

## Winter 2023

Winter 2023:  
Volume 1, Issue 3



# DEXTER TOWNSHIP

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Dexter, MI 48130

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Office Hours:  
Monday – Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

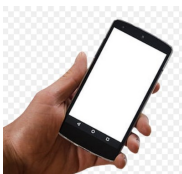
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### Cellular Service

Dexter Township is aware of the issues many residents are experiencing with cellular service and is actively researching and reviewing our options for adding a cellular tower to address these concerns.



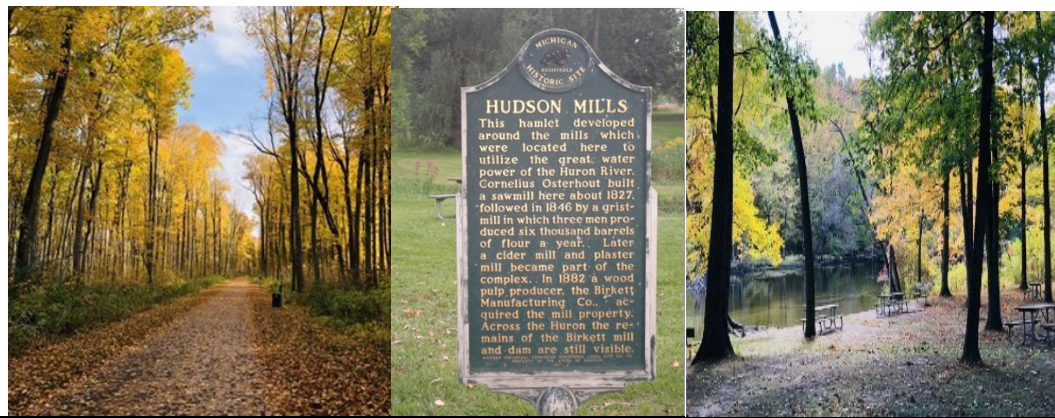
## Get your FREE 2024 Annual Pass to Hudson Mills Metropark—Deadline is March 29, 2024—ACT NOW!

Dexter Township is a rural community and does not maintain any parks, walking paths, or recreational areas within our borders. However, we are lucky to have a 1,500 acre MetroPark, Hudson Mills, in our township. Rather than take on the long-term financial commitment of obtaining land, developing a park, and maintaining recreational space we would like to offer each home in our township **(1) one FREE Annual Pass (2024) to Hudson Mills Metropark**. This is a space to unwind, enjoy the hiking or biking trails, play golf and disc golf, listen to the flow of the river or canoe down the river, and just reconnect and energize with nature. However, you must act now! The deadline to request a pass is midnight March 29, 2024 via email.

Again, please submit your email request prior to March 29, 2024

- Send an email to [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) to request a free 2024 annual pass
- One (1) pass per home allowed (garages or other structures under separate house numbers will not be granted a free pass)
- Include: your name, age, address, city, state, zip code, email address and phone number
- You will receive an email response confirming your request and approval or not, and how to obtain your pass
- Please do not go to the town hall—Pass requests will only be honored via email (we do not have the personnel to handle in person requests)
- Residents accepting this pass will automatically be enrolled in the township's "In the Loop" monthly email updates—you may unsubscribe at any time

## SEE YOU IN THE PARK!



Interested in serving your community? We have various open board positions!  
Send your name to [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) or [supervisor@dextertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@dextertownship.org).

### Dexter Township Explores the Topic of Single Trash Hauler Provider

A couple years ago when trash providers removed Dexter Township from their service routes, many residents were left floundering and without reliable curb-side trash service. Additionally, in the survey for our new Master Plan, an overwhelming number of residents supported the single hauler trash concept. Now aided by Washtenaw County Public Works, Theo Eggermont and Consultants at RRS, we introduced a single hauler ordinance for discussion at the November Board of Trustee Meeting. Having this ordinance in place simply solidifies our ability to move forward, and does not demand that action be taken. Currently, there are nearly 700 Townships in Michigan now providing single hauler contracts for their townships. A few benefits include:

- Trash truck traffic reduced in neighborhoods by 70% or more
- Trash truck traffic limited to one day a week in your neighborhood
- Reduced wear and tear on both neighborhood roads as well as main roads - Less truck traffic results in safer and quieter streets
- Less truck traffic means less pollution, fewer opportunities for spills, cleaner air

- A single licensed and contracted hauler brings safer hauler operating practices as well as improved community appearance with carts and 1 day/week service
- Savings per household may be as high as 30% to 67%
- Firm 5-year pricing prevents surprises each year – known costs for known reliable value No more hassles, and \$ returned to household pocketbooks each year

The next step for Dexter Township will be to gain Board approval to pass an ordinance, develop an RFP (request for proposal), and review competitive proposals received from the region’s haulers and then make a recommendation to the Township Board of Trustees for their consideration.

Greater detail will be available in early 2024 for consideration and discussion. Stay tuned!



### Local Roads Committee Report

This summer, the WCRC completed significant road repair projects on Waterloo, Stinchfield Woods West, Toma, and Brand Roads including tree trimming, drainage improvements, and adding gravel and/or limestone. NOTE: Some citizens have noticed that these major repair projects on our gravel roads result in a “crowning effect” in the center line of the road, with a more noticeable slant toward the ditch side of the road. According to the WCRC, the crown in the road is needed to effectively drain water off the road’s surface; so typically a new road surface is set with more crown to deter the road from inverting and holding water, while it compacts after the recent addition of surface material. Over time, the traffic on the road will compact this crown, and the road will have a more level feel. The WCRC will work to maintain the lower percentage of crown over the years.



As we move through autumn, the Township and WCRC are evaluating using previously allocated Township Wide Forestry funds and project savings to accomplish more tree trimming in order to get a head start on the 2024 and 2025 road repair projects. Trimming will be performed on **North Lake, Quigley, Colby, Donner, and Dancer Roads**, so drivers on these roads should be alert to the presence of trucks and work crews.

The Local Roads Committee and Township citizens have also identified intersections where trees and shrubbery obstruct the sight lines; the WCRC will look at these intersections for possible future trimming.

#### Have you Noticed a Brighter Light?

A new light was authorized and installed near the entrance to Carriage Hills subdivision on Dexter Pinckney Rd. to assist traffic entering and leaving the subdivision

#### HOA’s

We would like to build a list of HOA’s in Dexter Township—if your neighborhood has a HOA or a Lake Association, and you would be open to sharing the primary contact information, please email [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org). This information will be kept for township use only and used when we have information to share, specific to your neighborhood or important timely issues for all township residents.



## Supervisor's Year End Letter

2023 has been a year of tremendous progress for Dexter Township. As the pandemic shutdown recedes into the past, our organization has coalesced around our strategic vision, with its four pillars designed to ensure good government, environmental stewardship, communication, and community enrichment. Here's a quick snapshot of our work this year.

### Good Government

In 2023, our Board of Trustees approved several initiatives to improve quality of life for our residents. We embarked on the third year of a five-year plan to bring all our local collector roads into good condition, and improved road and waterway safety with new speed limit signs, street lighting, and speed limit buoys. The broadband initiative – bringing broadband coverage to 100% of our residents – moved into the implementation phase.

The Board of Trustees have been working steadily on the nuts and bolts. This year, we approved new personnel guidelines, improved our budget and financial oversight, and implemented accessibility improvements to our public meeting room, just to name a few.

### Environmental Stewardship

In 2023, we persevered through record setting heat, poor air quality from Canadian wildfires, and extreme storms. Trustee Laura Scott took a leadership role in establishing a Farmland and Open Space Preservation program that came to full fruition this year. With generous support from our residents, we will be closing on our first purchase of development rights in early December, with more properties soon to follow. Heartfelt thanks to the Township's volunteers, consultants, and elected officials who made this important program a reality.

Our Master Plan is slated for approval by the Board of Trustees in January 2025, the culmination of a two-year, community-driven initiative. Its five pillars – thoughtful planning for future development, protection of our natural resources, preservation of our agricultural heritage, management of our traffic, and creating a sustainable community – coalesce neatly with our strategic planning goals.

### Communication

In 2023, we doubled the number of print newsletter editions, under the leadership of Trustee Karen Nolte. Trustee Nolte's eNewsletter subscriptions increased from 50 to more than 500. Thanks to our richer, more informative board packages, we've received more news coverage at the *Sun Times* and *M-Live*. And our social media presence is ramping up with routine updates on Facebook, NextDoor, and our web site. If you'd like to subscribe to our eNewsletter, please email Trustee Nolte at [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org). Happy reading!

### Community Enrichment

Dexter Township is home to some of the most beautiful parks in the State of Michigan. Until this year, our residents had to pay to enjoy Hudson Mills, the beautiful Metropark in our own backyard. With support from the Board of Trustees and our residents, Dexter Township this year provided Metroparks passes free of charge to each home. We continued our Community Clean-Up Day tradition with electronic, metal, and Styrofoam recycling, and free shredding last October. Film plastic recycling, a volunteer-run program, continues in the Town Hall parking lot.

For the first time this year, we hosted a "Community Movie Night" in August, led by Trustee Lonnie Scott, along with several coffee chats throughout the year. In December, a volunteer appreciation event allowed us to say "Thank you!" to the more than 100 volunteers, board and committee members, and staff members who make our programs run so well.

### Coming Up! 2024 and Beyond

We are on an amazing trajectory for 2024. We'll continue to improve roads, purchase development rights, and host community events. New initiatives for next year include improving our zoning ordinance to serve our residents better, working to ensure ongoing funding for police and fire services, and initiating a waterways committee to coordinate stewardship of our precious lakes and rivers. I am so proud of everything we have accomplished over the last 12 months. I can't wait to see what the future brings!

<b>Clean-Up Day—October 2023</b>	<b>Upcoming Dates to Remember</b>
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It was a rainy wet day, for the annual Dexter Township Clean Up Day, but we are happy to report collecting our largest amount of donations to date and handling over 200 vehicles in the 3-hour event. THANK YOU to the 24 volunteers, who worked through the rain and helped to create a successful morning. And thank you for all our residents who participated in clearing their environments of electric waste, documents for shredding, styrofoam, old tires, and scrap metal. We will report numbers/volume of materials collected as they become available over the next couple weeks. Thanks again everyone!



<p><b><u>January 9, 2024 @ 5:00pm</u></b> Coffee with the Trustees at Dexter Township Hall</p> <p><b><u>April 21st @ 4:00pm</u></b> Coffee with the Trustees at Dexter Township Hall</p> <p><b><u>May 27th</u></b> Memorial Day Parade</p> <p><b><u>June 16th @ 7:00pm</u></b> Coffee with the Trustees at Dexter Township Hall</p>	<p><b><u>August 24th @ 6:00pm</u></b> Community Movie Night at Dexter Township Hall</p> <p><b><u>October 26th from 9am-noon</u></b> Dexter Township Annual Clean-Up Day</p> <p>Please check Dexter Township's website, and Facebook page for additional updates.</p>
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<b>The Impact of Fire Services</b>	<b>Construction Update</b>
<p>Did you know that fire services are not mandated? Each municipality must decide on its own whether to fund fire services. Dexter Township, together with Webster Township and City of Dexter, have been working together since the 1980s to provide the highest quality fire protection. Dexter Township's fire safety millage expires at the end of this year, and we have only enough money in the bank to continue providing fire protection through 2024. Our Dexter Area Fire Department puts out fires and are first responders for medical emergencies, but did you know that fire services also keep your homeowner's insurance rates low? Insurance rates tie into a municipality's Public Protection Classification, which the insurance industry uses to set rates. The more well equipped a location's fire services are, the lower that community's score will be, and the lower the resident's homeowner's insurance rates. We all know how important reliable fire services are. A fire {millage} ensures reliable, properly equipped and fully staffed fire department. Dexter Area Fire Department keeps us safe in our homes – and helps keep the cost of home ownership down.</p>	<p>2024 will bring delays and detours on North Territorial when the Washtenaw Country Road Commission begins a safety improvement project. Exact dates are not set at this time, but once started the project is expected to take up to 8 weeks. The intersection at North Territorial and Dexter Townhall Rd will be completely closed during this project to cut down the hill just west of Dexter Townhall on North Territorial and to correct the culvert drainage just east of Dexter Townhall on North Territorial. This will improve the sight line for drivers and help manage the flooding that has occurred on North Territorial. Additionally, left turn lanes will be added to the intersection along with road rumble strips for safety.</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Broadband Moves to Implementation Stage</b></p>
	<p>Spectrum is actively laying fiber optic cable to areas awarded them through the use of ARPA County funding. To determine if a specific address is available for installation, please visit <a href="https://www.spectrum.com/cp/build">https://www.spectrum.com/cp/build</a>. When available, this site will offer Spectrum plans available to you.</p>

**Want to stay "in the loop" as to what's happening in Dexter Township?**

Subscribe to our monthly email updates - "in the loop" on our website [www.dextertownship.org](http://www.dextertownship.org) (bottom of front page).  
Simply enroll by sending your name, email address, and phone number to [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) . Please join us!



Interested in serving your community?  
We have various open board positions!  
Send your name to  
[info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) or  
[supervisor@dextertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@dextertownship.org).