



# Parkview Hills

## Neighborhood Plan 2020

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
OF PARKVIEW HILLS



THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO

**CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-45**

**A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ADOPTION OF A SUB-PLAN TO  
THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (PARKVIEW  
HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN 2020)**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City held on August 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., local time, by electronic means.

**PRESENT**, Commissioners: Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

**ABSENT**, Commissioners: None

**WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan is a living document intended to be amended and updated with changing conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parkview Hills Neighborhood Plan 2020 has been reviewed by neighboring townships and jurisdictions, as well as the Kalamazoo County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and was received favorably by those jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008) the Kalamazoo City Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 1st, 2020, and recommended unanimously to the City Commission to confirm the approval of the sub plan

**WHEREAS**, the Parkview Hills Neighborhood Plan 2020 constitutes a public purpose, and:

- a. The sub plan is consistent with the Imagine Kalamazoo Strategic Vision and Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Elements of the plan seek to promote economic vitality, create complete neighborhoods, and create inviting public places which are stated goals of the Comprehensive Plan; and
- b. This sub plan was created with a large amount of public input from those who live, work, and own property in the area; and
- c. The Parkview Hills Neighborhood of Kalamazoo is a geographic area less than the entire planning jurisdiction, and has unique physical characteristics that necessitate a more intensive planning process.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Parkview Hills Neighborhood Plan 2020 sub-plan to the City of Kalamazoo's 2025 Comprehensive Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission and City Administration, is hereby approved.

The above resolution was offered by Commissioner Hess and seconded by Commissioner Knott.

**AYES**, Commissioners: Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

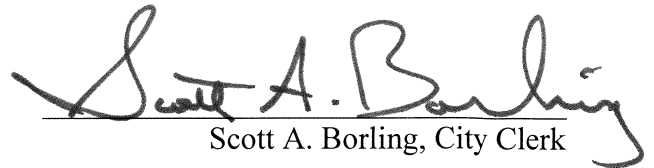
**NAYS**, Commissioners: None

**ABSTAIN**, Commissioners: None

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**CERTIFICATE**

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo at a regular meeting held on August 17, 2020. Public notice was given and the meeting was conducted in full compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267, 1976). Minutes of the meeting will be available as required by the Act.

  
Scott A. Borling, City Clerk

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# Introduction

## Acknowledgments

Many people throughout Kalamazoo gave time and expertise to the creation of this plan.

### **Arthur Falk (1938-2018)**

Arthur and Nancy Falk were one of the first families to move to Parkview Hills. They moved in as a young couple, raised their family here, and lived here in retirement.

When Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 was announced, Arthur attended the meetings and formed a committee of Parkview Hills residents, which he chaired, and the group set out to write the neighborhood plan. The neighborhood association was not active at the time.

When the Neighborhood Association of Parkview Hills (NAPH) was established in 2019, the work Arthur and his committee had done became the basis of the present Parkview Hills neighborhood plan.

### **Neighborhood Association of Parkview Hills**

Belinda McDougal – President  
Bonnie Alkema  
Kathy Kienle  
John Piper  
Karen Schmidt  
Dean Hauck  
Greg Nakken  
Carol Trittschuh  
Marcy Ohs

### **Parkview 2019 Planning Committee**

Bonnie Alkema  
Greg Nakken  
John Piper  
Steve Kienle

### **Parkview Hills 2018 Planning Committee**

Marianne Houston  
Jake Boley  
Brandi Fowler  
Lauri Young  
Caren Braymer  
Carole Newburry  
Kathryn Caskey

### **City of Kalamazoo**

Kathleen Reilly - Neighborhood Activator  
Amanda Cockroft - Marketing & Communications Specialist  
Carolyn Real - Neighborhood Projects Coordinator  
Anthony Ladd – Asst. City Engineer  
Sgt. David Juday  
Eric Arnsman – City Traffic Engineer  
Luis Pena – Neighborhood Projects Coordinator

### **Parkview Hills Clubhouse Employees**

Grace Mannion  
Marcy Ohs  
Scott Moyer  
Jessie Voights  
Lillie Forteau

### **Natural Area Stewardship Committee of Parkview Hills**

### **Trails Committee of Parkview Hills**

### **Parkview Hills Residents**

Thank you to all of the residents who helped inform this plan.

# Demographics

Source: ACS 2017 5 yr estimates for Census Tract 16.04



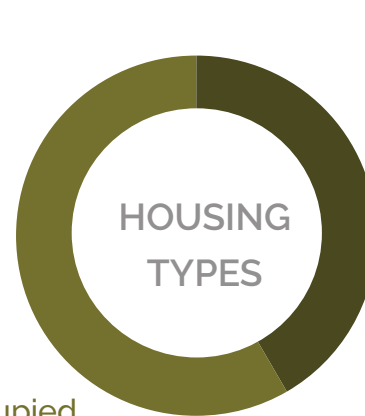
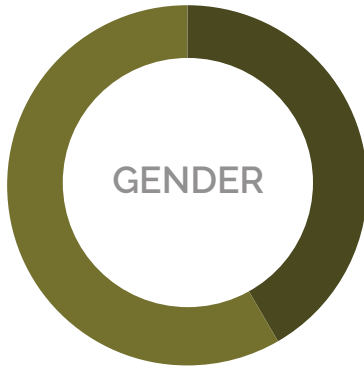
**1,894**

TOTAL POPULATION



**776**

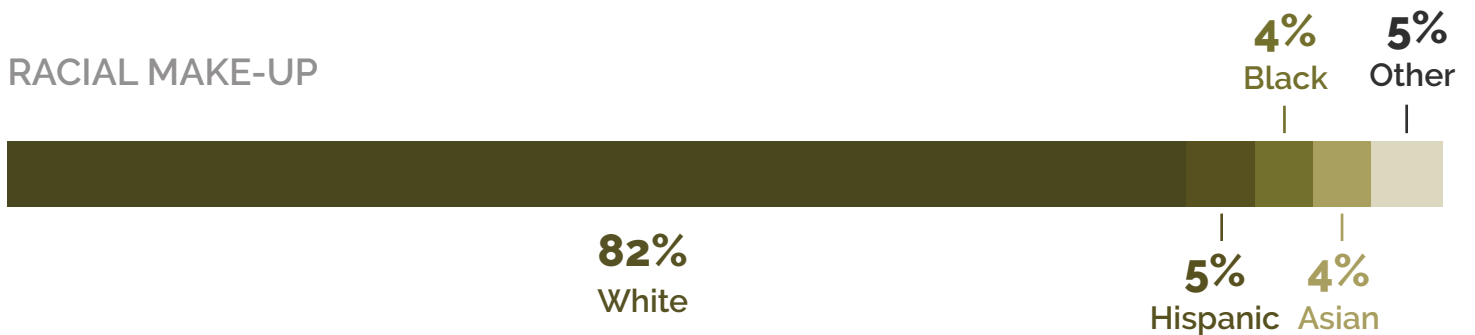
TOTAL HOUSING UNITS



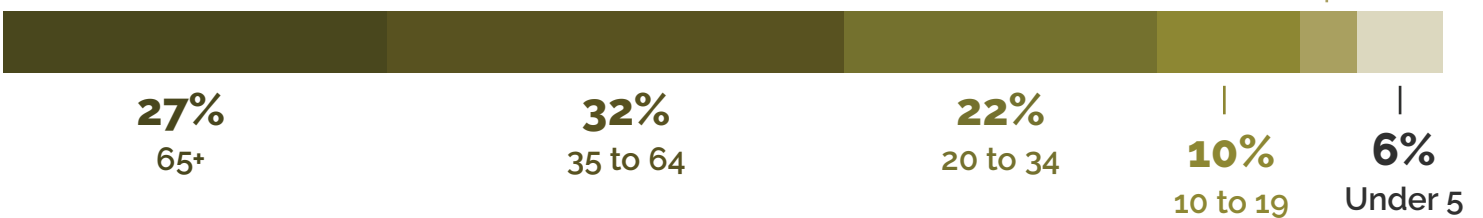
Source: Parkview Hills Community Association 2019 Budget

MEDIAN INCOME **\$55,202**

## RACIAL MAKE-UP



## AGE



# Neighborhood History

Parkview Hills is the youngest neighborhood in the city of Kalamazoo, with development beginning in 1970. It's also one of the most unusual, given its strong conservation ethic and history.

Situated at the intersection of Parkview Avenue and Greenleaf Boulevard between Oakland Drive and Drake Road, the neighborhood offers diverse housing options —apartments, condominiums and single-family homes — set amidst rolling hills, woodlands, streams and lakes.

The natural features also mark the surrounding area, including Asylum Lake Preserve, which is within walking distance from the neighborhood. Water from the preserve flows under Parkview Avenue into Cherry Creek and other waterways in Parkview Hills, including the West Fork of Portage Creek, which ultimately flows into Lake Michigan.

Years ago, the area was open countryside, and streetcars brought folks from busy Kalamazoo to the amusement park at Woods Lake, near the intersection of Parkview Avenue (which got its name from the park) and Oakland Dr. However, with the invention of automobiles, people chose other places to travel.

Near the present entrance to Parkview Hills is a large, white Greek Revival farmhouse built in the 1850s by Stephen Love, a young man from New York and one of the early settlers in this area. He owned 220 acres and farmed 130.

The area had previously been occupied by the Potawatomi band of Native Americans, who lived in the area until 1840, when they were marched out of Kalamazoo for relocation in Kansas and Oklahoma. The march — part of a larger relocation of Potawatomi from the Midwest — is known as the "Trail of Death."

Love's farmhouse, now known as the Landmark House, had other owners through the years. In the late 1930s, the home and land were purchased by the Strongs. Several generations of Strongs and, later, the Donnells lived there before educator and environmentalist Dr. H. Lewis Batts Jr. bought the house and the 235 acres of rolling, glaciated

land in 1966. His plan was to develop a community in a natural setting, giving residents the benefit of living close to and enjoying nature within the city. He partnered with Burton H. Upjohn, a prominent Kalamazoo businessman, who was responsible for the financial planning and would later make his home in Parkview Hills and serve on the board of the community association.

The development was also unusual in that it was a Planned Unit Development (PUD), one of only a few in the country at that time. A PUD is a development where most residents' needs are met within the community, decreasing driving and travel.

The neighborhood is governed by the Parkview Hills Community Association which is a board elected by Parkview Hills residents. This board hires an independent management company to manage the area.

The neighborhood has miles of beautiful walking trails through the woods and a small beach area on Hill 'n' Brook Lake. Tennis courts and swimming pools are other options for exercise and enjoyment. A clubhouse with a workout room and a library offers a place to gather. A restaurant and shops are located within the community, as well.

Parkview Hills demonstrates how Dr. Batts — who also purchased and thus saved numerous other ecologically vital lands from development (including land that now forms the Kalamazoo Nature Center) — was ahead of his time. Fifty years after the Parkview groundbreaking, Batts' belief in the positive benefits of connecting people and nature has been supported by scientific research. He believed most developments destroyed the natural features by cutting trees, filling marshes, and paving over much of the area. His approach was to protect as much of those features as possible and place housing in unobtrusive ways within the natural areas.

Parkview Hills still reflects that philosophy, combining living space and nature in a way that both are appreciated and protected.

*Source: Parkview Hills "We Belong to the Land" by Barbara Walters*

# Planning Process



## 1. Review

The planning process for Parkview Hills first started in 2018 when Arthur Falk pulled together a group of residents to create the first planning committee. This committee reviewed past plans for the neighborhood and met with the Neighborhood Activator to understand the planning process. Quickly, the committee realized that there was a need for a neighborhood association for this process to move forward. In early 2019 the Neighborhood Activator helped the residents of Parkview Hills create the Neighborhood Association of Parkview Hills (NAPH).

## 2. Engage

NAPH created a new planning committee to take over the planning process. Engagement started with three community meetings to understand the focus of the neighborhood plan.

## 3. Draft

Living walls were created and displayed in the clubhouse to refine feedback on themes that rose to the top. Themes included the clubhouse, environment, connectivity, community collaboration, accessibility, and neighborhood identity.

This information was used during a series of focus group and committee meetings to create SMART goals. The planning committee also reached out to the many committees and associations in Parkview Hills to check-in on the plan.

## 4. Confirm

At the Summer Bash residents were asked to identify their top three priorities from the draft plan goals. There was also targeted outreach to the business community and renter community in the neighborhood to gather feedback. The plan was posted online, shared through an email blast and on social media. The neighborhood held a February Sip & Social to review the plan with neighbors one last time.

## 5. Amend

The Parkview Hills Neighborhood Plan was presented to Planning Commission and City Commission in the Spring of 2020.

## 6. Act!



# Imagine Kalamazoo Strategic Vision Alignment



Strategic Vision Goal	Shared Prosperity	Connected City	Inviting Public Places	Environmental Responsibility	Safe Community	Youth Development	Complete Neighborhoods	Strength Through Diversity	Economic Vitality	Good Governance
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## Parkview Hills Neighborhood Plan Goals

### Connected Neighborhood

Create a safe and accessible pedestrian network		●	●	●	●		●			
Create safe network for cycling and other non-motorized transportation modes		●		●	●		●			
Make a clear and safe road network		●								
Promote the use of transit		●		●						

### Vibrant Neighborhood

Create and support shared Parkview Hills identity			●				●			●
Support Neighborhood Youth				●		●	●			
Build Relationships with Other Neighborhoods and Organizations				●						●

### Sustainable Neighborhood

Strengthen the natural assets of Parkview Hills				●		●				
Promote Sustainable Practices				●						
Maintain deer population at safe level for both the deer and residents				●	●					

# Clubhouse

The Clubhouse is a hub of activity for the neighborhood offering meeting places, entertainment, and activities.

During planning we gathered input on everything and anything residents wanted to talk about. This included thoughts on improvements to the Clubhouse. This information has been passed along to management services. If there is anything that needs repair or immediate attention residents are encouraged to contact current management services by email at [info@gardnermi.com](mailto:info@gardnermi.com) or by phone at 269-323-7774.



# Connected Neighborhood

## 1 Create a safe and accessible pedestrian network

When Parkview Hills was developed the focus was on the natural aspects of the site and connecting people with nature. This led to the creation of a series of trails that run through the community. Though the trails are a great amenity, residents have noted that they are difficult for older residents, strollers, and those with disabilities to use and enjoy, and do not connect residents safely to all amenities. One of the largest gaps in the trail system is a way for pedestrians to safely traverse Greenleaf Boulevard and Greenleaf Circle to

connect to Parkview Avenue, the Clubhouse, and the shops located at the northern edge of the neighborhood. At one point the neighborhood had a plan for installing a path along the roadway however the project was unable to move forward. Residents have noted the continued importance of being able to safely make this connection as a pedestrian .

### In Street Facilities/Pedestrian Lane

Pedestrian lanes are areas of the road that are set aside for pedestrian-only use on roads with moderate and low use and speeds. These can be used instead of sidewalks and can help protect pedestrians from traffic. FHWA approves of and has guidelines for pedestrian lanes.

Sources:

[ruraldesignguide.com/visually-separated/pedestrian-lane](http://ruraldesignguide.com/visually-separated/pedestrian-lane)

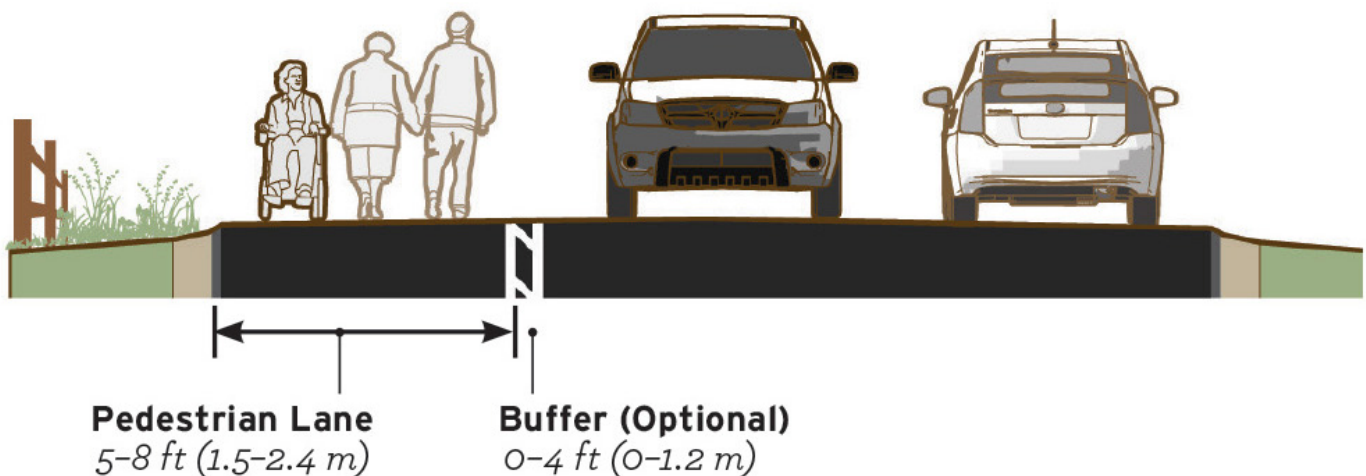
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\\_pedestrian/publications/small\\_towns/fhwahep17024\\_lg.pdf](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/fhwahep17024_lg.pdf)

### Raised Crosswalks

Pedestrians may feel safer when crossing the road on a raised crosswalk because it prompts motorists to slow down as it gets their attention. These crosswalks are also more accessible because they match the height of the sidewalk, so there is no ramp needed.



Raised Crosswalk, Source: pedbikesafety.org



Pedestrian Lane, Source: <http://ruraldesignguide.com/visually-separated/pedestrian-lane>

## 2 Create safe network for cycling and other non-motorized transportation modes

There are currently no bike lanes or other bike facilities in Parkview Hills neighborhood. Residents have expressed concerns for cyclists' safety especially on Greenleaf Boulevard and Greenleaf Circle. These streets are key connections for cyclists in and out of the neighborhood. There is a need for in street facilities that promote cyclist safety and create a space for cyclists in the right-of-way.

### Bike Facilities/Advisory Bike Lanes

Advisory Bike Lanes (ABLs) create a road that has a center land for two-way vehicular traffic with a lane on each side dedicated to cyclists. If there is not enough room for cars to move around each other, they can shift into their right-hand bike lane, but must give cyclists the right-of-way and drive slowly behind cyclists until it is safe to return to the center lane. The FHWA has designs for ABLs but has also supported projects that did not follow their guidelines.

Sources:

[trec.pdx.edu/events/professional-development/Seminar-10202017](http://trec.pdx.edu/events/professional-development/Seminar-10202017)

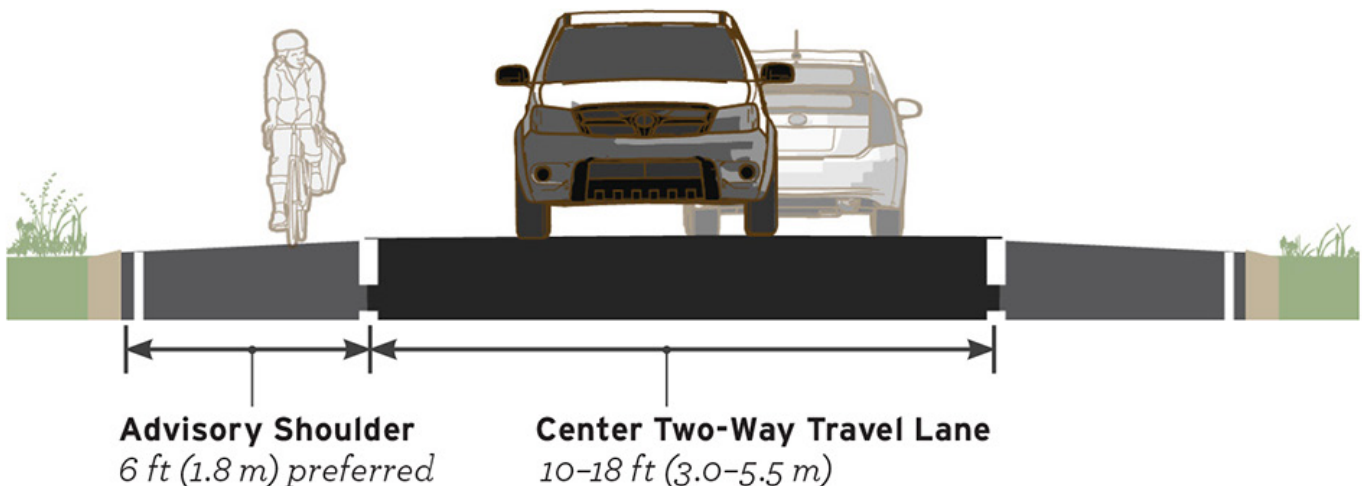
[www.advisorybikelanes.com/fhwa-experimentation.html](http://www.advisorybikelanes.com/fhwa-experimentation.html)

<http://ruraldesignguide.com/visually-separated/bike-lane>

## 3 Make a clear and safe road network

Greenleaf Boulevard is a wide roadway divided by a planted median. Lanes are not striped and except for the stretch near the tennis courts there is very little on-street parking used. These conditions have contributed to issues of speeding and at times aggressive driving behavior. Residents report similar issues on Greenleaf Circle though the roadway is narrower. To make Parkview Hills safer for all modes of travel residents would like to see improvements made to the roadway that will increase the navigability of the road network and promote safe traveling speeds.

Parkview Hills establishment as a Planned Unit Development has led to confusion around which streets are public and which are private. In the winter this confusion becomes particularly problematic as some public streets do not receive winter maintenance. The map on page 12 shows which streets are public and which are private. Residents have expressed the need for all to be better acquainted with the public streets in the neighborhood so there can be uniformity among City services whether it is snow plowing, tree trimming, or traffic enforcement.



Advisory Shoulder, Source: <http://ruraldesignguide.com/mixed-traffic/advisory-shoulder>

# 4

## Promote the use of transit

Parkview Hills is served by Metro Route 4, Oakland. For many, taking transit can be an intimidating task between reading schedules, finding the bus stop, and anxiously waiting for the bus to arrive. The neighborhood would like to explore ways to encourage more transit use and improve the experience for residents. This not only increases mobility for some, it also promotes more sustainable behaviors which aligns with the overall mission of the neighborhood.

### Metro Connect

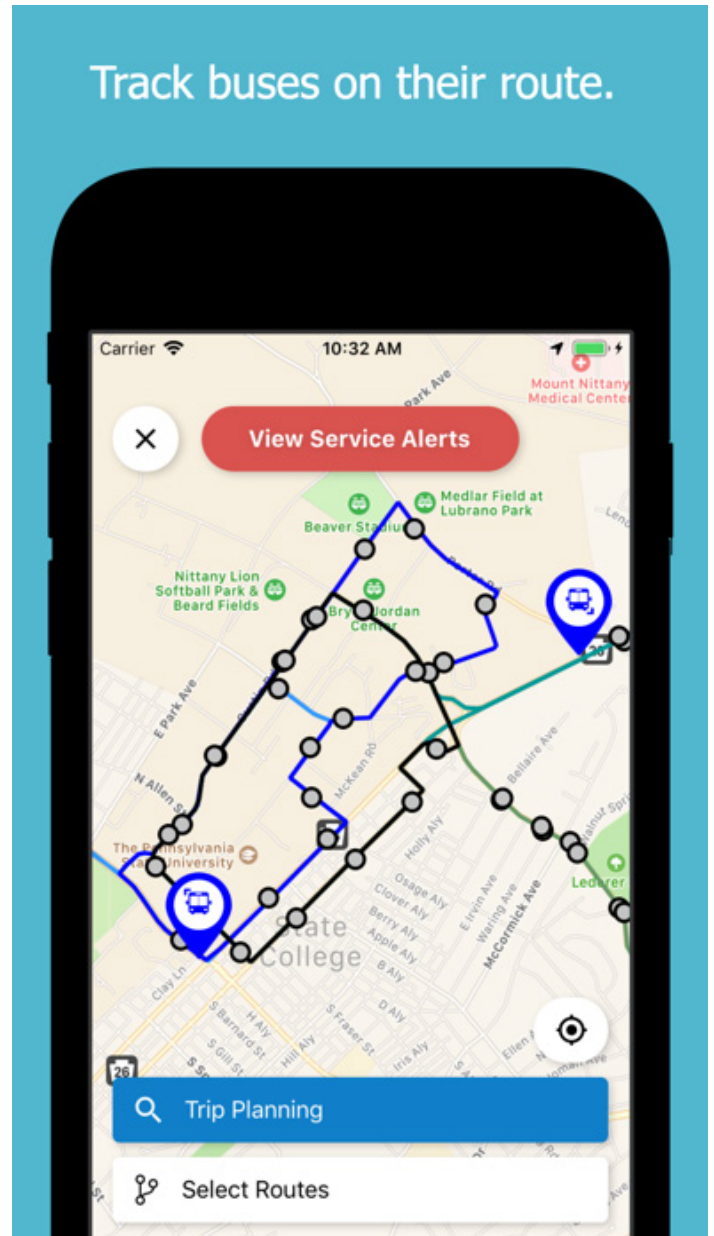
“Metro Connect is Metro’s shared ride origin-to-destination transit service. Shared ride means that multiple passengers may ride together in the same vehicle. Metro Connect is open to all residents of Kalamazoo County. Discounted fares are available to individuals who are certified as having a disability, seniors 62 years or older and individuals with a disability who are certified as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) eligible.”

Source: [www.kmetro.com/metro-connect](http://www.kmetro.com/metro-connect)

### MyStop (KMetro Bus App)

In addition to checking Kalamazoo Metro’s website, users can download the free MyStop app to check bus location, learn about bus routes, plan their trip and receive service alerts.

Track buses on their route.



MyStop KMetro Bus App, Source: Apple App Store

# ROADS & TRAILS



# Traffic Calming



Speed Radar, Source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radar\\_speed\\_sign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radar_speed_sign)

## Radar Signs

Radar signs are speed limit signs that digitally display an oncoming driver's speed. Experiments show that oncoming cars "will slow down 80% of the time" between 10 – 20% of their speed.

Source: [www.radarsign.com/](http://www.radarsign.com/)



Curb Bump-Out, Source: [nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/street-design-elements/curb-extensions/](https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/street-design-elements/curb-extensions/)

## Curb Bump-Outs

Adding onto roadside curbs narrows the road. Drivers are more likely to drive slowly because they are closer to other drivers, shoulders, parked vehicles, and streetscaping.



Speed Hump.

## Speed Humps

These are raised sections of the road that encourage drivers to slow down in order to safely pass over them.



Chicane, Source: [nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/street-design-elements/curb-extensions/chicane/](https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/street-design-elements/curb-extensions/chicane/)

## Chicane

Chicanes are like curb bump-outs in that they narrow the road, but they do not occur at intersections. The same effects on drivers occur.

# Connected Neighborhood Goals & Actions

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Create A Safe And Accessible Pedestrian Network</b>					
Create Map Of Trails And Clearly Sign Trail Entrances	- Create map - Make map available in Clubhouse and online - Install clear signage	Disability Network SW MI to make sure signs are accessible	Support sign installation, provide best practice guidance	Project Complete	\$
Make Trails As Accessible For All As Possible	- Work with partners to evaluate accessibility of trails. - Work to make any needed changes	Disability Network, WMU	Provide contact information for potential partners	Long	\$\$-\$\$\$ depending on needed upgrades
Evaluate Trail Heads To Determine Opportunities For Marked And/Or Enhanced Crossings	Provide Trail Map	WMU, Disability Network	Evaluate trail heads to design accessible curb cuts and create marked crossings, consider elevated crossings on Greenleaf Blvd.	Short-Mid	\$\$-\$\$\$
Create A Safe Way For Pedestrians To Connect To Parkview (Additional Trails, Sidewalk, Shared Use Path, In Street Space, Etc.)	Assist with needed engagement to determine which option is most acceptable to property owners, engage past funders to explore ways to fund sidewalk, path, or trails	WMU	Evaluate Greenleaf Boulevard for potential of adding a shared use path on the roadway.	Mid	\$\$\$
Determine Feasibility Of Pedestrian Space On Or Along Greenleaf Circle	Assist with needed engagement, pursue funding		Evaluate Greenleaf Circle to determine if there is a way to safely add pedestrian or shared use space	Long	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Create Safe Crossings From The South Side Of Parkview To The Northside	Support neighborhood engagement in Parkview Ave road project		Evaluate Parkview to site additional crossing locations Engage neighborhood in Parkview Ave road project	Short - try to include in 2021 project if possible	\$\$\$



ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Create A Safe And Accessible Pedestrian Network (Continued)</b>					
Complete Sidewalk On The North And South Sides Of Parkview			Study gaps in sidewalk to determine feasibility on completing the network	Short - try to include in 2021 project if possible	\$\$\$\$
Promote Culture And Awareness Of Pedestrians In The Neighborhood	- Include information in newsletter and welcome packets. - Explore creating signage to promote safe driving/ sharing the road		Attend a neighborhood meeting to provide information on the rules of the road related to cars and pedestrians	short	time/\$
<b>Create Safe Network For Cycling And Other Non-Motorized Transportation Modes</b>					
Create Dedicated Space For Bikes On Greenleaf Blvd		WMU	Study Greenleaf for the potential to create a bike lane, shared use path, or other option to create a delineated space for cyclist	Short-Mid	\$\$-\$\$\$
Evaluate Greenleaf Circle To Ways To Denote Bicycle Space/Use Of The Roadway	Engage potential funders for a shared use off-street path		Study Greenleaf Circle to determine feasibility of bike lanes or sharrows.	Short-Mid	\$\$
Widen (Or Buffer Is Possible) Bike Lanes On Parkview Ave	Support neighborhood engagement in preparation for Parkview Ave road project		Study Parkview for ability to widen bike lanes Engage neighborhood in Parkview Ave road project	Short - include in 2021 project if possible	Part of project costs - \$\$\$\$
Promote Culture And Awareness Of Cyclist And Safe Cycling Practices	- Include information in the newsletter and/or welcome packets. - Consider creating an event around biking for residents	WMU, Open Roads, Disability Network	Provide information on safe bicycling and rules of the road. Work with neighborhood to provide a training on safe bicycle practices	Short	Time

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Make A Clear And Safe Road Network</b>					
Update Markings At The Intersection Of Parkview Ave And Greenleaf Blvd To Make Entrance Easy To Navigate			Add a clear demarcation that indicate left turns from Parkview on to Greenleaf Blvd must enter on the west side of the median	In 2019 the markings were incorporated in the City's painting contract	\$
Ensure Entrance Of Parkview Hills Is Well Lit	Engage Consumer Energy to discuss adding an additional light at entrance. Explore installing solar lighting in the median	Consumers Energy	Support neighborhood in improving lighting. Help neighborhood with any needed permissions to install solar lighting in the median.	21 - Large lights Short - solar lights	\$\$\$ - Large lights \$-Solar lights (consider using Quick Win funds)
Resurface Roads In The Neighborhood			Roads listed in Priority: 1. Greenleaf, 2. Blackberry	Incorporate list into local road projects to systematically address condition issues	\$\$
Ensure Winter Maintenance Of Public Roads	Provide statement to the City supporting salting of roadway (can be part of plan)		See map for all local roads in Parkview Hills. Ensure staff know that these roads are public and need winter maintenance	Ongoing	Time
Install Speed Limit Signs In Neighborhood To Ensure All Know To Go 25 Mi/Hr	Provide information on roads where speeding most frequently occurs		Locate signs in visible locations at entrance of neighborhood and on other key streets, on Greenleaf consider installing flashing "your speed is" signs	Short	\$
Trim Overgrown Trees/ Vegetation To Ensure All Signs Are Visible And That Vehicles, Pedestrians, And Cyclists Can Safely Navigate	Provide information on where signs or street lighting are blocked by trees		Work to trim trees to ensure signs are visible	Ongoing	\$-\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Make A Clear And Safe Road Network (Continued)</b>					
Explore Ways To Slow Traffic, Particularly On Greenleaf Blvd And Circle	Participate in any needed engagement		Evaluate street to determine implementations that will help slow traffic whether it is clearly marking traveling vs parking lanes, installing speed humps, or an alternative method such as chicanes	Mid-Long	\$\$\$
Create Culture Shift So Drivers Are Aware Of And Know What To Do When There Is A Pedestrian Or Cyclist Present	Provide information in newsletter or welcome packet. Explore outreach options such as an event or signs that promote safe driving and sharing the road		Provide information on laws regarding pedestrians, cyclist, and vehicles	Long	Time
<b>Promote The Use Of Transit</b>					
Provide Information About Metro Transit And How To Access It	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invite Metro to attend a neighborhood meeting on a regular basis (yearly) to talk about the transit system, initiatives, and other updates.</li> <li>- Provide transit information in Welcome Packets</li> </ul>	Metro	Provide contact information for Metro	Ongoing	Time
Explore Partnership To Create Shuttle Type Service To Grocery Shopping Or Downtown	Work with partners to create a program that provides a low cost (or free) shuttle to amenities	Metro - Trainings for drivers and small bus Oakwood - partner in creating and managing program and pursuing funding	Provide best practices information	Long	\$\$/\$\$\$
Evaluate Existing Bus Stops For Needed Improvements Such As A Cement Pad, Sidewalk Connection, Lighting, Or Bench	Continue to engage residents about which bus stops are used and their experience accessing them	Metro	Work with neighborhood and Metro to create safe, comfortable, and accessible bus stops	Mid-Long	\$\$/\$\$\$
Explore Ways To Encourage Using Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with Metro to provide "how to use the bus" trainings,</li> <li>- Explore creating an excursion that uses the bus</li> </ul>	Metro		Short	Time
Educate Residents About Available Bus Passes	Include information in Welcome Packet and create advertisement in Warbler or posted at the Clubhouse		Provide information on helpful resources for creating eye-catching advertising	Ongoing	Time

# Vibrant Neighborhood

1

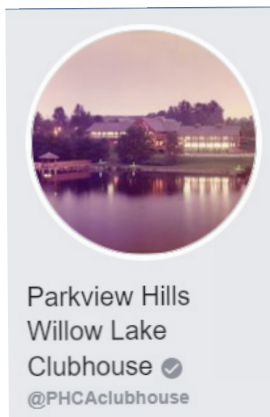
## Create and support shared Parkview Hills identity

Parkview Hills is a neighborhood tucked away in the southwest part of the City. The neighborhood has a unique history as one of the first Planned Unit Developments in Michigan designed to preserve the natural features of the area. There are still residents in the neighborhood that moved in when Parkview Hills first opened. Those residents want to make sure they pass on their knowledge and mission of the neighborhood to new residents as they move in. There is also a desire to build a stronger sense of community and social capital in the neighborhood to help achieve the goals in this document.

2

## Support Neighborhood Youth

Though much of the neighborhood is older adults, there have been more young families moving in. The neighborhood wants to work to make Parkview Hills welcoming to all and to have opportunities for neighborhood youth to learn and grow with one another. There is also a strong interest in teaching youth environmental responsibility and sustainable living practices they can utilize throughout their lives.



Parkview Hills  
Facebook Page

f @PHCAclubhouse

## Happy 50th Birthday, PVH!

Parkview Hills has been a unique neighborhood since its beginning. Local journalist, Barbara Walters, who used to work for the Kalamazoo Gazette, wrote a book on Parkview Hills and its people. Listing its buildings or sites in national, Michigan, or local registers would preserve the historical significance of this neighborhood.

### National Register for Historic Places

This register is managed by the National Parks Service and includes houses, properties, landmarks, and more. Being on this list does not enforce regulations on the property owner, but it can protect the property if federal operations are a threat. Additionally, property owners can sometimes be eligible for funding or tax benefits.

### State Registers

Being listed in a state's register protects the property from state-level threats and can also offer financial opportunity to property owners.

### Local Registers

At the most local level, communities can protect their own historic properties. Kalamazoo is a Certified Local Government, allowing our City to work with both the state and national levels of historic preservation. While local requirements enforce regulations on property owners, being locally registered helps to preserve local identity, provides stability for property owners, and makes property owners a part of history.

Sources:

[www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/2008/12/new\\_book\\_tells\\_the\\_story\\_of\\_pa.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/2008/12/new_book_tells_the_story_of_pa.html)

[savingplaces.org/stories/preservation-tips-tools-historic-designations-mean#.Xd6Ng5NKiM8](http://savingplaces.org/stories/preservation-tips-tools-historic-designations-mean#.Xd6Ng5NKiM8)

### 3 Build Relationships with Other Neighborhoods and Organizations

goals. To achieve this the Neighborhood Association of Parkview Hills identified key connections they would like to make.

If Parkview Hills is going to successfully tackle their goals in this plan they will need to build relationships with organizations and other neighborhoods. Having strong partnerships will allow the neighborhood to leverage existing programming and capacity to achieve shared



**PARKVIEW HILLS  
NEIGHBORHOODS**



# Vibrant Neighborhood Goals & Actions

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Create And Support Shared Parkview Hills Identity</b>					
Establish A Neighborhood Association	Gather to create an association that helps connect residents to one another, to other neighborhoods, and to the City	One Place	Support creation of the association	Complete!	Time
Promote Naph Meetings And Events	-Work with Warbler to have NAPH meetings advertised, NAPH general featured in some way - Post meeting schedule in visible places such as the clubhouse entrance, gym, and apartment buildings)			Ongoing	Time
Create Welcome Packets And Committee To Greet New Residents	Create packets			Complete	Time
Create Events That Allow Residents To Work Cooperatively To Improve The Neighborhood	Create and promote events such as weeding the garden or trails, planting native species, etc. that promote collective action to address a neighborhood need	NASC, trails committee are organizing these types of events		Ongoing	Time/\$
Explore Historic Designation For The Neighborhood	Engage neighbors on impact of historic designation		Provide information on historic designation options, help neighborhood through historic designation process	2020/2021	Time
Highlight The History Of Parkview Hills	Consider adding special history facts to newsletter or a Parkview Day to celebrate the unique background of the neighborhood		As needed support neighborhood in data gathering	50 yr. anniversary in 2020	\$
Promote And Support Resident Driven Events To Meet And Mingle (Ex. Sip & Social)	- Allow time for residents to talk about their events at meetings. - Help residents advertise events/ meetings in the Warbler and on Facebook			Ongoing	Time/\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Create And Support Shared Parkview Hills Identity (Continued)</b>					
Organize A Meeting Between All Pvh Groups To Meet And Build Strong Relationships	Organize dinner with at least one representative from each group			2019 -First Unity Dinner ongoing	Time
Determine Feasibility Of A Dog Park In Parkview Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study different management options for a dog park.</li> <li>- Determine if there is available space</li> </ul>		Provide information on City-run dog park; lessons learned, management structure, etc. Provide contact information for other dog park operators	Mid	Time
Explore Creating Casual Groups That Meet Around A Shared Interest And Allow Residents To Meet One Another And Build Strong Bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage residents to understand interest in groups like knitting clubs, books clubs, cooking clubs, etc.</li> <li>- Support resident champion in establishing meeting (advertisement)</li> </ul>			Ongoing	Time
<b>Support Neighborhood Youth</b>					
Create Educational Opportunities For Youth To Learn About Environmental Responsibility	Work with partners to create a series of educational opportunities. Topics may include composting, native plants, animals in PVH, the waters system etc.	KNC, WMU, KYD Net	Work with neighborhood to determine ways to engage youth in the implementation of Natural Feature Protection Phase 3 and the Sustainability Strategy	2020/2021	Time/\$
Create A Plot In Community Garden Specifically For Youth And Develop Education Around Healthy Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dedicate a plot in the community garden to neighborhood youth.</li> <li>- With partners, create a series of garden days where neighborhood kids will learn how to garden, nutrition, and how to cook the food they grow.</li> </ul>	KVCC, KNC		Short	Time/\$
Engage Young People And Parents In The Neighborhood To Determine The Types Of Activities That Would Be Most Successful And How To Structure Those Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Host a meeting or focus groups with parents and youth to better understand interests and needs.</li> <li>- Keep youth engaged in the implementation of projects or programs</li> </ul>	KYD Net		Short	Time



ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Support Neighborhood Youth (Continued)</b>					
Create Fun Opportunities For Neighborhood Kids To Meet One Another	- Engage partners to create a neighborhood YouTube channel where youth can lead different series. -Create a club around a game such as PokémonGo that is both active and fun.	KYD Net, PMN, Willow Creek established a trunk or treat event in 2019. NAPH - tree trimming & cookie decorating		Ongoing	Time
Create Leadership Opportunities For Youth	- Work with KYD Net to understand different ways to give youth a voice in neighborhood activities, - Encourage youth to take larger role in a project or consider a youth seat(s) on the association board.	KYD Net		Short	Time
<b>Build Relationships With Other Neighborhoods And Organizations</b>					
Build Strong Working Relationship With Nearby Neighborhoods	Host dinner with nearby neighborhoods (ODWNA, ONA)	ODWNA, ONA		Ongoing	Time/\$
Meet And Engage Other Neighborhoods Around The City	Attend Quarterly All Neighborhood Meetings		Continue to host All Neighborhood Meeting	ongoing	
Meet With Other Organizations To Talk About Naph And The Work Naph Is Doing	Seek out organizations that work in areas important to NAPH	KNC, Watershed Council, ALPA, Audubon Society, Senior Services, KYDNet	As needed help connect neighborhood to groups	Short	Time
Pursue Partnerships With Environmental Organizations	Seek out organizations that work in the field of sustainability, and environmental stewardship	KNC, Watershed Council, ALPA, Audubon Society	Provide contact information when possible	Short	Time

# Environmentally Responsible Neighborhood

1

## Strengthen the natural assets of Parkview Hills

Parkview Hills is built around the natural features of the area. The neighborhood is home to a rare fen which contains five endangered species of plants and animals. Residents want to be good stewards and ensure that these natural amenities are around for generations to come. There is also a desire to pursue changes that would increase the natural feel of the space by mitigating noise and light pollution as much as possible.



Monarch Waystation at Crane Park in Kalamazoo.

2

## Promote Sustainable Practices

Residents of Parkview Hills are invested in living sustainable lifestyles. To further neighborhood goals of living environmentally-conscious lifestyles residents want to explore ways to generate alternative energy, work toward climate resiliency, and make changes that would mitigate stormwater runoff.

### Pollinator Habitats

When planting species to attract pollinators, it's important to remember to prioritize native species, maintain the health of the garden, and plant a diversity of species that will ensure something will be blooming year-round.

#### Monarch Waystations

Waystations are protected monarch habitats outfitted with milkweed and nectar plants. Set aside an area alongside a road, in a garden, or at a school with plenty of native milkweed (swamp milkweed) and nectar plants like lilac and marigolds to make a monarch paradise.

#### Bee Friendly

Gardens planted intentionally with native species encourage local pollinators to come by and collect pollen. Plants like peonies, lavender, and pansies attract bees!

#### Hummingbird Heaven

Planting brightly-colored flowers will attract hummingbirds and keep them coming back for more. Plants like bee balms, columbines, and daylilies will be sure to win over these beautiful birds!

#### Sources

[www.gardeners.com/how-to/pollinator-garden-design-for-bees/9144.html](http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/pollinator-garden-design-for-bees/9144.html)

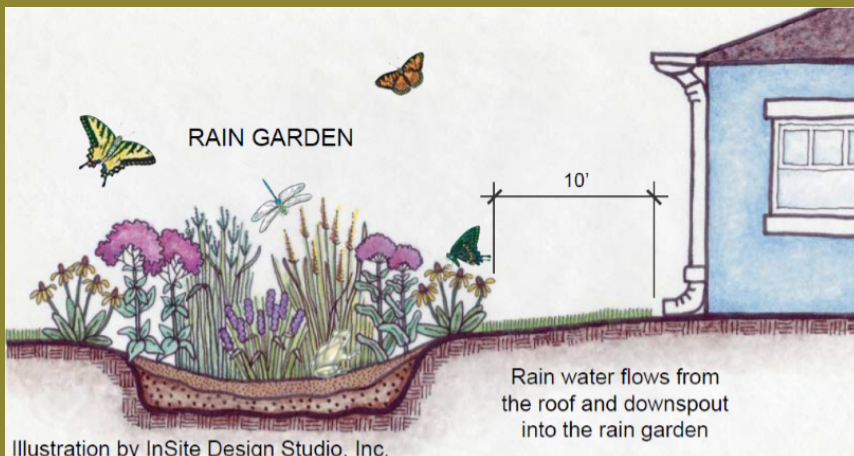
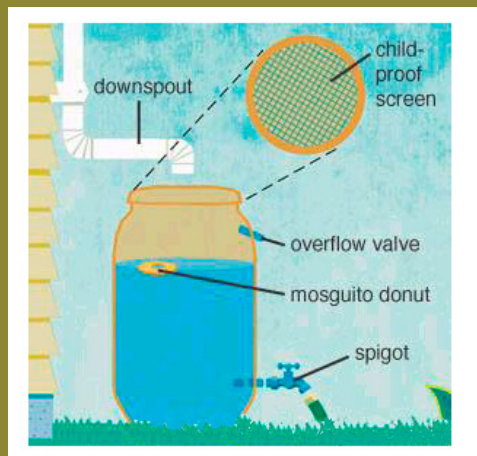
[pollinators.msu.edu/resources/pollinator-planting/pollinator-gardens/](http://pollinators.msu.edu/resources/pollinator-planting/pollinator-gardens/)

[www.canr.msu.edu/resources/smart\\_gardening\\_to\\_support\\_monarchs](http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/smart_gardening_to_support_monarchs)

[www.almanac.com/content/plants-attract-hummingbirds](http://www.almanac.com/content/plants-attract-hummingbirds)

## Rain Barrels & Gardens

Rain Barrels & Gardens divert stormwater from entering the City's system and can be paired with downspouts. Water collected from a Rain Barrel can be used to water your garden. Rain Gardens often use native plant species and can provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Learn more at [kalamazooriver.org](http://kalamazooriver.org)



Source: [kalamazooriver.org](http://kalamazooriver.org)

3

### Support a healthy deer population at safe level for both the deer and residents

The growing deer population is a contentious topic not only in Parkview Hills but Citywide. The natural characteristics of the neighborhood paired with outside forces of development and policy have contributed to a growing deer population. With the larger deer population there are concerns about the impacts on the quality of life for both residents and our ecosystem. To help address this issue the neighborhood has identified short term actions to educate residents about interacting with deer and long term actions that will require regional collective action.

### Solar Gardens

Community solar gardens are voluntary, community-owned sites with photovoltaic cells that catch and convert sunlight into usable energy, diverting energy-use from fossil fuels. Depending on the project details, community-owners of the garden could receive tax credits, funding, and/or access to the electricity generated from the solar gardens.

### Negatives of Feeding Deer

While feeding wild deer can seem like a good idea, it can be fatal. Deer are not accustomed to eating foods like corn and grain. Because of their digestive systems, when the deer eat these foods, they often die of acidosis. To best support healthy and safe deer populations, do not feed them directly, and instead plant and nurture "broad-leaved herbaceous plants (forbs), woody plants, grasses, mast (acorns, fruits and berries) and mushrooms."

Source: [www.deerfriendly.com/feeding-deer](http://www.deerfriendly.com/feeding-deer)

## What is a Prairie Fen?

Prairie fens are a type of wetland that are rare and unique. These ecosystems often support animal and plant species that are protected and environmentally important while relying on groundwater seepage to sustain itself. Prairie fens are vital to the biodiversity, waterway health, and recreational activities of their local areas.

### Animal and Plant Species at PVH

This local prairie fen is home to five particularly important species (three plant; two animal). The cut-leaved water parsnip (*Berula erecta*) and wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*) populations are both state-threatened species. The wild rice population is especially important to Southwest Michigan's Anishinabe community. The third plant species, observed minimally in the PVH Fen, is prairie Indian-plantain (*Arnoglossum plantagineum*) which grows only in prairie fens. Two animal species, the Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene Carolina Carolina*) and the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*), depend on the prairie fen for a safe spot to breed and/or hibernate. All five of these species are threatened by the invasive species encroaching on the prairie fen.

### Sources

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/g9b0/7ff6345c0bf551be6b136e809785585bbf14.pdf>

<https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov/departments/administration/environmental/environmental-projects/>



Eastern Box Turtle, Source: Steve Grund at <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/description/11493/Terrapene-carolina%20carolina>

## Threats to the PVH Fen

Prairie fen ecosystems are heavily dependent on the local hydrological quality to ensure that the groundwater seepage is abundant and healthy. The PVH Fen is threatened by urban development, invasive species, and the lack of controlled fires and beaver damming. Water that makes its way from the nearby highways and into the PVH Fen are often contaminated, reducing the water and land quality. This damage changes the ecosystem in a way that allows for certain invasive species to thrive. The woody invasive species that the PVH battles today could normally be controlled by burns and/or beaver dam flooding.

### How to Help the PVH Fen

In order to preserve this unique ecosystem, it is vital to recognize the value that the PVH Fen brings to its local area. Supporting the prairie fen could look like prescribed burns (similar to the ones performed in Asylum Lake), intentional removal of invasive species, the protection of the nearby oak-hickory forest (which is a buffer for the fen) and the continued education about this ecosystem.



Cut-Leaved Water Parsnip, Source: Ryan P. O'Connor at <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/description/13319/Berula%20erecta/>

# Environmentally Responsible Neighborhood

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Strengthen The Natural Assets Of Parkview Hills</b>					
Remove Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide information to residents on invasive species and how to remove them.</li> <li>- Organize volunteers to remove invasives from shared spaces</li> </ul>	KNC, NASC	NFP has information on invasive and native plants	NASC has begun removal. Ongoing	\$/\$\$
Enhance The Existing Prairie Garden To Be A Resource For Native Plant Species Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grow volunteer base maintaining the garden</li> <li>- Evaluate existing signage and consider updated educational signage</li> <li>- Explore establishing a native plant swap to support climate resilient landscaping in the neighborhood</li> </ul>	KNC	NFP has information on invasive and native plants	Short/Mid	Time/\$ Consider using Quick Win Funds
Reduce Noise Pollution	Work with partners to build noise barrier for traffic on 131	MDOT	Help neighborhood find the right contact at MDOT	Long	\$\$\$\$
Address Outfall Erosion And Catchment Basins Throughout The Neighborhood	Work with partners to complete needed maintenance on outfalls and catch basins	Kiser and Assoc., PHCA	Provide background or existing studies the City has on file	Board has initiated process. Long	\$\$\$\$
Work To Promote And Preserve Rare Fen In Parkview Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with partners to have educational opportunities about fens</li> <li>- Remove invasive species from fen</li> </ul>	KNC, NASC	Ensure rare natural feature is captured in Natural Feature Protection	Mid	Time
Pursue Dark Sky Lighting Standards	Educate residents about dark sky and the impact of light pollution on wildlife and humans	WMU, K	Work to have all City lights (street lights, and fixtures on buildings) focused down to limit light pollution	Mid	\$\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Promote Sustainable Practices</b>					
Explore Ways To Promote And Support The Installation Of Solar Panels Or Solar Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research different ways communities have used solar panels.</li> <li>- Engage partners to understand potential of a buy back program.</li> <li>- Engage partners to explore potential grant opportunities</li> </ul>	Consumers - solar gardens, WMU, MSU	Explore ways to support neighborhood initiatives to decrease carbon dependence	Long	\$\$\$
Create Events To Promote Education On Sustainable Practices Including Mitigating Stormwater Runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with partners to have speaker series and workshops.</li> <li>- Install an example rain garden</li> </ul>	KNC, Kalamazoo Watershed Council, Wild Ones,	Help connect to partners	Mid	\$\$
Update Landscape Standards To Promote Climate Resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Work with partners to create updated standards.</li> <li>-Hold series of meetings or workshops to educate residents on changes and benefits of new landscaping standards</li> <li>-Update landscaping contracts to limit amount and types of pesticides and herbicides used</li> </ul>	KNC, WMU, NASC, Condo Associations	Help connect to partners	Mid	Time/\$
Study Road Salt Alternatives And Determine Cost Effective Ways To Implement These Alternatives In The Neighborhood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publicize the impacts of road salt.</li> <li>- Target areas in Neighborhood where a reduction in salt use would be most beneficial.</li> <li>- Work with Partners to:</li> <li>- Evaluate ways to reduce or eliminate salt use in winter.</li> <li>- Educate neighborhood on salt impacts and non-salt alternatives.</li> <li>- Participate in a pilot program trying non-salt alternatives.</li> <li>- Develop planted areas using salt tolerant trees and vegetation to reduce salt impact to neighborhood lakes, streams, and groundwater</li> </ul>	Watershed Council, NAC, NASC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner to study alternatives to traditional road salt and initiate a pilot program(s) using ideal alternative(s) that are cost effective and environmentally friendly.</li> <li>- Explore grant or other funding opportunities to pilot an alternative salt project.</li> </ul>	Long	\$\$-\$\$\$\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD	PARTNERS TO BE ENGAGED	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
<b>Maintain Deer Population At Safe Level For Both The Deer And Residents</b>					
Pursue A Regional Approach To Maintaining The Deer Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate and help advocate for regional effort to address this issue on a regional level</li> <li>- Work with DNR to advocate for an urban deer population study</li> <li>- Develop plan for herd maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"- City Environ. Concerns Cmte.</li> <li>- Portage</li> <li>- Oshtemo</li> <li>- Parchment</li> <li>- Kalamazoo Nature Center</li> <li>- KVCC</li> <li>- ALPA</li> <li>- WMU</li> <li>- DNR</li> <li>- MSU Extension"</li> <li>K College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with MDNR to initiate study</li> <li>- Advocate for a regional effort to develop method for maintaining healthy deer population recognizing that a localized solution will not have lasting results</li> <li>- Use Sustainability Strategy as opportunity to start conversations with partners and surrounding communities</li> </ul>	Sust. Strategy - '19-'20	\$\$\$\$
Educate Residents On The Negative Effects Of Feeding The Deer	Post information in the Warbler and online	KNC, ODWNA, ONA, K College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with partners to create information about the dangers of the feeding the deer and existing regulations.</li> <li>- Post information in a View From The Curb</li> </ul>	Short	\$
Determine Effective Barriers Or Repellents For Deer To Protect Gardens That Blend With The Neighborhood's Design Aesthetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install and observe effects of various fencing methods, and specific deer repellent plantings around the perimeter of the community garden to discourage deer from accessing the area</li> <li>-Share what is learned with partners experiencing similar issues</li> </ul>	Kalamazoo Nature Center ONA ODWNA	Work with partners to help share information discovered	Mid	\$ Consider using Quick Win Funds