

St. Clair County Parks



www.stclaircountyparks.org

June Newsletter

Volunteer Tree Planting Day a Success at the New North Channel County Park



The future of North Channel County Park continues to take root thanks to a successful Volunteer Tree Planting Day held this spring. With the help of our planting day sponsor, Keller Williams Platinum Realty, and dedicated community volunteers, 11 native trees were planted throughout the park.

The trees were purchased through the DTE Foundation's Tree Grant Program, which helped substantially offset the cost of the project. In addition, 29 Arborvitae trees were purchased and planted along the eastern edge of the property to help create a natural visual barrier for neighboring properties, bringing the total number of trees planted to 40.

These new plantings will enhance the beauty of North Channel County Park for years to come while providing shade, shelter, and valuable habitat for local wildlife. St. Clair County Parks extends its sincere appreciation to Keller Williams Platinum Realty, the DTE Foundation, and all of the volunteers who donated their time and effort to help grow the future of this exciting new park.



A Big Win for Our County, State, and Environment!



The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission applauds the recent decision by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to prohibit the sale of two aquatic invasive species, Water Lettuce and Water Hyacinth. The new regulations also restrict the sale of four invasive landscape plants: Japanese Barberry, Common Buckthorn, Glossy Buckthorn, and Callery Pear.

Our volunteers, staff, and community members spend a significant amount of time and taxpayer resources managing these and other invasive plants because

they have been widely available for sale in nurseries and garden centers and have spread into natural ecosystems, along trails, and throughout other public spaces. It will take many years to bring invasive landscape plants under control in our parks and communities, but these new regulations represent an important first step in protecting our environment.

For recommendations on tree and shrub species suitable for our area, as well as species that should be avoided, visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' "[Recommended Trees for Community Planting](#)." webpage.

Trails Reopen as Grasslands Project Moves Forward



GRASSLANDS PROJECT

From Meadows to Mosaic: Improving Grasslands for Birds and Butterflies in Columbus County Park

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grant funding will help St. Clair County Parks establish over 100 acres of grassland habitat in former farm fields. These areas will be transformed into songbird and pollinator habitat.

For more information:
www.stclaircountyparks.org



The poster features a green and blue color scheme. It includes illustrations of a monarch butterfly, a yellow and brown bird, and a monarch caterpillar. A yellow diamond-shaped sign with a hammer and wrench icon and the text 'UNDER CONSTRUCTION' is prominently displayed. The logos for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and St. Clair County Parks are at the bottom.

Exciting progress continues on the Grasslands Restoration Project at Columbus County Park. The first phase of the project, forestry mulching, has been completed, and all park trails are now open for public use.

This initial phase focused on removing woody vegetation and invasive shrubs to help restore a healthier native grassland ecosystem. Future phases of the project will include additional invasive species management, native seed collection, and the planting of native grasses and wildflowers that will support pollinators and other wildlife. These habitat improvements are expected to benefit species such as Monarch butterflies and a variety of grassland birds while enhancing the park's natural beauty for visitors.



Saturday, June 6th holds all the fun of Sturgeon Fest this year!

10 am - 3 pm • Fort Gratiot Lightstation

- Take a Sturgeon Cruise on the Huron Lady II • Explore vendors under the tent
- Listen to live music on stage • Meet animals with Nature Discovery • Eat at delicious food trucks • Meet sturgeon in the touch tank • Come beachside to watch a baby sturgeon release

[Click for more info on Sturgeon Fest '26](#)

**Celebrate Log Cabin Day at the
Historical Village**



Saturday, June 27th

1 - 4 pm • Goodells County Park Historical Village

Hosted by the Wales Historical Society, Log Cabin Day is an annual event held in the Historical Village at Goodells County Park. Celebrate and learn about Michigan's pioneer heritage, as well as the construction and history of log cabins. Take part in this popular event, tour the park's Historical Village, and discover one of the county's most famous log cabins, the Mudge Log Cabin, along with other historic buildings on site.

Kirsten's Korner

Spring 2026 Volunteer Stewardship Workdays and Programs

Dame's Rocket Pull with the Lake St. Clair CISMA

Woodsong County Park - June 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join the Lake St. Clair CISMA and St. Clair County Parks staff to admire the wildflowers and protect them from invasive species in this wooded, rustic and rugged park along the Black River. We'll be cutting and/or pulling an invasive plant called Dame's Rocket to prevent it from seeding and spreading in the park.

Gloves, long sleeves, and long pants recommended. We suggest pruning and digging tools and we will have extras. [Dame's Rocket Pull Event Page](#)

Mulch at the Mudge

Goodells County Park - June 9, 1-3 p.m.

Help Dan Danner, Conservation Steward volunteer, mulch the native plant gardens at the Mudge Log Cabin in the Historical Village at Goodells County Park! These medicinal native plant gardens were designed by Conservation Steward volunteers to honor the cabin's history and support pollinators and ecosystems. Your help is needed to gently tuck mulch around the native plants to conserve moisture and reduce weeding. Bring your gloves and garden forks and we'll have extras.

Streambank Invasive Species Workshop with the Lake St. Clair CISMA and St. Clair County Trailblazers

Columbus County Park - June 11, 9-11 a.m.

We're about to embark on a streambank study and restoration project in this park and you can help! Join the St. Clair County Parks staff, the Lake St. Clair CISMA, and the St. Clair County Trailblazers to search for and assess invasive species and conditions along the banks of the Belle River in the park. Water shoes, waders, or tall boots are recommended and there will be plenty to see on dry land for those who prefer. [Streambank Workshop Event Page](#)

Master Gardeners of St. Clair County Garden Tour and Plant Sale

Sat. June 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. – Marysville Area – [Tickets on sale NOW!](#)

Wildflower Wednesdays with Master Gardener Jeanne Mackay – Goodells County Park – Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.

June: 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24

Meet at the office - 8254 County Park Dr., Goodells 48027.

Habitat types: Native plant gardens, riparian and forested areas.

Wild Fridays – Columbus County Park – Fridays 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

June: 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26

Meet at the Lodge – 1670 Bauman Rd., Columbus 48063.















































Habitat types: Forested, wetlands, riparian, and grassland ecological restoration areas.

Know Before You Go - No prior experience is required, and we will have extra tools. Dress for the weather in layers that can get wet, dirty, and snagged and wear eye protection/safety glasses, gloves, insect/tick repellent and boots for off-trail work. Optional: Bring your own loppers, pruners, and garden tools. All workdays qualify for Master Gardener volunteer hours, report under the St. Clair County Parks activity. We strongly suggest you email Kirsten in advance at klyons@stclaircounty.org, especially for your first workday with us.

Visit www.stclaircounty.org/offices/665 for more info on these and other upcoming events with St. Clair County Parks

County Parks Spring & Summer Activities

Spring & Summer Activities in St. Clair County Parks

Location	Summer Activities Guide										
	Picnic Facilities	Playground	Swimming Beach	Splashpad	Bird Watching	Fishing	Fat Tire Biking	Trails	Equestrian Riding	Disc Golf	Restroom Facilities
Blue Water River Walk County Park											
Columbus County Park											
Fort Gratiot County Park											
Fort Gratiot Light Station											
Goodells County Park											
North Channel County Park	<i>Coming This Summer</i>										
Wadhams to Avoca Trail											
Woodsong County Park											

PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES ON BEACH AND SPLASHPAD CLOSURES. FGCP BEACH AND GCP SPLASHPAD OPEN FOR THE SEASON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. FOR RENTAL INFORMATION CALL (810) 989-6960. *MUST HAVE VALID MICHIGAN FISHING LICENSE. VISIT OUR WEBSITE; WWW.STCLAIRCOUNTYPARKS.ORG OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.

Click for a downloadable version of the Winter Activities chart or visit www.stclaircounty.org/offices/665



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ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS HOURS

Columbus County Park

May through September 8 AM - 9 PM
October through April 8 AM - 8 PM

Fort Gratiot County Park

Memorial Day through Labor Day 8 AM - 9 PM
Labor Day through Memorial Day 8 AM - 8 PM

Goodells County Park

April through October 8 AM - 10 PM
November through March 8 AM - 9 PM

Blue Water River Walk, Fort Gratiot Light Station &
Woodsong County Park are open from dawn to dusk year round

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St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission

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