



ADA

Parks & Recreation Department

SPRING - SUMMER 2015

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."

Ada Township Parks and Preserves:



Leonard Field Park & Ada Covered Bridge

7490 Thornapple River Drive. 2 acres. Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlook deck, Ada Covered Bridge.

Ada Township Park & Locke Arboretum 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Parks office, Learning Center and Locke Arboretum. Softball and soccer fields, tennis, pickle ball and basketball courts, playground, fishing pond, accessible trails, picnic areas, pavilion, gazebos.

Roselle Park 1010 Grand River Dr. NE. 247 acres. Bike path, trails, picnic area, observation decks, natural areas, Grand River shoreline.



Grand River Natural Area Grand River Drive SE. Enter via Ada Park or McGraw Park, 110 acres. Nature areas, trails, bike path, Grand River shoreline.

Carl Creek Crossings Preserve 6230 Grand River Drive. 8 acres. Still under development but open for walking and nature observation. No facilities.

Other Regional Parks

Chief Hazy Cloud Park (21 Pettis Ave) and **Siedman Park** (8155 Conservation Rd) are both located in Ada Township. They are part of the Kent County Parks system. For details see: www.accesskent.com or call (616) 336-7275.

Facility Use:

Park Hours: Park grounds are open to the public dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

Dog Policy: Township ordinances require dogs to be on a leash and cleaned up after in all parks.

Motorized recreation vehicles are not allowed.

Alcohol is not allowed in the parks or park facilities.

Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo Rentals: Facilities available April through October. For rates, availability, use policies or reservations, contact the Park office. The Ada Covered Bridge is not rented out for private use.



Athletic Fields: Baseball & soccer fields at Ada Park and Leonard Field are used in the spring, summer and fall for area leagues and instructional programs. Contact the Park office for information, schedules or reservations.

Basketball & Tennis Courts at Ada Park are open to the public except during scheduled lessons and programs. Tennis Courts #5 and #6 are set up for Pickle Ball. Check with the office for schedules or to reserve a time.

Walking & Bike Paths

Paved trails are located throughout the Township and in all the Parks. For a map contact the Park office or web site.

Memorial gifts, donations: From memorial trees and benches to playgrounds and other facilities, there are many ways to support the Parks. Please contact the Park office for details.

Parks & Recreation Department Contact Information:

Phone: (616) 676-0520 • **Fax:** (616) 676-5870 • **E-mail:** mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com • **Web site:** www.adatownshipmi.com

Office in Ada Park: 1180 Buttrick Ave, Ada, 49301 • **Mailing address:** P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, 49301

E-News: To receive news and updates via e-mail, send a request to: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Family Programs & Special Events

To Register

Pre-registration required by calling 616-676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com.

"A Bird's Eye View – Live Birds of Prey"

Thursday, March 5 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
\$5/person Ada Park Learning Center

Enjoy a special presentation by The Outdoor Discovery Center with live birds of prey. You will get an up-close look at live hawks, owls & falcons! Learn about the life histories and amazing adaptations of these incredible aerial hunters. See and touch natural artifacts including skulls, wings, talons, & feathers. Pre-registration required.



Run 4 a Cause...Our Kids!

Saturday, June 20 8:30 a.m.
Leonard Field



A 5K run and a 1.5 mile family fun run through Ada Village to fund Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Run starts at Leonard Field by the Ada Covered Bridge. Register at: www.run4acauseada.com

4th of July Events

July 4 Ada Village
Celebrate the 4th in Historic Ada.

Festivities include: Parade at 10:00 a.m., line up starts at 9:00 a.m. Kids line up at the front; 9:45 a.m. Activities on the Green from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with rides, food and music. Fireworks at Dusk at Fulton and the Grand River.



Roselle Park River Festival & 4th Annual Grand River-Run Sept. 26

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 26 for this exciting day at Roselle Park. The Festival is from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with exhibitors, arts and crafts activities, games, live animal presentations, food and live music. The Grand River-Run features an 8K timed race on both paved and non-paved trails followed by a 5K race on the paved trail and a 2K Family Fun Run. Details at www.grandriver-run.com



Volunteer Opportunities

Ada Parks & Recreation Department has volunteer opportunities to assist with grounds, gardens, trails, habitat stewardship, clerical and youth programs. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.



