

5. PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Goal

A community that is welcoming to everyone with outstanding parks and public spaces throughout the city, recreational facilities and programming that support a diverse population, and community events that serve residents and visitors.

Objectives

- *Support a broad array of activities and programs in public places that strengthen community pride and serve all community demographics*
- *Provide easy and equitable walking and biking access to neighborhood parks and amenities for all residents*
- *Elevate parks and public spaces through beautification, regular maintenance, and streetscape improvements*
- *Expand recreational trails throughout the city to create and connect to regional amenities/destinations*

When asked what they love about Hilliard today, residents are quick to praise the city's parks, amenities, and public spaces. Investment in recent years has created new signature places and expanded the city's offerings for parks and public spaces. This section outlines actions for practicing good stewardship of existing resources and expanding their use and accessibility.



Chapter organization

- Context
- Park Classification and Public Spaces
- Actions
- Public Art and Streetscape Elements
- Heritage Rail Trail Linear Park Concept

CONTEXT: KEY FINDINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Hilliard's twenty-five parks are crucial public spaces in the community. Distributed throughout the city, parks offer spaces for gathering, recreation, and community activities. The city's current parks and public spaces were analyzed to understand current and future needs. The findings of these analyses informed the recommended programs and policies in this chapter.

Public input highlights

During the first round of public engagement, participants were asked, "what do you love most about Hilliard today", and, "when you think about how Hilliard develops in the future, what is most important to you?". The responses showed that **Hilliard's parks and public spaces are the things residents like most about the city**. Common themes from the responses were:

- Public parks, amenities and spaces are the things people love the most about Hilliard (25% of responses)

When thinking about how Hilliard develops in the future, top responses include:

- A greater variety of things to do (26% of responses)
- Improved community character, appearance, placemaking and culture (20% of responses)
- More green space and open space preservation (10% of responses)

Key Conditions and Trends

A new half-percent income tax is the first dedicated funding for parks and recreation in the city. The new funding source will support the development of a new Recreation and Wellness Center adjacent to Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park, and will remain as a funding source for parks and recreation operation and maintenance into the future.

Hilliard offers an ample supply of most standard parks amenities, but park acreage and amenities are concentrated in Municipal Park on the west side of the city. The most common amenities are paved and natural walking paths, open green space, picnic areas, and playgrounds, which are well distributed around the city. Development of the new Recreation and Wellness Center will greatly expand recreational offerings for the city, especially aquatic and indoor amenities, but will continue to concentrate facilities in that part of the city, which is not within a walkable or bikeable distance of many residents. The central portion of the city has the least parkland currently available, while the eastern portion has limited connectivity to parks due to sparse crossings of I-270.

Around seventy-two percent of Hilliard residents live within a ten-minute walk of a park, according to the Trust for Public Land's [ParkServe](#). Areas of the city with the least access include the area south of Hayden Run Road and between the railroad and I-270; the southern portion of the area between Scioto Darby and Leap Road; and the undeveloped portions of the I-270 and Big Darby area.

Hilliard's "top places" have received ongoing investment with opportunities for continued enhancement. Past planning processes identified the "top five places" as Old Hilliard, Municipal Park, Weaver Park, Clyde "Butch" Seidle Community Pool and Hilliard East Park, and the Heritage Rail Trail extension. Plans for the first four have largely been implemented; the Rail Trail extension remains a top priority but has not yet been advanced. Ongoing investment in these top places will continue in coordination with development of the focus areas.

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Benchmarking

Existing recreation and parks facilities, and program offerings were compared to the NRPA's annual Park Metrics, which is a benchmarking resource that provides a snapshot of how Hilliard compares to other cities by population and throughout the Great Lakes Region. This benchmarking analysis is meant to provide general guidance – not to present rigid standards. Hilliard has allocated resources to provide programs and amenities that meet the unique needs of its residents, and the benchmarking metrics provide an additional, data-based perspective for the Recreation and Parks Department to measure its progress and maintain a sufficient supply as the city's population grows. Hilliard data are from 2022 and include the anticipated

