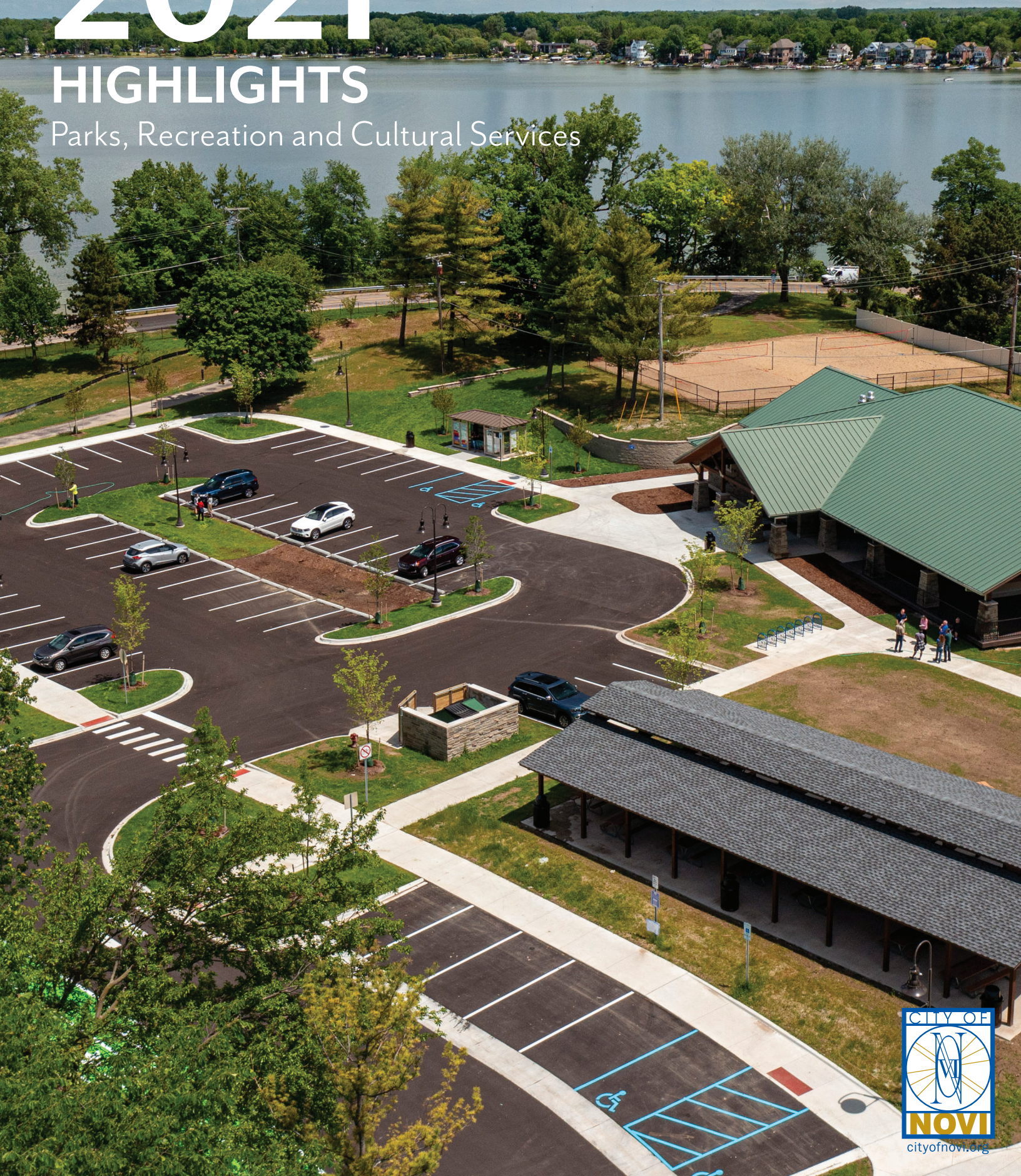


2021

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 2021 program participants, park visitors, volunteers, partners and sponsors.

