

October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Sally Prunty, Planning Director

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Planning Activity Report

River Bend Accessible Fishing Pier

The fishing pier is to be delivered in early November, at which point the contractor will install it. We are discussing possibly delaying the manufacture and installation until spring since there will be little use during the winter.

River Bend Forest Preserve

We are applying for a permit to install a drain pipe out of Sunset Lake to the Sangamon River to keep the water levels from getting too high. John Frauenhoffer is preparing a design and specifications for installation of the pipe, which we will send to IDNR along with the permit application.

Dam Inspections for Insurance Purposes

We have had John Frauenhoffer inspect Lake of the Woods and Homer Lake dams. Mary Beck and I met with Gerrit Prince of PDRMA regarding this process, and it was determined that Lake of the Woods Dam and Homer Lake Dam are type II and type III dams, respectively, so they are not covered by PDRMA insurance.

Both dams were given a good bill of health by Frauenhoffer and Associates, but they did make some minor recommendations we need to address. Gerrit also requested that we formalize regular inspections of the dams by staff.

Bridge Inspections

We also had F&A inspect the Little Golden Gate and the Botanical Garden bridges. Both of these bridges are structurally sound. F&A recommended replacing the plank walkway on the Botanical Garden bridge as necessary, and they recommended repair of the stairway on the east end of the Little Golden Gate, and replacement of deteriorated planks on the walkway area.

Miscellaneous

- I developed the map for the Sangamon River Forest Preserve brochure used for the Grand Opening and for general public distribution.
- Work continues with the CAC Outreach Subcommittee's Farmer's Market coordination and staffing.

October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Bryan Stevens, Construction Manager

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Construction Department Activity Report

Miscellaneous

Over the past month, the Construction Department:

- installed the new Sangamon River Forest Preserve entrance sign;
- continued work on the Middle Fork shop office renovation;
- started the installation of new sidewalks in the Botanical Garden; and
- assisted staff in preparing estimates for possible construction projects for the FY 2009 budget.

October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Dan Olson, Director of Natural Resources

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Natural Resources Department Activity Report

- We are collecting seed and nuts for future plantings. We have received tree seed from several volunteers.
- Interviews for the Natural Resources Technician position have concluded, and we will announce our new hire shortly.
- We continue to compile information and write for the Environmental Assessment Report.
- The 2008 Master Naturalist class concludes in October.
- Exotic species removal has slowed down, but spraying continues.
- Site preparation continues on the Homer Lake West Side Prairie.
- We once again planted trees at Unity West Grade School. This is the 5th year of planting.
- We are planting several honorary and memorial trees as well as other large trees and shrubs.
- Mike Daab and Brian Taylor are working with a boy scout on a tree planting project.
- We have spent time on repair and maintenance of equipment.
- Much time has been spent on gathering budget information and getting our large plant materials worked out for the year.
- We are writing parts of the East Central Illinois Stewardship Manual funded by the Volunteer Stewardship Network.
- Natural Resources and Botanical Garden staff continue working with Lincoln's Challenge this fall.
- Bryan Stevens, Larry Beckett, and Dan Olson have met on several occasions to look at sidewalk projects in the garden.
- Dan has written many articles for various newsletters.

October 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Larry Beckett, Botanical Garden Supervisor

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Botanical Garden Activity Report

- There were four weddings in the Botanical Garden during September.
- Top soil has been bermed in the area where the old restrooms were located. We will be planting understory native trees in this area.
- Fall tilling of annual flower beds in the garden has been completed.
- We have removed the last section of brick sidewalk that was leading to the schoolhouse just south of the Museum Annex. A new concrete sidewalk has been built, completing the walkway leading from the Museum to the schoolhouse.
- Trees and shrubs have been purchased to be planted adjacent to the Enabling Garden, south of the waterfall, and along the west tree line that runs adjacent to Route 47. Additional trees will be planted in these areas as we get time to plant this fall.
- Fall garden clean-up has begun, and with the help of volunteers from Lincoln's Challenge, we are on schedule.
- We have been taking cuttings from selected plants in the garden for propagation in the greenhouse. These plant varieties are hard to find in local nurseries and are expensive to purchase each year. We only propagate plants that are not hardy in this planting zone. We are also going to try to grow selected prairie plants from seed this winter in the greenhouse.

