



BUCHANAN AREA RECREATION BOARD (B.A.R.B.)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 – 6:00 PM

BUCHANAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL - 15235 MAIN ST, BUCHANAN, MI

49107

AGENDA

THE BUCHANAN AREA RECREATION BOARD (B.A.R.B.) OF THE CITY OF BUCHANAN in compliance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act, hereby gives notice of a regular meeting.

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

IV. Approve Agenda

V. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only (3-minute limit)

VI. Approve Minutes

[A.](#) Consider the September 16th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

VII. Unfinished Business

A. The Common/Pears Mill - Wendi Heyliger

Kathryn Park - Katie Heyliger

McCoy Creek Recreation Area (McCoy Creek Trail, Field of Dreams Dog Park, Centennial Park) - Jeanne Harris

Veteran's Memorial Park - Raquell George

Ravish Park - Jennifer Popielski

Redbud Riverfront Park - Brian Kill

Victory Park/Tot Lot - Jeanne Harris

Mud Lake Bog - Katie Heyliger

Madron Lake Boat Launch - Emily Koziel

Walton Bridge Park - Emily Koziel

B. Subcommittee Reports - Friends of McCoy Creek Trail

[C.](#) Subcommittee Reports - Fundraising Committee

D. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Discussion

E. Monthly Finance Report

VIII. New Business

[A.](#) Kathryn Park & Buckshot Disc Golf Ribbon Cutting

[B.](#) Discussion on Partnerships for Parks Programming

IX. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only (3-minute limit)

X. Executive Comments

[A.](#) Communication - Park Bench Donation Form

XI. Adjourn

BARB 9/16/2026

Call to Order @ 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present : Jennifer Popeilski, Brian Kill, Wendi Heyliger, Katie Heyliger, Emily Koziel,
Raquelle George George left at 7:17pm

Absent : Jeanne Harris

IV. Approve Agenda

motion made by Popeilski, second by Koziel to approve the agenda.

Yes:

No:

Unanimous

V. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only (3-minute limit)

James Busby: concerned about donations to the parks, also curious of the status of Mael Ravish could be resurrected.

Jerry Flenor: Salmon scramble coming up; more sign ups than previously. Trek or Treat: October 31st; collecting donations for candy, asking for volunteers to dress up in costume and pass out candy. Has a group of volunteers to weed the flower beds around the monument at Veterans Park.

VI. Approve Minutes

Motion made by George, second by K. Heyliger to approve the minutes from August
18,2026

Yes:

No:

Unanimous

VII. Unfinished Business

Finance Update- City Treasurer Deb Perez

Discussion: Between fund balance or special revenue fund can be set up specifically for the BARB fundraising funds rather than combining with BARB general funds; aiming for 2-3 fundraisers per year, otherwise seeking donations/sponsorships.

George motion to execute Perez to start a special revenue fund for the BARB board Koziel second. Unanimous

Park & Recreation Master Plan Goals & Objectives Discussion

Discussion: Survey had 129 responses. Utilize survey feedback to make priority list for the assigned parks to review at next meeting.

C. Park Updates

The Common/Pears Mill- Wendi Heyliger

Harger Park- Wendi Heyliger

Kathryn Park- Katie Heyliger

McCoy Creek Recreation Area (McCoy Creek Trail, Field of Dreams Dog Park, Centennial Park,Buckshot Course)- Jeanne Harris

Veterans Park- Raquelle George

Ravish Park- Jennifer Popielski: needs new basketball nets and the chain net removed. Sidewalk needs to be unearthed again.

Redbud Riverfront Park- Brian Kill

Victory Park/Tot Lot- Jeanne Harris

Mud Lake Bog- Katie Heyliger

Madron Lake Boat Launch- Emily Koziel

Walton Bridge Park- Emily Koziel

D. Subcommittee Reports - Buchanan Backyard Bash Update

Discussion: Registration website is live. Donation of larger posters and flyers underway once posted will begin looking for sponsorships. Received ball and bat donations.

Volunteers still needed as well as promotion. BYSBA helping with gathering volunteers, mowing, marking, etc.

VIII. New business

IX. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only (3-minute limit)

X. Executive Comments Jennifer: looking for someone to join her in volunteering for the trek-or-treat

XI. Adjourn @ 7:55pm

motion made by , second by to adjourn the meeting at

Yes:

No:

9/9/26: Buchanan Backyard Bash Meeting Minutes

Michigan Gateway Building, 6 pm

1. Call to Order: 6 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

3.1 Attendees:

- Jennifer Popielski
- Jake Brown
- Larry Mosma
- Brian Kill
- Haleigh Williams
- Chelsea Aller
- Emily Koziel

4. Approve Agenda: Motion: Koziel; 2nd: Brown
5. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only (3-minute limit): NA
6. Approve Minutes: Motion: Popielski; 2nd: Kill
7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Flyer & Social Media - Information corrected

Post flyer after confirming with City; Will distribute downtown

Chelsea to get posters - 11x17 .70 ea.; Got 40 for the run; going with 30

Jenn will do flyer size & small ones (4 on pg)

Facebook event created; shared on BARB FB page & everyone else please share

Jenn will cover for FB post boosting

How to get in front of other people interested?

Shared with point of contact from New Carlisle league & asked to share too!

SCHEDULE NOTE: Trees planting happening this Oct. Need to ensure will NOT conflict! Bring up at BARB Meeting

7.2. Registration with Zeffy

Jenn set up with City for payments

7.3. Teams / Bracket Finalization

Adults only; 18 & over; can have up to 5 players, co-ed: \$100 per team

Cap 32 teams POOL PLAY! Will be easier for bracket & game timing

2 games, double elimination; one pool

3 games minimum; 5 innings

Post paper bracket at concession stand; Team captain to update as WINNER

45 minute games max; but cannot start new inning after 40 minutes

Need to start all at same time!

Hard stop! Need to police it; use phones

Need airhorn as notification

BYSBA and parents will help but need to look for more volunteers

Will use examples to recreate; send links; BYSBA will share too

We will email rules out to teams later; Jenn will add details to social media

Side games:

Home Run Derby

Best Pitch 6 pitches: \$5 or \$1 pitch

6 swings: \$5 or \$1 swing

Will NOT be on the flyer

Sign up will start after initial 3 games

Index cards with each name on it to track points

BYSBA can collect at concession

7.4. Equipment Update

BARB approves

Donations made by Wendy: bag to hold equipment, 80 balls & 12 bats (w/ 12 more balls); 92 balls total (Source: Epic Sports)

Paint: 30 cans of paint diff. Colors for fields; need 3 cans per field; On hand: blue, red, & yellow

Rustelom inverted 6 pk. \$50; Cayde can ask Lowe's

STILL NEED:

3 more bats; 88 more balls (We orig. said 180)

Paint: white & pink paint colors

Need 5 strike zones

BYSBA will build back drops - have materials from season

Need sponsors

7.5. Field Prep

Condition is currently terrible

City was to mow once a wk. BYSBA to mow too

They are only taking so much off; won't get to heightl for play

NEED TO BRING UP AT BARB MEETING TO GET TO DPW

Hoping they continue to mow it until leaf collection (Oct)

WEEDS & GRASS IN THE INFIELD; Need to address

Someone usually sprays the field

Improvements coming to the park: shed, dug outs, bleachers

Need clean up day

Porta potty has been getting cleaned out

7.6. Award / Plaque Ideas

Brian will handle awards from point of contact (Football trophy)

Championship rings are expensive; \$142.45 for (5) rings

Resin wiffle ball trophies

Would need (5); one for each person on the team

Plaque will be ours; Will house at the concesssion stand per BYSBA

First name gets trophies & names on plaque - TEAM name

PRIZES

1st & 2nd place, different ideas

Tropies (5) \$79.95

Medals (5) \$59.95 - have extra from Run Buchanan

Jenn thinks she can cut costs & will look for the extras to potentially use them

Plaque cost TBD

7.7. Raffle Update

Jake has contact info & paperwork- need tax ID
 Need to chat with Kalla at the City
 Jake will handle
 Office nearby
 Entity from the city? Eligible even? TBD

8. New Business

Weather contingency?

Give seats at next year tourney if canceled

Keep eye on weather; NEED contingency plan

BEFORE DAY OF WILL HAVE MEETING TO ASSIGN TASKS
 NEED INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

NEED TENT - BRIAN HAS EVERYTHING
 Need banner to put up at welcome table

9. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only (3-minute limit)

10. Executive Comments

11. Adjourn

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Wed. 9/23 6 pm at Buchanan Library
- Tues. 10/6 6 pm Michigan Gateway

Jenn will create Google Meet

Memorandum



Date: October 14, 2026
To: Buchanan Area Recreation Board
From: Tony McGhee
Subject: Kathryn Park and Disc Golf Course Ribbon Cuttings

Attached is the media release for the ribbon cuttings celebrating the new playground at Kathryn Park and the Buckshot Disc Golf course at McCoy Creek Recreation Area. The events will be held on Monday, October 26, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Kathryn Park, with the group then moving to McCoy Creek Recreation Area for the disc golf ribbon cutting.

I would like to invite all BARB members to attend and help us recognize the completion of these two projects. The Board played an important role in identifying Kathryn Park as a priority, selecting the playground equipment, and supporting the continued improvement of recreational opportunities throughout the community. It would be great to have as many members there as possible.

Please designate one Board member to offer a few remarks on behalf of BARB during the program. Once a person has been selected, please let me know so we can include them in the final event schedule.

The attached media release is being provided to you in advance and is embargoed until Friday, October 23. Please do not share, post, or otherwise distribute the release publicly before that date.

Thank you for everything the Board has done to support these projects. They are great examples of what can be accomplished when the City, our boards, and community volunteers work together to improve Buchanan.

Attachment A



Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tony McGhee

City of Buchanan

269.362.3810 ext. 15

Ribbon cuttings scheduled for October 26 at Kathryn Park and McCoy Creek Recreation Area

BUCHANAN, Mich. — The City of Buchanan will hold ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Monday, October 26, beginning at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the completion of two new community recreation projects.

The morning will begin at Kathryn Park with the ribbon cutting for the park's new community-built playground. The celebration will then continue at McCoy Creek Recreation Area for the official opening of Buckshot Disc Golf, the community's new disc golf course.

While the projects provide two different recreational opportunities, they share an important connection: both were made possible through strong partnerships between the City and the community.

"These projects are great examples of what makes Buchanan special," said Mayor Mark Weedon. "We believe in creating places where children, families, and residents can be active, gather, and enjoy their community. When our residents, volunteers, boards, and City staff come together, we can make meaningful improvements that benefit the entire community."

Buckshot Disc Golf was made possible through a \$10,000 Promoting Active Communities grant the City received through the Michigan Fitness Foundation. As part of that process, a group of community members representing local parks and trails, the schools, and the City assessed and inventoried Buchanan's fitness and activity assets. The group agreed that a disc golf course would be an excellent addition to Buchanan's park system. The volunteer efforts to build the course were lead by 269Bangarangatang, a local disc golf group.

The City had also previously been approached by local residents interested in developing a disc golf course. That dedicated group of volunteers helped design the course and worked

alongside the City to install the equipment purchased through the grant. It was truly a community effort.

“The City can provide resources and support, but the energy behind both of these projects came from the community,” said City Manager Tony McGhee. “At Kathryn Park, volunteers helped build a new playground in less than two days. At McCoy Creek, residents took an idea, helped shape the course, and then did the work to bring it to life. That type of partnership is how we continue moving Buchanan forward.”

Disc golf continues to grow in popularity because it is affordable, accessible to a wide range of ages and skill levels, and provides an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while being physically active. Buckshot Disc Golf also creates another way for residents and visitors to experience McCoy Creek Recreation Area and Buchanan’s larger trail and park system. Kathryn Park has been a neighborhood gathering place for more than 100 years and remains a favorite park for many Buchanan residents. Nestled within one of the community’s core residential neighborhoods and located near Moccasin Elementary School, the park provides an important recreational space for neighborhood children and families.

The Buchanan Area Recreation Board identified Kathryn Park as a top priority for new playground equipment in its master plan. The Board also helped select the equipment and design the new playground. Dozens of local volunteers then joined Buchanan’s Department of Public Works to install the equipment in less than two days. The playground has been busy ever since.

Neighborhood playgrounds provide children with opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, creativity, and unstructured play close to home. Investing in these spaces also strengthens neighborhoods by creating safe and welcoming places where children, families, and neighbors can gather.

The public is invited to attend both ribbon cuttings and help the City recognize the residents, volunteers, board members, community partners, and City staff who made these projects possible.

Media Release

Event Information

Date: Monday, October 26, 2026 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Starting Location: Kathryn Park – 315 Moccasin Street

Second Location: Buckshot Disc Golf at McCoy Creek Recreation Area – 606 Clark Street

Project Images



Memorandum



Date: October 14, 2026
To: Buchanan Area Recreation Board
From: Tony McGhee
Subject: **Parks Programming Discussion**

Background

The community has a history of partnering with other community organizations to provide summer programming for children in Buchanan's parks. Years ago, the City worked with Buchanan Community Schools and Clark Equipment on a program that brought activities directly into neighborhood parks during the summer.

While the community and the organizations serving it have changed since then, the basic concept may still worth revisiting. Rather than one organization trying to develop and operate an entire summer recreation program on its own, several community partners could bring their individual resources, staff, volunteers, and areas of expertise together to create a broader program.

Under this approach, the City's role would not be to develop, staff, or operate the activities. The City would make its parks available and ensure they are ready for use by participating organizations. The City would also coordinate the overall schedule and promote the programming through its website, social media outlets, and other communication channels. The partner organizations would be responsible for developing and providing the actual activities.

The purpose of this discussion is to determine whether the Buchanan Area Recreation Board has an interest in helping bring potential partners together to explore what summer park programming could look like in 2027. This would not commit BARB or the City to a specific program or level of funding. It would simply begin the conversation early enough to determine what interest, programming, and resources already exist within the community.

Benefits of Summer Park Programming

Summer park programming provides children with safe, structured, and affordable opportunities to remain active and connected while school is not in session. Programs

Memorandum

could include physical recreation, art, reading, educational activities, nature programs, games, and other activities that allow children to learn and interact in a less formal environment.

Providing activities in neighborhood parks also makes programming more accessible to families who may not have transportation or the financial ability to participate in traditional summer camps. Bringing programs directly into neighborhoods can help reach children who might otherwise have limited access to organized activities during the summer. Beyond the immediate benefit to participating children, summer programming can:

- Encourage physical activity and healthy habits;
- Support reading, creativity, and continued learning during the summer;
- Help children build friendships and social skills;
- Connect children with trusted adults and community organizations;
- Give families access to free or low-cost activities close to home;
- Introduce residents to parks and recreational assets they may not otherwise use;
- Build a greater sense of ownership and pride in neighborhood parks; and
- Strengthen relationships among the organizations serving Buchanan's children and families.

The City has invested significantly in its parks and recreation system over the past few years. Programming provides an opportunity to build on those physical investments by giving children and families more reasons to use the parks regularly.

Potential Initial Partners

Potential organizations to include in an initial discussion could include:

- **Roti Roti Art Center** – Art instruction, crafts, public art, and other creative activities.
- **Buchanan Community Schools** – Educational programming, outreach to students and families, and potential coordination with existing summer activities.
- **Buchanan District Library** – Reading programs, storytelling, literacy activities, and science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics programming.
- **Boys & Girls Club** – Youth development, organized recreation, mentoring, and structured activities.
- **City of Buchanan and BARB** – Making the parks available and ready for use, coordinating the calendar, promoting the activities, and helping bring the participating organizations together.

Memorandum

- **Michigan Gateway Community Foundation** – Potential program funder and convenor of other funding entities
- **Other community organizations** – Local nonprofits, churches, service clubs, athletic groups, public-safety departments, healthcare organizations, businesses, and residents interested in supporting youth activities.

The goal would not be for every organization to participate in every activity. Each partner could identify what it already does well and determine whether that programming could be offered in a park setting as part of a coordinated summer schedule.

Potential Approach

If there is interest, the first step would be to hold a roundtable meeting with potential partners before the end of the year. The meeting would focus on what programming already exists, what each organization may be willing to provide, the age groups that should be served, and the practical needs associated with offering activities in the parks.

A 2027 program could begin as a manageable pilot rather than attempting to build a full summer recreation program in the first year. One potential model would be to offer activities one or two days per week over a six- to eight-week period, with programming rotating among selected parks. Activities could be organized around themes such as art, reading, sports, nature, public safety, and community history.

Participating organizations would be responsible for developing and leading their activities, providing the necessary staff or volunteers, and supplying the materials needed for their programs. The City would coordinate dates and locations, prepare the parks for scheduled use, and promote a unified calendar so families could easily see what activities were available throughout the summer.

As the concept develops, the partners would need to work through staffing and volunteer requirements, background checks, insurance, weather policies, restrooms, supplies, accessibility, registration, parental permissions, and any funding needs. Beginning the discussion now would provide enough time to address these items before the summer of 2027.

Memorandum**Discussion**

Staff is asking BARB to discuss whether it has an interest in helping convene a meeting of potential community partners to explore summer park programming for 2027.

If the Board is supportive, staff would begin reaching out to the Roti Roti Art Center, Buchanan Community Schools, Buchanan District Library, the Boys & Girls Club, and other community organizations to schedule an initial planning meeting. Information from that meeting would then be brought back to BARB for further discussion before any final program or funding commitment is made.

This could be a good opportunity to build on Buchanan's history of community partnerships while creating additional opportunities for children and families to use and enjoy the investments being made in the community's parks. It would also allow the City to support summer recreation without taking on the staffing and operational responsibilities of running the individual programs.



PICNIC TABLE/BENCH SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

City of Buchanan Parks & McCoy Creek Trail

Bench and Picnic Table Sponsorships - Limited Availability

- ☐ 6' Bench w/ Dedication - \$1400
 ☐ ADA Picnic Table with Dedication
☐ 8' Metal Bench with Dedication - \$1,000 - \$1,900

Requested Dedication Text:

Requested Location (Subject to Staff and Board Approval):

Name of Donor/Business: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Payment Preference: ☐ My full payment is included ☐ Invoice me for full payment

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Please make checks payable to **The City of Buchanan** and mail to **302 N. Red Bud Trail, Buchanan, MI 49107**. Sponsorships are available on a first come, first serve basis. Bench and Picnic Table sponsorships are estimated to have a 20 year lifespan, signage dependant.



Bench Sponsorship Option

McCoy Creek Trail



Example 6' Bench with Dedication - \$1,400



Picnic Table and Bench Sponsorship Options

City of Buchanan Parks



Example 8' Bench with Dedication - \$1,000



**Example ADA Accessible Picnic Table
with Dedication - \$1,900**