

Community Grant Programs



**OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS**

October 2, 2024 – Update

Oakland County Parks and
Recreation Commission



**OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS**

Summary

Oakland County Parks is committed to finding innovative ways to partner with local cities, villages and townships (CVTs) to provide improved recreation opportunities in Oakland County. Leveraging millage funding, OCP created the Community Grant Program to assist Oakland County municipalities with planning, preliminary engineering/design and construction costs directly related to local park improvement and trail projects.

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant Program

This program awarded more than \$1.1 million in grants to Oakland County CVTs to support local park and trail projects in the following communities:

- **Auburn Hills** Hawk Woods Nature Themed Playground- \$100,000 (Closed)
- **Birmingham** Adams Park Development- \$100,000 (Closed)
- **Commerce Township** Trailhead/Non-Motorized Trail Connect- \$152,000 (Complete)
- **Farmington** Shiawassee Park Playscape Fence Replacement- \$30,000 (Closed)
- **Ferndale** Wilson Park Accessibility Development- \$100,000 (In Process)
- **Hazel Park** Bob Welch Baseball Field Modernization Project- \$46,000 (Closed)
- **Leonard** Nature Park Development Planning- \$22,800 (Closed)
- **Novi** Northwest Park Development- \$100,000 (Closed)
- **Oxford** Farmers Market- \$100,000 (Closed)
- **Pontiac** Mattie McKinney Hatchett Park Redevelopment- \$100,000 (In Process)
- **Rochester** Paint Creek Trail Bridge 31.7 Design Engineering- \$25,000 (In Process)
- **Royal Oak** Enhancing Public Access to the Royal Oak Arboretum- \$71,250 (In Process)
- **South Lyon** Downtown South Lyon Park- \$100,000 (In Process)
- **West Bloomfield** Trail/Nature Preserve Restroom- \$100,000 (Complete)

Project Status Key

In Process

Fully executed agreement in place and project is underway.

Completed

Project work is complete and CVT is completing grant close out process.

Closed

Project work and grant close out process is complete.

On Hold

Project is open but paused.

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant Program

This program awarded more than \$600,000 in grants to Oakland County CVTs to support local park and trail projects in the following communities:

- **Beverly Hills** Beverly Park Playground Restoration- \$100,000 (In Process)
- **Birmingham** Trail Improvements on Booth Park Section of the Rouge River Trail Corridor- \$25,000 (In Process)
- **Commerce Township** Bicentennial Park Renovations- \$100,000 (In Process)
- **Farmington** Dinan Pocket Park- \$100,000 (Closed)
- **Ferndale** Martin Road Park Revitalization Project- \$64,000 (In Process)
- **Leonard** Polly Ann Trail Modernization and Safety Improvements- \$25,000 (In Process)
- **Madison Heights** Basketball Court Replacement at Civic Center Park- \$22,500 (Complete)
- **Oakland Township** Gallagher Trail- \$63,750 (In Process)
- **Orion Township** Civic Center Sand Playground Phase 1- \$7,916 (Complete)
- **Royal Oak** Hamer Finch Wilkins Park- \$50,000 (Complete)
- **Southfield** Lahser Woods Park Improvement Project Phase 1: Dog Park- \$50,000 (In Process)

2024 Strategic Partnerships Grant Program

This program awarded more than \$650,000 in grants to support the following projects:

- Pontiac Schools **Hawthorne School Property Acquisition**- \$150,000 (On Hold)
- **Nine Mile Corridor Pathway Plan Development and Branding** (Multijurisdictional)- \$125,000 (In Process)
- **Mill Pond Dam Recreation Improvements** in Springfield Township- \$115,000 (In Process)
- **Innovation Hills Restrooms** in Rochester Hills- \$250,000 (In Process)
- **Rosie's Park Pickleball Courts** in Madison Heights - \$75,000 (In Process)

Auburn Hills

Hawk Woods Nature Themed Playground

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project includes new playground equipment, concrete ADA ramp and wood fiber safety surfacing.

Status - Closed

Beverly Hills

Beverly Park Playground & Surface Renovation

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Photo credit: Village of Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation website.

