



## Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

### MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Robert L. Tetens, Director  
Date: September 11, 2012  
Re: Project and Activities Update – July 15 to August 31, 2012

#### **A. Development Projects**

##### Independence Lake

- Significant progress has made over the past few weeks. The building exteriors are nearly complete, with the exception of the glu-lam truss system on the bathroom/office/concession structure. These units are still in production and due to arrive later this month. The waterslide structure is 90% complete. Gravel for the parking lot and concrete surface have been installed. The sanitary sewer system is under construction. Overall, the project is roughly 60% complete to date.
- DTE has begun installation work to provide the 3-phase electrical service to the park.

##### Rolling Hills Park

- A contract with Sorensen Gross has been executed to construct the Water Park expansion project. Actual construction activities began on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Work continues with Dan's Excavating to complete outstanding punch list items on the "ring road" project. We are working with them to address growth and maintenance concerns with the seeding portions of the project.
- The designs of planting plans for the park are underway. Areas of focus include the entry drive, traffic circle, pathway crossing islands, and throughout the road and paved path alignments.

##### County Farm Park/Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- The new archway along Washtenaw Avenue pathway is complete.
- Seven bids were received for paving the pathway between the picnic pavilion and the new archway. The lowest bid from Sommerset Paving came in within the estimated cost amount. Construction is planned to begin the week of Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Three new information kiosks have been installed at the Medford entry, near the “farm-themed” playground, and along the new path off Washtenaw Avenue.

#### Cavanaugh Lake

- The picnic pavilion was completely destroyed by a large oak tree, which blew over in a recent storm. The pavilion and tree have been cleared from the park. A plan of action to replace the structure is underway.

#### Ann Arbor Skate Park

- The first meeting with the design team consultants is scheduled for Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Ann Arbor City Hall.

#### Pierce Lake Golf Course

- No report

#### Sharon Mills Park

- The low bidder to repair the pedestrian bridge adjacent to the mill pond dam west of Sharon Hollow Road provided a bid to replace the bridge instead of repairing it. A recommendation to accept this bid for replacement is included in the Commission packet.

#### Osborne Mill

- Landscape planting replacements will be completed in the fall.

#### Park Lyndon

- Interpretive signs were installed in various locations along the trails.

#### Parker Mill Park

- The new information kiosk is now complete.

#### Staebler Farm

- No report

### ***B. Special Initiatives***

#### Greenways and Trails

##### **Border to Border Trail (B2B)**

- Work on the trail connections is in progress.
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- Staff assisted the City of Ypsilanti in making modifications to their project, to extend the B2B from Riverside Park across Michigan Avenue into the Water Street redevelopment area. A title search to determine the extent of the YCUA easement on the west of Fischer Honda, where the south abutment for the new bridge is proposed, is in progress.

#### Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) and Management

- A 70 acre property in Lima Township (Baker property) was purchased.
- Construction of a parking lot for the Squiers Preserve was initiated.
- The project to construct a boardwalk west of the bridge over the Saline River in the Draper-Houston Preserve is out to bid.
- Site planning drawings for the Trinkle Marsh at Easton Farm Preserve are in review by the state DEQ.
- Staff and NATAC made site visits to properties in Lyndon and Lima Townships and the City of Ann Arbor.
- NAPP crew has begun removing woody invasive species such as autumn olive, buckthorn and honeysuckle from parks and preserves, especially at West Lake.
- An RFP for construction of boardwalks and bridges through the wetlands of the Spike Preserve was issued by the Purchasing Department.
- WCPARC received the Project Agreement from the MDNR enabling the purchase of the Arbor Vistas project to move forward (after Commission acceptance and return).

#### **C. Interpretive Programming**

- Ten programming days in three parks, 1 preserve, and one mill.
- Programming completed for summer day camps hosted by WCPARC at the Rec Center, Rolling Hills, Independence Lake and the two Summer Playground Camps in the Willow Run School District. Number of children participating in interpretive programming through WCPARC day camps this summer was over 1300!

#### **D. Other**

- Website: Updates as requested.
  - Planning intern completed work on informational kiosks for parks.
  - The summer playground program at Holmes School and the Community Resource Center (CRC) in West Willow concluded with a picnic at Independence Lake Park. The playground program was operated for nine weeks with an average daily attendance of 27 at Holmes School and 42 at the CRC.
  - 416 children registered for seven weeks of day camp at County Farm Park and 24 individuals participated in Camp Big Heart.
  - 27 people donated blood at the ARC blood drive held at the Rec Center on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Staff participated in the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
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