



# Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Winter 2004-05



## Border to Border Trail Update Segment J and L1 Near Completion

**T**rails, trails, and more trails—that’s what County residents have told the WCPARC they want most of all! As a result, the 35-mile **Border to Border Trail** is WCPARC’s major development initiative—a multi-agency effort to create a non-motorized, multiuse trail through the Huron River corridor. In 1999, the Urban Area Transportation Study (UATS) suggested linking the 400 acres of public land in the river corridor from “border to border”. Later that same year, the Parks Commission assembled the Greenways Advisory Committee (GAC) to assist the County in the development of greenway policies and plans. Almost immediately, GAC recommended that the Huron River corridor be given the highest

priority for greenway implementation due to its potential to provide public benefits such as education/interpretation, resource conservation, non-motorized transportation and recreation. For planning and implementation purposes the Border to Border trail was split into 13 major segments—labeled A to M—connecting Livingston County in the north to Wayne County in the southeast.

### Segment J - WCC/SJMH Trail

In 2000, the segment between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti—known as Segment J—became the highest priority due to its proximity to potential users. Over the next two years, WCPARC obtained *(continued on page 3)*



Looking west over Ford Lake, steps leading to the future overlook off the main Segment L1 trail. Construction and landscaping to be completed spring 2005.

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## Contact Us!

[parks@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:parks@ewashtenaw.org)  
[parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org)  
734.971.6337

# From the Director

Robert L. Tetens

## The Washtenaw County *Youth Initiative*— Serving the Citizens of Tomorrow!

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has recently initiated a broad-based community effort to enhance the quality of life for youth and teens in Washtenaw County. The vision of the *Youth Initiative* is to ensure that the citizens of tomorrow are allowed opportunities, at an early age, to lead meaningful lives and contribute to the quality of life that makes Washtenaw County a special place, a special community.

The local initiative is modeled after the *America's Promise* initiative, founded in 1997 after the President's Summit for America's Future. Our exciting initiative will encourage and organize a collaborative effort among community members to work creatively within their mission and across boundaries to achieve five important goals. These goals will ensure that the lives of all young people in the County will include caring adults; safe places; a healthy start; marketable skills; and opportunities to serve.

The mission statement of the WCPARC recognizes the importance of active lifestyles to the physical, as well as the emotional and intellectual, health of individuals of all ages. A community, like a society, is only as healthy and vibrant as the population from which it is composed. Recent surveys and a public hearing conducted by the Commission also affirm the need for additional opportunities for youth in Washtenaw County.

The WCPARC believes that it can play a key role in achieving significant milestones in each of the goals established for the Washtenaw County *Youth Initiative*, and is excited at the opportunity to collaborate with other community groups in this ongoing effort. Please join us in serving the citizens of tomorrow! 🐾

## Gift of Trees

WCPARC would like to acknowledge the gift of five trees to County Farm Park by Brian Steinberg. Mr. Steinberg, a local gardener, donated these trees in appreciation of his favorite park in Ann Arbor.

He selected five tree species (cherry, dogwood, maple, pear and redbud) which were planted in locations selected by Parks Horticulturist Kathy McKee.

Thank you, Brian!



Wetland views from one of several new walking trails at the DeVine Nature Preserve, Scio Township

## NAPP News

### Natural Areas Preservation Program Update

Work is in progress to provide public access—including parking, trails and informational signage—for persons interested in visiting the **DeVine Nature Preserve** in Scio Township. This 137-acre natural area on West Liberty Road was the first property purchased through NAPP in 2003.

Wetlands, which make up the majority of the site, surround a small upland woodland in the southernmost portion of the site along Liberty. This upland “island” was an ideal location for a new 6-space gravel parking lot—approximately ½ mile west of Zeeb, north side of Liberty—which will be clearly marked with a new entry sign. To reduce the impacts of construction in the woodland, the entry drive and parking spaces were designed around two very large oak trees.

An information board with a trail map and area use guidelines will be erected at the parking area trailhead. From there, two loop trails wind through the woods, one connecting with a seasonal trail that takes visitors out into the wetlands and old fields in the northern areas of the preserve. The trails were laid out by park staff and demarcated on the ground by Jim Hughes and his fellow scouts from Boy Scout Troop 111. Thanks and congratulations to the soon-to-be Eagle Scout for his much appreciated work!

Visit [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org) to view and download a preserve trail map. 🐾

## Border to Border, *continued from Cover*

significant funding for trail construction from the *Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan*, and the *Federal Transportation Enhancement Program* administered by the *Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)*. The 2.0 mile main trail runs past the Washtenaw Community College (WCC) and around Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital (SJMH). Two side trails, each with custom designed observation decks, provide incredible views of the Huron River below. Construction began in the spring of 2004 and was completed this fall.