October 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Cheryl Kennedy, Museum Director

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Early American Museum Activity Report

September Comparisons	2007	2008
Visitation	929	882
Year to date	6,401	6,185
Museum Store	\$878.08	\$1,070.80
Year to date	\$9,172.61	\$9,443.67
Donations	\$421.25	\$289.25
Year to date	\$2,714.65	\$2,607.61
Volunteer Hours	431.75 hours	
Office Support	33.75	
Collections	29.00	
Education	73.50	
Special Projects	74.50	
Public Programs	221.00	

Public program volunteer hours: The purpose of the Prairie Stories event is to engage families in the day-to-day activities and foodways of the past, so this event requires the involvement of many volunteers. The Prairie Adventures school program involved the support of 13 volunteers all week. Three homeschool families volunteered and shared that participation which fulfilled a community service portion of their curriculum.

Education **360 children**

Next Generation participated in a special program Sandy developed on the women featured in the Prairie Stories exhibit. These stories are then incorporated into the class's study of famous women.

Participants in Prairie Adventures, the interdisciplinary program that incorporates environmental, horticultural and historical education into one program, included: Southside, Robeson and Carrie Busey from Champaign, Washington from Monticello, and Schneider from Farmer City. Homeschool families came from Allerton, Homer, St. Joseph, Champaign, Urbana, Mahomet, Fisher, Rantoul, Saybrook, Rossville, Onarga, Monticello, Lincoln and Covington. This program has gained so much attention that it was incorporated into a Champaign School District Science Grant application this year.

Public Programs

Barb reported that there were 17 people at the Illinois Humanities Council-sponsored lecture by Ron Keller from Lincoln College. Information gathered from the IHC evaluation forms as well as the questions and comments that followed the talk confirmed that the audience was very interested in the Lincoln program.

Next programs:

November 9 at 2 p.m., Ellen Swain, Archivist for Student Life and Culture at the UI, will present *Soldier, Sailor, and Student: Collecting World War II Stories from the University of Illinois*. Ms. Swain will describe the current oral history project of the University Archives capturing recollections of campus life during this pivotal era.

November 14, 4:30-6:00 p.m., *November Moon* will celebrate the fall season. Participants will learn about moon gardens and join in stories as Camille Born spins tales based on myths and legends of the time.

Collections

We are pleased to share that we transferred ownership of most of the agricultural items stored at Middle Fork to the I&I Tractor Club this past month. Select pieces were kept for future interpretation at the Sangamon River Forest Preserve and will be moved to this area in the coming months. Barb sent approximately 50 letters to museums and historical societies in the area with pictures of the items we had deaccessioned. As a result, we have transferred ownership of two upholstered chairs, a sofa and a marble top table to the Forrest Historical Society. They are restoring a railroad hotel in their downtown area. The Harris Agricultural Museum plans to pick up another chair from our list.

Tom Meachum and Alan Weith have been busy running wire and installing cameras throughout the museum for our new security system. The cameras feed to a computer and monitor at the front desk, and we can now view what is going on in every gallery – and almost every nook and cranny of the museum.

Doug Bosworth, retired from UI Ag Engineering, and a colleague spent time with Barb reviewing the plows in the collection. Barb is working on a preliminary report, but has shared that several of our plows are quite early (pre-John Deere), and a few are specialized types – one for cultivating and garden plowing, one for furrowing for roadways, and one with a throw to the left side because it was thought that right-sided plows would poison the soil.

