Parks & Recreation Master Plan

ECORSE, MICHIGAN

DRAFT · JANUARY 2014

CITY OF ECORSE
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2014-2018

2014 -2018
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Ecorse, Michigan

DRAFT
January 26, 2014

McKenna ASSOCIATES

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SECTION I
INTRODUCTION

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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Parks and recreation opportunities are an important factor in creating a high quality of life in any community. Further, in order to be eligible for several major sources of grant funding for parks and recreation improvements, the community must have a parks and recreation master plan approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

The MDNR requires that recreation plans address a five year time period. Therefore, the City of Ecorse has prepared this new Parks and Recreation Master Plan in order to establish its eligibility for a new five year time frame of grant funding. This document is the City of Ecorse's primary planning document for parks and recreation as of 2014.

This new Ecorse Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 – 2018 serves several purposes, but an overriding goal is to create a document that will be useful to the City, Planning Commission and the Recreation Committee in fulfilling the community's intermediate and short-term goals, while also examining long-term recreation needs and challenges over the next 5 years.

The 2014-2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared with the assistance of McKenna Associates and with the active involvement of the City in all aspects of planning. Citizen input, obtained through public meetings, surveys and comment periods, also played a critical role in creating this plan. City staff contributed extensively to the effort, including but not limited to the recreation inventory and community background information. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and desires of those who use the City's parks and recreation facilities. The plan process included seven steps that are described below.

Task One: Community Description. The first task was to obtain a description of Ecorse's physical and social features. These features include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population characteristics including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, household types, and income.

Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding. The second task was to obtain and review the administrative structure of the City, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation Committee. This analysis also includes a review of the current revenues and expenditures for the City as well as the grant history of funding received from the MDNR and other sources.

Task Three: Parks and Recreation Inventory. The parks and recreation inventory included site visits by McKenna Associates (McKenna) and written descriptions of facilities in Ecorse including City parks and facilities, schools, regional parks and facilities, greenways and trails, and quasi-public and private recreation facilities. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. The City's recreation programming is discussed in that section as well.

Task Four: Public Participation. The following public participation methods and events were conducted before and during the process of preparing the plan:

EnVision Ecorse – In 2011 the City undertook a community wide process to help the citizens of Ecorse develop a strategic plan for the City. A series of three community gatherings were held where citizens discussed and identified the community's assets, developed a vision for the future and created a strategic plan. Over the course of these gatherings over 400 citizens participated in the discussions.

Public Workshop – On January 23, 2014, McKenna and City staff conducted a public workshop to gather input on the current and future parks and recreation facilities and offerings. The full results of the workshop can be found in the appendix.

30-Day Review Period – The draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for the 30-day public review from January 27, 2014 until February 26, 2014. A notice was published in the River Rouge Telegram on January 23, 2014.

Task Five: Analysis. The data collected was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of City staff and recreation providers and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

Task Six: Action Plan. Upon completion of the analysis, goals and objectives were developed in light of the public input results and specific needs of the City. This resulted in the five-year plan which provides the City a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.

Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption. The City Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed the Plan and recommended that City Council adopt it on February 26, 2014. Finally, on February 27, 2014, the City Council held an advertised public meeting for public comment on the draft Plan, then after consideration, formally adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 – 2018. Throughout the process, all meetings were open to the public. Notices were posted beforehand, and advertised in the newspaper, as required by the Open Meetings Act. See the appendices for meeting minutes, meeting notices, transmittal letters, and for adoption documentation.

SECTION II
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. 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 on the east, the City of Wyandotte on the south, the City of Lincoln Park on the west, the City of Detroit to the northwest and the City of River Rouge to the northeast (See Map 1).

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.

B. HISTORY

The following summary is based on information from the 2004/2005 Parks and Recreation Plan.

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 became a city in 1942.

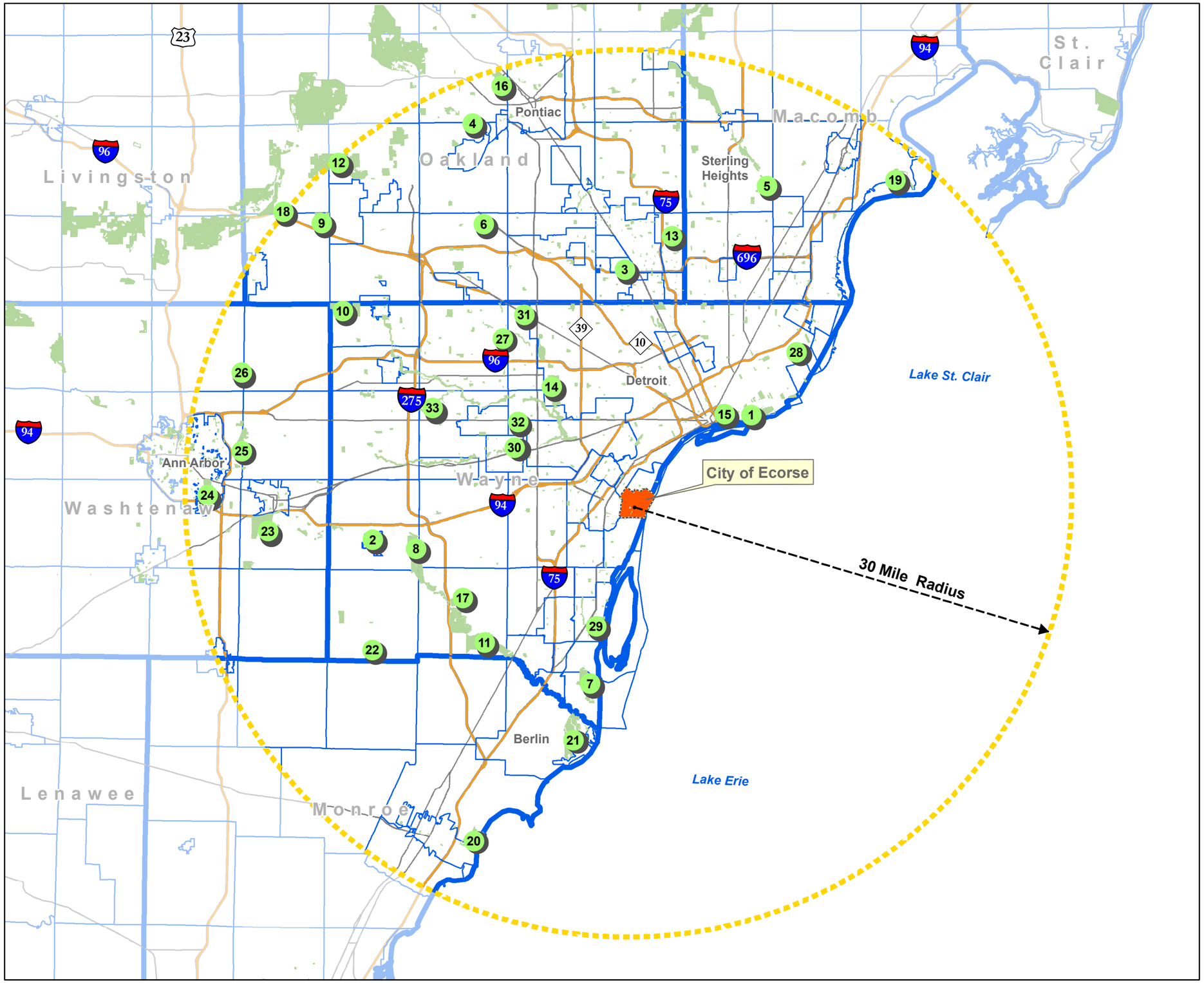
Because of its ideal location for shipping on the Detroit River, and its rail and road infrastructure built for Ford's River Rouge Complex to the north, Ecorse became a regional industrial center. The first steel plant, Michigan Steel Mill, was built in 1923; Great Lakes Steel followed in 1929. Industrial 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 blacks 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 weren't 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.

Map 1
Existing Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

City of Ecorse, Michigan

January 27, 2014



Existing Regional Parks & Recreation Facilities

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

Miles
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N

McKenna ASSOCIATES

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

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 literally divides the city in half. The proximity between industrial and residential land is from a time when residents walked to jobs within the City and desired a close proximity between work and home.

C. 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, 2000 – 2040

2000	2010	Percent Change (2000 to 2010)	2040*	Percent Change (2010 to 2040)
11,229	9,508	-15.3%	7,543	-20.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG
* SEMCOG 2040 Forecast

1. Population

Recent projections indicate that the City's population is expected to continue to decrease through 2040. The population decreased approximately 15.2% from 2000 to 2010, as indicated in Table 1. Based on SEMCOG estimates, the City's population is anticipated to decrease to approximately 7,543 residents by 2040. Improving the parks and recreation amenities available in the City is important to stabilize the population, create a higher quality of life for residents and an enhanced image of the community.

2. 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 decrease, as indicated in Table 2. The City's average household size, defined as the number of persons per household, is lower than the 2010 average household size in Wayne County (2.78) and very similar to that of the Southeast Michigan region (2.62). 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, 2010 – 2040

	2010*	2040
Households	3,645	3,075
Household Size	2.60	2.45

Source: US 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, 35% of households are Persons With Children, 34% are Two or More People Without Children, and 32% 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 a fairly equal distribution of household types, thus a variety of facilities are necessary.

3. 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 (83.8%) 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 2010 population, and there is a fairly 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, Ecorse, 2010 – 2040

Age Group	Life Phase	2010		2040	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 – 4	**Preschool**	702	7.4%	435	5.8%
5 – 17	**School Age**	1,875	19.7%	1,019	13.5%
18 – 34	**Young Adult**	2,137	22.5%	1,570	20.8%
35 – 64	**Adult**	3,582	37.7%	2,284	30.3%
65 +	**Retirement**	1,216	12.8%	2,235	29.7%
	Total	9,512	100.0%	7,543	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

D. 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 where half of all households earn more and half earn less. In 2010, the median household income in Ecorse ($28,463) was considering lower than the Wayne County median ($42,241) and for all of Southeast Michigan ($53,242). According to the 5 Year American Community Survey - 2010, 29.6% of the City's households live in poverty.

E. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. 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 the majority 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 and influential environmental features, the Detroit River and the Ecorse Creek. 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 City's municipal boundary on the south and portion of the west side, 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.

2. Climate

The climate of the region is typical of other Southeastern Michigan Communities. January tends to be the coldest month with average of 26 degrees Fahrenheit, while July tends to be the warmest with an average temperature of 73 degrees Fahrenheit. Annual precipitation is approximately 31 inches with the heaviest occurrences during the months of May, June and July. The area's 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 this area.

The climate in the City 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.

3. Existing Land Use Characteristics

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. While the City is still home to a major steel plant along the Detroit River, US Steel, the abandonment of another steel mill site on the City's south side 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.

Table 4
Land Use Types, Ecorse, 2008

Land Use	Percentage
Industrial	31.9%
Transportation/ Communication/Utility	27.9%
Single Family Residential	26.2%
Government/Institutional	6.9%
Commercial	5.1%
Multiple Family	0.9%
Parks/Recreation/Open Space	0.8%
Water	0.3%
Total	100.0%

Source: SEMCOG, 2008

Industrial uses encompass the highest percentage of the City's land area of any single category (31.9%), followed closely by Transportation/Communication/Utility uses at 27.9%. In addition to these nonresidential land uses, Single Family Residential neighborhoods cover over one quarter of the City.

4. 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-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 within two miles to the west. Both provide north-south regional access in close 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 located 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 its presence and condition varies. The sidewalk conditions and physical characteristics can only adequately provide access for pedestrians. Bicyclists and roller blade users can come into conflict with pedestrians. 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.

5. 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.

F. CONCLUSIONS REGARDING RECREATION PLANNING

As identified above, the population of Ecorse decrease at a slowing rate until stabilizing near 7,500 residents. One third of those residents will be in the senior (65+) age group, while roughly 13% will be school age children (5 to 17 years old). A wide range in 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.

