

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: EZEKIEL CHOJNACKI, GRADUATE MANAGER
SUBJECT: BENCHMARK COMPARISONS
DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2023

Mayor and Council –

Please see the proposed list of communities we plan to use as our benchmarks going forward.

- Victor

Executive Summary:

Former Mayor Richard Clark and city staff developed the benchmark comparison chart several years ago; since then, it has had few changes. City staff updated the chart this year to contain modern evaluation criteria and contemporary peer cities. In the future, these cities will be used to examine policy and service delivery matters/decisions.



History:

The city benchmark comparison chart began under Former Mayor Richard Clark during his term from 1999 to 2003. According to City planner Barb McBeth, Mayor Clark asked for the data out of his curiosity and love for numbers. The points of comparison used in today's chart are mostly the same, with only minor revisions over the years. Historically, the staff has tracked city size, population, age, race/ethnicity, education, housing market, and workforce sectors. The City of Novi evaluated itself against several communities across the country, including:

- Carlsbad, CA
- Cary, NC
- Greenville, NC
- Lewisville, TX
- Olathe, KS
- Orland Park, IL
- Redmond, WA
- Rochester Hills, MI
- Roswell, GA
- Rock Hill, SC
- North Richard Hills, TX

Moving Forward:

This year, the benchmark comparison chart was modified to include examinations of city finances, public safety, library service, unionization, and social media. Additionally, the chart is now split into local and national categories.

Local Comparisons Include:

Rochester Hills, MI	West Bloomfield, MI
Farmington Hills, MI	Troy, MI
Canton, MI	Fishers, IN

National Comparisons Include:

Lenexa, KS
Cary, NC
Orland Park, IL

It is essential to reevaluate practices like the benchmark comparison chart to ensure they still provide helpful information. Recent technologies, like social media, must be integrated into historic practices. Choosing modern comparison cities helps Novi determine where it is striving and where it is falling behind. In the end, city staff hopes to create an objective tool for monitoring Novi's progress. The benchmark comparison chart will continue to be updated as our city advances and new comparables are required.