

HUDSON MILLS METROPARK MASTER PLAN



5 Year Update to 2017 – 2027

DRAFT



Introduction

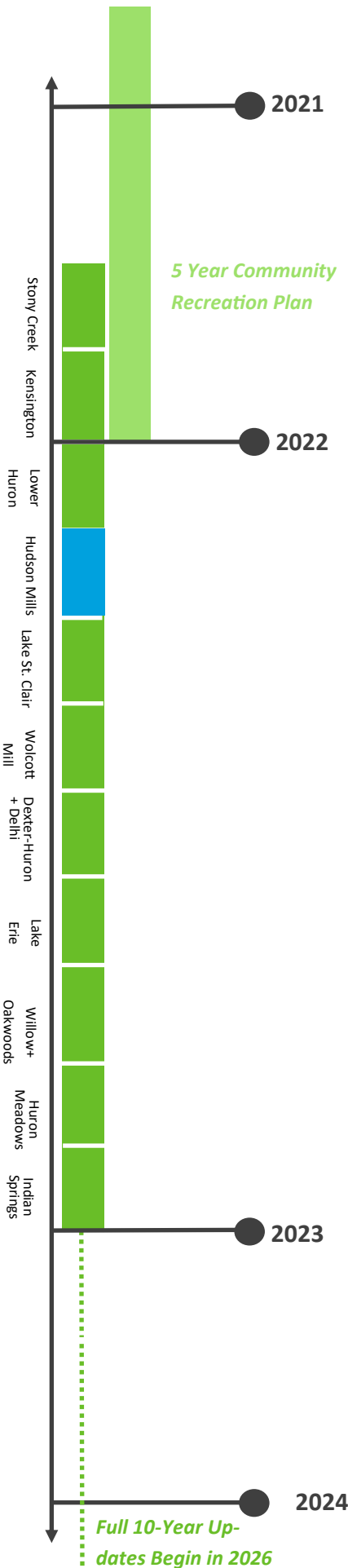
Planning Process

The five-year update is an opportunity for each of the 13 Metroparks to review their master plan and make sure it is still relevant. This review includes 1) major changes to facilities, infrastructure and programming in the park; 2) updated needs and opportunities; 3) completed action items; and 4) any new actions necessary to implement the goals and policies for the park. One of the most important components is the public input collected through meetings, questionnaires, and online comments. This reveals the public's hopes and expectations for the park and significantly influences plan recommendations. A master plan steering committee was formed to include park employees with exceptional knowledge of Hudson Mills and surrounding community, who along with the experienced Metroparks department heads provide their professional opinions.

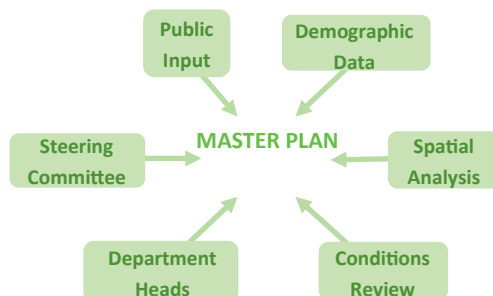
The Planning and Development Department also included updates to the demographic and spatial data to inform recommendations. Demographic data looks at the density, age, income, language, and other factors of the regional population. Spatial data, usually analyzed through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, looks at the physical location of the parks in relation to other recreation opportunities, transportation facilities, population centers, important natural resources, and more. Finally, the planning staff conducted a review of park conditions to identify areas needing improvement and areas experiencing success.

The master plans are intended to be living documents, modified as needed to reflect changing conditions in the parks. However, they focus on park developments over the following ten years, and will be updated every decade through a formal planning process similar to the current one.

Park Master Plans



The Steering Committee
met on 05/03/2022



REVENUE

Revenue Sources

2021 Operations Revenue

Revenue Source	2021 Total \$	% of Revenue
Tolling	675,070.95	40.8%
Golf	794,349.84	48.0%
Disc Golf	34,778.26	2.1%
Boat Rental	67,578.48	4.1%
Special Events	4,339.73	0.3%
Shelter Reservations	28,134.82	1.7%
Group Camp	3,866.17	0.2%
Cross Country Ski	90.00	0.0%
Interpretive	9,300.00	0.6%
Intergovernmental	3,121.07	0.2%
Miscellaneous	35,075.67	2.1%
	1,655,704.99	100%

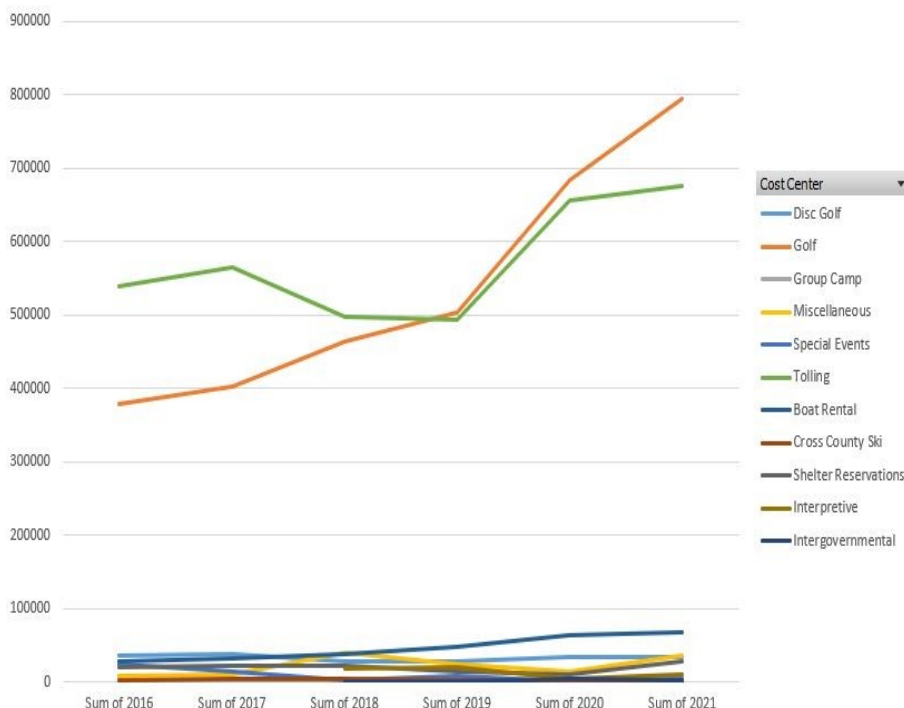
NEEDS

Diversify sources of revenue

Offer new and exciting activities/
programs to visitors to both boost
tolling and gather user fees

OPPORTUNITIES

REVENUE TRENDS 2016-2021—Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, Delhi



The Metroparks 2021 General Fund revenue equaled \$59,729,968. The 2021 operations revenue for Hudson Mills was approximately \$1,655,704, comprising 2.7% of all Metroparks revenue.

As the chart illustrates, nearly all Hudson Mills revenue comes from park entrance tolling and golf.

Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, and Delhi are considered together in the budgeting process, and the budgeted 2022 operations revenues for the three parks are \$1,478,429, while estimated 2022 operations expenses are \$2,984,416. Property tax and other revenue will subsidize 50.5% (\$1,505,987) of the parks' operating budget.

*2020 Operations Revenue was irregular due to the COVID pandemic.

Revenue

Visitors

Hudson Mills Metropark is a regional park and can draw from the 1,663,101 people that live within a 30 mile radius (approximately a 45-minute drive) of the park. Certain events and activities may draw visitors from greater distances.

Vehicle entries to Hudson Mills Metropark have hovered between 200,000 and 300,000 since 2016. Record entries of 299,492 were recorded in 2020.

In 2019, the Metroparks season pass included a barcode that park staff could scan when visitors enter Hudson Mills Metropark. The barcode was added so Metroparks staff could track which ZIP codes users are coming from to create better experiences, amenities and programming within the park system. Knowing where people are coming from also assists in identifying gaps in visitor characteristics so that the Metroparks can do a better job in sharing information about areas that may be underrepresented in terms of attendance.



Nature Walk



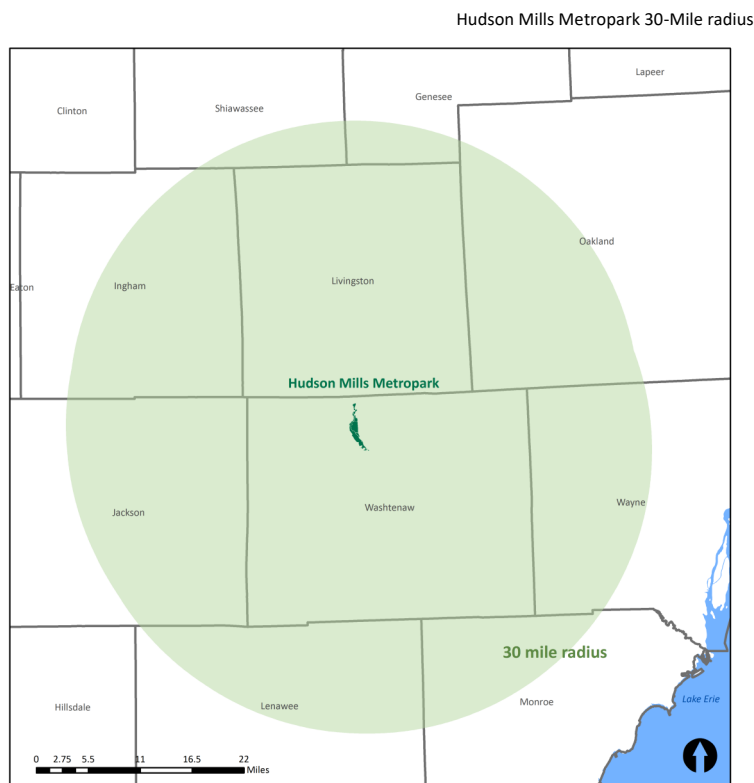
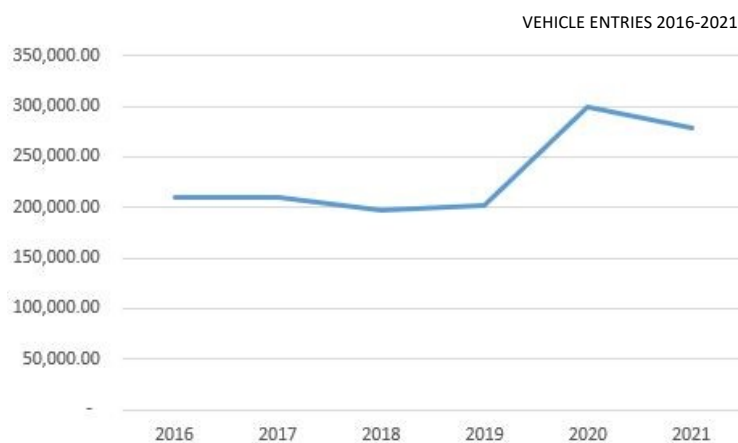
Family Picnics

NEEDS

Increase awareness of park and vehicle entry numbers

Attract new users and maintain robust visitor data

OPPORTUNITIES



Programs & Events



NEEDS

Increase revenue and visitation

Build on enthusiasm of Kensington visitors with exciting, engaging programs and events

OPPORTUNITIES



Fireworks



Easter Egg Scramble



Chill at the Mill

2022 Integrated Marketing Plan

Educational and public programs looked much different than “average” in 2020. Staff adjusted to ever-changing situations of the pandemic to continue serving visitors on multiple platforms using virtual and hybrid programs, as well as small-group, in person, outdoor programs. These new practices will carry over into 2022 and staff will continue working collaboratively to provide exciting new experiences for the Hudson Mills communities in ways that are safe and engaging.

2020-2022 Recreation Programming Plan

In 2022, the Metroparks amended the 2020-2022 Community Recreation Plan to include a Recreation Programming Plan.

An important element of programming is accessibility and ensuring all programs, events, and services are compliant with the American Disability Act (ADA) requirements.

To achieve this, the Metroparks has begun self-evaluation of all programming and services offered by each department. Each program was categorized into groups of similar activities (e.g. programs, events, activities) and will then be analyzed each activity in terms of vision, hearing, and mobility barriers



COMMUNITY INFLUENCES

Population

The population of Hudson Mills communities is growing, aging, and facing new challenges. The percentage of households without access to an automobile has stayed consistent throughout the region during 2014-2019.

The Metroparks were created during the auto boom when it was assumed that every family would have a car to take out to the countryside on the weekends. Since habits and lifestyles are changing, the Metroparks must look into innovative ways to provide access to the parks for all.

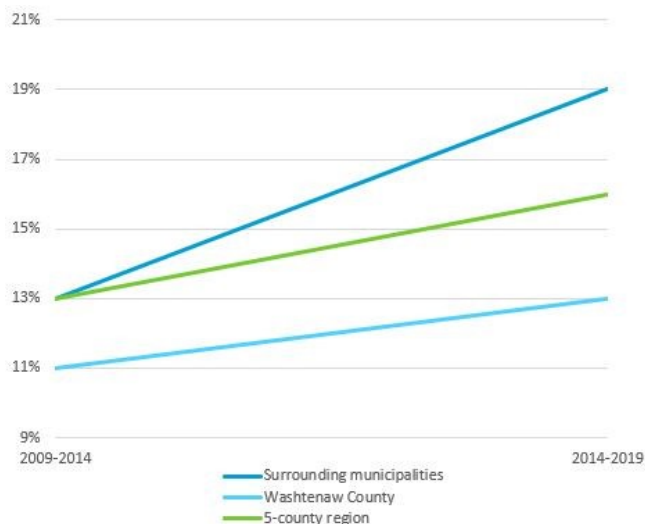
The percentage of individuals over 65 years of age is rising quickly in the region, Washtenaw County and communities surrounding the park. Older adults have distinct needs, often requiring accommodations for mobility and accessibility of park features such as trails and buildings. This is important to keep in mind when planning the future of a park serving an older population.

NEEDS

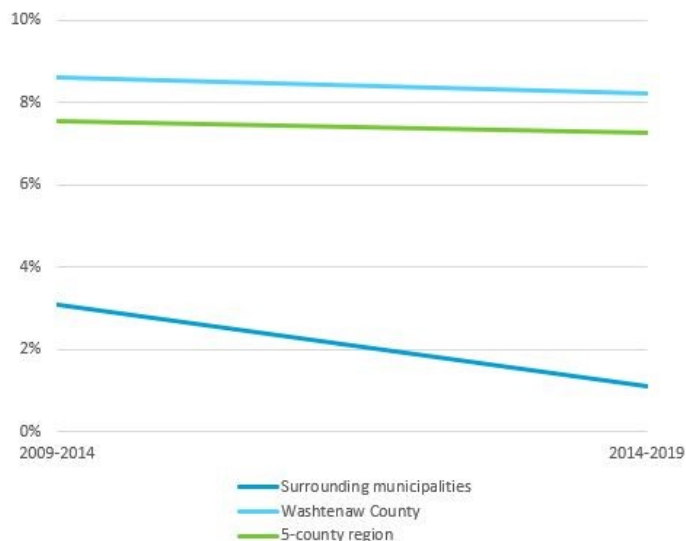
Address changing needs of new population demographics

Develop an accessible, welcoming park with something for everyone

OPPORTUNITIES



CHANGE IN PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER 65 YEARS, 2009-2014 through 2014- 2019 Source: US Census American Community Survey)



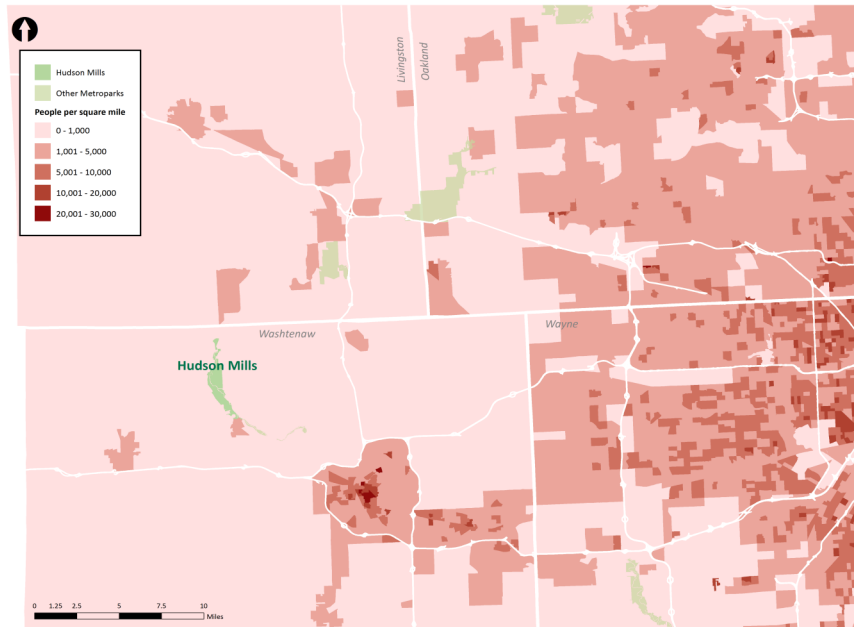
CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CARS AVAILABLE, 2009-2014 through 2014-2019 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)

Community Influences

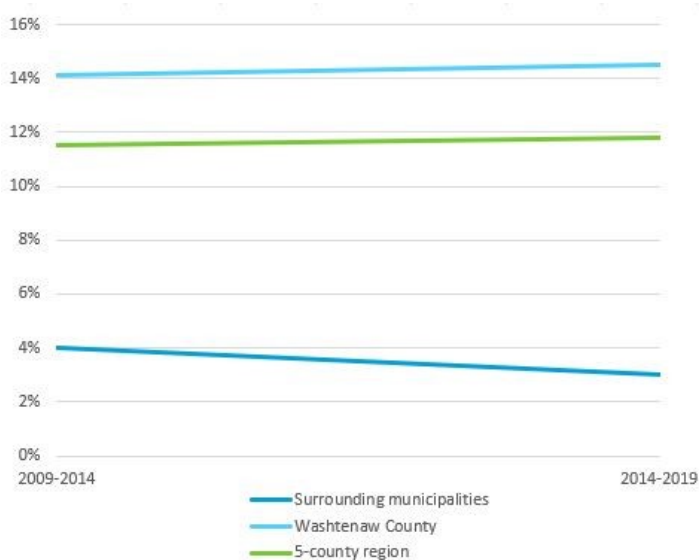
As shown below, Hudson Mills is located well west of the suburban ring around Detroit, largely in the midst of rural low-density areas with less than one thousand residents per square mile. It is near a few communities of slightly higher density and the population hubs of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. All this creates unique land use and park access challenges and opportunities.

While on average the five-county region is falling in population density, the population in Washtenaw County has risen slightly, creating increased demand for recreation in the area. They still remain well below the regional average.

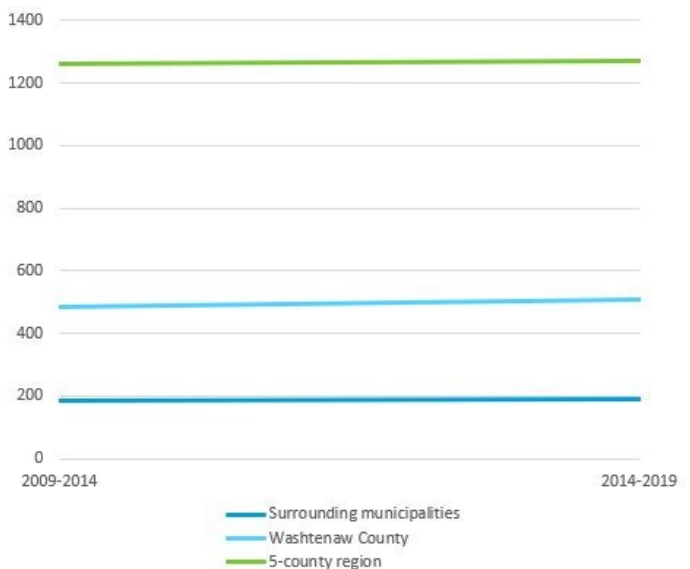
Although most households in the area still speak English as their first language, Washtenaw County and the region at large are seeing an increase in households speaking languages other than English at home. Because of this growing linguistic diversity the Metroparks are working towards more universal signage design, with a focus on easily understandable symbols. The municipalities bordering Hudson Mills do not follow this trend, having decreased numbers of speakers of other languages.



