

Walter & Mary Burke Park



Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park

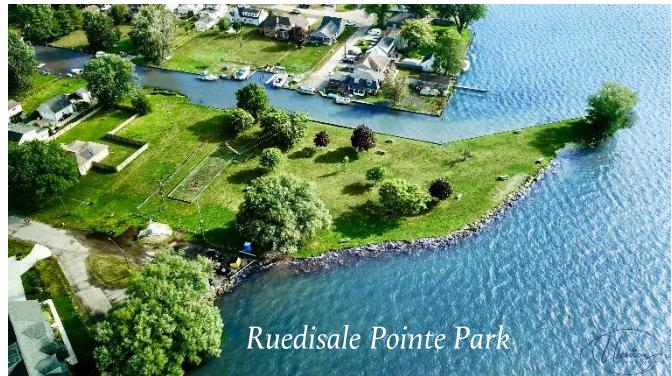
# City of New Baltimore

2022

## Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Festival Park



Ruedisale Pointe Park

New Baltimore  
Parks  
& Recreation  
Creating Community Through Recreation

# **City of New Baltimore Recreation Plan Amendment Resolution by City Council**

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# 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 2020 Census concluded that the City of New Baltimore has a population of 12,358 residents with 4,672 households. In two decades, the City had a 67% increase in population and a 59% 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 strained and spread thin as a City grows. A municipality must act efficiently and effectively in order to meet community needs as the population booms.

Along with the strain to maintain governmental services, 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. A quality, high-functioning Parks and Recreation department has the ability to unify a local community. Parks, beaches, youth sports, dance classes, leisure programs, senior services, 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 2022 provides a mechanism for New Baltimore to consider its parks and recreation services and facilities at a comprehensive level.

## Community Analysis

### 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.
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

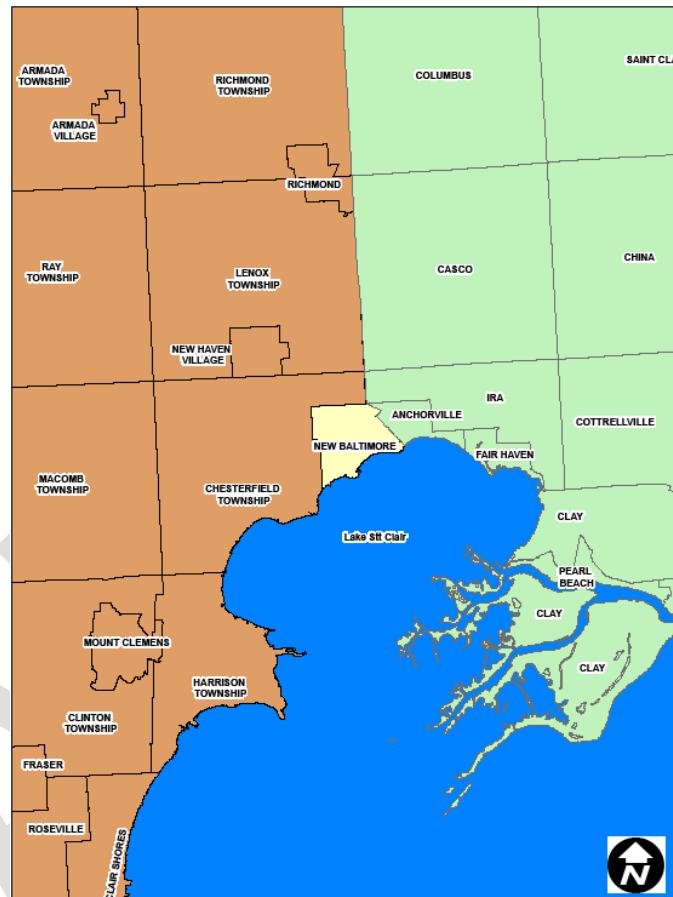
New Baltimore is located in an opportunistic area in Southeast Michigan. Located on the shores of Lake St. Clair, the City of New Baltimore has an enormous ability to leverage the power of this unique natural resource. The City is also connected to the region through an integrated transportation network. 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 the 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.

## 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 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 a 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.

**Map 1: New Baltimore Regional Setting**



## Community Analysis

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 surrounded 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 adding 1,966 residents, or a 36% increase, to reach a population of 7,405. In 2020 the City of New Baltimore's population reached 12,358 residents, which was a 67% increase for the past two decades.

**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
2020	12,358	4,672
2035	14,559	5,934

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau

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 number 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.

## Community Analysis

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 demand 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, and it currently sits at 40.3. Over the past two decades the City's median age has increased by 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 3.2. This can be attributed to the increase of population from the last two decades and their children aging. This age increase is crucial to determining how the City will plan and implement new amenities and programs.

**Table 2: Median Age**

	Median Age Analysis			
	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>City of New Baltimore</b>	33.2	36.2	37.1	40.3
<b>Macomb County</b>	33.9	36.9	39.9	40.9
<b>Michigan</b>	32.6	35.5	38.9	39.5
<b>United States</b>	32.9	35.3	37.2	38.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 3: Age Groups**

City of New Baltimore Population Change by Age Groups									
	1990		2000		2010		2020		Change 2010-2020
Age	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
<b>Under 5</b>	402	6.93%	540	7.29%	856	7.1%	646	5.2%	-210
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	363	6.26%	529	7.14%	1,049	8.7%	804	6.5%	-245
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	404	6.97%	531	7.17%	1,040	8.6%	1,010	8.2%	-30
<b>15 to 19 years</b>	418	7.21%	436	5.89%	798	6.6%	893	7.2%	95
<b>20 to 24 years</b>	457	7.88%	353	4.77%	530	4.4%	717	5.8%	187
<b>25 to 34 years</b>	1,053	18.16%	1,118	15.10%	1,362	11.3%	1,086	8.8%	-276
<b>35 to 44 years</b>	922	15.90%	1,425	19.24%	2,233	18.5%	1,749	14.2%	-484
<b>45 to 54 years</b>	645	11.12%	1,099	14.84%	1,813	15.0%	1,926	15.6%	113
<b>55 to 64 years</b>	454	4.31%	655	5.42%	1,266	5.3%	1,790	14.5%	524
<b>65 to 74 years</b>	388	6.69%	374	5.05%	684	5.7%	1,089	8.8%	405
<b>75 to 84 years</b>	241	4.16%	273	3.69%	359	3.0%	528	4.3%	169
<b>8five years and over</b>	51	0.88%	72	0.97%	138	1.1%	120	1.0%	-18
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,798</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,405</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,084</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,358</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>230</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Between 2010 and 2020, only half of the Census age groupings in the City of New Baltimore increased. While the 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 age groups account for 30% of the City's population, the past decade saw considerable decreases in the Under 5, 5 to 9, 25 to 34, and 35 to 44 years groups. In 2010 the four age groups that include all residents 19 years and younger encompassed over 30%. This dropped to 27% in 2020, the same as these groups contained in 2020. Even though the number of children within the City is decreasing, it is important to highlight that the elderly age groups in New Baltimore are still increasing. The three age groups encompassing New Baltimore's 65 and over population account for 14.1% of the total population in 2020, an increase from 9.8% in 2010.

## Community Analysis

### 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		2020
Life Cycle	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
<b>Pre-School (Under 5)</b>	402	6.93%	540	7.29%	856	7.08%	646
<b>School (5-19)</b>	1,185	20.44%	1,496	20.20%	2,887	23.89%	2,707
<b>Young Adult (20-24)</b>	457	7.88%	353	4.77%	530	4.39%	717
<b>Family Formation (25-44)</b>	1,975	34.06%	2,543	34.34%	3,595	29.75%	2,835
<b>Middle-Age (45-64)</b>	1,099	18.95%	1,754	23.69%	3,035	25.12%	3,716
<b>Seniors (65+)</b>	680	11.73%	719	9.71%	1,181	9.77%	1,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,798</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,405</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,084</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,358</b>

Macomb County							
	1990		2000		2010		2020
Life Cycle	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
<b>Pre-School (Under 5)</b>	48,914	6.82%	51,062	6.48%	48,815	5.80%	47,739
<b>School (5-19)</b>	142,682	19.89%	156,675	19.88%	165,810	19.72%	104,870
<b>Young Adult (20-24)</b>	53,688	7.48%	44,772	5.68%	49,511	5.89%	53,640
<b>Family Formation (25-44)</b>	236,119	32.91%	248,217	31.49%	219,832	26.14%	220,447
<b>Middle-Age (45-64)</b>	147,540	20.57%	179,772	22.81%	236,830	28.16%	248,659
<b>Seniors (65+)</b>	88,457	12.33%	107,651	13.66%	120,180	14.29%	144,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>717,400</b>		<b>788,149</b>		<b>840,978</b>		<b>870,325</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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 2000, the Pre-School lifecycle category accounted for 7.29%, 540 residents, of New Baltimore's population. In 2020, that lifecycle group dropped to 5.2%, or 646 residents. Children in the School lifecycle category had a differing trend, increasing slightly in the same time period. In 2000, the City of New Baltimore had 1,496 children (20.2% of the total population), and in 2020 the number reached 2,707 children (21.9% of the total population). By combining these two lifecycle categories it becomes evident that in 2020 over 25% of New Baltimore's population was under the age of 20. A decrease in the Family Formation (25-44) lifecycle category, 2,835 residents (22.9% of the total population) in 2020, demonstrates that many of the people who moved to New Baltimore in the early 2000's have stayed, and they and their children are moving into new lifecycle categories.

Analyzing the other spectrum of the lifecycle categories illustrates that the City's elderly population is growing considerably. The number of Seniors (65+) increased from 2000 to 2020 by over 1,000 residents (719 to 1,737), and the percentage of Seniors as a part of the City's whole population increased from 9.71% to 14.1%. The Middle-Age (45-64) lifecycle category also saw a substantial increase in population. From 2000 to 2020 the number of Middle-Age residents in the City of New Baltimore grew by almost 2,000 residents, from 1,754 to 3,716. With over 44% of the City's population over the age of 45, New Baltimore must be cognizant of the potential for this number to grow over the next decade as the Family-Formation residents continue to age.

### Gender and Race Characteristics

Female and male residents of New Baltimore are only separated by 34 people. Females comprise 50.14% of the City's population, compared to 49.86% for males. Since 1990, the proportion of female residents has hovered between 51 and 52 percent, so the City is now seeing a slightly more neutral distribution.

Based on the results of the 2020 Census, 93.7% of New Baltimore's population is white. The second largest race in the City is Black or African American accounting for 3.2% of the City's population. The Hispanic or Latino population of New Baltimore is 221 residents, 2.3% of the City's total population. Over the past decade New Baltimore's racial composition has changed very little, seeing only a slight increase in minority residents.

**Table 5: Gender**

2020 Male/Female Distribution		
	Number	Percentage
Females	6,196	50.14%
Males	6,162	49.86%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Community Analysis

**Table 6: Race**

City of New Baltimore Race Analysis 2020		
	Number	%
<b>White</b>	11,574	93.7%
<b>Black or Africa American</b>	394	3.2%
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b>	115	0.9%
<b>Asian</b>	47	0.4%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</b>	17	0.1%
<b>Some Other Race</b>	47	0.4%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	164	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	12,358	100.00%
City of New Baltimore Hispanic/Latino Analysis 2020		
	Number	%
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	288	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Household Characteristics

The population analysis illustrates 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 and the size of the households. In 2000 the household count was 2,942, and in 2010 it ballooned to 4,434 households. From 2010 to 2020 it increased by another 341 households to 4,775. In two decades, New Baltimore's household count swelled by over 1,800 households. The average household size has continued to climb as well. This is likely attributed to families having more children as well as families having multi-generational homes, with senior-aged grandparents moving in with their children.

**Table 7: Household Size**

Average Household Size Analysis				
	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>New Baltimore</b>	2.53	2.48	2.72	2.88
<b>Macomb County</b>	2.68	2.52	2.51	2.46
<b>Michigan</b>	2.63	2.56	2.49	2.55

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Section 1.0

Currently, 70.7% of the City's 4,775 households were considered Family Households. Of those households, 58.8% of them were married couples, and 8.2% of them were Female-Headed Households. Total Family Households and Married Couple Households are above the Macomb County average, and the Female-Headed Households are below. This is indicative of New Baltimore households representing a more traditional family makeup.

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.

The average household income in New Baltimore decreased from 2010 to 2020 by \$64, from \$88,222 to \$88,158. In 2010, the average household income was almost \$13,000 over the County's average. This decrease to less than \$8,000 in 2020. 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 in 2010 was \$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 178 (4%) households with an average household income of \$200,000+.

**Table 8: Household Characteristics**

2020 Household Characteristics			
	Family Households	Married Couple Families	Female-Headed Households
<b>City of New Baltimore</b>	70.7%	58.8%	8.2%
<b>Macomb County</b>	64.5%	47.0%	11.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 9: Household Characteristics**

	2020 Household Income Analysis	
	New Baltimore	Macomb County
	Number	%
<b>Less than \$15,000</b>	217	4.5%
<b>\$15,000 – \$24,999</b>	208	4.3%
<b>\$25,000 – \$34,999</b>	213	4.4%
<b>\$35,000 – \$49,999</b>	480	9.9%
<b>\$50,000 – \$74,999</b>	432	8.9%
<b>\$75,000 – \$99,999</b>	699	14.4%
<b>\$100,000 – \$149,999</b>	767	15.8%
<b>\$150,000 – \$199,999</b>	1,087	22.4%
<b>\$200,000+</b>	446	9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,855</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Average Household Income</b>	<b>\$88,158.00</b>	<b>\$80,511</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Community Analysis

### 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. That total is now 6,194, or 50.1% of the total population. 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 labor force a community possesses 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**

<b>City of New Baltimore Labor Force Characteristics</b>				
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	2,953	4,036	5,263	6,194
<b>Employed</b>	2,760	3,878	4,705	5,846
<b>Unemployed</b>	193	158	558	273

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Disability Characteristics

Planned improvements to the City's park and recreation system must consider the needs of any special population groups, particularly those 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 2020 Census. For the City of New Baltimore, 12.15% of all residents have a disability. That is roughly 1 in 8 residents who need special accommodations in order for them to have equitable access to recreational offerings.

**Table 11: Disability**

2020 Disability Characteristics						
	Under 18 years		18 to 64 years		6five years and over	
	# With Disabilities	% of Total Pop	# With Disabilities	% of Total Pop	# With Disabilities	% of Total Pop
<b>City of New Baltimore</b>	144	4.6%	791	10.7%	567	32.8%
<b>Macomb County</b>	8,318	4.6%	59,144	11.0%	52,507	35.2%

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 begin 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, resulting in community commitment can lead to civic pride and desirability.

The City must acknowledge the rise in the senior population as a major driving factor for recreation facilities and programming. The City of New Baltimore will likely see a rise in children within the community over the next decade due to older families progressing and younger families moving into the City. These young families will put greater weight on the need for parks and recreation services. From playgrounds, to youth sports, to special events and summer camp, New Baltimore has the capabilities to engage the City's youth. On the other hand, it is evident that as a whole, our region, county, and local communities are seeing increases in the senior population. It is vital that New Baltimore connect with this demographic and ensure that these individuals remain dynamic members of the community and society at large. The City's seniors have invested in New Baltimore. In some cases, these individuals have lived in the community for decades. One way the City can repay this loyalty is providing the elderly with parks and recreation services that fit their needs. Improving or adding walking paths, wellness activities, and senior programs, New Baltimore can engage the City's elderly population.

Regardless of the numbers, parks and recreation must be an essential service supported by the City of New Baltimore, its elected officials and appointed officers. 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 top-notch athletic fields. A pledge to parks and recreation provides your community with the ability to set itself 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.

## Community Analysis

### 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 1,253.9 acres, 42.38% of total land. Multi-Family Residential and Manufactured Home Parks round out residential land uses in New Baltimore, and account for 45.3 acres of land, 1.53% of total land. All together, residential uses cover almost 44% of 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 stable population and tax base. Beyond residential, the City also has established core areas for private business functions.

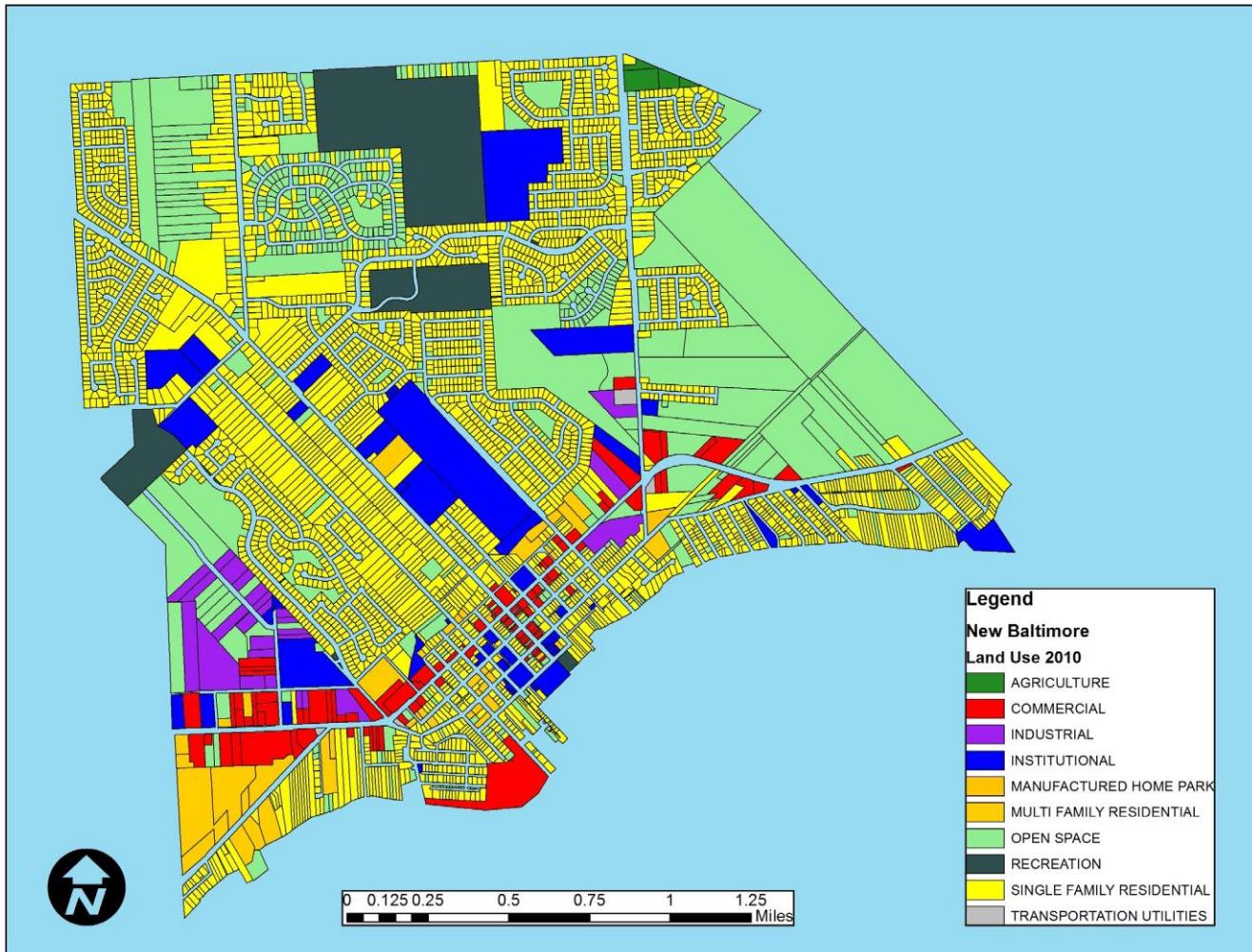
**Table 12: Land Use**

New Baltimore 2020 Land Use Summary		
	Acreage	%
<b>Agriculture</b>	8.5	0.29%
<b>Commercial</b>	132.1	4.46%
<b>Industrial</b>	69.3	2.34%
<b>Institutional</b>	206	6.96%
<b>Manufactured Home Park</b>	2.2	0.07%
<b>Multi-Family Residential</b>	43.1	1.46%
<b>Open Space</b>	683.3	23.09%
<b>Recreation</b>	139.9	4.73%
<b>Single Family Residential</b>	1,253.9	42.38%
<b>Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	420.5	14.21%
<b>Total Acreage</b>	2,958.8	100%

New Baltimore has established a number of core areas for commercial uses. Covering 132.1 acres, 4.46% 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 west side of the City. In total New Baltimore has 69.3 acres, 2.34% of total land, attributed to Industrial Uses ranging from 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.

The Recreational land use classification includes Cedar Glenn Golf Course, Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park, Festival Park, and Walter and Mary Burke Park. The City's remaining parks and recreation parcels are classified under the Institutional land use category. Institutional land uses include City owned properties, schools, places of worship, cemeteries, and undeveloped parks. Currently 206.0 acres, 6.96% of total land, are classified as Institutional.

Map 3: Land Use



Ruedisale Pointe Park, Reginald-Brady Park, Anchor Bay Schools Complex, Lillian Lucas Trail System, both cemeteries in town, City Hall, and other city-owned properties are designated in the Institutional land use category. The City also has large tracts of Open Space accounting for 683.3 acres, 23.09% 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.

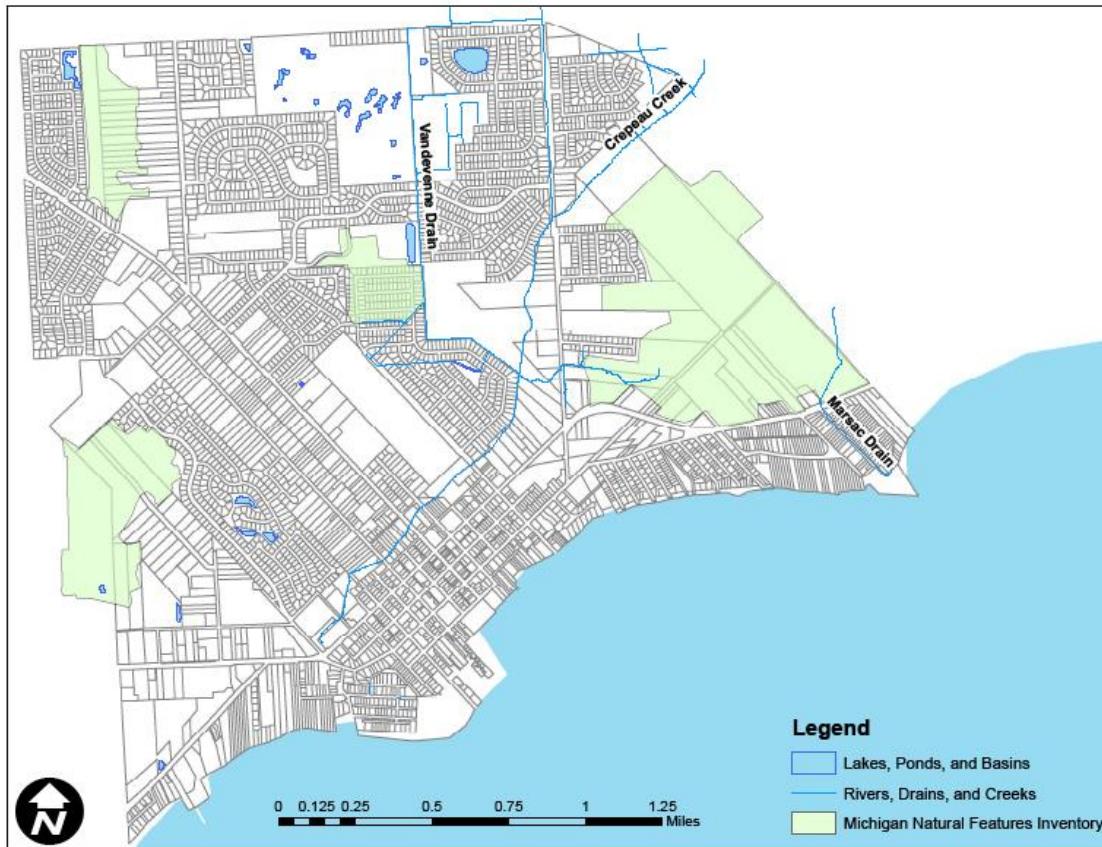
## Community Analysis

### 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.

The City of New Baltimore possesses 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. Six Rivers Land Conservancy owns several other tracks of land that are also MNFI sites, and are adjacent to the City-owned properties. The plan is for the City to eventually purchase these parcels from Six Rivers Land Conservancy and create one large nature preserve.

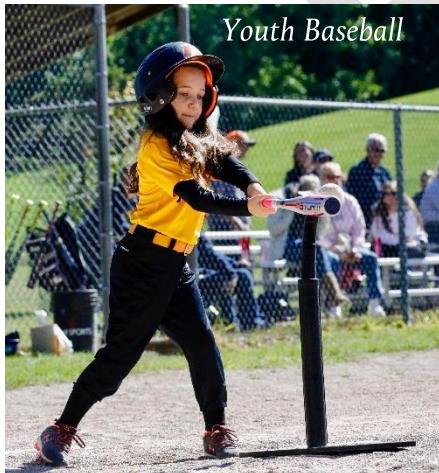
**Map 4: Natural Features**



# Section 2.0

## Administrative Structure

City of New Baltimore  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan



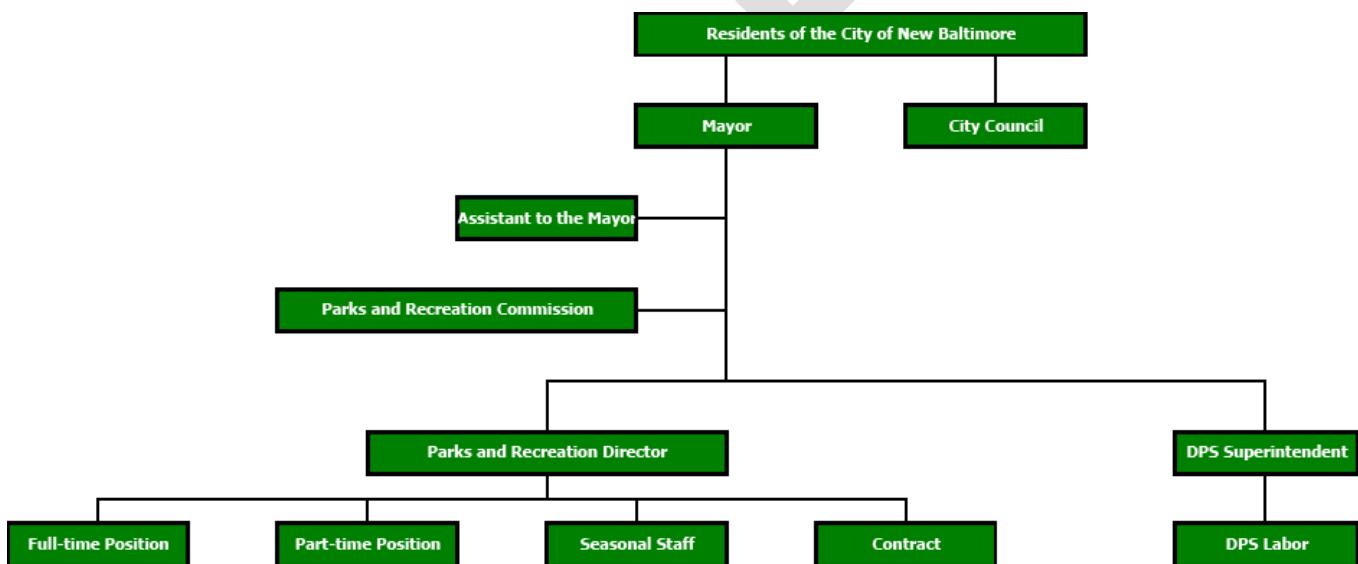
## Administrative Structure

### Administrative Structure – Introduction

The planning, development, and maintenance of a comprehensive parks and recreation system cannot be accomplished without a unified administrative structure. A web of elected officials, boards, commissions, administrators, staffers, and volunteers is needed to ensure that investments are made soundly and services are delivered efficiently. From developing annual budgets to staff administration, the administrative structure surrounding parks and recreation is vital to current operations and future accomplishments.

The following section will detail the City of New Baltimore's Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure. Currently the City of New Baltimore Parks and Recreation services are managed and administered by the following entities: New Baltimore City Council (elected), New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Commission (appointed), and the City of New Baltimore Recreation Department.

**Table 13: New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Organization Chart**



### City Council

The New Baltimore City Council is the governing body of the City. The six-member council oversees the general administration of the City including the City's general operating budget and capital improvement funds for parks and recreation facilities. By having control over the City's finances the City Council is the definitive authority on how parks and recreation services and facilities will be delivered to the community.

## **Commission of Parks and Recreation**

The City of New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Commission was created on March 12th 1990 by City Ordinance No. 34. The Ordinance established a seven-member commission appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. The Ordinance directs the Commission to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Review, consider, discuss and make recommendations to the City Council relative to present and future needs and requirements of the city and its residents for parks and recreation facilities.
2. Review, consider, discuss and make recommendations to the city council and to the mayor relative to rules and regulations for public parks and recreation facilities and activities within the city.
3. Review, consider and discuss with the director of parks and recreation and make recommendations to the director of parks and recreation regarding the programs and activities of the city with respect to parks and recreation and the policies, rules and procedures governing such programs and activities.
4. Review, consider, discuss and make recommendations on such issues, matters, topics, questions, and city projects and programs related to parks and recreation as shall be requested by either the mayor or the city council.

The duties and responsibilities of the commission of parks and recreation shall be supplemental to and shall not overlap or interfere with the powers and duties of the director of parks and recreation.

## **City of New Baltimore Recreation Department**

The New Baltimore Recreation Department was established by City Council in 1970. Under the leadership of the Parks and Recreation Director, the Department utilizes an integrated staff of full-time employees, part-time employees, contractual workers, and volunteers to administer the wide variety of programs, activities, and services. Beyond programs and activities, the Recreation Department works closely with the Mayor, City Council, Public Works Department, and Parks and Recreation Commission to maintain, develop, and acquire parks and recreation land, spaces, and facilities.

## **Recreation Programming**

The City of New Baltimore Recreation Department offers a diverse range of recreation programs and activities, which include instructional classes, athletics, senior programs, camps, and special events. Programs are geared towards a seasonal schedule with activities administered in the Spring/Summer sessions and the Fall/Winter sessions. These programs change from time-to-time to reflect the needs and preferences of City residents. Residents from adjoining communities are permitted to participate in these programs.

## Administrative Structure

### Recreation Budget

On an annual cycle, the City of New Baltimore prepares a budget to execute parks and recreation services, programs, and facilities. This process sets aside annual expenditures for the department, building and grounds, seasonal expenditures, and activities funds. The 2020/2021 Parks and Recreation Budget totaled \$824,930 with the largest line item being Department expenditures, including salaries and fringe benefits, accounting for \$361,260. Currently the 2021/2022 Parks and Recreation Budget is set at \$1,153,290 with the largest line item being Department expenditures again totaling \$432,595.

Maintenance for the City parks is the responsibility of a combination of the Parks & Recreation Department and the City's Department of Public Service (DPS). The cost of maintaining the City's parks and pavilions is \$235,790. Maintenance of the City's athletic fields is separate from the parks, and is budgeted for \$72,560 in the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

The primary source of revenue for the Recreation Department is user fees which are charged for programs and leagues. Sponsorships and donations are a secondary source of revenue for the department. Revenues for the department are budgeted at \$205,075 for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. The total of the remaining expenditures that are not offset by the revenues generated are subsidized by the City's general fund.

# Section 3.0

## Parks & Recreation Inventory

City of New Baltimore  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Walter & Mary Burke Park



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

### Parks & Recreation Inventory – Introduction

When a community seeks to develop a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan it is imperative to catalogue existing parks and recreation facilities. An extensive inventory of parks and recreation facilities will allow a community to highlight its assets, develop linkages, build off of innovative trends, and point out any gaps in services. Beginning with a community's existing recreational framework all stakeholders involved can begin to develop modern strategies that will propel parks and recreation to new levels. The following section will provide a complete inventory of parks and recreation facilities within the City of New Baltimore, and highlight major facilities in surrounding areas. The section will begin with an overview of the regional parks and recreation environment, highlighting state and regional parks and recreation destinations surrounding the City of New Baltimore. The inventory will then focus on the parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City of New Baltimore. An analysis of facilities owned by other agencies within the City of New Baltimore will also be included in this section.

### State and Regional Inventory

While Parks & Recreation is its own department, it is essential to view it as part of a larger system of spaces, facilities, and services. A singular approach to parks and recreation planning will result in insufficient knowledge and wasted resources. The City of New Baltimore is nestled in a region that has considerable parks and recreation destinations. As a region, Southeast Michigan has a long-standing commitment to parks and recreation. From major park systems to wildlife preservation areas, the State of Michigan and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority have established a network of services and facilities that provide users of all abilities and interests with plentiful parks and recreation destinations.

Sixteen (16) State parks and recreation areas are located in the five-county region surrounding New Baltimore. In total these state recreation facilities encompass over 50,000 acres of land. These state facilities offer a wide range of parks and recreation services including trails, swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, camping, nature preserves, cross-country skiing, and many others. The only State Park located in Macomb County is the undeveloped Wetzel State Recreation Area. This 900+ acre park provides areas for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

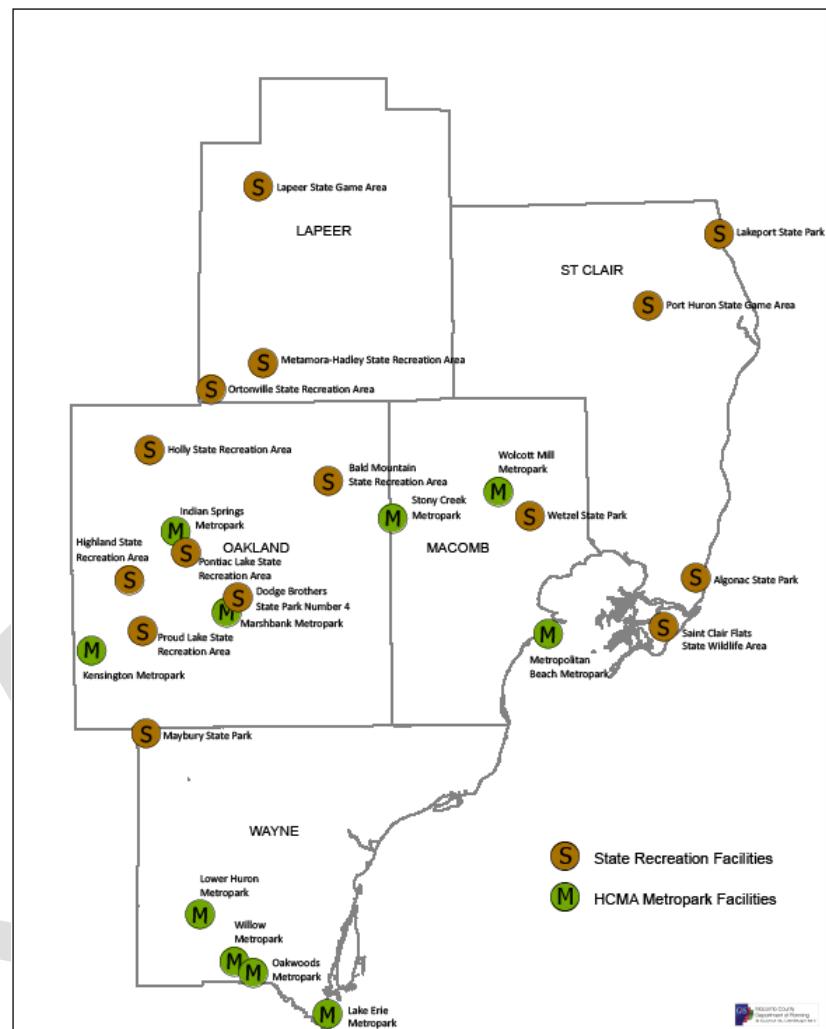
The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park system created by the Citizens of Southeast Michigan in the 1940's. This regional parks authority provides recreational and educational opportunities while serving as stewards of the natural environment. HCMA believes that the use of parks and exposure to natural environments enhance society's health and quality of life.

Macomb County is home to three HCMA parks: Stony Creek Metropark located in Washington Township; Wolcott Mill Metropark located in Ray Township; and Lake St. Clair Metro Park located in Harrison Township. Each of these facilities offers a wide array of parks and recreation opportunities at a grand scale. From the public beach at Lake St. Clair Metropark, to the Farm Center at Wolcott Mill, to the golf course at Stony Creek each park attracts large amounts of visitors from around the region. Each of the noted facilities has a profound impact on recreation in New Baltimore. Residents of the City are users of these facilities and it is important for New Baltimore to understand how it can leverage and learn from the success of these parks and recreation destinations.

## Macomb County Inventory

Macomb County operates a system of parks and recreation opportunities through a network of elected officials, administrators, and commissions. The County works in chorus through the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission, and a network of County Departments in developing strategies and programs for parks and recreation. Currently, Macomb County oversees only one active parks and recreation amenity, the Macomb Orchard Trail. This 27 mile non-motorized trail is the anchor of Macomb County's regional trail network, and is managed by the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission. The County is also an active partner in the operations surrounding the Freedom Trail, which is a non-motorized trail traversing Sterling Heights, Clinton Township, Harrison Township, and ending at Lake St. Clair Metropark. Macomb County also owns Freedom Hill County Park, a 100+ acre park facility located in Sterling Heights. Even though Macomb County is not currently involved in the active operation of large-scale parks and recreation facilities, the County remains an active participant in the planning and development of regional and local parks and recreation programs.

**Map 5: State and Regional Parks & Recreation Facilities**

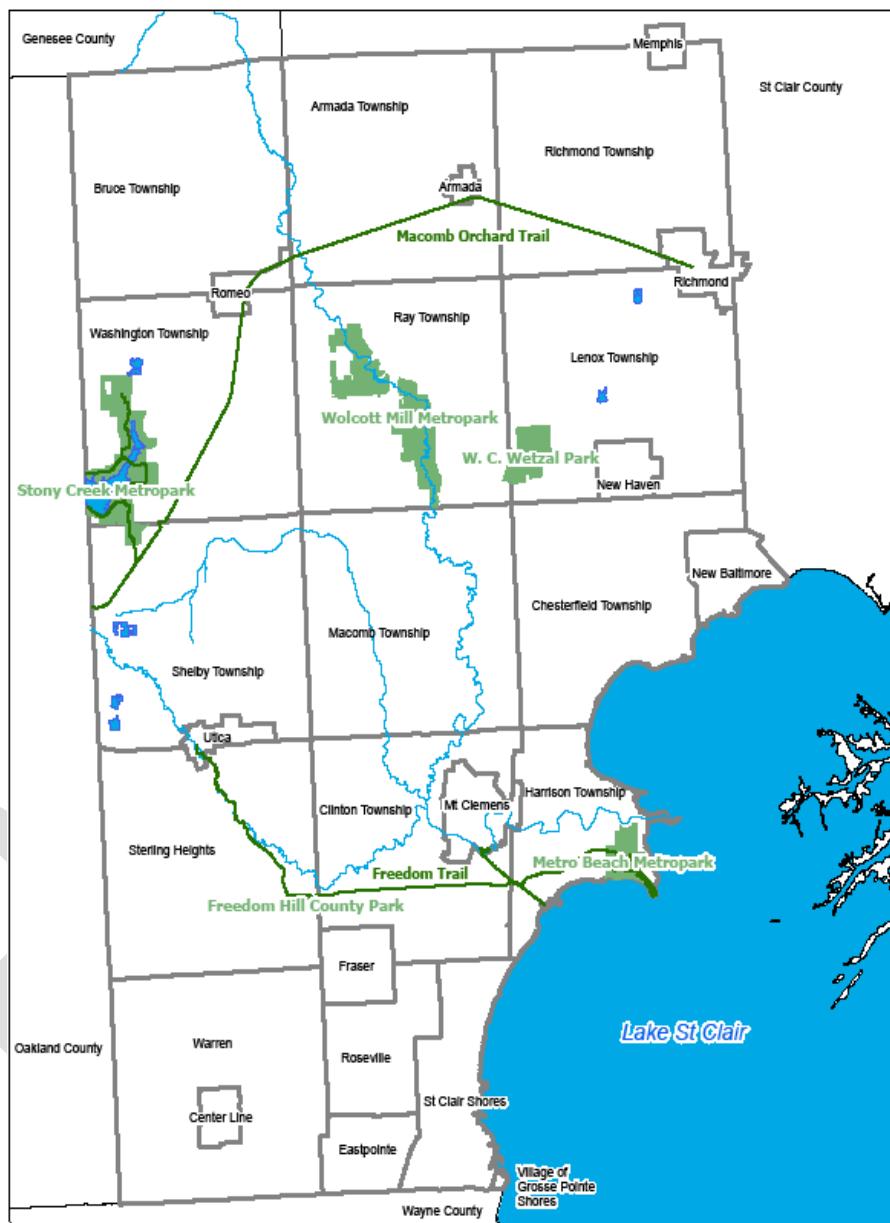


## Parks & Recreation Inventory

At the local level Macomb County has had a longstanding commitment to providing local units of government with assistance in developing local parks and recreation plans and grant administration/assistance.

Macomb County has leveraged partnerships and administrative resources to fortify local parks and recreation programs. At the regional level, Macomb County has taken a more active approach to promoting the potential surrounding Lake St. Clair. Focusing on public access, recreational opportunities, and environmental stewardship, Macomb County is a leading force behind the revitalization of Lake St. Clair. As Macomb County continues to evolve under its newly established Executive form of government, elected officials, staff, and volunteers will ensure that parks and recreation facilities and services will continue to be an important public priority.

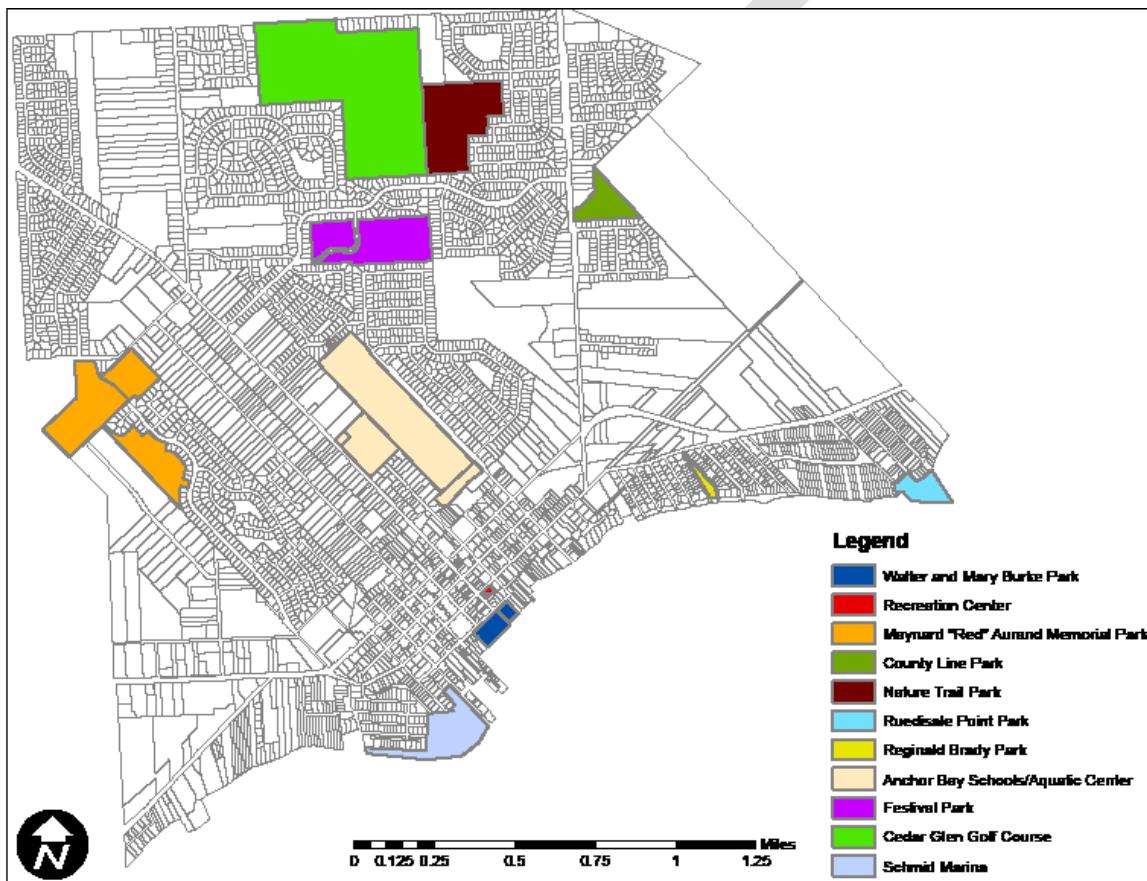
**Map 6: Macomb County Parks & Recreation Facilities**



## City of New Baltimore Inventory

The City of New Baltimore has a desirable foundation of parks and recreation facilities that service the community. In total there are 11 parks and recreation facilities in the City of New Baltimore. Of these 13 facilities, there are 8 owned and operated by the City of New Baltimore, 1 leased by the City, 1 facility managed under the authority of Anchor Bay Public Schools, and 3 operated by private entities. Collectively, these facilities account for 320 acres of land scattered throughout the community incorporating unique landscapes and settings. From large tracts of open space to the core of the City's downtown, these parks and recreation facilities are ingrained in the community fabric.

**Map 7: New Baltimore Parks & Recreation Facilities**



To adequately inventory these facilities for the community, and meet the requirements set forth by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources "Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans", the following section will extensively review each facility. For each facility the following information will be catalogued: name, size, description, accessibility assessments, map, and photographs. As the City of New Baltimore embarks on this comprehensive parks and recreation planning process, this inventory of existing facilities will be the groundwork for future parks and recreation aspirations.

## Parks & Recreation Inventory

### New Baltimore Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

**Name:** County Line Park

**Size:** 10.1 acres

**Description:** County Line Park is currently an undeveloped 10-acre site. The park is located on the east side of County Line Road, south of Crapeau Creek. As a large track of undeveloped greenspace the City of New Baltimore is considering a number of parks and recreation improvements to this site.

**Accessibility Assessments:** Undeveloped land.

**Map 8: County Line Park**



**Name:** County Line Pathway

**Size:** 2.2 Miles

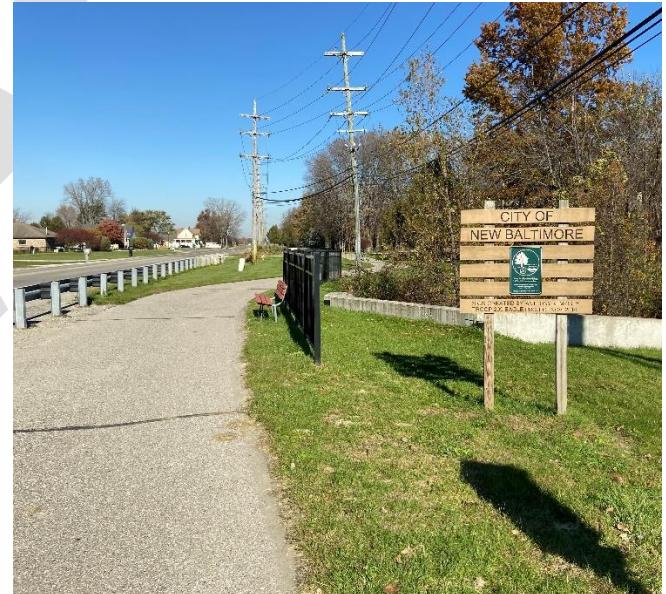
**Description:** The County Line Pathway was a collaboration between the City of New Baltimore, the Anchor Bay School District, Ira Township, St. Clair County, and Macomb County. The initial 1.25 Mile trail was constructed in 2011 and connected Anchor Bay High School to residential neighborhoods as far south as St. Clair Drive in New Baltimore. The additional 0.95 miles of pathway was added with a grant from the DNR Trust Fund in 2015 and extended the trail further south past M-29.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) County Line Pathway meets accessibility guidelines.

**Map 9: County Line Pathway**



**County Line Pathway Sign**



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

**Name:** Lillian Lucas Trail System

**Size:** 34.6 acres

**Description:** The Lillian Lucas Trail System was added to the New Baltimore Parks system in 2016 as a result of the property being acquired by the City in a settlement. The City has taken steps to return the site to its natural habitat. The Lillian Lucas Trail System is located next to Cedar Glen Golf Club and is north of St. Clair Drive next to Maple Creek Subdivision. There is currently a soft pathway system meandering through the park conducive to bird watching, running, and cross-country skiing in the winter. In 2019, a gravel parking lot was added at the trail head located at the end of Crimson Lane. Future development will include restrooms, trail enhancements, and seating on the trails.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (3) The park is in the development stage.

**Map 10: Lillian Lucas Trail System**



**Name:** Festival Park

**Size:** 31.1 acres

### Festival Park Entrance

**Description:** In 2016, a local non-profit, Bay-Rama, donated the 31 acre site to the City to be used as a sports and family park. The site is located off of St. Clair Drive in the center of the City. The site has been transformed into 2 full-size soccer fields, 4 baseball diamonds and a 100 car parking lot. A one-mile walking path has been developed around the perimeter of the park with several access points. A picnic area has also been developed. In 2018, Bay-Rama donated a playscape that was added to the park amenities. Future developments will include field lighting, permanent bathrooms, a concession stand, and paved parking. The City also plans to plant additional trees and shrubs at the park to improve aesthetics and greenspace.



**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Festival Park meets accessibility guidelines.

### Festival Park Greenspace



### Festival Park Storage



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

Map 11: Festival Park



Festival Park Soccer Fields

**Name:** Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park

**Size:** 48.3 acres (including protected greenspace and Oakwood Cemetery)

**Description:** Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park is the largest active parks and recreation facility in the City of New Baltimore. This community park is located at the corner of Huntley Street and 24 Mile Road, and is a major parks and recreation destination. Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park houses many parks and recreation services including: two baseball diamonds, basketball/pickle ball court, soccer fields, a covered pavilion, a skate park, a sledding hill, a children's playscape, and permanent bathroom facilities. The site also contains an exercise pathway that is utilized year-round. The park is also connected to a protected greenspace, just south of the major park site, and Oakwood Cemetery, just east of the major park site. Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park is a preeminent parks and recreation facility within the City of New Baltimore. With thousands of visitors each year, this facility is a prime example of the positive impact that parks and recreation can have on a community. Future site developments include the leveling of green space to allow for additional soccer fields, athletic field lighting, and a universally accessible playscape.

### Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park



### Maynard "Red" Aurand Playground



### Maynard "Red" Aurand Pavilion



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

Map 12: Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park



Maynard "Red" Aurand Sledding Hill



Maynard "Red" Aurand Ball Fields



**Name:** Reginald Brady Park

**Size:** 1.8 acres

### Reginald Brady Park Vista

**Park Description:**

Reginald Brady Park is a neighborhood park located in between Reginald Street and Brady Street on the shores of Lake St. Clair. This 1.8 acre boulevard park is nestled in a residential neighborhood and provides residents with a passive recreational area. Reginald Brady Park offers areas for picnics, scenic views of Lake St. Clair, and a small garden area. This park is an identified access location for the Anchor Bay Water Trail and the City may pursue opportunities to better connect this site to the water trail system. Tucked away, this secluded recreational enclave surround by mature trees is a community treasure that allows residents to interact with the beauty of Lake St. Clair in a calm and inviting area. Future developments may include additional seating, a small playscape, and shoreline restoration.



**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Reginald Brady Park meets accessibility guidelines.

### Reginald Brady Park Greenspace



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

Map 13: Reginald Brady Park



Reginald Brady Park Shoreline

**Name:** Ruedisale Point Park

**Size:** 6.9 acres (including bottomlands)

### Ruedisale Point Park Picnic Area



**Description:** Ruedisale Point Park is a 6.9 acre community park site located in the southeast portion of the City at the terminus of Ruedisale Street along Anchor Bay. This shoreline recreation facility provides users with passive recreation space. Picnic tables and benches are spaced throughout the park. The site's orientation and proximity to the Lake have caused concerns for shoreline stabilization of the park. In 2021, the City was awarded a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service to restore the shoreline, add wave attenuation features, and restore fish habitat. This park is an identified access location for the Anchor Bay Water Trail and the City may pursue opportunities to better connect this site to the water trail system. Future developments at Ruedisale Point Park may include a fishing pier, walking paths, a dog park, a pavilion, permanent restroom facilities, rain gardens, interpretive signage, kayak launch, expanded parking, and a universally accessible playscape.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Ruedisale Point Park meets accessibility guidelines.

### Ruedisale Point Park Shoreline



### Ruedisale Point Park Passive Rec Area



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

Map 14: Ruedisale Point Park



**Name:** Walter and Mary Burke Park

**Size:** 4.3 acres

**Description:** Walter and Mary Burke Park is located off Front Street on Lake St. Clair. It is a destination community park. As one of the few public access points along Lake St. Clair, residents and visitors alike frequent the park to bask in the natural beauty of the lake and enjoy multiple aquatic assets, including a public beach, pier, and a canoe/kayak launch. This canoe/kayak launch is an important access point to the Anchor Bay Water Trail, with a vendor providing additional access through rental paddle boards and kayaks. The City may pursue opportunities to better connect this site to the water trail system. With over 400 feet of frontage on Lake St. Clair, Walter and Mary Burke Park provides a recreational setting unlike any in the county. Walter and Mary Burke Park possesses a number of additional parks and recreation amenities including: playscapes, swing sets, picnic areas, pavilions, and restrooms. In 2012, the City received a Homeland Security Grant for the construction of a 178' dock with finger slips to accommodate 20 transient boats. In 2016, the City received a grant which allowed it to install rain gardens and pervious brick pavers in an effort to prevent erosion and e-coli from entering the lake waters. In 2018, the City remodeled the bathrooms at the park to bring them up to ADA standards. The northwest corner of this site houses the City's water filtration plant and ground water storage tank. The plant occupies about a third of the overall parcel. Adjacent to the pier is the City's new Flagpole, which serves as a regional marker for boaters on Lake St. Clair.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Walter and Mary Burke Park meets accessibility guidelines.

**Walter and Mary Burke Park**



# Parks & Recreation Inventory

Map 15: Walter and Mary Burke Park



Walter and Mary Burke Park Beach



Walter and Mary Burke Park Proposed Playground



## School Parks and Recreation Facilities

**Name:** Anchor Bay School District Site

**Size:** 67.0 acres

**Description:** The Anchor Bay School District owns approximately 67 acres of land on the east side of Washington Street in the heart of New Baltimore. This is the location for Ashley Elementary, Lighthouse Elementary, Anchor Bay Middle School North, transportation and maintenance facilities, and the Anchor Bay Aquatic Center. Recreation facilities on this site include playground equipment, three (3) multi-purpose rooms, four (4) baseball diamonds, soccer fields, a 1/4 -mile oval track, an athletic field and a concession/restroom building.

The Anchor Bay Aquatic Center opened in April of 1999. The facility is owned by the Anchor Bay School District and is located on the east side of Washington. The center is 24,000 square feet in size and maintains an L-shaped pool for high school competition. Additionally, the pool has a ramp for swimmers with disabilities and a computerized maintenance system. Besides the pool, the center includes a sports shop, fitness/stretching room, locker rooms, a meeting room, and faculty offices.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Anchor Bay School District Site meets accessibility guidelines.

**Map 16: Anchor Bay School District Site**



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

### Private Parks and Recreation Facilities

**Name:** All-Star Sports Center

**Size:** 3.1 acres

**Description:** All-Star Sports Center is a privately owned recreation facility with basketball/volleyball courts, batting cages, and fitness rooms. The facility is located at the corner of County Line and M-29.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) All -Star Sports Center meets accessibility guidelines.

**Map 17: All-Star Sports Center**



**Name:** Anchor Bay Woods Preserve

**Size:** 171.1 Acres

**Description:** The Anchor Bay Woods Preserve is a large plot of undeveloped land. Currently, 171.1 acres are currently protected by the Six Rivers Land Conservancy and the City of New Baltimore. The additional 148.65 acres are privately owned. The Six Rivers Land Conservancy is actively working to acquire more of the land.

**Accessibility Assessments:** Undeveloped land.

**Map 18: Anchor Bay Woods Preserve**



— Owned by the City of New Baltimore  
— Owned by Six Rivers Land Conservancy

## Parks & Recreation Inventory

**Name:** Bev's Dance Studio

**Size:** 0.95 acres

**Description:** Bev's Dance Studio is a privately owned building that is leasing space to the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Bev's Dance Studio meets accessibility guidelines.

**Map 19: Bev's Dance Studio**



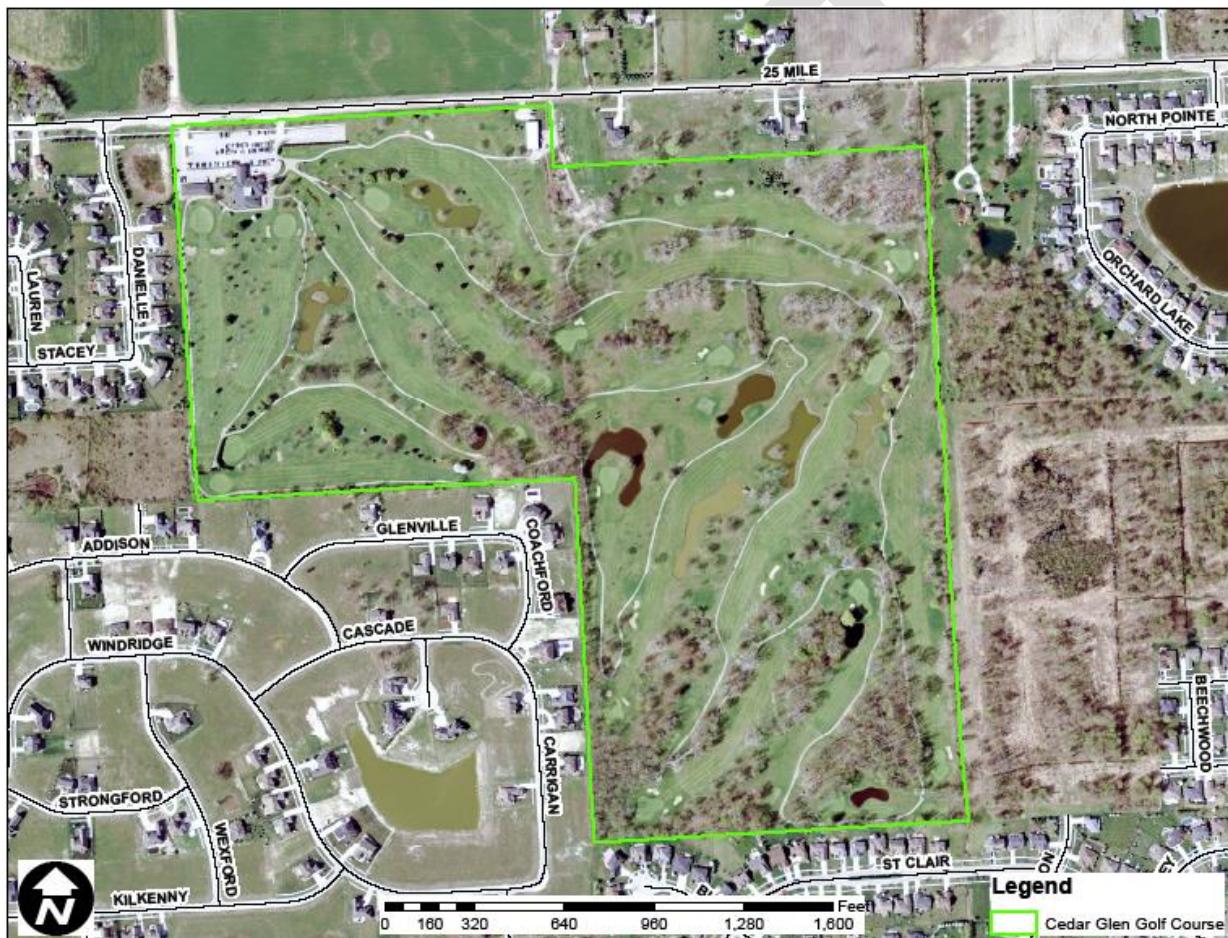
**Name:** Cedar Glen Golf Course

**Size:** 114.7 acres

**Description:** Cedar Glen Golf Club is an 18-hole privately owned public golf course located on the south side of 25 Mile Road.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Cedar Glen Golf Course meets accessibility guidelines.

**Map 19: Cedar Glen Golf Course**



## Parks & Recreation Inventory

**Name:** Sunsation Harbor Marina

**Size:** 19.5 acres

**Description:** Sunsation Harbor Marina is a private marina located on Taylor Street, southwest of downtown on Anchor Bay. The City of New Baltimore understands the strategic importance of this site due to its location on the waterfront and its nautical amenities. This site is a critical access point along the Anchor Bay Water Trail.

**Accessibility Assessments:** (4) Sunsation Harbor Marina meets accessibility guidelines.

**Map 20: Sunsation Harbor**



# Section 4.0

## Planning & Public Input Process

**City of New Baltimore  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan**



*Daddy Daughter Dance*



*Adult Kickball League*

### Planning and Public Input Process – Introduction

The City of New Baltimore employed several planning and public input techniques to develop this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. To adequately engage a comprehensive network of stakeholders the City of New Baltimore utilized the Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers, City Council, City Administrators, the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development (MCPED) and comments/interactions from the general public to craft the strategies set forth in this document. The following section will highlight the planning and public input procedures taken by these vested groups of stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan refining parks and recreation facilities, programs and services. This process allowed the community to analyze existing conditions and resources, strategize for future investments, and cultivate a forward-thinking approach to the next era of parks and recreation within the City of New Baltimore.

### Planning Methods

The systems approach to planning was developed by James D. Mertes and James R. Hall for the National Recreation and Park Association in 1995. This planning approach is a process of assessing the park, recreation, and open space needs of a community and translating that information into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial, and facility requirements to satisfy those needs. The City and its planning stakeholders decided to apply this planning method because it considered all parks and recreation facilities, programs and services as a part of larger structure. A new playground at one park would not just change the physical environment of that single facility, or a new senior citizen program at the recreation center would not just need space and volunteers to hold the event. Each decision can influence additional elements of the parks and recreation system within the City. A single strategy or investment can alter user patterns and increase or decrease additional parks and recreation needs. It is this interlinkage between parks and recreation facilities, programs and services that creates a dynamic atmosphere where the City must continually evaluate and create appropriate policies and procedures for parks and recreation.

In order to effectively utilize this system-based approach, the City founded this Parks and Recreation Master Plan on a wide-ranging inventory of all the community's parks and recreation facilities. Presented in Section 3.0, the inventory illustrates existing conditions and amenities located throughout the community. This inventory, coupled with the demographic analysis created for the Community Description, has become the baseline for future planning and investment. In the following section the plan will highlight a series of goals and objectives that will lead New Baltimore into the next five years of parks and recreation prosperity. The goals and objectives will then be linked to a strategic plan of action that recommends specific parks and recreation projects to be undertaken over the lifespan of this document. Each goal, objective and subsequent action plan was crafted with the intent to create a more comprehensive system of parks and recreation services within New Baltimore.

### Public Input Process

The City of New Baltimore took great strides to engage the general public in the development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The City utilized the Parks and Recreation Commission as the primary sounding board for any comments and input regarding the Plan. At the Commissions monthly public meetings the City promoted an open invitation to members of the general public to comment and participate in the development of the Plan. Over the span of two months the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed and drafted different elements of the plan at each of its meetings.

The draft plan was completed in October 2021 and was published for the 30 day review period on Monday, November 15, 2021. During the 30 day review period the general public had an opportunity to review the Plan at City Hall and it was available on the Community's website. On Thursday, December 2, the Parks and Recreation Commission had final public workshop to incorporate any additional comments on the draft plan. The 30 day review period ended on December 14, 2021, and the Parks and Recreation Commission finalized the document and sent it to City Council for a public hearing and final approval. The public hearing for the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan was held on January 10, 2022. The City Council approved and adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Monday, January 10, 2022. Over a span of two months the residents of the City of New Baltimore had 2 opportunities at public meetings to provide input on the plan. At each meeting members of the public were encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback on the documents progress. In the end, the City of New Baltimore strongly believes that it has created a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that is in lockstep with the will of the public.



# Section 5.0 Goals & Objectives

City of New Baltimore  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan



49  
2019 Jingle Bell Run



Anchor Bay Triathlon

## **Goals & Objectives – Introduction**

Parks and recreation is a system of services that is administered by a dynamic network of elected officials, public administrators and volunteers. This system is effectively administered and guided by goals and objectives. In preparing this Parks and Recreation Master Plan the City of New Baltimore created a series of goals and objectives that will act as benchmarks for the City over the next five years. These policy statements will guide stakeholders in the organization, development and administration of the City's parks and recreation services. In developing these goals and objectives the City of New Baltimore recognized that the community is continually evolving. The political, financial, social and physical environment of the City is in a constant state of change; however, the City has pledged to provide parks and recreation services. As opportunities and challenges arise the City must be able to make informed and impactful decisions that will allow the City and parks and recreation to flourish.

In order to develop these goals and objectives the City considered a number of community factors. Each series of goals and objectives incorporates demographic and economic considerations, physical characteristics, and municipal feasibility. As these policy statements were being created the City reviewed each element in an open setting allowing for public input. The following list of goals and objectives is a proper representation of the future of parks and recreation within the City of New Baltimore. As the City of New Baltimore continues to evolve, these goals and objectives will allow the community to effectively administer the system of parks and recreation services that is in the best interest of the general public. The remainder of this section will highlight five goals and their corresponding objectives.

### **1. Provide Parks and Recreation Opportunities**

The City of New Baltimore will provide a diverse and impactful range of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services that will benefit residents and visitors.

- Maintain and analyze current parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services to ensure that there are sufficient parks and recreation opportunities for all current and potential users.
- Identify possible areas where the City of New Baltimore can establish new, or expand existing, parks and recreation facilities, programs, partnerships, and services.
- Create a parks and recreation capital improvement framework that will strategically establish a practical means of investing in physical improvements to the City's parks and recreation facilities.
- Pledge that all parks and recreation facilities, programs and services are administered in a safe and secure environment.

## Goals & Objectives

### 2. Foster Community Development and Engagement

The City of New Baltimore pledges to utilize parks and recreation services as a catalyst for strengthening community pride and uniting residents.

- Ensure that all residents and visitors, regardless of age or ability, can adequately access parks and recreation facilities, services, and programs.
- Develop a more comprehensive assortment of parks and recreation programs engaging a wider spectrum of residents and visitors. Include additional services and programs for special populations, such as seniors and school aged children.
- Create partnerships with corresponding parks and recreation service providers within the County, region, and state.
- Utilize multiple media and print resources to communicate parks and recreation programs and services.
- Engage parks and recreation users to gauge the strengths and challenges of current parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services.
- Organize ongoing community forums and workshops to measure the adequacy of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services.
- Celebrate the City's diversity and cultural unity through experiences and programs that highlight New Baltimore's cultural assets and unique traditions.
- Work with Anchor Bay School District to enhance recreational opportunities.

### 3. Promote Environmental Stewardship

The City of New Baltimore will leverage parks and recreation facilities, programs and services to protect and highlight environmentally significant areas throughout the community.

- Determine the location and character of environmentally significant areas in the community.
- Target environmentally significant areas for preservation and recreational purposes.
- Support and partner with local, county, and regional initiatives surrounding the environment and Lake St. Clair.
- Consider opportunities for terrestrial, near-shore, and aquatic habitat improvements.
- Pursue opportunities to increase conservation efforts, such as increased tree canopy, green infrastructure, land management, and stormwater mitigation throughout the park system.

## **4. Encourage Healthy Lifestyles**

The City of New Baltimore will utilize parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services to improve the health and wellness of the City's residents.

- Create health and wellness programs which educate residents on healthy eating, physical activity, stress management, and other healthy habits.
- Incentivize year-round participation in parks and recreation with diverse programming, recognition, awards, or memorabilia.
- Develop tutorials and how-to guides highlighting the City's parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services.
- Target and partner with health and wellness organizations to educate the City's residents about the benefits of physical fitness and wellness activities.

## **5. Support Economic Development**

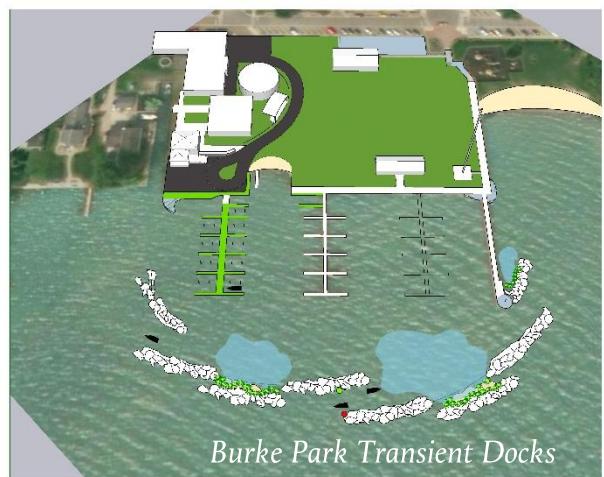
The City of New Baltimore will use parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services to generate economic growth and prosperity.

- Promote and partner with festivals and special events to increase activity and interest in the City of New Baltimore.
- Link investments in parks and recreation to larger community projects including private developments and infrastructure improvements.
- Finalize and implement a plan for a new parks and recreation center.
- Provide opportunities for local businesses to partner with parks and recreation through marketing, sponsorships, and promotions.

# Section 6.0

## Action Plan

# **City of New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Master Plan**



## Action Plan – Introduction

The City of New Baltimore currently administers a dynamic parks and recreation system. With 13 parks and recreation facilities and a wide variety of programs and activities, New Baltimore has been able to nurture and invest in parks and recreation for decades. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the impetus for a new era of investment and empowerment in the City's parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. As has been illustrated throughout this document, the City of New Baltimore continues to grow in population and transform in physical form. With a population that is slated to increase by more than 1,000 residents over the next two decades, the parks and recreation services provided are going to need to adapt. There are many constants that will remain part of the current parks and recreation system ranging from existing parks facilities to cornerstone community festivals. Faced with these projected changes in the community's social and physical structure, the community has leveraged the proposed goals and objects to create the following community action plan for parks and recreation investment.

The action plan is a series of specific projects that will assist the community in meeting their goals and objectives over the next five years. During the planning process a number of ideas were discussed between the Parks and Recreation Commission, the general public and City administrators. The following section is a compilation of those ideas and discussions. Each of the proposed action items has been evaluated to ensure that they correspond with the proposed goals and objectives. The action plan illustrates the aspirations of the City of New Baltimore Parks and Recreation system. It is a bold set of projects that will generate interest and activity in parks and recreation.

### **Walter and Mary Burke Park**

Walter and Mary Burke Park is a preeminent park destination in the City of New Baltimore. With public access to Lake St. Clair and a wide variety of park amenities, Walter and Mary Burke Park must continue to progress over the next five years. The City of New Baltimore must seek to invest in the aquatic and maritime infrastructure while expanding on the existing services. New Baltimore should explore investing in the following improvements:

- Pavilion Improvements – The City of New Baltimore is interested in updating the pavilions at the park. This includes, but is not limited to, new roofs, new HVAC in the indoor pavilion, updated lights and electrical, and public WiFi internet. The City would also like to incorporate some form of stage, bandshell, or performance space.
- Enhanced Park Amenities and Beautification – In order to preserve the beauty and serenity of Walter and Mary Burke Park the City of New Baltimore seeks to continually invest in enhanced landscaping, shaded areas, a gazebo, signage, bench improvements/amenities, picnic areas, the beach, and playscape.
- Parking and Traffic Circulation Improvements.
- Improve Transient Marina – there is potential to construct additional boat slips, wave attenuation systems, a kayak launch, and other amenities.

## Action Plan

- Increase visibility and access to the Anchor Bay Water Trail.
- Enhance Pedestrian Access – the City is interested in adding a walking path around the park to connect all sidewalks to the neighborhoods.
- Dredging Needs – there is no need for dredging in the near future.
- Infrastructure replacement schedule – infrastructure replacement is done on an as needed basis by the Department of Public Works.
- Annual maintenance schedule – all maintenance is performed on as needed basis by the Department of Public Works and the Parks & Recreation Department.
- Large scale maintenance and replacement – The Park needs new seawall in several areas, the beach is in need of excavation and regrading, and the playscape needs replacement.

## Reginald Brady Park

The City of New Baltimore envisions Reginald Brady Park to remain a passive recreational area. With pristine vistas of Lake St. Clair and a tranquil location in a predominately residential area Reginald Brady Park would benefit from a series of strategic improvements:

- Butterfly Garden – The City has had a long history of creating a butterfly garden at this park.
- Enhanced Park Amenities and Beautification – Improve the landscaping, signage, picnic areas and public seating.
- Shoreline Restoration – The shoreline along the lake should be restored to a natural grade and provide fish and wildlife habitat.
- Increase visibility to the Anchor Bay Water Trail.
- Addition of a small playscape structure.

### Ruedisale Point Park

The City is interested in enhancing the current condition of the park through various improvements that will provide the park with greater accessibility, cultivate environmental sustainability, and facilitate a greater presence along Lake St. Clair. The proposed action plan for Ruedisale Point Park includes:

- Shoreline stabilization and Bottomlands Reclamation – As a waterfront recreational facility, Ruedisale Point Park has been impacted by Lake St. Clair. Over the years the Lake has eroded the shoreline and the park has lost a substantial portion of its total land area to the Lake. The City of New Baltimore has secured funding to stabilize the Ruedisale Point Park shoreline and reclaim the bottomlands that were once active parkland.
- Parking and Circulation Improvements – Located at the end of a residential street, the circulation and parking around Ruedisale Point Park is concerning. The lack of adequate space to park and maneuver automobiles coupled with a lack of pedestrian amenities is a cause for concern at this park. The City of New Baltimore would like to develop a strategy to improve parking and circulation around Ruedisale Point Park.
- Enhanced Park Amenities and Beautification – In order to preserve this waterfront park facility, the City of New Baltimore will continue to invest in improvements to the sites landscaping, a new universally accessible playscape, signage, canine amenities, restroom facilities, picnic areas and public seating.
- Pavilion and Fishing Pier – The City of New Baltimore would like to invest in a pavilion and fishing pier at Ruedisale Point Park to provide more amenities around Lake St. Clair including nautical infrastructure.
- Acquire adjacent properties – the City will continue to look for ways to expand the park through the acquisition of adjacent properties.
- Increase visibility and access to the Anchor Bay Water Trail.

## Action Plan

### **Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park**

Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park is the City's largest active parks and recreation facility. New Baltimore hopes to sustain the activity and interest surrounding Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park by investing in amenities that will support the City's Little League program and provide additional recreational services. The proposed plan of action for Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park includes:

- Baseball Field Enhancements – The City's Little League program is a source of pride for many of New Baltimore's residents. Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park is the staging ground for a number of the City's youth sports activities. The park currently has two baseball diamonds with limited amenities. The City of New Baltimore seeks to improve the existing baseball diamonds by installing lights and upgrading the field infill to clay baseball mixture.
- Soccer Field Enhancements – The current area being used for soccer is unlevel and in need of grading, weed control, and overseeding.
- Skate Park Improvements – The City seeks to maintain and improve general infrastructure at the Maynard Skatepark.
- Parking and Circulation Improvements – Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park has a single parking area and driveway that service the facility. During periods of high activity and events the site is strained to adequately service all the users at the Park. The City seeks to explore parking and ingress/egress options to improve internal and external circulation.
- Enhanced Park Amenities and Beautification – In order to preserve Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park, the City seeks to continually invest in landscaping, park maintenance, public seating, bathroom updates, picnic areas, and signage. Additionally, add pavement markings along the trail to better serve park users.
- Tennis Courts & Pickle Ball Courts – The City would like to develop tennis courts and/or pickle ball courts at the park.
- Sledding Hill Improvements – In the winter months the large hill located at Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park is used as a sledding hill. Currently there are no stairs or towropes to provide easier access to the hill.
- Exercise Path Improvements – Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park currently has a gravel exercise path that extends along the perimeter of the site. The City seeks to maintain and potentially improve this path by asphalting it.

### Lillian Lucas Trail System

As one of New Baltimore's newest parks and recreation facilities, the Lillian Lucas Trail System is currently still in the development stages. The City of New Baltimore's proposed plan of action for includes:

- Trail System Completion and Expansion – Currently an internal wood chip trail system is located on the site. The City anticipates expanding and enhancing the current trail system.
- Enhanced Park Amenities and Beautification – In order to solidify The Lillian Lucas Trails as a recreational destination, the City seeks to continually invest in landscaping, park maintenance, public seating, picnic areas, signage and restroom facilities. The City is also looking into the possibility of accommodating disc golf at this park.
- Parking and Circulation Improvements – Currently the Lillian Lucas Trails a gravel parking area for the facility. The City seeks to explore improvements for parking and ingress/egress options for the site.

### Festival Park

The City of New Baltimore envisions Festival Park evolving into a sports and family complex. The City of New Baltimore's proposed plan of action for Festival Park includes:

- Comfort Station & Maintenance Garage – The community would like to see a comfort station developed at the site, which would include amenities such as bathrooms, a water fountain, concession stand, and a maintenance garage.
- Enhanced Parks Amenities and Beautification – The City of New Baltimore will continually invest in landscaping, park maintenance, public seating, playground equipment, picnic areas, and signage. This includes paving the Socia Drive, the road leading into the park, as well as the parking lots and walking path. The addition of a footpath access from Orson Drive is needed as well. This includes making all access ADA compliant.
- Athletic Field Improvements – The public would like to see the addition of covered dugouts to the baseball fields, irrigation systems to both baseball and soccer fields, and lighting to both baseball and soccer fields. Continued field improvements include weed control and overseeding (soccer and baseball), and infield infill replacement for the baseball fields.
- Pavilion – Festival Park does not currently have any covered seating areas at the site. The City of New Baltimore would like to invest in pavilions for the Park to provide users with a covered area to congregate and hold events.
- Tennis Courts & Pickle Ball Courts – The City would like to develop tennis courts and/or pickle ball courts at the park.

## Action Plan

### New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Center

The City of New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Center was demolished in the fall of 2019. They Parks and Recreation Department currently leases space from Bev's Dance Studio. The facility, as currently situated, does not adequately meet the needs of the community. Additional space and amenities are needed. The City of New Baltimore proposes the following plan of action for the Parks and Recreation center:

- Relocation – The City has since sold the property where the previous Recreation Center was located. Moving the Parks and Recreation center to a number of other sites located throughout the community is now a requirement. Moving forward, the City intends to explore any and all options with relocating the Parks and Recreation Center.
- Construction – A Parks and Recreation Center would benefit the entire community. The City seeks to construct a facility to better meet the needs of the residents and the Parks and Recreation Department. Amenities include a gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts, multi-purpose rooms, an exercise room, offices, and bathrooms.

### County Line Park

County Line Park is an undeveloped piece of municipally owned property that has been set aside for future park development. The site contains a number of environmentally significant features and any future development must preserve these site characteristics. Moving forward the City of New Baltimore proposes the following plan of action for County Line Park:

- Site Accessibility and Circulation – As development opportunities arise for the site the City seeks to complete an extensive accessibility and circulation analysis which would include ingress/egress considerations, parking, and linkages to surrounding roadways.
- Park Development – The City has discussed opportunities to develop a series of exercise paths and canine facilities at the site. The community also understands that this site could be a potential location for a new Parks and Recreation Center.
- Dog Park – The City has discussed the opportunity to develop a fenced in dog park.

### Anchor Bay Schools/Aquatic Center

The Anchor Bay School District owns a substantial number of facilities in the City of New Baltimore. The facilities include an aquatic center, sports fields, a track, playground equipment, and classroom space. Administrators from the City and School District have been in continuing talks regarding shared facility/use agreements for the many amenities located on the site.

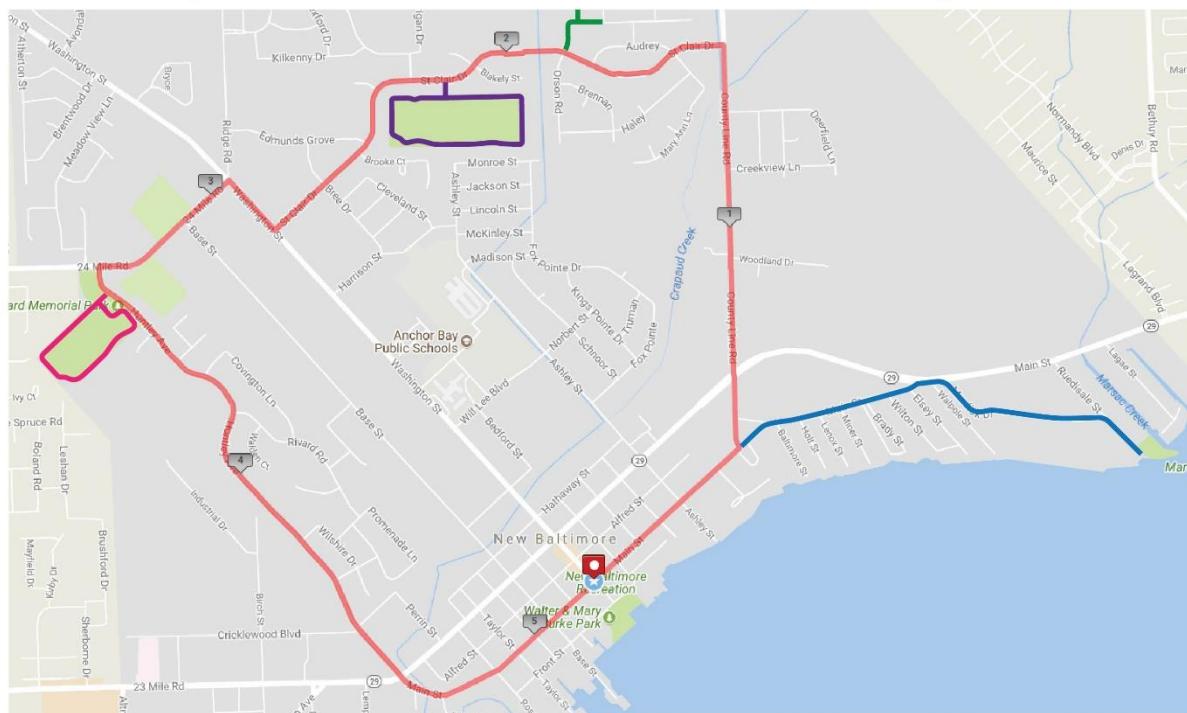
- The City of New Baltimore seeks to strengthen the relationship with the Anchor Bay School District and develop shared use agreements and/or facility lease that will allow the City and School District to provide additional recreation services to residents and district students.

## Non-Motorized Trail Network

The City of New Baltimore is committed to investing in a comprehensive non-motorized network of pedestrian pathways, bike routes, and trails. The first major project completed was the construction of the County Line Pathway. This two-mile trail segment provides connectivity from Main Street to the northern entrance of Anchor Bay High School.

The City also plans to extend this pathway along Main Street to provide connectivity to Downtown, city parks, and neighborhoods. Future non-motorized plans also include connections to the existing pathway along Jefferson Avenue at the Chesterfield Township Boundary and a proposed route along M-29/Green Street providing connectivity to St. Clair County and the developing regional trail network.

## Proposed New Baltimore Trail System



— New Baltimore Trail  
— Ruedisale Trail  
— Lillian Lucas Trail

— Festival Park Trail  
— Maynard Park Trail

## Action Plan

### Anchor Bay Woods Preserve

The 300+ acre parcel of land is currently undeveloped. The forested wetland is one of the largest tracts of wet-mesic flatwoods in Michigan. The site retains diverse ecological zonation and an area of mature wetland forest that supports high species richness and diversity, including sizable populations of browse-sensitive forbs. This area is of great ecological importance and the City of New Baltimore proposes the following plan of action for the preserve:

- Land Acquisition – The City looks to acquire land from private owners and/or the Six River's Land Conservancy.
- Site Accessibility and Circulation – As development opportunities arise for the site the City seeks to complete an extensive accessibility and circulation analysis which would include ingress/egress considerations, parking, and linkages to surrounding roadways.
- Trail System Development – The City anticipates the development of a nature trail system with interpretive signage.
- Nature Center/Interpretive Center – The City is interested in the construction of a nature center or interpretive center that would serve as an educational and recreational facility for the city and the region.

### Water Trails

With numerous waterfront parks and public properties along Anchor Bay, the City's location affords unique opportunities to enhance and benefit from improved access and promotion of the Anchor Bay Water Trail, part of the larger Lake St. Clair Coastal Water Trail. These water trails connect to adjacent waterfront communities, attracting residents and visitors alike to explore and experience the coastal resources and destinations of New Baltimore. The City seeks to connect public waterfront parks in Anchor Bay and the City of New Baltimore through development of paddle amenities, access, and supportive infrastructure, and pursue clear linkages from water trails to the non-motorized trail network and other destinations throughout the community.