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## CLINTON COUNTY GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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## GSC COORDINATOR'S REPORT

December 2009

### ACTIVITIES:

#### Motz County Park Development

- Phase II – November's mild weather has been great for construction. Decorative masonry blocks have arrived and the outside walls are going up. If weather conditions remain favorable, all the block work should be finished by the December 4 Commission meeting date. Roof trusses are on-site and ready for placement once the walls are ready to receive them.



The exterior block work on the beach house north wall is nearly completed. Work has begun on the south wall. The single doorway shown above is the entrance to the all-terrain wheelchair storage room.

Sanitary plumbing work, less installation of toilet and sink fixtures, is substantially complete inside the beach house. On the outside, the septic tanks and pump station have been placed and connected to the beach house by a 6" sanitary distribution line. Next task to be completed is the development of the septic absorption field.

Rough grading of the parking lot, including development of a surface drainage trench, has been completed. If weather permits, the gravel base will be placed; if not, the base will be placed in the spring prior to final surfacing with asphalt.

- Group Pavilion – The floor slab has been poured with post anchors in place ready for RESA to build the pavilion next spring. RESA Building Trades Instructor Ross Pope indicated that the students will begin work as soon as weather permits; perhaps in March. He indicated that construction will take only 7 to 10 days to complete. Ross also said that his students would be capable of installing the decorative blocks around the roof support posts; a task that I had originally thought had to be hired out.
- Shoreline Fishing Pier – Ross Pope said that RESA students would have time to build the fishing pier superstructure before the Memorial Day weekend public opening of the park. The steel support posts will be set by the General Contractor leaving the students with installing the treated wood stringers, surface decking and safety railings.

The partnership with RESA will provide the students with practical construction experience. It provides the county with a significant savings in labor expense to the park development project. It also builds community ownership of the park and its recreation facilities. What a bargain!

- Non-Grant Funded Improvements (Funded by a Capital Improvement account)



Entrance Gate – Katren Industries of St. Johns is responsible for manufacturing, painting and installing the entrance gate. The end supports have been completed and are currently at the park awaiting installation. Installation will take place within the next week after which exact measurements for the length of the gate can be taken. Once the gate length is known, Katren Industries will quickly manufacture the twin gate arms and place them on the end supports completing this item.



Fencing – This item involves full replacement of the boundary fence located along DeWitt Road, a distance of approximately 1,300 linear feet. No-climb horse fence and t-posts were purchased this past summer. The Road Commission has removed the old fence and will be installing 140 metal t-posts the week following Thanksgiving break. The fencing materials will be installed by Done Right Fence of DeWitt, Michigan. This item should be complete by December 11.



Camera Surveillance System – Upon the recommendation of Sheriff Kangas, a surveillance system will be installed next spring. The multi-camera system, which

has a price of \$9,101, will deter acts of anti-social behavior including vandalism. When such incidents do occur, there will be a visual record to investigate and prosecute offenders. It is proposed to seek a Risk Avoidance Program (RAP) grant from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. The grant, if awarded, would cover 50% of the project cost. The grant proposal will be placed on the December Commission meeting agenda for approval consideration.



Entrance Sign – I met with Roger Slavik, Technical School Woodworking Program Instructor at Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility, on November 24 to discuss design concepts for the park entrance sign. I asked Roger to consider designing a multi-layered entrance sign in the shape of a pine tree; layered to obtain a three-dimensional visual appearance. Roger mentioned that due to turnover in the inmate population, he has lost nearly all of his experienced students. This loss, combined with a number of year-end reporting tasks, means that the signs (two are being constructed) will not be completed until spring. I am hopeful that a sign will be in place by Memorial Day weekend. Project costs will be limited to the purchase of materials and installation of the completed sign.



Beach House Benches – Katren Industries has completed manufacture of 9 sets of stainless steel wall-hung bench brackets. Composite lumber has been purchased for use as bench top slats. It has not yet been determined who will install the brackets and complete bench assembly. The options are general contractor, Building and Grounds Department personnel, RESA, or me. The job will get done.



Bulletin Boards – All-weather bulletin boards that were purchased for placement on the walls of the beach house and group pavilion have arrived. The display boards will be used to provide general information about the Green Space Commission and specific information on personal safety, park rules, pavilion rental, accessibility features, etc. At least one display board will be made available to Waste Management, Clinton Conservation District, and other county departments and non-profit agencies to promote their environmental and outdoor recreation programs and services. County Building and Grounds Department personnel will be installing the bulletin boards.



Trash Collection Barrels – This past summer an agricultural supply firm located in the Village of Fowler donated 20 55-gallon barrels to the Commission for use as trash collection containers. All the barrels contained some residue chemical content. Material Safety Data Sheets were obtained on the Internet for the five chemical products found. Using appropriate safety measures, the barrel tops have

been removed and the chemical residue drained. Approximately five gallons of chemical were turned over to Waste Management at its last hazardous materials collection event. I will wash them this winter to have them ready for use by park opening.



Fish Habitat Improvement – Enough wood pallets have been obtained to create five artificial underwater “reefs”. The pallets will be stacked four high and secured together with heavy-duty plastic cable ties. Once the lake surface freezes and has an ice thickness capable of supporting the weight of a person, the five reefs will be placed on the ice in locations with at least 8’ of water depth. When the ice melts next spring, the pallets will sink to the lake bottom creating shelters for minnows and young game fish.

### **Tree Planting Project**

The 210 or so trees recently planted have been sprayed with a product called “Deer Off” to keep them from being damaged by browsing deer and rabbits. Another spraying will be made before December 11, which should protect the trees until spring. During a mid-November inspection, I noticed that bucks have used the trees to rub the velvet off of their antlers. Approximately 30% (10 trees) of the newly planted hardwoods and 10% (18 trees) of the conifers have sustained damage. It appears that the hardwoods were the most damaged and will probably need to be replaced.

### **Other Assignments/Activities in Progress**

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

- Motz County Park Development (MNRTF Grant)
- Other Motz County Park improvements
  - Fish habitat improvements (January/February 2010)
  - Tree maintenance program (on-going through 2012)
- Parkland and Open Space Acquisition Guidelines
- Greening of Mid-Michigan project – steering committee
- Searles property acquisition grant application
- Agricultural Preservation Board – staff liaison (10% time allocation)
- Intergovernmental CIS Trail Committee – support/advisory role
- DeWitt Township/City/DARA Community Recreation Plan – steering committee
- Upper Maple River Watershed Management Plan – steering committee
- Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities Plan
- Fund raising – all-terrain wheelchairs
- River access site improvements – sign
- Community Development Department – general management
- Authorized Organization Representative for federal grants