

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

PAC Update

Mack/Fuller

- Fuller and Buhr are partnering with Alpha House to provide 10-day camp opportunities each week for children experiencing homelessness.
- Mack Pool closed out the 2025/2026 season with impressive numbers: 1,500 private lessons delivered, 598 group lesson students including over 400 unique participants, and a swim team that saw 276 unique swimmers and more than 500 total registrations.
- Fuller Pool opened on Sunday May 10.

Activation

- Preparing for Huron River Day Saturday May 16th which will feature new interactive morning segments before the afternoon festival to help people learn more about the river, water quality and conservation efforts.
- Ran a Scavenger Hunt through Mary Beth Doyle and received feedback from participants that “it was fun” and that they were excited for an event to be happening at Mary Beth Doyle Park because “nothing ever happens here.”
- May 30th will be the first ‘Party in the Park’ at West Park with music by teen artists from the neutral zone and other interactive elements for the public from noon -3 p.m.
- Environmental Education: throughout the summer there are K-5 nature art programs on Mondays, Outdoor Story Time on Tuesdays, Outdoor Yoga on Wednesdays, Nature Play on Thursdays, and Adult Art and Nature, Women’s Hikes and Nature Nerds Book Club monthly.

Senior Center

- Jana Hustedt has been hired as the full-time Parks and Recreation Coordinator for the Senior Center. Jana comes from working with volunteerism and has a strong knowledge of Ann Arbor Parks and experience working with the Ann Arbor community.
- Outdoor programming has started for the season: park walks, pickleball, art in the park series, Nordic walking, and birding basics with the activation team.
- The facility roof and parking lot are being assessed for replacement for the next FY. Both are in deteriorating condition.

Natural Area Preservation

- The last of our community science programs have launched, with trainings for both the Breeding Bird Survey and Turtle Stewards programs taking place in April. Both programs have approximately 100 participants in total.
- Contractors from GEI continued invasive species treatment in select parks, including cutting invasive shrubs and treating emerging herbaceous invasives with herbicide.
- Staff responded quickly to clean up trees and limbs that had fallen over nature trails as a result of the tornado.
- Staff continued conducting prescribed burns in several parks.

Farmers Market

- 7am-3pm Saturday Market hours began May 2. Wednesday Market began May 6. May Saturday average: 75 vendors, 1 food truck, & 5 food carts. May Wednesday average: 23 vendors, 1 food truck, 3 food carts, & 2 community groups.

- We received 83 new vendor applications for 2026. We accepted 15 new regular status vendors and 2 new mobile food vendors. We have 103 returning regular status vendors and 8 returning mobile food vendors (i.e. food trucks, carts & pop-ups)
- We received 25 applications for our July-October Food Truck Rally series. We have accepted 16 vendors across the four events. We're awaiting more info on the closure of 4th Ave to assess total numbers.
- Sunday May 24 is our annual Flower Day event, 10am-4pm. A combined event with the Sunday Artisan Market, it's an extra opportunity to buy annuals, perennials, vegetable & herb seedlings, native plants, cut flowers, flower-driven foods artisan goods. We'll have a food truck, live music, and kids' activities.
- For the 4th year in a row, we received a food safety grant from Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) to fund our cooking demo series. Our 1st demo of the season is May 13 at 10:30, featuring market staff member Tyler Moss preparing a dish with Michigan asparagus. The demos will take place 2nd Wednesdays through September, highlighting seasonal produce grown by our 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. We have hosted field trips from Bach and Lincoln Schools so far this month, with May field trips coming up from Burns Park, Emerson School, Daycroft School, Eberwhite, and Thurston.
- Soon the redevelopment project at 303 Detroit will be installing a construction fence within the Farmers Market covering approximately 1,000 square feet to utilize as a construction staging area.

Huron Hills & Leslie Park golf courses

- Both courses are open for the season. The April 15 storm resulted in a fair amount of damage at Huron Hills. Clean up at Huron Hills took some time but has been completed.
- Adult Beginner Golf Instruction is ongoing.
- All of our golf leagues are up and running.
- Junior Golf Camps begin at the start of summer break; very limited space is still available.
- Recreation Supervisor has been hired and will be starting in late June.

Liveries

- Gallup is open for the season offering Stillwater rentals and will start trips as soon as the river levels subside
- Argo opens for the Season on May 9th.
- River programming started with river kids on May 5th.
- Countless school groups are scheduled to come boating this month including 450 Pioneer students.

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- Cobblestone Farm Barn recently had 26 support poles installed on the lower level to address barn stability and safety. Larger permanent repair to take place in Jan – mid-March 2027.
- Liberty Plaza construction is going well and on time for reopening June 4. Landscaping will start May 14.

Greenbelt

- Council approved our contribution to Superior Township's purchase of 161 acres for a nature preserve/camp, to close by the end of June.
- Greenbelt and Farmers Market staff jointly organized a series of Vendor Resource Wednesdays for the summer, where organizations that market vendors may want to talk to can table at the farmers market, i.e. bringing the resources to the audience rather than the audience to the resources.
- After submitting an Notice of Intent, the Greenbelt was invited to submit an application to EGLE's Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant, which can fund purchase of conservation easements on natural area properties that protect water quality.

Buhr

- Both pools are being filled this week and cement around the perimeter of the pool will be laid and we plan to open May 23rd to the public
- Staff have been working hard preparing for the upcoming season
- Roller Derby had their first bout (game) of the season on May 2, they are practicing 5 days out of the week throughout the season
- Fuller and Buhr are partnering with Alpha House to provide day camp opportunities to 10 children experiencing homelessness each week

Veterans

- Temporary wall up in arena
- Pool liner patched, pool being cleaned, filled, systems testing hopeful for week of May 18th

Vets Pop-up Dog Park

3160 estimated visits this month; 16550 estimated total visits since opening the park in November.

Volunteerism

- The volunteer program applied for and was awarded a \$5000 grant from EGLE to conduct river cleanups
- Two hundred twenty five students and teachers with Community High School volunteered with the parks department for their annual day in service, volunteering a total of 422.75 hours.
- There are many opportunities to volunteer this season which can be found at:
cityofann Arbor.volunteerhub.com.
 - Thursday, 5/21 10am-noon, Windemere Park clean up
 - Saturday, 5/23 9am-noon, Argo Nature Area spring invasive pulling
 - Saturday, 5/23 1-4pm, Cedar Bend Nature Area spring invasive pulling
 - Sunday, 5/24, 10am-noon, Cranbrook Park clean up
 - Wednesday, 5/27 10am-noon, Bicentennial Park clean up
 - Thursday, 5/28 10am-noon, Creal Park clean up
 - Sunday, 5/31 9am-noon, Marshall Nature Area spring invasive pulling
 - Sunday, 5/31 1-4pm, Huron Hills Golf Course Woods spring invasive pulling
 - Monday, 6/1 12:30-2:30, Gallup Pond River clean up
 - Thursday, 6/4 10am-noon, Bromley Park clean up
 - Saturday, 6/6 9am-noon, Hickory Nature Area spring invasive pulling
 - Saturday, 6/6 1-4pm, Black Pond Woods spring invasive pulling
 - Thursday, 6/11 10am-noon, Wurster Park clean up
 - Friday, 6/12 10am-noon, Gallup Park Butterfly Garden workday
 - Sunday, 6/14 9am-noon, Riverwood Nature Area spring invasive pulling