

**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**



## Park Commission

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*North Hydro Park Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*  
Park Grand Opening Ceremony & Community Picnic – July 15, 2007

## Park Commission 2007 Annual Report

### *2007 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commissioners*

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*Staff Support – Art Serafinski*

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
- Guidelines for the Development of the Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, Greenway Plans – DNR - Reviewed copies of the guidelines and recommended classification system for local and regional recreation and open space and trails. The Accessibility Ranking System for each park was also discussed. The park commission recommended that these guidelines, rankings, and classification systems be used in our 4 year 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 parks: Harris Park and Lakeview Park. The neighborhood watch in each area was consulted about possible improvements given available funding. New playgrounds have been installed at each park. Renovations were completed in the Fall of 2007 for Harris Park and throughout the Fall 2007 as weather permitted for Lakeview Park.
- CDBG Funding 2007-08 Projects – Reviewed and supported possible project proposals submitted by Serafinski. The list of possible projects included projects recommended by the park commission for Harris Park, Ford Lake Park, and Lakeside Park.
- Communication with township staff regarding status of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) grants used to fund improvements at Harris Park.
- The Park Commission has addressed neighborhood park concerns that have been brought to its attention - Appleridge – increased need for Port a Johns due to outside football league and the eventual removal of the non approved football league due to ordinance violations and the

inability to establish a formal agreement with the organization for appropriate park usage, West Willow park vandalism to playground structure, Nancy Park damage to fencing

**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
  - Supported the completion the Playground Adventures Project
  - Continued to solicit donations from community
  - Accepted another donation from the Speckhart Knight Foundation of \$5,000 which paid off the balance of the Playground Adventures Playground. In total this foundation donated a total of \$39,200. (Jan 2007)
3. The Park Commission has addressed community park concerns that have been brought to its attention: Ford Heritage: trash receptacles, traffic flow, signage, bike racks, shade, and poured in place (PIP) surface issues, Ford Lake Park: removal of non repairable dock,
4. North Hydro Park
  - Monitored the progress of the development of North Hydro Park
  - Communicated with township staff regarding status of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) “Trust Fund Grant”
  - Hydro Park Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting held on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM
5. Hewens Creek Park
  - Reviewed progress updates submitted by Norm Roller of the MMBA
6. Submitted project ideas for CBDG Funding in 2007-08 including Ford Lake Park, Harris Road Park, and Lakeside Park to Art Serafinski
7. Concept Plans – Harris Rd Park  
Reviewed concept plans for Harris Park and supported Serafinski’s suggestion that we begin this process with other parks such as Harris, Ford Lake, North Bay, Lakeside, Bud and Blossom, Lakeview, and Ford Heritage.
8. New Playgrounds and Landscaping Improvements made in Community Center Park, Harris Park, and Lakeview Park
9. The Park Commission has addressed community park concerns that have been brought to its attention – North Bay Arson, Ford Heritage

Playground Vandalism – exploring options for geese droppings concerns in several community parks

10. 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.
11. Reviewed the fee structure for gated parks and made recommendations for revising the fee structure in the future
12. Site visitation to the Seaver Farm Property to see firsthand the interesting features of this property in the hopes of exploring cooperative opportunities for park and recreational spaces in this area (Special Meeting October 2007)
13. Began the process for 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.**

- Maintained cooperative relationship with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation for the purpose of being the fiduciary of Playground Adventures funds
- Attendance at the Charter Township of Ypsilanti board meetings
- 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), league softball at Community Center Park
- Representation and attendance at the MRPA Annual Conference Tuesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday, Feb. 9, 2007 (Andresen)
- Washtenaw Area Transportation (WATS) Study Presentation – Ryan Buck – Buck shared the WATS Non-Motorized Plan for Washtenaw County at the YTPC February 2007 Meeting. The plan can be found on the following website: [www.miwats.org](http://www.miwats.org)
- Water Conservation Advisory Commission (WCAC) – reinstated YTPC representation on this Commission. Commissioner Martin volunteered to be the YTPC representative and provided regular updates to the park commission.

- Presentation - Update from County Parks – Bob Tetens and Tom Freeman Presentation/Discussion about the WCPARC (Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission). (March 2007)
- County Commissioner Rolland Sizemore shared his interest in serving our youth. WATTS (Washtenaw Area Teens for Tomorrow) program is serving youths in the township with programs in West Willow, Kaiser Elementary, and Kettering Elementary. (March 2007)
- Resident John Deisler shared an interest in creating a development authority in the township for the purpose of sharing information. He would like to see more communication in the township. (March 2007)
- Created and adopted the Naming of Parks, Facilities, and Features Policy. This was developed to help us address the concerns that Delores Brice's family brought to our attention regarding honoring their mother in Ford Heritage Park in some way. (April 2007)
- 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
- Supported the processing of a donation to repaint picnic tables in Harris Park from a representative from YNLL – Marlo Bearman VP of Softball (June 2007)
- Presentation from Annette Rook – Review Washtenaw County CDBG Funding Program (May 2007)
- Presentation and informal discussion with Supervisor Ruth Ann Jamnick regarding the township's Budget Process and Park Commission (May 2007)
- Liz Swims the Huron River – Liz did a swim through visit on the day of the North Hydro Park Grand Opening (July 2007)
- Participation in the 2008 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Budget Process - approved the 2008 Capital Outlay Projects Priority Listing (August 2007)
- Ypsilanti National Little League (YNLL) – worked with the organization to create a formal written 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

### **Additional Accomplishments**

- Reviewed various documents and requests of residents
- Reviewed and discussed the 2007 Budget Memorandum and Five Year Budget Projection Worksheet prepared by Art Serafinski
- Reviewed 2007 Capital Improvement Project Analysis

- Reviewed Increased Park Fee Structure Proposal-proposal to increase fees was not supported by the park commission
- Cooperation and support for the placement of Park Commission minutes on the township website beginning in January 2007
- Completed and submitted 2006 Park Commission Annual Report to the board of trustees in March 2007
- Made a Procedural Modification to Roll Call Votes – beginning each roll call vote with a rotating first vote procedure
- Investigated a per diem/no quorum concern
- Amended Park Commission By-Laws to include language for the position and responsibilities of a Park Commission Treasurer – elected a Treasurer (May 2007)
- Created, Reviewed, and Approved Language for a Park Commission Purchasing Policy (May 2007)
- Donor Recognition in the Community built Playground Adventures playground (Fall 2007)
- Reviewing and exploring possible existing funding sources for parks including cell tower proceeds from towers located in parks (ongoing)
- Elected Park Commission Officers (December 2007)

#### **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