

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION

**GIVE**  
365

**Park Audits & Park Page  
Updates**



# What did we want park pages to be?

- **Inviting** to people curious about Ann Arbor's beautiful parks
- **Helpful** to first time park visitors and frequent park users alike
- **Representative** of the look and "feel" of the park
- **Inclusive** of:
  - detailed amenity information such as access points or trail information
  - park hours and rules
  - all accessibility options for parking, walking, bicycling, public transportation & more
  - information on opportunities to engage with the park
  - unique park details, including any park history

# New Park Page Elements

The screenshot shows the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation website. The header includes the City of Ann Arbor logo, navigation buttons for 'ENJOY ANN ARBOR', 'BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR', 'DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR', 'SERVICES', and 'DEPARTMENTS', a search bar, and social media icons. The main navigation bar includes 'PLAY', 'PARKS & PLACES', 'EVENTS', 'PARK RENTAL', and 'ADMINISTRATIVE'. The 'Parks and Places' section is active, displaying a list of parks including Ann Arbor Senior Center, Argo Canoe Livery, Bryant & Northside Community Centers, Buhr Outdoor Ice Arena and Pool, Cobblestone Farm, Farmers Market, Fuller Park Pool, Gallup Park Canoe Livery, Huron Hills Golf Course, Leslie Park Golf Course, Leslie Science and Nature Center, Mack Indoor Pool, and Veterans Ice Arena and Pool. The 'Belize Park' page is highlighted, showing a large photo of the park, the park address (742 Fountain St, Ann Arbor, MI 48103), and quick access links for 'Access', 'Amenities', and 'History'.

Quick access links to new information, including park Access, Amenities, & History

Representative pictures

Park address and link to directions

# New Park Page Elements

Further down from the top of the park page, you'll find:

**Hours & rules**

**Brief description of the park, and a link to a map of the park's location in the city**

**Information on parking, public transportation, and walking & biking access**

## Hours and Rules

Open 6 a.m.-midnight with quiet hours beginning at 10 p.m. Refer to [Chapter 39](#) of the City of Ann Arbor Code of Ordinances for park regulations and rules. [Smoking is prohibited](#), and [dogs must be on leash](#).

## Overview

**Belize Park** is a small, roughly half acre neighborhood park located on the corner of Fountain Street and West Summit Street. View the [Ann Arbor Parks and Nature Areas map](#) for location context. The park is located in a small low area where it feels protected from the street.

The park offers play equipment for young children and open space for them to play, allowing children to run around and let their imaginations guide them in games to play. A short hill provides sledding possibilities in the winter. Near the play equipment is a seating area with benches, a picnic table, and water fountains--one for adults, one for children and one down at ground level for leashed dogs out for a walk with their owners.

Tall trees provide plenty of shade in spring, summer and fall. In the back corner of the park is a [rain garden](#), which collects runoff rainwater so the plants there can slow and clean the water before it enters our water system. The surrounding neighborhood is residential, with some houses dating back to the late 1800s.

## Access and Parking

The park is located at the corner of Fountain Street and Summit Street, and there is street parking on both of these streets.

The park is accessible on foot by walking through the neighborhood sidewalks, and on bicycle by riding through the neighborhood streets.

**Public Transportation:** The [nearest bus stop on W Summit Street](#) is about a minute walk from the park. Visit [The Ride](#) for route and schedule details or check out the [parks ride guide](#).

# New Park Page Elements

Interactive park map with  
Amenity icons



List of park Amenitites

Using a phone? - [Click for a GPS Tracker and Wayfinding Map](#)



## Amenities

- Benches
- Play structure
- Drinking fountain
- [Rain garden](#), which won a [Leadership Award in Public Stewardship](#)
  - [Learn more about raingardens here](#)

# New Park Page Elements

**Information on ways to volunteer and get involved with the park**

## Volunteer

There are many opportunities for volunteering and getting engaged with the Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Services Unit. [GIVE 365](#) and the seasonal [Adopt-a-Park Program](#) offer volunteer opportunities ranging from a 90 minute commitment to a more long term ongoing role. If you are feeling the call to volunteer or give some time, reach out or explore the websites above to see what's upcoming or how to get involved.

**Directions on how to report park maintenance issues**

## Report a Problem - A2 Fix It

To report any maintenance issues or other problem during your park visit, please report through [A2Fix It](#). Keep in mind that parks are large spaces and A2 Fix It requests can be difficult to find without detailed information. When reporting an issue in a park please include location details. There is a details and description section near the end of the request process to help you provide this. In addition, users can utilize the pin (website) or X (mobile app) feature to provide specific location information inside the park. Finally, please consider including a wide angle photo or include background landmarks, which helps staff find and fix the problem.

**Details on gifts and donations to the park**

## Gifts and Donations

Information on donating to the parks and the Guide to Giving can be found [here](#). Alternatively if you have a special project or park improvement idea that you want to donate your time and energy toward, a great place to start is through Adopt-a-Park and the [proposing a special park project](#) guide. For information on donating a tree through Adopt-a-Park, the [tree donation guide](#) can help you get started.

**Park history**

## History

Ann Arbor's city parks sit on the ancestral and traditional homelands of several indigenous Native peoples. Read a [land acknowledgement](#) from the city and learn more about the early history of the land [here](#).

As with some other Ann Arbor city parks, Belize Park – small though it is – did not come on board fully formed. It was pieced together from two land purchases at different times and with some outside funding assistance. At the time it was [dedicated](#) -- June 16, 1975 -- the park consisted of the property at 742 Fountain Street, which the city had [acquired in 1974](#). Funds for purchasing that property came from a portion of the city's 1966 voter-approved 2.5 million dollar park bond issue, matched by funds from a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant.

# Wheeler Park's Old Park Webpage

The screenshot shows the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the City of Ann Arbor logo, social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), and a 'Contact' button. Below this is a search bar and a menu with categories: ENJOY ANN ARBOR, BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR, DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR, SERVICES, and DEPARTMENTS. The main header reads 'Parks and Recreation'. A secondary navigation bar includes PLAY, PARKS & PLACES, EVENTS, PARK RENTAL, and ADMINISTRATIVE. On the left, a sidebar lists various parks and facilities. The main content area is titled 'Wheeler Park' and includes a breadcrumb trail, a description of the park, and a link to a printable map. A green arrow points from the map link to a separate map image on the right.

**Parks and Places**

- Ann Arbor Senior Center
- Argo Canoe Livery
- Bryant & Northside Community Centers
- Buhr Outdoor Ice Arena and Pool
- Cobblestone Farm
- Farmers Market
- Fuller Park Pool
- Gallup Park Canoe Livery
- Huron Hills Golf Course
- Leslie Park Golf Course
- Leslie Science and Nature Center
- Mack Indoor Pool
- Veterans Ice Arena and Pool

## Wheeler Park

[Home](#) » [Departments](#) » [Parks and Recreation](#) » [Parks and Places](#) » Wheeler Park

Wheeler Park is a 1.93-acre neighbor park located between 4th and 5th and Depot. For its small size, it is packed with activities. The park contains a playground, restroom building with water fountain, a walking/running track, basketball court, plaza with benches, picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills, an open field area, and an asphalt walk connection to all of the activities. There is parking available on the street.

[Click here to view a printable map of Wheeler Park \(pdf\)](#)



Calendar of Events

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734.794.6000  
customerservice@a2gov.org

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ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION  
**GIVE 365**

# Wheeler Park's New Park Webpage!

The screenshot shows the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation website. The header includes the City of Ann Arbor logo, navigation tabs for 'ENJOY ANN ARBOR', 'BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR', and 'DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR', and a search bar. The main navigation bar lists 'PLAY', 'PARKS & PLACES', 'EVENTS', 'PARK RENTAL', and 'ADMINISTRATIVE'. The 'Parks and Places' section is active, displaying a list of parks on the left and the Wheeler Park page content on the right. The Wheeler Park page features a photo of the park entrance sign, a map, and various informational sections.

## Parks and Recreation

PLAY PARKS & PLACES EVENTS PARK RENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE

### Parks and Places

- Ann Arbor Senior Center
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- Veterans Ice Arena and Pool

## Wheeler Park

Home » Departments » Parks and Recreation » Parks and Places » Wheeler Park

Park Address: [200 Depot Street, Ann Arbor MI 48104](#)

[Parking](#) [Amenities](#) [History](#) [Active Adopters](#)

### Hours and Rules

Open 6 a.m.- 10 p.m. Refer to [Chapter 39](#) of the City of Ann Arbor Code of Ordinances for park regulations and rules. Contact [park rentals](#) for policies and rules related to rentals and special uses and always refer to posted park signage in the park. [Smoking is prohibited](#) and [dogs must be on leash](#).

### Overview

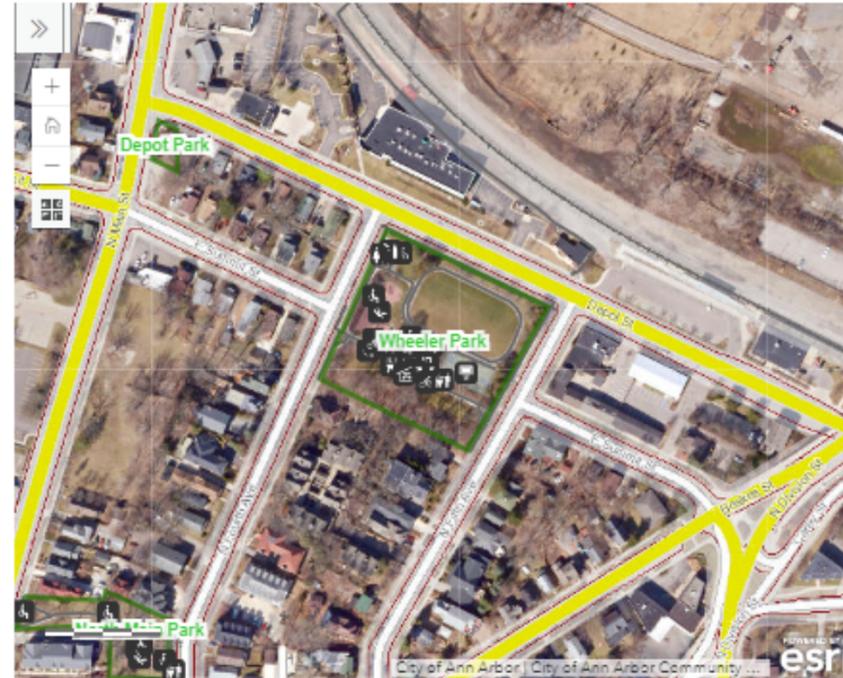
Wheeler Park is just under two acres in size, located just north of downtown Ann Arbor in the Kerrytown area. The park is packed with activities. View the [Ann Arbor Parks and Nature Areas map](#) for location context. The park contains a playground, restroom building with water fountain, a walking/running/skate track, basketball court, plaza with benches, picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills, an open field area and an asphalt walk connection to all of the activities. Contact [park rentals](#) for information on renting the shelter or hosting an event at Wheeler Park.

In 2020, the [Allen Creek Railroad Berm Project](#) was completed, resulting in a tunnel under the railroad to create a path that connects Wheeler Park to the [Border-2-Border trail \(B2B\)](#). The trailhead is accessed at the corner of Depot and 5th Street, just across the crosswalk at the North East corner of the park. View the [Allen Creek Berm Project video](#) from Mayor Christopher Taylor to learn more about this project.

### Access Points and Parking

Wheeler Park is openly accessible on three sides of the park. Street parking is available but is within a residential area so note the two hour parking limits Monday-Friday on E. Summit, S. Fourth Avenue, Depot, and S. Fifth Avenue and some meter spaces on Depot and the lot adjacent to the Amtrak station. The two hour residential parking is only enforced Monday-Friday from 8a.m-6p.m -meaning all vehicles parking without a resident permit need to move every two hours (those with a residential parking permit do not need to move every two hour). There are tow away zone signs on the same posts as the two hour signs so that people know they cannot park in intersections and block crosswalks, hydrants and driveways. The two hour residential parking limit is not enforced on the weekends.

**Public transportation.** There is an AATA bus stop located three minutes away at [Beakes and Summit](#). Wheeler Park is also located a few minutes walk away from the [Amtrak Station](#) located on Depot Street. Downtown Ann Arbor and the Blake Transit Center is about a 20 minute walk from Wheeler Park. Check out [TheRide Guide](#) for more details.



