



**Agenda**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 6:30 PM**  
**851 S. Eton, Birmingham, MI**  
**DPS Conference Room**

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- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Announcements, Introductions of Guests & Chairpersons Comments**
- IV. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda (two minutes per person)**
- V. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting**
  - 1. March 10, 2026, Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
- VI. Unfinished Business**
- VII. New Business**

Written and submitted by 5pm Monday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, one week prior to the meeting.

  - 1. OHM Update
- VIII. Miscellaneous Communications**
  - 1. Advocacy for a Concrete Replacement of the Birmingham Skatepark Communication
- IX. Reports From Staff**
- X. Items for Next Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2026**
- XI. Adjournment**

**Link to Access Virtual Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/98191466679>

**Telephone Meeting Access:** 877 853 5247 US Toll-free

**Meeting ID Code:** 981 9146 6679

**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT**

The Parks and Recreation Board strives to provide opportunities for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for present and future generations of residents and visitors through stewardship of natural, cultural and recreational resources. By continuously elevating the beauty and quality of the parks and recreation system of Birmingham, the Parks and Recreation Board will promote health and wellbeing, and strengthen the community. You may also present your written statement to: City of Birmingham, Parks and Recreation Board 851 South Eton, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 prior to the meeting. If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Clinise Kirkwood at the Birmingham Ice Arena (248) 530-1651. Minutes are available for review at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 (voice) or 248-644-3405 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la ciudad en el número (248) 530-1800 o al (248) 644-3405 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



**Parks And Recreation Board – Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 10, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**851 South Eton - Conference Room**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Heather Carmona, Vice Chair Pam Graham; Board Members Jessica Einstein, Anne Lipp; Alternate Board Members Narlu Castellano, Joseph Wrobel

**Absent:** Board Members Susan Collins, Sarah Kupczyk; Student Representative Sienna Weinberg

**Staff:** Department of Public Services Director Zielinski; City Planner Blizinski, Recreation Coordinator Kirkwood, Parks and Recreation Manager Laird

**III. Announcements, Introductions of Guests & Chair Comments**

1. Stormwater Education Earth Day Event

**IV. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda**

None.

**V. Approval of the Minutes – February 3, 2026**

Motion by Lipp  
Seconded by Graham to approve the minutes as done in our packet.

Motion carried, 6-0.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Yeas: Einstein, Castellano, Wrobel, Carmona, Graham, Lipp  
Nays: None

**VI. Unfinished Business**

None.

## **VII. New Business**

Motion by Lipp

Seconded by Einstein to appoint Clinise Kirkwood to serve as the Parks and Recreation Board Secretary.

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Einstein, Castellano, Wrobel, Carmona, Graham, Lipp

Nays: None

## **VIII. Miscellaneous Communications**

## **IX. Reports from Staff**

Staff presented the reports and answered questions. The reports were briefly discussed.

1. Professional Design Services OHM Update St. James Park & Kenning Park
2. New Agenda & Agenda Packet Software CivicPlus
3. Poppleton Park Playground Update
4. Maple Syrup Tapping- Derby Park

## **X. Items for Next Meeting**

1. Appointment of Parks & Recreation Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

## **XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

*Clinise Kirkwood*

Clinise Kirkwood, Recreation Coordinator



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist



## **MEMORANDUM**

Department of Public Services

**DATE:** April 9, 2026

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Board

**FROM:** Brad McNab, Parks & Recreation Foreman

**SUBJECT:** Update from OHM

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The attached project update from Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. (OHM) provides an overview of ongoing efforts related to the St. James and Kenning Parks Improvement Project. Since the project kickoff in February, the design team has made steady progress in coordination with the Department of Public Services (DPS), including initiating site assessments, advancing early concept development, and implementing a robust public engagement strategy. Looking ahead, the project will continue to build on community feedback as concepts are refined and prepared for further review.



## City of Birmingham

### St. James and Kenning Park Improvement Project

#### Project Update

Project	St. James and Kenning Parks Improvement Project
Subject	Parks and Recreation Board Update
Date	04/14/2026
Location	851 S. Eton Street
Time	6:30 p.m.

