
1999 Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Master Plan

City of Royal Oak, Michigan

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February 1999

Acknowledgments

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of the 1999 Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Master Plan is greatly appreciated. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of the following individuals:

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Inventory and Analysis

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SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

In its continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, the City of Royal Oak has created the 1999 Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of City-maintained recreational facilities and locations over the next five years. An extensive recreation plan was conducted in 1977, and subsequent updates provided in 1981, 1985 and 1989 focused on completing the goals and objectives of the 1977 plan. In 1992-93 the City created a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan to re-evaluate recreational opportunities in consideration of the changes that have occurred in population, housing, recreational habits and other associated factors which can change drastically over time. The 1999 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the latest effort by the City to establish new recreational goals and objectives for the community which will focus on maintenance and development over the next five years. The 1999 plan will also make the City eligible for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to assist the City in reaching its recreational goals.

The Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee consists of representatives from the City who are concerned with providing a wide array of quality recreational opportunities. This Committee has been fundamental in providing information about the community and guidance for the direction of the recreation plan throughout the planning process.

The first step in the planning process involved the gathering of information about Royal Oak. Physical characteristics of the area, demographic information about the community and an inventory of existing facilities helped provide the base from which future recreation decisions are made.

Based on the information gathered, an analysis determined where the community is deficient or is providing a surplus of various recreation facilities and programs in comparison to national standards. Public input from residents and Committee members provided a better picture of which recreation facilities are needed and desired by the public. The final Parks and Recreation Master Plan reflects which new facilities and improvements to existing facilities will best address the needs and desires of Royal Oak.

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SECTION II: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Regional Location

The City of Royal Oak is located in Oakland County, Michigan, approximately 12 miles northwest of downtown Detroit. Within the County, Royal Oak is approximately ten miles southeast of downtown Pontiac. Royal Oak is within close proximity, less than two miles, of many Detroit suburbs including, Clawson, Troy, Sterling Heights, Madison Heights, Warren, Hazel Park, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Berkley, Beverly Hills and Birmingham. The area of the City of Royal Oak is roughly 12 square miles (See Map 1).

Located on the eastern border of the City is Interstate 75, a major interstate highway which runs from southern Florida to northern Michigan. On the southern border is Interstate 696, a major highway traveling east-west and bisecting the major northern suburbs of Detroit. These highways provide the community with convenient regional access to the rest of the Metropolitan Detroit area and to the rural areas on the periphery of the metropolitan area.

Royal Oak is located in the center of the northern suburban development of Detroit. As one of the first developments on the periphery of Detroit to experience increased growth, Royal Oak is characteristically more dense than its neighboring communities. While the vast majority of communities in southeast Oakland County, Southern Macomb County and Western Wayne County exhibit typical suburban characteristics of large residential lots and strip commercial development with no central focus, Royal Oak has an established downtown and distinct neighborhoods which offset it from neighboring communities. The neighboring communities are fully developed as suburban communities. Royal Oak must continue to meet the recreational needs of its residents with limited possibility of expansion of park land due to its location in the center of fully developed communities.

B. Development History

While many European settlers were spread throughout Southeast Michigan, the first recorded activity in the Royal Oak area occurred when Horatio Ball surveyed a road from the “royal oak” in November 1818. In September 1819, Territorial Governor Lewis Cass on his way to treaty negotiations stopped for lunch under a large oak tree. The Governor recalled the story of how Prince Charles II after the battle of Worcester sought refuge in an oak tree until he could be brought to safety. The Governor felt the oak was truly a Royal Oak and the location retained the name.

When the plat for the village of Royal Oak was recorder in March of 1838, the area already had two taverns, a cemetery, a mercantile business, a sawmill and a post office. When the Royal Oak Town Hall was built in 1870, several churches, factories, a hotel, a railroad and a library had been established. On March 18, 1891, Royal Oak Village was incorporated, and in 1900 the official population was 468 persons. The village received new innovations shortly after they were created, such as the first telephone, an electric railway, an electric light plant, the first automobile and the first moving picture house.

Seven years after the first automobile arrived in Royal Oak, Woodward Avenue became a 16 foot-wide paved strip in 1916. Royal Oak was incorporated as a city on November 8, 1921, and George Dondero became the first mayor. Annexations of neighboring land resulted in a large increase in population for the new city from a population in 1920 of 6,007 to a population of 22,904 in 1930. More businesses and more people added to the prosperity of Royal Oak and in 1970 the population of the roughly 12 square mile area was 86,238.

As the City prepares for the 21st Century, Royal Oak looks forward to not only sustaining its strong residential neighborhoods but continuing to develop commercial uses which meet the needs of the residents. As of January 1999, the City is in the process of creating a new Master Plan which will guide its development over the next twenty years.

Insert Map 1–Regional Location

C. Population & Housing Characteristics

1. Trends and Projections

Based on information provided by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), the population of Royal Oak has decreased by 1.2% from 1990 to 1998. Additionally, according to SEMCOG population projections for the year 2010, the city will continue to lose residents but at a lower rate.

While the City is decreasing in size, Oakland County has increased in size and is projected to increase 6.5% by the year 2010. This illustrates the current trend of migration of citizens from older communities outward to the newer developments in the northern and western areas of the County. In order to combat this trend, it is essential that older communities offer amenities that cannot be found in the newer developments. This includes pedestrian networks and direct access to recreational opportunities within residential neighborhoods. The convenience of a small park is an attribute that should be emphasized as a neighborhood amenity.

The projected population change for the City of Royal Oak as compared to Oakland County over three decades is shown in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: Total Population and Estimates Royal Oak and Oakland County					
	1990	1998 Est.*	% Change	2010 Est.*	% Change
Royal Oak	65,410	64,635	-1.2 %	64, 253	-0.6 %
Oakland County	1,083,592	1,194,080	10.2 %	1,272,192	6.5 %

Source: 1990 U.S. Census and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)

The 0.6% decrease in population is offset by the addition of 455 households in Royal Oak by 2010. Table 2 shows the increase in households not only for the County but for the City as well over the next twelve years. This increase will create a larger base of households with a wider variety of recreational needs. Although the actual number of people will decrease, the increased number of households adds more individual family units which must be served by the same resources.

TABLE 2: Number of Households
--

and Projected Estimates					
	1990	1998 Est.*	% Change	2010 Est.*	% Change
Royal Oak	28,344	28,639	1.0 %	29,094	1.6 %
Oakland County	410,488	458,063	11.6 %	506,060	10.5 %

Source: 1990 U.S. Census and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)

2. Age Structure

The types and location of recreation facilities and programs will depend, in part, upon the age structure of the population. The following table breaks down the various age groups using data from the 1990 Census.

TABLE 3: Population Age Structure City of Royal Oak			
Age Group	Life Phase	Number	Percent
Under 5	Pre-School	4,461	6.8%
5-17	Elementary & Secondary School	9,070	13.9%
18-24	College & Early Work Force	5,084	7.8%
25-44	Young Families	24,934	38.1%
45-64	Mature Families	11,581	17.7%
65 & Older	Senior Citizens/ Retirement	10,280	15.7%

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

The largest age category, representing 38.1% of the population in the City, contains those between the ages of 25 and 44. Mature Families from age 45 to 64 represent 17.7% of the total population. The senior citizen population represents 15.7%, but this age group is expected to grow in size as the Baby Boomer generation matures and improvements in medical technology help people live longer.

The age structure of Royal Oak indicates that the greatest immediate need is for recreation facilities that serve families. This would include neighborhood and mini-parks to service a wide range of youth-related activities. Young children need diverse programming offering a wide range of activities and events. Children learn the fundamentals of sports through organized baseball, softball, basketball and soccer leagues. Day camps bring children together to create arts and crafts, go swimming or learn about nature. The 25-44 years old age group need family-related programming that target people their age. Organized softball leagues are popular in many communities. This group may also desire access to other forms of recreation like golf, hockey and basketball. In the future, demand for recreation facilities for senior citizens will increase and translate into a need for more passive park areas. Bike paths provide an excellent opportunity for an entire family to participate in a recreational activity.

3. Racial and Ethnic Composition

The racial and ethnic composition in Royal Oak is predominantly white, with 97.9% of the population falling under this classification. Table 4 lists the race and ethnic breakdown for the entire community.

TABLE 4: Racial and Ethnic Composition City of Royal Oak		
Race	Number	Percent
White	64,035	97.9%
Black	332	0.5%
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	163	0.2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	729	1.1%
Other Race	151	0.3%

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

4. Education

The level of educational attainment in the City of Royal Oak is very similar to Oakland County as a whole. Of the City's adult population (25 years and older) 86.0% are high school graduates and 28.4% have acquired a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, 84.6% of the County's adult population are high school graduates, and 30.2% have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

5. Employment and Income

The occupational characteristics of Royal Oak are similar with those of Oakland County. As shown in Table 5, the largest difference in percentage of workforce is that roughly 3% more of Royal Oak's workforce is in the administrative support field than the rest of the County. In general, a majority of Royal Oak's workforce is occupied by jobs traditionally classified as "9 to 5" jobs. Executive, administrative, professional, technical, sales and clerical occupations tend to operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. While the other occupations do operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., laborers and machine operators also tend to use more afternoon and evening shifts. With approximately 70% of the workforce occupied from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the opportunity to recreate will occur early in the morning, later in the evening and on weekends. This creates a high demand for recreational facilities and programs at those times. Facility hours of operation and scheduling of programs must be focused to address the increased recreational needs of the workforce at later times of the day.

Occupation Classification	Royal Oak	Percent of Workforce	Oakland County	Percent of Workforce
Executive, administrative and managerial	4,990	14.2%	89,414	16.0%
Professional Specialty	6,829	19.5%	105,686	19.0%
Technicians and Related Support	1,791	5.1%	22,339	4.0%
Sales	4,543	12.9%	79,130	14.2%
Administrative Support and Clerical	6,363	18.2%	85,426	15.3%
Service (including household and protective)	3,808	10.9%	56,015	10.1%
Farming, forestry and fishing	215	0.6%	3,873	0.7%
Precision production, craft and repair	3,351	9.6%	55,834	10.0%
Machine operators and Assemblers	1,542	4.4%	31,758	5.7%
Transportation & Laborers	1,595	4.6%	27,659	5.0%

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

The household income data from the 1990 Census indicates that residents of Royal Oak earn slightly less than Oakland County residents overall. The median household income in Royal Oak was \$36,835 and Oakland County's median income was \$43,407.

The income and occupation data can have important recreation planning implications. Current income levels suggest that City residents need quality and accessible public recreation. As a general rule, Royal Oak residents may be more likely to utilize public rather than private recreation facilities due to cost.

6. Housing Characteristics

Within Royal Oak, 30.1% of the dwelling units were rented in 1990. In communities with a large amount of rental units, multi-family complexes usually provide the residents with some form of recreational activities. While multi-family complexes do exist in various areas throughout the city, they do not all provide recreational areas, such as greenspaces, or activities. A portion of the renter occupied units are also single family residential homes. Although rear yards do provide some recreational opportunities most organized activities require larger areas. Therefore, knowing the smaller size of residential dwelling units within the City, in comparison to newer suburban communities, those residents that own their home must also depend more on the City provided facilities and programs. With smaller yards available to the residents, for more organized activities, residents must rely on publicly provided facilities.

Dwelling Units	Number	Percent
Owner Occupied	19,836	69.9%
Renter Occupied	8,508	30.1%
Total Occupied Units	28,344	100%

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

D. Physical Features

1. Environmental Features

The topography in Royal Oak is flat throughout the community. Elevations range from 650 feet on the eastern portion of the City to 740 feet on the west, a 90 foot change in elevation (0.4%) over a four mile distance.

The community has no major water body within or running through its boundaries. All drainage throughout the City is served by storm drains and underground pipelines.

The soil survey for Royal Oak shows two major soil associations*. The Urban land-Blount-Lenawee Association occupies nearly level land and is somewhat poorly drained. This Association is composed of a combination of the soil types with 40 to 70 percent urban land, 20 to 25 percent Blount soils and 15 to 20 percent Lenawee soils. The Urban land-Thetford Association consists of nearly level urban land and nearly level, somewhat poorly drained Thetford soils on smooth low-lying plains. This Association is composed of 35 to 75 percent urban land and 20 to 30 percent Thetford soils. The soil survey for Oakland County is general in nature, and the information it provides cannot be used as the basis for a construction project. However, it provides a good look at the main characteristics of the soils in the area. The inability of the soils in the area to drain well indicates that any proposed open fields for recreation must be developed with a well-designed drainage plan so that the surfaces are not occupied with standing water after a period of rain. The nature of the soils also requires that the analysis of existing facilities takes into account the ability of open fields to drain adequately ensuring that facilities will be used to the fullest extent.

*Oakland County Soil Survey. USDA, Soil Conservation Service. March 1982.

2. Climate

Climatic conditions are typical of most southeastern Michigan communities. Snowfall averages 39 inches per year but varies considerably from year to year. Yearly high temperatures average 83.6 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 30.2 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. The average annual temperature is 48.4 degrees Fahrenheit. This climate is suitable for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, such as biking, running, ice skating, hockey, etc.

3. Existing Land Use Characteristics

The major land use in Royal Oak is single family residential. According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), approximately 62.8% of the City is used for single family residential purposes. Multiple family residential land uses occupy only 4.4%, or 335 acres. The majority of the land in the City has been developed, leaving no room for new subdivisions. Any new housing being constructed is being placed on single lots or larger lots that are a consolidation of smaller residential lots. The existing residential areas have developed into well defined residential neighborhoods. Major roads, commercial and industrial areas act as boundaries between many residential neighborhoods. As a result, basic recreational needs for the neighborhoods can be addressed within their own areas by providing for small parks and green areas that are accessible by foot without crossing major roadways.

The majority of the intense development in the City has occurred along the major roads, specifically, Woodward Avenue and Main Street in the downtown area. Over 598 acres in the City (8.0%) have been developed for commercial uses and the vast majority of businesses are located within these areas. Industrial uses are generally located in the northern and eastern areas of the City, occupying roughly 300 acres (4.0%).

The remaining areas of Royal Oak are occupied by public schools, buildings, churches, transportation corridors and utilities. The only areas of vacant land are located at I-696 and Main Street and at I-696 and the railroad. The City is built out, leaving very little opportunities for any large scale expansion of existing recreational facilities or acquisition of land for new facilities. Any opportunities for such expansion or acquisition in the future would depend greatly upon the vacating of an existing use from its current location. This option is not desirable and will not be encouraged. However, if any opportunities occur in the future, the possibility for expansion or acquisition should be consider only if it would help meet the recreational goals of the plan.

E. Transportation and Residential Patterns

1. Circulation

Roads

Royal Oak is accessed from I-696 via the Woodward Avenue or Campbell Road exits and from I-75 from the Twelve Mile Road or Fourteen Mile Road exits. Major north-south roads in the community include Woodward Avenue, Main Street, Greenfield Road, Coolidge Highway, Crooks Road, Rochester Road and Campbell Road. The major east-west corridors in the community include Ten Mile Road, Eleven Mile Road, Twelve Mile Road, Thirteen Mile Road and Fourteen Mile Road.

All major roads are part of the “mile-road” grid pattern, where a major road is located every mile going north-south and east-west, or are connectors between major cities. For example, Woodward Avenue runs from downtown Detroit to downtown Pontiac. (See Map 1).

Railroads

The Railroad roughly runs from the northwest corner of the community to the southeast corner parallel to Woodward Avenue. The railroad carries cargo and freight in addition to Amtrak passenger cars. An Amtrak platform is located in the Sherman St. Parking Lot at Washington Ave. Customers purchase tickets and board trains at the platform. A similar Amtrak platform is located in Birmingham, roughly six miles northwest of downtown Royal Oak.

Airports

The Oakland-Troy Airport is located approximately six miles to the northwest of the City at the intersection of Maple Road and Coolidge Highway. The airport is used for cargo deliveries and private aircraft. Detroit City Airport, located roughly 16 miles southwest of downtown Royal Oak, is used primarily for private aircraft, cargo deliveries and limited passenger flights to selected national cities. Wayne County Metropolitan Airport is the primary passenger flight airport in the southeast Michigan region, offering many national and international flights. Metro Airport is approximately 40 miles from downtown Royal Oak via the major freeways.

2. Housing Patterns

Royal Oak’s housing pattern is reflected in the age of the community. The commercial uses are located along the frontage of the major roads while the single family residential structures are mainly located in the interior areas created by the pattern of the major roads. This creates a typical buffered type of development. While the vast majority of intensive development, such as commercial, office and industrial development, is located in strips along the major roads, the single family residential uses are located in the interior areas. These interior areas are

characterized by lower speeds and fewer car trips through the neighborhoods, creating a less intense development than along the highly traveled commercial and industrial strip corridors.

These interior areas provide the best locations to place smaller neighborhood parks that are intended to serve residents within a ½ mile radius, the average comfortable walking distance. Typically these interior residential areas provide the best location for smaller parks due to their ability to optimize the service area coverage and because no residents are required to pass any of the more intense major road corridors.

F. Historic Recreation Sites

1. Historic Locations

Throughout the City of Royal Oak are locations of historical importance which represent significant steps in the City's past. Various sites represent the oldest buildings in the City, the first church and houses of long time residents.

Sunset Park was the first city park designated on January 14, 1914, and was changed to Frank Wendland Park on April 19, 1926, in honor of a World War I soldier who lost his life. In 1949, 47 young trees from the acorns of the Royal Oak Tree of England were planted in Memorial Park in remembrance of those from Royal Oak who gave their lives during war time. A marker was placed at Rochester Road and Twelve Mile Road in 1917 at the spot where it is believed Territorial Governor Cass gave the name "Royal Oak" to a large oak tree.

SECTION III: INVENTORY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

A. Overview

An inventory of existing local and regional recreation facilities was conducted by professionals from McKenna Associates in October of 1998. The physical inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections of all city parks and recreation sites. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded and reviewed with regard to location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition (See Table 7). The regional inventory consisted of review and compilation of regional park facilities, brochures, and telephone interviews (See Table 8).

B. Municipal Facilities

There are currently 17 vest pocket parks, 23 neighborhood parks, 9 community parks and 1 community center for a total of 50 public park and recreation facilities within the City of Royal Oak (See Map 2). In addition, there is an urban plaza, located adjacent to City Hall, used for special events such as the Christmas lighting ceremony and outdoor concerts. All these facilities are owned and maintained by the City of Royal Oak.