In order 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 a Disability, Ecorse, 2012

Age Group	Total Persons	With a Disability*	Percent
0 – 17	2,444	280	11.5%
18 – 64	5,636	991	17.6%
65 +	1,381	489	35.4%
Total	9,461	1,760	18.6%

Source: US American Community Survey 2008-2012 Estimates
*The number of persons with a disability is taken as a sample resulting in a +/- margin of error as high as 8.7%

SECTION III
INVENTORY OF RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

A. OVERVIEW

McKenna conducted an inventory of existing local and regional recreation facilities in January 2014. The regional inventory consisted of review and compilation of regional park facilities brochures and websites. The inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections of all City parks, school district sites and some adjacent community recreation facilities. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded and reviewed with regard to location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition.

The City of Ecorse has eleven municipal parks, one public boat launch, and a senior 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.

B. MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Ecorse owns 19.1 acres of park land and public school recreation facilities occupy another 17.9 acres. 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 10 further details the features of each facility inventoried. The City and public school recreation sites are located on Map 2.

1. Barrier Free Accessibility Assessment

The passage of the American 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-point 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 park 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 park 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 park 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 be completely barrier-free.

Level 4. The park 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 entire 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.

2. Mini Parks

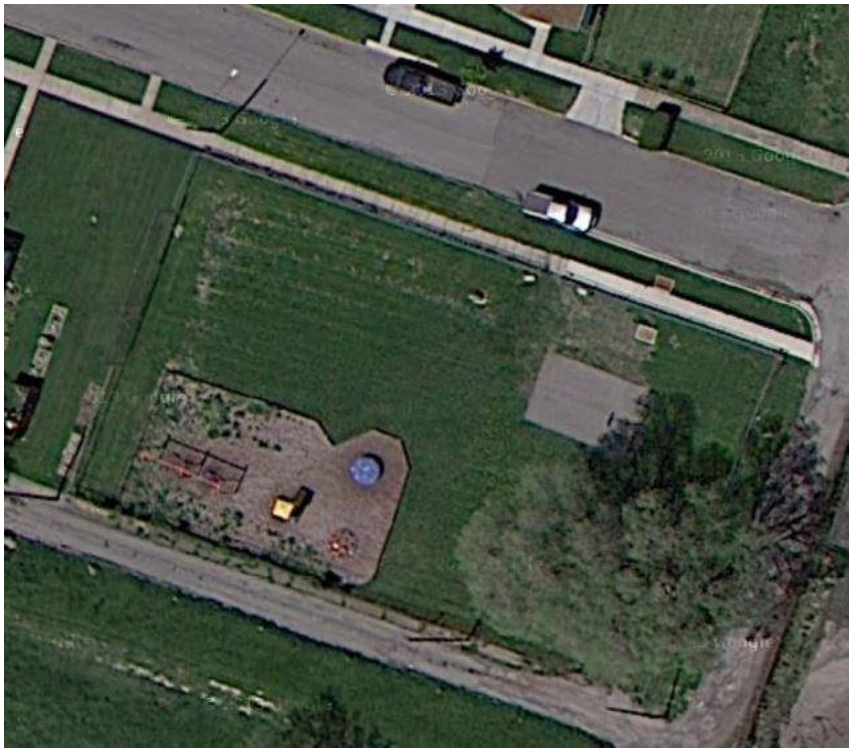
Mini parks are defined as small, specialized parks, typically less than an acre in area that serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. They may serve a limited population or specific group such as young pre-school children or senior citizens. Six city parks can be classified as mini parks, along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

Bell/Visger Playground

This is a small, triangular-shaped, fenced-in 0.5 acre park at Bell and Visger Streets. It contains older play equipment consisting of two swing sets, one set of monkey bars, two small and one large climbers and three benches. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 1.*

East Glenwood Park

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 playground area consists of a newer swing set and slide, and an older small climber and merry-go-round. There is also a half-sized basketball court and one picnic table. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 1.*



Outer Drive and 15th Playground

Located at Outer Drive and 15th Street, this 0.7 acre park consists of two separate fenced areas. The smaller, "toddler" park has one climber, a swing-set, and a sandbox. The larger area contains one large new playscape, one set of monkey bars, one set of older swings, one climber, and 3 benches. There is also a new gazebo funded by CDBG. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 1.*

Salliotte and 12th Park

This 140' X 250" park is located on the corner of Saliotte and Twelfth Streets. It consists of two parcels of equal size separately by 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 benches and two picnic tables. The other parcel is vacant. However, the basketball post, backboard and hoops have been removed by the church and the land is not currently being used. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 1.*

Senior Citizen Park

This fenced 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 large picnic tables and four older grills. Closest to the river is an open grassy area. This park is only used infrequently, perhaps due to a misperception that it is only for senior citizens. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 2.*

Zukonik Pumping Station Park

This 0.5 acre triangular parcel of land is bordered by Cicotte and High Streets. While the park only has one picnic table and two benches, it benefits from having available off-street parking in the adjacent lot. There is a pump station building on the east side of the property. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 2.*

3. 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 ½ mile radius. There are two municipal parks within Ecorse that function as neighborhood parks.

Bernard Popp Municipal Field

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, and one abandoned ball diamond with a single bleacher and lights. There is also a playground consisting of three climbers, a swing set and a merry-go-round. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 1.*

Ecorse Housing Park

This is a 2 acre triangular park behind the Voisine Housing Complex between Hyacinth and Francis Streets near Eighth Street and bordered on the east by railroad tracks. Primarily an area for residents of this complex, it has a play area with a large, new playscape and climbing sets, and two swing sets. To the north of this play area are two fenced basketball courts, one with older, wooden bleachers. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 1.*

Beach and Cicotte Park

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 newer play structure and two climbers in a playground area. Access to the park is from the road on the north or across the vacant property to the park's south. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 1.*

4. 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"

This 5.0 acre park, located on Pepper Road at Cicotte Street, has a large number of facilities. They include a baseball field with one set of three 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 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 and a climbing wall.

"Pepper Park" is one of the most heavily used parks in Ecorse and has experienced some vandalism. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 3.*

5. 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

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 ¼-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 wooden railing along the river and on-street parking along Jefferson Avenue; a play area with a playscape and two swing sets; older wooden benches at regular intervals along the entire length facing the water; three newer benches in the 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. *Accessibility Assessment = Level 3.*

6. 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.

Public Boat Launch

Located on Jefferson Avenue at the very south end of the City, the launch is owned by the City and privately leased operated. There is one large boat launch with two docks, 47 parking areas, a single-stall men's and women's restroom facility (only the women's is handicapped accessible) and a small office/concession trailer.

Ecorse Rowing Club Building

Established in 1837, the Ecorse Rowing Club was the 2nd oldest rowing club in the U.S. and the oldest on the Detroit River. It occupied two buildings located on a site right on the Detroit River at the south end of Dingell Park, but separated from the park by a metal fence. An old blue corrugated metal bungalow was demolished several years ago. The remaining building is an historic brick structure built in 1900. The building is now vacant and no longer used by the rowing club.

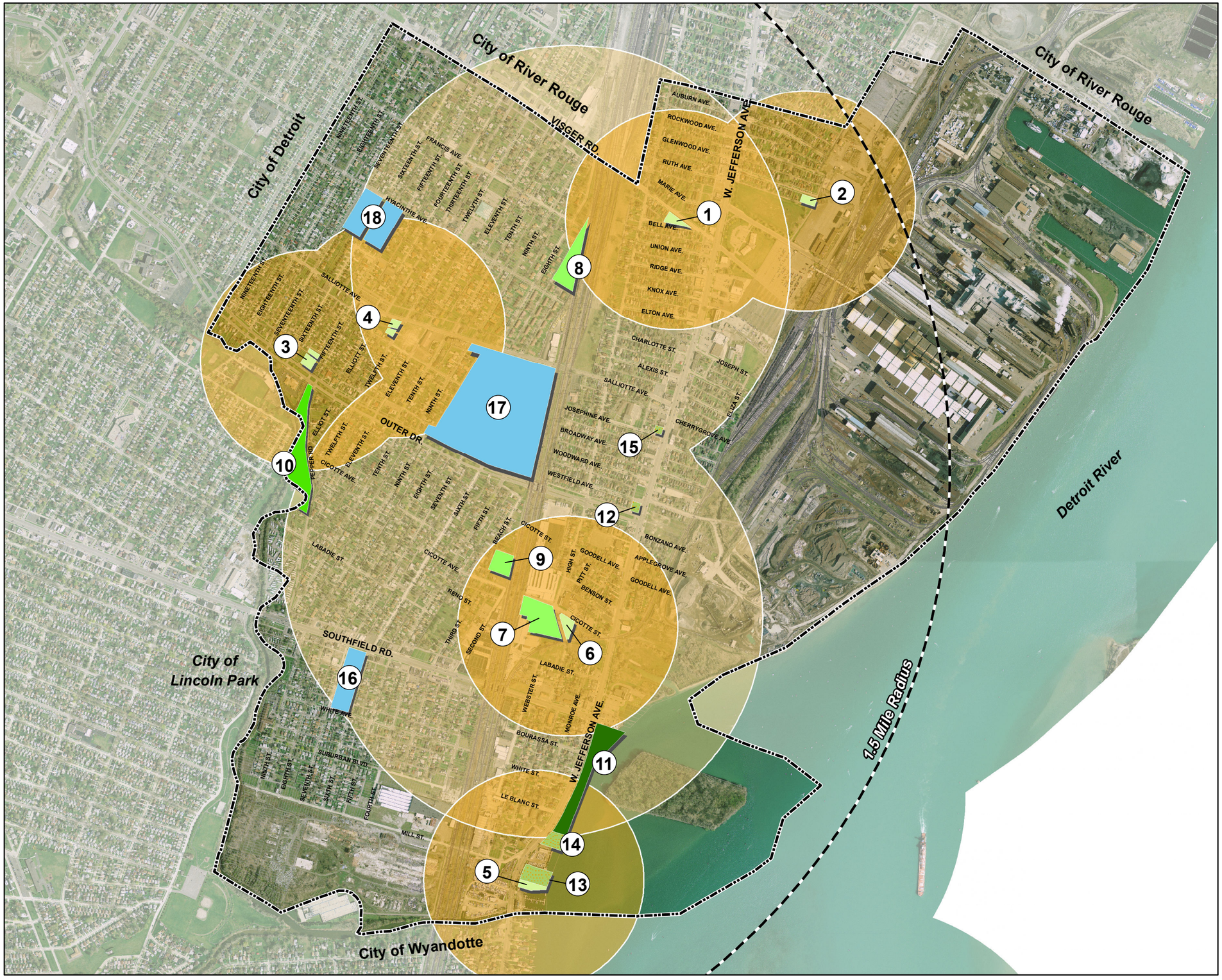
Table 6, following, describes the existing conditions at the City's recreational facilities. There is considerable potential to work within the confines of the existing facilities to upgrade the offerings in these parks to better serve the needs of City residents.

DRAFT

Map 2
Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

City of Ecorse, Michigan

January 27, 2014



DRAFT

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

0 1,000 2,000 FEET

N

McKenna ASSOCIATES

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

Table 6
Existing Recreation Facilities Inventory
Ecorse, Michigan

Facility	Area (in Acres)	Amenities			Hard Surfaced Areas			Passive Areas				Organized Play Areas					Playgrounds		
		Parking	Concessions	Restrooms	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Running Tracks	Benches	Pathways	Pavillion/ Gazeboo	Picnic Areas	Baseball/ Softball Field	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Lighting	Spectator Seating	Modular Play Structures	Swingsets	Climbers
Mini Parks																			
1. Bell and Visger Playground	0.5	Os									■							2	4
2. East Glenwood Park	0.4	Os			0.5			■			■						■	1	2
3. Outer Dr and 15th Playground	0.7	Os						■		■	■						■	2	6
4. Salliotte and 12th Park	0.5	Os			*														
5. Senior Citizen Park	0.3	Ad								■	■								
6. Zukonic Pumping Station Park	0.5	On Site						■			■								
Neighborhood Parks																			
7. Bernard Popp Municipal Field	3.3	Os										■			■	■	■	1	1
8. Ecorse Housing Park	2.0	Os			2											■	■	2	1
9. Beach and Cicotte Park	1.5	Os												■			■	1	2
Community Park																			
10. Eli Ciungan Park	5.0	Os	1	1	1.5	1.5		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	1	1
Regional Park																			
11. Dingell Park	4.4	On Site	1	1				■	■	■	■						■	1	2
Special Use Facilities																			
Public Boat Launch		On Site																	
Ecorse Rowing Club Building																			

Legend: Os – On Street Parking
* - Basketball posts and baskets at Salliotte and 12th have been removed.

7. Public School Facilities

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 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 general public on a request basis. However, the primary responsibility of the school district facilities 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 Seventeenth, this school has a smaller play area located behind the school with three modular play structures, four swing-sets, and four 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.

C. PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Several privately-owned recreation facilities are located adjacent to City of Ecorse. 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.

D. REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCES

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.

Table 7
Regional Recreation Facilities
within 30 Miles of Ecorse, Michigan

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	Metro Beach 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 and Wildlife Preserve

E. RECREATION PROGRAMS

The City of Ecorse offers several sports programs available to children in the community at large. The Recreation Department currently consists of one part-time employee who organizes several programs for school age children. 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 Ciungan Park for all games.

In the fall months, a flag football league was started in 2013. Consisting of four teams at two different age levels, 4-8 year olds and 9-13 year olds, the games were played at the open field at Ciungan Park. No fee was collected in the first year, but plans for 2014 will include a fee per participant, more levels and a move to the football field at Ecorse High School.

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.

Even with limited resources, these programs have seen growth in participation. They also conduct end-of-season celebrations with trophies and a meal provided to all.

1. 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 Thursday and include craft classes, bingo, a birthday club, sewing classes, health related classes, needle art, bridge club and a commodities pick-up.

2. Ecorse Public Library

The Ecorse Public Library, located at 4184 W. Jefferson Avenue, offers a homework center, a parent-teacher collection, and books for the blind. The library is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and access to the building is compliant with ADA standards.

SECTION IV
PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

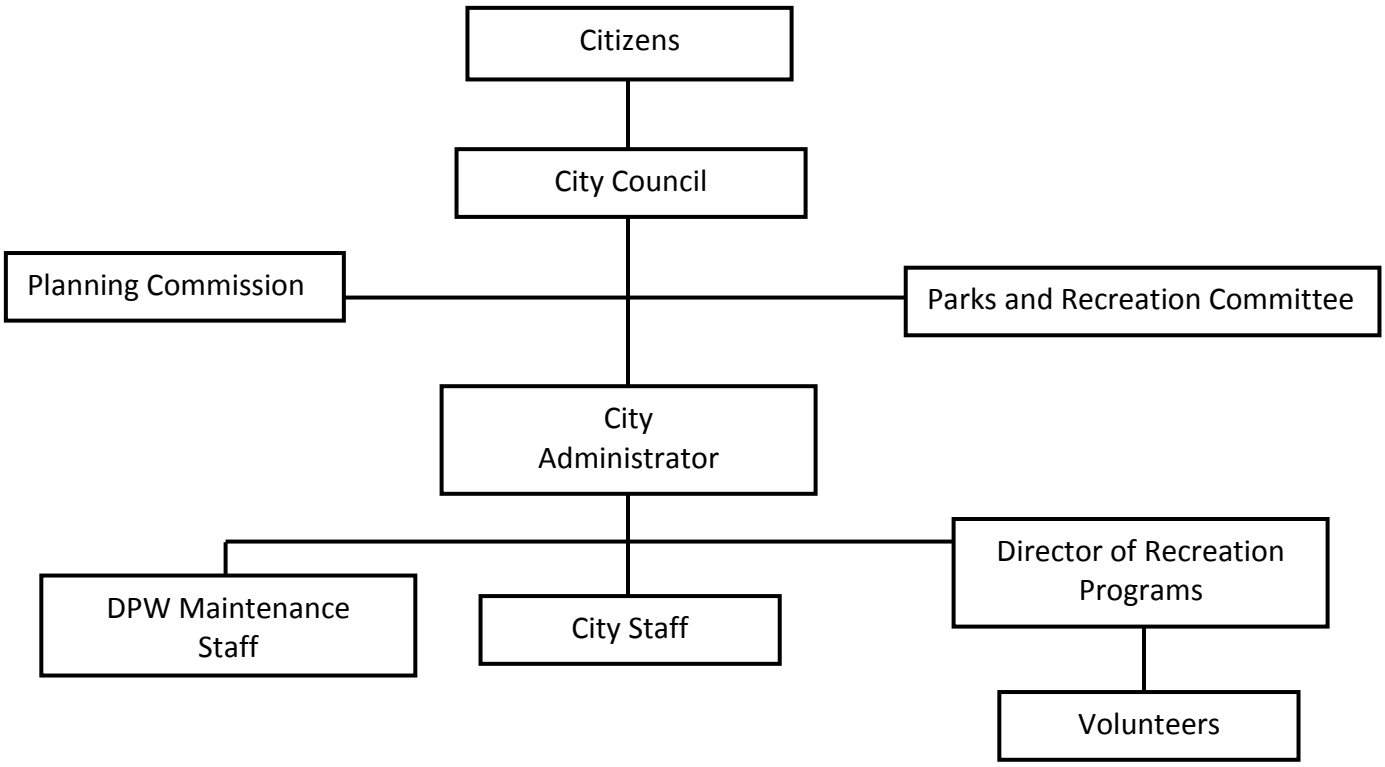
A. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The Ecorse City Council has established a four member Parks and Recreation Committee. The Committee is strictly an advisory committee to the City Administration and City Council. The goal of the Committee is to coordinate and provide recommendations to the City that best utilizes the existing facility and budgetary resources. The Committee has also been a tremendous resource in the parks and recreation planning process.

The City currently employs one part time recreation staff member and relies on volunteers for any assistance with existing programs. The current programs require user fees to help cover associated costs.

The Parks and Recreation Committee works closely with the Department of Public Works 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.

Figure 1
Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure, Ecorse



B. PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING AND GRANT HISTORY

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. Parks and recreation is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City Council. Maintenance of all City park facilities is by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Recreation program user fees are typically channeled through the General Fund.

