

## Community Facilities, Recreation and Utilities Plan

To ensure the continuance of high quality community facilities and services, the township needs to adequately plan for future development patterns and ensure adequate public services for the entire community. Responsible planning of the community’s land uses and residential densities requires an accurate assessment of community facilities. This process establishes whether the appropriate infrastructure is available to support the demands of new development.

### Educational Facilities

It is important to provide adequate educational services to ensure quality education for existing and future students. Planning the future development of the township should involve an understanding of the need for educational services for residents of all ages.

The Grosse Ile School District serves approximately 86% of the children within the community, with the remaining portion of children attending private schools in other communities. The school district consists of two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

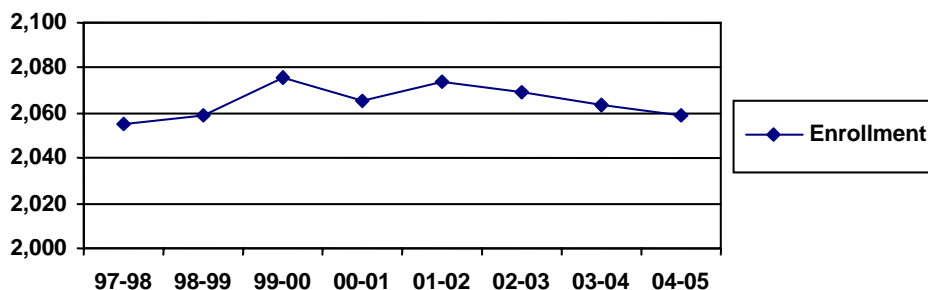
**Table 17**  
**School Enrollment**

School	2000-01 School Year
Grosse Ile High School	691
Grosse Ile Middle School	512
Meridian Elementary School	434
Parke Lane Elementary School	428

Source: Michigan Department of Education

As illustrated below, school enrollment has remained fairly consistent during the past few years, but is expected to steadily decline in the future. The school district is anticipating losing five students per year during the next five years. This decrease in enrollment can be accounted for due to the aging population and the lack of young families who are raising children in the township.

### Historic & Projected School Enrollment



Source: Grosse Ile School District



**Table 18  
Grosse Ile School District Projected Enrollment**

	2000	2005
U.S. Census Number of Children Below Age 19	2,925 <sup>a</sup>	
Percent Children Enrolled	71% <sup>d</sup>	
Grosse Ile Schools Total Enrollment	2,065 <sup>b</sup>	2,059 <sup>c</sup>

- Sources:
- a. U.S. Census Bureau
  - b. Grosse Ile Schools Enrollment
  - c. Grosse Ile Schools Enrollment Projection
  - d. Based upon Census data and Grosse Ile Schools enrollment records

The recent build-out study which was completed for the township shows the impact future development will have on the school district, based upon the increase in number of households.

Table 19 summarizes the projected number of children based upon the build-out population and compares this with Grosse Ile Schools projections for enrollment. The number of children based upon the two methods used in this report are shown.

The two projection methods result in numbers that are both above and below Grosse Ile Township School’s projected maximum enrollment. Projected enrollment based upon the average children per household predicts enrollment to be over 2,500 students at build-out. However, based on the current age structure and the aging population of the township a more accurate projection depicts slightly under 2,000 students at build-out, which is consistent with the school district’s long-term projections

**Table 19  
Grosse Ile Schools Projected Enrollment and Build-out Projected Enrollment**

		2005	Build-out
Grosse Ile Schools Projected Total Enrollment		2,059 <sup>a</sup>	--
Average Children per Household Method	Children Below Age 19	--	3,600
	Grosse Ile Schools Total Enrollment (71%)	--	<b>2,556</b>
Cohort Component Method	Children Below Age 19	--	2,745
	Grosse Ile Schools Total Enrollment (71%)	--	<b>1,949</b>

- Sources: a. Grosse Ile Schools Projected Enrollment

The school district has been very active in upgrading and remodeling existing school buildings to ensure high quality facilities that meet the needs of the community. During the past few years a variety of improvements have been made including renovations to



Meridian and Parke Lane Elementary Schools, the replacement of the school on East River and various improvements to the high school.

### **Police Protection**

Police protection is provided to the township through the Grosse Ile Police Department. Providing a safe community is essential and residents within the township must be provided a safe environment and should be able to continue to rely on the existing level of service.

The police facility, located on Meridian Road in the center of the township, was built in 1991. Although no major renovations or expansions are necessary at this time, the building could benefit from minor remodeling and updating. The police department budget is primarily funded through a special millage and the general township fund.

The current staff of the police department consists of 25 employees, including detectives, sergeants and dispatchers. In addition to the on-going staff, a reserve police department which consists of volunteers aids the department in times of need and during special events. This reserve team works along side the police department, but cannot take the place of police officers and cannot make arrests.

The department responded to over 16,000 calls for service in 2000. In addition, the department was active in educating residents through its community policing program in areas such as traffic safety, crime prevention and child safety. The department was also involved in various programs such as the "Operation Chill" safe bicyclist and motorist campaign, "Click it or Ticket," and D.A.R.E.

Wayne County is the main law enforcement agency for the waterways surrounding the community. The township police department also has the ability to patrol the waterways, but due to a lack of equipment and manpower, the department tends to respond to emergency calls and carries out only seasonal patrols when necessary.

### **Fire Protection**

The Grosse Ile Township Fire Department is a 24-hour volunteer department. Their responsibilities include fire fighting, fire prevention, code enforcement, emergency medical training as well as community education. The fire station, located on Meridian Road, services the township.

The fire department is also charged with enforcing fire code standards on existing buildings. When existing buildings that do not comply with existing fire codes are altered or expanded, a condition of the building permit needs to be that they will be brought up to the existing fire code standards.

The current staff of the fire department consists of 36 people, including the chief, administration, and volunteers. The volunteers have completed a variety of coursework in classes such as EMS, hazardous materials and trench rescue, and train year round, once a week.



There is concern that the department may have to change to a part-time, staff department within the next ten years, as the existing volunteers begin to retire. With the aging population and little new development, there is a shortage of able volunteers.

An important tool in determining the effectiveness and quality of fire protection services is the response time to calls. The response time throughout the township is roughly five to six minutes, measured from the time the call comes in to the time of arrival to the scene. During 2000, the department responded to over 500 calls.

### **Library Services**

Grosse Ile has contracted with the City of Trenton for library services. The Veterans Memorial Library, a part of the Wayne-Oakland Library Federation, serves Trenton and Grosse Ile as well as the communities of Brownstown, Gibraltar and Woodhaven. Constructed in 1998, the 21,000sq. ft. building holds nearly 100,000 books and features internet access and a variety of programs and classes for residents.

### **Recreation**

Grosse Ile Township has approximately 550 acres of public parkland and open space located throughout the community. Over half of this, 330 acres, have been purchased by the township for the purpose of conserving natural open space for passive recreational uses including hiking and nature study.

In addition to provided open space, a substantial opportunity for recreation exists at a variety of public and private facilities throughout the township. Home to 3 golf courses, 4 yacht/boat clubs, and surrounded by natural water bodies, recreational opportunities in Grosse Ile abound. Public recreational facilities include:

- **Centennial Farm and Woods:** This 32-acre property is home to the recreation department offices, playground, nature pond, animal shelter and the township equestrian center and is used for a variety of township events.
- **Water's Edge:** Located on 75 acres at the intersection of Bellevue and West River, this facility provides golfing, swimming and boating.
- **Macomb Street Observation Deck:** Located along the east shoreline at the foot of Macomb Street, the deck is used as a lookout point to enjoy the views of the waterfront.
- **Community Playscape:** Constructed in 1991, and the first public community playground in the township, the park is located on the south side of Macomb Street and contains a play structure and picnic area.
- **Commerce Park:** Located near the airport, Commerce Park consists of a mixture of uses, the northern portion of which contains soccer fields. Future



plans include the development of additional soccer fields, picnic pavilion and pathways.

- **Bird Sanctuary:** This 13-acre natural area, bordered by the Thorofare Canal and Horsemill Road, is being preserved as a bird and wildlife habitat with a walking trail.

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared in 2001 that provides information relative to the projected needs of the township as it relates to parks and recreation. The overall Parks and Recreation Master Plan focuses on parkland acreage and location of parks. The plan recommends the continuance of land acquisition by the township for new parkland in addition to natural open space.

Recreation programming is provided to residents by the Grosse Ile Recreation Department, whose mission is to provide leisure opportunities that contribute to the social, physical, educational, cultural and general well being of the community and its people. Headquartered at Centennial Farm, the department has been active in providing a wide variety of programs, athletic leagues, trips and special events for people of all ages.

### Community Utilities

Municipal water and sanitary sewer services are essential components that contribute to the overall quality of life. The entire township is provided public water, public sanitary sewer and solid waste removal through the Grosse Ile Public Works Department. The condition and standing of these facilities is a key component in the managed and healthy growth of the township. Maps 11 and 12 depict the location of current sewer and water lines located throughout the township.

**Sanitary Sewer:** The growth of the sewer and water system has increased from a handful of customers to its current state, serving nearly 11,000 customers. The capacity of the wastewater treatment plant allows for treating roughly 10 million gallons of wastewater a day. The system was originally designed to support a population of 17,500 with an average flow of 100 gallons per day per person. With the 1,113 increase in population projected over the next 20 years this will result in a 1.7% increase in wastewater flow to the plant.

However, there are capacity problems with the wastewater treatment plant during wet weather when storm overflows result from stormwater infiltration into sanitary sewer lines. Leaks in older sewer lines and older manholes allow stormwater to infiltrate the system. In addition, there are numerous instances where storm drainage facilities and sump pumps have been connected to the sanitary sewer system. This stormwater infiltration creates surges in flow to the wastewater treatment plan that exceed the current capacity. To address this problem, the township is undertaking the following emergency corrections:

- A 6.5-million gallon storage retention basin is proposed to hold excess volumes following a storm event. This retention basin will have a capacity to hold the



amount of water flowing through the system following a 25-year storm event of 3.9 inches of precipitation during a 24-hour period. Following the storm event, the overflow water would be retained until it can be treated by the wastewater treatment plant at a controlled rate.

- A manhole rehabilitation program will be undertaken that will seal and waterproof existing manholes to ensure there is no additional infiltration of stormwater from this source.
- A cured in place lining program will be undertaken where liners are placed within older sewer lines that have leakage problems. This process is accomplished by inserting a felt/resin liner into the sewers creating a new pipe within the existing line after curing.
- Point repairs will be made to joints and certain problem sections. This will involve bursting the existing line and installing a new segment or joint.
- Replacement will be made to certain sewer lines. A total of 64 runs of pipe are proposed to be replaced.

**Water:** The water system currently is operating below capacity, it has enough capacity to serve the build-out population. The City of Detroit supplies water for the township through two main lines that are situated along the two bridges that connect the island to the mainland. There is a 24-inch line leading across the Grosse Ile Parkway Bridge and a 16-inch line leading across the Toll Bridge. The maximum capacity varies depending on pressure and velocity in the pipe, but exceeds the current average consumption of 1.2 million gallons per day. These lines are sufficient to serve the anticipated future needs of the township.

Maintenance of both of the systems has increased due to greater use and age. The township should plan to devote adequate funds to the ongoing maintenance that is required to help ensure that the systems continue to run smoothly.

### **Telecommunications/Electricity**

The entire township is provided both telecommunication and electrical services. Substations for these services are located in Trenton. All homes and businesses have access to broadband internet access and can choose from a variety of servers. DTE Energy is the predominant supplier of electrical services for the community. While these services are consistently available, the north end of the township seems to experience a higher rate of brownouts than other areas.

As new development occurs, or as the need for maintenance or upgrading calls for, any new electrical lines should be buried underground. This allows for the lines to be out of sight and helps protect the natural viewsheds on the island by minimizing electrical poles and wires.



### **Township Hall**

The township hall is located on Groh Road in historic hangar number 1 within the Grosse Ile Naval Air Station. The hall, which was dedicated in November, 2000, contains the administrative, treasurer and clerks offices, as well as assessor, planning and community development departments for the township.

### **Department of Public Works Garage and Yard**

The Department of Public Works facility is located on the south side of Groh Road on airport property. The department serves to provide for the sewer, water and solid waste needs of the residents. The sewer and water systems have previously been discussed in this chapter.

The removal of solid waste began as a homeowner initiated operation that has progressed to year round, curbside pickup that includes a recycling program. Additionally, the department seasonally picks up yard waste to be taken to a compost facility where it will be decomposed and used for topsoil.

### **Airport Administration**

The airport administration operates the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, a former naval air base, which was transferred from the U.S. government to the Township on December 3rd 1970 via a quit claims deed. This is a general utility airport as a public benefit to local communities and the flying public by offering a facility for the use of small propeller aircraft. In addition, the administration is responsible for Commerce Air Park, which was donated to the township from the U.S. government as a revenue enhancement area. The airport operations are discussed in greater detail in the transportation chapter of this plan.

