

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

Big Rapids is fortunate to have many acres of park land available for long and short term recreational use. The parks are in various stages of development, some with ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, while others remain vacant land.

All Big Rapids City parks are available for use on a first come - first served basis. The pavilions at Northend Riverside Park and Hemlock Park may be reserved for a fee of \$50.00. Fee waiver forms are available for city-wide functions such as concerts, art fairs, etc. Anyone wanting to reserve a pavilion must come to the Public Works Office and fill out an application. The Park and Recreation Board has the final approval for any fee waiver reservations.

The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in all City parks, except alcohol beverages may be possessed and consumed in Hemlock, Vogel and Industrial Parks from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Glass containers of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at all times in all City parks. A violation of this section shall be a municipal civil infraction. For more details please call 592-4015.

BANDSHELL

The bandshell is located along Riverwalk and behind Big Rapids Middle School. It is available for reservations, call 592-4015 for more details.

RIVERWALK

Is a linear trail extending from Hemlock Park to Northend Park. The trail includes 4 fishing piers, 1 small gazebo, 1 small picnic shelter, interpretive signage and is accessible for all.

Local City Parks

Centennial Park is located between Mecosta County Medical Center and River Street Park. Features a Rotary gazebo and future walking trail with picnic area.

Charles E. Fairman Community Pool and Park

Located on Hutchinson Street. Community swimming pool, pavilion and picnic area with grills and a hiking area. The pool is in operation mid June to mid August.

Hemlock Park is located at the east end of Hemlock Street and Warren Avenue. Features playscape, tennis and basketball courts, softball field, play areas, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, fishing area and a hiking trail. The beginning of Riverwalk.

Holland Park is located on State Street and it is used for a pedestrian rest area.

Industrial Park is located on Catherine and Milton and consists of two softball fields and soccer fields.

Library Park is located beside the Community Library at 428 S. Michigan Ave. Features the Anna Howard Shaw Memorial sculpture and play area.

Linden Street Park is located at the corner of Gilbertson and Linden Streets. Features a play area for children.

Mitchell Creek Park is located at the corner of Pine and State Streets. Features walkways, a bridge, wooden deck, picnic areas, fishing areas and restrooms.

Northend Riverside Park is located at the north end of Fourth Avenue. Features a picnic area, fishing site, sand volleyball court, play area, nature trails and cross-country skiing. A trail guide is available at City Hall. Two pavilions are available in this park. The ending of Riverwalk.

River Street Park is located between 300 and 600 blocks of River Street. Features baseball diamonds, soccer fields, ice rink, picnic tables, grills, a fishing area and hiking trails.

Swede Hill Park is located on the northeast side of town on Baldwin Street and is used for fishing and picnicking. The park features a historic marker dedicated to those early Swedish settlers.

Vogel Field is located south of Colburn Street on the west side of Bronson Avenue and consist of two ball fields, picnicking and playground equipment.



Department of Recreation

Phone: 231-796-2425

Fax: 231-592-3494

www.ci.big-rapids.mi.us

ADULT PROGRAMS

Big Rapids Recreation 231-796-2425

Basketball

- ◆ Open Gym Oct.- April Thursdays
7:00-9:00pm @ BRMS (Fee Charged)

Volleyball (Fee Charged)

- ◆ Men's & Women's season Reg. Aug.
- ◆ Coed season Reg. Nov.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS

Big Rapids Recreation 231-796-2425

Sept. - May

- ◆ Seniorcize (Exercise Class) Tuesdays
1:00 – 2:00 Evergreen Comm. Building
- ◆ Dancercize (Dance Class) Thursdays
11:00–12:00 Evergreen Comm. Build.
- ◆ Water Aerobic Class (Fee Charged)
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
10:30 – 11:20 FSU Pool
- ◆ Tai Chi (Fee Charged)
Tuesday's and Thursday's 7:30am
City Hall Commission Room
- ◆ Birthday Lunches

LET'S WALK BIG RAPIDS - is a non-competitive walking program that offers exercise while spending quality time on Big Rapids parks and trails. Let's Walk Big Rapids is a free program for all ages. Walks are held in the Spring and Fall months.

OTHER ADULT PROGRAMS

Hockey/Skating

- ◆ Ferris State University Ice Arena
231-591-2881

Softball

- ◆ Men's Summer Softball/ Coed Softball
contact Web site: www.brmsa.org or
Tom Horn (h) 796-5248
- ◆ Women's Summer Softball contact
Shirley Snyder (h) 231-797-5945

Youth programs are offered through various community groups and organizations. The following is information for activities offered in the Big Rapids area.

After School Program

- ◆ Big Rapids Public Schools CLC,
contact BRPS Superintendent's Office
@ 231-796-2627

Baseball/Softball

- ◆ Little Leagues, Registration in Mar. contact
Big Rapids Recreation 231-796-2425

Basketball

- Cardinal "Tip -Off" Program – girls 1st –
6th grades registration Sept. / Oct. contact
Coach Thompson 796-7651
- ◆ Big Rapids Hoops – boys 4th – 6th grades
registration contact Kent Ingles 796-7651

Dance

- ◆ Janine School of Dance 231-796-0291

Football

- ◆ Rocket Football, Registration in May Season
Aug. – Oct. contact Mark Solis
(h) 231-796-4630

Golf

- ◆ Katke Golf Course 231-591-3765

Gymnastics/Tumbling/Cheer

- ◆ Central Michigan Trampoline & Tumbling
Club 231-972-7422
- ◆ Cheer America– contact is Young Americans
616-538-2888
- ◆ Rocket Football Cheerleading, Aug.-Oct
Ages 4-14 Coordinator Stacey Nowlin
(h) 796-9547

Hockey

- ◆ BRAJHA Hockey - contact Ferris State
University Ice Arena 231-591-2881

Karate/Self -defense

- ◆ Young Americans contact 616-538-2888

Soccer

- ◆ Northland United Soccer Club, Registration
Feb. contact 231-598-0437

Swimming

- ◆ Big Rapids Community Pool contact
Pat Horan 231-796-7798 open June - Aug.
- ◆ Swimming Lessons at Ferris State University
Recreation Center contact 231-591-2679

Skating

- ◆ Figure Skating BRFSC – contact Ferris State
University Ice Arena 231-591-2881
- ◆ Roller Skating - Big Rapids Skating Center
231-796-9009
- ◆ Outdoor Ice rink @ Riverstreet Park

Tennis

- ◆ Ferris State University Racquet & Fitness
Center 231-591-2212

Wrestling

- ◆ Big Rapids Youth Wrestling Jan.– Mar. &
Mar.-Apr. Ages 4-14
contact Jeff Tift @ 796-3239 or
Tim Cooper @796-1591

Boy Scouts

- ◆ contact Mark Pellerito (h) 231-796-1990

Girl Scouts of Michigan Trails

- ◆ 231-796-4532

Mecosta County 4-H Youth Agent

- ◆ 231-592-0795