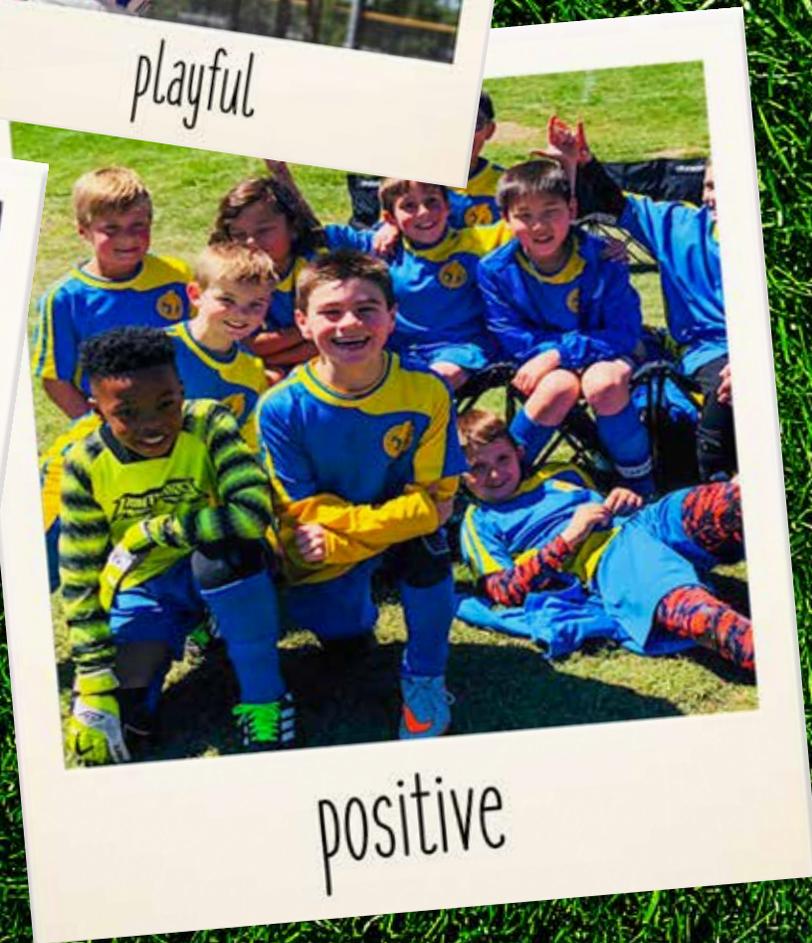


Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



Providing exceptional park, recreation and cultural opportunities that are diverse and enhance lives.



Thank you for your interest in Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. We're proud to share achievements that enhanced the experiences of the 2018 recreation program users, countless park visitors, volunteers, partners and sponsors. We are encouraged by the results of the 2018 National Citizens Survey, which indicated 72% of residents feel the sense of community in Novi is excellent or good, 86% believe City parks meet the needs and expectations of residents, and 78% of residents have visited a park in the last 12 months.

This report is designed to be a quick look into our 2018 accomplishments and customer service as they relate to our core values of Innovation, Inclusion, Excellence, Integrity, and Environment.

As always, I encourage you to reach out with any questions, comments or suggestions.