Project Scope

Renovate the Beverly Park playground to allow people of all abilities to enjoy outdoor recreation more fully at the park. The new playground will offer unique play experiences with sensory play panels, bridges, slides, climbers and ground level musical instruments. Additionally, the plan includes resurfacing the entire area to increase ease of movement for all visitors. The playground designer and equipment manufacturer were both chosen due to their experience in planning accessible playgrounds.

Status – In Process

The Village of Beverly Hills received the fully executed OCP agreement in 2023 and has since been awarded a Spark Grant through the DNR, which will require several additional steps to meet those program guidelines. The design of the new playground has been completed and the Village has completed a bid and selection of an engineer to finalize the playground plans. Next, they will create a bid package for the demolition, equipment and installation that must be approved by the DNR before it is posted. Anticipated timeline for project completion is Spring 2025.

Birmingham

Adams Park Development

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project includes a new play area, basketball court, garden seating plaza, landscaping and trees, and a reserved large grassy area for a soccer field and space for track and field activities.

Status – Closed

Birmingham (continued)

Trail Improvements to Booth Park Section

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

Develop the Booth Park corner feature/entry plaza and implement trail improvements at Booth Park, which is the trailhead for the Rouge Trail.

Status – In Process

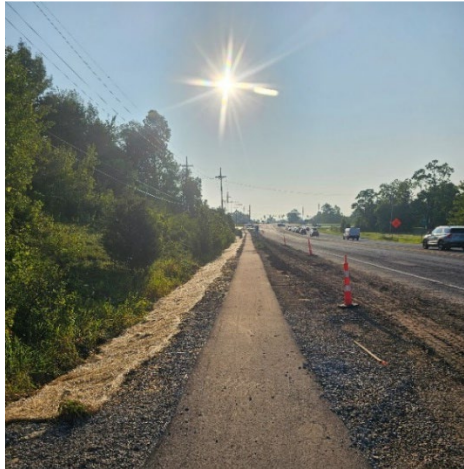
The City of Birmingham's consultant – Grissim, Metz, Andriese Associates – was selected for design work in late March 2024. Designs for construction are currently underway for the Booth Park Entry Plaza and Trail Improvements Project. A public input session was held at the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board in May 2024, and a survey was available on the City's public input online forum, Engage Birmingham. Various City Boards, including the Multi-Modal Transportation Board and the Planning Board, also reviewed the plan.

All feedback was carefully considered as designs have progressed over the past few months. The City Commission reviewed and approved the preliminary landscape plan (above) at their August 12, 2024 meeting and authorized moving forward with plans for construction, which are currently in the works. Anticipated timeline for project completion is December 2024.

Commerce Township

Trailhead/Trail Connect – 14 Mile to Metro Trail

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project includes resurfacing the existing lot at Robert H. Long Nature Park and constructing a paved pathway along the north side of 14 Mile Road connecting to MDOT's Metro Trail, as well as new landscaping, trees and green infrastructure.

Status – Complete

Bicentennial Park Renovations

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant

Project Scope

Create a 6-8' wide asphalt pathway to connect the existing path in Glengary Hills subdivision to the existing path at Bicentennial Park. It also includes renovating the two existing/unusable tennis courts, renovating and expanding the basketball court and resurfacing the existing parking lot. The parking lot will be restriped to include two van accessible parking spots. A 6' wide accessible pathway will also be constructed to connect the parking area to the tennis and basketball courts.

Status – In Process

The project is nearing completion. The pathway, basketball courts, tennis court and pickleball courts are in and are being enjoyed by the community. The parking lot has also been completed. The only outstanding component is handrails for the bridge along the pathway, which are anticipated to be installed by mid-October 2024.

Farmington

Shiawassee Park Playscape Fence Replacement

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project replaced a 20+ year old wooden fence with new aluminum fencing, providing sturdier, lower-maintenance safety feature between playscape and Rouge River.

Status - Closed

Dinan Pocket Park

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project created an inviting, accessible social gathering space for all. The pocket park uses environmentally friendly, low-maintenance materials and furniture, and features barrier-free conditions, multiple seating options, trees, plants, string lights and natural gas firepits.

