

**CITY OF MONROE
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

Presented by Loretta LaPointe
Interim Recreation Superintendent

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Monroe City Hall

Strong recreational programming for all ages and levels of participation can be a deciding factor in choosing a community in which to live. The mission of the Recreation Department is to provide a variety of programming that will serve the needs of the citizens of Monroe, giving them a strong sense of belonging and well being, at the lowest possible



**Sense of
Place/Community**

**Cultural/Social
Opportunities**

**Walkability,
Mixed-Use Design,
Green Infrastructure**

Public Safety

*The League's Hierarchy of
Municipal Needs*

Recreation Master Plan 2007-2012

Goal 1: Provide a broad range of recreation activities/facilities

Goal 2: Maximize the use & distribution of existing and future facilities

Goal 3 Cooperate with other providers of facilities and services

Goal 4: Maximize and diversify funding

Goal 5 Provide appropriate landscaping & aesthetic features to beautify existing and future parks.

Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010

Highlights – Office Operations

Recreation services are now available online so that citizens can access our services on the internet, including online registration, payment, and team management abilities.

Paperwork is being streamlined and put on the website to make it easier to view, register and participate in all programs

We are sharing some secretarial staff with the Personnel Dept during the busy season to cut staffing costs

Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010

Program Highlights

16 new programs offered in 2009, total of 20 since January, 2008

Adult Softball Fees decreased, team registration increased from 83 in 2008, to 97 in 2009

Concerts in the Park attendance increased by 2,725 participants in 2009

Park shelter rentals & garden plot rentals increased

Volunteerism in the gardens has taken off!

FY Recreational Program 2009 – 2010 Highlights

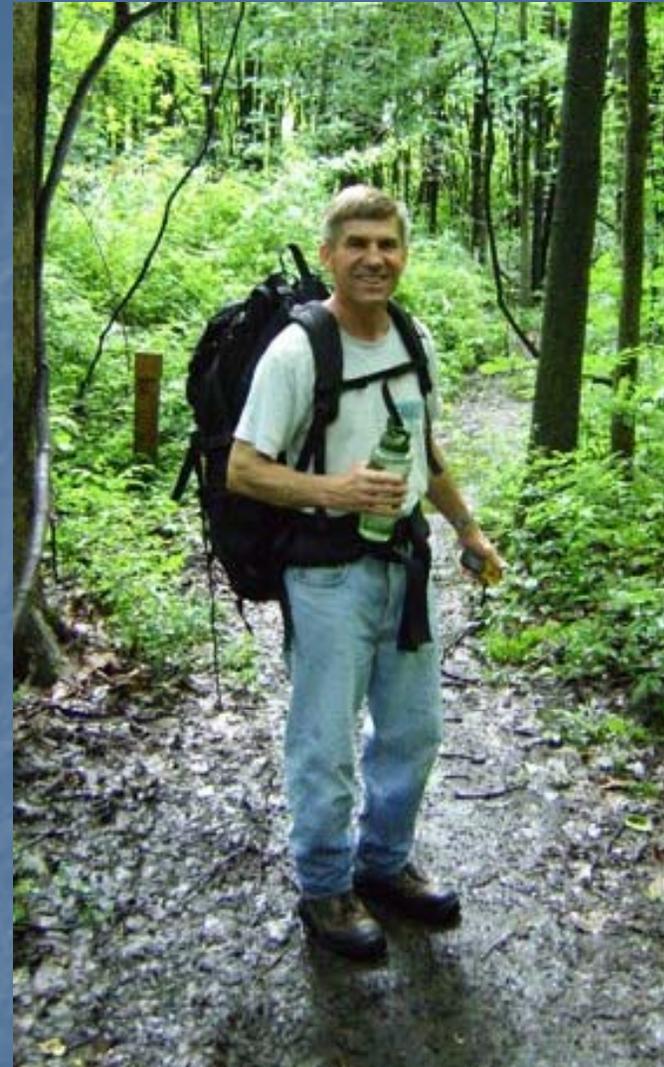
New recreational programming with special emphasis on non competitive youth and adult activities.

- Free exercise sessions in the park for kids and adults
- Non competitive youth activities such as Evening Summer Fun Camp for kids, giving more opportunity to working parents
- Drop in adult team sports for fun and fitness;
- Adult Sand Volleyball and Adult Kickball leagues offered
- Free youth basketball camp at St Mary's Park
- Skateboard Camp for youth, Biking in Munson Park Trails
- Whittling, Quilting, Clowning, Book Club, Free Fishing Derby
- Family Badminton Day, Birding, Lunchtime Garden Group
- \$20,000 worth of new ADA accessible picnic tables will be in the parks by summer thanks to an Access to Recreation grant!

Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010 Program Highlights

























Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010

Highlights – Sensory Garden

The sensory garden, complete with a 1,400 ft, 6' wide walking path including a wheelchair turn around, benches with companion seating, auditory sign post, musical instruments, and wheelchair accessibility from two parking lots is a big step in making the City of Monroe accessible to ALL the residents. As of 2000, 23.5% of the city's population over 16 have, or have had, a mobility limitation. The Recreation Department is





Recreation and City Council Goal: Encourage and embrace community volunteerism

Maintaining the sensory garden will be performed by community groups and individuals such as ISD groups, Master Gardeners, and individual volunteers

New children's garden at Veteran's or Munson may be done in 2010

Work with DPS to develop a list of projects for Eagle Scouts i.e., park issues that relate to programming

Community volunteers will run the Adult Sand Volleyball league, and Gentle Exercise in the Park

Use volunteers to begin documenting birds at Munson Park Trails

Volunteer School Gardening

Waterloo School is adopting Winston park in which to plant a garden as their project.

They are writing the proposal. They have raised the funds and will have the classes put the gardens in.

Their goal is to encourage neighborhood children to tend the gardens during the summer, helping them to take ownership!

Partnerships include:

Monroe County Library System to offer free story time in the Park, Summer Book Club, and free concerts for 22nd Annual Black History Month Blues Series

LSU Master Gardener Program with the design and planting of the Sensory Garden

Intermediate School District groups to maintain the Sensory Garden

Local Garden groups to maintain the Sensory Garden

Downtown businesses and restaurants for Book Club and Concerts at the Park

Local businesses such as Advanced Physical Therapy to offer free exercise for youth and adults in the park

Abela's is partnering with us for the Free Fishing Derby by providing instruction, and prizes

Monroe Public Schools partnering to provide programs such as Mom/Son Bowling and Daddy/Daughter Dance

NRE as we begin to offer bike tours to the new Sterling State Park entrance

FY 2010-2011 GOALS

Strategic Plan & Recreation Systems Plan

R Trail to Sterling State Park will be completed by Summer

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e guided bike tours are scheduled to encourage city
dents to utilize this great asset to our community

g programming is growing! Dog Show, Agility Training, and
g Good Citizenship are new programs.

ordinate our information into a Welcome Packet, showing
hroe to have exciting recreational activities for all people,
promote a sense of community spirit with real volunteer
ortunities for all ages

velop wellness programs geared for general health. As our
mmunity ages, it is my desire to enable citizens to maintain a
lthy lifestyle in general. As the population ages, recreation
ivities can help residents remain as independent, and
sically and mentally as active as possible

oing to start Flag Football in summer of 2010 at our soccer
ds for both adults and youth

FY 2010-2011 GOALS

Goal 5, Beautify Parks (Recreation Master Plan)

ing volunteers, plan and plant a major garden area at Munson Park that would be maintained by volunteers. This would enhance the park and provide recreational opportunities. Right now, the park is pretty sparse, with open green spaces and sporadic trees. With shrubs and easy care plant gardens, this garden could be extensive and, if planted along the existing walking path, it would be handicap accessible. Park beautification is long overdue and a major goal.

Community Recreation Events

Develop a 'day of community events' at Munson Park on a Saturday, such as a Dachshund Race, moving a regular concert from St. Mary's to Munson immediately following the event. Utilize the regular bus service to provide shuttle service from downtown to provide more parking. Partner with the RRCA and the Community Players to provide some theater arts programming downtown on the same day. Invite art vendors to set up for the day at the park along with food vendors

Also invite local artists and crafts people to exhibit and sell wares

Include the War of 1812 Battlefield with the bike trail

Possibly consider beer/wine could be sold at these events.

FY 2010-2011 GOALS

Recreation Systems Plan, Goal 2

Partner with the Community Players or the RRCA to see if they would be willing to do small free performances at Boyd Park. The new amphitheater there is underutilized, and is a perfect venue for children's programming.

'Court Dance' from the 1960's is slated to come back this summer aimed at specifically providing programming for those 55+.

Free city wide talent show at St. Mary's Band shell

City of
Monroe Vision
Statement:
To be the
most vibrant,
walkable,
historic city in
the Midwest.



Two very important goals: Increase

1. Walkability and 2: Biking



The League's Hierarchy of Municipal Needs

- Walkability audit in 2008: Monroe has much potential!
- Bike Paths are needed for bike safety and continuity of trails
- Trails could be striped on some streets in town to draw bikers into the city

Nature Programming

The Interim Recreation Superintendent just completed DNR PROJECT WILD TRAINING expanding our nature programs so that residents can interact with our parks and nature.

One of the benefits of living in our small city is that nature is accessible in our own parks; and we want to encourage and educate youth to the positive aspects of our natural surroundings.

I am working with Sterling State Park rangers to coordinate our nature into the nature of the costal wetlands on our new trail.

FY 2010-2011 GOALS

To help Monroe develop this vision priority of a walkable city in the Strategic Plan, the Recreation Department continues to:

- Participating in Walk Michigan/Walking Works program
- Partnering with a local health sponsor to help defray the costs of the program
- Developing information free to city residents about developing healthy lifestyles
- Forming walking groups targeted at specific age groups and abilities
- Creating walking maps that offer specific routes, distances, and interesting information, offering residents individual opportunities for recreation

DNR Trail, Ford Marsh, & River Raisin Battlefield National Park

DNR Trail: new path accessible by bike or
on foot into the state park free of charge

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
now includes Ford Marsh, 242 acres of
coastal wetlands, that might have
boardwalks for visitors

River Raisin Battlefield National Park

All converging here, making Monroe
unique in the United States for
recreational opportunities!

Our New Recreational Motto:

COME HOME TO MONROE: YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE; EVEN THE PAST!!

Historical National Park

State Park with handicap fishing pier and trail

Miles of walking/biking trails

40 minutes from 3 major cities, that include art museums, science museums, symphonies, and performing arts

Nature and wildlife abound!

City of Monroe Webpage

With the wildlife refuge, the national park, the state park, and our own bike trail all converging at the city limits, I would like to develop some area on our website dedicated to tourists looking for other things to do in Monroe when they visit the national park or wildlife refuge. Although scattered pieces exist, there needs to be a formal 'e-info' packet to draw visitors into the city recreationally.

2010-2011 Expenditure and Revenue Highlights

Reducing overtime costs by using seasonal directors more in direct after hours programming

Due to the huge increase in attendance at the Concerts in the Park, we have added one concert and the Movie in the Park will be back this year

Expanding free programs to residents that are lower costs to the city

Actively work toward increasing sponsorships for programs

Budget Analysis

Income: \$123,991

Expenditures: \$311,960?*

■ Administration \$213,366?

■ Programs \$98,594

*Administration would be reduced further with secretarial cut.

Thoughts to consider:

Close Cantrick Pool. The revenue is not high enough to cover the cost.

If programs have net revenue, we should continue to offer them to residents

What direction would the council like the Recreation Department to follow?

Should any free programs be offered as a service to the community, such as Yoga, youth basketball camp, and tot lots? The cost is nominal, but the services offered make an impact, allowing residents to see the city is still

committed to providing quality recreational services for all residents.

Conclusion

The City of Monroe is going through an extensive 'reshaping'. The Recreation Department has taken drastic cuts yet have continued to expand our programming with less staff, and will continue to do so given the chance.

Recreation offers residents a sense of well being and community cohesiveness. It is a positive service residents depend on, pay for, and expect to see. All departments are being asked to downsize, and working together, we can do just that. We ALL can help Monroe recover!

Let's keep Monroe alive!

