



Village of Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan

2023 - 2028

Adopted [Insert Date]

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The following individuals played an important role in the development of this Plan. Gratitude is also extended to the residents who participated in meetings and surveys along the way.

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Introduction

The Village of Beverly Hills is pleased to present an updated five-year community recreation plan. The Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation Board, Village Council, Administration, and residents have prepared a plan focused on the five current recreation spaces in the Village: Beverly Park, Riverside Park, Beverly Green, Douglas Evans Nature Preserve, and Hidden Rivers Nature Preserve. This five-year plan sets forth many goals to improve the recreational opportunities in Beverly Park and Riverside Park, develop Beverly Green, and possibly acquire new public park land. The parks have been improved through the hard work and dedication of countless residents, volunteers, elected officials, and Village staff. By continuing to improve the parks, they will remain both beautiful and highly functional throughout the next five years for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Furthermore, this five-year plan acknowledges changes made since the publication of the previous plan and anticipates developments that are expected over the next five years. Since the prior plan was published, one additional space, Beverly Green, was designated as a Village park. During the 2023 – 2028 time period, potential new developments include new pathways along major roads throughout the Village, and the potential addition of a new Village park along the Rouge River on Wendbrook Lane. Moreover, the Village has added a Sculptures in the Parks Program which will continue to grow.

This plan includes a comprehensive community recreation inventory, discussion of community events, and improvement plans for public areas. Public engagement is the cornerstone of any successful plan and was influential in developing this plan, using the input of residents through surveys, public meetings, and commentary on the drafts.

Community Description

The Village of Beverly Hills is located in Oakland County, Michigan, covering an area slightly over 4 square miles with a population of 10,584, according to the 2020 Census. Beverly Hills is primarily a residential community with little commercial and no industrial zoning.

Beverly Hills has the largest population of any home-rule Village in Michigan, similar to or exceeding that of about half the cities in Oakland County. Located within Southfield Township, Beverly Hills is bordered by several communities including the cities of Royal Oak, Birmingham, and Southfield, the Village of Bingham Farms, and Bloomfield Township. Per the 2020 Census, the population in Beverly Hills is 53.8% female and 46.2% male with 54.5% of the population between the ages of 18 and 64, 21.9% under the age of 18, and 23.6% aged 65 and older.

Education levels in Beverly Hills exceed both County and State averages with 98.5% of the population over 25 years old attaining a High School diploma and 74.5% holding a college degree. Along with higher education levels, the median household income of \$129,196 in 2020 is significantly higher than the Oakland County median income of \$81,587 the same year.

Incorporated in 1958, Beverly Hills has enjoyed over 60 years of high-quality neighborhoods, infrastructure, natural areas, and schools as well as accessible employment and shopping centers. Preserving the ideal residential environment has been a goal of the residents since before incorporation. Providing numerous active and passive recreational services is one part of achieving ideal residential living and an overall better quality of life for residents.

Recreation in Beverly Hills is comprised of public, quasi-public, and private facilities. The primary public recreation site is Beverly Park, a 34.7-acre park located on the south side of Beverly Road, west of Southfield Road. Beverly Road is the primary vehicular and pedestrian access route. Pedestrians may also access the park from the south side and along Allerton Road to the east. Other areas of public recreation include Riverside Park and Beverly Green, plus two nature preserves: Douglas Evans and Hidden Rivers. The nature preserves have deed restrictions which restrict their use. At the time that this plan was adopted, acquisition of an additional 8.32-acre property along the Rouge River on Wendbrook Lane was pending. The acquisition was conditional upon approval of a grant request from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This plan may need to be updated to include development and use of this additional property if the grant is awarded.

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Beverly Hills is part of the Birmingham School District and home to Wylie E. Groves High School, Berkshire Middle School, Beverly Elementary School, and Greenfield Elementary School. The school locations in the Village offer recreation to students and summer programs provide community-wide recreation. Most outdoor facilities are available free of charge and there are programmed activities which often have a nominal participant fee. There are a variety of indoor recreation programs available through the school district for all age groups, such as swimming, computers, and arts and crafts. These community education programs are frequently available to residents and non-residents and are scheduled through the Birmingham Public Schools' Community Education Program.

Quasi-public recreation refers to the recreational activities at private schools located within the Village that are generally only available for student or parishioner use. There is one parochial school and two private schools located within the Village. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church property contains facilities only available to parish members. Detroit Country Day School's facilities are not typically available to the general public. Beverly Hills Academy's grounds are primarily utilized by students.

Private recreation facilities refer to those member-based facilities that often require user-fees for access to the facilities. There are several athletic clubs within the Village, whose members have access to swimming pools, basketball courts, tennis courts and sand volleyball as well as organized activities for youth and adults. Other private recreation activities include sports leagues, such as Little League, CYO Basketball, and Birmingham Bloomfield Soccer, which are sustained by participant funding.

The private Birmingham Country Club, located in Bloomfield Hills, is directly adjacent to Beverly Hills, just north of the residential neighborhood along Saxon Drive. Further, Lincoln Hills Golf Course, a City of Birmingham public course, is located adjacent to the residential neighborhood surrounding 14 Mile and Evergreen Roads.

Recreation specifically geared toward senior citizens can be found through Beverly Hills' partnership with Birmingham Next. Next is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves the 50+ community members in Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, and Franklin. Next receives annual contributions from municipalities and other sponsors. Additionally, the organization requires membership dues for individuals or families to participate in the myriad of activities offered such as physical fitness, health and wellness, creative arts, cards and games, speakers, socialization, computer classes, and travel.

Administrative Structure

Beverly Hills operates under the Manager/Council form of government. The Village Manager oversees all day-to-day operations of the Village. The Village Council's seven members are elected to four-year terms and appoint the members of the Parks and Recreation Board to serve as an advisory group.

Parks and Recreation Board

The Parks and Recreation Committee was established in 1981 to act as an advisory group to the Village Council under 1917 PA 156. In 1983 they became known as the Parks and Recreation Board and remain responsible for evaluating and recommending recreation programs, reviewing, and commenting on major improvements, recommending park functions and usage, seeking and recommending additional funding or donations, and recommending long-range plans for park development. Members of the Board also serve as the lead volunteers in planning and organizing the many events held throughout the year in Beverly Park, including the Halloween Hoot, the Memorial Parade and Carnival, Summer Concerts, Java and Jazz, Movie Nights, Read in the Park, and the Winter Family Fun Day. Members of the Board also plan community tree plantings, park clean-ups, art displays, and neighborhood bike rides. The Board meets the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. and is comprised of the following members:

Molly Borgon, Chairperson
Matthew Goodrich, Vice-Chairperson
Sara Bresnahan, Secretary
Eli Bayless
Janice Hausman
Gregory Ross
Jennifer Ruprich

Administration

Per the Village Municipal Code, the Village Manager is the Park Superintendent and is responsible for enforcing all ordinances, rules, and regulations in relation to the parks. The Assistant Village Manager/Village Clerk is the administrative liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board. The Public Services Department oversees park maintenance as well as maintenance of streets, solid waste collection and disposal, sewer and water-main maintenance, and removal of village-owned trees. Comeau Equipment is a private company contracted by the Village of Beverly Hills to perform public works activities including park maintenance. The Village also employs several seasonal part-time park attendants to further assist in park maintenance. There is one seasonal park opener who is responsible for opening and closing Beverly Park pavilion reservations. The Public Safety Department assists with monitoring the parks as well. The Village Council is the

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governing body that authorizes funds for parks and recreation activities along with accepting grants and purchasing land on behalf of the Village. A complete organizational chart is available in [Appendix A](#).