Status – Closed

Ferndale

Wilson Park Accessibility Development

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

Install a six-foot ADA-accessible walking path that will connect park amenities with surrounding sidewalks and neighborhoods. Other scope items include augmenting playgrounds with accessible features, van accessible parking spaces and installing new amenities such as benches with companion seating, accessible picnic tables, a new drinking fountain and bottle filler, shade structures and interpretive signage.

Status – In Process

Project design and construction drawings were completed by landscape design firm, Smith Group. Received a GameTime grant – as part of the 2023 mParks Statewide Funding Initiative – for up to \$100,000. These funds went towards the purchase of play equipment. MDNR is also providing funding. The project kicked off construction in June and is currently nearing completion. The walking path, parking lot improvements, and some field grading and restoration have been completed. In addition, majority of the amenities have been installed, including the drinking fountain, park benches and trash/recycling bins. Currently, the construction company is completing the install of the playground components and field restoration. The pavilion and picnic tables still need to be installed. Estimated timeline for project completion is end of September 2024.

Ferndale (continued)

Martin Road Revitalization Project

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Figure: Stormwater management options for Martin Road Park – (A) Site for bioswale; (B) Site for large native grow area; (C) Site for large rain garden; (D) Site for bioswale

Project Scope

Add new ADA-compliant playground equipment to expand play area and replace outdated equipment. Renovate the park's picnic area with new picnic tables (including some accessible picnic tables), new trash and recycling bins and new grills. The plan also includes installing green infrastructure to improve stormwater management.

Status – In Process

Ferndale is currently working with their partners at the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) to develop an action plan for addressing various stormwater problem areas in the park. CRWC has provided a report to help identify potential stormwater management options for the site, which is currently under review. A rain garden and other landscaping is planned to be installed this fall to assist with mitigating ponding water. Outstanding components include finalizing a design plan for stormwater management, ordering playground equipment, completing the bid process and completing construction. They expect to begin construction in Spring 2025.

Hazel Park

Bob Welch Baseball Field Modernization Project

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project includes replacement of three sets of badly deteriorated bleachers and a scoreboard that has not worked properly for close to three decades. Hazel Park has a long history and deep commitment to baseball and its local field is dedicated to Bob Welch, a former MLB player and former resident of Hazel Park. Baseball is the most popular youth sport in the community and Bob Welch Field is its most utilized park amenity. Modernizing the field will have a significant and long-lasting positive impact for residents.

Status – Closed

Leonard

Leonard Nature Park Design Project

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project included contracting with local firms to evaluate the site and create preliminary design and engineering plans for enhancements to the existing infrastructure at the Leonard Nature Park. Completed design plans focus on upgrading the trails (surfaces and potential for interpretive signage) and amenities to be ADA-compliant and accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while protecting and conserving the integrity of the natural resources of the park. The plans also include improving the connection to the adjacent Polly Ann Trail and the installation of a small parking lot to make the site easier to access, as well as upgrading the picnic area and adding accessible tables, new bike racks and waste receptacles.

Status – Closed

Polly Ann Trail Modernization Design Project

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant

Project Scope

Work with a contractor to develop design and engineering plans for improvements to the Polly Ann Trail within Oakland County.

Status – In Process

An amendment was made to the original agreement to change the scope of the project. The change of scope was due to the higher than anticipated engineering design estimates received in response to their RFP. The revised scope aims to focus on specific areas on the Polly Ann Trail deemed most in need of improvements, reducing the portion of the trail included in the project from the full 16.9 miles to 4.1 miles of trail from Hosner Road to Elmwood Street. This section was prioritized based on the existing trail surface condition, the need to make stormwater improvements and proposed safety enhancements at the roadway crossings. A modified RFP – based on the amended change of scope – was approved by the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council.

The engineering plans are still on target and the PATMC is working with the MDNR and other funding sources to proceed with RFPs as needed for the successful completion of the project.

