

## Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

### PAC Update

#### Buhr

- We have started our themed skates for the season with Disney, Winter wonderland, and K-pop
  - Activation is helping us with our winter wonderland themed skate on Dec. 20th. The winter wonderland skate in the past has been a popular theme so we are excited to be working with Activation
- Our women's drop-in hockey has increased in popularity compared to previous seasons
- Over the AAPS winter break we will have additional sticks and pucks and open skate opportunities.
- Logan Elementary will be hosting their 3rd annual winter fest on 12/12 offering a skating opportunity for the school and their families
- We have three marriage proposals that we know of taking place this month
- Last season we had several groups privately host family and friend gatherings around winter break and many of them are scheduled back for this winter school break and we have some new groups on the schedule

#### Veterans

- Sessions 3 and 4 of ice-skating lessons opened 12/1 at 8am. By 9am, some of the classes were already at max capacity.
- We hosted our first ever 3v3 hockey tournament on Black Friday. 32 players registered, and fans came to watch. Overall, a great success from those who participated as well as those who ran it.
- Looking into expanding our competitive hockey leagues to offer another stepping stone. The jump from our draft league to our C-League is too large for most players, so we want to implement a D-League to help that gap. We have been hitting the max cap of players (130 for 8 teams) in the draft league, so this will give some of the higher skilled players a place to play and open up some room for newer players in the draft league.

#### Activation

- The Great Gingerbread Hunt will take place at Gallup Park on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM – 2 PM. Participants will track the Gingerbread Man through Gallup to the Meeting room where they can decorate a cookie and enjoy a craft.
- Gallup Glow and Cocoa will be set up over the Island path of Gallup Park Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> for people to walk through and enjoy cocoa once they reach the universal playground side of the park. From 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM.
- We are assisting with the Winter Wonderland Skate on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at Buhr Park.
- Wreath making was so popular in November that a second session was added. Also added Winter Toddler Storytimes at the Senior Center in November and December.
- Monthly library park walks and women in the woods hikes remain well attended.

#### Senior Center

- New Programming Includes: "Simple Seasonal Soups" series hosted by Eleva Potter (December is White Chicken Chili); Drive Through – "Celebrate with Festive Cookies!"; Workshops – Pet Portraits with Eleva, Travels with George: The History, Culture & Wine of Northern Spain & Southern France, Celebrate Santa Lucia Day! with Eleva; Lunch & Learns (Introduction to Diabetes, Chronic Pain and Treatment Options). WCC classes are ending next week, programming winding down before holidays. Facility will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 4 for some updates: updates to kitchen for cooking classes, new room partitions/accordion doors, built in storage and wall unit in the Conference Room.

### Volunteerism

- In mid-November we hosted a Playground Refresh weekend where four separate volunteer groups helped weed and spread fresh play-safe woodchips at 4 parks: Fritz, Arbor Oaks, Winewood Thaler, and The Ponds. This will help keep these areas safe and suppress weeds in the spring.
- A new Park Adopter Group, UofM's Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, began volunteering at Gallup Park. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> they focused on raking leaves from the Universal Access Playground and removed over 40 compost bags of leaves and swept sand back to the sandbox.
- Beckley Park received help from volunteers November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Bocce and horseshoe courts were weeded, raked, swept, had overgrown shrubs trimmed back and were looking great afterwards.

### Mack/Fuller

- Mack Swim team won the SMSL league this year
- Swim lessons are open for the next session and are nearly full
- Private swim lessons are ongoing through the end of the year, with more opportunities coming in 2026.

### Farmers Market

- Wednesday and Saturday markets are currently open 7am-3pm regular season hours. Wednesday Market ends for the season on December 24. December 27 is the last Saturday market with regular season hours. Saturday 8am-3pm winter hours start January 3.
- With the early arrival of cold and snowy weather, some vendors have ended their seasons earlier than usual. As a result, we are averaging 50 vendors on Saturdays, and 15 vendors Wednesdays in December. We still have a good variety of seasonal produce, farm products, value-added goods, artisan items, and prepared food available. Many of our vendors are also selling wreaths, holiday greens, and other decor.
- In December we have had 3 mobile food vendors on Saturdays and 1 on Wednesdays.
- Due to the SNAP pause in November, Fair Food Network rolled out a new Double Up Bonus Bucks program, which gives SNAP customers \$40 free to spend on Michigan-grown produce. The vouchers expire at the end of this month. As of 12/8/25, vendors have redeemed \$6,000 worth of Bonus Bucks. Fair Food Network also waived the \$20 daily matching limit through the end of 2025 and added frozen fruits and vegetables with no added salt, fat, or sugar to the list of allowable items for purchase. Bonus Bucks, the lifted matching limit, and the addition of frozen produce have been wonderful to support the whole market community, but market staff has had to put in a lot of extra work to facilitate the Bonus Bucks program and inform customers and vendors about all the changes.
- The Washtenaw County Prescription for Health program ended for the season at the end of November. Vendors redeemed >\$3,600 worth of these vouchers as of 12/8/25.
- On Saturday December 13 Huron High School students will sing Holiday carols in the morning, and the Ann Arbor Civic Chorus will hold their annual community sing, 1-2pm. We will also have UM architecture students displaying their final design projects as a community group that day.
- Market continues to be heavily impacted by surrounding development construction, exacerbating longstanding parking challenges. Market staff continue to inform developers and subcontractors about parking challenges and options, in an attempt to reach solutions that will improve conditions for vendors and customers alike.

### Greenbelt

- Staff have been engaging in more easement enforcement the last few months
- The first Bluebelt projects have been reviewed by the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

### Natural Area Preservation

- In cooperation with the City Clerk's Office, staff installed two new bluebird nest boxes at Fairview Cemetery.

- Staff and volunteers conducted two prescribed burns, one at Bird Hills, and one at Mary Beth Doyle.
- Staff began coordinating with GEI Consultants to plan additional restoration work in select parks. GEI's work will be funded by a grant awarded from the 2024 Inflation Reduction Act. Field work is scheduled to begin in December.

#### Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- Requests for park rentals and field rentals will open on Monday Jan. 5 for the 2026 season, mid-April thru early November.
- Cobblestone Farm continues to host holiday parties through December and into early January.

#### Liveries

- The Meeting Room continues to be rented frequently.
- Gallup Park and livery continue to host both Park Activation and Environmental Education.

#### Huron Hills & Leslie Park golf courses

- Leslie Park golf course closed for the season on November 16th.
- Though we do not track or monitor the exact numbers of users at Leslie Park once closed, the numbers of walkers, joggers and animal enthusiasts utilizing the course have increased significantly. The recent snow has brought out even more use with cross country skiers and sledders alike enjoying the facility.
- Golf at Huron Hills remained a local inexpensive option for golf until the recent snow. Now sledders, and skiers alike are flocking to Huron to enjoy wintertime activities. On a snowy weekend, we could have up to a hundred plus visitors and facility users.