POPULATION DENSITY BY CENSUS TRACT, 2014-2019



CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS SPEAKING LANGUAGE BESIDES ENGLISH AT HOME, 2009-2014 through 2014-2019 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)



CHANGE IN AVERAGE POPULATION DENSITY, 2009-2014 through 2014-2019 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)

Community Influences

NEEDS

Improve park connectivity with community

Create good working relationship with surrounding municipalities

OPPORTUNITIES

Dexter Township

- Retain rural character and open space
- Appreciation for and cooperation with public lands
- Seeking funding for sidewalk and path installation
- Completion of Border-to-Border Trail important

Webster Township (Master Plan revisions 2015)

- Experiencing limited transition from agricultural to residential land uses
- Protection of 1,600 agricultural acres through purchase of development rights (PDR) program
- Protection of natural resources through Preservation Overlay District
- Encouraging cluster housing developments

City of Dexter (updated Master Plan 2019)

- Continued participation in regional efforts
- Infill and mixed use development in Central Business District
- Increased bicycle and pedestrian connections, especially Border 2 Border Trail

Washtenaw County (updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024)

- Expand type and scope of recreation opportunities for all
- Preserve and enhance existing natural, historic, and cultural resources
- Develop an interconnected network of spaces, recreation facilities, and trails to promote placemaking
- Seek opportunities to cooperate and collaborate with a variety of partners.

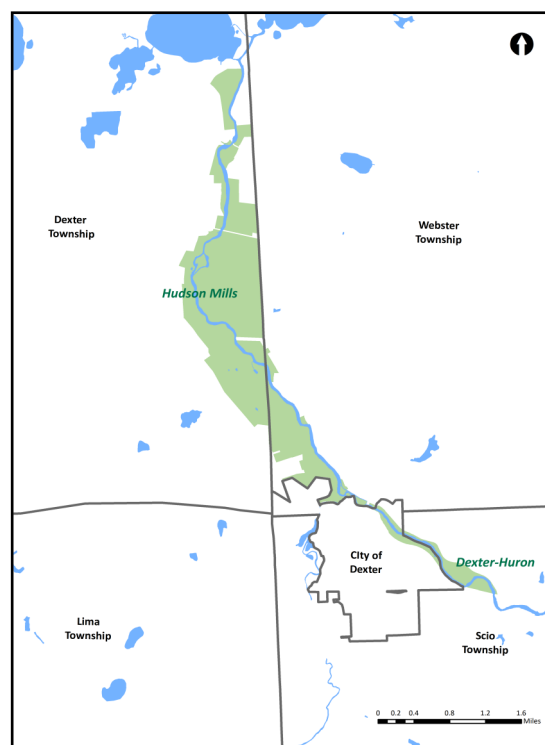
Projects/Initiatives

Huron River Watershed Council

- Improve climate resiliency of communities on the watershed
- Green infrastructure for local governments program
- Collaboration in stormwater management efforts
- RiverUp! program supporting placemaking in river towns
- Huron River Water Trail partner facilitation

Understanding the goals and plans of municipalities bordering and/or containing Hudson Mills is essential for a collaborative, comprehensive planning process. Planning staff researched the published master plans and recreation plans of surrounding municipalities, counties, and regional agencies. These provided a basic idea of the direction planned for each, especially regarding land use, development, and recreation.

MUNICIPALITY MAP



Community Influences

Supporting Plans

Community Recreation Plan

The Hudson Mills Master Plan is aligned with the Metroparks Community Recreation Plan 2018-2022 that creates an inventory of existing facilities and resources, identifies community and recreation and open space needs and sets a plan of action for a 5-year period. To be eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and Waterways grants, a community must have an approved 5-Year Plan on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by February 1 of the year they intend to apply.

Marketing Plan

Realizing the importance of marketing and communication, the Hudson Mills Master Plan will coincide with updates to the Marketing Plan 2022 Goals and Strategies, developed annually by the Marketing and Communications Department. Both are living documents that will closely follow both present and future marketing trends and work in collaboration amongst various departments.

ADA Transition Plan

The Metroparks Board of Commissioners approved an updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan in November 2019. Moving forward, top priority projects will be added into annual capital and major maintenance improvement projects and identified in the Five-Year Community Recreation Plan and 10-year master plan (five-year amended) developments.

Stormwater Management Plan

The Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), approved by the Board of Commissioners in 2019, provides a comprehensive review and analysis of the existing stormwater conveyance system for improvement and maintenance projects that prioritize reduction of impacts on water quality. It includes concepts and preliminary details for the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of the stormwater system for each Metropark (separated into individual chapters). Vetted by a committee of administrative departments and Hudson Mills operations and maintenance staff, recommendations include green infrastructure development, shoreline and streambank restoration, and culvert and outfall cleanouts and replacements. Cost estimates were developed for each project, and calculation tables were included to help with budgeting (adjusting for inflation) in the future.



Community Influences

A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County, 2004

“Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has recently completed a Master Plan Update, 2004-2008, to establish recommendations and priority actions over the next five years. These recommendations are reflected in this element along with additional recommendations for coordinating state, regional and local resources to promote regional and county-wide open space systems, greenways and trails, protection of important natural resources and adequate recreation opportunities for existing and future residents.”

SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Plan, 2019

“SEMCOG’s Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan, to fill gaps within the trail network, and focus on reducing time traveled for nonmotorized access to trails.”

Dexter Township Master Plan, 2011

“Participate with Washtenaw County, Livingston County, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and other regional partners to identify current parks and recreational resources of the region and address the current and future recreational needs of Dexter Township and the surrounding area.”

Webster Township Master Plan, 2010

“It is the intent of this plan to preserve the continuity of natural features in order to protect the integrity of ecological systems. To further this goal, the Township will study new requirements for preserving connected open space corridors and the preservation of wildlife habitats. This includes participating in any multi-jurisdictional planning efforts to preserve open space and wildlife corridors.”

The City of Dexter 2016-2021 Parks and Recreation, 5-Year Master Plan

“The City of Dexter is centrally located amongst the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks within Washtenaw County. Connection to these regional facilities provides City residents and visitors with optional access to the facilities and provide the City with economic development opportunities within the downtown.”

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission Master Plan, 2020 –2024

“The Commission has made significant investments in the B2B during the last 10 years with some of the more notable projects being in the Dexter area in partnership with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA). WCPARC’s goal for the B2B over the next five years is to continue partnering with other organizations to complete trail segments and close gaps in the B2B across the county.”

Since the development and land use decisions of bordering communities and other governmental agencies directly impact the park, these neighbor master plans were reviewed and taken into account when creating this document. The opinions and ideas expressed by residents and leaders in these municipalities give Hudson Mills a wider context and in many cases underscore the importance of the park’s resources to citizens.

Hudson Mills is part of a broader system of recreation and green space that includes other Metroparks as well as local, county, and state parks and greenways. Due to this, recreation and green infrastructure plans were also considered in creating the Hudson Mills Master Plan. Many communities are currently advancing their non-motorized networks, seeking grant funding to create greenways and paths, and cooperating to provide linked green and recreation spaces to their constituents.

Several other state, county, and local parks are located close to Hudson Mills Metropark, leading to exciting opportunities for non-motorized connections and collaboration among agencies.

PUBLIC INPUT

← Outreach Process

2022 Community Needs and Assessment

ETC Institute administered a needs assessment survey for Huron-Clinton Metroparks (HCMA) during the Spring of 2022. The survey was administered as part of Metroparks' efforts to establish and priorities improvements to the parks system, which included 13 parks covering more than 25,000 acres in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Washtenaw counties. The survey and its results will guide HCMA in taking a resident-driven approach to making decisions that will enrich the future of the community and positively affect the lives of all residents in southeast Michigan.

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Livingston County, Macomb County, Oakland County, Washtenaw County, Wayne County (outside the City of Detroit), and the City of Detroit.

Location	Completed Surveys	% Precision
<i>Livingston County</i>	479	±4.5%
<i>Macomb County</i>	511	±4.3%
<i>Oakland County</i>	583	±4.1%
<i>Washtenaw County</i>	514	±4.3%
<i>Wayne County (Outside Detroit)</i>	407	±4.9%
<i>City of Detroit</i>	405	±4.9%
Total	2,899	±1.8%

The table above shows the number of completed surveys collected in each of the six sampling areas. The table also shows the margin of error at the 95% level of confidence for each area.

The results presented in this report have been weighted to represent each sampling area's share of the population of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks service area. The weighted results give more weight to the responses from the larger sampling areas, including Macomb County, Oakland County, Wayne County (outside Detroit), and the City of Detroit, and similarly gives less weight to the responses of the smaller sampling areas, including Livingston County and Washtenaw County

Priorities for Parks & Recreation Facility Investments in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Service Area

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs:

- the importance that households place on each facility/amenity/ activity/program
- how many households have unmet needs for the facility/

Facility	Priority Investment Rating (PIR)
<i>Trails-paved, multi-use (walking, biking)</i>	189.2
<i>Beaches</i>	174.7
<i>Natural areas</i>	145.7
<i>Trails-unpaved, nature trails</i>	139.7
<i>Trails-unpaved, hiking</i>	137.2
<i>Nature centers</i>	114.2
<i>Canoe/kayak launch sites</i>	110.2
<i>Outdoor swimming pools</i>	107.9

Results

Washtenaw County

The table below shows the Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) for parks and recreation facilities, based on the PIR analysis conducted using the data from Washtenaw County households. The following six facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Paved multi-use trails for walking and biking
- Unpaved trails, nature trails
- Unpaved trails for hiking
- Beaches
- Natural areas
- Canoe/kayak launch sites

Facility	PIR	
Trails-paved, multi-use (walking, biking)	175.5	High Priority (PIR=100-200)
Trails-unpaved, nature trails	159.1	
Trails-unpaved, hiking	155.7	
Beaches	147.4	
Natural areas	137.7	
Canoe/kayak launch sites	105.8	
Outdoor swimming pools	97.5	Medium Priority (PIR=50-99)
Nature centers	92.4	
Canoe/kayak rentals	76.2	
Fishing banks or docks	69.3	
Camping areas-primitive sites	62.0	
Picnic tables	59.3	
Trails-mountain biking	55.8	Low Priority (PIR=0-49)
Picnic shelters	53.1	
Playgrounds	46.6	
Splash pad (water play area)	42.1	
Waterslides	41.8	
Golf driving ranges	41.2	
Camping areas-RVs	41.2	
Boat ramps	37.8	
Camping areas-group sites	37.8	
Golf courses	34.9	
Disc golf	22.0	
Boat docks	21.0	
Marinas	10.0	

The table below shows the Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) for parks and recreation programs, based on the PIR analysis conducted using the data from Washtenaw County households. The following 12 programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Concerts
- Art/photography
- Movies in the park
- Swim lessons
- Walking clubs/programs
- Water fitness programs
- Pet-friendly programs
- Environmental education programs
- Camping
- Programs for people with disabilities
- Astronomy programs
- Bird-wildlife watching programs
- Guided nature hikes
- Fishing programs
- Natural/cultural history programs

Program	PIR	
Concerts	194.4	High Priority (PIR=100-200)
Art/photography	175.1	
Movies in the park	173.9	
Swim lessons	166.8	
Walking clubs/programs	164.6	
Water fitness programs	162.6	
Pet-friendly programs	150.9	
Environmental education programs	132.9	
Camping	129.0	
Programs for people with disabilities	126.7	
Astronomy programs	126.2	
Bird/wildlife watching programs	125.0	
Guided nature hikes	121.7	Medium Priority (PIR=50-99)
Fishing programs	114.2	
Natural/cultural history programs	108.7	
Guided canoe/kayak tours	105.5	
Farm educational programs	98.0	
Golf lessons	83.6	Low Priority (PIR=0-49)
Boating classes	80.6	
Guided motorized boat tours	70.3	
Homeschool programs	59.1	
Running clubs/programs	50.0	
Virtual programs	35.3	
Scouting	31.8	
Golf tournaments	29.9	

Table 14: PIR Ratings for Parks & Recreation Programs in Wayne County, MI (outside of Detroit)

Action Plan

Needs & Opportunities

Based on the assessment of park conditions, demographic research and spatial analysis, public input, and staff input, the needs and opportunities listed throughout this document were developed. 5-year updates are in blue text

Needs

- Better highlight and advertise unique character of park
- Define and protect biodiversity features
- Address aging and overbuild infrastructure
- Work with county to address boundary and encroachment issues
- Better revenue and visitation numbers
- Improve park connectivity with community
- Incorporate a variety of user community groups into Master plan
- Address changing needs of new population demographics

Opportunities

- Build a strong identity and user base with unique character of park
- Create resilient network of biodiverse areas in park
- Draw new visitors with programming and park history education
- Update infrastructure to better reflect park usage and sustainability for future use
- Take advantage of captive audiences, actively take part in programming activities and events
- Provide unique recreational facilities to draw visitors from across the region
- Create good working relationship with neighbors, municipalities and partner organizations

With these in mind, the following list of projects, plans, and studies was developed. Major and minor projects have been identified as priorities and assigned a timeline, and the accompanying studies have been listed. These pages should serve as a blueprint for the future of the park over the next five years.

Large Facilities

Description	Department Lead	Other Departments	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2022-2023)	Mid-Term (2024-2025)	Long-Term (2026 +)	Status
Golf course strategic plan: develop a five year strategy with the goal of a sustainable future for the golf course, include building improvements & community partners to promote golf	Planning, Operations	Engineering	Marketing , Community Partners	staff time	x	x	x	Not Started
Activity Center improvement plan: identify opportunities to improve building and surrounding areas for increased visitor use	Planning, Operations	Engineering		staff time	x	x	x	Not Started

Signage

Description	Department Lead	Other Departments	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2022-2023)	Mid-Term (2024-2025)	Long-Term (2026 +)	Status
Roadside wayfinding/directional signage updates - parkwide	Planning	Maintenance, Operations		\$15,000	x			Ongoing
Replace park entrance sign on Huron River Drive	Planning	Maintenance, Operations	Dexter Township	\$2,500				Completed
Trail wayfinding signage improvements and possible path relocation	Planning	Maintenance, Interpretive, Operations		\$5,000	x			Ongoing
Interpretive signage improvements - nature trails and EMR managed lands	Interpretive	Planning, Maintenance, Operations		\$5,000				?
Update sign shop with new graphics	Marketing	Planning, Operations		TBD	x			Not Started

Infrastructure / Small Facilities

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2022-2023)	Mid-Term (2024-2025)	Long-Term (2026+)	Status
Pavement projects (list developed annually, as needed)	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various	x	x	x	Ongoing
Parkwide Accessibility improvements, including interiors and walkways	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various	x	x	x	Ongoing
Replace pedestrian bridges (2) on hike-bike trail	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors					Completed
Rapids View improvements: develop accessible canoe/kayak launch, replace/relocate comfort station, expand parking	Planning	Engineering, Operations	Contractors, MDNR, HRWC	\$649,368	x			In Construction
Develop small playground at Oak Meadows	Planning	Engineering, Operations	Contractors	TBD			x	Not Started
Develop hike-bike trail connector from loop to the Activity Center parking lot	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x		Not Started
Accessible Path to Activity Center Shelter: Pave 320 lf path from bike trail to AC shelter to make it ADA compliant. Include accessible tables/grill & concrete pad as part of project.	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$40,071	x			Budgeted 2022
Canoe/kayak camp improvements: replace/relocate pit toilets, replace fire pits, replace fire pit seating, tree plantings	Planning	Maintenance, Operations	MDNR, HRWC	TBD	x	x	x	?
Replace disc golf baskets on Monster course	Planning	Operations						Completed
Border-to-Border (B2B) hike-bike trail extension development (to Lakelands Trail)	Planning	Engineering, Operations	WCPARC, MDNR	TBD	x	x		Not Started
Canoe livery launch improvements	Planning	Engineering, Operations	Concessionaire	\$12,000				?
Additional tollbooth	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractor	TBD		x		Not Started
Accessible trailhead bike repair station	Planning	Operations	Contractor	TBD	x			Not Started

Natural Resources

Description	Department Lead	Other Departments	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2022-2023)	Mid-Term (2024-2026)	Long-Term (2026+)	Status
Climate Resiliency Plan	NR	Planning		Staff time		x	x	Ongoing
Develop NR review process in early planning stages of construction projects	NR	Planning		Staff time		x	x	Ongoing
Vegetation Management (annual)	NR	Operations		\$30,000	x	x	x	Ongoing
Threatened habitat restoration (Wet-mesic prairie/Oak Barren/Tamarack Swamp/ Floodplain Forest, multiple sites)	NR		USFWS, TNC, MDNR, NGOs	\$130,000	x	x		Ongoing
Hazardous waste removal (annual)	NR	Operations		\$2,000	x	x	x	Ongoing
Early detection, rapid response. Invasive species surveys and control in high quality natural areas (annual)	NR	Interpretive	NGOs	\$12,000	x	x	x	Ongoing
Restoration of former farmed fields	NR		Contractors	TBD	x	x	x	?
Conduct prescribed fire in adapted native communities	NR		Contractors	\$4,000	x	x	x	Ongoing
Oak wilt control and prevention	NR	Operations, Interpretive	MDNR	\$4,500	x	x	x	Ongoing
Deer cull to maintain deer at roughly 15/ square mile	NR	Police, Operations, Interpretive	MDNR, NGOs	staff time	x	x	x	Ongoing
Japanese Knotweed monitoring and control	NR		Contractors	\$5,000	x			Ongoing
Landscape Tree planting diversification	NR	Operations		\$2,000	x	x	x	Ongoing
Fish habitat improvements	NR		MDNR, NGOs, Contractors	\$125,000	x	x		Ongoing
Invasive species control at Group Camp	NR	Operations		TBD	x	x		Ongoing
Southern prairie restoration	NR	Operations		TBD	x	x		Not Started
Fen restoration/ Dogwood removal	NR	Operations		TBD				Not Started

Area Plans/Studies/Initiatives

After identifying the need for changes or improvements based on user feedback and staff research, in-depth evaluation and planning must be carried out to gain a detailed understanding of problems and opportunities and determine the best strategies based on existing conditions and resources. Sometimes a process to formally monitor facility usage and gauge popularity is necessary. These studies often result in a scope of work, a work plan, and in some cases a site plan that give staff a roadmap for planned changes. Recommended studies are listed below:

Description	Department Lead	Other Departments	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2022-2023)	Mid-Term (2024-2025)	Long-Term (2026+)	Status
Northwest Passage Trail Feasibility Study	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time	x			Not Started
Update trail maps to show opportunities for walking/hiking/trail running	Graphics	Planning		staff time	x			Ongoing
Establishment of a comprehensive Oak Wilt monitoring and treatment protocol	NR	Operations	MDNR	\$10,000	x			Ongoing
Establish Invasive Species Control Tracking Website	NR	IT	MNFI, MISIN	staff time	x			Ongoing
Comprehensive wildlife surveys and mapping (birds, insects, freshwater mussels)	NR	Interpretive	NGOs, Consultants, MNFI	\$35,000	x		x	Ongoing
Rapids View selective redevelopment plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time				Completed
Oak Meadows play area site plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time				Completed
Tennis court area site plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time	x			?
Canoe/kayak camp improvements site plan	Planning	Operations		staff time	x			?
Evaluate opportunities for including family/bike camping at Group Camp	Planning	Operations		staff time	x			?

Area Plans/Studies/Initiatives (cont'd)

Description	Department Lead	Other Departments	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2022-2023)	Mid-Term (2024-2025)	Long-Term (2026+)	Status
Border-to-Border extension plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations	WCPARC, MDNR	staff time	x			Not Started
Planning for portage improvements at Flook Dam (partnership)	Planning	Engineering, Operations	HRWC	staff time		x		?
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake population assessment and habitat improvements	NR	Interpretive	Consultants	\$55,000	x			Ongoing
Fisheries assessment	NR		MDNR	\$25,000	x			Ongoing
Grassland Management Plan (biennial review)	NR	Operations, Interpretive			x	x	x	Ongoing
Deer program evaluation (vegetation study)	NR	Interpretive	Contractors	\$30,000	x		x	Ongoing
ADA improvement updates for all facilities, trails, pathways, shelters, and restrooms	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x		Not Started
Group Camp feasibility study/ assessment	Planning	Engineering , Operations		staff time	x			Not Started
Improvements and boardwalk transition plan to City of Dexter	Planning	Engineering , Operations		staff time			x	Not Started
Expanded use of the Huron River Water Trail opportunities	Planning	Interpretive, Operations		staff time			x	Ongoing
Electric Vehicle (EV) Stations	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x		Not Started
Kayak launch at Bell Rd.	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time			x	Not Started
Trail to Portage Lake	Planning	Engineering, Operations		Staff time			x	Not Started
Development and expansion of additional recreation facilities, pickleball, disc golf, splash pad	Planning	Engineering Operations		staff time			x	Not Started