

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming
PAC Update

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- The animal barn roof was replaced at Cobblestone Farm.
- The Cobblestone Farm Association will host their annual Harvest Festival on Sunday Oct. 19th, noon-4pm.
- Cobblestone Farm will host a 3-day workshop for mParks – Financial Sustainability – Tuesday Oct. 21 – Thursday Oct. 23.
- Ann Arbor Public Schools will return to Buhr Park and Cobblestone Farm on Thursday Oct. 23 for an all middle school cross country meet.
- Park rentals are beginning to slow down. The end of the rental season at most park shelters and fields is Sunday Oct. 26.

Liveries

- Gallup Livery will remain open for boat rentals through Sunday, October 19th
- Fall Colors Kayak Tour: guided Fall Colors Kayak Tour in conjunction with Environmental Education on Tuesday, October 8th.
- Trick-or-Treat Paddle: Our popular Trick-or-Treat Paddle will be held on Sunday, October 12th.

Environmental Education

- New programs in September including Outdoor Yoga, Build a Fairy Village and Women in the Wood hike were very successful and will continue in October. Adding Kids in the Kitchen monthly cooking class with Farmer's Market produce, Fall Colors paddle at the livery and a geology hike with county parks.

Farmers Market

- Wednesday and Saturday markets are currently open 7am-3pm regular season hours.
- We are still in the busiest time of year with the market averaging 85 vendors on October Saturdays, with all stalls under and outside the market pavilion filled, and 30 vendors on October Wednesdays. We continue to have 3-5 mobile food vendors on Saturdays and 1 on Wednesdays.
- Our 4th and final Food Truck Rally of the season is October 15, 5-8pm. We have 16 food trucks, carts, and pop-ups signed up. Ecology Center will be providing Zero Waste support. Live music by Root Cause Analysis.
- Trick or Treat at the Market will be October 29 during Wednesday Market. Market staff is collaborating with Parks Activation staff to bring candy stations, spooky decor, costumes, and lawn games, 9am-2pm.
- 5 field trips visited our Wednesday market in the month of October.
- 3 community groups tabled at Market in October, including Ann Arbor Safe Streets for All, Pilar's Foundation, and the Office of Sustainability and Innovation. 3 different musical acts played live during both market days, include students from Huron High School.
- Market continues to be heavily impacted by the surrounding development construction, which exacerbates longstanding parking challenges. Staff continue to work toward meaningful solutions that will improve conditions for vendors and customers alike.

Huron Hills & Leslie Park Golf Courses

- Leslie Park will be hosting its final golf tournament of the season on Sunday November 9th. This fun 2-person event fills up every year with 100+ golfers and is a perfect way to say good-bye to the season.
- Leslie Park GC will close for the year on Monday November 10th while Huron Hills will remain open until the snow flies in December.
- Huron Hills has been the host course for several community and regional tournaments for a few of the local high school girl's teams. It has been a great opportunity to showcase Huron Hills and what a great community course it is.

- Huron Hills was home for a short term UMAISE – Adaptive Golf League. This 3-week league brought more than 12 individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities together for a weekly 7-hole golf league. It was a wonderful experience for the golfers as well as the staff and we hope we can do this again next year.

Greenbelt

- The operation framework for the Bluebelt was adopted by the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. Staff are already engaging with partners on their first projects, but will release press and begin accepting applications directly from landowners in mid-October.
- The Greenbelt with WCPARC, WCCD, Legacy, and the Township land preservation programs together hosted its major first conserved farm tour event since pre-covid. 2/3 of the farms visited were Greenbelt funded. About 20 people attended each farm tour.

Natural Area Preservation

- All volunteer community science programs have concluded for the season. Of particular interest was this year's Nest Box Monitoring program, in which volunteers monitored nests that successfully fledged 35 young Bluebirds, as well as many Chickadees, Tree Swallows and House Wrens. Volunteers also monitored our first ever Tufted Titmouse nest, which fledged 5 little Titmice.
- A tree on the western border of Black Pond Woods Nature Area tested positive for oak wilt. Staff inspected the site, in consultation with Site Specific, Inc., and concluded that the infection is limited to one tree. Staff began planning for remediation, which will involve trenching around and removing the tree, as well as several other trees that will be structurally impacted by the work. Staff are working in cooperation with Public Services and private landowners, and the work is currently planned to be completed in-house. Drafting of legal agreements to perform work on private property is currently underway.
- In preparation for Fall burn season, prescribed burn notification signage was posted in all parks on the list to possibly burn this fall.

Volunteerism

- New Adopters for Olson Park Dog Park joined the Adopt-a-Park program and look forward to advocating for this park space.
- Over 50 volunteers, many doing 2 shifts, helped to make the Trick or Treat on the River event a success. In addition to many park maintenance and restoration events, volunteers have also helped at the Farmer's Market with Food Truck Rallies and at the A2Zero Green Fair.
- Approximately 150 May Mobility employees from around the globe volunteered for their Mayhem Week at Leslie, Gallup, and Vets Parks on September 18th.

Activation

- Trick or Treat on the River at Gallup Park on October 12th – 1100 in attendance
- Buhr Park Boo Bash will take place at Buhr Park on October 19th 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Trick or Treat at the Farmer's Market will take place Wednesday October 29th 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Spooky Skate will take place at Veteran's Memorial Park on November 1st from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- West Coast Swing Dancing Lesson and Social Dance Happening at Cobblestone Barn Wednesday November 5th and Wednesday 3rd December from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Pop-Up Play time for parents and toddlers moving indoors to rotational locations between Vets and Buhr.

Senior Center

- New programming includes: New artist exhibit featuring "Jumping Water Painters"; new weekly program starting "Movement for Joy"; Lunch & Learn (Medicare & You, Safe & Steady Fall Prevention); Travels with George: San Diego & Mexican Cruise: Drive-Through: Celebrating Veteran's Day; Workshop

with Eleva/Nap: Leaf Prints; Technology Workshop: AI & the Future; 3 Bridge games continuing as well as 2 weekly bridge games.

Mack/Fuller:

- Fuller Parking Lot will be complete this week!
- Mack Swim team is a month into their season, and we have won all of our meets so far. More importantly our swimmers are making great improvements in the water
- Our group swim lessons for both adults and kids started this past week
- U of M Club swim team is renting 4 nights a week for their practices.

Buhr:

- Roller derby has finished up their outdoor season for the year
- Buhr Park Boo Bash will take place at Buhr on Oct. 19th
- Working on getting the rink ready for the upcoming winter season and finishing up some projects

Veterans

- Ice Skating lessons and hockey leagues have begun now
- High School hockey season begins towards the end of October
- Halloween themed spooky skate is planned November 1, volunteerism is looking for volunteers to help decorate Vets for the event