemaking	1	1.4	Food Truck / Mobile Vendor Pilot	Both the Birmingham 2040 Plan and engaged stakeholders during this planning process identified the desire for food and beverage service within parks to provide additional social connection and support park activities.	Add support for mobile or permanent vending at strategic parks, prioritizing support of existing events	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Kenning Park: (Food truck/mobile cart infrastructure) Shain Park: (Permanent café/vendor accommodations) Booth Park: (Permanent café/vendor accommodations) Poppleton Park: (Food truck/mobile cart infrastructure)	TBD
Gathering and Placemaking	1	1.4	Lawn Games	Engaged stakeholders for this plan identified a desire for lawn games to be incorporated into parks to allow for a greater range and diversity of users, some suggestions included cornhole, oversized chess, etc.	Install semi-permanent or permanent lawn games at identified parks and partner with community organizations to provide equipment for use of games.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Booth Barnum Kenning St. James	TBD
Gathering and placemaking	1	1.4	Wi-fi and Charging	Noting the demographic shifts in Birmingham which suggest that the City will have more knowledge based works who wish to have the flexibility of working outside; engaged stakeholders for this plan suggested enhancing the business opportunities by providing wifi and charging stations in the parks nearest downtown.	Install infrastructure to provide wifi and charging stations at identified parks.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Shain, Museum (wi-fi exists, add charging stations) Booth Barnum Kenning (wi-fi exists in the ice arena, explore providing outside / outdoor work areas) Poppleton	TBD
Sustainability	1	1.4	Recycling Facilities	Recycling facilities currently exist at 11 of 26 Birmingham parks.	Deploy recycling receptacles adjacent to waste receptacles at all parks.	Remaining parks where recycling facilities do not yet exist.	TBD

DRAFT System-Wide Action Items

Category	Associated Goal	Objective	Topic	Findings	Action / Recommendations	Potential Facilities Affected	Time Frame
Facilities	1	1.5	Additional Dog Infrastructure	Engaged stakeholders for this plan identified a desire for more formal, off-leash dog areas throughout the city, especially as a way to mitigate off-leash dogs in parks not designated for that purpose.	Evaluate opportunities to provide additional off-leash dog areas in geographically distributed locations throughout the city.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Manor Poppleton	TBD
Operations	1	1.5	Park Permits for Dogs	Engaged stakeholders for this plan identified a desire for enhanced enforcement of park rules for dogs.	Add opt-in park permit option to dog licensing process that requires that users acknowledge dogs must be leashed and cleaned up after, and publicly display park pass when using parks with their dogs.	All.	TBD
Connection	1	1.6	Bicycle infrastructure	The planning process demonstrated a desire for additional bicycle infrastructure in city parks. 10 parks in the city currently have or are planned to receive bicycle infrastructure of some kind. Parks can help bolster the existing nonmotorized network in the city.	Install bicycle racks in remaining parks, prioritizing remaining Community and Neighborhood parks that do not yet have them.	Community and Neighborhood parks that do not yet have bicycle infrastructure.	TBD
Connection	2	2.1	Bicycle infrastructure	The planning process demonstrated a desire for additional bicycle infrastructure in city parks. 10 parks in the city currently have or are planned to receive bicycle infrastructure of some kind. Parks can help bolster the existing nonmotorized network in the city.	Explore the possibility of bike share locations at strategic parks to enhance connectivity.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Booth Kenning Others TBD	TBD
Inclusion	2	2.7	Adult fitness stations	Engaged stakeholders for this plan identified a desire for adult fitness 'stations'/equipment as a park offering.	Install outdoor adult fitness stations, prioritizing locations in Neighborhood Parks.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> St. James, Crestview, Howarth, Manor, Pembroke, Quarton Lake, W. Lincoln Well	TBD
Sustainability, Partnerships	3	3.3	Outdoor Classrooms	Engaged stakeholders for this planning process identified opportunities for park activation and arts integration	Identify areas in parks as outdoor classrooms.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Booth Museum	TBD
Partnerships	3	3.5	Garden Club Volunteers	Engaged stakeholders for this planning process identified a desire to engage and assist with park enhancement / maintenance. Similar programs have been successfully implemented in surrounding Southeast Michigan communities.	Organize garden club volunteers to help adopt parks, certain parts of parks, natural green areas, or gardens.	TBD	TBD
Sustainability	4	4.2	Sustainability Education	Parks offer robust opportunities to advance the City's environmental sustainability goals.	Develop an interpretive sculpture/signage/experience program in parks to expand educational opportunities about environmental protection.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Quarton Lake Barnum Manor Martha Baldwin Linden	TBD

DRAFT System-Wide Action Items

Category	Associated Goal	Objective	Topic	Findings	Action / Recommendations	Potential Facilities Affected	Time Frame
Sustainability	4	4.2, 4.3	Native Planting List	Parks offer robust opportunities to advance the City's environmental sustainability goals. As steward of many acres of landscaped public land, the city has an opportunity to set an example, educate the public, and reduce maintenance obligations through the use of native plants.	Develop an approved list of native plant species appropriate for park and recreation applications. Long-term, commit to utilizing native plantings only for park design and landscape features.	All.	TBD
Sustainability	4	4.2, 4.3	Design Guidelines	Parks offer robust opportunities to advance the City's environmental sustainability goals.	Develop Design Guidelines for future capital and park improvements that encourage low maintenance alternatives.	All.	TBD
Sustainability	4	4.3	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Parks offer robust opportunities to advance the City's environmental sustainability goals.	Seek opportunities for green stormwater infrastructure in all future park designs.	TBD	TBD
Sustainability	4	4.7	Environmental Pilots/Demonstration Sites	Parks offer robust opportunities to advance the City's environmental sustainability goals. This planning process yielded several potential initiatives that are well-suited to be sited at parks, either permanently or on a demonstration/pilot basis.	Create demonstration projects within parks to showcase native Michigan plants and promote appreciation for natural landscape techniques.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> TBD	TBD
Sustainability	4	4.7	Environmental Pilots/Demonstration Sites	Parks offer robust opportunities to advance the City's environmental sustainability goals. This planning process yielded several potential initiatives that are well-suited to be sited at parks, either permanently or on a demonstration/pilot basis.	Install a community garden pilot project.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> Poppleton Park Booth Park	TBD
Sustainability	4	4.7	Environmental Pilots/Demonstration Sites	Parks offer robust opportunities to advance the City's environmental sustainability goals. This planning process yielded several potential initiatives that are well-suited to be sited at parks, either permanently or on a demonstration/pilot basis.	Implement a pilot "Pesticide Free Park" program at a City Park.	<i>Candidate Facilities:</i> TBD	TBD
Sustainability	4		Rouge River Trail Corridor Improvements		Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Rouge River Trail Corridor improvements.		TBD
Equity	5	5.1, 5.5	Park Accessibility	Not all areas of the city are equally served by walkable green space. There are several opportunities to mitigate this condition with existing City-owned land.	Dedicate informal green spaces as public parks, sign/advertise them appropriately and add amenities such as benches/places to rest, accessible paths, and pollinator gardens/low maintenance landscape areas.	Identified Mini-Parks not yet dedicated as park land. City-Owned land at Cambridge and Buckingham.	TBD
Communications	6	1	Website Updates	Not all amenities and park offerings are clearly identified on the website.	Update City website parks listing to include mapping, comprehensive list of amenities.	N/A	TBD
Communications	6	1	Opportunity Advertisement	Engaged stakeholders expressed a desire for a 'guide' of programming activities to increase exposure and usership of parks programming.	Periodically (e.g., quarterly, semi-annually) publish a comprehensive advertisement of recreation opportunities in Birmingham parks.	N/A	TBD

DRAFT System-Wide Action Items

Category	Associated Goal	Objective	Topic	Findings	Action / Recommendations	Potential Facilities Affected	Time Frame
Operations	6	6.2, 2.6	Utilization Data	Engaged stakeholders expressed a desire for an understanding of park usership to help prioritize improvements. The Principal Shopping District is exploring possibilities for user data with tracking software that might be utilized similarly for parks.	Building on existing engagements, explore methods for collecting park usership data.	N/A	<i>TBD</i>

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS

Park	All Actions	Time Frame
Adams Park		
Baldwin Well Site		
Barnum Park		
Birmingham Historical Museum & Park		
Booth Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add additional directional signage and distance markers along Booth Trail.	TBD
Crestview Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground• Add ornamental fencing and/or low barrier landscaping along a portion of the Southfield Rd. frontage to enhance safety and buffer the park from the road.	TBD
Derby Well Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install benches and an accessible path.• Install park signage.	TBD
Howarth Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground	TBD

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS

Park	All Actions	Time Frame
Kenning Park & Ice Sports Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground and Field Improvements.• Re-evaluate and update the Kenning Park Master Plan park design to reflect current conditions. In the update, prioritize an accessible walking path, a defined entry with places to rest, wayfinding signage and legibility, and defined connections to surrounding neighborhoods.• Redevelop / improve the existing skate park.	TBD
Lincoln Hills Golf Course & Dog Park		
Linden Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground	TBD
Linn-Smith Park		
Manor Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add benches/places to rest at park entrances.• Add accessible path at park entrances.	TBD
Martha Baldwin Park		
Pembroke Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground and Shelter/Pavilion	TBD
Poppleton Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Inclusive Playground and Drainage Improvements	TBD
Pump House Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground	TBD

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS

Park	All Actions	Time Frame
Quarton Lake Park	• Install picnic tables at strategic area(s) around the Lake.	TBD
Quarton Tennis Court		
Redding Well Site		
Shain Park		
South Well Site		
Springdale Golf Course & Park	• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Irrigation improvements	TBD
St. James Park	• Commission a park redesign plan to realize opportunity for a multigenerational destination at this park. In the design, prioritize walking paths, places to rest, a well-designed entrance with seating opportunities and a well-designed interface to connect the park with surrounding neighborhoods. • Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground	TBD
West Lincoln Well Site	• Implement Schedule II Bond Issue: Install Inclusive Playground	TBD

2024 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Dates

WILL BE HELD AT THE DPS CONFERENCE ROOM
AT 851 SOUTH ETON
AT 6:30PM

January 9, 2024

February 6, 2024

March 5, 2024

April 2, 2024

May 7, 2024

June 4, 2024

July 2, 2024

August 6 2024

September 10, 2024

October 1, 2024

November 12, 2024

December 3, 2024

January 14, 2025

FW: Crestview Park/Pickleball comments

1 message

jprusche@aol.com <jprusche@aol.com>

Fri, Sep 22, 2023 at 5:27 PM

To: Scott Zielinski <szielinski@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>, Heather Carmona <htcarmona@sbcglobal.net>

Hello,

City Commissioner Brad Host gave Susan Randall my phone number. She called a short time ago to express her opposition to pickleball and her support of the Crestview residents who oppose it. She asked if I had received her email of August 1 which went into more detail? I replied no. She forwarded it below. Her intention was to write every member of the P&R Board, but as you can see, she did not have our correct email addresses.

John P. Rusche

C 248-219-8114

JPRusche@aol.com

From: Susan Randall <susan.m.randall@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 5:03 PM

To: jprusche@aol.com

Subject: Fw: Crestview Park/Pickleball comments

Thank you,

Susan Randall

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Susan Randall <susan.m.randall@sbcglobal.net>

To: hcarmona@bhamgov.org <hcarmona@bhamgov.org>; scollins@bhamgov.org <scollins@bhamgov.org>; pgraham@bhamgov.org <pgraham@bhamgov.org>; alipp@bhamgov.org <alipp@bhamgov.org>; jrusche@bhamgov.org <jrusche@bhamgov.org>; ssweeney@bhamgov.org <ssweeney@bhamgov.org>; jwrobel@bhamgov.org <jwrobel@bhamgov.org>; skupczyk@bhamgov.org <skupczyk@bhamgov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 04:44:17 PM EDT

Subject: Crestview Park/Pickleball comments

Parks & Rec Board Members,

Thank you for including discussion on today's agenda regarding pickleball noise remediation in Crestview Park. Unfortunately, I cannot attend, but I do have comments for consideration.

I will give a brief background on my experience with pickleball noise levels.

I live three houses east of the Birmingham Country Club (BCC), which resides on Bloomfield Township property. The BCC recently requested variances to install pickleball courts in the corner of their property near the homes on Saxon in the City of Birmingham and the Village of Beverly Hills. In the meantime, they re-paved their paddle ball courts for pickleball play. The sound is very loud and disruptive at a further distance from the proposed new courts. Approximately 70 residents from the City and Village have petitioned the Boards of Bloomfield Twp., Birmingham, and Beverly Hills to disallow the installation of the pickleball courts on the basis that the play is disruptive to the integrity of the neighborhood. The play not only brings high decibels of noise from the court, racquets and balls, but loud and foul language.

We brought this message to the City of Birmingham Commissioner's before the expansion of the Crestview Park courts. The City Manager disputed our complaints and advised the Commissioners to move forward with expansion of pickleball courts in the City due to the popularity of the game. We warned them that the surrounding residents to Crestview would quickly regret allowing the courts in their vicinity, assuming they had a voice in the decision.

I quickly reviewed your plan to mitigate the noise. Besides the added cost to the City, the proposed surround is not aesthetically pleasing to the eye, and it looks like a hot box for uncomfortable play. I didn't see any details regarding airflow. Our group of 70 neighbors also found many articles and research from across the U.S. debunking adequate reduction of noise from the special paddles, balls and netting.

I support any resident objection to the courts.

Thank you,

Susan Randall

[1220 Saxon Drive](#)

[Birmingham, MI 48009](#)

1A on NPR - The Passion And Politics Of Pickleball

1 message

jprusche@aol.com <jprusche@aol.com>

Mon, Sep 25, 2023 at 5:16 PM

To: Scott Zielinski <szielinski@bhamgov.org>, "Laird, Carrie" <Claird@bhamgov.org>, "Folk, Connie" <Cfolk@bhamgov.org>, Heather Carmona <htcarmona@sbcglobal.net>

Hello,

I just listened to an interesting podcast from a 1A on NPR September 6, 2023 broadcast. It is 32 minutes long.

At 24:13 the Mike Nealy, the CEO of USA Pickleball, the National Governing body for the sport is interviewed. At 30:10 he discusses manufacturers working on developing quieter pickleballs and racquets. He says in a few short months we will be seeing positive announcements.

John P. Rusche

C 248-219-8114

JPRusche@aol.com