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CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

November 2010



da Vinci
 AWARDS

2010 WINNER

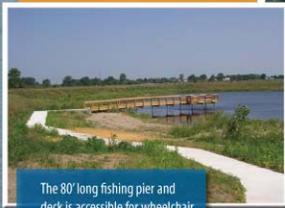
Francis Motz County Park – Celebrating Accessibility

Francis Motz County Park, a former gravel pit is Clinton County's first park. The 42-acre property was transformed into a user-friendly outdoor recreational area that incorporates Universal Access (UA) features throughout, serving all visitors equally.

The parking area has a capacity of 104 vehicles, including an area reserved as a drop off location for public transportation and service agency vehicles. Pedestrian pathways, paved with concrete to eliminate heat gain connect the parking area with all recreational facility components within the park.



The 1,500 s.f. beach house is a departure from conventional toilet building designs by offering seven unisex barrier-free restrooms, a larger special needs room, and a wheelchair/all-terrain beach chair storage room.



The 80' long fishing pier and deck is accessible for wheelchair users providing them with the opportunity to fish.



The 15-acre lake and 400' safety-engineered swimming beach mitigates hidden hazards generally associated with gravel pit lakes. A concrete pad located on the shoreline allows wheelchair users to observe and/or transfer in and out of the water.



The special needs restroom is twice the size of the other restrooms and includes a medical exam table which can be electronically raised or lowered to facilitate wheelchair transfers.



The 40' x 70' ADA-accessible pavilion with a central food service area has capacity for large or small groups. All picnic tables utilize the universal access design with a combination of side and end entrance tables.



There are several key features and amenities that make Motz County Park unique and attractive, offering park visitors an enhanced level of convenience and function beyond that found in a traditional park.

Firm: C2AE
 Lansing, Michigan

Client: Clinton County Parks and Green Space Commission
 St. Johns, Michigan



ACTIVITIES:

Da Vinci Awards for Accessibility and Universal Design

On September 30 at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, Clinton County's Francis Motz County Park was named recipient of a 2010 da Vinci Award for Accessibility and Universal Design. The Award, sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, is a prestigious international forum recognizing the latest developments and research in adaptive and assistive technologies that enable equal access and opportunity for all people, regardless of ability.

42 Nominees were received worldwide with entries from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France and Denmark. U.S. entries were received from 17 states and the District of Columbia, including six from Michigan. 17 Nominees were selected as Finalists for the Award in five different categories. Francis Motz County Park was one of four finalists in the "Environmental Adaptation/Daily Living or Work Aids" category.



October 26 - Parks and Green Space Coordinator Jerry Jaloszynski delivers the da Vinci Award to Clinton County Board Commissioners. The County Board has steadfastly supported the development of Motz County Park to benefit county residents. Pictured left to right are District 7 Commissioner Adam Stacey, Vice-Chairperson and District 5 Commissioner Bob Showers, Chairperson and District 2 Commissioner Larry Martin, Parks and Green Space Coordinator Jerry Jaloszynski, District 1 Commissioner Dave Pohl, District 4 Commissioner Jack Enderle, District 6 Commissioner Eileen Heideman and District 3 Commissioner Paul McNamara.

Five county officials attended the September 30 Awards event. I am confident that I speak for everyone present in saying that the adaptive products displayed during the VIP Reception were impressive and offered wonderful opportunities to improve the lives of people experiencing varying physical challenges. All 17 Finalists were worthy of Award consideration and it was an honor to be in the company of the men and women behind the technology and dedication to service displayed that night.

Following the VIP Reception, the nearly 400 persons in attendance were invited into the auditorium for the start of the academy awards style program. As it came time for the winner of our category to be announced, my personal emotions were racing in multiple directions. The sealed announcement was opened and "Francis Motz County Park" was named a 2010 Award winner. I was proud to walk onto the stage to accept the Award for Clinton County and the "team" of individuals and numerous organizations that worked so hard and smart to create Clinton County's own first regional outdoor recreation area.

Clinton County set out to create a park that serves all visitors equitably in a welcoming, respectful and practical manner. With the development of the beach house and swimming beach, we departed from traditional park design practices with positive results for user safety and function. Park amenities such as picnic tables were carefully selected to be accessible without presenting an appearance that unnecessarily labels disabled users, but instead provides more use options for all visitors. There is much to like about the park. The end product is very user friendly for all regardless of one's physical abilities. Future public park developments in Michigan and the U.S. will benefit from what has been accomplished at Motz County Park. There is good reason why Clinton County received the da Vinci Award.

MRPA Facility Design Award

Carla Scruggs, Michigan Recreation and Park Association Awards Committee Chair, called to inform me that the Motz County Park Beach House has been selected to receive a 2010 MRPA Facility Design Award. The Award will be presented at the Association's Annual Conference in February. More information will be presented as it becomes available.

Sparrow Clinton Hospital Community Health Fair

The Commission participated in the Saturday, October 16 Health Fair. The event annually attracts in excess of 1,000 people who attend for health screenings, free flu shots or to collect useful items given away by the vendors. 600 Frisbees left over from the Motz County Park Grand Opening were given away at the Commission display. The display included a Motz County Park storyboard and the da Vinci Award. Those who I spoke with had either visited the park and were pleased with their experience or heard favorable comments about the park from family or friends. The park provides opportunity for healthy outdoor recreation activity and is viewed favorably by local health professionals as they work cooperatively to reduce the incidence of obesity in the population.

Michigan DNRE Accessibility Demo Day

The Commission was a vendor at the Thursday, October 21 "DNRE Accessibility Demo Day" held at the Demmer Center, Michigan State University. The \$35 vendor fee was paid by Deschamps, Inc., the company that sells the Mobi-Chair. Displayed were the Motz County Park storyboard, da Vinci Award and the Mobi-Chair. The event provided

an opportunity to exchange accessibility ideas with other park professionals and to share with others our positive first year experience at Motz County Park. It also allowed me to examine the products of other vendors that make it possible for persons with disabilities to access the out-of-doors to hunt, fish, and enjoy activities that most of us take for granted.

Landscape Enhancement

With funding available in the operational budget, seven 10' or taller Colorado blue spruce will soon be planted along the north side of the park's entrance drive between DeWitt Road and the "rain garden" (drainage channel west of the pavilion). The trees, purchased from Lindner's Trees on Parks Road will enhance the appearance of the park and serve as a visual barrier to those who might consider leaving the paved roadway to drive to the fishing pier or other locations where vehicle access is not allowed.

A Few Days Spent at the Park

Maintenance activities at the park continue to a limited degree. The "Beach Rules" sign has been re-worded to deal with a couple of safety issues that presented themselves during the past summer. The new sign will be backed with plywood and installed next spring. Building, equipment and padlock keys have been labeled and organized in a new key storage cabinet. The pines and spruce trees located along DeWitt Road have been watered one final time. Safety inspections continue to be made on waterfront lifesaving equipment. When geese are discovered in the park, "bang" shells are discharged to move them on. Equipment is being readied for winter storage. Liquid based cleaning supplies have been move to heated storage. I do have funding available in temporary wages to bring one Park Ranger back for an eight hour work day. This will be done in early December for the purpose of applying "Deer Off" to the park's approximately 300 young trees. This should protect the trees from browsing deer until early spring. A few more tasks will be accomplished as time and weather permits.

Other Assignments/Activities in Progress

The following re-occurring or proposed tasks are listed for general information:

- Other Motz County Park improvements
 - Fish habitat improvements (January/February 2011)
 - Tree maintenance program (on-going through 2012)
- Parkland and Open Space Acquisition Guidelines
- Agricultural Preservation Board – staff liaison (10% time allocation)
- 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
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block program grant management
- *Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities Plan* – written plan development