



2023-2027

# FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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CITY OF ECORSE, MICHIGAN

ADOPTED: JANUARY 10, 2023





# 2023-2027 **FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

CITY OF ECORSE, MICHIGAN

Adopted: January 10, 2023



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following individuals played an important role in the development of this document.

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Many thanks to all the residents who participated in the public survey.

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# 01. WELCOME

The City of Ecorse is undergoing a transition. Having recently exited from its financial emergency, the City is refocusing its efforts to enhance the community for all citizens. The City recognizes that providing high quality parks and recreational opportunities is one way to enhance the overall quality of life within the City. Therefore, the City has undertaken the process of creating this new Parks and Recreation Master Plan to set goals and guide improvements over the next five years.

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a road map for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made in the next five years, as well as projected future needs. The Plan includes all required elements of a Parks and Recreation Plan and therefore qualifies the City of Ecorse for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the Plan gives the City a better understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation, historic and cultural facilities, and programming going forward.







# 02. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

## Location

The City of Ecorse is located south of the City of Detroit and is a part of what is regionally referred to as the Downriver area. The city is approximately two miles east of the I-75 expressway. Ecorse is 2.4 square miles in land area and is bounded by the Detroit River to the east, the City of Wyandotte to the south, the City of Lincoln Park to the west, the City of Detroit to the northwest and the City of River Rouge to the northeast. The city is a first-ring suburb, connected to Detroit and other Downriver communities by Jefferson Avenue, the Southfield Freeway (M-39) and Outer Drive, and I-75, making regional travel easy.



# History

The Township of Ecorse was established in 1827. In 1836, British settlers renamed it the Village of Grand Port, but it was reestablished as the Village of Ecorse in 1902. It was the second largest village in the United States at that time. Ecorse was incorporated as a city in 1942.

Because of its ideal location for shipping on the Detroit River, and its rail and road infrastructure built for Ford's River Rouge Complex to the north, Ecorse became a regional industrial center. The first steel plant, Michigan Steel Mill, was built in 1923; Great Lakes Steel followed in 1929. Industrial development and supporting residential and commercial development increased steadily and reached a high point during the post WWII era. Like neighboring communities, Ford's revolutionary "\$5 a Day" wage brought many residents to Ecorse from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds, which helps to explain the city's ethnic and racial diversity, even today.

Only a small number of African American families lived in Ecorse prior to 1919, when the auto and steel industries brought many minority families to the area. Housing and schools were not segregated (though all teachers were white), but the Jim Crow laws forced Black residents to be seated separately in theatres and in the back of busses. The first Black doctor, Dr. Milton opened his office at 14th St. and Visger in 1929. He later helped found Simby Hospital and got the school board to agree to build Miller School, the first school to hire Black teachers. During the depression, both whites and Blacks were laid off, but because Blacks were not in the unions, they were much harder hit. The churches were the leading source of relief. The first Black church was the Lilly of the Valley Church on 15th Street which was later renamed First Baptist Church.

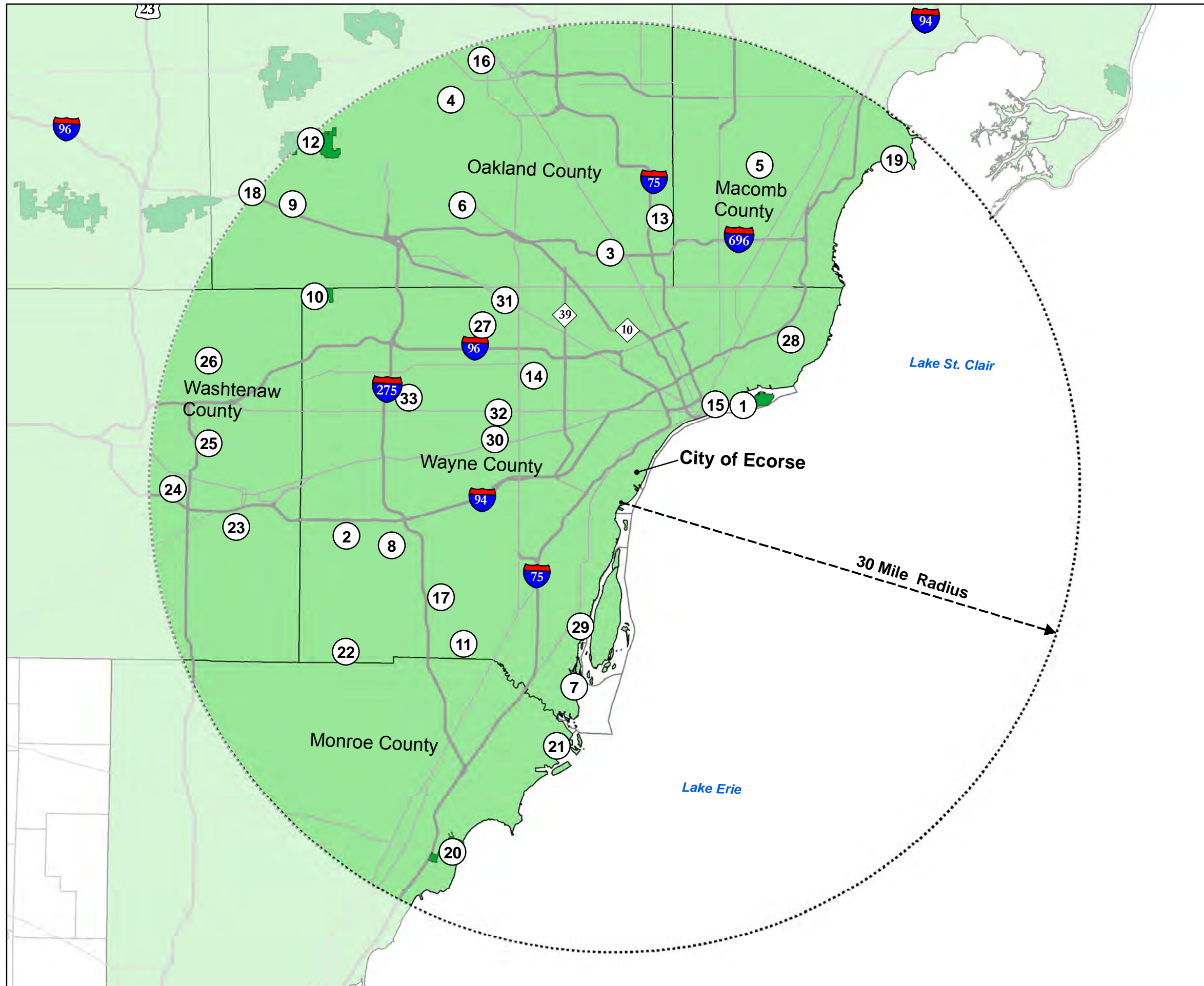
Ecorse's industrial history is still seen in its land use patterns. Awkward juxtapositions continue to influence development decisions and community character. Most of the waterfront was used by industry, as well as other areas of the city. The rail line through the middle of the city is also reflective of previous industrial practices. Between 225 - 475 ft. wide, the railroad right-of-way divides the city in half. The proximity between industrial and residential land is from a time when residents walked to jobs within the city.






*Photo of Great Lakes Engineering Works, courtesy of the Ecorse Historical Society.*

# Map 1 Existing Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

City of Ecorse, Michigan



-  30 Mile Radius
-  Michigan State Park Boundaries

-  Regional Parks
- 1 Belle Isle
- 2 Belleville Lake Boat Launch
- 3 Detroit Zoological Park
- 4 Dodge State Park #4
- 5 Freedom Hill County Park
- 6 Glen Oaks County Park
- 7 Lake Erie Metropark
- 8 Lower Huron Metropark
- 9 Lyon Oaks County Park
- 10 Maybury State Park
- 11 Oakwoods Metropark
- 12 Proud Lake State Recreation Area
- 13 Red Oaks County Park
- 14 River Rouge County Park System (Hines Parkway)
- 15 Milliken State Park
- 16 Waterford Oaks County Park
- 17 Willow Metropark
- 18 Kensington Metropark
- 19 Metrobeach Metropark
- 20 Sterling State Park
- 21 Point Mouillee State Game Area
- 22 Crosswinds Marsh County Park
- 23 Rolling Hills County Park
- 24 County Farm Park
- 25 Parker Miller County Park
- 26 Northfield County Park
- 27 Bell Creek County Park
- 28 Chandler County Park Family Aquatic Center
- 29 Elizabeth County Park
- 30 Inkster Valley County Golf Course
- 31 Lola Valley County Park
- 32 Warren Valley County Golf Course
- 33 Holiday County Forest & Wildlife Preserve

0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10  
Miles



Updated  
September 10,  
2022

Base Map Source: Michigan Geographic Framework, Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v9a.  
Data Source: Mckenna Associates, Inc., 2012

# Demographic Characteristics

The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the quality and quantity of parks and recreation facilities and programs necessary to serve Ecorse residents.

**Table 1: Change in Population, Ecorse 2010-2045**

2010	2020	Percent Change (2010 to 2020)	2045*	Percent Change (2020 to 2045)
9,508	9,305	-2.1%	8,690	-6.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SEMCOG  
\* SEMCOG 2045 Forecast

## POPULATION

Recent projections indicate that the city’s population is expected to continue to decrease through 2045. The population decreased approximately 2.1% from 2010 to 2020, as indicated in Table 1. Population loss has slowed in Ecorse over the last decade; the decrease from 2000 to 2010 was 8.9%. Based on SEMCOG estimates, the city’s population is anticipated to decrease to approximately 8,690 residents by 2045. Improving the parks and recreation amenities available to residents is important to stabilize the population, as well as create a higher quality of life for residents and an enhanced image of the community.

## HOUSING

A household is defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. The number of households in Ecorse is expected to increase, as indicated in Table 2. The city’s average household size, defined as the number of persons per household, is higher than the 2020 average household size in Wayne County (2.50) and the Southeast Michigan region (2.46). While the decrease in population and households may mean less demand for future parkland, the type of facilities and programs demanded will likely change. The decline in household size will create a more dispersed population if housing densities do not increase accordingly. Correspondingly, parks and facilities distributed throughout the community are desirable to meet the needs of residents.

**Table 2: Housing Statistics, Ecorse, 2020-2045**

	2010*	2020	2045
<b>Households</b>	3,645	3,604	3,766
<b>Household Size</b>	2.60	2.56	2.30

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SEMCOG  
\* SEMCOG 2040 Forecast

Households are classified as Persons with Children, Two or More People without Children, and Persons Living Alone. In Ecorse, 28% of households are Persons with Children, 31% are Two or More People without Children, and 41% are Persons Living Alone. Knowledge of the composition of households is important for parks and recreation planning as people in different living situations will desire and benefit from parks and recreation facilities. There is an equal distribution of household types between Persons with Children and Two or More People Without Children. However, the population of Persons Living Alone has increased from 34% to 41%. A variety of facilities are necessary to accommodate all household types.



## AGE DISTRIBUTION

An understanding of the age distribution in the city is essential in planning for future parks and recreation needs. As we pass through the various stages of life, our activity requirements change resulting in the need for different facilities and programs. In Ecorse, the proportion of the population that is 65 years and older is forecast to grow significantly (23.7%) relative to the rest of the population. At the same time, all other portions of the population are anticipated to decrease.

The residents from 35 to 64 years of age make up the majority of the 2020 population, and there is an equal distribution of those in the School Age and Young Adult life stages. Each of these groups requires different facilities and programs. The city's parks and recreation facilities and programs should change to address the different needs of an aging population while at the same time account for the youth and adults in the community. Healthy living, recreational, and cultural opportunities play a major role in where people choose to live, raise families, and retire.

**Table 3: Age Distribution in Ecorse, 2020-2045**

Age Group	Life Phase	2020		2045	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 – 4	Preschool	857	9.2%	509	5.9%
5 – 17	School Age	1,632	17.5%	1,125	12.9%
18 – 34	Young Adult	1,694	18.2%	1,570	20.8%
35 – 64	Adult	3,412	36.7%	2,284	30.3%
65 +	Retirement	1,710	18.4%	2,115	24.3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,305</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,690</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SEMCOG, 2020





# Economic Characteristics

A variety of economic indicators suggest that Ecorse is challenged economically. The median household income of the City's residents is lower than that of Wayne County and southeast Michigan, and unemployment is higher. This suggests that public parks and recreation facilities are vitally important to residents who do not have the resources to pay for private recreation opportunities. Continued funding is necessary to help provide these activities.

Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level at which half of all households earn more, and half earn less. In 2020, the median household income in Ecorse (\$34,278) was considerably lower than the Wayne County median (\$49,359) and that of Southeast Michigan (\$64,068). According to the 2020 Five-Year American Community Survey, 28.8% of the City's households live in poverty.

# Physical Characteristics

## ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

The city is relatively flat and is located at an elevation of 580 feet. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey for Wayne County (1977) indicates much of the soil in Ecorse is classified as the Hoytville-Nappanee association. This association is defined as nearly level and gently sloping, very poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained soils that have fine textured subsoil. A second smaller soil association, the Belleville-Selfridge-Tedrow association, is generally located east of Jefferson Avenue and north of Outer Drive. This association is defined as loamy, substratum, nearly level, very poorly drained to somewhat poorly drained that has a coarsely textured to moderately fine textured subsoil over a coarse textured to moderately fine textured substrata.

While the city's residential, commercial, and industrial development has altered its physical environment over decades, the city has two significant environmental features: the Detroit River and the Ecorse Creek (also called the Ecorse River). The Detroit River is a major international waterway that is a fundamental component of the Great Lakes water system and its use in commerce and industry has shaped the City of Ecorse. However, its use as a recreational asset has only recently begun to have a greater impact on the community. The Ecorse Creek, acting as the municipal boundary to the south and southwest portion of the city, also has the potential to create new recreational opportunities. The natural environment that remains along the Ecorse Creek is a significant asset that the City can utilize to greatly improve the connection citizens could have with nature.



A cleanup volunteer observes part of Ecorse Creek.

## Climate

The climate of the region is typical of other Southeastern Michigan communities. January tends to be the coldest month with an average temperature of 27F, while July tends to be the warmest with an average temperature of 75F. Annual precipitation is approximately 31 inches with the heaviest occurrences during the months of May, June, and July. The area's average annual snowfall is 42 inches. Snowfall is sporadic, which makes it difficult to sustain outdoor winter activities that require adequate snowfall. Prevailing winds are from the southwest, and tornados, while known to occur occasionally, are not frequent in Downriver. The climate in Ecorse is affected by the numerous large bodies of water in the immediate vicinity. Area water resources include Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie. In addition, there are 40 square miles of inland water areas within Wayne and Oakland Counties.

## EXISTING LAND USE

**Table 4: Land Use Types, 2020**

Land Use	Percentage
Single-Family Residential	20.3%
Attached Condo Housing	0.1%
Multi-Family Housing	1.0%
Mobile Home	0.4%
Agricultural/Rural Residential	0.0%
Mixed Use	0.0%
Retail	1.3%
Office	1.8%
Hospitality	0.3%
Medical	0.0%
Institutional	2.2%
Industrial	27.7%
Recreational/Open Space	2.8%
Cemetery	0.1%
Golf Course	0.0%
Parking	0.2%
Extractive	0.0%
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities	3.1%
Vacant	17.8%
Water	0.3%
Not Parceled (roadways and other areas not covered by a parcel boundary)	20.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: SEMCOG, 2020

Today, Ecorse has a mixture of land uses. Initially, the City developed with a combination of heavy industrial uses along the Detroit River and the railroads, and single family homes for the workers. Land along the major thoroughfares of Jefferson Avenue and Southfield Road has been developed to provide retail services and other commercial activities. The abandonment of two steel mill sites in the city, including US Steel, is indicative of the redevelopment opportunities facing the community. Dingell Park, a linear park offering views and passive recreation along the Detroit River, is a notable exception to the predominant non-residential appearance of the riverfront in Ecorse.

Industrial uses encompass the highest percentage of the city's land area of any single category at 27.7%, followed by Single Family Residential uses at 20.3%. In addition to these land uses, Vacant parcels increased from 12.1% of all land uses to 17.8% between 2015 and 2020.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Roads

Located in metropolitan Detroit, the city is served by a developed street network. The major thoroughfares of Southfield Road and West Outer Drive travel east to west and begin within the city. Jefferson Avenue is a major north-south route within the region and connects Ecorse to Downtown Detroit on the north and other Downriver communities to the south.

The street network of the city is generally laid out on a grid system which allows efficient access to internal city streets as well as the regional network.

There are no state or interstate highways running through Ecorse. Interstate 75 (I-75) is located approximately two and a half miles to the west, while Fort Street (State Route M-85) is located two miles to the west. Both provide north-south regional access in proximity to the city. The Wayne County Department of Public Services, Division of Roads has administrative jurisdiction over the County primary roads in Ecorse: Jefferson Avenue, West Outer Drive and Southfield Road. The remaining streets are under the jurisdiction of the City of Ecorse.

### Buses

The City is served by Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), the metropolitan Detroit regional bus network provider. Route 125 Fort Street/Eureka Road provides service along Jefferson Avenue and Outer Drive, while Route 140 Southshore provides service along Jefferson Avenue and Southfield Road.

### Airports

The Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport is in Romulus, Michigan, approximately 12 miles northwest of Ecorse. The airport is the primary international airport for the Metro Detroit area and provides passenger and cargo service to the region.

### Pedestrian Circulation

The city contains a network of sidewalks, but their presence and condition vary. Sidewalks only adequately provide access for pedestrians, not bicyclists, roller blade users, and others. The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative is an organization of 21 Downriver communities established in 1998 that promotes and facilitates the creation of a system of greenways providing access and physical activity for pedestrians and bicyclists. They have identified the need in the area for a greenway traveling from the City of Detroit, south through Ecorse connecting to communities as far south as the City of Monroe. The city is currently participating in a regional planning effort, led by the State of Michigan and in partnership with Lincoln Park, to improve Southfield Highway. The 2022 Southfield Road Corridor Study is looking at ways the corridor can be made safer and more enjoyable for pedestrians, motorists, cyclists, and transit users through design and traffic controls.

### Civic and Cultural Features

The Albert B. Buday Civic Center is the primary municipal facility for the City of Ecorse. The Civic Center is located on the east side of Jefferson Avenue, three blocks south of Visger Road. The site contains a number of civic and governmental activities, including the City offices, Council Chambers, Fire Station, Police Department, and the District Court.

While public library books were provided to Ecorse residents beginning in 1922, there was no permanent dedicated facility until the Ecorse Public Library was completed in December 1948. Located at the northwest corner of Outer Drive and Jefferson Avenue, the Library maintains an adult and children's book collection in addition to providing other community services. As of October 2022, the Ecorse Public Library is undergoing a large-scale renovation project. The improvements will include the addition of several study rooms, space for the Ecorse Historical Society, increased and updated space to house materials, updates to accommodate ADA compliance, and many other improvements.

# Conclusions Regarding Recreation Planning

As identified above, the population of Ecorse is expected to decrease at a slowing rate before stabilizing near 8,700 residents. One quarter of those residents will be in the senior age group (65+), while roughly 13% will be school age children (5 to 17 years old). A wide range of age groups will require access to a variety of recreational facilities and programs which the City should continue to provide if it wishes to contribute to residents' physical well-being and overall quality of life. Access to facilities in adjacent communities is available but limited to some extent due to physical barriers such as major thoroughfares, railroad tracks, and political boundaries.

## IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning future programs and appropriate locations for facilities and activities. Even if not permanently disabled, all persons may face some form of temporary disability during their lifetime: seniors, young children, pregnant women, individuals with broken bones, individuals using crutches, etc.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which took effect on January 26, 1992, prohibits discrimination, both intentional and unintentional, against individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities, and services provided by public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments and agencies, and any other agencies or special purpose districts of state or local governments.

Public recreation providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services that screen out, or tend to screen out, persons with disabilities, unless they can establish that the requirements are necessary for the provision of the service, program, or activity due to legitimate safety requirements. Furthermore, individuals with disabilities may not be excluded from services, programs, and activities because existing buildings or park facilities are inaccessible.

To comply with the ADA, municipalities have the following alternatives: alteration of existing facilities, acquisition or construction of new facilities, relocation of services or programs to an accessible facility, or provision of services at accessible sites. Recreation facilities must be examined to determine if their design creates barriers that prevent use by all segments of the population, including seniors. Programs must also be examined to be certain they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents regardless of their social, economic, or physical status.

