

# SECTION 1.0

# COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

## CITY OF NEW BALTIMORE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



## **Introduction**

The City of New Baltimore is located in eastern Macomb County on the shores of Lake St Clair. Once known as a nautical oasis on the outskirts, the City of New Baltimore has evolved into a hub of activity along Anchor Bay. New Baltimore has morphed into a budding suburban community which is appealing to residents, businesses, and visitors because of its modern conveniences nestled amongst the unique historical character and charm of the community. The City is anchored by its traditional downtown boasting an emergent local economy, viable residential housing stock offering a mixture of housing options, and close proximity to Macomb County's greatest natural resource Lake St Clair.

Over the past decade the allure of the City of New Baltimore continued to spur considerable growth for the community. In 2000 New Baltimore had a population of 7,405 residents with 2,942 Households. The 2010 Census concluded that the City of New Baltimore has a population of 12,084 residents with 4,434 households. In a single decade the City had a 63% increase in population and a 50% change in the number of households. This growth, attributed primarily to residential construction, has ushered the City into a promising era of community progress and opportunity

Numerous variables come into play when a city develops at the rate New Baltimore has experienced over the past three decades. The complexities of physical infrastructure encompassing roads, water, and sewer, the placement and density of various land uses, and the administration of basic city services become scrutinized and strained as a City grows. A municipality must act quick, efficiently, and effectively in the face of evolving community conditions; however there are a number of great opportunities that present themselves as a community's population booms.

Out of the strain to maintain governmental services comes the opportunity to expand more service/community oriented amenities within a City. This is attributed to the fact that as more people populate an area there is a greater need for amenities beyond simply physical infrastructure and tax collection. One community based service that is continually at the forefront of municipal service expansion is recreational programs and facilities. Parks and recreation has the ability to unify a local community. Parks, beaches, little league, dance classes, and recreation centers quickly become a source of pride for a community and its residents. These community investments become destinations and identifiers which allow residents and visitors to engage and experience all that a City has to offer. As the City of New Baltimore has evolved and grown into a burgeoning suburban community the City has a great opportunity and ability to evaluate, plan, and invest in parks and recreation. The City of New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011 provides a mechanism for New Baltimore to consider its parks and recreation services and facilities at a comprehensive level.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to establish appropriate policies to guide the development of the City's recreation infrastructure and services. The preparation of this Recreation Plan also seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

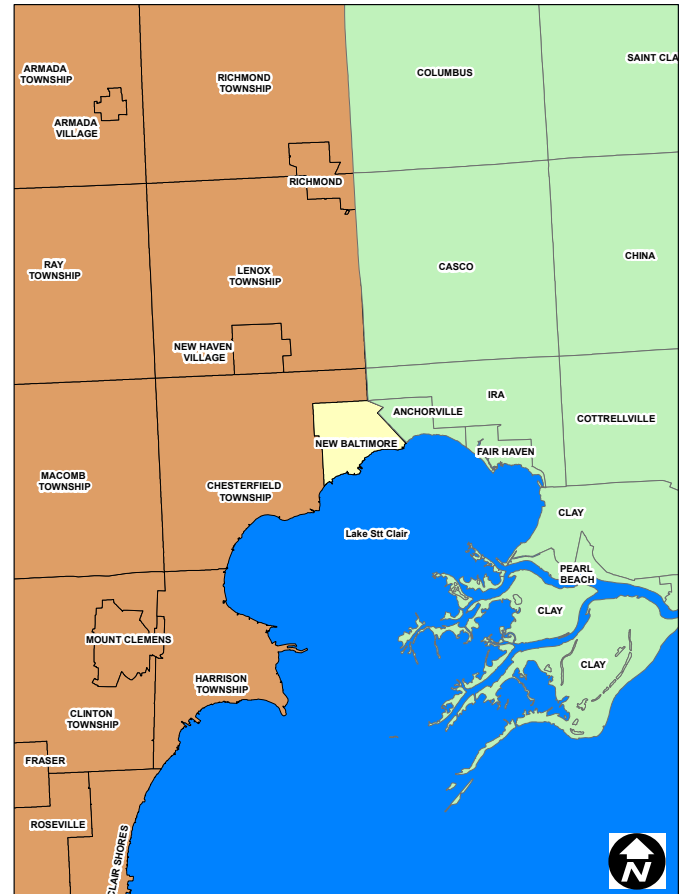
1. Determine the City's relationship with recreation providers at the local, regional, and state levels, including the school districts serving the City.
2. Identify short and long-term recreation needs within the City of New Baltimore.
3. Develop policies, programs, and procedures designed to address the City's recreation needs.
4. Identify needed capital improvements to parks and recreation facilities and programs to meet the recreation needs of all age groups.
5. Explore innovative approaches to providing recreation services and programs.
6. Establish an efficient and cost-effective structure for administering recreation programs.
7. Encourage cooperative relationships and policies with other public, nonprofit, and private recreation providers.
8. Include a capital improvement program, identifying specific projects and intended funding sources to be implemented over a specified time frame.