Measure	Hilliard	Cities with pop. 20,000-49,999 (Median)	Great Lakes Region (Median)
Population	37,114		
Square miles of city	14.45		
Population density (people/square mi)	2,568		
Number of parks	25		
Residents per Park	1,485	1,941	1,701
Residents per Playground	3,711	3,111	2,520
Total acres parkland	660		
Total developed acres parkland	495		
Percentage of developed acres	75%		
Acres (developed) parkland per 1,000 residents	13.34	10.6	13.4
Miles of trail	20	8	
Trail miles per 1,000 residents	0.54		

facilities to be built as part of the new Hilliard Recreation and Wellness Center. According to this benchmark, Hilliard compares favorably to its peer cities in many areas. Areas where additional facilities may be needed include indoor facilities such as a nature center or teen center; and outdoor facilities including basketball courts, tennis courts, and multipurpose courts and fields. Programing needs may include specialized activities for people with disabilities, and cultural crafts programming. Hilliard City Schools offer before and after school programs, and the Recreation and Parks department does not anticipate offering such programming,

		Residents Per Facility		
			Cities with pop. 20,000-49,000 (Median)	Great Lakes Region (Median)
Indoor recreation facilities by type	Qty	Hilliard		
Recreation centers (including gyms)	1	37,114	24,601	21,197
Community centers	1	37,114	26,668	25,600
Senior centers	1	37,114	32,075	42,296
Performance amphitheaters	1	37,114	30,745	49,999
Nature centers	0	N/A	30,912	75,000
Aquatics centers	1	37,114	31,230	38,019
Stadiums	0	N/A	27,891	78,967
Indoor ice rinks	0	N/A	24,904	38,297
Arenas	0	N/A	24,413	69,604
Teen centers	0	N/A	29,406	51,200

Hilliard may have an under supply of this amenity or program

Hilliard has an appropriate supply of this amenity or program

Hilliard may have a surplus of this amenity or program

Not applicable - comparable metrics not available

Outdoor recreation facilities by type	Qty	Residents Per Facility		
		Hilliard	Cities with population 20,000-49,000 (Median)	Great Lakes Region (Median)
Playgrounds	10	3,711	3,111	2,520
Basketball courts	3	12,371	6,839	5,268
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	13	2,855	4,858	4,390
Tennis courts	2	18,557	5,000	
Rectangular fields: multipurpose	24	1,546	7,674	6,249
Dog park	1	37,114	28,000	40,268
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	2	18,557	11,232	11,522
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	13	2,855	8,509	6,048
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	2	18,557	19,000	16,200
Swimming pools	4	9,279	26,281	
Community gardens	2	18,557	24,500	24,985
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	24	1,546	5,011	4,885
Multipurpose courts: basketball, volleyball	2	18,557	14,807	13,695
Totlots	4	9,279	10,756	
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	4	9,279	10,547	11,056
Skate parks	0	N/A	32,335	
Rectangular fields: football field	0	N/A	19,351	21,952
Regulation 18-hole courses	0	N/A	33,800	
Driving range stations	0	N/A	23,238	7,480
Multipurpose synthetic fields	0	N/A	24,665	40,577
Ice rinks	0	N/A	13,123	16,468
Pickleball courts	4	9,279	8,143	
Rectangular fields: cricket field	1	37,114	31,779	71,657
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	8	4,639	13,521	31,700

Hilliard may have an under supply of this amenity or program

Hilliard has an appropriate supply of this amenity or program

Hilliard may have a surplus of this amenity or program

Not applicable - comparable metrics not available

Recreational Programs	Offered in Hilliard	Percent of cities that offer	
		Cities with pop. 20,000-49,999	Great Lakes Region
Themed Special Events	Yes	90%	89%
Social Recreation Events	Yes	90%	86%
Team Sports	Yes	93%	80%
Fitness Enhancement Classes	Yes	90%	77%
Health and Wellness Education	Yes	83%	77%
Individual Sports	Yes	80%	74%
Safety Training	Yes	65%	69%
Racquet Sports	Yes	76%	66%
Aquatics	Yes	68%	63%
Performing Arts	Yes	64%	63%
Visual Arts	Yes	58%	61%
Natural and cultural history activities	Yes*	54%	60%
Cultural Crafts	No	61%	60%
Trips and Tours	Yes	64%	55%
Martial Arts	Yes	65%	55%
Running/Cycling Races	Yes	46%	50%
Golf	No	43%	52%
eSports/Gaming	Yes	10%	14%

*Offered by Hilliard Historical Society (Weaver Park), Hilliard Arts Council (Civic and Cultural Arts Center)

