City of Melvindale, Michigan

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

2027 - 2031











Adopted October 21, 2026

Cover Image Sources: Melvindale Parks & Recreation, Carlise / Wortman Associates, Inc. (CWA)

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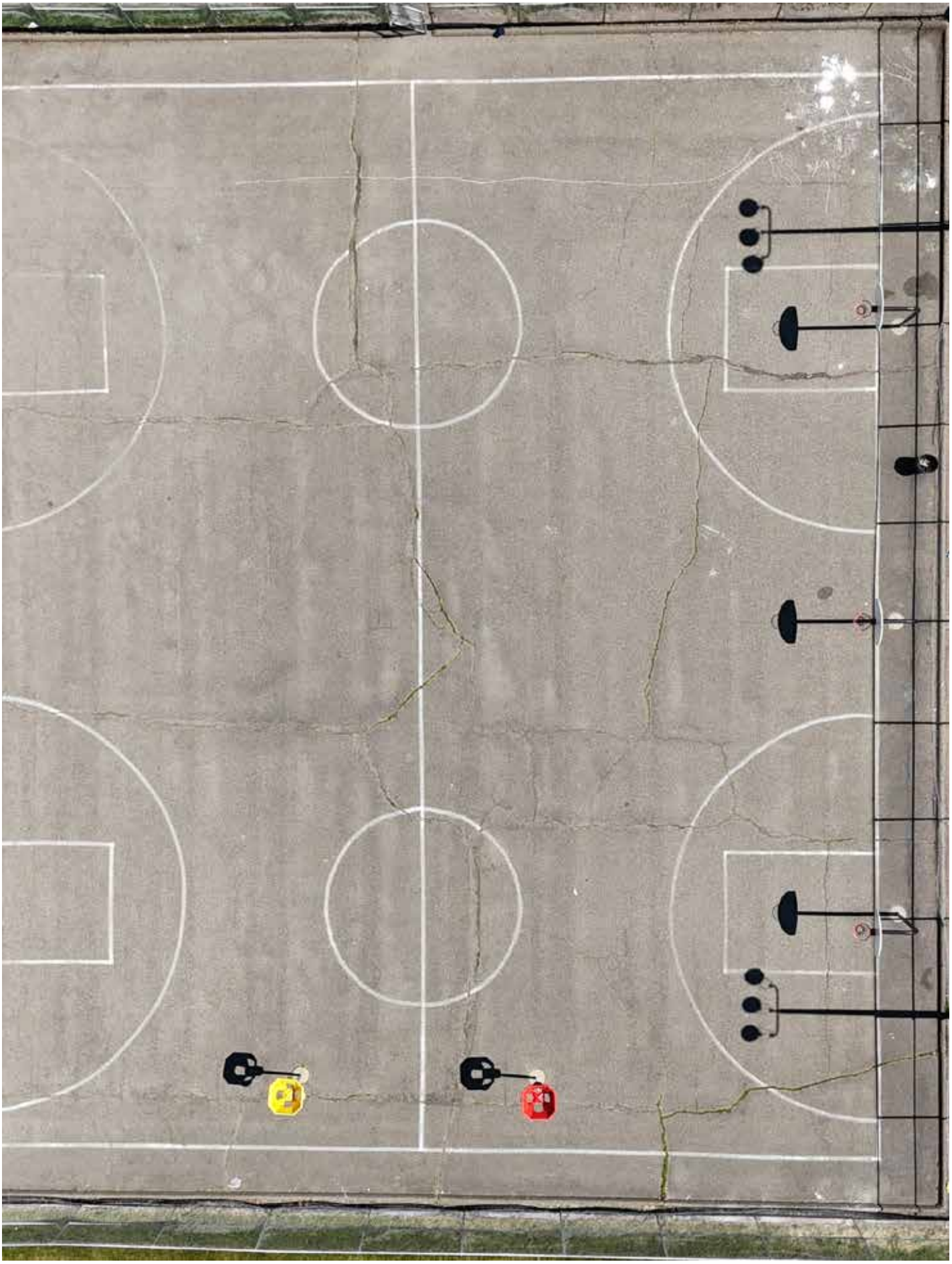
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O'Neill Field / Basketball Court. Image Source: CWA

1: Executive Summary

The City of Melvindale Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for parks and recreation in Melvindale. This plan builds on the recommendations from the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, and represents an important step at implementing long-term processes to ensure that the City's park and recreation facilities meet the needs and wants of Melvindale residents. Preparation of a master plan gives city leaders and residents an opportunity to critically review their existing system, and thoughtfully prepare for the coming five years and beyond.

A new master plan prepared every five years serves as a guide, allowing Melvindale to create quality individual and family recreation opportunities. Completion of this plan will open new funding opportunities for the community, and allow completion of projects both large and small throughout the City's park properties. Additionally, outreach efforts performed for this plan help to clarify resident desires for parks, trails, and programming.

Once adopted, the 2027 - 2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan becomes the official document to be used by the community to guide decisions regarding parks and recreation. The Plan is intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning which are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

Key Plan Findings

The City of Melvindale is a compact community with a diverse population and equally diverse set of needs that must be addressed. Financial and land access constraints make physical park development challenging, but the City is committed to finding solutions to address the community's recreation needs.

The City has taken important steps towards modernizing their park system in recent years, taking advantage of a variety of financial resources to offset costs that would otherwise be difficult to bear. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) were used to upgrade playground equipment at most of the City's parks. More recently, ARPA and SPARK grants were secured to allow major upgrades to Kessey Fieldhouse which should be implemented in 2026 or 2027. These changes could play a significant role as the Kessey Fieldhouse campus is re-imagined, with the property becoming a key hub in the proposed Rouge River Gateway Greenway.

With all of the changes, there comes a need for dedicated personnel to oversee activities and steer the direction of the park system. The plan strongly recommends the addition of a Park Director to help manage programming, secure grant funding, and oversee ongoing maintenance needs for the City's parks.

For a summary of community input, see the Needs Assessment & Public Participation section beginning on page 20.

What The Plan Contains

The Melvindale Parks & Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (2009, rev. 2018). Input for each of these sections was provided in part by a Steering Committee consisting of City Staff.

1. The plan begins with this ***Executive Summary*** and a description of the processes used to prepare the plan.
2. ***Goals & Objectives*** were obtained by compiling input from community and Steering Committee members. They provide a broad set of values which drive recreation development in the City.
3. The ***Action Program*** then provides steps and strategies for implementing the Plan.
4. The ***Public Participation*** portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents of Melvindale, which informed the Plan's goals and objectives.
5. A detailed ***Recreation Inventory*** describes the existing parkland and recreational facilities of the community as well as those of the region and state.
6. A description of the relationship of parks and recreation in Melvindale follows in the ***Administrative Structure***, including information on funding and budgets.
7. The Plan then presents a ***Community Description***, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community.
8. Finally, the appendices include supporting materials, such as a copy of the public input survey, and resolutions and notices that document the Plan's adoption by the Melvindale City Council.

Planning Process

The process used to draft the Plan consists of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development. Each is described more fully below:

Background Studies. This phase involved gathering and updating data from the U.S. Census, existing documents and plans, and from field observations. The data is organized into three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and recreation inventory.

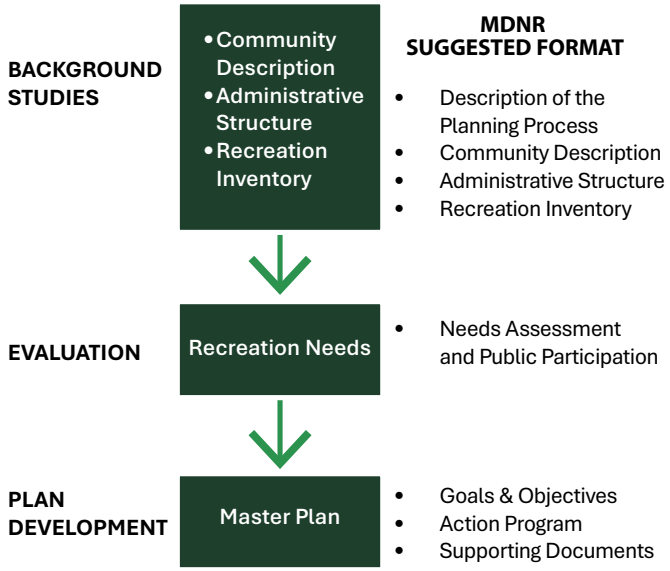
Evaluation. The second phase in the planning process evaluated and analyzed the data compiled to determine recreation facility deficiencies and needs. Public input to assess recreational needs was also sought at this level. A written survey and a public hearing were conducted to receive residents' opinions and ideas for the park and recreation system. Input from City officials and members of the Recreation Commission were also used.

Plan Development. The last phase in the process involves Plan development and adoption. Based on the deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed. Strategies to implement the Plan were also discussed.

Table 1. Input Participation

Participants	Rec. Inventory, Resource Inventory, & Community Description	Public Input	Goal Formulation	Action Program	Public Hearing	Plan Adoption
City Council	√	√	√	√	√	√
Rec. Commission	√	√	√	√		
Community Stakeholders	√	√	√			√
City Residents	√	√	√			√

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier:



The City of Melvindale recognizes the importance of public participation in the recreation planning process. This Master plan was developed with input from City officials. An online survey was made available to residents from June 19 through July 20, 2026. The Plan was approved for release for a mandatory 30-day review period beginning on September 21, 2026. The Melvindale Parks and Recreation Commission formally recommended adoption of the plan on October 21. Finally, the Plan was subject to a public hearing following the 30-day public comment period, and prior to the City Council adoption on October 21, 2026.



Melvindale Days. Image Source: City of Melvindale

2: Goals & Objectives

The following goals and objectives establish a framework for maintaining and improving Melvindale's parks, programs, and connections over the next five years. They recognize the City's diverse and changing population, the state of existing facilities, and current financial constraints. The goals emphasize responsible stewardship of existing assets and equitable access for all residents through pursuit of strategic partnerships and funding, and implementation of improvements via a phased approach.

Goal 1: Maintain and Strengthen Existing Parks and Recreation Assets

Protect the City's investment in its existing parks and facilities by prioritizing maintenance, rehabilitation, safety, and efficient use of limited resources.

Objective 1.1: Conduct regular inspections of all parks and recreation facilities and all related assets on a regular basis to identify safety concerns and maintenance needs.

Objective 1.2: Establish and maintain an inventory of park assets that documents their age, condition, expected service life, accessibility, replacement priority, and estimated replacement cost.

Objective 1.3: Prepare a phased capital improvement schedule that prioritizes correction of safety hazards, preservation of heavily used facilities, ADA improvements, and replacement of assets approaching the end of their useful lives.

Objective 1.4: Improve routine maintenance practices for all recreation facilities.

Objective 1.5: Coordinate park planning, maintenance, and capital projects among the Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Public Works, Kessey Fieldhouse staff, Downtown Development Authority, library, senior center, and other appropriate City departments.

Objective 1.6: Develop realistic annual maintenance and replacement budgets to ensure that new facilities are not constructed without adequate resources for their long-term operation.

Goal 2: Provide Equitable, Accessible, and Inclusive Recreation Opportunities for All Residents

Ensure that residents of different ages, incomes, cultures, languages, and abilities can safely access and participate in Melvindale's parks, facilities, and programs.

Objective 2.1: Bring parks into compliance with ADA requirements through the strategic addition of walkways, concrete seating pads under benches and picnic tables, and upgrading existing site amenities to models designed to accommodate disabled users.

Objective 2.2: Prepare an ADA transition plan that identifies barriers, corrective actions, responsible parties, cost estimates, and anticipated implementation time frames.

Objective 2.3: Engage youth, older adults, residents with disabilities, and culturally diverse communities when planning major improvements or new programs.

Objective 2.4: Perform annual accessibility reviews of every City-owned park and recreation facility and incorporate the findings into the City's capital improvement schedule.

Objective 2.5: Where feasible, apply universal-design principles so that improvements accommodate a broad range of physical, sensory, cognitive, and age-related abilities beyond minimum ADA requirements.

Objective 2.6: Provide recreation information in clear, accessible formats and use multilingual outreach when needed to reach Melvindale's diverse population.

Objective 2.7: Consider program affordability when establishing fees and explore scholarships, fee reductions, equipment-lending programs, and sponsored participation for income-eligible residents.

Goal 3: Re-Envision Kessey Fieldhouse as a Sustainable Community Recreation Hub

Develop a financially and operationally sustainable long-term vision for Kessey Fieldhouse that responds to community needs and takes advantage of its location near the Rouge River.

Objective 3.1: Complete a comprehensive facility assessment addressing the building envelope, structural systems, mechanical and electrical systems, energy performance, accessibility, indoor recreation spaces, site circulation, parking, river access, and anticipated capital needs.

Objective 3.2: Prepare a feasibility study and concept plan evaluating potential uses for the building and surrounding property.

Objective 3.3: Evaluate a flexible, multipurpose operating model that allows spaces to support different sports, programs, rentals, events, and community uses throughout the day and across seasons.

Objective 3.4: Assess the demand, operating costs, staffing requirements, fee structure, revenue potential, and long-term maintenance implications associated with each proposed use.

Objective 3.5: Coordinate with Wayne County, the City of Detroit, SEMCOG, Friends of the Rouge River, and other partners to develop Kessey as a recreation hub incorporating trail and river access.

Objective 3.6: Coordinate with schools, sports organizations, nonprofit partners, private sponsors, and potential facility operators to develop partnerships and establish clearly defined scheduling, maintenance, insurance, staffing, equipment storage, fees, and responsibilities.

Goal 4: Goal 4: Expand Programming Through Partnerships and Community Collaboration

Increase recreation opportunities without placing an unsustainable staffing or financial burden on the City.

Objective 4.1: Formalize partnerships with the Melvindale–Northern Allen Park Public Schools, Melvindale Public Library, Senior Community Center, Melvindale DDA, Wayne County, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and volunteer groups.

Objective 4.2: Continue to work with third-party organizations to provide youth and adult sports, including soccer, football, baseball, softball, basketball, martial arts, fitness, and other activities for which the City may lack staffing or specialized expertise.

Objective 4.3: Coordinate facility schedules among the City, schools, leagues, and community organizations to increase use of existing gymnasiums, athletic fields, meeting rooms, and other recreation spaces.

Objective 4.4: Develop written agreements with partner organizations addressing public access, fees, maintenance, supervision, background checks, insurance, equipment, scheduling, and responsibilities.

Objective 4.5: Continue to offer and expand low-cost programs that reduce barriers to participation, especially for households with limited incomes and residents who are not currently involved in organized recreation.

Objective 4.6: Encourage intergenerational programming that brings together youth, adults, and older residents.

Objective 4.7: Continue to recruit and train volunteers to assist with special events, park stewardship, beautification, and recreation programming.

Objective 4.8: Establish a coordinated community recreation calendar and improve communication through the City website, social media.

Objective 4.9: Regularly evaluate program participation, demographics, costs, satisfaction, unmet demand, and reasons for non-participation.

Goal 5: Establish a Sustainable and Diverse Recreation Funding Strategy

Use available resources strategically and pursue grants, partnerships, sponsorships, and other outside revenue to supplement limited local funding.

Objective 5.1: Maintain an annually updated list of priority projects with preliminary scopes, cost estimates, concept plans, accessibility considerations, and potential funding sources.

Objective 5.2: Continue to pursue funding through available grants or other philanthropic programs provided by local, county, state, and federal entities.

Objective 5.3: Seek partnerships with local businesses, service clubs, and community institutions for sponsorships, donations, volunteer labor, and in-kind assistance.

Objective 5.4: Consider appropriate user fees, league fees, rental charges, concessions, naming opportunities, and sponsorships while maintaining affordable access for residents.

Objective 5.5: Establish a dedicated park-improvement fund, donation program, memorial program, or "friends of the parks" organization.

Objective 5.6: Coordinate grant applications with the City's capital improvement planning so that required matching funds and future maintenance obligations are established before an application is submitted.

Goal 6: Connect Melvindale to the Rouge River Gateway and Regional Trail Network

Improve safe non-motorized access within Melvindale and connect residents to the Rouge River, neighboring communities, employment areas, parks, and regional destinations.

Objective 6.1: Coordinate with Wayne County, SEMCOG, neighboring municipalities, watershed organizations, and other partners on planning and implementation of the Rouge Gateway Greenway and related Rouge River trail initiatives.

Objective 6.2: Establish non-motorized connections between Kessey Fieldhouse, the Civic Center area, City neighborhoods, local parks, and planned regional trail segments.

Objective 6.3: Improve sidewalk and bicycle connections leading to parks, schools, the library, senior center, civic facilities, business districts, transit stops, and neighboring communities.

Objective 6.4: Coordinate local trail planning with Connecting the Rouge, the Rouge Gateway Greenway, the Lower Rouge River Water Trail, the Great Lakes Way, and other applicable regional initiatives.

Objective 6.5: Incorporate green infrastructure, habitat restoration, and stormwater-management practices into trail and riverfront projects where feasible.

Objective 6.6: Support non-motorized development in the downtown area and coordinate with the DDA to develop connections to city park and recreation facilities.

Goal 7: Strengthen Recreation Administration and Organizational Capacity

Establish a clear and accountable administrative structure capable of coordinating Melvindale's parks, facilities, programs, partnerships, funding, and long-term recreation priorities.

Objective 7.1: Establish a Park and Recreation Director position reporting directly to the City Administrator to provide centralized leadership for the City's recreation system.

Objective 7.2: Clearly define responsibilities to include recreation planning and programming, Kessey Fieldhouse operations, facility scheduling, budgeting, public communication, and implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Objective 7.3: Introduce the position through a financially sustainable approach, which may include part-time or shared staffing initially, with the potential to expand the position as funding and service demands permit.

Objective 7.4: Assign the director responsibility for coordinating partnerships with City departments, schools, athletic leagues, nonprofit organizations, Wayne County, regional agencies, and other recreation providers.

Objective 7.5: Make grant development and administration a primary responsibility of the director, including identifying funding opportunities, coordinating applications, maintaining grant records, and meeting reporting requirements.

Objective 7.6: Require the director to prepare an annual work program and provide regular progress reports addressing maintenance priorities, programs, capital projects, accessibility improvements, partnerships, funding, and implementation of recreation-plan goals.



Volunteers making improvements near Kessey Fieldhouse. Image Source: City of Melvindale

3: Action Program

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects, as well as suggested improvement projects, timing, and strategies for implementation.

Action Plan

The following outlines a list of specific projects and actions which are recommended for accomplishment during the planning period. Note that action plans are aspirational in nature. Project development will rely heavily on successful grant obtainment or supplemental funding from other sources outside of the City's General Fund.

Action 1: Maintain and upgrade existing park facilities (all parks)

This action includes removing or replacing old play equipment which is in a state of disrepair, or is outdated or dangerous. It also includes improving the appearance of the City parks through appropriate landscaping and maintenance. All upgrades must be in compliance with the ADA and efforts should be taken to remove any barriers to universal access. Proposed actions include:

A1.1: Bring parks into compliance with ADA requirements through the strategic addition of walkways, concrete seating pads under benches and picnic tables, and upgrading existing site amenities to models designed to accommodate disabled users.

A1.2: Add trees and landscaping to beautify properties and provide enhanced stormwater management.

A1.3: Complete and regularly update a detailed inventory and condition assessment of all park amenities.

A1.4: Remove/upgrade outdated play equipment at all parks.

A1.5: Upkeep safety surfaces under play structures to regulated depth and fall zone.

A1.6: Replace and/or add park furnishings such as benches, trash receptacles, and signs.

A1.7: Prepare and implement general maintenance plans for all vegetation including trees, flowers, and lawns.

A1.8: Prepare a general maintenance plan for all hardscape and equipment with a focus on graffiti management, sidewalk and path repairs, and day-to-day preventative maintenance tasks.

A1.9: Utilize park facilities as an opportunity to beautify city streets and neighborhoods through the use of art, landscaping, and other features.

A1.10: Develop and implement consistent signage for all Melvindale park properties.

Justification: These action items were identified by observation of the parks and economic trends.

Action 2: Re-envision Kessey Fieldhouse as a Sustainable Community Recreation Hub

Kessey Fieldhouse is the core of Melvindale's social and recreational system. This action identifies immediate and long-term opportunities for improvements. Proposed actions include:

A2.1: Prepare a feasibility study and concept plan evaluating flexible indoor recreation, community programming, rentals, improvements to outdoor amenities, and river-oriented uses.

A2.2: Complete HVAC improvements to allow year-round operation.

A2.3: Implement shoreline habitat restoration efforts along the Rouge River.

A2.4: Construct arena soccer facility.

A2.5: Coordinate with regional partners to establish the Fieldhouse as an important trailhead for the Rouge River Gateway Greenway and Rouge River Water Trail.

Justification: These items were identified through the community survey, observation of the park, and respond to current environmental and social recreation trends.

Action 3: Improve Melvindale's Neighborhood Parks

De Luca Field and Coogan, Lankford, and McGinty Parks serve critical roles in the day-to-day lives as Melvindale residents. Proposed improvements for the facilities are as follows:

A3.1: Install a hybrid turf or reinforced grass option on 3x3 soccer field at Coogan Park.

A3.2: Provide access ramp to picnic shelter at Coogan Park.

A3.3: Reconfigure bleachers and dugouts at De Luca Field to provide accessible entry and allow participation by disabled patrons.

A3.4: Add basketball court, pickleball court, or other active-use amenity in the northern parcel at De Luca Field.

A3.5: Work with community partners to develop soccer fields at Lankford Park.

A3.6: Rehabilitate tennis courts to incorporate pickleball courts or multi-use configuration at Lankford Park.

A3.7: Improve sidewalk connections between park facilities and surrounding neighborhoods at Lankford Park.

A3.8: Add walking loop/running track at McGinty Park.

A3.9: Rehabilitate picnic shelter at McGinty Park.

A3.10: Improve connections between playground and playing fields at McGinty Park.

Justification: These items were identified by observation of the parks, through community input, and respond to current environmental and social recreation trends.

Action 4: Improve Melvindale's Mini Parks

Art Fontana Tot Lot, Cardinal Park, Kiwanis Reading Park, and the Plonka Town Tot Lot are all characterized as mini parks. While their intended audiences vary, each has a small footprint and has a very specific, limited function for the community.

A4.1: Improve connections to neighborhood and access into Art Fontana Tot Lot.

A4.2: Provide accessible routes to chess tables at Kiwanis Reading Park.

A4.3: Add shade structures at Plonka Town Tot Lot.

A4.4: Replace aging swings at Plonka Town Tot Lot.

Justification: These items were identified by observation of the parks, and respond to current environmental and social recreation trends.

Action 5: Improve Melvindale's Special Use Facilities

The Melvindale Senior Center and Veterans Memorial Park provide amenities designed to service the entire community.

A5.1: Evaluate opportunities to create pedestrian zone in the alleyway behind M. Said Memorial Hall and the Melvindale Public Library, connecting with Kiwanis Reading Park.

A5.2: Provide shade structures at the skate park and at the Melvindale Pool.

A5.3: Officially designate a name for Veterans Memorial and install signage.

Justification: These items were identified by observation of the parks, and respond to current environmental and social recreation trends.

Action 6: Expand programming options

There is demand for increased programming opportunities in the community. Additional programming that addresses needs expressed by residents or identified through the planning process should be considered.

A6.1: Create a new Parks Director position to provide improved management functionality and allow for aggressive fundraising through grants, donations, and other philanthropic opportunities.

A6.2: Expand program offerings to include events at other parks.

A6.3: Continue to work with existing recreation partners and seek out opportunities with new partners such as the Huron Clinton Metropark Authority, cultural organizations, sporting groups, and others to increase opportunities for festivals, camps, and other events

A6.4: Ensure that underserved populations, especially teens and seniors, are consulted and well represented in program offerings.

A6.5: Consider development of a dedicated teen center at Kessey Fieldhouse.

A6.6: Expand communication efforts to ensure the widest possible outreach.

A6.7: Offer opportunities for volunteers and encourage stewardship efforts.

A6.8: Work closely with the Melvindale Public School District to allow use of school facilities in winter months to offer enrichment programs and provide safe spaces for youth throughout the year.

Justification: These items were identified in the survey, by observation of the recreation offerings, and respond to current environmental and social recreation trends.

Action 7: Establish a continuous city-wide non-motorized system

Melvindale is well positioned to become a regional non-motorized hub. With access to the Rouge River and planned trail facilities, the City has the opportunity to welcome new visitors and provide new recreation opportunities for its citizens. Priority should be placed on the development of the propose Rouge River Gateway Greenway, and provision of bike/walkways connecting downtown with Melvindale's parks to form a continuous linear park system tying community facilities, schools, neighborhoods, and commercial areas. This includes:

A7.1: Collaborate with regional authorities and encourage completion of the Rouge River Gateway Greenway.

A7.2: Develop signed pathway connections from parks, schools, and other attractions to connect to the Greenway.

A7.3: Develop a wayfinding system with signage, painted makers on sidewalks, and other cues to present a connected and comprehensive non-motorized system.

A7.4: Install and repair sidewalks and fill gaps as needed along all City streets.

A7.5: Support development of improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the DDA district.

A7.6: Install site amenities at key points along the bike/walkway system such as benches, trash receptacles, mile markers, and interpretive/ directional signs

A7.7: Develop a marketing strategy for the bike/ walkway system to attract support and sponsors including the development of a walking map brochure and a walking club.

Justification: This action was identified as an important goal of the City's Master Plan and by the survey of residents. It is also a significant priority when considering national and regional recreation trends.

Project Schedule

Table 2 lists individual capital improvement projects along with a cost estimate and potential funding sources. In addition, a time frame for completion has been assigned. Short-term projects (ST) are recommended for completion within one to two years, medium-term (MT) within two to five years while long-term projects (LT) may take longer to complete, within five to six years. There are also tasks that are on-going (OG). Costs are for budgetary purposes only. Further investigations may be necessary to determine engineers probable cost opinions.

It is important to remember that these projects are necessarily aspirational in nature. It is not expected that each project will be completed within the next five years. By listing the projects in this table, the City is demonstrating its desire to see these improvements completed in the near future, but is providing itself the flexibility to re-prioritize tasks as circumstances dictate.



Chalk the Walk at Lankford Park. Image Source: City of Melvindale

Table 2. Improvement Schedule

Project/Location	Cost Estimate	Responds to goal	Funding Source	Time Frame
Kessey Fieldhouse				
Prepare a feasibility study to reimagine uses at the Fieldhouse	$20,000 - $25,000	2.1	LF, G, D	ST
Upgrade HVAC system	TBD	2.3	LF, G, D	ST - MT
Implement Rouge River shoreline habitat restoration	TBD	2.6	LF, G, D	MT
Construct arena soccer facility	$360,000	2.7	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Work with regional partners to develop Rouge River Gateway Greenway	TBD	2.8, 7	LF, G, D	LT
Improve Melvindale's Neighborhood Parks (De Luca Field, and Coogan, Lankford, and McGinty Parks)				
Bring all neighborhood parks into ADA compliance with strategic addition of walkways and concrete pads under picnic tables and near benches	TBD	1.1	LF, G, D	OG
Install hybrid turf or reinforced grass option on 3x3 soccer field at Coogan Park	$20,000 - $25,000	3.1	LF, G, D	LT
Provide access ramp to picnic shelter at Coogan Park	$3,000 - $5,000	1.1, 3.2	LF, G, D	ST
Reconfigure bleachers and dugouts at De Luca Field	$50,000 - $80,000	1.1, 3.3	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Add active-use court in north parcel at De Luca Field	$30,000 - $40,000	3.4	LF, G, D	LT
Develop soccer fields at Lankford Park	$100,000	3.5	LF, G, D	ST - MT
Rehabilitate tennis court for pickleball or multi-use at Lankford Park	$35,000 - $45,000	3.6	LF, G, D	LT
Improve sidewalk connections between park and surrounding neighborhood at Lankford Park	TBD	3.7, 7	LF, G, D	OG
Add walking loop/running track at McGinty Park	$80,000 - $100,000	3.8	LF, G, D	LT
Rehabilitate picnic shelter at McGinty Park	$15,000 - $25,000	3.9	LF, G, D	MT
Improve connection between playing fields and playground at McGinty Park	TBD	3.10, 7	LF, D, G	MT - LT
Improve Melvindale's Mini Parks (Art Fontana Tot Lot, Cardinal Park, Kiwanis Reading Park, Plonka Town Tot Lot)				
Improve connections between neighborhood and park at Art Fontana Tot Lot	TBD	4.1, 7	LF, G, D	LT
Provide accessible route to chess tables at Kiwanis Reading Park	$10,000 - $15,000	1.1, 4.2	LF, D, G	MT
Add shade structures at Plonka Town Tot Lot	$25,000 - $35,000	4.3	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Replace aging swings at Plonka Town Tot Lot	$20,000 - $30,000	4.4	LF, G, D	LT

LF = Local Funds, D = Donation, G = Grant
ST = Short Term, MT = Medium Term, LT = Long Term, OG = Ongoing

Table 2. Improvement Schedule (continued)

Project/Location	Cost Estimate	Responds to goal	Funding Source	Time Frame
Improve Melvindale's Special Use Facilities (Melvindale Senior Center, Veterans Memorial Park)				
Create pedestrian zone in alley connecting M. Said Memorial Hall, Melvindale Public Library, and Kiwanis Reading Library	TBD	5.1	LF, G, D	LT
Provide shade structures at skate park and Melvindale Pool	$50,000 - $75,000	5.2	LF, G, D	LT
Officially designate a name for Veterans Memorial Park and install signage	$10,000 - $15,000	5.4	LF, G, D	ST
Establish a continuous city-wide non-motorized system				
Complete Rouge River Gateway Greenway	TBD	7.1	LF, G, D	OG



Downriver Senior Olympics. Image Source: Melvindale Senior Center

Implementation Strategies

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended to proceed as planned.

Apply for Local Funding

At the county level, the ***Wayne County Recreation Grant Program***[1] provides funding opportunities for local municipalities. Wayne County voters renewed the millage in 2024, providing funds for county parks and allowing distribution of money to local communities for their local parks. A minimum of $50,000 or 15% of the tax revenue collected within each county commission district (whichever is greater) is legally required to be returned directly for city- and township-owned park projects. Projects and disbursements are managed directly through the Wayne County Parks Division under the Department of Public Services. Municipalities apply or coordinate allocations through their respective county commissioners.

Apply for Federal Funding

Federal funds are typically administered through state organizations. For example, ***Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)***[2,3] funds are allocated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), which administers TAP activities. These activities include community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. New as of 2025, SEMCOG now administers a separate fund, with grants limited specifically to the seven-county SEMCOG area. Interested communities in the southeast Michigan region are able to apply to either or both programs.

To be eligible, an applicant must be approved as detailed by Public Act 51 of 1951. For planning purposes, an "Act 51 Agency" is a local road agency, and includes city, villages, and county road agencies. Townships must be sponsored by an Act 51 Agency to apply for TAP grants. A project must fall into one of the twelve principals originally in the Transportation Enhancement program, and must demonstrate a relationship to surface transportation. Activities which may apply to Melvindale include:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as walkways, curb ramps, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses; and
2. Educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets, and signage.

A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis.

The ***Recreational Trails Program (RTP)***[4] is funded by gas taxes paid by off-road vehicles. The FHWA allocates funding to the MDNR with the stipulation that 30% of the funding must be used for motorized trail uses, 30% for non-motorized use trails, and 40% for diverse trail uses. Annual funding for the program maintains at $84 million.

1 https://www.waynecountymi.gov/parks or call the main phone number 734-261-1990
2 https://www.semcog.org/regional-planning-and-projects/transportation-mobility/regional-plans-programs/transportation-alternatives-program-tap/
3 https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/programs/grant-programs/transportation-alternatives
4 https://www.railstotrails.org/policy/funding/recreational-trails-program/

The City should explore funding opportunities through other Federal programs. Some programs which may offer opportunities include:

Climate & Environment Programs:

3. Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)[5],
4. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)[6], and
5. Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT grant)[7].

Equity Programs:

6. Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grants (RAISE)[8],
7. Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSLFTP)[9], and
8. Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCP)[10]

Congress members can also use earmarks to direct funds to community-supported projects without needing to go through a statutory or administrative formula-competitive process. The Rails to Trails Conservancy provides an excellent compilation of Federal and other resources available to municipalities. The list can be viewed at https://www.railstotrails.org/trail-building-toolbox/funding/.

The federally funded ***Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)***[11] is administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) through the MI Neighborhood Program. Eligible cities, villages, townships, and counties that do not receive CDBG funds directly from HUD submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) during an announced funding period. MSHDA then reviews the LOI and consults with the community to determine project eligibility and readiness; selected communities receive a funding designation and typically have up to 120 days to complete required public participation and submit a full application. Communities should first confirm their eligibility on MSHDA's CDBG Municipalities Map and review the current funding round, as application periods and eligible activities can change.

The ***Safe Routes to School (SR2S)***[12] program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for a healthy lifestyle. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's SR2S program made schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program, as defined in the federal legislation, is to:

9. Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
10. Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
11. Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in school areas.

The program provides mini grants for programming and major grants to help communities build sidewalks, crosswalks, and other infrastructure. Up to $200,000 per school is available for infrastructure projects, and $8,000 to build programming around the project. Communities must undergo an in-depth planning process prior to submitting an application. Deadlines are ongoing and awarded on a rolling basis. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required.

5 https://highways.dot.gov/iija/fact-sheets/carbon-reduction-program-crp
6 https://highways.dot.gov/iija/fact-sheets/congestion-mitigation-and-air-quality-cmaq-improvement-program
7 https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grant-toolkit/promoting-resilient-operations-transformative-efficient-and-cost-saving
8 https://www.transportation.gov/tags/raise-grants
9 https://highways.dot.gov/iija/fact-sheets/carbon-reduction-program-crp
10 https://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting
11 https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/neighborhoods/community-development-block-grant
12 https://saferoutesmichigan.org/

Apply for State Funding

At the state level, the ***Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)***[13] and the ***Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)***[14] continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development. Most grant applications are due April 1 of each calendar year. Grant funding sources and match requirements are detailed in the paragraphs below.

MNRTF provides funds for the purchase and/or development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

12. Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment;
13. Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, the Great Lakes in particular, and facilitate their recreation use;
14. Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
15. Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and
16. Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is $15,000 and the maximum is $400,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan DNR for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are $30,000 and maximum grant requests are $500,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be in by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

An extension of the LWCF is the ***Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP)***[15] program which can be used to fund land acquisition or substantial renovation/ development of existing outdoor recreation areas. Projects must serve a qualifying urban area with a population of 25,000 or more, including two or more adjacent urban areas with a combined population of at least 25,000. Like the LWCF, ORLP is a 50/50 reimbursement grant. Applications are due on September 1 of each calendar year.

The ***Recreation Passport***[16] grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are $7,500 and maximum requests are $75,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Application are typically due on April 1st.

Local units of government may use the ***Forest Stewardship***[17] program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of $2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

Waterways Grant-in-Aid Program[18] provides assistance for engineering and infrastructure at public boating access sites and harbors. Cities, villages, townships and counties are eligible. More than $4 million was awarded statewide through the program in the 2026 cycle. Applications are due April 1, 2027.

13 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/lwcf
14 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/mnrtf
15 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/outdoor-rec
16 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/rec-pp
17 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/private/stewardship
18 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/waterways

Apply for Other Grant Funding

The ***Detroit Edison Tree Planting program***[19] began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy's voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in the Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to $4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in February.

A variety of smaller grant programs are available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities through organizations such as ***People for Bikes***[20] (formerly the ***Bikes Belong Coalition***). People for Bikes is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: Facility, Education and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be up to $10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

The ***Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program***[21] does not offer monetary grants, but instead provide s planning expertise and support for community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. Their top focus area includes building healthy communities through, parks, trails, and outdoor opportunities. The application deadline is March 1. More information and an application form can be found at https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/upload/NPS-RTCA-Application-Form.pdf.

SEMCOG's ***Planning Assistance Program***[22] provides direct funding for local planning projects that move regional plans and priorities forward. The program has awarded over $3.3 million through competitive grants to 90 projects ranging from planning projects on transportation safety and equity, trails and greenways, sustainable infrastructure, electric vehicles, and broadband accessibility.

The ***mParks Foundation***[23] sponsors the ***Access for All*** and the ***Play is Essential for All*** are small grant programs administered by the mParks Foundation. They are dedicated to increasing accessibility to area parks and recreation facilities. A maximum of $5,000 is available to mParks members in good standing.

The ***Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM)***[24] was established in 1984 to provide service for Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties. While CFSEM coordinates with the Ralph Wilson Foundation and other granting bodies, they administer their own grant programs as well, focusing on arts and culture, the environment, and health and human services. Current priorities are sustainability, regional impact, leveraging funds, and collaboration between organizations. Competitive grants range from $30,000 to $75,000. A certified audit is required as part of the application process. Application deadlines are May 15 for a September decision, and August 15 for a December decision.

19 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry/dte
20 https://www.peopleforbikes.org/
21 https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm
22 https://www.semcog.org/funding/planning-assistance-program/
23 http://www.mparksfoundation.org/access-for-all---play-is-essential-grant.html
24 https://cfsem.org/for-nonprofits/

Created with proceeds from the $1.4 billion sale in of the Buffalo Bills after the death of the late Ralph Wilson, the ***Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation***[25] began operations in 2015 with a focus on five key values that reflect the vision and philosophies of Mr. Wilson. Operating under a directive that all funds be awarded within a 20-year period, one of the core functions of the Foundation is to improve recreation accessibility in southeast Michigan and Buffalo, New York. In 2018 the Foundation launched its Parks & Trails Initiative with $100 million in commitments for southeast Michigan. $50 million was committed to help make connections and eliminate gaps in regional trail systems, with 20% earmarked for future maintenance and sustainability of these assets.

In 2016, the Foundation established permanent endowed Legacy Funds in the areas of Caregiving, Youth Sports, Community Assets, and Design & Access. Administered by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Legacy Funds are typically smaller grant awards intended to support localized projects. The two Legacy Funds which are most applicable to recreation planning include the Design & Access Fund, which supports projects working to increase the walkability and bikeability of local communities and/or increasing outdoor recreational activities, and the Youth Sports Fund, which supports projects bringing high-quality sports programs to youth.

The ***Michigan Municipal League (MML)***[26] offers a variety of microgrants and other grant funding that may be useful for placemaking and park development. Their new grant hub allows communities to search for available grants across a variety of topics, including transportation and recreation.

The ***AARP Community Challenge Grant***[27] offers funding for public space and transportation improvements that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, and access to public and private transit. The average grant amount is $11,900, with 83% of awarded grants falling under $20,000. Funds can be used for permanent physical improvements, temporary demonstrations that lead to long-term change, or new, innovative programming. Applications are evaluated based on their relevance to the needs of people age 50 and up.

The ***National Association of Realtors***[28] offers a placemaking grant for the creation of new outdoor public spaces and destinations. Level 1 grants are used for demonstration or temporary projects which test the viability of a permanent installation, and are capped at $3,000. Level 2 project can be used existing or new projects such as trailheads, playgrounds, pocket parks, dog parks, and other forms of gathering places. The maximum award for Level 2 projects is $7,500.

The ***United States Tennis Association (USTA)***[29] offers competitive grant programs to fund activities ranging from simple repairs of existing facilities to construction of new courts. Dollar amounts range from $5,000 up to $200,000, depending on the planned improvements. Maximum funding cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost.

Increase Support for Parks

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the City of Melvindale will be able to provide in the future. Increasing the visibility of the Parks system through periodic notices to residents. E-mails and social media are commonly used platforms to reach interested constituents, but periodic newsletters delivered with tax bills or other official City documents can reach those who might not be technologically inclined.

Seek Other Sources of Funding

The City of Melvindale should continue to pursue other creative fundraising avenues such as seeking individual donations, encouraging sponsorships, holding special fundraising events, online crowdfunding, or other methods.

25 https://www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org/
26 www.mifundinghub.org
27 https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2023/2023-challenge.html
28 https://realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/placemaking
29 https://www.usta.com/en/home/coach-organize/tennis-support/facility-assistance.html

4: Needs Analysis & Public Participation

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community to formulate an action plan for parks and recreation improvements. Needs provide the rationale for goals and objectives and identify areas for capital improvements. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends and community outreach. An online survey was conducted to receive opinions and desires from residents, and in-person events at local parks provided additional data. The information gathered from these sources helped to inform the recommendations of Melvindale's recreation plan.



Lankford Park. Image Source: CWA

Comparison to National Standards

According to a 1996 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) study, parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are considered close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. According to NRPA standards, the amount of recommended close-to-home park land is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area (one hour drive or about a 45 mile radius) than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of park land per 1,000 people. A further description of regional parks is provided beginning on "Regional Recreation Facilities" on page 19.

All of Melvindale's parks would be considered close-to-home parks. According to NRPA standards, local parks fall well below the recommended levels for close-to-home park land. As the City's population grows, this deficiency will only be exacerbated. Acreage provided by schools and private facilities help to bridge this gap; with school acreage included, the total available recreation acreage falls within expected levels. Melvindale residents are especially well-served by regional park facilities provided by the state and other recreation providers, but these facilities may be difficult to reach especially for residents without easy access to an automobile. Because there are relatively few opportunities to acquire land for park expansion, it is critical that Melvindale's existing facilities and programs be of the highest possible quality.

Table 3. Parkland Acreage Standards

Type of Park	NRPA standard per 1,000 population	Required - Based on 2024 ACS estimate of 12,857 residents	Existing	Deficiency / Surplus
Close-to-Home Parkland & Greenways	6.25 - 10.5 acres	80.6 to 135.5 acres	35.3 acres	-45.3 acres
Regional parks	15 - 20 acres	193.5 to 258.0 acres	175,000+ acres	+175,000 acres
Schoolyards (public schools)	-	-	96.2 acres	-

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends on national and regional levels provide insights into recreation activities and demonstrate activities with the greatest growth in popularity. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 4 on page 22 lists the top ten recreation activities completed by persons aged seven years and older in the past year (2024)[30].

The study shows a continued trend towards individual-based outdoor activities, with open water sports, outdoor activities, and snow sports all showing increases in participation. Team related sports, with the exception of soccer and lacrosse, have showed a steady decline in popularity in recent years, while trail related sports continue to grow in popularity.

These national trends are consistent with those observed in Michigan. According to the 2023 - 2027 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)[31], 86 percent of Michiganders participate in trail activities and "other" outdoor activities. A list of participation rates for the most popular activities in Michigan is listed in Table 5 on page 22.

Other highlights from the most recent SCORP include:

1. Four out of the top ten most popular activities involve walking or biking;
2. 95 percent of Michiganders reported participating in at least one outdoor recreation activity;
3. The total net economic value of outdoor recreation in Michigan was $165 billion, while positive health impacts are estimated to save the state around $2.8 billion in annual healthcare costs.

30 https://nsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Single-Sport-Participation-2024-Edition-Example.pdf
31 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/prd/scorp



Plonka Town Tot Lot. Image Source: CWA

Table 4. Top Recreation Activities - NSGA Survey

Activity	Participation Rate (in millions)			
	Nat'l	Overall Rank	East North Central Region	Overall Rank
Exercise walking	110.2	1	15.8	1
Exercise with equipment	52.9	2	8.1	2
Hiking	51.8	3	7.2	4
Swimming	44.9	4	6.1	6
Running/jogging	43.1	5	6.4	5
Bicycle riding	42.4	6	7.4	3
Camping	40.4	7	5.8	7
Weightlifting	36.8	8	5.0	8
Yoga	30.7	9	4.8	9
Fishing (fresh)	29.9	10	4.2	11
Work out at gym	29.1	11	4.2	10

Source: NSGA Sports Participation in the United States 2024

Table 5. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities in Michigan

Activity	Participation Rate / (Rank)	
	Statewide	Detroit Metro
Going for a walk on local streets or sidewalks	80% (1)	79% (1)
Going for a walk on local unpaved trails/paths	62% (2)	58% (2)
Visiting the beach but not swimming	60% (3)	54% (3)
Visiting parks or playgrounds	58% (4)	43% (6)
Swimming at the beach	52% (5)	51% (5)
Sightseeing and/or scenic driving for pleasure	47% (6)	52% (4)
Day hiking on non-local, unpaved trails/paths	47% (7)	not rated
Visiting nature centers or historic sites	41% (8)	35% (10)
Motor boating, cruising	38% (9)	41% (7)
Bicycling on paved streets, paths, or sidewalks	37% (10)	37% (8)
Social gathering at park or natural area	not rated	37% (9)

Source: Michigan State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Table 6. Sport Growth - NSGA Survey

Activity	Participation Rate (in millions)			
	2016	2023	Percent change	Overall participation rank
Team Sports				
Soccer	14.1	15.3	8.5%	19
Hockey (ice)	3.4	3.5	2.9%	50
Volleyball	10.7	10.9	1.9%	26
Basketball	24.8	24.2	-2.4%	13
Cheerleading	3.7	3.5	-5.4%	51
Individual Sports				
Pickleball	1.7	9.9	482.4%	1
Tennis	12.6	15.1	19.8%	12
Golf	18.5	20.5	10.8%	22
Ice/figure skating	8.7	9.0	3.4%	29
Gymnastics	6.1	6.1	0.0%	36
Selected Other Sports				
Running/jogging	44.9	43.1	-4.0%	44
Exercise walking	105.7	110.2	4.3%	27
Bicycle Riding	36.2	42.4	17.1%	13
Canoeing	7.9	7.6	-3.8%	43
Hiking	42.9	51.8	20.7%	10
Fishing (fresh water)	28.9	29.9	3.5%	28

Source: NSGA Sports Participation in the United States 2024

Table 7. Team Sport Growth - SFIA Survey

Activity	Participation Rate (in millions)		% Change 2022 - 2023
	2022	2023	
Pickleball	8.95	13.58	52%
Tennis	23.6	23.84	1%
Basketball	28.15	29.73	6%
Golf	25.57	26.57	4%

Source: Sports & Fitness Industry / Topline Report 2024

NRPA Metrics

The NRPA recognizes that a "one style fits all" approach is not necessarily the best solution to park planning. The agency suggests that each community develop a system that best suits their residents individual needs.

Each year, the NRPA releases a set of metrics[32] that allow a community to compare their facilities with those of their peers. Communities are placed in groups based on population; Melvindale falls in the "Less than 20,000" grouping. In addition to a traditional paper report, the NRPA provides an interactive website that provides information median and upper and lower quartile levels for a wide range of topics. The report is available online. A link to the website is provided in the footnote below.

The results of the metrics comparison are mixed (see Table 8 on page 23). The number of residents served per park is above the median level, but still falls below the upper quartile limits. The number of acres of land per 1,000 residents, however,falls well below the lower quartile limits. If school facilities are factored in, individual park amenities (see Table 9) are close to those in peer communities, although amenities such as pickleball courts are notably low. It is important to remember that while schools do provide some recreation access, that access is necessarily limited during operating hours and in some cases school playgrounds are closed off entirely during summer months.

32 https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/ , *Less than 20,000 population*

Table 8. Facility Comparison - NRPA Metrics

Category	In Melvindale	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
Number of residents per park	1,285.1	712	1,062	1,755
Acres of park land per 1,000 residents	2.7	7	12.3	22.2
Miles of trails	0	2	4	10

Table 9. Outdoor Park & Rec Facility Prevalence

Type of Amenity	% with this amenity	# of residents per amenity	Calculated # of amenities	Actual # of amenities	Deficiency / surplus
OUTDOOR FACILITIES					
Playgrounds	98	1,866	7	8	+1
Basketball courts	87	4,928	3	3	-
Diamond fields	78	2,165	6	5	-1
Dog Parks	49	10,311	1	0	-1
Rectangular fields	69	3,400	4	8	+4
Fitness zones	34	7,421	2	1	-1
Splash pads	32	12,304	1	0	-1
Community garden plots	37	9,857	1	0	-1
Disc golf courses	29	9,514	1	1	-
Pickleball courts	35	2,667	5	0	-5
Skateboard parks	26	11,028	1	1	-
Multi-use racquet courts	26	4,375	3	0	-3
Multi-use courts	29	5,323	2	1	-1
Driving range stations	11	6,978	2	0	-2
18-hole courses	8	11,904	1	0	-1
9-hole golf courses	5	11,790	1	0	-1
Overlay field	14	8,570	1	2	+1
Ice rinks	20	8,894	1	0	-1
Racquetball/Handball/Squash courts	3	14,000	1	0	-1

Table 8 & 9 Sources: 2026 NRPA Park Metrics for communities with 20,000 - 49,999 residents

The amount of trail facilities is also lower than in peer communities. Completion of the Rouge River Greenway (see page 78) would have a small immediate footprint, but would create an outsized impact by providing access to hundreds of miles of regional trails. Similarly, pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the DDA district as described in the Comprehensive Plan (see page 78) would provide much-needed non-motorized opportunities for residents. While there are an estimated 60 miles of sidewalk in Melvindale, there are gaps present in the network, and the walks do not always connect completely to parks. Addressing these gaps and ensuring that all parks are fully accessible via sidewalks should be a priority.

For indoor facilities, Kessey Fieldhouse offers limited recreation services. The former ice arena was reconfigured for soccer use in 2014, and while it hosts indoor matches during the late-fall and winter seasons, it is not open in the warmer months. The Senior Center, which had occupied space on the east side of the building, moved to its current Allen Road location in 2024. The event hall and meeting rooms are rented for weddings and other special events, but there are no permanent tenants in the space at this time.

Full-time use of the Fieldhouse would require dedicated staff to operate, manage scheduling, and maintain the building. The City is evaluating upgrades to the facility's HVAC system, allowing expanded use during warmer weather. Once completed, there may be opportunities to re-envision uses for the Fieldhouse. Some of the indoor recreation uses described by the NRPA, such as an aquatic center or ice arena, will never be feasible, but others offer some potential. A dedicated teen center is a lower-cost option that would significantly benefit the City. Adding an expanded gym or multi-use playing courts for basketball, pickleball, or other events could greatly expand services. Preparation of a feasibility study can help the City better understand different opportunities, as well as the ramifications and costs associated with any changes.

Table 10. Indoor Park & Rec Facility Prevalence

Type of Amenity	% with this amenity	# of residents per amenity	Calculated # of amenities	Actual # of amenities	Deficiency / surplus
INDOOR PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES					
Multi-use non-racquet courts	38	5,546	2	0	-2
Basketball courts	29	5,799	2	0	-2
Walking/Running tracks	20	10,156	1	0	-1
Competitive swimming pools	17	10,197	1	0	-1
Leisure pools	10	13,000	1	0	-1
Multi-use racquet courts	14	3,711	3	0	-3
Therapeutic pools	10	11,000	1	0	-1
Pickleball courts	12	4,250	3	0	-3
Racquetball/Handball/Squash courts	6	6,884	2	0	-2
Tennis courts	2	not provided	n/a	0	n/a
TYPES OF INDOOR FACILITIES					
Permanent & Semi-Permanent restrooms	79	2,627	5	4	-1
Recreation centers, including gyms	53	9,634	1	1	-
Community centers	51	11,523	1	1	-
Performance amphitheaters	28	12,000	1	0	-1
Senior Centers	22	14,120	1	1	-
Facilities with public restrooms available	39	5,252	2	2	-
Nature centers	17	9,715	1	0	-1
Aquatic centers	18	13,000	1	0	-1
Stadiums	12	5,435	2	0	-2
Teen centers	7	10,139	1	0	-1
Indoor ice rinks	7	9,700	1	0	-1
Arenas	7	7,000	2	0	-2

Source: 2026 NRPA Park Metrics for communities with under 20,000 residents

Table 11. Programming Comparison

Category	In Melvindale	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
Number of programs offered annually*	52	26	70	185
Percent of programs that are fee based	unknown	67%	83%	92%

Table 12. Program Offerings

Category	% with this amenity	Offered in Melvindale
ALL PROGRAMS OFFERED*		
Themed special events	97%	Y
Social recreation	94%	Y
Team sports	93%	Y
Fitness Classes	92%	Y
Health & Wellness Education	91%	Y
Individual sports	85%	N
Racquet sports	84%	N
Safety training	81%	N
Aquatics	79%	Y
Performing Arts	78%	N
Visual Arts	78%	N
Cultural Crafts	75%	Y
Natural & Cultural History	75%	Y
Trips and tours	74%	N
Martial arts	66%	N
Running/cycling races	66%	N
Golf	58%	N
eSports/eGaming	34%	N
TARGETED PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES		
Summer camp	93%	Y
Older adult programs	88%	Y
Programs for people w/ disabilities	79%	Y
Teen programs	77%	Y
STEM programs	68%	Y
After-school programs	56%	Y
Preschool	43%	Y
Before-school programs	24%	N
Full daycare	12%	N

Table 13. Staff Responsibilities

Category	% with this amenity
OPERATIONAL AREAS OF PARK & REC STAFF	
Operations/Maintenance	44%
Programmers	29%
Administration	22%
Other	3%
Capital Development	2%
RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARK & REC WORKERS	
Park sites	98%
Recreation programming	87%
Indoor facilities	89%
Racquet sport facilities	72%
Jurisdiction-wide events	77%
Special purpose parks	62%
Non-park sites	62%
Outdoor swim facilities	50%
Community gardens	33%
Golf courses	12%
Large outdoor amphitheaters	24%
Indoor swim facilities	21%
Beaches	15%
Farmers markets	25%
Campgrounds	14%
Indoor performing center	10%
Marinas	5%
Stadium/arena/racetrack	4%
Fairgrounds	6%

Table 11 - 13 Sources: 2026 NRPA Park Metrics for communities with under 20,000 residents
** = includes programs offered by Parks and Recreation, Melvindale Senior Center, Melvindale Public Library, and third party organizations.*

Melvindale does not publish an updated program catalog, so a direct comparison to peer institutions is difficult. A review of city, library, senior center, and independent sports organizations revealed approximately fifty program offerings, although only ten were provided by Parks and Recreation. A full list of programs is provided in Table 20 on page 54. The lack of a Parks Director complicates efforts to oversee programming. While creating this position would entail up-front costs, some of those costs could be offset increased program revenues, grant awards, and donations obtained as the result of increased public outreach.

Staff and expenditure levels are again near in the lower quadrant reported by peer communities (see Table 14 through Table 18 on page 27). As is typical with most communities, Melvindale relies on DPW services for park maintenance. The City has one full-time equivalent dedicated to the Kessey Fieldhouse and Veterans Memorial Park pool and a Senior Services Director, but no other full time positions.

Funding maintenance and staff requires a stable, consistent source of revenue, and a dedicated park operation millage can help ensure that resources are available when needed. While the survey completed for this Recreation Plan was not scientific, is suggests some hesitance towards any new millage requests. While pursuing a millage is not recommended at this time, it should be considered an option in the future if the City desires to expand or improve its recreation services.

The values reported by the NRPA show how disparate park and recreation departments can be. As Melvindale continues to evolve and the needs of the community change, these comparison points may prove to be useful to ensure that the City's parks and recreation offerings are the highest quality possible while remaining fiscally responsible.

Future Trends

The NRPA and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration published a list of future trends compiled from different sources that will influence the direction of recreation planning and programming. These trends include an increase in:

- Environmentally sensitive lifestyles, natural areas management and water quality protection,
- Concerns regarding personal and family security, in the importance for wellness activities and a desire to preserve and maintain cultural heritage,
- Public costs, specifically in the provision of leisure services through the public and private sectors and partnerships,
- A greater recognition of the economic value of parks, open space, and green infrastructure, and
- Senior citizens, fewer traditional family households, greater number of smaller households and an increase in cultural diversity of residents.

The implications of the trends discussed in the preceding pages, combined with the demographic and physical characteristics outlined in the Community Background (see page 69) can be summarized as follows:

- As population increases, demand for recreation will likely increase;
- While senior populations are expected to increase nationwide, Melvindale's population is trending towards younger families. Recreation facilities and programs should provide amenities that encourage intergenerational interaction;
- There is and will continue to be a need for more linear parks both along corridors and in off-road settings to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian paths for recreation and non-motorized transportation; and
- Collaboration and partnerships between public, private, and non-profit agencies can greatly impact the recreation facilities and programs a community can offer. Cooperation between agencies can lead to increased efficiencies, reductions in cost, and more comprehensive provision of recreation opportunities for Melvindale residents.

Table 14. NRPA Staffing & Expenditure Ranges

Category	All Staff	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
Park and Recreation Staffing - Full time equivalents	-	8.6	16.3	34.6
Full time equivalent staffing per 10,000 residents	12 calculated	7.6	16	25.6
Annual operating expenditures*	-	$840,000	$1,700,000	$3,810,000
Operating expenditures per capita*	-	$84.67	$155.23	$369.20
Operating expenditures per acre of park*	-	$4,705	$12,153	$30,525
Revenue as percent of operating expenditures (cost recovery)*	-	14.0%	26.0%	46.0%
Five-year capital budget spending**	-	$700,000	$2,900,000	$7,800,000

Table 15. Typical Sources of Operating Expenditures

Program	Percent
General fund	62.0%
Earned revenue	20.0%
Special taxes/Levies (voter approved)	10.0%
Special taxes/Levies (non-voter approved)	3.0%
Other	2.0%
Agency Operating Grants	2.0%
Sponsorships, in-kind donations, etc.	3.0%

Table 16. Distribution of Expenditures

Program	Percent
Personnel Services	49.0%
Operating Expenses	40.0%
Capital Expenses not in CIP	9.0%
Other	2.0%

Table 17. Typical Targets for Capital Expenditures

Program	Percent
Improvements	88.0%
Acquisition	9.0%
Other	3.0%

Table 18. Operating Expenditures Dedicated to Parks or Recreation

Program	Percent
Parks	33.0%
Recreation (programming)	34.0%
Administration	27.0%
Other	7.0%

Table 14 - 18 Sources: 2026 NRPA Park Metrics for communities with 20,000 - 49,999 residents

**Total all funds based on 2025 actuals. See page 27 for budget tables.*
***2022 - 2025 actuals plus 2026 adopted levels*

Ten Minute Walk Initiative

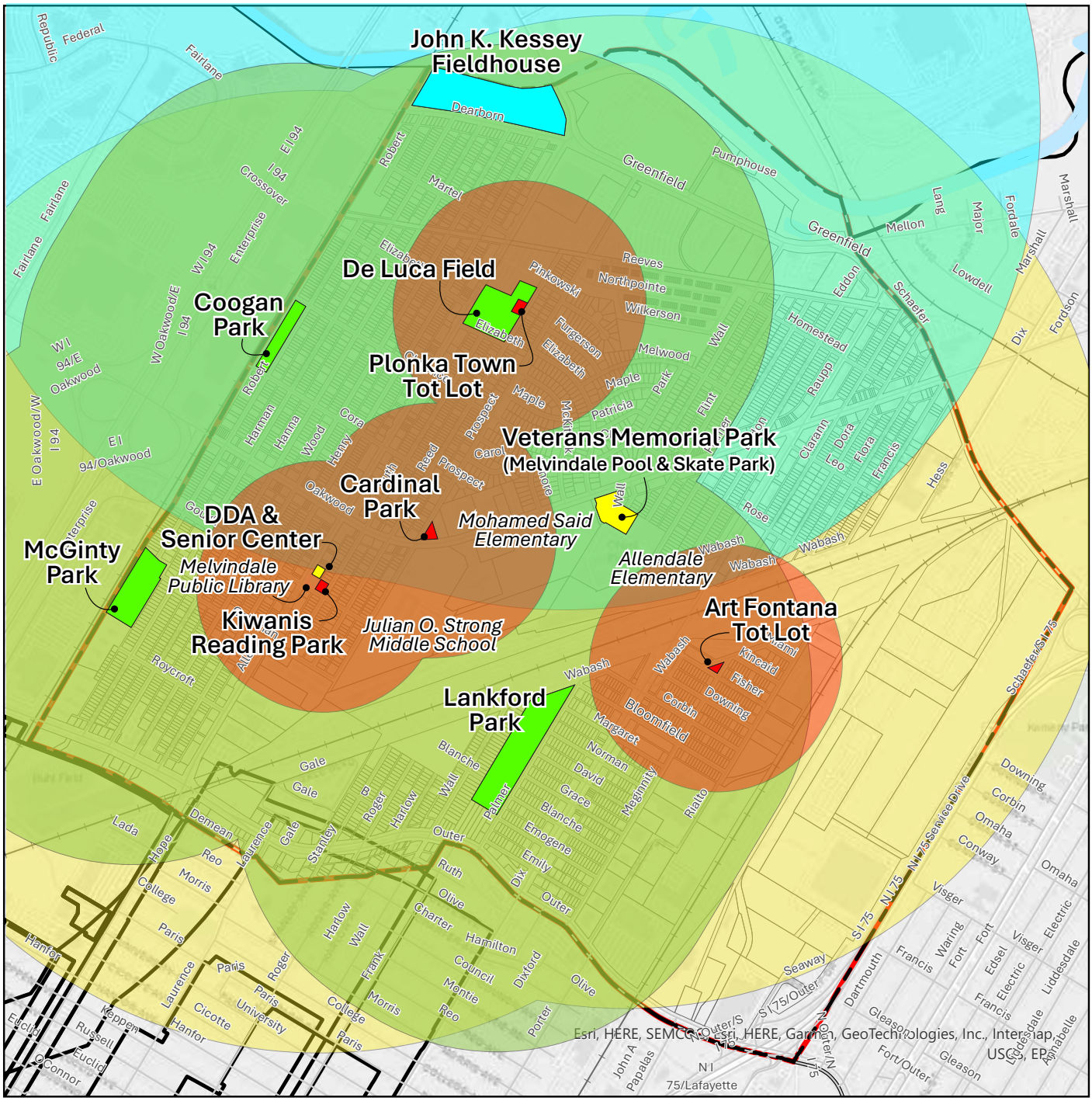
The NRPA, Trust for Public Land (TPL), and other recreation advocacy groups have championed the Ten Minute Walk Initiative, which states that every American should be within walkable distance to a local park or recreation facility. Numerous studies have shown the psychological, health, and general quality of life benefits provided by improved access to green spaces, but the likelihood of utilizing these spaces decreases as distance to the facility increases. For planning purposes, a service radius of 1/4 mile for mini-parks, 1/4 to 1/2 mile for neighborhood parks, and 1 to 3 miles for community parks are frequently used to demonstrate the effective reach of a park system. Definitions are not generally provided for special use or urban green spaces, with these facilities commonly treated as community parks, and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this plan, the service radius used to evaluate Melvindale's coverage was 1/4 mile for the mini parks, 1/2 mile for neighborhood parks, and 1 mile for community parks. Special use spaces (Kessey Fieldhouse and Veterans Memorial Park) were assigned a 1 mile radius.

Map 1 on page 29 provides a graphical representation of the service areas described above. The community has excellent overall coverage; the only area that might be considered underserved is the east side, a district that is almost entirely industrial uses. Melvindale's compact size and walkability is evident in this park coverage analysis and could be viewed as contradictory to the NRPA recommendations regarding the number and acreage of parks. While Melvindale's homes are generally small, most have at least some yard space that allow for individual recreation. Rather than acquiring new land for parks, Melvindale would be better served maintaining and improving its existing facilities.



Downriver Senior Olympics. Image Source: Melvindale Senior Center / Facebook

Map 1. Melvindale Park Service Areas



N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

0 1,500 3,000 Feet

Recreation Facility Service Areas

City of Melvindale, Michigan

- Tot Lot / Mini Park (1/4 mile radius)
- Neighborhood Park (1/2 mile radius)
- Community Park (1 mile radius)
- Special Use Facility (1 mile radius)

Source: Wayne County, SEMCOG, City of Melvindale
Carlisle/Wortman Associates
September 2026

Public Outreach

The City of Melvindale released an online survey to the public to obtain input for the 2027 – 2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The survey was advertised on the City's website and via social media, and ran from June 19 through July 20, 2026. The survey was available in three languages (English, Arabic, and Spanish), and hard copies were available upon request at City Hall. A total of 73 unique responses were received. A complete set of results are provided in Appendix E beginning on page 100.

When asked about the relative importance of six different categories, maintaining existing parks was rated the highest, with 94.4 percent of respondents describing this category as "important" or "very important". Respondents were almost equally as enthusiastic about other categories, however. "Access to paths and trails" (94.3 percent), "Protecting natural resources" (94.2 percent), and "Access to passive-use facilities" (93.0 percent) all had exceptionally high levels of support. "Access to recreation programs" (88.7 percent) and "Access to active-use facilities" (85.8 percent) scored towards the bottom of these rankings, although support was still high.

Over 55 percent thought that Melvindale had the right amount of parks, although a third of respondents indicated that there were too few properties. Respondents were generally satisfied with Melvindale's parks, with the majority indicating that they were either "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" in all but two properties. Among respondents who had visited the parks, Kessey Fieldhouse (44.3 percent) and Veterans Memorial Park (46.4 percent) scored the lowest.

Park maintenance was the top complaint by a two to one margin. Outdated equipment or lack in diversity of play equipment were also frequently mentioned, as were updated restroom facilities and expanding programming at Kessey Fieldhouse.

A need for more programs and activities was mentioned by a significant portion of the comments, even though only 44 percent of respondents had taken part in program offerings in the City. 63 percent indicated that they participated in community special events such as Melvindale Days, while 62 percent were involved in aquatics or walking and trail sports.

Almost 93 percent of respondents walk, jog, or cycle for exercise or recreation at some level. 82 percent felt that Melvindale should work with the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative (DLGI) to develop routes to connect residents to regional trails.

Based on the results of this survey and on-the-ground evaluation of each park, we conclude:

- Increased maintenance and upkeep of area parks is a priority for residents;
- There is a need for increased recreation programs, and these events and regular programs should be distributed among Melvindale's parks;
- General upgrades and diversification of equipment is desired at all of Melvindale's parks, but Kessey Fieldhouse in particular requires evaluation and a re-imagining of uses;
- Residents want connections to regional trails and have a strong interest in access to nature, opening an opportunity to make the Rouge River Trail a reality; and
- A dedicated Park Director could to help steer efforts to modernize and maintain Melvindale's existing recreation facilities by assisting with obtaining finances, improving programming, and ensuring proper maintenance is performed on a regular basis.

These findings form the basis of the recommendations provided in the Action Plan.



Railroad trestle at McGinty Park. Image Source: CWA

5: Recreation Inventory

Melvindale residents have a variety of recreational resources available at the local level as well as the regional, county, and state levels. Public and private schools supplement those offerings, as do privately-owned facilities in the area. Wayne County boasts almost 27,000 total acres of parkland and other recreation facilities, while the Huron-Clinton Metroparks (HCMA) includes an additional 6,200 acres of land, and the state provides another 2,000 acres in Wayne County alone. Recreation facilities provided by the county, state, and HCMA are considered regional recreation resources.

This chapter details the recreation inventory of the City, schools, private, and regional recreation facilities using information compiled from previous recreation plans, a field survey, and City staff.

Local Recreation Facilities

City Parks and Recreation Facilities

The City of Melvindale owns and operates ten parks and recreation facilities totaling just over 35 acres in size. The parks provide a mix of active- and passive-use amenities and are well positioned around the City so that most residents are within easy walking distance of at least one facility. These close-to-home parks are intended to serve the needs of Melvindale residents, although special use facilities may attract visitors from around the region. Map 2 on page 33 illustrates the parks and community facilities in located in the city.

Figure 1. Types of Recreation Facilities

MINI PARK OR TOT LOT

- GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Addresses limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Serves a concentration, limited population, or specific group of people
- SERVICE AREA: Less than 1/4 mile distance in residential settings
- SIZE CRITERIA: Between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size
- AREA PARKS: Art Fontana Tot Lot, Cardinal Park, Kiwanis Reading Park, Plonka Tot Lot

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

- GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The basic unit of a park system and the social focus of a neighborhood. Should be easily accessible to the neighborhood with safe walking & bike access.
- SERVICE AREA: 1/4 to 1/2 mile distance, and uninterrupted by nonresidential roads & barriers
- SIZE CRITERIA: From 1 to 5 (small park) or 5 to 10 acres (large park)
- AREA PARKS: Coogan Park, De Luca Field, Lankford Park, McGinty Park

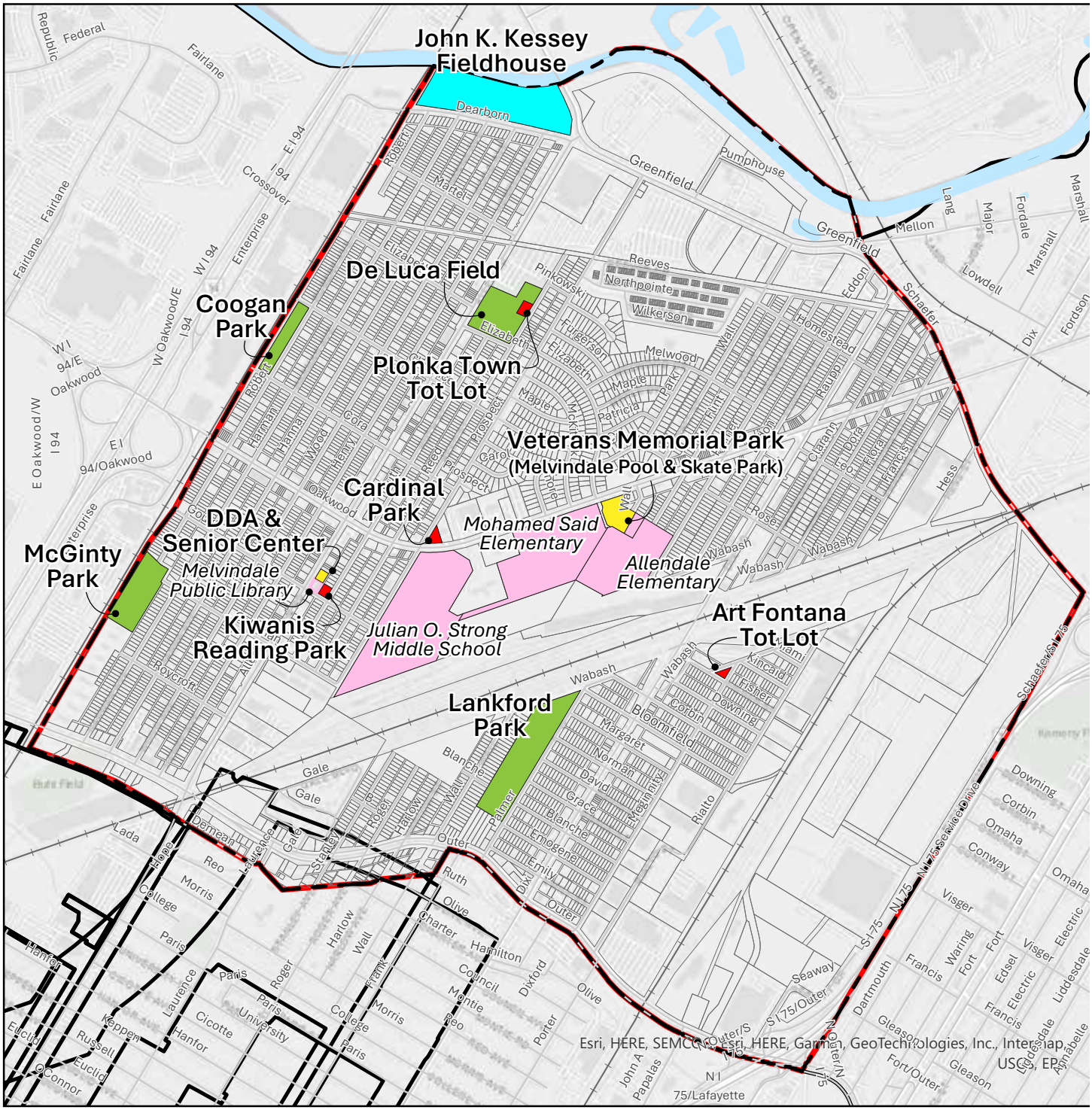
COMMUNITY PARK

- GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs & preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
- SERVICE AREA: Determined by site; usually serves two or more neighborhoods and a 1 to 2 mile radius
- SIZE CRITERIA: As needed to accommodate use. ~30 to 50 acres
- AREA PARKS: John K. Kessey Fieldhouse

SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITIES

- GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Covers a broad range of facilities oriented toward single-purpose use, such as historic preservation or downtown open space
- SERVICE AREA: Variable; dependent on specific use. No applicable standard.
- SIZE CRITERIA: Variable
- AREA PARKS: Melvindale Senior Center, Veterans Memorial Park (pool & skate park)

Map 2. Melvindale Recreation Facilities



N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

0 1,500 3,000 Feet

- Tot Lot / Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Facility
- Public School Property

Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities

City of Melvindale, Michigan

Source: Wayne County, SEMCOG, City of Melvindale
Carlisle/Wortman Associates
June 2026

Table 19. Melvindale Recreation Amenities

Equipment Type	Amenity	Mini Parks				Neighborhood Parks				Community Parks	Special Use	
		Art Fontana Tot Lot	Cardinal Park	Kiwanis Reading Park	Plonka Tot Lot	Coogan Park	De Luca Field	Lankford Park	McGinty Park	John K. Kessey Fieldhouse	Melvindale Senior Center	Veterans Memorial Park*
General Play	Play structure	•										
	Swings	•										
	Benches / seating	•	•									
	Picnic Shelter											
	Picnic Tables	•	•									
	Pergola / Gazebo		•									
	Parking (# of spaces)*						56		39	278		47
	Restroom (permanent)					•	•	•		•	•	•
Court Sports	Basketball					•						
	Volleyball							•				
	Multi-use court											•
Field Sports	Baseball / Softball						•					
	Soccer							•		•		•
	Mini soccer field					•						
	Multi-use field					•	•	•	•			•
Special Equipment	Community Center									•	•	
	Boat launch									•		
	Indoor sports									•		
	Fitness Center / workout rooms							•		•		
	Pool											•
	Meeting rooms									•		
	Disc golf							•		•		
	Skate park											•
	Equipment-dependent amenities (ping pong, chess, cornhole, etc.)		•	•								
	Memorial structure		•									•

** includes playing fields, O'Neill Field basketball court, and playground equipment owned by Melvindale North Allen Public Schools*

A 1996 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) study recommended placing parks into one of four basic categories:

1. Mini-parks or tot lots, general one acre or less, with a service area of 1/4 mile,
2. Neighborhood parks, ranging in size from 5 to 15 acres and with a service area of 1/4 to 1/2 mile,
3. Community parks are generally larger (25+ acres), service a larger area (up to 2 miles), and often offer facilities suited for more intense recreation (e.g. swimming pools or soccer fields), and
4. Regional parks, which may be 200 acres or more, and service an area up to one hour's drive away (60 miles).

Figure 1 on page 32 gives a more in-depth explanation of the different types of recreation facilities and their place in Melvindale. The city's compact size allows the park system's service area to effectively reach all of the city's residents, with the service radius covering the entire city and spilling into Allen Park, Dearborn, and Detroit (see Map 1 on page 29). Neighborhood parks cover almost the entirety of the city area with the exception of the east side, while Mini parks effectively cover the center of the City. The effective use radius of Kessey Fieldhouse, Veterans Memorial Park, and the Senior Center extend well beyond the City's borders.

Each park category has an "acres per thousand people" value attached, providing an easy method for planners and parks staff to determine the adequacy of a park system. The NRPA has moved away from this model in recent years, noting that a park prescription needs to be more sophisticated than a simple chart, and account for a variety of variables. Chapter 4, Needs Analysis and Public Participation beginning on page 20 provides more of that necessary context.

Neighborhood parks are considered the backbone of a park system, serving as a social and recreational focal point for a specific neighborhood. Mini-parks or tot lots tend to be smaller and often focus on providing amenities for young children or senior citizens. Community parks are meant to service the entire community, typically containing active use amenities and larger overall footprints. It is important to note that the distinction between the various park classifications is somewhat subjective. Melvindale maintains four (4) neighborhood parks , four (4) mini-parks, one (1) community park, and two (2) special use parks.

It is important to note that park designations are subjective. In Melvindale, the community/special use designation could be easily interchanged; for that reason, the effective service area is the same for both categories. The mini and neighborhood parks are much easier to categorize, and the usage areas are therefore well defined.

Regional parks are frequently administered by entities other than the local municipality, such as Wayne County, the State of Michigan or the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA). These facilities tend to be very large, frequently including a mix of active- and passive-uses and specialized amenities such as beaches, hunting ranges, or other features. Keyworth Stadium and Melvindale Stadium, in Playfair and Veteran's Memorial Park, could be considered regional attractions, although the parks that house the stadiums are best described as neighborhood and community parks. Numerous examples of regional parks are present within a short drive of the Melvindale border. A further discussion of these facilities is provided beginning on page 53.

Melvindale's park system is depicted on Map 2 on page 33. A further description of each facility is provided on the following pages.



Chalk the Walk at Lankford. Image Source: City of Melvindale

Mini-Parks & Tot Lots

Art Fontana Tot Lot - 0.2 acres

Intersection of S Wabash, Meginnty, & Fisher

Located at a triangular intersection on the City's east side, Fontana Tot Lot offers play equipment, benches, and picnic tables. The playground is fenced-in, allowing parents to let their children play without worry about nearby traffic.







Image Sources: CWA

Figure 2. Art Fontana Tot Lot





Cardinal Park - 0.3 acres

3696 Oakwood Blvd.

Opened in 2015, Cardinal park is a DDA funded project. The park is unique in Melvindale in that it offers equipment-dependent activities such as ping pong and cornhole. The park features a Veterans Memorial on the east side of the property, and serves as the home for Melvindale's Farmers Market.

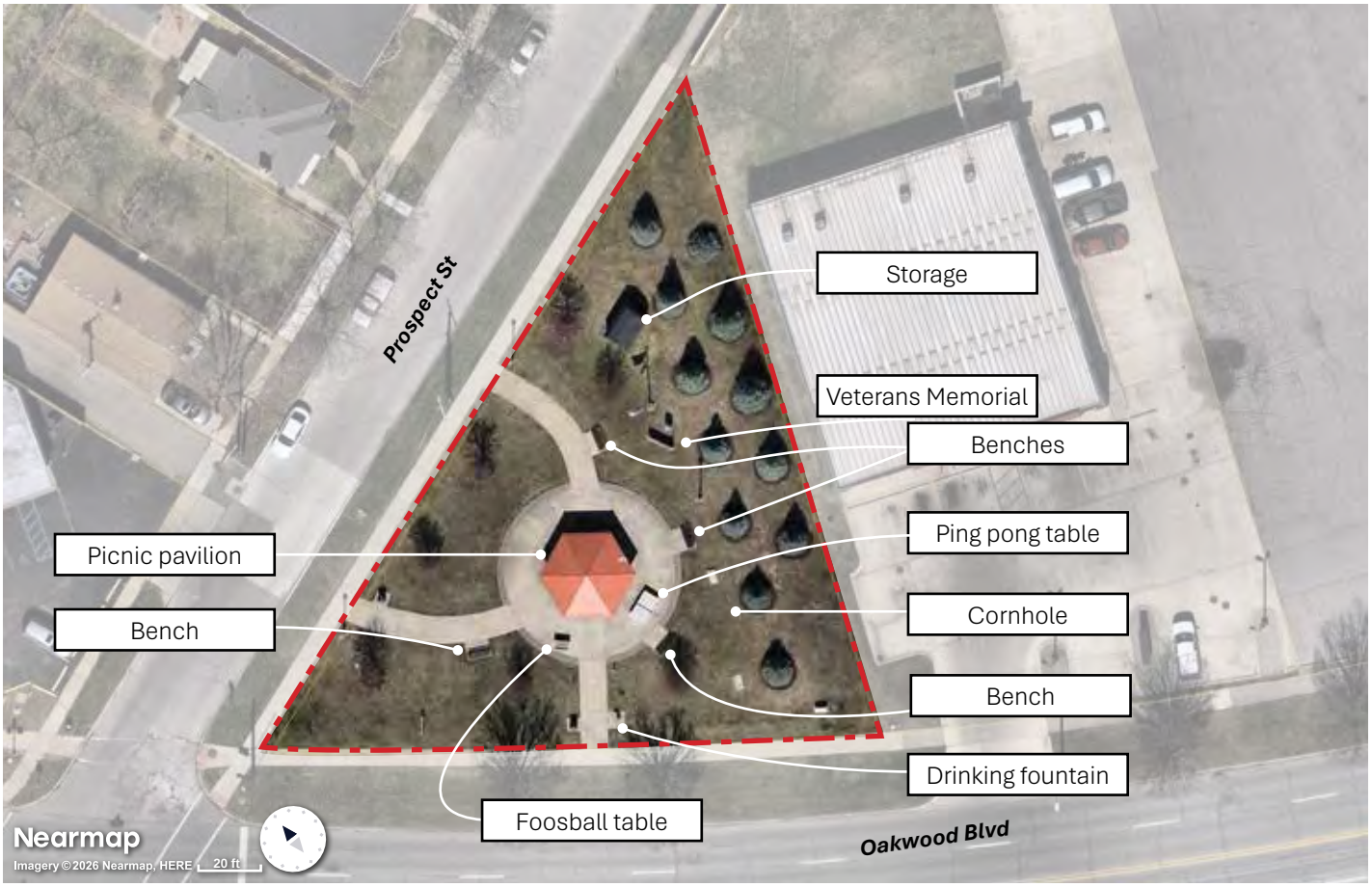


Image Source: Panethos



Image Source: CWA

Figure 3. Cardinal Park





Kiwanis Reading Park - 0.3 acres

Intersection of Ruth and Gough

Kiwanis Reading Park is located directly behind the Melvindale Public Library, and is used by the library for a variety of programs during summer months. The park is also within a few feet of the new Senior Center location and Mohamed Said Hall. Kiwanis Reading Park features a small gazebo, benches, and two chess tables.



Image Source: CWA

Figure 4. Kiwanis Reading Park



Plonka Town Tot Lot - 0.4 acres

Reed Street southwest of Pinkowski Street

Located on a parcel nestled within De Luca Field, Plonka Town is a small playground with swings, play equipment, and benches. A picnic shelter sits just south of the park's border.







Image Source: CWA

Figure 5. Plonka Town Tot Lot



Neighborhood Parks

Coogan Park - 2.6 acres

Robert Ave. between Clarence & Cora Ave.

A true neighborhood park covered by mature trees, Coogan Park is a shaded retreat on hot summer days. The park offers a mix of active and passive uses, from two 3x3 size soccer fields to a roughly 1/4 mile long walking path.







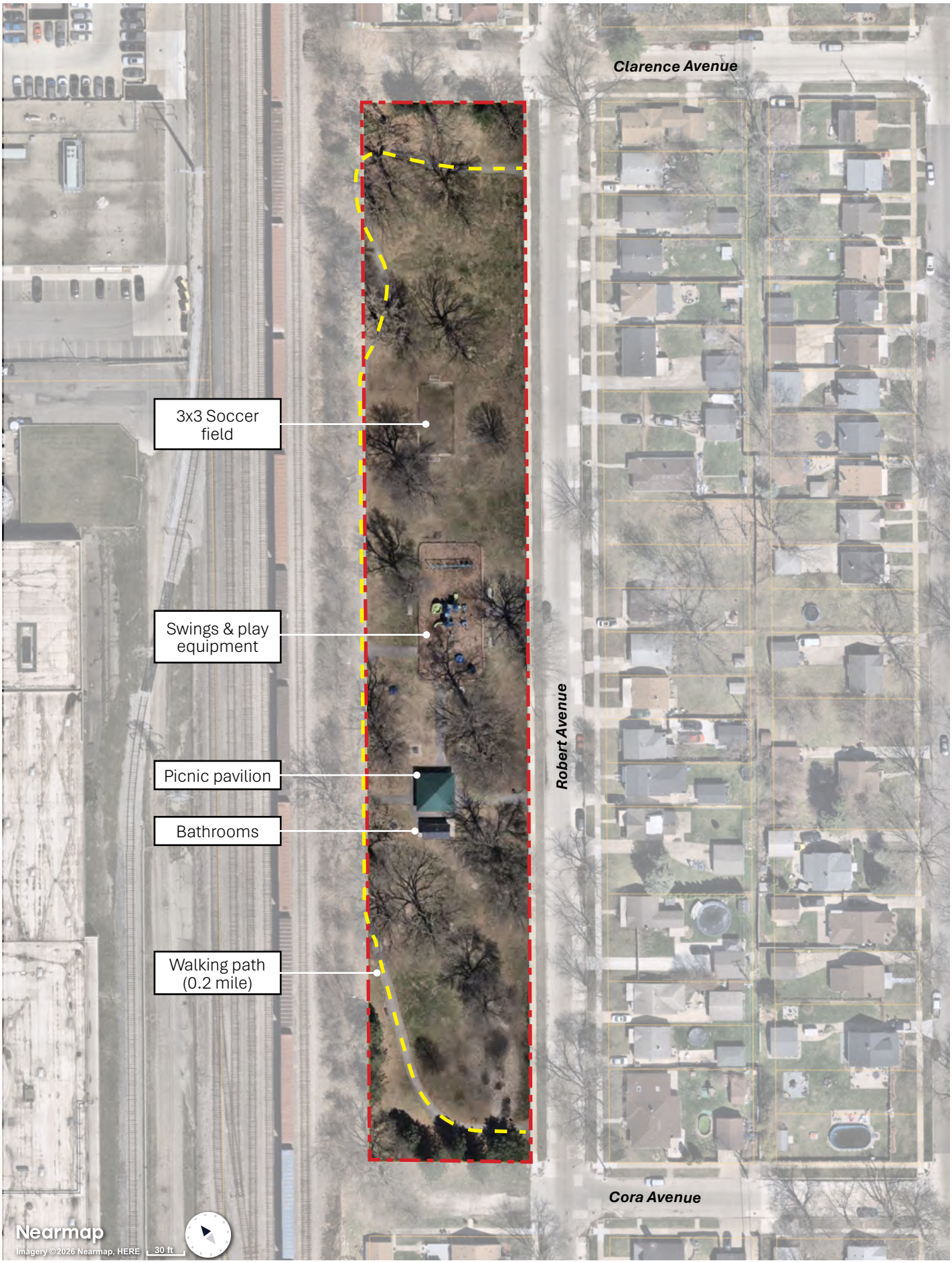






Image Sources: CWA

Figure 6. Coogan Park



De Luca Field - 8.6 acres

17462 Reed St.

De Luca Field is the City's primary active-use facility, boasting three ball fields with dugouts and lighting. A restroom and concession stand are located on the southwest corner of the property. De Luca Field is used by Melvindale High School for their baseball and softball games. An open parcel on the northeast corner offers potential for court sport development.







Image Source: All images this page CWA

Figure 7. De Luca Field



Lankford Park - 6.0 acres

Palmer St between Bloomfield & Emogene

Located south of the Norfolk Southern Oakwood Yard, Lankford Park's pavilion is frequently used for concerts and other special events. A nearly half mile walking loop circles the northern part of the park, with fitness equipment at the northernmost point. Lankford is being considered for soccer field development, with the new field and parking proposed for the old Palmer Elementary School site. The defunct tennis courts on the north side could be refurbished and used for pickleball.











Image Source: All images this page CWA

Figure 9. Lankford Park



McGinty Park - 7.0 acres

Robert Ave & Coleman Street

McGinty Park serves as the home of the Melvindale Junior Football Club, who lease the facility for use as their practice field. The site features a picnic shelter, storage, and parking.

A small playground sits in the northeast corner of the park, separated from the rest of the facility by Robert Avenue. The playground includes swings, a play structure, and benches. The playground was updated using CDBG funds in 2021.









Image Source: All images this page CWA

Figure 10. McGinty Park



Community Parks

John K. Kessey Fieldhouse - 11 acres

4300 S Dearborn Dr.

The former ice rink known as the Melvindale Civic Center is arguably the most important property in City's park system. Converted to soccer fields in 2018, the Fieldhouse is an important social space for Melvindale residents. Kessey serves as the site of Melvindale Days and is used for indoor soccer leagues during winter months. Meeting rooms and event space are rented out throughout the year.

Kessey is poised to see significant changes in coming years. Upgrades to the building's HVAC system would make it feasible to hold events throughout the summer, although such a change would require additional staffing and management. A new accessible boat launch and river restoration activities are planned to happen in late 2026. Perhaps most exciting, the River Rouge Gateway Greenway has been proposed along the banks of the river, which could bring new visitors and excitement to the facility.

The former Senior Center space offers potential for redevelopment as a Teen Center or other uses. The importance of the site warrants further investigation and outreach to ensure that any further changes remain in line with community desires.



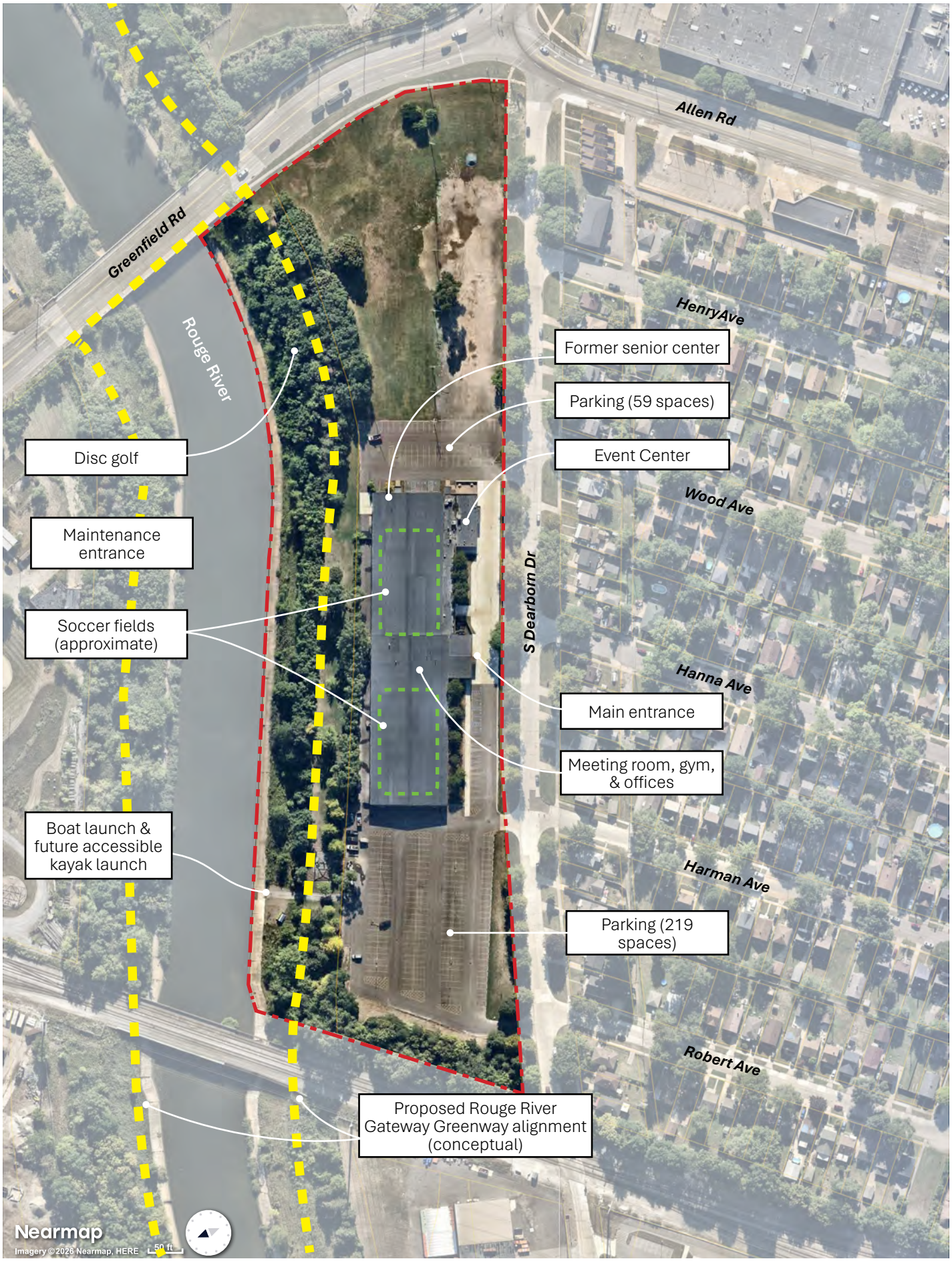






Image Source: top images - CWA. Bottom image - City of Melvindale

Figure 11. John K. Kessey Fieldhouse



Special Use Facilities

Veterans Memorial Park - 2.1 acres
3155 Oakwood Blvd

A park with no name, this facility is occasionally referred to as "O'Neill Fields", which is technically the name of the ball field that was replaced with a multi-use court in the 1970s. Its perceived boundary tends to blend with the adjacent Allendale and Mohamed Said Elementary Schools; the playground equipment, basketball court, and soccer fields are all owned and operated by Melvindale Northern Allen Park Public Schools.

The official park contains the Melvindale pool, skate park, and Veterans Memorial. A parking lot south of the pool is used by visitors to both the park and school.



Image Source: City of Melvindale





Image Source: CWA



Image Source: CWA



Image Source: City of Melvindale

Figure 12. Veterans Memorial Park



Melvindale Senior Center

18616 Allen Road

The Melvindale Senior Community Center, located in Mohamed Said Memorial Hall, serves as an important social, recreational and support-services hub for residents age 50 and older. The center offers a variety of program opportunities for seniors ranging from internal social events to day trips and other regularly scheduled activities. The Center is able to utilize the event space in the Hall to operate larger events, and the services offered by the adjacent library complement and expand the programs offered by the Senior Center itself.





Image Source: CWA



Image Source: City of Melvindale

Other Resources

The Melvindale Public Library, located next to the Senior Center, serves as a community center for literacy and social engagement for residents of all ages. A large variety of youth and family programs are available including story times, family game nights, and early-literacy resources. Adult offerings include a monthly book club, craft groups and other workshops. The Library frequently holds events in the adjacent Kiwanis Reading Library.

School Facilities

In addition to the previously mentioned parks, the Melvindale North Allen Park Public School district operates three campuses within the City boundaries which provide recreation opportunities to Melvindale residents. Access is necessarily limited during school hours. The school locations are included on Map 2 on page 33. Public school buildings include:

Allendale Elementary School
Location: 3201 Oakwood Blvd, Melvindale, MI 48222
Shares the O'Neill Field facilities with Mohamed Said Elementary. Amenities include a multi-use field/soccer facility, multi-use courts with basketball hoops, and playground structures and swings.

Mohamed Said Elementary School
Location: 3303 Oakwood Blvd, Melvindale, MI 48222
See Allendale Elementary School.

Julian O. Strong Middle School
Location: 18656 Prospect St, Melvindale, MI 48222
Former high school campus includes the Melvindale Cardinal Stadium with football field and running track. The gym is used for basketball, volleyball, & wrestling. Rooms are occasionally rented for public use.

Melvindale High School
Location: 4500 Enterprise Drive, Allen Park, MI 48101
Located outside of the City on the former Baker College campus, the High School includes the Cardinal Dome gymnasium which is used for basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and other sports.

Programs & Services

Recreation programs offered by the City of Melvindale are necessarily limited in scope. The lack of a dedicated program and/or parks director makes scheduling and managing participation rates extremely difficult. Special events run by the City, such as Trunk-or-Treat and Melvindale Days, are highly popular with residents. These special events require significantly less day-to-day management, making it possible for the City to be successful with minimal manpower commitments. Recognizing that the City has limited resources to work with, outside organizations step in to fill the role.

Two of the more significant recreation providers are found in the Senior Center and Melvindale Public Library. The Senior Center's target audience makes it possible to operate with a small staff and manageable budget. The Library benefits from a 0.9701 millage which helps fund the staffing, materials, and resources necessary to provide year-round enrichment programming. The millage allows the library to function as an important recreation and social engagement resource for the community.

Table 20 on page 54 is a partial list of programs and events available to residents. As new programs are continually added, this list should not be considered exhaustive.



Light Fest. Image Source: City of Melvindale

Table 20. Program Opportunities

Program Name	Program Type	Target Ages	Provider
Dance classes	Class or program	All ages	Parks & Recreation Department
Ballet	Class or program	Youth	Parks & Recreation Department
Tap and jazz	Class or program	Youth	Parks & Recreation Department
Zumba and other fitness classes	Fitness / Health	Adult	Parks & Recreation Department
Indoor soccer games, leagues and tournaments	Fitness / Health	All ages	Parks & Recreation Department
Pool recreation and seasonal aquatic activities	Fitness / Health	All ages	Parks & Recreation Department
Melvindale Days Festival	Special event	All ages	City of Melvindale
Little Miss Melvindale Pageant	Special event	Youth	City of Melvindale
Trunk or Treat / Harvestfest	Special event	All ages	City of Melvindale
Tree Lighting / Winterfest	Special event	All ages	City of Melvindale
Summer youth soccer league	Sports	Youth	Melvindale Soccer Club
Adult soccer league	Sports	Adult	Melvindale Soccer Club
Youth tackle football	Sports	Youth	Melvindale Junior Cardinals
Youth cheerleading	Sports	Youth	Melvindale Junior Cardinals
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten	Class or program	Youth	Melvindale Public Library
Family storytime	Class or program	Family	Melvindale Public Library
LEGO Club	Class or program	Youth	Melvindale Public Library
Family Game Night	Class or program	Family	Melvindale Public Library
Children's crafts and activity sessions	Class or program	Youth	Melvindale Public Library
Summer reading and summer family activities	Class or program	Family	Melvindale Public Library
Talking Is Teaching	Class or program	Family	Melvindale Public Library
Homework Help and research resources	Class or program	Youth	Melvindale Public Library
Kanopy Kids	Class or program	Youth	Melvindale Public Library / Kanopy



Concert in the Park at Lankford Park. Image Source: City of Melvindale

Table 20. Program Opportunities (continued)

Program Name	Program Type	Target Ages	Provider
Book Club	Class or program	Adult	Melvindale Public Library
Cozy Crafters	Class or program	Adult	Melvindale Public Library
Puzzle Exchange	Class or program	Adult	Melvindale Public Library
Adult craft workshops	Class or program	Adult	Melvindale Public Library
Financial-literacy and fraud-prevention events	Class or program	Adult	Melvindale Public Library
Transparent Language Online	Class or program	Adult	Melvindale Public Library
Senior social club for residents age 50 and older	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Senior Stretch & Tone	Fitness / Health	Senior	Senior Center
General exercise classes	Fitness / Health	Senior	Senior Center
Wii Bowling	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Bingo	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Arts and crafts	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Birthday Club and birthday parties	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Social parties	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Guest-speaker programs	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Movie outings	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Dining-out trips	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Shopping trips	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Day trips	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Mystery Trips	Class or program	Senior	Senior Center
Blood-pressure checks	Fitness / Health	Senior	Senior Center
Meals on Wheels	Fitness / Health	Senior	Senior Center
Senior transportation	Fitness / Health	Senior	Senior Center



Trunk-or-Treat. Image Source: City of Melvindale

Regional Park Facilities

In addition to the local recreation facilities, there are a variety of regional recreation facilities and opportunities available to Melvindale residents within roughly a one-hour drive. There are over 51,000 acres of state-owned parks and recreation areas, nearly 21,000 acres of Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) metroparks, and over 1,300 acres of Wayne County parks and preserves around the City of Melvindale. These regional facilities incorporate large areas and provide opportunities such as swimming, boating, hiking, hunting, camping, and golfing, which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Map 3 on page 60 depicts the location of the regional parks while Table 21 on page 58 lists the recreational activities each facility offers.

Neighboring Community Parks

Allen Park, Dearborn, and Detroit all have parks or facilities that can provide recreation amenities that are not available in Melvindale. While it is not possible to describe all of the parks in these three communities, a few parks stand out as being especially important.

In Allen Park, ***Rusty's Dog Park*** is a new off-leash dog facility located at 24000 Outer Drive W near the Melvindale border. The park is open exclusively to residents of Allen Park and Melvindale. A key fob is necessary for access, and membership costs $35/year for the first dog, and $15/dog for each additional dog, up to three maximum. Proof of up-to-date vaccinations is required.

Dearborn's ***Ford Field Park*** is the city's largest conventional community park. River access and connections to the Rouge Gateway Trail make this park stand out.

Detroit's park system in particular has experienced a renaissance in recent years, with several new facilities and upgrades to existing parks making the city a regional destination. 93-acre ***Patton Park*** is one of the closest to Melvindale, with athletic fields, courts, walking areas, playgrounds, picnic facilities and a recreation center. ***Chandler Park*** on Detroit's east side offers a mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including an 18-hole public golf course, the ***Wayne County Family Aquatic Center***, and the recently developed ***Chandler Park Fieldhouse***. ***Rouge Park*** is the largest park in Detroit and at 1,184 acres is the largest urban park in Michigan. The park includes extensive natural areas and is excellent for birdwatching and nature-based activities.

Wayne County Parks

Wayne County Parks frequently include large parkland and trail areas providing opportunities for active sports, picnicking, exercise, play, and nature viewing. ***Hines Park*** in Westland is a 2,300-acre linear park system that extends for more than 17 miles along the Middle Rouge River. It includes paved and unpaved walking and bicycling trails, athletic fields, kayaking, and historic mills including the ***Nankin Mills Interpretive Center***. The ***Lower Rouge Parkway*** is follows the Lower Rouge River and providing immersion in natural areas that are unavailable within Melvindale. Historic ***Elizabeth Park*** along the Detroit River features a Victorian shelter and a riverwalk.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority operates more than a dozen parks in southeast Michigan. The parks closest to Melvindale include ***Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods Metroparks*** along the Huron River, and ***Lake Erie Metropark*** on Lake Erie's shoreline. They provide a wide range of recreation opportunities including picnicking, play, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, court games, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, tobogganing, and sledding. ***Stony Creek Metropark*** in Oakland County and ***Lake St Clair Metropark*** in Macomb County offer similar opportunities.



