

Spring
2023



~ MUNICIPAL VIEWPOINT ~

Cherishing Our Past...Living for the Future

~CITY OF ITHACA AND OUR BEAUTIFUL PARKS~

As we enter into our warmer months in Michigan, I wanted to remind everyone what the City of Ithaca has to offer in our parks.

We are in the final year of our Parks and Recreation Plan and will be working to develop a new five-year plan later this year. Resident input is welcomed and encouraged; we will have a survey circulating for your input sometime this summer. Two items the city is looking into is funding for the Woodland Park Road and a new Playscape. The current structure is twenty years old and is showing its' age. If you are interested in spearheading or joining a group of volunteers to raise awareness and funding for a new one, please contact us at City Hall.

In the meantime, please enjoy the coming months and what our many parks have to offer.

Atkinson Park is located at the corner of Edgar St. and E. North St, adjacent to the Senior Activity Building. It is a 3.9-acre neighborhood park that houses a pavilion, picnic tables, a walking path, horse shoe pits and shuffleboard. The newest addition to the park area are the pickle ball courts that were built in 2022 and have already begun attracting residents and visitors alike. The courts are open to players of all ages and skill level.

Memory Park is our newest park and is nestled in the downtown block on the South side of Center Street. Not only does this park host our annual Christmas tree lighting, but is the ideal spot for a break while walking through downtown and visiting your favorite shop or restaurant. The Ithaca Promotional Committee funded a beautiful light canopy overhanging the park, this past year. You should see more events coming to Memory Park in the near future featuring this light canopy.

McNabb Park is our largest park at 164.4 acres. McNabb is home to a Pig/Calf scramble during spring time and the Gratiot Agricultural Society's Ag Expo every June. The posse arena even hosted a Saginaw Valley State University Equestrian competition in 2022. A portion of the park is utilized by AYSO 1163 youth soccer leagues in the spring and fall. The park also boasts the Jail House trail, a combination of mountain biking and walking trails on the South West 43 acres of the property. And, after a short hiatus the Gratiot County Chamber of Commerce is bringing back the Agri-Fit Challenge to McNabb Park this Fall.

Woodland Park is a 22.5-acre gem near the western border of our city. While the park may be best known for having the only Winter Sled Hill in Gratiot County, it has many other features to offer our community. There is a 1-mile walking trail circling the park, and near the entrance of the park is a large pavilion for family gatherings. You will also find smaller pavilions scattered throughout the park for picnics and parties. They can be reserved at City Hall or are available on a first come first serve basis. An amphitheater sits in the middle of the park and on the South West edge there is a dog park for your furry friends. The aforementioned Playscape has been a staple of Woodland Park for our children during the past twenty years. We do hope to have a new one in the coming years for the next generation of youth.

These were just some of the highlights of our community parks. We invite everyone to get out and enjoy them!

Jamey Conn • City Manager

Parks and Recreation



Board and Commission Vacancies



If you would like to give a few hours of your time and expertise, we would like to hear from you! The people of Ithaca are what make this a great community and help it to run efficiently. The City is currently accepting applications for appointment to the following Boards and Commissions:

- ▶ **Planning Commission**- (3-year term) Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the Month (as needed).
- ▶ **Board of Review**- (3-year term) Meets in March, July and December.
- ▶ **Downtown Development Authority**- (4-year term) Meets 2nd Monday in April, June, September and December.

Eligible applicants must be an elector of the City of Ithaca and shall have been a resident of the City for a period of not less than one year* and must not be in default to the City. Applications will be accepted through May 31st. Terms run from July 1 through June 30th of each year.

*Not a requirement for DDA



Applications are available at City Hall or on the City website: www.ithacami.com; please drop off or email to clerk@ithacami.com. If you have any questions, please contact City Clerk Cathy Cameron at 989-875-3200.

Are You Planning a Home Improvement Project?



Zoning permits are needed for projects such as new additions, decks, garages and fencing.

Be sure to stop at City Hall to fill out your zoning application before you begin your project.

Applications are also available on the City's website.

www.ithacami.com



A Few Tips to Help Keep Our Community Looking Great

- ▶ **Grass Clippings** –Please keep grass clippings away from the street to avoid plugging drains and catch basins.
- ▶ **Tree Trimming and Clear Vision** - If you have trees or shrubs that hang over the sidewalk, please trim them back to allow safe walkways. On corner lots, make sure any trees, bushes and landscaping are maintained to allow for clear vision for all vehicles and pedestrians.
- ▶ **Leaves** - Please do not rake leaves to the curb during the Spring months. The City does not have a leaf collection program in the Spring as it does in the Fall. Residents may dispose of leaves and yard waste at the City brush pile located on the South East corner of town at the end of Meadow Lane Estates. There are two piles which are labeled with signs. The Southern pile is for the disposal of tree limbs, brush & brush trimmings. The Northern pile is for the disposal of grass, plants (no rootballs), cut flowers and leaves.
- ▶ **Yard/Garage Sale and Political Campaign signs** - must be placed behind the sidewalk and permission must be given by the property owner before placing the sign. Signs are not allowed on utility poles, street signs, streetlights, trees, or corners of alleys and streets. Please refrain from parking vehicles downtown to advertise sales.
- ▶ **Cemetery Decorations** - New decorations are allowed starting May 1st. Any grave decorations must be within 12 inches of the stone. Glass containers, hedges, rosebushes and/or thorny vegetation is strictly prohibited. All flowers, including artificial may only be placed in an urn. Plantings shall be permitted only under supervision of the Cemetery Sexton. The City will remove all flowers, trees or shrubs which have become unsightly, dangerous or within a walk-way or alley without notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice to Ithaca Property Owners, Tenants & Public

City code requires that grasses & noxious weeds not exceed eight (8) inches of height on any property in the City of Ithaca. Weeds and grasses not cut by May 1, 2023 will be cut by the City as many times as necessary and the property owner charged accordingly. Please see the city website for complete Property Maintenance Code



2023

SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Beginning **May 8th** through **May 11th**, the DPW will begin flushing fire hydrants. You may experience low water pressure and/or discolored water during this process.



All City Offices will be closed for the following holidays:



Memorial Day - May 29th

Independence Day - July 4th

Stay up-to-date on City info at:

www.ithacami.com

Visit us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/CityofIthacaMI

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2nd– Opening day of Farmers Market, Tuesday's from 2pm - 6pm

May 21st– Dust Off Car Show, 12pm - 4pm Downtown Ithaca

May 29th—Memorial Day Service & Parade, 10am at All Wars Memorial

June 14th— Flag day

June 21st - 25th—Gratiot Ag Expo at the Ithaca Fair Grounds, McNabb Park

June 24th—Ithaca Block Party, Downtown Ithaca



Opening day for the Farmers Market this year is May 2nd. We look forward to our previous vendors returning and are always looking for new vendors to join us in Downtown Ithaca under the pavilion located at Center & Pine River Streets.

The Farmers Market for 2023 will continue to be on **Tuesday's from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm**. There is **NO VENDOR FEE** this year, however, the vendor must fill out a Registration Form and submit to City Hall before the market day in which the vendor plans to attend. Vendors will be assigned a space when registered each week. A pdf of the Registration Form and packet can be found on our website at: www.ithacami.com.

As we look forward to a new season we hope to provide a variety of locally grown seasonal fresh produce, plants, flowers, homemade baked goods, jams & jellies, handmade local crafts and much more! If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining us, please pass this information on.

If you have homegrown or homemade items you would like to share with our community and surrounding area please contact:

DDA Coordinator Shelly Moffit at 989-875-3200 or by email at: dda@ithacami.com.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2023

Sign up begins June 7th
Via Facebook or at the library

Kick off event on
June 14th @ 11 am

in the library basement

