

June 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Sally Prunty, Planning Director

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Planning Activity Report

Golf Course Entrance Renovation

Bid specifications were developed for the Asphalt Stamping Project east and north of the pro shop. The bid opening is scheduled for June 17th.

Sangamon River Forest Preserve

- We advertised the contract for the CXT restroom at the Sangamon River property, and have ordered the facility. We expect delivery of the building sometime around July 10th.
- We have completed the archaeological survey for the preserve, and have received the sign-off from IDNR.
- I am working on billing paperwork for Sangamon River Forest Preserve projects.

River Bend Accessible Dock

- Jerry Pagac and I went to Morton, Illinois, to look at an existing aluminum dock we might be interested in using for our Kellogg grant at River Bend. As stability is a key characteristic for a state-of-the-art accessible fishing pier, we were happy and quite impressed to note the solidity and stability of this type of dock. The aluminum docks have much better flotation systems, and seem to be heavier and sturdier than plastic docks. We believe they may be a much more appropriate solution for our purposes.
- I'm currently putting together bid specifications for this project. We have found two good aluminum dock manufacturers, so we should be able to get competitive bids from both.

Planning Intern

Mark Nepermann, Planning Intern, is completing the job of entering our preserves and facilities into AutoCad. He has also helped with the landscape design at the new golf course entrance circle drive. After the Asphalt Paving Project and the Asphalt Stamping Project at the golf course parking area are complete, we will be installing that landscape.

Miscellaneous Planning Tasks

- John Frauenhoffer will be inspecting Homer Lake Dam, Lake of the Woods Dam, the Botanical Garden Bridge and the Little Golden Gate Bridge, both to satisfy insurance requirements and to ensure safety.
- Staff is working on estimating maintenance costs for the Kickapoo Rail Trail.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Bryan Stevens, Construction Manager

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Construction Department Activity Report

Miscellaneous

Over the past month, the Construction Department:

- started constructing the parking lot and entrance gate, and renovated the residence bathroom at Sangamon River Forest Preserve; and
- started the replacement of damaged sidewalks at Lake of the Woods Pavilion.

Middle Fork Residence

The home has been completed and accepted by staff. Staff is in the process of awarding the contract for the new garage.

June 7, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Daniel J. Olson, Director of Natural Resources
Mike Daab, Assistant Director of Natural Resources

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Natural Resources Department Activity Report

General

- We would like to congratulate Chad Fedewa, our GIS seasonal, on his new position with the Michigan DNR. Although he was only with us a short time, he provided us with maps that will be valuable tools as we move forward with management plans.
- We have been working with Botanical Garden staff on constructing the Children's Discovery Garden, removing the old Children's Garden, filling in and landscaping the old bathroom area, and helping to prep for the Best of the Class.
- We planted a mix of wetland seed around the Homer Lake wetland. This area is functioning very well as wildlife habitat. Many of the wetland and prairie species that were planted last year have been sprouting, and many plugs will be planted on the berm to help control erosion.
- We have been involved in writing two separate Volunteer Stewardship Network Grants this year. The first was a joint effort with Kim Horbas and Mary Ellen Wuellner to get materials for our stewards, including the two new opportunities of frog monitoring and volunteer spray training. The second was a joint effort between CCFPD, Grand Prairie Friends and the Urbana Park District. We have embarked on a project to write a stewardship manual for East Central Illinois. We have many new stewards in each group who will benefit from this standardized manual.
- The annual Bird-A-Thon went well this year with a number of staff as well as a few volunteers seeing 118 species of birds. I believe this is the most we have ever tallied. We narrowly beat Urbana Park District at 115 species.
- Adam continues to help with the Take Me Fishing programs including preparing dozens of fishing poles for the program. He also participated in the event at Middle Fork over the Memorial Day weekend and reported it was a great success.
- Site preparation continues on the west side of Homer Lake for a prairie and savanna restoration project. The existing vegetation has been sprayed to decrease weedy competition, and trees have been pruned.

- We received thank you notes this month from the Monticello High School students Dan presented to last month, and also from the International Society of Arboriculture. The ISA thank you included a nice book, CD and video from the ISA collection.
- Staff has spent a lot of time updating maps and databases and has spent some time GPSing locations and points of interest at the Sangamon River Forest Preserve.
- The last community service days with Lincoln's Challenge were this month. A total of 475 hours were spent working with Natural Resources and the Botanical Garden this spring.
- Exotic species have had a great year. Our focus this month has been on Garlic Mustard, Teasel, Canada Thistle, as well as autumn olive and honeysuckle re-sprouts at all of the sites.
- Phase 5 of Buffalo Trace has been completely prepped and, weather-permitting, may be planted this week.
- In addition to the above, staff has been busy with getting prairie plants for various departments, weeding and maintaining the prairie seed beds, lots of equipment maintenance, parts and equipment ordering, hand planting some prairie seed in ideal locations and responding to requests from the public.

Meetings

- Dan and Jerry met with a group from Mahomet Area Prosperity Planning that is interested in making canoeing accessible along the Sangamon River. A float trip has been planned.
- Dan attended a Green Stripes 4-H Club meeting at Lake of the Woods. This is a new and inspiring special needs club that is very active in outdoor activities. Their projects for the day included mapping other 4-H clubs that had written to them, and geocaching items for them to map.
- Dan, Larry and Saya attended the filming of the Best of the Class. The spots have already started running. There were many compliments on how the garden looked this year from WCIA staff.
- Dan attended a headstone and cemetery preservation workshop held by the IDNR at Prospect Cemetery.
- We are gearing up for another class session with Master Naturalists. We are now taking applications and already have about 20 interested individuals.
- Dan and other staff members met with Ratio Architects on site about the proposed bio-swale at the golf course.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Larry Beckett, Botanical Garden Supervisor

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden Activity Report

- Because of rain, we have not been able to move top soil into the area where the garden restrooms were located. We have filled the vaults with road pack and top soil to make the area secure.
- All annual flower beds were planted. Most of the plants had to be planted in mud.
- Repairs were made on the Enabling Garden water feature pumping system. New plumbing was added along with a more reliable submersible pump.
- A 24-square-foot gourd trellis was built adjacent to the Children's Discovery Garden. The trellis is located just south of the greenhouse. The featured gourds are of unusual large varieties that children will find most amusing.
- We had three garden weddings in May.
- We have purchased several species of prairie plants from Grand Prairie Friends to plant a new prairie sampler. It will be in a crescent shape, just south of the greenhouse. The old prairie sampler will be renovated into a possible "rain garden".
- With several inches of rain that have fallen each week since late winter, the garden pond is flooded with water backing up from nearby drains (see pictures on next page). There is standing water within the wedding area, and we will have to start pumping water out of the pond in order for weddings to be held.
- WCIA Best of the Class was held in the Botanical Garden on May 17. There were approximately 500 to 700 visitors in the garden between 9:00am and 12:00pm, with no rain and blue skies (see pictures below and on next page).



Best of the Class



Best of the Class



Pond flooding



June 6, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Cheryl Kennedy, Director of Museum

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Early American Museum Activity Report

<u>May Comparisons</u>	2007	2008
Visitation	868	800
Year to date	2,398	1,920
Schoolchildren to date	2,237	1,927
Gift Shop	\$2,478.06	\$2,780.55
Year to date	\$4,958.01	\$4,409.65
Donations at the door	\$300.99	\$394.63
Year to date	\$603.75	\$886.24

May Education Totals 1,075 onsite, 25 outreach

May is clearly a busy month for Sandy and her volunteers. Champaign County schools served include: Garden Hills, Stratton, Judah Christian, Ludlow, Sangamon, Lincoln Trail, King and Prairie. Out-of-county schools came from Hoopeston, Danville, Chatsworth, Chenoa, Bement, Forrest, Milford, Gilman, Cissna Park, Normal, Deland Weldon, Georgetown and Chicago. The schoolhouse programs with our volunteer school marms and masters, and coordinating with environmental and horticultural education programs make it possible to serve these numbers.

The library kit for the summer reading program is complete and has been scheduled by the following libraries: Tolono, Rantoul, Mahomet, Champaign, Monticello, Tuscola and Watseka. In conjunction with the kit, Sandy is scheduled to do a program for Champaign, Tuscola and Watseka.

<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	268.70
Office Support	60.75
Education	84.70
Collections	16.50
Programs	27.25
Special Projects	79.50

Public Programs

Barb did a presentation of the trends in school architecture for residents of Clark-Lindsey, Windsor of Savoy, and Prairie Winds. Attendance for all three programs numbered 125. We continue to grow a senior audience through the senior living centers.

Charlie reports that the Readin', 'Ritin', 'Rithmetic program went well. They had about 70 participants over the course of three hours. Typical comments from the evaluation sheet included – "My granddaughters really enjoyed everything and I did also. Everything was organized very well" and "This was a wonderful experience. Loved the schoolhouse!"

Collections

University of Illinois Legal Services has determined that we may maintain the Krannert Clothing pieces through a long-term loan and the Museum Advisory Committee agreed this is acceptable. We will, however, re-evaluate the collection to determine those pieces we feel are most important to our story and return any duplicates or pieces determined to be not so important. There is no need to store or care for more than we need.

Work continues on scanning the deeds of gift and collection related paperwork as well as digitizing the veteran oral history tapes. We continue to work on finding new homes for deaccessioned items.

Barb connected WILL with one of our donors, a descendant of Charles Bowen Busey, for an interview that will be aired as part of the reopening of Memorial Stadium. Charles Bowen Busey is one of the names inscribed on the stadium's pillars. Barb also provided them with scans of various materials from the Busey collection.

Lincoln Activities

- Barbara Wysocki and Cheryl met with Amy Eckert of The News-Gazette about ways the paper might help by featuring Bicentennial programs and events in the coming months.
- Mary Ellen, Jerry Pagac and Cheryl met with Joan Dixon, Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, to discuss funding opportunities for the exhibits. Barbara Wysocki is managing fundraising through a general letter of appeal.
- The "Abraham Lincoln in East Central Illinois" workshop will be held on June 12-13. Twenty-eight teachers are registered for a bus tour of the Lincoln sites with Guy Fraker on Thursday and presentations on local history, storytelling, music and literature on Friday.
- The Champaign County Board Facilities Committee viewed the Lincoln DVD during their regularly-scheduled meeting this month.

Staff Changes

Betty Sabato and Sharon Buchanan have officially begun their duties as Visitor Services/Retail Associates at the museum. They are reviewing as much as they can to learn about all the programs and opportunities at the District to assist our visitors. In addition, we are working to discover their individual strengths as they share in the essential functions of this position.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Pam Leiter, Coordinator of Environmental Education and Interpretation

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Environmental and Horticultural Education Activity Report

School Programs 492 students

In May, 337 students were served through Environmental Education programs from the following schools: Middletown Early Childhood Center, St. Joe Elementary, Ludlow Elementary, Calvary Baptist, Judah Christian, Jamaica Elementary and Heritage High School. (Of that number, 156 students visited the Education Center displays as part of their environmental education program.)

Horticulture Education programs served 155 students from these schools: Lincoln Trail Elementary and Pinecrest Elementary.

Homeschool Programs 27 students

Stacey taught the homeschool Aquatic Ecologist program to 5 students. Rachel taught two homeschool programs this month: Organic Vegetable Gardening (9 students) and one by special request for Torch Homeschool (13 students).

Public Programs 52 participants

Environmental Education:

- Pam led the Frog Walk for 6 people. This was our first program using the new wetland at Homer Lake! It was already teeming with frogs and thousands of toad tadpoles.
- Jackie led the Spring Wildflower Walk (5 participants).
- At the campground, 10 people participated in a Pond Life program, and 19 people participated in the Star Watch (13 at the presentation at the Activity Center, and 12 at the telescope station – numbers don't add up because some came to the presentation but not the telescopes, and vice versa).

Horticulture Education:

- The Garden Stroller Strut had a nice showing, with 12 participants attending.
- What's in the Pond was canceled due to rainy weather.

Take Me Fishing Event 119 participants

We had a very successful first Take Me Fishing event at Middle Fork. A total of 119 people attended (70 kids, 49 adults). Many came from the campground, but some drove in just for the event. The kid who caught the biggest fish caught a bass 15.5 inches long! It was a beautiful day, and all seemed to have a good time. We look forward to the next Take Me Fishing event at Homer Lake on June 28.

Scout Programs 14 participants

A girl scout group of 14 had a day of fun at Lake of the Woods on May 31. They went to the museum, toured the garden with Horticulture Education, and went fishing at Elks Lake with Environmental Education staff.

Environmental Education Center Visitation: (143 adults, 153 children)

Note that this month's visitation numbers includes two schools who visited the Education Center on their own (i.e. not as part of a field trip program): 92 students & 32 adults total from Leal Elementary and Unity East Elementary.

Our new donation box brought in \$9.10 this month. Outside the Education Center, Brian & Brad installed the new interpretive sign; visitors are definitely using it (see photo)! Volunteers are continuing to develop the native plantings around the building, and we continue to evaluate the new indoor exhibits.



Volunteer Hours 187.25 hours

- Environmental Education: 38 hours
- Volunteer hours in May for Take Me Fishing: 118.5 hours
 - Volunteer Training May 21st: 9 volunteers (13.5 hours)
 - May 24th event: 21 volunteers (105 hours)
- Horticulture Education: 30.75 hours

Summer Camps

- We sent camp confirmations to parents. Both Tiny Tot Garden Adventures and Garden Adventures are full with 46 kids total enrolled. This is a significantly higher number than in the past. Eco-Adventures is filling up, with 161 enrolled as of today.
- We developed the summer staff training schedule and the staff training binders.
- Summer camp t-shirts have been ordered.

Environmental Education – General

- Jackie updated the Homer Lake kiosks, creating a nice design using the program calendar in the District newsletter. They look great!
- Stacey submitted resources for teachers and scouts for the CCFPD website (includes info about grants and elementary program pre-trip information).
- Stacey attended the Environmental Education Association of Illinois annual conference.
- A new bird bath was donated by Joan Lane and Sue Smith for the Education Center bird feeding area. It includes a small fountain – the birds love it!

Horticulture Education – General

- This year's seasonal, Laura Witzling, started May 7th. She is working out great, and has already led two programs by herself: the Stroller Strut and Scout program. She has also been a great help in developing the Discovery Garden.
- Discovery Garden projects included building the cucumber tunnel, bean tepee, mulch bin, footbridge and gourd trellis. Garden Camp kids will plant many of the plants.
- Rachel sent a proposal for the garden sign to a potential sponsor.
- Rachel is working with Mary Ellen on sponsorships for the Discovery Garden. Mary Ellen has sent a letter out to possible sponsors.

May 5, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Andee Chestnut, Public Information Director

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Public Information Activity Report

Publications

The redesigned newsletter went out last month, and we have received much positive feedback. We are working on encouraging readers to sign up for the electronic version, and I expect that will increase with time. The next newsletter is scheduled to go out in August.

Sneak Preview

Postcards went out to approximately 400 people inviting them to the Sneak Preview at the Sangamon River Forest Preserve. Hopefully the weather will cooperate that day.

Promotions

Now that the summer kid programs are starting, promotions focus on programming through the summer and fall. Added to the promotion list this year were the three Take Me Fishing programs. We anticipate increased attendance at the Homer Lake program June 28th and the Lake of the Woods program July 26th. Pam Leiter captured this wonderful picture of two brothers who participated in the Middle Fork program. It seems to sum up the day.



Freedom Fest

The annual Freedom Fest celebration is approaching quickly. The committee members have been tireless in soliciting sponsors, distributing posters, making arrangements for food vendors and working to get volunteers. Chuck & Vickie Thompson, Jennifer Owens and Melissa Wilson do an immense amount of work each year to make this event a success.

Poster Contest - This is the third year we held a poster contest with the graphic design class at Mahomet-Seymour High School. We had an extremely tough time determining a winner this year. All the submissions were tremendous, and we really struggled. A copy of the winning design, created by Sarah Johnson, is attached.

Permit Update - For as long as I've been involved with this event, we have been required to obtain a fireworks permit from the Champaign County Planning & Zoning Department. New this year is a requirement to obtain a second permit from the Champaign County Clerk's office. I was informed of that today, and when I called the County Clerk's office to apply for their permit, they said the State's Attorney is still finalizing the application, and they will let me know as soon as it's available. I'm certain this will be resolved very soon because every fireworks show in the county is dependent on this.

Best of the Class

Again this year, garden and natural resources staff spent a great amount of time preparing the Botanical Garden for WCIA's Best of the Class program. This is a wonderful promotion for us because all the spots have a credit, but it does take time. Thanks to all involved for another very successful year.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Kim Horbas, Volunteer Coordinator

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Volunteer Activity Report

CCFPD will host the Council for Volunteers Retreat Thursday, June 12th at Lake of the Woods Pavilion. Over 30 coordinators and staff will participate in the daylong event. In addition to the program set up by United Way, participants will provide service to the District in an afternoon volunteer session. We are pleased to host this event two years in a row!

We are working with the Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas. Over 80 volunteers from their Youth Ministries program will be travelling to Champaign for a week of service, July 19-26. The program is being coordinated with the McKinley Church and Foundation in Champaign. The group travels throughout the country each summer providing service to nonprofit organizations. We are fortunate they chose Champaign for the 2008 service trip! In addition to the teen volunteers, each group will include two skilled adults, including engineers, architects, contractors, professional painters, medical professionals, etc. The CCFPD staff has been asked to supply projects needing completion that this group can tackle.

T-shirts are being provided for all summer camp volunteers this year. We're hoping it will make them feel more like a member of the team! Thirty shirts will be ready for pick up by the time camp begins.

The next Trail Steward Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, July 12th, 10 am to noon at River Bend. Colin Vaughan and Adam Rex will provide training on best practices for trail maintenance and additional invasive identification and proper removal.

Many thanks to Mary Ellen Wuellner for putting together the recent Volunteer Stewardship Network Grant request. Dan Olson and I submitted our "wish list" for funding. The VSN has been very generous to us in meeting grant requests. Decisions will be announced mid-summer.

Congrats to Pam Leiter and her team for an outstanding and successful Take Me Fishing program held at Middle Fork Memorial Day Weekend. The reports have all been positive from volunteers who participated.

Notification has been received for the UI "I-Help" Volunteer Project scheduled for Saturday, October 4th. We have been fortunate to include their service for the past two years.

May Trail Steward Hours: 43
Group Project (UI Business Club): 4

June 4, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Mary Ellen Wuellner, Grants Coordinator

Re: Grant Activity Report

Recent Grants Approved

- The Illinois Humanities Council approved a grant of \$3,550 to fund a lecture series related to the Abraham Lincoln exhibit at the Early American Museum. The *Goose Pond Lecture Series* will focus on the issue of slavery and the political conditions in East Central Illinois in the years leading up to the Civil War. Lincoln's speeches given at the Goose Pond Church in West Urbana (now Champaign) will be featured prominently in the lecture series. The application also requested funding for a portion of the exhibit design and construction at the Early American Museum; however, that funding was denied.

Grant Applications Submitted – Decision Pending

- An application was submitted in November 2007 to the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences in the amount of \$116,500. If funded, the grant would cover many of the costs related to the design and construction of the Abraham Lincoln exhibit planned for the Champaign County Courthouse. Decisions will not be made until August 2008.
- A grant application in the amount of \$1,500 was submitted on May 21 to the Target Corporation to request funding for the 2009 *Sunday Artisan Series and Family Concerts* at the Early American Museum and Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden. The decision is expected by September 30.
- A Volunteer Stewardship Network grant application was submitted to The Nature Conservancy on May 22 in the amount of \$1,572 for supplies and equipment for the District's many volunteers. The decision is expected by July 1. If funded, the grant would cover safety glasses and vests, two-way radios, herbicide sprayers, loppers and saws, and other tools necessary for dedicated individuals to maintain trails and carry out the other projects assigned by staff throughout the District.
- An application was submitted to the Ameren Charitable Trust on June 11 in the amount of \$13,850. If approved, the grant would cover construction costs related to the Lincoln exhibit at the Early American Museum. Although no specific timeframe has been provided, staff expects to receive a decision within 60 days.

Grant Applications Planned/Underway

- Additional grant opportunities are currently being investigated to request additional funding for the Lincoln exhibits at both the Early American Museum and the Champaign County Courthouse. Applications to the Preservation and Conservation Association, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, and the Champaign Rotary Cannon Grant are planned for submission within the next few months.

Donations Requested

- Donations were requested from various sporting goods retailers, fishing supply companies, and several local businesses for the three *Take Me Fishing* events scheduled for 2008. Donations or offers of reduced product costs were received from Blain's Farm & Fleet, Meijer Stores, Bass Pro Shop, Cabela's, Bait-N-Stuff (Champaign), WalMart (Champaign), Kirby Foods, GodSpeed Tackle, and Pure Fishing. The total value of the items or funds donated is approximately \$1,500.
- Donations have also been requested to assist in funding upcoming Early American Museum, Environmental Education, and Horticultural Education events and programs at the museum and garden. To date, three donations have been received. Fisher National Bank provided a \$75 donation to the *Summer Youth Program* series which includes *Eco-Adventures*, *Garden Adventures* day camps, and *Grand Prairie Kids*. Busey Bank of Mahomet is sponsoring the *Second Sunday Artisan Series* at the \$50 level, and First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust is sponsoring *Prairie Stories* and *November Moon* at the \$200 level. Efforts will continue, and an update will be provided in the next report.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: John Baker, Administration

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Administration Activity Report

May/June is a busy period for Administration, with rental activity increasing substantially, the 2007 audit of District financials, and increased payables and hiring activities. Specifics include:

Jerry Pagac and I met with Nancy Jones May 15 to review the agency's audit. Clifton Gunderson notified us months ago that this audit would be more stringent because of strengthened audit standards. Federal regulators are expecting public agencies to meet audit standards quite similar to private companies, because bonding activity by public agencies is quite a large sum with a high potential impact on the nation's economy. Our audit went well though a bit longer than anticipated, and the findings will help strengthen the agency. Nancy will be presenting the audit findings and financial statements at the June Board Meeting.

Since the start of the fiscal year, the District has generated more than \$30,000 in "soft" payroll savings from full-time vacancies. Soft savings are good for the current fiscal year only and allow an organization to reinvest the savings in one-time payroll adjustments, such as longer use of part-time staffing or bonuses for exemplary work. (By contrast, "hard" savings result from turnover of full-time staff resulting in an annual net savings to the District.)

Several part-time payroll adjustments from District payroll savings have helped to address part-time staffing issues, including providing a more competitive rate for hiring museum visitor services staff, expanded staffing hours at Lake of the Woods (where most of the part-time savings have occurred), and for Environmental Education.

The District continues to look for assistance with marketing and has outlined a plan for staff support in content development/management for an e-newsletter and the District's website.

Let's talk money! All items approved last month have sold on eBay for a total of \$8,118.25. The big ticket item was the Homer Lake tractor with backhoe attachment which brought in \$7,600. This week staff has been busy gathering and arranging for pickup of the items. The District's grand eBay total to date is a whopping \$70,031.08.

Administration staff hustled the last week of May to make the District's boat rentals available on an expanded basis (1-7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays). Chris Edmondson has agreed to supervise the boat rental according to the procedures developed by HQ staff. Vickie, Mary and Tonya really deserve thanks for getting this activity ready again for the public.

The District has made the final payment to Worldwide Homes for the Middle Fork home installation. The same vendor is now working on the garage addition.

In late May, the District received its first property tax distribution (about \$422,000).

I've been working on filing the District's annual treasurer's report to the State Comptroller, as well as preparing the "published financial report" which must be printed in the News Gazette before June 30. In the past the published report requirement was thought not to apply to the District, so 2008 is the first year this will appear in the newspaper.

Furat Ibrahim of Microsystems International installed DSL connectivity at Headquarters, resolving the Internet problems experienced there. Mary placed the rest of Lake of the Woods on Verizon's waiting list so that the District receives notice as soon as DSL is available for the museum and other offices located on the west side of Lake of the Woods.

Tis the season for seasonal employees! Almost all have been hired and have attended the District employee orientation.

The District's dental insurance is now provided through AIG, per last month's Board action.

Staff reports that many rentals continue to pour in. Patrons seem to be staying nearer to home in the current economic environment. Regrettably, we have had to deal with some damage issues where renters left trash strewn in the pavilions or removed chairs and other items from facilities which took staff considerable time to return to rental condition. Over 325 rentals have been booked and paperwork sent out. This covers both in-house as well as paid rentals through the beginning of August with many more to go for 2008.

Summer education programs are about to begin so administration is working on processing payment and sending receipts to all participants.

Recently-issued Special Use Permits: Mahomet-Seymour Junior High School Cross-Country at Lake of the Woods; Mahomet-Seymour High School Cross-Country at Buffalo Trace Prairie, Lake of the Woods and Girl Scout Day Camp at Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake.

Wedding patrons are pleased at the new arrangements for the Botanical Garden rental. As you recall, for 2008 the District contracted with Herriott's to provide the wedding chairs.

Lastly, I want to thank the Board for making the Lake of the Woods residence available the past several months during our transition from Indiana to Champaign County. The use of the residence was great for observing the flora, fauna and patron usage at Lake of the Woods, and becoming familiar with District operations. My wife and I are now moved into our new home north of Mahomet and there is a good place for my mom there as well! We all are very thankful and happy to be settled (mostly)!

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Dave Torrens, Director of Golf

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Lake of the Woods Golf Course Maintenance Activity Report

- Seasonal staffing is now full.
- Spring aerification went well. The putting surfaces are healing nicely.
- Routine maintenance of equipment continues.
- Staff is edging the sand bunkers. This task is done twice a year.
- The parking lot and entrance were finally paved June 11th. The cart path project will begin when the ground firms enough to sustain the paving equipment and asphalt trucks.

Note from Jerry Pagac: I don't usually add comments, but in this case, I will. Dave could have provided a title to his report, "Water, Water, Everywhere Water!" The record rainfall this spring has been a challenge everywhere, but especially at the golf course. The old timers tell me there is water standing in places it has never been before.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

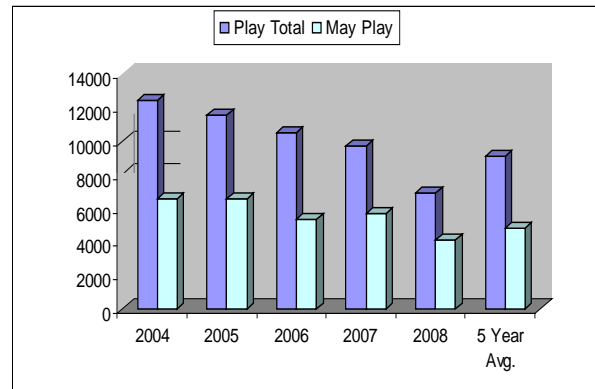
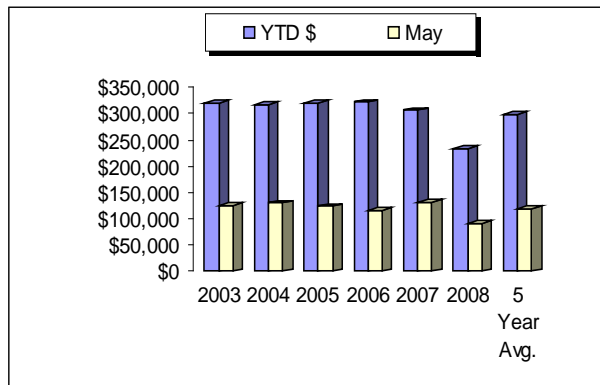
From: Dave Huber, PGA Golf Professional

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Lake of the Woods Golf Course Pro Shop Activity Report

Operations

May 2008 revenue was \$92,291 compared to last May with \$132,642. The five-year May average is \$118,889. May 2008 play was 4,093 vs. 5,660 from May 2007.



Tournaments and Outing Activity

May 12 th	Golf Card Grasshoppers	40 golfers
May 15 th	Mahomet Rotary	72 golfers
May 30 th	WICD Summer Golf Challenge	50 golfers

Other Activities

- District Junior lessons will begin June 10th and run four consecutive Tuesdays through July 1st. We have a good number of youngsters signed up so far.
- Completion of construction on the entry way continues to be set back with all the rain.
- The big rainfall from June 3rd flooded the pro shop more severely than in the past. We had water under the counters and across the Pro Shop carpet, at the end of the hall between the shop and clubhouse, at the north entrance way behind the Audubon display, the snack bar area, and in the men's locker room. When the construction is complete, this should help with the overall drainage, and I am in the process of getting quotes for two additional gutters that I believe will correct most of the rest.
- I recorded two new commercials for the CU radio Group May 14th. If it stops raining, these may bring out some additional play.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Thomas M. Pike, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Activity Reports for:
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve (LOW)
River Bend Forest Preserve (RB)
Sangamon River Forest Preserve (SR)

- With all the rain events and the flooding, staff has just managed to get the areas mowed that we absolutely needed to be mowed. I don't have to tell you, it has been hectic.
- All the seasonals have started, and they have been kept busy.
- All that is left for the T8 energy replacements are the lights in the golf course locker rooms. Unfortunately, the remaining ballasts had to be ordered and we are awaiting them.
- Staff has been working on the Lake of the Woods entrance sign off Route 47. The sign has been primed and will be repainted so it can go back up.
- Clint Schaffer has moved into the house at Sangamon River Forest Preserve.
- The construction crew has been working at the Sangamon River preserve trying to complete the parking lot between the rains.
- Crews have primed the Sangamon River gate that was built by the construction crew.
- Staff has started string trimming around the trees, posts, fences, etc. at Lake of the Woods, River Bend and Sangamon River.
- Staff completed ongoing janitorial work at rental buildings and public restrooms.
- We continued with routine scheduled maintenance and repairs on various District vehicles and other equipment.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Matthew Kuntz, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Middle Fork River Forest Preserve Activity Report

- We had a very successful Memorial Day Weekend at the campground. With perfect weather, it was one of the busiest holiday weekends I have seen.
- The Take Me Fishing event held at the preserve was a big success. We saw a lot of fish being caught, and the kids really enjoyed themselves.
- Staff has been helping with the Illinois State Geological Survey with work they are doing in the area monitoring the Mahomet Aquifer. Their work includes drilling test wells and taking electronic readings for depths.
- We have set our traffic counter at the front entrance of the preserve to monitor visitors through the summer.
- Many hazardous trees have been removed from the user areas and campground sites.
- More work continues with landscaping around the user areas inside the preserve, including at the Activity Center and front entrance.
- Our spring semester with Lincoln's Challenge Academy has ended. The cadets did a wonderful job this spring helping us accomplish many jobs that we never could have finished on our own.
- The remainder of the month has been spent doing routine maintenance throughout the preserve.

June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Brian Taylor, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Homer Lake Forest Preserve Activity Report

- We installed a swinging bench near the play equipment at Walnut Hill for parents to use as they watch their kids. We have noticed that it gets used a great deal by adults and children (picture at right).
- The Hustler mower that was going to be sold on eBay has already found a new home at the Sangamon River Forest Preserve.
- Staff landscaped the area around the main entrance sign with prairie plants in an effort to add some color and reduce maintenance.



- The new interpretive signs have been installed. We installed the Homer Lake informational sign near the Environmental Education Center, and it has been well received (see picture below).



- We have had several rainy days so we have been able to replace several of the old light fixtures with the new energy-efficient ones we received through the Clean Energy Grant. The new lights are much brighter and less noisy.
- The new Ford truck finally arrived and was put into service. The 1993 Chevy truck will be sold on eBay.