

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

PAC Update

Buhr

- The Vets hockey league is back playing a few games at Buhr on Thursday nights through the remainder of the season
- Over the winter break we had 2850 people attend our open skates and 300 people attended a sticks & pucks/ drop-in hockey session
- Over MLK weekend we had extended hours
- The Dexter men's hockey team hosted their hockey game against lake area united at Buhr earlier this month
- Ann Arbor Open will be having a school field trip out at the ice rink later this month

Veterans

- Session 3 of skating lessons filled almost immediately. We currently have 739 unique individuals registered for skating lessons this year, with vacancies still in our Session 4 lessons.
- We have averaged over 125 players in our Draft hockey league, and we were able to add a 6th team to our B-League. We currently have 8 draft teams, 6 C-League teams, and 6 B-League teams. Looking at possibilities to add a D-League next year to help bridge the skill gap offerings between the C-League and Draft league.

Activation

- West Coast Swing dance lessons and social dancing will now become regular for the year of 2026. They will take place on the first Wednesday of every month at Cobblestone from 6 PM to 9 PM.
- We hosted a Family Trivia Night at the Senior Center with 34 people and 10 families.
- The Take a Hike Program at the Mallets Creek Library and Marybeth Doyle Park was well attended. There will be a Winter Bird Pastel Portraits class at the Traverwood Library in Jan and Feb. Continuing with Adult Art and Nature series, Women in Woods hiking group and adding a Nature Nerds Book Club. Also adding an animal-themed story time at Vets on Tuesdays in Feb.
- Some upcoming February Events
 - K.I.S.S. Valentine's Day Dance – Kids Invite Someone Special
 - Knitting 101

Senior Center

- Zoom Scavenger Hunt; Out & About Luncheon ; Zoom Jeopardy; Zoom Paint (by numbers) Like a Pro; Zoom Vision Board Workshop; Keep Your Skin Healthy During the Colder Months Drive-Through; Travels with George – Italy, The Amalfi Coast & Tuscany; Brunch & Learn: Aging in Place; Lunch & Learn: Helpful Tips and Support for Seniors, How Do You Know When It's Time for Hospice; New Artist Exhibit and Reception on Jan. 23 for local senior artist Brian Taylor; 3 New Bridge Classes; Fiber Arts Class: Additional mall walks;

Volunteerism

- The Volunteer program team is supporting the Forestry-led Citizen Pruner Volunteer Program which kicked off with a virtual volunteer training in early January

Mack/Fuller

- After winning the SMSL fall championship, we have kicked off our winter session of the Octopods swim team. Our team has 197 swimmers and has been led by our great coaching staff!

- Our second sessions of group lessons are underway, and we have nearly 200 participants. Registration for our final sessions will open Jan 21.
- We have 22 adults registered for our Adult only group lessons.
- In January alone, we will be giving over 180 private lessons.

Farmers Market

- Saturday Market 8am-3pm Winter Hours started January 3. Wednesday Market resumes in May. We are averaging 20 vendors, 1 food truck, and 1 food cart on January Saturdays. We still have a solid variety of seasonal produce, farm products, value-added goods, artisan items, and prepared food.
- Due to the November SNAP pause, Fair Food Network created Double Up Bonus Bucks, giving SNAP customers \$40 free to spend on Michigan-grown produce. As of 1/8/26, farmers redeemed \$20,850 worth of Bonus Bucks, a big boost for their late season sales and food access for our SNAP customers.

Greenbelt

- With formal City support, Greenbelt staff and external colleagues went to Lansing to advocate for Senate Bills 0685 through 0690, all of which passed and were signed by the Governor before the end of the year. These bills ensure the ability of farmland owners with conservation easements to claim State tax credits.
- Parks acquisition: The Furstenberg/Van-Dyck Dobos property closed before the holidays.

Natural Area Preservation

- GEI Consultants began removing invasive shrubs from 5 acres of parkland in Cedar Bend Nature Area as part of the Inflation Reduction Act Grant awarded to the City in 2024. The grant seeks to increase and strengthen urban forest canopy in economically disadvantaged areas.
- Staff coordinated with Park Operations and Davey Tree Service to quarantine and remove the tree infected with oak wilt at Black Pond Woods Nature Area.

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- Siding work on the north side of the Cobblestone Farmhouse will begin mid-February thru late March.
- The rental calendar for the 2026 season opened on Monday Jan. 5 and in one day, staff completed 16 park permits for dates beginning mid-April – mid-November.

Liveries

- The Gallup Park meeting room continues to be frequently rented.

Huron Hills & Leslie Park golf courses

- The golf courses remain closed during the winter. However, when the weather allows, the front-7 holes at Huron Hills are open. A \$5 fee can be paid at the “honor box” located on the clubhouse patio.
- Both golf courses remain popular sites for skiing, sledding, and dog walking during the winter.

Snow Match

- People Registered: 36 Recipients, 52 Volunteers, 17 Matches/Sidewalks Being Cleared by Volunteers

Vets Pop-up Dog Park

- 3323 estimated visits in December and early January
- Since opening in November = 5632 visits