



Recreation Station Newsletter

Spring 2025

Volume 18 Issue 2

A message from Parks Director Brian Keenan-Lechel:



Spring has sprung (almost/maybe/ is starting to/started then stopped)! Regardless of weather, the renowned "Saginaw Bunnies" will adorn the Courthouse lawn again soon for a few weeks around Easter, a sure sign of spring in Saginaw. I began last newsletter asking mother nature to cooperate and deliver a more traditional Michigan winter so that those interested in participating in our snowman/sculpting submission contest had the snow to make it happen. And also, for the winter enthusiasts like me who enjoy various winter recreation offerings – ice fishing in my case, among others. Mother Nature delivered on the ice front, giving the region the longest ice fishing season in the last few years – what an unbelievable resource we are fortunate to have in the Saginaw River/Bay, a worldclass fishery.

Although winter provided more snow than in recent years, its "packability" (official parks term for snowman construction) was less than ideal for snowman/fort construction. This said, we did receive a few submissions to the build contest during the thaw, highlights are included on this page. The snowfall also provided for happy youth and adults alike, sledding at Saginaw's Hoyt Park and in other areas across the county. This included on Saturday February 15th at Hoyt Park, when Saginaw's Outhouse Races descended on the park with images fit for a snow globe. Almost a thousand folks flocked to the park to

enjoy the winter wonderland. A production company even came to film the spectacle, and we wait to hear if the program will air on ESPN later this year. An eventful winter, no doubt, but an exciting spring and summer just around the corner. We cannot wait to see you again in your Saginaw County Parks – whether exploring trails on your own or registering for one of our guided hikes. Counting bunnies on the courthouse lawn in late April or checking out the spring bird migration at Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area. Bringing the family to our Catch Me If You Can Family Fishing Festival or signing yourself or a loved one up for a Summer Rail Trail Rides in June. Visiting the Ruth Averill Splashpad at William H. Haithco Recreation Area on opening day (May 23rd!) or taking your pup to Steven Kirshenbaum Dog Park at Imerman Memorial Park. With so many recreational opportunities across Saginaw County, we're sure we'll see you soon!

2025 Snowman Contest Entries



Upcoming Summer Events to look forward to:

July 18th-Paddling Film Fest @ Haithco Rec. Area

Aug. 13th-Children's Fun Night @ Haithco Rec. Area

Park Hours:

Imerman Memorial Park and Price Nature Center, 8:00 A.M. to dusk. (Sept 3- May 22) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 23-Sept 1)

Ringwood Forest 9:00 A.M. to dusk. (Sept 3- May 22) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 23-Sept 1)

William H. Haithco Recreation Area, 9:00 A.M. to Dusk. (Sept 3- May 22) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 23-Sept 1)

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 Spring Programs

Walk with Ease (WWE)

Mon. Wed. & Fri. May 5 - June 13 9:00 - 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. Location: YMCA Pavilion, 1915 Fordney Street. [Register at www.saginawcounty.com/parks](http://www.saginawcounty.com/parks). Cost: Free!

Soggy Doggy

Wed. May 14

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM



Your pup can have a splish-splashing good time. Usually the lake is off limits to pets but for this one evening, bring them out and let them swim to their hearts content! Dog calendars will be available on site for \$15.

Cost: Free! Location: W. H. Haithco Rec. Area.

Pickleball Classes (Intro. & Intermediate)

Tues.	May 20 & 27	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Thurs.	May 22 & 29	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Tues.	June 3 & 10	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Thurs.	June 5 & 12	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Join us and our local Pickleball instructor Rob Klaczewicz in learning and improving your skills at this fun filled paddle sport created for all ages. We now have several intermediate sessions to enhance your skills after taking the intro. class.

[Register at www.saginawcounty.com/parks](http://www.saginawcounty.com/parks)

Equipment provided. Cost: Free!

Location: Imerman Memorial Park.

INTRO Classes - All May sessions plus June 3rd.

INTERMEDIATE Classes - June 5, 10 & 12.

Team ATP Open Water Swim

Every Tues. May 27th - Aug. 26th 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Join Team ATP every Tuesday this summer for an open water swim training program with a simulated open water race course. It is recommended that you arrive by 7 PM for check-in, orientation & safety announcements. Swimming begins promptly at 7:30 PM. Waivers are required and can be found at www.teamatp.org/join or filled out on site. Bright swim caps are required. Team ATP will have swim caps, goggles & personal buoys on site for purchase. Location: Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area (meet at the beach house)

Cost: \$40 for the season or \$5 per session.

Yoga For All

Every Mon. beginning June 2nd 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

This class is meant for everyone and anyone interested in yoga. You will learn breath, yoga poses (and modifications if necessary to fit your body) along with techniques you can take off your mat and use in your daily routine. FYI: every expert at something, was once a beginner. You don't need to be flexible & all athletic abilities are welcome. Please consult your physician if pregnant, recovering from a surgery or injury. If you can breathe... You are doing yoga!!! Location: W. H. Haithco Rec. Area. For class information, cost and sign up, please visit www.yogabykathryn.com.



First 150 children registered receive a free fishing pole!

Free Family Fishing Festival

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area
2121 Schust, Saginaw, MI

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Register at:
www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Proudly Sponsored by:



Event Schedule:

8:00 am - 9:00 am	On-site Registration
8:00 am - 10:45 am	Fishing
10:45 am	All fish to measuring station
11:00 am	Awards and Prizes



Awards & Prizes!

Must be present to win

Join us for the 35th annual 'Catch Me If You Can' Family Fishing Festival. The first 150 children registered will receive a free fishing pole. Trophies will be awarded for the family who catches the largest fish and the most legal sized fish. Additional giveaways will be given out to event participants. All State of Michigan fishing rules and regulations will apply to this tournament. [Register at www.saginawcounty.com/parks](http://www.saginawcounty.com/parks). On-site registration available at 8 AM.

Senior Rail Trail Golf Cart Tours

Tues. June 10 10-2:00 PM

Wed. June 11 10-2:00 PM

Thurs. June 12 10-2:00 PM

Trail Head Address:

2998 VanWormer Rd.

Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission believes that the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail is a treasure for all of our residents and that everyone

should be able to experience its beauty. With that in mind we have designed Rail Trail golf cart tours to showcase the trail to people with limited mobility. Tours are 45 minutes in length and start and end at the Vanwormer Rd parking lot. Tours leave on the hour and hold 10 passengers. *To register, call the parks office at 989-790-5280.*



SUGAR (Saginaw Ukulele Guru and Rookies)

Tues. June 24

7-8:30 PM

Bring your lawn chairs and get ready for some entertaining music! Do you like old-timey, pop, polka or americana? Be prepared to hear a wide variety of tunes at this special event. This concert is free for your listening pleasure! Cost: Free! (The vehicle entry fee for out of county residents will remain in effect until 6:30 PM) Location: Imerman Memorial Park, Pavilion #2. Future summer dates: 7/29 & 8/26.

Dog Days of Summer

Wed. June 18

5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Join Great Lakes Bay Animal Society and Saginaw County Parks at the Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Bark Park for a doggone good time. You can meet up with friends both human and canine to romp in the park and have a chance to win some cool doggie door prizes courtesy of Pets Supplies Plus! 2024 dog calendars will be available for purchase & pictures will be taken for the 2025 calendar. Cost: Free! Location: Imerman Memorial Park. Future summer dates are 7/16 & 8/20.

Try it: Kayak

Tues. June 24

4:00-5:00 PM

In this class, you will learn the differences between kayak styles and discover how stable and easily maneuverable kayaks can be. Class sizes are small and cozy with a maximum of eight people per class. Be sure to register early, as classes fill up fast. This is a wet class, so you should bring a change of clothing and a smile! Ages: 6 to Adult (Children 6 to 16 must be accompanied by an adult) Duration: 1 hr. Cost: \$5.00 per person. Location: Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area.