Madison Heights

Basketball Court Rehabilitation at Civic Center Park

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



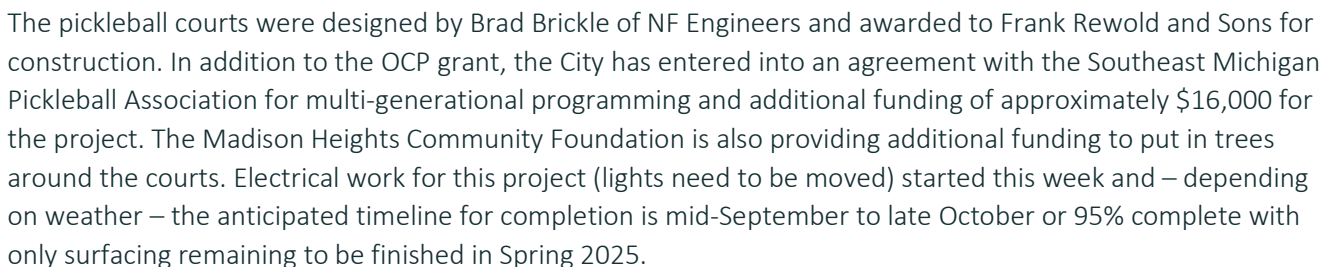
Project Scope

Tear out the existing asphalt courts and apply new asphalt with a liquid acrylic resurfacing application to increase longevity, boost curb appeal and improve court grip. Project will also involve striping the new court.

Status – Complete

The basketball court has been completely refurbished. The City is currently gathering the documentation to request reimbursement and close out the grant.

2024 Strategic Partnerships Grant



Nine Mile Corridor – Multijurisdictional

Nine Mile Corridor Phase 2 Feasibility Study and Branding

2024 Strategic Partnership Grant



Project Scope

In 2023, Oakland County Parks facilitated (and matched) a grant from SEMCOG to develop a feasibility study for a Nine Mile Pathway corridor in southern Oakland County. The initial project focused on communities between I-275 and I-75, and included: **Farmington, Farmington Hills, Oak Park, Southfield, Ferndale** and **Hazel Park**. The study, completed by OHM Advisors, provides a framework for the development of an inter-connected pathway spanning these six communities. OCP would like to continue the momentum of this project by:

- Continuing the pathway planning to the western border of the county, adding **Novi, Novi Township, South Lyon** and **Lyon Township** to the plan
- Working with all the Nine Mile communities to develop a brand and logo for the pathway, so that as projects come online, they can be designed and signed in a way that reflects coordinated branding for the corridor. The interactive project will include naming the pathway, developing a logo (or logos), determining application (signage, fixtures) for the entire county-wide length of the pathway, and developing a brand style guide for the communities.
- Continuing to utilize OHM Advisors to support the Nine Mile Pathway project through as-needed grant research and grant application support, map development and project support.

Status – In Process

The Phase 2 feasibility study is underway and should be completed by the end of the year. The brand and logo development portion of the project is also underway. OCP has contracted with Crimson and has been holding meetings with the ten Nine Mile Corridor communities. A Memorandum of Understanding is slated to be approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on Sept. 19, 2024, and the board chair will appoint two commissioners to serve on the committee for the project.

Novi

Northwest Park Development

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Photo credit (playground): Novi.org.

