



# NOVI PRCS PARK DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS

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## I. Introduction

Park definitions and standards are guidelines for the acquisition and development of parks. Standards assist the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Department in measuring progress toward equitable distribution of recreation resources, and in guiding policy decision on future resource allocation. Standards also serve as a basis for determining and prioritizing park construction projects and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) necessary for their execution.

## II. Definitions of Park Types

Note: "Park type", by standard is generally based on park amenities and location rather than acreage and parks can move between designation based on development and use.

### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks typically provide basic recreational opportunities close to home. Ideally all citizens have easy access to a neighborhood park within one-mile of their residence.

Neighborhood parks contain traditional recreation facilities such as playgrounds, sport courts, open play areas and picnic tables or shelters. In some cases neighborhood parks abut elementary school properties that enhance the recreation experience by providing additional amenities.

#### Novi Neighborhood Park Inventory

- Rotary Park
- Wildlife Woods Park
- Brookfarm Park (Adjacent to school)
- Fuerst Park
- Pavilion Shore Park

### Community Parks

Community parks are generally larger than neighborhood parks and are highly developed to serve the needs of the community within a two mile service area. These

parks provide basic recreation opportunities found in neighborhood parks complemented by major indoor or outdoor facilities which serve the city-wide population. In some cases these parks serve as tourist attractions that draw visitors from surrounding communities such as the mountain bike trails at Lakeshore Park or recreational sports tournaments at one of the sporting facilities.

#### Novi Community Park Inventory

- Lakeshore Park
- Ella Mae Power Park
- ITC Community Sports Park

#### **Special Parks**

Special Parks serve a specific function or protect a special feature. Examples include nature preserves, conservation easements, sculpture parks, urban squares or formal gardens.

#### Novi Special Park Inventory

- Villa Barr Park
- Orchard Hills Parkland
- Singh North/Core Habitat Parkland
- Singh South Parkland

#### **Community Facilities**

Community Recreation Facilities serve a specific function but are not always located within a park.

#### Novi Community Facilities Inventory

- Novi Civic Center
- Novi Ice Arena
- Meadowbrook Commons

#### **Pocket Parks**

Pocket Parks are intended to provide recreational opportunities in locations where space is limited. These parks are generally small in size (less than 2 acres) or lack the park and recreation amenities necessary to attract visitors from a distance greater than a few blocks.

- Village Wood Lake Park

### **III. Park Development Process**

The park development process provides guidance for park development and rehabilitation. The process consists of three levels that begins with the design phase and progresses until a park property realizes its full potential. Each development level builds on the previous level and allows for the continuous improvement of parks in the community.

#### **Level 1 Development**

Level 1 development marks the beginning of the Park Development Process by providing basic recreational opportunities and easy access for the public. The first step is the design process. For all park development projects, basic data on the natural features of the park are analyzed to provide a basis for initial design work. A series of conceptual development plans are prepared for review by those who will build, maintain and use the park. The design review process, including meetings with staff, neighborhood representatives, and other interested users is intended to identify design problems and solutions prior to construction. Ultimately, a conceptual plan is refined to a master plan to guide development through Level 3 Development.

Typically, level 1 development in neighborhood and community parks provides all infrastructure to support the park through all levels of development and traditional recreation opportunities based on available funding. Open playfields, signage, picnicking, trails and support facilities such as trash receptacles and benches are included. If funds allow, recreational items responsive to specific groups, such as a children's play structure, or community picnic shelter may also be constructed.

#### **Level 2 Development**

Level 2 development provides many of the remaining facilities typical of the park type and outlined in the planning design process. Upon completion of Level 2 development, a park does not yet contain all the amenities outlined in the master plan, but has a wide variety of recreation opportunities typical of its park type. For neighborhood parks, Level 2 may mean the inclusion of a playground, multi-purpose fields with goals/backstops, sports courts, restroom facilities or picnic shelters.

#### **Level 3 Development**

Level 3 development provides final improvements that complete the park's design. Typical improvements might include special landscaping, recreation facilities for special-interest groups, or public art. Level 3 development is usually initiated when existing park facilities are well used and their infrastructure is still sound.

## Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is required when park facilities or infrastructure are falling into disrepair due to age or heavy use, or when the park no longer provides a complete recreational experience to target user groups or no longer complies with safety or accessibility standards. Rehabilitation may be focused on a specific facility within a park, and could include general improvements that improve aesthetics to park areas showing signs of extreme wear and tear. These areas may also require complete redevelopment to respond to changing user needs. Whatever the extent of wear/damage, the rehabilitation must be budgeted for and scheduled to cycle through the park development process.

## IV. Park Maintenance

### Park Maintenance

While the decline the economy has further strained the already depleted maintenance and operations budget, consistent park use and increased pressure on the park system by park users has created challenges that negatively affect the user's experience.

Park Maintenance is conducted collaboratively between the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and the Department of Public Services. PRCS allocates \$264,600\* per year (\$22,050 per month) to DPS for the purpose of conducting park maintenance. In addition, PRCS budgets \$79,950\* for seasonal park field maintenance related to recreation programming, field rentals and community events.

\*Budget figures are for FY 12-13

Park Maintenance Guidelines are as follows:

#### **Service Level I: High-level maintenance**

Applied to a high quality diverse landscape. It is associated with high-traffic, highly visible areas such as government grounds. Practices include, regular mowing, trimming, manicured flowerbeds/landscaping, regular fertilization, regular trash service, aeration, spring mulching, annual weed control, building maintenance and irrigation maintenance.

Service Level I areas:

- Novi Civic Center
- Meadowbrook Commons
- Ella Mae Power Park Fields
- Fuerst Park

**Service Level II: Moderate-level maintenance**

Level II maintenance is associated with properties with moderate levels of maintenance due to reduced levels of visitation or budget restrictions which prevent level I maintenance. Practices include regular mowing, trimming, periodic mulching, limited flowerbeds, and regular trash service.

Service Level II areas include:

- Lakeshore Park
- Power Park – Non- softball field areas
- ITC Community Sports Park

**Service Level III: Low-level maintenance**

Level III maintenance is associated with parks and areas which have the least amount of maintenance due to lack of budget or park visitors. Practices included regular mowing, trash service and tree work as needed.

Service Level III areas include:

- Brookfarm Park
- Village Wood Lake Park
- Wildlife Woods Park
- Rotary Park
- Pavilion Shore Park (prior to development)
- Novi Ice Arena
- Cemetery Properties

**Service Level IV: Natural areas with no regular maintenance.**

- Orchard Hills Parkland
- Singh Parkland North
- Singh Parkland South