

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Northfield Township encompasses 23,493 acres of land (SEMCOG Land Cover in 2020) with 85% (22,246 acres) being agriculture, open space and water features. In total, Northfield Township features twelve (12) public recreation facilities, with approximately 220 acres of land. The Township's parks and recreation facilities each have different types of amenities and opportunities for a wide variety of recreation experiences. The following inventory and the adjoining Recreation Facilities and Service Area Map details the amenities currently available at each facility and the facility's respective location.



Barker Road Non-motorized Pathway and Play Path

Classification: Park Trail

Length: 1.0 miles

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, along Barker Road, the Barker Road Non-motorized Pathway and Play Path serves the Downtown Whitmore Lake area. Stretching from the old Township hall to the Whitmore Lake Elementary School, the path features musical instruments, hidden painted rocks, custom benches, and interactive games, such as hopscotch and tic-tac-toe. The Barker Road Play Path was financed through an award from a community-driven design competition as a Play Everywhere project.

Community Garden

Classification: Mini-Park

Area: 0.25 acres

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, across Main Street from the Northfield Township Community Center, the Community Garden is a public space reserved for residents to grow fruits and vegetables using raised beds. There is a garden usage fee of \$10 per plot for both residents of the Township and non-residents.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKINGS

Providing accessible facilities that may be utilized by persons with varied disabilities is one of Northfield Township's community goals. Each Township owned recreation facility was evaluated for compliance to the ADA Standards of Accessible Design in the fall of 2020. Recreation facilities are rated on a 1-5 scale, as defined by MDNR:

1. None of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
2. Some of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
3. Most of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
4. The entire recreation facility meets ADA accessibility.
5. The entire recreation facility was developed / renovated using the principles of universal design.

The above facilities have ratings of 2, 3, and 4. Due to some of the facilities such as the Whitmore Lake Preserve being mainly wetlands, marshes, and open space, many of the entrance routes to these facilities are not paved. While most of the above facilities include elements that are handicapped accessible, many of the routes to reach such facilities are lacking in principles of universal design.



Northfield Township Community Park

Classification: Community Park

Area: 10-12 square miles

Accessibility Ranking: 2

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, with frontage on Whitmore Lake, Northfield Township Community Park is within North Village, which is a yet-undeveloped park that will provide added public amenities, lake views, natural features, connectivity, parking, site access, and community vitality to the Downtown Whitmore Lake area. In future development, mixed use buildings with restaurants, retail, and residential buildings in the back along Main Street may be included within North Village to subsidize the public amenities of the park.



Northfield Township Community Center

Classification: Community Park

Area: 0.34 acres

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, the Community Center is run by a director and a small group of volunteers to offer programming and activities for residents regardless of age. Examples of the programming available are fitness classes (for children, adults, and seniors), presentations, art classes, craft workshops, trips, karaoke nights, outdoor movies, luncheons, delivered meals, and special events.



Whitmore Lake Bark Park

Classification: School Park

Area: 1 acre

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, at the back end of the Jennings Road Athletic Complex, the Whitmore Lake Bark Park is a safe place for residents to gather and exercise their dogs off-leash within a fenced area. The Bark Park is open daily all year long, from dawn to dusk.



Whitmore Lake Elementary School Basketball Court

Classification: School Park

Area: < 1 acre

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, on the nearly 20-acre Whitmore Lake Elementary School campus, the basketball court serves the residents of the Downtown Whitmore Lake area.



Jennings Road Athletic Complex

Classification: School Park

Area: 32 acres

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, the Jennings Road Athletic Complex includes a football field, and track and field facility, spectator stands, a concession building, a storage and observation building, a baseball/softball field, two youth baseball fields, a large grass practice area, a large play structure designed for children (3-12 years old), the Whitmore Lake Bark Park (see above), a wooded area with a stream, and rustic trails.



Playground at Whitmore Lake Elementary School

Classification: School Park

Area: < 1 acre

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, on the nearly 20-acre Whitmore Lake Elementary School campus, the playground serves the residents of the Downtown Whitmore Lake area.



Community Recreation Department at Whitmore Lake Public Schools

Classification: School Park

Area: 81 acres

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, on the approximately 80-acre Whitmore Lake High School campus, the Community Pool, Walking Track, and other facilities serve the residents of the Northfield Township. Through a community millage, the Whitmore Lake Community Aquatic Facility is a 228,000-gallon regulation-sized swimming pool featuring six 25-yard lanes, two diving boards, a wading pool with ramp entry and a bench with therapeutic jets.



Northfield Township Area Library Pavilion

Classification: Community Park

Area: 1.6 acres

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Located in the northwest portion of the Township on Barker Road, the Northfield Township Area Library has over 7,200 patrons. In addition to books, the library provides community access to computers, wifi, printing and a variety of programming for children and adults.



Northfield Woods Preserve

Classification: Regional Park

Area: 48 acres

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Located in the southwest portion of the Township, on Northfield Church Road, the Northfield Woods Preserve is a nature preserve with a high-quality woodlot, wooded wetlands, about 10 acres of active farmland, and an area in transition from former farm fields to woods. The preserve is operated by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.



Park Northfield

Classification: Regional Park

Area: 7.7 acres

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Located in the southeast portion of the Township, on Pontiac Trail, Park Northfield is a small, roadside park with a lowland hardwood forest, a small marsh at its western edge, a large rolling open field, and a natural oak hedgerow along its eastern border. Park Northfield also features an open play field and two picnic tables. Dogs are allowed. The park is operated by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.



Whitmore Lake Preserve

Classification: Regional Park

Area: 10 acres [253 acres]

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Located in the northwest portion of the Township, on 7 Mile Road, Whitmore Lake Preserve is a nature preserve with approximately 2.4 miles of trails, along with meadows, mixed hardwood forest, wooded wetlands, and scenic views over a large marsh and small lakes. The preserve is operated by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.



7 Mile Road Preserve

Classification: Community Park

Accessibility Rating: Not Rated

Located east of the Northfield Township Public Safety Building, off of 7 Mile Road, is a future nature preserve with approximately 63 acres of wooded wetlands, marshes, and open land. The Township continues to acquire undeveloped lots in the Summer Home Subdivision.

PRIVATELY-OWNED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Northfield Township has a number of privately-owned, commercial recreational facilities within its borders and nearby in neighboring communities. These facilities offer a variety of recreational opportunities for the community.

Golf Courses

1. Links at Whitmore Lake, 1111 Six Mile Road.

This 6,257-yard, 18-hole William Newcomb public course covers 254 acres, nearly one-half of which are protected wetlands. The front nine is a beautiful uplands course, with tee-to-green bent grass. The back nine includes five boardwalks (one nearly a quarter-mile long), and acres of wetlands. The course also offers a clubhouse suitable for receptions and group events, a driving range, putting greens, teeing decks placed in the middle of marshland, golf carts, and opportunities to enjoy wildlife.

2. Rolling Meadows Country Club, 6484 Sutton Road.

This is a 6,474-yard 18-hole public golf course, designed by William Shively. It includes a putting green, golf carts and a small pavilion.

3. Indian Trail Golf Center, 5440 Earhart Road.

This is a golf driving range with open and covered tees.

Marinas

1. Mac's Marina, 9876 Main Street.

This is a full service marina with 30 rental dock slips, boat rentals, a service center for boats, snowmobiles and ATVs, and food service. Mac's Marina also hosts the annual Michigan Pond Hockey Classic.

2. Driftwood Marina, 9594 Main Street.

The marina has 30 rental boat slips.

Stables

1. Wildwind Equestrian Center, 3935 Seven Mile Road.

The center offers lessons, a hunter jumper schooling barn, a show team, summer and school break camps, Tiny Tots, boarding, training, sales, leasing and a home school program.

2. Odyssey Training Center, 6105 Walsh Road.

Dedicated to the sport of carriage driving, the Odyssey Training Center is situated on 12 acres, and includes amenities such as 28 oak stalls, 3 grooming areas, a wash rack, a tack room, a carriage house, a 75' x 110' indoor arena, a 80' x 375' outdoor arena, a wood wall round pen, a custom feed, a daily pasture or paddock turnout, and a clubhouse with kitchen, bath, and lounge. There are miles of groomed country roads for driving. The center offers lessons, training, conditioning, showing, coaching, sales, consulting, clinics, outfitting, and evaluations.

3. Double H Equestrian Center, 1138 Five Mile Road.

The center offers training, lessons, boarding and leasing.

4. Turning Point Farm, 4001 Seven Mile Road.

This private boarding facility on 60 acres features indoor and outdoor riding arenas, a quarter mile track with event field and an outdoor jumping arena. It caters to many riding disciplines, with a focus on dressage.

5. Great Escape Stables, 8266 S. Rushton Road.

This stable is a lesson, boarding and training facility specializing in hunters, jumpers and equitation, and is a United States Pony Club Riding Center. Also offers birthday party rentals, horse showing, and day camps.

Miscellaneous Private Recreation

A variety of private enterprises offer further recreational opportunities. Others provide enhancements and supplies for sporting and recreational activities within the community.

1. Rick's Bait Shack

Offers fishing supplies and tackle, bait, and fishing and hunting programs for children.

2. Fine Arts Academy of Dance, 238 Jennings Road.

Offers classes in dance, martial arts, music, tumbling, recreational competitive cheer and musical theater.

3. German Park Recreation Club, 5549 Pontiac Trail.

This facility consists of several picnic areas/pavilions and concession/kitchen buildings, a covered band shelter, indoor restrooms, and a large parking lot. The club hosts several picnics during the summer months. The facilities are also rented out to groups.

4. Whitmore Lanes & Lounge, 9455 Main Street.

Family owned 18-lane bowling center with food service.

5. Whitmore Lake Rod and Gun Club, 11150 Lemen Road.

As a private club, the facilities promote recreation and hunter safety to members.



Regional Recreational Resources

1. Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Road, west of Kearney Road, in Webster Township.

This park is located on 400 acres and includes 3 miles of hiking, biking and blading trails, picnic areas, beach, nature trails with an observation tower, disc golf course, boat launch and pavilions. Blue Heron Bay, a major water park featuring a splash pad with three separate areas for toddlers, families and teens as well as a two-story water slide with two flumes, one enclosed and one open, was opened in 2013. The splash park is universally accessible. Other activities include fishing, swimming, geocaching, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

2. Bandemer Park, located along the Huron River at Whitmore Lake Road and Barton Drive.

This Ann Arbor city park has 35 acres of nature trails and footpaths, a dirt bike course, picnic areas with grills, an accessible canoe dock, a fishing deck, shelter, restrooms and benches.

3. Olson Park, an Ann Arbor city park located at the corner of DhuVarren Road and Pontiac Trail south of M-14.

This 54-acre parcel includes 5 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails, picnic area, basketball courts, paved trails, and an off-leash dog play area. Significant natural features include a pond, wetlands, creek and woods. Future plans include soccer fields, game courts, more bike trails, and the restoration of native plant communities and butterfly and bird habitat.

4. Manly W. Bennett Memorial Park, located along both the east and west sides of Merrill Road in Hamburg Township.

This 384-acre Hamburg Township park includes basketball courts, baseball fields, softball fields, T-ball fields, soccer fields, model airplane runway/flying field, picnic area, biking and hiking trail, a fishing dock, and the Mike Levine Lakeland Trail, part of the Great Lake to Lake Trail.

5. Huron Valley Rail Trail System.

Extending along the former Grand Trunk Railroad from the City of South Lyon, through Lyon Township and into Milford Township, the trail system provides 10 miles of hiking, biking and blading trail connecting South Lyon to Kensington Metropark, Island Lake State Park, Wixom and the Oakland County Trail System. As this Oakland County network is completed, this trail will connect to Proud Lake Recreation Area (4,700 acres), Pontiac State Recreation Area (3,750 acres), Holly State Recreation Area (8,000 acres), Highland Recreation Area (5,900 acres), Ortonville Recreation Area (5,400 acres), Bald Mountain Recreation Area (4,650 acres) and Stony Creek Metropark (4,500 acres).

6. Delhi Metropark (53 acres), Dexter-Huron Metropark (122 acres), Hudson Mills Metropark (1,550 acres).

These three Metroparks (operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, a regional special park district encompassing Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties) are all located on the Huron River within 2 to 6 miles west of Northfield Township. All provide picnic facilities and pavilions, nature activities, canoeing, kayaking, river fishing, ball fields and play areas. In addition, Hudson Mills has disc golf, 18 holes of regular golf and paved hike, bike and blade trails.

7. Huron Meadows Metropark, located at Maltby and Rickett Roads in Brighton Township.

This 1,540-acre park provides an 18-hole golf course, softball field, soccer field, volleyball court, geocaching, picnic and nature areas, playground, restrooms, rental shelter and five miles of hiking trails. Water sports include boat and canoe rentals, and fishing. Four miles of cross-country trails and ice fishing are available in the winter.

8. Kensington Metropark, 4570 Huron River Parkway, in Milford.

The park's 4,481 acres includes 10 miles of bridle trails, 12 miles of ski trails, 10 miles of hiking trails, an 18-hole golf course, a 27-hole disc golf course, bike trails, picnic areas, play areas, baseball diamonds, geocaching, a nature center, and a farm center. Kent Lake has two beaches for swimming, the Splash 'n Dash waterpark, the Island Queen II boat tour of the lake, boat rentals, paddle boarding and fishing. Winter sports include ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ice-skating, and tobogganing.

9. Brighton Recreation Area, 6360 Chilson Road, Howell.

This 5,000-acre area provides 18 miles of hiking, biking, skiing, snowmobile and bridle trails. Other amenities include camping, hunting, fishing, an ADA accessible beach, an ADA accessible boat launch/dock, canoe.

10. Mike Levin Lakelands Trail State Park, Livingston and Ingham Counties.

The Trail State Park is a 34-mile-long linear trail that stretches between Ingham and Livingston counties and passes through woods, pastures, picturesque wetlands and by the beautiful Huron River. In 2018, parking and Trail Access was developed to reach the eastern trailhead on Hamburg Road from US 23 heading north, take Exit 53 toward Hamburg/Whitmore Lake. This multiple-use trail suitable for biking, walking, running and equestrian use.