



Rolling Hills Park day campers at the Water Park

VII. ACTION PROGRAM

As Washtenaw County continues to grow and evolve from what was historically a rural region defined by agriculture to a suburban community, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) seeks to address the changing needs of area residents. This includes demand for new recreation amenities and programming, as well as the need to maintain and improve existing facilities. Additionally, open space preservation is increasingly important.

The Action Program was developed to help document the Commission’s priorities over the next five years (2020-2024). The list is not exhaustive and will continue to evolve based on the community’s needs. With input from Park Commissioners, staff, and the public, this section identifies items that support and accomplish WCPARC goals and objectives identified in Section VI.

The Action Program addresses recommendations for:

- Individual Parks
- Natural Areas Preservation Program
- Trails and Greenways
- Operations: Administration; Maintenance and Planning; and Environmental Quality
- Programming: Recreational Programming; Nature and Cultural Interpretation; and Events

The Action Program integrates the WCPARC 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) as well as additional items for consideration. Each Action Item corresponds to the WCPARC goals and objectives (Section IV). The CIP is included in Appendix D.



Setting bridge along Border-to-Border Trail in Chelsea area

Table 13 - Parks Action Program

ACTION ITEM	GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Cavanaugh Lake County Park	
Perform general maintenance activities	1F
Gosline Preserve	
Provide limited public access by coordinating boat, kayak and canoe rentals with Independence Lake County Park	4A
Independence Lake County Park	
Improve Beach Center area, including outdoor patio, with improved entryway, signage, trails, and staff parking	1B, 1F, 2B
Provide vehicular access and parking for Independence Woods Pavilion	1F
Provide scenic or physical access to the University of Michigan's Mud Lake Bog	4A, 4C
Provide access to Little Independence Lake (via trail, boardwalk, overlook, fishing dock) and vernal pools	3A, 4A
Investigate feasibility for a multiuse building to possibly incorporate a nature interpretation center, space for day camp, and other year round uses	1A, 1D, 1G, 2A, 2D
Repair/reconstruct boardwalks and renovate observation tower	1D, 1F
Construct new pavilions near Blue Heron Bay and disc golf course	1F, 2C
Replace existing playground	1F, 2B
Implement plan for kayak livery	1A, 1B, 1D, 2A, 2C, 2D
Improve conditions of disc golf course	1F
Explore camping options	1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D
Improve or construct outdoor meeting space	2D
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center	
Retile locker room floors	1F
Resurface and/or expand parking lot	1F
Make improvements to landscaping, building sightlines, and exterior signage	1F
Renovate pool lighting	1F
Develop a marketing plan	1D
Update HVAC system	1F
Implement recommendations based on feasibility study completed in 2019.	1B
Improve ADA compliance and accessibility of facility and fitness equipment and develop programs for adaptive recreation	1A, 1G, 2A, 2B
Expand health and wellness programs such as CPR, diabetes prevention and blood pressure	1G, 2A, 2D
Explore implementing a greater range of fitness classes to address multiple levels of abilities and ages	1G, 2A, 2C, 2D
Add winter camps and snow day programs	1G, 2A, 2E
Replace glass block wall in pool area	1F

Table 13 (Continued)

ACTION ITEM	GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Nelson Meade County Farm Park	
Improve parking at Platt Road and Medford lots	1F
Install restrooms, new pavilion, and playground at the Medford Lot entrance	1A, 1F
Enhance trail system and provide appropriate access to the neighborhoods surrounding the park	1A, 1F, 4A, 4F
Renovate Park Administration Offices	1F
Renovate and update wayfinding signage, as needed	1F, 4B
Osborne Mill Preserve	
Perform general maintenance activities	1F
Add signage visible from river	1F, 4A, 4B
Park Lyndon County Park	
Explore possibilities for using cabin for programming	1G, 2A, 3D
Repair the boardwalks and trails throughout the park	1F, 3B
Add new play elements and other amenities to attract families at Park Lyndon	1F, 2C
Explore public access (trail/boardwalk) to the Reith addition	1B, 1F, 3A, 4A, 4B
Collaborate with DNR on a joint trail system, including wayfinding signage improvements	1A, 1B, 1F, 4A, 4E
Replace pavilion and concrete pad at Park Lyndon - south	1F
Park Northfield	
Create and implement a park redevelopment plan	1A, 1B, 1F, 2B, 3A
Parker Mill County Park	
Improve signage, including interpretive and wayfinding	1F, 3A
Add children's natural playscape	1A, 1B, 1F, 2C, 2D
Prepare landscape plans for plantings in the location of the former mill pond and reroof greenroof pavilion	1E, 1F, 3A
Collaborate with the partners to improve drainage along Geddes Road and parking lot	1F, 5C
Create historic garden and farm plot for interpretation	1B, 1F, 2A, 3A, 3D
Pierce Lake Golf Course & Park	
Improve golf course cart paths, boardwalks, and bridges	1F
Remodel women's restroom in clubhouse	1E, 1F
Renovate the boardwalks, overlooks, fishing platforms, and trails around Pierce Lake	1F, 2B, 2C
Improve drainage, replace sand, and repair bunker edges	1F
Resod various tees	1F
Replace and standardize signage throughout course	1F

Table 13 (Continued)

ACTION ITEM	GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Rolling Hills County Park	
Construct pavilions and restrooms/concessions area for soccer participants and spectators	1F, 2B, 2C
Construct mountain bike technical skills course with pavilions, restrooms, and increased parking	1F, 2A, 2B; 5D
Improve active sports fields and investigate Miracle Field construction	1A, 1F, 2B, 5C, 5D, 5E
Improve service yard with bulk storage areas	1F
Replace vault toilets with modern amenities, where feasible	1F, 2C
Add new amenities to the Water Park, including a fourth slide at Plunge Peak, interactive water features, and shade structures, and improve concessions	1F, 2B
Collaborate with Ypsilanti Township to form a link/trail connection with the adjacent Hewen’s Creek Park	2B, 3A, 4A, 4B, 5D
Increase facility rental opportunities in and adjacent to the Water Park including cabanas and pavilions	1B, 1D, 1F, 2B, 2C
Construct amphitheater to enhance programming	1B, 1F, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3D, 5D
Enhanced disc golf programming and repurpose auxiliary structure	1F, 5D
Construct a fitness course along main paved trail	1A, 1G, 2A, 2D
Investigate additional recreational programming opportunities, i.e. bike rentals	1D, 1F, 2A, 2C, 2D, 5D
Improve pathways to address access to picnic areas and pavilions, and pave Water Park service drive	1F, 2B
Sharon Mills County Park	
Implement master site plan elements, including adding a canoe launch, parking, and other rec. amenities	1B, 1F, 2A, 2B, 4D, 5D
Improve exhibits inside the mill building	1F, 3A
Repaint mill building, pavilion, and pergola	1F
Explore options for utilizing generator to supply electricity	1D, 1E, 3A
Partner with Ducks Unlimited to restore farmfield with wetland and grassland	3A, 3B, 3C, 5C, 5D
Construct boardwalk and access to Maly addition	2B, 3A, 4A, 4B
Staebler Farm County Park	
Implement Site Master Plan elements such as recreation amenities, circulation, and other site improvements.	1B
Construct multipurpose building	1E, 1F, 1G, 2A, 2B, 2C, 5C
Investigate the feasibility of renovating and repurposing barn structures	1B, 1E, 3A
Design and install interpretive signs	1F, 3D
Superior Center County Park	
Explore possibiltiy of collaborative management with Superior Twp	5D
Replace parking lot bollards	1F
Swift Run Dog Park	
Explore dog programming opportunities	1A, 1G, 5A, 5D

Table 14 - Natural Areas Preservation Action Program

ACTION ITEM	GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Preserves and Conservation Easements	
Provide and improve access and site amenities to preserves to enhance public enjoyment and maintenance	1F, 2B, 3A, 4B
Explore possibility of acquiring land adjacent to existing parks and preserves	1A, 1C, 3A, 3C
Create Stewardship Management Plans for each preserve	1B, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4C
Annually monitor conservation easements as required	3B, 3C
Develop and annually monitor compliance with farm conservation plan	3B, 3C
Continue to manage conservation buffers along rivers where applicable	3B, 3C
Develop process to transition farmland to new farmers, as needed, in order to continue farming on nature preserves and parkland, where appropriate.	1A, 1D, 3A, 5D
Create ecological inventories to prioritize key natural areas management within parks and preserves.	3B, 3C
Contribute to special revenue fund for future NAPP purchases	1D, 3A, 3B

Table 15 - Trails and Greenways Action Program

ACTION ITEM	GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Continue to plan and construct segments of the Border-to-Border Trail (B2B)	1B, 2A, 2C, 3A, 4A, 4C, 4E, 4F, 5C, 5D
Rebuild existing Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti B2B Trail segments, where needed	1B, 1F, 2B, 2E, 3A, 4E, 5C, 5D
Develop and implement a B2B Trail interpretive master plan and wayfinding and signage plan	1B, 1F, 3D, 4B
Develop a B2B Trail maintenance plan and identify resources to establish sustainable source of funding for maintenance	1F, 5C, 5E
Investigate opportunities for camping along B2B Trail	1D, 1F, 2C, 2D, 4B, 5D
Develop connections to Huron River Water Trail	4A, 4C, 4E, 5D
Encourage development of trail towns along B2B Trail system	1A, 4D, 4F, 5A, 5D
Support regional trail connections with partners and adjacent jurisdictions	4C, 4D, 4E, 5D
Work with partners to identify programming opportunities	5A, 5B, 5C, 5D
Support non-motorized trail construction throughout Washtenaw County with financial and in-kind assistance	5C

Table 16 - Operations Action Program

ACTION ITEM	GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Administration	
Develop a Communications and Marketing Plan in order to improve the organization's communication tools and implement a branding strategy	1A, 1D
Expand partnering with communities and organizations to improve the park system	2A, 2E, 5A, 5D
Survey county residents to monitor changing recreation needs and participation, and fulfill unmet needs	1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2D
Explore the merits of implementing fee-based programs to offset staffing costs, as appropriate	1D
Hire additional staff to accommodate department communications and community outreach	1A, 1D
Enhance internal controls for facilities (Administration auditing)	1A
Implement racial equity hiring strategies	2E
Consider racial equity in facility planning decisions	1C, 2E
Develop a comprehensive method to track programs and events and analyze data	1A, 1D, 1G, 2A, 2D
Create vision and strategy to diversify volunteer program across the organization.	2A, 2C, 5E
Maintenance and Planning	
Repair, restore, and renovate older park facilities to continue to provide safe and high quality recreational amenities	1F, 2B
Implement a computerized asset management program for every facility	1F
Replace picnic tables, signage, parking lot bollards, and other amenities throughout park system, as needed	1F, 2B
Conduct HVAC and lighting assessments, as appropriate	1E, 1F
Explore and integrate energy savings/conservation opportunities	1E, 1F
Improve gardens and plant identification signage where needed	1F, 3A, 3D
Expand horticulture programs and duties, and identify resources needed	2A, 2D, 3A
Improve acoustics for public meeting rooms	1F, 2B
Environmental Quality	
Increase volunteer participation for stewardship activities (i.e., trail maintenance/monitoring and invasive species removal)	5E
Implement and utilize innovative, low-intensity methods/products that conserve energy and develop and implement strategies for minimizing WCPARC's ecological footprint	1E, 1F
Improve water quality in lakes, streams, and rivers, where appropriate	1E, 2E, 3A, 3C, 5D

Table 17 - Programming and Events Action Program

ACTION ITEM	GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Recreational Programming	
Expand programs, clinics, and activities that target the recreation needs and interests of the community	1A, 2A, 2C, 2D
Promote creative use of sites and facilities for community activities (e.g., sport competitions, science/art classes, dance performances, outdoor concerts, etc.)	2A, 2C, 5A, 5B, 5D
Develop and expand sustainable fishing opportunities (i.e., catch and release), by stocking ponds and lakes with game fish, utilizing floating platforms, and providing boat launches, where appropriate	1G, 2A, 2D, 3C
Develop opportunities for renting canoes/kayaks and build small parking areas to support the activity, where appropriate	1D, 1F, 2A
Create opportunities for group and individual camping	1A, 2C, 2D, 3D
Develop a new recreation center to service all age groups and improve programming opportunities	1A, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1G, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D
Increase winter park use by expanding sledding, ice skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and other programming opportunities	1F, 1G, 2A, 2C, 3D, 5D
Investigate feasibility of off-leash dog park at various sites	1A, 2A, 2C, 2D, 3C
Develop facilities for organized sports (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.)	2A, 2B, 2D, 5A, 5D
Nature and Cultural Interpretation	
Explore opportunities to construct and improve interpretive facilities	1A, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 3A, 3D, 5A, 5C, 5D, 5E
Integrate technology into interpretive programming (e.g., exhibits, GPS, videos, etc.)	1F, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3D, 5C, 5D
Develop and maintain interpretive materials (e.g., signage, brochures, etc.)	2D, 3D, 5D
Highlight special or unique features of facilities through various means	2D, 3D, 5D
Expand programming opportunities to reach and connect with diverse groups of patrons	2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 3A, 3D, 5A, 5B, 5D, 5E
Recruit volunteers and cultivate partnerships to enhance programming opportunities and increase park/preserve visitation	5E
Increase programming opportunities at historic facilities	3A, 3D, 5D
Events	
Increase community festivals and events at major facilities	1A, 2A, 2D, 2C, 3D, 5D
Other	
Continue to partner with other agencies including construction of the Ypsilanti Skate Park	1C, 2A, 2E, 4 D, 4E, 5A-D