Table 8 summarizes the Ecorse budget for parks and recreation in 2013-14. The funding and responsibilities are divided between the Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works.

Table 8
Park and Recreation Budget 2013 – 2014

	2013-14 Original	2013-14 Amended
Recreation Department		
Staff Salaries	$10,000	$10,000
FICA	$765	$765
Supplies and Equipment	$5,000	$5,000
Cellular Telephones	$0	$200
Building Lights	$1,200	$1,000
Cable	$0	$0
TOTAL	**$16,965**	**$16,965**
Department of Public Works		
Parks Maintenance	$15,000	$20,700
TOTAL	**$15,000**	**$20,700**

1. 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

A number of bond programs 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 three 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 of $30,000 - $100,000 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 retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through Federal appropriations. Grant match basis is 50 percent MDNR/50 percent local.

2. *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)*
   Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, 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 percent of the project cost are required.

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. *Michigan Department of Natural Resources 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 percent of the project cost are required. Grant amounts range from $7,500 to $45,000.

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.

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.

2. Grant History

Ecorse has received several state grants for park development over the years. These grants are summarized in the Appendix.

SECTION V
BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

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

A. SUMMARY OF ENVISION ECORSE, PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC HEARING

The public provided input regarding parks and recreation opportunities in general, and the parks and recreation master plan specifically through several means both before and during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. This ensures that the community at-large is a fundamental component in shaping the City's plan.

1. Envision Ecorse

Beginning in the spring of 2011, the City undertook an extensive planning process to help the citizens of Ecorse develop a strategic plan for the City. A series of three community gatherings were held from August to October during which citizens discussed and identified the community's assets, their opinions on those assets, the needs they see in the City, developed a vision for the future and prioritized those visions and needs into a strategic plan. Over the course of these gatherings over 400 citizens participated in the discussions. The resulting strategic plan categorizes the goals and strategies into eight topics.

Several of the goals that came out of the process are relevant for parks and recreation planning.

a. <u>Greenways and Parks</u>

Goal 3.1: Increase Recreational Opportunities for All Seasons

- Develop new recreational facilities and opportunities
- Bring Ecorse Rowing Club back to Ecorse

Goal 3.2: Preserve and Enhance the Area's Open Space and Natural Beauty

- Increase the number of greenways available in Ecorse
- Maintain and improve existing parks

b. Physical Design and Walkability

Goal 2.1: Develop the waterfront as a key community feature

- Increase waterfront activities and celebrations such as fireworks, boat races and paddle boarding.
- Develop major physical and cultural features along the waterfront
- Develop the value of the community's connection with the Mud Island Wildlife Refuge

2. Public Workshop

On January 23rd 2014, a Parks and Recreation Master Plan public workshop was held at City Hall. City council members, City staff and residents including several school age children, were in attendance. The workshop began with a summary of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan preparation and adoption process, a description of the various parts of the Plan and the inventory of the existing City facilities. Participants were then asked what aspects of the City's recreation facilities and programs they were most proud of, which aspects they were sorry about and what types of new programs and facilities they would like to see in the future. Finally, the participants prioritized and voted on which of the issues and programs they would most like to see addressed in the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Following are the key points raised during the public workshop that garnered the some of the highest votes among participants.

- Improved maintenance of existing parks.
- Replacement of a basketball court north of Outer Drive.
- New programs and opportunities for school age children on travel teams and jobs related to recreation.
- Desire for reassessment of how Senior Citizen's Park is utilized and ways to increase its use by the general public.

3. City Council Public Hearing

On February 27th 2014, the City Council held a public hearing to hear comments on the 2014-2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The meeting was noticed in a newspaper of general circulation, the Telegram. City staff, consultants and approximately X members of the public were present.

After the public hearing was closed, the City Council adopted the City of Ecorse 2014-2018 Parks and Recreation Plan.

B. ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND SERVICE AREAS

Recreation facilities serving Ecorse residents are compared to the MDNR standards in Tables 9 and 10. These comparisons provide a general idea of deficiencies, but it must be understood that the MDNR standards are not intended to be followed to the letter. Needs of the population can vary from one community to the next, and the results should be considered in the context of the particular city involved.

The analysis of existing recreation facilities is summarized in Table 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 mini-parks, three neighborhood parks, one community park and one regional park.

Table 9
Recreation Facilities Comparison to Standards
Ecorse, Michigan

	Recommended Standard[1]	Existing Municipal/ Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities[7]	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended Need[2,4]	Surplus/ (Deficiency)
Basketball Courts[3,5]	1/5,000	4	1	5	2	3
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	1.5	6	7.5	5	2.5
Volleyball Courts	1/5,000	0	0	0	2	(2)
Baseball Fields	1/5,000	0	2	2	2	-
- Lighted Fields	1/30,000	2	0	2	0	2
Softball	1/5,000	0	0	0	2	(2)
Football Fields	1/20,000	0	2	2	0	2
Soccer Fields	1/10,000	1	0	1	1	-
Golf Courses[6] - 9 hole	1/25,000	0	0	0	0	-
- 18 hole	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	-
Driving Range[6]	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	-
Swimming Pool - Indoor	1/20,000	0	1	1	0	1
- Outdoor	1/40,000	0	0	0	0	-
Ice Rinks - Indoor	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	-
- Outdoor	1/20,000	0	0	0	0	-
Archery Range[6]	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	-
Running Track (1/4 mile)[6]	1/20,000	0	1	1	0	1
Playgrounds	1/3,000	8	3	11	3	8
Picnic Areas	None Published	7	0	7	7	-
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)[6]	1/10,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Nature Trails (miles)[6]	1/20,000	0	0	0	0	-
Sledding Hills[6]	1/40,000	0	0	0	0	-
Bicycle Trails (miles)[6]	1/40,000	0	0	0	0	-
Horseback Riding Trails (miles)[6]	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	-

Footnotes:
1 - Recommended number of each facility per unit of population (National Recreation and Park Association/Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards).
2 - Based on U.S. Census 2010 population of 9,512.
3 - Two backboards were considered to be equal to 1 court for the purposes of this analysis.
4 - Rounded up to the nearest whole number.
5 - Not regulation courts.
6 - May be satisfied by regional facilities.
7 - Includes facilities at Ralph Bunche Elementary School, Grand Port Elementary School, Kennedy Middle School, and Ecorse High School.

