



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

John A. Scholtz
Director

June 25, 2010

Commission Members

Ted Bosgraaf
President

Bobbi Jones Sabine
Vice President

Philip Kuyers
Secretary

Jim Miedema

Joyce Kortman

Roger E. Jonas

Ray Statema

David Van Ginhoven

David L. Vander Kooi

Paul Geerlings

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Commission Member:

The regular meeting of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 7, 2010** at **4:00 p.m.** in **Conference Room E**, (in the lower level) of the Administration Building of the Fillmore Street Complex, 12220 Fillmore, West Olive, MI 49460.

The agenda for the meeting and copies of referenced documents are attached for your review.

Please contact Sherry at the Parks and Recreation Commission Office at 738-4813 if you will be unable to attend.

Sincerely,

John A. Scholtz
Parks and Recreation Director

JAS/sc

Enclosures

Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

July 7, 2010
Conference Room E
Fillmore Complex
4:00 p.m.

Current Mission: *The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission will enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by preserving parks and open spaces and by providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.*

Proposed Mission: *The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission enhances quality of life for residents and visitors, by preserving parks and open spaces and providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Bosgraaf, President
Sabine, Vice President
Kuyers, Secretary
Geerlings
Kortman
Jonas
Statema
Miedema
Van Ginhoven
Vander Kooi
3. Absences (excused/unexcused)
4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Approve the minutes of the Commission's June 2, 2010 regular meeting.
6. Communications
 - a) Receive the June 16 letter from Elizabeth Notman regarding waterfowl hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area.
 - b) Review comment cards and emails received since the previous meeting.
7. Public Heard (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)
8. Staff Reports
 - a) Director's Report
 - b) Coordinator – Parks Manager Report
 - c) Interpretive and Information Services Report

9. Committee Reports

- a) Receive the report of the Planning Committee meeting of June 24, 2010.

10. Old Business

- a) Project Updates (*see Planning and Development Summary Report enclosed*)

11. New Business

- a) Review of the tabled motion to authorize \$100,000 to be allocated to the Park 12 pumphouse building improvement project.
- b) Receive report from attendees of the Special Parks District Forum hosted by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (not enclosed).
- c) Receive bids for the Park 12 bike path repair to fix section with extensive cross-slope (not enclosed).

12. Public Heard (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)

13. Commissioners Heard

14. Closed Session to discuss property acquisition

15. Upcoming meeting dates:

August 4, 2010 – Regular meeting

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room E, Fillmore Complex

16. Adjournment

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Proposed Minutes

Date: June 2, 2010

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Fillmore Complex, Conference Room E

Present: Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Jim Miedema, David Van Ginhoven, Roger Jonas, Phil Kuyers, Ray Statema, David Vander Kooi, Joyce Kortman and Paul Geerlings

Absent: None

Staff: John Scholtz, Director; Sherry Costello, Administrative Secretary; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; and Dave Mazurek, Coordinator of Park Maintenance & Operations

Guests: Daniel Aument, Nancy Gillette, Bill Van Appledorn, Harold Drenten, Dave Van't Hof, Greg Chandler (Grand Rapids Press) and Joyce Smith

Subject: Approval of Minutes

PR 10-037 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's May 5, 2010 regular meeting.

 Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Statema Unanimous

Subject: Grand River Day Resolution

PR 10-038 Motion: To receive the proposed resolution in support of the Grand River Expedition 2010 and recommend to the Board of Commissioners to declare July 26, 2010 as Official Grand River Day in Ottawa County.

 Moved by: Van Ginhoven Supported by: Sabine Unanimous

Subject: Park 12 Pumphouse

PR 10-039 Motion: To authorize staff to complete an architectural study for the pumphouse at Park 12. Estimated cost is \$30,000 with 1/3 of the cost to be reimbursed by the Historic Ottawa Beach Society.

 Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Geerlings Unanimous

Subject: Pumphouse Building Improvements

PR 10-040 Motion: To table the motion to authorize \$100,000 to be allocated to the Park 12 pumphouse building improvement project until the next regular Commission meeting.
 Moved by: Jonas Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Subject: Recycled Memorial Bench Pricing

PR 10-041 Motion: To approve the increase of the recycled memorial bench fee from \$1,000 to \$1,200.
 Moved by: Statema Supported by: Sabine Unanimous

**Subject: Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
Bylaws and Rules of Procedure**

PR 10-042 Motion: To approve the revised Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaws and Rules of Procedure with changes as recommended by Corporation Counsel.
 Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Statema Unanimous

Subject: Approval of 2011 Parks and Recreation Budget

PR 10-043 Motion: To approve the 2011 Parks and Recreation Budget proposal as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee with the addition of \$200,000 for the Holland Country Club Improvement project.
 Moved by: Jonas Supported by: Van Ginhoven Unanimous

Subject: Grand River Ravines Land Acquisition Project

PR 10-044 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the resolution and Land Acquisition Project Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment relative to the Grand River Ravines Acquisition Project.
 Moved by: Sabine Supported by: Kortman Unanimous

Subject: Lease Agreement

PR 10-045 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the Lease Agreement with the Secretary of the Army for use of a portion of the Holland Channel waterfront for the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project.
 Moved by: Geerlings Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Subject: Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project

PR 10-046 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners a recommendation to award contract to Wolverine Construction to construct boardwalks, pier and concrete walkways for the Holland Harbor Fishing Access project at Park 12. Base bid in the amount of \$441,822.97 with addition of Alternate A in the amount of \$12,840, plus a 5% contingency (\$22,733.15) totaling \$477,396.12.

 Moved by: Van Ginhoven Supported by: Vander Kooi Unanimous

Subject: Holland Harbor Interpretive Signs

PR 10-047 Motion: To approve Lafferty VanHeest & Associates to research, write and produce graphics for four interpretive sign panels for the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project.

 Moved by: Kuylers Supported by: Statema Unanimous

Subject: Upper Macatawa Natural Area Floodplain Restoration

PR 10-048 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners a recommendation to award contract to Desal Excavating for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area Floodplain Restoration Project.

 Moved by: Statema Supported by: Miedema Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

President Bosgraaf called the meeting to order and drew everyone's attention to the two mission statements listed on the agenda, one being the current mission statement, and one being the proposed revised statement. Scholtz noted that the word "education" was inadvertently left out of the proposed statement. Bosgraaf asked Commission members to review the two statements and to be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. He then asked for any additions/deletions to the agenda.

Bosgraaf asked for approval of the minutes of the Commission's May 5, 2010 regular meeting. Commission members approved the minutes by motion.

Commission members received the proposed resolution in support of the Grand River Expedition 2010 and declared July 26, 2010 as Official Grand River Day by motion. Jonas noted that he had not seen Parks on the Expedition website as a supporter.

Commission members received for information the April 27, 2010 letter from Fred Keena of the Road Commission relative to the speed limit on West Olive Road by the Nature Education Center.

Commission members received the May 5, 2010 letter from Adam Vandercook of the Michigan Department of Transportation regarding park signage on US 31. Scholtz explained that the size of sign needed would be too large for the median on US 31. Scholtz suggested the possibility of using park owned property on the east side of the highway for a “billboard” type sign focusing on the nature education center to draw attention to the center. Jonas expressed his support for the directional sign. Scholtz will research the possibility with the township involved.

Commission members reviewed comment cards and emails received since the previous meeting, and Geerlings complimented TerHaar for the response he sent to a park patron.

Statema distributed the report from the Friends of Ottawa County Parks. He reviewed several upcoming events of interest and then produced a letter of concern for Mazurek regarding a park patron who has experienced trespassers on his property that is adjacent to Fillmore at the Bend. Statema suggested some type of fencing may resolve the issue. Mazurek will review and follow up at the next meeting.

President Bosgraaf moved on to Public Comment. Ms. Joyce Smith encouraged Commission members to consider all the contractors that bid the Holland Harbor Fishing Access project and not take the lowest bidder solely because of price. Smith is concerned with the addition of structures and how it will affect erosion of the site.

Mr. Bill Van Appledorn spoke next and distributed a proposal for consideration for protecting historic resources at the newly acquired Holland Country Club property. He requested a sign be placed at a specific point on the property and gave some historical background of the site. Mr. Van Appledorn expressed his concern that the area not be changed and suggested naming the site Groningen Sanctuary. TerHaar clarified the specific point of interest on the map and Bosgraaf thanked Mr. Van Appledorn. Commission members agreed to take the suggestion under advisement when planning the site and when they start the naming process for the Holland Country Club.

The Commission next received a presentation from the Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association proposing waterfowl hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. Mr. Harold Drenten, Vice President and Mr. Dave Van’t Hof, President of the Association made the following points:

- Hunting for waterfowl should be allowed between September 1 through January 1.
- Enforcement of regulations would be overseen by State Conservation Officers.
- The property is ideally suited to waterfowl hunting.
- The property is under-used at the current time.
- Property was used for hunting before the County acquired it.

Mr. Van’t Hof reviewed the safety statistics for waterfowl hunting and stated that there were no fatalities (firearm) recorded in 2009. He felt that there is a lot of opportunity at the Upper Macatawa site. Mr. Drenten commented that the Association would assist with posting the property if needed. Jonas questioned how the oversight of the number of hunters could be monitored. Van’t Hof described a post system where hunters would

apply in advance and then hunt within 100 feet from the post. Van't Hof also offered to work with staff to help develop an acceptable hunting system for the area. Bosgraaf thanked the two gentlemen for the proposal and assigned the review of the proposal to the Planning Committee for a recommendation.

Bosgraaf called for the Director's Report and Scholtz reported on the Grand River Greenway Cruise sponsored by the Friends of Ottawa County Parks. He noted that approximately 90 people were on board. Bosgraaf noted the information sheet Scholtz included in the agenda packet regarding the State Parks' "recreation passport". Scholtz indicated that the sheet was included for information purposes.

Bosgraaf called for the Coordinator – Parks Manager Report. Mazurek updated staff regarding a couple of topics from last month and reported that the vandalism at Hager Park had been investigated. The Park Supervisor has been in contact with the community policing officer and periodic visits have been arranged. Mazurek then reported problems with equestrian use off trails at Riverside Park. He indicated that signs are posted but felt additional enforcement may be needed to change the behavior at the site. Mazurek also reported that the Memorial Day weekend was very busy and revenues exceeded \$24,000 for the three days. He distributed photos of activity at Tunnel Park.

Commission members received the Interpretive and Information Services Report. Bosgraaf indicated that this quarterly report would now be received monthly so Commission members could keep abreast of the activities at the Nature Education Center.

Commission members received the report from the Planning Committee. Scholtz reported that the committee agreed to make a recommendation to pay 2/3 the cost of the architectural study, and to allocate a \$100,000 commitment to the actual structure and take on responsibility for the related site improvements for the pumphouse at Park 12. TerHaar indicated that the work around the building may be eligible for grant funds. Scholtz suggested that the structural project should be viewed as "adaptive reuse". Bosgraaf also noted that he would like to see the Museum Committee involved in the architectural planning from the outset. Discussion continued regarding the costs of the project. Kuyers expressed his opposition to spending funds for the project and indicated that there were other projects that rank higher on the priority list. He suggested having Corporation Counsel review the legal documents to get a full understanding of the specific responsibilities to the pumphouse. Kortman indicated that not knowing the full cost of the project is difficult and expressed the importance of setting a budget. Van Ginhoven agreed with Kuyers and felt that it wouldn't be responsible to vote on funding without knowing Parks' legal position. Bosgraaf asked for direction from committee members, and Kuyers indicated that he supported the architectural study but was not ready to commit additional funds to the project without further information. Scholtz will get legal review of obligation from Corporation Counsel. A motion was made and approved to fund 2/3 of the cost of an architectural study for the pumphouse with 1/3 of the cost being reimbursed by the Historic Ottawa Beach Society. An additional motion was made and supported to fund \$100,000 for the pumphouse building improvements and take responsibility for the area site improvements. Jonas moved and Kuyers supported a motion to table the previous motion until the next regular Commission meeting.

Scholtz then directed Commission members to the prioritization list of future development and acquisition projects distributed with the agenda. He noted that all the

items listed were related to the long-range budget and changes would be reflected in the projection. Kortman commented that there just were not enough funds to do everything they would like to do. There were no additional recommendations or changes requested.

Commission members received the report from the Public Relations Committee and Sabine gave an update on social networking and using Facebook. The Committee met with Dave Hulst, Director of Information Technology and Keith Van Beek, Assistant County Administrator. She reported that the County is moving in the direction of using these types of social media but is still being cautious in regards to the security of the sites. Scholtz, Hulst, Van Beek and Kristen Hintz will meet to discuss the issue. Sabine asked Commission members for suggestions for the naming of the Bolthouse and Holland Country Club properties. She encouraged everyone to focus on the natural/historic features of the sites when giving their suggestions. She asked members to email Scholtz, Bosgraaf or herself with ideas. Scholtz indicated he would study the history of the Bolthouse site for possible ideas.

Scholtz then explained to Commission members that the recycled memorial bench option offered to the public for installation at one of our parks at a cost of \$1,000 was priced too low to recover costs. He requested that the policy for the memorial bench cost be revised and increased to \$1,200. A motion was approved to revise the current price of \$1,000 to \$1,200.

Commission members received the report from the Finance and Personnel Committee. Kuyers reported that the Committee reviewed the revised Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission as suggested by Corporation Counsel and recommended to accept the revisions as proposed. A motion was approved to accept the revised Bylaws and Rules of Procedure as proposed.

Kuyers then reported on the 2011 proposed budget. Scholtz listed the proposed changes to the budget as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee. One change included was not to increase the Conference and Travel line item and keep it at the 2010 levels. He also updated the Commission on a grant that had been awarded from the Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$646,800 for the Holland Country Club Restoration Project. He stated that this grant plus a \$100,000 match from Park funds would need to be added to the 2011 budget. Scholtz also noted that the Holland Country Club Phase I project had not been included in the proposed 2011 budget and requested that it be added at \$200,000. A motion was approved to accept the 2011 budget with the addition of the Holland Country Club Phase I project and recommended revisions from the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Kuyers then noted that the Ottawa County Cost of Service Analysis conducted by Maximus Inc. was received for information and would be utilized in the fall when park fees were reviewed.

Bosgraaf called for Old Business and TerHaar submitted his report as written. There was no additional discussion.

Bosgraaf moved to New Business and Commission members received the resolution and Land Acquisition Project Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

& Environment for the Grand River Ravines Project. The resolution and agreement were approved by motion.

Commission members received the proposed lease agreement with the Secretary of the Army for use of a portion of the Holland Channel waterfront for the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project. TerHaar displayed a map of the property and reported that the lease would be for a duration of 25 years with an initial administration fee of \$1,250. The resolution and lease agreement were approved by motion.

Commission members received bids for the Holland Harbor Fishing Access project. TerHaar reviewed the bids for the project and recommended Wolverine Construction for the project, with a base bid (\$441,822.97) and Alternate A (\$12,840) for a total cost of \$454,662.97. Scholtz indicated that he would be communicating with the granting agency to see if there was an opportunity to maximize the amount of grant dollars for this project. Commission members approved the recommended bid amount with an additional 5% contingency (\$22,733.15) by motion for a total cost of \$477,396.12.

Commission members received bids for the Holland Harbor interpretive sign design. TerHaar reported that the recommended bid is lower than expected and three out of the four bidders declined to bid the project. TerHaar recommended Lafferty VanHeest & Associates to do the work at a cost of \$3,200. Commission members approved the bid by motion.

Commission members received the bids for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area Floodplain Restoration Project. TerHaar reported that there were a total of nine bids received and recommended Desal Excavating to do the work at a cost of \$56,959. The project was approved by motion.

Bosgraaf asked for Public Comment. Ms. Smith requested that there be a consistent look/theme to all the signs along the Holland Harbor area in correlation to the pumphouse.

President Bosgraaf asked for Commissioner comments. Statema reminded Commission members that next month would be the third month of receiving the Agenda by email and confirmed that review of the new process would be next month.

Jonas suggested having the summer intern conduct some research on the history of the properties that are subject to being named.

Kortman suggested asking the public what to name the properties when the public meetings are conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

June 16, 2010

Ted Bosgraaf, President
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

RECEIVED

JUN 18 2010

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS
AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Bosgraaf:

Because the subject of gun hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area has resurfaced, you may benefit from hearing additional facts about the area.

We have been Zeeland residents next to the park for the past 23 years, and have seen and heard the extensive hunting that occurred there. With the transformation into a Natural Area by the Parks, we were relieved to know the danger of gun hunting would cease. However, the reality has been a flagrant disregard for parks policy, mainly by local residents and their friends, who continue to hunt from their properties that extend down into the park. Others conceal blinds within the park property, that are eventually exposed or found, and the weekend thrill-seekers feel entitled to shoot whatever moves along the woods or in the river. I have come across bodies of turtles, frogs, fish, raccoons, a heron and woodchucks, and reported a group of young adults shooting at bank swallows and a green heron. This, combined with the fact that many trails are obscured by high vegetation, poses a question of safety for the walker/hikers visiting the park. The dangers encountered during a gun season would be excessive.

If the Upper Mac is to become a hunting club, then it never should have been opened for recreation and education. Many groups visit this area for a wide range of study and education: Hope College, GVSU, the local Nature Centers, birding groups from 3 counties, field trips from local schools, aerobic classes, track teams, GPS enthusiasts and a broad spectrum of the general public.

Rather than lifting the ban on hunting, I would urge you to strongly enforce the current policies. Our wildlife needs a haven of safety in an environment that has jeopardized its future. With the thousands of acres available for hunting throughout the state, wouldn't the better choice be in favor of protecting the animals and birds that already live here?

I am not opposed to hunting, and have respect for the bow hunters who, for the most part, follow the rules here. It's necessary, as well, to thin the growing deer population, but with gun season comes the indiscriminate killing of much more. Opening the door to the hunting of geese and waterfowl will essentially rid the park of all seeable wildlife, and necessitate closing the park to pedestrians for 3 months at the least.

Therefore, I would urge you to preserve this critical greenway for the sake of wildlife, education and the beauty and serenity it offers to the surrounding community.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Notman

Park Monitor for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area



peg lombardi
<p2lombard@yahoo.com>

06/09/2010 04:43
PM

To parks&rec@miottawa.org
cc

Subject Holland Country Club site

Hello,

I am thrilled that Ottawa has aquired the site. As I live in the area, I walk there often. Thank you for fixing the bridges. Are there any plans to mow? The grass is is so thick and long now, if is impossable to walk except on the few paths. A mow every so often would keep the area more accessable to nature lovers.



Curtis TerHaar/County of
Ottawa

06/15/2010 04:06 PM

To p2lombard@yahoo.com

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Holland Country Club site

Response ↓

Dear Peg:

Thank you for your interest. You may have noticed by the time you get this email that we have mowed a system of trails throughout the property to make access easier. Whether or not we mow larger areas in the long term is yet to be determined. We are working on preliminary plans to do wetland and floodplain restoration on significant portions of the lowest lands but want to reserve areas for trails and other recreation as well. We will likely start a formal master planning process later this year in which the public will be invited to offer suggestions and comments.

Thanks again for your interest. Feel free to contact me if you have other questions or concerns.

Curt TerHaar
Coordinator of Park Planning & Development

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

Phone: (616) 738-4656
FAX: (616) 738-4812

cterhaar@miottawa.org

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name Crockery Creek

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

Crockery Creek Park We kayak this area
and there are alot of fallen trees in the
creek this year prohibiting full journey

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Optional Information			
Name <u>Rick Lemson</u>	Phone # <u>616 2914218</u>		
Street Address <u>6581 Sunflower</u>			
City <u>Byron Center</u>	State <u>Mi</u>	ZIP <u>49315</u>	
Email Address <u>RICKLEMONSON@gmail.com</u>			

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff. ✓

Comment: Crockery Creek Park - We kayak this area and there are a lot of fallen trees in the creek this year prohibiting full journey.

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name ROBINSON

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

As An Out Of Town Visitor I Was Very
Disappointed You Are Not Allowing Horses
On Your County Park - Such A Natural
Setting For One Of Natures Animals!

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Optional Information			
Name <u>HELEN RICHARD</u>	Phone # <u>231 775-9797</u>		
Street Address <u>PO Box 124</u>			
City <u>LAKE CITY</u>	State <u>MI</u>	ZIP <u>49417</u>	
Email Address _____			

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff.

Comment: As an out of town visitor, I was very disappointed you are not allowing horses on your county park - Such a natural setting for one of natures animals!

VISITOR COMMENTS

RM

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

PARK NAME

Write a comment/suggestion or e-mail us: parks&rec@co.ottawa.mi.us

Mark walks in Rosy Mound frequently. He wondered if we might have a "booth" for a day or two when the season opens so Rosy Mound regulars knew they could purchase an annual permit.

Are you an Ottawa County Resident?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name Mark Howard *Optional Information*

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Thank you for your comments! Please mail this self-addressed card (or return to Parks staff).

Comment: Mark walks in Rosy Mound frequently. He wondered if we might have a "booth" for a day or two when the season opens so Rosy Mound regulars knew they could purchase an annual permit.

VISITOR COMMENTS

RM

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

PARK NAME

Write a comment/suggestion or e-mail us: parks&rec@co.ottawa.mi.us

A lady (who is considering a move to Grand Haven) wonders if we offer free park passes to handicapped people. (I'm just the messenger).

Diane

Are you an Ottawa County Resident?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____ *Optional Information*

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Thank you for your comments! Please mail this self-addressed card (or return to Parks staff).

Comment: A lady (who is considering a move to Grand Haven) wonders if we offer free park passes to handicapped people. (I'm just the messenger). Diane

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name Riverside Pointe

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

Need Porta-Potty! Picnic tables
also. More sand beach area.

Please clear Crockery Creek for
kayak access to Leonard St.

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Optional Information			
Name	<u>Gary Blasius</u>	Phone #	
Street Address	<u>66749 Pickett Way</u>		
City	<u>Jansing</u>	State	<u>MI</u> ZIP <u>48917</u>
Email Address	<u>GARY BLASIUS@HOTMAIL.COM</u>		

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff.

Comment: Need porta-potty! Picnic tables also. More sand beach area. Please clear Crockery Creek for kayak access to Leonard St.

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name Riverside Pointe Park

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

Real need for a porta-John

Kill poison Ivy on point

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Optional Information			
Name	<u>Bill Sackett</u>	Phone #	<u>560 0773</u>
Street Address	<u>6559 Sunflower</u>		
City	<u>Byron Center</u>	State	<u>MI</u> ZIP <u>49315</u>
Email Address			

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff.

Comment: Real need for a porta-John. Kill poison Ivy on point.

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name Riverside Park Point

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

Porta john is really needed with all the
people in this area. Clean upon beach
also is needed. Picnic Tables

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Optional Information	
Name <u>Laura Lemson</u>	Phone # _____
Street Address <u>6581 Sunflower</u>	
City <u>Byron Center</u>	State <u>MI</u> ZIP <u>49315</u>
Email Address _____	

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff. ✓

Comment: Porta john is really needed with all the
people in this area. Clean up on beach also is
needed. Picnic tables.

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name Riverside Point Park

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

Porta-John is a real need. Clean
up beach.
Nice place to meet people + park
boat.

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No (camp all summer)

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Optional Information	
Name <u>Chris Sackett</u>	Phone # <u>(616) 481-8891</u>
Street Address <u>6559 Sunflower Dr SW</u>	
City <u>Byron Center</u>	State <u>MI</u> ZIP <u>49315</u>
Email Address _____	

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff. ✓

Comment: Porta-John is a real need. Clean up beach.
Nice place to meet people & park boat.

VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name RIVERSIDE POINTE

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

PORTA - POTTY & PICNIC TABLES

CLEAR CROCKERY CREEK OF TREES
FOR ACCESS TO LEONARD ST

Are you an Ottawa County Resident? ____ Yes ☒ No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter? ____ Yes ____ No

Optional Information	
Name <u>ROBBIN CLANDENING</u>	Phone # _____
Street Address <u>3611 S. COUNTY FARM RD</u>	
City <u>ST JOHN'S</u>	State <u>MI</u> ZIP _____
Email Address _____	

Thank you for your comments!

Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff. ✓

Comment: Porta - potty & picnic tables.

Clear Crockery Creek of trees for access to Leonard St.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 7, 2010

- **Great Job to Staff:** Spring is always an extremely busy and somewhat stressful time in the parks business, and this year is busier than ever. I really want to make the Parks Commission aware of how everyone is keeping a positive and constructive attitude in the face of our high seasonal work load combined with many added new responsibilities. New projects include opening the Nature Education Center, planting 15,000 trees and shrubs at the Bolthouse property, taking over management of the Holland Country Club, finalizing the EPA grant, implementing the Holland Harbor Fishing Access project, the expanding fight against invasive species, allowing use of alcohol at the Weaver House, expanding use of volunteers, and the list could just keep going. It is an exciting time in the evolution of our park system and it would not be going so well without the excellent work of park staff at all levels within our organization.
- **Vacation Plans:** On a personal note, we are planning a significant summer vacation to Maine this year while the kids are still willing to travel with us (ages 13 and 16). I plan to be away from the office August 16 through the 27th – two full weeks. So if things go more smoothly during that time period, you'll know why.
- **Facebook Update:** Kristen Hintz and I attended a meeting with the Assistant County Administrator, Keith Vanbeek, and Health Department officials to discuss the county's use of social media. The quick summary is that Keith is going to move forward in drafting a policy that will allow organizations like ours within County Government to propose use of Facebook other social media including unscreened public feedback and comment. It appears as though there are limited mechanisms via media outlets like Facebook to eliminate public comment – and there is shifting sentiment that it would be valuable to allow an open exchange of ideas. So, we are clear to make a proposal (consistent with the anticipated new policy) as to how we want to utilize Facebook. I suggest we ask the Public Relations Committee to focus on this and plan to move forward, but I also think we need to make sure we develop a clear vision of what we want to accomplish and have staff ready to handle the increased work load before we launch our Facebook presence.
- **Grand River Expedition 2010 Update:** We are continuing to assist in the planning of the Grand River Expedition 2010 including hosting at Riverside Park on Sunday, July 25 and assisting when the group camp's at Boynton's landing on Saturday, July 24. We have been told to plan for just fewer than 100 participants. Friends of Ottawa County Parks will be providing dinner and breakfast to the group on July 25 and food at Boynton's will be handled by GVSU. Bill Boynton has offered to allow the group to cook dinner on the boat on July 24 followed by a brief boat ride. I think this could be one of the highlights of the trip for Expedition participants.
- **Park 12 Encroachment Issue:** I received an email from Michael Nelson, who purchased the Kronemeyer cottage at Park 12. An encroachment agreement was signed by Kronemeyer

prior to selling which gave them five years to park along Ottawa Beach Road, after which their parking would be relocated to the Park 5 parking lot where spaces have already been provided. Mr. Nelson has requested we consider allowing continued parking along Ottawa Beach Road. I asked Doug Van Essen to assist me in responding and he drafted a great letter which basically reviews the process we used for handling encroachments and explains that we must require adherence to the agreements to preserve the integrity of the entire process. In other words – no exceptions will be considered.

- **Poor Farm Cemetery Dedication** – I want to urge everyone to come out to the event on July 10 at 10 am at Eastmanville Farm. The ceremony will be held in the barn after which people will be encouraged to walk out and view the restored cemetery. The amount of energy, passion and attention to detail that the Cemetery Restoration Committee, assisted by parks staff, has put into this project is quite amazing and the final product reflects their efforts.
- **Request Foods Mitigation / Van Appledorn meeting:** Bill Van Appledorn made an appeal at the last Parks Commission meeting to protect a historic piece of land within the Holland Country Club site. The piece of land was the location of a building of importance to the history of Zeeland. We reviewed his materials and walked the site. We agree it is a place that should be preserved and we contacted the firm planning the mitigation project. Their plans are moving very quickly and the timing was great to make revisions to eliminate earth work at this location. Mitigation plans will likely be finalized soon for final DNRE review in anticipation of construction this fall.
- **Press on EPA Grant:** Following is a GR Press article on the EPA grant we received for the Holland Country Club. Note that the final grant application was submitted on June 25. We were fortunate (and flattered) that they accepted our “work plan” as initially submitted so our work in preparing the final application was limited to budget refinements, completing various federal forms, etc.

Ottawa County aims to restore former Holland Country Club wetlands

By Greg Chandler | The Grand Rapids Press

June 07, 2010, 7:51AM

HOLLAND -- Ottawa County could begin restoring wetlands at the former Holland Country Club later this year with a \$646,800 **grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**.

The federal agency announced it has selected the country club wetlands project as a finalist for its \$160 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a competitive program that offers money for various projects to improve the environment in the Great Lakes and waterways that feed them.

While it's not a final award, the selection means Ottawa County has a very strong chance of receiving the funding, said Phillip Cannon, spokeswoman for EPA's Region 5 office in Chicago.

"Once they fill out the full application, and the grantee agrees to the federal requirements, they will receive the funding," Cannon said.

County parks director John Scholtz said that the funding would be used to restore wetlands and stabilize stream banks on about 32 of the 122 acres, which the county purchased from Macatawa Bank in March for \$450,000.

"We wouldn't have had the money to do this without the grant," Scholtz said, noting that the county submitted the EPA application late last year, several months before closing on the purchase of the former country club.

The county plans to cover the rest of the \$750,000 wetlands project with funds from its parks millage. The county earlier spent \$380,000 of parks millage funds on acquiring the country club and received an additional \$70,000 that was raised by the Outdoor Discovery Center and Macatawa Greenway Partnership.

Mary Fales, coordinator for the Macatawa watershed project, said wetlands restoration at the country club is key to improving water quality in the Macatawa River area.

"We see this as a capstone project in this area," Fales said. "This is really in a pivotal location in the watershed. It would be treating almost all of the flow from Noordeloos Creek, which is one of the major tributaries to the Macatawa River."

Another 21 acres of the country club property are slated to be used for a wetlands mitigation project associated with Request Foods' new frozen food processing plant in Holland Township.

A total of 270 projects were selected as finalists among about 1,000 applications from around the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was made possible by Congress approving \$475 million for the program last fall, with target areas including invasive aquatic species such as the Asian carp, nonpoint source pollution and contaminated sediment.

- **Fish Habitat Structures in Pigeon River:** We were contacted by a representative from Timberland Conservation District with a request to place additional habitat improvements in the Pigeon River downstream of our boat launch. Specifically, they would like to place two rock structures and a couple of smaller wooden structures. Attached is a drawing of a cross vane rock structure they would like to put in the Pigeon: one just upstream of the bridge and another in the meadow area downstream from our other viewing platform with the interpretive display. The figure describes rocks for a smaller stream, but they would use 18-24 inch rocks while still leaving an opening in the middle of the stream at least 10 feet wide for easy passage. The "footer" rocks are jettied down to the level of the existing stream bottom -- making the 10' wide opening at the upstream end plenty deep even during low water. They feel we could have good luck recruiting spawning fish to the area which would be fun to watch from the bridge. I have indicated our support for this work but have indicated it is essential that they construct it as described so that a minimum 10 foot clear channel exists and the rocks in the bottom are truly set in the bottom at existing grade. If they are not at bottom grade, I am sure we'll get complaints from kayakers who are scratching up their nice boats during low flow. I also checked with kayakers who feel the cross veins would be a positive feature. If anybody disagrees, please let me know ASAP.

