

AGENDA

Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission
121 E. Maple Street, P.O. Box 178, Mason, MI 48854
Telephone: 517.676.2233; Fax: 517.244.7190

The packet is available on-line by going to www.ingham.org, choosing the "Monthly Calendar," and clicking on Monday, November 17, 2008.

Monday, November 17, 2008

6:00pm

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Human Services Building
Conference Room A, Second Floor
5303 S. Cedar Street, Building #3
Lansing, Michigan

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
Minutes of the October 27, 2008 meeting will be considered
4. **Limited Public Comment**
5. **Late Items / Deletions / Consent Items**
6. **Discussion Regarding Police Issues – Sgt. Dan Sump**
7. **Director's Report**
 - A. Monthly Project Update Presentation
 - B. Status of Rayner Disc Golf Work Group
 - C. Status of Scott Woods Lease
 - D. Status of Potter Park Zoo Master Plan
 - E. Status of Vacant Park Manager Position
8. **Committee Reports & Resolution**
 - A. **Planning & Community Outreach Committee**
 1. Report Regarding the HDI Property Adjacent to Lake Lansing Park~North
 2. Report Regarding Winter Newsletter
 3. Report Regarding 2008 School, Cub Scout, Fee Waivers, and Non-Profit Youth Group Shelter Usage
 - B. **Budget & Personnel Committee**
 1. **ACTION** - Resolution Waiving Parking Fees for "Wonderland of Lights" Event at the Potter Park Zoo
9. **Upcoming Meetings**
 - A. Date: December 8, 2008; Time: 6:00pm
Parks Planning & Community Outreach Committee, Human Services Building
 - B. Date: December 10, 2008; Time: 6:00pm
Parks Budget & Personnel Committee, Human Services Building
 - C. Date: December 15, 2008; Time: 6:00pm
Parks & Recreation Commission

10. Correspondence and Citizen Comments

11. Board Comments

12. Limited Public Comment

13. Informational Items – *Distributed at Commission Meeting*

- A. County Services, Finance Committee, and Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes
(Items pertaining to Parks Department)
- B. Shelter Reservation Surveys
- C. Zoo Surveys

14. Adjournment

Official minutes are stored and available for inspection at the address noted at the top of this agenda. The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities a the meeting upon five (5) working days notice to the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission by writing to the Ingham County Parks Department, P.O. Box 178, Mason, Michigan 48854, or by calling 517.676.2233.

“DRAFT” MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**INGHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
121 E. Maple Street, Suite 102, Mason, Michigan 48854
October 27, 2008**

The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission held a Regularly Scheduled Meeting at the Human Services Building, Conference Room D & E, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Board Members

Present: Pam Weil, Mike McDonald, Commissioner Dianne Holman, Commissioner Tim Soule, John Czarnecki, Larry R. Smith, Bill Matt, Ray Rustem, Dennis Propst, and Paul Pratt

Absent: None.

Also Present: Burchfield Park Manager Jeff Gehl, Recording Secretary Debra Bavery, Mason Residents Joyce Lincoln, Phoebe & Tony Klain, Phil Bernardi, Nancy Fox, Bill Schneider, Bob Ware, Barb Tornholm; Disc Golf Representatives Tim Radee and Curtis Smith; MSU Student Ian Johnson; Meridian Township Representatives Younes Ishradi and Larry Wagenknecht

Call to Order: Chair McDonald called the Regularly Scheduled Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Minutes: **Moved by** Mr. Smith, **Supported by** Mr. Czarnecki to approve the July 28, 2008 regular meeting and the September 3, September 25, and September 29, 2008 special meetings were approved as written. **Yes-10; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.**

Late Items / Deletions:

Agenda Item #9 ~ Letter dated 10/27/08 from Bill Schneider; E-mail dated 10/27/08 from Rebecca Wilson; Lansing State Journal Article, dated 10/26/08; and Ingham County news Article, dated 10/26/08.

Limited Public Comment:

Mason resident, Mr. Tony Klain narrated a power point presentation regarding the Rayner Woodlot and spoke in opposition to the proposed disc golf course.

Mason resident, Ms. Joyce Lincoln spoke in opposition to the proposed disc golf course.

Mason resident, Phil Bernardi spoke in opposition to the proposed disc golf course.

Mason resident, Phoebe Klain spoke in opposition to the proposed disc golf course.

Mason resident, Bill Schneider spoke in opposition and questioned whether or not a site analysis and botanical inventory had been taken before consideration of a disc golf course.

Mason resident, Bob Ware spoke in opposition to the proposed disc golf course.

Disc Golf Association member, Curtis Smith spoke in favor of the proposed disc golf course.

Mason resident Barbara Tornholm spoke in opposition of the proposed disc golf course and encouraged the Commission members to see how this sport fit into the master plan.

Presentation of Resolution Honoring Dr. Tara Harrison

Chair McDonald read the resolution and presented a plaque honoring Dr. Tara Harrison for her accomplishment.

RESOLUTION #23-08 ~ RESOLUTION HONORING DR. TARA HARRISON

WHEREAS, established in 1983, the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) is the professional organization for veterinarians specializing in the care of nondomestic species in zoos and in the wild; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harrison studied extensively for an examination given by the American College of Zoological Medicine in order to become a board certified diplomate, this examination which took place over two days at the University of Tennessee and included both written and verbal components; and

WHEREAS, through this certification program, Dr. Harrison has received advanced training in veterinary medicine designating her as a specialist in the medical and surgical treatment of zoo animals; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are just over 100 veterinarians in the world who have obtained this specialty and Dr. Harrison is only the second individual in the state to have qualified for and passed the rigorous requirements and examinations of the American College of Zoological Medicine; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission hereby honors Dr. Tara Harrison for her dedication to the care and management of the animals at the Potter Park Zoo, and extends its appreciation for the positive impact she has made during her years of dedicated service to the Potter Park Zoo.

Moved by Mr. Rustem and **Supported by** Ms. Weil that Resolution #23-08 be approved.
Yes-10; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.

Lake Lansing Advisory Committee Presentation

Mr. Larry Wagenknecht presented a power point presentation regarding the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee's watershed management plan and talked about how the budget is spent. In response to a question regarding the budget Mr. Wagenknecht responded that they do not always spend the whole \$80,000 each year, but it is spent over the 10 year period because extra monies carry over to the next year. Mr. Smith agreed with the proposal that Clinton County pay for the drain that runs to Lake Lansing as another source of income.

In response to Mr. Czarnecki's question regarding water quality monitoring. Mr. Wagenknecht reported that the water quality is improving, and one test showed clear down 16 feet. It is his opinion that the lake is in the best shape ever in 25 years. Commissioner Holman talked about moving in a new direction and getting away from throwing chemicals at the lake. Mr. Wagenknecht reported that they are seriously looking at introducing milfoil weevils, but this year there was not enough milfoil to support the weevil and that they are trying to avoid mass treatment of weeds. Mr. Ishradi spoke about this concept as a pilot project next spring, they are approaching it carefully and looking seriously at it. Chair McDonald spoke about Sleepy Hollow and their experiments with weevils.

Chair McDonald reported that Meridian Township has asked that the payment be issued in the spring versus the fall.

RESOLUTION #24-08 ~ RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #37-07 AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN INGHAM COUNTY AND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN TO MAINTAIN THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAKE LANSING INCLUDING THE LAKE FRONTAGE OWNED BY INGHAM COUNTY

WHEREAS, Board of Commissioner Resolution #08-021 authorized a contract with Meridian Township to prepare a ten year Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, that resolution and the subsequent agreement stated payment in the amount of \$10,000 was due on October 1st of each year; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has asked that in order to determine the amount of the July 1st Meridian Township resident assessments payment be made annually no later than April 15th of each year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution #37-07 be amended to reflect payment be made annually to Meridian Township no later than April 15th of each year.

Moved by Commissioner Holman and **Supported by** Mr. Pratt that Resolution #24-08 be approved. **Yes-10; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.**

Rayner Disc Golf Proposal Discussion

Moved by Mr. Czarnecki that the Chair and Vice-Chair appoint committee members to a Work Group dedicated to resolving the issue of disc golf at Rayner Park. Mr. Matt recommended Commissioner Soule be appointed as one of the Park Commissioner members. Mr. Propst spoke regarding the focus groups showing that younger people want active recreation and how he is pulled in two directions, the needs of county residents vs the needs of the City of Mason residents. He also expressed the opinion that the wood lot needs to be protected and volunteered to be a member of the workgroup. **Supported by** Mr. Pratt. **Yes-10; No-0. MOTION CARRIED**

Chair McDonald spoke regarding the Last Child in the Woods program at Michigan State University. Commissioner Soule thanked the public for speaking and Mr. Smith for the design of the course. He further stated that the county is fortunate to have him donate his services for free. Commissioner Soule has spoken with people across the county and found that 2 to 1 are in favor of the concept and he is strongly in favor of the project. He emphasized that no old growth trees are being looked at for removal and only existing pathways would be utilized. He further stated that the county should take full advantage of this opportunity where a local group is donating much of the equipment.

Mr. Propst asked about the layout and Mr. Smith volunteered to layout the course or proposed changes and he is happy to meet with anyone.

Ms. Weil stated that disc golf fits well into our master plan by providing open ended free recreational use. She stated she has known disc golfers who love and have a high respect for nature.

Mr. Schneider stated that he has heard no discussion regarding site appropriateness. He thinks disc golf is great, but maybe it is not site appropriate in Rayner. Ms. Weil disagreed and stated the degree of impact must be weighed against the value of providing the service and location.

Discussion Regarding the HDI Property Adjacent to Lake Lansing Park-North

Chair McDonald spoke regarding the conservation easement required by Meridian Township. Commissioner Holman had no objection and indicated that Mr. Randall is working on a mechanism that will satisfy Meridian Township. Chair McDonald spoke regarding the fundraising update resolution.

RESOLUTION # 25-08 ~ RESOLUTION PROVIDING AN UPDATE OF THE "FRIENDS OF INGHAM COUNTY PARKS" FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TOWARDS THE MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE LAKE LANSING PARK NORTH LAND ACQUISITION GRANT

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2008 the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution #08-185 authorizing an application be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to Fund the Acquisition of 120 Acres of Natural Area to Expand Lake Lansing Park North; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the 120 acres supports Master Plan goals, ensuring adequate active and passive open space to meet the needs of the community and providing undeveloped natural and quiet areas within Ingham County Parks; and

WHEREAS, interested citizens and the Friends of Ingham County Parks set a fundraising target of \$150,000, the Meridian Township Land Preservation Board committed \$675,000, and Ingham County committed \$25,000, to be included as part of the total \$850,000 local match towards the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant proposal; and

WHEREAS, since May of 2008 the Friends of Ingham County Parks and interested citizens, ages 5 to 85 have worked tirelessly to reach their goal by November 1st ; and

WHEREAS, this group of devoted volunteers have raised \$157,000 as of October 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Board meets on December 3rd, 2008 and all funding must be in place by this date; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Ingham County Parks have met the \$150,000 December 3rd, 2008 deadline; and

WHEREAS, Board of Commissioner Resolution #08-185 required the Controller to report whether sufficient funds have been identified in time to be considered and recommend to the Board of Commissioners whether the grant application should be confirmed, with a resolution to that effect adopted no later than November 25th, 2008.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission appreciates the outstanding efforts of the Friends of Ingham County Parks and interested citizens who participated in the successful fundraising campaign to raise the \$150,000 necessary for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Lake Lansing Park North Land Acquisition Grant matching funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission directs staff to provide a status update to the Controller and Board of Commissioners regarding the successful fundraising efforts at the November 25th, 2008 Board of Commissioner's meeting.

Moved by Mr. Czarnecki and **Supported by** Mr. Ray Rustem that Resolution #25-08 be approved.
Yes-10; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion Regarding the Scott Woods Lease

Discussion ensued regarding the Scott Woods lease. Ms. Weil expressed concern regarding the perception of decreased dog park attendance now that the circle trail is gone and whether or not the dog park has been crippled. Mr. Propst has heard the same comments and reported that a student is doing a survey and will present data in the near future. Mr. Propst further stated too much control is being given to the City vs the County. Mr. Rustem, Commissioner Holman, and Commissioner Soule concurred. Chair McDonald indicated that he hasn't heard one good thing about the fence at the dog park. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of Commission input with regard to the resolution of the dispute at the dog park. Mr. Matt asked if this agreement precluded us from going back and making the dog park whole again. Discussion ensued regarding approval for changes being agreed upon by both directors. Mr. Propst spoke regarding contradictory language and responsibility for costs, there is a problem with responsibility without authority.

Director's Report

Mrs. Bavery provided narration to the monthly project presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Community Outreach Committee

Discussion ensued regarding the use of segways on Ingham County trails and the consensus of members present was that they should not be allowed at this time.

Burchfield and Potter Park Zoo Free Day Statistics were reviewed.

Budget & Personnel Committee

Mr. Czarnecki spoke regarding the resolution authorizing staff to request permission to post for the Hawk Island Park Manager Position as a Park Manager II.

RESOLUTION #26-08 ~ RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO POST THE VACANT HAWK ISLAND PARK MANAGER POSITION AS A PARK MANAGER II

WHEREAS, on July 1st, 2007 Potter Park and the Potter Park Zoo were integrated into the Ingham County Parks system; and

WHEREAS, at that time the classification Park Manager III was established in recognition of the additional job responsibilities assigned to Willis Bennett, the Hawk Island Park Manager as a result of the addition of Potter Park and the Potter Park Zoo, and that he be compensated at the MCF-11 level (one grade increase) above Park Manager II, MCF-10, with the differential of \$5,436 to be captured each year from the Potter Park Zoo Millage; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2008 the Parks Director, Bob Moore, retired and Willis Bennett, Hawk Island Park Manager III, was appointed Interim Parks Director; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2008 a Horticulturalist/Grounds Manager was hired to oversee Potter Park and the Zoological Gardens of the Potter Park Zoo; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2008 Willis Bennett was appointed Ingham County Parks Director, leaving a vacancy in the position of Park Manager at Hawk Island Park; and

WHEREAS, due to the placement of the Potter Park Zoo Horticulturalist/Grounds Manager, continued support of a Parks manager is no longer required at Potter Park Zoo and it has been determined that the position of Hawk Island Park Manager should be posted at the previous Park Manager II level, salary range \$56,635 to \$67,979; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2008 the Ingham County Board of Commissioners implemented a hiring freeze (Resolution #08-194) on all General Fund positions for Ingham County; and

WHEREAS, the hiring freeze will continue through December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized a six week hiring delay policy for the 2009 budget year (Resolution 08-214); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission authorizes Parks Department staff to apply to County Services for permission post the Hawk Island Park Manager as a Park Manager II position.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the start date for this position be posted as "position available in January of 2009."

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that all hiring freeze specifications implemented by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners be adhered to.

Moved by Mr. Czarnecki and Supported by Mr. Smith that Resolution #26-08 be approved. **Yes-10; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Czarnecki spoke regarding the resolution recommending the Jail alternative Sentencing Program Budget.

RESOLUTION #27-08 ~ RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE JAIL ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING PROGRAM BUDGET BE APPROVED

WHEREAS, in a continuing effort to reduce chronic overcrowding and expenses associated with the cost of housing at the Ingham County Jail, Ingham County Friend of the Court has partnered with the Ingham County Parks Department, and instituted an extremely successful Jail Alternative Sentencing Program (JASP) involving individuals who are in contempt of court for non-payment of child support; and

WHEREAS, the JASP program began on a test basis on June 1st, 2004; and

WHEREAS, JASP participants have successfully engaged in park improvement projects such as the construction of new boardwalks at Lake Lansing Park-North and Hawk Island; as well as assisting with routine park and zoo maintenance; and

WHEREAS, this resolution for the JASP program has the support of both the Ingham County Park & Recreation Commission and the Ingham County Friend of the Court; and

WHEREAS, two thirds of the cost of the program is funded by Friend of the Court grants and budget; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds have been identified within the existing 2008 Parks Department and Potter Park Zoo Budgets; and

WHEREAS, funds will continue to be identified in future budget years; and

WHEREAS, funding will be transferred from the Parks Department and Potter Park Zoo budgets for the applicable time when the FOC Coordinator positions are filled; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Zoo Board passed Resolution #13-08 in support of the program.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission recommends that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners approve the following structure for the JASP program:

<u>EXPENSES</u>		Zoo	Parks
One Seasonal Working Coordinator/Parks (\$13.25/hour x 2,040 hours)	\$27,030		\$9,010
One Seasonal Working Coordinator/Zoo (\$13.25/hour x 2,040 hours)	\$27,030	\$9,010	
One 8 Month Position/Parks (\$13.25/hour x 1386 Hours)	<u>\$18,365</u>		<u>\$6,122</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$72,425		
TOTAL PARKS AND ZOO EXPENSE		<u>\$9,010</u>	<u>\$15,132</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>			
Current 2008 Seasonal Budget		\$9,010	\$15,132
TOTAL PARKS AND ZOO REVENUE		<u>\$9,010</u>	<u>\$15,132</u>

Moved by Commissioner Soule and **Supported by** Mr. Matt that Resolution #27-08 be approved.
Yes-10; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Czarnecki reported the August 2008 Parks & Zoo Financial Reports are on track. Mr. Czarnecki reported that Mr. Bennett was encouraged to attend an NRPA National Executive Development School. Mr. Czarnecki spoke regarding a Friends of Ingham County Parks Watershed Protection Grant Application. Mr. Pratt indicated that he is comfortable with this grant and spoke once again about the Clinton County drain.

Board Comments

Discussion ensued regarding the November schedule of meetings and it was determined to leave it as scheduled.

Limited Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Minutes submitted by:
 Deb Bavery, Recording Secretary

2008 Police Survey Responses

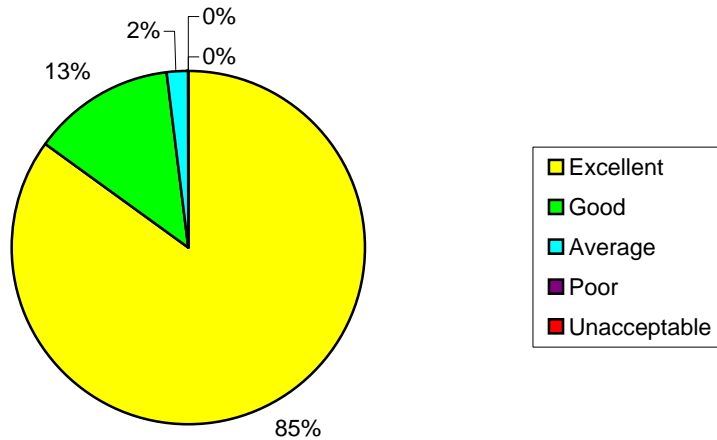
Your Feeling of Security in Parks

	TOTAL (322)	HI	BUR	BAL	RAY	LLS	LLN	PP
Excellent	274	107	45	7	11	49	31	24
Good	42	13	9	1	4	6	1	8
Average	6	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unacceptable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

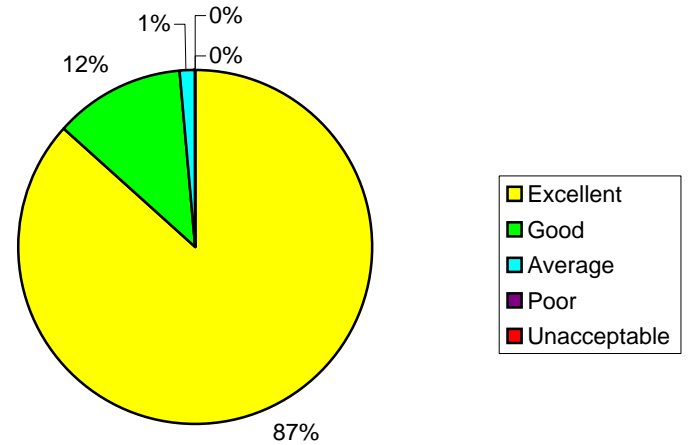
Police Personnel

	TOTAL (218)	HI	BUR	BAL	RAY	LLS	LLN	PP
Excellent	189	80	31	4	4	33	21	16
Good	26	6	6	0	4	6	2	2
Average	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unacceptable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

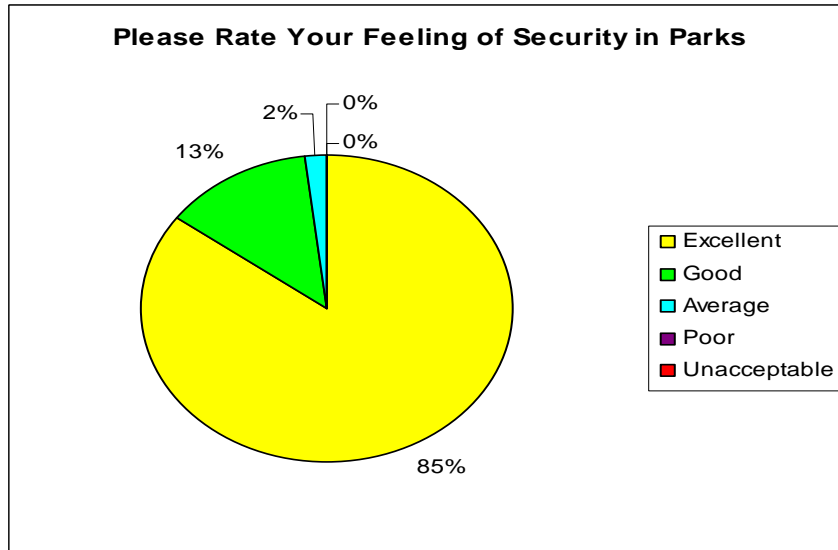
Please Rate Your Feeling of Security in Parks



