



Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Winter 2011

General Information

Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Contact Information:

Office located in Ada Township Park, 1180 Buttrick Ave, Ada, MI 49301. 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

web site: www.adatownshipmi.com

E-News: For announcements from Ada Parks Dept. via e-mail send request to: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com



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:

Ada Park & Locke Arboretum

1180 Buttrick Ave., 57 acres

Softball & soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, fishing pond, trails, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, gazebos, Park Offices, Les Craig Learning Center and the Bud Locke Arboretum.

Leonard Field & Ada Covered Bridge

7490 Thornapple River Drive, 2 acres

Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlook deck, Ada Covered Bridge, winter ice rink

Grand River Natural Area

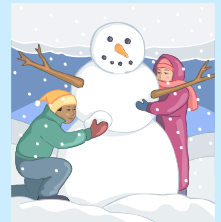
Grand River Drive SE, enter via Ada Park or McGraw Park, 110 acres

Nature area, trails, bike path, woodlands, wetlands, Grand River shoreline.

Roselle Park

1010 Grand River Dr. NE, 247 acre

Bike path, trails, cross-country ski trails, picnic area, observation decks, natural areas, wetlands, prairie, woods, Grand River shoreline.



Facility Use:

Park Hours: Park grounds are open every day dawn to dusk.

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

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

Ada Park Shelter & 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.

Winter Facilities:



Ice Rink at Leonard Field: An outdoor winter ice rink is set up at Leonard Field and is available as weather allows. It is open to the public for general use. Children need to be supervised by a guardian.

Cross Country Trails: Cross Country Ski trails are set up at Roselle Park and available as weather allows. The trails start near the silos and extend through the north section of the park. Trail maps are set up along the route. Please do not walk on or allow dogs on the x-c ski tracks.

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.

At Roselle Park, only a section of the paved path will be plowed in the winter to allow for x-c skiing in the north section. Sections of the trails will be closed when flooded.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Ada residents may drop off their used natural Christmas trees to the back parking lot of Ada Park until Monday January 13th, 2011.

They will be recycled into wood chips for use in the park.

Please remove any decorations, wires, strings, ribbons or other items that might interfere with a chipper. Please no wreaths or garland.

Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Youth Programs - Winter 2010

Pre-registration is requested for all programs
by calling 616-676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Discovery Days (for ages 3 - 5 and their guardians)

Wednesday and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Ada Park \$5/child

Pre-Schoolers bring your parent or guardian out to Ada Park for a fun morning of nature study, hands-on activities and a craft. Programs will have inside and outdoor activities so come dressed to be outside. Each program repeated on 2 consecutive days (pick one),

“Wonderful Winter” January 19, 20

Look at snowflakes at see how they are alike or different. Take a walk outside to look for animal tracks. Make your own beaded snowflake to take home.

“Build a Bird Feeder” February 16, 17

What do birds eat in the winter? Feel and try to identify different kinds of bird seed with your eyes closed, make 2 different bird feeders to take home.

“Whoooo are you?” Owls in Michigan March 9, 10

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



Young Explorers (for ages 5 – 7)

Various Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Ada Park \$5/child

Parents may drop off their children at Ada Park for these programs. Topics are similar to “Discovery Days” but geared for older age group. Programs will have inside and outdoor activities so come dressed to be outside.

“Wonderful Winter” January 19

“Build a Bird Feeder” February 16

“Whooo are you?” Owls in Michigan March 9



Junior Naturalist (for ages 7 – 11)

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

Various Saturdays Ada Park \$5/child

Insects and Their World

January 15 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ada Park Learning Center

Elly Maxwell, an entomologist at Dow Gardens, will bring bug exhibits and live creatures to help us understand insects and their world. Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Junior Audubon Club, free to their members, non-members will be charged \$5.



Snowshoes Stomp

February 12 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Ada Park Learning Center

Learn about the history of snowshoes and how some animals survive with their own “built in” snowshoes. Then venture outside for a fun snowshoe walk through the park. Snowshoes provided. \$5/per youth.

Schools Based Programs

Opportunities for preK-12th grade students range from guided field trips in the parks (\$2/student), to service learning projects (free) to shelter facilities for rent (\$25/day). 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.