Table 7 illustrates the existing inventory of recreational equipment and fields at these facilities. Play areas include various fields for organized games such as baseball, football and soccer. While there are 27 ballfields and/or backstops and 15 soccer fields there are also 24 multi-purpose fields allowing for a wide range of activities. Hard court areas include tennis and basketball courts. Play structures include both modular and timber equipment while playground equipment includes swingsets, slides and jungle gyms. The vast majority (84%) of the existing parks have some kind of play equipment available to the public.

Fitness areas consists of any fitness stations, chin-up bars, balance beams or some type of equipment to facilitate a workout. Only 10% of the parks in the community have this type of equipment. Passive areas include picnic areas or nature/hiking trail/foot paths. While 34 out of 50 parks have picnic areas, only 3 out of 50 (6%) have some type of non-motorized pathway. Four parks have some type of concession building or restroom available to the public.

While the inventory indicates that Royal Oak has a wide variety of generally well-maintained facilities and equipment, it appears to be lacking in certain areas. The most noticeable resource currently missing is some form of non-motorized path for pedestrian traffic and exercise.

Table 7 - Existing Recreational Facilities Inventory

**Table 7
City of Royal Oak Recreation Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name	Type	Parking Spaces	Dog Run	Acres	Ballfields/Backstops	Soccer	Football	Volleyball	Multi-Purpose Field	Asphalt Play	Tennis	Track & Field	Basketball Courts	Basketball Backboards	Number of Play Grounds	Tot Lot/Tyke Track	Modular Play Equipment	Timber Play Structures	Metal Play Structures	Tire Climbers/Tire Swings	Resilient Surfacing	Sandbox	Teatherball	Swingsets	Slides (metal), freestanding	Jungle Jims/Climbers	Spring Riders	Merry-Go-Rounds	Drop Shot	See Saw	Fitness Stations	Monkey Bars/Horizontal Lads	Chin Up Bars	Rings	Parallel Bars	Balance Beams	Passive Areas	Picnic Areas	Nature/Hiking Trail/Foot Path	Pavilion/Deck/Gazebo Rese	Concession/Restroom	Lighting	Golf/Driving Range	Ice Skating Outdoor	Vita Course	Comments				
30 Memorial	CP	18		24.19	3		X				2				2	X	X				Fi, S		1	1		1										X	X			CR	X					Sand digger/ no accessible path				
31 Miller	NP			1.52												2					Fi	1	2		1															X				Grill & Picnic, accessible path						
20 Milt Hey/Hudson	NP			1.88					X				1				1				S, Fi		2													X	X													
39 Fred Piper Optimist	NP			3.08	1			SV	1								1				S		1														X	X												
32 Pioneer	NP			2.34													1				S		2	1	1																					No accessible path				
33 Quickstad	CP			31.50		3																														X	X	X								Undeveloped				
34 Realtor	NP			2.54					1									1			S		4	1	1	4														DF						Fence on main, path, trees				
35 Red Run	CP			19.32	2	1		1			2			1			1				S		2		X																					Non-access, B-Ball/T.C. disrepair				
36 Rotary	VP			0.83																																														
37 Starr/JC	CP	X		28.00	3		4	5	2								1	1	X		Fi, S		X	X	X	6				X																	X	Train. Frisbee golf, no access path		
38 Sullivan	NP			3.37					1								1				S		2	2																							No accessible path, remove slide			
40 13 Mile/Main	VP			0.10																																														
41 Upton	NP			3.86					1		2						1							2	1	1																						Next to elementary, accessible path		
42 V.F.W.	CP			7.96	1				X	X	2			1			1	X	X		S		2	X	1	X																						2 HS pits. Asphalt under swing, BGC		
43 Wagner	CP		X	13.66											X		X	X			S		2	2		X																					Frisbee golf			
50 Waterworks	NP			4.96	1	1			X		2						X		X		S			X	X																							R		
44 Wendland	VP			0.79													1				S		2		X																								Shuffle board, NA	
45 Westwood	VP			1.03					1								1	1			Fi, S		2			1																							Accessible path, Sign needed	
46 Whittier	NP			6.87		2			X		2						X						2			X																								
49 Woodsboro (Lions Club)	VP			1.10													X				Fi		X			1																								
47 Worden	CP	X		30.81	4	3					5																																							Dome soccer, Lindell Ice Arena
48 Worden East	VP			4.25												1- NA	1- NA				Fi, S	ST	2			1																								access swings, 2 HS pits, Sanddigger
TOTAL ACRES:				310.03	30	17	5	11	24		35		7	14																																				

Legend:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| B - With Bleachers | CP - Community Park | G - Gymnasium | NP - Neighborhood Park | PV - Pavilion | TL - Tot Lot |
| BC - Batting Cage | D - Deck | GR - Grass | P - Practice Field | R - Restroom | TT - Tyke Track |
| BW - Bowling | DF - Drinking Fountain | GZ - Gazebo | PD - Pond | S - Stage | VP - Vest Pocket/Mini-Park |
| C - Cafeteria | F - Fishing | IT - Indoor Track | PG - Pea Gravel | SD - Sand | WC - Wood Chips |
| CC - Color Coated | Fi - Fibar | L - Lighted Field | PJ - Porta-John | SU - Special Use Park | X - One Unit/Facility |

*Source: McKenna Associates, Inc.
(Field Survey - 10/19/98 & 10/21/98)*

Map 2 - Existing Parks

C. School Facilities

The Royal Oak Neighborhood School District has 10 elementary, 2 middle schools and 2 high schools located in the City of Royal Oak. All of these school facilities have some form of recreational facilities or equipment either inside or outside of the buildings. These facilities, when available, are used by the Department of Recreation and Public Service to provide recreation programs. While an official inventory was not conducted, it was observed that some elementary schools have play structures or equipment such as swings and slides. In addition the middle schools and high schools have ball fields, hard court areas and gymnasiums for indoor recreation.

The most notable recreation amenity at the school facilities are the indoor swimming pools located in the two high schools. The City currently does not own any swimming facilities and the pools located at the high schools are the primary opportunity for swimming in the City. It should be noted that a swim facility does exist at the YMCA in the City but it does not appear to adequately address the needs of the residents.

The school facilities' main purpose is to provide recreational opportunities for the students in attendance at the respective schools. However, when coordinated with the school district, facilities can be used by the general public under certain conditions. This practice is seen in many communities and in general school facilities have an average service area based on the amenities they have to offer. The amenities available are generally in direct correlation to the type of school. Elementary schools serve the residents of the neighborhoods in which they are located, while the middle schools and the high schools tend to serve a broader population base. Since the primary users of the recreation facilities are the students, the general public should not depend greatly on school facilities to meet their recreational needs. .

D. Private Recreation Facilities

Several privately-owned recreation facilities are also located in or near the City of Royal Oak. Although use of these facilities is limited to those who can afford the fees, they do address certain recreation needs. Private recreation facilities include the Red Run Golf Club. Adjacent community facilities include: Limited private recreation facilities are also located within local apartment complexes and condominium developments in the City.

The City also has agreements with private companies to organize, maintain and manage several recreational facilities. Total Soccer, Grand Slam Baseball, Golden Bear Driving Range and Adventure Golf lease facilities from the City and proceeds are placed in the General Fund. Activities include indoor soccer, batting cages, a driving range and a miniature golf course. These agreements have proven to generate some additional revenue for the City's general fund and a wider variety of recreational opportunities for the residents. The management and care of these facilities are the responsibility of the private companies.

E. Regional Recreation Resources

Regional recreation areas are large facilities serving people within a broad geographic area. The region has been defined as the area within roughly a one-half to one hour driving radius of Royal Oak. Table 8 and Map 3 summarize and locate these regional facilities. The size and type of facilities vary, but in general these facilities are 200 acres or more in size.

It should be noted that there are several other municipal facilities within the City but which are maintained by departments other than the Department of Recreation and Public Service. Royal Oak Golf Course and Normandy Golf Course are municipal facilities which are managed by private companies under contract with the City and is overseen by the Finance Director. Combined, these courses schedule nearly 80,000 rounds of golf per year. The John Lindell Ice Arena has two ice surfaces which are in constant demand. The Arena Manager and City Manager supervise the management and activities at the Ice Arena.

In addition, nearby regional recreational facilities include parks and facilities owned and operated by Oakland County and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (See Map 3). Several golf courses are within close proximity to the City. Private and commercial recreation facilities within the area include a country club, various gyms and health clubs.

**Table 8
CITY OF ROYAL OAK
Existing Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Facilities Available on Site	Bald Mountain State Recreation Area	Brighton Recreation Area	Genesee Recreation Area	Highland Recreation Area	Holly Recreation Area	Island Lake State Recreation Area	Maybury State Park	Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area	Ortonville State Recreation Area	Pickney State Recreation Area	Proud Lake Recreation Area	Seven Lakes State Park	Sleepy Hollow State Park	Wetzel State Park	Delhi Metropark	Dexter-Huron Metropark	Hudson Mills Metropark	Huron Meadows Metropark	Indian Springs Metropark	Kensington Metropark	Lake Erie Metropark	Lower Huron Metropark	Metrobach Metropark	Oakwoods Metropark	Stony Creek Metropark	Willow Metropark	Wolcott Metropark	Buell Lake County Park	Flushing County Parie	Fomar Nature Preserve and Arboretum	Holloway Reserve Regional Park	Linton County Park				
Acres	4637	4913	4460	5624	7670			683		1100	3614	1410			53	123	1544	1539	2215	4357	1607	1258	770	1700	4461	1500	2380	213	105	380	5860	135				
Camping	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X	X										X				
Organizational Camping		X		X	X	X					X	X	X			X	X			X	X	X				X										
Camping Fees	X			X	X			X			X	X	X																							
Cabin Rental	X			X	X	X		X			X																									
Picnic Areas		X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X			
Concession Stands/Bathhouses		X	X	X	X			X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Picnic Shelters		X	X	X	X			X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X	X		
Playground/Play Area		X	X		X			X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X	X		
Boat Launch		X	X	X	X	X					X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X			
Boat or Canoe Rental			X			X									X		X			X	X	X				X	X							X		
Swimming/Beach		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								X	X	
Fishing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X	
Cross-Country Skiing	X	X	X	X	X				X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cross Country Ski Rental											X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Snowmobiling		X	X	X	X				X		X	X		X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X	X		
Sledding			X																X	X	X	X				X	X							X	X	
Ice Skating							X														X	X			X	X										
Riding Stables w/horse rental without horse rental/Horseback Riding				X	X						X																								X	
Full Service Tack Shop																																				
Nature Center/Grist Mill/Visitor Center			X																X		X			X	X									X		
Farm Center							X														X															
Hunting		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X																						
Field Dog Trail Areas																																				
Shooting Range	X																																			
Hiking Trails/Nature Trails	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				X	
Paved Bike Trails	X																X					X	X													
Mountain Bike Trails	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X							X	X								X	X							
Bike Rental																																				
Golf - 18 holes																	X	X	X	X	X															
Disk Golf - 18 holes																																				
Softball Fields			X																										X	X				X	X	
Sand Volleyball																																				
Basketball																																				
Horseshoe Pits																																				
Waterslide																																				
Hot Air Balloon Port/Excursion Boat																																				
Rest Rooms	X		X												X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X		
Rest Rooms - Rustic Only																																				
Historic Site																																				
Marina/Docakge																							X	X		X										

Sources: Huron-Clinton Metro Park Guide
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Recreation Plan
Michigan State Parks, Oakland County Parks, MCKA Assoc., Inc

Map 3 - Existing Regional Recreation Facilities

F. Recreation Programs

A very large variety of recreation programs are offered in the City of Royal Oak. While many programs are organized by the Department of Recreation and Public Services Superintendent of Recreation, some private groups organize activities, mainly for youths. The following lists the programs offered both by the City and private organizations.

CULTURAL ARTS

Cultural Arts continues to play a viable part in the City's total program outlook. The number of participants continues to grow. Approximately 1,196 people will be served in 1999 with a total attendance of 7,855. Additional cultural art activities are offered in the Special Youth Programs under the R.O.S.E. program

Youth Dance. Dance Classes are offered for ages 3 and up to introduce students to dance basics and technique. Three 10-week sessions are held: Pre-school, Beginning Tap/Jazz, Ballet, Kinder Tap, and Jazz/Funk. All students participate in a spring recital. Approximately 140 students will participate with a total attendance of 4,480. *Premiere Dance* assists the City in coordinating this program. Fee to students is \$41 per session.

Ballroom Dance. Beginning and Intermediate lessons are offered for three 10-week sessions. Registration is by couples. Seventy couples are expected to participate with a total attendance of 700. Intermediate classes will be offered if there is enough interest.

Adult Clinics. Classes for adults that meet from one to three weeks will be offered (i.e. Amaze & Amuse, Drawing, Magic, etc.). It is estimated that 60 will participate for a total attendance of 180.

Youth Clinics. Classes for youth that meet from one to three weeks will be offered (i.e. Face Painting, Balloon-o-rama, Origami, Magic, Monster Makers, etc.). Classes will meet for 1 ½ hours. The City anticipates 80 will participate with a total attendance of 180.

Country Swing and Western Dance. Country Swing for adults age 7 and older. Beginning and Intermediate classes are held. No partners are necessary. Six 10-week sessions meet for 1 ½ hours, plus two 10-week sessions in the summer. It is expected 80 Line Dance, 30 couples will register with a total attendance of 1,400.

Handbell Choir. In its sixth year, the Handbell Choir performs several times during the year for clubs and various agencies, and for the city's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Thirty (30) participants with a total attendance of 300 are expected.

Cartooning Workshop. Introduction to drawing cartoon characters, humor techniques, and development of personal style. Nine workshops will be offered meeting for 1 hour with total attendance of 300. Material provided by instructor.

Writing Class. Basically a poetry class for beginning and experienced writers. Three 7-week sessions will be held; the seventh week is a public reading. Forty-five (45) participants (for a total participation of 315) are expected.

SPECIAL YOUTH PROGRAM

Special Youth Programs are comprised of Day Camp, Pre-School, Summer Centers, Teen Volunteers, R.O.S.E., babysitting course, and activities specifically for persons with disabilities. Pre-schoolers through junior high students can participate in educational programs inclusive of the cultural arts, physical activities and social opportunities. Approximately 1,293 will participate plus 1,100 in Summer Centers for a total attendance of 31, 202 in 1999.

Day Camp. The objective of the Day Camp is to provide programming for the 6-11 year old child away from traditional settings such as the playground or athletic field. The program will meet for seven weeks, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The program will serve an average of 50 campers per week, with approximately 315 total campers expected to enroll. The total attendance is anticipated at 1,575.

Pre-School. This is a year-round program which is licensed by the State of Michigan. Four 30-week sessions meeting twice a week will be held fall, winter, and spring; three 4-week sessions will be held in the summer. Each class can accommodate a maximum of 18 students. It is expected that 131 pre-schoolers will participate with a total attendance of 4,740.

Pre-School Mini-Series. A variety of classes will be offered for pre-schoolers: One day a week for 45 minutes for 5 weeks. Sample programs will be Drama, Puppetry, Tiny Chefs, Sunshine Kids, etc. Approximately 96 will participate with a total attendance of 480. Two classes will be held each session (spring, winter, summer, fall).

R.O.S.E. (Royal Oak Summer Expo). A joint program with the Royal Oak School Board for K-8 grades. The Recreation Dept. is responsible for Fine Arts, Science & Math, Pot-pourri, and Language Arts. The schools will not be offering reading or any other classes during the summer of 1999. Program participants will meet in the summer with three 2-week sessions. A total of 575 youngsters are expected to participate with a total attendance of 4,600.

Teen Volunteers. This will be the 15th year of the Teen Volunteer Program in which 13-15 year olds assist the summer programs. The teens benefit from an educational experience, develop responsibility, and make new friends. Volunteers assist with the Summer Centers, Day Camp, Outdoor Concerts, and Special Events. It is anticipated that 35 youths will participate and volunteer 2,030 hours.

Computer Camp. For youth completing grades K-8; this camp is offered in conjunction with MST Technokids. Meets 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Monday - Friday for one week; includes internet,

experiments, animation and some physical activity. Anticipate 70 participants for total attendance of 350. A camp will also be offered within vacation periods during the school year.

Babysitting Course. For youth age 11-15 to prepare them for emergency situations. Basic first-aid, emergency skills and entertaining children are stresses. Class meets 1 ½ hours for 4 weeks. It is expected that 24 will take part for a total attendance of 96.

Oakland County Parks & Recreation has shown an interest in assisting cities by providing a staff person to set up programs for the following; the cities would provide a site.

T.R. Craft Classes. C.D., E.I. and E.M.I. students, age 8 and older will make various craft projects. Three 5-week sessions will be offered. Approximately 15 students will participate with a total attendance of 75.

T.R. Dance Exercise. For Junior High age special education students. This program focuses on movement and fitness through exercise and dance. It is estimated that 16 will participate with a total attendance of 128. Two 8-week sessions will be offered.

T.R. Gym for Fun and Fitness. For T.M.I. and E.M.I. youth. This program will include activities such as Volleyball, Soccer, Floor Hockey, exercises and movement to music. It is estimated that 16 will participate with a total attendance of 128. Two 8-week sessions will be offered.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

The Physical Activities programs provide a learning opportunity through instruction as well as valuable physical exercise, for both youth and adults. These activities are separate from team league set-up. Approximately 2,228 will participate in 1999 with a total attendance of 21,698.

Badminton. Badminton is offered on a club basis to those age 16 and over for singles and doubles play. Officers will administrate the program on-site in cooperation with our Department. This is an on-going program meeting for two hours each week. It is anticipated that 35 will participate with a total attendance of 450.

Roller Skating. In cooperation with Skate World of Troy, we offer various levels of skating lessons for youth and adults during fall/winter/spring. We expect 20 participants with a total attendance of 120.

Fitness Factory. An aerobic-exercise workout to develop cardiovascular and muscle strength. Nine 10-week sessions are planned meeting twice per week. We expect 375 participants with a total attendance of 7,500. Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday classes will be held. Step Aerobic classes are also offered.

Golf Lessons. In cooperation with MacDivotts Driving Range and the Golf Dome, we are offering beginning and intermediate golf lessons. Golden Bear and Red Oaks will be utilized during spring & summer; the Golf Dome in the winter. We expect 65 will take lessons with a total attendance of 390.

Junior Olympian Karate. For boys and girls age 6-12; an opportunity to learn Karate, promote self-confidence, self-discipline, self-defense, physical fitness, and controlled competitive spirit. Two groups meet twice a week for 30 weeks pay as you go (\$3) plus \$10 registration fee. NAAMA handles registration and pays City \$1 per person each time they attend. We expect an average of 13 participants per class with a total attendance of 1,560.

Water Exercise. Cardiovascular, toning and stretching exercises performed in the water. Eight sessions are offered for 10 weeks. We anticipate 220 participants with a total attendance of 2,220.

Tennis Lessons. The Department offers instructional tennis for youth and adults throughout the year. Classes are set up on a contractual basis with Keating Brothers Tennis Management. Classes meet Monday-Thursday for five weeks. It is anticipated that 55 will participate with a total attendance of 440. Registrations are taken by Keating Bros.

Coed Volleyball. Coed volleyball will be offered on two nights for three 10-week sessions meeting 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. The program serves the purpose of physical activity and sociability. Approximately 150 people will take part with a total program attendance of 1,500.

Yoga. Improved flexibility, circulation, concentration and creativity as well as helping to eliminate tension will be taught under this program. Yoga will be offered for three 10-week sessions meeting for 1 ½ hours. Approximately 80 people will take part with a total attendance of 800.

100 Mile Club. The 100 Mile Club program is for walking enthusiasts of all ages who walk for fun, relaxation and exercise. Mileage is logged on an honor system by each individual. When they reach 100 miles, they receive a '100 Mile' Club T-shirt. The City anticipates 10 participants with a total attendance of 1,000.

500 Mile Club. Those achieving the 100 mile goal continue walking and reporting their mileage on the honor system. Upon reaching 500 miles, they are presented with a '500 Mile' cloisonne pin. The City anticipates 10 participants with total attendance of 400.

1,000 Mile Club. Those achieving the 500 mile goal continue walking and reporting their mileage on the honor system. Upon reaching 1000 miles, they are presented with a '1000 Mile' Club T-shirt. The City anticipates 5 participants with total attendance of 840.

Tai Chi. An ancient Chinese system of physical exercise and moving meditation, suitable for all ages is taught under tai chi. Fourteen 10-week sessions will be offered. We anticipate

250 participants with a total attendance of 2,500. Senior Citizen classes: 8 10-week sessions; the City anticipates 175 seniors with a total attendance of 1,750.

Table Tennis. Program offers singles and doubles play on an on-going basis meeting three hours each week. It is anticipated that 25 will participate with a total attendance of 250.

Drop-in Basketball (35+). Program will be offered 2 hours one night a week for 30 weeks. Approximately 15 per week will participate with a total attendance of 450 participants.

Double Dutch. Jump rope activity that promotes cardio-respiratory fitness. Coordinate routines to favorite tunes: Grades 3-5; 6-8. Expect 75 participants for total attendance of 450.

Scuba Diving. Program is offered in conjunction with Recreational Diving Systems, Inc. Scuba diving and snorkeling lessons are given at the Kimball pool as well as a classroom. Five sessions of seven weeks each will be offered. We anticipate 12 participants for total participation of 84.

Gymboree. The City, in conjunction with Gymboree Inc., offers a variety of activities for children ages 3 months to 5 years. Classes meet for 10 weeks. It is expected that 55 participants will attend for a total participation of 550.

Parents/Tots Fun Fitness. A program that uses musical games and a creative approach to exercise for parents and tots age 2 ½ to 4 ½. Classes meet for 6 weeks. The City expects 48 parent/tot participants for a total participation of 576.

Young at Heart. Fun fitness to increase stamina, strength, and flexibility for adults 35+. Four 6-week sessions will be held. Forty-eight (48) participants for total attendance of 288 are expected.

ADULT ATHLETIC LEAGUES

Adult athletic programs remain popular with Royal Oak residents. The number of teams fluctuates very little now that the downward spiral in softball seems to have stabilized. Maximum numbers are governed by space limitations. A variety of organized leagues is offered year-round. Approximately 1,737 adults will participate with a total attendance of 20,564. In addition, several thousand spectators will be observing games.

Women's Basketball Leagues. Ten teams play in two open league divisions with each team playing a nine game schedule. The top four teams in the division will participate in single elimination playoffs. About 80 women will compete in these open leagues with a total program attendance of 720. The referees are paid cash before each game by the teams directly.

Men's Basketball League. Fifteen teams are again expected to play in two divisions, with each team playing a fourteen game regular season schedule plus playoffs for all teams in each division. Approximately 128 men will participate with a total program attendance of 1,792. The referees are paid cash \$17 per official by the teams before each game.

Men's 3-on3 Basketball. Sixteen teams are expected to participate in three divisions. Each team will play an eight game schedule plus the top four teams in each division will play in a single elimination playoff. The season begins in January. Approximately 105 men will compete with a total attendance of 840. The games are self-officiated.

Men's Touch Football. We anticipate 16 teams taking part in two 8-team leagues with each team playing a ten game schedule. About 160 men will participate with a total program attendance of 1,600. Teams will continue to pay officials directly before each game.

Softball-Men's B-and-C. This league will be composed of a total of 10 teams each playing an 18-game schedule. All teams who finish .500 or better will be in single elimination playoffs. One hundred fifty men are expected to participate with a total program attendance of 2,700. Teams will pay umpires directly before each game.

Men's 35 & Over Softball. Twelve teams are expected to participate and play a twelve game regular season schedule. All teams who finish .500 or better will be in single elimination playoffs. 180 players are expected to play with a total attendance of 2,160. Teams pay umpires directly.

Women's 30 & Over Softball. This will be an open league of 8 teams playing a 12 game regular season schedule. If more than six teams enter, only the top four will qualify for single elimination playoffs. An estimated 150 women will play with a total attendance of 1,800. Teams pay umpires directly.

Coed Softball. Twelve teams are expected to play in this mixed league. A ten game schedule is planned with single elimination playoffs for the top four teams in each league. Two hundred fifty-six players are expected to play with a total attendance of 2,560. Teams will pay the umpires directly before each game.

Coed Volleyball League. The Coed Volleyball League consists of a 10-team league. Games are played on Friday nights; a 12 game schedule is played plus playoffs. Officials are paid directly by the teams. Approximately 140 will participate with a total participation of 1,400.

Women's Volleyball. Twenty-four teams are expected to participate in this league playing a 16 match schedule plus playoffs. The league is divided by ability into three and sometimes four divisions. Approximately 240 women will participate with a total attendance of 3,840. Officials are paid directly by the teams (\$7 each).

4 Person Sand Volleyball League. The Novice Sand Volleyball League will consist of ten coed teams. Games are played on Sunday evenings for six weeks. Approximately 60 will participate with a total participation of 360.

Sand Volleyball Leagues. The Sand Volleyball program will consist of four leagues: men, women, and two coed leagues. Each league will have approximately 12 teams (divided into three divisions of four – two play at Starr/Jaycee, the other plays at Optimist Park) playing doubles competition. Three session round-robins are scheduled. Eighty-eight will participate with a total participation of 792.

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Instructional programs as well as league competition are offered using part-time paid personnel and more than 600 volunteers. Approximately 4,116 youth will participate with a total attendance of 42,022 in athletic programs conducted by the Department and Associations affiliated with the Department. Several thousand spectators will also be enjoying the games.

Saturday Morning Basketball (youth 3rd through 8th grades). Boys and girls participate. The first four weeks are devoted to clinics and team formation. The next six weeks are devoted to league play. An adult supervises, supplemented by high school students assigned as paid coaches and referees. It is anticipated that 60 registrants with total attendance of 600 will participate.

Girls Volleyball Camp. This fourth year program is open to girls in grades 6-9. Instruction on basic fundamentals include setting, spiking and serving, along with individual and game situations. Each participant will receive a T-shirt. The program will meet for 1 week from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Kimball High School. Fifty are expected to participate with a total attendance of 250.

In-Line Hockey League. A 6-team In-Line Hockey League for youth ages 12-14 will be provided for a six week schedule. The “dasher board”, helmets, pads, etc. will be rented from Oakland County Parks & Recreation. Sixty players with a total participation of 360 are expected.

Royal Oak Sandlot League. This private organization is a combination of the Girls Softball League and the Royal Oak Baseball Federation. It is anticipated that the softball division will have eight Freshman League Teams (grades 4-6), seven Junior League Teams (grades 7-8), and seven Senior League Teams. The Freshman League will play a regular season schedule of 12 games. The Junior and Senior Leagues will play 12 games during the regular season; each team will be eligible for play-offs and placed according to standings in an Upper or Lower Division. Play-offs will be double elimination. 390 girls will participate with a total attendance of 5,100.

The baseball division is comprised of 20 Freehan teams (age 10-11), 20 Kaline teams (age 12-13), 12 DiMaggio teams (age 14-15) and 4 Carney teams (age 16-17). Total number of teams is 56 plus 22 T-ball teams (age 7-9). Approximately 840 youth will participate with a total attendance of 15,120. T-ball participation is approximately 506 with a total attendance of 3,542.

Royal Oak Youth Football Teams, Inc. Two squads comprised of Varsity, Jr. Varsity, and freshmen teams for a total of six teams will represent Royal Oak. Squads from Berkley, Madison Heights, Troy, Hazel Park, Clawson and others will be a part of the Association. Non-Royal Oak teams pay official's fees for their home games not included in this budget. Some of the games are also played in their communities. Each division will play a regular season schedule of 7 games per team. An All-Star game will climax the season. Approximately 210 Royal Oak boys will play with a total attendance of 1,050.

Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association (ROYSA). The growth of the Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association appears to be stabilizing. We anticipate 1,000 children taking part in the fall and 1,000 in the spring for a total of 2,000 (several duplicates). The total attendance figure is estimated at 16,000 units.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Beginning in the 1960's, the City of Royal Oak has offered various activities for adults over 50 years of age. The programs have developed over the years to offer participants a wide variety of physical activities, social and supportive programs. The vast majority of the programs are offered at the Senior/Community Center, however when necessary, some programs are offered in different locations throughout the City. Persons of any age are welcome to participate in the programs offered. Some programs are free of charge while others require a user fee. Over 350 people volunteer to help provide these programs to the participants. The following is a listing of the programs offered in the several categories of programs which are available. While some programs can be classified in more than one category, they are listed in only one.

Physical Activities. A variety of programs are offered at the Senior/Community Center in order to provide physical activity. Dance programs include Ballroom Dance Lessons, Adult Tap, Round Dance, Square Dancing and Country Line Dancing. Exercise programs include Chair Exercises, Weight Loss Support, Yoga, Stretch & Strength Training, Tai Chi Chuan, Water Aerobics, Silver Foxes (low-impact aerobics) and Let's Walk.

Physical Therapy. Programs are available geared to reduce stress and provide therapeutic relaxation. These programs include Crochet Class, Handbells, Healthy Back, Memory Tips for Everyday Living, Massage Therapy and medical counseling provided by nurses.

Social Activities. A variety of activities are offered that are intended to provide a social atmosphere for people to interact. These programs include Billiards, Monthly Matinee, Painting, Quilt Basting Co-Op, Wednesday Morning Sing-A-Longs, Short Story Discussion Group, China Painting, Pinochle Party, Focus on the News and Poetry Appreciation.

Supportive Services. These programs provide services to residents of the City which require assistance for various activities and support. These programs include Telephone Reassurance, Stroke Club, Prescription Assistance, Hot Meals, Outreach, Friendly Visitors, Deaf Assistance Group, Caregiver Support Group, Alzheimer Support Group, Frail Elderly Escort Service, Personal Home Care, Home Repair and Home Chore.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events provide residents an opportunity to participate in specialized and unusual programs that utilize recreation services all year long, as well as introducing one-time participants to the many opportunities available through the Recreation Department. It is estimated that 84,395 will attend these various activities.

Outdoor Art Fair. The 29th Annual Outdoor Art Fair will be held July 10 & 11, 1999 at Memorial Park. Again this year the Fair will be co-sponsored by the Royal Oak Arts Council; they will administrate the Fair with City staff providing guidance. The net profit will be shared 50-50. The maximum number of artists to be juried into the Fair is 100. It is anticipated 75,000+ people will attend the Fair.

Bike Fest. All ages can participate in this annual event. Participants choose to ride a 4, 7, or 10 mile route; they must follow "directions" and pick up tickets along the way to be used in a raffle drawing. Prizes are solicited from local merchants. Cookies and cider are served to everyone. It is anticipated that 160 will participate.

Breakfast with Santa. This annual event (est. 1985) will again be co-sponsored with the Soroptimist International of Royal Oak. Youth (age 3-6) are eligible to attend along with their parents for a total of 285. Breakfast, entertainment (such as story teller or puppeteer) and Santa comprise the program. Soroptimists dress as Elves and help serve food.

Midweek Music Festival. Seven concerts are planned for the summer of 1999 (due to school year running late). Royal Oak merchants contacted by the Recreation Department will co-sponsor the program. Additional funding will be obtained from the Detroit Federation of Musicians Trust Funds. Seniors will be selling ice cream cones again this year at one of the concerts as a fund raiser. An estimated 6,500 will attend the concerts this summer.

Parent/Child Disc Golf. Held at Starr/Jaycee Park for parents and children. The purpose is for participation, not a contest. An opportunity for quality time together, and to learn the game of Disc Golf. An estimated 50 participants on a Sunday afternoon in the fall are expected.

Daddy/Daughter Dance. A night for Dads and Daughters to enjoy an "evening out" dancing, participating in games, and take home a photo. We expect 50 "couples" for a total attendance of 100.

Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Tree Lighting Ceremony is held the first Thursday in December in the City Hall plaza. Jimi's and McDonald's provide food and beverage. The Royal Oak Handbell Choir and The Salvation Army Band provide music. Santa arrives to light the tree and talk with the youngsters. The audience is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation for needy Royal Oak families. An estimated 1,500 to 2,300 will attend.

Within the Royal Oak area various private groups organize leagues for both children and adults. The local American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has a league for children of all ages. A youth football league, cheerleading and a little league are also organized by private groups of individuals. In addition local church groups organize softball and basketball teams for competition with other area groups.

**TABLE 9
Annual Community Events
City of Royal Oak**

Event	Month of Event
Summer Concert Series (Wednesday evenings)	June-August
Tree Lighting Ceremony	December
Breakfast with Santa	December
Outdoor Art Fair	July
Beautification Awards	April-June
Woodward Dream Cruise	August
Teen Night	September-May
Father/Son Disc Golf	September
Bikefest	October

SECTION IV PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

A. Administrative Organization

As the number of facilities and programs have changed over the years, the administrative structure has changed to better manage those facilities and programs. Figure 1 illustrates the administrative structure currently in place.

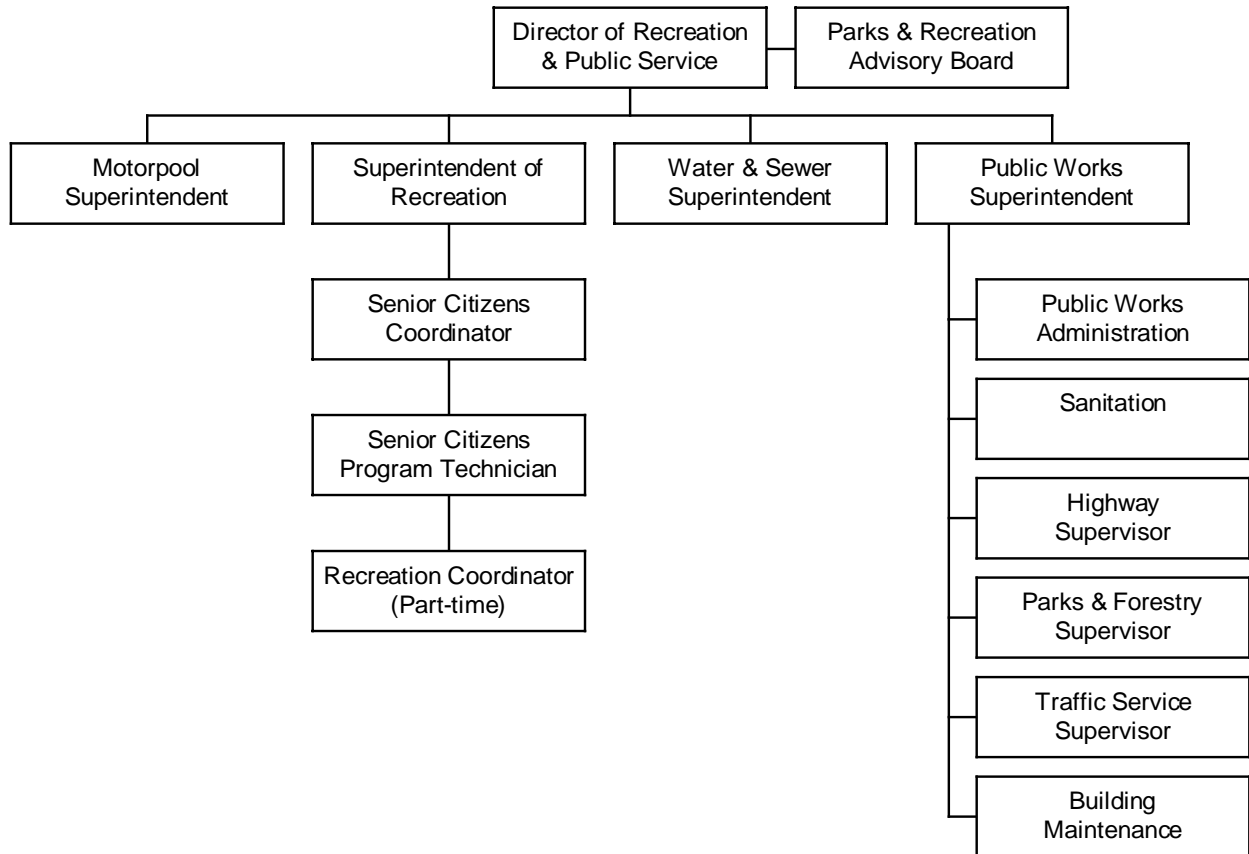
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is comprised of nine Royal Oak residents who advise the City Commission and the Director of Recreation and Public Service on various park and recreation issues. The Director of Recreation and Public Service is an ex-officio member of the Committee. Any suggestions and concerns of City residents concerning facilities and programs are brought up and discussed by the Committee.

The Director of Recreation and Public Service has direct authority from the City Manager. Four divisions are supervised by the Director; Motor Pool, Recreation, Water & Sewer and Public Works. The Director performs administrative duties in addition to meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

The Superintendent of Recreation is responsible for planning, developing and evaluating community recreation activities and programs. In addition, the Superintendent of Recreation oversees the Senior Citizens Coordinator, Senior Citizens Program Technician and the part-time Recreation Coordinator. All recreation programs are to be self supporting with no support from the general fund.

The Public Works Superintendent is responsible for overseeing all activities of the Public Works administration, Sanitation, Highway Supervisor, Parks and Forestry Supervisor, Traffic Service Supervisor and Building Maintenance. The Parks and Forestry Supervisor coordinates all maintenance and improvements to parks and recreational facilities. Building Maintenance conducts all improvements and maintenance of all public structures, including recreation structures.

Royal Oak Recreation Administrative Structure



B. Parks and Recreation Funding

1. Existing and Potential Funding Sources

There are several existing or potential funding sources available for parks and recreation facility improvements. In addition to the General Fund, other potential sources of funding for parks and recreation include: a dedicated millage (such as a land acquisition millage), user fees, revenue bonds, donation of land and/or easements, and contractual agreements involving privatization. Following is a brief description of current funding sources and other potential sources the community may consider:

2. General Fund

The General Fund is the basic operating fund for the City of Royal Oak. It is also the traditional source of operating funds for parks and recreation. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees are usually channeled through the General Fund.

3. Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific parks and recreation projects or for operation of recreation facilities. The dedicated millage has gained favor in many communities because voters are increasingly wary of approving millage increases for non-specified purposes. Approval by voters is required before a millage can be assessed. A millage is subject to periodic renewal by a vote of the people.

4. User Fees

Fees can be charged by the community to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities throughout Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, wave pools, use of lighted athletic fields, and use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in the municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

5. Bond Programs

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities:

a. General Obligation Bonds

General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.

b. Revenue Bonds

Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. For example, revenue bonds could be issued for construction of a concession and restroom facility at one of the community parks.

c. Special Assessment Bonds

Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

6. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants.

Following is a summary of the two viable recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for communities that have an up-to-date recreation plan:

The recreation grant schedule has been revised to accommodate two MNRTF grant rounds in the 1999 calendar year. Applications are due April 1 for Round 1 and September 1, 1999, for Round 2. However, to be eligible for funding consideration in 1999, the original form with signatures and all documentation must be postmarked by April 1 (Round 1) or September 1 (Round 2).

To be eligible for funding consideration in 1999, applicants must have a community recreation plan approved by the DNR no later than March 1 (Round 1) or August 1 (Round 2).

a. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor-recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, ballfields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least 25 percent of the project cost are required.

There is no minimum or maximum amount for acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000.

There are three special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Proposals will receive special attention if they:

- Are located within U.S. Census Bureau Metropolitan Statistical Areas;
- Increase environmental education facilities statewide; but particularly in urban areas; and
- Acquire land or develop trail ways that contribute to the development of a statewide trail network.

The first Special Initiative was new in 1996. The second two continue from previous years.

b. Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond (CMI)

On November 3, 1998, the voters of Michigan passed Proposal C, the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Bond proposal, which will provide \$675 million in funding for various environmental programs, including \$50 million in local recreation bond funds. The program will provide grants to local recreation programs that are either public recreation infrastructure improvements, construct community recreation facilities or develop recreation facilities that will attract tourists. Decisions have not been made regarding the annual allocation of funds, but it is expected that approximately \$10 million will be available in 1999.

7. Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF).

Eligible projects include community recreation and trailway improvements. These are grants of \$10,000 to \$250,000 to local units of government for development of facilities such as ballfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas; and including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are

provided through federal appropriations. The grant match basis is 50 percent MDNR/50 percent local. *Note: The MDNR reports that no money was appropriated for Fiscal Year 1998.*

8. Community Development Block Grant

Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety of community improvement projects, including development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low and moderate income neighborhoods that qualify under the program.

9. Michigan Equity Grant Program

In August 1989, Public Act 198 was signed into law, setting aside funding for regional cultural projects. Eligible project categories include cultural institutions, historical projects, zoos, convention facilities, tourism facilities, and libraries. Priority is given to projects that leverage additional public or private investment. The Equity Grant Program is administered by the Michigan State Department of Commerce. Funding for this program has been limited in recent years because of the State's budget constraints.

10. Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, PTO's (Parent Teacher Organizations/Associations) and community organizations will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

11. Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is very limited.

12. Lease or Contractual Agreements

The City of Royal Oak could consider expanding the number of contracts with private entrepreneurs to provide services at city-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. The current contracts with organizations such as Total Soccer and other companies should be evaluated to determine the exact benefit the City can receive from such agreements. Typically, the privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing the City's administrative costs.

13. Public Use Conveyances

Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this program provides state lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

14. Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

On May 22, 1998, Congress passed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorizing highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs for the next six years. Congress has authorized 217 billion dollars to implement programs, with Michigan's apportionment coming to just over 700 million dollars.

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Action Plan

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SECTION V

BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has adopted a set of standards, based upon those developed by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA), to determine the need for recreation facilities in each community. These standards establish 1) the specific recreation facilities such as tennis courts or soccer fields, which should be available based upon the population of the community; and 2) the “service areas,” or number and type of parks that should be available to residents within a certain distance of their homes. Each of these standards will be applied to the existing inventory of community-wide and school district recreation facilities to determine if deficiencies are present. The results of this analysis will be incorporated, in part, into the Action Plan that follows.

1. Analysis of Existing Facilities and Service Areas

Recreation facilities serving Royal Oak residents are compared to the MDNR standards in Tables 10 and 11. These comparisons provide a general idea of deficiencies, but it must be understood that the MDNR standards are not intended to be followed to the letter. Needs of the population vary from one community to the next.

B. Summary of Public Input

1. Public Hearings

In order to provide information and to receive public comment on the parks and recreation master plan, public hearings were held by the Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. On December 15, 1998, a public hearing was held in the Library Historical Room. On December 17, 1998, a public hearing was held at the Senior/Community Center. During the hearings, and throughout the planning process, the Committee received comments and input from citizens with regard to existing facilities and programs in Royal Oak. Appendix A of this report provides the detailed minutes taken at each of these meetings.

At the beginning of each public hearing, a presentation was made outlining the recreation plan process, information gathered to that point and initial findings. After an outline of the process and a description of the purpose for the plan, a brief summary of the demographic information gathered was presented. Initial findings based on the information was also presented. Throughout the presentation, any questions from the public were answered. Following the presentation, all members of the public had the opportunity to ask further questions or express their comments and concerns regarding recreation facilities and programs. The following is a summary of the issues discussed at both public hearings.

Opportunities for hearing impaired children: Many of the citizens at the first public hearing were concerned that hearing impaired children did not have the opportunity to participate in organized activities due to the lack of interpreters. They would like to see certified interpreters available for children at the various activities offered at public facilities.

Outdoor swimming facility: At both public hearings, citizens felt that the city should provide an outdoor swimming pool for the residents of Royal Oak. They believed such a facility could use user fees and membership dues to help alleviate the costs of maintaining an outdoor swimming pool. Representatives from the Vinsetta East Homeowners Association also expressed their support for the creation of an outdoor pool.

Roller blading facility: At both public hearings, the need to have a safe place for children and teenagers to roller blade was a concern. One citizen thought that several existing tennis courts could be upgraded to provide an outdoor skating area for roller blades. Another citizen presented a plan utilized in California for constructing a skate park, where skate boarders and roller bladders had facilities to use. It was mentioned that while there are many areas where people are not allowed to roller blade or skate board, there is no designated area for skating.

Additional park: Citizens from the West of West Neighborhood Association were represented at the second public hearing. They would like to have a park located in their neighborhood. It was noted that currently they are the only neighborhood in Royal Oak that must cross a major thoroughfare to reach a park.

Upgrade football practice fields: Representatives from the Royal Oak Youth Football Teams expressed their desire to have the existing practice facilities field upgraded to remove the low areas, making the field safer for play. The practice facilities are located at the VFW Park and Starr Park.

Equipment house: A representative from the Royal Oak Sandlot League wished to thank the city for maintaining the existing fields. However, the desperate need for an equipment house for storage was expressed. The Sandlot League also noted that they would like to work more closely with other organizations in this and other future projects.

Upgrade soccer fields: The Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association was represented at the first public hearing. ROYSA would like to work with the City to help facilitate in upgrading several existing soccer fields.

2. Recreation Opinion Surveys

In order to obtain further public comment on the existing recreation facilities and programs offered, the City distributed over 30,000 recreation opinion surveys. The Recreation Division mailed the recreation opinion survey to all groups that provide recreation activities in the City. In addition, recreation opinion surveys was included in the Winter 1998 issue of Insight: The City of Royal Oak and Recreation Department Newsletter, which is delivered to every citizen in the City.

The Recreation Opinion Survey consisted of 19 questions that asked citizens to rank existing facilities and programs, express their desires for new facilities and programs and other issues related to recreation. Appendix B contains an example of the survey and a summary of the responses received by the City.

Ranking: When asked to rank the facilities and programs offered by the City, citizens were generally satisfied. Citizens were most satisfied with the geographic distribution of the existing parks. Both facilities and programs which offer opportunities for teens was ranked the lowest among both citizens and providers. Overall, more than 70% rated the active recreation programs provided by the City as good or excellent.

Facilities: Both citizens and providers felt that the most needed indoor recreational facility was a nature/ecological center. An indoor swimming pool, family recreation center and arts center were the next highest ranked among desired indoor recreational facilities. There is a strong desire to have a trail system established in the City. The three most desired outdoor recreational facilities were bicycle/non-motorized paths, jog/exercise trails and nature trails. A nature/ecological center, outdoor swimming pool and a roller blade/skating facility were the next highest desired facilities. When citizens were asked to list in order of importance the types of recreation facilities they would like to see added or improved in the City, bike paths/nature trails were the most requested amenity. Roller blading/skating facilities and an outdoor pool facility were the next most requested facility listed by the citizens.

Programing: Over 60% of those responding felt that nature/ecological activities and programs needed to be added or expanded in the City. Conservation and an outdoor swimming pool/swimming program needed expansion or addition according to over 50% of the respondents. Over 35% of the citizens responding felt that supervised playgrounds, football programs and soccer programs did not need to be expanded upon. When asked to list the programs they would like to add or improve in order of importance, the majority of citizens wanted swimming related programs for toddlers and adults. Nature/conservancy programs and roller blading instruction were the next highest requested programs.

Funding Sources: For construction of new facilities, most citizens believe that the City's general fund and private sources/donations should be used. Funds to operate new and existing facilities should come from concession sales and user/membership fees according to the majority of respondents.

Priorities: Citizens were asked what activities were the most important for the City to accomplish in the next five years. Over 75% of those who responded felt that improving accessibility to parks was an important or somewhat important priority that needed to be addressed. Over 42% felt that developing new neighborhood parks was an important priority while a combined 70% felt it was an important or somewhat important priority.

Teen Programming: When asked to submit an idea for additional teen programming, the most requested program involved roller blading or skating. A teen activity center was the second most requested program that people felt would be beneficial to teenagers. Teenagers

were also the age level that over 48% of citizens who responded felt were the top priority for additional programming.

3. Summary of Public Input

It should be noted that many specific individual issues were pointed out in the written sections of the recreation opinion survey. All comments have been tabulated and are included for reference in Appendix B. All comments were reviewed in order to determine those areas that were of greatest concern to the residents. Based on the comments from citizens at both public hearings and the information gathered from the recreation opinion survey, the following programs and facilities were determined to be the most important, in no particular order, to the majority of those citizens that voiced their opinions:

- Need for a roller bladding/skating facility
- Need for additional programs/facilities for teenagers
- Need for an nature/ecological center
- Need for additional swimming facilities/programs
- Need for improvements to existing team facilities (football, sandlots, soccer)
- Need for bike paths/nature trails in existing parks

**Table 10
Recreation Facilities Evaluation
City of Royal Oak**

	Recommended Standard ¹	Existing Municipal/Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities*	Total Existing Facilities	Recommended Public Need ^{2,5}	Surplus/ (Deficiency) ^a
Basketball Courts ^{3,6}	1/5,000	14	15	29	13	1
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	35	10	45	33	2
Volleyball Courts	1/5,000	8	0	8	13	(5)
Baseball Fields	1/5,000	16	5	21	13	3
- Lighted Fields	1/30,000	5	0	0	2	3
Softball	1/5,000	11	17	28	13	(2)
Football Fields	1/20,000	5	4	9	3	2
Soccer Fields	1/10,000	17	6	21	7	10
Golf Courses ⁴						
- 9 hole	1/25,000	2	0	2	3	(1)
- 18 hole	1/50,000	1	0	1	2	(1)
Driving Range	1/50,000	1	--	1	2	(1)
Swimming Pool						
- Indoor	1/20,000	0	2	2	3	(1) ⁷
- Outdoor	1/40,000	0	--	0	2	(2)
Ice Rinks - Indoor	1/50,000	2	0	0	2	0
- Outdoor	1/20,000	5	0	0	3	2
Archery Range	1/50,000	3	0	0	2	1
Running Track (1/4 mile)	1/20,000	0	3	0	3	0

**Table 10 (continued)
Recreation Facilities Evaluation
City of Royal Oak**

	Recommended Standard¹	Existing Municipal/Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities*	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended Need^{2,5}	Surplus/ (Deficiency)
Playgrounds ⁸	1/3,000	42	--	42	22	20
Picnic Areas	None Published	34	--	34	0	34
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)	1/10,000	0	--	0	1	(1)
Nature Trails (miles)	1/20,000	2	1	3	1	1
Sledding Hills	1/40,000	0	--	0	1	0
Bicycle Trails (miles)	1/40,000	0	--	0	1	0
Horseback Riding Trails (miles)	1/50,000	0	--	0	1	0

Footnotes:

- ¹ Recommended number of each facility per unit of population (National Recreation and Park Association/Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards.).
- ² Population of 65,410 based on SEMCOG Regional Development Forecast for 2010 (64,253 residents, 1990 U S Census)
- ³ Two backboards were considered to be equal to 1 court for the purposes of this analysis.
- ⁴ Includes public and private courses.
- ⁵ Rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- ⁶ Not regulation courts - (located at elementary schools, ½ courts, etc.).
- ⁷ School facility available for public use.
- ⁸ Includes Elementary Schools
- ^x Not determined
- ^a Surplus/(Deficiency) determined by subtracting existing municipal facilities from recommended need.

**Table 11
Comparison to Accepted Standards
City of Royal Oak**

Facility Types	Recommended Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents ¹	Existing Acreage ²	Recommended Acreage for Proposed Population ³	Surplus (Deficiency) Based on Proposed Population
Vest Pocket/Mini-Parks ⁵	0.25	18.89	16.35	2.54
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	95.69	65.41	30.28
Community Parks ⁷	5.0	195.23	327.05	(131.82)
Regional Parks	5.0	--	327.05	Not Applicable ⁶
Special Use Facilities	Variable	0.22	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Linear Park	Variable	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Footnotes:

- ¹ Based on National Recreation and Parks Association recommendations.
- ² Includes all existing public acreage.
- ³ Population based on 1990 U.S. Census data (65,410), SEMCOG (2010 - 64,253)
- ⁴ See Table 10.
- ⁵ The need for mini-parks is also addressed partially by subdivision common areas, apartment and condominium recreation areas (acreage not determined).
- ⁶ It would be misleading to assess the adequacy of regional park resources based on recommended acreage for the City's population, since the regional resource must serve a much broader segment of the metropolitan area.
- ⁷ Includes Cummingston (25.29 acres) and Quickstad (31.50 acres) nature areas

Insert Map 4

**Table 12
Analysis of Existing Facilities
City of Royal Oak**

Type of Facility	Recreation Standards¹	Royal Oak Community Facilities	Comments/Recommendations
Mini-Parks	Mini-Parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an 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 or senior citizens.	The City contains 17 Vest-Pocket or Mini-Parks, totaling approximately 15.4 acres. These Mini-parks are well distributed within major residential neighborhoods throughout the City.	The NRPA recommends 0.25 to 0.50 mini-park acreage per 1,000 residents. Old playground equipment in all parks should be replaced with play structures that meet current safety and accessibility standards. Resilient surfacing and accessible paths must be installed or replaced as needed at all playgrounds. As infill residential development occurs, open space should be reserved for tot-lots and passive parks.
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide areas for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks are generally 15 acres or more in size and serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within ¼ to ½ mile radius from the neighborhood they serve.	The City contains 22 well distributed Neighborhood Parks, totaling approximately 94.42 acres. Neighborhood parks are well developed, many intensely used by youth leagues and associations. Most Neighborhood Parks contain large woodlots and natural areas.	One to two acres of neighborhood parks are recommended per 1,000 residents. Protection of natural areas and woodlots are important due to the intense usage by sports leagues. Additional designated parking is needed at many facilities. A delicate balance between neighborhood needs and those of the leagues must be reached. Input from citizens and neighborhood groups should be obtained prior to major redevelopment.

**Table 12 (continued)
Analysis of Existing Facilities
City of Royal Oak**

Type of Facility	Recreation Standards ¹	Royal Oak Community Facilities	Comments/Recommendations
Community Parks	Community Parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from several neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas for intense recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities.	Ten (10) parks and facilities have been classified as Community Parks, including Cunningham and Quickstad nature preserves, totaling 195.23 acres.	The NRPA's standard requirement for community parks is 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents. V.F. W., located adjacent to the Boys and Girls club needs a complete overhaul: balancing the needs of the football league, the B&G club, and the adjacent neighborhood. The need for an outdoor pool, roller blading facilities, and non-motorized trails should be integrated into these facilities. If areas cannot be identified within the City where these facilities can be developed, then partnerships with neighboring communities and school districts to share facilities should be considered.
Regional/ Metropolitan Parks	Regional parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail use. Many also include active play areas.	The area is well served by regional parks and facilities.	Regional parks typically serve several communities within a one hour drive. Partnerships with regional local, county, and state facilities should be explored to fill existing voids within the City's park and recreation system.

**Table 12 (continued)
Analysis of Existing Facilities
City of Royal Oak**

Type of Facility	Recreation Standards¹	Royal Oak Community Facilities	Comments/Recommendations
Special Use/ Conservancy Parks	Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities, such as golf courses, nature centers, outdoor theaters, interpretative centers, or facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment. Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment may be the primary focus with recreation use as a secondary objective.	Cummington (25.29 acres) and Quickstad (31.50) parks are ideal nature preserves that should be further developed.	Interpretive signage and kiosks, accessible parking and pathways, and annual programs should be provided at each of these facilities. Nature and conservancy groups should be brought together to develop a program and master plan for proper development and enhancement of these facilities.
Passive Parks	The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas and other pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments and fountains, and historical features.	Many neighborhood and community parks located within the City contain large wooded and nature areas.	A master plan, with a conservancy flavor, should be developed for each park. A City-wide design and planting plan should be created to guide development activities within parks.

Table 12 (continued)
Analysis of Existing Facilities
City of Royal Oak

Type of Facility	Recreation Standards¹	Royal Oak Community Facilities	Comments/Recommendations
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, horseback riding, and pleasure driving.	There are no identifiable linear parks within the City.	Potential for a linear parks exists along the Railroad r.o.w. Small looped non-motorized pathways can be developed within large neighborhood and community parks.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources: Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983, Lancaster, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

C. Recreation Deficiencies

1. Service Areas

Map 4 illustrates the typical service area by vest pocket, neighborhood and community parks in Royal Oak. The Map indicates that the City has a very good distribution of parks, serving the vast majority of the city with several park types. However, an area in the southwest section of the City is not serviced by any neighborhood or vest pocket parks. The residents of this area must cross a major-thoroughfare to access a smaller park which typically should be within 1/4 to 1/2 mile away, an average 15-minute walk.

2. Existing Facilities

Table 12 outlines recreation standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association and by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These standards recommend minimum standards for different recreation facilities based on existing and projected population. According to this analysis, the Royal Oak project area is underserved by 5 volleyball courts, 1 nine-hole golf course, 1 driving range, and 1 indoor swimming pool. The raw numbers do not address the *quality* of existing parks and recreation facilities. Upon closer examination, deficiencies or limitations are apparent because of the location, accessibility, maintenance, level of development and individual size of existing open space available.

3. Existing Conditions

Some playgrounds at public parks have poor drainage, evidenced by standing water, which limits use by children. Some of the equipment is antiquated and equipment is in need of painting and repair. Much of the equipment is located in grass areas or have limited sand areas surrounding the base of the equipment. Adequate fall zones and accessible resilient materials is lacking. Play areas could be enhanced with the removal and relocation of existing equipment.

4. Accessibility

Some parks do not meet accessibility requirements due the lack of accessible pathways. A detailed inventory and analysis should be completed by a certified playground inspector to identify problem areas and develop a strategy for replacement and improvements. Modern equipment with transfer points and ramps, resilient surfacing, and accessible pathways are required to ensure safe integrated play by all residents of the community.

5. Program Deficiencies

While the city provides a very large and wide variety of sports and programs for school age children, there is a need to provide more activities for adults and for teenagers after school hours. While better promotion of existing programs can increase participation, varying schedules (e.g. late night basketball) may attract adults that work shift hours. Development of additional programs for teenagers and young adults have been identified as a need in the community during both the public hearing process and by a majority of those responding to the recreation opinion survey.

6. Pedestrian Linkages

Many residents would like to see non-motorized greenways and paved pathways for pedestrian and bike use throughout the city linking major open space with parks and school facilities.

7. ADA Compliance

The American with Disabilities Act requires that all citizens have access to all facilities provided by the City regardless of physical disability. Many of the parks in the City have been or are in the process of becoming accessible to all people. A concern was expressed at the public hearing regarding the ability for the hearing impaired to participate in City programs. The City should insure that all citizens have access to all programs.

8. Safety

Safety and the perception of safety are important to increasing the use of existing parks. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a program adopted nationally that increases the perception of safety for a normal user and the perception of risk for a would-be offender. CPTED “ is [the] proper design and effective use of the built environment which can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and an improvement in the quality of life”(National Crime Prevention Institute, 1986). Four principles are utilized: 1) the placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way as to maximize visibility (Natural Surveillance); 2) the physical guidance of people coming and going from a space by the judicious placement of entrances, exists, fencing, landscaping and lighting (Natural Access Control); 3) the use of physical attributes that express ownership, such as fences, pavement treatments, art, signage and landscaping (Territorial Reinforcement); and 4) Maintenance.

SECTION VI

ACTION PROGRAM:

RECREATION MASTER 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 Community. 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 Royal Oak Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee with input from the public.

The results of this effort are presented in the following statement of Goals and Objectives and a detailed list of Capital Improvement Program and General Recommendations.

Goals and Objectives

Goals should be broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable results that the Community works toward accomplishing.

A. PROGRAMMING

1. **Goal:** Continue evaluation of all programs and adjust the type and form of programs to suit community needs.
2. **Goal:** Improvement of existing programs.
 - Objective: Maintain affordable rates for program participation.
 - Objective: Continue good public relations for special events.
3. **Goal:** Create new programs.
 - Objective: Provide programming for teens based on input from teen focus groups.
 - Objective: Institute mechanisms to fully integrate all programs for children/persons with disabilities.
 - Objective: Continually update program selection with respect to new ideas and interests especially in regard to hobbies and exercise.
 - Objective: Create programs that provide inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth/preschoolers.
 - Objective: Create new programs to enhance physical fitness including, roller blading, walking, jogging etc.
 - Objective: Organize leagues for vigorous team sports for older residents.

-
- 4. Goal:** Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to all citizens.
- Objective: Continue leadership efforts in establishing collaborative programming, workshops, training, and networking opportunities for youth-serving community agencies which would result in enhanced services to area youth.
- Objective: Work with community organizations and colleges in facilitating a continuum of recreation and leisure programs for the community with an emphasis in neighborhoods with greater youth need.
- Objective: Seek alternative funding for services in order to increase revenue, and decrease general fund contribution through requests to service clubs, private sector, and professional organizations for sponsorships of various programs.
- Objective: Solicit and apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs.
- Objective: Recruit and train a pool of volunteers and mentors to assist in implementation of various programs.
- Objective: Develop a committee for input regarding the feasibility of an outdoor swimming facility.
- Objective: Coordinate with School District to expand and promote current swimming programs held at school facilities.
- Objective: Establish a youth recreation advisory committee of high school aged youth and young adults.

B. ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

- 1. Goal:** Investigate innovative ways to fund and reduce the costs of programming.
- 2. Goal:** Provide staffing at levels commensurate to programming and maintenance needs.
- 3. Goal:** Market recreation services to potential users.
- Objective: Provide credit card program for payment of Recreation Activities.
- Objective: Provide updated programming on the internet.
- Objective: Expand recreation coverage in Insight.
- 4. Goal:** Create mechanisms to maintain positive public relations.

-
- Objective: Conduct a citizen survey every five years on a routine basis.
 - Objective: Provide regular opportunities for public input.
 - Objective: Continue working with neighborhoods to build partnerships and create ownership at neighborhood parks.

- 5. **Goal:** Continue and improve coordination with schools.

C. RECREATION LAND

- 1. **Goal:** Provide recreation land in the form of community parks, neighborhood parks and mini-parks which is convenient and accessible to all residents.

- Objective: Obtain additional community park land in the southwestern portion of the City.

- Objective: Provide neighborhood park facilities in deficient areas.

- Objective: Provide mini-park facilities in deficient areas.

- Objective: Require new development to reserve park and open space through planning and zoning requirements.

D. FACILITIES

- 1. **Goal:** Provide facilities that meet the community wide recreation needs of Royal Oak residents.

- Objective: Provide high quality ball diamonds and soccer fields/football fields and ancillary facilities for organized team play at community parks.

- Objective: Organize a steering committee to investigate the feasibility of developing an outdoor City-owned swimming facility with a range of amenities including outdoor shallow depth areas and ancillary facilities.

- Objective: Expand promotion of current swimming programs held at school facilities. Coordinate with School District to consider expansion of swimming programs.

-
2. **Goal:** Provide, promote, and encourage the establishment and maintenance of non-motorized trails.
- Objective: Create a multi-purpose pathway system in several parks throughout the City that can be used for walking, jogging, rollerblading, etc.
3. **Goal:** Improve and enhance the educational opportunities at Quickstad and Cummington Park.
- Objective: Install accessible trails.
- Objective: Provide interpretive signage and kiosks.
- Objective: Host environmental programming and events.
4. **Goal:** Maintain a balanced system of parks and open spaces by having well operated and maintained facilities.
- Objective: Develop a schedule of operations, including quarterly inspections, that ensures all parks and facilities are neat in appearance and well operated and maintained.
- Objective: Coordinate and assist in planned events in public spaces and parks.
- Objective: Collaborate with City operations (including Public Safety; Parks and Forestry; Recreation, Leisure and Cultural Services Division, and Planning) and neighborhoods to enhance security and use in parks by both organized private and public programs and activities.
- Objective: Remove existing physical barriers that limit use of parks and facilities by portions of the community.
- Objective: Selectively prune, trim, and remove overgrown vegetation to open up views and provide natural surveillance of public gathering places.

E. ACCESS TO FACILITIES

1. **Goal:** Eliminate existing barriers to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and adopting a policy of “inclusive recreation”.

Objective: Examine existing programs to ensure that they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents regardless of their social, economic, or physical status.

Objective: Ensure that each play setting and activity area is accessible, that accessible play components are placed throughout each activity area, and that similar play opportunities are provided to children with disabilities.

Objective: Install accessible routes of travel, connecting parking areas, drop off points, all activity areas and accessible activities.

Objective: Provide an accessible surface and pathway that is firm, stable, slip resistant, and resilient at all public recreational facilities.

Objective: Provide a means of getting on, through (experience), and off the equipment for children with a range of mobility impairments.

Objective: Ensure that landscape areas, gardens, picnic areas, and significant natural features are accessible.

Objective: Encourage consultation between operator, manufacturer or designer, and people with and without disabilities who reside in the community.

Objective: Create documentation and guidelines that describes appropriate routes of travel, transfer points, accessible similar play events, number of accessible play events and accessible means of egress.

F. Action Items

Table 13		
Summary of Action Items City of Royal Oak		
Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Teen Facilities and Programs	Need Identified: - Additional Programs - Teen Activities (Dances) - Teen Center (“a place to go”)	- Locate site to be dedicated for Teen Programs - Hold more seasonal dances - Obtain input from teens for programming ideas by establishing Teen Advisory Council
Roller Bladding/Skate Boarding	Need Identified: - Most requested teen program - One of the top requested outdoor facilities - Requested at both public hearings	- Convert some existing tennis courts into skating areas - Find location for dedicated skate park - Install non-motorized trails
Nature/Ecological Facilities and Programs	Need Identified: - Nature Center: Most requested indoor facility - Most requested new program - Second most important program needed	- Add educational signage in parks - Coordinate with school district to expand existing programs - Create advisory/feasibility committee based on high amount of interest
Swimming Facilities and Programs	Need Identified: - Requested at both public hearings - One of the most requested indoor and outdoor facilities - Survey indicates swimming programs as the most important needed	- Create ad-hoc feasibility committee - Coordinate with school district to promote and consider expanding current programs
Bike Paths/Nature Trails	Need Identified: - Most requested outdoor facility - Survey indicates trails as the most important facility needed	- Construct circular paths in existing parks - Select designs that can be connected in the future

Table 13

**Summary of Action Items
City of Royal Oak**

Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommendation/Comments
Existing Team Facilities	Need Identified: - Improvements requested at both public hearings - Organizations willing to contribute	- Upgrade existing field surfaces where necessary - Upgrade drainage at necessary fields - Install new storage facilities
Accessibility	Integration of children with hearing impairments - Requested at public hearing - Cost for certified interpreter; \$16 to \$40 per hour Accessibility to existing facilities needed - Older play equipment not fully accessible	- Provide seasonal instruction to coaches - Contact groups (i.e. United Way) that can provide grants to hire interpreters and/or provide interpreters - Continue installation of ADA signage, pathways and parking - Continue to remove and replace inaccessible equipment
Geographic Distribution	Service Area Analysis identifies lack of coverage - Area south of Webster, west of the Railroad and north of Catalpa - Area south of Eleven Mile, west of Washington and north of Lincoln	- Survey Area 1 for potential park sites - Coordinate with proposed parking structure project to create vest pocket park - Improve existing school sites
Safety	-Older equipment is unsafe & outdated -Fall zones and resilient surfacing may be lacking -Increase the perception of safety in all parks	-Conduct inspections and adopt Consumer Product Safety (CPS) Standards for all equipment - Adopt CPTED policies for design and maintenance
Facility Deficiencies	Based on National Standards (NRPA): - 5 Volleyball Courts - 1 Nine Hole Golf Course - 1 Driving Range	Based on public input, the community need for these facilities is satisfied with the existing facilities provided.

G. Capital Improvement Program

Table 14 Capital Improvement Program Summary City of Royal Oak				
Year	Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1999	(30) Memorial	Construct new Concession/Restroom	\$150,000	GF
1999	(5) Clawson, (26) Mark Twain, (39) Sunnybrook, (49) Worden	Install new & repair existing backstops	\$24,000	GF
1999	(44) Waterworks	Install new play structure, swing, fencing, landscaping; color coat existing tennis court. Design study for storage.	\$76,000	CDBG
1999	(19) Hudson	Install new play structure & pathway	\$35,000	CDBG
1999	(13) Fernwood	Install tot-lot, benches, landscaping, basketball standards	\$32,000	CDBG
1999	(47) Whittier	Convert tennis court to roller hockey	\$14,000	CDBG
1999	(6) Cody	Install new play structure	\$13, 600	GF
1999	(32) Pioneer	Install 2 play structures	\$38,000	GF, Prvt.
1999	(42) VFW	Install new play structure	\$30,000	CDBG
1999	(10) Dondero,(35) Red Run	Convert 2 tennis courts to roller hockey	\$25,000	GF
1999	(43) Wagner	Install new play structure	\$30,000	GF
Table 14 (continued) Capital Improvement Program Summary City of Royal Oak				

Year	Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1999-2003	All parks	General Maintenance & Repair	\$15,000/yr	GF
2000	(2) Barton South	Install Garden Park	\$15,000	CDBG, PD
2000	Location to be determined	Middle School Drop-in Center	\$14,100	CDBG
2000	(49) Worden	Install lighting at 3 ball fields, drainage Expand parking lot area to accommodate up to 30 additional spaces	\$255,000	CMI, GF
2000	(8) Cummingston	Install trail, kiosk, shelter, benches, swings, signs interpretive	\$225,000	MNRTF, Prvt., ROP, GF, CG
2000	(29) Meininger	Install non-motor pathway (3/4 mile)	\$75,000	CDBG
2000	(26) Mark Twain	Drainage, New play structure, swings, basketball benches, and repair infield	\$65,000	CDBG
2000	(35) Red Run	2 new play structures, swings, spr?, benches	\$55,000	GF
2000	(12) Exchange	Tennis court fencing, new play structure, drainage, swings. Install parking lot.	\$ 55,000 <u>\$ 67,000</u> \$122,000	GF
2000	(33) Quickstad	Irrigation system of fields	\$15,000 ea.	ROYSA, GF
2000	(Various Facilities)	2 x Shelbe Volleyball Systems	\$6,000	GF, CDBG
2000	(21) Kenwood, (35) Red Run, (37) Starr/JC, (49) Worden	Install 4 x metal outdoor storage systems	\$2,000	LL

2001	(37) Starr/JC	Install non-motor pathway	\$75,000	GF
2001	Upton	New full size soccer field	\$150,000	ROYSA,GF
2001	(1) Barton North	New play structure & path, benches, and swing.	\$60,000	CDBG
2001	(14) Franklin	Install Tennis fencing	\$10,000	CDBG
2001	(8) Cummingston,	Install new play structures	\$40,000	GF
2001-2	East of West, Btwn 6 th & 5 th Streets	Develop new Vest-Pocket park to serve neighborhood adjacent to new municipal parking structure	\$150,000	MB
2002	(44) Waterworks	New Storage bldg. based on evaluation & study	\$250,000	CDBG, ROYSA
2002	(11) Elks	Tennis fence, new play structure, swings, benches, landscaping	\$75,000	GF
2002	(21) Kenwood	Install new play structure and parking lot	\$107,000	GF, CMI
2002	(39) Sunnybrook	New play structure, benches, volleyball, landscape	\$65,000	GF, CMI, Prvt.
2002	(41) Upton	Install new play structure	\$35,000	GF
2003	(43) Wagner	Install non-motor pathway	\$75,000	TEA, GF
2003	(34) Realtor,(45) Wendland	Install 2 new play structures	\$70,000	GF
2003	(43) Wagner	Install parking lot.	\$67,000	GF
2003	(38) Sullivan	Tables, benches, large play structure	\$55,000	GF, Prvt.

2003	(16) Fulton	Install new play structure	\$35,000	GF
?	(12) Exchange	Irrigation and drainage	\$100,000	GF, MNRTF, Prvt, CG

Key:

CDBG-Comm. Dev. Blk. Grant Fds (\$150,000/yr)	LL -Sandlot League (\$2,500/yr)
CG- Civic Groups (\$2,000/yr)	MB- Municipal Bonds
CMI - Clean Michigan Initiative	MNRTF - MI Dept. of Natural Resources Trust Fund
GF- General Funds (\$150,000/yr)	Prvt. - Private Donations/Fundraising (\$10,000/yr)
D - Donation/Advertisement	ROP- Royal Oak Police Association/Mirror (\$7,500/Yr)
Fd - Foundation Grants	ROSD - Royal Oak School District
FL - Football League	ROYSA - Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association (\$25,000/yr)
Location: See Map 5	TEA - Transportation Enhancement Activity Fund

Insert Map 5: Project Location Map

SECTION VII RECREATION MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

PLAN ADOPTION

- Resolutions**
- Transmittal Letters**

City Commission

RESOLUTION

Insert County Rec Department Transmittal Letter

Insert County Rec Commission Transmittal Letter

Insert County Planning Division Transmittal Letter

APPENDIX A

- 1) **December 15, 1998 Public Hearing Minutes**
- 2) **December 17, 1998 Public Hearing Minutes**

MINUTES
Master Plan Public Hearing
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Library Historical Room
December 15, 1998 - 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Bob Weber at 7:07 PM.

Members Present: Ann Hubbarth, Mark Ryan, Brett Tillander, Bob Weber

Members Excused: Gretchen Greenwood, Frank Mattis

Members Absent: Commissioner Ilene Lanfear

Ex-Officio Member: Tom Trice

Staff Present: Greg Rassel, Tod Gazetti

Others Present: Terry Croad, McKenna Associates
Mario Ortega, McKenna Associates
Sharon Gittleman, The Mirror
George Gomez, 2018 Guthrie
David Sorbilli, 1216 Lyons
Lorrie Gelenger, 2036 N Vermont
Cindy Sequin, 3241 Merrill
Janis Jones, 1329 W Windemere
Beth Caverly, 1715 W Houstonia
Dean Elson, 2607 Ardmore
John Wendlend, 703 Irving Ave
Robert Scott, 3606 Chester
Jim Hodson, 2740 Glenwood

Mr. Weber asked the representatives from McKenna to give an overview of what they had done so far. After which, he will open the floor for public comment. He asked that each person limit their comments to five minutes if possible. We are not here to decide anything. The comments tonight will be considered along with the comments from the public hearing on Thursday night and those that are received from the surveys that have been distributed.

Terry Croad gave a short overview of what has been done to this point, along with information regarding the requirements of the State Department of Natural Resources for Cities to have an improved five year Recreation Master Plan to be eligible to apply for state and federal funds. The City of Royal Oak's Parks and Recreation Master Plan expires at the end of this season, and

they have hired McKenna Associates to assist in the preparation of the plan. Part of the process includes public comments. He did a short presentation of the findings that they have arrived at thus far. They are in the inventory phase, which helps them to form goals and objectives to develop the final plan.

Mario Ortega reviewed the demographic information, existing land use and other relevant information that will help them make a determination. He gave a summary of some of their findings, such as the population for Royal Oak has decreased slightly since 1980 and is projected to decrease slightly by SEMCOG. This means that the demand on recreation is neither going to increase or decrease greatly. Other things such as the largest age category is between 25 and 44. In terms of recreation, this means that there is going to be a need for both families and young adults for recreation facilities. He commented on other information that they gathered that will assist them. They also did a study of the park land use within the City. All these findings are preliminary.

Terry commented on the 50 parks in the City. He feels that there is a very good distribution of parks, one of the best that he has had experience with. He also commented on the schools that have facilities available to the public. He discussed the three categories of parks, the vest pocket or mini park, the neighborhood park and community park. He felt there was a good distribution of vest pocket parks within the community. Royal Oak has a pretty good distribution of neighborhood parks. Where there might be a lack of a neighborhood park, there is an overlap of schools, community parks and vest pocket parks. There is also a pretty good coverage of community parks. Taken all together, Royal Oak has a very good distribution of parks. When they look at this, they compare it with national state standards to see if there are any deficiencies, and develop a base line for capital improvements.

They also look within parks at facilities themselves, looking at state national standards based on population to determine how many tennis courts, ball fields and playgrounds you should have for instance. He discussed the facilities, things that are adequate and things that may be lacking. He reiterated that what he is pointing out is national state standards which they use as a base line. Public comments will tell them what may be big and needed in this community.

Another category that they look at is number of acres of park land versus what the population is. There is a very good distribution of park land, but based on the average numbers of the community, Royal Oak is deficient of approximately 137 acres

of community parks, of which 57 acres are made up of Cummingston and Quickstad, both nature parks.

To summarize, they look at programming in general aspects. They have received comments from some of the organizations. In the next few weeks they will also be making phone contacts to service providers and organizers. They will take all the information they have gathered, work with the Parks and Recreation Board to set goals and objectives. Based on the goals and objectives, they will prioritize for future development over the next five years, based on existing and anticipated budget, grants that are available and other funding.

Mr. Weber opened the floor to public comments.

David Sorbilli, 1216 Lyons was in attendance to represent Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association. Also with him was Lorrie Gelenger, president of ROYSA. He is the chairman of the field committee for the league and wanted to speak on behalf of the nearly 2,000 families that participate in their league playing soccer. ROYSA is good for the community, they provide a very good program. With the cooperation of the City they have been able to do some great things for the youth of the community. He gave some ROYSA facts regarding the number of kids that play in both spring and fall and they schedule between 800 to 900 games, so the fields are in heavy use during those periods. As a field committee, they did a very close study and came up with the fact that these soccer fields are very important to them. The Parks & Recreation Department have been very cooperative and have done an excellent job maintaining these fields. The fields are multi-use, being used by a lot of other leagues. They feel that they need to continue to invest in the fields because of the number of families we have utilizing them. Another factor that enters into it is that they also host a lot of other city teams that come into Royal Oak, along with Premier Teams from many communities from around metropolitan Detroit. He wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and everyone from the City that participated in the Quickstad project. That facility has provided a great boost to their program. Right now their attention is turned to the larger fields that are used by the 10 - 19 year old age group. They feel that they need some attention and they would like to participate in a joint funding agreement, which he hopes to propose to the Parks and Recreation Board at the January meeting. One of the problems that they are experiencing, being multi-use fields, in the spring with the heavy rains and other weather it causes poor playing conditions. Because of this, they need to reschedule many games. They would like to spend the money on upgrading the fields, making them safe, removing hazards, and improve the overall quality of play.

Terry asked Mr. Sorbilli for a clarification of the the fields for safety, and asked for some specific recommendations. Mr. Sorbilli indicated that this would include better drainage on some fields, crowning, seeding, and removal of hazards of some nearby trees. Also, to replace goal equipment before it becomes hazardous. Terry also commented that many of the grants that can be applied for have a 20% or 25% matching requirement. In dealing with associations that have fund raising of their own, they can use those dollars as leverage for improvement. Whether it is \$1,000, \$20,000 or up to \$100,000 that has been raised; for each dollar that is committed from an association, we can match with at least \$3 of State funding. When we work out the programming and capital facilities plan, every dollar that he can identify from an association we can use as leverage for grants.

Cindy Sequin, 3241 Merrill has two deaf children. She hears about all these nice parks, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, etc. but sometimes her kids cannot participate in all sports activities that are offered to Royal Oak. They tried to do soccer, but they cannot provide interpreters for her children. Even though ROYSA is a non-profit organization, the fields are provided by the City, and by federal law they should provide for her children. It is hard for her to see her son, who is six years old, and had been waiting since he was four to play baseball, and to tell him that he may not be able to play baseball because mom cannot be in two places at once to be able to interpret for him. It would be nice if some funding could be set aside for kids with special needs, so that all the kids in Royal Oak could participate and benefit from all the parks.

Jim Hodson, 2740 Glenwood stated that one thing he believes that the City is missing in the Parks and Recreation Department is an outdoor swimming facility. Last year he debated on whether or not to put a pool in their back yard. He looked around for access to other outdoor pools. Huntington Woods, as well as other communities have them, but you must be a resident of that community. There are several private pools around, in Birmingham and Troy for instance. He has friends that drive to Birmingham or Troy to use these pools and pay anywhere from \$300 to \$500 a year for that. He thinks that having that kind of a facility, and through fees and memberships, etc. it would be feasible. He knows that both high schools and the YMCA have pools, and they are good facilities; but he believes that a lot of other families as well as theirs are looking for an outdoor facility June, July and August. Maybe it could be put in one of the parks. The one that comes to mind is by the Arena. There are wide open areas, not a lot of trees, and already have parking facilities that are used during hockey season, but typically thins out June, July and August. He has talked to some people that think it would be a

good idea and he would like to see it looked at a little bit further.

Bob Scott, 3606 Chester is here on behalf of kids that have been part of the explosion of roller skating. He sees these kids playing on the streets roller blading all the time. There is no way for them to stop or anything else. He is here for their safety. There is a lot of tennis courts that are being unused, some of which have signs "No skating allowed". He thinks we would see an explosion of use of those tennis courts if we revamped them by repaving and putting some boards around the ends for the roller blading. He believes that Red Run is one place where it is currently being done. Also, the park on Normandy, just off Crooks would be another ideal location for this. Also, he lives next to Gunn Dyer Park. They lost a big tree there this last year, and he did not know if there was anything in the works to have any trees planted there.

Dean Elson, 2607 Ardmore first wanted to thank the Board for giving the residents an opportunity to give their input. He feels that Royal Oak has a good distribution of parks and that is why a lot of people choose to live here. He has a three year old and one year old that spend all fall, summer and spring in the parks. One of the things that he would like to see is more effort put into maintaining our existing park system, everything from mowing lawns, raking leaves, picking up fallen branches, and removing trash. He feels that the parks are the jewels of the City. Also, there are a lot of young families in the area and they are looking for play structures for the children. Some of the pocket parks have seen upgrades in their equipment, but some of the focus should be on some of the community parks, such as Red Run or Exchange which are very large parks. They are heavily used by Royal Oak Youth Soccer Association, baseball and softball, but they have some of the poorest play structures and no picnic tables. He feels that when you are looking at where to spend the money and development, you should look at community parks. He also agreed with the statement in favor of a pool. He knows that he and others would be interested. They have small yards and cannot really put in a pool. He is aware of pools in other communities, but it would be nice to have one in our area. He would also like to support the comments on the considerations for special need kids and that we need to fund these things. Lastly, he wanted to address some of the programs that are offered. We have a great senior community and a lot of the activities and programs for the seniors. But for the 25-44 year age group, programming is severely lacking. He would suggest a golf league for City residents be organized. He also sees a need for the roller blading courts. He lives near Red Run Park, and when they opened the tennis court there for roller blading, the kids came out of the woodwork. He has seen close to 70 kids out

there. He can see that no one will want it in their neighborhood, but we need to look at putting more courts in. Tom Trice commented that there are three locations proposed for roller blading courts.

Janis Jones, 1329 W Windemere she has two children that are deaf. They have tried to participate in one of the sports. Her son has dropped out because it is very difficult because the other children will not talk to him or communicate with him. Her husband has tried coaching the team, but it hasn't worked. She has been told that reasonable accommodation is that she goes to the sidelines and interpret for him. His is 8½ years old and he needs to be separated from her and learn to be more independent.

She does not feel that is reasonable accommodation. She does not want programs for hearing impaired, she wants them to be involved with other kids. In addition to the sporting activities, they have also tried to participate in the Rose Oak Summer Expo program, the Day Camp and the swimming program. None of the three have ever had a certified interpreter. She would like to see this considered.

John Wendland, 703 Irving Avenue commented that he feels that it is hard for the hearing community to understand that just because someone might know some sign language that they would not necessarily be able to interpret for a hearing impaired child. It is just not that easy. He knows some sign language, but he is nowhere near able to interpret for a child. You need a person that is skilled in signing for children. It is difficult for a parent to be out there trying to enjoy their child's game and at the same time having to interpret for the child.

Beth Caverly, 1715 W Houstonia is part of the group of moms with deaf kids and wants to re-iterate what the others have said. It is very difficult for a deaf child to get involved with a sport and feel part of it, to have a good childhood experience. Her son has played for ROYSA, but prefers to play baseball. An interpreter would just open it up for them. She feels that Royal Oak is a great place to live and that something should be done for these kids. We are talking about six elementary age or younger kids in Royal Oak, which isn't very many, but other cities provide things for their kids based on City programs. She feels that there could be some kind of cooperation between the City and the organizations that provide the activities for the kids.

Terry Croad asked if Ms. Caverly was aware if there was an organization that would have the demographics on how many deaf children there are in Royal Oak. She answered that he could go through the school district for that information. Mr. Croad stated that this is a need, he appreciated it being brought up

and it will be discussed to see what kind of solution can be found.

As there was no one else that wished to speak, Mr. Weber closed the public hearing at 7:30 PM. He thanked the people for coming and sharing their comments.

Mr. Croad announced that there would be another public hearing at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 17 at the Senior/Community Center. He would encourage those present, if they have friends that were not able to be at the meeting tonight, to come to the meeting on the 17th. It will not be necessary for those present tonight to come and say the same thing again. Everything has equal importance.

The question was asked how the people would be aware of the findings. Tom Trice commented that there would be a Parks and Recreation Master Plan published in draft form, hopefully around the 20th of January. It will be available in the Library for review. All of the comments will be in the draft, giving recommendations for them or reasons why they were not recommended.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirleyan Lake
RECREATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Approved:

Thomas W. Trice, Director

MINUTES
Master Plan Public Hearing
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Senior/Community Center
December 17, 1998 - 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gretchen Greenwood at 7:05 PM.

Members Present: Gretchen Greenwood, Ann Hubbarth,
Commissioner Ilene Lanfear, Mark Ryan, Brett Tillander, Bob Weber

Members Absent: Frank Mattis

Ex-Officio Member: Tom Trice

Staff Present: Greg Rassel, Tod Gazetti

Others Present: Terry Croad, McKenna Associates
Mario Ortega, McKenna Associates
Sharon Gittleman, The Mirror
Steve Jacks, 3903 Kent
Tom Farley, 127 Chippewa
Alex Bordy, 3069 Sylvan
Pam Bordy, 3069 Sylvan
Diane Klebba, 1227 Lyons
Carol Mawhorter, 200 Linden
Dave Richards, 415 Potowatomi
Anne Rivard, 512 S. Laurel
Dick Munyan, 730 DeVillen
Fred W Penney, 3803 Woodland

Ms. Greenwood welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the Board. She then turned the meeting over to Bob Weber to give an overview of the public hearing to receive comments from the public to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This needs to be done every five years to enable the City to apply for grants. There was a public hearing held at the Library on the 15th. Some of the things that were brought up at that meeting were an outdoor pool; roller blading on tennis courts; having something for physically challenged, particularly the hearing impaired; the maintenance of the parks system and additional fields. What we are looking for is input from the residents of the City.

Ms. Greenwood stated that the City had hired McKenna Associates to put together the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A part of this procedure is to hold public hearings to get input from residents. She asked the representatives from McKenna to give an overview of what they had done so far. After which, she will

open the floor for public comment. She asked that each person limit their comments to five minutes if possible. The comments tonight will be considered along with the comments from the public hearing on Tuesday night and those that are received from the surveys that have been distributed.

Terry Croad gave a short overview of what has been done to this point, along with information regarding the requirements of the State Department of Natural Resources for Cities to have an improved five year Recreation Master Plan to be eligible to apply for state and federal funds. The City of Royal Oak's Parks and Recreation Master Plan expires at the end of this season, and they have hired McKenna Associates to assist in the preparation of the plan. Part of the process includes public comments. He did a short presentation of the findings that they have arrived at thus far. They are in the inventory phase, which helps them to form goals and objectives to develop the final plan.

Mario Ortega reviewed the demographic information, existing land use and other relevant information that will help them make a determination. He gave a summary of some of their findings, such as the population for Royal Oak has decreased slightly since 1980 and is projected to decrease slightly by SEMCOG. This means that the demand on recreation is neither going to increase or decrease greatly. Other things such as the largest age category is between 25 and 44. In terms of recreation, this means that there is going to be a need for both families and young adults for recreation facilities. He commented on other information that they gathered that will assist them. They also did a study of the park land use within the City. All these findings are preliminary.

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They also look within parks at facilities themselves, looking at state national standards based on population to determine how

many tennis courts, ball fields and playgrounds you should have for instance. He discussed the facilities, things that are adequate and things that may be lacking. He reiterated that what he is pointing out is national state standards which they use as a base line. Public comments will tell them what may be big and needed in this community.

Another category that they look at is number of acres of park land versus what the population is. There is a very good distribution of park land, but based on the average numbers of the community, Royal Oak is deficient of approximately 137 acres of community parks, of which 57 acres are made up of Cummingston and Quickstad, both nature parks.

To summarize, they look at programming in general aspects. They have received comments from some of the organizations. In the next few weeks they will also be making phone contacts to service providers and organizers. They will take all the information they have gathered, work with the Parks and Recreation Board to set goals and objectives. Based on the goals and objectives, they will prioritize for future development over the next five years, based on existing and anticipated budget, grants that are available and other funding.

Ms. Greenwood opened the floor to public comments.

Diane Klebba, 1227 Lyons stated she feels there is a need for an outdoor swimming pool complex. She also felt that there needed to be more for pre-school aged children, such as summer camps and kinder music for instance.

Carol Mawhorter, 200 Linden is here because she feels that from comments that she has heard and articles that she has read there is a definite need for a skating facility. You keep telling kids that they can't skate here and they can't skate there, but have not provided them with a area to use. She brought a copy of a plan for a skate park facility that is in the city of Temecula, California, which she shared with the Board. She felt that the facility should be one that could be used the better part of the year.

Tom Farley, 127 Chippewa was in attendance to speak for the Royal Oak Youth Football Teams to try to keep the Royal Oak football program a part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and not get lost in the flood of soccer. He represents the Chiefs on the north end of the City, the Chargers are on the south end of the City. He gave a little background on the football program in Royal Oak. They could use a new practice field in the south end, they currently practice at VFW Park. There are over 200 kids ages 8-13 that participate, and they are very proud of the

program. He realizes that football is not for everyone, but it is a good release for the kids that do need it.

Terry asked Mr. Farley for specific needs of the football teams.

Mr. Farley stated that would include improved practice fields at both Starr Park for the north end and VFW Park for the south end.

They could use some repair to keep the areas a little more level. At VFW Park they use playground area which has a lot of ruts, and they get squeezed out by the playground users. Each unit has three teams by ages, plus cheerleaders. Their home games are played at Memorial Park. Their season runs from the middle of August to the end of October or the first week in November. They also play other cities in the area. They sell candy to raise funds. Terry commented that if youth athletic leagues can contribute funds towards improvements, it is important that we know about it. If each group can designate a dollar amount that they will contribute, this can be used for leverage when looking for grants, some of which have from 25% to 75% match requirements.

Bob Sullivan, 3011 N Blair is the President of the Royal Oak Sandlot League. First, he wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Department for maintaining the fields. He would like to be able to work more closely with the other associations. They are in desperate need of an equipment house. The Royal Oak Sandlot League was formed by the merger of the Royal Oak Baseball Federation and the Girls Softball Association. They have approximately 1,400 kids that participate in their programs. They would also like to have an off-season training facility.

Terry asked where the equipment house should be located. It could be shared with the football association and possibly be at Memorial Park. Their season runs from May, when practices start, thru the end of July. The kids that play range in age from 6 yrs-18 yrs. They currently store their equipment in the building at Waterworks Park.

Ann Rivard, 512 S. Laurel was here to represent the West of West Neighborhood Association. They are interested in the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation as they are the only area of the City that does not have access to a park without crossing a major thoroughfare. They have a number of growing families of all age groups that would use a park if it was in close proximity of the neighborhood. She would request that the need be entered into the Master Plan.

Dave Richards, 415 Potowatomi was here representing the Vinsetta East Homeowners Association. He supports the idea of having an outdoor pool. He knows that this has been brought up before, but he feels it is time to consider it again. One thing that is

different from the years past, is the increase in the value of the homes in Royal Oak, it is now more practical than an luxury. It is something that can be used by all age groups. He believes that the City should look again at a way of building a community pool. It is something that is usable by all age groups. Also, activities for the 50+ age group is somewhat limited. He would like to see the City take the first step to start a focus group to get together to discuss possibilities and seek interest.

Fred Penney, 3803 Woodland would like to have the woods at Quickstad Park named in honor of Hesse Tenhave, who was a former biology teacher in Royal Oak. Ms. Greenwood pointed out that the City had appointed a Facility Naming Committee that was in charge of reviewing such requests. Forms for this are available in the City Clerks Office. Tom Trice commented that Mr. Penny's request has been received and forwarded.

Tom Trice commented that he had received a call from Joseph Stout, one of the West of West representatives, asking if the City would consider in the Lafayette and Fifth Street area, where there will be a parking structure constructed, consideration of the 90 foot set back on the west side of the facility be used as a park area.

Ann Hubbarth commented on the 696 and Ten Mile area. Her understanding is that the office complex for that area is on hold right now. If the City gets that property back, she would suggest a green belt that could be a beautiful welcome mat to the City of Royal Oak. This could be in conjunction with the hotel that is planned for the area. It would be a nice compliment to the other buildings that are there.

Bob Weber commented on the property that is just east of the railroad tracks, and west of I-75, the Nolan Brothers property. He knows that there is some litigation on the property now. If some point in time, if anything is settled, he would like to see that property be used as park property or a sports complex with a pool.

Commissioner Lanfear commented that as part of the City's Master Plan people have requested more bike paths and walking areas.

Mark Ryan commented that in Dearborn Heights they have hard paths around the perimeter of their parks for running, walking, jogging and roller blading. He would like to see that in Royal Oak.

Commissioner Lanfear also commented on a facility for indoor recreation programs, such as soccer, inline skating, etc. This would be a City operated facility, as opposed to a privately operated facility.

There were no other public comments.

Tom Trice gave an overview of what would happen from this point.

McKenna Associates will put together a draft plan that will be available in the Library for review around January 20th. On January 28th we will have the final public hearing for comments on the draft. Once the draft is approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, it will go to the Plan Commission on February 7th for their approval and to the City Commission on February 22nd for final approval.

If anyone has any other comments on the plan, they can be directed to the Recreation Department. All comments will be addressed in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Motion by Commissioner Lanfear, supported by Brett Tillander to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirleyan Lake
RECREATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Approved:

Thomas W. Trice, Director

APPENDIX B

- 1) **1998 City of Royal Oak Recreation Opinion Survey**
- 2) **1998 City of Royal Oak Recreation Opinion Survey Numeric Responses**
- 3) **1998 City of Royal Oak Recreation Opinion Survey Written Responses**

1) 1998 City of Royal Oak Recreation Opinion Survey

The purpose of this survey is to identify recreational priorities and needs of City residents to help City departments prioritize recreation services and funding.

1. How would you rank the following recreation services and facilities available to City residents? Please consider all services, whether provided by the city, the schools, or other agencies.
5 = Excellent (highest), 4 = Good, 3 = Satisfactory, 2 = Fair, 1 = Poor (lowest)

	1	2	3	4	5
- Park geographic distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Recreation programs in general	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Recreation opportunities for children:					
a. facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Recreation opportunities for teens:					
a. facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Recreation opportunities for adults:					
a. facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Recreation opportunities for the seniors:					
a. facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities:					
a. facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate your opinion for the following questions concerning public recreation needs and funding in the City. **5 = Strongly Agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Neutral, 2 = Disagree, 1 = Strongly Disagree**

2. Additional **indoor recreation facilities** needed within the city include:

	1	2	3	4	5
- Basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Volleyball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Indoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Visual and performing arts center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Family recreation center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Nature/ecological center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Additional **outdoor recreation facilities** needed within the city include:

	1	2	3	4	5
- Softball fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Football fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Soccer fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Picnic shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- A jogging and exercise trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Bicycle/non-motorized paths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	1	2	3	4	5
- Nature/Ecological center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Outdoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Nature Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Sand Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Skateboard facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Roller blade facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please list in order of importance two types of **recreation facilities** you would like to see added or improved in the City, and where they are located (example: Play equipment, Quickstad Park)

1) _____

2) _____

5. Do you believe there are any accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities in any **recreation facilities** offered within the city?

yes no don't know

If yes, which one(s)? _____

Why? _____

6. **Recreational Programs** that need to be added or expanded within the City. Please comment below:

1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = No Opinion

	1	2	3
- Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Outdoor Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Roller blade hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Swimming Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Supervised playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Visual Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Dance / Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Outdoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Nature/Ecological Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Summer/Day Camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Day Camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

City of Royal Oak Recreation Opinion Survey	Blue Sheets						White Sheets						Average					
Description																		
1a - Park geographic distribution	3.86						3.48						3.67					
1b - Rec. program in general	3.18						3.17						3.18					
1c - Opportunities for children	0.00						0.00						0.00					
- facilities	2.86						3.06						3.96					
- programs	2.73						3.07						2.90					
1d - Opportunities for teens	0.00						0.00						0.00					
- facilities	2.38						2.22						2.30					
- programs	2.23						2.21						2.22					
1e - Opportunites for adults	0.00						0.00						0.00					
- facilities	2.81						2.96						2.88					
- programs	2.62						2.93						2.77					
1f - Opportunities for seniors	0.00						0.00						0.00					
- facilities	3.17						2.94						3.05					
- programs	3.07						2.95						3.01					
1g - Opportunities for disabilities	0.00						0.00						0.00					
- facilities	1.65						1.92						1.79					
- programs	1.63						1.83						1.73					
	0.00						0.00						0.00					
2a - Basketball courts	2.79						2.66						2.73					
2b - Volleyball courts	2.63						2.70						2.66					
2c - Tennis courts	2.99						2.66						2.82					
2d - Indoor swimming pool	3.00						3.21						3.10					
2e - Arts Center	2.87						3.14						3.01					
2f - Family Recreation Center	3.00						3.00						3.00					
2g - Nature/Ecological Center	3.13						3.25						3.19					
2h - Other	1.85						0.95						1.40					
													0.00					
3a - Softball fields	2.57						2.49						2.53					
3b - Football fields	2.46						2.20						2.33					
3c - Soccer fields	2.76						2.67						2.71					
3d - Playgrounds	2.75						2.84						2.79					
3e - Picnic shelters	3.00						3.02						3.01					
3f - Jog and Exercise Trail	3.65						3.32						3.49					
3g - Bicycle/non motor paths	3.74						3.55						3.65					
3h - Nature/ecological Center	3.33						3.27						3.30					
3i - Outdoor swimming pool	3.51						3.06						3.28					
3j - Nature Trails	3.58						3.42						3.50					
3k - Sand volleyball	2.79						2.59						2.69					
3l - Skateboard facility	2.93						2.97						2.95					
3m - Rollerblade facility	3.30						2.99						3.15					
3n - Other	1.63						0.49						1.06					

City of Royal Oak Recreation Opinion Survey	Blue Sheets							White Sheets							Average						
	Important		Somewhat Important		Not Important		# of Responses	Yes		No		No Opinion		# of Responses	Yes		No		No Opinion		# of Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%	#	%	
12a - Improve maint of parks	7	10.29%	22	32.35%	39	57.35%	68	10	10.75%	34	36.56%	49	52.69%	93	17	10.56%	56	34.78%	88	54.66%	161
12b - Developing new rec. programs	19	27.54%	23	33.33%	27	39.13%	69	10	10.87%	47	51.09%	35	38.04%	92	29	18.01%	70	43.48%	62	38.51%	161
12c - Dev. New neighborhood parks	34	50.00%	15	22.06%	19	27.94%	68	36	37.50%	31	32.29%	29	30.21%	96	70	42.68%	46	28.05%	48	29.27%	164
12d - Dev. New rec facilities	19	27.14%	26	37.14%	25	35.71%	70	20	21.98%	39	42.86%	32	35.16%	91	39	24.22%	65	40.37%	57	35.40%	161
12e - Improving accessibility to parks	24	36.92%	25	38.46%	16	24.62%	65	30	32.61%	39	42.39%	23	25.00%	92	54	34.39%	64	40.76%	39	24.84%	157
12f - Dev youth/community center	21	30.43%	30	43.48%	18	26.09%	69	20	21.74%	28	30.43%	44	47.83%	92	41	25.47%	58	36.02%	62	38.51%	161
12g - Developing predestrian trails	19	20.88%	17	18.68%	35	38.46%	91	28	30.11%	26	27.96%	39	41.94%	93	47	28.66%	43	26.22%	74	45.12%	164
18a - Rate active rec. programs																					
Excellent	11							19							30						
Good	40							42							82						
Fair	16							23							39						
Poor	0							6							6						

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
4 (1) Rec. Facilities	Adult Facilities	0	1	1
	All locations - Dog walking areas	1	0	1
	All locations - Improve playgrounds/equipment	2	3	5
	All locations - Benches	1	0	1
	Anywhere - Indoor basketball court for children	1	0	1
	Anywhere - Indoor roller blade hockey facility	3	0	3
	Swimming pool (Indoor)	2	1	3
	Anywhere - Additional football facilities	1	0	1
	Anywhere - Indoor tennis courts	1	0	1
	Anywhere - Lighted tennis courts	3	0	3
	Trails (Biking/Jogging/Nature)	9	12	21
	Anywhere - New nature center	2	0	2
	Anywhere - Sand volleyball court	1	0	1
	Anywhere - Play center like that in Huntington Woods (w. of their library)	1	0	1
	Basketball Courts at Various Parks	2	2	4
	Bathroom Facilities	0	1	1
	Community Center	0	1	1
	Cummingston Park - Create enclosed dog play area	1	0	1
	Dickenson Park - Picnic shelters	1	0	1
	Fulton Park - Play equipment	1	0	1
	Ice Rink (or Figure Skating and Hockey)	0	1	1
	Kite Flying Area	0	1	1
	Lockman Park - Play equipment	1	0	1
	Maxwell Park - Outdoor Skating	0	1	1
	Nolan Bros. property - Develop park on site	1	0	1
	Optimist Park Remove sand volleyball	1	0	1
	Optimist - New volleyball nets	1	0	1
	Park Hours	0	1	1
	Park Maintenance- from Animals	0	2	2
	Picnic Shelter - Whittier Park	0	1	1
	Picnic Area Improvements	0	1	1
Pioneer Park - Play equipment	1	0	1	
Play Equipment - Kenwood Park	0	1	1	
Play Equipment - Pioneer Park	0	1	1	
Play Equipment - Quickstad Park	0	2	2	

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Play Equipment - Wagner Park	0	2	2
	Play Equipment - Worden Park	0	1	1
	Play Equipment - Grand Park	0	1	1
	Play Equipment - Maxwell Park	0	1	1
	Pool Hall	0	1	1
	Quickstad - Keep natural	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - Fenced dog play area	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - Improve parking	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - Improve tennis & basketball courts	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - Play equipment	1	0	1
	Remington School (Between 12 & 13 Mile Roads) - Basketball court	1	0	1
	Rollerblade - Skate Boarding	1	14	15
	Senior Citizens Center - Line dancing	1	0	1
	Soccer Fields (Full Size) Kimball and Dondero	0	2	2
	South of 11 Mile between Washington & Woodward - Park/playground	2	0	2
	Starr Park - Add sand to volleyball area	1	0	1
	Starr Park - Disc golf	1	0	1
	Starr Park - New volleyball nets	1	0	1
	Swimming Pool (Outdoor)	9	6	15
	Teen Center - Organized	0	2	2
	VFW - Handicap playground	1	0	1
	Volleyball Courts	0	4	4
	Wagner - Disc golf	1	0	1
	Warden Park - Permanent indoor soccer facility	1	0	1
	Warden Park - Soccerfield	0	1	1
	Wendland Park - Play equipment	1	0	1
	Whittier Park - Tennis Courts	0	1	1
	Woodward, I-696, and Main - Tennis center	1	0	1
4 (2) Rec. Facilities	Add a lake or pond	1	0	1
	Trails (Biking/Jogging/Nature)	5	4	9
	Community Center	0	2	2
	Concerts by Library	0	1	1
	Cooking facilities, all parks	1	0	1
	Cross-country Ski Trails	1	1	2
	Dog Trails	0	1	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Football Fields	0	1	1
	Improve play equipment, Red Run Park	1	0	1
	Indoor tennis courts, anywhere	1	0	1
	Indoor Volleyball	0	2	2
	More open gyms for youth basketball	1	0	1
	Nature center	2	0	2
	New playground equipment, Realtors Park	1	0	1
	New play equipment, Pioneer Park	1	0	1
	Outdoor soccer	1	0	1
	Outdoor swimming pool	7	7	14
	Permanent indoor soccer	1	0	1
	Picnic Area - Whittier Park	0	2	2
	Picnic Shelter - Barton Park	0	1	1
	Play equipment, all parks	1	2	3
	Skateboarding/Rollerblading Facility	4	5	9
	Soccer Field Maintenance	0	1	1
	Swings & play equipment for handicapped, all areas	1	0	1
	Teen Center	0	3	3
	Tennis courts, park by Churchill Jr. High	1	0	1
	Tennis courts - outdoor, with lights	1	0	1
	Tennis courts, Rotary Club Park	1	0	1
	Urban Park - Central Business Dist.	1	1	2
5 Rec. Facilities	Adult Swim - Kimball/Dondero	0	9	9
	Adult Volleyball - Anywhere	0	2	2
	Adult Activities	0	1	1
	Baseball	0	1	1
	Basketball - More	0	2	2
	Chess Club - Elementary	0	1	1
	Cooking Classes - Kimball	0	1	1
	Cycling - Velodrome	0	1	1
	Inadequate parking & sidewalks, Starr/Jaycee Parks	1	0	1
	Kimball evening swim - not wheelchair accessible	1	0	1
	No pathways or sidewalks available	1	0	1
	Playgrounds - equipment limits accessibility	1	0	1
	Pools for aerobics	1	0	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	VFW play scape; add swings to school playgrounds and various parks	1	0	1
	Wendland Park - no handicap access	1	0	1
7 (1) Rec. Programs	Adult coaching certification classes	1	0	1
	Adult tennis leagues/classes - any location	2	0	2
	Adult men's baseball, Worden Park	1	0	1
	Adult men's football (spring/summer)	1	0	1
	All adult sport leagues need expansion	1	0	1
	Camps in summer for wide age groups	1	0	1
	Children's ice skating, Lindell Park	1	0	1
	Cross-country skiing trails	1	0	1
	Dance/theater	0	1	1
	Day Camp	0	1	1
	Day hikes through parks	1	0	1
	Disc golf, Memorial & Red Run Parks	1	0	1
	Do not need additional programs	1	0	1
	Dog play area , Red Run Park	1	0	1
	Expand Connie Mack baseball league	1	0	1
	Football - Girls	0	1	1
	Gardening Classes	0	1	1
	Golf classes for adults - evenings	1	0	1
	Hotel on Washington Sq. - Music theater performers could stay there	1	0	1
	Ice/figure Skating - Lindell	0	1	1
	Improve parking	1	0	1
	Indoor basketball	2	0	2
	Swimming (Indoor/Outdoor)	8	10	18
	Junior golf program needs more opportunities for children to play	1	0	1
	Kick-boxing	1	0	1
	Kimball Pool, City Hall, Senior Center (Auto Doors, Kimball Downstair Lockers)	0	1	1
	More Ease of Handicapped Accessibility	0	5	5
	More Sidewalks Throughout	0	1	1
Music Series	0	1	1	
Nature/eco Center	2	5	7	
Roller blade and classes/clinics	3	4	7	

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Royal Oak resident golf league, City course	1	0	1
	Running Program - Elementary	0	1	1
	Senior Activity Center	0	2	2
	Soccer Field - Worden Park	0	2	2
	Sports	0	1	1
	Summer programs at neighborhood parks	1	0	1
	Supervise all playgrounds	1	0	1
	Swamps and Low Ground, Hard to Move Around	0	1	1
	Tai Chi Teens (YMCA)	0	1	1
	Teen Dance/recreation/Churchill	0	5	5
	Tennis programs	2	2	4
	Toddler Activities	0	2	2
	Toddler Swim - Dondero - Kimball	0	4	4
	Tree identification, Quickstad	1	0	1
	VFW Park	0	1	1
	Volleyball - Dondero	0	1	1
	Volleyball - improve Thurs. night intermediate at Keller Jr. High	1	0	1
	Water Aerobics	0	1	1
	Weekday a.m. aerobics, Senior Center	1	0	1
	Weight Training - Adults	0	1	1
	Wheelchairs	0	1	1
	Yoga	1	1	2
	Youth Conservation Corps. (Teens)	0	1	1
7 (2) Rec. Programs	Acting classes - all ages	1	0	1
	Add adult Karate	1	0	1
	Adult hockey league	1	0	1
	Adult coaching certification classes	1	0	1
	Adult men's soccer - city wide	1	0	1
	Aqua Jogging - Dondero	0	1	1
	Art/craft programs	3	0	3
	Coed drop-in volleyball for adults in the evening	1	0	1
	Cummingston Park	1	0	1
	Elem.-level after-school activities/drop-in center	1	0	1
	Exercise programs for non-senior adults	1	0	1
	Hockey - Figure Skating	0	3	3

