



DRAFT

2024-2028

Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Including the Charter Township of Northville and the City of Northville

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Acknowledgments

Community Members of Northville

Thank you for all of your energy, enthusiasm, and wonderful ideas. Without your participation this plan would not have worked to serve your needs. It is for your sake that this plan exists. Thank you for your involvement!

Administration

*Todd Mutchler, Township Manager
George Lahanas, City Manager
Derek Smith, Parks and Recreation Director*

Parks and Recreation Commission

Township Members

*Supervisor Mark Abbo
Trustee Mindy Herrmann
Trustee Scott Frush*

City Members

*Mayor Brian Turnbull
Mayor Pro-Tem Barbara Moroski-Browne*

School Board Member

James Mazurek

Parks and Recreation Staff

*Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
Nathan Reilly, Parks & Facilities Superintendent*

Planning Consultants



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Section 1

1 - Executive Summary

Mission Statement

The Northville Parks and Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing quality recreation experiences that encourage healthy lifestyles, enhance social and community development and cultivate lifelong enrichment opportunities for all ages on a year-round basis, while striving to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Introduction

Parks and recreation play a crucial role in the overall well-being and quality of life for residents and visitors. Parks serve as gathering places, where families and friends can come together to enjoy recreational activities, connect with nature, and create lasting memories. These spaces contribute to the social, economic, and environmental vitality of our Township and City.

This plan will outline the vision of transforming the Township and City parks and recreation facilities into vibrant, accessible, and sustainable spaces. In this plan our goal is to create an environment that fosters community engagement, promotes active lifestyles, and celebrates the beauty of our surroundings.

The Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan represents a collective commitment to create exceptional spaces that inspire and engage our community. Northville prioritizes community input, preserving and enhancing our parkland, fostering accessibility and inclusivity, expanding programming opportunities, and sustainability. The plan will help set a path forward for our Parks and Recreation department. The Shared Service Department is established under an agreement between the Township of Northville and City of Northville and is divided into four divisions; Administration, Recreation, Senior Services, and Parks and Facilities.

Administration

The Northville Parks and Recreation Commission consists of six members made up of three elected officials from Northville Township, two officials from the City of Northville, and one member of the Northville Public Schools Board of Education. The Northville Parks and Recreation Department manages and administers all parks, recreation and senior service operations, including strategic direction, policy development and resource identification.

Recreation

By providing a variety of programs for all ages, year-round, the Recreation Department strives to meet the leisure needs of the community. The Department supports the goal of creating community by promoting healthy lifestyles, personal development, family and cultural unity supports our goal of creating community. The tournaments, events and activities offered help support economic development and promote social connections.

Senior Services

The Senior Services Division coordinates a variety of programs, activities and services for older adult citizens. These activities are designed to improve participants' quality of life through social connections, enrichment programs, and by promoting active, healthy lifestyles and lifelong learning. The Senior Services also provides curb-to-curb transportation service for area medical appointments and local trips.

Parks and Facilities

Our Parks System offers a variety of neighborhood and community parks, pathways, and recreation facilities. Outdoor amenities include soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, lacrosse fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, picnic pavilions, dog parks and multi-modal trails/pathways. Two indoor facilities offer courts for basketball, volleyball, pickleball and badminton, as well as mini-gyms which are set-up for fitness and dance classes, preschool and youth activities and various athletic activities. Additionally, there are several meeting/activity rooms and a banquet room for programming and rentals.

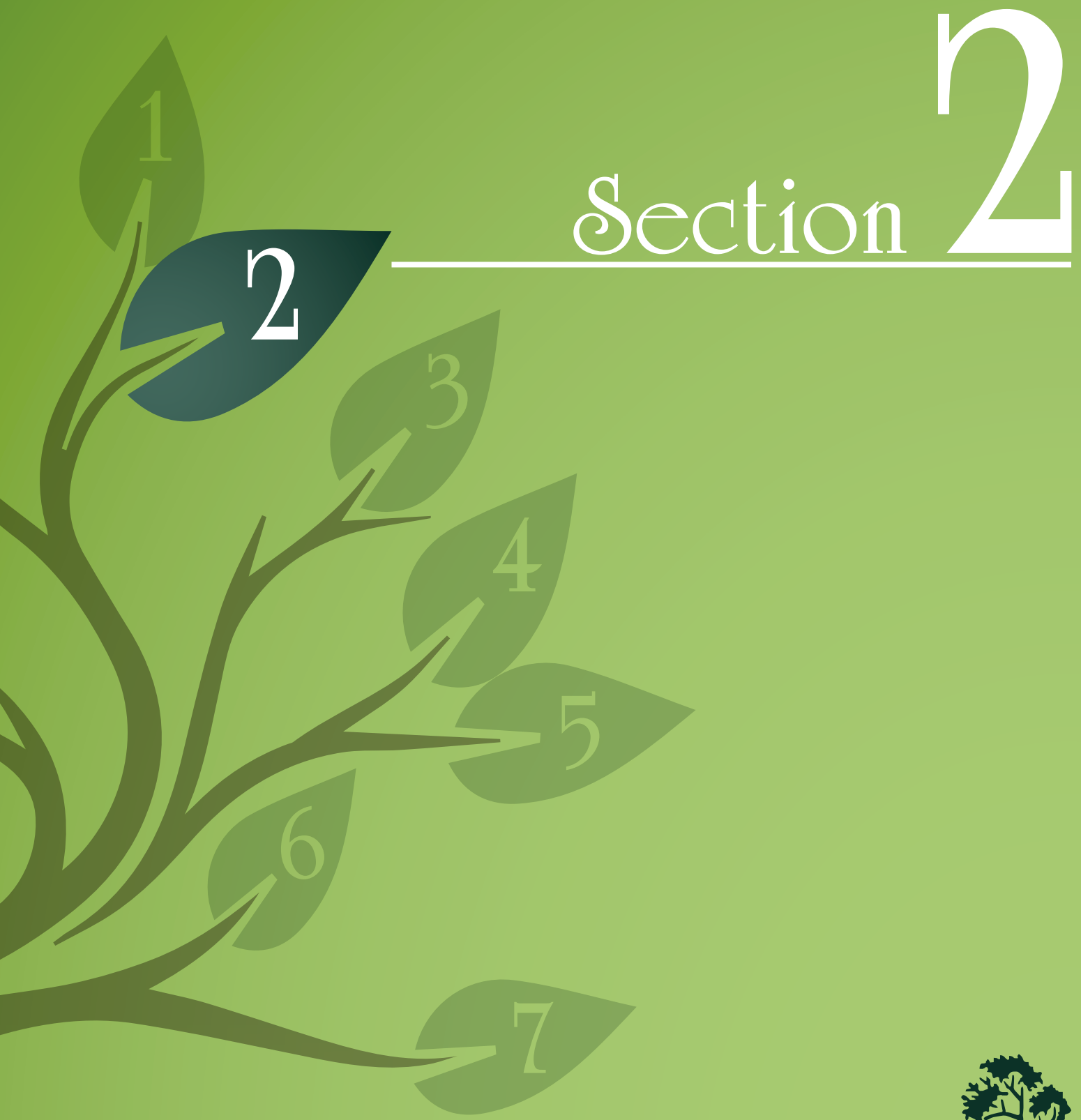
Purpose

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires an approved recreation plan in order to be considered for grant funding. The plan continues to be evaluated every 5-years to stay relevant to the goals and objectives of the community. This allows the community to adjust to the needs and assesses the current conditions and assets within the department.

Scope

The Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan inventories the amenities at the Northville parks and recreation facilities as well as existing recreation facilities and programs in the surrounding area. With this information, the needs for parks, supporting facilities, trailway/greenway systems, and recreation programs are analyzed for the next five years. The recommendations in this plan are provided through analysis of demographic projections, land-use trends, natural features inventory, citizen input, past and future recreational trends, state and federal grant funding requirements and potential land acquisition opportunities.

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Section 2

2 - Community Description

Plan Jurisdiction

Overview

This Community Recreation Plan covers the jurisdiction controlled by the City of Northville and Northville Charter Township. Northville is a suburb of Metro Detroit and is located about 15 miles west of the city of Detroit and 17 miles northeast of Ann Arbor. The City of Northville encompasses approximately 2.06 square miles straddling the border of Wayne and Oakland Counties. Northville Charter Township encompasses approximately 16.57 square miles in the northwestern portion of Wayne County. The predominant land use in Northville is residential, typically single-family homes.

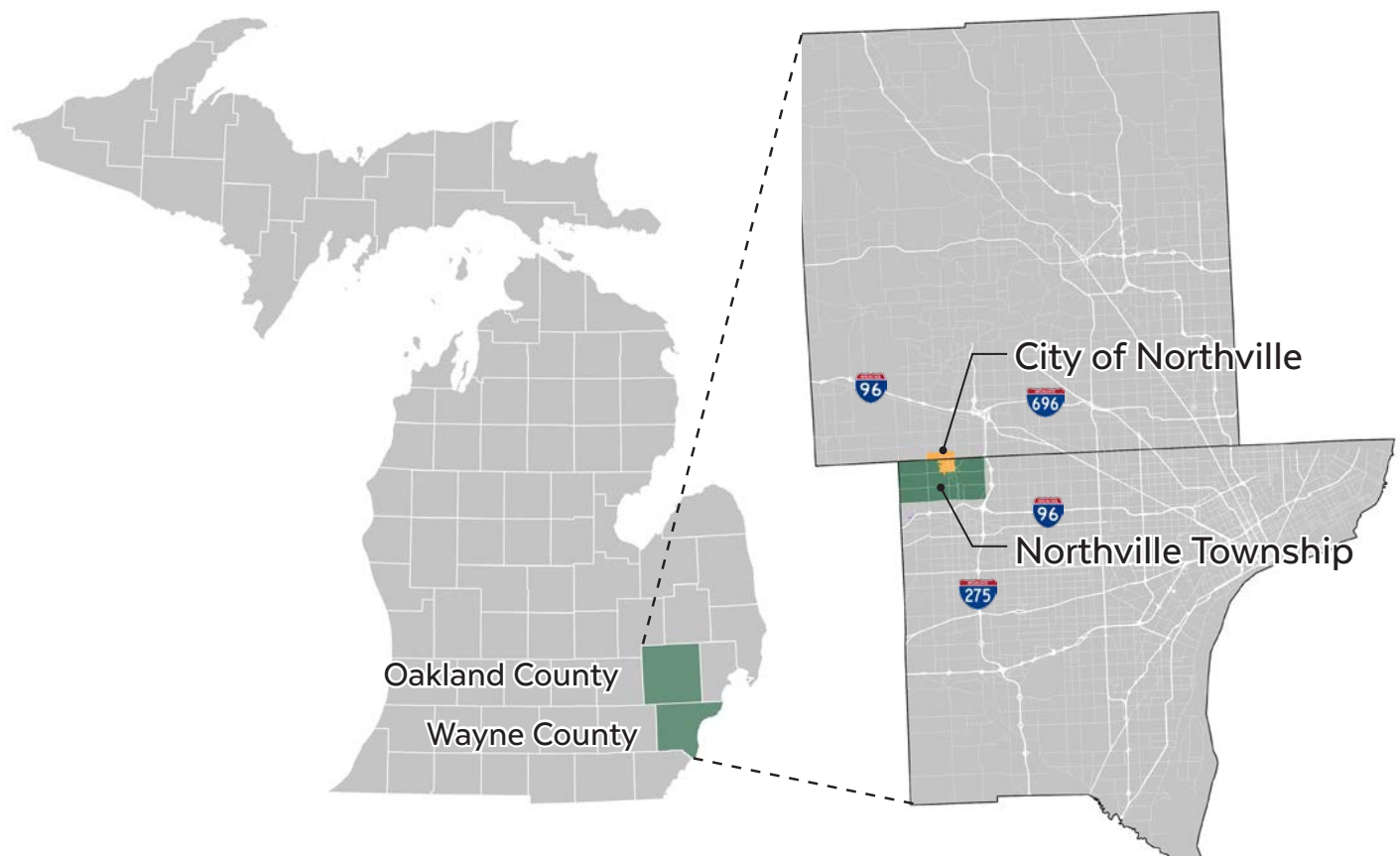


Figure: Township Location Map

Regional Setting

The City of Northville was established as a community in 1827 and as a city in 1955. The City was originally one of two communities within Plymouth Township. In 1898, Northville Township split off to form a separate township and then became a charter township in 1985. The Northville Parks and Recreation department was formed to share park and recreational resources for the benefit of residents of both communities.

Northville Township and the City of Northville are located in the northwest corner of Wayne County and part of the city is in the southwest portion of Oakland County. The Northville community (i.e., Northville Township and The City of Northville) is approximately 15 miles west of Detroit and 18 miles northeast of Ann Arbor. Located just north of M-14 and west of I-275, Northville shares borders with the following communities: Livonia to the east, Novi to the north, Plymouth Township to the south, and Salem Township to the west. In its 18.8 total square mile area (16.6 square miles in the township and 2.2 square miles in the city), Northville has accessible transportation networks along Five, Six, Seven, and Eight Mile Roads, all of which intersect highway I-275.

The City of Northville is characterized by its attractive green spaces, small lakes, and tree canopies. The neighborhoods are walkable to the downtown and have numerous access points to parks and along city roads, sidewalks, and trails. For example, a marked path guides bicyclists from downtown Northville to Maybury State Park and to trails on Hines Park. Although development has increased in the last decades, the Township's rural and farming heritage is still evident today as wooded areas and open space have been preserved. The Township is working today on pathways to connect residential developments throughout the community.



Image: Downtown Northville

Social Characteristics

Population

In 2020, the U.S. Census documented that the population of the City of Northville was 6,119 and Northville Township was 31,758, therefore the total population served by Northville Parks and Recreation is 37,877 people. Note that in the City of Northville, 3,326 residents are in Oakland County and 2,793 residents are in Wayne County.

As of July 1, 2022, the Northville/Northville Township community has grown to 38,040 people; which represents a gain of 309 residents in the Township and a loss of 146 residents in the City since 2020. Overall, this growth is more favorable than trends in the state and county. Between 2020 and 2022, Michigan's population decreased by about 43,000 people, and in Wayne County, the population decreased by 16,000 people, as deaths out-paced births and many moved out of state. However, despite this population trend, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) projects overall population growth in the following decades and anticipates that the Northville/Northville Township Community will be home to 42,007 people by 2050 which represents a population growth of approximately 10%. This projected growth estimate was conducted by SEMCOG in 2022 based on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Population and Household Estimates between the years 2017 and 2021.

The tables below show the population in the City of Northville, Northville Township, and the combined Northville/Northville Township area served by the Northville Parks and Recreation Department.

Chart of Population Change 2010-2020

Community	U.S. Census 2010	U.S. Census 2020	# Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	SEMCOG 2050 Projection
Northville City & Township	34,467	37,877	+3,410	9.9%	42,007
Northville Township	28,497	31,758	+3,261	11.4%	34,235
City of Northville (Wayne)	2,739	2,793	+54	1.9%	4,088
City of Northville (Oakland)	3,231	3,326	+95	2.9%	3,684

Chart of Population Change 2020-2022

Community	U.S. Census April 1, 2020	U.S. Census Estimate July 1, 2022	# Change 2020-2022	% Change 2020-2022
Northville City & Township	37,877	38,040	+163	+0.4%
Northville Township	31,758	32,067	+309	+1.0%
City of Northville (Wayne)	2,793	2,730	-63	-2.3%
City of Northville (Oakland)	3,326	3,243	-83	-2.5%

Age Structure

The largest age cohort in the population of the Northville/Northville Township community has increased in age over the last decade, particularly in the City of Northville. The age of residents of the community is closely distributed between school age, family foundation, middle age, and senior lifestyle groups, however the median age has shifted from what is considered family foundation at 42.4 and 45.3 in the Township and City respectively to middle age at 44.9 and 50.4 respectively. The highest percentage of residents overall today are middle age, between the ages of 45 and 64 years old.

School-age children comprise about 25% of the population, as consistent with surrounding communities and the County. 2020 U.S. Census data shows that 22.8% of Northville area residents are under 18 years old (23.5% in Northville Township and 19.5% in the City of Northville). This is about the same as the percentage in Wayne County (23.7%) and the State of Michigan overall (21.7%). Adjacent communities, Plymouth and Livonia share similar percentages of population under 18 years as well (18.1%).

As anticipated, people between the ages of 18 and 64 years old make up 56.2% in the area (56.6% in the Township and 65.1% in the City) of the population. Those 65 and over follow at 20.3% in the area (18.6% in the Township and 11.4% in the City).

As the birth rate decreases and the Baby Boom generation ages nationally, SEMCOG estimates that the percentage of the population under age 24 will continue to decrease and the population over age 65 will continue to increase until 2050 in Southeast Michigan. As illustrated on the table below, if all are living, up to 30% of the population of the Northville community will be seniors in the next twenty years.

Chart of Age Demographics

Age Group	Northville/Northville Township	Northville Township % of Total Population	City of Northville % of Total Population	Lifestyle Categories
Under 5 years	4.3%	4.0%	5.6%	School Age 25%
5-9 years	6.2%	6.4%	5.4%	
10-14 years	7.7%	7.9%	6.9%	
15-19 years	6.4%	6.6%	5.2%	
20-24 years	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	Family Foundation 26%
25-29 years	4.9%	5.0%	4.5%	
30-34 years	4.4%	4.2%	5.6%	
35-39 years	5.7%	5.7%	5.5%	
40-44 years	7.9%	8.4%	5.4%	Middle Age 30%
45-49 years	7.6%	8.0%	10.0%	
50- 54 years	6.8%	6.9%	6.1%	
55-59 years	7.9%	7.7%	8.9%	
60-64 years	8.0%	7.7%	9.3%	

Chart of Age Demographics (Continued)

Age Group	Northville/Northville Township	Northville Township % of Total Population	City of Northville % of Total Population	Lifestyle Categories
65-69 years	6.4%	6.3%	6.9%	Seniors 19%
70-74 years	4.1%	4.2%	3.8%	
75-79 years	3.3%	3.5%	2.3%	
80-84 years	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	
85 years and older	2.1%	1.9%	2.9%	

Source: U.S. Census

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2010, the median age in the Northville/Northville Township area was 43.9 and by 2020 it is 47.7%. In the City of Northville, the median age was 45.3 years old and in 2020, it is 50.4, up from the previous decade. In the Township, it was 42.4 and is 44.9 as of 2022. This is not surprising, given the increasing median age that occurred in Wayne and Oakland Counties, and Michigan overall, however the increase in the City of Northville is significantly higher. This data strongly suggests that residents in the city are aging in place, which may shift the demands on the parks and recreation system, creating a greater need for accessibility and other features for the senior/elderly population.

Median Age by Community

Community	2010 Median Age	2020 Median Age
Northville Township	42.4	44.9
City of Northville	45.3	50.4
City of Novi	38.7	39.2
Wayne County	36.5	37.9
Oakland County	39.5	41.0
State of Michigan	38.1	39.8

Source: U.S. Census

Race Demographics

The Northville/Northville Township area is less racially diverse than Wayne and Oakland Counties, and Michigan overall by percentage. The black population makes up a significantly lower percentage of the Northville population than that of Wayne and Oakland Counties, and the State overall. However some minority populations have increased since 2010. The community is 85.6% white and about 21.4% Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), including those that identify as two or more races/ethnicities. Since 2010, the Asian and Hispanic populations have grown slightly in Northville Township. In 2010, the Asian and Hispanic populations were at 11.2% and 2.4% in the Northville area. As of 2020, the Asian and Hispanic community make up around 13.9% and 3.2%. In Southeast Michigan, the Asian and Hispanic populations are growing at a similar rate.

