



How Sterling Heights enhanced the quality of life for 134,000 residents.



Transformational Placemaking

Community Engagement

- Sterling Heights elicited intense community engagement to create a visioning plan that would invest in the City's future.
- The resulting vision was one that identified development of unique recreational opportunities as critical ingredients to creating a "... vibrant, inclusive community for residents and businesses that is safe, active, progressive and distinctive.
- The buy-in resulting from this collaboration with residents and business owners resulted in the single largest investment in quality of life services in the City's history.





REImagine **RE**purpose **RE**create

Spaces re-purposed as focal point destinations

As a part of REcreating Recreation, spaces once barren or in need of repair were re-purposed into spaces that serve as focal point destinations for residents and visitors alike to connect with the City in a fun, active and inclusive way. A variety of amenities can be used all year long and meet the needs of all ages and all abilities.



Community Center

The pinnacle of REcreating Recreation is a brand new Community Center, designed and built for structured and drop-in programming including things like dance, yoga, pickleball and more. The Center includes meeting space and a large theatre for community events, a walking track, two gymnasiums, a dedicated teen room and a tot room.



Aquatics

Outdoor Splash Pad →

The Sterling Heights Splash Pad is a community "fan favorite." It is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year and is free to all residents and just \$5 for non-residents.

Interlocal Agreement →

In lieu of a community pool which is difficult and costly to build and maintain, Sterling Heights created an interlocal agreement with neighboring Warren that allows our residents to use the Warren community pool at resident rates.

Getting Something Good →

The splash pad also features the shade of umbrellas and faux grass, where adults can spread out folding chairs and blankets. When asked by local media, residents weren't concerned about the tax increase because, "We're getting something good!"



Dodge Park Farmers Market Pavilion

Summer Thursdays

Summer Thursdays offer Sterling Heights residents three different ways to enjoy the hot summer nights: an upscale beer garden, a farmers market with dozens of vendors and a free concert as part of the Music in the Park series. The Pavilion serves as a central hub for this series of events.

Winter Ice Rink

The Farmers Market transforms into a popular refrigerated ice rink packed with residents from early December to early March. It is a centerpiece for the annual A Sterling Christmas event, and special theme nights keep residents coming back for more.

Year 'Round Fun

The Farmers Market Pavilion is home to many events all year long including the 2021 Cultural Exchange, several Sterling Heights Police Department Community Outreach and Resident Engagement (CORE) events, outdoor fitness classes, Nature Center events and more.

Skate Park

Let's shred!

Sterling Heights offers skateboarders, bikers, rollerbladers and scooter riders a state-of-the-art park to enjoy.

The skate park is open all year long from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. from October through March, and then 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. from April until September.



Off-Leash Dog Park

The dog park features picnic tables, fencing, a water fountain, pet waste bag dispensers, memorial benches and more! The park is separated into two areas: a 1.25-acre all dog area and a .75-acre small dog area for dogs under 25 lbs. The park is open all year from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. between April and September and from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. between October and March.





"Up North" Feel Right in Our Own Backyard

In Sterling Heights, we're lucky to have such a beautiful natural resource as the Clinton River. REcreating Recreation helped Sterling Heights install several permanent universally accessible paddle dock launches and landings for those with their own equipment. Through a local, family-owned company called Clinton River Canoe & Kayak, residents have access to a livery and shuttle, trips, guided tours and lessons for all skill levels and abilities.

Recreation for Everyone

REcreating Recreation absolutely ensures there are diverse ways to recreate for everyone. Additional amenities include: mini-turf soccer fields, sand volleyball courts, an indoor bocce ball court, a new nature trail and renovations of sport courts and playground equipment in neighborhood parks.

