

## Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

### PAC Update

#### Buhr:

- Kicked off our “Frozen Friday” themed skates with a Disney theme in late November with 80 people in attendance
- A busy December schedule with three more themed skates and additional open skates, sticks & pucks, and drop-in hockey over the holidays
- Hosted Logan elementary students and their families for their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Winterfest event

#### Veterans:

- At the end of November we hosted our first ever Ice Rink Play Date for children to attend and play games on the ice with our skating instructors. We reached 58 children who attended, which outdid our goal of 50 children. We are attempting to refine the details of the event a little more, and host another in January.
- We opened registration for skating lessons for the second half our season at the beginning of December. A lot of our more popular age lessons are already full within the first week of opening those lessons, with 276 learners signed up for session 3 currently.
- Our total ice rentals drop in December as schools are on break, and the holidays, but this allows us the opportunity to host more public drop-in events such as open skates, sticks and pucks, or drop-in hockey events.

#### Farmers Market:

- We averaged 50 vendors on Saturdays and 20 vendors on Wednesdays in December. The weather has suddenly gotten much colder so many vendors have recently ended for the season.
- Three new vendors have recently joined the market: Ukrainian Homemade Food, a Kalamazoo-based food business run by a family of Ukrainian Refugees, Toi’s Caribbean Bakery, a plant-based donut business that is Black-owned, and Sweet Cake Sweet, a cake bakery owned by an immigrant family from Brazil. We continue to have a lot of interest from potential applicants.
- Mobile food vendors Succulent Street Food, Vegano Italiano Food Truck, and Tacos El Mariachi Loco Food Truck have joined Saturday Markets in December.
- Musician Vibeman John played live holiday music on his vibraphone on Saturdays in December
- On December 3, we partnered with GIVE365 and Kerrytown District Association volunteers to hang holiday lights on the market roof.
- Wednesday Market ends for the season on December 18. Saturday Market Winter Season Hours begin January 4, 2025
- We are participating again in the Holiday Food and Essential Supplies Drive for Community Action Network (CAN)
- Our facility continues to be heavily impacted by the construction at the 121 Catherine Street development across the street from the market office trailer, including the initial stages of demolition of the Braun Court buildings. Next year, there will likely be 4 construction projects happening both across the street from and adjacent to the market

#### Mack

- The Ann Arbor Octopods won the SMSL Championship meet for the second season in a row. Our swimmers are building great swimming foundations and improving their skills. We are one of the only beginner and midlevel swim teams in the area and are giving swimmers their first swim team experience.

#### Environmental Education

- In November and December NAP staff continued to offer nature exploration and nature crafts for K-5 students and their families at various City parks.
- Staff also created a new program for 24 Girls Scouts at Olson Park to explore winter animal homes.

#### Senior Center:

- Facility Updates: interior painting and new carpet tiles.
- New workshops include: Home Safety Bingo presented by Atlas Home Safety, Lively Living presented by Interim Health.
- New programming: Drop-In Tai Chi, Travels with George: Iberia and Viking Saga, December Drive-Through: Cocoa Comfort (presented by Visiting Angels), additional mall weeks each week (typically one a week), additional Mind Matters Games (typically one a week), registration has opened for WCC Senior Focus Winter Classes (tai chi, Italian, watercolors, line dancing, strength training, yoga).

#### Greenbelt:

- Prepping for 3 closings by the end of the year

#### NAP

- NAP did a hands-on controlled burn training for students in UM's ENVIRON 421 Restoration Ecology class.
- We've wrapped up our 2024 volunteer workday season with a total of 105 workdays, 5,320 Hours volunteered by 1,390 Unique Volunteers.

#### GIVE/AAP:

- The Visit Every Park Challenge Program continues to gain enthusiasm and in its 4<sup>th</sup> full year yielded 64 new VEP Champions, and 124 total since program inception.
- GIVE Staff and Volunteers have helped with holiday decorations at Vet's, the Farmer's Market, and will at Buhr on 12/13.

#### Liveries:

- The Liveries are working to install signage along the river between Argo Park and Gallup Park. These signs aim to help river users better understand their location and in the case of emergencies, enable quicker response times.
- The Barton dam boat launch has been rebuilt as part of the B2B trail work in the area.

#### Huron Hills:

- A temporary bathroom for sledders has been delivered and positioned near the clubhouse.
- The golf course is prepped for winter hibernation, with the front 7 holes still available for winter golf as weather allows.
- Winter maintenance, prep and safety inspections has begun on all equipment, tools and machinery: inspections, fluid/filter changes and routine maintenance is being done on all equipment. We are also finding time, to epoxy shop floors, organize and clean each facility.
- Three new beautiful trees have been planted near hole #4.
- Other tree inspections and work are being done as well as some brush clearing on holes 6/7.

#### Leslie Park:

- Course closed for the season on November 11<sup>th</sup> and all proper prep work has been completed for the winter months.
- The course is now open to walkers, sledders and cross-country skiers.
- Winter maintenance, prep and safety inspections has begun on all equipment, tools and machinery: inspections, fluid/filter changes and routine maintenance is being done on all equipment. We are also finding time, to epoxy shop floors, organize and clean each facility.

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals:

- Total rental numbers for the 2024 rental season, mid-April thru mid-November:
  - 692 permits issued representing 1,888 uses by approximately 156,823 people
  - 67 locations within 22 unique parks were rented.
- Rental dates for the 2025 season (mid-April thru mid-November) will open on Monday Jan. 6. 2025.
  - Annual events and rentals are encouraged to call the Parks Customer Service office on Jan. 6, 2025 to check availability and begin the rental permitting process.