

Recreation Facilities and programming:

Liveries:

- Gallup Livery will open for the season on 4/20, in addition to providing paddling on the still water section at Gallup we will drive boats to Argo for river trips.
- public auction of used and damaged boats on 4/27
- At Gallup we are working to make the reduced parking, due to the bridge construction, as functional as possible. The public boat launch parking lot off Geddes, is having the spot striped and the dirt section has been graded.

GIVE/AAP:

- April is National Volunteer Month! Lots going on this month in the Parks...
- [Spring Gazette](#)
- [April Gazette](#)
- [Junior Volunteer club](#) kicks off Friday, April 19th

Cobblestone Farm, Field Rentals and Park Rentals

- Bandemer Boat Lockers were assigned via lottery drawing on March 18. There were 30 applicants.
- Athletic Fields at Fuller and Olson begin hosting games on Monday April 15. Park shelter rentals and events also begin Monday April 15.

Golf:

- Leslie Park Golf Course officially opened for the season, Saturday, April 6.
- Adult Golf Instruction began, Monday April 8. All sessions through June are sold out.
- Through March, Huron Hills has already seen roughly 2,800 rounds of golf in 2024 season.

Farmers Market:

- Market Manager Stefanie was invited to join Rep. Debbie Dingell's roundtable about the WIC nutrition program on March 28, hosted by Food Gatherers. We were the only Farmers Market represented on the panel, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the WIC program
- Market Manager Stefanie was accepted this week into the inaugural MIFMA Market Manager Racial Equity Cohort, a stipend-supported 12 month training program with the goal of making Michigan farmers markets more equitable and inclusive.
- At the MIFMA conference in February, we won a Free Rapid Market Assessment and a Hand Washing Station in the raffle, items that we very much need.
- We have accepted 8 new vendors to join the market so far this season: 5 farms & 3 bakeries, bringing our total number of vendors to 127.
- We have hired a new Assistant Market Manager who will join the market this month
- The market office is slated to close May 1 for emergency repairs. Demolition will follow as well as a full community engagement project about the full market space
- We are planning on a full schedule of events this season including the return of more kid's programming, as well as our food truck rally series, cooking demonstrations, live music, and more. The first event of the season will be our 'Earth Day/CSA Day' celebration at market on Saturday April 20, followed by our Flower Day event, held the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend in partnership with the Sunday Artisan Market.
- We will continue accepting the following food assistance programs this season:

- SNAP/EBT
- Double Up Food Bucks
- Prescription for Health (Washtenaw County)
- Senior Project Fresh/Market Fresh
- WIC Project Fresh
 - Due to changes in how the program will be administered at the Federal and State levels, WIC Project Fresh will now be run through each farm only, with the market no longer playing a direct administrative support role.

Buhr Park:

- Buhr Park just finished up a great winter season on March 24.
- Over 1300 people attend our public hockey events
- Almost 9,000 people skate at Buhr during our open skates.
- Hosted various hockey groups weekly throughout the season such as a women's 55+ hockey group who had over 60 participants
- New groups that were geared towards introducing hockey to young kids
- We are preparing for the summer season with a few updates to the facility which includes a new mural in the lobby at Buhr Park.

Mack:

- Mack is starting to wind down for the year and will be closing May 10.
- In the month of March, we have given 229 Private lessons, with over 1000 private lessons for the year.
- We are also offering a spring season for the Ann arbor Octopods and have had over 100 swimmers join.
 - This spring team will not attend meets but is a continuation of the championship season we just finished in mid-March.

Veterans:

- Veteran's Memorial ice season is winding down, we expect to close 4/27, and take the ice out 4/28.
- 649 individuals signed up for our learn to skate program this year
- Draft hockey league increased in participation each session throughout this season
- The pool season is slated to begin May 25th so we have begun preparations for the pool and have Aquatic Source coming out May 4th to go through pool start up procedures.
- We have a bicentennial mural going up outside with a ceremonial unveiling on April 19th
- We also received this comment in an email from the IcyHots who play hockey at both Veteran's Memorial and Buhr: "We appreciate our ongoing relationship with the City of Ann Arbor! We have had sixty one women who are over 50 years old gather together in our community of wellness this past year to enjoy playing ice hockey as a lifelong sport."

Senior Center:

- Our final Mall Walk will take place on April 19 to then transition into our very popular Park Walks program.
- We are partnering with Eleva Potter, of NAP, to lead our first few walks, featuring themes and nature education.

- She will also be joining us for “The Art and Science of Invasive Species” series, combining several forms of art and more nature education.
- On April 19, GIVE will be doing a workday at the Senior Center to spruce up the landscaping just in time for spring.
 - We are so grateful for their expertise!
- Our newly reformatted Lunch & Learn series is bursting at the seams, often necessitating waiting lists.
 - We are enjoying our partnerships in making these presentations: “Living with Our Wild Neighbors” (Huron Valley Humane Society), “Brain Health” (U-M Nursing Program), “Senior Living Options” (Brookdale Memory Care), “Advocating for You” (Life Choices) and, on May 1, “Using A.I. for Your Health” (CareYaYa).
- We are also preparing for the return of our classes in May in collaboration with the Washtenaw Community College Senior Focus program.

Conservation Ops

NAP:

- NAP kicked off the second year of its new volunteer bluebird nest box monitoring program, with 13 volunteers in attendance at the kickoff.
- The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Insect Collection and the University of Michigan Herbarium hosted an exclusive tour for the ten NAP volunteers who attended 30 or more NAP volunteer events in 2023.
- NAP’s annual demonstration burn at the Buhr Park Children’s Wet meadow burn was attended by approximately 25 spectators.
- Seeking to emulate NAP’s strengths in volunteer programming, NAP’s Volunteer & Communications Coordinator, Tina Stephens, presented to leaders at Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Arboretum about engaging site-based stewardship volunteers.
- NAP hosted a Diversity in the Outdoors hike with Shades of the Outdoors and Washtenaw Bird and Nature Alliance, in partnership with the library at Gallup Park, 50 people attended. There was another Diversity in the Outdoors talk and walk at Cobblestone with 20 people.
- NAP held two kids and family events at the library. Nature Printing at Traverwood had 35 participants and Build a Fairy House for a Michigan Mammals at Westgate had 200 participants.

Greenbelt:

- Greenbelt + Park Planning staff submitted a LWCF grant for \$500,000 with \$500,000 City match.
- Chapter 42 ordinance revisions passed Council. Two amendments were added on March 18.