Targeted programs	Offered in Hilliard	Percent of cities that offer	
		Cities with pop. 20,000-49,999	Great Lakes Region
Summer Camp	Yes	88%	80%
Specific Senior Programs	Yes	80%	77%
Specific Teen Programs	Yes	62%	61%
Programs for People with Disabilities	No	58%	60%
STEM Programs	Yes	50%	57%
After School Programs	No**	48%	50%
Preschool	No	37%	41%
Before School Programs	No**	20%	28%
Full Daycare	No	6%	7%

** Offered by Hilliard City Schools

Hilliard is below the median in providing this program

Hilliard is at or above the median in providing this program

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Hilliard's Recreation and Parks Department operates and maintains twenty-five developed parks, a total of 660 acres. The City also owns and maintains land along the Heritage Trail, and in the Heritage Preserve development.

In addition to parks there are a variety of other public spaces and assets in the city. The Civic and Cultural Arts Center, operated by the Hilliard Arts Council, and the Columbus Metropolitan Library – Hilliard Branch, provide important cultural services. The Old Hilliard district is a top destination and public space. The Municipal Building and Norwich Township Safety Services building house City and Township services. School properties around the city offer additional sports facilities and are used as additional neighborhood park spaces. The Franklin County Fairgrounds is used for some public events. Homestead Metropark, managed by the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks and Frank Park, managed by City of Columbus are immediately adjacent to the city.

City parks and public spaces can generally be categorized into seven groups and are mapped on the following page.

Parks Classification

M	Mini Parks – Small parks under five acres in size, which serve a residential area of a quarter mile or less in radius. Passive facilities including landscaped areas, seating areas, playground or unique recreational needs. Usually do not have parking or programmed activities.
N	Neighborhood Parks – The basic unit of the park system; parks between around five and ten acres; usually include 50% active and 50% passive activities and may have on-site parking; Serve residents in a ¼ to ½ mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential streets; Generally not used for programmed activities.
C	Community Parks – Serve multiple neighborhoods in a one-half to three mile radius and include a mix of active and passive activities. Include parking and may have programmed athletic field events.
S	Sports Complexes – Heavily programed athletic fields and recreation facilities, ideally of around forty to eighty acres but typically smaller in Hilliard.
G	Natural Resource Preserves / Greenways – Land set aside for preservation of natural areas, greenways, and park trails.
F	Special Facilities – Special development providing a unique service.
P	Public Spaces – Spaces which serve to further cultural and educational opportunities, facilitate public gatherings and promote economic development.

Hilliard Parks

- ① Alt Field (M, S)
- ② Beacon Fields (S)
- ③ Britton Farms Park (N)
- ④ Conklin Park (M)
- ⑤ Cross Creek Park (S)
- ⑥ Darby Glen Park (N)
- ⑦ Father Rodric J. Dipietro Park (S)
- ⑧ First Responders Park (P)
- ⑨ Hamilton Park (N,S)
- ⑩ Hayden Run Village Park (N)
- ⑪ Heather Ridge Park (M)
- ⑫ Heritage Trail Dog Park (F)
- ⑬ Clyde "Butch" Seidle Community Pool and Hilliard East Park (N,F)
- ⑭ HOSA Soccer Complex (S)
- ⑮ Hilliard's Station Park (P)
- ⑯ Lakewood Park (N)
- ⑰ Latham Park (G)
- ⑱ Merchant Park (M)
- ⑲ Mildred Park (M)
- ⑳ Reibel Woods (G)
- ㉑ Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park & New Recreation and Wellness Center (C)
- ㉒ Scioto Run Nature Trail (G)
- ㉓ Silverton Park (M)
- ㉔ Tinapple Park (M)
- ㉕ Weaver Park – Historical District (P)

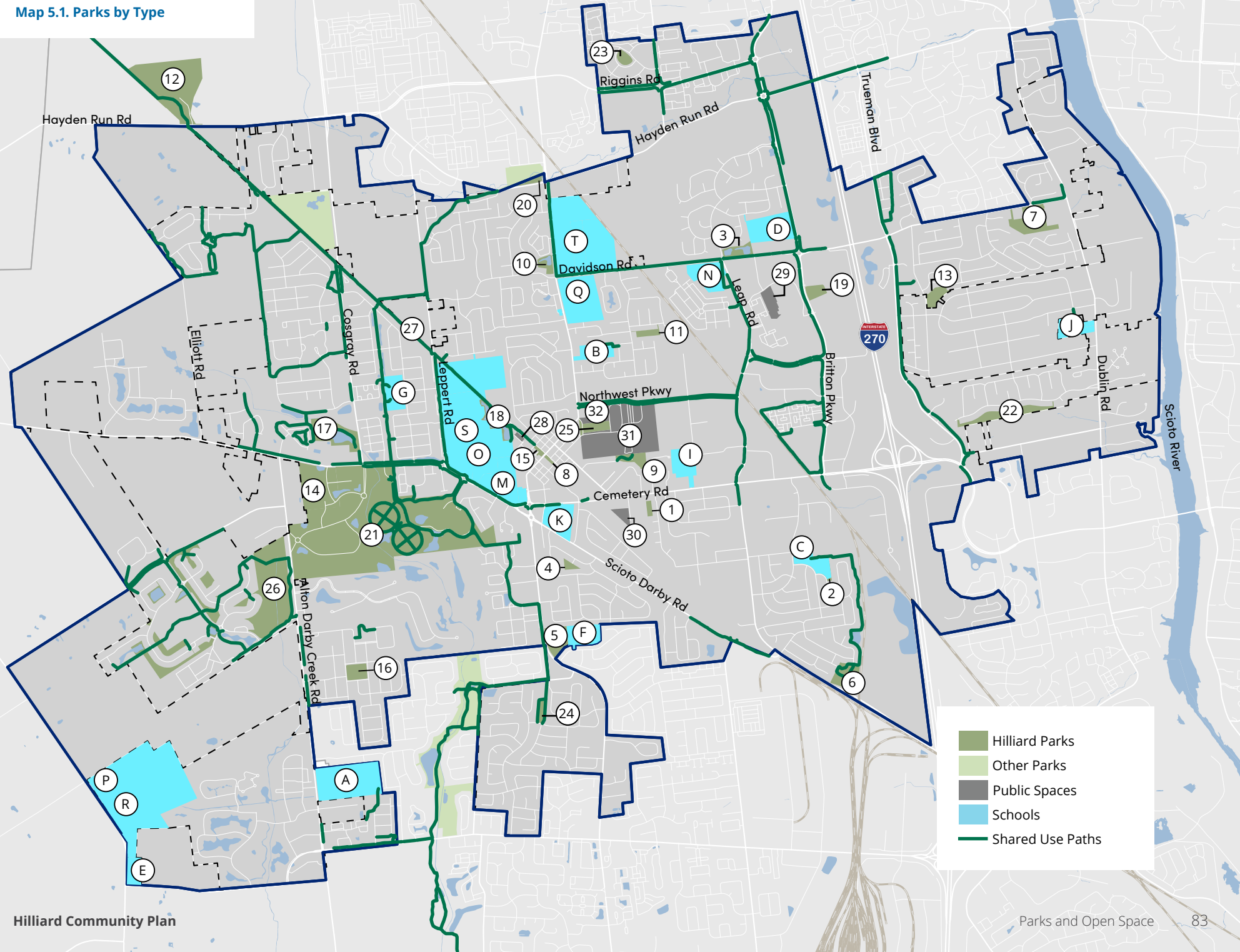
Other Parks and Public Spaces

- ㉖ Heritage Preserve (G)
- ㉗ Heritage Trail (G)
- ㉘ Cultural & Civic Arts Center (P)
- ㉙ Columbus Metropolitan Library (P)
- ㉚ Hilliard Municipal Building (P)
- ㉛ Franklin County Fairgrounds (P)
- ㉜ Norwich Township Hall (P)

Schools

- Ⓐ Alton Darby Creek Campus
- Ⓑ Avery Elementary
- Ⓒ Beacon Elementary
- Ⓓ Britton-Norwich Learning Campus
- Ⓔ Brown Elementary
- Ⓕ Crossing Elementary
- Ⓖ Hoffman Trails Elementary
- Ⓗ Horizon Elementary
- Ⓘ J.W. Reason Elementary
- Ⓝ Ridgewood Elementary
- Ⓚ Scioto Darby Elementary
- Ⓛ Washington Elementary
- Ⓜ Station Sixth Grade School
- Ⓝ Tharp Sixth Grade School
- Ⓞ Heritage Middle School
- Ⓟ Memorial Middle School
- Ⓠ Weaver Middle School
- Ⓡ Bradley High School
- Ⓢ Darby High School
- Ⓣ Davidson High School

Map 5.1. Parks by Type



ACTIONS

This section outlines actions for practicing good stewardship in Hilliard's parks and public spaces while expanding their use and accessibility. They are organized by the objectives, each action supports multiple objectives.

