



.the. ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF DEDICATION: ADA TOWNSHIP BIDS FAREWELL TO PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR MARK FITZPATRICK

After 16 years of dedicated service, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Fitzpatrick is retiring, leaving an enduring legacy of environmental stewardship and recreational development in Ada Township. Mark’s visionary leadership has had a profound impact, notably in the areas of environmental conservation, park development, and his work on the non-motorized trail system.

Mark’s commitment to environmental stewardship has been exemplary. His initiatives ensured Ada Township Parks was a beacon of sustainable practices, preserving natural habitats and fostering environmental awareness among its residents. His passion for the environment and educational opportunities in our Parks has inspired a generation of eco-conscious citizens.

Under Mark’s guidance, Roselle Park and Legacy Park evolved into vibrant community spaces. These parks, meticulously

developed under his watchful eye, have become beloved gathering spots for families and friends, enhancing the township’s recreational landscape and quality of life.

As Mark embarks on a well-deserved retirement, Ada Township, the Township Board, and the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board express heartfelt gratitude for his transformative contributions. His legacy will continue to inspire future endeavors, reminding us of the importance of environmental stewardship and community engagement. We wish him a fulfilling and joyful retirement, knowing that the trails he blazed will be enjoyed for generations to come.



WESLEY DEASON SELECTED AS NEXT PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR



Wesley Deason
Parks & Rec Director

After an extensive search process that involved reviewing 27 potential candidates and conducting interviews with five finalists, we are thrilled to announce that Wesley Deason, our current Recreation Program Coordinator, has been chosen as the next Parks and Recreation Director.

Wesley’s selection is a testament to his outstanding contributions during his tenure with the township. Over the past few years, he has played a pivotal role in expanding our department’s programs and events, demonstrating his innovative approach and commitment to enhancing community engagement. His efforts in coordinating

programming initiatives and fostering positive relationships with various organizations utilizing our parks have been invaluable.

Wesley brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this role. His experience in municipal parks and recreation, coupled with his leadership skills developed through working with the YMCA, uniquely position him to lead our Parks and Recreation Department.

Wesley officially assumed his role as Parks and Recreation Director on November 16th following the retirement of Mark Fitzpatrick. We are confident that under his guidance, the department will continue to achieve new heights. Please join us in congratulating Wesley and wishing him the best in this important role. We look forward to a future of growth and community enrichment under his leadership.

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If you would prefer receiving the AdaView via email, please email the Clerk’s office at: jsmith@adatownshipmi.com.



Ross Leisman
Supervisor

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE – 2023 YEAR-END REVIEW

As we approach the end of another year, it is time to update you on some of the major Township highlights from 2023. Although this list does not cover everything, the following are some of the significant points from 2023:

- In partnership with the Ada Business Association, Ada Historical Society, and other Ada businesses, the Township hosted in the village area 12 Wednesday night concerts, three Beers at the Bridge events, a weekly farmer's market, a fall festival, and several other events.
- A new contractor was hired to improve the village flowers and plants in public spaces, and murals were completed on two bridges. Improvements were made to Roselle Park and Leonard Field, and trail construction and maintenance continued throughout the Township.
- The Township Board approved concept plans for the Ada Covered Bridge Park, and the Township continued its acquisition of land on the Thornapple River in the village area related to this project. Initial planning for a Township Hall took place. The Adacraft, Ada Woods, Ada Ridge and Ada Towne watermain project was completed.
- A new Master Plan for land use was adopted, and construction of quality commercial buildings and residential homes continued. The Township took action to clean up certain properties, and it actively battled invasive species and gypsy moths.
- Our long-term Parks Director and long-term Deputy Clerk retired. Replacements were hired for the retirements and, for the first time, a Building and Grounds Director was hired. All these new hires are well qualified for their positions.
- The new fire truck arrived, additional equipment to support the fire department was purchased, additional firefighters were hired, and the fire department received several awards for its conduct in handling emergency situations. A second community officer from the Kent County Sheriff's Department was hired. We survived a tornado and several severe storms.
- The Township's budget was balanced, property values increased, and all of the Township committees, commissions, staff, and boards worked hard and seemed to enjoy what they were doing.

