

## Access and Transportation

The City center is located along Main Street, which provides east and west access through the community, as shown in Exhibit 4. Baker Road also provides access north and south from I-94. The nearby interstate interchanges also provide convenient access to surrounding communities to the east and west. Dexter is serviced by a regional bus system, the Western Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE). The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) used to provide service from the City to Ann Arbor; however funding constraints have eliminated AATA's presence in Dexter. WAVE however does provide a connection to the AATA on the west side of the City of Ann Arbor.

Monument Park, with its landmark gazebo, is the heart of the City. Peace Park and Mill Creek Park are open space landmarks that signal entrances into the City center from the east and west, and assist in further defining the community's image. Scenic routes entering the City include Mast Road from the north via a bridge over the Huron River and Main Street from the west via the Main Street Bridge over Mill Creek. The Huron River Watershed surrounds Dexter and provides a significant natural barrier on the north and west sides of town. To the west Mill Creek connects to the Huron River. Creating a greenway corridor from the downtown and Mill Creek Park, south to the Dexter Community School District property (Shield Road) is an important recreation goal for the City. This project has been incorporated into the Mill Creek Park reclamation project as a second phase. The first phase saw removal of the Main Street dam, replacement of the Main Street Bridge, and creation of Mill Creek Park and its boardwalk.

A narrow one-and-one-half lane railroad underpass provides a unique entrance to the City from the west. The historic stone structure provides clear definition of the entrance into the City center. Meanwhile, a scenic vista of Mill Creek is offered to motorists and pedestrians entering or leaving the western end of the City. The City and the Parks and Recreation Commission gave top priority to further enhance and restore Mill Creek in 2008. Because of a community effort to enhance Mill Creek, this area now provides additional passive recreation opportunities, more trail systems and open space. The Creek restoration has also enhanced the ecosystem, provided access to the creek/waterway, provided passive walking trails and nature interpretation, improved the stormwater entering the creek, and established riparian buffers.

Other landmarks in and around the City include the City Fire Hall and Washtenaw County Sheriff's Substation, the Farmer's Market, Dexter District Library, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Monument Park, the Historical Society Museum, the Dexter Historical Railroad Society, and the historic Gordon Hall with associated conservation easements.

The local grid streets network, shown in Exhibit 4, provides convenient movement, linking the residential neighborhoods with the downtown business district. Alleys also provide secondary access to properties throughout Dexter. Public sidewalks are located along most blocks within the City center. A Safe Routes to School study conducted in 1996 has shown where additional sidewalks are needed. In July 2002, a sidewalk survey was also completed to help determine where safe non-motorized routes were needed. Existing non-motorized paths are shown in Exhibit 5. On an annual basis, funds are set-aside in the capital budget to help with additional sidewalk construction or repair. In FY 2014-15 the City spent over \$45,000 repairing and replacing sidewalks. To provide a complete pedestrian system, the City has committed to locating sidewalks along all City streets, where feasible and as funding permits. This system will also facilitate increasing connections between the parks in the City.

## City of Dexter Parks and Recreational Components

Analysis of the City of Dexter's recreational needs requires evaluation of its present parks and recreational facilities on both the local and regional levels. To provide adequate information for this analysis, this inventory provides information regarding parklands and the availability of facilities/activities, whether or not these are located in parklands. Inventory, analysis, and planning must take place within a defined geographic area; this is called the service area. Recreational opportunities may be active or passive. Active recreation often refers to games and athletic activities that are planned or require registration. All other recreational activity is passive.

The City of Dexter has grown in population and in the recreational needs. The City has increased its parkland since the 2009 Park and Recreation Facilities Master Plan update due to the development of Mill Creek Park. The City (Village at the time) lost a net of 16 acres of park land between the 2003 and 2009 Master Plan updates due to the donation of the Robert and Nancy Smith Woods to the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program. In 2005 and 2006, the City created two new parks – Lion's and First Street - from property that it owned. The combined property of Lion's Park and First Street Park is slightly more than one acre.