Chart of Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2022

Race/Ethnicity	Northville / Northville Township	Northville Township	City of Northville	Wayne County	Oakland County	Michigan
White	85.6%	83.2%	98.2%	49.1%	68.8%	74.0%
Black	1.1%	1.3%	0.0%	37.6%	12.8%	13.4%
Native	0.6%	0.5%	1.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
Asian	13.9%	16.2%	2.2%	3.4%	7.9%	3.2%
Islander	0.5%	0.0%	3.2%	0%	0%	0%
Other	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
Two or more	2.5%	3.0%	0.0%	3.1%	5.1%	3.3%
Hispanic	3.2%	3.6%	1.0%	6.2%	4.7%	5.4%

Source: U.S. Census

Sources:

- <https://semcog.org/community-profiles>
- Population and Household Estimates for Southeast Michigan, Dec 2022: https://semcog.org/desktopmodules/SEMCOG_Publications/GetFile.ashx?filename=Population_and_household_estimates_July2022.pdf
- U.S. Census Bureau
- SEMCOG
- <https://maps.semcog.org/bikepednetwork/?entry=2>

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Section 3



3 - Administrative Structure

Township and City Staff

The Charter Township of Northville staff includes the following officials:

Elected Officials:

Supervisor: Mark Abbo
Clerk: Cynthia Jankowski
Treasurer: Jason Rhines
Trustee: Roger Lundberg
Trustee: Scott Frush
Trustee: Mindy Herrmann
Trustee: Chris Roosen

Administration:

Township Manager: Todd Mutchler

The City of Northville staff includes the following officials:

Elected Officials

Mayor: Brian Turnbull
Mayor Pro-Tem: Barbara Moroski-Browne
Council Member: Laura Genitti
Council Member: Andrew Krenz
Council Member: John Carter

Administration:

City Manager: George Lahanas

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission includes the following individuals:

Township Members

Supervisor: Mark Abbo
Trustee: Mindy Herrmann
Trustee: Scott Frush

City Members

Mayor: Brian Turnbull
Mayor: Pro-Tem Barbara Moroski-Browne

School Board Member

James Mazurek

Organization Chart

Parks & Recreation Administration

The chart below outlines the administrative structure of Northville Parks & Recreation Department.



Figure: Parks & Recreation Organizational Chart

Parks & Recreation Funding

The City of Northville and Northville Township have shared recreation services since the 1970's, while the Senior Services and Youth Network programs were added in the 80's. The Shared Service Agreement covers all operating costs for programs, services, parks and facilities maintenance, and vehicle/equipment purchases. Park Capital Improvement projects are covered by each respective municipality, depending on the location of the park. Facility Capital Improvements are covered through the Shared Service agreement.

The Northville Parks and Recreation Commission accounts for its various activities in one fund separated into the main activity areas: Recreation, Senior Services, Parks and Facilities, and Administration. External athletic associations are accounted for within the Parks and Facilities activity area.

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department is funded by numerous sources. Approximately 50% of the budget is generated through recreation program and senior program fees, contributions from external athletic programs such as the Northville Baseball-Softball Association and the Northville Soccer Association, facility and park rentals and miscellaneous revenue including grants, donations and sponsorships.

The remaining 50% of the department's revenue is comprised of contributions from the City of Northville and Northville Township. The amount of these contributions is determined by a cost sharing formula outlined in the Shared Service Agreement. When using the 2021 tax rate information, the Township was responsible for 84% of the Shared Service amount and the City was responsible for 16%.

Northville Public Schools (NPS) has been a valued community partner in Northville parks and Recreation from the beginning of the Shared Service agreement. NPS provides use of the Northville Community Center (NCC) through a long term lease agreement, which includes the two adjacent parking lots. Parks and Recreation covers utility costs at the NCC along with maintenance of the building and parking lots. The Northville District library was recently added to the lease for the parking lots and now shares in the maintenance agreement. NPS also provides the use and maintenance of the Recreation Center at Hillside (RCH) through a rental agreement. These two facilities, as well as some other school facility rentals, accommodate the large majority of the indoor recreation program and services that the department provides.

The operating budget of the Northville Parks and Recreation Department is adopted annually by the Parks and recreation Commission for the fiscal year which runs January 1st to December 31st.

Northville Parks & Recreation Budget

DESCRIPTION	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023
	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Estimated	Budget
Township Contribution	1,011,230	\$ 1,011,228	1,011,228	1,042,539
City Contribution	193,480	193,481	193,481	195,300
Contributions	1,204,710	1,204,709	1,204,709	1,237,839
Northville Baseball/Softball Association	50,597	55,000	53,130	55,000
Northville Soccer Association	135,616	132,000	135,000	132,000
External Athletic Associations	186,213	187,000	188,130	187,000
Recreation Programs	439,270	617,000	643,450	635,440
Senior Programs & Transportation	116,143	105,736	106,050	120,450
Facility Rentals	110,044	210,000	173,000	181,000
Park Rentals & User Fees	45,350	31,000	38,500	34,000
Donations & Sponsorships	38,461	17,080	24,590	20,330
Federal Grants	-	-	20,000	-
Interest on Investments	99	-	17,000	-
Miscellaneous Income	118	2,000	8,841	-
Total revenues	\$ 2,140,408	\$ 2,374,525	\$ 2,424,270	\$ 2,416,059
APPROPRIATION SUMMARY				
DESCRIPTION	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022	Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023
	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Estimated	Budget
ADMINISTRATION				
Personnel Services	\$ 131,750	\$ 149,057	\$ 250,433	\$ 217,318
Supplies	697	4,000	2,025	2,500
Other Services and Charges	62,830	78,875	65,445	202,742
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
	\$ 195,277	\$ 231,932	\$ 317,903	\$ 422,560
RECREATION				
Personnel Services	\$ 212,753	\$ 274,237	\$ 271,377	\$ 347,084
Supplies	245	13,450	1,750	3,250
Other Services and Charges	7,309	43,100	22,781	26,765
Recreation Programs	301,669	453,000	458,370	483,700
Capital Outlay	8,449	18,600	19,311	9,500
	\$ 530,425	\$ 802,387	\$ 773,589	\$ 870,299
SENIOR SERVICES				
Personnel Services	\$ 87,242	\$ 94,315	\$ 67,503	\$ 107,236
Supplies	726	2,200	1,500	3,800
Other Services and Charges	1,524	13,200	18,650	26,750
Senior Programs, Events & Transportation	80,743	148,370	111,500	171,550
Capital Outlay	1,394	20,000	20,000	-
	\$ 171,629	\$ 278,085	\$ 219,153	\$ 309,336
PARKS & FACILITIES				
Personnel Services	\$ 281,907	\$ 457,869	\$ 455,165	\$ 605,256
Supplies	52,273	60,000	66,000	66,500
Other Services and Charges	299,187	419,800	314,706	380,835
Capital Outlay	42,535	138,000	119,189	128,000
Allocated Expenses to external athletic associations	(144,771)	(150,000)	(121,750)	(123,250)
Northville Baseball/Softball Association	75,845	93,241	106,088	100,664
Northville Soccer Association	131,094	140,741	165,367	162,573
Debt Service	13,822	-	-	-
	\$ 751,892	\$ 1,159,651	\$ 1,104,765	\$ 1,320,578
Total expenditures	\$ 1,649,223	\$ 2,472,055	\$ 2,415,410	\$ 2,922,773
Excess of revenue over/(under) expenditures	\$ 491,185	\$ (97,530)	\$ 8,860	\$ (506,714)

PARKS, RECREATION AND SENIOR SERVICES FUND - Fund Balance				
DESCRIPTION	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Estimated 2022	Budget 2023
Fund balance, unassigned beginning	\$ 2,018,561	\$ 2,563,287	\$ 2,563,287	\$ 2,606,373
Nonspendable	9,846	36	36	-
Restricted for Senior Adult Services	87,214	34,190	34,190	-
Assigned for other purposes	168,065	177,358	177,358	177,358
Fund balance, beginning, total	2,283,686	2,774,871	2,774,871	2,783,731
Revenues over/(under) expenditures	491,185	(97,530)	8,860	(506,714)
Estimated Ending Fund Balance	\$ 2,774,871	\$ 2,677,341	\$ 2,783,731	\$ 2,277,017

Funding Sources (Existing and Potential)

Funding for Northville Parks and Recreation is currently derived from general fund, a parks and recreation millage, program and user fees, and partnerships. A wide range of other sources are available and deserve further evaluation. Existing and potential funding sources are described below.

General Fund

The Primary Source of funding for Northville Parks & Recreation are the City's General Fund, and the Northville Township's Parks & Recreation Millage. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees, rental fees, external athletic associations, donations, and grants are also funding sources for Northville Parks & Recreation.

Millage

Northville Township has a parks and recreation property tax millage which helps to finance parks and recreation. Voter approval is required before a millage is assessed and is subject to periodic renewal by resident vote.

SEMCOG Green Infrastructure Grants

The Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan is a framework that guides preservation and future implementation of green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. The vision benchmarks the amount of green infrastructure in the region, identifies future green infrastructure opportunities, and recommends strategic implementation approaches. The vision details the various benefits of green infrastructure, including economic value, water quality, air quality, and recreation. The Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan can be viewed online at www.semcog.org. Example: improvements to Mill Race Village.

Additional User Fees

The community can charge fees to the users of specific recreation facilities, or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities throughout Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, the use of lighted athletic fields, and the use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in a municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, Parent Teacher Organizations and Associations, and community organizations 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.

Bond Programs

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities:

- **General Obligation Bonds:** General obligation bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.
- **Revenue Bonds:** Revenue bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. For example, revenue bonds may be issued for construction of a concession

and restroom facility at a community park.

- **Special Assessment Bonds:** Special assessment bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

The following is a summary of the three viable recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) which could be accessed for a variety of projects in Northville.

Recreation Passport Grants: PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaced the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. Development grants of \$7,500 to \$150,000 are available to local governments with a focus on renovating and improving existing parks, although new parks are also eligible. The grantee must provide at least a 25% match. Projects are evaluated based on project need, site quality, project quality, applicant history, and, if two projects receive the same evaluation score, a criterion based on the project cost per capita.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Eligible projects include community recreation and trailway improvements. These are grants of \$30,000 to \$500,000 to local governments for development of facilities such as athletic fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas, including support facilities, and the renovation and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through federal appropriations from the National Park Service. The grant match basis is fifty percent (50%) MDNR grant and fifty percent (50%) local match. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and a fourth criterion based on the type of proposed project.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF): Communities must have an approved recreation plan to apply for this grant. Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is also eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through the sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the project cost are required.

There is no minimum or maximum amount for land acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development projects is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Applications are evaluated on established criteria such as natural resource access and conservation, proximity to population clusters, applicant's committed matching funds, applicant's financial need, and priority projects of the trust fund board, such as trails, regional significance, public access to lakes and rivers, wildlife habitat and hunting access.

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)

The CMI is created under Section 6(1) of Part 196, Clean Michigan Initiative Implementation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The CMI is a general obligation bond, and approximately \$1-\$2 million has been available most funding rounds. Most of this money is for programs administered by EGLE for various redevelopment and remediation activities, including brown-field redevelopment.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety of community improvement projects, including development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low and moderate income neighborhoods that qualify under the program.

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 foundation board of directors disburses assets according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is very limited.

Lease or Contractual Agreements

Northville Parks and Recreation could consider contracts with private entrepreneurs to provide services at township-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Typically, the privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while maintaining the Township's administrative costs.

Public Use Conveyances

Administered by the MDNR, this program provides state and lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

Public Spaces Community Places

Public Spaces Community Places is a collaborative effort of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Michigan Municipal League, and Patronicity where local residents can use crowd-funding to be part of the development of strategic projects in their communities and be backed with a matching grant from MEDC.

Section 4



4 - Recreation Inventory

Overview

Purpose

The recreation inventory is an essential item to any Parks and Recreation Plan. It allows Northville to assess the quantity, type, and location of existing facilities. It also explains the variety of programs and events offered and where there may be opportunities for new programs and events. It serves to help identify where new facilities should be built and demonstrates where ADA upgrades are needed. The facilities inventory should be continually updated as renovations and additions occur so that the list is always up-to-date.

The Northville Parks and Recreation inventory was conducted in July of 2023 by LAP Inc. This inventory includes existing amenities, size, address, general condition, and an ADA accessibility grade. Each facility is assigned a classification and recommendations for improvement are identified.

Park Classification

The National Recreation and Parks Association published guidelines for park classification based on size and service area. These classifications are as follows:

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreation and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Regional Park	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.	Located to serve several communities within 1 hour driving time.	Optimal size is 200+ acres, size varies based on use.

Table: NRPA Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails

Accessibility Assessment

Complying with accessibility standards and planning for universal design are two extremely important efforts that a municipality must undertake in its effort to protect the health, safety and welfare of its people. This is true not only for those disabled by birth or by accident, but also for the growing population of people who are ageing and are finding normal tasks more and more challenging to do. Many able-bodied persons forget that disability is often an eventuality as one grows older. Therefore, Northville should seek to improve the accessibility of its environment not simply to comply with law, but to think more broadly and take steps towards developing a compassionate, inclusive, and accessible community, unencumbered by physical barriers.

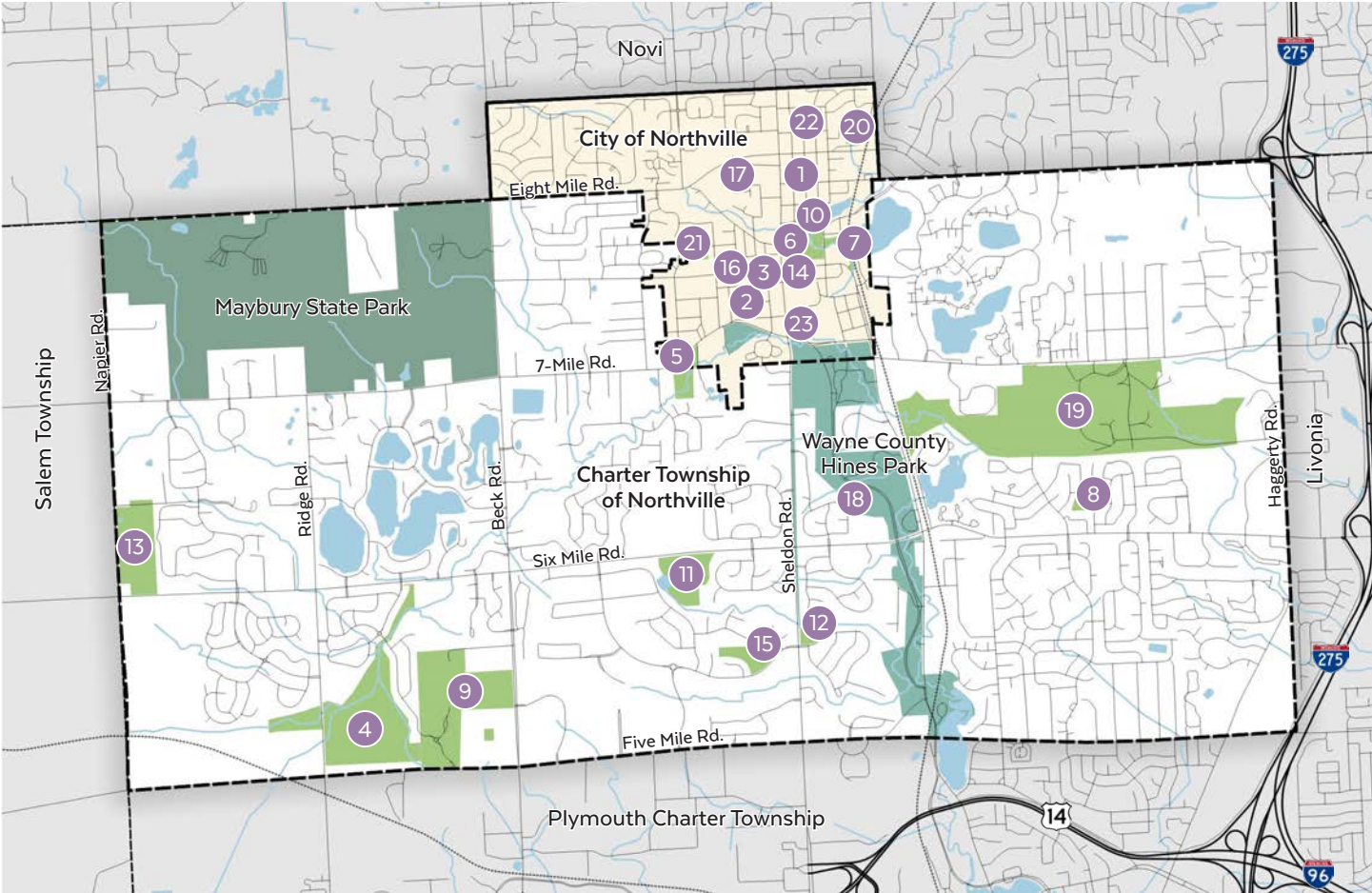
This plan rates the accessibility of its existing park facilities, both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. This rating system is from the Michigan DNR's guidelines for recreation plans. It is intended to establish a baseline so that accessibility needs can be assessed and incorporated into capital improvement projects. This evaluation is not comprehensive and does not identify specific deficiencies.

The following ranking system was applied to each park:

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.

Figure: Accessibility Assessment Table

Northville Parks Inventory Map



Park Properties

- Northville Parks & Recreation
- County Parks
- State Parks

Figure: Northville Park Map



Developed Park Land

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Cabbagetown Park | 10. Mill Race Village |
| 2. Cady Street Dog Park | 11. Millennium Park |
| 3. City Hall Open Space | 12. Sheldon Road Park |
| 4. Coldwater Springs/Linear Park | 13. Thayer’s Corner Nature Area |
| 5. Fish Hatchery Park | 14. Town Square (Bandshell) |
| 6. Ford Field Park - West | 15. Veteran’s Memorial at Waterford Woods |
| 7. Ford Field Park - East | 16. Northville Community Center |
| 8. Henningsen Park | 17. Recreation Center at Hillside (RCH) |
| 9. Marv Gans Community Park | 18. Bennett Arboretum |

Undeveloped Park Land

- 19. Legacy Park
(in planning & development)
- 20. Allen Drive
- 21. Lot 374
- 22. Maplewood Park
(designated “Preserve”)
- 23. Northville Downs (Future Central Park and River Park)

Park Profiles

Cabbagetown Park

Baseline Rd. & Carpenter St.

A one-acre pocket park located in the City, Cabbagetown Park provides picnic benches, playground equipment and a peaceful setting, surrounded by an historical neighborhood.



Park Features

- Picnic Tables
- Benches
- Playground

Recommendations

- Playground Improvements: Replace dated features and add an area for younger children.

Statistics

Size: 1 Acre

Classification: Neighborhood

Accessibility Assessment: 3

Bennett Arboretum

Hines Drive, between Six Mile and Seven Mile

Bennett Arboretum is owned by Wayne County but is maintained by Northville Parks and Recreation. Bennett features a 2.8 mile trail through the oldest county arboretum in Michigan and is a popular course for high school cross country teams in the fall.

Bennett Arboretum was developed during the 1930's as part of the Middle Rouge Parkway (Hines Parkway) project. Jesse Merle Bennett, a pioneer in roadside development and Director of Wayne County Parks and Forestry in the 1920s and 1930s, was the visionary for the arboretum project. Many rare trees from around the world were planted here, as well as maple, oak and beech collections.

