



Excellence in Community, Sustainability, and Service

City of Macedonia
Parks and Recreation Department
Strategic Plan

Updated March 2026

Letter from the Director

On behalf of the City of Macedonia and our Parks and Recreation Department, first and foremost, thank you for your support of our programs and initiatives. Quality, above all, is at the heart of what we do and it is our goal to exceed expectations year after year.

The plan outlined in this document serves as a guiding light and view into the future of the Macedonia Parks and Recreation Department. As priorities change and needs are reassessed, so will this document. Our department is constantly reviewing quantitative and qualitative data to ensure the experiences of residents and visitors are memorable. With dedication to continuous improvement, we are consistently looking for ways to be at the forefront of meaningful programs and events while providing safe and modern facilities that reflect the changing needs of our community. All of this must, and will be done, with fiscal responsibility and sustainability at its core.

As the Director, I am committed to see our community thrive. I trust that the pride our department takes is reflected in the work we do and our success be measured not only by real data, but through continued support. Excellence in Community, Sustainability, and Service is not only our mission, but what guides operations, fiscal planning, and implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this community and encourage you to enjoy all that the Macedonia Parks and Recreation Department has to offer!

Sincerely,

Peter Eckendorf

Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Macedonia

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Acknowledgements

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The entire City of Macedonia Parks and Recreation staff. Their dedication to serving the community and their role contributing to long-term growth is truly exceptional.

City of Macedonia City Council

Nicholas Molnar, Mayor
Jeff Garvas, Council President
Matt Ferraro, Council Vice-President
Jessica Brandt, Council Member
Dave Finley, Council Member
Sue Cummings, Council Member

Parks and Recreation Commission

Donny Basch, Chair
Staci Szugyi, Vice-Chair
Jason Hack, Member
Karen Bartolozzi, Member
Joe Biber, Member
Dr. Kelly Joyce, Member
Jessica Brandt, Council Liaison

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

We follow a continuous improvement model and gather community feedback daily to guide our development. Past community surveys help us understand program and facility interests, while input from residents, members, and key stakeholder groups provides deeper insight that shapes and streamlines our programming and services.

Stakeholder Groups

These groups are close to our operations and utilize space in cooperation with many of our existing programs and in some instances, we act as a feeder organization to them. These groups include:

- Nordonia Hills Athletic Association (NHAA)
- Nordonia Hills Soccer Association (NHSA)
- Nordonia Youth Football (NYF)
- Rotary Club
- Local Girl and Boy Scouts
- Lions Club
- Nordonia Middle School
- Nordonia High School

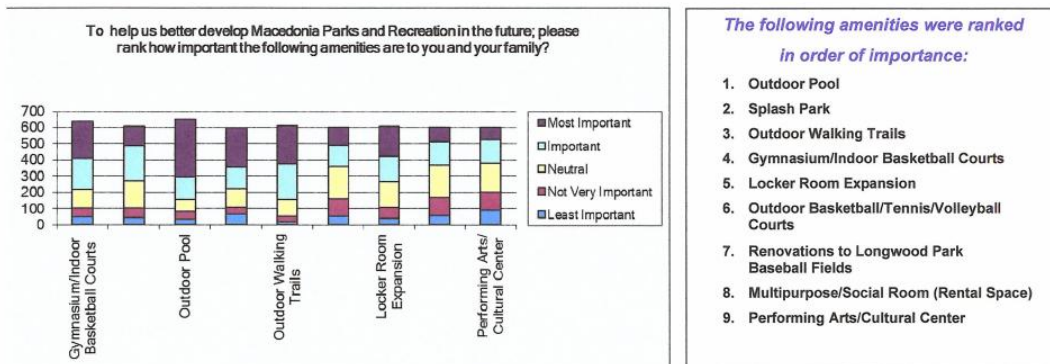
Summary

In 2016, the Parks and Recreation Department conducted a community survey to assess desired amenities and determine whether the priorities identified in the original Master Plan remained relevant. The results revealed continued interest in space with indoor courts, an outdoor aquatic facility, upgraded trails, and expanded locker rooms. The survey received 732 responses, representing approximately 7% of the city’s population at the time.

Macedonia Parks and Recreation Community Survey 2016

To help us better develop Macedonia Parks and Recreation in the future; please rank how important the following amenities are to you and your family?

Answer Options	Most Important	Important	Neutral	Not Very Important	Least Important	Response Count
Gymnasium/Indoor Basketball Courts	223	194	116	53	48	634
Outdoor Basketball/Tennis/Volleyball Courts	120	219	165	63	41	608
Outdoor Pool	354	140	74	46	35	649
Splash Park	245	131	115	45	63	599
Outdoor Walking Trails	234	223	101	37	16	611
Renovations to Longwood Park Baseball Fields	112	135	197	108	52	604
Locker Room Expansion	186	155	159	69	38	607
Additional Multipurpose/ Social Room (Rental)	90	144	203	109	56	602
Performing Arts/ Cultural Center	76	144	180	112	89	601
						<i>answered question</i> 672
						<i>skipped question</i> 60



Based on the survey results, the department began work on the Capital Improvement Plan, laying the foundation for many of the projects completed in recent years. Key accomplishments include the expansion of the men’s and women’s locker rooms, installation of lighting on the second ballfield and overall ballfield improvements, and enhancements to the park’s trail system including the most recent 1-mile loop paved trail.

Beginning in 2021, the department shifted its focus to modernizing the aging recreation center. With investments now totaling more than \$2.5 million, these improvements demonstrate our continued commitment to residents and recreation center members. Completed enhancements include comprehensive updates to the weight and cardio areas—featuring new flooring and equipment—a high-efficiency HVAC system, LED lighting throughout nearly 90% of the facility, and new pumps for both the hot tub and activity pool. Collectively, these projects reflect our dedication to providing the high-quality experience our members expect and deserve.

As Planned Capital projects progress, expanding the recreation center remains a key long-term objective. Beginning in 2026, annual Planned Capital funds have been allocated to jump-start this initiative towards a substantial down payment, eliminating the need to place the project on a future ballot and using borrowed funds instead. While the recent approval of a much-needed new Service Center may have adjusted the overall timeline for any future expansion, support for the recreation center project continues to strengthen significantly. The demand for additional indoor space is at its highest point to date, driven by growing programming needs and increased participation in recreation activities. This demand remains the core driver of the evolving Capital Planning model.

Yearly Plan Summary

Keeping the mission of **Excellence in Community, Sustainability, and Service** at the forefront of operations, the department conducts a comprehensive annual review. In 2021, the department underwent a significant refresh with the addition of new staff positions. As programming continued to grow and the commitment to enhancing services for residents deepened, an extensive assessment of operations, budgets, and projects was undertaken. This evaluation identified several key priorities:

- Upgrading equipment
- Expanding sport program offerings
- Increasing the number of community events
- Adding and improving multipurpose fields and ballfields

Each year, evaluations of operations, budgets, and Capital Planning are performed during the summer and early fall. This review process also includes updating the Strategic Plan as necessary to ensure alignment with the City's five-year Capital Plan.

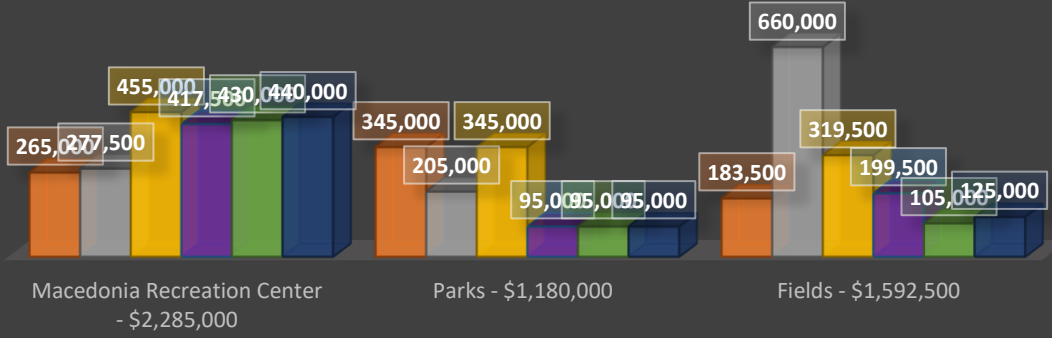
Capital Planning

As previously noted, the City of Macedonia operates under a five-year Capital Planning model that prioritizes operational budgets, the acquisition of essential equipment and supplies, and the projects that benefit the greatest number of residents and visitors. Using both quantitative and qualitative data, the department assigns priority to budget items that not only meet current community expectations but also anticipate future needs.

