

# **Village of Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan**

*2018-2023*

*Adopted Month/Date/2018*

# **Acknowledgments**

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

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# Introduction

The Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation Board, Village Council, Administration and residents prepared an updated recreation plan focused on Beverly Park as it is the center of recreation in the Village. This five-year plan sets forth many goals to improve the recreational opportunities in Beverly Park.

Recreation activities in Beverly Hills have primarily focused on Beverly Park as the main arena. The park has been improved through the hard work and dedication of countless residents, volunteers, elected officials and administrators. By continuing to improve the park, it will remain both beautiful and highly functional throughout the next five years. In addition, the focus on recreation opportunities can expand to include opportunities throughout the Village.

This plan includes a comprehensive community recreation inventory, discussion of community events and improvement plans for public areas. Public opinion is the corner-stone of any successful plan and was influential in developing this plan, using the input of citizens 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 four square miles with a population of 10,267, according to the 2010 census, and 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 2010 census, the population in Beverly Hills is 52.2% female and 47.8% male with 57.5% of the population between the ages of 20 and 64, 25.1% under the age of 18, and 17.4% aged 65 and older.

Education levels in Beverly Hills exceed both County and State averages with 96.9% of the population attaining a High School diploma and 66.7% holding a college degree. Along with higher education levels, the median household income of \$103,134 in 2010 is significantly higher than the Oakland County median income of \$66,390 the same year.

Incorporated in 1958, Beverly Hills has enjoyed 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, various un-named pocket-parks and two nature preserves with use limitations due to deed restrictions.

Beverly Hills is part of the Birmingham School District. 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 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.

Recreation specifically geared toward senior citizens can be found through Beverly Hills' connection with Next. Next is a volunteer based group that offers a full range of support and services to Birmingham School District seniors.

## **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 of major improvements, recommending park functions and usage, seeking and recommending additional funding or donations, and recommending long-range plans for park development. The Board meets the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. and is comprised of the following members:

Janice Hausman, Chairperson

Jennifer Ruprich, Vice-Chairperson

Molly Borgon

Irene Davis

Matthew Goodrich

William Kondak

Phillip Schmitt

## **Administration**

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. Ellen Marshall, Village Clerk, is the administrative liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board. The Village Council is the governing body that authorizes funds for parks and recreation activities along with accepting grants and purchasing land on behalf of the Village. Comeau Equipment is a private company contracted by the Village of Beverly Hills to perform public works activities including park maintenance. Three part-time park attendants function as seasonal employees to further assist in park maintenance. A complete organizational chart is available in Appendix A.

## **Annual Budget**

Parks and recreation budgets are established by Village Council using recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Board for maintenance and capital improvements. The budget for 2017/18 includes general maintenance funds in addition to funds for a variety of annual events including: Special Events (includes Movie in the Park, Memorial Day carnival, winter carnival, Rouge River clean-up, and nature preserve management) and Halloween Hoot fund. The Capital Projects fund includes park equipment improvements and general recreation donations.

## Previous Funding Source

A dedicated park millage that was passed by the voters in 2001, expired in 2005. Funds from that millage covered a number of park improvements, but most recently paid for the installation and cost of an outdoor ping pong table, two outdoor chess/checkers tables, 14 picnic tables, recycling and trash receptacles, adult exercise equipment and one new piece of playground equipment. All millage funds have now been exhausted.

## 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 11.9785 mills, of which 1.81 are for the general fund. Other revenues come from donations, user fees, event revenues and grants.

General fund expenses include park maintenance and utilities, Rouge River maintenance, special events: Memorial Day Parade and Carnival, Winter Family Fun Day, Rouge River Clean Up, Movie in the Park, Read in the Park, preservation management, Halloween Hoot, and the park pay phone.

### Capital Projects

Park and recreation capital projects outlined in the 2017/18 budget include Rouge River maintenance, and park improvements through equipment purchase.

### Donations, user fees, and grants

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 Buy-a-Brick program offers individuals or businesses the opportunity to purchase a brick, engraved to their liking, for installation near the Beverly Park pavilion. Proceeds from brick sales support park improvements.

### Grants

Beverly Hills has received two grants through the DNR for recreation; in 1973 for 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 planting grants from the DTE Energy Foundation, have been received. Administration actively seeks grant opportunities to assist in funding improvements to the recreation system.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers serve an invaluable role in the Village especially for Parks and Recreation activities. The Parks and Recreation Board itself is comprised of volunteers who serve 3-year terms. The Board organizes several annual activities which would not be possible without their assistance and that of other volunteers. For example, in January, Winter Family

Fun Day celebrates the recreation opportunities in winter, 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 occur, such as Memorial Day Parade and Carnival, Movie in the Park, and the Halloween Hoot, that rely heavily on volunteers assisting with supervision of activities, donating supplies and providing their time and talent.

### **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 Lion's Club, Scouts programs and 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 70.4 acres of open space; 37.4 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; therefore these spaces have limited recreational opportunities but serve as valuable nature preserves in an urban area. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) suggests a community maintain 6.25 to 10.5 acres of close-to-home parkland for each 1,000 residents. 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:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Local Park Requirements</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
2010	10,267	64.17 to 107.80 acres	0-37.40 acres
2040	10,338	64.61 to 108.55 acres	0-38.15 acres

Beverly Hills has experienced a slight population decline since its peak in the 1970s. SEMCOG predictions show the population through 2020 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, if the population experiences growth as projected after 2020, additional park land may become necessary. Since approximately half of the parkland currently available is used for passive recreation, the need for active recreation may be realized before overall size considerations display need.

## **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 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 principals of universal design

Following is a detailed inventory of the specific park areas and recommendations for the particular park. General recommendations for the system as a whole are available in the section Goals and Objectives 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
- Basketball, tennis, pickleball, softball, baseball, and volleyball courts
- Chess/Checkers table
- Disc golf course
- Horseshoes
- Ice skating
- Nature study
- Pavilion with restrooms
- Picnic areas/benches
- Ping pong
- Playground
- Walking/running trails
- Sledding
- Storybook Trail
- Major Village events held on-site include:
  - i. Winter Family Fun Day
  - ii. Memorial Day Carnival

- iii. Movie in the Park
- iv. Halloween Hoot
- v. Read in the Park

### 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 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. As recently as June 2017, a wedding took place 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.”

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, Shawn Duke with 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 is actually buckthorn, an invasive species. Cardno’s expertise is development and improvement of physical and social infrastructure for communities. The Parks & Recreation Board is considering an eradication and woodland restoration project to reforest the wooded area of Beverly Park with native trees.

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 chipped 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 that can be read by visitors, young and old, as they walk through the 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 the pavilion fireplace was rebuilt.

The playground equipment includes swings, slides, large and small play structures, and a sand box. 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 adult 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 structures

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 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.

Farther south, along Allerton Road, two ballfields occupy about 4.5 acres (13.1% of the total). From April 1<sup>st</sup> until July 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Little League makes improvements to the ballfields. Both ball diamond infields were stripped and replaced in 2016.

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.

Located in the southern most 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 2016, 29 trees were planted throughout the park. Nine locust were planted in the parking lot island and 20 (an assortment of locust and maple) were planted near the pavilion and playground.

#### **Recommendations**

- ✓ Continue maintaining facilities for maximum life span of equipment
- ✓ Research and consider improvements to pond area
- ✓ Install drinking water fountain near playground
- ✓ Install new playground surface
- ✓ Install handicap accessible sidewalk ramps
- ✓ Implement long term plan to eradicate Buckthorn
- ✓ Resurface tennis courts
- ✓ Plant additional trees throughout the park
- ✓ Install additional walking paths
- ✓ Restore woodland

## Riverside Park

Location: Riverside Drive east of Evergreen Road

Service Area: Village

Size: .34 acres

Current Status: Developed

Classification: Park

Accessibility: 2

### Amenities:

- Picnic area/Benches
- Fishing access
- Nature study
- Chess/Checkers Table

### Description and Assessment:

Riverside Park is a .34 acre open space located on Riverside Drive abutting a pond which is part of the Rouge River corridor. 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.

The park is predominately used for fishing, although there is a picnic table and grill available for public use and people use the pond as a kayak launch

The pond and connecting portions of the Rouge River are extremely shallow due to years of sediment build-up exacerbated by untreated sewer dumping that occurred throughout the Rouge River region.

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.

### **Recommendations**

- ✓ Maintain existing facilities
- ✓ Beautification
- ✓ Natural shoreline restoration

## 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:

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 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 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

### DNR Grant Inventory

The Village of Beverly Hills has received two grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Both projects were for 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.

# Planning Methods

The Parks and Recreation Board has successfully realized their goal of drastically 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 2010 US Census data, the “School Age” (ages 5-19) populations have increased since 2000, while “Family Forming” (ages 20-64) and “Senior” (ages 65 and over) have decreased. Overall, population decreased slightly. This information indicates the importance of maintaining and developing recreation activities and programs geared towards children.

In comparing facilities available with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Guidelines, 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 the community based on usage, but

			possible need to improve existing facilities.
<b>Activity/Facility</b>	<b>Recommended Number per Population</b>	<b>Current facilities</b>	<b>Priority/Deficiency</b>
Tennis courts – Beverly Park	1 per 2,000	2 per 10,000	Yes. Current facilities do not meet needs of residents. Improvement of current facilities and possible expansion recommended.
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	No. Current number of facilities meets the needs of the community.
Soccer field	1 per 10,000	None	Maybe. No facilities exist, however there was one request from this year’s survey.

# Public Input Process

Public input was encouraged throughout the entire process of drafting this plan. The Village Council, Parks and Recreation Board and Administration recognized the importance of drafting a plan that reflected residents' needs and desires for recreation in the community. Residential input was received through public comment at meetings, surveys that were available online and mailed to every home via the quarterly Village newsletter, public comment of 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 followed the population census. The survey, tally results and comments can be found in Appendix D.

The draft plan was made available for public comment at the Village office and electronically via the Village website for 50 days. Notice of the draft plan review and comment availability was sent in the Village weekly electronic newsletter, which is emailed to 1,800 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.

A public hearing will be held as part of the Village Council meeting on May 15, 2018.

Copies of the public notice the Public Hearing and the minutes from the Public Hearing can be found in Appendix F.

## 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, anticipated population changes, and current facilities' status.

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 accessibility at all recreation areas.
  - Continue improving maintenance and enhancing aesthetic appeal of parks.
  - Develop programs for residents of various ages.
  - Safety paths to connect all areas of the village.
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.
  - Encourage appropriate uses of natural areas that respect wildlife, plant life and water quality.
3. Use existing community resources efficiently and demonstrate fiscal responsibility by providing efficient administration of the Parks and Recreation facilities.
  - Continue regular communication with residents on programs available.

- Actively seek grant and alternative funding opportunities.

## Action Program

During the next five years, improving and maintaining the current system will remain the primary focus as land acquisition is unlikely. Reassess the funding sources annually through the budget process; in addition, the Parks & Recreation Board must continue to annually review user fees for participants to ensure the fees are offsetting the costs of the program.

The Parks and Recreation Board must review whether additional public funding will be needed, through a dedicated millage or property assessment, as well as continuing to seek additional funding through grants. Establishing a volunteer contribution program may also be an effective form of producing funding. Creating and distributing a brochure of donation opportunities; examples include dedicating trees or benches to the park for beautification and funding. These opportunities can be utilized to solicit private donations in addition to business/professional donations. The brochure must be specific about park needs; for example, landscaping needs should specify acceptable species and locations. A gift program can be a useful public relations and educational tool, and a means of generating personal pride in the parks. These actions will help Beverly Hills continue managing its parks facilities responsibly and effectively.

All improvements and maintenance must remain focused on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Providing barrier free access to the facilities will help Beverly Hills

reach goals of creating welcoming system-wide facilities, improving facilities for seniors and encouraging healthier lifestyles for residents.

The Parks and Recreation Board should develop and implement a capital purchases plan. A park system needs to be constantly updated to meet the needs of contemporary users. As the makeup of the population changes, so must the facilities in the park change. Developing a specific plan reduces administrative and maintenance costs by eliminating the need to continuously evaluate equipment. Enlisting the services of experts will help develop a cost saving plan to effectively plan for future purchases. Large scale purchases and improvements can be budgeted over several years and funding shortages will be apparent before the purchase is imminent. Implementing a capital purchases plan will assist in effectively maintaining and utilizing the resources available and improve the feasibility of projects being completed.

Natural/green areas are a valuable resource in a developed, urban setting. Improving the quality of the Rouge River will impact the entire community and river system. Long range planning, fundraising and public education will be required. The benefits of a healthier pond and river in addition to increased recreational opportunities support all the goals of this plan.

An ongoing tree/landscape evaluation and maintenance plan is needed so that the Village can respond in a more timely fashion to disease and insect damage. There is a near elimination of ash trees, and other trees are suffering from blight. An annual evaluation is needed so that maintenance personnel know whether they are witnessing natural aging of the woods or a serious problem that needs immediate attention. Certain dead trees in prominent locations in the park (such as around the playground and picnic areas) should be removed and replaced immediately, because of their negative aesthetic and safety impact.

The goals of preserving and supporting the green areas will be supported by a clear program to maintain and plant trees in public spaces.

Overall the recreational opportunities in Beverly Hills are meeting the needs of the community. The citizens report a high level of satisfaction with the recreation available. System wide improvements to the Village's parks, green spaces and recreational facilities will complement the individual area recommendations listed in the Recreation Inventory.