Annual Budget

Parks and recreation budgets are established by the Village Council using recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Board for maintenance and capital improvements. The budget for 2022/23 includes general maintenance funds in addition to funds for a variety of annual events including: Special Events (Movie in the Park, Memorial Day Carnival, Winter Family Fund Day, Concerts in the Park, Rouge River clean-up, and nature preserve management) and Halloween Hoot fund. The Capital Projects fund includes park equipment improvements and general recreation donations.

Parks Improvement Millage

A dedicated park improvement millage of 0.32 mills was passed by the voters in 2020. Funds from that millage will generate revenues from 2021 to 2031, which includes the entire five-year period of this Plan. The millage will provide revenues for both park improvements and needed repairs and replacement of existing buildings and equipment.

Current Funding Sources

The Village of Beverly Hills is unique in that a majority of the tax funding is supported by village residents. The community has no industrial zoning and minimal commercial zoning, limiting the business tax base.

General Fund

General tax revenues are transferred from the General Fund and support the maintenance, utilities, and community recreation events. Beverly Hills collects 13.6735 mills, of which 1.8152 are for the general fund. Other revenues come from donations, sponsorships, user fees, event revenues, and grants.

General fund expenses include park maintenance and utilities, Rouge River maintenance, and special events. Special events include: Memorial Day Parade and Carnival, Winter Family Fun Day, Park Clean Up, Community Tree Plantings, Movie in the Park, Read in the Park, Concerts in the Park, Java and Jazz, Art Installations, Halloween Hoot, and preservation management.

Capital Projects

The Parks Improvement millage provides the basis for proposed Capital Projects throughout the five-year window of this plan. In 2021-2022, the Village used capital projects funding on the Beverly Park Pathway Improvement Project. This

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project consisted of regrading and refilling the gravel path as well as updating the drainage system along the path.

Other prominent projects within the Plan include:

- Replacement of the Play Structure in Beverly Park
- Landscaping and improvements at Beverly Green and Riverside Park
- (Potential) landscaping, parking, and improvements on the Wendbrook property
- Renovation of the Beverly Park Pavilion and restrooms
- Continued tree planting and invasive Buckthorn eradication and control
- Ongoing improvements and updates to facilities in the Village parks

A survey of Village residents, discussed later in this Plan, identified an extensive “wish list” of additional capital improvements. Current millage funding will not support all of the items suggested, so this Plan recommends funding priorities and suggests potential additional sources of funding.

Donations and user fees

Donations function as an important source of funding for projects and maintenance of Beverly Hills recreation. Donations come from private residents and business sponsorship of events. Residents typically make ‘general’ donations to a park, but some dedicate funds for a particular purchase, such as a bench or tree. Business sponsorship of events allows many events to take place every year and occasionally produces revenue for the event’s future occurrence. The Parks & Recreation Board has been more proactive in seeking donations over the past three years with the creation and advertisement of the Tree Donation Fund form and a Special Event Sponsorship form. The Buy-a-Brick fundraising program offers individuals or businesses the opportunity to purchase a brick, engraved to their liking, for installation by the flagpole near the Beverly Park pavilion. Proceeds from brick sales support park improvements.

The Village of Beverly Hills collects fees for pavilion rentals and commercial film shooting on park property. Portions of the rental fees and all of the commercial filming fees are deposited back into the general park fund for maintenance and repairs.

Grants

Beverly Hills has received two grants through the DNR for recreation; in 1973 for a pavilion, restroom, tot lot, croquet area, picnic area, and park equipment at Beverly Park and in 2000 for playground equipment, pedestrian safety entrance, perimeter fence, and parking lot improvements at Beverly Park. The Village has partnered with other municipalities to receive grant funding for improvements at Riverside Park and the Rouge River corridor. Grants for other projects, such as tree

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planting grants from the DTE Energy Foundation and Michigan Arbor Day Alliance, have been received. In 2021 the Village received a \$15,000 matching grant from the Oakland County Invasive Species Management Area for woody invasive species removal at Beverly Park and Riverside Park. Administration actively seeks grant opportunities to assist in funding improvements to the recreation system.

A Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant was applied for in 2022 for the acquisition of an 8.32-acre parcel along the Rouge River on Wendbrook Lane. The parcel includes a vacant home. The request was for a \$1.5 million grant, to match a \$500,000 donation by the White family, residents who purchased the property with the intent to preserve the space as a Village park. Preliminary scoring of the grant request was provided in September 2022, with a final decision expected in December. If this grant is awarded, it would allow for a significant addition to the recreational facilities in the Village, particularly to the portions of the Village that lie furthest away from existing parks. It is hoped that this property can become a substantial new recreational resource for the residents of Beverly Hills.

Volunteers

Volunteers serve an invaluable role in the Village, especially for Parks and Recreation activities. The Parks and Recreation Board itself is composed of volunteers who serve 3-year terms. Members of the Board serve as lead volunteers and organizers for a full calendar of activities, which are supported by additional volunteers from the community. Village-sponsored events would not be possible without extensive participation by volunteers, as the Village does not have dedicated Parks and Recreation staff. The pop-up Winter Family Fun Day in January serves as an example, celebrating winter recreation opportunities like sledding and ice skating. Volunteers not only serve to supervise activities, but they provide hot chocolate, donuts, and coffee to participants who are enjoying the winter activities. Throughout the year, many activities, such as the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival, Movie in the Park, and the Halloween Hoot rely heavily on volunteers assisting with supervision of activities, donating supplies, and providing their time and talent.

Communications

The Parks & Recreation Board and Administration have been working to improve communications about park related projects and events over the last several years. In 2019, the Board and Council adopted a Parks & Recreation logo which helps the Village's branding efforts. The logo is included on parks event flyers and other communications. It can be viewed in this plan in [Appendix I](#). Park events are publicized on the Village website, Village Facebook page, annual Village calendar, quarterly paper newsletter, and in the weekly email blast. The number of subscribers of the weekly email has almost doubled since the last 5-year plan

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was drafted (from 1,800 to 3,300) and continues to grow each month. Special events and announcements of programs are also shared on the local community television bulletin board and local newspaper.