Rusty's Dog Park, Allen Park. Image Source: Baker College

State Owned Facilities

Belle Isle Park on the Detroit River is a 985-acre facility offering trails, picnic areas, swimming beaches, and more. Approximately seven miles from Melvindale City Hall, the park includes the Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory among its many attractions. Belle Isle is the southern trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail (see page 84).

Six miles from home, ***William G. Milliken State Park*** offers access to the Detroit River and walking and biking connections to the Detroit Riverwalk. The DNR's Outdoor Adventure Center on Atwater Street and the Aretha Frankling Amphitheater are both part of this complex.

Several state-owned facilities located within a short drive of Melvindale including ***Maybury State Park*** in Northville Township, ***Sterling State Park*** near Monroe, and ***Dodge #4 State Park*** in Oakland County. The state-owned facilities provide opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, swimming, boating, and hiking.

National Parks & Facilities

One of the largest regional recreation facilities near Melvindale is the ***Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge***, located along the Detroit River south of Wyandotte, with the John D. Dingell Jr. Visitor Center in Trenton. Principally managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the refuge lies along a major flyway for many migratory birds and provides opportunities see rare species and a variety of waterfowl. The refuge includes 6,200 acres of islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along both the Detroit River and the Lake Erie shorelines. It contains Humbug Marsh, Grassy Island, and Mud Island. Numerous public and private entities are involved in the project, including DTE, the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, and other public and private partners. The Refuge includes several existing parks and state game areas within its borders.

Major Linear Parks

Michigan began branding itself as the "trail state" a little more than a decade ago, and residents and communities have embraced the idea. As previously mentioned, the Joe Louis Greenway, Dequindre Cut, and Detroit Riverwalk all provide major trail options close-to-home. The Iron Belle Trail continues on from Belle Isle on a 2,000 mile journey to the western end of the upper peninsula and back. Major trail systems throughout southeast Michigan interact to form an interconnected network that allows non-motorized travel within the state and beyond. A further description of these trail activities is provided on page 84.



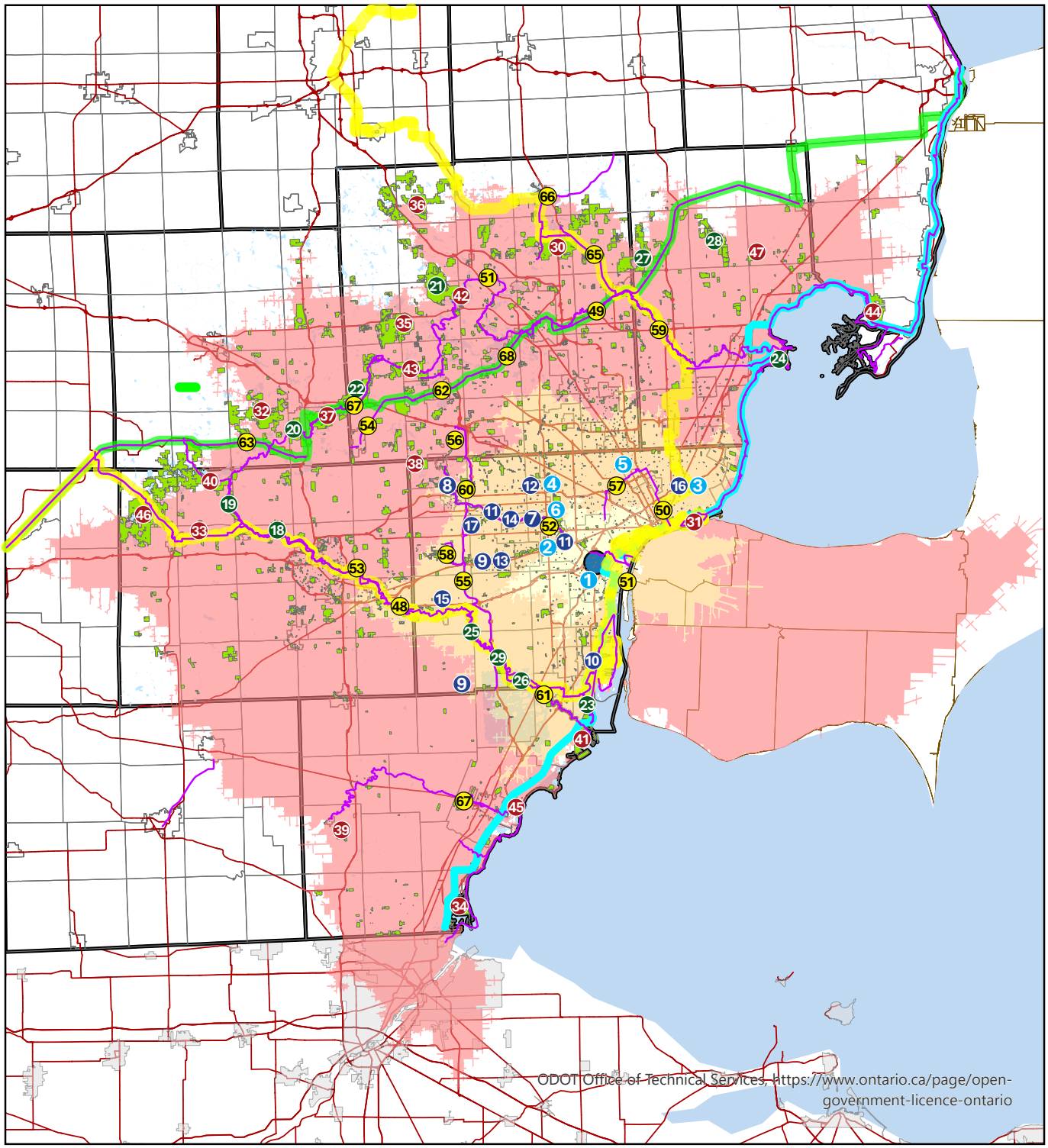
William G. Milliken State Park. Image Source: Urban Waters

Table 21. Regional Recreation Amenities

Category	Key	Name	Acres or miles	ACTIVE-USE ACTIVITIES										PASSIVE-USE ACTIVITIES												
				Baseball / Softball Fields	Basketball	Disc Golf	Golf	Horseshoes/Shuffleboard	Sand Volleyball	Skate Park	Soccer / multi-purp. field	Tennis & Pickleball	Zip Line	Banquet Fac./Spec Event	Visitors Center	Comm. Ctr/ Indoor Fac.	Fitness Center/Equip.	Michigan St. Park Explorer	Nature Programs	Geocaching	Metal Detecting	Dog Parks / Trial Course	Pet Friendly Area	Playground	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Radio Control Flying	Wildlife / Birding
NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES	1	Rusty's Dog Park, Allen Park	2																			•	•					
	2	Ford Field Park, Dearborn	39.03	•							•	•		•										•	•	•		•
	3	Chandler Park, Detroit	200	•	•		•			•	•	•		•		•	•		•					•	•	•		•
	4	Eliza Howell Park, Detroit	250	•							•			•					•				•	•	•	•		•
	5	Palmer Park, Detroit	281	•	•	•						•		•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•		•
	6	Rouge Park & Parkway, Detroit	1,184	•	•		•	•			•	•		•		•			•				•	•	•	•	•	•
WAYNE COUNTY	7	Bell Creek County Park	64	•	•						•	•					•						•	•	•	•		
	8	Bennett Arboretum	90																•									•
	9	Crosswinds Marsh	1,056												•				•						•	•		•
	10	Elizabeth Park	162	•										•		•	•						•	•	•	•		
	11	Hines Park & Greenway	2,300	•	•	•			•		•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•
	12	Lola Valley County Park	58	•		•																		•	•	•		
	13	Lower Rouge Parkway	783	•			•				•												•	•	•	•		
	14	Middle Rouge Parkway	765																									
	15	Wayne County Fairgrounds	130											•		•												
	16	Wayne Cty. Family Aquatic Ctr	12											•											•			
	17	WP Holliday Forest & Preserve	550																									•
METROPARKS	18	Hudson Mills	1,549	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	19	Huron Meadows	1,576	•			•	•	•		•				•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	20	Indian Springs	2,500	•			•	•	•					•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	21	Kensington	4,481	•		•	•		•			•		•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	22	Lake Erie	1,607	•	•		•		•						•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	23	Lake St. Clair	770	•	•		•	•	•			•		•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	24	Lower Huron	1,256	•	•				•			•							•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	25	Oakwoods	1,756												•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	26	Stony Creek	4,435	•	•	•	•		•		•				•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
	27	Willow	1,532	•	•	•	•		•		•			•	•					•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	28	Wolcott Mill	2,625					•	•					•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
	29	Willow	1,500			•																						
STATE & NATIONAL PARKS	30	Bald Mountain State Rec Area	4,637			•												•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
	31	Belle Isle State Park	985	•	•	•	•				•	•		•	•	•			•	•			•	•	•	•		•
	32	Brighton State Rec Area	4,947			•												•	•		•		•	•	•	•		•
	33	Chelsea State Game Area	799																									•
	34	Erie State Game Area	3221																									•
	35	Highland State Rec Area	5,900																		•	•	•		•	•	•	•
	36	Holly State Rec Area	8,007			•												•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•
	37	Island Lake State Rec Area	4,000		•						•										•		•	•	•	•		•
	38	Maybury State Park	944																•				•	•	•	•		•
	39	Petersburg State Game Area	484																									•
	40	Pinckney Rec Area	11,000															•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
	41	Pointe Mouillee St. Game Area	5,195																									•
	42	Pontiac Lake State Rec Area	3,745	•														•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	43	Proud Lake State Rec Area	3,030											•		•		•	•		•		•	•	•	•		•
	44	St. John's Marshland	2,482																									•
	45	Sterling State Park	1,300															•	•		•		•	•	•	•		•
	46	Waterloo State Rec Area	20,000			•									•			•	•		•		•	•	•	•		•
	47	Wetzel State Park	913																								•	•

TRAILS					WATER / BOATING					WINTER SPORTS					CAMPING AMENITIES												HUNTING			
Hiking	Biking	Bike Rental	Mountain Bike/BMX	Equestrian	Swimming / Beach	Splash Pad / Pool / Slide	Paddlesports	Boat Rental	Boat Launch	Snowshoeing	Cross Country Skiing	Snowmobiling	Ice Skating / Hockey	Sledding	Equestrian Camping	Electrical Service	Winter Camping	Concession / Food	Cabins And Lodges	Rustic Site	Group Use Area	Walk-In / Paddle-In Sites	Yurt	Vault Toilet	Modern Restrooms	Sanitation Station	Shooting Range	Hunting / Archery	Fishing	Fishing Pier
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Map 3. Regional Recreation Opportunities



N

0 5 10 20 Miles

0 35,000 70,000 US Feet

Parks and Trails within a 15, 30, 60 Minute Drive Time

City of Melvindale, Wayne County, Michigan

- 60 Minute Drive Time
- 30 Minute Drive Time
- 15 Minute Drive Time
- City of Melvindale
- Parks
- Iron Belle Trail
- Great Lake-to-Lake Trail
- Great Lakes Way
- Other Major Trails

Data: Wayne County, SEMCOG, City of Melvindale
Carlisle/Wortman Associates
Date: September 2026

X Neighboring Community

1. Rusty's Dog Park, Allen Park
2. Ford Field Park, Dearborn
3. Chandler Park, Detroit
4. Eliza Howell Park, Detroit
5. Palmer Park, Detroit
6. Rouge Park & Parkway, Detroit

X Wayne County Parks

7. Bell Creek County Park
8. Bennett Arboretum
9. Crosswinds Marsh
10. Elizabeth Park
11. Hines County Park
12. Lola Valley County Park
13. Lower Rouge Parkway
14. Middle Rouge Parkway
15. Wayne County Fairgrounds
16. Wayne County Family Aquatic Center
17. William P. Holliday Forest & Nature Preserve

X Huron-Clinton Metroparks

18. Delhi
19. Hudson Mills
20. Huron Meadows
21. Indian Springs
22. Kensington
23. Lake Erie
24. Lake St. Clair
25. Lower Huron
26. Oakwoods
27. Stony Creek
28. Wolcott Mill
29. Willow

X State of Michigan

30. Bald Mountain State Recreation Area
31. Belle Isle Park
32. Brighton State Recreation Area
33. Chelsea State Game Area
34. Erie State Game Area
35. Highland State Recreation Area
36. Holly State Recreation Area
37. Island Lake State Recreation Area
38. Maybury State Park
39. Petersburg State Game Area
40. Pinckney State Recreation Area
41. Pointe Mouillee State Game Area
42. Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
43. Proud Lake State Recreation Area
44. St. John's Marshland State Wildlife Area
45. Sterling State Park
46. Waterloo State Recreation Area
47. Wetzel State Park

X Major Trails

48. Border-to-Border Trail
49. Clinton River Trail
50. Dequindre Cut
51. Detroit River Water Trail
52. Hines Park Trail
53. Huron River National Water Trail
54. Huron Valley Trail
55. I-275 Trail
56. ITC Corridor Trail
57. Joe Louis Greenway
58. Lower Rouge River Trail
59. Macomb Orchard Trail
60. Metro Parkway Trail
61. Metroparks Trail
62. Michigan Air Line Trail
63. Mike Levine Lakelands Trail
64. Milford Trail
65. Paint Creek Trail
66. Polly Ann Trail
67. River Raisin Heritage Trail
68. West Bloomfield Trail

Accessibility Assessment

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing barrier-free access to accommodate the needs of all people, including disabled individuals. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines (2006) to determine accessibility was used to evaluate City parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5:

1. None of the facilities 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 principles of universal design

Each of the parks was evaluated using the MDNR ranking system. The specific elements that were evaluated include parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restrooms, and surfacing. While none of the properties can be considered designed for true universal access, most had good travel lanes and connections between amenities. The results of the analysis are included in Table 22 below.

The Melvindale Parks Conservancy, Melvindale Public School District, and City of Melvindale are committed to bringing all parks up to full compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Future park projects will be designed to comply with or exceed ADA guidelines. Current deficiencies regarding accessibility are mainly the result of older equipment or facilities which pre-dates ADA guidelines.

Table 22. Accessibility Analysis

Facility	Rank	Description
Art Fontana Tot Lot	1	Individual components are considered accessible, but there are no accessible routes provided to any of the amenities.
Cardinal Park	4	All items are accessible. An accessible route is not provided to the Memorial.
De Luca Field	2	Accessible walks are provided through the park, but dugouts and bleachers are not accessible.
Kessey Fieldhouse	3	Fieldhouse interior is fully accessible. Exterior does not have accessible routes.
Lankford Park	3	Most components are accessible, but accessible routes are not always present.
Coogan Park	3	Most components are accessible, pavilion lacks access.
McGinty Park	2	Accessible route provided to pavilion, but playground is inaccessible and the playing field has no accessible features.
Kiwanis Reading Park	3	Pavilion is accessible, but there are no routes to chess tables.
Veterans Memorial Park	4	All facilities are ADA compliant
Plonka Town Tot Lot	2	Some components are accessible, but no accessible routes provided to most amenities.
Senior Center	4	The facility is fully ADA compliant.

Status Of Grant Assisted Projects

Melvindale has received six Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants for parkland development since 1981 (see Table 23 below). Most of the projects have long exceeded their expected life spans and have either been replaced or upgraded.

Several other grants have been received by the City in recent years from both state and federal sources. A list of recent grant awards is provided in Table 24 on page 60.

Table 23. DNR Grant Status

Grant Number	Application Year & Source	Description	Grant Amount	Status / Condition
26-01200	1981 BF	Lankford Park: develop tennis courts, basketball court, picnic shelter, landscaping, drainage, water and sewer, parking, play equipment, and LWCF sign	$82,500	Improvements have exceeded their expected life spans. Tennis courts are in poor condition. Remaining items are in fair condition and still used regularly.
TF876	1985 MNRTF	Kessey Fieldhouse: acquire about 1.3 acres located adjacent to the City's Ice Arena Complex. The land is vacant with 200 feet on the Rouge River.	$35,000	The land has been converted to a boat launch as will be modified to incorporate an accessible kayak launch with bank restoration.
26-01387	1985 BF	McGinty Park: develop shelter, basketball court, landscaping/picnic equipment and parking	$17,500	The improvements have exceeded their expected life spans. The shelter is in poor condition. Basketball court has been removed.
TF86-305	1986 MNRTF	Kessey Fieldhouse: acquire approximately 1/2 acre adjacent to other city owned property along the	$8,000	The land has been converted to a boat launch as will be modified to incorporate an accessible kayak launch with bank restoration.
BF91-023	1991 BF	Veterans Memorial Pool: PVC Pool liner, replacement of gutter with stainless steel, 2 lifeguard towers and 6 ladders.	$192,500	The pool has seen improvements since initial project and remains in good condition.
CM99-263	1999 Clean Michigan	Coogan Park: improving the picnic shelter and adding new playground equipment, picnic area, a walking track and associated landscaping.	$89,900	The improvements have exceeded their expected life spans. The park remains in fair condition and is heavily used.

Table 24. Other Grants Received

Year	Funding Source	Grant Amount	Purpose
2023-2024	SPARK Grant	$165,000	Exterior restrooms for park and boat launch at Kessey Fieldhouse
2023-2024	SPARK Grant	$153,000	Accessible kayak launch and concrete work at boat launch
2023-2024	SPARK Grant	$191,500	Pavilion with tables and trash cans at Kessey Fieldhouse
2023-2024	SPARK Grant	$42,000	Kayak rental kiosk at boat launch
2023	Wayne County ARPA	$2,000,000	Kessey Fieldhouse: New field turf for two soccer fields, new building roof, new parking lot, and outdoor arena soccer field
2024-2026	Wayne County CDBG	$630,000	Pool house renovation
2024-2026	Wayne County CDBG	$346,000	De Luca Field improvements

6: Administrative Structure

Overview

The City of Melvindale provides parks and recreation programming and facilities to residents via a combination of elected leadership, municipal administration, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of Public Works, and the appointed Parks and Recreation Commission. The City also coordinates with schools, community sports organizations, Wayne County, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers to supplement municipal services.

This chapter describes the management processes for recreation services in the city, and the relationships between City Council, municipal departments, and volunteers and other groups. An organizational chart showing the basic structure of recreation services in the city is provided in Figure 13 on page 65.

City Administration

City Council is the City's legislative and policy-making body and has ultimate responsibility for approving expenditures and budgeting, entering contracts and accepting grants, and authorizing capital improvements. The City Charter authorizes the City to acquire and maintain public property and protects public parkland from sale without approval by three-fifths of the electors voting on the question.

Melvindale operates under a Council-Mayor form of government. Elected officials include the Mayor, six City Council members, City Clerk, and Treasurer/Assessor, each serving four-year terms. The Mayor serves as the City's chief executive officer, while legislative authority is vested in the City Council. Together, they establish policies, adopt ordinances, approve the annual budget, and provide direction for municipal services and operations.

The Mayor appoints, with confirmation by the City Council, the City Administrator and other department heads responsible for the administration of City services. The City Administrator oversees the day-to-day business of the City and works with municipal departments to carry out the policies and priorities established by the Mayor and City Council.

The City Clerk serves as the official custodian of City records and attends meetings of the City Council to record proceedings, ordinances, and resolutions. The Clerk also maintains official documents, files, and records and performs other administrative and statutory responsibilities established by the City Charter.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Melvindale maintains an appointed Parks and Recreation Commission that provides resident involvement in the City's recreation system. The Commission functions in an advisory and program-support capacity. Final authority over contracts, grants, property acquisition, and capital projects remains with the City Council. Commission vacancies are filled through appointments approved by the City Council. The Commission meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

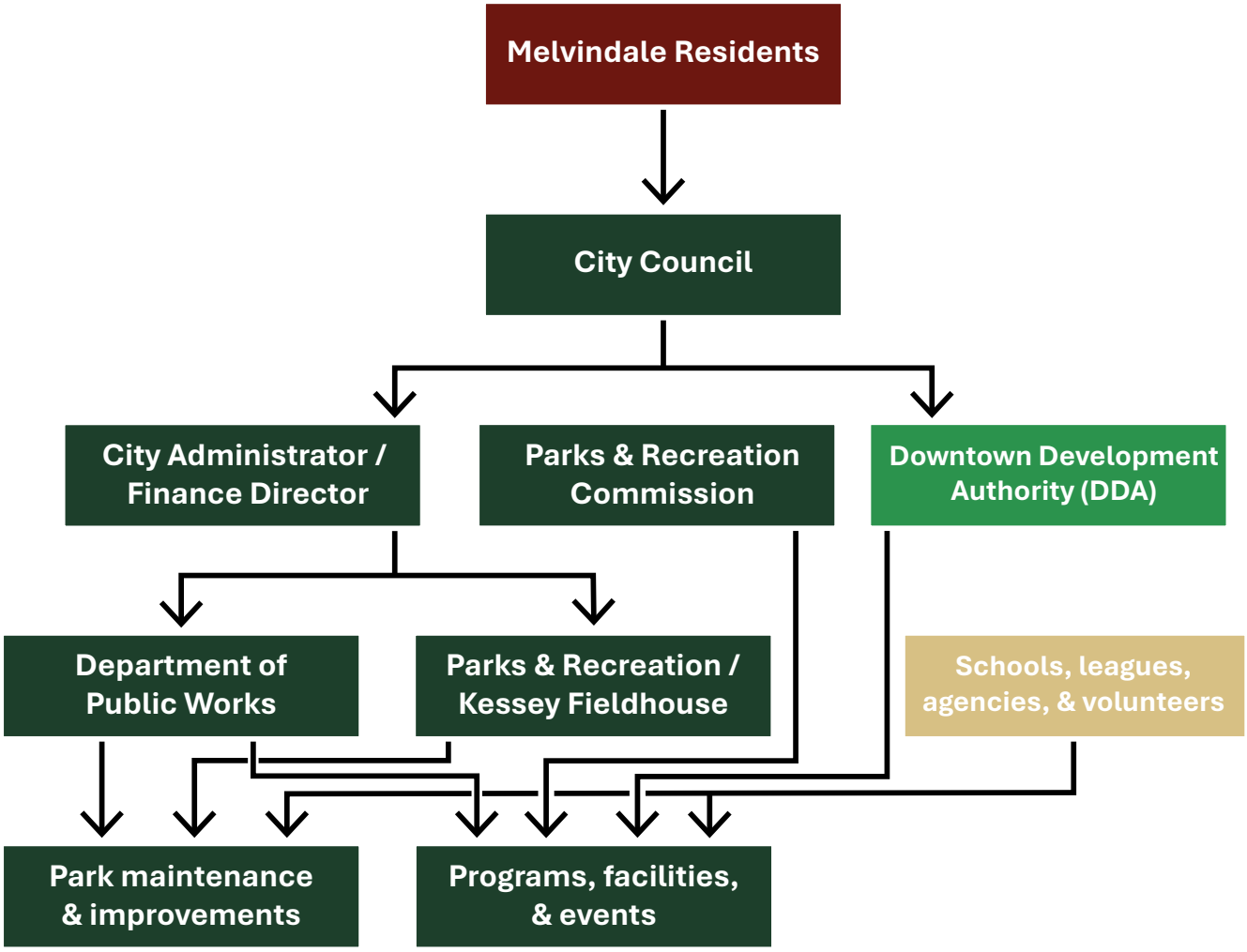
The Melvindale DDA supports recreation and community quality of life within the City's downtown development district. Its role is complementary to the City's Parks and Recreation Department: the DDA may fund or assist with eligible park improvements and community events that help attract activity and investment to the district. The DDA was instrumental in development of Cardinal Park and owns and leases the building that currently houses the Melvindale Senior Center.

Staffing

Parks and Recreation Staff operates and manages programming functions at Kessey Fieldhouse, the Veterans Memorial Pool, and the City's other park properties. The Parks and Recreation Commission and staff coordinate to deliver recurring events such as Melvindale Days, Trunk or Treat/Harvestfest, Winterfest, and other activities.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for much of the physical upkeep of outdoor facilities, while Parks and Recreation focuses more directly on programming, facility use, and community events. The DPW's typical responsibilities include mowing, landscaping, litter collection, and inspection and repair of park equipment. Specialized design, engineering, major repairs, and construction may be provided through consultants and private contractors under City contract.

Figure 13. Organizational Structure



Funding & Budget

Parks and recreation services are primarily supported through General Fund appropriations. Melvindale also leverages funding through several other municipal and outside funding sources as detailed below:

- General Fund appropriations supported primarily by property taxes and state-shared revenue;
- Kessey Fieldhouse rental and facility-use fees;
- Pool admissions or program fees;
- Park and facility rental fees;
- Program registration, concession, and other event revenues;
- Grant allocations through sources including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Wayne County allocations, Michigan DNR grants, and other resources;
- DDA participation in eligible improvements within the development district;
- Donations, sponsorships, in-kind contributions, and volunteer assistance; and
- Transfers or special appropriations authorized by the City Council.

Recent examples of special appropriations include a contract for an arena soccer field at the Kessey Fieldhouse and modifications to Langford Park in conjunction with a lease to the Melvindale Soccer Club..

Table 25. City of Melvindale General Fund

	2025 Actual Amount	2026 Budget	2026 Actuals	2027 Projected
Revenues				
Kessey Fieldhouse	$165,199.00	$218,500.00	$112,870.00	$181,718.90
Swimming Pool	$35,727.00	$40,727.00	$12,264.00	$39,299.70
Senior Program	$2,196.00	$3,500.00	$1,392.50	$2,415.60
Parks & Recreation	$1,375.00	$1,200.00	$900.00	$1,512.50
TOTAL REVENUE	**$204,497.00**	**$263,927.00**	**$127,426.50**	**$224,946.70**
Expenditures				
Kessey Fieldhouse	$300,910.00	$258,927.00	$267,931.82	$315,955.50
Swimming Pool	$124,573.19	$87,960.51	$49,316.85	$130,801.85
Senior Program	$71,275.21	$60,683.47	$43,356.69	$74,838.97
Parks & Recreation	$16,251.76	$8,000.00	$18,136.18	$17,064.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$513,010.16**	**$415,570.98**	**$378,741.54**	**$538,660.67**
NET TOTALS	**$(308,513.16)**	**$(151,643.98)**	**$(251,315.04)**	**$(313,713.97)**

Volunteers & Community Organizations

Volunteers and community organizations expand the City's ability to offer programs and events beyond the capacity of municipal staff. Parks and Recreation Commission members themselves serve as appointed community volunteers and assist with events such as Trunk or Treat and Winterfest. Other residents and community groups may assist recreation programming through a variety of avenues.

Existing or potential volunteer activities include:

- Coaching and operating youth sports;
- Assisting with festivals and seasonal events;
- Park and river cleanups and stewardship;
- Planting and landscape-maintenance events;
- Fundraising and sponsorship solicitation;
- Distributing recreation information;
- Assisting older adults and people with disabilities at programs; and
- Serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The City should maintain a record of organized volunteer activities, including the participating organization, work performed, frequency, number of volunteers, and estimated hours contributed. This information can help demonstrate community support in future grant applications, and allows the City to recognize these volunteers for their efforts.

Other Partnerships

Melvindale relies upon assistance from a number of different partner organizations to provide programming opportunities in the City. These groups provide critical staffing, scheduling, and organizational resources that allow youth leagues and other forms of active sports participation to exist in the community. In return, Melvindale provides space for groups to practice and host events. Some examples of these partnerships are provided below.

Community Sports Organizations

- Melvindale Little League
- Melvindale Soccer Club
- Melvindale Junior Football Club

Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Public Schools

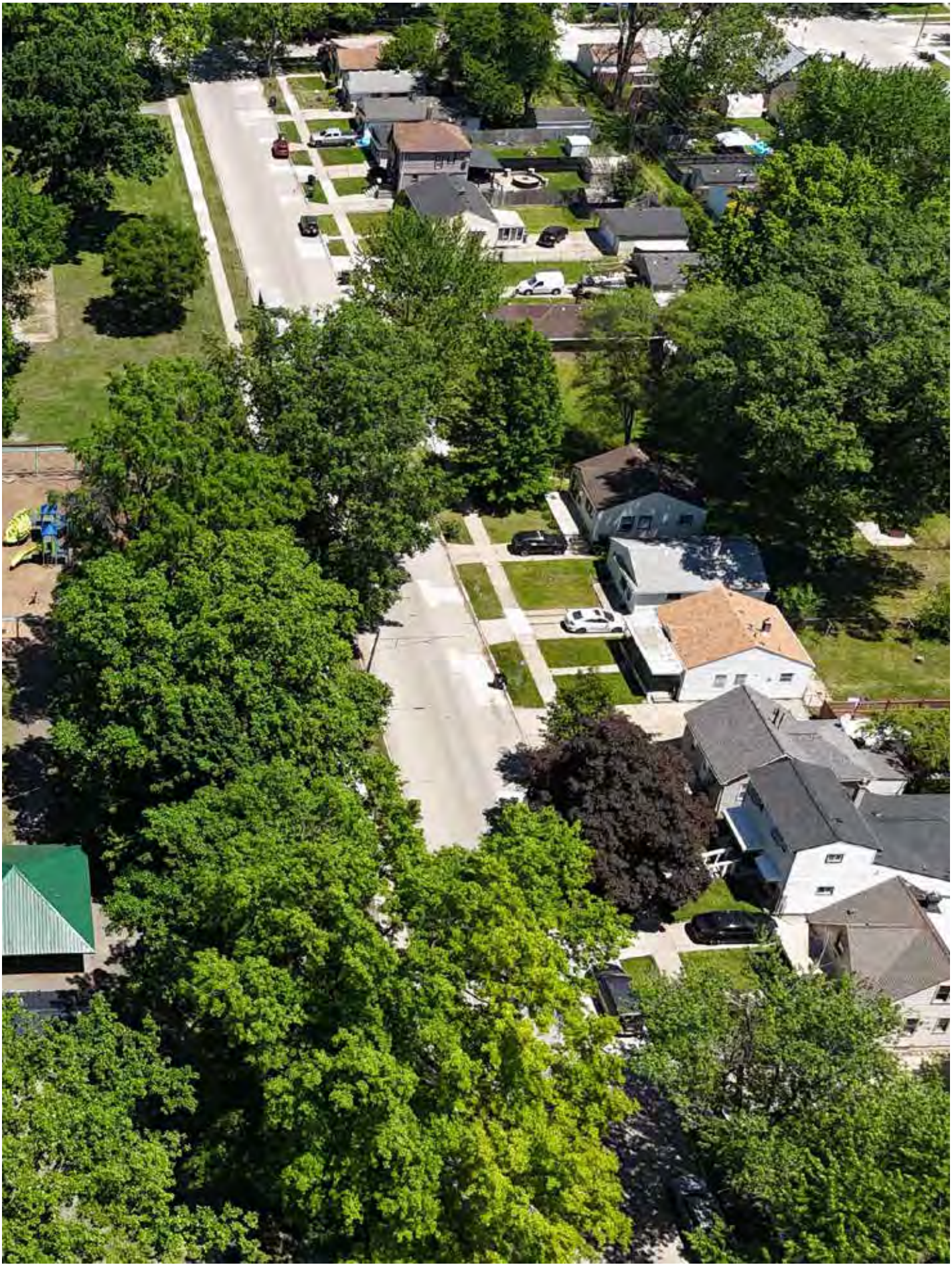
Melvindale is served by the Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Public Schools. School grounds and athletic facilities supplement the municipal recreation system and include shared use of gymnasiums, athletic fields, playgrounds, and other resources.

Other Agencies

- Wayne County is a significant funding and planning partner through its grant programs and regional trail initiatives.
- Friends of the Rouge provides guidance and funding opportunities for river stewardship, environmental education, water-quality initiatives, river cleanups, and implementation of the Lower Rouge River Water Trail.
- The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority provides educational programming throughout the Metro Detroit region.
- Downriver Linked Greenways has been developing an inter-jurisdictional trail network for the Downriver region for decades, and can provide critical institutional knowledge to help implement and fund local trail efforts.

The City should pursue or maintain written joint-use agreements where non-city facilities are relied upon to meet community recreation needs. Such agreements should identify responsibilities for scheduling, staffing, maintenance, security, insurance, and costs.

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Coogan Park. Image Source: CWA

7: Community Background

Introduction

The City of Melvindale recognizes the important role that parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, and community gathering places play in supporting residents' quality of life. These resources contribute to health and well-being, strengthen neighborhoods, and enhance the city's character. Understanding Melvindale's demographic, physical, and environmental characteristics provides an important foundation for recreation planning and future decision-making.

This chapter provides an overview of the community characteristics and trends that influence parks and recreation planning in Melvindale. Together, these factors help establish the context for identifying recreation needs, setting priorities, and guiding future improvements throughout the park system.

Community Description

Melvindale is a mature urban community located on the east side of Wayne County. Established in the early twentieth century, the community originally developed as a small residential settlement known as Oakwood Heights before being incorporated as a city in 1933. Melvindale's growth during 1930s and 1940s can be attributed to the city's proximity to major manufacturing centers, including the Ford Rouge Complex.

Today, Melvindale is a predominantly residential community characterized by established neighborhoods, a diverse population, and a strong sense of identity. Single-family homes comprise most of the city's housing stock, reflecting its historic development pattern. Residents benefit from neighborhood parks, community facilities, local businesses, and convenient access to regional destinations throughout the Downriver area and the greater Detroit metropolitan region.

Figure 14. Context Maps - State of Michigan, Wayne County, and SEMCOG Region

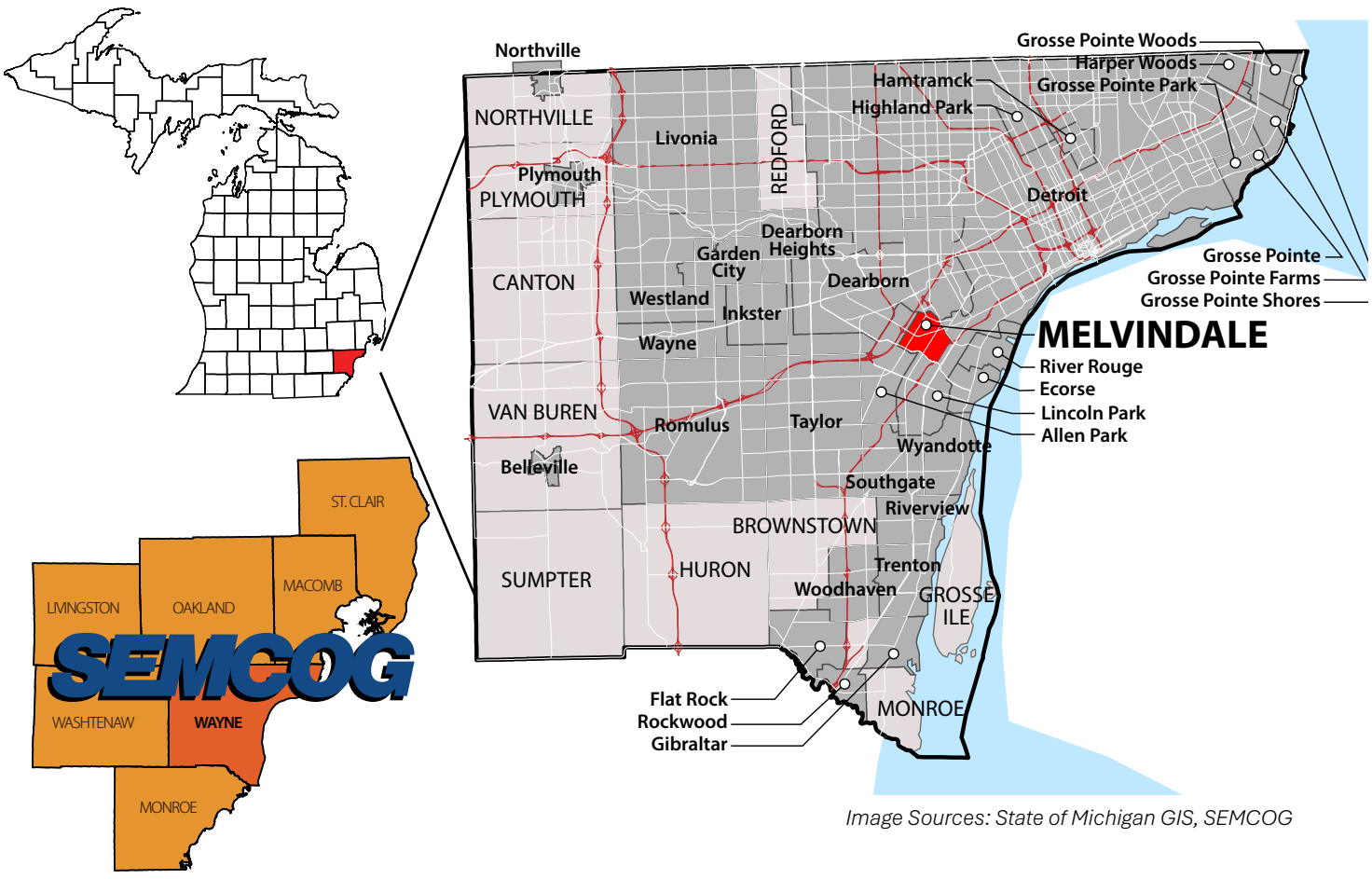


Image Sources: State of Michigan GIS, SEMCOG

Location & Context

Melvindale is located in eastern Wayne County and is part of the Downriver region of Southeast Michigan. Bordered by Dearborn to the north and west, Allen Park to the south and southwest, and Detroit and River Rouge to the east, the city occupies a strategic position between Detroit, Dearborn and the Downriver communities. Regional transportation infrastructure provides easy access to employment opportunities, cultural attractions, and recreation resources throughout Southeast Michigan. The city is also served by public transportation, which can help residents without private vehicles reach employment, shopping and recreation destinations.

Melvindale also benefits from its proximity to the Rouge River corridor and a growing non-motorized transportation network, expanding access to parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation destinations beyond the city's boundaries.

Regional roadway access is provided through nearby I-94 and I-75, with connections through Oakwood Boulevard, Schaefer Road, Dix Avenue, Greenfield Road and other major streets. These routes make Melvindale accessible from surrounding communities but also carry substantial traffic, including commercial and industrial vehicles. Wide roads, freeway approaches, rail lines and truck traffic can create barriers for pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly for children, older adults and residents with disabilities.



Oakwood neighborhood, 1950s. Image Source: Melvindale Public Library Collection

Demographics

Demographic characteristics are particularly important for evaluating a community's recreation needs. Recent changes in population in the community have had profound implications for both the immediate and long-term recreation planning.

Population & Age Characteristics[33, 34]

Melvindale experienced steep declines in population from it's peak of 13,862 in 1970, falling to a low of 10,715 in 2010 (see Figure 15 to the right and Table 26 on page 72). An influx of residents between 2010 and 2020, driven by immigration, higher birth rates, and demographic overflow from neighboring communities, caused nearly a 20 percent surge in population. SEMCOG predicts a decline between 2020 and 2030, with slow but steady growth thereafter.

Attracted by Melvindale's stock of older, affordable housing, these new residents are younger and have larger families than their predecessors. Melvindale's median age reflects the shift in population (see Figure 17), dropping from a high of 37.1 years in 2020 to it's current low mark of 31.3 years. This new median age level is well below the averages reported in Wayne County (38.0) and the state of Michigan (40.4). The levels of different age groups have shifted as well (see Figure 16); residents under the age of 20 now make up the largest percentage the population with over a third of residents falling in this category (35%). At the same time, the proportion of residents between the ages of 45 and 64 has declined 21.2 percent, while seniors age 65 and up have fallen to a low of 10.6%.

According to SEMCOG's 2050 Regional Development Forecast, Melvindale's overall population is expected to remain relatively stable over the coming decades, with a projected decline of approximately two percent between 2020 and 2050. Younger age groups are expected to decrease in population, while the number of residents age 65 and older is projected to increase by nearly 47% (see Table 27 on page 72).

These trends highlight the importance of maintaining a balanced park system that continues to support youth recreation while providing accessible amenities and recreation opportunities for an aging population.

Figure 15. Melvindale Population 1970 - 2050

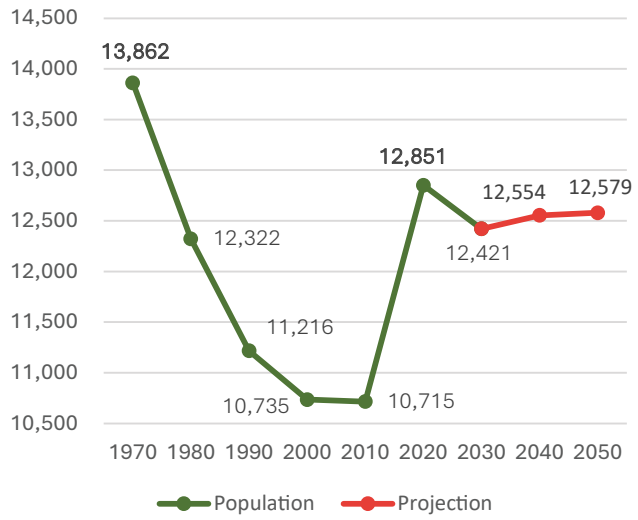


Figure 16. Population by Age Group

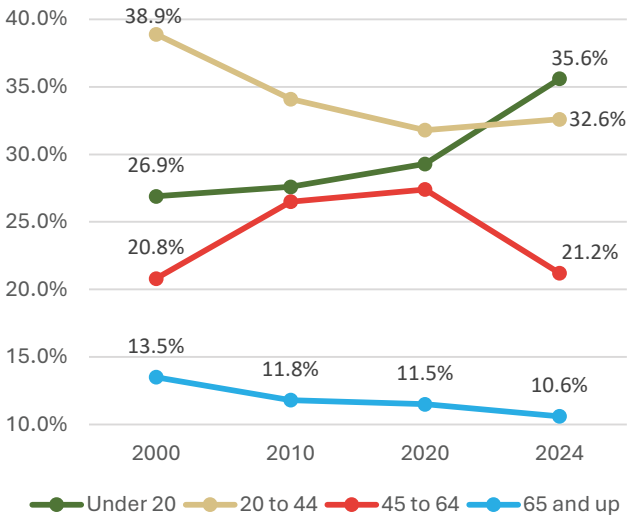
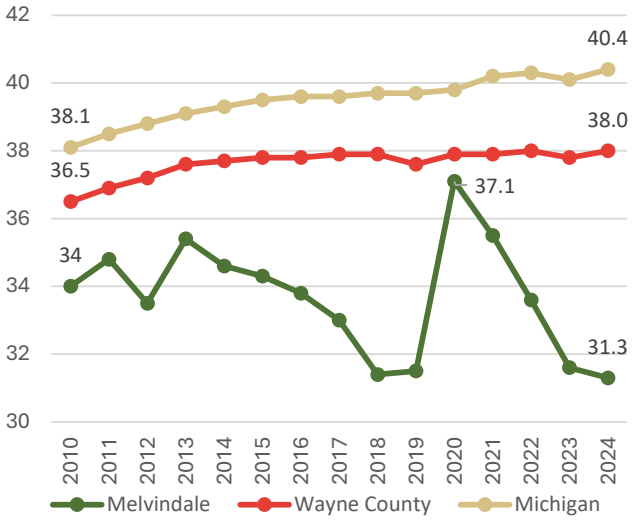


Figure 17. Median Age Comparison



Sources: SEMCOG, ACS Community Survey, US Census

33 https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDPSF42000.DP1?t=Age+and+Sex&g=160XX00US2652940&y=2000

34 https://data.semcog.org/community-profiles?mcd=1125&counties=163

Table 26. Regional Population Trends

Community	US Census 1990	US Census 2000	US Census 2010	US Census 2020	% change 2010 - 20	ACS 2024	SEMCOG 2050	% change 2024 - 50
Melvindale	11,216	10,735	10,715	12,851	19.9%	12,605	12,579	-0.2%
Dearborn	89,286	97,775	98,146	109,976	12.1%	105,818	114,132	7.6%
Allen Park	31,092	29,376	28,210	28,638	1.5%	28,128	27,814	-1.1%
Lincoln Park	41,832	40,008	38,144	40,245	5.5%	39,511	39,109	-1.0%
Detroit	1,027,974	951,270	713,862	639,111	-10.5%	633,221	632,328	-0.1%
Wayne County	2,111,687	2,061,162	1,820,650	1,738,700	-4.5%	1,751,169	1,804,908	3.1%
SEMCOG Region	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,830,489	2.7%	4,804,188	5,138,535	6.9%
State of Michigan (7-1-22)	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	10,034,113	1.5%	10,037,261	9,905,992	-1.3%

Table 27. Forecasted Population by Age Group

Age Group	US Census 1990	ACS 2024	SEMCOG 2030	SEMCOG 2035	SEMCOG 2040	SEMCOG 2045	SEMCOG 2050	% change 2024 - 50
Under 5	1,099	958	997	1,001	1,068	1,023	1,036	-5.70%
5-17	2,705	2,674	2,635	2,575	2,535	2,487	2,385	-11.80%
18-24	1,272	1,120	1,047	1,083	1,070	1,044	1,070	-15.90%
25-64	6,270	6,156	5,934	5,971	6,036	6,187	6,278	0%
65-84	1,342	1,488	1,654	1,677	1,643	1,564	1,571	17.10%
85+	163	162	154	167	202	260	239	46.60%
Total	12,851	12,558	12,421	12,474	12,554	12,565	12,579	-2%

Table 28. Housing Types

Type	ACS 2010	ACS 2024	% of units	Change 2010-24
Single Unit	3,384	3,345	73.0%	-39
Multi-Unit	1,547	1,179	25.7%	-368
Mobile Homes or Other	82	58	1.3%	-24
Total	**5,013**	**4,582**		**-431**

Table 29. Housing Value & Rent

Type	ACS 2010	ACS 2024	Change 2010-24
Median housing value	$131,470	$125,800	-4.30%
Median gross rent	$955	$1,110	16.20%

Table 30. Housing Tenure

			Change 2010 - 2024		Percent value in 2024
Tenure	ACS 2010	ACS 2024	Numeric	Percent	
Owner occupied	2,775	2,583	-192	-7.4%	56.4%
Renter occupied	1,645	1,667	22	1.3%	36.4%
Vacant	498	332	-166	-50.0%	7.2%
Seasonal/migrant	**7**	**0**	**-7**	**-**	**0.0%**
Other vacant units	**491**	**332**	**-159**	**-47.9%**	**7.2%**
Total Housing Units	**4,918**	**4,582**	**-336**		

Source: All data derived from SEMCOG, American Community Survey (ACS), and US Census reports

Household Characteristics

Household characteristics help illustrate how residents live within the community and provide insight into the types of parks, facilities, and recreation services that best meet local needs. As shown in Table 28 through Table 30 on page 72, Melvindale's housing stock is composed primarily of single-family homes, reflecting the city's established residential character. Although the number of housing units has declined slightly since 2010, the community remains largely stable, with very little new residential construction.

Owner-occupied housing accounts for approximately 56 percent of all housing units, while renter-occupied housing represents just over 36 percent. This mix of housing tenure contributes to a diverse residential population and reinforces the importance of providing parks and recreation opportunities that are accessible to all residents.

According to ACS estimates, household size increased from 2.42 persons in 2010 to 2.78 persons in 2024, with SEMCOG projecting household size to remain relatively stable through 2050. Household composition data shows an 8 percent increase in households with children between 2010 and 2024, but a 4 percent decrease by 2050. Households with residents age 65 and older showed less than 1 percent growth between 2010 and 2024, but are expected to have a nearly 27 percent increase by 2050. As with the age data described in the previous section, these trends suggest a current demand for neighborhood parks, playgrounds, family-oriented amenities, and active-use facilities, while continuing to address accessible recreation opportunities that serve residents throughout all stages of life.

Income and Economic Characteristics

Melvindale's median household income of $42,185 and per-capita income of $20,408 fall well below corresponding regional. Between 2010 and 2024, inflation-adjusted median household income and per capita income declined, while the percentage of residents and households living below the poverty level increased. User fees, equipment costs, and other related expenses can prevent participation in local programming. Melvindale must prioritize free or low-cost recreation opportunities, partnering with philanthropic organizations to offer scholarships and partnerships that reduce the cost of equipment, instruction and facility use.

Economic conditions also affect municipal capacity. A comparatively limited tax base, aging infrastructure and pension obligations can impact the amount of revenue available for park maintenance, programming and capital improvements. Combining municipal funds with grants, sponsorships, and other partnerships will be critical to the long-term success of recreation in the city.

According to SEMCOG's 2050 Regional Development Forecast, overall employment within the city is expected to remain relatively stable despite continued shifts among individual employment sectors. Maintaining a variety of free and low-cost recreation opportunities, community events, and public spaces will help ensure that residents continue to have access to recreational amenities that support health, wellness, and quality of life.

Table 31. Household Characteristics

Tenure	Census 2010	ACS 2024	Change 2010 - 2024		SEMCOG 2050	% change 2024 - 2050
			Numeric	Percent		
Melvindale households	4,420	4,920	2	0.0%	4,562	0.0%
Household size	2.42	2.78	0.35	-	2.76	-4.0%
With Seniors 65+	1,036	1,040	4	0.4%	1,421	26.8%
Without Seniors	3,384	3,210	-174	-5.1%	3,141	-2.2%
Live Alone, 65+	486	455	-31	-6.4%	-	-
Live Alone, <65	1,085	1,085	0	0.0%	-	-
2+ Persons, With children	1,381	1,491	110	8.0%	1,430	-4.3%
2+ Persons, Without children	1,468	1,219	-249	-17.0%	1,614	24.5%
Total Households	4,420	4,250	-170	-3.8%	4,562	6.8%

Source: All data derived from SEMCOG, American Community Survey (ACS), and US Census reports

Accessibility & Inclusion

An accessible and inclusive parks and recreation system helps ensure that all residents have the opportunity to enjoy public parks, programs, and community spaces. According to ACS 2024 data, approximately 15 percent of Melvindale's population identifies as having one or more disabilities, emphasizing the importance of incorporating accessibility into future park improvements, facility upgrades, and recreation programming.

Accessibility extends beyond basic compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Features such as accessible pathways, barrier-free entrances, inclusive playground equipment, seating areas, wayfinding signage, and accessible programming help create recreational spaces that are welcoming and usable for people of all ages and abilities.

Melvindale's diverse population further contributes to the city's recreational needs and interests. The community includes residents from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, with Hispanic residents representing a growing share of the population. This diversity presents opportunities to offer parks, programs, and community events that reflect the interests and experiences of the people who call Melvindale home.

Educational attainment, cultural diversity, and accessibility considerations provide additional context for understanding the community and planning for future recreation needs. By continuing to incorporate inclusive design principles and equitable access into future improvements, the City can help ensure that its parks and recreation system remains welcoming and responsive to all residents.



Image Source: City of Melvindale

Figure 18. Disability Status

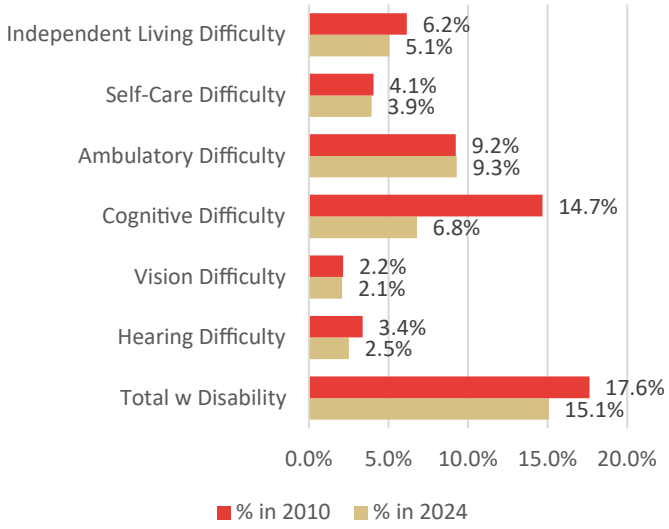
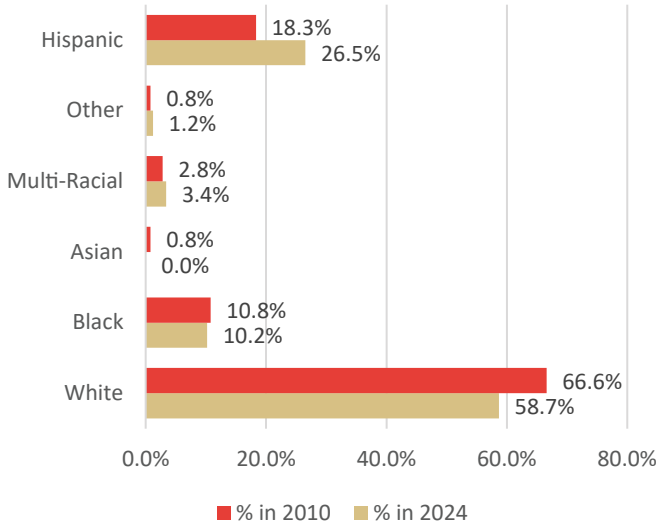


Figure 19. Racial Status



Sources: SEMCOG, ACS Community Survey, US Census

Physical Characteristics

Existing Land Use Patterns

Melvindale is a largely built-out inner-ring urban community. Residential uses dominate the City's developed land area and form the foundation of its existing land use pattern. Commercial corridors are centered along Oakwood Boulevard and Allen Road, while industrial uses are largely found on the east/southeast side of the city. Institutional uses are clustered in the very heart of Melvindale, with City Hall, Mohamed Said and Allendale Elementary Schools, and Julian Strong Middle School all situated between the railroad tracks and Oakwood. Map 4 on page 77 provides a graphical representation of Melvindale's current land use patterns.

According to SEMCOG land use data (see Table 32 on page 76), single-family residential makes up 23.5% of city's land area. Transportation, Communication, and Utility (TCU) corridors occupy 15.6%, primarily in the Oakwood Yard that runs through the center of the city. Just under 3% of the community is categorized as recreation or open space. For a more detailed recreation space analysis, see "Comparison to National Standards" on page 20.

SEMCOG describes 44% of the total land use as "Not Parceled" or "Vacant". These designations are generally assigned to parking lots for either industrial or transportation businesses. Few if any land acquisition opportunities remain in the city for recreation expansion. The City's focus should remain on improving existing parks and recreation facilities and strengthening the connections between parks, schools, and neighborhoods. Enhancing access to the Rouge River must also be a priority, providing residents access to natural resources that are otherwise lacking in the community.

Natural Resources

Melvindale's most significant natural feature is the Rouge River. The Rouge River watershed covers approximately 466 square miles and includes 48 communities before draining into the Detroit River. Although highly urbanized, the river is important regional ecological corridor, providing habitat, open space, and potential opportunities for a variety of water-based recreation activities. Grant funding is being used to reconfigure an existing boat launch near the Kessey Fieldhouse, with shoreline habitat rehabilitation and the inclusion of an accessible kayak launch planned for development in late 2026 and early 2027.

Via the Rouge River, the City is connected to a broader regional system of waterways, natural areas, parks, and open spaces extending throughout southeast Michigan. Efforts related to watershed protection, water quality, and public access provide opportunities for Melvindale to participate in broader conservation and stewardship efforts. In particular, the river corridor is part of a larger network of greenways and open spaces that extend beyond municipal boundaries. The river's relationship to regional recreation, trail initiatives, and intergovernmental coordination is discussed further in Section 7.5, Relevant Regional Planning.

Table 32. Melvindale Land Uses 2015 - 2020

Parcel Land Use	Acres 2015	Acres 2020	% Land Use 2020	Change in acres 2015 - 2020	Percent change 2015 - 2020
Single-Family Residential	410.3	407.4	23.5%	-2.9	-1%
Attached Condo Housing	22.1	22.1	1.3%	0	N/A
Multi-Family Housing	39.8	35.4	2.1%	-4.4	-11%
Mobile Home	6.5	6.5	0.4%	0	N/A
Agricultural/Rural Residential	3.3	3.3	0.2%	0	N/A
Mixed Use	0.8	0.6	0.1%	-0.2	-23%
Retail	31.2	27.8	1.6%	-3.4	-11%
Office	23.5	25.5	1.5%	2	9%
Hospitality	12.1	11.6	0.7%	-0.5	-4%
Medical	0.8	0.8	0.1%	0	N/A
Institutional	93.2	72.6	4.2%	-20.6	-22%
Industrial	136.3	126.0	7.3%	-10.3	-8%
Recreational/Open Space	48.7	50.9	2.9%	2.2	5%
Parking	4.8	4.8	0.3%	0	N/A
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	267.2	269.5	15.6%	2.4	1%
Vacant*	128.8	164.6	9.5%	35.8	28%
Water	12.4	12.4	0.7%	0	N/A
Not Parceled**	488.9	488.9	28.3%	0	0%
Total	1,730.70	1,730.7			

** Vacant parcels are legally defined parcels that do not have an assigned structure such as empty lots, fields, or undeveloped land waiting for construction.*

*** Not parceled lots are areas not covered by a legal parcel description, i.e. public roads, highways, and open water bodies.*

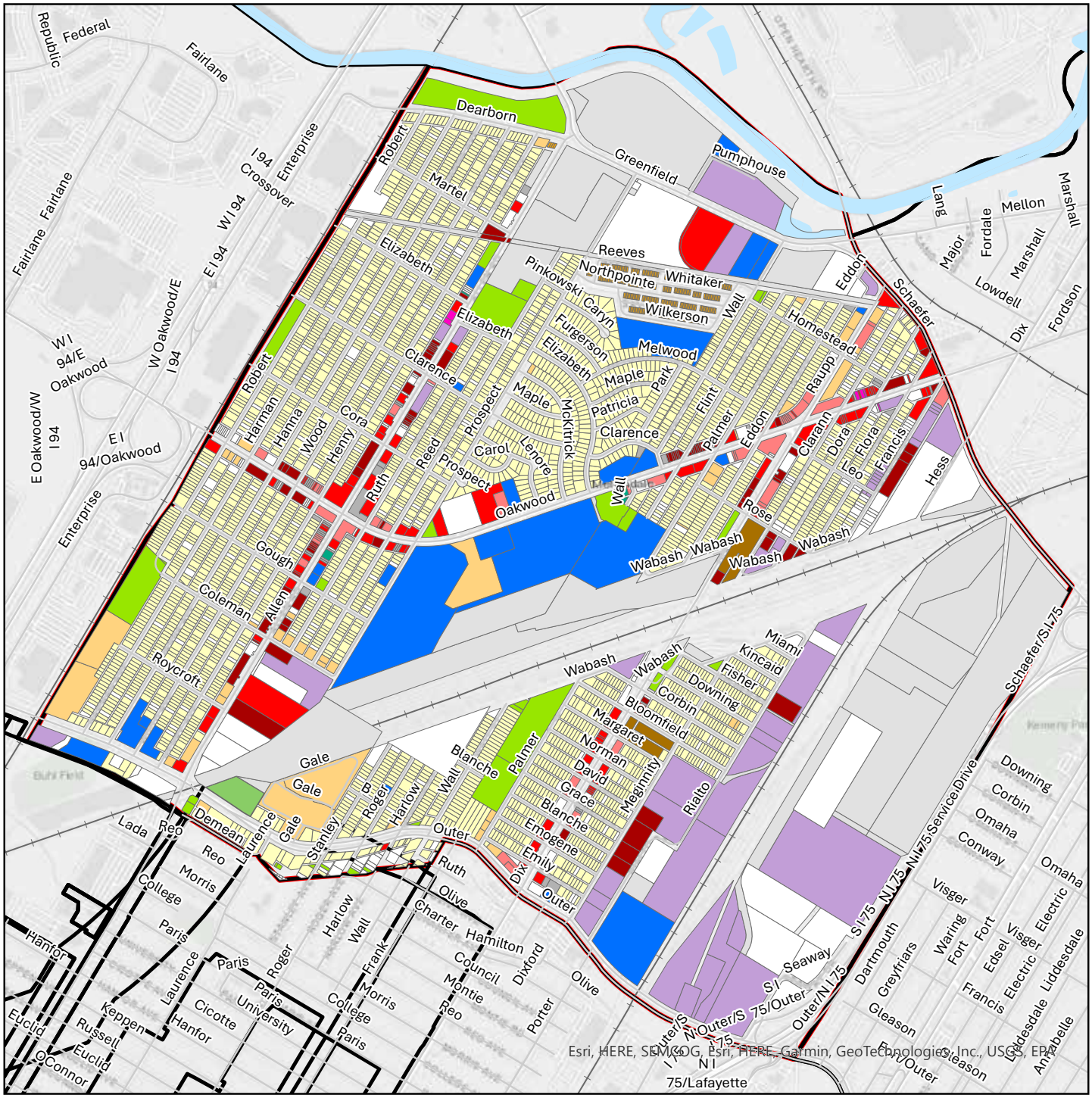
Source: SEMCOG

Table 33. Melvindale Land Cover 2020

Type	Description	Acres	Percent
Impervious	buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots	861.80	64.20%
Trees	woody vegetation, trees	30.3	2.30%
Open Space	agricultural fields, grasslands, turfgrass	387.20	28.80%
Bare	soil, aggregate piles, unplanted fields	63.3	4.70%
Water	rivers, lakes, drains, ponds	0.2	0.00%
Total Acres		1,342.80	100.00%

Source: SEMCOG

Map 4. Existing Land Use 2020



N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

0 1,500 3,000 Feet

Existing Land Use

City of Melvindale, Wayne County, Michigan

- Single-Family Housing
- Multi-Family Housing
- Attached Condo
- Retail
- Office
- Hospitality
- Mixed Use
- Recreation/Open Space
- Agricultural
- Institutional
- Medical
- Cemetery
- Industrial
- Parking
- Transportation, Communication, & Utilities
- Vacant

Source: SEMCOG, City of Hamtramck
Carlisle/Wortman Associates
August 2026

Relevant Regional Planning

Melvindale's recreation system is influenced by a number of local and regional planning initiatives. Collectively, these plans support improvements to existing parks, greater coordination among recreation providers, expanded walking and bicycling opportunities, improved regional connectivity, environmental sustainability, and equitable access to recreation.

City of Melvindale 2021 Master Plan[35]

Melvindale's 2021 Master Plan is the official planning document for the City, providing a long-range vision centered on strengthening neighborhoods, revitalizing commercial corridors, and improving the overall quality of life for residents. As part of vision, the City established a number of goals and strategies that are directly related to recreation planning. Particularly relevant components of the Master Plan are as follows:

- ***Maintain and reinvest in the existing park system:*** The Master Plan characterizes Melvindale as having a strong neighborhood park system, and does not call for park expansion. The plan recommends annual review of the Parks budget and continued monitoring of the condition existing facilities to identify needed repairs and improvements.
- ***Develop a connection to the Rouge River Trail:*** The Plan advocates for an extension of the Rouge River trail between Melvindale and the Henry Ford Museum trailhead. This connection would improve regional non-motorized connectivity and provide access to larger trail networks.
- ***Connect neighborhoods to parks and the Rouge River:*** The plan calls for an integrated system of sidewalks and pathways which connect with destinations including downtown, the Rouge River, schools and parks.
- ***Expand pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure:*** The Plan recommends pursuit of a "Bicycle Friendly City" designation through the League of American Bicyclists, specifically recommending bike lanes on neighborhood streets, and protected bike lanes within the DDA district. The Plan further recommends pursuing Safe Routes to School opportunities, conducting a sidewalk-condition assessment, and installing curb extensions and other traffic-calming measures.

The Plan recommendations helped to kickstart ongoing exterior improvements at Kessey Fieldhouse, but does not provide specific guidance on the structure itself.

Regional Rouge River Trail and Greenway Planning

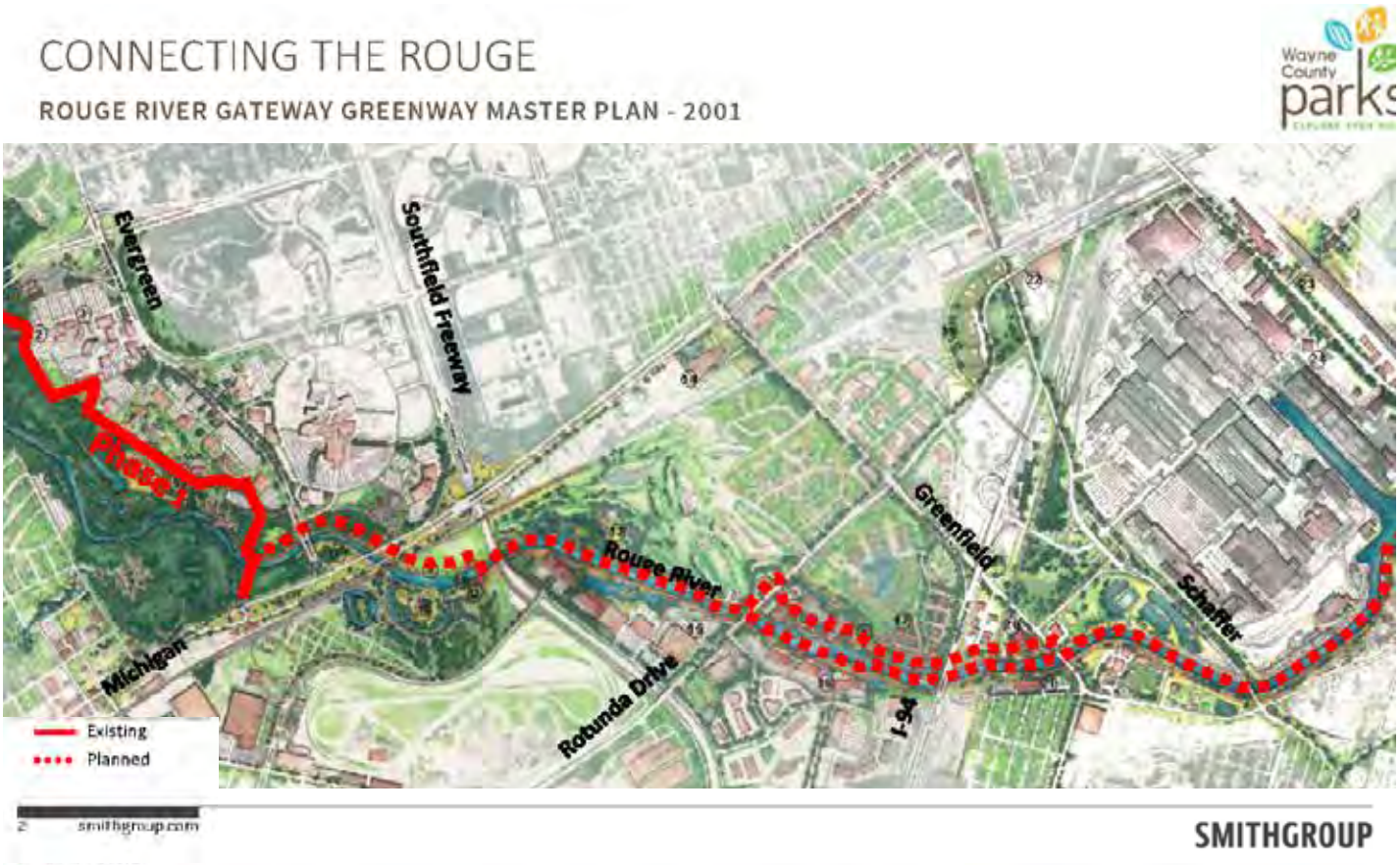
Several complementary regional initiatives seek to improve recreation opportunities along the Rouge River. ***Connecting the Rouge***[36], led by Wayne County Parks and supported by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, provides the framework for linking the Hines Drive Trail, Rouge Gateway Greenway, and Lower Rouge River Greenway. Completed in 2022, the framework identified a potential 129.5-mile trail network connecting neighborhoods, parks, employment centers, commercial areas, and other regional destinations. The effort is intended to create a more cohesive Rouge River greenway system while positioning Wayne County and its municipal partners to pursue implementation funding.

The ***Rouge Gateway Greenway***[37] is a key component of this regional system. The original 2001 Master Plan envisioned an approximately eight-mile greenway corridor extending from the confluence of the Rouge River branches in Dearborn toward the Detroit River. The first phase, connecting Hines Drive with the Michigan Avenue area in Dearborn, was completed in 2005. A second approximately 1.9-mile phase has been designed to extend the trail downstream from the river confluence to Village Road near The Henry Ford Museum. For Melvindale, the concept shows alignments on either side of the river running behind Kessey Fieldhouse. This route would connect citizens to major regional trails including the Great Lake-to-Lake, Great Lakes Way, and Iron Belle Trail.

Complementing the land-based greenway is the ***Lower Rouge River Water Trail***[38], a planned 27-mile paddling route from Canton to the Detroit River being advanced by Friends of the Rouge, Wayne County Parks, participating communities, and other partners. Planning has addressed accessible canoe and kayak launches, route signage and wayfinding, water quality, and connections between the water trail and adjoining greenways. A planned accessible kayak launch at the Kessey Fieldhouse establishes an accessible river access point and trailhead that connects local recreation facilities with both the Rouge River Water Trail and future land-based greenway improvements.

Additional discussion of trail and greenway planning is provided beginning on page 82.

35 https://Melvindalecity.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Master-Plan-Update.pdf
36 https://detroitgreenways.org/connecting-the-rouge/
37 https://therouge.org/building-the-rouge-gateway-greenway/
38 https://therouge.org/what-we-do/explore/water-trail-development/



Adapted from Rouge River Gateway Greenway Master Plan at https://therouge.org/building-the-rouge-gateway-greenway/



Image Source: Detroit Greenways Coalition

2026 - 2030 Wayne County Parks and Recreation Master Plan[39]

The recently adopted Wayne County Parks and Recreation Master Plan emphasizes the County's role in protecting natural resources and open space and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for its citizens. Enhancing walking, biking, and water access play an important role in improving the health and well-being of residents across all of the County's diverse communities.

While the plan does not propose any specific capital improvements in Melvindale, several of its regional initiatives are directly relevant to the City. Most notably, the plan continues implementation of the Rouge River Gateway Greenway and Lower Rouge Greenway, supporting the long-term development of a connected trail system along the Rouge River. Planned capital improvements include Phase 3, a 0.9-mile non-motorized shared-use path extending from the Phase 2 terminus to a new trailhead at Rotunda Drive in Allen Park. Phases 4 and 5 are scheduled for completion between 2028 and 2030 , although the specific details of those two phases are not provided.

These investments reinforce Melvindale's opportunity to pursue future pedestrian and bicycle connections between the City, the Rouge River, Dearborn, Hines Park, and the broader regional trail network.

SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Plan for Southeast Michigan[40]

The SEMCOG plan, adopted in 2019, was developed to highlight available recreation resources and ensure that the region's recreation system meets the needs of residents and visitors. The Plan notes that with over 2,300 parks covering 214,000 acres, over 400 miles of trails and greenways, and 450 miles of designated water trails, the region is well served by local, state, regional, and federal recreation authorities.

The plan provides several regional policy recommendations to address recreation development. Among the recommendations, prioritization of investment in land acquisition is viewed as necessary to address gaps in access to outdoor recreation facilities. Fostering collaboration among outdoor recreation stakeholders speaks to the need for ongoing cooperation between local and regional recreation authorities. Utilization of universal design principles ensures that facilities are accessible to residents of all abilities. Supporting conservation and stewardship of natural resources recognizes the value of open space and the desire of the region's residents to have access to natural areas in reasonable proximity to their homes.

SEMCOG Vision 2050[41]

Adopted in 2024, SEMCOG's Vision 2050 Regional Transportation Plan establishes a long-range strategy for investing in Southeast Michigan's transportation system. The Plan emphasizes that transportation should support not only mobility, but also community health, economic development, environmental stewardship, and quality of life. Walking and bicycling are recognized as essential components of the regional transportation network rather than solely recreational amenities.

Since 2019, the region has experienced a 110% increase in walking and bicycling activity, accompanied by 82 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) bicycle and pedestrian projects, over 100 miles of newly signed bicycle routes, and a 92% increase in protected bicycle lane infrastructure. Vision 2050 calls for continued implementation of SEMCOG's 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan, expansion of regional bicycle and pedestrian corridors, and stronger connections between trails, neighborhoods, parks, downtowns, schools, transit, and employment centers.

39 https://www.waynecountymi.gov/files/assets/mainsite/v/1/public-services/parks/2026-2030-wayne-county-parks-and-recreation-plan.pdf

40 https://www.semcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ParksAndRecreationPlanForSoutheastMichiganMay2019.pdf

41 https://www.semcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Vision2050RegionalTransportationPlanJune2024.pdf?filename=Vision2050RegionalTransportationPlanJune2024.pdf

SEMCOG 2020 Guide to Transportation Planning in Southeast Michigan[42]

A companion to other SEMCOG planning documents, the Guide to Transportation Planning explains how projects move from local ideas to federally funded construction through collaborative planning involving local governments and regional agencies. The guide emphasizes that successful projects must align with the region's long-range Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, be supported by data and public engagement, and demonstrate regional significance. Non-motorized facilities should be integrated into broader transportation networks and coordinated with regional partners and included in local and regional planning documents to improve eligibility for federal funding programs

2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for SE Michigan[43]

While over 12 years old, the 2014 SEMCOG plan remains a relevant resource for long-term visions and regional planning. A joint effort between SEMCOG and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), t14he plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 10 regions and incorporating 60 different action items. SEMCOG's larger regional focus places more emphasis on existing non-motorized transportation options.

Maps of existing and planned facilities highlight the potential for connections to a number important trail networks in the area.

Other SEMCOG Online Resources

Southeast Michigan Trail Explorer: Provides a ground-level view of individual trails throughout southeast Michigan. To date, more than 50 regional land and water trails, covering over 550 miles of water trails and 400 miles of greenways and land trails, have been imaged. https://www.semcog.org/trailexplorer

Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Maps: SEMCOG offers several GIS-based maps which show the existing mobility network and regional bicycle and pedestrian corridors. They also provide an equity and demand analysis for the seven county region, as well as a safety analysis and links to local bicycle and pedestrian plans. All of the maps are collected on one page, at https://bicycle-and-pedestrian-mobility-maps-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/

Figure 20. SEMCOG Regional Trail Plan

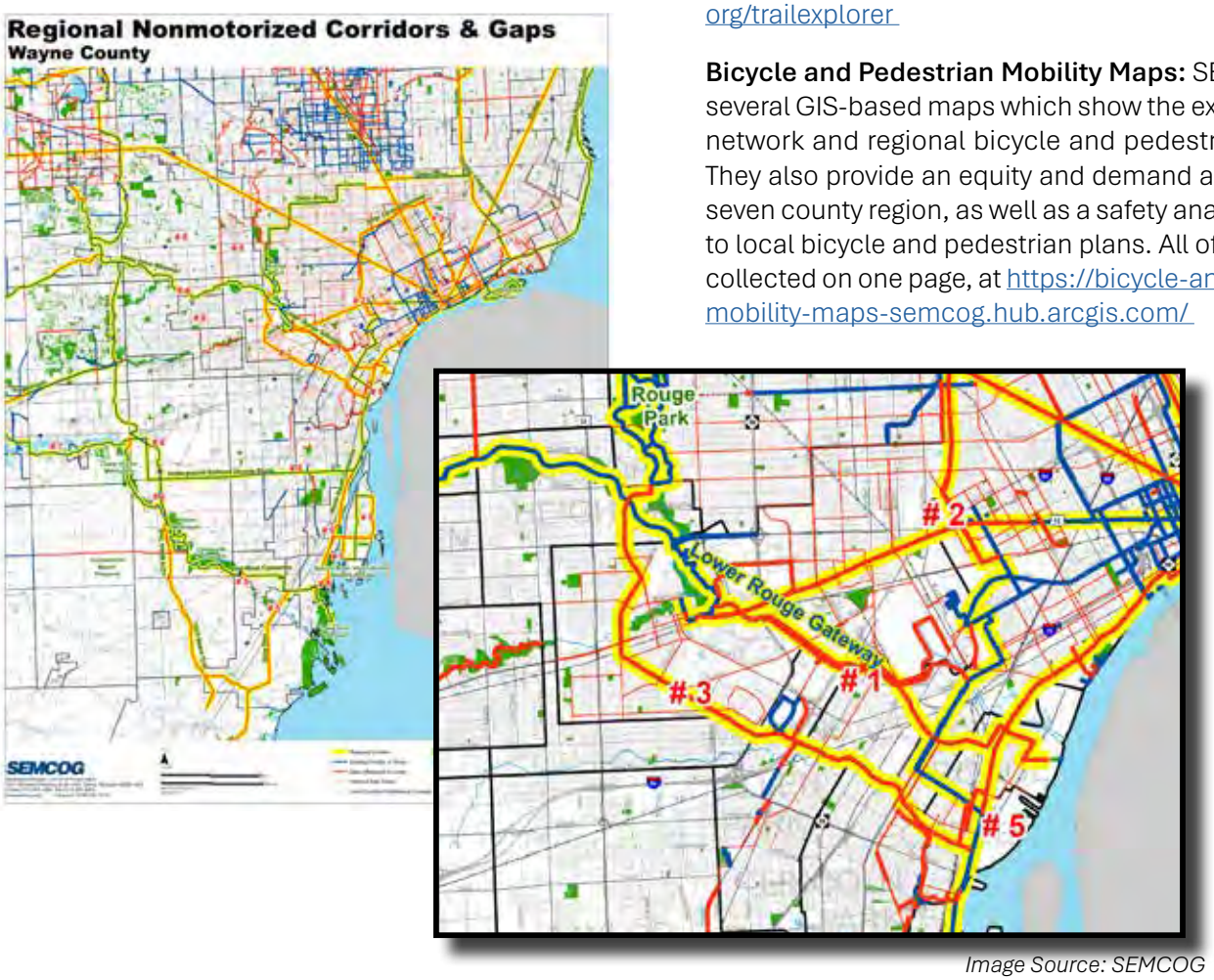


Image Source: SEMCOG

42 https://www.semcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/GuideToTransportationPlanningInSoutheastMichiganJanuary2020.pdf?filename=GuideToTransportationPlanningInSoutheastMichiganJanuary2020.pdf

43 https://www.semcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/BicycleAndPedestrianTravelPlanForSoutheastMichiganNovember2014.pdf

2023-2027 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)[44]

The 2023-2027 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) determined that 95% of Michigan residents have participated in some type of outdoor recreation in the past year. Trail-based (86%) and water-based (80%) recreation are the most popular forms of recreation activities statewide. Participants report that being outdoors allows them to be close to nature, and they enjoy the psychological benefits and the break from their typical routines. While Michiganders are generally happy with the availability and quality of recreation locations, there are barriers to access in some areas and visitors from more densely populated areas report a considerably lower level of satisfaction with close-to-home facilities. The report also found that Michiganders are more likely to use resources that are easily accessible, e.g. paved trails or wildlife viewing ares.

The plan outlines a series of strategies and objectives for state recreation, including:

- Improve collaboration with municipalities and other stakeholders to ensure facilities meets the needs of residents and visitors, and explore opportunities for regional analysis and planning.
- Ensure recreation opportunities are connected and accessible to visitors of all backgrounds, abilities, means and geographic locations
- Enhance health benefits through public-private partnerships and inter agency collaboration to increase access to facilities and programs.
- Communicate the economic value of recreation and support continued engagement with new users. Identify and address barriers to participation in outdoor recreation activities.

Major Trail Projects

The State of Michigan has experienced a boom in non-motorized projects in recent years. From local initiatives like Dequindre Cut in Detroit to major initiatives traversing the state, the projects provide more opportunities for non-motorized transportation than ever before. These routes are interconnected, and development of one segment can have a significant impact on existing and planned developments in other communities.

Melvindale is positioned to benefit from several of the major trail projects. Perhaps the most critical is the ***Iron Belle Trail (IBT)[45],*** a 2,000+ mile network stretching from Belle Isle in Detroit to Iron Mountain in the far western Upper Peninsula. The IBT includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route which winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula, and a 791 mile long biking trail on the east side of the state and following US-2 in the Upper Peninsula. Since 2012, over $68 million in grant and local funds and $155 million in private donations have been collected to complete the trail. Melvindale's position near Belle Isle makes it exceptionally well placed to access the trail network.

The ***Great Lakes Way[46]*** is a collaborative regional planning initiative led by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan that seeks to create an interconnected network of approximately 160 miles of greenways and blueways (water trails) extending from southern Lake Huron to western Lake Erie. The initiative would connect parks, waterfronts, downtowns, natural areas, and other amenities into a seamless recreation and active transportation network.

Finally, the IBT is, in turn, part of the larger ***North Country National Scenic Trail[47]*** which travels from eastern New York to central North Dakota. The trail passes through seven states along the way, with the longest stretch found in Michigan. At approximately 4,600 miles, it is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails.

Figure 26 and Figure 27 on page 84 shows the alignments of the IBT and North Country Scenic Trails. Figure 28 on page 85 shows the Great Lakes Way proposed blueway and greenway alignments.

44 https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/prd/scorp
45 https://www.michigan.gov/research/trails/iron-belle-trail
46 https://cfsem.org/initiative/greatlakesway/
47 https://northcountrytrail.org/

Michigan Blueways & Water Trails

In addition to land-based trails, Michigan boasts of more than 3,000 miles of water trails along the Great Lakes and inland lakes and rivers. Like land-based trails, water trails bring visitors to the community and offer recreational and educational opportunities for residents. By improving the overall quality of life for residents, these trails make the community more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The ***Detroit Heritage River Water Trail*** is a regional paddling route along the Detroit River and connecting waterways that links urban waterfronts, parks, natural areas, and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The trail is organized into multiple paddling segments, including routes around Belle Isle and downtown Detroit, the Rouge River, the Huron River, Grosse Ile, and portions of the lower Detroit River and Lake Erie. The entire Great Lakes shoreline is officially designated as a water trail by the State of Michigan. The Detroit River is also recognized as both an American and Canadian Heritage River, highlighting its cultural history, international importance, environmental resources, and recreational value.

The ***Huron River Water Trail*** offers some of the best kayaking and canoeing opportunities in the state of Michigan. Starting in the Proud Lake Recreation Area, the water trail travels over 104 miles,passing through a wide variety of environments.

The ***River Raisin Water Trail*** provides a similar network of paddling opportunities, offering a mix of natural areas, wildlife habitat, historic landscapes, and urban waterfront environments. The river connects with several significant recreation and heritage resources, including River Raisin National Battlefield Park, the River Raisin Heritage Trail, downtown Monroe, and William C. Sterling State Park on Lake Erie.

Finally, a 27-mile water trail is under development from Canton Township to the Detroit River, traveling through Wayne, Dearborn, Melvindale, Detroit. The proposed ***River Rouge Water Trail*** is being coordinated by Friends of the Rouge in partnership with communities, Wayne County, and other organizations

Trail Links

Many of the major trails in the area have a dedicated board or council, or have a webpage that highlights the trail and its features. The following links will take you to webpages dedicated to the major trails in southeast Michigan.

- Iron Belle Trail: https://www.michigan.gov/research/trails/iron-belle-trail
- Great Lake-to-Lake Trails: https://michigantrails.org/great-lake-to-lake-trails/
- Border-to-Border Trail: https://b2btrail.org/
- Clinton River Trail: https://www.clintonrivertrail.org/
- Headwaters Trails: https://headwaterstrailsinc.org/
- Huron Valley Trail: https://www.southlyonmi.org/residents/community/rail_trail.php
- I-275 Metro Trail: https://michigantrails.org/i-275-metro-trail/
- M5 Metro Trail: https://mitrails.org/trail/m-5-metro-trail/
- MI Air Line Trail: https://www.miairlinetrail.com/
- Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park: https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/heritage-trails/lakelands-trail-state-park
- Milford Trail: https://www.milfordtrail.com/
- Paint Creek Trail: https://paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/
- Polly Ann Trail: https://pollyanntrail.org/
- West Bloomfield Trail: https://www.wbparks.org/parks-facilities/west-bloomfield-trail/
- Clinton River Water Trail: https://www.crwc.org/recreation/paddling
- Huron River National Water Trail: https://huronriverwatertrail.org/
- Shiawassee National Water Trail: https://www.shiawasseewatertrail.org/

Figure 21. Iron Belle Trail Detail and Route Map

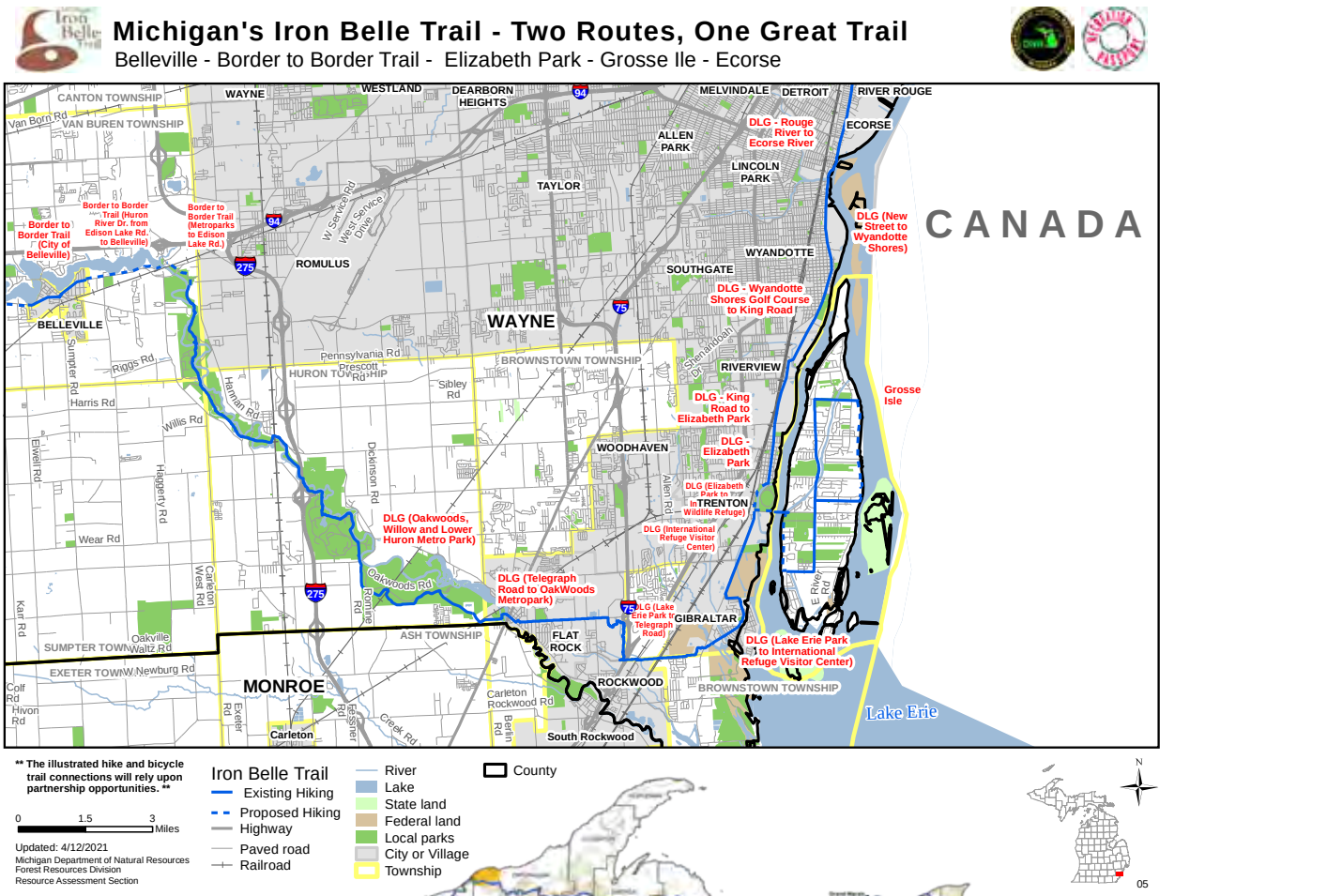


Image Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Figure 22. North Country Scenic Trail

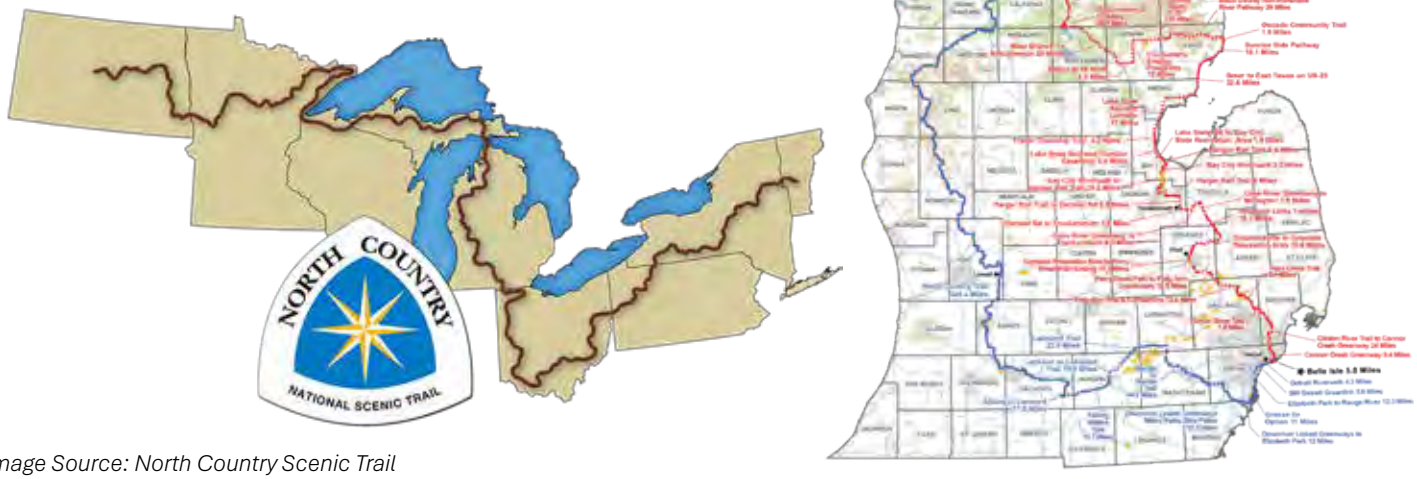


Image Source: North Country Scenic Trail

Image Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Figure 23. The Great Lakes Way

THE GREAT LAKES WAY

Vision: All residents and visitors of southeast Michigan are connected to and benefit from world-class fresh water, wildlife, recreation, and heritage right in our backyard through a Great Lakes Way – an interconnected set of 160 miles of greenways and 156 miles of blueways stretching from southern Lake Huron through western Lake Erie that provides access for all ages and abilities.

The purpose of the Great Lakes Way is to strengthen and define the greenways and blueways of the Huron-Erie corridor and ensure each of us—people of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and interests—feels welcomed and shares in its benefits.

This map is a vision for the future and depicts how we will connect Lake Huron to Lake Erie and how we will connect residents to the unique amenities in the region. The Great Lakes Way is rich with world-class fisheries, flyways, parks, urban centers, small village towns, preserved old growth woodlands, restored wetlands, rich history, and working waterways. Traversing through the Great Lakes Way offers experiences that can only be found here.

Creation of The Great Lakes Way brings together the collective assets of Monroe, Wayne, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. By designating these greenways and blueways as the Great Lakes Way, the region can focus on the important linkages still to be developed.



Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

For more information, visit
greatlakesway.org

Appendix A: Public Notices

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

39949 Garfield Rd., Suite D, Clinton Twp., MI 48038

CITY of MELVINDALE - PO#6650
3100 OAKWOOD BOULEVARD
MELVINDALE, MI 48122-

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE

The undersigned, **NOELLE KLOMP** being duly sworn he/she is the principal clerk of **News Herald Classified**, published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character, which are duly qualified newspapers, and the annexed hereto is a copy of certain order, notice, publication or advertisement of:

Plan Availability for Review

Published in the following edition(s)
News Herald Classified: 20 Sep 2026

Signature of Principle Clerk

Noelle Klomp
Name of Principle Clerk

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 Sep 2026,

Notary Public, State of Michigan
Acting in Oakland County

VICKI ARSENAULT
Notary Public - State of Michigan
County of Oakland
My Commission Expires 05/11/2032
Acting in the County of _____

Advertiser Name / ID: CITY of MELVINDALE - PO#6650 / 262405 - Ad ID: 143442-514136 - PO: - Affidavit ID: 55208



City of Melvindale

NOTICE OF PLAN AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

The City of Melvindale is seeking public input regarding the Melvindale 2027 – 2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. A formal public hearing for adoption of the Plan will be held upon completion of the 30-day review period at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on October 21, 2026.

A hard copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the following locations:

- City Hall, 3100 Oakwood, Melvindale, MI
- Melvindale Public Library, 18650 Allen Road, Melvindale, MI
- Melvindale Senior Community Center, 18616 Allen Road, Melvindale, MI
- The draft plan is also available online on Melvindale's website at www.melvindale.org, or can be directly accessed at https://www.calameo.com/read/005107673c5c5809e3113
- For questions or comments, please contact Richard Ortiz, City Administrator, at (313) 429-1059 or via email at finance@melvindale.org.

Advertiser Name / ID: CITY of MELVINDALE - PO#6650 / 262405 - Ad ID: 143442-514136 - PO: - Affidavit ID: 55208

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CITY of MELVINDALE - PO#6650
3100 OAKWOOD BOULEVARD
MELVINDALE, MI 48122-

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE

The undersigned, **NOELLE KLOMP** being duly sworn he/she is the principal clerk of **News Herald Classified**, published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character, which are duly qualified newspapers, and the annexed hereto is a copy of certain order, notice, publication or advertisement of:

2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

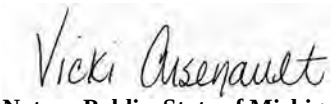
Published in the following edition(s)
News Herald Classified: 27 Sep 2026



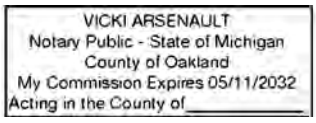
Noelle Klomp

Signature of Principle Clerk **Name of Principle Clerk**

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 Sep 2026,



Notary Public, State of Michigan



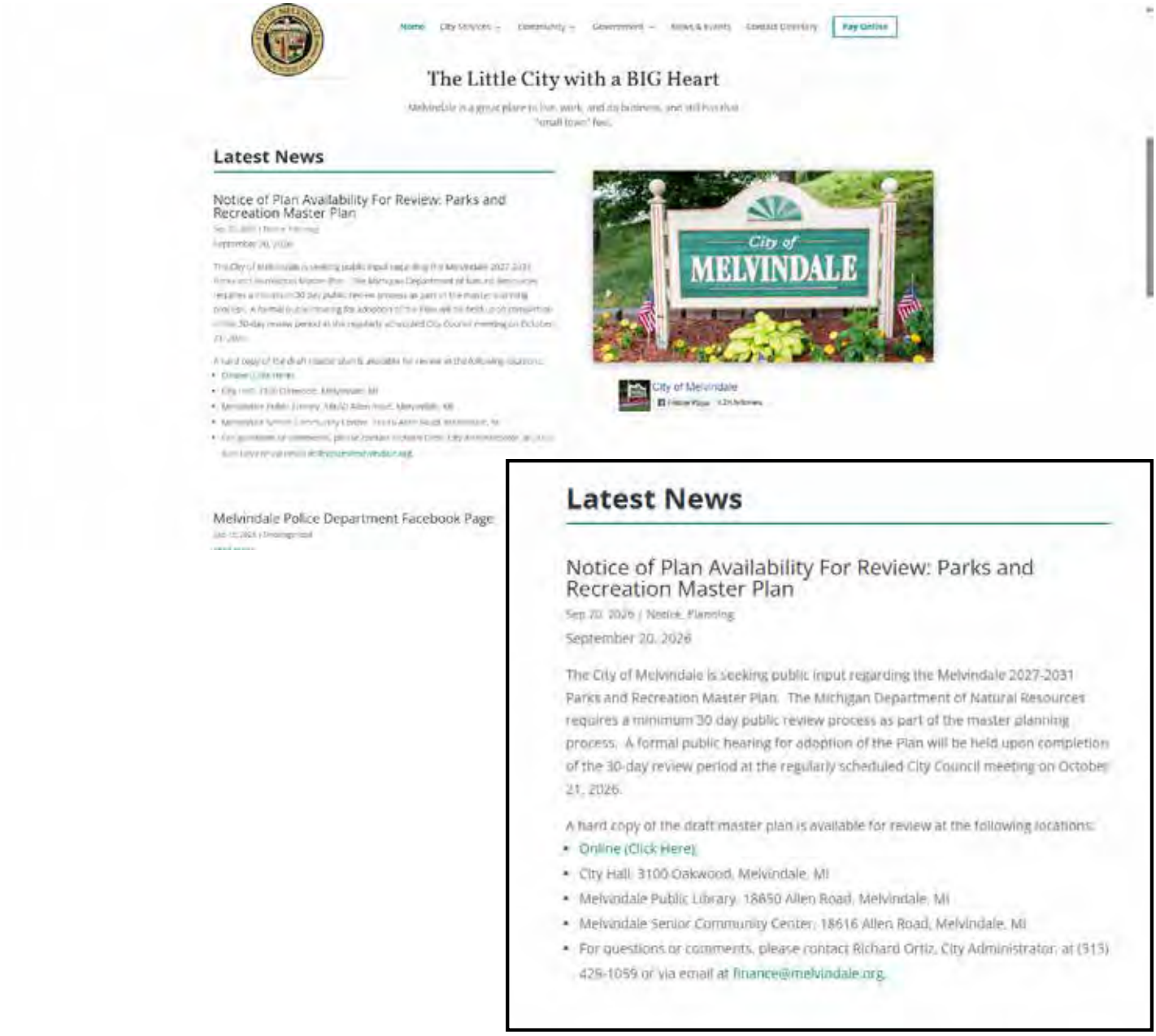
Local Media

September 27, 2026
City of Melvindale
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Melvindale is seeking public input regarding the Melvindale 2027 – 2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A public hearing will take place as part of the regularly scheduled City Council meeting at 7:30 on October 21, 2026 at 3100 Oakwood, Melvindale, Michigan.
A draft copy of the plan has been available for review since September 21 and will remain available through the date of the hearing. The plan can be viewed at the following locations:

- City Hall, 3100 Oakwood, Melvindale, MI
- Melvindale Public Library, 18650 Allen Road, Melvindale, MI
- Melvindale Senior Community Center, 18616 Allen Road, Melvindale, MI
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Latest News

Notice of Plan Availability For Review: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Sep 20, 2026 | Notice, Planning

September 20, 2026

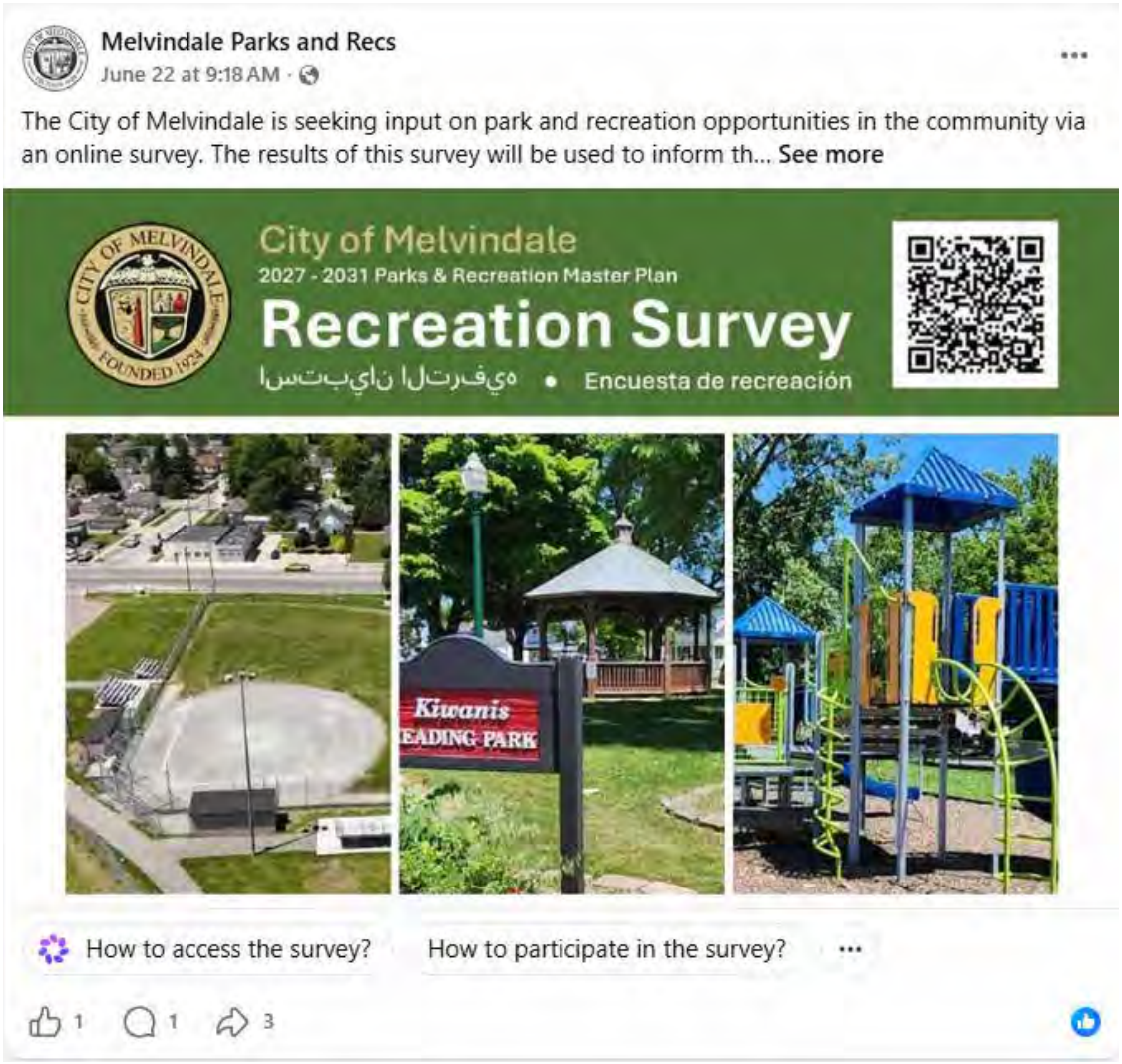
The City of Melvindale is seeking public input regarding the Melvindale 2027-2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30 day public review process as part of the master planning process. A formal public hearing for adoption of the Plan will be held upon completion of the 30-day review period at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on October 21, 2026.

