

## **Parks and Recreation 2026 Newsletter**

Welcome to **Ira Township Parks and Recreation**! We appreciate the community's support and contributions from local businesses and organizations! We are now accepting Sponsors for 2026 Events, Programs and Projects! We have many affordable options available. Sponsorships are accepted year-round! Volunteers are also welcome for our events and projects. A Great way to earn service credit!

Special thanks to **Ira Township Department of Public Services! They are the heart (and muscle) of Ira Parks and Projects! We appreciate their hard work and enthusiasm and love of community!** Everything from installing the Big Christmas Tree, decorations, prepping our parking expansion at Water Works Park and installing shade for our Music in the Park Performances! They provide great suggestions too!

Pickleball action is always a delight! The courts are a hub of activity. Beginning and experienced players are always welcome. We are reviewing **Pickleball Court** rental options after receiving a request. If this option is approved, the revenue generated could provide amenities such as wind screen shade awnings, etc. Suggestions are always welcome! Shout out to **Pickleball 365** for all your indoor pickleball needs!

A new **ADA Compliant Kayak Launch, Parking and Pathway/Approach** have been installed at Waterworks Park! Special thanks for a grant from Ralph Wilson Legacy Fund for the ADA Launch; Community Foundation of St. Clair County Family Fund for grant towards Handicapped Parking and Pathway; and thanks to EDA of St. Clair County for placemaking grant towards the Pathway and Approach. Anchor Bay Chamber of Commerce hosted our Ribbon Cutting with Grant representatives, community supporters and Township Board and staff. We are working on additional signage and paving. We have a Pavilion on our wish list! Waterworks Park is the former location of the water tower converted to a public park. Re4minder, this is a public park not an access site!

We continue to make improvements to our 12-hole **Disc Golf Course**! "Hole" Sponsors are welcome for any of the 12 holes! Our course is available year-round and is very popular! Hole 1 starts behind the township offices and the course ends near the basketball court. Grab some friends and family and enjoy the beautiful landscape throughout the trails. We prefer no glass containers on our course and trails. Last October, Kaitlyn Geschke returned with the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Space Glow Disc Tournament**. This is a unique nighttime Tournament. A portion of the proceeds came back to Ira for Disc Golf maintenance!

The Township has purchased **99.58 acres of beautiful property**. The northern border is 8855 Shortcut Road, the southern border is Dixie Hwy. The property contains access to Swan Creek and is beautiful pristine and natural environment. We are recipients of the Community Foundation Rural Assistance Program that provides consultation and assistance with grant applications. Ira Township has been approved for a DNR Recreation Passport Grant for an Accessible Tree House and Nature Trails in the north section of the property off of Short Cut Road. Stay tuned for progress reports on this first phase!

The **Large Pavilion in the Municipal Park** is available for rent. This is a great option for family reunions, picnics, birthday parties, etc. Interested people should complete a Pavilion Rental Application and Agreement and submit it to Ira Township Offices. There is a \$75 fee for residents and a \$150 fee for non-residents. Groups of 20 or more are required to rent. Rental Fees go towards park improvements!

**Mahjong** Players meet on Mondays at 1:15 pm – 4:00 pm at Township Hall. Newcomers are welcome! Euchre afternoons are an option! Let us know if you would be interested in this new option! Are there any **Pinochle Players** out there, looking for a home? We would love to set up a schedule for your group!

**The Painted Toad** classes continue in Ira Township. A wide variety of genre's offered: painting, resin, sea glass and more! Registration is handled by The Painted Toad. Resin Coasters, \$40, January 14th; Resin Dried Flowers Serving Tray, \$50, February 10th; Succulent Sea Glass, \$50, March 10th

**Join us for Seashell Art** February 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am – 12:00pm Great remedy for Cabin Fever! Several project options are available! We have all the shells you need! You choose up to three options at registration.

**Charcuterie 101!** Join us hands on class and learn how to make a great looking (and great tasting) charcuterie board! An instructor will guide you through the basics! Supplies, equipment and food, along with board for you to take home, will be provided! Class size is limited to 20 so register early!

**Easter Egg Hunt in the Trails** will be held rain or shine on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 2:00pm. We are partnering with **Maria McGuire of ReMax**. New this year, **Mobile Memories Petting Zoo** will be at our event! **Boy Scout Troop 252** will be on hand to assist with the event! **Rosco the Clown** and a **Disney Character from Royal Wish Production** will greet the kids in the park. **Maria McGuire and Mini's Collision** will provide their free, delicious Hot Dogs! We will provide lemonade and prizes for the eggs collected. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated!

**Perennial and Seed Exchange:** Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am – 12pm in the Ira Township Park parking lot near the Veterans Memorial! Meet up to exchange your overgrown perennials or favorite seeds. Please label your plants and seeds. Discuss gardening tips and best growing tips with fellow gardeners and peers! Vendors of Garden Art and related products are also welcome to set up for this event!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Replace Grief with Awe Ceremony** will be held Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am. Ira Township Parks and Recreation, Boy Scout Troop 252, and Algonac VFW Post 3901 partner for this ceremony at our Veterans Monument in the Park:

- **Boy Scout Troop 252 Honor Guard will Retire the Flag**
- **Laying of Wreaths from VFW, Scouts, FOP and Ira Township**
- **Blue Skye Riley will sing the National Anthem, a Boy Scout will play Taps**
- **Algonac VFW Post 3901 will provide a Firing Line**

Public is welcome to attend and participate! Schools, Police, Fire, Ira Board of Trustees, Churches, Lions Club, Anchor Bay Chamber, Ira Little League, Scouts, Families of Fallen Heroes and anyone else wanting to remember the sacrifice of our Veterans. Ira Township is participating in the Fallen Hero Banner program. Our Fallen Heroes banners on display near the park. **Mayle's Hot Dogs ala Carte** will provide refreshments at family-friendly prices. Veterans and Scouts will eat free!

The **M.L. Chartier Music in the Park Series** opens on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm with **The Meldrum Brothers; Jessey Adams**, is scheduled to perform on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm! **The Sax Maniacs** are will perform Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm; and **Same Old Guys** perform on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm (Please Note Earlier Time) This year, we are adding a special **Teen Music in the Park** on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>! Local sensation **IRA KYRUH** will perform in the Park, 7:00-9:00 pm. Sponsorships are open for all Music in the Park performances! Please email [cindy@iratownship.org](mailto:cindy@iratownship.org) for more information! **Mayle's Hot Dogs a La Carte** will be at Ira Park for all the performances! Kelli Mayle provides delicious, quality Hot Dogs, Coney Dogs, Polish Sausage, Sauerkraut, Chips and Beverages at family friendly prices! Thank You to **Ira Township Fire Department** for allowing us to use the Fire Hall for Rain Location. The decision to move indoors is made by 5:30pm on the day of the performance.

**Kids to Kids Swap or Sell!** Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 2:00PM Here's a chance to sway or sell your outgrown toys and games! Bring a blanket or table to set up in the park. We will advertise! You set the prices! Signed Waiver Parent Permission is required. We will go indoors if it rains! The sale must go on!

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dogtober Festival** returns to Ira Township Park on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Join us as we celebrate all things canine! Sponsored by **Dakota's D'Tailed Dog Grooming!** Vendors, Rescues, Trainers and Demonstrations are welcome! Top Dog Entertainment will provide Dog canine appropriate music and announcements! A Dog Costume contest is included! Please register for a spot in the park! **Mayle's Hot Dogs a La Carte** will be on site with concessions! Remember, pups are on leash! Volunteers are always welcome to assist with the contests and treats!

**Trick and Treat in the Trails** will be Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm! We decorate the Trails and hand out goodies! Businesses and Organizations are welcome to set up treat stations in the trails. Several sponsors are already on board including and donate candy towards our event! **Maria McGuire Remax** and **Mini's Collision** provide free hot dogs! Thank you all for contributions!

**Ira Township presents our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting** will be held on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>! Please note, this is a week earlier than in the past! Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by 5:30pm by Fire Truck. Families are welcome to join us in the Fire Hall afterwards for Crafts, Cookies and Cocoa! Santa and Mrs. Claus will stick around for photos and hand out goody bags! **Mini's Collision and Maria McGuire/REMAX** will provide free hot dogs! We will have a **Selfie Booth** for our Teens! We will be accepting nonperishable donations for our new Food Pantry built by the Ira Firefighter Association. This is another fun option for Volunteers and community service credit!

Remember to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/IraParksandRec>, save our website [www.iratownship.org](http://www.iratownship.org) in your favorites or check out the flyers in the park bulletin board.

Suggestions, ideas and feedback are also a valuable resource for us! Please feel free to contact me by email, [cindy@iratownship.org](mailto:cindy@iratownship.org) by phone, **586-339-3962** or even drop a note or comment on our social media! You may want to consider offering a class or program through Ira Parks and Recreation. Let us show you how easy it is to share your skills or hobbies with others!

***See You in the Parks!***

Cindy Babisz, Ira Parks and Recreation