



Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Fall 2005



History Lives On at Parker Mill The Last Remaining Icon of a Pioneering Way of Life

Just east of Ann Arbor, a short distance upstream from where Fleming Creek enters the Huron River, the time-worn past of a pioneer settlement comes to life. Here on the banks of Fleming Creek, the historic Parker Mill is the last living symbol of an era when the Huron River and its tributaries made possible the growth of small industry and regional agriculture for the emerging 19th-century communities of the Huron River watershed. Just as the plow transformed agriculture, so the use of water power and transportation on the Huron River transformed the area's early settlements into thriving villages and towns;

consequently the region became an agricultural and industrial crossroads of national importance.

Parker Mill County Park is the only surviving pioneer mill property in Ann Arbor Township, and is the last functioning pioneer mill in Washtenaw County. According to township maps dating from 1843, the local area boasted two flour mills and seven sawmills. Within twenty years, mill operations in the area had expanded to include a new paper mill, two wool mills, and two more sawmills. One of these, a sawmill built by Robert Fleming in 1824, was located along Fleming Creek in Ann

Arbor Township. By 1863, the sawmill lay abandoned and in ruins when English immigrants William Q. Parker and his wife, Mary—using money she had saved while working as a maid back in England—bought and settled on the property. The Parkers established a new farm on the 61-acre property and in 1873 constructed a two-stone grist mill on the remains of the Fleming sawmill.

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Loading bags of freshly ground flour onto a buckboard wagon at the lower level of the Parker grist mill (circa late 1880s)

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Contact Us!
parks@ewashtenaw.org
parks.ewashtenaw.org
(734) 971-6337

From the Director

Robert L. Tetens

With the summer season winding down, I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Commission to express our sincere appreciation for the seasonal employees that help make your visit to our parks a satisfying and memorable experience. From May through September, nearly three hundred additional staff—lifeguards, park rangers, pool attendants, concession workers, gate attendants, cashiers, accountants, maintenance employees, gardeners and others—work tirelessly to ensure that the parks and facilities are clean, safe and well maintained for our visitors. It is estimated that over 400,000 people will visit a County park or facility between Memorial Day and Labor Day, a roughly 100 day summer season. It has been a very successful summer for us at County Parks and Recreation, and we couldn't have done it without the help of our seasonal workforce. Thanks to everyone!

Looking ahead, it will be an exciting fall season for the Commission. Pending MDNR and DEQ approval, staff are poised to finalize the design of a 1.4-mile segment of the Border To Border Trail (B2B) between the Village of Dexter and Dexter-Huron Metropark. If all goes well, construction could begin early next year with subsequent phases to follow. This trail segment will be the first portion of the Countywide trail initiative to be constructed on the highly popular Huron River Drive route between the City of Ann Arbor and the Village of Dexter. More information on trails is available at parks.ewashtenaw.org (click on "Recent Projects", then "Greenways").

The Commission is also looking forward to increasing the size of several existing parks, further expanding recreational opportunities for County residents and visitors. Negotiations are proceeding and grant applications have been prepared for these exciting new additions to the parks system. Look for updates in our winter and future newsletters.



Parks Naturalists use GPS technologies to map rare and threatened species found in County natural areas

NAPP News

Natural Areas Preservation Program

Total Protected Land (since 2001): 748 acres

Back in May 2005, another precious piece of the Huron River corridor was protected as a natural area. The 29-acre *Burns-Stokes Preserve* is the latest addition to the County's growing list of NAPP properties. With high quality natural features such as 3,500 feet of Huron River frontage, mature upland and river floodplain forests, and native prairie patches this land provides excellent wildlife habitat and birding opportunities. The property is valuable from a historical perspective as well. Portions of an old mill dam and race provide evidence of the site's former use and an important reminder of the water-powered past of local area industry. ♪



Field Notebook: Diversity & Abundance at Osborne Mill Preserve

A simple road junction marks the edge of a hidden gem among County Park properties, one with an unusually rich natural history. The 39-acre Osborne Mill Preserve lies along an oxbow of the Huron River just south of Delhi Metropark. Osborne Mill's unassuming entrance is located on East Delhi Road just south of the West Delhi Road junction.

Parks Naturalist Catherine Marquardt recently conducted a detailed assessment of plant and animal communities at Osborne (see "Natural Features Inventories", Winter 2004-2005). Her work revealed a rich interaction of ecosystems, comprising both dry upland and wet floodplain habitats of forest, prairie, and meadow. The drier soils of the uplands contain plant communities that are distinct from the moisture-tolerant species of the lower floodplain zone. The upland forest contains taller

"overstory" trees layered above smaller "understory" trees and shrubs. The overstory species include Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), and the unusual Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*); the understory layer includes Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and Downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*). All of these tree species exhibit wonderful fall colors, and the oak acorns, hickory nuts, and serviceberries provide food for wildlife. Many broad-leaved herbaceous plants (or forbs) are found in areas where the understory is less dense, such as Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), a Michigan Species of Special Concern. The northern tip of Osborne is a remnant of tallgrass prairie habitat containing native species such as



Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and an abundance of Goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*). The southeast end is a wet meadow dominated by sedges (*Carex spp.*), Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*), and Marsh bellflower (*Campanula aparinoides*). Along the river to the south is a small stand of floodplain forest containing Black willow (*Salix nigra*), Red ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and even Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)—a species that is now relatively uncommon for this area.

Plant diversity and proximity to the Huron River make Osborne Mill Preserve a particularly nice place for migratory birdwatching, and the undisturbed areas on the inside of the oxbow provide good nesting habitat for many resident bird species. Among the more fun and interesting bird sightings recorded here are the Great Horned Owl

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“Friends of” County Parks Stewardship Groups Wanted for Our Parks

While you may enjoy exploring the diversity of parks in Washtenaw County, more than likely you most often visit the park closest to your home. This park may have become an important part of your neighborhood. With this in mind, WCPARC wants to establish “Friends of” stewardship groups to celebrate and care for individual County parks and nature preserves, starting with County Farm. Come join us for a kick-off meeting of the “Friends of County Farm Park” on September 22 at 6pm (at the new

park pavilion, Medford Road entrance). You'll meet others who frequent County Farm and begin talking about things you can do to improve the park's environment.

In the near future, we hope to form stewardship groups for Park Lyndon as well as the DeVine and Leonard Preserves. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, or, if you would like to form a group at another County property, contact Parks Naturalist Catherine Marquardt, at (734) 971-6337 x322 or marquardtc@washtenaw.org. ☞

PARKER MILL *continued from Cover*

There, William ground flour and feed for the needs of his growing family and farm. He also provided this service to local farmers playing a vital role in the frontier community. In 1887, William Parker's older son Fred oversaw construction of both a cider mill adjacent to the grist mill, and the original Geddes Road Bridge. Construction of the Parker Mill buildings was typical of most pioneer structures in the region, using the native building materials found at hand on the property: ample amounts of field stones, riverbed sand and gravel, and a wide variety of timber cut from native bottomland forests.

The pioneering work of Thomas Edison in the 1880s brought the advent of electric power and changed the face of America. Regional industrial centers like Detroit were among the first to adopt the technology. The spread of electric power throughout American industry meant that factories and mills could be located essentially anywhere, bringing heavy competition against the older, water-powered industries. Many of our local mills went out of business as a result. But Parker Mill persisted through the years, remaining family owned and operated. William Parker ran the family grist mill until his death in 1910. His younger son George took over operations, expanded the business and began commercial production of the Parker brand of "Flemings Creek Mills" flours, cereals and vinegars. By 1924 the growing American automobile industry emanating from Detroit placed new demands on road construction throughout the region. As a result, the Parker Mill structures and foundations were

raised four feet to integrate with a new alignment of Geddes Road. At the same time the grist mill's original wooden turbine was replaced by the smaller and more efficient metal turbine still in place today. George Parker's death in 1956 signaled the end of the mill's commercial operations. George's son Dale kept the mill running to meet only the needs of his family and farm, eventually closing in 1959.

In 1983, the 27-acre Parker Mill property was purchased by WCPARC. Restoration of the mill buildings was completed the following year and Parker Mill County Park was officially opened to the public. As part of the restoration, the mill was refitted to operate on electricity.

This switch to electric power was a necessary change; the original mill pond dam had been destroyed in a flood, eliminating the steady flow of water that powered the mill's turbine. Today, the mill grinds corn into flour essentially identical to that made by the Parker family.

Along with the neighboring 18-acre Forest Nature Preserve leased from the City of Ann Arbor, there are a total of 45 acres managed by the

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The Parker brand of "Flemings Creek Mills" flours, cereals and vinegars was sold at local stores



Today the Parker Mill buildings appear relatively unchanged from the late 1800s. In fact, new structural beams, siding and roofs, and conversion to an electric-powered turbine were among the extensive renovations commissioned by WCPARC in 1983. Historical authenticity was ensured by Amish craftsmen.

Health & Fitness at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

(734) 971-6355

Fall 2005



Meet Our Staff!

The staff at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center includes *Building Superintendent*, Eric Edwards; *Assistant Building Managers*, Gus Rosa and LaJuene Ferrell; *Building & Aquatics Supervisor*, Dan Cuthbert; and *Building & Aquatics Workers*, Charles Masten and Mark Weaver.

In addition, *Fitness Coordinator*, Marie Candiotti and *Part-Time Assistant Building Managers*, Barb Orlik and Emily Galimore along with a host of instructors, gym monitors, lifeguards, and front desk attendants all help to create a positive health and fitness experience for visiting patrons.



In the Know...

Do I have to register ahead of time for classes?

Only for Instructional Swim and Ta-Ji. All other classes are drop-in.

Do I have to purchase a punch card?

No, but it will save you money! Punch cards are good for 10 fitness classes and that includes water aerobics. They can be shared with friends and family and are good through the end of the calendar year.

I forgot to pick up a class schedule, how do I know what classes are going on today?

Call the AEROBIC HOTLINE at 971-6337 x352. The hotline will give you classes for the day and notify you of any class cancellations.

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

Facilities & Programs

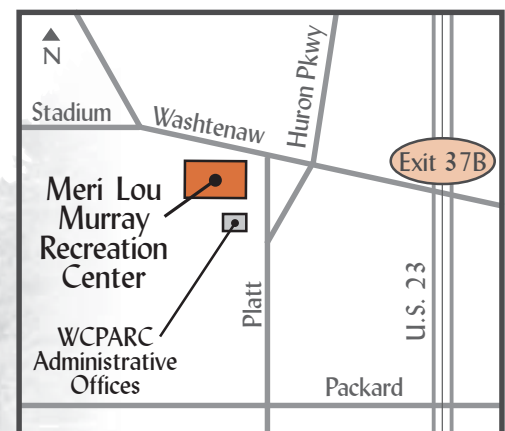
Track (1/12 mile)
Gymnasium
Heated Pool
Cardiovascular Training Area
Strength Training Area
Locker Rooms
Assisted Care Locker Rooms
Classes:
Fitness (Adult & Senior)
Swim* (Adult & Youth)
Weight/Cardio Room Orientation

Building Hours

Mon - Fri, 6am - 10pm
Sat, 8am - 6pm
Sun, Noon - 10pm
(Closed Thanksgiving Day,
November 24th)

Come on Down!

2960 Washtenaw Avenue
(entrance on Platt Road)
Ann Arbor, Michigan
734.971.6355



* Registration forms available at Recreation Center or online at parks.ewashtenaw.org

Adult Fitness & Dance “Drop-In” Classes

Fitness Pilates I & II

Increase core strength and flexibility of the spine, improve posture, alignment and mind-body connection.

Kickboxing

Kicks, punches, blocks & combos create an incredible workout. Bag work; participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves.

Power Sculpting

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

Sculpt & Condition

Strengthen and tone the total body. Mildly aerobic workout is adaptable yet challenging for all fitness levels. Hand held weights, tubes and bands are provided.

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!

Step

Fun aerobic workout with one-third the impact and twice the benefits. Concentrating on lower extremities makes this class an excellent fat burner. *(Step II: Advanced choreography and/or intensity)*

Step & Ball

Combines the fat burner section of a step class with the added conditioning benefits of the ball.

Turbo Kick

This ultimate cardiovascular challenge will improve agility and overall cardiovascular fitness! Combines techniques from group aerobics, dance, self defense and kickboxing.

Super Session

Intense, 1.5 hour workout with step, strength training, kickboxing and Yoga/Pilates stretching. Challenging for all levels.

Cardio Mix

Can be a combination of high/low aerobics, step and muscle conditioning. Always different, never boring. Excellent cross training.

Light Aerobics

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

Pilates Yoga Fusion

Feel stronger and leaner with a combo of the best of yoga—flexibility and versatility—and the benefits of Pilates—core strength and alignment.



Hatha Yoga

Physical practice of yoga that involves moving in and out of different positions called “asanas”. Involves breathing and meditative exercise. All levels welcome.

TaJi

Harmonize the body and mind to better handle stressful situations. *Registration required: FA 12190*
Adult \$33/Senior \$22, 10 weeks

Dance

Join Eric and learn basic moves for the Foxtrot, Waltz, Rumba, Swing, Ballroom, and Salsa. No partners needed.



Seniors

Senior Aerobics

Big Band and contemporary music! Requires 45 minutes of standing, finishes with balance exercises and light weight resistance.

Senior Stretch Fit

Basic stretching, yoga-like exercises standing, wall and floor work. Improve muscle flexibility, increase range of motion and general well being.

Senior Sculpt & Condition

Hand weights, bands and resistant tubing tone muscles, while improving strength and balance.

Senior Step Aerobics

Sharpen balance awareness and increase cardiovascular and muscle endurance. Everyone has a step unit and chair (for balance and support).

Aerobic Hotline

(734) 971-6337 x352

Class Schedules

Cancellation Notices

Updated Daily

Weight & Cardio Room Orientation

Have questions? Our certified instructors 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.

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.

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.

	<u>Sec#</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Infant Toddler		
SA 11:15-11:45	11010	\$32
Pre-school 1		
SA 10:35-11:05	11020	\$32
SA 11:50-12:20	11021	\$32
Pre-school 2		
SA 10:00-10:30	11030	\$32
Young Swimmer 1		
SA 10:00-10:30	11040	\$32
SA 11:15-11:45	11041	\$32
SA 12:30-1:00	11042	\$32
Young Swimmer 2		
SA 10:35-11:05	11050	\$32
SA 11:50-12:20	11051	\$32
SA 12:30-1:00	11052	\$32
Level 2		
SA 10:00-10:35	11060	\$32
SA 11:15-11:50	11061	\$32
SA 11:50-12:25	11062	\$32
Level 3		
SA 10:35-11:15	11070	\$32
SA 12:30-1:10	11071	\$32
Level 4		
SA 11:50-12:30	11080	\$32
Level 5/6		
SA 12:30-1:10	11090	\$32

Instructional Swim Classes, 5-week Sessions

Sessn.	Register	Classes	Sessn.	Register	Classes*
A	Sep10-20	Youth: Sep24 - Oct22 Adult: Sep21 - Oct19	B	Oct22 - Nov1	Youth: Nov5 - Dec10 Adult: Nov2 - Dec7

* NO CLASS: Youth Nov26, Adult Nov23

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Children who are not potty trained must wear diapers with training pants and a swimsuit

You may watch swim classes from the deck on the 1st & last days only; on all other days use the main floor observation windows

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

Sec #12410, \$40



Adult Water Exercise

Aqua Aerobics/Easy Toning

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.

Pool Schedule

Fall 2005 - Spring 2006

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	
11-1pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap		
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	
7-8pm	Swim Class	Open Swim	Swim Class	Open Swim	Open Swim	Rec Center Closes at 6	Adult Lap 8-9:45
8-9pm	Aqua Aerobics		Aqua Aerobics				
9-9:45pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap		

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE CLOSURES – Pool*: Closed from 1-6pm every Thursday, AND on the first Thu/Fri of each month the pool is closed from 1pm on Thu to 9am on Fri; **Locker Rooms:** Closed M-F, Men's 10:15-10:45am, Women's- 2:00-2:30pm; **Track:** Closed M-F from 1:30-2pm

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

From the Outdoors...

Nature Notes

Study in County Natural Areas

The natural areas in Washtenaw County Parks and Natural Areas Preservation Program preserves hold many resources that our park naturalists and others use for interpretation, education, and scientific research. Instructors from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Washtenaw Community College use these natural areas as classrooms for students to study grasses and sedges, trees and other woody plants, fish, amphibians, birds, and insects. Undergraduate and graduate students have conducted many research projects on County lands studying, among other things, wood frogs, cattails and mosquitoes.

But not all study in our parks and preserves is done through educational institutions. On July 1st of this year, I participated in the 11th Annual Butterfly Count at Park Lyndon, part of the North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July Count. Each year Roger Wykes, local bird and butterfly enthusiast and one of the Count leaders, compiles a list of Lyndon's butterfly species. This year's list of 34 species included the Poweshiek Skipper, a butterfly associated with the tallgrass prairies of the Great Plains and Upper Midwest. With the gradual loss of Michigan's native prairie landscape, the Poweshiek is now listed as a *Michigan Threatened Species*.

Our parks and preserves have also been visited this year by folks

surveying for the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas. Dea Armstrong, local bird expert and ornithologist for Ann Arbor's Natural Areas Preservation (NAP) Division, recently spent time checking for birds nesting in the grassland habitat of the DeVine Preserve. Dea's sighting of a pair of Dickcissels—a *Michigan Species of Special Concern*—is the first ever reported on Washtenaw County property.

This, and other recent sightings, demonstrates the importance of our Natural Areas Preservation Program! We encourage County residents to take advantage of the many natural history programs,



©John Cassidy

Dickcissel (Spiza americana), a Michigan Species of Special Concern; an exciting find at the County's DeVine Preserve.

classes, teachers, and other educational and interpretive resources available within Washtenaw County Parks and Nature Preserves. ☞

Faye Stoner, Parks Naturalist

Kathy's Garden Corner

Fall Color in the Gardens of County Farm Park

The next time you visit County Farm Park this fall, take a detour through the gardens around the Parks Commission Offices (at the Platt Road entrance) to see lovely displays of fall color and texture.

The gardens underneath the pergola on the way up to the building should be glowing with the white flowers of twice-blooming *Iris*. As you look up the path, you'll be drawn to the bright maroon-red triangle of Burning bush. Stop here and let your eyes sweep up across the different textures of Silver grass and Prairie cordgrass contrasting with the White and Austrian pines, fir, and juniper evergreens in the rock-garden on the hill ahead.

Continue on to the right (east) side of the Administrative building and you can compare the different greens and leaf shapes of Climbing hydrangea, St. Johnswort, *Euonymus*, fern, *Potentilla* and *Hosta*. Foundation plantings of purple/red-berried *Cotoneaster* and *Spiraea's* shimmering reds lead to the brilliant violet-purple blooms of Monkshood flowering under the black walnut trees behind the building. Continue along the path to the East Pavilion to see the brilliant, rusty reds of Sumac, gold-green spikes of Daylillies, gray-green tufts of *Potentilla*, and red-purple of *Spiraea* leaves. Enjoy the show! ☞

Kathy Squiers, Parks Horticulturist

PARKER MILL

continued from page 4

County as public park land. A favorite feature of walkers, hikers and bikers is the park's extensive trail system. Beginning adjacent to the parking lot on Geddes Road, the shared-use trail at Parker Mill extends through the park and crosses the Huron River, connecting to the City of Ann Arbor's Gallup Park trail system, a key segment of Washtenaw County's Border to Border Trail (see "Border to Border Trail Update", Winter 2004-2005 Newsletter). The Hoyt G. Post Trail features a 1.3 mile nature boardwalk that extends from the primary shared-use trail through the dense floodplain forest of Fleming Creek, and on to the Huron River. Viewing platforms adjacent to the trail provide wonderful views of the woods—especially in fall and spring—and interpretive signs along the H.G. Post trail enhance our experience and understanding of the ecology and natural processes associated with Fleming Creek, the floodplain forests, and the Huron River. Additional interpretive signs around the mill buildings explore in greater detail the role of the Parker family and Parker Mill within the context of Washtenaw County's early years, as well as some of the technical aspects of mill operations; such as how grain is ground into flour and how water was used to power the mill machinery.

To celebrate the harvest season the gristmill is open for free public tours on seven consecutive Sundays, September 11 - October 23 [see sidebar for details]. Private tours can also be scheduled. For further information call Parks Naturalist Faye Stoner, (734) 971-6337 x318. ☞

Mark Dennis, Park Planning Intern

Come Celebrate the Harvest Season

We have lots of fall activities planned at the historic mills of County Parks...step back in time, learn about local history, and have fun!

Parker Mill

Mill Tours

September 11, 18 & 25

October 2, 9, 16 & 23

Learn how water generated enough power to grind flour, turn a lathe and run a cider press in this pioneer grist mill! Stop by anytime between 1-5pm; formal tours begin at 1pm and 3pm.

Wander Washtenaw

September 24, 10am-4pm

Learn how to make Johnny cake and corn dolls; take a tour of the mill.

Make Your Own Cider!

October 8, 10am-5pm

Bring your own bushel of apples and containers. Appointments on the half hour. **Pre-registration is required**, (734) 971-6337 x318

Sharon Mills

Showcase Sharon

September 11, 1-4 pm

Local artisans will demonstrate traditional crafts such as the spinning of llama and sheep wool, stone working and more.

Mill Tours

September 18

October 2 & 16

Come learn how water power was converted to electricity in this turn of the century mill. Stop by anytime from 1-4pm; formal tours begin at 1pm and 3pm.

For more info
contact Parks Naturalist
Faye Stoner
(734) 971-6337 x318
stonerf@ewashtenaw.org

OSBORNE MILL cont'd from page 2

(*Bubo virginianus*), the Great-crested flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), the Belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), the Rose-breasted grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), the flycatching Eastern kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), and numerous warblers including the thrush-like Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), the Black-and-White warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), and the Black-throated Green warbler (*Dendroica virens*).

Ironically, the closing of the popular Delhi Bridge may be a blessing in disguise as it serves to further enhance Osborne's secluded charm. There is one short trail loop and a short trail that extends south to the property line. When you visit, please be considerate of our neighbors by not trespassing beyond

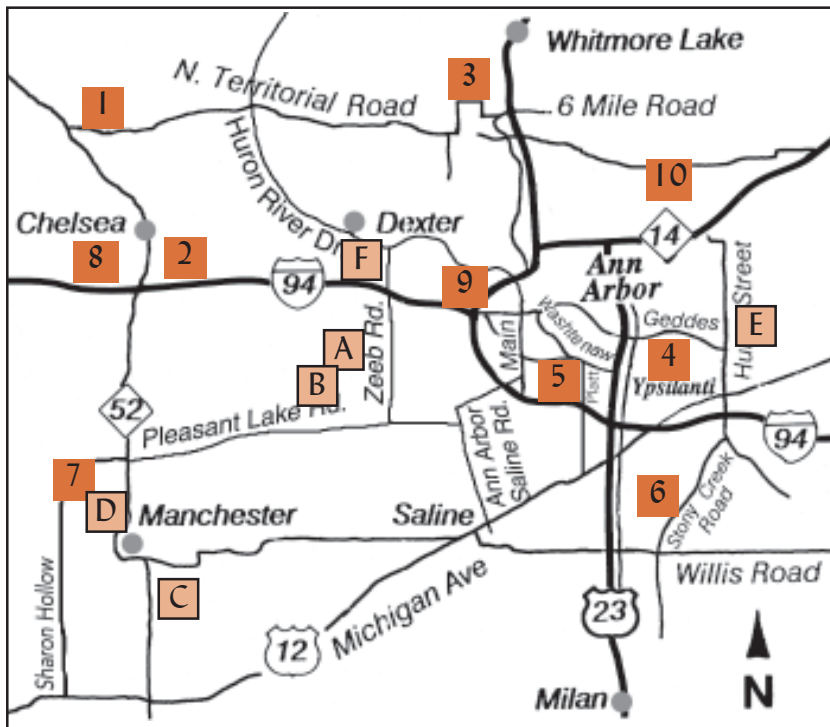


Great-crested flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)

County Park property. Consider bringing binoculars and a field guide or two. For both beginning and seasoned naturalists, Osborne Mill Preserve offers an amazing diversity of flora and fauna for year-round appreciation, right in the heart of Washtenaw County's Huron River corridor. ☞

Mark Dennis, Park Planning Intern

Maps and More...



Visit us online for
park maps and more info!
parks.ewashtenaw.org

Parks & Recreation Facilities

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

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)*

- A** DeVine Preserve, 137 acres
north side of Liberty Rd., 1/2-mile west of Zeeb Rd.,
Scio Twp
- B** Brauer Preserve, 180 acres
west side of Parker Rd., just south of Waters Rd.,
Freedom Twp
- C** Ervin Preserve, 72 acres
west side of Clinton Rd., directly opposite the
intersection of Burmeister Rd., Bridgewater Twp
- and -
Stucki Preserve, 57 acres
south side of Austin Rd., immediately west of Neal
Rd., Bridgewater Twp
- D** Leonard Preserve, 205 acres
end of Union St., Manchester
- E** LeFurge Woods Preserve
south side of Vreeland Rd., just east of Prospect Rd.,
Superior Twp (Preserve owned by the Southeast Michigan
Land Conservancy; WCPARC holds a conservation
easement on 64 acres)
- F** Burns-Stokes Preserve, 29 acres **new**
west side of Zeeb Rd., just south of Huron River
Drive, Scio Twp

*Currently, the DeVine and Leonard Preserves have public parking; DeVine also has an entry sign and rustic trails. To access other preserves, call for more detailed directions.

Washtenaw County
Parks and Recreation
Commission

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Calendar of Events & Programs

Ongoing

Family Day at Pierce Lake Golf Course!
Wednesdays, kids under 17 play free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Sundays, October 2 & 16

◆ **Tours of Sharon Mills, 1-4pm**
Tours are on-going and folks can stop by anytime; two formal tours will begin at 1&3pm

September

Sun, September 11

◆ **Boardwalk Botany, 10am**
Park Lyndon North

◆ **Showcase Sharon, 1-4pm**
Local artisans will demonstrate crafts such as spinning (llama and sheep wool) and stone working. Mill open. *Sharon Mills*

Sat, October 8

◆ **Make Your Own Cider! 10am-5pm**
Appointments on the half hour. Bring your own bushel of apples and your own containers. *Parker Mill*

Pre-registration is required for
cider making, call 971-6337 x318
for more information

Sundays, September 11, 18 & 25

◆ **Tours of a Pioneer Grist Mill, 1-5pm**
Tours are on-going and folks can stop by anytime; two formal tours will begin at 1&3pm. *Parker Mill*

Sat, October 15

2nd Annual Rebirth Classic: Disc Golf Tournament! Celebrate the rebirth of the oldest disc golf course in Washtenaw County. Register 8:30-9:30am; shot-gun start 10am; jumbo toss, BBQ and awards 1-3pm. \$15 all divisions. For more information contact James "Duck" Ward at (734) 484-3818 or www.rollinghillsdisc.com. *Rolling Hills, vehicle entry fee required*

Fri, September 16

◆ **Under the Harvest Moon: Hike and Campfire, 7:30pm**
Independence Lake, vehicle entry fee required

Workday: Woody Invasives, 10am-12pm
Help remove shrubs from a remnant prairie. Bring clippers and gloves if possible. *Leonard Preserve*

Sun, September 18

◆ **Early Autumn Wetlands & Woods, 10am, Brauer Preserve**

◆ **Tours of Sharon Mills, 1-4pm**

Tours are on-going and folks can stop by anytime; two formal tours will begin at 1&3pm

◆ **Hiking the Hills, 12:30-2pm**
Leonard Preserve

Thu, September 22

"Friends of County Farm Park" Kick-Off Meeting, 6pm
County Farm Park, Medford Road entrance

November

Sat, November 5

◆ **Exploring the Preserve, 10am-12pm**
DeVine Preserve

Sat, September 24

◆ **Wander Washtenaw, 10am-4pm**
Learn how to make Johnny cake and corn dolls; tour the grist mill. *Parker Mill*

Workday: Woody Invasives, 12-2pm
Help cut invasive shrubs. Bring gloves and clippers if possible. *DeVine Preserve*

October

Sat, October 1

◆ **Autumn Woods Scavenger Hunt: Children's Program, 10am**
County Farm Park, Medford Road entrance

Workday: Restoring the Hillside Prairie, 12-3pm. Help remove invasive shrubs from this rare prairie ecosystem. Bring gloves and clippers if possible. *Park Lyndon North*

Sun, November 13

◆ **Oak Islands & Marshland Meadow, 2pm**
Independence Lake, vehicle entry fee required

Fri, November 18

◆ **Just Past the Frost Moon: Hike and Campfire, 7pm**
Independence Lake, vehicle entry fee required



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Washtenaw County
Parks & Recreation
Commission
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◆ **Nature & Interpretive Programs, for more info contact**
Faye Stoner at (734) 971-6337 x318 -or- stonerf@ewashtenaw.org
Visit parks.ewashtenaw.org for the latest additions to the calendar. Map on page 11