

Park Commission

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Sandy Andresen, Chair
Marcia Chapman, Vice Chair
Debbie Swanson, Secretary
Scott Martin, Treasurer

Commissioners:
Tom Bagwell
Elayne Black
Lawrence W. Johnson
Ted Vasicek
Carissa Watson

2009 Annual Report



Fall Beauty in Ford Lake Park

2009 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission

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Staff Support – Art Serafinski & 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.

- 5 Year Master Plan accepted by DNR, expiration date December 13, 2013
- Review Washtenaw Metro Alliance Plan – Green Places and Open Spaces
- Establish committee to work on development of Non-Motorized Pathways Study.
 1. Attend numerous county wide meetings of biking/pedestrian groups.
 2. Gathered Walkability & Bikability Surveys at Ypsilanti District library during 12 hours of operation
 3. Held a public meeting for community input to the Non-Motorized Study
- Park Commissioners participated in obtaining Walkability and Bikeability Checklists for the Non-Motorized Pathways Study
- Supported possible acquisition of property owned by Faith Assembly Church for potential park land – north of Davis, south of Parkwood.

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 has addressed neighborhood park concerns that have been brought to its attention (Clubview – basketball; Watertower – fence; etc.)
- Made a public statement of park support in light of lay-offs and reduced maintenance.

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. Watertower Park
 - Requested and received traffic signage noting children & playground from both east and west approach to park on Verna Street
 - Researched the limitations of the park for potential sale – water main runs through the middle of the park
 - Supported removal of broken equipment
2. Tot Lot Park
 - Researched the limitations of the park for potential sale – sanitary sewer line runs along property line. There may be an abandoned water supply well there, and a large electrical pole is on the property.

3. Pines Park
 - Researched the limitations of the park for potential sale – high tension power lines run through middle of park, plus land very wet
4. Ford Heritage Park
 - Encourage pilot project of recycling plastic and aluminum drink containers
 - Supported crossings over E. Huron River Drive and Textile to park
 - Consider gate house at more appropriate time after infrastructure and other amenities are in place.
 - Support extending water and sewage taps just beyond the property lines of park
5. Ford Lake Park
 - Supported necessary improvements to boat ramp and other items as noted by Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
6. Hewen's Creek Park
 - Review and revise Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) created by Michigan Mountain Biking Association. Present for legal review.
7. Geocaching
 - Created a responders coordinates list which is updated frequently and forwarded to appropriate persons
 - After notification, removal of unpermitted caches
 - Revised policy and permit forms to include Letterboxing
8. Approved Annual Park Permit Fees for 2010 for Ford Lake Park System.
 - Ypsilanti Township Resident \$15 minus instant rebate of \$5 = \$10
 - Ypsilanti City Resident \$15
 - All Others \$20
 - Senior City/Twp. – Free & All Others - \$10
9. Identified trails for future trail mileage markings: Grove Road, McCartney Bike Path, North Bay Park, Ford Heritage Park, North Hydro Park, Fairway Hills Park, Lakeview Park and Burns Park
10. Continued to support the creation and implementation of unified signage in all township parks

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
- 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.
- Attendance at Road Commission meetings that may impact Non-Motorized Pathways.
- Washtenaw County Commissioner discussed items that he was working on that impact the Township

- Ypsilanti National Little League (YNLL) – approved a 5-year extension of the agreement for programming and park usage in Harris Park as well as YNLL improvements to Harris Field #1.
- Rename Harris #1 the George Allen Memorial Field, “Allen Field”
- Representation and attendance at the MRPA Annual Conference
- Support EMU’s application for grant funding to build a boathouse at Lakeside Park, with understanding that specifics of boathouse and the partnership with the township will be determined once funding is secured.
- Park Adoption and Restoration Campaign (P.A.R.C.) – worked to reach out to and attend Neighborhood Watch meetings in an effort to create an increase in participation in the PARC program
- Attended numerous Neighborhood Watch meetings to share Walkability and Bikeability Surveys
- Attend Community Question & Answer Forum held at Cathedral of Deliverance Church
- Attendance at Township summer community forums
- Worked with daughters of Delores Brice to attain recognition for her contributions for Ford Heritage Park
- Communicate with Huron River Watershed Council and Ann Arbor News regarding oversight of Ford Lake Park in Argo Dam controversy
- Met jointly with the Township Planning Commission for presentation of conceptual plan for county Rolling Hills Park
- Contact Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) regarding I-94 at Huron Street Interchange Non Motorized Crossing. Attempt to build coalition to move this forward.
- Border to Border Trail (B2B) – support grant submission for eastern most link from North Hydro to Rawsonville Rd., south on Bridge and east on Textile.
- Work with potential Eagle Scouts on service projects
 1. Measure and mark trails within Ford Heritage Park (Sept. 09)
 2. Restoring gazebo in Ford Lake Park (Nov. 09)
- Support grant application to County for Connecting Communities initiative for proposed Textile Rd. Non-Motorized Pathway project between Huron River Drive and Bridge Road.
- Supported EMU Rowing Team park usage at Ford Lake Park
- Developed and adopted a Volunteer Service Agreement to be used for volunteer services in the parks.
- 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 & soccer at various parks.
- Citizen participation and concerns shared at park commission meetings

Additional Accomplishments

- Continued to update Park Commissioner bio information and pictures to township website
- Continued the placement of Park Commission minutes on the township website
- Pursued information on Splash Pads & visited Oxford Township
- Researched possible trail from Ford Heritage Park to Library following ITC Transmission right of way
- Reviewed various documents and requests of residents
- Completed and submitted 2007 Park Commission Annual Report to the board of trustees
- Completed and submitted 2008 Park Commission Annual Report to the board of trustees
- Elected Park Commission Officers (December 2009)
- Approved meeting times/dates for 2010

Future Additional Goals

- Fencing in Harris Park on the north side as a barrier between the railroad tracks and the park
- 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
- 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
- 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