

DRAFT



CITY OF SOUTH LYON PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2016-2021



Adopted **XXXX**, 2016

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

CITY OF SOUTH LYON

CITY COUNCIL

XXXX, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of South Lyon has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2016 through 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City of South Lyon, with assistance from Russell Design and Community Image Builders, began the process of developing the South Lyon Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of South Lyon were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least two weeks, and

WHEREAS, a final public comment session was held on (date) at (place) to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the South Lyon Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of South Lyon has developed the plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the City of South Lyon.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Lyon City Council hereby adopts the South Lyon Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of the 2016–2021 City of South Lyon Parks and Recreation Master Plan is greatly appreciated. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of the following individuals:

SOUTH LYON CITY COUNCIL

John Galeas, Mayor

Harvey Wedell, Mayor Pro-Tem

Joseph Rzyzi

Mary Dedakis

Glenn Kivell

Michael Kramer

Magaret Kurzweil

SOUTH LYON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Erica Wilson, Chair

Alex Clark, Vice Chair

Dianne Beagle, Secretary

Rick Neely

Denise Semion

Lynne Ladner, City Manager

CITY STAFF

Lynne Ladner, City Manager

Lisa Deaton, Clerk/Treasurer

www.southlyonmi.org

CONSULTANTS

Russell Design, Inc.

Community Image Builders, Inc



RUSSELL DESIGN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Design ■ Planning
114 Rayson St. Suite 2A Northville, MI 48167 ph: 248.374.3222



Community Image Builders

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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

In a continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, the City of South Lyon has put together the South Lyon Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016–2021. The purpose of this plan is to serve as a tool to inventory existing recreational opportunities and facilities available to South Lyon residents, identify problems and future needs, and establish a strategy to address those needs in a programmed, systemic manner.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016–2021 represents the most current effort by the City to formulate new recreational goals and objectives for the community. This plan has been developed with the objective of meeting the recreation needs of South Lyon residents through the year 2020 and to serve as a policy guide for City officials in developing efficient recreational services and facilities in the long and short term. The plan will also make the City eligible for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist the City in reaching its recreational goals. The scope and jurisdiction of this recreation plan, while recognizing both local and regional recreational opportunities, focuses solely on the City of South Lyon.

REGIONAL SETTING

The City of South Lyon consists of 3.7 square miles located in the southwest corner of Oakland County, in the northwest portion of Metro Detroit, as illustrated in Map One. Surrounding communities include Green Oak Township in Livingston County to the west, Salem Township in Washtenaw County to the south and Lyon Township in Oakland County to the north and east.

Map One
Regional Setting



Source: Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Land Use. The City of South Lyon is located in the middle of an area that once was largely rural. Settled in 1832 and incorporated in 1873, South Lyon transitioned from village to city government in 1931. Development spread outward from the intersection of Pontiac Trail and Ten Mile Road (known in the City as Lafayette and Lake Streets respectively) gradually. Today, a traditional downtown remains at this intersection with strip commercial development concentrated along the length of Pontiac Trail. The land in the rest of the community is comprised mainly of residential development and park land.

Transportation. Interstate 96, a major east-west highway runs approximately five miles north of South Lyon. Nine miles to the west is US-23, a north-south expressway running the length of the Lower Peninsula south into Ohio. These highways make the metropolitan areas of Flint, Detroit, Lansing and Ann Arbor, as well as the more rural outlying areas, readily accessible to South Lyon. Regional trail systems are continually being expanded in Oakland County, many of which use abandoned rail lines.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

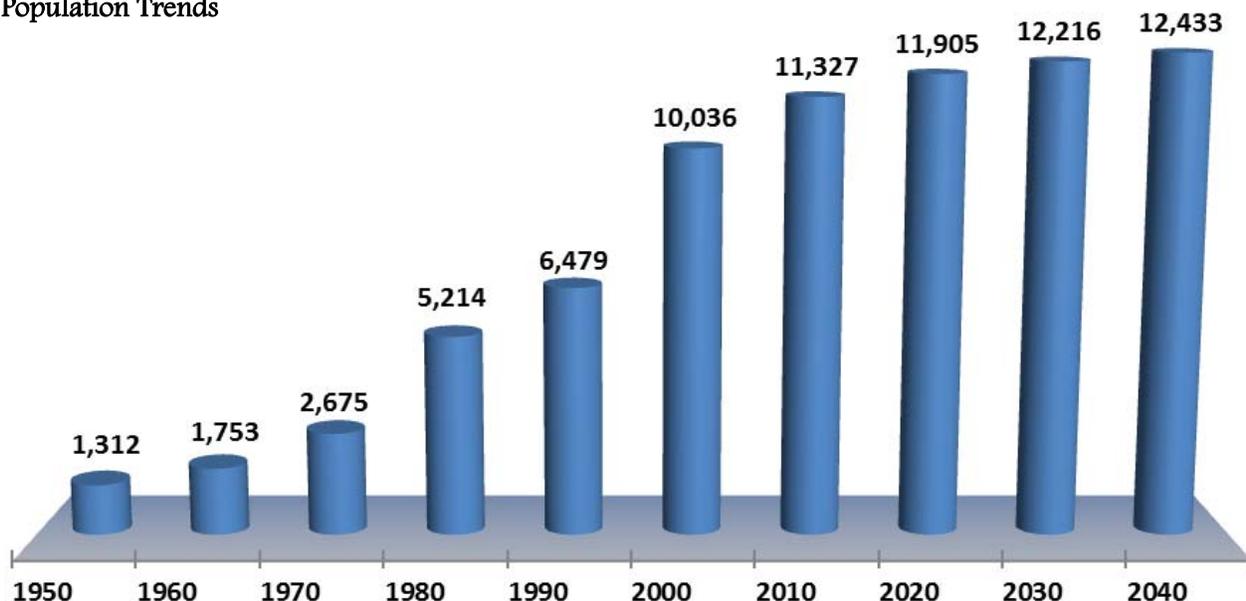
The amount of park facilities and level of recreational programming required in South Lyon is a result of demand. An understanding of existing and future demographics helps to identify trends, emerging needs, and deficiencies in the system.

Population Trends. The City of South Lyon has seen rapid gains in population during the last forty years as illustrated in Figure One. From 1970 to 1980, the City doubled in size from 2,675 to 5,214 residents. Since then the City increased 24% between 1980 to 1990, and 55% between 1990 and 2000. The recession slowed population growth to 13% between 2000 and 2010. As of the 2010 Census, the City's population was 11,327. South Lyon's location at the outer periphery of suburban Detroit has made it attractive to those who work in or near the city, but want to live in a rural area. Such rapid growth had a tremendous impact on the recreation plans created during this time period. However, we can now see that the population of the City has begun to plateau and this should be reflected in the content of current and future recreation plans.

