

VILLAGE OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 15, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Location: Village Offices, 8123 Main Street
PNC Bank, Second Floor – Enter at rear door

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
Becky Murillo - Chair Katie Koch
Randy Hermann – Vice-Chair John Coy
Toni Henkemeyer Donna Fisher – Ex Officio
Ellen Han
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - June 17, 2014
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION
6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION
 - A. Chair
 - B. Commissioners and Ex Officio
 - a. Tree Board
 - b. 5H
 - c. Art Selection Committee
 - C. Staff Report
7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion of: Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Participation
 - B. Discussion of: Lion's Park Play Equipment
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion of: Park Maintenance Requests
 - a) Mill Creek Park, Community Park, First Street Park, Lion's Park, Peace Park, Monument Park
9. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION
10. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS
11. ADJOURNMENT

ANNUAL REVIEW SCHEDULE

March/July – Annual Budget Review
November – Master Plan, Goals, Objectives and Strategies Review
January – Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Review

MASTER PLAN GOALS

I. GOAL: (Space/Facilities) Meet present and future community needs for parks, greenways, trails, and recreation.

- A. Objective: Plan and develop a system of parks, greenways, open space, and recreation facilities that provides a minimum of 16 acres per 1,000 Village residents.
 - ✓ Current surplus in mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks based on July 2008 SEMCOG population estimates.
- B. Objective: Encourage the preservation of green space and the development of new parks and/or recreation assets when opportunities arise.
- C. Objective: Following removal of the Mill Creek dam, plan and develop a linear park along the Mill Creek.
 - ✓ Dam was removed in June 2008, Mill Creek Park Master Plan adopted by Council January 26, 2009
 - ✓ Various grant application applied for in anticipation of 2010 Phase 1 park construction and development

II. GOAL: (Recreation) Encourage healthy lifestyles for Village residents through recreation.

- A. Objective: Offer Village residents a balanced program of active and passive recreation opportunities.
 - ✓ Working on developing a system of trails, implemented ice rink in 2009
- B. Objective: Offer Village residents multiple opportunities to walk, run, hike, skate, or paddle without leaving their community.
 - ✓ Grant applications for boating, walking and pedestrian connections submitted throughout 2009
 - ✓ Awarded Waterways Infrastructure grant for installation of 3 boat launches

III. GOAL: (Accessibility) Strive to make every Village park and recreation site accessible.

- A. Objective: Design and develop a system of all-season, non-motorized pathways, trails, sidewalks, and bike paths linking Village neighborhoods with both Village and adjacent non-Village parks, greenways, pathways, recreation venues, schools, and commercial retail areas.
 - ✓ Working with County Parks and HCMA on regional trail connection and B2B Initiative
- B. Objective: Ensure that all parks and recreation assets are barrier-free and universally accessible.
 - ✓ Barrier free design was incorporated into Mill Creek Park Plan and DDA is providing funding to facilitate ADA access to Mill Creek Park via Jeffords Street.

IV. GOAL: (Environment) Make nature and healthy ecosystems an important characteristic of our Village.

- A. Objective: In designated Village natural areas, enhance and preserve healthy ecosystems for native plants, fish, and wildlife.
- B. Objective: In Village urban areas, enhance the natural feel of each park.
 - ✓ Mill Creek Park has been planned as a passive park with a natural feel.
- C. Objective: Advocate for the enhancement and preservation of natural features within and surrounding our Village.

V. GOAL: (Management) Use sound planning, financial, and operational management practices.

- A. Objective: Deliver on our stated goals and objectives.
- B. Objective: Ensure that our parks and recreation assets remain available for enjoyment, now and in the future.
- C. Objective: Foster smart and efficient management practices.
- D. Objective: Identify and utilize all available Village and non-Village funding resources to meet our goals.
 - ✓ Numerous funding sources were applied for in 2009.

VI. GOAL: (Community) Foster a community-wide sense of pride in and support for our parks and recreation program.

- A. Objective: Promote parks and recreation activities in the community and our broader service area.
- B. Objective: Provide and promote opportunities for individual citizens and community groups to influence the mission, priorities, management, and operations of the parks and recreation program.
 - ✓ Mill Creek Park Master Planning Process and Westside Connector Planning engaged many parties.
- C. Objective: Deliver superior service to citizens and others seeking our help.
- D. Objective: Develop an overall parks and recreation program that makes a positive contribution to the economic sustainability of the Village.
 - ✓ Ice Rink in 2009 helped promote downtown
- E. Objective: Develop and maintain parks and recreation assets that incorporate a high degree of aesthetic appeal.
- F. Objective: Develop and maintain park and recreation assets and recreation programs that meet current industry safety standards and, where standards do not exist, develop and maintain assets and programs with careful consideration for user or participant safety.

