

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

2023 ACTION PLAN



GENESEE
COUNTY
PARKS



ANNUAL REPORT



- As the largest County Park system in the state, we offer the most diverse outdoor opportunities of any County Park system in Michigan.
- Primarily resource based. We hold 91% of public land in Genesee County available for outdoor recreation.
- Our human capital makes our impact possible.



Mission statement

"Dedicated to quality recreation opportunities for everyone and preservation of natural resources"

2023 PLANS

NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- **Flint Rock & Gem Club:** Rock and Gem Show featuring exhibitors/vendors from across the region.
- **Touch A Truck-** Showcase of vehicles families can interact with, including Parks Equipment, First Responder Vehicles, Community Support (buses, waste management, post office), For Fun (motorcycles, monster truck, Oscar Meijer), Survival Flight, and Military Vehicles.
- **Huckleberry Fitness & Fun-** Obstacle course, healthy eating, yard games, community partners for resources/activities/giveaways.
- **Marvelous Magic Weekend-** Strolling and scheduled magical performances, magic workshops for families, Meet and Greet with the performers, and magical giveaways.
- **Crossroads After Dark-** Main Street Social hour, Masquerade theme, tickets to include entertainment and food.



2023 PLANS

NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- **1st Annual- Nature Literacy Day**
March is reading month with Literacy Based Hikes and Nature Story Times. *March 4*
- **NEW Free Fishing Weekend Program-** New Special Event we are hosting with the UAW Local 659 and Union Sportsman's Alliance. Free Fishing and Outdoor Recreation Day at Bluegill Boat Launch. We will be inviting several outdoor groups that will show different outdoor recreation skills including kayaking, fishing, etc. *June 10*
- Expand programming at Bluegill Boat Launch to promote youth outdoor recreation.



2023 PLANS

NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- Work with KGCB to bring For-Mar Nature in the Parks programming to 4 City of Flint Parks. Mott, Sarvis, Dewey & Kearsley.
- Meet with The Greater Flint Arts Council to discuss '**Music in the Park**' programming in parks this season.
- Meet with the CRIM to do a **Mindfulness in the Parks** series (Hiking and Yoga) in different park locations.
- Work with Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation (DCER) to start an **Adventure Camp for Middle School and High School students** to introduce them to different recreational opportunities in the parks.



2023 PLANS

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Mud Girl. (E.A. Cummings Center)
- Hydroplane Boat Races. (Marine Prop Riders Hydroplane Club)
- Noseworks Competition-Dog Competition for scent detection. (Crossroads Village)
- First Try Triathlon. (Linden County Park)
- Fishing Tournaments.
 - Holloway Regional Walleye Tournament (Walleye Pike Boat Launch)
 - 43rd Annual Bass Tournament (Walleye Pike Boat Launch)



2023 PLANS

ASSET ESSENTIALS

Asset Essentials is a program that helps to optimize the use and availability of physical assets, as well as facilitates the processes of maintenance operations.

- Create a preventative maintenance schedule for long-term planning of parking lot resurfacing.
- Create a preventative maintenance schedule for long-term planning for boardwalk replacement at CRV.
- Implement our current radio tracking method into Asset Essentials.
- Continue to expand on asset information for our fleet vehicles.

