

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

PAC Update

Veterans:

- Veterans Memorial Pool group swim lessons end 8/11/25 for the season
 - Session 2 of group swim lessons had 99 children signed up compared to 74 last year
- Veterans Memorial Pool's last day is August 24th for the season
- From August 1st through August 10th Veterans Memorial had 867 daily entries and 1,283 punch pass admissions for a total of 2,150 patrons, an average of 215 patrons per day as compared to last year during the same time period of 1,684 total patrons, an average of 168.4 patrons per day.
- Veterans Memorial already has 227 unique individuals registered for skating lessons for the upcoming ice arena season.

Cobblestone, Park Rentals & Field Rentals

- Cobblestone Farm is not as busy in August allowing time for maintenance which include repairs to the Farmhouse siding, replacing the animal barn roof, landscaping and other projects.
- As U of M students and faculty return, park rentals will get busy for the next couple of months.
- Athletic fields at Fuller and Olson will transition to the Fall season 8/18/2025 and after Labor Day.

Liveries

- Argo and Gallup Liveries: Both locations are open daily throughout August. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. until August 17, and then from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. starting August 18.
- Senior Kayaking Class: The final two-class session of the Kayaking for Seniors program at the Gallup Livery is on Wednesday, August 6.
- River Camps: River camps at both Argo and Gallup liveries continue through August.
- Gallup River Kids: This program for ages 2-7 at Gallup Livery has sessions available on Tuesdays and Thursdays in August.
- Advanced Kayaking class: an instructional kayaking class that included instructors helping the participants navigate the Argo Cascades

Environmental Education

- Provided multiple programs in July for the Community Action Network, Jewish Family Services and Peace Neighborhood Center. Continued with library programs, baby stroller walks, toddler story hour, elementary age nature crafts and park exploration, and adult art and nature events. Adding outdoor yoga and more Senior Center programs in August and September.

Buhr:

- Octopods swim team finished their season with their annual season banquet at Vets
 - The team had a successful season and won every dual meet with 3/5 of the meets held at Buhr
 - They placed 6th in swimming out of 18 teams at the WISC championships (7th with diving included). They moved up a ranking from the previous 2024 season and are at the top of the B division
- Swim lessons and day camp are wrapping up later this month. Session 2 of group lessons will end on August 12. This year swim lessons had a 12% increase in registration compared to the 2024 season.
- Day camp will end on Aug. 18 and had a 6% increase in registration from the 2024 season and was at full capacity for the whole camp season (480 total kids) which is the first time in the last few years we've reached full capacity for all the weeks
- Roller Derby will be hosting a game on Aug. 23 at Buhr
- The last day for the pool season at Buhr will be Labor Day. We will have reduced hours Aug. 25-28th while AAPS is in session (3:30-8p) and will have regular hours over the holiday weekend.

Farmers Market

- The Wednesday and Saturday markets are currently open 7am-3pm regular season hours.
- The market averaged 85 vendors on Saturdays and 25 vendors on Wednesdays in August. We had a lot of prepared food options on Wednesday and Saturdays, including food trucks and pop-ups.
- For the 3rd year in a row, we received a food safety grant from Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) to fund our monthly cooking demo series. Our 4th demo of the season was August 13 @11am, featuring community member Karen Wanza preparing low sugar peach jam with Kapnick Orchards peaches. She also demonstrated how to can the jam using both traditional water bath and steam canning methods. The demos take place 2nd Wednesdays through September, highlighting food preservation methods of locally grown, seasonal produce.
- Our 2nd Food Truck Rally of the season is coming up on August 20, 5-8pm. The theme is a celebration of plant-based foods and we have 20 food trucks, carts, and pop-ups signed up. Isaac Roughton will be playing live music, Surya Mehndi will be doing live henna body art, the Ann Arbor District Library will have kids' activities, and the Ecology Center will be provided Zero Waste event support. Food Truck rallies take place 3rd Wednesday evenings July-October.
- Our 2025 applications remain closed since we filled all available spaces. We will reopen the application in early 2026.
- 5 day camps visited our Wednesday market in the month of August.
- We have had 8 community groups table at Wednesday Market in August, including Ann Arbor Water's Stormwater Outreach team, and 7 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 development construction surrounding us, including jobsite workers continually parking in our market vendor parking spots. There are 2 active sites with 2 more starting later this year. We are concerned the staging of upcoming projects will be more disruptive to market operations than the active sites have been thus far.

