

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION

GIVE
365

**Park Audits & Park Page
Updates**

Why did we start this project?

- The Visit Every Park Challenge highlighted a need for better park webpage content to help people find, explore, and enjoy each park's unique offerings
- Great park features frequently went under the radar
- Individuals who signed up for our GIVE 365 volunteer events would often have trouble finding our parks and event meeting points

Example of an old park webpage & pdf park map

The screenshot shows the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation website. The header includes the City of Ann Arbor logo and navigation buttons for 'ENJOY ANN ARBOR', 'BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR', 'DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR', 'SERVICES', and 'DEPARTMENTS'. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled 'Parks and Recreation' and features a navigation bar with 'PLAY', 'PARKS & PLACES', 'EVENTS', 'PARK RENTAL', and 'ADMINISTRATIVE'. Under 'Parks and Places', there is a list of parks including Ann Arbor Senior Center, Argo Canoe Livery, Bryant & Northside Community Centers, Buhr Outdoor Ice Arena and Pool, Cobblestone Farm, and Farmers Market. The 'Belize Park' page is selected, showing a breadcrumb trail: Home » Departments » Parks and Recreation » Parks and Places » Belize Park. The page text describes Belize Park as a .46-acre pocket park located on the corner of Fountain and Summit, featuring a small tot play area, benches, a picnic table, water fountain, and trees. A link is provided to view a printable map of Belize Park (pdf).



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 displays 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 features the 'Parks and Recreation' title and a sub-menu with 'PLAY', 'PARKS & PLACES', 'EVENTS', 'PARK RENTAL', and 'ADMINISTRATIVE'. The 'Parks and Places' section is active, showing 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 main content area is titled 'Belize Park' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home » Departments » Parks and Recreation » Parks and Places » Belize Park'. A large photograph of the park's playground area is shown. Below the photo, the 'Park Address: 742 Fountain St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103' is displayed. At the bottom, there are three links: '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

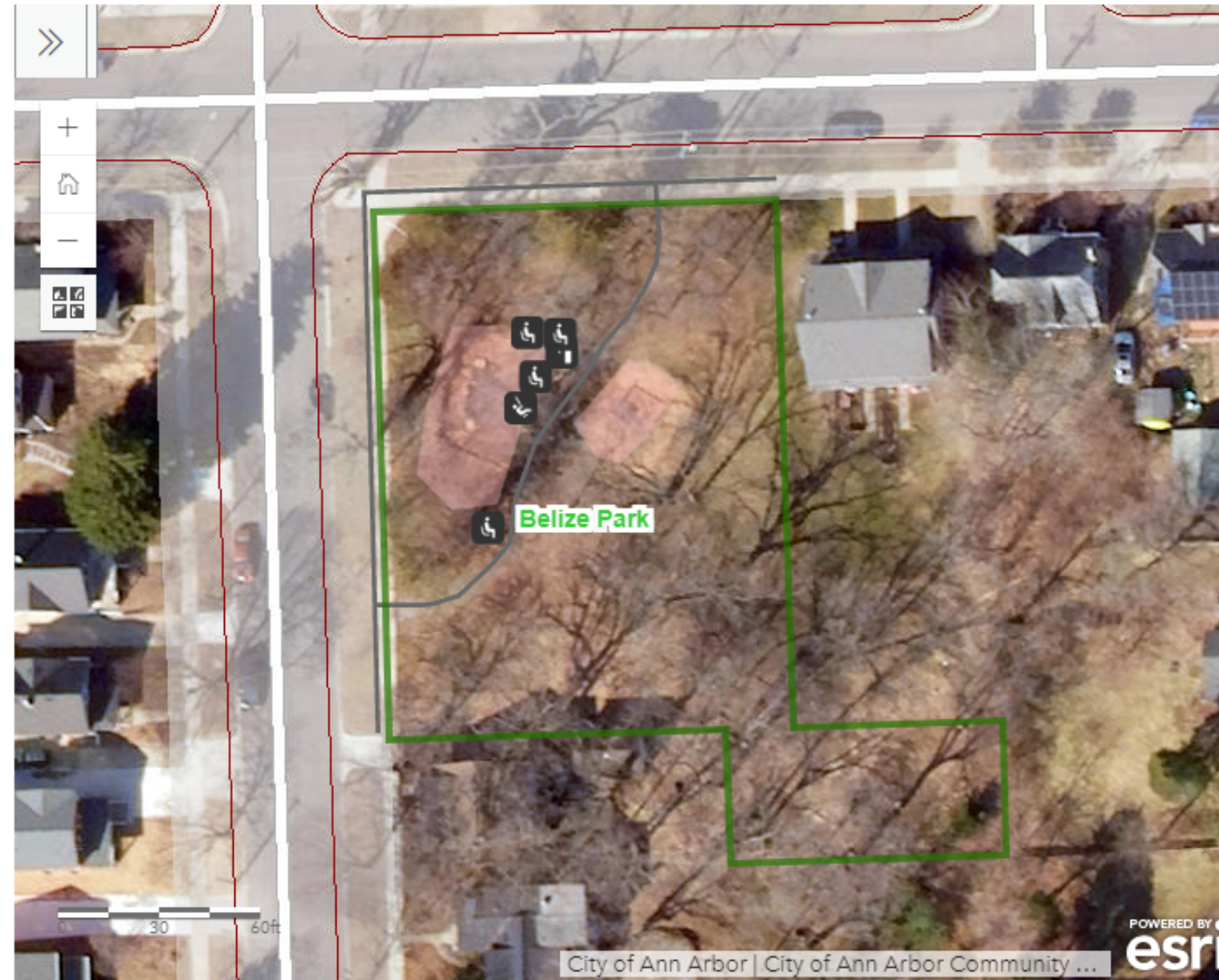
The park is located at the corner of Fountain Street and Summit Street, and there is street parking on both of these streets.

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, a search bar, and buttons for 'ENJOY ANN ARBOR', 'BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR', 'DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR', 'SERVICES', and 'DEPARTMENTS'. Below this is a 'Parks and Recreation' header with a sub-navigation bar for '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 main content area is titled 'Wheeler Park' and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home » Departments » Parks and Recreation » Parks and Places » Wheeler Park. The text describes Wheeler Park as a 1.93-acre neighbor park located between 4th and 5th and Depot. It lists amenities such as a playground, restroom building with water fountain, 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 activities. A link is provided: [Click here to view a printable map of Wheeler Park \(pdf\)](#). A green arrow points from this link to a map on the right.



Calendar of Events

City News

Property Information

Get Updates from the City



Subscribe to Updates

CodeRED Emergency Alerts

Contact the City

734.794.6000
customerservice@a2gov.org

Report a Problem

[Sitemap](#) | [Accessibility and Title VI](#) |
[Policies and Notices](#) | [Privacy and Security](#)

ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION
GIVE 365

Wheeler Park's New Park Webpage!

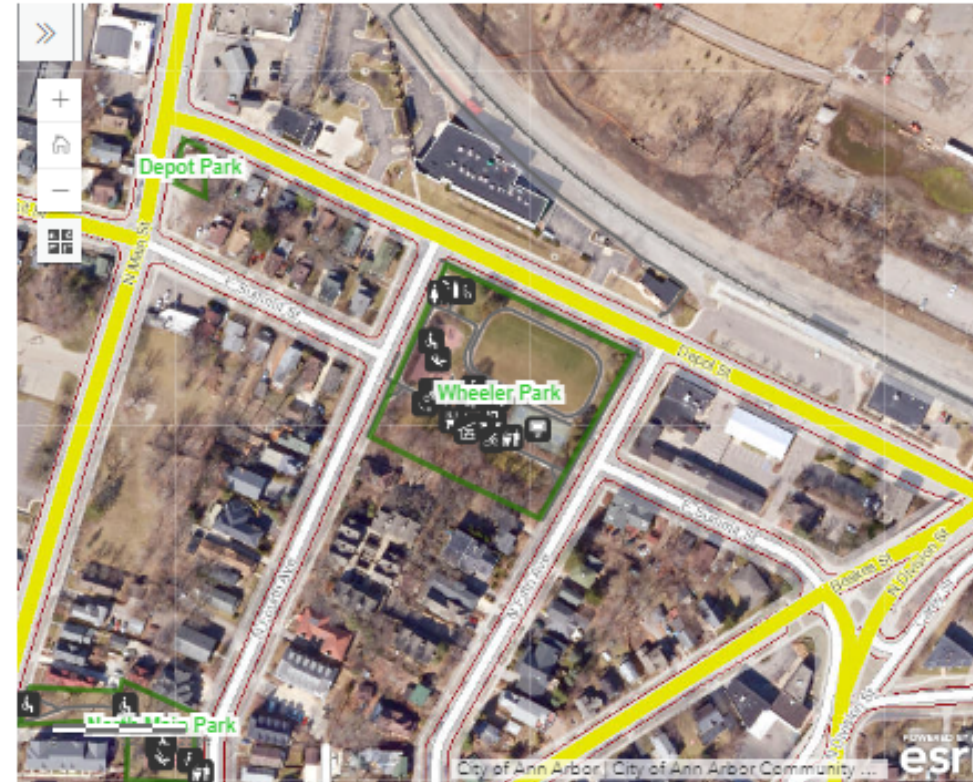


The screenshot shows the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation website. The header includes the City of Ann Arbor logo, navigation tabs for 'ENJOY ANN ARBOR', 'BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR', and 'DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR', and a search bar. The main navigation bar lists 'PLAY', 'PARKS & PLACES', 'EVENTS', 'PARK 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 links for parking, amenities, history, and active adopters.

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

- 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

Bluffs Nature Area

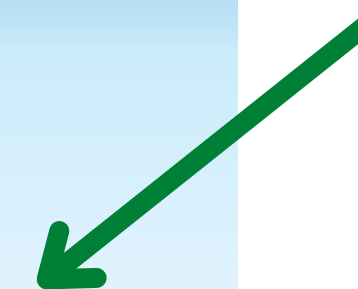
[Home](#) » [Departments](#) » [Parks and Recreation](#) » [Parks and Places](#) » [Bluffs Nature Area](#)

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



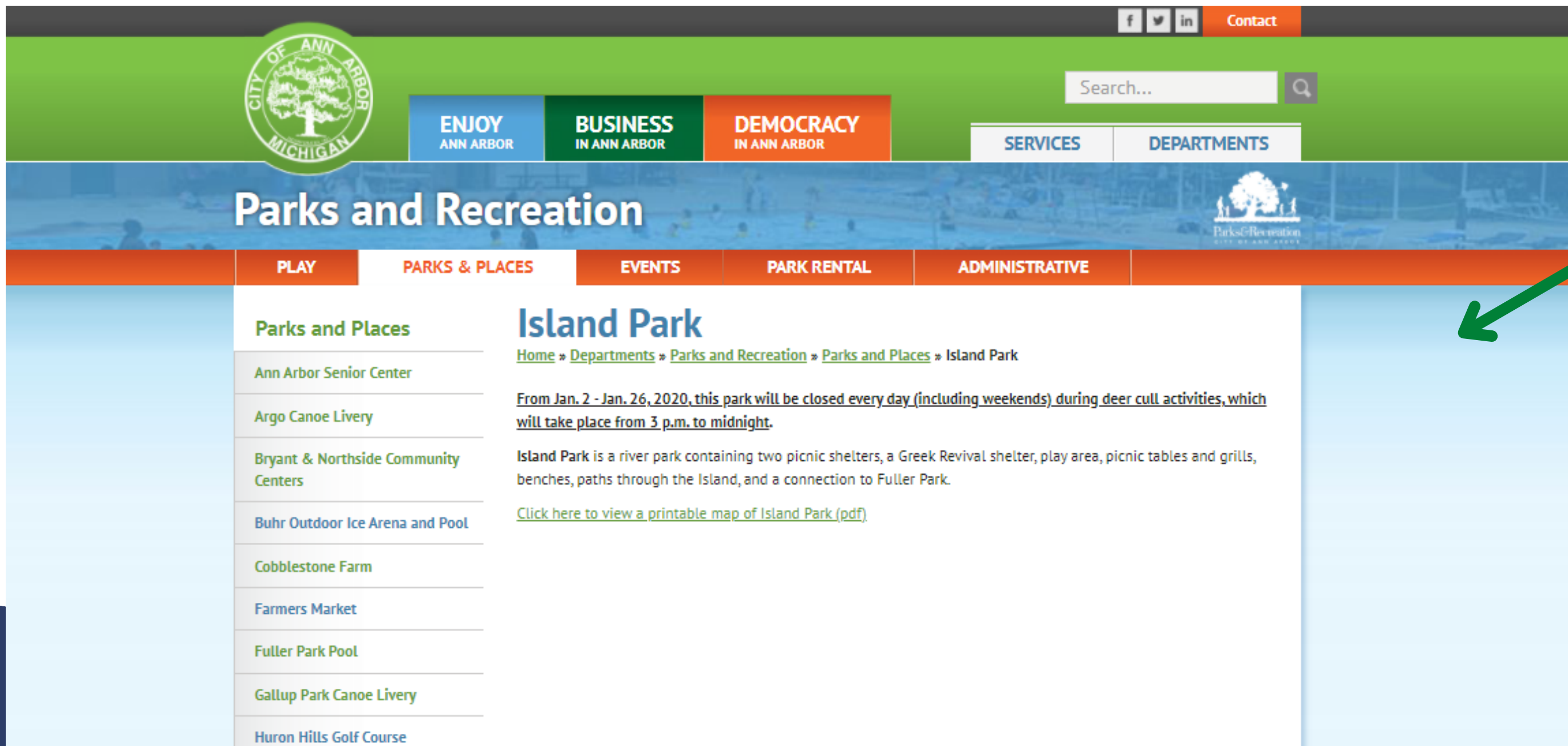
[See Bluffs Nature Area's new park page](#)

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

- 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

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.

City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation website navigation and content:

- Navigation: ENJOY ANN ARBOR, BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR, DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR, SERVICES, DEPARTMENTS
- Section: Parks and Recreation
- Menu: PLAY, PARKS & PLACES, EVENTS, PARK RENTAL, ADMINISTRATIVE
- Page Title: Broadway Park
- Content: Broadway Park is 5 acres in size and located off Broadway along the Huron River. It connects to Riverside Park by an asphalt path and has a staircase to Broadway crossing under the bridge. It has mostly open field area with clusters of trees and shrubs and features a great stretch of river for canoeing. Click here to view the park map [Broadway Park.pdf](#)

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.

The screenshot shows the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation website. The header includes the City of Ann Arbor logo, navigation links for 'ENJOY ANN ARBOR', 'BUSINESS IN ANN ARBOR', 'DEMOCRACY IN ANN ARBOR', 'SERVICES', and 'DEPARTMENTS'. The main navigation bar includes 'PLAY', 'PARKS & PLACES', 'EVENTS', 'PARK RENTAL', and 'ADMINISTRATIVE'. The 'Parks and Places' section is active, showing a list of parks including 'Ann Arbor Senior Center', 'Argo Canoe Livery', 'Bryant & Northside Community Centers', 'Buhr Outdoor Ice Arena and Pool', and 'Cobblestone Farm'. The 'Postman's Rest Park' page is highlighted, with a green arrow pointing to its title. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home » Departments » Parks and Recreation » Parks and Places » Postman's Rest Park'. The description states: 'Postman's Rest Park is a small city lot that remains neatly wooded at the corner of Vinewood and Wayne. It features a concrete walk, sandbox, picnic table and a bench swing.' A link is provided: 'Click here to view a printable map of Postman's Rest Park (pdf)'.

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.