



CITY OF CENTER LINE
**PARKS AND
RECREATION
AND OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN**



2019-2023





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1.0

INTRODUCTION

The City of Center Line is a small town that has more than 80 years of rich and proud history all emanating along Van Dyke Avenue from I-696 south past Ten Mile Road. This 1.7 square mile community is home to almost 8,300 residents, 230 businesses and corporations, and is conveniently located within, and accessible to, the Metropolitan Detroit region's numerous attractions and 4 million residents.

The 2019 Center Line Parks and Recreation Plan is an update of the City of Center Line's previous Parks and Recreation Plan and an extension of the City of Center Line's Master Plan. This Parks and Recreation Plan carries an overarching community health and open space strategy that will guide the specifics of parks and recreation planning, programming, development and the sustainability of the community's land and facilities. While Center Line has maintained parkland within the City's neighborhoods and municipal center, community trends and input have prompted the City to think about parks and recreation in a more creative and responsive way. The Planning process began in the winter of 2018 and lasted nearly a year with the specific goal of reaching out to, and incorporating, the input of many residents and stakeholders alike in developing the vision and goals for this plan for the next five to ten years. Public input, combined with comprehensive analyses of current, historic, and future conditions locally and nationally, formed the vision for the City's parks and recreation future and the basis for the recommendations found in this plan.

Purpose of the Plan

The 2019 City of Center Line Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by the Parks and Recreation Director and the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development with assistance from the Center Line Recreation Commission and approved by City Council. It serves multiple purposes including acting as a



guide for decision-making, as a source for public transparency and awareness of the City's current conditions and needs, as a funding resource tool, and lastly as an aspiring vision for the future. This plan is the document that sets the vision and action plans for realizing the full potential of Center Line's parks and recreation services and facilities, both now and into the future.

How will the Plan be Used?

With the purpose of providing a vision and policies that guide Center Line parks and recreation, this plan is intended to be used by city leaders, stakeholders, community groups, and citizens alike to help realize that vision.

INTENDED USE OF THIS MASTER PLAN

By the public:

- To understand the goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Department and the community's common vision.
- To understand the maintenance, operation and programming obligations.
- To learn about the parks and recreation decision-making process.

By City Staff:

- To measure success and planned accomplishments.
- To plan for staff and funding allocations.
- To understand our "next steps" and to make decisions beyond existing pressures and needs.
- To utilize the existing park facility inventory.
- To utilize the existing park programming inventory.

By City Council:

- To guide future planning decisions around the vision for each park as an asset to the community and its residents.
- As a reference to the Master Plan, guiding land use.

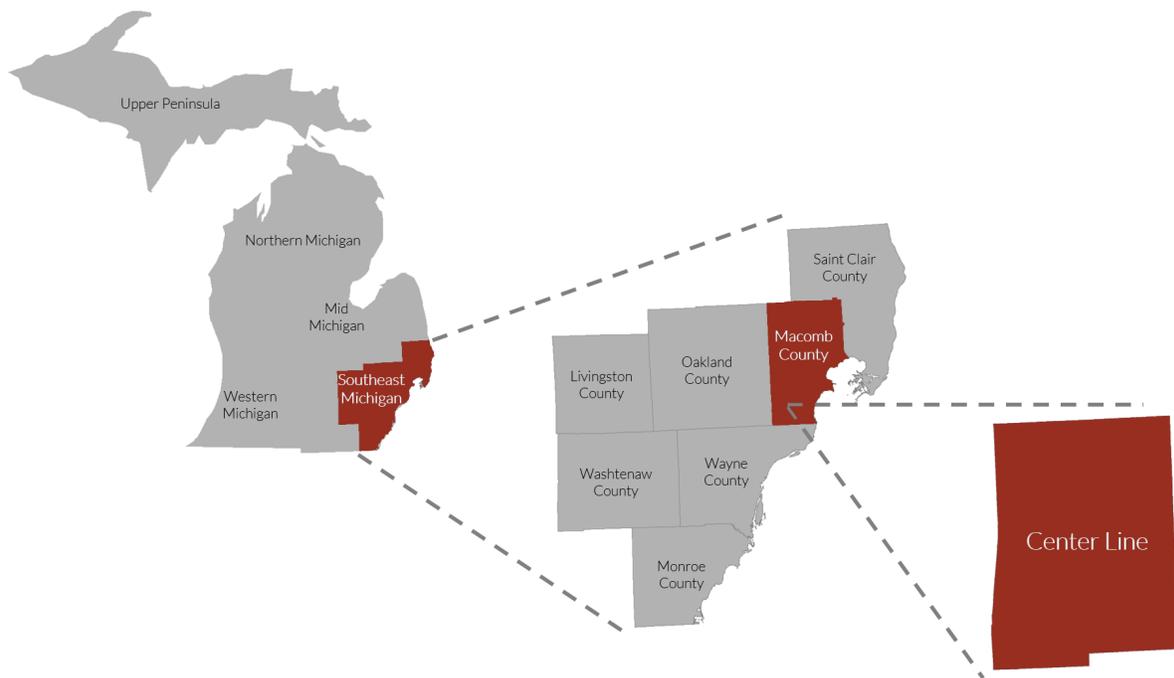
By the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission:

- To utilize as a guiding document for activities.
- To plan future park improvements.
- As policy framework or committee priorities.

By partners and advocates:

- To understand the goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Department and the community's common vision.
- For projects, community design, and development standards.
- To meet and fill gaps in parks and recreation services.
- To serve as a framework for creating partnerships.

Figure 1.



Regional Setting

The City of Center Line is located in an opportunistic area in Southeast Michigan. The City is connected to the region through an integrated transportation network. I-696 and M-53 provide quick access to and from the community, the local street network links the residents and visitors to major destinations, and being less than 1.5 miles north of Detroit, Center Line is still connected to the hub of the metropolitan region. The City of Center Line is completely surrounded by the City of Warren, which offers potential partnerships in recreation programming.

History

Historically, the land that Center Line came to occupy was swamp and wilderness until the early nineteenth century. As land became scarce, French, German, Belgian, and Irish immigrants began clearing the forests and draining the swamps. Center Line was known as Kunrod's Corner during the mid-nineteenth century. The theory is that the French named it Center Line because it was the middle of three Potawatomi trails from Fort Detroit to northern trading posts. The 'center line' was the trail used from Detroit to Utica.

The community received its initial start when Catholics decided to build a church so that they would not have to walk to St. Mary's in Detroit for Sunday Mass. This church (St. Clement's) was established in 1854 and attracted more Catholic settlers into the area. In 1863, the first general store was constructed by Joseph Buechel. On July 19, 1878, Hieronymous Engelmann was the first postmaster, and he was succeeded in 1885 by Sophia Buechel. The "Centre Line" post office closed on July 31, 1906, and the name was restored to Center Line thereafter. In this era, street car tracks connected Detroit to Center Line along Van Dyke Road, and Ten Mile Road was the final stop of the street car. Center Line was incorporated as a Village in 1925, and as a City in 1936. Visit www.CenterLine.gov for more information.

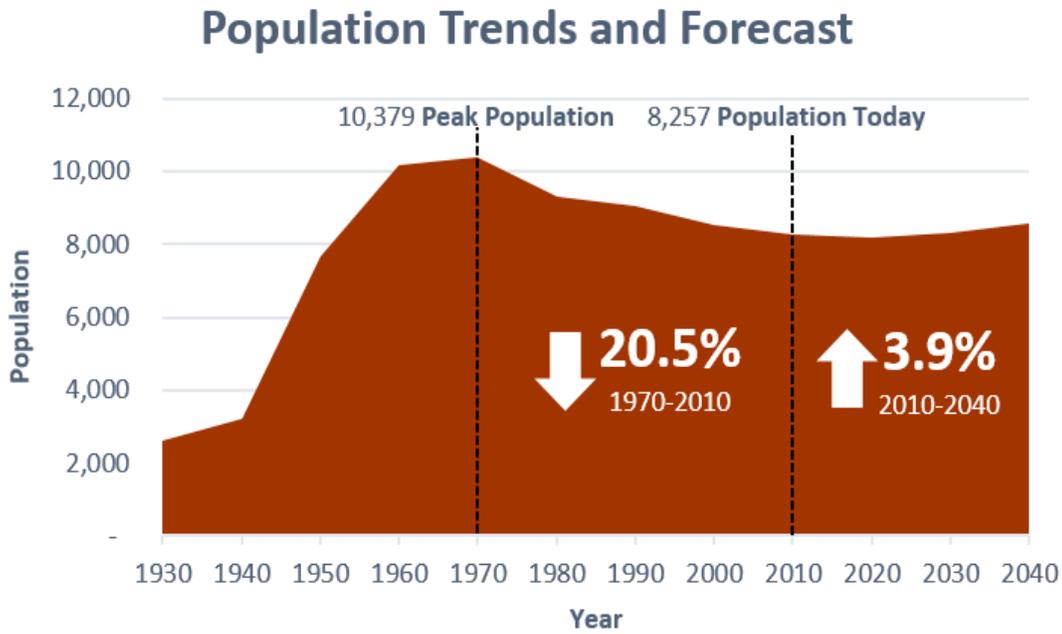
Demographic and Economic Characteristics

In order to develop a parks and recreation plan that is in tune to the current and future needs



Figure 2.

Figure 3.



of the City, a comprehensive demographic and economic analysis of the community is needed. The following subsections will highlight a number of significant population and household trends that have shaped the City of Center Line. These trends will undoubtedly have an impact on parks and recreation planning. Beyond how many people live in your community, more refined demographic and economic data will paint a more polished picture of the residents of the City of Center Line.

Population

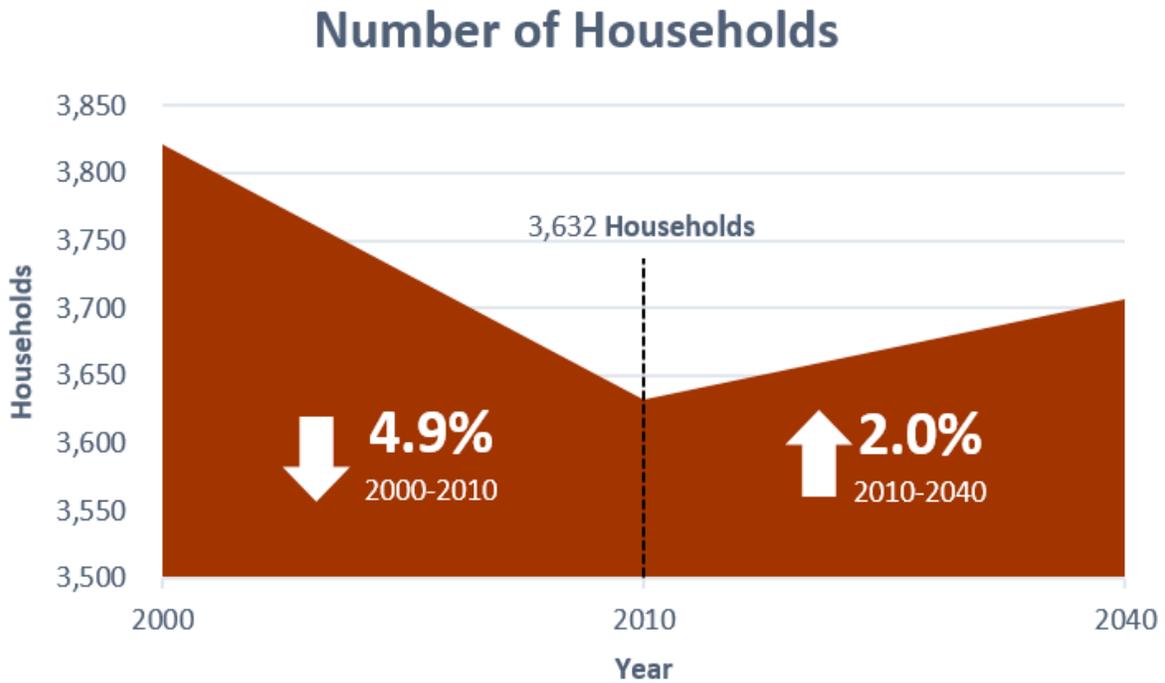
Population and population density characteristics have significant influence on recreation planning given that it shapes both the supply and demand for facilities as well as the types of programming and amenities desired by the population. Like many urbanized small communities in southeast Michigan, Center Line lost much of its population between 1970 and 2010 as a result of shifting employment centers and housing market preferences. However, more recent trends show a stabilizing of the community's population and the maintenance of its urbanized population density, even projecting a 3.9 percent increase in population by 2040 – not factoring in any other potential community developments, initiatives or interventions (see Figure 3).

Households

Household types and household size can be important indicators for making recreation facility and program decisions. These data figures can provide a picture of who lives in the community and how it is trending, which influences the types of facilities and programs Center Line's population needs and are interested in.

According to 2010 estimates via SEMCOG's Community Profiles, the City of Center Line had approximately 3,632 households within the city limits. This household total represents a 4.9 percent decrease in total households from the year 2000. Projecting into the future, the trend become slightly more optimistic, estimating a 2 percent increase in total households by the year 2040. At its surface, these trends do not seem too promising given the decrease and the net loss of households in SEMCOG's projection. But then again, once the statistics are unpacked we find that while the number of households are decreasing the average household size is continually increasing, antithetical to national trends. This growth bodes well for both increased density as well as potential increases in population.

Figure 4.



Within these households we dissect the typology and composition of them to better understand the dynamics and potential needs existing within the community. The charts on this page identify several important realities – currently, Center Line is predominantly comprised of familial households versus non-familial households. The community is also experiencing a significant decrease in the number of seniors living alone and in sum total, a decrease in the number of households who even have a senior living within it. However, this does not mean that the community is necessarily getting younger, on the contrary we see that the number of households with children has also decreased, as nominal as it is. These statistics could be indications that there may be a different

recreational programming need than what was once in place under traditional park and recreation offerings. Potentially more group activities for seniors or adult centered recreational programming could be options, or social events that bring those who live alone together with their neighbors.

Figure 5.

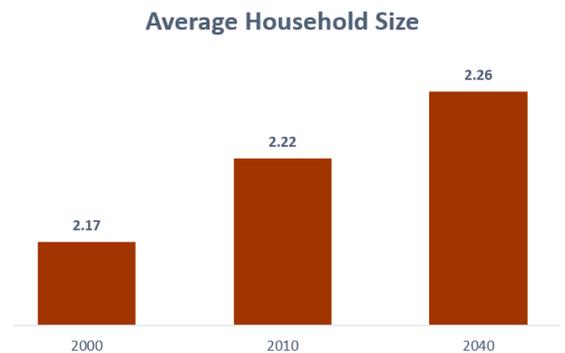
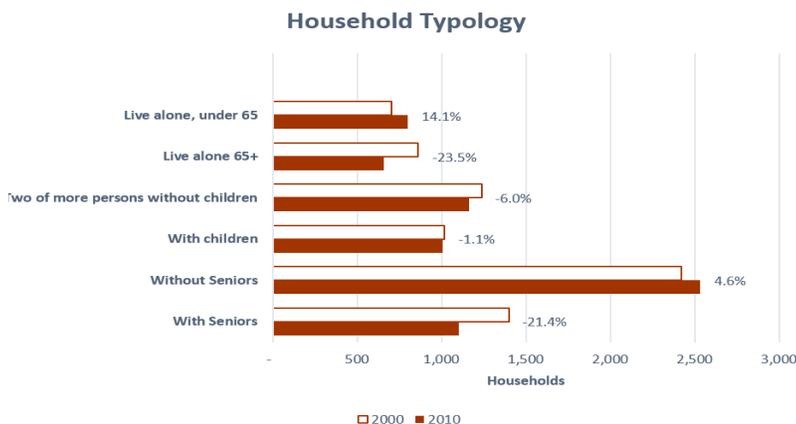


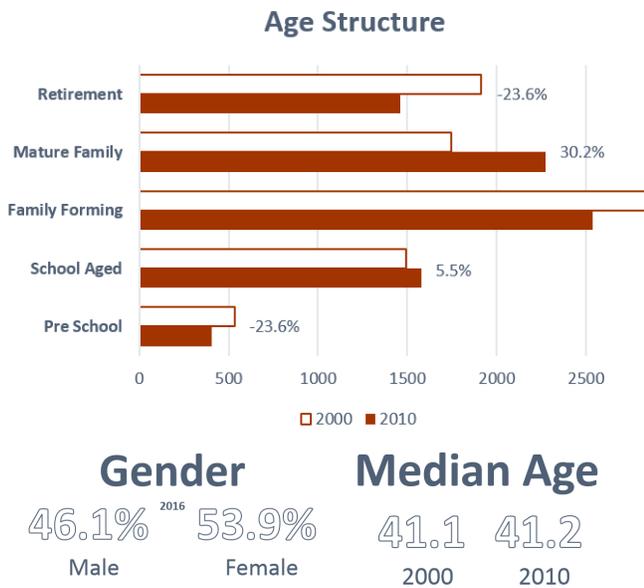
Figure 6.



Household Make-up

55% ²⁰¹⁶ 45%
 Family Non-Family

Figure 7.



Age and Gender

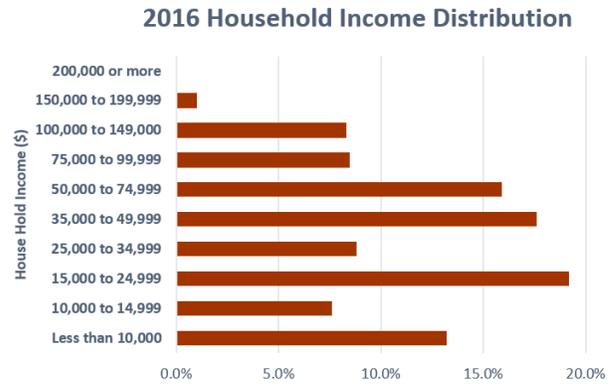
The age and gender composition of a community is extremely important when planning for parks and recreation programming and improvements. Older residents have vastly different needs than childless 20-somethings or those who have families with children. Specifically, the age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality’s populations are at which stages of life) gives a nuanced view of the true makeup of a community. To compare age structure, the population is divided into the following groupings:

1. Under 5 Years (Pre School)
2. 5 to 19 (School Aged)
3. 20 to 44 (Family Forming)
4. 45 to 64 (Mature Families)
5. Over 65 (Retirement)

Figure 7 compare the age structure of Center Line from the years 2000 to 2010, as well as the distribution of genders as of 2016.

Center Line has a declining and smaller proportion of retirement age individuals than in the past, while also having less family forming and school aged children in the community. The trend appears to be one of shifting demographics where the current family forming group will grow into mature families that have older children and/or young adults, and mature families will most likely become empty nesters or age in place, increasing the proportion of retirement age individuals from current levels experienced in the community. Surprisingly though, this shift is not really reflected in the change of

Figure 8.



the median age from 2000 to 2010, maintaining a similar level.

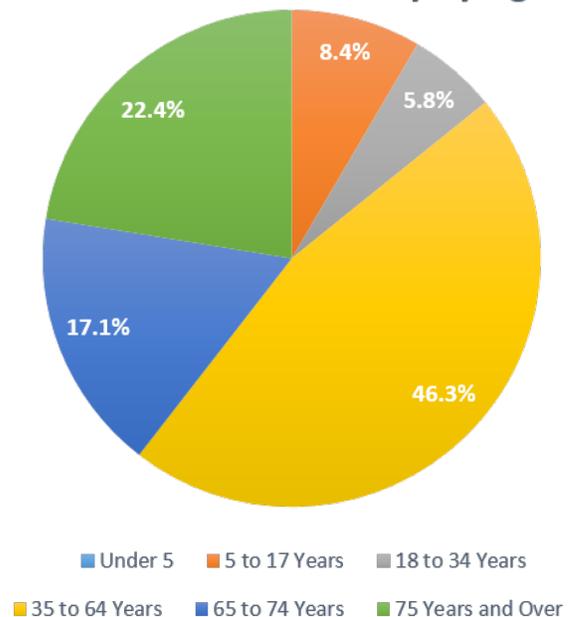
Income and Disability

Understanding the income distribution and number of disabled residents in Center Line is vital to parks and recreation planning because of the need to consider how residents will interact with provided amenities, their particular affordability, and what will need to be provided in order for these amenities to be both accessible and equitably provided.

Figure 8 details the income distribution within the City. Approximately 2/3 of households earn less than \$50,000 in annual income, and nearly 1/3 of households earn less than \$24,999 annually – a statistic that is near the Federally recognized poverty line. This distribution of incomes and community make-up must be considered as programs and facilities are developed or improved.

Figure 9.

Distribution of Disability by Age



The number of residents impacted by disability will shape the design, level of accommodation, and types of programming developed to serve a population with specialized needs. The community's residents experience a variety of disabilities from hearing loss to blindness, and in some cases mobility impairment. Table 1 and Figure 9 identify the number of residents disabled by age group and their proportion of the disabled population in 2016.

2016 Disabled Population by Age Group	
Under 5	0
5 to 17 Years	129
18 to 34 Years	88
35 to 64 Years	708
65 to 74 Years	261
75 Years & Over	343

Table 1.

Conclusion

Center Line is a city that has more of a shifting population rather than a growing population. This means that the existing population is aging in place and maturing within the community, moving on from mature families to empty nesters and seniors. This means that while there may still be children in the community, they will slowly shift towards young adulthood and the family forming age structure, leaving their more mature and retired families to become the predominant group in the City. Center Line can expect stability across their demographics, and focus on the management of their Parks and Recreation services for the needs of the population at hand. This means providing an array of services that are both equitable and targeted programming for the aging and less economically advantaged residents of the community who may look for opportunities to be active and social as their own

household dynamics change.

Community Land Use and Natural Features

One of the most essential functions when planning for parks and recreation is analyzing land. The distribution of land uses, natural features and development patterns will impact where a community can and should invest in parks and recreation resources. For example, new residential developments provide opportunities to link parks with growing population clusters, pristine natural areas allow for a community to highlight environmental stewardship, and exclusive recreational zoning districts protect and preserve land for parks and other recreation infrastructure. By analyzing land uses and natural features the City of Center Line can better integrate parks and recreation into the existing community fabric.

Land Use

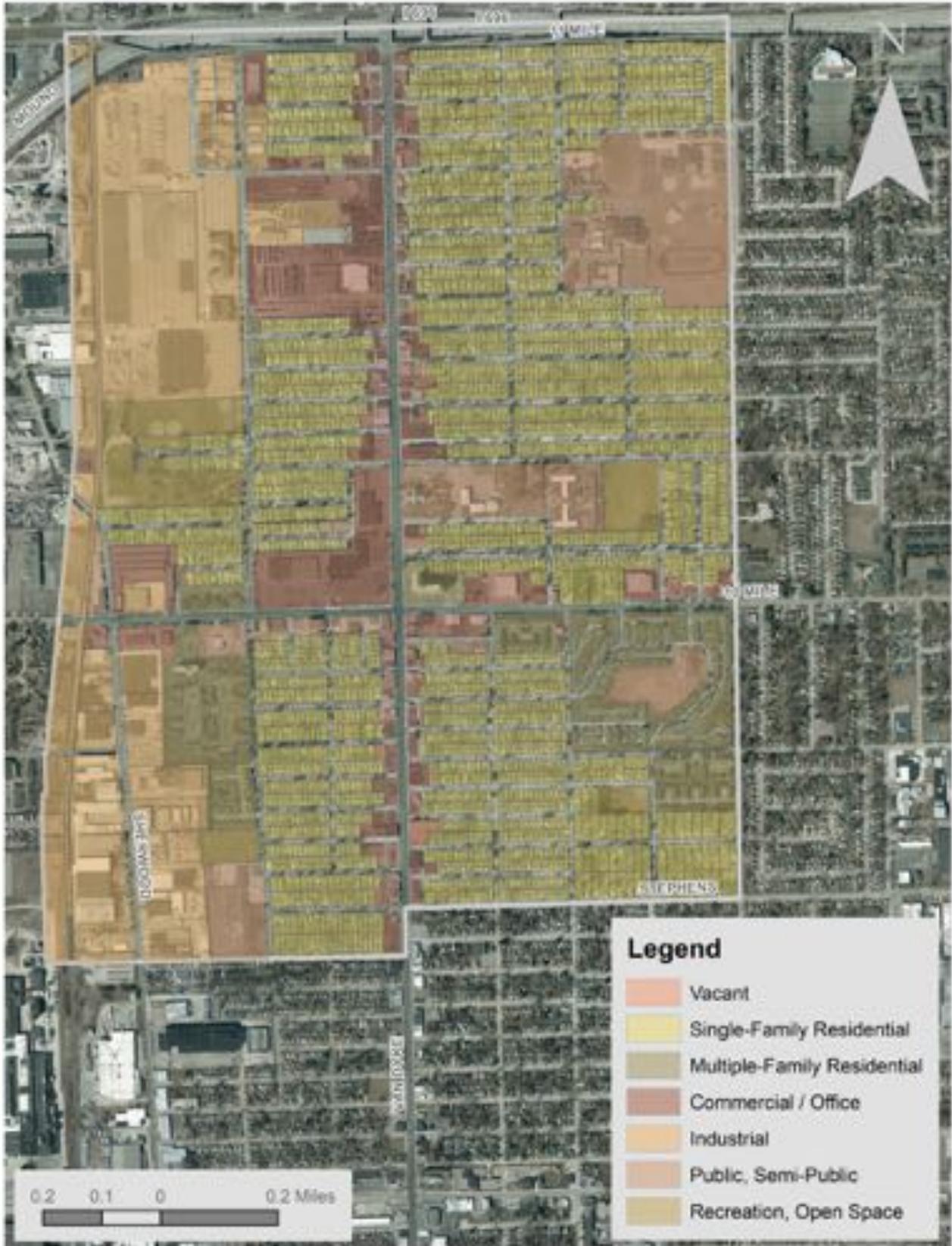
Understanding the existing land use pattern is critical in determining the extent of changes for the future land use vision. While change is inevitable, the City is committed to managing transformations to enhance economic benefit, recreation activities, and overall quality of life for all residents.

The existing land use map indicates land use patterns and associations as they exist as shown by acreage and percentage of land area in table 2. Single family residences at 33%, street right-of-way at 20% and industry at 18% occupying over 2/3 of the city's land mass. Combined with other indicators, this supports the city's desire to maintain its small town residential character and also protect its job generating and tax producing industry.

City of Center Line Existing Land Use Category	Acres	Percentage
Vacant	3.49	0.31%
Single-Family Residential	373.51	33.45%
Multiple-Family Residential	67.13	6.01%
Commercial + Office	112.86	10.11%
Industrial	203.03	18.18%
Public + Semi-Public	95.75	8.58%
Recreational + Open Space	36.95	3.31%
R-O-W	223.77	20.04%
TOTAL	1,116.49	100%

Table 2.

Existing Land Use Map



Natural Features

Center Line is an urban community that is completely built out with little-to-no undeveloped land; however, nearly a third of the City’s land mass is not covered by buildings, parking, streets and other hard-surfaces

according to 2010 SEMCOG information. The city has no uncovered natural features such as waterways. The tree canopy map below represents the amount of tree cover found within the City of Center Line.





2.0 | ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The planning, development, and maintenance of a comprehensive parks and recreation system cannot be accomplished without a unified administrative structure. A web of elected officials, boards, commissions, administrators, staffers, and volunteers is needed to ensure that investments are made soundly and services are delivered efficiently. From developing annual budgets to staffing fitness classes the administrative structure surrounding parks and recreation is vital to current operations and future accomplishments

The following section will detail the City of Center Line's Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure. Currently the City of Center Line Parks and Recreation services are managed and administered by the following entities:

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Center Line has a combined Department of Parks and Recreation which allows the director to better coordinate the city's recreation facilities, programs, and parks. The department employs a recreation director, 12 part-time staff during the peak summer season, and 5 part-time staff during the winter off-season. The director reports directly to the city manager who is responsible to the mayor and City Council (See Figure 10).

The activities of the department are guided by the Recreation Commission. The commission is an advisory body created by Article 2, Section 2-307 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances adopted in 1966. This ordinance creates a minimum of a five-member commission (currently seven members) empowered to recommend bylaws and regulations for the proper conduct of public recreation for the city. The commission's advisory functions include the monitoring of resident needs and desires as to the quantity and quality of recreation facilities and programs, and assisting in settling any conflicts concerning the use of the city's parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Park and park building maintenance is controlled by the Department of Public Works. An organizational

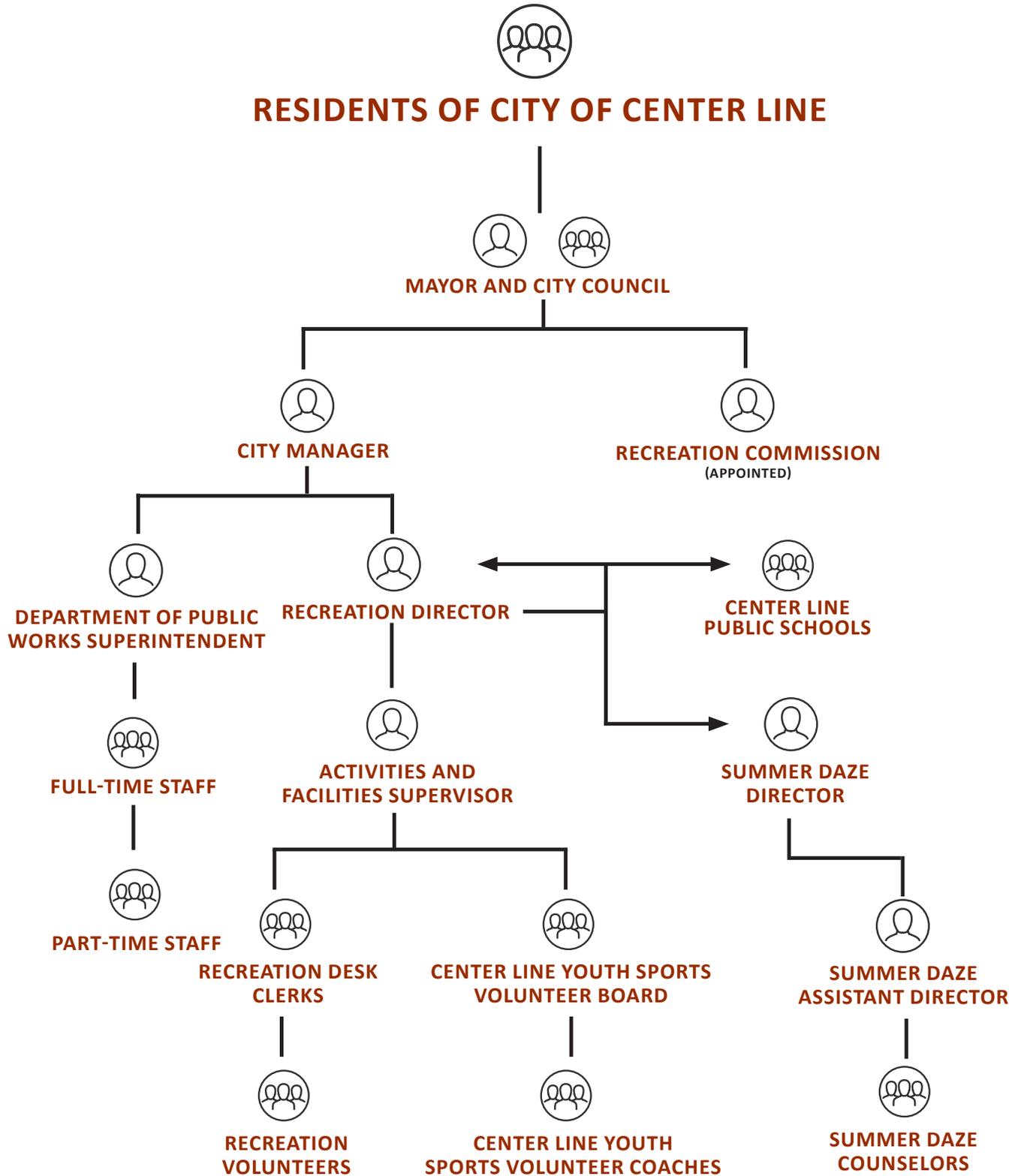


chart is shown on the following page.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION OPERATING BUDGET

The total operating expenditures for fiscal year 2018-2019 is \$306,004 financed through the general fund and user fees. Recreation administration reserves \$195,940 for salaries \$50,500 for programs, and \$53,600 for operating expense and building maintenance (park maintenance falls under the Department of Public Works budget). Recreation user fees are projected to provide \$103,000 in revenues. The city's general fund will provide the \$203,004 balance.

CITY OF CENTER LINE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FLOWCHART





3.0

RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

State and Regional Recreational Facilities

The City of Center Line understands that parks and recreation cannot be provided in a silo. A myopic approach to parks and recreation planning will restrain the dynamic and engaging characteristics of parks and recreation. The City of Center Line is nestled in a region that has a wealth of parks and recreation destinations. As a region, Southeast Michigan has illustrated a longstanding commitment to parks and recreation. From major park systems to wildlife preservation areas, the State of Michigan and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority have established a network of services and facilities that provide users of all abilities and interests with plentiful parks and recreation destinations.

Fifteen State parks and recreation areas are located in the five-county region surrounding the City of Center Line. In total, these state recreation facilities encompass over 50,000 acres of land. These State facilities offer a wide range of parks and recreation services including trails, swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, camping, nature preserves, cross-country skiing, and many others. The only State park located in Macomb County is the undeveloped Wetzel State Recreation Area. This 900+ acre site is an undeveloped park providing areas for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional parks system created by the citizens of southeast Michigan in the 1940s. This regional parks authority provides recreation and educational opportunities while serving as stewards of the natural environment. HCMA believes that the use of parks and exposure to the natural environments enhance society's health and quality of life. Macomb County is home to three HCMA parks: Stony Creek Metropark located in Washington Township; Wolcott Mill Metropark located in Ray Township; and Lake St. Clair Metropark located in



Harrison Township. From the public beach at Lake St. Clair Metropark, to the Farm Center at Wolcott Mill, to the golf course at Stony Creek, each park attracts large amounts of visitors from around the region. Each of the noted facilities has a profound impact on recreation in Center Line. Residents of the City are users of these facilities and it is important for Center Line to understand how it can leverage and learn from the success of these parks and recreation destinations.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks Regional Park Map



Macomb County Facilities

Macomb County operates a system of parks and recreation opportunities through a network of elected officials, administrators, and commissions. County Executive Mark A. Hackel works in chorus with the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission, and a network of County Departments in developing strategies and programs for parks and recreation. Currently, Macomb County oversees three active parks and recreation amenities, the Macomb Orchard Trail, Freedom Hill County park, and the Nicholson Nature Center. The 27 mile, paved, 200 acre linear Macomb Orchard Trail is the anchor of Macomb County’s regional non-motorized trail network, and is managed by the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission. The trail provides a number of amenities such as trailhead parks and comfort facilities. The County is also an active partner in the operations surrounding the Freedom Trail, which is a non-motorized trail traversing Sterling Heights, Clinton Township, Harrison Township, and ending at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Macomb County also owns Freedom Hill County Park, a 100+ acre park facility located in Sterling Heights. The facility includes the festival grounds, concert pavilion, Ralph Liberatto Memorial Hall, monument garden, playground and picnic areas. Presently the County is offering passive recreation opportunities on the site; however future plans and operations surrounding Freedom Hill continue to be discussed by the Office of the County Executive, elected County officials and vested stakeholders. Even though Macomb County is not currently involved in the active operation of large-scale parks and recreation facilities, the County remains an active participant in the planning and development of regional and local parks and recreation programs.

At the local level, Macomb County has had a long-standing commitment to providing local units of government with assistance in developing local parks and recreation plans and grant administration/assistance. Macomb County has leveraged partnerships and administrative resources to fortify local parks and recreation programs. At the regional level, Macomb County has taken a more active approach to promoting the

potential surrounding Lake St. Clair. Focusing on public access, recreational opportunities, and environmental stewardship, Macomb County is a leading force behind the revitalization of Lake St. Clair. As Macomb County continues to evolve under its newly established Executive form of government, elected officials, staff, and volunteers will ensure that parks and recreation facilities and services will continue to be an important public priority

City of Center Line Recreational Facilities

The City of Center Line has five park properties comprising 28 acres of park and open space. In addition to the five City owned parks, the Center Line Public Schools also provides the community with a variety of amenities.

Inventory Methodology

A survey of each park was conducted during the month of July. Major amenities were documented and recorded on a series of maps which depicted each park via an aerial view. These maps were used extensively during planning sessions. Each of the maps focused on the parks amenities, natural features, context and connectivity elements. Each of the parks will also provide a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Accessibility Rating. The MDNR states in its “Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans” publication that an assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities must be conducted. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves, as well as the access routes to them. MDNR provides the following rating system for assessing accessibility:

- 1 =** None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 =** Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 =** Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 =** The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 =** The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.



Macomb County Recreation Assets

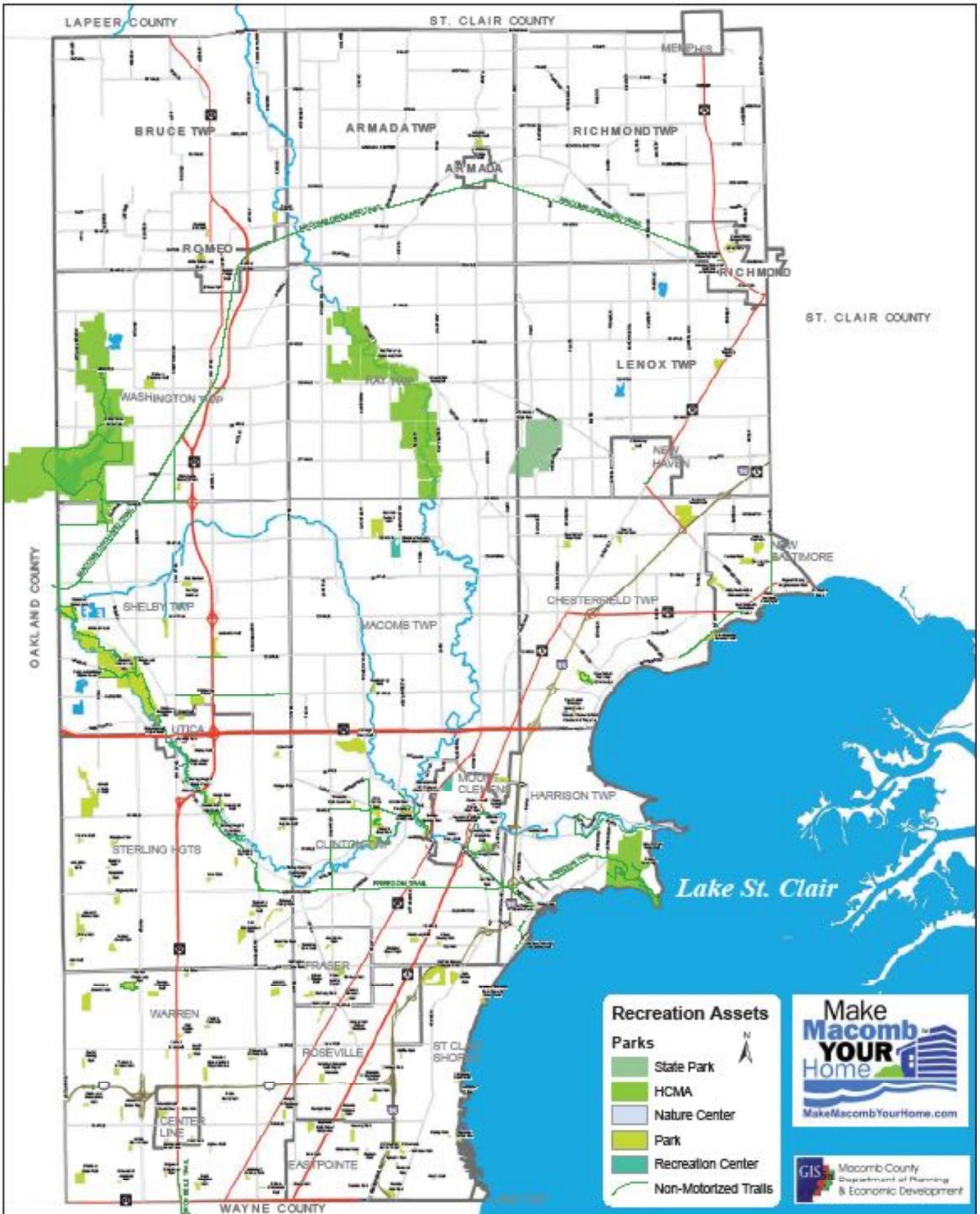


Table 3.

	Ice Rink	X		X			
	Volleyball Court	X					X
	Football Field	X					X
	Soccer Field				X		X
	Baseball/ Softball Field	X	X	X			X
	Basketball Courts	X	X				
	Restrooms	X					
	Picnic Pavilions	X		X			
	Walking Path	X				X	
	Tennis Court	X					X
	Playscape	X	X	X			
Memorial Park & Field							
Rotary Park							
Lions Park							
Dale Park							
Kramer Homes							
Beautification Park							
Center Line Schools							



MEMORIAL PARK

MDNR ACCESSIBILITY

RATING 2



Center includes pool tables, air hockey, ping pong, and shuffleboard. The park is served by two off-street parking lots, located off of Engleman Avenue and behind the Recreation Center off of Lawrence Street.



ROTARY PARK

MDNR ACCESSIBILITY

RATING 1



Rotary Park is located on Lawrence Avenue, south of 10 Mile Road. The park is 3.5 acres and includes active and passive recreation facilities, such as a baseball/softball field, playscape equipment, and basketball courts. Parking is available off-site at the nearby Rising Stars Academy.

LIONS PARK

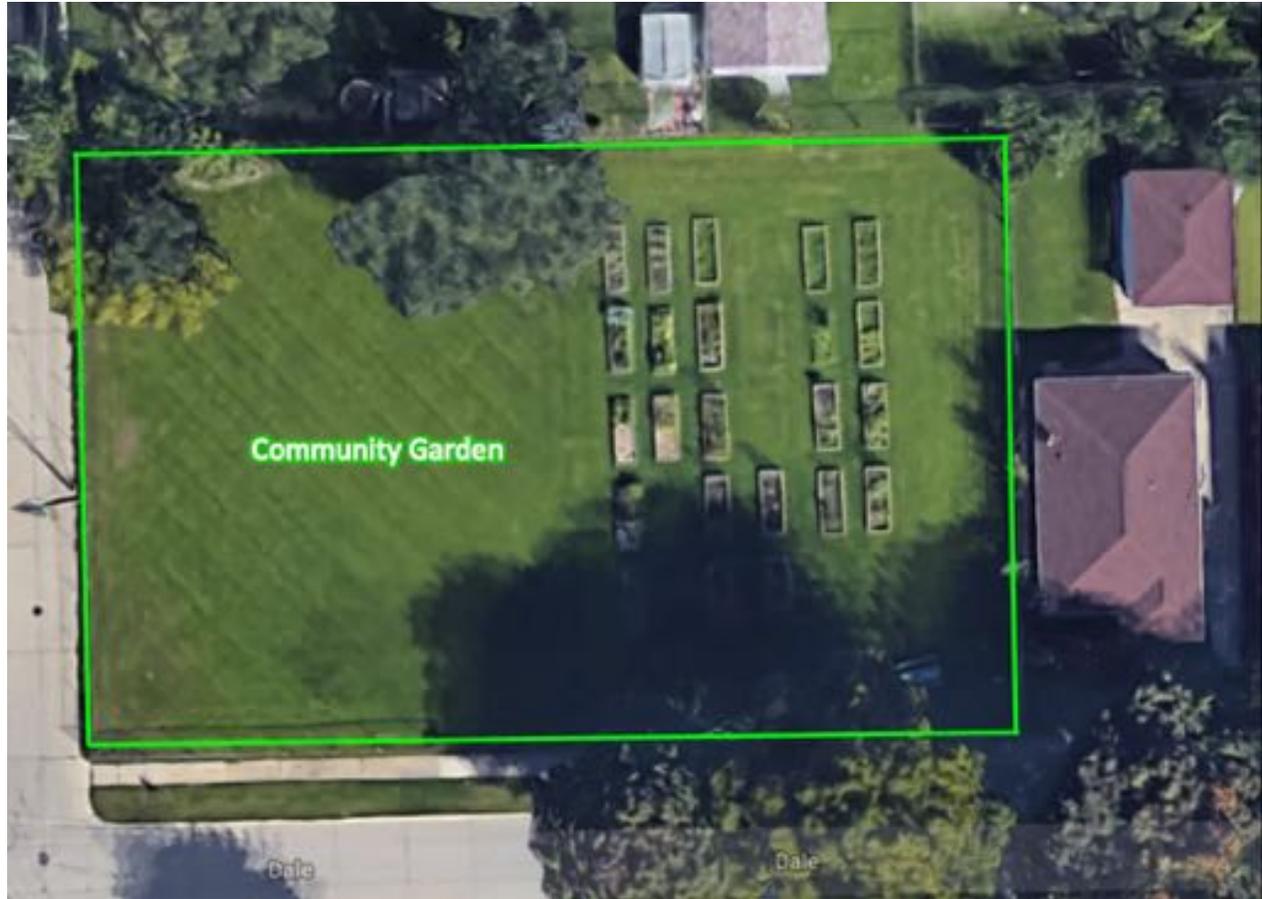
MDNR ACCESSIBILITY

RATING 2



Lions Park is located on State Park Street, three blocks east of Van Dyke Avenue. The park is 2.5 acres, and includes a baseball/softball field, playscape equipment, a picnic pavilion and a walking trail. The park also includes an outdoor ice rink during winter months.





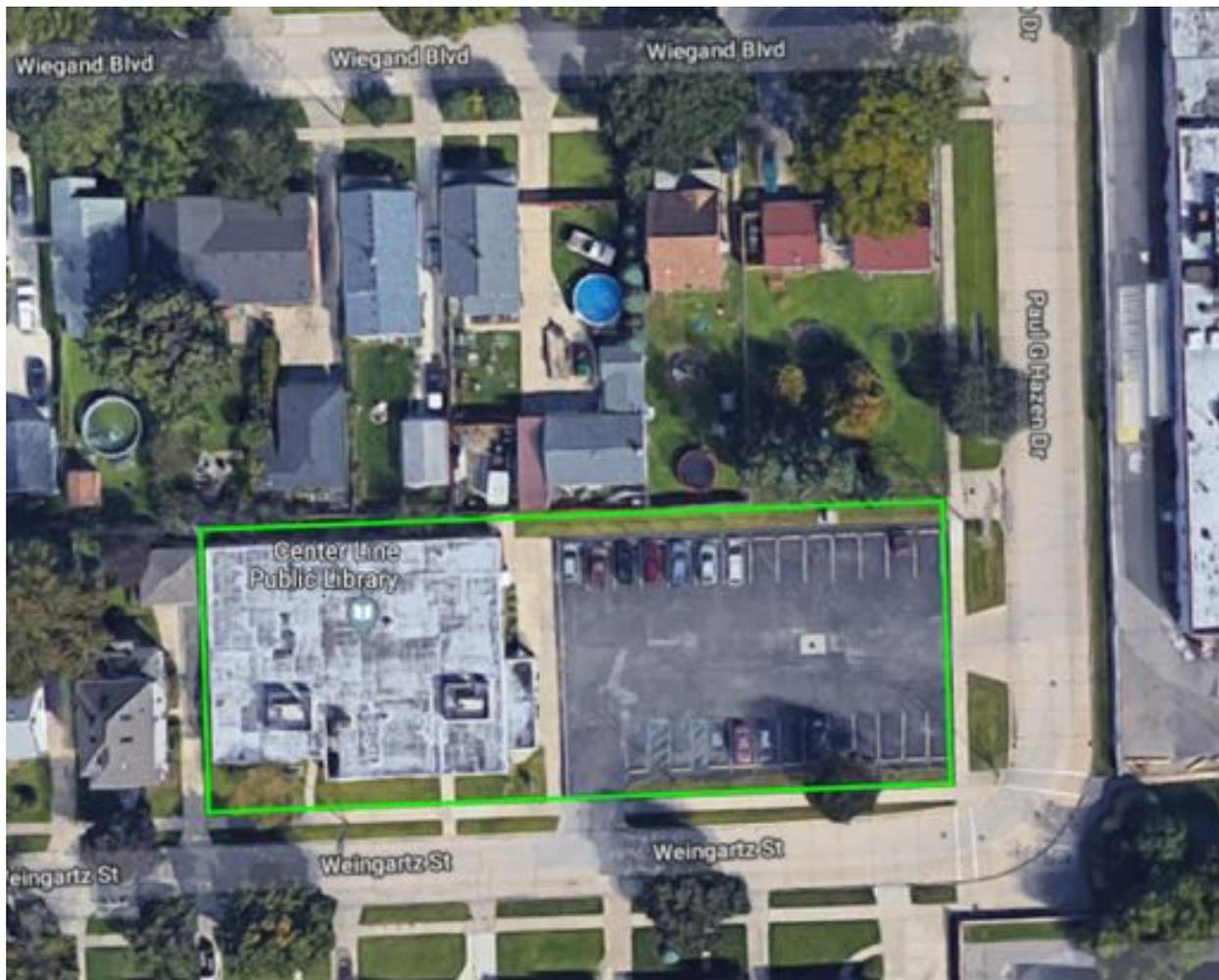
Dale Park is located on Dale Street, just east of Van Dyke Avenue. The park is 0.4 acres and includes a Community Garden.



Beautification Park is a small pocket park located west of Van Dyke Avenue. The park is approximately 0.35 acres in size, and includes a gazebo, green space, walking paths and bike racks. The park is also an ideal short-cut from Van Dyke to the Public Library, as well as Memorial Park.



PUBLIC LIBRARY



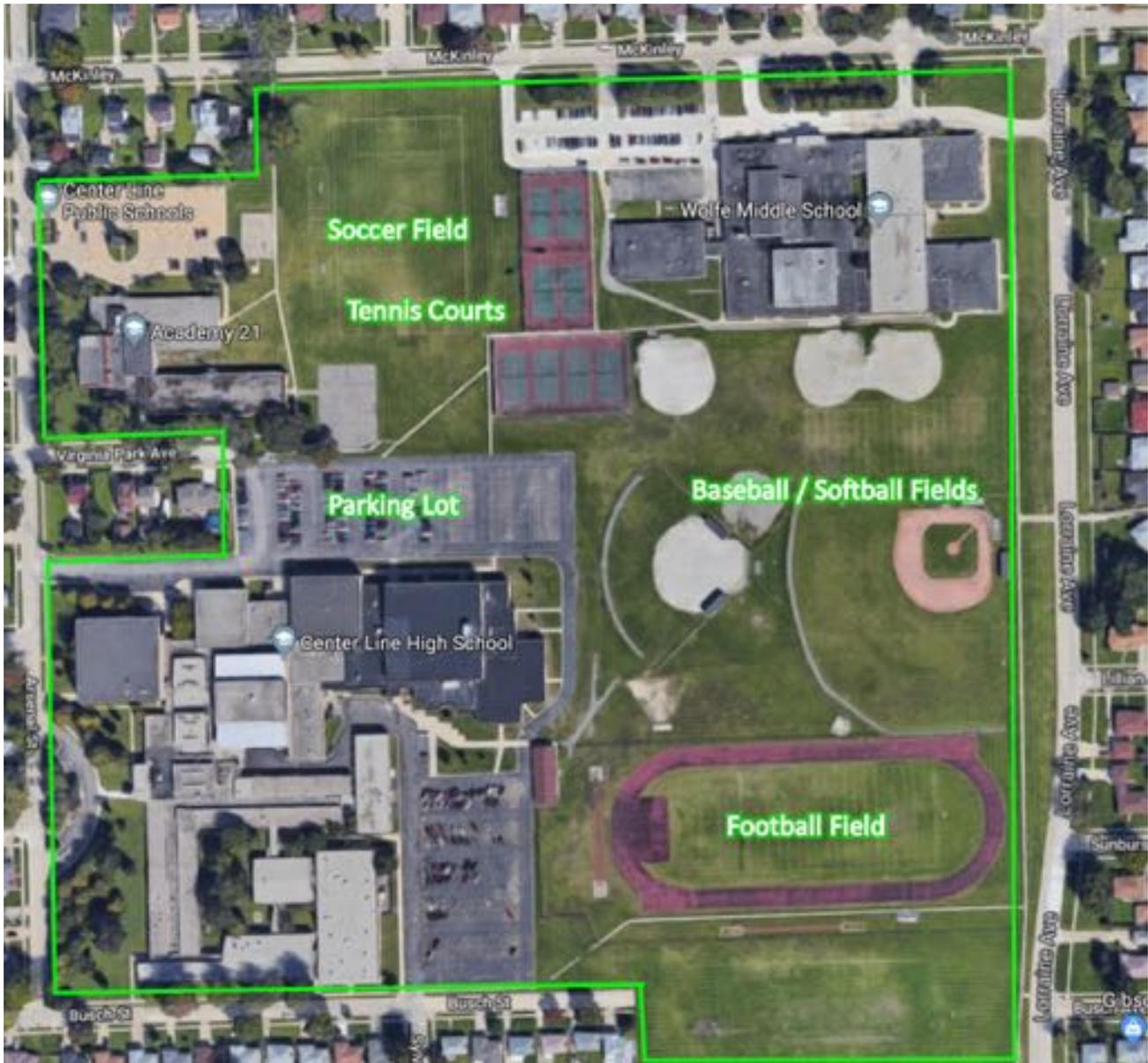
The Library is located at 7345 Weingartz Street. It hosts a variety of services open to the residents of Center Line. The library has ten computers, a printer, free Wi-Fi, a copy machine and scanner. A catalog of print and digital resources is accessible online at www.centerline.gov.

KRAMER HOMES



Kramer Homes is located three blocks east of Van Dyke Avenue, just south of 10 Mile Road. The site is 5.2 acres, amenities include a soccer field. This property is not owned by the City of Center Line, but is used recreationally by the residents.

CENTER LINE HIGH SCHOOL/WOLFE MIDDLE SCHOOL/ ELLIS SCHOOL



Center Line High School, Wolfe Middle School and Ellis School are located at the corner of Lorraine Avenue and McKinley Street. The site is 28.9 acres and is owned by the Center Line Public Schools. Amenities include baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, a football field with a running track, a soccer field, and gymnasiums.



STATUS REPORT FOR ALL GRANT ASSISTED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Center Line has received three grants from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources totalling almost \$250,000 that has contributed to the development of Memorial Park.

1. Project No. 26-01223 Funding Source: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

In 1981 the City received a grant of \$17,946.90 for the construction of a picnic shelter and basketball court.

2. Project No. BF92-098, Funding Source:

In 1992 the City received \$153,000 for renovation of the north side of the City's ballfields, the construction of a concession stand and restroom facility, a pavilion, fitness trail and volleyball court.

3. Project No. CM99-001, Funding Source:

In 1999 the City received \$77,700 for renovation of the aged lighting system at Memorial Field.





4.0

PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The City of Center Line employed a number of planning and public input techniques to develop this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In order to adequately engage a comprehensive network of stakeholders the City of Center Line utilized the Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers, City Council, City Administrators, the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development (MCPED) and comments/interactions from the general public to craft the strategies set forth in this document.

The following section will highlight the planning and public input procedures taken by these vested groups of stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan refining parks and recreation facilities, programs and services. This process allowed the community to analyze existing conditions and resources, strategize for future investments, and cultivate a forward thinking approach to the next era of parks and recreation within the City of Center Line.

Planning Methods

To facilitate a professional and impactful planning experience, the City of Center Line invited MCPED to assist in the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Planning staff from the County were brought in to tabulate data, assess existing resources, and facilitate workshops and informational sessions. When the City and MCPED began to compile the data and resources for the foundation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan it became evident that the most appropriate means of planning would be a systems based approach.

The systems approach to planning was developed by James D. Mertes and James R. Hall for the National Recreation and Park Association in 1995. This planning approach is a process of assessing the park, recreation, and open space needs of a community and translating that information into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial, and facility requirements to satisfy those needs. The City and its planning stakeholders



decided to apply this planning method because it considered all parks and recreation facilities, programs and services as a part of larger structure. A new playground at one park would not just change the physical environment of that single facility, or a new senior citizen program at the recreation center would not just need space and volunteers to hold the event. Each decision can influence additional elements of the parks and recreation system within the City. A single strategy or investment has the ability to alter user patterns and increase or decrease additional parks and recreation needs. It is this interlinkage between parks and recreation facilities, programs and services that creates a dynamic atmosphere where the City must continually evaluate and create appropriate policies and procedures for parks and recreation.

In order to effectively utilize this system based approach, the City founded this Parks and Recreation Master Plan on a wide-ranging inventory of all the community's parks and recreation facilities. Presented in Section 3.0, the inventory illustrates existing conditions and amenities located throughout the community. This inventory, coupled with the demographic analysis created for the Community Description, has become the baseline for future

planning and investment. In the following section the plan will highlight a series of goals and objectives that will lead Center Line into the next 5 years of parks and recreation prosperity. The goals and objectives will then be linked to a strategic plan of action that recommends specific parks and recreation projects to be undertaken over the lifespan of this document. Each goal, objective and subsequent action plan was crafted with the intent to create a more comprehensive system of parks and recreation services within Center Line.

Public Input Process

The City of Center Line took great strides to engage the general public in the development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The City utilized the Parks and Recreation Commission as the primary sounding

board for any comments and input regarding the Plan. At the Commissions' monthly public meetings the City promoted an open invitation to members of the general public to comment and participate in the development of the Plan. Over the span of approximately one year the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed and drafted different elements of the plan at each of its meetings. A public visioning session was held on Monday, April 9, 2018 prior to a regularly scheduled City Council Meeting. A paper and online survey was also distributed via the City magazine and posted on the City website.

Additional language to be included on public input process & plan approval after 30 day review period has closed.



5.0

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Parks and recreation is a system of services that is administered by a dynamic network of elected officials, public administrators and volunteers. This system is effectively administered and guided by goals and objectives.

In preparing this Parks and Recreation Master Plan the City of Center Line created a series of goals and objectives that will act as benchmarks for the City over the next five years. These policy statements will guide stakeholders in the organization, development and administration of the City's parks and recreation services. In developing these goals and objectives the City of Center Line recognized that the community is continually evolving. The political, financial, social and physical environment of the City is in a constant state of change; however the City has pledged to provide parks and recreation services. As opportunities and challenges arise the City must be able to make informed and impactful decisions that will allow the City and parks and recreation to flourish.

In order to develop these goals and objectives the City considered a number of community factors. Each series of goals and objectives incorporates demographic and economic considerations, physical characteristics and municipal feasibility. As these policy statements were being created the City reviewed each element in an open setting allowing for public input. The following list of goals and objectives is a proper representation of the future of parks and recreation within the City of Center Line. As the City of Center Line continues to evolve, these goals and objectives



will allow the community to effectively administer the system of parks and recreation services that is in the best interest of the general public. The remainder of this section will highlight four goals and their corresponding objectives.

Goal: Provide and enhance recreational areas, facilities and programs to meet the current and future needs of the City of Center Line residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- + Enhance play-scape facilities at Lions Park.
- + Develop multi-generational programming that will encourage participation by all residents.
- + Identify possible areas where the City can establish new, or expand, existing parks and recreation facilities.
- + Provide non -motorized trails to connect the City's assets that are safe and easily accessible by all public citizens using a variety of modes of transportation.

Goal: Promote Health & Wellness Opportunities within the Community.

Objectives:

- + Connect our community assets through a non-motorized trail system.
- + Ensure that all residents and visitors, regardless of age or ability, can adequately access parks and recreation facilities.
- + Create partnerships with local health care providers to develop programs to promote the benefits of physical fitness and healthy lifestyles.

Goal: Foster community stability, connectivity, and economic vitality.

Objectives:

- + Support, expand and partner with special events and festivals to increase activity and interest in the City of Center Line.
- + Establish community connection points and increase pedestrian safety through environmental design.
- + Link investment in parks and recreation to larger community projects including private developments and infrastructure improvements.
- + Provide opportunities for local businesses to partner with parks and recreation through marketing, sponsorships and promotion.

Goal: Promote Environmental Stewardship.

