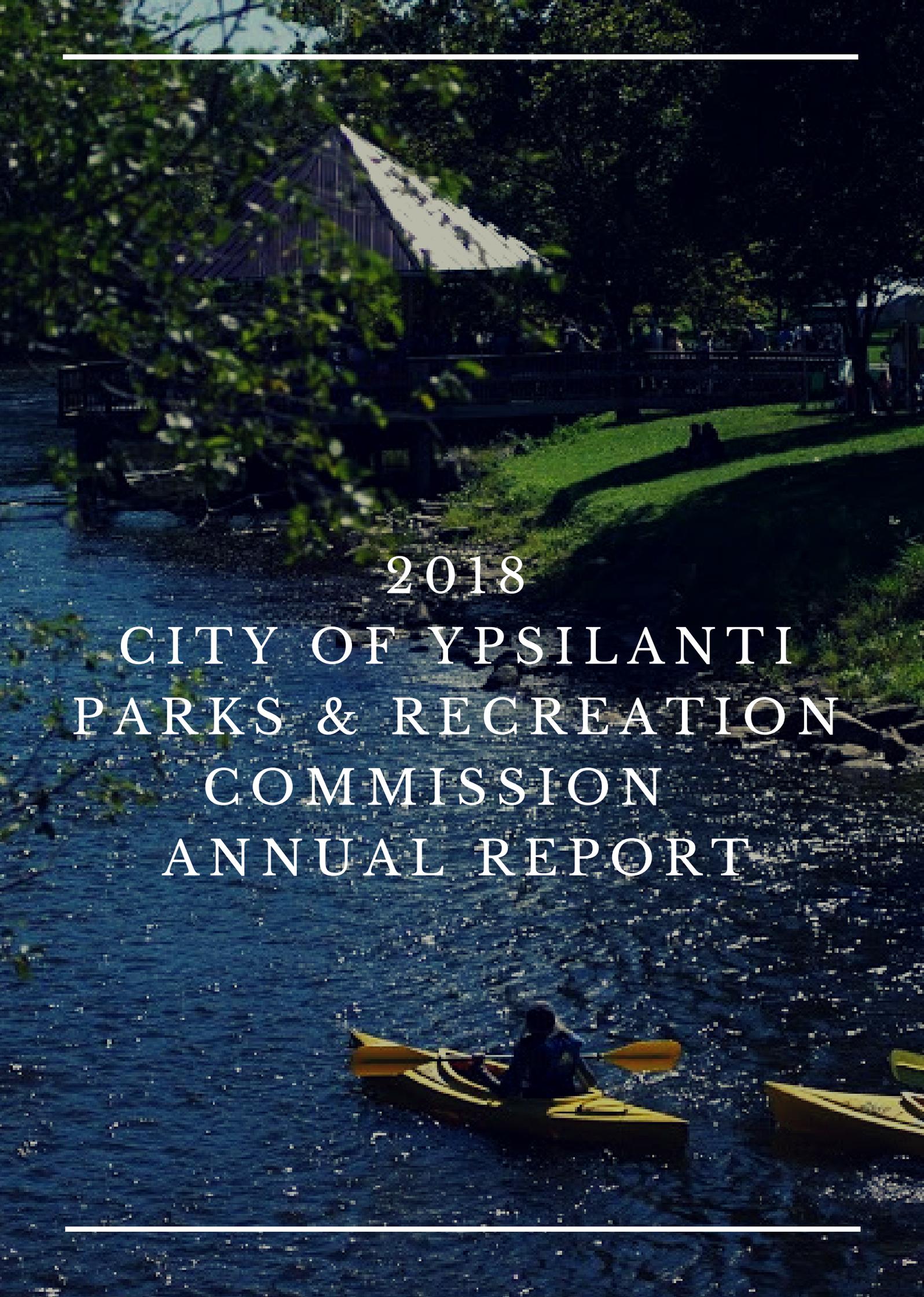


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A scenic view of a park. In the background, there is a large wooden building with a gabled roof, partially obscured by trees. A grassy area leads down to a body of water. In the foreground, several people are kayaking on the water. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and recreational.

2018  
CITY OF YPSILANTI  
PARKS & RECREATION  
COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# CITY OF YPSILANTI PARKS AND RECREATION OVERVIEW

The City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission's mission is to ensure recreational programs, services, and opportunities are afforded to all citizens by encouraging public-private partnerships between the City, local businesses, organizations, neighborhoods, Washtenaw County, and neighboring communities and by encouraging volunteerism.

The City of Ypsilanti park system features 12 community parks and 4 recreational facilities. The park system provides residents with recreational opportunities ranging from sports, playgrounds, festivals, events, fishing, gardening, fitness classes, and more!

City of Ypsilanti  
Parks & Recreation  
Commission

Evan Sweet  
Chair

Ashanti Harris  
Vice Chair

Cathy Thorburn  
Secretary

Ben Connor Barrie  
Kurt Kohlmann  
Amanda Marshall  
Delois Wilson  
Cherisa Allen

## At A Glance

- 12 Community Parks
- 1 Senior Center
- 1 Youth Community Center
- 6 Baseball Fields
- 1 Outdoor Pool
- 8 Playgrounds
- 3 Tennis Courts
- 1 Soccer Field
- 6 Miles of Shared Use Paths
- 3 Basketball Courts
- 1 Disc Golf Course

## Twelve Community Parks

- Candy Cane Park
- Frog Island Park
- Parkridge Park
- Peninsular Park
- Prospect Park
- Recreation Park
- Rivers Edge Park
- Riverside Park
- Waterworks Park
- Carrie Mattingly Tot Lot
- Charles Street Tot Lot
- Edith Hefley Tot Lot

## Recreational Facilities

- Rutherford Pool
- Senior Center
- Parkridge Community Center
- Freighthouse



*The goal of the Parks & Recreation Commission is to seek sustainable alternatives and methods for making recreational programming available to the citizens of the City of Ypsilanti.*



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

*Discover & Explore #YpsiParks*

## **Fitness in the Park Series**

The Parks & Recreation Commission partnered with the Ann Arbor YMCA to offer outdoor fitness classes in several city parks, once per month from May - September. These classes ranged in offerings from Beginner Strength Training, Yoga, Zumba and more! Over 90 participants joined in these monthly fitness classes!



## **Fall River Day**

This annual event on the Huron River continues to grow. This year marked the 5th annual Fall River Day. Fall River Day consists of exhibits and programs in Riverside Park along with canoe/kayak trips, programs, displays and walks, all next to the Huron River.

Just over 400 people attended the event this year, which is the largest yet! 60 kayaks were rented, and 90 people went down the river in a kayak during the course of the three-hour event. 14 different vendors/exhibitors participated in the event. Over 12 volunteers assisted with many different aspects of the event.

*The City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission works with many organizations to program the parks including an outdoor Fitness on the Parks Series, annual Fall River Day event, Adopt-A-Park volunteer programs, and more!*

# PARK PROJECTS & NUMBERS

*Improving the park system for everyone*

## 2018 Park System Improvements.

- GaGa Ball Pit installed in Prospect Park
- New engineered woodchips were placed in the playground at Prospect Park
- The Water Street Trail remediation project was completed, and the trail reopened
- New accessible and inclusive playground installed in Riverside Park
- New roof on pavilion in Recreation Park
- New bike repair station and bike rack in Riverside Park near Heritage Bridge



## By the Numbers:

- **90+** Fitness in the Park Participants
- **60** Kayaks rented at Fall River Day
- **90** People kayaked the Huron River during Fall River Day
- **400+** People attended Fall River Day
- **800+** Volunteered for Ypsilanti Proud Day
- **3,400+** Total volunteer hours in the park system
- **5** Adopt-A-Park groups worked in the park system
- Amplified Social Media presence through 2018: **1,290** Facebook Likes to City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation page.
- Added **3** new Commissioners

*Explore #YpsiParks*

# ADOPT-A-PARK & VOLUNTEERISM

*Love a Park, Lend a Hand*

The Adopt-A-Park program encourages neighbors, community groups, local businesses, and service clubs to dig in to help keep our community's Parks and Recreation system vibrant. From larger community-wide parks that host major events, to neighborhood pocket parks and tot lots, this public green space in our community is a major asset of our City and used by a diversity of residents. In 2018, the Parks & Recreation Commission worked with 5 Adopt-A-Park groups contributing over 3,400 volunteer hours to the park system. Projects included cleaning up trash from parks, installing new amenities in parks, cleaning up and removing brush.

**2018 Volunteer Hours Total = 3,426**

## 2018 Adopt-A-Park Groups

- Friends of Tot Lots - 15 Volunteer Hours
- Frog Island Community Garden Group - 750 Volunteer Hours
- Candy Cane Park / College Heights Neighbors
- YIES Prospect Park GaGa Pit
- St. Luke Ann Arbor Church Project - 226 Volunteer Hours

## Events & Volunteer Programs

- Ypsilanti Proud Day - 2,400 Volunteer Hours
- Fall River Day - 35 Volunteer Hours



## Ypsilanti Proud Day

*Proud Day is held annually on the third Saturday in May. It is a day dedicated to cleaning up and improving public spaces, including city parks. The Parks & Recreation Commission assisted the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce in planning and logistics for this great event to be sure that projects were identified for each city park. They also assisted with recruitment and coordination and volunteers for each park. Over 800 volunteers participated in this year's event.*

*For the past several years, the Proud Day Committee has selected a signature project, to allocate financial resources and many volunteers to. This year's signature project was a complete upgrade of the Parkridge Park tennis courts that included concrete repairs, as well as repainting the court surface and court lines. For the past three years, 2016, 2017, and 2018, the committee has focused its signature project in Parkridge Park and has made many improvements in the park.*

# SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS

*Working Together for a better Ypsilanti*

## **PAC Promoting Active Communities Assessment**

The Commission assisted Washtenaw Intermediate School District and Ypsilanti Community Schools on completion of the Promoting Active Communities Assessment (PAC). This audit tool is designed to assess how the built environment in a park or outdoor recreation facility is supporting physical activity. It was designed to help identify ways that a park or outdoor recreation facility can help the community be more physically active. On the Parks & Recreation portion of the evaluation we received a 71%. This program is administered by the Michigan Fitness Foundation. In 2011 the City of Ypsilanti received a gold rank on the PAC

## **Ypsilanti Area Skatepark Project**

The Parks & Recreation Commission was approached by community members about constructing a skate park and applying for a grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation for construction of this skate park. The Commission expressed its approval and support of this project. Since then, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has received a grant to construct a skate park in the Ypsilanti area and contributed matching funds as well. The Parks & Recreation Commission continues to be involved in the process for the Ypsilanti area skate park project. We look forward to this project's successful completion.

## **Pool Bathhouse Grant Application**

The Parks & Recreation Commission was approached by the community and members of the Rutherford Pool Board of Directors who operates Rutherford Pool for approval of a grant application to the State of Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund towards renovations of the bathhouse. The Commission expressed its support of the project and is happy to see improvements to the Rutherford Pool bathhouse and locker rooms.



## **Ypsilanti Community Schools Open House**

Parks & Recreation Commissioners attended the Ypsilanti Community School open house event to educate students about the Commission and how they may be able to get involved. They also discussed the Commission's programs and events, such as Fall River Day.

*"Park"nerships*  
*#YpsiParks*

# FUTURE PROJECTS, GOALS, & NEEDS

*Recreational programs and opportunities for all*

## 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission Goal Snapshot

- 2020-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Assist Public Services Department with the Development of a Parks Maintenance Plan
- Assist Public Services Department with the Development of a Parks Work Plan & Implementation Plan
- Explore Pavilion Rental Program
- Expand Park Programming
- Develop a Parks & Recreation Service and Volunteer Recognition Program
- Expand Social Media Presence
- Re-evaluate Adopt-A-Park Application and Program
- Expand Fall River Day
- Coordinate Communication of Park Events Programming with Administration and Commission



## Commission Needs:

- Recruitment of New Commissioners
- Dedicated funding to support park maintenance, development, and recreation programming
- Dedicated City staff member to directly oversee daily park operations, park maintenance, and park programming
- Formalize dedicated Community & Economic Development involvement in parks planning and grants as well as Commission administrative support.

*Support #YpsiParks*

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation engages in a range of partnerships with area businesses, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and government agencies. Below is a list of organizations who have supported and partnered with the City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission:

- Ann Arbor YMCA
- City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Friends of the Border to Border Trail
- Friends of Rutherford Pool
- Washtenaw County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Leslie Science & Nature Center
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioners Office
- Bee Present Honey
- Ypsilanti District Library
- Zero Waste Washtenaw
- Huron Valley Ambulance
- Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Eastern Michigan University
- Ypsilanti Township Recreation Department
- Ypsilanti Community Schools
- Washtenaw Intermediate School District



City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission  
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