The overview graph below illustrates the three primary areas of focus within the department's Capital Planning framework. The Summary of Planned Capital outlines allocations for 2025–2030, organized first by facility and then by year. The overall Capital budget encompasses the Macedonia Family Recreation Center, Parks (including trails, public spaces, restrooms, and trees), and Fields. As shown in the graph, more than \$5 million is projected to be invested across these core elements, with an emphasis on improvements and expansion. While certain projects can be completed within a single year, larger initiatives may require multi-year allocations to achieve full implementation.

OVERVIEW - \$5,057,500

2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030



Macedonia Recreation Center

The Mac Rec opened in 2000 and has been serving the community in fitness, sports, swimming, and programs. In 2022, the process began for allocation of money to replace the entire HVAC system at the Mac Rec, this accounts for the added numbers in 2024 for final allocation. A few top priorities identified in this plan will be spelled out within the facility overview below.

2025 Completed

- Aquatics - Diamond Brite surface Activity Pool
- Fitness equipment replacement allocation
- Renovate old Woman’s Locker room to become Family Changing Room
- Added 3 staff offices
- Replace parking lot lights
- Replace Activity Pool and Spa pumps

2026 Planned

- Aquatics - Diamond Brite surface Lap Pool
- Fitness equipment replacement allocation
- General upgrades
- Department vehicle

2026 – 2030 Projected Projects

- Mac Rec gymnasium/fieldhouse expansion allocation
- Fitness equipment replacement allocations with 2028 year of replacement
- Building renovations (track replacement, common areas)



Parks

Macedonia parks consist of Longwood, Sugarbush, and Veteran’s Memorial Park. Our parks service crew does full maintenance and operations of our parks and trail system. Longwood Park is widely recognized as a premier regional park and leading facility of baseball tournaments.

2025 Completed

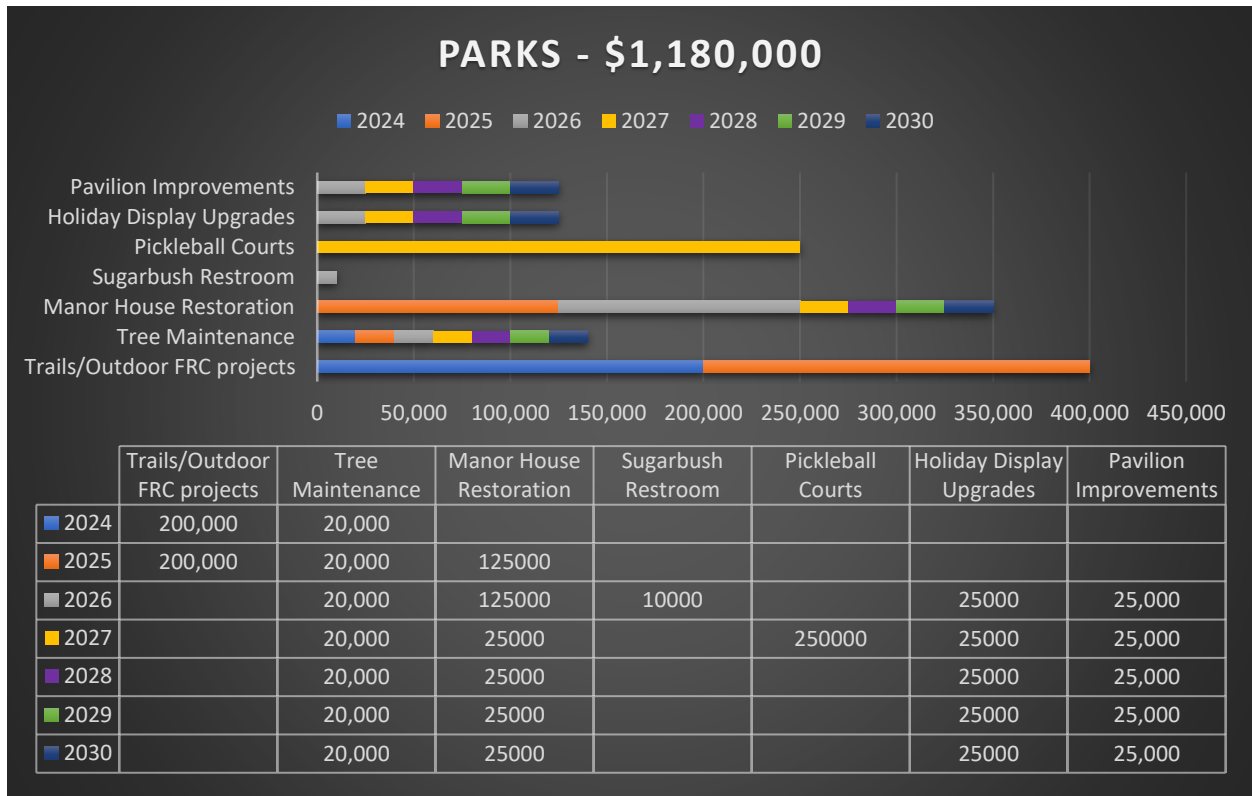
- 1-mile paved trail at Longwood Park
- Tree maintenance program
- Wolstein Complex Improvements
- Purchase 2 golf carts
- Financial allocation for lights fields A/D

2026 Planned

- Updated trail signage
- Wooded trail renovations
- Pavilion enhancements
- Permanent restroom at Sugarbush Park
- Roof replacement and porch renovation at Longwood Manor
- Holiday light display upgrades

2026 – 2030 Projected Projects

- Tree maintenance program
- Marquee sign at Longwood Park entrance
- Pickleball courts at Longwood Park
- Holiday light display upgrade allocation



Fields

The Macedonia Parks and Recreation Department hosts 12 fields, five baseball/softball and seven football/soccer fields. The department completes full maintenance, programming, and rentals of these facilities. Fields typically operate March – November.

2025 Completed

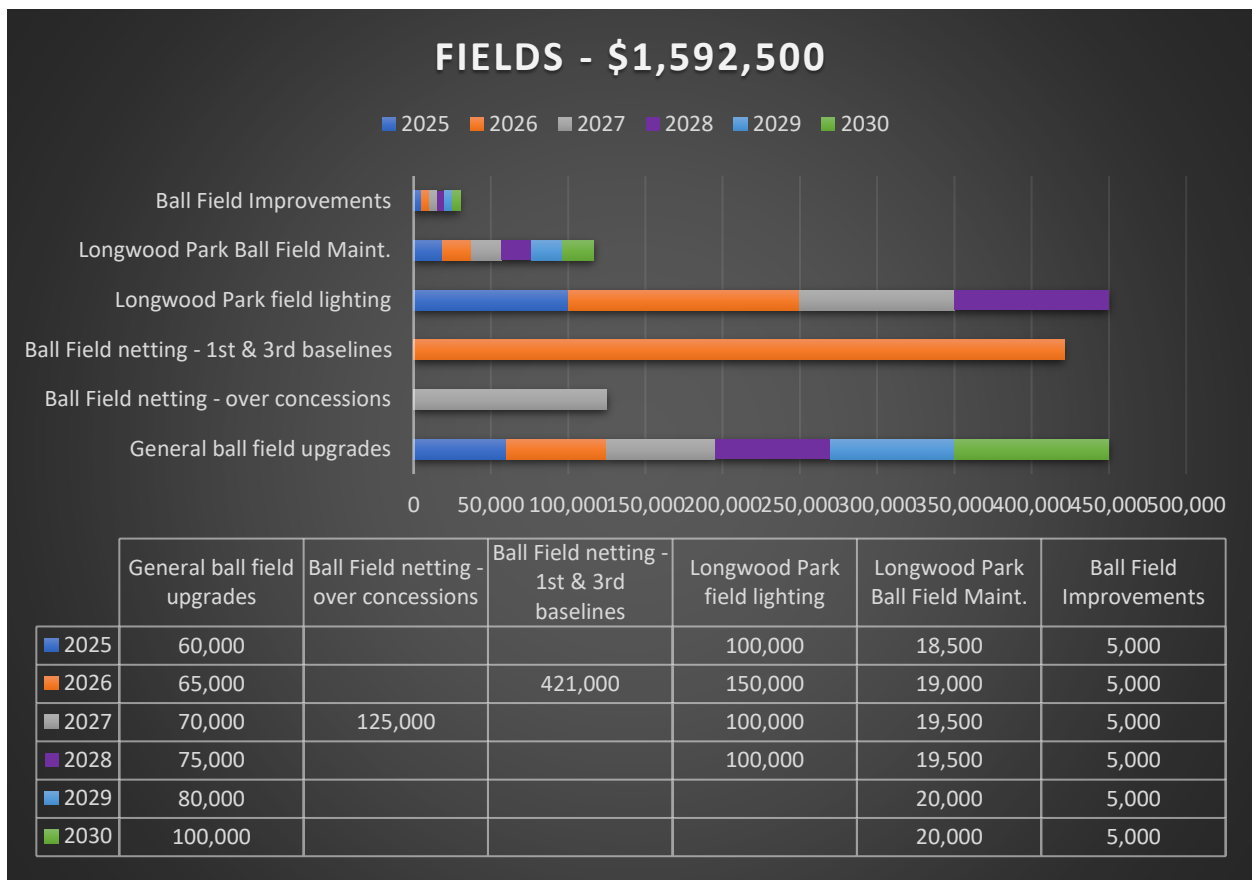
- Wolstein Complex maintenance improvements
- Field Assurance Program
- Resodding of Longwood North fields

2026 Planned

- Wolstein Complex maintenance improvements
- Field Assurance Program
- Spectator safety netting on ballfields at Longwood Park

2026–2030 Projected Projects

- Field Assurance Program
- Lights on fields A & D at Longwood Park
- Netting over concessions
- Regrade/resodding of multipurpose fields at Longwood Park South



SWOT Analysis

The City of Macedonia Parks and Recreation Department has many things they do well and opportunities for improvement. This SWOT Analysis Process will highlight some results:

What are the strengths the department should keep building upon?

- New modern fitness equipment
- Modernized facility through renovations
- Quality staff
- Strong community partnerships
- Strong capital improvement plan
- Mayor and Council support
- Well maintained and beautiful parks
- Premier regional baseball facility
- Strong youth sports program
- USA Swim team
- Employment for PT and Seasonals
- Community-centered special events
- MACTivity Guide
- Something for everyone – diverse programming
- Membership growth year over year

What are major areas of improvement that should be addressed?

- Facility expansion to include gymnasium
- Trail refurbishment at Sugarbush Park
- Pickleball courts
- Teen programming
- Additional adaptive recreation programming
- Restrooms at Sugarbush Park
- Parking lot at Sugarbush Park
- Outdoor aquatics area
- Additional multipurpose fields
- Lights on remaining ballfields
- ADA Accessible playgrounds

Strengths

- Beautiful parks and trails
- New fitness equipment and renovated weight room
- Affordability of programs
- Activity Guide
- Baseball fields
- Social media outreach and new website
- Many programs maxed out in participation
- Special events
- Community partnerships
- Safe facility and parks – (Top 10 safest City to live)
- Employment benefits for all employees
- Membership perks
- Department efficiency with staffing restructure
- Passionate creative staff

Weaknesses

- Teen programming
- Gym space
- Limited facility space
- Programming budget
- Adaptive Recreation programming
- Outdoor programming
- Recycling program

Opportunities

- Increasing partnerships and sponsorship
- Increasing winter program offerings
- Return swim lessons to full offerings
- Create recycling program
- Build a dog park
- Develop Park Land
- Increasing adult programming
- Add adaptive recreation

Threats

- Funding
- Competing facilities
- Weather
- Pandemic or other illness
- Procurement of part-time staff
- Aging facilities and equipment
- Potential recession
- City's inability to expand housing
- Community support for expansion



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