-]
- Tree Preservation: I clipped the following from our County Administrator's Digest regarding tree issues along Lakeshore Drive and elsewhere. The information was written by Mark Knudsen, Director of Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department. Mark indicated to me he is hopeful of Parks Commission involvement and support with the Tree Legacy Committee if revived.

TREE CANOPY ON LAKESHORE DRIVE

Park Township resident Mr. James Nelson and his neighbors replanted trees where trees had been removed from the tree canopy line on Lakeshore Drive without a necessary permit from the Road Commission. They were subsequently asked to remove the trees. Mr. Nelson brought this issue to a Road Commission meeting and the Road Commission decided to take a month to review the situation.

Mr. Nelson then contacted Mark Knudsen and asked if the County would take a position on the issue. The Planning & Performance Improvement Department was working actively with a Tree Legacy Committee to develop tree canopy standards throughout the County. A report is mostly done but was set aside when manpower cuts were made to the department to balance the budget.

Mark Knudsen brought this issue to the Planning Commission and they unanimously supported having Mark send a letter to the Planning Commission supporting the planting of trees in the existing line on Lakeshore Drive and supporting Mr. Nelson's request to have an exemption from removing the trees.

May 25, 2010

Ottawa County Road Commission
Kent Rubley, Managing Director
14110 Lakeshore Drive
P.O. Box 739
Grand Haven MI 49417

Dear Kent:

It is my understanding that the Ottawa County Road Commission will be considering a request from James Nelson, at their Board meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2010, to approve the planting of seven Maple trees along Lakeshore Drive.

As you know, the Ottawa County Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission jointly created a Tree Legacy Committee in 2006. As a member of that committee, you may remember that one of its primary purposes was to "create recommended guidelines to preserve and enhance the aesthetic quality of the Lakeshore Drive Corridor for future generations." Another of the committee's objectives was "to

help maintain and improve the aesthetic beauty of the tree-lines and tree canopies along scenic roads in Ottawa County.”

The Tree Legacy Committee was comprised of a diverse group that represented Consumers Energy, Grand Haven Board of Light and Power, Holland Board of Public Works, local units of government, Ottawa County Planning Commission, Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, Ottawa County Road Commission, and interested citizens.

At one point, the Ottawa County Road Commission indicated that their opposition to replanting trees in the road right-of-way was due to potential liability. In response, the Ottawa County Planning Commission passed a resolution (see Attachment A) encouraging the passage of legislation that would limit the potential liability of county road commissions for trees that are replanted within the right-of-way of scenic corridors. The Road Commission took action to support the resolution for a limited period of three years to see if the issue could be resolved. Shortly thereafter, case law was identified that showed that road commissions were not liable for trees planted in road right-of-ways. At a subsequent meeting of the Tree Legacy Committee (January 9, 2007), you indicated that the Road Commission may be able to make some exceptions (on a case-by-case basis) to the allowable locations for tree planting as outlined in the Road Commission’s Tree Planting Policy. That overture was warmly received by the Tree Legacy Committee members.

Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints and staff layoffs, the Tree Legacy Committee was disbanded and the *Tree Planting and Replanting Guidebook* was left uncompleted. However, a draft document (see Attachment B) was nearly completed at the time of the budget cuts. This document contained several recommendations. Three of those recommendations are as follows:

- The Tree Legacy Committee is encouraging property owners along the corridor to replace trees which line the corridor.
- If a current mature tree line exists, plant new trees in line with the existing trees.
- When no overhead utility lines exist, planting within the right-of-way is allowed. Plant medium or large trees to create a canopy effect over the road. When replacing dead or diseased trees where an existing tree line is present, plant the new trees in the existing tree line.

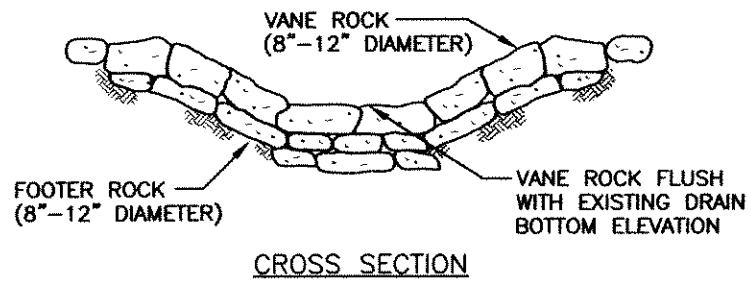
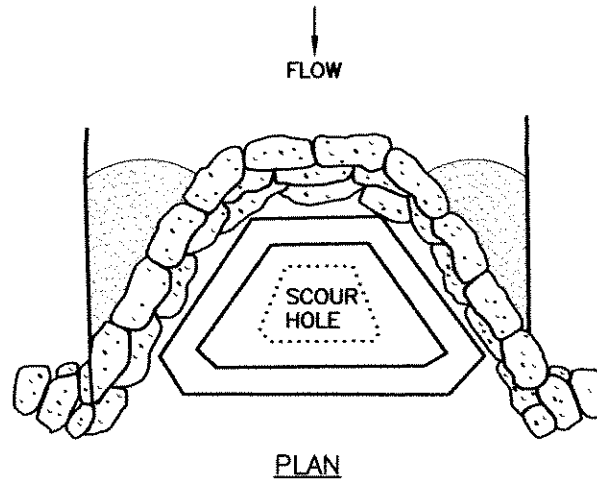
These recommendations were developed by the collective members of the Tree Legacy Committee. It seems that James Nelson’s request to plant Maple trees along Lakeshore Drive is exactly the type of community initiative that the Tree Legacy Committee was encouraging in order to maintain and improve the aesthetic quality of tree-lines along scenic roads in Ottawa County.

Mr. Nelson’s request was discussed by the Ottawa County Planning Commission at their May 24, 2010 meeting. The members indicated their unanimous support for the concepts included in the original *Tree Planting and Replanting Guidebook* as well as James Nelson’s request.

It is our hope that the Ottawa County Road Commission will support the continuation of a historic legacy that has promoted natural beauty, scenic roadways, and tourism in Ottawa County by approving this request.

Sincerely,

Mark Knudsen
Director



ROCK CROSS VANE DETAIL
NO SCALE

Three cross sections of the Pigeon River were surveyed within Hemlock Park. Of the three cross sections, one represented reference conditions and two represented impaired conditions. The reference reach consisted of a narrow, deep channel with an abundance of streamside vegetation; shrubs and grasses on the right (north) bank and shrubs and trees on the left bank. Both streambanks were very stable and the reach offers high quality aquatic habitat. Conversely, both impaired reaches appear to be overwide and on-site observation suggests that sediment transport is compromised. The impaired reaches are relatively shallow and are beginning to form mid-channel bars. These sand bars are submerged, but are beginning to stabilize with submergent vegetation. Streambanks are very stable within the impaired reaches.

Each cross section was surveyed using standard methods to determine bankfull parameters such as bankfull width, depth and area. Results of the survey confirm the original observation that the impaired reaches are much wider and shallower than the reference condition, which dominates the lower Pigeon River. Width-to-depth ratio of the reference reach is half of that in the impaired reaches.

The lack of fish habitat in the impaired reaches is not only obvious through visual observation, but substantiated by the results of the cross section surveys. To improve the impaired reaches, rock cross vanes are proposed to promote a narrowing and deepening of the channel. The cross vanes will be designed and constructed in a manner consistent with methods presented by Rosgen (1996). It is intended to create deposition zones, and eventually floodplain "benches" along the outer boundaries of the channel, while deepening the center of the channel with concentrated flow and associated scour.

Cross vanes will be constructed of large rock (approx. 18" minimum dimension) using published methods. Footer stones will be used to prevent undermining of the structures, and sills will be constructed along the banks to prevent lateral scouring around the structures. Crest stones will be set at an elevation no more than two-tenths above the existing bed. Smaller stone, including gravel and cobble, will be used to fill gaps in the larger rocks, to create a smooth transition over the structure, and to provide a desirable substrate for fish and macroinvertebrates.

**COORDINATOR – PARKS MANAGER
REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
JUNE 2010**

WEATHER SUMMARY

- Daytime temperatures remained in the 70's and 80's throughout the month with measurable rainfall occurring on 11 of the first 22 days. Winds were mild most of the time except during significant storm activity that occurred on the 18th and again on the 22nd/23rd.

REVENUES COLLECTED

- Strong motor vehicle permit sales over Memorial Day weekend got us off to a good start with steady sales during the first three weeks of June, leaving us a YTD total of \$65,936 as of 6/21/10. We are approximately \$33,000 ahead of last year.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS COMPLETED

- System-wide mowing operations were conducted daily.
- Set-up and clean-up was provided for 221 facility reservations (more than double the 109 reservations handled last month).
- Minor repairs were made to grounds keeping equipment as needed (belts, cables, switches, bearings, etc...).
- Downed trees were removed at Crockery Creek (1), NOD (2), Hemlock Crossing (2), Pigeon Creek (4), Musketawa Trail (10), Deer Creek (3), Grand River (2), Spring Grove (6), Riverside (3), Eastmanville Farm (2), Rosy Mound (2), Kirk (2), Riley Trails (1), and Eastmanville Bayou (1).
- Asphalt pavement was patched on the entrance drive at Hager.
- A GFI outlet was replaced at the South Picnic Shelter at Tunnel.
- The rope on the post and rope at the south stairway at North Beach was replaced.
- Minor plumbing repairs were made at Hager, North Beach, Rosy Mound, Kirk, and the Weaver House.
- The restroom building, picnic building, and entrance sign at Hager were power washed.
- Erosion repairs were made at HOBP, Mt. Pisgah, Rosy Mound, Tunnel, and North Beach.
- Sand was removed from the drinking fountain drains at Tunnel, Kirk, and North Beach.
- Damaged traffic control signs were replaced at Tunnel, North Beach, and Spring Grove.
- The flat roof and storm water overflow drains at the NEC were cleaned of tree debris.
- The broken door closer on the men's restroom door at Rosy Mound was repaired.
- A bridge that was damaged by a fallen tree at Hemlock Crossing was repaired.

WORK ON SMALLER PROJECTS

- Black dirt for turf repair at Fillmore at the Bend was delivered to the site and spread.
- The irrigation controller at Pigeon Creek was replaced.

- The doors on the restroom building at Kirk were painted.
- .
- A pile of logs left by utility tree trimmers at HOBP were removed.
- Clean-up and trimming work along the walkways at HOBP was begun.
- Parking lot lines were repainted at Hemlock Crossing.
- Damaged drywall in the restroom of the Weaver House was repaired and painted.
- Damaged fencing at the river overlook at Pine Bend was repaired.
- The north beach boundary fence at HOBP was replaced with a new sign and a line of 4 x 4 posts to accommodate concerns expressed by neighboring property owners.

WORK ON LARGER PROJECTS

- The entrance gates to the Group Camp lot at Pigeon Creek were repaired (damaged during logging operations).
- The greenhouse attached to the maintenance building at Hager was removed and new siding was installed on the north wall of the building. Two loads of scrap metal were taken to the recycle center
- Twenty-two interpretive/operational signs were made for installation at Riverside, HOBP, HCC, Hager, Bolthouse Property, and the Lakeshore Parks.
- Five trail gates were removed from Pigeon Creek, with two of them reinstalled at Grand River and one at Pine Bend to control ORVs and snowmobiles (they are no longer needed at Pigeon).
- Over 300 staff hours of work was required to clean-up storm damage at Deer Creek, Musketawa Trail, and Spring Grove.
- Wood sealer was applied to the creek restoration fence on the hardwood side at Hager.
- Scheduled mowings of the field areas for weed control at UMNA were completed.
- A system of trails were mowed at the HCC site.
- A mechanical lift was used to remove dead tree limbs along the acorn loop trail at Rosy Mound that may have presented a safety problem in high winds.
- A trails improvement plan for the trails at Hager was prepared and presented as a recommendation for review by the Coordinator of Maintenance and Operations and the Parks Planner.

STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY

- Garlic Mustard pulling activity ended for the season with a total catch of 11,515 lbs.
- Spotted knapweed removal began with the highest concentrations found at the Lakeshore Parks and Hemlock Crossing.
- Japanese Knotwood was treated at Jubb Bayou, Eastmanville Farm, Kirk, Grand River, Rosy Mound, and the Alderink property.
- The stewardship crew assisted with clearing and preparing the seedbed for planting at the Eastmanville Farm Cemetery.
- The crew also assisted with storm debris removal and installation of six park benches (3 at Eastmanville Farm and 3 on the Musketawa Trail).

PURCHASES MADE

- A new weed whip was purchased for the North Area parks.

- The equipment trailer, budgeted for the maintenance work crew was received.

STAFF NOTES

- A chainsaw safety training was conducted for 4 maintenance work crew employees and 5 seasonal employees.
- A Tick (Lyme Disease) and Poison Ivy safety training was conducted for full time and seasonal employees that have frequent exposure to working in those environments.

SWAP ACTIVITY

- Assisted with spreading playground mulch at the Hager hardwood playground.
- Assisted with clearing the creek of flood debris at Hager.
- Assisted with trail clean-up and straightening parking lot bollards at Pigeon Creek.
- Assisted with clean-up of storm debris at Spring Grove and downed tree clean-up at Rosy Mound.
- Assisted with relocating sand at the Age of Discovery Playground at Hager.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

- 29 volunteers from GHSP pulled 53 bags of spotted knapweed at Hemlock Crossing. They are the first company to commit to our “Adopt a Park” program for assistance with invasive plants control.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY ISSUES

- A maintenance work crew worker contracted Poison Ivy requiring treatment from the Med Center.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

- A young adult male doing handstands in Lake Michigan (to impress his girlfriend) dislocated his shoulder and was transported from Rosy Mound to NOCH by Grand Haven Twp. paramedics.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACTS

- The East Area Park Supervisor had contact with a neighbor of Fillmore at the Bend regarding dogs from the park entering his yard.
- The North Area Park Supervisor had contact with Ottawa County Emergency Management Services regarding their planned mock disaster drill to be held at Grose Park.
- The North Area Park Supervisor had contact with the FOOCF Cemetery Committee regarding planning for the dedication ceremony for the Eastmanville Farm Cemetery.
- The East Area Park Supervisor had contact with a neighbor of the Bend Area regarding mowing along his property line.
- The Parks Manager had contact with a neighbor of Tunnel Park regarding storm water runoff from the park coming onto his property.
- The Lakeshore Parks Supervisor had contact with a neighbor at HOBP regarding walkway repairs.
- The South Area Parks Supervisor had contact with the organizers of the Kids Fishing Derby (Park Twp. Recreation Dept.) at Riley Trails.

INCIDENTS OF VANDALISM

- Graffiti was removed from a stairway railing at NOD.
- Graffiti was removed from a Parks logo and the dune top interpretive display at Tunnel Park.
- The garage door at Connor Bayou was damaged in a forced entry break-in.
- One trail sign was damaged and one was stolen at Mt. Pisgah.
- A “Picnic Building ↑” sign was stolen at Hager.
- Graffiti was removed from a restroom partition at Hager.
- The street address number sign at Pigeon Creek was run over by a vehicle (post broken/numbers OK).
- Household trash was dumped at PSNA.

RULE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- The North Area Park Supervisor was required to enforce the no smoking on the beach rule at Grose.
- The Lakeshore Park Supervisor was required to have a reservation group remove an unauthorized children’s amusement ride (safety issue).
- The Lakeshore Park Supervisor contacted a sheriff’s deputy for assistance with an encroachment issue at Kirk (the encroachment was removed the next day).

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT NOTES

- The ’05 Ford F350 (Dump Truck) was in for axle service (covered by warranty).
- The ’07 Chevy Colorado was in for air conditioner service (covered by warranty).
- The 3010 Skag Zero Turn Mowers were both in for warranty service.
- The ’98 GMC S10 was in for front brake service.

PARKS MANAGER COMMENTS

- Mostly good weather over the first 3 weekends of June coupled with 221 facility reservations this month have kept seasonal staff busy in the parks. No major incidents occurred until the weekend of the 19th/20th when we had the medical emergency at Rosy Mound and a septic system overflow at Spring Grove. Overall, I am very pleased with the performance of seasonal staff so far.
- Significant storm damage during the 3rd week of June required three full days using most of our maintenance employees for tree and limb clean-up and erosion repair.
- We seem to be getting more and more requests from film crews wanting to utilize the parks for filming movies and TV shows. Two filmings are scheduled to be completed by the end of this month, and another is lined up to take place in July.
- Weddings at the Lakeshore Parks have been extremely popular so far this season. Since mid-May, there have been 21 ceremonies that provided us advance notice, and 5 ceremonies that we did not have prior notice of.

COORDINATOR COMMENTS

There were the following points of interest to pass along for June:

- Adopt A Park program. With GHSP (formerly Grand Haven Stamped Products) anxious to begin their 'adoption' of Hemlock Crossing, Andrew Colyer (Stewardship Supervisor) and I put together information and procedures for adopting a park for invasives control. These are for GHSP but also for other groups who may wish to adopt, and are currently undergoing legal review and then will go on for Board approval (due to it involving a 3 year agreement between parks and the adopting group).

GHSP has begun their work at Hemlock. Their first event resulted in 30+ participants removing a significant quantity of spotted knapweed. They will also work on woody invasives and garlic mustard at Hemlock Crossing over the next 3 years, and in return get a sign at the park entrance, a certificate and a free reservation once per year.

We have done this out of sequence (begin the program without first developing it) to take advantage of this labor source for invasives removal this year and to help them meet a deadline of theirs.

- HOBP's north beach boundary and trespassing issue and solution. The north boundary of the HOBP's beach became an issue over the winter in response to a neighbor complaint of trespassing on their private beach. The solution seemed simple – install a fence similar to all our other beach boundaries; which we did May.

This made the complainant very happy; but their neighbor very unhappy....because they did not want their view of the lake to include a wire fence, and did not want people thinking *they* put up the fence. Also valid concerns. In response, we removed the fence and instead put in a series of posts and a new sign. The complainant and the neighbor now are neither happy nor unhappy, each waiting to see how things go.

I am happy with this compromise solution and feel it will perform as well as a fence. Our goal is to allow park visitors walking along the shore (which is legal) but strongly discourage them from stopping and using any private beach. What we have done seems to be working so far. We continue to monitor and can / will make changes as needed.

- Beer and wine at the Weaver House. The implementation of our new alcohol policy at the Weaver House has begun with 2 reservations with alcohol so far. The events were monitored; both had bartender service from Seaway Party Store in Grand Haven. There were no problems.

Interpretive and Information Services

Report for 5/16 to 6/15/10

Submitted by Chip Francke

Monthly Report - This is the first monthly report for Interpretive and Information Services. These reports will include information from the 16th of one month to the 15th of the next month allowing for the inclusion of a full months worth of data. Any suggestions to this format are welcome.

1. Summary of Activities and Projects

Staff was busy at the Nature Education Center running the center, planning and providing programs, and training staff. Visitors especially like the Wildlife Den with the live animals and many activities they can participate in. Procedures for opening and closing the building, live animal care, gift shop sales, cash register closing, cash handling and a variety of other tasks have been written and are being refined as we move forward. We hired an additional Naturalist Guide bringing us to a total of 8 guides. Naturalist Guides attended a First Aid/CPR training conducted by the American Heart Association as well as a training conducted by John Scholtz on Ottawa County Parks including the many projects parks is involved in. Staff created the summer *Outdoors Ottawa County* newsletter which was mailed in late May. The native grassland at Hemlock Crossing was full of flowers in early June making for a very attractive entrance to the park.

2. Attendance: Total attendance for period - 1,490

- Nature Education Center walk-in attendance for this period was 1,222 (average of 47 per day).
- Public program attendance was 106.
- School/youth program attendance was 115 (4 groups).
- Misc. program attendance was 47.

3. Nature Education Center Sales: Total sales - \$1,839.32 (gross)

- Gift shop sales - \$746.32
- Park Vehicle Permits - \$138
- Public program registration - \$855
- School/youth program fees - \$100

4. Friends of Ottawa County Parks: Friends held another successful *Grand Lady Riverboat Cruise* on the Grand River and the group was also involved in the *Kayak Race at Stearns Bayou* which raised \$404 for Friends.

5. Interns: College Naturalist Intern Laura Donker has been a great help at the Nature Education Center and will be with us until late August. High school intern Sierra Schuetz completed her internship in late May and is working this summer at Tunnel Park.

6. Research: A student from MSU is conducting research on the Emerald Ash Borer at the Crockery Creek Natural Area and East Bur Oak Landing. The research includes a variety of trapping and monitoring for the presence of the invasive insect. GVSU geology professor Pat Colgan is planning to collect soil borings at Pigeon Creek Park and Hemlock Crossing to study sediment deposition along the Pigeon River. GVSU biology professor Heather Rueth is assisting Ottawa County Parks with the deer enclosure study. She planted small white cedars inside the four enclosures as well as in the control plots to gain additional data on deer browse. She is also collecting the plant data inside the enclosures and in the control plots at each site.



Kristen leading an *Exploring the Parks Hike* in late May



Grassland at Hemlock Crossing in early June



Elementary school group in the Wildlife Den



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 24, 2010
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Administrative Building, Fillmore Complex, Parks Conference Room
Present: Ted Bosgraaf
Bobbi Jones Sabine
Joyce Kortman
David Van Ginhoven
Jim Miedema
John Scholtz, Parks Director
Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development
Jonathan Nagel, Parks Planner

John distributed additional handouts pertaining to hunting request at UMNA, the Eastmanville Farm lease and property issues.

The first item on the agenda was a request to allow hunting at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. John said that the current request was very similar to that presented to the Commission in 2006, but included a perception of little public use of the current facilities. When development partners were consulted in 2006, the consensus was that waterfowl hunting was inappropriate on the property. John referenced a letter addressed to Ted from the park monitor which cited the use of the site for study and education by many groups, and urged preservation for wildlife, education and serenity for the surrounding community. John pointed out that public use is gradually expanding, and could increase substantially with the development of the F. M. Kenowa Trail and the proposed connecting trail through the site. Joyce asked if there was an overpopulation of wildlife on the property. John indicated that he didn't think there were any species needing population controls, other than possibly deer. David indicated that he thought the property was probably not good for gun hunting and that the hunting request presentation was not convincing.

Ted suggested a hunting trial period of two years. Bobbi said that once hunting is allowed, it would be difficult to disallow it later. She pointed out that in the last county resident survey, 61% of respondents felt that hunting was not very desirable, and that 43% disagreed that hunting should be allowed in unimproved parks. John pointed out that September/October is prime hiking season and conflicts could occur between hunters and hikers. Curt offered that if hunting was permitted, other users would likely stay away. John said that Ottawa County Parks is a huge exception to other park systems in its provision of hunting opportunities and that we allow it when we think it can be reasonably accommodated, however, it is clearly not the highest priority. Ted again stated that he would like to see it tried for two years. Joyce preferred to evaluate use and wildlife populations for two years. She suggested that it would not be difficult for staff to

accomplish this and stated that she thought public use will increase causing too much conflict with hunters. Jim reiterated that it would be difficult to revert to a no hunting policy once hunting is allowed. David asked whether hunting was the correct control measure assuming there were too many geese, ducks or other animals. Curt said that an appropriate management plan would need to be developed which could include several methods of control, not necessarily an open hunt. David also noted that residential development in the area will likely be increasing in the future. Consensus was reached to recommend that hunting not be allowed for two years at which time the issue could be reconsidered based on the wildlife situation and park user patterns.

John reported that there has been discussion amongst administrative staff as to the amount of land that should be leased for the proposed farm park at Eastmanville Farm. The issue was discussed briefly by the Committee, and members felt strongly that the non profit farm park group should first submit a proposal of their vision and plans for implementing the farm park. Joyce said that whatever is done should benefit the community. Ted said that keeping currently developed uses is a priority, and that what is leased should not be a detriment to the park.

John and Curt reported on a meeting that was held to discuss regional trail planning and coordination. Representatives were present from MDOT, MDNRE, trail advocates and local governmental units. MDOT enhancement grants and the number of trail requests were the primary topic. MDOT indicated that the multiple trail projects in Ottawa County need to be prioritized for grant requests, as enhancement monies would not be distributed to different trails that accomplish the same goal in a relatively small region.

Trails discussed include the North Bank Trail, conceptualized to extend from the existing Lakeside Trail in the Village of Spring Lake eastward to Coopersville and ultimately to the Musketawa trail; the Grand River Greenway Trail North connecting Village Cove Marina (just east of the Holiday Inn on M-104) to Jackson Street, then continuing east along Leonard Street; and the Park Commission's proposed Grand River Greenway Trail on the south side of the Grand River. The North Bank Trail has received a conditional commitment for a MDOT enhancement grant for its first phase, as well as an MDNRE Trust Fund grant. The Greenway Trail North has also received a Trust Fund Grant. MDOT wants local government to continue to discuss priorities. John stated that the parks greenway trail would provide the best trail experience.

Funding of the non motorized portion of the proposed M-231 bridge was talked about. It is presently estimated to cost between \$5 and \$15 million dollars, and is not funded. Using enhancement dollars is suggested, but would require match. Millage funds are budgeted for the greenway, but the bridge is not essential to it even though it does provide a nice connection for the greenway trail. Bobbi pointed out that the parks focus is on recreation and not transportation. Ted pointed out that committing funds to the M 231 crossing will divert funds from other projects and he recommended sticking to the parks budget.

Property issues were discussed and the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21st at 3 p.m.

Submitted by Jonathan O. Nagel, Parks Planner, and Curtis TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development.

Planning and Development Summary Report

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

June 24, 2010

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Connor Bayou. No change since last report. Final master planning work is on hold pending results of camping feasibility study. A camping study work plan has been prepared. Final planning and determination of phase one improvements is anticipated for fall 2010

Bur Oak Landing. No change since last report. Additional field work has been completed to locate trails on both the east and west sections. Construction on the base system of trails is to start this summer.

Eastmanville Farm Cemetery. Restoration work including new grave markers, crushed stone path, picket fence, benches, and landscaping has been completed in preparation of the July 10 dedication. Information signs will also be installed in the near future.



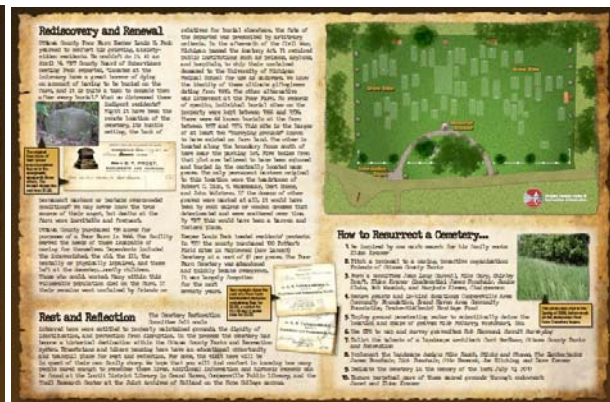
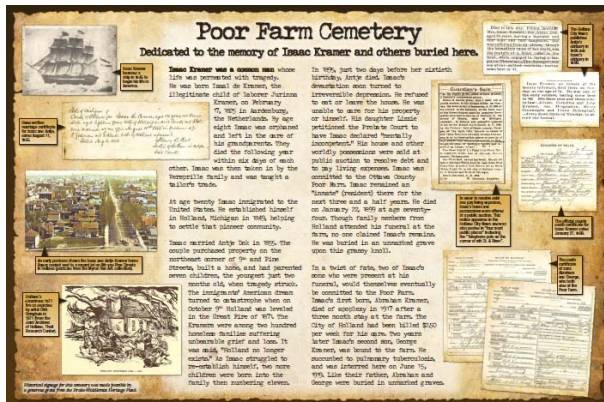
Completed walkway and fence



View back to farm buildings



New memorial boulder and grave markers



New interpretive signs will highlight cemetery history and the restoration effort.

Eastmanville Bayou. The construction contract has been signed with Denny's Excavating. MDNRE permit has been approved. Coordination for crossing under the bridge is still ongoing with the Road Commission. Concrete rubble has been removed from site. Full construction is scheduled to begin on July 12.

Planning and Construction Budget Summary

Approved Budget with contingency	\$ 232,960.00
Original Contract Amount	\$ 191,500.00
Contract Additions (Deletions)	\$ 0.00
Other Expenses	\$ 26,810.00
Budget Remaining (contingency)	\$ 14,650.00

Bend Area Planning. A final report from our consultant is being revised based on staff comments. Master plan concept revisions, water gage installation, coordination with the township mining authorities, and discussions/negotiations with property owners are in progress.

PIGEON RIVER GREENWAY

Crosswell Path (Project of Port Sheldon Township). Work continues to construct new trail on Crosswell Street including sections adjacent to Hemlock Crossing. Boardwalks and path base material placement are in progress

MACATAWA RIVER GREENWAY

UMNA 2008 Restorations and Improvements. Seeding for remaining areas not completed last year has now been completed. Contract is in progress with DeSal Excavating for the work north of Byron Road. Tentative project start is in late July.

UMNA Greenway Path. No change since last report. Project is on hold until Fred Meijer Kenowa trails project is solidified. Grant application may be resubmitted at that time.

Holland Country Club. Coordination continues as required to implement plans for the Request Foods wetland mitigation on the southern portion of the site. Construction is scheduled to begin later this summer. Final application materials have been submitted for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant. It is anticipated that work will begin in late summer or early fall to design wetland restoration areas and to master plan the site for permanent recreation uses. Construction would be in 2011.

Ottawa Beach Bike Path Repairs. Bids are scheduled to be received on June 29. Results will be presented at the Parks Commission Meeting.

LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL GREENWAY

Tunnel Park Dune Stairs. Project is complete including all handrail.

Construction Budget Summary

Approved Budget with contingency	\$ 66,000.00
Budget Adjustment (05.05.10)	\$ 3,200.00
Contract Amount	\$ 62,900.00
Additions	\$ 6,305.25
Budget Remaining	\$ (5.25)

Mt. Pisgah Dune Protection Project. No change since last report. Additional work on the trails in the area of storm damage on hold pending coordination with the state park

Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project. Contract has been signed with Wolverine Construction. Layout staking and clearing limits for the parking area were marked on June 24 and 25. We are still awaiting final approval of permit by the Corps of Engineers. Work in the water will begin as soon as that permit is in place

Construction Budget Summary

Grant Funding with county match	\$ 650,000.00
Construction Contract Amount	\$ 454,662.97
Contingency	\$ 45,466.00
Additions (Deletions)	\$ 0.00
Other Costs (estimated)	\$ 57,910.00
Budget Remaining	\$ 91,961.03

Park 12 – Switchback and walk repairs. Project is complete except for new handrail on the switchback and final dune grass planting. Dune grass planting has been scheduled for fall to assure better establishment.

Construction Budget Summary

Approved Budget with contingency	\$ 52,245.60
Budget Adjustment (05.05.10)	\$ 7,000.00
Contract Amount	\$ 47,496.00
Additions (Deletions)	\$ 8,743.00
Budget Remaining	\$ 3,006.60



The new switchback



The new switchback viewed from end of lower boardwalk

OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS

Musketawa Trail Extension/Connector. No change since last report.