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Don Sisung, Road Commission Rep.  
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Polverento and Tim Machowicz,  
Citizen Representatives



## **CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION**

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## **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

**April 2014**

### **Pheasant Forever Annual Banquet**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Banquet was held at Most Holy Trinity Parish Activity Center in Fowler on Saturday, March 22. More than 200 Pheasants Forever members and supporters attended. Chuck Nelson represented the Commission at a display that included an aerial photo of the two DeWitt Road county parks. Not many banquet attendees got by the display without hearing about the native Michigan prairie grassland development project proposed for the 272-acre park. I'm sure at the April Commission meeting Chuck will share comments made about the grassland development project.



### **50-Vehicle Parking Lot**

Competitive price quotes are currently being received for development of a 50-vehicle gravel parking lot to be constructed in the 272-acre park along DeWitt Road. On March 20, the County Board Finance and Personnel Committee approved an additional \$10,000 to fence the new lot. Final budget approval is scheduled for the regular County Board meeting on Thursday, March 27. The lot provides a reasonable number of parking spaces for visitors to the new park as well as serving as an over-flow lot when parking inside Motz County Park fills to capacity.

Fencing will limit vehicle operation to the parking lot. Only park maintenance and emergency vehicles will be allowed into the interior of the park. Pedestrian openings in the fence will allow individuals to walk into the park. In anticipation of significant

pedestrian foot traffic between the two parks, Clinton County Road Commission has agreed to install and sign a pedestrian crossing on DeWitt Road.

### **Building Demolitions**

In February, Leon Searles completed demolition of the house and two barns in the 272-acre park. It took sixteen 30-yard capacity dumpsters to haul the debris away. Leon still has a small amount of concrete to remove, which he'll transport to his crushing plant. Scattered around are minor wood debris and ground rocks which I'm hoping County Jail Trustees will cleanup this spring. Later in the summer, I hope to have County Jail Trustees repaint the maintenance garage and storage barn a similar earth-tone color.

### **Conceptual Master Plan**

The "Conceptual Master Plan" is being removed as an action item on the Commission meeting Agenda for the time being. The plan will be returned to the Agenda for Commission consideration only after the completion and tabulation of a resident random interest survey being conducted this spring. Input received from the survey is important to plan creation and future development of park properties.

### **Maple River Public Access Site**

The bridge on St. Clair Road spanning the Maple River next to the 1-acre county public access site is being replaced. The access site is being used to store excavated soils and construction material. The site is a mess right now but better times are coming. Upon completion of the project, the access site will be returned to an improved condition. An earth ramp built to ADA accessible route specifications will connect the parking strip along French Road with the river bank. The ramp will be grass covered. The ramp and adjoining grade improvements will make the site safer and more functional for visitors in the future.



### **Storage Barn Renovation**

It's been too bitterly cold for RESA Construction Trades class students to complete the renovation of the storage barn. All materials are on-hand. Ross Pope indicated that once temperatures warm up, the project will be completed within two weeks time.

### **Summer Park Ranger Positions**

I've received an internship inquiry from a MSU student for this summer. This person worked as a Park Ranger at Motz County Park during the summers of 2010 and 2011. It would be nice to have someone experienced with the park returning as a Park Manager, especially in light to expanding operations to the new 272-acre park.

A Job Announcement and Park Ranger Job Description have been placed on the County web site. In addition to the Park Manager position, all three Park Ranger positions are open to new hires this summer. If you know someone 18 years or age or older with a good work ethic who is looking for summer employment, please direct them to [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org) for information and an employment application form.

### **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Project**

Leon Searles indicated he is unable to complete all relocation tasks by the May 1, 2014 Trust Fund Project Agreement end date. A request was made to DNR Grants Management Section for an extension of the Project Agreement completion date. The request was granted. A new Project Agreement with an end date of July 1 is currently in the process of signing and filing.

Mr. Searles will have completed all relocation tasks within the 272-acre property by late April allowing Clinton County to open the park for public use in May. He will need May to mid-June to complete tasks related to re-establishing full operations in the Searles Construction Company quarry located on the west side of South Airport Road.

### **Tobacco-Free Areas**

With County Board adoption of the Tobacco-Free Areas Resolution, areas within Motz County Park designated as Tobacco-Free will be signed this spring. Total area designated as Tobacco-Free is approximately 4 acres, which is 10% of the park's total acreage. A Google-Earth map of designated Tobacco-Free Areas follows.

