

Sandy Andresen Chairperson
Marcia Chapman Vice Chairperson
Scott Martin Treasurer
Debbie Swanson Secretary

Commissioners
Thomas Bagwell
Elayne Black
Lawrence Johnson
Ted Vasicek
Carissa Watson



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2008 Annual Report



Accessible Picnic Area near Playground Adventures in Ford Heritage Park

2008 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commissioners

Sandy Andresen, Chairperson

Marcia Chapman, Vice Chairperson

Bill Williams, Treasurer

Debbie Swanson, Secretary

Commissioners

Emily L. Brown Scott Martin

Annette Russell John Shook Janice Stewart

Staff Support – Art Serafiniski & Brian Durant

Pursuant to the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission by-laws the following annual report lists the Park Commission's activities and accomplishments supporting the Park Commission's purposes as listed in the said by-laws.

A. To develop a park master plan and to carry out programs for the acquisition, management and control of parks and places of recreation of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti.

- The Park Commission continued to work together with the township trustees and staff on the revised 5 Year Master Parks and Recreation Plan including reviewing draft chapters and compiled a list of potential parks projects for the Implementation Chapter of 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan, attended the Public Review Presentation, and approved the final draft of the plan.

B. To promote the development of a system of neighborhood parks and other places of recreation to serve the various neighborhoods within the Charter Township of Ypsilanti.

- The Park Commission coordinated with township staff to create improvements in the following neighborhood park: Lakeside Park
- The Park Commission has addressed neighborhood park concerns that have been brought to its attention

C. To promote the development of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti parks and other places of recreation in the Charter Township of Ypsilanti.

The Park Commission has:

1. Ford Heritage Park
 - Playground Adventures donor recognition and flags put in place completing the project
2. Hewens Creek Park
 - Reviewed proposed plans and progress updates submitted by Norm Roller of the MMBA including Phase 3 and Phase 4 Trail Development
 - Initiated the exploration of a contract agreement with MMBA (ongoing)
3. Lakeside Park
 - New Playground and Landscaping Improvements
4. Harris Park
 - Reviewed and supported YNLL field expansion project- Allen field was extended to accommodate the need for a large field for older players
 - Researched the prior naming of Harris field #1 as "Allen Field" after former township employee George Allen
5. The Park Commission has addressed community park concerns that have been brought to its attention including off season garbage dumping in the parks, North Hydro dock theft, and bow and spear fishing

6. Researched and reviewed park commission statutory responsibilities and created a new committee called the “Michigan Act 157 of 1905 Analysis Committee”
7. Applied for and received an Access to Recreation Initiative Grant for accessible picnic tables, grills, and fines trail materials linking these items in Ford Heritage Park near the Playground Adventures Playground
8. Reviewed the fee structure for gated parks and made recommendations for revising the fee structure in the future
9. Continued to support the creation and implementation of unified signage in all township parks
10. Creation and Adoption of the Ypsilanti Township Geocaching Policy – policy requires permits and documents the placement of geocaches in township parks
11. Compiled a list of the geocache permits including the coordinates to be shared with and updated for the township’s emergency services primarily police and fire
12. Park Commission committee studying Bike Path Plan/Linear Parks. Committee will make recommendations for improvements to the township board of trustees.

D. To further and encourage cooperation between governmental units, private agencies, and private citizens toward these ends.

- Attendance at the Charter Township of Ypsilanti board meetings
- Created a Playground Adventures (Ford Heritage Park) Donor Recognition Document
- Participation in Ypsilanti Pride Day
- Ongoing correspondence with township board of trustees for the purpose of establishing stronger communication between our two boards
- Reestablished the Park Commission/Trustee Communication Committee
- Supported organized activities in the parks – Township recreation programming, Ypsilanti National Little League (YNLL) Harris Park, league softball at Community Center Park, and Youth football North Bay Park
- Representation and attendance at the MRPA Annual Conference
- Water Conservation Advisory Commission (WCAC) – YTPC representation on this Commission. Commissioner Martin served as the YTPC representative and provided regular updates to the park commission.
- Continued communication with the township board regarding the creation and adoption of the YTPC the Naming of Parks, Facilities, and Features Policy.
- Park Adoption and Restoration Campaign (P.A.R.C.) – worked to reach out to Neighborhood Watch groups in an effort to create an increase in participation in the PARC program
- Ypsilanti National Little League (YNLL) – continued support of the agreement for programming and park usage in Harris Park
- Supported EMU Rowing Team park usage at Ford Lake Park
- Continued working relationship with Norm Roller and the Michigan Mountain Bike Association (MMBA) and the trail development in Hewen’s Creek

- Presentation at YTPC meeting (March) by Mr. Tyrone Bridges of the BW (Behavior Workshop) Program – program in the community supporting youth
- BMX Racing Proposal Presentation – Tom Erickson of Motor City BMX, Inc made a presentation of the proposal that was submitted to the township (April)
- Supported Model T Club Request to use Ford Lake Park on September 19th for a Car Show
- Presentation - overview of County Master Plan Goals for Rolling Hills
- Public Review of 5 –Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (June)
- Supported Border to Border Unified Trail Signage for the Ypsilanti Corridor
- Recognition of years of service for outgoing park commissioners
- Citizen participation and concerns shared at park commission meetings

Additional Accomplishments

- Reviewed various documents and requests of residents
- Reviewed and discussed the 2008 Budget Memorandum and Five Year Budget Projection Worksheet prepared by Art Serafinski
- Reviewed 2008 Capital Improvement Project Analysis
- Reviewed Increased Park Fee Structure Proposal-proposal to increase fees was not supported by the park commission
- Continued the placement of Park Commission minutes on the township website
- Addition of park commissioner bio information to township website
- Completed and submitted 2007 Park Commission Annual Report to the board of trustees
- Reviewing and exploring possible existing funding sources for parks including cell tower proceeds from towers located in parks (ongoing)
- Elected Park Commission Officers (December 2008)

Future Additional Goals

- Improved communication with Charter Township of Ypsilanti Board
- Establish a process for residents to pursue ideas not included in Master Plan
- Develop and implement a plan prioritizing park improvements
- Research our park fee structure and make recommendations to the township board
- Establish a standing resident’s advisory committee to the Park Commission
- Establish a system for documenting the history of the park commission: past, present, and future
- Continue to pursue grant funding opportunities
- Continue work to establish a policy for revenue generated through placement of cell towers on park property
- Create a Preservation of Park Property Policy for preserving the integrity of park land and explore options for future planning for placement of maintenance and storage facilities not directly related to the parks being relocated to a non park locations
- Apply for a DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant
- Explore options with the township and businesses for creation of cooperative park usage space on the Seaver Farm Property
- Explore options for surveying our community