

2019 HIGHLIGHTS



Parks, Recreation,
and Cultural Services



Thank you for your interest in Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. We're proud to share achievements that enhanced the experiences of our 2019 program participants, countless park visitors, volunteers, partners and sponsors.

In 2019, as we completed our 2020-24 Strategic Community Recreation and Master Park Plan, we reflected on our recent accomplishments and customer service as they relate to our core values of Innovation, Inclusion, Excellence, Integrity and Environment.

This report is designed to be a quick look into the department's successes. As always, we encourage you to reach out with any questions, comments or suggestions at noviparks@cityofnovi.org 248.347.0400

Jeff Muck, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services



inclusion

HELPING HANDS

Every week a number of people with special needs visit the Civic Center to lend a helping hand. The Novi Adult Transition Center students help with event preparation, collecting recycling, cleaning tables and chairs, and more. Novi Parks even hired an NATC student to work as a building attendant. This employee takes advantage of Novi Transportation to get to and from work.

Additionally, the City also collaborates with New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc. New Horizons specializes in job placement and vocational training for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment. They bring adults who reside in group homes to the Civic Center to assist with cleaning chairs and vacuuming council chambers, dusting windowsills, and more. A New Horizons job coach is also on site to mentor building attendants while on duty.

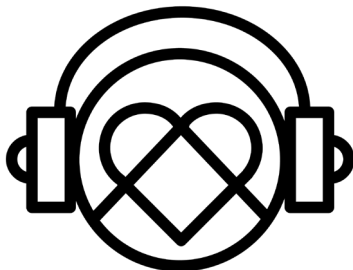
Our experiences with NATC and New Horizons have been overwhelmingly positive. The staff looks forward to interacting with the participants weekly and it's a pleasure to see them gain confidence in their social and work skills.

KULTURE CITY DESIGNATION

The Novi Civic Center and programs and events hosted onsite by the City of Novi are now KultureCity certified. KultureCity offers training and resources to those who want to become certified in sensory inclusion. A certified sensory inclusive facility offers toolkits that help patrons experiencing sensory overload during an event. This initiative promotes a positive experience for all guests with sensory needs that visit the Novi Civic Center.

and weighted lap pads, are available to guests at the Novi Civic Center who may feel overwhelmed by the environment. This includes Light up the Night, Daddy Daughter Dance, Spring Palooza, theatre productions, and more. Sensory sensitivities or challenges with sensory regulation are often experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD and other similar conditions.

Employees at the Novi Civic Center are trained to recognize guests with sensory needs and how to handle a sensory overload situation. Sensory bags, equipped with noise canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards





INCREASED MOBILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

Novi's Older Adult Transportation Program continues to grow. Following City Council's 2018 initiative to provide free and expanded transportation, the program ridership has increased by 7% and miles traveled has increased by 8%. The number of riders using wheelchairs has increased by 10%. The transportation program currently has three lift vans to accommodate riders with mobility concerns. A minivan with a wheelchair ramp will be added to the fleet in early 2020.

Survey Results from riders

Transportation Driver
Rhonda Smith was a finalist
for the City of Novi
**Employee
of the Year.**



Overall satisfaction



Courtesy, Professionalism
and Service from schedulers

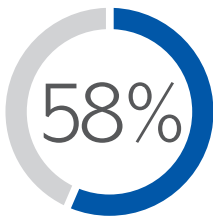


Courtesy, Professionalism
and Service from drivers

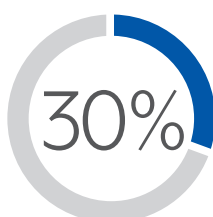
Since the service became free:

“Every driver calls me by name and is very friendly. All are helpful and always do their best and look out for me just like I was their relative.”

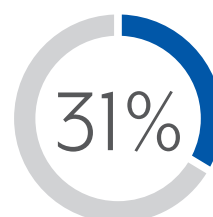
- Mary Joe, Transportation Rider



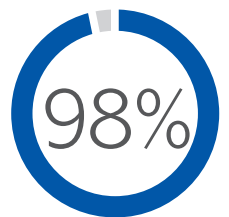
saved money



found the service
easier to use

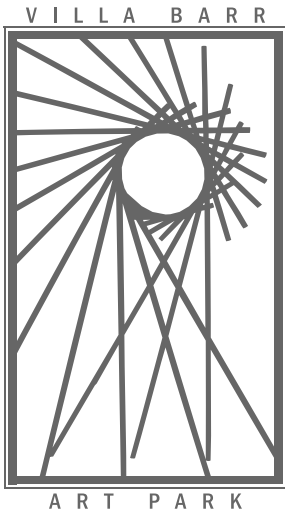


heard positive reviews



would recommend
the program

We continue to identify opportunities to accommodate more riders and offer improved schedules.



excellence

BEAUTY OF VILLA BARR RECOGNIZED

The City of Novi was presented with The Michigan Plaque by Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc, for Villa Barr Art Park. The park was chosen because of efforts to preserve the site and enhancements made to the grounds including pathways, patio, interpretive signage and benches. Learn more by visiting cityofnovi.org/villabarr