Project Scope

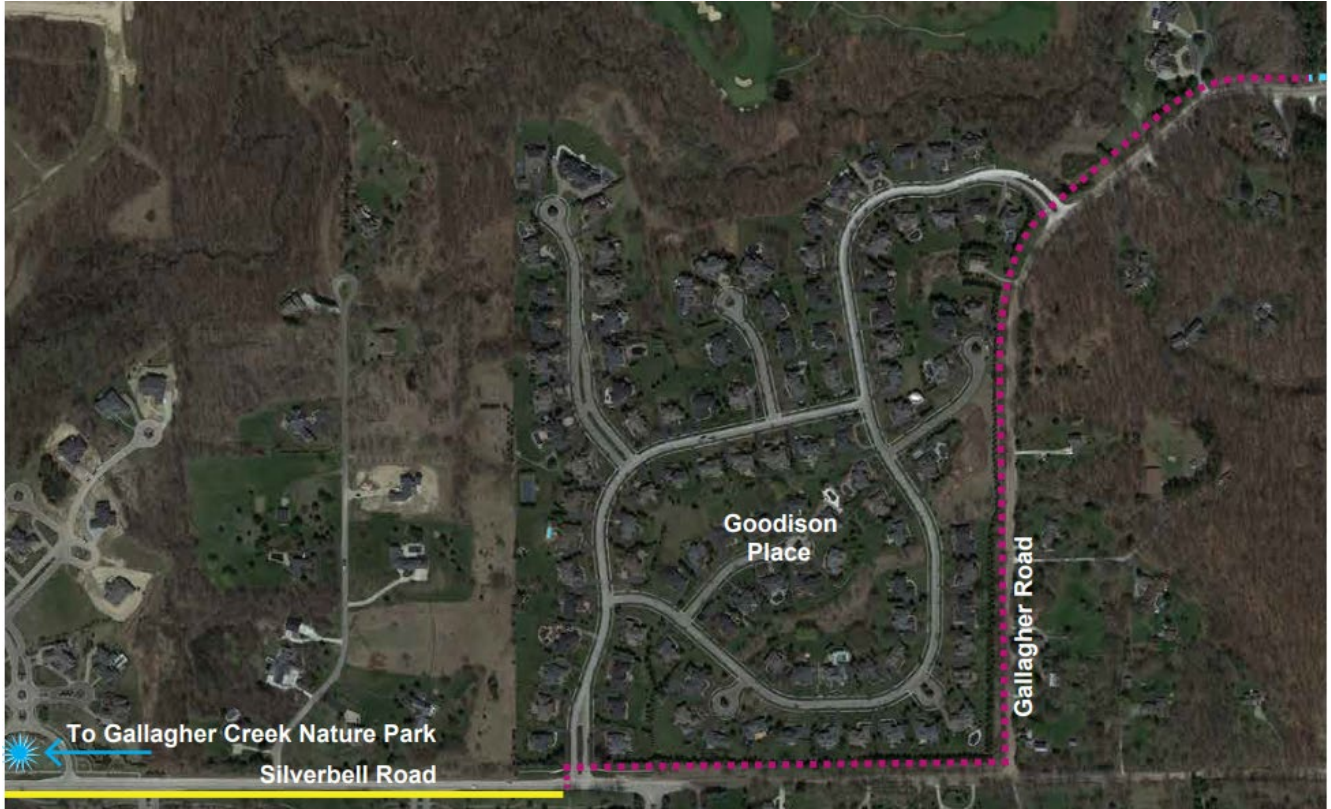
The completed project includes a parking lot at trailhead, new playground equipment, an accessible path, landscaping, green infrastructure and site furnishings (bench, bike rack, trash receptacle, recycle bin and bike repair station).

Status – Closed

Oakland Township

Oakland Township Gallagher Trail Gap

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

Install a new trail to fill a 390' gap in an existing trail network located along Gallagher Road between Silverbell Road and Orion Road. This new trail connection will provide safe access to the regional trail network and a regional destination for the most populated area of the Township and surrounding communities.

Status – In Process

The Township has signed a contract for final engineering services and obtained permits. It plans to have the bid for construction go out by Spring 2025 at the latest, after which they will review bids, select a contractor and move forward with building the trail.

Orion Township

Civic Center Sand Playground Phase 1

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The completed project includes installation of a 6-foot accessible concrete walkway, a two-basin accessible sand and water table and two EZ-Diggers (one standard and one accessible).

Status – Complete

Oxford Township

Davis Family Farmers Market

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

The 4,000-square-foot, open-air pavilion was completed in October 2022 and provides lighting and access for vendors to water and electricity. It will house market vendors and shelter park patrons during the spring, summer and fall.

Status – Closed

Pontiac

Mattie McKinney Hatchett Park Redevelopment

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Photo credit: [ClickOnDetroit](#) website.

Project Scope

Redevelop Mattie McKinney Hatchett including new outdoor fitness equipment, updated playground equipment, new and repaired walking paths, park seating and updated general amenities.

