

CONTENTS

WE ARE BUILDING A BETTER HARVEY

Integrity Unity - Prido

Christopher J. Clark, Mayor

Project Overview

The Vision

Existing Conditions

Challenges and Opportunities

The Strategy

The Team



Planning Context & Mandate





ACTION PLAN

CITIZENS FOR CLARK 16423 Halsted Street, Harvey, Illinios 60426 708-824-7473 www.clarkformayor.com

Page 1 of 14

CITY PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

Issue: Youth do not have options available for physical activity. The current Park District does not suit this need. In fact, the parks are in disrepair. Many of the park district buildings are not available for physical activity. Instead, the building are only available for banquets.

Suggestion: Create a city park and several community centers. There should be one central park. There should be one community center in each ward. Vacant homes can be designed to create a community center. The engineer should develop an implementation plan, including but not limited to park land choice, community center locations, and overall costs. City Administrator should develop a plan for a city park and community center structure and operations. Public Works should be responsible for maintenance.

Leader: Curtis Witek

Goals & Guiding Principles



Goals

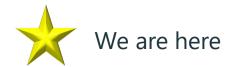
- Improve residents' access to recreational facilities and programs
- Create safe community gathering spaces
- Create a new park and/or Neighborhood Hub in each of Harvey's six wards

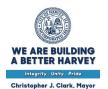
Guiding Principles

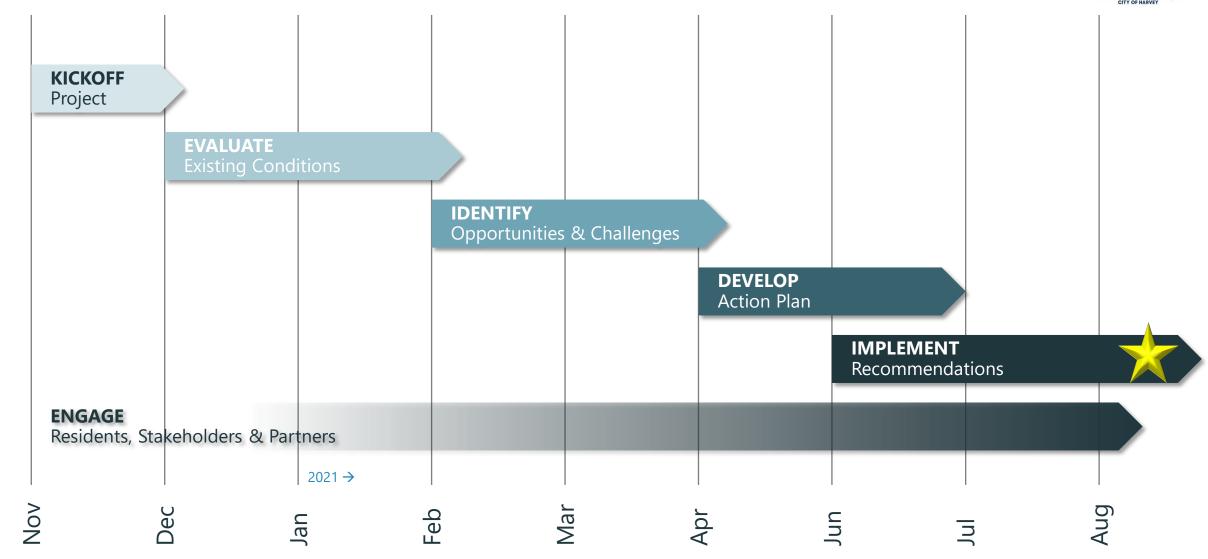
- Livability. Harvey's parks & open spaces will improve the City's livability and neighborhood vibrance.
- Pride of Place. Harvey's parks & open spaces will cultivate a sense of community pride.
- Accessibility. Harvey's parks & open spaces will be accessible for all residents, especially the most vulnerable.
- Ownership. Harvey's parks & open spaces will be collectively owned and maintained.
- **Health.** Harvey's parks & open spaces will support the health individuals and the community.
- **Connectivity.** Harvey's parks & open spaces will connect residents to their neighbors, the outdoors, and community resources.

Source: Kickoff Meeting held on 11/18/2020

Planning Process











Regional Preserves, Greenways & Blueways



- Forest Preserves & other Natural Areas
- Trails & Greenways
- Water Trails (Blueways)

Local Parks & Recreation Facilities



- Municipal Parks
- Playgrounds
- Community Centers & Recreation Centers

Activated Community Spaces

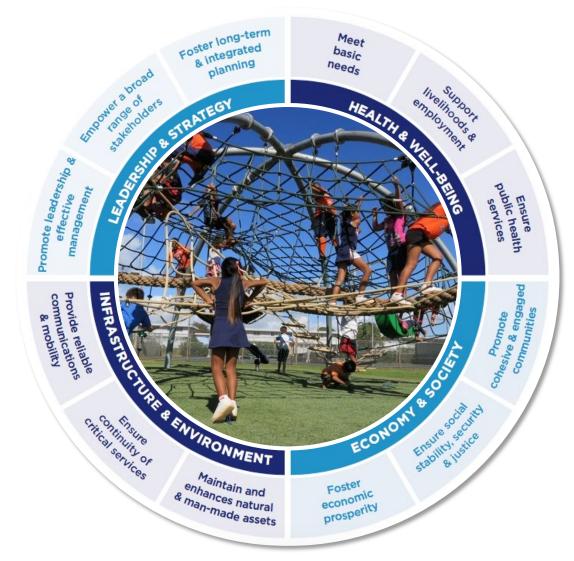


- Schoolyards
- Vacant lots
- Streets, Sidewalks & Parking Lots, ROW

Planning Framework

More than just a park...

- Parks and public spaces are a key component of building a healthy, prosperous, and resilient Harvey.
- The City's Park Development Strategy is a component of the broader Building a Better Harvey Initiative.
- This strategy should be coordinated with the City's Capital Improvement Program, Neighborhood Revitalization Program, and other related projects, plans, program, and policies.
- The development of new park facilities should build upon and connect existing community assets.



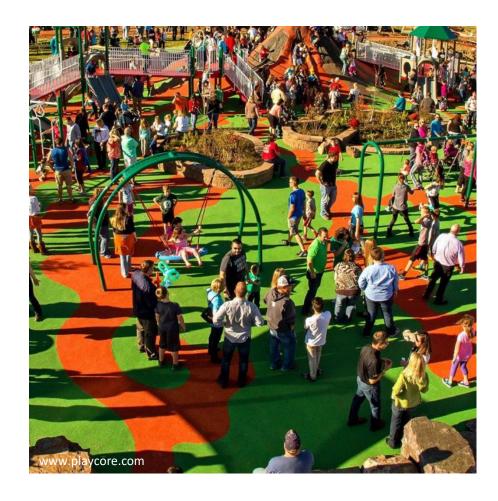
Source: 100 Resilient Cities



WE ARE BUILDING A BETTER HARVEY Integrity Unity Pride Christopher J. Clerk. Mayor

Economic Benefits

- Parks improve the local tax base and increase property values.
- The real estate market consistently demonstrates that many people are willing to pay a larger amount for property located close to parks and open space areas than for a home that does not offer this amenity.
- Quality parks and recreation are cited as one of the top three reasons that business cite in relocation decisions in a number of studies.
- Parks and recreation programs produce a significant portion of operating costs from revenue generated from fees and charges.



Planning Framework

Health & Environmental Benefits

- Parks are the places that people go to get healthy and stay fit.
- Parks and recreation programs and services contribute to the health of children, youth, adults, and seniors.
- According to studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, creating, improving and promoting places to be physically active can improve individual and community health and result in a 25 percent increase of residents who exercise at least three times per week.
- A study by Penn State University showed significant correlations to reductions in stress, lowered blood pressure, and perceived physical health to the length of stay in visits to parks.
- Parks and protected public lands are proven to improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together.

Source: Curtis Witek

Planning Framework

Social Benefits

- Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a community.
 They provide identity for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a community.
- Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages and economic status, regardless of their ability to pay for access.
- An ongoing study by the Trust for Public Land shows that over the past decade, voter approval rates for bond measures to acquire parks and conserve open space exceeds 75%.
- Parks and recreation programs provide places for health and wellbeing that are accessible by persons of all ages and abilities, especially to those with disabilities.
- Research by the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods indicates that community involvement in neighborhood parks is associated with lower levels of crime and vandalism.
- Access to parks and recreation opportunities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and to reduced juvenile delinquency.

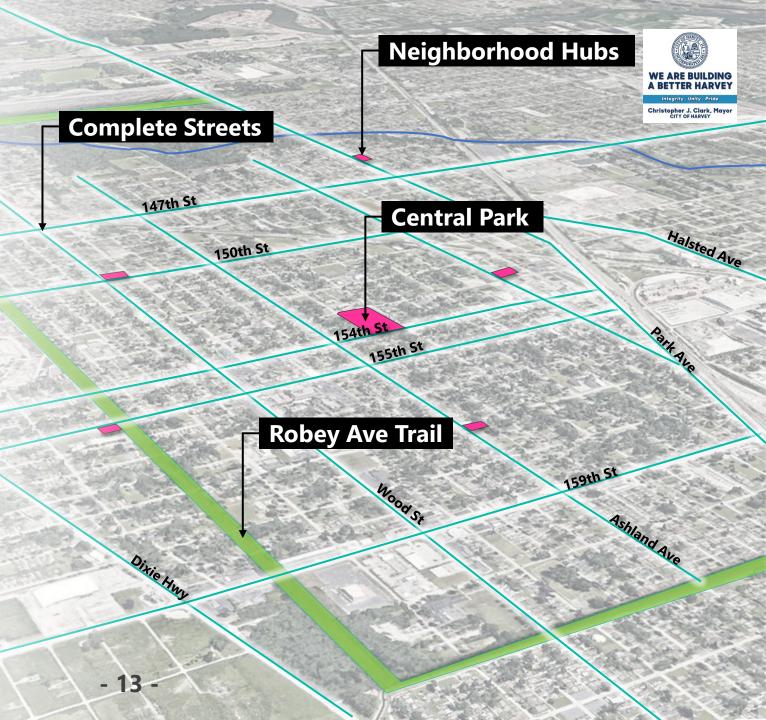


Vision

- The City envision a network of multifunctional parks, public open spaces, and Neighborhood Hubs that will be anchored by a new Central Park.
- These new community amenities will be connected through a network of complete streets and trails.
- The new community amenities will be activated and managed by community organizations and innovative publicprivate partnerships with the support of the City.

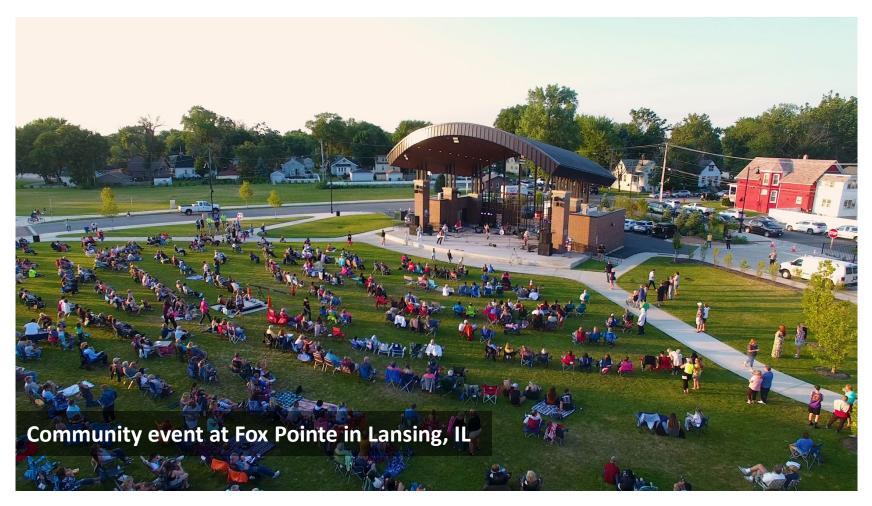
- Proposed Complete Streets
- Proposed Trails/Greenway
- Neighborhood Hubs / Central Park

Source: City of Harvey Parks Development Strategy (2021); SSMMA Complete Streets and Trails Plan (2010)









Source: www.foxpointe.org

Parklets and People Spots

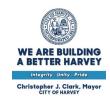


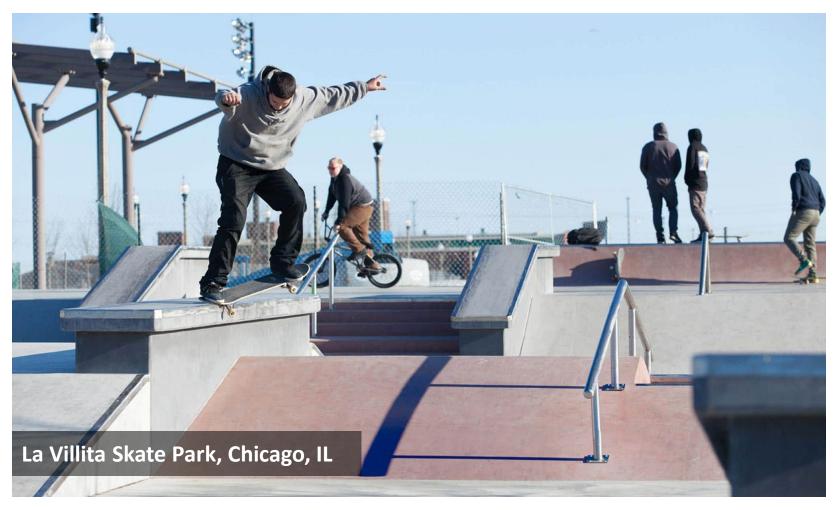




Source: chi.streetsblog.org

Skate Park





Source: https://www.spohnranch.com/portfolio/la-villita-park-skatepark/







Source: Pogo Park







Source: Neighborhood Space

Community Garden



Christopher J. Clark, Mayor CITY OF HARVEY





Source: Curtis Witek



Community Markets & Creative Placemaking



Source: www.boxville.org



Farmers Market

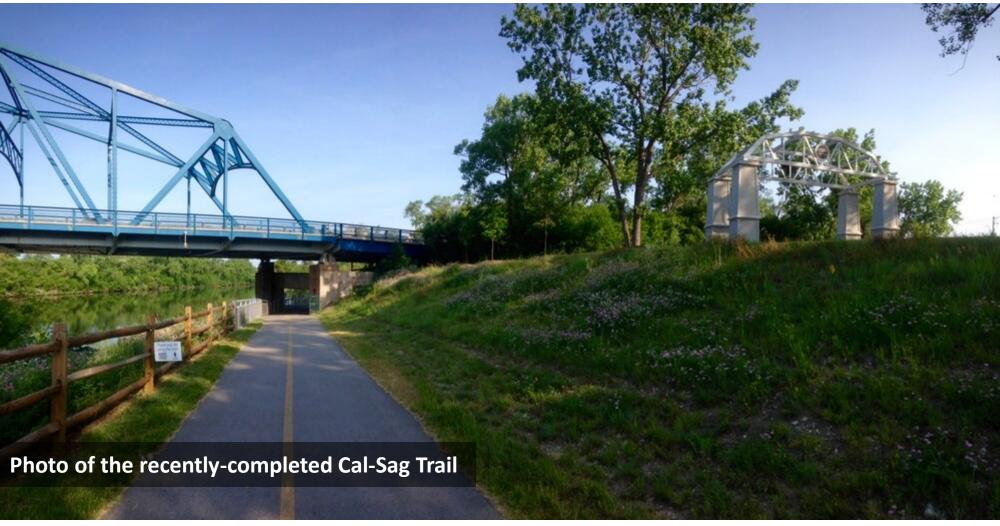




Source: thehatcherychicago.org







Source: Friends of the Cal-Sag Trail

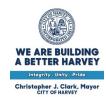
Greenways and Trails





Source: Great Rivers Chicago

Bike Park





Source: chi.streetsblog.org

Water Trails





Source: Curtis Witek



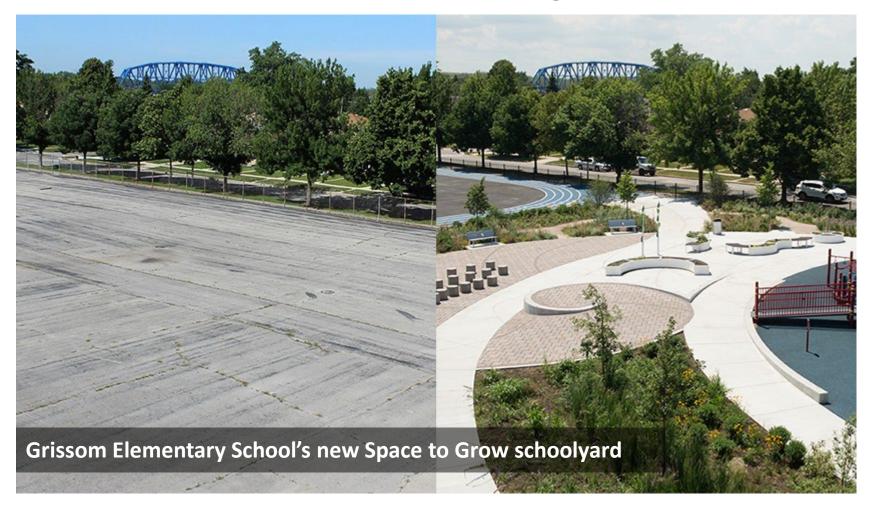




Source: Jason Schumer







Source: Space to Grow







Photo: Think Outside Da Block

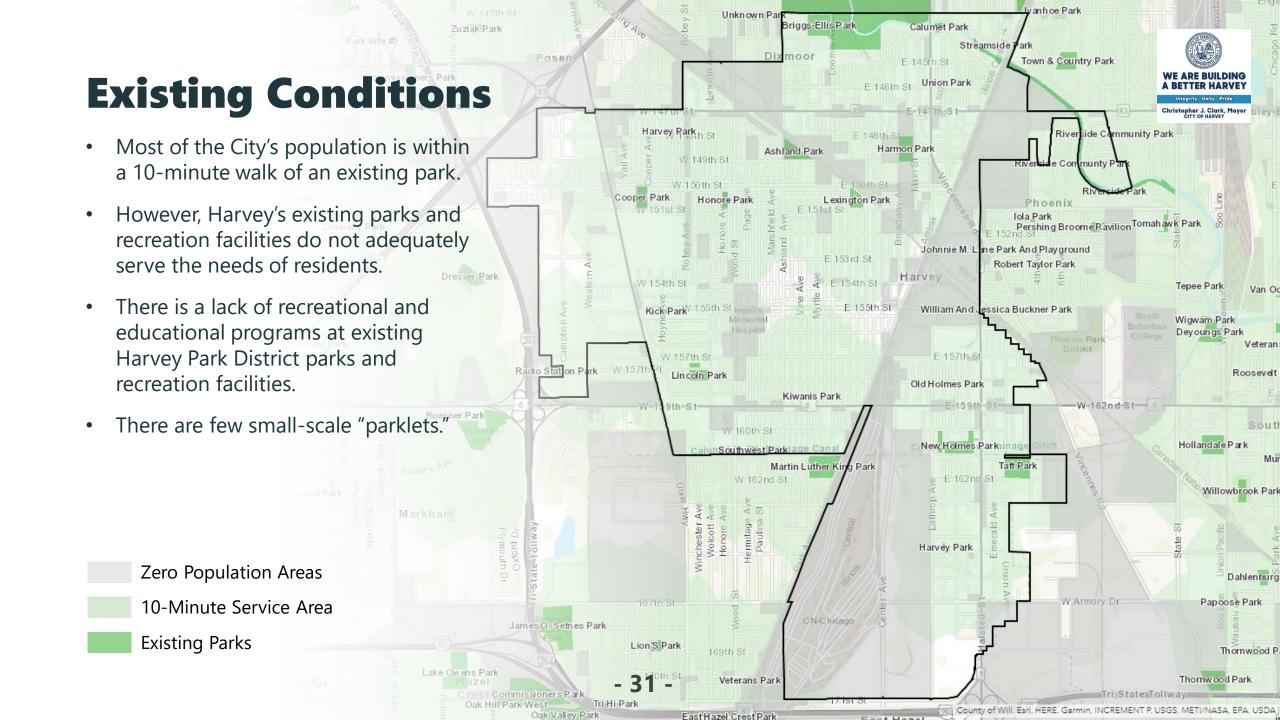


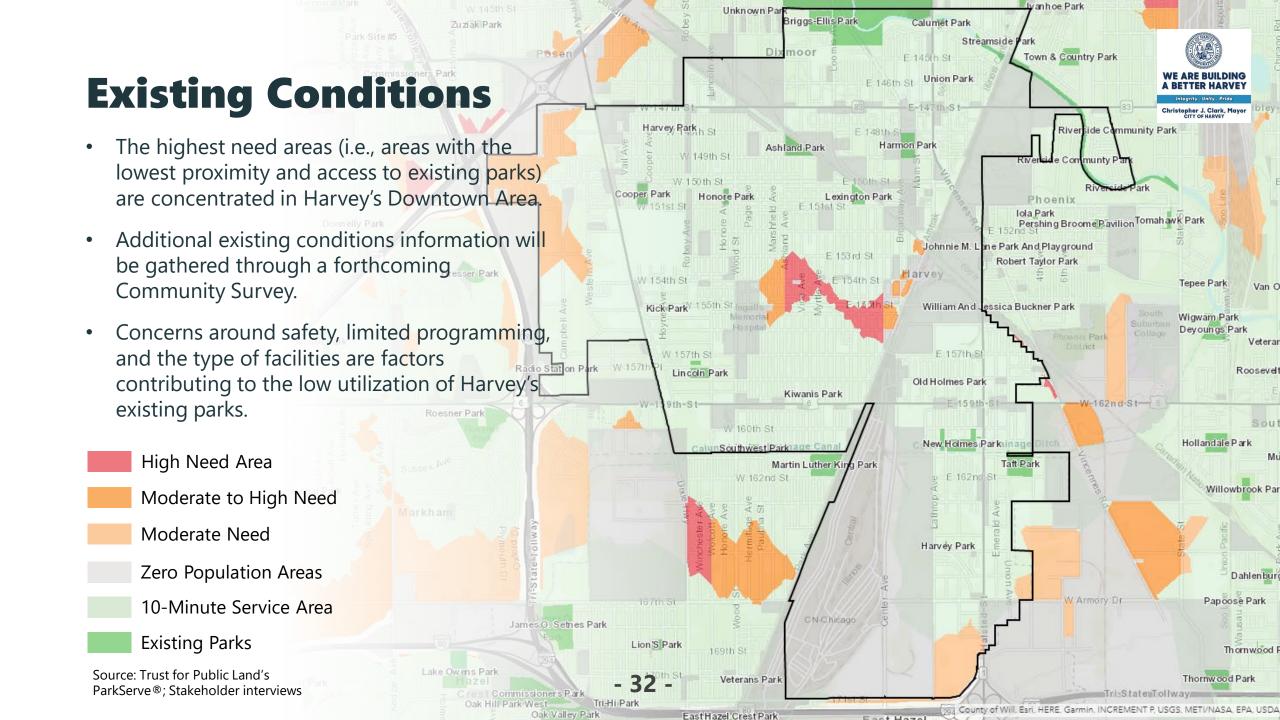


- There are 20 existing parks and recreation facilities maintained by the Harvey Parks District.
- The average park size is 3.85 acres.
- The condition of parks varies, but most park facilities (e.g., playgrounds, playfields, parking lots, lighting) appear to be in "fair" or "poor" condition.
- Indoor recreation facilities include Holmes Recreation Center, King's Banquet Hall, and the Gloria Taylor Banquet Hall.
- Natural areas in Harvey include
 Kickapoo Meadows, the Little Calumet
 River, and several wetlands along
 Campbell Avenue.

Existing Parks











A significant amount of Harvey's population is at risk of urban flooding.

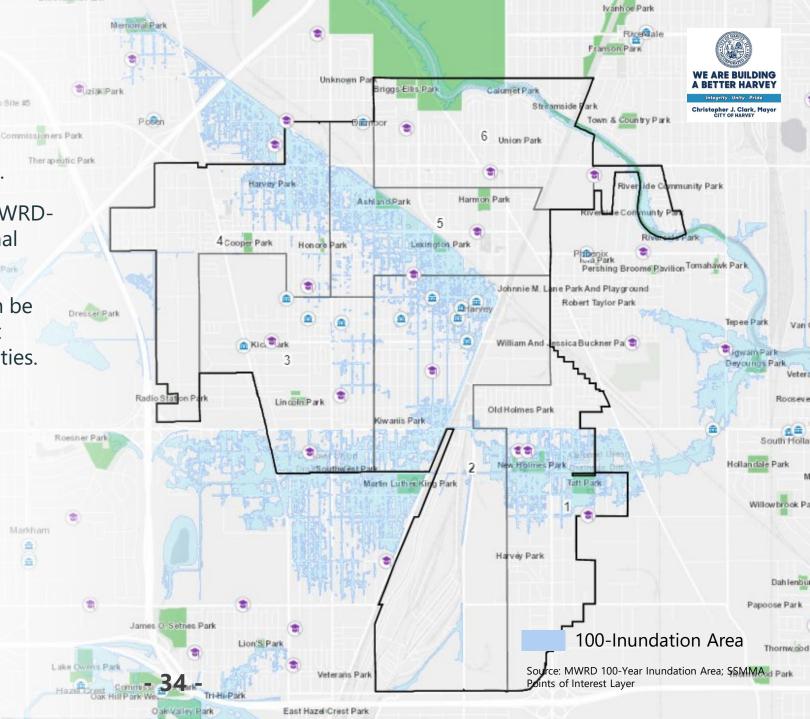
Harvey is currently engaged in two MWRDled efforts to address local and regional flooding issues.

Park-Site 45

Stormwater management facilities can be created at parks, schools, government campuses, and other community facilities.

Green Schoolyard Concept



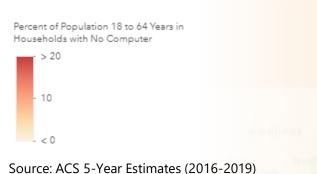


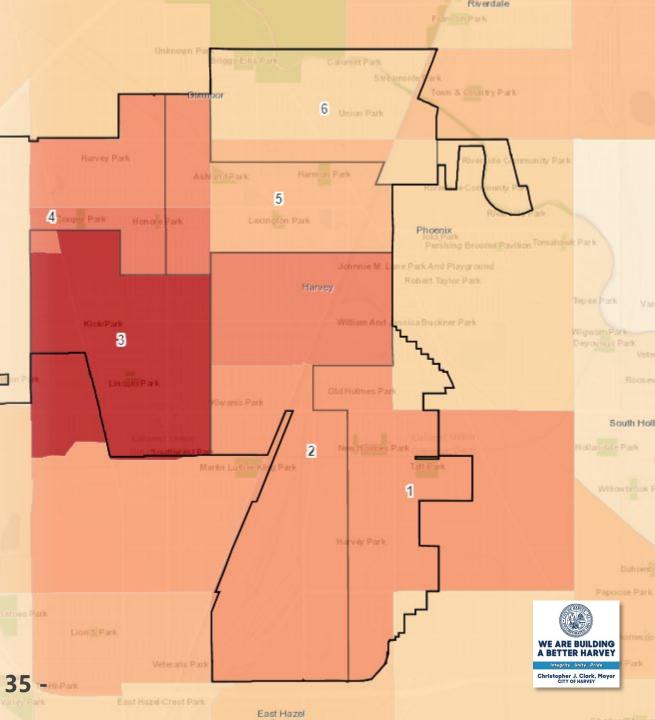
Harvey's Digital Divide

23% of Harvey households do not have access to a computer.

Only 72% of households in Harvey have a broadband internet subscription.

- In Ward 3, over 20% of the population between 18-64 live in households with no computer access.
- The low broadband penetration rate makes the City's residents less competitive in the job market, less able to utilize emerging services (e.g., telemedicine) and impacts the city's economic competitiveness.
- Free wifi hotspots can be established at Harvey's parks and open spaces.





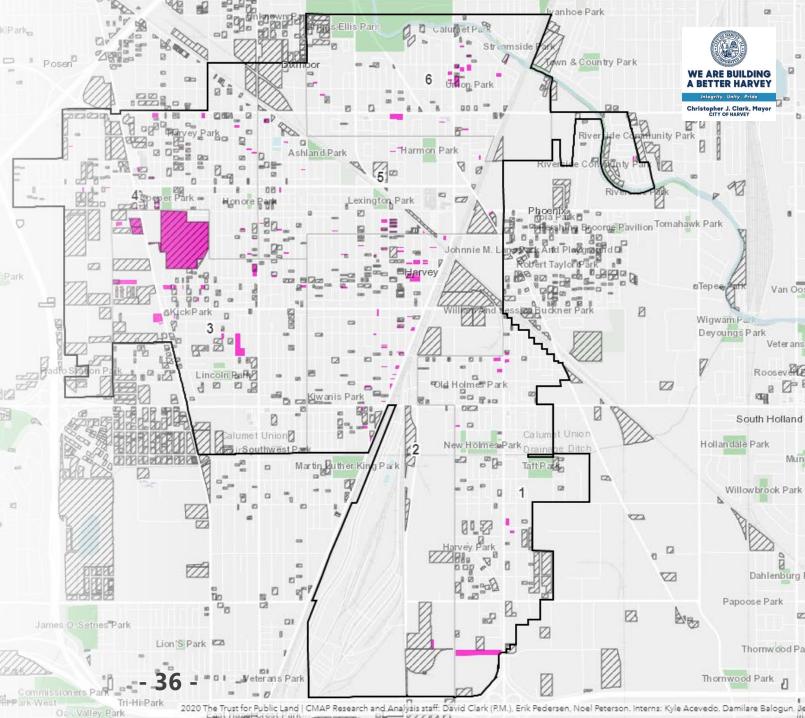


- According to CMAP's 2013 Land Use inventory, 12% of Harvey's land area is classified as vacant.
- Vacant and blighted properties decrease surrounding property values, erode the health of Harvey's housing market, pose safety hazards, and reduce local tax revenue.
- 14% of all parcels within the City of Harvey are vacant.
- 10% of all of Harvey's parcels have blighted structures



City-Owned Parcels

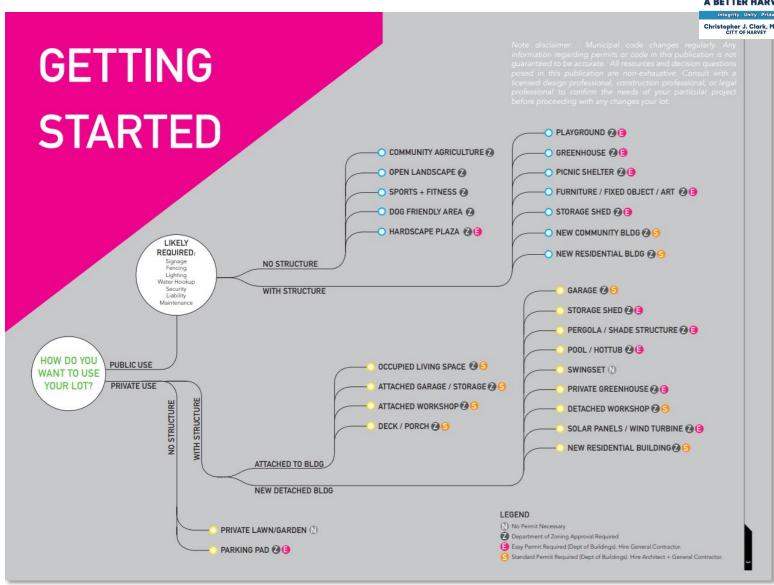
Source: City-Owned Property (12/17/2020); CMAP 2013 Land Use Inventory





Vacant Property

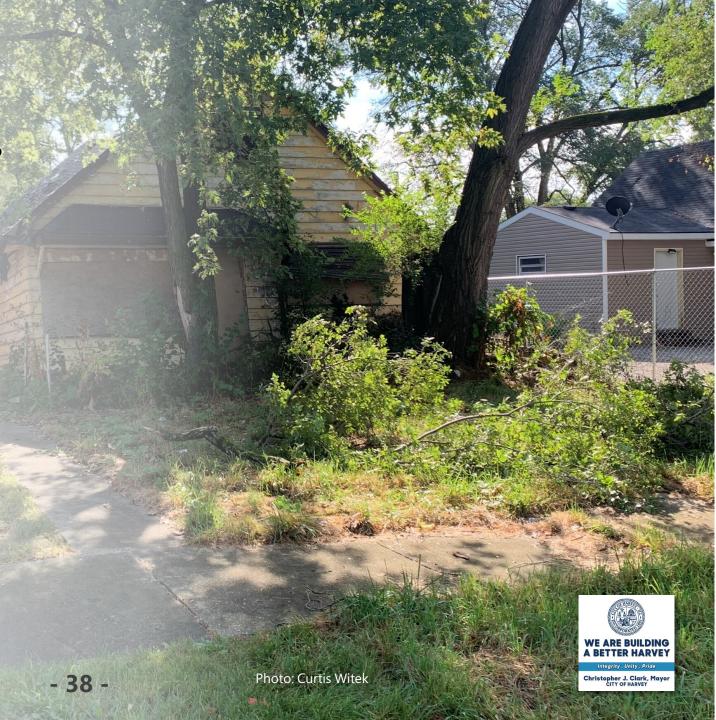
- Harvey's vacant properties can be redeveloped or reactivated for variety of public and private uses.
- Mayor Clark has proposed converting some vacant residential structures and adjacent vacant lots into "Neighborhood Hubs."
- The guide to the right can be adopted for Harvey to streamline the redevelopment process.



Additional Challenges

- Population loss. Harvey has lost over 32% of its resident population since 2000.
- **Poverty.** The median income in Harvey is \$30,306.
- **High crime rates.** Harvey's crime Index score is 5/100.
- The Digital Divide. Only 72% of Harvey households have a broadband subscription.
- Flooding. Neighborhoods experience chronic and severe urban flooding.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey fiveyear estimates; Harvey Broadband Strategic Plan (2021); NeighborhoodScout.com





Near-Term Recommendations:

- 1. Distribute a survey to gather community input regarding the location and programming of new parks and neighborhood hubs.
- 2. Identify potential park and Neighborhood Hub locations in each ward.
- 3. Apply to grants to support small-scale neighborhood hub and parklet projects (e.g., AARP Community Challenge Grant, ComEd Green Region Grant Program).
- 4. Coordinate planning and implementation efforts through CMAP's Consortium on Public Space Innovation.
- 5. Identify community groups, churches, schools, artists, local businesses, and other organizations who can help establish and maintain park and neighborhood hub facilities.
- 6. Plan at least one (COVID-safe) community activation event during the Summer of 2021 (e.g., community bike ride, community garden planting, volunteer workday, farmers market, street festival).
- 7. Continue to coordinate parks-related policies, programs, and projects across the City's various departments (e.g., Mayors Office, Public Works Department, Economic Development, Engineering Department Police Department, Senior Services, etc.)



Long-Term Recommendations:

- 1. Apply to grants to support large-scale park and natural area projects (e.g., PARC, OSLAD, Chi-Cal Rivers Fund).
- 2. Create a new "Central Park" near 154th Street and Myrtle Ave in partnership with the MWRD local stormwater partnership program, IDNR, and other partners.
- 3. Connect local and regional parks through bikeways, trails, and complete streets (see Creating Connections).
- 4. Activate Broadway Avenue and/or the Fifth Third Bank parking lot through a Farmers Market, Street Fest, or other community event.
- 5. Explore the feasibility of transforming school yards into "Green Schoolyards".
- 6. Work with Harvey Park District to improve and expand existing park facilities and programs.





The Team



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We want to hear from you!

Please fill out the survey.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/harveysparkstrategies

THANK YOU!



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Christopher J. Clark, Mayor CITY OF HARVEY