

**COMMUNITY
FACILITIES** | Section 7.0
analysis

INTRODUCTION

Community facilities are an important part of a municipality's overall development and, consequently, need to be considered in the preparation of the Master Plan. Those community facilities considered in this report include schools, parks, utilities, protective services, libraries, and other municipal buildings.

Each of these facilities has an impact on the community's future land use pattern and are important to the operation of a community. These facilities also make a significant contribution to a community's overall identity. Often, the impression created by a particular community is directly related to its municipal buildings, schools, parks, libraries and other public buildings. This is particularly true for those suburban communities where development is dispersed over a large geographic setting, as compared to the more compact physical form of many older cities.

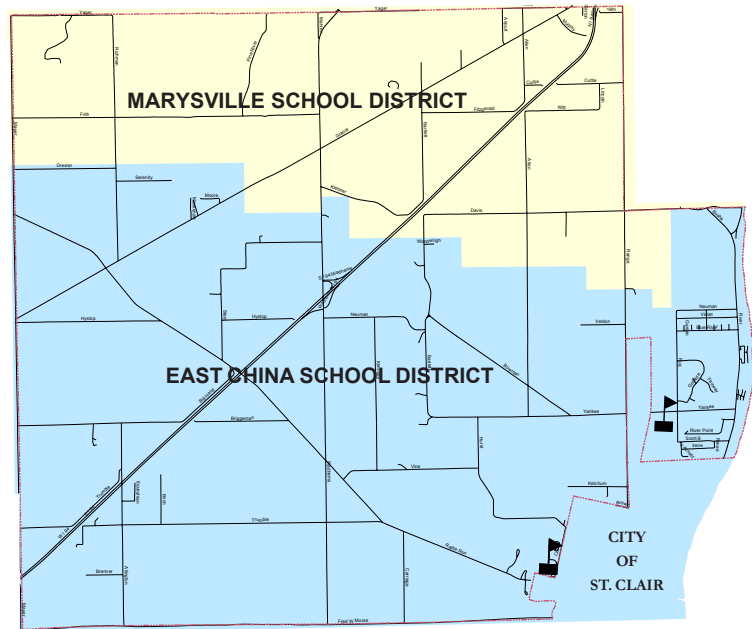
In 2002 St. Clair Township developed their most recent Recreation Plan. Much of the recreation portion of this section is based on the results of this effort, while also taking into consideration the specific goals developed by St. Clair Township during the current Master Plan process.

SCHOOLS

While the Township has no control over school operations or functions, school needs, particularly the location of schools, impact the community's overall land use plan. Schools are, therefore, considered as part of this analysis for coordination purposes.

Two school districts serve St. Clair Township. The East China Community School District covers the largest portion of the Township, with the northern third of the community in the Marysville Community School District. The East China School District operates two schools within the Township. St. Clair Middle School is located on the south side of Yankee Road, just east of Range Road. St. Clair High School is located on a forty (40) acre site that is partially in the Township and partially in the City of St. Clair.

ILLUSTRATION 26
ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
DISTRICTS & SCHOOL SITES



PARKS AND RECREATION

Recreation Inventory

Five publicly-owned sites offering varying levels of recreation opportunities are available in St. Clair Township. The characteristics of each site are described below:

Fred Meiselbach Park - This is the only municipally-run park in St. Clair Township and is located at the intersection of Newman Road and the Pine River, west of Township Hall. The site is 4.5 acres in size and includes a picnic pavilion with tables and grills, playground equipment, a playscape, volleyball poles and a back screen for baseball.

St. Clair River Access - This narrow property between River Road and the St. Clair River is the only Township-owned property that provides access to the St. Clair River.

DNR Pine River Site - The Michigan Department of Natural Resources maintains one hundred and nine (109) acres of open space at the northeast corner of Kennedy and Vine Roads.

St. Clair Middle School - This 55 acre site maintains a soccer field, one track, a football field, three (3) baseball backstops, seven basketball hoops and an outdoor play area.