#### **Task 1.1: Project Kick-Off with City Staff**

- Held on February 13, 2026; established bi-weekly progress meetings.

#### **Task 1.2: Grant Exploration**

- Ongoing to identify potential funding opportunities.

#### **Task 1.3: Public Engagement Strategy**

- Promoted the project website and Public Workshop #1 at the Peter Cotton Trail event on March 28.
- Public Workshop #1 - April 14, 2026 from 4 - 6 p.m.
  - Distributed citywide postcards and placed sandwich boards in the parks to encourage workshop attendance and survey participation.
  - Survey scheduled to close April 24, 2026
- Public Workshop #2 - May 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Public Workshop #2 – Targeting July 13 – July 31, one workshop held in each of the parks

#### **Task 2.1: Site Assessment and Data Collection (February)**

- Completed inventory and analysis plan for each park

#### **Task 2.2: Concept Design (February – May)**

- Incorporates public feedback into refined concept

#### **Task 2.3: Design Feedback Session (May)**

- Present a "vetted" concept plan with a full community engagement summary at May 5 meeting

#### **Task 2.4: Final Concept Plan Approvals (June)**

#### **OHM Advisors\***

1145 GRISWOLD STREET, SUITE 200  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

T 313.481.1250

OHM-Advisors.com



- Parks and Recreation Board: June 2
- City Commission: June 22

**Task 3: Design Development and Bid Documents (July - October 2026)**

**Task 4: Project Finalization (November 2026 - January 2027)**

**Task 5: Construction Administration and Oversight (Spring/Summer 2027)**

# WELCOME!

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

We are moving from planning to action! Following the adoption of the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City of Birmingham is now diving deep into the design phase for St. James and Kenning Parks.

### What are we doing?

This is the first of three public workshops to explore potential park enhancements that improve quality of life and park user experience. Using your feedback as a foundation, we are developing design concepts for you to respond to and refine.

### What's next?

Your input today will help us finalize the design and prepare the construction documents needed to start making these improvements a reality.

## PROJECT TIMELINE



## WHO LIVES NEAR ST. JAMES PARK?

	5 - Minute Walk	10 - Minute Walk	15 - Minute Walk
<b>Population</b>	539	2,860	7,320
<b>Households</b>	272	1,392	3,535
<b>Senior Households</b>	40%	36%	35%
<b>Households with Children</b>	20%	24%	24%
<b>Disability Status</b>	11%	11%	12%

## WHO LIVES NEAR KENNING PARK?

	5 - Minute Walk	10 - Minute Walk	15 - Minute Walk
<b>Population</b>	705	1,795	3,816
<b>Households</b>	261	651	1,576
<b>Senior Households</b>	9%	12%	18%
<b>Households with Children</b>	40%	38%	31%
<b>Disability Status</b>	9%	9%	10%

## TAKE THE SURVEY!



Scan the QR code to share your thoughts!

# EXISTING PARK FEATURES



Which of these do you or your household use most often? Place your dots below.

<b>A</b>	PARKING LOT	
<b>B</b>	TENNIS COURT	
<b>C</b>	BALL DIAMOND	
<b>D</b>	PLAYGROUND	
<b>E</b>	GATHERING SPACE WITH BENCHES	
<b>F</b>	BIKE PARKING	
<b>G</b>	BASKETBALL COURT	
<b>H</b>	OPEN SPACE/LAWN	

