

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming
PAC Update

Veterans

- Ice was put in by staff the first week of September.
- Opening for open skate 9/9
- We have 326 individuals registered for skating lessons already
- Hockey leagues begin 9/14
- Skating lessons begin 9/22

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- Fall wedding season has begun at Cobblestone Farm with nearly every weekend booked now through the end of the year.
- The athletic fields at Fuller and Olson are rented most days in the afternoons and on the weekends through early November.
- Park rentals include more fundraising walks/runs now that the weather has started to cool off.

Liveries

- Both Argo and Gallup remain open for rentals through September.
- Gallup open every day 10am-7pm and Argo open weekends 10am-7pm
- Birding by Boat: Gallup Pond Exploration Sept 8th. A new program being offered in collaboration with environmental education.
- Now that the school year is back in session, our calendar has many school field trips, as classes take advantage of our discounted pricing.
- With the conclusion of the river summer camps, the Gallup Park meeting room is now available every day, and the calendar is filling up quickly.

Environmental Education

- Toddler outdoor story hour and K-5 nature crafts continue to be popular. New programs of outdoor yoga for adults, and mindful movement and Animals of Ann Arbor for seniors are also popular.

Farmers Market

- Wednesday and Saturday markets are currently open 7am-3pm regular season hours.
- We are in the busiest time of year with the market averaging 90 vendors on September Saturdays, with all stalls under and outside the market pavilion filled, and 30 vendors on September Wednesdays. We continue to have 4-6 mobile food vendors on Saturdays and 2-3 on Wednesdays.
- Our 5th demo of the season was September 10 @11am, featuring market vendors Alex Severyn and Iryna Zykova of Ukrainian Homemade Food. They prepared Ukrainian-style crepes with sweet and savory ingredients purchased at market, including jam, peaches, Monahan's smoked salmon, and Alex's own honey. The demos took place 2nd Wednesdays through September, sponsored by a MIFMA Food Safety grant, and highlighting food preservation methods of locally grown, seasonal produce.
- Our 3rd Food Truck Rally of the season is coming up on September 17, 5-8pm. The theme is fall into fall as we say farewell to summer and say hello to autumn, with 18 food trucks, carts, and pop-ups signed up. Surya Mehndi will be doing henna body art, and the Ecology Center will be provided Zero Waste support. Live music by a TBA artist. Food Truck rallies are 3rd Wednesday evenings July-October.
- 5 field trips visited our Wednesday market in the month of September.

- 5 community groups tabled at Wednesday Market in September, including Ann Arbor Water's Stormwater Outreach team, and the Office of Sustainability and Innovation, and 3 different local musicians play live during both market days.
- The market office demolition project is 98% complete. The water is back on to the stalls, the construction fence is down, but we await the final asphalt section on the old building's footprint.
- 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

- All the Junior golf camps at Huron Hills have concluded for the year. It was a very successful year with 15 weekly camps that had more than 180 students. We had many compliments from parents and participants alike.
- Our Adult classes are also wrapping up a very successful year. We had 28 sessions for adult instruction with more than 224 participants.
- Leslie Park hosted the City Senior Amateur golf tournament in late August. We had more than 110 senior golfers compete in this fun 2-day event.
- Both golf courses are fully open and are still busy. We expect Leslie Park to remain open until the first week of November and Huron Hills into December.

Greenbelt

- Staff assisted with development of the new drone policy; drone use is a common standard of practice in conservation easement monitoring
- Staff are members of the TAC for HRWC's USFS grant that is funding a feasibility study for a watershed-level land preservation fund
- The Greenbelt had a table at the Local Food Festival and received healthy engagement there

Natural Area Preservation

- Staff coordinated with the Washtenaw County Health Department, allowing WCHD staff to collect ticks and mosquitoes from city parks for the purposes of disease surveillance. Both Lyme disease and West Nile Virus were detected in ticks and mosquitoes, respectively, allowing the WCHD to initiate a targeted public education campaign about these diseases.
- Staff spent time testing the functionality of OHM's asset management dashboard and validating their assessments in the field.
- Staff composed a contract for working with GEI Consultants to carry out restoration activities in the parks, utilizing the American Forests grant.

Volunteerism

- The Huron River Cleanup Program set a new single-year record with nearly 2900 pounds of litter collected from the river, despite running fewer events this year. There are still 3 more events planned this summer.
- The Volunteer Program began the process of coordinating volunteer engagement with special events held by partners like the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (A2ZERO Green Fair), Parks Activation, (Trick or Treat on the River and more), the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, and more.
- Bader Park basketball court access and visibility/safety was greatly improved thanks to neighborhood teenage boys volunteering with Adopt-a-Park to clear invasives and remove weeds from edges and cracks. The pastor at the church next door helped too and was very grateful.

Activation

- The West Park Activation went well and received positive feedback from the community.

- The dance series at Liberty Plaza was also well received by the community and drew over 25 people each evening to join in the free lessons and social dancing.
- Pop-Up Play happened every Tuesday in August and into September and has received positive reviews from parents and children in the community who attend.

Senior Center

- Hosted a senior townhall for State Representative Morgan Foreman that included booths for senior resource organizations, Debbie Dingell, Saline Mayor, and Pittsfield Township Manager.
- New programming includes:
 - Lunch & Learns (Eczema Awareness; Introduction to Arthritis; Self-Advocacy in Healthcare)
 - Travels with George: Ireland
 - Nordic Walking
 - WCC Senior Focus semester begins
 - Drive-Through: Pumpkin Palooza
 - NAP: Nature Journaling
 - AARP Smart Drivers Workshop
 - Balloon Volleyball match
 - New art exhibit: Falling Water Painters

Mack/Fuller:

- Fuller will be closing Sunday Sept 14.
- Mack will be opening to the public on Sept 22. And is currently in use by Ann Arbor Open School
- Our Octopods swim team will be kicking off their season on Sept 15 at Mack. We have 181 swimmers registered and are at 97% capacity.
- Registration for fall swim lessons is open.
- We will be continuing our women's only swim time on Saturdays from 6 – 7 pm. We have only women on deck during that swim allowing for those who need modesty an opportunity to swim. We will be working to cover our windows during that time as well.
- I want to shout out my amazing staff who have stuck with us to end our season here at Fuller. We could not do what we do without our dedicated staff.

Buhr:

- Buhr park closed for the pool season on September 1st
- Roller derby is still using the rink area into October
- The Down Syndrome Awareness group will be hosting their annual Buddy Walk at Buhr for the second year on September 26
- An immunocompromised group will be using the rink space as a safe recreation area