In essence, the ADA and MDNR policies mandate that communities work toward developing "inclusive recreation programs." Inclusive recreation programs identify residents' interests and needs, then address these interests and needs with facilities and programs that are not only barrier-free, but also are adaptable so that everyone can have a pleasant recreation experience together.

Disability data is collected for three age groups. Typically, as the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with the figures for Ecorse. Overall, approximately 18.6% of the city's population is estimated to have one or more disability. More than one third of the population 65 years and older has one or more disability. The City should consider the needs of these residents and continually examine the existing inventory for compliance.

**Table 5: Persons with Disabilities, Ecorse, 2020**

Age Group	Total Persons	With a Disability*	Percent
0 – 17	2,489	185	7.4%
18 – 64	5,233	1,442	27.6%
65 +	1,710	756	44.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,432</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>25.3%</b>

Source: U.S. American Community Survey 2016-2020 Estimates

\*The number of persons with a disability is taken as a sample resulting in a +/- margin of error as high as 15.8%







03.

# INVENTORY OF RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## Overview

The City of Ecorse has eleven (11) municipal parks, one (1) public boat launch, and a combination senior-recreation center (See Map 2). There are also indoor and outdoor recreation facilities located at Grand Port Elementary, Ralph Bunche Elementary, and the Kennedy Middle School/Ecorse High School campus.

Dingell Park, a city park, is classified as a regional facility. Dingell Park's river walk, play equipment, picnic pavilion, and restroom facilities provide residents in the Downriver community with direct access to the Detroit River. There are also several regional recreational areas within an hour drive of the city. These regional facilities offer a variety of recreational opportunities for all age groups. Public golf courses and inland lakes are also within a short drive of the city. In addition, there are private and commercial recreation facilities that help fulfill certain recreational needs in adjacent communities.

## SCHOOL PARKLAND

Ecorse owns 19.1 acres of park land, while Ecorse Public Schools owns and operates another 17.9 acres of land as park space. City parks range in size from 0.3 acres to 5 acres. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources utilizes the National Recreation and Parks Association standards to classify recreational facilities into seven different types. The following inventory describes and organizes each municipal facility based on its classification. Table 6 further details the features of each facility inventoried. The City and Public Schools recreation sites are depicted on Map 2.

## ABOUT THE INVENTORY

The City conducted an inventory of Ecorse’s existing local and regional recreation facilities in August 2022. The inventory consisted of an on-the-ground site assessment of every City-owned park, each of which staff walked in its entirety. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded for every park and reviewed with regard to location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition.

Step	Action
Arrive at subject park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photograph park signage (or absence thereof)</li> <li>Photograph park standing at sign or from other edge location</li> </ul>
Determine whether there’s a <b>typical pedestrian approach</b> point(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photograph typical approach</li> <li>Make note of any impressions</li> <li>Make note of condition</li> </ul>
Complete inventory of <b>recreation facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photograph recreation facilities</li> <li>Review current plan inventory table</li> <li>Revise current plan inventory table if change</li> <li>Add new facilities or features not listed in current to table</li> <li>Make note of condition</li> </ul>
Complete accessibility assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review current plan accessibility ranking (1-5)</li> <li>Complete applicable sections of accessibility checklist (New England ADA Existing Facilities Checklist, 2017, and other ADA standards as required)</li> <li>Determine proposed accessibility ranking (1-5)</li> </ul>
Consider sustainability opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review sustainability priorities from previous plan</li> <li>Make note of any new sustainability improvements or degradation</li> <li>Complete applicable sections of sustainability checklist</li> </ul>

## BARRIER FREE ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Ecorse’s parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

A five-level evaluation system was used to rank each facility’s accessibility. The system is described below, and the accessibility rankings can be found following the description of each park and facility owned by the City.

**Level 1.** The facility is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes few paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

**Level 2.** The facility is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

**Level 3.** The facility is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.

**Level 4.** The facility is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas area easily accessible.

**Level 5.** The facility park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.



# City Parks Inventory

## REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation including viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, picnicking, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, and trails. Many include active play areas.

### Dingell Park

4.4 ACRES

The only regional park in Ecorse, Dingell Park is located at the south end of the city. It is 4.4 acres, 100 feet wide at the south end and approximately 300 feet wide at its north end. It runs a quarter-mile along the Detroit River, with West Jefferson Avenue on its west side. It has a handicapped-accessible restroom facility (4 stalls for women, 2 for men) a boardwalk with a metal railing along the river and on-street parking along Jefferson Avenue; two (2) play areas (an older one at the north end with swings and a playscape, and a new modular play structure at the south end); wooden benches at regular intervals along the entire length facing the water; two (2) new metal benches facing the southern play area; and a monument to WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans. Dingell is an open park with trees along the street, but no trees to shade the benches along the river. The park and play area are heavily used. Many people can be found fishing at almost any time during the day and evening. The brick walk throughout the park tends to lack comprehensive maintenance that is needed to maintain easy wheelchair access, and neither of the play areas are barrier-free.

Note: The City received grant funds to install a new kayak launch at the south end of Dingell Park. The facility is anticipated to begin construction in 2023.

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 3**





## MINI PARKS

Mini parks are defined as small, specialized parks, typically less than an acre in area that serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. They may serve a limited population or specific group such as young pre-school children or senior citizens. Six (6) city parks can be classified as mini parks.

### *Bell/Visger Playground*

0.5 ACRE

This is a small, triangular-shaped, fenced-in 0.5-acre park at Bell and Visger Streets. It contains new play equipment consisting of two (2) swing sets, one large play structure, and (3) three benches. The park is challenged by an undermaintained/sagging entry gate, and there are no paved interior paths.

**Accessibility Assessment = 2**





# East Glenwood Park

0.4 ACRES

Located at the southwest corner of East Glenwood and Ironton Avenues, this 0.4-acre park is rectangular in shape with a chain-link fence. The sidewalk bordering the park was replaced in 2022, but there are no internal paved pathways connecting the street to the playscape, making it impractical or impossible for a wheelchair user to access any of the amenities. The playground area consists of a brand-new modular play structure, complete with swings, slides, and climbers. There is also a half-sized basketball court.

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 1**



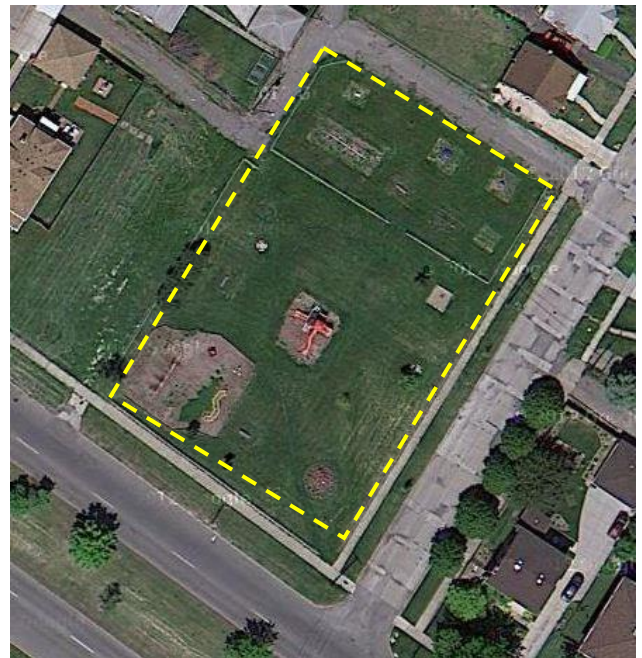


## Outer Drive and 15<sup>th</sup> Playground

0.7 ACRES

Located at Outer Drive and 15th Street, this 0.7-acre park consists of two (2) distinct areas – a larger play area and an outdoor fitness center. The play area contains one large, new modular play structure, complete with swings, a slide, climbers, and two (2) new metal benches. The new fitness park hosts a wide variety of exercise equipment, as depicted in the image below, and has three (3) adjacent benches. The park also includes one (1) gazebo, previously funded by CDBG. Despite the site's many amenities, the internal circulation is not paved, thereby limiting access for people of all ages and abilities.

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 2**





## Salliotte and 12<sup>th</sup> Park

0.8 ACRES

This 140-foot x 250-foot park is located on the corner of Salliotte and Twelfth Streets. It consists of two (2) parcels of equal size separated by a vacated alley right-of-way. This City-owned property has been leased to the House of Freedom Church of God in Christ. The parcel located at the southwest corner of the intersection formerly contained a half-size basketball court, two (2) benches, and two (2) picnic tables – today, the basketball hoops and tables have been removed and a chain-link fence has been erected around the park. Although the fence has access doors, it is not immediately clear upon approach that the site is a park. This site is also under a purchase agreement as of 2022, wherein the City sold the land to a local faith-based organization in exchange for its development as a publicly accessible park; no such development has yet occurred.

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 1**



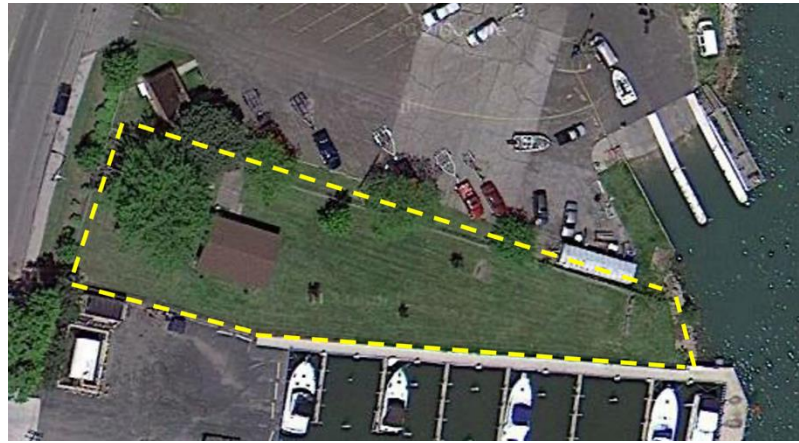


# Senior Citizens Park

0.3 ACRES

This 0.3-acre park is located on the east side of Jefferson Avenue, is adjacent to the Detroit River and the City's public boat launch. It has a picnic pavilion on a cement slab set back from the river with six (6) large picnic tables and four (4) older grills. The access to the pavilion is paved at an angle acceptable for wheelchair access, but a 3-inch strip of pavement is currently missing, thereby creating a hazard for visitors using mobility aids. A new modular play structure was installed in 2022 that features slides, climbers, and swings, making the park more welcoming for multigenerational users – seniors and families can now sit under the pavilion and watch their children play at the same time. This park is most frequently used by people visiting the public boat launch, which abuts the park directly to the north and serves as the parking lot for the park.

Accessibility Assessment = Level 3



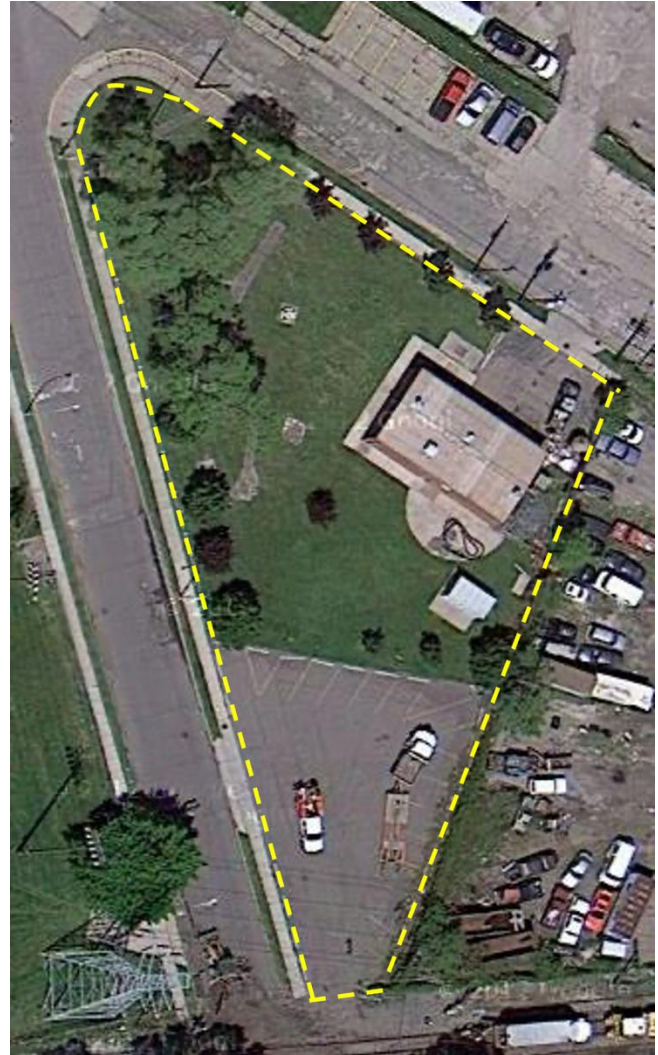


# Zukonik Pumping Station Park

0.5 ACRES

This 0.5-acre triangular parcel of land is bordered by Cicotte and High Streets. The park has three (3) concrete picnic tables and two (2) wooden benches, as well as one trash can and planter. However, one bench had been bent at the time of the inventory, rendering it unusable. The park has a paved pathway running throughout, making the benches and one of the picnic tables accessible for users with a wider range of abilities. Several of the park's largest trees in the northern portion of the park were removed in 2020. The park benefits from having available off-street parking in the adjacent lot to the south, which is also used for parking DPW maintenance equipment when servicing the park. There is a pump station building on the east side of the property.

Accessibility Assessment = Level 2





## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

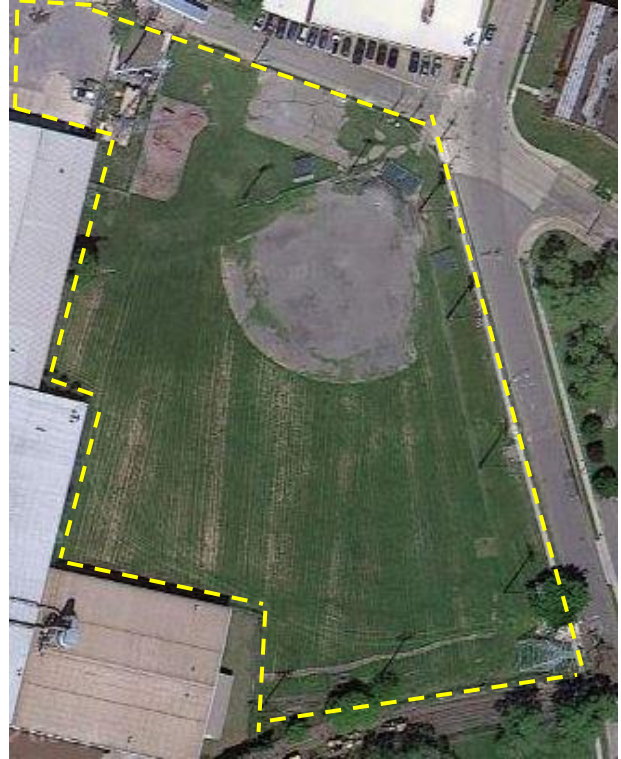
Neighborhood parks are multi-purpose facilities that can accommodate more active recreation including field games, court games, playgrounds, skating, tennis, picnicking, etc. They typically serve residents within a half-mile radius. There are two municipal parks within Ecorse that function as neighborhood parks.

### *Bernard Popp Municipal Field*

3.3 ACRES

This 3.3-acre park is bordered by Cicotte and High Streets and two industrial buildings to the west. Popp Field is fenced and contains one baseball diamond with four bleachers and lights, as well as one abandoned ball diamond with a single set of bleachers and lights. There is also a playground consisting of three climbers, a swing set, a plastic rock-climbing wall, and a merry-go-round. The pavement surrounding and throughout the park is generally in disrepair, but paved paths do connect the street sidewalk to one stand of bleachers. Several of the bleacher risers, which are made of wood and attached to the steel frame, need re-sealing to extend their usable lifetime. Due to their infrequent use, the bleachers also have substantial weed and vine growth underneath which inhibits users from sitting on the lower levels.

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 1**



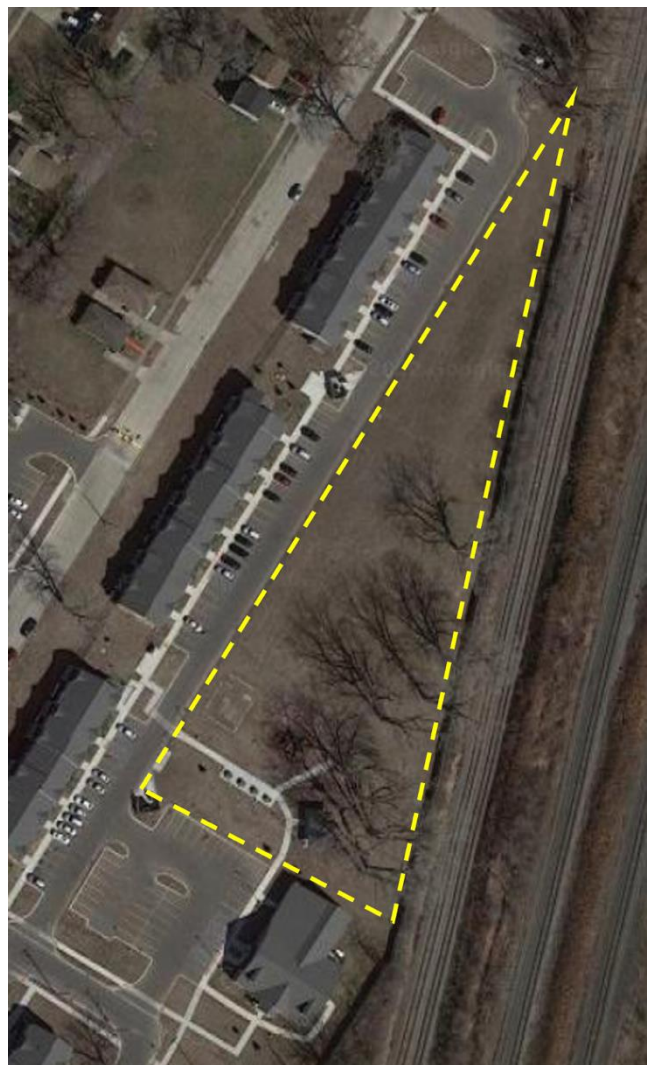


# Ecorse Housing Park

2.0 ACRE

This is a 2-acre triangular park behind the Renaissance Estates Housing Complex between Hyacinth and Francis Streets near Eighth Street and bordered to the east by railroad tracks. Primarily an area for residents of this complex, it has a play area with a large, new modular play structure, climbing sets, and two (2) swing sets. To the east of the play area is a new covered gazebo, with picnic tables, benches, and grills. It includes paved paths throughout as well as four (4) handicap parking spaces nearby.

Accessibility Assessment = Level 4



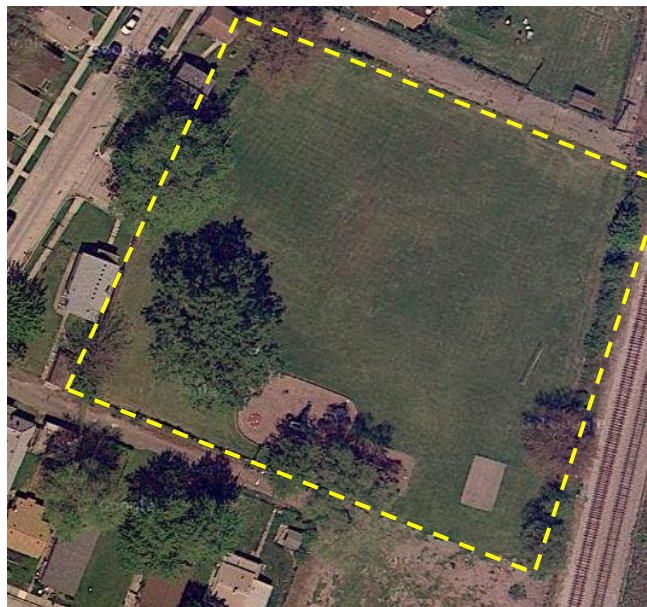


## Beach and Cicotte Park

1.5 ACRE

Located northeast of the intersection of Beach and Cicotte Streets, this is a 1.5-acre rectangular park located behind several single family homes and adjacent to the railroad. The park contains a soccer field with older goal posts and an uneven grass playing surface. There is a new modular play structure with slides, climbers, and swings located in the playground area on the south end of the park. There are no established paths throughout the park. The park can be accessed from the roads on the north, south, and west sides. All roads abutting the park are one-way, which makes finding the park confusing and may limit visitor numbers.

