

# Community Grant Programs



**OAKLAND  
COUNTY PARKS**

June 4, 2025 – Update

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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

\$1.1 M 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 (Closed)
- **Farmington** Shiawassee Park Playscape Fence Replacement- \$30,000 (Closed)
- **Ferndale** Wilson Park Accessibility Development- \$100,000 (Closed)
- **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 Access to the Royal Oak Arboretum- \$71,250 (Complete)
- **South Lyon** Downtown South Lyon Park- \$100,000 (In Process)
- **West Bloomfield** Trail/Nature Preserve Restroom- \$100,000 (Closed)

#### 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 are complete.

##### On Hold

Project is open but paused.

### 2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant Program

\$608,166 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 to Booth Park Section of the Rouge River Trail Corridor- \$25,000 (In Process)
- **Commerce Township** Bicentennial Park Renovations- \$100,000 (Complete)
- **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 (Closed)
- **Oakland Township** Gallagher Trail- \$63,750 (In Process)
- **Orion Township** Civic Center Sand Playground Phase 1- \$7,916 (Closed)
- **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

\$565,000 in grants to support the following projects:

- **Nine Mile Corridor Pathway Plan Development and Branding** (Multijurisdictional)- \$125,000 (Complete)
- **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 (Complete)

### 2025 Strategic Partnerships Grant Program

\$200,000 grant to support the following project:

- **Farmington** Fitness Courts - \$200,000 (In Process)



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## Auburn Hills

### Hawk Woods Nature Themed Playground

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included installing new playground equipment, a concrete accessible ramp and wood fiber safety surfacing.

#### *Status - Closed*

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## Beverly Hills

### Beverly Park Playground & Surface Renovation

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



*Figure: Beverly Hills Park design rendering.*

#### *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 selected based on their experience in planning accessible playgrounds.

#### *Status – In Process*

The Village of Beverly Hills was awarded a Spark Grant through DNR, which required several additional steps to meet program guidelines. Plan specifications are now complete and are currently being reviewed by DNR. Once approved – the project will be sent out to bid. Playground installation is anticipated to begin at the end of June 2025.



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# Birmingham

## Adams Park Development

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



### *Project Scope*

The completed project included installing 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*

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## Birmingham (continued)

### Trail Improvements to Booth Park Section

#### 2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



Figure: Booth Park preliminary design landscape plan.

#### 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 are 95% complete and City is preparing to bid out the project. The anticipated date of completion is June 30, 2025.



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## Commerce Township

### Trailhead/Trail Connect – 14 Mile to Metro Trail

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included resurfacing the existing lot at Robert H. Long Nature Park and a new 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 – Closed*

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## Bicentennial Park Renovations

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant

#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included installing a 6-8' wide asphalt pathway connecting the existing path in Glengary Hills subdivision to the existing path at Bicentennial Park. It also included renovating the two existing/unusable tennis courts – creating a pickleball court – renovating and expanding the basketball court and resurfacing the existing parking lot. The parking lot was restriped to include two van accessible parking spots, and a 6-foot-wide accessible pathway was constructed to connect the parking area to the courts.

#### *Status – Complete*

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## 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 a sturdier, lower-maintenance safety feature between playscape and the Rouge River.

#### *Status - Closed*

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## Dinan Pocket Park

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project created an inviting, accessible social gathering space for all. The new 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*

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## Farmington (continued)

### Fitness Courts at Shiawassee Park and Flanders Park

2025 Strategic Partnerships Grant



*Aerial photos of Shiawassee Park (left) and Flanders Park (right).*

#### *Project Scope*

Install new fitness courts at Shiawassee Park and Flanders Park.

#### *Status – In Process*

In February 2025, the City of Farmington approved the purchase of two fitness courts. In April 2025, the concrete pad installation was awarded to Luigi Ferdinandi & Son Cement Company, which is now scheduling for the concrete to be poured. Installation of the courts will begin 30 days after the concrete is poured.

Outstanding components include determining the exact location of the courts within the parks, delivery of the courts, installation of the concrete pads and installation of the courts. The anticipated timeline for completion is Fall 2025.



