

Park's Administrators Are Among Biggest "Landlords" In Area

Parks and recreation activities in the communities served by the Observer Newspapers is a big business, and park administrators may be termed one of the biggest "landlords" in the area.

Each of the communities, Livonia, Garden City, Westland, Plymouth, Farmington, and Redford Township, has a program which utilizes its own facilities and "borrows" public school playgrounds in a cooperative move with their local school boards.

Residents in the six communities can visit any of their public park facilities and make use of a variety of activities for persons of all ages.

There are the expensive swimming pools, ice skating rinks, slides, swings, seesaws, band shells, baseball and softball diamonds, archery, assembly halls, and pavilions.

In Livonia there are 15 city-owned parks. In addition, the city leases 12 acres from General Motors Corp. in Section 25 for an athletic complex consisting of 12 junior baseball diamonds and one model airplane flying area.

Through the excellent cooperation between the Recreation Department and the Livonia and Clarenceville Boards of Education, the department makes extensive use of many school owned facilities for its summer playground and teen center programs; fall and winter programs.

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grams and athletic facilities. In total, Livonia owns 324.3 acres for parks and of that figure, 132 are located at Newburgh and Eight Mile Road for an 18-hole municipal golf course.

The 19 parks are in size from 4.1 acres at Kimberly Park to the 40-acre Henry Ford Centennial Field in Section 21.

An inventory, the city owns a lighted baseball and softball field; competitive archery range; six football fields, of which one is lighted; Senior Citizens' drop-in center; 32 natural ice skating rinks; the golf course, coasting hill; six picnic areas; three tot lots; and two model airplane flying fields.

In Westland, the latest addition to an impressive list of facilities is the 21-acre park donated by the local Jaycee chapter on Wildwood and Hunter.

Outdoor public facilities include a five-acre playground at Daney and Hanover Roads which has a softball field, slides, and swings; Shellhaus Park and tot lot of two acres, Ford Road skating rink, of two acres; and the indoor Recreation Center which is used for assemblies and other public use.

Garden City has a 58-acre municipal park at Cherry Hill and Merriman Roads as the key to a recreation program. The large park includes field houses, tennis court, softball diamonds, sand boxes, swimming and wading pools, ice skating rink, and merry-go-rounds.

In addition, the city has 9.5 acre Maplewood Park with a picnic area; 40 acre Moeller playground which has eight baseball diamonds and a football field, plus a community swimming pool at East High School.

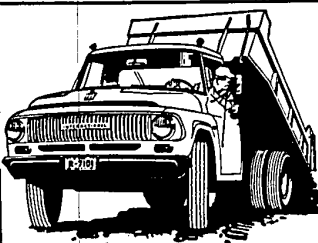
Redford Township has five playground facilities totaling 35 acres of land. These include Claude Allison Park and playfield, 14.5 acres; Beech Park and Playfield, 3.5 acres; Manning Park, seven acres; Phoenix Park, five acres; and Volney Smith Park, five acres.

All of these parks include basketball courts, shuffleboard courts, baseball diamonds, and a variety of facilities for archers, horse shoe fans, slides, swings, sand boxes, and ice skating rinks.

Plymouth makes a wide use of its public school facilities in addition to the Rouge Parkway system. The indoor school facilities are available for extra-curricular school activities every week-day plus Saturdays.

The total of more than 47 acres at the school playgrounds does not include the use of multi-purpose rooms at elementary schools and the gym at the senior and junior high; and swimming pool at the senior high school.

There are also lighted ice skating rinks at Farmington and Shilohwasse with swimming facilities offered through three private swim clubs. There are two public swimming pools planned for the future. In the township, school playgrounds are used extensively.



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With beautification America's watchword, good lawn products are increasingly vital, says The Lawn Institute. Happily, weed-free seed is available everywhere.

There are numerous Kentucky bluegrass varieties, beautiful and durable; fine fescues for shade and improved soil; bentgrasses for golf-green luxury; even ryegrasses that are perennial. The South has tidy bermudagrasses and zoysias, economical centipede and bahia.

Indeed, top-notch lawns can be obtained to fit your climate and mode of care.

Seed may bolster this turf, or be sowed to a newly-cultivated seedbed. For a new lawn, till the soil a few inches deep, as with a rotary tiller. Mix in plenty of fertilizer, to give seedlings a headstart over weeds.

Mulch—spread straw, excelsior "fabric" your garden store may recommend—to hold moisture and hasten sprouting. Water frequently at first, tapering off as new grass reaches mowing height.

Nothing serves better than a thriving permanent-grass seed to hold weeds at bay. Fertilize from time to time, or use a combination fertilizer-weed preventive. Today's sprayers and spreaders make application simple.

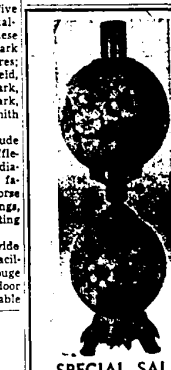
Dandelions and other broadleaf weeds are especially easy to check this time of year. The top lawn-grasses are not injured by weed preventers, or by the excellent insect and disease controls also much used to keep the garden tidy and relaxing.

Sailboating Is Suburbia Hobby

The small sailboat population of the U.S. has more than doubled over the past 10 years to an estimated 100,000 of the smaller, open cockpit, easily trailerable boats, and a large proportion of these sailboat-owning families are spending their summer weekends racing against friends in similar boats.

Although smaller sailboats do not qualify as "yachts," neither must a family be wealthy to own and enjoy them since they cost roughly no more than a second car, new or used. Ranging in size from just 8 ft. up to about 24 ft., the International 100 Class is one of the largest in size and numbers and costs under \$25,000, in fiberglass. By Class rules set up by the owner organization, the 110, the second largest keelboat racing Class in the U.S., races with two or three persons aboard. Most of the smaller sailboat classes employ such a rule, although some of the boats can set 5 or 6 persons for "picnic sailing."

Throughout the summer across the U.S., small sailboats can be seen in cross-country highway traffic, the mast lying across the boat, trailing behind vacationing families. Their vacation is often routinely arranged around some major regional or national regatta far from home.



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