

PENN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

Parks Report — Season Summary

2026

As our season comes to a close, we are excited to share highlights from a truly memorable year at the park.

Season Highlights

This season was packed with events, leagues, and gatherings that brought our community together week after week. Highlights included:

- Family Day (August 29th, co-sponsored by Hydro) — A fantastic community event featuring pickleball, kids games, a foam party, hot dogs, popcorn, and snacks and drinks. Thank you to Hydro for their generous sponsorship!
- Glow in the Dark Pickleball — this event was a big hit for participants and spectators alike. The creative format brought out lots of laughs and energy, making it an event to remember.
- MLP (Major League Pickleball) League — Held two full sessions this year, both filled with fast-paced, laugh-filled fun for all skill levels.
- Ladder League — A competitive-yet-friendly format that kept players engaged and improving all season.
- Helping Hands Fundraiser Tournament — A fun time for a great cause, supporting Helping Hands of Cass County.
- Council on Aging Pickleball Clinics — Free clinics introducing older adults to the game and building lasting friendships on the court.
- Pickle & Poker Brunch — A beloved social event combining pickleball and friendly card play.
- Open Play — Ongoing throughout the season, welcoming players of all ages and abilities.
- Movie Night Play & Watch Party — Unfortunately postponed due to weather, but we look forward to bringing it back next season.
- Shoreline Showdown — Our inaugural Donnell Lake vs. Diamond Lake tournament was also postponed due to weather. Stay tuned — this one will be worth the wait!

A Welcoming Place for All

This season we welcomed church groups, vacationers, family reunions, and pickleball friends both new and old. Players from all across southwest Michigan and northern Indiana have visited our courts and consistently comment on their quality — and more importantly, the welcoming and fun atmosphere we work hard to maintain.

The Penn Township courts are a free, fun, and healthy activity for people of all ages. We are proud to provide this valuable service to our community, and it is a joy to see so many people of all ages and backgrounds enjoying the park throughout the season.

Volunteers

We are deeply grateful for the many volunteers who help us pull off a full season of community events. Special shout out goes to Deputy Parks Director, Wendy Grace and Facility Maintenance Handyman, Sprague Fitzsimons! Without their time, energy, and enthusiasm, none of this would be possible.

Community & Charitable Support

In addition to our pickleball-focused community events and fundraisers, the club has been active in supporting other local charitable and community organizations. This year, we were honored to support:

- Helping Hands of Cass County
- Cass County Harvest Fest
- Village of Vandalia Blessing Box
- Cass County Meat Challenge
- Penn Township Firefighters Auxiliary
- Cass County Council on Aging

Looking Ahead

This season has been a wonderful example of how recreation, fellowship, and service can come together to strengthen our community. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, or supported our efforts. We look forward to another successful season ahead!

Lisa Fitzsimons
Penn Township Parks & Recreation