

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

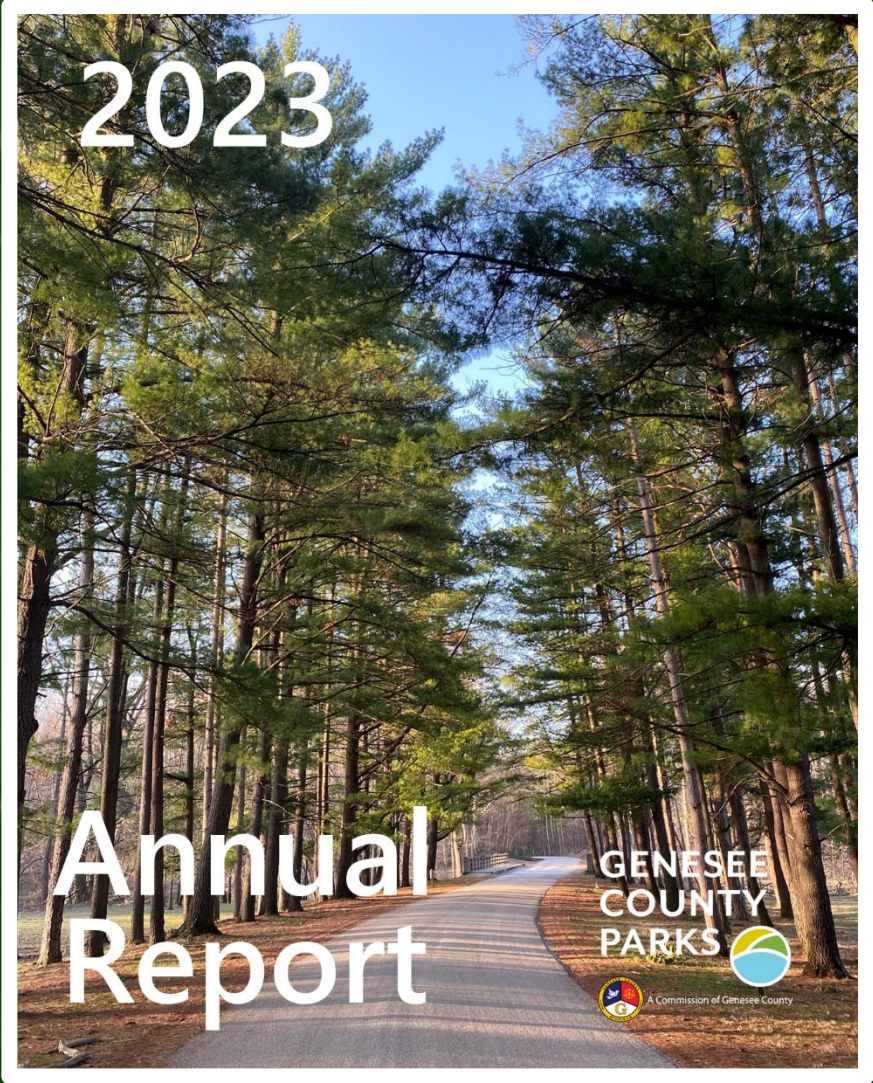
2024 ACTION PLAN



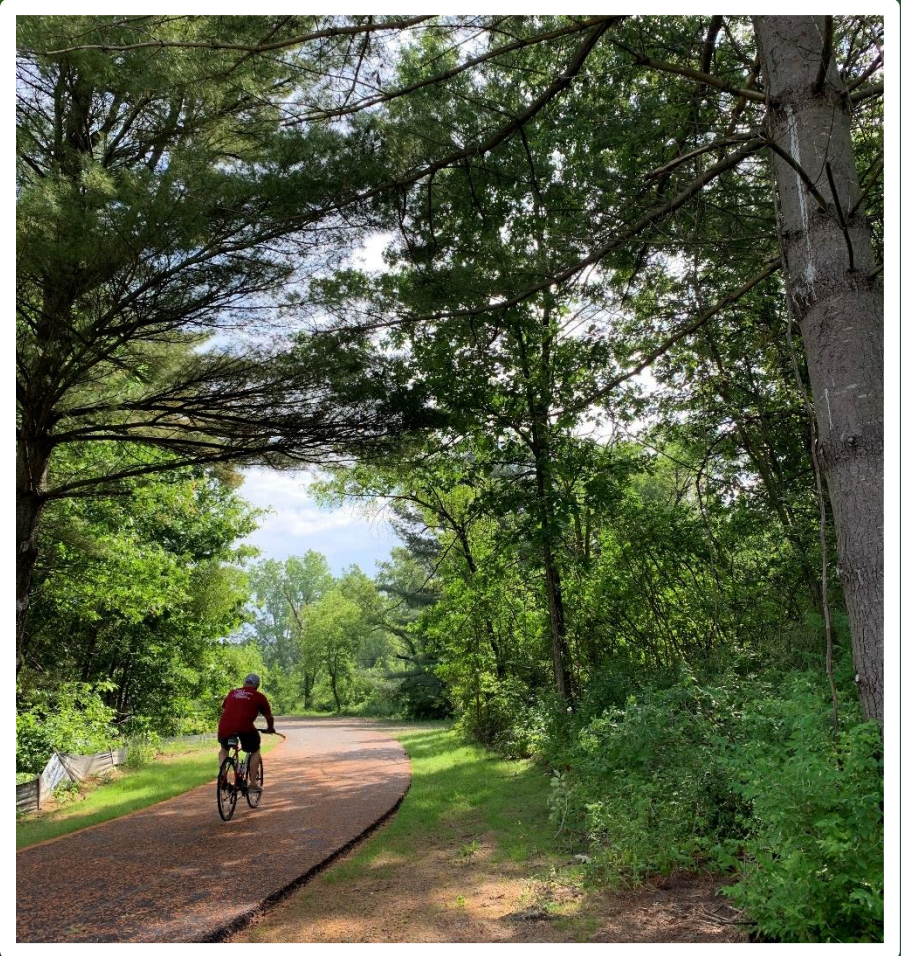
GENESEE
COUNTY
PARKS



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 own or maintain 91% of public land in Genesee County available for outdoor recreation.
- Our human capital makes our impact possible.



Mission statement

"Genesee County Parks is dedicated to quality recreation opportunities for everyone and preservation of natural resources."

2024 PLANS

NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- **Touch A Truck-** Year 2 is a 2-day event, with reduced admission. This event showcases vehicles families can interact with, including Parks Equipment, First Responder Vehicles, Community Support (buses, waste management, post office), For Fun (Mystery Machine, Jurassic Terror, Ghostbusters and Fast Action Motorsports RC Racing), and Military Vehicles.
- **Halloween Race-** 5k race, October 26. This race will be part of the Crim series of races.
- **Wine Tasting Event-** After hours, exclusive smaller event. July 19.
- **Curious at Crossroads – Oddities Festival**
This program is being revamped with the addition of more vendors, authors, and podcasters.
- **Girl Scout Badge Day Program –** Craft and Tinker Badge – June 13; June 20; June 27



2024 PLANS

NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- Licensed summer camp at For-Mar for 6 weeks this summer.