It is our goal at Ada Township to serve you efficiently, fully, and with a smile. Once again, we are thankful for the blessings on Ada in 2023, and we wish you a prosperous and peaceful 2024.



ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

As we begin to close up our homes for the colder weather, make sure your carbon monoxide detector (CO) is installed; this may require changing the battery. CO is an odorless gas that can be deadly if not detected; the gas comes from defective furnaces, water heaters and appliances. During our recent storms in August, several homes were out of power and relying on generators. We responded to several incidents where CO was detected in homes, all of which were caused by the generators. Because of the warm weather, windows were open and allowed fumes from the generators into the homes at dangerous levels. If you have questions about CO detectors, please call the fire station.

SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE

It is recommended that smoke detectors be replaced every ten years. Homes built after 1973 are required to have all detectors wired together; this alerts occupants to a fire anywhere in the home by sounding all the alarms. If your home was built prior to 1973, only the area nearest the fire will sound. To ensure that your pre-1973 home is fully protected, we have a supply of smoke detectors on-hand and will come and install them for free. Supplies are limited so call today to receive your free detectors along with an install by the Ada Firefighters.

EMT TRAINING

Our firefighters have completed their Emergency Medical Technician training with a 100% pass rate. Our next step is to outfit our apparatus with the advanced equipment. Once this is completed, state officials will inspect each vehicle for compliance and they will all be licensed at the EMT level. This process is expected to be completed by the end of the year. After that time, our firefighters will be responding with the most advanced skills and equipment to the next medical emergency or vehicle accident.



FIRE ACADEMY BEGINS

We have asked for more paid-on-call firefighters and the community has answered. We have five new members who will be attending the Fire Academy from October to March. This is the hands-on and classroom training with which members will acquire the Firefighter II status. Good luck to our new members and thank you for your commitment to your community.



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – COMMUNITY UPDATE



Kate Chase
Community Policing
East Precinct

Our communities throughout Kent County have experienced an increase in vehicle larcenies within recent years. Although the Sheriff's Department has been proactive in its efforts to catch offenders and monitor frequently target businesses or neighborhoods, we wish to empower our communities with practical measures they can take to avoid being victim to a vehicle larceny.

Parking:

Choosing the appropriate parking spot may alleviate being an easy target for vehicle theft. When possible, park in well-lit, busy areas, as thieves are less likely to target vehicles in such locations. Additionally, opt for spots with good visibility, allowing pedestrians and other motorists to observe your vehicle.

Locking & Securing Your Vehicle:

Always lock your vehicle, even if you are stepping away for a moment. Make sure all windows are closed and double-check that the trunk and sunroof are securely

shut. Most thieves seek out unlocked vehicles and wish to avoid the potential noise and attention which arises from breaking out windows.

Concealing Valuables:

Visible belongings are tempting to opportunistic thieves. When leaving your car unattended, hide valuable items out of sight, preferably in the trunk or glove compartment. If you must keep valuables inside the car, consider using a car organizer or covering them with a blanket to be less conspicuous.

Situational Awareness:

Stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings, especially when approaching or leaving your vehicle. Trust your instincts and make note of anything out of the ordinary during your commute to and from your residence. If you notice any suspicious activity or individuals nearby, particularly within your neighborhood, do not hesitate to contact authorities.

Community Involvement:

Encouraging a sense of community can significantly reduce the risk of break-ins. Monitor security and/or ring doorbell camera footage and discuss strange occurrences with your neighbors. Join or establish neighborhood watch programs or a Facebook

or Nextdoor App neighborhood group to be notified of any suspicious activity or vehicle theft. Communicate any suspicious incidents to local law enforcement. By working together, you can create a safer environment for everyone.

If you wish to monitor vehicle theft occurrences in real time, the Kent County Sheriff's Office has created a Crime Clearance Dashboard which is updated weekly. A link to the dashboard is available on our website at <https://www.accesskent.com/Sheriff/>. As of October 23, there have been 21 reported vehicle break-ins in the township since 2018.

We are eager to engage with our community to answer any questions, discuss concerns, offer training and participate in your events. We provide coverage within the East Precinct five days a week and look forward to serving you.