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## Ferndale

### Wilson Park Accessibility Development

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included a new accessible walking path, van accessible parking spaces, benches with companion seating, accessible picnic tables, a drinking water fountain and bottle filler, shade structures and interpretive signage. In addition to the OCP funding, the City of Ferndale received a GameTime grant – as part of the 2023 mParks Statewide Funding Initiative. These funds went towards the purchase of play equipment. MDNR also provided funding. The City of Ferndale held a ribbon cutting on October 27, 2024.

#### *Status – Closed*

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## Ferndale (continued)

### Martin Road Revitalization Project

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



*Figure: Playground concept design for Martin Road Park.*

#### *Project Scope*

Add new ADA-compliant playground equipment to expand the 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*

The City of Ferndale has broadened the scope of the project to include a more robust playground expansion. To help fund this wider scope, they have applied for additional grants from DNR and are working with private community partners for additional funding. The raingarden installation is complete and the City will be working with their Department of Public Works and private contractors to install underdrainage and address other areas of stormwater ponding as indicated in their Stormwater Management Plan from the Clinton River Watershed Council.

Outstanding components include securing additional funding, completing the underdrainage system at the playground, selecting a playground contractor and completing construction. They expect to select a contractor in Spring 2025 and complete construction in Summer 2026.

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## Hazel Park

### Bob Welch Baseball Field Modernization Project

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included 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. This effort to modernize the field will have a significant and long-lasting positive impact for residents.

#### *Status – Closed*

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## Leonard

### Leonard Nature Park Design Project

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included evaluating the site and creating preliminary design and engineering plans for enhancements to the existing infrastructure at the Leonard Nature Park. Final design plans focus on upgrading the trails and amenities to be ADA-compliant and accessible, while protecting and conserving the integrity of the natural resources at 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*

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### Polly Ann Trail Modernization Design Project

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant

#### *Project Scope*

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 due to the higher than anticipated engineering design estimates. The revised scope focuses on specific areas of 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. A modified RFP – based on the amended change of scope – was approved by the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council (PATMC).

The project remains active, but bids are still coming in higher than available funds even with scaled back scope, so the project team has been working with MDNR and Oakland County Economic Development to identify additional funding sources. MDNR – on behalf of PATMC – has submitted two additional grant applications for the project: Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (U.S. Dept. of Transportation) and Nutrition and Lifestyles Program (Michigan Health Endowment Fund). Grant awards will be announced in September 2025 and – if awarded – expected timeline for project completion is October 2026.

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# Madison Heights

## Basketball Court Rehabilitation at Civic Center Park

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



### *Project Scope*

The completed project included tearing out the existing asphalt courts and applying new asphalt with a liquid acrylic resurfacing application to increase longevity, boost curb appeal and improve court grip. The courts were also restriped as part of the project.

### *Status – Closed*

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## Madison Heights (continued)

### Rosie's Park Pickleball

2024 Strategic Partnerships Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included the construction of pickleball courts at Rosie's Park. The courts are now open to the public. In addition to the OCP grant, the City of Madison Heights provided \$250,000 from its General Fund Parks appropriation and entered into an agreement with the Southeast Michigan Pickleball Association for multigenerational programming and \$16,000 in funding. The Madison Heights Community Foundation provided additional funding to put trees around the courts. A grand opening was held on May 30, 2025.

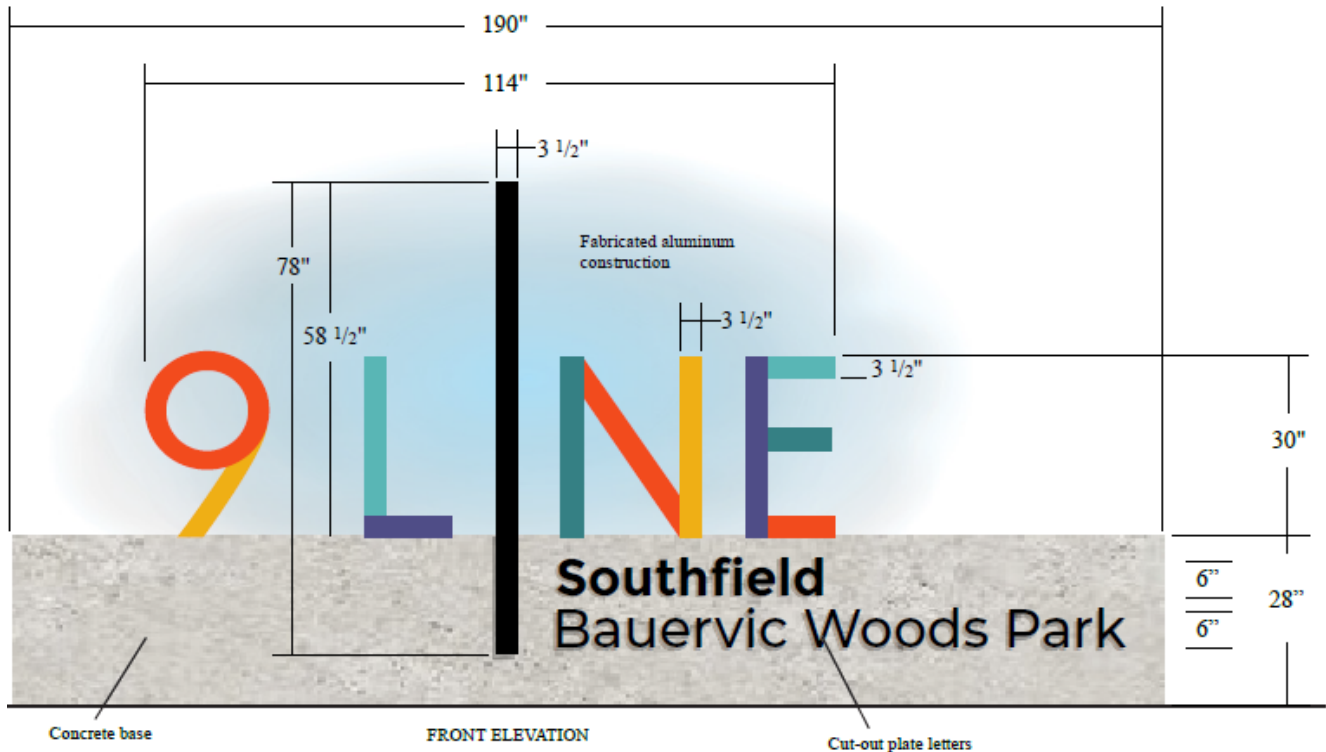
#### *Status – Complete*

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# 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**. In 2024, OCP provided funding for both Phase II of the Feasibility Study as well as a marketing and branding strategy. Phase II brings in the rest of the communities along the corridor, including **Novi, Northville, Lyon Township** and **South Lyon**.



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### *Status – In Process*

The Phase II report was completed in early 2025 and is currently being adopted by the four new communities. Once that occurs, the four Phase II communities will officially sign on to the Nine Mile Task Force MOU, which includes Oakland County and indicates each community's interest in working together to develop and connect non-motorized access along the entire 30-mile stretch of Nine Mile in Oakland County. Oakland County Commissioners Taylor, Weipert and Cavell are currently appointed to the Task Force, which is coordinated by OCP Planning and meets quarterly.

For the marketing and branding strategy component of the project, OCP worked with Crimson Agency on creating a logo and brand guidelines for what is now referred to as the 9 Line. This iterative process included representatives from all 10 communities who worked together to select both a name and a logo for the corridor. Southfield has been the first community to install 9 Line signage, starting with a new sign at the entrance to Bauervic Woods (on the 9 Line) as well as some custom art pieces along the corridor that match the brand themes. OCP will continue to coordinate and convene the 9 Line communities and to assist with planning, grant support, and marketing for the project.

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## Novi

### Northwest Park Development

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



*Photo credit (playground): Novi.org.*

#### *Project Scope*

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

#### *Status – Closed*

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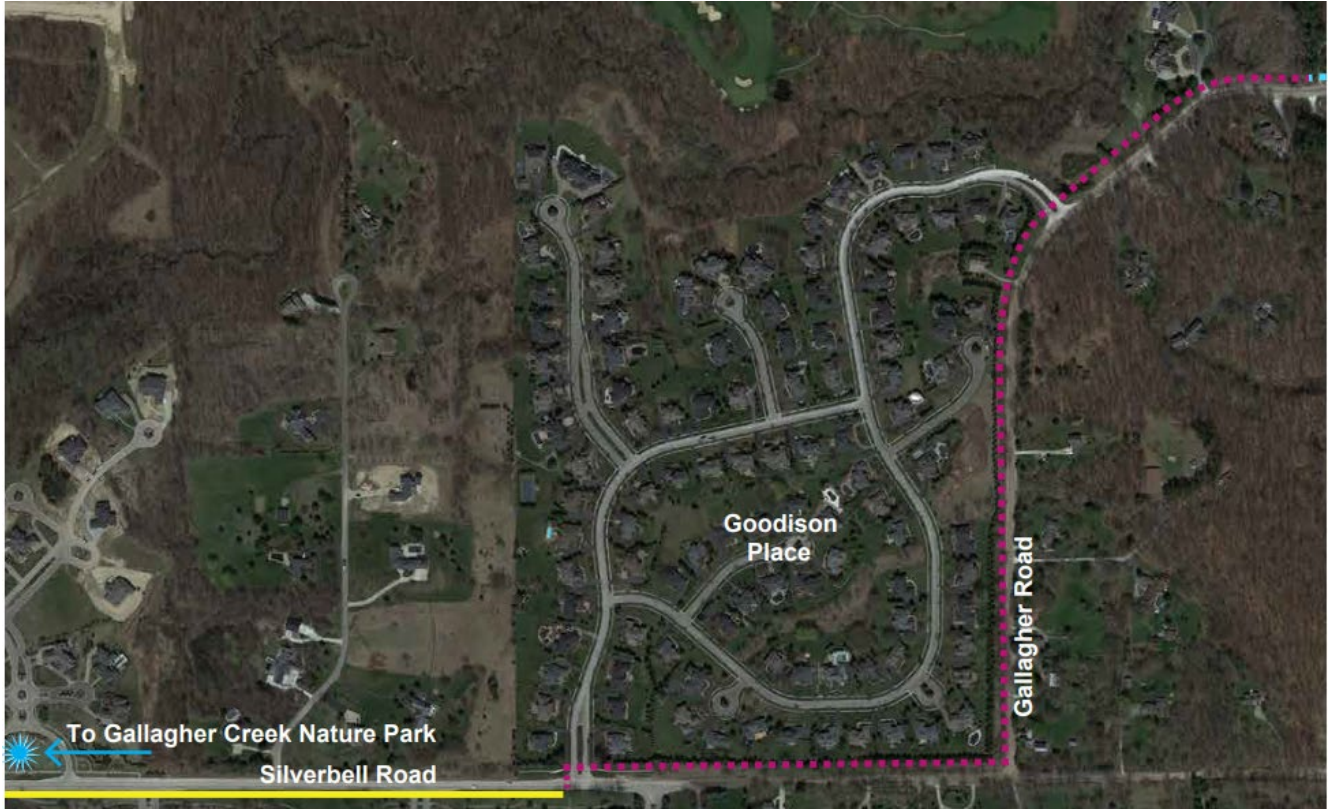


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## Oakland Township

### 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 – On Hold*

The Township completed final engineering and obtaining permits and was prepared to bid the project this spring but then voted to order preliminary engineering on paving Gallagher Road, which – according to the Road Commission – may involve moving some of the existing safety path. They have decided to wait until that project is completed or abandoned before moving forward with the grant project and have requested an extension on the grant term. The timeline for completion is TBD.



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## Orion Township

### Civic Center Sand Playground Phase 1

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included 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 – Closed*

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## 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*