Statistics

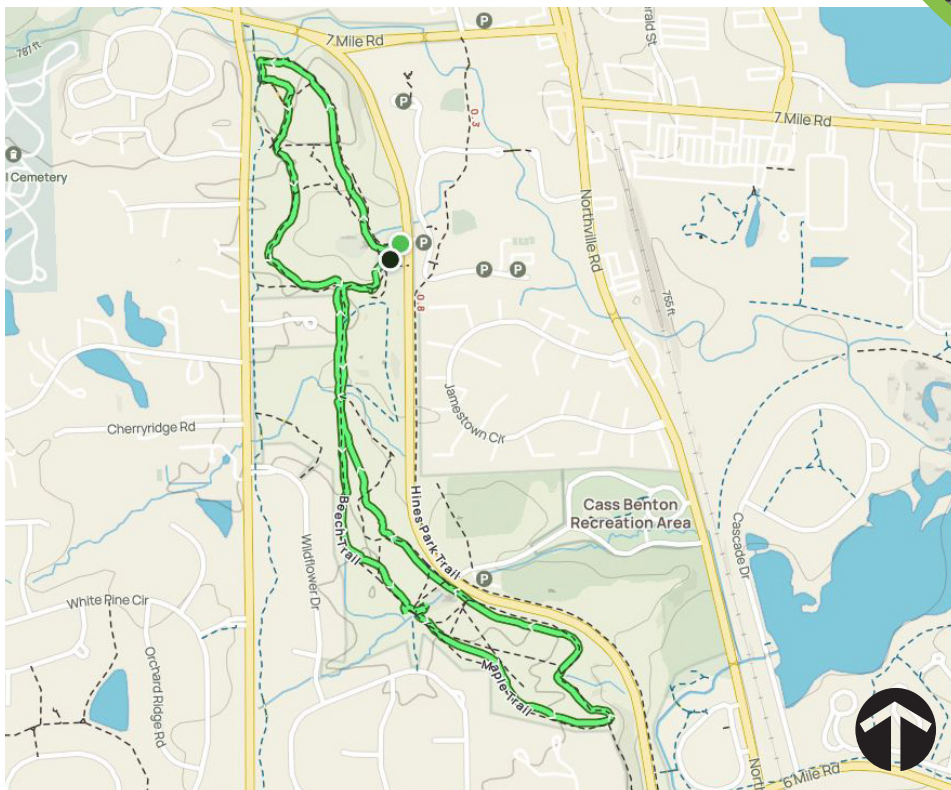
Size: 2.8 Mile Loop Path

Classification: Regional

Accessibility Assessment: 4

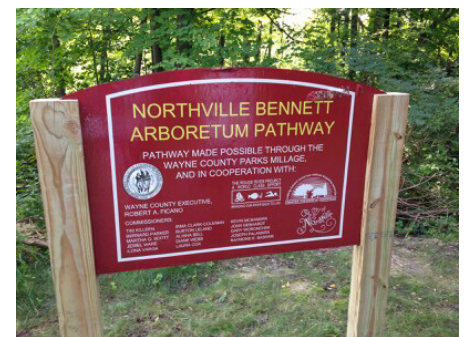
Recommendations

- Perform a natural features inventory.

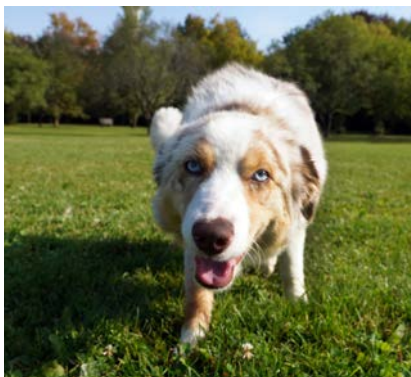


Park Features

- Arboretum
- Elevated Boardwalk
- Paved Pathway

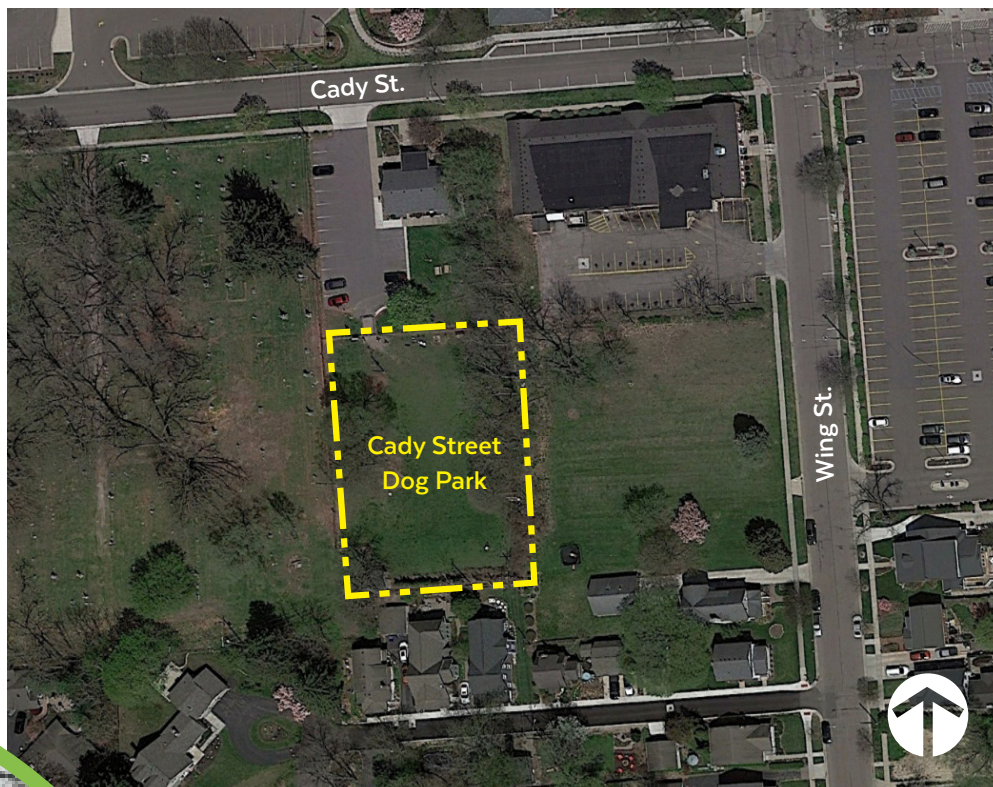


Map Source: AllTrails.com



Park Features

- Dog Park



Cady Street Dog Park

215 W. Cady St. (Behind the Northville Art House)

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 located behind and shares parking with The Art House.

Statistics

Size: 0.8 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 2

Recommendations

- New park sign, fencing upgrades and repairs.

Coldwater Springs Nature Area - Linear Park

Ridge Rd. & Five Mile Rd.

Located on Ridge Rd. between Five & Six Mile Rd., one hundred, twenty-eight (128) acres of open space were provided to the Township as part of the Coldwater Springs development. Coldwater Springs Nature Area - Linear Park is a hidden gem and the most underutilized park in the Northville Parks and Recreation system. It has a single trail that runs northeast from Ridge Road, north of Five Mile Road, to Beck and Six Mile roads. It meanders along one of Michigan's precious waterways, Johnson Creek, one of three cold-water creeks in southeast Michigan that supports a trout population. Its trailhead is tucked behind trees not visible from Ridge Road but is easily accessible by a dirt parking lot.

Statistics

Size: 128 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 3



Park Features

- Picnic Table/Benches
- Pond/Fishing
- Walking Trails/Boardwalk

Recommendations

- Parking Improvements
- Boardwalk repair

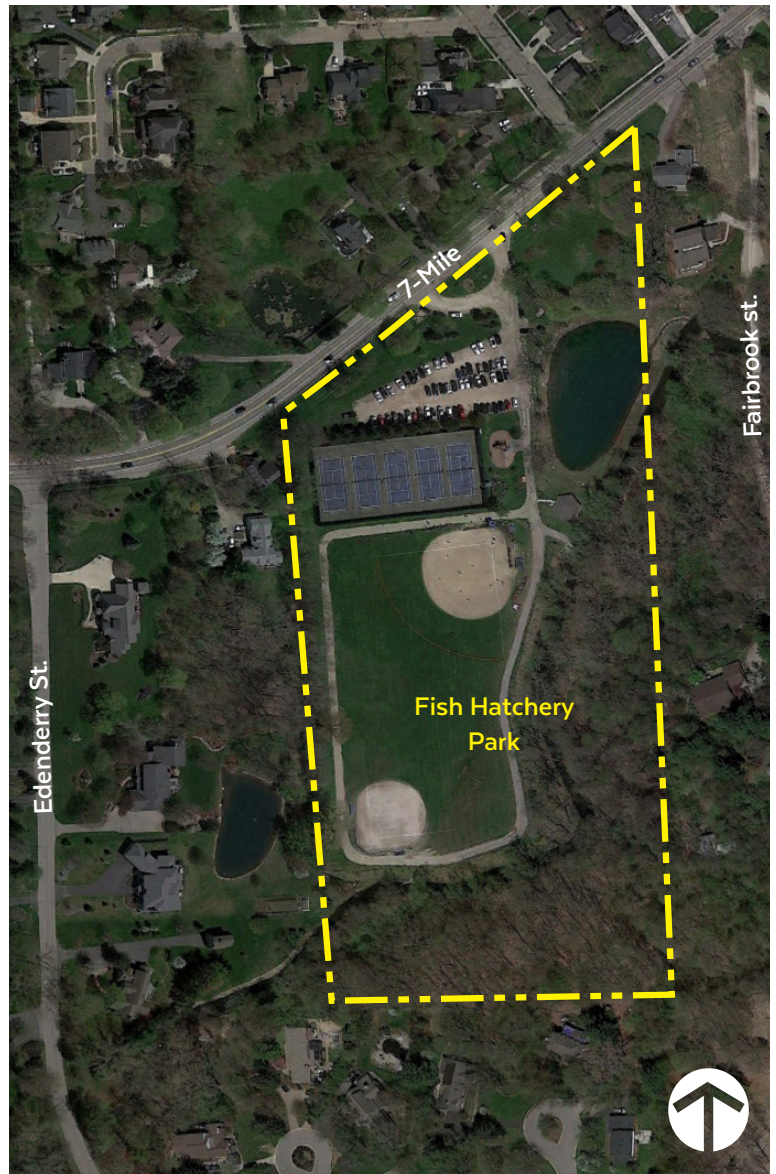
Fish Hatchery Park

641 Fairbrook St.

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, a picnic shelter with grills, nature trails and pond. The tennis courts had crack repair work done in 2018. The park is adjacent to Johnson Creek, one of only three coldwater streams in Michigan's lower peninsula. The streambank has been a focal point of grant applications to naturalize the bank, develop fish habitat and improve the adjacent pond in the park.

Park Features

- Ballfields
- Grills
- Picnic Shelter
- Picnic Table/Benches
- Playground
- Pond/Fishing
- Restrooms (Seasonal)
- Tennis Courts
- Walking Trails



Recommendations

- New park master plan
- Parking improvements
- Tennis court repair/reconstruction
- Trail improvements

Statistics

Size: 17 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 3

Ford Field Park - West

151 N. Griswold St.

Ford Field Park West is a 6-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.

Statistics

Size: 6 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 3

Recommendations

- Replace playground
- Install restrooms
- Improve access and overall accessibility



FORD FIELD PARK WEST MASTER PLAN

NORTHVILLE, MI | OCTOBER 2023 WADE TRIM

Existing Park Features

- Ballfields
- Drinking Water
- Grills
- Picnic Table/Benches
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Walking Trails

A master plan was developed in 2023 for both Ford Field Park - East and Ford Field Park - West. For Ford Field West, the plan vision is to increase the usability of the park, while keeping the historic components in place. The location of this park within the regional natural systems is unique, with the parkland surrounded by the river and embankment. Additionally, the central location of Ford Field Park within Northville makes this park a logical setting for activities and events. These factors together make Ford Field Park well-situated to provide a wide range of experiences for park visitors.

Ford Field Park - East

E. Main St.

A master plan was developed in 2023 and when the master plan is implemented, Ford Field East will provide a peaceful and tranquil location, hidden away from the nearby downtown and dense residential areas.

A continuous, solar-powered, lit pathway through the park will run along the water, linking the East and West Park and surrounding downtown. The pathway will include an accessible entrance off of Griswold with a more pronounced and safer entry to the park.

Additional seating and walkways along the water will allow visitors to enjoy the natural setting with peaceful views of the pond. Natural habitat enhancements are proposed throughout the park, with elements such as establishment of meadow, bank stabilization, and habitat enhancements throughout.

At the south end of the East Park, a bridge and overlook would cross the river, continuing the pathway to Main Street and provide a view of the existing spillway. Additional trails and seating options allow for even more access and view to the river.



FORD FIELD PARK EAST MASTER PLAN

NORTHVILLE, MI | OCTOBER 2023



Statistics

Size: 4.5 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 1



Henningsen Park

41600 Six Mile Rd.

This 3-acre park is located behind the Northville Township Police Department and provides residents with two ball diamonds.

The park currently shares an access drive and parking lot with the Police Department. However, the Police Department will be moving to a new location in the near future. The future use of the existing building has not yet been determined but it is imperative that any future plans allow the park to retain an access drive and parking lot.

Recommendations

- Irrigation improvements
- Retain entry drive and parking

Statistics

Size: 3 Acres

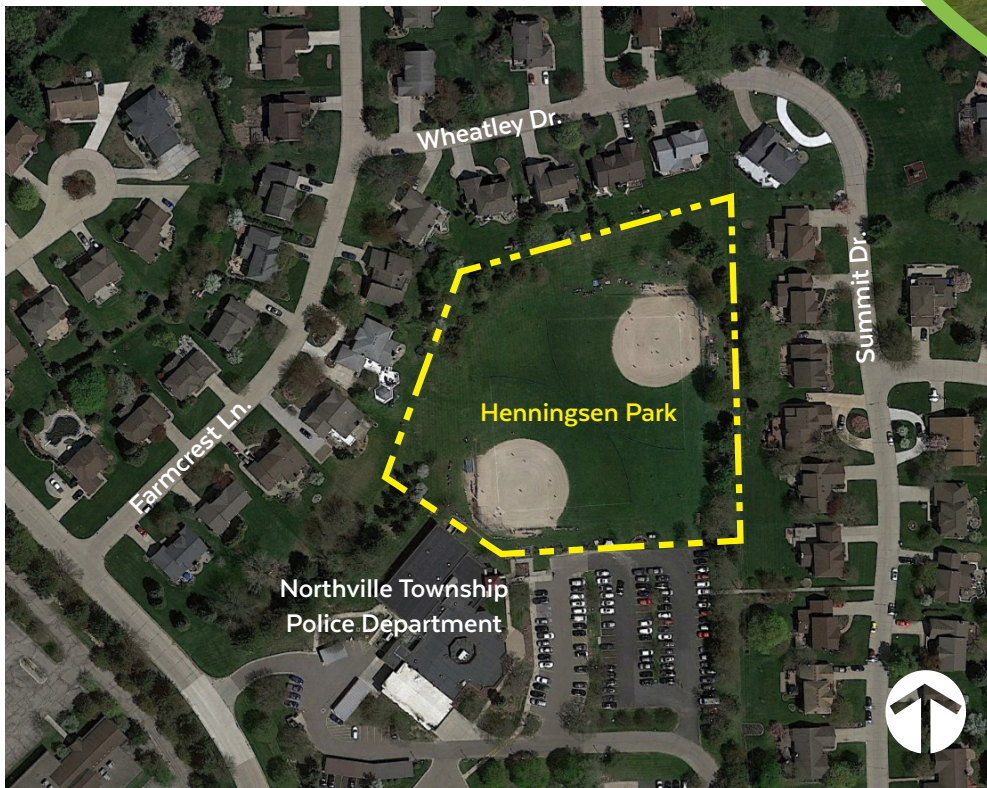
Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 2



Park Features

- (2) Ballfields



Marv Gans Community Park

15801 Beck Rd.

Marv Gans Community Park, renamed in 2017 after its former Township Trustee namesake, is the community's largest park at 119 acres. The park contains 3 ball diamonds, 12 athletic fields, accessible play structure, 2 picnic shelters, a dog park, 2 restrooms, 1 concession facility, and an archery area. The Northville Soccer Association plays the majority of their games at this park.

Park Features

- Ballfields
- Dog Park
- Drinking Water
- Grills
- (2) Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables/Benches
- Playground
- Restrooms



Recommendations

- Parking lot improvements
- Pickleball Courts/Complex
- Additional pathways: (DPS plans to create a path connection to the residential area to the west.)

Statistics

Size: 119 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 3

Mill Race Historical Village

215 Griswold St.

Operated by the Northville Historical Society, Mill Race Village is a 4-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 Field Park.

In 2023, the City received a USEPA Grant to implement stormwater best management practices and improve accessibility in the Village. This included installing pervious pavers for the drive and installing drain tiles and raingardens on site.

Statistics

Size: 4 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 2

Recommendations

- Drive improvements
- Environmental improvements



Park Features

- Historical Village



Park Features

- Ballfields
- Drinking Water
- Grills
- Picnic Shelter
- Picnic Table/Benches
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Walking Trails
- Cricket Pitch
- Skate Park



Millennium Park

45769 Six Mile Rd.

Located on Six Mile Road across from Northville High School and behind the Northville Township Fire Department Administrative Building, Millennium Park is a 34-acre park providing multiple recreation opportunities, including four ball diamonds, five sports fields, two play structures, walking paths, concession stand, restrooms, a picnic pavilion with grills, and recently constructed skate park and cricket pitch.

Statistics

Size: 34 Acres

Classification: Regional

Accessibility Assessment: 3

Recommendations

- Playground improvements
- Restroom Improvements

Sheldon Road Park

Sheldon Rd. & Cypress Point Dr.

Located on the east side of Sheldon Road between Five and Six Mile Roads, this park provides a play structure and benches adjacent to the walking paths.

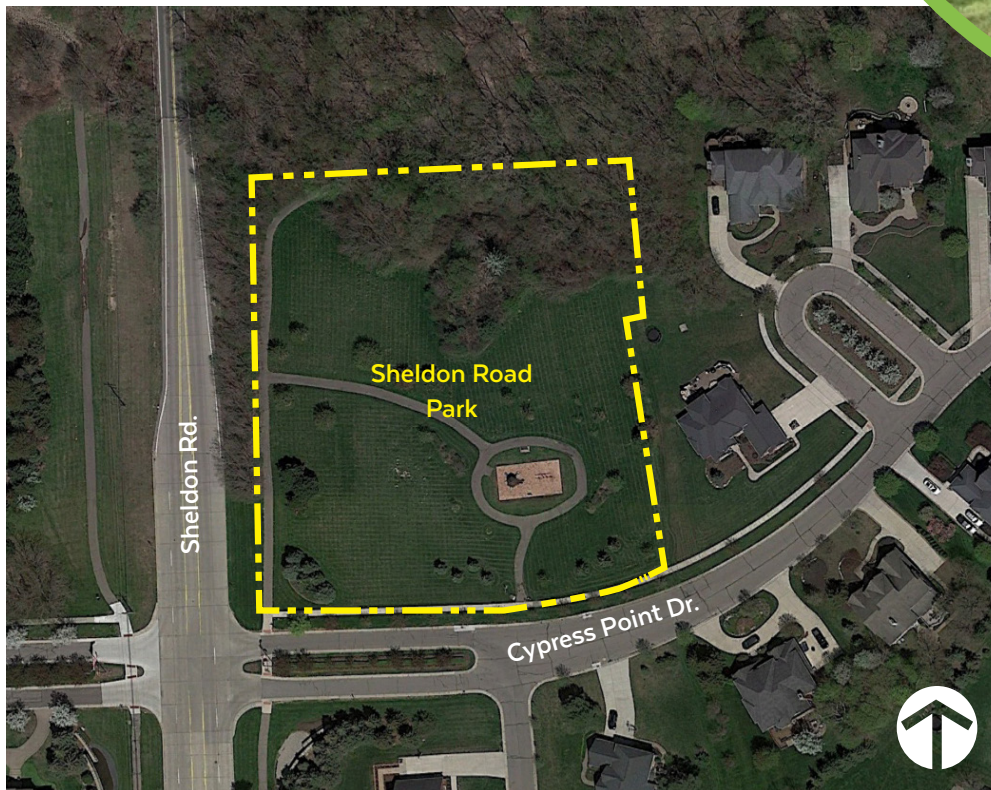
This park can be accessed by the Sheldon Road shared-use path which connects to the Hines County Park Trail. Additional amenities could be added to this park that would service both trail users as well as residents of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Statistics

Size: 4 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood

Accessibility Assessment: 2



Park Features

- Picnic Table/Benches
- Playground

Recommendations

- Playground Improvements
- Sport courts (basketball)
- Fitness equipment
- Bicycle rest stop (bike racks, repair station, bench)

Thayer's Corner Nature Area

Six Mile Rd. & Napier Rd.

