

City of Rochester Hills

Parks & Recreation Plan

2023-2027



**Presentation to City Council for Plan Adoption
January 9, 2023**

Plan Overview

- **Planning for the future of the parks system**
- **Create a roadmap for capital improvements, Michigan DNR Grant Eligibility requirement**
- **Outlines goals, objectives, and construction and operations action plan for the next five years**



City of Rochester Hills Parks & Recreation Plan 2023-2027



Final Draft For Approval
January 2023

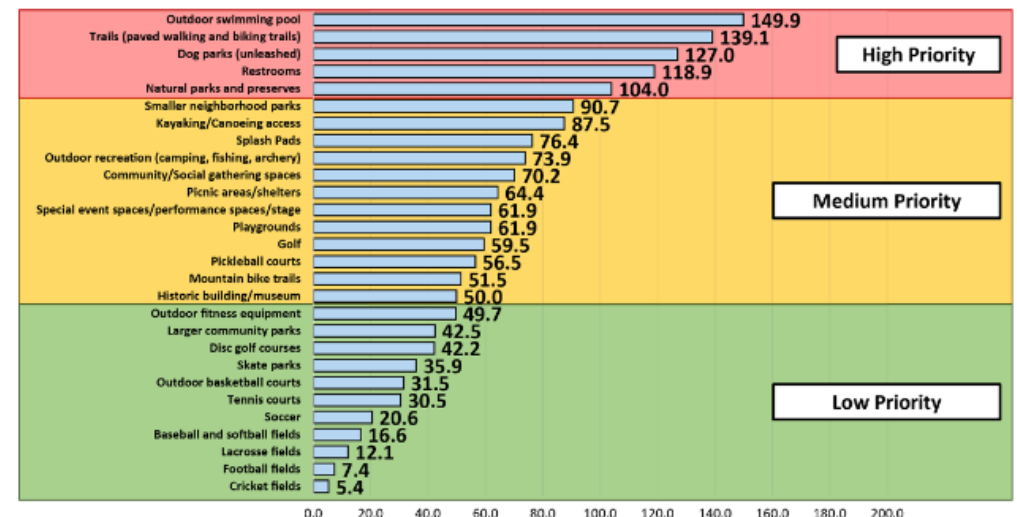
Planning Process

- **Kickoff and establishment of leadership team meetings**
- **Stakeholder and community input**
 - **Statistically valid community needs assessment**
 - **Stakeholder and focus group interviews**
- **Park inventory**
 - **Condition and accessibility assessment**
- **Formation of goals and objectives**
- **Pop-up open house engagement event**
- **Plan development**
- **30-Day public review period**
- **Public hearing and adoption**
- **Submission of plan to DNR**

Community Engagement

- Series of stakeholder, City officials, and focus group interviews for qualitative input
- Statistically-valid community needs assessment for quantitative input (563 households)
- Public review period in conformance with DNR requirements

Figure 11: Priority Investment Ratings for Parks and Recreation Amenities / Facilities



Source: ETC Institute (Olathe, KS)

Park Inventory

- Visited all parks in the system
- Took note of amenity condition and general park accessibility
- Noted recreation amenities and uses available to tabulate what is available in the community

Innovation Hills District Park

Innovation Hills is the newest recreational facility in Rochester Hills and has quickly become one of the most popular parks. The park was formerly known as Riverbend Park, and over the past few years has been improved with boardwalks, a large play area, and walking paths. The park improvements were possible due to extensive public-private partnerships between the City and numerous agencies, community groups, and citizens.

The park totals 62.38 acres and is a mix of active and passive recreation. The defining feature of Innovation Hills is the play area which includes several types and sizes of play equipment. The play equipment is adventure/nature themed with a large tree house that allows children to climb up and down inside with several slides. There is also musical play equipment and a water play facility interspersed within the playground. Throughout the play area are tables with umbrellas, pavilions, and benches, making it comfortable for adults to socialize or relax while supervising children.

Outside the play area there are walking paths and a boardwalk that allow users to travel through the wetland adjacent to the playground. Along the river is an accessible canoe/kayak landing. In the center of the developed area of Innovation Hills is a retention pond that is fed by a water feature. The pond is circumnavigated by a paved path creating a walking loop in the park which features aggregate that glows after dark. On the western side of the walking loop is a seating area with lawn games.

Overall, the park is in excellent condition, a result of its recent construction and intentional design. The park is also very accessible, most of the play equipment is designed to be accessible and all of the surfaces in the play area are accessible. Across the river is a 48 acre green space owned by the City.

- » Average Condition: 99%
- » Accessibility Rating: 4



Green Pavilion Picnic Shelter



Kayak Landing



Playground

Goal Formation

- **Goal 1: Provide high-quality outdoor spaces through maintenance or replacement of existing facilities.**
- **Goal 2: Provide new, diverse outdoor recreation and cultural amenities.**
- **Goal 3: Increase access to natural resource-based recreation.**
- **Goal 4: Engage the community through improved outreach and citizen involvement.**
- **Goal 5: Increase community events and programming.**
- **Goal 6: Operate the Parks and Natural Resources Department in a fiscally sustainable manner.**

Action Plan

- **Actions related to construction and operations**
- **Five-year timeframe (2023-2027)**
- **Goals are categorized by each responsible division, as well as each goal they work toward**
- **Highlights include:**
 - **Developing site plans for Spencer Park, Nowicki Park, Brooklands Plaza, Bloomer Park**
 - **Develop a site plan for a dog park (location TBD)**
 - **Replacing playground at Wabash Park, Adding New Playground at Yates Park**
 - **Pursuing additional greenspace properties as available**
 - **Major investment in Bloomer Park for restrooms and new activities**



Questions?