



**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
CITIZENS' RECREATION COMMISSION**

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Citizens' Recreation Commission
SUBJECT: Park Improvement Proposal (PIP)
DATE: November 14, 2023

Dear Mayor Arthur Bryant and City Council Members:

In 2019, the nine-member Citizens' Recreation Commission performed a comprehensive onsite evaluation of four local parks. For each park, we assessed the safety, quality and condition of the existing structures and amenities.

In October 2023, the Commission reviewed the progress on the PIP and updated recommendations for the parks in Grosse Pointe Woods. In the attached report, we provide a summary of our findings and have highlighted deficiencies and safety repairs needed at these designated parks.

- Our parks represent an important investment in our community and one that will generate favorable outcomes, including: Attract future residents, especially young families
- Full utilization of park properties will allow for more recreational activities for our residents
- Positively impact the health and wellness of our residents
- Provide a safe and fun space for adolescents and young adults to enjoy
- Improve the safety, comfort and enjoyment of the parks, thereby increasing utilization
- Preserve our City's reputation as one of the top, safe, family-friendly places to live

Our overall analysis is that the parks in the City of Grosse Pointe Woods lack toddler age-appropriate equipment, gathering areas for larger groups outside of Lakefront Park, activities suited for adolescents and young adults, and full utilization of park properties.

We understand that the list of proposed enhancements is exhaustive and therefore, costs, staffing, and other factors will need to be assessed regarding project timing. We believe Ghesquire Park has the most potential for improvement and recommend that Ghesquire be the focus of the next large-scale park improvement project, in order to create a more widely used recreation and sports venue.

We request that City Council review this report and further investigate the identified park enhancements. In addition, we welcome the opportunity to present our report in person and have a constructive discussion with you at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. In

the meantime, if you have any questions about the proposed PIP, please contact the Citizens' Recreation Commission members.

We look forward to your feedback. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

attachment

Ghesquire Park

* Indicates a priority item

Location: Behind GPW City Hall, off Mack Ave between Kenmore and Huntington	
Current Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sports venue, offering five baseball diamonds and lighted pickle ball courts. ● Playground for children age 5-12. ● Year-round rink for roller hockey and ice skating when weather permits. ● Location of award-winning Winterfest in January.
Future Vision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand use for toddlers and seniors. ● Optimize park patron comfort. ● Increase park recreation options
Existing Resident Perks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large space serving all residents with versatile functions ● Indoor bathrooms. ● Concession stands. ● Ample parking in front and back of park.
Recommended Safety Repairs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add rubber safety padding (replace wood chips on playground lot.) ● Add sign "No batting practice permitted near playground"
Proposed Enhancements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build a multi-use pavilion with regiferated ice rink for winter, and picnic tables to provide shade and additional seating area in spring/summer/fall* ● Add walking path around the perimeter of the park to increase usage of open space* ● Add Disc Golf course in field south and west of playground.* ● Update restrooms - add additional capacity, more central location*

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Install additional swings near playground.● Add toddler playground equipment, ie. sand box, tunnel tubes, etc.● Aesthetic signage at primary entrances to park - municipal lot and Jackson lot● Installing dedicated pickleball courts● Improvements to baseball and softball facilities: dugouts, batting cages |
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Lakefront Park

* Indicates a priority item

Location: Lakeshore Drive and Marter

Current Purpose:

- Provides various recreational activities for residents, including pool, marina, miniature golf, fishing, tennis, activity center.
- Location for annual city picnic and Hob Nobbin.

Future Vision:

- Maintain quality and safety of park, with minor enhancements noted below.

Existing Resident Perks:

- Year-round versatile recreational space.
- Ample parking.
- Swimming pools and lessons in the summer.
- Tennis courts and lessons in the summer.
- Boat wells.
- Kayak storage.
- Pickleball Courts

Recommended Safety Repairs:

- For playground: Add rubber safety padding (replace wood chips).
- Improve shade at mini golf course with umbrellas over the benches.

Proposed Enhancements:

- Add new cooking grills throughout the park*
- Resurface bocce ball and shuffleboard courts
- Add toddler playground equipment
- Add more shaded areas around pool and create shade at the miniature golf course

Sweeney Park

Location: Between Fairholme and Torrey at Holiday Road

Current Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provides a place for neighborhood children to play (age 5-12)● Offers ice rink in the winter.
Future Vision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Offer toddler-friendly play equipment.
Existing Resident Perks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Large open space with plenty of shade.● Existing playground equipment and swings are in good condition.
Recommended Safety Repairs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Add rubber padding to playground (replace wood chips).
Proposed Enhancements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Add toddler playground equipment.*

Chene-Trombly

Location: Corner of Mack Ave and Ridgemont (across from Licavoli's)

<p>Current Purpose:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides a place for children to play (ages 5-12) ● Offers ice rink in the winter
<p>Future Vision:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide a play area specifically for toddlers (under 5). ● Make it family and group-friendly for picnics. ● Offer a walking path for fitness.
<p>Existing Resident Perks:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large open space that is contained by fencing. ● Ample parking. ● Close location near Mack Ave local businesses.
<p>Recommended Safety Repairs:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fix slide ● Add rubber safety padding to playground (replace wood chips).
<p>Proposed Enhancements (In Progress):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add toddler-friendly play equipment with a shade tent. ● Add ¼ mile paved walking path around the perimeter of the park. ● Add kids swings. ● Add more picnic tables and benches. ● Add double safety gate at entrance. Enhance entrance with a visually optimizing welcome sign. ● Add bike racks. ● Add drinking fountain and water bottle refill station. ● Improve drainage. ● Add signage to attract Mack Ave traffic.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Add attractive new fencing.● Make handicap-accessible.

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