Register at www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Jolly Hammers and Strings

Wed. June 25

7-8:30 PM

Bring your lawn chairs and get ready for great music! A Jolly Hammers and Strings concert presents an opportunity to listen to dulcimer, autoharp, banjo, bass fiddle, guitar, harmonica, mandolin, and many other acoustic instrument players. This concert is free for your listening pleasure! The vehicle entry fee for out of county residents will remain in effect until 6:30 PM) Location: Imerman Memorial Park, Pavilion #2. Future summer dates: 7/23 & 8/27.

June Playdate Schedule:

Playdate-Art in the Park

Tues. June 17

2:00-3:30 PM

Come join us for our first Playdate of the summer. Enjoy create-and-take art projects with staff. Location: Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area at the Multi-colored building by the splash pad. Cost: Free!

Playdate-Music on the Move

Thurs. June 18

2:00-3:30 PM

Don't miss this special opportunity to experience the power of rhythm. During Music on the Move, participants will learn music through African Drums in a group setting. They will also learn how to make sounds, tell stories, improvise music, reading and playing rhythm patterns. Location: Imerman Memorial Park, Pavilion #1. Cost: Free!

Playdate-Water Wars (Extended Time)

Tues. June 24

12:00 PM-3:30 PM

Slip and slide into Summer with some wet and wild fun. Bring a towel, wear your swimsuit & come prepared to get wet on the 20ft inflatable water slide. Location: Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area. Cost: Free!

Playdate-Supersize Fun

Wed. June 25

10:00-11:30 AM

Come out and play with oversized balls, games, blocks and inflatables games and more. The fun and excitement will put a supersized smile on event participants faces! Location: Showboat Park located at 805 S. Front St. Chesaning. Cost: Free!

Playdate- Build It

Wed. June 25

2:00-3:30 PM

This playdate theme gives children the opportunity to create with several different types of materials such as wood, foam, cardboard, oversized blocks and many other exciting options. Let your imagination be the limit at this hands on event! Location: First Ward Community Center. Cost: Free!

Playdate- Nature Explorers (Wingin' It)

Thurs. June 26

2:00-3:30 PM

Join SCPRC & Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge for an educational birding experience, hike, and nature based activity. Please wear hiking or tennis shoes & lots of BUG SPRAY. Location: Green Point Nature Center, 3010 Maple St. Cost: Free!



First 150 children registered receive a free fishing pole!

Free Family Fishing Festival

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area

2121 Schust, Saginaw, MI

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Register at:

www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Proudly Sponsored by:



Event Schedule:

8:00 am- 9:00 am

On-site Registration

8:00 am -10:45 am

Fishing

10:45 am

All fish to measuring station

11:00 am

Awards and Prizes



Awards & Prizes!

Must be present to win

Rules

This Family Catch and Release Fishing Festival begins at 8:00 am and ends at 11:00 am on June 7, 2025. Registration deadline is 9:00 am on June 7, 2025. **FISH MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE MEASURING STATION BY 10:45AM TO COUNT.**

Adults with a valid Michigan fishing license and children can fish and have fish counted in the festival. Trophies will be awarded for the family who catches the largest fish and the most legal sized fish. Additional giveaways will be given out to event participants.

All State of Michigan fishing rules and regulations will apply to this tournament. MAX 25 BLUEGILLS. ONLY LEGAL SIZE FISH WILL COUNT. Pike under 24 inches, Catfish under 12 inches, and Bass under 14 inches can not be counted in the tournament (DNR FISHING REGULATIONS). All fishing is to be done from shore or dock on the main lake. Boats are not allowed.

If you can't get the hook out without damaging the fish, cut the line and leave the hook in the fish.

Transport fish to measuring station in a bucket with water. **FISH MUST BE ALIVE WHEN BROUGHT TO THE MEASURING STATION.** The fish will be released back into the lake as soon as they are measured.



Join us for a **FREE 6 week OUTDOOR walking experience!**



Benefits to Participants Include:

- Interactive sessions with certified trained leader
- Increase confidence in your ability to be physical
- Improve flexibility, balance, strength and stamina
- Reduce pain and discomfort for those suffering with arthritis
- Improve overall health

Open to all adults!

Register at www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Monday, Wednesday & Fridays

May 5 - June 13, 2025

Time: 9:00-10:00 AM

Location: YMCA Pavilion

1915 Fordney St. Saginaw



National Recreation
and Park Association



Hey Batter Batter!

WHO:

All Saginaw County

BOYS & GIRLS

Age 5-6 (T-ball)

Age 7-8 (Coach Pitch)

Division teams:

10U (hybrid) & 13U

WHEN:

10 Game Season

July 8th - Aug 7th, 2025

Tuesday & Thursday

Evenings

WHERE:

Hoyt Park

1574 S. Washington Ave

Saginaw, MI

REGISTRATION:

www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com

or

www.saginawcounty.com/parks

COST:

\$25 per player



Registration Deadline:

June 20, 2025

NEED A TEAM?

T-Ball & Coach Pitch teams will be formed by the League. Division Players needing a team may sign up and will be placed on the waitlist.

Want to Sponsor a

Team?

Team sponsorships are available for Coach-Pitch & Division Teams. If you want to sponsor a team, please use the registration link to find the sponsor & volunteer instructions.

E-mail jfiers@saginawcounty.com with any questions.





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 2025 pavilion reservations for the William H. Haithco Recreation Area, Imerman Memorial Park, and Price Nature Center on January 2, 2025.

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).

New for the 2025 season, reservations & payment may 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 yearly 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



FITNESS CLASSES:

Walk with Ease (WWWE)

Mon. Wed. & Fri. May 5th - June 13th 9:00 - 10:00 AM YMCA Pavilion R

Team ATP Open Water Swim

Tuesdays Every Tues. beginning May 27th 7:30 - 8:30 PM Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area \$R
Register @ www.teamatp.org/join

Yoga For All (Instructor, Kathryn Wilson)

Mondays Every Mon. beginning June 2nd 6:00 - 7:00 PM Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area \$R
Register @ www.yogabykathryn.com

PROGRAMS:

Wed. May 14	Soggy Doggy	5:30 - 7:00 PM	Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area
Tues. May 20 & 27	Intro to Pickleball	10:30 - 12:00 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
Thurs. May 22 & 29	Intro to Pickleball	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
Tues. June 3 & 10	Intro to Pickleball	10:30 - 12:00 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
Fri. June 6	Track & Field Day	5:30 - 7:00 PM	Saginaw Arts & Science Acad.
Sat. June 7	Catch Me If You Can	8:00 - 11:00 AM	Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area R
Thurs. June 5 & 12	Intermediate Pickleball	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
June 10-12	Senior Rail Trail Tours	10:00 - 2:00 PM	Saginaw Valley Rail Trail R
Thurs. June 12	Baseball Day	4:00 - 7:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Tues. June 24	Try it: Kayak	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area \$R
Wed. June 18	Dog Days of Summer	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
Tues. June 24	SUGAR (Ukulele Guru's)	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
Wed. June 25	Jolly Hammers & Strings	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park



June Playdate schedule:

Tues. June 17	Art in the Park	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area
Thurs. June 18	Music on the Move	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
Tues. June 24	Water Wars (Extended Time)	12:00 - 3:30 PM	Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area
Wed. June 25	Supersize Fun	10:00 - 11:30 AM	Showboat Park-Chesaning
Wed. June 25	Build It	2:00 - 3:30 PM	First Ward Comm. Ctr.
Thurs. June 26	Nature Explorers	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Green Point Nat. Ctr.

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!

CONTACT US!

parks@saginawcounty.com
(989) 790-5280
Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/saginawcountyparks