

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming
PAC Update

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- **Statement about mowing**
- Park Rentals are in full swing with rentals at the picnic shelters at Bandemer, Burns, Island, Gallup, Olson and Wheeler Parks taking place nearly every day.
- Fuller athletic fields are heavily used Monday-Thursday and Saturdays. Olson are heavily used on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Cobblestone has rentals throughout May and June. Eight volunteer Master Gardeners are busy wedding and planting the eight flower, vegetable and butterfly gardens on the property.

Liveries

- Expanded Hours: Both Argo and Gallup are continuing to expand hours of operation, reaching full summer hours on May 24th.
- River Programming: River programming begins with River Kids on May 6th.
- Huron River Day: Gallup Park will host the 46th annual Huron River Day festival on May 18th.
- Gallup River Trip: The Barton to Gallup River trip is back after a hiatus due to construction last year offering a new online reservation system.
- School Groups: The liveries continue to host many school groups this spring, offering discounted boat rentals.

Mack/Fuller:

- Fuller pool opened May 11 and had great weather for our first day.
- Our day camp is full and staff will start training in a few weeks.
- Group swim lesson registration is underway for both kids and adults.
- Our private lessons are now available for booking and we will start delivering private lessons on Monday.
- Our drop-in water polo clinics started on Tuesday and will continue thru May 22, followed by our drop-in water polo games which will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the pool season.

Veterans

- The ice arena closed for the season on May 3rd
- The pool is planned to be open May 24
- Many upcoming staff training days for the summer season staff
- Ended the ice season with 750 unique individuals signed up for skating lessons
- May 1st we hosted our first ever Goalie only hockey game, which brought many of our own league's goalies, but also goalies from other ice arenas to Vet's and even quite a few family members spectating. We hope to be able to offer more of these types of events in the future

Farmers Market:

- The Saturday market is open 7am-3pm regular season hours. Wednesday Market season began May 7 and runs through December 24, also 7am-3pm hours.
- The market averaged 70 vendors on Saturdays and 25 vendors on Wednesdays in May. 5 new vendors started attending.
- For the 3rd year in a row, we received a food safety grant from Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) to fund our monthly cooking demo series. Our 1st demo of the season was yesterday (5/14) @11am, featuring community member Thirupu Siva preparing 3 easy South Indian dishes showcasing

the acidification technique of quick pickling. The demos will take place 2nd Wednesdays through September, highlighting food preservation methods of seasonal produce grown by our vendors.

- We received 64 new vendor applications since our online application launched in January. We admitted 19 of these 2025 applicants, 3 of which are mobile food vendors. We closed our application for the season and will not be admitting any other vendors until next year.
- We have received applications from 20 prospective vendors for our 2025 Food Truck Rally series, 13 of which are returning vendors.
- We have received many inquiries from community groups wanting to table at Wednesday Market, local musicians wanting to perform on market days, and schools and camps wanting to schedule field trips and visits. Our first two field trips visited yesterday (5/14) from Abbott & Estabrook elementary schools.
- The market office demolition project is currently underway. The demolition of the market office building began last week. We hope the remaining work will be completed by late May.
- Market continues to be heavily impacted by development construction surrounding us. There are 2 active sites with 2 more starting later this year. We are concerned the staging of upcoming projects will be much more disruptive to market operations than the active sites have been thus far.

Greenbelt

- Staff were invited to present at an American Farmland Trust event on buy-protect-sell
- City Council approved Greenbelt funds for 4 properties totaling 258 acres (April 7)

Natural Area Preservation

- The last of our volunteer community science trainings were held in April – our Breeding Bird Survey and Turtle Stewards programs attracted about 65 total volunteers this year.
- A team of masters students from the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability wrapped up their 1.5-year-long project to analyze our 30 years' worth of wildlife data. A summary of their project can be found here: <https://seas.umich.edu/research-impact/student-research/masters-projects/three-decades-community-science-wildlife>
- NAP partnered with CTN to create an educational video about prescribed burns in Ann Arbor parks. The video can be viewed here: <https://nap.a2gov.org/ControlledBurnVideo>
- Prescribed burns were conducted at the following parks on the following dates:
 - Ruthven Nature Area – April 16
 - Black Pond Woods Nature Area – April 22
 - Gallup – April 24
 - Dhu Varren Woods Nature Area – May 9
 - Leslie Park Golf Course – May 12

Volunteerism

- We kicked-off the volunteer season with a trash pick-up at Veterans Memorial Park with Cub Scout Troop 3123. Volunteer groups had workdays at Fuller Park, Gallup Park, and the annual CHS workday was held again at a variety of parks and nature areas across the city.
- Stewardship workdays in nature areas were held in Bird Hills and Mary Beth Doyle parks.
- The Adopt-a-Park program is in full swing with 14 events in the past month and two new adopters including Guardian Tree Service who donated time and equipment to Graydon Park improvements.

Senior Center

- New monthly events include: Lunch & Learn's (Frauds & Scams; Safety in the Home), Workshops (Ham Radio – Do They Still Do That?; From the Naked Eye to Space Telescopes: A History of Astronomical Discoveries; Paper Making with Natural Materials with NAP), Tech Workshop: Essential Computer Skills.
- New Programming: Senior Park Walks start back up for the year, Balloon Volleyball Match, WCC Senior Focus Classes start (Tai Chi, Watercolors, Line Dancing, Senior Yoga, Strength Training, Italian Language),

May Drive-Through: Celebrate National Buttermilk Biscuit Day, Travels with George: The Heart of India, Tell Your Story – Writing a Memoir.

Huron Hills & Leslie Park Golf Courses

- Spring has been busy at both courses.
- Since their opening dates, Huron Hills has had more than 4800 golfers & Leslie Park more than 3100.
- Weekly Golf Leagues have begun at both courses and will bring in another 450 rounds per week.
- We have 36 participants in our first Adult Instruction Class of the season which ends next week. The next session of these adult classes will begin May 19th.
- Junior Instructional Golf Camps will begin June 16th with most of our summer camps near or at capacity.
- Forward tee renovations were done at Leslie Park. Some of the forward tees were stripped of sod, leveled and expanded, then the sod was replaced. This will allow for more use of the forward tees, which see more use from an aging golf population.

Buhr:

- Roller Derby is back practicing 5 days a week in the rink. They will have their first home game at Buhr park for the season on May 17
- The pool is planning to open on May 24th
- Swim lesson registration opened on May 1st with many of our classes filling up for the first session
- Octopods and Day camp registration is still open for the season

Environmental Education

- New adult programming is getting popular so adding mindful movement events in June. Outdoor story hour was very well attended, so splitting it into baby stroller walks and toddler story hour in June.