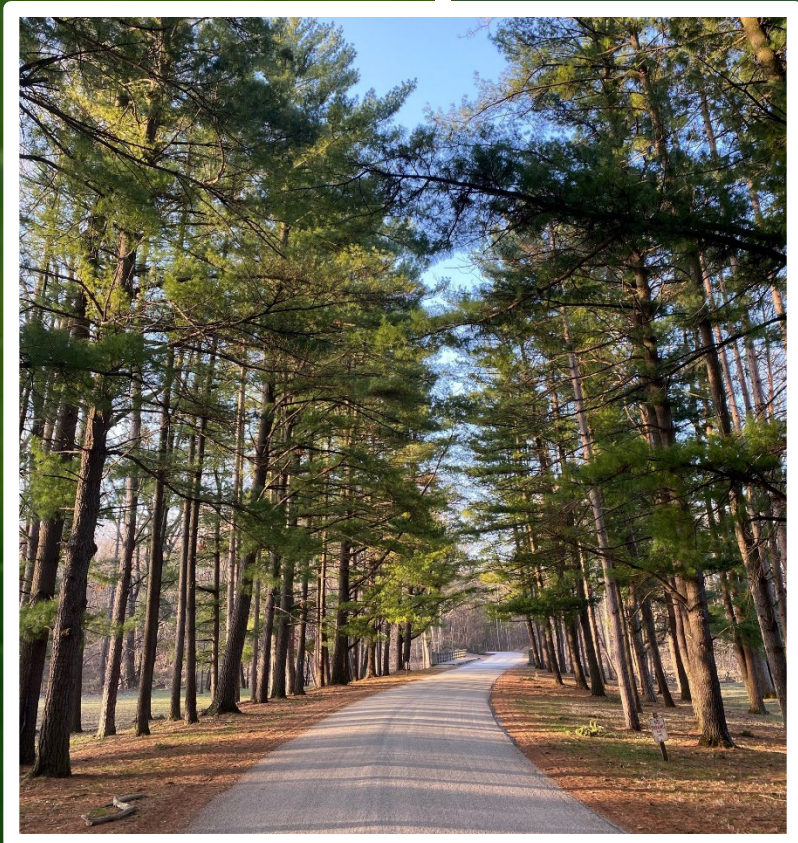


2023 PLANS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

RICHFIELD COUNTY PARK

- A new Maintenance Building has been constructed to store and maintain equipment used at Richfield Park. This new building replaces an old house that has been used as the Maintenance Building since we inherited the Park from the Road Commission in the late 1960's. This facility will give us some indoor storage for equipment used at Richfield Park as well as some space to store and work on heavy equipment.
- Refurbishment of the 1937 Road Bridge across the Flint River. Including spaul repairs of the deck and walkway as well as installation of new epoxy deck coating.



2023 PLANS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

LINDEN COUNTY PARK

- Resurface Tennis Courts and restripe for dual use as a Tennis/Pickleball Court.

ATLAS COUNTY PARK

- Acquisition of additional 50 acres to enlarge park to 205 acres with a connection to Gale Rd. and the Iron Belle Trail. This will add additional frontage on the Atlas Mill Pond.



2023 PLANS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

BRANCH ROAD FISHING SITE

- Tear down old sign shop on Branch rd. (Completed)
- Rough grading has started on the site of the old sign shop for a new fishing parking lot that will feature a vault toilet and walkway across Branch Rd. to a relocated fishing dock.
- Construct using funds from a MDNR Trust Fund Grant.



CARR ROAD FISHING SITE /HOLLOWAY DAM

- Construct a gabion basket retaining wall to prevent further erosion of parking lot.

2023 PLANS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

WALLEYE PIKE BOAT LAUNCH

- Extend one dock 15ft based on patron requests.
- Resurface and paint 2 docks and replace bumpers.
- Complete chip seal resurfacing of Parking lot.
- Paint and repair building.



BLUEGILL BOAT LAUNCH

- Remove fallen trees obstructing boaters around Mott Lake.

2023 PLANS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

ELBA EQUESTRIAN AND CAMPGROUND

- Redesign, enlarge and relocate campsites. This will offer better access to trailheads and more room for campers and horses.
- New signage throughout the park.
- New fencing at trail head.
- Trim and improve trail based on patron feedback.
- New firepits and picket posts as needed.
- Create a designated day use parking area.



