

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

PAC Update

GIVE/AAP:

- GIVE 365 and the Canoe Livery Staff have been busy planning for our upcoming annual Trick or Treat on the River event. The event is Sunday, October 13th, noon-4p.m. We have 90 volunteers signed up to help us run this event. We are looking forward to another successful event for the community.
- The annual river clean up program has come to a close for the season. We had a record-breaking season for this program with 29 events, 378 volunteers totaling 878 hours. Volunteers recovered 2708 lbs of litter from the river this season.
- Basketball Court Murals at Bicentennial and Leslie Park are wrapping up this week as the Ann Arbor Bicentennial Logo stencil was recently purchased for the artists to finalize both projects. We are working with Rosie from NAP/ConOps to get drone photos of the project once complete.

Farmers Market:

- We averaged 73 vendors on Saturdays and 30 vendors on Wednesdays in October. The weather has been warm and dry so our vendors continue to have an abundance of produce and farm products and as a result Saturday market has still been full in October.
- Our October Food Truck Rally is October 16, 5-8pm. It is the last rally of the 2024 season and we have 11 food trucks and 5 food carts/pop-ups signed up. Local Musician Lark'n will be performing.
- Our October Cooking Demonstration featured community member Paisy Sulimin preparing authentic Indonesian tempeh on October 9. She invited market vendor Jaspreet Sawhney from Zaica Life to collaborate with her to serve the dish for sampling- 'butter tempeh'. The dish showcased produce from 3 market vendors and Zaica saffron.
- Vendors Goetz Farm and Madison's Closet are now authorized to take WIC Produce Connections benefits as of October 9. Due to a difficult roll-out and drastic changes to the delivery of the program, we went from over 40 farmers accepting these benefits down to just these two. Their authorization was made possible by a grant from Michigan Farmers Market Association to cover the cost of tablets, card readers, and the app needed to accept WIC Produce Connection benefits.
- Mobile Food vendors Pilar's Tamales, Succulent Street Food, Rite Spice Kitchen, and Vegano Italiano Food Truck have joined Saturday Markets in October. Fork in Nigeria Food Truck has joined on some Wednesdays in October.
- Musicians 2 Stephens Jazz have played on October Saturdays. On October 19, the Cerus Saxophone Quartet will be playing during Saturday market.
- Wednesday Market has had 5 Community Groups table in October, most attending multiple days: OSI, VegMichigan, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, Mercy USA, & Ann Arbor Comprehensive Plan. VegMichigan has been signing up people for their 30-day plant-based challenge and offering plant-based food samples prepared by local businesses.

Veterans:

- We have fully closed the pool for the season, and opened the ice rink a little earlier than previous years.
- We currently have 6 draft hockey league teams, total of 99 skaters playing in this first season, trying to get to 8 teams by the end of this rink season. We have 6 C-League competitive hockey teams playing this year at Vet's as well.
- Our first session of ice-skating lessons has begun: we have 253 students in this first session.
- Eastern Michigan University Women's Hockey Team has started their inaugural season out here at Veteran's Memorial
- October 27th we are hosting a spooky skate event during our open skate

Fuller/Mack:

- Fuller closed on Sept 15 for the season. We ended the season with a nice hot weekend and over 1000 visitors.
- Ann Arbor Octopods Swim team is seeing it's highest fall registration numbers since its creation in 2013. We have welcomed 184 swimmers this fall!
- We have introduced weekday evening lessons for little swimmers 6 and younger and have found a great deal of interest. This has been especially true in our Goldfish classes for 3-4 year olds.
- We have added an additional adult swim class due to high interest.
- Our Partnership with the GeroFit group from the Ann Arbor VA has continued and they are seeing an increase in participation.

Buhr:

- The 2024 Down Syndrome Support Team Buddy Walk was held at the rink space in Buhr Park, attracting over 500 attendees who came together to celebrate and support the diverse abilities and accomplishments of individuals with Down syndrome.
- In the same weekend, the Roller Derby team concluded their season with their final outdoor game. They look forward to returning to Buhr next spring.
- We are preparing for another winter season and are excited to start working on new projects aimed at creating an inviting atmosphere for outdoor skating.
- Our winter schedule is starting to fill up. We're excited to welcome a few new youth hockey groups to the rink, along with returning groups, some of which are celebrating their 40th season at Buhr.
- We hope to open the ice rink on November 9th, weather permitting

Liveries:

- On Sunday October 13th Gallup livery and Give 365 will host the popular, Trick or Treat on the river.
- Gallup livery will be closing for the boating season on October 20th.
 - *The Gallup Park meeting room will continue to be rentable year-round.*

Huron Hills:

- This fall, Huron Hills has had two different high school golf teams that use our course for both practices and team matches. These teams will bring out 8-20 high school golfers a couple times a week to play.
- Huron Hills has hosted two different High School Regional Matches with more than 80 local high school golfers playing in each event.
- Huron Hills will stay open for play until the snow flies. Even after then, the course will sporadically open on warmer days to allow golfers a chance to get out and golf.
- Staff is prepping for the up-coming sledding season at Huron Hills. We will inspect the hills for safety and ensure they are clear of debris and obstacles. We also will move the on-course porta-johns from the back of the golf course closer to the sledding hills for winter use.

Leslie Park:

- Leslie Park will be hosting it's Season Ending golf event on Sunday November 3rd. This Chili Open event is a fun year end 2-person scramble that is already filled to capacity.
- Leslie Park will close for the year on either November 3rd, or November 10th. This date will be dependent on weather.
- We would like to welcome our new Golf Course Superintendent – Michael Brown to the Park's Department. Michael will be replacing Victor Morales-Rios as the lead greenskeeper for both Leslie Park and Huron Hills golf courses.

Senior Center:

- New workshops include: Hoarding & Cluttering – The "Stuff" Beneath the Stuff; Aging in Place: Comparing Medicare Plans; Catholic Social Services Local Programs; Reducing Your Risk for Dementia

- New programming: Travelogues with George: Britannia; new indoor artist exhibit of local watercolor artist Joan Cohen Jones; October Drive-Through: "Avoid the Tricks & Enjoy the Treats in Retirement!"; Tech Talk: Tech Heists; Nordic Walking; Croquet in the Park.

NAP:

- NAP hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event which was attended by 99 volunteers. A great time was had by all.

Greenbelt:

- Staff tabled at the City's Local Food Festival last week and was nearly constantly talking to some interested member of the public
- FY 2024 ACEP-ALE-awarded property appraisals are finished
- Staff are seeking new BPS opportunities