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CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

March 2016

Mparks Conference and Trade Show

The 2016 Mparks Conference and Trade Show provided a number of great sessions to help improve the Parks and Green Space Commission. The conference was focused around active living, programming, volunteer initiatives, and cooperation between agencies, all of which can help strengthen the mission of the PGSC. I was able to connect with a number of different agencies which operate similar offerings in order to pick up some best practices as well.

Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program

Clinton County Parks and Green Space will once again host Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program follow-up event to show youth fishers some excellent fishing opportunities in the Lansing region. The event is offered to those youth who complete the initial program and would like an opportunity to test their skills and taste what they catch. It will take place on June 7, 14, or 21 (date TBD).

Eagle Scout Update

Both Cody Smith and Brandon Gifford achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and were commemorated with their Eagle Scout Courts of Honor on February 14th and 21st respectively. Cody and Brandon were presented with the Outdoor Recreation Service Award from the Clinton County Parks and Green Space Commission in addition to their Eagle Scout honors. Both troop leaders were pleased with the excellent projects the scouts completed and would welcome future partnerships with Clinton County Parks and Green Space.

Clinton Lakes Ecosystem

Legend

- GRASS TRAIL
- PAVED/DRIVEWAY TRAIL
- ROAD
- - - - - PARK BOUNDARY
- BEACH HOUSE / RESTROOMS
- PAVILION
- BEACH AREA
- FISHING PIER
- CARRY-OVER ACCESS AREA
- ADA ACCESSIBLE

Did You Know...

1,25 million gallons of water flows through Big Clinton and Little Clinton Lakes every day by way of natural underground springs!

Shoreline Vegetation

Shoreline plants are an important feature and help maintain a healthy lake ecosystem. They filter excessive nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen that may runoff during rain events and also help prevent erosion. Plants provide habitat for birds, deter mosquitoes, and provide areas for other insects such as dragonflies and butterflies to live. Roots from shoreline vegetation hold the soil, preventing it from eroding into the lake. Longer grass deters geese from congregating on the shoreline, reducing the amount of animal waste entering the lake.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Invasive species like zebra mussels can invade and take over a lake, changing the ecosystem forever. The spread of aquatic invasive species occurs primarily through boats, trailers and fishing gear. The easiest way to prevent invasive plants and animals is to clean, drain, and dry boats and gear before entering the lake. Also be sure to discard unwanted bait in the trash, never release plants, fish, or animals from bait, aquariums, or water gardens into the lake.

Pet Waste

Picking up pet waste is simple and prevents bacteria from entering the lake. Pet waste is a health risk for both pets and people, especially children. Carry a plastic bag when walking your dog and be sure to dispose the waste in a trash can.

Fish artwork by Diane Bauer

Interpretive Signage at Clinton Lakes

The water quality signage and bulletin board frame are complete and ready to be installed at Clinton Lakes County Park. The sign will show visitors the expanded trail system, the types of fish they may catch in the lakes, and offer up-to-date information regarding the parks via the bulletin board or flyer stand. The signage and board are made from high strength material to avoid weather and vandalism damages and the bulletin board is secured behind a locked hard plastic door.

Other Duties Assigned to the Coordinator:

- District Court Collections Project
- MIS/GIS Request for Proposal
- Capital Improvement Timeline (Buildings and Grounds)

----- Nothing Follows -----