A population estimate for December 2013 from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) puts the current population at 12,193. The SEMCOG population projection for the year 2040 is 12,433, or an approximately 2% increase over the next 25 years.

Population by Age. As one passes through the various stages of life, recreational needs change, resulting in

Figure One
Population Trends



Source: SEMCOG

different facility and programming requirements. Like most other areas in the United States, South Lyon has seen a slight aging of its population over the past several decades and this aging is expected to continue and most likely accelerate in the near future. From 2000 to 2010, the median age increased from 35.2 to 38.4.

As indicated in Table One, as of the 2010 Census, the largest increase in percentage among all age groups has those in the 50 to 59 and 10 to 19 age ranges. This can likely be attributed to an influx of people attracted by South Lyon’s small town atmosphere, safe neighborhoods, and strong school system.

As the population as a whole ages there tends to be a decrease in the number of residents in the family-forming group. This is notable because residents in this age range are typically very active in local recreation and as a result, they are often the most vocal when it comes to issues such as cost for services, availability of facilities and safety. Even if this age group continues to decrease in numbers, their involvement and avid concern for recreation issues will likely keep their concerns at the forefront.

Age Range	2010		2000
	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,652	14.6%	16.4%
10 to 19 years	1,611	14.2%	10.3%
20 to 29 years	1,145	10.1%	12.7%
30 to 39 years	1,572	13.9%	20.2%
40 to 49 years	1,962	17.3%	14.1%
50 to 59 years	1,341	11.8%	8.4%
60 to 69 years	808	7.1%	6.0%
70 to 79 years	629	5.6%	7.7%
80 years & over	607	5.4%	4.1%

Source: SEMCOG

As baby boomers age, the 50 to 69 year age ranges will continue to grow significantly. As Table Two illustrates, this is already starting to occur. Economically, this tends to benefit communities. People in this age range are usually in their prime earning potential years, and their children have either left the household or

are in the process of leaving. With higher earnings and lower costs, these households often have significant disposable income. Perhaps even more important and relevant to this plan is the fact that this group is typically very health conscious. Providing programs and facilities for them is very important. Those within this group will likely be the biggest users of such facilities as walking trails, sidewalks and bike paths.

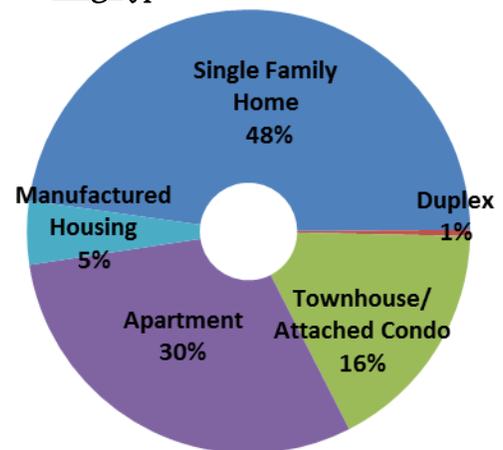
Senior groups can be broken into two subcategories: young seniors, ages 60 to 69, and older seniors, ages 70 and above. Younger seniors tend to be interested in more active recreation than older seniors. Educational programs and walking are popular activities with this age group. Older seniors tend to focus more on health issues, transportation, and opportunities to interact with others. In the future, improved medical technology will have a substantial impact on this group, as seniors will begin to live longer and lead more active lives.

Housing Type. As illustrated in Figure Two, in 2010, nearly 50% of the housing in South Lyon consisted of single-family homes. Another 46% of the housing is categorized as multiple-family in the form of apartments or townhouses/attached condos, and the remaining 6% as two-family duplex units and manufactured housing.

The percentage of multiple-family units in the City is rather high when compared to most other communities of a similar size. This can be attributed mainly to the several large multiple-family developments that have existed for many years, including the senior housing complex located at Eleven Mile and Pontiac Trail. The addition of new condominium developments in recent years has also bolstered the multiple-family figures.

Household Size and Composition. Household size describes the number of people living in a dwelling unit. Since the baby boom, which ended in 1964, household sizes have been steadily declining in the U.S. The decline has actually been a product of several different trends: high divorce rates, low birth rates and a growing number of seniors who live alone after a spouse has died. In South Lyon, average household size has declined from 2.57 in 1980 to 2.42 in 2010 and there is a trend toward more and more residents living alone with nearly one third of the households consisting of people living alone as illustrated in Figure Three.

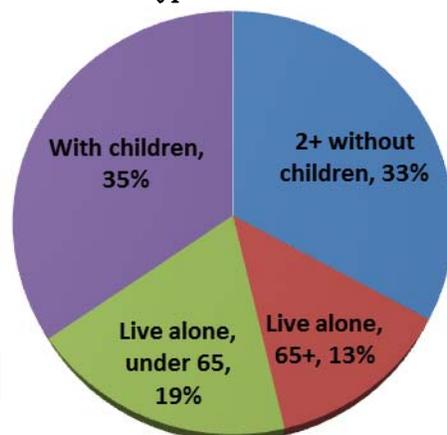
Figure Two
Housing Types



Source: SEMCOG

Household size is very important because it can have a substantial impact on the total population of communities, especially those that have very little land left to develop like South Lyon. As household size decreases in these “built-out” communities, population simultaneously decreases because it is not offset by new housing growth. Even with new housing growth, decreases in household size tend to cause a decrease in population density. From a recreation standpoint, this means fewer people using each park, or a wider geographic service area for park use. The downward trend in household size has not yet had a significant impact on South Lyon, because until recently, the City had sufficient space for housing growth and that offset any decreases. As developable land dwindles, household size will become an even more important factor in recreation planning.