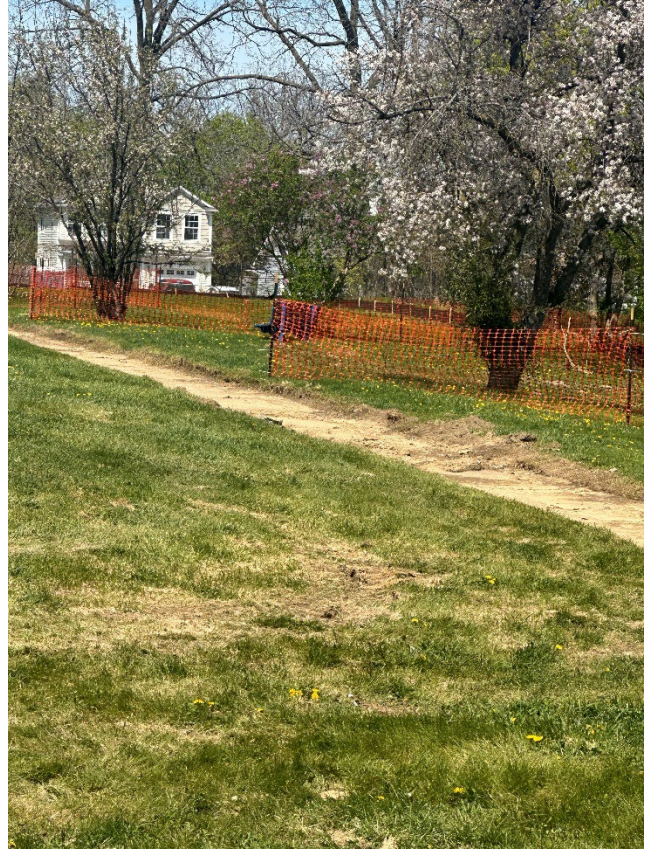


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## Pontiac

### Mattie McKinney Hatchett Park Redevelopment

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



*Photos: sidewalk removal and construction fencing (courtesy of City of Pontiac).*

#### *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 was going to be unable to complete the project by the original grant term end (May 2025) so an amendment providing a year extension has been drafted and is going through the approval process with Corporation Counsel. Construction began in April 2025 and sidewalk removal and stockpiled debris removal is complete. Bike racks and basketball court equipment have been delivered. Outstanding components include installation of bike racks, play structure, benches and trash receptacles. The anticipated timeline for completion is September 2025.



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## 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.

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## Rochester Hills

### Innovation Hills Restroom

2024 Strategic Partnership Grant



#### *Project Scope*

In partnership with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, OCP is supporting the development of restrooms at Innovation Hills Park in Rochester Hills. Since opening in 2021, the Innovation Hills playground has become one of the most popular recreational destinations in Oakland County, drawing an estimated 400,000 visitors annually. Grant funding will facilitate the completion of much-needed restroom facilities that will serve the playground area and enhance the visibility of OCP to a wider audience.

#### *Status – In Process*

The project is approximately 60% complete, including the utility hook ups, exterior wall and roof rough carpentry. The exterior porch columns are framed, and the concrete porch slabs have been poured. Outstanding components include installing the finishing layer on the exterior (roof, sliding doors, etc.) and completing the interior work (painting, fixtures, lighting, HVAC). The anticipated timeline for completion is Summer 2025.



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## Royal Oak

### Enhancing Public Access to Royal Oak Arboretum

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project included upgrading 1,300' of trails within the Arboretum to hard-surface trails and installing three ADA-compliant benches and two ADA-compliant parking spaces at the trailhead. The project was implemented simultaneously with another grant project to plant 100 trees in the Arboretum, courtesy of the Erb Family Foundation. A ribbon cutting was held on April 24, 2025.

#### *Status – Complete*

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## Royal Oak (Continued)

### Hamer Finch Wilkins Park

2023 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project remade Hamer Finch Wilkins Park (formerly Beechwood Park), creating a peaceful, reflective garden that tells the story of Royal Oaks' 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, and a bronze sculpture of Elizabeth Hamer was installed. Six trees and more than 300 perennials were planted. The City of Royal Oak held a ribbon cutting for the park on September 23, 2024.

