

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Major Recreational Facilities

Independence Lake Park: [Independence Lake Park](#) is on the north side of Jennings Road, a bit north of North Territorial and east of US-23. This 405-acre park offers swimming, boating and fishing, as well as picnicking, hiking, biking and rollerblading. It has a launch site for canoes, kayaks and motorized boats with ten or less horsepower (paddleboats and row boats are available to rent). Open year round, the park in winter provides groomed cross country ski trails, snowshoeing, and ice fishing.

Independence Lake also offers spring and summer [day camps](#) with both pre- and post-camp daycare; and by pre-arrangement there are nature programs as well as guided interpretive tours with one of the park naturalists. The park has several meeting spaces available to rent: three pavilions seating 90 to 120; a meeting room that seats 35-40; and the Robert Gamble Center that seats 480. There are two miles of paved paths, and 3.5 miles of nature trails. This park is currently undergoing several enhancements that will be finished by its 2013 opening on Memorial Day: a new pavilion, and a new enhanced spray zone.

Rolling Hills Park: This 363-acre park is located east of US-23, north of Bemis Road, at 7660 Stony Creek Road. The park has paved as well as nature trails, an 18-hole disc golf course, picnic tables and grills, and offers guided interpretive tours by appointment. It also has seven pavilions for parties of 12 to 200, and in the winter offers sledding and cross country ski trails, as well as toboggans, sledding tubes, and cross country ski equipment for rent. Rolling Hills charges an entry fee, as does a separate [water park](#) that includes a wave pool, water slides, sprayground, and a lazy river with free float tubes.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center: Named for the county commissioner who inspired and worked for the creation of the county parks and recreation department, this 51,000-square-foot [building](#), located within the [County Farm Park](#) at the southwest corner of Washtenaw Avenue and Platt Road on the east side of Ann Arbor, opened in 1991. It has a swimming pool, gymnasium, walk/run track, cardio and strength training equipment, men's and women's locker rooms, and offers classes in fitness, dance, water exercise and instructional swimming for all ages. There is a fee to use the facility, which varies on the amount of use and the age of the user.

Parker Mill Park: This park at 4650 Geddes Road in Ann Arbor Township contains 27 acres owned by the county and 18 on long-term lease by the city of Ann Arbor to the county. It features the Parker Grist Mill, built in 1873 and still operable using the original milling machinery left when the Parker family ceased operating it in 1958. The park also contains trails, including one usable during good weather by walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers; and a bituminous path that connects this park to Ann Arbor's [Gallup Park](#).

Pierce Lake Golf Course: This 18-hole [golf course](#), covering 232 acres, opened in 1996 at 1175 South Main Street in Chelsea, between the town and I-94. The front nine are for all levels of golfing ability, while the back nine are considered more difficult because the area includes woods, a wetland, and tighter fairways. There is a rentable pavilion, nature trails, and observation decks around Pierce Lake. Pierce Lake Golf Course charges greens fees.

The golf course joined the [Community Partners for Clean Streams](#), and won the 2011 award for excellence in water quality management from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner.