



St. Clair County Parks

PROGRESS REPORT

Providing Recreational Opportunities since 1995



Summer 2025

Long-Awaited North Channel County Park to Begin Development of Phase I



Exciting developments are underway as the Board of Commissioners has officially approved plans to begin Phase 1 of the highly anticipated North Channel County Park. This new addition to the county's park system will offer residents and visitors scenic outdoor recreational opportunities in the southern region of St. Clair County.

With approval secured, the project is now in the final stages of preparation, awaiting permit clearances before construction can begin. Crews are expected to break ground in early June, marking the start of Phase 1.

The first phase will focus on essential infrastructure—a parking lot, trailhead, and pavilion—to make the park accessible and welcoming to visitors. Funding for the pavilion, trailhead, park benches, and picnic tables is supported by a \$270,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, along with a \$280,000 local match.

Additionally, park staff have begun work on the recently acquired adjacent property to develop the Park's Operations Center, which will support ongoing site maintenance and management.

While Phase 1 lays the foundation, future phases will add more features, including trails, water access, and recreational amenities. North Channel County Park will be a valuable resource for outdoor enthusiasts, families, and anyone looking to enjoy St. Clair County's beautiful waterfront. Updates will be shared as progress continues.

North Channel County Park is located at 2431 Pointe Tremble Road, Algonac, MI 48001.



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Millage Distribution

This year marks the 31st year that the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) will distribute 25% of the County Parks and Recreation millage funds collected back to the local units of government.

The 2025 Local Millage Distribution table (located to the right) includes the 2020 census figures used to calculate each community's share, the amount of millage funds distributed to each community over the past thirty years, and the amount of funds that will be distributed to each local unit of government this year.

In order for the 33 local units of government to receive their annual share of the County Parks and Recreation millage funds, each community's governing board must approve the submission of an annual Local Millage Distribution request form that outlines how the community has spent its share of the millage funds during the past year.



Community	2020 Population	Total Distribution 1995 - 2025	2025 Distribution
Algonac	4,196	\$ 574,585.73	\$ 25,172
Capac	1,983	\$ 241,001.18	\$ 11,896
Emmett	258	\$ 34,876.42	\$ 1,548
Marine City	4,079	\$ 578,449.55	\$ 24,470
Marysville	9,997	\$ 1,274,076.93	\$ 59,972
Memphis	315	\$ 45,116.57	\$ 1,890
Port Huron	28,983	\$ 4,102,941.41	\$ 173,868
Richmond	3	\$ 213.35	\$ 18
St. Clair	5,464	\$ 729,001.26	\$ 32,779
Yale	1,903	\$ 261,220.23	\$ 11,416
Berlin Township	3,115	\$ 405,693.73	\$ 18,687
Brockway Township	1,897	\$ 249,531.88	\$ 11,381
Burtchville Township	4,077	\$ 519,446.70	\$ 24,458
Casco Township	3,990	\$ 574,062.05	\$ 23,936
China Township	3,509	\$ 440,206.44	\$ 21,051
Clay Township	8,446	\$ 1,205,254.07	\$ 50,668
Clyde Township	5,523	\$ 698,071.08	\$ 33,133
Columbus Township	4,112	\$ 526,185.57	\$ 24,668
Cottrellville Township	3,406	\$ 470,631.41	\$ 20,433
East China Township	3,704	\$ 478,897.67	\$ 22,221
Emmett Township	2,257	\$ 288,264.08	\$ 13,540
Fort Gratiot Township	11,242	\$ 1,407,891.57	\$ 67,441
Grant Township	1,829	\$ 224,588.41	\$ 10,973
Greenwood Township	1,490	\$ 184,495.15	\$ 8,939
Ira Township	4,967	\$ 761,759.22	\$ 29,797
Kenockee Township	2,405	\$ 309,752.99	\$ 14,428
Kimball Township	9,609	\$ 1,168,669.35	\$ 57,644
Lynn Township	1,117	\$ 151,895.68	\$ 6,701
Mussey Township	2,251	\$ 272,968.64	\$ 13,504
Port Huron Township	10,792	\$ 1,261,483.16	\$ 64,741
Riley Township	3,199	\$ 400,984.85	\$ 19,191
St. Clair Township	7,085	\$ 847,181.51	\$ 42,503
Wales Township	3,180	\$ 386,368.28	\$ 19,077
Grand Total	160,383	\$ 21,075,766.12	\$ 962,144

