

**Park Commission**

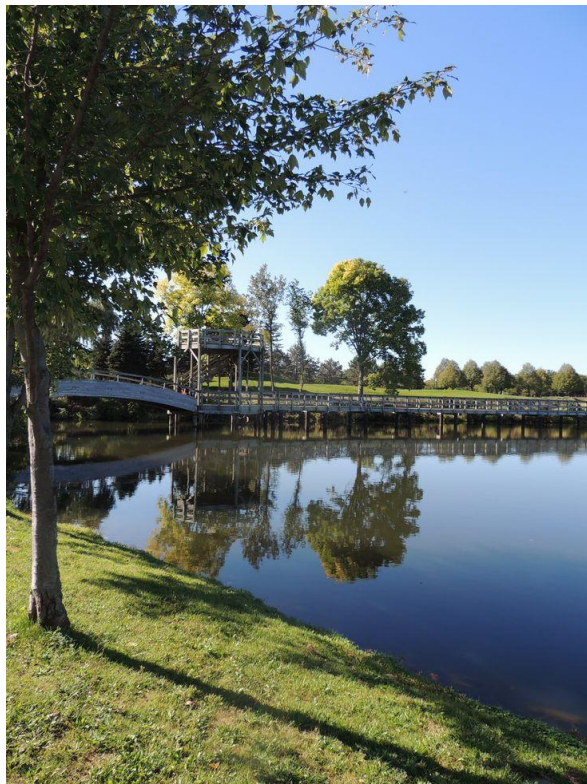
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Stuart Collis, Chair  
David Streeter, Vice Chair  
Debbie Swanson, Secretary  
Elizabeth Corder, Treasurer

Commissioners:  
Edward Burnett  
Sage Pazyamor  
Gloria Peterson

**2018 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*

**2018 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission**

Stuart Collis, Chairperson   David Streeter, Vice Chairperson  
Elizabeth Corder, Treasurer   Debbie Swanson, Secretary

**Commissioners**

Edward Burnett   Sage Pazyamor   Gloria Peterson

**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
- Worked with consultant Chris Nordstrom, Landscape Architect with CWAPLAN, to create the 2019 – 2025 Parks Master Plan
- Held an Open House to meet with township residents and collect data to guide the new parks master plan
- Analyzed data collected from residents at the open house and from surveys to guide the writing of the new master parks 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 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 is completed and continued support for Township Parks and Recreation staff learning 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.
- Worked with staff to plan, design, and install new play structures in Ford Lake Park (three play structures), North Bay Park, and Loon Feather Park
- Supported replacement of two center docks with all weather docks in Ford Lake Park
- Supported installing nets on the tennis courts at Community Center Park
- Reviewed Park Hours Ordinance Language

**D. To further and encourage cooperation between governmental units, private agencies, and private citizens toward these ends.**

**The Park Commission has:**

- Commissioners attendance at some of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti board meetings
- Requested involvement in capital projects when money becomes available, including types and locations of projects within the parks
- Supported the Township Board and staff in maintenance of minimum requirements for safety on our play structures and supported schedule of playground inspections

- Supported Participation in Ypsi Proud 2018 at Ypsilanti Township park clean-up sites
- Continued support of Township partnership with EMU for of the use of the boathouse at Lakeside Park
- 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
- Supported Ypsilanti National Little League’s (YNLL) proposal to replace an existing press box with a new press box and storage area in Harris Park
- Encouraged citizen participation and sharing concerns at Park Commission meetings
- Supported activities and events within the township parks including pickle ball tournaments in Ford Lake Park
- Explored ways to work with community organizations
- Explored possible sources for revenue increases in the parks – hosting events in the parks and possible fee increases
- Supported the staff proposal of Robin Castle-Hine to host the 2nd Annual Rosie the Riveter Arts & Crafts Vendor Show held in North Bay Park, July 2018
- Reviewed the township geocaching policy and worked with staff to manage the processing and monitoring of geocache applications
- Continued to explore the viability of creating a dog park within the township park system and requested information on potential sites
- Supported Angie Verges’, parks and recreation director, submission of a “KaBoom Play Every Where Grant”
- Approved and recommended the township board of trustees approve a donation from Dr. Daniel Stricoff (SFF Foundation) to purchase and install royal blue windscreens around the pickle ball courts at Ford Lake Park
- Accepted and recommended approval by the township board of trustees of a donation presented by Jeff Krzewinski, from the Friends of the Border to Border Trail, of a Bike Pump and Repair Stand to be installed on a cement pad along the border to border trail near Loon Feather Park in a location where it would be visible and usable by the neighbors near the park – The Friends of the Border to Border Trail received a grant from REI to donate bike stands in communities along the Border to Border Trail
- Supported the proposal from Megan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director for the Washtenaw Parks and Recreation Commission, to build a skate park in Community Center Park on Clark Road. Grant funding will fund the design and build of the skate park. Commissioner Burnett volunteered to serve on the committee working on this project.
- Supported the Pro Wakeboard Tour park and shelter rental application by Bonnier Corporation/Chris Bischoff to host a Pro Wakeboard Event in Ford Lake Park. Commissioners Burnett, Streeter, and Swanson volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to work with Robin Castle-Hine on this event.
- Commissioners visited events in other communities to get ideas about possibilities that could be hosted in our parks like Music Festivals

### **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

- Reviewed the impact of the reduction of the park commission from 9 commissioners to 7 during the 2016 election cycle to the language in the park commission by-laws and reviewed proposed amendments to the by-laws to address the reduction of commissioners. Approved updated by-law language addressing the reduction in commissioners.
- Worked with township trustees to fill a vacancy on the park commission due to a resignation

### **Next Steps**

- Complete the 5 Year Parks Master Planning Process in cooperation with the township board of trustees
- Work with the Township Board of Trustees to implement the new 5 Year Parks Master Plan
- Follow Up on the Skate Park Project – Community Center Park
- Continue to explore the creation of a dog park within a community park
- Continue to explore hosting events within the township park system