### Segment L

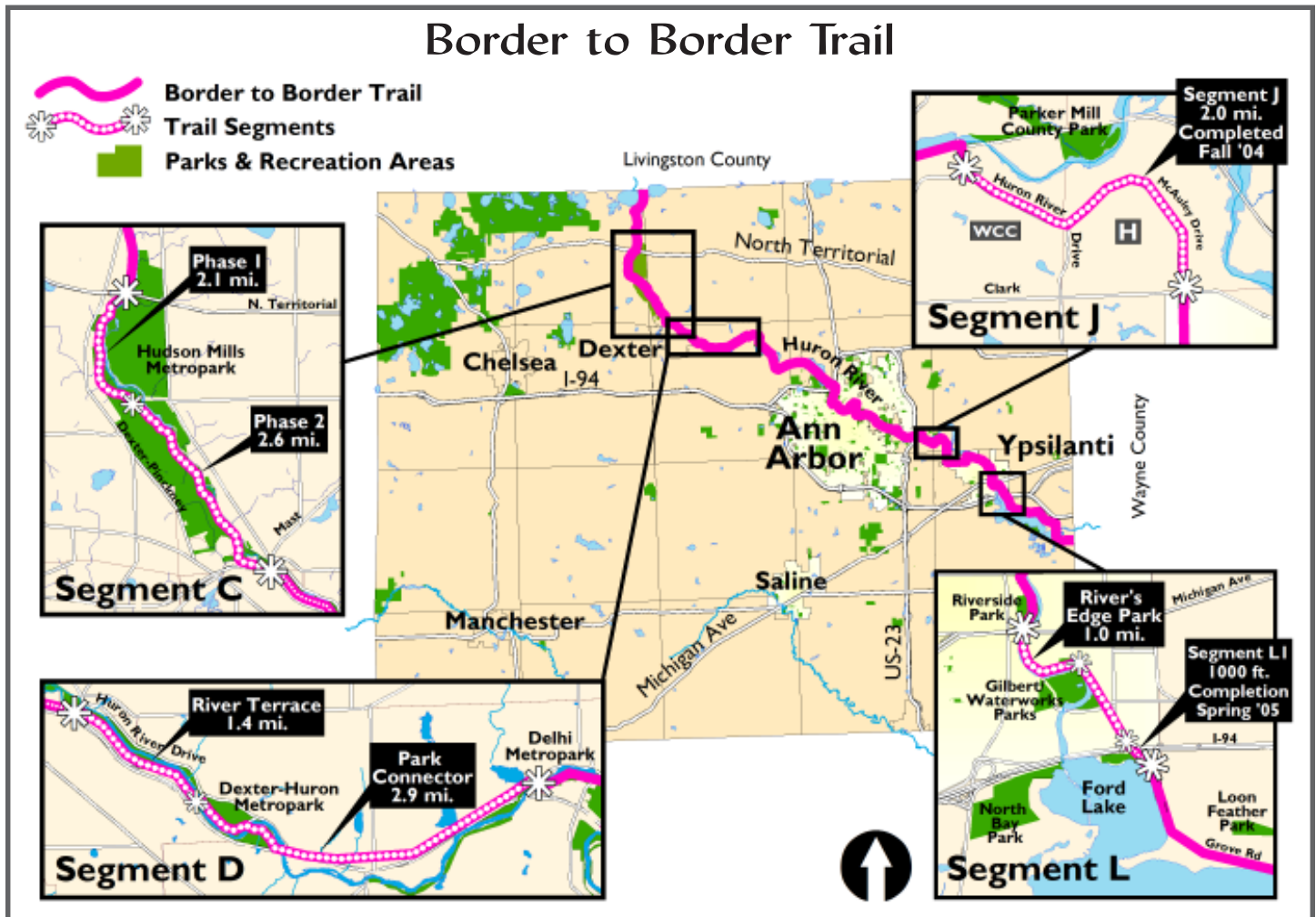
This segment begins at Michigan Avenue in the City of Ypsilanti and

extends southward to the Ypsilanti Township border, where it connects with the Township's Grove Road bike trail on Ford Lake. The northern portion of Segment L includes the city's **River's Edge Park** where WCPARC has agreed to provide \$150K to build 1.0 mile of non-motorized trail along the Huron River; to be constructed in 2005. This will connect existing trails in Riverside and Frog Island parks with Gilbert and Waterworks parks to the south. The southernmost portion, known as **Segment L1**, is a small (about 1000 feet) but important connector linking existing trails in North Bay Park with the trailhead of the Grove Road bike trail, which in turn connects to Loon Feather Park

further down the shore of Ford Lake. While steep slopes along the river presented considerable challenges in building Segment L1, the 30 foot drop down to the river created the opportunity for an attractive overlook area. This small sub-segment opened to the public in the fall; completion will occur spring 2005.

### Segment D

Still in the conceptual phase, this segment will include two sub-segments known as the **River Terrace** and **Park Connector** trails. The **River Terrace** trail begins in the Village of Dexter and proceeds 1.4 miles along the south shore of the Huron River to the northern boundary of Dexter (continued on page 10)



When all segments are completed, the Border to Border multiuse trail will connect Livingston and Wayne Counties.

# Natural Features Inventories at County Parks

## Osborne Mill, Sharon Mills and Park Lyndon Surveyed

Have you ever wondered what lies beyond the trails that take you through our County Parks? From spring 2004 into fall, Catherine Marquardt, Park Naturalist Intern, explored the furthest reaches of **Osborne Mill**, **Sharon Mills**, and **Park Lyndon** looking for different species of plants, birds, and amphibians.

Plants and animals require certain habitats and are found in communities with species which share similar needs. Finding all of these living organisms required regular visits to each park, as many plants flower for only a few weeks before dying back to make room for the next wave of plants. Certain birds, as well, are only visible during the spring when they are migrating north to their summer breeding grounds. Amphibians are easiest to detect, by their spring mating calls. This seasonal cycle partially explains the impressively long list of plants and animals which together make up a **Natural Features Inventory (NFI)**.

### Osborne Mill

Although a relatively small park in size, Osborne Mill boasts a high diversity of species. On the upland slopes a remnant prairie, dominated by the attractive native grass big bluestem, occurs near the railroad tracks. It then transitions into a forest with mature hickories and oaks, including the uncommon shingle oak in the canopy, and a showy display of spring wildflowers. Down by the river one risks wet feet to walk through a diverse wet meadow—with mostly grasses, sedges and joe pye weed—into an area where floodplain forest trees lean over the river. This diversity of

plants offers a place for many birds to find their favored foods and good shelter. The Huron River also provides an excellent corridor for migratory birds.

### Sharon Mills

The River Raisin running through Sharon Mills also provides good habitat for birds. Visitors will regularly be delighted by the call of the belted kingfisher fishing for food in the river. Spring flowers abound in the rich soil of this floodplain forest, and in the summer, bright red cardinal flowers line the river's edge.

### Park Lyndon

The most diverse park in the county system, however, is Park Lyndon. Not only due to its large size but also to its variety of ecosystems, with the prairie fen being the most significant. The **fen ecosystem** is considered rare and in need of protection by the state-wide Michigan Natural Features Inventory. Several well-known botanists agree that Park Lyndon North holds one of the most expansive and highest quality fens in the state. Many organisms found in the fen, including several types of orchids and the Massassauga rattlesnake, can only live in this alkaline environment. In addition, many of the plant species here earn the highest rating for the *coefficient of conservatism*. This means that these plants can exist only in areas which have not been disturbed by humans or domesticated animals.

Now that WCPARC has a better record of the rare plants and

animals in these parks, we will be better able to devise management strategies to conserve and protect this diversity. In addition, our naturalists can share this information with the public on interpretive walks which lead visitors beyond the guided trails.

Visit [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org) to view the details of these Natural Features Inventory Reports. ♪

Catherine Marquardt,  
Park Naturalist Intern

# of Species Recorded			
Park	Plants	Birds	Frogs/ Toads
Osborne	346	47	3
Sharon	204	35	3
Lyndon	418	56	5



Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*, top) and belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*, bottom) were just two of the many plants and animals inventoried in 2004.

Photo: Ohio DNR

# Health & Fitness at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

734.971.6337 ext. 2

## Facilities & Programs

- Track (1/12 mile)
- Gymnasium
- Heated Pool
- Cardiovascular Training Area
- Strength Training Area
- Locker Rooms
- Assisted Care Locker Rooms
- Fitness Classes (Adult)
- Swim Classes (Adult & Youth)

## Building Hours

Mon - Fri, 6am - 10pm

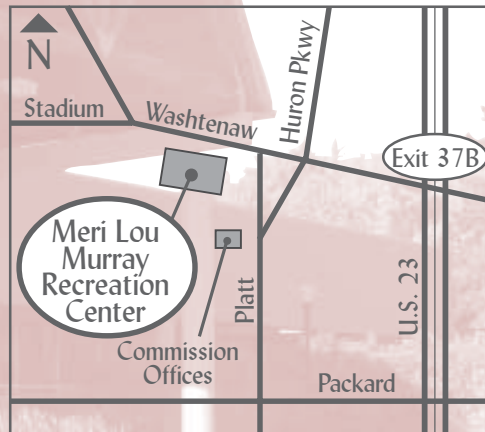
Sat, 8am - 6pm

Sun, Noon - 10pm

(Closed: Good Friday, Mar 25 at 6pm; Easter Sunday, Mar 27)

## Come on Down!

2960 Washtenaw Avenue  
(at Platt Road)  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



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## Frequently Asked Questions...

### Do I have to be a member to use the facilities or attend a class?

No, anyone can register for swim classes, “drop-in” on a fitness class, or pay a daily fee to use the facilities.

### What is a “drop-in” class?

All adult fitness, dance and water exercise classes are “drop-ins”. You don’t need to register for them (except Tai Chi), and you can drop-in on any class anytime you want!

### Why aren’t there any fitness/dance class times listed?

Due to the potential for last minute changes, we only print a few of the class times. Call the **Aerobic Hotline** (updated daily) for class schedules, 971-6337 ext. 352.

### What is a “punch card”?

- Good for 10 drop-ins to any class (except Instructional Swim, Adult & Youth).
- Discounted rate saves you \$\$!
- Can be shared with friends and family
- Expires at the end of the calendar year
- Does not guarantee a spot in any class

## Drop-In Class Fee Schedule

	Resident (per visit)	Non-Resident (per visit)	Punch Card (10 visits)
Adult (16-61)	\$5	\$7	\$32
Senior (62+)	\$4	\$5	\$22
Disabled	\$4	\$5	\$22

## Adult Fitness & Dance “Drop-In” Classes

### Fitness Pilates I & II

Increase core strength and flexibility of the spine with a wide variety of exercises. You will experience improved posture, alignment and an increased mind-body connection.

### Kickboxing

This workout uses kicks, punches, blocks and combinations to create an incredible workout. Participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves as this class involves bag work.

### Power Sculpting

Intervals of aerobics and conditioning. Fast paced, easy to follow and a very effective fat burner.

### Sculpting & Conditioning

Designed to strengthen and tone the total body. This mildly aerobic workout is adaptable yet challenging for all fitness levels. Hand held weights, tubes & bands are provided.

### Aerobic Strength Training (AST)

This 1.5 hour class will do it all, give you a 30 minute aerobic workout as well as tone, strengthen and firm your entire body.

### Dance

Learn basic moves for the *Foxtrot*, *Waltz*, *Rumba*, *Swing*, *Ballroom*, and *Salsa*. No partners needed.

### Step & Ball

This class will soon be your favorite. We have combined the Fat burner section of a step class and added the conditioning benefits of the ball. Join us for a great workout!

### Step I & II

This fun aerobic workout has a third of the impact and twice the benefits. Concentrating on lower extremities makes this class an excellent fat burner. 1, 2, 3... step!

### Hatha Yoga

The physical practice of yoga that involves moving in and out of different positions called “asanas”. This class

involves breathing and meditative exercise. All levels welcome.

### Tai-Chi

The main purpose of this training is to harmonize the body and mind to better handle stressful situations. This progressive class will calm the mind and relax the body.

**Pre-registration required.** \$30 for 10 wks, Saturdays, Jan8 - Mar12, 3pm

### Light Aerobics

Work off those calories and build your cardio fitness in this aerobic dance class. No dance experience necessary.

### Butts & Guts

1 hour of core strength training at its best. Concentrated abdominal work and back muscle conditioning to give you the abs you want!

### Turbo Kick

Work on punches kicks and drills, aerobic and anaerobic. Class includes bag work, plus weights and tubes for conditioning. Participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves.

### Pilates Yoga Fusion

You'll feel stronger and leaner after taking this class. We have combined the best of yoga—flexibility and versatility—with the benefits of Pilates—core strength and alignment.

### Super Session

An intense, 1.5 hour workout with step, strength training and stretch with Yoga/Pilates. Challenging for all levels. *Sundays, dates TBA*

### Cardio Mix

This workout can be a combination of high/low aerobics. Step and muscle conditioning. Always different, never boring. Excellent cross training.

### Step Mix

Come join this fun class. Burn the fat in this great cardio workout with one step....or more. For all levels.

### Weight Room Orientation

Have questions about our weight

room? Our staff will show you how to use the equipment with the proper amount of weight and repetition to help you reach your goals! (Sign up for class at the front desk, dates and times vary).

## Seniors

### Senior Aerobics

Big Band and contemporary music make aerobic exercise lots of fun. This 1-hour class requires 45 minutes of standing and finishes with balance exercises and light weight resistance. *M/F 9:15 - 10:15 am*

### Senior Stretch Fit

Combines basic stretching, and Pilates-like exercises with standing, wall and floor work. Benefits include muscle flexibility, increased range of motion and general well being. *T/TH 10:45 - 11:45 am*

### Senior Sculpt

Hand weights, bands and resistant tubing tone muscles, while improving strength and balance. 45 minutes. *T/TH 8:30 - 9:30 am*

### Senior Step Aerobics

Each person has a step unit and chair (for balance and support). Sharpen balance awareness and increase cardiovascular and muscle endurance. *M/W 8:15 - 9:00 am*

For all drop-in class times call the...

**Aerobic  
Hotline**

**971.6337 x352**

**Updated daily**

# Get in the Pool!

## Youth Swim

### Infant Toddler

(6 mos-2 yrs with adult) With adult participation, infants and toddlers learn to enjoy water activities. Songs and games teach the children water comfort. One adult per child.

### Pre-School 1

(18 mos-3 yrs with adult) Through songs and games, and with adult help, pre-school aged children learn water comfort and simple water skills. One adult per child.

### Pre-School 2

(3-5 yrs with adult) These children will begin to practice Young Swimmer 1 skills. This class is for kids who aren't ready to be in the water without a parent. One adult per child.

### Young Swimmer 1

(At least 4 yrs of age) A great class for beginners! Children with little or no water experience will learn water comfort, supported floating and kicking, and basic arm movement.

### Young Swimmer 2

(Ages 4-5) Children already comfortable in the water will practice swimming skills without support. Floating, kicking, front and back crawls and safety skills will be taught.

### Level 2

(At least 5 yrs of age) Children who can float and kick on both front and back without support begin to complete their strokes. Focus will be on stroke completion and technique.

### Level 3

(Must pass Level 2 or with Aquatic Programmer permission) Learn to combine and coordinate basic swimming skills into complete strokes. Rhythmic breathing will be introduced; front & back crawls, treading water and safety skills will improve.

## Instructional Swim Classes, 7-week Sessions

Sessn.	Register	Classes	Sessn.	Register	Classes*
A	Dec11-23	Adult: Jan12 - Feb23 Youth: Jan8 - Feb19	B	Feb19 - Mar1	Adult: Mar9 - Apr27 Youth: Nov6 - Dec11

\* Closed: Good Friday, Mar 25 at 6pm; Easter Sunday, Mar 27

### Level 4

(Must pass Level 3 or with Aquatic Programmer permission) Students improve stroke technique and endurance. 25-yard front & back crawls, breaststroke, sidestroke, sculling and rescue techniques.

### Level 5/6

(Must pass level 4 or with Aquatic Programmer permission) Students will refine and improve all strokes learned while increasing endurance and stroke efficiency. More distance is introduced. Butterfly, open turns and rescue skills also taught.

- Children who are not potty trained must wear diapers with training pants and a swimsuit
- You may watch classes from the deck on the 1st and last days only
- Observation windows on the main floor overlooking the pool are suitable for viewing swim classes

## Adult Swim

### Instructional Swim

Two instructors will divide the class into two skill levels on the 1st day. Classes are designed for adults who wish to learn to swim, improve strokes or just learn to be comfortable in the water. **Registration required.** Sorry, no drop-ins.

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
22410: Jan12 - Feb23, \$55\*\*

## Adult Water Exercise "Drop-In" Classes

### Easy Toning

For beginning exercisers, older adults and others looking for a low to moderate intensity workout. Focus on upper & lower body stretching, range of motion and strength exercise. No swimming skills required.

M, T, Th 9 - 10 am

### Aqua Aerobics

Increase and maintain aerobic fitness without the impact or sweat of a traditional aerobics class. You will also spend time on warming up, cooling down, and "floor work" exercises. No swimming skills required.

M 8 - 9 pm  
T 10 - 11 am  
W 9 - 10 am; 8 - 9 pm  
Th 10 - 11 am  
F 9 - 10 am  
Sat 9 - 10 am

	Sec#	Fee**
<b>Infant Toddler</b>		
SA 11:15-11:45	21010	\$45
<b>Pre-school 1</b>		
SA 10:35-11:05	21020	\$45
SA 11:50-12:20	21021	\$45
<b>Pre-school 2</b>		
SA 10:00-10:30	21030	\$45
<b>Young Swimmer 1</b>		
SA 10:00-10:30	21040	\$45
SA 11:15-11:45	21041	\$45
SA 12:30-1:00	21042	\$45
<b>Young Swimmer 2</b>		
SA 10:35-11:05	21050	\$45
SA 11:50-12:20	21051	\$45
SA 12:30-1:00	21052	\$45
<b>Level 2</b>		
SA 10:00-10:35	21060	\$45
SA 11:15-11:50	21061	\$45
SA 11:50-12:25	21062	\$45
<b>Level 3</b>		
SA 10:35-11:15	21070	\$45
SA 12:30-1:10	21071	\$45
<b>Level 4</b>		
SA 11:50-12:30	21080	\$45
<b>Level 5/6</b>		
SA 12:30-1:10	21090	\$45

\*\* price increase reflects the change from a 5-week to a 7-week session

# Health & Fitness at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

## Pool Schedule

Winter 2004 - Spring 2005

No one under 18 years is admitted to Adult Lap Swim  
An adult must accompany children under 12 years at all times

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6-9am	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 8-9	Rec Center Opens at 12
9-10am	Easy Toning	Easy Toning	Aqua Aerobics	Easy Toning	Aqua Aerobics	Aqua Aerobics	
10-11am	Open Swim	Aqua Aerobics	Open Swim	Aqua Aerobics	Open Swim	Youth Swim Classes 10-1:15	Adult Lap 12-2
11-1pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap		Open Swim 1:15-4:30
1-5pm	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Closed for Cleaning 1-6*	Open Swim	Open Swim 1:15-4:30	Open Swim 2-8
5-7pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 6-7	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 4:30-5:45	Rec Center Closes at 6
7-8pm	Swim Class	Open Swim	Swim Class	Open Swim	Open Swim	Adult Lap 8-9:45	
8-9pm	Aqua Aerobics		Aqua Aerobics				
9-9:45pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 8-9:45	

\*On the 1st Thursday of each month, the Pool is closed from 1:00 pm, Thursday until 10:00 am, Friday for maintenance and cleaning. Locker rooms are closed for cleaning Mon-Fri: Men's 10:10-10:40am, Women's - 2:00-2:30pm & 5:45-6:00 pm.

Gym Schedule (subject to change without notice)	
WEST GYM	EAST GYM
<b>Sunday</b> 12:00 - 2:00 Adult Basketball 2:30 - 5:00 Adult Volleyball 5:30 - 6:45 Family 6:45 - 8:00 Teens 8:15 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	12:00 - 2:00 Adult Basketball 2:30 - 5:00 Family Volleyball 5:30 - 6:45 Family 6:45 - 8:00 Teens 8:15 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Monday</b> 6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 10:30 Closed for Class 10:30 - 2:30 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:45 - 9:45 Family Badminton	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00-10:30 Closed for Class 10:30 - 2:30 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:45 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Tuesday</b> 6:00 - 11:30 Open 12:00 - 3:00 Adult Volleyball 3:30 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 11:00 Tot Time 11:00 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult BB 25+
<b>Wednesday</b> 6:00 - 3:00 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball	6:00 - 3:00 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Thursday</b> 6:00 - 11:30 Open 12:00 - 3:00 Adult Volleyball 3:30 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Wheelchair BB	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 11:00 Tot Time 11:00 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball
<b>Friday</b> 6:00 - 12:00 Open 12:30 - 7:15 Teens 7:30 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	6:00 - 12:00 Open 12:30 - 7:15 Open 7:30 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00 - 11:30 Adult BB 30+ 12:00 - 2:30 Teens 3:00 - 5:45 Open Badminton	8:00 - 11:30 Open/Community 12:00 - 2:30 Teens 3:00 - 5:45 Adult Volleyball

# Nature Interpretation Programs



## December

Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – 2 p.m.

### “A Visit to the River Raisin”

Leonard Nature Preserve

Meet at the dead-end of Union Street in Manchester to explore this recently purchased Washtenaw County Natural Area.

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – 2 p.m.

### “In Search of December Green”

Park Lyndon South (West Lot)

Focus will be on plants that stay green all winter.

## January

Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10 a.m.

### “Annual Winter Hike & Potluck”

Park Lyndon South (East Lot)

A short hike followed by a potluck at the cabin, a 5 minute walk uphill from parking lot.

Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 2 p.m.

### “Kids Winter Explorers”

County Farm Park (Platt Rd Lot)

Tracks, winter insects, animal homes and more! Hot drinks provided.

Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7 p.m.

### “Almost a Full Moon Hike”

Independence Lake

We'll call owls, view winter stars, look for night mammals and more! Hot drinks around the fire afterwards. Park entry fee required.

## February

Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – 2 p.m.

### “A Winter Wetland Walk; Hike to the West Fen”

Park Lyndon North

Wear boots that can get muddy.

Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m.

### “Any Redwings Yet? A Late Winter Bird Walk”

Rolling Hills

Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars if you can. Park entry fee required.

## March

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – 1 p.m.

### “Sap to Syrup - Doing It Yourself”

County Farm Park (Platt Rd Lot)

**Pre-registration required**, call 734.971.6337.

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – 2 p.m.

### “Early Signs of Spring”

DeVine Nature Preserve

North side of Liberty Rd., ½-mile west of Zeeb Rd. Wear boots for wet and muddy ground.

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m.

### “Annual Waterfowl Watch”

Independence Lake

Bring binoculars if possible, some spotting scopes will be available. Ducks, loons, grebes and more. Park entry fee required.

Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 7 p.m.

### “Under the Worm Moon; An Evening Hike”

Independence Lake

We'll listen for frogs, woodcocks and owls. Hot drinks around the fire afterwards! Park entry fee required.

**Nature programs and park entry fees are free, unless otherwise noted**

**For more information contact Faye Stoner at 734.971.6337 x318 -or- stonerf@ewashtenaw.org**

**View park maps online at [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org)**

## Community Partners for Clean Streams

**W**CPARC is expanding its participation in the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's *Community Partners for Clean Streams*, a program which promotes business practices that protect our County's watersheds and waterways.

Earlier this year, Pierce Lake Golf Course and Park received a Clean Streams Certificate from the Drain Commissioner's office in recognition of WCPARC's actions to protect

water quality and reduce the risk of environmental pollution from golf course operations. Now County Farm Park, the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center and Parker Mill County Park are participating in the program. In October, the Maintenance Superintendent and the superintendents of Rolling Hills and Independence Lake Parks attended a training workshop on illicit discharge sponsored by the Office of the Drain Commissioner. WCPARC staff learned how to investigate

inappropriate discharges and how to deal with these undesired sources of environmental pollution. ♻️



*Protecting high quality streams in Washtenaw County*

## Border to Border

*continued from page 3*

Huron Metropark. At that point, a proposed bridge will connect to existing park trails on the opposite side of the river. The *Park Connector* trail then continues 2.9 miles downriver linking the Dexter Huron and Delhi Metroparks.

### Hudson Mills Segment C

This important trail segment is entirely within HCMA's Hudson Mills Metropark, a total of 4.7 miles through high quality landscape. For funding and implementation the project has been divided into two parts—**Phase 1**, the northern 2.1 miles; and **Phase 2**, the southern 2.6 miles (see map on page 3). HCMA and WCPARC are co-sponsors of this project which has received funding from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Phase 1 begins at the Huron River crossing of the North Territorial Road bridge and runs downstream along the west side of the river for 2.0 miles. At this point in the trail, a bridge over the Huron River is proposed to connect Phase 1 to the existing hike/bike trail in the park. Phase 2 will continue an additional 2.6 miles to the Village of Dexter. Currently, the construction of Phase 1 is scheduled for summer 2005; funding is not yet available for Phase 2. The bridge is intended to create a new loop trail. Once Phase 1 is implemented, Phase 2 could be eligible for federal and state funds dedicated to transportation projects as it would then be considered a "transportation link."

With the recent renewal of the County Parks and Recreation millage, County residents can expect to see more trails throughout the Huron River corridor and the County each year until the grand vision of a continuous, multiuse trail from "border to border" is accomplished. ♪

*Richard Kent, Park Planner  
Lynn Berni, Park Planning Intern*

## 1st Annual Volunteer Dinner A "Thank You" Gathering

On a lovely September evening, some 25 people met at the Beach Center of Independence Lake County Park to attend our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Attendees included folks who work at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, and those who volunteer in various parks, helping with the Horticulture and Nature & Interpretive Programs. Our volunteers assist us in numerous ways; including bluebird nestbox monitoring, habitat restoration work, plant inventories of formal gardens, spring and fall planting, and assisting with the volleyball program. Good food and lively stories were enjoyed by all.