Thayer's Corner Nature Area is a 57-acre park located at the corner of Six Mile and Napier. The park contains community gardens, hiking trails and a pond. The site is also home to an historic barn, relocated from Sheldon Road which has been renovated into an ADA accessible meeting space. Thayer's Corner Nature Area is operated by the Friends of Thayer's.

Park Features

- Drinking Water
- Grills
- Picnic Shelter
- Picnic Table/Benches
- Restrooms
- Community Garden



Statistics

Size: 57 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 2

Town Square (Bandshell)

E. Main St. & Mary Alexander Ct.

Town Square is a landscaped, urban plaza located on Main Street in downtown Northville. This space is maintained by the Northville DDA and serves all the residents of the Northville Community. Concerts and other downtown events are held at this facility, which contains benches, tables, chairs, plantings, a stage and a fountain.



Statistics

Size: 0.3 Acres

Classification: Regional

Accessibility Assessment: 4



Park Features

- Tables/Benches
- Bandshell
- Fountain

Park Features

- Picnic Table/Benches
- Walking Trails

Recommendations

- Picnic Shelter
- Trail Improvements



Veteran's Memorial at Waterford Woods

Tournament Dr. & Poplar Dr.

This quaint and serene park with a path that winds through the woods consists of 16.4-acres in Northville Township and is located along Tournament Drive off Sheldon Road. It contains a forest preserve with trails, an area with benches, and a memorial to America's service men and women.

Statistics

Size: 16.4 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood

Accessibility Assessment: 2

Northville Community Center

303 W. Main St.

Located next to the Northville District Library on Main Street, the Northville Community Center houses the Senior Center and has a gym, banquet room, service pantry, meeting rooms, restrooms, stage and fitness area. During daytime hours Monday-Friday, the facility serves mainly as the Northville Senior Center, but in the evening and on weekends it is used for a variety of activities. Many indoor recreation programs are held at the center, from social events to fitness, educational and enrichment, and sports programs for residents of all ages.

Recommendations

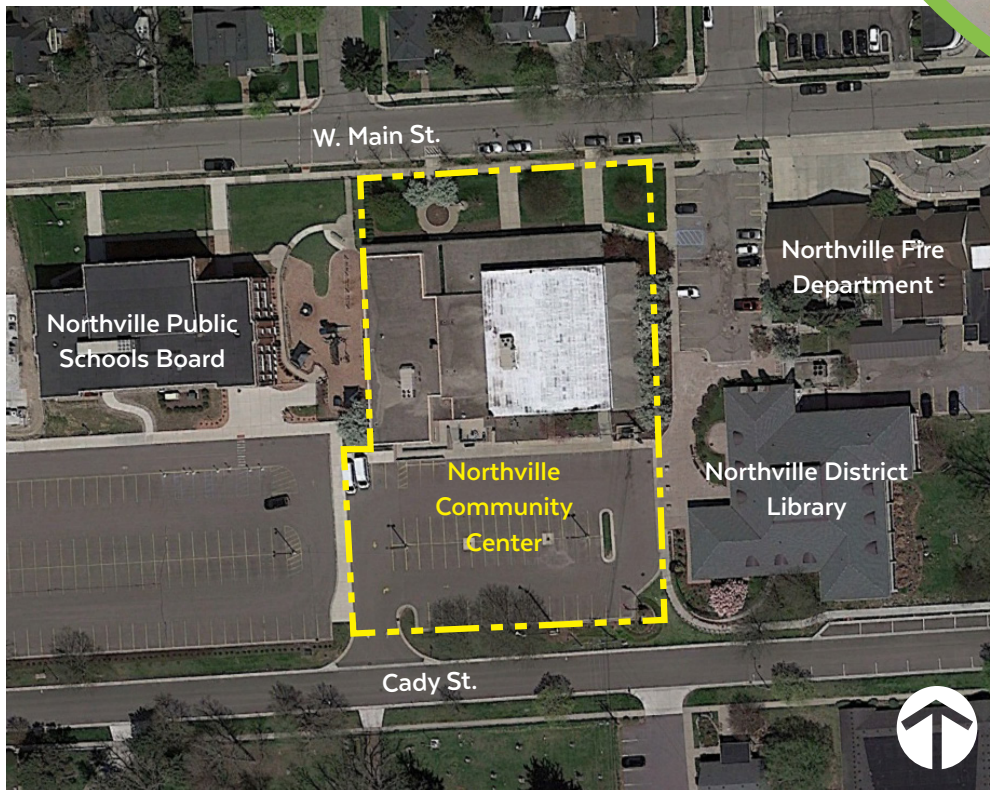
- Perform an assessment of the facility in order to accurately determine existing and future needs and forecast the best use of the facility moving forward.

Statistics

Size: 0.9 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 4



Facility Features

- Banquette Room
- Gymnasium
- Stage
- Meeting Rooms
- Fitness Area



Facility Features

- Parks & Recreation Offices
- (2) Full-Size Gymnasiums
- (2) Mini Gyms
- (1) Classrooms

Recommendations

- Assess the current needs of the staff and potentially consolidate in a new building that could better accommodate the current and future needs.



Recreation Center at Hillside (RCH)

775 N. Center Street

Housing the offices of the Northville Parks and Recreation Department, the Recreation Center at Hillside is located in the rear of the Hillside Middle School. Facilities include two full-size gymnasiums, two multi-purpose mini gyms and a classroom space. It is the primary location for indoor parks and recreation programs. The school pool, which had been programmed by parks and recreation, was closed in 2016 due to maintenance issues.

Statistics

Size: 16.4 Acres

Classification: Community

Accessibility Assessment: 3

Undeveloped Properties

Allen Drive

Located at the intersection of Eight Mile and Novi Roads, this 2-acre area is surrounded by residential areas in the City's northeast corner.



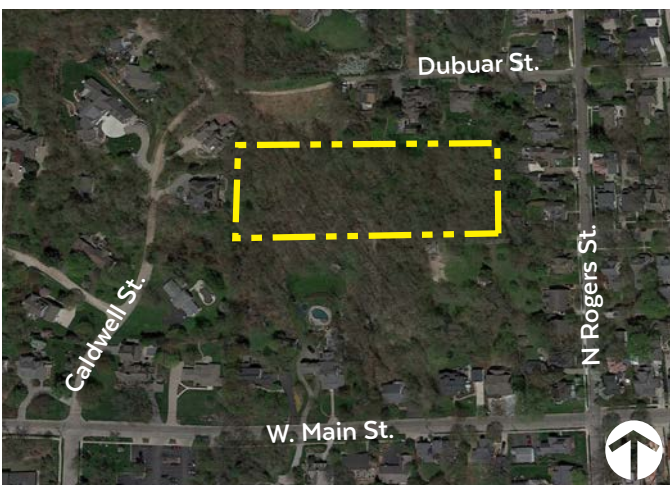
Maplewood Park

This 7.32 acres of undeveloped land, which is surrounded by residential property with no street access, has been designated as "preserve" property by City Council.



Lot 374

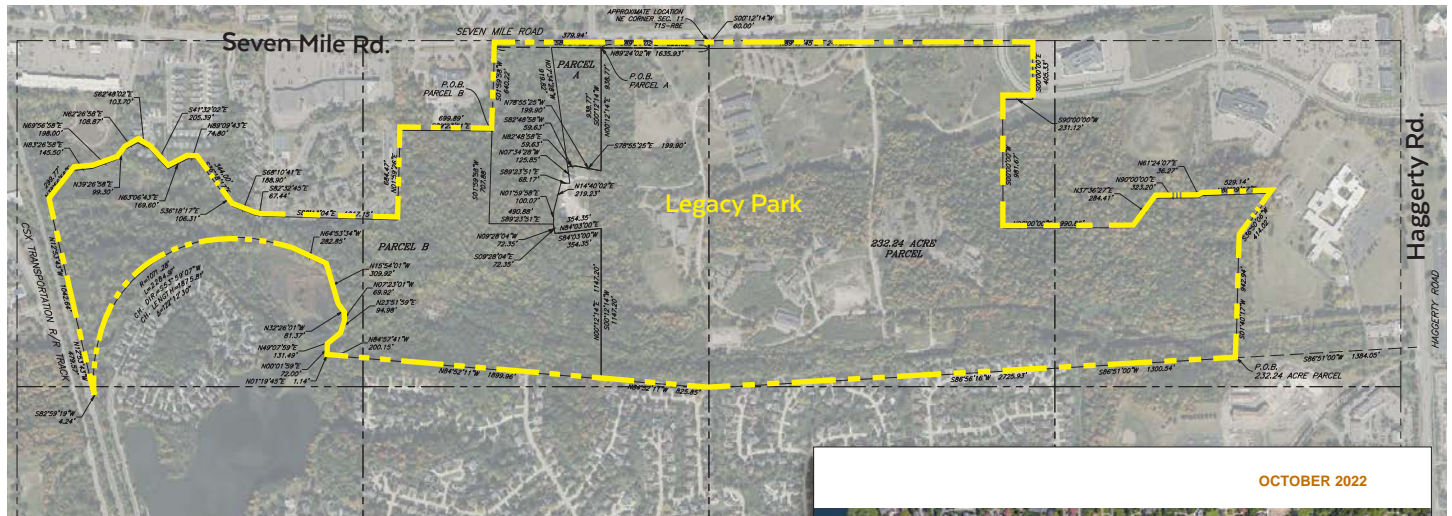
2.67 acres of undeveloped land surrounded by residential property. No future plans for development.



Legacy Park

Seven Mile Rd.

This 350-acre green space oasis is located near the eastern border of Northville Township, off Seven Mile Road between Haggerty and Northville roads.



2022 Legacy Park Trail Development Plan



Statistics

Size: 350 Acres

Classification: Regional

Accessibility Assessment: 1

History

This site once housed the former Northville Psychiatric State Hospital. When it was built in 1952, it was touted as Michigan's first attempt at scientific treatment of mental illness. An innovative art and music therapy program captured the attention of many. Patients put on plays, sang or learned to play instruments. Other patients gardened, studied mechanics or worked in hospital facilities. The hospital closed in 2003.

Eleven buildings remained on the site after the hospital closure. Ten of these buildings have since been demolished. The one building that remains, Building 14, the former laundry facility, will be converting into an open-environment programming and meeting space.

Trails

A trail development plan was completed for Legacy Park in 2022. In order to make the best use of this land the planners worked with the Township's Legacy Park Committee, who surveyed residents, spoke to recreation organizations and consulted the Seven Mile Park Master Plan that was adopted in 2012. Phase 1 of the trail construction with Rock Solid Inc. is beginning in the spring of 2024 and will be completed by August 2024. Phases 2 & 3 are scheduled to begin construction in 2025. The multi-use trail system (Hiking, Mt. Biking, Adaptive Mt. Biking, and bike park) will add over 17.5 miles of trails to a regional trail system.

Essential Services

Legacy Park is also the future home of Northville Township's Essential Services Complex. It will house a second fire station, new Public Safety Headquarters, a new headquarters for Public Works and some storage for Parks and Recreation. This important addition to Legacy Park will improve service delivery to Northville residents.

Current Planning Efforts

A new master plan is currently in development for Legacy Park. As part of the community input process for this 5-year recreation plan, several questions were asked specific to Legacy Park. The data collected will be supplemented with insight from the previous planning efforts to develop the new master plan.

Throughout the public input meetings and online opinion survey, the input has been heavily supporting the idea that Legacy Park remains a place for passive recreation with an emphasis on trails and natural spaces.

The idea of constructing a community center at Legacy Park has also been highly supported throughout the input process.

Currently the Northville Parks and Recreation Department leases space from other entities for all of their office facilities. The amount of space in these leased facilities is inadequate to meet the department's current staffing needs. If a community center is built at Legacy Park, it would provide an opportunity to consolidate the Parks and Recreation Department offices and ensure there is capacity to meet the current and future needs.



2012 Seven Mile Road Property Master Plan (Legacy Park)

Northville Downs

301 S Center St

In November 2023, plans were approved to redevelop the former home of the Northville Downs horse racing track into residential and commercial space, including two public parks; Central Park and River Park.



Photo: Former Northville Downs Racetrack

Statistics

Size: Central Park - 1.2 Acres, River Park - 7.8 Acres

Classification: Regional (both parks)

Accessibility Assessment: 4 (Both parks when completed)



Conceptual Landscape Master Plan



Central Park Landscape Plan

THE DOWNS > CITY OF NORTHVILLE, MI > NOVEMBER 9, 2023 7



River Park Landscape Plan

THE DOWNS > CITY OF NORTHVILLE, MI > NOVEMBER 9, 2023 32

Park Inventory Table

	Community	Acres	Park Classification	Accessibility Assessment	Playground Equipment	Basketball	Volleyball	Tennis Court	Baseball Diamond	Soccer Field	Walking Path	Skating Rink	Splash Pad	Picnic Tables & Grills	Shelter	Restrooms	Porta-John	Sledding Hill	Band Shell	Pickleball Court	Cricket Pitch	Parking	Skate Park	Disc Golf
Parks																								
Cabbage Town Park	City	1	N	3	1					N				1										
Cady Street Dog Park	City	0.8	C	2						N												19		
Coldwater Springs/Linear Park	Twp	128	C	3						N												7		
Fish Hatchery Park	City/Twp	17	C	3	1			5	2	N	Y			8	1		2					70		
Ford Field Park	City	6	C	3	1				1	Y				9			1					62		
Henningsen Park	Twp	3	N	2					2	N				1			1					64		
Joe Denton Park	City	0.5	N	1						N														
Marv Gans Community Park	Twp	119	R	3	1				3	Y	Y			6		2						628		
Millennium Park	Twp	34	R	3	2				4	Y				20	2	1					1	282	1	
Sheldon Road Park	Twp	4.4	N	2	1					N				1										
Thayer's Corner Nature Area	Twp	57	C	2						N				6	1							12		
Veteran's Memorial Park	Twp	16.4	N	2						N	Y											6		
Northville Community Center	City	0.9	C	3						N												66		
Recreation Center at Hillside (RCH)	City	0.8	C							N												176		
Undeveloped Park Land																								
7 Mile Road Property (Legacy Park)	Twp	350																						
Lot 374	City	2.67																						
Maplewood Park (designated "Preserve")	City	7.32																						
Allen Drive	City	2																						
Public Open Space (Not Designated as Park)																								
City Hall Open Space	DDA	0.3	C	2																				
Town Square (Bandshell)	City	0.2	R	4															1					

Park Classifications: N = Neighborhood, C = Community, R = Regional

Accessibility Assessment:

1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

3 = most of the facilities/park area meet accessibility guidelines

4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Park Acreage Evaluation

The following table evaluates current park acreage in the Northville Parks and Recreation system. Although NRPA provides recommendations for parks and facilities they recognize that every community is unique and many factors should be considered when evaluating deficiencies and priorities. These additional factors can include age and income distribution, neighborhood structure, and recreation interests of your community, as well as the recreation opportunities available in nearby communities.

Northville Park Acreage/Population Table

	Total Acres	Population	Acres/1000 People
Northville Township	720.31	31,758	22.7
City of Northville	30.69	6,119	5
Combined	751	37,877	19.83

The National Recreation and Park Association recommends between 5.5 and 15.9 Acres/1000 people. As shown in the previous table, Northville's park acreage exceeds this range.



Regional Recreation Opportunities

There are many additional recreation facilities and opportunities available in the area surrounding Northville and throughout Oakland and Wayne Counties. Some of those facilities are listed here:

Oakland County Parks

Addison Oaks
Catalpa Oaks
Farmers Market
Groveland Oaks
Highland Oaks
Holly Oaks Orv Park
Independence Oaks
Lyon Oaks
Orion Oaks
Red Oaks
Rose Oaks
Springfield Oaks
Waterford Oaks
Trails - The Oakland County Parks system offers nearly 80 miles of paved and natural trails.

Wayne County Parks

Bell Creek
Bennett Arboretum
Crosswinds Marsh
Detroit River International Refuge Gateway
Elizabeth Park
Family Aquatic Center
Hines Park
Holliday Preserve
Inkster Valley
Lola Valley
Lower Rouge

State Parks (within the Northville area)

Maybury State Park

Public School Facilities

Amerman Elementary (City)
Cooke School (City)
Hillside Middle School (City)
Meads Mill Middle School (Twp.)
Moraine Elementary (Twp.)
Northville High School (Twp.)
Northville High School 8 Mile Athletic Complex (City)
Old Village School - Administration Offices (City)
Ridge Wood Elementary (Twp.)
Silver Springs Elementary (Twp.)
Thornton Creek Elementary (Novi)
Winchester Elementary (Twp.)

Recreation Programs and Services

Northville Parks and Recreation has a large offering of youth, adult and senior programming available to residents and non-residents. This includes enrichment classes, sports, special events, leagues, drop-in activities and more. Below is a list of program offerings available from Northville Parks and Recreation.