Please Rate the Courtesy & Helpfulness of Police Personnel in Parks

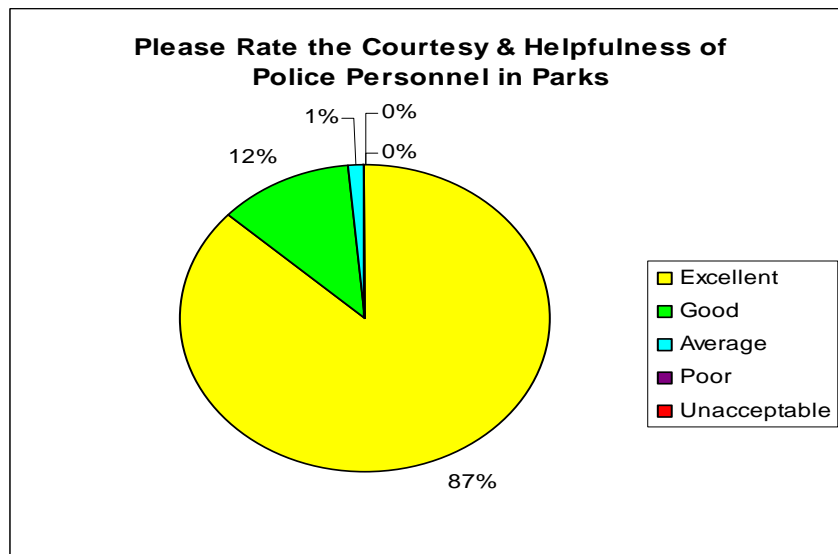


2008 Police Survey Responses



322 total responses

Excellent	274
Good	42
Average	6
Poor	0
Unacceptable	0



218 total responses

Excellent	189
Good	26
Average	3
Poor	0
Unacceptable	0

Responses from 2008 Park Reservation Surveys

What could we do to make your next visit more enjoyable? Any other comments regarding your visit?

We only have great things to say about the experience. Polite policeman came and asked if we needed anything.

Both the park and police personnel stopped by to greet us when we arrived, they were very nice and helpful.

Very to nice to have a park person come up to me during the picnic and ask if everything was okay! Plus having a sheriff do the same!

Park personnel (police?) approached us at arrival to see if there was anything we needed. He checked in again with us during our stay – that was very nice and unexpected.

Police and park personnel were very attentive.

Your staff was very professional. From the moment we spoke to the staff to make our first reservation, until setting up for the 200+ person cookout, your staff (admin. Asst, park police officer, park manager – Coe Emens, boat rental attendees) made sure we had everything that we needed.

Personnel (park and police) sought out who was in charge and checked periodically throughout day. Excellent!!

Thank the staff, security, and everyone involved for a job well done. It takes everyone to make the park and appearance a success.

Park personnel stopped and offered to get sports equipment. Deputy Sheriff stopped, also lifeguard stopped, we were impressed.

To all your staff....well done!! Hope each of you are as proud as each visitor...Awesome care.

Overall, my visit was absolutely fabulous. The park is beautiful and the officer was friendly and helpful. Thank you for an enjoyable time.

The weather was great, the park staff were very helpful, and the park police introduced themselves right away and were very friendly. It was a great day!

Always a great experience. Courteous and helpful staff.

I believe your service is one of the best. Keep up the good work.

Everything was perfect!! Absolutely wonderful. The park staff is exceptionally good and we had a marvelous time. Thank you!

Excellent! Officer introduced himself and made us feel secure. All 350 volunteers from Ingham Medical Hospital were very happy with the park.

Park employees were just great and assisted us without hesitation – park and employees to be proud of!

All of us at the reunion love the clean park setting and the park officers are all very kind.

The experience was wonderful as was all your staff. We look forward to future events at your facility.

Everything was great, everyone was willing to help out when needed.

We had a wonderful time. Really enjoyed the park. All park personnel very courteous.

We really appreciate the nice help of staff.

Outstanding job by both the office personnel and park staff! Beautiful, well maintained park! Thank you from the military and civilian staff of Lansing MEPS!

Personnel was friendly and helpful.

Your park personnel are fantastic. I am from Kalamazoo – you should be very proud of this park and the people working there.

Your staff is very accommodating and friendly. We will be back for our company picnic next year.

Your park and personnel are great!

We enjoyed our event at the park immensely, and all the park personnel we saw and spoke with that day and earlier in the week made us feel well looked after. Their attentiveness and visibility was much appreciated.

All park personnel were very pleasant, courteous, including the police personnel.

Ingham County Officers were also very helpful and checked with us 3 times during the day. Excellent!

We loved having family reunion at Lake Lansing, many wonderful memories. Office staff facilitated reservations and park staff was helpful and gave a sense of protectiveness and security. Thank you all!!!

Very enjoyable. The manager stopped by to introduce himself and go over the rules and see if we had any questions. Felt very safe and they were available if we had questions. The officer stopped at our pavilion to introduce himself and tell us he was there.

Your park is beautiful and your staff was excellent. Thank you so much we had a most enjoyable experience!

This park has been a great addition to the Lansing community/area. It offers something for everyone. The presence of police and park personnel offers comfort.

Great job – we appreciate having nice places to go in our community. We also like the security of the presence of sheriff officers. The kids also have good experiences and build trust with them at the park. A+++ as members of the zoo, we love the improvements!

Have recommended other for the good experience that we have had. Everything was great! Park personnel and police came by to introduce themselves, inform us of where to find things, and to make sure we could find them if we needed anything.

It's a pleasure to use Hawk Island for our annual family reunion. All staff go out of their way to make us feel welcome!

Everyone I have interacted with from the park staff to the Sheriff's dept has been pleasant and very helpful. Thanks for all your help!

September 6, 2008

Schneider: Grandfather calls Straits of Mackinac swim 'exhilarating'

*John Schneider
Lansing State Journal*

Ed Holsworth had his heart set on swimming the Straits of Mackinac, and he wasn't about to let the 62-degree water temperature or 3-foot-high waves interfere with that plan. That's what wet suits are for.

Wet suits and determination.

Early last Saturday morning, Holsworth, a 56-year-old grandfather and prison chaplain who lives in St. Johns, stepped into the water northwest of the Mackinac Bridge. Holsworth had smooth sailing for the first 2 miles of the 4.1-mile swim, but beyond the halfway point the choppy surface sapped his energy.

About 3 hours and 40 minutes after wading into the Straits, Holsworth stumbled ashore on the Lower Peninsula, on the southeast side of the bridge, where his wife and some friends greeted him.

As I wrote in my Aug. 23 column, Holsworth, who works at the Pine River Correctional Facility in St. Louis, Mich., decided to swim the Straits as a way to publicize a fundraiser for his two grandsons born with profound congenital inner-ear nerve loss.

Each of the two brothers will require expensive hearing aids every three years. Health insurance doesn't cover the cost.

Pride and joy stolen

Stolen-bike stories are, of course, a dime a dozen. Just ask your local cop. But this one's a little different.

In a recent e-mail to me, Alex Cook of Lansing wrote:

"I am the father of a 15-year-old boy with Asperger's syndrome. He is very high functioning, but sometimes makes bad decisions and has his moments.

"He loves to go to Hawk Island Park and swim and, since we live close by, he usually rides his bike there, has a great time, and checks with Mom or myself every hour when we are not there."

On Aug. 27, the boy went to the park for a swim and forgot to lock his bike. He took a long walk home and delivered the sad news to his dad — somebody stole the bike.

"The kicker," Cook wrote, "is that he built the bike himself through a summer program at Harry Hill. It was a beautiful red mountain bike that is registered with the Lansing Police Department."

It's an 18-speed bike with curved handlebars.

If you spot it, give Cook a call at 394-5018.

Call John Schneider at 377-1175, send a fax to 377-1298 or e-mail jschneid@lsj.com.



September 7, 2008

LSJ readers share their gratitude

I am the father of a 15-year-old boy with Asperger's Syndrome. He is very high-functioning, but sometimes makes bad decisions and has "his moments."

He loves to go to Hawk Island Park and swim. Since we live close by, he usually rides his bike there, has a great time and checks in with his mom or me every hour when we are not there.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, he went for a swim, but forgot to lock his bike. After walking home, he told me that his bike had been stolen.

The kicker is, that about three years ago, he built the bike himself through a summer program at Harry Hill Center.

It was a beautiful red mountain bike that is registered with the Lansing Police Department.

When we reported it stolen to the park officials, they were sympathetic, caring and did their job efficiently with great compassion.

As a father of a son with disabilities, my heart is breaking over his loss.

Please express to your readers my thanks and gratitude to these magnificent park officials and the wonderful people at Hawk Island, especially Officer Kacos, who has his eyes open for a red bike.

- Alex Cook

Lansing

LSJ
Aug 8, 2008

Issue the tickets

This is in response to John Schneider's July 29 column, "Ticket makes park shortcut a costly decision for cyclist."

Where does one draw the line on giving warnings or writing tickets?

To make it easier on everyone, especially the officers, maybe the law enforcement system shouldn't give warnings anymore and just issue tickets to people who violate the law.

That would eliminate the officers from deciding which sob stories deserve warnings and which deserve tickets.

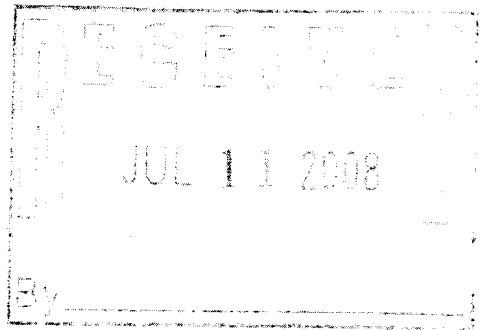
Whether it's a traffic violation or just a violation for being somewhere you are not supposed to be, a ticket should be issued.

Maybe then, if people knew they were not going to get off the hook, it would reduce violators all together.

Let's make the parks and streets safer by letting our officers do their jobs.

Who fits the profile of a vandal? Everyone does, and sometimes it's the ones we least expect.

Julie Parker
Lansing



Dear Officer Pedely,

I am sorry for causing so much alarm I interrupted your Riding session and Patrol. I was a nuisance and someone you shouldnt have had to deal with. I ruined your nice and day. So I sincerely appologize for everything.

I thank you sincerely, for Not seeing me as a stupid kid and for being Professional. Some People might not have been so professional.

So appologize and Thank you for every-thing

Sincerely,

73

Zach Kern

From: Daniel Sump
To: olger, Rebecca
CC: Bennett, Willis; Brady, Gerald
Date: 7/16/08 12:57 PM
Subject: Re: Willis Bennett about handicap parking

Mrs. Olger,

Thank you for bringing the parking issue to our attention, we look to change things for next year and always welcome suggestions. The L&L ZOO days come once a year and because we hire seasonal employees every year, we do our best to get everyone on the same page. It's unfortunate that you weren't given a correct answer to your question at first but in the end you were able to park in an appropriate location.

As for leaving the park at the end of your visit, the parks police officers are trying to get visitors to leave in a structured manner. So we ask everyone to proceed in a certain style when exiting the park. This means drivers need to pay attention to the officers giving directions, to ensure safety for all.

Again thanks for the information we can work on for next year.

Sgt. Dan Sump

Sergeant Daniel Sump
Ingham County Sheriff's Office
Telephone: 517-490-6907
Fax: 517-694-1537
Email: so_sump@ingham.org

>>> Rebecca olger <emkat73@sbcglobal.net> 7/15/2008 06:38 PM >>>
Rebecca Olger
5857 Hartel Rd.
Pottersville, Mi. 48876
517-645-2306

I am writing to you in regards to an incident that happened during your L and L Zoo days at Potters Park. I had never been to a zoo days function but I thought I would go this year so I took my 2 daughters and my 2 nieces and nephew thinking we would have a great time. I am handicapped so my daughters were going to help with the little ones. Well Sir, I sat in line like everyone else did and when I got to the entrance I asked about handicapped parking, in fact I asked 3 people about handicapped parking I was told that they were not sure to ask the next person I got to. Well I got to the gate and asked the person standing by the park entrance (the guard shack) and she told me to ask the next lady. By then I was getting quite frustrated as would assume that as part of zoo days the people in charge would be able to answer about handicapped parking. So I proceeded on to the next lady who was turning traffic into the grassy opening which was quite a ways from entrance. I knew that I could never walk that far so I came to the stop sign and rolled forward a little to be able to get her attention to ask her and she came unglued at me. She started screaming for me to stop and didn't I see the stop sign and laid over the hood of my car. I wasn't going to go anywhere to begin with I was trying to get her attention to ask about parking for handicapped before she made me turn into the area way up at the front of zoo. She scared the 3 small children I had with me to death practically. Talk about over reacting. I was just trying to get her attention to begin with so after she screamed at us and let the car next to us go I yelled "excuse me" out the window to get her attention again because she would not even listen to me when she was yelling at us. Once I told her what I wanted she had me go straight thru to the front and all was well. I realize that they are parking alot of cars but if I would have gotten an answer about the handicap parking in the beginning instead of 4 people later maybe this could have been avoided to begin with. Then when I get ready to leave I am going the 5 mph because of pedestrians in the road and I get this guy screaming at me to "come on, come on get moving" at the intersection of the park and Pennsylvania...I guess I was supposed to speed up and run over the people so he could get traffic moving better...I think that was the park police. Overall I had a good time and so did the kids but your employees need some training from the ACLU. We didn't ask to be handicapped and having to find out where to park is hard enough to do without the attitude of others adding to it.

Thank you, Rebecca Olger

CITIZEN CONTACT

When receiving comments or complaints from the public, complete as much of the following information as possible. This information will be passed along to the members of the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Date: July 25, 2008

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Contact by: phone letter other _____

Nature of complaint or compliment: (Include park name, date, and park employee contact, if appropriate.)

Officer Aldrich (Badge #7156) received a complaint that people were having sex in a van and indicated that it was [REDACTED]. He said no it was not him, he had just arrived to accompany his wife (who was already there) on a walk. Were driving Honda Odyssey 1995 (windows all around). She insisted and detained them in the park and called the Meridian Township Officer. She asked wife for driver's license, said it was a park violation to sit in car in the parking lot. She was waiting in her car for her husband and watching deer in the woods - didn't want to scare them. He drove a Lincoln Town Car. Meridian Township officer wanted [REDACTED] to sit in vehicle and when [REDACTED] asked if they were under arrest or if it was criminal to be in the park the officer responded "go sit in your car." [REDACTED] was not in the vehicle when the park police officer pulled into the park. [REDACTED] went and sat and he walked over to park police officer's car to look at both drivers' license. They were detained there for several hours. Arrived at park at 5:08pm and were allowed to leave at 17:40, about 5:40pm. Meridian Township returned license to wife with ticket for misuse of the park. When she asked how, he said just sitting in the park. She questioned it and he said she could take it up with the court.

Most upset with the accusation and the park police officer's demeanor. She had no conversation with them regarding the perceived incident she just assumed it was them. After she accused them and they denied, she ordered [REDACTED] to go sit in the car. [REDACTED] indicated she acted racist, noted this by how she greeted people coming out of the park. A week before there son was accosted by this officer with questions of "what are you doing here?" He had been meditating and doing yoga.

They are concerned that neighbors and their 7 grandchildren would hear of this inaccurate accusation. Mom is a Lansing school social worker and very concerned with her reputation.

What was the citizen told at the time of the contact?

Their comments will be distributed to the Director, the Park Manager, the Parks Police Supervisor, and the Parks & Recreation Commission. Parks Police Supervisor will contact to attempt to resolve situation next week.

Contact information taken by: Deb Bavery

Added to mailing list?

2008 School, Cub-Scout, Fee Waivers, and Non-profit Youth Group Shelter Usage - For No Charge

Approved Fee Waivers Requests

30th Judicial Circuit Court
 Eagle Project Ceremony
 Family Court Picnic
 Foster Family Picnic
 Great Lakes Recruiting Family Day
 Justice and Mental Health Organization
 Lansing Meps Organization Day
 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 Marine Corp Survivor picnic
 MI Hands & Voices
 MIS Departmental Picnic
 Senior Companion
 Senior Companion & Foster Grandparent
 US Army Recruiting
 US Marine Corps

Special Events - No Charge

Special Olympics - Polar Plunge
 Mason FFA Sugarbush
 Food & Fitness 5K, Lansing Dietetic Assoc
 Michigan Autism Society
 MSU ASCE
 CACS - Miles for Smiles
 City of Lansing Arbor Day
 CATA Rodeo
 Voyager Encampment
 Bath Community School Project Lakewell
 Day of Encampment
 Holt Midway Voyager
 Families of SMA Run, Walk and Roll
 MS Society Walk
 Mason Softball/Baseball Youth Club
 FGLDP Dog Paddle
 MADD - 5K

Wilcox Elementary Project lakewell
 Durand Voyageur Encampment
 Lansing Area Safety Council
 Hiawatha Elem Encampment
 Alaiedon Voyager Encampment
 Haslett Youth Baseball U-12
 Hannah's House 5K
 March for Meals-on-Wheels
 Run a lap for LAP
 St Martha's School Voyageur Encampment
 Optimist Sportsmen & Women for Youth Day
 Mayor's River Walk
 Work of Christ Community Day Camp
 Girls Softball
 Antioch 5K
 Cub Scout Pack 596 Campover
 MMBA Poker Run/ Picnic
 Capital Area United Way Labor Picnic
 Volunteer of America Triathlon
 National Kidney Foundation
 Lansing P&R Fish Camp
 Mason United Soccer Assn
 Lansing P&R Fish Camp Field Trip
 City of Lansing Kids Camp Field Trip
 5K OK Women Working Wonders
 Out of the Darkness / American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 Adoption Associates
 Make A Joyful Noise Bike-a-Thon
 MADD - Strides for Change 5k
 Mason HS X-Country
 Lansing Parks & Rec Kids Triathlon
 Sprint for Darfur
 Hike for Hospice
 Playmakers Autumn Classic
 ALS

Capital City River Run
 Central MI Baby Walk
 Mason HS X-Country
 Otto X-Country Invitational
 Miles for Medals / Special Olympics
 Humane Society Walk & Run
 1st Annual 10K DEAR Trail Run
 Girls on the Run

Scouts

Cub Scout Pack
 Cub Scout Pack 205
 Cub Scout Pack 3631
 Girl Scout Troop
 Girl Scout Troop 92
 Pack 007
 Pack 141
 Pack 742

Schools

Alaiedon/Midway Elementary
Bath Elementary
Beal City School
Beekman Center
Bennett Woods Elementary
Cavanaugh Elementary
Chippewa Middle School
City of East Lansing Schools
Colt Kindergarten
Cornell Elementary
Corunna Public Schools
Dimondale Elementary
Donley School
Dwight Rich Middle School
Early Childhood
Everett High School
Faith Lutheran Preschool
Flushing Community Schools
Forest View Elementary
Gardner Middle School
Haslett Middle School
Haslett/Williamston High School
Headstart School
Holt High School
Holy Family School in Grand Blanc
Imley City Community School
Kendon Elementary
Lansing Christian Preschool
Lansing School District
Leslie Middle School
Marble Elementary

Mason Public Schools
Montessori Children's House of Lansing
Moores Park Elementary
Mt. Hope Elementary
Murphy Elementary
Our Savior Lutheran School
Pattengill Middle School
Perry Elementary
Pleasant View Elementary
Precious People Preschool
Rayla Elementary
Shabazz Public School Academy
St. Luke Little Lamb's Preschool
St. Thomas Aquinas Kindergarten
Steele Elementary
Stockbridge Schools
Trinity Luther Preschool
Tucker Elementary
Wainwright Elementary
Waverly High School
Webberville High School
Wilcox Elementary
Willow Elementary
Windemere Park Charter

CITIZEN CONTACT

When receiving comments or complaints from the public, complete as much of the following information as possible. This information will be passed along to the members of the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Date: October 27, 2008
Name: Lana Dart
Address:
Phone:

Nature of complaint or compliment: (Include park name, date, and park employee contact, if appropriate.)

Is against the disc golf course at Rayner Park. Stated that the woodlot should remain as a natural setting.

If the county is supporting protecting Lake Lansing North's land, it seems like we should be protecting Rayner Park as well.

She has worked in the past to support Rayner, last year in particular with the pond clean up and in past years about the ball fields.

Thinks this project would be better suited elsewhere, and does not think Rayner Park is the place for a disc golf course.

What was the citizen told at the time of the contact?

Her comments would be forwarded to the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission.

From: "Pete Barnum" <pbarnum@mason.k12.mi.us>
To: <parcs@ingham.org>
Date: 10/27/08 4:46 PM
Subject: Dear Parks Board,

Dear Parks Board,

I have been informed of the idea of utilizing part of the woodlot at Raynor Park for disc golf. I understand that there would only be 4 - 6 holes in the woodlot. I have not rushed to judgement on this and realize there are pros and cons to any change. This however I know for sure. It will have a significant negative impact on the woodlot. That is clear in the pictures. Soil compaction on fairways and surrounding the holes kills vegetation. I am concerned for native wildflowers that rely on loose uncompacted soil found on the forest floor. It would also have a negative aesthetic impact on the woodlot as well. There are no other opportunities available for passive recreation like this to the residents of Mason. I also don't believe that having the holes in the woodlot would help more people to use the woods for the purpose of being connected with nature nor an appreciation of nature. I think those using the are would simply be playing disc golf and destroying habitat.

Please consider these comments at your meeting and while making the decision on the future of the disc golf course.

Sincerely,

Pete Barnum
Mason FFA Advisor