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INNOVATION

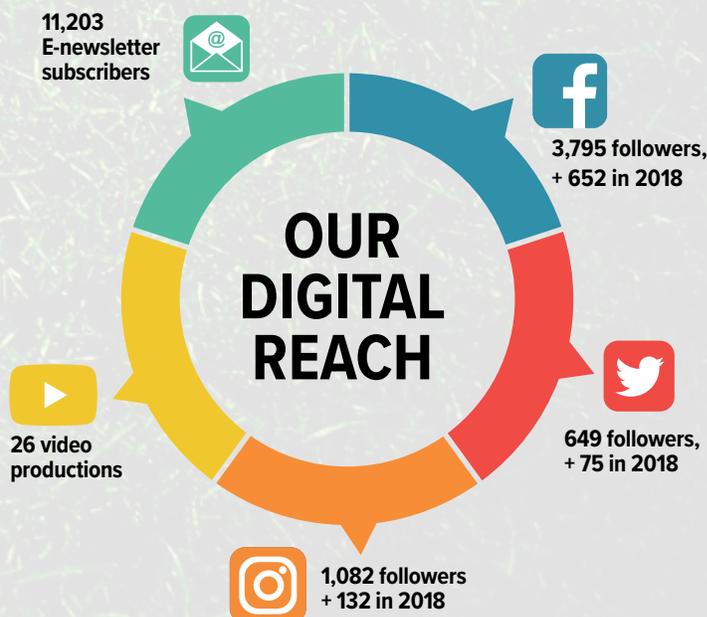
YOU GOTTA HAVE ART

Villa Barr Art Park officially opened to the public on October 12, 2018. The four-acre property, formerly the home of international artist David Barr and his wife Beth, was repurposed as a park featuring numerous sculptures, a meandering path, pond, house, studio, and parking lot to accommodate visitors. A unique park was the aim of City Council, beginning with the support to enter a purchase agreement for the property and continuing with the allocation of development funds. Additional funds were provided by the Novi Parks Foundation and a 2017 Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs grant.

The Friends of Villa Barr provided insight regarding park design and to represent what David and Beth envisioned: a place to celebrate arts and culture in Novi. Prior to opening the park, three pieces were loaned to the City of Farmington for display in the downtown area for up to two years and a piece was provided to Crystal Mountain Resort as the centerpiece of their new Barr Park, located in the center of the resort. The Denos Museum Center in Traverse City was provided *Yellow Rollover* and *Caduceus*, and the pieces are prominently displayed.

Archives from the Estate of David Barr, including photos, newspaper and magazine articles, slides, CDs, drawings and more have been transferred to the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University and will be available for public viewing.

To date, three artists have taken part in the residency program: sculptor Kaz McCue, composer Joo Won Park and Patty Smith, a metalsmith and jewelry maker. Information is available at cityofnovi.org/villabarr.



GRANTS

Novi Parks had a very successful year researching, applying for and receiving grants. This allows enhanced recreation experiences for community members without passing along costs.

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant – \$359,250 toward acquiring 20.31 acres of property on the south side of Nine Mile Road, west of Garfield Road, to become an expansion of the future ITC Trailhead Park, providing access to the non-motorized ITC Corridor Trail. The City's 25 percent match was \$119,750.
- Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation – \$54,454 to be used toward older adult transportation as part of a three-year \$163,362 award in equal increments. It was year two of the award in 2018.
- Ascension Providence Hospital – \$20,000 to be used toward older adult transportation.
- Michigan State Youth Soccer Association – \$4,000 was designated for the purchase of new soccer goals to assist with wear and tear on existing goals, as well as any new goals needed.
- Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs – \$2,000 to be used toward the Sizzling Summer Art Series, which includes six Wednesday morning events and three Friday evening events throughout June-August.
- Michigan Humanities Council – \$910 to be used toward four Sizzling Summer Art Series Wednesday morning performances, including a puppeteer and three musical events.

A TOUCH OF THE TROPICS

The Polynesian Dancers of Michigan works with the Novi Parks department to offer classes at the Novi Civic Center. The collaboration has grown to include multiple performances at the first-ever Luau on the Shore event in July 2018. The free community event was held at Pavilion Shore Park the day after the Novi Park Foundation's Pour on the Shore, taking advantage of the large tent and tables already on site. In addition to the Polynesian dancers, the event also included crafts, music, a fire-dancing demonstration and a pig roast (for a small fee). The attendance was beyond expectation and we look forward to hosting it again in 2019.

INCLUSION

PICKLEBALL

The residents of Novi want to play pickleball! Pickleball is a growing sport popular for a variety of ages, but most significantly for the older adult population. It is similar to tennis, but on a smaller court with a higher net and using paddles rather than racquets. In December, the department began working with a local business to offer an indoor pickleball league. PRCS has been working to develop outdoor courts in the City and hopes to announce the plans for their construction in 2019.



FREE AND EXPANDED TRANSPORTATION

In 2018, Novi's Older Adult Transportation was enhanced to include free rides in the City of Novi and shopping areas bordering Novi. Service hours were expanded until 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and an additional run was added on Saturdays. The free rides and expanded hours resulted in an 18.25 percent increase in trips, 50 percent increase in handicap passengers and more than 100 new riders since July 1, 2018.