- Partnership with the DNR | Nature Awaits Program and the Stepping Stone program for community programs. Both focus on getting people into green spaces, specifically programming at the new state park.
- Art Festival at For-Mar (Flora and Fauna art in the park)
- Partnering with the FIM to offer a series of music in the parks at For-Mar and other park locations.
- Continue partnered pop-up programming on Wednesdays.



2024 PLANS

NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- Nature Literacy Day-year 2, will be around Earth Day so we can hopefully avoid a snow storm.
- Free Fishing Day again this year with the UAW and Sportsman's Alliance and many other partners.
- Wilderness Inquiry canoe program returning the week before Memorial Day.
- Continue Project Search for a second year with the hope of expanding into more departments.
- Continued partnership and work with the FRWC in their Green school mentoring program and monitoring program.



2024 PLANS

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Mud Girl. (E.A. Cummings Center)
- Mott Lake Regatta
Hydroplane Boat Races. (Marine Prop Riders Hydroplane Club)
- Noseworks Competition-Dog Competition for scent detection. (Crossroads Village)
- Fishing Tournaments.
 - Holloway Regional Walleye Tournament (Walleye Pike Boat Launch)
 - 44th Annual Bass Tournament (Walleye Pike Boat Launch)
- Midwest Invitational Rodeo at E.A. Cummings Center with Buffalo Soldier program at Crossroads Village.