Adult Programs & Events

Ada Adult Summer Softball Program

Summer league applications and team entry fees are due March 12, 2015. For applications and information contact the Park Office at 676-0520 or rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com. New teams are welcome. Team fee of \$685 covers 12 games, balls, umpires and registration fee. League games are held at Ada Park and Leonard Field Park Monday thru Thursday evenings and include Girls High School Fast Pitch, Men's Slow Pitch and Co-ed. The late summer/fall softball program runs August – October 2015. Standings from this past season are posted at the Ada Township web site www.adatownshipmi.com.



Drawing and Painting Workshops Ada Township Park Learning Center

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
\$40/per session March 7 and 21

Beginner to advanced artists are welcome. Attend one or more of the dates. Instructor Scott Kenyon will coach you through a range of drawing and painting techniques to improve your skills. Pre-registration required by contacting Scott at scottfkenyon@aol.com or (616) 745-8297.



Foraging 101: Ethics, Sustainability, & Safety of Wild Edibles

March 24, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Ada Park Learning Center \$8

Join herbalist, forager and author Lisa Rose to learn about local plants that can be used for food and herbal medicine. Ethics, sustainability and safety of foraging will be discussed. Class held inside with some time outdoors.



Foraging 201: Season by Season - Spring Foraging & Wild Edibles Plant Walk

May 4, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Roselle Park \$8

Join herbalist and forager Lisa Rose on a journey to learn about local plants that can be used for food and herbal medicine. Proper identification, harvesting ethics, and traditional uses, recipes will be discussed. Class will venture outdoors, wear appropriate clothing and footwear for walking.

Grand Rapids Triathlon

Sunday, June 14
Starts and ends in Ada

Running, biking and swimming! Perfect for the novice through the seasoned tri-athlete. USA Triathlon Sanctioned. Note sections of Buttrick Dr. and Thornapple River Dr. closed on the evening of June 13th and the day of June 14th. For information: www.grandrapidstriathlon.com



GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2015

Huntington Amway

Ada Parks & Recreation Department

Youth Programs

Pre-registration required by calling 616-676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com.

Discovery Days

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Ada Park \$5/youth/session

Pre-schoolers and their parent or guardian can have a fun, educational adventure together in Ada Park. Each session will have an indoor hands-on activity, nature craft, and a guided discovery experience outdoors.



Whooo are you? Owls!

Wed. March 11 or Thurs. March 12

Learn about owls and their amazing adaptations. Pretend to be an owl or a mouse while you play “Hide and Squeak”.



Signs of Spring

Wed. April 15 or Thurs. April 16

Days are getting longer and a little warmer, look and listen for the earliest signs of spring.

Plant a Seed

Wed. May 13 or Thurs. May 14

Discover what plants need to grow and take a walk to look for seeds and baby plants. Then, plant a seed and take it home.

Water Fun

Tues. June 30

Cool off with water games, then see what lives in the ponds and wetlands.



Wiggly Worms

Tues. August 4

Worms eat dirt and help plants to grow! Take a “worm walk” to look for worms in the woods. Try to wiggle and stretch like a worm and make a wooden bead “worm” to take home.

Young Explorers

Ages 5-7

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Ada & Roselle Parks

\$5/youth/session

Parents may drop off or join their youth for a fun morning of outdoors including nature study, hands-on activities and crafts.

Bonkers for Bikes

Wed. July 1

Roselle Park

Bring your bike and helmet to Roselle Park – get some safety tips, practice your skills on an obstacle course, and ride the trails.



Fishing Fun

Wed. July 7

Ada Park

Learn how to bait your hook and cast your line, then search for the best spot to hook a “big one” at the Ada Park pond. Fishing poles and bait supplied or bring your own.

Rock Hounds

Tuesday, August 5

Ada Park

Rocks are cool! Investigate rocks and fossils of all shapes and sizes. Learn how they were formed and start your own rock collection.

Junior Naturalists

Ages 8-11

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Ada & Roselle Parks

\$5/youth/session

Each program includes hands-on nature, science and adventure activities, snacks, outdoors.

Bike-A-Thon

Thursday, July 2

Roselle Park

Bring your bike and helmet to Roselle Park – learn about bike safety and ride the bike path for 5 miles.

Fishing Frenzy

Wednesday, July 8

Ada Park

Learn about fishing equipment and where the “big fish” like to live. Go fishing at the Ada Park pond. Fishing poles and bait supplied or bring your own.



Rocks and Fossils

Wed., August 5

Ada Park

Learn how rocks are formed from the forces of heat, water, and pressure deep in the Earth. Make your own rock collection and search for quartz crystals.



Outdoor Adventurers

Ages 10-13

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Locations and fees vary

Outdoor adventure activities guided by Park staff.

Adventure River Trip

Thursday, July 9th

Starts at Leonard Field Park

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

\$25/youth

A canoeing adventure starting at the Ada Covered Bridge, paddling along the Thornapple River and then out onto the Grand River. Program starts with instruction on paddling a canoe, water safety and teamwork followed by an amazing river adventure. Canoes, paddles and safety gear provided.



Adventure Race

Thursday, August 6th

Ada Park

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

\$10/youth

Work in small teams on this super challenge as you walk, run, bike and maneuver through challenges at Ada Township Park and the Grand River Natural Area. Maps, compasses and clues will help you find each check point and reach the finish line! *Requires your own bike & helmet or check with us to borrow one.



Youth Programs

Pre-registration required by calling 616-676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com.

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!**

Summer Day Camp Adventures

Ages 6-11

Various Dates

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Ada & Roselle Parks

Sponsored by



Day Camps are three-day sessions offered throughout the summer from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Younger campers (6-7) may sign up for ½ day sessions. Camp are held Ada Township Park, Roselle Park and the Ada Museum. Fees range from \$60 to \$80 per session.

Session 1: Arts in the Park

Tues. – Thurs. June 16-18 Ada Park

Find the artist inside you! Try painting, drawing, sculpture, and other art media. Create some cool artwork to take home.

Session 2: Sports Spectacular

Tues. – Thurs. July 14-16 Ada Park

Play some of your favorites sports or try something new as we go from basketball to tennis to baseball to soccer and even pickle ball.



Session 3: Wet and Wild

Tues. – Thurs. July 21-23 Ada & Roselle Parks

Explore ponds, river, and wetlands. Go fishing and look for aquatic insects and animals. Get wet and play water games.

Session 4: Eyes on Survival

Tues. – Thurs. July 28-30 Ada Park & Roselle Parks

Could you survive in the Michigan woods? Be prepared when you go out in the woods – learn how to use a map and compass, make a shelter, build a fire, and other survival skills.

Session 5: Pioneer Days

Tues. – Thurs. Aug. 11-13 Averill Historical Museum

Take a step back in time at the Ada Museum and Barn to explore life in the 1800's. Learn about pioneer era toys, games, tools, chores, clothing, music and food.

Outdoor Adventurer

Ages 10-13

Water Eco-Adventure Camp

Tues. – Thurs. June 23-25

New location each day

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$120/youth

Three days of exploring west Michigan's amazing water ecosystems! Day 1: Meet at the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve to conduct stream investigations, then bike to Roselle Park to explore more. Day 2: Canoe sections of the Thornapple River and the Grand River. Day 3: Hike around Pickerel Lake while exploring wetland and lake ecosystems.



Ada Village Kids' Garden

For youth 9-12 years old Tuesdays

Next to the Ada Community Church

Tuesdays, April through September. After school until summer, then Tuesdays mornings with some afternoons. Learn to grow food and manage a garden and sell at the Farmers market. Contact the Parks office for registration packet. \$90 fee for full season. Register by April 17.



Bike Decorating Day

Friday, July 3 Ada Park

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Bring your bike to Ada Park to decorate it just in time for the 4th of July Parade! Helpers and materials will be available.

For 4 – 12 year olds with parent or guardian. \$5/bike.



Youth Tennis Lessons

Ada Park

Group sessions for 3-12 year olds. Registration and instruction is by the YMCA of Grand Rapids. Contact the YMCA at 855-9622 or email: nherrema@grymca.org

Schools Based Programs

Opportunities for preK-12 schools and homeschoolers range from guided field trips, to service learning projects (free) to shelter facilities for rent (\$35/day). Contact the Park office for details and scheduling.

Boy and Girl Scout Programs

Complete badge requirements, have field trip outings, conduct service projects or rent a facility. Contact the Park office for details.

Other Resources for Area Parks & Recreation Programs & Services:

**Forest Hills Public Schools
Community Services**
www.enjoylearning.com
(616) 493-8950

**Lowell Schools
Community Education**
www.lowellschools.com
(616) 987-2550

Southeast YMCA
www.grymca.org
(616) 285-9077

Kent County Parks
www.accesskent.com
(616) 336-7275

**Thornapple Valley
Baseball League**
www.tvbl.org

**North Country
Trail Association**
www.northcountrytrail.org
(866) 445-3628

**American Youth
Soccer Organization**
www.ayso-soccer.com

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