Support a broad array of activities and programs in public places that strengthen community pride and serve all community demographics

PS 1 Expand amenities and programming across Hilliard's parks ensuring that parks have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate activities. Completion of the new Recreation and Wellness Center will greatly expand the availability of parks amenities in the city, but they will be concentrated in one park. Identify parks that could be developed into community parks to expand amenities and programming to different areas of the city as appropriate. These may include rental spaces, pavilions, and picnic shelters; programming amenities such as fishing docks, rock climbing walls, skate parks, natural playgrounds, accessible amenities; etc. Expand programming at community parks in different areas of the city as appropriate. Community parks should have adequate parking and restroom facilities to support expanded programming.

Community Needs

Hilliard commissioned a market analysis and feasibility study to launch the process of designing the new Recreation and Wellness Center. The top needs identified for new amenities and programming throughout the city were:

Programs

Community special events
Food truck programs
Adventure programming
Group fitness
Nature education
Outdoor fitness/yoga classes

Meditation

Wellness

Art

Cooking

Home improvement

Amenities

Nature trails

Multi-use trails

Bicycling paths

Green space/open space

Outdoor pools

Neighborhood parks

Large community parks

PS 2 Create community events and programming specifically for youth and older adults, and increase the community's awareness of these opportunities.

Youth employment can provide leadership and mentorship opportunities; increase jobs or service-learning opportunities for youth. Provide educational group hikes, tours, etc. that are geared toward specific age groups. Market available opportunities to the groups of interest.

PS 3 Cultivate arts and cultural experiences that are unique to Hilliard and celebrate the city's diversity.

Inventory existing arts and culture offerings within the city and region. Identify festivals or music performances without significant presence in Central Ohio and target these types of experiences for Hilliard. Explore the creation of an International Festival or similar event that showcases the community's diversity.

PS 4 Track annual progress towards access to parks and amenities with NRPA tools, aiming to exceed the benchmarks for cities of Hilliard's size.

Hilliard annually tracks and reports a standardized set of data to the NRPA. The city should report progress with respect to these benchmarks to the community and ensure park offerings and resources are growing in accordance with the city's population and size.

PS 5 Regularly conduct community evaluations and focus groups to assess satisfaction with parks and recreational offerings and identify needs. Data gathered should be standardized to track satisfaction ratings over multiple years in a consistent format. Include opportunities for residents to comment on desired amenities and programming.

Provide easy and equitable walking and biking access to neighborhood parks and amenities for all residents

- PS 6 Obtain land strategically over time to ensure all residents are within a ten minute walk to a park and maintain target of at least ten acres of parkland per one thousand residents.** The city currently exceeds this standard but should seek funding to obtain more parkland as Hilliard grows. Incorporate development requirements for parkland set-asides, density bonuses, and/or fees-in-lieu to ensure park acreage maintains pace with residential developments.
- PS 7 Prioritize filling gaps in the trail network and upgrading crossings and curb ramps to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to neighborhood parks.** Provide safe and accessible routes for children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities to all existing and future city parks, especially small neighborhood parks within a short distance of residences.

Improving Access to Parks

Walking and biking access to Hilliard's parks and public spaces has long been a top priority, and the network generally serves these destinations well. However there are a few specific locations where upgrades new paths could increase neighborhood access to parks. Potential shared use path connections are shown in the Active Transportation Network Map in the Mobility and Connectivity chapter. These locations include:

Father DiPietro Park

- Marked crossing of Davidson Rd
- Paths to access the park from the residential areas immediately south

Beacon Fields

- Marked crossings of Crandon St

Silverton Park

- Accessible curb ramps and marked crossings on all approaches

Scioto Run Nature Trail

- Cut-through path to Trueman Blvd

Cross Creek Park

- Enhanced crossings of Hilliard-Rome Rd

Elevate parks and public spaces through beautification, regular maintenance, and streetscape improvements

- PS 8 Establish a public art master plan for Hilliard's public spaces.** Public art can help incorporate a sense of neighborhood and city character and identity into parks and public spaces. The public art master plan should define the desired types of public art and identify suitable locations; increase community and stakeholder involvement and ownership of public art projects and installations; and incorporate suggestions for public art in the right-of-way. The planning and design processes should have a strong emphasis on diverse participation to create art that is representative and welcoming to everyone in the community.
- PS 9 Launch a public places awareness campaign.** Launch an educational or promotional campaign(s) about available destinations, programming and events to encourage exploration of city parks. This campaign can build upon the city's Playground and Parks Passport published in 2022. This may also include improved signage at parks and could be done in tandem with action MC 9 (Establish a wayfinding plan).

Parks Passport

To raise awareness of parks and amenities in a community, a variety of cities have implemented "Parks Passport" programs to encourage residents to get outside and try something new. As shown in the images below, Rochester, MN residents can print or pick up a passport featuring suggested activities and information about parks, and earn small prizes by visiting parks and/or completing activities. Elkhart, IN, Lenexa, KS, Waukesha, WI, Rochester, MN, and Des Moines, IA all offer a parks or playground passport. Hilliard began to publish a passport in 2022.



PS 10 Establish funding and staffing for park maintenance.

Include increased maintenance funding in annual budgets to hire dedicated department maintenance staff and ensure Hilliard parks landscaping and equipment remain safe, well-maintained, and attractive. The department anticipates adding a landscape architect and a project manager to its staff in spring 2023.

PS 11 Utilize public land to demonstrate sustainability principles and technologies.

Where feasible, incorporate renewable energy such as solar panels on city land and buildings such as parks. Incorporate low impact design practices such as energy conservation, graywater recycling, or green infrastructure into new public facilities. Consider establishing a renewable energy generation program that provides incentives for small-scale private renewable energy generation.

Expand recreational trails throughout the city to create and connect to regional amenities / destinations

PS 12 Explore partnerships with other public entities to grow trail connections across the region. Key trail connections include the Hayden Run trail corridor, connections to Metroparks including Quarry Trails and Darby Creek, extension of the Heritage Trail, and the western greenbelt concept (see Big Darby Focus Area chapter). Cooperation with Franklin County, Franklin County Metroparks, Columbus, Dublin, Upper Arlington, MORPC, and other partners, and integration into regional plans, will all be essential to achieving a connected regional network that draws visitors and widens residents' access to nature.



Central Ohio Greenways

The Central Ohio Greenways trail vision is connecting the Central Ohio region with over 230 miles of trails for everyone to explore parks, neighborhoods, rivers, and the vibrant, diverse culture of one of the nation's greatest places to live, work, and play. The proposed network includes the extension of several regional trails to and through Hilliard and would connect the city to Quarry Trails Metropark, the Scioto River, Dublin, Upper Arlington, Columbus, and Plain City.

RAPID 5

RAPID 5 is a vision to form the largest interconnected park system in the country. The initiative would link parks along Central Ohio's five major waterways. It is a vision to reframe the connectivity of the region based on the natural geography defined by its waterways; to connect all Franklin County residents to the region's natural resources, cultural, and economic resources for recreation, commuting, commerce, education, and relaxation. Hilliard sits between two of the waterways (Big Darby Creek and Scioto River).

PUBLIC ART AND STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS

Main Street in Old Hilliard already has the foundations of a strong streetscape, with street trees, lighting, landscaping, seating, and bicycle parking throughout the district. The expansion of these elements throughout the district and in new mixed-use development areas, along with the incorporation of additional elements, will continue to build the character, identity, and useability of the city's public spaces.



Alternative Canvases

Using alternative canvases like signal boxes, storm drain inlets, and walls for small pieces of street art can turn spaces that would traditionally be ignored into intriguing aspects of the streetscape.



Artistic Bicycle Racks

The addition of artistic bike racks can encourage people to bike while also providing a functional art element, and can be sponsored by businesses or designed by local artists or students.



Stormwater and Rain Gardens

The incorporation of rain gardens into curb extensions allows for educational opportunities while providing a valuable infrastructure service.



Sidewalk Planters

Moveable or fixed sidewalk planters can pair well with the canopy trees and low-level plantings to provide for the softening of the streetscape, while also acting an additional canvas for art.



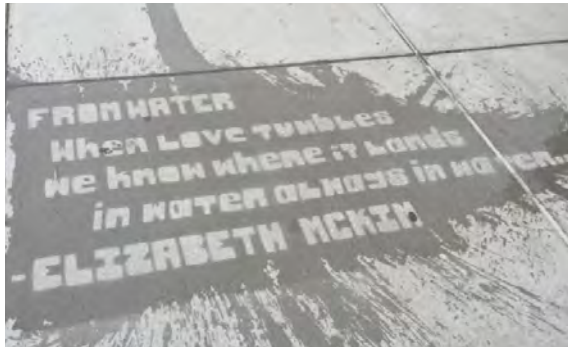
Parklets

Extended temporary closure of parking spaces for outdoor gathering and dining is a great way to enhance and activate the street of Old Hilliard and other districts. They can be tied to specific restaurants or key locations along the street.



Street Furniture

Fixed benches allow a place to rest, while moveable chairs and tables can allow for small groups to activate the spaces that they find desirable. Benches can also be extended to new locations throughout the district and city as redevelopment occurs.



Sidewalk Rain Art

Sidewalk art that is hidden unless wet, allows for a subtle and intriguing addition to the streetscape that can help activate the street in times when it traditionally would have low use.



Pedestrian-Scale Lighting

As sidewalks are expanded throughout the district, pedestrian-scale lighting should also be expanded to provide safety and comfort.

HERITAGE RAIL TRAIL LINEAR PARK CONCEPT

Extension of the Heritage Trail along the retired rail corridor is an opportunity to create a signature park that features trail-oriented development, public art, and additional park space that is easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhoods. The following pages provide examples of trail elements, amenities and features, and destinations that could be incorporated onto the Heritage Trail extension. This vision could be achieved in stages as development occurs, but the crucial first step is acquisition of the rail corridor property. Given the width of the corridor and location of several adjacent city-owned parcels, the city could consider financing some of the trail's development by selling portions of the property to private developers, with stipulations that future development be oriented towards and supportive of the trail.

Trail Elements

The images below represent major trail elements that could help people successfully way-find and navigate the trail.



Primary Alignment

Proposed alignment of the Heritage Trail. When possible, separated spaces for people moving at different speeds could be provided.



Access Routes / Local Connections

Connecting routes from surrounding neighborhoods to the Heritage Trail.



Major Gateway

Major access point for the trail, which includes signage, public art, or other features welcoming visitors to the trail.



Minor Gateway

Minor access point for the trail from the surrounding neighborhood, with smaller signage or wayfinding.

Trailside Amenities and Features

Trailside amenities are the elements that support users along their ride, walk, or roll, and help make the Heritage Trail more than a strip of pavement. Comfort stations, waysides, restrooms, repair stations, art, and other features contribute to a more comfortable and interesting user experience.



Comfort Stations

Rest places with amenities, such as shelter, benches, trash/recycling bins, water fountains, bike parking and repair stations. May include a restroom.



Waysides

Small rest areas along the trail with amenities such as benches, trash/recycling bins, and shade.



Wayfinding

Signs providing trail users with directions, destinations, and distance information.



Art

Local art along the trail such as sculptures, murals, painted pavement, etc. should highlight Hilliard's past and present.



Bicycle Parking

Bicycle racks for securely locking personal bikes. These could incorporate artistic elements.



Bikeshare Station

Docking stations or designated parking areas where bikeshare is available. This could also incorporate other types of micromobility.



Bicycle Repair Station

Fix-it stations for bicycles with tools and a pump to add air to tires.



Trailside Exercise Stations

Workout stations located along the trail for physical activity.

Trail Destinations

Trail destinations create opportunities for people to experience nature, play and recreate, refresh minds and spirits, and celebrate community. The images below are examples of the types of destinations commonly associated with trail oriented development projects.



Outdoor Dining

Restaurants or food truck courts that offer outdoor seating facing and accessible from the trail.



Brewery

Taprooms near the trail with outdoor space for gathering.



Outdoor Game Space

Beach volleyball, bocce ball courts, or other amenities for group games; could be privately owned by trailside developments.



Playground

Play area with equipment such as swings and slides, etc.



Community Park

Small park for the surrounding neighborhood and trail users.



Natural Retreat

Accessible natural area, such as a wetland, small grove of trees, or prairie.



Community Garden

Public garden plots available for trailside residents.



Trail-Oriented Development

Buildings with a combination of residential, retail and other uses that are built adjoining or facing the trail.