NOISE-CANCELING HEADPHONES

The department continues to look for opportunities for inclusion, including accessible amenities and features on recently-installed playgrounds. Additionally, the department purchased 10 sets of noise-canceling headphones to be made available at large community events and theater productions. This will allow sound-sensitive community members to engage in activities with less anxiety.

LOAN CLOSET

Durable medical equipment (DME) – commonly known as crutches, wheelchairs, bed rails, bathing aids, etc. – are not routinely covered by health insurance or provided as part of a hospital stay. The DME Loan Closet was started in 2004. Aligned with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department's values of the environment and inclusion, the Loan Closet keeps equipment in use for extended periods of time and out of landfills, as well as providing low-income residents access to items they might otherwise be unable to afford. In Fiscal Year 2017-18, more than 140 items were donated, \$484 was donated and more than 1,000 interactions took place. Currently, the closet contains 552 pieces of equipment with 95% of these items on loan.

EXCELLENCE

A NEW PLACE TO PLAY

City Council directed staff to add a playground at Pavilion Shore Park in order to meet the expected demand for a children's play area due to the upcoming Lakeshore Park renovations. Decisions on the placement and design of the playground were based on many factors, including sight lines, durability, accessibility and aesthetics. Separate structures for children ages 2-5 and 5-12 years old were included in the final design. A variety of features are included on the playground, including an "Oodle Swing," spinners, sensory exploration, climbing structures and balance challenges. The playground meets and exceeds all current safety and accessibility requirements.

LAKESHORE PARK PLANNING

Community input has been integral in the development plans of Lakeshore Park. A formal community input session was hosted in late 2017 and suggestions were incorporated into a conceptual plan shared with City Council and the community in 2018. In October 2018, City Council gave unanimous approval to enter into final design and bid of the project, including a 6,200-square-foot community building, enhanced parking, new playground and picnic shelter.

WATER TOWER PROPERTY

The Novi Water Tower property, located adjacent to the Main Street Area at the intersection of Trans X Road and Grand River Avenue, was purchased in 2018. This was the first step to meet the City Council long-term goal of creating a walkable, all-seasons urban park at the site with a summertime modern splash pad and a winter ice rink.

THE SHOW GOES ON

Ticket sales and actor participation continues to grow with the Novi Parks theater program. The fall show was "Elf Jr.," which was a hit with two (of five) sell-out shows. Registration for theater shows, camps and programs has increased by 40 percent since 2017.



INTEGRITY

REPURPOSED FOR RECREATION

Recognizing the need for additional recreation space and the availability of unused Novi Community School District-owned property, a long-term lease agreement was reached between the City of Novi and the school district for the property commonly known as Bosco Fields. The City will lease the site for no less than 25 years for the cost of \$1 and develop the property for multipurpose sports, athletic and recreational fields with related amenities. It also includes parking areas and access roads off of Beck Road and off of 11 Mile Road. The final design includes 13 soccer fields of four sizes, including 4v4, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11. Additionally, the City purchased 3.5 acres adjacent to the property to enhance the site further.

POWER TO (FOR) THE PEOPLE

Power outages won't be a problem for the 175 residents ages 50+ living at Meadowbrook Commons. In May, a generator was installed to power the apartment building and the activity center, providing a safe and comfortable place for the residents, including those in the ranch condominiums.

ENVIRONMENT

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Water height markers were installed in the Rouge River at Rotary Park and in Walled Lake at Pavilion Shore Park. The markers are accompanied by informational signage asking people to email what they see. The information will help the department gauge and understand the water systems, including water-level schedules, river cleanings and observations regarding erosion and blockages upstream. Park-goers have been providing readings on a regular basis.

BRIDGE TO NATURE

The Motor City Mountain Biking Association has been long-time partners with Novi Parks. Annually, the group provides hundreds of volunteer hours maintaining and enhancing Lakeshore Park's trail system, as well as monitoring proper usage. In 2018, the group replaced a bridge that spans the Rouge River. Their efforts allow for thousands of park-goers to enjoy the serenity of nature or the thrill of a ripping ride.

INVESTING IN INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

It's a long-term goal of City Council to manage natural areas through the ongoing removal of invasive species. Removal efforts of Buckthorn and Japanese Knotweed in Rotary Park have continued for three years with additional work at Village Wood Lake. The efforts have led to a revival of native wildflowers, grasses, sedges and shrubs that have been overshadowed by the invasive plants.

