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Citizen Representatives



CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

May 2010

ACTIVITIES:

Motz County Park Development

- Phase II – Work is progressing. The beach house interior walls have been painted and subcontractors are installing electrical and plumbing components.

Preparation is underway to pave the entrance drive, parking lot and pedestrian walkways. Soil composition issues in the proposed parking area require a redesign of the lot. The new design eliminates the southern tier of parking spaces. To compensate for the loss of vehicle spaces, the remaining lot will be extended further east and west. A net loss of around 8 spaces will result. Parking lot vehicle capacity remains adequate to meet vehicle storage needs during peak visitation periods. Due to the redesign of the parking area, project completion has been set back 10 days to May 25.



Work continues on construction of the Motz County Park pavilion and beach house.

The DNRE lakes and streams permit application is out for public and government agency review. If all goes well, a permit is expected around mid-May. The fishing pier deck is unlikely to be completed in time for the Grand Opening.

- Group Pavilion – RESA Instructor Ross Pope and his students began work on the pavilion on Monday, April 19. If we continue to have dry weather, the pavilion should be completed by the third week of May.

Michigan State University Interns

The Commission will benefit from the time and talent of four MSU Interns this summer.

- Anna Popp – Intern from MSU's Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources. Anna will work on the *Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities Plan*.
- Kris Poling - Intern from MSU's Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources. Kris will serve as Park Manager at Motz County Park.
- Ryan Soucy – Intern from MSU's Urban and Regional Planning Program. Ryan will assist Anna Popp with NMF plan development.
- Katie Watkins - Intern from MSU's Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources. Katie is a shared Intern with Sleepy Hollow State Park. One project that Katie will take on is the preparation of applications for the four design award competitions the county will enter for the Motz County Park project.

Motz County Park Grand Opening Event

Preparation is well underway for the Grand Opening. Thirty-five personal invitations to attend have been sent out to individuals, organizations and agencies that have contributed time, talent and treasure to the Motz County Park acquisition and development effort. I passed out about 300 copies of the event flier at the Family Fit Fest held at the Clinton County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 30. A copy of the flier will be included in the May 7 Commission meeting packet. C2AE has offered to pick up the cost of an ice cream treat for Grand Opening visitors. I am in need of a medium sized freezer to hold the ice cream. If you are able to help out, give me a call.

All-Terrain Wheelchair

The Commission has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,249 from the Tri-County Electric People Fund for the purchase of a Mobi-Chair. The chair has been ordered and should arrive soon. Its use will be demonstrated at the Grand Opening. The chair is unique in that it becomes a floatation device when taken into the water opening up new opportunities for the disabled to enjoy and experience nature.

Park Entrance Sign

Inmates at the Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility in St. Louis are constructing the park entrance sign. The sign will be 5' high and have an area of 18 square feet. It's hoped that the sign can be installed in time for the Grand Opening



Mobi-Chair by Deschamps, Inc.

Certificates of Appreciation

An attractive *Outdoor Recreation Service Award* certificate has been created to recognize and thank individuals, organizations and agencies that have contributed to the support of the Commission and its public service Mission. A number of the certificates will be framed and presented at the Grand Opening.

Tree Planting by Riley School Cub Scout Pack 515

Gary Fritz provided the Commission with a selection of tree stock remaining from the Clinton Conservation District's annual sale. The selection included conifers, various oaks, hybrid poplars and flowering shrubs – approximately 50 to 60 plants in all. The timing was good since I was approached at the Family Fit Fest by the leader of Cub Scout Pack 515 who was looking for a service project for Pack members. With Leon Searles permission, Pack members on Tuesday, May 4 planted the trees in fertile soil in an area near the park maintenance garage.

Park Ranger Uniform Shirts

Park Rangers will be assigned two work shirts for the summer season to make them identifiable to visitors. Each shirt will have an embroidered patch containing the P&GSC logo sewn over the left pocket. I decided to go the route of a patch rather than having the logo directly embroidered on the shirt to save cost. A patch has a unit cost of \$1.53 compared to \$9.00 for an embroidered shirt. The shirts, purchased from the St. Johns TSC Store at a unit cost \$15.99 are not bad looking. A sample shirt will be brought to the May meeting.



Zero-Turn Radius Mower

The County Maintenance Department purchased a new zero-turn radius mower this year and turned over its old mower for use at Motz County Park. The mower was well cared for by Blaine and his staff and is in really good condition. Keeping the mower in the county inventory will allow Park Rangers to mow the park during the summer months and will allow it to serve as a backup mower in case the county's primary mower is out of service for a time.

MNRTF Grant – Motz County Park Addition

A letter has been received from DNRE Grants Management that the application is administratively complete and is one of 140 applications to be considered in the 2010 program. There was no breakout of the 140 as to how many were for acquisition and how many were for development projects.

DNRE Grant Coordinator Linda Hegstrom will be conducting a site visit to the Searles property on Friday, May 14 at 3:00 pm. Leon Searles has graciously offered and Linda has accepted to inspect the property on the back of a mule. If I were a betting person, I'd bet a couple of bucks that this is a first time in the 34-year history of the Trust Fund that a mule took the lead in a site visit.

County Web Site – New Appearance

Clinton County's fresh, new web site will become operational soon. Gayla has taken the lead in enhancing the Commission's pages on the site. At the Friday, May 7 Commission meeting, she will provide Commissioners with copies of her work for their review and comments.

Park Directional Signs

MDOT has been asked to place highway signs on US-27 at French Road (north and southbound lanes) and on M-21 at DeWitt Road (east and westbound lanes). MDOT is working up a cost for manufacturer and installation of the signs. A "ballpark" figure of \$1,200 for the four signs was identified. Funding is available for the signs.

I've discussed the placement of "way" signs on DeWitt and French Roads with Clinton County Road Commission Managing Director Joe Pulver. I've requested two, possibly three signs on northbound DeWitt Road and one sign on French Road. Mr. Pulver is reviewing the request and I should have his recommendation shortly.

Having directional signs installed in time for the June 12 Grand Opening is an important operational objective.

Hiring Summer Park Rangers

MSU Intern Kris Poling has been assigned to one of three available summer positions. He will serve as Intern/Park Manager. A Position Announcement was placed on the County web site, which generated fourteen applications. Seven applicants were interviewed to fill the remaining two positions. I will make the final hiring decisions within the next couple of days.

Other Assignments/Activities in Progress

Listed for general information purposes. Items will be removed once completed.

- Motz County Park Development (MNRTF Grant)
 - Project reporting & financial control
 - Installation of beach house interior wall-hung benches
- Other Motz County Park improvements
 - Fish habitat improvements (January/February 2010)
 - Tree maintenance program (on-going through 2012)
 - Design, construct and install park entrance sign

- Program beach house & group pavilion bulletin boards
- Parkland and Open Space Acquisition Guidelines
- Greening of Mid-Michigan project – steering committee
- Agricultural Preservation Board – staff liaison (10% time allocation)
- Intergovernmental CIS Trail Committee – support/advisory role
- Upper Maple River Watershed Management Plan – steering committee
- Design, construct and install Maple River access site sign
- Community Development Department – general management
- Clinton County “Authorized Organization Representative” for federal grants
- Assist w/ creation of Clinton County Trail Advisory Council
- Motz County Park Grand Opening preparation
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block program grant management
- Motz County Park operational procedures & seasonal employee management