



EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

CITY OF EAST CLEVELAND

14340 Euclid Avenue
East Cleveland, Ohio 44112



County Planning

CITY OF EAST CLEVELAND

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to inform and provide services in support of the short and long term comprehensive planning, quality of life, environment, and economic development of Cuyahoga County and its cities, villages and townships.

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DRAFT

OUR THANKS

A special thank you to all the residents, groups, public officials, community representatives, and other key stakeholders that participated in the Parks and Greenspace Plan process. Your input in online surveys, interviews, and community engagement events ensured that this document included the thoughts, opinions, hopes, and goals of those who live in East Cleveland and visit East Cleveland Parks.

Thank you especially to those members of the City Administration that dedicated their time, energy, and expertise in crafting the Parks and Greenspace Plan for the City of East Cleveland.

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Finally, a special thank you to the East Cleveland Public Library, Salvation Army - East Cleveland, Coit Road Farmers Market, and Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) for hosting our Community Engagement Boards and Activities.

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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

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WELCOME TO THE EAST CLEVELAND PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Parks are incredibly important to communities. Essential to the health and well-being of citizens, parks are described as the "lungs of the City" due to the environmental benefits they provide. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has reported some key statistics underscoring the benefit of parks such as an acre of trees can absorb the carbon dioxide of driving a car 11,000 miles; increased access to parks leads to a 25% increase in people exercising; and access to parks can reduce childhood obesity. More generally, parks are places to experience nature, build community, and improve health.

The City of East Cleveland was awarded funding for professional planning services through a competitive grant process from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Their application focused on improving and enhancing its 213 acres of parks and greenspaces to be a catalyst for neighborhood stabilization and economic development, thereby improving the quality of life and uplifting the community as a whole. With help from the City and its residents, County Planning has developed a framework to enhance the parks and green space amenities that can provide space for services and programs. This can support and strengthen community efforts to improve physical and mental health, promote leisure activity alternatives, foster an appreciation of the environment and sustainability, and bolster community engagement opportunities for residents.

WHAT IS THE EAST CLEVELAND PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN?

The East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan is a collection of community aspirations that describe a vision for parks in East Cleveland to guide actions, boost investment, and improve the condition and safety of the City's parks. It is a long-term guide for how the community wants to improve its park system to benefit both current and future residents. This plan was developed by the City of East Cleveland in collaboration with residents, community members, neighborhood groups, stakeholders, and regional entities.

The East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace plan inventoried the City's parks, outlined the community's vision for its park system through conversations and feedback from City officials, residents and other community members, that helped to determine the guiding themes and principles that outlined the community's vision for its park system, and described strategies and action steps to achieve that vision.

The East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan outlines specific steps that can be taken to move the City's park system forward. The Implementation section outlines a framework and toolkit for implementing actions. It ties individual actions to partners, time-frames, and potential funding sources to ensure everyone is aware of how actions can be accomplished.

The East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan is the beginning of a process of transformation for the City's parks and neighborhoods. It is intended to prepare residents and community members for changes, guide future improvements, and give a competitive advantage when applying for grants and funding.

PLANNING PROCESS

The East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan is organized into five phases. These phases are described in more depth below:

- **Current Conditions:** This phase outlined current park amenities, analyzed demographics and land use, and identified areas lacking park space
- **Vision for Parks:** In this phase, residents outlined their vision for how parks should change, expand, or be preserved
- **Recommendations:** In this phase, strategies and actions are identified to achieve the community's vision for the parks
- **Implementation:** This phase identified potential partners, funding strategies, and funding sources necessary to accomplish the recommendations
- **Parks & Greenspace Plan Document:** In this final phase, the previous pieces are combined into a complete, final document

PROCESS STEPS



CURRENT CONDITIONS



VISION FOR PARKS



RECOMMENDATIONS



IMPLEMENTATION



PARKS & GREENSPACE
PLAN

REGIONAL PARKS CONTEXT

East Cleveland residents have access to parks beyond those within the boundaries of the City, including parks in neighboring communities such as the Cities of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. Residents and community members also have access to a regional network of parks and greenspaces throughout Northeast Ohio.

CLEVELAND PARKS AND GREENSPACES

East Cleveland residents live within close proximity to major Cleveland parks, especially the ribbon of parks, greenspaces, and recreation amenities running through the Glenville-James Hubbard Recreation Center and Cleveland's Forest Hills Park. These parks include outdoor recreation facilities, an indoor recreation center, and an outdoor pool.

In University Circle, East Cleveland residents can access the cultural and park amenities surrounding Wade Oval, Wade Lagoon, and the Cultural Gardens, which provide formal park spaces and arts and cultural resources, such as the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Cleveland also has a number of smaller neighborhood parks within close proximity to East Cleveland, such as Endora Park and Moulton/Scoutway Park.

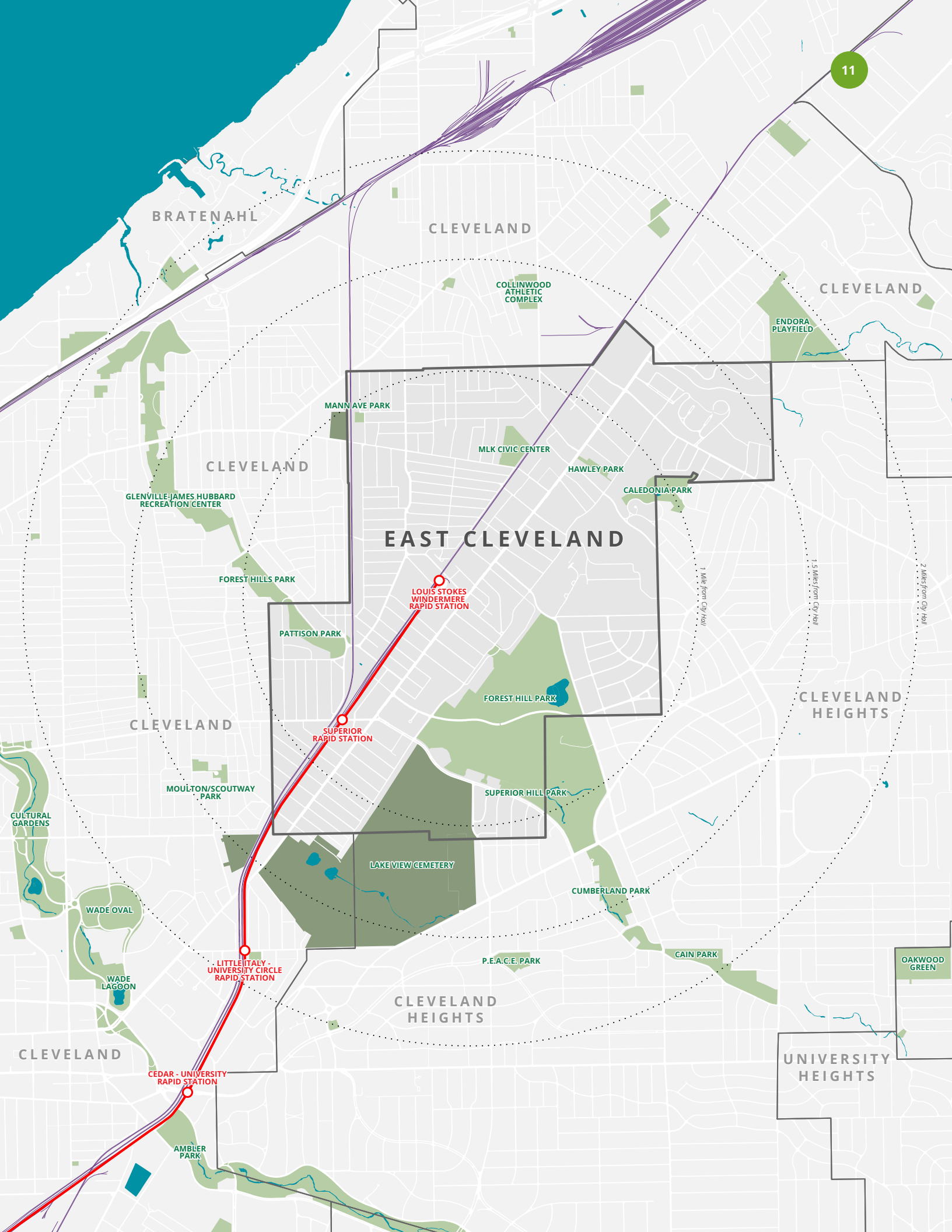
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS PARKS AND GREENSPACES

East Cleveland residents can also access parks in Cleveland Heights, especially the Cleveland Heights portions of Caledonia Park and Forest Hill Park. Cleveland Heights' Recreation Center is located within Forest Hill Park, but most programs are accessible only to Cleveland Heights residents or CH-UH School District students.

The ribbon of parks stretching from Forest Hill Park in East Cleveland continues through Cumberland and Cain Park in Cleveland Heights. These Cleveland Heights parks include pools, trails, and performing arts spaces.

REGIONAL PARKS

Beyond the immediate vicinity of East Cleveland, residents have access to regional park amenities including more than 23,700 acres of park space in the Cleveland Metroparks system and more than 33,000 acres in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. While these parks are available to residents of East Cleveland, limited transportation options for getting to and from these regional parks may make them inaccessible, as many East Cleveland residents may be dependent on public transit and lack access to a vehicle. The nearest regional park to East Cleveland is Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation.



11

BRATENAHL

CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND

ENDORA PLAYFIELD

COLLINWOOD ATHLETIC COMPLEX

CLEVELAND

MANN AVE PARK

MLK CIVIC CENTER

HAWLEY PARK

CALEDONIA PARK

EAST CLEVELAND

LOUIS STOKES WINDERMERE RAPID STATION

GLENVILLE-JAMES HUBBARD RECREATION CENTER

FOREST HILLS PARK

PATTISON PARK

FOREST HILL PARK

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

SUPERIOR RAPID STATION

CLEVELAND

MOULTON/SCOUTWAY PARK

SUPERIOR HILL PARK

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

CUMBERLAND PARK

CULTURAL GARDENS

WADE OVAL

WADE LAGOON

P.E.A.C.E. PARK

CAIN PARK

OAKWOOD GREEN

CLEVELAND

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

CEDAR - UNIVERSITY RAPID STATION

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

AMBLER PARK

HISTORY OF EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

Each East Cleveland Park has a unique history and an important place in the development of East Cleveland and surrounding communities.

FOREST HILL PARK

The modern history of Forest Hill Park began around 1873 when John D. Rockefeller, Sr. purchased the first 79-acre tract of land that would later become the park. Rockefeller originally intended to use the land for economic purposes: as a sanatorium, a place of public resort, and a summer club. These ventures ultimately failed, and the Rockefellers adopted Forest Hill and its 75-room Queen Anne style home as the family's summer residence. The family constructed carriage paths, installed landscaping, and laid out a golf course while leaving much of the original wooded land intact. Even after moving to New York in 1884, the family spent many summers in Forest Hill.

SUPERIOR HILL PARK

While Superior Hill Park functions as a neighborhood park, it is technically part of the larger Forest Hill Park located in East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. Superior Hill Park functions separately because of the large ravine that separates Superior Hill from the rest of Forest Hill. Because it is included as part of the parcels that comprise Forest Hill Park, the boundaries of Superior Hill Park are not clearly defined. Superior Hill's parkland was included in the 1938 design for Forest Hill Park completed by A.D. Taylor. The area today known as Superior Hill Park was identified then as a location for bowling greens, parking area, a play area, and a circular green.



1938 Development Plan for Forest Hill Park developed by A.D. Taylor

Source: Cleveland Public Library

PATTISON PARK

Pattison Park is a large community park located on the western border of East Cleveland and encompasses 13.0 acres of land.

The land that comprises Pattison Park was acquired by the City of Cleveland in the early 20th Century to construct Forest Hill Parkway, a proposed boulevard from Euclid Avenue in East Cleveland to Lake Shore Boulevard in Bratenahl. Never completed, the boulevard plan was abandoned and the land was leased to East Cleveland in the 1930s to be used as a



Pattison Park

Source: County Planning

park. The land remains owned by the City of Cleveland, and maintained and operated by the City of East Cleveland.

HAWLEY PARK

Often referred to as Hastings Park by residents, Hawley Park was once part of Dr. George H. Quay's property on Euclid Avenue. Dr. Quay was a prominent East Cleveland physician during the turn of the 20th century and was a three term Mayor of the City and served as president on the East Cleveland Board of Education for a number of years in the mid-1910s to early 1920s. Today, Hawley Park is an approximately two-acre neighborhood park located between Hastings Avenue and North Taylor Road just south of Euclid Avenue.



Hawley Park
Source: County Planning

MLK CIVIC CENTER

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center is a community park and civic center located on the north side of Shaw Avenue on a plot of land covering 9.3 acres. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center is constructed on the site of the former Eadie Greenhouses. The site was acquired by the City of East Cleveland and the MLK Civic Center, with its indoor/outdoor recreation center complex, was built in the late 1970s. More recently, the Civic Center has undergone improvements through the dedication and volunteerism of residents. Approximately a half-million dollars were put in to the Civic Center in 2019, including the replacement of the indoor basketball court.



MLK Civic Center
Source: County Planning

MANN AVENUE PARK

Mann Avenue Park is a neighborhood park located on the western border of the community and encompassing 1.1 acres of land. The front half of Mann Avenue Park was originally platted for residential uses while the back half of the park was used as a railroad siding for the former Builders Supply & Fuel Company. By the 1970s, the land had been repurposed as a neighborhood park and ballfield.



Mann Avenue Park
Source: County Planning

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The planning process involved the input of three tiers of engagement: the Project Team, stakeholder interviews, and the public. This three-tiered approach allowed for more input at various phases to ensure the goals and recommendations in the Parks and Greenspace Plan fit what the community would like to see.

The Project Team comprised of City staff and public officials with an in-depth knowledge of the day-to-day operations of the City. The stakeholder interviews were conducted to gain insight from a cross section of the City, such as residents, neighborhood groups, and other key representatives. Finally, the public included any interested residents or parties that would like to be involved in the process.

When the East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan was started, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, and typical large-scale public meetings were not possible. County Planning worked with the City of East Cleveland, the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), and other partners to engage the community and facilitate ongoing discussion. Early on in the pandemic, community outreach was conducted via online surveys and activities which were made available to the public via the City, NOAH, and County Planning websites. As COVID-19 health guides evolved and outdoor social gatherings were permitted, County Planning safely engaged the community at designated community events such as Movie Night at Pattison Park and the Food Strong Cleveland Care-A Van at the Coit Road Farmers Market.

PROJECT WEBSITE

Developing a plan provides the community an opportunity to give input, an integral component of the planning process. Multiple outlets were used to gather input from a diverse group of residents and stakeholders within the community since this process will affect not only those who live in East Cleveland, but also those who own a business, work, or play in the City. One of the first and simplest methods to inform and reach residents was the launch of a project specific website. <https://www.countyplanning.us/projects/east-Cleveland-parks-greenspace-plan/>

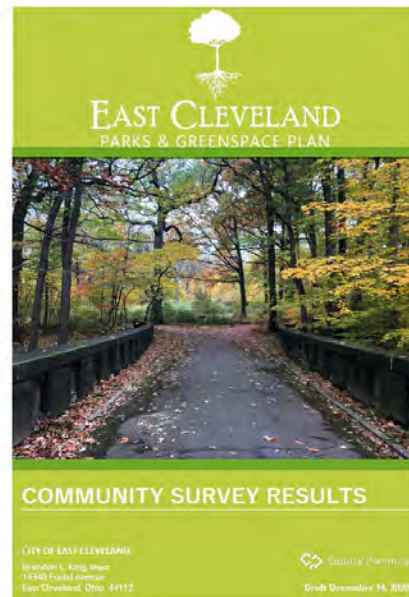
This website was updated to feature information about the plan, documents, links to online surveys, presentation materials, and meeting updates. It was designed to provide the tools necessary for community members to stay informed and provide feedback virtually. This proved to be a critical component since a key section of the East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan was developed during the Coronavirus pandemic and required as much socially-distant engagement as possible.



The East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan Community Survey was conducted and available from June 6, 2020 until September 30, 2020. The survey was available online and on paper. Notices about the survey and the opportunity for public input and comment were made available via paper copies at the East Cleveland City Hall, East Cleveland Public Library, and the Coit Road Farmers Market, and a community mass mailing through the City's Community Development Corporation NOAH (Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope). There were 136 respondents (105 online, 31 paper) with approximately 840 written comments in total.

EAST CLEVELAND PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTINGS

Community Engagement Opportunities for the East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan was conducted from June 2021 through October 2021. There were 546 total impressions during the community engagement opportunities timeframe. These impressions included 460 opinions expressed via a dot placement activity and 86 individual written comments. Community Engagement Activity boards were made available at the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) Movie Night at Pattison Park on July 19, 2021, and the Food Strong Cleveland Care-A-Van at the Coit Road Farmers Market on August 14, 2021, and October 9, 2021. Community Engagement Activity boards were placed at the East Cleveland Public Library and the Salvation Army East Cleveland from September 27, 2021, through October 25, 2021. These community engagement activities gave residents and visitors an opportunity to provide input and comments about East Cleveland Parks.



The full Community Engagement findings are available as an appendix.



Movie Night at Pattison Park, July 2021
Source: County Planning



Care-A-Van at Coit Road Farmers Market, October 2021
Source: County Planning

CURRENT CONDITIONS OVERVIEW

Many factors affect a community's future, including population and housing trends, employment patterns, proximity to transit, and government finances. County Planning completed an in-depth analysis of current conditions and an overall assessment of trends, specifically in the areas near East Cleveland's parks and greenspaces. In the City of East Cleveland, parks and greenspaces range from small neighborhood greens to expansive, formal parks.

The Current Conditions analysis identified all of the existing parks, greenspaces, and other open spaces in the City to determine the amount of parkland available to residents. The complete assessment is available in the appendix, but an overview of significant trends is available here. This section's data comes from numerous sources, including the United State Census Bureau's 2013-2018 5 Year American Community Survey, Cuyahoga County, and the City of East Cleveland.

CITY PARKS AND GREENSPACES

- East Cleveland has seven major parks: Pattison Park, Mann Avenue Park, MLK Civic Center, Hawley Park, Forest Hill Park, Superior Hill Park, and Caledonia Park. Together these total 213.2 acres and account for 10.7% of the City's total land area. This equates to 12.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- Eight-nine percent of residents are within a ten-minute walk or ½ mile walk of a city park. This includes 88.3% of Children (0-17 years of age), 89.0% of Young Adults (18-34 years of age), 90.9% of Working Age Adults (35-64 years of age), and 89.4% of Seniors (65+ years of age).



213
ACRES OF
PARKLAND



7
PARKS



12.3
ACRES PER
1,000 RESIDENTS

BIKEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS

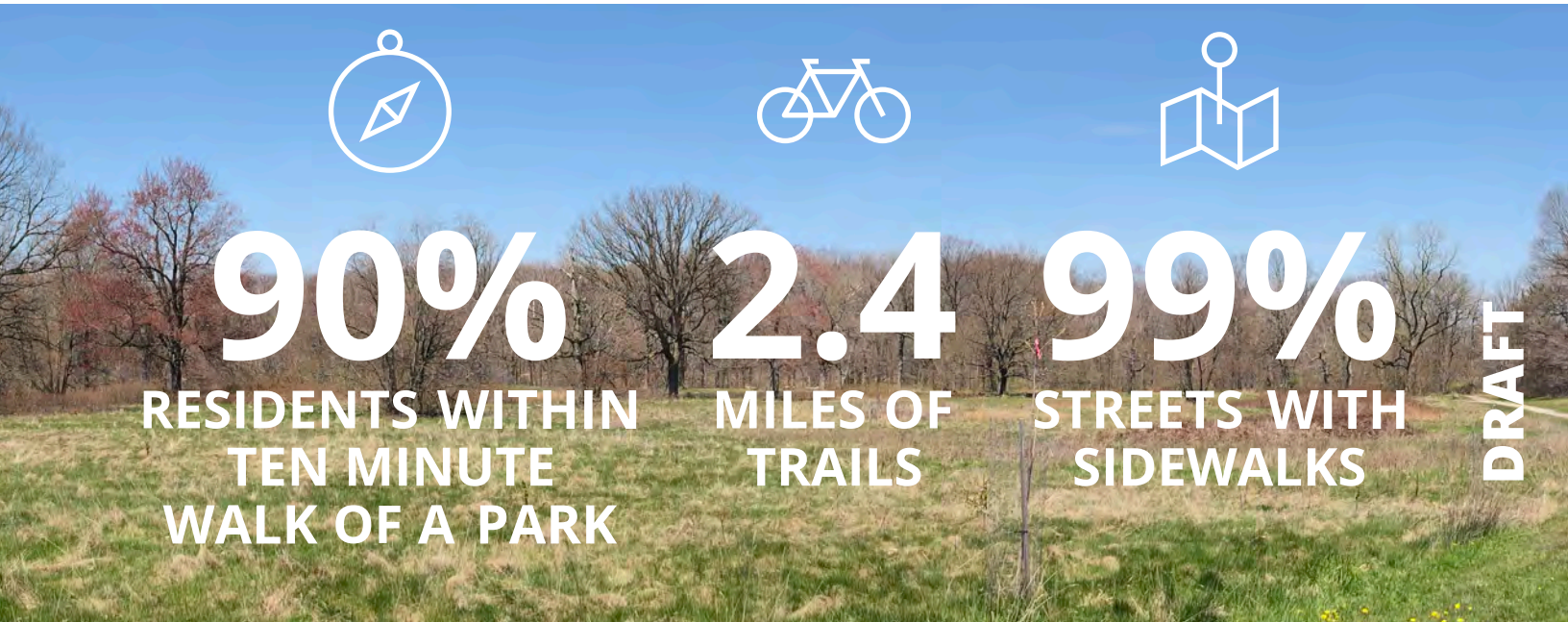
- East Cleveland has 2.4 miles of existing trails and bikeways throughout the City. All existing trails run through Forest Hill Park and connect into Cleveland Heights.
- With 99% of streets with a sidewalk, East Cleveland has an incredibly strong sidewalk network, although much of the sidewalk infrastructure is in need of repair or replacement. The vast majority of streets (83.1%) in East Cleveland have sidewalks on both sides of the street. An additional 16.1% of streets have sidewalks on only one side, and less than 1% do not have sidewalks. Some of the most notable areas of missing sidewalks include Forest Hills Boulevard, Thornhill Drive, Terrace Road, and parts of Lee Boulevard.

LAND USE

- With 39.8% of the East Cleveland land used for residential (Single-Family, 24.7%; Two-Family, 8.1%; and Multi-Family, 7.0%) uses and 12.5% for Parks and Recreation, most residents are in close proximity to a park or greenspace. However, data shows that 16.9% of the community consists of vacant land and could provide the City with areas of opportunities for new uses and development.

POPULATION

- East Cleveland’s population decline has steadily stabilized over the last decade. Between 2010 and 2018, the population went from 17,843 to 17,321, that was an estimated population drop of approximately 500 people, compared to an almost ten-thousand person drop between 2000 and 2010.
- East Cleveland has a relatively consistent population, with most age groups spread equally. Children make up 20% of the population, Young Adults make up 21%, Working Age Adults make up 37%, and Seniors make up the remaining 21%. This is important in understanding who will be using the City’s parks and recreation services and amenities.



90%

**RESIDENTS WITHIN
TEN MINUTE
WALK OF A PARK**



2.4

**MILES OF
TRAILS**



99%

**STREETS WITH
SIDEWALKS**

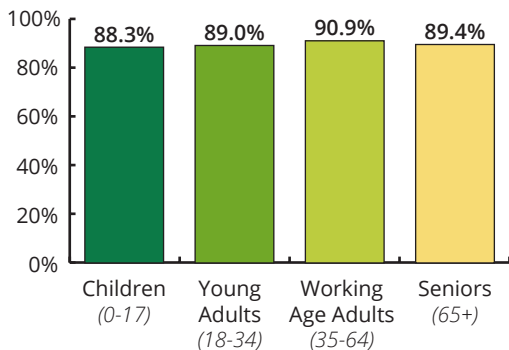
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CITY PARKS AND GREENSPACES

The Current Conditions analysis of all the existing parks, greenspaces, and other open spaces in East Cleveland showed that compared to other municipalities, there are about 12.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in East Cleveland and nearly 90% of those residents are within a ten-minute or ½ mile walk of a city park, no matter age of the resident.

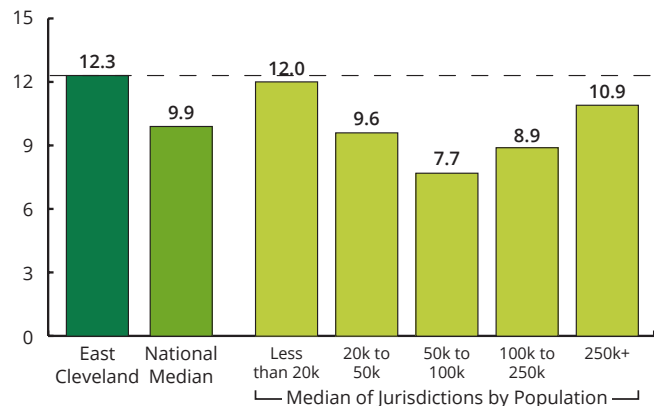
A MAJORITY OF ALL EAST CLEVELAND RESIDENTS, REGARDLESS OF AGE, ARE WITHIN A TEN MINUTE WALK OF A PARK

Approximately 89.6% of residents are within a ten-minute walk or ½ mile walk of a city park, including 88.3% of Children, 89.0% of Young Adults, 90.9% of Working Age Adults, and 89.4% of Seniors.



EAST CLEVELAND IS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR PERCENTAGE OF PARKLAND ACREAGE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

There are 12.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in East Cleveland, much higher than the national average of 9.9 acres/1,000 residents, and higher than other municipalities in comparison.



BIKEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS

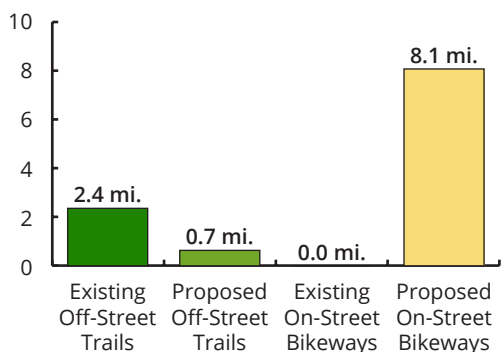
East Cleveland has a very robust sidewalk system with 99% of streets having at least a sidewalk on one side or both sides of the street. However, many sidewalks in the City are damaged and in need of repair. On the other hand, the bikeway system of existing trails and on-street bikeways is not as strong. There are only 2.4 miles of trails in the City of East Cleveland and they all run through Forest Hill Park.

BIKEWAYS THROUGHOUT EAST CLEVELAND COULD BE CONNECTED TO THE GREATER REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK

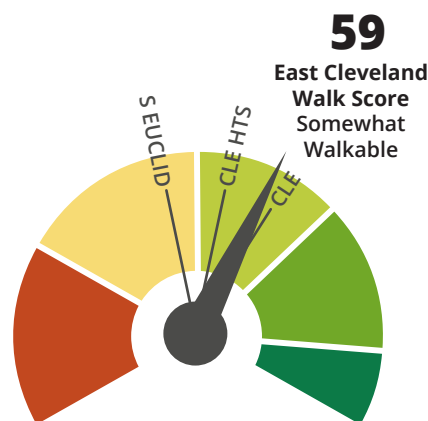
In total, East Cleveland has 2.4 miles of existing trails and bikeways. All existing trails run through Forest Hill Park and connect into Cleveland Heights which would provide an opportunity to connect East Cleveland to the larger network of proposed Cuyahoga Greenways that run further north and south.

ACCORDING TO WALKSCORE, EAST CLEVELAND IS CONSIDERED A SOMEWHAT WALKABLE COMMUNITY

East Cleveland has very walkable infrastructure, with most streets lined with sidewalks. In terms of overall walkability, which includes both existing infrastructure and access to amenities within walking distance, East Cleveland is considered Somewhat Walkable by the widely-used metric, WalkScore. In comparison to other suburban communities, East Cleveland had a higher Walk Score and is equal to the City of Cleveland.



WALK SCORE, EAST CLEVELAND



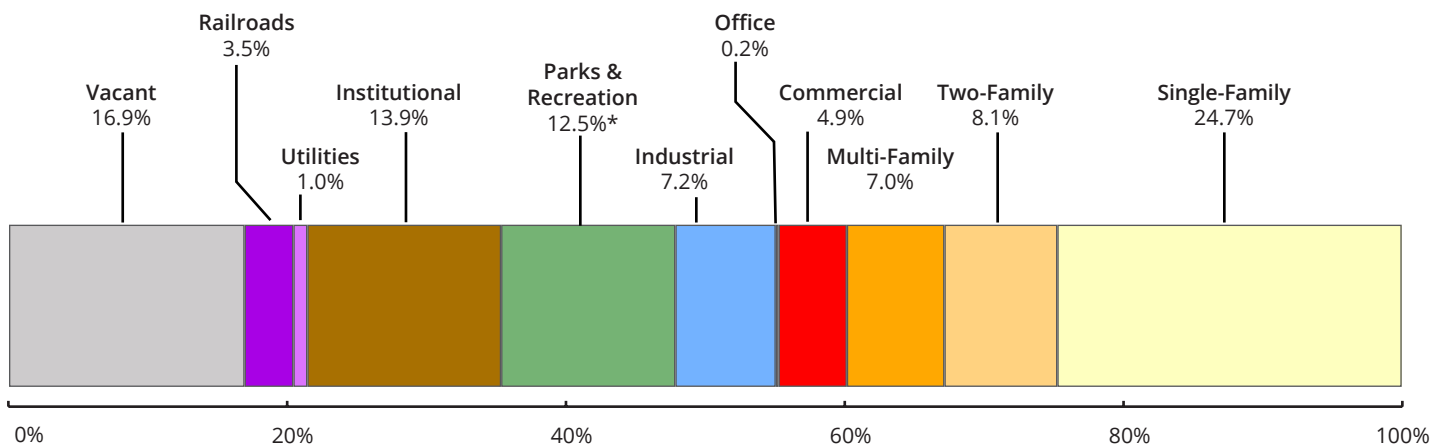
Source: www.WalkScore.com

LAND USE

The characteristics of East Cleveland's land use showed that East Cleveland residents are located within close proximity to a park or open space, while areas of vacant land could be used for new opportunities and development.

THE TWO LARGEST LAND USES IN EAST CLEVELAND ARE RESIDENTIAL AND VACANT

With 39.8% of the East Cleveland land use being used for residential (Single-Family, 24.7%, Two-Family, 8.1%, and Multi-Family, 7.0%), and 12.5% of land use for Parks and Recreation, most residents are in close proximity to a park or greenspace. However, data shows that 16.9% of the community consists of vacant land and could provide the City with areas of opportunities for new uses and development.

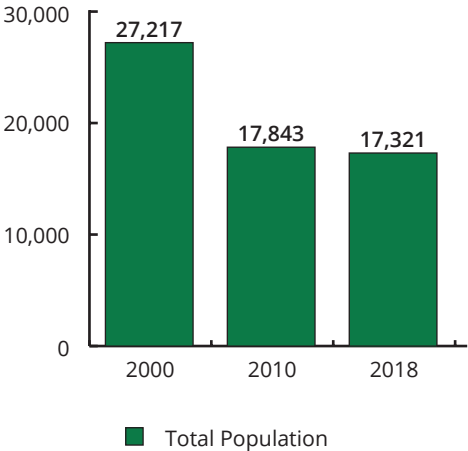


POPULATION

From 2010-2018, the population in East Cleveland only dropped by an estimated 500 people, in comparison to the nearly 10-thousand residents from the decade before. The City's composition has also changed over the decades. Children, Young Adults, and Working Age Adults made up significantly larger portions of the community in previous decades. Knowing the population trends and distribution by age groups would help to understand parks amenities and services usage.

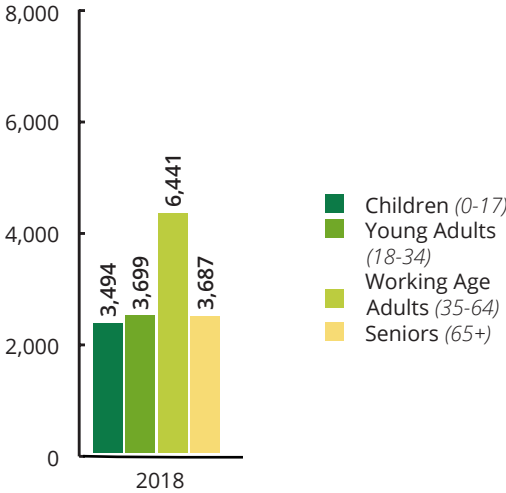
EAST CLEVELAND'S POPULATION HAS STEADILY STABILIZED OVER THE LAST DECADE

Compared to the almost 10,000 person population declined between 2000 and 2010, there was only an approximate 500 population drop between 2010 and 2018. This showed signs of possible stabilization in the City.



EAST CLEVELAND'S CONSISTENT POPULATION HELPS UNDERSTAND PARK AMENITIES USAGE

The population in East Cleveland was shown to be equally spread across age groups. Children made up 20% of the population, Young Adults made up 21%, Working Age Adults made up 37%, and Seniors made up the remaining 21%. This was important in understanding who will be using the City's parks and recreation services and amenities.



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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

VISION & RECOMMENDATIONS

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VISION

THEMES + PRINCIPLES

The East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan encapsulates the Community's Vision for East Cleveland Parks. Through various conversations with City Officials, key stakeholders, and community members, four key themes emerged that form the Vision: Comfort, Community, Connected, and Catalyst. In the graphic below, each Theme is supported by Vision Principles that helped guide the recommendations to make East Cleveland Parks an important City asset.

Comfort

- Parks are Well-Maintained
- Parks are Welcoming & Safe

Catalyst

- Parks Support the City's Vision for the Future
- Parks Have Appropriate Facilities & Amenities



Community

- Parks Leverage Partners
- Park Involve & Engage Community Members
- Park Information is Readily Available

Connected

- Parks are Safely & Easily Accessible

COMMUNITY INPUT & FEEDBACK

Input and feedback from the community was a key part of forming the Vision for the East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan. Below are some of the direct quotes from community members of what they envisioned for East Cleveland Parks, including what they loved about their parks, what they wanted improved, and what things were missing that needed to be included in East Cleveland Parks.

"Must be safe and clean first, Next step would be to add activities for young people."

"Better maintenance and security."

"East Cleveland is a diamond in the rough. With improved services, East Cleveland can once again be on top."

"The parks are a vital part of our community. The mental benefits of being able to visit greenspace that is well purposed and intentional for visitation, is invaluable. The parks are an asset to our neighborhoods and will provide an enormous amount of help to the City of East Cleveland."

"Activities and programs to be employed and appreciated by people of different backgrounds... Intentionally programmed to civically engage, welcome, educate, celebrate and heal."

"More interest needs to be developed to get people to come to the parks. People will come if there are events, festivals, concerts, etc."

"Clean up trails (trim trees to make more passable, repave)."

"[The basic city infrastructure] is in desperate need which directly impacts ability to safely walk or bike to parks."

RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW

The Recommendations section is where the East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan outlined the projects, programs, partners, and actions necessary to fulfill the community's vision for East Cleveland Parks. The Vision, consisting of Themes and Principles, were used to guide the Recommendations which are broken down into a series of Strategies and Action Steps for the City to undertake through partnerships and collaborations. Some of these Strategies and their Action Steps can be immediately executed, while others may require additional study, funding, or long-term phasing efforts.

In this Section, the Strategies and Action Steps are organized by Theme and Principle. The first three Themes - Comfort, Community, and Connected - contain Strategies and Action Steps that are system-wide or generalized recommendations. They addressed the East Cleveland Parks as a whole, ensuring improvements are made systematically and that park benefits can be felt throughout the community. The last theme, Catalyst, contains both system-wide and park-specific recommendations. Park-specific recommendations included specific considerations and improvements that were tailored to each of the following parks: Pattison Park, Hawley Park, Superior Hill Park, Mann Avenue Park, and Forest Hill Park.

The table on the following page lists the Themes (Comfort, Community, Connected, Catalyst) in dark green with their subsequent Principles and Strategies.

THEMES + PRINCIPLES + STRATEGIES

COMFORT
PARKS ARE WELL MAINTAINED
Increase Resources and Funding Needed to Help Care for and Maintain East Cleveland Parks
Inspect and Evaluate Park Amenities at All East Cleveland Parks on An Annual Basis
Develop a System-Wide Parks Maintenance Schedule that Provides a Baseline of Care for All East Cleveland Parks
PARKS ARE WELCOMING AND SAFE
Ensure Park Features Enhance the Well-Being of Park Users and Enhance the Overall Appeal of All East Cleveland Parks
Develop a Consistent Brand Across all East Cleveland Parks
COMMUNITY
PARKS LEVERAGE PARTNERS
Encourage and Promote Collaboration with the East Cleveland Parks
Formalize Partnerships to Maximize Benefits and Outcomes
Work with Partners to Establish Reoccurring Premier Events to Activate East Cleveland Parks
Partner with Different Community Organizations and Institutions to Ensure Equity to Meet the Various Needs of the Community
PARKS ENGAGE & INVOLVE RESIDENTS
Engage Community Members to Periodically Stay Up To Date on the Events and Programs They Desire
Provide Different Opportunities for Community Members to Get Involved and Take on an Active Role in the East Cleveland Parks
PARK INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE
Promote Park Events and Programs by Utilizing Different Platforms and Leveraging Partners
Make Information about East Cleveland Parks Features, Amenities, and Facilities Available and Up-To-Date
Develop and Enforce a Process to Reserve East Cleveland Parks Facilities
CONNECTED
PARKS ARE SAFELY AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE
Develop a Citywide All Purpose Trail Network that Connects Neighborhoods to East Cleveland Parks, Greenspaces, and Regional Trails
Improve Safety and Access to East Cleveland Parks and Greenspaces through Infrastructure & Streetscape Improvements
Increase Access to Parks and Greenspaces by Building Community Schoolyards
Enhance Safety and Access to East Cleveland Parks and Greenspaces through Programs and Education
CATALYST
PARKS SUPPORT THE CITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE
Use Park Improvements to Help Bolster and Support East Cleveland's Community Vision
Leverage Park Improvements to Help Encourage Redevelopment Opportunities
PARKS HAVE THE APPROPRIATE FACILITIES & AMENITIES
Identify Specific Improvements for Each East Cleveland Park



“When people are physically and mentally comfortable in a space, they connect with others and take their shoes off. In this informal atmosphere, public spaces can become “third places,” those in-between work and home where our broader social lives occur.”

– Project for Public Spaces



thers, and quite literally kick their
informal gathering spots between

THEME 1 COMFORT

This theme identified recommendations that work to increase residents' comfort in their neighborhood parks, while focusing on the maintenance and resources available to help ensure consistency in the quality and safety of East Cleveland's parks.

This Theme contains the following Principles:

- Parks are Well-Maintained , page 30
- Parks are Welcoming & Safe, page 36



PARKS ARE WELL-MAINTAINED

STRATEGY | INCREASE RESOURCES AND FUNDING NEEDED TO MAINTAIN EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

Park operations and maintenance are critical elements for creating comfortable and accessible parks. According to the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review, 98% of park agencies surveyed have Park Operations & Maintenance as the key responsibility of their agency. Furthermore, on average, park agencies reported that their full-time staff dedicated their time to the following responsibilities: Operations & Maintenance (45%), Programming (31%), Administration (17%), Capital Development (3%) and Other (4%). Overall, this data can help establish park needs and inform park decisions. However, the NRPA cautions that the data should not be used as a standard, but rather should be used with other data sources to start conversations among officials, stakeholders, and community members.

These annual reports provide benchmarking metrics for the City of East Cleveland to compare themselves to other agencies across the country and better understand the potential budget and staffing resources needed to adequately maintain all existing parks within East Cleveland. East Cleveland has 213 acres of parkland and an approximate population of 17,000. A relevant datum feature from the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review is that a typical agency serving a jurisdiction of less than 20,000 people spends a median of \$8,188 per acre of park and non-park sites, which is more than the overall agencies' median of \$7,823 per park and non-park sites. These smaller agencies also have a median annual operating expenditure of \$1,200,000.

It is important for the City of East Cleveland to expand its parks and recreation budget through grant awards, partnerships, and other means to share the cost of operations and maintenance to ensure adequate care of all East Cleveland Parks.

To learn about NRPA's Annual Agency Reviews and access the data, visit: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>

ACTION STEPS

- A. Determine current capacity in terms of budget, staff and equipment to estimate what is still needed to achieve adequate maintenance
- B. Update budgets using benchmarking metrics such as in the NRPA Annual Agency Review Reports to ensure adequate maintenance of all East Cleveland Parks
- C. Evaluate equipment to see if there are low-cost or more efficient alternatives
- D. Identify and document all current partners that help with Park Maintenance, including which parks they serve, their estimated yearly expenditures, and their potential needs
- E. Join the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to gain access to resources, tools and networks to help support Park Maintenance
- F. Identify any future partners, organizations, or programs that may be available to help support the care and maintenance of East Cleveland Parks
- G. Explore alternative funding sources and methods to support capital improvements and maintenance of East Cleveland Parks

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, East Cleveland Parks Association, NOAA, National Recreational Park Association, Cleveland Metropark

Using Partnerships for Park Maintenance Indianapolis, Indiana

Former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith championed the power of competition to help create efficiencies in his government agencies by reducing spending. The Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation applied the Mayor's approach to some of its park maintenance programs. The Department, after receiving several proposals, started issuing various public and private contracts to conduct park maintenance like mowing on its existing facilities as part of a hybrid public-private maintenance model. Outsourcing some of the work enabled the Parks Department to reallocate resources to other projects. This increased their efficiency and enabled them to provide a high quality of service while reducing the need to maintain equipment.

In addition to outsourcing maintenance through public-private contracts, the Parks Department strategically solicited neighborhood associations, business, churches, and other organizations to help maintain neighborhood parks of 5 acres or less that contained amenities such as playgrounds, shelters and basketball courts. The Parks Department found significant inefficiencies in traveling to, unloading materials, and maintaining these small parks. Instead of issuing RFPs, the Parks Department established maintenance guidelines and contracts with those groups offering service to ensure standards were met. For example, the Parks Department set aside \$60,000 annually for the 'Church Park' initiative, an opportunity for churches to make money and also reconnect with their local parks. Through this program, churches received grants to conduct maintenance of the parks and run summer programming. The church groups were able to save the city maintenance costs and resources by generating a volunteer base for mowing.

This hybrid-system could be a possibility for East Cleveland, allowing the City to contract directly with local providers or one of several groups/agencies already conducting maintenance of existing open spaces within East Cleveland, allowing the community to redistribute resources to other issues and opportunities.

For more information about the Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Partnerships visit: <https://www.pps.org/article/successindianapolis>

PARKS ARE WELL-MAINTAINED

STRATEGY | INSPECT AND EVALUATE PARK AMENITIES AT ALL EAST CLEVELAND PARKS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

Having accurate data and metrics are fundamental components for making cost-effective decisions. Having this data is important for a Parks and Recreation Department to determine which amenities are in good shape and need minimal attention and more importantly, identify which ones are in the most critical condition and need to be repaired and/or replaced. During these evaluations, it is important to consider factors such as the amenities' significance, cost, safety, legal requirements, and demand for those amenities to inform the budget and maintenance schedule.

Recording these issues annually is important for the City to better identify hazards and minimize preventable accidents by detecting these issues early on and intervening appropriately by repairing and/ or replacing park features. By acting in a timely manner, it also maximizes the life of park amenities thus, helping the City avoid expensive repairs in the future.

Through this planning process, the East Cleveland community made it clear that addressing the conditions of park amenities and features was an important priority and concern. Thus, it is imperative for the City of East Cleveland to evaluate its park amenities on an annual basis to effectively address the conditions of park amenities. With a limited budget but an extensive list of park needs, these annual evaluations will help the City optimize its resources and budget more accurately to maximize its impact and efficiency.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Use the park inventory from the Current Conditions of the Plan to inform annual evaluations and update the park inventory, as needed
- B. Develop a rating system to systematically evaluate the conditions of amenities and features across all East Cleveland Parks
- C. Use the results of the inspection/ evaluation to determine the estimate cost of upkeep, repairs, and replacements to develop budgets and maintenance schedules
- D. Document progress by analyzing and comparing results from annual evaluations/inspections
- E. Designate a group of volunteers or staff to do annual park evaluations or consider contracting someone to perform them
- F. Host an annual training to ensure staff and volunteers are up-to-date with proper inspection and maintenance protocols. Consider hosting a NRPA day-long course

DETAILS


Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, East Cleveland Parks Association, NOAH, National Recreational Park Association, East Cleveland City Schools

Critical Systems Identification National Park Service (NPS)

Regular inspections of parks are essential because parks have many different elements, each of which can easily develop a variety of problems. In fact in some states and municipalities, regular playground inspections are required by law. Even when inspections and evaluations are not required, having a designated schedule (annually), and tools for inspection (form) as documented evidence can provide legal coverage and reduce costs. Park features and equipment that are inspected and evaluated annually for issues not only protect the safety of users and children, but they also allow the amenity to last longer, reducing the need for critical and expensive repairs or replacements. The actual form and style of evaluation can take many forms but the key to each process is to establish an inspection schedule, and determining what issues need to be resolved.

The National Park Service uses a structure called 'Critical Systems Identification as a method to identify priorities and timelines for issues identified in their parks. These issues are categorized as minor, serious, or critical based upon the severity and impact they would have to the park. An acceptable level of condition exists when all of a park's features have no critical or serious issues including deferred maintenance. An unacceptable condition is when all or some features within a park have critical or serious deficiencies. Utilizing this or a similar system in East Cleveland could be valuable in identifying critical needs quickly and working to address these issues internally or without outside partnerships and support.

For more information about the National Park Service Critical Systems Identification visit: <https://www.facilitiesnet.com/facilitiesmanagement/article/National-Park-Services-Asset-Priority-Index-Helps-Guide-Maintenance-Operations--14350>

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A smart benchmarking method classifies your assets into categories from excellent to serious condition and prioritizes maintenance accordingly.

For example, here's how benchmarking might help determine the right treatment at the right time for a park pavement segment:


EXCELLENT CONDITION ★★★★★
Requires only routine maintenance.
An aggressive preventive maintenance cycle of sealing, patching, grading, and overlays will extend pavement life and avoid costly reactive measures.

GOOD OR FAIR CONDITION ★★★★☆
Needs preventative work in addition to routine maintenance.
The pavement segment may exhibit drainage problems or require ADA access modifications.

POOR CONDITION ★★★☆☆
Will require extensive work and significant investment to correct deficiencies.
The pavement has deteriorated and requires more invasive, costly treatments.

