

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Facility and programming update for PAC
March 2023

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

Natural Area Preservation (NAP):

- Staff supported with coordination and presentations at the annual Michigan Burning Issues Symposium attended by 180 prescribed fire practitioners from around the state.
- NAP's annual Volunteer Crew Burn Training was held in person for the first time since 2019 and was a success with 19 in person attendees.
- NAP has begun hosting workdays again after a winter hiatus. In February, 23 individuals volunteered a total of 69 hours at workdays.
- NAP's Salamander Survey Training was attended by 23 volunteers, and 33 people are signed up to participate in the survey. NAP's Frog and Toad Survey Training was attended by 18 volunteers, and 32 people are signed up to participate in the survey. Half of the volunteers for both surveys are returning volunteers from previous years.

Land Acquisition (Greenbelt):

- Staff attended a summit in Annapolis, MD brokered by American Farmland Trust between government conservation programs, like the Greenbelt, and USDA-NRCS grant administrators and policymakers. The Greenbelt's invitation to this summit is testament to its notoriety on the national scale, as only 30 programs were tapped nationally to participate in this conversation. The summit fostered deeper connections between the practitioners and grant makers that will improve policies and administration of a key grant resource for the City's Greenbelt program.
- Staff continue to build out the City's new Greenbelt framework for buy-protect-sell acquisitions. This innovative transaction model offers the City a unique opportunity to expand the Greenbelt's impact beyond primary resource conservation objectives and into secondary objectives like supporting affordable land purchasing opportunities for new and beginning farmers in our region.

PARK OPERATIONS STAFF:

GIVE 365

- 155 park webpages updated. (Only 7 left to do)
- Won \$2,500 at MParks Green Gift contest toward expansion of the Compost/Recycle/Landfill stations in Ann Arbor parks.

Adopt-A-Park

- Adopt-a-Park has concluded community input regarding a park proposal to add Japanese Cherry trees to Buhr Park. This is an expansion of the donated cherry tree that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship with Hikone, Japan.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

Golf

- Leslie Park is scheduled to open March 31 (weather dependent) while Huron hills has been open all winter when lack of snow allowed play. (474 rounds for December, January, and February)
- The golf courses have sold 65 season passes

Mack and Fuller

- Mack swim team had 114 swimmers in our first session and 139 swimmers in our second session
- Our Mack group lessons served over 300 swimmers.
- For summer we will offer 350 spaces for group swim lessons
- Fuller Day camp is slated to welcome 750 day camp participants this summer. Registration starts April 5th at 8 am for all camps.

Park Rentals, Special Events and Customer Service

- Olson and Fuller fields open April 15
- Ann Arbor Civic Band summer concert series resumes June 14 at Burns Park
- We have received 36 boat locker applications for 6 rental boat lockers at Bandemer Park.

Cobblestone Farm

- May, June and October 2023 are fully booked
- July, August and September 2023 still have a few weekend openings available.

Canoe Liveries

- The Argo and Gallup Canoe Liveries open for the season On April 22nd. Gallup will be open every day 10:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Argo is open weekends starting May 6th until Memorial Day weekend. Starting Memorial Day weekend both Argo and Gallup will be open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.
- River Kids, a preschool instructor-led program offered at the Gallup Park Livery, will start in May and continues throughout the summer with programs offered 3x/week. Each week a caregiver and their child explores the river world by paddling a kayak, canoe or paddleboat. Discovering river critters with fishing, stories, art and play rounds out the fun.
- 42nd Huron River Day Sunday, May 21, 12-4 p.m. Come celebrate the wonderful Huron River! Free and fun festival activities include children's activities, live animal programs, river exhibits, live music, dancing, fishing, and much more. Boat rentals are discounted to \$5/boat! Food trucks will be offering a variety of snacks and meals. Ride your bike and receive a coupon for a free boat rental.

Veteran's Memorial Park:

- Added sticks and pucks 5 days a week to close out the season. Will also be adding additional evening open skates and drop-in hockey.
- Instructional skating has brought in over 1,200 participants for the 2022-2023 season.
- Summer hiring is underway. We are looking forward to having a lot of returning staff and adding new members to our team.
- The city is introducing our new combined swim team the Ann Arbor Octopods (A2O). This combined swim team will run for 4 seasons. This summer there will be practice times and opportunities at all 3 outdoor pools. We are excited to offer this new structured program. This change will allow for a consistent swim experience for city swimmers.
- Swim lessons will run on a new schedule this summer to help optimize pool space and participation at both Vets and Buhr. Group lessons will run two days a week at each location.

Buhr Park:

- Hosted Buhr Blitz Day which drew over 200 participants on Presidents Day
- Will close out the winter season on March 26th
- In conjunction with Vets and Fuller will introduce a new aquatics program for the summer.
- Will offer summer camps for the entire summer:
 - June 12-16, Classic Summer Camp Week
 - June 19-23, Around the World Week
 - June 26-30, Space Week
 - July 10-14, Nature Week
 - July 17-21, Medieval Times Week
 - July 24-28, Teams Week
 - July 31-Aug. 4, Pirate Week
 - Aug. 7-11, Science Week
 - Aug. 14-18, Dinosaur Week

Ann Arbor Farmers Market:

- This year the market turns 104! We will be hosting our most full event schedule since the pandemic began.
- CSA day is Saturday April 1, during market. This is an opportunity for customers to learn about our market vendors who offer CSAs, or Community Supported Agriculture shares. City employees can also learn about the City Employee CSA program at the event. More info on that program is available here
- Flower Day returns on Sunday May 28, 10am-4pm. This event, hosted in collaboration with the Sunday Artisan Market, is an opportunity to purchase, learn about, and celebrate spring flowers and plants. In addition to Farmers Market & Artisan Market vendors, we will also have info booths, kids' activities, and live music.
- Food Truck Rallies will take place 5-8pm on the third Wednesday of the month, July-October. For each rally, 15+ local food trucks & carts will participate, and we will have live music.
- We have partnered with EdibleWOW magazine to host cooking demos, featuring local guest chefs & seasonal ingredients. The chefs will offer cooking tips and samples for customers, and our vendors will have the featured ingredients available for purchase at their stalls. These demos will take place 11am-1pm during Wednesday market on the first Wednesday of the month, June-September. We have received a grant from the Michigan Farmers Market Association to include Food Safety information in these demos.
- Wednesday Market will be our 'Community Day', where we invite local educational organizations, non-profits, and City departments to provide information about their programs and get customers involved. We will occasionally include kids' activities on these days, based on which organizations are in attendance.