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Hockey Refs (Lindell)	0	1	1
	Ice Skating	0	1	1
	Music/arts	0	1	1
	Nature Center, Quickstad or Cummington Parks	0	4	4
	Open cross-country skiing	1	0	1
	Swimming Programs (Outdoor)	1	5	6
	Pre-kindergarten swim classes, Kimball Pool	1	0	1
	Recreation program in conjunction with Farmers Market facility	1	0	1
	Red Cross Life Saving - Dondero	0	1	1
	ROBF fields need to be maintained, repaired, etc.	1	0	1
	Roller Blading - next to Senior Center	0	3	3
	Roller hockey league in summer, Lindell Park	1	0	1
	Skiing - Cross Country - Anywhere	0	2	2
	Soccer and T-ball for pre-school and up	1	0	1
	Soccer Fields	0	1	1
	Softball Parks	0	1	1
	Speed skating Rink	0	1	1
	Summer Camp	0	1	1
	Teen Activities for 12-16 Year Olds	0	1	1
	Tennis programs	2	1	3
	Travel Tours - All Ages	0	1	1
	Visual Arts/theater Art	0	2	2
	Wildflower/Tree program	1	0	1
8 Rec. Program ADA	Handicapped Swim - Not Enough Parking	0	1	1
	Kimball evening swim	1	0	1
	Pathways and sidewalks	1	0	1
	Swim Programs, Rec/sports Not Offered	0	1	1
	Trolleys - Downtown	0	1	1
13 Teen Programs	After-school drop-in activities/centers (supervised)	3	0	3
	Archery	0	1	1
	Baseball/softball	1	1	2
	Basketball	2	1	3
	Canteens and movies	1	0	1
	Career planning	1	0	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Coed sports	1	0	1
	Competition Activities	0	2	2
	Cultural awareness - Music & Arts, Acting	2	0	2
	Cycling Velodrome	0	1	1
	Disc golf	1	0	1
	Drop-in Hockey - Night	0	1	1
	Evening Dance Recreation	2	12	14
	Golf	0	1	1
	Gymnastics	0	1	1
	Improvement of Boys & Girls Club	1	0	1
	Intermural Team Sports, Summer Camp, Golf Lessons	0	3	3
	Job Corp - Apprenticeship Program	0	1	1
	Kick-boxing	1	0	1
	Modern Dance Lessons	0	1	1
	More involvement in existing programs	1	0	1
	Nature center/programs	4	0	4
	Organized service project in summer (Focus HOPE, Habitat for Humanity, etc.)	1	0	1
	Swimming (Outdoor)	2	1	3
	Pool Hall	0	1	1
	Reading Program	0	1	1
	Recreation Center	0	1	1
	Roller blade facility/park and programs	12	14	26
	Schools - Better Use During Summer Months	0	1	1
	Skate boarding	2	6	8
	Smoking Cessation Education	0	1	1
	Summer Camp Programs	0	1	1
	Summer outdoor improvement program	1	0	1
	Supervised Teen Center	8	10	18
	Teen Farm; donate harvest to shelters	1	0	1
	Teen Program	0	1	1
	Teen/police Interchange	0	1	1
	Volleyball Program	0	1	1
	Yoga	0	1	1
	Youth Conservation Corp.	0	1	1
14 Program Age Levels	<5	13	11	24

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	5-17	32	51	83
	18-30	9	13	22
	30-45	10	0	10
	45-64	6	0	6
	65+	0	0	0
15 Neighbor- hood Park	Add park south of 11 Mile, west of Washington	2	9	11
	All parks - enhance, update and maintain	1	0	1
	All parks - impose heavy fines on anyone allowing their dog to defecate there	1	0	1
	All parks - more police enforcement of vagrancy laws	1	0	1
	All parks - play equipment for pre-school and early elementary children	1	0	1
	All parks - water fountains	1	0	1
	All applicable parks - outdoor tennis courts need upkeep	1	0	1
	Any park - additional volley ball courts	1	0	1
	Barton Park Lighting - Redirect Street People	0	3	3
	Barton Park Landscaping and Plantings	0	2	2
	Barton Park Play Equipment	0	1	1
	Clawson Park - needs new playground equipment	1	0	1
	Detweiler Park - more trees	1	0	1
	Dickenson Park - off-street parking	1	0	1
	Downtown park needed (next to Baldwin Theater) for area workers	1	0	1
	Exchange- roller blade hockey	1	0	1
	General Parks:			
	Grant Park (Disability Access)	0	1	1
	Grant Park - Change into Skateboarding Park	0	1	1
	Handicapped Accessible	0	1	1
	Hudson Park - Baseball Diamond	0	1	1
	Hudson Park - need more police patrols; homeless people camping in corner	1	0	1
	Improve litter problem with barrels, signs and penalties	5	0	5
	Keep Dogs out	0	1	1
Keep tennis courts open from 3/15 - 10/30 in all parks that have them	1	0	1	
Kenwood Park and Parking	0	2	2	
Kenwood Park - diagonal parking at north and south ends of park	1	0	1	
Kimball - tennis court lights would increase use by teens	1	0	1	

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Larger Sled Hills	0	1	1
	Lawson Park - expand to include Nolan Bros. property	1	0	1
	Leash Law	0	2	2
	Lighted tennis courts - anywhere	1	0	1
	Lockman Park - new play equipment, eliminate dog runs, add swings	1	0	1
	Maintain school property in same manner as parks	1	0	1
	Marais Park - Sidewalk and Ball Backstop	0	1	1
	Maxwell Park - Big Swing Set	0	1	1
	Maxwell - maintain tennis courts	1	0	1
	Maxwell Park, Meinenger Park Dog Run Improvements and Clean-up	0	5	5
	Meninger - Fence Around Play Equipment to Keep Animals Out, Maintenance	0	2	2
	Meinenger Park - Rollerblade/hockey Court	0	1	1
	Meininger Park tennis courts need improvement	1	0	1
	Memorial Park tennis facilities need improvement	1	0	1
	More Parks	0	3	3
	More seating near equipment	1	0	1
	Mudlin Park - Mowing	0	1	1
	Optimist Park - Pedestrian Trail	0	1	1
	Optimist Park - Remove sand volleyball; use a neighborhood park	1	0	1
	Park Maintenance	0	5	5
	Pioneer Park - new playground equipment	2	0	2
	Pioneer Park - Update Equipment	0	1	1
	Quickstad Park - tennis courts racked	1	0	1
	Realtors Park - new play equipment	1	0	1
	Red Run & Exchange Soccer - Repair and Drainage	0	1	1
	Red Run Park - new play equipment	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - Play Equipment, Bike Path, Maintenance	0	1	1
	Red Run Park - picnic shelter	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - more trees	1	0	1
	Red Run - improve tennis & basketball courts	1	0	1
	Red Run Tennis Courts and Maintenance	0	3	3
	Red Run Park - fenced-in dog play area	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - grass volleyball court	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - all equipment needs painting/maintenance	1	0	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Red Run Park - inadequate parking on Devillen	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - bicycle path	1	0	1
	Remove fitness trail structures; have never seen them used	1	0	1
	Roller blade hockey on any of the city's tennis courts	1	0	1
	Trails (Biking/Nature/Jogging)	2	1	3
	Southpoint Neighborhood - Need Park	0	3	3
	Starr Park Cross Country Skiing - or Golf Course	0	1	1
	Starr -roller blade hockey	1	0	1
	Starr - parking is a nightmare	1	0	1
	Starr - sand volleyball courts need upkeep	1	0	1
	Supervision/evening	0	2	2
	Upton Park - Drainage	0	1	1
	Utilize north end of Northwood School property	1	0	1
	VFW Park -total upgrade	2	0	2
	Wagner - Need More Park Supervision and Traffic Control	0	2	2
	Wagner Park - Maintenance, Tees on Frisbee Golf	0	1	1
	Wagner Park - Parking off Main or Rochester, Picnic Tables, Pet Control	0	1	1
	Water Works Park - add sand volleyball court	1	0	1
	Water Works Park - better maintain tennis courts	1	0	1
	Waterworks Park - add parking & renovate	1	0	1
	Wendland Park	0	1	1
	Wendland Park - improve play structures	1	0	1
	Whittier Park - baseball field needs improvement	1	0	1
	Whittier Park Sheltered Picnic Area -	0	1	1
16 Rec. Facility Improvements	Accessible Lockers at Kimball	0	1	1
	Add park south of 11 Mile, west of Main St.	1	0	1
	All parks - add litter barrels	1	0	1
	All parks, give different strengths and identities (ex., trains, western theme)	1	0	1
	All existing parks, clean up and maintain rather than build new	1	0	1
	All parks - allow dogs with responsible owners	1	0	1
	All parks - ban dogs	1	0	1
	All soccer and baseball fields - better maintenance, especially lawns	1	0	1
	Barton Park - Tot Lot Reconstruction	0	1	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Baseball Diamond on Nordwood Field	0	1	1
	Churchill School - use as a community recreation center	1	0	1
	Community Center	1	0	1
	Cross Country Skiing at Golf Course	0	1	1
	Dondero Pool/greater Year-round Public Access	0	2	2
	Fenced-in play area for dogs	1	0	1
	Golf courses - better maintenance	1	0	1
	Handicapped Recreational Dept.	0	1	1
	Ice Rinks	0	2	2
	Improve/restore baseball diamonds	3	0	3
	In-line Hockey Outdoor	0	1	1
	Indoor Facilities	0	2	2
	Swimming Pool (Indoor)	1	1	2
	Jane Addams - return tennis courts	1	0	1
	Keller - better volleyball nets	1	0	1
	Keller Jr. High - Thurs adv. and intermed. volleyball to start/stop at same time	1	0	1
	Kenwood Park - Basketball Hoop	0	1	1
	Kenwood Park - Parking	0	1	1
	Lindell Ice Arena, add more ice rinks	1	2	3
	Lindell Ice Arena - Funding	0	1	1
	Lindell Arena - needs multipurpose room for off-ice training, parties, etc.	1	0	1
	Lindell Ice Arena, needs maintenance	1	0	1
	Lockman Park - improve lighting or thin trees	1	0	1
	Maintenance	0	2	2
	Mark bicycle routes on City streets	2	0	2
	Memorial Park - grass infield	1	0	1
	Open Tennis	0	1	1
	Outdoor Basketball - Improve Nets	0	1	1
	Path to restrooms in ice arena, leading to baseball fields in spring & summer	1	0	1
	Picnic Shelter Facilities for Large Groups	0	1	1
	Play Equipment Red Run	0	1	1
	Pool Halls	0	1	1
	Program Communication	0	1	1
	Publish map of parks	1	0	1
	Quickstad - In-line skating and cross-country skiing	1	0	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Quickstad Park - need rest rooms at soccer field	1	0	1
	Quickstad Park - No Further Development	0	1	1
	Recreation Center	0	1	1
	Red Run - improve tennis, volleyball & basketball courts	2	0	2
	Red Run Park - needs new playground equipment	2	0	2
	Reforestation/tree Planting Memorial and Other Parks	0	2	2
	Repair Grass on Firm Surface.	0	2	2
	Roller Hockey Rink, Play Equipment	0	1	1
	Roller Blading	0	4	4
	Smaller parks - more play equipment for children	1	0	1
	Soccer Fields Maintained.	0	2	2
	Softball Complex Similar to Liberty Park	0	1	1
	Swimming Program - Low Cost	0	1	1
	Tennis courts - used for roller blade hockey, will need boards; convert to pavilion	1	0	1
	Total soccer update	1	0	1
	Trash Receptacles and Picnic Tables	0	2	2
	Upton Park - Tennis Courts/refurbish	0	1	1
	Utilize Farmers Market facility for recreation programs	1	0	1
	Wagner - add trail system	1	0	1
	Wagner - Parking	0	1	1
	Trails (Biking/Nature/Jogging/Walking)	2	1	3
	Wendland Park - More Equipment	0	1	1
	Whittier Park, tennis courts - improve or change usage	1	0	1
17 Rec. Programs Improve- ments	Add karate	1	0	1
	Add programs for teens and young adults	1	0	1
	Adult lap swimming time opportunities	1	0	1
	Aqua Jogging	0	1	1
	Basketball league for youth	1	0	1
	Beaumont's Optimal Aging Program Branch Program	0	1	1
	Better instructors for adult education	1	0	1
	Classes for Pre-school Boys	0	1	1
	Coordination of Teen Dances at Senior Center	0	1	1
	Cultural Programs	0	1	1
	Do not cancel summer programs	1	0	1
	Eliminate scheduling conflicts between ROBF and ROYSA in June	1	0	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Golf league at the City golf course	1	0	1
	Handicapped (Additional) Parking During Swim at YMCA	0	1	1
	Indoor basketball for children	1	0	1
	Indoor basketball with minimal fee for reserved court time	1	0	1
	Keep ROYSA organization	1	0	1
	Make it easier for children to play golf	1	0	1
	Men's soccer	1	0	1
	More Adult Programs/swimming	0	2	2
	More programs for preschoolers	2	0	2
	More leagues and events for 21-40 age group	1	0	1
	More varied concerts to appeal to wider audience	1	0	1
	More bicycle routes (no automobiles)	2	0	2
	More Weekend Programs	0	2	2
	More Supervision at Summer Drop-in Centers	0	1	1
	More Weekend Senior Trips	0	1	1
	Neighborhood Park - holiday programs	1	0	1
	Organized Baseball/softball Programs	0	1	1
	Swimming Pool (Outdoor)	3	3	6
	Playground Equipment - Replacement	0	1	1
	Premiere travel baseball for children	1	0	1
	Program Awareness	0	1	1
	Programs for adult women (tennis, walking clubs, swimming)	1	0	1
	Rely more on early childhood center as programs are available; less on Gymboree	1	0	1
	Roller hockey	1	0	1
	Royal Oak YMCA - expanded pool hours and more youth basketball hours	1	0	1
	Senior Activities - Horseshoe, Bocce ball	0	1	1
	Skate Park	0	1	1
	Skateboard, Rollerblade Facility	0	1	1
	Skating for Other than Hockey	0	1	1
	Soccer - Adult Education re: Rules Needed	0	1	1
	Soccer Complex for Older Kids	0	2	2
	Starr & Optimist Parks - new volley ball nets	1	0	1
	Summer acting camp for kids; children's theater	1	0	1
	Swimming at Dondero or Kimball High	0	1	1
	Teen Programs - YMCA	0	2	2
	Toddler Activities	0	3	3

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
19 Immediate Improvements	Add litter barrels - very few provided and serviced; they are removed in winter	1	0	1
	Adult ice skating programs	1	0	1
	All parks - jogging/exercise trails	1	0	1
	Better maintenance of softball fields	2	0	2
	Build nature center at a park	1	0	1
	Clean & maintain existing parks; do not build new	1	0	1
	Combination family & youth program run by Parks & Recreation Dept.	1	0	1
	Community Center	0	1	1
	Develop a park on the Nolan Bros. property	1	0	1
	Dog Run Park and Maintenance	0	1	1
	Give roller blade skaters own facility to keep out of Maxwell	1	0	1
	Grant Park - vagrants, trash, teen drinking/hangout	1	0	1
	Ice Rinks: Cost, Available Ice Time	0	1	1
	Improve Soccer Field Drainage	0	1	1
	Kenwood Park - Play Structure Is Old	0	1	1
	Kenwood Park - No On-site Parking	0	1	1
	Kimball Pool - Maintenance	0	1	1
	Kimball Lockers - No Accessibility to for Handicapped and Strollers	0	1	1
	Lindell Arena - increase open skate hours	1	0	1
	Lindell Arena - need another skating surface; not enough ice time for children	1	0	1
	Make use of vacant school buildings	1	0	1
	Memorial Park - grass infields so kids can have real baseball experience	1	0	1
	More Activities for 25-55 Age. Children Have Schools for Activities.	0	1	1
	More comprehensive recreation program with less focus on seniors	1	0	1
	More Field Trips - All Ages	0	1	1
	More softball league opportunities	1	0	1
Music/arts	0	1	1	
Non-sports related activities for children	1	0	1	
Nature Trails	0	2	2	
Need Park S. of 11mile, West of Main	0	3	3	
Need Park That's Accessible Without Crossing Main Road	0	1	1	

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Optimist Park-remove sand volleyball due to excessive incidents; lack of policing	1	0	1
	Outdoor pool - everywhere else has some sort & we have to go outside Royal Oak	1	0	1
	Outdoor Pools - Smaller Communities Have More Pools	0	2	2
	Outdoor municipal pool - because we need one	1	0	1
	Picnic Grounds	0	1	1
	Premiere travel baseball - some children are intimidated by others too talented	1	0	1
	Provide smooth surfaces for bicycling, running & roller blade skating	1	0	1
	Realtors Park - chipping play equipment could cause lead poisoning	1	0	1
	Red Run Needs Improved Equipment - Widely Used	0	1	1
	Red Run Park - parking for homeowners not sufficient; visitors use all available	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - improve equipment-used by neighborhood, ROYSA, ROBF, others	1	0	1
	Red Run Park - improve tennis & basketball courts	1	0	1
	Reinstate Teen Dances at Adams Jr. High	0	1	1
	Roller blade hockey will help keep boys off the streets	1	0	1
	ROYSA should be eliminated	1	0	1
	Sand volleyball - low sand amount	1	0	1
	Senior Center - More Accommodating Hours	0	1	1
	Skate Park	0	1	1
	Skating in the Lindell Ice Arena - More Maintaining for Other Skating Not Just Hockey.	0	2	2
	Soccer Field Repair and Maintenance	0	2	2
	Softball - Adult - Wagner Park Improvements	0	1	1
	Swim Programs Expanded, less Cost and More Adult Open Swim	0	2	2
	Swimming - it's a year-round sport	1	0	1
	Teen - non Existent - Too Much Hanging out	0	1	1
	Tennis Courts Never Used, Need Trees	0	1	1
	Tennis - Not Organized	0	2	2
	VFW Park Drainage	0	1	1
	Visual Arts	0	1	1
	Wagner Park - Fewer Coffee Breaks for Employees and More Work (Lives Across Street)	0	1	1

		Blue Sheets	White Sheets	Total
Question #	Comments	No. of Responses	No. of Responses	No. of Responses
	Warden Park - rarely used tennis courts should be converted for another use	1	0	1
	Whittier Park - More Dog Supervision and Animal Clean-up. Not Fit for Family Use.	0	1	1
	YMCA - Improve	0	1	1

INFORMATION SOURCES

City of Royal Oak

Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools

Oakland County Development and Planning

1990 U.S. Census

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

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NOTES:

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