Deputy Kate Chase (Tuesday-Friday)
katherine.chase@kentcountymi.gov
(616) 430-7811

Deputy Omar Dieppa (Monday-Thursday)
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov
(616) 632-6435

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

ELECTION NEWS

There are many election law changes going into effect for the new year.

We expect to have at least three elections in 2024: February presidential primary, August primary, and November general election.

The state will require nine days of early voting for each election in addition to the usual option of voting absentee. And, of course, you may always vote in person at your precinct.

Ada currently has eight precincts but is looking to consolidate into five precincts. Some precincts will be combining, and some will be changing polling locations. Voters will be receiving new voter identification cards which will show the existing or new precinct and new polling locations for those that change.

We will keep three polling locations, but they will be different. St. Roberts will no longer be available for voting, and we are currently looking for a new location. Again, if your location changes you will receive a new voter identification card in the mail.

For the presidential primary in February, you will only be able to vote in one party. (If you vote in both, your ballot will be rejected and your vote(s) will not count.) The August and November will be general elections and, as normal, you may vote any way you like as long as you don't vote for more positions than are available.

Please do not listen to everything you hear in the media. If you have a question, you may contact township hall, and we will answer any questions you may have.



Jackie Smith
Clerk

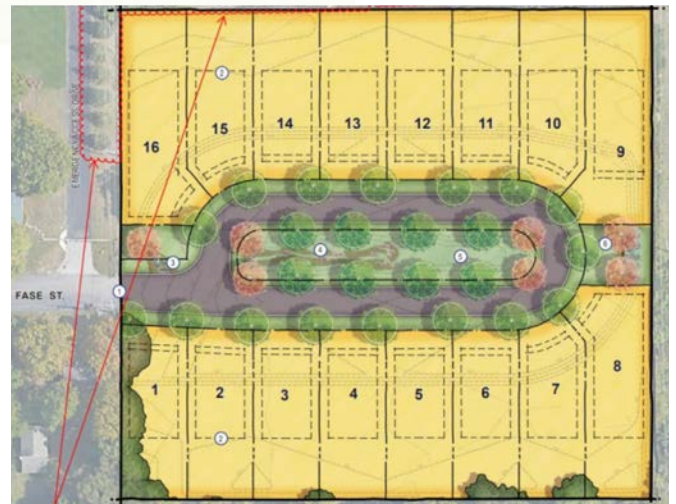
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – OCTOBER 2023

The following updates are provided concerning new development projects happening in the Township. (Note: The Township does not have contact information for potential lease/purchase of these projects.)



“Oxbow” Residential; Fase Street/Thornapple River Drive

New mixed-residential development with 88 condominium dwelling units, including single-family homes, townhomes/ duplexes, and multi-family. Utility installation work now underway; completion date not known.



Fase Street Crossings

New 16-home single-family residential development. Now under construction; completion date not known.



Fase Street Residential

Seven new dwelling units; three two-family dwellings and one single-family dwelling. Now under construction; completion date not known.



Ada Hotel; 7415 River Street

New 29-room hotel with restaurants. Now under construction; tentative opening in Spring/Summer 2024.



Fulton Street; Village East

New rental residential; 92 units in four buildings (two 3-story, two 4-story). Two buildings (7550 and 7558) now complete and occupied; remaining two buildings (7566 and 7574) are anticipated to be complete by end of 2023.



7500 Fulton Street

New 3-story office building with +/- 19,500 square feet. Under construction; completion date not known.



Commercial-Office Building; 7399 River Street

New 3-story building with first floor commercial/retail space and upper-floor office space. Now under construction; completion anticipated in 2024.

WINTER TRAILS UPDATE –

Below is a short update on some of the trail projects that were approved for this year. If you are interested in seeing a more extensive update, please visit our website as noted at the end of this article.

- **Fulton St. (Ada Drive to Grand River and under Fulton to access North side of Fulton St. trail)** – This project was originally scheduled to be completed by November 7th, but the contractor received an extension to November 30th from the Township Board. The delay was related to blocks for the retaining wall. The contractor has assured the Township that the project should be completed prior to that November 30th deadline.
- **Pettis Avenue Phase II (Chief Hazy Cloud Entrance to Vergennes St.)** – At the October 23rd Township Board meeting the board authorized submittal of a grant request from the Devos Family Foundation for partial funding of a pedestrian bridge over the Grand River from the Chief Hazy Cloud Park entrance to Amway property, ultimately connecting to the Fulton St. trail. If the Township is not successful with this request, then it will need to re-evaluate other options for this section.
- **System-wide Trail Repairs** – The Township completed \$354,199.74 of trail repairs this summer/fall. Moving forward the Township will have an annual repair package bid out to make sure the trail system is in the best shape possible. A map of the trail repairs can be found on our website.
- **Wayfinding Signage** – Corbin Design out of Traverse City presented a wayfinding trail plan to the Township Board and the Board accepted the plan. Now staff will bid out the work and plan to have the signage installed in spring of 2024.

- **Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge** – The Township received notice that it was awarded a grant of \$425,000 (or 28%) of the total project cost for the pedestrian bridge over the Thornapple River north of Thornapple River Drive (see rendering below). The remaining funding will come from the Trails millage and a private fundraising campaign.



Please check out our website at www.adatownshipmi.com and click “Departments – Parks & Recreation – Trails,” for additional updates, pictures and videos highlighting the work done to date.

If you have any questions about the Trails projects under construction or consideration in future years please contact Julius Suchy, Township Manager at jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com. Please report any maintenance issues on the trails to Dennis Brinks, Buildings, Facilities & Grounds Director at (616) 676-0520 or



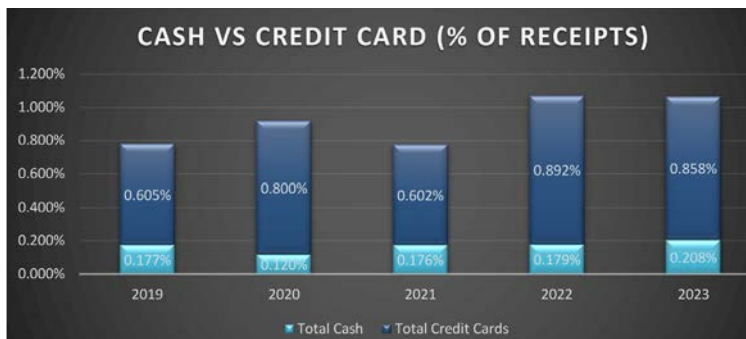
Julius Suchy
Township Manager

TREASURER DEPARTMENT

BY THE NUMBERS...

As we closed out our summer tax collection season (September 14, 2023), I made a few observations in regard to how residents pay their taxes, most notably, the many of you who pay your taxes in person. We have certainly returned to our pre-COVID levels.

It was therefore no coincidence that with the increase in foot traffic, there would also be an increase in the use of cash. As I examined the data, I saw an increase in cash payments by 27%. Although that percentage increase may seem significant, it



only represents a little over 0.2 percent of our total receipts, as the graph below denotes. This graph also shows the steady increase in payments with a credit card since 2019.

Although credit card payments represent a relatively small percentage of our overall receipts, it does serve as a reminder that this option remains important to you. Having averaged 5,072 transactions during the summer tax collection season, we will continue to explore options that provide the most convenient and cost-effective way to accept and process your credit card transaction. If you are not familiar with the many ways we accept payment, we invite you to reach out to us!

In the meantime, given the trends outlined, it appears there is a good chance we will see some of you this winter.

Regards,

Kevin Moran, Treasurer
(616) 676-9191, Ext. 7323
kmoran@adatownshipmi.com

Gina Olszewski, Deputy Treasurer
(616) 676-9191, Ext. 7327
golszewski@adatownshipmi.com

PHOTO CONTEST EXTENDED!

We ran into some technical difficulties with the email that was set up for the photo contest, but it is now fixed! If you had an issue with sending your photo, please re-send us your photo. **The new deadline is Friday, December 15, 2023.** The original photo contest details are included below.

Calling all photographers of Ada Township! We are looking for your favorite photo taken this past year within Ada Township. We would like to use your photo on next year's magnetic calendar.

With the popularity of the 2023 magnet calendar (pictured), we thought it would be fun to expand our search to any Ada Township resident interested in gaining a little notoriety while sharing their own perspective of Ada.