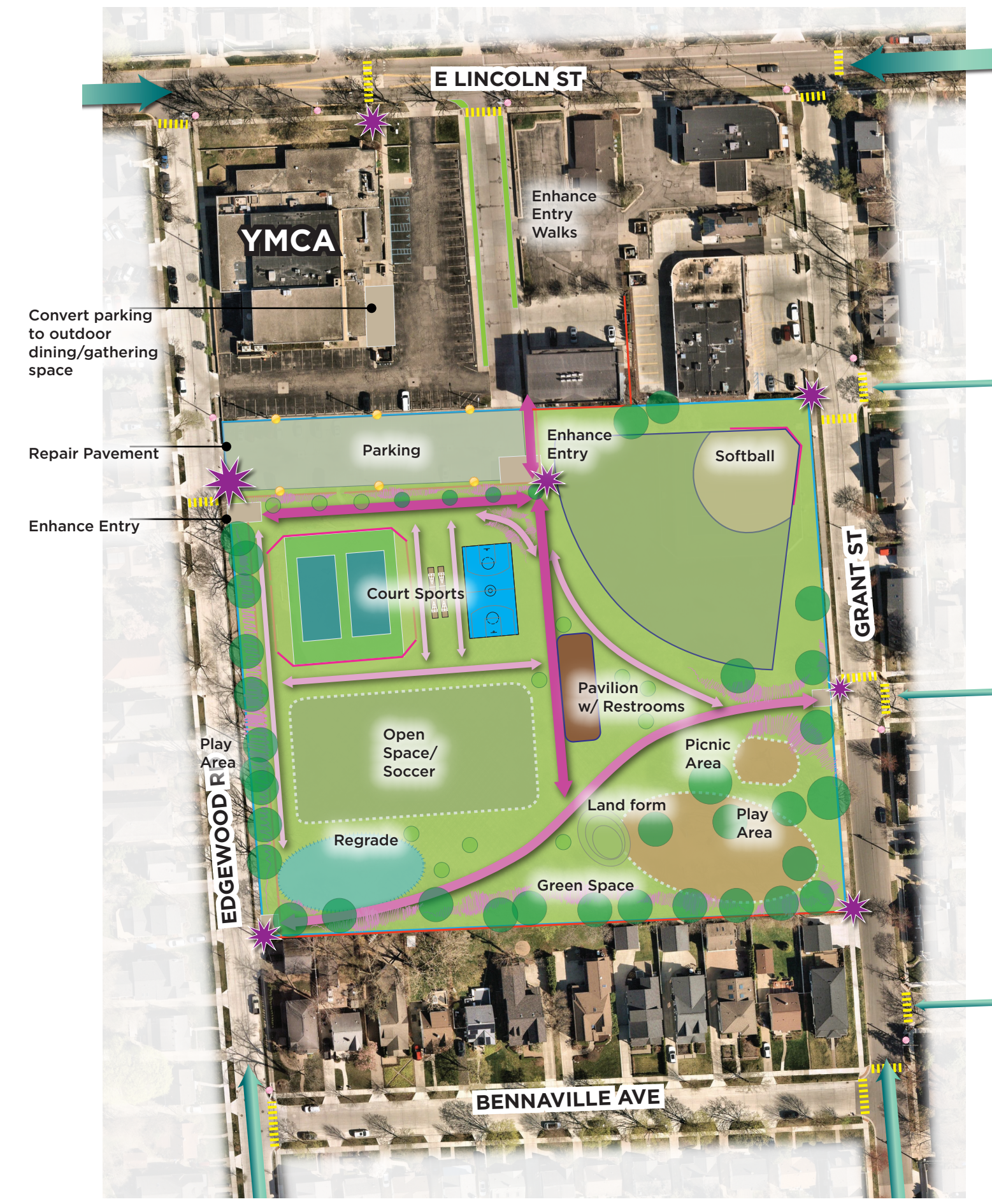
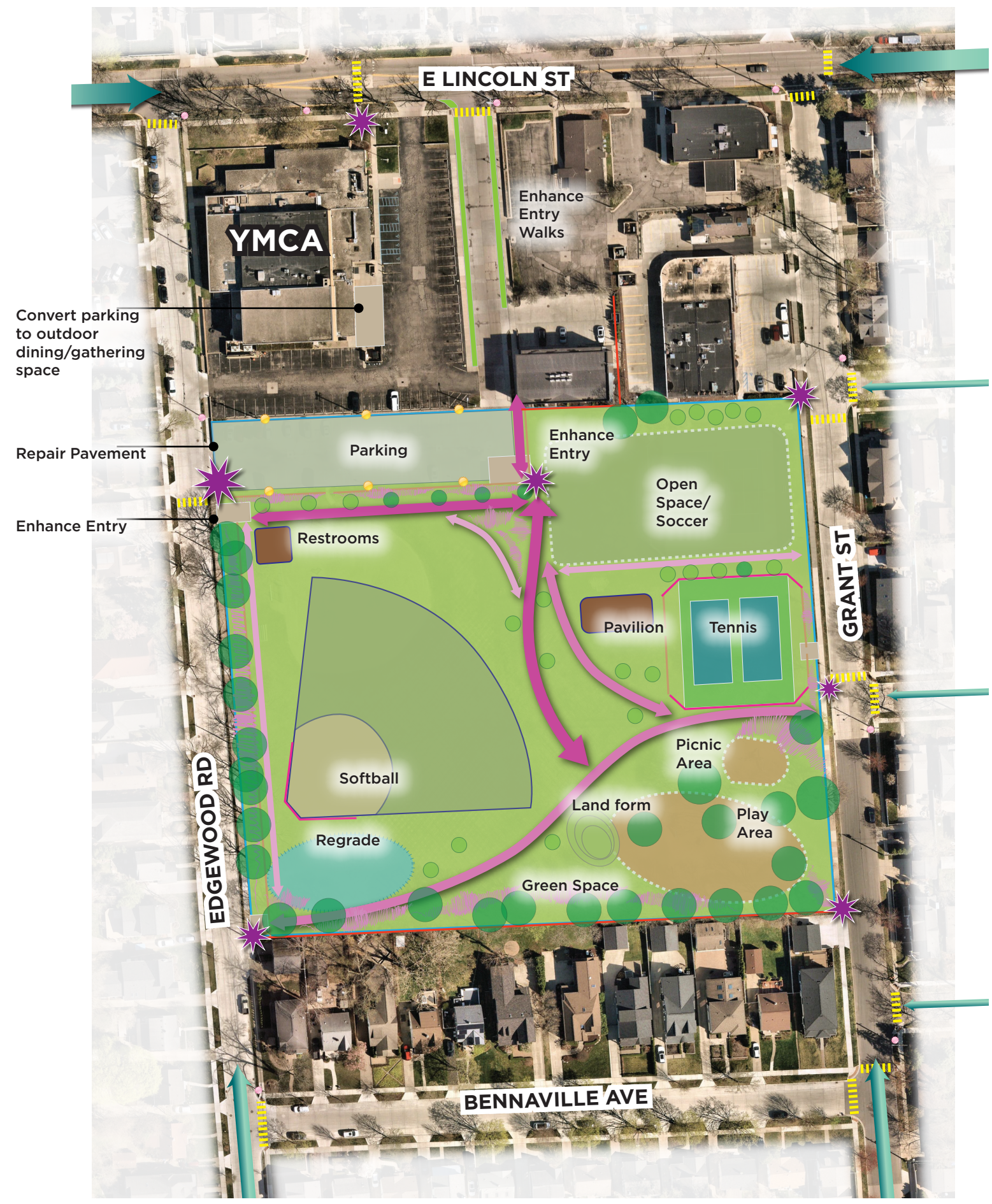
