

10 Public Facilities and Services

Goal

- Southfield will offer high quality and efficient public services for residents.

Introduction

The city of Southfield offers a range of public facilities to its residents and businesses. The quality, availability, and cost of these elements are among the factors influencing growth and redevelopment in the City. Residential, commercial, and especially industrial users make location decisions based, in part, upon the ability of a municipality to meet their present and future needs in the most cost effective way possible. As competition for new development/redevelopment among communities grows and as technology advances, citizens and business owners will expect more from local government. To keep pace with these demands, Southfield must continually upgrade and diversify its facilities and services.

Public facilities and services include educational and religious institutions, library facilities, public safety, parks (discussed in *Chapter 8 Open Space and Recreation*), sewer, water and refuse removal (discussed in *Chapter 11 Community Utilities*), all of which are provided to serve the needs of residents and businesses in Southfield. See following Map 10-1. These are all organized and operated on a daily basis by city departments. Citizens also influence these services through participation in commissions, boards and election to City Council.



City Government

The basic form of local government in Southfield is Council-Administrator. The Administrator is responsible for overseeing the everyday mechanics of City government and reports directly to the seven-member City Council. City Council is the local legislative body which determines City policy, makes decisions on zoning, ordinances, and legislative matters. The Mayor, the ceremonial head of City government, makes recommendations to Council and is the City's representative to all other legislative bodies.

City Departments. The City of Southfield City Hall is located on Evergreen in the Municipal Center complex. The building houses offices for most City Departments and boards and commissions. At the time this plan was prepared, the City had 26 departments under the Mayor, City Council and the City Administrator. Many of those departments will have a direct or support role in implementation of this plan.

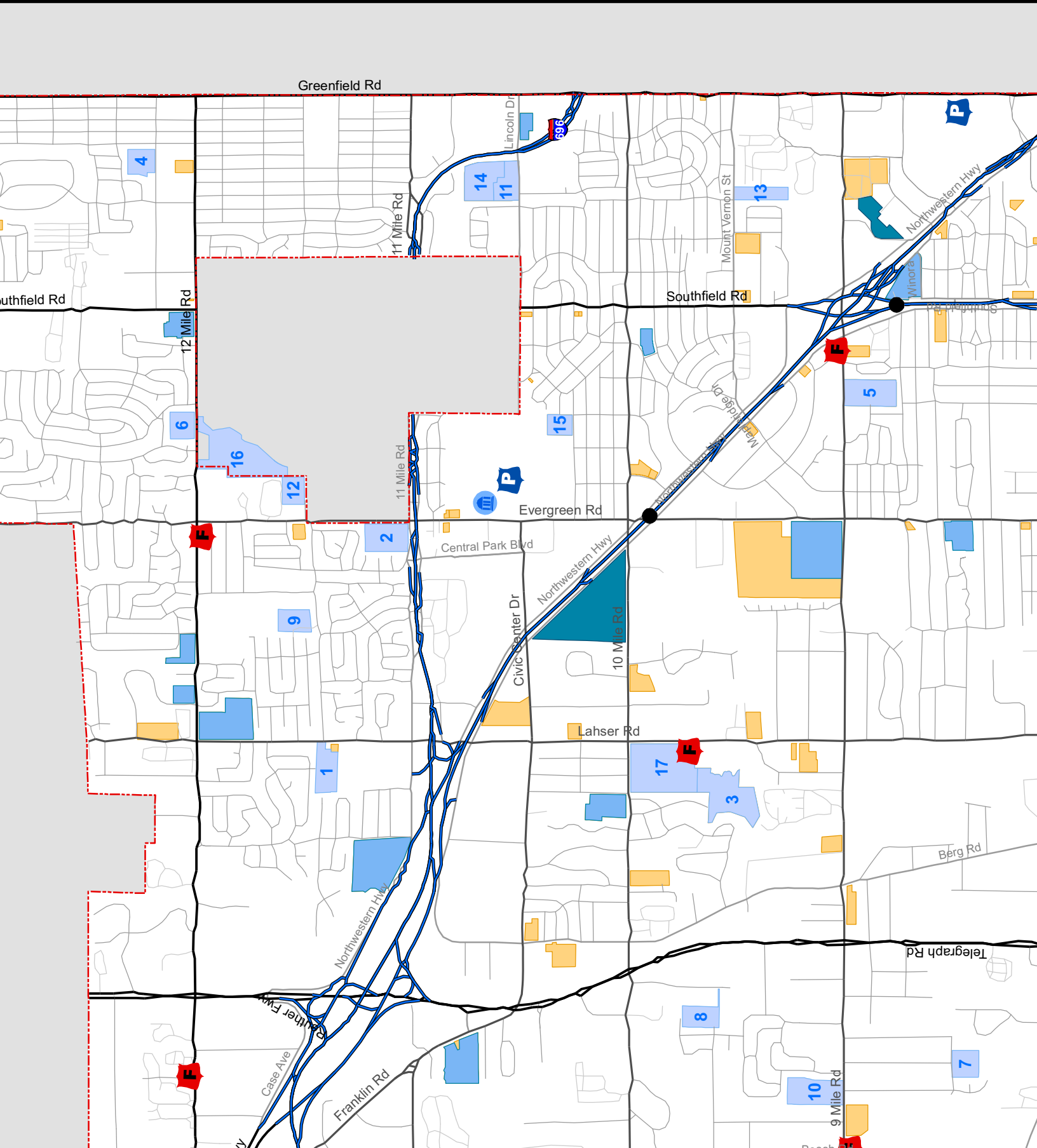
Boards and Commissions. Southfield has an active citizen population that participates in a number of different boards and commissions. Citizens may become members of these groups either through appointment or by election. At the time the plan was prepared, these bodies included, but are not limited to:

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- City Centre Advisory Board
- City Council
- Commission on Senior Adults
- Cornerstone Development Authority
- Economic Development Corporation
- Historic District Commission
- Historic Designation Advisory Board
- Housing Commission
- Library Board
- Local Development Finance Authority
- Parent-Youth Guidance Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Tax Increment Finance Authority
- Total Living Commission
- Veterans Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Legend

- P
- F
- III
- 1, ADLA
- 2, ALICE
- 3, ARTH
- 4, ARTH
- 5, BRAC
- 6, BUSS
- 7, DOUC
- 8, DWIG
- 9, FRED
- 10, GLE
- 11, GLE
- 12, HEL
- 13, JOH
- 14, MAR
- 15, MOP
- 16, SOU
- 17, SOU
- Yellow
- Light Blue
- Dark Blue

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Other Agencies and Jurisdictions. Southfield includes a host of outside agencies that require ongoing coordination and communication. Two key agencies are the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Oakland County. The County interacts with the City in many facets including the drain and road commissions; parks and recreation, planning, and economic development departments; and court system.

Public Safety

The City of Southfield Public Safety Group includes the police and fire departments and is committed to providing the best possible service, protection and prevention by providing ongoing training for personnel and keeping current with community needs. As a result, Southfield's Public Safety response system is considered one of the best in Michigan.

Fire. The Southfield Fire Department was the first in Michigan to offer advanced life support (paramedic) when it initiated the service in 1972. Since then, it has continued to be a leader in emergency medical service, with the most modern training and equipment available. Southfield offers a full-service



Fire Department which has the dual ability to fight fires and provide paramedic service. It also supplies technically trained special rescue teams such as hazardous materials, high-rise, confined space and trench rescue.

The Department is among the busiest in the County and still manages to maintain an average response time of less than four minutes to any address. In 2008 there were five fire stations, two located on 9

Southfield Fire Department Mission

“..to provide the citizens and visitors of Southfield with the highest quality fire prevention, emergency medical care and fire protection available. We accomplish this mission by intense training, thorough preparation, prompt professional response and a positive, caring attitude toward those we are sworn to protect.”

Mile, two on 12 Mile, and one on Lahser Road as depicted on Map 10-1.

Police. The City of Southfield Police Department is an integral part of the Public Safety Group. The department, based out of the Municipal Center, provides a full range of quality services which include marked and unmarked patrol units, investigative staff, and crime prevention services. Numerous accolades and awards have been bestowed on the police department by various organizations.



Southfield Police Mission

“We believe in the dignity and worth of all people. We stand for providing fair and equal enforcement of the law for all. We are committed to a professional approach to law enforcement and supporting the needs of our community. We shall strive to make our department exude the trust and confidence of the community through community-oriented policing, continual comprehensive training, and by selection and retention of quality personnel who will best represent the police profession.”

Emergency Management. Emergency Management has been in the Southfield community for many years. Formally termed *Civil Defense*, Emergency Management was designed to meet the current needs of residents with regard to early warning and safety in cases of natural or man-made disasters. While many communities rely upon County and State agencies, Southfield has an independent Emergency Management Division to serve its residents directly.

Library Facilities

The Southfield Public Library is located within the Municipal Center complex

on Evergreen Road. The library has been a dependable community resource and center for intellectual freedom since its conception with a collection of 300 books at its founding in 1844. Since that time, the library has steadily grown and now offers an unsurpassed collection of print and media, all easily accessed within a world-class building constructed in 2003.

All residents of Southfield and Lathrup Village are eligible for a Southfield library card, which provides access to the library’s off-site, web-based information sources. In addition, Southfield is a part of The Library Network (TLN) which permits residents to use libraries in other metro Detroit communities who have formed reciprocal borrowing agreements. The Southfield Public Library offers a full array of modern library services. Beyond a great print collection, residents can enjoy music CDs, DVDs, well-equipped computer labs, and wi-fi throughout the building. Below is sampling of the types of amenities available at the library:

- The Bookends Café
- Friends Book Sales
- Drive-Up Services
- Express Check Out Stations
- Books by Mail
- English Language Learning Instruction System
- Foreign Language Collection
- Literacy Collection



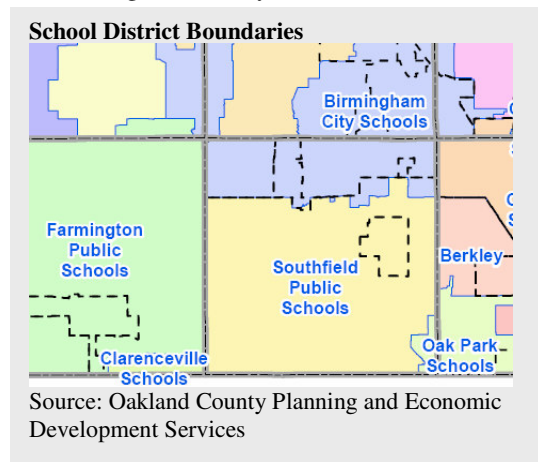
Educational Facilities

Public. The majority of Southfield residents, and all of Lathrup Village, are served by Southfield Public Schools. A small segment of the population in the northeast corner of the City attends Birmingham Public Schools, while some in the southeast corner attend Oak Park Schools.



In 2008, the Southfield Public School district had 17 school sites located near and within the neighborhoods, and accessible by school bus or walking and biking. They include:

- Adler Elementary School
- Birney Middle School
- Brace-Lederle K-8 School
- Bussey Center for Early Childhood Education
- Eisenhower Elementary School
- Kennedy Elementary School
- Leonhard Elementary School
- Levey Middle School
- MacArthur Elementary School
- McIntyre Elementary School
- Schoenhals Elementary School
- Southfield High School
- Southfield-Lathrup High School
- Southfield Regional Academic Campus (SRAC)
- Stevenson Elementary School
- Thompson Middle School
- Vandenberg Elementary School



While enrollment in the district has declined in the past four years, a trend that is expected to continue, MEAP scores continue to improve. See Figure 10-1 on the following page. MEAP scores increased each year and are comparable with state averages. The graduation rate for the graduating class of 2005 was

84.5 percent, which is just slightly under the state average of 87.7 percent.

Private and Charter. In addition to the public schools, there are a number of other charter, private and parochial schools at all levels in the area. At the time this plan was prepared there were 18.

Figure 10-1: Southfield Public Schools Total District Enrollment Trends

2004 ¹	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ³	2008 ³
10,102	10,121	9,484	9,020	8,568

¹Official Fall Counts

²Total 9/27/06 Count Day

³Projected Enrollment Method 2

Source: Southfield Public Schools



Charter schools in Southfield enrolled over 3,500 Southfield students in the Fall of 2006, while nearly 1,300 Southfield students attended private schools both in the city of Southfield and across the metro Detroit area.

Colleges and Universities. The city of Southfield is home to many institutions of higher learning, including these two notable higher educational institutions:

- **Lawrence Technological University (LTU).** This private university occupies 125 acres in the City. LTU enrolls nearly 5,000 students in more than 60 degree programs at the associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degree levels in Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Management.
- **Oakland Community College (OCC).** With eight campuses in southeast Michigan, OCC has an enrollment over 70,000. The Southfield Campus focuses on the health profession and offers 15 programs ranging from health professions and technologies and nursing to diagnostic medical sonography and nuclear medicine technology.



Religious Institutions

Southfield has a diverse population with varied spiritual interests. As a result, the City contains more than 50 religious institutions and places of worship.

Recommendations

City Government. The City currently offers a well-organized structure to handle the demanding daily issues of a mature community. The responsibility of implementing various recommendations will fall on different departments and include different jurisdictions. In the years following adoption of this Plan, it will be important that all of the departments coordinate on a regular basis regarding the implementation status. These efforts should be organized in a way so everyone is communicating efficiently and duplication of efforts is avoided. A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is a means of coordinating the long-term projects of each department with a priority level and funding source. CIPs typically cover five-year periods and are updated annually.

There will be occasions where strategies and recommendations are inconsistently defined or interpreted, therefore it is important that regular 'training' sessions be held. These sessions will help to ensure consistent interpretation of goals, brainstorming implementation strategies and conflict resolution.

Public Safety. The fire and police departments are important resources in implementing this plan and building upon the assets and quality of life in the City. Both departments should continue to use their current programs and services to improve neighborhood and business safety and increase the feeling of safety throughout the community.

The Southfield Police Department has specific priorities for the future including:

- Continue implementation of non-traditional police management concepts, or the private sector approach to governmental management. That is, increase the level of service by viewing the public and police employees as customers and addressing their needs.
- Develop and encourage a leadership style that will support a high level of service by retaining and developing our personnel.
- Continue community policing programs, partnerships between police, business, schools, and citizens, designed not only to solve crime, but to help solve related problems.

For all public safety elements, it is important to remember that the more open and visible these departments and efforts are to the public, the more at

ease citizens will feel. This will, in turn, garner long-term stability among residents and business owners and assist with residential and economic growth.

Library, Educational and Religious Institutions. Institutional resources such as libraries, schools and places of worship enrich the lives of citizens and are important in attracting new businesses and residents to the region. Institutional resources should be showcased consistently as this plan is implemented. While development of institutional facilities many times falls out of the City's jurisdiction, the City should work with the appropriate agencies to maintain a high quality of services and ensure convenient access to the facilities. Most importantly, the city of Southfield should work to highlight these facilities in promotional materials to help market the City.