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 1**





## COMMUNITY PARKS

Larger parks that contain a variety of active and passive recreation facilities to meet diverse needs from several neighborhoods are classified as community parks. They typically contain intensive use facilities such as athletic field complexes or swimming pools and other features not often found in neighborhood parks, such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession stands. Ecorse has one community park, located on the western edge of the city.

### Eli Ciungan Park – “Pepper Park”

5.0 ACRE

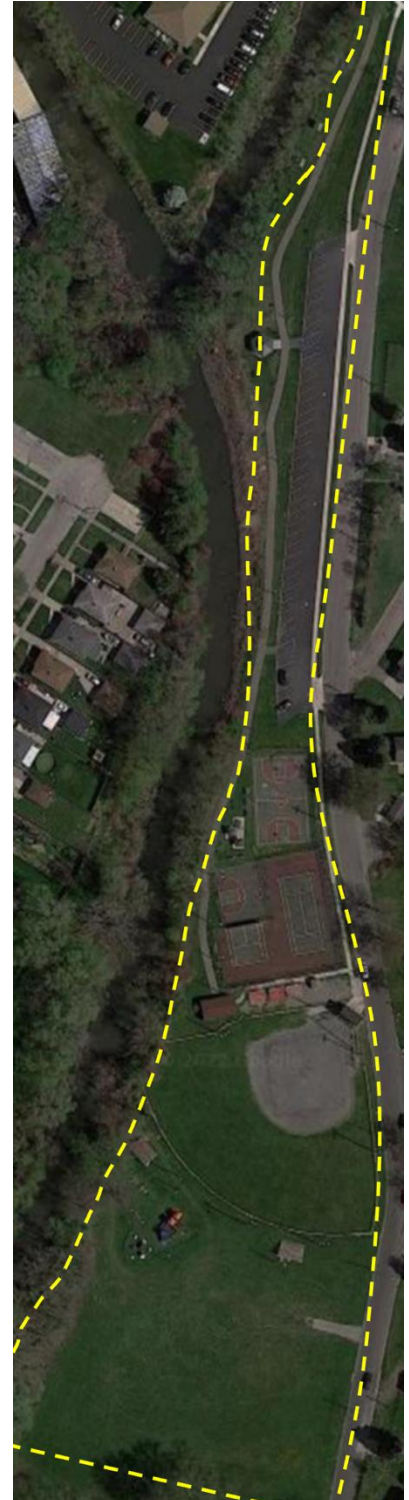
This 5.0-acre park, located on Pepper Road at Cicotte Street, has several facilities. These include a baseball field with one set of three (3) bleachers, one single bleacher, a concession building with lights and scoreboard, and a separate restroom/storage facility. At the north end of the park are two (2) tennis courts and a basketball court. The park has 500 feet of street frontage. There is a vacant parcel immediately south of the park that could be considered for future acquisition and park expansion.

The park also includes a youth play area with several pieces of equipment including a newer play structure, swings, and a climbing wall. Included is a gazebo with picnic tables and a grill. There is also a walking trail with picnic areas throughout the park. The trail leads to West Outer Drive.

“Pepper Park” is one of the most heavily used parks in Ecorse. It has a mostly contiguous paved path throughout, although there are numerous points where the threshold is too high to be accessible, including the restroom entry.

#### Accessibility Assessment = Level 3

*Note: Pepper Park is the future home of the Ecorse Splash Pad, below.*



## SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

A special use facility is a single-purpose facility such as a golf course, nature/interpretive center, outdoor theater, or area for the preservation of the natural/cultural environment. While these can be the primary focus of a site, recreation uses may be secondary.

### *Ecorse Rowing Club Building*

EST. 1837

Established in 1837, the Ecorse Rowing Club was the second-oldest rowing club in the U.S. and the oldest on the Detroit River. It occupied one building located right on the Detroit River at the south end of Dingell Park but was demolished in 2021. The site is the future location of the Ecorse Kayak Launch, for which funds were awarded in 2022. The site has not yet been developed post-demolition, and no improvements exist save for a dis-used concrete pad and walkway (formerly the parking lot).

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 1**





# Public Boat Launch

## JEFFERSON AVENUE

Located on Jefferson Avenue at the very south end of the city, the launch is owned by the City and privately operated. There is one large boat launch with two (2) docks, 47 extra-long parking spaces, and a single-stall men's and women's restroom facility (only the women's is handicapped accessible). The parcel that encompasses the boat launch also encompasses Senior Citizen's Park, located to the immediate south of the parking lot.

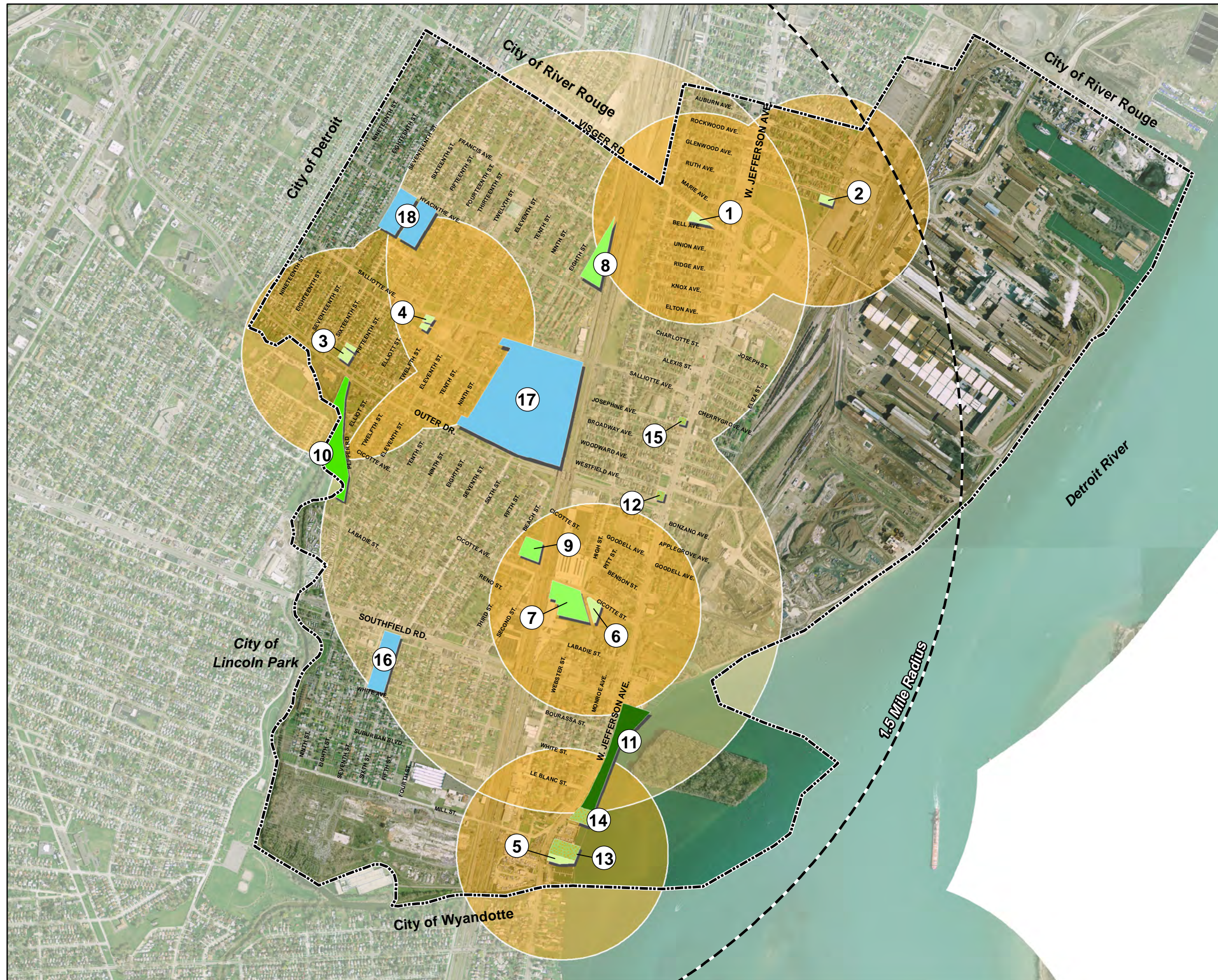
### Accessibility Assessment = Level 2





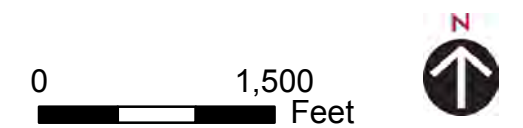
# Map 2 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

City of Ecorse, Michigan



- Mini-Parks
  1. Bell and Visger Playground
  2. East Glenwood Park
  3. Outer Drive and 15th Playground
  4. Salliotte and 12th Park
  5. Senior Citizen Park
  6. Zukonic Pumping Station Park
- Neighborhood Park
  7. Bernard Popp Municipal Field
  8. Ecorse Housing Park
  9. Beach and Cicotte Park
- Community Park
  10. Eli Ciungan Park
- Regional Park
  11. Dingell Park
- Municipal Facilities
  12. Ecorse Public Library
  13. Public Boat Launch
  14. Rowing Club Building
  15. Senior Center
- School Facilities
  16. Grand Port Elementary School and Park
  17. Kennedy/Ecorse High School and Park
  18. Ralph Bunche Elementary School and Park

- Service Areas**
- One and Half Mile Service Area
  - Half Mile Service Area
  - Quarter Mile Service Area



Base Map Source: Wayne County GIS, 12/2002, Data Source: McKenna Associates, Inc. 1/2014



**Table 6: Existing Recreation Facilities Inventory**

Amenities, hard surfaced areas, passive areas, organized play areas, playgrounds

Facility <sup>2</sup>	Area (in Acres)	Amenities				Hard Surfaced Areas			Passive Areas				Organized Play Areas				Playgrounds			
		Parking	Concessions	Fitness Equipment	Restrooms	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Running Tracks	Benches	Pathways	Pavillion/ Gazebo	Picnic Areas	Baseball/ Softball Field	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Lighting	Spectator Seating	Modular Play Structures	Swingsets (# of swings)	Climbers
<b>Mini Parks</b>																				
Bell and Visger Park	0.5	OS									■							2	4	
East Glenwood Park	0.4	OS				.5		■			■						■	4		
Outer Dr and 15th Park	0.7	OS		1				■		■	■						■	4		
Salliotte and 12th Park	0.5	OS				*														
Senior Citizens Park	0.3	AD			1			■		■	■						■	4	1	
Zukonic Pumping Station Park	0.5	OS						■			■									
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>																				
Bernard Popp Municipal Field	3.3	OS										■			■	■	■	1	1	
Ecorse Housing Park	2.0	OS				2										■	■	2	1	
Beach and Cicotte Park	1.5	OS												■			■	1	2	
<b>Community Parks</b>																				
Pepper (Eli Ciungan) Park	5.0	OS	1		1	1.5	1.5		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	1	1
<b>Regional Park</b>																				
Dingell Park	4.4	OS	1		1				■	■	■	■				■		■	6	3
<b>Special Use Facilities</b>																				
Public Boat Launch	2.2	OS			1										■					
Ecorse Rowing Club Site	0.5	-																		

Legend: OS – On Street Parking

AD – Off Street Parking Lot directly adjacent

\* - Basketball posts and baskets at Salliotte and 12th have been removed.

1 – Facilities that do not exist in any of the public parks or the Recreation Center, such as swimming pools, are not listed on this table

2 – These facility categories are from the NRPA 1983 Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Even though they are not used in the 2022 NRPA Parks Metrics Agency Performance Review benchmarks, they have been retained for illustrative purposes in Table 6 to bridge the gap between the two evaluation systems.

Facility	Accessibility Level	Comments
<b>Mini Parks</b>		
Bell and Visger Park	2	The park's singular unpaved access point presents a challenge for those with mobility or vision challenges. Additionally, the park gate tends to swing into the public sidewalk along Bell Road, which obstructs passage for pedestrians and those who use mobility devices, forcing them to pass in the street. The absence of paved paths on the interior limits the multigeneration-friendliness in the park.
East Glenwood Park	1	The park does not have a paved access point or paths connecting the interior amenities,
Outer Dr and 15th Park	2	There are several dirt paths running throughout the site, but no paved paths connect the age-friendly fitness equipment to the right of way sidewalk.
Salliotte and 12th Park	1	The site is completely unimproved except for the remaining basketball cement pad, which is in disrepair. The main gate off 12th Street is often locked, forcing visitors to walk through the neighboring vacant lot to access the park.
Senior Citizens Park	3	A 6-inch-wide grass strip interrupts the pavement ramp to the picnic area, creating an obstacle for anyone in a wheelchair or using a mobility device such as a cane or walker. It can also present tripping hazard for someone with low vision.
Zukonic Pumping Station Park	2	One bench has been tipped over, rendering it useless, and the pavement is in general need of repair. The picnic tables are all disconnected from the main path, making them less-than-ideal for those with a mobility challenge. Additionally, there is no paths from the parking lot to the park interior.
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
Bernard Popp Municipal Field	1	The paths throughout the site are paved but have been almost completely overgrown, rendering them unusable. The play area is located at the far rear of the site, making it difficult to reach, and is generally overgrown. The bleachers need new sealant to extend their lifetime or risk the wood rotting away, and vines overgrow the bottom several flights of the bleachers, making it hard for anyone to use them without climbing up.
Ecorse Housing Park	4	The park's paved paths terminate at the playground and do not extend throughout the open field area.
Beach and Cicotte Park	1	The park has no established paths, paved or unpaved, and the play structure sits very far back from any entrance point. Additionally, the ground is very uneven and could be a hazard for those with low vision or balance challenges.
<b>Community Parks</b>		
Pepper (Eli Ciungan) Park	3	The park has paved paths and accessible features throughout, but no path connects the main network to the tennis courts or new playscape.
<b>Regional Parks</b>		
Dingell Park	3	Weed growth in parts of the brick paths present a challenge for those using mobility devices. The northern playscape is neither barrier-free nor deigned with universal design principles in mind.
<b>Special Use Facilities</b>		
Public Boat Launch	2	No dedicated handicap spaces exist directly adjacent to the boat launch and the curb in front of the payment kiosk does not have an accessible ramp. There is no visual or physical demarcation in pavement to let users know when they are close to the water's edge, which presents a hazard for those with low vision. Only one restroom is handicap accessible.
Ecorse Rowing Club Site	1	The site has not yet been developed post-demolition.

# Public School Facilities Inventory

In addition to municipal facilities, elementary schools often provide recreation opportunities for residents of the surrounding neighborhood. Middle and high school facilities are designed for older children, thus can serve a broader population base. The Ecorse School District maintains recreation facilities at its four (4) schools (two elementary, one middle and one high school). The schools contain a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, all of which are available to district residents either at no charge or for a nominal fee. Use of these facilities is first available to school athletic teams and for scheduled programs, then open to the public by request. However, the primary responsibility of the school district is to serve its students, so the community at large should not become dependent on these facilities.

## RALPH BUNCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Located at Hyacinth and 17th St, this school has a smaller play area located behind the school with three (3) modular play structures, four (4) swing-sets, and four (4) climbers. The school site also has a full-sized football field with bleachers and scoreboard.

## GRAND PORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The school has a fenced play area located behind the school on Outer Drive between Sixth and Seventh Streets. It contains a new modular play structure and a full-sized basketball court.

## KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL/ECORSE HIGH SCHOOL

Kennedy Middle School is located on Outer Drive next to Ecorse High School. Behind it is a fenced play area, with a modular play structure. Directly behind that is another fenced area that contains one baseball diamond with score boards. Behind this area and extending to Salliotte Street is another fenced parcel of equal size that contains one more baseball diamond with score board. Ecorse High School facilities include: a large football field with lights, bleachers and scoreboard, a track and six tennis courts. The campus also has an indoor swimming pool, gym with basketball court and second floor indoor track.

# Private Recreation Facilities Inventory

Several privately-owned recreation facilities are located near Ecorse, but only one is located within the city boundary: the River's Edge Marina. The Marina is located at 4700 West Jefferson Ave, on the very south end of the city, and it has 32 lakefront dock wells, 19 creek-facing dock wells, 3 boat ramps, restrooms and showers, a public fuel dock, and a maintenance building. It also has a year-round boat storage facility. More detail about the Marina's place in the local waterfront economy can be found in the "Blue Economy" chapter of this plan.

All other private facilities are located outside the city's boundary, with the majority being in nearby Lincoln Park and Wyandotte. Although use of these facilities is limited to those who can afford the fees, they do address certain recreation needs. Private facilities that are available include roller skating rinks, bowling alleys, gymnasiums, racquet clubs, and fitness clubs. Their availability should be considered in evaluating future recreation needs.



Aerial view of Riverfront Marina



# Regional Recreation Resources Inventory

**Table 7: Recreational Facilities within 30 Miles of Ecorse, MI**

1	Belle Isle	18	Kensington Metropark
2	Belleville Lake Boat Launch	19	Metro Beach Metropark
3	Detroit Zoological Park	20	Sterling State Park
4	Dodge State Park #4	21	Point Mouillee State Game Area
5	Freedom Hill County Park	22	Crosswinds Marsh County Park
6	Glen Oaks County Park	23	Rolling Hills County Park
7	Lake Erie Metropark	24	County Farm Park
8	Lower Huron Metropark	25	Parker Miller County Park
9	Lyon Oaks County Park	26	Northfield County Park
10	Maybury State Park	27	Bell Creek County Park
11	Oakwoods Metropark	28	Chandler County Park Family Aquatic Center
12	Proud Lake State Recreation Area	29	Elizabeth County Park
13	Red Oaks County Park	30	Inkster Valley County Golf Course
14	River Rouge County Park System (Hines Parkway)	31	Lola Valley County Park
15	Milliken State Park	32	Warren Valley County Golf Course
16	Waterford Oaks County Park	33	Holiday County Forest and Wildlife Preserve
17	Willow Metropark		

Regional recreation areas are larger facilities serving people within a broad geographic area. For purposes of this plan, the region has been defined as the area within roughly an hour driving radius of Ecorse.

Table 7 summarizes these regional facilities. The size and type of facilities vary, but in general these parks are 200 acres or more in size. The regional park facilities closest to the city include the Lake Erie Metropark, Belle Isle and Elizabeth County Park.

# City-Owned Indoor Recreation Facilities Inventory

## SENIOR CENTER

The City of Ecorse Ethel V. Stevenson Senior Center is located at 4072 W. Jefferson Avenue. The Senior Center offers services and activities to the city's older adult population. Services provided include a "Meals on Wheels" program for homebound seniors, lunch at the Center (for a small fee), and a bus service. The Center provides its classes and services Monday through Friday and includes craft classes, bingo, a birthday club, needle art, bridge club, and a commodities pick-up. The Senior Center interior was renovated in 2022 to include new bathrooms and kitchen, as well as office space.



## RECREATION CENTER

The Recreation Center is located at 4068 W Jefferson Avenue, directly next to the Senior Center – the two share a connecting doorway inside that can be used to transform the two spaces into one for larger events. The Recreation Center mostly consists of an open classroom space with cushioned plastic mat flooring, and it is used for many of the city's classes: yoga, cardio drumming, and more. The building next to the recreation center was demolished in 2022 and the vacant lot is going to be converted into a pickleball flex-court, so the Recreation Center can offer outdoor classes in addition to existing indoor classes.



### Building Accessibility

The parking lot adjacent to the Senior and Recreation Center buildings was newly renovated in 2022 and now includes two ADA-accessible parking spaces, which connect directly to the sidewalk along W Jefferson Avenue. Both buildings have a zero-threshold entry and now feature ADA-compliant bathrooms as a part of the recent renovation. However, the entrance doors both remain manually operated, presenting a challenge for those with limited motor function or other physical impairments.

**Accessibility Assessment = Level 4.**





# Recreation Programs

The City of Ecorse offers a variety of classes and sports programs for free to the community at large. Programs are operated by volunteers and by paid program instructors, who receive a flat fee for their services no matter how many or how few students they have (more popular classes have caps on enrollment). After Ecorse residents have been given a chance to register, youth sports programs that have additional spaces available are advertised to residents in neighboring cities, such as River Rouge.

The following classes are currently offered through the Parks and Recreation Department:

Sports Programs	Non-Sports Fitness Classes	Arts, Culture, And Skill Classes
Baseball Ages: 4-6 years & 7-9 years	Water Aerobics Ages: Adult and Senior	Crafting Ages: Senior
Basketball Ages: 6-9 years & 10-12 years	Cardio Drumming Ages: All	Bingo Ages: Senior
Kickball Ages: All	Cardio Dance Ages: All	Other public clubs use the recreation center to offer events.
Softball Ages: 7-14 years	Beginner Yoga & Chair Yoga Ages: Adult and Senior	

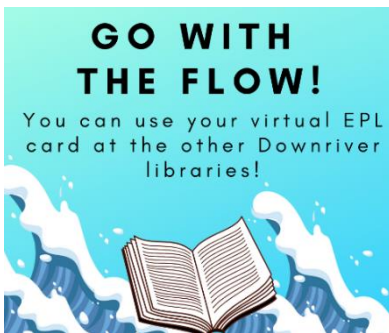
In the winter months, Ecorse operates a youth basketball league in partnership with the cities of Detroit and River Rouge. In the summer months, a baseball league consisting of 16 teams competes at three different age/skill levels. These levels include a T-ball level, a coach's pitch level and a fast ball level. In summer 2013, the \$20 per participant fee was used towards the uniforms for each player. The baseball program used the field at Pepper (Eli Ciungan) Park for all games. In the winter months, a basketball league is operated with games taking place at the Bunche Elementary School indoor gymnasium. A \$20 per child fee is collected and used towards the cost of the uniforms. The program has two age levels, 4-8 years old and 9-13 years old, with over 50 participants in the younger level and over 20 participants in the older level.

Although Ecorse Parks and Recreation does not provide all programs typically provided by recreation agencies, other providers' programming supplements the overall offerings for residents. A comparison of the offerings in Ecorse to the 2022 NRPA metrics for agencies with under 20,000 residents is included below.

Programs	% Agencies ( That Offer Nation-Wide)	Ecorse Program Provider
Summer Camps	61	Ecorse Parks and Rec & Ecorse Public Schools
Senior Programs	65	Ecorse Parks and Rec
Teen Programs	46	Ecorse Parks and Rec & Ecorse Public Schools
Programs for People w/Disabilities	36	Disability Network Wayne County Detroit (DNWCD)
STEM Programs	40	Ecorse Public Schools
After-School Programs	47	Ecorse Public Schools
Pre School	25	Ecorse Public Schools & Private Providers
Before-school Programs	16	Ecorse Public Schools
Full Daycare	4	Private Providers

## Ecorse Public Library

Although it is not technically a recreation facility, the Ecorse Public Library often collaborates with the Recreation Center on programming. The Library, located at 4184 W. Jefferson Avenue, offers a homework center, a parent-teacher collection, and books for the blind. In the summer of 2022, the Library also hosted a free book giveaway and a family-friendly dinosaur theme event for kids in Dingell Park, which was a partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department. The Library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and access to the building is compliant with ADA standards.









# 04. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE & FUNDING

## Administrative Organization

As an incorporated City, Ecorse is governed by a City Council, which hires a City Administrator to run day-to-day functions such as hiring and budgeting. The City currently employs one full-time Recreation Director and one part-time recreation staff member. Programs are operated by volunteers and by paid program instructors. The City Administrator works closely with the Department of Public Works (DPW) in coordinating the maintenance required at recreation facilities. The City also maintains a good working relationship with the Ecorse Public Schools administration in coordinating joint use of recreation facilities.



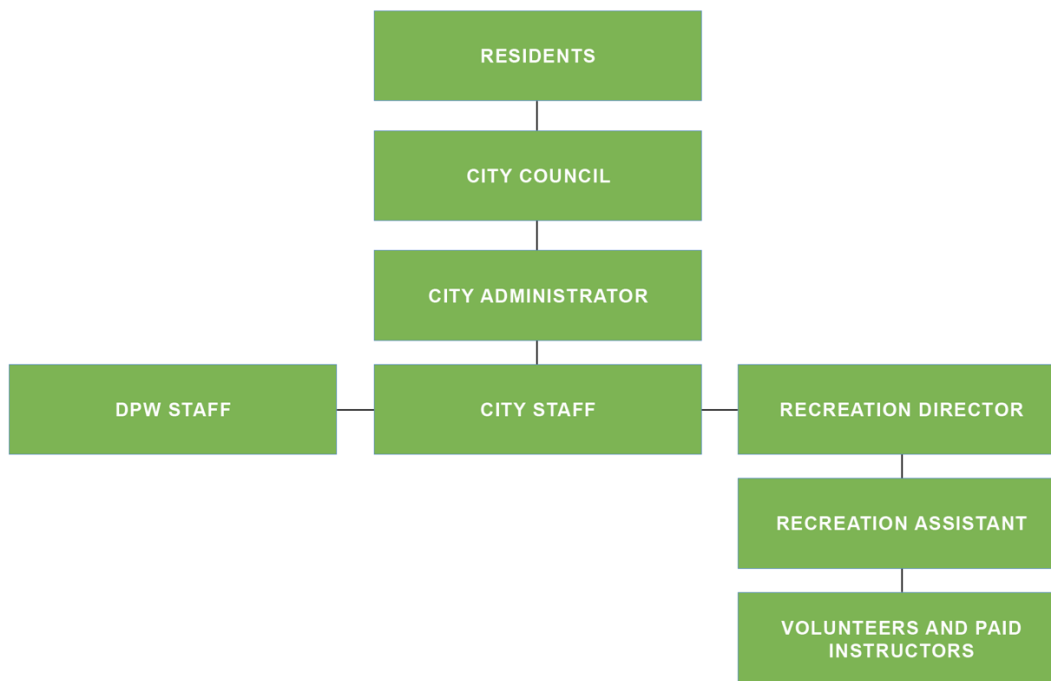
## ROLE SUMMARY

- **Residents:** Provide input on what is desired/not desired for the recreation facilities across the city.
- **City Council:** Transmits feedback from residents to City staff, acts as conduit to the public, and makes funding decisions for any projects over \$20k.
- **City Administrator:** Manages the city’s fiduciary assets and distributes funding, manages grant proposals (DNR and more), hires parks and DPW staff and coordinates maintenance, and makes funding decisions for any projects under \$20k.
- **Recreation Director:** Makes decisions about programming, oversees installation of new recreation facilities equipment, oversees renovations, coordinates public events, applies for grant funding, and coordinates with DPW to implement parks maintenance schedule.
- **Recreation Assistant:** Schedules classes and events, manages park reservations, manages enrollment, and assistant with all other clerical tasks.
- **DPW Staff:** Maintain parks and install new equipment.
- **City Staff:** Update parks and recreation plan and work to coordinate capital improvements with other city projects (roadways, sidewalks, etc.)
- **Volunteers and Paid Instructors:** Paid and volunteer instructors teach/operate classes and programs.

### Additional Park Cleanup Volunteers

- Ecorse Creek Committee
- Friends of the Detroit River
- Ecorse Public Schools
- Michigan Sea Grant

## PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



# Enabling Legislation

The City of Ecorse provides all recreation administration, capital improvements, and functions, and the extent of the City's jurisdiction directly corresponds with the municipal boundary. The City is not part of a special or joint recreation authority and does not have a formal parks and recreation commission or board. The City adopted its [Charter](#) in 1942, in which Chapter VI established administrative offices and duties. At the time of incorporation, the City Engineer was charged with managing the maintenance of the city's parks and City Council reserved the power to purchase and sell public facilities and property. Today, the City Engineer is still responsible for coordinating parks improvements, but maintenance has been delegated to the Department of Public Works and program execution has been delegated to the Recreation Director staff position. Similarly, City Council still has oversight over all property sales and purchases, but they are now coordinated by the City Administrator.

# Parks and Recreation Budget and Funding

The funding for operating the city's parks and recreation system come from the City's General Fund and are allocated annually during the City budget process. The General Fund is the basic operating fund for Ecorse as a whole. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, licenses and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Maintenance of all city park facilities is by the DPW. Recreation program user fees are typically channeled through the General Fund.

Table 8 summarizes the Ecorse budget for parks and recreation in 2021-2022 (fiscal year starting July 1st). The funding and responsibilities are divided between the Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works. Much of the City's budget increase in 2022-2023 is attributed to private and federal grants.

**Table 8: Parks and Recreation Budget**

Item	2021-2022	2022-2023 Projected
<b>Recreation Department</b>		
Wages – Full Time Employees	\$15,000	\$58,000
Staff Salaries	\$5,165	\$0
Vacation Pay	\$1,200	\$3,600
Holiday Pay	\$232	\$3,600
Temporary Employees	\$15,000	\$60,000
Medicare	\$700	\$0
Overtime Salaries	\$500	\$6,000
Defined Contribution Pension Plan	\$500	\$7,000
Health Insurance	\$5,054	\$20,000
Clothing Allowance	\$400	\$400
Life Insurance	\$30	\$100
Professional and Contractual Services	\$30,000	\$10,000
FICA	\$2,170	\$6,820
Supplies and Equipment	\$30,250	\$25,000
Engineering Services	\$65,000	\$300,000
Capital Outlay – Land Improvements	\$680,000	\$1,950,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$852,192</b>	<b>\$2,450,640</b>
<b>Department of Public Works</b>		
Parks Maintenance	\$1,000	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>



## 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 are user fees, revenue bonds, grants, donation of land and/or easements, and contractual agreements involving privatization. The following is a brief description of current funding sources and other sources the City may consider.

**User Fees.** Fees can be charged by the City to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide support for park facilities. Other communities in southeast 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 potential source of funding in the municipality if such selective specialized facilities and services were created.

**Bond Programs.** Several types of bonds can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities:

1. **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.
2. **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 the renovation of the restroom facility at Dingell Park.
3. **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.

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

1. **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Eligible projects include community recreation and trail way improvements. These are grants to local units of government for development of facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas; and including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retrofitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through Federal appropriations. Grant match basis is 50% MDNR to 50% local. Grant amounts range from \$30,000 to \$500,000.
2. **Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF):** 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, ball fields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least 25% of the project cost are required. Grant amounts range from \$15,000 to \$300,000.

There are three special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Council. 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 trailways that contribute to the development of a statewide trail network.

3. **Recreation Passport Grant:** Eligible projects will have the primary purpose of providing public recreation opportunities or facilities and infrastructure to support public recreation activity. The Passport grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but development of new parks is also eligible. Funds are provided from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. The passport will be required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites. Local contributions equal to at least 25% of the project cost are required. Grant amounts range from \$7,500 to \$45,000.
4. **SPARK Grants:** Michigan Spark Grants will support projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people's health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure and make it easier for people to enjoy both indoor and outdoor recreation. It is aimed at helping improve and redevelop

existing public recreation in communities that have historically experienced barriers to accessing these types of grants. Funding priority will be given to areas with a high proportion of households that are struggling financially, a high number of residents with physical and mental disabilities, and a lack of public recreation opportunities. Grant amounts range from \$100,000 to \$1 million.

**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.

**Private Grants.** Grants from Michigan companies and philanthropic organizations, such as DTE or the Kellogg Community Foundation, can be used to purchase and install equipment and infrastructure improvements (as specified by the terms of the grant).

**Donations.** Businesses, corporations, private clubs, 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.

**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.

**Lease or Contractual Agreements.** The City may increase the availability of recreation facilities to its residents by leasing sites and facilities from other recreation providers. For example, the City could agree to help maintain school recreation facilities in exchange for guaranteed availability of the facility to the public. The City could also contract with private entrepreneurs to provide services at City-owned Park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing City costs.

**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.

**Historic Preservation Fund.** The purpose of the Historic Preservation Fund grants is to identify, register and protect resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The funds that are sub-granted are used to help to strengthen preservation at the local level.





## OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GRANTS: RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Year	Source	Amount	Location	Purpose
2021	DTE	\$250,000 Closed	5 Parks	New modular play equipment in the following parks: Outer Driver & 15 <sup>th</sup> Park, Beach and Cicotte Park, Bell and Visger Park, E Glenwood Park, Senior Citizens Park.
2021	DTE	\$298,000 Closed	2 Parks	New modular play equipment at Dingell Park and new outdoor fitness equipment at Outer Drive & 15 <sup>th</sup> Park.
2022	MEDC Revitalization and Placemaking	\$1,000,000 Awarded	Ecorse Rowing Club Site	Kayak Launch and Boat Ramp
2022	EPA	\$1,641,000 Awarded	Ecorse Rowing Club Site	Kayak Launch and Boat Ramp
2022	Wayne County	\$50,000 Awarded	Eli Cuinigan (Pepper) Park	Splash Pad
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,239,000.00</b>	<b>5 Grants Over 2 years</b>	







# 05. WATERFRONT ECONOMY

## Background

The waterfront economy (previously called the “blue economy”) is the economic activity that is generated by rivers, marina districts, lakes, river walks, beaches and recreational parks on the water. Activities that contribute to the waterfront economy include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, boating, and community events that celebrate local water resources. Preservation of the environment, water quality and access, and environmental awareness are concepts that can lead to a sustainable economy.

In Ecorse, the waterfront activities are most noticeable on the southern side of the city, where West Jefferson Avenue directly abuts the water. From Dingell Park, people can fish and enjoy the views of the wildlife, while the Ecorse boat launch is located just a new hundred yards to the south. There, people can directly enter the water in canoes, kayaks, and power boats and travel along the Detroit River and Ecorse Creek. Boating clubs, boat stores, fishing stores, and waterfront-oriented restaurants are also all available in the southern half of the city. This vibrant area stimulates the economy by giving people access to the water and at the same time providing complementary commercial and recreational uses.



Freighters that transport materials to ports are also a part of the waterfront economy. In Ecorse, water freight is exclusively located on the northern end of the city, where freighters dock directly at U.S. Steel's ports.

Ecological conservation and restoration are key to a successful waterfront economy; if the waterways are in poor health or dangerous to visitors, less people want to use them. The city is located within Ecorse Creek Watershed and the River Rouge Watershed borders the top of the city. In Ecorse, two methods are being pursued to enhance the local waterways: green infrastructure and public cleanups. Green infrastructure protects large bodies of water by allowing stormwater runoff to go into the ground instead of into lakes, rivers, and streams. Stormwater runoff carries debris from impervious surfaces that can harm the large bodies of water. This would diminish the quality of the stream by bringing pollutants that harm the life in the river. Cleanups along rivers, lakes, and streams can bring awareness to their condition and help improve the quality of the water.

## Water Resources

Ecorse has two main water resources: the Detroit River and the Ecorse Creek (sometimes called the Ecorse River). The Detroit River borders Ecorse on the east side and is most visible from Dingell Park, which captures some of the recreational benefits of the Detroit River, such as amazing views and fishing access. Most of the Detroit Riverfront in Ecorse is occupied by U.S. Steel, and as such there is a substantial industrial contribution to the waterfront economy through freight.

To the south along the Detroit River lies Dingell Park, the Ecorse Boat Ramp, and Rivers Edge Marina, which is a privately operated marina facility on the far south end of the city. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Mud Island Unit sits directly across from Dingell Park in the Detroit River, where it offers a year-round wildlife sanctuary around the river. Together, these sites offer recreational and commercial contributions to the waterfront economy.

The Ecorse Creek borders the south end of the city and runs along most of the west side of the city. Most of the creek is bordered by residential uses with one parkland exception: Pepper Park. As such, the land along the Ecorse Creek contributes less to the blue economy than the land along the Detroit River. Additionally, the seasonal flooding of Ecorse Creek negatively impacts many residential homes.

## Ongoing and Potential Projects

### CLEANUPS

The City should partner with the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to lead projects that bring awareness to the Ecorse Creek. Weekly trash pick-ups along the creek can bring awareness to the creek and support efforts in securing funding. Meeting weekly to clean up areas along rivers and lakes increases the quality of the water resources and it is a great community development tool. This could be led by the Alliance of Downriver Communities and recording the weight and pictures of the trash is useful information for grant writing. Currently, the Ecorse Creek Committee hosts park cleanups approximately once per month (or less frequently).

### MONITORING

Non-profits and Watershed Councils often offer programs that monitor streams. Examples include the Huron River Watershed Council's "Stream Leaders" and Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program. The Stream Leaders program educates school age children on how to monitor and assess the health of waterways. The Ecorse Public Schools could partner with agencies that provides such program to both help collect the data and educate students about the river. Doing this can bring awareness on the condition of local bodies of water and collect data on the current quality of streams. Monitoring is currently being done in Ecorse, but with volunteers rather than school children. A program can be created that specifically does this with schools in Downriver Communities.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds can provide access points to Ecorse River, data on flow speeds, ideal locations for boat launches, trails that border the river, and maps of the Ecorse Watershed. Creating maps and pamphlets that educate the public would help leverage the City's partnerships while also increasing outreach. These materials can include information like local fishing spots, water safety ratings, and varying elevations of the river.

The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds also helps with grant writing. Ecorse can use the Ecorse Creek Watershed Management Plan to secure funding. This plan includes data on the quality of the local bodies of water and goals to increase their quality. Stated objectives in this plan can allow for Ecorse to secure funding. For example, statements in the Ecorse Creek Watershed Management Plan that involve goals to increase environmental stewardship can lead to funding. The funding would be for a project that helps to obtain this goal. Having a watershed plan with that goal would be one of the requirements to secure that grant. An app that allows community members to state if branches are blocking the river is an example of what can come from having a master plan state this objective.

Other partners for the City to consider working with are the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Way (Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan). These groups committed to creating a new standard of care that will leave the Great Lakes better for the next generation, as well as creating a comprehensive waterway trail network.

## EVENTS

The City should consider holding events to celebrate their water assets. Events like, "Crafts on the Creek" or "Creek Day" can be held to boost appreciation of the Ecorse Creek. The events would bring awareness on how much the community depends on local bodies of water. Events celebrating water can be held in the southern waterfront district or at parks which have direct Ecorse Creek access.

## IMPROVEMENTS

Ecorse should also promote projects that increase access to the Ecorse Creek. The City should consider putting in universally accessible kayak launches along Ecorse Creek, in addition to the ones planned for the Ecorse Rowing Club site and Pepper Park. A kayaking network would provide incentives for kayakers to visit local shops, bars, and restaurants in the area. Increasing wayfinding that directs kayakers to the waterfront district along West Jefferson Avenue would be an ideal project that helps create a sense of place and increases access to the river.





# Waterfront Development Plans

## 2020 ECORSE CREEK VISION PLAN

In 2022, the Ecorse Creek Committee published its 2020 Vision Plan, which laid out the committee's ambitions for the next five years. The objectives of the plan should be considered a part of the Parks and Recreation Plan and the full text can be found in the Appendix.



### The Vision

“The Committee will revitalize the lower Ecorse Creek corridor to effect healing for the natural environment, the community, and the community's relationship with the natural environment.”

The high priority action items from the Vision Plan included:

1. Additional amenities to Dingell Park
2. Upgrades to the Rowing Club and surrounding landscape
3. Extension of Iron Belle Trail along Ecorse Creek, including a kayak launch at Pepper Park
4. Ecorse Creek cleanup events

### Ecorse Creek Trail

Ideas for an Ecorse Creek Trail have been in the works for decades, and the City decided to commission a draft trail concept in 2019 (below). This trail would connect Ecorse to Lincoln Park, creating one, continuous waterfront recreation amenity for residents and visitors.





# Ecorse Creek Trail: Conceptual Layout

City of Ecorse, Michigan

January 31, 2019

### LEGEND

- - - Municipal Boundary
- Parks & Recreation Facilities**
  - Potential Development Site
  - City Park
  - Municipal Facilities
  - School Facilities
  - Ecorse Creek Trail
  - W Jefferson Ave Protected Bike Lanes



SOURCES - Basemap Source: Wayne County GIS 2015  
Data Source: McKenna 2019











# 06. BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

## Community Feedback

In April 2022, the City of Ecorse authorized McKenna associates (an urban planning consulting firm that provides day-to-day planning services for the City) to undertake the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update. McKenna had already been contracted to undertake the City's Five-Year Master Plan update, so the City decided to merge the engagement strategies for the two projects to make the best use of the funding available.

Two in-person engagement events were hosted for the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update: one (1) pop-up event and one (1) public survey, offered in every City park. The public had two additional in-person opportunities for comment at the November 29, 2022 and January 10, 2023 public hearings for the plan.



## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public hearings were held to advertise the release of the draft plan and the adoption of the final plan (full details on noticing can be found in the Appendices). During the hearing on November 29, 2022, to release the draft Plan, only one comment was received:

- *Community Liaison for City of Detroit: Why are funds being dedicated toward holiday lighting rather than the construction of a community center?*
- *Council: The City of Ecorse has an existing community center, located immediately adjacent to the Ethel V Stevenson Senior Center on W Jefferson Avenue.*

During the 30-day review period, only one comment was received on the draft plan, submitted online via the project website:

- *"I think Zaid is the right person for this project and he's doing a phenomenal job."*

During the hearing on January 10, 2023, to approve the final Plan, only one comment was received:

- *Resident: What is the Plan and where can I get a copy of it?*
- *City Staff: The Plan is a roughly 100-page document that lays out the current state of our parks system and facilities, and gives a roadmap of where we want to go in the future. Printed copies will be available at the Rec Center.*

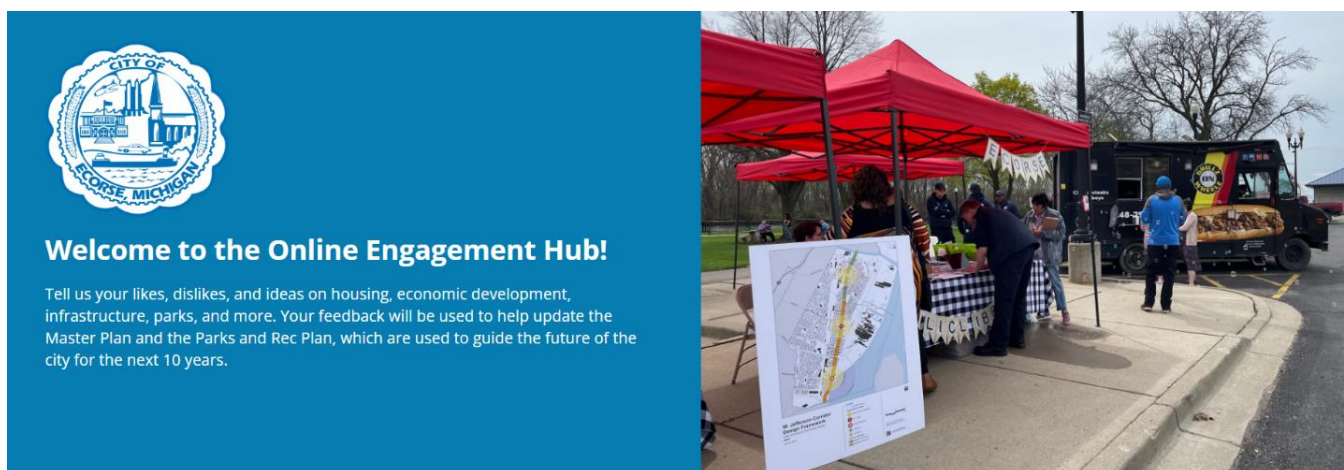
## WEBSITE

McKenna designed a public engagement plan that combined events and resources to make the best use of the project budget. The final engagement strategy involved incorporating the Parks and Recreation engagement activities into the existing Master Plan engagement website (hosted on Social Pinpoint). The website was rebranded the "Ecorse Online Engagement Hub," and had four (4) components:

- The Parks and Recreation Survey (which included questions relevant to the Master Plan);
- An interactive map where visitors could place comments and ideas on an aerial map of the city;
- A calendar of all upcoming public engagement events and feedback opportunities, including Planning Commission and City Council meetings; and
- A document center, where users could download documents related to the two plans (memos, data summaries, letters, etc.)

The website and online survey were advertised through direct mailings to local agencies and stakeholders (adjacent municipalities, energy providers, transit providers, school districts, nonprofits, etc.).

The link was also hosted under the "Quick Links" on the homepage of the City website, advertised at City Council, and posted twice on the City's Facebook page – once when the survey launched on August 1 and once the day before closing on September 1, 2022. The survey was also advertised via signs in every City park, explained in detail below.



## POP-UP EVENT

The pop-up event was held in tandem with the Ecorse Downtown Development Authority's (DDA) summer event, where they hosted a food truck in Dingell Park every Thursday from May 5 to June 2, 2022. The City Planner and Parks and Recreation Director set up a booth at the June 2, 2022, which included interactive boards where residents could give feedback on the types of classes they would like at the Recreation Center, the amenities they would like in the parks, and other creative ideas for recreation. Because it was the last week of the DDA event, staff hosted the pop-up despite unexpected rain, and as such only one public comment was received.

## SURVEY

The Parks and Recreation Survey was available online and in paper form at every City park from August 1 to September 1, 2022. Staff installed a bright yellow sign advertising "What do you think of THIS PARK?" at each park near the most obvious entrance, accompanied by a weather-proof survey box containing approximately 20 paper surveys (larger parks had more surveys available).

The signs included a brief explanation of the project, the deadline for the survey, and a QR code for those who wanted to take the survey online. The signs also had a map of all city parks on the reverse side, which was included to help respondents answer the question "What is your favorite park?" Several parks in the city have multiple informal names, and the map helped clarify which park was being referenced.

The paper survey was one page, double-sided, and included the same questions as the online survey. Instructions for returning the survey were included at the end, and residents were given the option to either return the survey at the drop box in front of the Recreation Center or send a picture of their survey to the City Planner.



Survey boxes and signs placed in various City Parks throughout Ecorse



However, only two (2) paper surveys were returned to the drop box and staff found that the majority of completed paper surveys were being returned to the boxes in the City parks. This trend indicates that a “Take” and “Return” box in each park would have been more effective than a centralized drop box, and that adjustments are needed if a survey is to be launched with the next Five-Year Plan.

Staff checked the survey boxes once a week to refill those that were empty and replace signs that had been moved for lawn mowing. The box and sign at Ecorse Housing Park went missing entirely after two weeks, presumably removed by property maintenance. However, the absence of surveys should not be mistaken for a dislike of the park itself. It is widely known that Ecorse Housing Park is a well-loved and frequently used park, as evidenced by its daily attendance and continuous use by families and neighbors.

The paper survey uptake is summarized as follows:

- Surveys Distributed: 200
- Surveys Taken: 154
- Surveys Returned: 8
- Response Rate: 5% of those who took a paper survey responded

The online survey uptake is summarized as follows:

- Unique Website Visitors: 164
- Survey Responses: 13
- Response Rate: 8% of those who visited the website completed the survey

Staff removed the paper survey boxes from every park on September 2, 2022, and left the drop-box up at the Rec Center for any late submission until September 9, 2022.

### Survey Results Summary

Ultimately, the public survey received 21 responses over a 1-month period. The main themes of several subjects are depicted in the word clouds below, while the individual results for each question can be found on the following pages.

### Key Themes

The following key themes and findings were drawn from the survey results:

- Respondents identified the waterfront and river as key opportunities for future recreational development
- Respondents supported the addition of workout equipment in the parks and would like to continue seeing the park equipment diversify to include more options beyond playsets
- Respondents noted that basic maintenance and crime deterrence were the greatest need for the parks in general
- Respondents favored offering more outdoor events and classes/activities in the parks
- Respondents were most in favor of cooking/nutrition, painting, and self-defense classes
- Respondents were most concerned with public safety and parks offerings regarding the city’s future, followed closely by building appearances and economic strength



*Most common responses when people were asked about their favorite park features*



*Most common responses when people were asked about what kind of classes they would like the Rec Center to offer*

# Analysis of Existing Facilities and Service Areas

Prior to 2020, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published the NRPA Areas and Facilities Standards to help agencies assess whether they had sufficient parks and recreation facilities. The Standards had not been updated in more than two decades, and the NRPA realized that a single set of standards could not possibly encompass the uniqueness found in every community across the country. Consequently, NRPA replaced the single set of standards with the creation of a nationwide benchmarking tool for parks and recreation, called NRPA Park Metrics. Annually, the NRPA publishes the NRPA Agency Performance Review, which is a report that summarizes the benchmarking data contributed by 1,100 park and recreation agencies to the Park Metrics database.

The Park Metrics database separates the data based on size of jurisdiction being served. Then, within each jurisdiction size, the data is further broken down into the lower and upper quartiles. Median values are presented as well. The Park Metrics provide a snapshot of Ecorse's parks and recreation program in comparison to data from similarly sized peer communities. This information must be combined with information about the community's specific needs and experiences to identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming. The purpose of the community engagement process and other analyses reported on earlier in this plan was to gather such information.

Recreation facilities serving Ecorse residents are compared to the NRPA/MDNR standards in Tables 9 and 10. These comparisons provide a general idea of deficiencies, but it must be understood that the NRPA/MDNR standards are not intended to be followed to the letter. Needs of the population can vary from one community to the next, and the results should be considered in the context of each city involved. The analysis of existing recreation facilities is summarized in Table 9 through 11. Map 2 shows the general service area boundaries based on national standards for mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks. The city contains six (6) mini-parks, three (3) neighborhood parks, one (1) community park, and one (1) regional park. These facility categories are from the NRPA 1983 Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Even though they are not used in the 2022 NRPA Parks Metrics Agency Performance Review benchmarks, they have been retained for illustrative purposes in Table 11 to bridge the gap between the two evaluation systems.



*The new outdoor fitness equipment at Outer Drive and 15th Park.*



**Table 9: Outdoor Recreation Facilities Comparison to Standards Ecorse, Michigan (Agency with Less Than 20,000 Population)**

Facility	Median Number of Residents per One Facility <sup>1</sup>	% Agencies That Provide Facility <sup>1</sup>	Existing Municipal/ Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities <sup>6</sup>	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended No. for 9,305 People <sup>2,4</sup>	Surplus/ (Deficiency)
Playgrounds	1,986	95	10	3	13	5	8
Basketball Courts <sup>3,5</sup>	3,750	86	4	1	5	3	2
Tennis Courts	5,608	78	1.5	6	7.5	2	5.5
Dog Parks	11,100	67	0	0	0	1	(1) <sup>^</sup>
Baseball Fields (Youth/Adult)	3,107 \ 7,954	79 \ 54	1 \ 1	2 \ 0	2 \ 2	3 \ 2	(1) \ -
Softball Fields <sup>7</sup> (Youth/Adult)	5,339 \ 5,667	62 \ 65	0	0	0	2 \ 2	(2) \ (2)
Rectangular Fields - Multipurpose	4,362	68	1	1	1	2	(1)
Rectangular Fields - Synthetic	12,962	22	0	0	0	1	(1) <sup>^</sup>
Football Fields	8,004	35	0	2	2	2	-
Soccer Field (Youth/Adult)	3,504 \ 8,017	50 \ 44	1 \ 0	0 \ 0	1 \ 0	3 \ 2	(2) \ (2)
Golf Courses <sup>6</sup> (18 hole)	9,183	29	0	0	0	1	(1) <sup>*</sup>
Driving Range <sup>6</sup>	5,055	26	0	0	0	2	(2)
Swimming Pool	8,637	53	0	1	1	2	(1)
Community Gardens	8,773	51	0	1	0	2	(1)
Ice Rinks	7,997	18	0	0	0	2	(2)
Pickleball Courts	3,446	18	0	0	0	3	(3)
Skate Parks	11,100	39	0	0	0	1	(1) <sup>^</sup>
Tot Lots	6,642	45	1	0	1	2	(1)

**Footnotes:**

1. Based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards for 2022
  2. Based on U.S. Census 2020 population of 9,305.
  3. Two backboards were considered to be equal to one court for the purposes of this analysis.
  4. Rounded up to the nearest whole number. The figures in this column reflect the number of facilities needed to achieve a Median Number of Residents Per Facility in the City of Ecorse.
  5. Not regulation courts.
  6. Includes facilities at Ralph Bunche Elementary School, Grand Port Elementary School, Kennedy Middle School, and Ecorse High School. School facilities are not available to the community during school hours or summer months when school is not in session.
  7. Baseball fields are used for softball practice by Ecorse Parks and Recreation, but do not qualify as softball fields under NRPA standards.
- \* Given the current population trajectory, likely to be less than the median population per NRPA standards in the next decade.
- <sup>^</sup> Population is less than the median population per NRPA standards.

**Table 10: Indoor Recreation Facilities Comparison to Standards Ecorse, Michigan (Agency with Less Than 20,000 Population)**

Facility	Median Number of Residents per One Facility <sup>1</sup>	% Agencies That Provide Facility <sup>1</sup>	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended No. for 9,305 People <sup>3</sup>	Surplus/ (Deficiency)
Recreation Center	9,126	64	1	3	(2)*
Community Center	8,504	60	0	2	(2)
Senior Center	12,935	41	1	1	-
Performance Amphitheatre	9,291	36	0	2	(2)*
Nature Center	11,821	31	0	1	(1)^
Aquatics Center	11,375	25	0	1	(1)^
Stadium	9,126	17	1	2	(1)*
Ice Rink	14,426	14	0	1	(1)^
Teen Center	8,002	12	0	2	(2)
Arena	6,137	7	0	2	(2)
Recreation Center	9,126	64	1	3	(2)*

Footnotes:

- 1 Based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NPRA) Standards for 2022.
- 2 Includes School Facilities.
- 3 Based on U.S. Census 2020 population of 9,305.
- 4 The need for mini-parks is also addressed partially by school recreation facilities (acreage not determined).
- 5 It would be misleading to assess the adequacy of a community and regional park resources based on recommended acreage for the City of Ecorse's population, since the regional resource must serve a much broader segment of the metropolitan area. The City is densely developed with few opportunities to create new parks. The public schools help to satisfy some of the current deficiency for neighborhood and community park land.
- \* Given the current population trajectory, likely to be less than the median population per NPRA standards in the next decade.
- ^ Population is less than the median population per NPRA standards



**Table 11: Analysis of Existing Parks and Facilities**

Type of Facility <sup>1</sup>	Description	Ecorse Facilities	Comments/Recommendations (See Table 6 for Accessibility Comments)
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.	Bell and Visger, East Glenwood, Outer Drive and 15 <sup>th</sup> , Salliotte and 12 <sup>th</sup> , Senior Citizen Park, and Zukonic Park all qualify as mini-parks. Each of them provides for limited recreational amenities in the form of benches, picnic areas and some play equipment.	Resilient surfacing must be installed or replaced as needed at all playgrounds and the play equipment upgraded, if required.  Salliotte and 12 <sup>th</sup> Park needs to have new equipment installed or the development agreement otherwise revoked so that the city may improve the park and remove the fencing. Senior Citizen Park should keep the fences opened to allow for season long use. Bell and Visger Park should be updated to include new play equipment.
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 1.5 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.	Bernard Popp Field, Ecorse Housing Park, and Beach and Cicotte Park all qualify as neighborhood parks because they provide fields or courts for organized play along with playground equipment.  The Ralph Bunche Elementary, Kennedy Middle School and Ecorse High School grounds provide similar recreational opportunities typically found in neighborhood parks.	If Bernard Popp Field is to be maintained as a park, then programming should be developed to fully utilize the field. The soccer field at Beach and Cicotte needs improvements to make it more clearly a field, and a maintenance schedule to ensure it can be utilized safely. Interest was expressed in creating a soccer league for City residents.
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.	Eli Ciungan (Pepper) Park is the city's sole community park. Recent upgrades to Eli Ciungan, including new hard court surfaces, gazebo, covered benches and parking lot on the north.	The tennis courts, basketball courts, lighted baseball field with concession stand, restrooms, picnic areas, and play structures make Ciungan Park a central facility for the resident. However, the park would benefit from improvements on the south side and from improvements along the Ecorse Creek waterway to highlight the amenity.
Regional Parks	Regional parks are typically located onsite 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.	Dingell Park is a distinctive and prized asset for the City providing direct public access to the Detroit River and offering both passive recreation opportunities and a unique area for community gatherings.	Upgrades to the existing restrooms in the form of a new concession stand or refurbishment of the Grand Port Café could provide an amenity that would further enhance Dingell Park. Additional improvements to the outdated play equipment on the north end of the park should be pursued.

<sup>1</sup> These facility categories are from the NRPA 1983 Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Even though they are not used in the 2022 NRPA Parks Metrics Agency Performance Review benchmarks, they have been retained for illustrative purposes in Table 11 to bridge the gap between the two evaluation systems.

Type of Facility <sup>2</sup>	Description	Ecorse Facilities	Comments/Recommendations (See Table 6 for Accessibility Comments)
Special Use Facilities	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 as secondary.	The Ecorse Public Boat Launch and the and senior center are special use recreation facilities within the City. The Ecorse Rowing Club building is an asset not yet utilized by the City.	The rehabilitation of the Ecorse Rowing Club building into a community building available for public or private events would bring more activity to the south side of Dingell Park. The public boat launch in combination with Senior Citizen Park could produce a season-long gateway park serving both nearby residents and the City at large with additional access to the Detroit River.
Indoor Facilities	Indoor facilities are those which are not associated with any outdoor amenities or parkland.	The Ecorse Senior Center and Recreation enter, which share two connected buildings on W Jefferson Avenue, are the city's sole indoor facilities.	The Ecorse Recreation Center should continue to be developed for a wide variety of programing. Large mirrors should be installed along the back wall to facilitate a broader range of dance and movement classes. The vacant site next to the center should be developed as an indoor-outdoor court for multiple sports. Disability programs should be hosted at the Centers, as well as more skill development and art classes.
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 recreational driving.	Currently, the City does not have any linear park systems.	The City is part of the regional plan by the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and several routes are envisioned for the City. Additionally, the Great Lakes Way is working with the city to create a linear blue way. Lastly, the City is working on the Ecorse Creek Trail in conjunction with Lincoln Park. All of these initiatives should continue to be pursued.
All Parkland <sup>3</sup>	All parkland areas within the City are considered herein. For communities with less than 20,000 residents, the national median parkland provided is 12.9 ac per 10,000 residents.	Ecorse has a total of 21.8 ac of parkland, equating to 23.6 ac per 10,000 residents.	Ecorse has more parkland per resident than the national standard. However, the southwest side of the city has no dedicated park open space, making the Mill Street neighborhood a "park desert." The City should pursue the development of the land at the corner of Mill and 9 <sup>th</sup> as a new park to increase parkland totals and equity of access.
All Parks <sup>2</sup>	All parkland areas within the City are considered herein. For communities with less than 20,000 residents, the national median parkland provided is 1,233 residents per park.	Ecorse has approximately 838 residents per park.	Ecorse has many more parks than similarly sized cities.

<sup>2</sup> These facility categories are from the NRPA 1983 Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Even though they are not used in the 2022 NRPA Parks Metrics Agency Performance Review benchmarks, they have been retained for illustrative purposes in Table 11 to bridge the gap between the two evaluation systems.

<sup>3</sup> These metrics are derived from the 2022 NRPA Parks Metrics Agency Performance Review benchmarks.



# Recreation Deficiencies

The City of Ecorse excels in total parkland provision when compared with other agencies serving under 20,000 residents, as noted in Table 11 (above). However, the city is largely deficient in the amenities provided in the parks, as well as the programming offered through the Senior and Recreation Centers, when compared against 2022 NRPA benchmarks.

The *quality* of existing parks and recreation facilities is an important factor. The analysis in this plan notes several park and facility deficiencies and limitations because of their location, deferred maintenance, needed replacements or upgrades and additional funding needed for the existing recreational facilities. In addition to the facility deficiencies noted in Tables 6 and 11, some other specific deficiencies include:

**Reliance on School Sites.** Cooperation between the City and the Ecorse Public School district allows for the use of additional recreational facilities for the citizens. The school district facilities are primarily used by the students and are available occasionally for use by other citizens.

**Off-Street Parking.** Mini-parks and neighborhood parks are intended to serve nearby residents and therefore walking to them is not only a convenience but an added recreational opportunity. Larger parks, such as community parks and regional parks, are intended to draw from a wider area and often necessitate that people arrive by vehicle. Bernard Popp Municipal Field, for example, is one park that serves a broader audience but does not have any dedicated off-site parking. The City should evaluate the parking needs of each recreation destination, as was successfully done for Pepper Park in 2021.

**Program Deficiencies.** Several program deficiencies identified by City staff and community residents include the desire for travel team sports, adding a soccer program, educational and entertainment programming for the entire community. As noted in the public survey, residents would like to see more programming focused on skill development (self-defense, cooking, etc.) and the arts (painting).

# Conclusion

Improving maintenance, diversifying programming, constructing amenities on under-used parks, and balancing the distribution of parkland across Ecorse are the highest priorities for the Five-Year Recreation Plan.



# 07. ACTION PROGRAM: MASTER RECREATION PLAN

This chapter of the plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with the analysis of the physical and demographic attributes of the city. Existing parks and recreation facilities and programs were inventoried and evaluated. An assessment of needs was then developed that considered the accepted recreation standards. Finally, these needs were analyzed and reviewed by the City with input from the public.