Adult Classes & Programs

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Adult Athletics | • Basketball Leagues | • Adult Ballet Fitness |
| • Pickleball Clinics 101 & 201 | • Adult Recreation | • Adult Tap Fitness |
| • Tennis Classes | • Introduction to Archery | • Intro to Ballroom Dancing |
| • Adult Leagues | • Basic Archery Techniques | • Intro to Fencing |
| • Softball Leagues | • USA Archer Level 1 & 2 Instructor | |
| • Volleyball Leagues | • Practical Course | |

Youth Programs

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Youth Athletics | • USA Archery Level 1 & 2 Instructor | • Star Wars R2D2 Art Class |
| • Tennis Classes | • Practical Course | • Intro to Fencing |
| • TGA Golf Classes | • Ballet Dance | • Continuing Fencing |
| • Volleyball Mini Clinic | • Ballet/Tap Dance | • Futsal (Indoor Soccer) |
| • Sunday Volleyball Skills Clinic | • Hip Hop Dance | • Tumble Tots |
| • Youth Leagues | • Jumps/Leaps/Turns Dance | • Gymnastics |
| • Girls & Boys Basketball | • Hip Hop, Contemporary, Jazz, and | • Little Ninjas Karate |
| • Youth Recreation | • Surprise Dance | • Kids Power Karate |
| • Introduction to Archery | • Dance Acro | • Basketball Starters |
| • Basic Archery Techniques | • Smart Art | • Preschooler Sports |
| • Mustangs Archery Club (JOAD) | • Holiday Ornament Making Party Art | • Tee-Ball Class |

Teen Enrichment

- Babysitter Training Course
- Ski and Snowboard Club

Special Events

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Eggstravaganza | • Nerf Blaster Battle |
| • Daddy Daughter Dance | • Mother Son Dance |
| • Tunes on Tuesday | • Pancakes and Pajamas |
| • Movies in the Park | • American Girl Party |
| • Maybury Family Camp Out | |

Summer Camps

-
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| • Watermelon Slime with Kidcreate Studio | • Let's Draw, Paint & Sculpt with Kidcreate Studio | • T-Ball Camp |
| • Tie Dye Party with Kidcreate Studio | • Chess Wizards | • Kiddie Sports Summer Camp |
| • Color Me Happy with Kidcreate Studio | • Fencing | • Beginning Lacrosse Camp |
| • Game On! With Kidcreate Studio | • TGA Golf | • Safety Town |
| • Nailed it! With Kidcreate Studio | • Maybury Summer Day Camp | • Northville Ninja Warrior Camp |
| • Messes & Masterpieces with Kidcreate Studio | • Basketball Clinic & Camp | • Jump-a-Rama Cheer/Tumble Camp |
| | • Sports Shorts Summer Camp | • Volleyball Camp |
| | • Sports Starters Summer Camp | • Middle School Volleyball Tune-Up Camp |
| | • Youth Basketball Camp | |

Fitness

-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Mommy/Granny and Me Yoga | • Barre Fitness with Kathleen |
| • Yoga Nidra & Sound Bath | • Silver Strength & Stretch with Ann |
| • Candlelight Yin Yoga with Shari | • Silver Chair Yoga with Toulla |
| • Cardio Drumming with Wendy – Senior | • Zumba Gold with Sara |
| • Slow Burn Yoga with Toulla | • Yoga FUNdamentals with Debbi |
| • Soulful Flow Yoga with Shari | • Yoga Flow with Toulla & Kathleen |
| • TRX Fitness Training with Scott | • Healthy Hips & Back Yoga with Debbi |
| • Women's Boot Camp with Celeste | • Walking |

Senior Services

-
- Trips
 - Mackinaw Island at the Grand Hotel
 - Programs
 - Friday Flicks
 - Elder Law Programs
 - New to Medicare
 - Reverse Mortgage Information Class
 - The Next Chapter Book Club
 - Coffee with a Cop
 - History Talk with the Mayor
 - Flu Shot Clinic
 - AARP Driver Safety Course

Events

-
- Detroit Tigers Game
 - Valentine's Day Tea
 - Pazcki Day
 - New Year's Toast and Bingo
 - St. Patrick's Day Party
 - Senior Fest
 - Holiday Luncheon
 - Thanksgiving Luncheon

Cards & Games

-
- Bingo
 - Pinochle
 - Party Bridge
 - Euchre

Non-Motorized Transportation

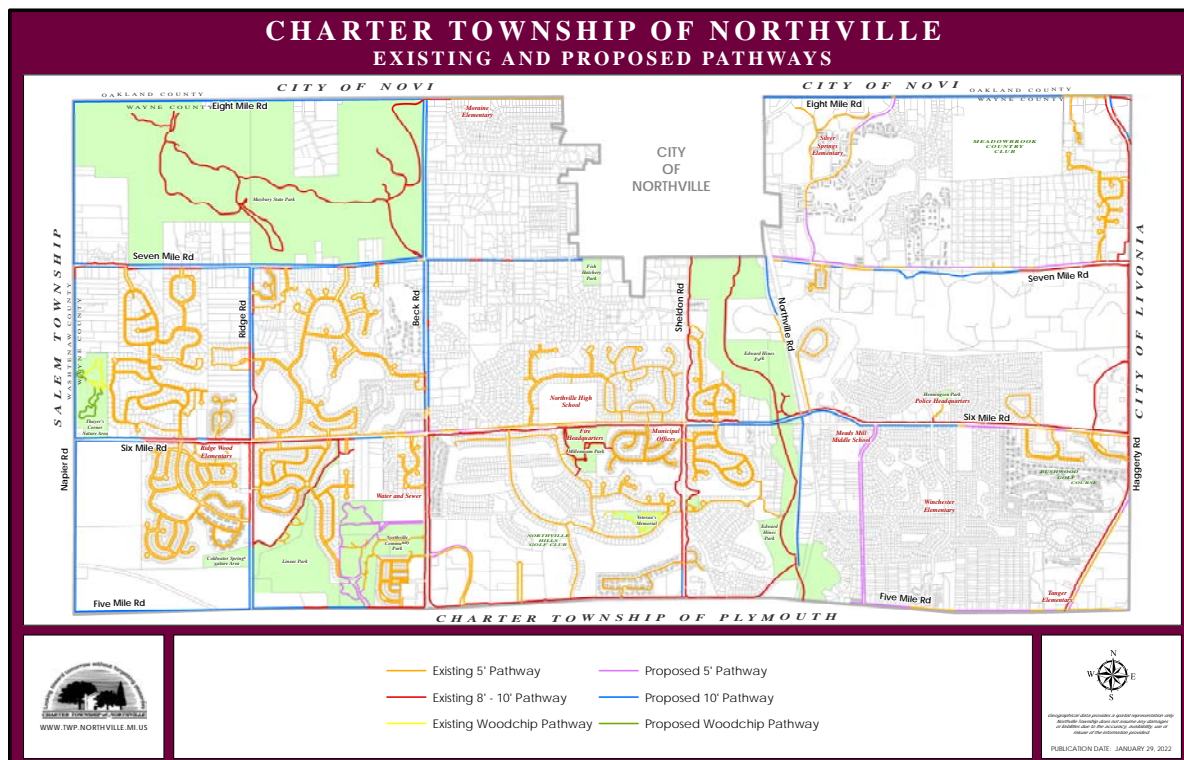
In 2023 the City of Northville adopted a new non-motorized transportation plan. This plan serves as an update to the 2013 Non-Motorized Plan. The plan's primary purpose is to improve conditions in the near-term for people who walk, bicycle, or travel using micromobility (small, low-speed, electric-powered devices).

The 2023 Non-Motorized Plan also outlines the Riverwalk Vision. The proposed Northville Riverwalk will work to create a non-motorized pathway system that will connect various parks and destinations throughout the City while following along segments of the Middle Rouge River. See the Goals and Objectives section of this report for additional details on the Riverwalk Vision.



2023 City of Northville Non-Motorized Plan

Northville Township established a Pathways Advisory Committee in 2021. The Committee then conducted a study of the current system and created a gap analysis. During this study, six pathway projects were identified as priorities. The Township is currently seeking a grant to construct a pathway on the south side of Seven Mile Rd., from Traditions Dr. to Northville Rd. then continuing south on Northville Rd. into Hines Park.



Charter Township of Northville - Existing and Proposed Pathways Plan, 2022

Coldwater Springs and Marv Gans Community Park Pathways

A pathway plan was developed in 2022 for Coldwater Springs, Marv Gans Community Park, and the surrounding area. This plan (shown below) includes an inventory of the existing pathways as well as proposed pathways throughout these areas.



Legend

- Existing Pathways
- Proposed Pathways

Coldwater Springs and Marv Gans Community Park
- Existing and Proposed Pathways Plan, 2022

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

Grant History - Northville Parks & Recreation

Project Number*	Project Title	Project Year	Grant Amount	Project Description	Grant Status
26-01332	Township Hall Park	1984	\$6,071.00	Develop 2 ballfields/soccer area ice rink	Closed
TF87-254	Lapham Field	1987	\$123,000.00	Acquire 27 acres of land which is currently under lease by Northville Township.	Withdrawn
TF06-010	Coldwater Springs Nature Area-Linear Park	2006	\$303,800.00	Development of public access trailway along the Johnson Creek, one of only 3 coldwater fisheries in southeast Michigan and home to one endangered and one threatened species, and create a linkage to the 119-acre community park from a 16 acre natural area west of Johnson Creek.	Closed
TF09-174	Linear Park Acquisition	2009	\$4,000,000.00	Phase I of a 2 phase project to acquire 51.01 acres to create a linear park connecting the former Northville State Hospital property with the Wayne County Hines Parkway system. Project includes an old growth forest and link to SE MI Greenways Network.	Closed
TF10-140	Linear Park Acquisition- Phase II	2010	\$3,053,700.00	Phase II acquisition of 51.01 acres to create a linear park connecting the former Northville State Hospital property with the Wayne County Hines Parkway system, and preserve 200-year old growth forest and link to SE Michigan Greenways Network.	Closed
TF94-274	Ford Field Park Land Acquisition	1994		Purchase 2.4 acres of land along the Rough River as an expansion of Ford Field Park	Closed
CM99-252	Ford Field Park Improvements	1999		Ballfields, pedestrian bridge, observation deck, pathways, parking lot improvements	Closed

*The first characters of the project number indicates funding sources as follows:

26 = Land and Water Conservation Fund

BF = Recreation Bond Fund

TAP = Transportation Alternatives Program

TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

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Section 5



5 - The Planning Process

Plan Development Process

The 2024-2028 Northville Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed over the course of 2023. The plan development process began with an initial orientation meeting with the Parks and Recreation Interim Director, Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz, and the Parks & Facilities Superintendent, Nathan Reilly to establish study parameters and planning direction. Information was collected and analyzed related to Northville's current demographics, budgets and revenues and past planning efforts were reviewed. Perceived initial priorities were defined and a physical inventory of the department's park properties was completed by the consultant.

An extensive public input process was developed and implemented as described below. That information was synthesized with the data that had been gathered and proposed goals and objectives developed. The goals and objectives were refined through assigning priorities and phasing, as well as consideration of estimates of probable cost and development of the Capital Improvements Schedule. Subsequent refinement of the plan was performed through various discussions with Township and City representatives, public comment, and investigation of funding strategies and sources.

Public Participation

An effective means of obtaining public input is critical for the development of a five-year parks and recreation master plan. Public input is also required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans." For Northville's plan, several means of gaining input were used, including:

- Online opinion survey
- Public input meetings - June 2023-August 2023
- Public hearing, Charter Township of Northville - January 18, 2023
- Public hearing, City of Northville - January 18, 2023
- One Month Review Period - Posted on December 8, 2023

Summaries of the public input activities are given below. A full compilation of all survey results, input, and public comments is contained in the Appendix.

Public Input Meetings

Public input was sought by conducting several meetings and dropping in on community events. The first input session was held with Northville High School students on June 6, 2023. The consultant attended two (2) Farmers Market events on July 27, 2023 and August 3, 2023, asking for input from attendees and directing them to the online opinion survey. The consultant also attended a “Tunes on Tuesday” public event on July 11, 2023 at the Town Square bandshell.

A formal public input meeting was held August 3, 2023 at the Northville Community Center, 303 W Main Street from 3-7 pm. Attendees were asked to provide input on the parks, recreation, and programming currently available, as well as indicating what they see as important development or programming projects for the future. Comments were recorded as meeting notes and are included in the Appendix of this document.

Staff Meeting

A meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department staff on August 31, 2023 yielded additional input and insight from program and maintenance staff as to what they see happening within the park system.

Public Hearing

Public hearings were held during the January 18 regular Northville Township Board meeting and during the January 18 regularly scheduled City of Northville City Council meeting.



Online Opinion Survey

At the initial stage of the planning process, an online survey was developed to gauge public opinion on the future of Northville's Parks and Recreation facilities and programming.

The online survey was conducted using the web-based "Survey Monkey" application. The survey was placed online 5/25/2023 and was closed 11/1/2023. It was publicized in the local newspaper, on the Township's website and through a series of email blasts to known groups and local organizations.

A total of 2,505 responses were received for the online survey. Details of responses are shown in the Appendix.



Examples of the business cards that were handed out and yard signs that were placed around the community to advertise the opinion survey

Section 6



6 - Goals and Objectives

Overview

In the broadest sense, a Parks and Recreation Plan should offer the community a series of guidelines or recommendations for making consistent and rational public decisions regarding the delivery of recreation programs and facilities. Goals and objectives, in the context of recreation and park planning, should be the guiding influence determining the nature and extent of future park acquisition, development, administrative, and programming actions. They should be idealistic to the extent that they provide a desirable condition to strive towards and be ready for opportunities that may not be evident today such as new grant programs, benefactors, donations, etc. that present themselves. However, the goals must be tempered by the recognition of financial, social, physical, and political realities in order to be achievable. Successful policy should further recognize the evaluation of the community's recreation system, and the relationship of this system to relevant demographic characteristics.

Goals should be broad, address general needs, and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable results that Northville Parks and Recreation can work toward accomplishing. Both goals and objectives offer policy direction and the framework for recreation providers. The following goals and objectives reflect the community's short and long-term recreation needs identified in the previous chapters. Specific methods for achieving these goals are described in the Action Program and Capital Improvement Plan in the following section.

Parks and Recreation 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 Northville Parks and Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing quality recreation experiences that encourage healthy lifestyles, enhance social and community development and cultivate lifelong enrichment opportunities for all ages on a year-round basis, while striving to be good stewards of our natural resources.

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. An older, developed City and a growing, and now mostly developed Township share one school district and many resources successfully. Strong volunteer efforts enrich the community, such as youth sports league administration, commissions, planning efforts, and historical and natural resource preservation efforts. Multiple organizations

and agencies work together collaboratively to create a strong sense of one, made stronger by the partnerships, trust and communication with stakeholders and elected officials.

Objectives:

- Collaborate with community organizations, agencies, civic groups, and businesses to provide community festivals, functions, and events.
- Provide volunteer opportunities in program delivery and improvement projects.
- Explore opportunities with Wayne County, Oakland County, Michigan State Parks, and other local jurisdictions to jointly provide desired programs and services, while minimizing duplication and competition between agencies.
- Recruit civic and business organizations to assist with park improvement projects.
- Develop inclusive recreational programs and facilities to ensure accessibility for individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Goal #2: Maintain and enhance parks and amenities to provide clean, functional, safe, and attractive environments.

High quality and well-maintained parks and facilities are important to the Northville community. Safe parks and facilities are also critical, as is beautification. It is essential that public parks reflect the same values the Northville residents exhibit.

Objectives:

- Evaluate and improve universal accessibility at all parks.
- Maintain and update existing park equipment and amenities as needed, including playground equipment, hard pavement surfaces, and landscaped areas.
- Study the need for a multi-use outdoor community gathering area that serves as a venue for concerts, festivals, art and other cultural programming.
- Promote the inclusion of green space, trail connections, recreation amenities, etc. as new developments are planned.
- Monitor the use of athletic fields and facilities to determine additional needs.
- Coordinate efforts with the Johnson Creek Preservation Group for opportunities to preserve open space and provide public access along the Johnson Creek.
- Analyze park maintenance operations and implement plans to most efficiently maintain the parks using full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff, and contractual services.
- Develop a comprehensive annual park maintenance plan.
- Implement a broad-based training program for all park maintenance staff.
- Utilize technology to enhance park experiences, including apps for virtual tours and interactive maps.

Goal #3: Provide diverse, quality recreation facilities and programs that meet the needs and interests of the community.

Northville has an active resident base who embrace a wide variety of healthy recreational activities. There is also a changing

demographic within the community reflecting a growing older adult population and a more diverse cultural population, who indicate recreation opportunities are important to their quality of life. In addition, Northville residents celebrate their community with a variety of family-oriented festivals and events.

Objectives:

- Provide recreational opportunities that promote and encourage healthy lifestyles for all ages.
- Increase programs and services to active older adults that provide social, health & wellness, travel, and lifelong learning options.
- Increase programs that reflect the changing trends and cultural diversity within the community.
- Create recreation opportunities that go beyond the traditional team sports, such as individual sporting pursuits, pickleball, fitness training, enrichment, environmental education, cultural, and multi-generational programs.
- Continue to maximize programming opportunities within the shared Northville Public Schools facilities.
- Evaluate and improve universal accessibility at all recreation facilities.
- Study the need for, and possible location of, a new recreation facility.

Goal #4: Manage efficient administrative and operational systems within the Parks and Recreation Department.

Delivering the gold standard of customer service is a necessity in order to remain competitive in providing leisure services, especially since 50% of the department's operational budget is generated through program and facility fees & charges, along with grants and donations. Providing high value programs, services, and experiences in a customer friendly way is also expected.

Objectives:

- Recruit and train team members who understand and appreciate the importance of giving high quality customer service, and who share the values for providing programs and services that meet the needs and expectations of the community.
- Provide ongoing staff training in customer service and operational procedures.
- Expand web-based marketing efforts, with less reliance on printed materials, to conveniently inform residents of programs, facilities, and services.
- Review Parks and Recreation Master Plan annually, and update as needed, to establish priorities and ensure alignment with the CIP.
- Develop policies and procedures that clearly outline the Commission's philosophy on parks, programs, facilities, and services to the customers and staff members, i.e. Park and Facility Use Policies, Fees & Charges Policies, Park and Facility Rental Policies.
- Secure Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation. To be recognized by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) for their high standards and best practices. CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for parks and recreation agencies and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community.

Goal #5: Expand multi-modal transportation connections between parks, schools, community facilities, shopping districts, and historical sites to provide access for residents.

Objectives:

- Support the Northville Township Pathways Plan.
- Support the City of Northville Non-Motorized Plan.
- Collaborate with Wayne County and other communities on regional trail/pathway connections.
- Collaborate with Wayne County in the planning for and implementation of the Hines Park Mill Run Project.
- Work with the developers of The Downs Project and other stakeholders to establish trail connections with the Bennett Arboretum Pathway, Hines Park, and the City of Northville Non-Motorized Trail Plans.
- Work with community stakeholders to daylight the Rouge River, which runs underneath Northville Downs.
- Create an accessible route connecting downtown Northville from the street grid to Ford Field Park.
- Work to establish a greenway along the Johnson Creek to encourage preservation, enhancement and an increased community understanding of this important watershed.
- Work to implement the Riverwalk Vision.

Goal #6: Meet the needs of the community with new or updated facilities and programs to provide healthy life-styles year-round.

Objectives:

- Replace or upgrade outdated infrastructure such as; buildings, community centers, activity areas, and insufficient outdoor facilities, to serve citizens, by offering programs that will meet their needs throughout the four seasons.
- Potential facilities and programs to update may include: Public Services, New Community Center, Indoor recreation programs, outdoor gardens, trails, physical fitness programs.

Goal #7: Create and implement phased development of Legacy Park.

Objectives:

- Create an updated master plan for Legacy Park based upon citizen input. (in process)
- Work to implement the trail plan been developed by Kay-Linn Enterprises.
- Work to plan for and implement the numerous opportunities for outdoor and indoor facilities within Legacy Park such as a new community center and administration offices,

System-Wide Recommendations:

In addition to capital investments into the parks and recreation system, the Parks and Recreation Department must also 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 regardless of ability level. As parks and facilities are improved and 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. Providing access and resources for individuals with other disabilities such as those who are neurodivergent or those who are blind or deaf is also paramount.

Branding

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 Trustees, City Council, Wayne County Park Department, Northville 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 all contribute to providing recreational services to the residents. 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, park events and social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.). 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. Other possible funding resources include the establishment of a Park Foundation and the re-establishment of the previously successful Friends of the Parks group.

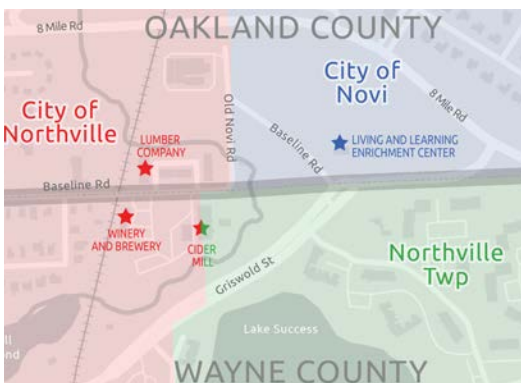
Public Involvement

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.

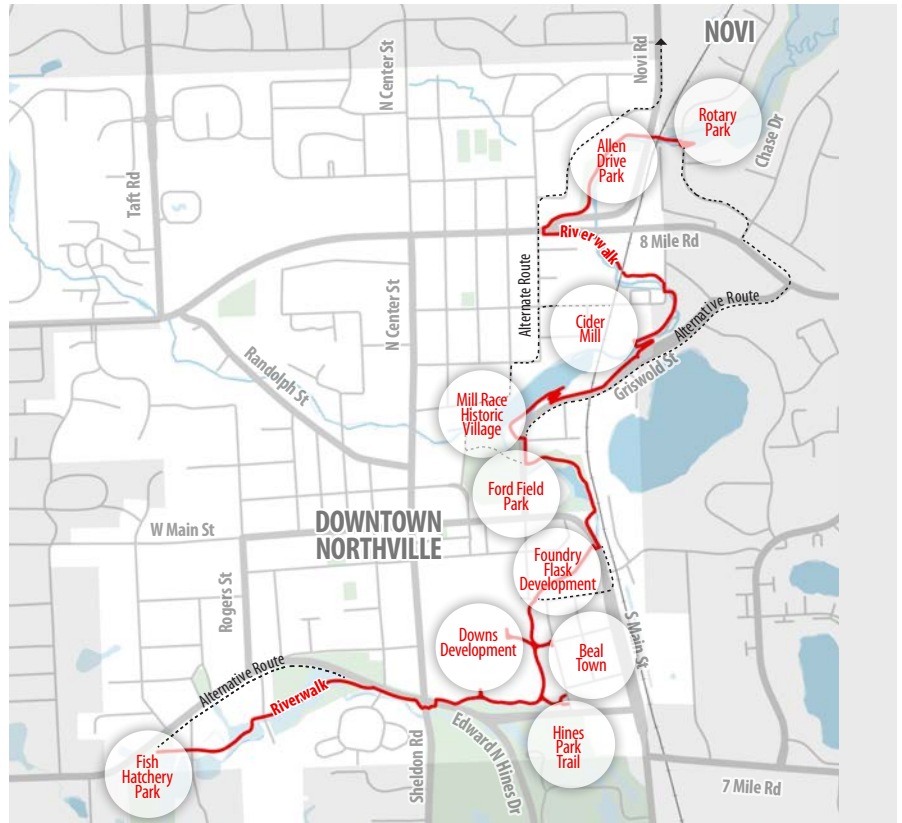
Riverwalk Vision

In November 2020, Northville City Council formed the Northville Middle Rouge River Restoration Task Force (RRTF) whose charge was to create a plan to restore the ecological health of the City's waterways while improving public access and recreation. Over the course of the ensuing year, the RRTF developed a River Restoration Framework Plan that outlined a long-term plan for restoring the branch of the Rouge River that runs through the City of Northville and developing a public riverwalk.

The riverwalk vision exemplified Northville's aspirations for the future. It connects parks and destinations across the City, joining Hines Park trail in the south and positioning the City for a connection to the I-275 Metro Trail and the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail in the northeast. Embracing this long-term vision will require dedication, commitment, and adaptability from all stakeholders as it is a challenging route, constrained by availability of rights-of-way, cost-intensive infrastructure, environmental and political constraints, and coordination with external organizations.



Jurisdiction Map, City of Northville 2023 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan



Map of Proposed Riverwalk, City of Northville 2023 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

Multi-Jurisdictional Coordination for the River Walk Vision Implementation

The alternative near-term route for the River Walk Vision requires coordination with multiple entities, including the Oakland County Road Commission, Wayne County Road Commission, City of Novi, and Northville Township. Coordinating actions and planning on Griswold Street, Old Novi Road, Baseline Road and 8 Mile Road will be essential due to the complexity of transportation issues involving these various jurisdictions. While there is a strong desire for a pedestrian connection along Old Novi Road to the Cider Mill Area, challenging terrain, including steep grades, tight curves, and truck traffic, currently limits viable options. Additionally, the Living and Learning Enrichment Center presents an opportunity for non-motorized access. In the short term, it is recommended to establish a cleared/mowed area alongside the road to facilitate access. A long-term bike-ped connection between Old Novi Road, Baseline Road and Griswold Road should be actively pursued.

The following section is an excerpt from the Non-Motorized Plan which outlines the key obstacles to implementing the Riverwalk Vision, highlighting critical factors that require consideration and strategic planning to make this vision a reality.

Environmental Impact and Conservation

The construction of a pathway along a river and through wetland areas requires consideration of potential environmental impacts, such as habitat disruption, soil erosion, and disturbance to sensitive plant and animal species. Wetland protection mandates adherence to regulations ensuring ecosystem preservation.

Design and Accessibility

Designing universally accessible pathways, especially in uneven terrain, poses challenges, particularly with steep slopes. Trail accessibility must adhere to ADA guidelines, crucial during design and construction, especially for federally funded facilities.

Flooding and Trail Maintenance

Pathways located near rivers and wetlands are susceptible to flooding and fluctuating water levels. Ensuring resilience against these conditions is pivotal for long-term sustainability. Maintenance and environmental preservation require ongoing dedication and resources.

Infrastructure and Engineering

Creating pathways in ecologically sensitive zones often demands specialized materials and engineering for stable foundations and erosion control. Securing funds and necessary permits from environmental agencies and local governments is crucial for construction.

Land Acquisition and Rights-of Way

Securing the necessary land and rights-of-way to build the pathway can be an expensive and time-consuming process, especially when dealing with private properties and obtaining easements.

Feasibility

Staying adaptable during the project's life cycle is vital. Route feasibility may change due to complexities. Exploring alternative routes, such as utilizing existing rights-of-way, could be essential for progress toward the Riverwalk Vision. Opportunities for alternative routes utilizing existing rights-of-way are noted on the map.



Image: Area north of the Historic Village, identified in the Non-Motorized Plan as being one of the more challenging areas for development .

*See the City of Northville, 2023 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for additional information on the Riverwalk Vision and other non-motorized facilities within the City of Northville.

Section 7



7 - The Action Plan

Actions

The following action plan or “Capital Improvement Plan” (CIP) was developed based upon information gathered from public input, interviews, demographic data, land use trends and efforts of adjacent communities. The plan covers the next five years. These projects may be funded through grant sources such as those provided through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grants, Waterways Program Grants, Michigan Habitat Improvement Fund Program Grants, Invasive Species Grant Program, or Wildlife Habitat Grant Program. There may also be grants available through private corporations, non-profit organizations, and other state and federal agencies.

Please note: The capital improvements are listed in no particular order. The matrix provides a target year, the project location, a description, an estimated range of likely costs, revenue sources, and goals. It is intended to be used as a guideline for planning.

Capital Improvement Plan Schedule

Northville Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2024-2028)

Project Location	Target Year	Project Description	Estimated Costs	Revenue Source
Marv Gans Community Park	2024	Soccer Amenities	\$35,000	Park Millage/Donation
	2025	Parking Lot and Drive Improvements	\$515,000	Park Millage
	2026	MGCP Pathway - VAN to 5 Mile	\$100,000	Park Millage
	2027	Rewire Irrigation System and Components	\$40,000	Park Millage
	2028	Park Amenities	\$100,000	Park Millage
Millennium Park	2027	Replace Play Structure	\$150,000	Park Millage
	2028	Soccer Field Improvements	\$145,000	Park Millage
Veteran’s Park	2027	Shelter or trails	\$60,000	Park Millage
Sheldon Road Park	2024	Replace Play Structure	\$125,000	Park Millage
	2027	Sport Court	\$50,000	Park Millage
	2028	OOutdoor Fitness Area	\$100,000	Park Millage
Bennet Arboretum	2028	Pathway Boardwalk Repair	\$50,000	Park Millage

Project Location	Target Year	Project Description	Estimated Costs	Revenue Source
Coldwater Springs	2026	Parking Lot Improvements	\$40,000	Park Millage
	2028	Boardwalk Repair/Replacement	\$150,000	Park Millage
Legacy Park	2024	Trail Development - Phase 1	\$252,500	Park Millage
	2025	Trail Development - Phase 2	\$1,515,000	Park Millage
	2026	Trail Development - Phase 3	\$650,000	Park Millage
	2024	Ecological Restoration - Design	\$100,000	Park Millage
	2024-2025	Ecological Restoration - Dangerous Tree Removal	\$50,000	Park Millage
	2024-2028	Ecological Restoration - Invasive Species	\$225,000	Park Millage
	2027	Ecological Restoration - Forests and Wetlands	\$840,000	Park Millage
	2024-2028	Park Development - Amenities	\$1,000,000	Park Millage
	2024	Park Development - Signage	\$225,000	Park Millage
	2024	Develop New Park Master Plan	\$25,000	Park Millage
Fish Hatchery Park	2025	Storage Building with Electrical Service	\$25,000	Park Millage
	2026	Resurface Tennis and Pickleball Courts	\$110,000	Park Millage
Buildings and Property Improvements	2024	Essential Services Complex - Construction	\$450,000	Park Millage
	2024	Parks Building (Beck) - Garage Door Replacement	\$120,000	Park Millage
	2024	Parks Building (Beck) - Concrete Improvements	\$200,000	Park Millage
	2024	Parks Building (Beck) - Carpet and FFE	\$300,000	Park Millage
	2024	Legacy Park Building 14 Renovation	\$150,000	Park Millage
Overall Park System	2024	Develop a Signage Plan to create a uniform signage system throughout the parks system	\$25,000	Park Millage
	2025	Signage Plan Implementation Phase 1	\$50,000	Park Millage
	2026	Signage Plan Implementation Phase 1	\$50,000	Park Millage
	2027	Signage Plan Implementation Phase 1	\$50,000	Park Millage

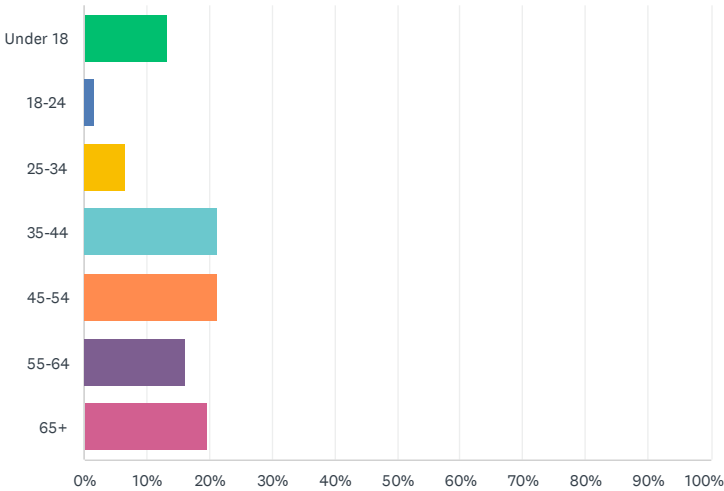
*** THIS DOCUMENT IS A LONG RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND IS REVIEWED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. ALL PROJECTS LISTED ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING THROUGH GRANT SOURCES, PARK MILLAGE, TOTAL OF PRIVATE DONATIONS AND THE GENERAL FUND AND THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWNSHIP AND CITY BOARDS.

*** NORTHVILLE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT OTHER SOURCES FOR FUNDING IN ADDITION TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

DRAFT

Q1 What is your age?

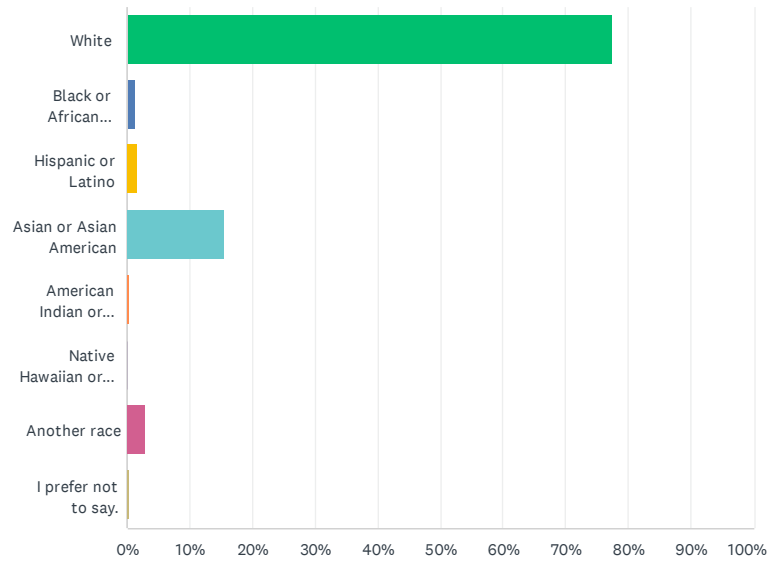
Answered: 2,496 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Under 18		13.26%	331
18-24		1.80%	45
25-34		6.69%	167
35-44		21.27%	531
45-54		21.23%	530
55-64		16.19%	404
65+		19.55%	488
TOTAL			2,496

Q2 What is your ethnicity?

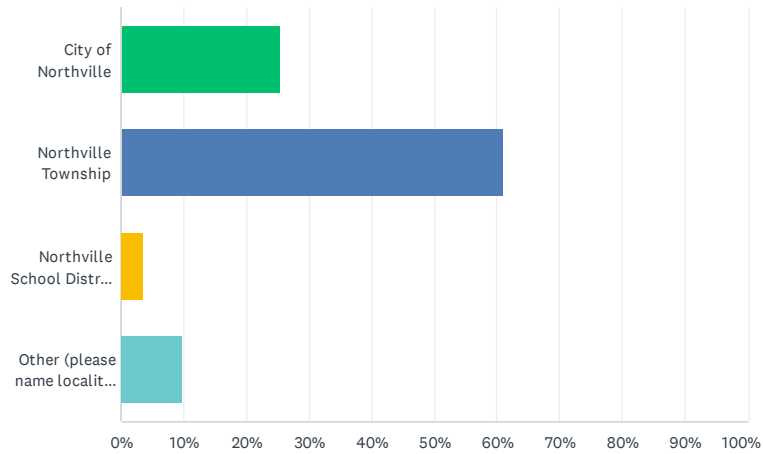
Answered: 2,457 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
White		77.45%	1,903
Black or African American		1.30%	32
Hispanic or Latino		1.79%	44
Asian or Asian American		15.47%	380
American Indian or Alaska Native		0.33%	8
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander		0.20%	5
Another race		3.05%	75
I prefer not to say.		0.41%	10
TOTAL			2,457

Q3 Where do you live?

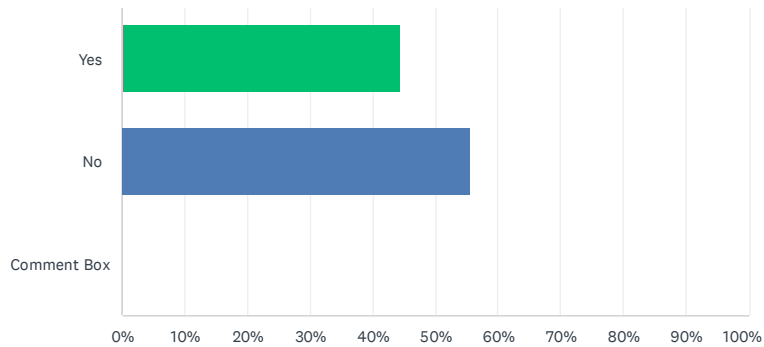
Answered: 2,499 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Northville	25.45%	636
Northville Township	60.94%	1,523
Northville School District Resident (Non-City/Non-Township)	3.72%	93
Other (please name locality, for example: Novi)	9.88%	247
TOTAL		2,499

Q4 Are you familiar with the previous planning effort for the Legacy Park property titled "Twenty21: Seven Mile Road Property Master Plan" that was completed in 2012?

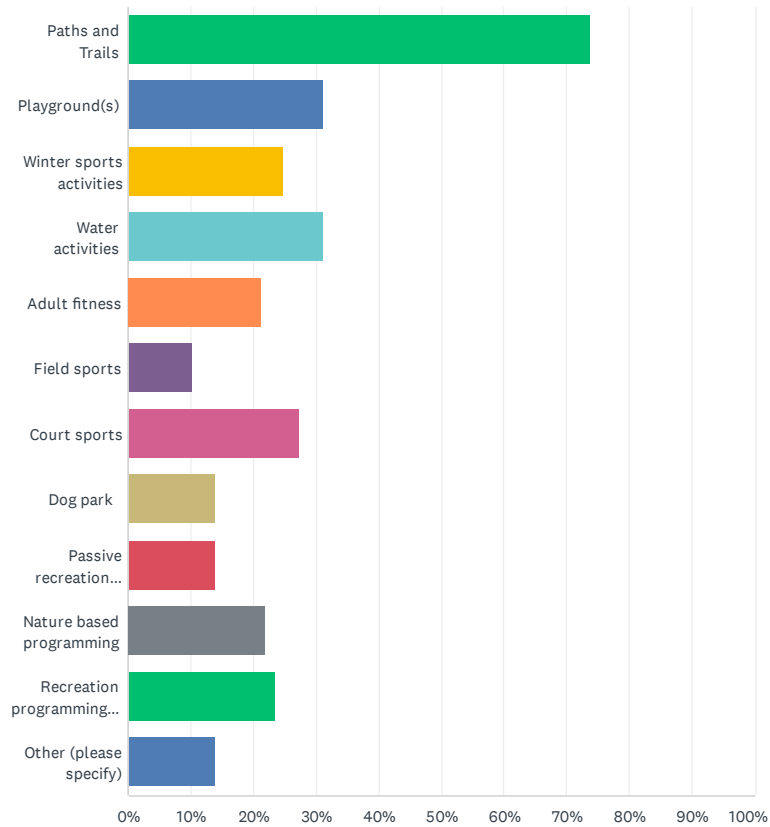
Answered: 1,383 Skipped: 1,122



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.40%	614
No	55.60%	769
Comment Box	0.00%	0
TOTAL		1,383

Q5 Please select your top 3 activities you would like to see in Legacy Park.

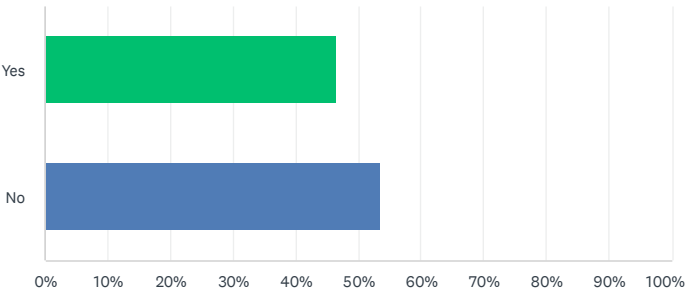
Answered: 1,383 Skipped: 1,122



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Paths and Trails	73.75%	1,020
Playground(s)	31.16%	431
Winter sports activities	24.80%	343
Water activities	31.09%	430
Adult fitness	21.26%	294
Field sports	10.34%	143
Court sports	27.33%	378
Dog park	13.81%	191
Passive recreation (Drop in activities)	13.96%	193
Nature based programming	21.91%	303
Recreation programming (youth, adult, & senior)	23.43%	324
Other (please specify)	13.81%	191
Total Respondents: 1,383		

Q6 Are you aware of the Legacy Park Trail Development plan adopted in October of 2022?

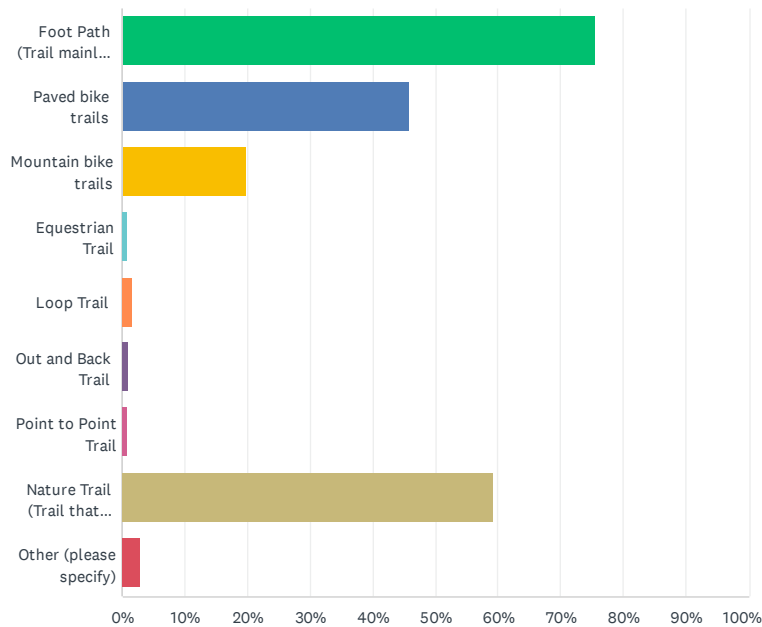
Answered: 1,371 Skipped: 1,134



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	46.46%	637
No	53.54%	734
TOTAL		1,371

Q7 What type of trail would you/your family use the most? Check all that apply.

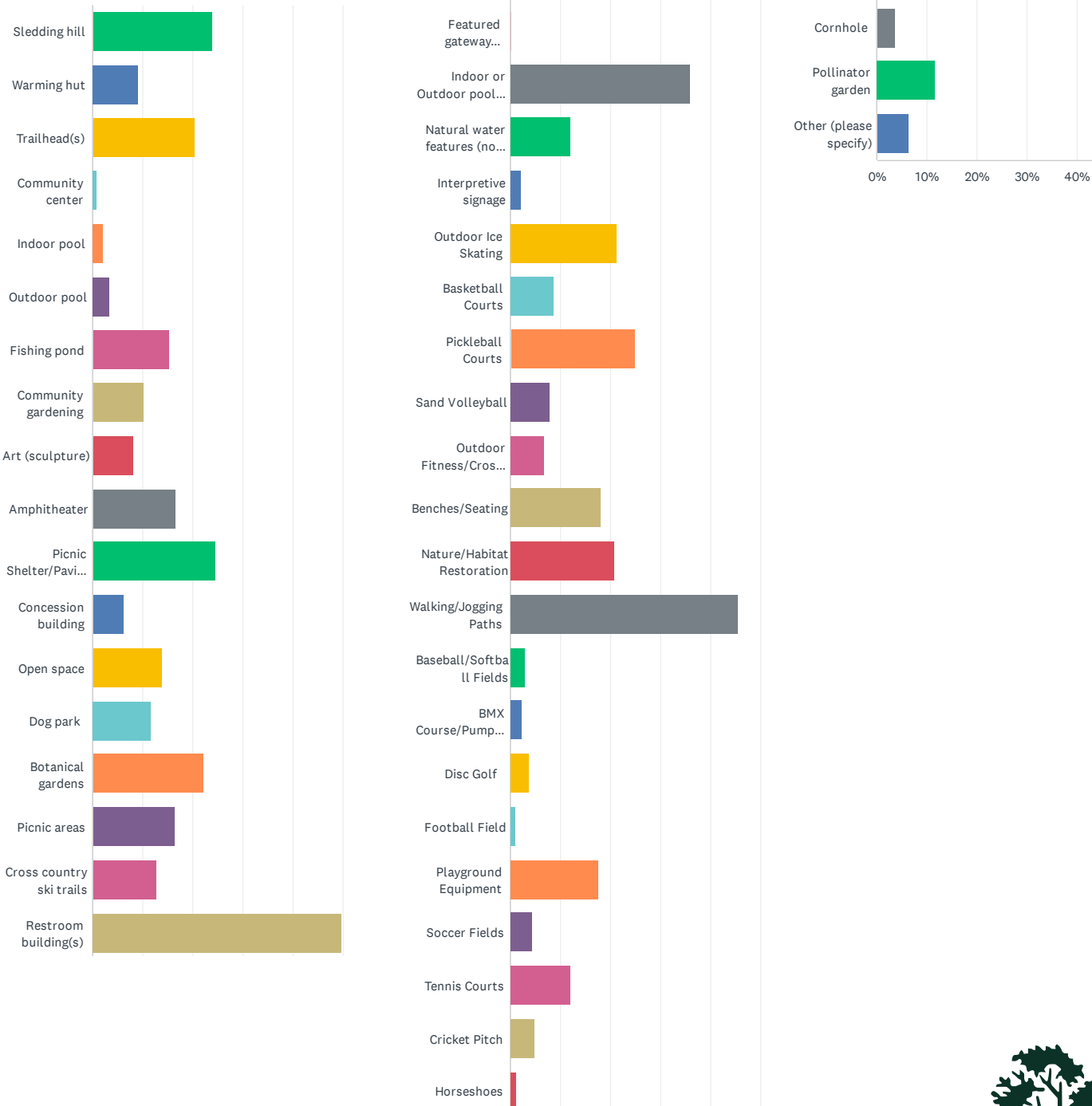
Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 1,127



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Foot Path (Trail mainly for people on foot - hikers, runners, backpackers, etc.)	75.47%	1,040
Paved bike trails	45.86%	632
Mountain bike trails	19.74%	272
Equestrian Trail	0.80%	11
Loop Trail	1.67%	23
Out and Back Trail	1.09%	15
Point to Point Trail	0.87%	12
Nature Trail (Trail that showcases natural features - plants, animals, geology, etc.)	59.29%	817
Other (please specify)	2.90%	40
Total Respondents: 1,378		

Q8 Select up to 5 amenities/facilities you would like to see developed at Legacy Park.

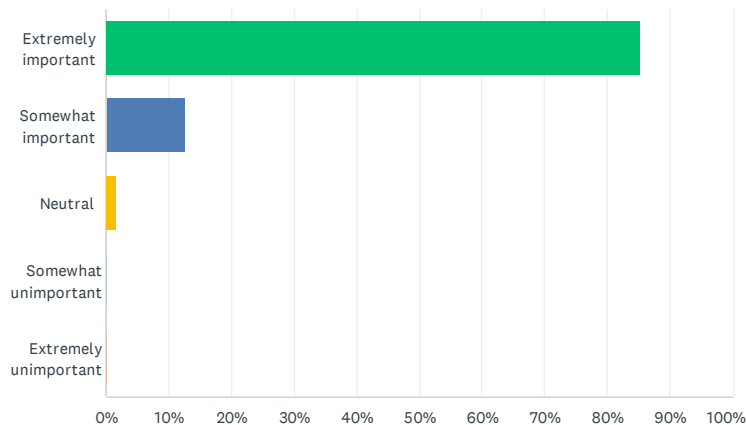
Answered: 1,382 Skipped: 1,123



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sledding hill	23.88%	330
Warming hut	9.12%	126
Trailhead(s)	20.55%	284
Community center	0.80%	11
Indoor pool	2.17%	30
Outdoor pool	3.47%	48
Fishing pond	15.27%	211
Community gardening	10.20%	141
Art (sculpture)	8.18%	113
Amphitheater	16.71%	231
Picnic Shelter/Pavilion (wedding, picnics, etc.)	24.53%	339
Concession building	6.15%	85
Open space	13.82%	191
Dog park	11.65%	161
Botanical gardens	22.14%	306
Picnic areas	16.50%	228
Cross country ski trails	12.74%	176
Restroom building(s)	49.93%	690
Featured gateway entrance	0.29%	4
Indoor or Outdoor pool, or Splash pad	35.96%	497
Natural water features (no swimming, wading, fishing)	12.23%	169
Interpretive signage	2.10%	29
Outdoor Ice Skating	21.27%	294
Basketball Courts	8.76%	121
Pickleball Courts	24.96%	345
Sand Volleyball	7.89%	109
Outdoor Fitness/Crossfit	6.73%	93
Benches/Seating	18.09%	250
Nature/Habitat Restoration	20.98%	290
Walking/Jogging Paths	45.73%	632
Baseball/Softball Fields	2.89%	40
BMX Course/Pump Track	2.24%	31
Disc Golf	3.76%	52
Football Field	1.16%	16
Playground Equipment	17.80%	246
Soccer Fields	4.56%	63
Tennis Courts	12.08%	167
Cricket Pitch	4.85%	67
Horseshoes	1.30%	18
Cornhole	3.69%	51
Pollinator garden	11.72%	162
Other (please specify)	6.30%	87
Total Respondents: 1,382		

Q9 How important do you feel public parks and recreational facilities are?

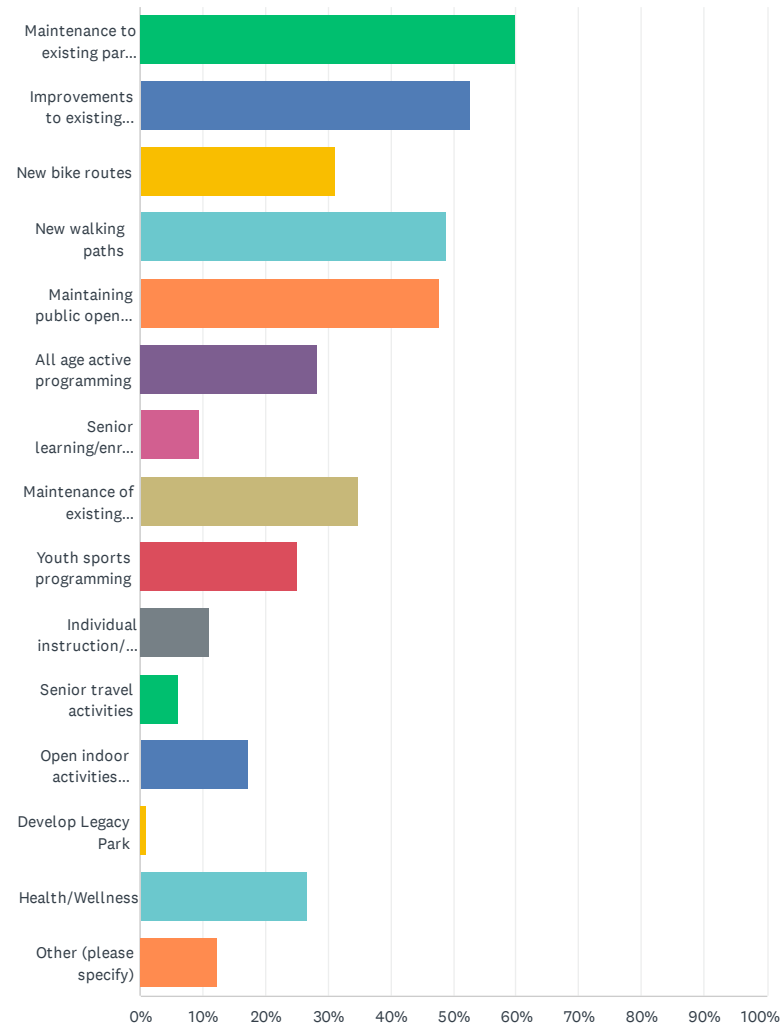
Answered: 1,914 Skipped: 591



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Extremely important		85.32%	1,633
Somewhat important		12.54%	240
Neutral		1.67%	32
Somewhat unimportant		0.21%	4
Extremely unimportant		0.26%	5
TOTAL			1,914

Q10 What are your top 5 priorities? Please select up to 5.

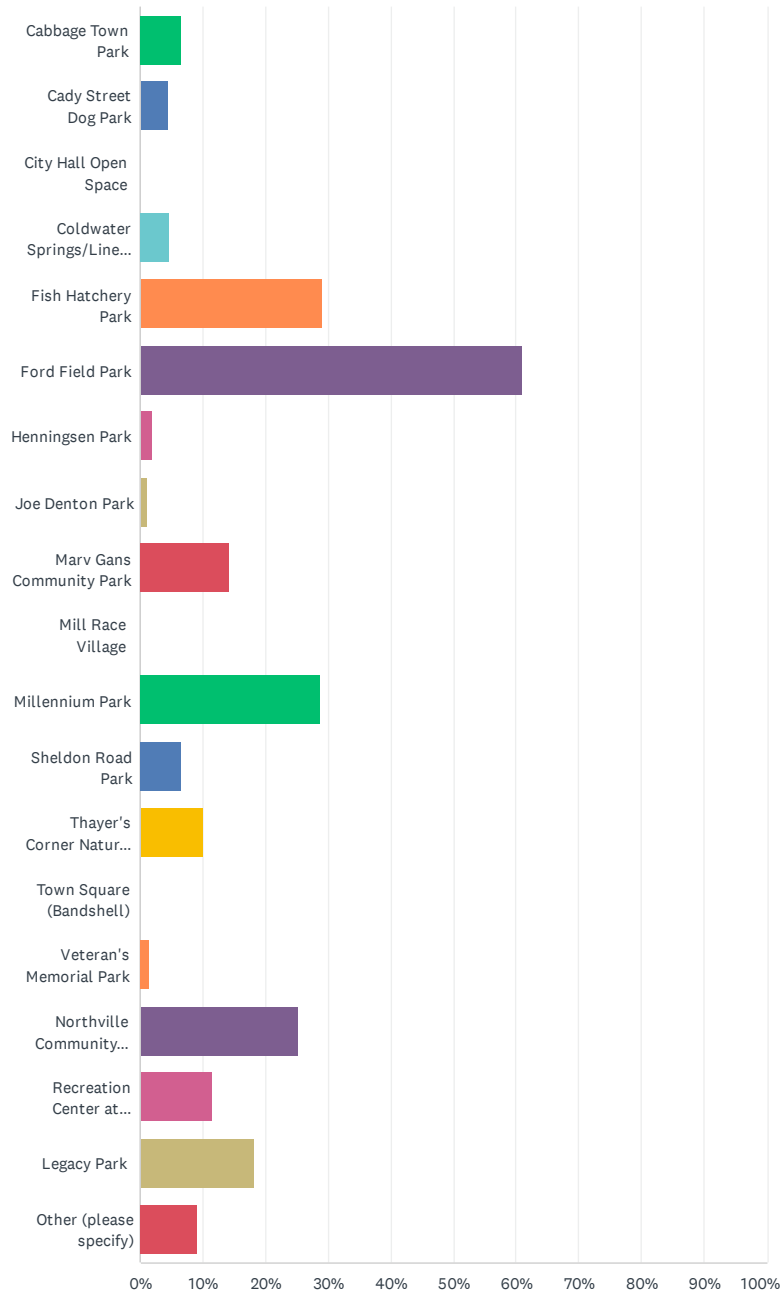
Answered: 1,905 Skipped: 600



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Maintenance to existing parks (Millennium, Community, Ford Field, etc.)	59.95%	1,142
Improvements to existing parks	52.76%	1,005
New bike routes	31.18%	594
New walking paths	48.77%	929
Maintaining public open space/natural areas	47.82%	911
All age active programming	28.35%	540
Senior learning/enrichment programming	9.45%	180
Maintenance of existing recreation facilities (Northville Community Center and/or Recreation Center at Hillside)	34.75%	662
Youth sports programming	25.09%	478
Individual instruction/enrichment programs (golf, dance)	11.02%	210
Senior travel activities	6.25%	119
Open indoor activities (volleyball, basketball)	17.32%	330
Develop Legacy Park	1.00%	19
Health/Wellness	26.56%	506
Other (please specify)	12.28%	234
Total Respondents: 1,905		

Q11 What is your favorite park or recreation facility? You may choose up to 3.

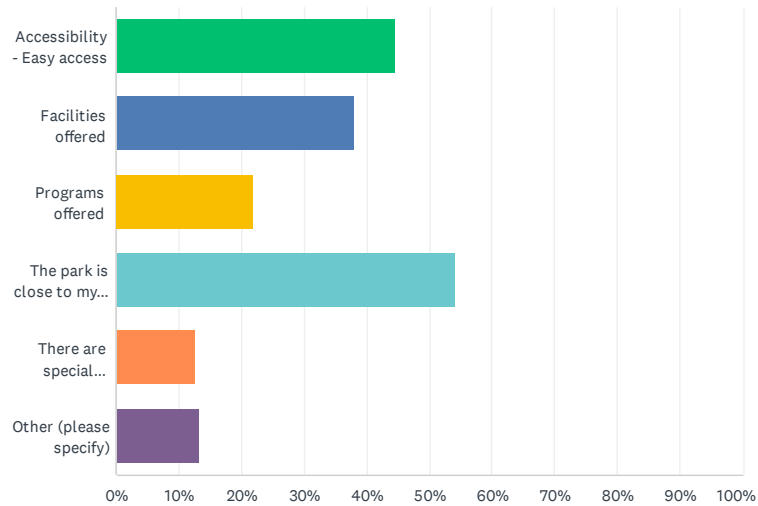
Answered: 1,613 Skipped: 892



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cabbage Town Park	6.51%	105
Cady Street Dog Park	4.46%	72
City Hall Open Space	0.00%	0
Coldwater Springs/Linear Park	4.59%	74
Fish Hatchery Park	29.08%	469
Ford Field Park	60.88%	982
Henningsen Park	1.86%	30
Joe Denton Park	1.05%	17
Marv Gans Community Park	14.26%	230
Mill Race Village	0.00%	0
Millennium Park	28.89%	466
Sheldon Road Park	6.70%	108
Thayer's Corner Nature Area	10.04%	162
Town Square (Bandshell)	0.00%	0
Veteran's Memorial Park	1.55%	25
Northville Community Center (NCC)	25.23%	407
Recreation Center at Hillside (RCH)	11.59%	187
Legacy Park	18.10%	292
Other (please specify)	9.18%	148
Total Respondents: 1,613		

Q12 Why did you choose those 3 parks/facilities.

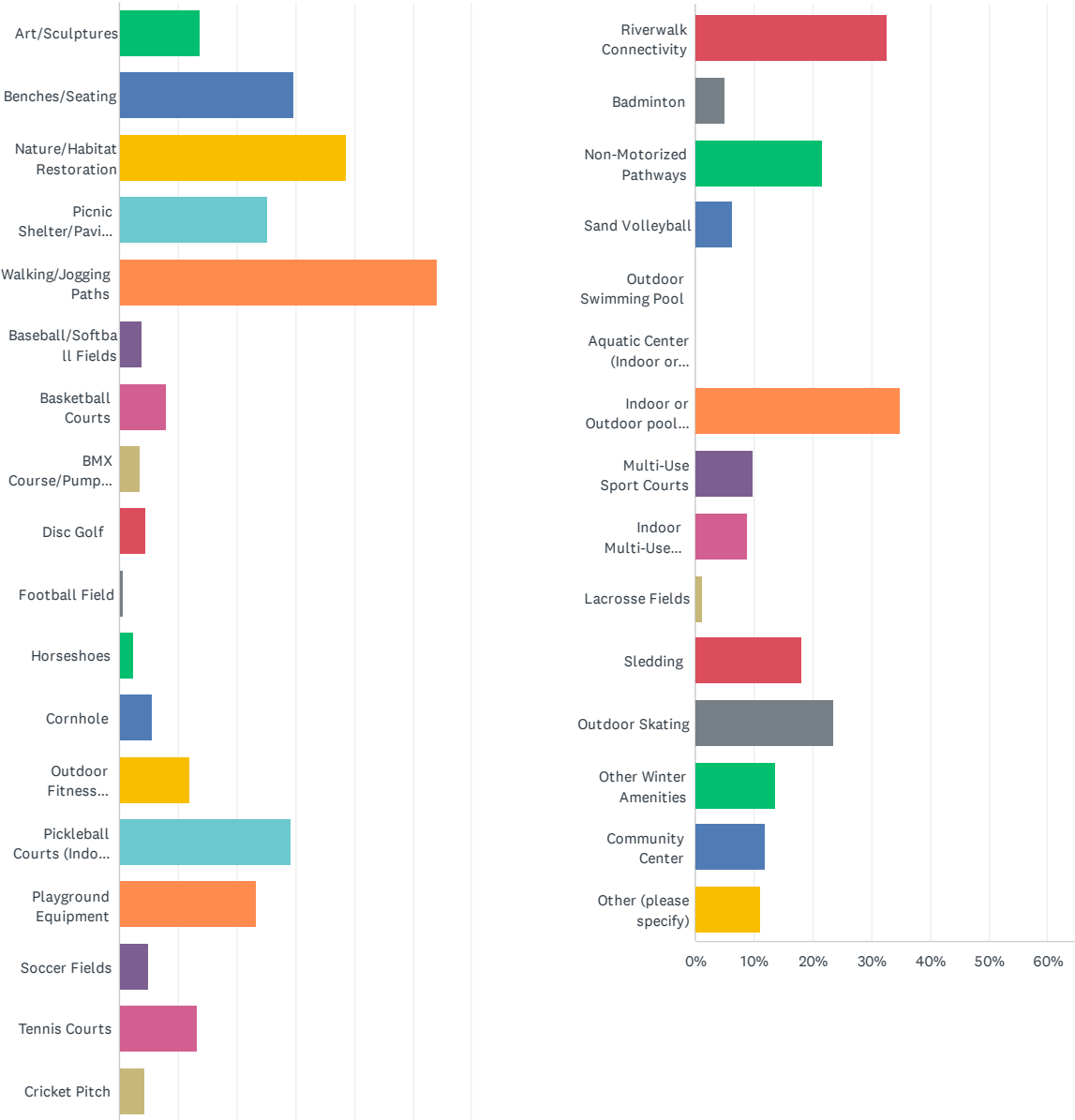
Answered: 1,577 Skipped: 928



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Accessibility - Easy access	44.51%	702
Facilities offered	37.92%	598
Programs offered	21.88%	345
The park is close to my house	54.09%	853
There are special activities offered	12.68%	200
Other (please specify)	13.25%	209
Total Respondents: 1,577		

Q13 What new park and recreation amenities/facilities would you like to see?