Lincoln Activities

Barb completed her work on the text and graphics for the wayside exhibit for Champaign. Barb worked with Ray Cunningham on the sign for Homer Lake, and Steve Beckett on the one for the courthouse, and she wrote the text and selected the graphics for Mahomet's sign.

We hosted an afternoon for teachers of the American History Teachers Collaborative this past month. In addition to providing a chance to visit with the school marm/master, we used this opportunity to engage the teachers in focus groups about what the courthouse exhibit should include, how we could prepare them for visiting the exhibit, and how civic engagement could be a part of the exhibit experience.

Other Activities

- Organization of education program for Monticello group
- Work on Founders Day event with the National Council of Negro Women
- Development and staffing of information table at the College of Education Literature Fair.



Above are three pictures from the Prairie Adventures school program. Below, at the Prairie Stories public program, two volunteers watch a young girl learning to spin.



October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Pam Leiter, Coordinator of Environmental Education and Interpretation

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Environmental and Horticultural Education Activity Report

School Programs 1267 students

Environmental Education programs served 890 students in September from the following schools/agencies: Spectrum, Middletown Early Childhood Center, Robeson Elementary, Carrie Busey Elementary, Washington (Monticello), Schneider Elementary (Mansfield), Southside Elementary, Westview Elementary, Champaign Public Library and an assortment of Homeschoolers. (400 of these children were at Westview's Environmental Fair, where Stacey did a vermicomposting demonstration.)

Horticultural Education programs served 377 students from these schools: Lincoln Trail Elementary, Robeson Elementary, Carrie Busey Elementary, Washington (Monticello), Schneider Elementary (Mansfield), Southside Elementary, and an assortment of Homeschoolers.

Other activities: Staff is developing pre-trip activities for preschool programs and researching storybooks to use in all preschool programs. School program brochures were handed out to 50 pre-service teachers on Sept. 12th. Staff is organizing and replacing supplies as the fall school program season progresses.

Public Programs 61 participants

Environmental Education:

- The Busy Bees preschool program at Homer Lake had 9 participants (4 children, 5 adults); the session at Lake of the Woods was cancelled due to low enrollment.
- The Tallgrass Prairie Hike had 4 participants.

Horticulture Education:

- Native Plant Gardening had 3 people in attendance. We were pleased to have John Marlin as a guest speaker.
- Garden Harvest (part of the Kids' Garden Club series) had 45 participants. We harvested produce, painted pumpkins, heard stories by professional storyteller Elaine Bearden, and much more.

Environmental Education and Horticulture Education staff are preparing for public programs in October, and are working with the Museum staff to plan for this fall's November Moon program. We are also developing the 2009 public program schedule.

Environmental Education Center Visitation: 84 (55 adults, 29 children)

- Staff is developing new hands-on displays to replace those that have been up for awhile.
- We had two false fire alarms this month; FE Moran was called in, and they replaced the smoke detector.
- We received \$3.50 in the donation box this month.

Volunteer Hours **78.5 hours**

Environmental Education: 12.0

Horticulture Education: 66.5

Environmental Education – General

- Staff is continuing to develop the Interpretive Plan. We met several times, and visited the Falls of the Ohio interpretive center.
- Stacey completed a four-day Certified Interpretive Guide training. This certification is offered through the National Association for Interpretation.
- Pam set up the CCFPD display at an Eco-Expo at the Vineyard Church.
- We would like to welcome Patti Wesley, our fall seasonal employee. She dove right in doing school programs.
- Homer Lake kiosks were updated with fall program information. Patti did a really good job on them!
- Staff is developing ideas for self-guided trail brochures for Timberdoodle trail at Homer Lake, and Rayburn-Purnell Woods trail at Lake of the Woods.

Horticulture Education – General

- Rachel has been overseeing Discovery Garden cleanup, harvest, and maintenance.

October 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Andee Chestnut, Public Information Director

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Public Information Activity Report

Publications

E-News

At this writing, Kirby Pringle has finished the first e-newsletter, and we are working on posting it in a way that readers can access it easily. The people at OJC have been extremely helpful, and we hope to have all the glitches worked out very soon. The first item in a project such as this is always the toughest, so we expect the others to go more quickly.

Facebook

Brock Peoples has established a presence for the District on Facebook, and is now focusing on marketing the site through the Facebook network. To view the site, you must be a member of Facebook, which is very easy to do. We will provide instructions to all District staff and commissioners shortly, and we will try to find a way to get Internet access to demonstrate the site at the Board Meeting.

Sangamon River Grand Opening

Many people helped to make the Grand Opening a wonderful day. We provided trail tours, a tree-boring demonstration with a "Guess the Age" competition (206 years), a chance for people to write notes to future visitors, and a chance to pose for photos in front of one of the huge trees. Photos will be posted to the website shortly. Tom Pike and Clint Schaffer took care of all the logistics; Cheryl Kennedy and Sarah Elm provided interpretation on the house and other buildings; Dan Olson, Sally Prunty, Pam Leiter & Stacey Clementz served as tour guides; Tonya Maier was a huge help with all the organizational details, and Vickie Thompson and John Baker assisted throughout the event. Pam also arranged for the UI Wildlife Medical Clinic to be there with several raptors, which was a big hit, and Sally designed the map for the brochure. As with other events, this one went well because of all the people behind the scenes making it happen. Thank you to all!

Miscellaneous

- At the editor's request, and with assistance from Barb & Cheryl, I wrote an article for the next Community Concierge magazine. It will focus on the 2009 Abraham Lincoln activities in Champaign County, along with a side feature on the Early American Museum. I was very pleased to be asked to do this.
- In addition to planning for the 2009 budget, I will now be focusing on getting the year's promotional schedule organized. It always takes a lot of time up front, but it does make the year flow much more smoothly.

October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Kim Horbas, Volunteer Coordinator

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Volunteer Activity Report

General

CCFPD recently hosted 56 UI students participating in the I-HELP program in conjunction with Homecoming Festivities. Pam Leiter had 29 students at Homer Lake help with invasives removal and general clean-up. Twenty-seven students went to Lake of the Woods and divided their group into painting the Museum, trash pick-up throughout the park and weeding the flower beds at the Golf Course. It is always a pleasure to work with these energetic and motivated students! (photos attached)

Eagle Scout Caleb Tonkinson continues his project with painting the Museum Annex. He has coordinated a great team, and they are more than halfway completed.

The last Trail Steward workshop of the year took place October 4th at the new Sangamon River Forest Preserve. Twenty-six stewards enjoyed the excellent program prepared by Mike Daab and Adam Rex. In addition to a great presentation on the past, present and future of the site, the group was treated to a hayride tour through the preserve. The next steward program will start up in January 2009. There have already been several inquiries by new volunteers about "adopting" a trail at Sangamon River. (photo attached)

More than 100 guests attended the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on October 9th. It was a beautiful fall evening, and Homer Lake just sparkled as the perfect setting for this year's event. Pam and her staff did an excellent job providing information and tours at the Education Center's Open House. Then it was on to Salt Fork Center for a great dinner. Many thanks to all who attended, the staff who shared their experiences and gratitude with the volunteers - Jerry Pagac, Dan Olson, Andee Chestnut, Charlie Tice, Pam Leiter and Rachel Dawsey, and big kudos to Brian Taylor and his staff for all their assistance! Thanks also go to Volunteer Jimmy Cadman of the Mahomet Shell Station for donating all the prizes, and Volunteer Bob Rubendunst for the great telescope experience he shared with the guests. (photos attached)

Two seed collecting dates have been scheduled, October 12 and 26 at Buffalo Trace. Phil Hult and Gail Snowdon will coordinate the program. There have been numerous responses from the listing on CUvolunteer.org to come out and assist this year. With the addition of prairie restoration at Sangamon River Forest Preserve, collection is more vital than ever this year. We are looking forward to two great programs.

