

Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan



SHAKER HEIGHTS

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Acknowledgments

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The City of Shaker Heights

The City of Shaker Heights is an inner ring suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, located south east of Downtown Cleveland. Shaker Heights, originally called Shaker Village, was incorporated in 1912 and reached city status in 1931.

Shaker Heights was developed as a planned Garden City community, envisioned as a suburban retreat from the industrial city center of Cleveland.

The city was designed leveraging the natural land, topography, and lakes. Areas were designated for residential, commercial, and institutional development surrounding the natural environment, creating the parks and greenspace that exist today.

The Shaker Rapid Transit line opened in 1920, connecting Shaker to Downtown Cleveland, and contributed to the growth and desirability of the suburb.

The strict architectural design and street development guidelines that were in place during the city's inception are reflected in the neighborhoods with historic homes and tree-lined streets that exist today. Seventy five percent of the city is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Shaker Village Historic District.



Background + Process

The City of Shaker Heights engaged with the community to develop a long-term Recreation Strategic Plan that prioritizes improvements to select parks and recreation facilities to provide high-quality amenities for all neighborhoods and residents.

The Recreation Strategic Plan is based on the following Goals:

1. Encourage recreation and development recommendations that correlate and promote prior planning efforts, such as the Forward Together Vision Plan, which stated: "Well-maintained, coordinated buildings and facilities that are adaptable, multi-functional, efficient, and utilized to their full potential."
2. Engage our diverse citizenry of recreation users and non-users to create a strategic, focused, and coordinated plan for the key recreation sites responsive to their existing context, geographic location, and neighborhood needs.
3. Recognize each site and facility's unique potential and programming opportunities.
4. Create a plan that serves the diverse population and its needs.
5. Provide community facilities that have the capability for gathering and bringing people together.

Background

Community engagement and planning efforts, such as the *Lee Road Action Plan*, *Forward Together Vision Plan*, *Community Attitudes Survey*, and other community-wide efforts, such as the Shaker Heights City Schools Facilities Plan, have highlighted opportunities to rethink community recreational and facilities programming and plan for future needs.

Further evaluation and visioning through this Recreation Strategic Plan will focus on key sites including Stephanie Tubbs Jones (STJ) Community Building Quadrant, Chelton Park, Thornton Park, the Middle School, and Hildana Park* which are vital to addressing Shaker Heights' recreation needs and goals.

Importance + Need

Community needs have changed significantly since the schools and recreation buildings were initially built. Responding to current recreational trends and investing in the community's existing and future needs are essential in building valuable spaces for residents and increasing their social and physical well-being.

This plan evaluates each site and facility's unique context, location, challenges and potential opportunities in order to create a vision and plan that serves the diverse population and its needs.

*Hildana Park was added later in the process due to community feedback.

The outcome of this plan is to align future investments in recreation facilities with community needs. This actionable framework will help prioritize the next steps in Future Operational and Implementation Plans.

Process

The Recreation Strategic Plan took place over the course of 12 months. The process was led by the Client Team, consisting of planning consultants and City staff. In addition to the Client Team, the plan was shaped by 12 Stakeholder Groups, an Advisory Group, City Council, and the Shaker Heights Community. The process consisted of four phases:

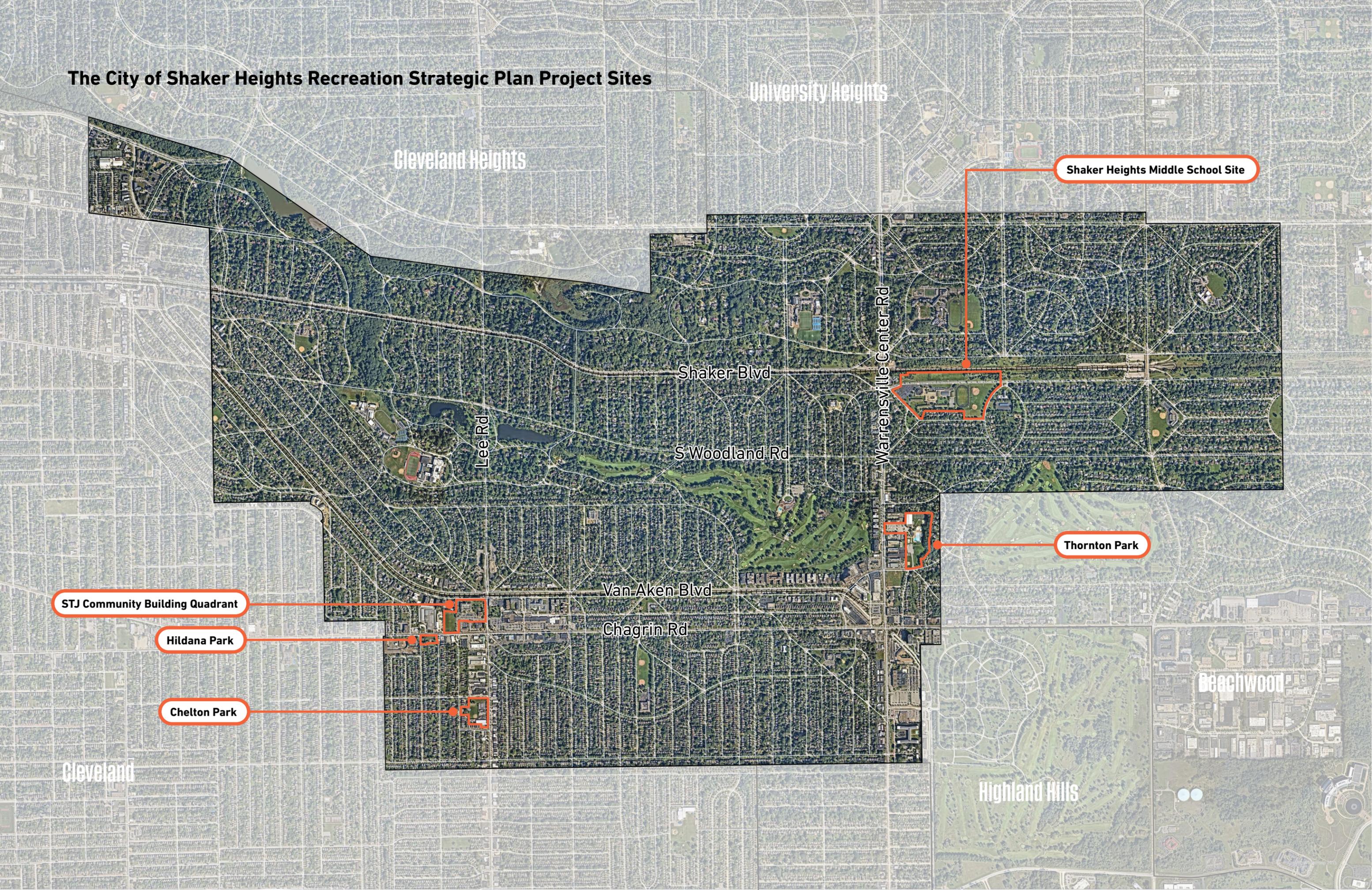
- Project Launch
- Discovery and Analysis
- Community Vision and Strategic Planning
- Plan Creation

The initial phases focused on developing goals, coordinating efforts with the City of Shaker and other partners, and identifying engagement opportunities to gather feedback from the Shaker Heights Community.

Data was collected to create an inventory of the existing recreation sites and an analysis was conducted on local and national recreation trends. Robust stakeholder and community engagement was completed to establish a community vision, goals, and individually tailored concept plans and recommendations for each project site.

Lastly, the findings and recommendations were compiled into a strategy for the five sites to best meet the parks and recreation needs of the community of Shaker Heights.

The City of Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan Project Sites



Cleveland Heights

University Heights

Shaker Heights Middle School Site

Shaker Blvd

Lee Rd

S Woodland Rd

Warrensville Center Rd

Thornton Park

STJ Community Building Quadrant

Van Aken Blvd

Hildana Park

Chagrin Rd

Chelton Park

Beachwood

Cleveland

Highland Hills

Previous Plan Review

This summary recognizes the previous planning efforts that led to the development of the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan.

Previous Planning

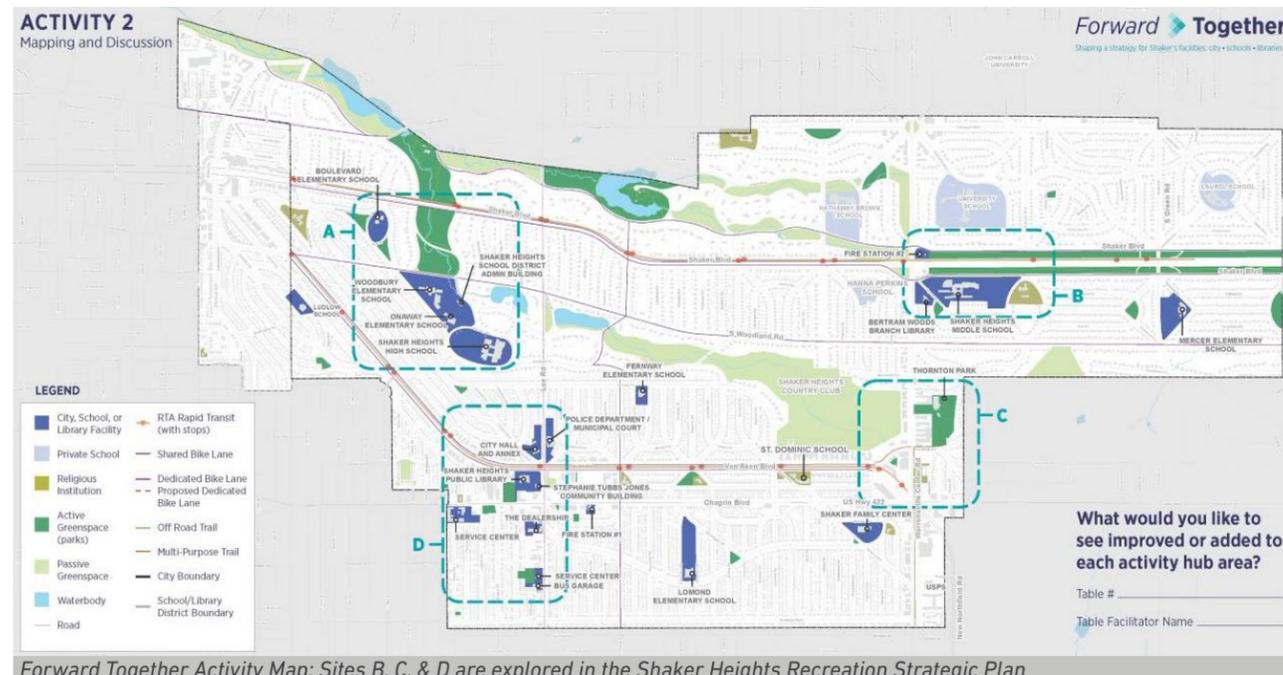
Forward Together Vision Plan
www.forwardtogethershaker.com

In 2019, the City of Shaker Heights partnered with the Shaker Heights Public Library and Shaker Heights School District to form a coalition called *Forward Together*. The partnership aimed to respond to the community's needs, focusing on infrastructure and amenities affecting residents.

The process consisted of a panel discussion, vision workshops, and an open house. 800 people participated and 24,000 pieces of public input were collected.

The plan inventoried the facilities, parks, community spaces, playgrounds, mobility connections, and transit options to shape a shared vision for community facilities.

The *Forward Together Vision Plan* identified ways to re-imagine facilities in Shaker and resulted in 15 key initiatives.



Forward Together Activity Map: Sites B, C, & D are explored in the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan



Lee Road Action Plan: Vision for Chelton Park



Lee Road Action Plan: Vision for STJ Community Building Quadrant

Lee Road Action Plan (2023)
www.shakerheightsoh.gov/lee

The *Lee Road Action Plan* emerged as a recommendation through the *Forward Together Vision Plan* with the intent to re-imagine the STJ Community Building, study the facilities along Lee Road, and improve connectivity between the facilities and neighborhoods. The *Lee Road Action Plan* proposed reinvestments in the Lee Road commercial corridor, south of Van Aken, by improving the roadway and streetscape; making pedestrian connections with attractive, walkable, and bikeable designs; creating economic development opportunities; and implementing land use alternatives and urban design treatments to the public realm.

In the plan recommendations, an expanded Chelton Park was envisioned as part of a Neighborhood Center with a new mixed-use development, improved amenities, performance space, and gathering space.

The plan also recommends building a new indoor recreation and mixed-use center at the Van Aken and Lee intersection on the STJ Community Building Quadrant.

The desired outcomes and community benefits of the *Lee Road Action Plan* were:

- Raising the quality, character, and design of the commercial area to match the level of Shaker's residential neighborhoods
- Creating opportunities for future economic development, including improving the business experience, creating jobs, and increasing the tax base
- Establishing positive perceptions about the commercial district
- Improving automobile travel, bicycle infrastructure, and pedestrian access, safety, and comfort
- Bettering access to and from businesses (defined as access management)
- Renovating the streetscape according to a comprehensive plan

- Connecting to adjacent residential neighborhoods and transit hubs
- Providing opportunities to collaborate with the city of Cleveland where business districts connect

Community Attitude Survey (2023)
www.shakerheightsoh.gov/communitysurvey

The statistically-valid survey of Shaker Heights residents assessed community needs. Livability, City communication, city amenities, and desired improvements were included in the survey.

Outdoor and indoor recreation and related amenities were well-utilized and improvements were desired. Parks (84%), trails (77%), and playgrounds (57%) were the most used amenities. Amenities that respondents would most like added or improved are parks (52%), walking/biking paths (49%), trails (49%), dog parks (40%), and outdoor pool (35%).

Demographics Summary

This summary provides Shaker Heights' population data and quantifies the recreation demand in and around Shaker Heights.

Introduction

The analysis shares the demographic characteristics and population projections to understand who the Recreation Department serves.

Following the demographics analysis, the recreation trends are examined on a national and local level to understand the types of recreation desired by the various demographic groups. Findings from this analysis provide a basis for prioritizing the community need for parks, trails, facilities, and recreation programs.

Overview

Population

The population of Shaker Heights has decreased in the last 3 years (2020-2023). This represents -0.19 annual growth rate compared to the national annual growth rate of +0.61%.

Age

The Shaker Heights' population is mostly middle-aged, with a median age of 42.6 which is older than the U.S. median age of 41.1 years. Shaker Heights is projected to experience a slow aging trend; over the next 15 years, the 55+ population is expected to grow from 35% to 40% of the city's total population. This is largely due to the increased life expectancies and the Baby Boomer generation shifting into the senior age groups.

Race + Ethnicity

Shaker Heights' population is very diverse. The Black or African American category is the largest individual minority group, representing 34% of residents. The 'Asian' and 'Two or More Races' categories make up 7% and 5% of the population respectively. By 2038, Shaker's population is predicted to be further diversified, with White-only population projected to decrease by 8-9%.

Income Characteristics

Shaker Heights residents' per capita income (\$68,056) and median household income (\$95,275) are well above the current State of Ohio statistics (\$37,729 and \$66,990) and the current national averages (\$41,804 and \$74,755).

By 2038, Shaker Heights' per capita income and median household income can be expected to grow to \$97,483 and \$136,903, respectively. Though these increases could be attributed to national inflation, the projections of rising incomes still indicate healthy economic growth.

2023 Demographics at a Glance



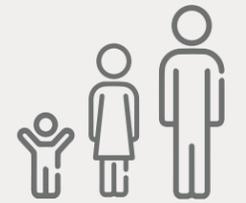
29,270

Total Population



12,444

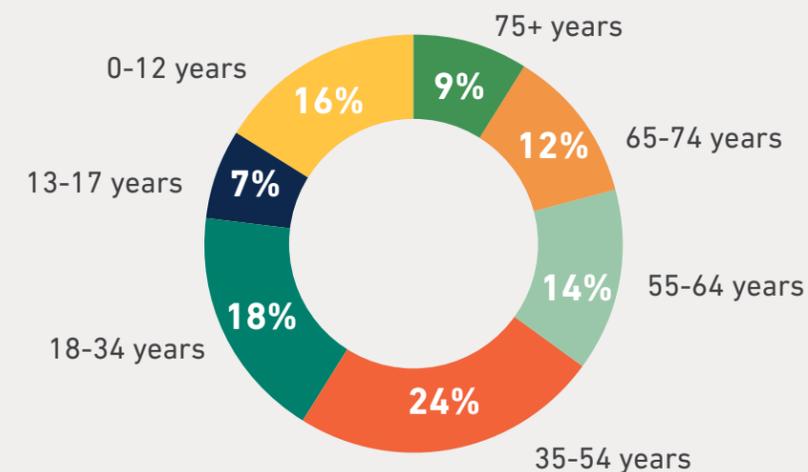
Total Households



42.6 Years

Median Age

Population by Age



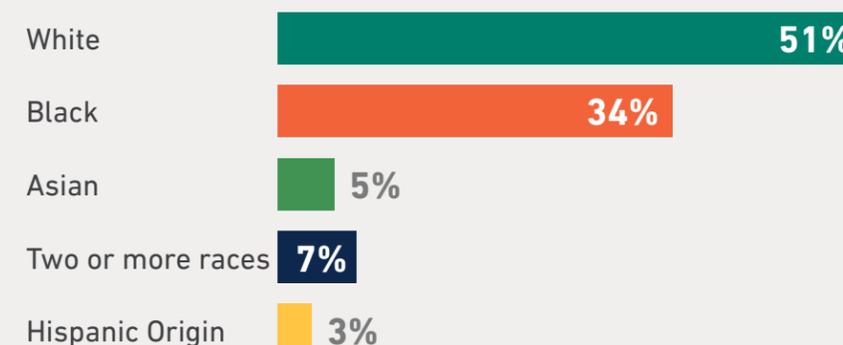
\$95,275

Median Household Income

\$68,056

Per Capita Income

Race and Ethnicity



Recreation Inventory

The recreation inventory includes the existing recreation amenities available to Shaker Heights residents.

An inventory of Shaker Heights' recreation opportunities catalogs existing park, recreation, and school green space locations and amenities at each site. The inventory highlights the different types of parks, ranging from more passive natural environments with trails and benches to more active recreation sites with facilities that can accommodate multiple sports and fitness uses. The recreation was classified as City-controlled or located on school property.

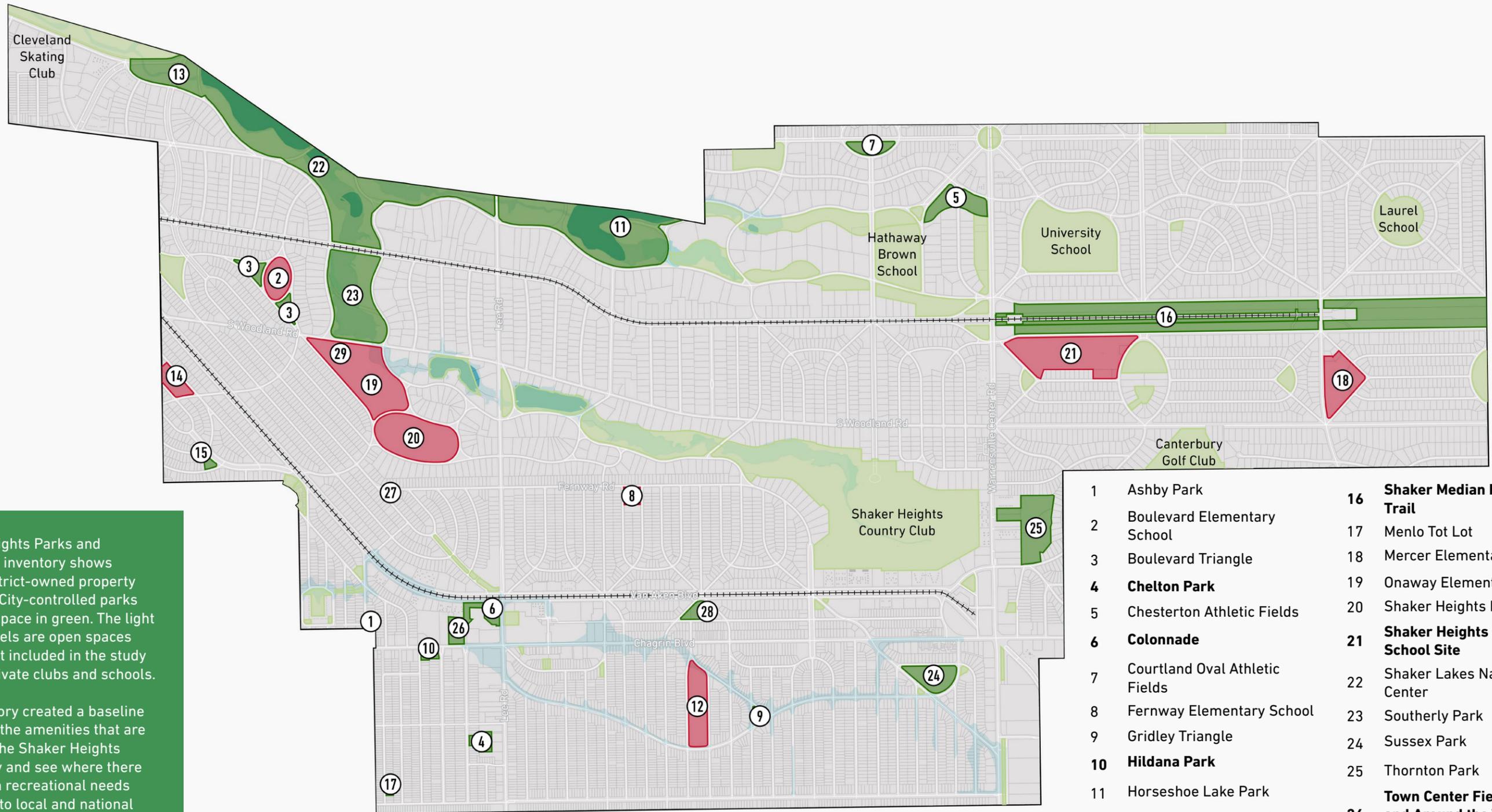
Cataloging the existing recreation helps establish a baseline of information, identify gaps, and note any excess amenities.

Although this plan focuses on five specific sites, the citywide inventory is important to understand citywide amenities as a whole. This includes amenities at neighborhood schools because they may be locations where residents participate in recreation activities like playgrounds or ballfields.



