



## **Novi Historical Commission** **Resource Management Plan**

Since 1983, the Novi Historical Commission has worked in partnership with the City of Novi, Novi Public Library, educators and others to provide programs and services concerning the history of our community. The collection and preservation of the history of Novi is being accomplished through the solicitation of donated documents, photographs and recorded personal experiences. The Commission's work includes the development of presentations, exhibits and events that showcase more than 180 years of Novi history. The Novi Historical Commission is located within the Novi Public Library and offers open office hours in the Local History Room on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Members shall be appointed by the City Council for a three-year term. The commission shall consist of five (5) voting members, who shall be residents of the city. In addition, a staff representative of the Novi Public Library shall serve as a nonvoting member of the commission.

### **Responsibilities of the Historical Commission:**

- Collecting, arranging and preserving historical materials, including books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, copies of domestic and foreign records and archives, paintings, statuary, and other objects and materials illustrative of and relating to the history of the city and surrounding area.
- Procuring and preserving narratives of the early pioneers, settlers and founders; including but not limited to their exploits, perils, privations and achievements.
- Collecting, preparing and displaying in the library, objects indicative of the life, customs, dress and resources of the early residents of the surrounding area.
- Publishing materials and historical studies relative to and illustrative of the history of the city and surrounding area.
- Erecting and maintaining historical markers in the city.
- The commission shall cooperate with and assist other local and state historical societies, and the public library, with a view toward gathering historical material pertaining to the city and its early pioneers.

## **Historic Resources**

The Novi Historical Commission shall be a valuable resource in providing historical information by way of identifying historical buildings, cemeteries and landscapes, thus leading to a comprehensive inventory for the purpose of preservation.

Elements of the inventory will include:

- Historic and cultural resource identification.
- Documentation of building, structure, object and site details such as architectural descriptions and historic designations.
- Assessment of integrity of historic and cultural resources.
- Identification of properties eligible for historic designation individually, as a part of a district or as part of a multiple property designation.
- Documentation of historic designations at the municipal, state and national levels.
- Notation of deteriorated conditions.
- Work with Novi Public Services and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to maintain and preserve sites.
- The Commission is authorized, upon council approval, to accept gifts and bequests for the furtherance of its authorized purposes in the name of the city under control of the commission.

## **Research**

Research for identification, evaluation, documentation and full understanding and interpretation of cultural resources is essential to informed decision-making for park planning and operations, including maintenance and visitor services. Without basic inventory data and research on resources, park planning processes cannot provide for their protection. Even where natural or recreational resources are the primary reason for a park's establishment, historic and cultural resources must be identified, evaluated, understood in their cultural contexts, preserved and managed in light of their values

- The Historical Commission shall allow volunteers to conduct research when necessary.
- The Historical Commission shall share findings with the City and City Council by way of community programs and publications.

## **Planning**

The Novi Historical Commission believes historic resource management serves to 1) integrate historic and cultural resource concerns into park planning and management processes, 2) avoid or minimize adverse effects on historic and cultural resources, 3) provide information for interpretation and public understanding, and 4) identify the most appropriate uses for historic and cultural resources and determine their ultimate treatment through processes that include involvement by groups with ties to park resources. Park plans involving historic and cultural resources shall be prepared and reviewed in interdisciplinary efforts that include city planners, historic resource specialists in relevant disciplines.

## **Stewardship**

The Novi Historical Commission works diligently to protect and preserve historic resources in their existing condition. The effort involves education of city leaders and the public about the importance of providing adequate funding for preservation and maintenance of historic resources. In reaching decisions about resource treatment, preservation receives first consideration whenever feasible. Decisions about preservation treatments are balanced with an awareness of long-range goals and the interests and concerns of traditionally associated groups.

## **Individualized Management Plans**

In addition to the development of a general Historic Resource Management Plan, the department encourages individualized management plans for Fuerst Park and Pavilion Shore Park, the oldest parks and historically significant properties.

## **Fostering Partnerships**

The Novi Historical Commission will actively foster partnerships with the Novi Library, Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution. Various scout groups volunteer in the cemeteries. This collaborative approach provides volunteers with valuable experience and raises community awareness of the historic resources within the City of Novi.

Furthermore, the Novi Historical Commission works to maintain active communications with various city departments, Novi Community Schools, civic organizations, local businesses and state agencies for historic preservation.

## **Recent and Ongoing Projects Related to Historic Preservation**

- The Novi Historical Commission composed a brochure that identified 19 historical sites along with interesting facts about each.
- Designated eight (8) Motorcities Markers commemorating historic areas in the city. These markers were installed throughout Novi as part of the Motorcities National Heritage Area, which “preserves the cultural and historic landscapes associated with the automobile in Southeastern and Central Michigan.”

- Digitization efforts to preserve newspapers, photographs and other important documents.
- The “Coasting the Baseline” Project to erect an obelisk on Eight Mile Road as part of an effort to celebrate the early surveyors and history of Michigan’s baseline, which stretches across Michigan from Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan.
- The Novi Historical Commission is consistently engaging in stakeholder meetings for projects that involve master planning, redevelopment and restoration projects.

## **Conclusion**

The Novi Historical Commission will work hard to protect the city’s historic resources through inventory and documentation, preservation, planning and management, as well as fostering community partnerships.