



ADA

Parks & Recreation Department

SPRING - SUMMER 2016

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.



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.

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..

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.

Other Regional Parks

Chief Hazy Cloud Park (21 Pettis Ave) and **Siedman Park** (8155 Hazy Cloud 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.

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

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.



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 after May on a limited basis for education programs, non-profit groups, Ada community groups and local businesses.

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.

The Ada Covered Bridge is **not** rented out for private use.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Arts in Ada 2016

Saturday, May 14

This annual, one day event occurs on Bronson St. in downtown Ada. Approximately 60 visual artists participate and many area performing arts groups and musicians. Rain or Shine! www.adaarts.org.



Grand Rapids Triathlon

Sunday, June 12

Running, biking and swimming! A chance for athletes of all skill levels to compete on scenic riverside course, perfect for the novice through the seasoned tri-athlete. USA Triathlon Sanctioned. www.grandrapidstriathlon.com. Road Closures.



4th of July Events

Monday, 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 at Fulton and the Grand River.



Grand River-Run

& Roselle Park River Festival

Saturday, Sept. 24

Roselle Park

The Grand River-Run features three exciting runs: an 8K timed hybrid race on both paved and non-paved trails at 9:00 a.m., followed by a 5K timed race on the paved trail at 9:30 a.m. and a 2K family-friendly fun run/walk at 10:15 a.m. Details at: www.GRANDriver-RUN.com.



Roselle Park River Festival features an exciting day at Roselle Park for all ages. The Festival is from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with nature and river education exhibitors, hands-on arts and crafts activities, games, live animal presentations, food and live music.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Ada Adult Summer

Softball Program

Summer league applications and team entry fees are due March 18. For an application contact the Park Office at (616) 676-0520 or rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com. Team fee of \$710 covers 12 games, balls, umpires, registration and a double elimination league tournament. Fall softball program runs Aug – Oct.



Oil Painting Workshops (En Plein Air)

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Starting June 1 and ongoing.

Roselle Park \$30 per session.

Designed for all levels who wish to learn or excel in their oil painting. Each workshop with painting time plus personalized coaching. Check-in at the meeting room then head outside to paint (En Plein Air). To register and for information contact Scott at (616) 745-8297, scottkenyon@aol.com.



Nature Photo Shots

Thursdays: May 19, June 23

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$3/person Roselle Park

Learn how to improve your nature photography! Bring in 3 of your favorite nature subject digital photos on a flash drive. We will display photos on the big screen and allow time for sharing tips and photo techniques. Beginners and advanced photographers are welcome.



Photo by T. Whitley

FAMILY PROGRAMS

"Michigan Geology Rocks!"

Saturday, March 3

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$5/person \$1/geode Ada Park

Did you know that Michigan is an ancient ocean basin & you can find fossilized coral along some lake shores? Come learn more about Michigan geology as well as minerals & geodes from guest geologist Steve Tchozski. There will be displays of rocks & minerals as well as an opportunity to "crack" open a geode to see what's inside and take it home. Pre-registration requested as seating and geodes are limited.



Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 14

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

\$3/person

A presentation about bird migration, regional flyways and our local migratory birds. Followed by a bird walk in the park.



"August in Ada"

Friday August 5

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Ada Township Park

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



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.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR AREA PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

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.adascadesoccer.com



Lowell Schools Community Education

www.lowellschools.com

(616) 987-2550

Kent County Parks

www.accesskent.com

(616) 336-7275

North Country Trail Association

www.northcountyclub.org

(866) 445-3628

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

Discovery Days

Ages 3-5

10 a.m. – 12 noon \$5/youth/session

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



Cool Critters

Wed. March 9

Ada Park

Does it have fur, scales, or feathers? Look for the many different critters that live just outside your back door.

Beautiful Bugs

Wed. April 13

Ada Park

Go on an insect hunt & pretend to be a firefly looking for some friends.

Eggs are Everywhere!

Wed. May 11

Ada Park

Birds, snakes, frogs, and turtles all lay eggs. Learn how these eggs are alike & different then walk in the park to look for good places that a mother animal could lay her eggs.