Volunteer Hours

Horticulture Ed	67
Group Projects	213
Trail Stewards	107
Community Service	37
Total	424

GREAT MONTH! THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Above: Guests at the Volunteer Recognition Evening



Left: Trail Stewards at the final workshop

Below: Students with the I-HELP program



October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Mary Ellen Wuellner, Grants Coordinator

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Grant Activity Report

Grants Approved/Denied

- Unfortunately, the grant application to the Target Corporation in the amount of \$1,500 was denied for the 2009 *Sunday Artisan Series and Family Concerts*. Other funding options are now being researched.

New Grant Applications Submitted

- A grant application was submitted September 25 to the Captain Planet Foundation for \$1,500 in funding to support the development of the Grand Prairie Educational Plot. Staff from the Botanical Garden along with Environmental and Horticultural Education are creating a native prairie plot near the Children's Discovery Garden, which will be used as an educational tool during school trips and summer camps. The Captain Planet Foundation "supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths that educate and empower them to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities." The decision may take up to 90 days.
- With assistance from Mary Beck, a grant application was submitted to the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) on October 7 for \$1,400 to purchase four solar lighting packages for Middle Fork River Forest Preserve restrooms. The lighting systems are provided by CXT, Inc., the restroom supplier, and can be retrofitted onto the newly-installed restrooms located at the campground and the Sugar Creek Shelter. PDRMA funds two safety-related projects for member organizations each year. A decision is expected within a few weeks.
- A grant application totaling \$19,200 was submitted on October 17 to the Champaign Rotary Club to assist with the construction of the Lincoln exhibit at the Early American Museum. Funding decisions will be made in December.

Grant Applications Previously Submitted – Decision Pending

- An Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant application is pending in the amount of \$22,000 to assist with the purchase of a 4.68-acre addition to one of the preserves. A final decision is expected from ICECF by the end of October.
- Also pending is an application to the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois for \$1,500 in funding to assist with the development of the Grand Prairie Educational Plot. Grant awards are expected by the end of November.

- A Bank of America Charitable Foundation grant proposal is pending in the amount of \$15,225. The application requests funding for the museum's Lincoln exhibit and an accompanying educational curriculum. Award notification is expected within 30 days.
- A grant application is also pending in the amount of \$4,500 to the American Hiking Society's National Trails Fund. The grant would allow the District to purchase and install two new interpretive signs and six directional markers for a 1.2-mile extension of trail through the Sangamon River preserve. Award notification is not expected until spring 2009.
- A grant application is also pending from the Motorola Foundation in the amount of \$19,500 to cover expenses related to the Lincoln exhibits at the courthouse and the museum. A decision is expected this month.

October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: John Baker, Administration

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Administration Activity Report

- Yes, it's that time of year again! 2009 Budget preparation: Department heads met September 24 to review capital equipment and project requests for 2009. We also heard an Internet Technology presentation about the potential productivity increase from implementing a common staff network and the possibilities of an upgraded phone system functioning in tandem with a common network. Finally, I've been meeting with department heads about their operating budgets, thus far, Homer Lake, Lake of the Woods, Botanical Garden, Planning, Middle Fork, Natural Resources, Public Information and Museum; I am still planning to meet with Environmental Education, Golf Course and Construction.
- On the Middle Fork visit, I was able (because of abundant rainfall that day) to meet Larry Roberts, who is the District's tenant farmer for 269 acres at Middle Fork. Larry reported a yield of 180 bushels of corn/acre for one field. One river bottom field of soybeans was underwater last month for approximately four days and will have a very poor crop this year. This has been reported to our crop insurance agency.
- The District received \$919,508, the September distribution, in property tax payments. We've now received the bulk of the 2008 distribution with just about \$110,000 to be received the rest of the year. The District has not yet received the farm payments for the Middle Fork crops or Conservation Reserve Program payments. We have filed the CRP paperwork to participate in the lottery for both Middle Fork, as well as the Sangamon River Forest Preserve plots that Ron Cook had enrolled in the program.
- Bobbie Herakovich, Vicki Mayes, Tammy Hoggatt, Mary Beck and I attended an IPRA Compensation Essentials meeting as preparation for salary studies for each of our organizations. We have discussed doing a joint study for the three Districts and plan to meet again October 13 regarding specifics.
- Joan Dixon of the Community Foundation met with me and the two park district financial officers, Jan Plotner and Dorothy Lierman, to work out payment handling for the Kellogg Foundation Access to Recreation grant. This grant will reimburse the District for up to \$86,666 of costs toward constructing the River Bend accessible fishing pier structure.
- Mary has placed the items approved at the September Board meeting on eBay for sale. The seven-day listing started on Monday, October 13th. We will report back to you on the revenue produced.
- In-house brochures such as the User Fee, Campground, Lake Use Permit, etc. are being updated and copied for upcoming use.
- Due to a mandatory upgrade set by the USPS, the District must replace its postage machine by 2009. Tonya met with various vendors to ensure the District's needs would be met.
- Facility rental bookings continue to come in. More than 500 rentals have been booked and paperwork sent out for 2008. This covers both in-house as well as paid rentals. In addition, 2009 rental paperwork is being sent out.
- Research into reservation software for the buildings and shelters as well as the campground continues, and the purchase of these items will be included in the 2009 budget.
- Wrap up on the Foundation Golf/Canoe Outing continues and more information will be available soon.
- Recent Special Use Permits include: Mahomet-Seymour Middle School Cross Country meets at Lake of the Woods; Annual Crop Walk at Lake of the Woods; Mahomet Library 5 K Run/Walk at Lake of the Woods; and Tolono High School Cardboard Boat Races at Homer Lake.

October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Dave Torrens, Director of Golf

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Lake of the Woods Golf Course Maintenance Activity Report

Over the past month, staff has:

- continued with irrigation repairs;
- performed maintenance on equipment;
- continued with routine golf course maintenance; and
- begun leaf clean-up.

Area equipment vendors have been providing demonstration equipment to the golf course. This allows staff a chance to use the equipment before we decide to purchase it. We can directly see how each piece of equipment works and determine which model will best meet our needs.

October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

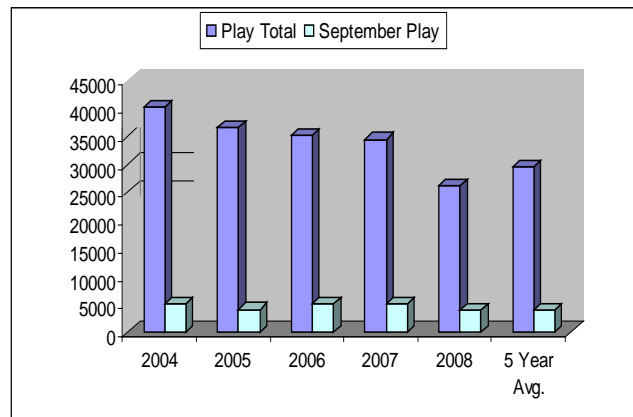
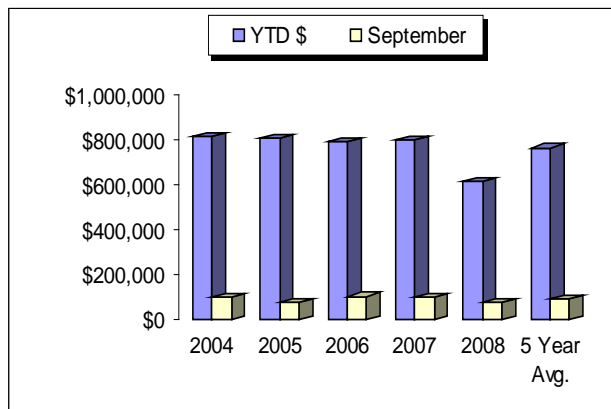
From: Dave Huber, PGA Golf Professional

To: Board of Commissioners

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

Operations

Both revenue and play for September of 2008 were down from last year. The contributing factors were the rain that started on the Friday of the Foundation Outing and went through the entire weekend, and the Realtors Outing that was in September last year was played in August this year, and a few smaller outings were either moved or not played this year.



Tournaments and Outing Activity

September 11 th	Mahomet Chamber of Commerce	72 golfers
September 12 th	Mindy Harrington Foundation Outing	90 golfers
September 20 th	Horizon Hobby Outing	48 golfers
September 27 th	2-Person Best Position Qualifying	16 golfers
September 28 th	Big Scramble for Merchandise	65 golfers
October 4 th	Ameren Power Co. Outing	72 golfers
October 7 th	Boys High School Class AA Regional	42 golfers

Other Activities

- I have been meeting with several golf sales people over the last few weeks.
- Our golfer satisfaction survey through the National Golf Foundation is up and running. We have a link on the home page of our website, and we have set up a computer in the shop for golfers to respond there.

October 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Thomas M. Pike, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Lake of the Woods / River Bend / Sangamon River Forest Preserves Activity Report

- Crews finished the sealing of the bike path at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve.
- Crews finished string trimming the guardrails on both sides of the dam at Lake of the Woods. They also removed the remnants of black landscaping film that had been used there, and spread fresh wood chips.
- We are the proud owner of a new gooseneck (fifth wheel) trailer that we can pull behind our heavy duty $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton truck, and we do not need a Certified Drivers License (CDL) to drive it. This makes getting mowing equipment to Sangamon River and River Bend a lot easier. We can also now carry the backhoe to other preserves with a CDL.
- Crews have been busy cleaning up a downed tree at Izaak Walton Cabin and one on the service drive next to West Maintenance.
- Crews have installed seven interpretive signs at Lake of the Woods and one at River Bend.
- Mowing has slowed down with the dry weather conditions.
- 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.

Pictures related to items in this report will be available at the Board Meeting.

October 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Matthew Kuntz, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Middle Fork River Forest Preserve Activity Report

- Research continues on capital equipment and capital projects for 2009.
- Lincoln's Challenge is getting ready to finish up their fall volunteer season with Middle Fork. As always they have been a big help, and we look forward to seeing them in the spring.
- Staff assisted Barb Garvey and the members of the I&I Tractor Club loading antique farm equipment out of the east and west barns at the Waterfowl Area. The loading went smoothly and the I&I Club was very happy.
- Natural Resources staff has been up collecting prairie seed and nuts from trees inside the preserve areas.
- Staff has been busy splitting wood for next year's camping season.
- Before the last CAC meeting, which was held at Middle Fork, I gave a tour of our renovated showerhouse.
- We bid farewell to our campground hosts Sam and Peg Mounts. They have decided to permanently retire in Florida with family and friends, and staff here at Middle Fork wishes to say thank you for all of their hard work in the past four years. They were a major component with the campground operation and had passion in what they did. They will be dearly missed.



October 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

From: Brian Taylor, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Homer Lake Forest Preserve Activity Report

- We poured a concrete slab in the new shed addition so we could install pallet racks for additional storage (pictured at right).
- Preparations were made for the second annual Mindy Harrington Canoe Trip on the Salt Fork River. Staff had to do some chainsaw work in the river to cut a section of a downed tree so canoeists could pass safely.
- Fall aerification and planting grass seed is an annual September activity.



- Staff replaced and repaired metal on the maintenance shed before it gets painted this fall.
- Exotics removal with the Bob Cat and Fecon mower has been ongoing. Most of the work recently has been along trails as fall is one of the heaviest periods for hiking.
- Final touches to the Lincoln wayside sign have been completed with the addition of a split rail fence and large boulders (pictured at left).