

Park Commission

7200 S. Huron River Drive
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Phone: (734) 484-0073
Fax: (734) 544-3501
www.ytown.org



Lonnie Scott, Chair
Keith P. Jason, Vice Chair
Debbie Swanson, Secretary
Richard Roe, Treasurer

Commissioners:
Gail Boyd-Palmer
Evan Hayes
Jasmine Mackey
Jimmie Maggard
Monica Ross-Williams

2015 Annual Report



“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*

2014 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission

Lonnie Scott, Chairperson Keith P. Jason, Vice Chairperson
Richard Roe, Treasurer Debbie Swanson, Secretary

Commissioners

Gail Boyd-Palmer Evan Hayes Jasmine Mackey Jimmie Maggard Monica Ross-Williams

Staff Support – Angela Verges

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 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.**
- Used Parks 5-year master plan to guide parks discussions
- 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
 - Continued to address large groups using neighborhood parks for events by of requiring safeguards and items needed to carry out such events
 - Continued to work with staff to insure playground inspection process be started and that someone within Township Parks and Recreation staff learn how to do the inspections needed to continue with annual inspections
 - Continued to work with staff to address areas found to be in need of repair from playground inspections
- 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:**
- Continued support for advertising recreational uses of parks & non-motorized information by inclusion of parks information in Township mailings sent to residents
 - Continued use of parks slogan “*Come Visit – Get Active – Leave Happy – YT Parks!*”
 - Following up on initiatives to enhance Township parks in the parks that are outlined the 5 – Year Master Plan
 - Supported Township partnership with EMU through completion of the construction of the boathouse at Lakeside Park using Trust Fund grant monies for improvements to park
 - Continued researching options for spray pad components within current park system including hearing an overview presentation on spray pad parks
 - Began more formal planning for spray pad components within our park including draft architectural renderings
- 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
 - 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 on our play structures
 - Presented the Park Commission Community Service Award to Kaleena Brown and Tanea Thornhill.
 - Implemented and supported schedule of playground inspections
 - Created a Joint Spray Pad Project Committee including representation from township board and township park commission – committee members met with Robert Tetens from Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation to get further input and support for project
 - Continued to support Township partnership with EMU to complete the construction of the boathouse at Lakeside Park using Trust Fund grant monies for improvements to park
 - Participation in Ypsi Pride 2015 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
- Citizen participation and concerns shared at Park Commission meetings
- Completed a parks usage/rental policy

Additional Accomplishments

- 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
- Elected Park Commission officers (December 2015)

Next Steps

- Continue projects in process including the Spray Pad Project
- Consideration of a policy to create Tobacco Free Park
- Research impact of invasive species in township parks including Purple Loosestrife
- Research the possibility of the creation of a dog park in the township including the possibility of cooperating with neighboring communities in creating this option for residents