The results of this effort are presented in the following statement of Long Range Goals, Parks and Recreation Objectives, and the Action Plan and Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

Goals are broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable projects and results that the City will work toward accomplishing, consistent with the goals.



# Long-Range Goals

1. **Upgrade Existing Facilities.** Maximize the use of parks and recreation facilities by upgrading existing facilities to make them safer and more accessible to better serve the public.
2. **Improve Public Perception.** Increase public awareness of the existing City parks and recreation facilities to strengthen community support for parks and recreation. Create uniform signage for all City parks and ensure that all parks are visible on Google.
3. **Promote Community Involvement.** Work toward increasing the number of people involved in recreation, including children, young adults, parents, and senior citizens.
4. **Provide a Variety of Recreation Opportunities.** Offer Ecorse residents a range of activities that meet the needs of all segments of the population including youth, young adults, families, and seniors.
5. **Address Residents' Preferences.** Provide parks and recreation facilities and programs that are based on the preferences of City of Ecorse residents.
6. **Maintain Fiscal Responsibility.** Develop parks and recreation facilities and programs based on a sound fiscal policy. Consider the use of sponsorships, state and federal funding programs, public-private partnerships, and other nontraditional private funding sources.
7. **Improve Accessibility.** Improve the accessibility to parks, recreation facilities, and programs by residents of the city particularly for youth, young adults, families, and seniors. Encourage inter-generational facilities.
8. **Continue the Planning Process.** Maintain the ongoing parks and recreation planning process. The parks and recreation master plan should be reviewed annually and updated periodically.
9. **Targeted Development of New Facilities.** Work with available local and regional public and private resources to maximize the City's opportunities to develop new recreation facilities and programs.
10. **Preserve Environmental Resources.** Preserve bodies of water within Ecorse with green infrastructure ordinances to require developers to include green infrastructure into developments and promote the Waterfront Economy in the City.

# Parks and Recreation Objectives

## SPECIFIC PARK IMPROVEMENTS

1. **Ecorse Rowing Club Site.** Secure and disburse funding for a new kayak launch and multi-purpose recreation building on the former rowing club site. Install signage to educate visitors about the recreational offerings, including self-guided options. Ensure all new improvements are ADA-compliant and provide options for users of all ages. The site is uniquely situated to provide patrons enhanced recreational access to the Detroit River and Ecorse Creek through kayak / canoe rentals, bike rentals, standup paddleboard rentals, shuttle service to other locations, concession sales, and other similar activities.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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2. **Eli Ciungan (Pepper) Park.** Improve the existing facilities and expand the recreational opportunities at Pepper Park, which is a central location of activities for the community. Complete the installation of the Splash Pad on the south end of the park, for which funding has already been allocated. Improve the bank stability of the segment of Ecorse Creek that runs along the park and establish walking trails through the wooded segments where feasible. Secure and disburse funding for a new kayak launch and include waterway signage to connect it to the kayak launch at the Ecorse Rowing Club site. Continue to construct amenities that offer a wider range of activities (such as the fitness park at 15th and Outer Drive Park) and appeal to a diverse set of users. Consider nature-learning amenities, such as educational signs about local plants and waterway conservation, and green infrastructure.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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3. **Beach and Cicotte Park.** Improve the facility for soccer use, including renovation of existing fields, developing clear public access, and creating designated parking.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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4. **Bernard Popp Municipal Field.** Repair and resurface the existing field to make it usable for games and establish routine programming for the site. Invest in other site repairs, such as new bleachers, sidewalks, and fences to improve the appearance and accessibility of the site. New playground equipment that is fully accessible for all users should be added.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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5. **Bell and Visger Park.** Replace the remaining play equipment with updated ADA-compliant play fixtures. Reverse the swing direction of the entrance gate so that it does not block the sidewalk and provide paved wheelchair to one or more interior amenities.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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6. **Dingell Park.** Replace the existing “tot lot” equipment on the north end of the park with updated, ADA-compliant equipment. Continue to pursue funding for seasonal attractions in the park, such as ice skating, summer festivals, food and vendor events, and sportsman competitions. Encourage and make it easy for partners, such as the Ecorse Library or Public Schools, to use the park for public events. Capitalize on the park for community engagement events.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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7. **Mill Street Park.** Initiate the planning and development phase for the Mill Street Park. Work with Lincoln Park to establish pedestrian connections over the Ecorse Creek to Council Point Park and create a comprehensive signage program for the Ecorse Creek Trail. Perform preliminary feasibility studies, including access and environmental assessments, to determine critical improvements to make the park buildable.



GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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- Park Expansion/U.S. Steel Riverfront Property.** Initiate discussion with U.S. Steel about development of the wooded riverfront property and training center into a public or semi-public park space, which may also include commercial development. Owned by US Steel, these properties provide access to the Detroit River and is approximately 500 feet north of Dingell Park. The opportunity to add to the amount of park land in a developed community is rare and the ability to add park land with access to an international waterway is exceedingly rare. If the opportunity exists, the City will consider acquiring the properties. located east of the intersection of West Jefferson Avenue and Cicotte Street. The complete or partial acquisition and development of the site for a park would provide a tremendous opportunity to provide substantive recreational opportunities along the Detroit River.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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## NETWORK-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

- Greenways Network.** Secure and disburse funds for the Ecorse Creek Trail network, in conjunction with Lincoln Park and the City of Detroit, as well as the Ecorse Creek Committee. Implementation of this objective can be phased - the trail can begin by simply designating the path and posting signage. Further enhancements, such as a dedicated non-motorized pathway or similar physical improvements to the route, could be completed later when sufficient funding is obtained.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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- Optimize Park Use.** Optimize the use of all parks and recreation facilities by creating multi-use amenities and programs which provide for multiple simultaneous user types, performing adequate maintenance, and repairing and replacing of facilities in a timely manner. Consider and implement a program to incrementally review and maintain all facilities. Develop a maintenance plan to include upgraded recreational facilities, such as the baseball fields and basketball courts. Provide recreational opportunities, including programs, to underserved groups and locations. \

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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- Recreation Programs.** Expand programs to include more skill development and art-based courses, as well as programs for disabled individuals. Continue to support and evaluate recreation programs in cooperation with residents and the business community. Program expansions should be considered within the limits of community resources, along with efficient use of program fees and administration processes. Offer a diverse mix of recreational opportunities for all residents. Increase community involvement in recreational programs.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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- Community Partnerships.** To maximize financial resources, leverage various levels of partnerships to improve the parks and recreation opportunities. Foundations can provide resources for programming. Work with the business community to help identify ways to reinvest in certain key facilities such as the proposed Ecorse Rowing Club building. Consider a formal partnership with the school district to centralize parks and recreation services.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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- Park Signage, Accessibility Improvements, and Landscaping.** Establish consistent and obvious signage at all City parks. Construct paved pathways to one or more amenities (e.g., bench, playground, etc.) to ensure multi-generational use is feasible. Make site improvements to enhance the appearance and function of City parks. Perform renovations needed at fields, include resurfacing and crowning to improve participant safety and ensure proper drainage. A five-year landscaping/tree planting, signag,e and lighting program should be developed for all park properties.

GOALS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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# Action Plan and Five-Year Capital Improvement Program

This section summarizes the specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. Table 12 incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes. It should be noted that the CIP is based on the anticipated financial resources of the City, leveraging private resources. This helps to ensure that the projects are aligned with the operational and financial realities of the City’s resources and are not simply a pure reflection of community desires. The City has taken a comprehensive approach to preparing the Master Plan to fully evaluate and prioritize projects based on the cost benefit, impact to the community, and operational costs.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. Costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2018 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

## FUTURE NEW PARKS

The City of Ecorse owns the 1.56-acre vacant property located at the intersection of Mill Street and 9th Street, directly across the Ecorse River (Ecorse Creek) from Council Point Park in Lincoln Park. The City plans to develop this parcel as a new park to serve the residents in the southwestern area of the city, which has the least parkland per resident out of all the areas of the city. In the CIP, this parkland will be referred to as “Mill Street Park” because it has not yet received a formal name.

The City is also interested in purchasing parkland, completely or partially, at the following locations. The price of this land is not included in the CIP because it is unknown whether the land will be available for purchase in the next five years, and it is unknown what the purchase price will be.

ADDRESS	SIZE	LOCATION
4387 W Jefferson	20.21 ac	Central-east city; north of Dingell Park
4447 W Jefferson	3.92 ac	Central-east city; north of Dingell Park
4415 W Jefferson	0.82 ac	Central-east city; north of Dingell Park
4409 W Jefferson	1.124 ac	Central-east city; north of Dingell Park



Mill Street Park Location



## 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION CIP

Table 12: Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Program

2023			
Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Jefferson Ave Greenway	Install signage.	\$10,000	GF, CS
Ecorse Rowing Club Building	Install a Universally Accessible Canoe and Kayak Launch	\$10,000	EDA, MEDC
Senior Citizens Park	Repair sidewalk gap. install new bike racks and park identification signage.	\$40,000 - \$50,000	PG, PD, CS, MNRTF
Bernard Popp Field	Construct additional parking for events.	\$100,000	GF
Salliotte & 12 <sup>th</sup> Park	Discuss conditions of agreement with lease holders and how best to move forward with providing facilities at site.	\$2,000	GF
Beach & Cicotte Park	Upgrade existing soccer field. Install new bike racks and park identification signage.	\$20,000 - \$25,000	PG, PD, CS
Pepper Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball court, pedestrian bridge, splash pad, walking path.</li> <li>Install a Universal Accessible Canoe and Kayak Launch.</li> </ul>	\$1.5 mill	GF, NFWF
Rec/Senior Center	Pickleball Courts	\$50,000	GF
Dingell Park	Ice rink (seasonal, permanently owned equipment)	\$4,000	GF
Programing	Improve programming offerings at Senior and Rec Centers.	\$20,000	GF

2024			
Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Bernard Popp Field	Upgrade existing baseball field and bleachers. Upgrade playground equipment and modify for ADA compliance. Install new bike racks and park identification signage.	\$60,000 - \$70,000	PD, CS, PG
Salliotte & 12 <sup>th</sup> Park	Install new basketball court and ADA compliant playground equipment. Install new park identification signage. (Items conditional on owner agreement).	\$60,000 - \$70,000	PD, CS, PG
Ecorse Creek	Clean up and restore Ecorse Creek to increase its navigability.	\$125,000	LWCF, MNRTF, CZM
Mill Street Park	Construct pedestrian bridge over railroad tracks along Mill Street to facilitate park access from W Jefferson Avenue.	\$1.0 mill	MEDC

2025			
Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Bell & Visger Park	Upgrade playground equipment and modify for ADA compliance. Install new park identification signage.	\$50,000 - \$60,000	PD, CS, PG
Ecorse Creek	Add amenities along Ecorse Creek including benches, picnic tables, and lightening.	\$15,000 - \$30,000	PD, CS, LWCF, MNRTF, CZM
Ecorse Rowing Club	Construct new 1,600 square feet building for rowing and other watersports.	\$600,000	GF
Bernard Popp Field	Upgrade playground equipment and modify for ADA compliance.	\$50,000 - \$60,000	GF

2026			
Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
<b>Eli Ciungan Park</b>	Install new bike racks, baseball outfield protective netting and park identification signage.	\$25,000 - \$30,000	PG, PD, CS
<b>Outer Drive &amp; 15th Park</b>	Install new park identification signage.	\$50,000 - \$60,000	PD, CS, PG
<b>Jefferson Avenue Greenway</b>	Obtain professional services to design a greenways plan that includes a detail pathway improvement strategy.	\$10,000	GF, CS, PD, CZM
<b>Dingell Park</b>	Upgrade playground equipment on the north end (the "tot lot") and modify for ADA compliance. Install new park identification signage. Refurbish existing restrooms building. Construct outdoor Amphitheatre.	\$300,000 - \$500,000	MNRTF, PD, CS, PG

2027			
Facility/Program	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
<b>East Glenwood Park</b>	Modify for ADA compliance. Install new park identification signage.	\$10,000 - \$30,000	PD, CS, PG
<b>Mill Street Park</b>	Launch planning phase for Mill Street Park.	\$200,000	GF

KEY			
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant Funds	MNRTF	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Program
CS	Corporate Sponsor	PD	Private Donations
CZM	Coastal Zone Management Grant	PG	MDNR Passport Grant
GF	General Fund	PS	Public Schools
LWCF	Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund		







# APPENDICIES





# APPENDIX A: Publication of Public Hearing for 30-Day Public Comment Period

PAGE 11A TELEGRAM NEWSPAPER WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10 - NOVEMBER 16, 2022

## Telegram Classifieds and Public Notices

### APT FOR RENT


**Across the Park Apartments**  
NEWLY REMODELED APARTMENTS  
Spacious 1 bedroom apartments

Available for 62 and older or Handicapped & Disabled

2700 S. Annabelle St.  
Detroit, MI 48217

Rent Based on Income  
Heat & Water included

Activity Room & Laundry facilities on site  
(313) 382-3201  
TTY/TDD 711  
atp@imsteam.net



Equal Housing Opportunity

### CO-OP AVAILABLE


**WELLESLEY TOWNHOUSES COOPERATIVE**

1 BEDRM RANCH TOWNHOMES  
**\$565/MONTH**

2 BEDRM TOWNHOMES  
STARTING FROM  
**\$580/ Month**

3 BEDRM TOWNHOMES  
STARTING FROM  
**\$613/Month**

For more information call  
(734) 729-3328  
Equal Housing Opportunity




### SERVICES

**NEED YOUR DRIVEWAY REPAVED?**  
313-492-8945

### PAINT FOR SALE

**NEED PAINT FOR YOUR OFFICE OR HOME**  
CALL  
313-208-1504  
CITY PAINT STORE



### ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

**HOT PICKS**

106	220	446
286	081	921
3133	7876	4444
9090	3485	2198

BIG MOMMA'S HITS		BIG RAY'S PICK 4	
003	132	6270	3160
565	499	1132	8644
753	362	7323	5572

### CITY OF ECORSE PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing Notice  
City of Ecorse

WAYNE COUNTY STATE OF MICHIGAN

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT 2023-2027**

**5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Please take notice that the Ecorse City Council will hold two public hearings regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The first public hearing to release the Draft 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be held on NOVEMBER 29, 2022 at 7:30pm at the Regular Meeting of the City Council. The meeting will be held in-person at Albert B. Buday Civic Center (City Hall) in the Second Floor City Council Chambers, 3869 W. Jefferson Avenue, Ecorse, MI, 48229.

After the release, the Draft Plan will be available for the public to view for 30 days at the Senior Center and at the City Clerk's Office. Comment forms will be available.

The Plan will also be available digitally for comment at the following website on Nov. 29: <https://mcka.mysocialpinpoint.com/ecorse-master-plan-update>.

Following the closure of the review period, a second public hearing for Final Adoption will be held on January 10, 2023 at the Regular City Council meeting. A second notice will follow.

To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at least 3 days prior to the meeting date. The City Clerk is open from 8:30am-4:30pm weekday and may be contacted at (313) 386-2520 Ext. 7021, or on the first floor of City Hall at 3869 W. Jefferson Avenue Ecorse, MI 48229.

Ecorse City Clerk

### CITY OF INKSTER PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
CITY OF INKSTER, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RE: Case No. 22-34 (TA)

In accordance with and pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006, as amended, notice is hereby given that the City of Inkster Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., held in Council Chambers, Inkster City Hall, 26215 Trowbridge. The purpose of this hearing is to consider potential amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance, being Chapter 155, Article 29 to include additional definitions, and including additional uses and standards in Article 146, and updating of the business licensing standards in Chapter 124.

The proposed text amendments are available for inspection at the Inkster City Hall between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Public comments are invited. Persons unable to attend the public hearing may send their comments in writing to the attention of the City of Inkster Planning Department, 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, Michigan, 48141. Comments will be received through 12:00 noon, Monday, November 21, 2022. Please reference Case No. 22-34 (TA) in all correspondence.

The City of Inkster will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the public hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five business days written notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Inkster at 313.563.9770.

Verna Chapman  
Inkster City Clerk

PUBLISH BY: November 10, 2022  
Planning Department • 313.563.9760

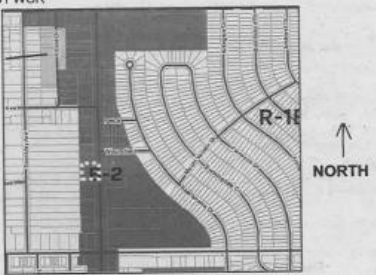
### CITY OF INKSTER PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF INKSTER,**  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RE: Case No. 22-35 (V)

In accordance with and pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006, as amended, notice is hereby given that the City of Inkster Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Information to join the meeting can be found at City Hall located at 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, Michigan, 48141 or at [www.cityofinkster.com](http://www.cityofinkster.com). The purpose of this hearing is to consider a non-use (dimensional) variance to allow a religious institution in the B-2 Thoroughfare Mixed-Use District at 646 Inkster Rd. Restoration Chapel International is the applicant. The site is located on the West side of Inkster Road, north of Avondale Avenue, south of Cherry Hill Road and is legally described as follows:

TAX ID: 44-003-03-0011-301  
24C11A, 12A THE W 153 FT OF LOT 11 ALSO THE W 153 FT OF LOT 12 ALSO N 1/2 ADJ VAC STREET DEARBORN TRACTOR ACRES SUB T2S R9E L39 P91 WCR



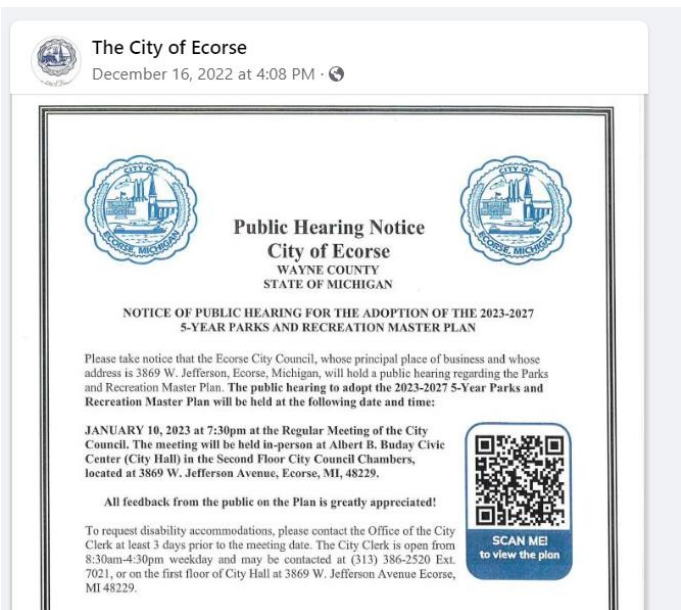
Public comments are invited. Persons unable to attend the public hearing may send their comments in writing to the attention of the City of Inkster Planning Department, 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, Michigan, 48141. Comments will be received through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Please reference Case No. 22-35 (V) in all correspondence.

The City of Inkster will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the public hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five business days written notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Inkster at 313.563.9770

Verna Chapman Inkster City Clerk

PUBLISH BY: November 10, 2022  
Planning Department • 313.563.9760

Below: Letters to neighboring municipalities, notice posted at City Hall, and Draft Plan advertised on City Facebook Page.





# APPENDIX B: Publication of Public Hearing for Plan Adoption

# TELEGRAM

**\*SERVING DETROIT AND THE DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY SINCE 1944\***

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF WAYNE

In the Matter: CITY OF ECORSE – PUBLIC HEARING – 5 YEAR RECREATION PLAN

Robert Wilson, being first duly sworn, deposes and says the annexed printed copy of a notice was taken from the Telegram Newspaper, a newspaper printed and circulated in said State and Wayne County, and that said notice was published in said newspaper on

DECEMBER 22, 2022

That he is the Representative of said newspaper and knows well the facts stated herein.

Robert Wilson

Robert Wilson

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 22<sup>TH</sup> Day of December of A. D. 2022

PRINTER'S BILL  
\$135.00

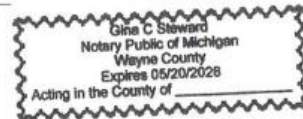
Notary Public, Wayne County, Michigan

See Attached Invoice

Gina C Steward

Signature

My Commission expires May 20, 2028



*The Telegram News is celebrating 78 years of providing positive news to people of Metropolitan Detroit.*

---

**Informing \* Educating \* Empowering \* Uplifting**  
Telegram Newspaper 10455 W. Jefferson Ave. #29085 River Rouge, MI 48218  
(313) 928-2955 telephone (313) 928-3014 fax (313) 949-3133 direct

**TO VOTE!!  
YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
IS  
COUNTING  
ON YOU**

8240	7887	0591
4716	6009	1874

**BIG MOMMA'S HITS**

**BIG RAY'S PICK 4**

680	109
295	666
157	411

5828	0744
6131	4652
7239	1818

**CITY OF ECORSE PUBLIC NOTICE**



**Public Hearing Notice  
City of Ecorse  
WAYNE COUNTY  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2023-2027  
5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Please take notice that the Ecorse City Council, whose principal place of business and whose address is 3869 W. Jefferson, Ecorse, Michigan, will hold a public hearing regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The public hearing to adopt the 2023-2027 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be held at the following date and time:

**JANUARY 10, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Regular Meeting of the City Council. The meeting will be held in-person at Albert B. Buday Civic Center (City Hall) in the Second Floor City Council Chambers, located at 3869 W. Jefferson Avenue, Ecorse, MI, 48229.**

All feedback from the public on the Plan is greatly appreciated!

To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at least 3 days prior to the meeting date. The City Clerk is open from 8:30am-4:30pm weekday and may be contacted at (313) 386-2520 Ext. 7021, or on the first floor of City Hall at 3869 W. Jefferson Avenue Ecorse, MI 48229.

Ecorse City Clerk



**SCAN ME!**  
to view the plan

**READ THE PUBLIC NOTICES.  
FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY**



# Telegram Classifieds and Public Notices

**APT FOR RENT**

**Across the Park Apartments**  
NEWLY REMODELED APARTMENTS  
Spacious 1 bedroom apartments

Available for 62 and older or Handicapped & Disabled

2700 S. Annabelle St.  
Detroit, MI 48217

Rent Based on Income  
Heat & Water included

Activity Room & Laundry facilities on site  
(313) 382-3201  
TTY: 313 382-3201  
atp@irmsteam.net



Equal Housing Opportunity

**CO-OP AVAILABLE**

**WELLESLEY TOWNHOUSES COOPERATIVE**

1 BEDRM RANCH TOWNHOMES  
**\$565/MONTH**

2 BEDRM TOWNHOMES  
STARTING FROM  
**\$580/ Month**

3 BEDRM TOWNHOMES  
STARTING FROM  
**\$613/Month**

For more information call  
(734) 729-3328  
Equal Housing Opportunity



Equal Housing Opportunity

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Real Estate - House For Rent  
2 story, 2/2 \$1275  
2 bath, carport, fenced yard  
Aledo schools  
.10 min West of Ft. Worth.  
(817) 986-7978

**AUTO FOR SALE**

-Automotive - For Sale  
3001 Mercedes Conv  
2001 Mercedes Convertible 150,000, silver, good AC, tires, battery, stereo, needs seat work and minor cosmetics. 2900.  
CONTACT EMAIL: [IBDrBill@hotmail.com](mailto:IBDrBill@hotmail.com)  
CONTACT PHONE: (817) 986-7978

## Excellence in Education



Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2022-23 Excellence in Education awards. All public-school employees may be nominated for the awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>. The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year. One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$1,500 cash prize plus a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize. Each winner also will receive a plaque and be featured in a news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, and WNEM-TV, Saginaw.

The winner of the 2022 Educator of the Year award was Spencer Vanderheide. He is a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School, which is part of Kenowa Hills Public Schools. Hundreds of educators were nominated during the eighth year of the educational awards program and 34, including Vanderheide, were selected to win a weekly award. Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- 2021 - Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit
- 2020 - Megan Sidje, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary, which is part of the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.
- 2019 - Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Ubyly Community Schools.
- 2018 - Kerri Moccio, a literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights
- 2017 - Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage
- 2016 - Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing
- 2015 - Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on:

- Excellence - Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication - They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration - Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership - They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness - The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER TO VOTE!! YOUR COMMUNITY IS COUNTING ON YOU**

**ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY**

**HOT PICKS**

040	226	513
112	303	732
8240	7887	0591
4716	6009	1874

**BIG MOMMA'S HITS**

680	109
295	666
157	411

**BIG RAY'S PICK 4**

5828	0744
6131	4652
7239	1818

**CITY OF ECORSE PUBLIC NOTICE**



**Public Hearing Notice**  
City of Ecorse  
WAYNE COUNTY  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2023-2027 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Please take notice that the Ecorse City Council, whose principal place of business and whose address is 3869 W. Jefferson, Ecorse, Michigan, will hold a public hearing regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The public hearing to adopt the 2023-2027 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be held at the following date and time:

**JANUARY 10, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Regular Meeting of the City Council.** The meeting will be held in-person at Albert B. Busby Civic Center (City Hall) in the Second Floor City Council Chambers, located at 3869 W. Jefferson Avenue, Ecorse, MI, 48229.

All feedback from the public on the Plan is greatly appreciated!

To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at least 3 days prior to the meeting date. The City Clerk is open from 8:30am-4:30pm weekday and may be contacted at (313) 386-2520 Ext. 7021, or on the first floor of City Hall at 3869 W. Jefferson Avenue Ecorse, MI 48229.

Ecorse City Clerk



SCAN ME to view the plan.

**READ THE PUBLIC NOTICES. FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

## Black Owned Media

From Page 5A

litrust exemption, a legal maneuver that has a history of failing to achieve beneficial goals," said Lisa Macpherson, Senior Policy Analyst at Public Knowledge.

"Allowing the largest media conglomerates - like Alden Global Capital, Gannett, Sinclair Broadcast Group, and News Corp - to collude on the terms of access and value of their content will hurt competition and make our news landscape worse, not better."

Macpherson continued: "In a bill that is supposedly meant to encourage local journalism, there is no accountability for how the money is spent. Facebook and Google will fund more stock buybacks and executive bonuses than journalists' salaries. It also introduces a precedent of payment for simply linking to information on the internet. "This bill is also a threat to content moderation. The JCPA allows publishers to sue Facebook or Google for taking down content that the platforms find offensive or contrary to their community standards. "And with the most recent amendment, proposed by Sen. Cruz (R-Texas), harmful misinformation, networked disinformation, and hate speech will be even harder to police under this bill - and that is by design. "The JCPA will not save local journalism. Instead, it will make a few billionaires even wealthier at the expense of a healthy and open internet and information environment for all of us."

# APPENDIX C: Minutes from Council Meeting Public Hearings

## November 29, 2022 – Release of Draft Plan

NOTE: It is customary that approved minutes at the City of Ecorse do not bear the signature of the City Clerk.

### CITY OF ECORSE

#### 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November, 2022

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council called to order at 7:30 o'clock p.m., Mayor Tidwell, presiding.

Present: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....

**864.22** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the Public Hearing for the Release of the Draft 2023-2027 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan be hereby opened at 7:32 o'clock p.m.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....

**865.22** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the Public Hearing for the Release of the Draft 2023-2027 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan be hereby closed at 7:43 o'clock p.m.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....

**866.22** Moved by Councilman Alexander, Supported by Councilman Love,  
**RESOLVED, that** the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council be reconvened at 7:45 o'clock p.m., with Mayor Tidwell, presiding.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Worthy, Love, Alexander, Soria

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....



**867.22** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on the 15th day of November, 2022,  
be hereby approved as recorded.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....

**868.22** Moved by Mayor ProTem Lamb, Supported by Councilman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the payroll Claims as submitted by the Controller's Office on November  
29th, 2022, be paid from the proper funds in the total amount of \$236,067.26

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....

**869.22** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the Claims and Accounts submitted by the Controller's Office on November  
29th, 2022 be paid from the proper funds in the total amount of \$1,091,687.78

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....

**870.22** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilman Alexander,

**RESOLVED, that** the City Council approved the Budget-to-Actual Report, through October 31st, 2022.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that** the Summary of the monthly Budget-to-Actual Report for the month of October 2022, was received and placed on file.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

.....

**THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:**

**Timothy Sadowski:**

- a.) **Action Item:** Recommendation to Contract Professional Building Services (Building Official, Technician and Inspections) to McKenna effective January 1, 2023
- b.) **Action Item:** Recommendation to Award As Needed Water Repairs to Eminent Excavating, LLC and Decima LLC be awarded the secondary contract
- c.) **Action Item:** Resolution of Support for Spark Grant Application for the Pepper Park improvements
- d.) **Action Item:** Release of the Draft 2023-2027 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Public

**871.22** Moved by Councilman Alexander, Supported by Councilman Love,

**RESOLVED,** per the recommendation of City Administrator Tim Sadowski, the City Council approved the Contract Professional Building Services (Building Official, Technician and Inspections) to McKenna effective January 1, 2023

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Parker

Absent: None

Abstained: Councilwoman Worthy

.....



**872.22** Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Lamb Supported by Councilman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED**, per the recommendation of City Administrator Tim Sadowski, the City Council approved to Award As Needed Water Repairs to Eminent Excavating, LLC and Decima LLC be awarded the secondary contract

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Parker  
Absent: None  
Abstained: Councilwoman Worthy

.....

**873.22** Moved by Councilman Alexander, Supported by Councilman Love,  
**RESOLVED**, per the recommendation of City Administrator Tim Sadowski, the City Council approved the Resolution of Support for Spark Grant Application for the Pepper Park improvements

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Parker  
Absent: None

.....

**874.22** Moved by Councilman Alexander, Supported by Councilman Love,  
**RESOLVED**, per the recommendation of City Administrator Tim Sadowski, the City Council approved the Release of the Draft 2023-2027 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Public

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Soria, Worthy  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Parker  
Absent: None

.....

**889.22** Moved by Councilman Alexander, Supported by Councilman Love,  
**RESOLVED**, that the Regular Council Meeting be hereby adjourned at 8:58 o'clock p.m.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Worthy, Love, Alexander, Soria  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Parker  
Absent: None

Submitted by: Kimberly R. Whitsett, City Clerk

# January 10, 2023 – Approval of Plan

NOTE: It is customary that approved minutes at the City of Ecorse do not bear the signature of the City Clerk.

## CITY OF ECORSE

### 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF January, 2023

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council called to order at 7:30 o'clock p.m., Mayor Tidwell, presiding.

Present: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Worthy, Love and Parker

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

.....

**915.23** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilwoman Alexander,

**RESOLVED, that** the Public Hearing for the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan be hereby opened at 7:32 o'clock p.m.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Parker and Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

Abstain: None

.....

**916.23** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilman Alexander,

**RESOLVED, that** the Public Hearing for the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan be hereby closed at 7:35 o'clock p.m.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Parker and Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

Abstain: None



**917.23** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilwoman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council be reconvened at 7:35 o'clock p.m., with Mayor Tidwell, presiding.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Parker and Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

Abstain: None

.....

**918.23** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilwoman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on the 27th day of December, 2022, be hereby approved as recorded.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Love, Parker and Worthy

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

Abstained: Mayor Tidwell

.....

**919.23** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilwoman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED, that** the Payroll as submitted by the Controller's Office on January 10th, 2023, be paid from the proper funds in the total amount of \$270,807.92

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Worthy, Love and Parker

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**920.23** Moved by Councilman Parker, Supported by Councilwoman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED**, that the Claims and Accounts submitted by the Controller’s Office on January 10th, 2023 be paid from the proper funds in the total amount of \$299,864.11

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Worthy, Love and Parker

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

Abstain: None

.....

**FOR THE RECORD: Resident Jared Berry and Taryn M. R. Willis presented an updated proposal for the Downriver Motor City Jazz Series to take place in June, 2023, at John Dingell Park, Ecorse, MI**

.....

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:  
**Timothy Sadowski:**

1. **Action Item:** Resolution to Approve the 5-Year, 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
2. **Action Item:** MDOT TEDF Category B Contract Number 22-5552
3. **Action Item:** Recommendation of Award for the Police Department Jail Renovation to DMC Consultants for \$357,430.00
4. **Action Item:** Property Exemption Policy, Guidelines and Application

.....

**921.23** Moved by Councilwoman Alexander, Supported by Councilman Love,  
**RESOLVED**, per the recommendation of City Administrator Timothy Sadowski, the City Council approved the Resolution for the 5-Year, 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Worthy, Love and Parker

Nays: None

Excused: Councilman Soria

Absent: None

Abstained: None



**922.23** Moved by Councilwoman Alexander, Supported by Councilman Love,  
**RESOLVED**, per the recommendation of City Administrator Timothy Sadowski, the City Council approved the MDOT TEDF Category B Contract Number 22-5552.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Worthy, Love and Parker  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Soria  
Absent: None  
Abstained: None

.....

**923.23** Moved by Councilman Parker, Supported by Councilwoman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED**, per the recommendation of City Administrator Timothy Sadowski, the City Council approved to award Police Department Jail Renovation to DMC Consultants for \$357,430.00

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Worthy, Love and Parker  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Soria  
Absent: None  
Abstained: None

.....

**924.23** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Mayor Pro Tem Lamb,  
**RESOLVED**, per the recommendation of City Administrator Timothy Sadowski, the City Council approved the Resolution of Real Property Tax Poverty Exemption Resolution

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Worthy, Love and Parker  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Soria  
Absent: None  
Abstained: None

**931.23** Moved by Councilman Love, Supported by Councilwoman Alexander,  
**RESOLVED**, that the Regular Council Meeting be hereby adjourned at 8:29 o'clock p.m.

Yeas: Mayor Tidwell, Pro Tem Lamb, Councilmen Alexander, Parker, Love and, Worthy  
Nays: None  
Excused: Councilman Soria  
Absent: None  
Abstained: None

Submitted by: Kimberly R. Whitsett, City Clerk

# APPENDIX D: Resolution of Plan Adoption by City Council on January 10, 2023

CITY OF ECORSE  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution to Approve the 5-Year, 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**Resolution # 921.23**

At a regular meeting of the Ecorse City Council, held in the City Council chamber at Albert B Buday City Hall (3869 W Jefferson Ave, Ecorse, MI 48229) on January 10, 2023, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ecorse has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ecorse began the process of updating its community parks, recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Ecorse were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 5-Year, 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on November 29, 2022, at City Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Draft 5-Year 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, a second public hearing was held on January 10, 2023, at City Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Final 5-Year 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ecorse has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Ecorse community, and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Ecorse City Council voted to adopt said 5-Year, 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ecorse City Council hereby adopts the 5-Year, 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Yeas: Mayor Lamar Tidwell, Mayor Pro Tem LaTonya Lamb, Councilmembers Montel Love, Kimberly Alexander, Roger Parker Sr, and Gabrielle Worthy

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Felipe Soria

I, Kimberly Whitsett (City Clerk), do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the City of Ecorse at a regular meeting thereof held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.









## GRANT HISTORY

**Grantee**

***City of Ecorse - Wayne County***

<b>Project No.</b> 26-01092	<b>Project County:</b> Wayne	<b>Project Year:</b> 1979
<b>Project title:</b> Ecorse Riverside Park Fishing Bulkhead - Phase I		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$414,232.50

**Scope Item**

**Project Description:** Develop: bulkhead containing sheet metal piling, rip rap, back fill, deadman supports, metal railing, 12 feet wide concrete walk, decorative railing slats, lighting, benches

<b>Project No.</b> 26-01260	<b>Project County:</b> Wayne	<b>Project Year:</b> 1983
<b>Project title:</b> John Dingell Park Phase II		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$535,531.67

**Scope Item**

**Project Description:** Approximately 725 feet of fishing pier, lighting, benches, LWCF sign

<b>Project No.</b> 26-01674	<b>Project County:</b> Wayne	<b>Project Year:</b> 2006
<b>Project title:</b> Eli Cuinigan Park Expansion Project		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$75,000.00

**Scope Item**

- Basketball court (inc rims & nets)
- Boardwalk
- Fencing along street
- Gravel parking lot (incl entry)
- Interpretive signage
- Landscaping
- LWCF plaque
- Observation deck/gazebo
- Paved pathway with park
- Play equipment
- Resurface tennis courts
- site amenities (benches, tables, receptacles)

**Project Description:** Development to include new handball courts, parking space, and greenway path overlook.



## GRANT HISTORY

**Grantee**

**City of Ecorse - Wayne County**

<b>Project No.</b> TF07-106	<b>Project County:</b> Wayne	<b>Project Year:</b> 2007
<b>Project title:</b> Ecorse Creek Greenway and Park Development		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$415,000.00

**Scope Item**

- 12-Foot Wide Asphalt Path
- 20-Car Parking Lot
- Basketball Court
- Boardwalk
- Bridge to Lincoln Park
- Canoe Launches and Viewing Platform
- Gazebo installation
- Interpretive Signage
- Landscape, Riverbank Restoration
- Lighting
- Pathway to Dingell Park
- Picnic Tables and Benches Installation
- Playscape
- Railroad Crossing Path
- Sensory Garden
- Skateboard Park
- Tennis Court
- TF sign

**Project Description:** Development of Ecorse Greenway along Ecorse Creek with pathways, canoe launches, access points, sensory garden, boardwalks, tennis and basketball courts, skateboard area, pedestrian bridge, lighting, and other park amenities

**Total number of projects:** 8

**Total Amount of Grant Given** \$1,666,255.23

# APPENDIX F: Ecorse Creek Vision Plan



ECORSE CREEK  
COMMITTEE



**VISION  
PLAN**

July 2020

**PREPARED FOR:**



*On behalf of the Ecorse Creek  
Committee*

**PREPARED BY:**

**SMITHGROUP**

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## Executive Summary

Top right:

Opposite:

Located about halfway down the Detroit River and nestled within the Downriver communities, the City of Ecorse has leveraged its strategic position to support the Great Lakes and national economy. Development trends in the 20th century maximized urban growth, leaving very little public land and even less natural areas intact. Today is a new day. The City of Ecorse is developing a vision that renews the community's relationship with its natural resource assets and its neighboring communities. This vision is being created around a growing group of influential partners. This partnership is known as the Ecorse Creek Committee (Committee).

The vision is anchored by the area's waterways. The City contributes drainage to three watersheds, and showcases

a waterfront of over 2.5 miles on the Detroit River (not including the shipping embayments) and over 2.1 miles along Ecorse Creek. Prominently situated at the mouth of Ecorse Creek, the city is poised to make a significant impact in the region and the Committee sees local waterway improvements as a catalyst to create a new, sustainable vision for the community.

As the Committee advances to the next levels of planning, design, and implementation, this document lays out the initial thoughts, ideas, and organization of the Committee. The Committee is proud to share their vision formed around the essence of *HEALING* communities, natural systems, and the relationship between people and nature.

1 City of Ecorse [on behalf of the Ecorse Creek Committee]



sufficient **4.6** miles  
of waterfront

sufficient **2.4** square miles  
of land area

deficient **19.1** acres  
of park land

deficient **0.8** %  
of total land use



## Using the Vision Plan

Image: Ecorse Creek is an under utilized asset. By implementing the vision, the creek will be restored for the benefit of wildlife, plants, and future generations (such as this young lady kayaking on the Creek during the 2019 Ecorse Creek Clean Up Event). Photo credit: Kelly Rose

### PURPOSE

This document serves as a tool to support the Committee by:

- Producing a living document that communicates a clear and consistent vision for the Committee.
- Establishing the essential components to be included as part of a future, sustainable goal-setting process for the lower Ecorse Creek.
- Setting the basis for coordinating future planning and design work within the City with the vision set forth in this document.
- Assisting the Committee in coordinating with other agencies, municipalities, and potential partners in the area.
- Communicating the vision of a sustainable future for the lower Ecorse Creek and adjoining communities with potential funders, sponsors, and partners.





Image: Members of the Ecorse Creek Committee, community volunteers, and leaders in the community from the 1st Annual Ecorse Creek Clean Up Event in 2019.

## Introduction

### COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

Interest in restoring the health of the natural systems in the area started to be vocalized in the community during the development of a new master plan for the city.<sup>1</sup> In 2017, a public engagement process was conducted to inform the development of the community's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.<sup>2</sup> As a result, members of the community came forward with a determination to "help [the] community see Ecorse Creek as an asset to be cared for and as a source of recreation." Under the leadership of City Administrator, Richard Marsh, the Ecorse Creek Committee was formed.

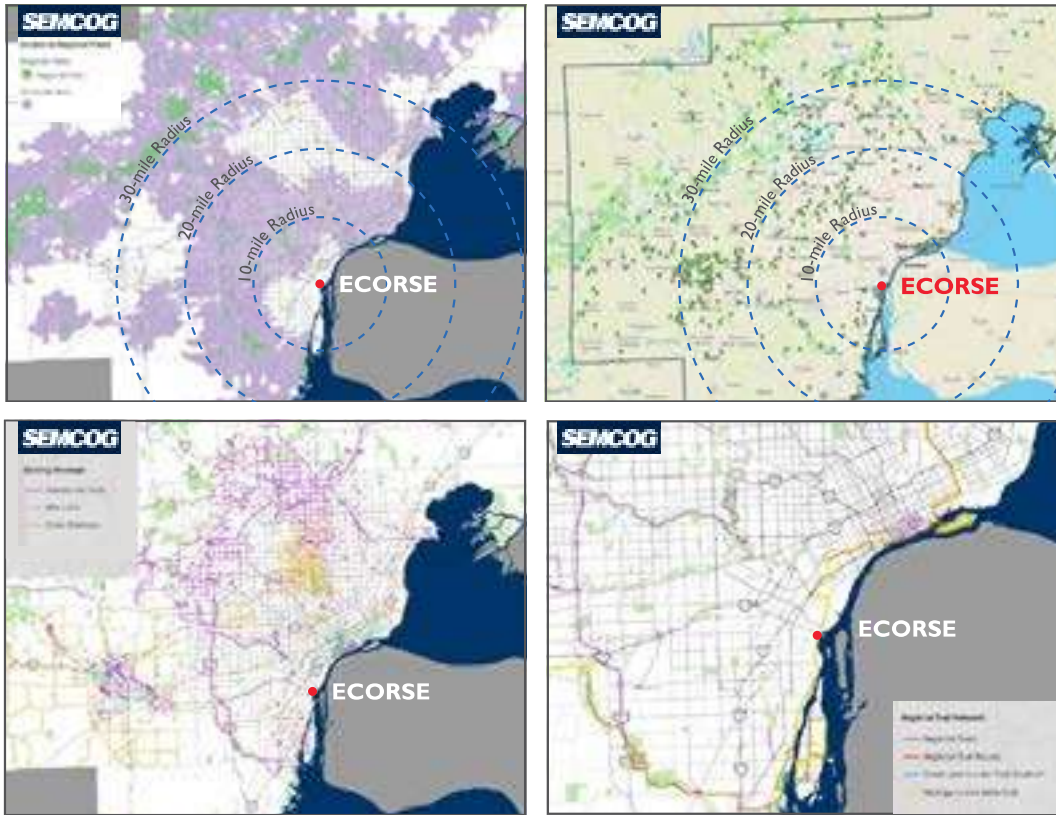
1 2015 Master Plan

2 2019 City of Ecorse 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan

### SETTING THE COURSE

The Committee started by identifying an initial set of goals for implementing strategic improvements in the community along the Detroit River waterfront and Ecorse Creek, including:

1. Additional amenities to Dingell Park
2. Upgrades to the Rowing Club and surrounding landscape
3. Extension of Iron Belle Trail along Ecorse Creek, including a kayak launch at Pepper Park
4. Ecorse Creek cleanup events



TOP PANELS: Maps from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) database highlight the extreme lack of access to nature, parks, and open spaces.

BOTTOM LEFT: The lower Ecorse Creek area is significantly under-represented in bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The walking portion of the Iron Belle Trail will go through Ecorse, an opportunity for a regional trail connection.

## THE NEED

The area encompassing lower Ecorse Creek and its neighboring communities are refocusing its efforts to bring about much needed change in the area, starting with restoring environmental integrity and resiliency in combination with providing access to high quality parks and trails.

The Ecorse Creek watershed is highly urbanized, with nearly 94.5% of land currently developed.<sup>1</sup> This has, in part, contributed to a degraded riparian system, water quality concerns, and flooding.

Development of the watershed has led to additional issues in the community. Currently, only 19.1 acres (~0.8%) of land area is dedicated to parks and recreation in the City of Ecorse, a stark contrast when compared to the recommended minimum of 59.4 acres.<sup>2</sup>

Access to nature and recreation facilities is a concern for the entire lower Ecorse Creek area. The City of Ecorse sits miles away from any regional parks. Not surprisingly, the majority of regional parks are located near waterways.

- 1 2012 Ecorse Creek Watershed Management Plan
- 2 2019 City of Ecorse 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan



## ORGANIZING A SOLUTION

Furthermore, despite being in close proximity to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR), the community is significantly under-served in regards to access to nature. This further emphasizes that Ecorse Creek is an under utilized asset.

In addition to a lack of access to nature via land, there are currently no public access sites in to Ecorse Creek for paddling or other recreational uses.

In 2017, the Committee started with a couple of dedicated community members the City Administrator, the City Planning consultant, and the Community Outreach Manager from Riverside Kayak Connection. Since this time, the Committee has grown to a group of dedicated municipal, county, federal, non-profit, consultant, and community partners.

Committee meetings are held monthly. Jody DeMeyere, Visitor Services Manager for the DRIWR, facilitates the meetings and records meeting notes.





## Vision & Goals



### VISION

**The Committee will revitalize the lower Ecorse Creek corridor to effect healing for the natural environment, the community, and the community's relationship with the natural environment.**



## GOALS

The Committee seeks to:

- Create and implement a non-motorized greenway that:
  - Incorporates a trail and open space system along Ecorse Creek
  - Provides equitable access to the surrounding neighborhoods
  - Connects to the Detroit River plus regional trail and open space systems

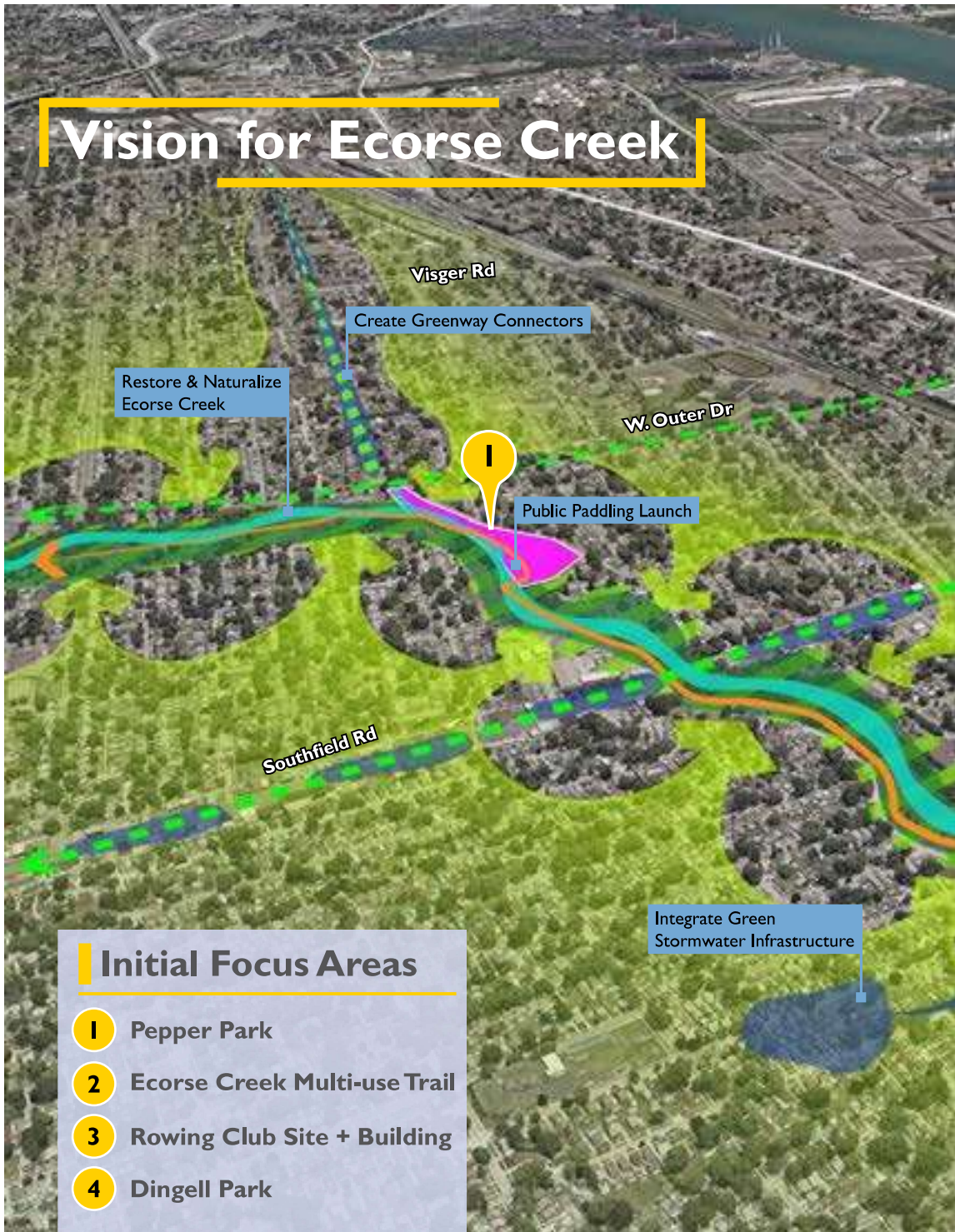
- Create and implement a non-motorized blueway that:
  - Integrates water-based recreation
  - Improves public access and navigability of the Ecorse Creek channel
  - Connects to the Detroit Heritage River Water Trail

- Assess the ecological health of the lower Ecorse Creek, identify areas of improvements, and then perform restoration and enhancements, including, but not limited to:
  - Natural channel geomorphology
  - Riparian and wetland habitat
  - Floodplain function and hydrology in an urban watershed
  - Water quality
  - Floristic quality
  - Biological integrity of fish and wildlife

- Create and implement a Stewardship Plan that:
  - Involves community members
  - Promotes education and advocacy
  - Conducts an Annual Ecorse Creek Clean-up event
  - Monitors the presence and abundance of invasive species
  - Manages invasive species

- Create and implement a branding and communications program that
  - Promotes a positive interaction between people and nature
  - Educates the public about the significance of natural systems and sustainable design practices
  - Supports a strong brand that ties the surrounding communities together
  - Promotes partnerships and supports partners' existing programs
  - Coordinate with the Destination Downriver branding effort

# Vision for Ecorse Creek



## Initial Focus Areas

- 1 Pepper Park
- 2 Ecorse Creek Multi-use Trail
- 3 Rowing Club Site + Building
- 4 Dingell Park







key map

## Focus Area I: Pepper Park

Pepper Park is a popular park offering active recreational opportunities for the community. Ecorse Creek runs along its western edge. The community is seeking opportunities to integrate a more diverse palette of programming, including a segment of a creekside multi-use trail, a paddling launch, riparian habitat enhancements, nature-based recreation, and passive recreation.

With the help of a consultant specializing in waterfront and riparian improvements, the City of Ecorse secured grant funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to create a riparian habitat restoration demonstration project that also includes installing a paddling launch and management of invasive species.

Moving forward, the Committee will develop a park master plan to maximize the space for the highest and best uses, including the integration of goals and initiatives identified in this document (i.e. green stormwater infrastructure, future multi-use trail, proposed bridge crossing, habitat restoration improvements, and nature-based recreation).



## Focus Area 2: Ecorse Creek Multi-use Trail

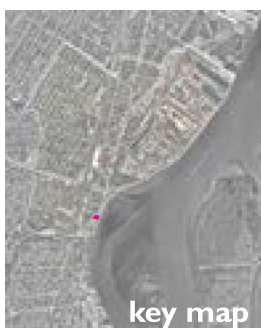
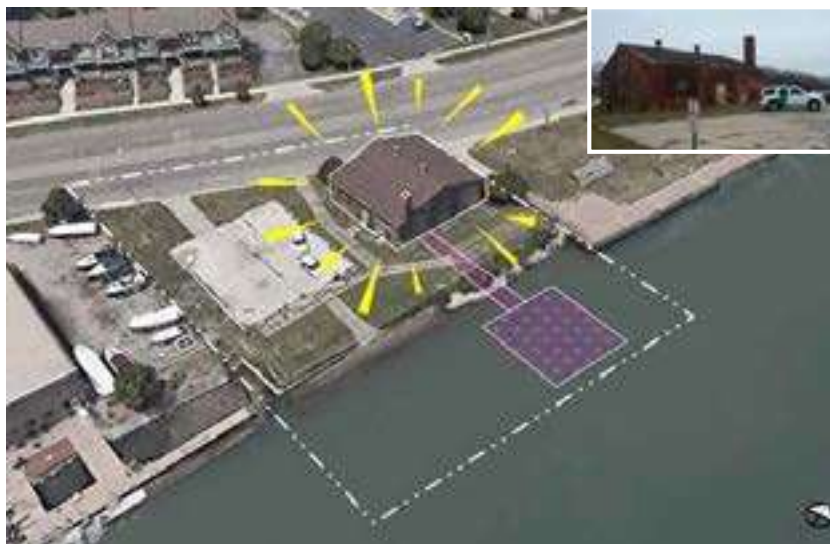
Downriver Linked Greenways has worked with the City and the City Planner to identify a potential route for a future creekside multi-use trail. The proposed route thoughtfully incorporates several community assets, including Dingell Park, the Mill Street Redevelopment property, an existing trail network at Council Point Park in Lincoln Park, and Pepper Park. Two new pedestrian bridges are envisioned to cross the creek and offer an opportunity for creating iconic, sculptural structures in the community.

Next steps include, advancing the design through a conceptual study that evaluates route alternatives relative to corridor widths, parcel ownership, and opportunities for riparian habitat

improvements. The conceptual study should also include developing a concept for the form, materials, surface treatments, and desired amenities. Moving forward, the Committee will need to coordinate with government agencies, private landowners, and other partners to:

- Establish a system of governance (i.e. ownership and maintenance agreements, security)
- Secure spatial requirements for the corridor through acquisition or easements
- Collect and analyze data on existing site conditions, such as topography, utilities, soils, and vegetation.
- Complete regulatory permits and approvals





### Focus Area 3: Rowing Club Site & Building

The former Rowing Club building lies immediately south of Dingell Park on a 1/2 acre site with over 160 feet of riverfront. The Committee has a vision of connecting this land to the park and revitalizing the existing building (approximately 3,300 sq. ft.) to be rented to a vendor to manage kayak rentals and concessions. A new design for the site will expand the parking area, improve circulation, and install a much desired universally accessible kayak launch on the Detroit River. Amenities to support recreational uses include: signage and way-finding, bike racks, benches, spotting scope for wildlife viewing, accessible drinking fountains, accessible walkways, permeable pavement, a bio-retention facility to manage stormwater runoff, and both a ramped and floating paddling launch.

When completed, the Row Club Building & Site will be a waterfront destination for residents and visitors. Refer to Appendix D for a Conceptual Site Plan developed by the City Planner, McKenna, in March 2019.

The City is actively seeking \$265,000 from a variety of sources to support the transformation of this riverfront site. Most recently they have engaged with officials from the President of the United State's office to request federal funding.

Moving forward, the Committee needs to create construction contract documents, then bid and construct the proposed improvements.



## Focus Area 4: Dingell Park

Dingell Park is the preeminent park in the City of Ecorse. Located along the Detroit River, it offers a magnificent public space to meet, walk, host events, and view wildlife utilizing the nearby Mud Island Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The walking portion of the Iron Belle Trail is planned to go through this park and is anticipated to draw many visitors from outside the city.

Targeted improvements include interpretive displays, amenities and infrastructure to support a growing interest in community programming and events, and additional amenities to support community interaction with nature (e.g. spotting scope, fishing amenities, etc.)

Moving forward, the Committee will need to develop a master plan to coordinate the targeted improvements, interests from the community, and the goals expressed in this document. This plan should include a study area that extends downstream to the Rowing Club, upstream to the Riverfront Redevelopment Site, Jefferson Avenue, and Mud Island.






# Current & Planned Projects

The Committee has laid out several goals that touch on recreation, conservation, and economic revitalization. The success of these goals could be impacted by other initiatives in the area. Timely and efficient communication with these projects is essential to ensure the Vision and Goals set forth in this document are thoughtfully integrated. The Committee has started to engage leaders of several projects and will continue to reach out as new projects arise.



## CITY OF ECORSE PROJECTS



The City of Ecorse has identified several priority development projects, including:

-  Ecorse Creek Annual Clean-up Event (Committee Initiative)
-  West Jefferson TAP Grant
-  Mill Street Property Redevelopment
-  Riverfront Redevelopment Site
-  Industrial Waterfront



## REGIONAL PARTNERS INFLUENCE




The Partners are committed to providing a resilient future to the region.

-  Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
-  Municipal Partners



## REGIONAL CONNECTIONS INFLUENCE

The following projects play a significant role the community and the region:

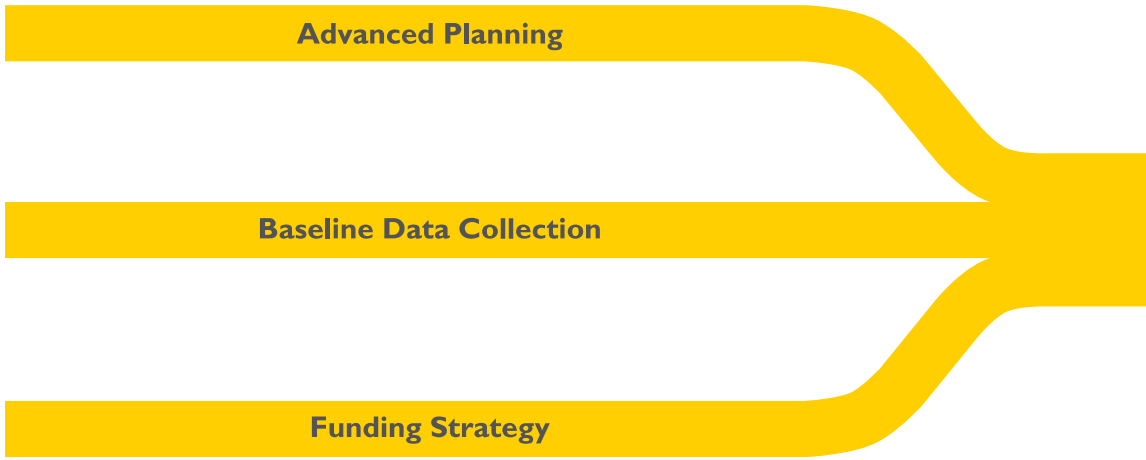
-  Iron Belle Trail (Waling Route)
-  Rouge River Gateway Greenway
-  Detroit Heritage River Trail - Grassy Island Loop





**ADDITIONAL MAP FEATURES**

- Ecorse Creek
- Existing Parks and Open Spaces



## Phasing & Next Steps

### ADVANCED PLANNING

- Benchmarking Study - research similar transformations to identify potential roadblocks, successes, and lessons learned
- Corridor Master Plan - evaluate alternatives for public access, circulation, recreational facilities, public art, stormwater management, and habitat improvements. Identify parcels for acquisition or easement agreements.
- Water Quality and Natural System Restoration Study - analyze disturbances and impacts, identify potential target species and habitat improvements
- Feasibility & Concept Plan - establish spatial layout and order of magnitude cost opinion
- Branding & Way-finding Study - create a consistent, engaging, and welcoming image and way-finding strategy



#### **BASELINE DATA COLLECTION**

- Existing Conditions Survey - parcel ownership, topographic and bathymetric survey, utilities, etc.
- Soils Investigation
- Cultural Resources & Assets
- Hydrology & Hydraulics
- Biological Assessments

#### **FUNDING STRATEGY**

- Grants
- Forming a Conservancy or other means for long term funding for implementation and maintenance



# Appendices

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Appendix A: Ecorse Creek Goals and Plans (credit: Kelly Rose)

Appendix B: Vision for Ecorse Creek.pdf

Appendix C: Ecorse Creek Trail Concept Map, January 31, 2019

Appendix D: Row Club Kayak Launch Conceptual Site Plan, March 14, 2019 - used in an application for an MDNR Passport Grant

Appendix E: 'Ecorse Creek and Shoreline Clean Up Event A Success' articles, July 19, 2019

Appendix F: Development Priorities, City of Ecorse, April 17, 2018

Appendix G: Figures from the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund grant awarded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for improvements in Pepper Park

Appendix H: Photos of the Riverfront Site, identified as a Potential Development Site

Appendix I: Table of Additional Documents Produced by the Committee

Appendix J: Table of Additional Reference Documents Relevant to the Successful Implementation of the Ecorse Creek Committee Vision