

Park Commission

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Sandy Andresen, Chair
Marcia Chapman, Vice Chair
Debbie Swanson, Secretary
Lawrence W. Johnson, Treasurer

Commissioners:
Elayne Black
John Hoops
Marsha Lathion
Monica Ross-Williams
Carissa Watson

2012 Annual Report



Hewens Creek Park

“Come Visit – Get Active – Leave Happy – YT Parks!”

Park Commission Common Goal: Quality Living, One Park at a Time

Park Commission Core Values

- *Maintain, preserve, and protect Ypsilanti Township park amenities*
- *Value partnering with the community to support and sustain Ypsilanti Township parks*
- *Promote nature, recreation and health*

2012 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission

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Staff Support – Art Serafini & 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.

- Supported early planning and budgeting for the update of the 5-Year Master Plan due in 2013
- Recommended the selection of Spicer Group to help with this process

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
- Explored options for maintenance of tennis court surfaces in neighborhood parks
- Supported resurfacing of court surfaces in Appleridge and West Willow Parks
- Recommended rotating playground inspection process so playgrounds in parks will systematically and consistently be inspected on an ongoing basis
- Recommended Township staff construct a newsletter including the following: concerns about damage, costs of repairs and/or replacement for park items and the need to care for what we have. It should also be stated that a new basketball court will be built at the park. Recommended the letter be mailed to each household within the West Willow community

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. Supported advertising recreational uses of parks & non-motorized information by inclusion of parks information in township mailings sent to residents
2. Promoted parks slogan "*Come Visit – Get Active – Leave Happy – YT Parks!*"
3. Ford Heritage Park
 - Supported extending water and sewage taps just beyond the property lines of park
 - Recommendation to the Township Board: The park commission feels very strongly and recommends that water and sewer be put in Ford Heritage Park while incentives are in place so that substantial savings can be realized.
 - Supported the creation of an engineered drawing for Ford Heritage Park with the following potential components: shelter in an octagon shape, two single use accessible restrooms with changing table, storage area, concessions area, and covered area for a few picnic tables. This drawing will be used to solicit potential support and/or grant funding for this project.
 - Ford Heritage Park Pavilions – Presentation at April 9 Board meeting. Requested Board cover 3 utility connection charges
 - Recommends that the Township Board repair the Poured-in-Place (PIP) in the entire swing area to prevent further destruction and degrading of the surface. The Commission also recommended when repairing the top surface, the industry standard of bringing the top layer to 7/16" be adhered to.
4. Supported Annual Park Permit Fees for 2012 for Ford Lake Park System and continued process for a yearly park commission review of parks fees prior to public advertisement of fee
5. Continued to support the creation and implementation of unified signage in all township parks
6. Explored options for maintenance of tennis court surfaces in community parks
7. Assessed the state of township parks during yearly spring park visitations
8. Monitored geocaching in township parks
9. Reviewed and placed the park system statement on the township website

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
- Continued adopt a township board member by park commissioners in an effort to improve communication with one on one out reach and communication
- Requested involvement in decisions involving capital projects when money becomes available including types and locations of projects
- Recommended to the township board maintenance of minimum requirements for safety surfacing on our play structures
- Continued sending courtesy copies of park commission minutes with recommendations to the township board highlighted to township board members each month via email in an effort to improve communication
- Water Conservation Advisory Commission (WCAC) – YTPC representation on this Commission. Commissioner Johnson served as the YTPC representative and provided regular updates to the park commission
- Continued to support township partnership with EMU to build a boathouse at Lakeside Park using Trust Fund grant monies for improvements to park
- Worked with potential Eagle Scouts on service projects
- Supported continued expansion, development, and improvements to Rolling Hills County Park
- Supported EMU Rowing Team park usage at Ford Lake Park
- Participation in Ypsi Pride 2012 at Ypsilanti Township Park clean up sites
- 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
- Worked with YNLL board members to address concerns in Harris Road Park
- Citizen participation and concerns shared at park commission meetings
- Continued to Support the Friends of Rutherford Pool’s National Trust Fund Grant and plans to build a new pool
- Implemented Plan to Solicit & Recognize Park Supporters/Boosters including criteria for recognizing park supporters/boosters – Parks Community Service Award: Recognized Janalyn Hale for her work on the community built playground in Ford Heritage Park at the August park commission meeting and Ralph and Edna Rowe for their support of Lakeside Park in November
- Approved the “ONE Flier” and the "Adopt-A-Roadside in Ypsilanti Township” policy and sent the policy to the township board for approval
- Supported the Stand Down Event for veterans request to be held in October in North Bay Park presented by Mark Lindke
- Reviewed the Rule Waivers/Exemptions for Park Rentals

- Supported pursuing the Huron River Water Trail Enhancement Project
- Approved one day permission for the “Lemonade Island” stand in Ford Heritage Park as part of the National Lemonade Day Program
- Supported adoption of Smoke Free Parks in cooperation with the Washtenaw County Health Department
- Created draft language for Tobacco free parks ordinance and requested township attorney review of language

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
- Continued the placement of Park Commission packets on township website
- Reviewed various documents and requests of residents
- Completed and submitted 2011 and 2012 Park Commission Annual Reports to the board of trustees
- Recommended the township board adopt and follow the federal recommendation of a minimum of 5 feet for an on-road striped bike lane
- Implemented a Follow-Up List as part of monthly meeting agendas
- Elected Park Commission Officers (December 2011)
- Approved meeting times/dates for 2012
- Continued getting information from the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department about incidents occurring in township parks
- Held Summer Park Commission meetings in community parks: June – North Bay Park, July - Loonfeather Park and August – North Hydro Park
- Explored ways to increase promotion of parks and communication with residents and the park commission considered potential ideas like blogs, links from website, and facebook
- Promoted YT Park Commission Common Goal & Core Values

Park Commission Common Goal: Quality Living, One Park at a Time

Park Commission Core Values

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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 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
- Pursue Adopt Non-Motorized Areas & Parks Project - publicizing and working to get groups to adopt sections to maintain
- Advocate for non motorized plan for I-94 Huron Street Corridor
- Adoption of the Tobacco Free Parks Ordinance