Using a phone? - [Click for a GPS Tracker and Wayfinding Map](#)



### Amenities

- Playground with structure and swings
- Basketball courts (2)
- Picnic tables, benches
- Restrooms available, open seasonally
- [Trash and recycling](#) opportunities. There are landfill cans located on either side of the shelter and recycling bins on the perimeter of the park.
- Small shelter with electricity is available with grills and restrooms nearby. Approximate capacity is 25 people. Visit [park rentals](#) for information on hosting an event or renting the shelter at Wheeler Park.
- Trail information. The crosswalk at 5th and Depot to the North side of Depot Street leads to the Allen Creek Tunnel path, which connects to the [Border-2-Border trail \(B2B\)](#). Wheeler is a perfect departure point for a [one mile walking loop](#) that takes you from Wheeler Park through the Allen Creek tunnel to the B2B, over the dam, along the cascades and over the Broadway Bridge back to Summit Street and Wheeler Park.
- [Winter Park Information](#)



### Volunteer

There are ongoing and limitless opportunities for volunteering and getting engaged with the Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Services Unit. [GIVE 365](#) and the seasonal [Adopt-a-Park Program](#) offer volunteer opportunities ranging from a 90 minute commitment, to a more long term, ongoing role. If you are feeling the call to volunteer or give some time, reach out or explore the websites above to see what's upcoming or how to get involved.

### Report a Problem - A2 Fix It

To report any maintenance issues or other problem during your park visit, please report through [A2Fix It](#). When reporting an issue in a park please include location details. There is a details and description section near the end of the request process to help you provide this. In addition, users can utilize the pin (website) or X (mobile app) feature to provide specific location information inside the park. Finally, please consider including a wide angle photo or include background landmarks, which helps staff find and fix the problem.

### Gifts and Donations

Information on donating to the parks and the Guide to Giving can be found [here](#). Alternatively if you have a special project or park improvement idea that you want to donate your time and energy toward, a great place to start is through Adopt-a-Park and the [proposing a special park project](#) guide. For information on donating a tree through Adopt-a-Park, the [tree donation guide](#) can help you get started.

### History

Wheeler Park, originally known as Summit Street playground, is surrounded by some of the oldest neighborhoods in the city. Park records note that the City Public Works yard had used this land but relocated and the park department developed a playground that was only a half acre space. A [special report by the Sunday Daily](#) in 1969 gives a glimpse

Check out [Wheeler's new park page](#) and read its interesting history!

There are too many transformations to highlight... but a few staff favorites

Erika's favorite



I drove by this nature area daily for 8 years and didn't know there was a trail entrance off of Main Street until this page was being updated. The old page had no trail details which made it seem less inviting. I love the enhanced overview written by the auditor on the updated page as it made me want to get back out there to explore. New signs have since gone in so I think a lot more people will be able to find and enjoy this nature area!

**PLAY**   **PARKS & PLACES**   **EVENTS**   **PARK RENTAL**   **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Parks and Places**

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## Bluffs Nature Area

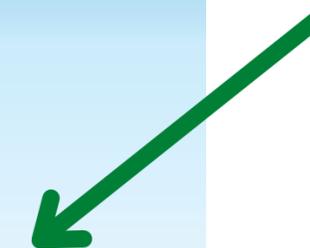
[Home](#) » [Departments](#) » [Parks and Recreation](#) » [Parks and Places](#) » [Bluffs Nature Area](#)

**Bluffs Nature Area** is 39.35 acres, located on a glacially formed ridge over North Main Street. Trails wind throughout the park and are accessible from North Main St., just across from Lakeshore St. on the southwest side of the street.

Bluffs has a variety of natural features including an oak-hickory forest, wooded ravines, and an open field with remnant prairie species. There are also a few examples of large older trees including open grown oaks and a huge white ash. This area has long been a favorite place for bicycles, but hikers are also sure to enjoy the rugged trails throughout the park.

- [Click here to view a printable map of Bluffs Nature Area \(pdf\)](#)
- [Click here to link to Natural Area Preservation \(NAP\) website](#)
- [Click here for more information about enjoying Ann Arbor's nature areas](#)
- [Click here to view a Natural Area Preservation \(NAP\) Newsletter from 2012 highlighting Bluffs Nature Area \(pdf\)](#)
- [Click here to view a Natural Area Preservation \(NAP\) Newsletter from 2001 highlighting Bluffs Nature Area \(pdf\)](#)

Bluffs Nature Area's old park page



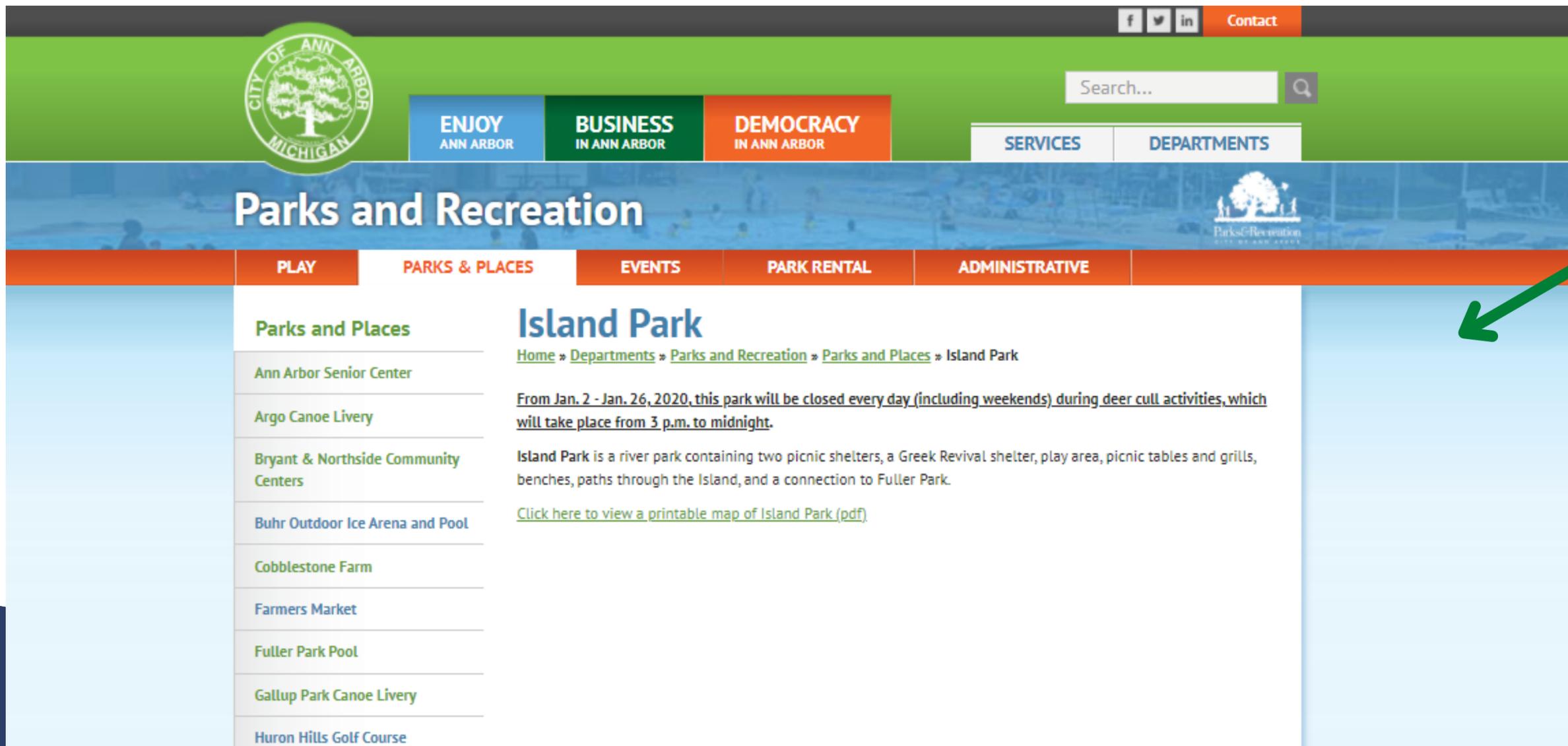
[See Bluffs Nature Area's new park page](#)

# More staff favorites

## Conor's favorite



Island Park feels like a vacation destination dropped right into the middle of Ann Arbor. Its new park page is inviting and provides valuable access information. My hope is that more people, Ann Arbor residents and visitors alike, view the new park page and make it a point to experience Island Park in-person based on what they see online.



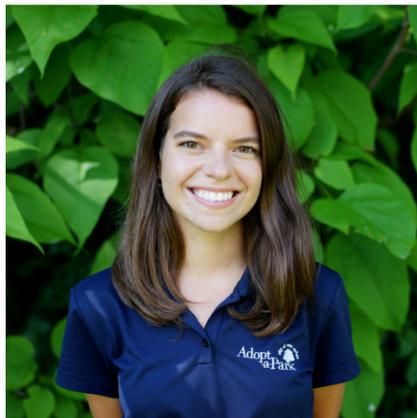
Island's old park page



See Island's new park page

# More staff favorites

## Melissa's favorite



Our office had a lot of laughs after seeing that there was a photo of staff mowing Vet's Park on the Wurster webpage. Plus the page had limited information and was out of date. Wurster is a hidden gem with a ton of amenities and gardens, and is an awesome location near downtown. There are park neighbors who help care for the park and helped with content for the renovated webpage. Now, I think people will be inspired to check it out!

**Parks and Places**

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- Leslie Science and Nature Center
- Mack Indoor Pool
- Veterans Ice Arena and Pool

### Wurster Park

Home » Departments » Parks and Recreation » Parks and Places » Wurster Park

Wurster Park is over 5.5 acres in size on Edgewood place between Madison and Third. It features an accessible asphalt path connecting activities, with new play equipment, open field play, a sledding hill, horseshoes, a picnic grill and tables, benches and a champion size oak tree on the natural registry of historic trees.

- [Click here to view a printable map of Wurster Park \(pdf\)](#)
- [Click here to link to Natural Area Preservation \(NAP\) website](#)
- [Click here to view a Natural Area Preservation \(NAP\) Newsletter from 2011 highlighting Wurster Park \(pdf\)](#)

Wurster's old park page

[See Wurster's new park page](#)

# More staff favorites

Ryan's favorite



Broadway park was a fun transformation – the old site didn't mention the dog park, which is the park's main attraction, and learning the history of the park and the area was super interesting.

Broadway's old park page

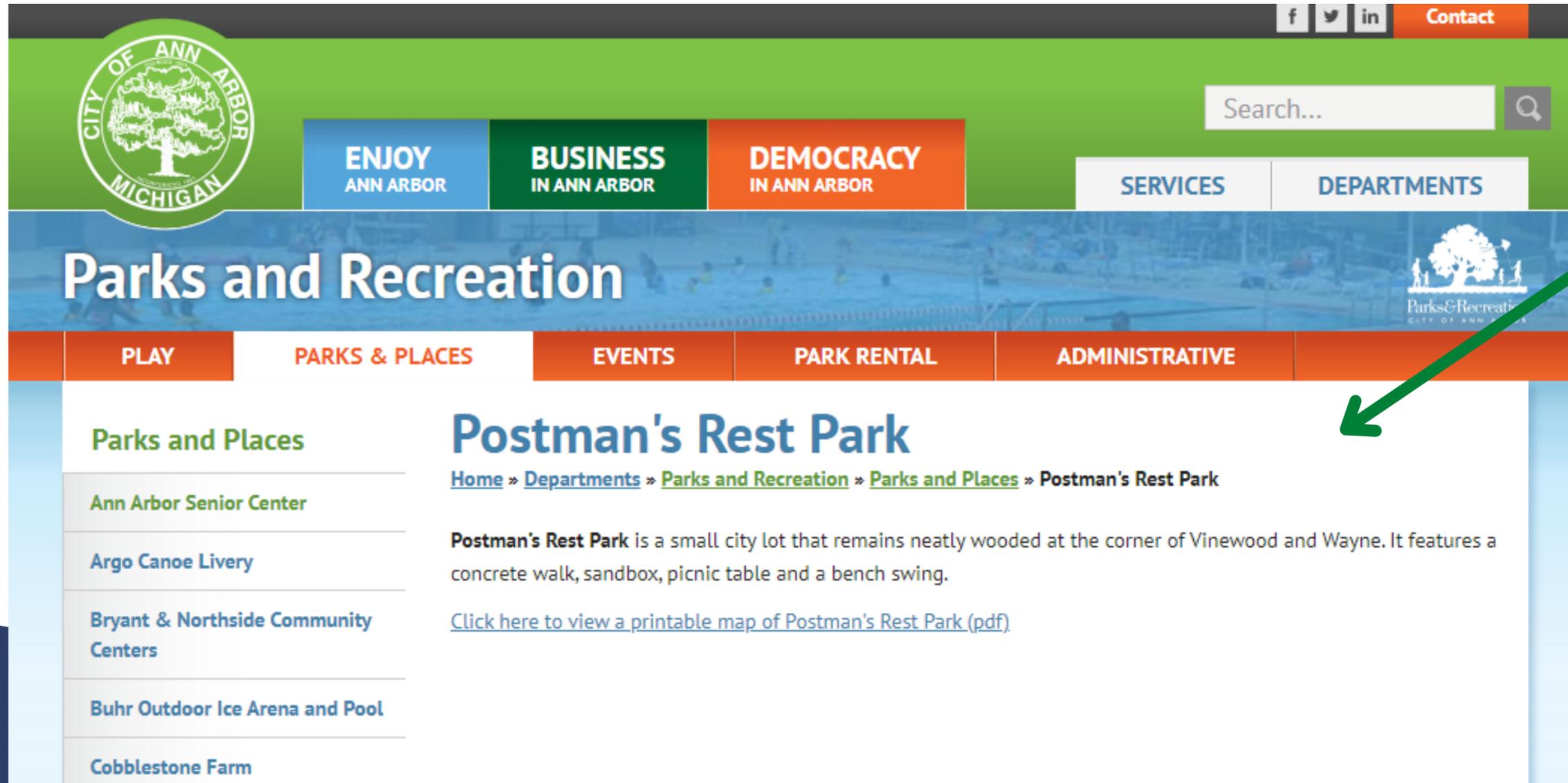
See Broadway's new park page

# More staff favorites

## Martha's favorite



Postman's Rest Park is a unique property with a heartwarming history that was previously untold. I really enjoyed unearthing this story of neighborliness and community caring for a pioneering woman journalist in her elder years. I came to realize that even tiny parks have significant history. Our larger and older parks, like West Park, can be filled with tons of history. We've dug deep into park history to reveal interesting stories whether the park is large or small.



Postman's Rest's old park page

[See Postman's Rest's new park page](#)

# How did we accomplish these webpage transformations?

- The invaluable assistance of:
  - **38** volunteer auditors!
  - **Park neighbors** who provided helpful tips and information.
- It was a **community effort** with many contributors!
- Stay tuned--a website redesign is coming-- our project was focused on content updates and not design elements. Website design is a larger city wide project now in progress and we are hopeful that an updated webpage design will highlight and showcase the content that has been added.

# Our Audit All-Star

We appreciate all of our auditors but one individual went above and beyond! Kathryn W. audited a total of **35** parks, just under a quarter of all the parks in Ann Arbor! She is also one of the select few VEP champions who have visited every park in Ann Arbor! We reached out to hear Kathryn's thoughts about the new park pages:



I don't really have a favorite. Every website was vastly improved by the work of the auditors and those who wrote the copy: taking the websites from a single page with a few lines to multiple pages with pictures and descriptions of amenities and history. I think the photos are the best part of the transformation. They add so much to the public face of each park.

# Our Incredible Park Auditors

**Alex G.  
Brad S.  
Brooks C.  
Chuck H.  
Chuck W.  
Deb G.  
E.P.  
Gabbie B.  
Hannah S.**

**Holden Z.  
Jacob D.  
Jeff M.  
Josie K.  
Karis C.  
Kathy K.  
Kathy W.  
Lauren C.  
Lillian D.**

**Marguerite  
Martha H.  
Mary A.  
Matt W.  
M.B.B.  
Nate  
Parker F.  
Tracy E.**

# high five all around!



# What's Next?

The park audit process has revealed multiple side projects that are now part of our effort for **continuous improvement**, including signage and updates to the updates.

Let us know what else you think we should be focusing on! We're always looking for feedback and ideas from the community.