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Polverento and Tim Machowicz,
Citizen Representatives



CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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Staff
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Administration

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

October 2012

ACTIVITIES:

Park Readied for Cold Weather Season

After Labor Day, the park remained open for use but the beach house was closed except for the next two weekends. On Sunday, September 16, the Park Ranger locked the main entrance gate when he left for home and it will remain locked until spring 2013. The north 12-vehicle gravel parking lot remains open year-round to accommodate "off-season" visitors. On Monday, September 17, Clinton County Building and Grounds personnel purged water lines and winterized the beach house and mechanical systems.

On Thursday, September 20, three "volunteers" (2 County Jail Trustees and a Community Service worker from the DNR) moved picnic tables and trash barrels to storage under the pavilion. All three individuals worked well together and with me to complete this labor intensive task. The DNR worker was Parks and Green Space Commissioner Tim Machowicz. Tim volunteered his time and talents in a DNR-initiative intended to develop and sustain beneficial interactions between DNR employees and local communities.

Bike Racks

RESA Construction Trades Class Instructor Ross Pope and his students have agreed to install two bike racks provided by Mid-Michigan District Health Department. The racks will be installed over a concrete pad located on the south end of the Motz County Park beach house.

Tree Care

Park Ranger Travis Stewart fertilized the park's 220 trees planted since 2008. Past practice was to simply broadcast 12-12-12 fertilizer on the ground around each tree.

This year we employed a method recommended by Pete Motz of Plumb Line Landscape and Design. Using a ¾" diameter metal rod and a hand sledge, 4 to 6 holes (depending on tree size) were opened under a tree's "drip line" to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. The holes were filled with 12-12-12 fertilizer and then closed with a heel stomp. This method more effectively fertilizes a tree's root zone than is the case with surface broadcasting. Next spring, Park Rangers will repeat the fertilization task.

Damage to Pedestrian Walk

We have been working to stop sheet erosion damage to the beach and walkway since the park opened in 2010. Most of the sheet erosion is now controlled so it's time to repair the damaged walkway. In 2011, sections of the walk had developed a visible tilt from level caused by loss of sand from under the walk. In late August, two large sections dropped an inch in elevation relative to adjoining sections, creating a trip hazard to park visitors. A contractor has been hired to repair 10 sections using a technique that pumps concrete under the walk through surface holes. The sections are gently lifted back into place. The repair will cost \$350 which is far less expensive than replacing sections of the walkway.

2012 Michigan Recreation Passport Grant (Vault Toilet & Tree Planting)

In recent correspondence, DNR Grants Management indicated that the county's grant application has been assigned a preliminary evaluation score of 130 out of a possible 200 points. There are 82 applicants competing for grant funds. I believe the 130 score is good but not adequate for funding consideration. Supplemental information has been mailed to DNR Grants Management to explain why the project lacks nearby accessible paved parking and an accessible paved route to the vault toilet structure. This single issue resulted in loss of points in several evaluation categories. The toilet structure itself exceeds Americans with Disabilities Act design requirements and truly is a "universal design" facility. Supplemental information identified (1) the many awards the park received for its accessible, user-friendly facilities, (2) the Commission's commitment to serve all visitors regardless of abilities, and (3) a promise to hard surface at least one accessible parking space and access route as soon as financially possible to do so. The project, if funded, is valued at less than \$15,000, which is sufficient to construct the vault toilet, and plant shade trees but nothing else. The county will know in November whether or not its project was selected for grant funding.

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