Figure Three
Household Types



Source: SEMCOG

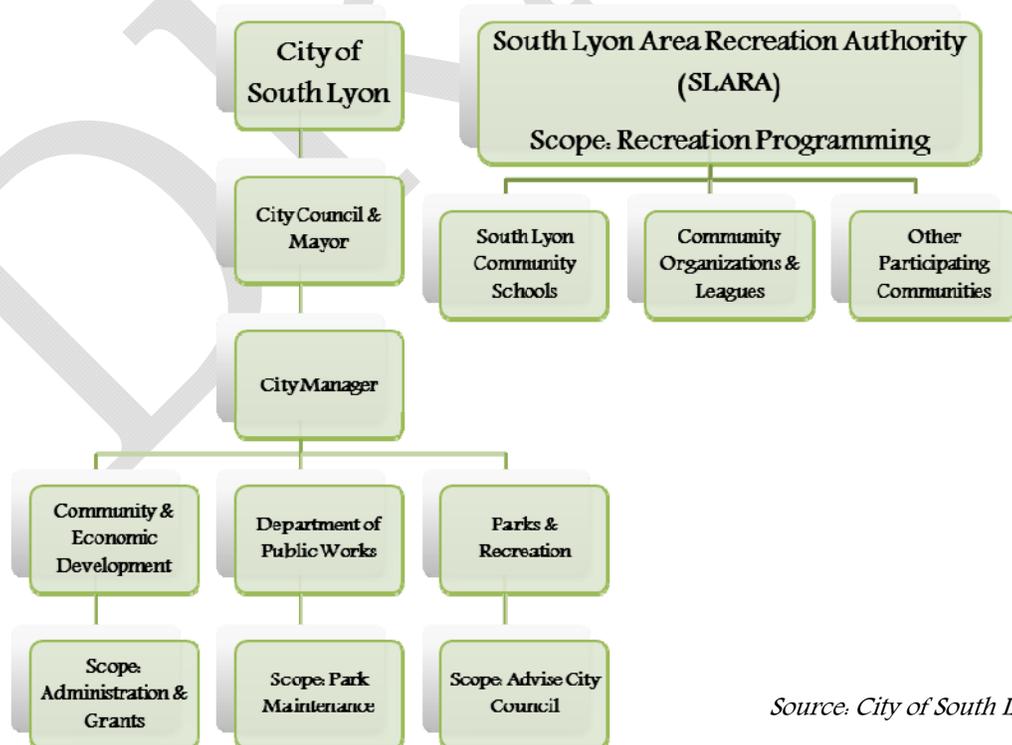
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Planning for and providing parks and recreation in the City of South Lyon involves a variety of elements. First, the Parks & Recreation Master Plan combines data, ideas and public comments into a set of goals and objectives. The City has an established administrative structure that is made up of appointed and elected officials, staff, and volunteers. They ensure that an organized hierarchy is utilized during both the planning and implementation process as illustrated in Figure Four.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Under the direction of the Mayor, City Council and City Manager, the City of South Lyon Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory board responsible for the long and short term planning of City recreation facilities and parks. The Commission also advises the City Council, City Manager, Department of Public Works and Economic and Community Development on policies affecting the operation of City owned recreational facilities.

Figure Four
Administrative Structure



Source: City of South Lyon

The Parks and Recreation Commission, established under PA 156 of 1917, is comprised of seven members appointed by City Council to three year terms. The Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month. The Director of Economic and Community Development serves as a liaison to the Commission.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS, PUBLIC AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

All recreation programming including sports, aquatics, enrichment programs, day camps, and special events are carried out by the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority (SLARA). SLARA includes representatives from the City of South Lyon, Lyon Township and Green Oak Township. The service area of SLARA encompasses the portion of Green Oak Township that falls within the South Lyon Community School District, as well as all of Lyon Township and the City of South Lyon, and offers year round recreational opportunities for community residents.



The City of South Lyon and the South Lyon Community School District's facilities are utilized for programmed activities. The school district allows SLARA to rent its facilities when they are available. However, to meet current and future programming demands, local communities will need to consider expending additional resources on land acquisition for facility development.

The last component of recreation programming in South Lyon is the contribution of resources by various organizations and leagues within the area that are not affiliated with SLARA. This includes Cheer, Pom-Pon, Junior League Baseball, Panther Football, South Lyon Soccer Club, South Lyon Boys Club Lacrosse and the Salem South Lyon District Library.

CITY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent and the Director of Community and Economic Development have direct authority from the City Manager. The DPW maintains the City's infrastructure including, water, sewer and storm water systems, roads, trees and the City cemetery. The DPW is also responsible for the maintenance of the City's parks and the 4.5 miles of Rail Trail that intersect the City. The Director of Economic and Community Development performs administrative duties, handles grant applications and attends monthly Parks and Recreation Commission meetings.

The City of South Lyon is fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers who are a true asset to the community. The Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the City's Beautification Committee, have performed numerous hands-on projects that have visibly improved park land in the community. Other groups, such as the Boy Scouts, have shown their support through volunteer projects that have accomplished a number of goals, most notably repairs to park bridge and landscaping, installing a new flagpole at the baseball diamonds.

BUDGET AND FUNDING

The operating budget for park and recreation related operations and improvements for the fiscal year 2016-2017 is proposed to be \$140,755 and projected to be \$136,600 for the fiscal year 2017-2018. Funding for the Parks and Recreation is included in the City's General Fund which is derived from real and personal property taxes.

INVENTORY

The City of South Lyon has just over 170 acres of public parkland within its boundaries provided by the City, with another 350 acres provided by the South Lyon Community School District that provide recreational facilities and amenities. In addition, numerous private facilities provide a wealth of additional recreation opportunities. These entities play distinct roles in providing balanced, high-quality recreation opportunities for the community. Map Two identifies the location of the existing recreation facilities that were evaluated as part of this Plan.

METHODOLOGY

Since the last Parks and Recreation Master Plan was written, there have been modest changes to the six parks that lie within the city limits of South Lyon area. South Lyon Parks and Recreation and SLARA continue to utilize district school facilities for programming. An inventory of existing local and regional recreational facilities was conducted by the consultant team in the fall of 2013 and spring 2014. The recreation inventory required an inspection of all City-owned park land and recreation facilities, including the quantity and condition of recreation equipment. The data gathered in this inventory is presented in Table Two. Conditions were rated according to the following general guidelines:

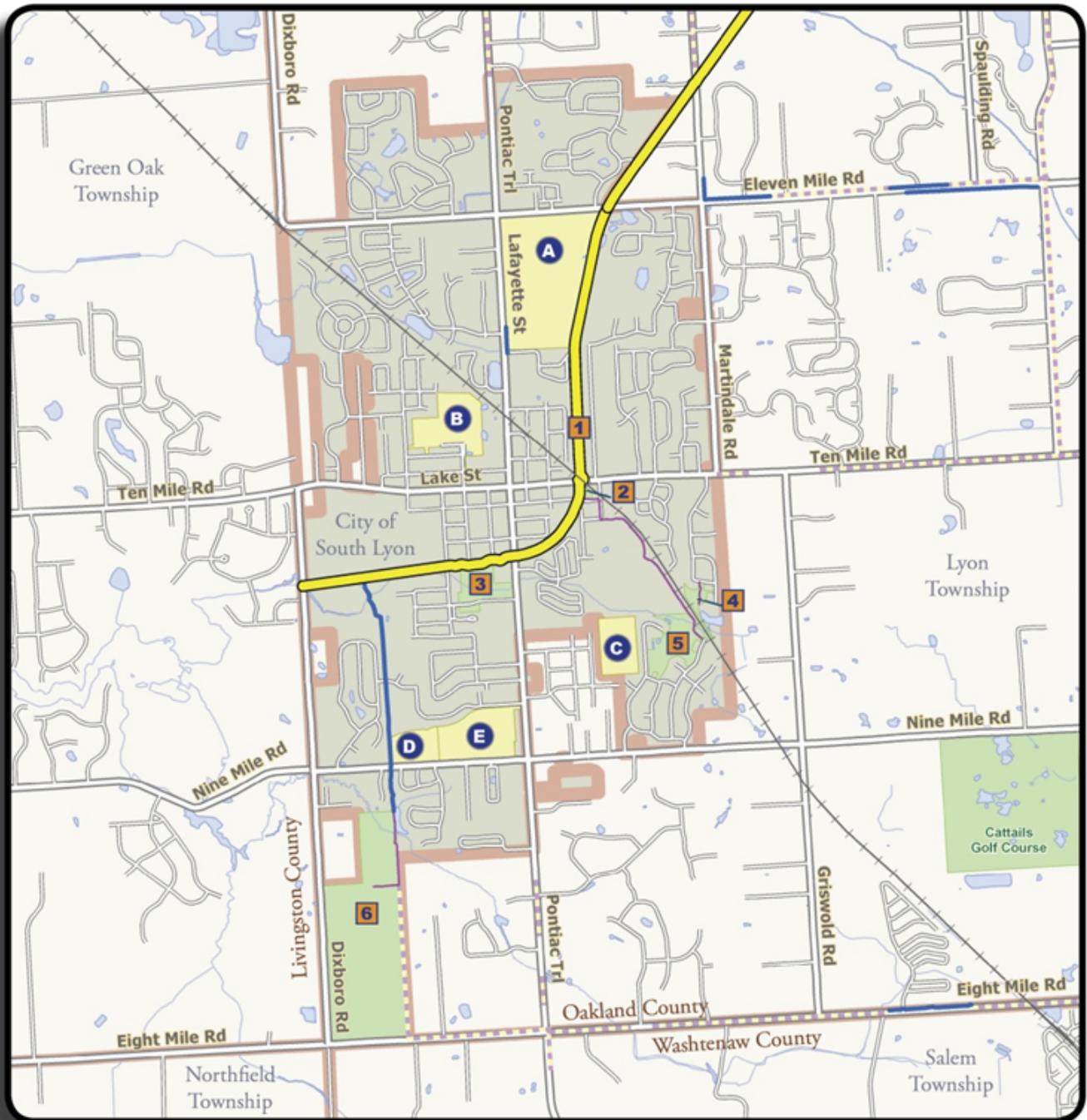
- **Good.** Equipment is in working condition with no immediate concern for repair or maintenance. Meets ADA criteria and is generally safe to use.
- **Fair.** Equipment is usable, but maintenance or repair is needed. May not meet ADA requirements or current safety standards.
- **Poor.** Equipment is not usable; reconstruction or considerable repair is necessary.

Data about schools and regional inventory was also compiled using information gathered from site inspections, review of programming brochures and the Internet.

Accessibility Assessments. With the passage of the ADA in 1990, all public facilities must accommodate all persons equally. This includes parks and recreation facilities and programs. Under the ADA, disabilities must be accommodated to include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Mobility impairments
- Vision impairments
- Hearing impairments
- Mental impairments
- Difficulty in communicating
- Endurance/breathing impairments

Map Two
Parks and Recreation Facilities



A. South Lyon High School	1. Huron Valley Trail	— Railroad	— Park Path	— Recreation Land
B. Bartlett Elementary	2. Fountain Park	— Major Road	— Proposed Pathway	— School
C. Sayre Elementary	3. McHattie Park	— Minor Road	— Safety/Side Path	
D. Centennial Middle School	4. Columbia Park	— Municipal Boundaries	— Huron Valley Trail	
E. Millennium Middle School	5. Andover Park			
	6. Volunteer Park			

N
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

Accessibility is not defined by persons with disabilities, or the elderly population. It is imperative that all new park development and programming address not only accessibility, but universal accessibility. This will help ensure that future park development addresses access to all facilities for all people of all abilities.

Many of the existing six parks within the city of South Lyon lack accessibility to existing facilities. As funds become available for park improvements, uninterrupted access to all facilities must be implemented throughout the park system for all park users with varying abilities. The issue of accessibility will become even more important with the continued aging of the general population. The number of elderly residents, who often experience reduced mobility, limited physical strength, and impaired hearing and sight, will only continue to grow. South Lyon already has a higher percentage of people over the age of 65 than does the State of Michigan as a whole. The sooner their needs are addressed, the easier the transition will be in the future. Also, much of the City's park land has yet to be developed, and many of its current facilities are aging and will need to be replaced in the future.

Barriers that could potentially impede those with disabilities include the following:

- Curbs or stairs
- Lack of a flat, paved surface leading to recreation facilities
- Gates or inadequate doorway openings
- Inaccessible restrooms, drinking fountains and other facilities
- Play equipment design

RECREATION DEFICIENCIES

Existing Facilities. According to the community recreation standards put forth by the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the recreation inventory conducted by City staff, the City of South Lyon has a deficit in the area of mini-parks, and a surplus of both neighborhood and community parks.

ADA Compliance. The City must strive to retrofit existing facilities to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and to ensure that all future development is accessible to the entire community.

Table Two

Inventory of City Owned Recreation Facilities

	Acres	Athletic Fields/Courts	Play Structures/Playground Equipment	Passive Areas	Buildings/ Parking	Condition
Community Parks						
Volunteer Park	132	2 ball diamonds (regulation) 2 soccer fields (regulation) 1 basketball court 1 sand volleyball court	None	1 picnic pavilion 15 wood picnic tables (seasonal) 8 wood player benches 12 grills 4 wood bleachers 1 multi-use trail	1 pump house for sprinkler 306 gravel spaces	Good, bleachers & parking fair
Neighborhood Parks						
Columbia Park	3.1			1 walking path & trailhead 3 tennis courts 2 benches	6 paved spaces	Good
McHattie Park	14.6	2 ball diamond (non-regulation) 4 sand volleyball courts 1 outdoor ice rink (seasonal)	1 Tot Lot play structure 1 (5-12 yr. old) play structure 1 merry go round 1 metal swing set (4 seats; 1 accessible seat) 1 metal swing set (4 bucket seats) 1 metal swing set (1 tire) 1 metal zip cord 3 diggers, spring rockers& bike racks	1 pavilion 3 gazebos 4 grills 14 wood/metal picnic tables (seasonal) 14 metal/wood benches Sledding Hill	Historic village buildings Museum & meeting rooms 1 comfort station with restrooms 73 paved spaces (42 north & 31 south)	Good, athletic fields/courts, swing set, rockers & picnic tables fair, road and sidewalks poor

Table Two						
Inventory of City Owned Recreation Facilities						
	Acres	Athletic Fields/Courts	Play Structures/Playground Equipment	Passive Areas	Buildings/ Parking	Condition
Mini Parks						
Paul Baker Memorial Park	0.9			1 fountain 4 metal benches 1 gazebo 1 picnic table		Good