Relationships with other entities

The Parks and Recreation Board and administrative staff have a working relationship with the Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham Public School District, Birmingham Next (senior center), Beverly Hills Lions Club, Boy & Girl Scout programs, and the Beverly Hills Little League. These partnerships work to benefit residents of the area who use these programs by pooling resources and reducing duplication of programs geared toward the same users.

Recreation Inventory

Method of Conducting Inventory

The foundation of a quality recreation plan is a thorough inventory and analysis to determine the base for improvement. Using a combination of site visits and available documentation, the Parks and Recreation Board compiled the inventory of recreation facilities.

The Village manages 70.9 acres of open space; 37.9 acres are classified as park land utilizing both active and passive recreation. 33 acres are classified as conservancy and were deeded to the Village with use restrictions. These spaces have limited recreational opportunities but serve as valuable nature preserves in an urban area. In the previous 5-year plan, data from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) suggested a community maintain 6.25 to 10.5 acres of close-to-home parkland for each 1,000 residents. Newer guidelines from the NRPA were not available for this Plan, so the previous guidelines have been applied for this assessment. Based on projections made by Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and NRPA guidelines the following park land requirements are identified in the table below:

Year	Population	Local Park Requirements	Deficit
2020	10,584	66.15 to 111.13 acres	0-40.23 acres
2045	10,025	62.66 to 105.26 acres	0-34.36 acres

Beverly Hills has experienced a slight population decline since its peak in the 1970s. SEMCOG predictions show the population through 2030 will continue to slightly decline, after which the population is predicted to see minor growth. At this time park space appears adequate for the population. However, since approximately half of the parkland can only be used for passive recreation, Village residents would benefit from additional space. The Wendbrook property would be a significant improvement, especially for residents who live in the western parts of the Village. Further expansion of pedestrian and bicycle-friendly pathways along major roads through the Village would also be helpful in providing more convenient and safe access for all Village residents. A sidewalk is being installed along 14 Mile Road in 2022. A similar route along 13 Mile and along Evergreen would greatly improve usability of Village parkland.

Accessibility Assessment

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires parks and recreation facilities to have barrier-free accessibility. In accordance with the Michigan Department

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of Natural Resources standards, the inventory of park facilities includes accessibility ratings based on the following evaluation system:

- Level 1: None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- Level 2: Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- Level 3: Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- Level 4: The entire park area meets accessibility guidelines
- Level 5: The entire park area was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Following is a detailed inventory of the specific park areas and recommendations for each park. General recommendations for the system as a whole are available in the Goals and Objectives section of the Action Plan. Maps of the entire Village and the individual parks can be found in [Appendix B](#).

Beverly Park

Location: 18801 Beverly Road
Service Area: Village and surrounding communities
Size: 34 acres
Current Status: Developed
Classification: Park
Accessibility: 3

Amenities:

- Adult exercise equipment
- Art displays
- Basketball court
- Bike path
- Bike repair station
- Chess/checkers table
- Disc golf course
- Gazebo
- Horseshoes
- Ice skating
- Large pond
- Little Free Libraries
- Tennis and pickleball courts (2)
- Softball and baseball fields (2)
- Sand volleyball court
- Nature study
- Pavilion with restrooms
- Picnic areas/benches

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- Ping pong
- Playground
- Sledding
- Storybook Trail
- Walking/running trails

Major Village events held on-site include:

- Winter Family Fun Day
- Memorial Day Carnival & Ceremony
- Movie in the Park
- Halloween Hoot
- Read in the Park
- Concerts in the Park
- Java and Jazz
- Birmingham Public Schools Art Fair (biennially)
- Sculptures in the Parks
- Tree decorating

Description and Assessment

Beverly Park is the largest park in the Village and is the main source of outdoor recreation opportunities. The park boasts a variety of recreation options including a sled hill, sand volleyball court, basketball court, wooded natural areas with wood chipped trail, playground equipment for children, two baseball fields, adult exercise equipment, two tennis courts (with pickleball lines), ping pong table, chess table, and a pavilion area with restrooms.

Most community events in the Village take place in Beverly Park due to its size, beauty, available parking, and central location. The park is host to annual community events organized by the Village and volunteers, such as Winter Family Fun Day, Movie in the Park, and the Halloween Hoot. Weddings took place in 2017 and 2021 at Beverly Park utilizing the natural beauty and the updated facilities.

Wooded Area and Passive Recreation

From time to time the wooded area has been studied by ecologists, engineers, and students. In 1996, Richard A. Wolinski, an ecologist from Applied Science & Technology, Inc., inspected the area and noted that "The species composition of the flooded portion of the woods represents a wooded wetland dominated by trees which are adapted to wet conditions. . . It should also be noted that soils underlying the site are listed as hydric (wetland) soils according to the soil survey of Oakland County."

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In late 1996, the Village Engineering Firm, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., was asked to determine if the park could be better drained. With respect to the wooded area, the engineer noted that “Any construction of swales, storm sewers, or other drainage systems within this area would be very destructive to the composition of the park. Trees would have to be removed, land cleared, and other vegetation damaged.”

The wooded area is not a state-regulated wetland area. Nevertheless, previous studies are consistent with each other in their conclusions that the area serves a valuable ecological function. To drain it would be difficult because of the flat topography, the nature of the soils, and other engineering considerations; and draining the wetland would disrupt the ecological balance and result in loss of trees and animal species that occupy the area.

In October 2017, Cardno, a professional infrastructure and environmental services company located in West Olive, Michigan, conducted a survey and determined that the majority of plant material in the wooded area was buckthorn, an invasive species. Cardno’s expertise is development and improvement of physical and social infrastructure for communities. Following this assessment, the Parks & Recreation Board has recommended two large buckthorn eradication projects. The first being completed between March 2019 and July 2020 and the most recent being completed between March 2021 through July 2022. In August 2022 the Board recommended that the Council approve an agreement with GEI Consultants of Michigan for ongoing maintenance over the next two growing seasons. The Board expects that continued maintenance to control the buckthorn regrowth will be necessary for several years, but with proactive management, the need for cut-stump and foliar treatments will decline over time.

A pond covering about half an acre exists on the east side of the wooded wetland, approximately in the center of the park. In 2002 the pond was dredged achieving greater aesthetic appeal and significant improvement in water quality.

Near the pond and wooded area there is a wood gazebo. Throughout the park there are benches for passive nature observation and wood chip paths through the wooded area of the park accommodate enjoyable walks in the natural areas.

In 2017, a new feature was installed called the Storybook Trail. Installed on 18 posts with a two-page layout on each post, a different children's book is displayed each month in coordination with Baldwin Public Library. Visitors, young and old, can read the story as they walk through the beautiful wooded trail.

Active Recreation Facilities

A pavilion area and playground facilities are located on the north side of the park, occupying about 1.75 acres (5.1% of the total area). In 2005 the pavilion was completely renovated using funds from a dedicated millage. This renovation drastically improved the quality of the pavilion and restrooms at Beverly Park, which will be enjoyed for years to come. The pavilion is very popular through the spring, summer, and fall for both resident and non-resident usage. The pavilion is open to the public but can also be reserved for a nominal fee which guarantees exclusive usage for a requested period of time. The pavilion is reserved for a variety of events including graduation parties, birthday parties, family reunions, weddings, and business picnics. A sprinkler system was installed to ensure aesthetic quality of plantings surrounding the pavilion area and a private landscape contractor provides weeding, trimming and beautification four times per year from spring through fall at specific areas near the park entrance and pavilion. In 2015, 14 new composite picnic tables were purchased for the pavilion area and in 2022, the pavilion fireplace was rebuilt. A grant was recently received in 2022 from the Birmingham Area Cable Board to provide WiFi access to the pavilion, further enhancing its usability.

The playground equipment includes swings, slides, large and small play structures, and a sandbox. Benches are located nearby for comfortable supervision of activities. A Little Free Library is conveniently located near the playground equipment with reading materials available for adults and children. The playground equipment was upgraded in 2002 and the safety ground was completely stripped and replaced in 2015. The equipment has been well maintained allowing use for many years. Several pieces of the large and small play structure were replaced in 2016. Manufacturers recommendations for maintenance and life of equipment are followed routinely for long term use and safety.

An outdoor chess table was installed near the pavilion in 2017. This beautiful table is made of granite and has two stools for gamers to enjoy chess or checkers. In 2015, six double trash/recycling receptacles were purchased and placed throughout the park to encourage proper disposal of waste.

Other active recreation facilities are located on the east side of the park, along Allerton Drive. Tennis/Pickleball, sand volleyball, and basketball courts are located adjacent to and south of the parking lot. In 2017, an outdoor ping pong table was installed in the same vicinity. These facilities occupy just over an acre. Tennis court resurfacing was completed in 2008 along with improvements to the tennis court fencing. The sand volleyball court and basketball courts have been maintained and are in good condition with the exception of striping needed on

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the basketball courts. Two horseshoe pits were constructed and installed in 2016 by a Beverly Hills Boy Scout who completed the project as his Eagle Scout project. In the summer of 2020, a mountain bike path was installed with the help of residents. Path features include: the wave, teeter totter, skinny bridge, berms, jumps, turns and more. The bike path has signage encouraging helmets and multiple exits. In August 2022 a bike repair station and air pump were installed near the entrance of the park near the bike rack.

Farther south, along Allerton Road, two ballfields occupy about 4.5 acres (13.1% of the total park). From April to June and from August to October, these fields are used by leagues every weekday evening and during the day on Saturdays and Sundays. League contributions defray some ballfield maintenance and improvement expenses. Annually, the Beverly Hills Little League makes improvements to the ballfields. Both ball diamond infields were stripped and replaced in 2016. When not in use by the Little League, frequent pick-up games and company outings take place on the fields.

A sledding hill occupies about 1.4 acres of land at the south end of the park. The sled hill is a unique feature at Beverly Park as it was built from soil excavated during the construction of the Lodge Freeway. The sled hill railing was repaired and repainted in 2016 by part-time seasonal park staff. Steps on the southeast and northeast corners of the sled hill were completely rebuilt by part-time seasonal park staff in 2017. Ice skating at the park is also available in the winter months with two seasonal rinks placed next to the tennis courts.

Located in the southernmost section of the park, six pieces of adult exercise equipment were installed in 2016. Two additional pieces were added to the collection in 2017.

In conjunction with the buckthorn eradication, the Parks & Recreation Board has worked on reforestation efforts for several years. With the assistance of several grants from the DTE Energy Foundation, Michigan Arbor Day Alliance, and ReLeaf Michigan, 74 new trees of a variety of species have been planted throughout Beverly Park. Over 50 of the trees were planted as part of community tree planting events, utilizing over 50 community volunteers. Reforestation is an ongoing effort; one additional grant application is pending with hopes of a spring 2023 planting.

Recommendations

- Replace playground equipment that is at the end of its design life
- Improve playground equipment to improve usefulness and accessibility for children of all abilities
- Install new playground surface

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- Continue maintaining facilities for maximum life span of equipment
- Maintain pavilion to support continued use
- Research and consider improvements to pond area
- Install drinking fountain near playground
- Install handicap accessible sidewalk ramps
- Continue long term plan to eradicate invasive species
- Resurface tennis courts
- Plant additional trees and native plants throughout the park
- Restore woodland
- Install additional walking paths
- Improve public restroom facilities
- Repair/replace fence along Beverly Road and Allerton Drive
- Collaborate with other organizations to plan, fund, and implement potential baseball field enhancements

Riverside Park

Location: Riverside Drive east of Evergreen Road
Service Area: Village
Size: 0.34 acres
Current Status: Developed
Classification: Park
Accessibility: 2

Amenities:

- Picnic area/Benches
- Fishing access
- Nature study
- Chess/Checkers Table
- Art Installations (periodic)

Description and Assessment:

Riverside Park is a 0.34 acre open space located on Riverside Drive abutting a pond which is part of the Rouge River. There is minimal paved parking available for motorists as well as pedestrian access via sidewalk. The pond at Riverside Park was formerly used to power a mill in the early years of Beverly Hills history. Documentation regarding Riverside Park is minimal; however, it appears the property was dedicated as a public park at the time of platting and has been maintained as such by the Village of Beverly Hills.

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The park is predominantly used for fishing, although there is a picnic table and grill available for public use and people have used the pond as a kayak launch. The pond and connecting portions of the Rouge River have become extremely shallow due to over 100 years of sediment build-up. In recent years, the pond has been densely filled with plant growth during the summer months, greatly reducing open water and associated fishing and boating opportunities. In the coming years, it is expected that the pond area will continue to fill with sediment and Village residents will have to decide whether to allow the area to continue to fill in, dredge the pond, or remove the existing dams and allow the pond to revert to a wetland. Neither dredging nor dam removal are contemplated by this plan but will likely continue to be increasingly urgent topics of discussion for the Village.

In 2012 native plantings were installed along a portion of the riverbank to encourage bank stabilization through grant funding. In 2017, a permanent outdoor chess/checkers table with two stools was installed in a grassy area abutting the pond to create a peaceful area for gamers. In 2022, extensive buckthorn removal was conducted along the shore and on a peninsula between the pond and the original riverbed. During the course of this 5-year plan, continued management of buckthorn and other invasive species is recommended, together with clearance and landscaping of the peninsula to improve its usability.

Recommendations

- Maintain existing facilities
- Beautification and landscaping to improve usability
- Continued invasive species monitoring and removal

Hidden Rivers Nature Preserve

Location: South side of Fourteen Mile Road east of Evergreen Road
Service Area: Abutting property owners
Size: 15 acres (approximate)
Current Status: Undeveloped
Classification: Natural Resource Area
Accessibility: 1
Amenities:

- Nature study

Description and Assessment:

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Hidden Rivers Nature Preserve was acquired by the Village in the 1980s with the financial assistance of residents along Riverside Drive. At the time of purchase, the property was bank-owned and developers were proposing a residential development. The residents wanted to maintain the area in its natural state and deed restrictions were placed on the property to ensure the area would remain undeveloped.

The land area is a peninsula surrounded by branches of the Rouge River with the northern edge abutting a private golf course in Bloomfield Township. The site has no visible public accessibility and as such, many residents are unaware of its existence.

Beverly Hills has no areas available for future recreational developments at this time. The site is valuable open space that is not easily accessible to the public yet owned by the Village. Gaining visible access to the site to allow pedestrian traffic would provide additional passive recreational opportunities to the residents. Consideration of the abutting residential interests and deed restrictions must be taken into account. Also, consideration should be taken regarding the value of the natural area as a habitat for plants and wildlife. Maintaining the area as a plant and wildlife preserve should remain a priority.

Recommendations

- Education of public to ensure proper use of area
- Consider greater public accessibility
- Improve signage

Douglas Evans Nature Preserve

Location: Evergreen Road
Service Area: Village
Size: 18 acres
Current Status: Undeveloped
Classification: Natural Resource Area
Accessibility: 1
Amenities:

- Nature study

Description and Assessment:

Douglas Evans Nature Preserve was donated to the Village by Catherine E. Douglas in 1973 with the stipulation that it remain a Nature Preserve. The deed

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restrictions prohibit development or improvements beyond maintenance. The one exception was the 1992 construction of the Combined Sewer Overflow tank and control building in the prairie area of the property. Special permission was granted by Mrs. Douglas due to the nature of the request.

Beverly Hills maintains the property primarily through the efforts of volunteers who work on Rouge Clean-Up Days and other environmental activities. The wooded areas provide a valuable green buffer for the Rouge River and habitat for wildlife.

The accessibility of the site is limited with no sidewalk access on Evergreen and minimal parking. However, the site is frequently used by residents to walk and enjoy nature. There is also evidence that the area is used to walk domestic animals. The site has been studied by numerous ecologists who cite the value of the native plant species in the area. Maintaining the area as a plant and wildlife preserve should remain a priority.

Recommendations

- Maintain area; clear refuse, cut grasses
- Education of public to ensure proper use of area
- Consider greater public accessibility

Beverly Green

Location:	Greenfield Road and both North and South of Beverly Road
Service Area:	Village
Size:	0.5 acres
Current Status:	Minimally Developed
Classification:	Park
Accessibility:	2
Amenities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Open play area

Description and Assessment:

Beverly Green is an open area bounded by Greenfield Road and Beverly Court. The space forms a semi-circle that is bisected by Beverly Road. A similar space on the east side of Greenfield Road is designed as Fries Park in the City of Royal Oak. In 2022, the space was designated as an additional Village Park and named "Beverly Green."

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Beverly Green is mainly open space. Some tree planting has been done over the years by residents. The space will be significantly impacted by a road project in 2023 to install a traffic circle at the intersection of Beverly and Greenfield Roads. This tri-party project will be funded by the Road Commission for Oakland County, the City of Royal Oak, and the Village of Beverly Hills. Following this work, the space could be significantly improved through well-designed landscaping and improved access via sidewalks along Beverly Road. Preliminary plans are under development and consideration by the Parks and Recreation Board, pending completion of the road work.

Recommendations

- Install professionally designed landscaping to beautify and improve usability of the space
- Pursue sidewalk connections to improve access along Beverly Road
- Add seating and lighting to attract residents and increase usage of the space
- Improve accessibility for all potential users
- Install fence and other features that are aesthetically similar in style to Beverly Park to create consistency throughout the Village
- Expand Sculptures in the Parks Program to include Beverly Green

DNR Grant Inventory

The Village of Beverly Hills has received two grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Both projects were for the improvement of Beverly Park. The first grant, number B-1079-D, was received in 1973 for the development of the pavilion, restroom, picnic area, tot lot, croquet area, and park equipment. The second grant, number CM00- 171, was received in 2000 for playground equipment, pedestrian safety entrance, perimeter fence, parking lot improvements and additional upgrades.

A DNR grant was applied for in 2022 for the acquisition of an 8.32-acre parcel along the Rouge River on Wendbrook Lane. The parcel includes a 4,600 sq ft dwelling. The DNR request was for a \$1.5M grant, to match a \$500K donation by the White family, who purchased the property with the intent to preserve the space as a Village park. Preliminary scoring of the grant request was provided in September 2022, with a final decision expected to be announced in December. This grant would represent a significant addition to the recreational facilities in the Village, particularly to the portions of the Village that lie furthest away from existing parks. It is hoped that this property can become a significant new recreational resource for the residents of Beverly Hills.

Planning Methods

The Parks and Recreation Board has successfully realized their goal of improving Beverly Park, the main recreation outlet in Beverly Hills. Major renovations have been completed and the Board recognizes the need to maintain those renovations and infrastructure. Maintenance will help keep these facilities safe for generations to come.

As the population of Beverly Hills changes over time, the recreational needs in the community will change. According to the 2020 US Census data, the percentage of Village residents who are under 18 years old has decreased slightly since 2010, while the percentage of residents over the age of 65 has increased. Overall, the population increased slightly. SEMCOG projects that the average age of Village residents will continue to increase through 2045. This information indicates that it will be important to plan for a maturing population, while also maintaining facilities that are so highly valued by families with younger children.

In comparing facilities available with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Guidelines, some deficiencies were found. The table below compares the NRPA recommendations to some of the current facilities available and details the evaluation of need based on community makeup and input from the residents.

Activity/Facility	Recommended Number per Population	Current Facilities	Priority/Deficiency
Basketball courts - Beverly Park	1 per 5,000	1 per 10,000	Maybe. Current number of facilities meets the needs of community based on usage, but possible need to improve existing facilities.
Tennis courts - Beverly Park	1 per 2,000	2 per 10,000	Maybe. Current number of facilities do not meet needs of residents, but extensive facilities available at Groves High School and private clubs.

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Activity/Facility	Recommended Number per Population	Current Facilities	Priority/Deficiency
Volleyball courts - Beverly Park	1 per 2,000	1 per 10,000	No. Current facilities meet needs of residents.
Baseball/softball fields - Beverly Park	1 per 5,000	2 per 10,000	Maybe. Current facilities meet needs of residents. Community feedback suggests need for improvement of existing fields.
Soccer field	1 per 10,000	None	Yes. No facilities exist and there is growing participation in soccer.

Public Input Process

Public input was highly encouraged throughout the entire process of drafting this plan. The Village Council, Parks and Recreation Board, and Administration recognized the importance of preparing a plan that reflected residents' needs and desires for recreation in the community. An extensive survey was conducted, with 567 residents responding. This was estimated to represent over 13% of households, with addresses located across the Village. An additional 42 responses were received from non-residents users of Village parks. Further details of the survey are included in [Appendix C](#).

Resident input was also received through public comment at meetings, public comment on the draft plan available on the Village website and at the Village office, and a public hearing held at the Council level prior to adoption. The input received was evaluated for the quality of representation of the public as well as feasibility of implementation.

The majority of survey responses were from users of recreation facilities. The percentages of the ages responding correlated with the population census. The survey, tally results, and comments can be found in [Appendix C](#).

Generally, respondents reported extensive use of Beverly Park and its facilities, most prominently the Playground, Pavilion, Sledding Hill, Walking Trail, Tennis/Pickleball Courts, and Baseball Fields. Residents indicated high participation in events at Beverly Park, including the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival, the Halloween Hoot, Winter activities, concerts, and other events. Residents reported far less use of the Village's other parks and nature areas.

Village residents offered several suggestions for improvements and enhancements to recreational facilities. These suggestions have been taken into account in this five-year plan and will guide budgeting and prioritization decisions over the next several years.

The draft plan was made available for public comment at the Village office and electronically via the Village website for [46 days]. Notice of the draft plan review and comment availability was sent in the Village weekly electronic newsletter, which is emailed to 3,300 subscribers, a notice was placed on the public access bulletin board through Bloomfield Community Television, our cable television partner, and was announced at the public meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board and Village Council. Copies of notices can be found in [Appendix E](#).

SURVEY SNAPSHOT

10,584 total residents

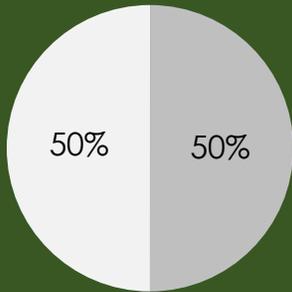
4,100 households

567 residents responded

42 non-residents
responded

A public hearing [will be] held during the Village Council meeting on December 6, 2022. Copies of the notice for the Public Hearing and the minutes from the Public Hearing can be found in [Appendix F](#).

RESPONDENTS' LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN BEVERLY HILLS



More than
10 years

Less than
10 years

Goals and Objectives

During the planning process, through the input of the public and evaluation of the current system, key goals came to the forefront of priorities for the next five years. These goals are based on public needs and desires, funding availability, anticipated population changes, and current facilities' status.

The goals of this five-year plan are fully aligned with the Village Master Plan Vision:

The Village of Beverly Hills will be a safe, aesthetically appealing, fiscally viable, family-oriented community with excellent educational, social, recreational, and cultural opportunities fostering a successful and diverse residential and business community with concern for ecological stewardship and cooperation with other governmental bodies and agencies.

Additionally, the 5-Year Plan directly supports one of the key Goals in the Village Master Plan:

Provide adequate park, open space, and recreational facilities for all village residents.

The following system-wide goals include objectives for completion:

1. Improve recreational facilities to encompass system wide recreation welcoming all residents to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.
 - Analyze and improve universal accessibility at all recreation areas.
 - Replace playground facilities that are at the end of their designed life
 - Renovate or replace existing facilities to maintain active use
 - Continue improving maintenance and enhancing aesthetic appeal of parks.
 - Develop programs for residents of various ages.
 - Develop pedestrian and bicycle-accessible safety paths to connect all areas of the village to recreational spaces.
 - Pursue acquisition of additional recreational space.
2. Enhance biodiversity, protect wildlife and improve water quality of natural areas.
 - Improve quality of natural areas by continued maintenance and stewardship of green space.

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- Encourage appropriate uses of natural areas that respect wildlife, plant life and water quality.
 - Pursue sustainable designs in all new facilities and installations.
 - Remove and control invasive species and restore/reforest affected areas
3. Use existing community resources efficiently and demonstrate fiscal responsibility by providing efficient administration of the Parks and Recreation facilities.
- Increase regular communication with residents on programs available.
 - Seek and foster the development of a network of volunteers from among Village Residents to support Parks activities and to maintain and improve facilities.
 - Improve signage and visibility to improve usage and access to parklands.
 - Carefully manage and prioritize Park Improvement funds provided by Village voters in 2020.
 - Actively seek grant and alternative funding opportunities.

Action Program

Residents of the Village, through surveys and direct feedback, have provided clear direction that will guide action over the next five years. Residents have also provided significant resources, with approval of a 10-year Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement millage in 2020. This plan is designed to make responsible use of those funds, in line with the priorities and evolving needs of Village residents.

The first priority of the plan is to continue to maintain and develop Beverly Park for the enjoyment and use of Village Residents. The plan's most significant capital expenditure will be the replacement of the play structure in the park, which is at the end of its designed life. The play structure is a major feature of the park, and replacement/renovation will be essential. The plan also must improve accessibility and usability of the play structure to provide enjoyment to residents of all abilities (Objectives 1 & 3).

The next priority of the five-year plan will be to improve the quality and usability of less used spaces. The Village's newest park, Beverly Green, should be professionally landscaped to improve the space both aesthetically and to improve usefulness to residents (Objectives 1, 2, & 3). This activity can be pursued once the Road Commission for Oakland County has completed a planned Traffic Circle at the intersection of Beverly and Greenfield Roads. Riverside Park should also be improved to make better use of the peninsula and the space near the pond. Discussion should continue to determine the most appropriate ways for Village Residents to access and appreciate our two Nature Areas – Hidden Rivers and Douglas-Evans.

Assuming a successful acquisition of over 8 acres of property on Wendbrook Lane, priority of capital funds should also go to make this space usable as an additional Village Park (Objectives 1, 2, & 3). At a minimum, space for parking will be needed and a plan will need to be made for the building on the site. With a successful acquisition at Wendbrook, a master plan should be created to describe how the property should be developed over time. This master plan should also consider how the Wendbrook property can best be integrated with other Village properties along the Rouge for the best possible enjoyment by Village residents.

Finally, funds should continue to be directed to the improvement and upkeep of existing facilities (Objectives 1 & 3). These include the pavilion at Beverly Park and existing equipment and amenities. A focused effort to restore and expand the tree canopy should continue, together with a continued effort to eliminate and control invasive Buckthorn and other invasive species. The current practice of seeking grant funding for forest development should be a continuing area of

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focus. All improvements should be developed with priority placed on providing access to residents of all abilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (Objective 1).

The Resident Survey also indicated interest in three additional capital projects that this plan considers to be at least partially beyond available capital resources. A recommendation for each is below:

Baseball Field Enhancements

While maintenance and upkeep of the Baseball facilities falls within the scope of the Plan, interest was expressed in more significant enhancements. Suggestions included improved bleachers, rearrangement of fences and infields to Little League dimensions, creation of a T-ball field, and electrification to power pitching machines. The recommendation in this plan is for collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Board and the Little League organizations to prioritize desired improvements and identify potential new sources of funding. A sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Board has been appointed to work with the Little League on this subject.

Dog Park

Several residents have expressed interest in creation of space and facilities for a Dog Park in the Village. Over half of the respondents in the survey own at least one dog. The Parks and Recreation Board has conducted a preliminary investigation into the potential cost of a Dog Park, collecting information from other communities in the area. The Board has also identified two potential locations, one in the south-east area of Beverly Park and another in the Waterworks space along 14 Mile Road, east of Pierce. Both would need appropriate fencing, controlled access, and will require input and discussion with neighboring property owners. This Plan does not recommend allocation of Capital Funds to construct a Dog Park. Instead, the plan recommends that a leader be appointed by the Village Council to determine whether there is sufficient interest among dog owners in the Village to raise specific funds for the construction and operation of a Dog Park within the Village limits.

Splash Pad

Residents have also expressed interest in a Splash Pad, similar to the kind of summer-season water features available in neighboring communities. The Parks and Recreation Board has investigated potential locations for a Splash Pad and potential cost for construction and ongoing operation. As a result of this investigation, this plan does not recommend further consideration of this type of amenity for Beverly Hills parks. This is due to the high capital cost, the expectation of high ongoing costs for maintenance and operation, significant limitations on parking, and limitations on available space in Beverly Village parks.

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Conclusion

Overall, the recreational opportunities in Beverly Hills are meeting the needs of the community. The residents report a high level of satisfaction with the recreation available. There is increasingly high participation in Village events and there is ongoing participation of volunteers. System-wide improvements to the Village's parks, green spaces, and recreational facilities will complement the individual area recommendations listed in the Recreation Inventory.

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Appendix A: Village of Beverly Hills Organizational Chart

Appendix B: Maps

- Beverly Hills Parks
- Beverly Park
- Riverside Park
- Beverly Green
- Douglas Evans Nature Preserve
- Hidden Rivers Nature Preserve

Appendix C: Resident Input Survey and Comments

Appendix D: Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports

Appendix E: Notices of Draft and Public Comments

Appendix F: Public Hearing Notice and Minutes from Hearing

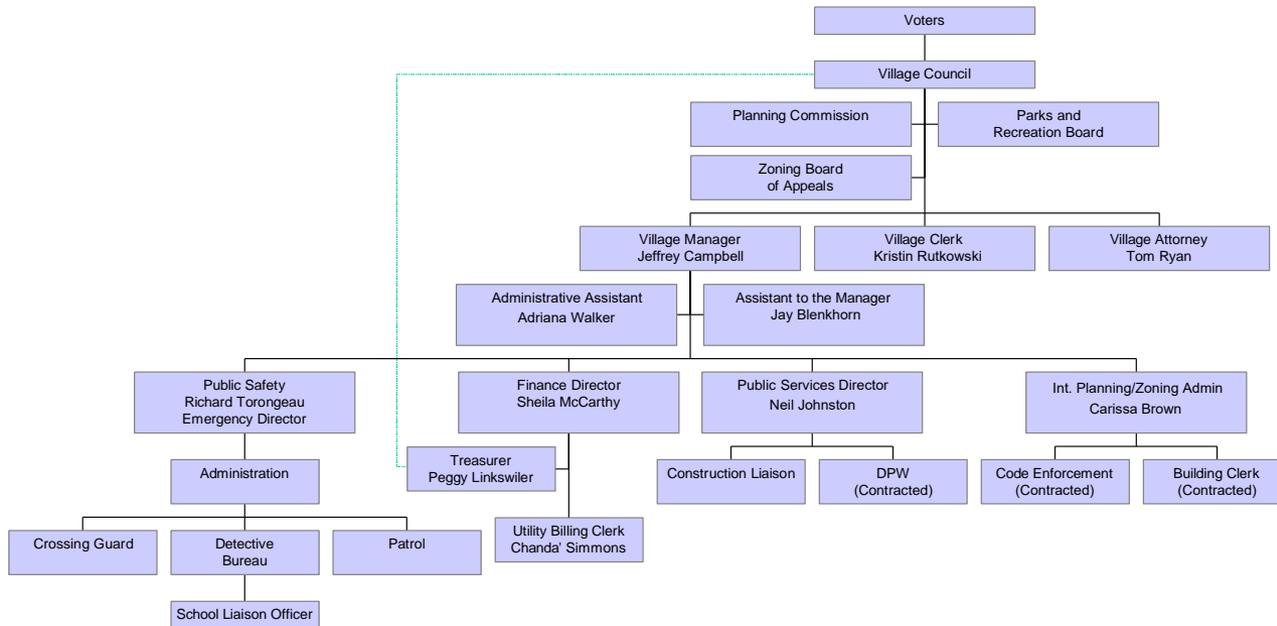
Appendix G: Parks and Recreation Board Resolution for Community Recreation Plan

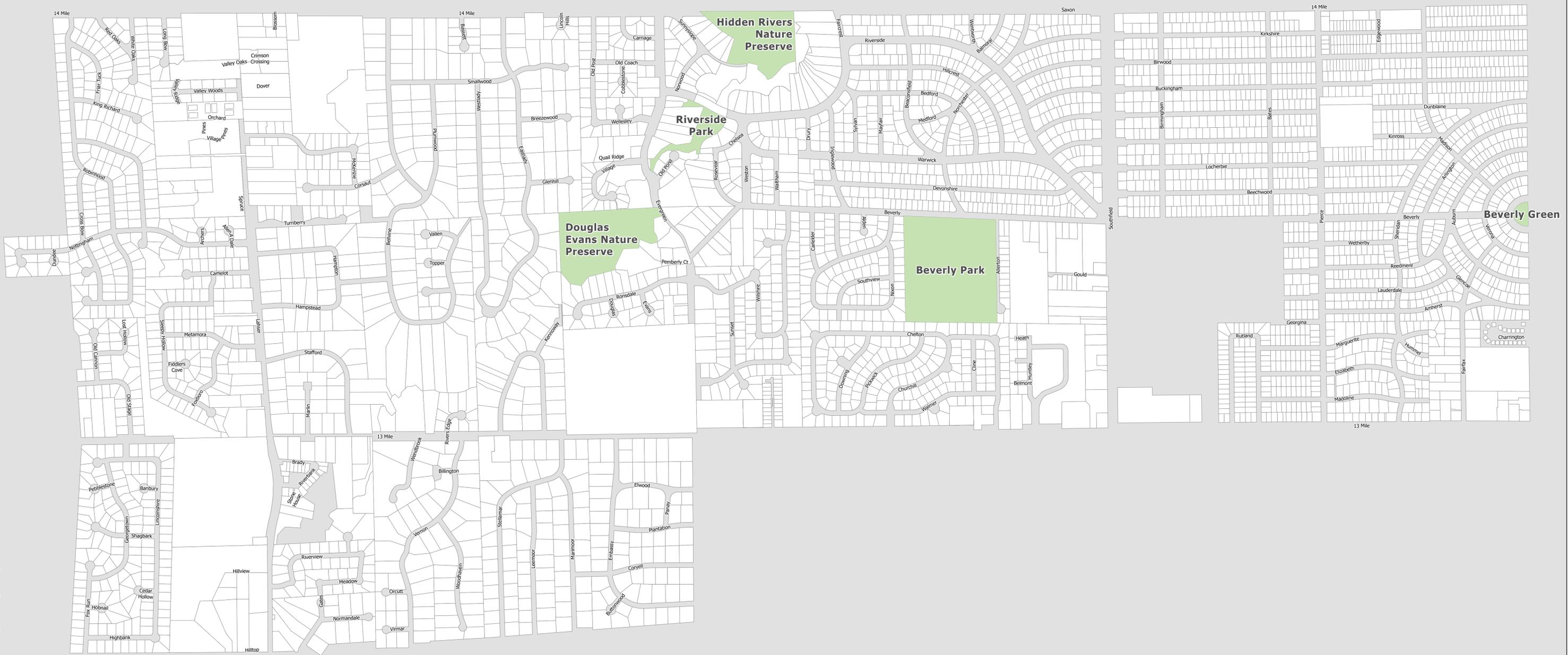
Appendix H: Village Council Resolution for Community Recreation Plan

Appendix I: Village of Beverly Hills Parks & Recreation Logo

Village of Beverly Hills

October 2022



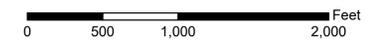


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Village of Beverly Hills Park Locations

Legend

- Parcels
- Parks



Prepared: 05-27-2022



Beverly Park
18801 Beverly Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025
Parcel ID: 24-02-401-001



Riverside Park
Parcel ID: 24-02-151-017



Beverly Green
Parcel ID: 24-01-284-001



Douglas Evans Nature Preserve
Parcel ID: 24-03-426-012



Hidden Rivers Nature Preserve
Parcel ID: 24-02-102-010





Give just 10 minutes
to help plan the next 5 years

The 2023-2028 Community Recreation Plan for Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation is currently being drafted and ***we need your input!***

Participate in the
Community Recreation Plan Survey
to help determine fiscal and operational priorities for Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation for 2023 - 2028.

Your participation is extremely important!

To participate in the survey, just scan the QR Code below with your smartphone or tablet, then click the link when it appears.
Or you can visit villagebeverlyhills.com for more information.





Community Recreation Plan Survey

Results and Significant Takeaways

Developed by:
Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation Board
5-Year Plan Subcommittee
Greg Ross - Sara Bresnahan - Eli Bayless



Community Recreation Plan Survey Results and Significant Takeaways

Participation

Survey participation was at **13.8% of Beverly Hills households**, based on an estimated total number of occupied housing units in Beverly Hills at 4,100 and 567 respondents that identified as current residents.

Respondents provided street names of their residences. Highest frequency street names are as follows:

Address	Qty	Address	Qty	Address	Qty	Address	Qty
Beverly	29	Bedford	9	Arlington	5	Amherst	4
Riverside Dr	26	Churchill Drive	9	Bellvine	5	Beaconsfield	4
Devonshire	22	Chelton	8	E Chelton Dr	5	Downing pl	4
Pickwick Ln	16	Nixon	8	E Rutland	5	Dunblaine	4
Birwood	13	Vernon Dr	8	Faircrest	5	Eastlady Dr	4
Hillcrest	13	Auburn	7	Fairfax	5	Georgetown Dr	4
Waltham Rd	13	Evergreen Rd.	7	Lauderdale Ave	5	Georgina Street	4
Buckingham	12	Mayfair Lane	7	Lincolnshire East	5	Wellesley Street	4
Sleepy Hollow Lane	11	Sheridan Dr	7	Norchester	5	White Oaks Trail	4
Beechwood	10	Wilshire Blvd	7	Nottingham Dr	5		
Kinross Ave	10	13 Mile	6	Ronsdale Dr	5		
Kirkshire Ave	10	Embassy	6	Stafford	5		
Warwick	10	Metamora Drive	6	Stellamar St	5		
		Riverbank Dr	6	Sunset Dr	5		
				Westlady	5		



Community Recreation Plan Survey Results and Significant Takeaways

Participation

Forty-two (42) non-Beverly Hills residents participated in the survey. These participants provided the name of their city or town, and are as follows:

City / Town	Qty
Southfield	15
Birmingham	6
Royal oak	6
Bingham Farms	4
Bloomfield Hills	2
Franklin	2
West Bloomfield	2
Berkley	1
Bloomfield Twp	1
Lathrup Village	1
Pleasant Ridge	1



Community Recreation Plan Survey Results and Significant Takeaways

Interesting Survey Takeaways:

- 50% of all participants have lived in Beverly Hills for <10 years, and equally 50% of all participants have lived in Beverly Hills for >10 years..
- Over 40% of all respondents have young children:
 - 39.8% have at least one child 0-6 years old
 - 40.1% have at least one child 7-12 years old
- < 13% of households have members between the ages of 19-24 years old.
- 52% of Beverly Hills households have at least one dog.



Community Recreation Plan Survey Results and Significant Takeaways

Interesting Survey Takeaways:

- Over 91% of respondents visit Beverly Park on a monthly basis.

Annual Household Use of Beverly Park Assets:

Sledding Hill:	79.6%
Pavilion:	77.8%
Storybook Trail:	71.4%
Playground:	70.2%
Tennis Courts:	34.5%
Baseball Fields:	34.2%
Ice Rink:	24.2%
Exercise Equipment:	19.5%
Disc Golf Course:	19.3%
Basketball Courts:	19.1%
Sand Volleyball Courts:	13.9%
Ping Pong Table:	9.4%
Chess Table:	6.9%
Horseshoe pits:	5.2%



Community Recreation Plan Survey Results and Significant Takeaways

Interesting Survey Takeaways:

Monthly household use of secondary parks:

Monthly Park Use				
Park	None	1-5 Times	6-10 Times	10+ Times
Douglas Evans	44.3%	49.3%	3.6%	2.8%
Riverside	67.5%	26.0%	2.8%	3.6%
Beverly Green	95.5%	3.2%	0.7%	0.7%
Hidden Rivers	93.2%	6.0%	0.5%	0.3%

Household attendance of special events::

Event Attendance			
Event	Always	Sometimes	Never
Memorial Day Parade	35.5%	41.1%	23.4%
Halloween Hoot	34.1%	36.2%	29.7%
Winter Days / Sledding	11.2%	42.7%	46.1%
Concerts in the Park	4.9%	48.1%	47.1%
Movie in the Park	4.4%	37.6%	58.1%
Java and Jazz	2.3%	26.8%	70.9%
Spring Clean Up	2.8%	25.8%	71.3%
Read in the Park	2.0%	12.5%	85.5%
Tree Planting	2.0%	10.1%	87.9%

