

NORTHVILLE COMMUNITY Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2007-2011

March 2007



We Create Community Through People, Parks and Programs!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING

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SECTION TWO

Parks and Recreation Inventory

Developing a complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs, and events is an essential component of a five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. Understanding what facilities, programs, and events are available to Northville Community residents will assist decision-making in the future. The inventory covers the following listed components:

- Public Parks and Facilities (managed by the Northville Parks and Recreation Department, or owned by the City of Northville or Northville Township)
- Undeveloped Park Land
- School Parks and Facilities
- Regional Parks and Facilities
- Private Parks and Facilities
- Community Recreation Programs
- Volunteer Organizations
- Pathways
- Funding Resources

Public Parks and Facilities

The Northville Community contains a wide variety of well-maintained public parks and recreation facilities. Fifteen public facilities, encompassing just over 210 acres, are available for use by the residents of Northville. An inventory of public parks and facilities is described below and depicted in *Map One Parks and Recreation Inventory* and *Table One Public Parks and Facilities Inventory*. These parks are further broken down into three categories based on size and function. These categories (Mini/Neighborhood, Community, and Regional) are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association and are meant to aid in determining the primary purposes and uses of existing facilities within the community.

Mini/Neighborhood Parks

Mini parks are categorized as small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

size and serve the needs of residents in the immediate neighborhood. These parks usually serve a limited population or specific demographic group. Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as field games, court games, playgrounds, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks are generally between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. The Northville community contains five parks that can be classified as Mini/Neighborhood Parks, as follows:

Baseline/Carpenter Park. Baseline/Carpenter Park is located at the intersection of Baseline Road and Carpenter Street in the City of Northville. This small park provides picnic benches and playground equipment to residents of the surrounding neighborhood and is serviced only by on-street parking. Renovations to update the park in terms of accessibility and equipment are currently scheduled for Spring 2007.



Baseline/Carpenter Park

Cady Street Dog Park. The Cady Street Dog Park was developed in 2003. The dog park provides community residents with an off-leash safe place area to socialize and to exercise their dogs. Amenities include a fenced yard, watering facilities, and benches. It is a temporary facility until a new city location is identified.



Cady Street Dog Park

City Hall Open Space. The area behind Northville City Hall and the Northville District Library is considered open space and contains mature trees, a manicured lawn and picnic tables.



City Hall

Joe Denton Park. Joe Denton Park, a half-acre of open space, is located along Eaton Drive at Fairbrook Street in the City of Northville. The park offers an open green surrounded by mature trees and primarily serves residents of the immediate neighborhood.



Joe Denton Park

Sheldon Road Park. The Sheldon Road Park is located on Sheldon Road between Five-Mile and Six-Mile in Northville Township. This park serves residents in and around the Northville Hills Golf Club neighborhoods and provides a play structure and benches that connect to the paths along Sheldon Road.



Sheldon Road Pocket Park Play Structure

Community Parks

Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from the community. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. Community parks are generally between thirty and fifty acres in size and serve residents within a three mile radius. Community parks also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community. Eight parks in the Northville community are classified as Community parks as follows:

Fish Hatchery Park. Fish Hatchery Park is a 17-acre multi-use facility located on Fairbrook Street. The park contains five tennis courts, two ball diamonds, a play structure, picnic shelter with grills, nature trail, and pond.



Fish Hatchery Park Picnic Shelter

Ford Park and Field. Ford Park is a six-acre park in the heart of downtown Northville. The park includes Ford Field, a lighted ball field, playground area, accessible play structure, picnic tables, and walking paths. Middle Rouge River runs through the park. The park is adjacent to Mill Race Village Park.



Ft. Griswold Playground

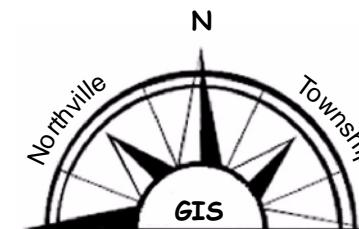
Table One Public Parks and Facilities Inventory																							
Park/Facility Name	Community	Acres	Accessibility	Ball Diamond	Basketball Hoop	Dog Park	Golf Course	Grills	Gymnasium	Multi-Purpose Field	Parking	Picnic Table	Picnic Shelter	Play Equipment	Play Structure	Restroom/Comfort Station	Sledding Hill	Soccer Field	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	Track/Walking Path	Volleyball Court	
Mini/Neighborhood Parks																							
Baseline/Carpenter Park	City	1.0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cady Street Dog Park	City	0.8	1	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
City Hall Open Space	City	0.2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Joe Denton Park	City	2.0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sheldon Road Park	Twp	4.4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	
Mini/Neighborhood Park Total	-	8.4	-	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Community Parks and Facilities																							
Fish Hatchery Park	City/Twp	17.0	1	2	-	-	-	Y	-	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	5	Y	-
Ford Park and Field	City	6.0	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-
Henningsen Park	Twp	2.8	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mill Race Village	City	4.0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	
Millennium Park	Twp	34.5	4	4	-	-	-	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	5	-	-	Y	-	
Northville Community Park	Twp	119.0	4	3	-	Y	-	-	-	1	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	11	-	-	-	-	
Northville Senior Community Center	City	0.9	4	-	2	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Recreation Center at Hillside	City	0.8	4	-	4	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	1	
Town Square (Bandshell)	City	0.3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Veteran's Memorial Park	Twp	16.4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	
Community Park Total	-	201.7	-	12	6	1	0	2	2	3	7	5	3	3	3	4	0	16	1	5	5	1	
Regional Parks																							
Hines Parkway (Wayne County)	City/Twp	325.6	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	
Maybury State Park (State of Michigan)	Twp	926.2	-	2	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	
Regional Park Total	-	926.2	-	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	2	0
Public Parks Total	-	1,136.3	-	16	6	2	0	3	2	5	9	8	5	7	6	6	1	16	1	5	8	1	
Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department and LSL Planning																							



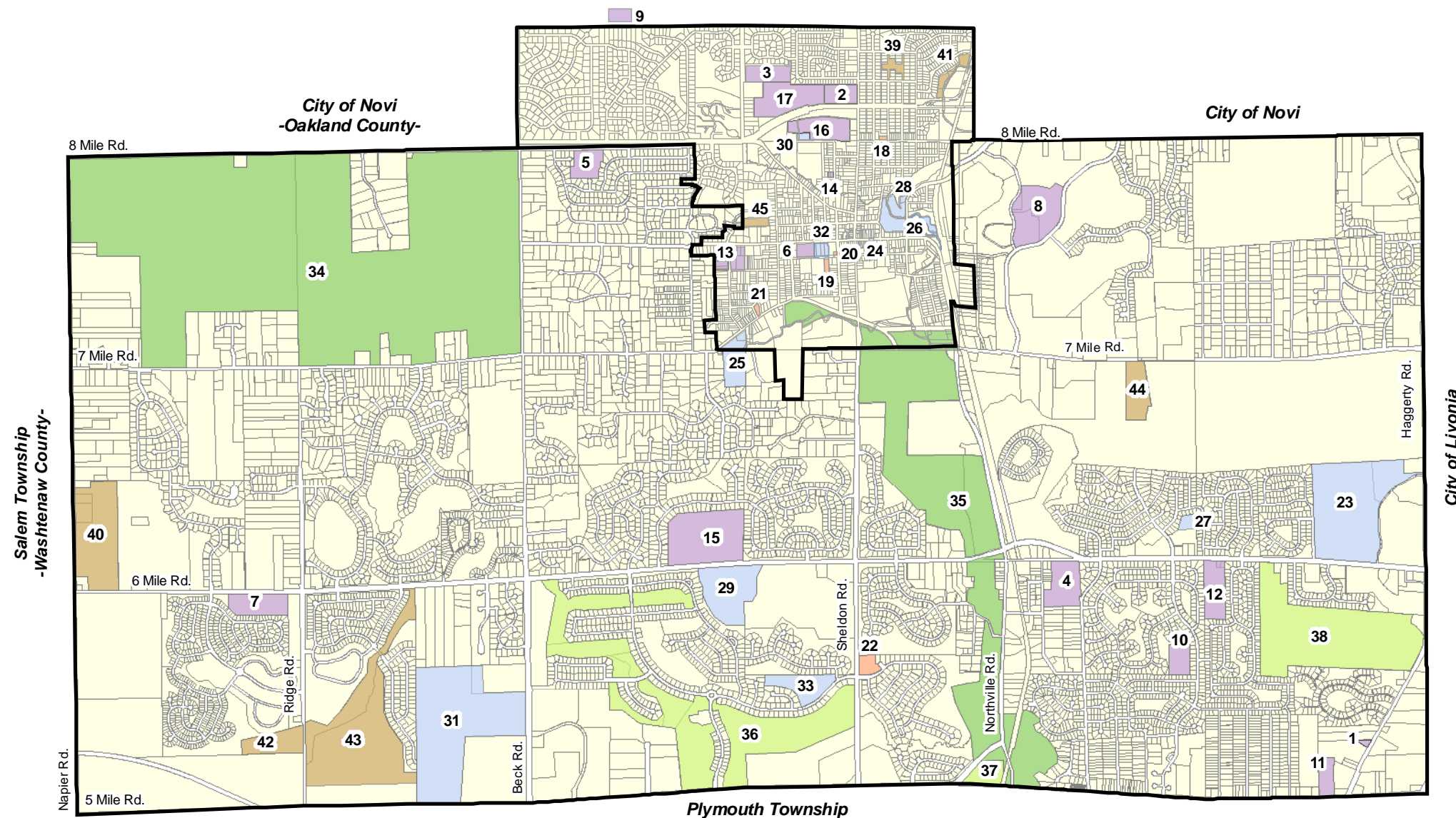
Map One: Parks and Recreation Inventory

Northville Community Parks and Recreation

Draft 2006



1 inch equals 0.60 miles



Schools

1. Northville Montessori (Private)
2. Amerman Elementary
3. Cooke
4. Meads Mill Middle
5. Moraine Elementary
6. Old Village
7. Ridge Wood Elementary
8. Silver Springs Elementary
9. Thornton Creek Elementary
10. Winchester Elementary
11. Tanger Center
12. Northville Christian Academy (Private)
13. Our Lady of Victory (Private)
14. St. Paul's Lutheran (Private)
15. Northville High
16. Hillside Middle
17. School Athletic Complex

Mini/Neighborhood Parks

18. Baseline/Carpenter Park
19. Cady Street Dog Park
20. City Hall Open Space
21. Joe Denton Park
22. Sheldon Road Park

Community Parks/Facilities

23. Ward Church
24. Town Square
25. Fish Hatchery Park
26. Ford Field & Ford East
27. Henningsen Park
28. Mill Race Village
29. Millennium Park
30. Recreation Center at Hillside
31. Northville Community Park
32. Northville Senior Community Center
33. Veteran's Memorial at Waterford Woods

Regional Parks

34. Maybury State Park
35. Edward Hines Park

Public Golf Courses

36. Northville Hills
37. St. John's
38. Bushwood

Undeveloped Property

39. Maplewood Park
40. Thayer's Corners
41. Allen Drive
42. Coldwater Springs
43. Township Property
44. 7 Mile Road Property
45. Lot 374



Henningsen Park. This three-acre park is located behind the Northville Township Police Department on 6 Mile Road and provides residents with two ball diamonds.

Mill Race Village Park. Operated by the Northville Historical Society, Mill Race Village is a four-acre living museum in downtown Northville. The village contains several houses and buildings from the 19th century, along with benches, access to Mill Pond, and a paved parking lot. It is located next to Ford Park and Field. The Historical Society has developed an overall master plan for the park for future development.



Mill Race Village

Millennium Park. Located on Six Mile Road across from Northville High School, Millennium Park is a 34-acre facility providing multiple recreation opportunities, including four ball diamonds, five soccer fields, two play structures, walking paths, concession stand, restrooms, and a picnic pavilion with grills.

Northville Community Park. The Northville Community Park is a 119-acre park that has recently been expanded. The park contains three ball diamonds, eleven soccer fields, accessible play structure, picnic shelter, dog park, two restrooms, one concession facility, and parking lots. It is the largest park facility in the park system and additional facilities are planned on the site, including ball diamonds, play structures, basketball and volleyball courts, walking paths, picnic facilities, amphitheater, and skatepark.



Northville Community Park Playground

Town Square (Bandshell). Town Square is a landscaped, urban plaza located in on Main Street in downtown Northville serving all of the residents of the Northville Community. Concerts and other downtown events have been held in the park, which contains benches, plantings, and sculptures. This area will be expanded and redeveloped as a Town Square, stemming from the City's Downtown Strategic Plan process.



Town Square

Veteran's Memorial Park. This 16-acre park in Northville Township is located along Tournament Drive off of Sheldon Road. It contains a forest preserve with trails and an area with benches and a memorial to America's service men and women.

Community Facilities

Northville has two facilities that fall into the category of Community Parks, based on use characteristics, and are used by both Township and City residents.

Northville Senior Community Center. Located next to the Northville District Library on Main Street, the Northville Senior Community Center has a gym, banquet room, service pantry, meeting rooms, restrooms, with shared parking. Many of the indoor Parks and Recreation programs are held at the center, from fitness programs to educational and enrichment programs for residents of all ages.



Northville Senior Community Center

Recreation Center at Hillside. Housing the offices of the Northville Parks and Recreations Department, the Recreation Center at Hillside is located in the rear of the Hillside Middle School. Facilities include an indoor swimming pool, two gymnasiums, classrooms, and fitness rooms. It also is the primary location for Parks and Recreation programs.

Undeveloped Park Land

In addition to the many developed parks within Northville, the community owns a number of undeveloped properties that have the potential to be developed for active or passive recreation or be left in their natural state to contribute to the natural open space that adds to the community's appeal.

7 Mile Road Property. Seventeen acres of heavily wooded land on the south side of Seven Mile Road. The property is surrounded by the proposed Highwood Planned Unit Development on the former State Psychiatric Hospital.

Allen Drive. Located at the intersection of Eight Mile and Novi Roads this two acre area is surrounded by residential uses in



Allen Drive

the City's northeast corner.

Coldwater Springs. Over 16 acres of open space were provided to the Township as part of the Coldwater Springs development. This open space contains open fields, woodlands, and wetlands.

Township Property. Over 110 acres of open space adjacent to Coldwater Springs were provided to the Township as part of a recent development. This open space contains open fields, woodlands, and wetlands. The Township is working on the development of a pathway through the park.

Lot 374. Located on the City's western border, Lot 374 is a primarily wooded 2.6 acre undeveloped lot surrounded by residential homes with no direct access. The property serves as a natural drainage area.

Maplewood Park. Maplewood Park is a nearly four-acre, interior-block, natural area with entry access on Maplewood Street and Hill Streets. The park offers neighborhood residents trails through a heavily wooded lot.

Thayer's Corner Park. This 57-acre undeveloped park was purchased in 1999 for a future park. No recreational facilities currently exist on this wooded property located at the corner of Six Mile and Napier; however the site contains a vacant residential home and a barn that has recently been relocated to the property. An updated concept plan for development of this park was completed in late 2006.



Undeveloped land at Lot 374



Thayer's Corner Park

School Parks and Facilities

The many school facilities within the community contain various types of outdoor facilities that are used by school teams, organized youth sport organizations, and residents. Although priority use is given to school programs, they are widely used by athletic organizations and residents so they are incorporated into the plan analysis. Private school



*Northville High School
Recreational Facilities*

facilities are generally not open to the general public and are primarily used by enrolled students and members. A complete inventory of school sites within Northville is listed in *Table Two Public and Private Schools Inventory* and shown on *Map One Parks and Recreation Inventory*. For the purposes of this inventory all school facilities were classified as neighborhood parks with the exception of Northville High School, Northville High School 8 Mile Athletic Complex, the Hillside Middle School, and Ward Church which were considered community parks.

**Table Two
Public and Private Schools Inventory**

School Name	Community	Acres	Ball Diamond	Basketball Hoop	Challenge Course	Football Field	Gymnasium	Multi-Purpose Field	Play Equipment/Structure	Soccer Field	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	Track/Walking Path	Volleyball Court
Northville Public Schools														
Amerman Elementary	City	8.2	1	3	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Cooke School	City	10.4	1	2	-	-	Y	Y	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hillside Middle School	City	21.0	2	2	1	-	Y	Y	-	1	-	4	-	-
Meads Mill Middle School	Twp	18.2	2	5	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-
Moraine Elementary	Twp	10.1	-	2	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Northville High School	Twp	48.8	2	-	-	-	Y	-	-	1	Y	10	Y	-
Northville High School 8 Mile Athletic Complex	City	22.6	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-
Old Village School	City	3.0	-	-	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Ridge Wood Elementary	Twp	15.3	1	3	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Silver Springs Elementary	Twp	29.2	2	1	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Thornton Creek Elementary	Novi	3.7	1	3	-	-	Y	Y	Y	1	-	-	-	1
Winchester Elementary	Twp	8.1	1	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	1	-	-	-	1
Subtotal		198.6	15	21	1	1	11	7	7	5	1	14	3	2
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools														
Tanger Elementary	Twp	7.5	1	1	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Private Facilities														
Northville Christian Academy	Twp	15.7	-	2	-	-	Y	-	Y	2	-	-	-	1
Northville/Novi Montessori School	Novi	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

Our Lady of Victory	City	0.2	-	3	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Paul's Lutheran School	City	1.8	-	3	-	-	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Twp	93.6	2	2	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	2
Subtotal		112.1	2	10	0	0	4	0	2	2	0	0	1	3
School Total	-	295.6	18	32	1	1	15	8	10	7	1	14	4	5

Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department and LSL Planning

Regional Parks and Facilities

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While these parks are not used for formal programming by the Northville Parks and Recreation Department, they provide active and passive recreational opportunities to the residents of the community. The regional parks located within the Northville Community boundaries, Maybury State Park and Hines Parkway, are depicted on *Map Two Regional Parks and Recreation*.

In addition to those located within the community, there are several regional recreational opportunities located within close proximity. Regional facilities are provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and Wayne, Oakland, and Washtenaw counties.

Michigan State Parks

There are a number of Michigan State Parks that provide recreational opportunities to Northville Community residents. These state facilities provide a variety of activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

Maybury State Park. Maybury State Park is located within the Northville Community and is the largest recreational resource within the community limits. The 926 acre park offers playgrounds, pier fishing, day camp, picnic areas and shelters with fire pits and grills, horse stables and 11-mile bridle trails, cross country skiing, ball diamonds, and soccer field. The park also offers paved and dirt biking and hiking trails.



Maybury State Park

In addition to Maybury State Park, three state recreation areas are located within approximately 15 miles of Northville and provide recreational opportunities to residents:

- Brighton Recreation Area (Howell)
- Island Lake Recreation Area (Brighton)
- Proud Lake Recreation Area (Wixom)

County Parks

The Wayne County Park System is a regional system with a number of facilities located within the Northville Community. These parks are a part of the Edward Hines Parkway, which runs through Northville along the Rouge River.

Edward Hines Parkway. The parkway follows the Middle Rouge River for approximately 18 miles as it traverses the park. The trail starts just south of Northville Downs and stretches southward for roughly two miles until it exits Northville. The paved, multi-use trail connects to the I-275 bike trail to the Lower Huron Metropark. Additionally, the trail offers 10 miles of bridle trails along the river.

Benton Hills Disc Golf Range. Benton Hills Disc Golf range, next to the Cass Benton Recreation Area, offers an 18-hole disc golf range.

Cass Benton Recreation Area. The Cass Benton Recreation Area provides a play structure, picnic shelter, restrooms, and a winter sledding hill.



Cass Benton Recreation Area

Northville West Recreation Area. The Northville West area provides rollerblading, sand volleyball courts, a picnic shelter, play structure, two ball diamonds, and restrooms.

Meads Mill Recreation Area. Meads Mill offers a picnic area and recreational open space.



Waterford Bend Recreation Area

Waterford Bend Recreation Area. Waterford Bend provides Northville residents with a ball diamond, a playground with ADA-compliant paths, a picnic shelter, and restrooms.

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

In addition to the above facilities located within the community, eight other Wayne County parks are conveniently located within a short distance from Northville, providing athletic fields, golf courses, swimming pools, trails, playgrounds, and picnic shelters, including:

- Bell Creek (Redford Township)
- Crosswinds Marsh (New Boston)
- Inkster Valley Golf Course (Inkster)
- Lola Valley (Redford Township)
- Lower Rouge Parkway (Inkster)
- Nankins Mills (Westland)
- Warren Valley Golf Course (Dearborn Heights)
- William P. Holliday Forest and Wildlife Preserve (Westland)

The Oakland County and Washtenaw County park systems also maintain park lands within a short distance from Northville, providing additional recreational resources, including picnicking, playgrounds, and trails:

- Glen Oaks (Farmington Hills, Oakland County)
- Lyon Oaks (Lyon Township, Oakland County)
- Park Northfield (Northfield Township, Washtenaw County)
- Superior Center (Superior Township, Washtenaw County)

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park district that encompasses the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston. Since its inception in 1940, the HCMA has obtained over 20,000 acres of park land, all located in the metro Detroit region. The parks provide a variety of outdoor recreation and educational activities including picnicking, hiking, golf, biking, winter sports, golf, water-related activities, horseback riding, and special programs. The HCMA regional parks within approximately 15 miles of Northville are:



Huron Meadows Metropark

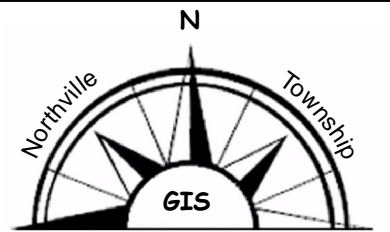
- Kensington Metropark (Milford)
- Huron Meadows Metropark (Brighton)
- Lower Huron Metropark (Belleville)



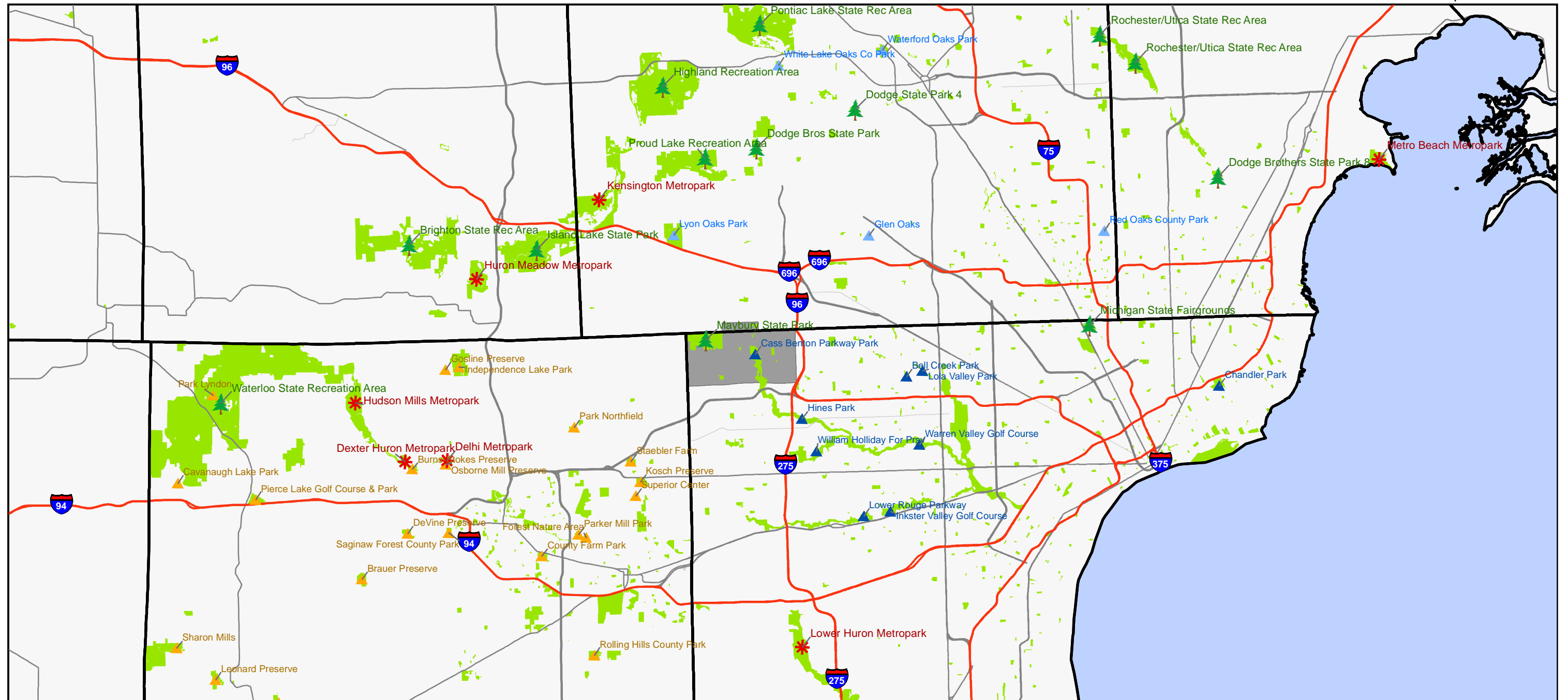
Map Two: Regional Parks and Recreation

Northville Community Parks and Recreation

Draft 2006



1 inch equals 5.5 miles



Legend



State Parks



Huron-Clinton Metroparks



Wayne County Parks



Oakland County Parks



Washtenaw County Parks



Parklands



Northville Community



Counties



LSL Planning, Inc.
Community Planning Consultants



Local Parks and Facilities

Surrounded by six different communities, Northville residents benefit from the proximity of neighboring communities' parks and recreation facilities. The following parks are located within two miles of the City or Township limits and provide additional recreational facilities:

- Bicentennial Park (Livonia)
- Blue Grass Park (Livonia)
- Castle Gardens Park (Livonia)
- Community Sports Park (Novi)
- Don Massey Field (Plymouth)
- Ella Mae Power Park (Novi)
- Founder's Sports Park (Farmington Hills)
- Greenmead Park (Livonia)
- Greenwood Park (Livonia)
- Hough Park (Plymouth)
- Kellogg Park (Plymouth)
- Plymouth Township Park (Plymouth Township)
- Robert McCann Park (Livonia)
- Tiffany Park (Livonia)

Private Parks and Facilities

Private Businesses. Several privately owned recreation facilities located within or near the Northville Community provide recreational opportunities that complement those provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. Although these facilities are privately operated and may charge a user fee or require membership, they are considered in the plan analysis because they meet specific community needs. Private facilities include:

- **Bowling Alleys.** Novi Bowl.
- **Dance.** Arthur Murray Dance Studios, Center Stage Dance Company, Piazza Dance Company.
- **Fitness Clubs.** American Health & Fitness, Lifetime Fitness, Michigan Yoga Center, Northville Curves, Northville Swim Club, Planet Fitness, Poise Pilates, Sports Club of Novi, Super Slow Zone.
- **Private (Members Only) Golf Courses.** Meadowbrook County Club
- **Private (Open to the Public) Golf Courses.** Bushwood Golf Course, Oasis Golf Center, Northville Hills Golf Club, Salem Hills Golf Club, St. John's Golf Club.
- **Miscellaneous Facilities.** Compuware Arena, Northville Downs Race Track, Riverside Arena, Soccer Zone, Ward Church.

Public/Private Partnerships. In addition, to the businesses listed above, many businesses have created partnerships with the Northville Parks and Recreation Department to provide a variety of opportunities for residents. Businesses with partnership with Parks and Recreation Department include:

- Awakening...the Artist Inside
- Center Stage Dance Co.
- Compuware Sports Arena
- Edwards Café and Caterer
- Farmington Tennis Club
- Fitness RX
- Fusion Fitness
- Joe James Tennis & Golf Academy
- Jump-A-Rama
- Junior Olympic Karate
- Kids & Motion
- Leisure Unlimited
- Michigan Yoga Center
- Planet Fitness (Water Wheel)
- Riverside Arena
- Showcase Stables
- Salem Hills Golf Course
- Soccer Zone
- Springwell Learning
- Sports Around Town
- Total Baseball

Private Open Space. In addition to the private facilities listed above, Northville is very proactive in obtaining privately owned open space throughout the community to protect natural features and preserve the character of Northville. Northville Township requires new residential developments to provide open space based on the number of units. These private open spaces are a valuable resource, providing areas for passive leisure pursuits and adding to the aesthetic appeal of the neighborhoods, although they are not available to the general public.



Example of private open space in a residential neighborhood

Community Recreation Programs

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department offers a large variety of recreational programs and activities for residents. An understanding of the types of programs and activities currently offered aids in the identifying unmet programming needs. The Parks and Recreation



The Great Dog Exhibition

year is divided into three sessions: Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer. Non-residents may participate in programs and events but are subject to an additional non-resident fee. The

following is a partial list of programs offered through the Parks and Recreation Department. A more detailed listing of program offerings can be found in the Department's activity brochures, printed each season.

Youth Sports and Classes

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Boater Safety
- Cheerleading
- Chess Camp
- Cooking
- Dance
- Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Horseback Riding
- Ice & Roller Skating
- Jewelry-Making
- Kiddie Sports & Games
- Lacrosse
- Martial Arts
- Music
- Safety
- Science Camp
- Skiing & Snowboarding
- Soccer
- Softball
- Summer Day Camp
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Test Taking
- Theater
- Volleyball
- Yoga

Adult Sports and Classes

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Dancing
- Dog Obedience
- First Aid
- Photography
- Pilates
- Softball
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tai Chi
- Volleyball
- Walking
- Weight Training
- Yoga



Special Events

- Candyland Extravaganza
- Daddy Daughter Princess Ball
- Halloween Luncheon
- Northville Nite
- Pumpkin Walk
- Santa Sighting
- Senior Harvest Ball
- Thanksgiving Luncheon

- Tunes on Tuesday Concerts
- Used Sporting Equipment Sale

Senior Adult Programs and Activities

- Basketball
- Blood Pressure Workshop
- Cards
- Dancing
- Day Trips
- Driver Safety
- Friday Flicks
- Home Safety
- Massage
- Senior Olympics
- Swimming
- Volleyball
- Walking
- Yoga

Volunteer Organizations and Public/Private Partnerships

In addition to the above listed recreational programs, many other clubs and groups offer social, competitive, and child-oriented recreational activities. Many of these groups are volunteer organizations requiring payment of annual or monthly dues to support activities. These groups serve an integral role in recreation planning because they offer programs for residents that are not offered by Northville. Others help the operation through large volunteering of time or donations, like the Friends of Parks and Recreation, a 501c3 non-profit organization that has given \$733,100 to date.

- Boy Scouts of America
- Country Garden Club
- Eclipse Baseball Club of Northville
- Friends of Parks and Recreation
- Huron Valley Girl Scout Council
- Johnson Creek Protection Group
- Mother's Club of Northville
- Northville Arts Commission
- Northville Baseball-Softball Association
- Northville District Library
- Northville Garden Club
- Northville Historical Society
- Northville Colts Football Association
- Northville Soccer Association
- Northville Youth Assistance
- Plymouth Symphony Orchestra
- Schoolcraft College
- Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation

Pathways A comprehensive pathway system adds to the overall quality of life for residents by providing access to various community facilities and parks and by offering a source of recreation for residents that bike, jog, walk and other activities for recreation and exercise. *Map Three Pathways System* depicts the type and location of pathways that currently exist or are proposed to be provided in the future.

Northville has been very proactive in promoting pathways and making them a priority. The pathways system is widely used by residents and has consistently been included amongst residents' top desires. To encourage the expansion of the system, pathways are required along main roadways for new development and redevelopment projects. Residential development projects are also required to provide sidewalks in the development to enable residents to better access to main roadways and key destinations, including schools and parks.



Example of a pathway in a residential neighborhood

A regional pathway that follows I-275 touches the Township's southeast corner. This forty plus mile long pathway is a key north-south component of the Southeast Michigan nonmotorized network that connects the City Novi to Monroe County. The path has fallen into disrepair over the past several years, however reinvestment from MDOT and other interest groups is planned to make this pathways safe for users once again.

Barrier Free Accessibility

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) required all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. All playground equipment and facility improvements in recent years have been designed and installed in compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice ADA standards. An evaluation of Northville Parks and Recreation facilities has been conducted as a part of this inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- has limited sight or is blind
- uses a wheelchair
- has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- uses a walking aid
- has a mental impairment



Accessible Playground at the Old Village School

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings can be found in *Table One Public Parks and Facilities Inventory*.

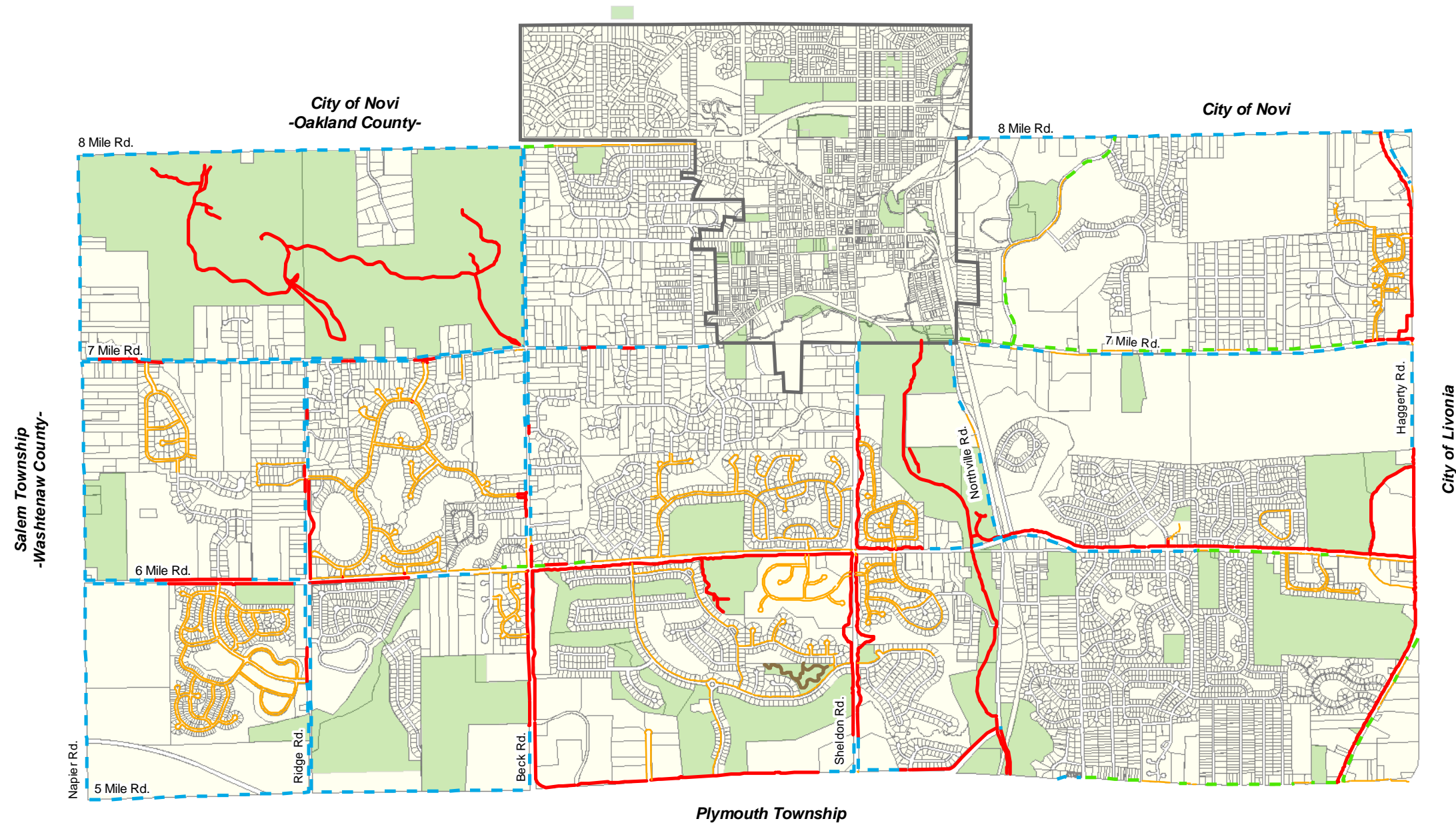
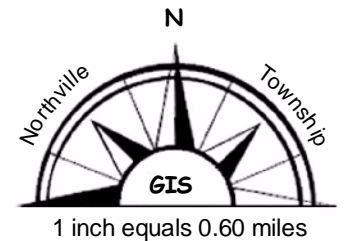
- **Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.
- **Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
- **Level 5.** The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.



Map Three: Pathways System

Northville Community Parks and Recreation

Draft 2006

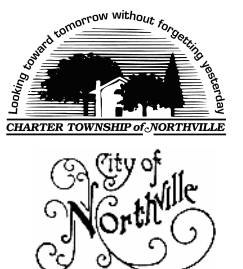


- Existing 5 Foot Pathway
- Existing 8 Foot Pathway
- Existing Woodchip Pathway

- Proposed 5 Foot Pathway
- Proposed 8 Foot Pathway

- Recreation Facility
- School

*Sidewalks are located along most roadways in the City of Northville



Funding Resources

Northville has received a handful of state grants for various projects in the past which supplement local capital project expenditures. *Table Three Recreation Grant History* summarizes the state recreation grants awarded to the community.

Table Three Recreation Grant History					
Municipality	Funding Source	Project Name	Grant Amount	Project Results	Current Inventory
Northville Township	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	Coldwater Springs	\$303,800	TBD – Pending release of funds	Undeveloped parkland
City of Northville	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	Griswold Land Acquisition	\$150,000	Purchase of Ford Field property	2.4 acres for public park
Northville Township	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)	Lapham Field	\$123,000	Grant returned - property not sold	n/a
City of Northville	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	Consolidated Statewide Grant	\$9,553	Fish Hatchery Park development	Ball fields, tennis courts, fishing pond, picnic shelter
Northville Township	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	Township Hall Park	\$6,071	Development of ball fields at Township Hall	Two baseball fields
City of Northville	Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)	Improvements to Ford Park	\$346,750	Ford Field development	Playground, lighted ball field, athletic lights, concerts, community events, foot bridge access to Middle Rouge River
Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department					

SECTION THREE

BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs serve as a basis for the development of the action plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the community to established national recreation standards for the size of the community, input received at the public input process, consultation with the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission, and by reviewing program participation trends and projections.

Planning and Public Input Process

Planning Process. The Parks and Recreation Department directed the update of the Parks and Recreation Plan. Citizen input and action played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use Northville's parks and recreation facilities. The plan process included six tasks which are discussed below.

- **Task One: Community Profile.** The first task was to obtain a description of Northville's physical and social features. These features include location, land use, natural features, and a description of the area's transportation network as well as population features including the age/sex distribution, people with physical disabilities, types of households, employment and income.
- **Task Two: Recreation Inventory.** The recreation inventory included site visits and written descriptions of recreation facilities in Northville including public parks, schools, churches and private facilities. The information included acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation activities, types of equipment and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's recreation facilities. A list of neighboring communities' facilities, State Parks, Wayne County Parks, and Huron-Clinton Metroparks within a short distance of Northville is also included.
- **Task Three: Public Participation.** Northville's Parks and Recreation Department hosted a public workshop to gain input from the general public. In addition, a public hearing was held by the both the Township Board and City Council before adoption. See *Appendix C* for a summary of public participation.

- **Task Four: Analysis.** Based on the data collected from tasks 1 through 3, information was analyzed in accordance with national and state standards and guidelines, local needs, the experience of staff and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Five: Action Program.** Upon completion of the analysis, goals and objectives were determined to provide the framework for the Action Plan. This created the five-year plan and offers a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Six: Plan Completion and Adoption.** Once consensus was reached among officials, a public hearing was held to present the plan and to solicit public input prior to adoption. The plan was available for public review for one (1) month prior to adoption. Based on public comments, the plan was revised and the document was adopted by both the Park Commission and the Township Board. See *Appendix F* for adoption documentation.

Shared Services Focus Groups. Five focus groups were conducted on the topic of Northville Shared Services, which includes Parks and Recreation, in early 2006. Participants were randomly identified from Township and City voter registration roles, as well as Parks and Recreation user lists. Those eligible, willing and available to participate were assigned to a focus group based on their residence and whether or not they regularly use any of the Shared Services. All groups were asked the same set of questions. However, based on responses and differences among the participants, additional questions were asked. A summary of common themes was prepared and considered in the preparation of the Action Plan:

Concurrence among all Focus Groups

- Both property taxes and user fees have a role in providing financial support for Shared Services.
- The concept of Shared Services was considered highly desirable.
- Nonresidents should pay higher fees than they currently do.

Concurrence among City and Township Nonusers

- Less awareness of all Shared Services.
- User fees are appropriate for all programming.
- Less likely to agree to any subsidized programming.

Concurrence among City and Township Users

- All Shared Services should be expanded.

- More Senior Services may be needed, but not at a cost/loss to other programming.
- Convenience and signup preference is more important than low user fees.
- Property taxes should be used to subsidize programming with community benefit.

Concurrence among City Residents

- More awareness of alternative sources of Shared Service types of programming.
- More likely to see some programming as not having value.
- Greater desire for programming over open space.

Concurrence among Township Residents

- All Shared Services are important to making the community desirable.
- Programming deemed to have high community benefit should be paid for through property taxes.
- Greater desire for open space over programming.

Survey. Following the focus groups, a 15 minute telephone survey was administered in late March 2006. The survey was given to 500 Northville Township and City residents. The survey was designed to evaluate the overall satisfaction with the shared services, including parks and recreation, provided in the community and to determine if there was support for additional funding. A summary of the key survey results include the following, which were used to help prepare the Action Plan:

- Shared Services programs are viewed as a community asset, without regard to residence in the City or Township.
- Overwhelming approval of funding mechanism.
- Generally similar awareness of the history and functions of the Shared Services Program.
- High marks for quality and delivery of Shared Services programs.
- Satisfaction with the current level of offerings.
- Most believe that there are enough parks and parks and recreation programming.
- A minority supported increased funding for parks and recreation.

Public Workshop. A public workshop was held at Northville Township Hall on September 26, 2006, to seek input from residents and users of the recreation system to gain a better understanding of the community desires related to recreation facilities and program needs. Approximately 50 participants attended the informal workshop which allowed residents to provide comments by visiting interactive stations and filling out an opinion survey.

The session was extremely successful at generating additional ideas, priorities and support for parks and recreation in Northville. Attendees were encouraged to visit every station and stay as long as they would like. There was a wide range of results. A complete tally of all voting and public comments received is provided in *Appendix C*. The most frequently heard comments are summarized below and were used to prepare the Action Plan.

- Top priorities for the future include expansion of pathway system and walking trails and the development of a pool or spray park facility.
- The majority of participants indicated that they are satisfied with both existing parks and recreation facilities and programming in Northville.
- A teen center was listed as the highest need for public indoor recreation.
- Concerts and special events were cited as the highest needs for additional programs.

Public Hearing. A public hearing was held at the Northville Senior Community Center on February 14, 2007, to obtain comments from residents and users about the draft plan. About 30 attendees asked questions and offered suggestions. A desire for more football and soccer fields was expressed.

Park Land Analysis and Service Areas

Roughly 1,446 acres of park and facilities exist within the City and Township of Northville, of which just over 210 acres are managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. 197 acres are public schools, 926 are regional parks, the remainder of which are private facilities.

As required by the MDNR, the Northville Community park land and recreation facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983). Although the NRPA's guidelines were set over 20 years ago, the MDNR still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities. Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results as these guidelines were set over two decades ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Area-to-population requirements tend to oversimplify the purpose of recreation planning. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences/demands, are encouraged to establish its needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation. Recreation needs are further documented through public input rather than relying solely on the national guidelines. As a result, this Northville-specific information is provided in *Appendices C and E*. The NRPA guidelines and the MDNR standards were considered in the development of the Action Plan but not weighted heavily.

Table Four and the following discussion compares the amount of park land as it relates to the conditions of the community and the MDNR standards based on the August, 2006 estimated population of 32,830.

Park classifications used by the MDNR are defined as follows:

- **Mini/Neighborhood Park.** Mini/Neighborhood parks serve an area up to ½ mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size. Northville's five mini/neighborhood parks and numerous school facilities provide more than the recommended acreage of mini/neighborhood-scale parks. The vast majority of the acreage however is derived from school facilities, which are not controlled by the Parks and Recreation Department who control 8.4 acres of park land. If some of the school facilities were to close or change use, Northville would more than likely face a mini/neighborhood park deficiency. Because of each school's vital role in providing park land, the Northville community and the school district should maintain on-going communication to ensure that the need for mini/neighborhood parks continues to be met.
- **Community Park.** Community parks are typically between 30 to 50 acres in size and serve a distance of ½ to 3 miles. With a recommended range of 164 to 263 acres, Northville has a surplus of at least 31.1 acres of community park land by national guidelines. The surplus is due in part to the inclusion of school sites, as the Northville operated community parks account for just over 200 acres of community park land, which is within the recommended amount for the community.
- **School Park.** School properties can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use. All of the school parks were classified as neighborhood parks because of their size and their function to serve neighborhood residents, with the exception of Northville High School, Northville High School 8 Mile Athletic Complex, and Hillside Middle School which were considered community parks.
- **Regional Park.** Northville is fortunate to have a surplus of regional park land within its borders. Regional parks account for just over 926 acres of park land, which is well over what is recommended as a minimum for a community the size of Northville. The regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local parks and help balance the deficiencies found in Northville parks. These regional parks primarily serve informal, family recreation and

are not used in any formal manner by Northville.

According to the above guidelines, the Northville Community exhibits a surplus in all public park land categories. This analysis includes all Northville public parks, public schools, Wayne County and State of Michigan parks located within the community. The numerous private facilities and subdivision private open spaces only add to the amount and type of park land available for Northville residents.

Table Four
MDNR Public Park Land Acreage Analysis

Park Classifications	NRPA Guideline Minimum Acres ¹	Recommended Acreage in Northville	Public Northville Park	Public Regional Park	Public School Park ³	Northville Total	Surplus (Deficiency)
Mini/Neighborhood Parks	1.25 to 2.50	41 to 82	8.4	0.0	106.2	114.6	32.6+
Community Parks	5 to 8	164 to 263	201.7	0.0	92.4	294.1	31.1+
Subtotal	-	205 to 345	210.1	0.0	198.6	408.7	63.7+
Regional Parks	5 to 10	164 to 328	0.0	926.2	0.0	926.2	598.2+
Total	-	369 to 673	210.1	926.2	198.6	1,334.9	661.9+

¹ Per 1,000 residents

² Based on the Aug. 1 2006 SEMCOG population estimate of 32,830

³ All school parks were considered neighborhood parks except for Northville High School, Northville High 8 Mile Athletic Complex, and Hillside Middle School which were classified as community parks

Although the overall amount of park land in Northville is sufficient by national guidelines, it is important to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement around the community. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents of the community live. The MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine which areas in Northville are lacking easy access to park land. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- Mini/Neighborhood Parks 0.25-0.5 miles
- Community Parks 0.5 to 3.0 miles
- Regional Parks 30 minute driving time

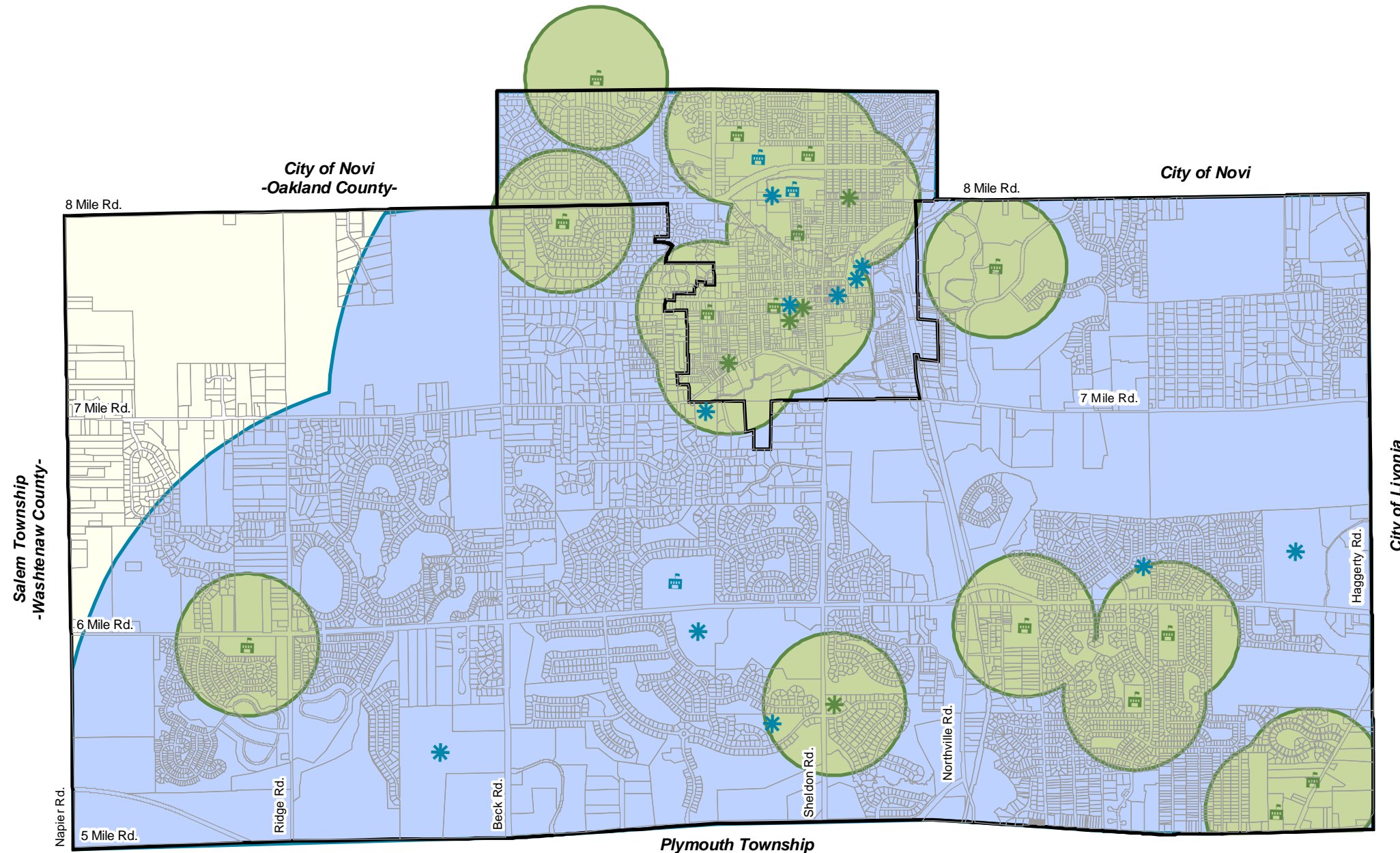
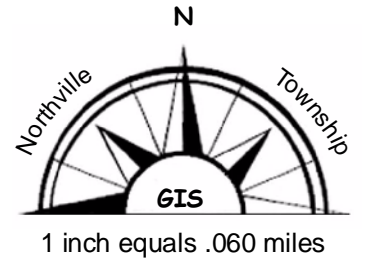
The parks and recreation service areas are shown on *Map Four Parks and Recreation Service Areas*. For the purposes of determining service area size, the mean (or half-way point) of the suggested range was used. For example, Mini/Neighborhood Parks serve between a 0.25 and 0.5 mile radius, the mean of which is 0.33. Due to their size the service area for regional parks is not shown on the map because the entire region is served. It should be



Map Four: Parks and Recreation Service Areas

Northville Community Parks and Recreation

Draft 2006



✱ Community Parks

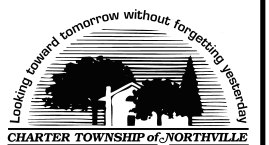
🏫 Community Schools

1 3/4 Mile Service Area

✱ Mini/Neighborhood Parks

🏫 Mini/Neighborhood Schools

1/3 Mile Service Area



noted that the parks are generally well dispersed throughout the community for convenient access by all residents and the majority of the community is serviced by at least one type of park. There is an apparent deficiency in the western edge of the Township, however this area is currently served by the Maybury State Park and the community has plans to develop Thayer's Corner, which should meet the recreation needs of this portion of the Township. Therefore, the analysis shows that Northville's existing park land service area generally meets most residents' needs for park land. In addition to this analysis, *Appendix E* further evaluates access to and amount of park land within the Northville community.

Facilities Analysis

In addition to park land, existing and potential facilities were analyzed to determine if the current facilities are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions within Northville, information obtained from the public, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. Potential surpluses and deficiencies are shown in *Table Five Park Facility Analysis*. The following comments were prepared to provide further perspective and assist in identifying key issues.



Soccer field at Millennium Park

Athletic Fields (Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Football, Running Tracks)

The number of athletic fields in Northville reflects a surplus in each of the categories based on national guidelines. The different types of athletic fields are specifically discussed below.

- **Baseball/Softball Fields.** The analysis of ball fields within Northville resulted in a large surplus in facilities. Therefore, key issues include field maintenance and improvement. A need for additional ball fields has previously been identified by the Baseball/Softball Association for roughly 3-4 more fields; however the use of school facilities and modifications to the scheduling could provide access to a greater number of fields for the baseball/softball program.
- **Soccer Fields.** According to the national guidelines, there is a surplus of soccer fields in the community. Unlike the national guidelines, the popularity of soccer in Northville has resulted in above average demands for soccer fields for all ages. Due to the increasing popularity of the sport and expanding programs, Northville should consider the development of additional fields if the need arises. The younger age groups have shown

an increase in the number of participants in the past and it is likely that a percentage of these young children will continue to move up through the higher age brackets within the soccer program.

- **Football Fields.** The need for football fields is met by the local school districts. With anticipated growth, there may be a need for new practice fields
- **Running Tracks.** Running tracks are provided at a number of schools, which meet all current and expected need for running tracks.

Table Five
Park Facility Analysis

	NRPA Guideline ¹	Recommended Facilities in Northville	Public Northville Facility	Public Regional Facility	School Facility	Northville Total	Surplus (Deficiency)
Tennis	1/2,000	16	5	0	14	19	3
Playground	1/3,000	11	5	2	8	15	4
Baseball/Softball	1/5,000	7	12	4	15	31	24
Basketball	1/5,000	7	6	0	22	28	21
Volleyball	1/5,000	7	1	0	2	3	(4)
Soccer	1/10,000	3	16	0	5	21	18
Football	1/20,000	2	0	0	1	1	(1)
Running Track	1/20,000	2	0	0	3	3	1
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	2	1	0	1	2	0
Golf Course 9 Hole	1/25,000	1	0	0	0	0	(1)
Golf Course 18 Hole	1/50,000	1	0	0	0	0	(1)
Ice Rink	1/50,000	1	0	0	0	0	(1)

¹ Source of Standard: Lancaster, Roger A., Ed. 1983. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA:NRPA

² Based on the Aug. 1 2006 SEMCOG population estimate of 32,830

Court Sports (Basketball, Tennis, Volleyball)

The Northville community has a surplus in tennis and basketball courts but has a lack of volleyball courts. Court sports are generally low cost improvements, do not occupy much land, do not require organized team participation, and promote convenient and active recreation. Those parks that do offer court sports should



Tennis courts at Northville High School

be maintained to continue long term use. The three different types of court facilities are briefly discussed below.

- **Tennis Courts.** A total of nineteen tennis courts are provided at Northville parks and at school sites, most of which are school courts. The Parks and Recreation Department may want to consider the additional municipally run tennis courts.
- **Basketball Facilities.** Northville has a number of basketball backstops, or half court basketball facilities, located at a number of parks and schools. The popularity of basketball continues to remain high and additional courts should be considered at mini/neighborhood parks in order for Northville youth to be able to access them.
- **Volleyball Courts.** There is a deficiency of four outdoor volleyball courts according to the national guidelines. Additional volleyball courts should be included in future park development, especially at larger-scale parks that serve a greater portion of the community.

Ice Rinks

The national guidelines reveal that the Northville Community needs an indoor ice arena, however many neighboring communities including Novi, Plymouth, and Farmington Hills have arenas that are frequently used by Northville residents to help meet the demand for ice hockey and figure skating. Northville may wish to consider the development of a rink to help meet these needs if demand increases.



Play structure at Fish Hatchery Park

Playgrounds

The amount of playground facilities in the community exceeds the population needs according to the guidelines, however less than half of the playgrounds are run by Northville. Additional ADA accessible play structures, serving young children, under 5, and separate structures for older children, ages 6-12, are needed at many of the parks.



Northville Hills Golf Course

Golf Courses

There are no municipally run golf courses tallied in this evaluation. The analysis reveals that

there is a deficiency of public 9-hole and 18-hole courses; however the number of private courses in the area more than exceeds the recommendations.

Swimming Pools

Based on the NRPA guidelines, Northville has the right amount of swimming pools. However, residents have voiced the need for a public pool or splash park to take advantage of the Michigan summers. Economies of scale may be achieved through joint pursuit with neighboring communities if such a facility with a neighboring community with similar desires.

Community Centers

The Northville community is served by two community centers. The majority of recreation programming is offered at Recreation Center at Hillside Middle School. A need for a larger community center to hold more classroom space, additional gymnasiums, teen center, and a community fitness center has been identified by some residents. A recent trend in recreation programming is the development of large, modern multi-purpose centers that provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities for all ages to serve populations of 75,000 or more. Communities of this scale, such as Livonia, Dearborn and Canton have each developed these types of multi-purpose centers that offer a number of innovative features. Since the population of Northville is well below this scale, Northville should coordinate with neighboring communities to investigate the feasibility of a new multi-purpose center to serve multiple municipalities.

Passive Recreation

In addition to these active recreation facilities, it is important for Northville to provide ample opportunities for passive recreation and unprogrammed activities, such as walking, jogging, picnicking, nature observation or just sitting in the park reading a book. Northville has identified the need to set aside open space and to avoid the overdevelopment of park land. When developing and improving parks it is important to incorporate walking paths, picnic areas, benches, or other amenities that further enhance passive recreation opportunities.

Programming Analysis

The Northville Community recreation programs are very popular. The great number of programs offered and residents' participation in these programs are facts that speak very highly on how important the Recreation Programming is to the Community. Recent

participation and participation change in programs and events offered by Northville Parks and Recreation Department are identified in *Table Six Program Participation Trends* below.

Table Six Program and Participation Trends	
•	Population growth continues in the Township, while a slight decline is anticipated in the City.
•	The population is again, requiring adjustments in programmed activities and facility design features.
•	Reductions in state shared revenues requires examination of other funding sources and user fee increases.
•	Technology enhancements allow for improved registration and program success tracking.
•	There is growth in interest in natural features protection and historic preservation considerations in places and programming.
•	Greater ethnic diversity requires responsive and appropriate new programming.
•	Strong and increasing interest is seen from participants in unsupervised and unstructured play.
Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department	

The ability of the Parks and Recreation Department to track participation has significantly improved and is a useful tool to monitor program success and shortcomings. The Department has taken the initiative to experiment with different program offerings, which has proven to be effective and retains interest by various segments the community.

Table Seven Programs with the Largest Participation depicts the Parks and Recreation Department activities and events with the largest number of participants, all over 400 in 2006. Two privately operated programs, soccer and baseball, are listed. No data was made available from the privately operated soccer program; however, participation rates are significant.

While overall population has increased by approximately 6% over the last three years, based on SEMCOG population forecast data, the program participation in the Northville Community has increased by 21%. The programs which have seen the greatest increase over the last three years are Lacrosse, Table Tennis, Water Fitness, Volleyball, Basketball, Gymnastics, Adult Dance, and Football Camp. It is important to note that even though the participation numbers are not as great for individual activities as they are for group/team activities, they do represent a significant and growing interest in the community. Programming and field availability for lacrosse must be considered in future recreation planning as it continues to be a growing interest in the community.

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

It is also important to note that the fastest growing programs are those of a “drop in” nature. These “open” programs provide flexible time slots when residents play a quick game without having multi-week program commitments. Future programming in Northville should

incorporate more flexible, drop-in programs.

Table Seven Programs with the Largest Participation (>400)				
Activity	2004	2005	2006	% Change
Open Basketball	1,477	2,230	3,669	148.4%
Open Volleyball	1,210	2,232	3,131	158.8%
Open Badminton	2,056	2,149	2,439	18.6%
Open Swim	2,033	1,870	1,545	-24.0%
Men's Basketball	1,034	1,024	1,092	5.6%
Open Table Tennis	299	611	921	208.0%
Northville Nite New Year's Eve	997	1,012	877	-12.0%
Tunes on Tuesday	800	900	800	0.0%
Swimming Lessons	1,098	998	770	-29.9%
Adult Volleyball	463	478	635	37.1%
Daddy Daughter Dance	480	398	516	7.5%
Adult Softball	365	480	480	31.5%
Youth Basketball	418	430	464	11.0%
Youth Soccer (private)	Estimated 1,800. No data provided.			
Youth Baseball (private)	1,074	1,154	1,303	21.3%
Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department				

SECTION FOUR

Action Plan

By using the comprehensive planning process of trend identification, focus groups, surveys and public meetings, the Northville community has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Northville Parks and Recreation system, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

A complimentary component of the Action Plan is the Capital Improvement Plan. Action strategies that may require significant capital investment from the community have been organized into a five-year plan. The specific projects have been prioritized in the Capital Improvement Plan in order to better manage the parks and recreation budget and equally distribute the projects over the five-year cycle. The timing of these projects may be influenced, moved or eliminated depending upon economic conditions, available funding and/or grant awards. However, the spirit and intent of the project priorities are well defined in the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Action Plan is organized into three sections:

- Goals and Objectives
- System Wide Recommendations
- Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Goals and Objectives

To provide a guideline for decision making, the Parks and Recreation Department has developed a mission statement and a list of goals, objectives and action steps. Together, these express a unified vision for future investments, projects, and other efforts.

Mission | *The Mission of the Northville Parks and Recreation Department is to provide diverse opportunities for the community to enjoy recreation and leisure pursuits, to enhance our unique cultural and natural resources, while we plan strategically for future needs.*

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to provision of parks and recreation for the Northville Community. These goals and objectives should be reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

Goal #1: Create a Sense of Community and Belonging

The Northville community is a unique place. One school district shared by a developed city and a growing township that share many resources successfully. Strong volunteer efforts enrich the community, such as youth sports league administration, commissions, planning efforts, historical preservation efforts. Festivals and activities work together to create a strong sense of one, made stronger by the partnerships, trust and collaboration of the stakeholders and elected officials.

Objectives:

- ❖ Offer programming that is targeted to families and those residents without support services.
- ❖ Celebrate the community by participation in festivals, community functions and events
- ❖ Support and encourage new developments to include areas for active and passive recreation
- ❖ Provide volunteer opportunities in program delivery and improvement projects
- ❖ Increase programs and services to the aging population
- ❖ Increase programs and services to the teen population

Goal #2: Provide parks and recreation facilities that are of the highest quality, that preserve open space and history, are well maintained and that are accessible to all residents of the community.

Residents of Northville take good care of their own homes and grounds as evidenced by the abundant landscaping, frequent garden and home tours held in the community. Quality is important to residents and it is expected that community assets are protected and valued. Preservation of local history is valued as demonstrated by the efforts and projects of the Northville Historical Society, Northville Township Historical District Commission, Garden Clubs and Beautification Commissions.

Objectives:

- ❖ Analyze and improve universal accessibility at all recreation facilities.
- ❖ Maintain and improve designated wetlands and open space
- ❖ Use local history elements in new facility design and improvements
- ❖ Maintain and update park equipment and facilities as needed, including playground equipment, hard pavement surfaces, and landscaping.
- ❖ Continue implementation of the standardized park design for all Northville parks including signage, lighting, benches, and waste receptacles.

Goal #3: To create a community of healthy residents by providing opportunities that promote and encourage active lifestyles

Northville has an active resident base that includes runners, cyclists, soccer players, walkers and golfers. The health of the aging population will need to be maintained through private and public efforts.

Objectives:

- ❖ Increase non-motorized transportation connections between parks, historical sites, community facilities and shopping districts that allow residents to cycle, walk and run.
- ❖ Develop and promote programming that promotes active lifestyles for all ages
- ❖ Work with MDOT to improve and maintain the regional pathway along I-275.
- ❖ Work with Wayne County to develop pathways over the existing Six Mile bridge, west of Northville Road, to complete this segment of the pathway and connect the eastern and western portions of the Township.
- ❖ Promote the establishment of a greenway along the Johnson Creek to encourage the preservation, enhancement and an increase community understanding of this important watershed.

Goal #4: Provide recreation programming and facility opportunities that meet the needs and interests of the entire community.

Residents have indicated through recent surveys and focus groups that recreation outlets and activities are important to their quality of life. Providing well balanced activity choices, along with flexible structure is essential.

Objectives:

- ❖ Study the need for a multi-use outdoor community gathering area that serves as a venue for concerts, festivals, art and other cultural programming.

- ❖ Pursue opportunities to create mini/neighborhood parks within residential neighborhoods.
- ❖ Monitor the use of athletic fields and facilities to determine additional needs.
- ❖ Create recreation opportunities that go beyond the traditional team sports such as educational components, individual sporting pursuits, and training/self improvement courses.
- ❖ Provide additional environmental-oriented programs and use parks as outdoor classrooms.
- ❖ Expand the amount and type of cultural programs and events offered such as music and art in collaboration with the Northville Arts Commission.
- ❖ Increase the variety and amount of programs offered for senior adults and teenagers.

Goal #5: To use existing community resources efficiently and to demonstrate fiscal responsibility

A struggling state economy has resulted in loss of employment and a decrease in state shared revenues. Parks and recreation services, along with all government services, must evaluate and provide cost effective opportunities for residents.

Objectives:

- ❖ Explore opportunities with Wayne County, Oakland County, and Michigan State Parks to jointly provide desired services and facilities, while minimizing duplication and competition between the agencies.
- ❖ Maintain open dialogue with adjacent communities regarding opportunities to improve and expand the quality of public recreation facilities, including an investigation of the feasibility of the development of larger scale recreation facilities such as an ice arena, aquatic or community center.
- ❖ Coordinate efforts with the Johnson Creek Preservation Group for opportunities to preserve open space and provide public access along the Johnson Creek.
- ❖ Develop partnerships and monitor potential grant opportunities with the Southeast Michigan Greenway Initiative, Auto National Heritage Partnership, Detroit American Heritage River Partnership and the Rouge Gateway Partnership.
- ❖ Continue to share facilities with the Northville Public Schools at school properties.
- ❖ Recruit civic and business organizations for assistance with park improvement projects.

Goal #6: Provide efficient administration of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Customer service is a necessity and an expectation in order to remain competitive in providing leisure services.

Objectives:

- ❖ Maintain upgraded computer hardware along with registration and facility reservation software.
- ❖ Expand web based marketing efforts to inform residents of programs and events.
- ❖ Monitor the need for additional support staff.
- ❖ Review Parks and Recreation Master Plan annually to establish priorities and responsibilities with Parks and Recreation Commission.

System Wide Recommendations

In addition to capital investments into the parks and recreation system, the Parks and Recreation Department must also provide effort to maintain the high quality of the system. The following items describe system wide suggestions that should be coordinated each year.

- **Barrier Free Accessibility.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier free accessibility at public facilities. It is important to provide access to the Northville facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents can enjoy the facilities. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier free accessibility with improvements to proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access. Outside consultants may be valuable in assessing barriers.
- **Park Design Improvements.** As the park system evolves and each park undergoes its own degree of improvements, it is important to clearly mark park entrances and visually unify the parks so residents are aware facilities they use are part of Northville's park system. This can be accomplished by a uniform set of design themes that symbolize Northville parks and are used in the design of lighting, benches, signs, waste receptacles, bike racks, and other amenities.
- **Pathway Connections.** Northville has been committed to the development of pathways locally as well as regionally. The Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Township Board, City Council, Wayne County School District and several

other supporting agencies, should continue to seek opportunities for planning, land acquisition, access easements, and trail development to assist this effort within the community.

- **Natural Resource Inventory.** As opportunities become available the Parks and Recreation Department should analyze any critical natural areas in the community through inventories and appropriate studies. This information is critical to prioritizing resources for the acquisition, protection, and management of park natural areas.
- **Recreation Programming.** The Northville Parks and Recreation Department is only one of several sources of recreation programming for community residents. Schoolcraft College, State and County programs, volunteer youth sports organizations, private businesses, and other groups offer leagues, services and programs. To complement these other resources, the Parks and Recreation Department should partner with these programs when appropriate.
- **Staffing.** The Parks and Recreation Department needs to annually monitor staffing levels and office facility needs as needed for efficient administration, operation, programming and maintenance of the parks and recreation system.
- **Park Promotion.** The Parks and Recreation Department should use creative promotional approaches to increase awareness of the features available at the various parks. Promotional ideas could include: park maps and park events. Increased awareness of the parks will increase appreciation and support for the park system and could also generate a spirit of volunteerism with maintenance and development projects.
- **Fund Raising.** Develop new and creative ways to raise funds for park improvements, such as events, service projects and local fund raising. Continue and expand the popular brick paver, bench and tree donation programs.
- **Public Involvement.** The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and programming. This can be accomplished with focus groups, public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at parks and recreation events.

Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve primarily staff time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require primarily investment. *Table Eight Five Year Capital Improvement Plan* incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2007 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements and engineering plans are developed. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

Table Eight Five Year Capital Improvement Plan			
Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
Year 1: 2007	Thayer's Corner Park: Complete evaluation and concept plan, maintenance and preparation of land for park use; design; grant application	TBD	Local Funds, Donations ("Friends of Thayer's")
	Off-Leash Recreation Areas: Develop permanent locations in the City for the creation of an off-leash recreation area.	\$25,000	Private Funds, Donations, Local Funds
	Design Improvements: Replace existing park amenities with consistent design theme including play features, signs, landscaping, lighting, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks.	\$50,000	Local Funds, Private Donations
	Non-Motorized Pathways: Continue to implement the non-motorized pathway plan as opportunities become available to provide linkages between recreation and civic destinations.	TBD	Local Funds, Grants, Private Funds
	Community Park: Renovate soccer fields 1, 2, 4; basketball courts (2), sand volleyball lots (6), gravel lot near restroom.	\$490,500	Local Funds, Grants, Donations
	Mini Parks: As opportunities arise, acquire or purchase lots within neighborhoods for the creation of small parks.	TBD	Local Funds, Donations

Table Eight
Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
Year 2: 2008	Thayer's Corner Park: Phase One construction with multipurpose and equestrian pathways, park entrance, parking lots/circulation, play area, other elements as provided in concept plan. Elements may be advanced/delayed based on funding.	TBD	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Ford Field: Relocate Hutton Street entrance to Ford Field that includes a visual and physical connection to downtown Northville and the neighborhood.	\$520,000	Local Funds, Grants, Donations
	Coldwater Springs Nature Area (West): boardwalks/decks, outdoor classrooms/shelter/kiosk, site work, entrances/parking lots/walks, site furnishings/landscaping/signage, habitat enhancement, professional services	\$656,600	Local Funds, Grants, Donations
	Community Park: Picnic shelters (3), Play areas (2), nature trail/overlook deck-north end,.	\$421,000	Local Funds, Grants, Donations
	Design Improvements: Replace existing park amenities with consistent design theme including play features, signs, landscaping, lighting, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, universal access.	\$50,000	Local Funds
	Non-Motorized Pathways: Continue to implement the non-motorized pathway plan as opportunities become available to provide linkages between recreation and civic destinations.	TBD	Local Funds, Grants, Private Funds
	Mini Parks: As opportunities arise, acquire or purchase lots within neighborhoods for the creation of small parks.	TBD	Local Funds, Donations
	Fish Hatchery Park: Pave parking lot, install necessary storm water facilities. Investigate a new park entrance to the east of the existing drive.	\$400,000	Local Funds, State Grants
Year 3: 2009	Coldwater Springs: Begin design development of Phase II of the nature area project (west side of Six Mile) to coincide with the completion of the linear park connection project.	TBD	Local Funds, Donations
	Community Park: Pave remaining unpaved areas, grass amphitheatre (1200 seats), Additional Parking, Artificial turf soccer field, restroom/concessions-north	\$1,007,200	Local Funds, Grants, Donations
	Ford Park: Pave walking path, provide connection over the dam, install interpretive signs, and construct fishing deck at pond.	TBD	Local Funds

Table Eight
Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
	Design Improvements: Replace existing park amenities with consistent design theme including play features, signs, landscaping, lighting, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, universal access.	\$50,000	Local Funds, Private Donations
	Non-Motorized Pathways: Continue to implement the non-motorized pathway plan as opportunities become available to provide linkages between recreation and civic destinations.	TBD	Local Funds, Grants, Private Funds
	Mini Parks: As opportunities arise, acquire or purchase lots within neighborhoods for the creation of small parks.	TBD	Local Funds, Donations
	Thayer's Corner Park: Phase Two construction with multipurpose and equestrian pathways, park entrance, parking lots/circulation, play area, other elements as provided in concept plan. Schedule and elements depend on funding. Elements advanced/delayed based on funding.	TBD	Grants, Local Funds, Private Funds, Donations
	Seven Mile Road Property: Study the Seven Mile Road property for future park development	TBD	Local Funds, Donations
Year 4: 2010	Community Park: Additional parking, Beck Road entrance/ring road, Indoor soccer field house	TBD	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Design Improvements: Replace existing park amenities with consistent design theme including play features, signs, landscape park entrances, lighting, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, universal access.	\$50,000	Local Funds
	Non-Motorized Pathways: Continue to implement the non-motorized pathway plan as opportunities become available to provide linkages between recreation and civic destinations.	TBD	Local Funds, Grants, Private Funds
	Mini Parks: As opportunities arise, acquire or purchase lots within neighborhoods for the creation of small parks.	TBD	Local Funds, Donations
Year 5: 2011	Fish Hatchery Park: Construct an interpretive display that highlights the history of the fish hatchery, dredge the pond, install benches near the pond and tennis courts, reinforce the retaining wall along the Johnson Creek and upgrade pathways on the east side of the creek.	TBD	MDNR Fisheries, Local Funds

Table Eight
Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
	Community Park: Skatepark, pond deck/boardwalk, paved paths-south/perimeter, baseball fields 300'(2), picnic shelters (3), play areas (2), dog park well/irrigation, dog park shelter (schedule may vary)	\$1,468,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Mill Pond: Dredge the pond and provide additional community access points.	TBD	Local Funds, Grants, Donations
	Design Improvements: Replace existing park amenities with consistent design theme including play features, signs, landscaping, lighting, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, universal access.	\$50,000	Local Funds
	Non-Motorized Pathways: Continue to implement the non-motorized pathway plan as opportunities become available to provide linkages between recreation and civic destinations.	TBD	Local Funds, Grants, Private Funds
	Mini Parks: As opportunities arise, acquire or purchase lots within neighborhoods for the creation of small parks.	TBD	Local Funds, Donations

APPENDIX A

Community Description

The Community Description is a picture of the various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of the Northville Community, which includes the City of Northville and the Township of Northville. This information provides valuable insight into determining future parks and recreation facility development and programming needs for the community.

Regional Setting

Northville Township was created in 1867, the same year Northville Village was incorporated. Later, the village reincorporated as a city in 1955. The community consists of approximately 20 square miles and 32,830 residents in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Northville Township and most of the City of Northville are located in the northwestern corner of Wayne County. The City straddles the Wayne County boundary, with a portion of the city located in southwestern Oakland County. The community borders the City of Novi in Oakland County to the north, Salem Township in Washtenaw County to the west, the City of Livonia to the east and Plymouth Township to the south, both in Wayne County.

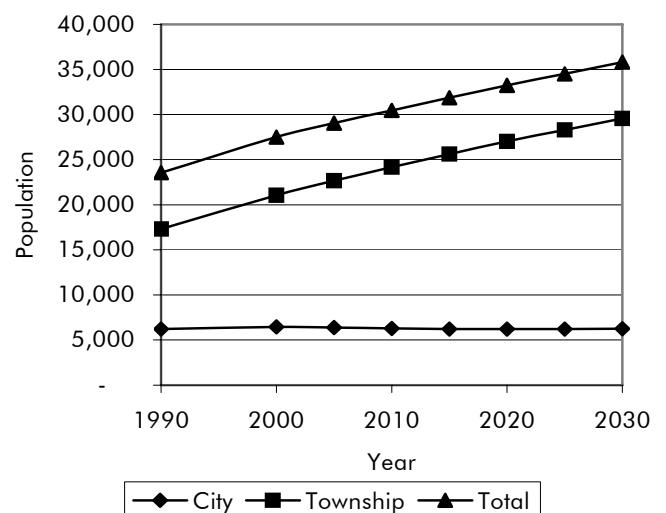


Regional Location

Demographic Characteristics

The following is a demographic report of the Northville Community which reveals some of the unique characteristics of the community. Age, race, household, and disability statistics for the community are included. The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the quality and quantity of parks and recreation facilities and programs necessary to serve Northville residents.

Figure A-1
Northville Community Population, 1990-2030



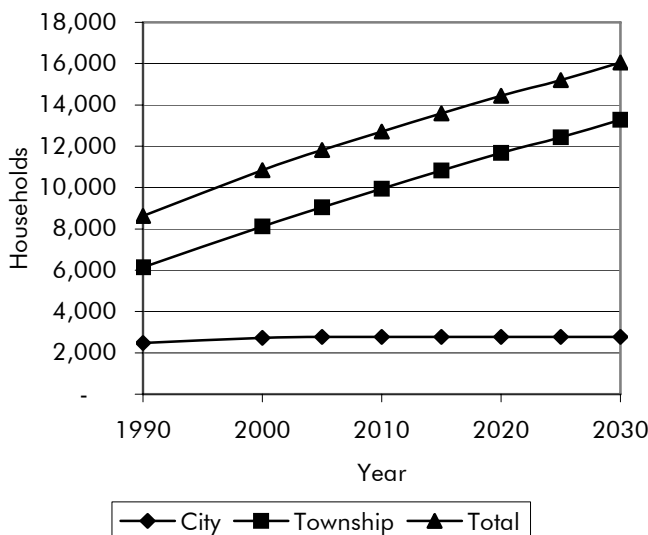
Source: SEMCOG 2030 Regional Development Forecast

Population and Housing. Recent projections indicate that the City's population is expected to decline slightly, while the Township's is expected to increase steadily, albeit at a slowing rate, as indicated in *Table A-1* and *Figure A-1*. These trends are consistent with the buildout analysis prepared in conjunction with the Township's most recent Master Plan. The buildout study was conducted to determine the potential population if all of the developments that have been approved are constructed and occupied, and all remaining vacant land develops or redevelops as currently zoned. At full build-out the Township's population can be expected to reach over 36,000. When build-out will occur depends on a number of factors including growth rates, land availability, trends in household size, and market conditions.

Table A-1 Northville Community Population and Housing Statistics, 1990-2030						
Population	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2030
City	6,226	6,459	6,393	6,299	6,214	6,237
Township	17,313	21,036	22,655	24,157	27,024	29,558
Total	23,539	27,495	29,048	30,456	33,238	35,795
Households	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2030
City	2,481	2,720	2,769	2,768	2,761	2,773
Township	6,141	8,119	9,047	9,948	11,680	13,286
Total	8,622	10,839	11,816	12,716	14,441	16,059
Household Size*	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2030
City	2.49	2.36	2.29	2.26	2.23	2.22
Township	2.54	2.39	2.32	2.26	2.17	2.09
Total	2.53	2.38	2.32	2.26	2.18	2.11

Source: SEMCOG 2030 Regional Development Forecast, Community Detail Report
 * Household size excludes persons in group quarters, which include correctional institutions and nursing homes.

Figure A-2
Northville Community Households, 1990-2030



Source: SEMCOG 2030 Regional Development Forecast

Households are defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. The number of households in the City is expected to remain mostly constant, while those in the Township are expected to increase steadily, as indicated in *Table A-1* and *Figure A-2*. Average household size, defined as the number of persons per household, has been declining and this trend is expected to continue for the City and Township. The increase in population and households will mean additional park and recreation demands. The decline in household size will create a more

dispersed population if housing densities do not increase accordingly. Future parks and facilities will need to be accordingly dispersed.

Households are classified as Families with Children, Families without Children, and Non-Families, which include persons living alone and two or more non-related persons living in the same home. In the Northville Community, 29% of households are classified as Families with Children, 39% as Families without Children, and 32% as Non-Families. The composition of households in Northville is important to help plan the desired park and recreation facilities and programs in a manner that is consistent with and proportionate to these characteristics.

Age Distribution. An understanding of the age distribution in the community is essential in planning for future recreational needs. As we pass through the various stages of life, our recreational requirements change resulting in the need for different facilities and programs. In the Northville Community, the proportion of the population that is 65 years and older is forecast to grow significantly relative to the rest of the population. At the same time, the proportion of the population that is between the ages of 5 and 64 shows decline. Nevertheless, the residents from 5 to 64 years of age make up the majority of the population and require different recreation facilities and programs from persons over 64. Therefore, parks and recreation facilities and programs should change to address the different needs of an aging population while at the same time account for the overall increase in total population. Providing recreational opportunities for teens continue to be an important topic. Current research indicates that adolescent obesity is increasing. Recreational opportunities that motivate teens to participate in an active lifestyle are an important component of

contemporary parks and recreation planning.

Table A-2 Northville Community Age Distribution, 2000 - 2030					
Age Group	Life Phase	2000		2030	
		#	%	#	%
0-4	Preschool	1,408	5%	2,080	6%
5-17	School Age	4,629	17%	4,804	13%
18-34	Young Adult	4,895	18%	5,901	16%
35-64	Adult	12,832	47%	13,676	38%
65+	Retirement	3,731	14%	9,334	26%
Source: SEMCOG 2030 Regional Development Forecast					

Racial Composition. The Northville Community offers a somewhat more racially diverse population since 1990. While the Township has a higher proportion of non-white residents than the City, the City is diversifying at a faster rate than the Township. Asian and Pacific Islanders comprise the fastest growing minority group and account primarily for the community's increasing diversity. While white residents still comprise a large majority of the community's population, the community is inching closer to national and state racial distributions. As the population diversifies, park and recreation activities and programs may need to diversify to address changing cultural interests.

Table A-3				
Northville Community Racial Composition, 1990-2000				
City of Northville	1990		2000	
White	6,120	98.3%	6,208	96.1%
Black	9	0.1%	25	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	15	0.2%	12	0.2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	72	1.2%	126	2.0%
Other Race	10	0.2%	38	0.6%
Multi-Racial	n/a	n/a	50	0.8%
Northville Township	1990		2000	
White	15,712	90.8%	18,787	89.3%
Black	1,069	6.2%	923	4.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	49	0.3%	58	0.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	432	2.5%	912	4.3%
Other Race	51	0.3%	92	0.4%
Multi-Racial	n/a	n/a	264	1.3%
Northville Community	1990		2000	
White	21,832	92.7%	24,995	90.9%
Black	1,078	4.6%	948	3.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	64	0.3%	70	0.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	504	2.1%	1,038	3.8%
Other Race	61	0.3%	130	0.5%
Multi-Racial	n/a	n/a	314	1.1%
Source: US Census Bureau				

Persons with Disabilities. Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning future programs and appropriate locations for recreational activities. Also, with the American's With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all public services, including parks and recreation facilities, are subject to barrier-free requirements.

Disability data are collected for five age groups. As the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with figures from the Northville Community. Disabilities include sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, self-care disability, go-outside-home disability, and employment disability. With approximately 11% of the Northville population having one or more disability, park and recreation programs and facilities must account for the needs of these residents.

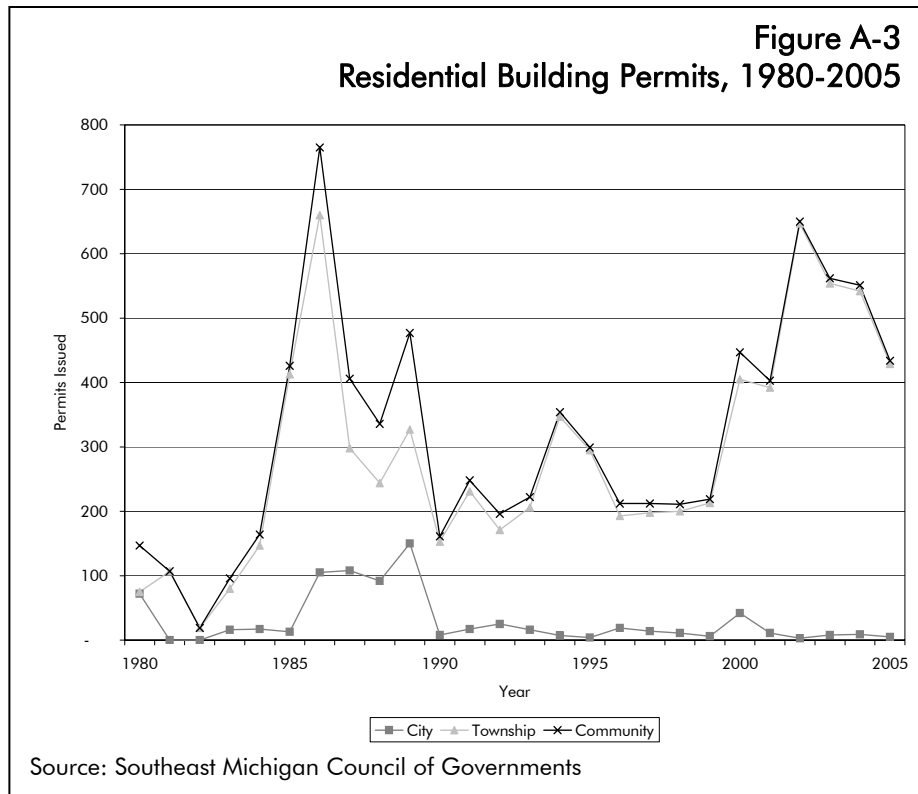
Economic Characteristics

A variety of economic indicators suggest that the Northville Community enjoys strong economic health and its residents are affluent. Residential construction is booming, primarily in the Township, according to recent building permit data. The median household income of City and Township residents is significantly higher and growing faster than for other residents of Wayne County, Oakland County, and Michigan. The unemployment rate for the community is significantly lower than that for Wayne County, Oakland County, and Michigan. Finally, the median housing values in the City and Township are considerably higher than the overall figures for Wayne County, Oakland County, and Michigan. These figures suggest that Northville Community residents will continue to demand high-quality parks and recreation services and facilities. This position is supported by the 2003 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey and the 2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The figures also suggest that local property tax revenues should continue to increase to help fund parks and recreation-related activities.

Table A-4
Persons with a Disability, 2000

City	Total Persons	With a Disability	Percent
Age 5-15	1,042	47	4.5%
Age 16-20	249	24	9.6%
Age 21-64	3,995	313	7.8%
Age 65-74	286	45	15.7%
Age 75+	452	220	48.7%
Total	6,024	649	10.8%
Township	Total Persons	With a Disability	Percent
Age 5-15	2,839	68	2.4%
Age 16-20	1,044	46	4.4%
Age 21-64	11,942	1,106	9.3%
Age 65-74	1,529	320	20.9%
Age 75+	1,256	680	54.1%
Total	18,610	2,220	11.9%
Community	Total Persons	With a Disability	Percent
Age 5-15	3,881	115	3.0%
Age 16-20	1,293	70	5.4%
Age 21-64	15,937	1,419	8.9%
Age 65-74	1,815	365	20.1%
Age 75+	1,708	900	52.7%
Total	24,634	2,869	11.6%
Source: US Census Bureau			

Construction Activity. The number of issued local building permits fluctuates with market demands, paralleling national economic strength. Figure A-3 illustrates the building permits issued in the Northville Community between 1980 and 2005. The Township appears to be experiencing a construction boom that has been subsiding recently. Over the last twenty-five years, the bulk of the new residential development in



the community has been concentrated in the Township. This trend is expected to continue since the bulk of undeveloped land is located in the Township. New parks and recreation facilities should be located appropriately to serve new community residents.

Income. Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level where half of all households earn more and half earn less. In 2000, Median household income was significantly higher in both the City (\$83,961) and Township (\$81,541) than in Wayne County (\$40,776), Oakland County (\$61,907), and southeastern Michigan (\$49,979). Additionally, City and Township median household income are both growing at faster rates than those of the counties and region. Of particular note is the nearly 25% growth in the City's median household income.

Employment. Employment in Northville Community is healthy in relation to the region. According Census figures, unemployment rates in the community in 2000 were low (1.6%) compared to Wayne County (8.5%), Oakland County (3.7%), the Detroit Metropolitan Area (5.9%), and the State of Michigan (5.8%).

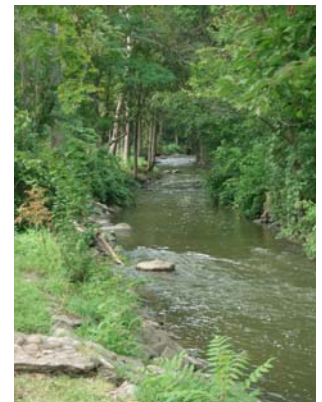
Physical Characteristics

The following is a description of the physical characteristics of the Northville Community, including land use, natural features, and the transportation network. This information is important in understanding the potential for the type, location, and extent of future park and recreation improvements.

Land Use. The predominant land use in Northville Community is residential. Many new residential subdivisions have been added in the past several years, particularly in Northville Township, fueling the community's population growth and generating demand for new parks and recreational facilities. *Map Five Land Use* depicts the generalized land use plan for the Northville Community.

Historically, the heart of the community, the City of Northville, developed most intensively. This area is characterized as a traditional Midwestern community with a defined downtown; small-lot, single-family, residential neighborhoods; and historic architecture. During its early years, Northville Township contained farmland and large-lot, residential development. As neighborhoods expanded beyond the City's limits, the Township developed into a thriving, independent community offering a variety of residential, commercial, and office land uses.

Natural Features. *Map Six Natural Features* depicts the general location of key natural features within the Northville Community including wetlands, woodlands, and bodies of water. These natural features provide substantial park and recreation opportunities. The western portion of the community offers gently rolling topography, while the eastern side is relatively flat. Elevations range from 970 feet in the Maybury State Park in the northwestern portion of the Township to 730 feet at Phoenix Lake in the Township's southeast.



Middle Rouge River

The community's primary natural water resources are the Middle Rouge River, which generally runs north-south through the middle of the community, and Johnson Creek, which bisects the western portion of the Township in a northeast-southwest direction. The creek is one of only three in southeastern Michigan and the only one in Wayne County to support a trout population. The Friends of the Rouge and the Johnson Creek Protection Society have formed to preserve and protect the environmental characteristics of both of Northville's primary waterways. Other important water features include the former gravel pits that are now Lake Success, Silver Springs Lake, Crystal Lake, Swan Harbor Lake, and Stonewater Lake.

Northville Community lies in the Rouge River Watershed. Development of land in and upstream of the community increases the risk of flooding in the community. FEMA flood hazard maps indicate that approximately 580 acres of land within the community boundary are in the 100-year floodplain and approximately 95 additional acres are in the 500-year floodplain. However, flooding has rarely been a problem in the community due to its elevation and development pattern.

Additionally, approximately 2,080 acres of wetlands exist within the community. Pockets of significant woodlands are associated with the Middle Rouge River, Johnson Creek, and their tributaries. Land with important natural features is relatively difficult to develop and make prime candidates for affordable parks and recreational lands, while serving the dual purposes of environmental protection and recreation.

Transportation. Northville residents rely on road and pathway networks to access regional parks and recreational facilities. No mass transit serves the community but most park facilities provide parking to accommodate vehicular access. Senior transportation is available for City and Township residents through the Northville Senior Community Center Transportation Department. Curb to curb service is provided Monday through Friday for medical appointments, grocery shopping, errand running, etc. for a small fee.

The Northville Community provides non-motorized transportation opportunities as a means to access recreation areas and other important community features like schools and community centers. Northville Township has developed a community-wide pathways plan that includes bike path and sidewalk routes. New developments are required to construct paths along their frontages and new neighborhoods are required to provide open space and pathways connections in order to improve the pedestrian oriented environment of residents.

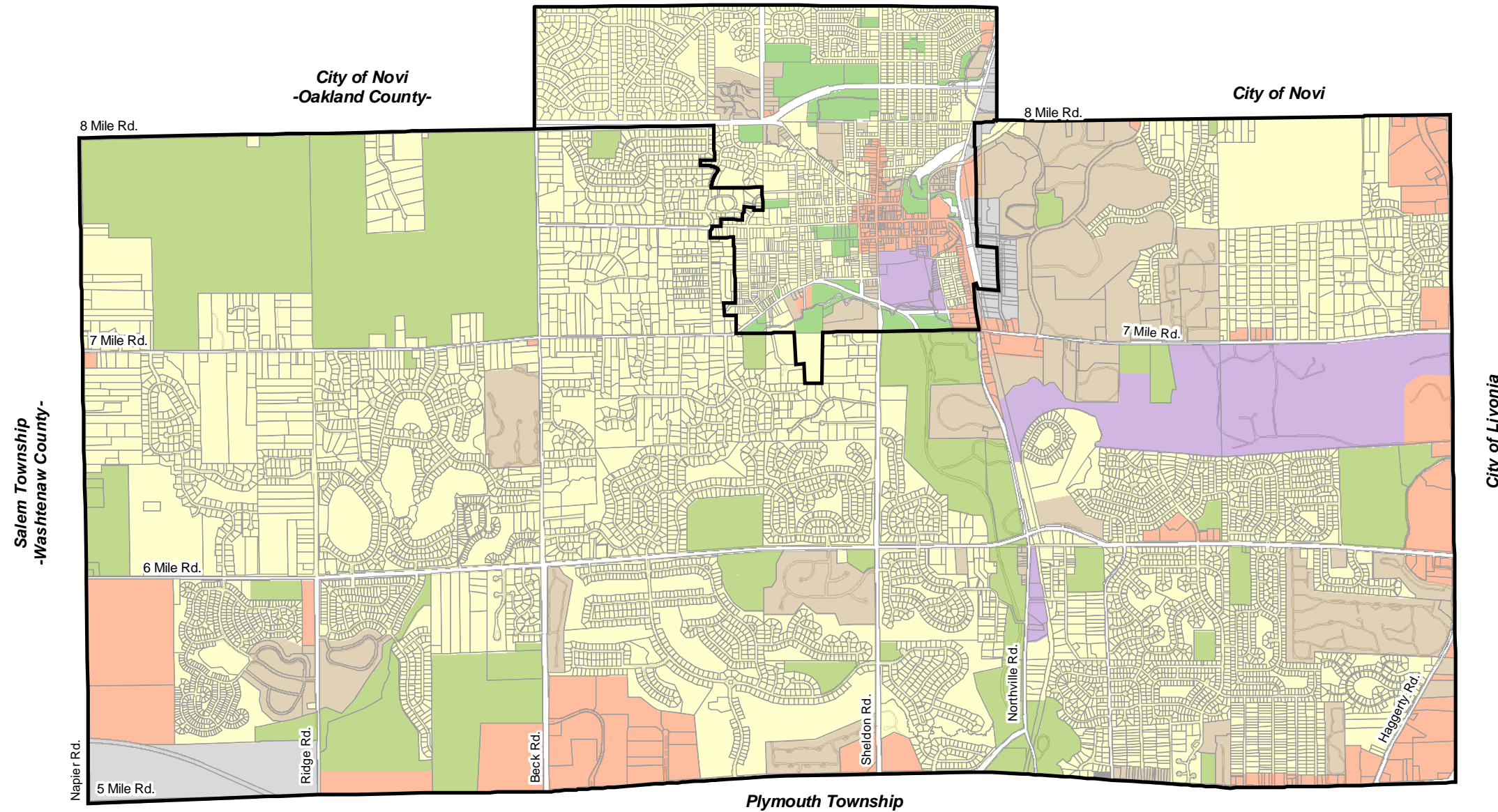
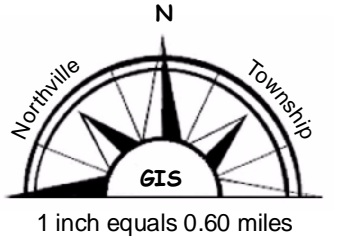
Several rail corridors traverse the community and may one day provide rail-to-trail opportunities if their use is abandoned.









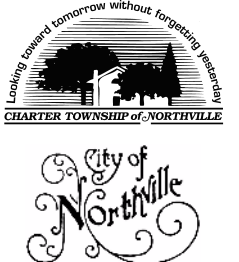
Map Five: Land Use

Northville Community Parks and Recreation

Draft 2006



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
|  Single Family Residential |  Commercial/Office/Technology |  Industrial |
|  Multiple Family Residential |  Public/Institution |  Mixed Use |

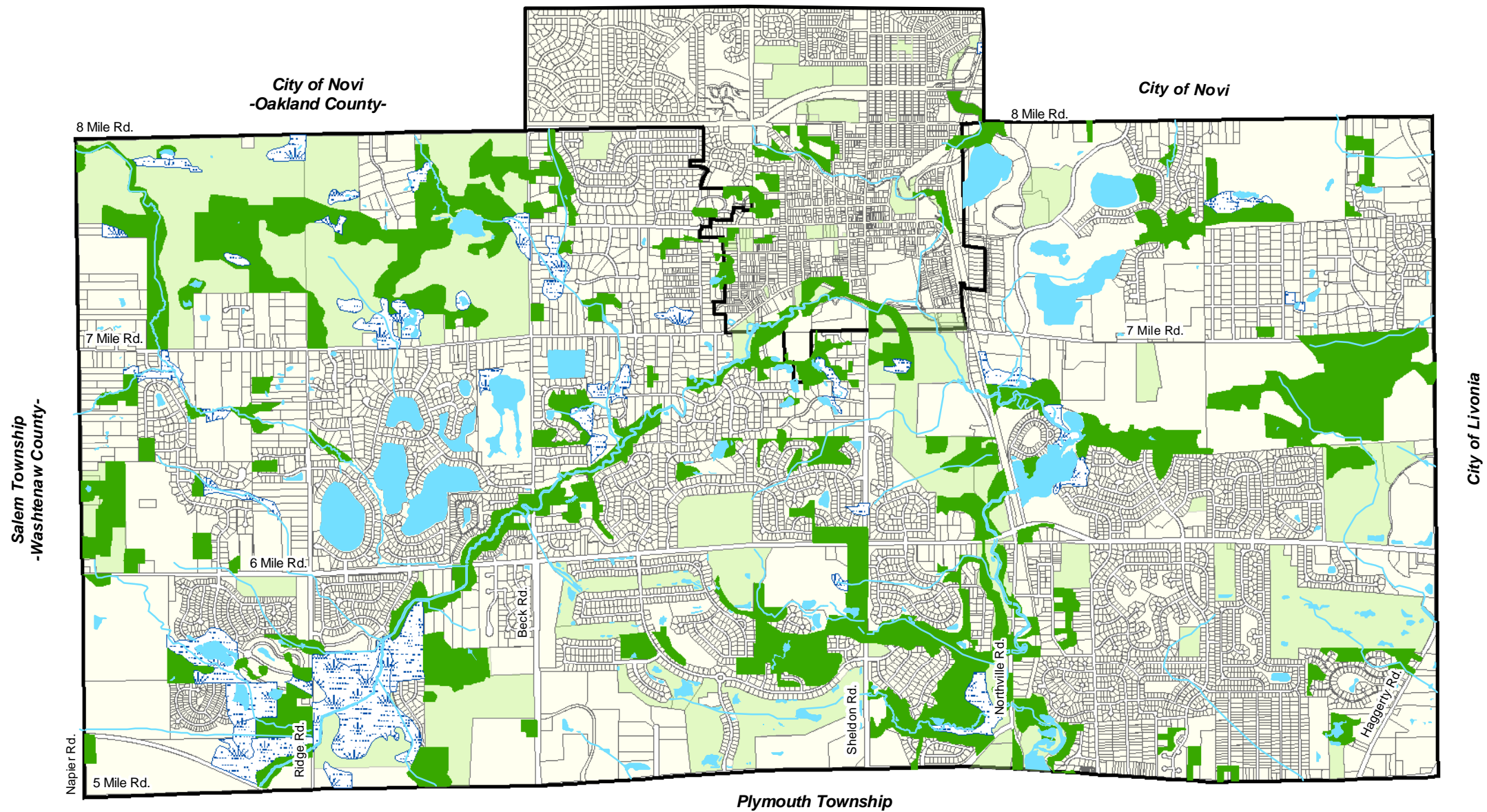
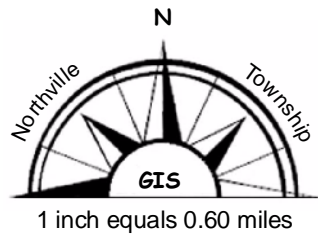




Map Six: Natural Features

Northville Community Parks and Recreation

Draft 2006



Wetland



Body of Water



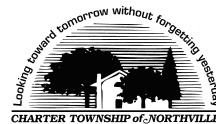
River



Woodland



Recreation Facility



APPENDIX B

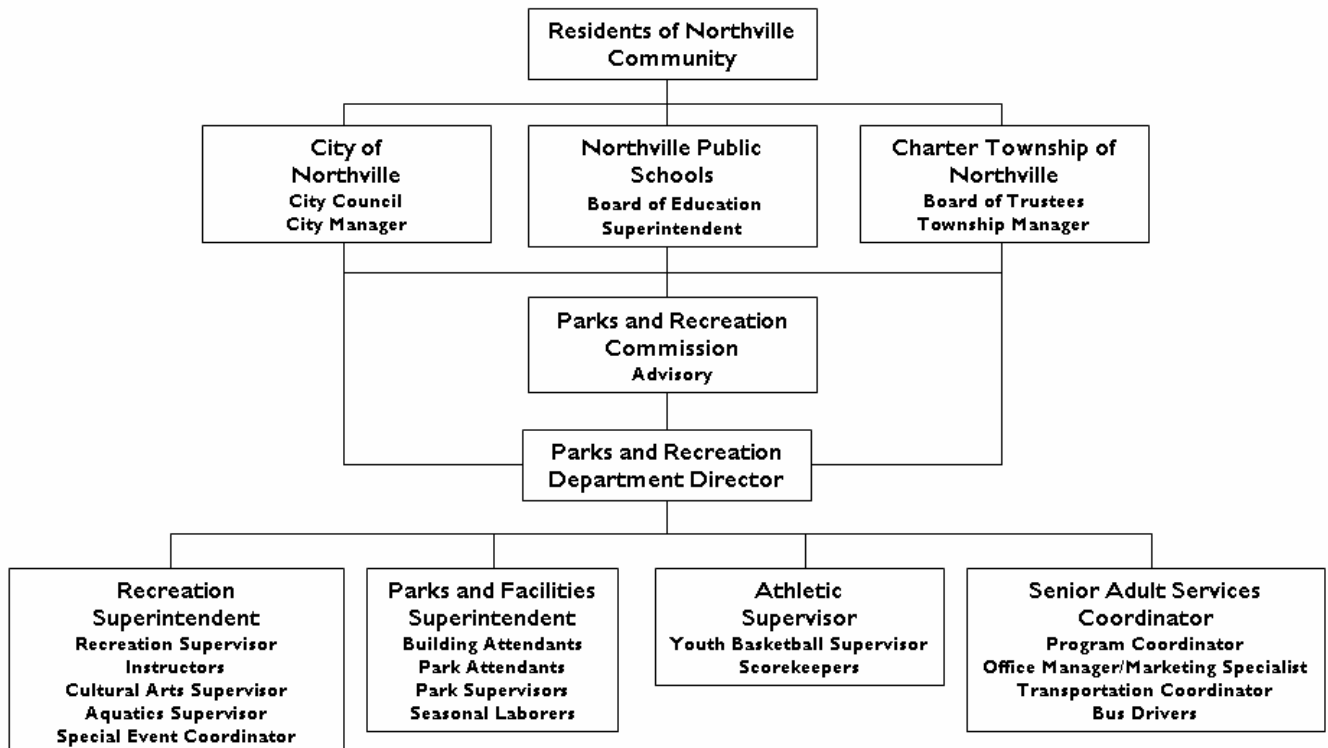
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department is a collaboration of the City of Northville, the Charter Township of Northville and Northville Public Schools. The administrative organizational chart and budget analysis for the department are reviewed in this section.

Administration

The electorate of Northville Community consists of residents of the City of Northville and the Charter Township of Northville. The elected leaders of the two governmental units include the Northville City Council and the Northville Township Board of Trustees, who work together with the Northville Board of Education to provide parks and recreation for Northville residents.

**Figure B-1
Administration**



Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department

Until March 2007, the Parks and Recreation Commission was an appointed body that

advised the elected leaders of the Northville community on matters related to parks and recreation. Since then, the Commission was reorganized. Today, three Township board members, two city council members and one school board member will serve as the Commission. Their purpose is to oversee the budget and operations of the Northville Community Parks and Recreation Department; establish related policies; plan for long-term parks and recreation needs; and make recommendations to the City and Township for investments in facilities or expanded operations.

Daily operations of the Parks and Recreation Department are the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Director. The Director is in charge of a full time and part time staff of approximately eighty employees who monitor or maintain a segment of the parks and recreation system. Recreation staff includes the Recreation Superintendent, Athletic Supervisor, Parks and Facilities Superintendent and the Senior Adult Services Coordinator.

The Parks and Recreation Department also works in significant collaboration with the Northville Public Schools, relying on facilities and property for many activities. The school district retains a seat on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Budget Analysis

The operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department is annually adopted by the City Council and Township Board for the fiscal year, which runs from July 1st to June 30th. *Table B-1* summarizes the Parks and Recreation Department expenditures for the past three fiscal years and the proposed upcoming year.

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department has a current operating budget of \$2,595,135 for 2006-07 fiscal year. The City of Northville, the Charter Township of Northville, and program revenues provide the greatest portion for funding the Parks and Recreation Department.

Table B-1 Parks and Recreation Budget				
	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Approved
Revenues				
Shared Services Contributions	\$738,689	\$922,446	\$823,276	\$887,678
Additional Contribution- Northville Community Parks	\$0	\$0	\$125,914	\$152,210
Program Revenues	\$732,791	\$882,184	\$1,040,594	\$1,045,499
Senior Community Center Revenues	\$20,701	\$89,990	\$136,363	\$137,445
Hillside Operating Revenues	\$187,376	\$179,447	\$187,500	\$193,500
Scout Building Revenues	\$0	\$4,266	\$8,100	\$9,000
Park Revenues	\$70,958	\$51,060	\$49,900	\$52,000
Other Revenues	\$133,099	\$53,345	\$51,750	\$56,790
Operating Transfers	\$4,700	\$46,850	\$47,776	\$49,365
Use of Fund Balance	\$22,819	\$0	\$0	\$11,648
Expenditures				
Administrative	\$274,743	\$284,865	\$294,680	\$348,210
Program Expenditures	\$820,033	\$842,568	\$975,514	\$985,847
Programming	\$227,370	\$227,403	\$242,385	\$264,275
Other Fees to be Allocated	\$22,394	\$19,700	\$20,000	\$20,000
Fields and Park Maintenance	\$248,743	\$295,060	\$380,484	\$413,033
DPW Services-General	\$11,018	\$12,013	\$14,320	\$10,530
Community Dog Park	\$7,590	\$16,224	\$14,060	\$11,525
Operating Transfers	\$89,876	\$61,120	\$119,982	\$159,944
Senior Community Center	\$41,209	\$145,946	\$180,282	\$173,731
Hillside Building and Grounds	\$156,026	\$162,119	\$181,255	\$189,345
Scout Recreation Building	\$0	\$8,412	\$18,248	\$18,695
General Misc.	\$12,131	\$6,248	\$0	\$0
Fund Balance Reserve	\$0	\$147,908	\$29,963	\$0
Total Budget	\$1,911,133	\$2,229,588	\$2,471,173	\$2,595,135
Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department				

In addition to the department budget, the parks and recreation director also supervises two other budgets. The first of which is a capital outlay fund for all department capital improvement projects and property development expenditures. The second budget that falls under the Parks and Recreation Department is the senior adult services budget, a division of

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

the department, intended to provide a variety of programs, services and events for the increasing older population of the Northville community. *Table B-2* summarizes these two budgets for the past three fiscal years and the proposed upcoming year

Table B-2				
Capital Outlay Fund and Senior Adult Services Budget				
	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Approved
Capital Outlay Fund	\$2,540,315	\$502,373	\$135,456	\$191,072
Senior Adult Services	\$395,390	\$360,347	\$361,190	\$371,220
Source: Northville Parks and Recreation Department				

APPENDIX C

Public Involvement

Public Workshop Opinion Survey Results

September 26, 2006

Please place an "X" in the columns for the three priorities for Northville Parks and Recreation

Completion of the Northville Community Park, per the park's master plan	
Extension of walking trails	22
Development of additional ball diamonds	1
Amphitheatre	5
Skatepark	6
Basketball courts	2
Sand volleyball courts	7
Water spray park	14
Fishing overlooks	1
Playgrounds	3
Picnic shelters	2
Parking	0
Thayer Corners Park development, per the updated master plan	9
Coldwater Springs Nature Area development/Johnson Creek preservation	9
Mill Pond Restoration and Public Access	6
Fish Hatchery Park Update and Improvements	1
Ford Park pathway and connection to E. Main Street	4
Community Center (new building, not within school facility)	7
Teen Center	10
Reduction in user fees for programming and facility use	3
Permanent location for dog park in the city	6
Ford Field access to downtown Northville	9
New Town Square/Bandshell	10
Improved class registration system	5
More recreation programming	7
More family events	9
Additional neighborhood public parks	3
Improved/additional pathway connections	12
Nature Center	5
Outdoor Pool	11
Continued collaboration with Northville Public Schools and neighboring communities	9

**1. What Northville facilities do you frequent the most?
(Please circle up to three facilities)**

- (29) Recreation Center at Hillside
- (18) Mill Race Village
- (17) Millennium Park
- (15) Ford Park & Field
- (15) Town Square (Bandshell)
- (12) Northville Senior Community Center
- (11) Northville Community Park (including dog park)
- (6) Cady Street Dog Park
- (8) Fish Hatchery Park
- (4) City Hall Park (behind the library)
- (4) Baseline/Carpenter Park
- (2) Henningsen Park
- (2) Sheldon Road Pocket Park
- (1) Veteran's Memorial Park
- (0) Joe Denton Park

2. Are you satisfied with the existing parks and facilities in Northville?

(33) Yes (14) No (14) Undecided

Comments:

- Pool (4)
- Walking trail (3)
- Horseback Trail
- Too much youth sports
- Football
- Permanent dog park
- Restrooms
- Need more evening and weekend programs/classes
- Need more of a "town center", bandshell & Ford Field don't work well for that
- No outdoor skate in winter
- Glad to see Baseline/Carpenter renovation

**3. Which type of public outdoor recreation facility is most needed in Northville?
(Please circle one facility)**

- (25) Nature Trails
- (20) Swimming Pool
- (6) Tennis Courts
- (5) Volleyball Courts
- (5) Basketball Courts
- (4) Skate Park
- (2) Dog Park
- (2) Football Fields
- (1) Baseball/Softball Fields
- (0) Soccer Fields

Other (please specify):

- Horseback Riding (3)
- Bike path
- Short golf course
- Spray park
- Pathways

**4. Which type of public indoor recreation facility is most needed in Northville?
(Please circle one facility)**

- (17) Teen Center
- (16) Fitness Center
- (11) Nature Center
- (8) Swimming Pool
- (4) Gyms
- (4) Ice Arena
- (1) Soccer Fields

Other (please specify):

- Sand volleyball
- Activity Center
- Ice rink
- Community center

5. Do you use any of the following facilities? (Please circle and list all that apply)

State Parks:

(47) Maybury

(15) Island Lake

Other (please specify):

Wayne County Parks:

(52) Hines Drive

(3) Lower Rouge

Other (please specify):

School Playgrounds, Please list:

- (3) Winchester
- High School
- Hillside
- Meadows Mills
- Cook

Huron-Clinton Metro Parks:

(36) Kensington

(9) Lower Huron

Other (please specify):

- Indian Springs

Other Parks (non-Northville facilities), Please list:

- Plymouth Twp Parks
- Pond Lake
- Schoolcraft

6. Are you satisfied with the existing recreation programming levels in Northville?

(29) Yes

(9) No

(16) Undecided

Comments:

- Fitness Classes
- Horseback riding trails
- Free entertainment
- No swimming team for children
- Family swimming is extremely limited (long waiting list)

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

- More swim classes, very hard to get into
- More activities for adults-only adequate for exercise
- Need an outdoor pool, the pool club wait is a joke
- More bikepaths connecting 8 Mile Rd. with Haggerty & downtown

**7. What types of additional recreation programs would you like to see?
(Please circle all that apply)**

- (26) Concerts/Family Events
- (15) Teen Programs
- (15) Adult Athletics
- (9) Adult Education
- (9) Enrichment Classes
- (8) Athletics for Children
- (5) Senior Activities

Other (please specify):

- Running groups
- Fitness
- Horse trails
- No sports
- Adult athletics during swim lessons
- More lap swim time at the pool

**8. What do you like most about the parks and recreation system in Northville?
(Please circle up to three items)**

- (18) Pathways
- (16) Accessibility
- (14) Location of Facilities
- (12) Variety of Programs
- (9) Playgrounds
- (8) Athletic Fields
- (8) Concerts/Family Events
- (4) Maintenance

Other (please specify):

9. Please list three things you would like to see improved about parks and recreation system in Northville.

- Pathways (16)
- More pools (5)
- Community center (3)
- Dog park (2)
- Family park (2)
- Online registration (2)
- Ice skating rink (2)
- Softball
- Play structure
- Budgeting
- Fitness
- Restrooms
- Nature center
- Water park
- Horse trail
- Open space
- More/less baseball/soccer
- More evening swimming classes
- Some evening karate classes
- More parking at building facilities
- Improve Hillside tennis courts or use!
- Better "Town Square", who owns the grassy space between the Northville Downs parking lot & Cady Street? With some work & \$, couldn't that be made into a Town Square/amphitheater & bandshell? or improve Ford Field for this purpose!
- Further develop parks-scoreboard for baseball/soccer
- Maintain pathways (plow the now)
- Finish parking lots at Community Park
- Open Northville high school swimming pool to the public
- Model after Farmington Hills facility
- Whenever swimming classes get cancelled, parent should get phone call regarding rescheduled class
- Fee should be less than what it is now
- Better times for classes, earlier for school children
- Reduce concern about parking-promote walking!
- Reduce concern about dogs-focus on people!

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

- More classes offered for children's activity
- Need more swim classes
- New community center with bigger pool & spray park
- Post "no pets allowed" on all playgrounds
- Benches at all playgrounds
- More options for after school like dance, toddler programs
- Insane to have to wait in line at 7am to get spot on swim class

10. What types of funding sources would you support to help improve parks and recreation opportunities for Northville ?(Please circle all that apply)

(24) Explore Joint Services with Other Communities

(20) Additional/Higher Fees

(10) Increase in Property Taxes

Other (please specify):

- Fund management
- Use volunteers
- Recreation dept.
- Seek federal funding, we already pay enough taxes, demonad our share of it!

11. Are you a resident of Northville Township or City?

(40) Township

(13) City

(4) Neither

In the space provided below please offer any additional comments you may have.

- The pipeline gas that just went in should be looked at by the township to give tax brakes to make a pathway from 7 Mile and Napier Maybury State Park to Hines Park. Wayne County what a pathway this could be.
- Thanks for asking our opinions
- Well Organized, Questions answered!
- When costs go up and millage doesn't cover costs "pay to play" in all areas is appropriate. New parks should not be opened until completed and funds are available to run them.
- In general the parks are well kept up-need to have sticker compliance with leash laws in the parks other than designated dog parks. There seems to be a variety of programs available for all.

- Recreation programs listed on the board do not include most of the classes now being offered by (Water Wheel) staff, more publicity is needed if these classes have numbers that warrant their offering. Price is right \$45/ mo or \$5/class but it is unclear if that is for everyone- Ventilation (fans/doors open...) could be better at the facility on 8 & Center.
- Would like to see Northville Township promote running by connecting asphalt paths, having walk signals at intersections, clear paths in winter, have organized run groups and races. We typically leave Northville Twp each Saturday to run with groups in Ann Arbor and surrounding area. Then go out to eat at nearby café's etc. It is dangerous and near impossible to run in Northville in the winter. One is constantly forced onto the shoulder of the road. Even on a nice day, running at Northville Community Park I find the restrooms closed. This is a health and safety issue.
- Get more of the dollar and space that we have now, Sand volleyball courts if designed right can have more usage and less cost than acres of other sports field that sit unused and costly to maintain.
- This community is growing at a fast pace! The recreational facilities need to be equal to demand. The travel Baseball program is pathetic! We let outside communities on our teams. (Plymouth is closed). We lack good coaches (Dads that have a bias are the norm). We deserve to give our young baseball athletes fair and unbiased treatment. The travel soccer is professional coaches. This should be the same for the travel baseball! Having a dad that lacks skill, knowledge of coaching and picks a bias team is not fair. This needs to improve and we need to have more qualified coaches and more teams to match our population.
- Horseback Riding for private horse owners
- Let's go to the big developers and buy some empty residential lots for pocket parks.
- Key classes going at Hillside, senior center for fitness. I love the classes, availability, teachers and price.
- Northville too much building in the area, moved here to be in the country What's left? Shopping on most corners. Now don't need all this. Get back to people having and raising their own kids. School programs are fine but should not become a way of life for children.
- Overall good job, but would like to see more swim sports/classes.
- Outdoor ice rink in winter not a huge rink for organized hockey etc. A family pond with a skate room hot chocolate etc. More paths and connections.
- Please maintain the current classes that were formerly available at the Water Wheel Health and Fitness club. The teachers of those classes are excellent and much better than some of the teachers available for the other group classes offered through the parks and rec.

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Plan

- Overall you have some really good programs... however, it is a long hot summer without pool!
- Utilize Northville Downs parking lot
- Develop a amphitheater at Ford Field, with seats built into the hill, can the baseball diamond be moved at all to make room?
- Like to see outdoor community pool like Huntington Woods and Troy or a fitness/rec center like Livonia and Canton. I know these are big dollar items, but I think the community would support it. Most of us do not live in the subs with their own pools/fitness centers. It would also give teens a place to socialize. Northville s a great place to live, but we aren't keeping up with our neighboring communities. We already have excellent schools & I think this is #2 for most families when looking at our community in comparison to our neighbors. Advances in these areas will help to keep our property values high.
- Disapointed to find some of the services that were offered in Dearborn are lacking here, really miss outdoor pools, waiting list for current pool reflects need. People at Parks & Rec seem like they don't want outdoor pools, that the indoor pool loses money, this is a problem if people in charge don't; have the business skills to make successful, Schoolcraft pool is a money make, inquire about their success. Another suggestion to connect sidewalk & bike paths from Township to City, we live only 1 mile from downtown and can't safely walk downtown, how sad!

APPENDIX D

Strategic Operational Overview

The Northville community deserves the superior and efficient operations of its parks and recreation services, along with other shared services. Clarity of mission, values and operation strategy, within the context of the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, will help achieve this goal. This section offers an approach to help relate the master plan more directly to Parks and Recreation Department operations.

Mission and Core Values

It is useful to periodically revisit the mission statement and test its validity. Identifying the organization's Core Values is the first step in linking the mission to implementation. Combined, these broader actions help pave the way for the Operational Goals that follow.

The Mission of the Northville Parks and Recreation Department is to provide diverse opportunities for the community to enjoy recreation and leisure pursuits, to enhance our unique cultural and natural resources, while we plan strategically for future needs.

Suggested Core Values

- Personal Integrity
- Teamwork
- Professionalism
- Community-linked
- Superior service
- Customer service

Operational Goals

Operational goals stem from the mission and core values and lay the framework for the year-to-year objectives to be developed by the organization. The following Operational Goals are suggested.

- Superior programming and facilities by attracting and maintaining excellent parks and recreation staff.
- Fiscal efficiency through strategic use of technological solutions, informative budgeting practices and appropriate performance measures.
- Growth within the growth rate of the Northville community through revenue enhancement and cost containment, while assuring the equitable provision of facilities and programming that meet the diverse needs of the members of this community.
- Regular outreach to assure that services and facilities are meeting the changing desires and demographics of the community.
- Routine seeking of partnerships to take advantage of economies of scale where service to the community is enhanced and not sacrificed.
- Continued excellent marketing of programs, facilities and opportunities.

Trends

Agile organizations manage and prepare for the trends and externalities they face. For example, aging populations demand wholesale response from virtually every company, not-for-profit and governmental unit. The Northville Parks and Recreation Department must remain responsive and agile. Identification of trends, linked to the organizational response, is a beginning.

- Continued population growth in the Township contrasts with an anticipated decline in the City (SEMCOG, 2006). This may result in the need to re-order programming locations and refocusing new capital investment.
- Community-wide aging of the population may result in new and expanded programming needs to serve those age groups.
- Anticipated trends towards a more educated populace, reliance on a knowledge-based economy, and “nomadic” workers (and their families) that move from job-

to-job with greater frequently combine to demand high quality, sophisticated and readily marketable services. Uniqueness will catch their eye and contribute to a sense of community, while familiarity with the good programming and facilities they have experienced in previous locations will add a sense of comfort. Outreach must become more frequent due to the changing make-up of the residents and rely on a variety of approaches.

- Continued caution over governmental revenue sources will force greater reliance on active grant seeking, fund raising and partnerships. This effort must combine with cost management techniques that stress frequent review of staffing levels and types, greater use of volunteers, a preference for equipment maintenance over replacement, and taking advantage of joint purchasing programs where feasible and available.
- Technological change will provide new opportunities for customer use and input, such as program registration, program monitoring, and consumer preference/opinion surveying. Also, it improves analysis to show parks and recreation program accessibility and geographic monitoring of program preferences, which allow more efficient provision of services and targeted marketing of programming. (See the Park Accessibility Analysis Map for an example of a more analytic, rather than generalized market area approach to service available, which points out the known need for park space in the community's northeast and a more subtle recognition of a corridor of poor accessibility in the west central portions of the community, show in orange and red coloring.)
- Recognition that the Northville community demands different programming than that recognized by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines, which were based on an National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) report more than 20 year old. Local multipliers (a ratio of facilities or programs per 1,000 residents or some other meaningful measure), combined with frequent review of resident priorities, will help assure that Northville Parks and Recreation continues to be a highly regarded, meaningful and responsive community service. A preliminary assessment of local multipliers is offered.

Organization Needs

The Parks and Recreation department consists of full-time and part-time staff, as well as volunteers, who provide the programming and maintain the facilities demanded by the community. Good management strategies will help to make sure this relationship remains responsive, cost efficient, and productive.

- An annual assessment of organization structure and staffing already occurs as part of the budgeting process. At a minimum, every five years in conjunction with the Master Plan update, a full evaluation of the organization should occur. The 5-year comprehensive evaluation will detail existing staffing and their core competencies, and compare them with the identified immediate and future needs of the community.
- Organizational assessments will grow increasingly performance based, with targets set according to community trends, needs and desires. The targets will be organization-wide. Individual employees will have their own performance measures, with targets based on the larger organizational goals. Performance measures will be initially defined based on regional and national best practices, seeking out compatible organizational systems, and refined as needed to best fit the community good.

Northville Facilities Service Analysis and Multipliers

The MDNR has adopted the NRPA guidelines as minimum standards for park planning. The analysis in Section Three concludes that these standards, based on 20-year-old guidelines, should be cautiously applied. Nevertheless, the parks and facilities maintained by the Northville Parks and Recreation Department generally satisfy the MDNR standards. Is this adequate for Northville?

A more detailed analysis was performed of Northville's parks and facilities, separate from the simple goal of meeting MDNR standards. The goal was to develop a set of guidelines that reflect modern interests and community-wide goals.

New guidelines were developed based on NRPA guidelines, citizen input, professional judgment, and spatial analysis. In most cases, this recalibration of the guidelines has resulted in stricter standards than those adopted by MDNR.

Public comment indicates that additional small mini or neighborhood parks are desired, as well as additional larger community parks. While Northville exceeds the park acreages required by MDNR for each park category, it is possible to better meet public park demand by adjusting the method for calculating how the provision of Northville's parks relate to the NRPA guidelines.

Spatial analysis of the relationship between parcels in the Township and parks indicates that there are several pockets of residents that appear to be poorly served by parklands relative to their fellow citizens. The analysis calculates a minimum distance from each parcel's geographic center to the closest park boundary and excludes parcels in the City due to data limitations. A map of the analysis results shows residents in the northeast corner of the Township and along a ribbon that runs east-west on the west side of the Township between 6 and 7 Mile Roads (see Parks Accessibility Analysis Map) are farthest from community parks. These pockets with poorest park access may be prompting some of the park deficiency reported by several residents. Recommendations for adjustments can be found in the comments column.

Table D-1 Park Land Analysis Results			
Park Classifications	MDNR Standard	Northville Guideline	Comments
Mini/Neighborhood Parks	1.25 to 2.5 per 1,000 residents	2 to 2.5 per 1,000 residents	Consider reducing acreage contributed by schools ⁱ and providing additional parklands in underserved areas, where possible.
Community Parks	5 to 8 per 1,000 residents	5 to 8 per 1,000 residents	Consider reducing acreages contributed by schools ⁱ and conservation areas ⁱⁱ .
Regional Parks	5 to 10 per 1,000 residents	NA	Maybury State Park and Hines Park satisfy all regional park needs for the community.
Source: LSL Planning			

Park Facility Analysis

Table E-2 indicates the MDNR standards based on the NRPA guidelines and the adjusted Northville custom guidelines for park facilities. The comments column provides some background on how new guideline figures were determined. Public comments and MDNR standards indicate that several types of park facilities are insufficiently provided, including swimming pools and tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts. As with parklands, adjusting the method for calculating park facility needs could enable the Parks and Recreation Department to better meet public demand for park facilities.

Table D-2
Park Facility Analysis Results

Park Facility	MDNR Standard	Northville Guideline	Comments
Tennis	1 per 2,000 residents	1 per 2,000 residents	Tennis courts are concentrated at a few parks and schools that are centrally located in the community. Better spatial distribution of courts is recommended ⁱⁱⁱ .
Playground	1 per 3,000 residents	1 per 2,000 residents	Current provision appears appropriate. Better spatial distribution of playgrounds may be warranted
Baseball/Softball	1 per 5,000 residents	1 per 1,000 residents	Limited additional demand indicated, reflected in new figure.
Basketball	1 per 5,000 residents	1 per 1,000 residents	Consider replacing some individual hoops with full courts.
Volleyball	1 per 5,000 residents	1 per 5,000 residents	Volleyball courts are located at the far northern and eastern reaches of the community. Better spatial distribution of courts is recommended ^{iv} .
Soccer	1 per 10,000 residents	1 per 2,000 residents	Current provision is appropriate.
Football	1 per 20,000 residents	1 per 20,000 residents	Current provision is appropriate.
Running Track	1 per 20,000 residents	1 per 15,000 residents	Current provision is appropriate
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000 residents	1 per 20,000 residents	Significant additional demand could be met if high school pool opened to public. Otherwise, consider cooperating/ coordinating with adjacent communities.
Golf Course – 9 Hole	1 per 25,000 residents	1 per 25,000 residents	Private golf courses satisfy current demand.
Golf Course – 18 Hole	1 per 50,000 residents	1 per 50,000 residents	Private golf courses satisfy current demand. Current population well below 50,000.
Ice Rink	1 per 50,000 residents	1 per 50,000 residents	Current population well below 50,000. Consider a partnership with neighboring communities.
Tennis	1 per 2,000 residents	1 per 2,000 residents	Tennis courts are concentrated at a few parks and schools that are centrally located in the community. Better spatial distribution of courts is recommended ^v .
Playground	1 per 3,000 residents	1 per 2,000 residents	Current provision appears appropriate. Better spatial distribution of playgrounds may be warranted
Source: LSL Planning			

Next Steps

Further spatial analysis could provide additional and more detailed information about how the Northville Parks and Recreation Department can better serve its users. A comprehensive study could include parcels in the City, greatly adding to the total picture of park provision. Individual analyses of how each facility type is distributed throughout the community would help identify geographic regions that are underserved by certain facilities and allow for additional quantitative measures of service. It is recommended that the community take the steps necessary to pursue such analyses.

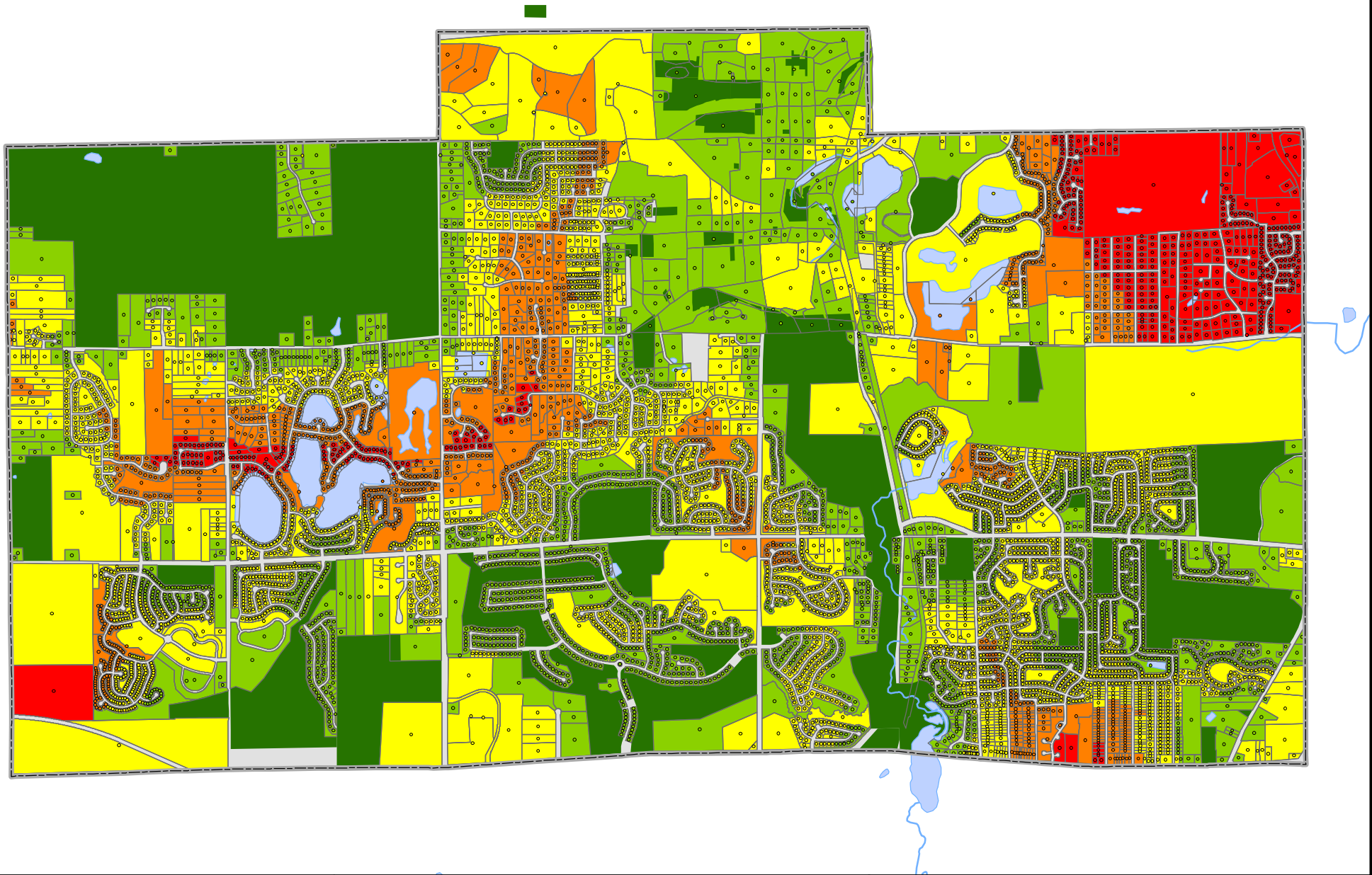
ⁱ Schools provide limited hours and access to the general public and do not serve primarily park and recreation functions. Nationally recognized sources suggest that school sites satisfy only some of the recommended park space. Currently, school sites comprise approximately 91% of recommended mini/neighborhood park acreage and 31% of recommended community park acreage. Additionally, the total acreage of school sites is currently included in the park land analysis, while a large portion of the site is dedicated to educational and not recreational functions. To better reflect the demand for mini/neighborhood parks evident in the public participation process, the Parks and Recreation Department should consider reducing the contribution of school acreages when calculating park land needs. Further analysis could determine the proper proportion of Northville school sites that should typically be attributed to recreational functions.

ⁱⁱ Areas where the primary purpose is protection of the natural or cultural resources and other areas where recreational uses are secondary objectives are generally not included in the calculation of recommended park acreages, according to nationally recognized sources. For the purposes of the analysis in Section Three, the Coldwater Springs natural area, which comprises approximately 126 acres, was not included in the park acreages because it is still considered undeveloped. The Northville Parks and Recreation Department should consider continuing to exclude the Coldwater Springs natural area from satisfying parkland needs in the future.

ⁱⁱⁱ The service area of a tennis court is relatively small since each is meant to serve a population of approximately 2,000 residents. The high concentration of tennis courts at three park and school sites in Northville means that some areas are overserved and others underserved. This results in a public perception of facility deficiency, despite the community satisfying the MDNR standard.

^{iv} The service area of a volleyball court is somewhat larger, but still serves a relatively small population of approximately 5,000 residents. The location of Northville's volleyball courts at the far northern and eastern reaches of the community means that some areas are well-served and others are underserved. This exacerbates the deficiency of volleyball courts indicated by the MDNR standard.

^v The service area of a tennis court is relatively small since each is meant to serve a population of approximately 2,000 residents. The high concentration of tennis courts at three park and school sites in Northville means that some areas are overserved and others underserved. This results in a public perception of facility deficiency, despite the community satisfying the MDNR standard.



Park Accessibility Analysis

Northville Parks and Recreation
27 November 2006



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Note: Distances were calculated from the centroid of each township parcel or city block to the nearest park boundary.



LSL Planning, Inc.
Community Planning Consultants

Legend

Distance to Parks

- Closer than average
- Average

- Farther than average
- Significantly farther than average
- Park locations

APPENDIX E

Funding Sources

The scope of recreation improvements proposed for the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan can be financed through a combination of resources. Aside from the general fund managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, these potential sources are described below.

Special Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades. A millage is an effective method to divide costs over time among all the taxpayers in the community to provide matching grant funds or finance projects out-right. A millage allows more flexibility in how the money is used than a bond.

User Fees

Northville should investigate charging reasonable fees to participants of recreation programs. Every year Northville should evaluate the fees to ensure they are providing the appropriate amount of funding to allow the programs to continue.

Recreation Bond

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects, such as park improvements and park land acquisition, and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

MNRTF provides funding assistance for the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, and the development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. The improvement grants are between \$15,000 and \$500,000 with a required minimum local match of 25%. Acquisition grants vary depending upon the value of property and local match amount; therefore there is not a minimum or maximum amount. This grant is ideal for implementing community park plans and for land acquisition in the future. Applications are due in April and September of each year for acquisition projects and April of each year for development projects.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Projects eligible for CDBG funding must be in a low-moderate income service area and/or provide access to the disabled in order to qualify. Investments using CDBG funds must provide a documented benefit to low-moderate income households. Projects eligible for funding include public infrastructure improvements and those that provide ADA accessibility.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. The minimum award is \$15,000 and the maximum of \$500,000 with a 50% local match. The eligibility criterion emphasizes preservation of natural resources such as waterways. This grant is ideal for implementing community park plans and for land acquisition in the future. Applications are due in April.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

TEA-21 provides funding for numerous types of projects that support the enhancement of transportation facilities and promote safe and efficient multi-modal transportation methods. This is a reimbursement program that originally comes from the federal level and is administered by Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Under this program, Northville is eligible to apply for funding to implement non-motorized pathway priorities and some enhancement projects related to transportation. A minimum 20% local match is required for proposed projects.

Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants

Through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, there are three tree planting grant programs that will assist in funding landscape enhancements at the parks and re-forestation projects. Applicants must provide at least 50% of the total project cost.

Cooperative Resources Management Initiative. This program supports tree planting programs that improve tree species diversity, age/class diversity, reduce current and long-term maintenance costs, increase awareness, education and technical knowledge of trees and natural resources, provide wildlife habitat, improve aesthetics, encourage community/volunteer participation, increase water and air quality, and expand/improve tree cover throughout communities. Eligible projects are separated into three types: Community tree planting projects (\$10,000 maximum), projects organized by a non-profit or non-governmental agency on public land (\$5,000 maximum), and outdoor classroom/education sites (\$5,000 maximum). Applications are due in November of each year (with a possible second round in March).

Urban Community Forestry Program- Arbor Day Mini-Grants. This mini-grant program is designed to provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forest activities related to Arbor Day. Applications are due in July with maximum grant requests of \$20,000.

Urban Community Forestry Program. This program provides the same services as above plus management plans, inventories and maintenance activities. These activities do not have to be related to Arbor Day. Applications are due in July with maximum grant requests of \$20,000.

Arbor Day Foundation

Becoming a member of the Arbor Day Foundation will provide Northville with additional resources related to tree planting and maintenance. Northville should investigate becoming a designated Tree-City USA, which provides additional advantages towards park enhancement projects.

Detroit Edison Tree Planting

The Detroit Edison Tree Planting program is conducted in partnership with the MDNR to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50- 50 local match. Applications are due in February.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique can also be used to preserve open space if it is not feasible or practical for Northville to acquire the land. Rather than obtaining fee simple, or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an 'easement' to the property.

Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships

Reduced funding at the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

RESOLUTION 2007-42

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Northville, held on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northville Township Hall, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS: Community residents were invited to participate in a public workshop held at Township Hall on September 26, 2006 to provide public input on community recreation needs; and,

WHEREAS: A public hearing was held on February 14 2007 to receive input on the proposed Community Recreation Master Plan; and,

WHEREAS: The Northville Parks and Recreation Commission adopted the Recreational Master Plan at their meeting on February 14, 2007; and,

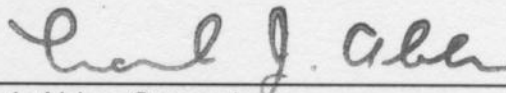
WHEREAS: The Recreation Master Plan has been submitted to the Northville Township Board of Trustees for their approval; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Upon a motion by Treasurer Henningsen and a second by Clerk Hillebrand that the Northville Township Board of Trustees does hereby adopt the Community Recreation Master Plan document for years 2007-2012.

AYES: Abbo, Hillebrand, Henningsen, Banner, Roosen, Werner
NAYS: Gans
ABSENT: None

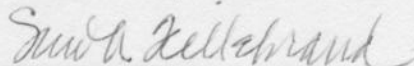
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED:

I, Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk of the Charter Township of Northville, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting held on March 15, 2007 at 44405 Six Mile Road.



Mark Abbo, Supervisor

Attest:



Sue A. Hillebrand, CMC, Township Clerk



**CITY OF NORTHVILLE
RESOLUTION**

#07-07

ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2007-2012

Upon a motion made by Fecht, seconded by Allen, the following Resolution was adopted on this day of March 19, 2007:

WHEREAS, Community residents were invited to participate in a public workshop held at Northville Township Hall on September 26, 2006 to provide input on community recreation needs; and

WHEREAS, A public hearing was held on February 14, 2007 to receive input on the proposed Community Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Northville Parks and Recreation Commission adopted the Recreation Master Plan at their meeting on February 14, 2007; and

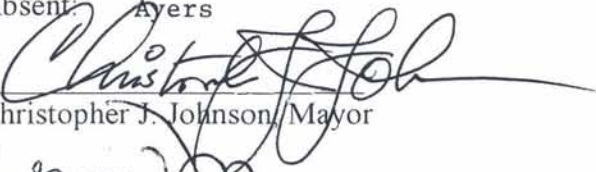
WHEREAS, The Northville Township Board of Trustees adopted the Recreation Master Plan at their meeting on March 15, 2007.

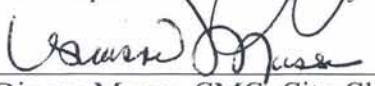
BE IT RESOLVED That the Northville City Council does hereby adopt the Northville Community Recreation Master Plan document for years 2007-2012.

Ayes: Fecht, Allen, Swigart, Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Ayers


Christopher J. Johnson, Mayor


Dianne Massa, CMC, City Clerk



LSL Planning, Inc.

306 S. Washington Ave. Ste. 301 Royal Oak, Michigan 48067 248.586.0505 Fax 248.586.0501 www.LSLplanning.com

From A.R. Hurd and D.M. Anderson, 2011, *The park and recreation professional's handbook* (Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics).
Courtesy of Northville Parks & Recreation.