Table 10
Park Land Comparison to Standards
Ecorse, Michigan

Park Type	Recommended Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents[1]	Existing Acreage[2]	Recommended Acreage for Proposed Population[3]	Surplus (Deficiency) Based on Proposed Population
Mini-Parks[4]	0.25	2.9	2.4	0.5
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	6.8	9.5	(2.7)
Community Parks[5]	5.0	5.0	47.5	(42.5)
Regional Parks[5]	5.0	4.4	47.5	Not Applicable
Special Use Facilities	Variable	Public Boat Launch	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Linear Parks	Variable	0 miles	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Footnotes:
1 Based on National Recreation and Parks Association recommendations.
2 Includes all existing public park acreage excluding school acreage.
3 Based on U.S. Census 2010 Population of 9,512.
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.

Table 11 Analysis of Existing Parks and Facilities Ecorse, Michigan			
Type of Facility	**Recreation Standards[1]**	**City of Ecorse Facilities**	**Comments/Recommendations**
Mini-Parks	Mini-Parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Bell & Visger, East Glenwood, Outer Drive & 15th, Salliotte & 12th, Senior Citizen and Zukonic Parks all qualify as mini-parks. Each of them provides for limited recreational amenities in the form of benches, picnic areas and some play equipment.	The NRPA recommends 0.25 to 0.50 mini-park acreage per 1,000 residents. Resilient surfacing must be installed or replaced as needed at all playgrounds and the play equipment upgraded, if required. Outer Drive & 15th was recently upgraded with a new gazebo. Most swingsets need to be upgraded due to their condition or lack of swings. Salliotte & 12th needs to have new equipment installed. Senior Citizen Park could be improved to encourage its use by non-seniors and the fences opened to allow for season long use.
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 & 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.	One to two acres of neighborhood parks are recommended per 1,000 residents. 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 & Cicotte is in need of improvement and a maintenance schedule to insure 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.	Recent upgrades to Eli Ciungan, including new hard court surfaces, gazebo, covered benches and parking lot on the north, qualifies it as an excellent community park.	The NRPA's standard requirement for community parks is 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents. While the location of tennis courts, basketball courts, lighted baseball field with concession stand, restrooms, picnic areas, and play structures makes Ciungan Park a central facility for the residents, the park would benefit from improvements on the south side such as an off street parking lot and better utilization of the grassy field.

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

Table 11 Analysis of Existing Parks and Facilities Ecorse, Michigan			
Type of Facility	**Recreation Standards[1]**	**City of Ecorse Facilities**	**Comments/Recommendations**
Regional/ Metropolitan Parks	Regional parks are typically located onsites 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. In addition, other regional facilities offering a variety of recreational opportunities exist within a one hour drive of the City.	Regional parks typically serve several communities within a one hour drive. Upgrades to the existing restrooms in the form of a new concession stand or refurbishment of the Grand Port Café can provide an amenity that would further enhance Dingell Park. A public-private partnership would facilitate the creation of a new restaurant while minimizing the operational costs for the City.
Special Use/ Conservancy Parks	Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities, such as golf courses, nature centers, outdoor theaters, interpretative centers, or facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment. Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment may be the primary focus with recreation use as a secondary objective.	The public boat launch 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. The Senior Center, while generally self sufficient, will be in need of additional resources as the number of seniors increases.
Passive Parks	The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas and other pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments, fountains and historical features.	Dingell Park is a passive park for the City when events are not being held.	The Memorial and other amenities in Dingell Park should be properly monitored to protect the City's investment in the community.
Linear Parks	A linear park is any area developed for one or more modes of recreation travel, such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, canoeing, horseback riding, and pleasure driving.	Currently, the City does not have any linear park systems. However, the City is part of the regional plan by the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and several routes are envisioned for the City.	The pathway in Dingell Park could become one segment in a trail system that would connect Ecorse to other communities in Downriver and Southeast Michigan. The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative can advocate with and on behalf of the City for resources to develop a greenways network. The existing sidewalks along Jefferson Ave and Outer Drive can be designated as a pathway while a more dedicated path cross section plan is developed.

C. RECREATION DEFICIENCIES

Table 10 compares the existing community park land acreage to recommended standards, based on the current population. The figures indicate that the City has a deficiency in total municipal park land area needed to serve the population in terms of neighborhood and community parks. According to accepted standards, the City should contain about 2.4 acres of mini-parks, 9.5 acres of neighborhood parks and 47.5 acres of community parks. If the public school recreation facilities are included in the calculation, the City's overall deficit is reduced to 26.8 acres. Given the tremendous demands on the City's fiscal resources to adequately serve the existing population, to maintain the existing parks as desirable amenities for residents, and to do the much needed improvements to the current parks, it is unlikely that the City will be able to add to its park land inventory.

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. Some 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. Eli Ciungan, and to a lesser extent the neighborhood parks, could benefit from some adding off-street parking.

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. There is a demand for other programs, such as baseball for adults. It has been difficult to get volunteers to coach, referee or otherwise participate in the recreation programs.

Facility Deficiencies. While most parks have some equipment that has been upgraded, the parks are generally in need of some repair or replacement of equipment and modernization for better access. Swingsets at Bell & Visger and Outer Drive & 15th need repair or replacement. The basketball court and play equipment at Salliotte & 12th needs to be replaced on that or a nearby site. The fields at Bernard Popp and Beach & Cicotte need resurfacing. Regularly scheduled maintenance along with planned cyclical reinvestment is necessary at all facilities to bring the City up to accepted recreational standards.

Conclusions

Tables 9 and 10 compare facilities available to the recommended national standards, based on a 2010 City population of 9,512 persons. The tables reveal deficiencies, some of which (most notably the amount of community park land) are being satisfied by recreation resources in adjacent communities or the schools. The City should plan to upgrade its park facilities in order to optimize the opportunities at each park within the limitations of the park land available. Maintenance, cyclical reinvestment and also some targeted development of new resources can see the City meet its stated goals.

