

# Youth Education & Development

## Goal:

To improve the lives of youth through educational and recreational activities and facilities that develop the following:

- Academic performance
- Learning opportunities
- Physical and emotional well being
- Overall lifestyle



# What Matters?

- **Neighborhood revitalization**
- **Racial & economic integration**
- **Possibility for after-school activities**
- **Availability of facilities**
- **Access**
- **Cultural value**
- **Ability to improve academic achievement/learning dynamic**
  
- **Political considerations & feasibility**
- **Costs**

# Park Ratings

- 1-2. Fort Wayne/State Fairgrounds
3. Belle Isle
4. Riverfront



# State Fairgrounds

## Pros:

- Ample facilities
- Central regional location
- Diverse economic and neighborhood areas
- Accessible to public transportation
- Ample parking
- Historical significance to Detroit Metro region and state
- Existing athletic activities: Detroit hockey team practices, etc.
- Politically feasible



# State Fairgrounds

## **Cons:**

- No statewide draw on a consistent basis, but with a regional draw
- “Beautification” needed
- Distance from downtown Detroit

# Fort Wayne

## Pros:

- Historical and military significance
- Cultural importance
- Potential to draw visitors from across the state
- In close proximity to fast growing immigrant communities
- South of parade grounds exists a well received public boat launch and pier
- Conducive to broad educational, cultural, and recreational uses with the historic buildings, riverfront property and land for athletic fields



# Fort Wayne

## Cons:

- Much of surrounding land vacant, abandoned, or underutilized
- Perception of this area of town could dissuade some people from visiting
- Low-income neighborhood could not afford major fees to support the park
- Requires major support to function well
- Cost – most expensive proposal
- Impact on revitalization process only in long term

# Belle Isle Park

## **Pros:**

- Famous place
- Historical significance
- Popularity as “Jewel of Detroit”
- Region
- Many recreational and cultural possibilities
- Access to water/riverfront

## **Cons:**

- High cost, buildings in disrepair
- Minimum added value
- Politically unfeasible
- Educational benefits, but not easily accessible to youth

# Riverfront

- Targeted to 20-30 year olds
- It's a city park, not a metro park

# Conclusion

- **Fort Wayne and State Fairgrounds** proposals both have the greatest potential to directly improve the lives of youth in the Detroit Metropolitan region.