VERY POOR OR SERIOUS CONDITION ★☆☆☆☆
Nearing end of useful life; consider replacement alternatives.
It will be more economical to reconstruct the segment than to repair or upgrade.

It's useful to attach time frames and priorities to each benchmark. The U.S. National Park Service uses a system of metrics that includes Critical Systems Identification as follows:



Minor Deficiency: Low Priority
Condition has a long-term impact beyond five years.

Serious Deficiency: High Priority
If not corrected within two to five years, deterioration will result in failure or a threat to user health or safety.

Critical Deficiency: High Priority
Advanced deterioration that has already resulted in failure or, if not corrected within one year, will result in a threat to user health or safety.

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Smart Parks, A 7-Step Guide to Park Asset Management, p. 6 (2019)

Source: Cartegraph Systems, Inc.

PARKS ARE WELL-MAINTAINED

STRATEGY | DEVELOP A SYSTEM-WIDE PARKS MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE THAT PROVIDES A BASELINE OF CARE FOR ALL EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

The current conditions and maintenance needs in each East Cleveland Park varies; however, there should be a minimum baseline of care in all of the parks. Unfortunately, maintenance among parks is disproportionate and inconsistent as much of the care is taken up by local organizations or groups (i.e., NOAH, ECPA, etc.) that tend to focus their efforts to a specific park. City investments in park operation and maintenance have been dramatically reduced over the years due to job losses and a shrinking local population. In addition to potentially increasing the budget, an updated park operations plan and maintenance schedule is needed to increase efficiency and establish better coordination to make sure all East Cleveland Parks are adequately taken care of.

Adhering to a schedule, standards, and other best practices that are clearly outlined will help improve budgeting and efficiency. This process will also help East Cleveland more accurately evaluate the City's capacity and costs to maintain parks in East Cleveland. Using a work plan and schedule, the City can better track results and adjust accordingly, helping to determine what methodology is most effective (in-house or outsourcing) to conduct maintenance work. In addition, routine maintenance work can help the City evaluate and assess existing conditions at each park by locating and documenting any issues or opportunities that need to be addressed.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Develop and apply maintenance standards to all East Cleveland Parks to ensure coordination, efficiency, and consistency of maintenance
- B. Work with partners to identify and coordinate maintenance responsibilities
- C. Develop benchmark goals to track progress towards those goals through the maintenance schedule
- D. Update maintenance schedule annually to ensure the it is effective and efficient
- E. Consider using a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) software program to streamline park operations and maintenance and keep track of benchmark data

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, East Cleveland Parks Association, Cleveland Metroparks, NOAH, National Recreational Park Association, Cleveland Metroparks

Example Maintenance Standards

Below are example maintenance standards developed using National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) Best Practices. These maintenance standards could be applied to East Cleveland Parks based on the parks priority or level. For example, parks like Pattison and the MLK Civic Center could be categorized as Level 1 parks, resulting in a higher frequency of tasks. Less visited parks could be classified as level 2 or 3 parks, limiting the need for higher frequencies of certain tasks. The use of maintenance standards help track and keep consistent application of standards across the community regardless of whether work is performed by the City of East Cleveland, a local partner, or a third-party contractor. The City should tailor these standards to their capacity and specific park needs.

Task	Level 1 (High Priority Park)	Level 2	Level 3 (Low Priority)
	Frequency or Priority	Frequency or Priority	Frequency/Priority
GRASS / TURF			
Mowing / Trimming	1x - 5 Days	1x - 7 to 10 Days	1 or 2x a Year
Aerate	2x a Year	1x a Year	As Needed
Seed	1x a Year	As Needed	Not Performed
Fertilize	2 to 4x a Year	1x a Year	Not Performed
Weed Control	1x a Year + As Needed	As Needed	As Needed
Trim Shrubs	1x a Month + As Needed	1x a Year	As Needed
Leaf Collection	2x a Year + As Needed	2x a Year + As Needed	1x a Year
Garbage Pickup	1x - 5 Days	1x - 7 to 10 Days	1x - 7 to 10 Days
SHELTERS / PAVILIONS			
Clean	1x a Week	As Needed	As Needed
Remove Garbage / Empty Cans	Daily	As Needed	As Needed
Power Wash	1x a Month + As Needed	2x a Year	As Needed
Paint or Repair (Graffiti etc.)	1x a Year	As Needed	As Needed
Inspect Lights / Water / Other	1x a Year	1x a Year	1x a Year
Inspect Tables / Benches / Other	1x a Month	1x a Month + As Needed	2x a Year
PLAYGROUNDS			
Garbage Pickup	Daily	Weekly	As Needed
Rake / Inspect Mulch	Weekly	Monthly	As Needed
Add / Repair Mulch or Base	Annually	Every Two Years	As Needed
Inspect and Document	Bi-Monthly	Annually	Annually
Repair	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed
Replace	Every 15 Years	Every 15 Years	As Needed
FENCING			
Inspect	1x a Month	1x a Year	1x a Year
Repair	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed
Repaint	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed
Replace	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed
LANDSCAPING			
Plant Flowers	2x a Year	1x a Year	As Needed
Mulch	2x a Year	1x a Year	As Needed
Weed Control	1x a Month	1x a Month + As Needed	Annually
Water	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed

PARKS ARE WELCOMING & SAFE

STRATEGY | ENSURE PARK FEATURES ENHANCE THE WELL-BEING OF PARK USERS AND THE OVERALL APPEAL OF ALL EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

Parks are versatile spaces that should be welcoming and safe for park users of all ages and abilities. The presence of certain elements can help increase the comfort of all park users and enhance the overall park appeal such as public art, wifi, seating, lighting, shade structures, and landscaping.

For example, public art does more than just beautify a space; it can connect the park to the overall community and make the space feel more personable for the park user.

Wi-Fi is another increasingly important element in public spaces. Many park systems throughout the US and Ohio have been committed to bringing Wi-Fi to outdoor public spaces. This need is amplified in a city like East Cleveland, where only 42% of residents have access to reliable and fixed broadband internet. Providing public Wi-Fi in East Cleveland Parks can help increase access for residents to jobs, healthcare, education and other essential needs thus solidifying the parks' role in enhancing the community's health and wellbeing. Partnering with other private and public entities to help set up the necessary infrastructure will be paramount. The City could start incorporating Wi-Fi at the most visited parks such as Pattison Park, and expand from there.

With increased maintenance and the addition of features that improve comfort, the East Cleveland Parks can reestablish their position as places for people to meet with friends, experience events, get in touch with nature, and help the community thrive.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Incorporate public art to park amenities & features such as basketball courts, crosswalks, trails, and signage to beautify and add interest
- B. Establish public-private partnerships to provide public Wi-Fi at East Cleveland Parks
- C. Provide a variety of seating options throughout East Cleveland Parks
- D. Provide adequate shade for park users with pavilions, trees and other shade structures
- E. Enhance safety within East Cleveland Parks by installing pedestrian-scale lighting and blue light emergency call boxes
- F. Remove and replace invasive species with native and low maintenance plants to ensure an inviting and sustainable landscape
- G. Review and update the City's Zoning Code, Chapter 931: Parks and Playgrounds, to ensure proper adherence to current safety and operation standards

DETAILS

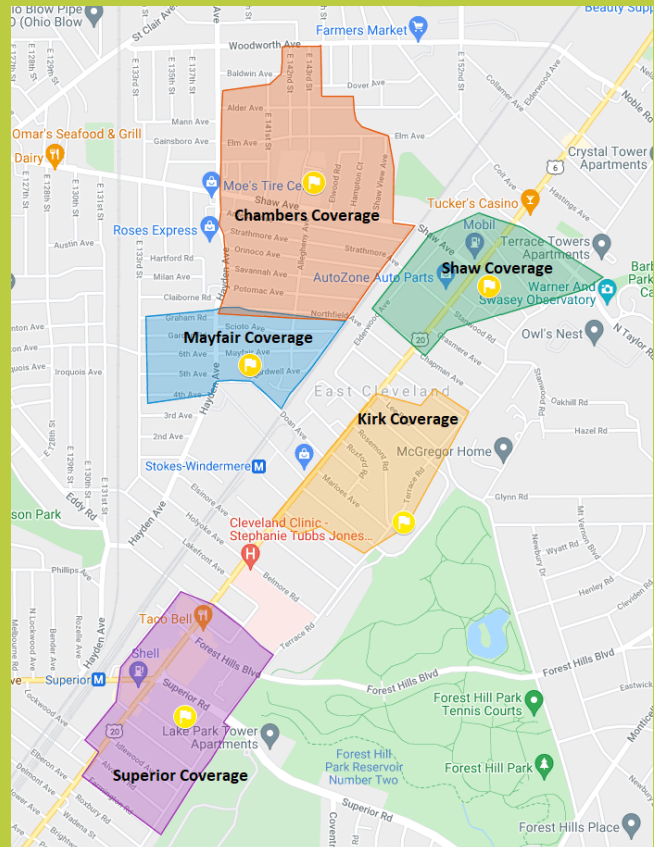
Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, PC for People, DigitalC, Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga County Public Works, County Planning, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Food Strong CLE

Confronting Digital Redlining

Addressing the challenge of ‘Digital Redlining’ – locations that are served by few if any broadband internet service providers – has been the focus of many groups including DigitalC and PCs for People. With everything now online, access to the internet for information including job applications and news updates is critical. This need has only been increased during the Corona Virus pandemic with schools and students being sent home for remote learning without the necessary technology and access to reliable broadband internet.

DigitalC – a non-profit focused on equitable internet access – worked with Cuyahoga County to expand internet access to almost 70% of Cleveland’s Central Neighborhood. This partnership will provide equipment to over 500 households, with no up-front costs to residents, no contracts, and no credit check required.

PC’s for People – a nationwide non-profit organization – has been working to bring not only computers, but also low-cost and reliable internet to neighborhoods like East Cleveland across the county. Using short range towers installed on the roof of several East Cleveland Schools, PC’s for people has brought reliable wireless internet services to several neighborhoods (see map) at almost half the cost. The service, which promises 50 megabits per second download speeds, is just \$15 a month. Working together with partners to bridge this digital divide and help East Cleveland residents could be just the start. A public-private partnership like this could expand to include the East Cleveland Park System and lands (like schools) owned by the city. Expanding these towers to East Cleveland Parks could not only expand the programs reach more households, it could also give those residents internet access while out at park event or program, increasing the parks opportunity as a gathering space for job fairs, events, meetings, and other social interactions.



PC's For People: East Cleveland Coverage Areas

Source: PC's For People

For more information about these projects visit: <https://www.digitalc.org/> and <https://www.pcsforpeople.org/>

PARKS ARE WELCOMING & SAFE

STRATEGY | DEVELOP A CONSISTENT BRAND ACROSS ALL EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

Parks are community assets that provide environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits to community members. A consistent branding and signage system helps to define and beautify places, provide visitors with an enjoyable and memorable experience, and add a level of predictability and for users while defining boundaries. Consistency in location, design, and content is key to creating an intuitive signage and wayfinding system that helps to identify the scope and scale of each of the City's parks.

Signage and wayfinding in the natural environment is important and would improve navigation and connectivity throughout East Cleveland's recreational areas that create a sense of arrival for community members, highlight the many important features in each park, and help community members to identify the parks as a community asset. In fact, according to the National Study of Neighborhood Parks, signage, banner and posters increase park use by 62%.

East Cleveland should consider using a consistent branding and marketing strategy for East Cleveland Parks. An East Cleveland Parks branding system could consist of park entrance enhancements such as wayfinding signage, see Conceptual Park & Trail Signs on pages 40-41, and decorative streetscape elements that include pedestrian-scaled street lighting, street trees, landscape, benches, and waste receptacles. These improvements would help community members to identify park boundaries and bolster community awareness and pride in the East Cleveland Parks.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Consider qualified design professionals to develop a consistent brand and signage package for East Cleveland Parks
- B. Develop a series of wayfinding and informational signs that provide information about park events and activities, park rules and regulations, and renovation or management schedules
- C. Develop a style guide or catalog for Park Site Furniture (Benches, Garbage Cans, Bike Racks) to ensure quality and consistency of materials and amenities across all East Cleveland Parks
- D. Establish a Commemorative Tree & Bench Program that allows community members to donate trees and benches to honor their loved ones

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, Design Professional

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES PROGRAM

Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Memorials & Tributes Program allows community members to dedicate a bench or a tree to someone special or to recognize a special occasion. To dedicate a bench, people are given the option to donate a new bench for a cost of \$5000 or refurbish an existing bench for \$2000, both with a maintenance term of 10 years. All dedicated benches include a plaque that is professionally engraved with the person's inscription. All benches follow the City's park system design standards. To dedicate a tree, people are given the option to plant a new tree or dedicate an existing tree, both costing a donation of \$500 with a term of 5 years. All dedicated trees come with an engraved medallion.

East Cleveland Parks could establish a similar commemorative bench and tree program. It would provide current and former residents the opportunity to recognize a person, family member, friend, or particular event while contributing to their park system. These features can be located along trails or at specific parks in the community (i.e., Pattison Park) having all locations ultimately decided by the City. Cost of these items can vary depending on the type of tree, bench, plaque, or other amenity selected. This is a great option to help involve the community, to get sponsorship for the addition of park features such as trees and benches, and to contribute to the branding of the parks.

For more information about Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Memorials & Tributes Program, visit: https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/volunteer_and_give/memorials_tributes/



Tree Dedication

Source: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



Park Bench Memorial

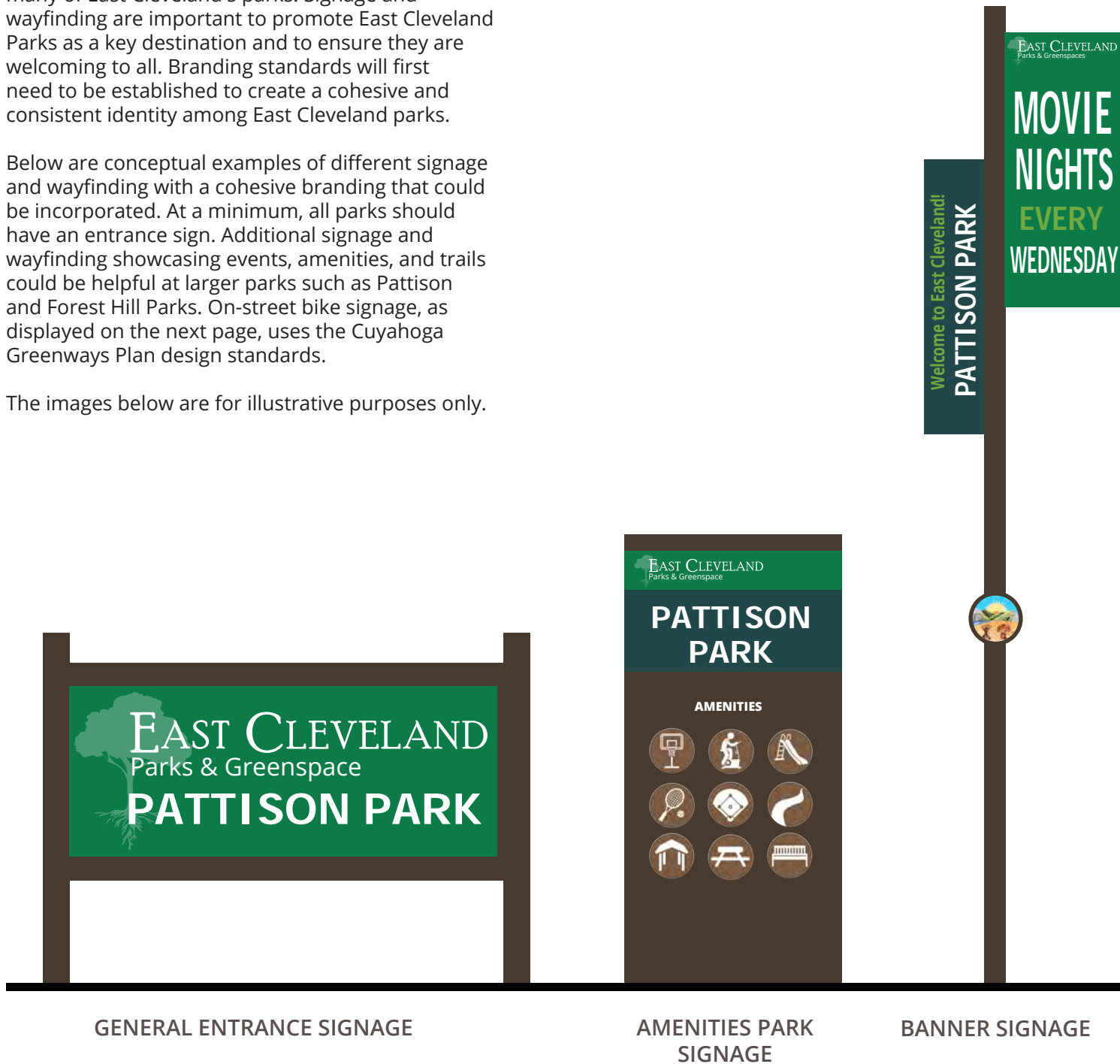
Source: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

CONCEPTUAL PARK & TRAIL SIGNS

Through this planning process, it became evident that many people were unaware or did not visit many of East Cleveland's parks. Signage and wayfinding are important to promote East Cleveland Parks as a key destination and to ensure they are welcoming to all. Branding standards will first need to be established to create a cohesive and consistent identity among East Cleveland parks.

Below are conceptual examples of different signage and wayfinding with a cohesive branding that could be incorporated. At a minimum, all parks should have an entrance sign. Additional signage and wayfinding showcasing events, amenities, and trails could be helpful at larger parks such as Pattison and Forest Hill Parks. On-street bike signage, as displayed on the next page, uses the Cuyahoga Greenways Plan design standards.

The images below are for illustrative purposes only.



GENERAL ENTRANCE SIGNAGE

AMENITIES PARK
SIGNAGE

BANNER SIGNAGE



EAST CLEVELAND
Parks & Greenspaces

PATTISON PARK

STOKES WINDERMERE STATION 0.8 mi →
 SUPERIOR ELEMENTARY 0.7 mi ↓
 FOREST HILL PARK 0.8 mi →

AMENITIES AT PATTISON PARK

PEDESTRIAN
WAYFINDING

NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAY

EAST CLEVELAND

↑ 8 min
Euclid Avenue Trailhead

← 8 min
Forest Hill Park

→ 8 min
Pattison Park

BIKEWAY
WAYFINDING



"Parks have always been our common ground, places to exercise, socially interact, and love. Parks unite us by helping to bring the community together by providing a shared events."

-The Trust For Public Land

Source: Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), <https://noahorganizing.org/pattison-park/>

THEME 2

COMMUNITY

This theme focused on strategies for engaging residents, businesses and others to establish a variety of events and programs year-round to activate East Cleveland parks, as well as building relationships, working collaboratively with residents, neighborhood groups, city officials, and other key stakeholders to bring together the East Cleveland community and fulfill broader community goals through equitable community engagement and participation.

This Theme contains the following Principles:

- Parks Leverage Partners, page 44
- Parks Engage & Involve Community Members, page 50
- Park information is Readily Available, page 54



wind, and connect with those we
d space for collective activity and



PARKS LEVERAGE PARTNERS

STRATEGY | ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE COLLABORATION WITH THE EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

STRATEGY | FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIPS TO MAXIMIZE BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES

Public investment in parks across the country is either stagnant or declining, despite widespread support by communities. With limited budgets, city park departments often focus their funding towards addressing their backlog of deferred park maintenance, thus assigning lower priorities to programming and event planning. Partnerships and collaborations can be helpful for maintenance, but also play an increasingly important role in providing events and programs that activate the parks, engage residents, and attract visitors.

It is important for the City of East Cleveland to be proactive in establishing and maintaining partnerships and collaborations, to ensure they are effectively fulfilling the goals of the parks while meeting the needs and desires of residents and visitors. There is currently no formal coordination among organizations involved with East Cleveland Parks, thus leading to disjointed efforts and programming. The City of East Cleveland informally relies on various organizations and institutions for events and programs taking place at East Cleveland Parks such as the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), East Cleveland Parks Association, East Cleveland Police Athletic League (PAL) and the East Cleveland Public Library. Formalizing these partnerships can help establish a more strategic approach to strengthening the City's efforts in making parks a key East Cleveland asset.

With more transparency and better coordination, the City will be able to attract more partnerships and build capacity to fully realize the potential of East Cleveland Parks.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Assign a new staff role or point person to work with partners to ensure clear and consistent communication
- B. Develop and update annually a vision statement that outlines the goals for the East Cleveland Parks to attract partners with similar goals
- C. Establish a process for organizations to partner and collaborate with East Cleveland Parks for hosting public events or programs
- D. Provide resources for prospective partners on the City's website to help them understand the needs of the East Cleveland parks, and the process and expectations for collaborating with East Cleveland Parks
- E. Maintain a directory of previous and current partners of the East Cleveland Parks (including organization bios, direct contacts and list of previous events or programs done by the organization)
- F. Consider hosting an annual event or fundraiser to honor and help organizations that have a significant influence or impact on East Cleveland Parks
- G. Consider crafting formal agreements with organizations that are significantly involved with the East Cleveland parks to establish a shared vision with clearly-defined roles and goals and for overall better coordination

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland

Successful Partnerships for Parks Report Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Published by the Urban Land Institute (ULI), "Successful Partnerships for Parks: Collaborative Partnerships for Parks" explains the critical role cross-sector partnerships play in park development, maintenance and programming. The report highlights three key actions for a successful partnership: create a formal agreement with well-defined roles and expectations; capitalize on each partner's competitive advantage; and understand and emphasize the value of the partnership. The report outlines five "partnership opportunities" or benefits of cross-sector partnerships and how to maximize their benefit. It also provides Real-life examples to illustrate each of these "partnership opportunities" in action.

The five "partnership opportunities" highlighted in the report include:

- 1) Save time and money
Leverage real estate development to efficiently enhance park access and quality
- 2) Capture value
Fund parks by promoting or incentivizing nearby development and directing new tax revenues into park assets
- 3) Serve residents, advance health and equity
Partner to creatively engage residents and act on locally identified park needs
- 4) Promote resiliency
Build relationships to invest in park infrastructure that advances community resilience
- 5) Connect people, activate parks
Create physical, social, and cultural connections that link people, parks, and businesses

COMMON CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERS AND ROLES

SECTOR	ENTITY/ORGANIZATION	SELECTED POSSIBLE ROLES
Public	Parks departments	Accountability/enforcing park access/operations agreements, leasing land for park development, managing partnerships, making capital investments
	Other city departments/agencies (planning, economic development, mayors' offices, housing authorities, etc.)	Facilitating community engagement/park-visioning exercises, issuing bonds for park development, coordinating park and affordable housing development, identifying partnership opportunities, making capital investments
Private	Real estate developers	Creating/operating parks alongside development projects, contributing funding for nearby parks/park operators
	Landscape architects and other designers	Incorporating sustainable/resilient design into new and renovated parks, designing parks to meet community needs
	Building owners, businesses, and corporations	Contributing funding for parks, sponsoring events/programs
	Concessions and park-related businesses	Activating public spaces, contributing new sources of revenue to offset operation and maintenance costs
Nonprofit	Community development corporations	Providing programs/services that leverage park development/access, spearheading affordable housing and housing preservation efforts to mitigate potential park-related displacement
	Neighborhood/community groups	Advocating for new or improved parks, working with partners to ensure that parks reflect community needs, organizing cleanups
	Business improvement districts	Developing and maintaining parks, organizing park events/programs, making capital investments
Philanthropic	Private foundations/individual donors	Contributing funding for parks; spearheading park-related cross-sector collaboration/coordination; advancing health, resilience, and social equity priorities

Note: This list is meant to illustrate the range of organizations that support park development and operation. It is not intended to be exhaustive.

Source: Urban Land Institute, *Successful Partnerships for Parks: Collaborative Approaches to Advance Equitable Access to Open Space* (Washington, DC: ULI, 2020).

The City of East Cleveland should use this report to understand how cross-sector partners from different sectors (i.e., public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic) can help IT achieve its park goals and how to maximize these partnerships.

For more information about the Urban Land Institute (ULI) report, visit: <https://knowledge.uli.org/en/Reports/Research%20Reports/2020/Successful%20Partnerships%20for%20Parks>

PARKS LEVERAGE PARTNERS

STRATEGY | WORK WITH PARTNERS TO ESTABLISH REOCCURRING PREMIER EVENTS TO ACTIVATE EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

Premier events or special large-scale events (e.g., festivals and live entertainment, movie nights, etc.) are important to engage residents and visitors of all ages. These types of events can be a great tool to help promote and activate park space, improve safety and perception of a park, and lastly generate funds to support additional park programming throughout the year. When parks are activated through programming, it can increase usage by 48%*. Increasing park usage is important as it leads to more vocal and invested support.

In East Cleveland, park events have been used to activate park space. For example, in 2015 NOAH initiated a campaign called "Re-imagine Pattison Park" with a goal of revitalizing Pattison Park by attracting visitors and reinvestment. As part of this campaign, NOAH has hosted various large-scale events such as Harvest Fest, Movies N the Parks and Family Fun Days. The City should continue to work with NOAH and expand this initiative to reach more community members and to activate its other parks.

In the first community engagement survey for this Parks and Greenspace Plan, only about 17% of respondents had attended events at East Cleveland Parks, although 65% of them expressed the desire for more events in East Cleveland Parks, thus demonstrating a mismatch between what is currently offered, or presumed to be offered, and desired. Planning festivals and concerts should be a priority for the City of East Cleveland as they were overwhelmingly desired by respondents.

**Active Parks, Healthy Cities Recommendations from the National Study of Neighborhood Parks, p.2, City Alliance of Parks, 2017*

ACTION STEPS

- A. Identify previous special public events held at East Cleveland Parks that should either be continued or expanded
- B. Continue to establish and grow partnerships with organizations who have hosted recurring public events at East Cleveland parks
- C. Consider contracting an event provider to establish a series of branded events throughout the year
- D. Plan annual premier events that can generate revenue to support and expand park programming
- E. Identify potential sponsors and local vendors to increase capacity to host special events at East Cleveland Parks
- F. Work with neighboring communities such as University Circle and Cleveland Heights to gather best practices for developing similar special events and programming

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, East Cleveland Parks Association, East Cleveland PAL, University Circle Inc (UCI), City of Cleveland Heights, City of Cleveland, East Cleveland Neighborhood Center, Cleveland Clinic, Destination Cleveland, Local Businesses and Vendors

Connect the Lots City of Camden, New Jersey

The City of Camden does not have a stand-alone park and recreation department. Rather, the City depends on collaborations among its departments, such as Public Works and Human Services, and outside partnerships, such as with the Camden Community Partnership, to maintain its City parks and provide programming. First piloted in 2014 in select neighborhoods and later expanded across the City, the Connect The Lots (CTL) initiative seeks to activate the City's parks and underutilized spaces through cultural, artistic and recreational programming. The initiative is based on the collaboration between the City of Camden and the Camden Community Partnerships and its many different activities and events are made possible with the help of various sponsors and other partners. Over time CTL has expanded collaborations to include other initiatives such as Get Healthy Camden and Camden SMART.

For more information about Connect The Lots, visit: <http://www.ctlcamden.com/>



PARKS LEVERAGE PARTNERS

STRATEGY | PARTNER WITH DIFFERENT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE EQUITY TO MEET THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Through effective partnerships, parks can assume a vital role in the social, physical, mental, and economic well-being of a community by advancing broader community goals such as social and health equity, community building, cultural and academic enrichment, workforce development, and environmental sustainability. Parks can help connect residents to critical services or opportunities they may not typically have access to, while also providing a space for meaningful community engagement in the design and implementation of services, programs and policies aimed to improve quality of life. Partnering with organizations and institutions is also important to make sure events and programs are done in a coordinated nature, thus serving to complement rather than duplicate activities.

Some of the types of programs desired and expressed by respondents in the community engagement activities of this Parks & Greenspace Plan include youth employment events, youth outdoor educational activities, family-friendly and intergenerational activities, exercise classes, and community gardens. Respondents also showed interest in seeing more beautification projects and public art incorporated in the East Cleveland Parks.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Identify potential partners that can assist in developing the events or programs expressed by respondents in the community engagement activities of this plan
- B. Partner with educational institutions or organizations such as the East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, and Strengthening Our Students (S.O.S) to offer educational recreation programs, such as after school programs or summer camps at East Cleveland Parks
- C. Partner with regional healthcare providers to establish a campaign to promote active lifestyles or to plan events at East Cleveland parks that offer needed services and increase access to health care
- D. Work with local employers and non-profits offering job training services to host an annual job fair at the East Cleveland Parks
- E. Work with Food Strong CLE and the Coit Road Farmers Market to increase access to healthy foods by either hosting Farmers Markets or creating community gardens at East Cleveland Parks
- F. Work with art organizations to incorporate public art throughout the East Cleveland Parks that celebrate and commemorate the history and culture of the East Cleveland community

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland Clinic, Salvation Army- East Cleveland, Coit Road Farmers Market, Food Strong CLE, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, East Cleveland Neighborhood Center, Strengthening Our Students (SOS), McGregor Foundation, United of Way of Greater Cleveland

Job Fair at Solon Community Park Solon, Ohio

In June of 2021, The City of Solon Recreation Department and the Solon Chamber of Commerce partnered to hold a job fair at the Solon Community Park. They also worked with vendors such as Chic-fil-a and 7 Eleven to provide refreshments to participants. There were over 70 participating businesses and 200 job seekers.

The City of East Cleveland should collaborate with its business community and non-profits to host similar employment events at its parks to establish its parks as important community spaces and to increase access to employment for its residents.

For more information about this event, visit: <https://www.solonchamber.com/jobfair.html>

Solon Ohio Solon Chamber of Commerce

CALLING ALL JOB SEEKERS!

Connect with over 70 Solon businesses.

JUNE 3 • NOON - 4PM

Solon Community Park - 6679 SOM Center Road

Register here: [solonchamber.com/jobseekers](https://www.solonchamber.com/jobseekers)

The first 400 job seekers to attend will receive a free bag from Big Frog Solon!

Participating businesses include:

- 56 Kitchen/Birdigo/Imperial Wok
- Anna Maria of Aurora
- Apex Skin
- Avantor
- Berman Moving & Storage
- BP & 7-Eleven
- Brennan Industries
- Bryant & Stratton
- CBG Biotech
- Chagrin Valley Dispatch
- Chicago Deli
- Chick-fil-A
- Cintas Corporation
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- Cosmax USA
- Custom Products Corporation
- Davis Automotive
- DiBella's Subs
- Digital Room
- Energy Focus
- ePac Flexible Packaging
- Farmers Insurance
- Fifth Third Bank
- Gardiner
- Giant Eagle Market District
- Goodwill
- Hattie Larlham
- Homewatch Caregivers
- Humble Design
- JTM Products
- Keller Williams Living
- Kennametal
- King Nut Companies
- Liberty Hill Apartments
- Liberty Steel
- Marriott International
- MFS Supply
- MP Biomedical
- MR
- Nat
- Sys
- nWe
- Oh
- Par
- Per
- Cov
- PKI
- H&C
- Plan
- Pro
- Pro
- Pyr
- Res
- Ser
- Rol
- Ent
- Sav
- Cer
- Ser
- Sherwin Williams
- Solon Pointe

Featuring refreshments from:



Image Source: Dylan Frank Media

PARKS ENGAGE & INVOLVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

STRATEGY | ENGAGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THE DESIRED PARK IMPROVEMENTS, EVENTS & PROGRAMS

To ensure widespread participation and satisfaction, park events and programs should reflect the culture, interests and needs of community members. This is done by providing different ways for community members to share their park needs and desires and implementing changes based on that feedback. Utilizing their input to guide park programming decisions and goals shows to community members that they play an integral role, thus further encouraging their involvement.

To ensure community engagement is continuous and effective, it will first be important to designate someone who will lead these efforts and be the point person to maintain communication and build trust with the community.

Working with civic associations, religious institutions, community leaders, or non-profits can also help make sure all community members are being reached. For example, NOAH established a network of 13 neighborhood groups so residents can work directly with the City of East Cleveland and NOAH to address issues within their specific neighborhoods. The City can work with these neighborhood groups to get feedback and involve residents living closest to an East Cleveland Park, as these residents may have the most experience with these parks. Working with these types of neighborhood groups creates a collaborative relationship which can foster more impactful conversations between the City and community members about East Cleveland parks.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Assign someone internally or seek someone externally to help lead community engagement and outreach efforts
- B. Encourage residents and visitors to provide feedback about the East Cleveland Parks on the City's website
- C. Consider hosting annual or bi-annual town hall meetings to stay up to date with the programs or events desired by community members
- D. Utilize NOAH's network of neighborhood groups to engage residents living closest to East Cleveland Parks
- E. Enhance communication strategies to target and engage specific age groups such as youth and older adults (65+) to gather feedback on their experiences and specific needs
- F. Work with East Cleveland City Schools to obtain feedback from families about their needs and desires from East Cleveland parks
- G. Create and distribute short community satisfaction surveys at City-led park events to keep track of attendee satisfaction and attendance levels
- H. Publicize the community's feedback on the City's website after an engagement activity to show their feedback is being seriously considered
- I. Place signage with QR codes throughout the East Cleveland parks that allow park users to provide feedback, report concerns, and share ideas

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Salvation Army - East Cleveland, Faith Based Organizations

Parks Unlimited Activity Book Clark Fulton Neighborhood Cleveland, Ohio

The Parks Unlimited Activity Book was an important community engagement activity that informed the development of the proposed Clark Avenue Park in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood. The activity book was designed as a creative platform to engage residents of all ages to share their ideas and aspirations for the proposed park through artistic expression. Launched in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, organizers made sure to safely engage residents in various ways to ensure they were reaching as many residents as possible. Activity books were made available to download online and to pick up at various locations throughout the community. Organizers also walked many of the residential streets to directly distribute the booklets and gather additional feedback from residents about their ideas, concerns and experiences. The success of the activity book in obtaining widespread participation from residents was thanks to the coordinated efforts and great collaboration between the Trust for Public Land, Art X Love, Recess Cleveland, Metro West Community Development Organization and other community organizations and leaders.

For more information about this project, visit: <https://artxlove.com/blog/parks-unlimited>



PARKS ENGAGE & INVOLVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

STRATEGY | PROVIDE DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED AND TAKE ON AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

Volunteerism provides community members a more direct and meaningful roles in their park system, thus creating a sense of ownership and pride while building community ties. Volunteer programs are also very useful to a park system as they can be a cost-saving measure to increase capacity for park maintenance and programming.

Currently East Cleveland's website provides a tab dedicated to Volunteering, which only directs people to a Volunteer Request Form. Unfortunately, East Cleveland Parks is not currently listed as a volunteer option. Initially, East Cleveland Parks could just be added as a volunteer option on the Volunteer Request form. However, to promote volunteerism and fully realize the benefits of it, the City should adopt a system-wide approach to volunteer recruitment and management. The City should further develop the "Volunteer" tab into a webpage dedicated to volunteerism that could include a list of volunteer opportunities and programs with descriptions of their expectations and benefits and provide a user-friendly sign-up platform.

East Cleveland should consider establishing coordinated programs such as an "Adopt- A-Park" program or a Park Ambassador program that directly involve volunteer individuals and groups to assist with the long-term maintenance and promotion of East Cleveland Parks.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Identify ways community members of all ages and abilities can volunteer in the East Cleveland parks
- B. Develop a volunteer page on the City's website that lists available volunteer opportunities with descriptions of their expectations and benefits and provides a user-friendly sign-up platform
- C. Continue to work with organizations such as the East Cleveland Parks Association and NOAH to establish and expand Community Volunteer Clean Up Days to all East Cleveland Parks
- D. Work with East Cleveland City Schools to implement a youth council or advisory group to provide ideas, promote efforts, and help plan youth events in East Cleveland Parks
- E. Consider establishing an "Adopt-A-Park" program where groups of residents, community organizations or local businesses can sign up to help maintain an East Cleveland park
- F. Consider establishing a Park Ambassador Program where volunteers serve as representatives of East Cleveland Parks on the ground and are trained to provide information and guidance to park visitors
- G. Keep track and publicize the number of volunteer hours to showcase the community's involvement and to document cost savings

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland Parks Association, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Faith Based Organizations, Salvation Army - East Cleveland

Park Ambassador Program City of Green, Ohio

The City of Green Parks and Recreation Division manages over 700 acres of parks and greenspace and hosts events and programs throughout the year. The Park Ambassador Program, a volunteer-driven organization, assists the Division in the maintenance, programming and advocacy of its parks and facilities. The overall goal of the Park Ambassador Program is "to increase community ownership and promote natural resource stewardship within the parks system". The volunteer ambassadors serve as "information and support specialists", meaning they provide park visitors important information and connect them to the park system. This provides the Division the necessary support to maintain its parks and facilities. Volunteers have various opportunities they can choose from that match their interests (e.g., photography, events and programs, trails and walking paths, tree or naturalist education etc.). Volunteers are provided training and a Program Handbook to make sure they are well-informed about the Division's vision and goals, park information, and volunteer responsibilities and expectations.

The City of Green demonstrates how a Park Ambassador Program can be an integral component to the management and programming of its park system. The City of East Cleveland can use this as a model as they start to consider creating a Park Ambassador Program

For more information about the City of Green's Park Ambassador Program, please visit: <https://www.cityofgreen.org/652/Parks-Ambassador>



PARK INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE

STRATEGY | PROMOTE PARK EVENTS AND PROGRAMS BY UTILIZING DIFFERENT PLATFORMS AND LEVERAGING PARTNERS

As mentioned previously, activating parks and greenspaces with community-sponsored events and programs can help increase usage of parks and bolster them as a community asset. However, proactive promotion of events and programs is a key component in maximizing community attendance and participation.

Various stakeholders during this planning process expressed concerns about community members not being aware of events in East Cleveland Parks. Since events are often put on and advertised by individual organizations, rather than in coordination with the City, event planners may have some difficulty reaching all community members.

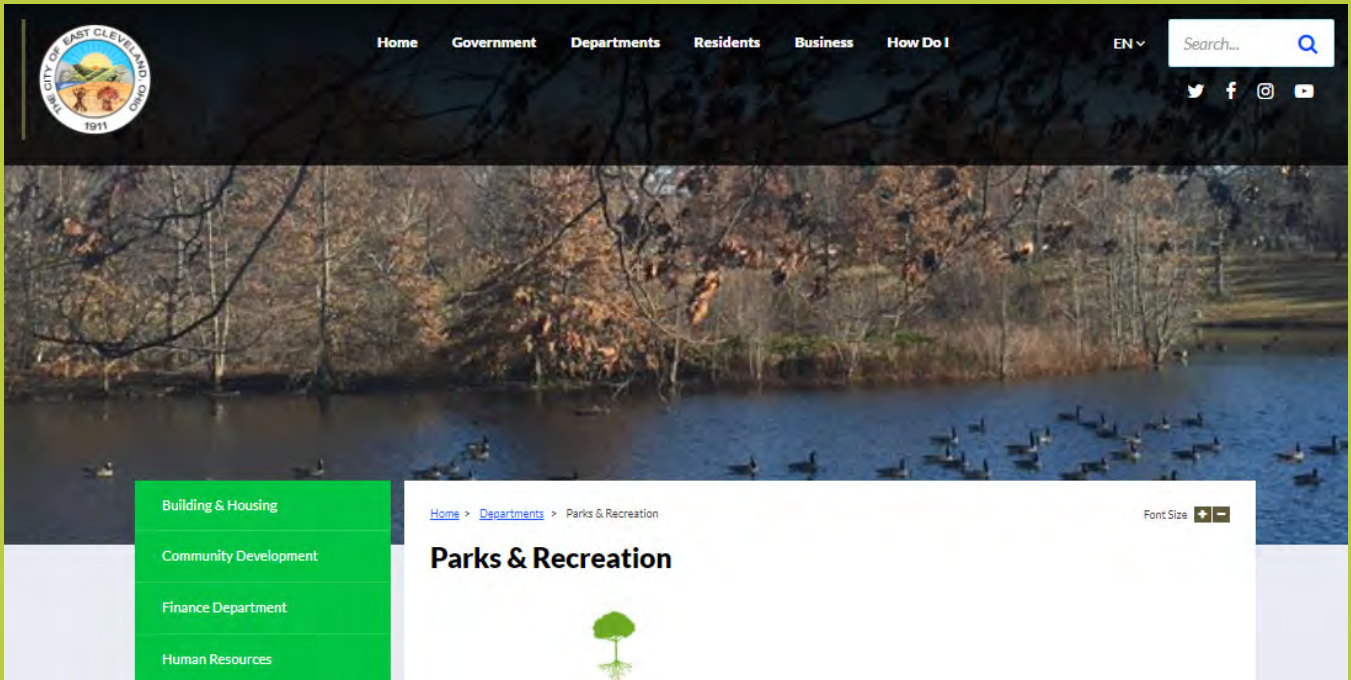
When surveyed, 27.9% of community members stated that they were unaware of East Cleveland Parks locations and events. To increase community awareness of East Cleveland parks and events, the City should utilize a number of marketing tools and strategies to actively promote its parks and amenities through city emails, website, social media, newsletters, calendars, printed booklets, and the local media. Once developed, these resources could be the City's centralized network for information for parks and activities, allowing community members to become more engaged and aware of events and activities in the City's parks and community.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Request organizations to submit park program or event details (i.e., pictures, descriptions, links and additional info) to the City, so the City can document and promote public events taking place at East Cleveland Parks
- B. Update the calendar on the City's website with all public events taking place at East Cleveland Parks
- C. Consider developing and distributing seasonal branded calendars showcasing city-led and community-led programs and events taking place year-round
- D. Consider different platforms to disseminate East Cleveland park event and program information (e.g., City website, social media, local radio stations, text message, email blasts, pamphlets/brochures, and newsletter)
- E. Identify partners such as the East Cleveland Public Library, who can publicize and distribute East Cleveland park event and program information

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Destination Cleveland, Salvation Army - East Cleveland, Coit Road Farmers Market, Local Businesses and Vendors, Faith Based Organizations, Local Media Outlets



City Website Showing Parks and Recreation Department Information

Source: City of East Cleveland, Ohio



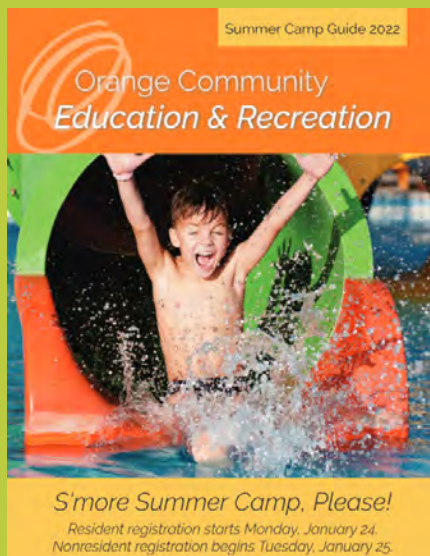
Calendar Showing Parks and Recreation Calendar of Programs

Source: City of Shaker Heights, Ohio



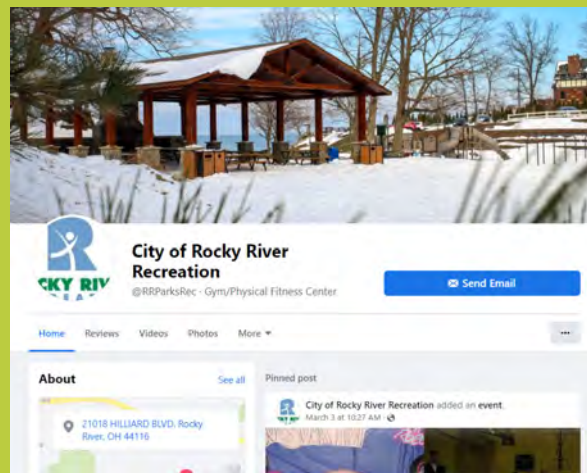
Email Showing City Community Newsletter

Source: City of Euclid, Ohio



Brochure Showing Seasonal Parks & Recreation Programs

Source: Village of Orange, Ohio



Email Showing City Community Newsletter

Source: City of Euclid, Ohio



Email Showing City Community Newsletter

Source: City of Euclid, Ohio

PARK INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE

STRATEGY | MAKE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EAST CLEVELAND PARKS' FEATURES, AMENITIES AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND UP-TO-DATE

STRATEGY | DEVELOP AND ENFORCE A PROCESS TO RESERVE EAST CLEVELAND PARKS FACILITIES

While many of the park facilities in East Cleveland are on a first-come, first-serve basis, the existing park facilities and amenities rental process can be confusing and hard to find for community members. East Cleveland should consider developing guidelines and administrative procedures to streamline the reservations and rental process and make them available on the City's website as part of a centralized reservations system. This would ensure that community members have an accurate, easily accessible, and consistent process for making East Cleveland Parks facilities reservations.

An online reservation process would allow community members to reserve or rent facilities in advance, but no less than one calendar day prior to the date of use. Utilizing an online reservation system also allows the City to set policies for usage and maintenance schedules to ensure that park facilities and amenities are ready for rentals at the designated times.

Across the country, city parks and recreation departments utilize a fee schedule for its regular park programs and park facilities reservations and rentals. The revenue from reservation and rental fees help to offset maintenance and operational costs. East Cleveland should review its current fee structure for park facility reservation and rental and consider adjusting fees to align with current and future maintenance and capital improvement needs.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Develop an online and paper citywide map that clearly states the location of facilities, what amenities are provided, regulations, and park hours of operation
- B. Develop and maintain an online parks facilities reservation guide and system for reservable and non-reservable facilities that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, such as pavilions, picnic shelter areas, and park-related equipment
- C. Develop policies and fees schedules regarding weather, cancellation, and refunds from parks facilities reservations and rentals and distribute this information online and on paper
- D. Update and enforce the City Zoning Code (Section 931.10 Picnic Permits Required; Use of Tables and Ovens) to include changes to park facilities and amenities reservation, rental guidelines, and fees schedules
- E. Establish a standardized permit process for special events, such as for a festival to a farmer's market, in the East Cleveland Parks
- F. Evaluate and compare reservation and rental fees to other comparable parks and facilities to ensure equity for maintenance and repair costs for those facilities and amenities

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland

City of Cleveland Heights Parks & Recreation Department, Cleveland Heights, Ohio

The City of Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of programs, activities and events for residents of all ages, ranging from sports to arts programs. Programs offered include summer camp, sports leagues, classes and workshops, field trips and other special seasonal events. Park programming can be found in the FOCUS magazine, which is released seasonally. In addition to the City's organized programming, the Department offers various facilities such as park pavilions, shelters, and picnic areas for reservation and rental. The Department has an online registration and reservation portal where residents can access important information (i.e., calendar, cost, rules, availability, descriptions etc.) about programs and facilities and can directly sign up for programs or reserve a shelter. The shelters are available for general usage and are available on a first come- first served basis, if not reserved through the system. The reservation system is open seasonally from late spring to mid fall with a fixed cost and security deposit required for the reservation.

East Cleveland can utilize the Cleveland Heights online reservation system as a model to set a calendar and fees schedule for reservation and rental of park facilities and amenities. As more events and programs become available in the East Cleveland Parks, the online reservation system could be expanded to include a brochure of events, programs, and amenities available for community members.

To access the Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department's online registration and reservation portal, visit: https://clvhts.activityreg.com/clientpage_t2.wcs





"Everyone deserves a neighborhood park within a 10-minute walk. Connected community greenspaces significantly contributes to the quality of life and public health."

-The Trust For Public Land

Source: Davor Zupicic



ities with safe access to parks and
lth of its residents.”

THEME 3

CONNECTED

This theme focused on strategies for improving connections to East Cleveland Parks and establishing safe and equitable access for residents and visitors of East Cleveland.

This Theme contains the following Principles:

- Parks are Safely and Easily Accessible, page 60



PARKS ARE SAFELY AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE

STRATEGY | DEVELOP A CITYWIDE ALL PURPOSE TRAIL NETWORK THAT CONNECTS NEIGHBORHOODS TO ALL EAST CLEVELAND PARKS, GREENSPACES, AND REGIONAL TRAILS

To support a pedestrian-friendly environment, the desire to build a network of safe, all-purpose trails, bike lanes, and other non-motorized transportation infrastructure is increasing in communities in Northeast Ohio.

East Cleveland has an extensive pedestrian network of sidewalks that should be improved to support the overall local and regional trail network; however, 9.6% of community members were concerned about traveling to and from local parks. Additionally, during community engagement opportunities for the East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan, 67.6% of community members wanted to add or fix broken sidewalks and nearly 42% wanted crosswalk improvements.

To ensure connectivity that is safe and comfortable for users to East Cleveland Parks, the City should prioritize pedestrian circulation including to and from transit stops to park entrances. By filling gaps in the sidewalk facilities around park entrances and transit stops particularly along Euclid Avenue, Eddy Road, Hayden Avenue, Superior Road, Terrace and Superior Avenues, East Cleveland could develop a safe and accessible network that connects the community to parks, neighborhoods, and regional trails such as the Cuyahoga Greenways.

East Cleveland should work with other regional entities to plan for the installation and maintenance of its connections network, coordinate best practices, and fill in missing locations and gaps.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Identify and eliminate gaps in the existing sidewalk and bicycle networks in East Cleveland, especially adjacent to schools and parks
- B. Partner with neighboring communities and regional entities to develop an all-purpose trail connection between NEORS, and the East Cleveland School District
- C. Utilize the NEORS basin sites at Second Avenue and Scioto Avenue by developing green linkages to the neighborhood and regional trails, when possible
- D. Develop an all-purpose trail connection to the Cuyahoga Greenways, where applicable, see pages 62-63
- E. Provide clear access points along existing East Cleveland Parks entrances through enhanced signage and wayfinding
- F. Work with the GCRTA to prioritize public transit stops near East Cleveland Parks entrances
- G. Complete all-purpose trails in and around individual East Cleveland Parks
- H. Modify intersections and enhance crosswalks at East Cleveland Parks entrances along high trafficked roads such as Euclid Avenue, Eddy Road, Hayden Avenue, Superior Road, Terrace Road, and Forest Hills Blvd

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, NOACA, Ohio Department of Transportation, Cuyahoga County Public Works, County Planning, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Bike Cleveland, Local Bike Advocates

Buckeye-Shaker Sidewalk Steps to Equity Study Cleveland, OH

The Muldoon Center for Entrepreneurship at John Carroll University received a \$50,000 Verizon grant to conduct a walkability assessment that would support new programs that focus on more connected communities that keep the identity and character of the Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood. The Buckeye-Shaker walkability assessment was conducted with local students, neighborhood residents, and a creative agency, Art x Love to inform, support, and guide neighborhood development using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

The team used seven criteria: Roadways, Sidewalks, Structures, Greenery, Litter, Visibility, and Perceived Safety to gather and analyze data to identify areas within the Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood where roadway and sidewalk improvements are needed, and how these factors correlate in the equity of the community. The assessment addressed issues of perception versus reality in the Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood and helped to create opportunities for community members to express themselves, share their neighborhood vision, and connect with others.

Community-driven assessments such as the Buckeye-Shaker Sidewalk Equity Study is one way for community leaders to bolster community outreach. East Cleveland could build on this model by continuing to work with non-profits and local colleges and universities to help conduct a connectivity study. The study would assist with data gathering to better understand connectivity issues around the East Cleveland Parks and fostering community engagement that allows community members the opportunity to share ideas and solutions for better connections to East Cleveland Parks and community overall.

For more information about the Buckeye-Shaker Steps to Equity Study, visit: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3e191c1f2f1749cf800f3c7ed68f0694>





CUYAHOGA
greenways

Cuyahoga County Greenways Plan

The Cuyahoga Greenways Plan is an 800-mile active transportation network that link people to jobs, transit, and parks. This proposed Greenways network is of the result of a planning effort coordinated by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Cleveland Metroparks, and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) with funding provided by NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI). The Cuyahoga Greenways Plan envisions an interconnected system of on-road bicycle facilities and off-road, all-purpose trails. Integrating the Greenways with public transportation, employment centers and parks provide recreational opportunities and mobility options throughout Cuyahoga County.

Recommended Regional Links

Regional Links reflect longer sections of the regional network, and typically connect to existing regional trails on at least one end, as well as connect to major population centers, employment hubs, recreational anchors, or even outside of Cuyahoga County. The following is identified as a Recommended Regional Link through East Cleveland:

- Euclid Avenue (border to border in East Cleveland) is designated a High Priority segment, and is recommended for separated bike lanes within its right-of-way. Facilities along Euclid Avenue will provide local connections to the following East Cleveland Parks: Pattison Park via Eddy Road and Thornhill Drive; Forest Hill Park via Forest Hills Boulevard; Hawley Park directly, and via North Taylor Road and Hastings Avenue; MLK Civic Center via Shaw Avenue; and Mann Avenue Park via Shaw and Woodworth Roads to East 133rd Street.

Recommended Key Routes

Key Routes identified through public engagement, steering committee input, or technical evaluation can provide substantial benefit to the network, and are important to move forward for implementation. The following is identified as a Recommended Key Route through East Cleveland:

- Superior Avenue (between Euclid Avenue and East Boulevard in Cleveland) provides access to Pattison Park via Hayden and Rozelle Avenues, Hawley Park via Euclid Avenue, MLK Civic Center via Euclid and Shaw Avenues, and Mann Avenue Park via Hayden Avenue and East 133rd Street; on-street bicycle lanes are the recommended facilities for this segment. Improvements such as bicycle lanes, sharrows, and enhanced crosswalks, will provide a direct link to Superior Hill Park.

Recommended Supporting Routes

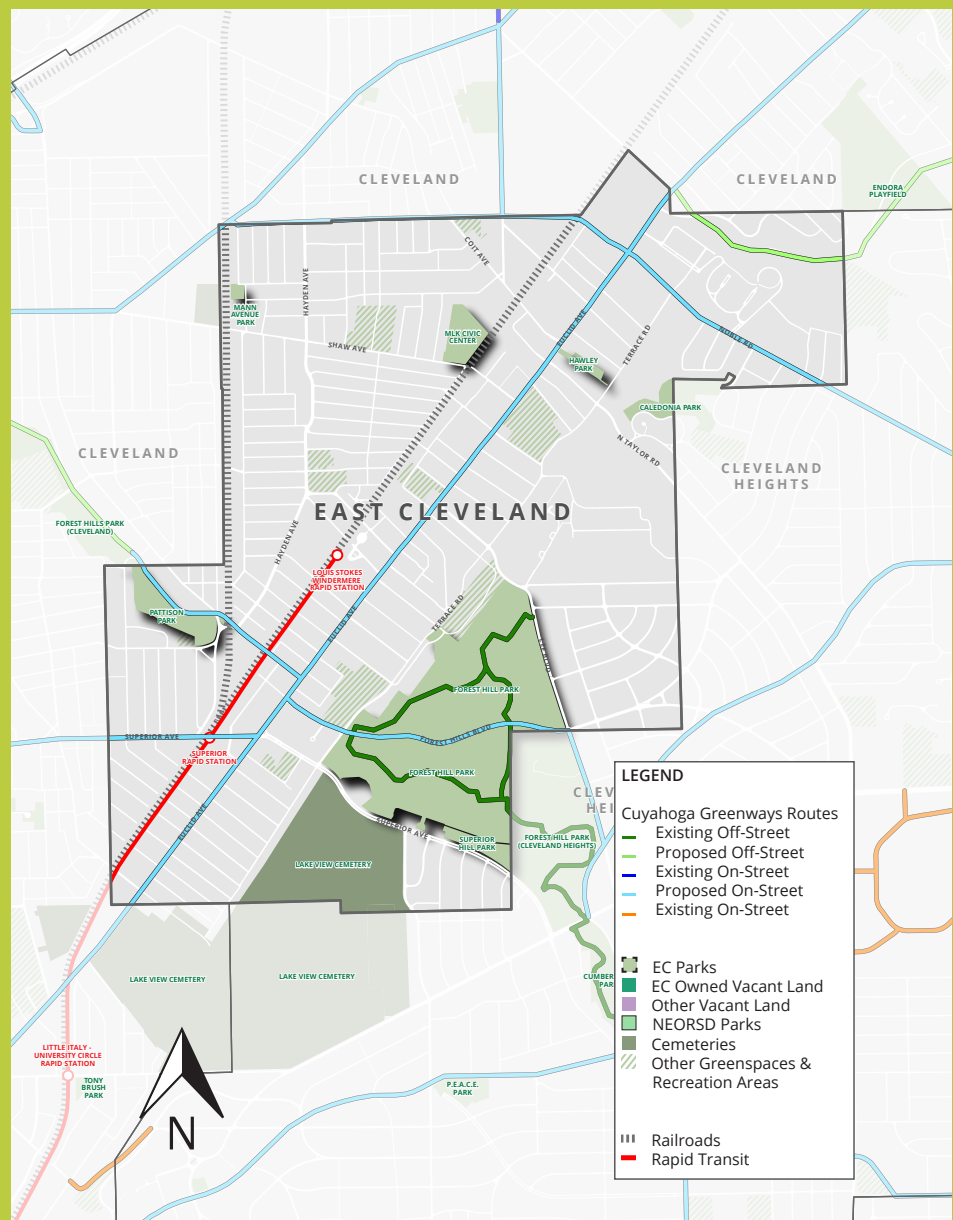
Supporting Routes are intended to provide a more localized connection into the overall regional system. There are several Recommended Supporting Routes in East Cleveland to be completed on the following streets:

- Thornhill Drive (between Hayden Avenue and the Cleveland municipal boundary) comprises a segment of the proposed Dugway Brook Greenway that connects Euclid Avenue to Lake Shore Boulevard; it provides a direct link to Pattison Park, and includes on-street bicycle facilities on Thornhill Drive that will transition to an off-road path through several Cleveland Parks to the north.

- Forest Hills Drive and Forest Hills Boulevard (between Euclid Avenue and Lee Boulevard) comprise the proposed Forest Hill Park Connector that will provide a direct link to Forest Hill Park; this segment can include both on-road (bike lanes) and off-road (side path) facilities.
- Noble Road and Woodworth Road (between Mayfield Road and Saint Clair Avenue) provide connections to Hawley Park via Euclid Avenue, MLK Civic Center via Euclid and Shaw Avenues, and Mann Avenue Park via Shaw Avenue and Woodworth Roads via East 133rd Street; on-street bicycle lanes are the recommended facilities for these segments.
- Belvoir Boulevard (between Euclid Avenue and the East Cleveland municipal boundary) provides the same links to East Cleveland Parks as do the Noble and Woodworth Road Recommended Routes, and on-street bicycle lanes are the recommended facilities for this segment. At the Cleveland Heights municipal boundary, a proposed off-road trail would parallel Nine Mile Creek through Cleveland Heights and South Euclid to Monticello Boulevard.

The City of East Cleveland should develop an all-purpose trail connection to the Cuyahoga Greenways to provide safe, on-road links between East Cleveland Parks, neighborhoods, job centers, and transit in East Cleveland, the surrounding communities of Cleveland Heights, Cleveland, Euclid, South Euclid, and the region.

For more information about the Cuyahoga County Greenways Plan, visit: <https://www.countyplanning.us/projects/cuyahoga-greenways/cuyahoga-greenways-plan/>



PARKS ARE SAFELY AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE

STRATEGY | IMPROVE SAFETY AND ACCESS TO EAST CLEVELAND PARKS AND GREENSPACES THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE & STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

High quality streetscapes are important amenities that influence travel choices for community members and improve street aesthetics as well as define boundaries and access points. This can enhance the well-being of residents and bolster community pride. Streetscape elements such as sidewalks, street trees, benches, lighting, and other decorative elements create attractive entrances and corridors that facilitate pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

A walkshed is the area around any central destination that is accessible on foot. Areas around transit stops or park entrances can show areas where barriers to walking exist. The average person will walk about ten (10) minutes to get to a transit destination, which is about a half mile. Ideally, this would be in a straight line without barriers to walking such as missing sidewalks or broken streetlights. Such areas where there is a strain in the 10-minute walkshed can be expanded with new pedestrian connections and enhancements to improve the existing connections.

The walkshed analysis to the left showcases locations within the 10-minute walk zone of a park entrance which should be prioritized for pedestrian and bicycle improvements. In the East Cleveland Park Entrances 10-Minute Walkshed Map, the areas outlined with a blue dashed line are areas within a 10-minute walk zone of an individual park entrance. These areas should be the focus of infrastructure improvements that help to enhance park entrances and improve pedestrian and bicycle access to parks.

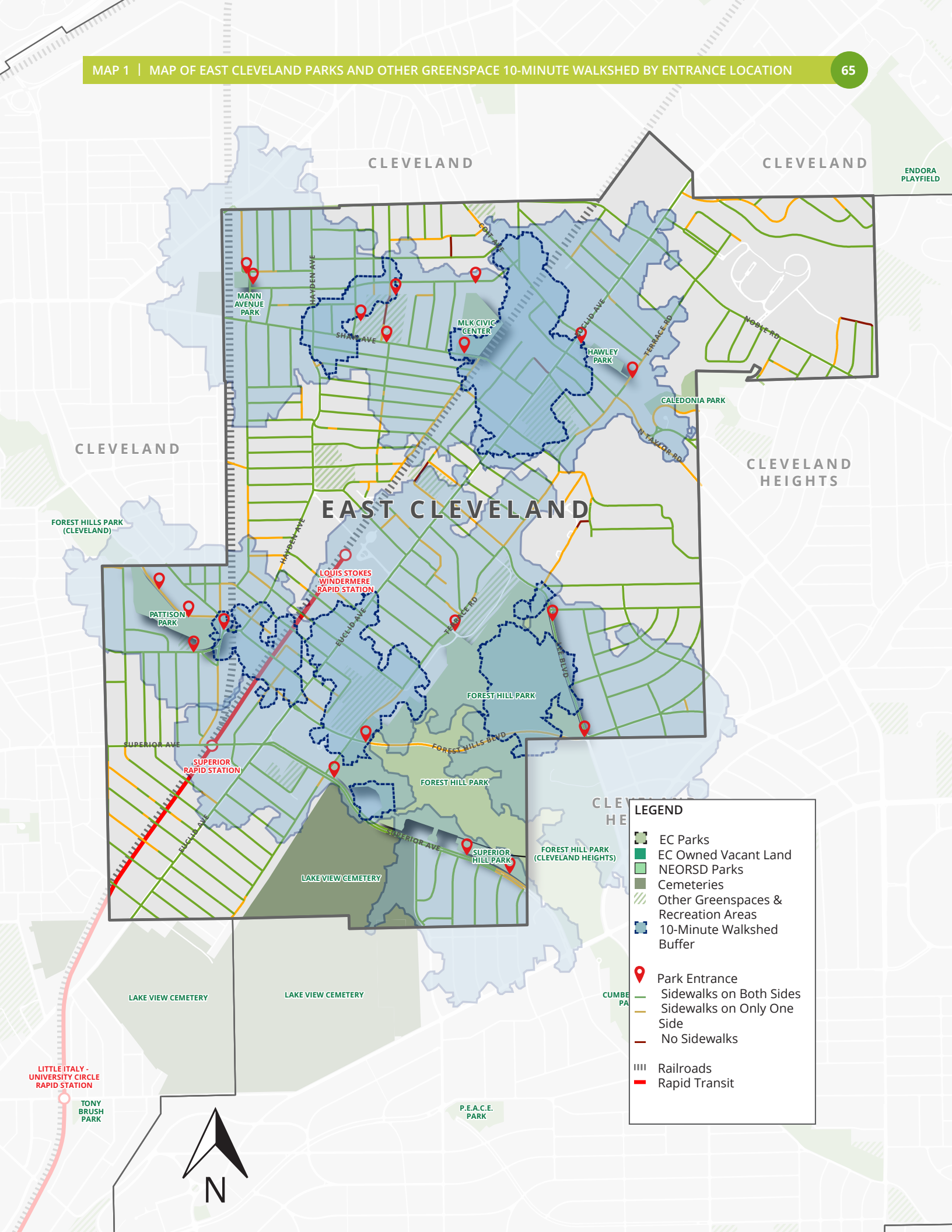
Many of East Cleveland Parks entrances are undefined, unsafe, and inaccessible due to a lack of streetscape and ADA-compliance and access elements. By adding streetscape elements such as sidewalks, pedestrian-scale lighting, benches, street trees, and other decorative elements, East Cleveland could define park entrances and boundaries to create safe and attractive entrances and corridors that all community members can enjoy.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Evaluate crosswalks and signals within a 10-minute walk zone and prioritize these areas for repair or improvements along with adding signage and wayfinding, pedestrian-scale lighting, and other amenities at entrances and access points into city parks
- B. Prioritize the safety of all users through evaluation, location, and design of enhanced intersections and crosswalk improvements at each East Cleveland Park such as HAWK signals, brighter lighting, ADA compliance and access, and other elements
- C. Enhance and improve streetscaping to include furniture such as benches, trash cans, planters, bike planters, bike parking, lighting, and landscaping, particularly street trees, and signage on targeted streets to enhance the visual aesthetic and offer a welcoming and comfortable environment for pedestrians and bicyclists
- D. Replace fencing and improve edge treatments to increase access or visibility into East Cleveland Parks

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, (Parks and Recreation, Building and Housing, Community, Development, Service, & Finance Departments) East Cleveland Parks Association, NOAH, National Recreational Park Association, Block Groups, NOACA



LEGEND

- EC Parks
- EC Owned Vacant Land
- NEORSD Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other Greenspaces & Recreation Areas
- 10-Minute Walkshed Buffer
- Park Entrance
- Sidewalks on Both Sides
- Sidewalks on Only One Side
- No Sidewalks
- Railroads
- Rapid Transit



CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND

ENDORA PLAYFIELD

CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

EAST CLEVELAND

FOREST HILLS PARK (CLEVELAND)

MANN AVENUE PARK

MLK CIVIC CENTER

HAWLEY PARK

CALEDONIA PARK

PATTISON PARK

LOUIS STOKES WINDERMERE RAPID STATION

FOREST HILL PARK

FOREST HILL PARK

SUPERIOR HILL PARK

FOREST HILL PARK (CLEVELAND HEIGHTS)

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

CUMBER PA

P.E.A.C.E. PARK

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION

TONY BRUSH PARK

PARKS ARE SAFELY AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE

STRATEGY | INCREASE ACCESS TO EAST CLEVELAND PARKS AND GREENSPACES BY BUILDING COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS

Parks are essential community assets that provide community members with a safe place for social gatherings and physical activity. The Trust for Public Land reports that 100 million people in this country, 28 million being children, do not have a park within a 10-minute walk of their homes. In communities of color, approximately 44% have less access park to park spaces than those in majority white communities. One solution to closing this gap in park equity is to build new parks and greenspaces. Another solution is to utilize local school playgrounds.

Public schools are central to community pride and empowerment. Nearly 20 million American live within a 10-minute walk of a public school. The Trust for Public Land developed a toolkit that would allow schoolyards to be opened to the public and designed with greener features for greater access to parks and greenspaces for the broader community. Redesigning school playgrounds into public, community parks are a cost-effective solution to the park equity issue. In many communities, schoolyards are open to the public, particularly after school hours and on weekends, and in doing so have shown an increase in emotional and academic benefits to students. Educators and school administrators have reported an improvement in attendance, behavior, and test scores following schoolyard renovations. Studies have shown that in addition to a positive increase in education outcomes of students in the community, there has been a marked increase in positive health outcomes as a results of school renovations. Community members reported reduced stress, less depression and anxiety, improved concentration, lower obesity rates, and reduced blood pressure.

Funding for community schoolyards can come from federal, state, and local grant opportunities,

private foundations, and fundraising partnerships with nonprofits. The local school district may be able to provide guidance to finding other funding opportunities.

The City of East Cleveland should consider implementing a Community Schoolyards project, in partnership with the East Cleveland City Schools for the four schools within the City's boundaries. East Cleveland could utilize the Trust for Public Land's Community Schoolyards Toolkit as a step-by-step guide to navigate development from project kickoff to maintenance steps of the community schoolyard. The development of the Community Schoolyard could provide an opportunity to engage community members, specifically students, Seniors, and families, as members of a Steering Community and/or Advisory Group to support meaningful engagement in the design and implementation of the Community Schoolyard.

For more information about the Community Schoolyards Toolkit, please visit: <https://www.tpl.org/community-schoolyards>

ACTION STEPS

- A. Draft and implement a shared-use facilities agreement with East Cleveland City Schools and other interested groups to develop community schoolyards
- B. Utilize the Trust for Public Land's Community Schoolyards Toolkit
- C. Pursue potential funding and fundraising sources for community schoolyard enhancements

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, East Cleveland City Schools, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Trust for Public Land, National Recreation Park Association

PARKS ARE SAFELY AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE

STRATEGY | ENHANCE SAFETY AND ACCESS TO EAST CLEVELAND PARKS AND GREENSPACES THROUGH PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION

Local communities are working towards building safe, connected active transportation networks that accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. When it comes to enhancing and expanding that network, education and public awareness strategies through community and neighborhood outreach can be used to provide information to teach safety skills that reduce the risk of injury, raise awareness and gain support regarding particular pedestrian or bicyclist issues, and funding.

East Cleveland has a number of established neighborhood groups and organizations such as Forest Hill Park Association, Friends of Forest Hill Park, and the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) that regularly engages community members to disseminate information about East Cleveland Parks. Additionally, other existing groups such as Bike Cleveland promote safe streets for users of all ages and abilities and offer safety courses as well as community bike events. The City should utilize and build upon these existing neighborhood networks to strengthen community support towards pedestrian and bicycle safety education and public awareness programs for all East Cleveland Parks.

Such programs can include programming and planning guidance that ranges from a ‘Safety Town’ course to more comprehensive programs such as Safe Routes to Schools and Safe Routes to Parks. These programs provide communities with a starting point for developing and implementing safe and accessible pedestrian and bicycle networks.

The City of East Cleveland would benefit from developing and implementing a Safe Routes to School or Safe Routes to Parks program as part of a safe and connected network to allow users of all

ages and abilities to get to and from East Cleveland Parks.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Partner with interested parties, including the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the East Cleveland City Schools to develop, and implement a Safe Routes to Schools and a Safe Routes to Parks program
- B. Apply for grant and other funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian enhancements
- C. Adopt a Complete and Green Streets policy to ensure all modes of transportation and stormwater management elements are incorporated into street reconstruction
- D. Continue to update the City’s Capital Improvement Plan to outline infrastructure investments
- E. Continue progress on TLCI funding from NOACA for improvements along Euclid Avenue
- F. Initiate an “Adopt a Path” program allowing residents and community groups to get involved in the path network
- G. Develop an information campaign to highlight safety improvements and crime statistics within East Cleveland Parks

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, NOACA, East Cleveland City Schools, County Planning, Ohio Department of Transportation, Cuyahoga County Public Works, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Bike Cleveland, Local Bike Advocates

Your Move - Ohio Department of Transportation

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) provides several educational tools and resources to help communities develop programming in support of bicycle and pedestrian safety. In response to a decade of statewide increases in fatal pedestrian and bicycle crashes and epidemic levels of chronic disease ODOT, developed 'Your Move' an approach to educate and encourage more Ohioans to choose active transportation and to make it safer for them to walk and bike. Your Move's goals are to: Educate all road users how to use the road safely; encourage Ohioans to choose active transportation; and Increase safety for people walking and biking.

This program includes an extensive set of campaign materials as an easy-to-use resource to educate, encourage, and increase safety. Each set of materials has been created for different media (Billboards, TV, Radio, Digital, social media) and audiences (Females, Males, Drivers, Bicyclists, and Transit Riders). Participation in this program with partners from health departments, hospitals, law enforcement, schools, and others, is an effective way to leverage any money spent and increase the programs reach throughout the community.

The City of East Cleveland should utilize the Ohio Department of Transportation materials as a foundation for developing a comprehensive education and awareness safety program for community members.

For more information about the Ohio Department of Transportation Your Move program, visit: <https://www.dot.state.oh.us/ActiveTransportation/Pages/choose.aspx>



Safe Routes to Schools Meets Safe Routes to Parks

Studies have shown that children and adults are not getting enough physical activity. However, communities are working on strategies to help make walking and cycling easier and safe, and are expanding access to parks especially in low-income communities, tribal communities, and communities of color.

Safe Routes to Schools provides resources, assistance, and funding as part of a comprehensive approach to promote walking and biking to school through both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. Safe Routes to Schools provides \$4 million to annually fund projects in five (5) categories: Engineering, Encouragement, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation. The program will fund a variety of infrastructure projects within two miles of a school (including engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction). It also funds non-infrastructure activities as well including education, encouragement, enforcement, or evaluation programs.

The National Recreation and Parks Association introduced and defined the concept of Safe Routes to Parks, which is intended to address health, wellness, and social equity. The National Recreation and Parks Association provides guidance on building awareness of the barriers of walkability for park accessibility and how to build community support for safe routes to parks. The six E's of the Safe Routes to School movement can assist in creating a Safe Park Zone through engineering improvements around the park, education and encouragement around reduced speed and the availability of walking and bicycling options in a Safe Park Zone, and enforcement when necessary. The National Recreation and Parks Association also acknowledges the need for coalition building to highlight the problem. Addressing walkability not only addresses the health and well-being of the community, but also assists in ensuring parks are vibrant, well-utilized spaces.

Safe Routes to Parks is a program initiative aimed to make ten-minute walks or bike rides that are accessible via multiple modes of transportation, conveniently located within approximately one-half mile (10-minute walk) from where people live, safe from traffic and personal danger, comfortable and appealing places to walk or bicycle, and end at parks that are well-maintained and programmed.

The Safe Routes to Parks concept provide advocates with the language to champion safe access during consideration of park siting, allocations of funds, planning, and implementation. Safe Routes to Parks increases opportunities for community members to be safe, be physically active, and experience the joy, social connectivity, and health benefits that parks bring.

Since there is an East Cleveland Park within two miles of every school, the City and School District should develop a Safe Routes to School program that integrates elements of a Safe Routes to Park plan so that the entire East Cleveland community becomes a better place for everyone to walk and bike.

For more information about the Safe Routes to Parks program, visit: <https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/healthy-communities/saferoutestoparks>



Safe Routes to School Meets Safe Routes to Parks

ON THE PATH TO SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS



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Three Components of Safe Routes to Parks

Parks play a critical role in increasing opportunities for communities to be physically active. As increasingly more parks organizations focus on accessibility via walking and biking is a key component of park utilization. The American Association recognizes three components to a Safe Routes to Parks plan: the park amenities, size and location, and park access points. Entry and exit points should align with the neighborhood's infrastructure and, finally, the route (whether the route is a half-mile or more) should provide access via walking and biking.

2015

Conclusion

Improving park accessibility assists in... and plays a critical

...are not getting enough... But

CONNECT THE COMMUNITY TO QUALITY PARKS
Conduct a Safe Routes to Parks walk audit with park personnel, community residents, and other key partners to identify routes that people take to get to parks, and how to improve walking, biking, and accessibility to and from homes, schools, workplaces, grocery stores, libraries, and other destinations. [Learn more.](#)

SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES

MARK THE ROUTES
Install maps, signs, and community art that resonates with and is designed by neighborhood residents. Translate information into languages commonly spoken in the community.

PUT THE "SAFE" IN SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS
Work with community residents to understand what prevents them from feeling safe on the way to the park. Build trusting relationships with law enforcement and community members to discuss conflicts and collaborate on ways to address crime and violence safely in and around the park. Host family-oriented events such as movie screenings in the park, live music, or free or low-cost sports clinics.

ENGAGE THE NEIGHBORHOOD
Community residents should be at the center of all efforts to improve park accessibility to make sure priorities align with their neighborhood's unique needs. Reach out to residents, law enforcement, neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, and other community-based organizations. [Learn more.](#)

CELEBRATE THE BENEFITS
People living closer to parks are more likely to visit parks and be physically active more often than those who live further from parks. Studies also suggest that access to parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers can lead to active behaviors by youth, including walking or bicycling to parks.





**“Leveraging parks can be a building block for future development and help expand e
help spur community stewardship and revitalization is to continually Invest in park a
continually creates hubs of physical and social activity**

-Urban Land Institute

Source: Pattison Park , County Planning



conomic activity. One method to
amenities and infrastructure that

."

THEME 4 CATALYST

This theme underlined the importance of aligning park improvements with the City's overall vision for the future. It also outlines the strategic physical improvements for each East Cleveland Park to make them recognizable City assets, to better support the social and recreational needs of residents and visitors, and to spark neighborhood reinvestment.

This Theme contains the following Principles:

- Parks Support the City's Vision for the Future, page 74
- Parks Have Appropriate Facilities & Amenities, page 76



PARKS SUPPORT THE CITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE

STRATEGY | USE PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO HELP BOLSTER AND SUPPORT EAST CLEVELAND'S COMMUNITY VISION

STRATEGY | LEVERAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO HELP ENCOURAGE REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parks are vital community assets that reinforce community identity, enhance the quality of life of community members, and foster economic development in the surrounding neighborhoods. Parks can help increase the real estate values of surrounding properties, and attract traffic flow to support an area and make it a place of increases civic and cultural activities.

A majority of East Cleveland's neighborhoods are within a 10-minute walk or 20-minute bike ride of a park or school. Many of these neighborhoods have experienced vacancy and foreclosure rates that are disproportionately higher compared to surrounding communities – resulting in blight, deterioration, and lower property values. However, East Cleveland, with the assistance of the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, has been diligent in demolishing these properties and preparing them for future residential development. These vacant lots present an opportunity for investment and redevelopment that can bolster community vibrancy and resiliency through affordable rental and homeownership opportunities. Many of those housing opportunities should include starter, first-time, and multi-generational housing in areas where families and community members have access to a neighborhood park. These areas should also be promoted in marketing campaigns to attract developers.

The City of East Cleveland Visioning Project is a communitywide visioning strategy developed in partnership with the City of East Cleveland and the Levine College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. The Project outlined a series of strategies. These strategies included capitalizing on the strong sense of community pride and

engagement, building capacity to attract and retain businesses, establishing a plan to guide future land use development, enhancing parks and greenspaces, and reinvesting in neighborhoods through housing preservation and blight reduction.

This plan strongly recommends the City of East Cleveland further develop and implement recommendations from the City of East Cleveland Visioning Project to align land use recommendations, redevelopment and infrastructure improvements to support equitable park improvements that enhance and bolster the City's Community Vision and encourage redevelopment opportunities.

ACTION STEPS

- A. Utilize the recommendations from the City of East Cleveland Visioning Project to align land use recommendations, redevelopment, and infrastructure improvements
- B. Continue to develop the East Cleveland Vision for Parks and market the Parks as a valuable community asset that bolster and foster community pride and identity
- C. Identify the best locations for redevelopment of walkable commercial and mixed used districts near East Cleveland Parks
- D. Promote and market development and redevelopment opportunities near East Cleveland Parks and business corridors such as the corridor near Hawley Park
- E. Update the East Cleveland Zoning Code to encourage infill development to provide a range of housing opportunities

DETAILS

Potential Partners: City of East Cleveland, Cleveland State University, NOAH, City Engineer, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Growth Association, County Planning, Cuyahoga County Land Bank, Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Service, Inc., Higher Learning Institutions



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City of East Cleveland Visioning Project

Recommend

Recommendation

Throughout the visioning process, additional recommendations, responses, and feedback were received from community members.

1) East Cleveland consistent with city goals

Real estate along Euclid for redevelopment

Specific

- Work with city to ensure that the program is consistent with city goals



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City of East Cleveland Visioning Project

City of East Cleveland Visioning Project

Prepared for:
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Levin.
The Maxine Goodman Levin
College of Urban Affairs



PARKS HAVE APPROPRIATE FACILITIES & AMENITIES

STRATEGY | IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR EACH EAST CLEVELAND PARK

Parks are multi-generational safe places where families and community members can gather to socialize, play, and be more physically active. When planning and programming for a local park, city officials gather demographic data and often conduct a community needs assessment to determine what park amenities and features should be placed in a park. Park amenities and features are vital improvements that activate a park and make visiting one a more welcoming and friendly experience that enhances the overall quality of life.

In East Cleveland Parks, many of the amenities and features are outdated, in need of repair, or need to be replaced. Every East Cleveland Park should have a minimum number of amenities and features that make it a comfortable and safe place for community members. Those amenities and features should include: clear and consistent signage and wayfinding at park entrances to help identify park boundaries and features; lighting and emergency call boxes at entrances and along paths and trails; decorative fencing and landscaping, trash and recycling receptacles, water fountains, seating, and bike racks placed throughout the park.

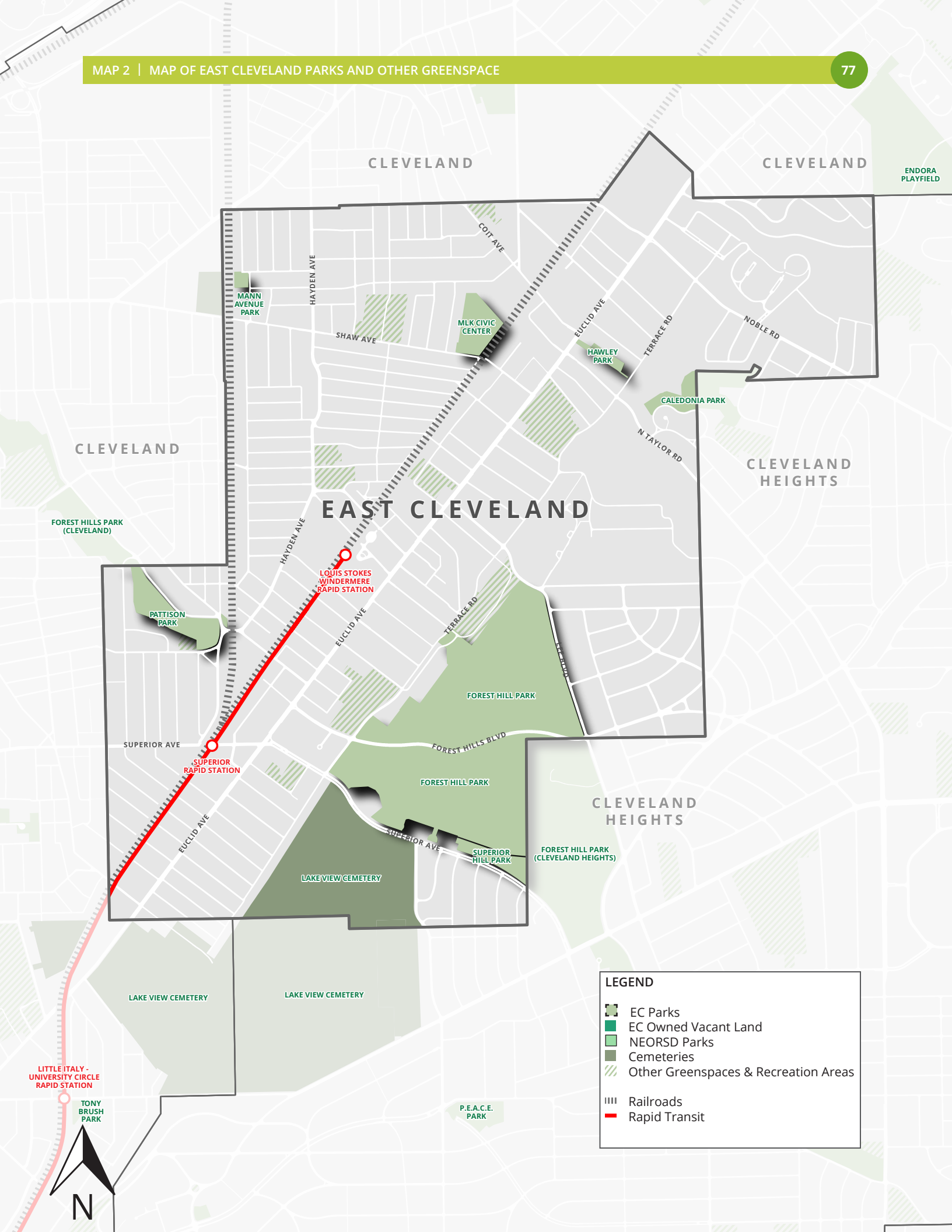
During community outreach and engagement for the East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan, community members expressed a desire for park features that are inclusive of all ages and abilities such as exercise equipment for seniors, a multipurpose stage space for plays, concerts, or meetings, more movie nights for families, new playgrounds and equipment for children, and new trails and walking paths for everyone. Larger parks in East Cleveland such as Forest Hill Park and Pattison Park have a lot of features and amenities that accommodate everyone from children to seniors and should continue to be used to host larger events. Smaller parks such as Mann Avenue

Park have fewer features and should be more family-friendly or involve more passive recreation opportunities. Park improvements throughout the East Cleveland Parks system should complement the varied ages and activity levels of all community members by providing the appropriate amenities and features. To bring all East Cleveland Parks to a baseline, the City should undertake the following:

- Remove overgrown, dead, and fallen vegetation
- Remove outdated or unsalvageable park amenities
- Develop a maintenance and trash pickup schedule
- Add emergency call boxes and pedestrian-scale lighting
- Enhance park entrance with a standardized park sign
- Update trash receptacles and consider adding dog-friendly amenities that could include waste bags

Park-specific recommendations can be found on the following pages. Each park in the Catalyst section presents an overview of that park's current conditions and amenities, then outlines specific recommendations that will lead to the reimaging and redevelopment of East Cleveland Parks.

The park-specific renderings are conceptual. Detailed engineering, traffic studies, and financial analyses are necessary before undertaking any proposed projects. The concepts should be used as a basis for beginning the process of reviewing, approving, and ultimately building these projects.



LEGEND

- EC Parks
- EC Owned Vacant Land
- NEORSD Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other Greenspaces & Recreation Areas
- Railroads
- Rapid Transit



PATTISON PARK

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS



FEATURES

Park Size 13.0 Acres

Park Amenities:



POPULATION IN 1/2 MILE WALK SHED *

Children	637	22.2%
Young Adults	551	19.2%
Working Age	1,188	41.3%
Seniors	497	17.3%
Total	2,873	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	4.5 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2018 5 Year American Community Survey, B01001

RECOMMENDATIONS

Pattison Park is one of the most used parks in East Cleveland. However, many of the park's amenities need to be significantly repaired or completely removed. For example, Pattison has remnants of two baseball fields and tennis courts that should be removed, cleaned up of overgrown vegetation, and replaced. WIFI would be an important amenity to provide at this park due to its wide-use.

The park should be reorganized into three distinct areas to concentrate complimentary amenities:

- Active Play Area:** Replaces the tennis court area with other active recreational uses such as basketball courts, a large playground, a splash pad, and workout stations.
- Performance & Plaza Space:** The area in the middle can include a renovated amphitheater with electrical power and expanded permanent seating to compliment the historic stage. The basketball courts could be replaced with a plaza space including a renovated pavilion that has updated restrooms and concessions, picnic tables, and additional seating.
- Civic Green Space:** The last space should be maintained as an open lawn that can accommodate various uses from passive leisure and informal recreation to organized large-scale events (e.g., festivals, farmers markets, movie nights etc.). This space should have trees, seating and lighting on the outer edge.

These distinct areas should be connected by a multi-purpose trail that loops around the whole park. This will maximize use and organize the park in a way that park visitors can easily and comfortably navigate. It will be important for East Cleveland to work with Cleveland to ensure the intersection at the top of the park is safe for cyclists and pedestrians.

The vacant lot south of the park (labeled 10 on the map to the right) is the former Rozelle Elementary School site that contains 1.075 acres. The City should work with the School Board of Education to see what types of redevelopment opportunities are possible on this site.



KEY

- 1 Relocate Basketball Courts & Incorporate Public Art**
Image source: Multipurpose Court, Boston, MA - Greg Cook, WBUR
- 2 Relocate Workout Stations to be Located Along Trail**
- 3 Add New Playground with a Play Set & Splash Pad**
Image source: Splash Park, Plain Township, Ohio - Veterans Park, Northeast Ohio Family Fun.com
- 4 Renovate Pavilion (Updated Restrooms & Concessions)**
- 5 Update Amphitheater (Provide Electricity & Seating)**

- 6 Create New Plaza Space (with Benches & Picnic Tables)**
Image source: Park Plaza with Concessions, Niagara Falls, NY - Niagara Falls State Park Welcome Center, Niagara Frontier Publications
- 7 Maintain as Open Lawn (with New Landscaping, Seating, Lighting)**
- 8 Develop a Multi-Purpose Loop Trail with Benches**
Image Source: Walking Path with Park Bench, Louisville, KY - Olmsted Parks Conservancy
- 9 Establish Entrances that Connect to Historic Stairs**
- 10 Work with the School Board of Education to consider site for new use that is complementary to the park**

- Pedestrian Crossings
- Park Entrances
- Trees
- Lighting
- Potential Infill Lots (City & Land Bank Lots)
- Grass Area

SUPERIOR HILL PARK

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS



FEATURES

Park Size 6.1 Acres

Park Amenities:



POPULATION IN 1/2 MILE WALK SHED *

Children	378	28.9%
Young Adults	460	35.2%
Working Age	357	27.3%
Seniors	113	8.6%
Total	1,308	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	4.7 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2018 5 Year American Community Survey, B01001

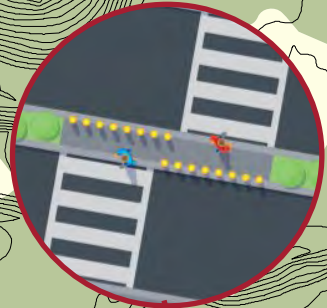
RECOMMENDATIONS

Superior Hill Park is historically part of Forest Hill Park, although it functions as a standalone neighborhood park due to it being separated by a large ravine.

Prompted by planned improvements to Superior Road between Euclid Avenue and Highfield Road by the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works, the City of East Cleveland directed its City Engineer, OHM Advisors to make improvements to the Superior Hill Park. The Superior Hill Park Improvement Project is still in its conceptual stage; however, planned improvements will include a resurfaced basketball court, tennis and pickle ball courts, and a walking trail loop. Additional amenities will include picnic tables, exercise stations, trash receptacles, and lighting.

To improve safety and walkability, the Superior Road improvement Project will include enhanced crosswalks, pedestrian refuge islands, and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at the Glenmont Road and Eddington Road intersections.

Signage and appropriate landscaping will be important to define the boundaries and entrances of the park.



KEY

- 1** One Concept from OHM to Include Basketball, Pickleball, and Tennis Courts
- 2** Pedestrian Crossing Configurations as Part of the Superior Road Improvement Project
Image source: Danish Offset Crossing, Vision Zero Canada
- 3** Trail Extension
- ★ Park Entrances
- Lighting
- Potential Infill Lots (City & Land Bank Lots)
- Grass Area
- Existing Playground

HAWLEY PARK

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS



FEATURES

Park Size 2.4 Acres

Park Amenities:



POPULATION IN 1/2 MILE WALK SHED *

Children	701	19.2%
Young Adults	706	19.3%
Working Age	1,344	36.8%
Seniors	898	24.6%
Total	3,649	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	0.7 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2018 5 Year American Community Survey, B01001

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hawley Park is a neighborhood park, located in the middle of a block with two virtually hidden access points: through a parking lot on Euclid Avenue; the other is through a narrow pedestrian path from Terrace Road. Improving the park's visibility is important to increase awareness of the park and to ensure a safe and comfortable environment. The entrance on Euclid Avenue needs to be improved by reducing the parking area and creating a pedestrian pathway protected by landscaping and fencing. There are two vacant publicly-owned lots at this entrance that could be developed in the future to complement the park entrance. East Cleveland demolished and leveled land near the rear of those two publicly-owned lots that could be used for additional park space and/or pedestrian-access for the park.

Additional entrances could be created on Taylor Road and Hastings Avenue by utilizing the vacant lots on these neighborhood streets. Each entrance should be defined with appropriate landscaping and signage that is inviting and allows for clear view into the park. There should be defined walking paths from these entrances that create a predictable and comfortable walking network within. To enhance visibility, additional lighting could also be placed throughout the park.

Hawley Park has a number of amenities; however, it is important for the City to replace or update those that are in worst condition, such as the benches, picnic tables, fencing and trash/recycling receptacles. Having appropriate seating areas will be important to accommodate the various demographics that may use this park, especially working age adults and seniors. The basketball court needs a complete renovation as the concrete is cracked and vegetation is growing. It should be resurfaced and repainted to accommodate different uses and activities. The play set is in the best condition; however, it currently sits on overgrown grass which should be mowed regularly or be replaced with surface material that is easier to maintain.



KEY

- 1** Create a Protected Pedestrian Path with Landscaping & Fencing
Image source: Protected Walkway – Rodrigo Florentino, pxhere.com, Creative Commons CC0
- 2** Reduce & Repave Parking
- 3** Redevelop Property to Complement Park
- 4** Create New Entrances Using Vacant Public Lots
Image source: Park Entrance, Garrett Park, MD – Google 2022
- 5** Designate Space For Seating & Picnic Tables

- 6** Create an Interconnected Walking Pathway
- 7** Update Playground Surface Material
Image source: Loose Fill Playground Surface Material – Playground Landscape Structures, Playsli.com
- 8** Resurface & Repaint Existing Basketball Court as a Multi-Purpose Court
Image source: Community Schoolyard with repainted basketball court, New York, NY – Trust for Public Land
- 9** Update or Replace Perimeter Fencing

- Pedestrian Crossings
- Park Entrances
- Trees
- Lighting
- Existing Pavilion
- Potential Infill Lots (City & Land Bank Lots)
- Grass Area

MLK CIVIC CENTER

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS



FEATURES

Park Size 9.3 Acres

Park Amenities (not including those indoors):



POPULATION IN 1/2 MILE WALK SHED *

Children	930	21.4%
Young Adults	889	20.4%
Working Age	1,605	36.8%
Seniors	932	21.4%
Total	4,356	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	2.1 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2018 5 Year American Community Survey, B01001

RECOMMENDATIONS

The MLK Civic Center includes an indoor recreation facility on Shaw Avenue and outdoor amenities (i.e., playground, track, field, picnic pavilion) that are mostly hidden from view from either entrance on Shaw Avenue and Elm Avenue. Wayfinding and signage are needed features to make visitors aware of all the available indoor and outdoor amenities and to help them navigate both the indoor and outdoor spaces. Entrances into the site and into the recreation building need to be better defined.

The indoor and outdoor facilities are separated by large surface parking areas. It is important to determine the actual number of needed parking spots, and reduce the amount of dedicated space for parking. The parking areas could be used for event and recreational space (e.g., food trucks, farmers markets, play area, etc.) and over time some of the parking areas (such as to the right of the park) could be replaced with green infrastructure, landscaping, and a dedicated walking path.

An important consideration for this site to improve the pedestrian experience and create pathways that allow pedestrians to safely and comfortably travel from one end of the park to the other. The area directly between the building and the play set (denoted as 4 on the map to the left) should be designated as a pedestrian-only area that could be protected by bollards and marked with different paint or material. This ensures the safe pedestrian connection between the outdoor and indoor facilities.

Certain amenities need to be replaced or renovated. For example, while the play set is in good condition the surface material it sits on top of needs to be replaced. The track currently has a gravel surface and should be replaced with more durable material. Lastly, The play field currently has no markings or boundaries and should be restriped for football and soccer.

Vacant lots around the MLK Civic Center provides opportunities for residential redevelopment that would enhance the neighborhood and the park.



KEY

- 1** Provide Wayfinding To Indoor & Outdoor Amenities
Image source: Recreation Center Monument Sign, Strongsville, OH – Bob Sandrick, Cleveland.com
- 2** Replace & Update Monument Sign
- 3** Enhance Building Frontage along Shaw Avenue
- 4** Create a Protected Pedestrian Zone with Removal Bollards
Image source: Low Speed Zone, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil – Urban Pathways
- 5** Reduce & Repave Parking Lot
- 6** Use Parking Lot For Pop-Up Events
Image source: Parking Lot Pop-Up Event, King of Prussia, PA – Rachel Ammon, King of Prussia District
- 7** Replace Parking Area with Green Infrastructure
- 8** Update Playground Surface Material
- 9** Relocate & Update Workout Stations
- 10** Renovate Field into a Multi-Purpose Field
- 11** Renovate Track With Durable Material
- 12** Create an Interconnected Pedestrian Pathway
- Pedestrian Crossings
- Park Entrances
- Trees
- Lighting
- Potential Infill Lots (City & Land Bank Lots)
- Grass Area
- Existing Pavilion

MANN AVENUE PARK

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS



FEATURES

Park Size 1.1 Acres

Park Amenities:



POPULATION IN 1/2 MILE WALK SHED *

Children	297	17.4%
Young Adults	405	23.7%
Working Age	600	35.1%
Seniors	405	23.7%
Total	1,707	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	0.6 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2018 5 Year American Community Survey, B01001

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mann Avenue Park is nestled within a residential neighborhood at the East Cleveland—Cleveland northwestern border. Currently, the park is mainly an open field with undefined boundaries, overgrown vegetation, defective picnic tables, and the remnants of a baseball field. It is adjacent to a dilapidated industrial building and various publicly-owned vacant lots.

Throughout this planning process, it became evident people were unaware that this was a park or did not feel safe visiting it. To improve the park's overall image and safety, it is important to first define the park boundaries with appropriate landscaping and/or fencing, denote the park entrances with park signage, enhance lighting and visibility throughout the park, and improve access to the park. Repairing the sidewalk along the park on East 133rd Street will help draw pedestrian traffic from St. Clair Avenue and Woodworth Avenue north of the park, and from Shaw Avenue to the south.

The vacant lots around the perimeter of the park provides an opportunity for residential infill development, while the vacant lots adjacent to the park could be used to expand the park boundaries and to incorporate an internal walking path that extends from north of Mann Avenue down to Shaw Avenue. This creates a comfortable and predictable walking environment that encourages passive leisure. The dilapidated industrial building south of the park could be demolished and converted to open lawn space, thus increasing visibility and improving the visual appeal of the park.

The upper half of the park could include two pavilions and additional seating that surround a natural park to encourage family gatherings and physical activity. Instead of a traditional play structure, a natural playground can contain elements such as tree logs and stumps, boulders, sand, plants, water features, and hills. Natural playgrounds are shown to encourage more active play, longer play time, and more social interaction.

Cleveland
East Cleveland



KEY

1 Combine Adjacent Vacant Lots to Expand Park

2 Add Mid-Sized Picnic Pavilions
Image source: Pavilion with Seating, Beaverton, OR - Cedar Hills Park, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District

3 Build a Natural Playground with Hills, Logs, and Boulders
Image source: Welles (Gideon) Park Natural Play Structure, Chicago, Illinois - Laura Mendez, County Planning

4 Construct a Multi-Purpose Trail with Benches

5 Demolish the Industrial Building & Establish an Open Lawn

6 Define Park Edges (such as with Fencing or Trees)
Image source: Park Entrance with Fencing, East Cleveland, OH - Google 2022

7 Repair the Sidewalk (Shaw Ave. to St.Clair)

Pedestrian Crossings

Park Entrances

Trees

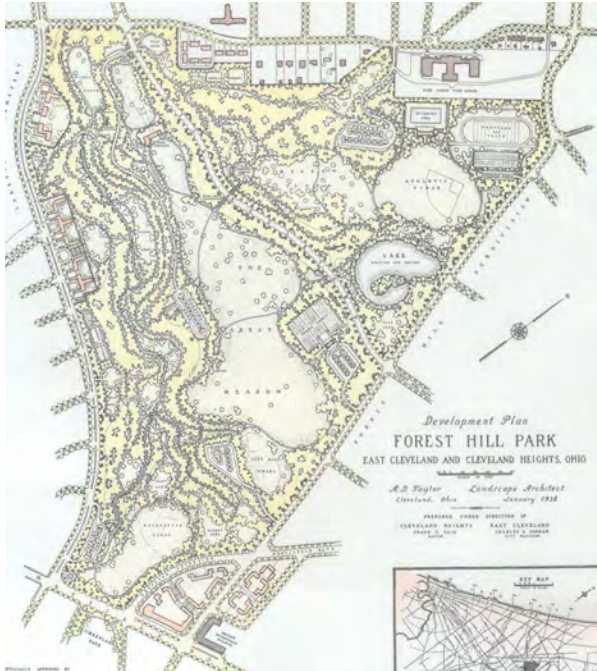
Lighting

Potential Infill Lots
(City & Land Bank Lots)

Grass Area

FOREST HILL PARK

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS



FEATURES

Park Size 176.0 Acres (East Cleveland)

Park Amenities:



POPULATION IN 1/2 MILE WALK SHED*

Children	1,000	18.0%
Young Adults	1,165	21.0%
Working Age	2,101	37.8%
Seniors	1,290	23.2%
Total	5,555	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	31.7 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2018 5 Year American Community Survey, B01001

BACKGROUND

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Forest Hill Park is the largest park in East Cleveland, rivaling the size, natural features, and amenities of many regional parks.

Development of Forest Hill Park began around 1873 when John D. Rockefeller, Sr. purchased a 79-acre tract of land intended for economic development. Ultimately, those ventures failed, and the Rockefellers adopted Forest Hill as the family's summer residence called, Homestead. Upon the death of his father, Rockefeller Jr. donated the remaining land to the Cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights for the development of a public park. To transform the estate, Landscape Architect A.D. Taylor developed a plan in 1938 that used many existing site features; the plan converted converting carriage paths into trails, and a golf course into the Great Meadow. Many existing features like the boat house from Taylor's original plan still exist. In subsequent years, additional updates have deviated from the initial plan: these include the community recreation center and complex of baseball fields in the Cleveland Heights portion. During the same period, East Cleveland has made very few investments which has helped preserved the sites natural features and historic character. Unfortunately, during those same years, fiscal issues in East Cleveland have also limited investments on updates and maintenance of the park, all of which now directly threaten the parks' ability to effectively serve surrounding neighborhoods and the region.

If not immediately supported with funding for necessary improvements and a maintenance budget that respects its size and character, Forest Hill may not only become unrecognizable, but a major missed opportunity to preserve the region's history while providing high quality open space in one of the County's most underserved, improvised, and racially diverse areas.



FOREST HILL PARK

BACKGROUND

Over the last two decades, conditions in Forest Hill Park have deteriorated due to a decline in city investments and park maintenance. Community organizations and volunteer groups have lent their time, financial resources, and energy to providing maintenance and general upkeep of the park. These efforts have helped community members to be able to enjoy the beauty of a natural retreat in the middle of their City, from walking the trails, to bird watching, and feeding the ducks at the historic Forest Hill Park Boat house and pond. However, when compared to other regional parks similar to or larger than Forest Hill Park, East Cleveland residents do not enjoy the economic boosts of hosting a regional asset as large as Forest Hill Park. Forest Hill Park is one of the 25 largest parks in the region, and the second largest municipally-owned and operated park in Northeast Ohio.

The American Planning Association has reported that parks not only provide environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits, but also can provide a positive economic benefit that enhances property values and increases municipal revenues that can attract homebuyers, workers, and retirees to a community. As shown in Maps 9 and 10 on pages 92-95, these economic benefits are obvious with most communities that host parks of this size. In stark contrast to East Cleveland, these communities are predominantly White with median household incomes above \$55,721. In East Cleveland; however, more than 81% of East Cleveland's population is Black with a median household income less than \$55,721.

Through ongoing planning, several recommendations have been made that could be utilized to help bring Forest Hill Park back to its previous state and help to stabilize property values and municipal revenues. In 2018, The McGregor Foundation performed a facility and infrastructure inventory and assessment of the park, that included all buildings and exterior structures, utilities, pond edging, trails, and

fencing. The report found that all substandard conditions were the result of decades of deferred maintenance and would cost approximately \$10 million dollars to bring Forest Hill Park back to a baseline of repair. Investing in Forest Hill Park could not only help to stabilize and revitalize the surrounding neighborhoods, but could make a significant economical impact on East Cleveland and surrounding communities as it begins to attract new visitors.

#	PARK	ACRES	AGENCY
1	CVNP	18,509	Federal
2	Brecksville Reservation	4,108	Metroparks
3	Mill Stream Run Reservation	3,418	Metroparks
4	Rocky River Reservation	2,564	Metroparks
5	Bedford Reservation	2,509	Metroparks
6	North Chagrin Reservation	2,155	Metroparks
7	South Chagrin Reservation	1,582	Metroparks
8	Bradley Woods Reservation	823	Metroparks
9	Big Creek Reservation	753	Metroparks
10	Euclid Creek Reservation	473	Metroparks
11	Lakefront Reservation	426	Metroparks
12	Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation	373	Metroparks
13	West Creek Reservation	371	Metroparks
14	Garfield Park Reservation	219	Metroparks
15	Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	194	Metroparks
16	Rockefeller Park	192	Municipal
17	FOREST HILL PARK (EC - Only)	175	Municipal
18	Acacia Reservation	155	Metroparks
19	Forest Ridge Preserve	135	Municipal
20	West Creek Reservation	119	Metroparks
21	Luke Easter Park	113	Municipal
22	Brookside Reservation	107	Metroparks
23	Shaker Lakes	105	Municipal
24	Valley View Woods	103	Municipal
25	Huntington Reservation	99	Metroparks

FACILITY ASSESSMENT

RECREATIONAL ELEMENTS
PLAYGROUNDS STRUCTURES & SURFACING

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

Once the heart of a 70
surrounded by other
and open space, the
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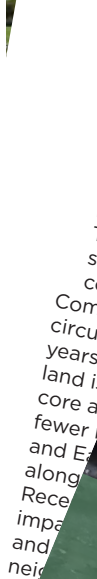
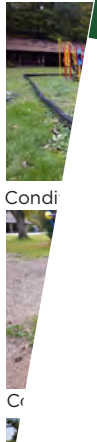
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Forest Hill Park Assessment

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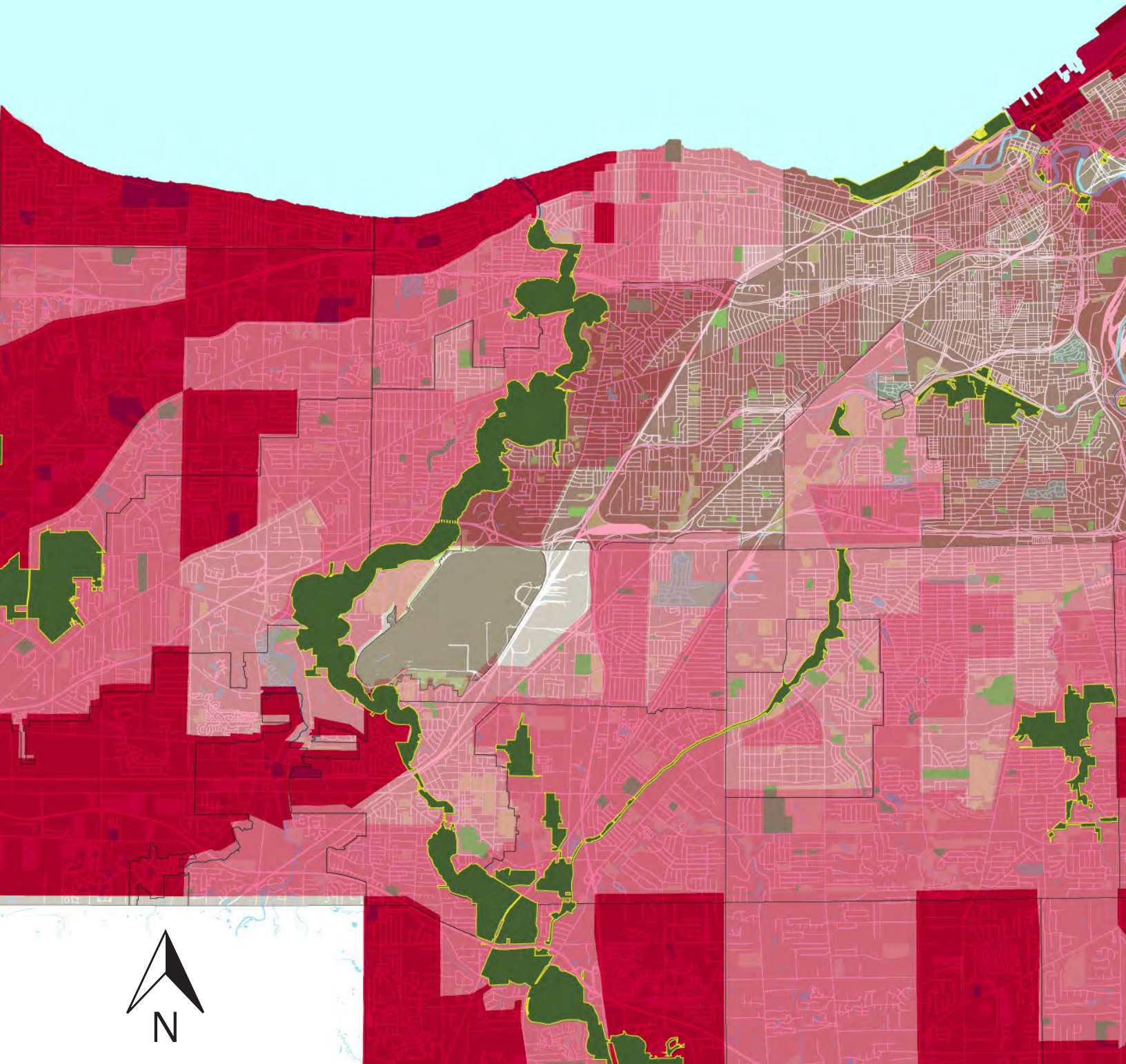


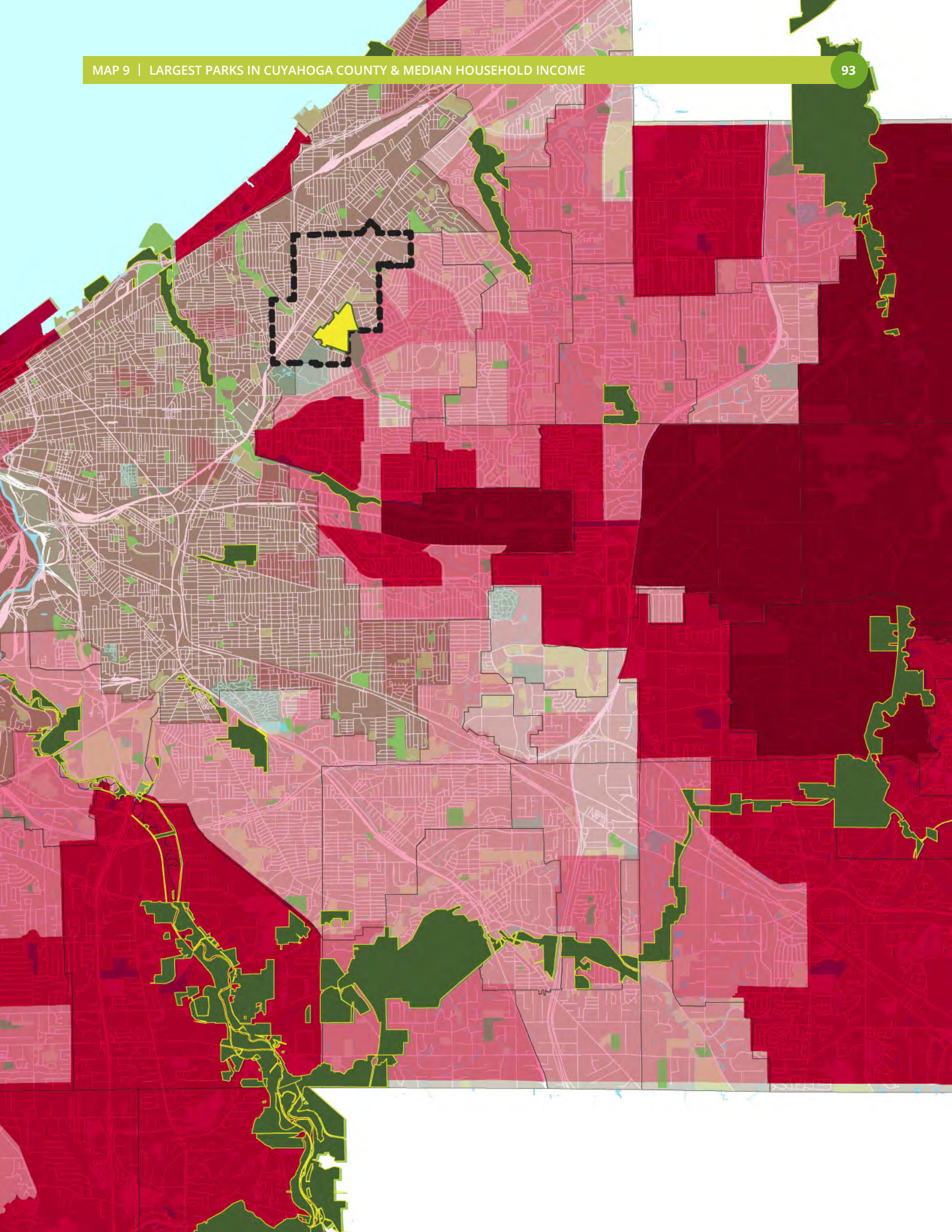
LEGEND

- East Cleveland
- Forest Hill Park
- 25 Largest Parks in Region




MEDIAN HH INCOME

- \$4,129 - \$34,461
- \$34,461 - \$55,721
- \$55,721 - \$84,219
- \$84,219 - \$144,773
- \$144,773 - \$250,000.00








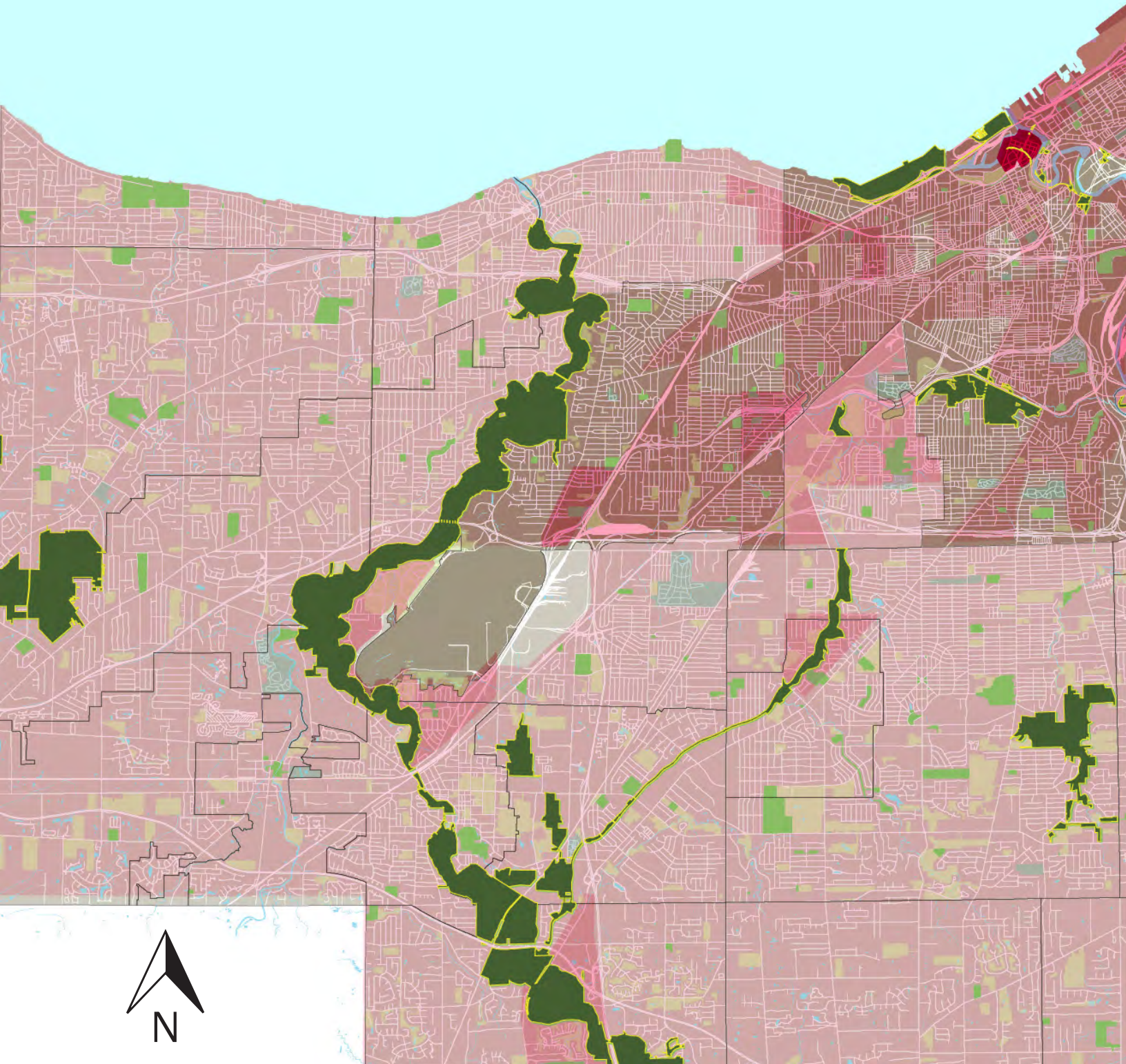


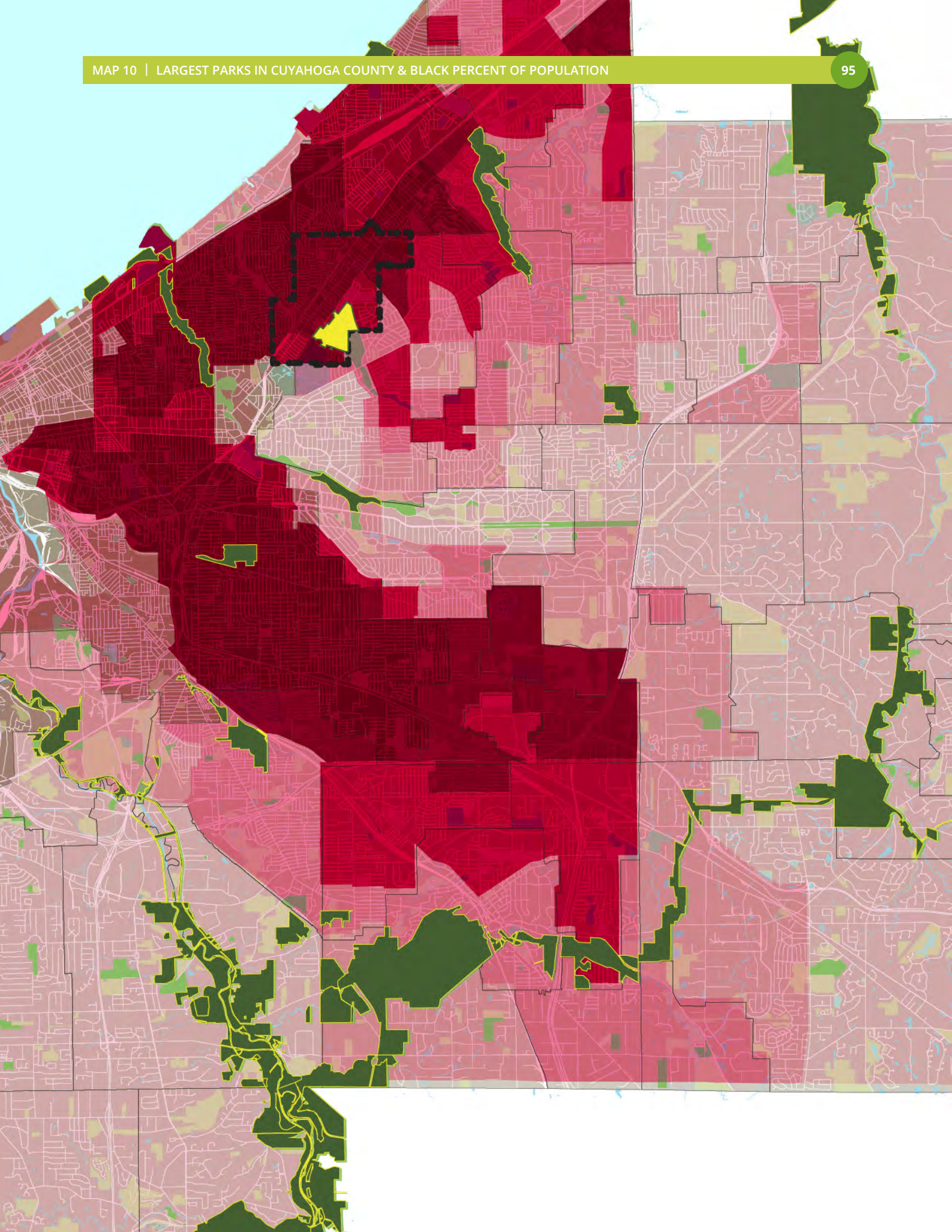
LEGEND

-  East Cleveland
-  Forest Hill Park
-  25 Largest Parks in Region

BLACK PERCENT OF POPULATION

-  0% - 11%
-  11% - 33%
-  33% - 59%
-  59% - 81%
-  81% - 100%





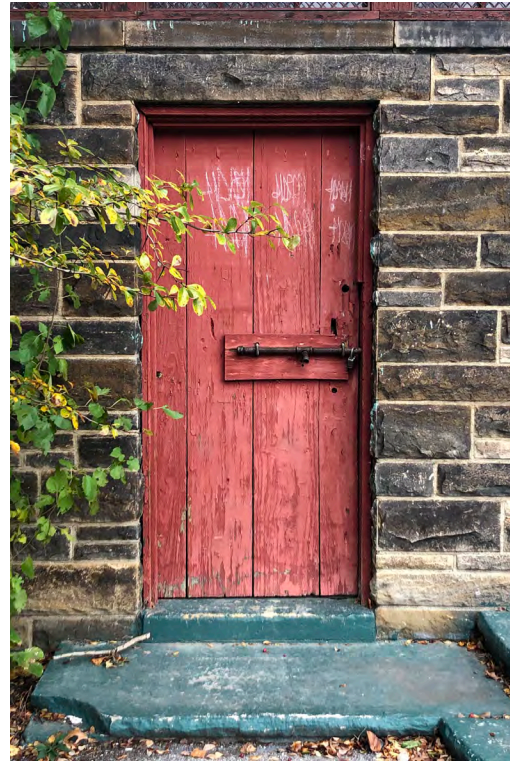
FOREST HILL PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS

Once the site of business magnate John D. Rockefeller's prestigious estate in the early 20th century, Forest Hill Park remains a site of historic significance spanning the cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. Over the years, the City of Cleveland Heights has been able to improve on park conditions with city investments. Conversely, the City of East Cleveland's investment in park care has been dramatically impacted by reductions in municipal funding due to job losses and a shrinking population. Despite this downturn, the 175 acres of Forest Hill Park located in East Cleveland has retained its historic nature and beauty.

The East Cleveland Parks Association (ECPA), a non-profit volunteer and residents' group, has assisted with maintenance of Forest Hill Park through in-kind services, donations, and grants. The organization conducted a Forest Hill Park Assessment which identified needs based on community feedback. The organization's efforts should be commended, but the second largest park in Cuyahoga County, still governed by a local community, should not be under the care of only volunteers and residents. The City of East Cleveland should utilize the Forest Hill Park Assessment from the East Cleveland Parks Association (ECPA) to determine what areas and amenities are in the most need of maintenance before they become unsafe, unusable, or unsuitable for repair and explore alternative funding methods such as endowments and partnerships that could assist with ongoing repairs and maintenance in Forest Hill Park. East Cleveland should also determine a budget for staffing and resources to maintain Forest Hill Park and begin fundraising strategies to facilitate park improvements outlined in the Forest Hill Park Assessment based on highest priority.

Due to Forest Hill Park's unique history and significant place in the regional park system, a long-term solution with significant regional and statewide support needs to be enacted. The county and state could help coordinate and collaborate on staffing needs, budget strategies, and management structure for Forest Hills Park that equals its size, need, and historic character. Conservancy groups, foundations, state and local governments, non-profits, public and private business, and Northeast Ohio residents should be engaged and encouraged to help support the ongoing needs of the hidden gem that is Forest Hill Park. East Cleveland should implement an engagement and advocacy strategy with local partners at the regional, state, and federal levels to secure funding for necessary improvements in Forest Hill Park. However, this Plan strongly suggests the City of East Cleveland identify opportunities to transfer ownership or governance of Forest Hill Park to a Parks Commission or parks management organization.



Maintenance Issues and Needs at Forest Hill
Source: County Planning

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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT

IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW | 100

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FUNDING SOURCES | 122

IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

Implementation is to be used as a tool to organize the recommended strategies into a table that ties individual strategies to partners, timeframes, potential funding sources, and cost estimates. This approach will ensure everyone is aware of how strategies can be accomplished. As part of a comprehensive implementation strategy, each project should build upon previous park improvement efforts and other redevelopment opportunities in East Cleveland.

This Plan is designed to be flexible in terms of its recommendations and implementation, and should be updated as circumstances change. It is designed to provide East Cleveland a menu of options to choose from to help achieve its goals for parks and open spaces in the City. Changes in the economy, technology, community support, and available resources should be constantly reevaluated against the recommendations. This flexibility will allow the community to take advantage of opportunities and potential cost savings when constructing projects or evaluating new policies and programs. Results are the goal of any planning process and the steps to get there will vary.

This section is structured as an Implementation Toolkit that includes System-Wide Implementation Tables and Park-Specific Checklists that correspond to the Themes, Principles, Strategies, and Action Steps from the Recommendations Section. This section also acts as a Resource Guide as it provides a list of potential partners, grants & funding sources, funding strategies, and additional resources.

The Implementation Tables and Checklists are meant to serve as a guide; however, funding streams and partners can and will change over time. New resources, as they arise, should be evaluated against planned action items. An important part of Implementation is to seek additional funding opportunities beyond the City's operational budget. These opportunities can come in the form of grants. However, grant writing is a competitive process and having a professional grant writer in-house (or on retainer) will let the City pursue these opportunities. A grant writer can communicate the specific departmental resources and needs, streamline and coordinate the application process, and work with partners to ensure timeliness and consistency. Most importantly, grant applications submitted will align with and support the goals of the East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan.

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND COLLABORATIONS

The East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan is intended to be a valuable tool, resource, and reference for the City of East Cleveland — as well as for property owners, business owners, developers, and other stakeholders— when deciding where, when, and how to make investments. A viable implementation program is a valuable tool to ensure that recommendations are acted upon.

ACCOUNTABILITY

This Parks and Greenspace Plan is only a policy guide. It is not law. This allows flexibility to ensure that decisions made, and actions taken, are specifically tailored to on-site conditions, changing needs or desires, and financial or other considerations. This also means that implementation can fall by the wayside if the Plan is not actively pursued.

A Master Plan Implementation Committee could be instrumental to ensure progress and periodic updates to the plan and to develop a system of accountability. The current Project Team, consisting of City Department officials, should continue meeting as a Plan Implementation Committee. However, the Plan Implementation Committee could be a mix of elected City officials, Council members, City Departmental Directors and Staff,

residents, and community members who would meet on a regular basis. Meetings and updates on the Plan should be transparent and open to the public. The Committee should also be empowered to work with and utilize the resources of other municipalities, community and economic development groups, regional agencies and nonprofits where appropriate.

COLLABORATION

It is important to recognize that there are factors that impact the City that are beyond its control. In such cases, it is important to forge and maintain supportive partnerships with those who can provide assistance. In addition, because cities across the County and State are facing financial challenges, it is becoming more important than ever to engage firms, institutions, and citizens to collaborate in the work of government.

The Parks and Greenspace Plan identifies opportunities for engaging with other entities in developing mutually beneficial programs. With this in mind, the City can serve as a champion and supporter to help spur collaborative actions.

HELP! — WHERE DO WE START?

The first step to beginning implementation is often the most overwhelming. Where do we start? Who should do what? How do we stop the plan from sitting on a shelf? While every community's path to implementation is different, here are a few best practices to get started:

- Use the implementation table to **pick the top actions** that will be undertaken each year and **assign personnel responsible for those actions**
- Establish a **Plan Implementation Committee** that meets every quarter to review the actions that are underway
- Publish an **Annual Results Report** detailing what has been accomplished so far

Still lost? Contact County Planning and we can help you get started.

READING THE SYSTEM-WIDE TABLES

The System-Wide Tables directly correspond to the Strategies organized by Theme and Principle in the Recommendation Section. The tables include details such as Projected Timelines, Responsible Parties & Partners, Estimated Costs, and Project Status.

While Potential Partners, Projected Timelines, and Estimated Cost are listed, changing circumstances, priorities, and funding streams may require this implementation table to change. The last column—Status—provides the opportunity to track changes in the implementation of an action and to provide a record of when a project or action is completed.

It is important to recognize that the tables serve as guides, and they are intended to be updated as circumstances warrant.

COST ESTIMATES

Costs will vary depending on the type of strategy described. Some recommendations may be more administratively focused and can be addressed internally by the City Administration and Council. Other recommendations will require outside professional services.

The implementation tables provide a range of costs to give a general understanding of the scope of a project. The estimated costs are categorized in three levels: High, Medium, and Low.

For the purposes of this plan, these cost ranges describe only the costs to the City and can be understood as shown in the chart below.

Estimated Cost Range	
High Cost	Over \$500,000
Medium Cost	\$100,000 to \$500,000
Low Cost	Up to \$100,000

Estimated costs are supplied for the strategy as described and does not include the potential cost with implementing the strategy. However, all action steps that support that strategy should be taken into account along with any additional steps that would be associated with implementing the strategy.

SYSTEM-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

COMFORT

This theme outlined on pages 30-41 identified recommendations that work to increase residents' comfort in their neighborhood parks, while focusing on the maintenance and resources available to help ensure consistency in the quality and safety of East Cleveland's parks.

Strategies	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/ Date Complete
PARKS ARE WELL MAINTAINED			
Increase Resources and Funding Needed to Help Care for and Maintain East Cleveland Parks	City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, East Cleveland Parks Association, NOAH, National Recreational Park Association, Cleveland Metroparks	Medium	
Inspect and Evaluate Park Amenities at All East Cleveland Parks on An Annual Basis	City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, East Cleveland Parks Association, NOAH, National Recreational Park Association, East Cleveland City Schools	Low	
Develop a System-Wide Parks Maintenance Schedule that Provides a Baseline of Care for All East Cleveland Parks	City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, East Cleveland Parks Association, Cleveland Metroparks, NOAH, National Recreational Park Association, Cleveland Metroparks	Medium	
PARKS ARE WELCOMING AND SAFE			
Ensure Park Features Enhance the Well-Being of Park Users and Enhance the Overall Appeal of All East Cleveland Parks	City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, PC for People, DigitalC, Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga County Public Works, County Planning, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Food Strong CLE	Medium	
Develop a Consistent Brand Across all East Cleveland Parks	City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, Design Professional	Medium	

COMMUNITY

This theme outlined on pages 44-57 focused on strategies for engaging residents, businesses and others to establish a variety of events and programs year-round to activate East Cleveland parks, bring together the East Cleveland community and fulfill broader community goals.

Strategies	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/ Date Complete
PARKS LEVERAGE PARTNERS			
Encourage and Promote Collaboration with the East Cleveland Parks	City of East Cleveland	Low	
Formalize Partnerships to Maximize Benefits and Outcomes	City of East Cleveland	Low	
Work with Partners to Establish Reoccurring Premier Events to Activate East Cleveland Parks	City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, East Cleveland Parks Association, East Cleveland PAL, University Circle Inc (UCI), City of Cleveland Heights, City of Cleveland, East Cleveland Neighborhood Center, Cleveland Clinic, Destination Cleveland, Local Businesses and Vendors	Medium	
Partner with Different Community Organizations and Institutions to Ensure Equity to Meet the Various Needs of the Community	City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland Clinic, Salvation Army- East Cleveland, Coit Road Farmers Market, Food Strong CLE, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, East Cleveland Neighborhood Center, Strengthening Our Students (SOS), McGregor Foundation, United of Way of Greater Cleveland	Low	
PARKS ENGAGE & INVOLVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS			
Engage Community Members in Different Ways to Stay Up To Date on Desired Park Improvements, Events and Programs	City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Salvation Army - East Cleveland, Faith Based Organizations	Low	
Provide Different Opportunities for Community Members to Get Involved and Take on an Active Role in the East Cleveland Parks	City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland Parks Association, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Faith Based Organizations, Salvation Army - East Cleveland	Low	
PARK INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE			
Promote Park Events and Programs by Utilizing Different Platforms and Leveraging Partners	City of East Cleveland, NOAH, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Public Library, Destination Cleveland, Salvation Army - East Cleveland, Coit Road Farmers Market, Local Businesses and Vendors, Faith Based Organizations, Local Media Outlets	Low	
Make Information about East Cleveland Parks Features, Amenities, and Facilities Available and Up-To-Date	City of East Cleveland	Low	
Develop and Enforce a Process to Reserve East Cleveland Parks Facilities	City of East Cleveland	Low	

CONNECTED

This theme outlined on pages 60-71 focused on strategies for improving connections to East Cleveland Parks and establishing safe and equitable access for residents and visitors of East Cleveland

Strategies	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/ Date Complete
PARKS ARE SAFELY AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE			
Develop a Citywide All Purpose Trail Network that Connects Neighborhoods to East Cleveland Parks, Greenspaces, and Regional Trails	City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, NOACA, Ohio Department of Transportation, Cuyahoga County Public Works, County Planning, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Bike Cleveland, Local Bike Advocates	High	
Improve Safety and Access to East Cleveland Parks and Greenspaces through Infrastructure & Streetscape Improvements	City of East Cleveland, (Parks and Recreation, Building and Housing, Community, Development, Service, & Finance Departments) East Cleveland Parks Association, NOAH, National Recreational Park Association, Block Groups, NOACA	High	
Increase Access to Parks and Greenspaces by Building Community Schoolyards	City of East Cleveland, East Cleveland City Schools, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Trust for Public Land, National Recreation Park Association	High	
Enhance Safety and Access to East Cleveland Parks and Greenspaces through Programs and Education	City of East Cleveland, City Engineer, NOACA, East Cleveland City Schools, County Planning, Ohio Department of Transportation, Cuyahoga County Public Works, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Bike Cleveland, Local Bike Advocates	High	

CATALYST

This theme outlined on pages 72-97 underlined the importance of aligning park improvements with the City's overall vision for the future. It also outlined the strategic physical improvements for each East Cleveland Park to make them recognizable City assets, to better support the social and recreational needs of residents and visitors, and to spark neighborhood reinvestment.

Strategies	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/ Date Complete
PARKS SUPPORT THE CITY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE			
Use Park Improvements to Help Bolster and Support East Cleveland's Community Vision	City of East Cleveland, Cleveland State University, NOAH, City Engineer, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Growth Association, County Planning, Cuyahoga County Land Bank, Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Service, Inc., Higher Learning Institutions	High	
Leverage Park Improvements to Help Encourage Redevelopment Opportunities	City of East Cleveland, Cleveland State University, NOAH, City Engineer, East Cleveland City Schools, East Cleveland Growth Association, County Planning, Cuyahoga County Land Bank	Medium	
PARKS HAVE THE APPROPRIATE FACILITIES & AMENITIES			
Identify and Implement Specific Improvements for Each East Cleveland Park	City of East Cleveland and other Partners Previously Identified	--	

SYSTEM-WIDE CHECKLIST

The System-Wide Checklist displays the improvements and actions that should be undertaken in each East Cleveland Park as the first step to bring all the parks to a minimum baseline before the more detailed Park-Specific improvements on the following pages are implemented. As funding and resources become available, the City should continue to equally distribute resources system-wide and use the checklist to keep track of those improvements as they are completed across each East Cleveland Park. For more information about the **Identify and Implement Specific Improvements for East Cleveland Parks Strategy**, see page 76.

	PATTISON PARK	SUPERIOR HILL PARK	HAWLEY PARK	MLK CIVIC CENTER	MANN AVENUE PARK	FOREST HILL PARK
SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS						
A. Remove overgrown, dead, and fallen vegetation						
B. Remove outdated or unsalvageable park amenities						
C. Develop a maintenance and trash pickup schedule						
D. Enhance Park Entrance with a standardized park sign						
E. Add emergency call boxes and pedestrian- scale lighting						
F. Update trash receptacles and consider adding dog-friendly amenities that could include waste bags						

READING THE PARK SPECIFIC CHECKLISTS

The Park-Specific Checklists outline the specific improvements for each of the parks identified in the Recommendation Section.

The Park-Specific Recommendations are grouped to correspond to the park improvement maps in the Catalyst Section of the Recommendations Document. The recommendations indicated on pages 62 through 71 should be cross-referenced when completing the Park-Specific Checklists.

The Checklists provide space for the City to fill out information for the following items: Timeframe, Funding, Status/Date Complete.

TIMEFRAME

Timeframe refers to how quickly projects could be started and completed. It is important to estimate time frames based upon local support and resources.

Placing recommendations into Short-Term, Medium-Term, and Long-Term time frames help to maximize resources and manage expectations. Short-Term recommendation includes those recommendations that are simple to execute because they can be completed with existing resources, have low costs of construction, or lack significant challenges to execution. Long-term projects can be the most intensive to execute, resulting in higher costs with significant phasing and timelines.

It is important; however, to maintain flexibility when estimating time frames. Having a project phasing strategy will allow the City to be flexible and continue to allocate resources as deemed appropriate.

FUNDING

This space can be used to keep track of how each recommendation will be funded either internally or externally. As grants become available, The City can keep track of them here. This can also help inform the recommendations' timeframe and help the City prioritize recommendations.

STATUS/ DATE COMPLETED

Lastly, this space helps keep the City stay up-to-date on progress for each of the recommendations. This will be important as many of these recommendations will have to be done in phases and require the collaboration of multiple partners.

PARK-SPECIFIC CHECKLIST

PATTISON PARK

Note: The numbers by each recommendation below corresponds to the labels on Map 3 | Pattison Park Improvement on page 59.

Recommendations	Timeframe			Funding	Status/ Date Complete
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		
ACTIVE PLAY AREA					
1. Relocate Basketball Courts & Incorporate Public Art					
2. Relocate & Update Workout Stations to be Located Along Trail					
3. Add a New Playground with a Play Set & Splash Pad					
PERFORMANCE & PLAZA SPACE					
5. Renovate Pavilion (With Update Restrooms & Concessions)					
6. Update Amphitheater (Provide Electricity & Seating)					
7. Create New Plaza Space (with Benches & Picnic Tables)					
CIVIC GREEN SPACE					
8. Maintain as Open Lawn (with New Trees, Seating, Lighting)					
MOBILITY & ACCESS					
9. Create a Multi-Purpose Loop Trail with Benches					
10. Create Entrances that Connect to Historic Stairs					
REDEVELOPMENT					
11. Consider Lot for Redevelopment					

SUPERIOR HILL PARK

Note: The numbers by each recommendation below corresponds to the labels on Map 4 | Superior Hill Park Improvements on page 61.

Recommendations	Timeframe			Funding	Status/ Date Complete
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		
PARK IMPROVEMENTS					
1. New Basketball, Tennis, and Pickleball Courts (City Engineer Concept)					
2. New Crosswalks with pedestrian refuge islands and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) as Part of the Superior road Improvement					
3. Trail Extension					
4. Additional Improvements					
▪ Picnic tables					
▪ Exercise stations					
▪ Trash receptacles					
▪ Lighting					

HAWLEY PARK

Note: The numbers by each recommendation below corresponds to the labels on Map 5 | Hawley Park Improvements on page 63.

Recommendations	Timeframe			Funding	Status/ Date Complete
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		
ENTRANCE & ACCESS					
1. Create a Protected Pedestrian Path with Landscaping & Fencing					
2. Reduce & Repave Parking					
6. Create an Interconnected Walking Pathway					
4. Create New Entrances Using Vacant Public Lots					
9. Update or Replace Perimeter Fencing					
PARK IMPROVEMENTS					
5. Designate Space for Seating & Picnic Tables					
7. Update Playground Surface Material					
8. Resurface & Repaint Existing Basketball Court as a Multi-Purpose Court					
REDEVELOPMENT					
3. Consider Adjacent Property on Euclid Avenue for Redevelopment					

MLK CIVIC CENTER

Note: The numbers by each recommendation below corresponds to the labels on Map 6 | MLK Civic Center Improvements on page 65.

Recommendations	Timeframe			Funding	Status/ Date Complete
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		
SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING					
1. Provide Wayfinding to Indoor & Outdoor Amenities					
2. Replace & Update Monument Sign					
3. Enhance Building Frontage along Shaw Avenue					
PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES & IMPROVEMENTS					
4. Create a Protected Pedestrian Zone with Removal Bollards					
5. Reduce & Repave Parking Lot					
6. Use Parking Lot for Pop-Up Events					
7. Replace Parking Area with Green Infrastructure					
12. Create an Interconnected Pedestrian Pathway					
PARK IMPROVEMENTS					
8. Update Playground Surface Material					
9. Relocate & Update Workout Stations					
10. Renovate Field into a Multi-Purpose Field					
11. Renovate Track with Durable Material					

MANN AVENUE PARK

Note: The numbers by each recommendation below corresponds to the labels on Map 5 | Mann Avenue Park Improvements on page 69.

Recommendations	Timeframe			Funding	Status/ Date Complete
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		
REDEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION OF PARK					
1. Combine Adjacent Vacant Lots to Expand Park					
5. Demolish the Industrial Building & Establish an Open Lawn					
6. Define Park Edges with Fencing & Trees					
PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES					
4. Construct a Multi-Purpose Trail with Benches					
7. Repair the Sidewalk (Shaw Avenue to St. Clair Avenue)					
PARK IMPROVEMENTS					
2. Add Mid-Sized Picnic Pavilions					
3. Build a Natural Palyground with Hills, Logs, and Boulders					

FOREST HILL PARK

Note: For more information about the recommendations pertaining to Forest Hill Park, see pages 67-78.

Recommendations	Timeframe			Funding	Status/ Date Complete
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		
PARTNERSHIPS & FUNDING					
A. Utilize the Forest Hill Park Assessment from the East Cleveland Parks Association (ECPA) to determine what areas and amenities are in the most need of maintenance before they become unsafe, unusable, or unsuitable for repair					
B. Begin fundraising strategies to facilitate park improvements outlined in the Forest Hill Park Assessment based on highest priority					
C. Implement an engagement and advocacy strategy with local partners at the regional, state, and federal levels to secure funding for necessary improvements in Forest Hill Park					
D. Determine a budget for staffing and resources to maintain Forest Hill Park					
E. Identify potential partners, organizations, and programs available to support the maintenance of Forest Hill Park					
F. Identify opportunities to transfer ownership or governance of Forest Hill Park to a Parks Commission or parks management organization					
G. Explore alternative funding methods such as endowments and partnerships that could assist with ongoing repairs and maintenance in Forest Hill Park					

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Successful implementation is made possible through the collaboration between the City and other public agencies, educational institutions, non-profits, local businesses and other local groups. The East Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Plan identified several local, regional, state and national entities with whom the City can partner to improve the East Cleveland Park System.

In many cases, the construction of projects, the establishment of programs, or the maintenance of facilities cannot be completed by the City alone and may need the assistance of partners. This assistance can come in many different forms from technical support to funding for construction and maintenance. Many funding sources are available to non-profits and community groups. Thus, it is important for the City to partner with and support these organizations, so they can implement projects that enhance East Cleveland Parks.

Potential Local Partners	Description
Cleveland Clinic-Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center	Provides preventative health services and collaborates with non-profits to fulfill other community needs such as food security
Cleveland State University	Worked with East Cleveland on the City of East Cleveland Visioning Project and could potentially provide additional technical assistance
Coit Road Farmers Market	Provides access to affordable, locally grown foods and operated by the East Cleveland Farmers Market Preservation Society (ECFM)
East Cleveland Neighborhood Center	Focused on youth educational enrichment by providing after-school and summer programs and also plans community-wide events
East Cleveland Parks Association (ECPA)	A local non-profit and volunteer group that strives to improve and maintain the East Cleveland portion of Forest Hill
East Cleveland City Schools	The public school district for East Cleveland
Foodstrong	Focused on increasing access to local foods through community events and education, developing youth entrepreneurship, connecting the community to vital services, and beautifying the community through murals
Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH)	Committed to the revitalization of East Cleveland through partnerships, community engagement and place-making projects such as at Pattison Park
East Cleveland Public Library	Provides various services and facilities, promotes local events and also collaborates with others to put on community events
recessCLE	Partners with various organizations to plan pop-up events that increase access to playtime often using vacant lots and underutilized parks
Salvation Army East Cleveland	Works with the City and other organizations to connects community members to vital resources and also provides education enrichment program
University Circle Inc.	Responsible for developing, serving, and advocating for University Circle through beautification projects, events and business development

Potential Regional Partners	Description
Cuyahoga County Board of Health	Leads the Creating Healthy Community (CHC) Program which strives to increase active living and increase access to healthy foods and identifies Ease Cleveland as a priority
Cleveland Metroparks	Spans more than 24,000 acres across Northeast Ohio, including 18 park reservations, eight golf courses, and a nationally acclaimed Zoo and serves 49 communities
Cuyahoga Land Bank	Acquires vacant and abandoned foreclosed properties to return them to productive use and works closely with cities to effectively deal with code enforcement issues
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA)	Provides resources for bus stop considerations and design and works closely with Cities to engage the community
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)	Provides technical and financial assistance for transportation-related matters to communities in the northeast Ohio region
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS)	Leads effective wastewater and stormwater management in the region through green infrastructure projects such as in East Cleveland

Potential State Partners	Description
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	Through its urban program, Thriving Communities, it works statewide to create healthier urban environments by transforming vacant lots and increasing the tree canopy
Central State University Extension	Provides technical assistance to urban and rural communities in areas such as community development and revitalization, agribusiness, and small business development
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)	Offers several grants to entities and individuals to help further resource management and enjoyment
Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Supports the state highway system and promotes transportation initiatives statewide such as active transportation
Ohio State University Extension	Provide technical assistance and educational resources in areas such as community development and agriculture and natural resources

Potential National Partners	Description
National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA)	Supports the parks and recreation sector through professional development, advocacy, grants and programs, research, publications and more
Trust for Public Land	Works closely with communities to create, protect, and advance nature-rich places such as parks, schoolyards and trails

FUNDING STRATEGIES

There are various funding strategies available to help the City of East Cleveland adequately maintain and enhance its parks. In many cases, the City will need to utilize a combination of methods to close funding gaps and achieve the desired outcomes. In the next couple of pages there are several funding options typically available to help maintain and enhance parks. Some of these options are not directly done by or led by the City; rather, the City can play an important supporting role by encouraging community members and organizations. Each option needs to be evaluated to determine if it fulfills both short term needs and long term goals. Any funding approach requires a considered and formed implementation strategy paired with a long-term commitment to deliver results and strengthen East Cleveland Parks.

GENERAL FUND

A city's general operating fund or budget typically pays for most park operations and expenses. This revenue primarily comes from taxes and is allocated to various city departments and citywide functions through city council and its annual budget processes. In many cities across the US, funding for parks is often the first budget item cut when there is a fiscal decline in municipal revenues and the last to increase when the local economy rebounds. The City should continue local efforts to advocate and educate community members about the benefits of parks. As redevelopment continues and the City starts to grow, funding for East Cleveland Parks should be prioritized.

PERMIT & PROGRAMMING FEES

Charging fees for the use of park areas for programming is one of the most common methods to generate parks and recreation revenue without taxing residents. Permit fees apply to the reservation of park amenities such as picnic pavilions, picnic tables, sports fields, playgrounds and amphitheaters for private gatherings or special large-scale events. Permit fees should take into account the direct and indirect costs of providing exclusive use of the park space or facility and the maintenance cost. Charging permit & programming fees can act as accountability measures to ensure park amenities and facilities are being used responsibly and remain in high quality. Any damages or issues from a reservation can then be handled and paid for in a timely manner.

DONATIONS

Individual or corporate donations can be a method to help gather funds for specific projects or for general park operations. Having a clearly stated mission and outlined goals or initiatives is important to garner support and encourage donations from individuals, groups or corporations with similar priorities. Parks and Recreation agencies will often leverage their mission statement to request donations. Donations can be in different forms:

- Individual or corporate cash donations to a specific park project, specific park initiatives or for general park operations
- Donation of services (i.e., park design, construction, and maintenance, etc.) or equipment by organizations or local businesses
- Donation of park amenities and park features through a Commemorative Program

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsorship is a common funding tool used by parks and recreation agencies to attract businesses and corporations to invest in their parks' operation and programming. Developing a sponsorship program requires strategy and coordination. Developing a successful sponsorship program entails: promoting the parks and recreation agency by having its mission and purpose clearly stated; providing different levels of sponsorship with various opportunities for companies to get exposure and recognition (i.e., company logo on marketing material; naming rights on park venues or park amenities; advertisement options; representation at special events, etc.); and clearly outlining the sponsorship process including the expectations and terms. Sponsorships can be very helpful for large-scale events or projects.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events are one way parks and recreation agencies generate revenue either as a once-a-year fundraising event or as smaller reoccurring fundraising events. Special events can be large undertakings that require a lot of staff time and dedication, volunteers, meticulous budgeting, clear communication, and coordination. Special events are a great opportunity to promote the parks and recreation agency, highlight park programs and offerings, and energize the community. Special events can help a parks and recreation agency gain additional investment from donations, sponsors, and volunteers

CONCESSIONS

Selling food can increase park visitation which may also help activate current and existing events, thus providing more revenue-generating opportunities. Selling food and drinks in designated areas within the East Cleveland Parks is a potential revenue generating option. For example, the concessions stand in Pattison Park, once reconstructed, could be used to sell food and merchandise during the summer months. Many park systems do not manage this operation internally, but instead find it more profitable to have outside groups, organizations, or businesses run restaurants, coffee shops, and snack services for park patrons. East Cleveland could find local or regional businesses to run a Pattison Snack Bar and generate revenue for the city through either a lease agreement or percentage of sales. Utilizing local restaurants, hiring local staff, and having community-focused events and concessions that reflect the City of East Cleveland and its interests is essential.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are essential to help fund park projects when internal resources are limited and the competition for grant funding is high. Benefits of partnerships include: shared resources and increased capacity for programming and funding of a mutually beneficial program or project; shared risks and costs; eligibility for more grants and other funding opportunities. Partnerships can also help secure private contributions for large-scale projects. Formal partnership agreements are important to make sure responsibilities and goals are clearly outlined and coordinated.

ADOPT-A-PARK/ADOPT-A-TRAIL

These city-led programs are easy low-cost opportunities for residents, churches, businesses and other local organizations to show their dedication to public spaces by volunteering to take responsibility of the maintenance and enhancement of a park or trail. In addition to being volunteer programs that help increase on-the-ground capacity, these programs can also operate as small grant programs that help support repairs, renovations, or new construction. The operation of these programs can be funded through corporate sponsorships, individual donations, and other external contributions.

East Cleveland could benefit from creating an official Adopt-A-Park Program that provides: a designated application form; a standardized maintenance schedule; a manual or list of responsibility and expectation; training; and necessary supplies or equipment. Although there are various groups that already host clean-up and tree planting events at East Cleveland Parks (e.g., NOAH at Pattison Park), an official Adopt-A-Park Program, could streamline and expand maintenance efforts and encourage more groups to volunteer.

PARKS' FRIENDS GROUPS

These groups are generally formed by residents and community members who are dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of a specific park through fundraising and volunteer work. The East Cleveland Parks Association (ECPA) is a local example of a Friends' Association created to raise funds to improve and maintain Forest Hill Park. The ECPA has acquired grants and utilized local volunteers to help meet park and community needs in East Cleveland. They have maintained areas in Forest Hill Park and have also helped fund capital improvements such as new gateway signage. The City should work with this group to leverage their expertise, connections, and resources to help promote the creation of additional groups and to acquire funding for other parks in East Cleveland beyond Forest Hill, thus continuing its mission and improving the entire community.

For more information on forming Parks Friends' Groups, visit: https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/Americas_Backyard/park-advocate-handbook-100711.pdf

PARK CONSERVANCY

A park conservancy is a private non-profit organization that supports the advocacy, maintenance, and capital improvements for specific parks and/or park systems. In many cases, Park Conservancies have begun to play a prominent role in park operations and development, having grown in influence in recent years due to a reduction in public funding for parks. Their independence from municipal elections and requirements is one attractive feature that gives them a unique ability to raise and distribute funds in a variety of ways. However, it is important for a city to keep in mind that giving up public control and oversight of parks can potentially lead to clashes between the private interests of a park conservancy and the general public's needs and desires.

For more information on Park Conservancies, visit: https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/files_upload/ccpe-Parks-Conservancy-Report.pdf

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Special Districts such as a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) or Special Improvement District (SID) are two options where money collected in a designated area can be used for unique services such as park improvements, event operations, and maintenance. In a SID, property owners in a defined geographic area elect to pay an additional assessment in order to fund public improvements and services that may benefit the district. These improvements are aimed at improving the vibrancy, safety, and cleanliness of the area and could include park improvements, ambassadors, or maintenance operations. As Euclid Avenue continues to be redeveloped and businesses start to grow, a SID should be considered. Parks near a business district, such as Hawley Park on Euclid Avenue, would benefit the most from this type of Special District.

For more information on SIDs, visit: <https://www.countyplanning.us/resources/guidebooks/special-improvement-districts-guidebook/>

In a TIF district, municipalities issue bonds to pay for the cost of infrastructure or other eligible improvement projects as part of redevelopment. As new buildings and projects are completed, the increased future property tax revenues in the TIF district are captured and used to retire the debt that was created to fund the public improvement projects within the community. In many cities, TIF revenue has been used towards park maintenance, improvements, or acquisition.

For more information on TIF districts, visit: <https://development.ohio.gov/business/state-incentives/tax-increment-financing>

GRANTS

Grant funding provides significant opportunities for communities and organizations to acquire capital for projects throughout Ohio and the United States. With limited internal funding, the City East Cleveland Parks needs to be diligent about pursuing grants and having a Grant Writer would be instrumental for acquiring those grants. Applying to various grants can be a large undertaking that requires specific attention and time, thus having an experienced Grant Writer is of utmost importance to be able to acquire the necessary grants in a timely manner.

EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

The table below lists specific grants, loans, and other funding programs that can help pay for or reduce costs for the various improvements recommended in this Plan. Municipalities, non-profits, or community members can be eligible applicants. Thus, partnerships are important to get access to some of these funding sources. Each funding source listed includes: the funding source name; the agency/organization responsible; a brief description; the most recent URL Link; and the relevant themes that the funding source can address.

FUNDING SOURCE	RELEVANT THEMES
<p>AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT AARP</p> <p>Provides small grants to fund that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Eligible projects include: improved housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. Areas of focus include: creating vibrant public spaces; delivering a range of transportation and mobility options; and other community improvements.</p> <p>https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/</p>	<p>Comfort, Connected, Community</p>
<p>BARK FOR YOUR PARK GRANT PET SAFE</p> <p>Awards eight communities with the funding to break ground on a new dog park, tailored to the needs and desires of the community. Additionally, the grant program awards five existing dog park communities with funding for maintenance and improvement of their current dog park</p> <p>https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com</p>	<p>Comfort, Catalyst</p>
<p>CLEAN OHIO TRAILS FUND OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)</p> <p>Provides grant funding for outdoor recreational trails with a special focus on completing regional trail systems, linking population centers with recreation areas, re-purposing rail lines, preserving natural corridors, and providing links in urban areas</p> <p>https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/apply-for-grants/grants/clean-ohio-trails-fund</p>	<p>Connected</p>
<p>CUYAHOGA ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECT SUPPORT GRANTS CUYAHOGA ARTS AND CULTURE (CAC)</p> <p>Provides grant support to organizations such as community development corporations for arts and cultural projects that are open to the public and revolve around topics such as literature, theatre, music, motion pictures, and architecture</p> <p>www.cacgrants.org/grant-programs/</p>	<p>Comfort</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP GRANTS DOMINION ENERGY</p> <p>Provides up to \$50,000 to non-profits or \$5,000 to K-12 Schools for short-term projects that improve the environment and/or provide meaningful educational opportunities.</p> <p>https://www.dominionenergy.com/our-company/customers-and-community/charitable-foundation</p>	<p>Connected, Community</p>

FUNDING SOURCE	RELEVANT THEMES
<p>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (NEORSD)</p> <p>Provides grants for professional services such as design and engineering costs, structural analysis, and construction costs for stream restoration and innovative stormwater management practices in combined sewer areas.</p> <p>www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/green-infrastructure-grant-program/</p>	<p>Connected, Comfort</p>
<p>IN OUR BACKYARD (IOBY) PROJECT CROWD SOURCING IOBY CLEVELAND</p> <p>Gives local leaders the ability to crowdfund the resources they need towards a community project that builds real, lasting change. IOBY acts as the project's fiscal sponsor and provides fundraising and implementation coaching.</p> <p>https://ioby.org/campaign/cleveland</p>	<p>Community</p>
<p>KABOOM! GRANTS KABOOM</p> <p>Partners with both municipal agencies and child-serving non-profits to build, open or improve playgrounds.</p> <p>https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com</p>	<p>Comfort, Catalyst</p>
<p>KEEP OHIO BEAUTIFUL PAINT GRANT PROGRAM KEEP OHIO BEAUTIFUL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SHERWIN-WILLIAMS</p> <p>Provide affiliates & community groups with supplies enabling them to renew a community structure in need into something beautiful through the application of Sherwin-Williams paint along with supporting volunteers</p> <p>https://keepohiobeautiful.org/national-painting-week/</p>	<p>Comfort</p>
<p>LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)</p> <p>Provides up to 50% reimbursement assistance for state and local government subdivisions (townships, villages, cities, counties, park districts, joint recreation districts, and conservancy districts) for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.</p> <p>https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/apply-for-grants/grants/land-water-conservation-fund</p>	<p>Catalyst</p>
<p>NRPA GRANTS NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA)</p> <p>NRPA partners with foundations to provide grants for projects in parks, such as the Walk With Ease Grant, which is a partnership between the NRPA and the Centers for Disease Control, and the NFL Play 60 After-School Kick Off Grant, a partnership with the NFL Network to fund fields, equipment and staff.</p> <p>www.nrpa.org/grant-fundraising-resources</p>	<p>Connected</p>

FUNDING SOURCE	RELEVANT THEMES
<p>NATUREWORKS GRANT PROGRAM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)</p> <p>Provides up to 75% reimbursement assistance for local government subdivisions (townships, villages, cities, counties, park districts, joint recreation districts, and conservancy districts) to for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.</p> <p>https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/apply-for-grants/grants/natureworks</p>	Catalyst, Comfort
<p>NEIGHBOR UP ACTION GRANTS NEIGHBOR UP</p> <p>Provides funding, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 towards small, grassroots community projects. Grants can go towards a variety of project within the following focus areas: Arts & Culture, Sustainability, City Repair, Civic Participation, Communications, Covid-19, Digital/Education/ Health/ Racial Equity, Outdoors.</p> <p>https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com</p>	Comfort, Community
<p>PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANT PEOPLE FOR BIKES AND BIKE INDUSTRY PARTNERS</p> <p>Provides grants to non-profit organizations and governments with a focus on bicycling infrastructure, active transportation, or community development such as bike paths, bike racks, and open streets programs.</p> <p>https://www.peopleforbikes.org/grant-guidelines</p>	Connected, Comfort
<p>RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES</p> <p>Provides funding for: development of urban trail linkages, trail head and trailside facilities; maintenance of existing trails; restoration of trail areas damaged by usage; improvement of access for people with disabilities; acquisition of easements and property; development and construction of new trails; and development of environment and safety education programs.</p> <p>https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/apply-for-grants/grants/recreational-trails-program</p>	Comfort, Connected, Community
<p>RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)</p> <p>Provides free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise from conception to completion. Assistance can include visioning and planning, developing concept plans for trails, parks and natural areas, setting priorities and identifying funding sources.</p> <p>https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm</p>	Connected
<p>ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION FUNDS ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION</p> <p>Provides funding for an array of projects that improve community health and the health care system with a focus on non-infrastructure projects. Funding is typically aimed at nonprofits.</p> <p>https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-explorer/funding-opportunities.html</p>	Community

FUNDING SOURCE	RELEVANT THEMES
<p>ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION GRANTS ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION</p> <p>Provides grants to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world with a focus in the United States on transportation planning, infrastructure policy, and sustainability</p> <p>www.rockefellerfoundation.org</p>	<p>Connected</p>
<p>THE GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION GRANTS GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION</p> <p>Provides grants to the Greater Cleveland community in five areas of focus: arts, economic development & community revitalization, education, environment, and human services</p> <p>www.gundfoundation.org</p>	<p>Comfort, Community, Catalyst</p>
<p>THE KRESGE FOUNDATION GRANTS KRESGE FOUNDATION</p> <p>Provides grants to non-profit organizations and government agencies seeking financial assistance for projects that contribute to improving health at the community level with a focus on arts & culture, education, environment, health, human services, etc.</p> <p>https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com</p>	<p>Comfort, Community</p>
<p>TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ASSISTANCE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)</p> <p>Provides planning expertise on community-based multimodal transportation projects. The program improves safety and efficiency, and preserves the transportation system. Projects will produce implementable recommendations within an attainable budget. Communities are encouraged to pursue innovative solutions.</p> <p>https://www.noaca.org/community-assistance-center/planning-assistance</p>	<p>Connected</p>
<p>TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI) PLANNING GRANTS NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)</p> <p>Provides assistance to communities and public agencies for integrated transportation and land use planning studies that can lead to transportation system and neighborhood improvements such as complete bicycle networks or transit-oriented developments</p> <p>https://www.noaca.org/community-assistance-center/funding-programs/tlci-planning-assistance</p>	<p>Connected</p>
<p>TREE FUND GRANTS TREE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND</p> <p>Provides grants to support the development of arboriculture education programs and materials that encourage children to learn about the environment as well as research into arboriculture and urban forestry</p> <p>https://treefund.org/</p>	<p>Comfort</p>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Park and Recreation Professionals' Guide to Fundraising | National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA)

This resource provides step-by-step guidance on how to start a successful fundraising program. This includes information on creating an internal funding team, budgeting, developing partnerships, and identifying different funding sources.

Source Link: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/best-practice-resources/park-and-recreation-professionals-guide-to-fundraising/>

Closing the GAP: Public and Private Funding Strategies | Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and City Parks Alliance

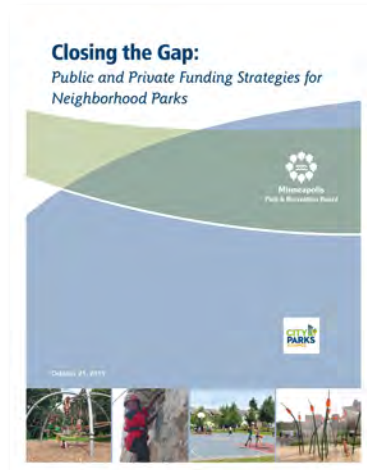
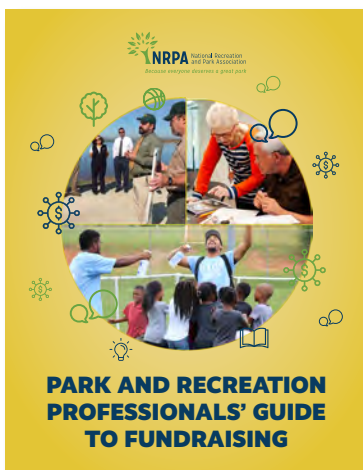
This resource contains techniques and strategies to address funding gaps for capital and maintenance for neighborhood park systems. It is based on extensive literature review and interviews with park professionals from eleven urban park systems. This resource is divided into two sections: Part One is an overview of various funding strategies and Part Two contains case studies.

Source Link: <https://cityparksalliance.org/resource/neighborhood-park-funding-strategies/>

Funding & Resources Guidebook | Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

The Funding and Resources Guidebook is a library of grants, tools, and available assistance in Cuyahoga County. The Guidebook provides useful information to the communities and eligible nonprofit organizations of Cuyahoga County that provide services to citizens. It can be utilized to find funders that will pay for projects and resources to help in the delivery of services. The Introduction page provides tips on how to use the Guidebook and what to think about when writing a grant.

Source Link: <https://www.countyplanning.us/resources/guidebooks/funding-and-resources-guidebook/>



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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

The East Cleveland Park System is expansive and historic, with parks established by famed philanthropists and boasting amenities that would be the envy of other communities. With 213 acres of parkland, East Cleveland has a tremendous system to build on.

Parks are incredibly important to communities. Essential to the health and well-being of citizens, parks have been described as the "lungs of the City" due to the environmental benefits they provide. The National Recreation and Park Association tracks park benefits and have found that an acre of trees absorbs the carbon dioxide of driving a car 11,000 miles; that increased access to parks leads to a 25% increase in people exercising; and that access to parks can reduce childhood obesity. More generally, parks are places to experience nature, build community, and improve health.

OUR PURPOSE

The East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan aims to describe a vision for parks in East Cleveland as a way to guide actions, boost investment, and improve the condition and safety of the City's parks. The plan is being developed by the City of East Cleveland in collaboration with residents, neighborhood groups, and regional entities. It is a long-term guide for how the community wants to improve its park system to benefit both current and future residents.



The Lake in Forest Hill Park in 1939

EAST CLEVELAND

PARK OVERVIEW



213
ACRES OF
PARKLAND



7
PARKS



12.3
ACRES PER
1,000 RESIDENTS





90%

**RESIDENTS WITHIN
TEN MINUTE
WALK OF A PARK**



2.4

**MILES OF
TRAILS**



99%

**STREETS WITH
SIDEWALKS**

FOREST HILL PARK

Source: County Planning



FOREST HILL PARK

East Cleveland, Ohio
Source: Flickr user Mark Souther



SECTION 1

PARKS & GREENSPACE PROFILE

This Section provides an overview of existing parks and greenspaces in East Cleveland and compares them to national metrics for the size, type, and amenities of similar park systems. It also includes an overview of regional park amenities and identifies areas of park need.

Included in this Section are the following analyses:

- Parks & Greenspace Analysis, page 138
- Citywide Inventory, page 142
- Forest Hill Park, page 144
- Pattison Park, page 148
- Superior Hill Park, page 150
- Hawley Park, page 152
- MLK Civic Center, page 154
- Mann Avenue Park, page 156
- Regional Parks Analysis, page 158
- Park Needs Assessment, page 160

PARKS & GREENSPACE ANALYSIS

The parks and greenspaces in the City of East Cleveland range from small neighborhood greens to expansive, formal parks. This analysis identified all of the existing parks, greenspaces, and other open spaces in the City to determine the amount of parkland available to residents.

CITY PARKS & GREENSPACES

The City of East Cleveland has seven major parks as shown on Map 11. Together these total 213.2 acres and account for 10.7% of the City's total land area. This equates to 12.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Based on an analysis of the size and function of the City's parks, County Planning classified them as Neighborhood, Community, or Regional Parks. The tally includes four Neighborhood Parks, two Community Parks, and one Regional Park as shown in Figure 10.

Two parks, Forest Hill and Caledonia, are split between the Cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. The acreages for the Cleveland Heights portions are shown in the table, but calculations of parks per person only include the East Cleveland portions of the parks.



Pattison Park is a community park featuring 13 acres of picnic areas, basketball courts, and other amenities.

Source: County Planning

FIGURE 10
PARKS & GREENSPACES

	Park	Acres	City
Neighborhood Parks	Hawley	2.4 ac	E. Cleveland
	Mann Avenue	1.1 ac	E. Cleveland
	Superior Hill	6.1 ac	E. Cleveland
	Caledonia	5.3 ac 9.3 ac	E. Cleveland Cleveland Hts
Community Parks	MLK Civic Center	9.3 ac	E. Cleveland
	Pattison	13.0 ac	E. Cleveland
Regional Parks	Forest Hill	176.0 ac	E. Cleveland
		73.3 ac	Cleveland Hts
TOTAL ACREAGE		213.2 ac	(East Cleveland Only)

OTHER GREENSPACES AND RECREATION AREAS

In addition to traditional park spaces, the City of East Cleveland has other greenspaces and recreation areas available to residents. Not all of these spaces are open to residents at all times; however, they are components of the complete recreation environment available.

The City of East Cleveland has 12 other spaces on this list, including five public school sites, two indoor spaces, and five other open spaces as shown in the table to the right. These areas total 139.3 acres of land, accounting for 7.0% of the total land area of the City. Importantly, many of these acres are taken up by buildings such as schools and market halls which limit the amount of usable space for outdoor recreation. This calculation does not include the MLK Civic Center, which is separately listed as a City park.

PREVIOUS PARKS & GREENSPACES

The 2003 East Cleveland Master Plan included a detailed overview of existing parks and greenspaces throughout the community as well as recommendations for improvements or changes. The planning document included a description of a series of small, neighborhood or pocket parks that existed at the time of the Plan. These included the following:

- Coit Avenue Park
- Delmont Avenue Park
- Mayfair School Park
- Northfield Avenue Park
- Scioto Avenue Park
- Strathmore Avenue Park
- Wadena Park

These previous parks no longer qualify in today's analysis for a variety of reasons. The 2003 Master Plan recommended that Coit Avenue Park, Scioto Avenue Park, and Strathmore Avenue Park be removed due to their small size and limited functionality. Delmont Avenue Park, Northfield Avenue Park, and Wadena Park were all identified as small parks that could be retained, expanded, or replaced; however, the ensuing Great Recession left many of these former parks as unmaintained lots that are not functioning as park spaces. Finally, Mayfair School Park was rebuilt as part of the demolition and reconstruction of Mayfair Elementary School. It currently functions as a neighborhood park and playground but is owned and maintained by the East Cleveland School District and is listed under Other Parks & Greenspaces.

FIGURE 11
OTHER GREENSPACES AND RECREATION AREAS

	Park	Acres	Location
Public Schools	Superior Elem.	3.1 ac	E. Cleveland
	Chambers Elem.	10.2 ac	E. Cleveland
	Mayfair Elem.	3.9 ac	E. Cleveland
	Heritage Middle	11.2 ac	E. Cleveland
	Shaw High	13.5 ac	E. Cleveland
Indoor Spaces	MLK Civic Center	9.3 ac*	E. Cleveland
	Coit Road Farmers Market	1.8 ac	E. Cleveland
Other Open Spaces	Lake View Cemetery	74.4 ac	E. Cleveland
		120.2 ac	Cleveland Hts
		89.9 ac	Cleveland
	NEORSD Green Infra. #1	2.4 ac	E. Cleveland
	NEORSD Green Infra. #2	5.6 ac	E. Cleveland
	Former Huron Hospital Site	11.9 ac	E. Cleveland
	Former Rozelle Elementary Site	1.3 ac	E. Cleveland
TOTAL ACREAGE*		139.3 ac	(E. Cleveland Only)

*MLK Civic Center acreage not included in total as it is listed in Figure 11

COMPARISON TO NATIONAL METRICS

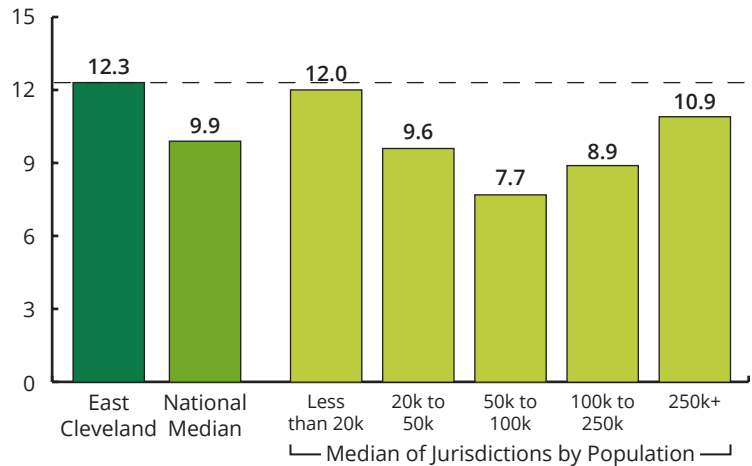
The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) established guidelines in 1987 to assess recreation needs by providing communities with general benchmarks for types and amounts of park acreage needed for a given population. More recently, the NRPA determined that these 'standards' did not reflect the unique circumstances of the nation's communities and replaced them with benchmarks and comparison communities to help customize the comparisons for communities of different sizes, regions, and budgets.

The National Recreation and Park Association maintains a database with self-reported information on 1,075 park systems and agencies across the United States. The data is useful in understanding how similar communities compare to East Cleveland in the size and number of parks.

Figure 12 shows the acres of parkland located within East Cleveland compared to the national median and to various jurisdictions based on their population sizes. At 12.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, East Cleveland has more park acres per resident than the national median as well as more acres per resident than the median for other communities with fewer than 20,000 residents.

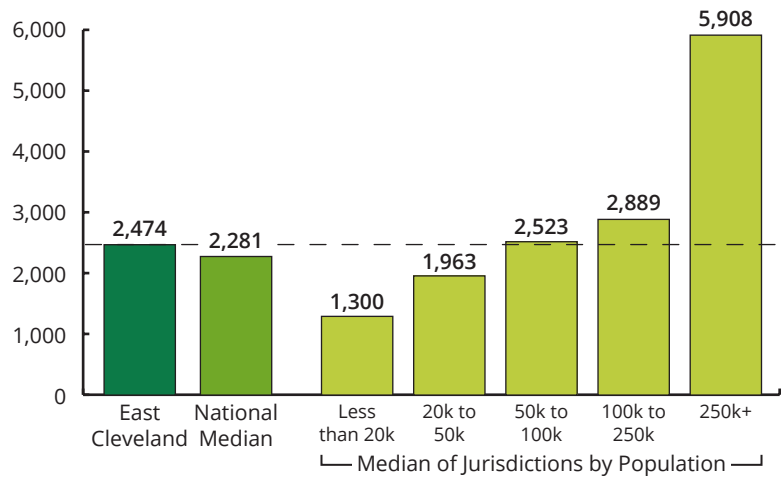
Figure 13 shows the number of residents per park in East Cleveland. On average, each of the seven parks in East Cleveland serve 2,474 residents. This is slightly more residents per park than the national median and more than similarly sized communities.

FIGURE 12
ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS



Source: County Planning; National Recreation and Parks Association, "2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks"

FIGURE 13
RESIDENTS PER PARK



Source: County Planning; National Recreation and Parks Association, "2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks"

Together these comparisons indicate that East Cleveland has more expansive parklands than most communities, but they are clustered in a slightly smaller number of total parks than the median.

CITYWIDE INVENTORY

The citywide inventory lists the type and number of amenities and features for City-maintained parks in East Cleveland. It can be used to understand the opportunities for recreation in the community.

BUILDING THE INVENTORY

The inventory shown in Figure 15 on page 143 was completed through in-person site visits, aerial imagery, proprietary fly-over imagery, previous studies, and consultations with governmental agencies. It does not account for the quality of amenities, which are in various states of repair. Rather, the inventory identifies the number of amenities as if they were in usable condition to show how a fully repaired park system as presently configured could serve residents.

The inventory does not include any features or amenities in Caledonia Park, as all amenities in the park are located on the Cleveland Heights side.

An inventory of amenities in Forest Hill Park was completed in 2019 for both East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. Because of the park's size, this

inventory was not fully reproduced, and data from the previous park inventory was used. In some instances, the amenities and features listed account for only those amenities in East Cleveland as they were easily resurveyed, while in other cases all park amenities are listed.

COMPARISONS TO NATIONAL METRICS

The NRPA metrics provide a comparison of the number of amenities communities provide per person. In measuring East Cleveland against parks and recreation agencies nationwide and in similarly sized cities, East Cleveland performs very well. East Cleveland has more basketball courts, tennis courts, and playsets per resident than agencies nationally. East Cleveland lags in multi-purpose fields, with only one field for all 17,321 residents compared to one field per 8,150 residents among all agencies with this amenity. These comparisons are shown in Figure 14.

FIGURE 14
PERSONS PER AMENITY AND FEATURE, EAST CLEVELAND AND COMPARISON COMMUNITIES

Amenity or Feature	Total in East Cleveland	Persons per Amenity			% of All Agencies with Amenity
		East Cleveland	All Agencies	Jurisdictions Less than 20,000 People	
Basketball Courts	6 Courts	2,887	7,400	4,090	86.5%
Tennis Courts	14 Courts	1,237	5,004	2,922	81.1%
Multi-Purpose Fields	1 Field	17,321	8,150	4,689	64.5%
Playset/Swings	7 Playsets	2,474	3,750	2,523	93.9%
Recreation Centers	1 Center	17,321	31,141	8,916	61.0%
Performance Area	1 Amphitheater	17,321	62,475	10,812	35.0%

Source: County Planning; Cleveland Metroparks, "Forest Hill Park Assessment," 2019; National Recreation and Park Association, 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review

FIGURE 15
PARK AMENITIES AND FEATURES, EAST CLEVELAND

Amenity or Feature		Forest Hill Park	Pattison Park	Superior Hill Park	Hawley Park	MLK Civic Center	Mann Park	Total
Recreational Elements	Basketball Courts	1	2	1	2	-	-	6 Courts
	Tennis Courts	8	6	-	-	-	-	14 Courts
	Baseball Fields	4	2	1	-	-	1	8 Fields
	Football/Soccer Fields	-	-	-	-	1	-	1 Field
	Track	-	-	-	-	1	-	1 Track
	Bleachers	21*	3	-	-	3	-	27 Bleachers
	Fitness Stations	-	5	-	-	6	-	11 Stations
Site Features	Trash Cans	104*	2	-	4	7	-	117 Cans
	Permanent Benches	47*	13	-	9	2	-	71 Benches
	Grills	16*	-	-	1	2	-	19 Grills
	Bike Racks	2*	-	-	-	1	-	3 Racks
	Picnic Tables	45*	8	-	2	4	2	61 Tables
	Playset/Swings	2	1	2	1	1	-	7 Playsets
	Signage	9*	1	-	1	1	-	12 Signs
Infrastructure	Trails/Sidewalks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
	Parking Lots/Drives	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
	Fencing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
	Walls	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	-
Utilities	Water Lines	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Drinking Fountain	5*	-	-	-	-	-	5 Fountains
	Fire Hydrant	4*	1	-	-	1	-	6 Hydrants
	Light Poles	91*	11	3	5	11	1	122 Poles
	Storm Lines	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sanitary Lines	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings/ Structures	Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	3	1	-	2	1	-	7 Shelters
	Concession Stands	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 Stand
	Restrooms	2	1	-	-	-	-	3 Restrooms
	Performance Area	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 Stage
	Other Buildings	5*	-	-	-	-	-	5 Buildings
	Historic Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-

*Includes amenities and features in both East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights

**Caledonia Park is not listed as all park amenities are located on the Cleveland Heights side of the park

Source: County Planning; Cleveland Metroparks, "Forest Hill Park Assessment," 2019

FOREST HILL PARK

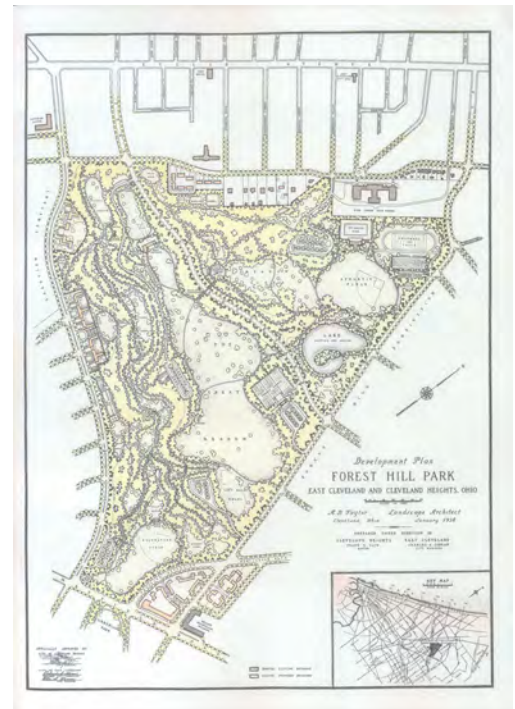
Forest Hill Park is the largest park in East Cleveland, and it rivals the size, natural features, and amenities of many regional parks. The park has a unique history and an important place in the development of East Cleveland and surrounding communities.

HISTORY

The modern history of Forest Hill Park began around 1873 when John D. Rockefeller, Sr. purchased the first 79-acre tract of land that would later become the park. Rockefeller originally intended to use the land for economic purposes: as a sanatorium, a place of public resort, and a summer club. These ventures ultimately failed, and the Rockefellers adopted Forest Hill and its 75-room Queen Anne style home as the family's summer residence. The family constructed carriage paths, installed landscaping, and laid out a golf course while leaving much of the original wooded land intact. Even after moving to New York in 1884, the family spent many summers in Forest Hill.

In 1915 Rockefeller's wife, Laura Spelman Rockefeller, died, and a fire gutted the mansion two years later. John D. Rockefeller, Sr. opted to sell the land to his only son, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. in 1923. The younger son developed plans for a residential neighborhood on part of the site, in which 81 homes were built that can now be seen in East Cleveland's Forest Hill Historic District. Upon the death of his father in 1937, Rockefeller Jr. offered to donate the remaining land to the Cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights for the development of Forest Hill Park.

To transform the estate into a park, A.D. Taylor, the President of the American Society of Landscape Architects, was hired. Taylor developed a plan for the park in 1938, which was adopted by the Cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights shortly thereafter. The plan used many existing site features, including converting the carriage paths into trails, enlarging the boating pond and adding a boat house, and converting the golf course into the Great Meadow. Over the course of the next twelve years, these and many other features were added to the park, largely funded by the Works Progress Administration.



The 1938 Development Plan for Forest Hill Park was developed by A.D. Taylor and displayed the proposed park layout, features, and amenities.

Source: Cleveland Public Library

In the years following the death of A.D. Taylor in 1951, investments continued to be made in Forest Hill Park, some of which deviated from his initial plan. The City of Cleveland Heights constructed a complex of ballfields that replaced part of the Great Meadow and added a Community Center along Mayfield Road. Around the same time, however, a number of social and fiscal issues in East Cleveland limited new investments on that side of the park. While the East Cleveland side shows significant maintenance issues today, this has preserved many original features and landscapes of the park, which remains a treasured part of East Cleveland.

PARK OVERVIEW

Forest Hill is a Regional Park split between East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. It encompasses a total of 249.3 acres, with 176.0 acres in the City of East Cleveland. The parkland within East Cleveland is owned by the City of East Cleveland and goes by the original name of the park as identified in the 1938 A.D. Taylor Park Plan: Forest Hill Park. In Cleveland Heights, the park has occasionally gone by Forest Hills Park and the Boulevard running through the park likewise has been termed Forest Hills Boulevard. For the purpose of this plan, both sides of the park have been termed "Forest Hill Park."

Park maintenance falls to the Cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights; however, many groups participate in the maintenance of the park, including the East Cleveland Parks Association and other regional entities. As part of the original agreement establishing the park, a joint committee from East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights is required to approve changes to the park, but this committee does not meet regularly.

Measured by those living within a 1/2 mile walk of park entrances, Forest Hill serves an estimated population of 5,555 East Clevelanders, including 1,000 children. Because of its location straddling the border of Cleveland Heights, this park also serves residents of Cleveland Heights, which has constructed its Community Center at the park's southern edge on Mayfield Road.

SITE FEATURES

Forest Hill Park is the largest park in East Cleveland and offers unparalleled amenities that are only possible due to its size, terrain, and history. The East Cleveland side of the park includes a lake and boat house, a sledding hill, lawn bowling areas, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and a series of wooded trails. The park also features historic elements including a pedestrian bridge, restrooms, and other structures dating from the early 20th Century. Because of its location along the Portage Escarpment, the park also provides views of Lake Erie from certain points along the ridge.

Most of the amenities within Forest Hill Park require significant maintenance. Despite the best efforts of volunteer organizations who have dedicated thousands of hours to park maintenance, a 2019 assessment of the park concluded that the existing features would require \$12M to \$14M to replace the obsolete and worn infrastructure.

FIGURE 16
FOREST HILL PARK OVERVIEW

Park Features		
Acreage	176.0 Acres (East Cleveland)	
	73.3 Acres (Cleveland Heights)	
Ownership	East Cleveland/Cleveland Hts	
Maintenance	East Cleveland/Cleveland Hts	
Population in 1/2 Mile Walk Shed		
Children	1,000	18.0%
Young Adults	1,165	21.0%
Working Age	2,101	37.8%
Seniors	1,290	23.2%
Total Population	5,555	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	44.9 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

FOREST HILL PARK AMENITY OVERVIEW

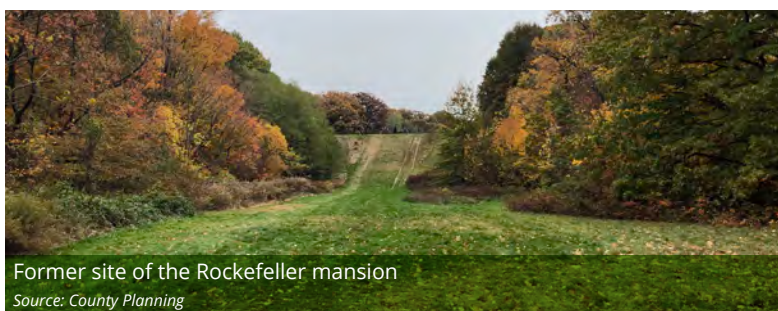
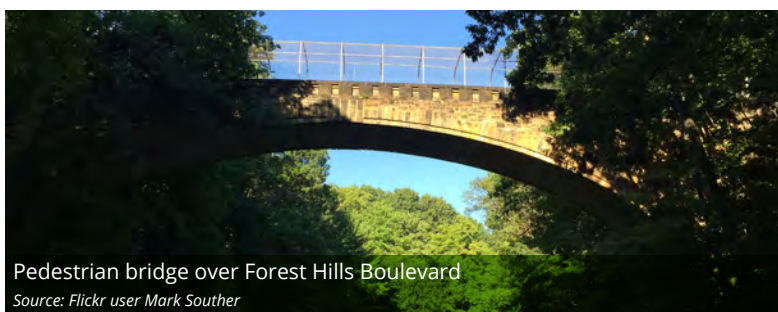
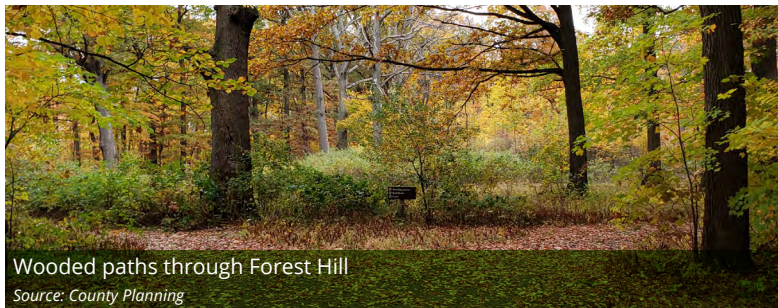


FIGURE 17
FOREST HILL PARK AMENITIES & FEATURES

	Amenity or Feature	Quantity
Recreational Elements	Basketball Courts	1 Court
	Tennis Courts	8 Courts
	Baseball Fields	4 Fields
	Football/Soccer Fields	-
	Track	-
	Bleachers*	21 Bleachers
Site Features	Fitness Stations	-
	Trash Cans*	104 Cans
	Permanent Benches*	47 Benches
	Grills*	16 Grills
	Bike Racks*	2 Racks
	Picnic Tables*	45 Tables
	Playset/Swings	2 Sets
Infrastructure	Signage*	9 Signs
	Trails/Sidewalks	Yes
	Parking Lots/Drives	Yes
	Fencing	Yes
Utilities	Walls	Yes
	Water Lines	Yes
	Drinking Fountain*	5 Fountains
	Fire Hydrant*	4 Hydrants
	Light Poles*	91 Poles
	Storm Lines	Yes
	Sanitary Lines	Yes
Buildings/ Structures	Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	3 Shelters
	Concession Stands	-
	Restrooms	2 Restrooms
	Performance Area	-
	Other*	5 Buildings

*Includes amenities and features in both East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights

PATTISON PARK

Pattison Park is a large Community Park located on the western border of East Cleveland and encompassing 13.0 acres of land. The land is owned by the City of Cleveland but maintained and operated by the City of East Cleveland as part of a long-term lease.

Measured by those living within a 1/2 mile walk of park entrances, Pattison Park serves an estimated population of 2,873 East Clevelanders, including 673 children. Because of its location on the Cleveland border, this park also serves a portion of Clevelanders.

HISTORY

The land that comprises Pattison Park was acquired by the City of Cleveland in the early 20th Century to construct Forest Hill Parkway, a proposed boulevard from Euclid Avenue in East Cleveland to Lake Shore Boulevard in Bratenahl. Never completed, the boulevard plan was abandoned and the land leased to East Cleveland in the 1930s to be used as a park. The land remains owned by the City of Cleveland.

Adjacent to Pattison Park is the site of the former Rozelle Elementary School, which was demolished in 2010. The land was slated to become a bus garage before proponents encountered pushback from park advocates. While not presently part of Pattison Park, the vacant land has potential for complementary uses or park expansion.

SITE FEATURES

Pattison Park is one of the most heavily used parks in East Cleveland. It has an impressive assortment of amenities including baseball fields, basketball courts, and a variety of historic features and structures such as a concession stand and restrooms. Many current amenities require significant maintenance, especially the existing tennis courts, which are deteriorated and abandoned, and surrounded by large overgrowth against the perimeter chain link fences.

The Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), East Cleveland's community development corporation, has focused community building efforts on this park. The group has held concerts and events, and has coordinated clean-up efforts. To further

expand events and concerts, lighting connections and functioning restrooms and concessions could be added.

The park is mostly open along its eastern and northern boundaries along Thornhill Drive. The southern and western boundaries of the park are immediately adjacent to the rear of homes along Speedway Overlook and Carlyon Road; however, some homes have been demolished and present opportunities for new park access points.

FIGURE 18
PATTISON PARK OVERVIEW

Park Features		
Acreage	13.0 Acres	
Ownership	City of Cleveland	
Maintenance	City of East Cleveland	
Population in 1/2 Mile Walk Shed		
Children	637	22.2%
Young Adults	551	19.2%
Working Age	1,188	41.3%
Seniors	497	17.3%
Total Population	2,873	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	4.5 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

PATTISON PARK AMENITY OVERVIEW

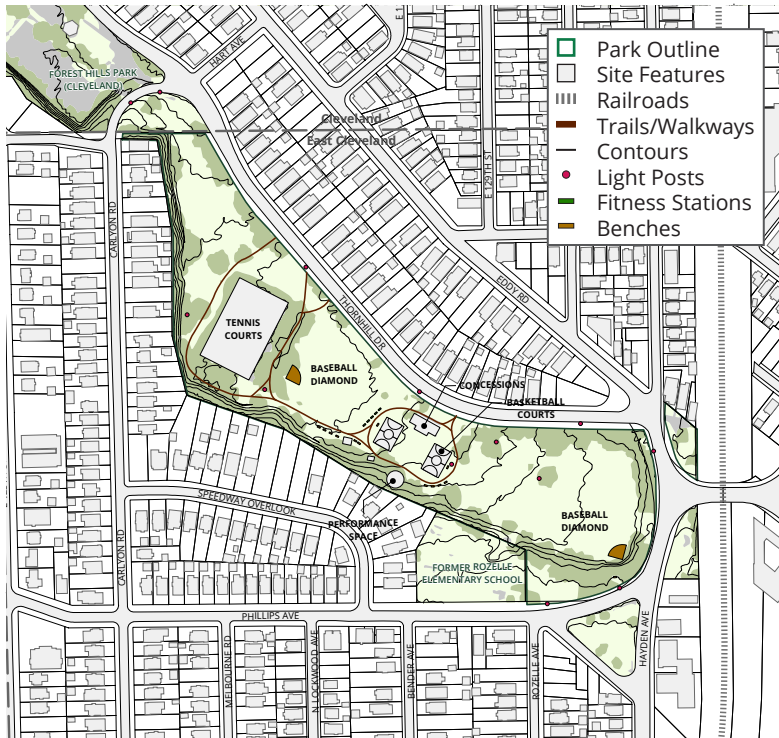


FIGURE 19
PATTISON PARK AMENITIES & FEATURES

	Amenity or Feature	Quantity
Recreational Elements	Basketball Courts	2 Courts
	Tennis Courts	6 Courts
	Baseball Fields	2 Fields
	Football/Soccer Fields	-
	Track	-
	Bleachers	3 Bleachers
Site Features	Fitness Stations	5 Stations
	Trash Cans	2 Cans
	Permanent Benches	13 Benches
	Grills	-
	Bike Racks	-
	Picnic Tables	8 Tables
Infrastructure	Playset/Swings	1 Playset
	Signage	1 Sign
	Trails/Sidewalks	Yes
	Parking Lots/Drives	No
	Fencing	Yes
	Walls	Yes
Utilities	Water Lines	-
	Drinking Fountain	-
	Fire Hydrant	1 Hydrant
	Light Poles	11 Poles
	Storm Lines	-
Buildings/ Structures	Sanitary Lines	-
	Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	1 Shelter
	Concession Stands	1 Stand
	Restrooms	1 Restroom
	Performance Area	1 Stage

SUPERIOR HILL PARK

Superior Hill Park is a Neighborhood Park located on the northeast side of Superior Boulevard and encompassing 6.1 acres of land. The park is owned and operated by the City of East Cleveland.

Measured by those living within a 1/2 mile walk of park entrances, Superior Hill Park serves an estimated population of 1,308 East Clevelanders, including 378 children. Compared to other parks in the East Cleveland park system, this neighborhood park serves the youngest nearby population, with almost two-thirds (64.1%) of nearby residents younger than 35.

HISTORY

While Superior Hill Park functions as a Neighborhood Park, it is technically part of the larger Forest Hill Park located in East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. Superior Hill Park functions separately because of the large ravine that separates Superior Hill from the rest of Forest Hill. Because it is included as part of the parcels that comprise Forest Hill Park, the boundaries of Superior Hill Park are not clearly defined.

Superior Hill's parkland was included in the 1938 design for Forest Hill Park completed by A.D. Taylor. The area today known as Superior Hill Park was identified then as a location for bowling greens, parking areas, a play area, and a circular green.

SITE FEATURES

Superior Hill Park is highly visible from Superior Road and is surrounded by a relatively intact neighborhood and large apartment blocks.

The park includes a number of amenities including two playsets, a basketball court, and a loop trail. The park also contains areas formerly used as a baseball diamond and parking lot. These areas are heavily damaged and no longer support those uses. The lighting and entrance gate to the parking lot remain.

The park has in the past had pathways that connected it to the main parts of Forest Hill Park. There are also areas of parkland atop this ridge behind the existing apartment towers just west of Superior Hill that could be included in the defined area of Superior Hill Park.

FIGURE 20
SUPERIOR HILL PARK AMENITIES & FEATURES

Park Features		
Acreage	6.1 Acres	
Ownership	City of East Cleveland	
Maintenance	City of East Cleveland	
Population in 1/2 Mile Walk Shed		
Children	378	28.9%
Young Adults	460	35.2%
Working Age	357	27.3%
Seniors	113	8.6%
Total Population	1,308	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	4.7 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

SUPERIOR HILL PARK AMENITY OVERVIEW

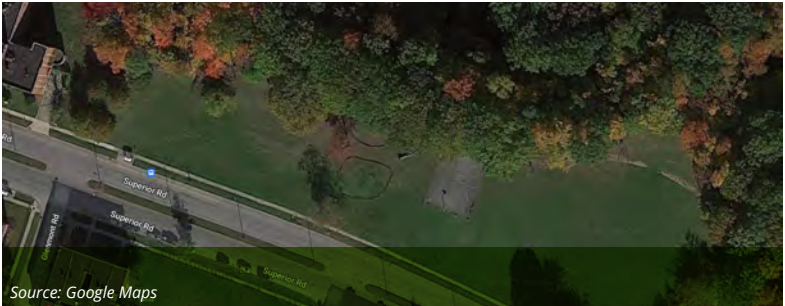


FIGURE 21
SUPERIOR HILL PARK AMENITIES & FEATURES

	Amenity or Feature	Quantity
Recreational Elements	Basketball Courts	1 Court
	Tennis Courts	-
	Baseball Fields	1 Field
	Football/Soccer Fields	-
	Track	-
	Bleachers	-
Site Features	Fitness Stations	-
	Trash Cans	-
	Permanent Benches	-
	Grills	-
	Bike Racks	-
	Picnic Tables	-
Infrastructure	Playset/Swings	2 Playsets
	Signage	-
	Trails/Sidewalks	Yes
	Parking Lots/Drives	Yes
	Fencing	Yes
	Walls	No
Utilities	Water Lines	-
	Drinking Fountain	-
	Fire Hydrant	-
	Light Poles	3 Poles
	Storm Lines	-
Buildings/ Structures	Sanitary Lines	-
	Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	-
	Concession Stands	-
	Restrooms	-
	Performance Area	-



Source: Google Maps



Source: Google Maps

HAWLEY PARK

Hawley Park is a Neighborhood Park located in the north-central portion of East Cleveland in the middle of the block bounded by Euclid Avenue, Taylor Road, Terrace Road, and Hastings Avenue. The park encompasses 2.4 acres of land, and is owned and operated by the City of East Cleveland.

The park serves an estimated population of 3,649 residents of East Cleveland within a 1/2 mile walk of park entrances, including 701 children.

SITE FEATURES

Hawley Park can be accessed by a main entrance from Euclid Avenue and a narrow pedestrian access point on Terrace Road. The park is located in the center of the block and is not highly visible from major roads. The entrance from Euclid Avenue requires users to traverse a parking lot that serves nearby businesses. This presents hazards for pedestrians going to and from the park, reduces awareness of the park, and can make it feel isolated for those using it.

While relatively small, Hawley Park provides a number of amenities for residents including a playset, picnic shelters, and two basketball courts. The quality of these amenities range from fair condition to poor condition. Relatively recent investments in the park include the playset, which requires only minor maintenance.

A number of buildings that back up to Hawley Park have been demolished in recent years, providing the opportunity to expand the park, open sight lines, or add park entrances.

FIGURE 22
HAWLEY PARK OVERVIEW

Park Features		
Acreage	2.4 Acres	
Ownership	City of East Cleveland	
Maintenance	City of East Cleveland	
Population in 1/2 Mile Walk Shed		
Children	701	19.2%
Young Adults	706	19.3%
Working Age	1,344	36.8%
Seniors	898	24.6%
Total Population	3,649	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	0.7 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

HAWLEY PARK AMENITY OVERVIEW



FIGURE 23
HAWLEY PARK AMENITIES & FEATURES

	Amenity or Feature	Quantity
Recreational Elements	Basketball Courts	2 Courts
	Tennis Courts	-
	Baseball Fields	-
	Football/Soccer Fields	-
	Track	-
	Bleachers	-
	Fitness Stations	-
Site Features	Trash Cans	4 Cans
	Permanent Benches	9 Benches
	Grills	1 Grill
	Bike Racks	-
	Picnic Tables	2 Tables
	Playset/Swings	1 Playset
Infrastructure	Signage	1 Sign
	Trails/Sidewalks	Yes
	Parking Lots/Drives	Yes
	Fencing	Yes
Utilities	Walls	No
	Water Lines	-
	Drinking Fountain	-
	Fire Hydrant	-
	Light Poles	5 Poles
	Storm Lines	-
Buildings/ Structures	Sanitary Lines	-
	Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	2 Shelters
	Concession Stands	-
	Restrooms	-
	Performance Area	-

MLK CIVIC CENTER

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center is a Community Park and civic center located on the north side of Shaw Avenue on a plot of land covering 9.3 acres. The park and civic center are owned and operated by the City of East Cleveland.

The park serves an estimated population of 4,356 residents of East Cleveland within a 1/2 mile walk of park entrances, including 930 children. Of all parks in East Cleveland, the MLK Civic Center has the second highest number of residents living within a half-mile walk of the park. This is second only to Forest Hill Park, which is a significantly larger park than the MLK Civic Center.

HISTORY

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center is constructed on the site of the former Eadie Greenhouses. The site was acquired by the City of East Cleveland and the MLK Civic Center with its indoor/outdoor recreation center complex was built in the late 1970s. More recently, the Civic Center has undergone improvements through the dedication and volunteerism of residents. Approximately a half-million dollars were put in to the Civic Center in 2019, including the replacement of the indoor basketball court.

SITE FEATURES

The MLK Civic Center building has clear visibility from its main entrance along Shaw Avenue with a secondary entrance on Elm Avenue. The park is surrounded by homes on the north and west sides, and the Norfolk & Southern Railroad tracks on the east side. The location of the outdoor facilities in the rear of the Civic Center can make those amenities feel isolated.

The outdoor recreation facilities at the MLK Civic Center include a football/soccer field, an outdoor track, fitness stations, a playset, and picnic shelters. The majority of these recreation facilities require maintenance and updates. Additionally, the MLK Civic Center has indoor recreation amenities and associated parking facilities.

FIGURE 24
MLK CIVIC CENTER OVERVIEW

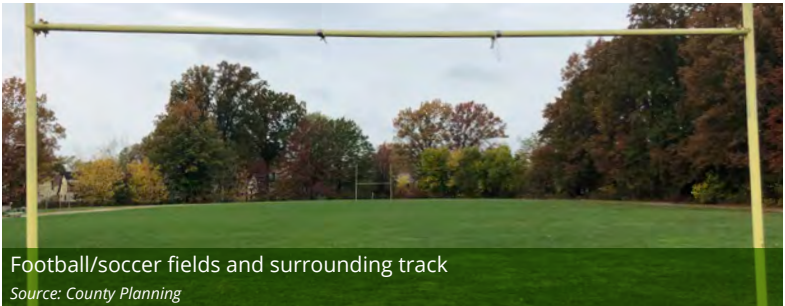
Park Features		
Acreage	9.3 Acres	
Ownership	City of East Cleveland	
Maintenance	City of East Cleveland	
Population in 1/2 Mile Walk Shed		
Children	930	21.4%
Young Adults	889	20.4%
Working Age	1,605	36.8%
Seniors	932	21.4%
Total Population	4,356	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	2.1 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

MLK CIVIC CENTER AMENITY OVERVIEW



FIGURE 25
MLK CIVIC CENTER AMENITIES & FEATURES

	Amenity or Feature	Quantity	
Recreational Elements	Basketball Courts	-	
	Tennis Courts	-	
	Baseball Fields	-	
	Football/Soccer Fields	1 Field	
	Track	1 Track	
	Bleachers	3 Bleachers	
Site Features	Fitness Stations	6 Stations	
	Trash Cans	7 Cans	
	Permanent Benches	2 Benches	
	Grills	2 Grills	
	Bike Racks	1 Rack	
	Picnic Tables	4 Tables	
	Playset/Swings	1 Playset	
	Signage	1 Sign	
	Infrastructure	Trails/Sidewalks	Yes
		Parking Lots/Drives	Yes
Fencing		Yes	
Walls		Yes	
Utilities	Water Lines		
	Drinking Fountain	-	
	Fire Hydrant	1 Hydrant	
	Light Poles	11 Poles	
	Storm Lines		
Buildings/ Structures	Sanitary Lines		
	Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	1 Shelter	
	Concession Stands	-	
	Restrooms	-	
	Performance Area	-	



MANN AVENUE PARK

Mann Avenue Park is a Neighborhood Park located on the western border of the community and encompassing 1.1 acres of land. The park is owned and operated by the City of East Cleveland.

The park serves an estimated population of 1,707 residents of East Cleveland within a 1/2 mile walk of park entrances, including 297 children. Given the proximity to the City of Cleveland, the park may also serve some Cleveland residents.

HISTORY

The front half of Mann Avenue Park was originally platted for residential uses while the back half of the park was used as a railroad siding for the former Builders Supply & Fuel Company. By the 1970s, the land had been repurposed as a neighborhood park and ballfield.

SITE FEATURES

Mann Avenue Park is visible to neighboring streets; however, the park is located deep within a residential neighborhood and not visible to heavily trafficked streets. Additionally, surrounding neighborhoods have varying levels of vacancy, indicating fewer eyes on the park.

The park is laid out to include a baseball diamond and some additional site features such as picnic tables; however, both the baseball diamond and picnic tables are in poor condition and require significant maintenance.

Parcels immediately adjacent to Mann Avenue Park are vacant, with homes having been demolished recently. These vacant parcels provide opportunities for development or park expansion.

FIGURE 26
MANN AVENUE PARK OVERVIEW

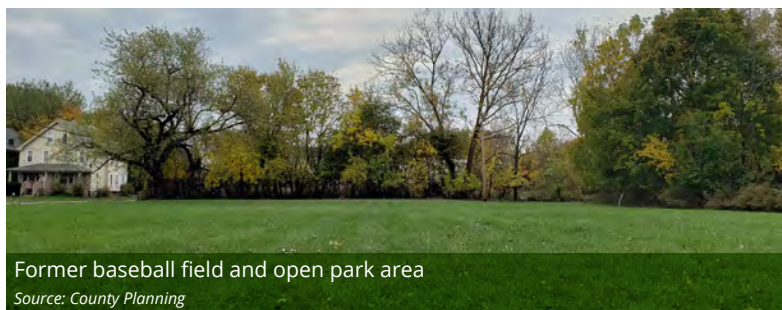
Park Features		
Acreage	1.1 Acres	
Ownership	City of East Cleveland	
Maintenance	City of East Cleveland	
Population in 1/2 Mile Walk Shed		
Children	297	17.4%
Young Adults	405	23.7%
Working Age	600	35.1%
Seniors	405	23.7%
Total Population	1,707	100%
Acres of Park per 1,000 Residents Served	0.6 Acres per 1,000 Residents	

MANN AVENUE AMENITY OVERVIEW



FIGURE 27
MANN AVENUE PARK AMENITIES & FEATURES

	Amenity or Feature	Quantity
Recreational Elements	Basketball Courts	-
	Tennis Courts	-
	Baseball Fields	1 Field
	Football/Soccer Fields	-
	Track	-
	Bleachers	-
	Fitness Stations	-
Site Features	Trash Cans	-
	Permanent Benches	-
	Grills	-
	Bike Racks	-
	Picnic Tables	2 Tables
	Playset/Swings	-
Infrastructure	Signage	-
	Trails/Sidewalks	No
	Parking Lots/Drives	No
	Fencing	Yes
	Walls	No
Utilities	Water Lines	-
	Drinking Fountain	-
	Fire Hydrant	-
	Light Poles	1 Pole
	Storm Lines	-
Buildings/ Structures	Sanitary Lines	-
	Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	-
	Concession Stands	-
	Restrooms	-
	Performance Area	-



REGIONAL PARKS ANALYSIS

East Clevelanders have access to parks beyond those within the boundaries of the City, including parks in neighboring Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. Residents can also use the regional network of parks and greenspaces throughout Northeast Ohio.

CLEVELAND PARKS & GREENSPACES

East Clevelanders live within close proximity of major Cleveland parks, especially the ribbon of parks, greenspaces, and recreation amenities running through the Glenville-James Hubbard Recreation Center and Cleveland's Forest Hills Park. These parks include outdoor recreation facilities, an indoor recreation center, and an outdoor pool.

In University Circle, East Clevelanders can access the cultural and park amenities surrounding Wade Oval, Wade Lagoon, and the Cultural Gardens, which provide formal park spaces and arts and cultural resources, such as the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Cleveland also has a number of smaller neighborhood parks within close proximity to East Cleveland, such as Endora Park and Moulton/Scoutway Park.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS PARKS & GREENSPACES

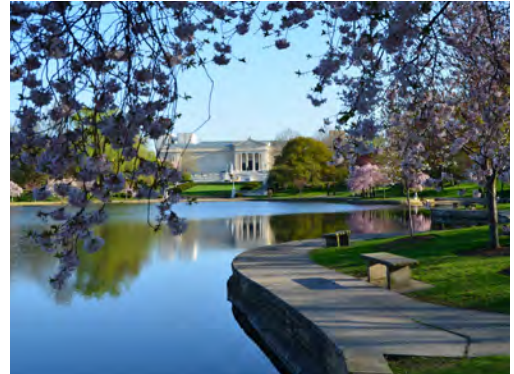
East Clevelanders can also access parks in Cleveland Heights, especially the Cleveland Heights portions of Caledonia Park and Forest Hill Park. Cleveland Heights' Recreation Center is located within Forest Hill Park, but most programs are accessible only to Cleveland Heights residents or CH-UH School District students.

The ribbon of parks stretching from Forest Hill Park in East Cleveland continues through Cumberland and Cain Park in Cleveland Heights. These Cleveland Heights parks include pools, trails, and performing arts spaces.

REGIONAL PARKS

Beyond the immediate vicinity of East Cleveland, residents have access to regional park amenities including more than

23,700 acres of park space in the Cleveland Metroparks system and more than 33,000 acres in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. While these parks are available to residents of East Cleveland, limited transportation options for getting to and from these regional parks may make them inaccessible, as many East Cleveland residents may be dependent on public transit and lack access to a vehicle. The nearest regional park to East Cleveland is Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation.



Wade Lagoon in Cleveland is part of a series of formal parks surrounding the Cleveland Museum of Art and other cultural institutions.

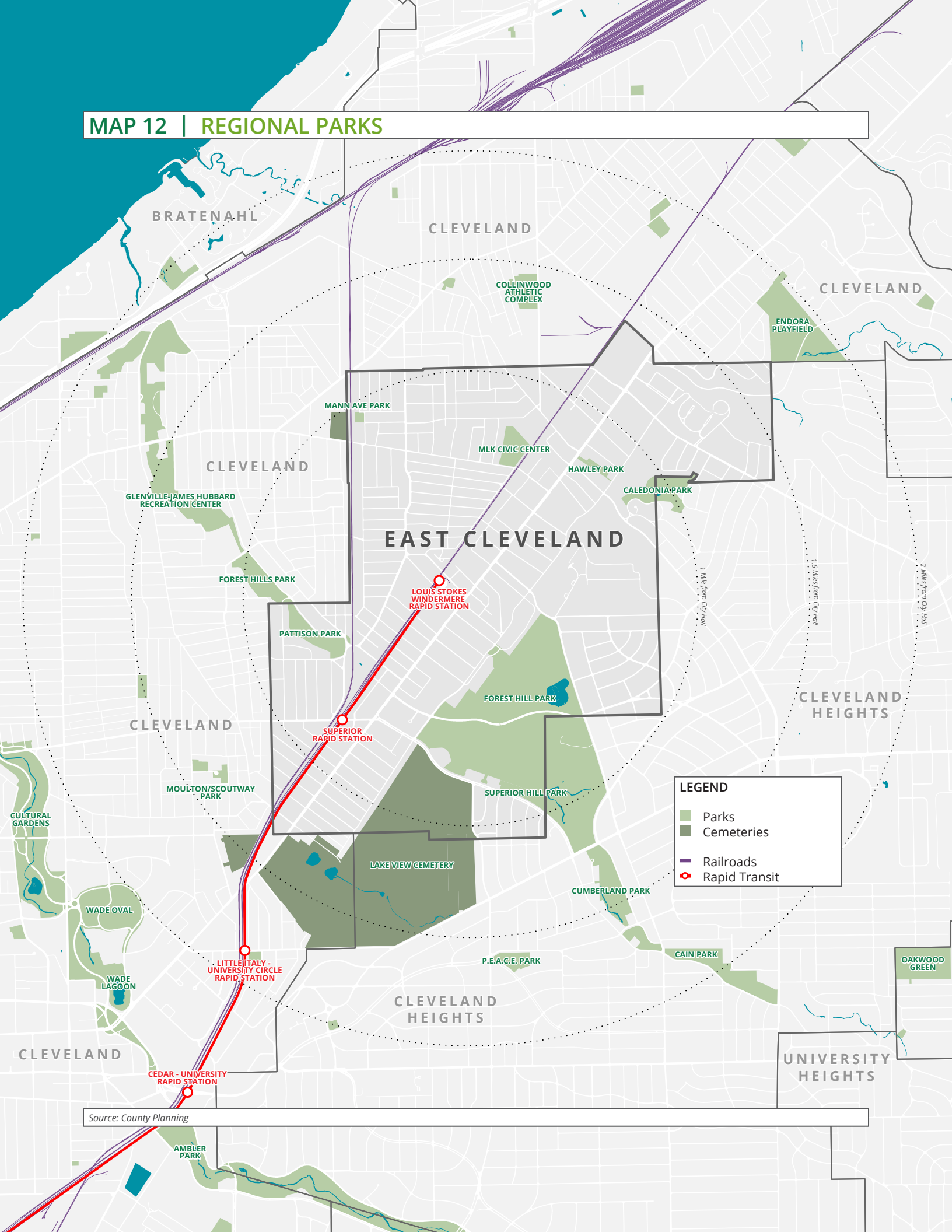
Source: Flickr user EDrost88



Cain Park in Cleveland Heights hosts an annual Arts Festival featuring arts, crafts, and performances.

Source: City of Cleveland Heights

MAP 12 | REGIONAL PARKS



BRATENAHL

CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND

ENDORA PLAYFIELD

COLLINWOOD ATHLETIC COMPLEX

MANN AVE PARK

CLEVELAND

MLK CIVIC CENTER

HAWLEY PARK

CALEDONIA PARK

EAST CLEVELAND

GLENVILLE-JAMES HUBBARD RECREATION CENTER

FOREST HILLS PARK

LOUIS STOKES WINDERMERE RAPID STATION

PATTISON PARK

FOREST HILL PARK

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

CLEVELAND

SUPERIOR RAPID STATION

MOULTON/SCOUTWAY PARK

SUPERIOR HILL PARK

LEGEND

- Parks
- Cemeteries
- Railroads
- Rapid Transit

CULTURAL GARDENS

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

CUMBERLAND PARK

WADE OVAL

WADE LAGOON

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION

P.E.A.C.E. PARK

CAIN PARK

OAKWOOD GREEN

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

CLEVELAND

CEDAR - UNIVERSITY RAPID STATION

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Source: County Planning

AMBLER PARK

PARK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The assessment of park need shows the areas of East Cleveland that are located within a five and ten minute walk of a park. Locations outside a five or ten minute walk of an existing park may be good candidates for new park space.

METHODOLOGY

The Park Needs Assessment follows standards from the Trust for Public Land, which defines a ten minute walk as a half mile; however, the actual distance a person walks in ten minutes can vary depending on age and ability.

Mapping software calculated 1/4 and 1/2 mile walksheds from known park access points and measured the distance a person could walk along existing streets and paths. This takes into account that certain parks may be physically close to someone's home, but due to constraints such as railroads or lack of access due to gates, a person may not have access to the park.

PARK NEED

Map 13 on page 161 shows the physical location of parks in East Cleveland and certain parks in adjacent communities, as well as the five and ten minute walksheds to those parks. According to the data, 89.6% of the City's population lives within a ten minute walk of a park.

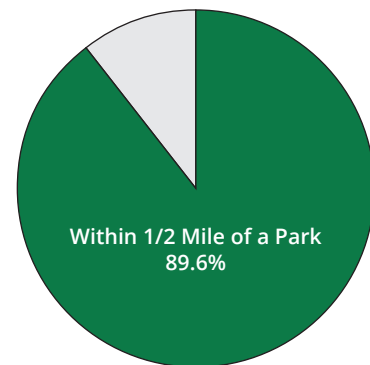
The analysis shows areas where park access is limited, including:

- Superior Rapid Station South: the neighborhoods bordering either side of the railroad tracks south of the Rapid Station
- Millionaire's Row: the neighborhood east of Euclid Avenue and south of Superior Avenue
- Hayden Avenue: the neighborhoods bordering Hayden Avenue and near the Mayfair School site
- Hazel/Oakhill: the eastern edge of the neighborhoods of Oakhill Road and Hazel Road

Importantly, the lack of a ten-minute walk to a park does not necessarily mean a new park is necessary. Certain areas of the community do not have easy access to a park, but might also have an extremely low population or might have access to other forms of open space that fill the role of a park. The

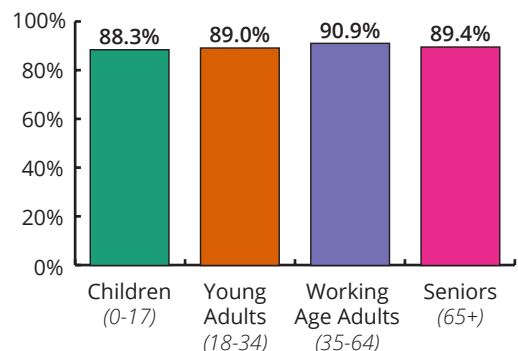
analysis does not take into account certain open spaces that may fill park needs, especially the area along Hayden Road, which has access to a playground on the Mayfair School site and access to a walking trail around the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) Green Infrastructure site.

FIGURE 28
POPULATION LIVING WITHIN A TEN MINUTE WALK OF A PARK



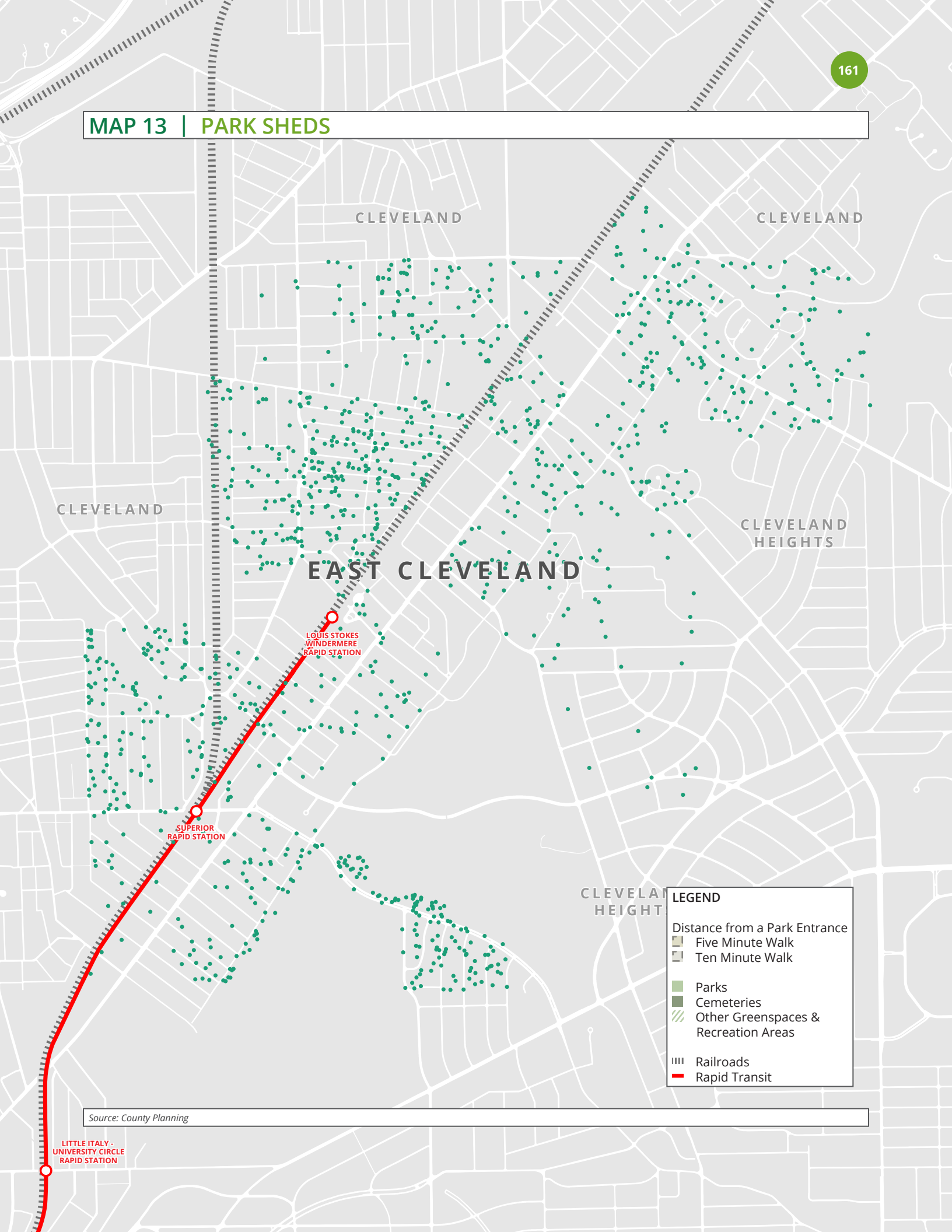
Source: County Planning

FIGURE 29
PERCENT OF AGE GROUPS LIVING WITHIN A TEN MINUTE WALK OF A PARK



Source: County Planning

MAP 13 | PARK SHEDS



EAST CLEVELAND

LOUIS STOKES WINDERMERE RAPID STATION

SUPERIOR RAPID STATION

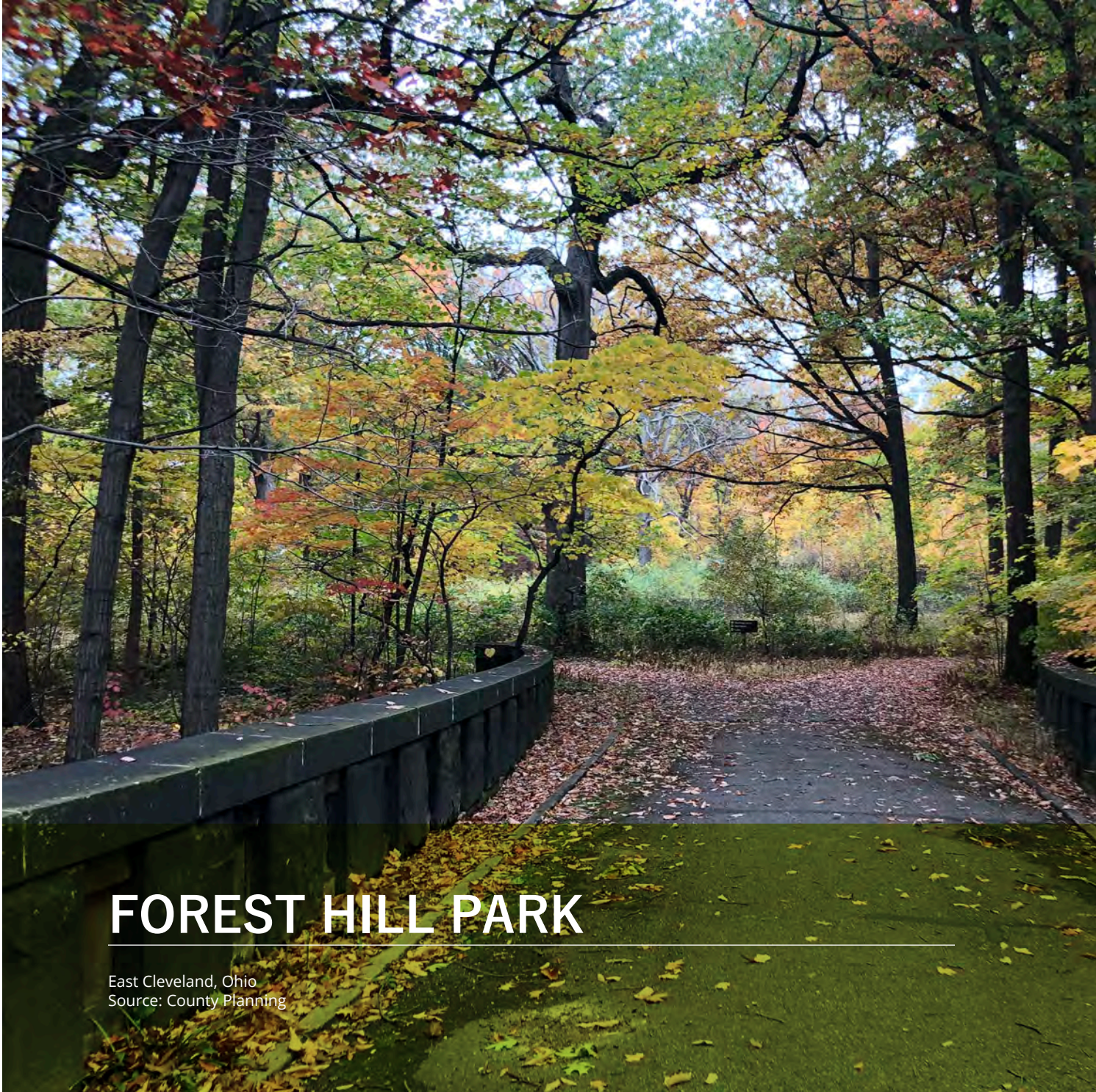
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

LEGEND

- Distance from a Park Entrance
 - Five Minute Walk
 - Ten Minute Walk
- Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other Greenspaces & Recreation Areas
- Railroads
- Rapid Transit

Source: County Planning

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION



FOREST HILL PARK

East Cleveland, Ohio
Source: County Planning



SECTION 2

LAND USE PROFILE

This Section provides an overview of the use of land in the City of East Cleveland to better understand where people live, work, shop, and recreate. This is combined with an analysis of transportation issues to understand how people can get around the community. These analyses provide insight into how people can access the City's parks and greenspace system.

Included in this Section are the following analyses:

- Land Use Analysis, page 164
- Environmental Features Analysis, page 38
- Traffic Analysis, page 40
- Transit Analysis, page 42
- Bikeway Analysis, page 44
- Sidewalks Analysis, page 46

LAND USE ANALYSIS

Land use is a broad term describing how land within any given municipality is currently being utilized. Types of uses typically include broad categories such as industrial, residential, commercial, and open space. Understanding how land is used helps to determine how a community is laid out, what its major corridors are, where vacant land is located, and where community spaces are clustered.

CITYWIDE LAND USE

Map 4 displays land use in East Cleveland in 11 broad categories from residential to vacant land, and Figure 30 calculates the percent of total land acreage devoted to those uses. The land use categories were determined by the Cuyahoga County Auditor's tax information and updated with City data, aerial photography, and local assessment.

The map shows the general use of land in the City, with nearly 40% of the City's land used for residential purposes. Other uses such as commercial, office, industrial, and utilities are clustered along main thoroughfares, especially Euclid Avenue and secondarily Hayden Road, Superior Road, and Noble Road.

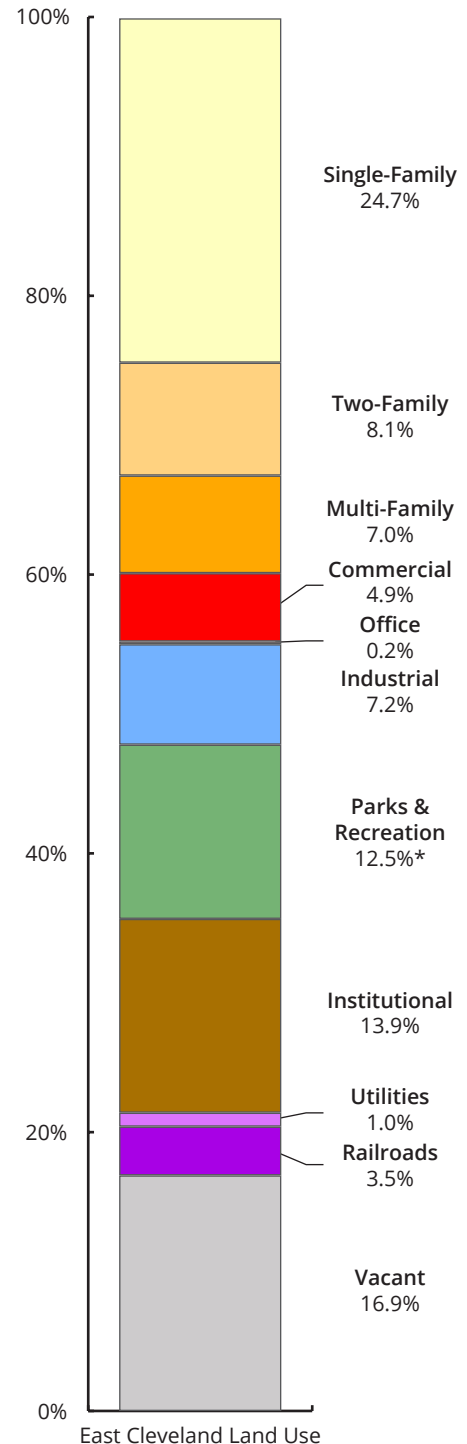
Large sections of the City are devoted to parks, recreation, and institutional uses. This is especially true along the ridge separating the flat area of East Cleveland bordering Cleveland and the heights bordering Cleveland Heights. This area is home to Forest Hill Park, Lake View Cemetery, McGregor Home, and Nela Park.

VACANT LAND

The map also displays vacant land in East Cleveland. Vacancy can be difficult to determine due to ongoing demolition and issues with identifying abandoned structures; however, the data shows that approximately 17% of the community consists of vacant land. The largest vacant area is the site of the former Huron Hospital; however, significant areas within neighborhoods are also vacant.

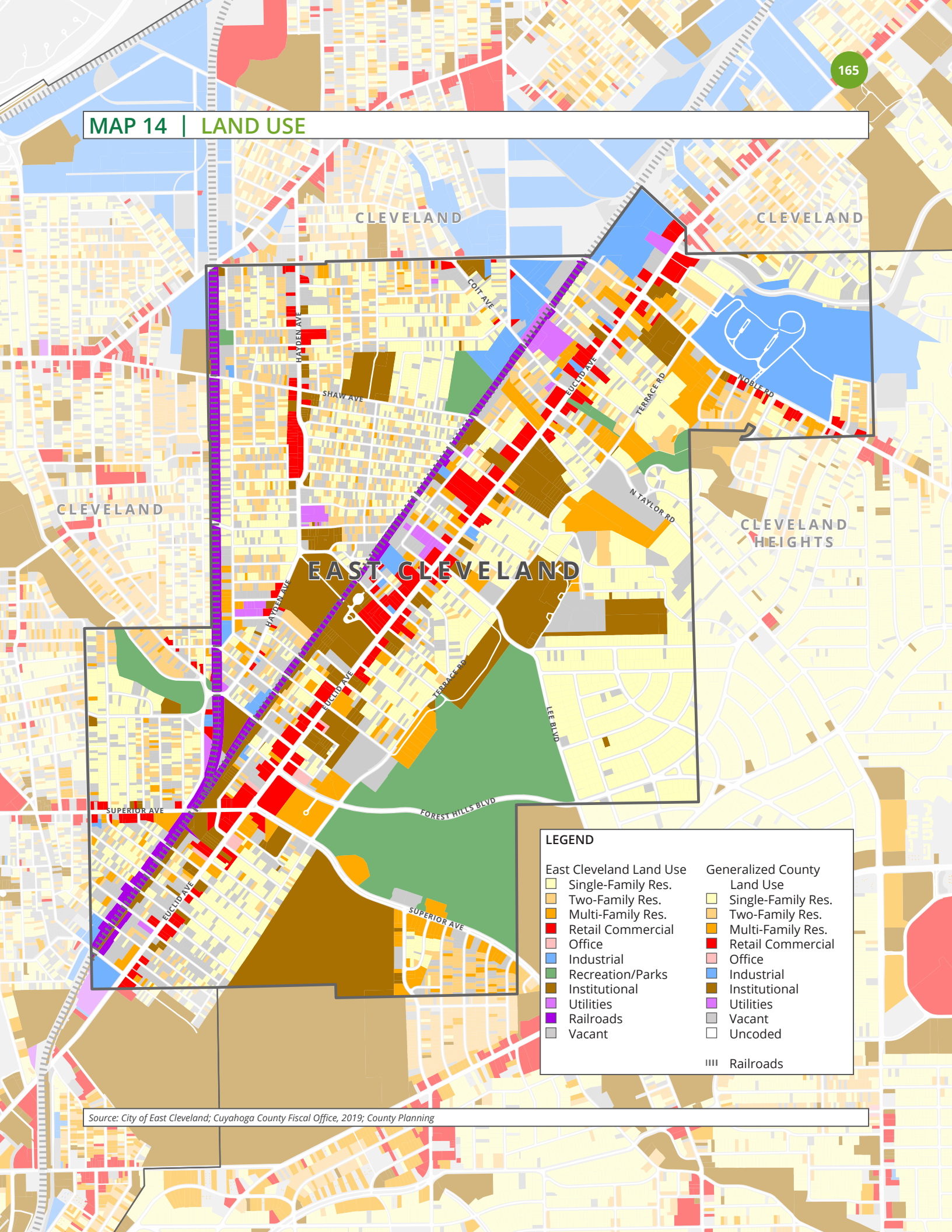
Vacant areas can provide opportunities for future development. While development pressure in East Cleveland is limited, strategic sites located near major assets may provide opportunities for new uses. As development pressure spills over from University Circle, opportunities for development may improve.

FIGURE 30
PERCENT LAND USE, EAST CLEVELAND



Source: County Planning
*The percent of land devoted to parks may differ elsewhere in the document due to differing data sources

MAP 14 | LAND USE



LEGEND	
East Cleveland Land Use	Generalized County Land Use
Single-Family Res.	Single-Family Res.
Two-Family Res.	Two-Family Res.
Multi-Family Res.	Multi-Family Res.
Retail Commercial	Retail Commercial
Office	Office
Industrial	Industrial
Recreation/Parks	Institutional
Institutional	Utilities
Utilities	Vacant
Railroads	Uncoded
Vacant	
	Railroads

Source: City of East Cleveland; Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office, 2019; County Planning

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES ANALYSIS

Many of East Cleveland's historic waterways and natural areas have been built upon over time as housing, commercial, and industrial development has occurred. The City does retain a few environmental features such as streams, lakes, and steep hillsides, the majority of which are located in the City's park system. The map on page 167 showcases these environmental features.

WATERWAYS AND RIPARIAN ZONES

Waterways are rivers and streams running through a community, while riparian zones are vegetated lands alongside rivers, streams, wetlands, and shorelines that are susceptible to flooding. Riparian zones are important because they hold water during periods of heavy or continuous rain that might otherwise flood residential or developed areas.

The City of East Cleveland has very few remaining waterways and riparian zones. The largest of these is the Dugway Brook, which runs through the upper part of Forest Hill Park. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources also lists a Class I Dam located in the south central portion of Forest Hill Park, and the lake in Forest Hill Park is the largest waterbody in the community.

While there are few remaining waterways above ground, most historic streams were routed through culverts underground. The general path of these historic streams is shown on the map, and these routes were digitized by reviewing historic aerials; however, the streams were often moved when they were buried. The culverted portion of Dugway Brook running through East Cleveland generally passes underneath Pattison Park today.

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of East Cleveland is defined by the steep hillside (known as the Portage Escarpment) running diagonally through the City where the flat Lake Plain landform rises to the foothills of the Allegheny Plateau, and where the City of East Cleveland rises into the "heights." These areas of land tend to be difficult to develop and can require filling, erosion control,

and slope reinforcement. The majority of the Portage Escarpment in East Cleveland is protected land in the form of parks, cemeteries, and open spaces which take advantage of the impressive views and natural topography.



The Portage Escarpment running through Forest Hill Park provides commanding views of the region.

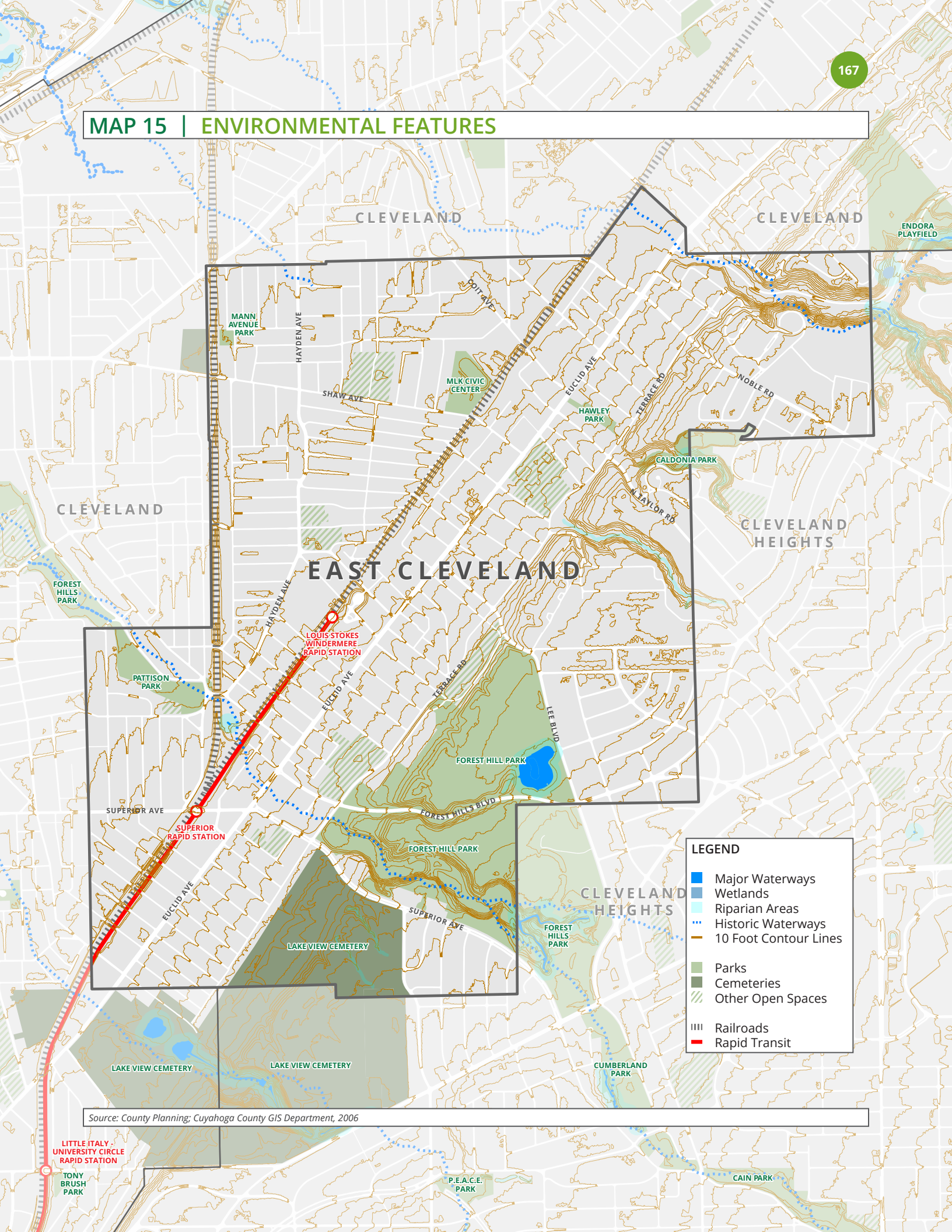
Source: County Planning



The lake in Forest Hill Park is one of the few remaining waterbodies in the City of East Cleveland.

Source: County Planning

MAP 15 | ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES



LEGEND

- Major Waterways
- Wetlands
- Riparian Areas
- ⋯ Historic Waterways
- 10 Foot Contour Lines
- Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other Open Spaces
- ▨ Railroads
- Rapid Transit

Source: County Planning; Cuyahoga County GIS Department, 2006

LITTLE ITALY UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION

TONY BRUSH PARK

P.E.A.C.E. PARK

CAIN PARK

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Traffic counts are helpful in understanding the need for future infrastructure improvements. Heavily traveled roads may require turn lanes, signal coordination, or even expansion to handle current and future vehicular traffic, whereas large roads with low traffic counts are candidates for "road diets." Road diets are infrastructure changes that reduce the number of travel lanes to make room for other improvements such as landscaping, bikeways, or bus lanes.

The traffic counts listed in Figure 31 and displayed on Map 16 were collected by the Ohio Department of Transportation and NOACA between 2012 and 2017. In cases where a street had multiple traffic counts, the highest count is shown. Figure 31 also contains current data on the number of lanes and approximate pavement width for those roads with traffic counts.

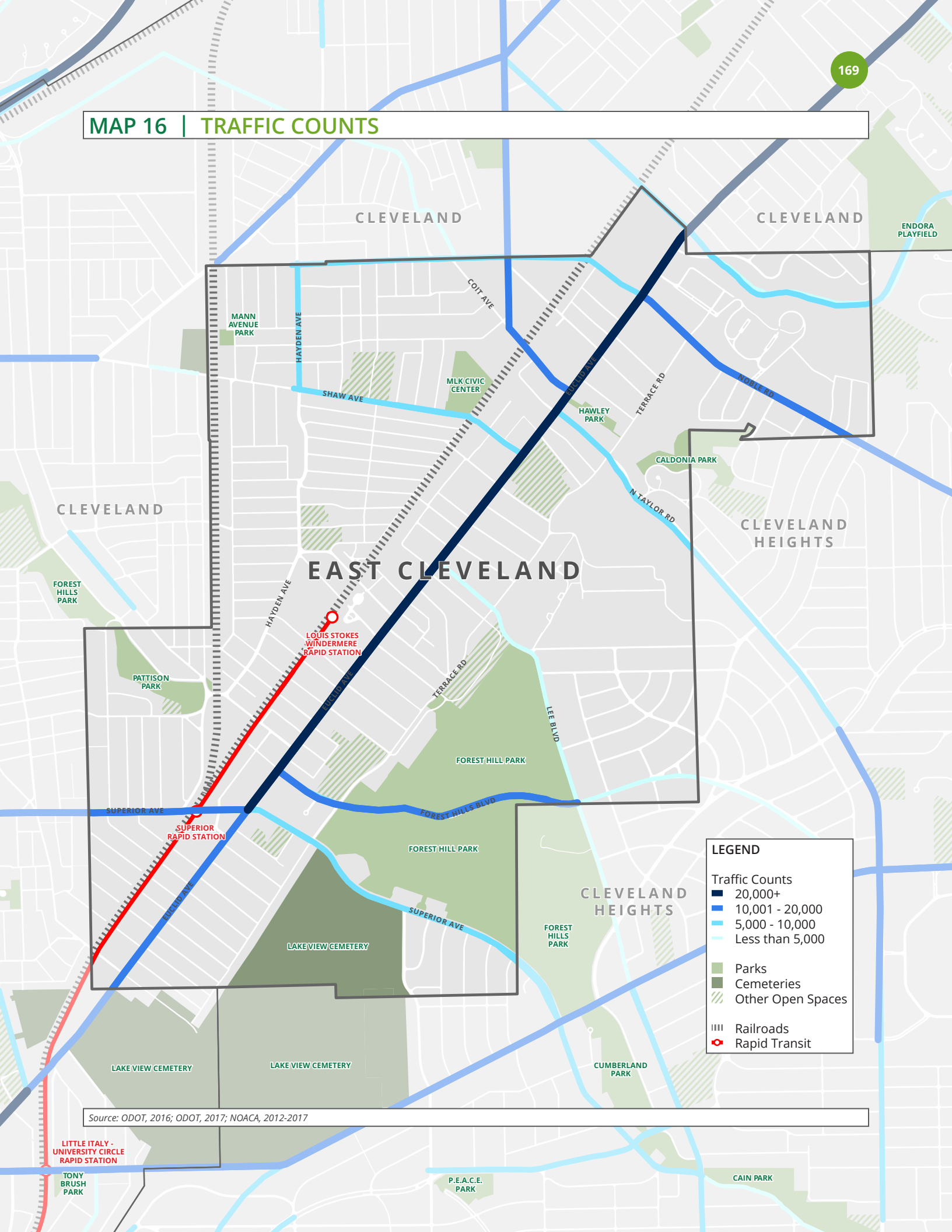
Many streets in East Cleveland were built for a time when the City had a significantly higher population, and a majority of commuters used surface streets. Today, the lower population and regional highway network mean that many roads in East Cleveland are candidates for road diets. Only one road in the City, Euclid Avenue, handles more than 20,000 cars per day, and with extremely wide lane widths, even Euclid Avenue has the potential for a reconfiguration.

The potential for road diets means the City could better use its road network to connect people to parks and other destinations via bike, transit, or on foot. The counts provide insights on the demands placed on the road; however, more recent traffic counts would be needed before major improvements are made.

FIGURE 31
TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Road Segment	Traffic Count (AADT)	Travel Lanes	Turn Lanes	Parking Lanes	Approx. Pavement Width	Road Diet Potential
Euclid Ave (Cleveland to Superior Ave)	10,001-20,000	4	1	0	68 ft	✓
Euclid Ave (Superior Ave to Cleveland)	20,000+	4	1	0	69 ft	✓
Superior Ave (Cleveland to Euclid Ave)	10,001-20,000	4	0	0	45 ft	✓
Superior Ave (Euclid Ave to Cleveland Heights)	5,001-10,000	4	1	2	72 ft	✓
Forest Hills Blvd (Euclid Ave to Lee Blvd)	10,001-20,000	4	0	0	50 ft	✓
Forest Hills Blvd (Lee Blvd to Cleveland Heights)	Less than 5,000	4	0	0	50 ft	✓
Lee Blvd (Euclid Ave to Cleveland Heights)	Less than 5,000	4	0	0	40 ft	✓
Shaw Ave (Hayden Ave to Euclid Ave)	5,001-10,000	2	0	0	28 ft	
Hayden Ave (Shaw Ave to Woodworth Ave)	5,001-10,000	4	0	0	48 ft	✓
Woodworth Ave (Hayden Ave to Euclid Ave)	5,001-10,000	2	0	0	28 ft	
Taylor Rd (Euclid Ave to Cleveland Heights)	5,001-10,000	4	0	0	40 ft	✓
Noble Rd (Euclid Ave to Cleveland Heights)	10,001-20,000	4	0	0	50 ft	✓
Coit Ave - E 152 St (Euclid Ave to Cleveland)	10,001-20,000	2	0	0	36 ft	✓
Belvoir Blvd (Cleveland to Cleveland Heights)	10,001-20,000	2	0	0	26 ft	

MAP 16 | TRAFFIC COUNTS



LEGEND

Traffic Counts

- 20,000+
- 10,001 - 20,000
- 5,000 - 10,000
- Less than 5,000

Other Features

- Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other Open Spaces
- ||| Railroads
- ⊕ Rapid Transit

Source: ODOT, 2016; ODOT, 2017; NOACA, 2012-2017

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION
TONY BRUSH PARK

P.E.A.C.E. PARK

CAIN PARK

TRANSIT ANALYSIS

Public transit is a critical lifeline for those without access to a personal vehicle. It provides ways of reaching services, getting to work, and moving about the community. Quality transit access has also become increasingly sought after by those looking to drive less and to get around in a more environmentally friendly manner.

East Cleveland has incredible transit access from the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) as displayed on Map 17. The City hosts two Red Line Rapid Transit stations: the Superior Rapid Station and the Louis Stokes Windermere Rapid Station. These two stations provide access to the region's high-capacity rail transit network with direct connections to University Circle, Downtown Cleveland, Ohio City, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, and areas in between.

Euclid Avenue is the route of the HealthLine, one of only two silver-rated Bus Rapid Transit lines in the United States, according to the Institute for Transportation & Development Policy. It provides fast, frequent bus service to University Circle and Downtown Cleveland that aims to match the reliability, speed, and comfort of rail transit. Operating on dedicated bus lanes in Cleveland, the East Cleveland portion of the HealthLine operates in mixed traffic on Euclid Avenue.

The Louis Stokes Windermere Rapid Station is also a major bus hub that provides access to seven bus routes that radiate out to many parts of the County. Most parts of the East Cleveland community have access to a bus route within a 1/4 to a 1/2 mile walk of their home and all parks in East Cleveland have at least one bus stop within a 1/4 mile walk of a park entrance.

VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

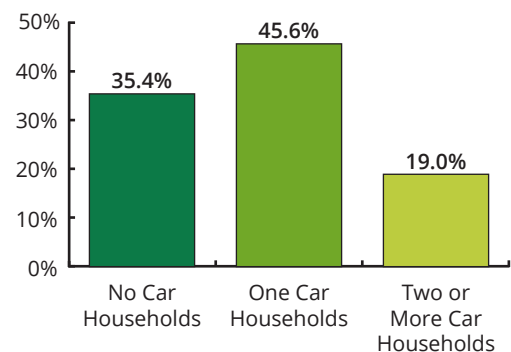
Those without vehicles are particularly reliant on transit access to move around their community and access services. In East Cleveland, more than a third of all households do not have access to a vehicle, and an additional 45.6% of households only have access to a single vehicle, as shown in Figure 32. This level of vehicle ownership is significantly lower than Countywide ownership, indicating an even greater reliance on transit in East Cleveland.



The RTA Red Line Rapid Transit provides fast, frequent service to and from East Cleveland.

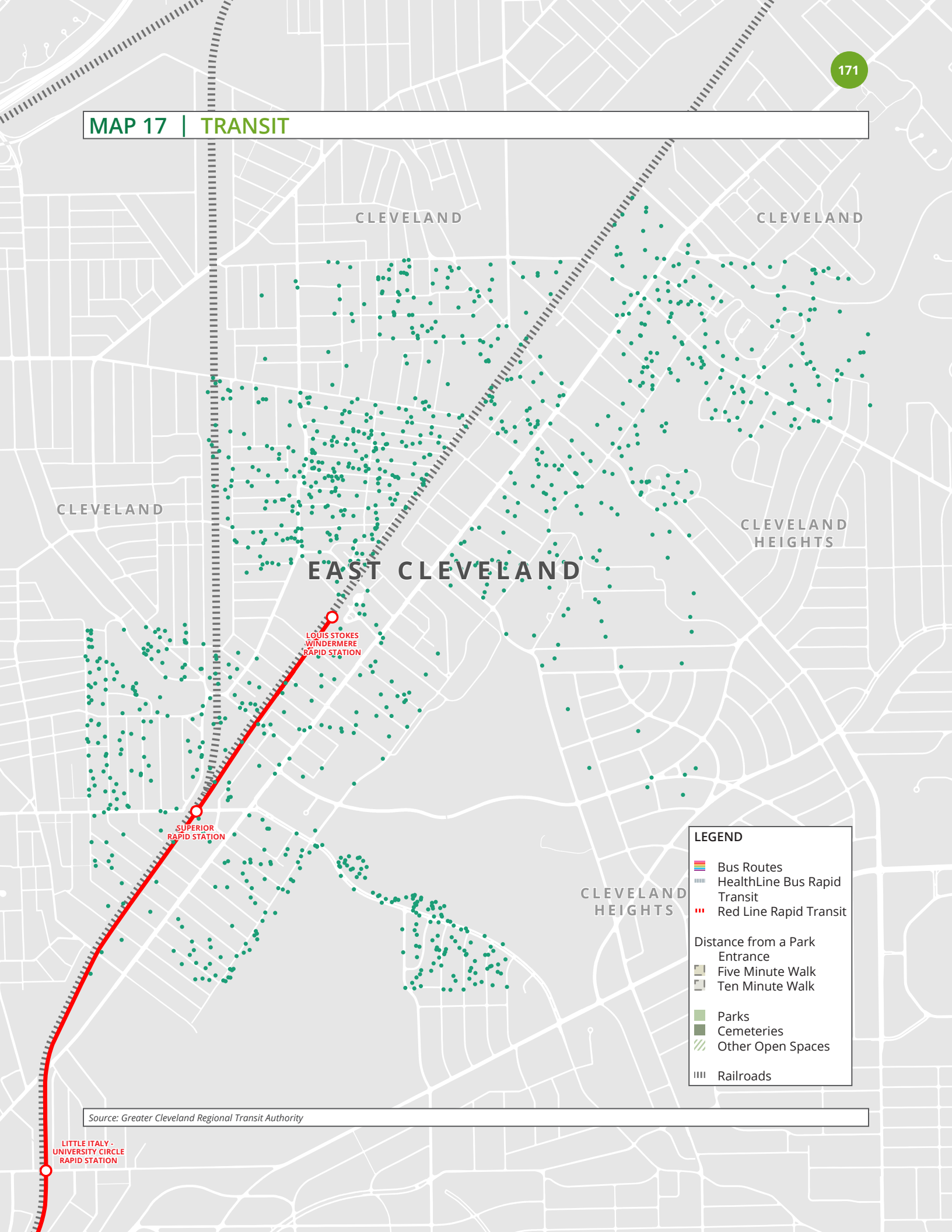
Source: Flickr user Paul Sableman

FIGURE 32
CARS PER HOUSEHOLD, EAST CLEVELAND



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 5-Year American Community Survey, B25044

MAP 17 | TRANSIT



CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND

EAST CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

LOUIS STOKES WINDERMERE RAPID STATION

SUPERIOR RAPID STATION

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION

LEGEND

- Bus Routes
- HealthLine Bus Rapid Transit
- Red Line Rapid Transit
- Distance from a Park Entrance**
- Five Minute Walk
- Ten Minute Walk
- Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other Open Spaces
- Railroads

Source: Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

BIKEWAY ANALYSIS

Bikeways have become increasingly important as people seek to travel in ways that are safe, environmentally friendly, and healthy. Bikeways can take many forms including markings and signage to share roads, bike lanes, or off-road paths.

CUYAHOGA GREENWAYS

The Cuyahoga Greenways study is a joint effort between County Planning, Cleveland Metroparks, and NOACA to build an interconnected system of greenways and trails that link neighborhoods, parks, jobs, and public transportation to create a comprehensive countywide active transportation network. The Greenways Framework Plan outlines a series of regionally important trails, gaps in that network, and priorities for new trail and bikeway construction to complete this network.

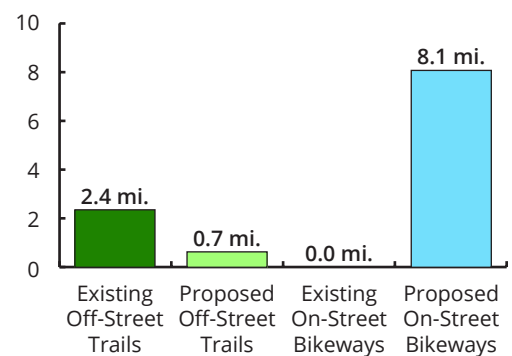
Map 18 on page 173 shows bikeways in five colors representing existing and proposed bikeways. Green lines represent existing and proposed off-street trails, such as those that run through Forest Hill Park, that were identified as part of the Cuyahoga Greenways planning process. Blue lines represent existing and proposed on-street bikeways, such as bike lanes, that were also identified in the Cuyahoga Greenways study. Orange lines represent additional bikeways that were built by local communities.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED BIKEWAYS

Figure 33 shows the length of existing and proposed trails and bikeways in East Cleveland. In total, East Cleveland has 2.4 miles of existing trails and bikeways through the City. All existing trails run through Forest Hill Park and connect further into Cleveland Heights. This trail network fits into the larger network of proposed Cuyahoga Greenways that run further north and south.

The City of East Cleveland does not have any existing on-street bikeways; however, the Cuyahoga Greenways Plan identified proposed trails and bikeways that would fit into the regional network. Proposed bikeways include bike lanes along Euclid Avenue, Noble Road, Superior Road, Forest Hills Boulevard, and along Pattison Park.

FIGURE 33
MILES OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS, EAST CLEVELAND



Source: County Planning



Trails through Forest Hill Park connect East Cleveland to Cleveland Heights and the regional trail network

Source: County Planning

SIDEWALKS ANALYSIS

Sidewalks increase mobility by connecting residents to services, schools, and parks. They also provide a safe way for people on foot to move throughout the community and are an essential part of the transportation system for those who walk or use transit.

SIDEWALKS

East Cleveland has an incredibly strong sidewalk network with sidewalks built along the vast majority of City streets. County Planning used aerial imagery, street view, and fly-over technology to document the existing sidewalk network. Figure 34 and Map 19 show the results of this analysis.

The vast majority of streets (83.1%) in East Cleveland have sidewalks on both sides of the street. An additional 16.1% of streets have sidewalks on only one side, and less than 1% do not have sidewalks. Some of the most notable areas of missing sidewalks include Forest Hills Boulevard, Thornhill Drive, Terrace Road, and parts of Lee Boulevard.

In the case of East Cleveland, many sidewalks once existed on City streets but have been heavily damaged over time. Those sidewalks that were determined to be severely damaged and unusable were listed as missing.

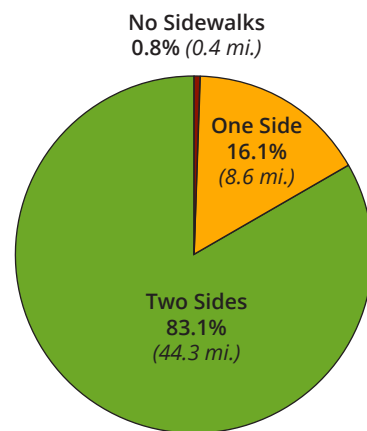
WALKABILITY

Sidewalks are essential to a walkable community, and walkable communities are in high demand. Several factors determine community walkability including the presence of sidewalks; connections to shopping, schools, parks, trails, and other local amenities; and an inviting and friendly environment with low volume traffic and low travel speeds.

Walk Score is a popular online tool to quickly assess a community's walkability. The tool analyzes population density, block length, intersection density, and distance to amenities to calculate the ability of residents to move around the City or run daily errands without a car. According to Walk Score, East Cleveland has an overall walkability score of 59, ranking it as "Somewhat Walkable."

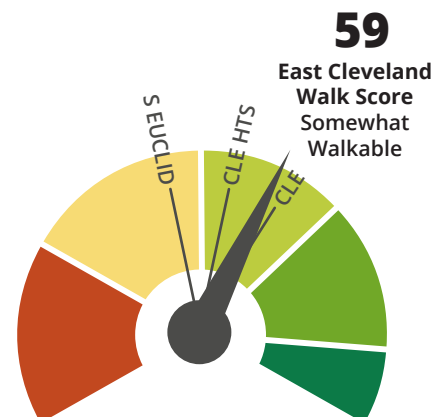
In comparing East Cleveland to adjacent communities, the City has a higher Walk Score than any other suburban municipality and roughly equal to the City of Cleveland.

FIGURE 34
MILES OF SIDEWALKS, EAST CLEVELAND



Source: County Planning

FIGURE 35
WALK SCORE, EAST CLEVELAND



Source: www.WalkScore.com

MAP 19 | SIDEWALKS



LEGEND

- Presence of Sidewalks
 - Sidewalks on Both Sides
 - One Side Missing or Heavily Damaged
 - Both Sides Missing or Heavily Damaged
- Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other Open Spaces
- Railroads
- Rapid Transit

Source: County Planning

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION
 TONY BRUSH PARK

P.E.A.C.E. PARK

CAIN PARK



MLK CIVIC CENTER

East Cleveland, Ohio
Source: County Planning



SECTION 3

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This Section provides an overview of the demographics of residents living in East Cleveland and how these demographics have changed over time. This includes the ages of residents and where groups such as children and seniors live. This can assist in targeting park and greenspace amenities to the age groups living in close proximity to the parks.

Included in this Section are the following analyses:

- Demographic Analysis, page 178

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

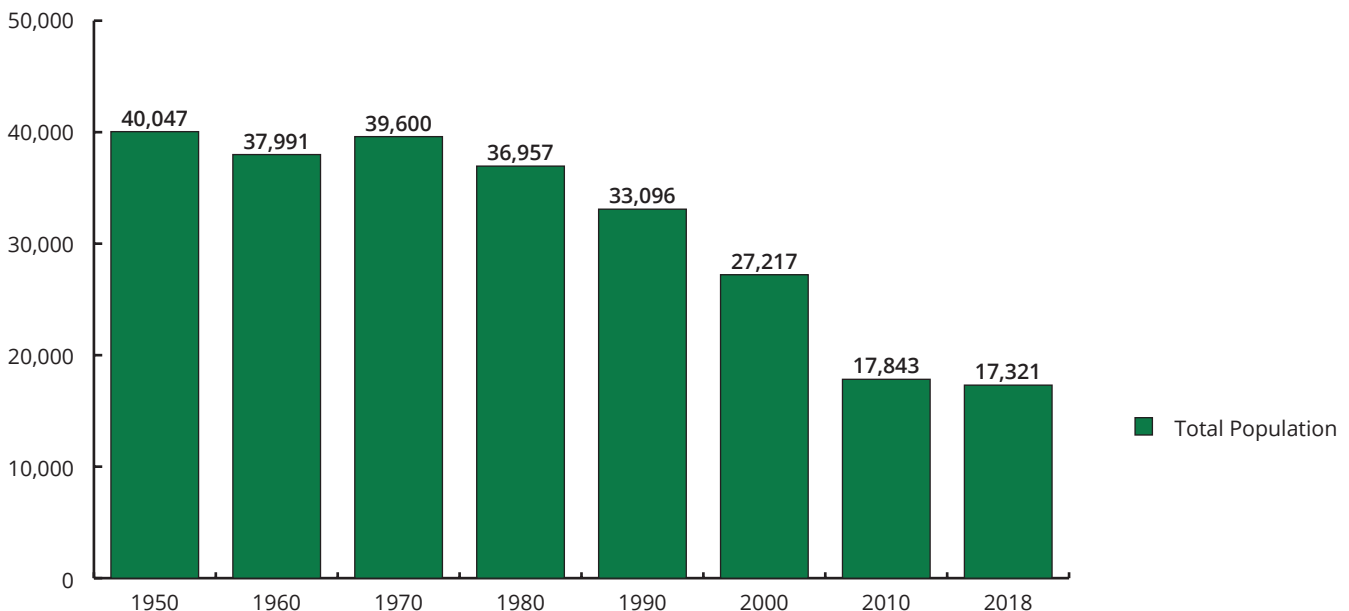
Documenting demographic groups and ages of population in East Cleveland is critical in understanding who will be using the City's parks and recreation services and amenities. The most accurate population data available to East Cleveland comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial census data as well as more up-to-date data from the annual American Community Survey.

TOTAL POPULATION

Population size and growth trends help to better understand the user group in East Cleveland. The City's population trends from 1950 to 2018 show the relatively stable population between

1950 and 1970 before large population losses from 1970 to 2010. Many factors influenced the growth trends in the City, including suburbanization, white flight, and regional economic difficulties. While the population in 2010 is less than half of what it was in 1970, the most recent American Community Survey data shows encouraging signs. Between 2010 and 2018, the City's population is estimated to have dropped by a little over 500 people, compared to an almost 10 thousand person drop between 2000 and 2010. This stability is an important factor in crafting a new narrative for East Cleveland.

FIGURE 36
TOTAL POPULATION, EAST CLEVELAND, 1950-2018



Source: IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, www.nhgis.org; Ohio Development Services Agency; U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, B01001

AGE GROUPS

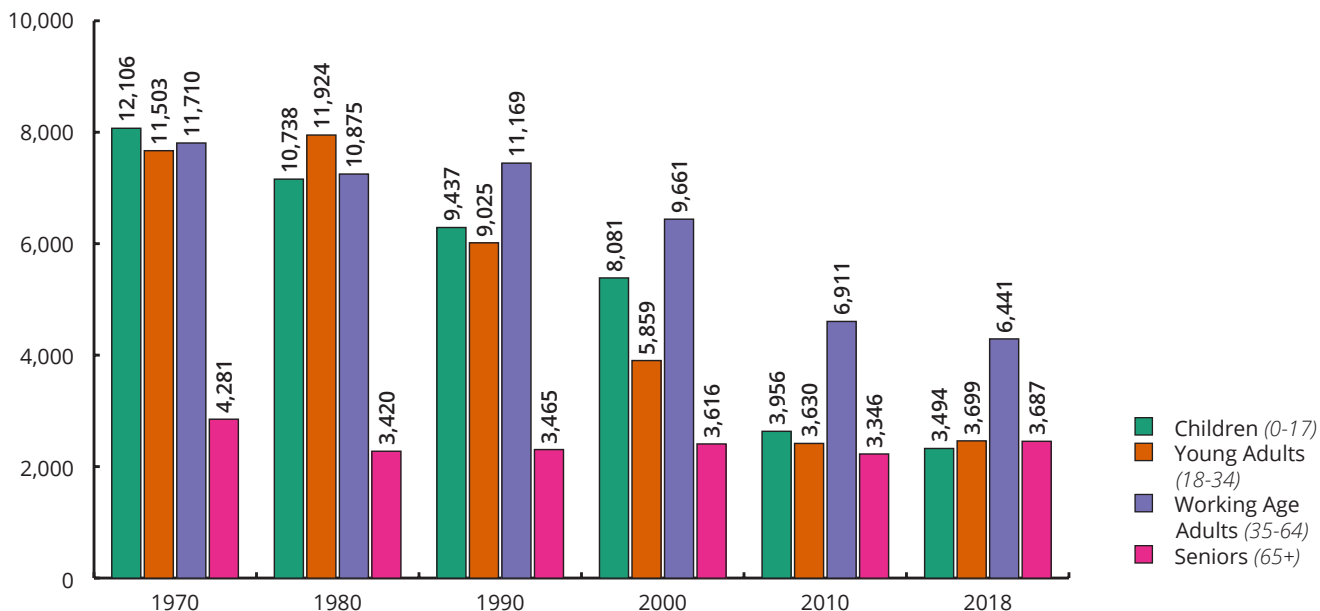
The ages of residents in East Cleveland directly affect the facilities, amenities, and layout of the City's park system as parks generally serve the local community.

Figure 37 shows the age of residents living in East Cleveland grouped into four ranges. The ranges shown below are Children (0-17), Young Adults (18-34), Working Age Adults (35-64), and Seniors (65+). East Cleveland has a relatively consistent population, with most age groups spread equally. Children make up 20% of the population, Young Adults make up 21%, Working Age Adults make up 37%, and Seniors make up the remaining 21%.

While East Cleveland's population has shrunk from 1970 to 2018, its composition has also changed dramatically. Children, Young Adults,

and Working Age Adults made up significantly larger portions of the community in previous decades, but their numbers have decreased significantly. In 1970, these three age groups comprised a combined 89% of the community. In 2018, these three age groups comprised only 79% of the community. On the other hand, the Senior population has remained relatively stable through the decades, with very little change in the total population of Seniors. This has increased seniors as a share of the total population from 11% in 1970 to 21% in 2018.

FIGURE 37
POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, EAST CLEVELAND, 1970-2018



Source: IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, www.nhgis.org; U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, B01001

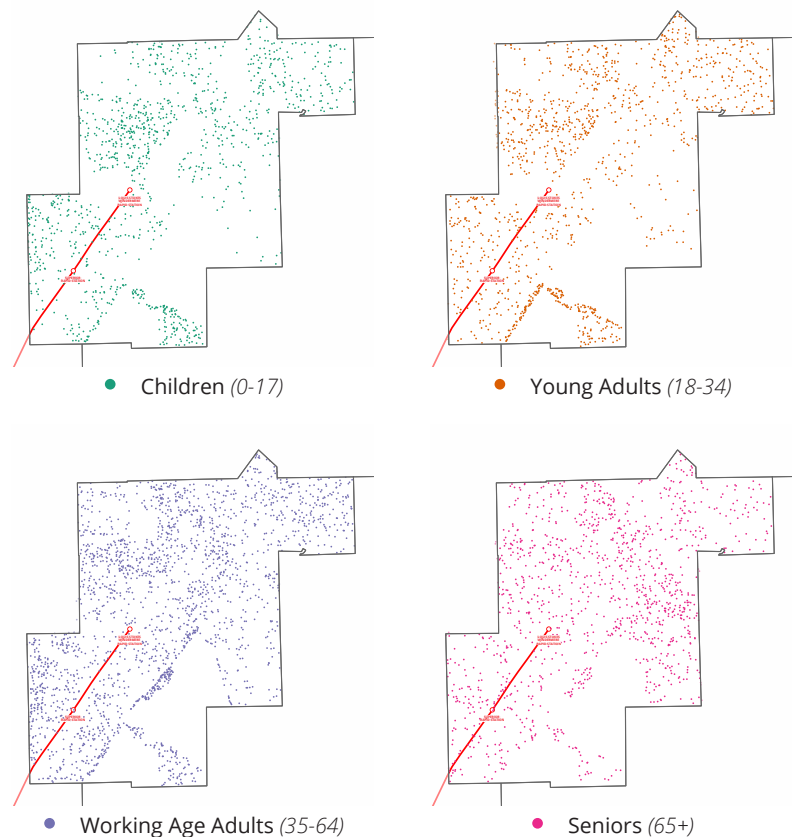
POPULATION DENSITY BY AGE GROUP

Population density is a measure of population per square mile and when mapped, it can generally display how concentrated or dispersed the population is within a specific area or region. Densely populated areas can more easily support amenities such as restaurants and retail, and sometimes can have different needs such as greater transit frequencies, open space, or biking accommodations. Figure 38 and Map 20 show the density of population within East Cleveland by age group, with one dot representing three people and the color of the dot representing an age group. Areas of open spaces such as parks, cemeteries, and large vacant areas have been removed from the analysis to more accurately reflect the density of residential areas in East Cleveland.

As a whole, East Cleveland is made up of 3.09 square miles of land area and 17,321 residents, yielding a citywide density of 5,606 persons per square mile. The densest parts of the community include the neighborhoods around the MLK Civic Center, around Pattison Park, and adjacent to Forest Hill Park. While there are not huge concentrations by age group, there are some areas within East Cleveland that have a greater number of Children and Young Adults than other areas. These include the Coventry Road area south of Forest Hill Park and the area south of the MLK Civic Center on either side of Hayden Road.

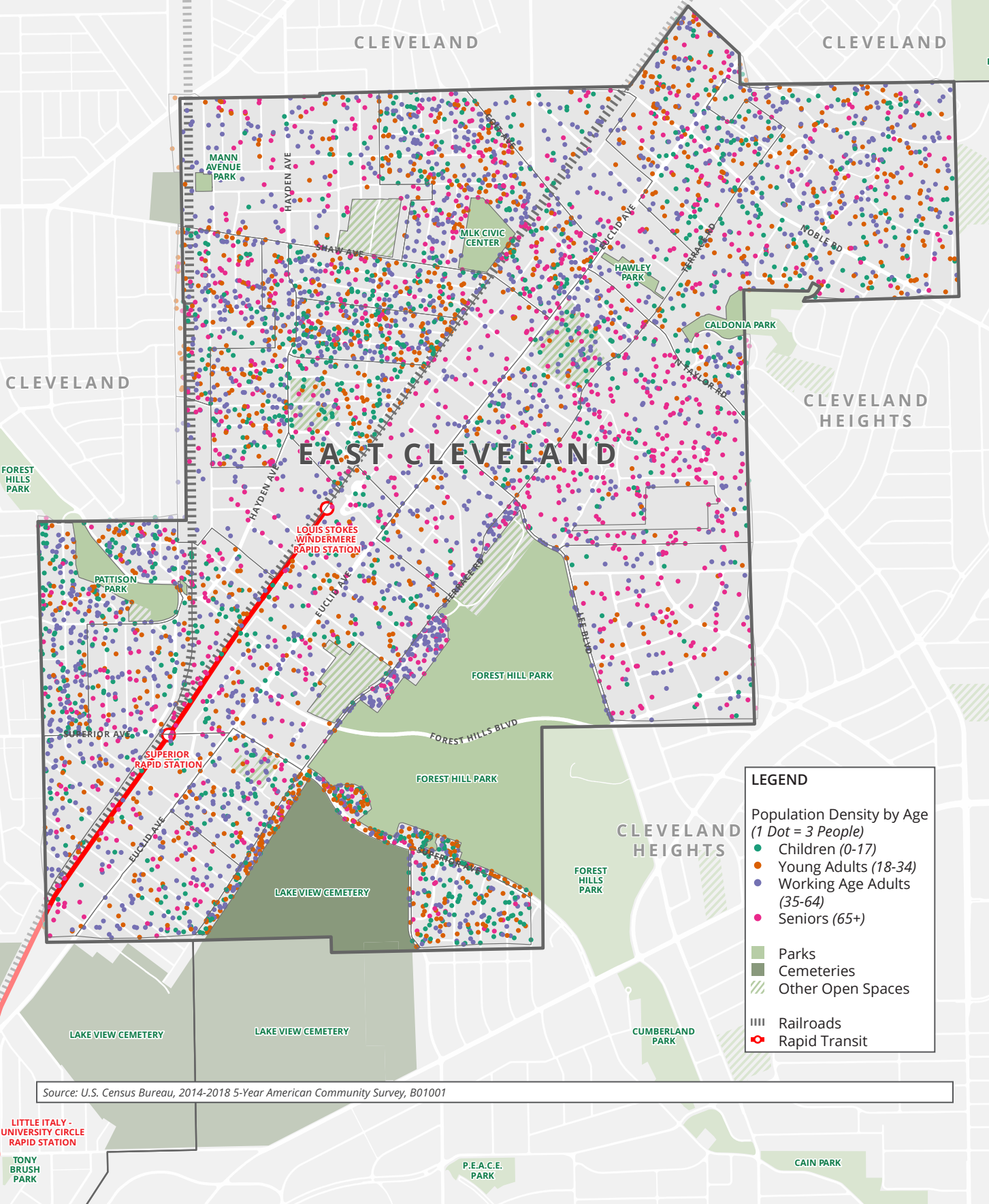
The density map also shows that the most densely concentrated part of the community—south of the MLK Civic Center on either side of Hayden Road—does not have significant park space. This may be an area in which new parks and greenspaces are necessary.

FIGURE 38
POPULATION DENSITY BY INDIVIDUAL AGE GROUP, EAST CLEVELAND, 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, B01001

MAP 20 | POPULATION DENSITY BY AGE GROUP



LEGEND

Population Density by Age
(1 Dot = 3 People)

- Children (0-17)
- Young Adults (18-34)
- Working Age Adults (35-64)
- Seniors (65+)

- Parks
- Cemeteries
- ▨ Other Open Spaces
- |||| Railroads
- ⊙ Rapid Transit

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 5-Year American Community Survey, B01001

LITTLE ITALY - UNIVERSITY CIRCLE RAPID STATION

TONY BRUSH PARK

P.E.A.C.E. PARK

CAIN PARK

DRAFT

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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

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ACCESS TO/FROM PARKS | 196

INTRODUCTION

EAST CLEVELAND SURVEY ANALYSIS

The *East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan Community Survey* was conducted and available from June 6, 2020 until September 30, 2020. The survey was available online and on paper. Notices about the survey and the opportunity for public input and comment were made available via paper copies at the East Cleveland City Hall, East Cleveland Public Library, and the Coit Road Farmer's Market, and a community mass mailing through the City's Community Development Corporation NOAH (Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope). In all methods of notification and at the end of the questionnaire itself, the public was made aware of the opportunity to convey their opinion and input in writing, beyond the limitation of the survey questionnaire, to an email address specific to this project.

There were 136 respondents (105 online, 31 paper) with approximately 840 written comments in total.

This Results Report outlines the common themes that came from respondents' overall opinions on important issues and topics about East Cleveland Parks. Online and paper results are combined and presented as the universe responses.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The information presented in this report may be used by members of the community and community leaders to assess common themes and opinions important to the respondents as they relate to the City of East Cleveland Parks.

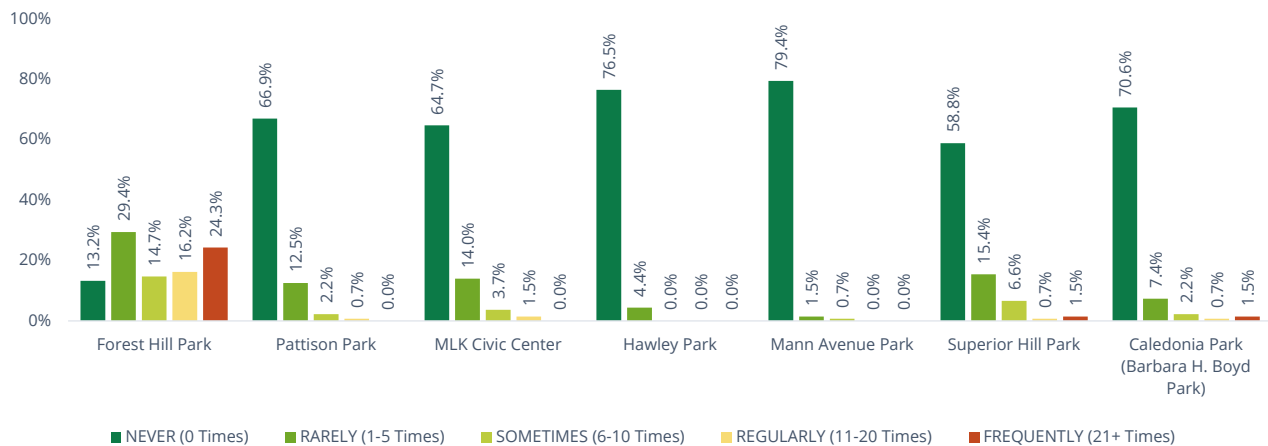
The analysis should be understood within the context of the demographic profile of respondents and how it relates to the City's parks.

Answers to individual questions are organized by the order of the questions as presented on the Survey: Overview of Parks and Access To/From Parks. The survey responses are described in text, displayed graphically, and analyzed in this section.

OVERVIEW OF PARKS

Respondents were asked “How often have you/your family visited the following local parks in the past year?”

FIGURE 39 PERCENT FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO EAST CLEVELAND PARKS IN THE PAST YEAR

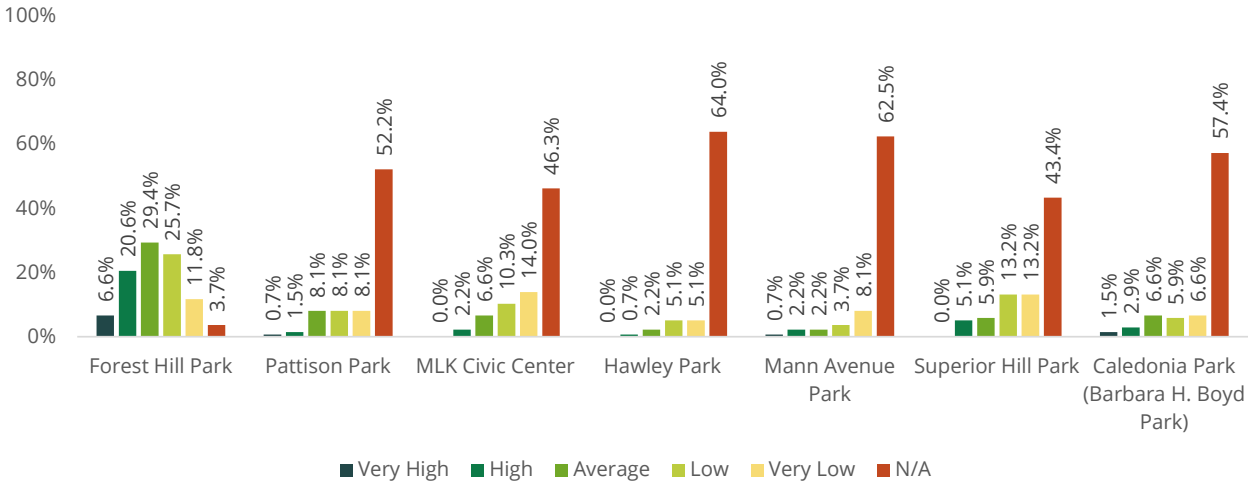


RESULTS

When asked how often they or their family had visited an East Cleveland park in the past year, 24.3% of respondents visited Forest Hill Park frequently and 16.2% visited regularly. However, a large majority of respondents stated they had never visited Pattison Park (66.6%), MLK Civic Center (64.7%), Hawley Park (76.5%), Mann Avenue Park (79.4%), Superior Hill Park (58.9%), or Caledonia Park (70.6%).

Respondents were asked “How would you rate the quality of the following City Parks?”

FIGURE 40 PERCENT RATING OF QUALITY OF EAST CLEVELAND PARKS



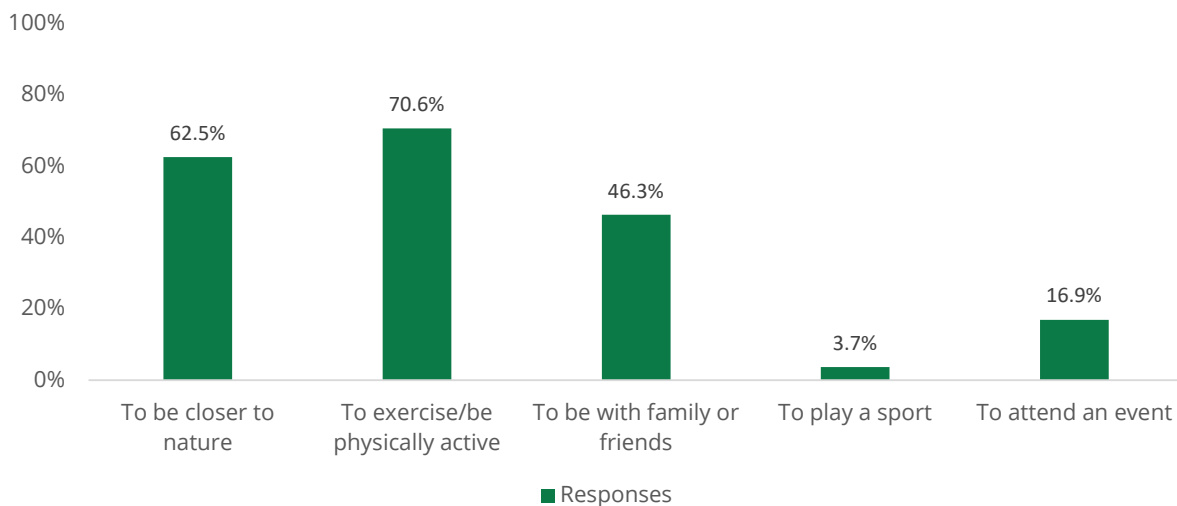
RESULTS

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of East Cleveland parks on a scale from “Very High” to “Very Low” with an option to select “Not Applicable.” With a relatively even distribution of responses, 27.2% of respondents rated Forest Hill Park “Very High” or “High”, 29.4% as “Average”, or 25.7% as “Low”.

The remaining East Cleveland parks and facilities had significantly lower ratings with the majority of respondents answering “Not Applicable” to Pattison Park (52.2%), MLK Civic Center (46.3%), Hawley Park (64.0%), Mann Avenue Park (62.5%), Superior Hill Park (43.4%), and Caledonia Park (57.4%). In general, parks and facilities that were not visited often, the quality was rated “Low”, “Very Low”, or “Not Applicable”.

Respondents were asked "For what reasons have you/your family visited a park in the past year?" Respondents could select as many options as applicable.

FIGURE 41 PERCENT REASONS FOR VISITS TO EAST CLEVELAND PARKS IN THE PAST YEAR



RESULTS

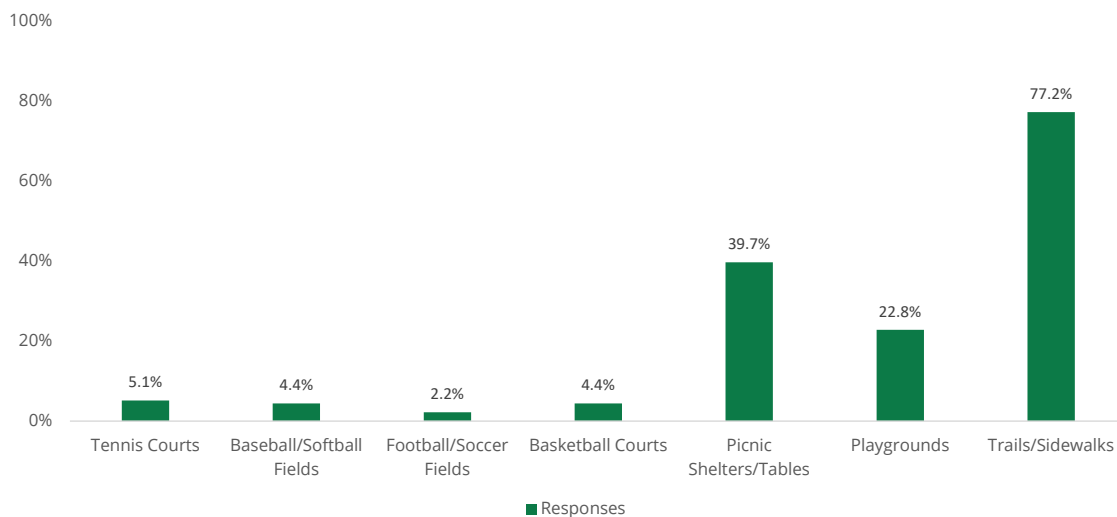
The top three reasons that respondents reported for visiting a park in the past year were "To exercise/be physically active" (70.6%), "To be closer to nature" (62.5%), and "To be with family or friends" (46.3%). The lowest reason reported by respondents was "To play a sport" receiving less than four percent of responses. This indicates that respondents enjoy being active and being outdoors, but do not necessarily visit parks for the purpose of organized sports.

COMMON THEMES

This question offered respondents the opportunity to provide additional comments about why they visited East Cleveland parks in the past year. Respondents generally visited a local park **to walk their dogs, to bird watch** or **be closer to nature, to socialize and gather with family and friends**, and to **attend an event**.

Respondents were asked “Which of the following park features in East Cleveland have you/your family used in the past year?”

FIGURE 42 PERCENT USAGE OF PARK FEATURES IN EAST CLEVELAND PARKS IN THE PAST YEAR



RESULTS

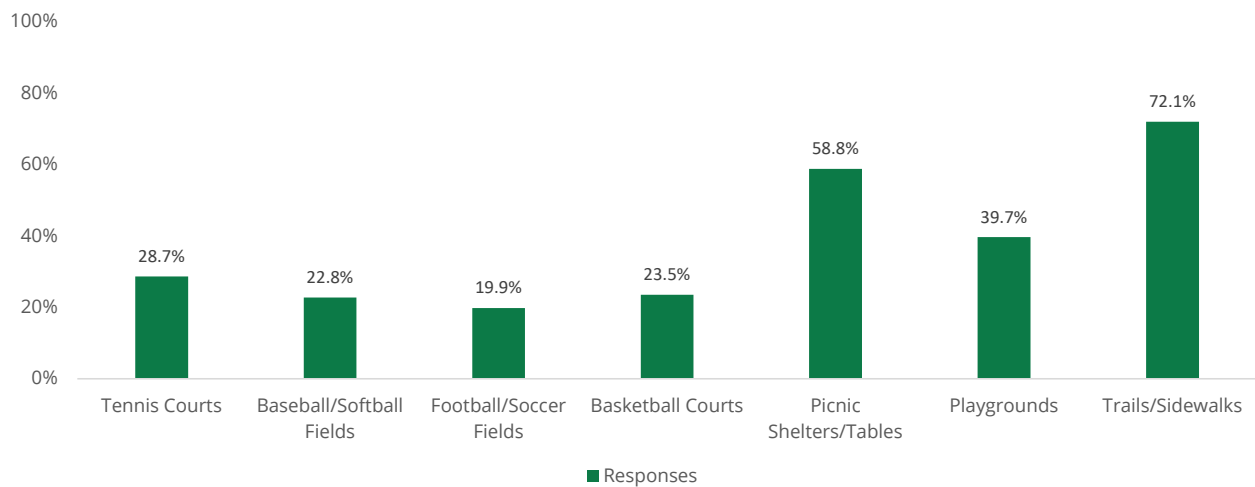
A majority of respondents (77.2%) reported that “Trails and sidewalks” was the park feature they and their families used in the past year. The next most used park feature reported by respondents were “Picnic shelters/Tables” (39.7%) and “Playgrounds” (22.8%). A number of respondents reported the usage of “Tennis Courts” (5.2%), “Baseball/Softball Fields” and “Basketball Courts” (4.4%) when they visited East Cleveland parks in the last year. This indicates that respondents do not use sports-related features when visiting parks and prefer to use the features that are more accessible and user-friendly. This correlates with the low percent of residents visiting parks to play a sport.

COMMON THEMES

Respondents were given the opportunity to add additional comments about the park features they used or enjoyed in East Cleveland parks in the past year. The most common park features respondents wrote about were the **duck pond, fishing,** and the **greenspaces** in Forest Hill Park.

Respondents were asked “Which of the following park features would you like to see added or improved?”

FIGURE 43 PERCENTAGE OF PARK FEATURES RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDED OR IMPROVED



RESULTS

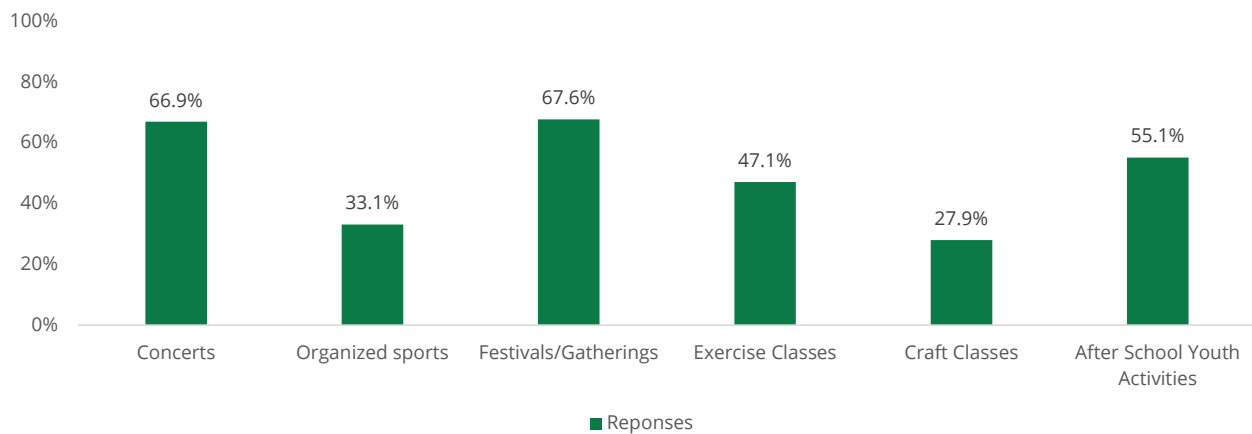
When respondents were asked which park features they would like to see added or improved, the park features selected were similar to the most used park features in a previous survey question. The highest number of respondents reported that they would like to see “Trails and sidewalks” (72.1%), “Picnic shelters/ Tables” (58.8%) and “Playgrounds” (39.7%). However, more respondents would like to see the “Tennis courts” (28.7%), “Baseball/Softball Fields” (22.8%), and “Basketball Courts” (23.5%) added or improved in East Cleveland parks. This indicates that the conditions of these features has impeded respondents' use of them, and they do have a desire to see them improved.

COMMON THEMES

Respondents were given the opportunity to add additional comments about the park features they would like to see added or improved in East Cleveland parks. The most common park features respondents want to see added or improved were park **restroom facilities** and **signage and wayfinding**, and many comments spoke about needed **maintenance**.

Respondents were asked “What types of activities and programs would you like to see at local parks?”

FIGURE 44 TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN EAST CLEVELAND PARKS



RESULTS

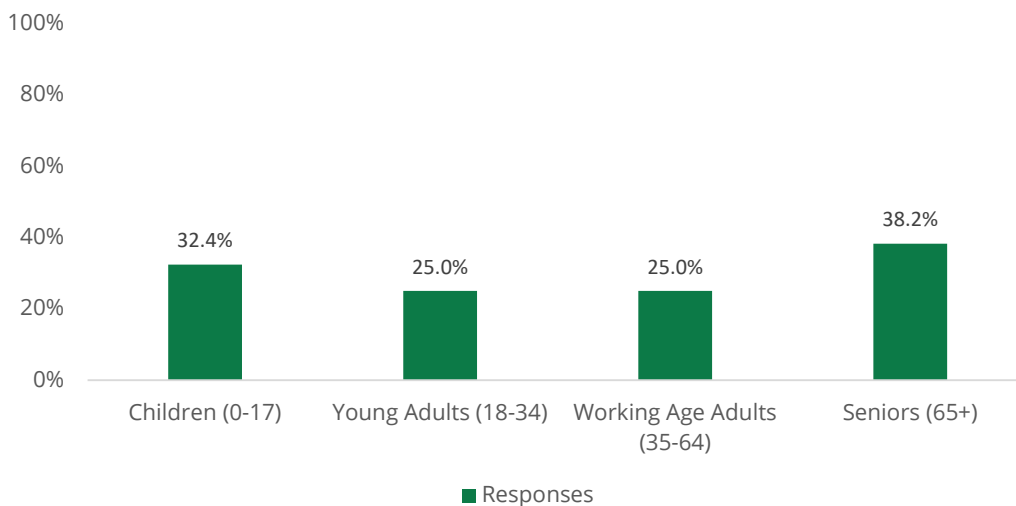
When asked what types of activities and programs they would like to see in East Cleveland parks, respondents reported “Festival/Gatherings” (67.7%), “Concerts” (66.9%), and “After School Youth Activities” (55.2%) as the most preferred. One-third of respondents stated “Organized sports” (33.1%) as a desired activity or program. Slightly more than one quarter of respondents indicating “Craft Classes” (27.9%) as an activity and program they would like to see in East Cleveland parks. Generally, these responses indicate that respondents would like some type of organized social and gathering activities and programs in the parks.

COMMON THEMES

Respondents were given the opportunity to add additional comments about the types of activities and programs they would like to see added to East Cleveland parks. The most common themes in the written comments were the need for **more organized events** such as **youth employment and educational events, bazaars, fairs, exercise classes, and programs and activities that engage the community** as a whole.

Respondents were asked “Who is not currently being served by existing park facilities, amenities, and activities?”

FIGURE 45 GROUPS NOT CURRENTLY BEING SERVED BY EXISTING PARK FACILITIES AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES



RESULTS

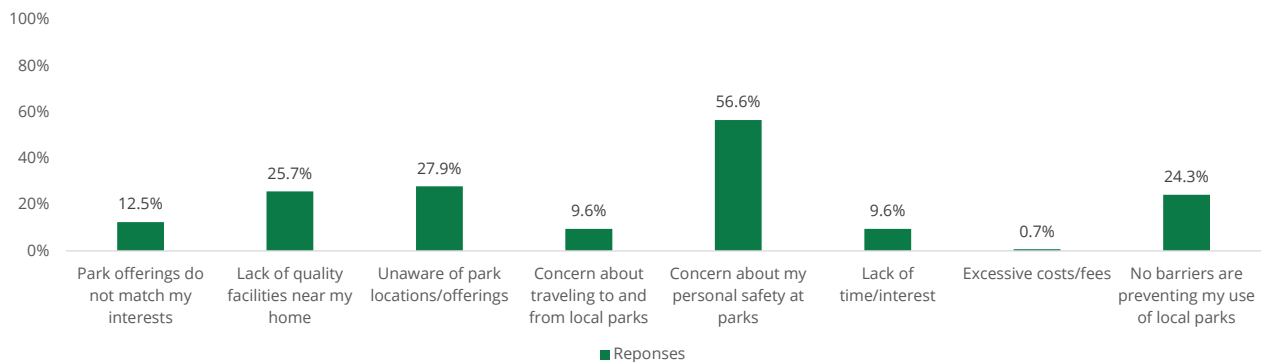
When asked who was not currently being served by existing park facilities, amenities, and activities, fifty-percent of the respondents equally agreed that “Young Adults: 18-34 years old” (25.0%) and “Working Age Adults: 35-64 years old” (25.0%) were not. Similarly respondents agreed that “Seniors: 65 year and older” (38.2%) and Children: 0-17 years old” were not currently being served by existing park facilities, amenities, and activities.

COMMON THEMES

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their responses to “Who is not currently being served by existing park facilities, amenities, and activities”. The common themes reported by respondents included **safety, maintenance, and a lack of organized events and programs** which could indicate why certain age groups are underserved.

Respondents were asked “What keeps you from enjoying East Cleveland parks more?”

FIGURE 46 PERCENTAGE OF REASONS KEEPING RESPONDENTS FROM ENJOYING EAST CLEVELAND PARKS



RESULTS

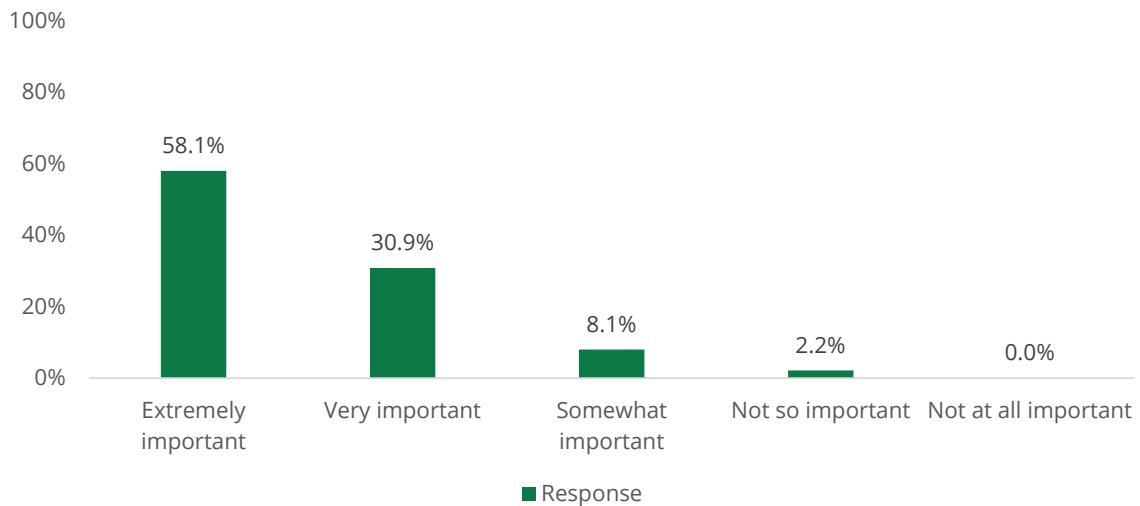
More than half of the respondents (56.6%) cited a “Concern about my personal safety at parks” as being the top reason keeping them from enjoying East Cleveland parks more. More than a quarter of respondents reported that they were “Unaware of park location/offerings” (27.9%), or there was a “Lack of quality facilities near my home” (25.7%). However, there was almost an equal number of respondents that stated that there were “No barriers preventing their use of local parks” (24.3%). Conversely, there was an equal number of respondents had a “Concern about traveling to and from local parks” (9.6%) and “Lack of time/interest” (9.6%). This indicates that while respondents are mostly concerned about safety while at the parks, they also concerned about being informed about park features and the lack of quality facilities near their homes.

COMMON THEMES

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their responses to the question “What keeps you from enjoying East Cleveland parks more”, respondents wrote that a **lack of maintenance** and **safety** as their top reasons for not enjoying the parks more.

Respondents were asked "How important are parks to you?"

FIGURE 47 PERCENT RATING OF PARK IMPORTANCE TO RESPONDENTS



RESULTS

When asked to rate the importance of parks on a scale from extremely important to not at all important, a majority of respondents (58.1%) felt that parks were "Extremely Important." And 39.0% of respondents felt that parks were "Very Important" or "Somewhat Important" to them. Fewer than 2.2% of respondents felt that parks were "Not So Important."

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT THE CITY'S PARKS?

Respondents were asked what their top three favorite things about the City's parks were. Respondents' top favorite thing were the **walking and bicycle trails**. Respondents stated that they enjoyed **walking their dogs** or **looking at the trees** while on the many wooded trails. Respondents also stated that they **enjoyed the open, natural spaces and the overall beauty of the parks**, which allows them to **view the wildlife** such as the ducks at the pond or the many species of birds. Finally, Forest Hill Park itself ranked very highly among respondents due to the **historic features** and **natural beauty** of the park.

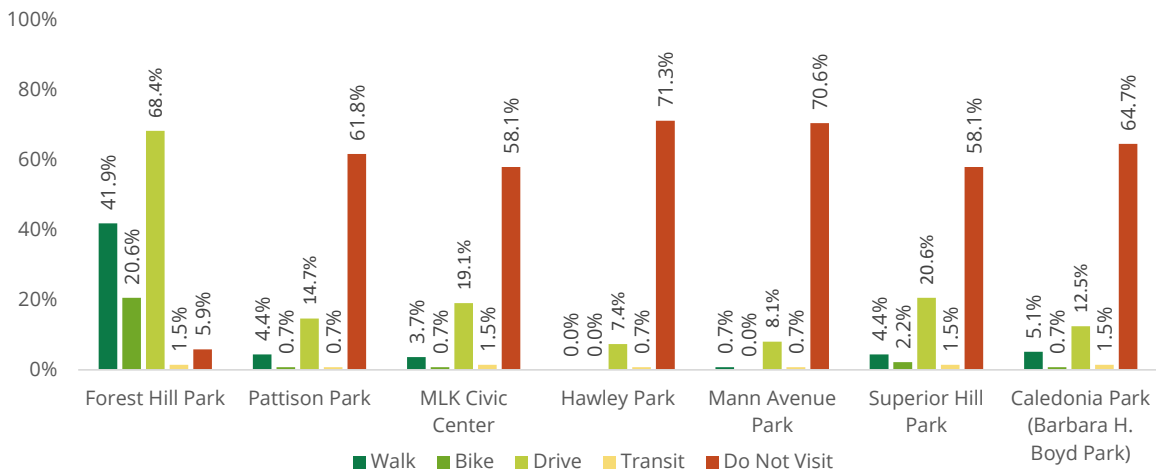
WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE/IMPROVE ABOUT THE CITY'S PARKS?

Respondents were asked the top three things they would change/improve about the City's parks. The majority of written comments were about **improving or changing the overall cleanliness and maintenance** in the parks. Another concern the respondents reported was the **need for a higher focus on safety and security**. Respondents also stated that they have a desire to see **more events and activities** in the parks.

ACCESS TO/FROM PARKS

Respondents were asked "How do you typically travel to the following local parks?"

FIGURE 48 PERCENTAGE OF MODES OF TRAVEL TO EAST CLEVELAND LOCAL PARKS



RESULTS

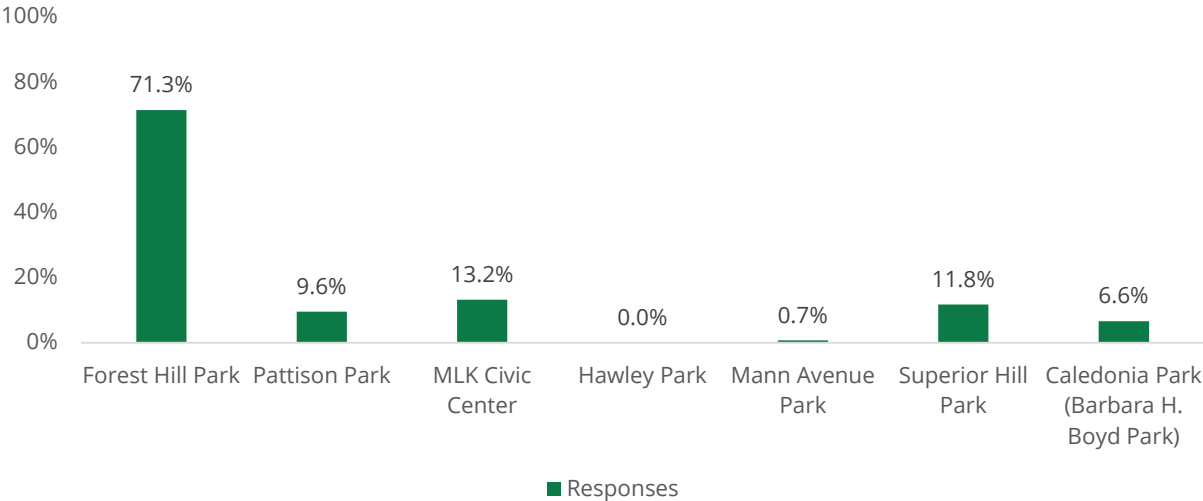
Respondents were asked how they typically travel to East Cleveland parks. A majority of respondents do not visit the following parks and facilities: Pattison Park (61.8%), MLK Civic Center (58.1%), Hawley Park (71.3%), Mann Avenue (70.6%), Superior Hill Park (58.1%), and Caledonia Park (64.7%), however, there are some respondents that reported when they do visit those parks and facilities they drive to the MLK Civic Center (19.1%) and Superior Hill Park (20.6%).

Conversely, more respondents visited Forest Hill Park using multiple modes of travel. 68.4% of respondents stated that they drove to Forest Hill Park while 62.5% of respondents reported that they walked or biked to the park.

For all East Cleveland parks and facilities, respondents stated that when they do travel to local parks, they are least likely to use "Transit" as a preferred method of travel.

Respondents were asked "Which of the following parks would you be able to walk to from your home?"

FIGURE 49 ABILITY TO WALK TO EAST CLEVELAND LOCAL PARKS FROM HOME

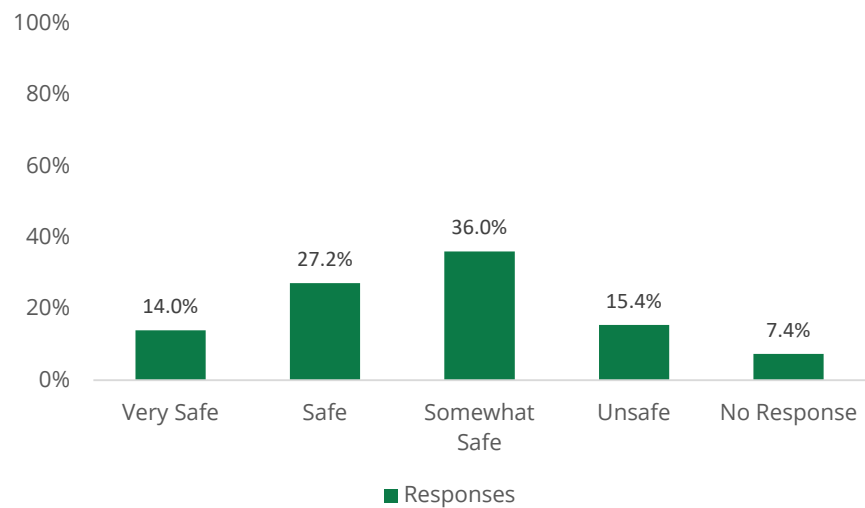


RESULTS

A majority of respondents (71.3%) reported that they could walk to Forest Hill Park from their homes. The MLK Civic Center (13.2%) was the second park or facility respondents were able to access from their home. Respondents stated that they would not be able to walk to Mann Avenue Park (0.7%) or Hawley Park (0.0%) from home. As indicated in the previous question that asked respondents how they traveled to parks, respondents are less apt to walk to these neighborhood parks versus walking to the larger Forest Hill Park.

Respondents were asked “How safe do you feel walking to local parks?”

FIGURE 50 RATING ON SAFETY WALKING TO EAST CLEVELAND PARKS

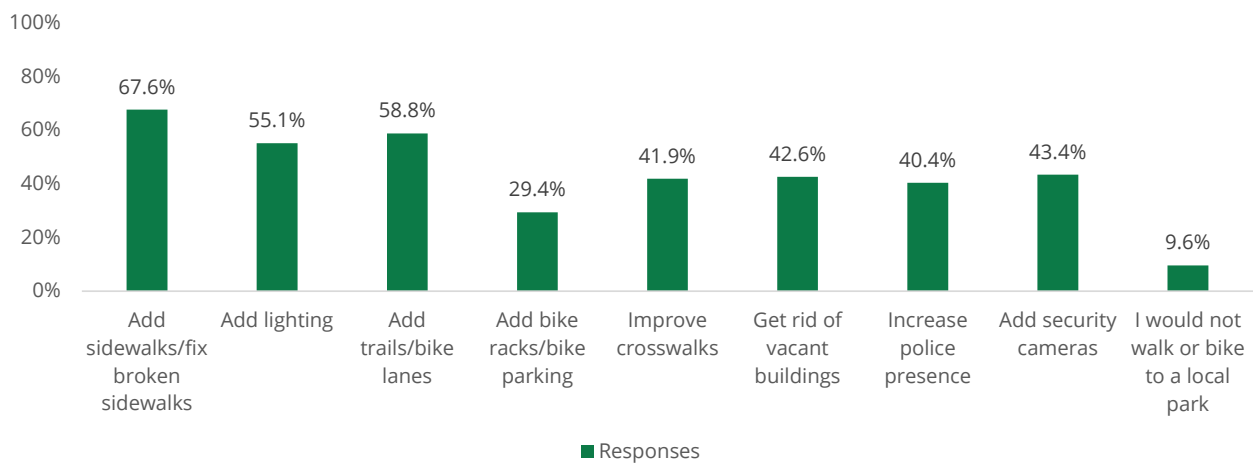


RESULTS

Less than half respondents (41.2%) reported that they feel “Very Safe” or “Safe” walking to East Cleveland parks. Slightly more than one-third of respondents (36.0%) stated that they feel “Somewhat Safe” walking to local parks.

Respondents were asked “What would improve walking or biking to a local park?”

FIGURE 51 FEATURES THAT WOULD IMPROVE WALKING OR BIKING TO EAST CLEVELAND PARKS



RESULTS

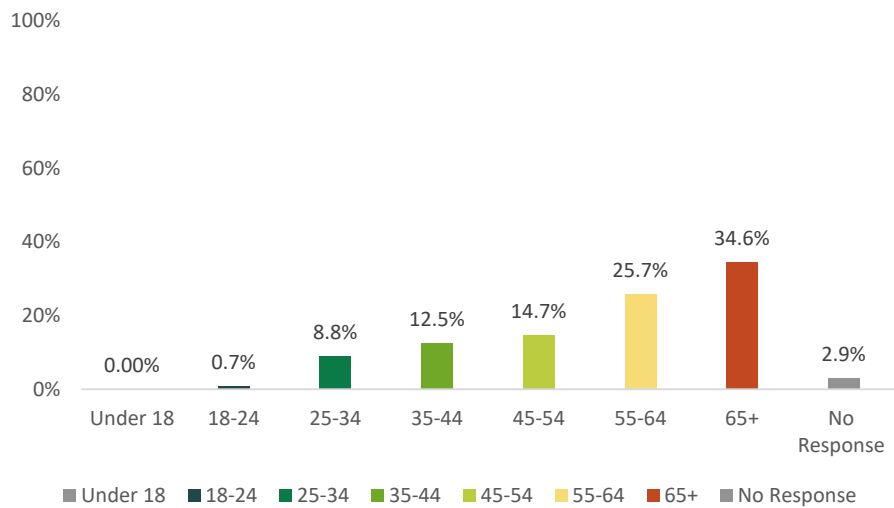
The three features that respondents reported would most improve walking or biking to East Cleveland parks were “Add sidewalks/fix broken sidewalks” (67.6%), “Add trails/bike lanes” (58.8%), and “Add Lighting” (55.1%). Additionally, respondents would like to “Add security cameras” (43.4%), “Get rid of vacant buildings” (42.6%), and “Increase police presence” (40.4%), and “Improve crosswalks (41.9%). This indicates that respondents value safety and security just as much as they value improving the infrastructure of paths and connections as ways to improving walking and biking to local parks. However, very few respondents said they would not walk or bike to a local park.

COMMON THEMES

This question offered respondents the opportunity to provide additional comments about what changes would improve walking or biking to East Cleveland parks. Respondents generally wrote that they had a desire to see **better safety features** such as **cameras, safer crosswalks and intersections**, and **improved maintenance** of park infrastructure such as **broken fences, unkempt trees and shrubs**, and **deteriorated asphalt and sidewalks**.

Respondents were asked "What is your age?"

FIGURE 52 PERCENTAGE OF AGE OF RESPONDENTS

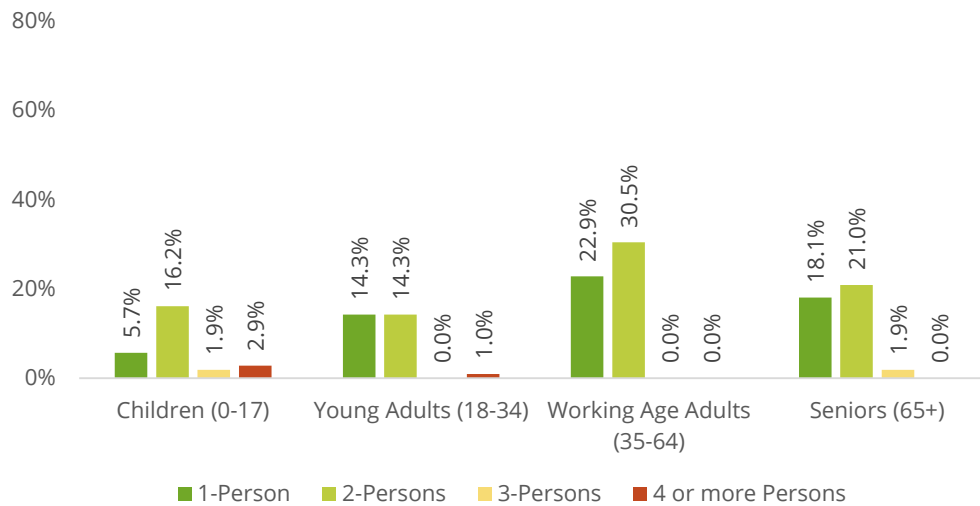


RESULTS

When respondents were asked their age, 36.0% identified as young and working adults, in the "25-34," or "35-44", and "45-54" age groups. A majority of respondents (60.3%) identified as being in the "55-64" (25.7%) and "65+" (34.6%) age groups with less than one percent of respondents identifying as 24 years or younger (0.7%).

Respondents were asked “How many people live in your household in each age group?”

FIGURE 53 PERCENT OF NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN RESPONDENTS HOUSEHOLD BY AGE GROUP



RESULTS

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of people in their household within specific age groups. Although there was an even distribution in the number of people in a household by age group, more respondents that were part of a “Two-person, Working-Age Adults” households (30.5%), “One-person, Working-Age Adults (22.9%) answered the survey. “One-person, Senior 65+” (18.1%) and “Two-person, Senior 65+” (21.0%) were the next highest grouping of respondents that answered the survey.

These percentages for households by age were generally consistent with the population of the City.

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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY REPORT

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EAST CLEVELAND

PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY REPORT

The *Community Engagement Opportunities for the East Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Plan* was conducted from June 2021 through October 2021. There were 546 total impressions during the community engagement opportunities timeframe. These impressions included 460 opinions expressed via a dot placement activity and 86 individual written comments. Community Engagement Activity boards were made available at the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) Movie Night at Pattison Park on July 19, 2021, and the Food Strong Cleveland Care-A-Van at the Coit Road Farmers Market on August 14, 2021, and October 9, 2021. Community Engagement Activity boards were placed at the East Cleveland Public Library and the Salvation Army East Cleveland from September 27, 2021, through October 25, 2021. These community engagement activities gave residents and visitors an opportunity provide input and comments about East Cleveland Parks.

This Summary Results Report outlines the common themes that came from respondents' overall opinions on important issues and topics about East Cleveland Parks.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The information presented in this summary may be used by members of the community and community leaders to assess common themes and opinions important to the respondents as they relate to the City of East Cleveland Parks.

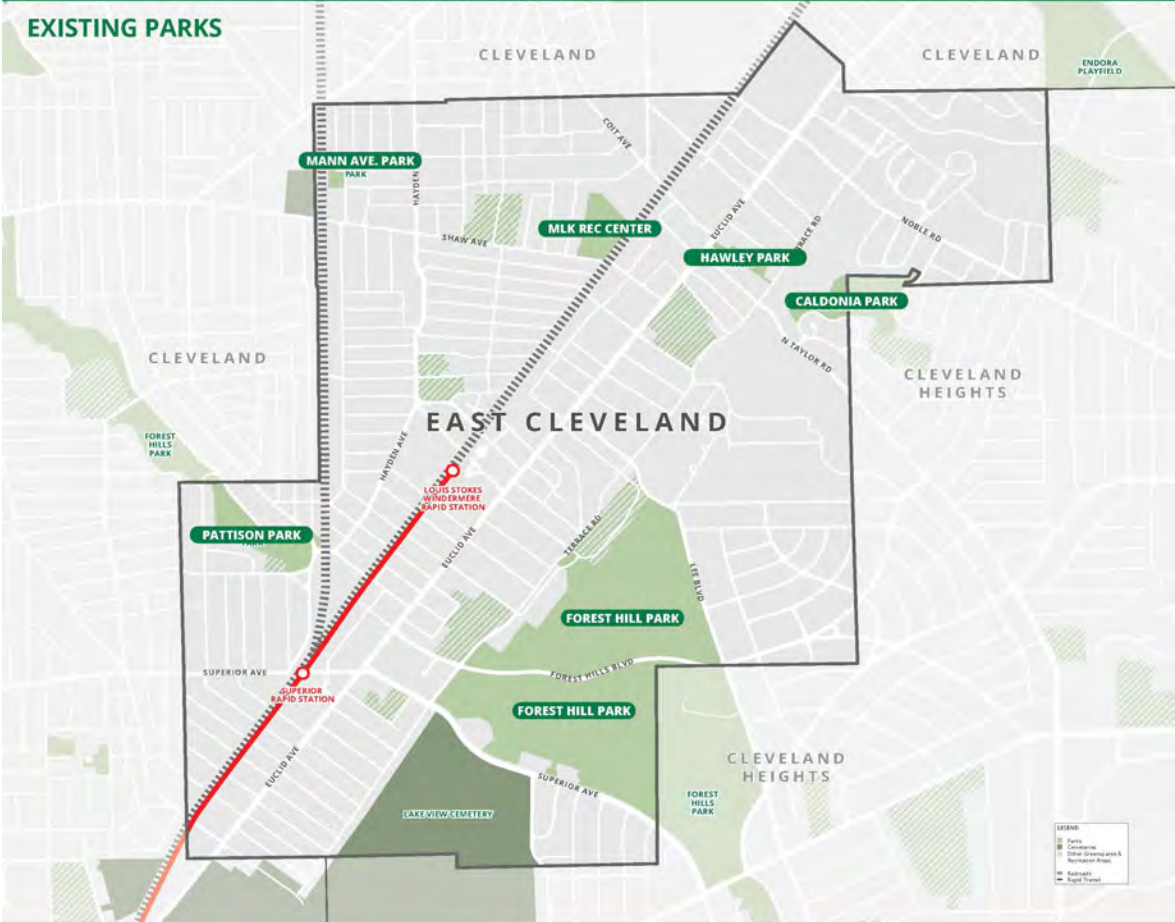
The analysis summary should be understood within the context of the demographic profile of respondents and how it relates to the City's parks.

CITY OF EAST CLEVELAND

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East Cleveland, Ohio 44112
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Do you visit East Cleveland Parks? What would you like to do there?

The City of East Cleveland with help from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission is developing a Citywide Parks & Greenspace Plan

PARKS OVERVIEW

					
7	213	12.3	2.4	99%	90%
PARKS	ACRES OF PARKLAND	ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	MILES OF TRAILS	STREETS WITH SIDEWALKS	RESIDENTS WITHIN TEN MINUTE WALK OF A PARK

 **SCAN ME!** We need your help in providing a Vision for Parks, so please take a minute to help shape the future of East Cleveland by placing dots on your preferred improvements

To learn more scan the QR Code or please visit www.countyplanning.us/EastClevelandParks





**WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR VISION FOR EAST CLEVELAND PARKS,
THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS, SO PLEASE SHARE YOUR BIG IDEAS!**



EAST CLEVELAND
PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VISIONING ACTIVITY

For the Visioning Activities, respondents were presented with two boards. The first board featured a citywide map of the seven (7) East Cleveland Parks: Forest Hill, Pattison, Mann Avenue, MLK Recreation Center, Hawley, and Caledonia Parks, with an overview of the total amount of parkland acreage (213 acres) in the City. A majority of residents, approximately 90%, live within a ten-minute walk of a park and trail access (2.4 miles).

The second board provided the opportunity for respondents to answer the question, *“What is your vision for East Cleveland Parks?”* Equipped with dots, sticky notes, pens, and pencils, respondents were asked to leave comments and feedback on the boards.

The majority of respondents stated that they **liked or loved** Forest Hill and Pattison Parks. Additionally, respondents expressed a desire to see more activities that make community members **“feel like that they still matter.”** This correlates to the community’s desire to see community-wide investments and park improvements.

RESULTS AND COMMON THEMES

The 77 comments gathered during the Community Engagement Visioning Activities, from the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) Movie Night at Pattison Park and the Food Strong Cleveland Car-A-Van at the Coit Road Farmers’ Market, were categorized into the most common themes that represent what respondents would like to see in East Cleveland parks. Those themes were grouped into “Live Activities,” “Park Spaces,” “Facilities and Amenities,” Maintenance and Safety,” and “Other”.

Respondents desired more “Live Activities” such as **movie nights, karaoke, and free concerts**. Respondents also expressed their interests for East Cleveland Parks to have more “Park Spaces” with family-friendly features that include **new playgrounds, paths and trails for walking, hiking, and biking, exercise stations** and updated **sports equipment and facilities**, like basketball courts. They also desire to see more park beautification efforts that include more **tree plantings** and **flowers**.

Residents would like to see park “Facilities and Amenities” that feature updated **restrooms and water fountains**, new **benches and tables** for seating and gatherings, and a community **swimming pool**.

“Maintenance and Safety” was the most common theme. Respondents expressed concerns about **maintenance and upkeep** of the parks. They wrote that they would like to see regular **trash pickup and grass cutting**, and additional **trash cans** in the parks. However, the most common response from respondents were their desires for added **security** in the parks and to have an **overall feeling of being protected and safe** while in the parks.

Other themes respondents wrote about included the desire to see more **educational outdoor extracurricular activities and programs**, improved **kid spaces**, and a community **garden space**.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

YOU! + **Dots** + Please See Staff Member for Help with Dots

EAST CLEVELAND PARKS & GREENSPACE PLAN

**WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN EAST CLEVELAND'S PARKS!
PLEASE PLACE DOTS NEXT TO IMAGES OF ITEMS YOU WANT IN OUR PARKS.**

MAINTENANCE *Grass & Landscape Maintenance, Garbage Collection, Sidewalk & Facility Repairs, etc.*

Place Dots Here



EVENTS *Movie Nights, Live Concerts, Festivals, Camps, Food Trucks, etc.*

Place Dots Here



PLAYGROUNDS *Traditional Playgrounds, Nature Playgrounds, Sensory, & Universal Playgrounds*

Place Dots Here



TRAILS & PATHS *Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings, Walking & Biking Trails, Bike Lanes, etc.*

Place Dots Here



SPORTS FIELDS *Basketball Court, Blacktop (Tetherball & Four-Square), Soccer Goal, other Equipment*

Place Dots Here



RENTABLE SPACES *Pavilions, Picnic Shelters & Tables, Grills, etc.*

Place Dots Here



AMENITIES *Restrooms, Benches & Seating, Signage, Water Fountains, Lighting*

Place Dots Here



PUBLIC ART *Examples: Murals, Sculptures, Permanent & Temporary Installments*

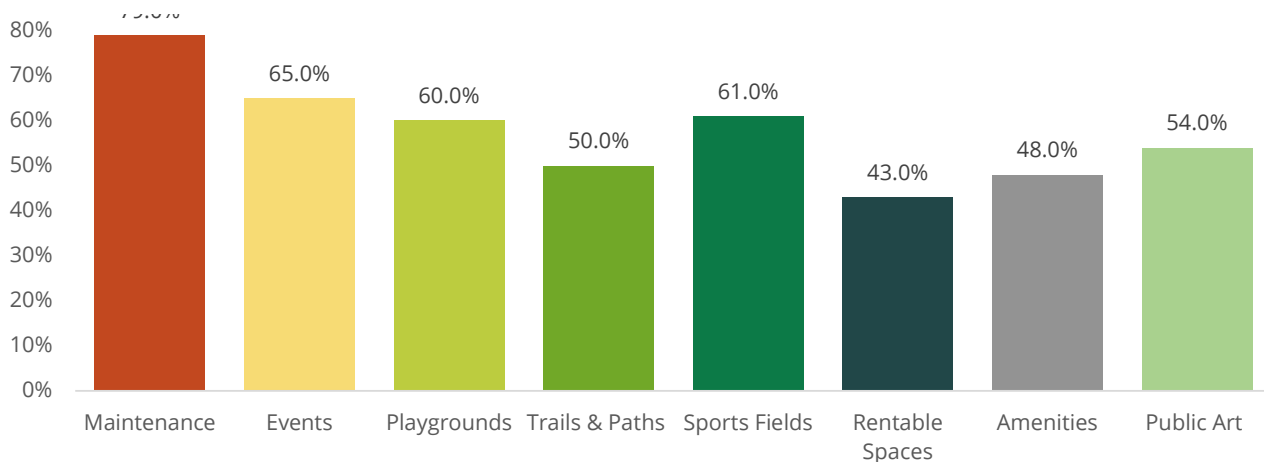
Place Dots Here



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ACTIVITY

During the Food Strong Cleveland Care-A-Van at the Coit Road Farmers' Market event, the East Cleveland Public Library, and the Salvation Army community engagement opportunities, respondents were presented with a Recommendations board. This board displayed different park item typologies that correspond to different park categories such as "Maintenance," "Events," "Playgrounds," "Trails & Parks," "Sports Fields," "Rentable Spaces," "Amenities," and "Public Art." Respondents were asked to place a dot "Next to the images of items they want in the East Cleveland Parks." There were nine (9) written comments and approximately 460 dots placed to represent opinions on the types of park items respondents would like to see in for East Cleveland parks.

FIGURE 54 PERCENTAGE OF ITEMS RESIDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN EAST CLEVELAND PARKS



RESULTS AND COMMON THEMES

Of the 460 dot representations, the majority of respondents indicated that "Maintenance" (79.0%), "Events" (65.0%), and "Sports Fields" (61.0%) were the most desired items in East Cleveland Parks. Notably, respondents expressed support for the following themes: "Trails & Paths" (50.0%), "Amenities" (48.0%), and "Rentable Spaces" (43.0%).

These results correlate with respondent comments on what their vision is for the future of East Cleveland Parks. Most respondents generally felt the City of East Cleveland should focus on maintenance and upkeep of the parks, creating more family- and user-friendly by adding more events and attractions to activate the parks, and make them community assets and safe destinations for families and kids.

The most common theme respondents commented about included **reutilization of vacant and abandoned spaces** near the parks, creating **economic development opportunities** in neighborhoods, such as **retail, restaurants, and grocery stores**, and general infrastructure **maintenance and upkeep** of the **streets and roads** throughout the City of East Cleveland.



County Planning

FOR OUR COMMUNITY
FOR OUR REGION
FOR OUR FUTURE