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CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

July 2011

ACTIVITIES:

National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials Award

I am pleased to report the Association selected Clinton County to receive a *Removing Barriers Award* for the design of the Motz County Park beach house. The Association grants no more than two awards nationally each year in this category. The award will be presented at the Association's Annual Conference on July 17 in Portland, Oregon. Coordinator Jaloszynski will attend the Conference and Awards Banquet to proudly accept the award for Clinton County and its citizens.

Recent Improvements to Motz County Park



Two L-shaped stainless steel food service counters were recently installed in the pavilion. Each counter provides 20 linear feet of service space at a height that enables wheelchair visitors and young children to serve themselves rather than depending on others for help.



Plumb Line Landscape and Design of St. Johns planted 26 hardwood trees to provide future shade in the picnic grounds. In a survey conducted at the park during the summer of 2010, trees/shade was the improvement most requested by visitors.



A new concrete walk connects the pavilion to the large pavilion-sized BBQ grills. The walk improves accessibility for use by visitors of different physical abilities.



Large immovable rocks were placed at the bottom of the access ramp to the lake. The rocks prevent boat trailers from being backed into the lake. The "no vehicles beyond this point" sign at the top of the ramp has been removed. This improvement lessens the distance visitors with small watercraft must traverse to place their boat in the water. The improvement also lessens the probability of invasive weeds and animals being accidentally introduced into the lake.



The approximate 3-acre area north of the asphalt parking lot that Pheasants Forever planted with grasses and wildflowers favorable to wildlife is beginning to show color. Full visual impact is not expected until 2012



Done Right Fence and Skid Loader Service of DeWitt completed construction of a new gravel surface parking lot north of the main entrance to Motz County Park. The lot, which will accommodate 10 to 12 vehicles, provides the park with additional vehicle parking capacity to reduce the congestion currently being experienced during peak visitation periods. It also enables access to the park for ice fisherpersons and others when the main entrance is closed during the winter season months.

Cub Scout Day Camp

Chief Okemos Council #271 of the Boy Scouts of America, which serves the youth of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham counties and the Portland School District, will conduct a Cub Scout Day Camp at Motz County Park beginning on Monday, July 11 and running through Thursday, July 14. The pavilion has been reserved for Day Camp program activities; otherwise, the park remains open for public use and enjoyment.

Aquatic Weed Treatment

American Pondweed growing at the perimeter of the swimming area was treated with an aquatic herbicide in early June under a permit granted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. As required by the permit, the swimming area was closed for public use for 24 hours. American Pondweed is a desirable plant for fish habitat; however, its presence in the swimming area is visually unattractive and creates safety issues for swimmers. The treatment was successful as evidenced by the absence of American Pondweed in the treatment area.

Swim Area Water Quality

Water samples taken in the Motz County Park swim area on June 29 were sent to the Department of Environmental Quality laboratory for testing. The results showed a low presence of E. coli and Fecal Coliform bacteria. Over his 26 year career, Coordinator Jaloszynski has managed six public open water swimming beaches. Of the six waterfronts, he ranks the park as having the cleanest and most hygienic water. The attractive sun beach and the lake's sparkling, clear waters are primary reasons the park receives thousands of visitors each year. The swimming area is tested monthly during the summer season.

CASE Cares Miracle Baseball Field

DeWitt Charter Township has extended an invitation to the members of the Parks and Green Space Commission and the public to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for construction of a universally accessible baseball field, restroom and concession facility at Valley Farms Park. The ceremony will take place on Monday, August 8, 2011 at 6:00 pm. The facility, which received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development grant, is being constructed for use by children of all physical abilities. The ball field will have a special rubberized playing surface with painted bases to enable game play by wheelchair users and children of all physical abilities. For additional information call DeWitt Charter Township Main Office at (517) 668-0270.

Bicycle Survey

A random survey of 1,000 Clinton County registered voters was mailed on June 9. As of July 8, 272 surveys were returned completed. This number exceeds by one the responses needed to obtain a 90% confidence level that survey results accurately reflect the total population opinion of County registered voters.

MSU Intern Brian Lammers has been entering the survey responses into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet data will be processed by MSU Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies Graduate Student I-Chun "Nicky" Wu. Survey results will be incorporated in the *Clinton County Non-Motorized Facility Plan* which is in the writing stage of development.

The survey is financed with a grant from the Tri-County Bicycle Association.

Knights of Columbus Fundraiser

On Saturday, July 9 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, St. Johns Knights of Columbus Council is hosting a benefit barbeque to raise funds to purchase an all-terrain wheelchair for use at Motz County Park. For a fee of \$5, a hamburger or bratwurst, potato salad and drink of ice tea or lemonade will be served. For a fee of \$4, a hotdog, potato salad and a drink of ice tea or lemonade will be served.

The all-terrain wheelchair provides opportunities for visitors using wheelchairs to experience the out-of-doors in new and exciting ways. The park presently has one Mobi-Chair available and it is well used. A second chair is needed during peak visitation periods and when agencies serving the physically challenged visit the park with multiple clients in wheelchairs. The chair is available without cost by contacting the Park Ranger on duty.

A special 'thank you' is made to the men of the St. Johns Council and to Event Chairs Roger Dershem and Mike Trebish for their time and talent, making the event possible. "Thank you" also goes out to the St. Johns Lions Club for use of their concession trailer for the event.

Other Assignments/Activities Assigned to Parks and Green Space Coordinator

- Parkland and Open Space Acquisition Evaluation Tool (Not started)
- Agricultural Preservation Board – Administration Staff Liaison (On going)
- Design, construct and install Maple River access site sign (Not started)
- Community Development Department – General Management (On going)
- "Authorized Organization Representative" for Federal Grants (On going)
- Assist w/ creation of Clinton County Trail Advisory Council (Pending)
- *Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities Plan* – Plan Development (In process)