



Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Summer 2006



Summertime at Independence Lake The Tradition Continues

First opened to the public on Memorial Day 1980, Independence Lake County Park was an instant success, quickly becoming one of the most popular places to spend a summer afternoon in Washtenaw County. Now, with the addition of 83 acres in 2005, Independence Lake is also the largest park in the County system. To describe this beautiful park adequately one has to begin with its namesake, Independence Lake. This 192-acre natural kettle lake was formed about 10,000 years ago when a block of ice broke off the last retreating glacier. Today the lake has a maximum depth of 35 feet, but more than half of the lake is only five or less feet deep. It is believed the lake was named by local settlers when they celebrated July 4, 1827 with a picnic on the lakeshore.

Come Out and Play!

Although there are lots of things to do in the park all year-round—such as hiking, nature programs, ice fishing and cross-country skiing—summer remains the most popular season. The combination of unique natural features and facilities provided by the Parks Commission (through three development phases) adds up to summertime fun! The Beach Center area continues to be the main attraction. The beach is sunny, sandy and great for digging, and the gentle slope of the swimming area's lake bottom is ideal for small children. Lifeguards are on duty every day (10am-8:30pm weather permitting) from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day. Immediately adjacent to the beach is the Spray Zone, an exciting water play area with geysers, jet streams

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Fun in the sun...the beach and Spray Zone at Independence Lake!

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

From the Director

Robert L. Tetens

Once a year, County government holds a special event to recognize those individuals, teams and departments that demonstrate excellence in public service. This year there were seven categories to which nominations were made, and I am proud to note that WCPARC employees were nominated in five of those categories.

Raymond Essell, Park Planner was nominated for Employee of the Year; Faye Stoner, Parks Naturalist, was nominated for the Service and Program Improvement award; Rhea Dreffs, Parks Accountant, was nominated for the Citizen/Customer Service award; Mike O'Leary, John Meriwether and Ed Wojtan, the WCPARC Roving Operations Crew, were nominated for the Community of Interest–Excellence in Collaboration award; and Deputy Director Jim McCasey was nominated for the Supervisor of the Year award. These well deserved nominations are the result of a deliberate effort to continually improve our performance for the over 800,000 people who visit our parks and facilities each year. Congratulations to each of them.

The awards ceremony also recognized those employees who have devoted most of their working lives to public service with County government. Eight staff members in the Parks and Recreation department have at least 20 years of service with Washtenaw County. Raymond Essell and Tom Freeman, Superintendent of Park Planning, recently celebrated 20 years; Eric Edwards, Manager of the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, has been with the department for 25 years; Supervisors Dan Cuthbert, Bill Kaltz and Mike O'Leary each have over 30 years of service with Washtenaw County, as do Superintendent Tom Leabu and Deputy Director Jim McCasey.

The Commission applauds these hard working employees who have each played an important part in the development and continued success of your parks system during the past three decades.

Thank you for all that you've made possible in Washtenaw County.



Mature beech at the Kosch Property in Superior Township, a 160-acre parcel recently nominated to NAPP's Round 6.

NAPP News

Natural Areas Preservation Program

Total Land Protected: 780 acres

Administered by WCPARC since 2001

If the first half of 2006 is any indication, the County's Natural Areas Preservation Program is in for a busy year. Four properties from last year's *Round 5* were recommended for purchase by the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC), and *Round 6* already includes ten nominated properties, two of which have also been recommended. The acquisition process is currently under way for all six properties, as approved by the Parks Commission. One of the most exciting potential acquisitions is the **Kosch Property** in Superior Township. Representing continued collaboration with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC), this 160-acre parcel includes grand scenic vistas and significant wetland and forest habitats. In addition, it adjoins SMLC's Springhill Nature Preserve, 30 acres of protected land. Development pressure is high on the Kosch property since much of the land is currently cropland. From a preservation perspective, this presents opportunities for wildlife conservation plantings and habitat restoration that would further protect the high quality natural areas found there.

In other NAPP News, the program recently received an award from the *National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO)* which recognizes and honors excellence in recreation and park facilities to encourage outstanding efforts in planning that provide benefits to the community. The award will be presented to WCPARC this August at NACPRO's annual meeting in Chicago. ♪

Lynn Berni, Park Planner

County Farm History Inspires Improvements

New Accessible Playscape and Community Gardens

Construction is nearing completion on a rather unique project at the “Farm” that will create a wonderful, accessible “discovery” garden and playscape for all park visitors. The new facility is a great fit for the park and, more importantly, it will open up opportunities for both children and adults of all abilities to participate in outdoor activities.

Accessible Gardens

The Project Grow Community Gardens at County Farm Park have been a long standing and complimentary use activity at the park for many years. To expand opportunities for gardeners with physical disabilities and other special needs, the Commission is pleased to have included a wide array of custom-designed raised beds, table planters, trellis boxes, and other associated gardening containers at the “new” community garden area. Trellis structures provide shade as well as additional gardening opportunities, and two charming garden sheds provide storage for tools and equipment. Several theme gardens are planned for the future, including a “Three Sisters” discovery garden—the interplanting of corn, beans and squash is known as the Three Sisters by the Iroquois Indians of the East—and a sensory garden, among others. Planning a garden around a theme allows kids and grownups to create a growing space that means something special to them. Interpretive signage about accessible gardens and other garden-related subjects is also planned.

Discovery Playscape

Immediately adjacent to the garden

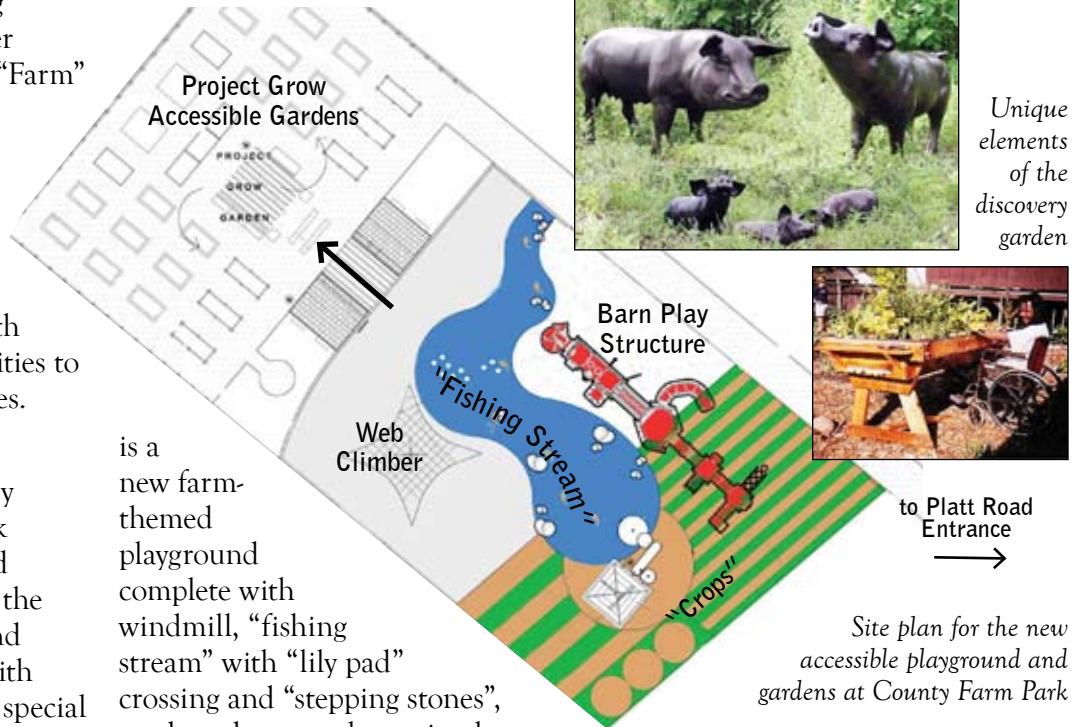
is a new farm-themed playground complete with windmill, “fishing stream” with “lily pad” crossing and “stepping stones”, stock tank water play, animal statuary, sand “beach”, climbing web structure, barn-like play structure, and rubber safety surfacing in an agricultural pattern complete with “crop circles”. The playground is a long sought after addition to the park by the general public and is expected to be especially popular with the Commission’s summer daycampers! This engaging new facility is a major departure from the rather typical, standardized local play structures.

Key objectives of the project included creation of a new facility that is safe and highly accessible; sensory-rich and stimulating; challenging and developmentally appropriate; family-friendly, encouraging

interactions and easy supervision; oriented to child-directed and child-initiated play and learning; farm-inspired; and finally, complementary to the character of the existing park. The Commission believes that the resulting garden and playground, a blend of both custom design and more traditional modular equipment, accomplishes these objectives.

Come check out this wonderful new facility next to the picnic shelter and existing Project Grow plots at the Platt Road entrance. ☺

Ray Essell,
Park Planner



Unique elements of the discovery garden



Barn-theme play structure

Let It Burn!

County Parks Prescribed Burn Program Ignited

“**B**urn breaks complete?
Winds still out of the west?
Everyone have their gear on?
Water tanks filled?
Okay, ready to ignite!”

This is what you'd hear on a day when Washtenaw County Parks staff is preparing to conduct a **prescribed burn**. Simply stated, this is a fire purposely set, and closely controlled, within a specified area of land. Prescribed burning is used by land managers to accomplish a variety of goals. Burns can promote the growth of certain desirable plants, like native prairie grasses (plants that are adapted to and thrive with fire), but can also control the growth of unwanted plants, like garlic mustard seedlings in a woodland or dogwood shrubs in a prairie. Fire releases nutrients into the soil by burning the leaf litter on the forest floor or the grass thatch of a prairie (the matted layer of dead and living stems, roots, and organic matter above the soil) that has built up over time. Fire can also enhance seed germination by exposing the soil surface, thus increasing the amount of warmth and light the sun can provide.

Prescribed burns have been conducted on County parklands for over ten years. Former Parks Naturalist Matt Heumann first organized prescribed burns to help maintain the growth of the native prairie plants found at Independence Lake Park. In recent years, Parks staff have expanded burn efforts to include the prairie and wetland habitats at Park Lyndon and Osborne Mill, but prescribed burns were not a major priority until this year.

The growth of the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP), as well as the recognition of how fire can be useful in managing natural areas in all County parklands, has given a push to our prescribed fire program. This spring, two Parks naturalists and five members of our maintenance crew attended a challenging week-long class on fire safety and prescribed burning offered by The Nature Conservancy. Topics covered included fire behavior, tools, ignition techniques, and burn plan preparation.

Just four days after completing the class, our newly expanded burn crew participated in the biggest prescribed burn ever conducted on County Parks land! The 50-acre burn was conducted at the Leonard

Preserve, the County's largest NAPP preserve, located just west of Manchester. Planned and executed with great skill by *PlantWise Native Landscapes*, specialists in ecological restoration, the Leonard burn was an excellent opportunity for the crew to implement new knowledge and gain further experience. This has been a busy burn season for County Parks, with controlled burns also conducted in woodland, wetland and prairie habitats at Parker Mill, County Farm Park, the Burns-Stokes Preserve and Independence Lake Park.

Washtenaw County Parks staff looks forward to the continued use of fire as a management tool to help accomplish the stewardship goals set for our parks and preserves. ♪

Faye Stoner, Parks Naturalist



Securing the edge of the burn amid smoldering grasses at the Leonard Preserve.

Health & Fitness at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

Summer 2006

(734) 971-6355

Camp Big Heart

This week-long day camp experience is designed for 6-19 year old Washtenaw County youths who are educably, trainable and physically impaired. Crafts, nature projects, sports, music, drama, and special events are all part of the summer fun and campers swim at the Rec Center pool daily!

Monday, Aug 7th–Friday, Aug 11th
9:00am–3:00pm

\$5 fee includes a t-shirt for each camper.
Registration forms are available at the Rec Center front desk or online at parks.ewashtenaw.org



From left to right, campers Eileen and Gary with camp counselor Sam Love



In the Know...

Do I have to register ahead of time for classes?

Only for Instructional Swim, Ta-Ji and Focused Breathing. 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, including Adult Water Exercise. 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 (734) 971-6355 and each day of the week has its own extension number, see page 6 for details.

Drop-In Class Fee Schedule

	Resident (per visit)	Non-Resident (per visit)	Punch Card (10 visits)
Adult (16-61)	\$6	\$8	\$35
Senior (62+)	\$4	\$5	\$25

Contact the Rec Center for info on Daily & Annual Pass fees

Facilities & Programs

Track (1/12 mile)
Gymnasium
Heated Pool (Barrier-free)
Cardiovascular Training Area
Strength Training Area
Locker Rooms
Assisted Care Locker Room
Classes:

Fitness (Adult & Senior)
Weight Room Orientation
Swim (Adult & Youth)

Swim registration forms available at the Rec Center front desk or online at parks.ewashtenaw.org

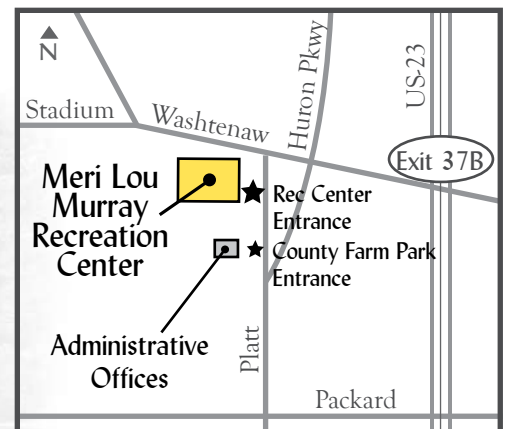
Building Hours

Mon–Fri, 6am–10pm
Sat, 8am–6pm
Sun, Noon–10pm

CLOSED:
Memorial Day, May 29th
Independence Day, July 4th
Aug 21st–Sept 4th

Come on Down!

2960 Washtenaw Avenue
(entrance on Platt Road)
Ann Arbor, Michigan
(734) 971-6355



Adult Fitness “Drop-In” Classes

Rush Hour Crunch

50 minutes of core strength training at its best. Abdominal and back muscle conditioning. An overall body workout to give you the body you want!

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.

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 Sunday

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

Aerobic Strength Training (AST)

This 90 minute class will tone, strengthen and firm your entire body! 30 minutes of aerobic activity followed by 60 minutes of strength training. Includes bands, weights, resistance tubes and floor mats.

Cardio Mix

Can be a combination of high/low aerobics, step, kickboxing 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 (Pi/Yo) 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.

Ta-Ji

Harmonize the body and mind to better handle stressful situations. Registration required
Adult \$35/Senior \$25, 10 weeks

Focused Breathing

Relaxes you from inside out by focusing on every muscle. Takes you to a better you! Registration required
Adult \$35/Senior \$25, 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

Class Schedules

Cancellation Notices

(734) 971-6355...

Mon x751	Fri x755
Tue x752	Sat x756
Wed x753	Sun x757
Thu x754	

Weight Room Orientation

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 at the front desk, \$12/class

Get in the Pool!

Youth Swim

Infant Toddler

(6 mos–18 mos 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.

Sat 11:15–11:45 Sec# 41010 \$55

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.

Sat 10:35–11:05 Sec# 41020 \$55

Sat 11:50–12:20 Sec# 41021 \$55

Pre-School 2

(2½–4+ 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.

Sat 10:00–10:30 Sec# 41030 \$55

Young Swimmer 1

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

Sat 10:00–10:30 Sec# 41040 \$55

Sat 11:15–11:45 Sec# 41041 \$55

Sat 12:30–1:00 Sec# 41042 \$55

Young Swimmer 2

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

Sat 10:35–11:05 Sec# 41050 \$55

Sat 11:50–12:20 Sec# 41051 \$55

Sat 12:30–1:00 Sec #41052 \$55

Level 2

(At least 5 yrs) 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.

Sat 10:00–10:35 Sec# 41060 \$55

Sat 10:35–11:10 Sec# 41061 \$55

Sat 11:15–11:50 Sec# 41062 \$55

Sat 11:50–12:25 Sec# 41063 \$55

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.

Sat 10:35–11:15 Sec# 41070 \$55

Sat 12:30–1:10 Sec# 41071 \$55

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.

Sat 11:50–12:30 Sec# 41080 \$55

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.

Sat 12:30–1:10 Sec# 41090 \$55

Note: Fee increases reflect change from 5-week to 8-week session

Instructional Swim Class, 8-week Session

Session	Register	Classes
A	May 20–Jun 3	Youth: Jun 10–Aug 5 Adult: Jun 7–Aug 2

No Class: July 1 or July 5

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

Wed 7:00–8:00pm Sec# 42410 \$70

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.

****PLEASE READ****

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

Pool Schedule

Summer 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
7-9am	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	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 12-2
1-4pm	Day Camp	Open Swim	Day Camp	Closed for Cleaning 1-6*	Day Camp	Open Swim 1:15-4:30	Open Swim 2-8
4-5pm	Open Swim		Open Swim		Open Swim		
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		

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

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 Friday; **Track:** Closed M-F from 1:30-2pm; **Locker Rooms:** Closed M-F, Men's 10:15-10:45am, Women's- 2:00-2:30pm

Printed on 100% recycled paper, 100% post-consumer content, processed chlorine free!

Rolling Hills Renovations

Improvements To “The Lodge”

Park headquarters at Rolling Hills Park, known as the Lodge, is located on a wonderful site with an expansive view over Spring Pond and the surrounding landscape. First constructed in 1983, the Lodge received a major renovation and upgrade in the last six months. These changes provide greater opportunities for park guests to enjoy the grand views. In particular, visitors will find the **Great Room** to be even more comfortable, inviting and functional than before. Several different seating options and visitor capacities [in brackets] are available: conference [18], banquet [30] and classroom [50]. A stone fireplace provides a cozy setting at any time of year, while air conditioning can handle the heat and humidity of a Michigan summer. Formerly fixed windows have been replaced with energy efficient ones that can be opened for ventilation.

The exterior spaces adjacent to the building have been updated as well. For starters the original entry patio has been refurbished with new paving and plantings. More exciting is the construction of a new patio and deck accessible from the door in the east wall of the Great Room. Both will allow people to spill out of the building into the fresh air and sunshine. For more information about reserving the Great Room at the Lodge, as well as all other group rentals available at Rolling Hills Park, call (734) 484-9676 or visit parks.ewashtenaw.org. ☞



Pond views from the new deck at the Lodge

Plan Your Next Event at a County Park!

For more information call (734) 971-6337 unless otherwise indicated; map on page 11

Independence Lake Park

Meeting Room, seats 35-40
Beach Center Pavilion, 120
Independence Woods Pav., 90
Meadow's Edge Pavilion, 90
Gamble Group Center, 480

Reservations required, fees apply, (734) 449-4437



Meeting Room

Rolling Hills Park

Great Room, seats 30-50 (plus 31 outdoors)
Woodlands Pavilion, 90
Prairie Pavilion, 200
Family Pavilions (4), 12

Reservations required, fees apply, (734) 484-9676



Great Room at the Lodge

Pierce Lake Golf Course

Picnic pavilion, seats 80-110

Reservations required, fees apply, (734) 475-5858



Sharon Mills

Mill Building, seats 50 (up to 200 with tents)
Picnic pavilion, 36-48

Reservations required with **Food Art**, full service catering and event planning, fees apply, (734) 222-9098



Mill Building

County Farm Park

Platt Shelter, seats 60-70
Medford Shelter, 40-54
Free, first come-first served



Medford Shelter

Park Lyndon

North Shelter, seats 32-48
South Shelter, 24-36
Free, first come-first served



North Shelter

Cavanaugh Lake Park

Picnic pavilion, seats 40-54
Free, first come-first served



INDEPENDENCE LAKE

continued from Cover

and interactive spray features. When the kids need a break from beach and water play, check out the large multilevel playground and swings nearby. As always, the Beach Center Concession is well stocked with hot dogs, chips, soda and ice cream. Several picnic areas are available at the park along with four pavilions which can be reserved for fees ranging from \$60-\$320, depending on their size. The largest, the Gamble Group Center, accommodates 480 adults and has its own private beach and swim area. For biking, rollerblading or walking try the 1.7-mile paved path. Or take a walk and explore over one mile of nature trails. Both trail systems wind through the unique ecosystems of the park, providing great views and interpretive signage along the way.

Special Events

On Saturday, June 10 Independence Lake will sponsor a **Free Fishing Day**, when a DNR fishing license will not be required. From the newly

renovated fishing pier, kids can drop in a line to catch bass, bluegill, and pike. Expert anglers will be on hand to provide tips, especially for the youngsters. Two weeks later, head out to the park for a **Free Kayak Demo Day** on Saturday, June 24. *Sun & Snow* of Ann Arbor will provide over 20 different kayaks for visitors to try, plus paddling techniques will be reviewed for beginners. Gather at the Beach Center for both events.

The Park is Growing!

In December 2005, the Parks Commission purchased an 83-acre addition to the



Free Fishing Day!

Saturday, June 10th

Get hooked on fishing at Independence Lake and Rolling Hills County Parks! Expert anglers will be on hand to provide tips and techniques for all ages.

- DNR fishing license NOT required
- Bait provided
- Bring your own poles
- Fishing goodies provided for the kids
- Other State fishing regulations enforced

Rolling Hills, 10am-Noon

meet at the pond

Independence Lake, 5pm-7pm

meet at the Beach Center

Vehicle entry fee required at both parks

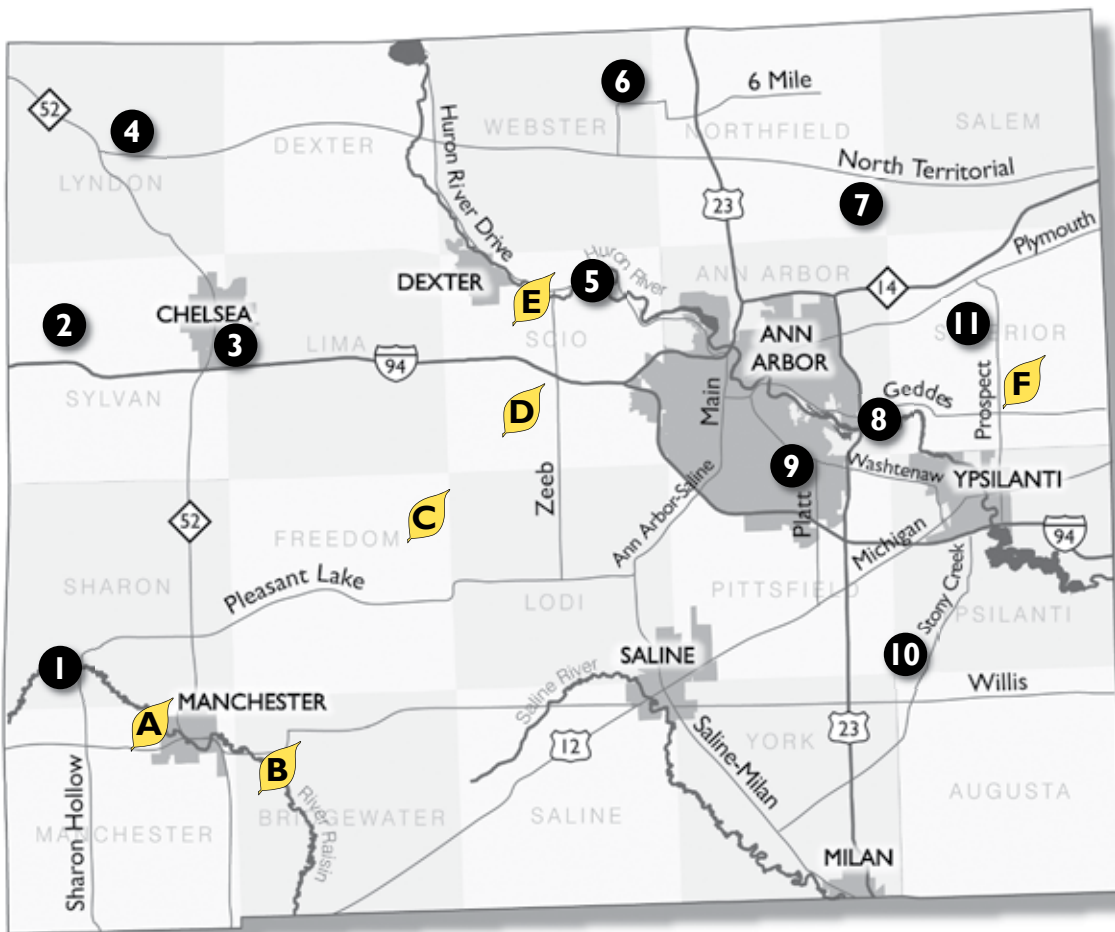
park, providing opportunities for expanded recreational and educational programs. Sensitive development of the new parkland will permit expansion of the existing trail system into more wetland and woodland areas for wildlife observation. Currently, this property is not open to the public, as plans for cleanup and removal of existing deteriorated structures are proceeding. ♪

Richard Kent, Park Planner

Meet Our Staff

The full time staff at Independence Lake County Park includes **Brian Machemer**, Park Superintendent, **Bill Kaltz**, Park Supervisor and **John Meriwether** (pictured left to right). John recently joined the staff of the park after four years with the County Parks Roving Operations Crew (ROC). Bill and Brian, on the other hand, have long associations with Independence Lake. In fact Bill Kaltz worked on "Indy" before it formally opened as a park in 1980. Brian Machemer has been Superintendent since 2002 but he first worked at the park from 1980-1987. In addition to these full timers, many seasonal workers help to provide the high level of customer service that visitors expect and receive at WCPARC facilities.





Visit us online for park maps, park info and detailed directions!
parks.ewashtenaw.org

Parks & Recreation Facilities

- 1** Sharon Mills
5701 Sharon Hollow Road, Sharon Township
- 2** Cavanaugh Lake Park
Cavanaugh Lake Road, Sylvan Township
- 3** Pierce Lake Golf Course & Park (734) 475-5858
1175 South Main Street, Chelsea
- 4** Park Lyndon
18801 North Territorial Road, Lyndon Township
- 5** Osborne Mill Preserve
East Delhi Road, Scio Township
- 6** Independence Lake Park (734) 449-4437
3200 Jennings Road, Webster Township
- 7** Park Northfield
Pontiac Trail, Northfield Township
- 8** Parker Mill Park
4650 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor Township
- 9** Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center (734) 971-6355
Corner of Washtenaw & Platt, Ann Arbor
-and-
County Farm Park
2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor
- 10** Rolling Hills Park & Water Park (734) 484-9676
7660 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti Township
- 11** Superior Center Park
Corner of Prospect & Cherry Hill, Superior Township

Natural Areas Preservation Program

- A** Leonard Preserve
End of Union Street, Manchester Township
- B** Ervin-Stucki Preserve
Clinton Road, Bridgewater Township
- C** Brauer Preserve
Parker Road, Freedom Township
- D** DeVine Preserve
Liberty Road, 1/2 mile west of Zeeb, Scio Township
- E** Burns-Stokes Preserve
Zeeb Road, Scio Township
- F** LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
Vreeland Road, Superior Township
(NAPP funds purchased a conservation easement on 64 acres of the preserve; the entire 325-acre preserve is owned by the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy)

NOTE: The DeVine and Leonard Preserves have entry signs and parking. DeVine also has rustic nature trails. The LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve has several entrances on Prospect Road. At this time, all other NAPP Preserves lack entry signage and parking.

Janice Anschuetz
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Robert W. Marans
Vice President

Patricia Scribner
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Jimmie Maggard
Nelson K. Meade
Rolland Sizemore, Jr.
Conan Smith
Stephen Solowczuk
Fred Veigel

Robert L. Tetens
Director

Calendar of Events & Programs

Summer 2006

Map on page 11

FREE unless
noted otherwise

Visit us online for
calendar updates

Ongoing

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

Tours of Sharon Mills
Nine Sundays this summer! Formal tours offered at 1&3pm, mill open 1-4pm.
June 4, 11, 18
July 16, 23, 30
August 13, 20, 27

Nature Fun Thursdays (1 hr)
Pre-registration required, see below for program details. Bring a lunch to eat with Parks Naturalist Faye Stoner afterwards!

June

Sat, June 3
Almost the Strawberry Moon, 6-9pm
Meet at the cabin for a potluck dinner around 6:30, take an evening hike and gather around the fire after! *Park Lyndon South*

Thu, June 8
Workday: Garlic Mustard/Dame's Rocket Pull, 6-8pm. Bring gloves, if you have them.
County Farm Park, Medford Rd. entrance

Sat, June 10
Free Fishing Day: Fun for All Ages!
No DNR fishing license required, all other state fishing regulations enforced. Expert anglers will be on hand to provide tips and techniques. Bring your own poles, bait provided.
Rolling Hills, 10am-Noon @ pond
Independence Lake, 5-7pm @ Beach Center
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337 x318
Vehicle entry fee at both parks

Workday: Whacking Woodies, 10am-1pm
Learn which shrubs to remove and how to use herbicides. Co-sponsor Stewardship Network's River Raisin Cluster. *Leonard Preserve*

Wed, June 21
Men's Senior Golf Scramble Championship
Registration begins 8am. 18 holes, 4-person teams, \$120 per team. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes and trophies! *Pierce Lake Golf Course*

Sat, June 24
Summer Morning Bird Walk, 8-10am
DeVine Preserve
Free Kayak Demo Day! 12-4pm
Try out over 20 kayaks, review of paddling techniques. Co-sponsor *Sun & Snow of Ann Arbor*. *Independence Lake, vehicle entry fee*

Sun, June 25
Tours of Parker Mill & Log Cabin, 1&3pm
Michigan Log Cabin Day! Mill open 1-4pm.
Common Sedges & Grasses, 10am-Noon
Prairie fen, woodland, and old field habitats. Bring a hand lens, if you have one. Feet may get wet. *Park Lyndon North*

Thu, June 29
Nature Fun: Creepy Crawlies! 11am
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337 x318
County Farm, Medford Rd. entrance

July

Thu, July 6
Nature Fun: All About Birds! 11am
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337 x318
Rolling Hills, vehicle entry fee

Sat, July 8
Wildflowers of County Farm, 1-3pm
County Farm Park, Medford Rd. entrance

Sun, July 9
Celebrate Huron River Day at Parker Mill!
Plants Along the River Hike, 10-11:30am
Historic Grist Mill Tours, 1&3pm
Kid's Rubber Duck Races, 2-3pm (every 10 min), mill open from 12-4pm. *Parker Mill*

Thu, July 13
Nature Fun: Forest Scavenger Hunt! 11am
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337 x318.
Independence Lake, vehicle entry fee

Sat, July 15
Firefly Celebration! 8:30-10pm
A fun-filled evening of storytelling, firefly-catching and snacks around the fire after!
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337 x318
Independence Lake, vehicle entry fee

Sun, July 23
Exploring Along the River Raisin, 10am-Noon. Wear shoes and pants that can get muddy! *Leonard Preserve*

Thu, July 27
Nature Fun: Wading the River! 1pm
Must wear shoes. High water, no program.
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337 x318
Osborne Mill Preserve

August

Thu, August 3
Nature Fun: Caterpillar Carnival! 11am
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337 x318
County Farm Park, Platt Rd. entrance

Sun, August 6
Ferns of a Summer Swamp, 2-4pm
Brauer Preserve

Thu, August 10
Workday: Trash Pick-Up! 6-8pm. Bags provided. *County Farm, Medford Rd. entrance*

Sun, August 27
Wildflowers of the Prairie, 10am-Noon
Independence Lake, vehicle entry fee

Interested in volunteering at the
historic Parker Mill grist mill?
Call Faye at (734) 971-6337 x318

☀ indicates Nature & Interpretive Programs, for more info contact our Parks Naturalists
Faye Stoner: stonerf@washtenaw.org, (734) 971-6337 x318
Catherine Marquardt: marquardtc@washtenaw.org

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