



Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Spring 2008



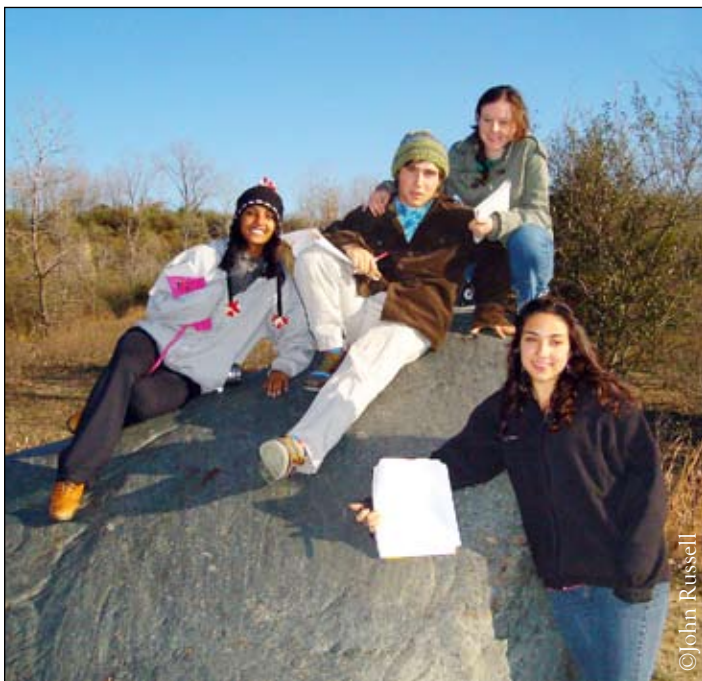
©Jon R. Vermilye

Our Ice Age Connection Educational Opportunities at New Fox Science Preserve

A former gravel pit in Scio Township is getting new life as a nature preserve! Home to glacial boulders and prehistoric vegetation, the 49-acre Fox Science Preserve is the newest addition to the system of preserves protected by the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program. Purchase of this site was a collaborative effort involving the former owners Mel and Betty Fox, the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, the Scio Township Land Preservation Commission, and the Washtenaw

County Parks and Recreation Commission, which now owns and manages the land.

Tremendously exciting educational opportunities exist in the bottom of the pit. With so many biological and geological events crammed into one small space, teachers can easily watch from afar while their students explore the natural history of the region. In fact, former owners Mel and Betty Fox have been allowing students to access this property for more than 35 years; over 40,000 students have used the site as an outdoor classroom! Scattered around the bottom of the pit are table-sized glacial boulders of granite, tillite, gneiss, and limestone. Some of these have come from north of Lake Ontario, glacially transported to their present location. Glacial scratches on boulders allow students to see evidence of moving glaciers and to imagine what it would be like for a mile of ice to sit above where they are standing. Fossils can be found in the limestones, and countless small samples



©John Russell

Pioneer High School seniors sitting on a two million year old glacial boulder at the new Fox Science Preserve! They're taking part in a science course taught by John Russell, member of the County's Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee.

(continued on page 10)

Inside

From the Director
page 2

NAPP News
page 2

**Swift Run Dog Park
Makes Its Debut**
page 3

Golf Course Update
page 3

Eagle Scout Endeavors
page 4

**Rec Center
Swim & Fitness**
pages 5-8

**New Signage at
Burns-Stokes Preserve**
page 9

Meet Our Staff
page 9

Parks Map
page 11

**Calendar of
Events & Programs**
back page

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

From the Director

Robert L. Tetens

This year, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission celebrates its 35th year of providing service to the citizens of Washtenaw County. That history of service is a source of pride to me and all the members of the Commission and staff. In recognition of this significant anniversary, I thought it would be interesting to reflect on that history. Included below is an excerpt from "A History of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission", written by Nelson Meade, member of the Commission since 1973.

"The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission was created by the County Board of Commissioners when it approved a resolution introduced by Commissioner Meri Lou Murray calling for the development of a county parks and recreation program. There was recognition that Washtenaw County was undergoing rapid urbanization and population growth. Much of this growth was taking place where very few provisions were being made for the recreational need of this burgeoning population, nor was there any effort to preserve significant open spaces for public use." ... "The new Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission held its first meeting in August 1973. It negotiated a general fund budget of approximately \$60,000 with the Board of Commissioners."

As part of the act of creating the county park system, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners assigned four existing "roadside parks", previously operated by the County Road Commission. In the 35 years since that first meeting, county parks has become a much larger organization—currently managing 24 parks, facilities and preserves, comprising more than 2,900 acres.

Our history, though, is still very much a part of the organization today. Through its name, the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center recognizes the contribution her vision made to our community. Nelson Meade continues to offer his guidance, along with a sense of history. And they are just two of the many members of the Commission and staff who have devoted years of service to the organization.

As Nelson's comments reveal, our community still faces many of the concerns it did 35 years ago—rapid urbanization and a need to ensure that the growing population has access to open space and recreation opportunities. As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we will seek to honor the contributions that have been made by the organization in the past and continue the history of serving our community.

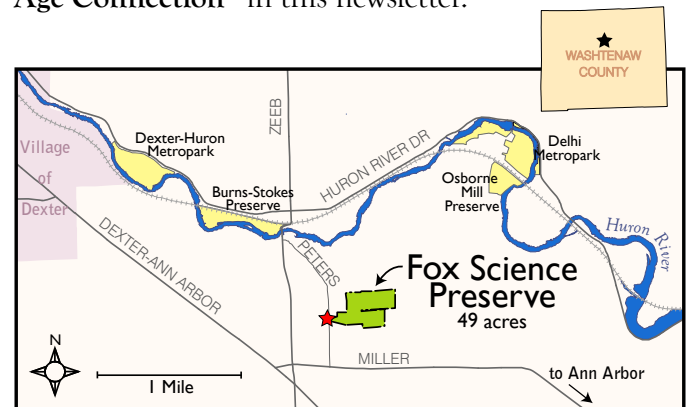
NAPP News

Natural Areas Preservation Program

Total Land Protected: 1,079 acres

Administered by WCPARC since 2001

Purchase of the new **Fox Science Preserve** was completed in December 2007, concluding a 2-year collaborative process that involved the former owners, Washtenaw County Parks, the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program and Scio Township. County Parks contributed 50% of acquisition costs, with the Greenbelt and Township sharing the remainder; Parks holds title to the land and will manage the 49-acre preserve. In addition, Ann Arbor Public Schools has pledged to contribute to interpretive signage that explores the natural history of this former gravel pit, including glaciation, plant succession and more. To learn more about this exciting new preserve read the cover story "**Our Ice Age Connection**" in this newsletter.



Facilitating public access to the NAPP preserves continues with the entrance/parking completed at the **Raymond F. Goodrich Preserve** (Ann Arbor Township) late last fall, and parking for the new Fox Science Preserve should be completed this year. As we begin 2008, parking is available at 7 of the 11 preserves protected with Natural Areas Preservation Program funds: the Albert J. Miller, Brauer, Burns-Stokes, DeVine, Kosch-Headwaters, Leonard, and Raymond F. Goodrich Preserves.

In December, the *Rouge River Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council* presented an award to WCPARC for protecting the 160-acre **Kosch-Headwaters Preserve** in Superior Township. Wetlands, springs, and seasonal streams all contribute to the headwaters of Fowler Creek which ultimately flows into the Rouge. ☞

Lynn Berni, Park Planner

Who Let The Dogs Out? Woof, Woof!

Swift Run Dog Park Makes Its Debut

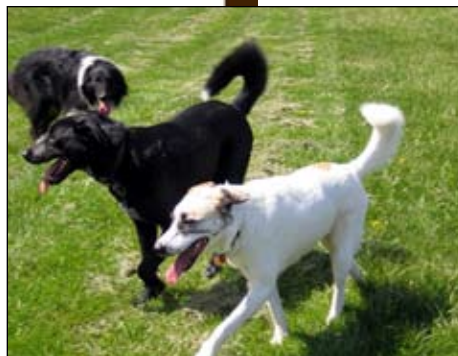
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission welcomes all area dogs (and their owners, of course) to visit the new Swift Run Dog Park. Officially opened in December 2007, this long awaited off-leash park is a 10-acre outdoor space where dogs can legally run free. And, so far Swift Run is a resounding success! Park amenities include both large and small dog run areas, double entry control gates, onsite portable toilet and disposal stations



dog waste (Note: water is not available at the park).

development and operation costs to be shared by the agencies. The park entrance is on Platt Road, south of Ellsworth, at the Swift Run landfill. Open daily year-round between dawn and dusk unless otherwise posted, the park will typically be closed for maintenance on Mondays between 8:30-11:30 am and Fridays between 12:30-3pm. ☞

Lynn Berni,
Park Planner



Swift Run Dog Park is a collaborative project of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department, with

Before You Go to the Park

- Have your dog licensed
- Learn the park rules & etiquette
- Register and purchase an annual dog park use permit, required to be worn by all dogs inside the park. Permits are available at Ann Arbor City Hall (residents only) and the Washtenaw County Treasurers office (all others). Dog owners must complete a registration form, provide documentation of current rabies vaccination (license or certificate) and sign a waiver and release of liability.
- Annual permits cost \$50 for the first dog and \$25 for each additional dog. For spayed/neutered dogs with certificate documentation, the fees are reduced to \$35 and \$15. Fees will be waived for guide dogs.

For more information about dog registration, permit fees, park rules, etc. visit parks.ewashtenaw.org

Driven a Golfball Lately?

Pierce Lake Golf Course Reopens in Spring

There is probably no better place in the county to play the first round of spring than at Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea. Golfers can always count on being challenged by this beautiful and affordable course. Unless delayed by unseasonable weather, the course should open by the last weekend in March, perhaps even earlier. Two tournaments are planned for 2008, the **Cabin Fever Scramble** in May and the **Senior Scramble Championship** in September. First place trophies,

prizes and lunch will be provided. Dates TBD. For more information visit plgc.ewashtenaw.org or call the course at (734) 475-5858.

On the park operations front, a number of changes are planned at Pierce Lake that will make playing a round, or even a few holes, more enjoyable. More details will follow in our summer newsletter and on the parks website. See you on the course! ☞

Richard Kent, Park Planner



Free Golf Cart Rental

Visit us online to print an official coupon for a free 9-hole cart at Pierce Lake Golf Course

plgc.ewashtenaw.org

Valid through Friday, April 25th

Not valid with league or outing play

Eagle Scout Endeavors

Two Great Projects Built in 2007

In a given year, it is not unusual for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation to receive several inquiries from Boy Scouts who wish to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout project, an exercise in leadership, requires that a Scout plan the project, in some way provide materials, recruit volunteers, and finally, lead the volunteers in the work. Sometimes Scouts come up with the project idea and sometimes they choose to take on a project suggested by Parks staff. In the past, Eagle Scout projects have provided new trails, cleared and marked; bridges and boardwalks over streams and wetlands; and prairie habitat restoration work in County parks and preserves.

2007 proved to be another great year for our department as the recipient of Eagle Scout endeavors. In Park Lyndon South (located on North Territorial Road, just east of M-52), a new boardwalk leading out onto Lake Genevieve was built by Boy Scout Michael Carpenter, age 17 of Gregory, Michigan. Michael is a member of Troop #425

and also a member of Venture Crew #412. His project included design, construction and installation of the new boardwalk, as well as removal of the old one. Michael and his "crew" had the extra challenge of hauling lumber and tools quite a distance, since the steep hills and narrow trails of Park Lyndon do not allow vehicle access to the boardwalk. This project, which involved over 250 hours of volunteer time, resulted in an eye-pleasing, safe and sturdy structure that allows park visitors to walk out past the lake edge and better experience the aquatic habitat of the park.

At the Leonard Preserve just north of Manchester, Boy Scout Ryan Paul built and then installed 12 bat boxes throughout the preserve. Ryan, age 16 of Manchester, is a member of Troop #426. His project involved natural history research

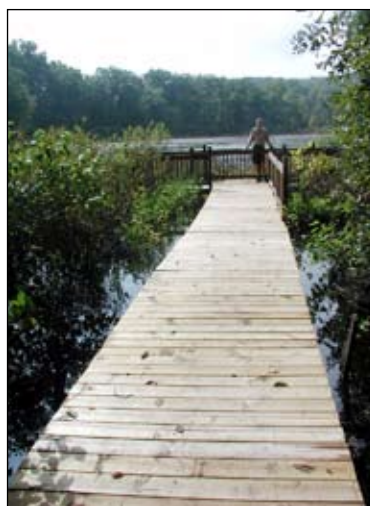


Boy Scout Ryan Paul planned, built and installed 12 bat boxes at the Leonard Preserve in Manchester Twp.

that included what to consider when choosing bat box locations that are the most likely to be successful at attracting bats. Ryan and his volunteers built the houses off-site, mounted them on 15 foot metal poles, and then placed the poles 4 feet into the ground at his carefully selected spots; a total of 134 volunteer hours. Ryan's crew also had the challenge of hauling materials to several far-in, off-road locations without the use of a truck. Bats sometimes have trouble finding suitable roosting locations; when properly built and placed bat boxes can be very beneficial to several species of bats. Because of Ryan's attention to detail, I feel confident that the boxes will someday be "home" to some of the Leonard Preserve's bats.

Michael's and Ryan's Eagle Scout projects were well planned, well directed and yielded very beneficial results. Our department says "Thanks for a job well done!" to them both. ♪

Faye Stoner, Park Naturalist



Boy Scout Michael Carpenter planned, designed and built a new boardwalk at the edge of Lake Genevieve, a wonderful amenity for visitors to Park Lyndon.

Health & Fitness

at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

(734) 971-6355

Spring 2008



Get Ready for Summer Camp 2008

Group games, nature programs, arts & crafts, swimming, and field trips to Rolling Hills Water Park and Independence Lake Park are all part of the summer fun at Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation!

Registration begins April 1

Day Camp

Ages: completed kindergarten–11 years

Sign up for any 4 weeks, June 16–Aug 1

Camp Big Heart

All ages, for physically and mentally challenged individuals. 1 week, August 4–8



Registration forms are available online and at the Rec Center front desk



In The Know

- Fitness classes that met twice a week are now offered once a week so you can customize an 11-week cross training fitness program

Rates (Effective January 1, 2007)

	County Resident	Non-Resident	Youth 3-17 Adult 18-61 Senior 62+
Daily Fees			
Adult	\$6	\$8	
Senior, Youth, or Disabled	\$4	\$5	
Annual Passes			
Adult	\$200 (\$185)	\$305 (\$285)	
Senior, Youth, or Disabled	\$150 (\$135)	\$225 (\$210)	

Renew before your Annual Pass expires to receive the discounted rate shown in parentheses ()

Fitness/Instructional Swim Classes

See next two pages for class registration fees*

Fitness Class "Drop-In" Rates*

Adult (age 16-61)	\$6/class	\$8/class
Senior	\$4/class	\$5/class

* Registration is recommended for all Fitness classes; priced at approximately \$4 per hour (less for seniors) it is the most affordable option. You may also "drop-in" to any fitness class when space is available.

Facilities & Programs

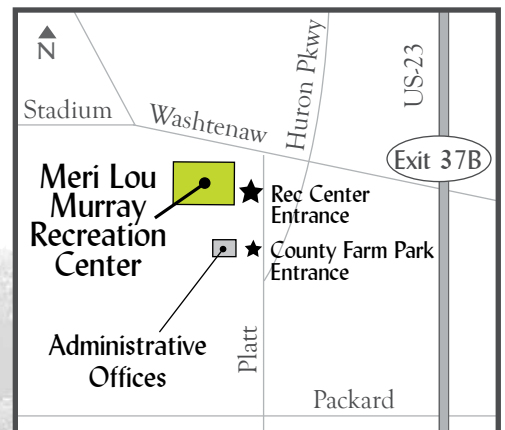
- Track (1/12 mile)
- Gymnasium
- Heated Pool (Barrier-free)
- Cardio & Strength Training Equipment
- Locker Rooms
- Assisted Care Locker Room
- Classes:
 - Fitness & Dance
 - Instructional Swim

Building Hours

- Mon–Fri, 6am–10pm
- Sat, 8am–6pm
- Sun, Noon–10pm
- Closed:
 - Easter Sunday, March 23
 - Memorial Day, Monday May 26

Come on Down!

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



Fitness & Dance



CARDIO

ABC: Aerobics, Ball & Conditioning
45 min. of fun that will work every muscle in your body! Aerobic dance, large and small ball, maybe even a little hula hoop!