If interested, please attach your photo in an email to the following address: photocontest@adatownshipmi.com

The rules are simple:

1. The photographer must be an Ada Township resident.
2. The photo must be taken within Ada Township.
3. One (1) photo per household.
4. **Submissions are due to the Township no later than December 15, 2023.**
5. Email submissions only.
6. The submission must include:
 - a. The photo as an attachment,
 - b. The title of the photograph as the email title/subject line, and
 - c. The name and address of the photographer in the body of the email.

By entering this contest, the participant agrees that Ada Township has the right to use any submission for the 2024 magnet calendar or any other Ada Township promotional material. All other rights reserved.

↙ Your photo placed here!



2023

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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														31						

ADA TOWNSHIP
 7330 Thornapple River Drive
 PO Box 370, Ada, MI 49301
 616-676-9191
adatownshipmi.com

Santa is coming to town!

7

SANTA ARRIVES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 @ ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The rumors are true that the jolly old man will make his way through the streets of Ada again this year. For over 25 years, the annual parade hosted by the Ada Firefighters has ensured that Santa arrives in style to our town. The parade kicks off at 11:00am with the lineup at 10:00am along River Street. No registration is required to participate. The route leaves River Street, then goes right on to Thornapple River, left on to Ada Drive, right on Thornapple River ending at Fire Station #1 (6990 Fulton St E). The firefighters will be serving up hot chocolate and cookies, and, of course, Santa will be there to listen to everyone's wish list. The event is free, so stop by and say hi!



UPCOMING WINTER EVENTS

Experience Winter Wonderland in Ada this season. Mark your calendars and join the fun!



Ada Village Window Competition December 1 thru January 1

Walk through Ada Village to enjoy the beauty of the lights, the decorative windows, the trees and more. Vote for your favorite window decoration for a chance to win a \$500 gift card.

Window Decoration Contest is presented by #DiscoverAda.

Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys December 1 | 5:30pm-9pm

Get in the holiday spirit by attending the annual Covered Bridge Lighting (7490 Thornapple River Dr SE) and enjoying the many holiday activities occurring in Ada Village – trolley rides, Santa's Village, delicious treats, in-store specials and so much more!

Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys is presented by the Ada Business Association.

Festival of Trees in Legacy Park December 1 thru January 1 | 7430 River St SE

Walk through Legacy Park to see the trees decorated by Ada businesses. The Festival of Trees is an engaging addition to the holiday lights in Ada Village.

Festival of Trees is presented by the Ada Business Association & #DiscoverAda.

Winter Lights Walking Trail December 1 thru January 31

A walking loop – just under a mile – through the Winter Wonderland lights in Ada Village, a perfect walk for families and people of all ages.

Winter Lights Walking Trail is presented by the Ada Township Downtown Development Authority.

Ada Township Santa Parade December 2 | 11am

The name says it all – it's a parade all about Santa! Your Ada Firefighters are again welcoming Santa to town. After he parades through the village, Santa will make a stop at the Fire Station for pictures, cookies, and hot chocolate. So, make your list and come talk with Santa!

Santa Parade is presented by our very own Ada Township Fire Department.

Ada Chili & Beer Festival at The Community Church December 2 | 11am-3pm | 7239 Thornapple River Dr SE

Enjoy 20+ craft breweries and 40+ chili makers and restaurateurs from the area making their special blend for the community! All proceeds go to The Community Church in Ada and The RMHC West Michigan.

Ada Chili & Beer Festival is presented by The Community Church and RMHC West Michigan.

Women's Night December 9 | 6pm-9pm

A fun-filled night where the businesses of Ada Village cater to their women customers with discounts, food, beverages, prizes, and giveaways.

Women's Night is hosted by the Ada Village Businesses and #DiscoverAda.

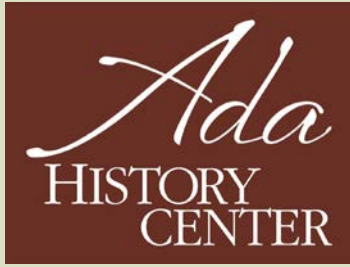
Want more event information?

Scan the QR code or visit <http://adamichigan.org/events> to view detailed event information.



ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2023, January & February 2024



(616) 676-9346

7144 Headley St., P.O. Box 741, Ada, MI 49301

www.AdaHistoryCenter.org
AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

For up-to-date hours, programming and more, check our website AdaHistoryCenter.org.

What is the Ada Historical Society?

The Ada Historical Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization that first formed in 1974 to *preserve, share, and celebrate* the unique history of the Ada community. What do we do?

- **Preserve** by collecting artifacts and treasures that help tell Ada's stories.
- **Share** by operating the Ada History Center with five local history exhibit rooms and a temporary exhibit that renews each year, and through our website, newsletter, Facebook and Instagram content.
- **Celebrate** Ada with a full programming and events calendar at the History Center and community-wide events, including the Centennial Properties program recognizing homes 100 years and older.

AHS is primarily volunteer run and membership supported. If you're looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity or to become a member, please let us know! We appreciate the support we receive from our members far and wide and from Ada Township.

Find AHS and all things Ada at www.AdaHistoryCenter.org.

Temporary Exhibit – Grass Roots: Growing Parks in Ada

Grass Roots: Growing Parks in Ada is in its final months. Plan to catch the temporary exhibit about the formation of Ada's beloved parks and programs before it's gone at the end of December!

Open Hours

Ada History Center hours are Fridays & Saturdays 1-4:00pm OR BY APPOINTMENT through December. The museum takes a winter's nap each January & February to give our volunteers a break and to install the new exhibit for 2024.

Upcoming Events:

- **Beginning November 17 – Holiday Wreath Sale**
Support our biggest annual fundraiser with a fresh-cut evergreen wreath. Sale hours in the barn are Fridays, 1-4pm and Saturdays, 10am-5:30pm until the last wreath is sold!
- **Friday, December 1 – Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys**
5:30-9pm. The History Center participates in the village-wide event with a visit from Mrs. Claus, treats, and the wreath sale in the barn.
- **Saturday, December 2 – Ada Santa Parade**
Enjoy cookies and hot chocolate at the History Center.
- **Thursdays, December 14, January 11, February 8 – Ada Historical Society Board Meetings**
3:00pm at the Ada History Center. Meetings are open to the public. Join us to find out how we're making history!

Centennial Properties Program

The Centennial Properties program continues to recognize homes and commercial buildings 100 years of age and older. We honor the importance of historic properties and the value they add to our community today. Check our website www.AdaHistoryCenter.org for more information on the program and an application.

Fur Trade Encampment

Students from Goodwillie Environmental School were among the many who explored Ada's past at the recent Fur Trade Encampment weekend. Reenactors brought history to life as visitors experienced the sights, sounds, and smells of camp life and the fur trade that took place 200 years ago, here along the Grand River. Can't wait for next year!



People gather at Ada Park for the Rogers Department Store Fishing Derby, 1983. The park was developed specifically "for all ages and abilities." The focus was evident in the programming planned for the lagoon and fishing pond. In 1980, Bud Locke, the park's first director, worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to stock the fishpond. He envisioned fish derbies, inviting Mary Free Bed Hospital, Easter Seal Society, Lincoln School, Ken O Sha School, Pine Rest, the veterans' facility, and senior living facilities to participate.

ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Contact Information:

Phone: (616) 676-0520

Email: adaparks@adatownshipmi.com

Website: www.adatownshipmi.com

Facebook: Ada Village

Office in Ada Park: 1180 Buttrick Ave., Ada, MI 49301

Mailing address: P.O. Box 370, Ada, MI 49301

Ada Township Hall: 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301

Mission: "To provide all community members with diverse recreational opportunities including access to premier natural, historical and cultural areas that enhance our quality of life and inspire the preservation of nature."

Parks & Recreation Department Newsletter

To receive quarterly newsletters and email updates from the Parks & Recreation Department, send a request to be added to the email list to adaparks@adatownshipmi.com.

Park Rules and Regulations

Some general rules are posted in each park, others can be found at our website or the Kent County Parks website.

Some items to keep in mind:

- Parks and Preserves close at dark
- No alcohol without permit
- Dogs must be leashed and picked up after

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & PRESERVES

In Ada Township, there are a variety of parks and nature preserves open for public use. The core parks Ada Township manages are Ada Park at 1180 Buttrick Drive, Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River Drive, Legacy Park at 7450 River Street, and Leonard Field Park at 7490 Thornapple River Drive. For more details on the Ada Township parks and nature preserves, visit our website at www.adatownshipmi.com.

Kent County manages two county-owned parks within Ada Township. They include Chief Hazy Cloud Park at 150 Pettis Ave. and Seidman Park at 8155 Conservation Rd. www.kentcountyparks.org

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages the two boat launches on the Grand River and the Cannonsburg State Game Area. www.michigan.gov



Bike Paths and Trails

Over 20 miles of trails are available for public use in the Township. Several of the paved trails connect to bike paths through adjoining communities. Details can be found via our website.

Please report any issues or concerns to the Park office at (616) 676-0520 or adaparks@adatownshipmi.com.

Non-paved trails can be found in most of the local parks and preserves. Several of these may be used for cross-country skiing as the weather permits.

Reserving and Renting Park Facilities

Some facilities, like park shelters, athletic fields, courts, and meeting rooms, may be reserved to better ensure your time. To rent/reserve a park facility you may contact the Park office via phone, email, or stop in. Details on the facilities, fees, and guidelines for use can be found on our website, including a link to make reservations online.

Leonard Field Park Improvements

Thanks to a grant from the MI DNR and contributions from the Ada DDA and private donors, Leonard Field Park Riverfront Improvement Project was completed this fall. That project included improvements to the two riverside decks, access to the river, increased accessibility, and native vegetation along the riverbank. With the merging of the newly acquired properties on River Street into the park, additional improvements will be implemented over the next couple of years.

Recreation and Education Programs

Recreation, education, and stewardship programs, as well as community events, are offered throughout the year. For details, to register, or to be added to the mailing lists, please call the Park office at (616) 676-0520; email us at adaparks@adatownshipmi.com or see the Township website at www.adatownshipmi.com.

Visit the Ada Village Facebook page for regular programming updates and announcements.

WINTER PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Sports Experience

Saturday, February 3
9:00-10:30am & 10:30am-Noon
Roselle Park • \$15/person

Discover the joy of and skills for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing with help from Bill & Paul's Sporthaus.



Invasive Plant Management for Your Property

Thursday, February 22 • 6:30-7:30pm
Roselle Park • \$8/person

Learn to identify, treat, and manage invasive plants on your own property in this interactive presentation by Jessie Schulte from the Kent Conservation District.

Ada Township Softball League

Registration for the 2024 leagues opens on February 1. Both a Tuesday night Men's and Wednesday night Coed Division will be available. Games begin in May and wrap up in August. Team Fee: \$735.00.



Volunteer Opportunities

Individual and group volunteers are always appreciated. Upcoming needs include assisting with community events and stewardship workdays in the parks. Contact the Park office for details.

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET – FALL AND WINTER IS THE TIME FOR ACTION

Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*) has become one of the most aggressive invasive plants in our community. It is literally killing trees and reducing our property value and safety. The vines and leaves can be seen along many roadsides and in woodlots throughout Ada Township.

Oriental Bittersweet is recognized by long woody vines that “wind” up trees and showy red and yellow fruits. As the vines make their way up a tree, they constrict the tree trunk and branches restricting sap flow, cover the tree leaves with their own leaves, and eventually kill the tree.

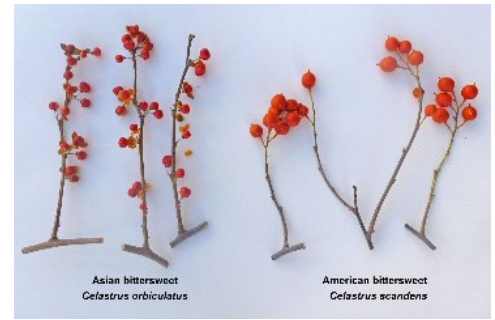
Like the native species, American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), Oriental Bittersweet is far more aggressive and common. It is easiest to tell the difference by the way the berries are arranged on the twigs: American Bittersweet berries are clustered at the end of the twig versus spread-out along it. They can easily be confused in holiday decorations which may add to the spread of the seeds throughout the region.

Removal takes some care and planning. Be careful not to pull down on vines that may cause overhead branches to fall. Note that cutting the vines or young shoots on the ground may stimulate more young shoots to sprout up and then need follow

up work. Similar to other woody invasive plants, like Autumn Olive and Common Buckthorn, removal is recommended late summer through the winter so any herbicide applications can get into the roots. If you wish to avoid use of herbicides, you will need to revisit the site to pull out small new vines that will start to grow in the area. Use loppers or pruners to cut the vines at the ground level and as high as you can reach. It is best to apply an herbicide to the cut section (stump) near the ground, being cautious not to get any on you, pets, wildlife, nearby plants, or the ground. Woody sections of cut vines can be left to decompose, but any berries should be bagged and put in the trash.

For more information see: www.michigan.gov/invasives or www.mipn.org.

For advice, contact the Kent Conservation District at (616) 222-5801 or www.kentconservation.org.

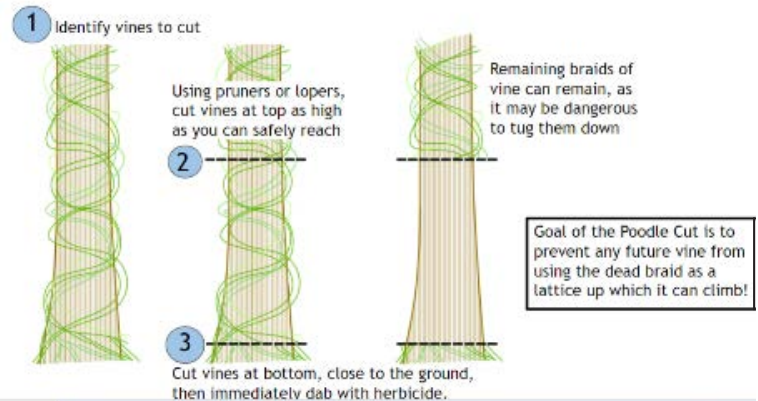


Highly invasive and damaging

Vines strangle trees, reduce light available for tree growth, and added vine weight can break trees



“POODLE CUT” METHOD FOR ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET VINE



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING AT ADA PARK

Ada Township residents may drop off Christmas Trees for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Township Park from December 26, 2023 through January 15, 2024, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The trees will be recycled into wood chips. Please remove any decorations, wires, strings, ribbons or other items from the trees that might interfere with a chipper.



No wreaths will be accepted this year.

Residential Christmas trees only – no yard waste, trimmings, wreath or commercial businesses drop off.

Happy Holidays

from Ada Township Offices

TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Fri., December 22, 2023 • Mon., December 25, 2023
 Fri., December 29, 2023 • Mon., January 1, 2024



TOWNSHIP

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE
P.O. Box 370
Ada, Michigan 49301

PRESORT
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS MI
PERMIT NO. 66

CALENDAR (2023-2024) WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER

- 5 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30P
- 11 Downtown Development Authority – 8A
- 11 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 12 Board of Review – 8A
- 14 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting – 8:30A
- 14 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3P
- 21 Planning Commission – **5:30P**
- 22 Christmas Holiday – Township Office Closed**
- 25 Christmas Holiday – Township Office Closed**
- 29 New Year’s Holiday – Township Office Closed**

JANUARY

- 1 New Year’s Holiday – Township Office Closed**
- 2 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30P
- 8 Downtown Development Authority – 8A
- 8 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 11 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting – 8:30A

- 11 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3P
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Township Office Closed**
- 18 Planning Commission – **5:30P**
- 22 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**

FEBRUARY

- 6 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30P
- 8 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting – 8:30A
- 8 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3P
- 12 Downtown Development Authority – 8A
- 12 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 14 TAX PAYMENTS DUE @ ADA TOWNSHIP OFFICE BY 5P**
- 15 Planning Commission – **5:30P**
- 19 President’s Day – Township Office Closed**
- 26 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**

PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.
www.adatownshipmi.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

(remove & save)

AdaView is published by **Ada Township**.

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE
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www.adatownshipmi.com

TELEPHONE: (616) 676-9191

HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F, closed Federal holidays

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