

Comparable Communities Working Group

DRAFT

What is the goal to be accomplished by the end of the calendar year?

Goal: To compare how different communities developed and manage their downtown open space, and how the members of the communities, including businesses feel about the spaces.

What is the roadmap to accomplishing this goal?

We studied three nearby communities: Detroit, Plymouth and Royal Oak. We talked directly with staff from the cities or non-profits that manage the spaces, and completed a site visit to the Downtown Detroit Partnership parks. We reviewed web site information on each of the cities' spaces. We have compiled information on: program origins and background, administration, finances, DDA role, program amenities and community response. We plan to undertake a preliminary study of a proposed new park in Chelsea. We expect to be finished with this study by the end of 2022. We have discussed our findings to date with members of the Council of the Commons.

How does the work provided in the aforementioned questions further the formal planning process for the park?

The data gathered on these "comparable communities" provides the Council of the Commons important information on how neighboring communities have approached the planning, development and management of highly successful central park programs. Our observations and discussions to date show that members of the communities, including individuals and businesses appreciate, and use the open spaces.