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CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION



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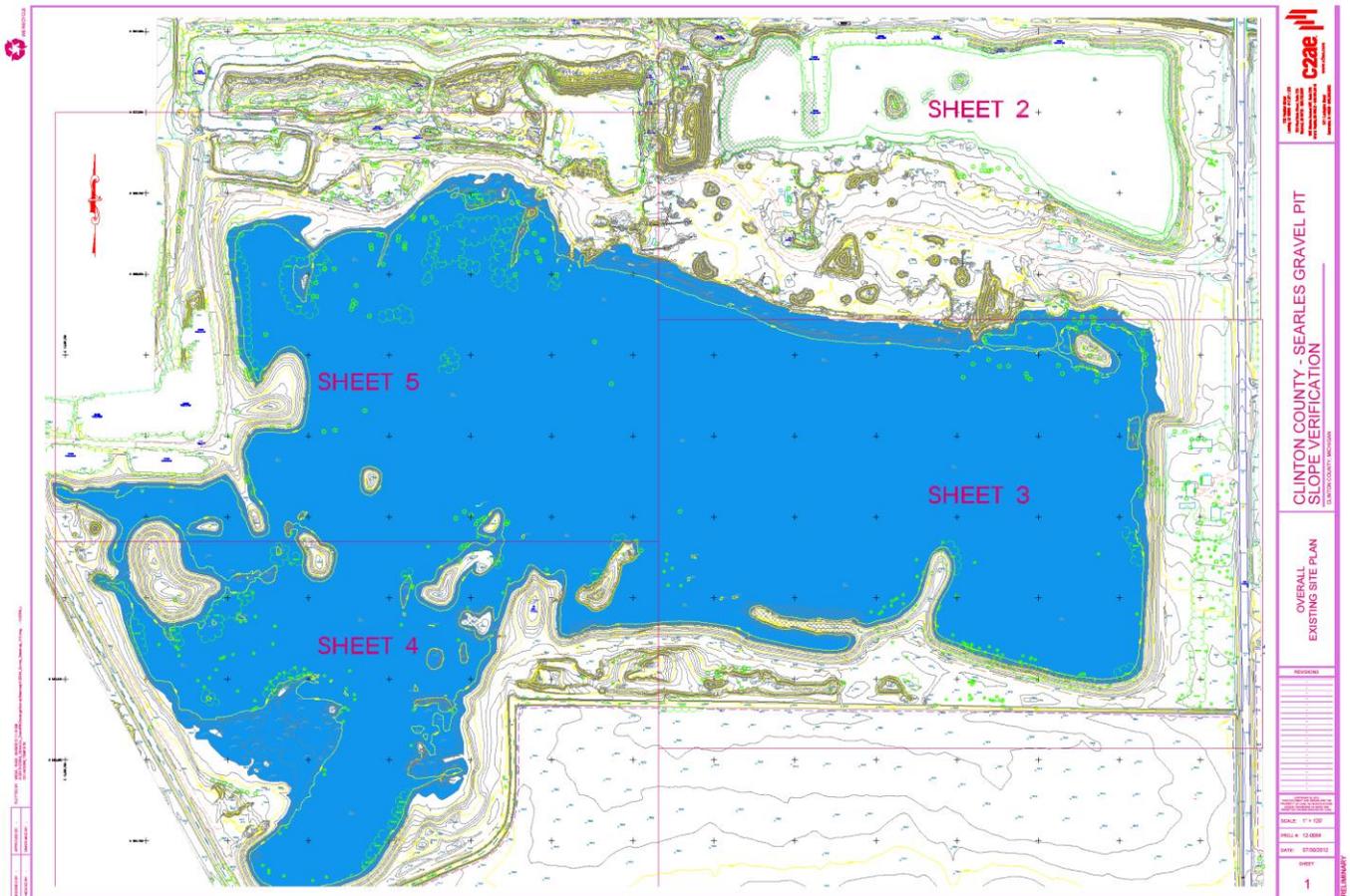
Gayla Phillips, Secretary,
Administration

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

August 2012

ACTIVITIES:

Introducing A New Clinton County Lake



C2AE aerial survey map showing the lake's future shoreline at a projected seasonal high water elevation of 698'. As of August 24, the surface elevation is at 695.5'. If acquired by Clinton County for public outdoor recreation use, the lake will be the third largest public water body in the county by surface area, surpassed only by Lake Ovid (Sleepy Hollow State Park) and Park Lake (access provided by Bath Charter Township park). For orientation purposes, DeWitt Road is located on the right edge of the map.

Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority *2012 Member Recognition Award*

Clinton County is the 2012 Member Recognition Award winner for development of the Motz County Park swimming beach. The award recognizes the extraordinary effort Clinton County made to create a safe and functional swimming area in a former sand/gravel quarry. My professional career spans 40 years and I am fairly familiar with county park systems throughout Michigan. I can say with confidence that few public swim beaches located on former quarries have had the design and development attention to detail that this county gave to its Motz County Park development. The real winners are the approximately 70,000 annual visitors who are drawn to the park by its exceptional swimming beach.



County officials receiving Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority *2012 Member Recognition Award* for design and development of Motz County Park swimming beach. From left to right are Clinton County Parks and Green Space Commission Chair Chuck Nelson, Clinton County Board Commissioner Larry Martin, Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Executive Director Michael Rhyner and Clinton County Parks and Green Space Coordinator Jerry Jaloszynski. Award presented on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Michigan.

Motz County Park has now received six awards recognizing accomplishment in a number of park and facility design areas. In 2013, a display will be placed on the beach house bulletin board to celebrate what the county has achieved and present information on each of the awards.

Fred Meijer CIS Trail

The Clinton County Board of Commissioners approved an allocation of \$15,000 to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to be used towards the development of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail. The total cost for development of the 42-mile trail segment from the City of Owosso to the City of Ionia exceeds \$5 million dollars. The Clinton County contribution represents one-third of one percent of total development costs. Other development funds will come from federal and state grants, The Meijer Foundation, other local government contributions and private fund-raising efforts.

Development of the trail corridor will start in 2013 with placement of approximately 10 miles of asphalt paving in the City of St. Johns and the villages of Ovid, Fowler, Pewamo and Muir. In 2014, asphalt sections will be connected with a limestone fines trail surface.

ATV / York Rake

The Clinton County Drain Commission Office has loaned a Polaris ATV to the Parks and Green Space Commission for use at Motz County Park. The vehicle will serve a number of maintenance functions, most important of which is the daily grooming of the sun beach. The ATV will pull a York Rake that was purchased with funds available in a Capital Improvement Budget allocation from the County Board.

Park Rangers previously hand raked the beach to repair holes and mounds created by children's sand play and to relocate sand moved down slope by sheet erosion during nearly every rain event. What once took a couple of hours or more to do can now be accomplished in 30 minutes. Another advantage is that the sand is turned over to expose bacteria to the cleansing ultraviolet rays of the sun and make the sand softer to the touch.



Park Ranger Travis Stewart in an action pose on the recently obtained Drain Commission Polaris ATV. The vehicle is being used for park maintenance tasks and not for action rides except in make-believe poses with the engine turned off.



Five-foot wide York Rake has been added to the park equipment inventory to groom the sun beach and for other landscape tasks.

2012 Summer Season

As the summer operational season draws to a close, I find myself extremely pleased with the performance of the new batch of "rookie" Park Rangers. There were a few issues that we as a team solved; however, I can't fault any one of the Rangers for lack of effort and willingness to be hardworking representatives of the Commission and Clinton County government. All three have asked to return again in 2013 and I am inclined to do so.

Following the Labor Day weekend, the park will remain open to visitors; however, the beach house will only be open for use on Saturdays and Sundays, September 8, 9, 15 and 16 from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm. This schedule will be posted on the beach house bulletin board. On Monday, September 17, the main entrance gate will be closed until May 2013. A sign on the gate will direct visitors to use the fenced 12-vehicle parking area located to the north on DeWitt Road. The main entrance gate is closed due to lack of supervision during the cold weather seasons and a tendency by a few visitors to operate their vehicles off-road and in a reckless manner.

A few projects accomplished this year beyond normal operational responsibilities include:

- Tree Care – All of the park's approximately 200 trees are being fed with 12-12-12 fertilizer. The operation will be completed by mid-September.
- Landscaping – Motz County Park has an abundance of large and small rocks piled along its south fence line. A skid-steer loader and operator were brought in to relocate rocks to enhance the appearance of the entrance sign and establish a barrier to vehicle operation in both the off-season parking lot on DeWitt Road and the large overflow lot located near the carry-in boat site.

Later, as difficult as it must have been, someone moved aside one of the large rocks at the bottom of the carry-in boat site to enable boat trailers to enter the lake. Thanks to Leon Searles, a huge boulder was brought in and placed at the bottom of the site. Problem solved!



Off-season parking lot was recently delineated with the use of large rocks found inside Motz County Park. The rocks keep vehicles from parking on the grass and possibly striking the surrounding fence.

- Erosion Control – The elevation of the sun beach is about 5' lower than the picnic area. The original design of the park considered ways to manage rain water and snow melt to prevent erosion damage to the sun beach; however, experience of the past two years has made it clear that additional measures to control erosion were needed. In 2011, Chuck Nelson, Jack Enderle and the Park Rangers all contributed time and effort to the problem with good success. In June, Miller Brothers Excavating was brought in to enhance the appearance and utility of previous work. Some erosion damage was experienced in a couple of substantial rain events that occurred in late July / early August. Erosion damage was much less than that sustained in previous storms. There remains an erosion issue along the pedestrian walk to the beach and this will be addressed yet this year.
- Vegetation Control – In May, Building & Grounds Department staff sprayed selective weed killer in areas of the park that are regularly mowed. Result: The grass in the picnic area looked great this summer and was easier to walk on. The only non-grass plant to survive was clover. I will ask B&G Department to consider spraying for clover this fall or next spring.

Applications of Round-Up, a general all-purpose weed killer, were used to eliminate vegetation along the DeWitt Road fence line, entrance drive and parking area shoulders, around posts, trash can pads, etc. This was done to reduce string-trimming time and expense. Round-Up is also being used to eliminate burdock plants that are increasingly found on the north side of the lake and other natural areas of the park. Complete control of burdock will take successive spray applications over a couple of years.

Bicycle Racks

The park benefited from a *Building Healthy Communities* grant awarded to Mid-Michigan District Health Department. The grant purchased several bicycle storage racks for use in the St. Johns area, two of which were purchased for installation at Motz County Park. There is no cost to the county for the bicycle racks. Cost of installation will be supported by the Parks and Green Space Commission budget. It is proposed to install one rack on the south end of the beach house adjacent to the parking area. The other rack will be placed in storage pending a decision by the County Board on the acquisition of the 271.75-acre property addition.



Bicycle rack provided compliments of Mid-Michigan District Health Department. The rack will be installed near the Motz County Park beach house to accommodate visitors arriving by bicycle.

Park Serves as a Community Emergency Training Resource

At least twice this summer emergency responders utilized the park for training of staff and volunteers. In mid-summer the park was used by Clinton Area Fire and Rescue to train staff on the use of tanker pumping equipment. On August 21, the Office of Emergency Management conducted training in the swimming area for its Special Rescue Team members. The Commission welcomes use of the park for community emergency readiness activities.

Clinton County Emergency Management Coordinator Larry St. George has offered to provide the park with a back board for use by emergency responders. Having a back board on-site will be one less thing responders will have to deal with in an emergency situation. I agree. The back board will be stored in the wheelchair storage room. To provide emergency responders with access to the room without having to depend on the presence of a Park Ranger requires the placement of a combination lock box (with combination provided to Central Dispatch/911) on the outside wall of the beach house.



Members of the Clinton County Special Rescue Team **practice** recovery and treatment of an injured swimmer. The training took place on the Motz County Park swimming beach on August 21.

Testing of Swimming Beach for Presence of E. Coli and Fecal Coliform Bacteria

The third and final water sampling of swim beach water occurred on August 2. All three of this year's samples were excellent; bacteria counts were less than 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of water. The Michigan Department of Environment Quality rates bacteria counts of 10 to 300 mg/L as safe for recreational activity. During three years of summer operation, only one test of nine had counts above 10 mg/L and that test was 30 mg/L. The lake is a hygienically safe place to swim.

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