Huron Hills & Leslie Park Golf Courses

- Both Golf Courses are open 7-days a week from sunrise to sunset as weather permits.
- Lessons & Camps are near or at capacity.
- Adult Beginner Level 1 Classes: Designed to provide fundamentals of the game for new golfers ages 15 and older.
 - Adult Beginner Level 1
 - Total participants: 136/144 spots filled
- Adult Beginner Level 2 Classes: These classes focus on building a proper foundation for golfers with previous instruction or at least one year of playing experience. Ages 15 and older
 - Adult Beginner Level 2
 - Total participants: 36 / 36 spots filled
- Junior Golf Camps: Camps are for ages 8-15 and designed for all skill levels with an emphasis on learning fundamentals and sportsmanship. Camps began June 16 and will conclude August 21 and had more than 200 youth golfers participating in our camps this season.
- Leslie Park has hosted the Ann Arbor City Amateur Golf Tournament July 18th – 20th. During this event we had 90 of the area's best golfers compete in this 3-day stroke play event.

Greenbelt

- 2025 easement monitoring is complete, and staff have been talking to some landowners about plans for their properties and transfers to new owners

- The local land preservation agencies are planning a Washtenaw County Farm Tour event for October— keep an eye out for advertising
- The Greenbelt was invited to speak in a couple webinars hosted by the American Farmland Trust

Natural Area Preservation

- An electric ATV has been added to NAP operations, which will allow for safer and more efficient execution of prescribed burns. The ATV is equipped with a water tank and pump, which will allow staff to move water and other supplies through the parks more efficiently than on foot.
- Ann Arbor was officially recognized as a Bird City Michigan by the Michigan Audubon Society. Staff were presented with a certificate of recognition and a metal road sign that will be installed in a prominent location that is yet to be determined.

Volunteerism

- Volunteer Huron River cleanups continued into August, with one group setting a program record, recovering 632.8 pounds of litter from the river
- Neighbors of Bader Park spent a total of 25 hours clearing overgrown brush, roots, and weeds from the basketball court and made a huge visible improvement.

Activation

- On Saturday August 23 from 4 – 7 pm at West Park, we will be hosting Party in the Park. This is a free event will include live music from two bands, food trucks, bounce house, face painting and other fun activities. Tory Watson, our new Recreation Supervisor, has put in a lot of work on this project and we are excited to see that work come to life. If available, please stop by as it should be a good time.
- For three consecutive Wednesday nights at Liberty Plaza, Parks staff and instructors have led a variety of free dance lessons. From genres of salsa to swing, we have seen strong turnout and positive responses from attendees and passerby's as we've filled the space with music and movement.

Senior Center

- New programming includes: Lunch & Learns (Aging in Place; Exploring the Shoulder); Travels with George: Route of the Maya; Sports N' Sorts; Painless Poetry 2.0; Drive-Through Cardiac Health & Awareness; Safe Drivers workshop hosted by an Aging Driver Specialist of the Michigan Department of State; Drop-In Tai Chi; Tech Workshop: 4 Essential Computer Skills for Adults; New series of bridge instructional classes; Registration for WCC Senior Focus classes opens (Tai Chi, Line Dancing, Watercolors, Yoga, Strength and Conditioning).
- The center was a polling place for the clerk's office Aug. 5. We also hosted a coffee hour for council members to sit down and talk with seniors about their concerns and desires. We will be hosting representatives from the Michigan House of Representatives on Aug. 11 to discuss their senior initiatives.

Mack/Fuller:

- Mack pool is being prepared to open for use by the schools after Labor Day. Registration for our fall swim team and first sessions of swim lessons will open on August 21.
- Our group swim lessons just wrapped up and our private lessons will continue through Sept 14.
- As we move through our last two weeks of camp, I want to shout out my amazing staff! This summer we hosted over 1000 Campers and Councilors in training which count in our camp numbers.
- Although we will be carrying over 50 staff with us to Mack, I want to also thank the over 120 staff that helped us have a successful summer!!!!
- Since August 1 we have welcomed over 4000 swimmers to the pool. That does not include swim lessons or camp.