The City of Dexter's Parks and Recreation Facilities now consists of six (6) parks - Community Park, First Street Park, Lion's Park, Mill Creek Park, Monument Park, and Peace Park. In total, the Mill Creek Park area is the largest at approximately 6.15 acres. Monument Park, Mill Creek Park, Lions Park and Peace Park are close to the City's downtown district and are frequented by many City and non-City residents. With the exception of Mill Creek Park and Community Park, all of the parks are passive, open space parks. Monument Park, Community Park, and Lion's Park have signature City gazebos. Mill Creek and Community Park have play structures, swings, grills, picnic tables and benches. Community Park is an active park with an asphalt path, play structures, a gazebo, basketball court, grills, picnic tables, swings, spring toys and benches. First Street Park has been developed as a horseshoe-throwing park.

Local recreation areas serve residents of a specific community. They may also be publicly or privately held, and may be designed to provide for a single recreational activity or multiple recreational activities. For the purpose of the City of Dexter's Plan, Exhibit 19 defines the local service area, size, and level of service standard per 1,000 population according to park type. It also shows the location of these local facilities. The following pages detail the amenities found in each park.

**Monument Park**

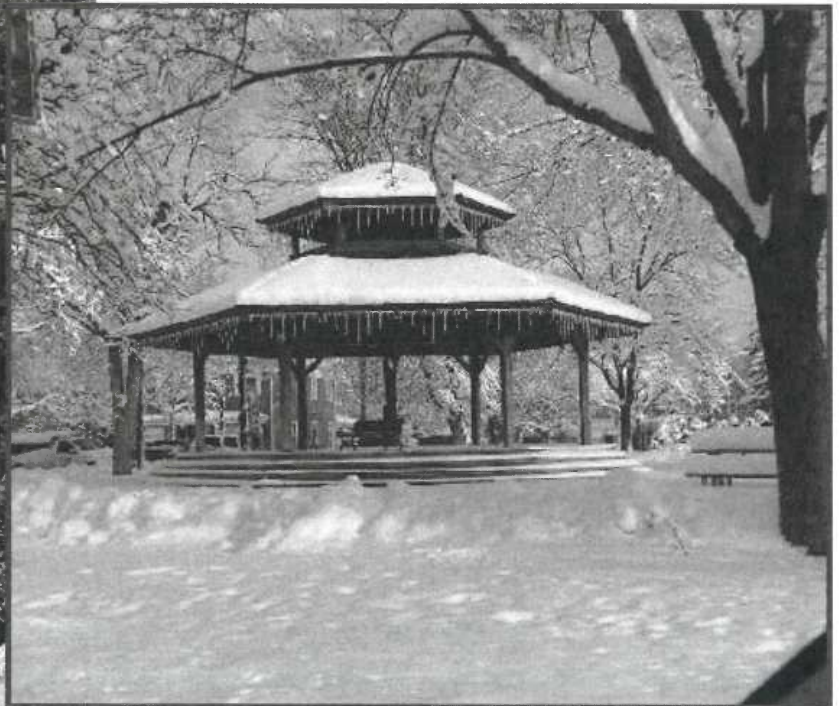
Location: 8558 Ann Arbor Street

Area: .3 acres

Designation: Mini-Park

Amenities: Gazebo, drinking fountain, benches, picnic tables, special events, sidewalks.

Monument Park is the City's .3-acre town center, where community celebrations such as Dexter Daze, the Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival, Apple Daze are held. It has a gazebo for concerts and other cultural events, providing a community gathering place in the downtown district. In the winter, there is also an outdoor ice rink located within the park.



Mill Creek Park South features a boardwalk along Mill Creek, a small fishing pier, an amphitheater, and three platform landmark features. Mill Creek Park South can be accessed via ADA compliant crosswalks from the opposite side of Jeffords St. Along Jeffords St. and Alpine St. there are up to 64 public parking spaces. Five of these spaces are designated as handicap spaces, however these spaces are primarily located adjacent to businesses several hundred feet away from the Park. All pathways in Mill Creek Park North and South are barrier free.

