
Community Facilities

Chapter Five

Community Facilities

This chapter of the Plan will address existing community facilities within Marion Township. Community facilities for Marion Township include township offices, police service, fire service, schools, sewer and water service, recreation, cemeteries, and other facilities in neighboring communities.

Continued growth within Marion Township has forced the public service base to expand to meet the increased needs. Those needs have changed because of the gradual transition from an agricultural community to a rural residential one. It is anticipated that the demands on community facilities will continue to increase as the township's population grows.

Township Offices

The Marion Township Hall is located at 2877 W. Coon Lake Road, west of the intersection of Coon Lake and D-19 in Section 21 of the Township. The Township Hall was constructed in 1980 and was remodeled in 2004. It is situated on approximately 3 acres of an 18-acre township-owned parcel of land. The Township Hall houses the offices of Marion Township elected officials such as the Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and various other township personnel. The hall also houses a substation of the Howell Area Fire Authority. The undeveloped 15 acres of land would be suitable for future township facilities such as parkland or utility provision.

Police Service

Police protection is provided by the Livingston County Sheriff Department and the Michigan State Police. Police are dispatched under the "closest car" policy. If there is an emergency requiring police service, the closest car to the emergency is dispatched to the scene. The closest car could be either a sheriff car or a State Police car. Back-up assistance is provided under the same policy. As the township's population continues to grow, additional police protection will be required.

Fire Service

According to Livingston County 911 Central Dispatch/Emergency Management, all of Marion Township falls within the Howell Fire Service Area. The Howell Fire Service Area is serviced by the Howell Area Fire Authority (HAFA). The HAFA is responsible for the City of Howell, as well as portions of six surrounding townships, including Marion Township. The main station is located at 1211 W. Grand River Avenue, with four substations throughout the HAFA coverage area. As already mentioned, one of those substations is located at the Marion Township Hall. The Marion substation is manned by 11 paid on-call volunteers made up of 9 firefighters and 2 sergeants, as well as an Assistant Chief, a Lieutenant, and a Captain.

Marion Township fire protection is provided by the Howell Area Fire Authority which consists of a main station in the City of Howell and four substations located throughout the coverage area - one of which is located at the Marion Township Hall

Schools

The majority of Marion Township is served by the Howell Public School System. The exception to this

is a small area near the southwest corner of the township along the Putnam Township border which falls in the Pinckney Community School District jurisdiction.

Over a ten year period between 1992 and 2002, Howell Public Schools experienced a 39.2% increase in student enrollment

In addition to Marion Township, the Howell Public School District includes much of Genoa, Oceola, Howell, Cohoctah, and Deerfield Townships, parts of Iosco, Handy, and Putnam Townships, and the entire City of Howell. As of 2002, there were 7,987 K-12 and Special Education students in the Howell school system as compared to 5,737 in 1992, a 39.2% increase in enrollment over the ten year period.

There is no breakdown regarding how many of these students come from Marion Township.

All of the buildings that currently serve the Howell school system fall outside of Marion Township. All but three of these facilities (Three Fires Middle School, Latson Road Elementary, and Ruahmah J. Hutchings Elementary) are located within the City of Howell. The Howell Public School System includes seven elementary schools, two middle schools, one freshman campus, and one high school. The most recent addition to this collection of facilities is Ruahmah J. Hutchings Elementary, which opened in the fall of 2003. Additionally, the Howell Public School System recently acquired a large parcel along the south side of Wright

Howell Public School Buildings	
School Building	Address
Howell High School	1200 W. Grand River
High School Freshman Campus	1400 W. Grand River
Highlander Way Middle School	511 N. Highlander Way
Three Fires Middle School	4125 Crooked Lake Road
Challenger Elementary	1066 W. Grand River
Latson Elementary	1201 S. Latson Road
Northwest Elementary	1233 Bower Street
Southeast Elementary	861 Sibley Street
Southwest Elementary	915 Gay Street
Voyager Elementary	1450 Byron Road
Ruahmah J. Hutchings Elementary	3503 Bigelow Road

Road in Section 13 of Marion Township for the construction of a future high school. Construction is slated for the fall of 2005 and the school is expected to open for the 2006 school year.

Sewer and Water Service

Most Marion Township residents are served by individual septic systems and private wells. Municipal water services are available to township residents in the northern portion of the township, with water mains running along Lucy Road south to Francis Road, Francis Road west to D-19, D-19 north to I-96, I-96 northwest until it heads west to Foxfire Road, Foxfire Road north to Norton Road, and west along Norton Road and forming a loop with Cedar Lake Road, Sanitorium Road, and County Farm Road. Marion Township is a member of a water authority made up of four townships: Marion, Howell, Oceola, and Genoa. The water authority is called MHOG. The MHOG wells and water treatment plant are located in the northwestern part of the township on Norton Road near Amos in Section 5.

In 2000, a proposed water/sewer boundary was established in the northern tier of the township, covering the majority of Sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 12, and smaller parts of Sections 6,7,8,9 and 11.

Private community sewage/waste water treatment facilities are discouraged in township developments. If this means of sewage/waste water treatment is permitted by the State, developments are required by the Marion Township Zoning Ordinance to meet underlying zoning density.

Recreation

Most recreational land use in Marion Township is privately owned. Privately owned golfing opportunities include a family golf center with a driving range and practice facility and an eighteen hole public golf course with full-service restaurant and banquet facilities. Other recreation opportunities include a privately owned gun club and the Howell Conference and Nature Center. The Howell Conference and Nature Center includes many camping, conference, and educational experiences, as well as many recreational facilities, including a ropes course, a camp, an outdoor animal rehabilitation center, and cross country skiing trails.

Marion Township currently contracts public recreational opportunities with the Howell Area Parks and Recreation (HAPR) program, mainly to provide township residents access to the recreational programs HAPR offers. The membership of HAPR consists of the City of Howell, Genoa Township, Oceola Township, and Marion Township. Activities take place in the City of Howell and Howell Public School facilities, and include classes, team sports, swimming programs (through the Aquatic Center), and day camps. Additional activities, such as exercise classes, cultural and entertainment programs, and hot lunches, are available for senior citizens at the Howell Senior Center.

Marion Township residents participate in team sports, exercise classes, senior center activities and other public recreational opportunities offered through the Howell Area Parks and Recreation program

The Howell Area Parks and Recreation Commission is exploring the possibility of becoming a parks and recreation authority, which would allow them to raise a millage for parks acquisition, improvements, programs, and operations. The HAPR will continue to be Marion Township's focal source for children's recreation programs, senior citizen activities, and access to boating on Thompson Lake (located in the City of Howell and Oceola Township). Although there are many opportunities under the umbrella of HAPR, all of their activities are located outside the boundaries of Marion Township.

Additional public recreational opportunities are limited to two land areas: 270 acres of undeveloped land owned by the State of Michigan in Section 4 and 5 off of Cedar Lake Road where hunting is allowed on the property; and 52 acres of the Brighton State Recreation Area in Section 36 which consists of ponds and extensive wetlands. Most facilities within the Brighton State Recreation Area are located in neighboring Genoa Township. Facilities include rustic and modern campgrounds, two beaches, horseback riding, public boat launches, hunting, fishing, and winter activities.

In 1998 the Marion Township Board of Trustees recognized the growing need for park and recreation opportunities in the township. The Board embarked on a parks and recreation planning process by approving a motion to initiate a Parks and Recreation Plan. The five-year *Marion Township Parks and Recreation Plan* was prepared by the Marion Township Board of Trustees and a five member Parks and Recreation Committee with the assistance of the Livingston County Department of Planning. The plan was adopted in 2002 and it's contents include an assessment of demographics, land use and recreational opportunities in the township as well as an action program and capital improvement schedule. Specific plan recommendations include the establishment of a Parks and Recreation Commission, the creation of a separate parks and recreation fund to facilitate the cost of operations and maintenance and the acquisition and development of two township owned parks.

The five-year Marion Township Parks and Recreation Plan identifies two parcels of land that are earmarked for township parks

In conjunction with the parks and recreation plan, the Marion Township Board of Trustees allocated \$25,000 for parks and recreation (development or acquisition), plus another \$20,000 for parks and recreation maintenance from the 2001-2002 General Fund budget. The majority of the development money will be applied to the two parcels of township land earmarked for parks. One of these park locations is adjacent to the Township Hall and

another is located on Triangle Lake Road.

Cemeteries

There are five cemeteries located in Marion Township. Lakeside Cemetery is located in Section 5 along the south side of Norton Road. Greene Cemetery is located in Section 19 along the west side of Pingree Road. County Farm Cemetery is located at the section line between Sections 15 and 22. Harger Cemetery is in Section 23 along the west side of D-19. Drew Cemetery is in Section 3 opposite the entrance to the old Howell State Hospital property.

Other Facilities in Neighboring Communities

Marion Township is conveniently located between the City of Howell and the Village of Pinckney where many additional community facilities are located. For instance, Township residents have access to the Howell Carnegie Library in the City of Howell and the Pinckney District Library in the Village of Pinckney. There are also U.S. Post Offices located in both neighboring communities.