



Urban Peer Group

August 5, 2026

*Ford Community and Performing Arts Center,
City of Dearborn*

Agenda

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Local Highlights –
Inclusive Play Initiatives in the
City of Dearborn
3. SEMCOG Resources and
Discussion
4. Input on SEMCOG's 2027-2028
Legislative Policy Platform
5. Tour of the Ford Center



March Meeting Recap

- SEMCOG's March General Assembly – The Icon, Detroit
- 20+ participants at the session

Peer Group Committee Goals

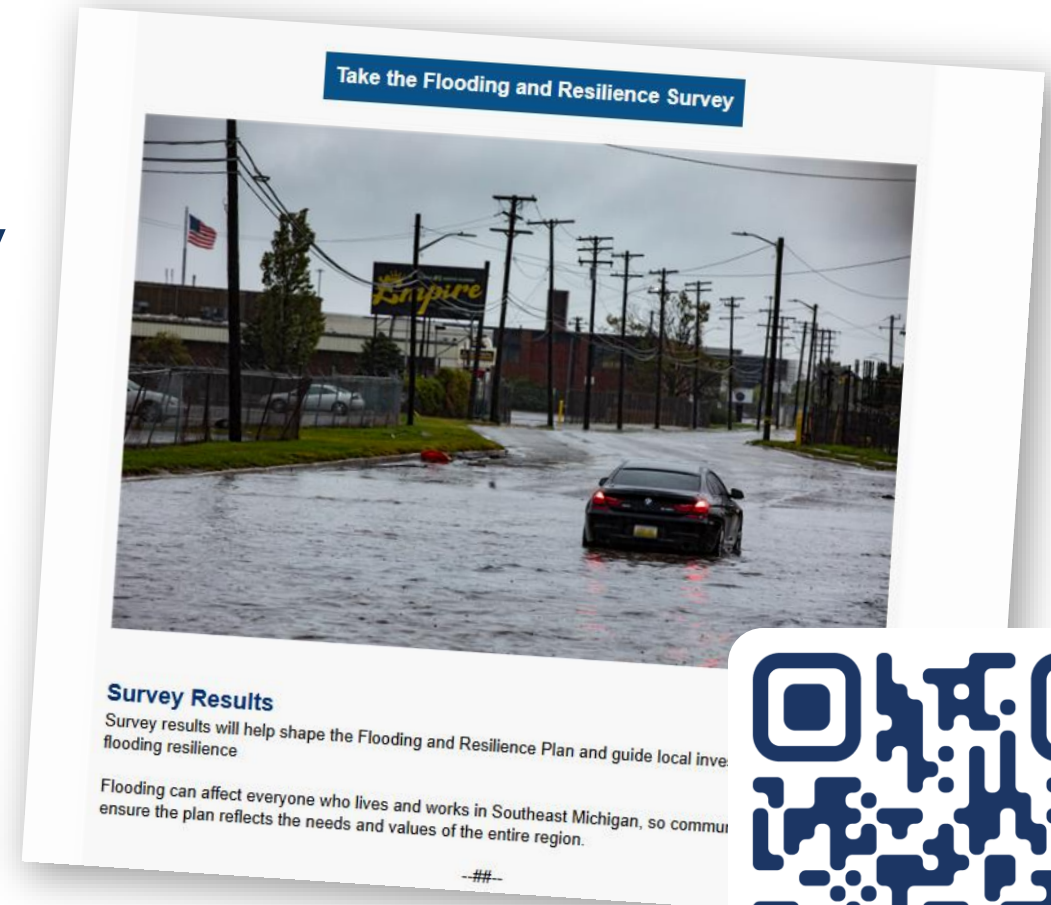
- Providing space for collaboration & knowledge sharing
- Connecting peers to information & resources
- Ensuring needs & challenges are heard & recognized in regional planning
- Working with federal & state partners to ensure priorities & resources reflect the unique needs of all communities.

Urban Community Challenges

- Flooding vulnerability
- Preparing for the 2030 Census
- Urban placemaking

Flooding and Resilience Survey

- Shape the plan to help guide investments in resilience strategies
- Understand how flooding impacts residents across the region
- Prioritize efforts to build resilience
- What communities need to build resilience to flood events



<http://bit.ly/4gkRzx8>



LUCA Timeline

- The **Census Address List** helps the Census Bureau identify where people live, contact them for census counts, and conduct follow-up activities to ensure a complete count.
- An accurate census count depends on an accurate address list, and there is only one time to get it right – during the LUCA process

2026 – early 2027

LUCA Groundwork

Local governments should identify priority census blocks and update address lists for those areas.

October 2027 – March 2028

LUCA Review

submit suggestions to add, delete, or update the geographic location of residential addresses.

LUCA Invitation, Training, Preparation

Register for LUCA and conduct a block level address count comparisons.

May 2027 - August 2027

Feedback and Appeals

Local governments receive address-level feedback and may submit appeals.

August 2028 – March 2029



SEMCOG Resources for Communities to Conduct LUCA

- Interactive web-based mapping application:
 - *Visualize housing unit change from 2020 census to latest available data*
 - *Compare Census Bureau's housing unit counts with SEMCOG housing unit estimates derived from current buildings data at census block level*
 - *View the locations of group quarters (GQ) facilities throughout the region*
- Member communities requiring technical assistance or additional guidance should contact Sirisha Uppalapati (uppalapati@semcog.org)

Upcoming Meetings/Workshops



- **August 20** | SEM U: Housing for Everyone
- **September 2** | E-Bikes in SE MI: How to Ride Safe
- **September 30** | Member Meetup: Title IX Plaza, Washtenaw County
- **October 15** | General Assembly, Wayne County Community College NW Campus



Welcome to Dearborn!



Abdullah H. Hammoud
Mayor, City of Dearborn



Inclusive Play Initiatives

**City of Dearborn
Parks and Recreation**

Sean Fletcher, Director
Dan Plamondon, Deputy Director

Regional Resources for Inclusive Public Spaces

SEMCOG

Tyler Klifman, Environment & Infrastructure Planner

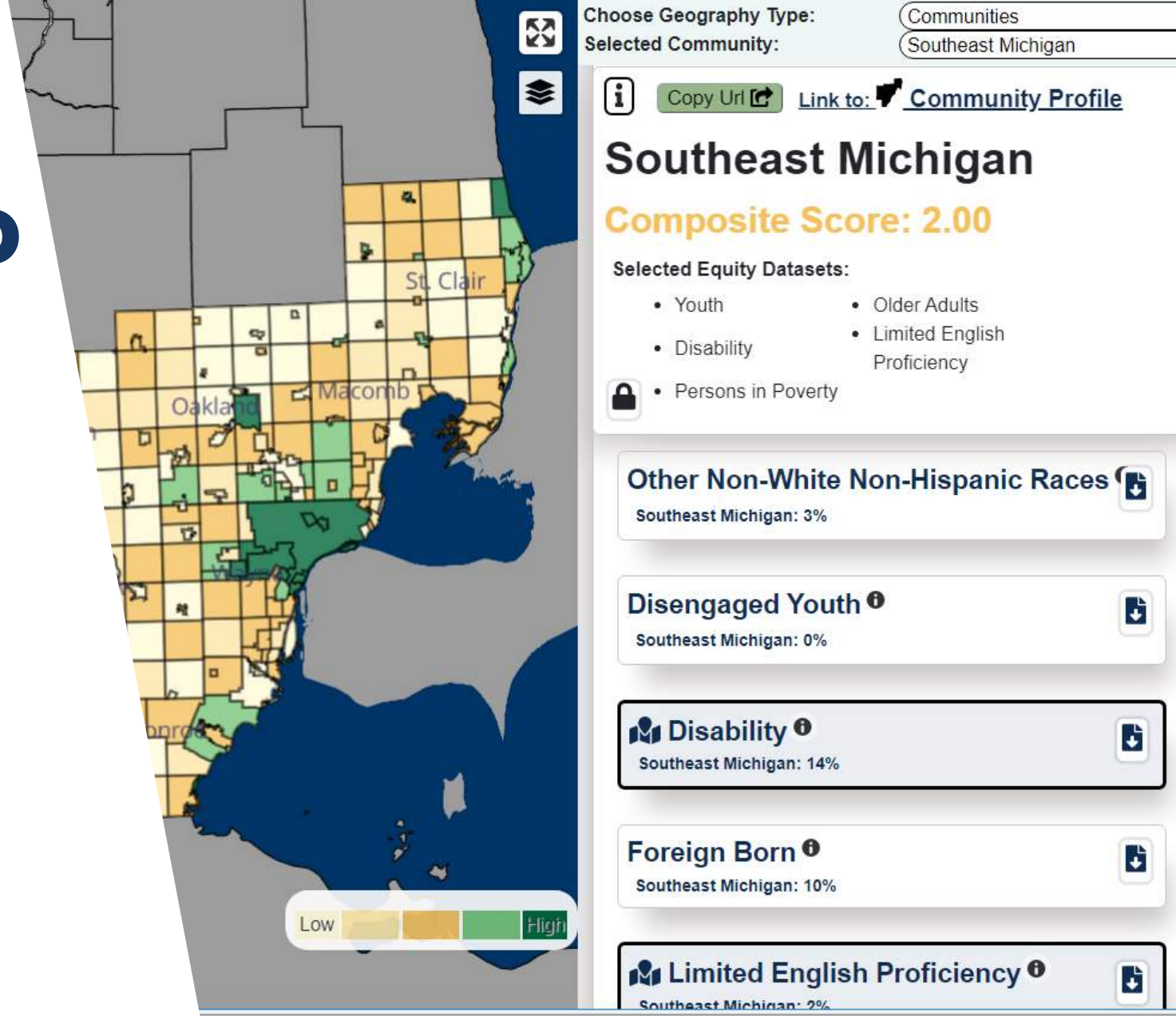
Regional Planning

- Systems-level perspective
- Aggregated public survey results
- Benchmarking data
- Policy and action agenda
- **Helping to answer questions like...**



Who needs to be included?

- Demographic tools
- Census-based
- Neighborhood level
- Custom composites



What do people want?

- Public survey results
- Community outreach activities
- Stakeholder engagement feedback
- Peer learning

"On average, I enjoy parks or trails..."

13%
4+ times each week

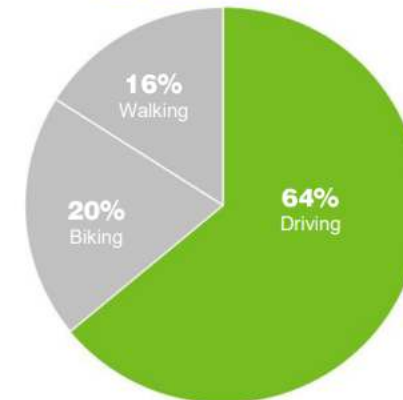
33%
2-4 times each week

31%
1 time each week

12%
<1 time each week

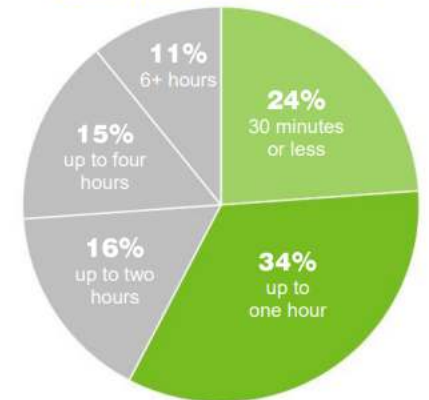
Enjoying parks and trails is a frequent activity for most Southeast Michigan residents

"I travel to the park I visit most often by..."



Most people drive to the parks they regularly visit

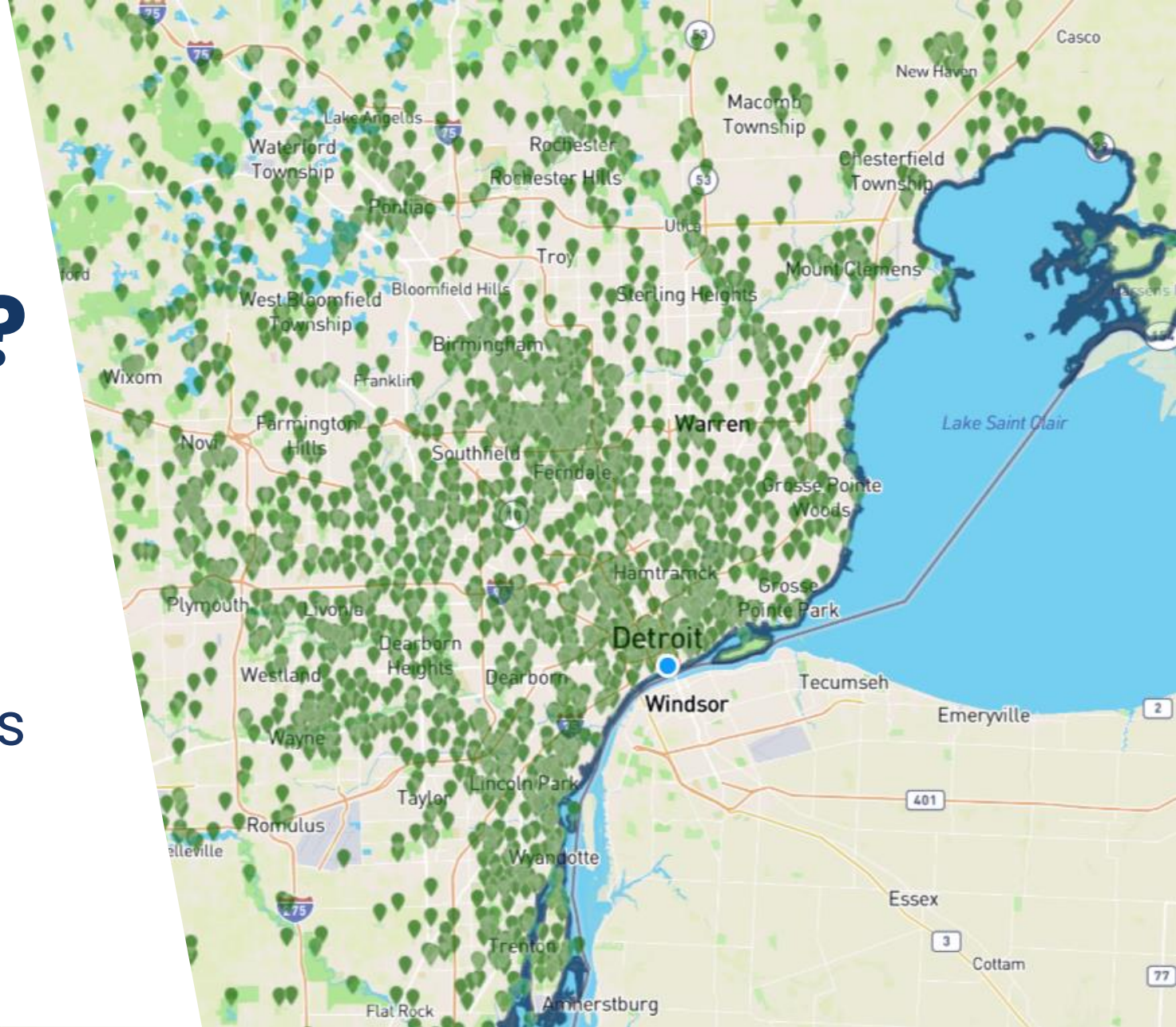
"For my favorite recreation activity, I'm willing to drive..."



and most are willing to drive up to an hour from home

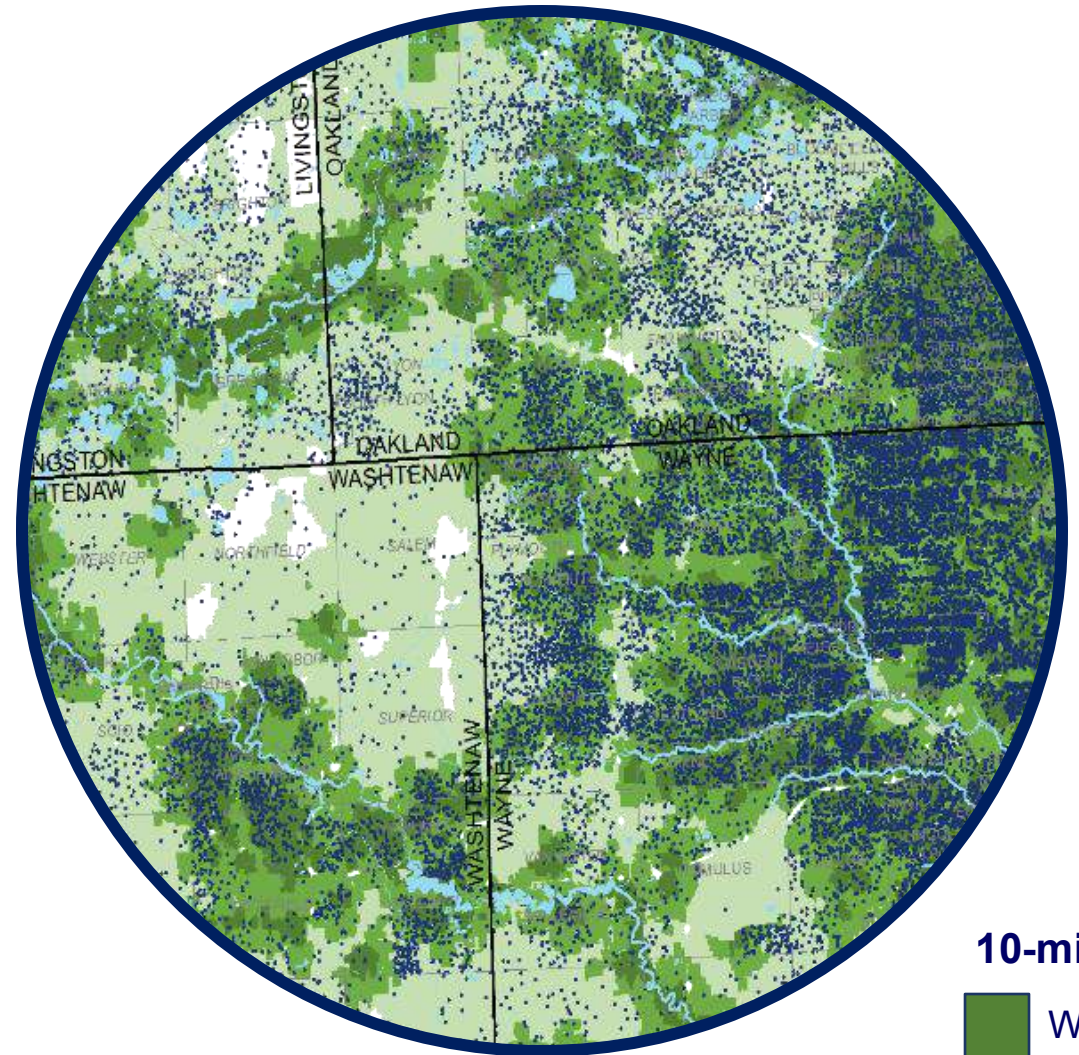
Where else is this amenity?

- Systems-level coordination
- 50 amenity types
- 3,000 recreation sites
 - Public
 - Private
 - Schools



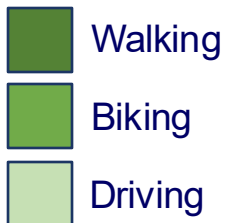
Where is it not?

- Gap analysis by amenity
- Transportation focus
- Demographic focus



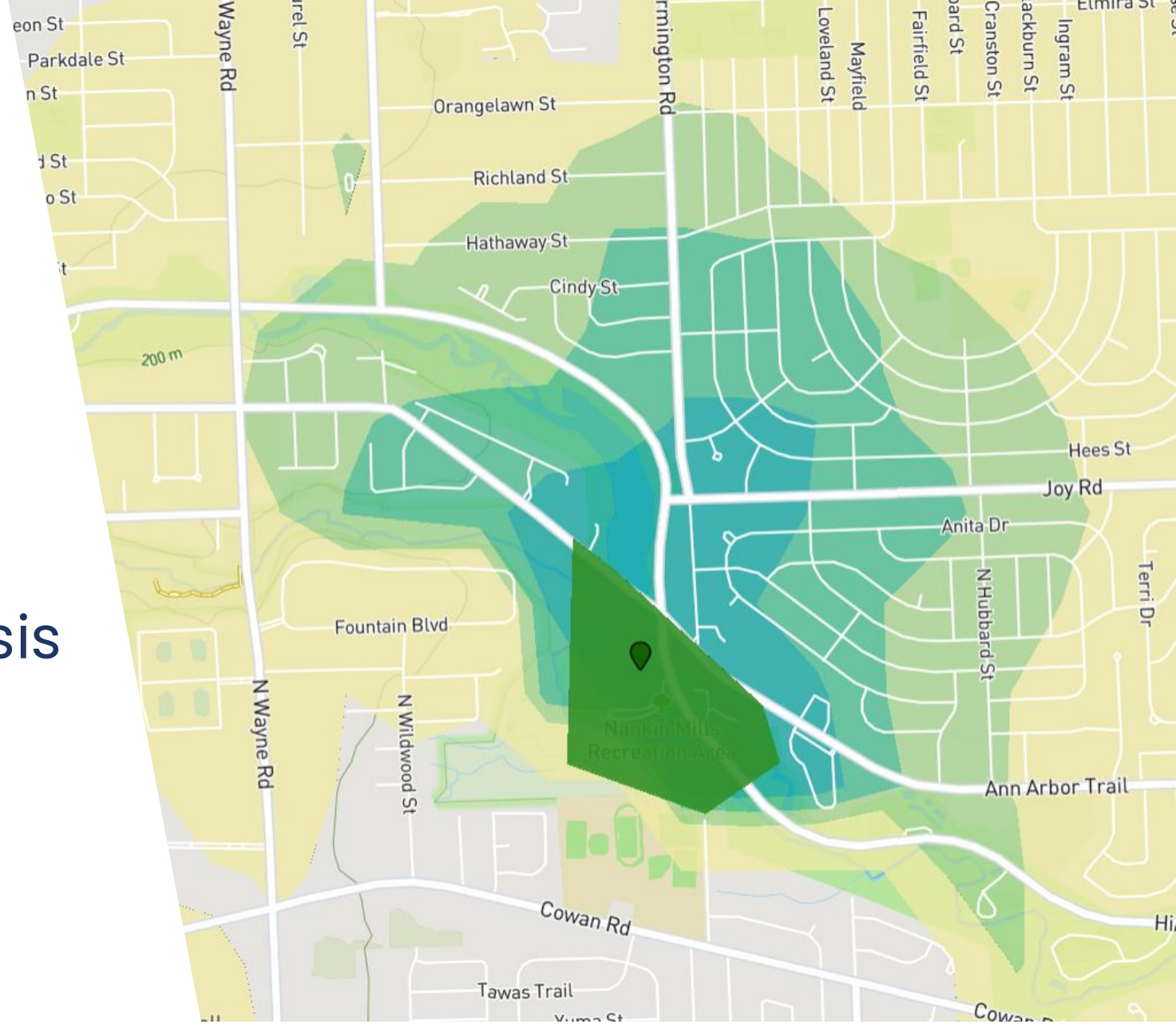
Access to Playgrounds
Households with Children

10-minutes



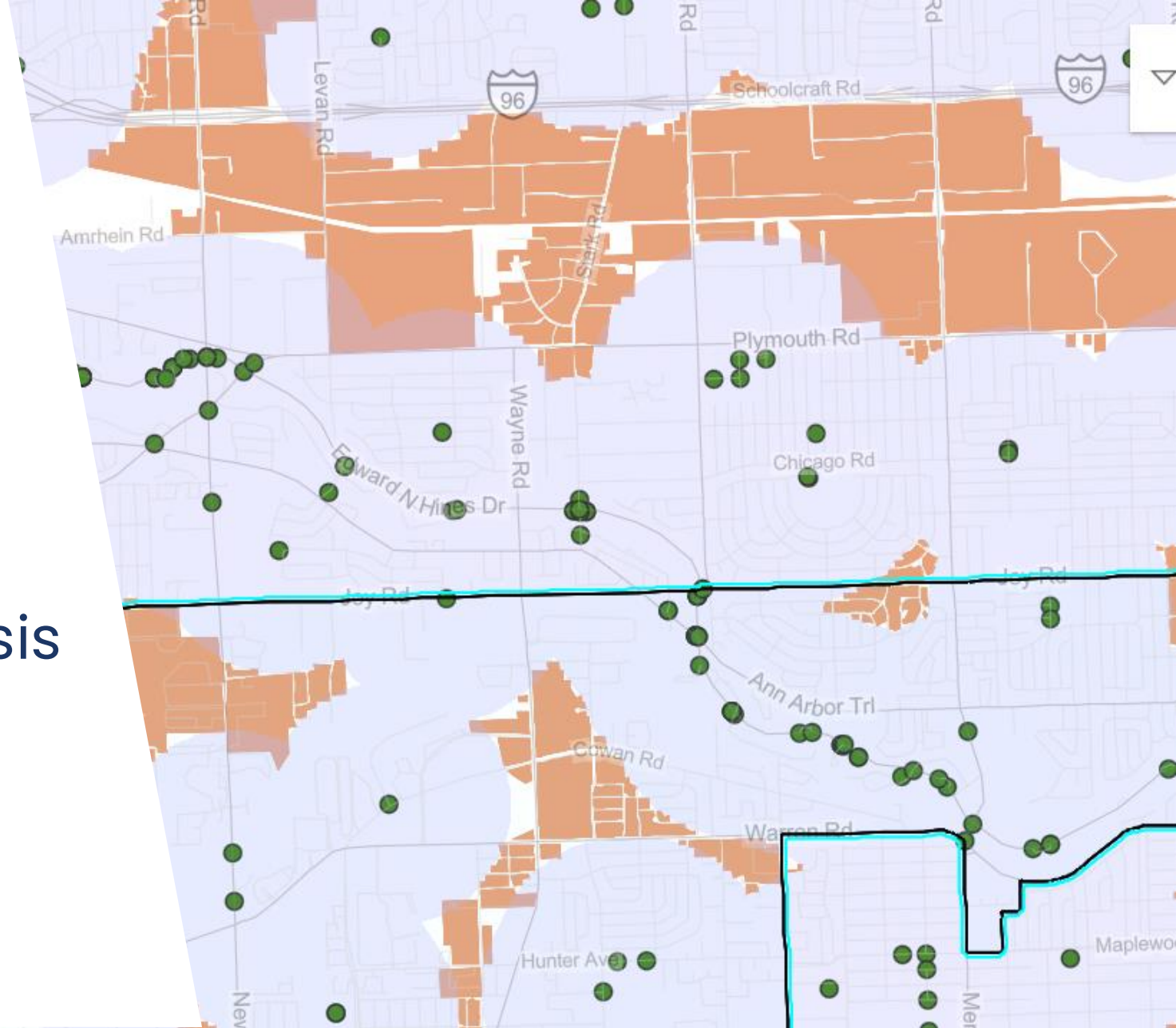
Can people get there?

- Transportation network analysis
- Demographic analysis
- Proximity analysis



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- Transportation network analysis
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- Proximity analysis





Health Equity

A growing amount of research shows that time spent in nature improves physical and mental health.

How Recreation Access Impacts Health:

Outdoor recreation spaces encourage physical activity, which leads to a healthier population and reduction in chronic diseases. Through recreation facilities, outdoor settings, and services provided, parks support good health for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Average percent of population reporting frequent health distress



While recently collected data shows general improvements for some physical health indicators, the percentage of Southeast Michigan residents experiencing mental health challenges appears to be increasing.

Source: [CDC Data Explorer](#)



Access & Mobility Equity



GREEN

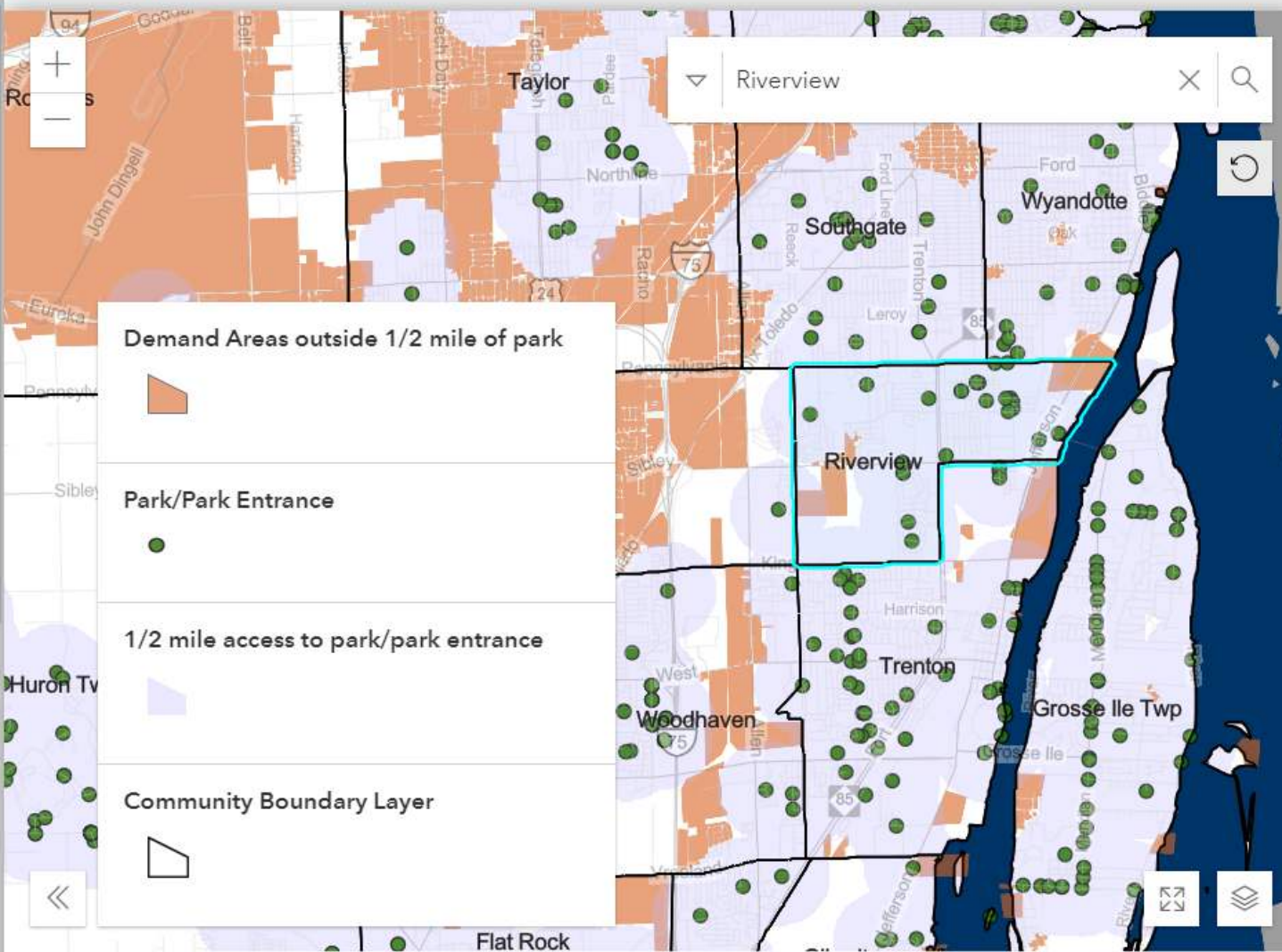
Metrics

Recreation Access

Southeast Michigan's target for walkable park access is 85% of all households – representing 100% of the region's potentially walkable areas. → [Learn More](#)

Riverview

5,131 households with walkable park access / 5,166 households without walkable park access



This data, built off of Michigan Geographic Framework-Version 12b, uses the road network to identify roadways with ... Powered by Esri



Growing our Resilience, Equity, and Economy with Nature

Riverview

Current Status and Opportunities

Tree Canopy

23.8 % current canopy / 40% regional target

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

13 potential sites available / 1 large project targeted per watershed

Recreation Access

5,131 households with walkable park access / 5,166 households without walkable park access

Land Conservation

456.2 acres of land protected / 638.5 acres of potential conservation

How many people visit?

- How does it change over the seasons?
- Or over the past few years?
- Where are they coming from?
- How does this compare to other spaces in the region?



How can we promote this?

- Purpose
- Data Sources
- Maintenance
- User Experience
- **Promotion & Outreach**





What is one successful initiative, policy, or partnership your community has implemented (or is planning) to make parks, programs, or other public spaces more inclusive?

What made it successful, or what do you hope will make it successful?



What has been the biggest challenge in your community for creating more inclusive public spaces or programs?

(e.g., funding, community engagement, accessibility, maintenance, policy, etc.)

How have you addressed it, or what ideas are you looking for from your peers?



After hearing about Dearborn's initiatives and SEMCOG's resources, what is one idea you could realistically adapt in your own community over the next year?

What support or partnerships would help make it happen?

Legislative Update

*Recent Advocacy Efforts
& Task Force Input*



Federal Legislative Update

- Proposed changes to the Uniform Grants Regulation, Part 2, CFR 200
- 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act now law

Scan the QR code to learn more information about proposed rule changes



State Legislative Update

- Budget passed on July 3, 2026, with over 60 policy bills alongside
- Statutory revenue sharing kept flat:
 - \$333 million for CVTs
 - \$291 million for counties
- Constitution revenue sharing is down about 2% due to last year's proposal
- Public safety revenue sharing remained constant at \$50 million

Policy bills affecting local government:

- **SB 722:** Commercial Redevelopment Act sunset extension
- **HB 6074:** Prohibits large institutional investors from purchasing a single-family home
- **SB 966, HB 5806 and 5807:** Provides for a low-income housing tax credit
- **HB 5570 and 5571:** Allows single-exit stairways in multiple-unit dwellings
- **HB 5232, 5233:** Mandates local governments provide 26 days of paid leave serving in the Army or Air National Guard or in the reserves
- **HB 4644:** Allows CVTs with populations under 65,000 to authorize the operation of golf carts on local streets

Legislative Policy Platform Task Force

Prior to each new session of Congress and Michigan's Legislature, SEMCOG forms a Legislative Policy Platform Task Force to guide development of a new policy platform.



2027-2028 TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Legislative Policy Platform



Robert McCraith
Mayor, City of Romulus



Scott Benson
City Councilmember, City of Detroit



Task Force Members

Chairperson
Robert McCraight
Mayor
City of Romulus

Vice-Chairperson
Scott Benson
Councilmember
City of Detroit

Emily Bauman
Councilmember
City of Westland

Shea Benjamin
Executive Project & Special Events
Coordinator
Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Debbie Binder
Clerk
West Bloomfield Township

Quentin Bishop
City Manager
City of Marysville

Erica Briggs
Councilmember, Ward 5
City of Ann Arbor

Abdullah Hammoud
Mayor
City of Dearborn

Eric Szor
Councilperson
City of Lincoln Park

Lisa Hansknecht
Government Relations and
Community Services
Oakland County ISD

Donald Hubler
Vice President
Macomb ISD

Michael Lesich
Mayor
City of Fraser

Irv Lowenberg
Treasurer
City of Southfield

Melody Magee
Councilmember
City of Warren

Aaron Martinez
Councilmember
City of Novi

Robert McCann
Executive Director
K-12 Alliance of Michigan

Darwin McClary
Village Manager
Village of Lake Orion

Mike McCready
Supervisor
Bloomfield Township

Douglas McDonough
Township Manager
Northfield Township

Nicole McKee
Director, Government Relations
Macomb Community College

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Orion Township

Al Prieur
Supervisor
Bedford Township

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Oakland County ISD

Trish Reilly
Supervisor
Pittsfield Township

Nicole Rice
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Saline

Larissa Richardson
Director of Regional
Partnerships, Mayor's Office
City of Detroit

Theresa Rich
Mayor
City of Farmington Hills

Erik Rick
Councilmember
City of Mount Clemens

Megan Sellers
Legislative Director
Oakland County

Kevin Spicher
Supervisor
Genoa Township

Mark St. Charles
Township Manager
Green Oak Township

David Swartout
Commissioner, Dist. 7
Monroe County

Andrew Swift
Mayor
City of Riverview

Miliana Jones
Councilwoman
City of Pontiac

Ronald Taylor
President & CEO
Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Sheila Tomkowiak
Mayor
City of Grosse Pointe

Erik Tungate
City Manager
City of Oak Park

Kenneth Voigt
Mayor
City of Belleville

Jim Wagner
Trustee, District 7
Wayne County Community College
District

Teri Weingarden
Treasurer
West Bloomfield Township

Rachel Witherspoon
Manager
City of Gibraltar

Eric Woody
Government Affairs Director
Wayne County

Eunice Jefferies
Government and Community Affairs
Director
Oakland County Community College

Laura Kropp
Mayor
City of Mount Clemens

Frank Viviano
Supervisor
Macomb Township

Joe LaRussa
Mayor
City of Farmington

Jonathan Kinloch
Commissioner, Dist. 2
Wayne County

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak
Supervisor
Canton Township

Lori Stone
Mayor
City of Warren

Task Force Timeline

- July/August 2026 – Peer Group input discussions
- **July 17, 2026 – Task Force Meeting #1**
 - Introductions, task force objective, breakout groups to share initial feedback
- August 2026 – Task Force Policy review
- **September 14, 2026 – Task Force Meeting #2**
 - Review all policies, develop needed/missing policies
- October 2026 – SEMCOG Staff draft platform policies, legislative priorities document
- **November 9, 2026 – Task Force Meeting #3**
 - Final review of legislative platform policies and priorities document
 - Recommendation to Executive Committee
- **December 4, 2026 – Presentation to Executive Committee for approval**



Input Discussion

- What operational and fiscal challenges is your community currently facing? (e.g., staffing shortages, inflationary pricing)
- What property tax reforms would have a positive impact on your community? (e.g., property tax exemptions, dark stores, Prop A)
- What infrastructure needs are impacting your community?
- What types of economic development tools are most beneficial for your community? (e.g., state tax credits to attract large-scale investments, placemaking grant programs, brownfield/blight elimination programs)



Contact us!

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