2023 PLANS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

BLUEBELL BEACH

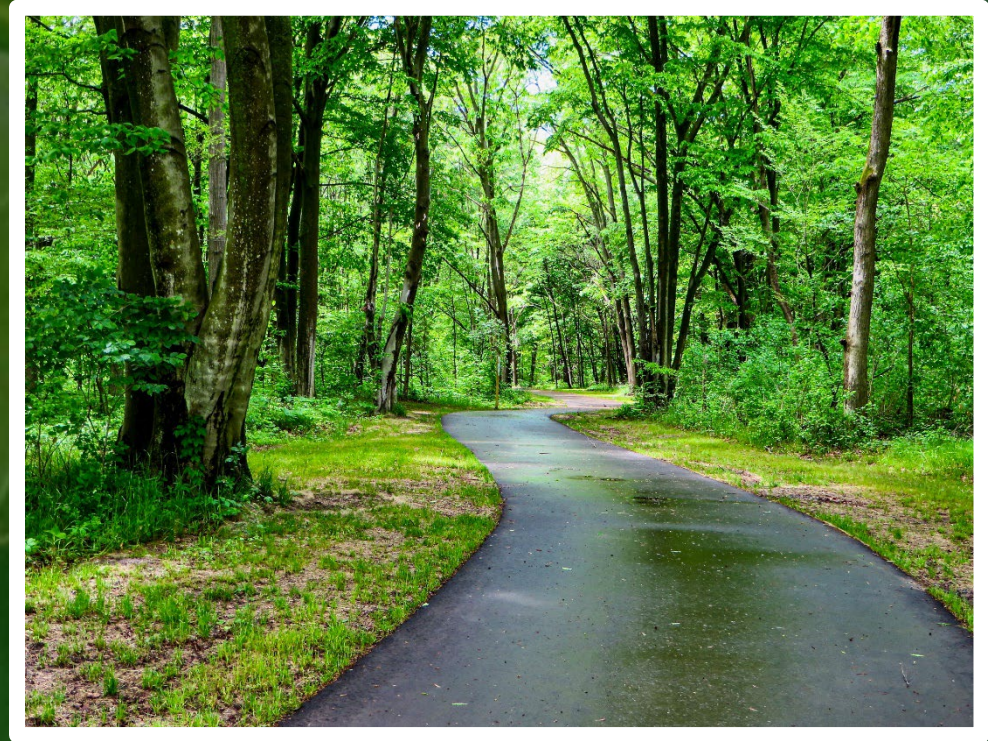
- Replace Sewage Pump Station equipment.

IRON BELLE TRAIL EXTENSION

- Construct an extension of the Iron Belle Trail in Atlas Township to the border of Grand Blanc Township.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- New flat roof and skylight over the front desk/foyer area.



2023 PLANS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

FLINT STATE PARK

- Establish and Construct.
- Long term agreement with County Parks to Maintain the park.

ALL PARKS

- Improve park entrances, roadways and parking lots to increase curb appeal and improve safety.
- Be proactive rather than reactive with the replacement of County-owned playground equipment increasing the safety of playgrounds.
- Use new side extendable arm Rotary Brush Cutter to maintain and clear sight distances on roads and trailways.



2023 PLANS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

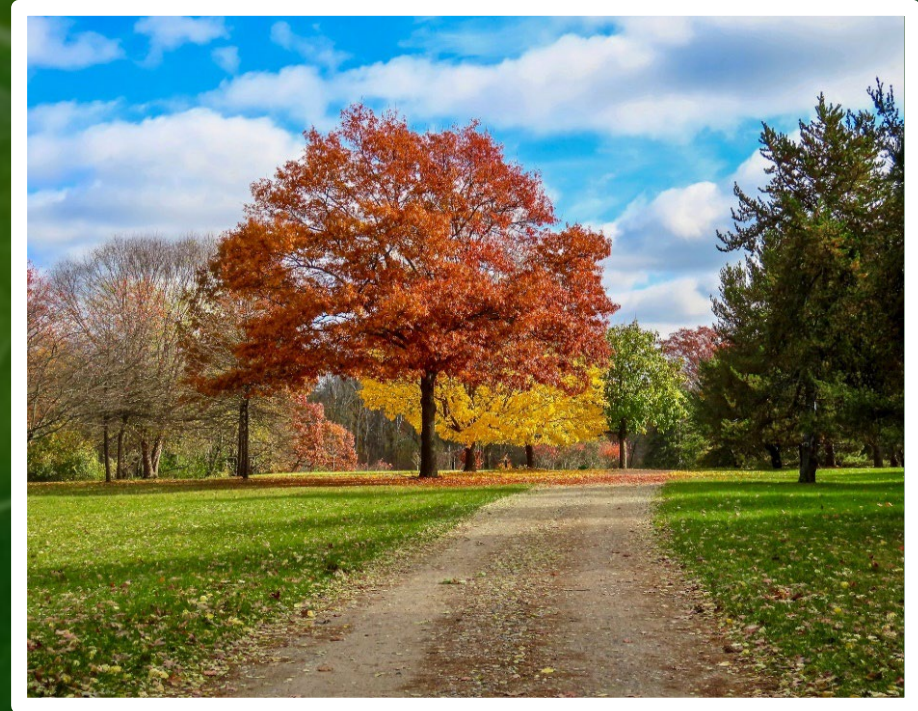
- Complete the Master Plan for For-Mar.
- Develop the For-Mar amphitheater which will be located near the treehouse.
- Complete the Geology Garden project in front of the Visitor Center by adding signage and educational lessons for active and passive recreational opportunities.
- Complete the remodel of the Visitor Center by adding a forest habitat highlighting forest wildlife and the arboretum.



2023 PLANS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- Together with the Marketing team and Deputy Director create a sponsorship process, and seek sponsors for large events, projects and programming in the parks.
- Expand Spanish interpretive & translation services to parks programs and continue improving language accessibility in outreach and semi-permanent exhibits.
- Develop a series of school/large group programs that will serve multiple classrooms at one time (assembly style).



2023 PLANS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- Continue removal and treatment of Black Locust trees on For-Mar property.
- Continue maintenance of trails and the Sugar Bush stand at For-Mar.
- Continue to replace cultivars with native plant material in the Butterfly House. The goal is to become a natural habitat for our native butterflies.
- Revamp garden beds around the Genesee County Parks Administration Building. (remove old herbaceous material, prune trees, and add low maintenance native plants).



2023 PLANS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE

- Develop a venue promotional packet to attract new events.
- Increase marketing: Community outreach, Onsite visits, social media update photos and videos and create new rack cards to send to schools.
- Clean and organize all locations: Artifact collections, photographs, tools/supplies (an effort to repurpose items for activities, make better use of space, use items for new displays, and make tools and materials more accessible to staff for demonstrations and interactive programs)
- Remove hazardous trees and replant new ones (Made possible by a donation from the Flint Antique Club).
- Lakeside Grill (New siding and paint)



2023 PLANS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE

- Finish restoration of T.N. North & Son Bank building-rebuild sign.
- Vintage Rides: Repair and refinish Gondolas, Repair the star light on the Superior Wheel and complete repairs to the Venetian Swings.
- Complete new Post and Beam Implement Shed: 16'x48' shed, built with lumber that was cut at the CRV sawmill, built in the style of the time period.
- Assess and plan for Boardwalk repairs.
- Debut newly restored Stagecoach, Dirt Wagon, Manure Spreader and Luggage Cart.



2023 PLANS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

Tentative Schedule

- May 19: Headstart Day
 - May 24: Senior Power Day
 - May 25-26: School Days
 - May 27-29: Honoring American Vets (Opening Weekend)
 - June 3: Genesee County Day (Free Admission)
 - June 10-11: Crossroads Village Tractor Show
 - June 17: Science Day
 - June 24-25: **NEW** Huckleberry Fitness & Fun
 - July 1: **NEW** Touch a Truck
 - July 4: Independence Day Celebration Ice Cream Social
 - July 7: **NEW** (after hours) Christian Cruisers Car Show TBD
 - July 15-16: Gold Rush Weekend
 - July 22-23: **NEW** Marvelous Magic Weekend
 - July 29-30: Mystery Weekend
 - August 5-6: Railfans Weekend
 - August 12-13: Apprentice Weekend
 - August 18-20: Day Out With Thomas (Tickets now on sale)
 - August 25-27: Day Out with Thomas
 - September 2-4: End of Summer (Closing Weekend)
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- Halloween Ghost & Goodies: Oct 7-8, 13-15, 20-22, 25-31.
 - Ladies Night Out: November 18.
 - Christmas at Crossroads: Nov 24-26, Dec 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 20-23, 27-30.



FUTURE EVENT IDEAS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- Develop and Grow Crossroads After Dark: After hours events with changing themes.
- Develop Day Camps/Workshops.
- Prepare for Crossroads 50th Anniversary: Displays with highlights through the years, rededication ceremony, collector's items, throwback advertising, assess the potential of adding a new building.
- Haunted Crossroads: Develop a haunted trail in addition to our Ghost & Goodies program, develop haunted tours that can be offered throughout the year.
- Live Kids Entertainment: Continue to reach out to travelling shows/exhibits.
- Concerts: Local and National Acts (In contact with John King, country artist from Nashville.)



2023 PLANS

HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- New storage building for passenger cars. This will drastically reduce weather damage and allow staff to catch up on coach refurbishment. (Completed)
- New Passenger Trucks-Will allow us to place all coaches in service and provide us with a spare set.
- Enlargement/Refurbishment of the Coach Shop.
- Annual tie replacement.



2023 PLANS

HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- Purchase of Jackson 900 Track Tamper-This will allow staff to lift and level the railroad providing a smoother and safer ride for customers and equipment.
- Village siding extension to maintain access to the railroad while the train set is at the Depot.
- Replacement of couplers/draft gear-the current ones are original and have reached the end of their useful life.



2023 PLANS

HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- Disassemble and inspect Steam Locomotive #464, utilizing a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

This activity will determine the portions of the locomotive that need to be rebuilt before it can be returned to active service.



2023 PLANS

THE MOUNDS

- Continue trail maintenance, spot checking in the summer and focused trimming in the fall.
- Expand interest in the Thanksgiving Day event and update procedures (such as use of the Vassar Rd. gate to alleviate long entrance lines).
- Update and improve the Mounds branded items for sale.
- Explore sponsorship opportunities.



2023 PLANS

WOLVERINE CAMPGROUND

- Complete 50 new full hook up campsites and 3 new shower restroom facilities.
- Plan ADA friendly campsites near new restroom facilities and ADA beach picnic overlook.
- Install an 8-unit kayak rental station.
- Extend expanded wi-fi services to reach camp sites 1-80 by May 1.
- New dock at Boat Launch.



2023 PLANS

WOLVERINE CAMPGROUND

- Install backup generators at Registration Building.
- Expand lineup of 2023 campground programming-including Halloween activities for continued growth of 2 weekends in October (Halloween Camping).
- Continue to improve campsite layouts-adjust/replace firepits, pour cement pads and plant/remove trees.
- Update reservation software to include images of all campsites online.
- New Pavilion.



2023 PLANS

PARK RANGERS

- Hire and train civilian Marine-Patrol Rangers for weekend patrol at Holloway Reservoir and Walleye Pike Boat Launch.
- Increase patrol of trails with the Ranger bicycle and Vespa.
- Find creative ways to patrol equestrian areas at Elba Equestrian Area, Hogbacks and Cummings Center. (Enforce ATV and dog regulations without interrupting the activities of park patrons.)
- Create an operational plan for Rangers to patrol the new State Park.