Our accomplishments and customer service priorities are reflected in our core values of Innovation, Inclusion, Excellence, Integrity, and Environment.

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

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



inclusion



SPECIAL OUTREACH SERVICES RESOURCE GUIDE



The following resources are provided by the City of Novi as a public service. The City of Novi does not endorse any private company, non-profit organization or service; this guide was created to simply inform consumers of the availability of the services. As a consumer you are encouraged to independently research and ask for references.

*Denotes services offered by or hosted by the City of Novi.

2022

SPECIAL OUTREACH SERVICES

The Special Outreach Services initiative, created by Mayor Gatt and City Council in March 2021, was launched to increase engagement and delivery of support services and resources to Novi senior citizens and residents in Novi with special needs or accessibility challenges. To date, more than 3,500 informational phone calls have been made, a programming survey was conducted, and a Special Outreach Guide was included in the February edition of Engage and mailed to all homes and businesses in Novi. As a result, referrals to the Older Adult Transportation Program and the Loan Closet have increased. The accessible playground at Power Park and the outdoor exercise park listed below are included in the SOS initiative.

In addition to residents taking advantage of the SOS program, Older Adult Services' attendance increased throughout 2021 as more programs were offered, including those indicated in the results of a programming survey, and community members became more comfortable interacting with their neighbors.

THE POWER OF PLAY

It's no secret that play is an important part in the development of physical strength, relationships, confidence, creativity, and problem-solving. Multi-generational play adds to the traditional benefits with joy, vitality and legacy building for parents and grandparents. In summer 2021, a 100 percent inclusive playground was added to Ella Mae Power Park, one of our busiest parks. Features of the playground include:

- Above ground wheelchair access with landing decks designed to provide appropriate turning space and gathering points for wheelchair users
- Multiple sensory play features
- A "We-Go-Swing" designed to allow wheelchair users to swing with their friends (both in wheelchairs and not)
- Poured In Place safety surfacing

The playground was well-received by the community and was in use nearly every day in the summer.



NO PAIN AND PLENTY TO GAIN

In late fall 2021 an outdoor fitness station was installed at Wildlife Woods Park, adjacent to the ITC Trail. Outdoor adult fitness parks have been growing in popularity in recent years as the benefits of outdoor exercise have been recognized. Improved psychological and physiological health, disease prevention, improved adherence to regular exercise, decreased tension and depression, increased energy, greater satisfaction levels and access to green environments are just some of the numerous benefits these playgrounds can provide. The eight-piece station complements the four-piece station, installed in 2015, on the grounds of Meadowbrook Commons.



excellence

IN THE ONE PERCENT

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies and is a measure of an agency’s quality of operations, management, and customer service. Achieving and maintaining accreditation is a multi-year process which includes demonstrated compliance in the areas of planning, administration, human resources, financial management, facility and land use, public safety, risk management, and research and evaluation. Originally accredited in 2016 and reaccredited in 2021, Novi is one of just 180 accredited agencies in the country out of approximately 10,000.

PICKLEBALL IS A BIG DILL

Pickleball is our fastest growing sport with league and lessons filling as soon as they’re offered. In summer 2021, four new courts were unveiled at Wildlife Woods Park and dedicated court time added to the ITC tennis courts. We’ve partnered with SPARC Arena to offer indoor programs throughout the winter. The Novi community is relishing the opportunity to play as much as possible.



READY FOR FUN

Squeals of joy were back at Lakeshore Park following the re-opening in May. The beach had some record setting days, the bike trails and playgrounds were in full use, and enthusiastic campers and counselors were impressed with the new facilities.



integrity

LOVE FOR LAKESHORE PARK

Lakeshore Park reopened in summer 2021 after a nearly two-year renovation of almost the entire park. The community response has been overwhelming with park attendance and shelter rentals. The project was recognized by mParks, the state association for parks and recreation departments, with the 21-22 Park Design Award.

