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Citizen Representatives



CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

February 2010

ACTIVITIES:

Motz County Park Development

- Phase II – Tri-County Electric Cooperative has connected the park to its power grid. I find it amazing that the connection was made via an underground bore from the west side of DeWitt Road all the way to the beach house transformer. What precision drilling! The water well has been installed. The only bad news is that doors and windows for the beach house will not be available for installation until late March or early April. The plumbing and electrical sub-contractors will not install distribution lines and fixtures until the building interior is secured. This will put pressure on the General Contractor to get the whole project completed by the mid-May deadline.
- Non-Grant Funded Improvements (Funded by a Capital Improvement account)
 - Entrance Gate – Katren Industries has completed installation of the entrance gate except for placement of the posts that will secure the gate arms in the open position.

Michigan Recreation and Park Association *Professional Quarterly* Publication

The April edition of the Association's *Professional Quarterly* will focus on the issue of Universal Access. This Commission has been invited to submit an article on the Motz County Park Development project. In partnership with C2AE's marketing department, the article and design drawings suitable for publication are being prepared. This is a good opportunity for Clinton County and C2AE to gain professional recognition for the project's many universal design features, especially the innovative design of the beach house and safety engineered swimming beach.

Motz County Park Dedication Event

Planning for the Saturday, June 12, 2010 ribbon-cutting ceremony and community event has started. Letters inviting Governor Jennifer Granholm, State Senator Alan Cropsey and State House Representatives Richard Ball and Paul Opsommer to participate and speak have been mailed. The Governor's Office phoned to acknowledge receipt of the invitation. Invitations are also being sent to other non-profit organizations that provided funding for the project as well as to a number of individuals who through action or advice made this project possible. More on program content will be provided shortly.

Application of the Clinton County *Park Rules Ordinance*

Twenty copies of the *Ordinance* have been forwarded to the Clinton County Sheriff's Department for placement in patrol cars. In the more than 30 years that I've been responsible for public safety and property management in parks and recreation areas, I've found that education and enforcement of park rules and regulations is vital to the establishment of a safe and enjoyable recreational environment. Seasonal Park Rangers play an important role in this effort. A trained and confident Park Ranger can correct minor behavior problems before they become law enforcement issues. Prior to the start of each summer's employment, Park Rangers will be given orientation to the *Ordinance* and training on how to effectively deal with problem behaviors. The number of tickets written annually by law enforcement officers for violation of the *Ordinance* should be few.

Greening Mid-Michigan Project (GMMP)

The two year Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's green infrastructure planning effort is in its final phase of development – a phase that is important to this Commission's overall Mission but especially for its near term project objectives. The 2009 MNRTF "Motz County Park Addition" grant application failed to receive 20 evaluation points due to the fact that the proposed acquisition was not identified in an adopted regional "green infrastructure" plan. The final phase will identify proposed Commission acquisition and development projects in the plan as implementation priorities thus eliminating this evaluation deficiency. The GMMP is a valuable tool to identify sensitive environmental lands throughout Clinton County as well as providing strategies to preserve those lands and the increasingly rare plants and animals found living within them. On Thursday, February 18, 2010 (5:00 – 8:00 pm) the public is invited to attend a "Regional Visioning Workshop". The workshop will be held in East Lansing at the Hannah Community Center and dinner is provided. This is an excellent opportunity to help shape the Tri-County Region's green infrastructure future. For more information, please visit: www.greenmidmichigan.org.

MSU Student Intern: Leanna "Anna" Popp

Following a very satisfactory interview, Anna was offered the internship position of "Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistant". She is pursuing a degree in Parks, Recreation

and Tourism from Michigan State University with a concentration in Natural Resources and Community Based Recreation and a specialization in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems. Anna has worked two summers as a seasonal worker at Maybury State Park and has performed recreation programming duties at South Lyon Community Recreation Department. She impressed me with her self confidence, zeal for her chosen professional career, and enthusiasm for taking on the Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities ("NMF") planning initiative. Commission Chairperson Chuck Nelson speaks very favorably about Anna as a student and developing professional. In addition to working on the NMF plan, Anna will take on the duties of Park Ranger at Motz County Park on days that an assigned Park Ranger is unable to work due to illness or other unplanned absence. The internship period will begin in early May and end in mid-August.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

As one member of a five-member team that worked on Clinton County's EECBG application, it is satisfying to report that the County has been approved by the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) to receive \$294,696 for energy efficiency upgrades to the Courthouse and County Jail. The grant does not require a county cash match; however, a county "in-kind" labor match of \$49,077 is part of the total project cost of \$343,773. The project has four components, which are:

- Replace 3,674 existing Courthouse and County Jail fluorescent lamps with high efficiency lamps that consume less electricity to produce an equivalent amount of light.
- Install occupancy sensors to control hallway light fixtures found on the five floors of the Courthouse. At night, when the building is typically not occupied, hallway lighting fixtures will remain dark until a sensor detects a person entering a hallway at which time the lights will turn on.
- Replace one of the current large Courthouse heating boilers with three smaller front-loading boilers to better balance boiler operational efficiency with the seasonally variable heating requirements of the building.
- Place 911/Central Dispatch, which operates "24-7", on its own HVAC system. A stand-alone system for 911/Central Dispatch will enable heating and cooling set points in the balance of the Courthouse to be adjusted for optimal energy savings when the building is unoccupied at night and on weekends.

It is estimated that the project will result in significant reductions in energy utilization and greenhouse gas emission by county government. In terms of dollars, the County's electric and natural gas costs will be reduced by an estimated \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually.

The county team that prepared the EECBG program grant application will be responsible for the management of the project and reporting of performance results to DELEG.

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
 - Group pavilion material specifications and bidding/purchasing process
 - Picnic table branding & relocation to Motz County Park
 - 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
 - Converting 55-gallon drums into park trash collection containers
 - Program beach house & group pavilion bulletin boards
- Parkland and Open Space Acquisition Guidelines
- Greening of Mid-Michigan project – steering committee
- Searles property acquisition grant re-application
- Agricultural Preservation Board – staff liaison (10% time allocation)
- Intergovernmental CIS Trail Committee – support/advisory role
- Upper Maple River Watershed Management Plan – steering committee
- Fund raising – all-terrain wheelchairs
- 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
- Purchase and install “goose cannon”
- Motz County Park ribbon-cutting special event
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block program grant management
- Motz County Park operational procedures & seasonal employee management