St. Clair High School - This forty (40) acre site is located partially within the Township and partially in the City of St. Clair. The site maintains an indoor swimming pool, weight room, two gymnasiums, one (1) track, a regulation football field, and two (2) regulation baseball fields.

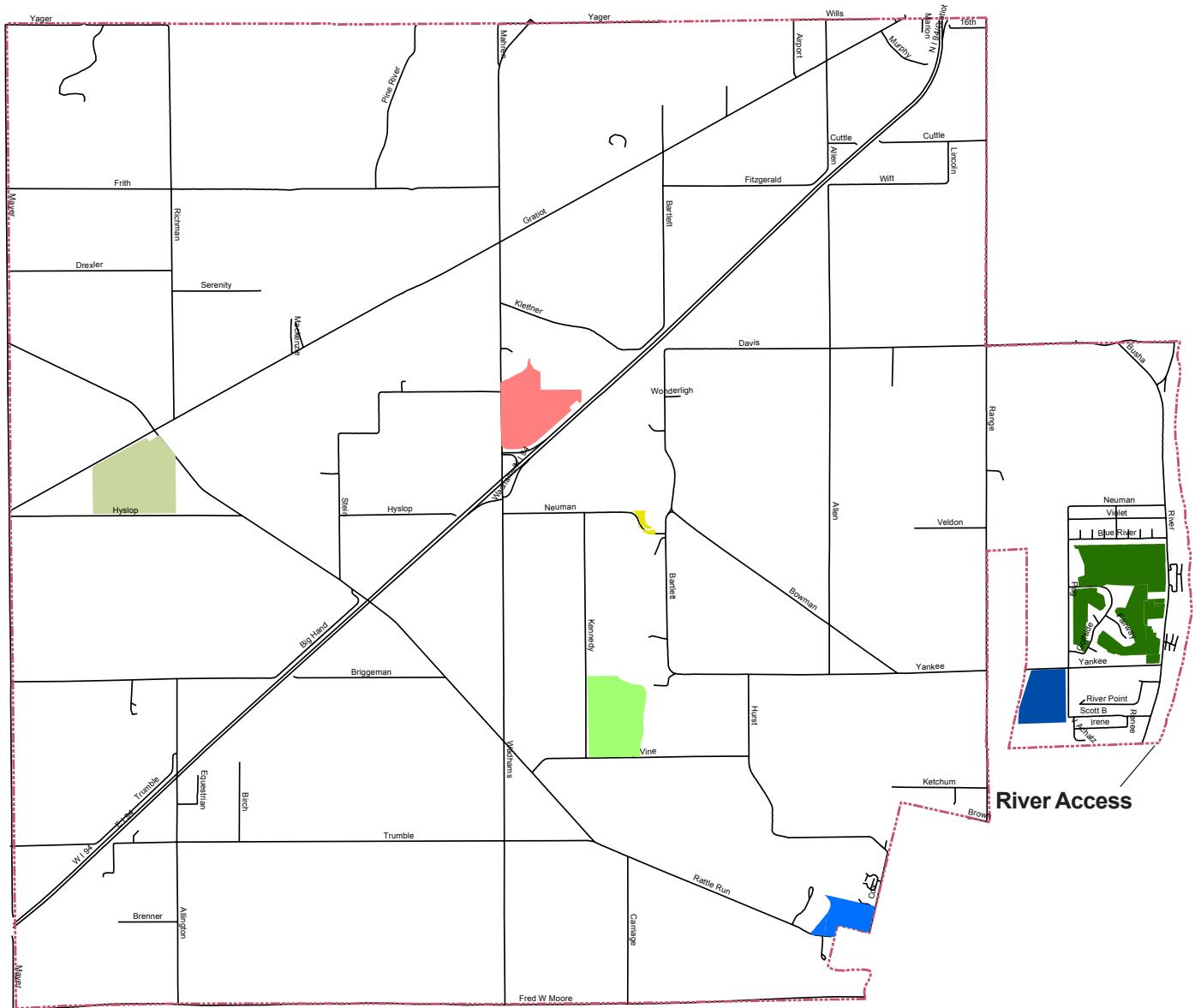
Other Recreation Facilities - Aside from the public recreation sites described above, several private recreation facilities are also available in the Township. They include the River District R.C. Eagles Field, the Thousand Trails RV Park, the Pine River Riding Stables, the St. Clair River Country Club and the Cross Fire Creek paint ball recreation site. The City of St. Clair is also proposing a park site on the south side of Rattle Run, east of Carriage. This park has not yet been constructed.









ILLUSTRATION 27
MEISELBACH PARK





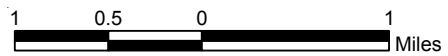
ILLUSTRATION 28
 RECREATION SITES



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
|  | Meiselbach Park |  | St. Clair River Country Club |
|  | MDNR Pine River Site |  | Pine River Riding Stables |
|  | St. Clair Middle School |  | River Access |
|  | St. Clair High School |  | Thousand Trails Campground |



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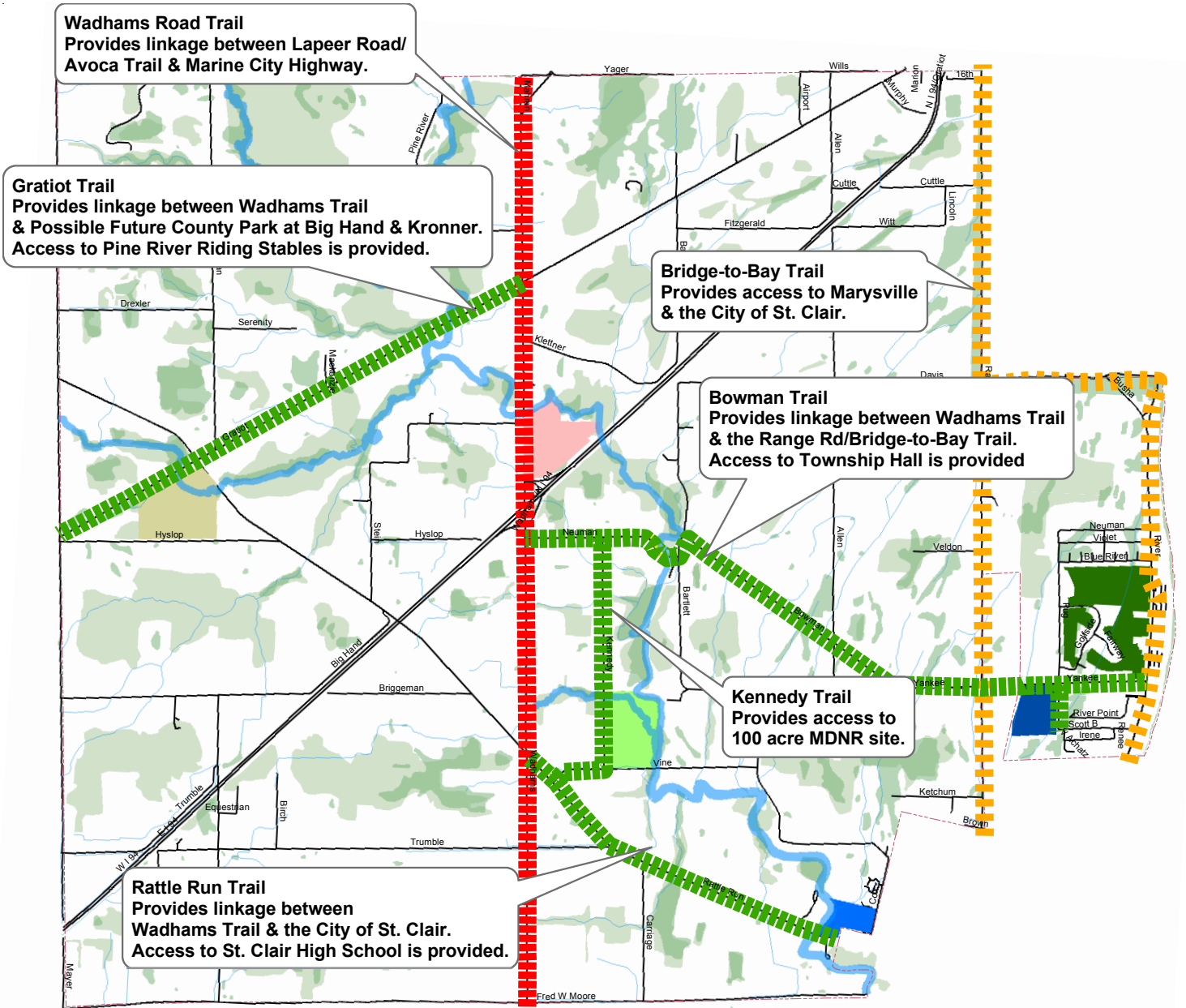
Source: St. Clair County Lands and Graphics/CP&M







RECREATION PLAN

The 2002 St. Clair Township Recreation Plan provides a base from which the Master Plan can build. During the development process of this Master Plan, a survey was mailed to each resident in the community. One of the questions in this survey was in regards to the Township's recreational facilities. The results indicated that sixty-six percent (66%) of the respondents felt that the recreation facilities available within the community met their current needs. Based on this response, along with the recreation opportunities available in the City of St. Clair, the City of Marysville, and other nearby facilities in the County, this Master Plan focuses on providing for additional linear connections between existing recreation facilities in the Township and the County, rather than expanding park facilities or land acquisition.

The Recreation Plan Map provided shows the proposed linkages that are recommended in this Master Plan. The rationale for the location of each pathway is provided below. This Plan's intent is not to indicate that the mapped locations are the only areas where pathways will be located. Pathways should be required by the Township across the frontage of all new developments as they are proposed. However, the mapped locations are considered most important to meet the Township's long-term goal of establishing a connected pathway system. In an effort to complete this system, it is most likely that the Township, in coordination with the Road Commission and County, would initiate the installation of the majority of this system, rather than allowing it to be installed incrementally by developers over time.

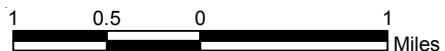
- Bridge-to-Bay Trail - The Bridge-to-Bay Trail is part of the County's 2030 Transportation Plan. As indicated in the Thoroughfare Analysis of this Plan, the Trail is considered a "short-term" improvement by the County. This means the County anticipates the development of this Trail within 5-7 years. This Trail provides connections to the City of St. Clair and the City of Marysville.
- Wadhams Trail - The Wadhams Trail is also part of the County's 2030 Transportation Plan. This is a mid-term improvement, which means a 7-12 year timeframe for development is anticipated. This Trail will connect to the Avoca Trail in Kimball Township, which will eventually continue to the City of Yale. On the southern end, the Wadhams Trail will eventually connect to Marine City Highway. It should be noted that this Trail will cross St. Clair Highway, which the County has planned to eventually connect to the Macomb Orchard Trail in Macomb County.
- Gratiot Trail - The Gratiot Trail was selected to provide for a connection between the Wadhams Trail and the proposed future County Park on the western side of Columbus Township. This County Park will be several hundred acres in size and is located at Big Hand and Kronner.
- Bowman/Neuman Trail - This location was selected to provide for a connection between the City of St. Clair and the Wadhams Trail. Access to Township Hall and Meiselbach Park would be provided by this Trail.
- Kennedy Trail - The Kennedy Road Trail is intended to connect Rattle Run and Neuman. The primary purpose for this pathway is to provide access to the undeveloped one hundred and nine (109) acre MDNR site.
- Rattle Run Trail - The Plan promotes the establishment of a Trail between Wadhams Road and the City of St. Clair. This Trail would provide access to the St. Clair High School.



-  County Proposed Short-Term Pathway (5-7 years for completion)
-  County Proposed Mid-Term Pathway (7-12 years for completion)
-  Township Initiated Pathway
-  Woodland Area
-  Wetland Areas
-  Watercourse



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Source: St. Clair County Road Commission, St. Clair County Lands and Graphics, CP&M

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Municipal services are an important part of the character of the community. These services are a main factor in determining the Township's tax rate, and perceived safety and overall convenience of living in the community. Because St. Clair Township is a rural community, it is understood that municipal services will not be as prominent as would be in a more urbanized Township or City. This section describes the three (3) main public services that are provided to Township residents.

Library

St. Clair Township is serviced by the St. Clair County Library System. The County-wide system maintains eleven (11) branches. None of these branches are located within the boundary of St. Clair Township. The three (3) closest branches are located on N. Allen Road in Kimball Township, Delaware Avenue in the City of Marysville and on South Second Street in the City of St. Clair. Of these three (3) branches, the Marysville branch is the largest, serving a population of 8,500 residents.

Police

St. Clair Township does not provide community-wide police services. Law enforcement is provided to Township residents by the St. Clair County Sheriff and the Michigan State Police. If the Township continues to grow as previous projections would indicate, there may be a need to consider the expansion of police services. Expanded service could be provided by the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department on a contractual basis. Shared arrangements with neighboring communities should also be explored, where practical and cost effective.

Fire

Fire protection services in St. Clair Township are provided by the St. Clair Area Fire Authority (SCAFA) and by the Kimball Township Volunteer Fire Department. Kimball Township provides fire protection services for property north of Davis, all property abutting Gratiot Avenue, and the northwestern area of the Township, north of Gratiot. The St. Clair Area Fire Authority is a joint authority covering fifty-four (54) square miles, which includes the City of St. Clair, China Township, East China Township and the remainder of St. Clair Township.

The SCAFA maintains one (1) fire station, located at 216 Cass in the City of St. Clair. Currently, response times to the western and northern portion of the Township are lengthened due to the distance trucks must travel. The Township has purchased property on Wadhams Road that would be an ideal site for the Authority's second fire station. A fire station on Wadhams Road would increase response time to these outlying areas, including Gratiot Avenue, which would allow the Fire Authority to assume responsibility for areas currently serviced by the Kimball Township Fire Department.

ILLUSTRATION 30

Township owned property on Wadhams Road between Gratiot Avenue and the I-94 Expressway would be an ideal location for a new fire station.



UTILITIES

Public utility systems, namely the provision of sanitary sewers and public water, represent an important element of a community's future growth plans. Public utilities are a prerequisite for most forms of development, particularly development of an urban character or intensity. Consideration of utilities is relevant for planning purposes for several reasons. Foremost, the availability of utilities, or their absence, will ultimately determine the intensity of growth in the community. Decisions on utility extensions can also be used to control or direct growth to specific areas of the community. Installing and maintaining utilities also have long-term financial implications for a community. This portion of the Community Facilities section of the Master Plan broadly considers the general characteristics of St. Clair Township's public utility system and the influence the system will have on the future development pattern portrayed in the Land Use Plan.

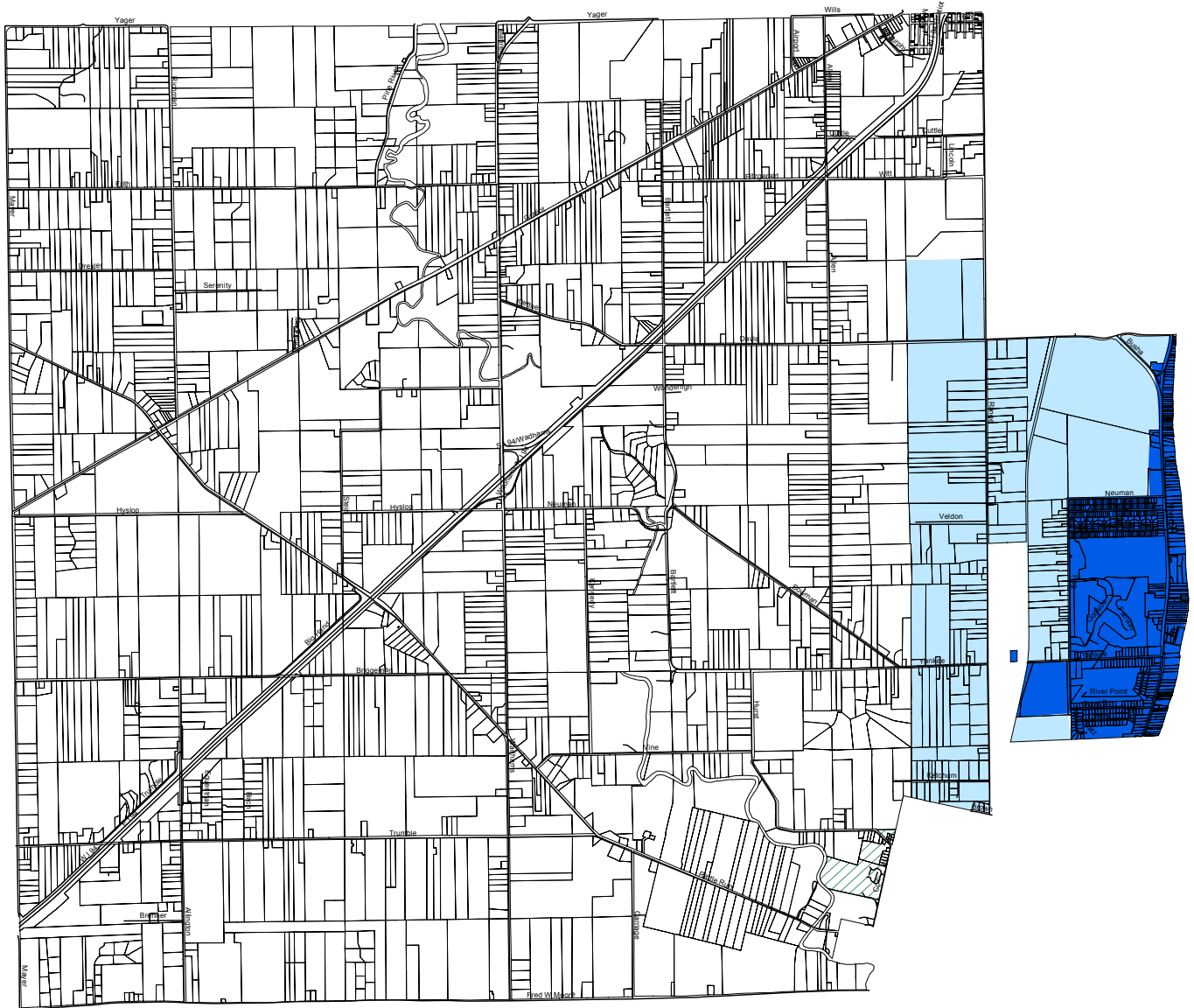
Public Water

The Township's Water Distribution Master Plan was completed in January of 2005. This Plan outlines the Township's existing system and makes recommendations for future improvements. The Township receives its water from the City of St. Clair Water Treatment Plant. The existing primary water service area for St. Clair Township encompasses approximately four percent (4%) of the Township's total area, but includes thirty-four percent (34%) of the Township's total population. It stretches from Davis Road to the City of St. Clair border, and from the St. Clair River to a quarter-mile west of Pug Road. A secondary water service area also exists at the intersection of Cox Road and Vine Road. This area provides service primarily to the Township's only manufactured housing community. This secondary system is supplied by a metering pit which is connected to the City by a twelve inch (12") water main.

The Water Distribution Plan has determined that the existing water facilities will not be adequate to service the Township over the next 25 years. Based on this assumption, the plan recommends expanding the primary service area to include property one-half mile west of Range Road, as depicted in the illustration on the following page. In addition to the proposed expansion, the water study proposes the following recommendations:

- Adopt and enforce controls on outside water use (lawn watering and car washing) to reduce peak day and hourly demands.
- Replace the River Road water main with a new 12" water main.
- Replace water mains less than 6" inches in diameter to allow adequate fire flows in the secondary distribution system.
- Construct an elevated storage tank of at least 300,000 gallons to aid the system during peak events.
- Create a methodical data collection process for the Wwater Distribution Plan.

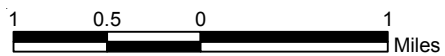
ILLUSTRATION 31
WATER DISTRIBUTION
MASTER PLAN



- PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
- SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
- FUTURE SERVICE AREA



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Source: St. Clair County Lands and Graphics, BMJ Engineering & CP&M

Sanitary Sewer

The St. Clair Township Wastewater Collection System Master Plan was completed in July of 2005 by BMJ Engineers. This Plan examines the existing system and makes recommendations for future wastewater treatment needs. The Plan indicates that existing contracted capacity at the City of St. Clair Wastewater Treatment Facility is adequate to service the existing Township needs. However, the Plan also indicates that the City of St. Clair will not have the capacity to accommodate future long-term growth in St. Clair Township. The entire sanitary sewer service area is located east of the railroad, between Davis Road and the City of St. Clair border. Six (6) pump stations are located within the Township. The Plan makes several recommendations for the existing sanitary sewer system. They are as follows:

Inflow & Infiltration Reduction

- St. Clair Township needs to adopt and enforce an inflow reduction program with a detailed tracking system of each user.
- The Township needs to further investigate the extent of the infiltration problem by evaluating existing sewer televising of the wastewater collection system.
- In selected locations, where previous sewer televising has not been performed, it may be necessary to assess these parts of the system with sewer televising. If the Township is successful in reducing inflow and infiltration, then the future treatment capacity issue with the City of St. Clair will be delayed but not avoided.

Pump Station Rehabilitation

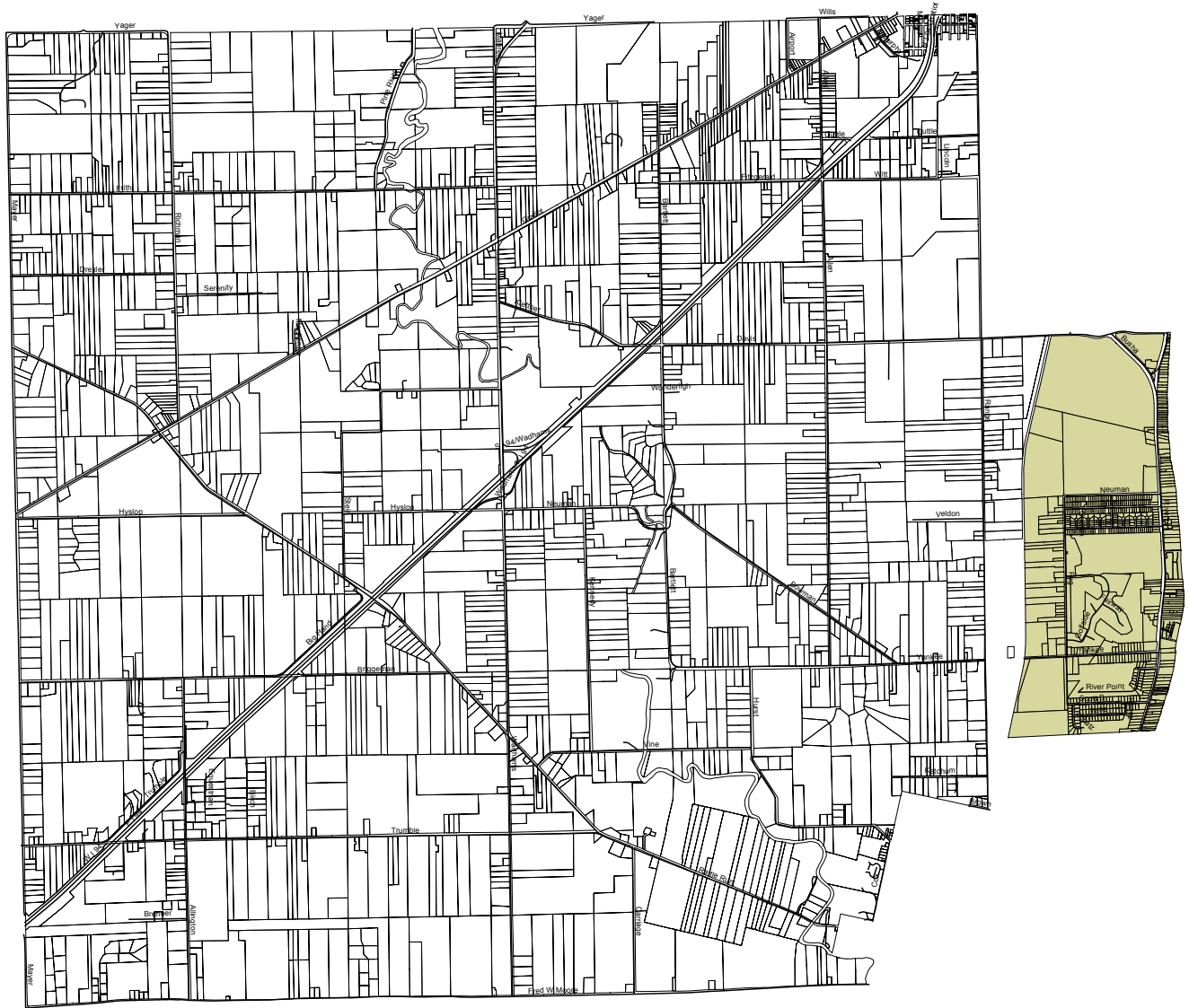
- Pump stations should be rehabilitated with replacement pumps, control panels, plumbing, valves and a valve pit. Pumps should be replaced with submersible pumps to avoid confined space entry issues.
- The capacity of the wet well volume should be increased for all pump stations to aid with cycle times.


The Plan also offers potential solutions for future wastewater treatment should the Township pursue their own wastewater facility in an effort to eliminate the projected future capacity issues with the City. These options include:

- **Facultative Lagoon System** - An eight (8) foot deep pond designed and constructed to promote processes which would take place in a stream or a pond where moderate quantities of organic wastewater are discharged.
- **Sequencing Batch Reactor** - A biological treatment system where the entire treatment process occurs in one (1) tank. The discharge can be held in a lagoon or a tank and discharged periodically. Because all of the treatment occurs in the same tank, units can be added as the population grows.
- **Oxidation Ditch** - The incoming wastewater is mixed and aerated in an oval-shaped tank containing a mass of biological organisms called activated sludge. The oxidation ditch is a continuous flow-through system. Separate tanks are needed for treatment and settling. It is not adaptable to phased construction for population growth and requires daily testing of the continuous discharge.



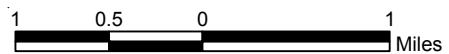
ILLUSTRATION 32
SANITARY SEWER SERVICE
AREA



 Sanitary Sewer Service Area



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Source: St. Clair County Lands and Graphics, BMJ Engineering & CP&M

ST. CLAIR
TOWNSHIP
COMPREHENSIVE
MASTER PLAN