It’s easy to get lost in the beauty of Lakeshore Park. There’s the serene sandy beach where you can watch the sunset over Walled Lake. There’s 10-plus miles of some of the best kept trails anywhere in the state that you can explore while walking or on your mountain bike. And it’s the perfect place for a family get-together with pavilions, playgrounds, sand volleyball courts and so much more.

It’s location off South Lake Drive is a luxury for those who live in the northern part of Novi, but the largest of all the City parks attracts all residents and even those in nearby communities.

In an effort to enhance the park, and in turn provide residents with more opportunities to enjoy it, the City will be making a plethora of improvements in the next year highlighted by a 9,400-square-foot community center. The facility will feature a multi-purpose room and two small rooms to be used for recreation programming, summer camps, serve as two voting precincts for residents in the area and will be home to a library kiosk where residents can check-out and return books. The new community center will also have the added benefit of serving as a warming or cooling station in the case of power outages.

“The new facility is not going to be anything that takes away from the beauty of Lakeshore Park but adds to it. Lakeshore Park is a jewel and anyone who hasn’t been there should to go and explore because it’s almost like you are up north,” notes Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Jeff Muck.

The project’s sustainability begins with the building location, which incorporates a new storm retention management design. The water runoff will be filtered through new detention ponds before passing into Shawood Lake, over time improving the quality of the lake. Recycled content is being used for the structure of the building, and native plantings are being used throughout the site for landscaping. There are numerous other sustainability features that make the upgrades unique.

While the building is the anchor of the project, it is still just one piece of the puzzle. Handicap accessibility is also a huge key and the upgrades are plentiful. The existing playground is being replaced with a new inclusive design play structure.
specifically developed for children ages 2-12 and includes above-ground wheelchair access and meets or exceeds all of the current safety and accessibility requirements. The parking lot also is being paved and a bike lane will be created to connect the mountain bike trails.

A new large park shelter also will be built and the sand volleyball courts will move to the more active area of the park near the soccer fields.

City Manager Pete Auger said City Council advocated for these improvements to get Lakeshore up to the “standard Novi deserves and expects.” He said over the past few years they have been looking at ways to get more City services to the area north of I-96, and this building will allow us to do just that.

Novi Public Library Director Julie Farkas is especially excited about the opportunity to connect more residents with the library, and City Clerk Cortney Hanson said the residents in this part of the City travel the farthest to vote and will welcome a more convenient polling location.

As for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, the project can’t happen soon enough. They are developing creative programs, including offering for older adults, for the space and looking forward to more people taking advantage of one of the area’s most beautiful places.

“People from all over Novi are going to be able to enjoy this park,” said Muck. “It is going to be a real asset for the entire community.”

An artist’s rendering of the 9,400 square foot community center planned for Lakeshore Park.