2023 PLANS

KEEP GENESEE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

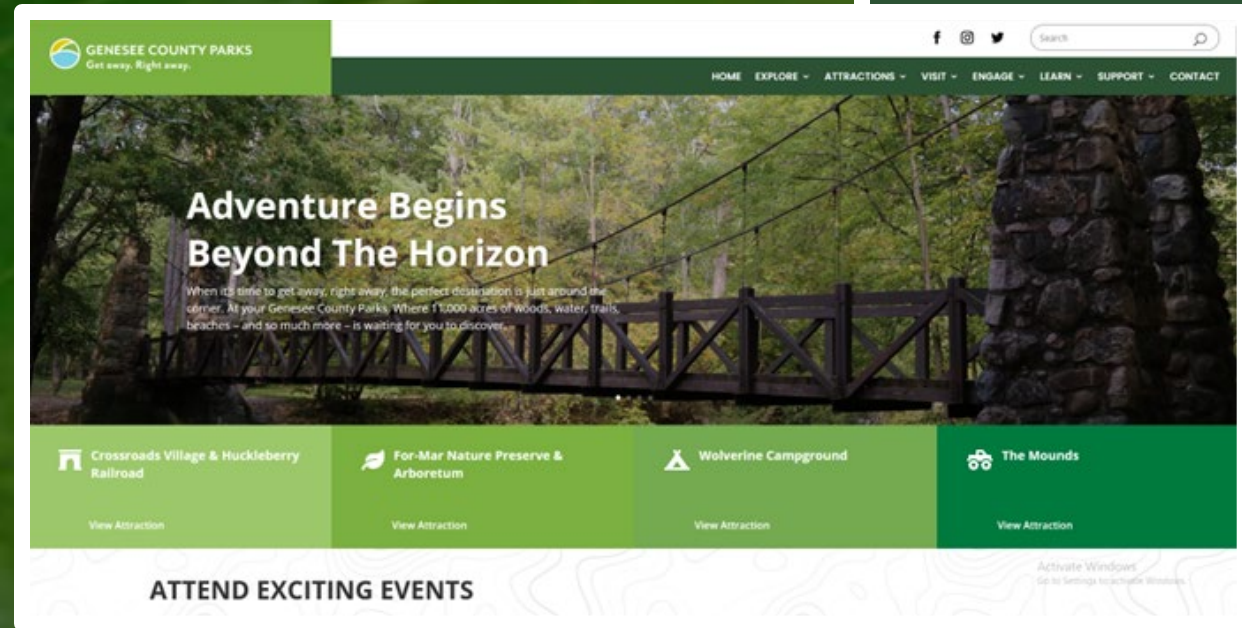
- Assist the City of Flint with the planning and implementation of capital improvement projects funded by ARPA dollars.
- Collaborate with local funders, community organizations and residents to increase usage of Flint's public spaces through programming.
- Continue planning for long term maintenance of City of Flint public spaces.
- Continue the overhaul and renovation of gateway and median gardens in the City of Flint to support traffic safety.
- Recruit, train and support volunteers working on public space projects.



2023 PLANS

MARKETING

- Complete website refresh. (Completed)
- Continue signage replacement.
- Add new position-
CRV Event Coordinator.
- Update photo library.
- Create Media Kits for revenue generating facilities.
- Work with the CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau) to market revenue generating facilities.
- Continue to build partnerships with Community members to help expand Genesee County Parks programming.



2024 & BEYOND PLANS

- Realignment of Shop trackage at Huckleberry Railroad.
- Refurbishment of Richfield Bridge and Pavilions.
- Refurbishment of Flushing Pavilions.
- Refurbishment of Linden Pavilion 1.
- Chip seal Bluebell Beach parking lots.
- Replace splashpad at Bluebell Beach.
- Open concession stand at Walleye Pike Boat Launch.



QUESTIONS
OR
COMMENTS?

