



# Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Special Anniversary Issue – Fall 2008



## 35 Years and Counting!

### Parks Commission Celebrates Over Three Decades of Service

**T**hirty five years ago, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission consisted of little more than five roadside parks and 205 acres of undeveloped land in Lyndon Township, all transferred from the County Road Commission. My, how we have grown! Washtenaw County now has about 100,000 more residents than it did in August 1973 when the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC) held its first meeting. Soon after its establishment, the Commission got busy developing a parks and recreation program suited to the landscape and citizens of the county.

#### Park System Development

The Parks Commission began with a five year plan and hired a director, Robert Gamble, to assemble a staff. A survey of county residents and an inventory of available land identified recreational needs and possible park sites. In 1976, WCPARC proceeded with the initial phases of development of Independence Lake and Rolling Hills County Parks, as well as Park Lyndon. County Farm (land owned by the County since 1836) became a county park in 1979, and a building on Hogback Road in Ann Arbor provided space for the first recreation center as well as offices for staff. With aid from the state Land Trust Fund, WCPARC purchased historic Parker Mill in 1983. Restoration of the mill buildings was completed the following year.

Recognizing the need for year round recreational opportunities, the water park at Rolling Hills and the state-of-the-art recreation center at County Farm Park in Ann Arbor became the newest additions in 1991. Five years later the County opened



Heading out into the cordgrass marsh with Park Naturalist Faye Stoner at Independence Lake County Park (Webster Township).

*(continued on page 10)*

## Inside

From the Director  
*page 2*

NAPP News  
*page 2*

New Interpretive Trail  
at Parker Mill  
*page 3*

New Signs Along the  
Border-to-Border Trail  
*page 3*

Fall Colors of Three  
Native Species  
*page 4*

Rec Center  
Swim & Fitness  
*pages 5-8*

Park Master  
Planning Update  
*pages 9*

Parks Map  
*page 11*

Calendar of  
Events & Programs  
*back page*

## Contact Us!

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(734) 971-6337

# From the Director

Robert L. Tetens

The feature article in this special anniversary edition of our newsletter reflects on the 35-year history of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. It outlines our growth from a system of five small roadside parks, to one that protects, manages and allows public access to nearly 3,400 acres of scenic land throughout the County—all while providing an increasingly broad range of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. And while the current system and facilities may seem substantial given our modest beginning, the County Parks & Recreation Commission acknowledges that we are still a relatively young and growing system.

Parks are one of the few elements of a community that seem to transcend time. Revisiting towns where I lived as a child, I am constantly surprised at how much things have changed—everything except the parks. While some have new shelters, playgrounds, trails and gardens; and others have grown in size, they're still there—a tangible link to the past, and a promise for the future. It's easy to believe that those parks will always be available.

A community's decision to establish and operate a parks and recreation system is a long term commitment to make a continuing investment in the quality of life. Central Park in New York City, for example, recently celebrated its 150 year anniversary. Thirty-five years ago, the citizens of Washtenaw County shared a vision of the future that included a county-wide parks and recreation system. They overwhelmingly approved a modest tax proposal to make that dream a reality, and that public support has been repeatedly renewed as the parks system has grown and evolved.

This November, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is once again seeking a ten year renewal of this essential public support. If successful, the Commission will continue to "acquire, develop and maintain" parks and recreation facilities for the enjoyment of Washtenaw County residents.

Does your vision of our future include parks? Please remember to vote this November.

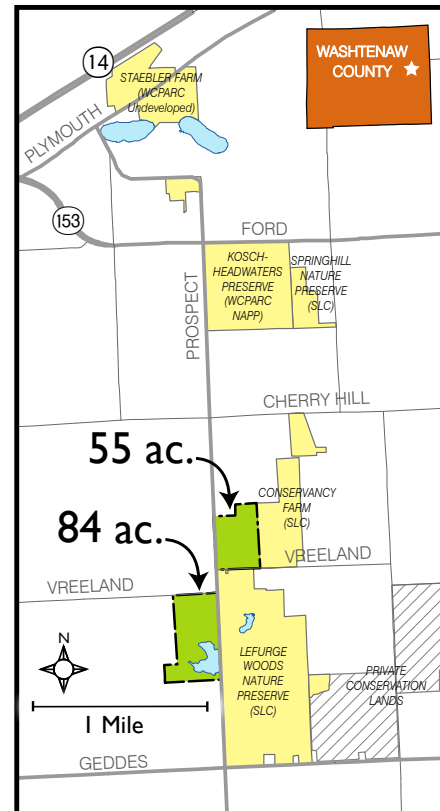
## NAPP News

### Natural Areas Preservation Program

Total Land Protected: 1,471 acres

Administered by WCPARC since 2001

WCPARC is pleased to announce the latest collaboration for land preservation! With financial support from the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, Superior Land Conservancy and Superior Charter Township, the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program has acquired an



additional 139 acres in Superior Township's LeFurge Woods/Prospect Road corridor! Two parcels were purchased—55 acres and 84 acres—both adjacent to land already protected by the Superior Land Conservancy (SLC), the local division of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

Improvements at several existing preserves are

also underway to make it much easier for visitors to access the protected land. A new preserve entrance and parking at the **Ervin-Stucki Preserve** in Bridgewater Township should be complete by summer's end. A new boardwalk just west of the entrance will make walking to the River Raisin much easier, and drier! And, when visitors reach the river's edge, they will find a brand new observation deck. Rebuilding the damaged bridge over the Raisin is planned as a future improvement. At the **LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve**, WCPARC is working with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy to complete improvements to the preserve entrance on Prospect Road, including a new entry sign, and a parking lot that will be open to the public. 🌿

Lynn Berni, Park Planner

# Interpreting Nature & History

## The New Post Family Legacy Trail at Parker Mill

Located on Fleming Creek and the Huron River, Parker Mill County Park is a wonderful site that features a working 19th century grist mill, picnicking by the creek, bike trails, nature trails and a variety of interpretive programs. A generous donation from Helen & Norris Post and family will enable the Parks Commission to expand the park trail system and provide even more opportunities for visitors to get close to nature! The new Post Family Legacy Trail, scheduled to be completed by spring 2009, will include an interpretive trail, educational signage and a custom-designed interpretive pavilion.

A portion of the undeveloped parkland north of Geddes Road (across Fleming Creek) was determined to be an ideal location for the Post Family project, given its proximity to the creek, the park

entrance, and the visitor center. A new bridge over Fleming Creek will connect to the new interpretive trail. The main trail loop has been designed to replicate the approximate size, shape and location of the old millpond that stored water to power the mill. The area that was once under water will be planted with native sedges (grass-like plants) to create a waving “sea of green” that echoes the image of the former millpond. Further along the trail, visitors will find one of the most interesting features of this project: a unique interpretive pavilion designed to



*Unique greenroof pavilion will provide a wonderful place for outdoor education and/or private reflection along the planned Post Family Legacy Trail at Parker Mill County Park.*

complement the natural setting. This design goal will be achieved primarily with the inclusion of a vegetated greenroof! The roof will be planted with native grasses and wildflowers such as columbine,

*(continued on page 10)*

# Border-to-Border Trail Update

## New Trail Signage For the Ypsilanti Area Corridor

You may know about the Border-to-Border Trail already, but if not, this is a great time to start getting familiar with it. The trail—“B2B” for short—is a major development initiative of the Parks Commission, working in collaboration with various communities and organizations. There’s a lot to enjoy along the B2B: it winds along the Huron River through a variety of Ann Arbor city parks, around St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, behind the stadium at Eastern Michigan University (EMU), through historic Depot Town in Ypsilanti, and along Ford

Lake in Ypsilanti Township. And, there’s a lot going on with the B2B these days, from trail repair, to a new segment, and new trail signage.

The old rails-to-trails segment of the B2B which runs behind EMU’s Rynearson Stadium was completely rebuilt this summer. This 3,200-foot section of trail connects Hewitt and Cornell Roads, and provides a quiet retreat from busy streets. Elsewhere on the B2B, a new trail segment behind Washtenaw Community College’s Health and Fitness Center (on Huron River Drive) is scheduled

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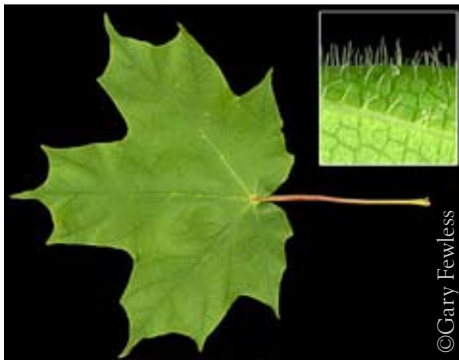
*Look for new and updated B2B trail signs this summer*

# The Colors are Coming!

## Celebrating the Fall Display of Three Native Species

The changing of the seasons from summer to autumn offers many delights from nature—the yellows, whites and violets of goldenrods and asters in bloom; the melodious chorus of crickets; the thrill of seeing large flocks of birds overhead. And, of course, almost everyone thinks of the blaze of autumn color when imagining the beauty of the season.

A stunning blend of reds, oranges and yellows can often be found on the **sassafras** tree (*Sassafras albidum*). This tree is fun to share with people



Top to bottom: four unique shapes of sassafras leaves; black maple leaf, inset shows fuzzy hairs on back of leaf; gorgeous fall color on the compound leaf of sumac

anytime. Sassafras leaves come in four unique shapes: a mitten with a left thumb, a right thumb, two thumbs (looks like a ghost), and no thumbs! Both the leaves and twigs have a lovely aroma and the roots have been used for centuries to make a tea. One of my favorite places to look for sassafras in fall is at Park Lyndon—where Embury Road meets North Territorial and in the Park Lyndon South parking lot.

I will never forget the time I was walking with a group of school children in Parker Mill County Park. We were on the Hoyt Post boardwalk heading down to the Huron River. As we approached the loop end of the trail, we all stopped in amazement. Every **black maple** in that floodplain forest had turned a brilliant yellow, and, with the sun shining through, the forest practically glowed! I walk the boardwalk at least once each fall, but have never quite caught the maples in that same spectacular lighting. Black maple leaves (*Acer nigrum*) are similar to sugar maple, but can be easily distinguished by fuzzy hairs on the back of the leaf.

**Sumac** is another autumn favorite of mine that grows as a shrub. We have several kinds of sumac in Washtenaw County, but the two most widespread are common sumac (*Rhus glabra*) and staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*). Look for the brilliant reds, oranges and yellows of sumac's compound leaves (comprised of several parts called leaflets) as you drive along the highway. Or hike the trails of County Farm Park, one of my favorite places to find sumac.

Fall leaf color is affected by many

things including temperature, the amount of rainfall and sunshine, and even the health of a tree. I can't guarantee that this autumn sassafras, black maple and sumac will offer the colors I have so often enjoyed in the past, but I encourage you to be on the lookout for them and for all the other lovely colors offered by the oaks, hickories, and maples of our forests. And what better place to enjoy our fall colors than in a Washtenaw County Park or Preserve! 🍂

Faye Stoner, Park Naturalist

### B2B TRAIL UPDATE

*continued from page 3*

to be completed this fall. This new trail will lead you off the main spine of the Border-to-Border Trail to a scenic woodland overlook, well-elevated above the Huron River. Don't forget to check out the other scenic overlook while you're in the area: another quiet spot with views of Shanghai Prairie, a rare plant community on the south side of the Huron River. In addition to new and rebuilt trails, look out for new trail signage. You may already have seen B2B "blazes" (directional arrows) on some segments in Ann Arbor. Starting this summer, the entire Ypsilanti Area corridor will get "blazed"! New trail map signage will also be added at key points along the trail: just follow the blazes and it won't be long before you come across one. The maps show a large portion of the trail, and give you both your current location and approximate distances to key intersections to help you plan your trip. See you on the trail! 🍂

Jeannine Bessette, Planning Intern

# Health & Fitness

at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

(734) 971-6355

Fall 2008



## Rec Center Remodeling Update

As we approach this newsletter's publication deadline in late July, the remodeling work at the recreation center is well underway. The old information desk has been removed, the framework of the new vestibule is in place, and the new walls are about to go up around the fitness studio. The electrician is installing light fixtures and wiring the new front desk. Tile, carpeting



and wallpaper have all been ordered for the main floor and the track entrance will be moved to its new location this week. Additional plans for seating area furniture and work in the locker rooms and parking lot are in progress. It's been noisy and dusty at times and we certainly appreciate

your patience and understanding. As we begin the 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation of this facility in September, we're confident that the results of this renovation will be something we can all be proud of. Thank you for your continuing interest in and support of the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center. ☺

Jon Keith, Recreation Superintendent

## In The Know

- Personal Trainers and Private Swim Instruction services are available to customize your workout
- Fitness classes that met twice a week are now offered once a week so you can customize a cross training fitness program

### Rates (Effective January 1, 2007)

	County Resident	Non-Resident	Youth 3-17 Adult 18-61 Senior 62+
<b>Daily Fees</b>			
Adult	\$6	\$8	
Senior, Youth, or Disabled	\$4	\$5	
<b>Annual Passes</b>			
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

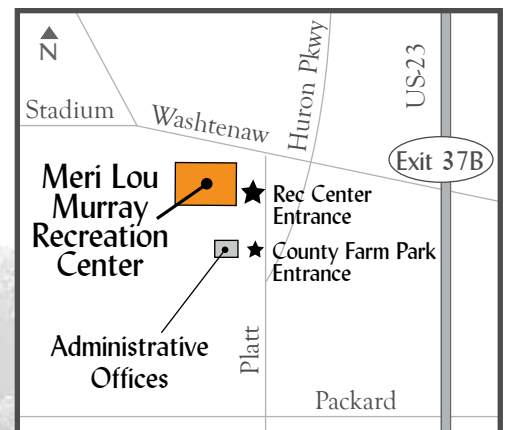
- Track (1/12 mile)
- Gymnasium
- Heated Pool (Barrier-free)
- Cardio Training Equipment
- Strength Training Equipment
- Locker Rooms
- Assisted Care Locker Room
- Personal Trainers
- Private Swim Instruction
- Classes:
  - Fitness & Dance
  - Instructional Swim
  - Water Aerobics

## Building Hours

- Mon-Fri, 6am-10pm
- Sat, 8am-6pm
- Sun, Noon-10pm
- Closed: Annual Shutdown, Aug 18 - Sept 1 Thanksgiving, Thursday Nov 27

## Come on Down!

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



# Fitness Classes



## CARDIO

### 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)

### Basic Step

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

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

### Super Days! new

Work all major muscle groups while getting a great cardio workout using balls, Gliders, turbo kick, hula hoops, and more. You name it, we do it! Each class will have a different combination of techniques. Never boring, join the fun!

#### Wild Wednesdays

W 6:40-7:40p #3370 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

#### Funky Fridays

F 6:40-7:40p #3360 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

#### Super Sundays

Sun 2:00-3:00p #3390 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

### Interval

Combination of aerobic conditioning, step, hi/lo aerobics or gliding. This is a 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 #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)  
Sat 10:30-11:30a #3131 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

## CONDITIONING

### Condition 'n Glide new

Work all major muscle groups. New format concentrates on lower body using sliding discs. Great non-impact aerobic benefits too!

T 6:40-7:25p #3380 \$33 (Sr. \$25)

### 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

Total body workout combines strength training, cardio and flexibility exercises using body weight and hand-held weights. Moderate workout, all fitness levels welcome.

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)

## KICKBOXING

### Martial Arts Kickboxing

Combination of strikes, kicks, punches and drills. Emphasis on learning terminology and proper form through repetition. Primarily bag work, bring own gloves recommended.

T 5:30-6:30p #3110 \$44 (Sr. \$33)  
Th 5:30-6:30p #3111 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

### 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)

### Just Exhale new

Breathing and meditative exercises help relax, stretch and release all muscle groups using Yoga and Pilates.

M 12:15-1:15p #3270 \$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)  
W 5:30-6:30p #3282 \$44 (Sr. \$33)  
Sat 11:45-12:45p #3283 \$44 (Sr. \$33)

### 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. All levels welcome.

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	<sup>new time</sup> 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	<sup>new time</sup> 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

two 5-week sessions

### ADULT & TEEN

#### 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	\$50 (Sr. \$40)
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#### 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	\$40
Sat	11:15-11:50a	#1061	\$40
Sat	12:30-1:05p	#1062	\$40

### YOUTH SWIM

#### 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	\$40
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#### 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	\$40
Sat	11:50-12:30p	#1071	\$40

#### 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	\$40
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#### 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	10:35-11:15a	#1080	\$40
Sat	11:50-12:30p	#1081	\$40

#### 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	\$40
Sat	11:50-12:20p	#1031	\$40

#### 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	\$40
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#### 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	\$40
Sat	11:15-11:45a	#1041	\$40

#### 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	\$40
Sat	11:50-12:20p	#1051	\$40
Sat	12:30-1:00p	#1052	\$40

### \*\*\* 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

# Health & Fitness at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

Class Registration Info		
Fitness & Water Aerobics: 11-week session		
Session	Registration*	Classes
A	Sep 2-25	Sep 28-Dec 13
Youth Instructional Swim: 5-week sessions		
Session	Registration**	Classes
A	Sep 6-17	Sep 20-Oct 18
B	Oct 25-Nov 5	Nov 8-Dec 13 (no class on Nov 29)
Adult & Teen Instructional Swim: 5-week sessions		
Session	Registration**	Classes
A	Sep 2 until full	Sep 17-Oct 15
B	(for both sessions)	Nov 5-Dec 10 (no class on Nov 26)
* \$5 late fee for registration after Sep 25		
** Registration <u>required</u> for Instructional Swim Classes		

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 <sup>st</sup> 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 #	Cash Receipt #	CC Approval #
	Staff Initials	Amount	Date
			Time

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

# Park Master Planning

## An Exciting Vision For The Future of County Parks

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the fledgling Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission was in an acquisition and growth mode. During this time, more than 500 acres of prime land was purchased for park development. What followed was a series of park Master Plans that resulted in the wonderful parks that we all enjoy today.

Today, the Parks Commission is in the midst of a similar cycle of land acquisition and park development. With the guidance of county residents and focus groups, we are developing a bold vision for the future of County Parks to provide an increasingly wider range of recreational opportunities. Through a series of strategic land acquisitions, WCPARC has acquired an additional 512 acres at Rolling Hills, Independence Lake, Sharon Mills, and Staebler Farm—all since 2001. Master Plans are underway for exciting new developments at all four of these facilities.

What is a park Master Site Plan? It is simply a vision of how a park will be physically developed over the next 10 to 20 years. The master planning process helps determine the proper set of uses and amenities for each park and determines where they best fit on the site. With a park master plan adopted, each of the “pieces” can be built separately over time with full confidence that, when finished, the park will function together as a cohesive whole.

### Master Planning Update:

**Rolling Hills**—363 acres (212 acres added since 2006). The Rolling Hills master plan is nearly complete. The following improvements are planned to integrate the currently developed park with recent land acquisitions.

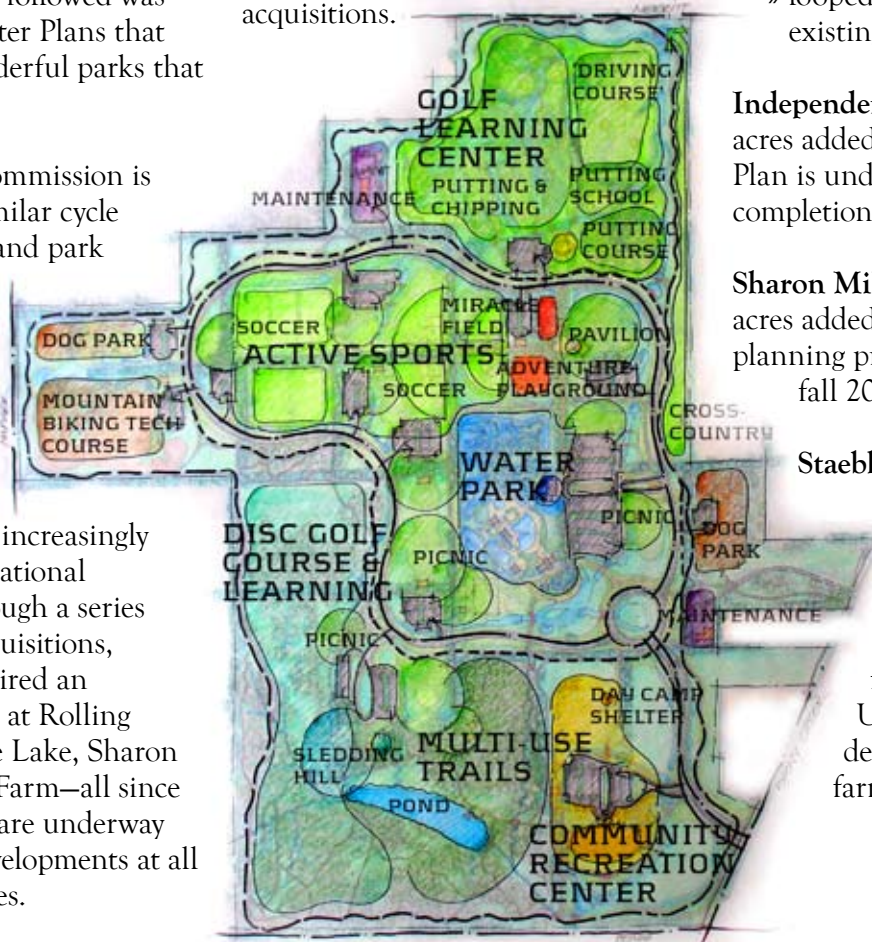
- » multi-use trails, x-country ski/run trails, mountain bike trails and technical course
- Expand waterpark
- Expand disc golf course
- Additional pavilions
- Improve vehicular circulation
  - » looped drive system, enhance existing park entrance

**Independence Lake**—395 acres (83 acres added in 2005). The Master Plan is underway with anticipated completion in early October.

**Sharon Mills**—145 acres (119 acres added in 2006). The master planning process will commence fall 2008.

**Staebler Farm**—98 acres (acquired in 2001). Staebler Farm is currently not open to the public. Master Planning is underway for a farm-themed park. Uses may include organic demonstration crops and a farm market. ☺

Coy Vaughn  
Park Planning Superintendent



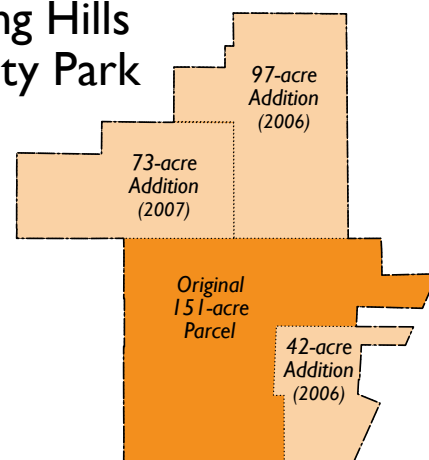
### New park uses:

- Community Recreation Center
- Active Field Complex
  - » soccer, baseball/softball, Miracle Field, turf maintenance facility, concession/restrooms, adjacent playground
- Golf Learning Center
- Dog Park

Expand and/or Improve:

- Expand trail network

### Rolling Hills County Park



## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

*continued from cover*

Pierce Lake Golf Course & Park in Chelsea. A decade later, responding to the results of a survey of 4,000 county residents, the Commission made improvements to various parks and facilities and initiated the development of the Border-to-Border Trail, a county-wide greenway and trails system (see B2B story on page 3). In addition, WCPARC purchased Sharon Mills, a former Ford Village Industries plant on the River Raisin, and developed its beautiful site as Sharon Mills County Park. Historic Staebler Farm in Superior Township was purchased in 2001, to be developed as a farm-themed park in the northeastern part of the county.

## NAPP

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Parks & Recreation Commission was assigned a new and important responsibility by the County Board of Commissioners. Through the passage of Natural Areas Ordinance No. 128, the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) was established in 2000 to acquire and manage natural areas for public benefit in Washtenaw County. The Parks Commission was charged with its administration. Aided by the Natural Areas

Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC)—a team of professionals that examines nominated properties—WCPARC has acquired nineteen properties totaling 1,471 acres.

## The Future

The mission of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission promotes healthy lifestyles, efficiently providing high quality facilities and programs, as well as the protection of fragile lands for their ecological and recreational benefits. Currently, WCPARC manages 1,903 acres of parkland; acquisitions made through the Natural Areas Preservation Program bring the total to 3,374 acres. Virtually all of this land and the facilities it houses are accessible to the public. The vision of those who worked hard to establish the Commission 35 years ago has been realized: an outstanding system of parks, preserves, trails and recreational facilities. Those of us who now enjoy this legacy salute the founders of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.



*Free Fishing Day at Rolling Hills Park in Ypsilanti Township (top); tranquil setting on the Huron River at the Burns-Stokes Preserve (NAPP) in Scio Township*

Furthermore, we pledge to continue to be faithful to our mission to provide parks and recreation opportunities that enhance the quality of life in Washtenaw County. ♪

*Richard Kent, Park Planner*

## NEW TRAIL AT PARKER MILL

*continued from page 3*

sky-blue aster, wild strawberry, and nodding wild onion. In addition, local materials will be used in the construction of the pavilion, and timber from the property is planned to be used in the construction of its benches. The pavilion will provide shelter and an informal setting for outdoor education programs, as well as informational signage

about the architecture, decorative features, and the greenroof. Several interpretive stations located along the trail will provide contemplative rest stops where visitors can learn about the role of the old mill pond, the glacial history and hydrology of Fleming Creek, and the plants and animals found within the creekshed.

When you visit Parker Mill this fall and look across Geddes Road,

you will likely see workers or other signs of construction activity. Construction is scheduled to begin in early September and conclude by the end of this year (except for landscape restoration and planting that is to be completed spring 2009).

Visit soon to experience this exceptional park! ♪

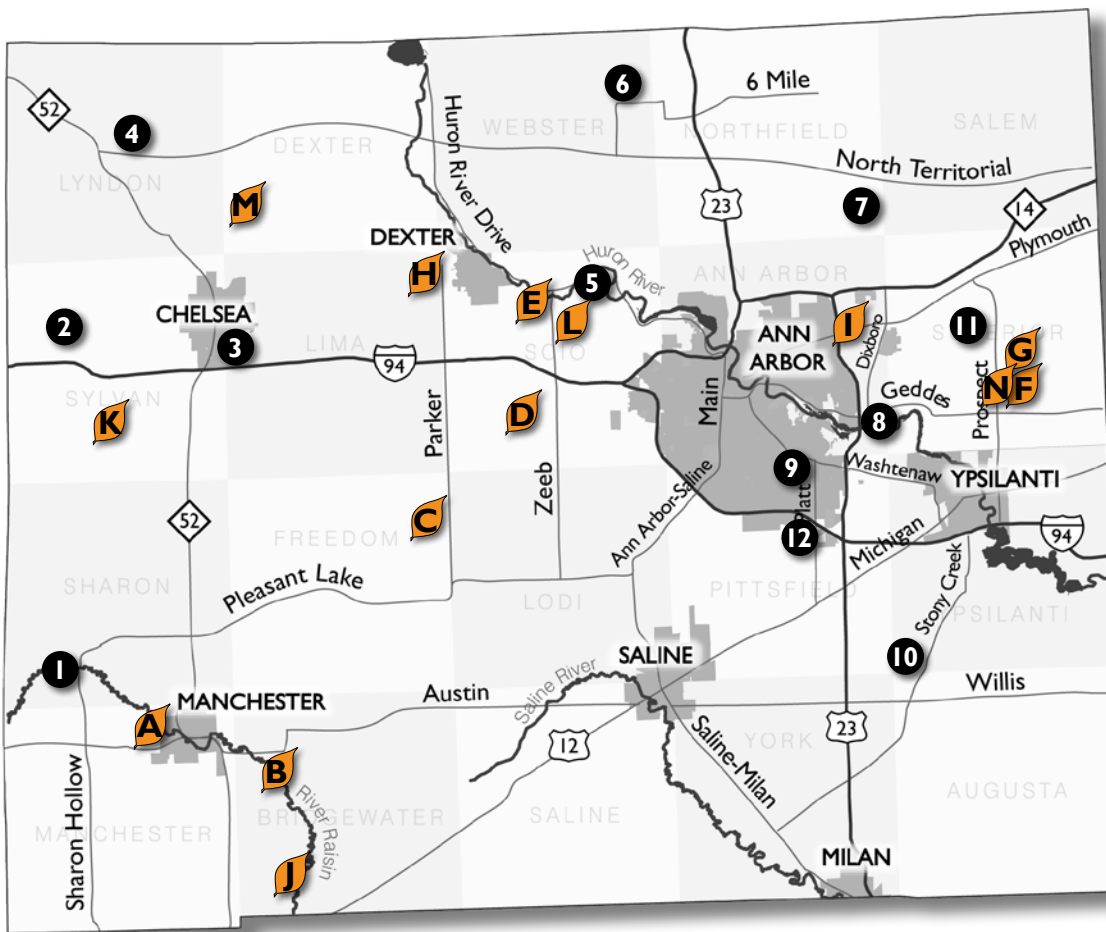
*Kira Macyda, Park Planner*



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](http://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 **new parking & boardwalk!**
- 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** LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve **new parking**  
Vreeland Road, Superior Twp (portions protected via NAPP)
- 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  
Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor Twp, 11 acres
- J** Riverbend Preserve\*  
Allen/Hogan Roads, Bridgewater Twp, 43 acres
- K** Squiers Preserve\*  
Sylvan Road, Sylvan Twp, 50 acres
- L** Fox Science Preserve\* **new!**  
Peters Road, Scio Twp, 49 acres
- M** West Lake Preserve\* **new!**  
Waterloo Road, Dexter Twp, 217 acres
- N** Two Superior Township Properties\* **new!**  
Prospect Road, Superior Twp, 55 & 84 acres

\*entrance and parking not yet developed

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Nature Programs with Park Naturalist Faye Stoner: stonerf@ewashtenaw.org, (734) 971-6337 x334  
 Pre-Registration Required (see details); Program/Event Fee (all others FREE); Vehicle Park Entry Fee

## 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. Details at [www.a3disc.org](http://www.a3disc.org).

## Celebrate The Harvest Season Historic Mill Tours

Guides will be present all afternoon at both mills, so stop by anytime. **Formal tours at 1&3pm**

### Parker Mill, open 1-5pm

Learn how the Parker family used waterpower to grind flour, turn a lathe, and run other machines in this pioneer grist mill.

September 14, 21, 28

October 4, 5, 12, 19

### Sharon Mills, open 1-4pm

Learn how waterpower was converted to electricity in this Ford Village Industries plant.

September 7, 21

October 5, 12

Group tours available by appointment

May through October

Call (734) 971-6337 x 334

Interested in history?

Come volunteer at one or both mills!

## September

### Sat, September 6

**Insect Adventure**, 1-2:30pm. Using nets, we'll catch (then release) many amazing insects. For kids & adults! *County Farm, Medford Rd. entrance*

**Stewardship Workday: Whacking Woodies in Britton Woods**, 2:30-4:30pm. Bring gloves if you can. *County Farm, Medford Rd. entrance.*

**Third Annual Rolling Hills Dog Swim**, 2-5:15pm. Come splash in the pool with your pup! \$5 per dog, owners get into waterpark free. Limit 2 dogs per owner. Times vary based on size of dog. Pre-register at (734) 484-9676. *Rolling Hills*

**Family Camp Out!** 5pm-11am Sunday  
Fun-filled evening includes nature hike, campfire and more! Pre-register at (734) 971-6337 x334. *Independence Lake, meet at Beach Center*  
Small camping fee

### Sun, September 7

**Wildflowers of the Prairie**, 2-4pm. Asters, goldenrods and more! *Independence Lake*

### Sun, September 14

**Stewardship Workday: Whacking Woodies**  
1-3pm. Working in meadow along the railroad, bring gloves if you can. *Parker Mill*

### Sat, September 20

**"Back to the Hills" Disc Golf Tournament**  
PDGA C Tier event hosted by Toledo Area Disc Golf Association. Register 8:30am, tee off 9am, two 18-hole rounds. Details at [www.tadga.com](http://www.tadga.com). *Rolling Hills*

### Sun, September 28

**Exploring the Autumn Fen**, 10am-Noon  
You'll think you're up north in this gorgeous place! We'll look for Fringed gentian, native grasses and more. Wear shoes that can get wet. *Park Lyndon North*

## October

### Sat & Sun, October 4 & 5

**Make Your Own Cider!** 10am-5pm  
Bring your own bushel of apples and containers to this popular annual event. Appointments on the half-hour. Pre-register at (734) 971-6337 x334. Cider press provided by Pittsfield Grange. *Parker Mill*



"Apple Day at The Grange" is September 27  
For more information call (734) 769-1052

### Sun, October 5

**Stewardship Workday: Whacking Woodies**  
1-3pm. Working in meadow around parking lot. Bring gloves if you can. *Leonard Preserve*

### Sun, October 12

**Breathtaking Fall Colors Walk (5K&10K)**, 10am-1pm. Join the Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club and explore the scenic landscapes of Independence Lake Park. Details at [www.washtenaw-wanderers.blogspot.com](http://www.washtenaw-wanderers.blogspot.com). *Independence Lake*

**In Search of Fall Mushrooms**, 10am-Noon  
Guest leader Phil Tedeschi, Foray Leader for the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club. Pre-register at (734) 971-6337 x334, limited to 25 people. *Park Lyndon South, meet at West Lot*

### Sun, October 19

**"Union Negotiates for Independence" Disc Golf Tournament**. Space is limited, pre-registration suggested at [www.local101dg.com](http://www.local101dg.com) or register 8:30-9:30am at the event. Tee off at 10:15am. Two 18-hole rounds. *Independence Lake*

### Sat, October 25

**Autumn Birds & Berries Walk**, 9-11am  
We'll look for resident migrating birds and berries that are food for many birds, sometimes people too! *Independence Lake*

## November

### Sun, November 2

**Stewardship Workday: Whacking Woodies**  
Noon-2pm. Working along embankment trail. Bring gloves if you can. *Burns-Stokes Preserve*

**From Floodplain Forest to Prairie: Exploring the Preserve**, 2-4pm. *Burns-Stokes Preserve*

### Sat, November 15

**Under the Beaver Moon: Hike & Campfire**, 7-9pm. Listen for migrating birds, call for owls, look at stars, planets and more. Hot drinks around bonfire after! *Independence Lake*

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