

A six-member elected library board directs the library. The members serve four-year terms. The main source of revenue for the library is a millage.

In 2009, the library collection held 50,679 materials, an increase of 5,191 over the previous year. Through a library cooperative, cardholders can request materials from 40 local libraries. In addition, in 2009, the library became a participating library in Mel Cat, a statewide resource sharing catalog with other Michigan libraries, allowing access to millions of items for patrons.

Other developments of note in 2009, include the addition of a second T-1 line to increase band width and improve the speed of the library's internet connection. Also, the library began on-site service to Abbey Park, an assisted living facility in Lyon Township.

In May 2004, the Township engaged the services of George Lawson, Library Planner, to complete a Needs Assessment for the Lyon Township Public Library. The study found that the library should plan in 2025 for a book collection of 108,223 volumes, media collections of 11,438 items, and a periodical collection of 269 titles. The 2025 service population will require 133 seats for general user seating at 30 sq. ft. per seat. About 35 public computer workstations will be needed in 2025.

Altogether, the Needs Assessment projected a Total Gross Space Requirement of 41,330 sq. ft. for 2025. With the current population, the assessment found that the library should have 15,912 sq. ft. of gross space. By 2015, the service population is expected to be 27,126, which translates into a Gross Space Requirement of 29,660 sq. ft.

Aside from the current facility being too small, the existing library site contains wetlands. Wetlands and adjacent development limit the possibility for expansion on the existing site. The Township is currently evaluating sites for a new library building, including a 13-acre site on the west side of Milford Road, north of Twelve Mile Road. The Township has a commitment through a consent judgment for this area on the Mill River development.

Land has also been identified by the Lyon Center Vision Plan in New Hudson that could accommodate a new library. There is merit to locating the library in the downtown – it attracts patrons for businesses and contributes a desirable image for the area.

Post Office

Lyon Township is covered by portions of five different zip codes, and therefore it is serviced by five different post offices: New Hudson, South Lyon, Northville, Wixom, and Milford. Two of these serve the majority of the Township. The New Hudson post office serves the north section of the Township, and the post office located in South Lyon serves the southern section.

The only post office building located within the Township is the New Hudson post office. This building is almost 70 years old, and due to the growth that has been experienced in its service area, it suffers from many inadequacies. Space, parking, technology, and infrastructure are

concerns. The postal service for the area includes four rural routes, 2,424 deliveries, and 419 post office boxes.

Although a regional U.S. Postmaster office concluded that a building expansion or a new building was required in the late 1990's, there appear to be no plans for any expansion or new construction of a post office in the New Hudson area.

Generally the U.S. Postmaster leases space for its post offices, which is the case for the New Hudson post office. With all the new commercial development that occurred and is expected in the New Hudson area over the next 5-15 years, it is hopeful a creative and entrepreneurial developer will see this opportunity to assist the Post Office and incorporate a new post office into their development project

The Lyon Center Vision Plan strongly suggested that the post office should remain in the hamlet of New Hudson. The traffic a post office generates will assist local business.

Cemeteries

There are four municipal cemeteries in the Township. Only the New Hudson Cemetery, located on Milford Road north of Grand River Avenue, has capacity. No more plots are available in the three other cemeteries, which are: Rose Cemetery at Eleven Mile Road west of Stancrest, Kensington Cemetery on Grand River near Kent Lake, and the Township Cemetery at Nine Mile and Chubb Roads. There are no privately-owned or church cemeteries; the Township is the sole provider of cemetery space in the Township.

The New Hudson Cemetery is nearing capacity and all the vacant land surrounding it is privately owned. Therefore, expansion would require purchasing additional land. Alternatively, the Township could establish a fifth cemetery on suitable land owned or acquired by the Township. There are no plans in place to achieve either of these options. Past attempts to establish sites have been unsuccessful. Perhaps the best solution is to expand the Kensington Cemetery. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which owns the land adjacent to this cemetery, would not sell or trade land when previously approached. Renewed efforts may yield better results. Additional capacity may be found in South Lyon or Wixom as well.

School Facilities

Education plays a vital role in the development of a community. While the Township has a limited effect on school policies, municipal policies, especially in respect to population growth, can have an enormous impact on the school system. Ideally, the relationship between the Township and School District planning is one of coordination and cooperation. The purpose of this section is to assess school facilities as a factor in setting planning goals. Secondly, the section attempts to identify opportunities where the Township can work with the School District in solving existing and potential education problems.