

2022

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 2022 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

GRAND EXPERIENCES

After a 17-year hiatus, Novi's older adult residents had the opportunity to travel to Mackinac Island as part of MParks' Grand Experience. In October, 43 Novi travelers joined more than 500 others to enjoy a four-day stay at the Grand Hotel with a carriage tour of the island, amazing food, nightly dancing, and daily activities. As with most of the trips offered through Older Adult Services, travelers have the opportunity to go somewhere they wouldn't otherwise.

A HELPING HAND

Older Adult Services promotes healthy, active lifestyles that support independence and vitality for adults 55+ by providing opportunities for socialization, health and fitness, life-long learning, support services, and transportation. September of 2022 was the busiest month ever for the durable medical equipment loan closet with more than 1,300 interactions (loans, returns, donations, etc.). Seventy of Novi's older adults learned how "cut the cord" by switching to streaming services for their television shows. Nearly 48,000 meals were prepped and delivered to Novi's homebound residents by volunteer meal packers and drivers in FY 21-22.

Overall, the number of first-time 55+ participants in Older Adult Services programs increased by 25% over pre-pandemic numbers. The number of participants ages 55-84 has also increased by while the number of those 85+ has decreased slightly.





excellence



ANY GIVEN SATURDAY

A partnership between Novi Community Schools and the City of Novi to lease the property at 11 Mile and Beck Roads, allowed the city to develop 13 soccer fields to be the home base of the Novi Parks Soccer Club. Games kicked off on Saturday, April 9, and there are now hundreds of children, from 3-18 years, on any given spring and fall Saturday. Currently the city and the school district are finalizing a land swap in which Bosco Fields will officially become City of Novi park property. The development of Bosco Fields provides the soccer space needed to allow for a refresh of ITC Community Sports Park in the future.

TENNIS TEAM SERVES AN ACE

The Parks & Rec T-Bolts youth tennis team smashed expectations for a first-year program. An extension of the popular youth tennis lessons with Todd Beyer, the team was formed in combination with parks and rec departments from Novi, Northville, and SLARA as well as the Novi Community School District. There was a total of 146 players between the ages of 4-18. Players practiced two to four times weekly and had the option to participate in travel league match play with teams from area country clubs.



TO HONOR AND COMMEMORATE

On the Wednesday before Memorial Day, more than 130 veterans and their guests took part in the Fuerst Field of Honor event. Within the park, a Trail of Honor was created with 200 American flags lining the pathways. Thirty-two of the flags featured a medallion that told the stories of Novi's heroes, as well as each branch of military and the poem *In Flanders Fields* written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. A memorial service was conducted in the amphitheater, preceded by dinner and entertainment. VFW Post 1519, Novi Rotary Club, Novi CERT, and Novi Girls Scouts all donated their time to honor and commemorate the lives of Novi's fallen.





JUST DANCE

From tiny dancers to tweens, the Novi Parks dance program continues to grow. With instructors from Allongé Dance Works, more than 20 classes are conducted each week at the Novi Civic Center. The fall 2022 recital included 157 dancers for four performances with 866 audience members. The program has grown by 176% in the past four years. Additionally, Mexico Lindo Ballet Folklorico and Hawaiian and Polynesian Dance are also offered at the Novi Civic Center.

integrity

PRESERVING HISTORY

History is often captured in cemeteries. Novi's two historic cemeteries, the Novi Cemetery on Novi Road and the Knapp Cemetery on Nine Mile Road, do just that with graves dating back to the Revolutionary War. In 2022, 56 gravesites received cleaning, maintenance, repairs and/or leveling. Additionally, the entryway arch of the Novi Cemetery was refurbished in February 2022 to retain its integrity for years to come. Annually, the Historical Commission leads Wreaths Across America, placing holiday wreaths on veteran graves.



CONTINUED INVESTMENT

Meadowbrook Commons is a residential living community for older adults that is owned by the city. Both apartments and ranch homes are available at very reasonable rental rates and the property includes walking paths, outdoor exercise stations, gazebos, gardens, indoor gathering spaces, and more. Built in 2000, continual investments have been made to ensure the livability and longevity of the property. In 2022, the roofs were replaced on all the ranch units and the main building and the pond aerator was repaired.