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				1 trash receptacle 6 path lights		
Linear Parks						
Andover Park	17.8			1 paved bike trail		Good
Rail Trail	4.5 miles			1 paved rail trail & spurs		Good

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CITY OF SOUTH LYON FACILITIES

McHattie Park. The most significant recreational features at McHattie Park are the playground equipment and picnic pavilion. The playground equipment is not all designed in a barrier-free fashion, and there are no hard-surface paths leading from the parking lot to the equipment or the pavilion. A paved/solid surface leading to various recreation activities would be beneficial. As new playground equipment is installed, it should be located over an approved surface so that it can be accessed by people with mobility handicaps. The perimeter of the playground should be flush with adjacent surfaces to provide uninterrupted access. Currently there are no accessible routes to many of the existing facilities including, but not limited to, the baseball, softball and volleyball games. Recommendations for McHattie Park include:

- Provide barrier-free, paved sidewalks that lead from parking lots to activity areas such as playground equipment, picnic pavilion, baseball/softball field and volleyball courts.
- Repair/Repave parking lot and grass parking area donated by Michigan Seamless Tube
- Repave parking lot next to water building
- Replace or add sand to existing volleyball courts
- Provide areas adjacent to baseball/softball field and volleyball courts where people in wheelchairs can view events alongside those in the bleachers.
- All future park improvements must be of barrier-free design.

Volunteer Park. The existing Volunteer Park parking lot is not paved, making movement very difficult for those with mobility impairments. Currently there are no accessible routes from the parking lot to park facilities and recreational fields. Several acres to the south of the existing park are being considered for development. Future development should address accessible routes. Recommendations for Volunteer Park include:

- Pave existing park entry road.
- Pave existing parking lots to make movement easier for those with mobility impairments.
- Provide accessible routes to all baseball, softball fields and soccer fields.
- Add a playground.
- All future park improvements must be of barrier-free design.

Paul Baker Memorial Park and the Huron Valley Rail Trail. Both facilities provide accessibility to many of the existing facilities. The Rail Trail is used primarily by bikers and walkers, and has few major physical barriers. Crossing at major streets could present a problem, especially for those with visual impairments, but there is no easy or inexpensive solution to this issue. "Talking" traffic crossing lights could be installed at such intersections if funds permitted. The same accessibility issues apply at Paul Baker Memorial Park.

Andover Park. Andover Park is largely undeveloped. The existing trail must be evaluated to insure future improvements provide unlimited accessibility.

Columbia Park. A paved accessible route from the parking lot to a paved spectator area near the tennis courts at Columbia Park would make the facility much more accommodating. Any future improvements to the park should be of barrier-free design.

SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Table Three				
Inventory of School Owned Recreation Facilities				
	Acres	Athletic Fields/Courts	Play Structures/ Playground Equipment	Condition
South Lyon High School	91.0	1 football field with track (lighted) 2 football/soccer fields (practice) 1 baseball diamond (regulation) 3 softball diamonds (regulation) 8 tennis courts		Good
South Lyon East High School	104	1 football field with track (lighted) 2 baseball diamonds (regulation) 2 softball diamonds (regulation) 3 soccer fields (regulation) 8 tennis courts		Good
Centennial Middle School	14.5	1 soccer field (practice) 1 baseball diamond (practice)		Good
Millennium Middle School	13.8	1 football field with track (lighted) 1 soccer field (practice) 1 softball field (non-regulation) 1 baseball diamond 4 tennis courts		Good
Bartlett Elementary School	28.3	4 soccer fields (non-regulation) 2 ball diamond (non-regulation) 1 ball diamond (backstop only)	3 Play Structures 5 metal swing sets Assorted climbers & slides	Good, swing sets, climbers & slides fair
Brummer Elementary School	18	1 soccer field (practice) 1 ball diamond (practice) 4 basketball hoops	2 Tot Lot play structures Assorted climbers & slides 4 swing sets	Good
Kent Lake	46	2 soccer field (practice)	3 Tot Lot play structures	Good

Table Three				
Inventory of School Owned Recreation Facilities				
	Acres	Athletic Fields/Courts	Play Structures/ Playground Equipment	Condition
Elementary School		1 ball diamond (practice)	Assorted climbers & slides 4 swing sets	
Sayre Elementary School	29.6	2 ball diamonds (non-regulation) 1 soccer field (non-regulation) 5 soccer fields (mini-fields)	3 play structures 4 metal swing sets Assorted climbers 4 basketball hoops	Good, play structures, swing sets, climbers and slides fair

REGIONAL FACILITIES

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While these parks are not used for formal programming by the City of South Lyon, they provide active and passive recreation opportunities to South Lyon residents. There are several regional recreation opportunities located within close proximity of the City. Regional facilities are provided by Oakland County, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as follows.

Oakland County Parks. The Oakland County Park System consists of nearly 6,700 acres of public land, including some significant and rare natural areas. Thirteen County parks are conveniently located within a short distance from South Lyon, providing nature preserves, athletic fields, golf courses, banquet facilities, swimming pools, trails, playgrounds, and picnic shelters including:



- Addison Oaks (Addison Twp., east of Lake Orion)
- Catalpa Oaks Park (Southfield)
- Glen Oaks Golf Course (Farmington Hills)
- Groveland Oaks (Groveland Twp., between the Villages of Holly and Ortonville)
- Highland Oaks (Highland Twp.)
- Independence Oaks (Independence Twp.,

- northeast of Clarkston)
- Lyon Oaks (Wixom)
- Orion Oaks (Orion Twp., west of Lake Orion)
- Red Oaks (Madison Heights)
- Rose Oaks (Rose Twp.)
- Springfield Oaks (Springfield Twp., southeast of Holly Village)
- Waterford Oaks (Waterford Twp., northwest of the City of Pontiac)
- White Lake Oaks (White Lake Twp.)

Huron–Clinton Metropolitan Authority Facilities. The Huron–Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park authority that encompasses the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston. The HCMA park system includes 13 parks totaling 24,000 acres of park land, all located in the metro Detroit region. The parks provide a variety of outdoor recreation and educational activities including picnicking, hiking, golf, biking, winter sports, golf, water-related activities, horseback riding, and special programs. The HCMA regional parks located within a 30-minute drive of the City of South Lyon include:



- **Delhi Metropark.** Located 5 miles northwest of Ann Arbor, this park consists of 53 acres of mature oak trees and open, grassy lawns. Nestled against a bend in the Huron River, this is a popular fishing and canoeing destination in addition to bird watching. The park also features playgrounds, softball diamonds and picnic areas.
- **Dexter Huron Metropark.** This 122-acre park is located roughly 7 miles northwest of Ann Arbor. This heavily wooded park offers picnic areas, swings, slides, a softball diamond, fishing, and canoe launching.
- **Hudson Mills Metropark.** Located 12 miles northwest of Ann Arbor, this park features 1,549 acres of dense woodland, abandoned fields and serene wetlands, teeming with wildlife. The park is a popular canoe, kayak and fly fishing destination. The park also features an 18-hole, par-72 golf course, two disc golf courses, a paved 5.3-mile hike-bike trail, 2-mile Acorn Nature Trail, cross-country ski trails, various athletic fields, picnic shelters, swings, slides, a canoe camp, a group camp, children's play area, tennis and shuffleboard courts.
- **Huron Meadows Metropark.** Located along the Huron River ten miles west of South Lyon, this 1,540 acre park features an 18-hole public golf course and golf-activity center. Activities include picnicking, hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and boating.

- **Indian Springs Metropark.** This 2,215-acre park is located nine miles northwest of Pontiac in Springfield and White Lake Townships. The park is situated at the headwaters of the Huron River and encompasses the Huron Swamp, which is the largest undisturbed natural area remaining in southeastern Michigan. Most of the park activities focus on the preservation and interpretation of the natural environment. Features include a 18-hole golf course and driving range, nature and paved trails, picnic area, tot lot, baseball diamond and volleyball court.
- **Kensington Metropark.** This 4,481 acre park, located in Milford Township, is four miles northwest of South Lyon. Kent Lake is the primary natural feature at this Metropark, which offers a variety of recreation facilities including ball diamonds, an 18-hole golf course and activities including include swimming, boating, hiking, fishing, picnicking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and other summer activities. A variety of winter activities including ice skating, cross-country skiing, and sledding are also available.

The HCMA also maintains the following parks in the region that are beyond a 30-minute drive from South Lyon, but, nevertheless, provide significant recreation opportunities.

- Lake Erie Metropark (Brownstown)
- Lower Huron Metropark (Belleville)
- Lake St. Clair Metropark (Mt. Clemens)
- Oakwoods Metropark (Belleville)
- Stony Creek Metropark (Shelby Twp.)
- Willow Metropark (Belleville)
- Wolcott Mill Metropark (Ray Twp.)



Michigan State Facilities. There are several Michigan State Parks in the area that provide recreation opportunities to the citizens of South Lyon. Nine state- owned facilities are located within 30 miles of the City of South Lyon and provide a variety of recreational facilities and activities as follows.

- **Brighton Recreation Area.** Located in Howell, this 4,947 acre park offers both modern and rustic campsites in addition to group camp and cabins. Facilities include picnic area, playgrounds, beach house, boat launch and complete equestrian facilities. Available activities include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.
- **Dodge No. 4 State Park.** This 139 acre park located in on Cass Lake in Waterford Township offers picnicking, swimming, fishing, hiking, and snowmobiling.

- **Highland Recreation Area.** Located in White Lake Township, this 5,524 acre park has rustic campsites and a horseman’s camp, a group camp and cabins. Facilities include picnic area, playgrounds, beach house, boat launch, and nature trails. Activities include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding.
- **Island Lake Recreation Area.** This 4,000 acre area located in Brighton offers rustic campsites, a group camp and cabins. Facilities include four miles of paved biking trails, two swimming beaches with beach house, picnic areas and pavilions, hunting, fishing, an archery range, and more than 32 miles of trails for hiking and biking. There are also seasonal opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.
- **Lakelands Trail State Park.** Lakelands Trail State Park is one of four linear state parks in the Michigan State Park system that has been converted from abandoned railroad corridors. This trail currently is completed between Stockbridge and Pinckney. It is approximately 13 miles long with a gravel surface. Lakelands is designed for hiking, bicycling, and wheelchair use on the north side and horseback riding on the south side of the trail, with cross-country skiing in the winter.
- **Maybury State Park.** This nearly 1,000 acre park located in Northville Township offers no regular camping but has a group camp. Facilities include picnic area, playgrounds, living farm, visitor center, bridle trails, and 4-miles of paved biking and walking trails. Activities include fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.
- **Pinckney Recreation Area.** Located in Pinckney Township, this 11,000 acre recreation area has modern and rustic campsites and a group camp. Facilities include picnic area, playgrounds, a beach house and a boat launch. Activities include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.
- **Pontiac Lake Recreation Area.** This nearly 3,800 acre area located in Waterford Township has modern campsites and offers a horseman’s camp, group camp and tent rentals. Facilities include picnic area, beach house and boat launch. Activities include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking and horseback riding.
- **Proud Lake Recreation Area.** Adjacent to South Lyon in Commerce Township, this 4,700 acre recreation area has modern campsites, a group camp, mini cabins, tent rentals, and over 20 miles of trails. Facilities include picnic area, playgrounds, a beach house and boat launch. Activities include swimming, hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding.

PRIVATE FACILITIES

In addition to the multitude of publicly owned parks and recreation facilities in the area, South Lyon residents have some of the recreation needs fulfilled by privately owned open spaces and recreation facilities that have been made available as the result of development in the community. These privately-owned areas offer access

to nature, and sometimes active recreation such as athletic fields or courts, playgrounds and swimming pools that are available for use by its residents. Examples of such facilities include:

- **Brookdale.** 0.5 acres featuring an in-ground swimming pool
- **Brookfield.** 5.7 acre open space and detention area
- **Brookwood Farms.** 2.5 acres featuring 2 tennis courts and an in-ground swimming pool
- **Carriage Trace.** 16.5 acre nature preserve featuring 3,700 lineal feet of walking paths
- **Charleston Park.** 4.5 acre open space and detention area
- **Eagle Heights.** 10.5 acre wetland preserve and detention area
- **East Creek Park.** 12.7 acre wetland preserve
- **Glen Meadows.** 2 acres of landscaped open space
- **Hidden Creek.** 22.5 acre wetland preserve and open space featuring 2,350 lineal feet of paths and boardwalks
- **Hunter's Creek.** 6.8 acre wetland preserve
- **Lyon Meadows.** 4.3 acre wetland preserve
- **Parkside.** 3.3 acres of open space featuring 500 lineal feet of walking paths
- **Trotter's Pointe.** 32.8 acre wetland preserve featuring 2,800 lineal feet of walking paths, a tennis court and tot lot play structure
- **Oak Creek Village.** Wetlands and walking paths

PROGRAMMING

Outside of league and club sports, the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority (SLARA) is the exclusive provider of recreation programs within the City of South Lyon. The programs offered by SLARA are both extensive and varied, with a wide range of options for residents of all ages and abilities. SLARA offers programs year round and include sports, recreation and educational programs such as: swimming, scuba, dance, language, hunter safety, bowling, flag football, soccer, basketball, gymnastics, martial arts, yoga, arts and crafts, golf and aerobics. Programs specific to senior citizens include: a walking club, water aerobics and golf among others. Another programming resource is the Center for Active Adults providing an abundance of senior program options.

GRANT INVENTORY

The City of South Lyon received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to develop a portion of Volunteer Park in 1999. There are currently no other grant-assisted parks or facilities within the City of South Lyon.



The South Lyon Parks & Recreation Commission was one of eleven organizations that was awarded a mini-grant from the Brooksie Way Mini-grant program. The Commission applied for the \$250 mini-grant to help fund its Jingle Bell Walk as part of South Lyon’s Cool Yule celebration to help promote community fitness as a year round objective.

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PLANNING PROCESS

There is no single way to prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ideally, the Plan will include those elements necessary to assure that the Plan results in logical conclusions that mesh well with the public's wishes. Furthermore, the Plan should be detailed enough to document the steps in the decision making process and give clear direction to administrators. In addition, in order to be eligible for DNR grants, a Parks and Recreation Master Plan must include certain elements and involve certain steps. The planning process used to develop this Plan can be outlined as follows:

1. The City's first recreation plan was adopted in 1980. While this plan was a new document, there is no doubt that recreation planning in the City has followed an evolution of form and thought. Many of the ideas raised in earlier plans have been brought forward. Thus, the first step in the process was a review of existing information to evaluate which ideas were of value and which needed to be updated or eliminated.
2. The primary direction for updating the plan was through the Parks and Recreation Commission, who reviewed drafts and provided input.
3. Throughout the process, all meetings were open to the public, and public input regarding the Recreation Plan was invited.
4. An electronic public parks & recreation survey was distributed via the City's website for 3 months, starting in April 2014. Over 180 responses were recorded and this public input influenced the planning process and is reflected in the goals and action plan. The full results of this survey are found in Appendix A, but in summary the survey found:
 - McHattie Park was the most frequently used park, followed closely by the Rail-Trail path system.
 - The children's playground was the biggest reason people tended to visit the parks, followed by those that visit to run or walk, with bicycling and community events being the third and fourth largest draw respectively.
 - Almost half of the respondents were satisfied with the existing park facilities in South Lyon, with roughly a quarter being undecided and another quarter being unsatisfied. The results were similar

when asked if they were satisfied with the programming provided by the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority (SLARA), with nearly a half being satisfied, about a third being undecided, and the remainder being unsatisfied.

- When asked what type of outdoor facilities are most needed in South Lyon, over 2/3 of the respondents indicated they would like a splash/spray park. A dog park and trails, both nature and paved, were also listed as highly desirable.
- In terms of indoor recreation, a swimming pool, followed by a fitness center were the two most desired facilities mentioned by the majority of respondents.
- The top three responses to what was most liked the most about the parks in South Lyon were the playgrounds, followed by pathways and then location.
- When asked what were the three things that should be improved at the parks in South Lyon, the top three responses were the addition of a community pool, followed closely by having both indoor and outdoor swimming, and improved bathrooms/comfort stations in all the parks.
- Additional types of programming that respondents would like to see included more concerts/family events, followed by additional athletics for children and adults.

5. A draft of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for public comment for a 30-day period beginning XXXXX, 2016. Copies of the plan were available the City’s website, at the City of South Lyon City Hall and the Salem–South Lyon District Library. **There was no public input on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan from this public review period.**

6. The Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing on XXXXX, 2016 to invite public comment on the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan and any other recreation-related issue in South Lyon. **There was no public input on the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan from this public hearing.**

INSERT NOTICE
Parks and Recreation Commission Public Hearing Notice Published XXXXX, 2016 in the South Lyon Herald

7. An updated draft of the plan was presented to City Council on XXXX, 2016 and the Council formally adopted the Parks and Recreation Plan by resolution which is included in the beginning of this plan.

8. A final copy of the adopted plan was transmitted to Oakland County, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

INSERT NOTICE

**Notice of 30 Day Public Comment Period
Published XXXXX, 2016 in the South Lyon Herald**

INSERT NOTICE

**City Council Public Hearing Notice
Published XXXXX, 2016 in the South Lyon Herald**

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives for the parks and recreation plan are based on needs identified by the community's demographics, comparisons to standards, and input from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Also taken into consideration have been responses by City residents at Commission meetings and public input avenues such as surveys, as well as practical consideration, such as funding and staffing levels.

With national acreage standards for neighborhood and community parks now met for years to come, the focus is shifted to facilities development. There is sufficient park land throughout the city; the key is to develop the land with facilities that will be fully utilized by city residents. This section of the plan will focus on such development.

For the South Lyon Recreation Master Plan, "Goals" are intended to be broad concepts which set the stage for future focus. "Objectives" are narrower in scope and concentrate thought toward a specific item, such as a park or recreation program. "Actions" are definite acts, which will accomplish an objective.

GOAL ONE

The provision of recreation land in quantity and distribution to meet the present and future needs of the South Lyon population and continue to require private developers to set aside open space.

Objective A. According to standards, there is not a need to acquire additional land for neighborhood parks. However, much of the land included within this category is clustered at large sites and thus may not be located convenient to future population concentrations. Additional park land should be considered for purchase when funds are available.

- **Action 1.** The development of private neighborhood facilities through the use of subdivision open space should continue to be encouraged. If this alternative is pursued, linkages between private areas should be encouraged as well as linkages to schools, other public facilities and the Huron Valley Rail Trail.
- **Action 2.** Provide access points within the City neighborhoods to the rail trail.

Objective B. There is a present deficiency of mini-parks in two areas of the City. Attempts should be made to provide open space in these areas, as well as future areas.

- **Action 1.** Provide a mini-park for the neighborhood northeast of Pontiac Trail and Ten Mile.

- **Action 2.** Provide a mini-park for the neighborhood southeast of Pontiac Trail and Ten Mile.

GOAL TWO

In addition to the provision of actual land area for parks, facilities must be provided on that land. The furnishing of equipment and facilities to meet the needs and recreation desires of South Lyon residents is a major goal of this plan.

Objective A. The City owns several park sites in various stages of development. The city will keep on developing these sites with facilities so that they can function as recreation providers for the community and evaluate them at different stages to continuously improve them.

- **Action 1.** As funds become available, complete the construction of facilities planned for Volunteer Park. This should be carried out over the next 10 to 15 years.

Objective B. McHattie Park, located near the center of the City, should continue to be to be enhanced to encourage appropriate use by all age groups, particularly families.

- **Action 1.** Install decorative lighting throughout the park to improve its' aesthetic quality and help eliminate vandalism.
- **Action 2.** Consider the construction of a walking/fitness path around the park. This path would connect with the existing Huron Valley Rail Trail.
- **Action 3.** Construct a pavilion that can be used for outdoor performances and programming.

Objective C. Provide excellent recreation facilities in all South Lyon City parks that are adequately funded to provide proper maintained.

- **Action 1.** The Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Commission will continue to make periodic visits to City-owned park facilities to check for damaged equipment and initiate repairs when needed.

Objective D. Provide only recreation facilities and equipment that the community expressly requests or is of apparent need

- **Action 1.** Conduct citizen surveys on a regular basis to determine the expressed needs of the community regarding recreation facilities and equipment.
- **Action 2.** Continue discussions with key recreation providers, including sports clubs and leagues, as well as community education officials, to determine needs.

- **Action 3.** Conduct informal surveys of equipment use in the parks by observing use at random periods over a weekly time span. Surveys should address quality of equipment for safety and accessibility.

Objective E. The provision of recreation equipment and facilities that meet the needs of all age groups and comply with ADA accessibility criteria.

- **Action 1.** Develop a skateboard park somewhere within the City, preferably a central location.

Objective F. Continue to encourage a pedestrian/bicycle-friendly downtown.

- **Action 1.** Continue to work with the Downtown Development Authority to install bike racks and signage throughout the downtown, so that they are visible and easy to use by all residents. Incorporate complete street principles throughout the downtown and strengthen connection to Huron River Rail Trail.

Objective G. South Lyon's recreation facilities will be used by a variety of individuals. Thus, they should be easily accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

- **Action 1.** Whenever possible, new facilities installed in City parks must be ADA compliant.
- **Action 2.** Provide barrier-free access from parking lots to all park activity areas.

Objective H. The need for a community recreation center has been repeatedly expressed by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and citizens of the City of South Lyon. Within the next five to fifteen years, the City, in conjunction with the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority, should provide a community recreation center which can be utilized by all city residents.

- **Action 1.** Survey City residents as to what types of facilities they would like to see in the recreation center.
- **Action 2.** Participate in the development of a recreation center.

GOAL THREE

The provision of recreation programming to meet the needs of South Lyon residents of all ages with a variety of interests.

- **Action 1.** Work with the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority to provide recreation programs that support persons with disabilities and create programs that will encourage social interaction.

- **Action 2.** The South Lyon Area Recreation Authority is responsible for the majority of current recreation programming. The South Lyon Area Recreation Authority should utilize future park development and other city facilities to increase its role in the programming of special events for the residents of South Lyon and adjacent communities.

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ACTION PROGRAM

The section that precedes this one, Goals and Objectives, establishes plans for the future based on needs identified by standards and by recreation providers. Not all of the goals include capital expenditures. Also, many of the goals cannot be accomplished within the five-year time frame of this plan. However, they are included to provide direction for future planning efforts as will be necessary in the future. The action program functions as an annual checklist that should be reviewed at the beginning of each year in order to track implementation progress.

FIVE-YEAR ACTION PROGRAM

Table Four provides a five-year implementation checklist for the City of South Lyon. Included for each item are rough cost estimates and potential funding sources to consider. The cost estimates are based on general assumptions and construction costs for similar facilities in the Midwest, but the actual costs may vary. An approximate inflation rate of 5% is reflected in the table for each year. The ongoing cost of maintenance and miscellaneous equipment is included in the total expenditure for each year.

Table Four
Five-Year Action Program

Project	Cost	Funding
2016-2017		
Volunteer Park. Master Plan Update, Phasing Plan with budget estimate and Fundraising alternatives. <i>Description: The vacant land south of the existing park will be master planned to include, but not be limited to, athletic fields, parking and an accessible trail system.</i>	\$10,000	General Fund
Community-Wide. Create bike and pedestrian-friendly downtown <i>Description: Continue to work with DDA to improve non-motorized transportation routes in the downtown to enhance current facilities with the ultimate goal to create a more "bicycle-friendly" city.</i>	\$15,000	General Fund

Table Four
Five-Year Action Program

Project	Cost	Funding
<p>McHattie Park. Re-pave existing parking lots <i>Description: Re-pave parking lots. Consider expansion of vacant lot north of existing parking lot.</i></p>	\$6,000	General Fund Capital Improvement Fund,
2016-2016 Expenditure Total	\$31,000	
2017-2018		
<p>Volunteer Park. Begin Phase One Development <i>Description: Construct portion of the athletic fields and parking</i></p>	\$500,000	General Fund Capital Improvement Fund State/DNR Grants
<p>McHattie Park. Continue to improve landscaping and path lighting <i>Description: The Recreation Commission will oversee the implementation of landscape and lighting improvements in the park.</i></p>	\$300,000	General Fund State/DNR Grants
<p>McHattie Park. Re-pave existing parking lots <i>Description: Re-pave parking lots. Consider expansion of vacant lot north of existing parking lot.</i></p>	\$6,000	General Fund Capital Improvement Fund,
<p>McHattie Park. Replace pavilion <i>Description: The current gazebo is older and beginning to deteriorate. A new pavilion that will have lighting.</i></p>	\$60,000	General Fund Capital Improvement Fund
<p>Community-Wide. Create bike and pedestrian-friendly downtown <i>Description: Continue to work with DDA to improve non-motorized transportation routes in the downtown to enhance current facilities with the ultimate goal to create a more "bicycle-friendly" city.</i></p>	\$15,000	General Fund
2017-2018 Expenditure Total	\$881,000	
2018-2019		
<p>Volunteer Park. Continue Phase One Development <i>Description: Continue with construction of the athletic fields and parking and accessory structures.</i></p>	\$500,000	General Fund Capital Improvement Fund State/DNR Grants

Table Four
Five-Year Action Program

Project	Cost	Funding
McHattie Park. Hire consultant to design skate park Construct skate park <i>Description: The Recreation Commission will oversee the design and implementation of skate park</i>	\$300,000	General Fund State/DNR Grants
Community-Wide. Create bike and pedestrian-friendly downtown <i>Description: Continue to work with DDA to improve non-motorized transportation routes in the downtown to enhance current facilities with the ultimate goal to create a more "bicycle-friendly" city.</i>	\$15,000	General Fund
2018-2019 Expenditure Total	\$815,000	
2019-2020		
Volunteer Park. Continue Phase One Development <i>Description: Continue with construction of the athletic fields and parking and accessory structures.</i>	\$1,000,000	General Fund Capital Improvement Fund State/DNR Grants
Volunteer Park. Develop accessible path <i>Description: Begin accessible path development at Volunteer Park.</i>	\$1,000,000	General Fund Capital Improvement Fund State/DNR Grants
McHattie Park. Hire consultant to design spray pad Construct spray pad <i>Description: The Recreation Commission will oversee the implementation of landscape and lighting improvements in the park.</i>	\$300,000	General Fund State/DNR Grants
2018-2019 Expenditure Total	\$2,300,000	
2020-2021		
Community-Wide. Update Recreation Master Plan <i>Description: The Recreation Plan will be cease to be valid in 2021. An update of the plan is targeted for the year 2020 so that it can be approved by the first of 2021</i>	\$15,000	General Fund

APPENDIX A

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

A fourteen question survey was available on City's website during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update period from April through June, 2014. Over 180 responses were received, the findings of which follow.

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