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## CLINTON COUNTY GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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## GSC COORDINATOR'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2008

### ACTIVITIES:

#### Clinton County RESA Support –

On Thursday, November 20, 17 students and two instructors from the RESA Construction Trades Class arrived at the recently leased garage located across from the entrance to Motz County Park. The student's mission is to renovate the garage, making it safe and functional for use as a maintenance support facility for the park.

The renovation project will be completed by the end of December and will include the following improvements:

- T Replace two existing overhead doors with a single split slider door (14' wide opening) centered on the building.
- T Replace existing 30" wide wood service door with a 36" metal pre-hung door.
- T Rebuild the damaged southeast corner of the structure.
- T Clean interior space and repair structural components, as needed.
- T Cover roof soffit and fascia in aluminum sheet.
- T Weather permitting; apply seal coating on exterior concrete blocks.



Clinton County RESA Construction Trades Class students and instructors pose for a photo before beginning renovation of the park maintenance garage on N. DeWitt Road.



Ten minutes later, the dilapidated overhead doors are demolished and disposed of. The work has begun in earnest.

Next spring, after architectural and engineering design drawings and specifications have been completed, RESA Class Instructor Ross Pope and the students have agreed to construct the park's new group pavilions and shoreline fishing platforms. The students will gain construction knowledge and experience and the county will save labor costs to complete the park development project.

#### **Duplain Township River Access Site –**

On November 26, I spoke with Road Commission Superintendent of Operations Jack Powell about the vehicle parking project. Jack indicated that weather permitting a Road Commission crew will complete the construction of vehicle parking along French Road by Thursday, December 4. The Road Commission will also provide a supply of used treated posts for installation along St. Clair and French Roads to prevent vehicles from entering the interior of the property via the existing two-track access "drive". The posts will be installed next spring or summer when I will have an Intern or a seasonal laborer to supervise County Jail Trustees in the work.

#### ***Clinton County Park Rules Ordinance –***

The Board of Commissioners approved the ordinance at its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 25. The ordinance will take effect once 1) 9 days have elapsed following adoption of the ordinance; 2) the rules have been published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a county newspaper of general circulation; and 3) a copy of the ordinance is posted at the entrance to Motz County Park and any other facility where the rules will apply. County Clerk Diane Zuker is handling the publication requirement. Once publication is completed, the ordinance will be placed on the GSC page of the county web site. The ordinance will be printed on large format card stock for physical posting in the park and in booklet form for reference by law enforcement officers.

The purposes of the ordinance are to safeguard park visitors from physical injury, protect county property and recreation facilities from damage, and establish behavior rules that help maintain a civil and enjoyable use experience for all visitors. My own experience with rules and regulations in other park systems is that most visitors are respectful of others and of public property; enforcement tickets are rare. The periodic ticket that is written for especially egregious violations discourages similar behavior in others and also establishes a positive public image of the county in the operation of its parks. Families and individuals appreciate safe and well-managed parks!

After nearly three years of effort, it is good to have this assignment completed.

#### **Motz County Park Development Project –**

The County Board approved the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Project Agreement at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, November 25. Chairperson Martin signed the document and it was promptly mailed to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grants Management for signing. The MNRTF in conjunction

with Kellogg Foundation "Access to Recreation" grant money will finance \$566,000 (85%) of the project's total construction cost of \$666,000.

As I reported in the November 2008 Coordinator's Report, the swimming beach has a spring 2009 completion date.

C2AE has recently submitted a professional services proposal for the remaining components of the project. The proposal identifies a construction period of May through September 2009. A challenging time and a lot of paperwork and paper shuffling lies ahead, but it is exciting to know that a project that was just a dream in 2003 will be reality by fall of next year.

The C2AE professional services proposal will be presented more fully at the December 5 GSC meeting.

### **Greening of Mid-Michigan Project (GMMP) (formerly known as "Potential Conservation Areas") –**

The GMMP has been a topic of discussion at several past GSC meetings. A meeting was held on Monday, November 10 to allow county department heads whose operations might benefit from the project's end products to obtain first-hand information about the project. Representing the project's steering committee were Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Land Use Planner Harmony Gmazel, Eaton Conservation District Executive Director Andrea Stay and Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance Executive Director Nancy Krupiarz. County elected officials, department heads and others in attendance included Jack Enderle, Phil Hanses, Rich Trent, Gary Fritz, John Czarnecki, Stacy Sheridan-Byers and me. The general consensus of meeting attendees was that the Greening of Mid-Michigan Project offered useful informational products at a bargain price to county government. A recommendation to provide funding for the project was forwarded to the County Board. At its November 25 regular meeting, the County Board approved \$4,000 for the project. Project information could prove useful in future MNRTF grant applications and will be incorporated by reference into the *Land Stewardship Strategy* being drafted jointly by the GSC and Agricultural Preservation Board (APB). As the GMMP products are finalized, I will share them with the GSC and APB members.

### **NRC Trail Naming Request –**

After two months of writing effort that included numerous revisions, a naming request was approved by the Tri-County Intergovernmental Trail Committee at its November 21 meeting. The request has been forwarded to the Fred Meijer Foundation for review. Following Foundation review and final editing, if any, the request will be sent to the MDNR for approval consideration by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC is expected to take several months to respond to the "Fred Meijer C-I-S Rail-Trail" naming request.

### **Non-Motorized Transportation (NMT) Plan –**

The NMT Plan Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, December 10 at 10 am. I've not yet heard from Nancy Krupiarz or Jessica Yorko regarding a proposal to manage the planning process. I have completed a draft Vision Statement with a list of goals and objectives, Table of Contents and am now working on the Introduction section. The next Steering Committee meeting will review these materials and discuss how best to incorporate the county's incorporated areas NMT desires into the county-wide plan.

### **Christmas Tree Recycling Project –**

Deputy Drain Commissioner Jon Morrison volunteered to construct fish habitat in the Motz County Park lake using discarded Christmas trees. Considering the spring construction of the swimming beach, it was decided that placement of trees on the lake bottom this year might interfere with the pumping of the water to lower the lake level. An alternate plan emerged. Leon Searles agreed to allow bundled Christmas trees to be placed on the dry bottom of his gravel pit located across DeWitt Road from the park. The trees will be anchored or weighted down to prevent their movement when the pit is allowed to fill with ground water following cessation of pit operations. The project will create good fish habitat in the future 90-plus acre lake. Since the property is privately owned, Green Space Commission resources will not be used in the project. Waste Management Department Coordinator Cara Clore is partnering in the project. The project provides an opportunity for residents without community tree recycling programs to have their trees put to good use and at the same time reduce the number of trees that will need to be placed in the landfill. Jon, Cara and I will be meeting on December 4 to plan the project which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 10. This being a first year project, its scope will be somewhat limited until experience is gained and adequate labor and materials resources obtained. More details will be provided at the GSC December 5 meeting.

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

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

- Motz County Park Development Project (Phased construction thru 2009)
- Searles Property Acquisition Grant Application (#2) – Pending BOC approval
- Motz County Park improvements
  - Fish habitat improvements (January 2009)
  - Tree planting grant project & maintenance program (spring & summer 2009)
- Parkland and Open Space Acquisition Plan (joint APB / GSC project)
- Agricultural Preservation Board – Staff liaison
- Intergovernmental CIS Trail Committee – support/advisory role
- DeWitt Township/City/DARA Community Recreation Plan Committee – GSC rep.
- Clinton Conservation District – 319 Grant (Maple River) – Advisory role