EVENTS MADE EASY IN NOVI

Planning a gathering is always a challenge. It's a bit easier now using the new vendor list for bounce houses, entertainment, food vendors and other rental items to enjoy at private gatherings held in Novi's parks. Instead of having to find a vendor who meets the requirements, party planners have access to the list on cityofnovi.org. Local companies are being added to the list for even more options.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Each year the number of people served by the AARP tax program continues to grow. In fact, between 2011 and 2019 it grew by 246.6%. This is largely due to a mutually beneficial relationship between the City of Novi and AARP. The Novi Civic Center is the annual training location for the regional Tax Aide Counselors. Hosting the training sessions affords us the opportunity to host the last day of the season with all the counselors from the district available to assist with tax returns.



TRANSFORMATION

The re-design of Lakeshore Park is underway and is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day 2020. The project includes the construction of a 6,200-square-foot building, new playground and shelter, and enhanced parking, pathways and roadway.

integrity

PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

In December, City Council adopted the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services 2020-24 Community Recreation Plan and Master Park Plan. The plan serves as a guide with goals and objectives, funding sources, capital improvement schedule and more. It also enables the department to apply for and receive State and Federal grant monies. Community input was gathered via a traditional survey, but also by young residents participating in planning their dream park at Spring Palooza.



PRESERVATION

Looking over Walled Lake is beautiful. The sun illuminates the water, and community members enjoy floating, fishing and swimming during the summer months.

Although some days the lake looks like glass, water can be damaging to property. The wave action and the down current of the lake caused erosion at both Lakeshore Park Beach and Pavilion Shore Park. To ensure amenities of the parks remain for years to come, we completed a shoreline restoration project that included placing large stones in the water at the shoreline of both parks. Additionally, an accessible ramp was added to Lakeshore Park beach that will also incorporate a Mobi-Mat to provide access into the water. The emergency vehicle and park maintenance access ramp was also renovated.

SWINGING FOR THE FENCES

Softball leagues have been a staple of the department for adult men and women for decades; however, across the country and in Novi, adult softball leagues are declining. Aging players and the availability of many other sports are the main factors. Realizing Novi's trend of decreasing league play, but steady or increasing tournament play, an Adult Softball Visioning Session was held in late October. Team managers from the last two years were invited to attend and share their thoughts regarding schedules, rules, communication, and prizes. Managers provided valuable input and many of their suggestions will be implemented in the spring 2020 season.





environment

NATURE.NURTURE.NOVI.

In 2019, a new initiative focusing on environmental opportunities and responsibility was introduced to the Novi community. "Nature.Nurture.Novi." is a free series of programs designed to educate the general public about the environment and sustainable initiatives. Nearly 150 people have taken part in classes led by an environmental professional. Topics have included: Birding 101, Invasive Species in Your Backyard, Home Energy Efficiency, Spring Foraging, How to Compost at Home, Fall Pollinator Planning, Pruning Like a Pro, Trees for Bees, Solar Panels, and more.

EARTH WORK

In 2019, the Department of Public Works (DPW) completed their renovations to the Field Services Complex. In doing so, yards of dirt needed to be removed from the site. Concurrently, the City purchased the Water Tower Property located adjacent to Trans-x and Main Street. The site is mainly hard surface and in order to eventually be developed in to a park, it needed soil to create a level space. Insert the DPW extra dirt. At little cost to the City, the dirt was placed and leveled at the water tower site in November. Grass will start growing in the spring.

innovation

COMMUNITY SCORES BIG WITH SOCCER FIELD COLLABORATION

The City and the Novi Community School District entered a long-term use agreement for the property located at Beck and 11 Mile Roads. The City will make improvements and maintain the park now known as Bosco Fields. Construction of 13 soccer fields was completed in fall 2019. It is slated to be ready for use in fall 2020. The project not only brings more quality soccer fields to the community, but allows for future improvements to the fields at ITC Community Sports Park while maintaining soccer playing seasons.





CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

The four-mile ITC Corridor Trail is now complete and connects ITC Community Sports Park to the Ascension Providence Park Hospital campus. Construction began in 2013 and was completed in segments.

Ultimately, this trail will link regional facilities – such as Maybury Park, the I-275 Corridor and Hines Park – in the neighboring communities of Northville, Livonia and Westland with parks in Novi.

The trail is open dawn to dusk and residents use it daily, rain or shine. Trail information can be found at cityofnovi.org/ITCtrail

GRANTS

Novi Parks continues to have success in applying for and receiving grants. This allows enhanced recreation experiences for community members without passing along costs.

\$54k+

from SMART to be used toward older adult transportation as part of three-year grant. \$163,362 was awarded each year and 2019 is the third year.

\$20k

from Ascension Health to be used for vehicle purchase for the older adult transportation program.

\$2k

from Michigan State Youth Soccer Association for new Bosco Fields soccer goals and flags.

our digital reach