SECTION VI
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 need 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.

A. 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 in order to strengthen community support for parks and recreation.

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.

B. PARKS AND RECREATION OBJECTIVES

1. **Eli Ciungan Park (Community Park).** Improve the existing facilities and expand the recreational opportunities at Eli Ciungan Park, which is a central location of activities for the community. Recently the basketball courts and tennis courts were renovated with grant funding, along with creation of a new parking lot, and adding a gazebo and benches on the park's north side. The Master Plan identifies other desired renovations including upgrading the grass field south of the baseball field for a potential football/soccer field and a new off-street parking lot. With the age of the facilities and the tremendous amount of use of this park, there is a need to upgrade its facilities. *Goals: 1, 4, 5, 7, 9*

2. **Beach & Cicotte Park (Neighborhood Park).** Improve the facility for soccer use, including renovation of existing fields, developing clear public access, and creating off-street parking. Also, the existing playground area needs new resilient surfacing and to become fully accessible for all users. *Goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9*

3. **Bernard Popp Field (Neighborhood Park).** The adjacent factory has expressed interest in using the park for expansion. The City should investigate mechanisms to work with both the owner and the State (in light of grant funds previously spent on the site) to purchase land for a new park in the immediate area and arrange to move the field to the new location. The existing or new field(s) should be properly surfaced and new spectator stands and new playground equipment that is fully accessible for all users should be added. *Goals: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9*

4. **Greenways Network.** A main goal of the City is to make Ecorse a more desirable place by improving its recreational facilities. The creation of a greenway through the community connecting Ecorse to other Downriver communities and the region would help the City reach this goal, and have economic, cultural, social and recreation benefits. The Downriver Greenways Initiative plan offers a framework for such an interconnected greenway and trail system. Starting with Dingell Park, a greenway network along Jefferson Avenue would provide residents with a convenient pedestrian connection to this City amenity. A greenway along Outer Drive would connect the Jefferson Avenue segment to other residents in the City and adjacent communities to the west. Implementation of this objective can be phased - the greenway can begin by simply designating the path and posting signage. Further enhancements, such as a dedicated striped bike lane 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*

5. **Optimize Park Use**. Optimize the use of all parks and recreation facilities through multiple use of park space, adequate maintenance, and timely repair and replacement of facilities. The City should consider and implement a program to incrementally review and maintain all

facilities. Improve deteriorated and out of date facilities within the parks. 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, 4, 5, 6, 7*

6. **Recreation Programs.** 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 Ecorse residents. Increase community involvement in recreational programs. *Goals: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9*

7. **Community Partnerships**. To maximize financial resources, the City should consider leveraging various levels of partnerships to improve the parks and recreation opportunities. Foundations can provide resources for programming. Working with the business community could help identify ways to reinvest in certain key facilities such as the Ecorse Rowing Club building. The City should consider forging a formal partnership with the school district to centralize parks and recreation services. *Goals: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9*

8. **Park Design and Landscaping**. 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/signage and lighting program should be developed for all park properties. *Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9*

C. 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.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2014 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.

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.

Table 12
Parks & Recreation Capital Improvements Program
Ecorse, Michigan

2014			
Facility/Program	**Proposed Improvements**	**Estimated Cost**	**Funding Source**
Jefferson Ave Greenway	Identify best path along Jefferson Avenue from River Rouge to Wyandotte and install Downriver Linked Greenways signage.	$10,000	GF, CS, CZM
Bernard Popp Field	Conduct negotiations with adjacent property owners regarding future use of site.	$2,000	GF
Salliotte & 12th Park	Discuss with lease holders conditions of agreement 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

2015			
Facility/Program	**Proposed Improvements**	**Estimated Cost**	**Funding Source**
Bernard Popp Field	Upgrade existing baseball field. Upgrade playground equipment and modify for ADA compliance. Install new bike racks and park identification signage.	$60,000 - $70,000	MNRTF, PD, CS, PG
Salliotte & 12th Park	Install new basketball court and ADA compliant playground equipment. Install new park identification signage.	$60,000 - $70,000	MNRTF, PD, CS, PG

2016			
Facility/Program	**Proposed Improvements**	**Estimated Cost**	**Funding Source**
Senior Citizen Park	Install protective fencing along Detroit River shoreline and modify existing fencing along Jefferson Ave and parking lot. Install new bike racks and park identification signage.	$40,000 - $45,000	PG, PD, CS, MNRTF
Bell & Visger Park	Upgrade playground equipment and modify for ADA compliance. Install new park identification signage.	$50,000 - $60,000	MNRTF, PD, CS, PG

2017			
Facility/Program	**Proposed Improvements**	**Estimated Cost**	**Funding Source**
Eli Ciungan Park	Install practice area for football and soccer south of baseball field. Install new bike racks, baseball outfield protective netting and park identification signage.	$25,000 - $30,000	PG, PD, CS
Outer Drive & 15th Park	Upgrade playground equipment and modify for ADA compliance. Install new park identification signage.	$50,000 - $60,000	MNRTF, PD, CS, PG
Ecorse Rowing Club Building	Obtain professional services to do a design plan for the site into a community center for private/pubic events.	$10,000	GF, CS, PD
Jefferson Avenue Greenway	Obtain professional services to design a greenways plan that includes a detail pathway improvement strategy.	$10,000	GF, CS, PD, CZM

Table 12 Parks & Recreation Capital Improvements Program Ecorse, Michigan			
2018			
Facility/Program	**Proposed Improvements**	**Estimated Cost**	**Funding Source**
East Glenwood Park	Upgrade playground equipment and modify for ADA compliance. Install new park identification signage.	$50,000 - $60,000	MNRTF, PD, CS, PG
Ecorse Rowing Club Building	Rehabilitate site into a community center for private/pubic events.	$200,000	LWCF, CS
Jefferson Avenue Greenway	Implement first phase of improvements to the greenway cross section.	$20,000 - $80,000	MNRTF, CS, PD, CZM

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

SECTION VII
APPENDIX

PLANNING CONSULTANT

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NOTES: