



Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Winter 2008-2009



Renovations are Complete!

A New Look at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

On September 2, 2008, the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center reopened, as usual, following the traditional two-week shutdown prior to Labor Day. But this reopening was different from previous years. For the first time since the recreation center opened in 1991, the building has experienced a major renovation.

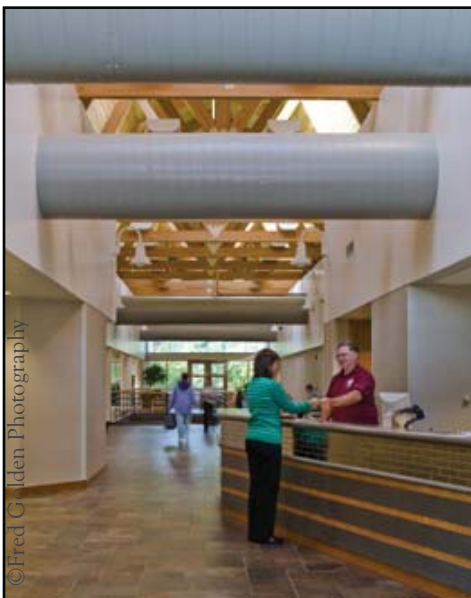
A new vestibule, built just outside the original entrance, now features automatic doors and a heated air curtain. The control desk, relocated just inside the entrance, is larger than the original, and designed to improve customer service. With the old information desk removed, visitors now have an unobstructed view from the front entrance to the rear of the building and of the park landscape beyond.

Additionally, work was completed to update and enhance the interior décor. Ceramic tile now covers the majority of the main floor. Portions of the corridor near the aerobic and strength training rooms, which are often used for stretching and personal training, were resurfaced with new carpet. Built-in coat racks, repainted lockers, new upscale furniture and wallpaper throughout the upper floor combine to create a more attractive space. The locker rooms on the lower level have new counter tops, built-in sinks, new faucets and completely refurbished lockers.

Furthermore, we added a treadmill and elliptical in the cardio area; four benches, hand weights and fixed weight barbells; medicine balls and additional strength training equipment in the weight room.

These changes have produced dramatic results and an enthusiastic response by our patrons. If you haven't visited in a while, we are confident you'll be impressed with the changes. Our annual membership fee remains \$150 for seniors (age 62 & up), \$200 for ages 18-61. You already know – we continue to be the best fitness deal in town. Our facility and staff are ready, and we're looking forward to seeing and assisting you again this winter! ❄️

Jon Keith, Recreation Superintendent



Staff member welcomes visitor at new control desk

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



From the Director

Robert L. Tetens

It's a crisp October morning as I begin to write this article for the winter edition of our newsletter. By the time you read it, the November election will have already occurred and the parks millage renewal request, so critical to our past and future success, will have been decided by the voters. Regardless of the outcome, I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those individuals and organizations that endorsed our efforts and worked so hard to make the millage renewal a success. We couldn't do it without you!

This year we've been celebrating our 35th anniversary. In previous articles I've talked about our humble beginnings and how we've grown to encompass over 3,400 acres of parks and nature preserves—providing a wide range of accessible recreational opportunities throughout the County that were unimaginable before the County parks system was established.

How did it happen? Well, there are a number of equally important contributing factors. First, there's the stable funding source mentioned earlier that supplements our revenue generating capability. The advantages of a millage dedicated exclusively to parks and recreation have never been more evident, as neighboring communities are forced to reduce or eliminate general fund supported recreational programs. Stable, predictable funding is essential.

Planning and design are also critical to our success. Good plans make good parks; they're the "trail" to our future. They assimilate and express the recreational needs of the community and facilitate the efficient investment of resources for park development, maintenance and improvements. A vibrant parks system is an undeniable community asset that clearly becomes more valuable as times go by.

Finally, there's you. The clearest indicator of our success is the increasing number of visitors to our parks. It tells us that our parks and preserves are inviting; that they're important to you. We value your support and participation. Together, we have created a parks system that most can only dream of—and there's much more to come!



New boardwalk at Ervin-Stucki Preserve in Bridgewater Twp.

NAPP News

Natural Areas Preservation Program

Total Land Protected: 1,488 acres

Administered by WCPARC since 2001

A key aspect to the success of the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) is public access. Once acquired, the properties become nature preserves, accessible to the public for nature study, environmental interpretation/education and simply walking in a natural setting. Based upon the public's response to date, the new preserves have become an important asset to our community.

Making these properties accessible involves developing an entry point, signage, parking lot and, most importantly, trails. In some instances, due to the character of the property, providing access means developing a boardwalk or overlook so visitors can view the plants, animals and terrain. As of fall 2008, eight of the Preserves have access points/parking lots: **Brauer, Burns-Stokes, DeVine, Ervin-Stucki, Raymond F. Goodrich, Kosch Headwaters, Leonard and Albert J. Miller/Smith Woods**. Currently, work is underway and by the end of 2008, three more Preserves will have access points/parking lots: **Fox Science, LeFurge Woods and West Lake**. More work remains in 2009 for those properties already acquired and for future acquisitions.

Providing access to these unique properties is an essential key to WCPARC's mission to enhance the quality of life in Washtenaw County. Be sure to take some time and visit one of these outstanding nature preserves! ♡

Tom Freeman, Deputy Director

Staebler Farm

Restoring a Cherished Part of Washtenaw County History

In September of this year, WCPARC signed a contract with Brock and Associates, Inc. to initiate repairs to the Staebler Farm buildings north of Plymouth Road in Superior Township. Mr. Brock's firm specializes in timber frame-related reconstruction and has provided services to many satisfied clients in southeast Michigan. Currently they are nearing completion of work on eight structures: three barns, a corn crib, pig house, milk house, silo, and a well house. These buildings—and the work already completed on them—are clearly visible to traffic on Plymouth Road just east of Prospect Road.

The “old barn”, the large red structure closest to the road and the westernmost of the group, has been the focus of the greatest attention.

Originally constructed prior to 1880, before the farm was purchased by the Staebler family, the barn is a significant and long standing local landmark. Structurally, the barn is supported by a transverse framework of wooden members, called bents which carry both the vertical and lateral load. (See illustration below.) Each of the four bents consists of two posts connected by a tie beam and wind braces, all of which are connected by traditional mortis and tenon jointery. Brock and Associates have supplied select replacement parts including posts, hewn beams and other essential components and will pour a new concrete foundation



The former stables have been transformed into a temporary workshop for the restoration crew

for the structure to rest on. The net result of this effort is a barn that is structurally sound, plumb and one that offers the public an example of historic construction techniques.

(continued on page 10)

5th Annual Ice Fishing Derby

Independence Lake Park

3200 Jennings Rd., Whitmore Lake

Saturday, February 14th

PRIZES! RAFFLE!

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. on event day,

Competition ends at 5:00 p.m.

\$8 for adults, \$4 for kids 12 & under (fee includes lunch)

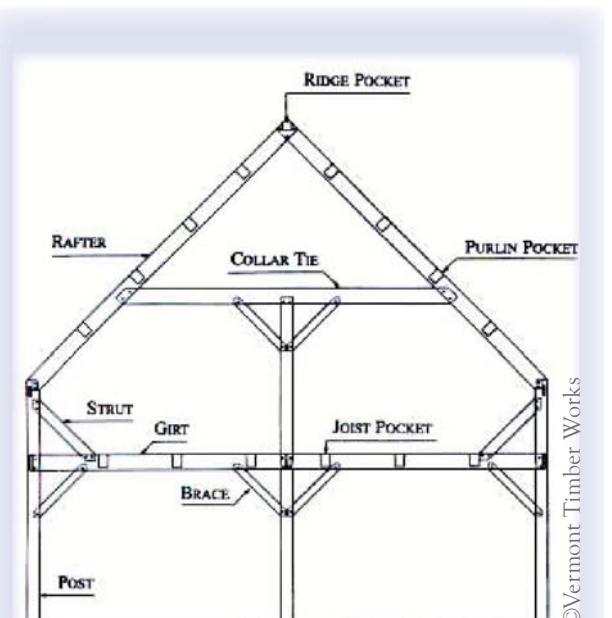
Bring your own bait

For more information
call 734-449-4437 or visit us online at
parks.ewashtenaw.org

Sponsors: Washtenaw County Parks,
Dick's Sporting Goods,
Rick's Bait Shop, Cabela's

*No alcohol, ATVs, or snowmobiles

Free Vehicle Admission



Example of a typical bent profile in timber frame construction

Badgers Among Us

A Seldom Seen Member of Washtenaw County Wildlife

Imagine this—you are hiking Washtenaw County's Leonard Preserve near Manchester, or perhaps in the open areas of Sharon Mills' new west addition. Off in the distance, at the edge of an open sandy field, you see an animal that looks about two feet long, with a flattened, almost triangular-looking body. It reminds you of a woodchuck (aka groundhog)—but there's something different about it—the animal appears too heavy-set to be a woodchuck. When you pull out binoculars, you can see this animal has long, curved front claws and it has upper canine teeth long enough to stick out past its lips! You also get a good look at the color pattern on the face, alternating dark and light colors, with a broad white line extending from the nose to the back of the head—you are looking at a badger!

Up until a few years ago, if someone had asked me if badgers were found in Washtenaw County, I would have said No—but I would have been wrong. Badgers prefer to live in dry, open grasslands, fields, and pastures, especially in areas with loose soils suitable for digging burrows. Many parts of western Washtenaw County fit this description, and although not often seen, badgers can be found there.

The presence of a badger often goes undetected for a couple of reasons. Badgers are mostly active at night, and their burrows are often dismissed as that of the very commonly found woodchuck. Some farmers live on the same piece of land all their lives and never realized that badgers are a part of the wildlife living on the farm! In some

instances, it's not until a badger is discovered as a roadkill that people realize the animal lives nearby. (I know of a reported roadkill badger found on Grass Lake Road, near M-52.)

Badgers are a member of the animal group known as *mustelids*, sometimes referred to as the weasel family (which includes river otter, skunk, mink and weasel.) Badgers, like most mustelids, are carnivores, feeding mainly on freshly caught prey. Badgers are referred to as fossorial carnivores, meaning they have special features for digging and catching many of their prey under ground. Besides having long claws on their front feet (up to two inches long!), badgers have powerfully built forelimbs that allow them to tunnel rapidly as they hunt for food. One of the major foods of badgers is the thirteen-lined ground squirrel, which is the closest thing in Michigan to a prairie dog. Besides

eating ground squirrels, badgers eat voles, cottontail rabbits, mice, ground nesting birds and some insects.

Badgers are known for their aggressive behavior, but some biologists say that their aggressiveness is often a bluff—an act with the purpose to frighten away potential danger. When threatened, they will often back into a burrow and bare their teeth, uttering growls, snarls and hisses. But badgers will attack when the threat is great enough, and there are many accounts of badgers successfully defending themselves against dogs and other larger animals.

If you do manage to spot this impressive digger, consider yourself lucky for having seen one of the more elusive wild animals of Washtenaw County! And, if you ever do see a badger in Washtenaw County, let me know! ☞

Faye Stoner, Parks Naturalist



Badger in a field



In The Know

- In addition to No School Fun Days, we will offer **Winter Break Camp**, February 23-27 and **Spring Break Camp** April 13-17 for children in grades 1-5. For more info, contact Eric Edwards
- Personal Trainers and Private Swim Instruction services are available to customize your workout

Join us for No School Fun Days!

Gym games, swimming, crafts, nature programs and outdoor events (weather permitting)!

This program is open to children in 1st through 5th grades

Dates:

December 22, 23, 26, 29, 30 and 31
January 2 and 19
February 16, March 9

Fees:

\$25 per day from 9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
Add \$3 for 8:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
Add \$3 for 4:15 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Coordinator: Eric Edwards (734) 971-6355



Have fun at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center!

Registration forms available at the recreation center or online at: parks.ewashtenaw.org

Rates (Effective January 1, 2007)

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

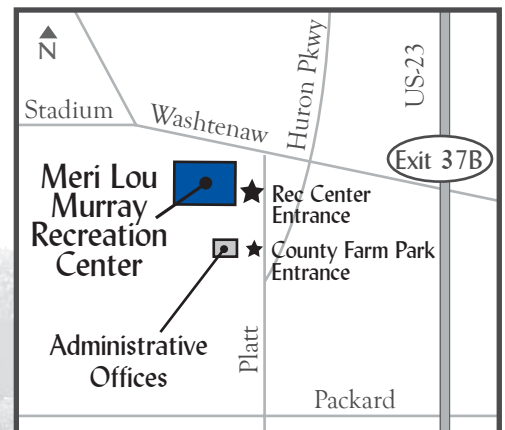
- Track (1/12 mile)
- Gymnasium
- Heated Pool (Barrier-free)
- Cardio Training Equipment
- Strength Training Equipment
- Locker Rooms
- Assisted Care Locker Room
- Personal Trainers
- Private Swim Instruction
- Classes:
 - Fitness & Dance
 - Instructional Swim
 - Water Aerobics

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 & Dance



Aerobic Hotline
Updated Daily
(734) 971-6355
Press 5

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.

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

Super Days!

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

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)

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)

KICKBOXING

Cardio Kickboxing

A great, safe cardio workout combining kickboxing and martial art drills with choreographed sequences. We recommend you bring your own gloves.

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

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 10:30-11:30a #3280 \$44 (Sr. \$33)
W 10:30-11:30a #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!



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	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	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 two 5-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	\$50 (Sr. \$40)
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YOUTH SWIM one 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
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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
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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
Sat	11:50–12:20p	#1031	\$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	10:35–11:15a	#1080	\$60
Sat	11:50–12:30p	#1081	\$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
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*** 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 & Water Aerobics: 11-week session

Session	Registration*	Classes
A	Dec 8-Dec 30	Jan 4-March 21

Adult & Teen Instructional Swim: 5-week sessions

Session	Registration**	Classes
A	Dec 8-until full (for both session)	Jan 14-Feb 11
B		Feb 25-March 25

Youth Instructional Swim: 8-week session

Session	Registration**	Classes
A	Dec 20-Jan 9	Jan 10-Feb 28

* \$5 late fee for registration after Dec 30
 ** Registration required 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 1st class only 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

Garden Corner

Seasonal Staff and Volunteer Gardeners Make our Gardens Beautiful!

We had a great 2008 garden season, thanks to all the enthusiastic and dependable gardeners that joined in this year's horticultural endeavors! Seasonal assistant Chris Casselman went the extra mile for all the hard work and heavy lifting needed this year—thanks Chris! Also, a heartfelt appreciation goes to Gary and Glenda Willis who continue to reliably give-it-their-all at Rolling Hills. Finally, this year's gardening assistant Judy McArthur gets kudos for dealing with the many gardens at Pierce Lake Golf Course!

Additionally, much appreciation goes to all the Master Gardener volunteers who helped with this year's season: (returning volunteers) Ron Carpinella, Susan Hamady,

Jody Gagnon, Lynn Gould, Esther Petrovich, & Bev Yelsik; and (new volunteers) Kathy Adams, Michael Barnhart, Mary Bruening, Susan Ervin, Deanna Gilbert, Jan McCarthy-Henkel, Judy Housner, Barb Stark-Nemon, Louise Tamres, Mary Topham, Mary Robinson, Liz Rother, & John Wirth.

Thanks for all their expertise and hard work! I am especially grateful for their extra hours and excellent assistance with the very successful Garden Walk for the Ann Arbor



Master Gardener Jan McCarthy-Henkel shares information about our perennial garden with visitors at the 2008 Women's National Farm and Garden Association Garden Walk in June.

branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association and tree planting booth at the Earth Day celebration at the Leslie Science Center! ♡

Kathy Squiers, Park Horticulturist

Meet Our Staff

New Staff!

For the past 35 years, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has been committed to providing a standard for excellence. One of the most important aspects in carrying out this goal is to employ a first-rate maintenance staff. The Roving Operations Crew—better known as “The ROC”—truly provides the foundation to a safe and quality experience at our parks and preserves.

With retirements and transitions this past year, we've had the opportunity to hire four new fulltime employees to provide daily care for our properties. (Fulltime ROC staff are assisted by a dedicated group of seasonal employees during the warmer months.)

The Parks Commission and staff wish the new maintenance crew a very warm welcome!



From left to right: Jonathan Templin, Lamarr Miller, Kathryn LaRock, and Adam Sierota

Most of the other onsite structures are physically sound and the repairs needed were more modest. For example, damaged and rotted siding required replacement and interior barriers to enclose no longer present animals (stanchions) were removed. Cows, sheep and goats will graze the fields surrounding the barns but will no longer be permanently housed in the barns. Another important job was to remove the soil in the barnyard, which had experienced nearly a century of farm animal presence, and replace it with gravel which is clean, drains effectively and is relatively easy to walk on. All the structures were washed inside and out. Finally a number of the buildings are receiving welcome coats of paint to help preserve their wood and brighten up this historic and highly visible farmscape. Those structures not completed this fall will be painted next spring.



Repairs being completed on one of the historic barns

Concurrent with these physical improvements, WCPARC staff planners are preparing a master plan for park development. Implementation of the plan will culminate in public access to Staebler Farm, hopefully, in the near future. ☞

Richard Kent, Park Planner

Cruisin' to Sharon Mills

Washtenaw County Parks was pleased to host the Model T Ford Club International at Sharon Mills on September 8th. Participants celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Model T traveled to several Ford Village Industries sites throughout Washtenaw County. Dozens of antique vehicles descended upon the former Ford Motor Company plant on the River Raisin. All who attended enjoyed the historic building, Ford-era hydroelectric generator and other museum attractions.



Model Ts departing Sharon Mills

A new brochure "Thrills of Mills," highlighting Ford Village Industries plants along the River Raisin and Huron River, is now available. For a

copy of this publication, please stop by the WCPARC Administrative Office, or call (734) 971-6337. ☞

Kira Macyda, Park Planner

2009 Vehicle Permit Sales

Annual Vehicle Permits, good for both Independence Lake and Rolling Hills County Parks, will be available for purchase beginning January 1, 2009. Pick one up at either Park Headquarters, \$25 for Washtenaw County residents; \$45 for non-residents.

2008-2009 Rental Reservations

Group rental reservations for the picnic pavilions and indoor meeting rooms listed began October 1, 2008. All other County Park pavilions are free, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Independence Lake Park

Meeting Room, seats 35-40
Beach Center Pavilion, 120
Independence Woods Pavilion, 90
Meadow's Edge Pavilion, 90
Gamble Group Center, 480
Fees apply, (734) 449-4437

Rolling Hills Park

Great Room, seats 30-50
(plus 31 outdoors)
Woodlands Pavilion, 90
Prairie Pavilion, 200
Family Pavilions (4), 12
Fees apply, (734) 484-9676

Sharon Mills

Mill Building, seats 50 (up to 200 with tents)
Picnic pavilion, 36-48
Reservations required with Food Art, a full service catering and event planning agency
Fees apply, (734) 222-9098

County Farm Park

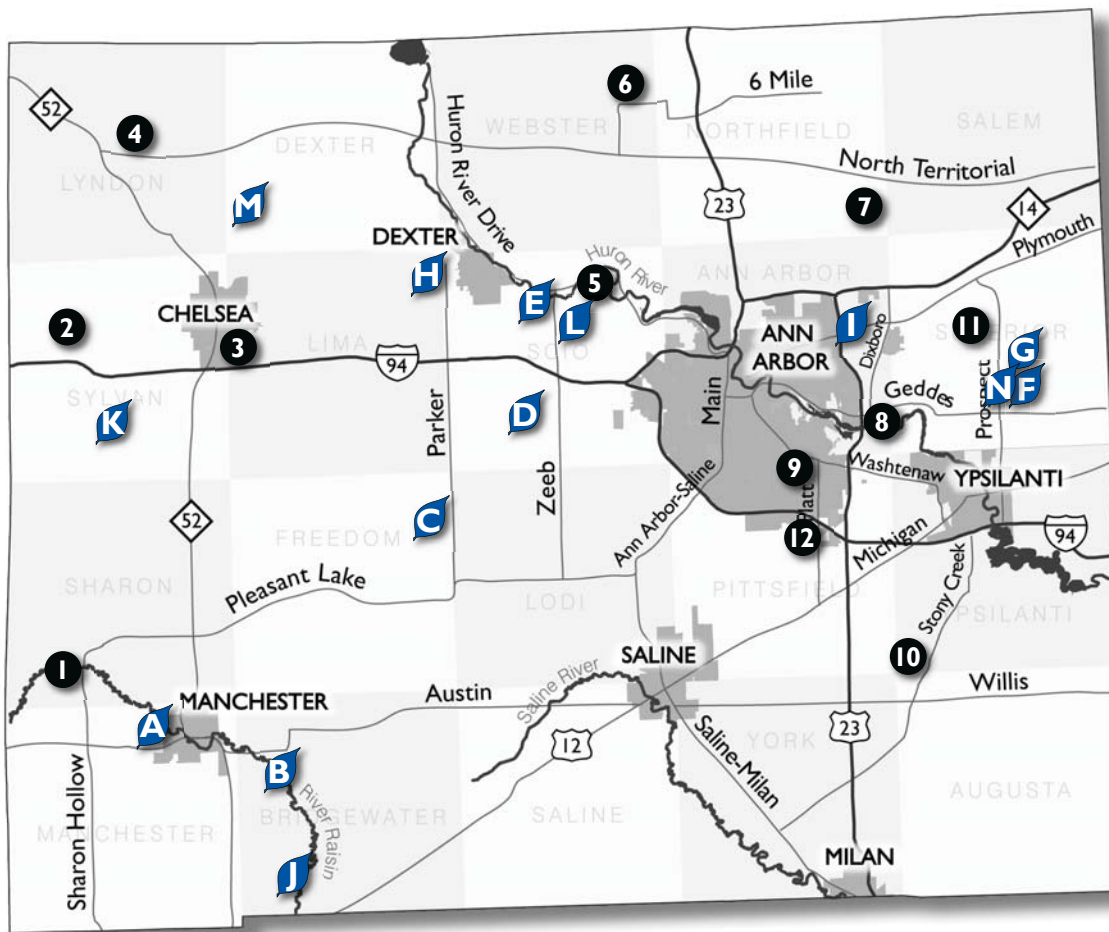
Platt Pavilion, 60-70
Free, reservations are recommended
(734) 971-6337



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

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** LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
Vreeland Road, Superior Twp (owned by the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy; 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** Meyer Preserve* **new!**
Prospect Road, Superior Twp, two parcels of 55 & 84 acres

*entrance and parking not yet developed

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Washtenaw County
Parks & Recreation
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48107-8645

Calendar of Events & Programs

Winter 2008-2009

Map on page 11

Call or visit us
online for
details and
updates

🌸 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

Cross-country ski clinics at Independence Lake Park, weather permitting. Think snow! Call for dates and times, (734) 449-4437

December

Sun, December 7

🌸 **Trees & Shrubs of LeFurge Woods**, 2-4pm. We'll identify ironwood, witch hazel, blue beech, American beech and much more! *LeFurge Woods, meet in the parking lot (LeFurge Woods is located on Prospect Rd., 3/4 mile north of Geddes Rd. in Superior Township)*

Sat, December 13

🌸 🚗 **End of Autumn Bird Walk**, 9-11am. The woods, fields and water's edge of this park offer a nice variety of birds. Bring binoculars if you can; a few pairs will be available if needed. Stay to enjoy hot drinks after the walk. *Rolling Hills, meet near Lodge*
Vehicle entry fee

Be sure
to dress appropriately for
programs. Warm footwear is
especially important for enjoying
time outdoors in
winter!

January

Sun, January 4

🌸 **Annual Winter Hike & Potluck**, 10am-2pm. Come enjoy a morning hike in some of the prettiest woods in Washtenaw County. This year's hike will focus on the plant life around Lake Genevieve. Afterwards we'll gather to share some food around the fire. *Park Lyndon South, East Lot*
Note: Cabin is a 5-min. uphill hike from parking lot (driving to cabin is possible with special request)

Sat, January 10

🌸 🚗 🚗 **Animals in Winter: Nature Stories & Hike** (for kids ages 4-7), 2-3:30pm. We'll share stories inside, then head out to look for signs of animals in the park. Hot drinks provided. Registration required, call Faye at (734) 971-6337, ext. 334.
Independence Lake, meet at Beach Center
Vehicle entry fee

Sun, January 25

🌸 **Exploring the West Lake Preserve**, 2-4pm. Come enjoy a winter afternoon in woods and fields as we explore one of the County's newest natural area preserves. *West Lake Preserve (Located on Waterloo Rd. in Dexter Twp., between Werkner and McKinley Roads.)*

February

Sat, February 7

🌸 🚗 🚗 **All About Skulls**, 2-3:30pm. This program will include an indoor discussion followed by a skull scavenger hunt outside. Folks are invited to bring skulls they have found for sharing and for identification!
Independence Lake, meet at Beach Center
Vehicle entry fee

Sun, February 8

🌸 **Hike Across the Wetlands**, 2-4pm. On this walk we'll do some wetland botany and look for the animals/signs of animals that call this wetland home. **Wear boots in case of warmer temperatures** (there may be water in wetland instead of ice!)
Devine Preserve

Fri, February 13

🌸 **Just Past the Hunger Moon-Hike & Campfire**, 7-9pm. On this night hike, we'll call for owls, look at stars, listen for night mammals and more!
Independence Lake Park, vehicle entry fee

Sat, February 14

💰 **5th Annual Independence Lake Ice Fishing Derby**, 7am-5pm. Registration begins at 7am. Join us for a fun-filled day of competition and prizes! Catch Northern Pike, Blue Gill, Bass and Crappie. Gift cards and other prizes for winners of the "Longest Northern Pike & Longest Pan fish". Bring your own bait. No alcohol, ATV's or snowmobiles. Call (734) 449-4437 for more information.
Entry Fee: \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids 12 & under; fee includes lunch
Independence Lake, meet at Beach Center
Vehicle entry FREE today - See our ad on page 3!

Sat, February 28

🌸 🚗 **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. We'll be inside and outside, so dress for the weather. Participation is limited, pre-register with Faye at (734) 971-6337, ext. 334
County Farm Park, Platt Road entrance
Meet at Administrative Offices



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