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Polverento and Tim Machowicz,
Citizen Representatives



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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

July 2010

ACTIVITIES:

Motz County Park Grand Opening and Follow-up

- What a successful event! An estimated 250 people were present for the 10:00 am dedication program. About 600 people visited the park on its first day of operation. The parking lot was at full capacity until about 1:30 pm when departing vehicles finally outnumbered incoming vehicles.
- Chairperson Chuck Nelson did a great job as Master of Ceremony. The program was quite lengthy (one hour to complete) and Chuck kept things moving along in an organized and interesting manner.
- Special thanks to the speakers – Senator Cropsey, Representative Opsommer, County Board Commissioner Adam Stacey and DNRE Grant Coordinator Linda Hegstrom. Their remarks reflected importance that state and local officials give to the project and its many benefits for area citizens.
- The St. Johns Community Band's performance was appreciated by all present. The band began their performance ½ hour prior to the dedication program and continued after the program for another 45 minutes. Great music.



Representing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners, District 7 Commissioner Adam Stacey welcomes the 250 people present to the park.

- 34 organizations/individuals were recognized for their contributions to the park acquisition/development project. Each was provided a framed "Outdoor Recreation Service Award" certificate signed by County Board Chair Larry Martin and P&GSC Chairperson Chuck Nelson.

- The Grand Opening coincided with the DNRE "Free Fishing Weekend" (fishing licenses are not required for the weekend). Sleepy Hollow State Park Outreach Guide Katie Robinson and Waste Management Education Coordinator Kathy Donahue were on hand with equipment, bait and personal enthusiasm to introduce the public to the sport of fishing. Most all caught fish and, hopefully, caught the "bug" to make fishing a life-long recreational activity.



A young Special Olympian fished from the park's Mobi-Chair. His efforts were rewarded with a nice 7" bluegill.

- The Friends of the Maple River were present to offer canoe and kayak rides. A constant stream of watercraft was seen on the lake until 2:00 pm, as many visitors took advantage of the activity.

- Many were drawn to the waterfront to enjoy a swim or sunbath. A water sample taken from the swim area was sent to the State Health Department Laboratory for analysis in late May. On a rating scale of 10 – 10,000 *E. coli* counts, where the sample must be below 300 *E. coli* per 100 milliliters for the water to be considered safe for swimming, the sample rated at less than 10 (mg/l). Of the six public swimming beaches I've had responsibility for in the past 25 years, Motz County Park contains the cleanest, most hygienic water of them all.



The swimming beach is a major park attraction, drawing hundreds of visitors daily.

- Mrs. Francis (Harriet) Motz was present and introduced at the dedication. Chuck Nelson spoke to the reasons why the park was named for Francis Motz. Francis' record of service to Greenbush Township government and to the Clinton County community overall is quite extensive. It is fitting that a park created to benefit and serve the needs of Clinton County families for untold future generations should be named after a person who exercised a similar personal philosophy.



Commission Chairperson Chuck Nelson presents Harriet Motz with an *Outdoor Recreation Service Award*. Harriet is the wife of Francis Motz who the park is named for.

- Post-dedication: County residents are visiting the park in good numbers to swim, fish, picnic and walk the lake perimeter trail. Gayla is receiving an increasing number of pavilion reservation inquiries; six confirmed and three tentative reservations. I have received requests for a Boy Scout Camporee (75 youth and 22 adult chaperones) and a Pheasants Forever annual Youth Day. We have accomplished something good and valued by Clinton County residents.

Summer Park Staff

Park Manager/Intern Kris Poling and Park Rangers Ben Jackson, Dan Nelson and Lucas Sutherland are responsible for routine maintenance and visitor care; one will always be on duty seven days a week from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm through Labor Day. Specific duties include janitorial operations, cleaning tables and grills, beach raking, sweeping walkways, mowing, safety inspections and a host of other tasks. Individually, I find them enthusiastic, friendly, and productive workers; some of the best I've ever hired. As a group, they comprise a public service team that well represents the Commission and Clinton County government.

Major maintenance will be performed by Building and Grounds Department staff.

Goose Control

The goose round-up was accomplished on Friday, June 18 with the assistance of John Baker (Critter Control of St. Louis), County Board Chairperson Larry Martin and grandson, Chuck Nelson, Dan Nelson, Anna Popp, Kris Poling, Leon Searles' grandson and me. 70 birds were captured and released at the Shiawassee River State Game Area near St. Charles. A second roundup held on Monday, June 28 resulted in another 17 birds captured and released on state property north of Gladwin.

50 non-lethal "bang" shells have been purchased to be used if and when the geese return to the park. When fired from a 12-gauge shotgun, a shell will travel 200 yards before exploding with a loud bang. The object is to scare the birds away. This is an effective tool/strategy until the birds become accustomed to the noise and ignore the bang.

Next control strategy is the fall hunting season. Harvesting the geese not only reduces their numbers permanently, but it also builds a fear of humans and the "bang" sound. Working through MSUE, the park will be used to host young people participating in the annual Youth Hunt Weekend.



June 18 - Another successful goose round-up. 70 birds were captured and transferred to the Shiawassee River State Game Area near St. Charles, Michigan where they were released.

Between rounding up the geese, scaring and harvesting them, the birds should develop a healthy fear of people. The best goose deterrent is a well visited park with a lot of people activity. Following the round-up, there have not been any geese in the park; the beach, sidewalks and picnic grounds are clean of droppings. Let's hope the park remains a goose-free area once the birds regain their ability to fly.

Plumb Line Landscape & Design

Pete and Roberta Motz, owners of Plumb Line Landscape & Design, donated and planted three 12' tall oak trees in memory of Pete's father Francis Motz. The trees were planted east of the beach house. With the need to establish trees and shade in the beach house and picnic area, I asked Pete if he would prepare a landscape plan for the park's developed area along with a cost estimate to implement the plan. He agreed to do so. It is my intention to seek funding for 15 to 20 hardwood trees in next year's capital improvement budget. The July 9 P&GSC meeting agenda will include a request to approve the submittal of a Community Forestry Grant in the amount of \$3,000. The grant, if awarded, will reduce county cost to complete the tree planting project.

Motz County Park Development Project

- Phase II Construction – The development of the beach house, pedestrian walkways, utilities, entrance drive, parking lot and picnic area is essentially complete. A "punch list" is being created to address unfinished work and material/equipment performance issues. Final adjustments are expected to take a couple of weeks to complete.

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- Fishing Pier – Not in the original Phase II contract, Cross Lake Construction was hired to complete the pier. The deck should be completed by next week and the railing the first week of July.



Work on the park fishing pier continues with a completion scheduled for the first week of July.

- Group Pavilion – The pavilion is done except for the installation of stainless steel counter-tops in the two food service areas. At \$7,500, the counter-tops cost too much to be manufactured and installed this year. I will include them in the 2011 capital improvement budget. Roger Dershem, owner of Dershey's Café in downtown St. Johns and member of the UA Committee, loaned the Commission four 8' folding tables to be used as accessible counters for the summer of 2010.
- Habitat Planting Area – Two acres south of the parking lot will be planted with a prairie grass habitat seed mix rich with wildflower seeds (26 varieties). Pheasants Forever member Dave Rademacher call to say the seed mix is on hand. Stoney Creek Outdoors (SCO), the company that will conduct the planting, is waiting until the bare soil sprouts green at which time SCO owner Chad Thelen will chemically spray the emerging plants. This will reduce competition between weeds and the habitat mix plants. I suspect that the spraying and seed planting will be completed by the July P&GSC meeting date. Pheasants Forever is picking up the total cost of seed, professional planting and three years of follow-up maintenance.

Park Directional Signs

The Clinton County Road Commission has installed "way" signs on DeWitt Road beginning at M-21. MDOT has been paid to install highway directional signs on US-127 and M-21, but they have yet to be installed.

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
- Other Motz County Park improvements
 - Fish habitat improvements (January/February 2010)
 - Tree maintenance program (on-going through 2012)
 - Program beach house & group pavilion bulletin boards

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- 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
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block program grant management
- Motz County Park operational procedures & seasonal employee management