



**General Services  
Department**

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**To:** Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway  
**From:** Crystal Perkins, Director, General Services Department  
**Date:** May 1, 2025  
**Re:** Responses to 2025-2026 GSD Budget Analysis

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Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 24, 2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the General Services Department.

- 1. The restored band shell was moved from the former Michigan State Fairgrounds to Palmer Park. Thank you for the good work. Which department is charged with scheduling acts and events for the band shell? What are the plans for events at the band shell? Will the events include District 2 based acts and musical groups from District 2 high schools? What funds are needed to attract acts to the band shell? What is the role of the People for Palmer Park organization concerning events at the band shell? What is the role of the Entertainment Commission and other city departments concerning the band shell?**

The General Services Department will assume responsibility for permitting and scheduling entertainment at the Palmer Park Bandshell. We will collaborate with People for Palmer Park to develop a diverse lineup of events, including an evening music series, arts and culture performances, and theatrical productions. These events will showcase artists and acts from across the Detroit area, with a special focus on District 2.

At this time, we have not engaged with the Entertainment Commission regarding the bandshell. Scheduling of performances and acts will be managed directly by the General Services Department.

- 2. Please describe new parks and recreation projects and programs for District 2.**

**New Park Projects:**

- Peterson – playground, splashpad, walkways, parking lots
- Hardstein – walkways
- Van Antwerp – benches and picnic tables
- Palmer Park – splashpad upgrade, walkways
- Belton-Santa Maria – playground
- Hyde – play element & seating

**New Recreation Projects:**

- Northwest Activities Center
  - Ramp renovations
  - Smoothie Bar
  - Gaming Table Room



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- **Adams Butzel**
  - Senior Tech Classes
  - Senior Weight Training
  - Youth Cooking Classes
  - E-Sports Lounge

**3. Please describe new capital improvement projects planned for District 2.**

Capital Improvement Projects separate from park projects falls under the jurisdiction of the Construction and Demolition Department.

**4. Please describe the progress on the Merrill Fountain restoration project at Palmer Park and the coordination between the GSD staff and the Construction and Demolition Department. What is the estimated completion date? Will the funds allocated be rolled over into the 2025-26 budget or does a new appropriation need to be approved by City Council during the current budget hearings?**

The Merrill Fountain restoration project is being handled by the Construction and Demolition Department. The estimated date of completion can be provided at a later date. The funding source is capital and will be rolled over into FY 2025-2026 and does not require a new appropriation.

**5. Please describe staff training concerning the Elliott – Larson Civil Rights Act and the appropriate work force environment. Please note that proper training will prevent complaints, litigation costs and settlements.**

Each division within the General Services Department is required to have all staff trained by the Civil Rights Inclusion & Opportunity Department. This training is to take place on a regular basis.

**6. Please determine if a paved walkway or bike path can be installed in Palmer Park along Merrill – Plaisance Street between Woodward Avenue and the Palmer Park Service Drive near the DPD offices. What would be the estimated costs? What would be the best way to fund the proposed project?**

The sidewalk installation for the Merrill Plaisance side of Palmer Park is currently funded and the Request for Proposal has been submitted to OCP for advertisement of this opportunity.

**7. Comstock Park in District 2 has a flooding problem. After a rainstorm, many parts of the park walkway is under water and cannot be used. What efforts can be made to correct the problem and properly manage the rainwater? Can the solution include rain gardens? Can the solution include coordination with DWSD and DPW?**



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We will have our team evaluate the issue and respond accordingly. We can implement systems that will prevent the water from pooling on the walkways and divert it to the grass area.

**8. ARPA funding will end in December 2026. What ARPA funding programs will need general fund support to continue beyond ARPA?**

The major ARPA funded project for GSD was Skills for Life. This program will not need General Fund dollars to continue as we have decided to sunset this program once all participants complete their training program.