

Summary			
Topic	Downtown Detroit Partnership & Parks	Plymouth, Kellogg Park	Royal Oak, Centennial Commons Park
Background	<p>About the DDP The Downtown Detroit Partnership (DDP) strengthens and supports Downtown Detroit through strategic initiatives and programs. DDP convenes business, philanthropic, and government partners to create a vibrant and resilient urban core for Detroit and the region.</p> <p>DDP takes an active role in development and planning decisions that positively impacts the city's economic prosperity. We also work with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors on multiple programs and projects to enhance Downtown's appeal to businesses, residents, and visitors. Additionally, we provide direct services that create a cleaner, safer, and welcoming Downtown for all. downtowndetroit.org</p>	<p>Kellogg Park, the focal point and social heart of downtown Plymouth, was chartered in 1867 from land once owned by William Starkweather and later sold to John Kellogg. For generations, Kellogg Park has been the most recognizable icon for the City of Plymouth. The park is the site of dozens of concerts each summer and hosts numerous special events including Art in the Park, the Ice Festival, the Plymouth Rotary Chicken BBQ as well as being a daily gathering space for residents and visitors.</p>	<p>The new Centennial Commons Downtown Park will fill a much-needed void as the only downtown open space planned and designed for the community as a social and cultural destination. The park will provide a link between multiple downtown destinations and increase connectivity for pedestrian and non-motorized transportation. Centennial Commons Park is also intended to establish a direct connection to the Royal Oak Public Library, promoting a layer of library programming for children and families that will utilize the new park for outdoor education and activities, and expose children to nature, discovery and adventure.</p>
Management	<p>The management of Detroit's downtown parks has evolved over the past 20 years. As part of the city's 300th birthday celebration in 2001, the Detroit 300 Conservancy was established. In 2009, the Conservancy became a subsidiary of the Downtown Detroit Partnership. The DDP strengthens and supports Downtown Detroit through strategic initiatives and programs. DDP convenes business, philanthropic, and government partners to create a vibrant and resilient urban core for Detroit and the region. For more information see: https://downtowndetroit.org/</p> <p>The DDP's mission is to advance Detroit by driving engagement, development and programs that benefit businesses, residents and visitors throughout the downtown's urban core. The DDP strengthens and supports downtown Detroit through strategic partnerships, initiatives and programs that evolve with the changing needs of the community.</p>	<p>Kellogg Park, Plymouth's downtown square is managed by the City's parks department. The use of the Park as an event venue has evolved over the past 40 years with Art in the Park initially attracting 20 artists to over 400 in recent years. Over the decades Kellogg Park has become the host of an increasing number of community events which now average approximately 180 a year. For example, weekly music events attract between 3000 and 5000 people every Friday night. Kellogg Park remains open to the general public during community events and no admission fees are allow to be charged. The City hosts the space but do not plan or manage the events.</p>	<p>Royal Oak, Centennial Commons Park project is the result of collaboration among partners: the city, the DDA, Henry Ford Health System for funding, and maintenance. A wealth of information on the process used to develop the project is available: https://www.romi.gov/1338/Downtown-Park-Community-Engagement</p>

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Administration	<p>The DDP maintains a full time staff of between 30-40 people depending on the number of programs and initiatives underway. The Parks and Public Spaces Department has a full time staff of 12 people. The DDP's annual budget is approximately \$16 million with the PPSD's budget representing about 50% of the total. The PPSD's responsibilities include: programming and events, operations, fundraising, hiring and managing contractors and seasonal staff which gives it the flexibility to respond to community needs and changes in events. Our primary contact is David Cowan, Chief Open Spaces Officer, Downtown Detroit Partnership (contact info?) .</p>	<p>The scheduling and administration of special events are coordinated through the City Manager's office. Event fees vary depending on the applicant and the type of event and are based on cost estimates developed by the City. Among the services covered by fees are police, ambulance, portable rest rooms, clean up and street sweeping. Fees can be quite significant but are based on many years experience with the events. See special events application and policy: https://cdn5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_12421646/File/Special%20Event%20Application%20and%20Policy%20Fillable%20PDF.pdf</p>	<p>Royal Oak's Centennial Commons Park opened in December 2021. We will continue to follow this exciting community project for additional information on its current and ongoing administration.</p>
Finances	<p>The core funding for the DDP is provided through as special assessment paid by owners of assessable properties within the BIZ boundaries. Tax exempt, non commercial properties are not assessable. In addition, the DDP seeks government grants and private donations to support its mission.</p>	<p>Large capital expenditures are generally covered by individuals, civic organizations and foundations. A prime example is the long term involvement of the Plymouth based Wilcox Foundation that recently contributed \$1.2 million for a new fountain in Kellogg Park.</p>	<p>The city of Royal Oak and its DDA are working jointly to support the development and ongoing maintenance and programming of Centennial Commons Park. https://www.romi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29304/Centennial-Commons-Scope-and-Funding-March-8-2021?bidId=</p>
DDA Role	<p>The DDA partners with the City of Detroit and the DDP on streetscape and capital improvements. For example, in 2009 the DDA financed a \$1.1 million renovation of Capitol Park, the site of Michigan's territorial government and first State Capitol.</p>	<p>The City and the DDA partner on managing events at Kellogg Park which often include the closure of adjoining streets. The City and the DDA operate under an intergovernmental agreement with the City Council the DDA's budget.</p>	<p>Royal Oak DDA contributed to the budget for developing Centennial Park. https://www.romi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29304/Centennial-Commons-Scope-and-Funding-March-8-2021?bidId=</p>

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Safety	<p>The DDP manages the following parks: Grand Circus Park, Capitol Park, Cadillac Square Park, Campus Martius and Beacon Park. With the exception of Grand Circus Park downtown parks have a large number of activities and schedule events throughout the year. Occasionally, some disturbances do spill out of entertainment establishments adjacent to Grand Circus Park. The PPSD hires a significant number of part time staff in its Ambassador program. These staff act as greeters and information sources. They also are “eyes on the park” to identify potential troublesome situations. Occasionally but not often these situations may require intervention by law enforcement.</p>	<p>There are some public safety issues. For example, recently there was an assault in the public bathroom at the Pavilion, a covered public space that is the home of the Farmers Market. The assailant was identified and apprehended with the assistance of security cameras. The Park is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. There were some complaints from nearby neighbors about noise levels at larger events, but city administration's response was that those living in a downtown should expect a certain amount of noise.</p>	
Amenities	<p>Capitol Park, Campus Martius, Cadillac Square, and Beacon Park all had moveable furniture, including bistro tables and chairs, and Adirondack chairs, as well as some heavy, interestingly designed picnic tables. Beacon Park and Cadillac Square had large, heated tents with comfortable furniture. Cadillac Square had a seasonal shopping market. Beacon Park had an interactive artistic set of musical swings that attracted families. Campus Martius has a yearly skating rink, staffed, and with rental skates available. Seasonal decorations were coordinated across all the parks. Dog parks at Capitol Square and Grand Circus Park have dog parks that were developed based on community interest following an increase in dogs as pets during the pandemic.</p>	<p>A new central fountain, heavy duty benches are central to the park. Restrooms, with specific hours of availability are in place, per request of nearby restaurants to redirect use of the restaurant restrooms. Farmers Market is adjacent to the park, on public land.</p>	<p>Concert space, hill-climbing, ping-pong, play area, rock climbing, water feature, moveable Adirondack chairs, green & open space.</p>

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Community Response	<p>Detroit's downtown parks draw between 3 to 4 million visitors a year. Campus Martius enjoys the largest attendance with over 100,000 ice skaters, annually and up to 300,000 people attending the holiday tree lighting.</p>	<p>The evolution of use of Kellogg Park started with Art in the Park, which expanded from 20 to 400+ artists over 40 years. Now weekly music events in Kellogg Park draw 3,000 to 5,000 people every Friday night. In addition to direct attendance, people watch park events via Facebook Live and Zoom. A professional DJ manages sound and hires crews for staging events.</p> <p>A recent survey conducted by Eastern Michigan University of Plymouth residents indicated that 61% of respondents indicated it was "very important" for the city to host entertainment in the downtown area. The overall assessment of Kellogg Park and immediate surrounding areas was positive.</p>	<p>Royal Oak is proud of its Centennial Park, and actively engaged members of the community, businesses, and its DDA in the development of plans: https://www.romi.gov/1338/Downtown-Park-Community-Engagement</p>