HEART OF THE MATTER

AEDs have been available in Novi facilities for many years. In park locations, the devices have been available when staff is on site to retrieve them from inside buildings. With the increased usage of the parks, during and post pandemic, it was determined that more accessible AEDs in parks was something to investigate and invest in. Working with the fire department and the integrated solutions team, PRCS purchased a secure outdoor cabinet to house an AED. The cabinet provides automatic calls to 911 when accessed, video surveillance, temperature control and real-time information concerning incidents or events. Ella Mae Power Park was chosen as the location of this pilot program in spring of 2022. To date, the installation has been successful and additional locations are being considered. While the AED has not been utilized, the diagnostics show everything is running as it should if it was ever needed.

environment



PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Since 2015 more than 1,200 trees have been planted in Novi's parks. Sure, trees are aesthetically pleasing but they also contribute to the environment by purifying the air, providing wildlife habitat, reducing the amount of stormwater runoff, and more. A walk among trees is proven to reduce stress and anxiety. While walking in the parks one may notice a granite marker or sign near the trunk of trees. These trees were purchased and planted to commemorate a loved one or friend. Most of Novi's parks have tree planting sites available for this purpose. In 2022, a group of elementary students collected donations of returnable cans to purchase two trees planted at Wildlife Woods Park.



BIRDS AND BEES AND FLOWERS, OH MY!

The 2022 Nature. Nurture. Novi series offered residents the opportunity to explore nature and learn best practices for environmental consciousness. The free or low-cost programs included hikes, birding, identifying plants, and an owl prowl. The community is encouraged to join the experts to learn more about the surrounding environment, how to protect it and take advantage of its bounty. Look for Nature. Nurture. Novi for kids in 2023.



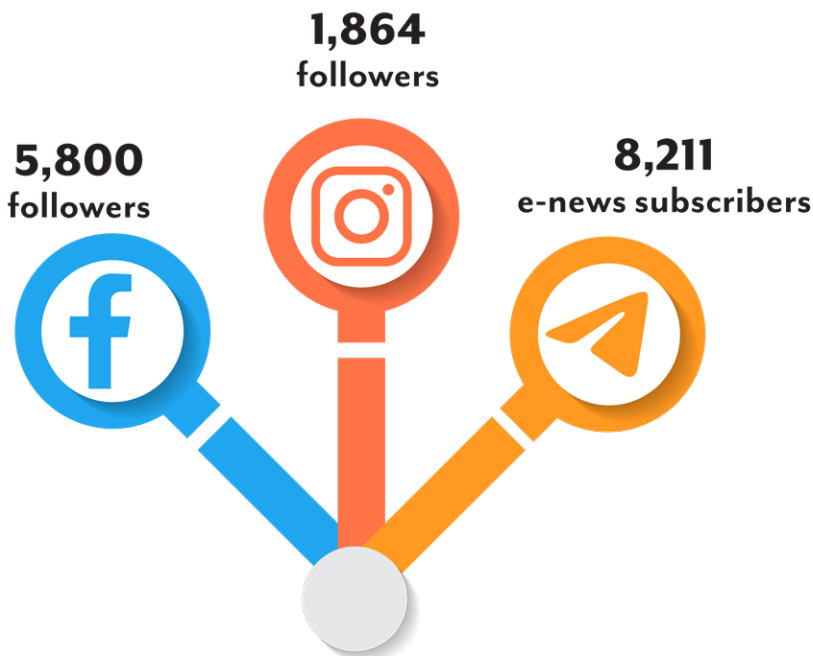
innovation

READY, SET, GO!

The Novi Special Water Tower is iconic to Novi residents. Not only does it highlight the beloved 1930's and 40's racecar, it also depicts Novi's strong ties to the automobile industry. The water tower property was acquired by the City in 2018 with plans to restore the tower and develop a park in the future. In early 2022, recognizing the potential of the property and the history of the site, a member of the parks maintenance team brought forth the idea of an R/C raceway. The idea was supported by administration and City Council, and the parks maintenance team, along with a number of volunteers, went to work building the course. The inaugural race was held on August 27. The park is open for daily use in spring, summer, and fall. The park will be recognized at the 2023 mParks annual conference with the 2023 Design Award for Excellence in Park Design.



our digital reach



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