**VILLAGE OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MEETING NOTES
June 17, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:06 pm at the Village Offices, 8123 Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Becky Murillo, Toni Henkemeyer, Randy Hermann, Ellen Han, John Coy and Donna Fisher

Other Present: Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager

ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Motion by Coy, Seconded by Hermann to appoint Becky Murillo as Chair of the Commission.
Motion Adopted

Motion by Coy, Seconded by Murillo to appoint Randy Hermann as Vice-Chair of the Commission.
Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/NOTES FROM MARCH 18, APRIL 15 AND MAY 29

Motion by Fisher, Seconded by Coy to approve the three sets of minutes/notes as presented.
Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Fisher, Seconded by Coy to approve the agenda as presented
Motion Adopted

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. Chair: None

B. Commissioners and Ex-Officio

- a. Tree Board – John Coy provided an update from Tree Board. They are interested in planting trees in Mill Creek Park. They received a suggestion to plant some additional trees along the water to create a better habitat for the trout.
- b. 5H – Interventions for 2015 will be due in November. The Commission will be working on finalizing costs for the purchase of play equipment for the area east of Lion's Park.

C. Staff Report: The Commission discussed the Community Park Path and making sure that the path can handle the equipment necessary to service the wells. The Commission also discussed spraying for mosquitos and was supportive of pursuing it on a limited basis.

OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF: PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Commission discussed survey ideas for the public participation requirement of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. A survey is not required but was used when the plan was last updated five years ago. The Commission would like to ask the residents "what's next" for the park system in their opinion and gather data on the respondent's level of usage. The survey would be put out in the fall once people have had the opportunity to use the parks for the summer.

B. DISCUSSION OF: LION'S PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT

Courtney will be meeting with a representative from Superior Play to get feedback on what types of structures could fit in the proposed park area. She will also be working with the schools on securing more formal support for the project, which will be required for the grant funding.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF: PARK MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

None

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fisher, Seconded by Hermann to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Courtney Nicholls
Assistant Village Manager



VILLAGE OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

8140 Main Street • Dexter, Michigan 48130-1092 • (734) 426-8303 • Fax (734) 426-5614 www.dextermi.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
Donna Dettling, Village Manager
FROM: Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager
RE: REPORT
DATE: July 11, 2014

Village Manager Resignation. Donna Dettling has resigned as Village Manager. Her last day will be in early August. Since this just occurred on July 9, 2014 Village Council has not yet discussed anything related to the transition.

Bike Hoops. While reconciling the costs related to the bike hoop installation I discovered that, due to the reduction in cost from having the DPW install the bike hoops, we still have grant funds to spend. I ordered an additional 6 hoops. The DPW suggested installing them near the basketball hoops in Community Park.

Mill Creek Park Work Day. The work day was held on June 21. We had 10 people that worked on various tasks including planting plug plants on the slope and in the rain gardens and weeding. The focus of the weeding was in the rain gardens. Thank you letters were sent to the participants. We would like to schedule another day in the fall. A suggestion was made to place a sign in the park notifying people of the upcoming work day, which we will try next time to increase participation.

Please feel free to contact me prior to the meeting with any questions, etc.

Thank you.

VILLAGE OF DEXTER

cnicholls@dextermi.gov

8140 Main Street Dexter, MI 48130-1092

Phone (734)426-8303 ext 17 Fax (734)426-5614

MEMO

To: Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager
Date: July 11, 2014
Re: Parks & Recreation Master Plan

At the June 2014 meeting the Commission discussed asking the community for feedback on “what’s next” for the park system. Asking an open ended question would allow residents to be creative in what they would like to see the Commission focus on for the next five years. At the same time, we could also collect basic data on how often the respondent uses the park system.

The feedback received can be incorporated into the plan and, along with the public hearings on the Master Plan, will fulfill the public participation requirement. The Commission discussed putting the campaign out there in the fall. If this is the direction we want to go, staff will work on putting together some draft “What’s Next” materials for the Commission’s review in August.

Attached for the Commission’s review is the section of the plan that talks about current assets and deficiencies in the park system. I would like to review this section at the meeting to get the Commission’s feedback on any updates that are needed.

EXHIBIT 25

Recreation Facilities Evaluation – The Village Of Dexter and Dexter Community Schools

	Recommended Standard	Existing Municipal/ Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended Need in Dexter	Surplus/(Deficiency) in Dexter
Basketball Courts (6.5)	1 / 5,000	1	9	10	1	10
Tennis Courts	1 / 2,000	0	14	14	3	11
Volleyball Courts	1 / 5,000	0	3	3	1	2
Baseball Fields	1 / 5,000	0	4	4	1	3
Softball	1 / 5,000	0	6	6	1	5
Football Fields	1 / 20,000	0	2	2	1	1
Soccer Fields	1 / 10,000	0	7	7	1	6
Golf Course, 9-hole	1 / 25,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Golf Course, 18-hole	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Driving Range	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Swimming Pool – Indoor	1 / 20,000	0	2	2	1	1
Swimming Pool – Outdoor	1 / 40,000	0	0	0	1	(1)

EXHIBIT 25 (cont.)