Status – In Process

The City of Pontiac is in the process of awarding a contract for the design and construction of Mattie McKinney Hatchett Park (MMHP). They expect the contract to be in place in September and for the construction to be completed during Fall 2024. Already completed components include a community outreach effort, including engaging residents with project plans and surveying resident priorities for the park. The City also completed fundraising campaigns raising nearly half a million dollars to support the project and successfully filled the former funding gap. All renovation site plans are complete and have been approved by the City's acting engineer. The project has experienced significant delays mostly due to staff turnover, however, new leadership is in place for several departments directly involved in managing this project going forward and the project is actively progressing at this time. The City plans to host a grand opening once the project is complete.

Hawthorn Property Acquisition (2024 Strategic Partnership Grant)

Project Scope

OCP to partner with City of Pontiac to purchase the former Hawthorne School property, a 19-acre property adjacent to Pontiac Oaks County Park.

Status – On Hold

The project is on hold and will be revisited early 2025.

Rochester

Paint Creek Trail Bridge Design Engineering

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Photos: Existing bridge (left) to be replaced with single-span, 70' steel truss bridge like Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 (right)

Project Scope

Develop engineering plans and construction documents required for the Paint Creek Trailways Commission to put the project to reconstruct Bridge 31.7 on the Paint Creek Trail out to bid. A 2016 structural inspection determined the bridge had extensive deterioration of the timber superstructure, piers and abutments and recommended vehicular loads be limited until repairs could be completed. Long term goals for the replacement project include improving accessibility and safety for trail users, improving access for maintenance and emergency vehicles, reducing erosion along the Paint Creek and improving the fisheries habitat of the Paint Creek.

Status – In Process

The construction plans, project specifications, cost estimate and traffic control plans are 80% complete. The City received Soil Erosion Approval on 9/18/2023 and EGLE Permit on 6/12/2023. They anticipate finalizing the construction plans, project specifications, cost estimates and traffic control plan in October 2024.

2024 Strategic Partnership Grant

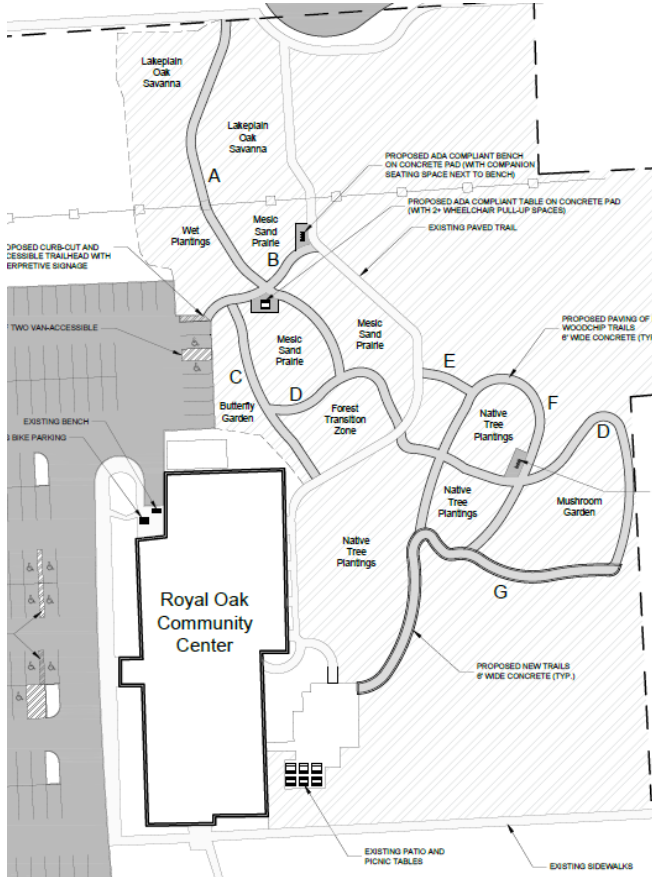


The Innovation Hills Park Restroom project is moving along smoothly. The plans are currently being reviewed internally by the City's permitting departments for final approval. The construction team has started leveling and fencing off the construction area. They are hoping to get a foundation permit expedited, so the construction team can start laying the foundation of the building before the weather starts to get too cold. Anticipated timeline for completion is Spring 2025.

