



Parks & Recreation Department

SPRING - SUMMER 2018

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:

Ada Township Park & Locke Arboretum 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Parks office, Learning Center and Arboretum. Athletic fields, tennis courts, playground, pond, trails, picnic areas.

Roselle Park 1010 Grand River Dr. NE. 247 acres. Restrooms, meeting room, picnic area, playground, paved and non-paved trails, observation decks, natural areas, Grand River shoreline.

Leonard Field Park 7490 Thornapple River Drive 2 acres. Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlook and the Ada Covered Bridge.



Grand River Natural Area Grand River Drive SE, 110 acres. Enter via Ada Park. Trails, bike path, Grand River shoreline.

Carl Creek Crossings Preserve 6230 Grand River Drive. 8 acres. Trails, creek access. No facilities.

AREA PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES:

Kent County Parks

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

Forest Hills Public Schools Community Services

www.enjoylearning.com 616-493-8950

Mary Free Bed YMCA

www.grymca.org 616-285-9077

Thornapple Valley Baseball League

www.tvbl.org tvblbaseball@gmail.com

American Youth Soccer Organization

www.ayso-soccer.com

Lowell Schools Community Education

www.lowellschools.com 616-987-2550

North Country Trail Association

www.northcountyrail.org 866-445-3628

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.

Walking & Bike Paths: Paved trails are located throughout the Township and in all the Parks. Maps available.



FACILITY RESERVATIONS AND RENTALS:

Contact the Park office for scheduling and fees.

Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo Rentals: Facilities available April through October. For rates, availability, use policies or reservations, contact the Park office.

Roselle Park Meeting Room: Available on a limited basis for education programs, non-profit groups, Ada community groups and local businesses.

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.

Tennis, Pickle Ball and Basketball Courts at Ada Park are open to the public except during scheduled lessons and programs. Check with the office for schedules or to reserve a time. Note tennis courts will be under construction in the spring.

Memorial Gifts and Other Donations: From memorial trees and benches to larger projects, like the tennis courts at Ada Park and Gazebo at Roselle Park, there are many ways to support the Parks. Please contact the Park office for details.

ADA 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

SPRING FAMILY PROGRAMS

Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians

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

This special presentation by the Outdoor Discovery Center will feature live native turtles, snakes, frogs, and lizards. Learn how reptiles & amphibians differ from other animals & how to identify them. Pre-registration required as seating is limited.



Exploring the Night Sky

Thursday, March 22 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
\$3/person Roselle Park

Join the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association as they talk about what to see as winter transitions to spring and then summer. They will bring binoculars and telescopes to observe the crescent moon, Orion Nebula, and other night sky events. Indoor presentation and demonstrations followed by an outdoor sky watch.



SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS

Grand Rapids Triathlon

Sunday, June 10 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thornapple River Drive and Buttrick Drive

Running, biking and swimming! For athletes of all skill levels to compete on scenic riverside course. USA Triathlon Sanctioned. Road Closures at Buttrick and Thornapple River Drives. Registration and information at: www.grandrapidstriathlon.com.



4th of July Events

Wednesday, July 4 Ada Village

Festivities include: Parade at 10:00 a.m., line up starts at 9:00 a.m. Kids line up at the front of the parade; 9:45 a.m. Activities from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with rides, food and music. Fireworks at dusk.



Beers at the Bridge

Fridays: June 22, July 20, August 17

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Leonard Field Park by the Ada Covered Bridge

Coordinated with the Ada Historical Society "Music on the Lawn" concert series. Outdoor music, food, beer, family friendly. Free admission. ID required for beer.

August in Ada Children's Fair

Friday, August 3 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
FREE Ada Township Park

Children's Fair sponsored by the Ada Business Association with games, exhibits, crafts, food, fun and entertainment provided by local businesses.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Ada Adult Summer Softball Program

Summer league applications and team entry fees are due **March 16**. For an application contact the Park Office at 676-0520 or rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com. The entry fee is \$725 per team which includes softballs, umpires fees, team awards, MASA sanction fees and league tournament. League play starts on May 1, 2018. Fall softball program runs August – October.



Grand River Update

Thursday, April 19 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
FREE Roselle Park

A presentation about the status and initiatives taking place on the Grand River. Highlights include a project overview on the Grand River Revitalization & Rapids Restoration Project by Wendy Ogilvie of the LGROW. Local land protection initiatives along the Grand River corridor and an overview of the Grand River Water Trail initiative will also be covered.



Managing Your Property For Invasive Plants

Wednesday, April 25 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
\$5/person Roselle Park

Locally invasive plants like Asian Bittersweet, Garlic Mustard and others diminish ecosystems and our personal property values. Through this presentation you will learn to identify key plants of concern and how to create a plan to mediate their damage on your property. Presenters from Ada Parks and the Kent Conservation District.



Rain Garden Planning and Design Workshop

Part 1: Saturday, April 28 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Part 2: Saturday, June 2 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Roselle Park FREE

Part 1 focuses on planning and design while Part 2 has hands-on practice with installation and planting. Register via www.facebook.com/wittenbachwegecenter/.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Volunteer opportunities are available to assist with grounds, gardens, trails, habitat stewardship, data management, clerical and youth programs. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pre-registration requested by calling 616-676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com. See the web site or contact the Park office for a registration packet.

Discovery Days – Ages 3-5

10 a.m. – 12 noon \$5/youth/session

Pre-schoolers and guardians can have a fun adventure together in the parks with hands-on activities, nature crafts, and guided discovery experiences outdoors.



Eggs are Everywhere

Wed. April 18 Ada Park

Birds, snakes, frogs and turtles all lay eggs. Learn about how these eggs are alike and different. Walk in the Park to look for good places for a mother animal to lay her eggs.

Beautiful Bugs

Wed. May 16 Ada Park

What beautiful bugs live in your neighborhood? Go on an insect hunt and make a cool craft.

Jump, Frog, Jump!

Tues. June 19 Roselle Park

Frogs are singing, croaking, and jumping everywhere. Look and listen for frogs around the ponds, try to hop like a frog, and make a fun “frog” craft to take home.



Butterflies, Flying Flowers

Wed. July 25 Ada Park

Dress up like a butterfly, learn what caterpillars need to grow up into a beautiful butterfly, make a caterpillar craft.



Backbone Bonanza

Wed. August 15 Roselle Park

Your backbones help you stand strong, twist and turn. Learn about other animals that have backbones, take a walk in the park to look for them, and make a cool craft to take home.



Young Explorers – Ages 5-7

10 a.m. – 12 noon

\$5/youth/session

Parents may drop off or join their youth for a fun morning of outdoor activities, nature study and crafts.

Bonkers for Bikes

Wed. June 20 Roselle Park

Bring your bike and helmet to the park! Get some safety tips and see if your helmet fits. Practice your skills on an obstacle course and ride the park trails.

Fishing Fun

Tues. July 31 Ada Park

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



Junior Naturalists – Ages 8-11

Each program includes hands-on nature and science activities, snacks, and outdoor adventure-based outings.

Bike-A-Thon

**Wed. June 20 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
\$5/youth Roselle Park**

Bring your bike & helmet to the park – learn about bike safety & ride the bike path for 5 miles.



Fishing Frenzy

**Wed. August 1 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
\$5/youth Ada Park**

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

Outdoor Adventurer – Ages 10-13

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sites & fees vary

Outdoor adventure activities including games, nature and science learning, and snacks.

Adventure Challenge

**Thurs. June 21
\$10/youth At Roselle Park**

Learn teamwork & have fun as you try to complete a series of sports & problem-solving challenges. You & your team will follow a map as you run, bike, and climb through the park to the finish line! Sign up as an individual or with others to form a team.



Paddle the Grand!

**Thurs. July 26
\$25/youth On the Grand River**

Paddle a canoe on the Grand River from the M21 landing to the Knapp Street landing. Learn paddle strokes, water safety, & boat control, then practice your new skills on the river. A stop off at Roselle Park along the way. Canoe, paddle, & safety gear included.



MORE YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pre-registration requested by calling 616-676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com. See the web site or contact the Park office for a registration packet.

Summer Day Camps

Ages 6-11 **Various Dates**
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Ada & Roselle Parks**

Three-day long sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with individual days at both Ada Township Park and Roselle Park. Each session with an exciting theme and fun activities for kids to get outside, make new friends, learn new skills and have fun. \$80.00 fee per session. Contact the Park office for a registration packet.

Arts in the Park

June 26-28 **Ada & Roselle**

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



Eyes on Survival

July 10-12 **Ada & Roselle**

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



Sports Spectacular

July 17-19 **Ada Park**

What sports do you like? Play some of your favorite sports or try something new as we go from flag football to tennis to softball to soccer and even pickle ball.



Wildlife Adventures

August 7-9 **Ada & Roselle**

Explore wildlife habitats at both Ada Park and Roselle Park, see live animals up close, participate in "wildlife" games, create bird houses and support wildlife stewardship.



Ada Village Kids' Garden

Ages 9-12 **Tuesdays, April-September**
Next to Ada Community Church

This unique gardening program runs April 17 to September 25. Participants gain a "full season experience" from soil preparation and planting to care and harvest and sales. Learn to grow & manage a garden, sell your harvested produce at the Farmers Market and contribute to a food pantry. Attend selected dates to earn Jr. Master Gardener certificate. \$140/full season. \$130/second year gardeners. Ada residents receive 10% discount.



"Register now!" Program Starts in April

Bike Decoration Day

Tuesday, July 3
10 a.m. to 12 noon **Ada Park**

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.



School Based Programs

Place-based, hands-on outdoor and environmental education experiences are available at Roselle Park, Ada Township Park and Leonard Field Park. Themes include watersheds-rivers and wetlands, trees, habitats and others. Programs typically run 1½ to 2½ hours. Outreach programs at your school site are also available. All programs are aligned with curriculums and tailored to your needs. Contact the Park office for details.



Boy and Girl Scout Programs:

Scout groups are welcome to the resources of Ada Parks & staff to help complete badge requirements, have field trip outings, conduct service projects or rent a facility. Contact the Park office for details, fees and scheduling.

Girl Scout Day Camp

June 18-21
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Ada Park**

Girls entering 1st – 6th grades can earn badges and patches daily as they explore the outdoors. This year's camp theme is "Science Rocks!" Non-registered Girl Scouts are welcome. For information, contact Tess Lundgren at sud.fhsu@gmail.com.



GIRL SCOUTS



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