

2010

Annual Report



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

2010 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ted Bosgraaf, President

Bobbi Jones Sabine, Vice President

Philip D. Kuyers, Secretary

David Van Ginhoven

Paul Geerlings

Roger Jonas

Joyce Kortman

Jim Miedema

Ray Statema

David Vander Kooi

PARKS COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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County of Ottawa



The activities and programs of the Parks and Recreation Department are brought to you by the members of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners.

Philip D. Kuyers, Chairman

Donald G. Disselkoen

Jane M. Ruiter

James C. Holtrop, Vice Chairman

James Holtvluwer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2010 ANNUAL REPORT Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission

2010 was a year of continued progress for the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission as it continued to expand and improve the county's system of parks and open spaces in the third budget year of its ten-year millage program, as renewed by voters in 2006. At the end of 2010, the Ottawa County Parks and Open Space system included 26 County Parks and 13 Open Space lands, totaling 6,050 acres.

Park maintenance and operations staff continued to meet the challenge to provide high standards in the growing park system. Park use was exceptionally high at the beach parks along the lakeshore, and winter use at Pigeon Creek Park reached new levels of attendance. Expanding land stewardship responsibilities provide challenges with growing invasive species threats and new habitat restoration commitments.

The Parks Commission's interpretive program's popularity expanded significantly in 2010, with 106 programs offered, including general nature walks, birding trips, butterfly watching workshops, cross-country ski clinics and many others. Expansion of the program followed the opening of the new Nature Education Center at Hemlock Crossing. The new facility houses the department's outdoor education functions and serves as a visitor center for the entire county park system. The new facility has enabled the Commission to expand and improve programs offered to school groups.

The Parks Commission continued its focus in 2010 on establishing greenways along key river corridors and the Lake Michigan coast, with 303 acres of additional park and open space land acquired. Key land acquisitions included a 70-acre riverfront addition to the Bend Area in Georgetown Township and a 111-acre property with 1.2 miles of Grand River frontage in Tallmadge Township. Both properties had been identified as target acquisitions for many years. In addition, a 122-acre property on the Macatawa River, the former Holland Country Club property, was acquired with assistance from Macatawa Greenway partners.

Many park improvement projects, from small to large in scope, were initiated throughout the park system in 2010. Construction work began on the \$600,000 Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project, featuring fishing docks and a waterfront walkway at the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks. The "Poor Farm Cemetery" was restored and dedicated at Eastmanville Farm. Dune stairs were replaced at Tunnel Park, and trail improvements were completed at several park and open space properties.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission

INTRODUCTION

The 2010 Annual Report of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission was developed to provide a brief summary of Commission activities for the 2010 calendar year to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, as called for in the Board Rules. Additional information regarding all aspects of Parks Commission activities is available by contacting the County Parks Office.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission oversees acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of twenty-four (24) County Parks, several undeveloped park properties and fifteen (15) Open Space lands totaling 6,050 acres (see Attachment A for a listing of all lands administered by the Parks Commission as of December 31, 2010). In addition, the Commission oversees management of the Musketawa Trail, under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Commission's staff during 2010 consisted of 15 full-time positions, including the Parks and Recreation Director, Coordinator of Park Maintenance and Operations, Parks Manager, five Park Supervisors, one Park Maintenance Worker, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development, Park Planner, Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services, Naturalist/Information Specialist, Administrative Secretary and the Parks Secretary. The Parks Commission employs approximately 60 seasonal and part-time staff, including Park Attendants, Grounds Attendants, an intern and part-time Gatekeepers for 11 of the parks.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

A critical component of the Parks Commission program is to provide the highest quality facilities and visitor services possible at all 39 parks and open spaces. The year 2010 represented a continuing challenge for field staff striving for high quality maintenance while focusing on controlling costs in these difficult economic times. At the same time, recently added lands and facilities required significant new effort at Riverside Park, with 31 acres leased from the state, which added new trails and special enforcement issues; and at the new Grand River Open Space property, where signing, neighbor relations, and a large restoration project were a focus in 2011. Also new in 2010 were the Macatawa Greenspace property (the former Holland Country Club), where extensive building and grounds clean up, bridge repairs and mowing took place in 2010; and the newly constructed Nature Education Center, where preparations for the April opening, building maintenance for the LEED certified building, and ongoing improvements for naturalist staff were a focus in 2010.

Park Use Trends in 2010 – The year began with snow conditions in January and February which were very favorable for skiing and sledding. Winter operations at Pigeon Creek Park consists of daily grooming of 10 miles of ski trails, along with daily operations of two sledding hills and a warming lodge, including ski rentals and concessions. Operations were in full swing for much of January and all of February. Use levels, as reflected by revenues collected, were up almost 50 percent over the previous year.



Spring began abruptly at the beginning of March with exceptionally mild and dry weather. As a result, park use was unusually high for this period. Following a philosophy of trying to make sites presentable and useable as early in the season as possible to make a “good first impression” with visitors, staff had an unusually early and heavy workload in order to keep abreast of early season use and expectations.



Almost the entire summer was then very warm, including an extended period of very warm Lake Michigan water temperatures. This was reflected in very high lakeshore park use, which was approximately 30 percent higher than the previous year, itself a record year.

Parks Revenues Produced in 2010

Motor vehicle fees:

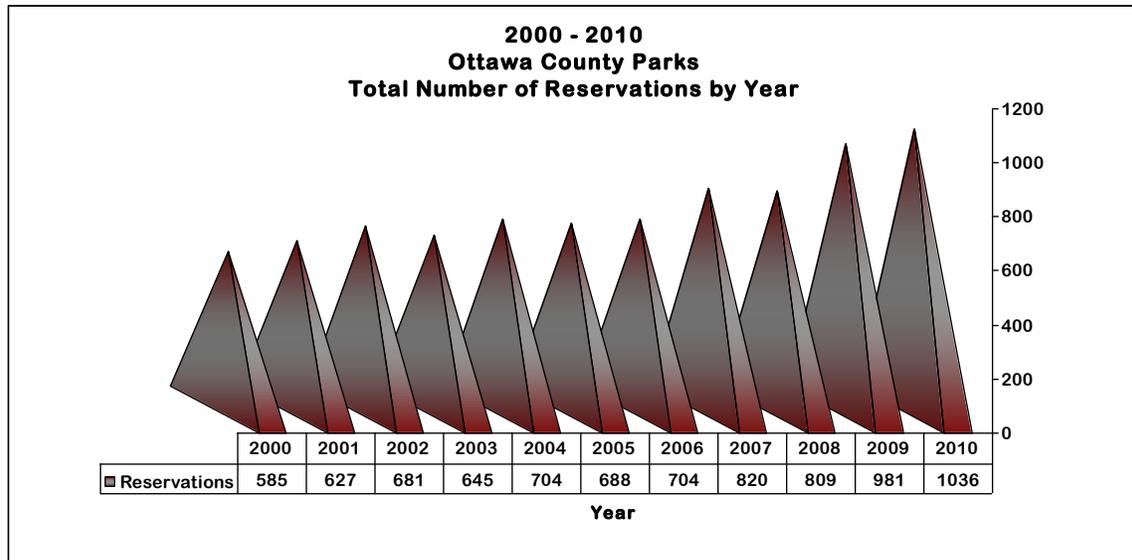
Revenues from daily and annual motor vehicle permit sales at North Beach Park, Rosy Mound Natural Area, Kirk and Tunnel Parks, as well as those sold at the Nature Education Center, the main office and the boat launch at Riverside Park totaled almost \$300,000 (\$299,003) for the year. This exceeded the 2009 total by approximately \$70,000 and was by far the most ever collected in one year.



Reservation Facilities:

Revenues generated from reservations at 20 sites also hit a new high mark at \$85,992. 1,247

reservations were taken and processed, of which 1,036 were completed and served during the 2010 year. These reservations represent more than 70,000 park visitors. In 2007, an on-line reservation system was implemented and has progressively increased in use from 14% of park user use in 2007 to 34% in 2010.



Pigeon Creek Winter Skiing and Sledding (2010/2011 season):

Revenues from Pigeon winter operations were also at a record level of \$55,280, up from \$37,344 the previous year.

Highlights of Field Staff Efforts in 2010 – Routine maintenance is the core of field staff efforts. Because of the high levels of park use in 2010, especially winter operations at Pigeon Creek Park, the busy spring at all sites, and busy beaches during the summer months, keeping up with needed cleaning, routine building and grounds maintenance, minor repairs, customer service, and rule enforcement required significant organization, planning and effort throughout the year.

After routine maintenance is completed, effort goes into repairs and improvements. In 2010, park staff focused mainly on trail repairs and improvements by adding gravel, boardwalks and various drainage systems to improve use of wet areas on existing trails. Several miles of new trails were also built at Open Space lands to promote use of these sites.

Land Stewardship – Activities in 2010 marked a continuation of efforts to improve County Park and Open Space lands by the control of invasive plants and the restoration of areas to native conditions. Almost 500 55-gallon bags of garlic mustard plants were collected and disposed of for treatment on more than 120 acres at 32 sites. Additionally, focus in 2010 was broadened to other invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Asian Bittersweet. A philosophy of ‘early detection/rapid response’ is being used in an attempt to head off future problems before they become serious and widespread. A significant restoration project at the newly purchased Grand River Open Space included special preparations followed by the

planting of more than 15,000 native trees and shrubs in two floodplain farm fields. The Natural Resources Conservation Service arm of the USDA funded this habitat restoration project.

Alternative Labor Use – The use of volunteers once again played a significant role in 2010. Volunteers donated nearly 4,000 hours of service, participating in the removal of invasive plants and other varied projects, including planting trees and dune grass, building benches and various park cleanup efforts. Volunteers came from many sources including school groups, churches, and businesses.

In summary, 2010 was a high use and fast-paced year almost from start to finish. The outdoor activity friendly weather and other factors, including the addition of several new sites, provided all the elements needed for a very dynamic year, demanding extensive use of all available resources.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Interpretive Programs and Activities – Ottawa County Parks offered 106 public interpretive programs throughout the parks system in 2010. A total of 1,044 people attended these programs. These are programs that are listed in the park newsletter.

Following is a summary of 2010 public interpretive programs:

WINTER (December, January, and February)

- Budding Naturalist Series (1 program)
- Winter Birding Field Trips (2 trips)
- Winter Discovery Hikes (1 hikes)
- An Introduction to Trail Hiking (1 hike)
- How to Know Your Holiday Trees (1 program)
- How Much Wood Would a Woodpecker Peck (1 program)

SPRING (March, April and May)

- Signs of Spring Nature Walk Series (10 walks)
- Spring Bird Walks (6 walks)
- Stewardship Workdays (1 days)
- Spring Birding Trips (2 trips)
- Newcomb's Wildflower Workshop (1 workshop)
- Budding Naturalist Series (2 programs)
- Pigeon River Kayak Trips (2 trips)
- D.J. Angus Trips (1 trip)

SUMMER (June, July, and August)

- Summer Interpretive Programs in the Parks Series (11 walks)
- Beach Zone (3 days)
- Summer Birding Field Trips (2 trips)
- Butterfly Counts (1 counts)

National Trails Day Event (1 event with 2 hikes)
D.J. Angus Trips (6 trips)
Exploring the Parks Hikes (2 hikes)
Fern Identification Workshop (1 workshop)
First Impressions (3 programs)
Summer Day Camps (3-3 day camps)
Pigeon River Kayak Trips (2 trips)

FALL (September, October, and November)

Fungi Workshop (1 workshop)
Fall Interpretive Programs in the Parks Series (10 walks)
Bird Walks (3 walks)
Fall Birding Trips (3 trips)
The Art of Landscape Photography (1 program)
Raptor Watch at Mt. Pisgah (1 trip)
D.J. Angus Trips (3 trips)
Pigeon River Kayak Trips (5 trips)
First Impressions (4 programs)
Nature Explorers (4 programs)
Nature Club (3 programs)

Other 2010 programs, activities, and events:

- Cross Country Ski Clinics at Pigeon Creek Park (12 clinics)
- Pigeon Creek Biathlon (14th Annual)
- Staff Attended the Stewardship Network Annual Conference in E. Lansing
- Attended a meeting with staff from other area nature centers at the DeGraaf Nature Center in Holland
- Presented a program for the Grand Rapids Audubon Club in Grand Rapids
- Participated in the Friends of Ottawa County Parks Grand River Excursion

Nature Education Center – The Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services and the Parks Naturalist moved their offices into the new Nature Education Center (NEC) in December 2009, in preparation of the grand opening scheduled for April 24, 2010. Prior to the grand opening, the majority of staff time was spent preparing and installing exhibits in the rotunda and Wildlife Den, receiving and organizing furnishings, getting to know the HVAC and other building systems, hiring part-time Naturalist Guides, ordering gift shop merchandise and training staff to work the front desk.

Prior to the grand opening, parks staff, along with Friends of Ottawa County Parks, held a Donor Preview at the NEC to thank businesses, organizations, and individuals that donated



funds to the project. The event was attended by about 100 people and included food and live music.

The NEC Grand Opening was very successful, with over 700 people attending. The event featured live music from the Blue Water Ramblers, a ceremony, refreshments, kids’ activities, and free E. hemlock tree seedlings.

2010 Nature Education Center Attendance

The total number of walk-in visitors to the NEC from April 24 through the end of 2010 was 9,414.

2010 School/Youth Programs

Month	# of groups	# of program participants
January	1	48
February	1	35
March	2	62
April	1	50
May	4	140
June	3	98
July	5	134
August	2	50
September	5	94
October	18	1,013
November	1	14
December	0	0
TOTALS	43	1,738

2010 Adult/Family Programs

- Tri-Cities Garden Club (35 people)
 - Holland Area Senior Professionals (60 people)
 - Holland Audubon Club (65 people)
 - Land Conservancy of West Michigan’s Annual Meeting (65 people)
 - Backyard Habitat Series sponsored by the Ottawa Conservation District (6 people)
 - Paddle Sports program by the Coast Guard Auxiliary (5 people)
 - Coopersville Historic Society (11 people)
 - Michigan Audubon Society program committee (10 people)
 - Staff set up a booth in Coopersville for a Mothers of Young Children event
 - Career talk at the Academy of Arts (30 people)
 - White Pine Chapter of the Michigan Botanical Society (15 people)
 - Owashtanong Island Audubon Society (40 people)
- TOTALS 12 groups 342 people**

Summary of Program Attendance and Visitation

Description	# programs	# people
Public Interpretive Programs	106	1,044
NEC walk-in visitors	NA	9,414
School/Youth Programs	43	1,738
Adult/Family Programs	12	342
TOTALS	161	12,538

New Nature Education Center Staff

Parks hired eight permanent part-time Naturalist Guides in 2010 and conducted five Guide Trainings to prepare them to work with a variety of groups as well as to work at the front desk. A College Intern and a part-time Custodian were also hired.

2010 NEC Revenue

Revenue Source	Amount
Gifts Shop sales	\$ 6,823.33
Parks Permits	\$ 466.00
Public Programs	\$ 6,050.00
School Programs	\$ 1,730.00
Total Revenue	\$15,069.33

Parks Information

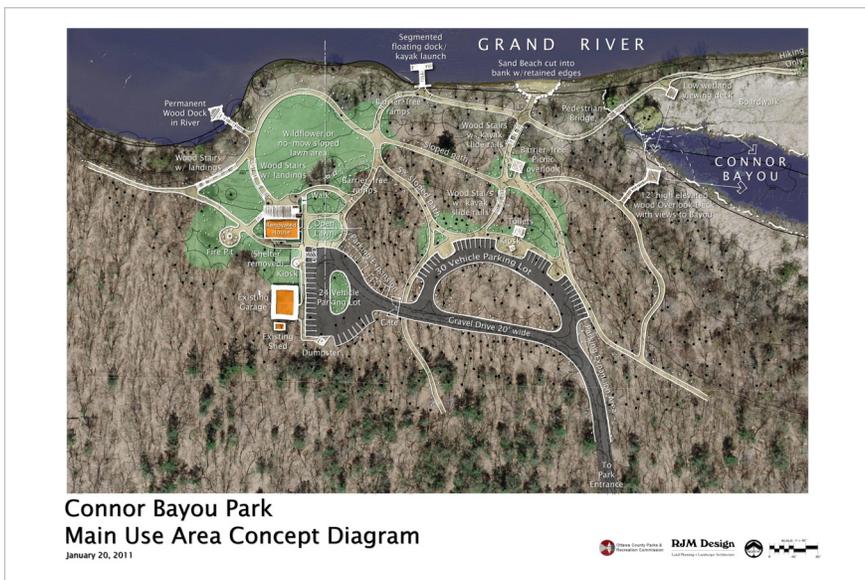
- **Newsletter** – *Outdoors Ottawa County* is the quarterly newsletter of the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission. By the end of 2010, the newsletter mailing list had grown to over 5,000 households and was also distributed to libraries and other locations. Another 350 people had signed up to view the newsletter online via an email notice sent by parks staff. The newsletter provides current information on park projects and includes the seasonal schedule of interpretive programs and Friends of Ottawa County Parks events.
- **Web Site** – The web site continues to be a good online location where people can get up-to-date information on parks, park projects, programs and more.
- **Social Networking** – Parks Naturalist, Kristen Hintz, developed a Facebook page for the parks web site, in accordance with the Ottawa County Social Media Policy.
- **Friends of Ottawa County Parks Activities** – Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting people with nature, recreation, and community by partnering with the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission. Friends members planned and conducted the following activities in 2010:
 - Santa at the Weaver House
 - Began selling Friends T-shirts and backpacks
 - Eastmanville Farm cemetery project and dedication
 - Grand Lady Cruise

- Participated in a number of community events, such as Salmon Fest in Grand Haven, the Borculo Dandelion Festival, and the Spring Lake Heritage Festival.
- Music in the Park Fundraiser at the NEC
- Nest Box Fundraiser
- Earth Day Parade and Fair in Grand Haven
- Annual Meeting

PARK PLANNING

Planning efforts to efficiently develop and manage existing park and open space properties were initiated at several sites, including the following:

- **Connor Bayou Master Plan** – Master Plan work for the Connor Bayou site on the Grand River in Robinson Township was substantially completed after research and discussion by the Parks Commission through the summer resulted in the removal of overnight camping facilities from the plan. The approved plan focuses on day-use visitor amenities, including parking, trails, boardwalks, and overlooks, as well as renovation of the existing log home for use as a rental facility.



- **Bend Area Planning Update** – Planning by the Parks Commission’s design consultant was completed to further define the potential of this site for future park facilities even as gravel-mining activities continue. Adjustments to the existing master plan were analyzed based on the latest information relating to mining time-frames and the likely extent of gravel extraction. Further work by park staff will refine the concepts developed in this process.
- **Holland Country Club Restoration Planning** – Conceptual planning work for this recently acquired 122-acre site included evaluating the site in terms of its potential for park activities, park and greenway trail systems, and native habitat restoration. This planning facilitated the construction of over 20 acres of wetland mitigation on the southern portion of the site, in cooperation with Request Foods, and the submittal and award of a \$646,800 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant from the EPA for an additional 32 acres of wetland and stream bank restoration.

- **Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail Coordination** – Working with Zeeland and Jamestown Townships, Ottawa County Parks assisted this project with funding and design assistance for trail work that will run adjacent to Spring Grove Park and the Upper Macatawa Natural Area (UMNA). The Kenowa Trail is an important regional trail that will connect the Macatawa Greenway at the UMNA to the Kent Trails non-motorized pathway system in Kent County.
- **Ottawa Beach Pumphouse Architectural Study** – After completion of an engineering review of this historic building to assess the structural challenges associated with restoration, conceptual planning began to determine improvements necessary to utilize the building as a historical museum and develop the surrounding site for public use.
- **Grand River Heritage Water Trail** – Ottawa County Parks launched the Grand River Heritage Water Trail, using a web site that features an interactive map of the Grand River in Ottawa County. The site uses layers of information including historical points of interest, natural features, county lands accessible from the river and other public access points on the Grand River. Also available is a trip planner and information on river safety, paddling etiquette, weather, and river stewardship. A photo gallery and self-guided river tours will be added in the future.
- **Olive Shores Improvements Grant** – A grant application for first phase improvements at this new Lake Michigan Park was submitted to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which recommended the project for funding in 2011.
- **Musketawa Trail Extension** – Park staff did considerable work in evaluating alternatives to extending the Musketawa Trail east from the Marne Trailhead to connect to trails in Kent County.

LAND ACQUISITION

The Parks Commission acquired 303 acres of land in 2010. This includes the following properties:

- **Bend Area** – Ottawa County acquired 70 acres with approximately 0.7 miles of Grand River frontage in Georgetown Township for \$336,000. The purchase expanded the Bend Area park site from 188 acres to 258 acres and extended its Grand River frontage to 1.3 miles. The acquisition followed the site Master Plan from 2000, which calls for purchase of approximately 500 acres and development of a park with swimming and other water-based recreation opportunities, as well as the greenway trail and other amenities.
- **Grand River Land Acquisition and Restoration** – Ottawa County Parks acquired a 111-acre floodplain property in Tallmadge Township, with 1.2 miles of riverfront, in early spring following the placement of a conservation easement by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA paid the landowner \$406,000 for the easement to protect floodplain values of the property. Funding came from the Emergency Watershed Protection

Floodplain Easement Program, a federal stimulus program. Ottawa County Parks then acquired the remaining property rights for \$59,300. Ownership came with the responsibility to restore two formerly farmed fields totaling 26.5 acres. The Parks Department oversaw planting of 15,000 native trees and shrubs to restore the floodplain forest environment, with funding from the federal government.

- **Holland Country Club** – Ottawa County Parks acquired 122 acres of the former Holland Country Club property along the Macatawa River in the City of Holland. The Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway assisted Ottawa County Parks by raising \$70,000 in private funds toward the \$450,000 purchase.



PARK DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS

Significant park improvement projects undertaken in 2010 are summarized below:

- **Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project** – Construction began on this \$600,000 project to provide new access to the shore of Lake Macatawa adjacent to the Holland channel into Lake Michigan and the Holland State Park beach. The project includes a small parking area, seating and historical interpretation areas, and large boardwalks and docks to provide barrier-free access along the shoreline and out into the lake. Special emphasis was placed on designing facilities that will benefit anglers in reaching desirable angling locations as well as providing circulation for the general public.
- **Bur Oak Landing Western Access** – A new gravel parking area and trailhead kiosk were added to provide access from Oriole Drive to the western end of this riverfront open space.
- **Grand River Park Path Paving** – Major renovations to the existing path system were completed, including new concrete paths connecting the picnic building to adjacent features, and resurfacing of deteriorating bituminous paths. New barrier-free features, including picnic table pads and a lake overlook path loop, were also added.
- **Tunnel Park Dune Stairs** – The main wooden dune stairways going up the dune and down to the beach were replaced. The new stairs replaced deteriorating stairs that were almost 20 years old. The new stairs also meet current accessibility standards with handrails and a gentler slope.



- **Ottawa Beach (Park 12) Walkway Repairs** – As part of a scheduled sequence of public walkway improvements, several sections of deteriorated concrete walks were removed and replaced. This work included significant stabilization and reconstruction of adjacent retaining walls including a challenging portion known locally as the “switchback.”



- **Hemlock Crossing Trail Improvements** – Several sections of seasonally wet and difficult to maintain trail were replaced with crushed stone to provide good all-season trail conditions.

- **Rosy Mound Dune Stairs** – On-grade wooden stairs were completed to replace a particularly steep and difficult portion of existing trail.



- **Spring Grove Picnic Area** – Construction of a barrier-free picnic area adjacent to the picnic building was completed. The improvement adds seating for over 50 people on a clean, well-drained, and accessible wood fiber surface.

- **Eastmanville Farm Historic Cemetery** – The “Poor Farm Cemetery” at Eastmanville Farm County Park was restored and dedicated by a volunteer group coordinated by park staff. The group raised funds and coordinated donated labor to clean up the site, install perimeter fencing, locate graves, and install new monuments. They also installed a plaque on a large boulder with names of the 64 persons buried at the site. Interpretive signs were installed which explain the history of the cemetery including stories of residents who lived at the poor farm.



- **Ottawa Beach Bike Path Repairs** – As part of continuing efforts to eliminate encroachments by private landowners on park lands, an agreement was reached to remove a private driveway from parkland prior to the originally stipulated period. Removal of this

driveway allowed for revisions to the heavily used bike path in this area to create a less steep and safer pedestrian and bicycle route.

- **Grose Park Lake Overlook** – Improvements including new walkways, stairs, and paved picnic area were constructed at a highly desirable picnic location overlooking Crockery Lake. It is hoped that these improvements will also direct use to areas able to accommodate it and thus make the area easier to maintain.
- **Eastmanville Bayou Improvements** – Work began to develop site access improvements at this visible site adjacent to the 68th Street bridge over the Grand River. Large amounts of concrete rubble left from the demolition of the previous bridge were removed. Scheduled improvements include new parking, a small boat launch on the inland Eastmanville Bayou and a kayak launch on the Grand River. Plans also call for a pedestrian underpass of 68th Street to provide safe access to the eastern half of the site, rustic toilets, a shelter, and picnic tables.

2011 PARKS COMMISSION GOALS

Integrate New Operational Commitments While Continuing High Quality Park Operations –

The Parks Commission will strive to continue balancing operational capability with growth of the park system. A new position, focused on natural resources management and volunteer coordination, was added to provide more expertise in this area and expands the Commission's ability to utilize volunteers in controlling invasive species and other land management tasks.

Fiscal Responsibility – Continue emphasis on reducing costs, exploring new revenue sources and operating in the most cost-effective manner possible in response to declining property tax revenues. A cost accounting study is underway to better identify the cost of individual parks, and programs and facilities.

Diversified Funding Strategy – Continue the focus on maintaining a diversified long-range funding strategy for the county park system as identified in the *2006 Parks Plan*, with continued focus on expanding donations from the private sector and identifying new sources of public grant support.

Long Range Parks Plan – Complete update of five year parks, recreation and open space plan, including survey of county residents and submit to state to maintain grant eligibility.

Public Relations – Continue efforts to promote awareness of the county park system with county residents, and develop the use of social networking sites to accomplish this goal. Continue to improve content on the parks website.

Grand River Greenway – Continue with the development of a detailed greenway master plan, and work to build public and local government support for the greenway initiative. Continue efforts to expand public access to recently acquired greenway properties, including Bur Oak Landing and Eastmanville Bayou. Complete master plan for Connor Bayou and implement first phase improvements. Continue to enhance the recently developed water trail. Complete acquisition of the Grand River Ravines property and initiate master planning. Continue to monitor and acquire target properties in the river corridor.

Pigeon River Greenway – Continue to monitor the availability of key lands in the river corridor for potential acquisition, and promote use of existing parks.

Macatawa River Greenway – Undertake master planning process for the recently acquired Holland Country Club property and implement large EPA funded restoration project and first phase park improvements. Continue work with greenway partners to expand and improve the greenway system.

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway – Implement recently awarded grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and complete improvements for public access to the Olive Shores site.

Interpretive Programs and Nature Education Center – Continue to improve operations and programming at the Nature Education Center, and expand programs for school and other youth groups. Continue soliciting donations for the Nature Education Center Endowment Fund.

Friends Group – Continue close coordination and collaboration with Friends Group, which serves as a support group for Ottawa County Parks.

Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (Park 12) – Complete the Holland Harbor Fishing Access project to expand fishing opportunities and develop a section of waterfront walkway. Submit application for funding assistance to complete the Lake Macatawa waterfront walkway. Continue working with the Historic Ottawa Beach Society to explore potential for development of a museum, using the historic pumphouse building. Undertake study to identify alternatives for enhancing marina operations at the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks.

Stewardship Activities – Continue efforts to provide a high level of land stewardship through control of invasive species, development of land management and stewardship plans, and restoration of degraded sites. Focus on habitat restoration at the Macatawa Greenspace property. Evaluate the need to manage deer populations in and around various park sites to protect native vegetation and the ecological health of the park properties.

Bend Area Site – Continue to work with the mining companies and other landowners to implement the Bend Area Master Plan, with a long-range goal of expanding opportunities for swimming and other water-based activities in eastern Ottawa County.

Eastmanville Farm – Continue work to improve public access for equestrians and hikers, and expand historic interpretation. Continue efforts to collaborate with the agricultural community to develop a farm park at Eastmanville Farm.

Accessibility – Continue to make modifications to parks and facilities to remove barriers and achieve maximum accessibility throughout the park system.

Open Space Lands – Continue efforts to improve public awareness and access to Open Space lands. Construct and mark trails at selected open space lands to facilitate greater public use.

Ottawa County Parks and Open Spaces				
Acreeage and Water Frontage		Water Frontage		
December 31, 2010				
Parks and Open Spaces	Acreeage	Lake Michigan Frontage (feet)	River	Bayou &
			Frontage (feet)	Inland Lake Frontage (feet)
<u>Grand River Greenway</u>				
Connor Bayou	142	0	4,563	1,687
Crockery Creek Natural Area	334	0	2,640	0
Jubb Bayou (Open Space)	97	0	4,589	4,026
Riverside Park	95	0	6,737	0
Bur Oak Landing (Open Space)	261	0	7,392	5,267
Eastmanville Farm	229	0	1,365	0
Eastmanville Bayou	157	0	9,364	8,300
Deer Creek Park	2	0	530	0
Ripps Bayou (Open Space)	172.5	0	7,550	7,992
Kuits Bayou (Open Space)	80	0	6,191	2,650
Bolthouse Property (Open Space)	111	0	6,456	0
Fillmore at the Bend (Open Space)	68	0	0	0
Grand River Park	162	0	2,505	0
Bend Area (Open Space)	258	0	6,931	0
	2,168.5	0	66,813	29,922
<u>Pigeon River Greenway</u>				
Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend	239	0	7,920	0
Pigeon River Open Space	30	0	2,354	0
Pigeon Creek Park	282	0	3,200	0
Pigeon Creek Forest (Open Space)	130	0	0	0
	681	0	13,474	0
<u>Macatawa River Greenway</u>				
Holland Country Club	122	0	4,815	0
Adams Street Landing	10	0	1,100	0
Middle Macatawa	40	0	1,792	0
Upper Macatawa Natural Area	612	0	13,100	0
	784	0	20,807	0
<u>Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway</u>				
North Ottawa Dunes	513	0	0	0
North Beach Park	7	745	0	0
Rosy Mound Natural Area	164	3,450	0	0
Kirk Park	68	1,850	0	0
Olive Shores	20.5	738	0	0
Tunnel Park	22.5	950	0	0
Historic Ottawa Beach Parks	58	756	0	2,560
	853	8,489	0	2,560
<u>General Parks, Open Space and Trails</u>				
Musketawa Trail	NA	0	0	0
Conklin Trailhead	0	0	0	0
Marne Trailhead	0	0	0	0
Un-named Site - Wright Township	8	0	0	0
Grose Park	40	0	0	823
Marne Bog	40	0	0	0
Robinson Forest (Open Space)	80	0	0	0
Johnson Street Forest (Open Space)	50	0	0	0
Hiawatha Forest (Open Space)	365	0	0	0
Hager Park	104	0	0	0
Port Sheldon Natural Area (Open Space)	440	0	0	0
VanBuren Street Dunes (Open Space)	120	0	0	0
Spring Grove Park	16	0	0	0
Riley Trails	300	0	0	0
	1,563	0	0	823
	6,049.5	8,489	101,094	33,305
Miles		1.6	19.1	6.3