

PARK NOTES

Spring 2020

**At the event
this year...**

ALLOWED

Clear Bags
(stadium bags)
Blankets
Collapsible Chairs
Food
Sunscreen
Small Soft-Side
Coolers
Insect Repellent
Binoculars
Strollers
Rain Jackets/
Ponchos
Small Umbrellas
Service Animals

NOT ALLOWED

Smoking
Alcohol
Fireworks
Unclear Bags
Backpacks
Aerosol Spray
Cans
Glass or Metal
Containers
Weapons
Selfie Sticks
Laser Pointers
Pointed Tip
Umbrellas
Pets
Inflatables
(larger than a
basketball)
Tents
Grills
Open Flame

Grande Ole Fourth Event to Change in 2020 --->>> New Date - July 3, 2020



For decades Lansing residents have celebrated Independence Day on July 4 at a special event offered by **Lan-Oak Park District**. The event, held at Lan-Oak Park, always started during the day with a variety of activities and closed with a spectacular fireworks display.

But as the years passed, participants started arriving later in the day, more to enjoy the fireworks rather than the earlier activities, and the event environment changed, as well, presenting some concerns with security.

Immediately following the 2019 celebration, the park district began discussing changes to the

event in order to better address the wishes of the community and to make sure that everyone attending would feel safe while enjoying, what everyone knows to be, the main event - the fireworks display. The park district evaluated the attendance at various times of the event and found that, by far, the majority of attendees came out specifically for the fireworks.

In addition, the park district participated in a series of meetings with the Lansing Police Department so that the experts could assist in making the event as safe as possible.

2020 will usher in a new, modernized event. The new date of the event is July 3, Independence Day Eve, so that families may enjoy their own parties at home on July 4. The less popular activities will no longer be offered, with the event becoming a fireworks only event. The park will be enclosed to better control the crowd and security of the event. New rules (listed to the left of this article) will assure that families may relax and enjoy what has definitely NOT changed - **the spectacular fireworks display by Melrose Pyrotechnics**.

As with last year, the Lan-Oak Park District will shoulder the cost of the event, continuing to make it free for the community. Save the date, bring your chairs or blanket, enjoy a snack, visit with friends and neighbors, and enjoy the fireworks on July 3. See you in the park!!



A Message from our Police Department...

Lansing Police Department will be strictly enforcing the Village Ordinance on Illegal Fireworks: (Village Ordinance Article VIII- Fire Prevention, Division 4-Fireworks, Sections 50-307 - 312). This ordinance will be enforced, not only around the park, but around all of Lansing.



Lan-Oak Park District Receives Award for Outstanding Park Paws 'n Play at Bock Park is a Winner!

The Lan-Oak Park District has been presented with the Outstanding Park Award for its design and development of the Paws 'n Play Dog Park at Bock Park. The Outstanding Park Award is presented each year by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The award is separated into two divisions – Division 1 for a park district with an overall budget of under \$5 million annually, and Division 2 for a park district with an annual budget of more than \$5 million. Lan-Oak Park District won in Division 1.



IPRA was founded in 1944 and is recognized as one of the largest and most respected park district associations in the nation. Each year, IPRA awards outstanding park design and development within Illinois. The IPRA Awards & Recognition Program gives this opportunity to recognize extraordinary work within the park district industry.

The Lansing community long hoped for a dog park. In 2017, the park district went to work in planning a dog park design, in 2018 the park broke ground, and in October 2018 the

ribbon was cut officially opening Paws 'n Play at Bock Park. Within its first three months of operation, the dog park welcomed nearly 100 members with more Lansing canine residents joining every week.

Park District staff conducted months of research into, not only dog park design, but also design elements that would specifically appeal to and benefit the unique needs of dogs. Park District President Jim Long said, "The park district significantly changed its direction in the past few years and it is humbling to be recognized for that work. We are very proud to have brought this award home to the Lansing community." The Outstanding Park Award was presented on January 24, 2020 at the annual IPRA/IAPD state conference in Chicago.

About the Paws 'n Play Design...

Dogs, when given the chance, will walk in curves as a calming signal. This is what they do when they meet off-leash and are free to do things their own way. This understanding led to the curved design of the park, rather than the rectangular shape most common in dog parks. Dogs always seem to run the perimeter of an enclosed space. Why? Dogs are very territorial and they are making sure that everything is okay on their turf. To avoid the certain wear and tear around the perimeter of the park, limestone (a substance safe for dog paws) was poured along the outside fence line. Just like humans, dogs receive a stronger workout when moving uphill and downhill. Doing so strengthens their cardiovascular health - thus the addition of berms inside the park.

EASTER EGG HUNT



The Easter Bunny is hopping toward Lansing to hide candy for all Lansing children. Find a gold egg and win a special prize! You don't want to be late, the candy disappears in minutes. The hunt gathers at Lan-Oak Park. Join us in the park for a morning of fun. Bring your basket to collect candy & eggs. Come out and meet the bunny, himself!! Age 11 & Under



**Saturday, April 11, 2020
10:00AM**

**Don't be late – the hunt starts promptly at 10:00AM!!
Lan-Oak Park 180th & Arcadia
This event is FREE!!**





The Lan-Oak Park District is proud to maintain this nearly 60,000 square foot community center for the enjoyment of all Lansing residents and their friends. The Eisenhower Center is full service for all ages - from the baby room to the educational preschool to the two-court gymnasium to the full service fitness center - it has something for everyone.

Eisenhower Community and Fitness Center

Tiny Tots

Tiny Tot programs are parent/child programs for ages 1-3 years. Check out this popular program...

My First Art Class

Why wait to unleash your budding creativity? Even babies can derive pride from their own artistic creation. Parents and babies will enjoy this opportunity to use art tools like glue sticks, crayons, markers, paint and more. Get the fridge ready to display some art by your baby. Dress for a mess! (All materials will be non-toxic and washable).



Early Childhood

new friends! Check out this popular program...

Early childhood programs, for kids 3-5, allow kids exciting opportunities to meet

Gladiator Games

If you are looking for fun and excitement, Gladiator Games is the perfect program for you! Kids will enjoy field day games, sports and activities, such as wacky relays, Olympic style games, obstacle courses and so much more. Don't hibernate - get moving!



YOUTH PROGRAMS

For ages 6-12, youth programs offer a wide variety of interests. Check out this popular program...

Lego Lab

Do you love Lego blocks? Don't miss this opportunity to partner up and produce a different Lego creation each week. Mix, experiment, build, create, problem solve, and become a Lan-Oak Park Lego legend. Kids will enjoy popcorn & soda each week while they create their Lego structures.



**So Much Learning,
So Much Fitness,
So Much Fun!!**

www.lanoakparkdistrict.org

Call 708-474-8552 to ask about these and many more program offerings

ADULT PROGRAMS

There's more to life than work - get out, learn something new, visit with friends. Check out this popular program...

Confection Connection

Express your creativity and eye for design in this cake decorating class. Each week participants will learn basic cake decorating skills with step by step instruction. All supplies are included. This class is so yummy! Ages 18 & Up



Teen PROGRAMS

Teens will love programs that keep them fit and teach new skills. Ages 13-17. Check out this popular program...

Vegetarian Cooking

You say you're a cooking novice? All it takes is a little enthusiasm and willingness to experiment, and in no time you will be simmering, sautéing, and stir frying like a pro! Come learn how to make great vegetarian dishes. Avoid the college freshman 15 with this class!



Senior Programs

Staying active, staying healthy - check out this popular program...

Aqua Arthritis

This class is a warm-water exercise program especially designed for those with arthritis and related conditions. Range-of-motion, strengthening and some aerobic exercise will be offered. This type of exercise can decrease pain and stiffness, while providing an enjoyable and safe workout. Class Requirements: Aqua Shoes (not Aqua Socks)





The Park Board is comprised of five non-paid individuals elected by you to serve elected terms - Bob Tropp, Jim Long, John Kelly, Karen Adams, and Micaela Smith. The Board is primarily a policy-making body that reflects the needs and interests of all taxpayers. Your personal participation is an integral part of their decision-making process. The Board meets the third Monday of each month at the Eisenhower Center, 2550 178th Street, Lansing, at 7:00pm.

Progress in the Parks

As Lansing residents know, the park district has been hard at work updating Lansing parks, making improvements, making new fun, making the parks enjoyable for all residents, and creating a park inventory to be proud of. Summer 2020 will be no different!

***Planning is underway for adding, to our destination parks system, an **inclusive playground**. All Lansing playgrounds comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, but that does not make those playgrounds fully usable for children with disabilities and does not make those playgrounds equipped to enhance enjoyment for differently-abled kids. Lions Park is the chosen location for a new playground that will include amenities that may



be enjoyed in a wheelchair, a cozy dome that is designed to appeal to those with autism, a sensory panel, a poured rubber surface that is easy to navigate with a wheelchair or with physical disabilities, and more. For the first time in Lansing, differently-abled kids will play right

beside their abled friends to have a bunch of fun under the sun!

***Lansing residents love to reserve park shelters for their summer parties.

Use of a shelter provides use of park bathrooms. Those park bathrooms are, however, in need of improvement. This year park bathrooms will receive **all new interior bathroom partitions!** If you would like to inquire about reserving a shelter, please call 708-474-8552.



***Work continues on the Mildred Burt Nature Center with the addition of a **chimney swift tower!** Chimney swifts are birds that almost constantly fly except when roosting overnight and nesting. When they do come to rest, they cannot sit on perches. Their claws allow them to cling to the walls of chimneys and other vertical surfaces. As safe chimney locations diminish, chimney swifts have been added to the endangered species list. So let's be hospitable and provide for a safe and beautiful location for our chimney swift friends to rest right here in a

Lansing park! The park district is pleased to continue its successful partnership with the **Lansing Garden Club** for this important project.



Looking for the perfect preschool?

Give your child an amazing school start!

Don't miss the Lan-Oak Park District Playskool Open House on April 24, 6-8pm. Reserve your spot for Fall 2020 preschool. Half day and full day options. Come for a visit. Questions? 708-474-8552

LAN-OAK PARK DISTRICT
2550 178th Street
Lansing, Illinois 60438
708-474-8552

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