

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of January 4, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023-2028 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission adopts the 2023-2028 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan as a citywide element of the Ann Arbor City Comprehensive Plan, and repeals the 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan.

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council approve the 2023-2028 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan as an element of the Ann Arbor City Comprehensive Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the 2023-2028 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan be approved and forwarded to City Council for approval.

STAFF REPORT

The Parks and Recreation Services Unit updates the Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan every five years to retain funding eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). This plan replaces the 2016-2020 PROS Plan.

The process used by Parks and Recreation Services and the Parks Advisory Commission was initiated approximately 18 months ago. A steering committee was formed comprised of staff from Parks and Recreation Services as well as Planning and Development Services, the Equitable Engagement Steering Committee, representatives from the Parks Advisory Commission and two members from City Council.

In the spring of 2022, Parks and Recreation Services staff along with the steering committee designed an on-line survey in which 2381 individuals participated and answered questions concerning their satisfaction levels with parks and recreation services. The survey provided substantial information about condition of park and recreation facilities and services and provided staff with a better understanding of issues facing the system. Additional input was solicited from parks personnel and Recreation Facility boards as well as public meetings with the Park Advisory Commission, Recreation Advisory Commission and the Planning Commission. Additional Focus Groups were held to discuss Sustainability in Parks, Downtown Parks, and Bike Recreation.

Planning staff participated in the process of developing the plan from the early stages of the planning process. The plan provides comprehensive information on the condition of the park, recreation and opens space systems and provides guidance to future decision makers.

In December of 2022, the draft plan was circulated for review and comments. These comments will be summarized by Parks Staff and presented at the meeting. Any proposed Planning Commission modifications to the draft plan will be forwarded to City Council in a separate memorandum.

Attachments: 2023-2028 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan
Memorandum from Parks staff addressing prior Planning Commission discussion
Comments received and impacts on Plan

Prepared by Matt Kowalski & Brett Lenart