2011 Summer Youth Camps & Other Program: Contact the Park office late winter for more information or forms.

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Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Family Programs/Events

Pre-registration requested for all programs
by calling 676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Cross Country Skiing 101 – The Basics

Saturday, January 8 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Roselle Park \$5/adult \$3/ youth



Introductory lesson on cross-country ski equipment and techniques followed by a guided ski outing in the park with personalized coaching. Program is targeted for beginners and intermediates. Pre-registration is appreciated by calling 676-0520 or email. Pay on site. Bring your own skis or rent from area vendors.
X-C skis rentals available locally at Bills & Paul's Sporthaus, 1200 E. Paris SE, Grand Rapids 49546 616-458-1684 \$17/day \$34 /weekend

“Feeder the Birds” - Make Your Own Bird Feeder

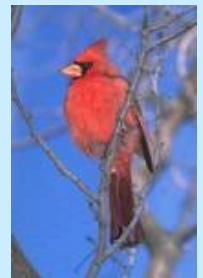
Saturday, February 5 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Ada Park \$5/adult \$3/ youth

Learn to identify local winter birds and how to attract and support them. Then build a bird feeder to take home and put in your yard. All materials and supplies provided. Plus find out how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count!



Great Backyard Bird Count, February 18-21 Your Backyard or local Park

Bird watchers coast to coast are invited to take part in the 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21, 2011. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers of all levels of birding experience to count birds in their own backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges. Each checklist submitted by these "citizen scientists" helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how the birds are doing—and how to protect them.
For details see the web site: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>



Rulers of The Sky - Birds of Prey Presentation

Wednesday, March 16 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Ada Park Learning Center \$4/adult \$3/youth



A Special **Birds of Prey** presentation by John Ball Zoo with live birds. Some rule by day and some rule by night. Raptors are magnificent creatures admired for their strength and beauty. Get an up-close view of some of nature’s incredible feathered hunters and learn about them through hands-on activities and demonstrations.
Pre-registration requested due to limited seating.

Connecting Families with Nature - Passport to Adventure

Join in the fun - get outside & collect stamps for your passport by participating in the “Connecting Families with Nature Passport Program”. Pick up a Passport at: Ada Township Park, Blandford Nature Center, Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve, Howard Christensen Nature Center, John Ball Zoo and the Wittenbach/Wege Education Center. At any of these sites you can attend a variety of fun educational programs, take hikes, or participate in stewardship projects such as stream cleanups or invasive species removal and receive a stamp for each completed activity.

To learn more, contact the Park office or see the website: www.kentcouservation.org/families



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Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Adult Programs—Winter 2010 Adult Programs

The Ada Adult Softball Programs—Spring/Summer/Fall 2011

Ada Parks & Recreation Department will start taking team applications for the 2011 adult spring/summer softball program in February. Contact the Park Office at 676-0520 or email rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com for an application. We welcome new teams. Games are held at Ada Park and Leonard Field, Monday through Thursday evenings and some Saturdays.

Field use for practice games need to be scheduled through the Parks office.

A fall softball program will again be held in 2011. If you have a team that may be interested email: rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com.

Standings from this past season are posted at the Ada Township web site www.adatownshipmi.com.



*** Volunteer Opportunities ***



Ada Parks & Recreation Department is recruiting Volunteers to assist in the following areas: grounds, gardeners, x-c trail groomers, odd jobs, habitat stewards, program instructors and clerical.

Similar volunteer opportunities are available for high school students and youth groups. For an application, interview or schedule of events contact the Park office at 676-0502 or email: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com



Grand Rapids Audubon Club (GRAC) Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 1, 2011 7:30 a.m. start time WWAE Center in Lowell

This is for the annual count in Kent County. Bird counts are fun and valuable for tracking bird locations and species abundance. Volunteers meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Wittenbach/Wege Center (11715 Vergennes) in Lowell to get organized, then head out to area parks to record sightings of birds. Return around noon for lunch, prepared(\$5.00) or brown bag. At 5:00 p.m. we gather to tally findings. You can participate part or all day. GRAC members and youth 18 and under are free. For Non-GRAC members there is a \$5.00 participation fee. For information contact Steve Mueller at 616-696-1753 or email odybrook@chartermi.net or see: http://www.glsqa.org/graud/grac_bird_count.htm



You're Input Is Requested !

Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department is in the process of updating the *Township's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*. This document is used as a guide for park master plans, land acquisition goals, recreation programs and our strategic planning process. It is updated every 5 years.

We would like your input, ideas, comments and suggestions! One of our tools to do this is a survey that we have been distributing to Ada Township residents. If you have not received a copy of the survey yet via your December tax bill or a program. Please contact the Park office or the web site for a copy.

We will host a public input, information and comment session where we would appreciate your attendance.

Please note the following date and time on your calendar so you may join us:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

At the Learning Center in Ada Township Park, 1180 Buttrick, Ada, MI



A copy of the current "2007 Recreation Plan" is available on the Ada Township web site "Parks & Recreation" page: www.adatownshipmi.com

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