

Chapter 4. Public Utilities

A large portion of the Township is served by public water and sewer service. The Township is fortunate to be on the route of two of the four main water transmission lines which deliver water from Lake Michigan to the Wyoming area. The water service area map and sewer service area map illustrates the general service areas for both of the utilities based on main and distribution and collection system locations.

Public Water Service

Public water service is provided to the Township by the Ottawa/Grand Rapids System and the Ottawa/Wyoming System. These systems were created by agreements negotiated by the Ottawa County Road Commission with the major water supplying communities in Ottawa and Kent County. The Ottawa/Wyoming System serves most of the Township and the Ottawa/Grand Rapids System serves a smaller area in the northwest part of the Township adjoining the Grand Valley State University campus in Allendale Township.

Georgetown Township's water system has a storage capacity of 13 million gallons, yet peak summer demand can reach as high as 15 million gallons in a single day. In contrast, winter water use averages about 75 million gallons per month. To ensure safe drinking water, the Township regularly tests its supply, with results available in the Water Quality Report linked on the Township website.

Ottawa County has been facing growing concerns related to water quantity and quality. Groundwater levels, particularly in the deep bedrock aquifer system, have been steadily declining for over since the 1990's, leading to issues such as reduced well performance and water supply challenges for residents and businesses. In response, the County has implemented educational campaigns and conservation tools to promote water-wise practices. At the same time, surface water and shallow groundwater resources are being monitored through the Ottawa Conservation District's Water Quality Monitoring Initiative, which focuses on tracking nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants in local streams and rivers. These efforts aim to protect water resources through community engagement, agricultural best practices, and improved stormwater and septic management.

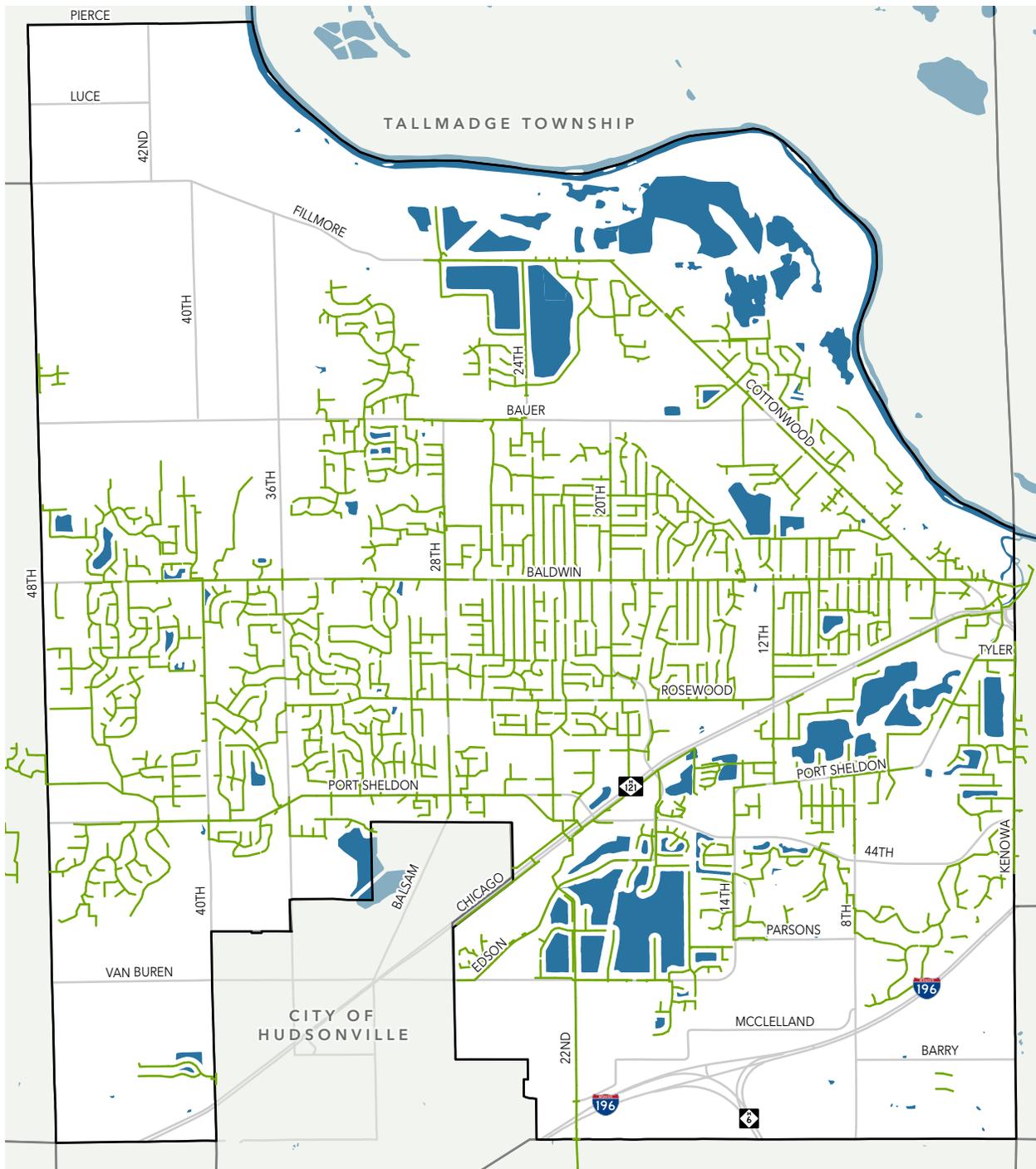
Sanitary Sewer Service

The limits of sewer service availability roughly follow that of public water service, with some exceptions. Public sewers do not extend south of I-196 to the far southeast corner of the Township. Waste treatment services are provided by the City of Grandville through a service agreement. A small area south of the GVSU campus is served by the Allendale system.

Stormwater

Stormwater is rain or melted snow that flows over streets, lawns, and other surfaces, rather than soaking into the ground. As it flows, it can pick up pollutants like oil, fertilizer, and debris, which are then carried into storm drains and eventually into rivers, lakes, and streams.

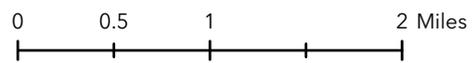
Residents of Georgetown Township are encouraged to take steps to manage stormwater to reduce pollution, flooding, and erosion. Actions like installing rain barrels, redirecting downspouts away from paved surfaces, limiting fertilizer use, properly disposing of pet waste, and avoiding dumping anything into storm drains help protect local waterways. These practices prevent harmful substances like oils, chemicals, and excess nutrients from being carried by stormwater into rivers, streams, and lakes.

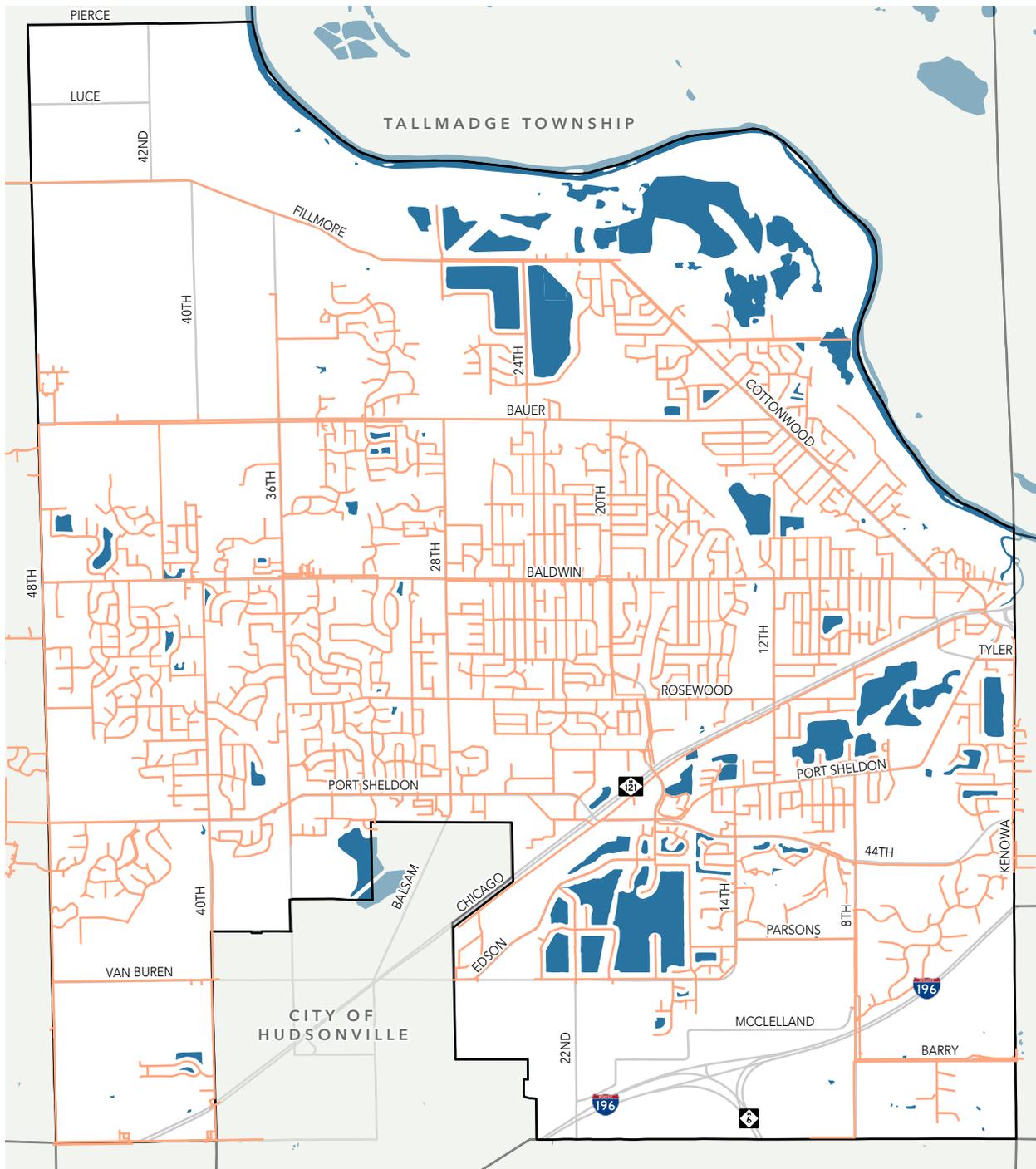


Legend

- Wastewater Gravity Main
- Water Bodies

Map: Wastewater Infrastructure

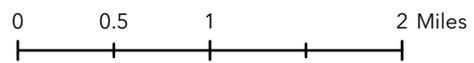




Legend

- Water Main
- Water Bodies

Map: Water Infrastructure



Parks

Georgetown Township offers a range of parks, trails, and recreational facilities, along with additional county, private, and nonprofit sites featured in the inventory. The Township manages about 233 acres, including developed parks, natural areas, undeveloped land, and trails. These parks include:

GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS

1. 28th St Soccer Park
2. 8th Avenue Park
3. Maplewood Park
4. Pioneer Park
5. Rosewood Park
6. Rush Creek Park
7. Woodcrest Park

COUNTY PARK

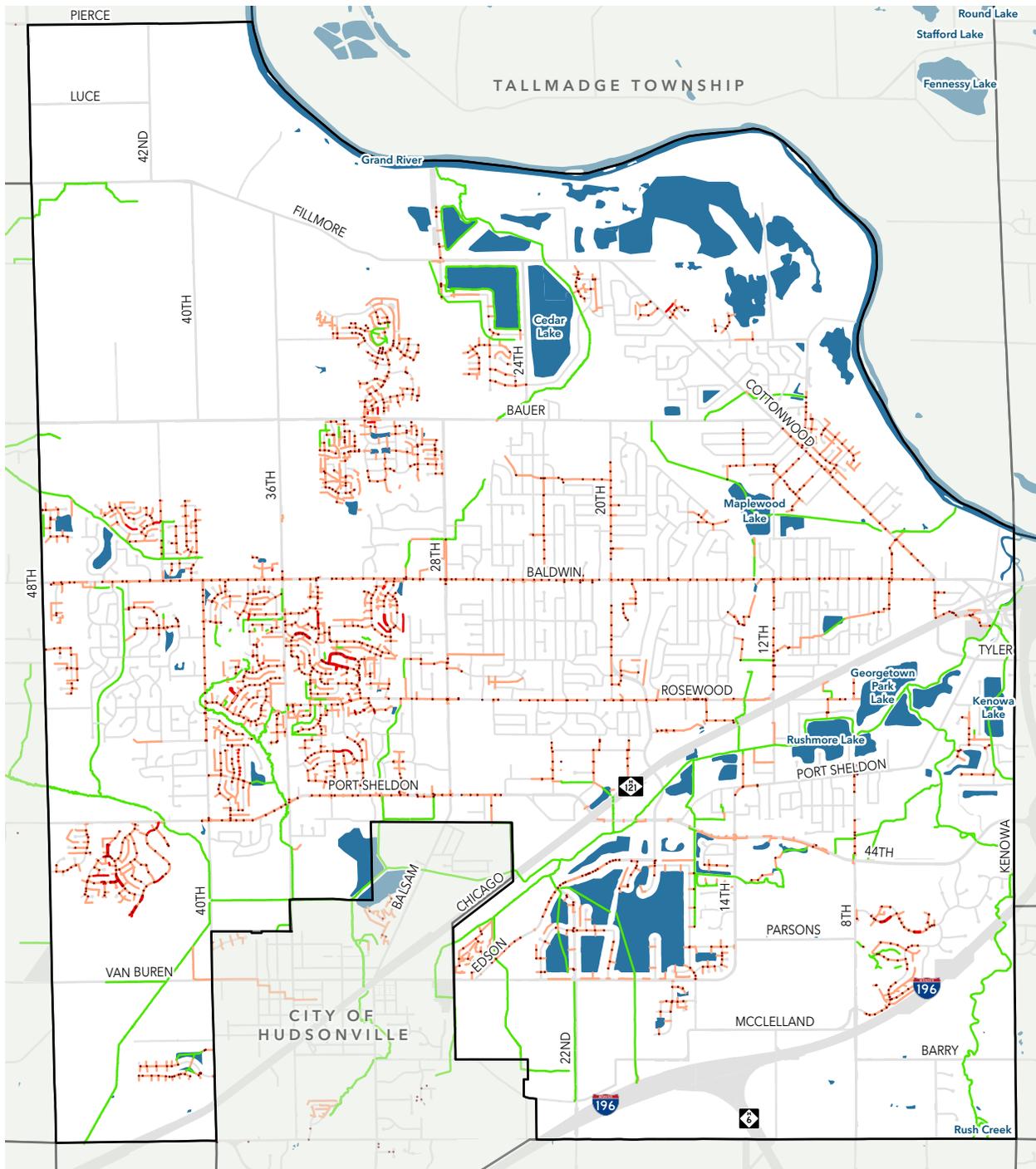
1. Bends Area Open Space
2. Grand River Park
3. Grand River Ravines
4. Harger Park
5. Port Sheldon Sports Complex

Other nearby Parks include, the Grand River Open Space in Tallmadge Township and Hughes Park, Veteran's Park, Sunrise Park Hudsonville Nature Center, and Hill Side Park in the City of Hudsonville.

More information on the parks can be found in the Township's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

CEMETERY

Georgetown Township is home to two cemeteries: Georgetown Cemetery, located on 28th Avenue between Port Sheldon Street and Rosewood Street, and Hanley Cemetery, situated at the corner of 4th Avenue and Jackson Street.



Legend

OCWRC Storm Gravity Main

— Collector

— Open Channel

— Underdrain

• OCWRC Storm Manhole

Map: Drains

