



GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

Get away. Right away.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

In 2018 the Genesee County Parks celebrated 50 years of celebrating the best of nature, 50 years of preserving our Great Lakes history and heritage, 50 years of offering a tremendous recreational infrastructure to the people of Genesee County (and beyond). And, of course, 50 years of support from the people of Genesee County, who've made it possible to create, protect, nurture and grow the biggest, most diverse and best county park system in Michigan. But however important the first 50 years have been . . . we always remember that 50 years is just the beginning. They're our parks. They're your parks. The Genesee County Parks.

PARKS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

MISSION: Genesee County Parks is dedicated to quality recreational opportunities for everyone and preservation of natural resources.

Vision: We see, anticipate and lead with integrity of character and create positive change.

Consistency: We maintain a standard of serving the community and doing business that treats all the same.

Customer Service: We strive to provide our guests with a quality experience from all interactions in our parks.

Integrity: We can be trusted to do what we say we are going to do with consistency, character and transparency.

Stewardship: We are committed to the responsible management of our natural resources.

Teamwork: We recognize the strength in our collective knowledge and skills to provide a greater service to our community and guests.

We welcomed a new Director!

Barry M. June

OUR 2018 COMMISSIONERS

Joe Krapohl

(Citizen Representative)

James Washington

(Citizen Representative)

Ted Henry

(County Commissioner)

Mike Lynch

(Citizen Representative)

Bryant Nolden

(County Commissioner)

Jeff Wright

(Drain Commissioner)

Cloyce Dickerson

(Road Commission Designee)

David Martin

(County Commissioner)

Mike Keeler

(Citizen Representative)

Gloria Nealy

(Planning Commission Designee)

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS BY THE NUMBERS

OUR ACRES OF PARKS


Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission has expanded for the first time in over 30 years with its newest addition, Atlas County Park. This acquisition of property in the southeastern corner of the county allows for another 155 acres of beautiful hiking, fishing and paddling.

Genesee Recreation Area:

4460 Acres

Holloway Regional Park:

5860 Acres



Linden, For-Mar, Buell and Flushing:

950 Acres

City of Flint Parks Partnership:

483.5 Acres

Total Land:

11,270 Acres



WATERS AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION

Mott Lake:

650 Acres

Holloway Reservoir:

1975 Acres

Buell Lake:

178 Acres

Flint River:

29 Miles

NUMBER OF LOCATIONS

24 PARKS

15 FISHING SITES



NUMBER OF STAFF



TOTAL EMPLOYEES IN 2018	463
TOTAL SEASONAL	385
TOTAL FULL TIME	25
SUMMER YOUTH INITIATIVE	44
MAINTENANCE	107
CROSSROADS VILLAGE	114
HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD	9
FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM	21
MOUNDS	4
TOLLBOOTH	6



WOLVERINE
CAMPGROUNDS

28

PARK RANGERS

52

41,432

Program Participants

559

Adaptive Recreation Programs

54

Special events booked in 2017.

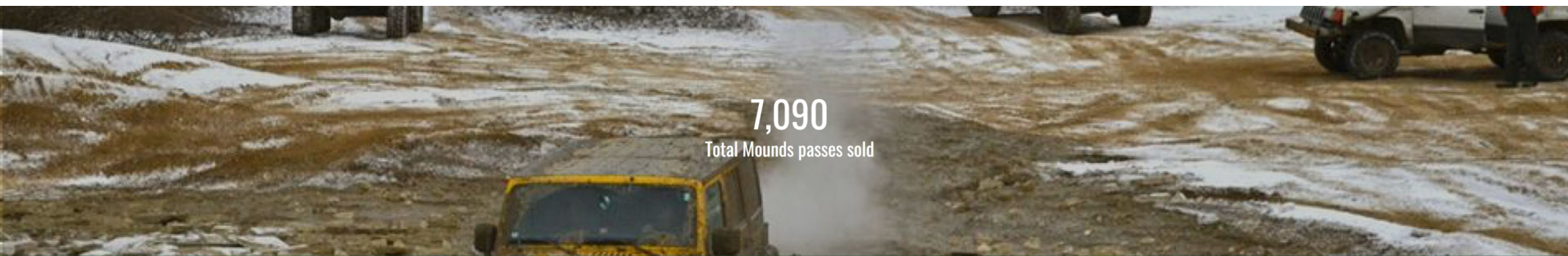
That includes BMX events, horse shows, 5K run/walks, fundraisers, fishing tournaments, RC boats, disc golf, celebrations and meetings, a tractor drive, the Genesee County Fair, and the Warrior Dash.

5,736

Total boat launch passes sold

10,202

Nights reserved for camping



7,090

Total Mounds passes sold

FOR-MAR EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum continued to offer a wide variety of educational nature programs to participants in 2018. Programs included everything from weekly children's programming, event rentals, birthday parties, public events and programs and field trips at For-Mar to For-Mar on the Road programs in schools and at community events. Also included were For-Mar on the Road programs at other park locations, community gardens and adaptive recreation programs at For-Mar and at Senior Centers and care facilities. Participants had the opportunity to learn about nature, gardening, animals, plants, trees, weather, birds, bugs reptiles and so much more through hands on activities with engaging naturalist and horticulturalist staff.

FOR-MAR VISITORS

Location	# of Visitors
For-Mar Visitor's Center	38,540
DeWaters Education Center	372
Treehouse	20,152
Total For-Mar Visitors	59,064

FOR-MAR PROGRAMS

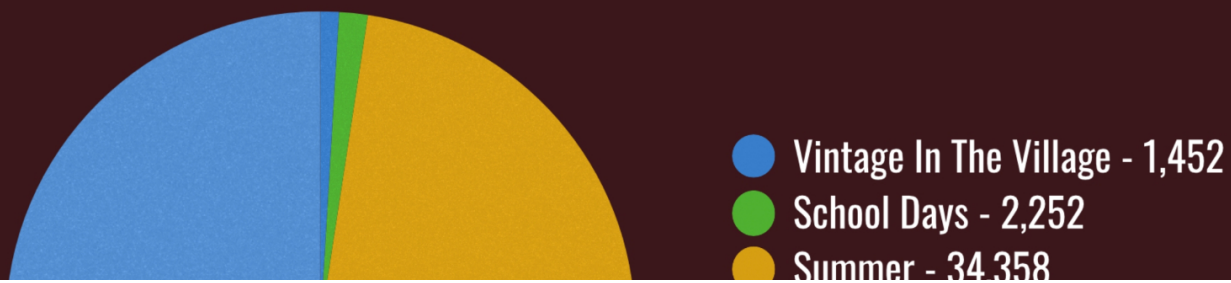
Program	# of Programs	# of Participants
Naturalist Programs	1,022	19,707

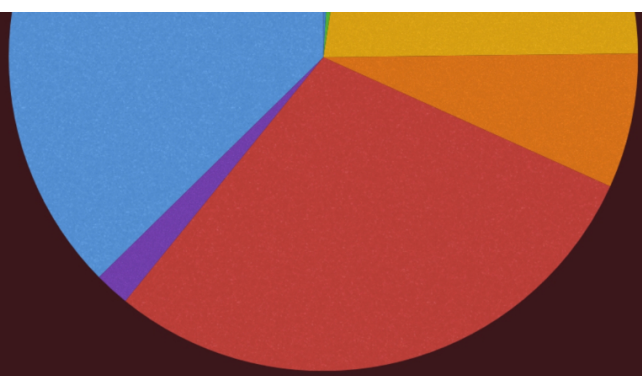
Horticulture Programs	22	93
Adaptive Recreation Programs	559	5,094 with 1,648 caregivers
Total For-Mar Programs	1,603	26,542

FOR-MAR ON THE ROAD

Program	# of Programs	# of Participants
In-School Programs	276	6,433
Community Events	87	13,750
Private Paid Programs	299	5,479
Park Programs	460	2,548
For-Mar on the Road Total	1,122	28,210

CROSSROADS VILLAGE ATTENDANCE





- Summer - 8,100
- Day Out With Thomas - 10,642
- Halloween - 44,611
- Ladies Night Out - 2,774
- Christmas - 57,315

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

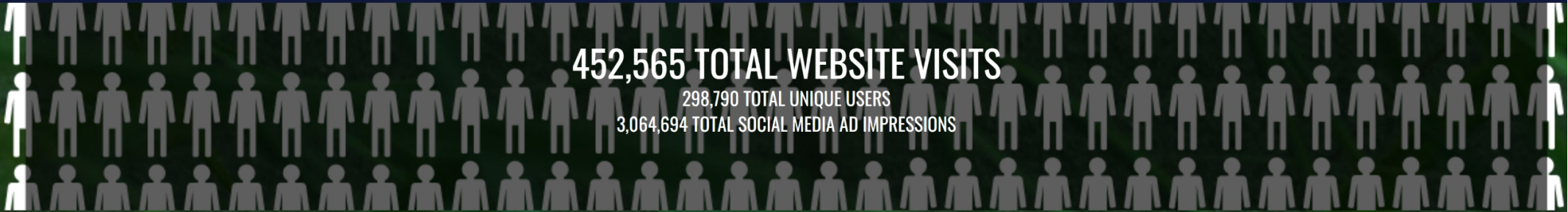


54,400

Total Number of Volunteer Hours

\$1,342,000

Value of Volunteer Hours



452,565 TOTAL WEBSITE VISITS

298,790 TOTAL UNIQUE USERS

3,064,694 TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA AD IMPRESSIONS

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

Facebook: 78,231

Instagram: 1,030

Twitter: 2,469



KEEP GENESEE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Founded in 2004 as Michigan's first affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Keep Genesee County Beautiful (KGCB) has been honored with the President's Circle Award for ten consecutive years. And in 2016 Keep Genesee County Beautiful became a program of the Genesee County Parks.

KGCB works with community members and organizations to enhance parks and open spaces throughout the county, helping make – and keep – them beautiful, clean and sustainable. KGCB is also a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability throughout Genesee County, with programs that include: Working with the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission and the City of Flint to hold spring and fall household hazardous waste collections, offering education about recycling throughout the community and providing recycling bins to Flint residents. In the wake of Flint's water crisis, KGCB has been a valuable resource for residents looking for information about recycling water bottles and used water filter cartridges.

COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

111,480
pounds of garbage collected

62 of 70
public spaces and parks owned by the City of Flint have been adopted

151,240
pounds of yard waste collected

571
shrubs, plants, flowers and bulbs planted

new maintained gardens, green spaces and gateways through Cultivating Our Community Program

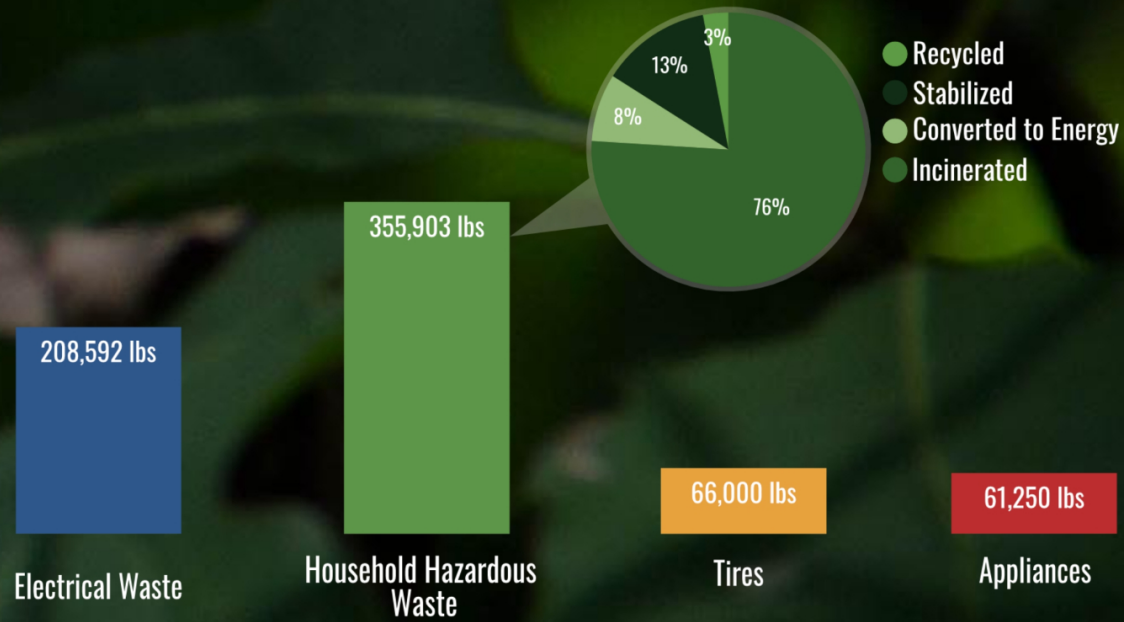
36,000

9-Volt batteries from Keep America Beautiful distributed for fire safety

430

new signups for City of Flint resident recycling

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ITEMS DROPPED OFF FOR DISPOSAL



NEW PROJECTS, EVENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

For-Mar Updates

Replaced trail culverts through For-Mar
New flooring in the DeWaters Building. Dewaters was cleaned and began transformation into an early learners educational center.
The drive in from Potter Road was paved, the parking lot was seal coated and city water was added to the DeWaters building as part of the Karegnondi Water Supply pipeline project that crossed through For-Mar.

Atlas County Park, parking lot construction and grand opening.

Added water hookups to Wolverine Campground pull-through sites, built a new exit road and dump stations.

ADA improvements at Bluebell Beach: accessible walkways, beach pads and transfer stations

Removal of Hamilton and Fabri Dams as part of the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project

CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD UPDATES



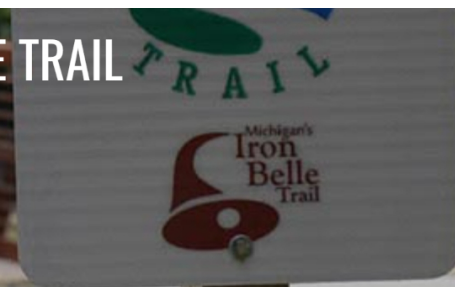
RESTORATION OF ENGINE 152

The Huckleberry Railroad was busy this year with completing the restoration work on Engine 152. Work on Engine 152 was made possible thanks to a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Refaced Saulter Log Cabin
Painted the Buzzell House and Mason Tavern
Finished roof work on Calkins Barn and Atlas Mill
New fencing and windows
Brick work and new roof on Cafe, Opera House and General Store Buildings on Main Street

FLINT RIVER TRAIL AND IRON BELLE TRAIL

The Genesee County Parks trail program continued in a big way in 2018. A new section of the Iron Belle Trail opened connecting the Parks Administrative Office to Vassar Rd. In addition, a section running through Chevy Commons was completed connecting the Iron-Belle/Flint River Trails to the Genesee Valley Trail.



RANGER HIGHLIGHTS

We've increased seasonal Rangers from 40 to 50 people, added 2 full time Rangers, added patrols to Flint River Trail and adjoining City of Flint park areas.

OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT

ECONOMIC IMPACT THE PARKS COMMISSION HAS

\$18,844,547

The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission makes a significant economic impact to the local community through tourism, local purchasing and local payroll. PROS Consulting LLC performed an [economic impact analysis](#) to measure the economic benefit from the operations of the Parks Commission. Tourism functions, Commission operations, and the value of volunteer services were analyzed.

TAX/MILLAGE REVENUE

\$6,225,504

**Accommodations Tax:
\$385,568**



Grants List

Keep Genesee County Beautiful

Ruth Mott Foundation	\$336,127
HHW	\$26,167
Ruth Mott Foundation	\$88,000

\$450,294

State of Michigan

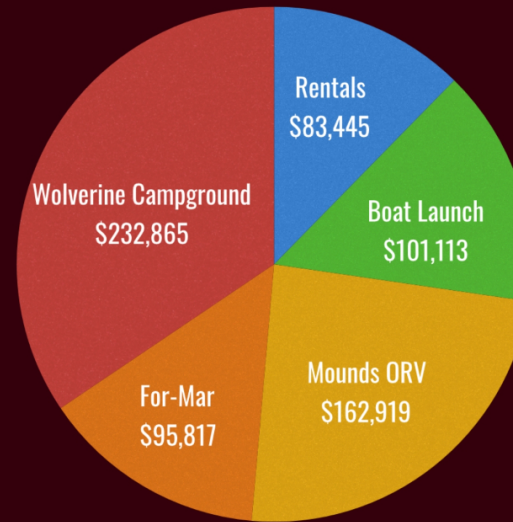
Mounds	\$50,000
DNR Trust Fund 16-0102	\$300,000
Iron Belle Trail 17-01	\$25,000
Dam Management 16-003	\$3,000,000
DNR Trust Fund 16-0205	\$6,056,000
DNR Trust Fund 16-0208	\$400,000
DNR Trust Fund 16-0101	\$545,200

Miscellaneous

Serra Family Foundation	\$5,000
EPA	\$533,280
Loeb Charitable Trust	\$20,000
Community Foundation	\$12,000
Friends of For-Mar Foundation	\$10,000
Linden, Argentine, Fenton and Fenton TWP Trail	\$16,772
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	\$1,400,000
USTA	\$500
Michigan Parks and Recreation Association	\$5,000

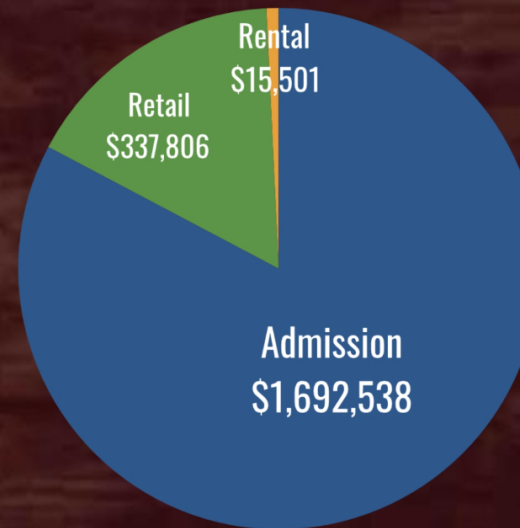
2017 EARNED INCOME

Total: \$676,159



CROSSROADS VILLAGE REVENUE

Total:
\$2,045,845



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"We love our parks". If you are wondering just how we here at the Genesee County Parks managed to get all of the work done in this report, that's the answer. It's our love of our parks and our love for our community that gets us up and keeps us going in all kinds of weather, all year long. And, of course, it's not just us. Our tremendously generous Genesee County residents, volunteers, public and private partners, and local philanthropic community are all the not-so-secret ingredients to our success. We are grateful to you and we are grateful for you.

Barry M. June, Director
Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission



A Commission of Genesee County