Objectives:

- + Continue the partnership with Green Macomb to enhance the City's tree canopy through tree planting programs.
- + Implement green infrastructure projects for storm-water management.
- + Prioritize beautification projects that include community gardens, streetscape improvements and green design.



6.0

ACTION PLAN

Throughout the development of this document, the City of Center Line has engaged its residents and community leaders in examining the state of its parks and recreation facilities. Demographic trends were examined to assess the future needs of individual segments of the population, while public input gave insight to the perceptions and desires of the community. The resulting goals and objectives, detailed in the previous chapter, provide a framework for guiding the actions of the community over the duration of the plan.

The City of Center Line has developed a set of action items to be considered for implementation over the next five years. The action items have been categorized by park facility or as a community-wide action. They have also been prioritized as items to be addressed in the next 1 - 2 (short term) or 3 - 5 (long term) years.

Funding Sources

Funding for the proposed improvements can come solely from the general fund or from a combination of funding sources. The choice of how to fund elements of the action plan can be flexible through the leveraging of different combinations of funding sources. Listed below are suggested funding sources that should be leveraged to implement the plan.

General Funds

The City of Center Line has utilized general fund money to maintain and operate the park system. Any future improvements will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of the park system. Recreation planning will have to be coordinated with the yearly budgeting process for the City's general fund.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, also administered by the MDNR, utilizes royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned



lands to help finance the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Matching local funds are required in the amount of at least 25% of the total project cost. The minimum development grant amount is \$15,000 and the maximum grant amount is \$500,000. Projects proposed under this program should be directed towards helping meet the statewide goals, including natural resource protection, water access, urban recreation, economic development, and community recreation. Land acquisition is an eligible funded item, as well as trail and pathway development, waterfront access projects, and projects incorporating universal design.

TAP Program (MDOT, SEMCOG, FHWA)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), a

component of the Federal Highway MAY-21 Surface Transportation Program, offers funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience through implementing a number of transportation improvements, including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, historic preservation and rehabilitation or transportation facilities, environmental mitigation activities, and safe routes to school programs. The program is administered by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). Application information, project eligibility and grant schedules are available online at www.semco.org

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

The Downtown Development Authority has the statutory authority to expend funds for public improvements, including parks facilities within the downtown development district. In some instances, is can also contribute to planning and design efforts for projects outside the limits of the development district if there is a direct relationship between the proposed projects and positive impacts to the business district.

Community-wide Action Items

Community-wide action items are targeted at maintaining and expanding park facilities while providing safe pedestrian connections between parks, community and institutional facilities.

Short Term

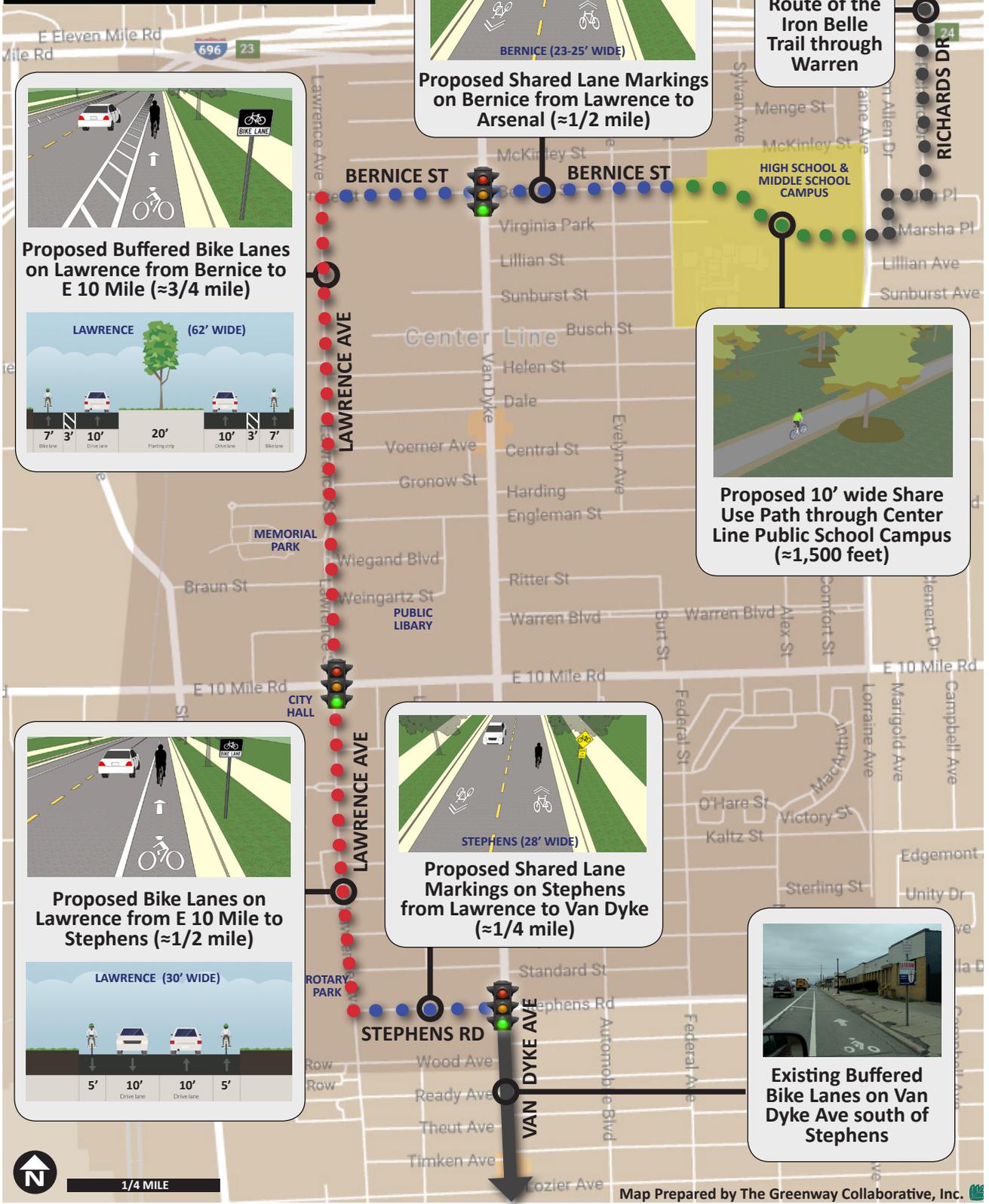
1. Develop a comprehensive city-wide trail system that connects city assets to the state-wide Iron Belle Trail.

Center Line is in the process of implementing a SEMCOG Walking and Biking Safety Route Planning Audit for the city's portion of the Iron Belle Trail. This plan will inventory current conditions, provide suggested routes and treatments, and provide a final safety audit containing recommendations for future planning, engineering and trail development.

This process will include:

- + Review and inventory of the walking and biking conditions along the City's proposed Iron Belle Trail Route.
- + Providing suggested route treatments along route sub-segments, Stephens Road, Lawrence Street, Bernice Avenue, Lorraine Avenue, 11 Mile Road and Campbell Road (on road bike lanes, existing sidewalks, safety paths, etc.)
- + Examine key crosswalks and intersections providing signage, signalization, marking inventory and suggested improvements (Van Dyke + Stephens, Stephens + Lawrence, Lawrence + 10 Mile Road, Bernice Avenue + Van Dyke, Lorraine + 11 Mile Road, 11 Mile Road + Campbell).
- + Provide suggested route treatment through Center Line Community School property.
- + Evaluate I-696 crossing options (Campbell Road [preferred] or Arsenal Avenue).
- + Provide a final safety audit and inventory report containing recommendations that can be utilized by the partners to guide future planning, engineering studies and trail development.

Iron Belle Trail : Proposed Route
Iron Belle Advisory Committee
City of Center Line - 12/15/2017



2. Undergo a community-wide assessment of all baseball facilities. The community has identified that there is a potential for more little league usage at its city ballparks. In order to market and fully utilize these assets, an assessment of existing conditions, along with proposed improvements should be completed within the next year.
3. Memorial Park has a variety of outdoor fitness equipment, some of which has fallen into disrepair. Over the next year, the community should assess which equipment needs improvement and rehab, and identify the associated costs.

Long Term

1. Members of the community have expressed interest in bringing a splash pad to the community parks. The city should perform a short study on the costs of the construction and installation of a splash pad, and identify which park would be best suited for this asset.
2. Center Line currently has a community garden at Dale Park. It will be beneficial to investigate future locations for additional community gardens, along with programming such as a Farmer's Market and/or agriculture educational opportunities.
3. Explore options for additional community-wide events, such as charity runs, parades, and festivals. Additionally, develop a more comprehensive community-wide events and activities notification system to better inform residents and visitors of upcoming events and park/community facility locations.
4. Undergo a safety and lighting audit at all city recreation assets.
5. Several parks have outdated playscape structures, examine the cost of replacement and/or updates to existing structures.