M 11:00-11:45a #3100 \$33 (Sr. \$25)
W 11:00-11:45a #3101 \$33 (Sr. \$25)

Basic Aerobics

Slower paced entry level workout for all ages. 40 min. aerobics, 20 min. conditioning & stretch.

M 9:15-10:15a #3300 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
F 9:15-10:15a #3301 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

"Exercise and application produce order in our affairs, health of body, cheerfulness of mind, and these make us precious to our friends."

-Thomas Jefferson

Basic Step

Slower paced entry level workout for all ages. Sharpen balance awareness and increase cardiovascular and muscle endurance.

M 8:15-9:00a #3330 \$33 (Sr. \$25)
W 8:15-9:00a #3331 \$33 (Sr. \$25)

Step Interval

Combination of either step & conditioning or step & hi/low aerobic dance. Great cardiovascular workout!

T 9:35-10:35a #3230 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th 9:35-10:35a #3231 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Step II

Less impact and twice the benefits, fun aerobic workout. Targets lower extremities, excellent fat burner. Advanced choreography and/or intensity.

T 6:30-7:45a #3210 \$55 (Sr. \$41)
T 4:30-5:30p #3211 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
T 6:40-7:40p #3212 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th 6:30-7:45a #3213 \$55 (Sr. \$41)
Th 4:30-5:30p #3214 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Sat 8:05-9:05a #3216 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Zumba

This Latin-based aerobic fitness class uses easy, fast, and slow rhythms set to fun Latin and international music. A real "feel happy" cardio workout!

W 9:15-10:15a #3130 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

CONDITIONING

Aerobic Strength Training (AST)

Tone, strengthen and firm your entire body! Bands, weights, resistance tubes, floor mats provided.

T 6:00-7:15p #3180 \$55 (Sr. \$41)
Th 6:00-7:15p #3181 \$55 (Sr. \$41)

Basic Sculpt & Condition

Slower paced entry level workout for all ages. Hand weights, tubes and strengthen and tone muscles, while improving flexibility and balance.

T 8:30-9:30a #3320 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th 8:30-9:30a #3321 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Basic Training

Hard core workout for your entire body.

W 5:30-6:30p #3160 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
F 5:30-6:30p #3161 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Sculpt & Condition

Tone and strengthen the total body. Mild aerobic workout, adaptable yet challenging for all fitness levels. Hand-held weights, tubes, bands provided.

T 12:15-1:15p #3200 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th 12:15-1:15p #3201 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
F 10:30-11:30a #3203 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Sat 9:15-10:15a #3202 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Power Sculpting

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

M 5:30-6:30p #3190 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Rush Hour Crunch

45 min. of core strength training at its best. This class will work your entire mid-section with the use of bands, balls, tubes and weights!

W 4:30-5:15p #3240 \$33 (Sr. \$25)

DANCE

Dance

Foxtrot, waltz, rumba, swing ballroom and salsa. No partners needed.

F 7:30-9:00p #3150 \$66 (Sr. \$50)

KICKBOXING

Martial Arts Kickboxing

Kicks, punches and drills with a martial arts emphasis. Bring your own gloves for bag work.

T 5:30-6:30p #3110 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th 5:30-6:30p #3111 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Sat 10:30-11:45a #3112 \$55 (Sr. \$41)

Turbo Kick

Cardiovascular challenge improves agility and overall fitness! Techniques from dance, aerobics, kickboxing, self defense.

Mon 6:40-7:55p #3170 \$55 (Sr. \$41)

MIND & BODY

Fitness Pilates II

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

M 6:45-8:00a #3290 \$55 (Sr. \$41)

Hatha Yoga

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

M 12:15-1:15p #3270 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
W 6:40-7:40p #3271 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
F 12:15-1:15p #3272 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Matwork Pilates

Benefits include increased overall flexibility, abdominal strength and overall sense of well being. Feel stronger and leaner as you develop your core.

M 9:30-10:30a #3280 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
W 9:30-10:30a #3281 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th 7:15-8:15p #3282 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Sat 11:50-1:05p #3283 \$55 (Sr. \$41)

Senior Stretch Fit

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

T 10:45-11:45a #3310 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th 10:45-11:45a #3311 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Tai-Chi

Harmonize body & mind, better handle stressful situations, learn to release body energy to move with unified integrity using your structural alignment.

Sat 3:00-4:00p #3250 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

Get in the Pool!



Class registration info
on next page

WATER AEROBICS

Looking for a new and refreshing way to stay in shape? Tired of sore feet and aching joints? Water aerobics is a great low impact workout that can improve strength, flexibility, circulation and cardiovascular stamina. Workouts can easily be tailored to match your abilities. No swimming skills required. 11-week fitness class.

M	9:00-10:00a	#1200	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
M	^{new time} 6:00-7:00p	#1210	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
T	9:00-10:00a	#1220	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
T	10:00-11:00a	#1230	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
W	9:00-10:00a	#1240	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
W	^{new time} 6:00-7:00p	#1250	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th	9:00-10:00a	#1260	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
Th	10:00-11:00a	#1270	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
F	9:00-10:00a	#1280	\$44 (Sr. \$33)
Sat	9:00-10:00a	#1290	\$44 (Sr. \$33)



Instructional Swim

ADULT & TEEN

four 4-week sessions

Learn to Swim

(13+ yrs) Two instructors will divide the class into two skill levels on the 1st day. Classes are designed for those who wish to learn to swim, improve strokes or just learn to be comfortable in the water.

W 7:00-8:00p #2410 \$38 (Sr. \$28)

YOUTH SWIM

two 8-week sessions

Duck & Ducklings (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 11:15-11:45a #1010 \$60

Otters & Pups (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 10:35-11:05a #1020 \$60

Sat 11:50-12:20a #1021 \$60

Penguins & Chicks (Pre-School 2)

(2½-4+ yrs with adult) We'll begin to practice Sea Stars skills; for kids who aren't ready to be in the water without a parent. One adult per child.

Sat 10:00-10:30a #1030 \$60

Sea Stars (Young Swimmer 1)

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

Sat 10:00-10:30a #1040 \$60

Sat 11:15-11:45a #1041 \$60

Tadpoles (Young Swimmer 2)

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

Sat 10:35-11:05a #1050 \$60

Sat 11:50-12:20p #1051 \$60

Sat 12:30-1:00p #1052 \$60

Goldfish (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 on stroke completion and technique.

Sat 10:00-10:35a #1060 \$60

Sat 11:15-11:50a #1061 \$60

Sat 12:30-1:05p #1062 \$60

Alligators (Level 3)

(Must pass Goldfish or with permission) Learn to combine and coordinate basic swimming skills into complete strokes. Rhythmic breathing introduced; front and back crawls will improve.

Sat 10:35-11:15a #1070 \$60

Sat 11:50-12:30p #1071 \$60

Sea Turtles (Level 4)

(Must pass Alligators or with permission) Deep water comfort is a must. Improved stroke technique and endurance is the focus. Children work on more distance with front and back strokes, along with breaststroke and treading water.

Sat 11:50-12:30p #1080 \$60

Dolphins (Level 5/6)

(Must pass Sea Turtles or with permission) Students will refine and improve all strokes learned while increasing endurance and stroke efficiency. More distance is introduced.

Sat 12:30-1:10p #1090 \$60

*** PLEASE READ ***

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

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

Class Registration Info		
Fitness, Dance & Water Aerobics: 11-week session		
Session	Registration*	Classes
A	Mar 10-Apr 3	Apr 7-Jun 22
Youth Instructional Swim: 8-week sessions		
Session	Registration**	Classes
A	Mar 15-Mar 26	Mar 29-May 17
B	May 31-Jun 11	Jun 14-Aug 9***
Adult Instructional Swim: 4-week sessions		
Session	Registration**	Classes
A	Mar 15 until full (for all sessions)	Mar 26-Apr 16
B		Apr 30-May 21
C		Jun 4-Jun 25
D		Jul 9-Jul 30
*\$5 late fee for class registration after April 3 **Registration <u>required</u> for all Instructional Swim classes ***No Youth swim class on July 5		

Class Fee Refund Policy	
Cancelled or full class	Full refund
Before class begins	Full refund less \$5 service fee
After class begins*	Pro-rated refund less \$5 service fee
Missed class	No refund
*Refund after 1 st class <u>only</u> with letter from doctor for medical disability or from employer indicating transfer from the area	



Class Registration Form

Please use one form per participant; may be copied as needed



Participant Name _____ Birth Date _____
 Name of Guardian if Participant is under 18 _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 1st Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____

Class Title	Day & Time	Class#	Fee

Total: _____

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.

 Signature Date
 (parents must sign for children under 18)

Check enclosed (made payable to WCPARC)
 Charge to Visa/MasterCard (circle one)
 Card# _____
 Exp. _____ Phone _____
 Signature _____
 Mail to: WCPARC, P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor MI 48107

OFFICE USE:	Check # Staff Initials	Cash Receipt # Amount	CC Approval # Date	Time
--------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	------

We'll contact you only if there is a problem with your registration. Questions? (734) 971-6355, parks.ewashtenaw.org

Discovering the Past

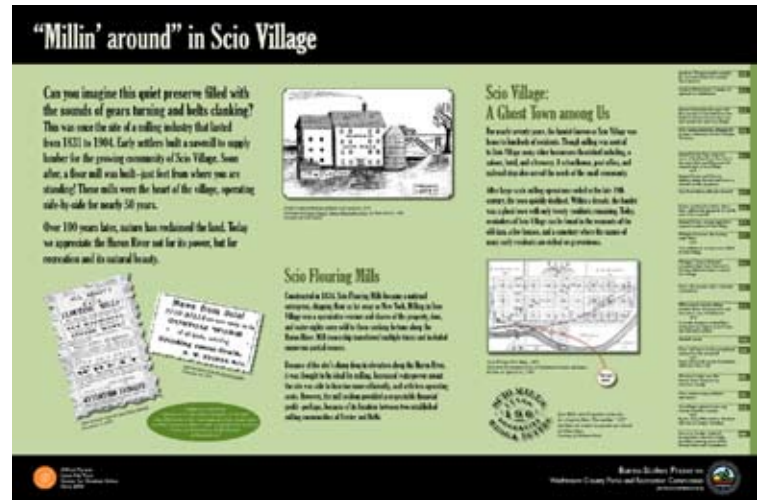
Two New Interpretive Signs at the Burns-Stokes Preserve

Travel down Zeeb Road in Scio Township and you will happen upon the bucolic Burns-Stokes Preserve just south of Huron River Drive. At first glance there is little evidence to reveal its former life as a bustling mill site over 100 years ago. After closer examination, however, you just might notice some clues to its past. A raised earthen embankment adjacent to the parking lot—which provides an ideal location for a trail down to the Huron River—was originally created to divert water from the river for use in powering the various mills.

In the 1830s a sawmill and flour mill were built on the site; collectively they were known as

Scio Mills. Today, the towering mill buildings are gone, and so is the railroad trestle that carried flour to the station up the hill. They have since been replaced with flood plain forest and creatures like beaver and mink.

Two new interpretive signs, to be installed this spring, help uncover more clues about the history of this



New interpretive sign explores the cultural history of the preserve.

unique place. Visit the preserve to learn more about the history of the mills, Scio Village, how water from the Huron River flowed through the property, and more! ➤

Kira Macyda, Park Planner

Meet Our Staff

Despite the retirement of a few key staffers in 2007, WCPARC continues a commitment to superior park maintenance that visitors have come to expect. **Ed Holley**, our new **Park Maintenance Superintendent**, intends to make sure the standard remains high. Ed, who started his new position on January 1st, transferred to WCPARC early in 2007 from the County's Facilities Management Division where he served as Supervisor of Fleet Services, Maintenance and Operations (since 2004). Prior to employment with the County, Ed had a distinguished military career—serving with both the United States Marine Corps and the United States Army—where his leadership and management skills were recognized with various awards and frequent promotions.

Mark Weaver and **Ed Wojtan** have been promoted to **Building and Aquatics Maintenance Supervisors**. Mark has been with the WCPARC since May 2001 and Ed originally joined the maintenance team in March of 2002. Both Mark and Ed have experience working at most of our parks, facilities and preserves.

Congratulations, gentlemen.



From left to right: Ed Holley, Ed Wojtan, and Mark Weaver

FOX SCIENCE PRESERVE

continued from cover

of every sort of rock have been collected by young students over the years.

Glaciation is a fascinating process that dramatically changed the landscape of the Great Lakes Basin. A short while ago in geological time—a mere 15 millennia or so—most of southern Michigan was covered by a vast ice-sheet stretching northward into Canada. Initially, this Wisconsin Glacier scraped and gouged the surface of the land, expanding and moving southward when the climate was much colder than today. Later, when the climate warmed, the glacier retreated leaving behind mounds, rocks, and boulders, and depressions that filled with melted ice forming lakes and ponds. The Fox Science Preserve includes the remains of a gravel pit, dug to contribute material to the construction of Interstate 94. Excavation was necessary to reach and extract the sand and gravel deposited there by the glacier thousands of years ago.

Although glacial geology is the primary focus of educational forays at the Fox Science Preserve, the site is valuable for studying plant communities as well. Perhaps the most unique feature of the pit is the presence of a well-developed **cryptogamic crust**—areas of ground that appear to be bare but are in fact covered with algae, fungi, tiny mosses and the precursors of lichens. **Primary plant succession** begins when these tiny plants develop on bare rock or sterile sand where no previous plants or soils exist. Only recently understood, this living crust is of vital importance in stabilizing soil and providing nutrients so that higher plants

can get a foothold. Untouched for almost forty years, the gravel here resembles that which must have occurred upon retreat of the glaciers 12,000 years ago. In fact, the pit bottom represents one of the best examples of primary plant succession in our area! In other areas of the pit where succession is more advanced, mosses, prairie grasses, goldenrods, asters, and shingle oaks are present on the developing soils. In the simplest terms, **succession** is defined as the (somewhat) predictable change from one plant community (a group of plants that grows together) to another over time. Climate, latitude, elevation, soils and hydrology all play a role. Thus we see shrubland replacing grasses and perennials, which in turn is replaced by pioneering trees, which are followed by more shade-tolerant trees.

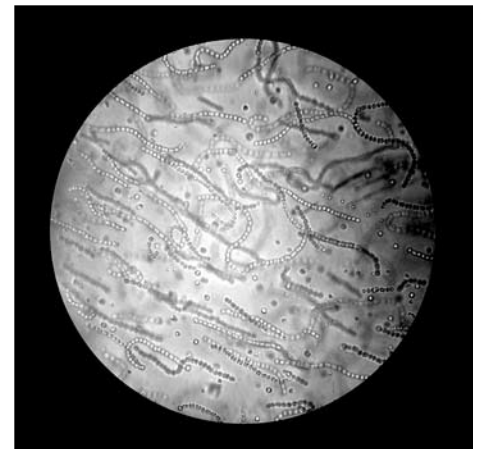
Being able to see so many primary plant species, glacially transported boulders, and a well-developed cryptogamic crust is truly unique for this area. This Natural Areas Preservation Program preserve offers a special opportunity for students

of all ages. We now have a glimpse of what the land surface looked like after the glacier retreated, a window into the past, one might say.

The Fox Science Preserve will likely be open to the general public later this year. Plans for construction of the preserve entrance and parking are in the works, stay tuned for more information. ♪

*John Russell, Natural Areas Technical
Advisory Committee Member*

Richard Kent, Park Planner



Sample of Nostoc, a bluegreen algae found in the “cryptogamic crust” on the newly forming soils of the pit.



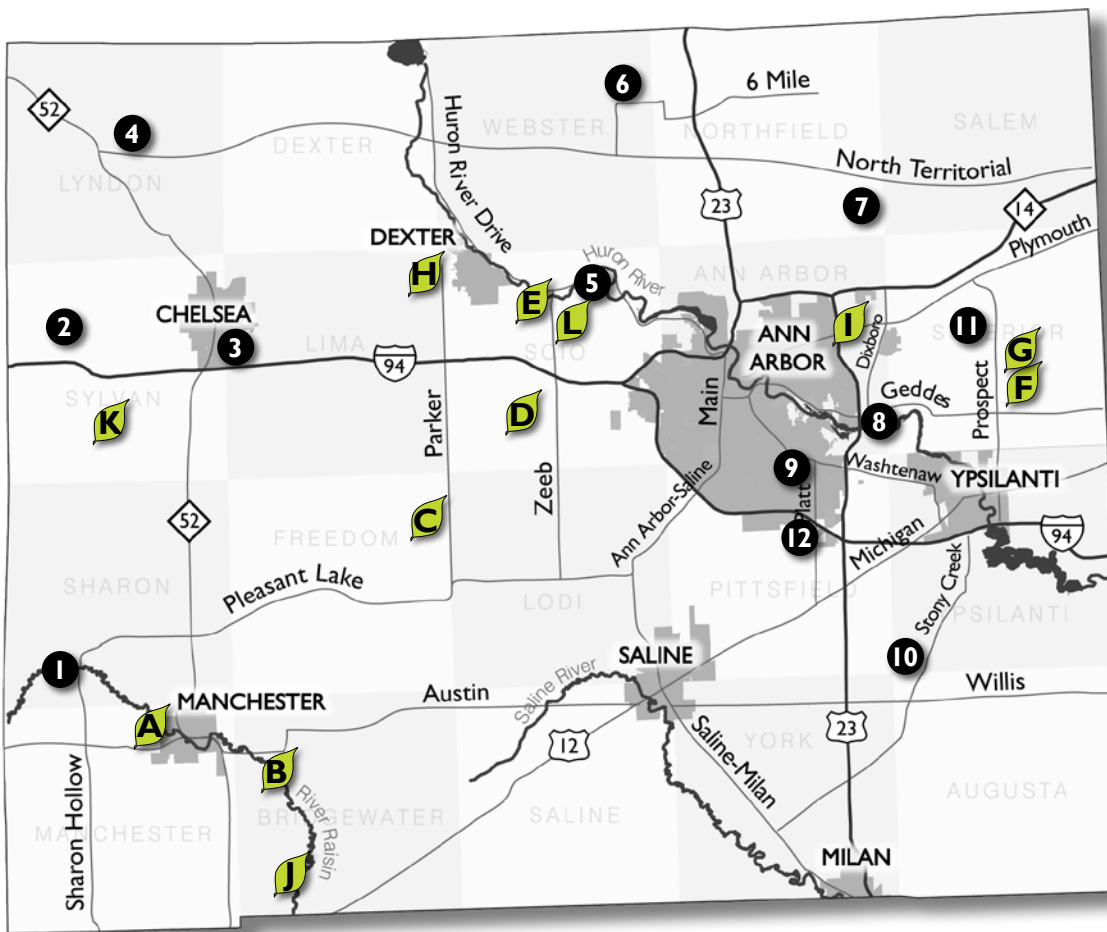
Far from a barren wasteland, the former gravel pit at the new Fox Science Preserve hosts many mosses, five species of prairie grasses, eight species of goldenrods, asters and shingle oaks!



Visit us online for park maps, park info and detailed directions

Check out the NEW maps, photos, and info online for the NAPP Preserves!

parks.ewashtenaw.org



Parks & Recreation Facilities

- 1** Sharon Mills
5701 Sharon Hollow Road, Sharon Twp, 145 acres
- 2** Cavanaugh Lake Park
Cavanaugh Lake Road, Sylvan Twp, 3 acres
- 3** Pierce Lake Golf Course & Park (734) 475-5858
1175 South Main Street, Chelsea, 232 acres
- 4** Park Lyndon
18801 North Territorial Road, Lyndon Twp, 335 acres
- 5** Osborne Mill Preserve
East Delhi Road, Scio Twp, 39 acres
- 6** Independence Lake Park (734) 449-4437
3200 Jennings Road, Webster Twp, 395 acres
- 7** Park Northfield
Pontiac Trail, Northfield Twp, 12 acres
- 8** Parker Mill Park
4650 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor Twp, 44 acres
- 9** Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center (734) 971-6355
Corner of Washtenaw & Platt, Ann Arbor
-and-
County Farm Park
2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, 127 acres
- 10** Rolling Hills Park & Water Park (734) 484-9676
7660 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti Twp, 363 acres
- 11** Superior Center Park
Corner of Prospect & Cherry Hill, Superior Twp, 1 acre
- 12** Swift Run Dog Park
Platt Road (south of Ellsworth), Ann Arbor, 10 acres **new!**

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

- A** Leonard Preserve
End of Union Street, Manchester Twp, 237 acres
- B** Ervin-Stucki Preserve*
Clinton Road, Bridgewater Twp, 126 acres
- C** Brauer Preserve
Parker Road, Freedom Twp, 187 acres
- D** DeVine Preserve
Liberty Road, ½ mile west of Zeeb, Scio Twp, 137 acres
- E** Burns-Stokes Preserve
Zeeb Road, Scio Twp, 29 acres
- F** 64-acre Addition to LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
Vreeland Road, Superior Twp
- G** Kosch-Headwaters Preserve
Corner Ford & Prospect, Superior Twp, 160 acres
- H** Albert J. Miller Preserve
Dexter-Chelsea Road, Lima Twp, 12 acres
- I** Raymond F. Goodrich Preserve **parking completed**
Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor Twp, 11 acres
- J** Griewahn Property*
Allen/Hogan Roads, Bridgewater Twp, 17 acres
- K** Squiers Preserve*
Sylvan Road, Sylvan Twp, 50 acres
- L** Fox Science Preserve* **new!**
Peters Road, Scio Twp, 49 acres

*entrance and parking not yet developed

Robert W. Marans
President

Patricia Scribner
Vice President

Nelson K. Meade
Secretary

Janice Anschuetz
Janis Bobrin
Jimmie Maggard
Rolland Sizemore, Jr.
Conan Smith
Stephen Solowczuk
Fred Veigel

Robert L. Tetens
Director

EDITOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Lynn Berni, Park Planner

Printed on New Leaf Paper
100% recycled, 100% post-
consumer content, processed
chlorine-free, FSC-certified

Washtenaw County
Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI
48107-8645

Calendar of Events & Programs

Spring 2008

Map on page 11

Free unless
noted otherwise

Call or visit us
online for details

🌸 Nature Programs with Park Naturalist Faye Stoner, stonerf@washtenaw.org
📞 Pre-Registration Required, see program description for details

Ongoing

Family Day at Pierce Lake Golf Course
Wednesdays after 4pm, kids under 14 play free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Rolling Hills Disc Golf League
Mondays at 6pm (May 5-Sep 29), for A3Disc Club members, \$25; www.a3disc.org for details.

March

Sat, March 1

🌸📞 **Sap to Syrup: Doing it Yourself!**
1-2:30pm. Learn how to identify and tap maple trees, then how to boil the sap to make delicious maple syrup. Dress for inside and outside. Pre-register with Faye Stoner, (734) 971-6337 x318
County Farm Park, Platt Road entrance
Meet at Administrative Building

Sun, March 2

March Meltdown Disc Golf Tournament!
Registration begins at 8:30am, tee-off at 10. Seven divisions, trophies TBD, www.a3disc.org for details. Rolling Hills Park, vehicle entry fee required

Sat, March 15

🌸 **Almost the Worm Moon: End of Winter Night Hike, 7-9pm.** Will frogs be calling? Listen for night sounds, call for owls and talk of the spring things to come. Fire after! Park Lyndon North

Sun, March 30

🌸 **Blue Ash, Beech and More: Trees & Shrubs of the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve, 2-4pm.** We'll use the buds, bark and branches for ID! Wear boots for wet ground. Kosch-Headwaters Preserve

April

Sat, April 5

🌸 **Birdwatching for Beginners, 9-11am.** Indoor discussion, slide presentation, then a hike. For adults and kids 12+. First of several bird walks this spring! County Farm Park, Platt Road entrance
Meet at Administrative Building

Sun, April 6

🌸 **Exploring the Wet Woods, 2-4pm.** Learn about plant and animal life, and look for spring treasures. Wear boots for wet. Leonard Preserve

📞 **3 on 3 Basketball Tournament!**
50 teams, 4 age brackets for youth and adults. Refreshments and trophies provided, fees TBD. Pre-registration required, call (734) 971-6355
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

Sat, April 26

🌸 **End of April Bird Walk, 8-10am.** We'll search for warblers, orioles, grosbeaks, bluebirds and more! Bring binoculars if you can. Rolling Hills, meet at Park Headquarters, vehicle entry fee required

Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull, 1-3pm
Help us continue to keep Britton Woods clean! Bring gloves if you can.
County Farm Park, meet at Medford Road lot

Sun, April 27

🌸 **Spring Things at LeFurge Woods, 2-4pm.** Look for frogs, flowers, buds and birds in this beech-maple woodland. Wear boots for wet ground. LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve, park along Vreeland Road, just east of Prospect

Wed, April 30

Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull, 6-8pm. Bring gloves if you can. Park Lyndon North

May

Cabin Fever Golf Scramble! Date TBD. Open to all golfers, 18-holes, \$120/foursome, 1st & 2nd place trophies, many other prizes, for more info call (734) 475-5858. Pierce Lake Golf Course

Thu, May 1

Mother Goose Celebration, 9-11:45am. Come celebrate Mother Goose Day during our last "Tot Time" of the year, ages infant-5yrs. Games, crafts, Mother Goose stories, open play, snacks.
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, fees may apply

Sat, May 3

Workday: Garlic Mustard/Dame's Rocket Pull, 1-3pm. Working along Fleming Creek, bring gloves if you can. Parker Mill

Wed, May 7

Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull, 6-8pm
Bring gloves if you can. Albert J. Miller Preserve

Sat, May 10

🌸 **Amphibian Adventure for Kids! 2-3pm.** Program will include some slides, live amphibians, stories and a hike. Kids of all ages are welcome. Independence Lake, meet at Beach Center
Vehicle entry fee required

Wed, May 14

Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull, 6-8pm
Partnering with SE Michigan Land Conservancy, bring gloves if you can. Kosch-Headwaters Preserve

Sat, May 17

2008 Walk 'n Wag! Co-sponsor Humane Society of Huron Valley's biggest event of the year. Visit www.hshv.org for details.
County Farm Park, Platt Road entrance

🌸 **May Morning Bird Walk, 8-10am.** Lake, woods and fields make for a variety of birds. Independence Lake, meet at Gamble Group Center
Vehicle entry fee required

Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull, 11am-1pm
Partnering with SE Michigan Land Conservancy. Bring gloves if you can. Kosch-Headwaters Preserve

🌸 **Hunting for a Dragon: A Floodplain Forest Hike, 11am-12:45pm.** We'll search for green dragon, cousin to jack-in-the-pulpit, as we explore along the Huron River. Bring lunch if you plan to join the garlic mustard pull after! Wear boots for wet. Burns-Stokes Preserve

Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull, 1-4pm
Bring gloves if you can. Burns-Stokes Preserve

Sat, May 24

Opening Day at Rolling Hills Water Park and Independence Lake Park Spray Zone!
Vehicle entry fee required at both parks.

Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull, 1-4pm. Bring gloves and mosquito spray! Leonard Preserve

Sun, May 25

Tours of Sharon Mills, 1-4pm
The hydroelectric generator is now operational! Come learn about the generator, Henry Ford's village industries and more.

PRE-SORT
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
ANN ARBOR MI
PERMIT 111