### Monument Park

Monument Park features a gazebo, a water fountain, concrete benches, standard benches, and a brick paver walkway through the Park. While there is no parking specifically designated for the park, there is parking available along Central St., including one barrier free parking spot, and in the Downtown Development Authority's lot on the opposite side of Main St., which contains 4 public barrier free parking spots. In addition, the walkways through and around the park are barrier-free, and the crosswalks are ADA compliant.

### Peace Park

Peace Park is located on Ann Arbor St. and contains very few amenities. There are 21 on-street parking spaces on Ann Arbor St., none of which are handicap parking spaces. There are several benches, which provide visitors an opportunity to rest. All pathways around and through the park are barrier-free. The crosswalks connecting to the Park are ADA compliant.



## APPLICATION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, PARK USE, FACILITY USE AND/OR ROAD CLOSURES

### Instructions

1. This application applies to the following types of events:
  - a. Events requiring the use of City parks and/or facilities;
  - b. Events requiring road closures;
  - c. Events that contain as part of the activities a fire or controlled burn.
2. The following fees shall be assessed as part of this application. Additional fees may apply if other permits are required:
  - a. Residents - \$35 per four (4) hours of use;
  - b. Non-residents - \$160 per four (4) hours of use;
  - c. \$50 per hour for each hour (whole or partial) beyond four hours;
  - d. The Chamber of Commerce, non-profit organizations, and community events are exempt from the use fees.
  - e. All organizations must submit a \$200 damage deposit, which will be refunded after inspection of the use area unless the City incurs costs for clean-up and/or repairs.
3. Applications must be filed at least three weeks prior to the scheduled event.
  - a. Any outside approvals must be obtained prior to filing this application.
  - b. All required attachments must be included with this application.
  - c. Applicant and/or the sponsoring organization's representative is required to sign a hold harmless agreement.
4. Applicants are required to provide insurance as follows:
  - a. For private events such as weddings and birthdays parties, a homeowners or renters policy certificate containing a minimum of \$100,000 in off-site event coverage;
  - b. For all others, general liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 naming the City of Dexter as additional insured, including all elected and appointed officials, employees, volunteers, commissions, and/or all authorities and their boards, employees/volunteers.
5. Applicants desiring to serve alcohol must comply with the following requirements:
  - a. The selling of alcohol requires a permit from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. This permit must be provided before the City will approve this application – allow ample time for Liquor Control Commission action. The alcohol sales area must be contained in an area that is separate and fenced off from the rest of the event. General liability insurance must contain the serving of alcohol as a covered event, with the City being named insured as listed in paragraph 4(b) above.
  - b. The servng of alcohol at a private events requires a homeowners or renters policy certificate containing host liquor coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000. Single day coverage may be necessary – applicants should check with their insurance companies. Certificates of coverage must be provided before the City will approve this application.