2024 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 Park winterization procedures.
- Create a preventative maintenance schedule for park setup procedures.
- Continue to expand on asset information for our fleet vehicles.



2024 PLANS

BUELL LAKE

- Finalize tee and basket placements.
- Create walking trail around the new Buell Lake Disc Golf Course. New informational signage is part of this project.
- Introduce this new recreational feature through an ABC12 commercial, as well as social media and radio in the Spring.



2024 PLANS

BLUEGILL BOAT LAUNCH

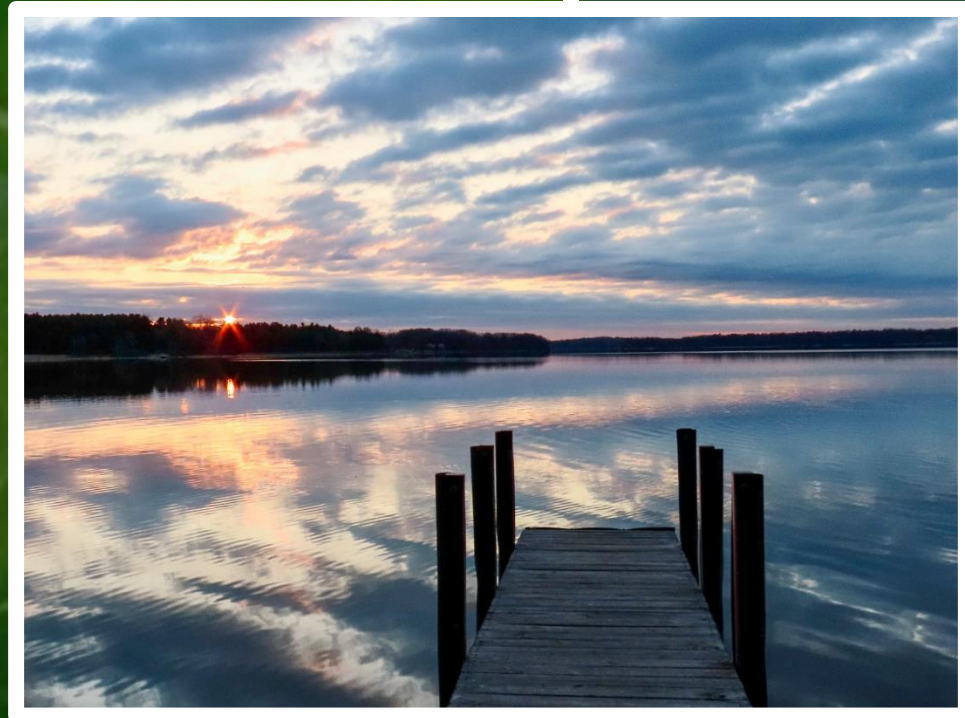
- Installation of an invasive species station.
- Build a pavilion with donation from the UAW Local 659 and the Union Sportsman Alliance.
- Continue to promote and build interest in the Kayak Rental station with a restructured and easier to understand pricing system.
- Plant trees at Bluegill along the open trail during fall 2024.



2024 PLANS

WALLEYE PIKE BOAT LAUNCH

- Resurface/paint 2 additional docks at Walleye and replace bumpers. Part of ongoing yearly maintenance and upgrades.
- Explore ways to improve boater safety and responsible park usage at Walleye Pike.
- Explore ways to improve boater knowledge of invasive species education.



2024 PLANS

ELBA EQUESTRIAN COMPLEX AND CAMPGROUND

- New signage throughout the park.
- Create a designated day use parking area.
- Finish all projects related to campsite improvements by spring/summer 2024.
- Develop an equestrian trail maintenance and improvement mapping plan by trimming specific trail sections off the closed Coldwater Rd. section and Stanley Rd. tubes section during fall 2024 season.



2024 PLANS

ELBA EQUESTRIAN COMPLEX AND CAMPGROUND

- Develop trail markers and system of trail identification.
- Paint Arena, picket posts and any other park signage as needed.
- Overall long-term goal is to develop Elba Equestrian Complex into an efficiently maintained and safely operated equestrian complex with a focus on improved camping and multi-use trails.



2024 PLANS

- Replace the skylight in the Administration Building. **(Completed)**.
- Continue the landscape beautification at the Parks Admin Building along the south side facing Stanley Road.
- Continue landscape work at Stepping Stone Falls to help bring some color to the park. Work will be done on a second, existing bed. Old material will be removed and replaced with mostly native plant material. All new beds will be re-mulched with cedar wood.



2024 PLANS

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 ensuring the safety of playgrounds.
- Use new side extendable arm Rotary Brush Cutter to maintain and clear sight distances on roads and trailways.



2024 PLANS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- Full time staff complete the Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) program and the Environmental Educator Certification (EEC) program through MAEOE and present at the 2025 MAEOE Conference.
- Work with the marketing team and Deputy Director to create a sponsorship process.
- Create new staff and program scheduling system to increase efficiency.
- Work with the Friends of For-Mar and stakeholders to implement the recommendations in the recently completed masterplan.



2024 PLANS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

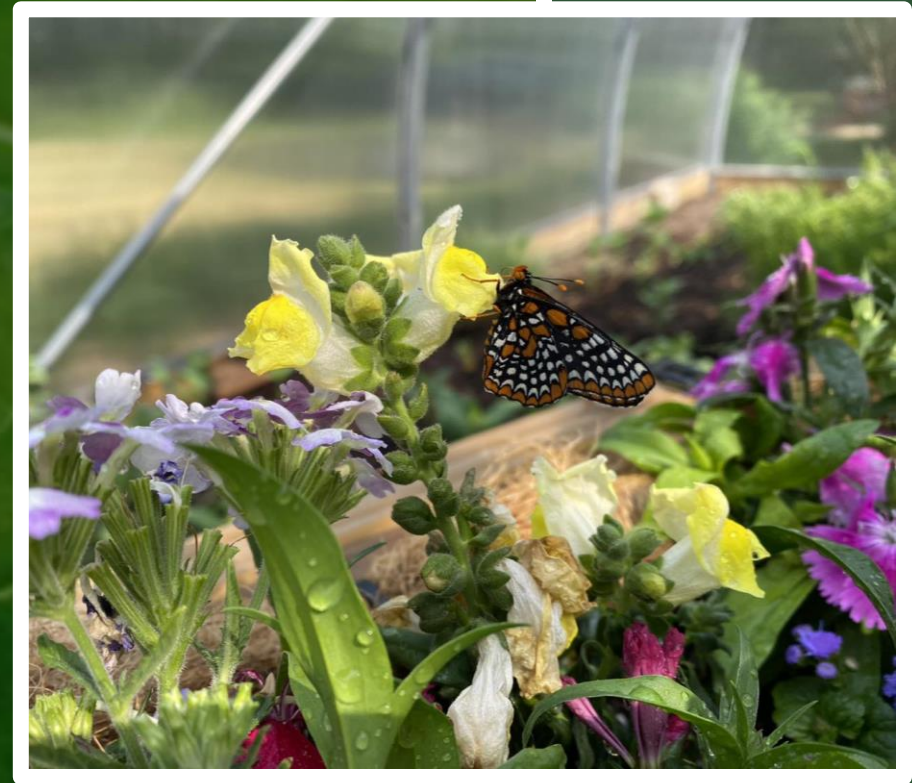
- Research and develop a QR code system to translate current Visitor Center Exhibits into languages other than English.
- Work with marketing department to create standard materials for "outreach" offerings that will serve any Genesee County Parks purpose as well as Environmental Education.
- Revamp the Community Garden with the goal of increased accessibility and inclusion. The space will now be called the Garden Exploration Space and will be used for educational purposes.
- Expand in-school and virtual programs to highlight live invertebrates and their plight in today's climate.



2024 PLANS

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

- Complete the Geology Garden Project in front of the Visitor Center.
- Prioritize an infrastructure improvement plan including the replacement or improvements to the ground water dock, suspension bridge, and small bridge near trail 40.
- Continue to treat invasive Black Locust trees with herbicide and remove trees and stumps on For-Mar grounds.
- Add more plant material around the For-Mar Amphitheater including native garden beds and trees for shade. Installation of accessible walkways and benches is also a top priority.



2024 PLANS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE

- Marketing of Events and Programs
 - Ads in Tractor Magazines/Bus Tour Magazines/Michigan Fun & Events/Pure Michigan.
 - Yard signs for our bigger events.
 - Social media – Videos, live streams, this day in history, page sharing.
 - Banners displaying each season in Millstreet Warehouse.
 - Planning ahead for earlier postings of summer programs during holiday seasons.
- Building and Grounds Beautification
 - Replacing signs throughout the park.
 - Painting and touch up work in multiple buildings.
 - Boardwalks.
 - Work with village and maintenance staff to determine and prioritize low-cost projects that can be done in house.



2024 PLANS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE

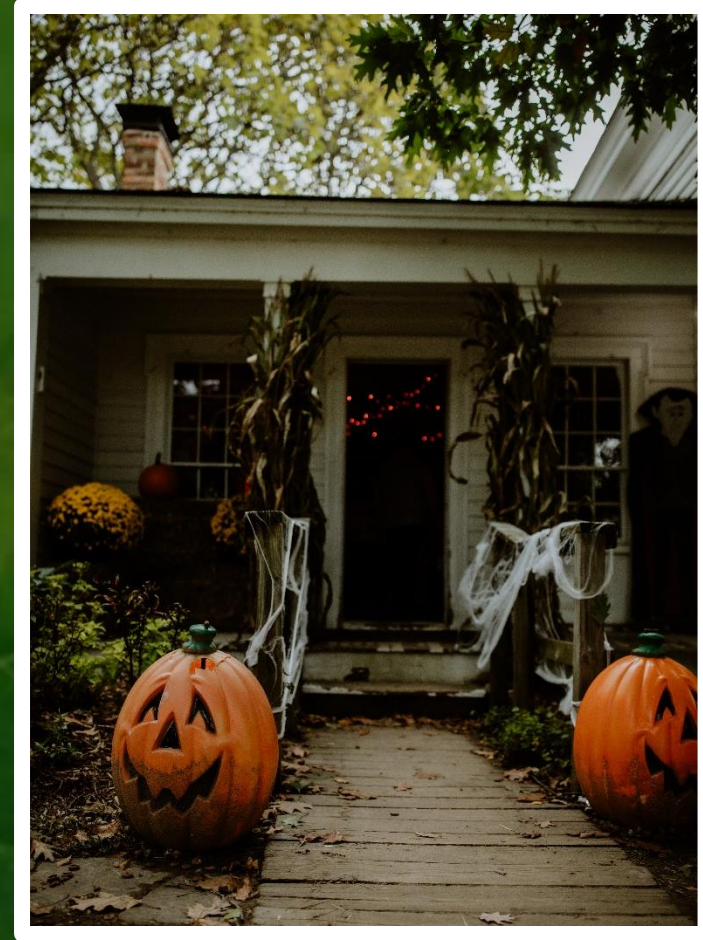
- Volunteer Outreach
 - Update Volunteer Brochure & Volunteer Handbook.
 - Expand our volunteer database.
 - Utilize volunteers in buildings that might be typically closed due to budget restrictions.
- Increase Summer Attendance/Revamp Summer Programs
 - Contact schools within 1.5 hour radius/Field Trip flyer
 - Tour Group Outreach
 - New Events/Add on for existing events
 - Offer discounted days
 - Increased marketing – news segments, community events, social media
 - New building displays
 - Educational displays along train ride
 - Senior Community Outreach
 - Participate in For-Mar Pop Up Programming
 - New Day Out With Thomas, Breakfast with Sir Topham Hatt.



FUTURE EVENT IDEAS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- Develop and Grow Crossroads After Dark: After hours events with changing themes.
- Develop Workshops.
- Prepare for Crossroads 50th Anniversary: 50th Year Planning (2026)
 - CRV opened July 4, 1976.
 - Hold Monthly meetings.
 - Continue to identify photos, articles, artifacts to create special displays.
 - Develop 50th Year Logo.
 - Seek out guest speakers.
 - Discuss ideas for dedication ceremony.
 - Create History of CRV photo book that can be sold in gift shop.
- Haunted Crossroads: Develop haunted tours that can be offered throughout the year.



2024 PLANS

CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

Tentative Schedule

- May 22: Senior Power Day
 - May 23-24: School Days
 - May 25-27: Honoring American Vets (Opening Weekend)
 - May 31: Head Start Day
 - June 1: Genesee County Day (Free Admission)
 - June 8-9: Crossroads Village Tractor Show
 - June 15: Inventors Fair
 - June 22-23: Banjo Daze
 - June 29-30: Curious at Crossroads Oddities Festival
 - June 30-31: School Days
 - July 4: Independence Day Celebration Ice Cream Social
 - July 6-7: Touch-A-Truck (Discounted Admission)
 - July 13-14: Apprentice Weekend
 - July 19: Wine Tasting Event
 - August 3-4: Railfans Weekend
 - August 10-11: Mystery Weekend
 - August 17-18: Day Out With Thomas
 - August 22-25: Day Out with Thomas
 - August 30 -September 2: End of Summer (Closing Weekend)
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- Halloween Ghost & Goodies: Oct 5-6, 11-13, 18-20, 23-27 & 30-31.
 - October 26: Halloween Race
 - Ladies Night Out: November 23.
 - Christmas at Crossroads: Nov 29-30, Dec 1, 6-8, 13-15, 18-22, & 26-29.



2024 PLANS

HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

- Straighten track 5 coming into the yard.
- Install new 115# switch on the main line.
- Begin tamping 4 miles of track.
- Annual railroad tie replacement (300-600 ties).
- Continue rebuild of car 8.
- Finish brake upgrades on coaches.



2024 PLANS

THE MOUNDS

- Continue trail maintenance, spot checking in the summer and focused trimming in the fall based on staff/customer feedback.
- Explore program or education classes potential on ORV safety.
- Advanced customer service, staff, and management training to better serve our park users.
- Explore grant potential to replace pit bathroom and improve trails/obstacles, or parking lot lighting.
- Explore sponsorship opportunities.



2024 PLANS

WOLVERINE CAMPGROUND

- Completion of 2 ADA campsites.
- Install remaining Wi-Fi devices so all 250 campsites have internet access.
- Plant over 100 trees in areas that have been disturbed from our recent construction to be responsible stewards restoring our natural resources. Overall improved landscaping.



2024 PLANS

WOLVERINE CAMPGROUND

- Installation of a dock at the boat launch for easier lake access.
- Continued site improvements, upgrades, and flood control to improve the quality of campsites.
- Advanced customer service, staff, and management leadership training to better serve our park users.



2024 PLANS

PARK RANGERS

- Ensure park safety through effective hiring, ongoing training, and strong leadership.
- Develop clear policies for the Park Ranger Division at Flint State Park, addressing unique challenges of an urban park.
- Improve nighttime security with visible patrols to deter vandalism and trespassing.
- Enforce ATV and dog regulations in equestrian areas without disrupting park activities at Elba Equestrian Complex, Hogbacks, and E.A. Cummings Event Center.
- Expand the Marine Patrol Rangers in 2024 with specific policies. Provide enhanced training in boating maintenance, operation, and radio communications, along with issuing lightweight PFDs and uniforms.



2024 PLANS

KEEP GENESEE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

- Assist the City of Flint with the planning and implementation of capital improvement projects funded by ARPA dollars.
- Collaborate and partner with local funders, community organizations, and residents to increase the use of Flint's public spaces through programming.
- Continue planning for long term maintenance of City of Flint public spaces.
- Move into the Flint River Watershed Coalition building.
- Recruit, train, and support volunteers working on public space projects.



2024 PLANS

MARKETING

- Develop park sign library and map to aid in sign replacement.
- Explore new marketing opportunities, expanding our reach outside Genesee County.
- Create Trailhead Signs.
- Create Sponsorship opportunities/packets for Crossroads Village, For-Mar, and the Mounds.
- Invite large scale events to take place at Crossroads Village, and E.A. Cummings Center, as well as other park locations.
- Work with Explore Flint and Genesee to market our facilities.



2025 & 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 roof on Bluebell Beach Bathhouse.



2025 & BEYOND PLANS

- Revisit Pickleball courts at Linden County Park.
- Open concession stand at Walleye Pike Boat Launch.
- Update and compile departmental policies and standards into a master document.
- Create business plans for all revenue generating facilities.
- Create a set of maintenance standards.



QUESTIONS
OR
COMMENTS?

