
CITY OF YPSILANTI PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CITY OF YPSILANTI PARKS & 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

Ben Connor-Barrie
Vice Chair

Cathy Thorburn
Secretary

Ashanti Harris
Kurt Kohlmann
Amanda Marshall
Dillon Navarre
Julia Colins
Cherisa Allen

At A Glance

- 95 Acres of Park Space
- 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 Recreational Facilities

- 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

- Rutherford Pool
- Senior Center
- Parkridge Community Center
- Historic 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.

Liz Dahl MacGregor
Playground

Dedicated in memory of
Liz Dahl MacGregor
January 24, 1975 - June 9, 2018

She was a committed community activist, devoted to many and a loving mother and wife. In honor of her lifelong commitment to the city and our community at large, we dedicate this play structure to her memory. May she be an example to us all.

This park made possible by:



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Discover & Explore #YpsiParks

Community CPR/AED & First Aid Program

The Parks & Recreation Commission partnered with the Ann Arbor YMCA to host CPR First Aid & AED Classes to the Ypsilanti community. Classes were held at the Ypsilanti Senior Center. Three classes were scheduled and over a dozen area residents participated in the program.



Fall River Day

This annual event on the Huron River continues to grow. This year marked the 6th 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 450 people attended the event this year, which is the largest yet! 80 kayakers were rented, and over 120 area residents went down the river in a kayak during the course of the three-hour event. 12 different vendors/exhibitors participated in the event. Over 10 volunteers assisted with many different aspects of the event.

The City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission works with many organizations to enhance the use of parks including many programming partnerships, annual Fall River Day event, Adopt-A-Park volunteer programs, and more!



PARK PROJECTS & NUMBERS

Improving the park system for everyone

2019 saw many improvements to the City park system, with new amenities added throughout the park system.

Park System Improvements:

- New signage throughout the park system
- New picnic tables throughout the park system, 35 total
- Replacement of fall surfacing under play structures at the following parks: Parkridge Park, Recreation Park, Candy Cane Park, Carrie Mattingly Tot Lot, Edith Heftly Tot Lot, and Charles St. Tot Lot
- New charcoal grills throughout the park system, 12 total
- New benches, or replacement of wood on existing benches
- New trash cans throughout the park system, 18 total
- New bike racks throughout the park system, 5 total



By the Numbers:

- **450+** Area residents attended Fall River Day
- **80** Kayaks rented at Fall River Day
- **120+** Area residents kayaked the Huron River during Fall River Day
- **300+** Volunteered for Ypsilanti Community Beautification Day
- **3,180+** Total volunteer hours in the park system
- **2** Adopt-A-Park groups worked in the park system
- Amplified Social Media presence through 2019: **1,500** Facebook Likes to City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation page.
- Added **2** new Commissioners

Explore #YpsiParks



PARK MASTER PLAN COMPLETED PROJECTS

Park Improvements from the 2013-2019 Park Master Plan completed throughout the duration of the plan Projects by Park Location

Riverside Park

Opened gate at Cross St entrance

Replaced existing entryway signage at Cross (both east and west of the bridge) and at Michigan Avenue.

Repaired directional signage at the Tridge.

Provided barrier-free access at south entrance via new bridge that connects to half mile trail

Frog Island Park

Repaired signage at Forest Street entrance, and other existing park signs.

Recreation Park

Recommendation for Feasibility Study to connect walking track to sidewalk along Woods Rd. and both east and west ends

Removed curbing from basketball court

Candy Cane Park

Sidewalk installed along Roosevelt Street

Peninsular Park

Repaired sign at the LeForge Street entrance.

Replaced floating dock upstream of the dam with one that is accessible. Partnership with Huron River Watershed Council



#YpsiParkProud

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 2019, the Parks & Recreation Commission worked with 2 Adopt-A-Park groups contributing over **3,180** volunteer hours to the park system. Projects included cleaning up trash from parks, cleaning up and removing brush, and more.

2019 Volunteer Hours Total = 3,180

2019 Adopt-A-Park Groups

- Frog Island Community Garden Group - 2,100 Volunteer Hours
- St. Luke Ann Arbor Church Project - 150 Volunteer Hours

Events & Volunteer Programs

- Ypsilanti Community Beautification Day - 900 Volunteer Hours
- Fall River Day - 30 Volunteer Hours



Ypsilanti Community Beautification Day

Community Beautification 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 300 volunteers participated in this year's event.



SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS

Working Together for a better Ypsilanti

Pavilion Rental Program

The Commission saw a need to make it easier for residents to reserve a park pavilion for an event or gathering. Upon review of the best method to improve this, the Commission worked with City staff and implemented a new online pavilion rental request form. This form is accessible from the City website, and allows users to request a pavilion in a more streamlined and simplified way.

Fall Outdoor Movie Program

The Parks & Recreation Commission had an interest in outdoor movie programming during the summer months, but was unable to find a viable solution to offer to the community. In the fall, the Commission was approached by the DDA to support a Fall/Halloween themed movie night at Frog Island Park. The Commission pledged their support for the program. The event was very successful and well attended.

National Park Service Program

The Commission was approached by the National Park Service, River Raisin Battlefield staff in the spring about conducted a program in a city park. The program, titled Junior Ranger Angler Program, was a catch and release fishing program that was held in Peninsular Park on August 31. The National Park Service provided all of the equipment for this free community fishing event.

Discounted Event Ticket Programs

The Parks & Recreation Commission has partnered with mParks, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association to offer discounted tickets to residents to many regional recreation attractions, including the Detroit Zoo, Cedar Point, and Michigan's Adventure. This partnership allows residents to purchase tickets with a discount code to enjoy these regional attractions. Residents can purchase these tickets on the City website.



Ypsilanti Community Schools Open House

The Commission attended the Ypsilanti Community High School open house event to educate students about the Commission and how they may be able get involved. They also discussed upcoming programs and events.

"Park"nerships
#YpsiParks

FUTURE PROJECTS, GOALS, & NEEDS

Recreational programs and opportunities for all

2020 Parks & Recreation Commission Goal Snapshot

- Update Adopt-A-Park Application and Program
- Quarterly Newsletter For the Commission
- Implement Outdoor Fitness Program
- Increase participation in July Photo Challenge
- Assist Public Services Department with the Development of a Parks Maintenance Plan as needed.
- Expand Park Programming
- Develop a Parks & Recreation Service and Volunteer Recognition Program
- Expand Social Media Presence
- Develop Parks Amenities Marketing Piece
- Expand and Increase Attendance at Fall River Day



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 parks and recreation programming

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:

- City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation
- Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber
- Ann Arbor YMCA
- Destination Ann Arbor & Ypsi Real
- Eastern Michigan University
- Friends of the Border to Border Trail
- Friends of Rutherford Pool
- Friends of the Ypsilanti Senior Center
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Leslie Science & Nature Center
- Maiz Mexican Cantina - Depot Town
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- National Park Service
- Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioners Office
- Ypsilanti Community Schools
- Ypsilanti District Library
- Ypsilanti Township Recreation Department



Thank you, From #YpsiParks

City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission
1 S. Huron St
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

www.cityofypsilanti.com/parksandrec
www.facebook.com/ypsilantiparksandrec
parks@cityofypsilantimi.com