Recreation Facilities Evaluation -- The Village of Dexter and Dexter Community Schools

	Recommended Standard	Existing Municipal/Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended Need in Dexter	Surplus / (Deficiency) in Dexter
Ice Rinks -- Indoor	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Ice Rinks -- Outdoor	1 / 20,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Archery Range	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Running Track (1/4 mile)	1 / 20,000	0	1	1	1	0
Playgrounds	1 / 3,000	2	4	6	1	5
Picnic Areas	None Published	4	0	4	N/A	N/A
Cross Country Ski Trails (miles)	1 / 10,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Nature Trails (miles)	1 / 20,000	1	1	2	1	1
Sledding Hills	1 / 40,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Bicycle Trails (miles)	1 / 40,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Horseback Riding Trails (miles)	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)

Notes 1 Recommended number of each facility per unit population (National Recreation and Park Association/Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards)(Appendix Q).
 2 Based on July 2008 SEMCOG population estimate of 3,593.
 3 Two backboards were considered to be equal to 1 court for the purposes of this analysis.
 4 All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
 5 Not regulation courts -- (located at elementary schools, 1/2 courts, etc.)
 6 Indoor/Outdoor

Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Exhibit 26 compares the existing community parkland acreage to recommended standards, based on current population estimates. The analysis indicates that if the school sites are considered in the park acreage figures, the Village has a surplus in community parks and is deficient in mini-park and neighborhood park acreage. Although when the schools facilities are not considered the Village is severely lacking in community parks.

EXHIBIT 26
Comparison to Accepted Standards

The Village of Dexter Community Comparison to Accepted Standards	Recommended Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents	Existing Acreage	Recommended Acreage in Dexter for Proposed Population	Surplus (Deficiency) in Dexter Based on Proposed Population
Mini-Parks	0.25	3.19	0.89	2.3
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	16.15	3.56	12.58
Community Parks	5.0	24	17.83	6.17
Regional Parks	5.0 - 10.0	0	8	Not Applicable

- Notes:
- 1 Based on National Recreation and Parks Association recommendations.
 - 2 Existing public acreage includes the Village of Dexter only.
 - 3 Includes private open space that addresses deficiency to immediate area.
 - 4 Based on July 2008 SEMCOG Population Estimate of 3,593.

Park	Park Type	Park Size
Warrior Creek	Neighborhood Park	2.15 acres
Community Park	Neighborhood Park	5 acres
Westridge of Dexter	Neighborhood Park (Private)	2 acres
Dexter Crossing	Neighborhood Park (Private)	7 acres
	TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD	16.15 acres
Monument Park	Mini-Park	0.3 acres
Lions Park	Mini-Park	0.25 acres
First Street Park	Mini-Park	0.94 acres
Peace Park	Mini-Park	0.2 acres
Huron Farms	Mini-Park (Private)	1.5 acres
	TOTAL MINI-PARK	3.19 acres
Mill Creek Park	Community Park	24 acres
	TOTAL COMMUNITY PARK	24 acres

Analysis Of Existing Facilities And Service Areas

Analysis of existing park and recreation facilities is summarized in Exhibit 27. The table is a compilation of comments and recommendations based on the preceding exhibits, which compare the Village's facilities to NPRA standards.

The exhibits that follow take a calculated look at existing parks and recreation facilities in Dexter. This portion of the overall assessment has provided the Village with a starting point for further investigation of the recreation needs in the Village.

The evaluation of existing park and recreation facilities was based on NPRA standards is outlined in Exhibit 25. A comparison of existing parkland acreage to accepted standards are defined in Exhibit 26. The service area boundaries, as interpreted by the NPRA, are graphically represented for existing facilities in Exhibit 24.

EXHIBIT 27

Analysis of Existing Facilities – Village of Dexter and Dexter Community Schools

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>MINI-PARKS: Mini-Parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than one acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots and senior citizens. Mini-Parks typically have a radius of only a few blocks. Mini-parks are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.</p>	<p>Most of the village's public parks and private parks within developments are considered mini-parks due to their size.</p> <p>Monument Park – Gazebo, drinking fountain, benches, picnic tables, special events, sidewalks.</p> <p>Peace Park - Benches, picnic tables, perimeter sidewalk and peaceful landscape design.</p> <p>Lions Park - Small gazebo, benches, landscaping, sidewalks.</p> <p>First Street Park – Horseshoe tossing, porta johns, picnic tables and grills.</p> <p>Private Tot lots – Association owned, provide play equipment, swings, benches, picnic tables.</p>	<p>The NPRA recommends 0.25 to 1 acre per 1,000 residents. Currently, the Village has sufficient mini-park acreage with or without the inclusion of private parkland.</p> <p>The current mini-parks should continue to be maintained and upgraded as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Funding is budgeted annually for equipment replacement and landscaping maintenance. The equipment replacement inventory is used to determine what and when equipment is replaced in each of the parks.</p> <p>The Village should continue to require private developments to have private parks for use by the residents and to help meet the needs of the population in the immediate area. As land becomes available throughout the village the Parks and Recreation Commission should consider acquisition for additional public mini-park land throughout the village.</p> <p>The Village is also planning for the development of a skatepark. Preliminary research (Appendix P) shows that a 5,000 square foot skatepark would likely service the Village's population and skatepark needs.</p>

Type of Facility / Recreational Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS: Typically multi-purpose facilities that provide areas for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks are generally more than 2 acres in size and serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within ½ mile radius from the neighborhood they serve. Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.</p>	<p>The village has 2 public neighborhood parks and 2 private neighborhood parks consisting of 16.15 acres.</p> <p>Community Park and Warrior Creek Parks are public neighborhood parks that provide picnic areas and play areas. Development in these parks is primarily complete, however Warrior Creek park will be further developed with the development of the Mill Creek Park.</p> <p>Private neighborhood parks within the village consist of 9 acres, which includes walking paths, play structures, benches and picnic tables.</p> <p>Some of the schools facilities could be considered neighborhood parks, however, since they are primarily located in one area are classified as a community park.</p>	<p>Five (5) acre neighborhood parks are recommended as a minimum per 1,000 residents. The Village of Dexter is deficient if 5 acres is used as a minimum, however with all other considerations and including private neighborhood parks the village has sufficient neighborhood parks. Considering only public neighborhood parks there are portions of the village that are not served by neighborhood parks. This must be considered when evaluating land acquisition possibilities.</p> <p>The Parks and Recreation Commission current consideration of a skatepark would help reduce the deficiency of public neighborhood parks, however additional property would have to be acquired.</p> <p>A winter ice skating rink should also be considered for Warrior Creek park to utilize the parks year round.</p>

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>COMMUNITY PARKS: Community Parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from neighborhoods and the Dexter area. Community Parks may include areas for active recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other passive recreation opportunities facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities. Community Parks typically serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.</p>	<p>The Village of Dexter does not have any Community Parks. Pursuant to the recommended size for Community Parks the village will not likely have any Community Parks. Community Parks are more likely to be provided by a regional recreation and open space provider.</p> <p>The village does hope to create the Mill Creek Park (approximately 24 acres) which will essentially address the recommended Community Park needs per population. There will still be a slight deficiency; however there will be linear connections to a much larger Community and Regional Park network.</p> <p>Primarily all active recreation is provided by the Dexter School District on their property, mostly within the Village limits, and some outside the Village limits at the new High School. The schools facilities include ball fields of all types and as well as indoor activities. These facilities can be utilized through school teams and programming offered through Community Education and Recreation.</p>	<p>The NPRA's standard requirement for Community Parks is 20-50 acres per 1,000 residents. Active recreation facilities are provided by the Dexter School District. Some of this property is within the Village limits so it is easily accessible for all residents, but the facilities at the new High School are not. Dexter Community Schools students' usage of the facilities also takes priority over the usage of the residents of Dexter Village.</p> <p>Development of the Mill Creek area following the removal of the Main Street dam will provide Village and regional residents with a unique opportunity to access the Mill Creek and the unique open space landscape created by the dam removal.</p> <p>The Village should continue to explore acquisition opportunities to complement the Mill Creek Park development along the Mill Creek and south. The Village should also continue to work with regional recreation providers, HCMA and Washtenaw County Parks, to add to the recreation and open space available to area and Village residents.</p>

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards		Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>SPECIAL USE/ NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS: Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities such as, golf courses, nature centers, interpretive centers, facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment. Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment is the primary focus with recreation use as a secondary objective.</p>	<p>The Village of Dexter does not have any special use or natural resource areas. The only park near the Village of Dexter that would be classified in this category are Washtenaw County's Miller and Smith Preserves located less than 1 mile outside of the village boundary. The Miller and Smith Preserves protect the 40-50 year old trees in the oak barren with a nature trail and unpaved parking area. The Miller Preserve and Smith Woods contain 28-acres of woodlands that provide one of the only remaining undeveloped, habitats and sanctuaries in the area for plants and animals. The property also contains various wetland areas.</p>	<p>Washtenaw County recently purchased the Miller Preserve through the County Natural Areas Preservation Program. The Village then donated the Smith Woods Preserve. Plans for improvement include upgraded parking (completed in 2008); signage to identify the preserves and nature trails throughout the 28-acre park.</p> <p>The Village should continue to coordinate with the County to publicize the park area and encourage pedestrian connections to downtown, the Mill Creek and Warrior Creek Parks as well as the County Border to Border trail and HCMA Hike Bike trail.</p> <p>The Village should consider property acquisition in the area surrounding the Mill Creek and connections to the Smith and Miller Preserve to expand the linear park and open space network.</p>	

Village of Dexter Community Facilities		Comments / Recommendations
<p>Type of Facility / Recreation Standards</p> <p>PASSIVE PARKS: The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas, pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments, and fountains, and historical features.</p>	<p>Monument Park and Peace Park were developed as passive parks, as well as private open space or common areas in residential developments are classified as passive recreation areas. The Gordon Hall property, west of the Village, was recently acquired by the Dexter Historical Society. DHS goal is to further enhance the historical features and monuments that have existed within the Village for the past 100 years and preserve the Gordon Hall property as public open space.</p>	<p>General maintenance of these parks is most important. A common connection between them would create a more cohesive park system and pedestrian network. This can be accomplished through signage, lighting, benches, pathways and sidewalks. Pathway connections throughout the Village should be evaluated to increase accessibility to parks and elsewhere.</p> <p>The Village will work with the Dexter Historical Society to preserve the historic Gordon Hall and the property on which it is located. Sidewalk connections must be made to assure pedestrian access to and from the Village's parks and the historical asset just outside the Village's border.</p>

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>LINEAR PARKS: A linear park is any area developed for one or more modes of recreation travel, such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. A linear park would be a greenway corridor connecting a regional system.</p>	<p>Built along natural corridors, such as utility right-of-ways, abandoned railroad easements, vegetation patterns, rivers and streams, and roads that links other components of recreation systems or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas and desirable site characteristics may be developed into linear parks.</p> <p>The Village's goal is to develop a linear park along the Mill Creek following the removal of the Main Street dam. The goals for the park development are included in Appendix E. The linear Mill Creek Park will connect to the school property to the south and the Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail and HCMA Hike / Bike Trail to the north and east.</p> <p>Development of the linear Mill Creek Park is a top priority for the Village.</p>	<p>A linear park of some sort would be an exciting tool for creating connections within the existing park system. For example, a linear park along Main Street/Ann Arbor Street could connect the three anchors -- Peace Park, Monument Park and Warrior Creek Park. A linear park would also be located along a natural feature such as the Mill Creek and Huron River as planned by the Village of Dexter, Washtenaw County and HCMA.</p> <p>Linear parks can include bike paths, hiking paths, boardwalks, benches, information kiosks, fishing and water access and non motorized boat linkages.</p> <p>The Village places high priority on the Mill Creek Park trail network to provide connection to the Metro-Parks across the Huron River and the Washtenaw County Border to Border trail heading east along the Huron River. This would also provide a pedestrian linkage that is needed within the Village for the protection of pedestrians and visitors, and to provide more universal access to Warrior Creek Park and the downtown district. Warrior Creek Park and another location in the downtown as a trail heads would link downtown to the parks and the regional trail network and promote health, fitness, and economic development, as well as safe pedestrian access within the Village and the parks. Development of the trail system to the south to the school property will also create a valuable passive recreation opportunity to Village residents on property already owned by the Village.</p>

Several residential subdivisions under construction have small open space areas within the development. These private facilities function as mini-parks as they provide recreational facilities for the neighborhood residents.

Additional Deficiencies. This analysis provides useful information on quantity; the raw numbers do not address the *quality* of existing parks and recreation facilities. Upon closer examination, deficiencies or limitations in the Village Parks and Recreation system become apparent. These deficiencies are due to a number of reasons, including the following:

Increased Population Projections. The analysis of deficiencies does consider future demand generated by projected population increases in the Village due to growth and new developments. Based on SEMCOG 2030 Regional Development Forecasts, projections and an analysis of local trends, the population in the Village is projected to increase an additional 53% by 2030. This must be taken into account when acknowledging the validity of the facilities evaluation; such an increase in population requires a re-evaluation of existing facilities based on future needs. This is addressed in the Action Plan portion of this report.

Reliance on School Sites. Most community park facilities in the Village are located on School District property. Cooperation between the community and school district provides for efficient use of the land. Nevertheless, there are limitations associated with having many of the community park facilities on school sites, because use of these facilities are first available to school athletic teams and scheduled programs and then open to the general public on a request basis only.

Distribution of Existing Park. Exhibit 24 illustrates how the Village is served by the existing park facilities. While some areas in the Village are not well serviced others have access to a variety of park and recreation facilities. The distribution of parkland should be a consideration in future recreational land acquisition.

The northeast portion of the Village will soon be developed into residential neighborhoods. The recreation area in these developments will range from passive, natural open space to private mini-parks to public land developed with active recreation facilities. These new recreational developments will serve only the needs of the adjacent residential subdivisions, but they will also address some of the existing deficiencies within the newer areas.

Barrier-Free Facilities. Many of the existing playgrounds located at park and school facilities are not accessible to residents with disabilities. Modern equipment with transfer points and ramps, resilient surfacing, and universally accessible pathways are required to ensure “integrated play” by all residents of the community. Universal accessibility is a priority in park development over the next 5 years and beyond. The Village Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the DDA are working together to provide ADA access to Warrior Creek Park via the reconstruction of the Main Street Bridge however accessibility will likely continue to be a problem without future improvements to Mill Creek Park. Accessibility standards for equipment can be found in Appendix D.

Since the Village has placed a high priority on providing access to existing park and recreation facilities, providing access to Warrior Creek Park, and a future connection to the proposed Mill Creek linear park, is one of the Village highest priorities.

General Maintenance. Though Village owned parks adequately serve the existing population, park maintenance is an important component to providing desirable recreation opportunities for residents. In general, Warrior Creek is in need of basic maintenance to improve their appeal to the Village residents. In particular, lighting and uniform signage is needed in most of the parks, as well as parking facilities at Warrior Creek Park. Parking improvements would address safety and access concerns. Parking improvements along Alpine Street have been completed as part of the Farmer's Market project however access and parking to Warrior Creek Park is still not sufficient.

Residents' walking their dogs has also become a problem. Installation of doggie bag dispensers has been a priority, but continued education is important. Installation of bag dispensers may encourage owners to pick up after their pet as well as decrease the risk of pollution and disease transmission. As the population increases in Dexter, so will the number of residents and dogs in the Village parks.

Non-Motorized Accessibility. Non-motorized pathway connections seem to be lacking between all facilities. A pathway system between all parks, schools, and public buildings, such as the Farmer's Market, Dexter Library, Dexter Museum, Railroad Depot, and even churches, would provide safe and convenient accessibility for pedestrians. The Village is

lacking pedestrian linkages throughout the existing pedestrian system and to some Village parks.

Visual Connections. Similar lighting and signage that is consistent with the traditional village design in the downtown area should distinguish all public parks. The Parks and Recreation Commission has established a signage theme that will be carried out throughout the Village's parks. The Village hopes to have uniform signage in all parks by 2010. The Village has also installed information "I" kiosks throughout the Village. The kiosks are in place to provide visual connections throughout the Village's walking destinations and to display maps and other park, Village and community information.

Where possible greenways and pathways will also visually connect the parks and recreational facilities available to the public. The Downtown Development Authority is also interested in helping to create visual connections through the Village and create a "gateway" at each Village entrance. The east entrance to the Village has been improved by a developer and the Village and Parks and Recreation Commission hopes to continue the theme at each Village entrance.

Access to Natural Resources. Dexter is in a prime location nestled between the Huron River and its tributary the Mill Creek. The Village plans to take advantage of these waterway assets and also improve access to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) through the proposed Hike /Bike Trail and bridge connection. Phase 1 of the HCMA trail has started construction and the Village is committed to working with HCMA to connect the trail system to the Village's downtown and proposed Mill Creek linear park. An application for Transportation Enhancement funding was applied for in 2008 in an effort to facilitate completion of a connection across the Mill Creek and into Warrior Creek and the proposed Mill Creek linear park that would link the village with the HCMA trails and Washtenaw County's Border to Border trail.

The Village has also placed top priority on the planning, development, and conversion of the Mill Pond property into the proposed Mill Creek linear park upon removal of the Main Street Bridge dam to extend access to the natural resources available along the Mill Creek Tributary. The vision for the area is to extend a trail system along the Mill Creek to the south highlighting the significant natural resources, ecology and habitats along the waterway.

Reliance on Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Park Land. Due to the close proximity of the Huron Clinton Metro Parks, just across the Mill Creek, Dexter residents readily use the facilities. The Metro Parks provide easy access to a variety and natural resources that are not accessible within the Village limits. However, as the population of Dexter and the surrounding communities increase, the Metropark may begin to congest. As this growth occurs, the Village will need to improve its park and recreation facilities to accommodate the needs of its residents from within rather than being entirely reliant on Metro Parks system. The HCMA's proposed Hike / Bike trail may help alleviate some of the congestion that the Village residents create on the regional parks and will also provide additional recreation opportunities for an even larger service area. The proposed trail is shown in Appendix N along with a map of the Westside Connector. The Village will need to be prepared for additional parking needs if the downtown area and the proposed Mill Creek linear park becomes a major trailhead to the Metroparks greenway corridor. A non-motorized pathway bridge at the historic railroad bridge, or vicinity, accessing Warrior Creek Park and the proposed Mill Creek Park would also provide a pedestrian link, for Village residents and visitors of the Metro-Parks, to a regional trail system and to Washtenaw County's Border to Border trail system, Exhibit.

Diversify Village Owned Facilities. The majority of Village owned facilities tend to be passive parks. As opportunities arise to acquire additional facilities or re-develop existing property, the Village should provide more active recreation for the residents, such as tennis courts and ballfields. Trends and projections show a younger population occupying the Village in the future. Therefore, creating a more diverse recreation base will increase and maintain usage by the Village residents. The Village should begin to explore a community recreation center or encourage a private developer to build a recreation to meet additional active recreation needs that may present themselves in the near future as the population escalates as it has over the last decade.

Reliance on the Dexter Community Schools. All of the active recreation facilities available to Village of Dexter residents are through the school district. Scheduling conflicts and sporting events severely limit the availability of these facilities to residents and residents are dependent on the Dexter Area School District for all classes and activities. The Village should not duplicate the schools facilities, but should work closely with them to ensure that both entities recreation goals are met, and that the needs of the Village residents and district

residents are fulfilled. A community center in collaboration with the Dexter Community Schools should be explored. The village should also collaborate with the schools Community Education Program to assure that active recreation opportunities are offered through programming.

Limitation of Site Size. Most of the existing village parks are adequate in terms of size based on accepted standards. However, as the population increases, these parks could be subject to overuse and will no longer adequately serve the recreational needs of the residents. The Village puts high priority on making the existing facilities accessible to all individuals who want to use them and on the development of the Mill Creek Park which will provide an additional 15 plus acres of parkland and provide trail/pathway access from the southern to the northern border of our community.

Increase Communication. The Village governing bodies need to increase communication with each other to create awareness of each commission's goals and objectives. This plan can be utilized to "spread the word" to the Village administrators and elected officials, as well as its residents about the importance of parks and recreation in the Village of Dexter and the Dexter vicinity. This type of implementation will facilitate more change and an increased knowledge of the important issues the Village faces, as addressed in this plan.

The Parks and Recreation Commission needs to engage the public into the park planning process for residents to feel a sense of ownership in the parks. The Parks and Recreation Commission should also keep the public posted on potential projects to encourage more public input and participation. The Village currently works with the local paper, The Dexter Leader, on a regular basis to involve the public. The Ann Arbor News also provides information on park activities, events and park planning projects. The village's website calendar keeps interested residents informed of public meetings and special events and all Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agendas and minutes are posted online. The Village will also continue to include the surrounding entities in recreation planning and implementation.

The Parks and Recreation Commission and the DDA will continue to collaborate on projects that impact both groups in an effort to accomplish the goals and vision of each entity. The

Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Commission will continue to update the DDA, the Village Council and other community organizations interested in helping achieve a vision for the Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Conclusions

The Village of Dexter (excluding schools) currently has recreational deficiencies. Deficiencies exist in active recreation, such as ballfields, tennis courts and other active recreation facilities. With the donation of Smith Woods to Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program the Village's Community Park acreage has also decreased resulting in additional passive recreation deficiencies. Portions of the Village are under served by existing parkland and various types of parkland; however with the inclusion of private parkland within residential developments the Village has sufficient Mini-Parks and Neighborhood Parks. Village residents also feel as though there is a lack of universally accessible parks and passive interpretive, walking and biking trails.

Active recreational deficiencies are being supplemented by the school facilities and nearby regional facilities. However, as the population of the Village continues to increase, as it is projected based on current development trends, reliance on other facilities will not accommodate deficiencies. The proposed development of the Mill Creek linear park following the removal of the Main Street dam, will also address some of the deficiencies in passive recreation and fill the village's deficiencies in community parkland. Diversity in Village owned facilities, land acquisition/planning and enhancement of existing and reclaimed facilities to serve residents better would have to be a top priority, as is the development of more active and universally accessible recreation for the entire Village population.

For this five-year plan the Village must put a high priority on development of the Mill Creek Park. Awareness has been established and support is prevalent for the long-term goals of greenway and corridor connections with the HCMA Hike Bike Trail, Washtenaw County's Border to Border Trail, Scio Township's Greenway Plan and the Dexter Community Schools. High priority has also been placed on providing more active and passive recreation around Warrior Creek Park, Mill Creek Park, and Community Park. Continued maintenance and improvements to existing parkland is also important to provide recreation facilities that appeal to the residents of the Village.

Action Plan

This Chapter of the plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with the thorough analysis of the physical and demographic attributes of the Village of Dexter. Existing parks and recreation facilities and programs were inventoried and evaluated. An assessment of need was then developed that considered both accepted recreation standards and the specialized needs of persons with disabilities. Finally, these needs were analyzed and reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission with public input.

The results of research, analysis and planning are presented in the following statement of goals and objectives, a list of implementation measures and a list of recommendations.

Goals describe a desired state of affairs for the community in the future. Goals are broad, general statements towards which objectives and implementation strategies are directed. Goals establish the standards and principles of the Plan.

Objectives are more specific in nature and designed to achieve goals. These are more narrowly defined statements to help clarify and identify appropriate implementation measures to achieve the broad-based goals.

Implementation measures are specific actions the Village may choose to achieve, carry out or fulfill goals and objectives. Implementation measures can be selected based on benefit, cost and priority or need of a particular goal or objective.

VILLAGE OF DEXTER

cnicholls@dextermi.gov

8140 Main Street Dexter, MI 48130-1092

Phone (734)426-8303 ext 17 Fax (734)426-5614

MEMO

To: Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager
Date: July 11, 2014
Re: Lion's Park Play Equipment

On July 8, 2014 I met with representatives from Superior Play on-site on the lot next to Lion's Park. They provided me with several catalogs, which I will bring to the meeting. They will be providing us with some layouts and cost estimates for similar size projects, which will give us a starting point for our decision on what type of equipment to include. The estimates will include installation; however it could be an option to arrange a community build, which was used for Community Park. Superior Play has experience assisting with the community build process.

Attached for the Commission's review is an idea suggested by Commissioner Han. The MEDC has a crowd funding grant opportunity for enhancing public spaces. Basically they will provide a matching grant to money that is raised by the community to support the project. This could be a way to raise additional money for this project if the Commission is interested in pursuing it.

I traded e-mails with Superintendent Timmis regarding getting some formal action by the schools that they are supportive of the project. He asked what type of equipment we were considering, which at this time is a play structure and swings. He will be talking to their insurance company about what type of liability protection we will need, in what would likely be an easement, to protect the schools.

The goal is to put as many of the pieces together as possible so that the project can be considered by the 5H Committee for funding in their 2015 plan.



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Groundbreaking crowdfunding/matching grant initiative to help Michigan communities create vibrant public spaces

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Kathy Fagan

[mailto:fagank@michigan.org?subject=Groundbreaking crowdfunding/matching grant initiative to help Michigan communities create vibrant public spaces]

517.335.4590

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) today announced a groundbreaking crowdfunding and matching grant initiative to help drive public space projects in Michigan communities.

“Innovative placemaking efforts help create thriving, sustainable and unique places where workers, entrepreneurs, and businesses want to locate, invest and expand,” said Governor Rick Snyder. “The ability to attract talent and grow businesses is greatly increased when we can take advantage of the unique downtown assets in each of our communities.”

Public Spaces Community Places, a collaborative effort of MEDC, the Michigan Municipal League, and Michigan-based crowdfunding platform Patronicity, is the first program of its kind in the country where local residents can be part of the development of transformational projects in their communities and be backed with a matching grant from MEDC.

The open application process begins July 9 at www.crowdfundingmi.com. [\[http://www.crowdfundingmi.com/\]](http://www.crowdfundingmi.com/) Communities, non-profits and other business entities can submit projects and apply for a crowdfunding campaign through Patronicity with online donations being raised from community members, residents, and general supporters. Projects meeting fundraising goals would then receive a matching grant from MEDC of up to

\$100,000.

"Public Spaces Community Places is a new tool communities can use to help create vibrant public spaces with the potential to bring new vitality to the community and serve as a catalyst for additional economic activity," said MEDC President and CEO Michael A. Finney. "This is a great way to leverage the pride residents and businesses have in their communities."

The League designed www.crowdfundingmi.com [<http://www.crowdfundingmi.com/>] as a one-stop website for all the crowdfunding needs of Michigan businesses, investors and communities. It provides resources, how-to information and links to crowdfunding resources.

"We are extremely excited to partner with MEDC and Patronicity to accelerate crowdfunding opportunities for Michigan communities," said Daniel Gilmartin, CEO and executive director of the Michigan Municipal League. "No other state agency in the nation is doing what MEDC is doing. Its commitment to Michigan communities is unprecedented. We firmly believe this program will inspire and assist communities of all shapes and sizes to take on and complete projects they previously could only dream about."

The program is available for projects that focus on activation of public spaces such as an outdoor plaza or park enhancements and that have established public awareness and momentum. MEDC, the League, and Patronicity will review and score potential projects based on a number of factors including overall community impact and local financial commitment.

"Crowdfunding has had an incredible impact on the arts in America over the last five years, and with Patronicity we hope to replicate that impact in local communities and public spaces," said Patronicity Founder & CEO Chris Blauvelt. "This partnership with MEDC is exciting on many levels, but none more so that through crowdfunding MEDC is empowering everyday citizens to have a dramatic impact on their communities. It's grassroots and government all at once, and we hope a model for how the government can best serve the needs and interests of the community."

MEDC selected Midtown Detroit Inc.'s Green Alley Project on Selden & Second as the Public Spaces Community Places pilot project. Midtown Detroit is working with Patronicity to raise \$50,000 through crowdfunding to transform the 415-foot-long alley bound by Second Ave., Selden, the Third Ave. Alley, and Alexandrine. Alley enhancements will include a new design to promote walkability and community connectivity and green infrastructure upgrades to reduce the storm water burden on the city's combined sewer system.

The total cost of the project is \$200,000. Detroit-based Shinola has

contributed a \$100,000 grant. If the project meets its crowdfunding goal, MEDC will provide a matching grant of \$50,000.

Details of the Green Alley Project on Selden & Second and a video can be viewed at www.patronicity.com/project/greenalley [<https://www.patronicity.com/project/greenalley>].

"The idea of creating something sustainable and impactful for the community, like the Selden & Second Green Alley, out of something so blighted, has really resonated in the Midtown community. The partnership with the MEDC on their new Public Spaces Community Places initiative through Patronicity's crowdfunding platform allows us to utilize a new tool to further engage our local community and leverage dollars already granted by Shinola," said Susan T. Mosey, president, Midtown Detroit Inc. "We are excited to be the pilot for this new initiative not only for our project but for the others that will follow."

Pure Michigan is a brand representing business, talent and tourism initiatives across Michigan. These efforts are driven by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, which serves as the state's marketing arm and lead advocate for business growth, jobs and opportunity with a focus on helping grow Michigan's economy.

For more on the MEDC and its initiatives, visit [michiganbusiness.org](http://michiganbusiness.org/#home-intro) [[#home-intro](http://michiganbusiness.org/#home-intro)]. For Michigan travel news, updates and information, visit [michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org/) [<http://www.michigan.org/>]. Michigan residents interested in seeking employment with any of Michigan's growing companies should check [mitalent.org](http://www.mitalent.org/) [<http://www.mitalent.org/>], where more than 74,000 jobs are currently available in a variety of industries.

The Michigan Municipal League advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington, D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services.

Patronicity supports building vibrant communities by connecting small businesses, organizations and events with local patrons and sponsors to help them grow, one project at a time.

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