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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

May 2013

ACTIVITIES:

Heavy Spring Rains Cause Erosion Damage at Francis Motz County Park

The frequency and duration of spring rain events filled county rivers and drains beyond holding capacity and saturated ground soils. Damage to property, roads, bridges and other infrastructure throughout mid-Michigan, including the park, resulted from flooding and erosion.

In the park, surface water from higher elevations (area around picnic grounds, pavilion and beach house) cut a path under the main pedestrian walk to the beach. The walk's sand base is almost completely gone; the walk is suspended in air by the strength of its concrete. Engineers from C2AE inspected the damage and will recommend ways to repair it and mitigate future erosion damage. Working with a local concrete pumping contractor, it may be possible to shore up the walk to prevent its breaking at expansion joints and collapsing in place. The contractor indicated the fix would only be a temporary measure until the damaged portion of the walk could be



Recent rains have re-charged area ground water tables. At Francis Motz County Park, the water table and surface of the swimming lake are one in the same. In this view, half of the sun beach is under water. Lifesaving stations (posts) normally 20' above the shoreline are 15' to 20' lake ward. With drying weather, the lake level should return to normal by Memorial Day weekend. Photo taken: April 23, 2013

replaced. More information may be available at the May 3 Parks and Green Space Commission meeting.



Shown is one of several areas where recent rains resulted in almost complete loss of sub-base under the main pedestrian walk to the beach. Photo taken: April 23, 2013



Ground erosion up-slope from the sun beach allowed surface water to flow under the walk for a distance of 85' to 100' resulting in removal of supporting sand.

Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program

This second year event scheduled for Saturday, May 11 at Francis Motz County Park introduce youth, ages 5-16, to basic fishing skills such as casting, knot tying, rigging for different types of fishing, Michigan regulations, and fishing ethics. Check-in begins at 8:30 am with the program running from 9:00 am until Noon. Registration is currently closed due to having reached full enrollment of 60 youth. Late registrants are placed on a waiting list to fill any cancellations that may occur. A copy of the 2013 program announcement is attached to this report. I encourage Commissioners to stop by the park on May 11 to personally view the program. Staffed by volunteers with a heartfelt interest in recreational fishing and youth development, the program is well organized and executed and memorable for youth participants and their family members.

Playmakers Classic Triathlon

On Sunday, August 25, Francis Motz County Park will be the site of the Playmakers Classic Triathlon. Triathlon participants will complete in a race that includes swimming, biking and running segments. Event sponsor, Playmakers Fitness Foundation, has signed a Special Park Use License with Clinton County to conduct the athletic event and protect the county from potential legal liability related to the event.

Located in Okemos, Playmakers is a retail store that promotes itself as being "an award-winning footwear and apparel store which helps customers increase their fitness level". In addition to its products sales, Playmakers promotes events and sponsors programs primarily for runners and walkers.

In 2011, Playmakers established a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the purpose of promoting community wellness. Playmakers Fitness Foundation partners and

collaborates with local organizations to expand and enhance programs intended to encourage mid-Michigan residents to adopt and sustain a healthy and active lifestyle.

I am personally familiar with the Foundation's triathlon events because my own son Jason participated in many of its triathlons. The Foundation will sponsor 14 well planned and executed race events in 2013. Foundation officials are excited about the possibility of holding future triathlons at the proposed 272-acre acquisition project with its much larger lake. The Commission is fortunate to have this opportunity to establish a mutually beneficial partnership serving the health and wellness interests of county and mid-Michigan residents.

RESA Assistance

RESA Construction Trades Class Instructor Ross Pope and his students will complete installation of a bike rack at the south end of the beach house within the next couple of weeks. Two racks were originally provided to the Commission by Mid-Michigan District Health Department with funding from a Michigan Department of Community Health *Building Healthy Communities* grant. The second rack will be installed in the proposed acquisition property, if and when the acquisition project is completed later this fall.

Last year, the students built a wheelchair transfer device but time ran out before they were able to install a stainless steel grab bar over the transfer deck and stairs. This work will be completed prior to Memorial weekend opening of the park.

Pre-Season Work Schedule

Arrangements have been made with the Clinton County Sheriff Office to obtain the labor of two County Jail Trustees from Tuesday, May 7 through Friday, May 10. I will not be in the office during this period, except for limited "shoulder" time, due to the need to supervise the Trustees. What I hope to accomplish:

- Clean beach house interior and exterior
- Relocate picnic tables from pavilion to picnic grounds
- Clean pavilion and cable tables
- Repair, as able, or secure erosion damage to prevent exposure/injury to park visitors
- Groom sun beach.
- Fertilize approximately 200 trees.
- Perform other essential pre-season tasks to prepare the park for Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 18 events and general opening on Memorial Day weekend.

2013 Park Ranger Staff

2012 Park Rangers Hunter Jordan and Matthew Meaton will be returning for a second season. Both individuals provided last year's visitors with effective and friendly services and I am thrilled to have them back. The Commission welcomes Andrew Morse to the park team in 2013. Andrew will be completing internship requirements leading to a park, recreation and resource management-related degree from Michigan State University.

The seasonal work schedule will begin on Monday, May 20 with a day-long orientation and training program. The balance of the week will be spent grooming the park for the Memorial Day weekend opening.

River Access Sites

- Looking Glass River – The proposed honorary public access site located in Watertown Charter Township on Forest Hill Road is moving forward to reality. Property deed issues are being resolved to provide a clear Title for Clinton County ownership. The property will be gifted to the County. Prior to property transfer, Clinton County will need to perform a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment on the two parcels involved in the property transfer.
- Maple River – Friends of the Maple River propose improvements to the Clinton County-owned public access site located in Duplain Township at the intersection of St. Claire and French Roads. Other than marking the east boundary of the one-acre site and developing a parking area on the shoulder of French Road, the site remains undeveloped. Friends would like to clean up downed trees, improve the path from the parking area to the river and install a property identification sign. I will work with Friends to make these improvements possible.

Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant

In 2012, Clinton County received a \$3,000 grant to plant an additional 24 trees of 3" caliper or greater in the Francis Motz County Park day use area. Combined with \$5,400 from Clinton County, the \$8,400 project will essentially complete large-scale landscaping within the 42-acre property.

Plumb Line Landscape and Design, the firm hired to complete a 2010 Urban and Community Forestry Program project, agreed to hold its prices at the 2010 unit amount; therefore, the firm will again be used for the current project. In addition to having the 2010 low bid, Plumb Line Landscape and Design provided a one-year maintenance/care program and an 18-month tree survival guarantee. In the current project, the firm has given the County a two-year guarantee. The project will be completed as soon as the trees are delivered and the ground dries sufficiently to support a light tractor and auger.

Greening Mid-Michigan Video

Originally proposed by Clinton County Parks and Green Space Commission and Agricultural Preservation Board as a local joint project, this video took on a regional perspective when it was selected by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission for funding under a federal HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. Grant dollars combined with in-kind support from MSU's Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resources Studies will fully fund the project.

The video will be filmed and produced by award-winning videographer Scott Allman under the direction of Parks and Green Space Commission Chair Chuck Nelson. It will identify what green infrastructure is and why it is important to the vitality and long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the Tri-County Region and its residents. The video will focus on agriculture (agri-business and specialty markets), recreation (parks and trails) and environmental assets (water-shed management and sensitive lands). The specific stories to be told are still being decided; however, the video as a place-making and informational tool will be available for use by public, non-profit and private entities in support of a variety of economic, recreational, community planning and environmental objectives.

Eagle Scout Project

Jonathan Welch of St. Johns will be completing his Eagle Scout project at Francis Motz County Park. The project involves the construction and installation of three benches adjoining the grass trail that runs along Hayworth Creek Drain. The project will be completed within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Welch designed and will install the benches to comply with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I will be meeting Mr. Welch at the park on Monday, April 29 to inspect a completed bench and to identify three installation sites. Photos will follow in the June Coordinator's Report.

Other Duties Assigned to Parks and Green Space Coordinator

- Agricultural Preservation Board – Administration Staff Liaison
- Community Development Department – General Management
- "Authorized Organization Representative" for Federal Grants
- Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities Planning Initiative
- Update of *Clinton County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan*

The Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program

Mid-Michigan Steelheaders

This is a free program for youth, ages 5-16, where they can learn basic fishing skills such as casting, knot tying, rigging for different types of fishing, regulations, and fishing ethics. Then the kids get to apply those skills and knowledge at a local fishing site in the Lansing area with the assistance of trained volunteers.

When and Where?

This program is offered annually during the first three Saturdays of May. In 2013, youth may attend **one** of three options:

May 4, 2013 **Lake Lansing South-Haslett**
May 11, 2013 **Motz Park- St. Johns**
May 18, 2013 **Hawk Island Park- Lansing**

Check-in will begin at 8:30am and the program runs from 9:00am to Noon. A responsible adult must remain on-site with each youth participant.

What to bring?

Wear clothing appropriate for the weather.

Sun-block is recommended as a precaution.

Unless you wish to use your own tackle, you do not need to bring fishing rods, reels, tackle, or bait. This will all be provided. Bottled water and snacks will also be available. Bring a small cooler if you wish to keep fish.

Pre-Registration Required

Parents or guardians of youth who wish to participate in one of these events must fill out an online pre-registration form, no later than May 1, 2013. If you do not have internet access, please contact your child's teacher. For more information on registering, contact Margaret Holtschlag at 517-230-8268. To register, please visit www.mynaturecenter.org.

Where can I get more information?

This program is offered by the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association. More information about this initiative can be obtained from Mr. John Hesse, Youth Education Chairperson, by emailing him at billearlfishing@gmail.com or writing to him at 13551 S Wright Road, Eagle, MI 48822.

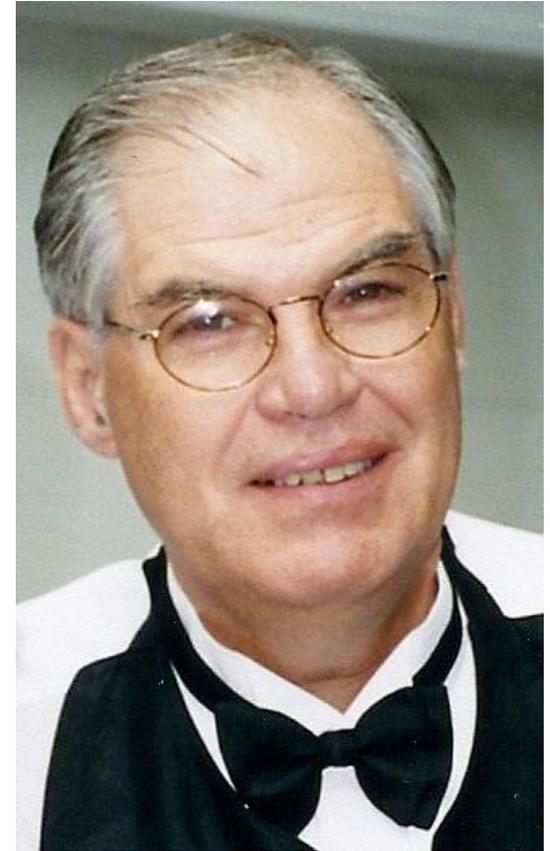
Mid-Michigan Steelheaders Website

www.midmichigansteelheaders.org

Program Partners

MDNR Fisheries & Law Divisions
MSU Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
MSU Project F.I.S.H.
Ingham County Parks Department
Clinton County Parks and Green Space
Eaton County Parks and Recreation
Eaton County Conservation District
RSVP-Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Trout Unlimited, Perrin-Lansing Chapter
Big Brothers Big Sisters Capital Region MI
Fenner Nature Center
Big Lesson Programs

The Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program



In Memoriam
November 23, 1937 – July 27, 2010
Dr. Bill Earl
Conservationist,
Youth Mentor, Inspiring Leader

The Mid-Michigan Steelheaders are pleased to dedicate this youth fishing program in Dr. Bill Earl's honor.