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Polverento and Tim Machowicz,
Citizen Representatives



CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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Staff
Jerry Jalouszynski, Green Space
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Administration

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

May 2012

ACTIVITIES:

Searles Construction N. DeWitt Road gravel pit property; Proposed for purchase by Clinton County for public outdoor recreation – The birth of a 90-acre lake continues....



Lake Basin – August 1, 2011



Lake Basin – October 26, 2011



Lake Basin – March 14, 2012



Lake Basin – April 23, 2012

Erosion Control Improvements

Erosion caused by water running downhill from the picnic grounds towards the lake has caused reoccurring damage to the sun beach by undercutting soil under the pedestrian walkway and generally washing sand out to the shoreline. Thanks to the efforts of Chuck Nelson, Jack Enderle and Park Rangers in 2011, erosion events have been significantly reduced. The 2012 Capital Improvement Budget contains funds to bring-about permanent solutions to the impacted areas.

Miller Brothers Excavating of St. Johns has been hired to enhance drainage gradients in two areas. The enhanced swales will capture water coming from high ground and move it to the periphery of the sun beach where it will do no damage to sand areas. Ground made raw by excavation will be contoured for appearance, seeded and blanketed. The contractor will also modify existing surface drains located near the pavilion to prevent purposeful or accidental dislocation of drain covers.

American Bald Eagle

A commonly cited axiom is "A picture is worth a thousand words." Thank you to Wildlife Photographer Leon Searles of "Right Time – Right Place" who captured the pictured adult American Bald Eagle sitting atop the Motz County Park beach safety sign.



Sand Volleyball Court

In addition to erosion control, the 2013 Capital Improvement Budget includes funding for construction of sand volleyball and horseshoe game courts. Prices are currently being obtained to build a sand volleyball court at the east end of the picnic grounds. This is the only location within the park with adequate area to build a 50' X 80' court with a north to south orientation (recommended to keep the sun out of player's eyes). The location will place game play somewhat near to the parking lot so a 75' wide 8' to 10' high chain link fence will be constructed along the parking lot pedestrian walk to help keep the ball from entering the vehicle traffic area.

The court is expected to receive plenty of use by teens and young adults who are particularly attracted to sand volleyball play. It would be nice to have space for two courts, but we don't. Once built, a couple of picnic tables and grills will be located near the court but away from active play.

Four horseshoe courts are proposed for construction west of the pavilion between the "rain garden" and earth mound. Unfortunately, the cost of erosion control work and construction of the sand volleyball court will consume most of funding available in the 2012 Capital Improvement Budget account. I propose to request horseshoe court development funds in the 2013 budget.

Wheelchair Transfer Device

At the end of the pedestrian walkway to the swimming beach is a 10' X 10' slab of concrete whose purpose is to enable wheelchair visitors to be in close proximity to family and friends using the waterfront. It is also used to store wheelchairs for those visitors who wish to dismount the chair to sit on the sun beach or enter the water. What has been missing for the past two years is a transfer device to assist wheelchair visitors to leave and return to their chairs.

DNR Development Planner Dan Lord, who is a resident of Clinton County and a visitor to Motz County Park, has provided the Commission with a design drawing and

photograph of a transfer device in use at several Michigan State Parks. It is a wonderful design; simple to build and functional to use.



Pictured is a wheelchair transfer device in use at Muskegon State Park. RESA Construction Trades students are building a similar device for use on the Motz County Park waterfront.

Ross Pope and his RESA Construction Trades class students have agreed to build the device. Materials have been ordered. The transfer device will be located at the end of the pedestrian walkway and should be available for use by Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Grounds Maintenance

Building and Grounds Department employees recently mowed the park. The mowing is greatly appreciated since the park will host two public programs before Park Rangers begin work for the summer. Department employees also applied a broadleaf herbicide to all lawn areas. Weeds have been a maintenance and appearance problem since the park opened. Thanks to Department employees, it will be less so in the future.

Programs/Events

- Friday, May 4 (5:00 pm to 8:00 pm) – Clinton County Fitness Festival (Clinton County Fairgrounds). Sponsored by Sparrow Clinton Hospital and numerous community partners, the event offers families practical take-home solutions for better nutrition and increased physical activity. Participants learn about healthy lifestyle choices through fun games and physical activities that can be incorporated into their daily routines. Demonstrations and hands-on activities include climbing wall, jump rope, obstacle course, archery, dance, search and rescue and agility dogs and much more! Door prizes drawings will be available along with sponsor giveaways. Join Sparrow Clinton Hospital and other community partners in this family event combating childhood obesity.

- Saturday, May 12 – Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program (Francis Motz County Park). Sponsored by Mid-Michigan Steelheaders, registration is limited to 50 youth. Registration is full for 2012. To indicate an interest in the 2013 program, visit www.mynaturecenter.org.
- Monday, May 14 (6:00 pm) – CASE Cares Miracle Field dedication (Valley Farms Park, 1080 E. Wieland Road, Lansing, MI). DeWitt Charter Township officials cordially invite the public to the dedication of a new universal design and accessible ball field. Athletes from the Miracle League of Mid-Michigan will be present to play an exhibition game. The event will also be an opportunity to meet Jake Boss, Jr. and the MSU baseball team. For more information visit www.miracleleagueofmidmichigan.org.
- Saturday, May 19 (9:30 am to 1:00 pm) – Blessing of the Bikers (Francis Motz County Park). Sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, 150 motorcyclists participated in 2011. This year's event will include live bands, free door prize drawings, commemorative T-shirts and patches, blessing event, ride and much more. To register call Sue Carroll – (989) 227-1771. For more information visit <http://habitatclinton.org/blessing-of-the-bikers-is-coming-back/>.

Summer Park Rangers

Three new Park Rangers have been hired for 2012. Dan Nelson and Luc Sutherland, two Rangers who performed exceptionally well in 2010 and 2011, have moved on to other challenges. The Commission will miss their efforts and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Hired for 2012 are Hunter Jordan, Matthew Meaton and Travis Stewart. These three individuals stood out in a very capable pool of applicants. From among 16 applicants, I interviewed eight individuals; all of whom I felt capable of performing the duties of Park Ranger. The final decision was based on availability to comply with season-long schedule requirements, previous work experience and interaction during the interview. I believe that Hunter, Matthew and Travis will well serve the visitors to Francis Motz County Park and be positive representatives of Clinton County Government.

There is a learning curve with any new job. In addition to a one-day orientation and training program that will take place on Monday, May 21, I plan to spend considerable time in the park through mid-June. All three individuals expressed an interest in continuing employment in future summers while they pursue their college/university degree program. Time spent in training now will pay dividends in the next year, possibly two.

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