Park News

St. Clair County Parks Celebrates 30 Years with a New Look!

For over 30 years, our logo — a setting sun over water framed by pine trees — has represented the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission. When we passed our first millage, we were just beginning, with one park spanning 325 acres.

Since then, we've grown into a thriving system of eight parks and trails, covering more than 1,100 acres of natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and community spaces.

With that growth, we knew it was time for a fresh look — one that truly captures the spirit and diversity of our parks. We're proud to unveil our new logo: a symbol that reflects the variety and vitality of St. Clair County Parks.

It's more than just a design — it's a reflection of how far we've come and the many places you love to explore across the county.

Take a look — can you spot your favorite park in the new logo?



Kimball Township Plans New Kayak and Canoe Launch on the Black River

Kimball Township is making strides toward enhancing outdoor recreation by establishing a new public kayak and canoe launch along the Black River. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving Kimball Township, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Community Foundation of St. Clair County.

The project was initiated in response to community feedback indicating a strong desire for improved water access. Recognizing this need, Kimball Township applied for and secured a grant through the Michigan DNR Trust Fund to assist in purchasing suitable property for the launch.



The Community Foundation of St. Clair County played a pivotal role by purchasing the targeted 37-acre property, located near Wadhams and North River Roads along the Black River. They are holding the property while the township completes the grant process. The site aligns with the Blueways of St. Clair, where two water trails intersect.

As part of the project, St. Clair County Parks will be donating a kayak and canoe launch that was previously located at Woodsong County Park. The relocated launch will provide safe, accessible entry to the Black River, creating a vital link to other public access points and allowing paddlers to explore a network of interconnected waterways throughout St. Clair County.

Making a Splash: Klecha Park's New Splash Pad Takes Shape

Klecha Park's new splash pad in the City of St. Clair is set to open soon. This exciting addition is part of a broader effort to modernize the park and offer more inclusive recreational amenities for local families.

Alongside the splash pad, Klecha Park will see upgrades to ball fields and the addition of accessible pathways. Construction is expected to wrap up this summer. These enhancements reflect resident feedback and a shared commitment to making the park more enjoyable for everyone.

The project is made possible through a combination of community support and public funding. Cargill Salt contributed \$300,000 to honor former Police Chief Donald Barnum, and the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) provided additional funding through its millage program. Since 1995, the City of St. Clair has received almost \$700,000 from PARC's millage, which allocates a portion of its \$3.8 million annual revenue to local park improvements.



Fort Gratiot County Park

Fort Gratiot County Park Gets Ready for Summer

Fort Gratiot County Park continues to be a favorite summer destination for families across the region. Recent upgrades will include the installation of new benches surrounding the children's playground—providing a comfortable spot for parents and caregivers to relax while keeping an eye on little ones at play.



Please note, a \$20 per vehicle parking fee will be in place for out-of-county residents from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. St. Clair County residents continue to enjoy free parking with proof of residency.

Summer park hours are in effect from Memorial Day through Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., offering plenty of daylight for beach visits, picnics, and scenic walks.

Planning a summer gathering? Fort Gratiot County Park offers two pavilions, a canopy tent, and a ceremony plaza—perfect for family reunions, birthday parties, and other special events. To reserve a space, email countyparks@stclaircounty.org or call the Parks Office at (810) 989-6960.

Whether you're enjoying the shoreline views, using the accessible playground, or hosting a celebration, Fort Gratiot County Park is the perfect place to make the most of summer. Fort Gratiot County Park is located at 3325 Metcalf Road, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059.

Fort Gratiot Light Station

Fort Gratiot Light Station Shines Brighter Thanks to Volunteers and Community Support

Improvements continue at the historic Fort Gratiot Light Station, where ongoing restoration efforts and dedicated community involvement are ensuring the preservation and enhancement of this important local landmark. Recent work has focused on the Retired Coast Guard Station, as well as painting and upgrades to the Duplex Building, preserving both the functionality and historic aspects of the Light Station.

Much of the progress has been made possible through the hard work of volunteers and ongoing fundraising efforts led by the Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light. A major source of funding comes from the popular Blue Water SandFest, held annually the first weekend in August right on the Light Station grounds. This year's festival will be held August 1-3.

Visitors are invited to explore the Light Station grounds and lighthouse through guided tours provided by our partners the Port Huron Museums. To schedule a tour, call (810) 982-0891 or visit their website at

www.phmuseum.org for information on tours, reservations, and special events offered throughout the year.

Located at 2802 Omar Street in Port Huron, just north of the Blue Water Bridge, the Fort Gratiot Light Station remains a treasured part of our county's heritage and a beacon of community pride.



Blue Water River Walk

Upgrades Planned for Blue Water River Walk Dock

Exciting improvements are on the horizon for the south ferry dock along the Blue Water River Walk. In partnership with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, plans are underway to revitalize the aging structure, enhancing safety and accessibility for

visitors. Additions include a paved, fully accessible trail spur connecting to the dock, upgraded lighting, security cameras, new decking, and railing. These upgrades will support expanded public use, and further the Foundation's ongoing commitment to preserving and activating waterfront spaces for the community.

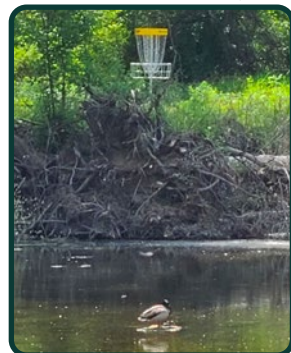


Columbus County Park

New Facilities, Winter Successes, and Summer Fun

Big changes are coming to Columbus County Park as the first phase of construction begins this summer on a new Parks Operations Center. This new facility will serve as the primary office and maintenance workspace for park staff, replacing the aging house on Kronner Road. Located near the park entrance, the new building will allow for more efficient operations and improve staff accessibility to park grounds and patrons alike.

This past winter was a busy season at the park. Visitors enjoyed favorite winter-weather activities like the sledding hill, cross-country skiing, and the popular annual Tree Hugger Hike. A new highlight this year was the expansion of the Maple Sugar Pilot Program, started by Conservation Stewards volunteers, bringing a sweet new tradition to the park. Special thanks to DTE Energy – Belle River for their generous donation and fabrication of metal parts for the evaporator, and to park volunteer, Will Turpel for designing and building the evaporator that made boiling sap on site possible.



As the weather warms, Columbus County Park continues to offer great outdoor recreation, including its 18-hole disc golf course. Open year-round, the course is especially popular during the summer months, drawing disc golf enthusiasts from across the region. Whether you're hiking trails, enjoying nature, or playing a round of disc golf, Columbus County Park is a place for all seasons.

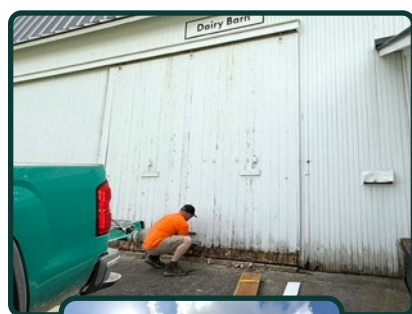
Columbus County Park is located in the southwest region of St. Clair County at 1670 Bauman Road, Columbus, MI 48063.



Goodells County Park

Honoring the Past, Growing the Future...

A season of progress and partnership continues at Goodells County Park, where exciting upgrades and community-driven projects are enhancing the visitor experience across all corners of the park.



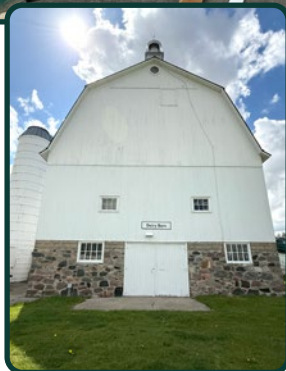
This fall, work is set to begin on saving part of the historic Concession Stand on the south side of the park—one of the original park buildings, dating back to 1924. On the north side, mortar joints and wood door repairs were recently completed on the Farm Museum Barns, preserving these iconic agricultural structures for future generations.

This past summer also saw completion of a native plant landscaping project around the Mudge Cabin, led by the Parks Naturalist with help from volunteers and park staff. Participants included alumni from the Conservation Stewards Program, St. Clair County Parks staff, the St. Clair County Farm Museum, MSU Extension of St. Clair County 4-H, the Wales Historical Society, and the Master Gardeners of St. Clair County. The group secured grant funding from the Wildflower Association of Michigan to bring the project to life. Inside the cabin, a new central hearth was added, enhancing the cabin's historic charm.

This spring, the park hosted a successful 23rd annual Earth Fair, drawing thousands for hands-on environmental education. Looking ahead, Goodells County Park will once again be the home of cherished summer traditions, including the 4-H & Youth Fair, July 14–19, and the Farm Museum's Fall Harvest Days, August 22–24.

With ongoing improvements and a full events calendar, the park remains a place where history, nature, and community come together. Goodells

County Park is at the center of St. Clair County, close to I-69, off Lapeer Road (Old M-21) between Goodells Rd. and Castor Rd.



Wadhams to Avoca Trail

Trail Improvements Strengthen Community Connection and Access

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail continues to benefit from ongoing improvements that enhance safety, accessibility, and the overall user experience. This season, grading work was completed from Imlay City Road past McLain Road, significantly improving the trail's surface for hikers, cyclists, and other users.



In addition to the surface upgrades, St. Clair County Parks staff tackled overgrown vegetation by hand, trimming back trees and brush to maintain a clear and inviting passage throughout the trail. These efforts ensure that the natural beauty of the corridor remains accessible and enjoyable for all.

Updated e-bike rules are now posted along the trail in accordance with Michigan state law. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes—capped at 20 mph—are permitted, while Class 3 e-bikes and gas-powered motor vehicles are not allowed. These regulations help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all trail users.



Mark your calendar for the beloved Trek the Trestle Walk, taking place this Labor Day, Monday, September 1. This annual event invites the community to enjoy the scenic highlights of the trail, including the iconic 640-foot Mill Creek Trestle Bridge.

Community members and organizations are also encouraged to take part in the Adopt-a-Trail program, which helps keep the trail clean and welcoming. Volunteers commit to maintaining designated sections of the trail throughout the year. To get involved, contact Kirsten Lyons at klyons@stclaircounty.org.

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail features trailheads at Wadhams, Lapeer, Imlay City, and Avoca Roads, offering convenient access points for outdoor enthusiasts across the region.

E-Bike Rules



An electric bicycle (or e-bike) is a bicycle that has a small rechargeable electric motor that can give a boost to the pedaling rider or can take over pedaling completely.

CLASS 1 E-BIKES - Are allowed on all trails, bike paths, and multi-use paths, unless prohibited and marked by County trail managers. Class 1 e-bikes have a top speed of 20 miles per hour and only work when the cyclist is pedaling.

CLASS 2 E-BIKES - Are allowed on improved, flat surfaced trails, unless prohibited and marked by County trail managers. Class 2 e-bikes have a top speed of 20 miles per hour and have both pedal assist and throttle assist.

CLASS 3 E-BIKES - Are **NOT ALLOWED** on any County Park Trails. This includes bike trails, bike paths, and multi-use paths. Class 3 e-bikes are pedal-assisted and have a maximum speed of 28 miles per hour.

GAS POWERED MOTOR VEHICLES - Are **NOT ALLOWED** on County Park Trails. This includes, but not limited to, snowmobiles, four-wheelers, motorcycles, mopeds and side by sides.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Ride or walk on the right, pass on the left.
- **E-bike Speed limit of 15 miles per hour.**
- Bicyclists yield to hikers and horses.
- Make yourself known. If you approach another trail user from behind, announce yourself in a friendly, calm tone and let him/her know you want to pass on the left.
- Always be aware of your surroundings when hiking or biking. It will help keep you and any members of your group safe.

Woodsong County Park

Trail Improvements Powered by Volunteer Support

Woodsong County Park continues to grow as a destination for outdoor adventure, thanks to volunteers from Bluewater Trail Advocates. In 2024, they added a new trail, and last year, extended the mountain bike route. They continue to work with the park naturalist to ensure that sensitive areas are protected. The new 0.25-mile section features small climbs and downhill for intermediate riders and hikers. When completed in fall 2025, the full trail system will total 4 miles.

These dedicated volunteers, along with their counterparts from CRAMBA at Columbus County Park, also help year-round by trimming brush and clearing debris for easier trail access. The park features a variety of mountain bike trails designed for more advanced riders seeking a challenge. Helmets are strongly recommended, and caution is advised on the rustic, natural terrain.

Open year-round from dawn to dusk, the park offers a natural escape in every season and is located at 5980 Rynn Rd., Clyde, MI 48049, just off Abbottsford Road.



Upcoming Events at St. Clair County Parks

FrankenFest

June 28
Fort Gratiot Light Station
www.frankenfest.com/porthuron-2025

St. Clair County 4-H & Youth Fair

July 14 - 19
Goodells County Park
stclaircounty4hfair.org

Blue Water SandFest

August 1 - 3
Fort Gratiot Light Station
County Park
www.bluewatersandfest.com

St. Clair County Farm Museum - Harvest Days

August 22 - 24
Goodells County Park
stclaircountyfarmmuseum.org

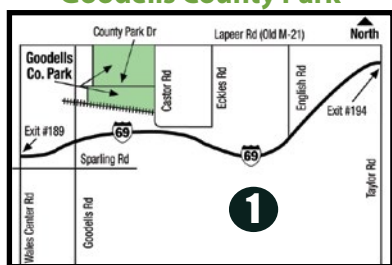
Trek the Trestle Labor Day Walk

September 1
Avoca Trailhead
Wadhams to Avoca Trail

For more upcoming events at St. County Parks visit www.stclaircountyparks.org

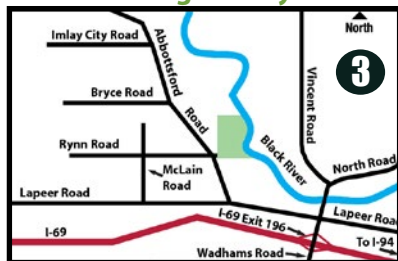
Directions to All St. Clair County Parks and Trails

Goodells County Park



8254 County Park Drive, Goodells, MI

Woodson County Park

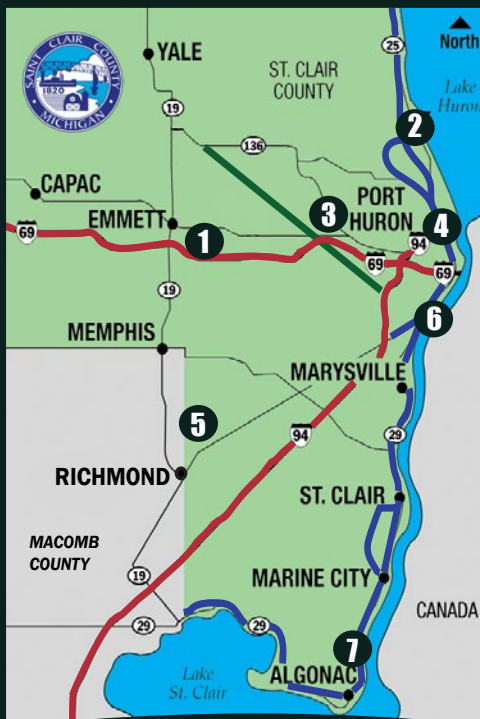


5980 Rynn Road, Clyde, MI

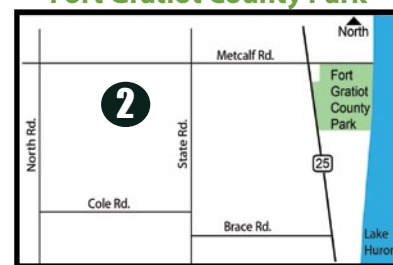
Columbus County Park



1670 Bauman Road, Columbus, MI

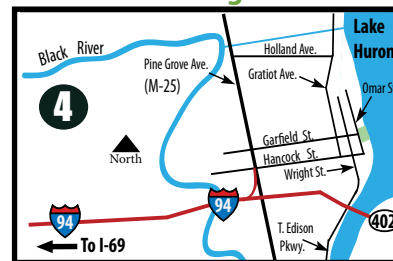


Fort Gratiot County Park



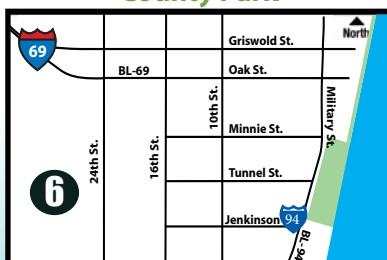
3325 Metcalf Road, Fort Gratiot, MI

Fort Gratiot Light Station



2802 Omar Street, Port Huron, MI

Blue Water River Walk County Park



2200 Military Street, Port Huron, MI

North Channel County Park



2431 Pointe Tremble, Algonac, MI
UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Wadhams to Avoca Trail (Green)

Starts at Griswold Road in Port Huron Township just west of I-94 and ends in the downtown area of Avoca at M-136

Bridge to Bay Trail (Blue)

Runs near the eastern border of St. Clair County and links 13 communities from Burtchville Township to Ira Township



St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission
8254 County Park Drive
Goodells, MI 48027
Telephone (810) 989-6960

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Local
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ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS SUMMER HOURS

Goodells County Park - April through October from 8 am - 10 pm
Fort Gratiot & Columbus County Parks - Memorial Day through Labor Day from 8 am - 9 pm
Blue Water River Walk, Fort Gratiot Light Station & Woodsong County Parks
are open dawn to dusk year round

WE ARE NOW DIGITAL!

Get Updates on Park News, Events & More
Sign Up for St. Clair County Park's Monthly Newsletter

Scan the QR code to sign up!



We are on Facebook & Instagram!
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www.stclaircountyparks.org
Questions? Email us at countyparks@stclaircounty.org

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Pete LetoChair
VACANT Vice-Chair
Melissa Hanners Secretary
Cindy Babisz Commissioner
Geoffry Kusch Commissioner
Michael Lauwers Commissioner
Chris Ruemenapp Commissioner
Linda Taylor Commissioner
Joi Torello Commissioner
Anthony Youtsos Commissioner

Parks and Recreation Staff

Dennis C. Delor Director
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Kelly Gardner Office Coordinator
Kelly Whittington Clerk II
Jennifer CatanzaroMarketing & Graphic
Design Coordinator
Kirsten Lyons..... Park Naturalist - Invasive
Species Specialist

A Progress Report is published by
St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission