

HISTORY ROSCOMMON METROPOLITAN PARK



The Roscommon Metropolitan Park Authority was formed on June 4, 1969. The property that is currently the Metro Park was leased from the Village as well as it was maintained and used for recreation.

In the 1970's there was one undeveloped baseball field, small play area and a developing hockey league. The area was flooded in the winter and was a viable ice rink. The local hockey league with close to 100 members played at the park for several years.

Late in the 70's two tennis courts and two basketball courts were built on approximately 25,000sq.ft. of the park and currently are still there.

In the 1990's warmer winters challenged ice maintenance at the park as the warmer winters and lack of pavilion coverage made the rink hard to maintain and the hockey program dissolved. At this time the Roscommon-St.Helen Little League was growing and quickly outgrew the available playing time on the schools fields.

In early 2000, the Metropolitan Park Improvement Plan proposed a 5 year development of pavilion, accessible restrooms, 3 ball fields, picnic area concession, storage facilities and parking. The overall development cost was \$250,000.00 completed. Field development was funded by Roscommon Rotary, Little League, Roscommon Lions Club, Weyerhaeuser, and community donations. Completed in 2004 the fields have been maintained and upgraded by the Little League.

To date, the Roscommon-St. Helen Little League maintains the fields. They have built dugouts on each field, added batting cages, bull pens, and completed fencing around the T-ball field for child safety. Each spring volunteers from the league put in 100 man hours in field clean up and ground maintenance.

Currently the two tennis and basketball courts are aged and sit directly beside the play area. The base courts are cracked with 2-3 inch gaps and uneven surfaces. The nets are old, dilapidated and/or destroyed and have been removed. The playground sits on approximately 400sq.ft. with equipment is from the 1970's. More recent additions were purchased from the school that included 2 spiral slides and a large wood boat.

Playground inventory is as follows:

Swing set:	Sturdy with 3out of 5 swings available due to damage
Slides (3):	Worn, open metal on one which makes a safety hazard
Monkey bars:	Old, but sturdy
Merry-go-round:	Broke and welded this past year
4 seated Spring:	Broke and welded 2 times in the past and painted
Sand box:	

Little Tikes Play area:

This is 15-20 years old, the most solid of play areas but faded with poor appearance. It is for child play ages 2-5.

To date, the baseball fields are one of the best within District 8 Little League play and are the pride of Little League and the Metro Park. The appearance of the courts and playground however prohibit active play by persons of all ages within our community. In 2012 the Village of Roscommon along with the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority (RMRA) developed the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for 2012-2017. This plan took 6 months to produce and is a full inventory of Roscommon demographics and recreation needs. In July, 2012 the RMRA appointed a new board which is actively working on community recreation needs.

The goals of the RMRA are to totally renovate the area within the park where the courts and playground currently sit. With renovations the playground area will increase in size from the current 400 to 1500sq.ft, and will include age related play equipment for 2-5 and 5-12 years of age. The court area will be reduced to one each of basketball and tennis courts utilizing 12,500sq.ft. The parking area will be moved utilizing the current area as a green area, and relocating parking to the left perimeter of the park. This will allow the flow of traffic away from children and child play areas provide areas for handicap parking and handicap field access, and future plans of a potential water park.

In attempts to maintain child safety and destruction of property a grant has been submitted to the Michigan Township Participating Plan to obtain surveillance equipment to monitor park activities and protection of assets to be developed.

Mission Statement:

RMRA is dedicated to providing quality recreation programs for residents and visitors of all ages