This Recreation Plan follows the planning guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It begins with an examination of relevant physical, social and economic characteristics that may influence future recreation needs. Included in this analysis is an inventory of existing recreation facilities available in or near the City of New Baltimore. The second part of the Plan offers a summary of existing recreation needs based on recognized and accepted recreation planning standards. Based on any identified deficiencies, and the City's stated recreation goals and objectives, a Plan for addressing these needs is offered. The Plan is further expanded to those projects which are needed and can be financed over the next five (5) years. Other projects included in the Plan are considered for implementation over a longer time frame.

## Regional Setting

New Baltimore is located in an opportunistic area in Southeast Michigan. Located on the shores of Lake St Clair the City of New Baltimore has an enormous ability to leverage the power of this unique natural resource. The City is also connected to the region through an integrated transportation network. I-94 and M-29 (23 Mile Road) provide quick access to and from the community, the local street network links the residents and visitors to major destinations, and being only 25 miles north of Detroit New Baltimore is still connected to the hub of metropolitan region. Chesterfield Township borders the City to the west and north, while Anchorville frames the eastern boundary of the community with Lake St Clair to the south. New Baltimore's regional setting will play an integral role in the short and long-term parks and recreation planning efforts of the community. As this plan is maintained and implemented it is imperative that all stakeholders acknowledge the role that New Baltimore will fulfill in the region.

**Map 1: New Baltimore Regional Setting**



## History

French hunters and fur trappers, in 1796, were the first inhabitants of that portion of Macomb County that later became New Baltimore. They were drawn to this area due to the close proximity to the Lake and other water features, which was helpful with agriculture and trapping. The first evidence of a settled community came in the 1845, when a Mt. Clemens' businessman, Alfred Ashley, platted 60 acres of land lying in what is today Downtown New Baltimore. This settlement would become known as the Village of Ashley on September 20, 1851, and quickly became home to number of businesses.

Throughout its history, New Baltimore has been linked to the regional economy by virtue of the City's access to the waterfront and the region's transportation network. In its early years, New Baltimore took advantage of its waterfront location to operate port facilities exporting agriculture and manufacturing products to other communities. As automobile transportation increased in importance and travel patterns changed, so did the development of the City. The water and waterfront were no longer the preferred way to move products and people. Faced with this realization the City of New Baltimore transformed into a focal point for resort, commercial, and recreational activities along the waterfront.

The community began to thrive again in the early twentieth century due in large part to a number of major destinations including an opera house, hotels, salt baths, summer and winter recreational activities, saloons, a brewery and numerous resort and commercial establishments. In 1931 the City of New Baltimore was officially incorporated. For many years the City remained a hub of activity.

Today the City of New Baltimore is still known for its proximity to the water however the majority of activity and development within the community has focused more on residential housing and commercial corridors. The City still boasts a traditional downtown core and many waterfront amenities with many distinctive features and experiences.

It is evident that the critical mass and interest that once surround this community and its waterfront is no longer as noticeable as it once was. This parks and recreation plan will provide the community with a great opportunity to recapture the vibrancy that was once attributed to the City of New Baltimore and its recreational services.

### Demographic and Economic Characteristics

In order to develop a parks and recreation plan that is in tune to the current and future needs of the City a comprehensive demographic and economic analysis of the community is needed. The following sub-sections will highlight a number of significant population and household trends that have shaped the City of New Baltimore. These trends will undoubtedly have an impact on parks and recreation planning. Beyond how many people live in your community, more refined demographic and economic data will paint a more polished picture of the residents of the City of New Baltimore.

### Population Analysis

Since the 1950’s the City of New Baltimore has experienced a steady increase in population from decade to decade. In 1950 the City of New Baltimore had a population of 1,806 individuals. Over the next three decades the City’s population would increase over 200% to 5,439 residents in 1980. From 1980 to 2000 the City’s population continued to grow at a slower pace to adding 1,966 residents, or a 36% increase, to reach a population of 7,405. In 2010 the City of New Baltimore’s population reached 12,084 residents, which was a 63% increase for the past decade.