*The Dentlers enjoy the evening.*

If you are interested in volunteering for WCPARC give us a call at 971-6337!



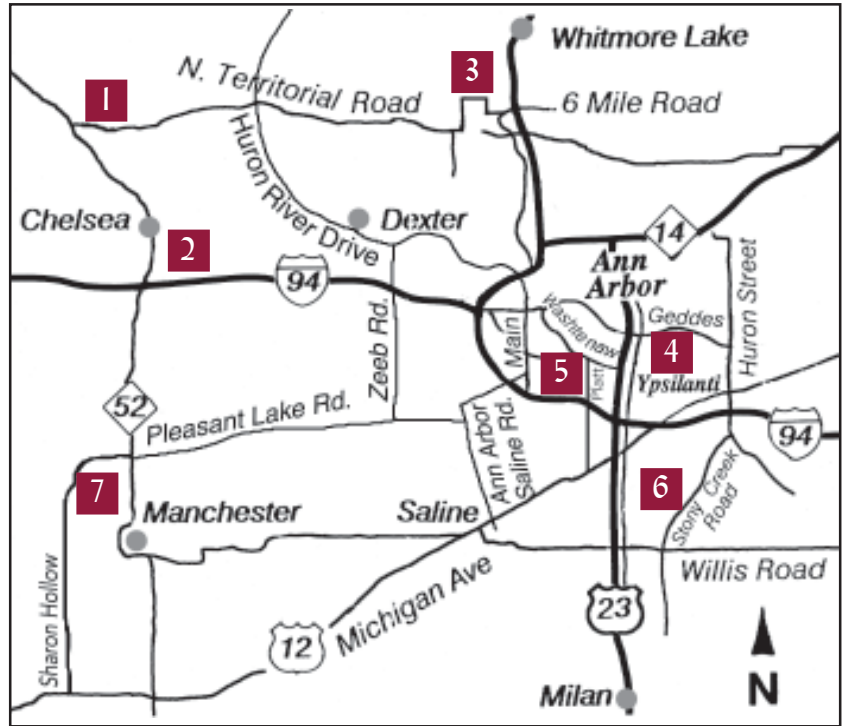
*The whole gang!*



*Grillin' on the Beach Center patio—our chef Bob Squires*

# Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Facilities

- 1** Park Lyndon County Park  
18801 N. Territorial Rd., Lyndon Twp
- 2** Pierce Lake Golf Course  
1175 South Main St., Chelsea
- 3** Independence Lake County Park  
3200 Jennings Rd., Webster Twp
- 4** Parker Mill County Park  
4650 Geddes Rd., Ann Arbor Twp
- 5** County Farm Park  
2230 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor
- 5** Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center  
2960 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor
- 6** Rolling Hills County Park/Water Park  
7660 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti Twp
- 7** Sharon Mills County Park  
5701 Sharon Hollow Rd., Sharon Twp



Visit us online at [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org) for park maps and more info!

## WCPARC Swim Registration Form

Please use one form per person. The form may be copied.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Youth (3-17)    Adult (18-61)    Senior (62+)

Class#	Class Title	Day & Time	Fee		Total

- Please check this form for accuracy! Registration cannot be processed if payment is incorrect.
- We do not accept credit cards.
- Mailing payment does not guarantee a spot in the class.
- We will contact you ONLY if there is a problem with your registration.

**Make Checks Payable to: WCPARC**

Register in Person at:  
**Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center**  
 P.O. Box 8645  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48107    Ann Arbor, MI

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(parents must sign for children under 18)

**WAIVER:** I attest that I am/my child is physically capable of participating in the above programs for which I have registered and hereby release WCPARC from any responsibility whatsoever for personal injuries, damages or loss of equipment resulting from participation.

Amount	Time	Date	Staff Initials
Check#	Cash Receipt#		

Washtenaw County  
Parks and Recreation  
Commission

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Janice Anschuetz  
*Vice President*

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Robert L. Tetens  
*Director*

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- ✓ *Community Partners for Clean Streams* Program...p.9
- ✓ Volunteer Appreciation Dinner highlights...p.10

## next issue...

- ✓ Spring activities at Rolling Hills County Park
- ✓ Golf course update
- ✓ Commission changes

## Dear Reader,

...would you like to receive this quarterly newsletter?

...do you know anyone else who would like to receive the newsletter?

...would you like to be removed from the mailing list?

Give us some feedback by sending an email to:  
[parks@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:parks@ewashtenaw.org)

## Thank You!



# Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Winter 2004-05 Newsletter

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**THANK YOU** for Supporting Proposal A, Parks Millage Renewal!

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