Jump, Frog, Jump!

Tues. June 14

Roselle Park

Frogs are singing, croaking, & jumping everywhere. Look & listen for frogs and play some fun "frog" games.



Butterflies

Tues. July 5

Roselle Park

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

Backbone Bonanza

Tues. Aug. 2

Ada Park

Your backbone helps you to stand strong and twist and turn. Learn what other animals have backbones, take a walk in the park to look for them.

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 15

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

Wed. July 6

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.

Wild Water

Wed. Aug. 3

Ada Park

Play some fun water games, look for insects & animals in the Ada Park pond, then make a cool craft to take home.

Junior Naturalists

Ages 8-11

Times vary

\$5/youth/session

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



Bike-A-Thon

Wed., June 15

1 – 3 p.m.

Roselle Park

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

Fishing Frenzy

Wed., July 6

1 - 3 p.m.

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.



Adventure Race

Thurs. Aug. 4

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Ada 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, slip, and slide through the park to the finish line!

Outdoor Adventurer

Ages 10-13

Sites & fees vary

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



Saddle Up!

Thur., June 16

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

At Double C Stables

\$50

Get up close & personal with the horses at the Double C Ranch! Learn about grooming, feeding, & how to care for a horse, then saddle up to perfect your riding skills. Recommended for first time & beginning riders. All equipment provided.

River Trip!

Thurs., July 7

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

On the Grand River

\$25

Learn paddle strokes, water safety, & boat control, then canoe down the Grand River to practice your new skills. Canoe, paddle, & safety gear included.

Full Moon Howl!

Thurs., August 18

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

At Roselle Park

\$10

Explore the world of the wolf with fun games & activities! Learn how wolf families are similar to human families, how they communicate & why they are such an important part of our ecosystems. Take a night hike to practice howling like a wolf!

REGISTER NOW!



YOUTH PROGRAMS

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Summer Day Camps

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

Three-day sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with exciting themes and fun activities. Fees range \$60-\$80.



Sports Spectacular

June 21-23 **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.



Arts in the Park

July 12-14 **Ada Park**

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



Bugs to Bears

July 19-21 **Ada & Roselle**

From bugs to bears, come explore wetlands, meadows, & woods to look for critters of all shapes & sizes. Meet a beekeeper with his bee hive & a naturalist with his collection of live, frogs, snakes, and turtles. Learn about the amazing diversity of animals in Michigan.

Eyes on Survival

July 26-28 **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.



Pioneer Days

Aug. 9-11 **Ada Museum**

Take a step back in time at the Averill Museum & Barn in Ada to explore life in the 1800's. Learn about pioneer era toys, tools, and food. Play pioneer games & sing songs from those "good ole'days".

"Woods & Dunes" Eco-Adventure Camp

Ages 10-13
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
June 28-30 **\$120**

Spend 3 days exploring West Michigan's amazing woods & fresh water sand dunes at 3 different parks! Have fun as you hike & bike through Ada & Roselle Parks while conducting forest investigations. Climb the sand dunes & wade in Lake Michigan at Saugatuck Dunes State Park!

**Requires your own bike & helmet.



Ada Village Kids' Garden

Ages 9-12
Tuesdays

Next to Ada Community Church

Three 8-week sessions offered April 19–October 11. Sign up for 1 or more sessions. Attend selected dates to earn Jr. Master Gardener certificate. Learn to grow and manage a garden, sell at the Farmers Market and contribute to a food pantry. \$70/session.



Bike Decoration Day

Friday July 1
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.



Schools Based Programs

Opportunities for preK-12 schools range from guided field trips learning projects to shelter facilities for rent. Contact the Park office for details, curriculum, fees and scheduling.



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 13-16
1:00 – 3:30 p.m. **Ada Park**

Girls entering 1st – 5th grades can earn badges and patches daily as they explore the outdoors. Non-registered Girl Scouts are welcome. Contact: Jessica Maddox jrmaddox@gmail.com.



GIRL SCOUTS

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