#### *Status – Complete*

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## South Lyon

### Downtown South Lyon Park

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant

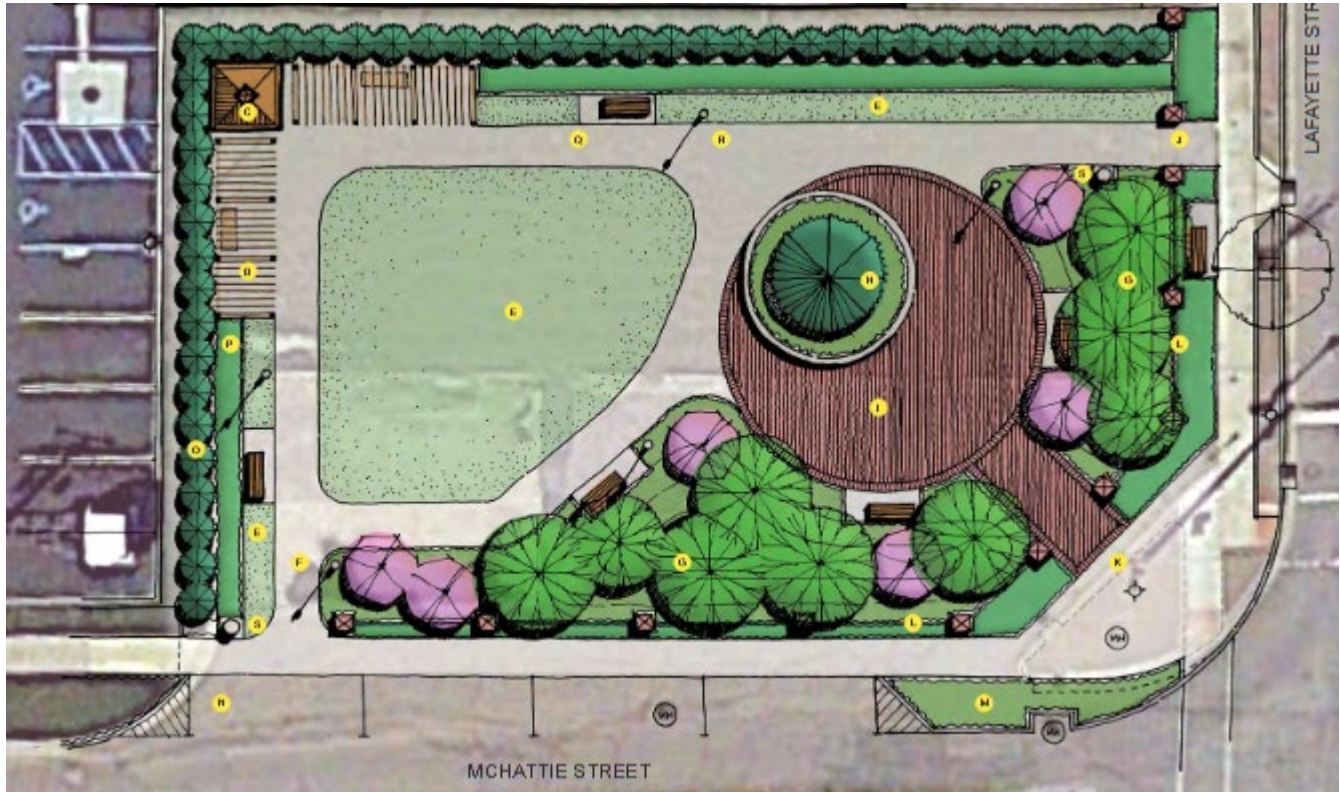


Figure: 100x70' parcel at 390 S. Lafayette St. in downtown South Lyon (Images: City of South Lyon Parks & Rec Master Plan)

#### 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. The City of South Lyon awarded the Phase 1 bid on May 27, 2025, and anticipates completing the construction May 2026. A tentative conceptual plan for the site is above.

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## 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*

The pathways and all underground work are complete. The focus is now on building the dog park, improving the parking lot and connecting new components with the trail. The project is 50% done with earthwork, grading, fencing and gates, access control system, clay surface, turf restoration, bike rack, DTE electrical service and camera pole still outstanding. The expected date of completion is July 1, 2025.

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## 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 2024. Outstanding components include completing design engineering and constructing the pathway. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.



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## West Bloomfield Township

### West Bloomfield Trail/Nature Preserve Restroom

2022 Community Park & Trail Capital Grant



#### *Project Scope*

The completed project replaced two porta-john restrooms at the trailhead of the West Bloomfield Trail and Nature Preserve with a prefabricated accessible restroom facility. A drinking fountain and bottle-filling station was also added. A ribbon-cutting was held on September 18, 2024.

#### *Status – Closed*

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