

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

PAC Update

Liveries

- Gallup Park Meeting room remains available for rentals throughout the fall and winter.

Farmers Market

- Wednesday and Saturday markets are currently open 7am-3pm regular season hours.
- We are still in a busy time of year with the market averaging 70 vendors on November Saturdays, with most stalls under the market pavilion filled. The market is averaging 20 vendors on November Wednesdays, with the addition of 10+ vendors for the Wednesday Market before Thanksgiving. Some of our farmers are done for the season, while other farmers have pivoted to offering wreaths, greenery, and other holiday decor, in addition to seasonal produce. We continue to have a wide variety of produce, farm products, value-added goods, artisan items, and prepared food available.
- We continue to have 3-4 mobile food vendors on Saturdays and 1 on Wednesdays.
- 3 school field trips visited Wednesday market in the month of November.
- Market continues to be heavily impacted by the surrounding development construction, exacerbating longstanding parking challenges. After months of improvement, construction workers have reverted to blocking vendor access and customer parking on Detroit Street, even after multiple conversations with developers and job site managers to mitigate the situation. Construction workers also take most parking spots on 4th Ave on Wednesdays, and some Saturdays, and continue to ignore posted signs about not parking in the market parking lot. Market staff continue to inform them about parking options, in an attempt to reach solutions that will improve conditions for vendors and customers alike.

Huron Hills & Leslie Park Golf Courses

- Leslie Park will host its Chili Open golf tournament on Sunday 11/16/25. 100+ golfers will brave the cold to compete in this end of the season fun event. This day is scheduled to be the last day that Leslie Park is open for the season.
- Huron Hills will remain open on nicer days throughout the winter for any golfing demand.

Greenbelt:

- The City issued a press release about the Bluebelt, which has seen subsequent media attention via MLive, WEMU, and Concentrate.
- Staff went to the State Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee to

Natural Area Preservation

- The first burn of NAP's Fall prescribed burn season took place at Bandemer Park.

Volunteerism

- Volunteerism has been continuing strong into the autumn season with long standing events like the Trick or Treat paddle at Gallup and shrub cutting at Bird Hills and collaborating with activation on new opportunities such as Boo Bash at Buhr and Spooky Skate at Veterans.

Activation

- Environmental education programs are continuing, including K-5 nature crafts like build a bat and fire building, adult art and nature winter wreath making needed two sections, monthly library and women's hikes are going strong and adding toddler story time at the Senior Center in Nov and Dec.

- We had over 500 people attend the Boo Bash at Buhr Park on October 19th. This was the first time hosting this event so we were very excited about the turnout. Through a brief survey we were able to find that the majority of people who attended it was also their first time to Buhr Park.
- We helped to host the Spooky Skate at Vets Memorial on 11/1. There were games and crafts along with the skating element.
- We hosted a West Coast Swing Free beginner lesson and social dance on 11/5. We had 50 people show up. This has had a good following since the dance lessons at Liberty Plaza at the end of the summer.

Senior Center

- New Programming Includes: new weekly program starting “Movement for Joy”; “Simple Seasonal Soups” series hosted by Eleva Potter (November is Butternut Squash Soup & Naan); Drive Through – “Celebrate Veterans’ Day!”; Workshop – Leaf Prints with Eleva; Tech Workshop – AI and the Future; In-person Mind Matters with students from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (U-M Chapter); Lunch & Learns (Medicare & You; Safe & Steady Fall Prevention); In-person Trivia at Lurie Terrace and Cranbrook Towers; Registration for winter WCC Senior Focus Classes starts Nov. 17.

Mack/Fuller:

- Our January session for group and private swim lessons will open for registration on November 21.
- Our Octopods swim team has been undefeated this season and will be headed to championships the first weekend of December. Registration for our next session will open Nov 21.
- We are extending private lessons into later December to offer more opportunities for families based new staffing availability.

Buhr:

- The ice rink opened Nov. 10th
- We are offering extra open skating opportunities and sticks and pucks during the Thanksgiving school break
- Our Friday themed ice skating will start the week of Thanksgiving

Veterans:

- The first session of skating lessons has just wrapped up, and we are starting session 2.
- At the start of session 2, we have 447 unique individuals registered for skating lessons. Sessions 3 and 4 registrations will begin 12/1 at 8am
- We are trialing a new special event on Black Friday for 3v3 hockey for our hockey leagues to participate in
- Our first draft hockey season is coming to a close, we had 117 players registered for the first Fall season, the next season currently has 121 out of 130 players registered.
- 11/1 we hosted a Spooky Skate with the help of Parks Activation, as well as Volunteerism
 - 81 individuals showed up to skate at the spooky skate which is only 14% more than the open skate earlier in the day, however, this does not include the total number of people who showed up and did not go ice skating and only participated in the events off of the ice
 - We were expecting a slightly larger turnout, but the UofM game was scheduled as an evening start which was the exact time our Spooky Skate began