

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

PAC Update

Activation

- Environmental Education - each week from April to May there will be a K-5 program, outdoor storytime and kid move and grove at a new park that will also have a volunteer event. Programming at partner orgs continues, including the AA library, Community Action Network, and the Senior Center.
- The Hop, Skip, Spring event happened on Saturday April 4th. There were 175 people registered for the event and 221 people attended despite the location being moved, due to weather, from Gallup Park over to Veterans Memorial Skating Rink.
- Sunday April 19th We will feature a table at the Earth Day Celebration at Leslie Science and Nature Center.
- Saturday April 25th we will be hosting a costumed walk in the park around the Mary Beth Doyle Park loop promoting getting active while featuring interactive elements for younger participants.

Senior Center

- Through a \$5,000 grant awarded through the Michigan Association of Senior Centers and Molina Healthcare, the center will be providing free, technology courses instructed by AsKevin technology services. Classes will be held April-May and will accommodate 275 people. The center hosted a small, grant award ceremony that included attendance from Debby Dingall and Morgan Foreman.
- The Washtenaw County Older Adults Millage has allowed the center to hire an additional full-time employee which is in the process of being completed.
- The center's most popular program, Senior Park Walks, will start its 2026 season on Friday, May 1.

Natural Area Preservation

- NAP Supervisors completed Certified Prescribed Burn Manager training, hosted by the DNR.
- Citizen science training programs kicked off with Salamander Survey Training and Frog & Toad Survey training. About 70 volunteers attended the trainings.
- Staff coordinated with staff from the Leslie Science and Nature Center to close Black Pond Woods on nights when salamanders migrated to their breeding pools in order to protect them from disturbance.
- Contractors from GEI completed forestry mowing operations at Furstenberg and Black Pond Woods, clearing 9 acres of shrubs. They also continued working by hand in the aforementioned parks, as well as Argo.
- Staff presented an overview of NAP to the Community Academy.
- Staff completed our yearly prescribed burn public demonstration at Buhr Park, as well as burns at Barton and the Argo and Gallup Liveries.

Farmers Market

- Vendor application season has come to a close. The new vendor application deadline was April 1, and this year we received 75 applications. We accepted 16 new regular status vendors and 2 new mobile food vendors. The Food Truck Rally deadline was April 15. We have accepted 11 vendors and are awaiting more info about the upcoming closure of 4th Ave to see how many we can accommodate. The returning vendor application was March 1, and we have ~105 returning regular status vendors.
- Saturday Market 8am-3pm Winter Hours continue. April average: 55 vendors, 1 food truck, and 3 food carts. More vendors returning as spring approaches and the regular season returns in May.
- Saturday April 18 is Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) day to raise awareness and share info about the CSA programs offered by our farmers. The 5 vegetable farms participating this year are also eligible for the City Employee CSA program, where a wellness credit is awarded for signing up.
- As Dunbar Tower residents move in, we partnered with Avalon to connect residents on food assistance to market. We also created vouchers that new residents can exchange for a \$5 market token, as part of

an initiative the Kerrytown District Association initiated to welcome them to the neighborhood. We have had at least 3 new residents take advantage of this program so far.

Huron Hills & Leslie Park golf courses

- Leslie Park opened for the season April 3rd. Huron Hills has been open when the weather allows.
- Golf leagues begin the week of April 20th.
- Golf Instruction registration is underway, with Adult Beginner lessons beginning Monday, April 20th. Junior Golf Camps begin June 15,
- New Recreation Supervisor has been hired and will join our staff in late June.

Liveries

- Argo and Gallup Parks have officially opened for the season, with 76 returning temp staff and 41 new (as of 4/8/26). Extensive formal staff training is underway.
- Day Camps: 14 counselors have been hired with a great mixture of previous camp, livery/outdoor adventure, water safety, arts and crafts, teaching and ecology knowledge and experience
- Programs: auction of used equipment on April 25th
- Meeting Room: dates are almost fully booked through June. Several weekend days remain for the months of July and August.

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- Athletic Fields at Fuller and Olson officially opened for the season on Monday April 13.
- Park rentals at shelters will officially begin on Monday April 20.
- Goats have returned to Cobblestone Farm for the season.

Greenbelt

- EPA HQ reached out to staff to learn about the Bluebelt
- A mailing to eligible Bluebelt landowners was done in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Conservation District

Veterans

- RFP for the compressor work in order to reopen ice rink sometime in the Fall is currently published with bids due by May 1
- Currently have 29 staff in the hiring process for pool season, and continuing interviews. Receiving fewer applicants than in previous years, but should have enough for staffing.
- New, more energy efficient, and less maintenance LED lighting is expected to start being put up in the ice rink in late April most likely extending into early May.

Vets Pop-up Dog Park

- 3474 Estimated visits since March 15th; 13385 estimated visits since opening the dog park.

Mack/Fuller

- Mack is finishing our last group lessons for the season.
- At Mack this fall and winter, we will have given over 1500 private lessons. Lessons that have served swimmers of all ages and abilities
- Fuller is also fully staffed for the summer. We will be welcoming back nearly 70% of our staff from last year.
- Our day camp registration was very successful on April 8 and we are looking for a full summer of fun day camp days.
- The construction on our camp shelter will be beginning soon.

Buhr

- Ann Arbor Roller Derby starts practicing back at Buhr in the ice rink April 20 and their first game of the season will take place May 2nd
- Towards the end of the month, we have a few additional groups renting the ice rink for one off events before we open up the pool for the season
- Summer staff hiring started off well and nearly finished hiring for the season. Welcoming back a lot of returning staff
- Registration for day camp and swim team opened up earlier this month and went well. Only two weeks of day camp are still available for registration

Volunteerism

- The volunteer program has started to use CityWorks to track requests for episodic volunteers from City Staff. This brings the program's tracking into alignment with park ops and NAP.
- In coordination with Environmental Education, a volunteer event will be hosted at the same park as their weekly programming in April and May. Their programming helps spotlight diverse parks and allows the volunteer program to recruit from a different user base.
- In collaboration with parks activation, 11 volunteers helped to make the Hop, Skip, Spring event a success.
- There are many opportunities to volunteer this season which can be found at: cityofannarbor.volunteerhub.com. The biggest volunteer need at this time is for the bolded events.
 - Thursday, 4/16 10am-noon, Foxfire North Park spring clean up
 - Saturday, 4/19 10am-noon, Cranbrook Park spring clean up
 - **Sunday, 4/19 varied shifts between 11am and 5:30pm, Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival**
 - Sunday, 4/19 1-4pm, Furstenberg Nature Area invasive shrub cutting
 - Sunday, 4/19 3-5pm, Turtle Steward training
 - Thursday, 4/23 10am-noon, Bader Park spring clean up
 - Thursday, 4/23 7-9pm, Breeding Bird Survey training
 - **Saturday, 4/25 10am-1:30pm, Kids Costume Walk activity stations**
 - Sunday, 4/26 10am-noon, West Park spring clean up
 - Sunday, 4/26 1-4 pm, Mary Beth Doyle Park invasive shrub cutting
 - Thursday, 4/30 10am-noon, Esch Park spring clean up
 - Friday, 5/8 10am-noon, Gallup Butterfly garden maintenance
 - Saturday, 5/9 1-4pm, Mary Beth Doyle Park spring invasive pulling
 - Sunday, 5/10 9am-noon, Bluffs Nature Area spring invasive pulling
 - Sunday, 5/10 1-4pm, Bird Hills Nature Area, spring invasive pulling
 - Saturday, 5/16 9-11am, Huron River Day/Riverside park litter pickup
 - Saturday, 5/16 10am-noon, Huron River Day/Gallup park litter pickup
 - Saturday 5/16 11am-1pm, Huron River Day/Bandemer park litter pickup
 - **Saturday 5/16 various times, Huron River Day festival volunteers**
 - Sunday 5/17 9am-noon, Hickory Nature Area spring invasive pulling
 - Sunday, 5/17 1-4pm, Oakwoods Nature Area spring invasive pulling