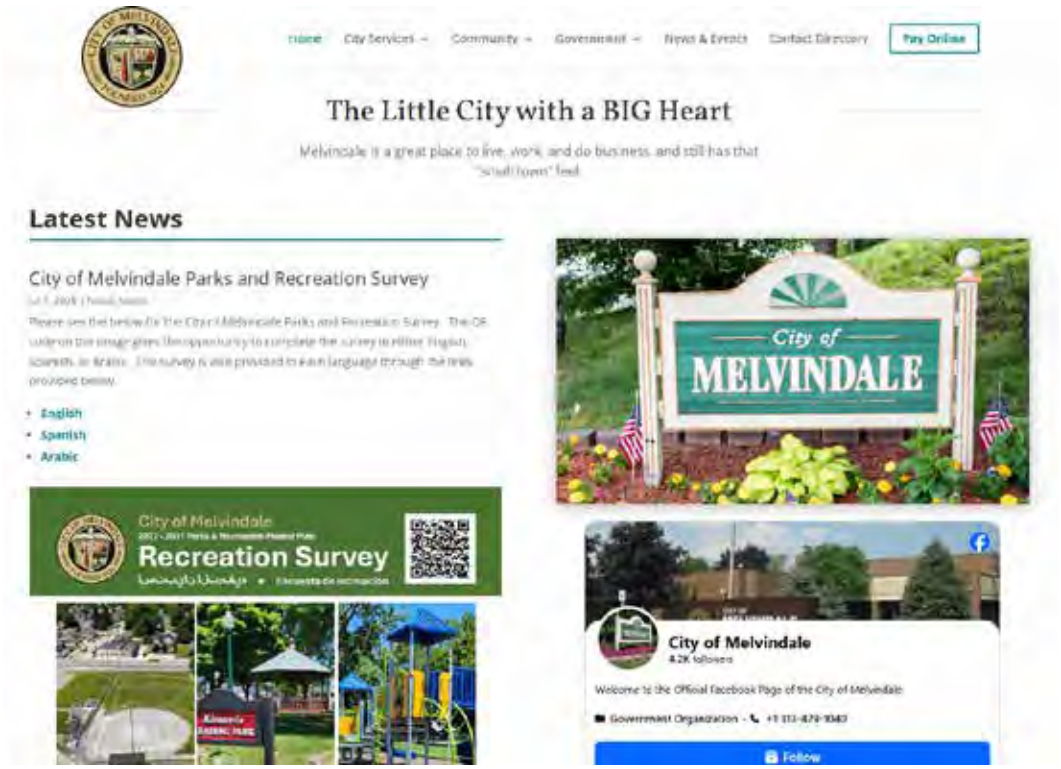
A hard copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the following locations:

- Online (Click Here)
- City Hall: 3100 Oakwood, Melvindale, MI
- Melvindale Public Library: 18650 Allen Road, Melvindale, MI
- Melvindale Senior Community Center: 18616 Allen Road, Melvindale, MI
- For questions or comments, please contact Richard Ortiz, City Administrator, at (313) 429-1059 or via email at finance@melvindale.org.

City of Melvindale

Melvindale Police Department Facebook Page


Melvindale Parks and Recs
June 22 at 9:18 AM
The City of Melvindale is seeking input on park and recreation opportunities in the community via an online survey. The results of this survey will be used to inform th... See more
City of Melvindale
2027 - 2031 Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Recreation Survey
استبيان الترفيه • Encuesta de recreación
Kiwanis
How to access the survey?
How to participate in the survey?
1
1
3


The Little City with a BIG Heart
Latest News
City of Melvindale Parks and Recreation Survey
English
Spanish
Arabic
City of Melvindale
Recreation Survey
City of
MELVINDALE
City of Melvindale
Follow

Appendix B: Minutes of Public Hearing

Regular Council Meeting of the City of Melvindale was held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nicole M. Shkira and roll call was taken:

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS: Jackson, Filipowski, Marsee, Frederick, Cartrette
ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS: Abuali,

ALSO PRESENT: David Zajac, City Clerk; Richard S. Ortiz, City Administrator/Finance Director; Larry Coogan, Corporation Counsel; Brad Burns, Chief Building Official; Christopher Egan, Police Chief; Daryl Campbell, Assistant Police Chief

26-10-333 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Jackson, to approve the regular meeting minutes dated October 7, 2026.

Yeas: Jackson, Filipowski, Marsee, Frederick
Abstain: Cartrette

Motion Passed

26-10-334 Moved by Jackson and supported by Filipowski, to close the regular meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-335 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Marsee, to open the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-336 Moved by Marsee and supported by Filipowski, to close the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-337 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Marsee, to open the council meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-338 Moved by Jackson and supported by Cartrette, to adopt the City of Melvindale Parks and Recreation Master Plan, dated October 21, 2026.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-339 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Marsee, to move forward and pursue the Volunteers in Police Service Program.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-340 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Cartrette, to make curfew for 8pm the day before and the day of devil's night for anyone under 18, unless accompanied by an adult.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-341 Moved by Marsee and supported by Jackson, to approve the demolition of 19103 Wall St., parcel no. 4700402029000.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-342 Moved by Marsee and supported by Cartrette, to approve the special approval use of 18900 Meginnity.

Nays: Jackson, Fiipowski, Marsee, Frederick, Cartrette

Motion Failed

26-10-343 Moved by Jackson and supported by Filipowski, to remand the previous motion back to the Planning Commission for reconsideration pursuant to the ordinance.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-344 Moved by Cartrette and supported by Marsee, to have a public hearing for the revision of ordinance Chapter 23 Article II, section 23-28.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-345 Moved by Marsee and supported by Cartrette, to have a public hearing for new ordinance regarding e-bikes.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-346 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Cartrette, to receive and place on file the treasures report for September 2026.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-347 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Marsee, to table the appointment of Mike Yono to the Downtown Development Authority, new term expiring November 17, 2027.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-348 Moved by Marsee and supported by Filipowski, to table the appointment of Hollie Agee to the Downtown Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Ken Winkles, term expiring November 17, 2027.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-349 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Jackson, to receive and place on file the invoice and cover sheet and authorized the payment of approved invoices totaling $534,181.32, and electronic transfers totaling $353,817.99.

Passed Unanimously

26-10-350 Moved by Cartrette and supported by Jackson, to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. no objections, so ordered.

Passed Unanimously

_____ _____

Mayor, Nicole Shkira City Clerk, David Zajac

City of Melvindale
3100 Oakwood Boulevard, Melvindale, MI 48122
(313) 429-1040 fax 313-383-3993

Regular Meeting of the Melvindale City Council on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Nicole Shkira
Present Council Members: Jackson, Abuali, Filipowski, Marsee, Frederick
Absent Council Members: Cartrette

26-11-351 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Jackson, to approve the regular meeting minutes dated October 21, 2026.

Yeas: Jackson, Filipowski, Marsee, Frederick
Abstain: Abuali

Motion Passed

T. Myatt
Deputy Clerk, Tara Myatt

Dated: November 5, 2026

Appendix C: Resolution of Adoption

CITY OF MELVINDALE
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE
2027 – 2031 MELVINDALE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

OCTOBER 21, 2026

WHEREAS, the City of Melvindale has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2027 to 2031; and

WHEREAS, the City began the process of developing a Parks & Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the City has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation opportunities for the City of Melvindale; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Melvindale were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 21, 2026, at Melvindale City Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the City to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Melvindale City Council voted to adopt said 2027 – 2031 Melvindale Parks & Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan serves as a guideline for park land, open space, and recreation planning by the Parks & Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the plan also serves as a planning tool for other City boards and commissions, such as the Planning Commission and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a five-year plan is mandated by the Department of Natural Resources for eligibility for DNR-administered grants; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Melvindale City Council hereby adopts the Parks & Recreation Master Plan for the years 2027 – 2031.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I, David Zajac, the duly qualified Clerk of the City of Melvindale, Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Melvindale City Council held on October 21, 2026, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

David Zajac, City Clerk

October 21, 2026
Date Certified

City of Melvindale
3100 Oakwood Boulevard, Melvindale, MI 48122
(313) 429-1040 fax 313-383-3993

Regular Meeting of the Melvindale City Council on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Nicole Shkira
Present Council Members: Jackson, Filipowski, Marsee, Frederick, Cartrette
Absent Council Members: Abuali

26-10-338 Moved by Jackson and supported by Cartrette, to adopt the City of Melvindale Parks and Recreation Master Plan, dated October 21, 2026.

Passed Unanimously

Deputy Clerk, Tara Myatt

Dated: October28, 2026

Appendix D: Letters of Transmittal

Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.
117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

November 11, 2026

Alicia C. Bradford, MSA, CPRP
Director
Wayne County Parks & Recreation
33175 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, Michigan 48185

Dear Ms. Bradford:

The Melvindale City Council adopted the City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on October 21, 2026. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the City Council and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Please feel free to contact Richard Ortiz, Melvindale City Administrator, or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.
Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA
Landscape Architect

cc. Richard Ortiz, City Administrator

Benjamin R. Carlisle, *President* John L. Enos, *Vice President*
Paul Montagno, *Principal* Megan Masson-Minock, *Principal* Laura Kreps, *Principal* Brent Strong, *Principal*
David Scurto, *Principal* Sally M. Elmiger, *Principal* Craig Strong, *Principal* Douglas J. Lewan, *Principal*
Richard K. Carlisle, *Past President/Senior Principal* R. Donald Wortman, *Past Principal*

Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.
117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

November 11, 2026

Bailee Pasienza
Planner II, Environment and Infrastructure
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Ms. Pasienza:

The Melvindale City Council adopted the City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on October 21, 2026. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the City Council and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Please feel free to contact Richard Ortiz, Melvindale City Administrator, or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.
Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA
Landscape Architect

cc. Richard Ortiz, City Administrator

Benjamin R. Carlisle, *President* John L. Enos, *Vice President*
Paul Montagno, *Principal* Megan Masson-Minock, *Principal* Laura Kreps, *Principal* Brent Strong, *Principal*
David Scurto, *Principal* Sally M. Elmiger, *Principal* Craig Strong, *Principal* Douglas J. Lewan, *Principal*
Richard K. Carlisle, *Past President/Senior Principal* R. Donald Wortman, *Past Principal*

Appendix E: Public Input Summary

City of Melvindale

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey Summary

The City of Melvindale released an online survey to the public to obtain input for the 2027 - 2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The survey was advertised on the City's website and via social media, and ran from June 19 through July 20, 2026. The survey was available in three languages (English, Arabic, and Spanish), and hard copies were available upon request at City Hall. A total of 73 unique responses were received.

Responses to all "open ended" questions are provided verbatim with no editing for grammar or spelling. Responses in Arabic or Spanish are provided both in their native language and are translated using Google Translate. Topic counts are an attempt to clarify the number of responses regarding a particular issue. The author's intention may be misinterpreted, however, and these values should be considered an estimate. Raw data has been provided to the City and is available upon request.

Q1: Are you a Melvindale resident?

a) If no, please tell us where you reside.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	69	94.5%
No	2	2.7%
No, I live in another community (please specify)	20	10.1%
Total Responses	**73**	

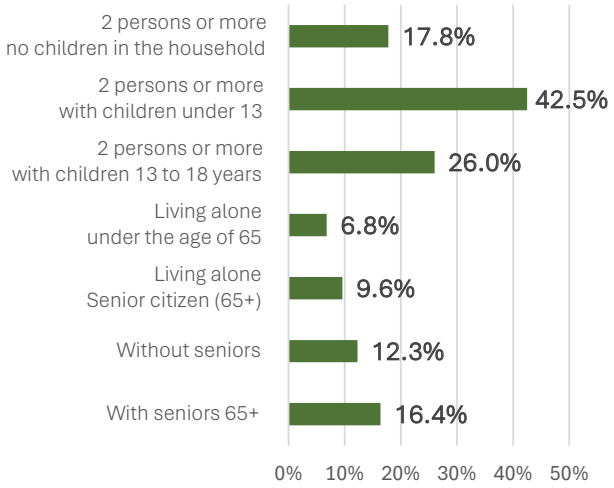
Other responses:

- Allen Park (2 responses)

Q3: Please describe your current living situation.

Response	Count	Percent
Single-family home	69	94.5%
Apartment	2	2.7%
Condominium/Townhome	1	1.4%
Manufactured/ Mobile Home	1	1.4%
Other (Please specify)	0	0.0%
Total Responses	**73**	

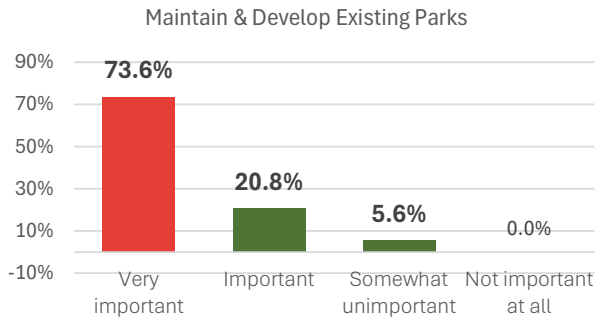
Q2: Which of the following categories best describe your household? Choose all that apply.

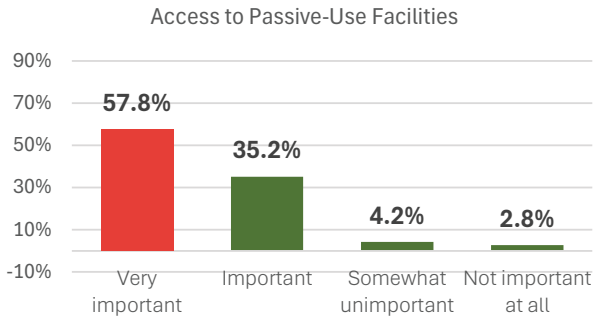


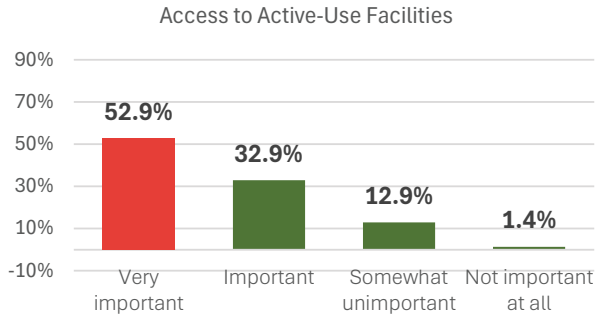
Response	Count	Percent
With seniors 65+	12	16.4%
Without seniors	9	12.3%
Senior citizen (65+) living alone	7	9.6%
Living alone, under the age of 65	5	6.8%
2 persons or more, with children 13 to 18 years	19	26.0%
2 persons or more, with children under 13	31	42.5%
2 persons or more, no children in the household	13	17.8%
Total Unique Responses	**73**	
Total Responses	**96**	

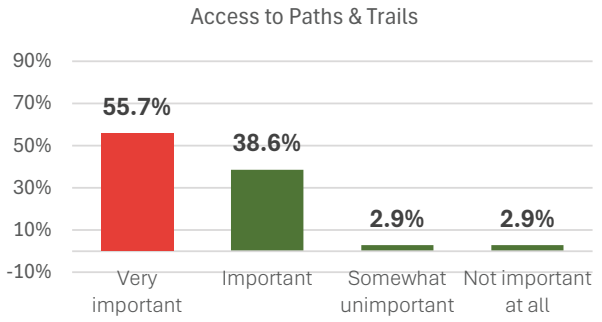
Q4: How important are the following items to you and your family?

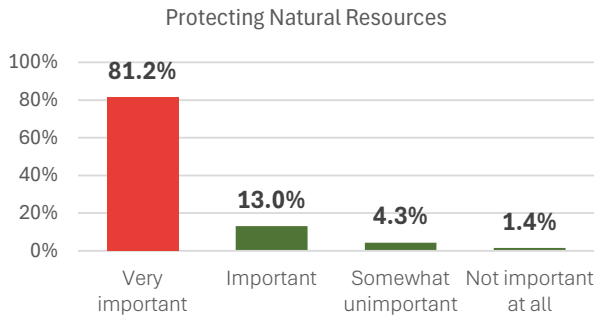
Response	Very important		Important		Somewhat important		Not important		Total Responses
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Maintain and develop existing parks	53	73.6%	15	20.8%	4	5.6%	0	0.0%	72
Access to active-use facilities (e.g. soccer, football, baseball, tennis, etc.)	37	52.9%	23	32.9%	9	12.9%	1	1.4%	70
Protecting natural resources	56	81.2%	9	13.0%	3	4.3%	1	1.4%	69
Access to passive-use facilities (e.g. picnic facilities, playgrounds)	41	57.8%	25	35.2%	3	4.2%	2	2.8%	71
Access to paths and trails	39	55.7%	27	38.6%	2	2.9%	2	2.9%	70
Access to recreation programming and events (e.g. special events, classes, sports leagues, etc.)	47	66.2%	16	22.5%	5	7.0%	3	4.2%	71

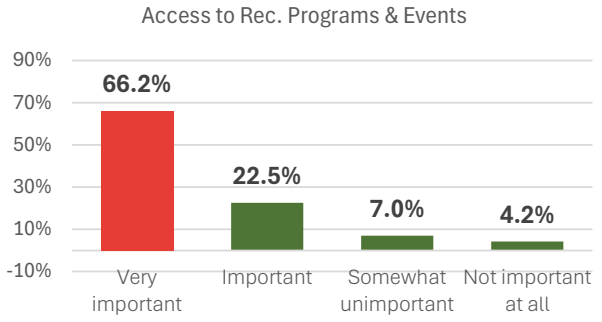






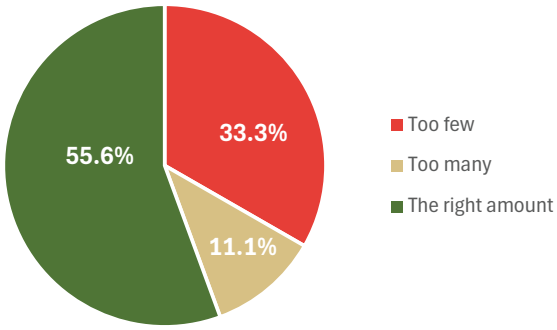






Q5: The City of Melvindale operates eleven recreation properties. Does Melvindale have too few, too many, or the right amount of parks?

Response	Count	Percent
Too few	24	15.8%
Too many	8	8.7%
The right amount	40	75.5%
Total Responses	**198**	

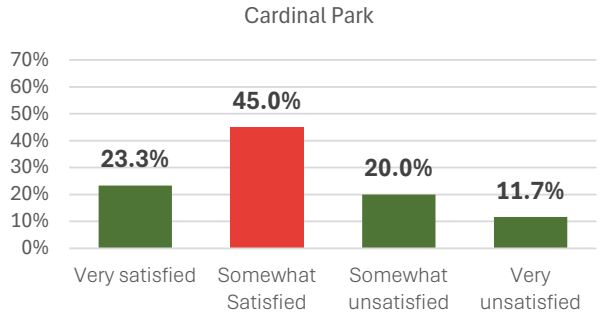


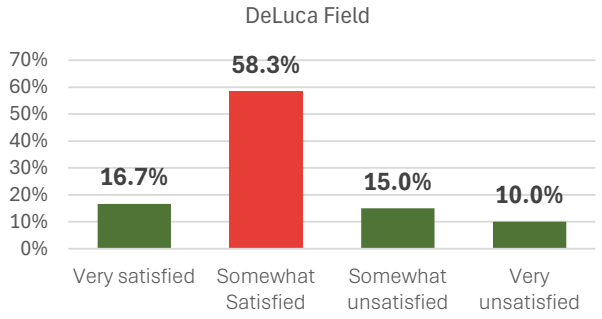
Q6: How satisfied are you with Melvindale's parks and recreation facilities?

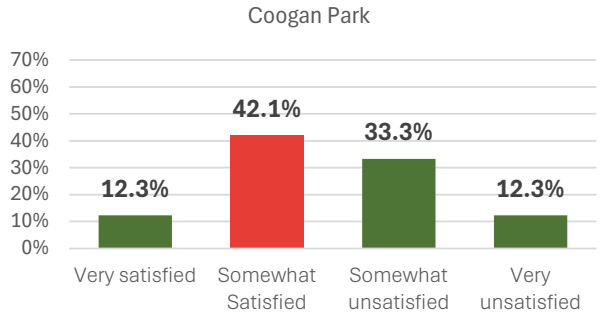
ALL RESPONSES	Very Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Somewhat Unsatisfied		Very Unsatisfied		Don't know / haven't visited		Total Responses
Response	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Cardinal Park	14	20.0%	27	38.6%	12	17.1%	7	10.0%	10	14.3%	70
Coogan Park	7	10.0%	24	34.3%	19	27.1%	7	10.0%	13	18.6%	70
DeLuca Field	10	14.5%	35	50.7%	9	13.0%	6	8.7%	9	13.0%	69
Art Fontana Tot Lot	5	7.3%	16	23.5%	10	14.7%	3	4.4%	34	50.0%	68
John K. Kessey Fieldhouse	10	14.5%	17	24.6%	17	24.6%	17	24.6%	8	11.6%	69
Kiwanis Reading Park	9	13.8%	23	35.4%	12	18.5%	5	7.7%	16	24.6%	65
Lankford Park	7	10.6%	28	42.4%	10	15.2%	6	9.1%	15	22.7%	66
McGinty Park	5	7.6%	23	34.9%	13	19.7%	9	13.6%	16	24.2%	66
Melvindale Pool & Skate Park	8	11.8%	18	26.5%	14	20.6%	16	23.5%	12	17.6%	68
Melvindale Senior Center	7	10.8%	13	20.0%	5	7.7%	4	6.2%	36	55.4%	65
Plonka Town Tot Lot	6	8.8%	13	19.1%	6	8.8%	3	4.4%	40	58.8%	68

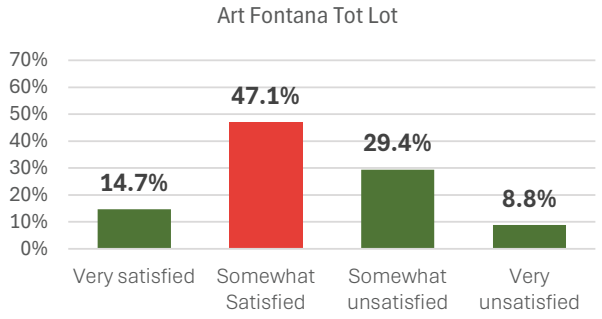
Q6: How satisfied are you with Melvindale's parks and recreation facilities? (continued)

AMONG PARK VISITORS ONLY	Very Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Somewhat Unsatisfied		Very Unsatisfied		Total Responses
Response	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Cardinal Park	14	23.3%	27	45.0%	12	20.0%	7	11.7%	60
Coogan Park	7	12.3%	24	42.1%	19	33.3%	7	12.3%	57
DeLuca Field	10	16.7%	35	58.3%	9	15.0%	6	10.0%	60
Art Fontana Tot Lot	5	14.7%	16	47.1%	10	29.4%	3	8.8%	34
John K. Kessey Fieldhouse	10	16.4%	17	27.9%	17	27.9%	17	27.9%	61
Kiwanis Reading Park	9	18.4%	23	46.9%	12	24.5%	5	10.2%	49
Lankford Park	7	13.7%	28	54.9%	10	19.6%	6	11.8%	51
McGinty Park	5	10.0%	23	46.0%	13	26.0%	9	18.0%	50
Melvindale Pool & Skate Park	8	14.3%	18	32.1%	14	25.0%	16	28.6%	56
Melvindale Senior Center	7	24.1%	13	44.8%	5	17.2%	4	13.8%	29
Plonka Town Tot Lot	6	21.4%	13	46.4%	6	21.4%	3	10.7%	28



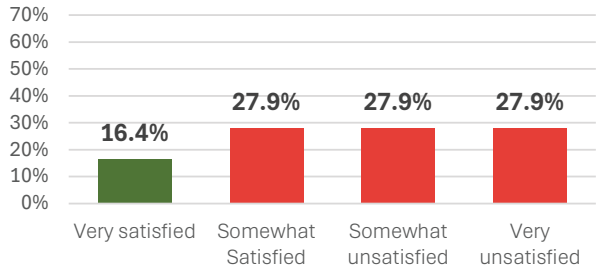




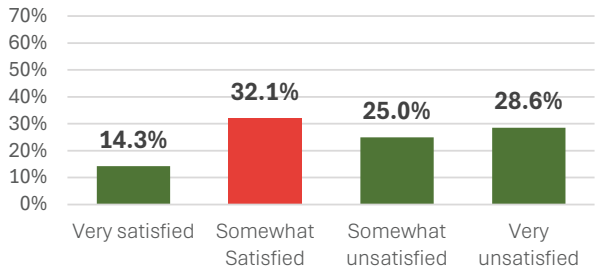


Q6: How satisfied are you with Melvindale's parks and recreation facilities? (continued)

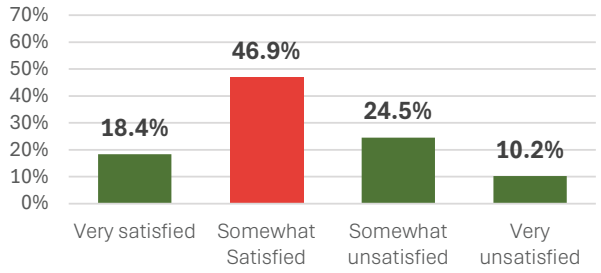
John K. Kessey Fieldhouse



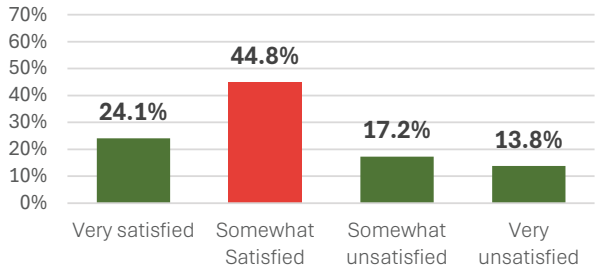
Melvindale Pool & Skate Park



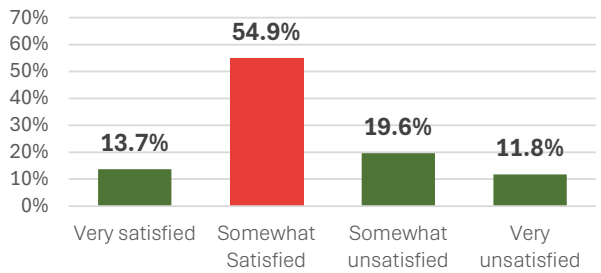
Kiwanis Reading Park



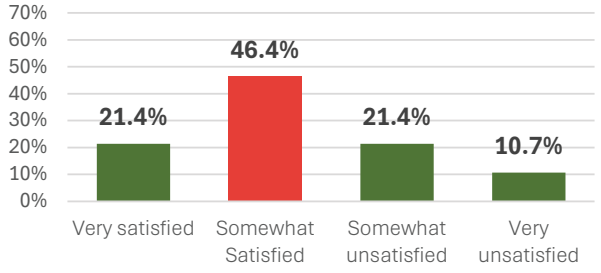
Melvindale Senior Center



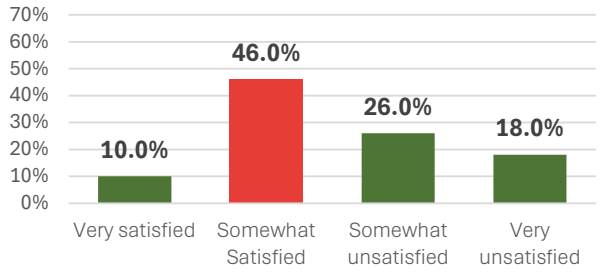
Lankford Park



Plonka Town Tot Lot



McGinty Park



Q7: If you were unsatisfied with any of Melvindale's recreation properties, please tell us why and what we can do to improve.

Topics with three or more mentions	Approximate Count	Specific Issues
Maintenance, cleanliness, and litter	24	Trash, litter, grass cutting, dirty parks, vandalism, poor upkeep, dog waste, general maintenance
Upgrade or replace playground equipment / add more play opportunities	12	Outdated playgrounds, additional play structures, climbing equipment, larger play areas
General park renovations / modernization	11	Parks need updating, complete makeovers, beautification, underdeveloped parks
Need more recreation programs and activities	8	After-school programs, youth activities, adult activities, organized programming, dance, basketball, swimming
Fieldhouse improvements and better operation	7	Facility underused, poor management, limited hours, reopening amenities, staffing concerns
Bathrooms (new, renovated, or open more often)	7	Additional restrooms, restroom renovations, facilities remaining locked
Additional park amenities	7	Splash pads, pavilions, picnic tables, benches, workout areas, shade
Need stronger enforcement / user behavior	6	Littering, disrespectful behavior, property damage, enforcement of park rules
More playground capacity / additional playgrounds	5	More equipment, additional children's play areas, parks too small for neighborhood demand
Safety and security	5	Children running toward streets, police patrols, safer walking paths, vandalism concerns
Pool / aquatic facilities	5	Reopen pool, splash pads, pool cost concerns, aquatics programming
Accessibility / inclusive facilities	3	Accessible playgrounds, inclusive parks, accessibility improvements
Trees, shade, and landscaping	3	More trees, shade, beautification
Sports facilities	3	Soccer fields, basketball court replacement, ice arena
Affordability / resident costs	3	Low-cost activities, resident discounts, pool pricing
Funding / financial concerns	3	Fieldhouse costs, use of Water Department funds, concerns about maintaining the pool

Verbatim responses [translations in brackets]:

- Both places need updating!
- Clean the parks more often, upgrade the parks to add more fun activities for kids maybe make a climbing structure for the children
- Coogan park always has litter and looks unkempt. Also please provide a fence many times younger children run towards to the street
- Cut the grass more often
- Dirty, grass high, missing parts. Nothing to offer kids outside the playground
- Garbage and vandalism.
- Garbage thrown all over the park people need to use trash cans or take their trash home
- Having to use water department money to pay for them

Q7: If you were unsatisfied with any of Melvindale's recreation properties, please tell us why and what we can do to improve. (continued)

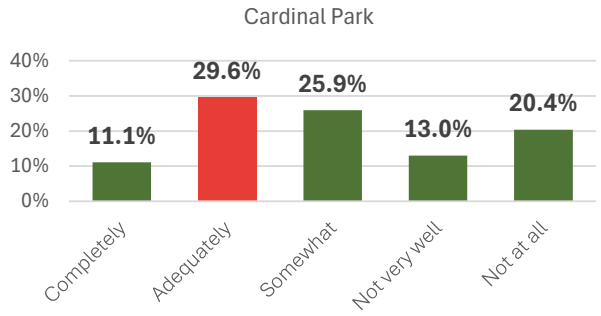
- En el Kesey field hace falta mas Eventos para los hijos después de clases ,para no llevarlos a otros lugares con detroit o Allen park ,clases balet,natacion,football,soccer,clases patinaje el centro esta sin uso solo. (The Kessey Fieldhouse needs more after-school programs and activities for children so families don't have to travel to Detroit or Allen Park. Offer programs such as ballet, swimming, football/soccer, soccer, and skating. The facility is currently underutilized.
- I feel you need better play scapes. Cleansing is an issue. I am not sure how you reach certain demographics that may not be online. Maybe letters need to go home and all languages with kids from school. Maybe having their parents sign it. Just saying that they speak to their children about picking u
- I miss the fieldhouse having an ice arena.
- I'm not dissatisfied with the committee. I'm unhappy with the way certain groups act at these parks. They're disrespectful and dirty. They trash anyplace they are.
- Improve litter collection.!!More trees. The litter is awful
- Inaccessibility, dirty, limited shade and picnic area,
- John Kessey Fieldhouse has seen better days. I would love to see it open year round. Utilized to it's full potential like it used to be. It is extremely run down for a facility that received a couple million dollar grant a few years ago. Workers are great, they need to have a great space to offer.
- Keep grass cut trash picked up.
- Landlord park has old equipment and is a very large area to add something like a splash pad or a new pavilion with tables.
- Lankford Park needs a complete makeover. The playground is outdated and no longer exciting for kids. The bathrooms are rarely open, making it difficult for families to stay. The basketball court needs to be replaced, and adding a splash pad would give children a fun place to enjoy during the summer.
- Le falta tener baños públicos y parques de agua para los niños en tiempo de calor, también decirles a las personas que mantengan limpias las área ya que tiran la basura en el sueño (niños árabes) [The parks need public restrooms and splash pads (water play areas) for children during hot weather. People should also be encouraged to keep the parks clean because they throw trash on the ground (Arab children).]
- Make visitors to the parks clean up their messes and quit throwing trash down on the ground
- More activities for children and for adults.
- More activities that are low cost to residents
- Most of our parks are not maintained and very dirty. Some of the playground equipment is in bad shape.
- Need more indoor activities like basketball, swimming, dance studio, after school programs.
- Need to renovate the bathrooms.
- No place to park and not enough play equipment
- Not cleaned mostly and broken equipment
- Old, no improvement, no splash, and very small Limited area
- Reading park needs an upgrade, last I was there there was tons of trash and decaying gazebo, would like to see more soccer spaces since it's a big interest in the community, would love a splash pad
- Safer walking paths for seniors
- Some need bathroom facilities. Others need updated equipment and play areas. Some need more cleaning and dog waste stations. Also some could use additional benches for seating.
- Stop putting bells please. They hit them all day and while fun, I'm sure, people who live near by get tired of hearing it
- Street parking.
- The amenities are too few. Unavoidable bathrooms, picnic tables, benches. Pool is too expensive to swim in. A free splash pad would be amazing.
- The bathrooms at deluca are horrible!!!! McGinty doesn't have bathrooms at all!
- The features of the John K. Kessey Fieldhouse are unknown to me because the City doesn't promote it well. I also think the potential uses, maintenance, and accessibility of the Fieldhouse grounds are underwhelming.
- The fieldhouse is horrible, the employees don't do anything but play on there phones. Rarely open, can only pay cash to book. Get new staff. The pool is not open, why? Hire competent people.
- The only decent park is ONeil park across from the police station.
- The spaces are big and underdeveloped in several areas. There's room for much more playground equipment and maybe even a workout area, they are not well kept at all. More enforcement from city workers and officials as far as littering and destruction of property.

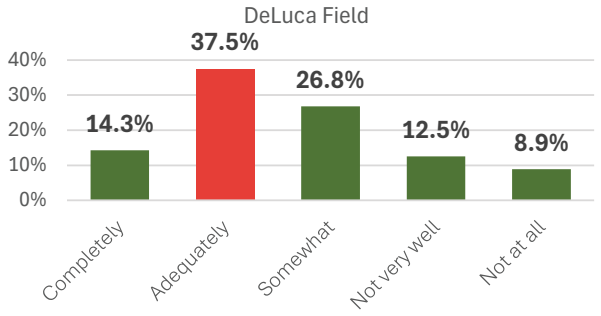
Q7: If you were unsatisfied with any of Melvindale's recreation properties, please tell us why and what we can do to improve. (continued)

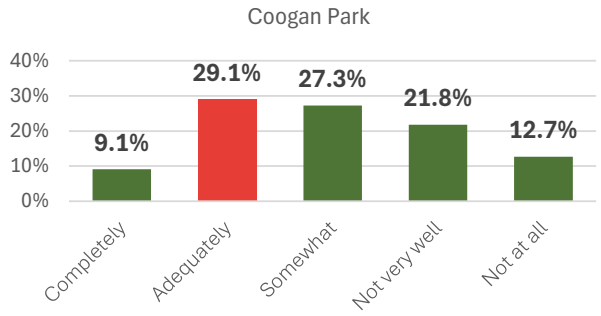
- There is always so much garbage on the ground behind Kessey. They never clean up. The people cutting the grass just run over the garbage. It's disgusting. I walk my husky there every day - the cops know me. That area is gross and you should be ashamed of the person in charge of that craphole. Awful.
- There needs to be organized activities in our parks
- They need to be maintained, cleaned , the field house is a money pit, it needs to be ran by a professional organization, it has never operated at its full potential
- Trash being throw, adults that allow their children to destroy the property, the police department should be rounding at these parks after 5pm. The kids are rude, disrespectful and the parents do nothing. Unless you are of a certain decent you are unable to use the parks in the city.
- upkeep
- Upkeep on grass , garbage, overall cleanliness/ more playground equipment needed
- We are a very poor city . I would like to rent some of the facilities. There are no discounts on anything being a Melvindale reside
- We have a lot of families around art fontana play ground and each family has at least 3 children it not enough for them to have access to one slide and structure of the playground is very old. We have to travel to a different city to have access to better parks. We need improvements in our site .
- We'd like more all-inclusive and accessible parks/ playgrounds, access to nature paths/trails, aquatics activities, overall a more beautified city (like Allen Park and West Dearborn). A farmer's market would be nice as well.
- Why do we have a pool? Does a corporation fund it? If not, get rid of that money pit!!
- البرك الملعب [The ponds and the playground]
- وسائل ترفيه محدودة جدا مقارنة بوسائل الترفيه الموجودة في المدن المجاورة والاهتمام ببعضها قليل جدا [Recreational amenities are very limited compared with those available in neighboring cities, and the existing facilities receive very little attention and maintenance.]
- يجب تحسين وضع الحدئق وتحسينه بشكل افضل واحدث ويجب تتطويرها وزياده اماكن العاب الاطفال وتحسين مظهرها والاهتمام فيها بشكل جيدا [The parks need to be improved and modernized. They should be further developed by adding more children's playgrounds, enhancing their appearance, and providing better maintenance and care.]

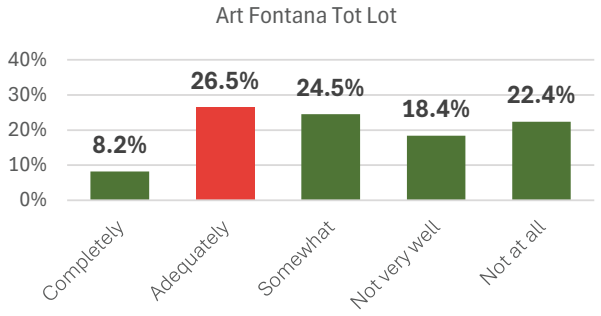
Q8: How well do Melvindale's parks and recreation faclities meet your family's needs?

Response	Completely		Adequately		Somewhat		Not very well		Not at all		Total Responses
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Cardinal Park	14	20.0%	27	38.6%	12	17.1%	7	10.0%	10	14.3%	70
Coogan Park	7	10.0%	24	34.3%	19	27.1%	7	10.0%	13	18.6%	70
DeLuca Field	10	14.5%	35	50.7%	9	13.0%	6	8.7%	9	13.0%	69
Art Fontana Tot Lot	5	7.3%	16	23.5%	10	14.7%	3	4.4%	34	50.0%	68
John K. Kessey Fieldhouse	10	14.5%	17	24.6%	17	24.6%	17	24.6%	8	11.6%	69
Kiwanis Reading Park	9	13.8%	23	35.4%	12	18.5%	5	7.7%	16	24.6%	65
Lankford Park	7	10.6%	28	42.4%	10	15.2%	6	9.1%	15	22.7%	66
McGinty Park	5	7.6%	23	34.9%	13	19.7%	9	13.6%	16	24.2%	66
Melvindale Pool & Skate Park	8	11.8%	18	26.5%	14	20.6%	16	23.5%	12	17.6%	68
Melvindale Senior Center	7	10.8%	13	20.0%	5	7.7%	4	6.2%	36	55.4%	65
Plonka Town Tot Lot	6	8.8%	13	19.1%	6	8.8%	3	4.4%	40	58.8%	68

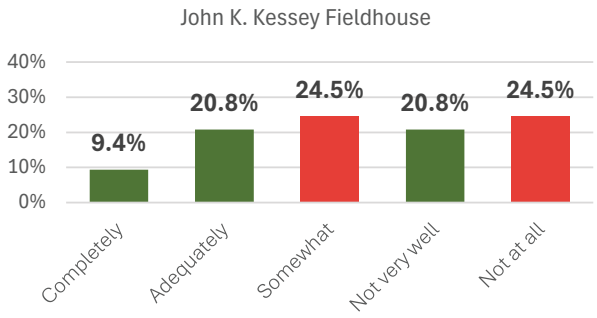


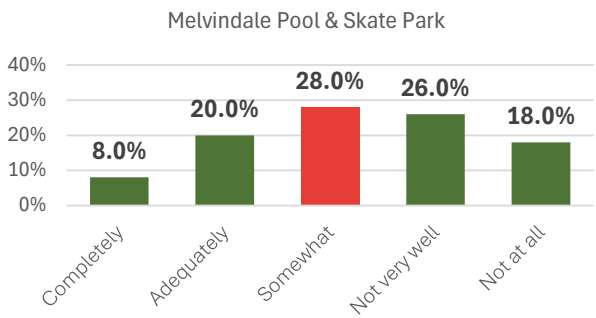


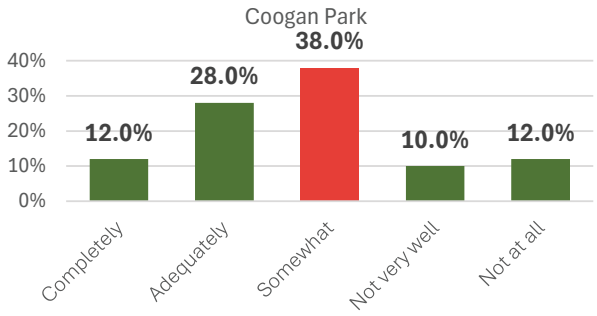


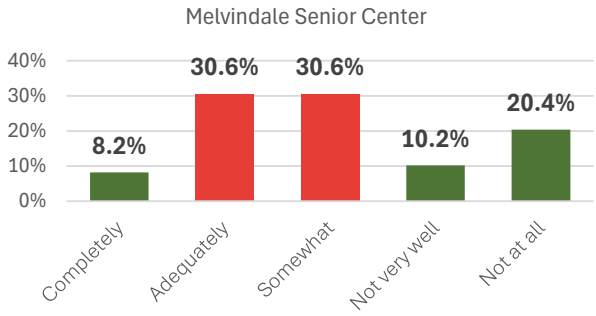


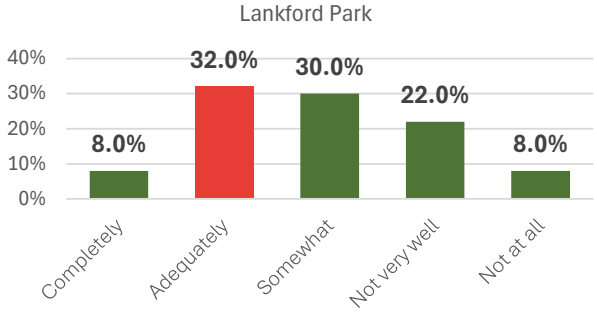
Q8: How well do Melvindale's parks and recreation faclities meet your family's needs? (continued)

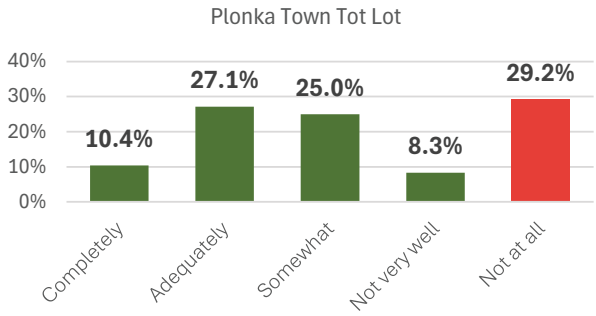


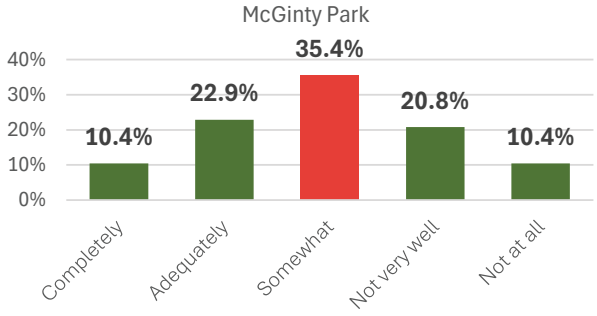












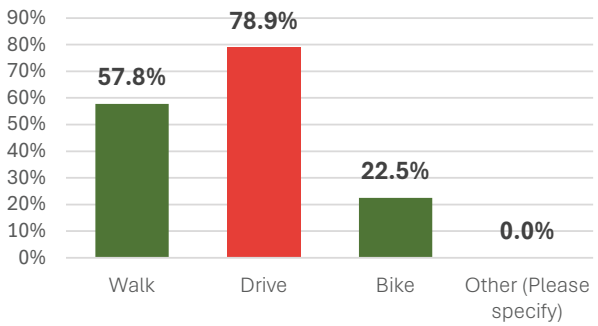
Q9: In the past year, how many times have you visited Melvindale's recreation facilities?

ALL RESPONSES	Daily		At least once/ week		At least once/ month		1 to 2 times per year		I do not visit this park		Total Resp.
Response	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Cardinal Park	1	1.9%	3	5.8%	10	19.2%	19	36.5%	19	36.5%	52
Coogan Park	1	1.9%	10	19.2%	5	9.6%	13	25.0%	23	44.2%	52
DeLuca Field	2	3.9%	11	21.1%	12	23.1%	12	23.1%	15	28.9%	52
Art Fontana Tot Lot	0	0.0%	3	6.0%	5	10.0%	6	12.0%	36	72.0%	50
John K. Kessey Fieldhouse	1	1.9%	3	5.6%	7	13.0%	23	42.6%	20	37.0%	54
Kiwanis Reading Park	0	0.0%	2	3.9%	8	15.4%	13	25.0%	29	55.8%	52
Lankford Park	2	3.9%	6	11.8%	6	11.8%	16	31.4%	21	41.2%	51
McGinty Park	2	4.1%	2	4.1%	9	18.4%	10	20.4%	26	53.1%	49
Melvindale Pool & Skate Park	2	3.9%	3	5.8%	2	3.9%	14	26.9%	31	59.6%	52
Melvindale Senior Center	0	0.0%	2	4.0%	2	4.0%	7	14.0%	39	78.0%	50
Plonka Town Tot Lot	0	0.0%	4	7.7%	3	5.8%	4	7.7%	41	78.8%	52

AMONG PARK VISITORS ONLY	Daily		At least once/week		At least once/month		1 to 2 times per year		Total Resp.
Response	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Cardinal Park	1	3.0%	3	9.1%	10	30.3%	19	57.6%	33
Coogan Park	1	3.4%	10	34.5%	5	17.2%	13	44.8%	29
DeLuca Field	2	5.4%	11	29.7%	12	32.4%	12	32.4%	37
Art Fontana Tot Lot	0	0.0%	3	21.4%	5	35.7%	6	42.9%	14
John K. Kessey Fieldhouse	1	2.9%	3	8.8%	7	20.6%	23	67.6%	34
Kiwanis Reading Park	0	0.0%	2	8.7%	8	34.8%	13	56.5%	23
Lankford Park	2	6.7%	6	20.0%	6	20.0%	16	53.3%	30
McGinty Park	2	8.7%	2	8.7%	9	39.1%	10	43.5%	23
Melvindale Pool & Skate Park	2	9.5%	3	14.3%	2	9.5%	14	66.7%	21
Melvindale Senior Center	0	0.0%	2	18.2%	2	18.2%	7	63.6%	11
Plonka Town Tot Lot	0	0.0%	4	36.4%	3	27.3%	4	36.4%	11

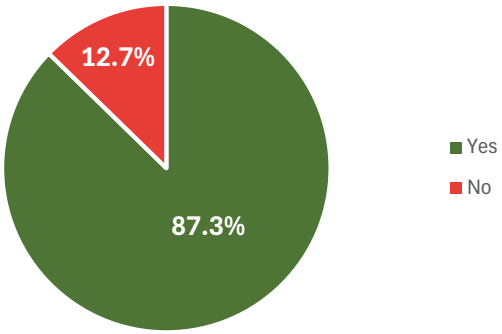
Q10: How do you typically travel to Melvindale's recreation facilities?

Response	Count	Percent
Walk	41	57.8%
Drive	56	78.9%
Bike	16	22.50%
Other (Please specify)	0	0.0%
Total Unique Responses	**71**	
Total Responses	**113**	



Q11: Do you and your family visit parks in neighboring communities or county or state parks?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	161	82.6%
No	34	17.4%
Total Responses	**195**	



Q12: If yes, which facilities do you visit and what do you like or dislike about them?

Verbatim responses [translations in brackets]:

- Allen park and Dearborn have large beautiful parks and splash pads.
- Allen Park local parks, Belanger Park River Rouge), Dingell Park and Pepper Park (Ecorse), Bishop Park (Wyandotte), Elizabeth Park (Trenton), several nearby Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Sterling State Park
- Allen park parks, Southgate parks, and state parks. I enjoy the upgraded parks and cleanliness of the parks
- Any metropark
- Barney Park in AP which has more available for younger kids
- Better amenities, cleaned and maintained, more walkqing paths
- Bishop park, Elizabeth park - paths for walking
- Clark park, Hines parks, and Detroit riverfront parks. They all have splash pad or multiple playscapes with plenty of room for kids to playe even when crowded. They have more types of equipment and open space for picnicking and reading

Topics with three or more mentions	Approximate Count	Specific Issues
Cleanliness and maintenance	15	Clean parks, well-maintained facilities, regular mowing, litter-free environments
Splash pads / water play	10	Splash pads, water play areas, beaches, free splash pads
Walking trails / biking / nature trails	10	Walking paths, biking trails, nature walks, scenic trails
Playgrounds / children's play equipment	9	Larger playgrounds, newer equipment, all-inclusive playgrounds, taller slides
General park amenities	8	Bathrooms, pavilions, picnic tables, seating, concession stands, shelters
Large parks / open space	7	Large parks, open lawns, room to play, scenic spaces
Recreation opportunities / activities	7	Variety of activities, community events, fishing, recreation options
Shade / trees / sitting areas	5	Shade, seating, picnic areas, places to relax
Beautiful scenery / waterfront views	5	Riverfronts, scenic views, natural settings
Fishing / water access	4	Fishing opportunities, waterfront access, riverfronts
Swimming pools	3	Public pools, aquatic facilities
Sports facilities	3	Volleyball, soccer, basketball courts, sports fields
Modern / updated facilities	3	Up-to-date parks, newer playgrounds, renovated facilities
Natural parks / nature experiences	3	Nature parks, natural play, wooded trails

Q12: If you visit neighboring parks, which facilities do you visit and what do you like or dislike about them? (continued)

- Crowley Park for the all-inclusive playground, West Peace Park for the access to paths and community events and businesses, River Rouge for the nature walks etc.
- Crowley Park in Dearborn, Downtown at the river front. Taller slides, lots of things to do to keep kids busy.
- Dearborn
- Dearborn clean
- Dearborn pools and parks has everything, roumulus rec center for its pool and gym
- Dearborn splash pad, Wyandotte very clean and offer activities , LP concerts
- Dearborn. Has many more amenities such as bathrooms and free splash pads. Volleyball and soccer nets.
- Detroit Belle Isle
- Downriver parks
- Elisabeth park the water and the petting zoo
- Heritage park, bishop park, belle isle. They are clean, have ample awarding, have nice trails with views and scenery.
- Heritage, cleanliness , trails, ample variety of recreation activities , splash pad, fishing
- Lower Huron park nice trails and fishing
- Más limpio [Cleaner parks]
- McGinty
- Metro and State parks.. clean
- metro park, bishop park--water access and fishing
- Metro parks lots of activities and they are clean.
- Metro Parks, Parks in AP, Trenton. They are clean, well taken care of and safe
- Metro parks. Love the trails for biking and walking.
- Na
- Naturales parque ninos [Natural parks for children]
- Other downriver parks- very accessible for all ages specially families with disabilities, many activities for different age groups, places to sit and enjoy family time in the shade
- Que hay muchos parques en la cuidad y eso es muy bueno [There are many parks in the city, and that is very good.]
- Sterling, Belle Isle, Woodhaven, like the splash park and beaches
- Taylor heritage park, it has several.activites to do there as well as play areas and pavilions with picnic tables
- Taylor, Detroit and Dearborn. Every thing is different they're up to date . Its 2026, helloo
- They're clean. Yours aren't. Your people in charge don't seem to care about the outside condition of their facility.
- Trails, recreational activities
- We go elsewhere quite often. They're cleaner. I pay for recreation passes knowing the areas we visit are maintained. There are also concession stands. We use the local parks as a last resort.
- We go to Wyandotte Bishop park often. It is a beautiful view to just sit by the water and relax.
- We often visit parks in Woodhaven , Dearborn, and other nearby communities. We like that they have newer playgrounds, cleaner parks, open bathrooms, splash pads, walking paths, and better-maintained basketball courts. We would love to see Melvindale offer similar amenities for local families.
- Westland and Garden city. Both have awesome walking paths plenty of trash cans and grass is cut.
- Westland just take a look at them you will understand. We need to get rid of the pool and make a splash pad.
- Yes, sitting areas, sheds, cleanliness . Water play/ splash pad areas
- ازور حدائق ديربورن اسبوعيا وحدائق المدن البعيدة بين حين وآخر [I visit Dearborn's parks every week and parks in other cities from time to time.]
- البركات الكبيره التي فيها مرافق مثل أالعاب االطفال ومنتزهات وماكن للمشي على الغابات والجلوس والملاعب الرياضيه وغيرها [Large parks with amenities such as children's playgrounds, walking trails, seating areas, sports fields, and other recreational facilities.]
- البركات المسابح [Parks with swimming pools.]
- نعم [Yes]

Most frequently mentioned parks/cities (three or more mentions)	Approximate Count
Dearborn	9
Metroparks (Huron-Clinton)	7
Wyandotte / Bishop Park	5
Allen Park	4
Belle Isle	3

Q13: What types of activities do you or your family members participate in? Note that this can include any facility, not just Melvindale's. Choose all that apply.

Response	Count	Percent
Community special events (e.g. Melvindale Days, Trunk or Treat, etc.)	45	63.4%
Aquatics (e.g. swimming, splash pad, water aerobics)	44	62.0%
Walking and or trail sports (e.g. walking, jogging, cycling, rollerblading, etc.)	44	62.0%
Picnicking	41	57.8%
Farmer's market	40	56.3%
Outdoor park activities / Playground	37	52.1%
Field sports (e.g. football, baseball, soccer, etc.)	35	49.3%
Art (e.g. painting, photography, sculpture, etc.)	32	45.1%
Movie nights / Concerts in the park	32	45.1%
Street or casual biking	29	40.9%
Low-impact cardio (e.g. cardio drumming, yoga, etc.)	28	39.4%
Nature activities (e.g. nature walks, bird watching, stargazing, etc.)	28	39.4%
Dog park / Dog walking	27	38.0%
Educational Programming (e.g. skills workshops, nature ID, etc.)	27	38.0%
Canoeing / Kayaking	26	36.6%
Court Sports (e.g. pickleball, basketball, tennis, volleyball, etc.)	26	36.6%
Sledding	24	33.8%
Off-trail / Hiking	21	29.6%
Kite flying	20	28.2%
Community gardening	18	25.4%
Mountain biking	12	16.9%
Senior programs	12	16.9%
Hockey / Figure skating	10	14.1%
Skiing (cross county or alpine)	9	12.7%
Geocacheing	8	11.3%
Disc golf / Frisbee golf	7	9.9%
Skateboarding	7	9.9%
Golf	6	8.4%
None of the above	2	2.8%
Other (Please specify)	4	5.6%
Total Unique Responses	**71**	
Total Responses	**701**	

Other responses:

- Birdwatching, path bicycling
- Dance and theater
- Soccer. Volleyball
- Softball

Q14: Which of the following amenities would you like to see more of or improved in Melvindale's parks?

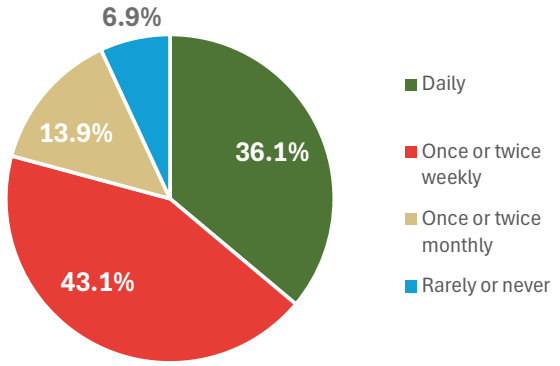
Response	Count	Percent
Bathrooms	47	67.1%
Splash pads	40	57.1%
Multi-use walking / biking paths (i.e. 10 ft wide paved paths)	39	55.7%
Garbage / recycling receptacles	37	52.9%
Fitness / exercise trails	35	50.0%
Landscaping / tree plantings	34	48.6%
Drinking fountains	32	45.7%
Picnic areas / pavilions	32	45.7%
Natural areas	28	40.0%
Community Center	26	37.1%
Playground structures / equipment	26	37.1%
Linear parks / trails	23	32.9%
Pools	23	32.9%
Community / Demonstration Gardens	19	27.1%
Fishing dock	19	27.1%
Sports training center (batting cages, indoor track, etc.)	19	27.1%
Basketball courts	18	25.7%
Bike racks	18	25.7%
Soccer fields	18	25.7%
Pickleball courts	16	22.9%
Sand volleyball courts	15	21.4%
Tennis courts	15	21.4%
Baseball/Softball fields	14	20.0%
Pocket Parks	10	14.3%
Boat ramps	9	12.9%
Disc golf	4	5.7%
Other (Please specify)	3	4.3%
Total Unique Responses	**70**	
Total Responses	**619**	

Other responses:

- It would be great if we could get one of those outdoor exercise stations
- Somewhere to safely ride bikes
- (response left blank)

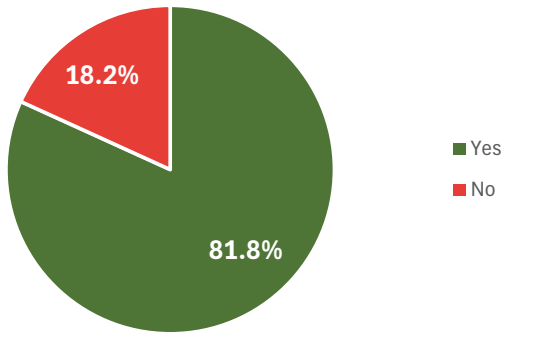
Q15: How frequently do you walk, jog, or cycle for exercise or recreation?

Response	Count	Percent
Daily	26	36.1%
Once or twice weekly	31	43.1%
Once or twice monthly	10	13.9%
Rarely or never	5	6.9%
Total Responses	**72**	



Q16: Should Melvindale work with the Downriver Greenways Initiative to develop an interconnected regional trail network?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	54	81.8%
No	12	18.2%
Total Responses	**66**	



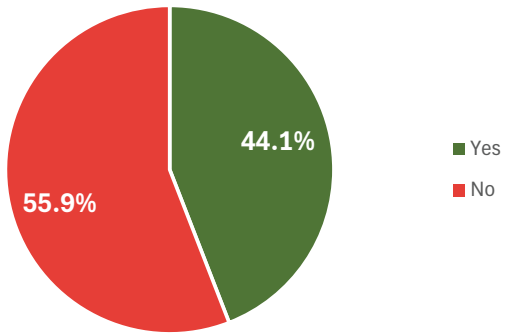
Q17: If yes, are there any routes you would like to see developed?

Verbatim responses:

- All possible routes in Melvindale
- Greenfield and Allen Roads to reach the other Downriver routes
- I would love to see Melvindale and Allen Park connected somehow from their downtown area to ours.
- Im not sure.
- It's for the city engineers to get it out.
- N/A
- not sure
- Possibly trails for kids around the schools
- To Dearborn Allen Park connection
- Wasn't aware Melvindale had bike trails. I don't bike ride in the city because I don't feel it's Safe
- نعم [Yes]

Q18: Do you participate in programs and special events offered in Melvindale? This may include programs offered by leagues or other entities other than Melvindale Parks and Recreation.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	30	44.1%
No	38	55.9%
Total Responses	**68**	



Q19: If yes, which programs or special events do you participate in?

Verbatim responses:

- Baseball
- Baseball and football
- Baseball trunk or treat
- Boxing classes, rec center membership, trunk or treats
- Clean up days
- Farmer markets, concerts in the Parks, art programs, cooking classes, street fairs,
- I never know about them.
- I participate in Truck or Treats, Melvindale Tree Lighting, Melvindale Days, Concerts in the Park, Car show
- Library events
- Library events and demonstrations
- Little League Baseball and Football/Cheer, would do soccer if we saw any info on it, Mel pool but would like family swims that are less crowded and more swim lesson times, tree lighting, safety town
- No tiene programas aqui en melvindale [There are no programs here in Melvindale.]
- None. I was unaware of them.
- Senior programs, special events
- Swimming at Melvindale Pool & Skate Park and Melvindale Days
- T-ball.
- Trunk or treat
- Trunk or Treat, Melvindale Days and Tree Lighting
- التجمعات والمنسبات ومشاهدة كرة القدم والسلة وغيرها من الأنشطة
- Community gatherings, events, watching soccer and basketball, and other activities.
- نعم [Yes]

Q20: How important are the following recreation program offerings to you and your family?

Response	Very important		Important		Somewhat important		Not important		Total Responses
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Youth and Teen sports and fitness	32	51.6%	18	29.0%	5	8.1%	7	11.3%	62
Adult sports and fitness	23	35.4%	34	52.3%	5	7.7%	3	4.6%	65
Senior (50+) programs and trips	18	28.6%	28	44.4%	8	12.7%	9	14.3%	63
Special events and festivals	30	45.5%	22	33.3%	11	16.7%	3	4.5%	66
Summer camps	19	30.2%	14	22.2%	17	27.0%	13	20.6%	63
Skills workshops (e.g. languages, accounting, etc.)	26	44.1%	19	32.2%	9	15.3%	5	8.5%	59
Nature education (e.g. stargazing, bird watching, etc.)	23	38.3%	21	35.0%	12	20.0%	4	6.7%	60
Aquatics (e.g. swim lessons, exercise, etc.)	28	43.8%	21	32.8%	7	10.9%	8	12.5%	64

Q21: Which programs would you like to see offered by the City or one of its recreation partners?

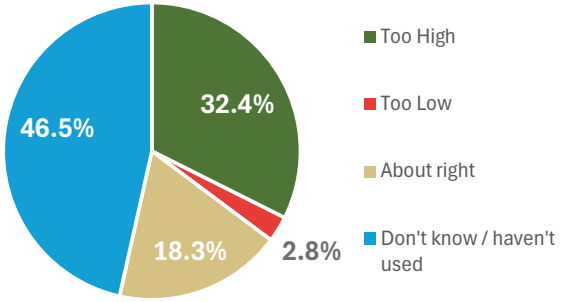
Response	Count	Percent
Adult fitness classes (e.g. dance, walking, cardio, tai chi, yoga, etc.)	46	66.7%
Adult programs	40	58.0%
Family programs	40	58.0%
Art programs	34	49.3%
Swimming	34	49.3%
Teen programs	34	49.3%
Concerts and shows	32	46.4%
Exercise and fitness	32	46.4%
Special events	32	46.4%
After-school programs	29	42.0%
Craft / Cooking classes	29	42.0%
Youth sports - middle school level	29	42.0%
Youth sports - elementary school level	27	39.1%
Youth sports - preschool age	26	37.7%
Safety classes	25	36.2%
Gardening	23	33.3%
Music	22	31.9%
Programs for seniors (50+)	22	31.9%
Therapeutic recreation	22	31.9%
Dance	21	30.4%
Senior lunch/meal programs	21	30.4%
Summer camp	21	30.4%
Yoga	20	29.0%
Preschool programs	19	27.5%
Senior computer classes	19	27.5%
Travel and excursions	19	27.5%
Soccer	18	26.1%
Basketball	17	24.6%
Senior fitness	17	24.6%
Bowling	15	21.7%
Volleyball	15	21.7%
Football	14	20.3%
Karate	14	20.3%
Tennis	14	20.3%
Babysitting	13	18.8%
Baseball	13	18.8%
Language arts	12	17.4%
Pickleball	11	15.9%
Frisbee/Disc golf	4	5.8%
Other (Please specify)	2	2.9%
Total Unique Responses	**69**	
Total Responses	**897**	

Other responses:

- Softball teams

Q22: How do you feel about the fees charged for recreation programming

Response	Count	Percent
Too High	23	32.4%
Too Low	2	2.8%
About right	13	18.3%
Don't know / haven't used	33	46.5%
Total Responses	**71**	

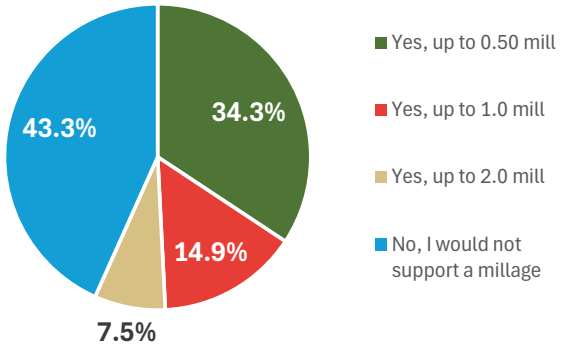


Q23: What times work best for you to participate in recreation programs? Check all that apply.

Response	Count	Percent
Weekdays - daytime year round	26	38.8%
Weekdays - daytime during summer only	13	19.4%
Weekdays - daytime after school	24	35.8%
Weekdays - evenings	36	53.7%
Saturday - daytime	36	53.7%
Saturday - evening	20	29.9%
Sunday - daytime	33	49.3%
Sunday - evening	20	29.9%
None of the above	2	3.0%
Total Unique Responses	**67**	
Total Responses	**210**	

Q24: Maintaining and developing quality parks and recreation facilities requires adequate financing. A millage (or mill rate) is the amount of tax charged per $1,000 of a property's assessed value, so 1.0 mill would equate to $50 annually for a property valued at $50,000, $100 annually for a property valued at $100,000, and so on. Would you support a bond or millage to help with financing Melvindale's parks and recreation?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes, up to 0.50 mill ($50 annually per $100,000 of property value)	23	34.3%
Yes, up to 1.0 mill ($100 annually per $100,000 of property value)	10	14.9%
Yes, up to 2.0 mill ($200 annually per $100,000 of property value)	5	7.5%
No, I would not support an additional millage	29	43.3%
Total Responses	**67**	



Q25: Are there any other recreation-related items you would like to bring to our attention?

Verbatim responses:

- Accessibility
- Add splash pad at a decent rate to attend
- Better landscaping, public art, updated streets, safer parks, and inclusive family-friendly spaces.
- CLEAN UP BEHIND KESSEY
- Communication regarding melvindale events and parks. I have no idea where the parks are or what they
- Do not ruin Lakford park with additional soccer fields.
- Fire who is in charge of pool and fieldhouse.
- Helmet program for kids that ride bikes. Bike safety classes. Advertising events.
- Más deportes en el centro recreatio para ninos de todas las edades y papas n solo en ansianos [More sports programs at the recreation center for children of all ages and for parents, not just for seniors.]
- n/a
- No
- open the pool
- Que la piscina debe tener espacios con sombra no hay sombrillas ni nada que cubra del sol [The pool should have shaded areas. There are no umbrellas or anything else to provide protection from the sun.]
- Soccer nets and volleyball nets would be nice.
- Stop using water department money to pay for parks and buildings in parks.
- There are ton of grants for recreation through the DNR you just have to apply.
- We don’t trust the city
- We need a volleyball set up with sand at one of our parks
- Would love to see a daily camp/activities for the young kids aging from like 6-13. There is so many.
- نعم [Yes]