



## Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

### MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Robert L. Tetens, Director  
Date: July 24, 2012  
Re: Project and Activities Update – June through July 15, 2012

#### *A. Development Projects*

##### Independence Lake

- The Spray and Play Zone project work continues and is on schedule. Structural block and columns of the restrooms, office and concessions buildings are complete. The spray pad piping work and attachment fixtures have been installed.

##### Rolling Hills Park

- Sidock Architects completed the construction documents for the Water Park expansion and the project was put out to bid. Bids were received to construct the project and a recommendation for award is included in the Commission packet.
- Project elements for the ring road are 98% complete. The irrigation controller and well sustained damage as the result of a lightning strike during the July 5<sup>th</sup> storm event. The contractor is assessing damages. Repairs are completed to re-establish operations.
- A contractor completed the work to upgrade the sewage pump system.

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

- A new gateway arch over the new pathway entry on Washtenaw Avenue has been installed. The detailed fieldstone work is in progress.
- New information kiosks have been installed at the Medford entry, off the new path from Washtenaw, and near the playground on the Platt Road side of the park. The fieldstone base detail work for the kiosk at the playground is still under construction.

### Ann Arbor Skate Park

- Ann Arbor City Council approved the design and construction oversight contract with Wally Holiday Skateparks. Design work and public meetings will be scheduled over the next few months.

### Pierce Lake Golf Course

- CMA Design Services completed the pavilion expansion.

### 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

- Final landscape restoration of the new parking lot and drive was completed. Landscape planting replacements will be completed in the fall.

### Park Lyndon

- No report

### Parker Mill Park

- New information kiosks made with cedar wood and cedar shake shingles to compliment the Mill structure have been installed near the parking lot. The fieldstone base detail work is still under construction.

### Staebler Farm

- No report

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

### Greenways and Trails

#### Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Construction is complete on Segment D1 (River Terrace Trail), southeast of Dexter. Work on the trail connections is in progress.
- 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. The proposed bridge over the Huron River will be sited perpendicular to Michigan

Avenue; the northern terminus in Riverside Park and the southern terminus to the west of Fischer Honda.

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

- A Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment for a 70 acre property in Lima Township (Baker property) was completed. A recommendation to proceed with the purchase is contained in the Commission packet.
- A contract was awarded for construction of a parking lot for the Squiers Preserve.
- An RFP to select a contractor to construct a boardwalk west of the bridge over the Saline River in the Draper-Houston Preserve is in preparation.
- Site planning drawings for the Trinkle Marsh Preserve are in review.
- Staff and NATAC made site visits to properties in Superior, Northfield, and Webster Townships and the City of Ypsilanti.
- NAPP crew continues to perform stewardship with a concentration in removing summer herbaceous invasive species such as sweet clover, spotted knapweed and teasel.

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

- Fifteen programming days in three parks, three preserves, and two mills and three out-of-park sites: West Willow CRC and Holmes Elementary Summer Playground programs and the Washtenaw County Fairgrounds for 4-H day camp.
- Three free fishing programs offered during MDNR's Free Fishing Weekend, with about 75 people participating
- Programming began for summer day camps hosted by WCPARC at: Rec Center, Rolling Hills, Independence Lake and the two Summer Playground Camps in the Willow Run School District. First week of camp provided nature programming for 150+ children.

### ***D. Other***

- Website: Updates as requested.
- Planning intern worked on informational kiosks for parks, concept drawings for boardwalk modifications at Parker Mill, and completed a large interpretive sign package
- The Rolling Hills accessibility project received a 2012 NACPRO award in the Removing Barriers Initiative category.
- More than 225 children have registered for the day camp at County Farm Park, which began on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Annual safety inspections of children's playgrounds were completed.
- Staff participated in Huron River Day festivities at Gallup Park and Parker Mill.
- Staff organized a number of mini-activities at the recreation center in July in celebration of NRPA's Park & Recreation Month. Activities included: live animal presentations, fitness related speakers, group workouts, hikes through County Farm Park and a presentation by the planning division.