



# City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission

## Spring 2015 Newsletter

### 1. Welcome To the Parks and Recreation Commission Newsletter!

As a means to publicize what is happening with our City parks, as well as recreational opportunities within the City of Ypsilanti, the City Parks and Recreation Commission is starting this quarterly newsletter that will be posted on the City website as well as the Commission's active Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ypsilantiparksandrec?fref=ts>).

### 2. Parks And Recreation Commission Meetings

Commission meetings are generally held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7pm, at the downtown library (229 West Michigan Avenue) in either the main floor meeting room, or the basement meeting room. All meeting spots are handicapped-accessible. Everyone is always welcome to the meetings. Also, meeting agendas and past meeting minutes are available on the Commission's City web page site at <http://cityofypsilanti.com/Government/BoardsCommissions/DirectoryofBoardsCommissions/ctl/StaffDetails/mid/1812/staffid/33#board>.

### 3. Help Our City Parks On Ypsi Pride Day – May 16th

The annual Ypsi Pride Day (People Restoring Image and Developing the Environment) Day is a community-wide event intended to foster community pride and encourage local business growth by creating a clean and welcoming environment. It began as a class project by the 1995 graduating class of Leadership Ypsilanti, an experiential learning program sponsored by the Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber, and is now sponsored by the A2Y Chamber Foundation.

Every year, between 500-1200 volunteers spend the morning picking up litter, painting, planting flowers and otherwise beautifying the Ypsilanti community. After the clean-up, volunteers are treated to lunch and entertainment at the Post-Event Celebration (this year in Riverside Park). Ypsi Pride Day is a great opportunity to help improve our City parks by even doing simple chores like picking up trash. It's easy to volunteer for Ypsi Pride Day too...

- Go to the Ypsi Pride Website – <http://business.a2ychamber.org/events/details/ypsilanti-p-r-i-d-e-day-2015-6153>
- Click on "Register Now"
- Fill out the contact information for yourself
- Under "Additional Information", click on "Site Location" and pick where you want to volunteer
- Complete the registration using the prompts at the bottom of the page.

Once registered you should receive an email back before Pride Day with instructions but it is safe to say that you should plan to arrive at the site you volunteered for at 9am and to bring trash bags and gardening gloves (if you have them). Clean ups last until noon, at which time the free volunteer picnic takes place at Riverside Park.

### 4. City Pool Opens Memorial Day Weekend

The City's municipal Rutherford Pool will open for the season on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and be open through Labor Day weekend in September. The Pool has a number of early-bird discounts for seniors and families too. And since the Pool has a number of ongoing costs to keep it operating, please consider making a tax-deductible donation or even buy a personal engraved brick to leave a lasting legacy. Another way to help the Pool is to donate some time to the facility. Pool information, including hours, discount programs and how to donate is at the Rutherford Pool website – <http://forpool.org>.

### 5. Free Friday Night Classic Movies In Ypsi

On most every Friday night of the year, family-friendly movies are shown at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum "basement" theater (enter on the north side door), 220 North Huron Street. These movies are co-sponsored by the City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission. Shows begin at 7pm and are hosted by local history expert, and film aficionado, James Mann with free popcorn too! For movie listings, visit the Ypsilanti Historical Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ypsilanti-Historical-Society/253543834382?fref=ts>. Recent movies show included Titanic (1953 version), Twelve Angry Men, The Lost Patrol, Son of Paleface and Cleopatra (1934 version).

## 6. Friends Of Peninsular Park



In 2014, a new group formed in Ypsilanti with the goal of improving one of our somewhat forgotten Huron River parks, Peninsular Park. Located just off LeForge Road on the north side of the River, Peninsular Park was acquired by the City in 1985 and over the years had grown a little “tired”. Working with the City, the Friends of Peninsular Park are working out a plan of action for the facility, with a clear priority being the replacement of steps leading down to the River which are used by those fishing and by canoe/kayak users portaging around the Peninsular Dam. Other short term projects may include picnic shelter repair, walking path improvements and opening up invasive growth for better River views.

The Friends of Peninsular Park are always looking for additional volunteers and the best way to start would be to attend one of the monthly meetings. Friends meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month, 10am, and for the warmer months, meetings held at the Park picnic shelter. Also the group has a web page at [www.penpark.org](http://www.penpark.org) and a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PeninsularPark?fref=ts>. PS – There are always local rumors about the safety status of Peninsular Dam, but to read the latest inspection report, visit [www.penpark.org](http://www.penpark.org).

## 7. Huron River Watershed Council Increasing Their Ypsilanti Actions

The Huron River Watershed Council (<http://www.hrwc.org>) was formed in 1965 by governmental bodies along the river to safeguard this natural resource. Locally, the organization has been spending time, money and effort to improve the health of the River as well as increase it’s recreational aspects. Work by the Council has included...

- Building a new canoe/kayak dock above the dam in Peninsular Park – (<http://wemu.org/post/new-dock-ypsilantis-peninsular-park> and <http://www.hrwc.org/2014/11/reviving-peninsular-park>)
- Greatly improved the canoe/kayak portage on the River at Superior Dam just west of Ypsilanti (<http://tinyurl.com/kb4zn6s>)
- Helped designate Ypsilanti as a “Trail Town”, being part of a water “trail” along the entire Huron River (<http://tinyurl.com/lukferf>)
- Was successful in having the Huron River designated by the Department of Interior as a National Water Trail, one of only 18 in the U.S. (<http://www.hrwc.org/category/huron-river-water-trail/>)
- Making plans to improve fish habitat on the River between Cross Street and Michigan Avenue
- Established a first rate Huron River Water Trail website at <http://huronriverwatertrail.org>

For more information about the Huron River Watershed Council, please consider reading this interview of the Watershed Council’s Executive Director Laura Rubin by local blogger Mark Maynard - <http://markmaynard.com/2014/11/bringing-life-back-to-the-huron-river>. Better yet, help support the Huron River by joining the Huron River Watershed Council at <http://www.hrwc.org/donate>.

## 8. Park Profile – Charles Street Tot Lot



Located on the northeast side of Ypsilanti, at the intersection of [Charles Street at Thomas Street](#), this park is one of the four “Tot Lot” parks in the City that are small in size and contain a children’s playground. In 2012 the Park was improved through the combination of area volunteers and City staff, resulting in a complete upgrade of the playground equipment (story at <http://tinyurl.com/l78fwrx>). Also, the Charles Street Tot Lot was among the children’s playground parks in the City where smoking was banned in 2014 ([http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2014/10/ypsilanti\\_approves\\_ordinance\\_t.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2014/10/ypsilanti_approves_ordinance_t.html)).

## 8. Next Newsletter

The Summer 2015 edition of the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission newsletter will be out in July 2015. Submissions or ideas for stories should be forwarded to Commission Secretary Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

