



# Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Winter 2017-2018



## Our Mission

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

## Ada Township Parks And Preserves

### Ada Park & Locke Arboretum

1180 Buttrick Ave., 57 acres

Park office, maintenance facilities, picnic pavilion and gazebos, softball & soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, fishing pond, trails, picnic tables, grills, Les Craig Learning Center and Locke Arboretum.

### Roselle Park

1010 Grand River Dr. NE, 247 acres

Building with restroom and meeting room. Paved walking/bike path, hiking trails, XC ski trails, observation decks, playground, prairie, wetland, woods, Grand River shoreline.

### Leonard Field Park & Ada Covered Bridge

7490 Thornapple River Drive, 2 acres

Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlooks, picnic tables, Ada Covered Bridge.

### Grand River Natural Area

Grand River Drive SE, 110 acres

Enter via Ada Moorings, Ada Park or McGraw Park. Nature area, walking/hiking trails, paved bike path, woodlands, wetlands, Grand River shoreline.

### Carl Creek Crossings Preserve

6230 Grand River Drive, 8 acres

Natural area, Carl Creek, small parking area, walking trails.

### Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve

Alta Dale Dr. south of Fulton, 34 acres

Natural area, Carl Creek, wooded area and wetlands. Access trails to be developed in 2018.

### Settler's Grove Park

To be along River Street in Ada Village

Under construction, to open in fall of 2018. Park will be along the Thornapple River.



## Facility Use

**Ada Township Park Pavilion & Gazebo Rentals and Reservations:** 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.

**Roselle Park meeting room:** Currently available for rent to schools, non-profits, local community groups and business on a limited basis.

**Park Hours:** Parks and Preserves are open every day dawn to dusk. Park office during regular business hours.

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

**Motorized vehicles:** Snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles are not allowed on trails or in Parks.

**Walking & Bike Paths:** Our best attempts will be made to clear the snow off the trails after each major snowfall. Note that conditions may remain wet, icy and/or slippery throughout the winter.

**Cross-Country Trails:** XC ski trails are set up at Roselle Park and available as weather allows. Please do not walk on or allow dogs on the XC ski tracks.

## Christmas Tree and Wreath Recycling



Ada Township residents may bring Christmas trees and wreaths for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Park from Dec. 26, 2017 through Jan. 15, 2018 between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Trees will be recycled into wood chips and wreath wire will be reclaimed. Please remove decorations, wires, strings or other items that interfere with a chipper.

## Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department

Office located in Ada Park, 1180 Buttrick Ave, Ada, MI 49301. Office open daily 9-5.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301

Phone: 616-676-0520 fax: 616-676-5870 e-mail: [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com) web: [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)



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## **\*\*Youth Programs\*\***

Please pre-register for all programs  
Call 616-676-0520 or email [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com)

### **Discovery Days**

**Ages 3-5 with guardians**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**One Wednesday/month**

**Ada or Roselle Park**

**\$5/child**

Bring your preschooler to Ada Park or Roselle Park for a fun morning of nature study, hands-on activities, games and a craft. Programs will have inside and outside activities, so come dressed to be outside.

**“Nature Prepares for Winter”**

Wed., December 6

Ada Park

Learn how animals, birds, and trees prepare for the cold Michigan winter.  
Make a pine cone bird feeder to take home.

**“Snowballs and Snowflakes”**

Wed., January 10

Ada Park

Learn how snowflakes are formed. Take a walk outside to “catch” some snowflakes and see how they are alike or different. Make your own beaded snowflake to take home.

**“Tracks...who goes there?”**

Wed. Feb. 7

Roselle Park

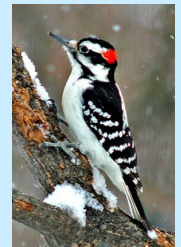
Look at different animal tracks to discover who made them. Make some cool tracks of your own as you run, walk and jump through the Park trails.

**“Cool Critters”**

Wed., March 7

Roselle Park

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



### **Field Trips for Pre-K, Elementary, and Middle Schools**

Outdoor environmental education experiences are available year-round at Roselle Park, Ada Township Park and Leonard Field Park. Programs are thematic, place-based, hands-on and aligned with curriculums. Programs run one to three hours with a fee of \$3/student. Outreach programs to schools are also available. Contact the Park office for details, curriculum, fees, and scheduling.



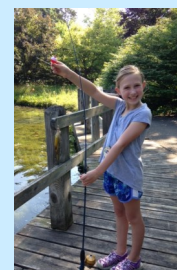
### **Boy Scout and Girl Scout Programs**

Achievement and badge theme programs are available for Scout groups by scheduling field trips to the parks and through service projects. Contact the Park office for details.



### **2018 Summer Youth Programs**

A full summer of outdoor adventures is offered for ages 3-13. Half-day programs; 3-day camp experiences and a full season of gardening at the “Ada Kids’ Garden” will be available. Some programs fill up quickly, so register early. Registration for summer youth programs opens February 1, 2018. Contact the Park office for details and registration forms. Some scholarships available for reduced rates.



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## **\*\*Family and Adult Programs\*\***

Please pre-register for all programs

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### **“Birds and Bird Feeders”**

**Saturday, December 9**

**Roselle Park Building**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**\$10/bird feeder kit**

Learn to identify local winter birds and how to improve the habitat in your backyard so you can attract more birds. Build a wooden bird feeder to take home. Materials and tools provided. Park staff will be on hand to assist.

Pre-registration required by December 4 so we have enough kits for everyone.



### **“The Winter Night Sky”**

**Wednesday, January 10**

**Roselle Park Building**

**7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**\$3/adult \$2/youth**

Join us for an evening in the park to observe the winter night sky. A short indoor orientation with winter sky maps and star charts will be followed by outside observation time. *Rain date: Jan. 17*



### **“Winter Fun Day”**

**Saturday February 3**

**Roselle Park**

**10:00 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Free! (donations accepted)**

Celebrate winter in the park! Build a snowman, learn about winter birds, bring your own Snowshoes or take a snow hike, then come inside for hot cocoa. Bill and Paul's Sporthaus on hand with XC skis and snowshoes to demo and a **“Basics of XC Skiing” clinic at 11:00 a.m.**



### **“Snakes, Turtles, and Frogs, Oh, my!”**

**Thursday, March 8**

**Roselle Park Resource Building**

**7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**\$5/person**

This special presentation by the Outdoor Discovery Center will feature live, native turtles, snakes, and other animals for you to see and touch. Learn how reptiles and amphibians differ from other animal groups and how to identify them. Hands-on artifacts include skins, skulls, eggs, and shells of species native to Michigan.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required as seating is limited.



### **“Exploring the Night Sky”**

**Thursday March 22**

**Roselle Park**

**7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**\$3/person**

Join the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association as they talk about what to see now and in upcoming months as winter transitions to spring and then summer.

Go outside to observe the crescent moon, Orion Nebula and other sights with your eyes; binoculars and telescopes provided by our visiting amateur astronomers.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the program begins at 7:30 p.m.



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## **\*\*Adult Programs\*\***

### **Ada Adult Softball Programs 2018**

We will begin accepting 2018 softball team registrations in February 2018. Team registration forms and fees are due by March 17, 2018. 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 7, 2018.

Below are the league nights and types offered:

Mondays: HS Girls Fast Pitch, Ada Park & Leonard Field

Tuesdays: Men's Slow-Pitch, Ada Park & Leonard Field

Wednesdays: Coed Softball, Ada Park & Leonard Field

Thursdays: Men's Slow-Pitch, Ada Park

Thursdays: Men's Fast-Pitch, Leonard Field

For forms or more information contact the Park office at 616-676-0520 or email [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com). Standings for the 2017 leagues are on our web site.



## **\*\*\*Volunteer Opportunities\*\*\***

Ada Parks & Recreation Department is recruiting volunteers to assist with grounds, gardens, trail monitoring, habitat stewardship, ski trails, clerical and office work, program instruction and youth programs.

Volunteer service credits are available for high school students. Internships are available for college students and recent graduates.

Residents are welcome to join in on planning and project committees or on the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board.

For details or to apply, contact the Park office at 616-676-0520 or email [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com).

**Area businesses and service groups are always welcome to lend a hand in the parks.**

**Contact the Park office to schedule a work day!**



### **Grand Rapids Audubon Club Christmas Bird Count**

**Saturday, December 30, 2018**

**Meet at the WWAE Center in Lowell**

**7:30 a.m. start time**

**\$5/adult, free/youth**

Join the Grand Rapids Audubon Club and other bird enthusiasts for the annual Kent County Christmas Bird Count. Have fun enjoying birds and gathering data useful for tracking bird locations and species abundance. All skill levels are needed. You may participate for all or part of the day.

The event begins at the Wittenbach-Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes Rd., Lowell, 616-987-2565. For more information or to pre-register, contact Tom Leggett at [tomleggett@hotmail.com](mailto:tomleggett@hotmail.com), 616-249-3382 or see [www.graud.org](http://www.graud.org)



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