

Chapter 4: Community Services and Facilities



INTRODUCTION

Community facilities include facilities and programs offered by the City, outside agencies, and private entities to the residents and businesses of Yale. Many of these facilities are essential to maintaining an adequate standard of living, yet are often taken for granted. They are also a key factor in determining how much a City can grow. For example, without public water and sewer service, it is often difficult to achieve the desired level of development.

The ability to attract new businesses and residents is also directly related to the provision of community facilities and services. More and more, business leaders are evaluating the “quality of life” in a community before locating or relocating a business into a new area. Without recreation facilities, sewer and water capacity, and cultural amenities, a community can be passed by, even though land and labor costs are reasonable.

Included below is a description of the community services and facilities available to Yale residents. The locations of the community facilities are also displayed on **Map 5, Community Facilities**.



Yale Municipal Building: City Offices, Fire and Police Departments.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Public safety is provided to City residents and business people by the City of Yale Police Department. The department has four full-time and six part-time officers. Two police cars are used for patrol and emergency response. The police department offices are located within the municipal complex in the central portion of the City.

Yale is served by an all-volunteer City fire department, headquartered at the Brockway Township Fire complex located on Brockway Road in the southeastern corner of the City. The City Fire Department features one ladder truck and one pumper truck. In addition, the Brockway Township Fire Department provides fire service in the area, also headquartered at the Brockway Township Fire complex.

GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES

Several governmental facilities are found within Yale. The City of Yale municipal complex is located on the north side of Mechanic Street in the center of the City. The municipal complex features the City administrative offices in addition to the police and fire departments. The Yale Public Library is located across the street from the municipal complex. Opened in 1990, the library offers a wide range of materials, many programming events, tours, and internet access. Yale also offers a United States Post Office, located at the corner of Jones and Wood Streets. Lastly, the Brockway Township Hall is located on Sayles Road just outside of the city limits.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Residents of Yale are part of the Yale Public School District. The district features a total of six schools educating students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for the 2004-2005 school year, the District has a total of 2,301 students and 110 classroom teachers, for a student to teacher ratio of 20.9 to 1. Four of the six schools are located within the city limits of Yale. These schools are all found within an educational campus setting along Park Avenue and School Drive in the southwestern portion of the City. These schools include:

- Yale Elementary School – 456 students, KG through 5th Grade
- Yale Junior High School – 568 students, 6th through 8th Grade



Yale Junior High School

- Yale High School – 722 students, 9th through 12th Grade
- Phoenix Alternative School – 16 students, 7th through 12th Grade

The other two schools in the district include Avoca Elementary School, located in Avoca, and John Farrell-Emmett Elementary School, located in Emmett. The Yale Public School District administration building is also located in Yale within the educational campus.

OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Numerous places of worship are available to Yale residents. These churches are shown on the community facilities map and listed below:

- Sacred Heart Church
- Church of Believers
- Yale United Methodist Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Trinity Missionary Church
- Emmanuel Redeemer Evangelical Church (located in Brockway Township)



Yale United Methodist Church

Four fraternal organizations are present within the City. These include the Yale VFW Hall, which is located on the south side of Mechanic Street, the Yale Lion’s Club, located on North Street, the Brockway Masonic Lodge, located on Main Street, and the Yale Knights of Columbus Council, located

in Sacred Heart Church . The Yale Senior Center, operated by the St. Clair County Council on Aging, offers a variety of services to the citizens of the area. Located on 1st Street, the Senior Center features activities such as euchre, line dancing, cribbage, dominoes, crafts and music.¹ Lastly, the Elmwood Cemetery is located west of the City limits on the north side of Yale Road.



Football Field at Yale City Park

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CIVIC EVENTS

The Yale City Park is the only public park facility within the City limits. However, this park features a wide array of active facilities on an approximately 16 acre site including a football field, baseball field, bleachers, restrooms, playgrounds, horseshoe pits, picnic areas and a pavilion. The park’s natural setting along the bank of the Mill Creek is an added amenity for visitors providing opportunities for passive nature enjoyment.

In addition to the city park, recreation facilities and programs are available at the Yale Elementary, Junior High and High School campus located in the western portion of town. In particular, sporting facilities such as football, baseball, tennis and indoor gymnasiums are provided at the school campus.

The Brockway Township Community Park is another recreation facility available to Yale residents. This park, located just outside of the City limits, features many facilities including soccer fields, basketball courts, baseball fields, volleyball courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

The City of Yale provides a variety of recreation programs for local citizens. These programs are jointly offered by the City of Yale and Brockway Township. These programs are offered for softball, baseball, tennis and soccer. The Yale School District offers the following programs for students:

- Basketball (boys and girls);
- Cross country (boys and girls);
- Track (boys and girls);
- Football (boys);
- Band (boys and girls);
- Baseball (boys);
- Golf (both);
- Volleyball (girls);
- Tennis (both);
- Wrestling (boys); and
- Cheerleading (girls).

The school district also offers programs for non-students including aerobics, karate, craft classes, and a winter wonderland walk.



Tennis Courts at the Yale Schools Campus

Additionally, the City provides many special events throughout the year. The keynote event is the annual Bologna Festival, held in July. Attracting visitors from throughout Michigan, the Bologna Festival is a three day event offering a variety of activities including contests, concerts, fireworks and a parade.² Other organizations provide special events in the City of Yale. The Veterans of Foreign Wars

(VFW) and the American Legion organize a Memorial Day Parade every year. The school system has a Homecoming Day Parade which takes place in downtown Yale. Additional activities include a Christmas Parade and the Lions Club Festival in the summer.

PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER

Public water and sewer systems are provided throughout the City of Yale. These utility services are managed by the City's Department of Public Works. The water supply to City residents is currently provided by three water wells. The system has a water storage tower with a capacity of 300,000 gallons located off North Street on the east side of the City, which was constructed in 2001. The water distribution system includes approximately 70,000 feet (13.3 miles) of public water main ranging in size from 4 inch to 12 inch in diameter. The City water network is rated at a capacity of approximately 1,700,000 gallons per day. The City plans to add a water loop to the South of the water storage tower to maintain a secondary feed and allow for future development in the South end of the City.

The City's gravity sanitary sewer system has approximately 60,000 feet (11.4 miles) of sewer collection and transmission lines ranging in size from 6 inch to 18 inches in diameter. An 18 inch interceptor sewer generally follows the Mill Creek moving raw sewage to the City's lagoon system located in the southeast corner of the City. Also included in the system are a pump station and a 12 inch force main which transfers waste from the interceptor to the City's existing lagoon system. The lagoon system is designed for an average flow of 0.252 million gallons per day (MGD) with a 1.6 MGD peak flow. By state permit, the City discharges the lagoon system by-annually into the Mill Creek.

Map 5, Community Facilities shows the existing water main and sewer main network of the City.

(Footnotes)

1 *Yale Mitchel Senior Center*. Yale Area Chamber of Commerce Website, October 2006. <http://www.yalechamber.com/new.php?id=92>.

2 *Yale Bologna Festival*. Yale Area Chamber of Commerce Website. November 2006. <http://www.yalechamber.com/new.php?id=59>