



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Robert L. Tetens, Director

Date: March 11, 2014

Re: Project and Activities Update – February 2014

A. Development Projects

Independence Lake

- Staff investigated the possibility of obtaining a DNR Recreation Passport grant to make accessibility improvements to the playground at the beach center. The decision was made to hold on the grant application and apply in 2015.

Rolling Hills Park

- Two bids were received for repairing the Lazy River expansion joints, replacement of the drains and sumps in both the Main Pool and Lazy River for VBGA compliance, and reconstruction of the stair system to Slide Mountain. Staff is currently reviewing the bids.

Ann Arbor Skate Park

- No report

County Farm Park/Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- No report

Cavanaugh Lake

- No report

Pierce Lake Golf Course

- A golf practice cage was ordered from a vendor.

Sharon Mills Park

- No report

Osborne Mill

- No report

Park Lyndon

- No report

Parker Mill Park

- No report

Staebler Farm

- Preparation of an application to the DNR for an MNRTF grant to develop the northern portion of the property as a recreation based park is in progress.

B. Special Initiatives

Greenways and Trails

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Applications for the 2014 Connecting Communities program from Ann Arbor, Northfield, Pittsfield, and Ypsilanti Townships and the Village of Manchester were reviewed. Staff recommendations regarding the projects will be presented at the March Commission meeting.
- Staff continues to work with the Village of Dexter and MDOT on the final 1/8 mile extension of segment D1, River Terrace Trail. MDOT is reviewing the plans.
- Design of a bridge crossing the Huron River, a pedestrian crossing of Michigan Avenue, a fishing pier and connecting trails to Grove Road were authorized by WCPARC (City of Ypsilanti Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants 2011 and 2012).
- Staff met with the Ypsilanti Nonmotorized Committee to discuss potential projects.
- WATS (Washtenaw Area Transportation Study) continues to lead the effort to produce revised and new maps for the B2B trail route.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

- An appraisal was received for a property in Superior Township immediately adjacent to Weatherbee Woods Preserve (former Ford Road, LLC property purchased in 2012).

- Construction of an entry drive and parking lot for the Lima Woods Preserve in Lima Township is in progress, but on hold till spring.
- The construction documents for a trail with bridges in the Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve (Superior Township) are being revised.
- Construction of a parking lot and related improvements at the Riverbend Preserve in Bridgewater Township is in progress, but on hold till spring.
- Design drawings and construction documents for a boardwalk in the Goodrich Preserve (Ann Arbor Township) are in development. A public hearing was held at the Township Hall on February 3, 2014. Subsequently, the project received approval from the Ann Arbor Township Planning Commission.
- A survey of a property to the north of the Squiers Preserve was completed.
- Applications were prepared for the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) to assist in the purchase of conservation easements on the four properties (leveraging of ALPAC funds).

C. Natural Areas Stewardship

- A conservation plan for the agricultural portion of Trinkle Marsh Preserve is in preparation by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

D. Interpretive Programming

- Staff provided several public programs in one park and one preserve, and also for a UM Ecological Restoration class and for the Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.
- Naturalists worked with the Stewardship Coordinator to review and plan stewardship projects.

E. Other

- Staff continued working on the 2015-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A preliminary draft of the Action Program is in progress. Public meetings were scheduled to be held in Ypsilanti, Dexter, Chelsea, and Saline in April.
- Videographer and staff continue to develop short videos highlighting various facilities.
- Staff is distributing free passes to swim lesson participants at the Rec. Center to generate more interest in Family Fun Night and/or other Open Swim times.
- 168 individuals enjoyed the annual Daddy Daughter Dance held at the Rec. Center on February 22.