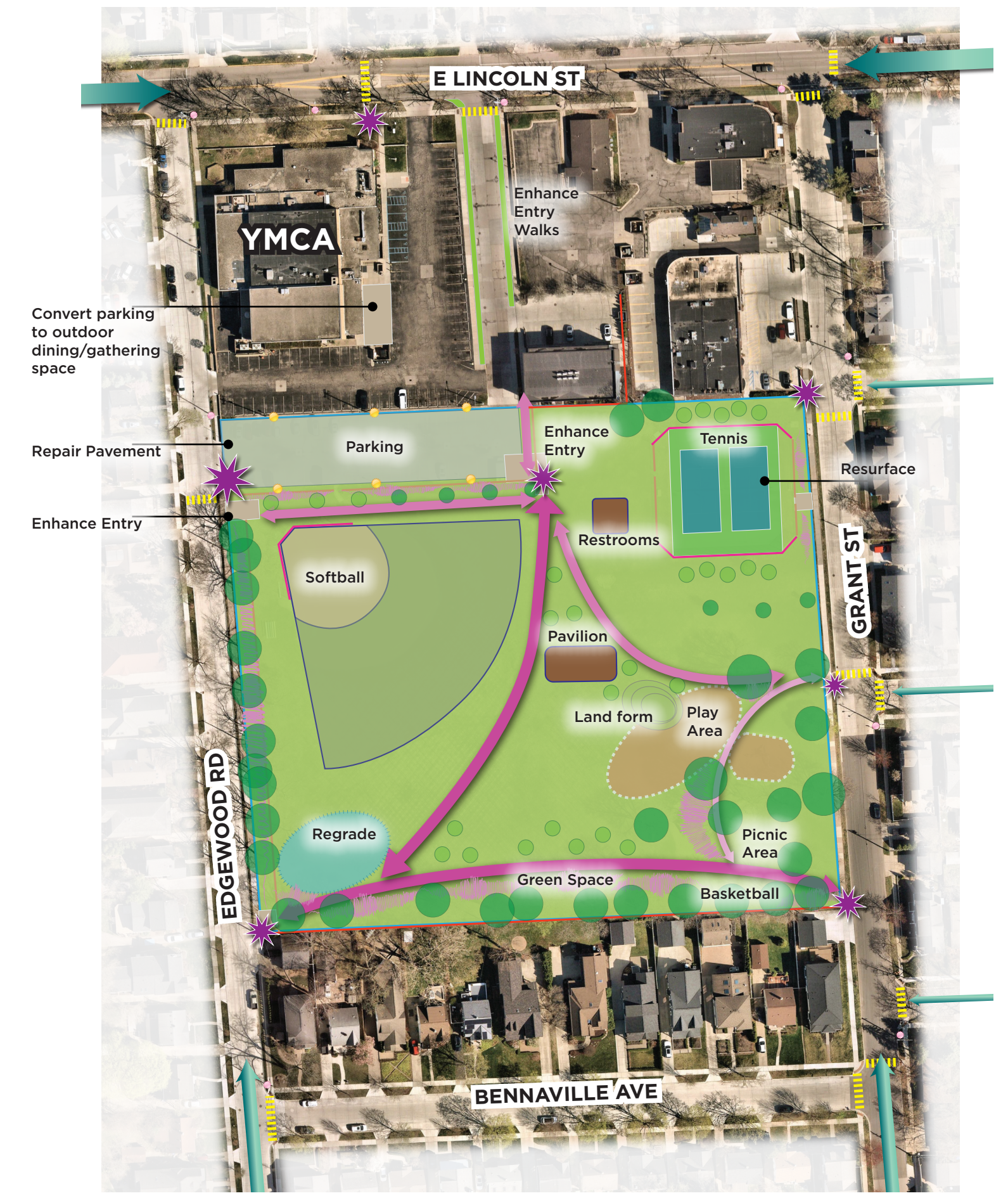
# WHICH AREAS NEED THE MOST ATTENTION?

Place a dot on the map, draw on the map, or write your thoughts on a sticky note!



<b>A</b>	PARKING LOT	
<b>B</b>	TENNIS COURT	
<b>C</b>	BALL DIAMOND	
<b>D</b>	PLAYGROUND	
<b>E</b>	GATHERING SPACE WITH BENCHES	
<b>F</b>	BIKE PARKING	
<b>G</b>	BASKETBALL COURT	
<b>H</b>	OPEN SPACE/LAWN	
<b>I</b>	ENTRANCES	
	OTHER IDEAS	

# WHICH CONCEPT DIAGRAM DO YOU PREFER?



**LEGEND:**

- Connectivity Node
- Arrivals
- Pedestrian Path
- Sport Fence
- 6' Fence
- 4' Fence
- Planting
- Lamppost
- Streetlight

## LIGHT INTERVENTION

- Points of entry would be enhanced with small areas of pavement and accent planting beds
- A small restroom/shelter facility is proposed close the parking lot and near the tennis courts
- A covered picnic pavilion is proposed near the center of the park to serve as a gathering space near the playground
- The playground area has been moved north to balance the shade of the existing tree canopy with capture of the open space.
- In place of the former location, a formal shaded picnic grove is proposed
- A sculpted land form is proposed adjacent to the playground for a nature play activity
- Circulation throughout the site would be formalized with new paths, decorative plantings, specifically along the southern border, and new trees to delineate various use spaces
- Upgrades and standardization of the fencing at the current locations
- Improvements to the north-south access drive off Lincoln would provide a more appealing arrival experience, especially for pedestrians

## MEDIUM INTERVENTION

- This graphic reorganizes the existing site elements to better define spaces of use
- The ball diamond has been rotated to the ideal orientation with home plate in the southwest. This move also allows for more activation of the space along the parking lot.
- A small restroom/shelter facility is proposed close the parking lot and near the northwest entry
- A covered picnic pavilion is proposed between the soccer field and relocated tennis courts
- The playground area has been expanded in its current location to balance the shade of the existing tree canopy with capture of the open space.
- A formal open picnic area is proposed north of the playground
- A sculpted land form is proposed adjacent to the playground for a nature play activity
- Decorative plantings, specifically along the southern border, and new trees added to delineate various use spaces
- Upgrades and standardization of the fencing at the current locations

## HEAVY INTERVENTION

- This graphic provides another means to completely reorganizing the existing site elements to better define spaces of use
- The high-use tennis courts are now located close to the parking for convenient access
- A full-sized basketball court and two shuffleboard courts are also located in the same area
- The ball diamond has relocated in the northeast corner of the park
- Open space for soccer or field hockey is proposed south of the court sports
- A covered picnic pavilion with an attached restroom is proposed near the center of the park dividing use areas
- The playground area has been expanded in its current location to balance the shade of the existing tree canopy with capture of the open space.
- A formal open picnic area is proposed north of the playground and near the pavilion
- A sculpted land form is proposed adjacent to the playground for a nature play activity
- Decorative plantings and new trees added to accent and delineate various use spaces
- Upgrades and standardization of the fencing at the current locations

Place a dot below the concept you think is best.

# EXISTING PARK FEATURES

Which of these do you or your household use most often? Place your dots below.



<b>A</b>	PARKING LOT	
<b>B</b>	TENNIS COURT	
<b>C</b>	BALL DIAMOND	
<b>D</b>	PLAYGROUND	
<b>E</b>	GATHERING SPACE WITH BENCHES	
<b>F</b>	BIKE PARKING	
<b>G</b>	SKATE PARK	
<b>H</b>	OPEN SPACE/LAWN	

# WHICH AREAS NEED THE MOST ATTENTION?

Place a dot on the map, draw on the map, or write your thoughts on a sticky note!



<b>A</b>	PARKING LOT	
<b>B</b>	TENNIS COURT	
<b>C</b>	BALL DIAMOND	
<b>D</b>	PLAYGROUND	
<b>E</b>	GATHERING SPACE WITH BENCHES	
<b>F</b>	BIKE PARKING	
<b>G</b>	SKATE PARK	
<b>H</b>	OPEN SPACE/LAWN	
<b>I</b>	ENTRANCES	
<b>J</b>	PATHWAY	
<b>K</b>	DRAINAGE	
	OTHER IDEAS	

# WHICH CONCEPT DIAGRAM DO YOU PREFER?



## MEDIUM INTERVENTION

- This graphic fits the site elements proposed in the earlier Master Plan within the existing conditions with minor adjustments.
- A third little league diamond will fit in the southeast corner of the park with minor pathway edits and tree removals
- The proposed play and adjacent picnic pavilion area are proposed nestled in the southwest corner, situated among the existing tree canopy
- Minor deviations could be made in the pedestrian path network to better connect the site use areas
- A centrally located restroom building is shown at the intersection of the open space/sport field and snow melt/utility parking area
- There is potential for shelter structures near the little league diamonds
- Another shelter is proposed near the outdoor tennis courts



## HEAVY INTERVENTION

- This graphic offers an alternative arrangement for the site elements proposed in the earlier Master Plan
- The third little league diamond has been rotated in its current location to provide better accessory gathering space and allow for a connecting path between the fields to the southwest
- The proposed play and adjacent picnic pavilion area are now nestled in the southwest corner, situated among the existing tree canopy
- Minor deviations could be made in the pedestrian path network to better connect the site use areas
- A centrally located restroom building is shown at the intersection of the rotated diamond and snow melt/utility parking area.
- Plaza space has been provided at this location
- There is potential for shelter structures near the little league diamonds
- Another shelter is proposed near the outdoor tennis courts
- A layer of understory plantings are proposed to accent key use areas and screen between uses

**LEGEND:**

- Connectivity Node
- Arrivals
- Pedestrian Path
- 3/4 Mile Exercise Path
- Planting

Place a dot below the concept you think is best.

# WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN THE PARK?

Place up to 3 dots below the category you would most like to see in the park. ● St. James Park ● Kenning Park



Passive Use (picnics, hanging out)



Active Use (exercise, athletics)



Nature Activities



Community Garden



Playing with Kids



Programs



Event Space

Other Ideas:

**LEAVE A POST-IT**

# PARK PRIORITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

How would you spend \$100 to improve St. James and Kenning Park? Which improvements are most important to you? Drop your money in the cups representing the physical improvements you'd like to see in the design.



**Site Furnishings and Seating**



**Pathways and Accessibility**



**Play Equipment**



**Sport Amenities**



**Structures and Pavilions**



**Landscape and Greenery**

Other Ideas?

Large empty area for writing other ideas.

**LEAVE A POST-IT**

# Do you have any other ideas to improve St. James and Kenning Park?

Share your vision with us!

**LEAVE A  
POST-IT**



Clinise Kirkwood &lt;ckirkwood@bhamgov.org&gt;

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## Fwd: Advocacy for a Concrete Replacement of the Birmingham Skatepark

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Carrie Laird &lt;Claird@bhamgov.org&gt;

Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 8:35 AM

To: Clinise Kirkwood &lt;ckirkwood@bhamgov.org&gt;

Cc: Scott Zielinski &lt;szielinski@bhamgov.org&gt;, Brad McNab &lt;bmcnab@bhamgov.org&gt;

Clinise,

Please place this on the April 14th Parks and Recreation Board agenda, under Miscellaneous Communications. Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **People Skate and Snowboard** <ben@peopleskateandsnowboard.com>

Date: Fri, Apr 3, 2026 at 11:52 AM

Subject: Advocacy for a Concrete Replacement of the Birmingham Skatepark

To: &lt;claird@bhamgov.org&gt;

Hello,

I am writing to strongly advocate for the replacement of the Birmingham skatepark. While this park holds a special place in our community's history as one of the first free public outdoor facilities in the area, it has far exceeded its projected lifespan as a prefab modular park. The current structure now requires more than just surface repairs to remain a safe and vibrant asset; it needs a transition to a custom concrete design.

I am particularly concerned that we avoid the mistakes recently made by West Bloomfield. In their replacement project, they again contracted American Ramp Company (ARC), who also managed the public outreach survey. Despite a clear community preference for a concrete park expressed in those survey results, ARC ignored that feedback and installed another modular system. The results have been disastrous: build quality has declined significantly, attendance is abysmal, and the township is now reportedly exploring ways to secure a refund.

A modular park simply cannot achieve the long-term aesthetic and functional objectives of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. To ensure Birmingham builds a facility that truly fosters the local skate community, I recommend starting a conversation with specialized, skater-run design-build firms like Hunger Skateparks or Spohn Ranch. Unlike the "cookie-cutter" approach of prefab companies, these builders create unique, concrete destinations that draw users from across the region.

Skateparks are among the highest-use amenities a city can provide. My hope is to see a new facility that allows the next generation of Birmingham skaters to grow up with the same strong community their parents enjoyed. Does the current Master Plan include a Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement for this site? I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can move toward a beautiful, permanent concrete asset for Birmingham.

I am willing to assist in organization, planning, and heavy lifting.

Please don't think of this as a passive request.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Clarke

C: 248 302 2366

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Carrie A. Laird

Parks &amp; Recreation Manager

851 S. Eton

Birmingham, MI 48009

248-530-1714

\*Important Note to Residents\*

Let's connect! Join the Citywide Email System to receive important City updates and critical information specific to your neighborhood at [www.bhamgov.org/citywideemail](http://www.bhamgov.org/citywideemail).