

Recreation Station Newsletter

A Message from Parks Director Brian Keenan-Lechel:

Saginaw County Parks wrapped up our busiest parks season ever recorded in early September, totaling 116,250 patrons between at Imerman Memorial Park and William H. Haithco Recreation Area between Memorial Day and Labor Day. This represents a 14% increase from 2024 numbers, and nearly 10,000 more patrons than our previous record-high. Your Saginaw County Park usage remains through the roof as compared to ten years ago, when we saw 25,557 patrons across the same period. Our fantastic park programmers have increased program offerings across this period as well. Accounting for park usage and programs at our additional parks and trails beyond Imerman and Haithco, more than 250,000 park patrons visit your Saginaw County Parks each year, a remarkable total for a community and park system of our size. Hats off and immense gratitude, as always, to a fantastic staff team who work remarkably hard all year, and especially May through September to make this all possible.

Although our summer season has concluded, your parks remain open and accessible year-round. A full slate of park programs and partnerships keep us busy well into the fall. Two exciting projects are also beginning construction this fall. First, Imerman Memorial Park improvements will include accessible walkways, an accessible restroom addition, a canoe/kayak launch and rental kiosk system, and more. Second, a trailhead on the south end of the BayZil Trail, on the east end of Kochville Road in Zilwaukee



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Township will break ground this fall. Both projects will conclude in spring/early summer '26.

We hope you continue to enjoy your Saginaw County Parks this autumn and hope to see you on the trails!

Children's Fun Night 2025



*Happy fall from your Parks
& Recreation staff!*

Park Hours:

Imerman Memorial Park and Price Nature Center, 8:00 A.M. to dusk. (Sept 2- May 21) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 22-Sept 7)

Ringwood Forest 9:00 A.M. to dusk. (Sept 2- May 21) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 22-Sept 7)

William H. Haithco Recreation Area, 9:00 A.M. to Dusk. (Sept 2- May 21) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 22-Sept 7)

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail, Veterans Memorial Park and Headwaters Rec. Area are only open during daylight hours.

Park Office: 111 S. Michigan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602. Contact us: 989-790-5280. On the web @ www.saginawcounty.com/parks

2025 Fall Programs

Walk with Ease (WWE)

Mon. Wed. & Fri. Sept 8 - October 17 9-10:00 AM

Pull out your walking shoes and join us for a FREE 6 week walking experience. This class offers 3 interactive sessions per week with a certified trained leader. Each session will begin with a brief discussion on a topic important to successful walking or arthritis management. Participants will be guided through a warm up and stretching followed by walking and a cool down. This class can help improve overall health, increase flexibility, balance, strength & stamina. Other benefits include reduced pain and discomfort for those suffering with arthritis. ALL ability levels are encouraged to participate and trained leaders will help you be successful. Open to all ages. To obtain the maximum benefit from this program we highly encourage participants to attend all sessions, but absences are understood. Location: YMCA Pavilion, 1915 Fordney St. **Register at www.saginaw-county.com/parks**. Cost: Free!

Senior Rail Trail Color Tours - Golf Cart Rides

Tues. 10/7 10-2:00 PM

Wed. 10/8 10-2:00 PM

Thurs. 10/9 10-2:00 PM



Location: Rail Trail-Van Wormer Trail Head, 2998 VanWormer Rd. Saginaw. Unable to get out and enjoy the rail trail on your own? Want a personalized tour of the trail? Allow us to help! Join Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers as they make their way down the trail in

golf carts. Tours are 45 minutes long and leave at the top of every hour. **Reservations are required. Call (989)790-5280 to register!** Cost: Free.



Wed. 10/15 6:00-7:00 PM Imerman

Halloween has gone to the dogs—literally! Dress up your four-legged friend and join us for a tail-wagging Canine Costume Contest (dogs only, please). Prizes will be awarded for Scariest, Funniest, Most Creative, and the coveted People's Choice! Location: Imerman Memorial Park, 3495 Midland Rd. **No registration required.** Cost: Free.

Jack-O-Dash

Fri. 10/17 6:00-7:30 PM Price Nature Center

Program: 6 PM - 7:00 PM Activities

7:00 PM Awards

7:15 PM Candle lit Run /walk



Join Saginaw County Parks and the Saginaw YMCA for

a 3/4 mile family fun run/walk in your Halloween costume. The first 50 participants registered receive a free Pumpkin! Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes plus healthy activities, treats, campfire and mascots will be part of the evening fun! **Register at www.saginawcounty.com/parks** to make sure you get your free pumpkin. Cost: Free

Cider and Doughnut Hike

Thurs. 11/13 5:30-6:30 PM Ringwood Forest

Join parks staff for a refreshing fall hike through Ringwood Forest, where you can breathe in the crisp autumn air and crunch through colorful leaves. After the hike, unwind with warm cider and delicious doughnuts! **Register at www.saginawcounty.com/parks**. Cost: Free

Birds of Prey

**Sat. 11/15 11:00 AM Family Session
1:00 PM Adult Only Session**

Have you ever felt the rush of a turkey vulture's wings or looked an owl in the eye? If not, now's your chance! Join bird expert Joe Rogers from the **Wildlife Recovery Association** for an up-close look at live birds of prey. Location: Butman-Fish Library, 1716 Hancock, Saginaw, MI. Please note that children are welcome at the 11AM session. Adults only at the 1 PM session. **No registration required. Limited spots.** Cost: FREE



Santa's Holiday Hike

Fri. 12/5 5:30-6:30 PM Imerman

Step away from the holiday hustle and enjoy a peaceful evening hike along our beautifully illuminated trail. Follow the glow of festive inflatables to a cozy campfire where Christmas music, hot cocoa, cookies, and a visit with **SANTA** await! Don't forget to bring a **Coats for Kids** donation to drop off at the trailhead.: Imerman Memorial Park, 3495 Midland Road. **No registration required.** Cost: Free

Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area Community Open House



Thursday, October 23rd

77 W. Center St. Saginaw, MI 48602

Join Saginaw County Parks as we officially celebrate the Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area with a special Community Open House!

Event Schedule:



8:30 AM - Birding Group Hike ~ approx. 2 miles

9 AM - 12 PM - Tree Planting with Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy

10 AM - 4 PM - Scenic Cart Rides every 30 minutes

*Call 989-790-5280 to sign up; on-site sign up also available

10 AM - 4 PM - Connect with GM retirees/employees

11:00 AM - Guided History Hike with Tom Trombley ~ approx. 1.5 miles

Saginaw County Historical Society, Vice President & Chief Historian

1:00 PM - Nature Hike with Holly Vaughn ~ approx. 2.5 miles

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Southern MI Interpretive Field Manager

3:00 PM - Habitat Restoration Discussion with Savannah Trottier

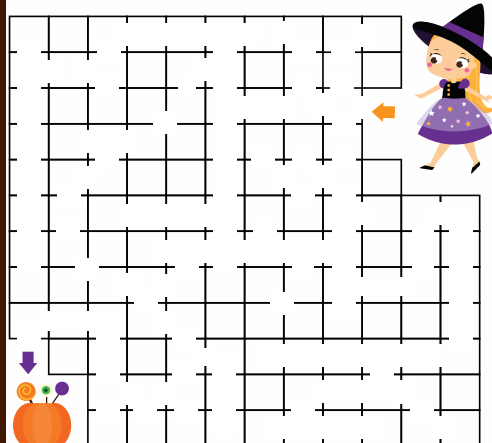
The Nature Conservancy, Program Manager, Community Outreach and Engagement

Light refreshments will be available throughout the day

CROSSWORD



Maze game



Are you looking for a location for your special outing? We have the perfect place for any occasion! Pavilion reservations are ideal for company picnics, family or school reunions, graduation parties, birthday parties, church groups, clubs and any group that would appreciate having their outing in a beautiful Saginaw County Park. The William H. Haithco Recreation Area provides modern bathrooms, playgrounds, Ruth Averill Splash Pad, fishing docks, volleyball courts and five picnic pavilions. Imerman Memorial Park provides modern bathrooms, a fishing dock, a volleyball court, a playground, horseshoe pits, basketball and tennis courts, an in-line hockey rink, Bark Park and four picnic pavilions.

We will begin accepting 2026 pavilion reservations for the William H. Haithco Recreation Area, Imerman Memorial Park, and Price Nature Center on January 2, 2026.

Pavilion rental fees are \$75 per day for Saginaw County Residents. Park entry for Saginaw County Residents is free. Non Residents pay a \$2.00 per vehicle entry fee at Imerman Memorial Park and a \$5.00 per vehicle entry fee at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area (Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day).

Reservations & payment can be completed online at www.saginawcounty.com/parks. Please call our office if you need assistance with this new method or need to pay by cash or check.



To get free entry to our parks, Saginaw County Residents can pick up a free Recreate Pass at Imerman Memorial Park, Wm. H. Haithco

Recreation Area or the Parks office. Out of county patrons may purchase a \$30 pass for a whole summer of fun!



-  William H. Haithco Rec. Area
2121 Schust Road
-  Imerman Memorial Park
3495 Midland Road
-  Ringwood Forest
13710 Ring Rd, St. Charles
-  Veterans Memorial Park
1543 - 1701 M-13
North of Zilwaukee
-  Saginaw River Headwaters
Rec. Area
77 W. Center St, Saginaw
-  Price Nature Center
6685 Sheridan Road
-  Saginaw Valley Rail Trail
Water St Trail Head
401 E. Water St, St. Charles
-  Saginaw Valley Rail Trail
Van Wormer Rd. Trail Head
2998 VanWormer Rd, Saginaw
-  Saginaw Valley Rail Trail
Stroebe Rd. Trail Head
6225 Stroebe Rd, Saginaw





Just a friendly reminder that dogs are permitted on a 6 ft leash at all of our county parks except the Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area*. Imerman Memorial Park has a Dog Park where dogs are allowed off leash to romp and play with their friends. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Dogs are allowed at Haithco during our Saginaw County Parks sanctioned Soggy Doggy events in the spring and fall.

The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. We will provide reasonable accommodations to assist people with disabilities to access and participate in our recreation programs, facilities, and services. For program registration information, please call the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission at (989) 790-5280.

Commission Members

Ruth Averill - Chairman, Tim Courtney - Vice Chairman, Brian J. Wendling - Secretary
Delena Spates-Allen, Darwin Baranski, Rob Brown, Deb Kestner, Sheldon Matthews
David Sommers, Demond Tibbs

Staff Members

Brian Keenan-Lechel - Director Jordan Beal - Operations Supervisor
Mary Williams - Office Manager Jeanette Fiers - Outdoor Recreation & Event Coordinator
Tom Kowalski - Parks Foreman Fred Raymond - Parks Specialist



PLAY IN THE PARKS

September

Walk with Ease (WWE)

Mon. Wed. & Fri. Sept 8 - Oct 17 9-10:00 AM YMCA's pavilion

October

7-9	Senior Rail Trail Color Tours	10AM-2:00PM	Saginaw Valley Rail Trail	R
15	Howl-O-Ween	6-7:00 PM	Imerman Memorial Park	
17	Jack-O-Dash	6-7:30 PM	Price Nature Center	R
23	Headwaters Community Open House	8:30 AM-4 PM	Headwaters Rec Area	

November

13	Cider and Doughnut Hike	5:30-6:30 PM	Ringwood Forest	R
15	Birds of Prey (Family Session)	11:00 AM	Butman-Fish Library	
15	Birds of Prey (Adult Session)	1:00 PM	Butman-Fish Library	

December

5	Santa's Holiday Hike	5:30-6:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park	
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CONTACT US!
parks@saginawcounty.com
 (989) 790-5280



TAKE NOTE!

- All events are free unless noted with a "\$" symbol.
- Gate fees may be additional.
- Pre-registration is required for all events noted with the letter "R".
- Playdates are for all ages. Prepare to get messy!

