

## Park Commission

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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

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## 2016 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*

### **2016 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 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
  - Worked with staff to address the resurfacing of several tennis courts which included the development of some of the areas for use as pickle ball courts
- 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 continuing partnership with EMU for of the use of the boathouse at Lakeside Park. The boathouse was constructed with the inclusion of 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, evaluating potential site locations, and recommending the township issue an RFP for the design of the spray pad park
- 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 John Woodcock and Bob Hollen for their stewardship in Hewen's Creek Park and the trail system.
  - Implemented and supported schedule of playground inspections

- Supported 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
- Participation in Ypsi Pride 2016 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
- Supported township resolution to reduce park commission to 7 from 9 elected seats beginning with the 2016 election cycle
- Supported activities within the township parks including a cardio drumming class in North Bay Park
- Explored and supported the adoption of a “Tobacco Free Parks Policy” with the support of the Washtenaw County Health Department – Public Hearing May 2, 2016, reviewed sample policies, recommended draft policy and ordinance language to the township board, supported 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings at the township board meetings, and the adoption of the policy by the township board of trustees
- Supported improvements in West Willow Park initiated by partnerships with the West Willow Neighborhood Association and Habitat for Humanity including grant funding from Lowe’s – bike racks, supported additional grant opportunities to install grills and a picnic area covering in the park
- Proposed the creation of a joint committee to research impact of invasive species in township parks including Purple Loosestrife

### **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

### **Next Steps**

- Continue projects in process including the Spray Pad Project
- 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