**Table 1:  
Population and  
Household**

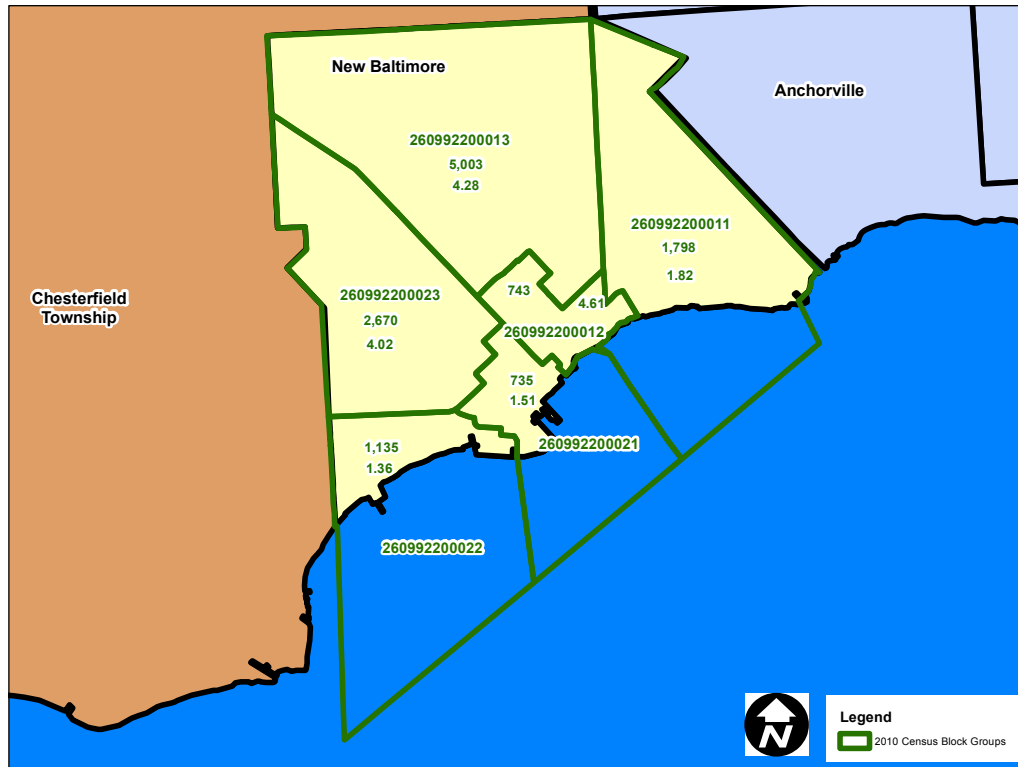
City of New Baltimore Population and Household Analysis		
Year	Population	Household
2000	7,405	2,942
2010	12,084	4,434
2035	14,559	5,934

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG

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The City's population is projected to continue its upward trend over the next couple of decades with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimating New Baltimore's population to reach 14,559 residents by 2035. The amount of individuals that reside in a community alone does not provide an adequate analysis of a community's residency. Population distribution and density are important factors to consider when developing comprehensive plans impacting recreational services, programs, and facilities.

**Map 2: Population by Census Blockgroup**



The 2010 Census established six Block Groups within the City of New Baltimore. These population nodes establish standard geographies which the Census Bureau utilizes to compute and track population. Map 2 identifies the Census Block Groups, their population, and the number of residents per acre within each area. The distribution of the Census Block Groups highlights a number of interesting aspects of New Baltimore's population. The six Block Groups range in population from 5,003 to 735 residents, and in size from 1,171 to 161 acres. Newer suburban residential development in the northern and eastern portions of the community has increased the population and density of two Block Groups, 260992200023 and 260992200013. The development in these areas has tipped the population scales of the community with the majority of residents now living in areas north of Green Street. The Census Block Groups that border the Lake still possess a strong core of residents. These four Block Groups, 260992200022, 260992200021, 260992200012, and 260992200011, account for just over 36% of the City's population and combined have a population density of 2.32 residents per acre. When analyzing the lakefront area it becomes evident that there is no more vacant land to be developed. Any new residents or development opportunities will most likely occur in the areas north of Green Street.

## Age

Age characteristics are useful demographic indicators for parks and recreation planning purposes. For example, a community’s age composition will help determine the appropriate mix of needed recreation services and facilities. A younger population suggests the need for more active recreational services, programs and facilities. An older population would have more demands for walking trails, exercise areas, dance halls, craft rooms, pool rooms and more passive recreational amenities. In 1990 the City of New Baltimore’s median age was 33.2, by 2000 it shot up to 36.2, and in 2010 it reached 37.1. Over the past two decades the City’s median age has increased by almost 4 years. Clearly on the surface this trend illustrates that the City of New Baltimore is aging, but that does not fully describe the City’s demographic change. Over the past decade New Baltimore’s median age increased by less than one year. This can be attributed to the increase of population and the influx of younger families moving to the area. The influx of younger families has stemmed the aging tide in the City, and has made New Baltimore a younger entity compared to Macomb County (39.9) and the State of Michigan (38.9). By analyzing age groups it becomes evident that younger families are calling the City of New Baltimore home. Table 3 illustrates New Baltimore’s population by age groups.

**Table 2: Median Age**

<b>Median Age Analysis</b>			
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>City of New Baltimore</b>	33.2	36.2	37.1
<b>Macomb County</b>	33.9	36.9	39.9
<b>Michigan</b>	32.6	35.5	38.9
<b>United States</b>	32.9	35.3	37.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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**Table 3: Age Groups**

City of New Baltimore Population Change by Age Groups								
Age	1990		2000		Change 1990- 2000	2010		Change 2000- 2010
	Number	%	Number	%		Number	%	
<b>Under 5</b>	402	6.93%	540	7.29%	138	856	7.08%	316
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	363	6.26%	529	7.14%	166	1,049	8.68%	520
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	404	6.97%	531	7.17%	127	1,040	8.61%	509
<b>15 to 19 years</b>	418	7.21%	436	5.89%	18	798	6.60%	362
<b>20 to 24 years</b>	457	7.88%	353	4.77%	-104	530	4.39%	177
<b>25 to 34 years</b>	1,053	18.16%	1,118	15.10%	65	1,362	11.27%	244
<b>35 to 44 years</b>	922	15.90%	1,425	19.24%	503	2,233	18.48%	808
<b>45 to 54 years</b>	645	11.12%	1,099	14.84%	454	1,813	15.00%	714
<b>55 to 59 years</b>	250	4.31%	401	5.42%	151	640	5.30%	239
<b>60 to 64 years</b>	204	3.52%	254	3.43%	50	582	4.82%	328
<b>65 to 74 years</b>	388	6.69%	374	5.05%	-14	684	5.66%	310
<b>75 to 84 years</b>	241	4.16%	273	3.69%	32	359	2.97%	86
<b>85 years and over</b>	51	0.88%	72	0.97%	21	138	1.14%	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,798</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>7,405</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>12,084</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,679</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Between 2000 and 2010 each Census age grouping in the City of New Baltimore increased. While the 35 to 44 years and 45 to 54 years age groups still account for 33% of the City's population, the past decade saw considerable increases in the Under 5, 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, and 15 to 19 years groups. In 2010 the four age groups that encompass all residents 19 years and younger encompasses over 30% (3,743 residents) of the City's population. In 2000 these groups only contained 27% of the City's population. Even though the number of children within the City is growing it is important to highlight that the elderly age groups in New Baltimore are still increasing. The four age groups encompassing New Baltimore's 60 and over population account for 14%, 1,763 residents, of New Baltimore's residents.

## Age by Lifecycle Category

A more understandable picture of the City’s age distribution is possible when individual age groups shown on the previous table are combined into a smaller number of groups, which more closely resemble identifiable stages of a normal human lifecycle. Selected categories and the age intervals that they represent include: pre school (0-4), school (5-19), young adult (20-24), family formation (25-44), middle-age (45-64), and seniors (65+). The percent of the City’s population that falls into each of these categories is shown in Table 4 for New Baltimore and Macomb County for 1990, 2000, and 2010.

**Table 4: Lifecycle Category**

Age By Lifecycle Category Analysis						
New Baltimore						
	1990		2000		2010	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Pre-School (Under 5)</b>	402	6.93%	540	7.29%	856	7.08%
<b>School (5-19)</b>	1,185	20.44%	1,496	20.20%	2,887	23.89%
<b>Young Adult (20-24)</b>	457	7.88%	353	4.77%	530	4.39%
<b>Family Formation (25-44)</b>	1,975	34.06%	2,543	34.34%	3,595	29.75%
<b>Middle-Age (45-64)</b>	1,099	18.95%	1,754	23.69%	3,035	25.12%
<b>Seniors (65+)</b>	680	11.73%	719	9.71%	1,181	9.77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,798</b>		<b>7,405</b>		<b>12,084</b>	

Macomb County						
	1990		2000		2010	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Pre-School (Under 5)</b>	48,914	6.82%	51,062	6.48%	48,815	5.80%
<b>School (5-19)</b>	142,682	19.89%	156,675	19.88%	165,810	19.72%
<b>Young Adult (20-24)</b>	53,688	7.48%	44,772	5.68%	49,511	5.89%
<b>Family Formation (25-44)</b>	236,119	32.91%	248,217	31.49%	219,832	26.14%
<b>Middle-Age (45-64)</b>	147,540	20.57%	179,772	22.81%	236,830	28.16%
<b>Seniors (65+)</b>	88,457	12.33%	107,651	13.66%	120,180	14.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>717,400</b>		<b>788,149</b>		<b>840,978</b>	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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Each lifecycle category is a useful indicator of population trends. For example a rise in the pre-school and school age categories would strengthen the need for more youth recreational services, while an increase in the senior lifecycle category would suggest a need for more passive recreational services and amenities.

In 1990, the Pre-School lifecycle category accounted for 6.93%, 402 residents, of New Baltimore's population. By 2010 the City of New Baltimore had 856 children under the age of 5. This was a 112% increase for children in this lifecycle category in two decades, however by 2010 children under the age of 5 still only accounted for 7.08% of New Baltimore's population. Children in the School lifecycle category had a more pronounced increase within the City of New Baltimore. In 1990 the City of New Baltimore had 1,185 (20.44% of the total population), and in 2010 the number reached 2,887 children (23.89% of the total population). By combining these two lifecycle categories it becomes evident that in 2010 over 30% of New Baltimore's population was under the age of 20. An increase in the Family Formation (25-44) lifecycle category, 3,595 residents (29.75% of the total population) in 2010, also demonstrates New Baltimore's likelihood to increase its Pre-School and School numbers.

Analyzing the other spectrum of the lifecycle categories illustrates that the City's elderly population is also growing. The number of Seniors (65+) increased from 1990 to 2010 in sheer numbers, 680 to 1,181; however the percentage of Seniors as a part City's whole population decreased from 11.73% to 9.77%. The Middle-Age (45-64) lifecycle category saw a substantial increase in population. From 2000 to 2010 the number of Middle-Age residents in the City of New Baltimore went from 1,754 to 3,035 individuals. With over 34% of the City's population over the age of 45 in 2010 New Baltimore must be sensitive to the fact that this number is going to grow over the next decade as the Family-Formation residents continue to age.

### Sex and Race Characteristics

In 2010 Females outnumber males in New Baltimore by 254 persons. Females comprise 51.05% of the City's population, compared to 48.95% for males. Since 1990, the proportion of female residents to males decreased from 51.70% to the current figure of 51.05% percent. New Baltimore's percentage of female residents is slightly lower than Macomb County's figure of 51.40%.

Based on the results of the 2010 Census, 94.36% of New Baltimore's population is white. The second largest race in the City is Black or African American accounting for 2.75% of the City's population. The Hispanic or Latino population of New Baltimore is 221 residents, 1.83% of the City's total population. Over the past decade New Baltimore's racial composition has changed very little.

**Table 5: Gender**

#### 2010 Male/Female Distribution

	Number	%
<b>Females</b>	6,169	51.05%
<b>Males</b>	5,915	48.95%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 6: Race**

<b>City of New Baltimore Race Analysis 2010</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>White</b>	11,402	94.36%
<b>Black or Africa American</b>	332	2.75%
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b>	49	0.41%
<b>Asian</b>	104	0.86%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</b>	2	0.02%
<b>Some Other Race</b>	28	0.23%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	167	1.38%
<b>Total</b>	12,084	100.00%
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	221	1.83%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Household Characteristics

The population analysis above illustrated that the City of New Baltimore has been experiencing a considerable rise in population over the past two decades. As the number of individuals within the City has increased so has the number of households. In 1990 the City of New Baltimore had 2,261 households, by 2000 the household count reached 2,942, and in 2010 it ballooned to 4,434 households. In two decades New Baltimore’s household count swelled by 96%, and as the City added over 2,000 households the composition of these residences changed.

As the number of households has increased within the City the average household size has also increased. In 2000 the average household size in New Baltimore was 2.48 individuals per household; by 2010 the City has an average household size of 2.72. This increase in the average household size can be attributed to the fact that in 2010 of the City’s 4,434 households 71.88% of them were considered Family Households. Female-Headed Households accounted for 8.23% of the total number of households in New Baltimore.

**Table 7: Household Size**

<b>Average Household Size Analysis</b>			
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>New Baltimore</b>	2.53	2.48	2.72
<b>Macomb County</b>	2.68	2.52	2.51
<b>Michigan</b>	2.63	2.56	2.49

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 8: Household Characteristics**

<b>2010 Household Characteristics</b>			
	<b>Family Households</b>	<b>Married Couple Families</b>	<b>Female-Headed Households</b>
<b>City of New Baltimore</b>	71.88%	60.04%	8.23%
<b>Macomb County</b>	67.04%	49.68%	12.68%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Economic characteristics of households also impact recreational opportunities. Household income levels illustrate varying degrees of wealth and poverty within a community. By understanding the diverse income levels of a community an individual or organization can better recognize the ability for residents to support recreational activities. For example, a household with higher income levels will have more opportunities to participate in a wider range of recreational activities, especially those with associated fees. The opposite will generally be true for households with lower incomes.

In 2010 the City of New Baltimore had an average household income \$88,222. This is almost \$13,000 over the County's average household income of \$75,313. A greater percentage of New Baltimore residents have an average household income over \$75,000 than is the case for Macomb County. The largest household income category for New Baltimore is \$100,000 - \$149,999, encompassing over 21% of all households in the community. Comparably only 16.40% of all the City's household incomes are \$34,999 and below, while 22.80% of the County's household incomes fall within those parameters. New Baltimore also boasts 175, almost 4%, households with an average household income of \$200,000+.

**Table 9: Household Characteristics**

<b>2010 Household Income Analysis</b>			
	<b>New Baltimore</b>		<b>Macomb County</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Less than \$15,000</b>	319	7.00%	7.40%
<b>\$15,000 - \$24,999</b>	232	5.10%	7.30%
<b>\$25,000 - \$34,999</b>	196	4.30%	8.10%
<b>\$35,000 - \$49,999</b>	469	10.30%	13.50%
<b>\$50,000 - \$74,999</b>	951	20.90%	24.00%
<b>\$75,000 - \$99,999</b>	847	18.60%	15.90%
<b>\$100,000 - \$149,999</b>	974	21.40%	16.60%
<b>\$150,000 - \$199,999</b>	387	8.50%	4.60%
<b>\$200,000+</b>	178	3.90%	2.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,552</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Average Household Income</b>	<b>\$88,222.00</b>		<b>\$75,313.00</b>

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online 2011

## Labor Force Participation

In 2010 the City of New Baltimore had a resident civilian labor force of 5,263, which is 43.55% of the City's total population. Since 1990 the City's labor force has grown by over 78%. The increase in the City's labor force can be attributed to a number of factors ranging from the increase in population to the increased participation of females in the labor force, regardless the more robust of a labor force a community possess the more opportunity there is for local economic prosperity. As a local economy grows the community has the ability to invest in many community and cultural amenities including parks and recreation services.

**Table 10: Labor Force**

### City of New Baltimore Labor Force Characteristics

	1990	2000	2010
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	2,953	4,036	5,263
<b>Employed</b>	2,760	3,878	4,705
<b>Unemployed</b>	193	158	558

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online 2011

## Disability Characteristics

Planned improvements to the City's park and recreation system should consider the needs of any special population groups, particularly those with physical handicaps that may prevent them from having access to recreation facilities and services available to other City residents. Information on the disability status of the population was collected as part of the 2000 Census. For the City of New Baltimore 10.23% of all residents 5 years and older, 1,237 individuals, have a disability. Comparably 15.12% of all Macomb County residents 5 years and older live with a disability. New Baltimore has a higher percentage of residents with disabilities in the 16 to 64 years and 65 years and over age categories than Macomb County 16.57% to 15.20% and 50.28% to 41.46% respectively.

**Table 11: Disability**

### 2000 Disability Characteristics

	5 to 15 years		16 to 64 years		65 years and over	
	# With Disabilities	% of total Pop. 5 to 15	# With Disabilities	% of total Pop. 16 to 64	# With Disabilities	% of total Pop. 65 and over
<b>City of New Baltimore</b>	58	5.13%	822	16.57%	357	50.28%
<b>Macomb County</b>	6938	5.87%	77159	15.20%	43033	41.46%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## **Demographic Considerations**

The information evaluated in the preceding demographic and economic analysis has significant impact on parks and recreation planning for the City of New Baltimore. The single most impactful conclusion is the reality that the City of New Baltimore is a growing community. With a steady influx of new residents the City has an ability to leverage higher population and household counts into strategic investments in parks and recreation. As new residents being to integrate themselves into New Baltimore, parks and recreation services, programs, and amenities can be an initial link to their new home. This means both a financial and administrative commitment from the City, however this community commitment can lead to civic pride and desirability.

Beyond sheer population and household increases the City must acknowledge the rise in children and seniors. By all accounts the City of New Baltimore should continue to see a rise in children within the community due to the rise in young families now residing in the community. These children will not only need basic community services such as schools and safe neighborhoods, but they will also drive the demand for parks and recreation services. From playgrounds, to little league, to dance classes New Baltimore has the capabilities to engage the City's youth. With regards to the elderly it is evident that as a whole our region, county, and local communities are becoming more and more grey. It is vital that New Baltimore connect with its elderly population and ensure that these individuals remain dynamic members of society. The City's seniors have invested in New Baltimore. In some cases these individuals have lived in the community for decades, and one way the City can repay this loyalty is providing the elderly with parks and recreation services. Utilizing scenic parks, walking paths, and wellness activities New Baltimore can facilitate programs and services that will engage the City's elderly population.

As each day passes the numbers will change. Next month it could be more household wealth. Next year it could be more children. Next decade it could be more elderly. Regardless of the numbers parks and recreation must be an essential service supported by the City of New Baltimore. Parks and Recreation programs, services, and amenities are a prime ingredient in the City's future prosperity. Each community has homes, businesses, and roads; however not every community has a beach, or a waterfront park, or a recreation center. A pledge to parks and recreation provides your community with the ability to set yourself apart. This Plan is the first step in that pledge to parks and recreation. The following sections will provide the City of New Baltimore with a practical set of goals and objectives that will pledge the community's commitment to parks and recreation.

## **Community Land Use and Natural Features**

One of the most essential functions when planning for parks and recreation is analyzing land. The distribution of land uses, natural features, and development patterns will impact where a community can and should invest in parks and recreation resources. For example, new residential developments provide opportunities to link parks with growing population clusters, pristine natural areas allow for a community to highlight environmental stewardship, and exclusive recreational zoning districts protect and preserve land for parks and other recreation infrastructure.

By analyzing land uses and natural features the City of New Baltimore can better integrate parks and recreation into the existing community fabric.

## Land Use

Currently the City of New Baltimore is comprised of 2,958.8 acres of land. As an evolving suburban community the most prevalent land use classification within the City is Residential. Single-Family Residential is the largest land use classification in New Baltimore accounting for 1,151.8 acres, 38.93% of total land. Multi-Family Residential and Manufactured Home Parks round out residential land uses in New Baltimore, and account for 95.6 acres of land, 3.23% of total land. All together residential uses cover 40% New Baltimore’s total land. The predominance of residential land uses illustrates that New Baltimore has a commitment to establishing new, and nurture existing, residential developments that will provide the City with a burgeoning population and tax base. Beyond residential the City has also established core areas for private business functions.

New Baltimore has established a number of core areas for commercial uses. Covering 118.3 acres, 4.00% of total land, Commercial development is generally located along major thoroughfares and within the City’s traditional downtown area. The City also has a concentration of Industrial uses located primarily in the areas surrounding Industrial Road on the eastside of the City. In total New Baltimore has 69.3 acres, 2.34% of total land, attributed to Industrial Uses ranging for large scale manufacturing facilities to specialty tooling companies. The City of New Baltimore also has

set aside land for Transportation and Utility providers within the Community. Currently the City has 420.5 acres, 14.21% of total land, throughout the community set aside for Transportation and Utility services. Beyond residential, commercial, and industrial uses New Baltimore facilitates a mixture of significant land use classifications that provide the City with the ability to strengthen its parks and recreation services and preserve the City’s natural beauty. The City of New Baltimore utilizes four distinct land use classifications to fortify its community character: Agriculture, Institutional, Open Space, and Recreation. The New Baltimore land use analysis highlighted 139.9 acres, 4.73% of total land, set aside exclusively for Recreational Uses.

**Table 12: Land Use**

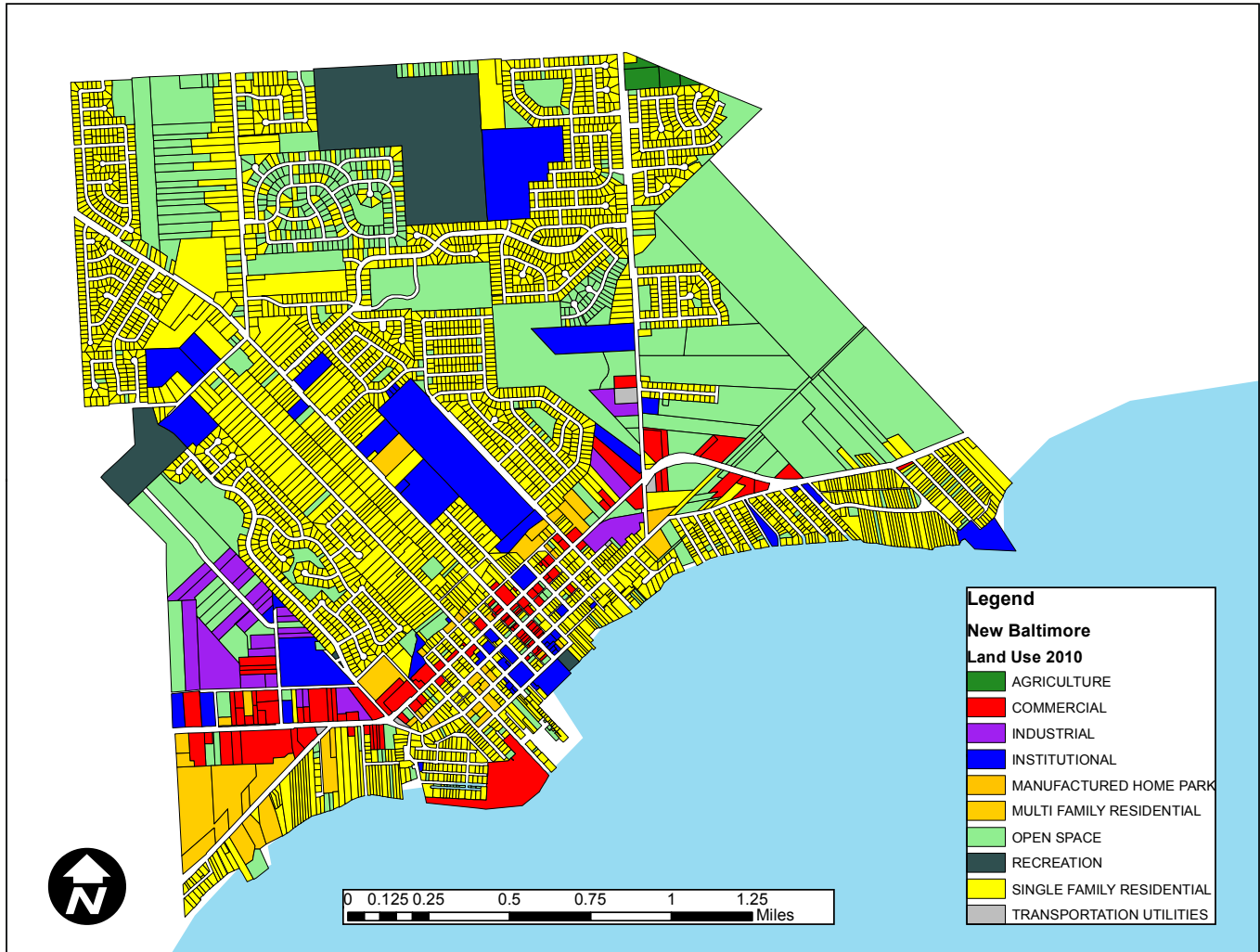
### New Baltimore 2010 Land Use Summary

	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	8.5	0.29%
<b>Commercial</b>	118.3	4.00%
<b>Industrial</b>	69.3	2.34%
<b>Institutional</b>	208.0	7.03%
<b>Manufactured Home Park</b>	2.2	0.07%
<b>Multi-Family Residential</b>	93.4	3.16%
<b>Open Space</b>	746.9	25.24%
<b>Recreation</b>	139.9	4.73%
<b>Single Family Residential</b>	1,151.8	38.93%
<b>Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	420.5	14.21%
<b>Total Acreage</b>	2,958.8	100.00%

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The Recreational land use classification includes Cedar Glenn Golf Course, portions of May "Red" Aurand Memorial Park and Walter and Mary Burke Park, and a number of residential subdivision pocket parks. The City's remaining parks and recreation parcels are classified under the Institutional and Open Space land use categories. Institutional land uses include City owned properties, schools, places of worship, and parks. Currently 208.0 acres, 7.03% of total land, are classified as Institutional uses.

**Map 3: Land Use**



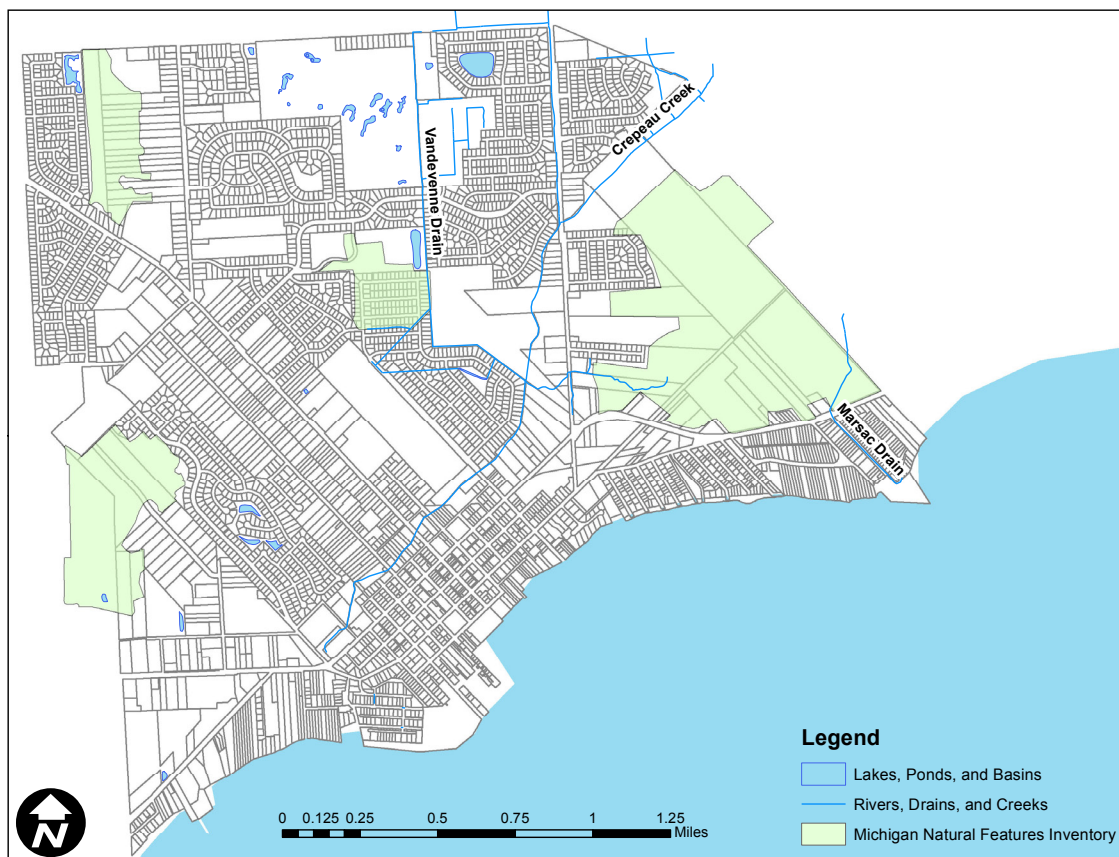
The City of New Baltimore Recreation Center, Reudisale Pointe Park, Reginald-Brady Park, Anchor Bay Schools Complex, Nature Trail Park, and portions of Walter and Mary Burke Park and May "Red" Aurand Memorial Park are all classified under the Institutional land use category. The City also has large tracts of Open Space accounting for 746.9 acres, 25.24% of total land. The greatest concentrations of open space in New Baltimore are located east of County Line Road and in the upper northwest corner of the community near 25 Mile Road and Ridge Road.

At present land classified for Agricultural purposes includes 8.5 acres, less than .3% of total land. The agricultural enclave in New Baltimore is located in the northeastern corner of the community along County Line Road. Leveraging these four land use categories New Baltimore has been able to preserve its natural features and plan for adequate parks and recreation amenities.

## Natural Features

The City's most evident and influential natural feature is water. The physical geography of the community is formed by the shores of Lake St Clair, and a number of water courses that meander throughout the community adding natural beauty. The City's strategic location along the Lake provides it with an abundance of community, economic, and physical development opportunities. With over four miles of shoreline New Baltimore has a distinctive landscape that is home to unrivaled residential, commercial, and recreational uses. These water elements have defined the City of New Baltimore. They have evolved from being a hub of commerce and industry to the staging ground of some of the most remarkable quality of life experiences around. New Baltimore also enjoys a number of unique conservation areas inland. These areas catalogued by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) identify "Potential Conservation Areas" that are dominated by native vegetation, water features, and unique natural features.

Map 4: Natural Features



## SECTION 1.0

The City of New Baltimore possess four of these MNFI sites, two of which have been integrated into existing developments and two of which are in predominately open space areas. These MNFI sites are prime areas of natural beauty and environmental stewardship.

Unlike many communities New Baltimore has exceptional natural features. The City has an exceptional opportunity to leverage these natural assets for future investments. As the City seeks to investment in parks and recreation amenities it would greatly benefit the community and environment to embrace these natural assets. Incorporating the pristine beauty of the community with recreational infrastructure will illustrate to users how distinctive and special New Baltimore's setting is.