

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Colin Smith, Manager, Parks and Recreation Services

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan

DATE: November 15, 2016

Attached for your review and recommendation is the final draft of the 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (PROS). The Parks and Recreation Services Unit updates the PROS every five years to retain funding eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This plan will replace the 2011-2015 PROS Plan.

The PROS Plan is an important guiding document for the Parks and Recreation system. It provides a vision for the future, as well as an overview of services and programs, an inventory of parkland and amenities, an explanation of the budget and land acquisition process, and the long term goals for the park system. The Plan is an element of the City of Ann Arbor's Master Plan and as such is considered a vital piece of the larger vision for the City.

The process to update the plan was initiated approximately eighteen months ago. A steering committee was formed composed of staff from Parks and Recreation Services, Public Services and Planning Services, two members of the Parks Advisory Commission, one City Council member, and staff from the Downtown Development Authority. The committee met periodically to provide direction for the planning process.

In September/October 2015 an email survey was conducted in which 1,034 residents answered questions concerning their satisfaction levels with parks and recreation services. Additional input was obtained through focus groups, public meetings and via email. In addition, the draft plan was available on the City's internet website. Letters were also sent to surrounding communities, utility companies and planning organizations providing notification that the draft plan was available online for comment.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2016-2020  
PARKS AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE PLAN

Whereas, The Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (PROS) has expired and the updated PROS Plan must be approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources by April 1, 2017;

Whereas, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that the PROS Plan be updated every 5 years and that the City must provide an updated plan to be eligible to apply for grants;

Whereas, the PROS Plan is an important guiding document for all future planning for the Ann Arbor Park System and part of the City master plan;

Whereas, A City-wide email survey, focus groups, public meetings and public hearings as well as other input processes were completed as part of preparing the 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan;

Whereas, Public review of the draft plan has been completed including all surrounding municipalities, townships, Washtenaw County, and public utilities as required to incorporate the PROS Plan as part of the City of Ann Arbor's Master Plan; and

Whereas, A comprehensive list of facility improvements, recreation needs and park improvements was developed to provide the basis for millage renewals and capital improvements as a result of the public input;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommends approval of the 2016-2020 PROS Plan.

Park Advisory Commission  
November 15, 2016