Royal Oak

Enhancing Public Access to Royal Oak Arboretum

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

Upgrade 1,300' of trails within the Arboretum to hard-surface trails (current trail system is not accessible to people with limited mobility) and install two ADA-compliant benches and an ADA picnic table to encourage relaxing in the park. The City has also committed to adding two ADA-compliant parking spaces at the trailhead.

Status – In Process

Final design is completed with some new components added since the August 2023 update, including a maintenance shed and an additional trail connection. The project is being implemented simultaneously with another grant project to plant 100 trees in the Arboretum, courtesy of the Erb Family Foundation. The coordination of planning, install elements, resources, etc. has culminated with major groundbreaking the last week of August (photo above). The initial bid process that took place earlier this year resulted in quotes that were well above projections. After discussing with several vendors, it came to light that the high costs were partially due to trying to get the projects on the very busy spring calendar. The projects were rebid with a fall construction date and they came back within budget so the project is on track to be completed December 2024.

Royal Oak (Continued)

Hamer Finch Wilkins Park

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

Create a garden with picnic tables, pathways, benches, new landscaping and educational components.

Status – Complete

In 2023, Hamer Finch Wilkins Park (formerly Beechwood Park) was remade, creating a peaceful, reflective garden that tells the story of the City's early black pioneers, Henry and Elizabeth Hamer. New ADA-compliant pathways, a seating area and a picnic area – with an accessible picnic table – were constructed. Six trees and more than 300 perennials were planted, creating beautiful, pollinator-friendly gardens. This fall a bronze sculpture of Elizabeth Hamer was installed and the City held a ribbon cutting for the park on Sept. 23, 2024.

South Lyon

Downtown South Lyon Park

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Figure: 100x70' parcel at 390 S. Lafayette St. in downtown South Lyon (Images: City of South Lyon Parks & Rec Master Plan)

Project Scope

Creation of a 7,000 sq. ft. mini park at 390 S. Lafayette in downtown South Lyon. Potential ideas for the site include a passive park with sitting areas and landscaping, swings, a gazebo or an art park.

Status – In Process

The South Lyon DDA was also awarded approximately \$300,000 through a grant with Main Street Oakland County. Outstanding components include electrical installation and park construction. The City is working with their engineers and landscape architect to develop a bid proposal. The project is expected to be completed within the next 12-18 months. A tentative conceptual plan for the site is above.

Southfield

Lahser Woods Park Improvement Project: Dog Park

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

Bring Southfield residents their first dog park, providing recreational fitness equipment, creating a solar-lit walking path and installing a renovated gravel parking lot. Phase 1 of the project focuses on the park entrance, parking lot and dog park.

Status – In Process

Southfield is completing the design phase of the dog park with Hubbel, Roth and Clark. They have met with stakeholders, Southfield Schools and the Synagogue regarding the project and to discuss the possibility of adding a paved, connecting walking path and are working on securing additional funding for the pathway. Construction is slated to begin around September/October with a projected completion timeline of April 2025.

Springfield Township

Rotary Park and Mill Pond Park Connecting Pathway

2024 Strategic Partnership Grant



Project Scope

Construction of a boardwalk and pathway connecting Rotary Park and Mill Pond Park now that the Davisburg Mill Pond Dam has been removed and the new open bottom culvert has been installed. The proposed design would allow for a new, safe and convenient pathway connecting the two parks and provide the public with access to the restored Shiawassee River.

Status – In Process

Design engineering on the project began in August. Outstanding components include completing design engineering and constructing the pathway. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.

West Bloomfield Township

West Bloomfield Trail/Nature Preserve Restroom

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Project Scope

Replace two porta-john restrooms at the Trail head of the West Bloomfield Trail and Nature Preserve with a prefabricated accessible restroom facility. A drinking fountain and bottle-filling station will also be added. The trail head has parking for 60 cars and acts as the main hub for the West Bloomfield Trail and Nature Preserve.

Status – Complete

This project is complete. The underground site work was completed in March and April of this year and the prefabricated building was delivered April 24. Building is installed, all electrical, plumbing and mechanical components have been completed and tested. All outside site restoration is completed. A ribbon-cutting for the new restroom was held on Sept. 18, 2024.