6. Road closure requires the following:
  - a. A complete diagram or map showing the location of the event and any required road closures. The diagram should include the distance of road closure desired, effected intersections (if any), barrier requirements, and the schedule times of road closure.
  - b. Road closures must be approved by both the Washtenaw County Sheriff and the Dexter Area Fire Department prior to the filing of this application. These approvals may take up to three (3) weeks, so plan accordingly.
    - i. Contact the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department's Dexter Substation at (734) 424-0587 to arrange contracted officers for events requiring road closures. Contracts or agreements with the Sheriff Department and any associated costs are the responsibility of the event sponsor. Signed contracts/agreements with the Sheriff Department should be attached to this application.
    - ii. Contact the Dexter Area Fire Department at (734) 426-4500 to arrange for contracted service or to provide information about proposed road closures. Any associated costs are the responsibility of the event sponsor. Signed contracts/agreements with the Dexter Area Fire Department should be attached to this application.
  - c. Contact the City of Dexter Department of Public Works at (734) 426-8530 for road barrier information. The City may have four (4) road barriers available for use, depending on other City needs. If additional barriers are required, contact POCO at (734) 397-1677 or Spartan at (313) 292-2488. Any associated costs are the responsibility of the event sponsor. Signed contracts/agreements with the Dexter Area Fire Department should be attached to this application.
  - d. The Washtenaw County Road Commission may require additional road closure permits for events within their jurisdiction. They may be reached at (734) 761-1500. Contact the City office for more information on road jurisdiction.
  - e. Upon receiving application approval, notification of all residents and businesses that will be effected by the closure is required. Notification must be completed at least two (2) weeks prior to the event.
  - f. City Council approval is required for road closures. The Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. Please allow ample time for Council approval.
7. Signage: On-site and off-site signage (including promotional material) is permitted only with prior approval. A Temporary Sign permit is required.
8. Loading and unloading is not permitted within parks unless specifically granted. If loading and unloading is required, temporary road closures may be arranged.
9. Waste removal: Upon completion of the event, sponsors are responsible for removal of all equipment brought on site, and for returning the site to the same condition that it was prior to the event. Arrangements should be made with Waste Management at (800) 796-9696 for trash disposal.
10. Event notice: The event sponsor will notify the City of any methods of publication of the event.
11. Waivers: The event sponsor may petition the City, in writing, to request a waiver of one or more of the rules, policies or fees required by this application. If it appears to the City Manager (or their designee) that one or more of the rules, policies or fees creates an unnecessary or genuine hardship (not created by the event sponsor), or due to unusual circumstances, the City Manager may request that the City Council waive such rule, policy or fee.

**Terms of Use:**

1. Authorization for use of a park gazebo, City facility or designated space gives the applicant exclusive use of that gazebo, facility or space for the period of time designated in the permit.
2. Applicant understands that the park or other public place where their activity is located will remain open for use by the public during their event, and that their event shall not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the general public's enjoyment of the park.
3. The activity or use will not unreasonably interfere with the promotion of public health, welfare, safety and/or recreation consistent with the City of Dexter's ordinances and policies.
4. The activity or use will not include or cause violence, crime, or disorderly conduct on the part of any individual participating in the event, activity or use.
5. City of Dexter parks and public facilities, including, but not limited to, all structures, lighting, poles, benches, and play equipment and other physical assets, are to be treated with respect and care. The use of tape, glue, nails and anything else that can modify or damage City assets is prohibited. All natural areas, trees, boulders, and other landscaping, and memorials are to be protected from damage and not subject to wear and tear from either human or animal activity.
6. A \$200 damage deposit will be required for ALL events. The deposit will be returned upon inspection of the facilities the following workday. The deposit may be picked up or destroyed upon inspection of the facilities the following workday. Damage will be documented with photos and provided to applicant if any portion of the damage deposit is retained. Damage consists of anything that requires City staff time, resources or additional contracts to repair and/or restore.
7. The Applicant and event sponsor agree that site clean-up is their responsibility, and failure to adequately clean-up may result in forfeiture of deposit and other charges.
8. The event will not require or cause unanticipated or unauthorized expense by the City of Dexter, its departments, units or services, or its community police operations. The City of Dexter reserves the right to invoice the applicant and/or event sponsor for additional costs incurred as a result of the event. Such costs may be (but not limited to) police services, damage to facilities, landscaping, sidewalks, grass, or other park assets, or post-activity area or facility clean-up.
9. A copy of the approved permit must be available upon request for review at the event.



**Applicant Information**

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Road Closure (if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

Event Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

- Park Use       Facility Use       Road Closure       Fire/Open Burn

Organization Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Organization Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Activity (check all that apply)**

- Roads to be Closed, Dates and Times of Road Closures (Describe Below)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Date that Public Will be Notified of Road Closures.
- Parade.
- Exhibitions, erection of any temporary building or structure, and/or selling or giving away food, drink or merchandise.
- Hold an assembly involving thirty (30) or more participants.
- Private event such as a wedding or birthday party.
- Furnish or sell alcoholic beverages.
- Fire or open burn.
- City services such as barriers, barricades, detour signs, or other use of City equipment or personal are requested. Please provide details below.

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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