	Baseball/Softball Field	Basketball Court	Batting Cages	Fitness Circuit	Ice Rink	Multi-Purpose Field	Multi-Purpose Turf Field	Open Area	Pavilion	Playground 2-5 y	Playground 5-12 y	Pickleball Court	Sand Volleyball	Skate Park	Sledding Hill	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	Track	Walking/Nature Trail	Picnic/Benches	Gaga Pit	Outdoor Ice Rink	
Public Inventory								1															
Ashby Park								1															
Boulevard Triangle								1															1
Chelton Park	1	U 12				1				1	1												
Chesterton Athletic Fields						1																	
Colonnade								1											1				
Courtland Oval	1					2																	
Gridley Triangle										1	1										X		
Hildana Park																					X		
Horseshoe Lake Park									2	1	1								1	X			
Lower Lake								1											1	X			
Ludlow Triangle								1															1
Shaker Median Field & Trail						1													1				
Menlo Tot Lot										1													
Southerly Park				1				1											1	X			
Sussex Park	1					1				1	1	4					3			X			
Thornton Park		1	1		1			1		1	1		1	1	2	1	5		1	X	1		
Town Center Field and Around the World Playground	1					1				1	1							1					
Warrington Triangle								1												X			1
Winslow Park										1	1									X			
School Inventory																							
Boulevard Elementary School	1					1				1	1												
Ferway Elementary										1	1												
Lomond Elementary School	2		1			1				1	1				1								
Ludlow School	1					1					1												
Mercer Elementary School	2		1			1				1	1												
Onaway Elementary School										1	1												
Shaker Heights High School Fields	2					2	1										9						
Shaker Heights Middle School Lower Fields						1													1				
Shaker Heights Middle School Upper Fields	2					2																	
Woodbury Elementary School	1					2													1				
Total	15	1	3	1	1	18	1	8	2	13	13	4	1	1	3	1	17	3	6	9	1	3	

Shaker Heights Parks and Recreation Inventory

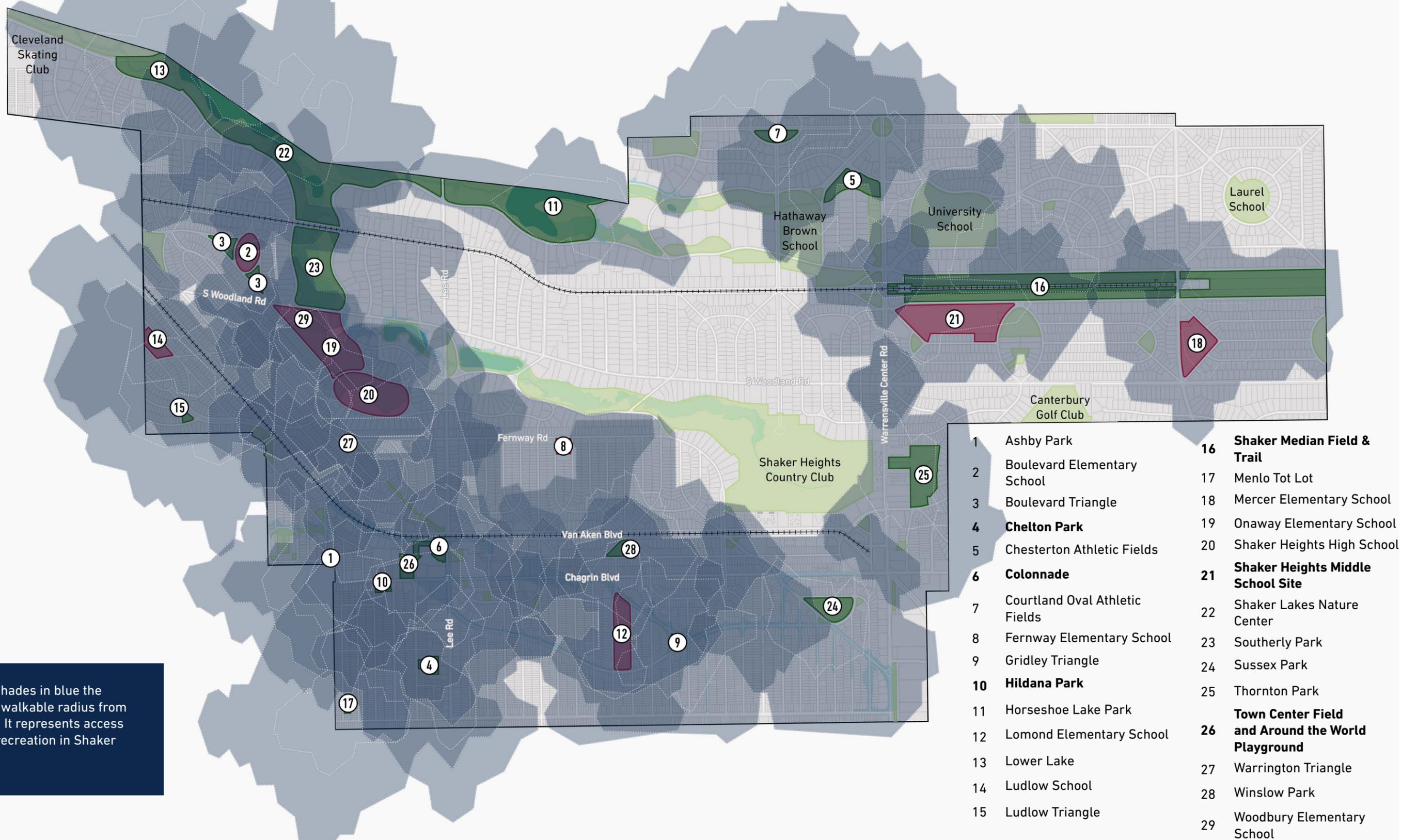


Shaker Heights Parks and Recreation inventory shows School District-owned property in red and City-controlled parks and open space in green. The light green parcels are open spaces that are not included in the study such as private clubs and schools.

The inventory created a baseline to analyze the amenities that are unique to the Shaker Heights community and see where there are gaps in recreational needs in relation to local and national trends.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Ashby Park | 16 Shaker Median Field & Trail |
| 2 Boulevard Elementary School | 17 Menlo Tot Lot |
| 3 Boulevard Triangle | 18 Mercer Elementary School |
| 4 Chelton Park | 19 Onaway Elementary School |
| 5 Chesterton Athletic Fields | 20 Shaker Heights High School |
| 6 Colonnade | 21 Shaker Heights Middle School Site |
| 7 Courtland Oval Athletic Fields | 22 Shaker Lakes Nature Center |
| 8 Fernway Elementary School | 23 Southerly Park |
| 9 Gridley Triangle | 24 Sussex Park |
| 10 Hildana Park | 25 Thornton Park |
| 11 Horseshoe Lake Park | 26 Town Center Field and Around the World Playground |
| 12 Lomond Elementary School | 27 Warrington Triangle |
| 13 Lower Lake | 28 Winslow Park |
| 14 Ludlow School | 29 Woodbury Elementary School |
| 15 Ludlow Triangle | |

Shaker Heights Parks and Recreation Access



This map shades in blue the 10-minute walkable radius from each park. It represents access to nearby recreation in Shaker Heights.

Recreational Participation Trends

The trends analysis is intended to provide an understanding of national, regional, and local recreational trends. This analysis examines participation trends, activity levels, and programming trends.

Introduction

The purpose of this section is to establish levels of activity and identify key participatory trends in recreation across the U.S. from 2017-2022. These findings helped the planning team make recommendations that aligned with national, regional, and local trends as well as the community vision.

This study looked at 120 different sports/activities and subdivided them into various categories including: sports, fitness, outdoor activities, aquatics, etc. The inclusion of these recreation activities into this analysis does not imply that they will be used for Shaker Heights recreation facilities.

While this section focuses on key take-aways from this analysis, the full participatory trends analysis can be reviewed in an appendix to this report.

Methodology

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) *Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report 2023* was utilized in evaluating National Recreation Participatory Trends. The study is based on findings from surveys conducted in 2022 by the Sports Marketing Surveys USA (SMS), resulting in a total of 18,000 online interviews. Surveys were administered to all genders, ages, income levels, regions, and ethnicities to allow for statistical accuracy of the national population.

A sample size of 18,000 completed interviews is considered by SFIA to result in a high degree of statistical accuracy. A recreation activity with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.32 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

Using a weighting technique, survey results are applied to the total U.S. population figure of 305,439,858 people (ages six and older).

National Participation in Programming

Team sports are continuing to recover to pre-pandemic participation levels. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport doubling its participation in 2022. Americans continue to practice yoga, pilates, and other fitness classes and workouts.



National Trends in Outdoor Recreation, General Sports, and Fitness

Results from the SFIA report demonstrate rapid growth in participation in outdoor/adventure recreation activities. Much like general fitness activities, outdoor recreation activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually, and are not as limited by time constraints.

In 2022, walking for fitness was the most popular fitness activity with 114,559 million participants. Road bicycling (43.6 million) was next, followed by yoga (33.6 million participants). In the general sports category, basketball (28 million), tennis (23.5 million), and outdoor soccer (13 million) were most popular.

Five Year Trend

In the five year trend, pickleball, tennis, and trail running have the top three highest participation increases, while softball, lacrosse, track & field, and ice hockey have 10-17% decreases in participation.

One Year Trend

Pickleball has seen the highest increase in participation (85.7%) while yoga and ice hockey have seen small decreases in the one year trend for general sports.

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor Recreation + General Sports and Fitness					
Activity	Participation Levels (in millions)			% Change	
	2017	2021	2022	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Basketball	23,401	27,135	28,149	20.3%	3.7%
Bicycling (Road - Outdoor)	38,866	42,775	43,554	12.1%	1.8%
Tennis	17,683	22,617	23,595	33.4%	4.3%
Baseball	15,642	15,587	15,478	-1.0%	-0.7%
Soccer (Outdoor)	11,924	12,556	13,018	9.2%	3.7%
Pickleball	3,132	4,970	8,949	185.7%	85.7%
Soccer (Indoor)	5,399	5,408	5,495	1.8%	1.6%
Volleyball (Court)	6,317	5,849	6,092	-3.6%	4.2%
Football (Tackle)	5,224	5,228	5,436	4.1%	4.0%
Skateboarding	6,382	8,747	9,019	41.3%	3.1%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	7,283	6,008	6,036	-17.1%	0.5%
Track & Field	4,161	3,587	3,690	-11.3%	2.9%
Ice Hockey	2,544	2,306	2,278	-10.5%	-1.2%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,309	2,088	2,146	-7.1%	2.8%
Lacrosse	2,171	1,892	1,875	-13.6%	-0.9%
Walking for Fitness	110,805	115,814	114,559	3.6%	-0.9%
Yoga	27,354	34,347	33,636	23.0%	-2.1%
Pilates	9,047	9,745	10,311	14.0%	5.8%
Trail Running	9,149	12,520	13,253	44.9%	5.9%

Large Increase
(Greater than 25%)

Moderate Increase
(0% to 25%)

Moderate Decrease
(0% to -25%)

Large Decrease
(Less than -25%)

Source: The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report 2023

Regional Sports and Leisure Market Potential

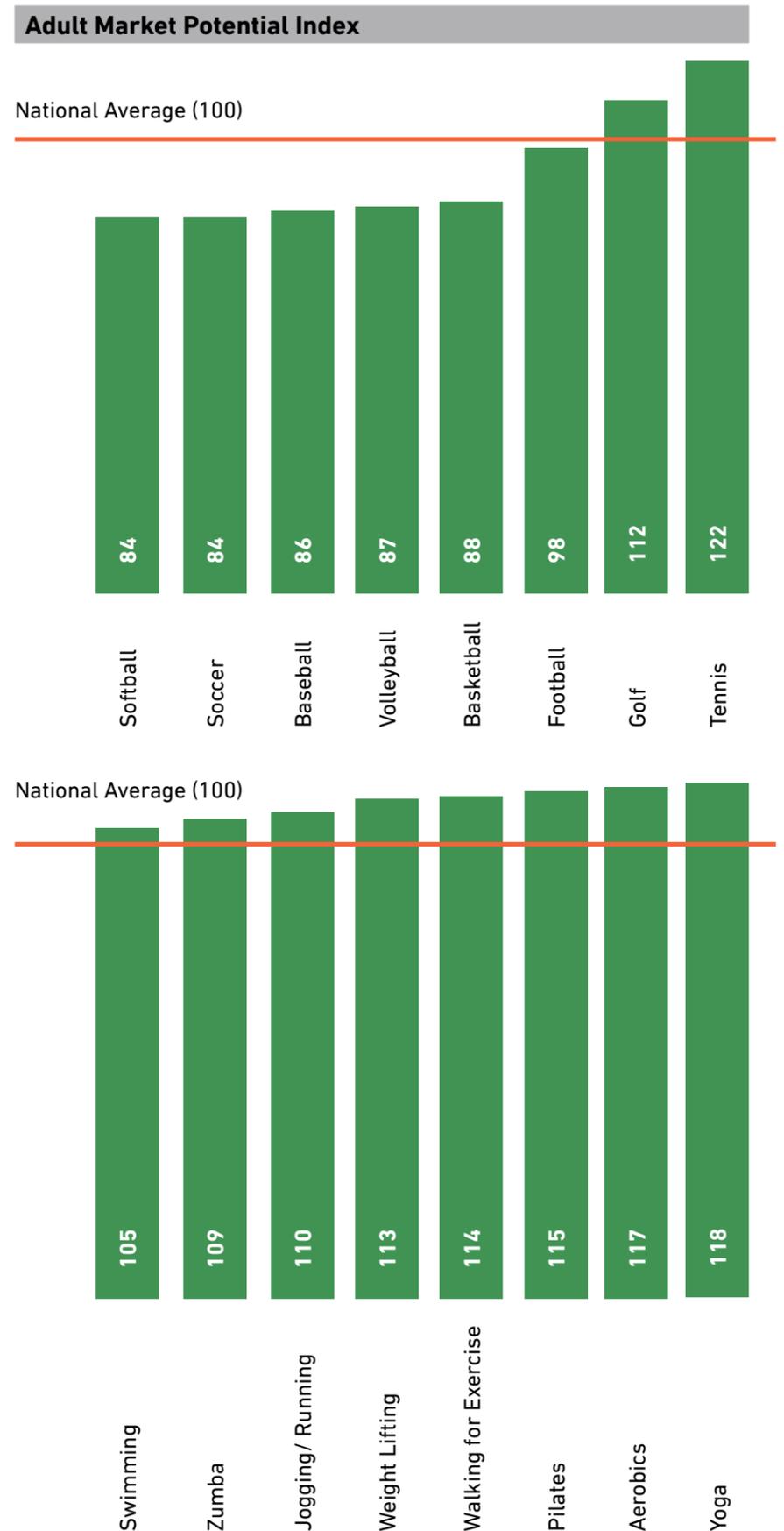
Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the probable demand for a product or service within the defined service areas. The MPI shows the likelihood that an adult resident will participate in certain activities when compared to the U.S. national average. The national average is 100; therefore, numbers below 100 would represent lower than average participation rates, and numbers above 100 would represent higher than average participation rates. The service areas are compared to the national average in four (4) categories –General Sport, Fitness, Outdoor Activity, and Commercial Recreation.

MPI scores are a tool that can be used for consideration when starting new programs or developing new facilities and amenities. The market potential gives staff a starting point for estimating resident attendance and participation in a broad set of recreational activities.

The General Sports MPI shows Shaker Heights is above the national average for tennis and golf while the remaining sports scored below the national average.

MPI scores for the Fitness Activity category reveals that all of the Shaker Heights' fitness activities were above the national average. Yoga scored the highest at 118, though Aerobics (117), Pilates (115), Walking for Exercise (114), and Weightlifting (113) also scored relatively well. The lowest scoring activity was Swimming (105), which still scored above the national average.

Source: The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report 2023



Benchmark Analysis

The benchmark analysis is used to identify areas where comparable communities excel and provide opportunities to apply the factors of their success in Shaker Heights.

Methodology

The Shaker Heights Recreation Department identified operating metrics to benchmark against comparable parks and recreation communities. The goal of the analysis is to evaluate how Shaker Heights is positioned amongst peer best-practice communities. The information sought was a combination of operating metrics that factor budgets, staffing levels, programming, and inventories. The benchmark communities include:

- Cleveland Heights, Ohio
- Kirkwood, Missouri
- Lakewood, Ohio
- Mason, Ohio
- Oak Park, Illinois
- Oak Park, Michigan
- Reynoldsburg, Ohio

The communities were selected for benchmarking because they were communities of similar size, in the Midwest, located outside of major metro areas, and may have had similar socioeconomic characteristics as that of Shaker Heights.

Information used in this analysis was obtained directly from each participating benchmark agency (when available) and information available through the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park Metrics Database.

Examining the areas of greatest contrast, especially as it pertains to programs and services, is where this benchmark is ultimately most meaningful.

From this data, Shaker Heights can see how it compares to similar communities' parks and recreation departments.

It is important to note the following results are based on and only as good as the data provided by the benchmark communities.

Findings

Specific areas where Shaker Heights performs well include recreation facilities, total parks and acreage in comparison to its population, and capital budget. When it comes to staffing and operating expenses, Shaker Heights is well staffed and moderately funded. Shaker Heights possesses healthy capital investments and is serving a relatively small population well by ensuring that amenities keep up with population growth and demand.

Overall, this benchmark analysis reveals that Shaker Heights is a stable, well-performing parks and recreation system measured against its peers, with a moderate amount of growth still possible. The perspective gained through the peer comparison is valuable in identifying areas for improvement and establishing strategic goals to pursue. Ultimately, Shaker Heights should utilize these findings as a baseline comparison that provides key performance indicators (KPIs) to be tracked and measured over time.



BENCHMARK OVERVIEW

Agency	State	Jurisdiction Type	Population	Jurisdiction Size (Sq. Mi.)	Population per Sq. Mi.
Park District of Oak Park	IL	Park District	53,224	4.70	11,324
Lakewood Parks & Recreation	OH	City	49,658	6.70	7,412
Oak Park (MI) Recreation	MI	City	29,108	5.16	5,643
Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation	OH	City	45,312	8.14	5,567
Shaker Heights Recreation	OH	City	29,439	6.33	4,651
Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation	OH	City	41,117	11.24	3,658
Kirkwood Parks & Recreation	MO	City	29,279	9.18	3,189
Mason Parks & Recreation	OH	City	34,800	18.63	1,868

Source: PROS Consulting/Benchmark Communities



Parks and Acreage

The following table provides a general overview of each system's park acreage. Shaker Heights ranks near the middle of those communities evaluated for amount of total park acres with 139 total acres owned or managed. In terms of acres per population, Shaker Heights has 4.74 acres per 1,000 residents, which is also in the middle of this analysis, but well below the NRPA median for similar-sized communities (11.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents). Shaker Heights has 11 total parks (the Department manages all of them), which is also close to the middle of this analysis but has a relatively high number of parks per 1,000 residents (0.37).

PARKS + ACREAGE

City/Agency	Number of Parks	Acres Owned or Managed	Acres per 1,000 Residents	Parks per 1,000 Residents
Kirkwood (MO)	14	333	11.37	0.48
Mason (OH)	8	300	8.62	0.23
Reynoldsburg (OH)	7	277	6.74	0.17
Shaker Heights (OH)	11	139	4.74	0.37
Oak Park (MI)	12	110	3.78	0.41
Cleveland Heights (OH)	7	135	2.98	0.15
Lakewood (OH)	15	80	1.61	0.30
Oak Park (IL)	26	85	1.60	0.49

Operating Expenses

The table details communities' total operating expenses, their operating expense in terms of their system acreage, their operating expense in terms of their staffing, and their total operating expenses in comparison to their city's entire budget. Shaker Heights ranks fifth among peer communities for total operating expense (\$2.1M), fifth in expense per acre (\$15,065), and fourth in expense per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees (\$814). Shaker Heights is well above the NRPA Median of \$8,106 expense per acre. In terms of total budget in comparison to each city's budget, Shaker Heights recreation funding makes up 2.9% of the city budget.

OPERATING EXPENSES

City/Agency	Total Operating Expenses	Operating Expense per Acre	Budget of Dept. Compared to City Budget	Operating Expense per FTE
Oak Park (IL)	\$19,947,851	\$234,681	N/A	\$3,785
Reynoldsburg (OH)	\$2,500,000	\$9,017	10.00%	\$564
Cleveland Heights (OH)	\$3,600,000	\$26,667	8.14%	\$784
Shaker Heights (OH)	\$2,100,000	\$15,065	2.90%	\$814
Mason (OH)	\$3,391,000	\$11,300	2.50%	\$2,917
Lakewood (OH)	\$1,400,000	\$17,500	2.00%	\$1,744
Oak Park (MI)	\$965,476	\$8,777	1.70%	\$634
Kirkwood (MO)	\$5,700,000	\$17,117	0.01%	n/a

Facilities

This benchmarking analysis also included the number of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities owned or managed by each agency. Shaker Heights has two indoor recreation facilities, as well as the third highest amount of total square footage for those indoor facilities and the third highest number of indoor facilities per 1,000 residents. Additionally, Shaker Heights offers 27 outdoor facilities and 0.92 outdoor facilities per 1,000 residents, which is also squarely in the middle of this analysis.

FACILITIES

City/Agency	Indoor Recreation Facilities	Outdoor Recreation Facilities	Indoor Recreation Facilities per 1,000 residents	Outdoor Recreation Facilities per 1,000 residents
Oak Park (IL)	13	76	0.24	1.43
Kirkwood (MO)	5	31	0.17	1.06
Mason (OH)	3	28	0.09	1.12
Shaker Heights (OH)	2	39	0.10	0.92
Oak Park (MI)	2	16	0.07	0.55
Lakewood (OH)	2	25	0.04	0.50
Reynoldsburg (OH)	1	36	0.02	0.88
Cleveland Heights (OH)	1	51	0.02	1.13

Operating Expenditures + Revenues

The benchmarked agencies were also analyzed for their operating expenditures/budget for programs, revenue generated by programs, and cost recovery. This part of the analysis calculated cost recovery from specific program-related operating expenditures, by dividing the revenue generated by programs from the program budget. This analysis helps understand how much of the cost of recreation programming is being covered by participants or the city. Shaker Heights ranked fifth of analyzed agencies with a 55% cost recovery for their programs, as they earned back \$1.1 million of the \$2.0 million they spent. Only one agency (Park District of Oak Park, IL) managed a full-program cost recovery.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES + REVENUES

City/Agency	Operating Expenditures/Budget for Programs	Revenue Generated by Programs	Cost Recovery
Oak Park (IL)	\$3,100,000	\$5,300,000	170%
Oak Park (MI)	\$865,672	\$697,661	81%
Kirkwood (MO)	\$3,600,000	\$2,800,000	78%
Lakewood (OH)	\$1,400,000	\$990,000	71%
Shaker Heights (OH)	\$2,000,000	\$1,100,000	55%
Cleveland Heights (OH)	\$4,470,000	\$800,000	18%
Reynoldsburg (OH)	\$1,800,000	\$118,780	7%
Mason (OH)	N/A	N/A	

Source: PROS Consulting/ Benchmark Communities

Source: PROS Consulting/ Benchmark Communities

Project Sites

Chelton Park, Stephanie Tubbs Jones (STJ) Community Building Quadrant, Thornton Park, and Shaker Heights Middle School Site were the focus of the Recreation Strategic Plan. Hildana Park was later added due to community feedback.



Chelton Park

Chelton Park is located in the Moreland Neighborhood and is bordered by Chelton Road, Hampstead Avenue, Nicholas Road, and Lee Road.

The site has expanded to include the residential vacant lots along Chelton Road. Shaker Heights Development Corporation (SHDC) owns a vacant lot directly north of Chelton Park along Hampstead Avenue.

The Shaker Heights School District Bus Depot is currently housed on the site's south east corner and creating a divide between Chelton Park and Lee Road.



Address	3645 Chelton Rd.
Size	5.1 acres
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Depot • Baseball Field • Youth Basketball Hoop • Playground • Multi-Purpose Grass Field • Neighborhood Mural



STJ Community Building Quadrant

The STJ Community Building Quadrant is located at the intersection of Van Aken Boulevard, Lee Road, and Chagrin Boulevard.

It is comprised of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building, the Shaker Heights Library, Around the World Playground, Colonnade, and Town Center Field.

The site has access to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) with the Van Aken + Lee Station transit stop located directly north of the site.



Address	3450 Lee Rd.
Size	8.1 acres
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STJ Community Building • Library • Colonnade • Playground • Multi-Purpose Grass Field • Trail



Thornton Park

Thornton Park is accessible from Warrensville Center Road and Farnsleigh Road. Thornton Park is set back from the street and borders residential properties.

The Thornton Park indoor facility contains an ice rink and a meeting room that are open year round. The site houses City of Shaker Heights Recreation offices.

Thornton Park has adjacency to the Van Aken District, a mixed-use development containing retail, offices, and apartments, and Van Aken + Warrensville Station transit stop which is located southwest of the site.



Address	3301 Warrensville Center Rd.
Size	13 acres
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice Skating Rink • Outdoor Swimming Pool • Tennis Courts • Basketball Court • Skate Park • Sand Volleyball Court • Playground • Sliding Hill • Gaga Pit



Shaker Heights Middle School Site

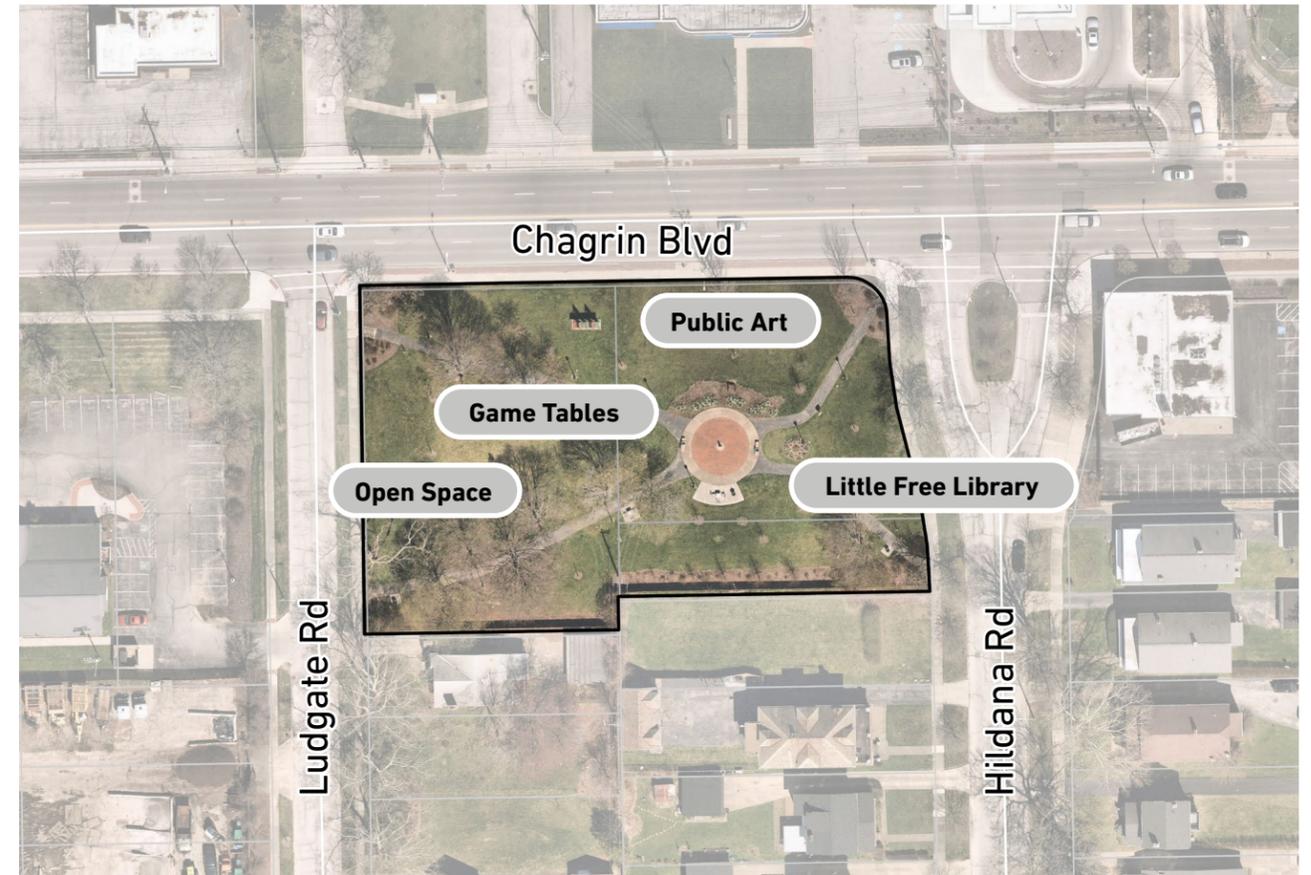
Shaker Heights Middle School is located off of Shaker Boulevard and Warrensville Center Road. The site is encompassed by Fayette Road and W. Belvoir Oval and is directly north of the residential street W. Byron Road.

The Shaker Heights Middle School Site will be the largest available potential recreation site in the landlocked city when it is decommissioned over the next decade as part of the School District Facilities Plan.

There is accessibility to the GCRTA with the Shaker + Warrensville Station transit stop northwest of the site.



Address	20600 Shaker Blvd.
Size	33.6 acres
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH Middle School • Indoor Swimming Pool • Baseball Fields • Track • Multi-Purpose Grass Fields • Trail



Hildana Park

Hildana Park is situated in between Hildana Road and Ludgate Road along Chagrin Boulevard.

Hildana Park was added as a Recreation Strategic Plan project site based on community input during Phase 1 of community engagement. The one-acre park is a passive park and includes a central plaza with a sundial, game tables, public art, benches, and a Little Free Library.

The park is southwest of the STJ Community Building Quadrant and is located in the Moreland Neighborhood.



Address	Chagrin Blvd. and Hildana Rd.
Size	1.08 acres
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chess and Backgammon Game Tables • Public Art • Benches • Walking Path

Engagement + Community Vision

The framework for shaping the Recreation Strategic Plan with the Shaker Heights community.

Community Engagement was embedded throughout the project, through public meetings, pop-up in-person events, small gatherings, online surveys, and a project website. Working with the City, the MKSK team provided materials for organized outreach and engagement activities at critical locations and strategic points in the planning process.

City staff and other stakeholders assisted in hosting and marketing engagement activities and events. The following engagement activities were part of the overall engagement strategy.

The engagement framework included:

- City Council Meetings
- Client Team Meetings
- Advisory Group Meetings
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Public Meetings
- Social Media Polls
- Project Website
- Online Interactive Map
- Online Vision Board
- Pop-Ups and Community Events

Phase 1: Project Launch



Project Kick-Off + Site Tour



Advisory Group 1



Stakeholder Interviews

Phase 2: Discovery & Analysis



Online Engagement + Pop-Up Events



Advisory Group 2



Public Meeting 1

Phase 3: Community Vision & Strategic Plan



Advisory Group 3



Public Meeting 2



Advisory Group 4

Phase 4: Plan Creation



Advisory Group

The Advisory Group included 19 individuals who were selected by the City through an application process. The Advisory Group provided feedback from different perspectives throughout the community. Members worked with the Client Team to identify opportunities in the community and serve as ambassadors for the plan, allowing information to be collected among diverse interests.

Meeting 1: The first meeting with the Advisory Group focused on an introduction to the project and explored the purpose, goals, and anticipated outcomes for the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan. The group participated in live polling which allowed individuals to provide feedback on the current state of recreation and their reasoning for joining the group.

Meeting 2: At this meeting, the group participated in an activity to evaluate their thoughts and ideas by classifying them by time frame and cost. Individuals formed groups to share and build upon each other's ideas for the four project sites. The groups then determined which ideas were more practical and might be an immediately implementable improvement, and which ideas were transformative but would need significant time to develop, fund, and gain City and Community support.

Meeting 3: A community engagement summary and resultant design concepts were presented to the Advisory Group at the third meeting. The Advisory Group formed small groups tasked with evaluating the alternatives and suggesting design changes and improvements

Meeting 4: At the final meeting, the Advisory Group reviewed public meeting feedback on the design concepts. The Fund-It! activity results were presented, showing the amenities viewed as high priorities. These priorities were consistent across most demographics. Last, the final concept plans were presented for the five sites, with two options for Thornton Park and the Middle School. The Advisory Group saw how public comments influenced the final concept plans. Group members discussed strategic first actions, early win projects, and community needs.

Stakeholder Interviews

The Stakeholder Interviews consisted of 12 groups of individuals or organizations representing recreational facilities, sports leagues, civic and community institutions, and residents who share common interests related to the Recreation Strategic Plan.

Stakeholders were prompted with questions and discussed recreation opportunities for their group or interest as well as the larger community.

Key Takeaways

Common themes that occurred among the individual groups were:

- Programming + areas for teens, seniors, those not in sports
- Facilities that create staying power in SH + represent SH well to visitors
- More space + times for activities
- Maintenance + field usage / condition + equipment
- Coordinate with School District
- Need a community recreation center that is accessible year round
- Create areas to sit in parks - watching games, waiting for practice, or just hanging out
- Update facilities at Thornton-Pool + Ice Rink and City-owned facilities
- Parks should service both pick-up, passive, and organized activities

60+

Participants engaged through Stakeholder Interviews:

Athletic Courts + Gyms

Athletic Fields

Ice Rink

Moreland Neighbors

Non-Users

Parks + Open Space

Pools

Recreation Department

School District/ Athletic Department

Senior Adults

Underserved Populations

Youth

Engagement Tools

Online Engagement

Project Website

In the early stages of the project, MKSK developed an online interactive website and data collection resource to share with the community. This website was intended to reach a broad range of residents and park users and provide updates along with qualitative data to guide the development of the Recreation Strategic Plan. The website was shared using a network of communication channels, including social media, City email listserves, citywide postcard mailing, and strategically placed signs and fliers in the community.

The website hosted project information, important dates of public meetings, and had multiple tools that allowed the community to engage with the project and provide input. These tools included an interactive map, vision board, and budgeting tool which focused on prioritizing recommendations. The City also hosted a project information website that linked to the interactive website.

Over the duration of the project, the interactive website had:

8,511 Views
3,232 Visitors
2,058 Contributions

Social Media Questionnaires

The City of Shaker Heights used their social media platforms to share questionnaires regarding the current state of recreation in the community.

The questionnaires were conducted in June 2024 at the beginning of the engagement process and were used to generate excitement and spread awareness of the upcoming project and community engagement opportunities.

Simple, multiple choice questions were posted with a link to provide feedback. The results helped to inform what sites were most visited or used by residents and how often. Residents provided feedback on what type of facilities they utilize outside of Shaker Heights, providing insight into the gaps in recreational amenities.

Interactive Map

The Interactive Map was hosted on the project website and visitors dropped pins on a map and provided feedback about their recreational needs in three categories: Keep, Update, and Innovate. The site visitors were encouraged to leave pins and comments under the three categories to see how visitors classified the different park amenities.

Vision Board

The Vision Board asked the question of "What is your Vision for the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan? This question encouraged visitors to the site to share additional thoughts and ideas and interact with other community members comments who could "like" others' posts

Fund It! Prioritization Activity

The Fund It! Prioritization Activity was accessible through the project website. Each participant was given a budget of \$100 and could decide which recreation amenities they would like to see funded.

In-Person Engagement

Pop-Up Events

Person-to-person messaging around the community is essential to any project and engagement campaign. The planning process should work to meet the community where they are. City staff developed an engagement campaign for informal community events at project sites, in neighborhoods, and at other community events throughout the planning process.

At the pop-up events, the online engagement tools, including the Interactive Map, Vision Board, and Fund It! activity were mimicked in paper form to allow for the same method of data collection.

Comments from these pop-up and neighborhood meetings were added to the Interactive Map, Vision Board and Fund It! counts.

Public Meetings

Shaker Heights residents are a key component to the development of the Recreation Strategic Plan, providing insights and feedback on their recreation needs and helping to create a vision for the future of the sites.

Two public meetings were held at key points in the Plan to provide project information to residents and gather input from the community in a dynamic way with interactive activities.

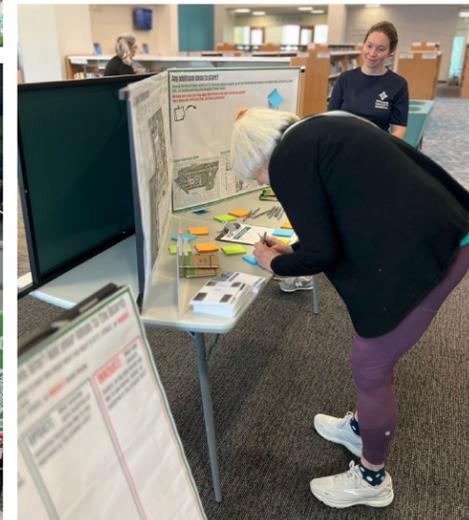
For each public meeting, both in-person and virtual opportunities were held. The virtual events were recorded and posted on the City project website.

29

Pop-Up Community Events were Attended by City Staff

- Swim Lessons
- Recreation Committee
- Library Engagement (2)
- Van Aken Block Party
- Shaker Heights Community Band Concert
- Moreland Neighborhood Night
- Learn to Skate
- Town Center Field
- Shaker Safety Day
- Lee Road Block Party
- Thornton Pool
- Chelton Park
- Lomond Playground
- Ludlow Playground
- Sussex Playground
- Senior Events
- Martin Luther King Day Events
- Open + Competition Skating
- Public Library Teen Event
- VAD Chat with the Mayor
- Community Meal at St. Dominic's
- Fourth of July Pool Party*
- Camp Discovery*
- Camp Explore*
- Jr. Raider Basketball Camp*
- Jr. Raider Tennis Camp*
- Safety Town*

*handed out fliers

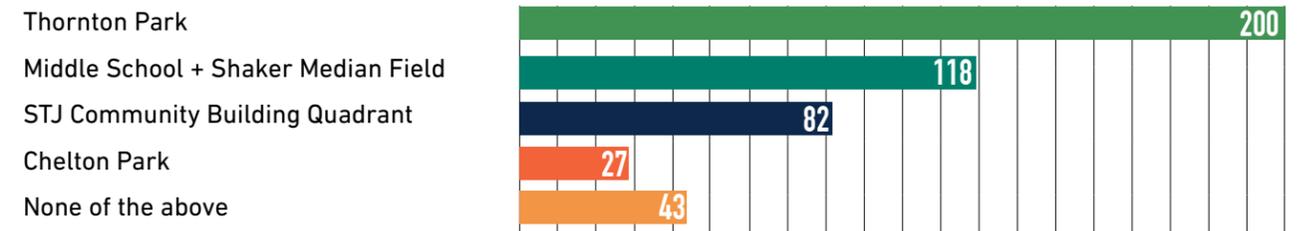


Engagement + Community Vision:

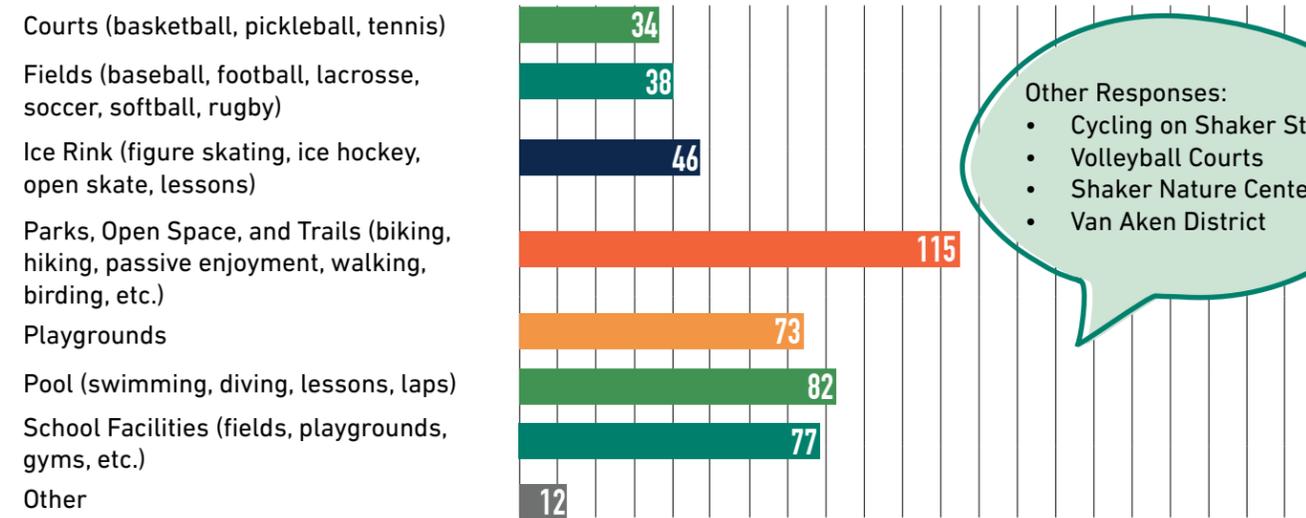
What We Heard...

Social Media Questionnaires

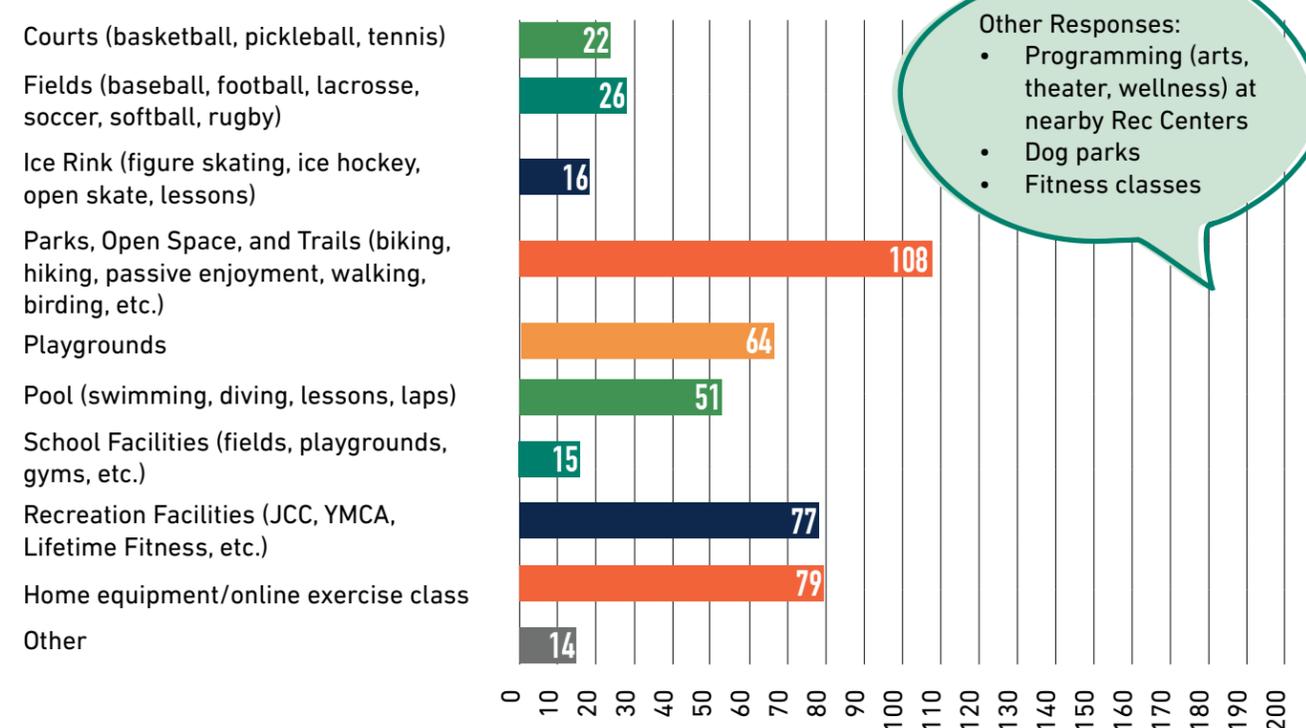
In the last year, at which of these four sites have you or a member of your family participated in recreational activity?



What recreation facilities do you regularly utilize in Shaker Heights?



What recreation facilities do you regularly use outside of Shaker Heights?



What is your Vision for the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan?

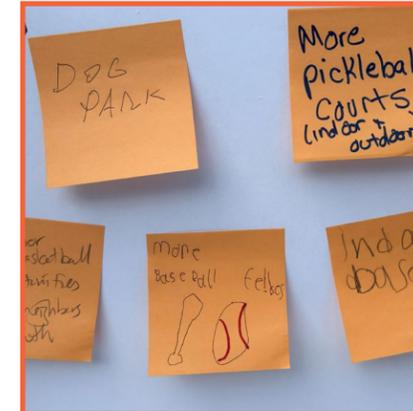
Online Vision Board

“We need a true comprehensive rec center.”

“Indoor aquatic center with areas for lap swim, shallow areas for leisure/lessons, & a kiddie area.”

“More pickleball courts both indoors and outdoors.”

“A pool more on par with others in surrounding communities.”



“Full size NHL or Olympic sized rink for figure skating or hockey.”

“Multiple open and accessible basketball courts, full size, outdoors and indoors.”

“More/better quality sports fields.”

“Updated playgrounds to encourage creative, open-ended play.”

“A dog park would be a wonderful addition to our parks.”

“We need more indoor space for sports to practice when there's inclement weather.”



Vision Board

The Vision Board had a presence online as well as at in-person events so that comments could be collected from a larger number of residents to ensure community-wide representation.

The data collected from the Vision Board gave insight into residents' recreation needs as themes began to emerge among the comments. Community members gave a "thumbs up" to ideas that they agreed with, building consensus for the amenities, facilities, and programs that they would like to see in Shaker Heights.

During the collection period there were:

292 Contributions
978 "Thumbs Up" Votes
1,113 Total Interactions

Key Takeaways

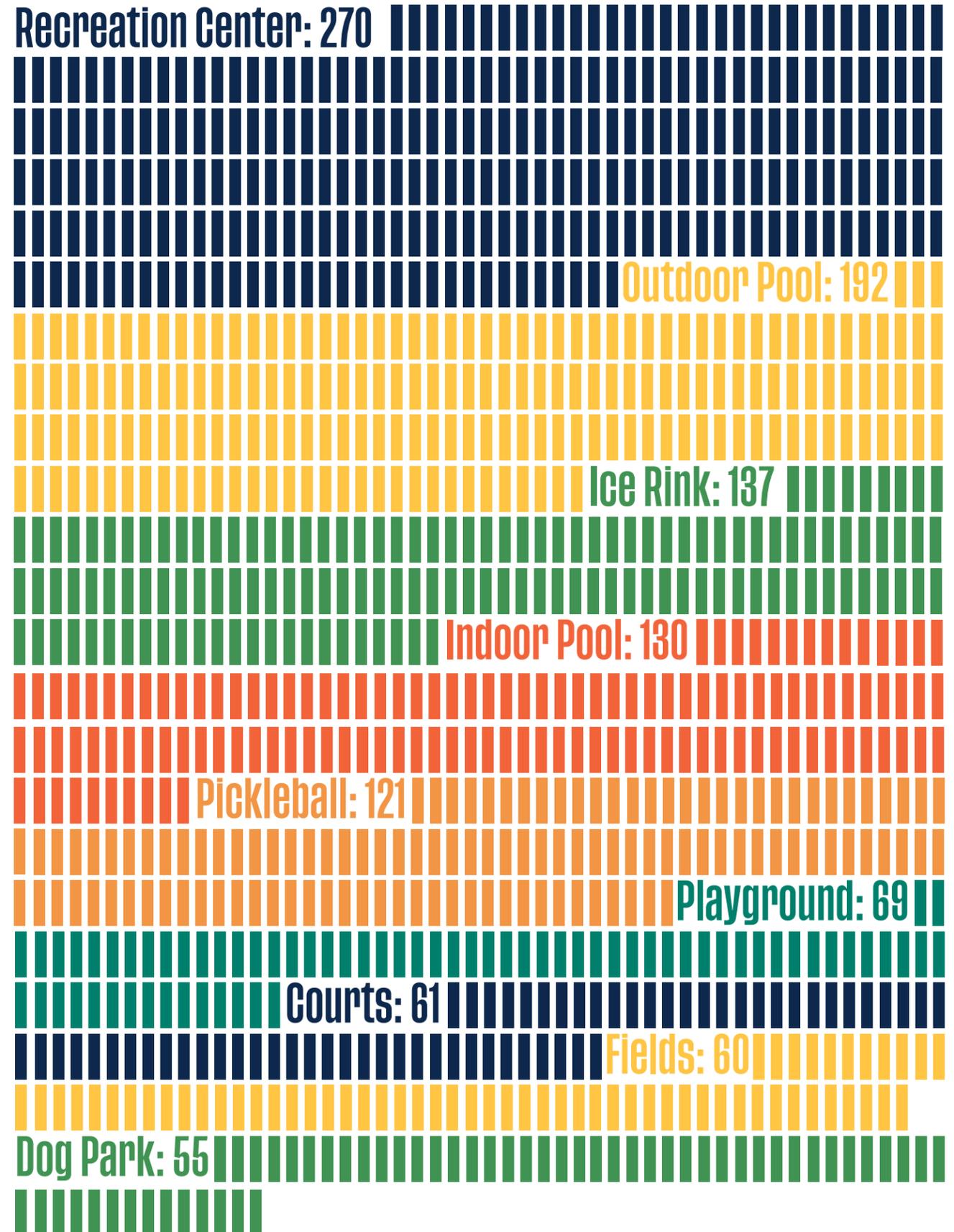
The most mentioned items were a community recreation center, outdoor pool, ice rink, indoor pool, pickleball courts, playgrounds, fields, courts, and dog park.

Comments for these topics ranged from making improvements to existing facilities to tearing down and starting brand new.

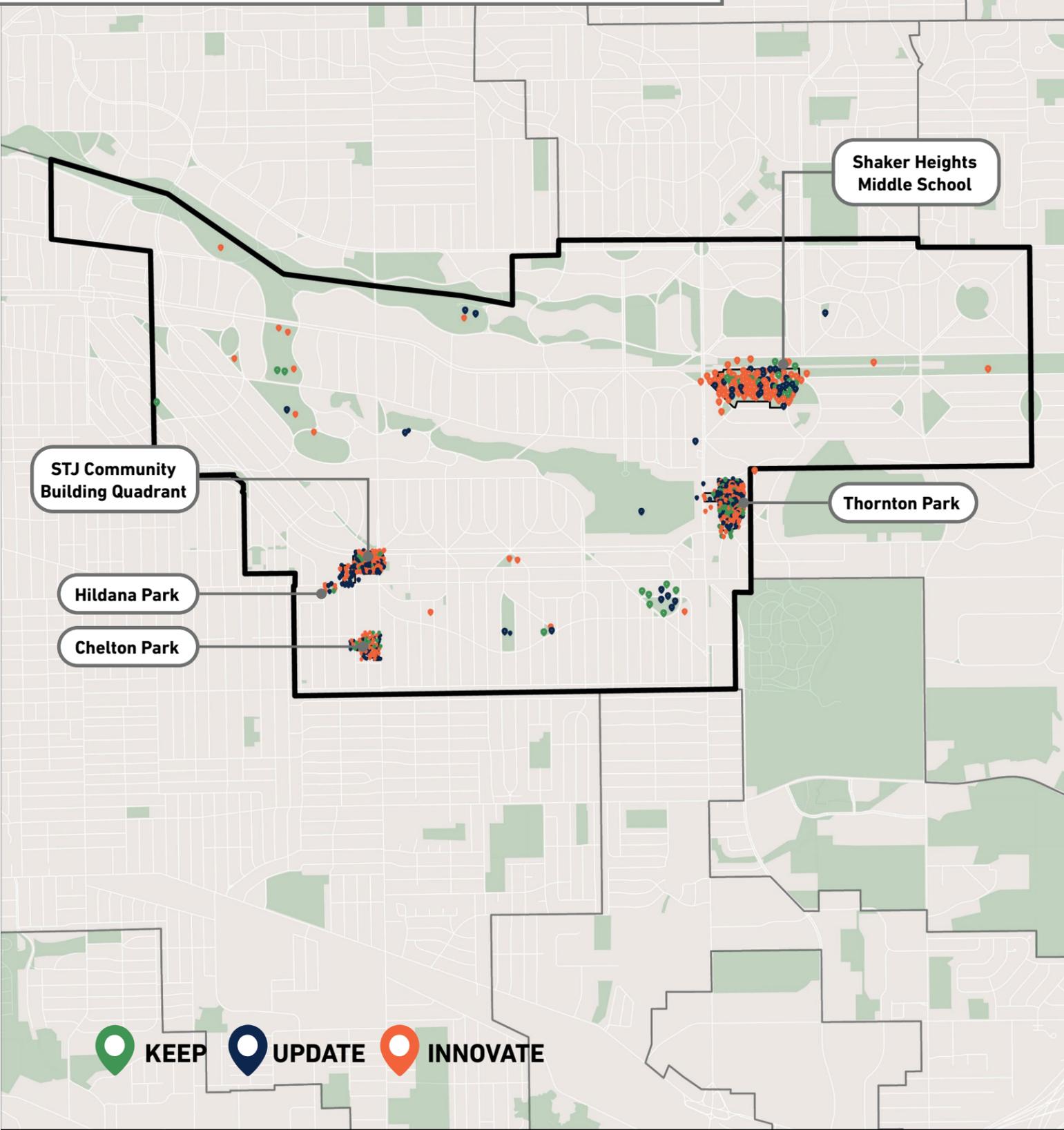
The counts for these are identified in the chart to the right.

Other mentions that frequently came up on the Vision Board were:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts in the recommendations for Shaker Heights Recreation
- Programming needs, specifically for seniors and teens
- Natural outdoor space, including native plants and vegetation
- Park amenities and plants for comfortability while watching or participating in recreation as well as leisure
- Amenities and programs that contribute to the building of arts, culture, and history in the community
- Efficiency within the department and city in order to implement recommendations and keep up with surrounding communities



1,059 Total Interactions were gathered using the Interactive Map. The map focused on the four project sites, but allowed residents to leave comments throughout Shaker in order to highlight other recreational needs in the community.



Interactive Map Activity

The Interactive Map activity was created as an online tool and formatted as an in-person activity so that members of the community could provide the same feedback online and in-person under the provided prompts.

The resultant Interactive Map reached a diverse range of community members and the map combines feedback directly entered online along with feedback collected at in-person events and later added to the online map. In total the interactive map boasted:

652 Contributions
407 “Thumbs Up” Votes
1,059 Interactions

Items that were placed in the “keep” category were revered as assets that were important to the community.

The “update” category located areas residents would like to see improved. Comments reflected conditions of existing facilities, access to field and facilities, and concerns that facilities were tired and not on par with surrounding communities.

Most of the comments were in the “innovate” category, signifying the desire for thoughtful and dynamic ideas to transform the state of recreation on the project sites. This section was filled with comments in favor of building new facilities and expanding upon current programs to provide a comprehensive recreation strategy supporting the health and well-being of Shaker Heights residents.

Map Categories

KEEP

What existing park facilities or amenities do you frequently use or want to remain at each project site?

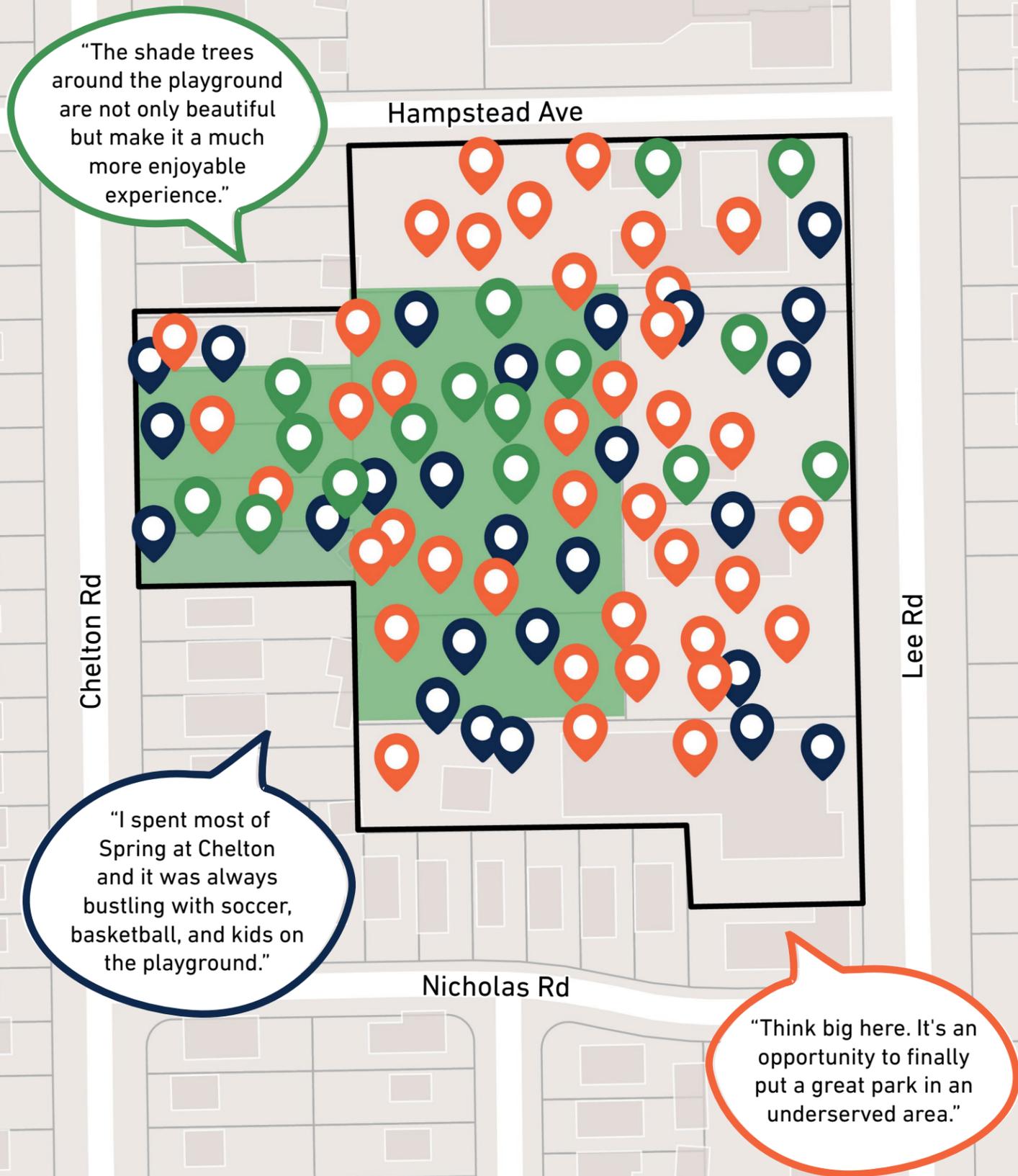
UPDATE

What existing park facilities or amenities would you like to see improved at each project site?

INNOVATE

What new amenity, facility, or big idea would you like to see moved, added, or explored in this plan?

Chelton Park: 114 Total Interactions



● KEEP
 ● UPDATE
 ● INNOVATE

Chelton Park

KEEP

16 Pins and Comments were classified as items to keep at Chelton Park. The amenities that were most mentioned were the neighborhood mural, which was painted by members of the community, the playground and swings, and the baseball field.

The existing amenities in the park are well liked and used by neighbors.

UPDATE

32 Pins and Comments were in the update category. Expanding the playground to be larger and more inclusive of all age groups was another common theme. Community members also commented on the lack of parking and would like to see updates made to accommodate parking for visitors who are not from the neighborhood and come to Chelton Park for sporting events.

The upkeep and maintenance of park amenities and fields were issues that residents would like to see improved. They desire a safe and clean playground and park environment for children, free of trash, broken glass, and debris.

INNOVATE

66 Pins and Comments were made to explore innovative ideas at Chelton Park. These ideas included moving the bus depot and connecting Chelton Park to Lee Road. The bus depot is seen as an eye sore for residents. Relocating the bus depot and repurposing the land for recreational uses and redevelopment would build on this key location as a new Neighborhood Center for Lee Road.

Commenters suggested adding more park amenities such as pavilions, grills, benches, and bathrooms to create a neighborhood gathering space. Adding electricity to have a screen for movies and a stage for performances was another desired amenity.

Chelton Park is situated within a residential neighborhood and has trees that shade the playground. Residents would like more plants and trees added to keep the natural feel of the park.

Youth and teen programming in the park was supported as a positive neighborhood amenity.

Key Takeaways

KEEP

- Open field + baseball field
- Shade + trees
- Neighborhood mural
- Playground

UPDATE

- Improve the field for multi-sport use
- Inclusive playground for all ages + abilities
- Clean-up the park and provide ongoing maintenance
- Expand basketball court to be full size

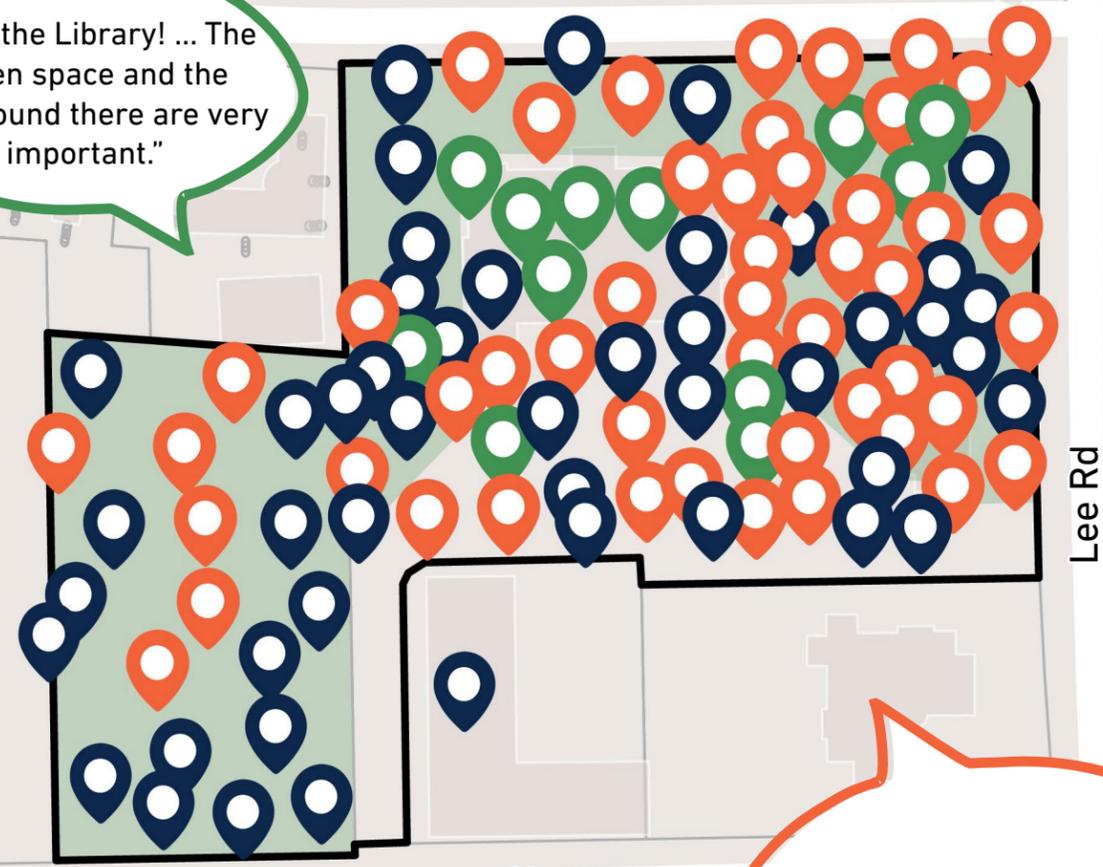
INNOVATE

- Connect to Lee Road
- Add parking for visitors
- Create accessible options for play and recreation
- Senior + teen programming
- Access to power
- Add park amenities
- Add performance space

**STJ Community Building Quadrant:
188 Total Interactions**

“Expanded indoor programming - Classes for all ages including art, music, and other non-sport indoor activities.”

“Love the Library! ... The green space and the playground there are very important.”



“Indoor/outdoor basketball...an actual basketball court not just a single hoop.”

STJ Community Building Quadrant

KEEP

21 Pins and Comments reflected the STJ Community Building Quadrant amenities that residents value. The library is a very popular community amenity that residents would like to keep at this location. The existing programming, especially programming for seniors, was mentioned at both the library and the STJ Community Building. The connections the library has to the greenspace and the Around the World Playground is something residents utilize and would like to keep.

UPDATE

84 Pins and Comments were added noting that residents would like to see updates to the STJ Community Building to accommodate recreational needs and programming. Many respondents noted senior programming could be improved at the STJ Community Building site, whether that be through the library or the STJ Community Building. The green space along Lee Road is an asset which could be better used.

Residents would like to improve the conditions and access to the Town Center multi-purpose field. Updates mentioned were making the multi-purpose field an artificial turf field which would increase access to the site in inclement weather for team sports, pick-up sports, and play desired by nearby residents. It would also allow expanded access to the path that encircles the field as desired by neighbors, particularly Library Courts.

Although residents mentioned keeping the Around the World Playground, there are desires to update the playground to create more of a “destination” playground with improved visibility and inclusive amenities.

INNOVATE

83 Pins and Comments were left that support expanding the footprint of the STJ Community Building or constructing a larger community building that is more conducive for indoor recreation and fitness activities. Suggestions for adding space in a new community building that could accommodate classrooms and meeting rooms in addition to the recreational space was a popular idea for the STJ Community Building Quadrant. Space available for seniors was mentioned multiple times throughout the engagement.

Residents would like to add courts for basketball, tennis, and pickleball. There is a desire to have options for outdoor and indoor recreation at this site for year-round activation. Reorganizing the space more cohesively and making the amenities more accessible was another suggestions shared by residents.

Key Takeaways

KEEP

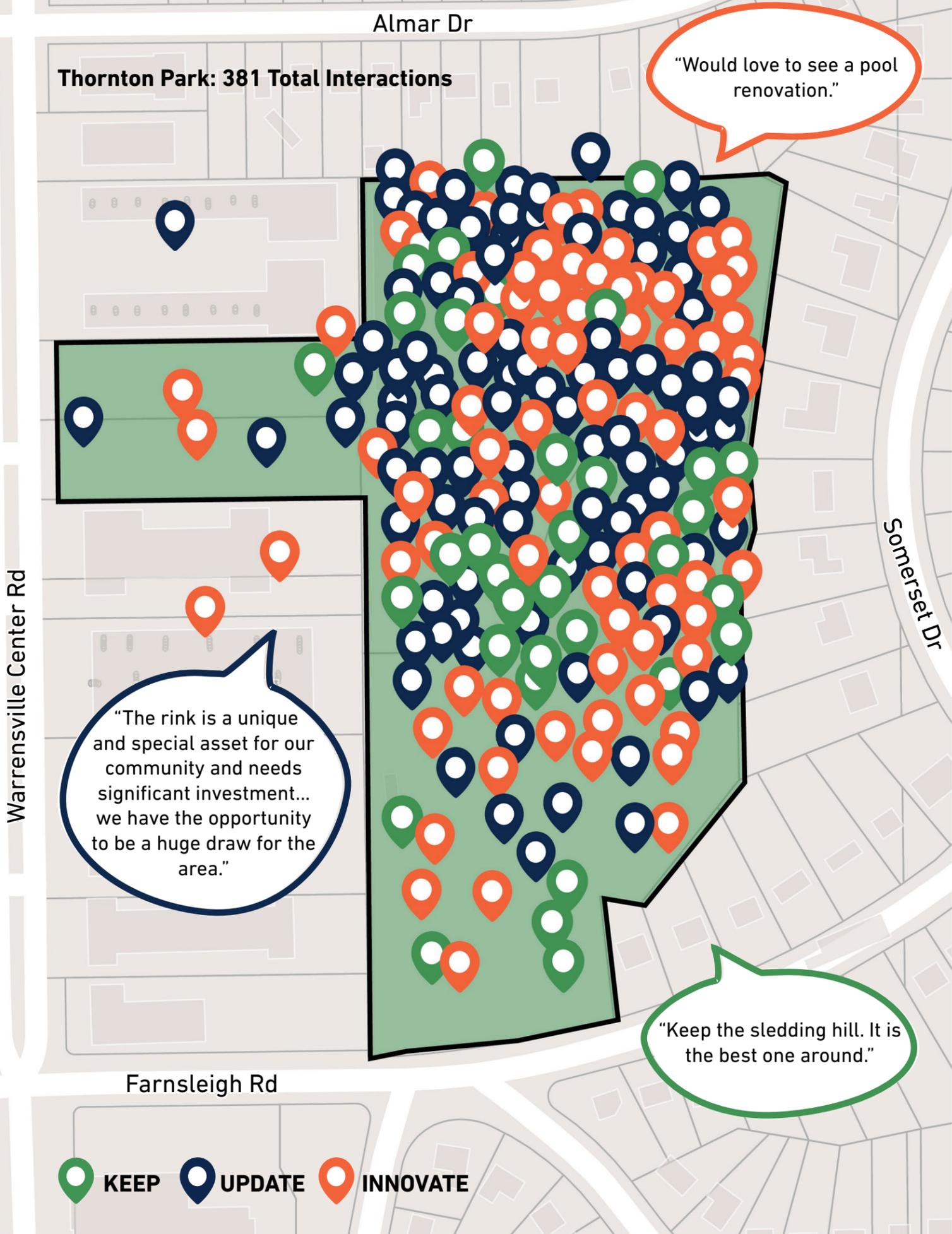
- Love the Library!
- Greenspace and playground are important
- Colonnade for performance

UPDATE

- Add park amenities + make field more accessible - year round use
- Additional maintenance to make the field more usable
- Expand on programming

INNOVATE

- Youth + senior focus
- Indoor/outdoor field house
- More classes, meeting rooms, art + music programs
- Add basketball courts, tennis courts, + pickleball courts



Thornton Park

KEEP

57 Pins and Comments at Thornton Park focused on how the existing amenities are largely considered assets in the community. The pool is heavily used at Thornton Park, along with the ice rink, skate park, and sledding hill.

UPDATE

176 Pins and Comments were marked in the update category. The most comments for Thornton Park were dropped in the “update” category. These comments express that while the existing amenities are well used, they could use improvements. Residents would like a pool that accommodates all types of swim, whether it is for leisure or for laps and competition. Residents would like the pool facility to be on par with surrounding communities.

The ice rink was a big theme as a facility to update. This facility is nearing its end of life and residents would like the ice rink to be reflective of the large skating community. Expanding this facility to include another rink, off-ice practice space, work out area, and new locker rooms were encouraged.

INNOVATE

148 Pins and Comments reflected the opportunity for Thornton to build on its reputation as the existing recreation hub in Shaker Heights. Aside from innovative ideas to improve the existing rink and pool, adding pickleball courts and a dog park were widely popular among commenters.

Thornton Park was suggested as an option to locate a recreation facility or community center which offers programming and creates a “third space” for residents to gather outside of home, work, or school.

Beautification efforts were mentioned to make Thornton Park more appealing for the surrounding residents. A community garden, native plantings, and more vegetation was incorporated into comments for the site.

Other ideas included activation of Warrensville Center Road, including creative ways for better access to the site and increased visibility from the street.

Key Takeaways **KEEP**

- Love the outdoor pool - location, size
- Sledding hill
- The ice rink is well utilized
- Skate Park

UPDATE

- Ice rink - add rink, more community and training/exercise rooms, update facility
- Pool - transition area, splash pad, changing area
- Tennis courts
- Access to the park + parking

INNOVATE

- All-inclusive playground
- Comprehensive rec facility - indoor/outdoor, expanding on existing facility
- Pickleball courts
- Community garden
- Rec/community center with additional programming

**Shaker Heights Middle School:
251 Total Interactions**

“The auditorium at the middle school provides a great facility for the community, the schools, and help maintain arts and culture activities in the City.”



“These fields should be improved, including turf and lighting for multi-sport, year-round use, and evening use.”

“Shaker Heights NEEDS a comprehensive rec center ... this is ideal for an accessible location to serve all of Shaker.”

Shaker Heights Middle School

KEEP

22 Pins and Comments focused on both indoor and outdoor amenities at the Middle School. The auditorium was mentioned as a rare event space to keep, there is a high demand for usage of the indoor pool, and the fields are widely used. Comments show that residents would like these uses to remain.

UPDATE

53 Pins and Comments encouraged general updates to the condition of the existing fields. Updating the existing fields to include turf fields would allow for more use. Improving the amenities and equipment at the Middle School would provide for better sports viewing, comfort, and safety.

Improving the indoor pool to accommodate more types of swim, lessons and open swim, was mentioned numerous times by residents.

INNOVATE

176 Pins and Comments were pinned under the innovate section, overwhelmingly higher than the other two categories. This signifies how the community would like to see something creative and transformative happen with the Middle School site.

The highest number of suggestions for this site was a comprehensive recreation center. The community comments reflected the need for indoor recreation space that could be used year round. Based on comments, there is a desire for this space to not only accommodate recreational needs, but add a programming component for meetings, classes, and clubs.

Having a place for fitness, not strictly sports, will make the facility more inclusive and provide health and wellness options that do not currently exist publicly in Shaker Heights.

In addition to a recreation center, an enclosed field house was mentioned to activate the fields year round.

Adding courts to the Middle School site, including pickleball, basketball, and tennis was another suggested use.

Having a dog park on the Middle School site was mentioned as a need.

Throughout the “innovate” section, there were comments about building new facilities and relocating existing facilities to the site.

This feedback will be helpful in determining how the public views the highest and best use for each site and how they can work together to achieve a comprehensive and equitable strategy for Shaker Heights Recreation.

Key Takeaways **KEEP**

- Auditorium - great for event space
- Greenspace and fields - more park-like feel
- Indoor Pool

UPDATE

- Fields to withstand more use - turf
- Indoor pool
- Better utilization of existing fields

INNOVATE

- Rec/community center - indoor /outdoor sports, pool, classes, programming, gym, etc.
- Field house for year round activation
- Pickleball courts
- Dog park
- This is a huge space - be innovative!

Hildana Park: 9 Total Interactions



Hildana Park

Hildana Park was added to the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan later in the process as a result of community feedback.

During pop-up events, comments were collected for Hildana Park that followed the same methodology as the other four sites, categorizing feedback into the “keep”, “update”, and “innovate” groups.

Comments reflected that residents would like Hildana Park to have more programming and serve as a place to gather in a more passive manner as opposed to having sports recreation. Residents would like to see the existing amenities improved.

Hildana Park is located on a busy street and commenters suggested to be mindful of the noise from surrounding traffic and businesses and to consider the impact that future park amenities would have on the neighborhood homes that are adjacent to the site.

Moreland neighborhood residents would like to see transportation assistance explored to parks and schools further from the neighborhood (free bus, scooter, bikes, transit passes, ride shares, etc.).

Park Improvements Questionnaire

KEEP

Residents want to maintain the passive quality of the park. When neighborhood residents were asked their reasoning for going to Hildana Park the top responses were:

- To cut through on the way to go somewhere else
- To get or use a book from Little Free Library
- To sit on a bench in the shade

UPDATE

When asked what neighborhood residents would most like to see upgraded or added at Hildana Park, the top responses were:

- Replace deteriorated charging benches with new benches and chargers
- More programming
- Free-wifi
- Add benches

INNOVATE

Neighborhood residents want new public art that reflects the neighborhood history, people, and values to be constructed at the park. They also hope for more programming, benches, and wifi.

Key Takeaways

KEEP

- Keep it [Hildana Park] zen and chill
- Quiet
- As a passive park

UPDATE

- Solar benches, improve seating options
- Little Free Library (make it sturdier)
- Public art

INNOVATE

- Yoga in the park
- Community garden
- Add a walking trail
- Line dancing in the park
- Add more benches
- Free-wifi



Public Meeting 1

The virtual information session took place over Zoom on August 7, 2024. The in-person workshop took place the following day, August 8, 2024, at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building.

Public Meeting #1 formally introduced the Shaker Heights Recreation Strategic Plan to the public and provided the results of the community engagement initiatives to date. Results from the Advisory Group, Stakeholder Interviews, Pop-Up Events, and Online Engagement were summarized and shared with the public.

Attendees were asked to design the four project sites (Chelton Park, STJ Community Building Quadrant, Thornton Park, Middle School) with pieces representing recreation amenities and facilities. Each piece was set to scale, allowing attendees to visualize what could fit on each site based on the actual size of a facility comparative to the site.

In each group, attendees created concepts with various recreation options that met their individual and community-wide recreation needs and proposed a vision for the future of the site.

The different concepts were cataloged with photos and notes to describe the thoughts behind the placement and location of the pieces.

The following pages document the results of the meeting activity. The amenities used during the activity were those noted as uses people would like to “keep,” “update,” or “innovate.” These are highlighted on the program lists in green (keep), blue (update), and orange (innovate) respectively.





Chelton Park

In each concept, the playground at Chelton Park was kept in its current location. The community has previously expressed interest in keeping the playground and with this exercise has emphasized a desire to expand the playground to include more features, such as a splash pad, and have more playground amenities that are inclusive for all abilities and age groups.

Participants looked at other updates to existing amenities which included: a larger baseball diamond to accommodate more teams and adding a full-size basketball court.

Parking was placed on site in each concept, which was generally placed with access off Lee Road during this activity. Chelton Road, a residential street, is currently the main source for parking. There is a desire for this to be alleviated and additional access points to the park to be provided.

The largest changes that were presented on the Chelton Park site were the placement of a small rec center and a small field house. These pieces were a result of the need for more programming and fitness options for residents living in and around the Moreland Neighborhood.

Other aspects that were reflected in the activity were the placement of a stage surrounded by passive greenspace and the development of a small outdoor plaza. Maintaining space for a walking trail, community garden, passive recreation, leisure, and space for activation was important to residents in the neighborhood.

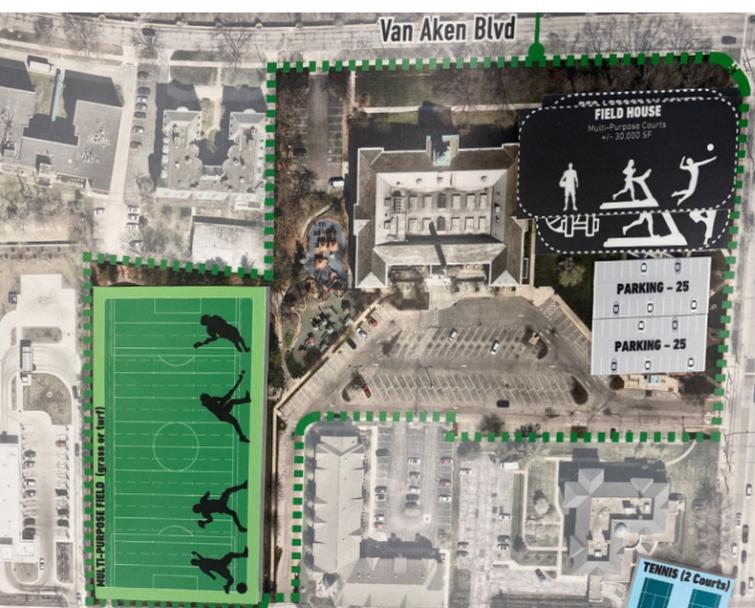
Existing Program

- Neighborhood Mural
- Baseball Field
- Youth Basketball Hoop
- Playground
- Multi-Purpose Grass Field
- Bus Depot

Proposed Program

- Parking
- Full Size Basketball Court
- Inclusive Playground
- Splash Pad
- Outdoor Park or Plaza
- Tennis Court
- Pickleball Court
- Rec/Program Center
- Field House
- Walking Trail
- Performance Stage
- Dog Park





CONCEPTS PICTURED ARE A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE ACTIVITY AND NOT A PREFERRED CONCEPT FOR THE SITE

STJ Community Building Quadrant

The concepts for STJ Community Building Quadrant resulted in two options: (1) keeping and improving the current amenities, and (2) building or replacing with something new.

Concepts that kept the existing STJ Community Building focused on placing a large park or plaza where the existing colonnade is located to make better use of the space for programming, activating the corner of Van Aken Boulevard and Lee Road, and creating pedestrian connections. The library is seen as a great asset and improving or enhancing the STJ Community Building could allow for more classes to be offered.

While keeping the multi-purpose Town Center Field was present in certain concepts, others replaced the field with multiple courts including basketball, tennis, and pickleball.

The activity shows Around the World Playground being kept, and comments revealed a desire to update the playground if it was going to be maintained in its location.

Building a recreation and program center that accommodates the existing programming and classroom uses, while adding better space for physical recreation was supported for this site. An indoor recreation or indoor field house would allow for year-round use of spaces that are currently open air and detrimentally impacted by inclement weather. Providing artificial turf at Town Center Field would increase usage opportunities and reduce cancellations due to inclement weather.

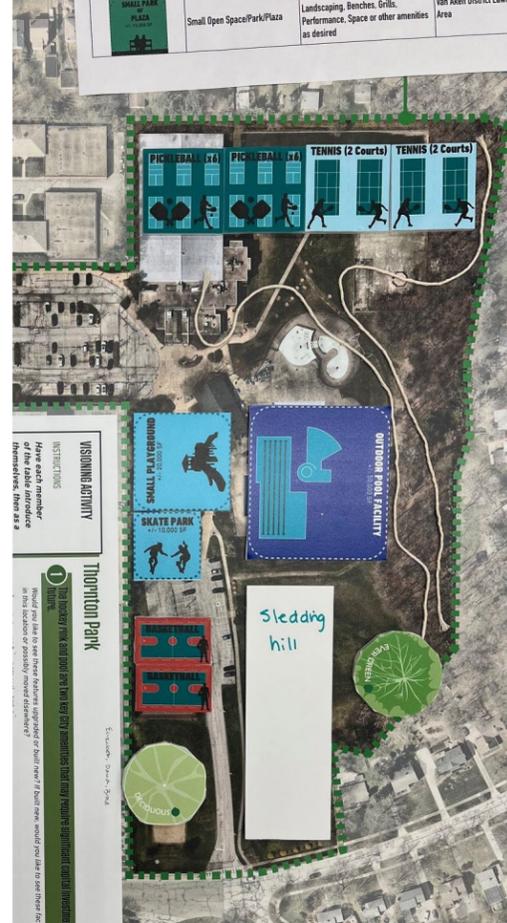
Existing Program

- Library
- STJ Community Building
- Colonnade
- Playground
- Multi-Purpose Grass Field
- Walking Trail

Proposed Program

- Rec/Program Center
- Field House
- Multi-Purpose Turf Field
- Outdoor Park or Plaza
- Inclusive Playground
- Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Pickleball Court
- Parking
- Soccer Field





Thornton Park

Concepts for Thornton Park reflected preferences and budget considerations in relation to the outdoor pool and the ice rink.

The outdoor pool was left in its current location in half of the concepts, while the other half explored other uses such as a destination playground and economic development.

One concept explored moving the ice rink to another location and using/ expanding the existing building for indoor pickleball and tennis courts or more space for outdoor recreation amenities.

Other concepts that maintained the ice rink in its location expanded the facility to include two sheets of full size ice as well as off-ice space with a small recreation and program center as part of the building. These concepts also added park or plaza space outside the rink and pool to improve the connection between the two uses.

Additional basketball courts at Thornton Park were seen as an improvement to join the only existing full-size outdoor court in the city.

Many existing amenities, such as the skate park, playground, and sledding hill were kept in each concept.

The curb appeal of Thornton Park was enhanced with additional landscaping as a beautification effort in multiple concepts.

Existing Program

- Sledding Hill
- Gaga Pit
- Skate Park
- Ice Rink
- Outdoor Pool
- Tennis Court
- Playground
- Sand Volleyball
- Basketball Court

Proposed Program

- Outdoor Pool
- Walking Trail
- Additional Basketball Court
- Expanded Ice Rink
- Splash Pad
- Pickleball Court
- Outdoor Park or Plaza
- Additional Tennis Court
- Rec/Program Center
- Field House
- Parking

Higher
Frequency of Mentions + Use
Lower



Shaker Heights Middle School

With the size of the Shaker Heights Middle School site, every recreational program or facility was able to be added to the site with the development of the different concepts. There were many commonalities among the development concepts even if the location of elements on the site changed.

Recreation and program center, pool, courts, and a multi-purpose field were present in each concept, emphasizing the desire for a comprehensive recreation location in Shaker Heights. This aligns with previous feedback about taking advantage of the opportunities present with the decommissioning of the Shaker Heights Middle School site.

Park and plaza space was designated in multiple concepts along with a playground tying in with the larger elements on site. Dog parks were mentioned on the Shaker Median Field. Trees and trails are present throughout the site to create a buffer from the street and to provide shade.

Existing amenities such as the track and baseball fields were commented on needing improvements if they remain on site.

In addition to adding a pool, relocation of the ice rink was proposed at the Middle School site, tying the Middle School site and Thornton site together to make a strategic and transformative change.

Existing Program

- SH Middle School
- Indoor Pool
- Baseball Field
- Track
- Multi-Purpose Grass Field
- Trail

Proposed Program

- Outdoor/ Indoor Pool
- Parking
- Rec/Program Center
- Multi-Purpose Turf Field
- Inclusive Playground
- Field House
- Pickleball Court
- Tennis Court
- Outdoor Park or Plaza
- Full Size Track
- Skate Park
- Dog Park
- Additional Baseball Fields
- Basketball Court



CONCEPTS PICTURED ARE A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE ACTIVITY AND NOT A PREFERRED CONCEPT FOR THE SITE



Public Meeting 2

The virtual information session took place over Zoom on December 2, 2024. The in-person workshop took place on December 4, 2024, at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building.

At Public Meeting #2, a summary of engagement and findings were shared to show how the feedback informed the design concepts.

Two design concepts were developed for Chelton Park, STJ Community Building Quadrant, Thornton Park, and the Middle School Site that were reflective of the community's desires. The concepts included the recreation amenities and uses recommended for each site as well as facility renovations or new construction.

One concept was developed for Hildana Park which was reflective of the neighborhood desires for the space.

The participants were encouraged to review the displayed site plan concepts and leave comments or considerations for each site. Participants could note which design concept was preferred for Chelton Park, STJ Community Building Quadrant, Thornton Park, and the Middle School Site.

The preferred options were tallied and the comments were documented and incorporated into the final concept plans.

“Love the idea of indoor fields [at Thornton!]”

“[STJ Community Building Quadrant] is my highest priority site.”

“Love the option [at Chelton] with a full basketball court.”

“Close Fayette Road entirely [at the Middle School Site] to get more green space!”

Public Meeting 2 Process:

Two design concepts were presented for each site based on community feedback.

This example shows the concepts for Chelton Park.



Display boards were prepared for each site. They included: the design concepts, example program imagery, and building layouts. Participants could leave comments and note which design concept was preferred.

This process was completed for Chelton Park, STJ Community Building Quadrant, Thornton Park, the Middle School Site, and Hildana Park. The results informed the design of final concepts.



Fund It! Prioritization Activity

The Fund It! activity was conducted in-person at Public Meeting #2, at various pop-up events, and on the project website.

The Fund It! activity provided each participant with a hypothetical \$100 budget to spend on recreation amenities. Each amenity was priced between \$10-\$80 and the participants were able to select any combination of amenities within their allocated \$100 budget. The pricing represented the hierarchy of cost associated with each amenity. The goal of the activity was to prioritize all the amenities that have been suggested during the engagement process.

The rankings were similar across age, race, gender, and neighborhood demographics, with common priorities across most participants.

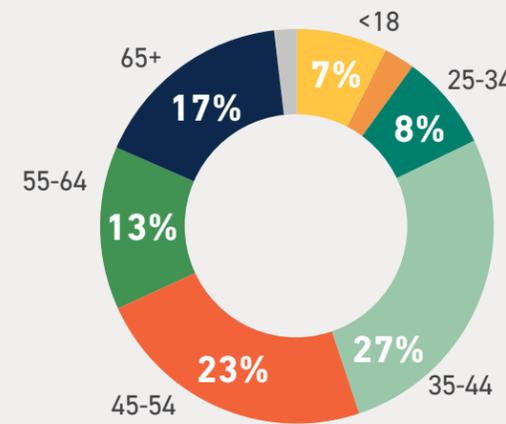
This chart summarizes participation by neighborhood:



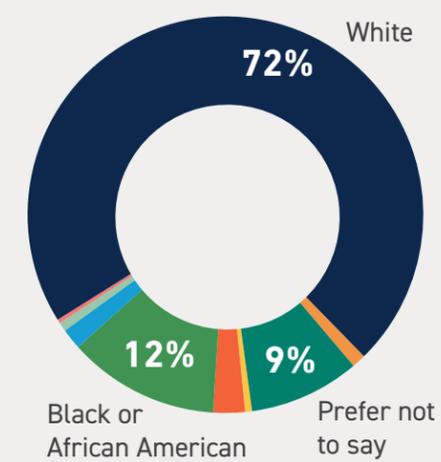
Activity Park Examples + Costs



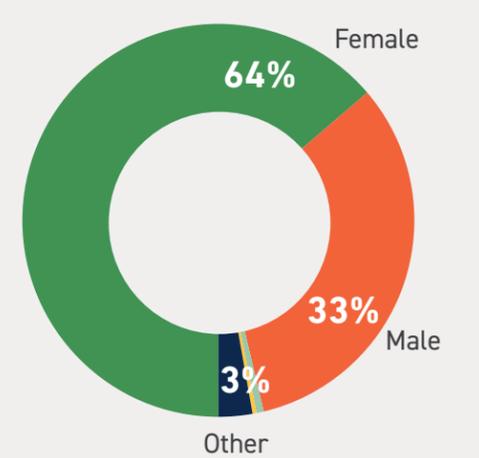
Age



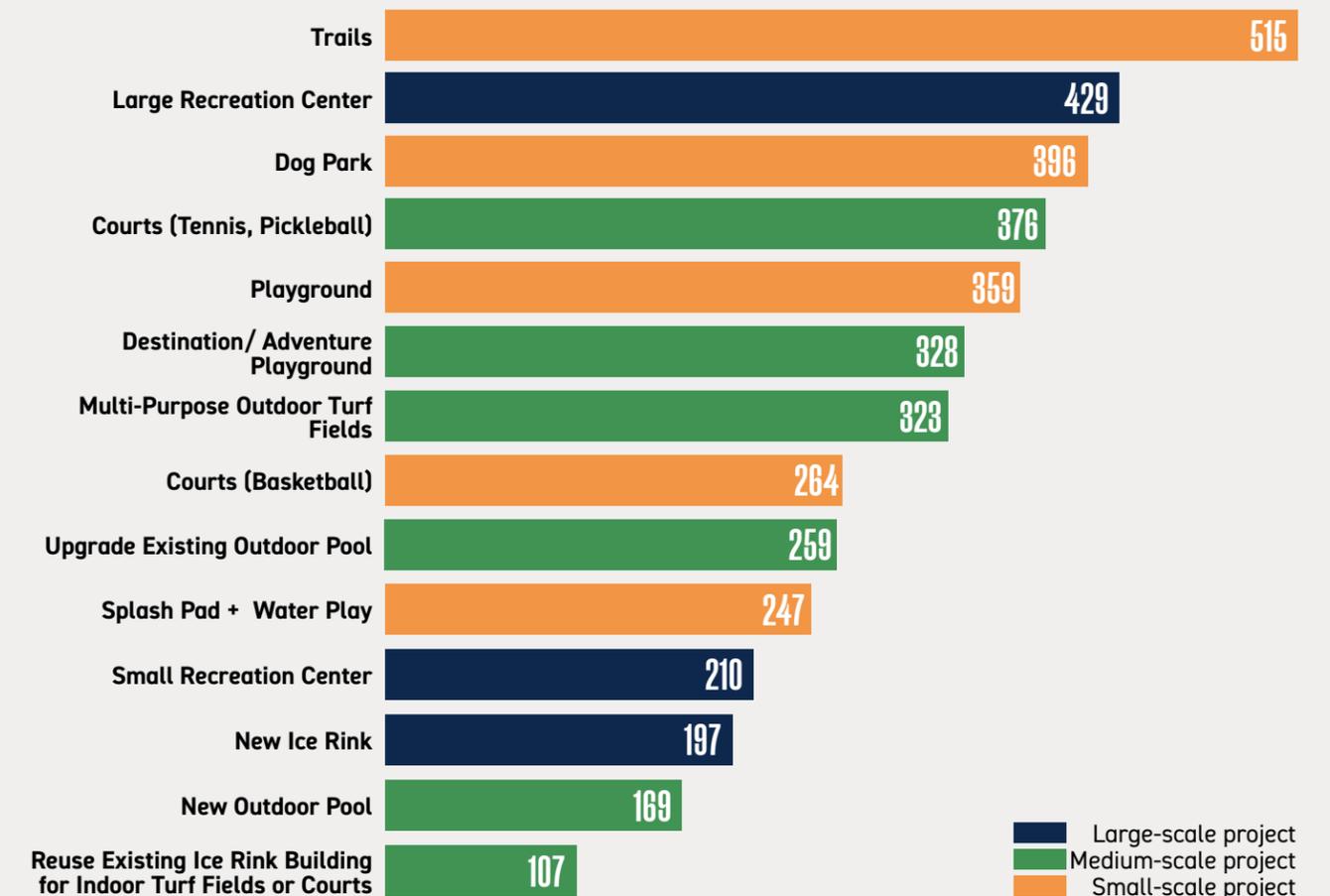
Race



Gender



Fund It! Amenity Rankings



The Fund It! amenities were classified by large, medium, and small scale projects. The large projects cost between \$50-\$80, the medium-scale projects cost between \$20-\$40, and the small-scale projects were priced at \$10. The chart ranks the priorities by which amenities received the most number of votes.

Concept Plans

The final concept plans reflect Plan participants' vision for the future of Shaker Heights Recreation at the five project sites.

The concept plans were developed with input received from the community throughout the engagement process.

By engaging Shaker Heights' diverse community of recreation users and non-users, the City has created a strategic, focused, and coordinated plan for all.

The designs focus on providing the community with recreation facilities that have the capability for gathering and bringing people together, while providing recreation, wellness, and programmatic needs.

The recommended recreational buildings and facilities provide a coordinated plan for adaptable, multi-functional, and efficient facilities to be utilized by the entire community.



Chelton Park

The concept plan for Chelton Park responds to Moreland residents' desire for a neighborhood-scale park that fulfills their needs. The design builds on the Lee Road Action Plan recommendation to expand the park and connect it to Lee Road. The concept plan activates the park and ties in recreation amenities such as a basketball court and a multipurpose field for flexible use. A neighborhood mural is included.

STJ Community Building Quadrant

A community center is proposed for the STJ site that provides recreational programming needs for all ages.

The concept plan includes a story walk and relocated Readers Garden public art to create engaging outdoor spaces that leverage the adjacency to the library. These elements bring the site to life by encouraging visitors to participate in educational and physical activities, enjoy the surrounding art, and spend time on site.

Artificial turf is proposed for the existing grass multipurpose field to permit expanded usage for programmed sports, free play, and walking path access.

Thornton Park

Two concept plans were proposed for Thornton Park to accommodate multiple options for desired facilities. The site plans include the potential for a single sheet ice rink, sheet and a half ice rink, existing rink demolition, and an option for renovating the existing rink for another recreational use.

The pool is an important amenity to the community, and the plans for Thornton Park explore how this can be improved and provide a central location for recreation. Other uses are proposed such as a playground, courts, and skate park to provide additional recreation amenities at Thornton Park.

Shaker Heights Middle School Site

The Shaker Heights Middle School site is the largest of the five sites in the Recreation Strategic Plan. Two concept plans consider the time constraints and site availability.

The first concept proposes a recreational campus with outdoor amenities. Fayette Road would be closed to build connections with the library.

The second concept proposes a new recreation center with indoor aquatics and outdoor pool. This concept creates a recreational hub offering sports fields, courts, a playground, trails, and dog park in addition to the recreation center.

While most of the site is not available until the middle school is no longer in use, both concepts recommend amenities that can be implemented over time.

Hildana Park

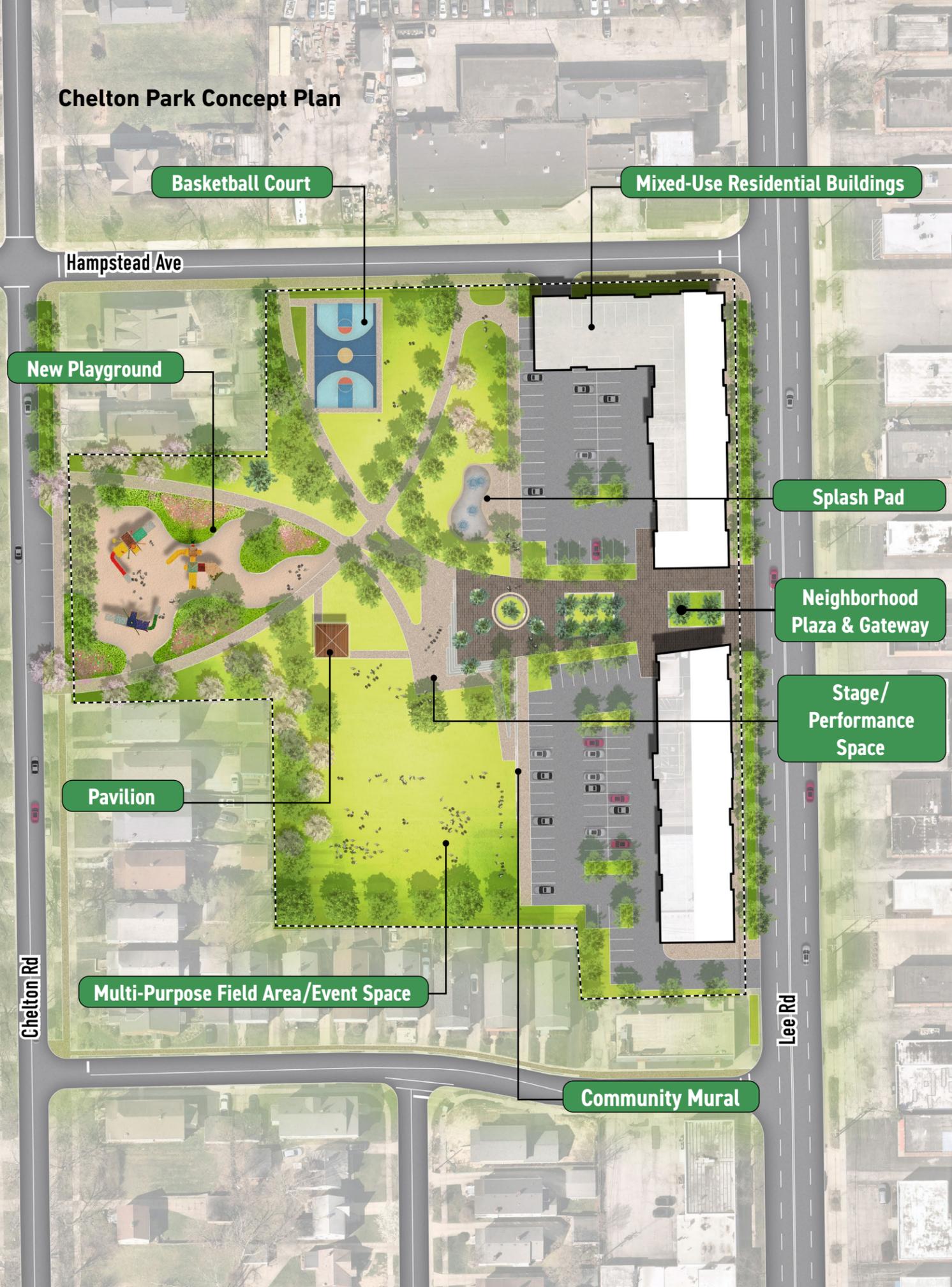
The concept plan for Hildana Park provides another neighborhood-scale park that creates a space for passive recreation, open space for activities and programming, public art, and a plaza with seating for residents to relax and enjoy their surroundings.

Note: Artificial turf has become an increasingly popular surface option for athletic fields due to its numerous practical advantages. It offers superior durability and a consistent playing surface, even under heavy and frequent use. Maintenance requirements are minimal, as artificial turf does not require mowing, fertilization, or re-seeding. It also allows for year-round usability regardless of weather conditions, significantly reduces water consumption, and eliminates the need for chemical pesticides. It allows for continuous play during all weather and doesn't need "rest" after rain, snow, or other weather events, increasing programming and reducing need to reschedule games.

Despite these benefits, there are important considerations associated with artificial turf. The initial installation costs are substantially higher than natural grass, and the turf typically requires replacement every 8 to 12 years (depending on usage). Additionally, artificial turf can retain heat, resulting in significantly elevated surface temperatures that may pose health risks. There are also concerns about an increased risk of certain injuries, including abrasions and joint stress. From an environmental standpoint, the synthetic materials used in artificial turf can contribute to pollution and runoff, raising long-term ecological concerns. Exposure to the recycled tires, chemicals, and plastics used in the turf raises concerns about health impacts on children and adults. New technologies are available that offer PFAS-free turf.

Communities across the country have installed artificial turf fields to provide expanded access to recreation to meet demand, particularly in communities with limited open space. All of these factors should be considered when deciding on grass or artificial turf.

Chelton Park Concept Plan



Chelton Park Concept Plan Program:

Basketball Court
The full-size basketball court is located off Hampstead Road.

Community Mural
A community mural is an important feature to connect the neighborhood with the park and showcase community pride.

Mixed-Use Residential Buildings
Mixed-use residential buildings line Lee Road tying in the street improvements with the neighborhood park.

Multi-Purpose Field / Event Area
In the southwestern portion of the site, a multi-purpose field and event area creates an open space for a multitude of activities.

Neighborhood Plaza + Gateway
The neighborhood plaza and gateway creates an entrance into Chelton Park from Lee Road.

New Playground
The new playground remains in the same location but will add new inclusive elements.

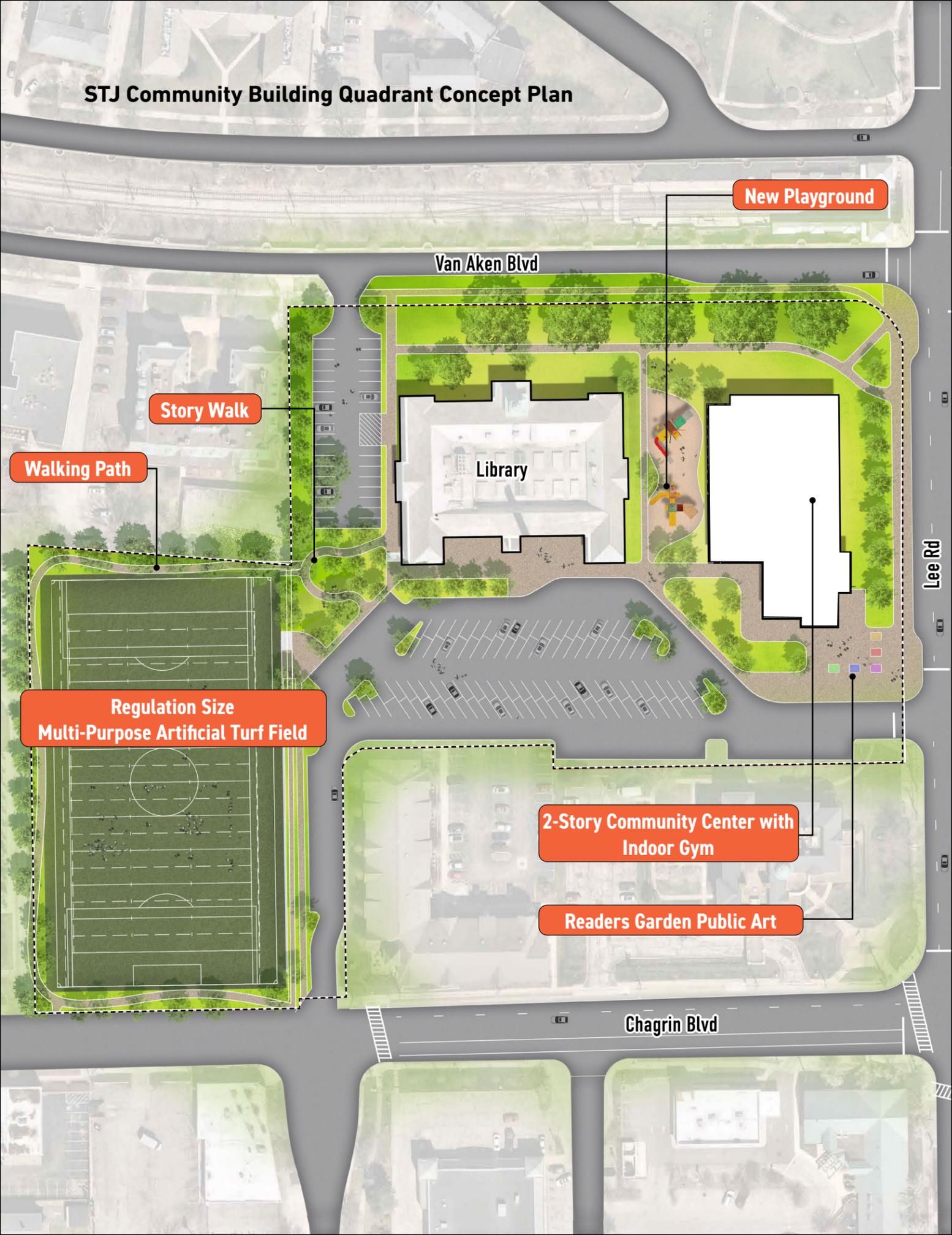
Pavilion
The pavilion offers a covered space for park visitors.

Splash Pad
The splash pad brings a water element to the site.

Stage / Performance Space
Incorporating a stage / performance area in the neighborhood plaza allows for the space to be used in a variety of ways.



STJ Community Building Quadrant Concept Plan



STJ Community Building Quadrant Concept Plan Program:

2-Story Community Center with Indoor Gym

The 2-Story Community Center with Gym serves as a recreational hub for the community. The building could be equipped with the following potential uses:

- Multipurpose/Meeting Rooms
- Program/Fitness/Game/Activity Room
- Gym / Basketball Court(s)
- Weight Room
- Studio (Yoga, Dance, etc.)
- Walking Track
- Bathrooms & Locker Rooms
- Recreation Staff Offices

New Playground

A new playground is located between the library and the proposed community center.

Readers Garden Public Art

The art welcomes visitors to the site and creates a visual anchor for the Library and Community Center off of Lee Road.

Regulation Size Multi-Purpose Artificial Turf Field

The regulation size multi-purpose field remains in the current location but is artificially turfed to allow for more usage, more public access, and less maintenance.

Story Walk

The Story Walk is a design element used to create an interactive experience while connecting the walking paths that circulate the site.

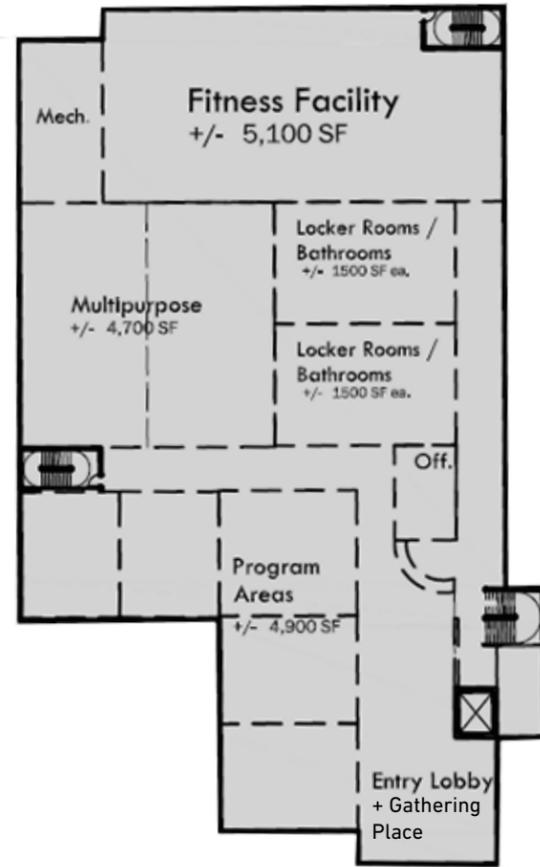
Walking Path

The walking path is enhanced by expanding the access and allowing broader usage. If combined with an artificial turf field, public access will be improved.

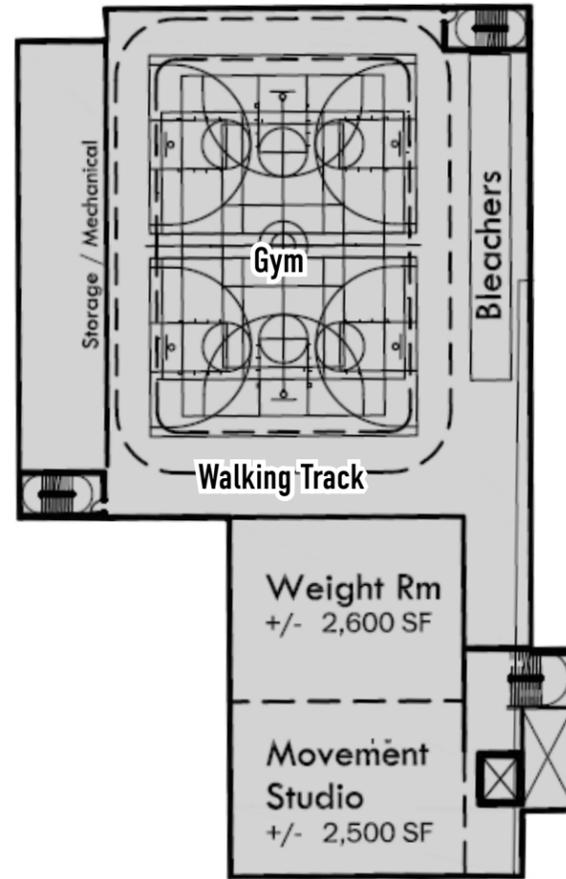


STJ Community Building Quadrant Concept Floor Plans

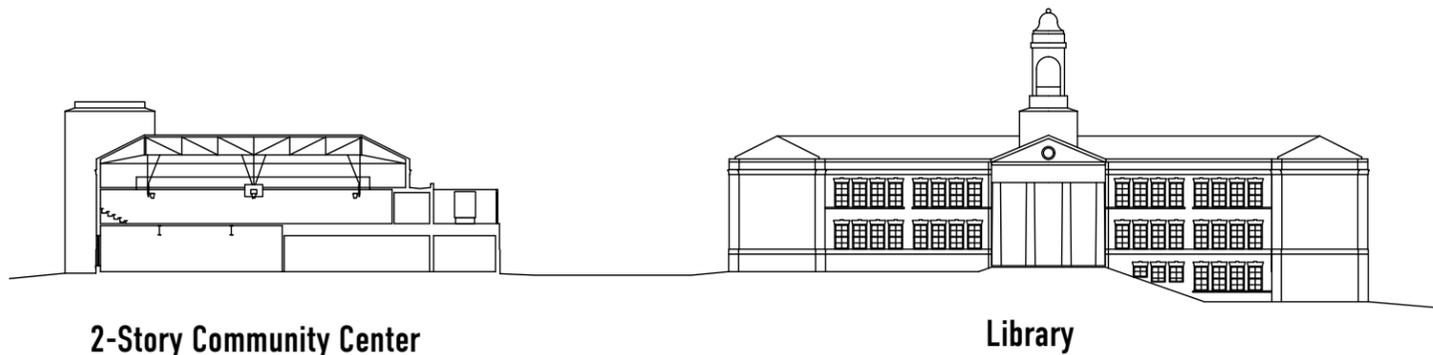
First Floor Community Center Concept Plan



Second Floor Community Center Concept Plan



Street View of the Community Center and Library from Van Aken Boulevard



2-Story Community Center

Library

Precedent: Oak Park Community Recreation Center

Oak Park, Illinois

The Oak Park Community Recreation Center (CRC) opened in 2023. The three-story, 42,000 square-foot building serves as an anchor for the community and offers a wide range of programming for people of all ages and abilities.

The Park District of Oak Park understood that the community needed indoor recreation space, especially in a historically underserved part of town.

Many of the amenities are available to residents for free, including the walking and jogging track. Low-cost multi-purpose meeting rooms support community and cultural groups, birthday parties, and after-school care.

There is a child watch area that provides a safe and productive space for young children. The watch area is open for children before and after school and offers creative space for children to play.

In addition to amenities for young children, program offerings geared towards teenagers such as free after-school programs for students, new offices of the Community Mental Health Board, in-take and referral services, and an e-sports lounge were implemented.

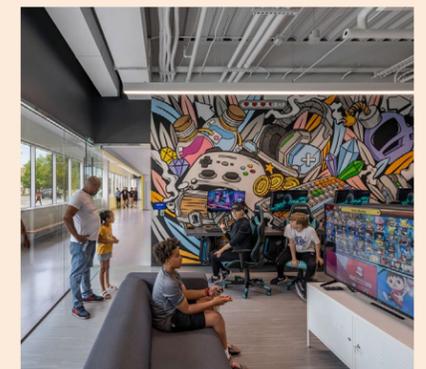
On the first floor, there are community conference rooms, childcare services, inclusive locker rooms, and an e-sports lounge.

The second level consists of a fitness center with free weights, weight machines, cardio equipment, a gymnasium with basketball courts, a multi-purpose group fitness studio and the Community Mental Health Board's office suite.

Suspended above the gym is a walking track, which takes advantage of the open space and provides views of the surrounding neighborhood and downtown Chicago.

The construction costs totaled \$19.6 million.

The Oak Park Recreation Center is an example of a smaller-scale recreation center with diverse programming and community offerings compatible with the needs of Shaker Heights.



**Thornton Park
Concept Plan 1**

Opt-1 | Reuse Existing Ice Rink

New 1 or 1.5 Sheet Ice Rink Facility

Pool Mechanical Equipment

New Playground

Court

**Upgraded Outdoor
Pool Facility**

Relocated Skate Park

**Opt-2 | Remove Existing Ice Rink
and Replace with Courts**

Courts

Rink

Sand Volleyball Court

Sledding Hill

Farnsleigh Rd.

Warrensville Center Rd

**Thornton Park Concept Plan 1
Program:**

Option 1: Reuse Existing Ice Rink Building

The proposed reuse of the existing ice rink building adds an additional indoor recreation space.

Option 2: Remove Existing Ice Rink Building and Replace with Outdoor Courts

Demolishing the existing ice rink building could make space for outdoor recreation courts.

Court

Court space was added to accommodate multiple sports.

New 1 or 1.5 Sheet Ice Rink Facility

A regulation size ice rink and half sheet of ice allows for coinciding usage and for the facility to host larger community events. The facility also adds off-ice space, new accommodations for pool users, and office space for the Recreation Department.

New Playground

The new playground remains in the same location but will add new inclusive elements.

Relocated Skate Park

The skate park will be relocated and updated.

Sand Volleyball Court

The sand volleyball court remains in its existing location.

Sledding Hill

The sledding hill remains in its existing location.

Upgraded Outdoor Pool Facility

The outdoor pool remains in its current location but may be upgraded with more amenities for swimmers of all levels.



**Thornton Park
Concept Plan 2**

Warrensville Center Rd



New 1 or 1.5 Sheet Ice Rink Facility

Courts

Future Development Site

Relocated Skate Park

Court

Adventure Playground

Sledding Hill

Sand Volleyball Court

Farnsleigh Rd.

**Thornton Park Concept Plan 2
Program:**

Adventure Playground
The proposed adventure playground allows for different types of play using unique and natural elements instead of traditional play structures.

Courts
Courts are located next to the new ice rink and in the southwestern portion of the site.

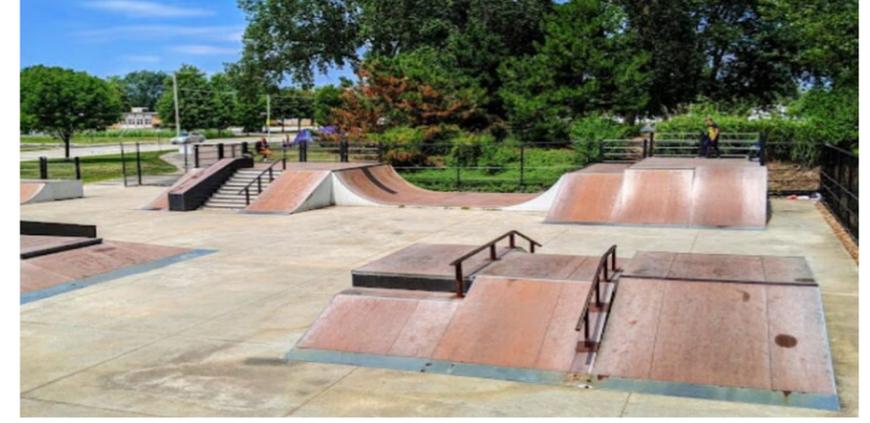
Future Development Site
There is potential for future development on the parcel along Warrensville Center Road.

New 1 or 1.5 Sheet Ice Rink Facility
A regulation size ice rink and half sheet of ice allows for coinciding usage and for the facility to host larger community events. The facility also adds off-ice space, new accommodations for pool users, and office space for the Recreation Department.

Relocated Skate Park
The skate park will be relocated and updated.

Sand Volleyball Court
The sand volleyball court remains in its existing location.

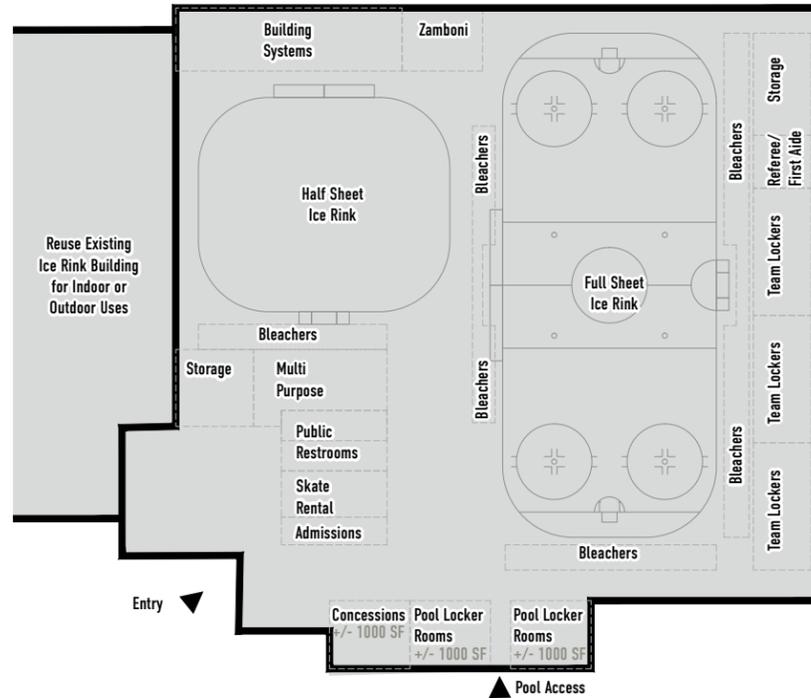
Sledding Hill
The sledding hill remains in its existing location.



Concept Plan for the New 1.5 Sheet Ice Rink

The building would contain the following potential uses:

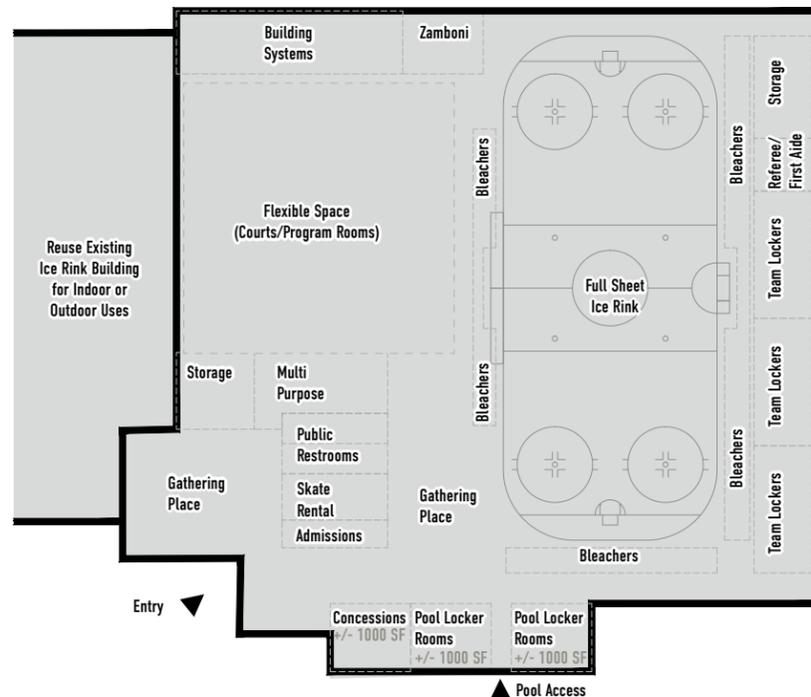
- Half Sheet Ice Rink
- Full Sheet Ice Rink
- Skating and Pool Locker Rooms
- Multi-Purpose / Program Room
- Concessions
- Reuse Existing Ice Rink Building
- Recreation/Staff Offices on Second Floor



Concept Plan for the New 1 Sheet Ice Rink

The building would contain the following potential uses:

- Full Sheet Ice Rink
- Flexible Space
- Skating and Pool Locker Rooms
- Multi-Purpose/Program Room
- Recreation Offices on Second Floor
- Concessions
- Reuse Existing Ice Rink Building
- Recreation/Staff Offices on Second Floor



Precedent: Foster Pool

Lakewood, Ohio

Charles A. Foster Pool at Lakewood Park opened in 1953. The original pool was demolished in September 2022 to make way for an expansion of the aquatic offerings at the site. The new lap pool and rec pool opened in June 2023.

Before the latest redesign, the pool had not been remodeled in 40 years.

Foster Pool is managed by the Recreation Department and owned by the City of Lakewood.

The pools feature:

- ADA zero-depth entry
- A speed slide
- A looping slide
- Lily pads
- Spray water features
- A family slide
- A diving board
- A 50 meter by 25 yard L-shaped lap pool
- Shade structures
- Family changing rooms
- A renovated pool house

Foster Pool offers Learn-To-Swim classes, open swims, adult swims, water polo, and competitive diving.

Through an engagement process for the redesign of Foster Pool, the community was able to participate and provide feedback through surveys and meetings.

Many of the design components were a result of public participation including: improved accessibility; a new competition and recreation pool; a new water play amenities area; and a new splash pad which was the first in Lakewood and free to the public.

The updates to Foster Pool better meet the needs of all types of users and can accommodate families, new swimmers, serious athletes, active adults, and all users and swimmers in between.

The project cost roughly \$6 million dollars to complete.

The Foster Pool is a historic pool that has been renovated from its original footprint to accommodate the community and can be an example of a potential renovation of Shaker Heights' existing aquatic offerings.



Precedent: Northfield Ice Arena

Northfield, Minnesota

After 20 years of working to resolve the deficient functionality of the existing rink, the City of Northfield, City of Dundas, Northfield School District, and Northfield Hockey Association partnered to build a new ice arena.

The final design was completed in 2024 and construction will take place spring of 2025 - summer of 2026.

The ice arena is approximately 53,000 square feet and is situated on a seven acre site. Adjacent to the new building is an area for future building expansion and a potential outdoor sheet off-ice.

The ice arena will have one sheet of ice, locker and team rooms, stands, concessions, and skate rentals, and off ice training space.

The project will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified and include a public art element with input from the community.

The estimated cost of the project is \$20.9 million.

The funding partnership for the project will be broken down by the following cost share:

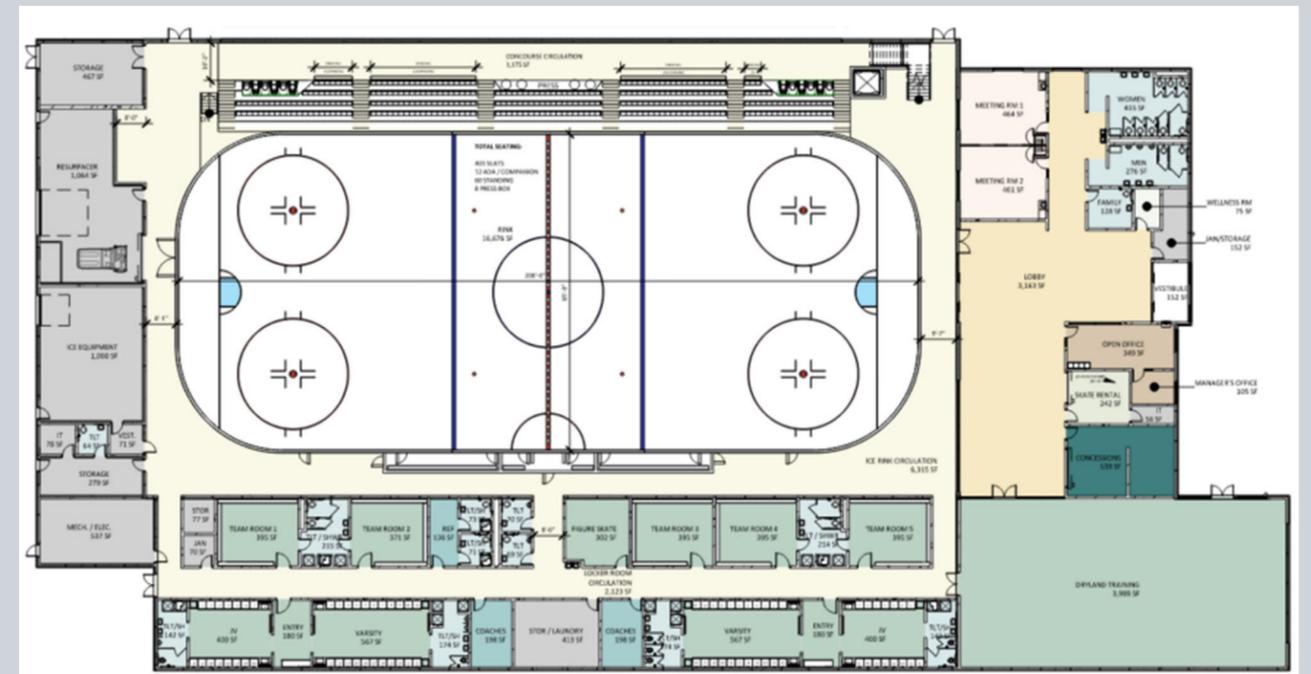
- 64% City of Northfield
- 12% Northfield School District
- 9% City of Dundas
- 9% Northfield Hockey Association fundraising donation
- 6% Sale of City-Owned Land from Existing Ice Rink Location

The Northfield Ice Arena will be a new facility that serves as a cost, partnership, and program reference for Shaker Heights. The project's funding is an example of partnership between city recreation, the school district, and local hockey organizations.

Northfield Concept Rendering for the Ice Arena



Northfield Concept Plan for the 1 Sheet Ice Arena



Northfield Concept Plan for the Ice Arena + Potential Outdoor Ice Rink



**Shaker Heights Middle School
Concept Plan 1**

RTA Green Line

Dog Park

Courts

Existing Shaker Median Trail

Adventure Playground

Pavilion

Youth Sports Fields

**Renovated MS
Gymnasium Building**

Renovated Upper Fields

Walking Trails

**Regulation Size
Multi-Purpose Artificial Turf Field**

Maintenance Building

Library

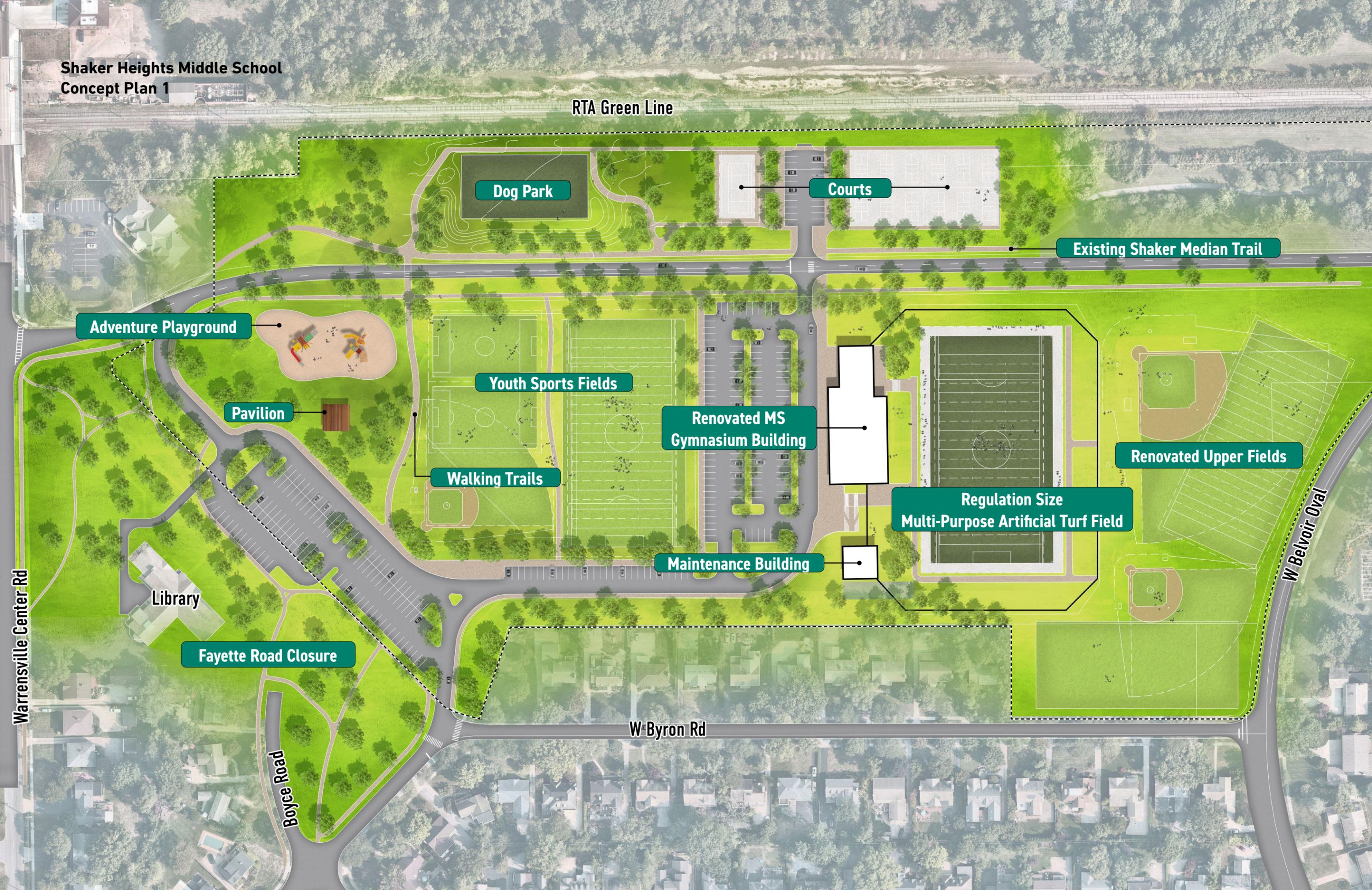
Fayette Road Closure

W Belvoir Oval

Warrensville Center Rd

Boyce Road

W Byron Rd



Shaker Heights Middle School Concept Plan 1 Program:

Adventure Playground

The proposed adventure playground allows for different types of play using unique and natural elements instead of traditional play structures.

Dog Park

A dog park is proposed on the north side of Shaker Boulevard.

Courts

Courts are proposed on the north side of Shaker Boulevard.

Existing Shaker Median Trail

The existing Shaker Median Trail will be connected to the trails surrounding the site.

Fayette Road Closure

Closing Fayette Road creates a campus feel between the recreation center and the library. The road closure will eliminate vehicular through traffic and create a safe space for pedestrian circulation.

Pavilion

The pavilion offers a covered space for park visitors.

Regulation Size Multi-Purpose Artificial Turf Field

The regulation size multi-purpose field remains in the current location but is turfed to allow for expanded usage and less maintenance.

Renovated Middle School Gymnasium Building

The proposal to renovate the existing gymnasium will allow for indoor recreation space and provides amenities for the sports fields.

Renovated Upper Fields

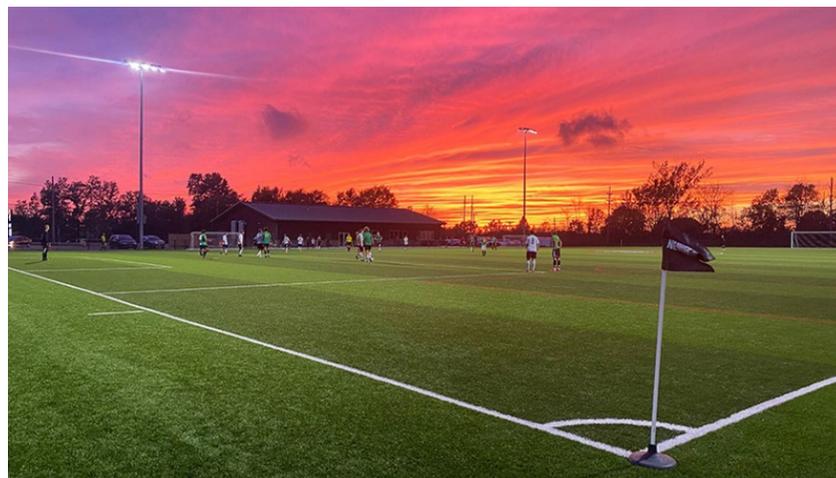
The upper fields remain in their currently location but are proposed to receive surface updates and new amenities.

Walking Trails

Walking trails weave through the site to create leisure pathways for pedestrians as well as provide circulation through the site to the different recreational amenities.

Youth Sports Fields

In the center of the site, youth sports fields are proposed to accommodate the demand for organized games and practices as well as more casual community use.



Precedent: Sandusky Recreation Center Conceptual Design

Sandusky, Ohio

In 2023, the City of Sandusky completed a feasibility study to construct a new recreation center at the former American Crayon site. The conceptual building plan is approximately 36,000 square feet.

The engagement phase of the study included an online survey, stakeholder meetings, and public events that provided guidance from the community on recreation needs, preferences, and program ideas.

The recommended building program includes;

- Multipurpose Rooms
- Activity Rooms
- Exercise Rooms
- Fitness Equipment
- Two Gymsnasiums
- A 1/12th mile indoor track.

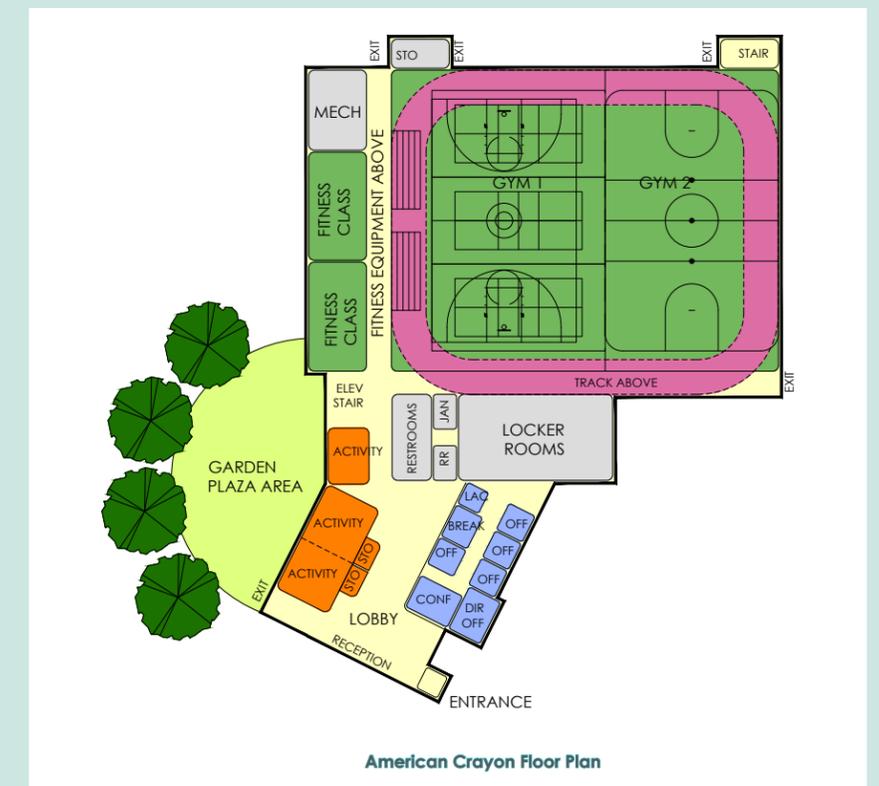
It also includes offices, locker rooms, administrative areas and other support space.

The study evaluated four sites for the potential recreation center and developed three concepts for the building.

The smallest building option was chosen, with the recommendation that provisions should be made for future expansion.

The estimated cost of the 36,000 SF facility at plan completion was \$14,785,000.

The Sandusky Recreation Center will be a new facility similar to the potential program offerings of a future Shaker Heights recreation center.



**Shaker Heights Middle School
Concept Plan 2**

RTA Green Line

Outdoor Pool

Dog Park

Courts

Recreation Center with Indoor Aquatics

Existing Shaker Median Trail

Adventure Playground

Regulation Size
Multi-Purpose Artificial Turf Fields

Renovated Upper Fields

Library

Maintenance Building

Fayette Road Closure

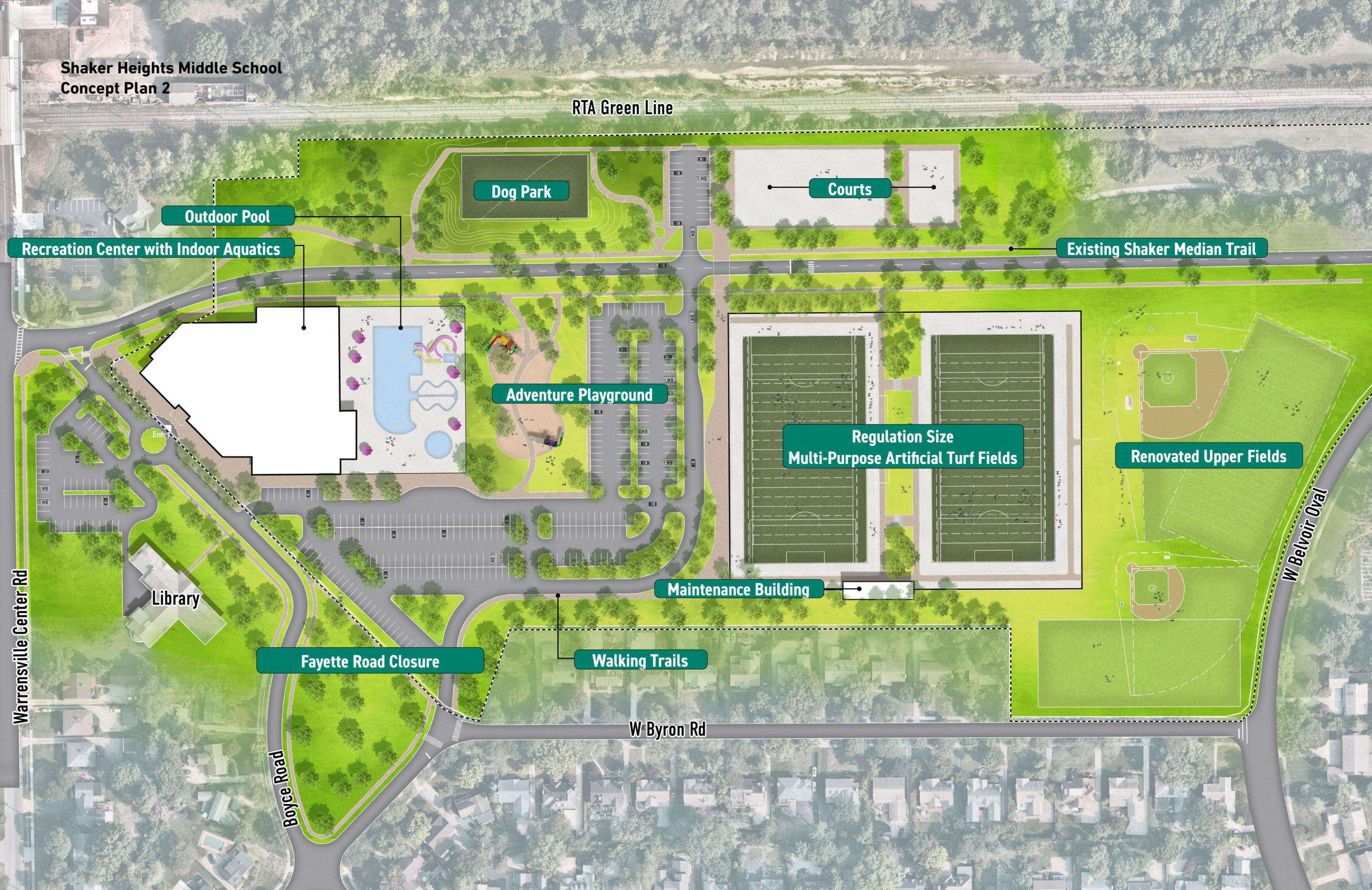
Walking Trails

Warrensville Center Rd

Boyce Road

W Byron Rd

W Belvoir Oval



Shaker Heights Middle School Concept Plan 2 Program:

Adventure Playground

The proposed adventure playground allows for different types of play using unique and natural elements instead of traditional play structures.

Dog Park

A dog park is proposed on the north side of Shaker Boulevard.

Courts

Courts are proposed on the north side of Shaker Boulevard.

Existing Shaker Median Trail

The existing Shaker Median Trail will be connected to the trails surrounding the site.

Fayette Road Closure

Closing Fayette Road creates a campus feel between the recreation center and the library. The road closure will reduce vehicular through traffic and create a safe space for pedestrian circulation.

Outdoor Pool

In this concept, the outdoor pool is relocated to this site creating a comprehensive recreational hub. The outdoor pool is connected to the recreation center with indoor amenities.

Regulation Size Multi-Purpose Artificial Turf Fields

Two regulation size multi-purpose artificial turf fields are proposed to allow for more usage and less maintenance.

Renovated Upper Fields

The upper fields remain in their currently location but are proposed to receive surface updates and new amenities.

Walking Trails

Walking trails weave through the site to create leisure pathways for pedestrians and provide circulation to the different recreational amenities.

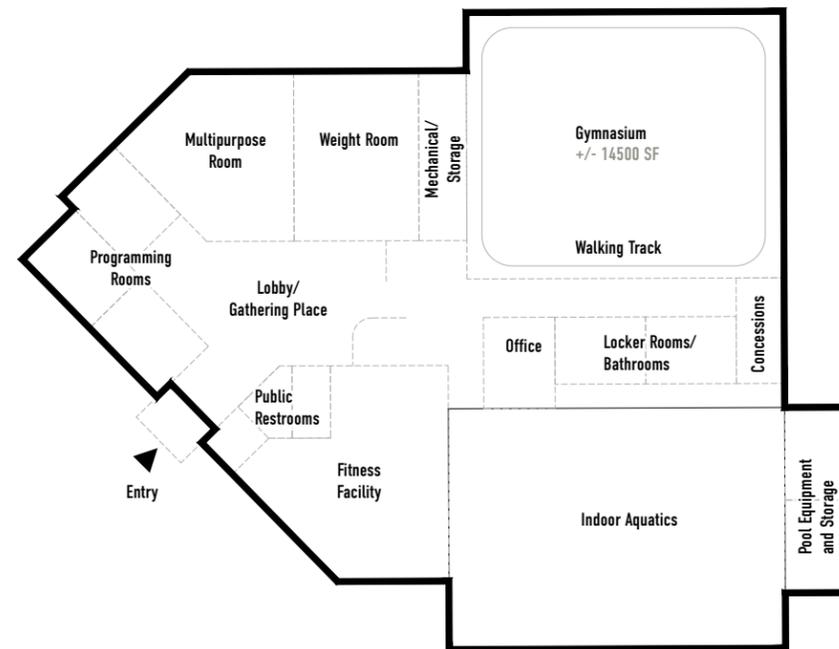
Recreation Center with Indoor Aquatics

The proposed recreation center with indoor aquatics anchors the corner of Shaker Boulevard and would welcome visitors from Warrensville Center Road. The recreation center would be equipped with recreational and community spaces.

The Recreation Center building would contain the following potential uses:

- Public Restrooms
- Program/Fitness Rooms/ Studios (Yoga, Dance)
- Multipurpose/ Meeting Room
- Fitness Facility
- Weight Room
- Gymnasium with Courts
- Walking Track
- Bathrooms & Locker Rooms
- Concessions
- Indoor Aquatics

Concept Plan for Recreation Center with Indoor Aquatics



Precedent: Mayfield Heights Aquatic and Community Center

Mayfield Heights, Ohio

The Mayfield Heights Aquatic and Community Center (ACC) officially opened in June of 2024. The brand new facility, built on the grounds of former baseball fields, was conceived as part of the City's 2014 recreation master plan.

The community center spans 33,500 square feet with a 12,000 square foot aquatic center that increases the program offerings and alleviate space limitations for the Parks and Recreation Department.

The ACC includes a gymnasium with three basketball courts, and the capability for six pickleball courts and two volleyball courts. There is a fitness room for residents 55 and older, meeting rooms, and the recreation department offices.

The ACC has an event space where three rooms can be rented for small gatherings or combined to host larger events. The restaurant-size kitchen, outdoor patio overlooking the aquatic center, and poolside pavilion can all be rented by residents.

The complex includes a soft-surfaced playground with adventure type amenities such as a climbing wall and zipline. The ADA compliant playground has sensory panels and adaptive swings.

The pool has a 34 foot tall structure with three different slides. There are two pools to accommodate different users. The multi-use leisure pool has three lap lanes, a zero-depth entry area and interactive play structures and features. The activity pool appeals to those who are looking for more fitness and skill-based water activities. It features four additional lap lanes, three-meter diving, Aqua Zip'n, a basketball hoop, and a climbing wall.

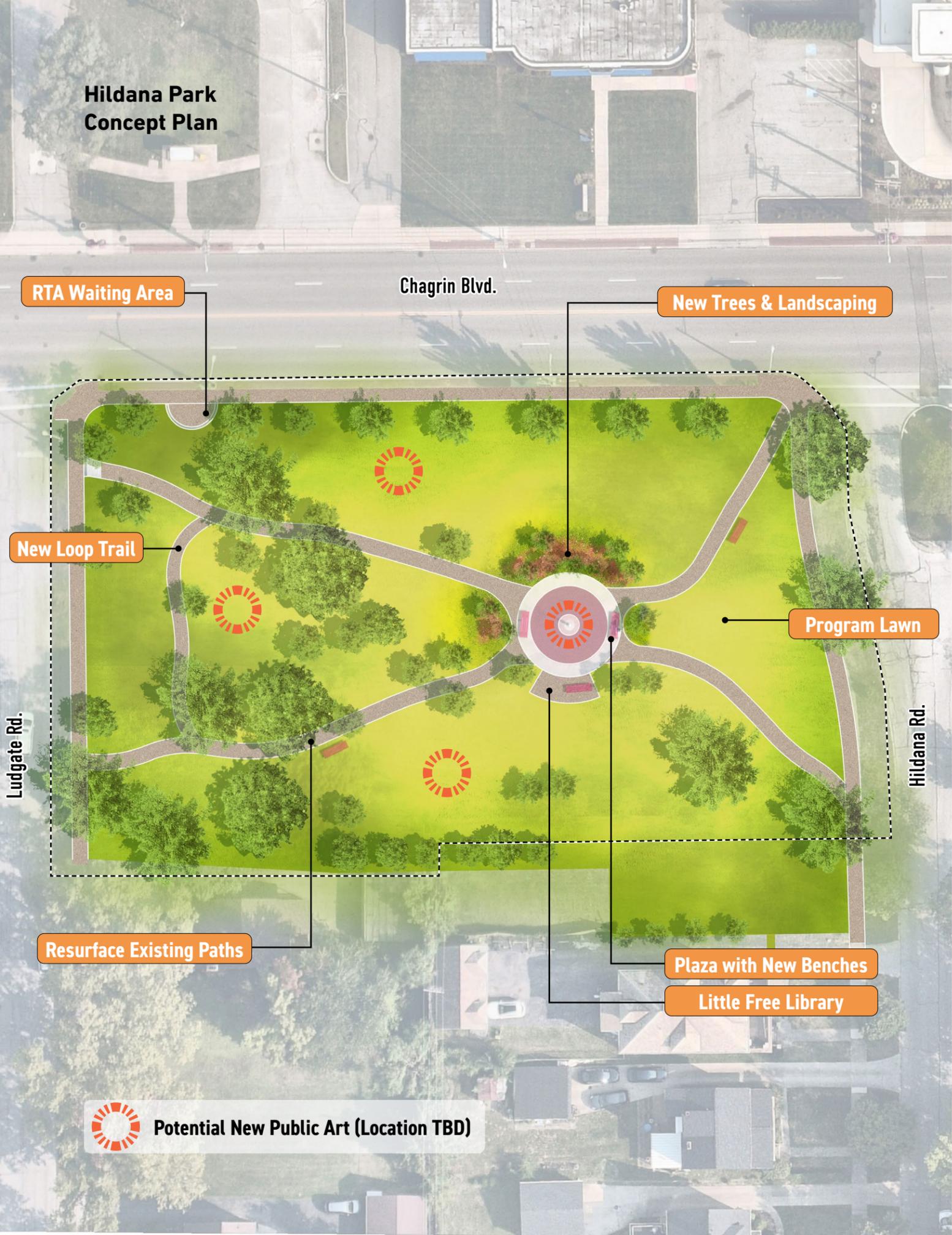
The facility serves as the City's recreational hub, offering a variety of sports and recreation offerings, informative programs, and special events for residents of all ages.

The Aquatic and Community Center cost roughly \$34 million to complete.

The ACC is newly constructed and an example of how an aquatic and community center can function together as a facility as a potential option for Shaker Heights.



Hildana Park Concept Plan



Hildana Park Concept Plan Program:

Little Free Library

An upgraded Little Free Library will be incorporated into the site.

New Loop Trail

New trails will connect to the existing paths to create a walking loop around the site. The plan also proposes resurfacing the existing paths.

New Public Art

New public art will be designed with resident input. Opportunities for functional and interactive art will be considered.

New Trees + Landscaping

Adding new trees and landscaping contribute to beautification efforts and create a natural buffer from the adjacent street traffic.

Plaza with New Benches

Surrounding the plaza with new seating areas allows for park visitors to sit, relax, gather, and enjoy time in the park.

Program Lawn

The proposed program lawn includes space for organized events or activities to take place.

RTA Waiting Area

Enhancing the RTA stop area to create a more comfortable experience while waiting to utilize public transportation.



Preliminary Opinion of Probable Cost (OPP)

The following exhibits display cost estimate ranges for each site.

The opinion of probable costs included in this document are preliminary only and based on available data, industry standards, and reasonable assumptions derived from the concept plans.

These costs do not include any future year escalations and are based on 2024 pricing. Sample costs are based on projects in Northern Ohio and similar jurisdictions.

The actual costs of each project or amenity may vary, and no attempt has been made to account for a broad array of factors, including inflation, market conditions, material selection, and availability, as well as design changes, level of finish, and unforeseen site conditions.

These OPPs are intended for general planning purposes only and should not be construed as a binding or final quote.

The following OPPs were derived based on the following assumptions and approach.

Cost ranges between types of courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.) are minimal.

The plans are illustrative, and the type/ number of courts needs to be determined per site.

Destination/Adventure Playgrounds have custom designs with higher-end finishes and are not necessarily off-the-shelf structures found in traditional playgrounds.

The Ice Rink may include an additional second-floor space for recreational offices. This has not been included in the OPP and needs to be determined.

The Shaker Heights Middle School is assumed to be part of the School District's Planning Project.

The Outdoor Pool may include additional water features/elements and will be determined as part of a future design process.

The following costs are assumed for each of the following amenities.

- Courts: surface, fencing, and hoops/nets
- Turf Fields: surface, fencing
- Dog Park: surface, fencing
- Playgrounds: surface, structure

The OPPs for each site are displayed in ranges to cover the low and high-end options for site finishings and potential added amenities. The break down of the OPPs per site is detailed on the following pages.

Hildana Park
\$220,000 - \$252,000

Chelton Park
\$3,195,000 - \$5,275,000

STJ Community Building Quadrant
\$23,000,000 - \$28,650,000

Thornton Park 1
\$47,475,000 - \$59,300,000

Thornton Park 2
\$35,975,000 - \$44,050,000

Shaker Heights Middle School 1
\$18,025,000 - \$27,025,000

Shaker Heights Middle School 2
\$68,525,000 - \$81,775,000

All cost ranges presented above include the following estimates and contingencies:

- Demolition: 15%
- Utilities: 20%
- Planting and Furnishings: 15%
- General Conditions: 5%
- Design: 15%
- Construction: 15%



Hildana Park Concept Plan: Preliminary OPP

Chagrin Blvd.

Ludgate Rd.

Hildana Rd.

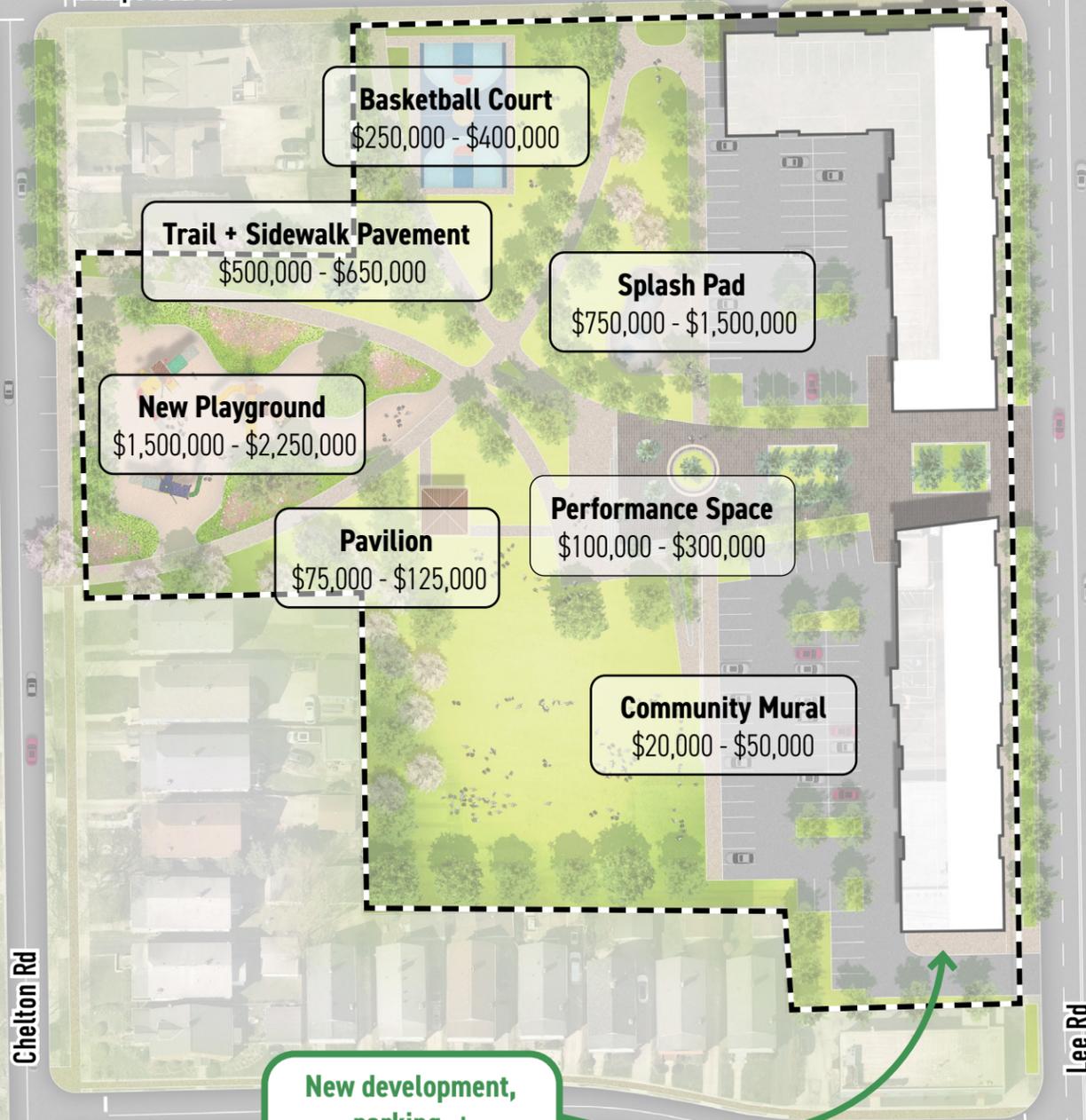
Paths
\$70,000 - \$86,000

Benches + Landscaping
\$50,000 - \$60,000

Public Art
\$100,000 - \$106,000

**Chelton Park
Concept Plan: Preliminary OPP**

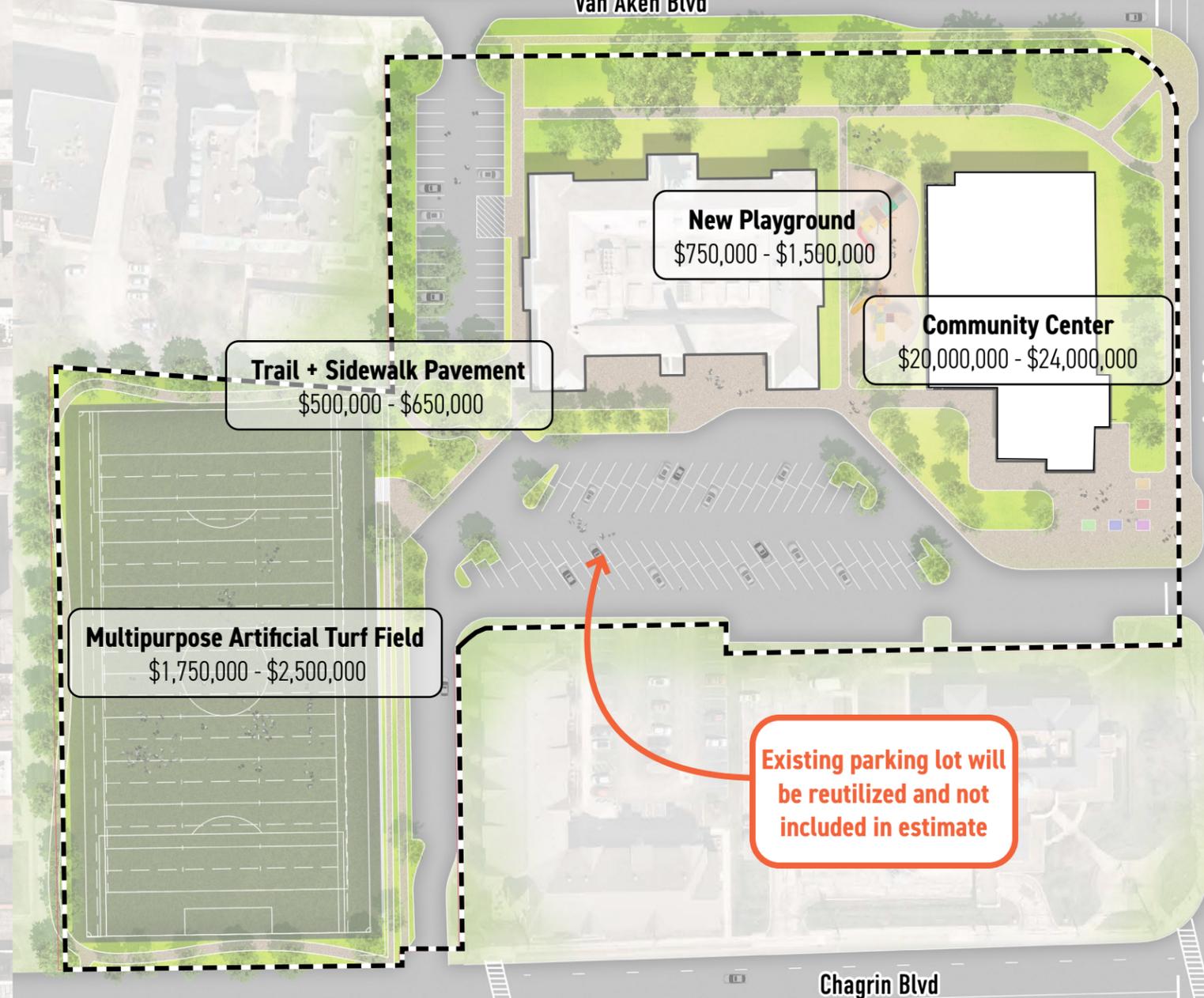
Hampstead Ave



New development, parking, + neighborhood plaza not included in estimate

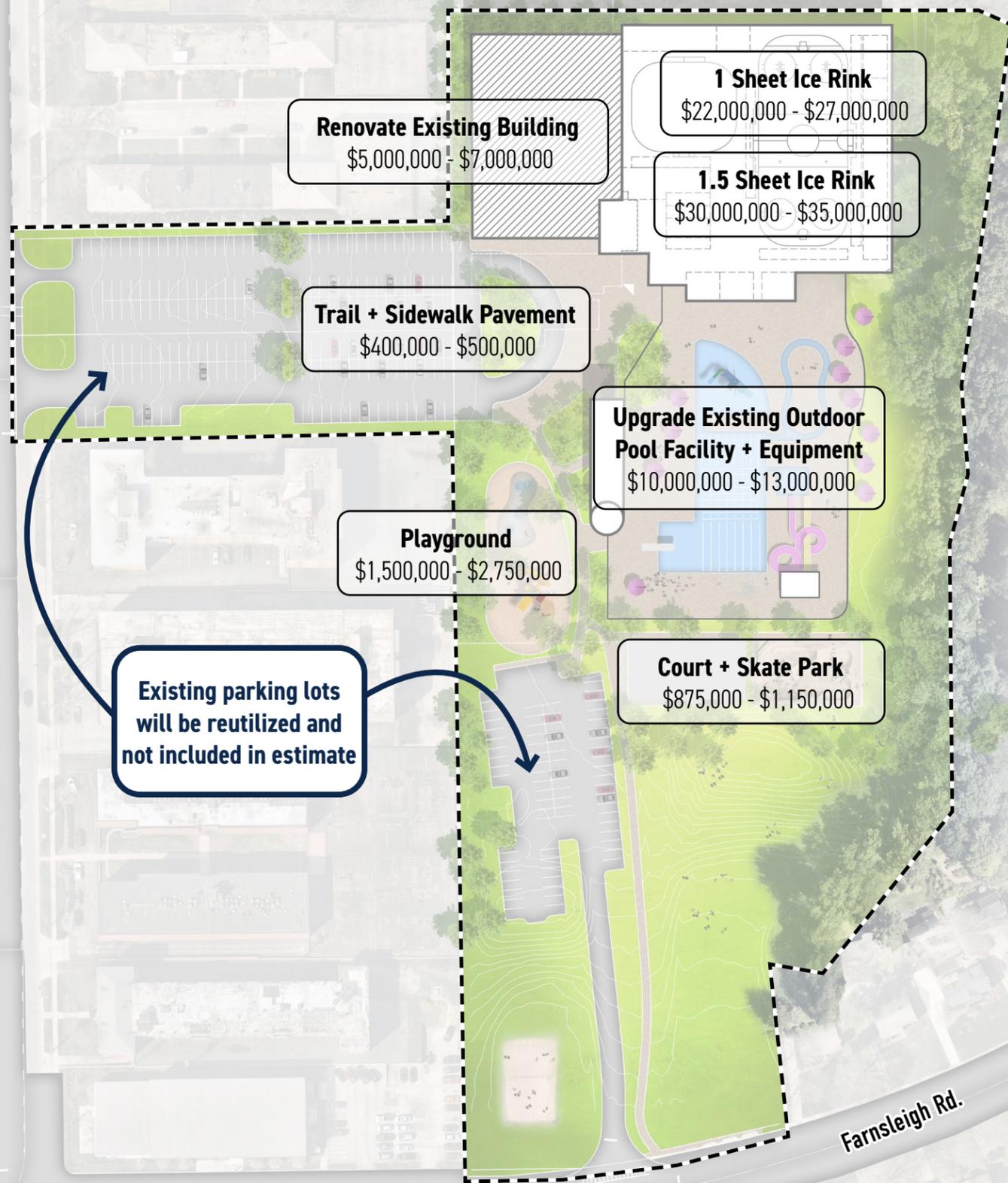
**STJ Community Building Quadrant
Concept Plan: Preliminary OPP**

Van Aken Blvd



Existing parking lot will be reutilized and not included in estimate

**Thornton Park
Concept Plan 1:
Preliminary OPP**



**Thornton Park
Concept Plan 2:
Preliminary OPP**



Shaker Heights Middle School Concept Plan 1: Preliminary OPP

RTA Green Line

All Trail + Sidewalk Pavement
\$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000

Dog Park
\$200,000 - \$400,000

Courts
\$750,000 - \$1,250,000

Adventure Playground
\$2,500,000 - \$4,000,000

**New Entrance Drive/
Roadway Realignments**
\$2,000,000 - \$3,000,000

Pavilion
\$75,000 - \$125,000

Gymnasium Building
\$5,000,000 - \$8,000,000

**All Grass Fields + Green
Park Areas**
\$1,750,000 - \$2,250,000

All Asphalt Parking
\$2,500,000 - \$3,500,000

Multipurpose Artificial Turf Field
\$1,750,000 - \$2,500,000

Library

W Byron Rd

W Belvoir Oval

Shaker Heights Middle School Concept Plan 2: Preliminary OPP

RTA Green Line

All Trail + Sidewalk Pavement
\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000

Dog Park
\$200,000 - \$400,000

Courts
\$750,000 - \$1,250,000

New Outdoor Pool Facility + Equipment
\$11,000,000 - \$14,000,000

Recreation Center with Indoor Aquatics
\$47,500,000 - \$52,500,000

Adventure Playground
\$1,500,000 - \$2,250,000

Multipurpose Artificial Turf Fields
\$3,500,000 - \$5,000,000

All Grass Fields + Green Park Areas
\$1,000,000 - \$1,750,000

Pavilion
\$75,000 - \$125,000

All Asphalt Parking
\$2,000,000 - \$3,000,000

Library

Existing library parking
will be reutilized and
not included in estimate

Warrensville Center Rd

W Belvoir Oval

W Byron Rd

Next Steps

The framework for shaping recreation in Shaker Heights.

The Recreation Strategic Plan, created with community and stakeholder input, serves as a framework and guide for the city's recreation improvements. Final decisions on recreation enhancements, upgrades, or replacements will be the responsibility of City Administration and City Council. Prioritization will balance the vision, wants, and needs with the realities of timing, costs, existing conditions, expected life of facilities, and funding. As it was during the Plan creation, providing recreational amenities in underserved neighborhoods and proximate to schools will be considered during future plan phases.

Incremental Implementation & Funding Strategy

The plan is a framework that may adjust over time due to changing circumstances and priorities. It is expected that this plan will take several years, if not decades, to implement. Ongoing community input and dialogue will take place as investments are considered. City Administration and City Council will consider project investment based on current conditions, site readiness and availability, coordinated project investments, grant funding, City budget, partnerships, sponsorships, and other opportunities.

Detail Design + Cost

As individual projects progress, there will be ongoing opportunities for community input and dialogue. When projects are ready to move forward, the City will engage architects, landscape architects, engineers, consultants, and the community to refine design concepts, undertake cost estimates, and prepare for recreation enhancements, upgrades, or replacements.

Immediate Next Steps

With the completion of the Recreation Strategic Plan (Phase 1), two immediate next steps are necessary to implement the plan:

- Updated Conditions Study—Thornton Park Ice Rink Mechanical Systems
- Phase 2: Recreation Operations & Implementation Plan

The following page details the Immediate Next Steps.

First Actions + Early Wins

Strategic first steps may be taken to create momentum as the Recreation Operations & Implementation Plan is in progress. These comparatively smaller projects can be implemented relatively quickly and support the overall recommendations of the Recreation Strategic Plan. These actions may be considered for specific priority sites or for desired lower-cost recreational uses.

The following page details the First Actions + Early Wins.

Immediate Next Steps

Updated Conditions Study for the Thornton Park Ice Rink

- Assess existing conditions of mechanicals
- Determine anticipated life expectancy of facility

Phase 2: Recreation Operations + Implementation Plan

- Phasing Plan
- Financing Plan
 - Public financing opportunities
 - Grant-funding options
 - Funding partnerships & sponsorships
 - Revenue-generating opportunities
- Operations Plan
- Partnership Best Practices
 - Implementation partnerships
 - Programming partnerships
 - Sponsorship partnerships
 - Transportation partnerships

First Actions + Early Wins

Chelton Park Basketball Court

STJ Community Building Quadrant Turf Field

Hildana Park Improvements

Middle School Median Dog Park