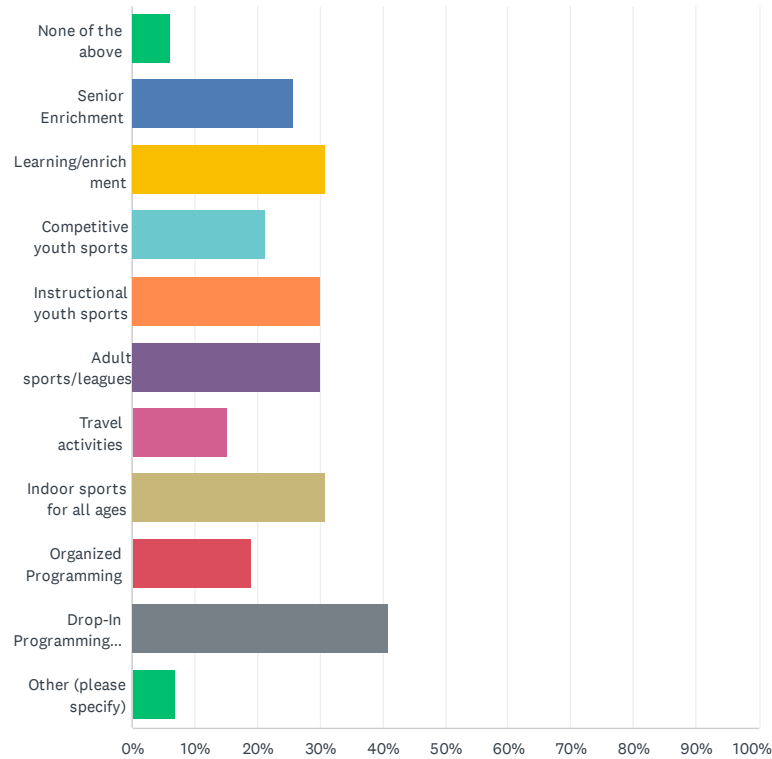
Answered: 1,679 Skipped: 826



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Art/Sculptures	13.64%	229
Benches/Seating	29.66%	498
Nature/Habitat Restoration	38.59%	648
Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	25.07%	421
Walking/Jogging Paths	54.26%	911
Baseball/Softball Fields	3.93%	66
Basketball Courts	7.92%	133
BMX Course/Pump Track	3.34%	56
Disc Golf	4.41%	74
Football Field	0.66%	11
Horseshoes	2.44%	41
Cornhole	5.60%	94
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	12.03%	202
Pickleball Courts (Indoor or Outdoor)	29.30%	492
Playground Equipment	23.29%	391
Soccer Fields	4.82%	81
Tennis Courts	13.22%	222
Cricket Pitch	4.35%	73
Riverwalk Connectivity	32.70%	549
Badminton	5.18%	87
Non-Motorized Pathways	21.68%	364
Sand Volleyball	6.49%	109
Outdoor Swimming Pool	0.00%	0
Aquatic Center (Indoor or Outdoor)	0.00%	0
Indoor or Outdoor pool, or Splash Pad	34.96%	587
Multi-Use Sport Courts	9.83%	165
Indoor Multi-Use Facility (Volleyball, Baseball, Soccer, Lacrosse)	8.87%	149
Lacrosse Fields	1.37%	23
Sledding	18.17%	305
Outdoor Skating	23.59%	396
Other Winter Amenities	13.64%	229
Community Center	11.97%	201
Other (please specify) Total Respondents: 1,679	11.08%	186

Q14 What new or expanded recreation activities should be offered?
Organized programming such as enrichment classes, sports leagues, summer camps; or, Drop in programming (open activities) such as pickleball, volleyball, badminton, basketball, table tennis, or walking?

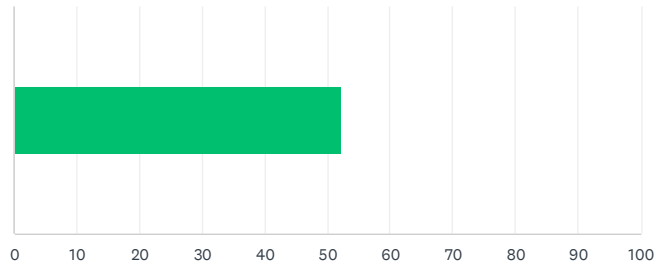
Answered: 1,562 Skipped: 943



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	6.08%	95
Senior Enrichment	25.80%	403
Learning/enrichment	30.86%	482
Competitive youth sports	21.25%	332
Instructional youth sports	30.09%	470
Adult sports/leagues	29.96%	468
Travel activities	15.04%	235
Indoor sports for all ages	30.99%	484
Organized Programming	19.08%	298
Drop-In Programming (Open activities)	40.85%	638
Other (please specify)	6.79%	106
Total Respondents: 1,562		

Q15 How satisfied are you with the senior programs at the Northville Community Center? Slide the bar, or enter a number in the box.

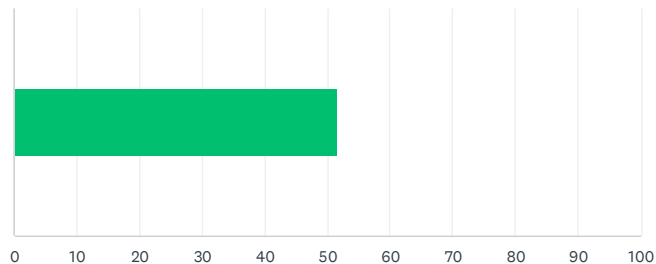
Answered: 1,430 Skipped: 1,075



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	52	74,759	1,430
Total Respondents: 1,430			

Q16 How satisfied are you with the programs at Hillside Community Center? Slide the bar, or enter a number in the box.

Answered: 1,380 Skipped: 1,125



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	52	71,348	1,380
Total Respondents: 1,380			

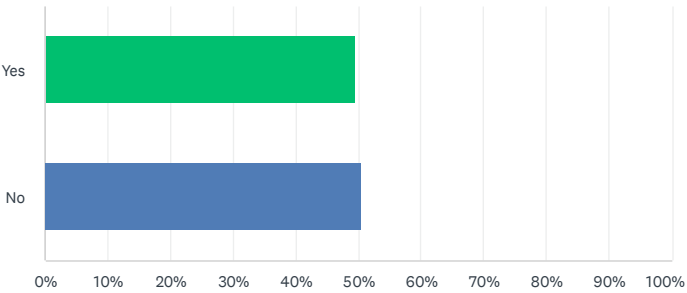
Q17 What types of programs would you like added to the Community Center schedule(s)?

Answered: 426 Skipped: 2,079

go working facilities euchre volleyball cards None Center courts enough evening s
outdoor leagues things recreation N trips sure art classes children card games use
open swim indoor social community center day Pickle ball tournaments
community learning basketball hours offered Swim lessons
fitness Fitness center groups nice youth Love yoga summer
kids tennis Pickleball enrichment senior lessons
programs Zumba activities Teen adult prices
classes music swimming walking times programs offered
drop think open school sports Badminton pool instructional options
variety play drop-in art Adult evening fitness classes evening weekend events
day trips senior activities etc travel available Northville soccer ages Dance one
pickelball indoor pool track service sign crafts clubs NA Winter toddler see

Q18 Would you be willing to pay a membership fee for more robust Senior service offerings?

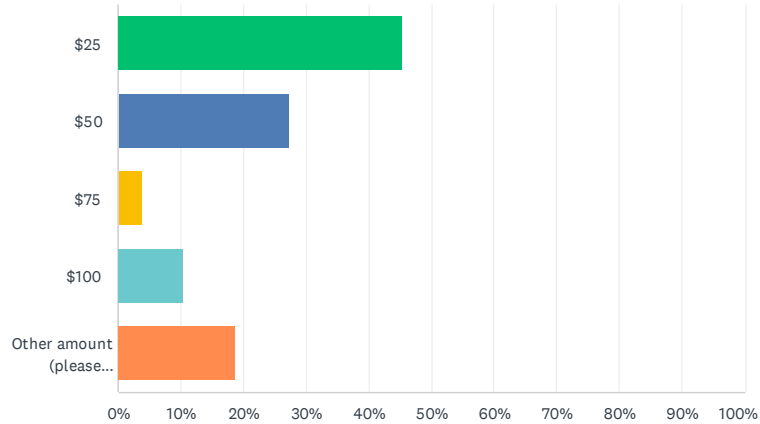
Answered: 1,409 Skipped: 1,096



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	49.40%	696
No	50.60%	713
TOTAL		1,409

Q19 If you are willing to pay a membership fee for Senior Community Center programming, what is an amount you would pay?

Answered: 855 Skipped: 1,650



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
\$25	45.50%	389
\$50	27.37%	234
\$75	3.86%	33
\$100	10.41%	89
Other amount (please specify)	18.71%	160
Total Respondents: 855		

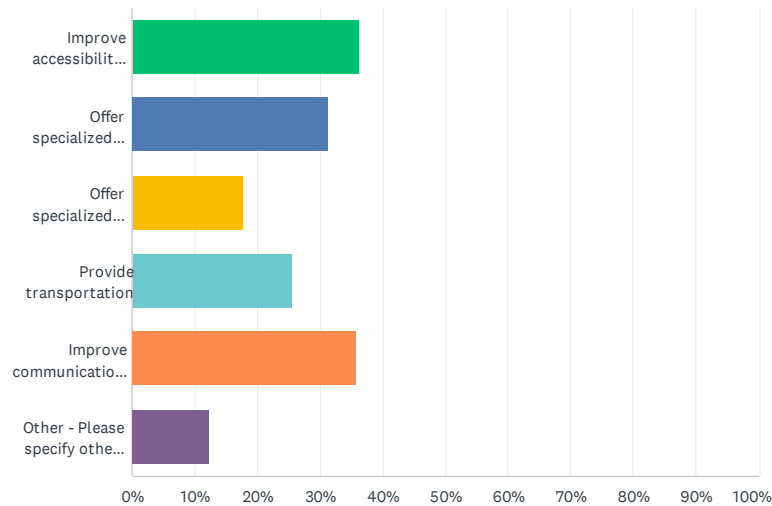
Q20 What else would you like to tell us about the recreation programs being offered at the two community centers?

Answered: 252 Skipped: 2,253

adding improved drop never Livonia attend make Much building weak recreation courts
Rec Center exercise available walking NA current indoor think really pickleball courts
youth don t swimming also open two N opportunities facilities people adults
seem times rec better play love field kids yoga classes find
activities aware Northville Please offered enjoying
programs events need now use centers
Community Center one seniors children see sports
community etc park new go yet nice either options younger Nothing
winter Pickleball Fish Hatchery enough Need better years organized S put pool leaving
Hillside start area provided parks rec together great space know familiar residents
regularly fitness cooking classes Novi want

Q21 Northville Parks and Recreation strives to provide access and facilities for all residents, including people of all abilities, race, gender, language, and beliefs. If there are any portions of the population that you feel may be underserved, what facilities or considerations could Northville Parks and Recreation add to enhance the parks and recreation experience for those individuals?

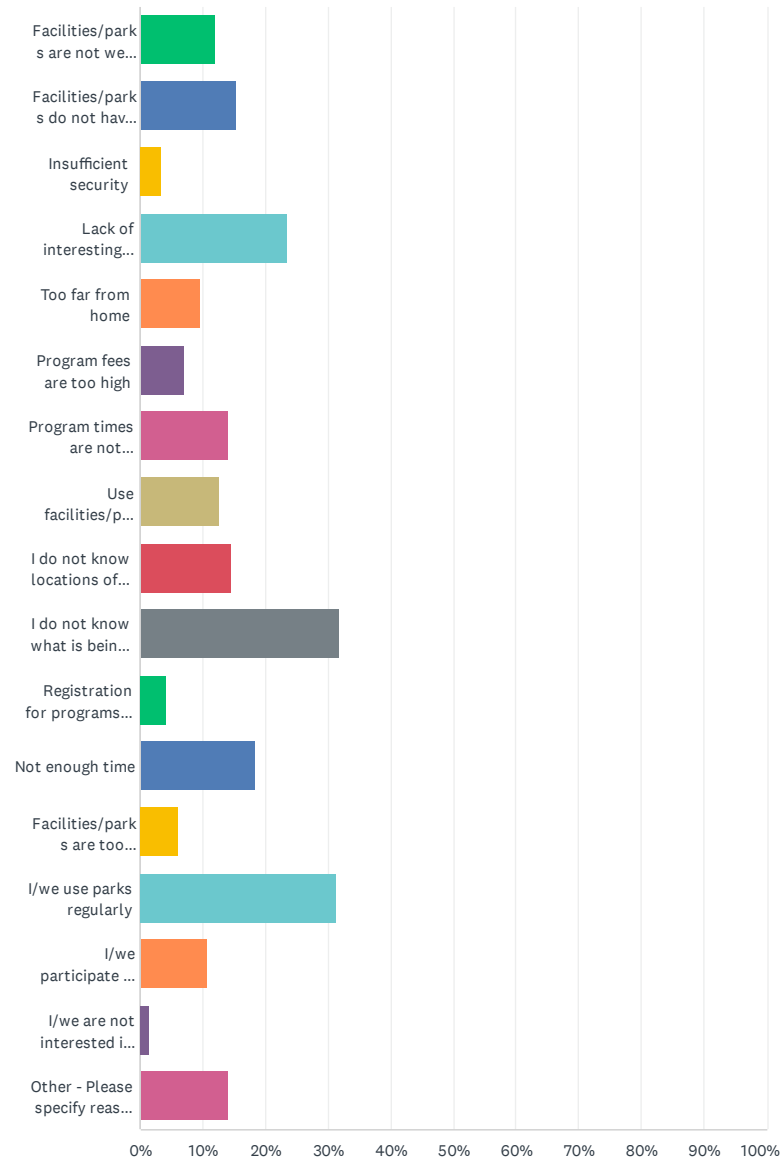
Answered: 753 Skipped: 1,752



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improve accessibility (ADA)	36.25%	273
Offer specialized programs	31.34%	236
Offer specialized facilities	17.80%	134
Provide transportation	25.63%	193
Improve communication options	35.86%	270
Other - Please specify other options that could be offered to improve the situation.	12.35%	93
Total Respondents: 753		

Q22 Please check all the reasons below that prevent you, or household members, from using parks, recreation facilities, and programs offered.

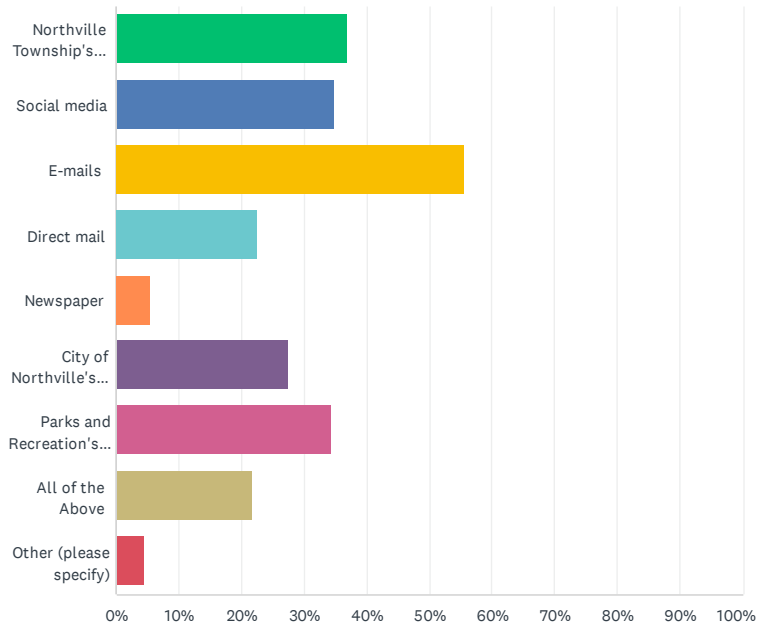
Answered: 1,623 Skipped: 882



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facilities/parks are not well maintained	11.89%	193
Facilities/parks do not have the right equipment	15.40%	250
Insufficient security	3.51%	57
Lack of interesting programs	23.48%	381
Too far from home	9.55%	155
Program fees are too high	6.96%	113
Program times are not convenient	13.99%	227
Use facilities/parks in other communities	12.51%	203
I do not know locations of parks	14.42%	234
I do not know what is being offered	31.79%	516
Registration for programs is difficult	4.19%	68
Not enough time	18.42%	299
Facilities/parks are too busy/crowded	6.28%	102
I/we use parks regularly	31.24%	507
I/we participate in programs regularly	10.66%	173
I/we are not interested in using parks/participating in programs	1.48%	24
Other - Please specify reason for not using parks and recreation facilities, OR, which non-Northville park you do visit.	13.99%	227
Total Respondents: 1,623		

Q23 What form of communication would you prefer to learn about park locations, activities, and/or special events?

Answered: 1,571 Skipped: 934



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Northville Township's website	36.86%	579
Social media	34.75%	546
E-mails	55.70%	875
Direct mail	22.60%	355
Newspaper	5.47%	86
City of Northville's website	27.50%	432
Parks and Recreation's website	34.31%	539
All of the Above	21.64%	340
Other (please specify)	4.46%	70
Total Respondents: 1,571		

Notice of 30 Day Public Comment

Minutes from the Public Hearing

Resolution of Adoption

Transmittal Letters to the County and Regional Planning Agencies

Prepared By:



LAP + CREATIVE

Landscape Architects and Planners.

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Planning Consultants:

Robert Ford, LA, Project Manager, LAP Inc.

Nick Wallace, Recreation Planner, LAP Inc.

2024-2028

*Community Parks
and Recreation Master Plan*