ICONIC STATUS

In 2018 the City acquired the property on which the Novi Special Water Tower stands and got to work planning for a renovation project. Paint for the project was provided through a generous donation from PPG Protective & Marine Coatings (PPG). Today, the water tower serves as an iconic landmark that showcases Novi's racing heritage.



NOVI AND BEYOND

The staff's dedication to the profession doesn't end at Novi's borders – it continues throughout the state. Novi PRCS is a highly respected department and boasts five team members that have earned Certified Parks and Recreation Professional status. Director Jeff Muck is currently serving as the state association (mParks) president while two others serve as committee/sport association chairs. Our connections ensure we are learning best practices to provide great programs and facilities for our residents.



environment

KEEP NOVI BEAUTIFUL

The city was recognized with two Keep Michigan Beautiful awards in 2021. An Award of Merit was presented for the Fuerst Park Monarch Butterfly Waystation and a Michigan Award for the ITC Corridor Trail. The Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation was paid for and planted by the Novi Beautification Commission in the spring of 2015 and has been maintained and enhanced since with both an annual flower mix and perennial butterfly mix.

The ITC Trail was recognized for connecting to regional facilities, improving personal and environmental health, strengthening the local economy, and helping to build a sustainable community.

VOLUNTEERS ARE “CUTTING” THE MUSTARD

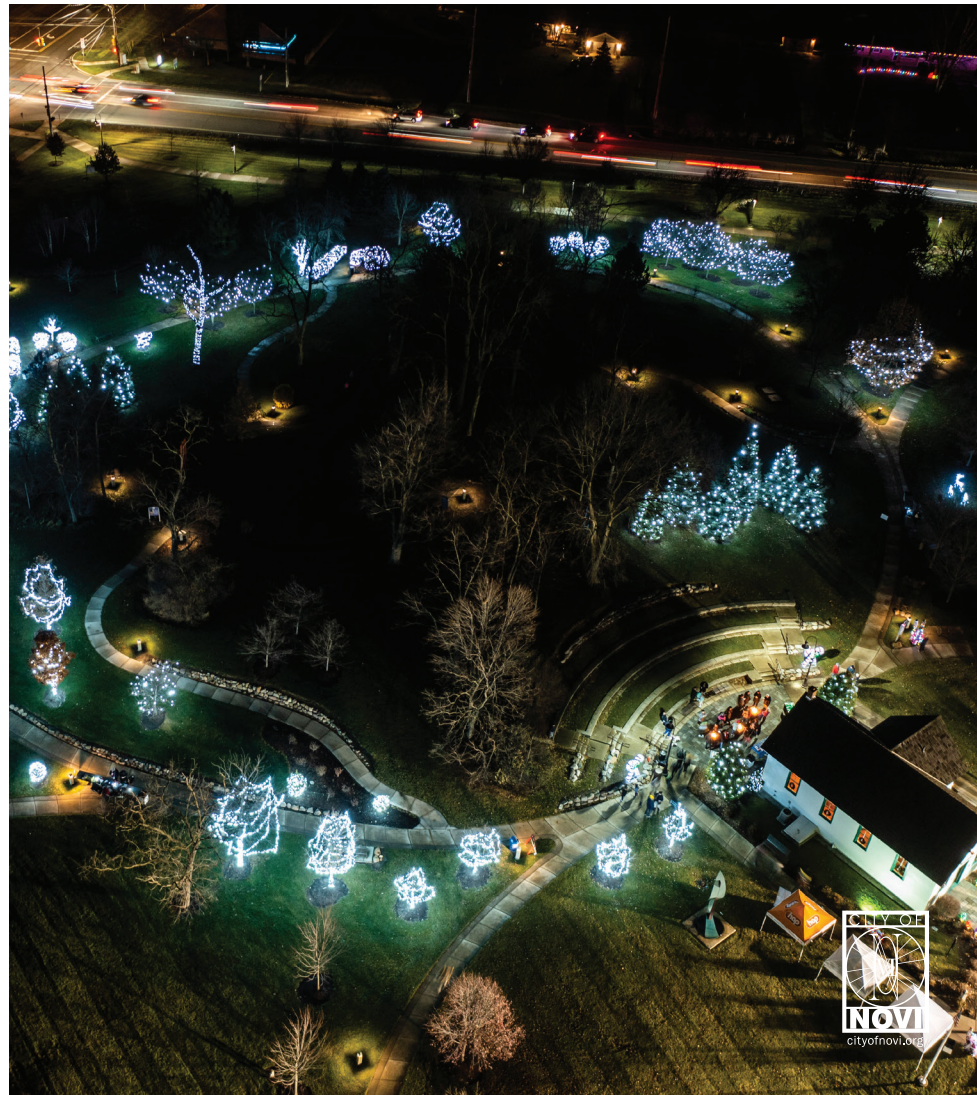
In early spring, a number of volunteers gathered at Lakeshore Park to help pull invasive garlic mustard. Garlic mustard is a quick growing, noxious weed that will continue to grow and take over native woodland plants. By pulling the weed, volunteers are ensuring the health of Novi's most wooded park, home to more than 10 miles of beautiful hiking and biking trails.



innovation

FEELING FESTIVE

In 2021, the Novi community was back to feeling festive, with caution. To accommodate the desire to gather and provide a reasonable level of safety, Fuerst Festive Nights was introduced. Taking place mostly outdoors, the weekend event included Santa visits, crafts, marshmallow roasting and entertainment. The park was decorated with hundreds of lights along the pathways that stayed lit through the month of December. This first-time event will serve as a building block for future years, with more lights and amenities.

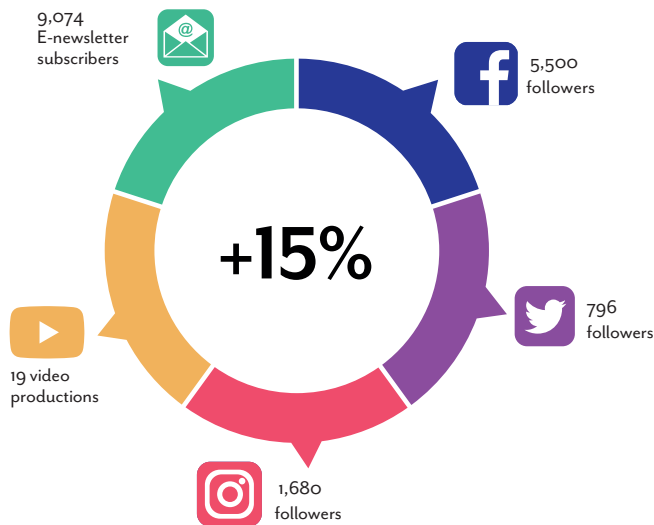




PARKS ARE POPULAR

Over the last two years, parks have become even more critical in a community's infrastructure as people sought places for celebration, respite, play, and more. Novi's park shelters were understandably in high demand. Upon completion of the Lakeshore Park upgrades, it was determined that offering half-day shelter rentals would benefit hundreds of people who wish to visit the park and gather with friends and family. Shelter rentals increased nearly 110%, or 157 more rentals over 2018, the last summer the park operated before the remodel project. We look forward to continuing to offer half-day rentals at Lakeshore Park.

our digital reach



CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Bob Gatt
 Mayor Pro Tem David Staudt
 Laura Marie Casey
 Hugh D. Crawford
 Justin Fischer
 Brian Smith
 Ericka Thomas

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

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 Ryan Joseph
 Supriya Joshi
 Salene Riggins
 Joe Tolkacz
 Charles A. Staab
 Hideki "Harry" Torimoto

Student Representatives
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 Rashmita Raghunathan