



St. Clair County Parks

PROGRESS REPORT

Providing Recreational Opportunities since 1995

Summer 2010

Tourism & Parks

Tourism is the second largest industry in the State of Michigan and employs over 200,000 people. Visitors coming into St. Clair County for a day spend an average of \$116.03, and if they stay overnight, spend \$366.46 per person. The economic impact of the public parks, trails and recreation facilities in St. Clair County is immense.

With greater emphasis on health, fitness and family, the Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau gets hundreds of requests for information on local parks, trails and recreational activities.

The Blue Water Area is very fortunate to have the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission works with state and local governments to create and improve parks, trails and recreational facilities. These attractions provide tourism opportunities and improve the quality of life in our area.

Marci Fogal, President
Blue Water Area Convention and
Visitors Bureau

To Our Readers...

The St. Clair County Board of Commissioners placed the renewal of the County Parks and Recreation millage on the August 3, 2010 primary ballot.

The requested millage rate will be 0.4956 mills (down from the original millage rate of 0.5 mills) for 6 years. If voters approve the millage renewal, the owner of a house worth \$100,000.00 will pay approximately \$25.00 per year.

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission does not receive any funding from the St. Clair County general fund.

Future Parks and Trails Projects

The renewal of the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage will allow the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission to continue to make improvements to St. Clair County parks and trails. The St. Clair County Master Recreation Plan 2007-2011 will continue to direct St. Clair County's ongoing investment in parks and trails. Future projects will include ...

Bridge to Bay Trail

- Continued support of local trail projects
- Signage Improvements
- Connection to Wadhams to Avoca Trail
- Connection to Macomb Orchard Trail

Columbus County Park

- Paved walking trails
- Lodge building with restrooms, meeting room and pavilion
- Mountain biking trails
- Equestrian trails
- Nature trails
- Canoe & Kayak Launch on Belle River
- Childrens playground

Fort Gratiot Light Station

- Grounds landscaping

Fort Gratiot County Park

- Beach cleanup
- Parking improvements

Goodells County Park

- Columbus Bible Church relocation & restoration
- Buildings maintenance & repairs

Wadhams to Avoca Trail

- Griswold Road parking lot & vault toilet
- Possible trail extensions

Woodsong County Park

- Entrance gate
- Accessible trail down to Black River
- Canoe and kayak launch
- Vault toilet



What's Inside

Local Millage Distribution 2-4

Community Impact 5

County Parks Progress 6-7

On the Web 8



Local Millage Distribution



The millage will generate approximately \$2.4 million per year for parks and recreation facilities and programs. Each year, 25% of the millage funds collected are given to the 33 local units of government (based on population) for local parks and recreation projects. Listed below are some of the local projects funded by the St Clair County Parks and Recreation millage over the past six years.

Townships

Berlin Twp.

- Extended park driveway
- Improved parking lot
- Park director's salary
- Recreational activities and program development
- Park repairs, maintenance and lawn mowing

Clay Twp.

- Contributions to Downriver Recreation
- Contributed funds to the Lion's pool renovation
- Construction of the new township park

Cottrellville Twp.

- Purchased playground equipment
- Park site excavation
- Special events
- Installed basketball fencing, second pavilion, playscape and sandbox



China Twp.



- Completed outdoor roller hockey rink
- Built a new park pavilion and baseball backstop
- Picnic tables, walking path and playground equipment

East China Twp.



- Installed new drinking fountains and electricity in pavilion
- Purchased a slide for River Park
- Purchased protective screens for three pavilions

Brockway Twp.

- Park maintenance
- Staffing costs
- Built a concession stand
- Installed new playground equipment
- Park operations

Clyde Twp.

- Community special events
- Remodeled and purchased new appliances for the concession stand
- Purchased playground equipment and benches

Fort Gratiot Twp.

- Local match for federal grant for Phase II of the bike path
- Purchased property for bike trail
- Design and construction services for the bike path



Burtchville Twp.



- Resurfaced tennis courts
- Built a skate park
- Purchased picnic tables, grills, & trash receptacles
- Trail work
- Little league park improvements

Emmett Twp.

- Installed a ADA paved path to a restroom facility
- Village park maintenance
- Cut and removed ash trees
- Donated to three Emmett area parks

Greenwood Twp.

- Installed a basketball court and new playground equipment
- Installed a new driveway parking lot improvements
- Updated baseball fields

Casco Twp.

- Installed two gates to park property
- Partnership with the City of Richmond to provide recreation and enrichment activities
- Saving for future projects



Columbus Twp.

- MDOT grant for bike path
- Restoration of the historic white barn in Columbus County Park
- Cleared sections of the Belle River of wood jams

Grant Twp.

- Planted shade trees
- Installed benches, picnic tables and concrete pad
- Upgraded electrical service and added lamp pole
- Installed ¼-mile blacktop walking path

In Focus: Ira Township

The millage funds returned to Ira Township helped to purchase new park land adjacent to the Township Offices, which will be developed into a sledding hill and/or a softball diamond or frisbee golf course.

In the Municipal Park, canvas sides were purchased for the pavilion and are used to block out the strong winds during recreational events. Millage funds were also used to purchase playground equipment and build a pavilion.

Currently a portion of the funds being used for the County Line Road Trail, which will provide a safe pedestrian and bike path for children and parents to use to get to the Anchor Bay High School.

Lynn Zyrowski, Director, Ira Township Parks



Ira Twp.



- Matching funds for a walking path on County Line Road
- Recreation activities
- Bike path construction
- Park improvements to bathhouse, walking path and vinyl sides for the pavilion

Wales Twp.



- Saved several years of funds to provide local match for land grant
- Land purchased for township park
- Parking lot constructed
- Master plan completed

Kenockee Twp.

Port Huron Twp.

- Park maintenance
- New backstop for ball field
- Barrier posts, new parking lot and planning a pavilion
- New pavilion constructed
- Park maintenance costs
- Installed new picnic grills

- Local match for acquisition grant to purchase Bakers Field
- Park improvements, recreation activities, yearly fishing clinics
- Bakers Field planning

Kimball Twp.

- Installed new playground equipment
- Installed ADA sidewalks to the docks
- Updated nature trails and park pavilion
- Park attendant wages



Lynn Twp.

St. Clair Twp.

- Excavated park area
- Added picnic and playground area
- Mowing
- Planning playground equipment and pavilion for new park

- Purchased picnic tables
- Maintenance of Neuman Road Park
- Work on bike path
- Purchased benches
- Recreation programming
- Community special events

Mussey Twp.

Riley Twp.

- Leased parcel of land from Capac schools to develop a sports field
- Installed a parking lot
- Seeding and fencing for baseball diamonds

- Installed new lights and ceiling in pavilion
- Maintenance on playscape and soccer field
- Removal of dead trees
- Improvements to softball field

Millage Spotlight: Fort Gratiot Township

For the last 16 years, Fort Gratiot Township has used the funds it received from the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage to make many substantial improvements and expansions to the Township's park system. Current projects in Fort Gratiot that are partially funded by the County Parks Millage include:

Build an ADA accessible walkway for the canoe and kayak dock at North River Road



Purchase of 19.9 acres of land to expand the Fort Gratiot Pond Park.

Design the Bridge-to-Bay Trail link that will connect Burtchville Township's Trail with Fort Gratiot County Park.

Without funding assistance from the St. Clair County Millage, these improvements and expansions would not be possible.

Robert Crawford, Clerk
Fort Gratiot Charter Township

Local Millage Distribution

Cities/Villages

Algonac

- Updates to Community Center
- Lion's Pool operations
- Structural and electric upgrades to Lion's field
- Maintain city's five parks
- Renovations to Lion's Pool

Emmett

- Installed a new backstop and safety tubing on the top of all fencing
- Planted trees
- Resurfaced infields on three baseball fields
- New safety surface under all playground equipment

Algonac



Marysville



Capac

- Phase II of Recreation plan
- Employee wages
- Park maintenance
- Port-a-john rental
- Park equipment
- Picnic tables and benches
- Developed a 5-year park plan

Marine City

- Phase III and IV Bridge to Bay Trail construction and engineering
- Replaced outdated playground equipment at King Road Park

Port Huron



St. Clair



Millage Spotlight: Marine City

The City of Marine City used their millage funds to finish its section of the Bridge to Bay Trail, ending at King Road and Chartier Road. The trail gives students in the City and in the adjacent township a safe trail to ride their bikes to the high school and middle school. The trail runs past the "Ward Cottrell Park" where millage funds were used to remove and replace the obsolete playground equipment. The "tot lot" on Main and Washington Streets received a complete face-lift, the obsolete equipment was removed and new swings, a merry-go-round and a playscape for children ages 5-12 was installed. An additional play structure for toddlers has been used practically every day and a much requested picnic table and swinging bench were also added to the park.



Lynn Zyrowski Director,
Marine City Recreation

Marysville

- Splashpad at Marysville City Park
- Skatepark in Morton Park
- Bridge to Bay Trail construction along M-29
- Save funds to build an open field/soccer complex

Richmond

- Recreation programs
- Partnership with Casco Township to provide recreation and enrichment activities

Memphis

- Electricity to gazebo in Musial Park
- Planted trees
- Purchased picnic tables and guardrails at Musial Park
- Saving for a merry-go-round

St. Clair

- Land acquisition
- Park development
- Master plan projects
- Bridge to Bay Trail construction along Carney Drive, Brown Street and along Jordan Creek

Port Huron

- Playscape for Knox Field
- Extension of the Bridge to Bay Trail
- General improvements to parks and swimming pools, Port Huron Museum and Pine Grove Park

Yale

- New pavilion for City Park
- Repairs to old pavilion
- New picnic tables
- New park lighting
- Removal of dead trees
- Planted new trees

Investing in Our Community Through Parks & Trails

Over the past six years, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission has invested St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage funds in the County Parks and trails. In the process of contracting for construction, materials and supplies, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation has put numerous local companies to work.

Below is a list of most of the area companies that the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission has contracted with for goods and services since 2004:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| ABC Bees Wasps and Spiders, LLC, Algonac | Ferguson Steel, Inc., Port Huron | Port Huron Tire & Service, Inc., Port Huron | Steve's Painting, St. Clair |
| AC-DC Electrical Contractors, Wales Twp. | Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., Port Huron | Preferred Towing, Fort Gratiot | Stewart Beauvais and Whipple, Fort Gratiot |
| A. W. Ellis Construction Company, Port Huron | Ferrell Gas, Port Huron | Proper Framing, Port Huron | Stone's Ace of Richmond, Richmond |
| Aarow Signs, Fort Gratiot | Flags N More, Inc., Fort Gratiot Township | R and D Foglesong Construction, Lakeport | Sunshine Pools, Kimball Township |
| Acme Locksmiths, Port Huron | Fletcher Fealko Shoudy & Moeller, Port Huron | R. Janus Supply Company, Port Huron | Superior Floor Service, Inc., Memphis |
| AIS Equipment, Richmond | Foster Blue Water Oil, LLC, Richmond | Radio First, Port Huron | Superior Heating and Cooling, Inc., Columbus |
| Aco Hardware, Port Huron | Francek Water Conditioning, Avoca | Raymond Excavating Company, Marysville | Sy Design, Port Huron |
| Acom Restorations, Marine City | Gander Mountain, Fort Gratiot Township | Rhino Linings of Port Huron, Fort Gratiot | Teltow Contracting, Casco Township |
| Active Tree Experts, Columbus Township | Gary Bertossi Bulldozing, Richmond | Richmond Glass, Columbus | The Times Herald, Port Huron |
| Ainsworth Electric, Inc., Port Huron Township | Great Lakes Tire, Columbus Township | Richmond New Holland, Richmond | Theut Products, Inc., Marysville |
| Allegra Print & Imaging, Fort Gratiot Township | Gresley Mackay, Inc., Marysville | Rock-N-Wood Supply Yard, Inc., Port Huron | Thorpe Printing Services, Inc., Marysville |
| Alpine Services, LLC, Lexington | Halliday and Sons, Inc., Kimball Township | Ross Brown's Excavating, Avoca | Thumb Fire Extinguisher Service, Port Huron |
| Anna's Gardens, Wales Township | Hammer's Contracting, LLC, Kimball Twp. | Russell Electric, St. Clair Township | Tractor Supply Company, Port Huron, New Haven and New Baltimore |
| Applied Industrial Technologies, Marysville | Harbor Freight Tools, Fort Gratiot | S. A. Torello, Inc., Port Huron Township | VanderGraaff Custom Homes, Lexington |
| Associated Design & Services, Kimball Twp. | Hill's Garage, Kimball Township | Sears Roebuck, Fort Gratiot and St. Clair | Tom Verbeke Home Improvement, Marysville |
| AutoZone, Port Huron and Richmond | Hobby Lobby, Fort Gratiot | St. Clair Chrysler Jeep Dodge, St. Clair | Wadhams Fence, Smiths Creek |
| B and L Industries, Inc., Port Huron | Hohmann Sheet Metal, Marysville | St. Clair Nursery Company, East China | Mike Walsh, Fargo |
| B and T Electric, Inc., St. Clair Township | Home Depot, Fort Gratiot and Chesterfield | St. Clair Packaging, Inc., Marysville | Webb Well Drilling, Wales |
| B C Electrical, Inc., Wales Township | Huron Custom Construction, Port Huron | Schweihofer Doors, Inc., St. Clair Township | Weston Transport, Inc., Kimball |
| Bat Masters, LLC, Clay Township | Huron Title Company, Port Huron | Scotty's Potty's, Port Huron | Whaling Class Appraisal, Inc., Port Huron |
| Best Buy, Fort Gratiot | Image Authentics, Inc., Kimball | Shannon Excavating Company, Wales | William Vogan Architects, Port Huron |
| Bicycle and Fitness Barn, Kimball Township | Imprint House, Port Huron | Sherman Nursery Farms, Columbus Twp. | Wilson's Rubber Stamps, Port Huron |
| Biernot's Carpet One, Port Huron | J. B. Fenner Painting, Kimball Township | Siegel Sand & Gravel, Emmett | Wood Works, Emmett |
| Bill Leslie & Sons, Inc., Port Huron | Jim Nolan Contracting, Wales Township | Sign's Plus, Fort Gratiot | Young Lumber, LLC, Columbus |
| Black River Concrete, Inc., Kimball Township | Jones Equipment, Fort Gratiot and Marysville | Sir Speedy, Port Huron | Young Sign and Advertising Co., Port Huron |
| Blue Flame Propane, Inc., Richmond | K/E Electric Supply Corp., Port Huron | Souliere Drywall, Kimball Township | Zimmer Roofing and Construction, Port Huron |
| Blue Water Aggregates Co. Marysville | KF Engineering, Port Huron | Stephenson Electric Co., Port Huron | Zimmer's Sales and Service, China |
| Blue Water Docks, LLC, Algonac | Kerr-Albert Office Supply, Port Huron | | |
| BMJ Engineers & Surveyors, Inc., Port Huron | KMart, Richmond and Port Huron | | |
| Brown Builders and Contracting, Lexington | L. D. Landshoot and Son, LLC, St. Clair | | |
| Burgess Contracting Company, Marysville | Laethem Buick Pontiac GMC, Richmond | | |
| By-Lo Oil Company, Kimball Township | Larry Bulte Construction, Inc., Port Huron | | |
| C & A Building Movers, Berville | Lawyers Title Insurance Corp., Port Huron | | |
| C. C. Energy Systems, East China Township | Michael Lietz Masonry, Allenton | | |
| Campbell & Shaw Steel, Marysville | Lowe's, Fort Gratiot and Chesterfield | | |
| Carl's Septic Service, Yale | Lumber Jack Lumber, Marysville and China | | |
| Carrigan Development, Inc., Port Huron | M & R Surplus, Kimball Township | | |
| Carter Lumber, Kimball Township | Mail Management Service Center, Port Huron | | |
| Cedar Hill Graphics, Port Huron | Marcotte Disposal Co., Port Huron Township | | |
| Cellular Advantage, Fort Gratiot | Marine City Nursery Company, Marine City | | |
| Chef Shell's Catering, Inc., Port Huron | Marketing Promotions & Events, Fort Gratiot | | |
| Classic Plastering and Drywall, St. Clair | Marshall E. Campbell Co, Inc., Port Huron | | |
| Comm. Diving & Marine Supply, Port Huron | Martin Construction, LLC, Port Huron | | |
| Cooper Nesbitt Appraisal, Inc., Port Huron | Marysville Truck Equipment, St. Clair Twp. | | |
| Crawford Door Co., Kimball | May-Wilbert Vault Corp., Port Huron Township | | |
| D and G Underground Construction, Yale | McNeice Wood Floors, Inc., Port Huron | | |
| Dan Halliday Painting, Kimball Township | Mechanical Fabricators, Marine City | | |
| Dano's Top Shelf Painting, Fort Gratiot Twp. | Medler Electric Co., Port Huron Township | | |
| Darling's Beltline, LLC, Port Huron | Meinhardt Batteries, Port Huron | | |
| Deer Country Lawn & Garden, Kimball Twp. | Meijer, Fort Gratiot. Marysville and Lenox | | |
| Dennis Young Residential Builders, Emmett | Mid-West Appraisal Company, Port Huron | | |
| Dependable Heating Cooling and Refrigeration, Kimball Township | Modern Motor Service, Inc., Port Huron | | |
| Downriver Refrigeration, Inc., Kimball | Modern Sewer & Drain Cleaning, Port Huron | | |
| Dyck Security Services, Inc., Port Huron | Mortimer & Son Lumber Co., Port Huron | | |
| Emmett Hardware, Emmett | Murray's Discount Auto Stores, Fort Gratiot | | |
| Erv's Heating & Cooling, Kimball Twp. | Nabozny Excavating, Fort Gratiot | | |
| Expert Machine & Tool, Inc., Port Huron | Nolan Construction, Wales Township | | |
| Extreme Masonry, Jeddo | Parrish Farm and Greenhouse, St. Clair | | |
| Family Farm & Home, Richmond | Pete's Camping Service, Inc., Kimball | | |
| Fastenal Company, Port Huron | Port Huron Auto Glass, Port Huron | | |
| Feed 'N' Seed, Port Huron | Port Huron Building Supply, Port Huron | | |
| | Port Huron Paint Company, Port Huron | | |

Investing in the Future

In addition to contracting for goods and services, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation hires St. Clair County residents to work at St. Clair County parks. Most of the parks and trails mowing, cleaning and facility set ups are handled by seasonal staff. The majority of the seasonal staff are college students earning funds for school. Current summer employees attend Baker College, Central Michigan University, Lawrence Tech, Michigan Technical University, St. Clair County Community College, University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University.



Six Years of Progress.....

Goodells County Park

- Splashpad
- C.C. Peck Bank Restoration
- Murphy/Ryan Farmhouse Interior Renovations
- Schoolhouse Interior Renovations
- Windmill Restoration
- Restroom Renovation
- Concession Stand Renovation
- Riding Ring #1 Drainage System
- Riding Ring #2 Rebuilt
- Riding Ring #2 Lighting
- Horse Barn Repairs & Upgrades
- Historic Barns Repairs
- Routine Building Painting
- Parking Lot Expansion & Paving
- Tree Plantings
- ADA Access Improvements
- Handicapped Parking Improvements
- Mudge Log Cabin Restoration
- Cemetery Restorations
- Farm Lane Bridge Replacement

Future Projects

- Roofing Repairs and Replacements
- Columbus Bible Church Relocation & Restoration



Fort Gratiot County Park

- Roadways and Parking Lots
- Paved Walking Paths
- Site Utilities
- Restroom/Maintenance Building
- Children's Playground
- Beach Cleanup
- 2 Picnic Pavilions
- Beach Gateway Pavilion
- Beach Boardwalk
- Information Station
- Vending Machine Shelter
- Overflow Parking Area

Columbus County Park

- 3 Properties Purchased
- Purchased 291-Acres with Grant
- 3 Temporary Parking Lots Constructed
- Entrance Road and Parking Lot
- Electrical Utilities & Well
- Lighted Sledding Hill
- Barbed Wire Fencing Removed

Future Projects

- Lodge Building with Restrooms
- Entrance Sign
- Paved Walking Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Mountain Biking Trails
- Playground
- Canoe and Kayak Launch



Woodsong County Park

- Purchased Property with MNRTF Grant
- Temporary Parking lot and Informational Kiosk

Future Projects

- Entrance Gate
- Canoe and Kayak Launch
- Accessible Trail to Black River
- Vault Toilet



Wadhams to Avoca Trail

- 2.6 mile Extension to Griswold Road
- Lapeer Road Parking Lot and Toilet
- Wadhams Road Crossing & Signals
- Paving Bartlett Road to Wadhams Road
- Limestone surfacing
- Four Information Kiosks

Future Projects

- Additional trail extensions



Other Projects

- 2nd Portable Stage Purchased
- Original Portable Stage Replaced
- 2 Accessible Canoe & Kayak Launches Purchased
- Additional Accessible Canoe & Kayak Launches
- Bridge to Bay Trail Signage



.....In County Parks



St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission
 200 Grand River, Suite 107
 Port Huron, MI 48060
 Telephone (810) 989-6960

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www.stclaircountyparks.org

County Parks

- www.goodellscountypark.org
- www.columbuscountypark.org
- www.fortgratiotcountypark.org

Trails

- www.bridgetobaytrail.org
- www.wadhamstoavocatrail.org
- www.cis.stclaircounty.org/blueway.asp



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Email us at countyparks@stclaircounty.org

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Parks and Recreation Staff

- Mark Brochu, CPRP.....Director
 - Lynn SmithOffice Manager
 - Matt Sharp.....Parks Operations Supervisor
 - Dennis C. DelorSpecial Events, Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator
- A Progress Report* is published by St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission