

May 11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Sally Prunty, Planning Director

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Planning Activity Report

**Sunset Lake Overflow Pipe**

We have begun installation of the pipe at River Bend's Sunset Lake.

**Energy Audit for the Early American Museum and Annex**

We have received the energy audit report for the Early American Museum from the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC). They have recommended six key energy-saving measures, as follows:

1. Replace existing single-pane windows with low E double-pane windows.
2. Upgrade lighting to include LED lamps in exit signs, use of lower-wattage compact fluorescent bulbs, use of lower-wattage halogen lights, and use of Super T-8 bulbs.
3. Add insulation to roof and walls.
4. Install ceiling fans to help with uneven air distribution.
5. Replace 80% efficient furnaces with 95% efficient furnaces.
6. Although too costly to replace the existing cooling system with a high-efficiency system now, SEDAC recommends doing so when this system is retired in the future.

Implementation of all of the above energy-saving measures will save the museum approximately \$5,800 per year in energy costs.

**Miscellaneous Planning Tasks**

- The planting design for the golf course #1 tee is complete. Plants have been ordered, and hopefully will be planted in the next few weeks.
- Work continues on coordinating the CAC Outreach appearances.
- I'm working on the bike path parking lot design.

May 11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Bryan Stevens, Construction Manager

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Construction Department Activity Report

- Construction of the entrance ramp for the new Middle Fork Campground host cabin is complete.
- The new Middle Fork Campground sign is complete and installed.
- The removal of the asphalt parking lot in the front of the snack bar at the golf course has been completed, and top soil will be hauled in for final grading.
- Installation of the new carpet and vinyl flooring on the basement steps at Headquarters is complete.

May 11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Daniel J. Olson, Director of Natural Resources

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Natural Resources Activity Report

- We have received a large order of trees and have begun planting them.
- We have worked with Lincoln's Challenge on several projects this month.
- We have completed trainings on the new East Central Illinois Stewardship Manual.
- Adam Rex led the trail stewards on a wildflower walk and exotics control training.
- Spring cleaning on shops, offices and equipment has been ongoing.
- We are working on capital equipment purchases.
- We have been proactive with removal of declining ash trees and have been working with the Illinois Department of Agriculture on purple traps for this year.
- The invasive species targets this month have been garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle.
- We worked with Todd Horton's survey class at Parkland out at River Bend.
- We have been working to update maps and databases.

May 8, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Larry Beckett, Botanical Garden Supervisor

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Botanical Garden Activity Report

- During the breaks in the weather, we have been applying post-emergence herbicide around trees and to all turf areas and shrub beds within the Botanical Garden.
- We hand-planted five trees in a shrub bed on the west side of the garden.
- Planting of perennials, annuals, and new shrubs has begun. Along with planting, there is a lot of preparation work such as tilling, adding soil, raking and fertilizing.
- The irrigation system was charged with no leaks to repair.
- The waterfall at the garden pond was primed and turned on with no problems.
- Repairs are being made to the exterior (concrete block) wall of the lean-to greenhouse for appearance and to help insulate the wall.
- We will soon be planting 20 new maple trees in and around the Botanical Garden.
- The annual WCIA Best of the Class event will be filmed in the Botanical Garden May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Six large wooden planters were removed from the Enabling Garden so brick work and concrete repairs can be made this summer. Lincoln's Challenge helped with the removal of soil and the planter boxes.
- Lincoln's Challenge also helped in the Botanical Garden with moving soil, hand weeding, and applying bark mulch.
- The remainder of the garden's plant orders were picked up or delivered during the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Four large ash trees were removed from the Botanical Garden because of decline or disease problems. The Natural Resources Department did the majority of the work.

May 8, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Cheryl Kennedy

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Early American Museum Activity Report

<b><u>April Comparisons</u></b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Visitation	493	519
Total to date	1,120	1,236
Gift Shop	\$891.24	\$1,513.42
Total to date	\$1,629.10	\$3,142.52
Donations at the door	\$234.09	\$273.01
Total to date	\$491.61	\$619.74
<b><u>Volunteer Hours</u></b>	<b>175.25</b>	
Office Support	58.75	
Collections	30.00	
Education	25.50	
Special Projects	42.00	
Lincoln Exhibit	19.00	

Barb Garvey is very pleased to report that her volunteers working on the Veterans Oral History Project have completed the transfer of tapes to CDs. We have 203 tapes from the D-Day interviews and 30 tapes from V-J Day interviews. Another volunteer is using her research skills to locate the men or families we still need release forms from, and as a result, we have whittled the list of unsigned releases down to 30.

**Education                    500 children, 30 outreach kit**

Schools served: Next Generation of Champaign, Sangamon of Mahomet, St. Joseph Middle School, Bement Elementary, Chenoa Elementary, and a homeschool class. Leal School used the *Then and Now* outreach kit.

Sandy Osborne and Savannah Hampson are working on this year's library kit – *Read on the Wild Side*. They are in the midst of retooling past activities and worksheets and creating new ones for use during library programs.

**Lincoln Exhibits**

Work on the Lincoln exhibit at the museum has officially begun. Barb and her volunteers have tried to plan their construction to allow visitors access to as much of this area as possible throughout the process. Barb presented the exhibit plan and construction timeline to the Lincoln Exhibits Committee this month, including the dates that she will be requesting their review of progress, text for signage and audio.

Construction of the courthouse exhibit is in the hands of courthouse staff and Taylor Studios. Committee members approved the final text for the labels and have had an opportunity to review the audio-visual program under production. Until the documents are ready to be installed in the wall case, our work on the development of the courthouse exhibit is complete.

The final component still under development for both exhibits is the interactive program for the computer kiosks and the website activities. Fundraising continues for this aspect of the project.

### **Kids as Collectors Exhibits**

Sandy Osborne has completed her work with the Kids as Collectors exhibits this year. Nancy Seward's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class from Carrie Busey did a year-long study titled *Museums Alive!* that resulted in a great display of toys of the past (pictured at right). The project, funded by a Splash Grant from the C-U Schools Foundation, allowed them to visit the museum four times as they did their research during the 2007-2008 school year.

The range of ages of all the children participating in the Kids as Collectors program includes kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades; and the children are from Mahomet, Champaign, LeRoy, Milford and Onarga.



### **Public Programs**

We were part of a mystery tour for a group of seniors from Wisconsin. The group arrived late, and they were disappointed to have to leave so quickly, but evidently all their stops had been short. On the positive side, we received \$240 as payment, and we sold \$135 worth of items in the gift shop.

Charlie Tice has been meeting with the blacksmiths from the Prairie Stories event to not only plan this year's event, but to plan for 2010. They would like to feature Roy Underhill of the PBS Woodwright Shop at next year's event, and to cover his fees and travel expenses, they are developing a gift box of forged iron tools to raffle off this year.

May 11, 2009

## **MEMORANDUM**

From: Pam Leiter, Coordinator of Environmental Education and Interpretation

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Environmental Education Activity Report

### **School Programs                      527 students**

In April, we served these schools: St. Paul's Preschool, Leal Elementary, Early Learning Play School, Unity West Elementary, St. Joe Elementary, and Fisher Grade School. Special programs included presentations at the McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District's Conservation Day, and a fishing day for low vision students from 14 counties.

The Education Department will be handing out worksheets to school program participants, which they can fill out and return for a free CCFPD water bottle. They can return the form at various locations throughout the District.

Stacey Clementz attended the UI's NRES Community Stewardship class's Stewardship Fair. At the fair, they displayed the Illinois Invader teacher loan box they designed for us, and the pre- and post-trip curriculum they developed for our Aquatic Ecologist field trip.

### **Homeschool Programs                      14 students**

The Remarkable Reptiles homeschool program on April 7 had 14 children in attendance.

### **Public Programs                      75 participants**

- The Illinois RiverWatch Workshop on April 4, conducted by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center staff, had 7 attendees.
- The parent-child program Growing Up Wild: Animals Homes at Homer Lake had 18 participants (12 preschoolers, 6 adults).
- The C-U Astronomical Society Starwatch at Middle Fork on April 18 and the cloud date on the 19<sup>th</sup> were both clouded out.
- The new Migration Fest event had approximately 50 attendees. The day started with a Bird is the Word workshop in the morning presented by Brian "Fox" Ellis, with the main event in the afternoon. His afternoon J. J. Audubon presentation was well received by all ages, and everyone enjoyed the other activities. Thanks to the Champaign County Audubon Society for being the major partner with us for this event.
- Planning for Take Me Fishing is fully underway, with activities planned, giveaways purchased, and volunteers being recruited.

### **Scout Programs                      33 scouts**

A group of 14 Brownies requested a program toward completion of their Plants Badge, and a group of 19 Cubs and Webelos requested a program toward completion of their Wildlife Conservation Badge.

**Environmental Education Center General Visitation: 158 (106 adults, 52 children)**

Not counting program participants, visitation at the center totaled 158 in April. We received \$27 in the donation box this month. Our new Adopt-an-Animal program has already met with success - our two box turtles have been “adopted” for a six-month term.

This month, a landscape architect volunteered her time to develop a native planting design for the center’s plant beds and bird feeding area. I have been ordering plants, and am planning a volunteer workday on June 6 to install them.

**Discovery Garden**

The Discovery Garden is progressing well. This month, we planted carrots, garlic, swiss chard, bok choy, broccoli, red cabbage, brussel sprouts, and mint. We also began construction on a “digging area” designed for exploration by young children, and started a compost bin. A gracious volunteer designed and constructed a new, improved cucumber tunnel.

<b><u>Volunteers</u></b>	<b>132 hours</b>
Environmental Education	88 hours
Garden Programs	44 hours

Some of the activities:

- A volunteer workday at the Discovery Garden was held on April 15, followed by a delicious outdoor potluck.
- A group of UI students volunteered at the Discovery Garden on April 25.
- We also had help with the Environmental Education Center planting design, school programs, scout programs, Migration Fest, and other public programs.

**Summer Programs**

Registrations continue to come in, and confirmations have been sent out for those we have received so far. We also continue to recruit volunteers, and have drafted the summer staff training schedule.

**General**

- I staffed the CCFPD display table at the Homer Community Expo on April 4. Our box turtle was a hit; 66 people visited the booth, mostly families.
- Barb Garvey and I are working to incorporate natural history information into the Lincoln exhibit. We are hoping to include multimedia aspects of the flora and fauna that Lincoln would have encountered in May as he traveled through this area.
- A UI journalism graduate student interviewed me for his project. He is developing a website that highlights activities in this area. The video interview will be posted on the site.

May 11, 2009

## **MEMORANDUM**

From: Andee Chestnut, Public Information Director

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Public Information Activity Report

### **Publications**

- The most recent print newsletter has been distributed to the mailing list as well as to various sites throughout the county, and it is posted on the website.
- Currently in the works is the revision of the Education Program Brochure.
- Kirby Pringle is now writing the next e-newsletter which should go out at the end of the month.

### **Freedom Fest**

Although I reported last month that sponsorships had slowed down this year, I'm pleased to note that is no longer the case. Checks have been coming in steadily, with several new sponsors as well, so we are now much more in line with what we received last year. This is good news because the cost of fireworks has gone up significantly. We are looking at ways to modify the show without lessening the quality.

### **Website**

- OJC Technologies continues to work on enhancements we've requested for this year. They have redesigned the homepage so that current news is more visible. This should be implemented shortly.
- My meeting with Eagle Scout Ben Taylor regarding his developing a photo library for the website went very well. He will be overseeing this project during the summer with a scheduled completion date of August 31<sup>st</sup>. I'm really looking forward to working with him.

### **Promotions**

- I'm very pleased to report the News-Gazette is again matching our paid advertising this year for the museum and for programming. Our paid advertising plan includes advertising the museum artisan consignment gallery along with the Second Sunday Artisan Series, Migration Fest and Take Me Fishing, as well as some fall programming. Getting twice the amount we pay for is a huge benefit.
- Sarah Elm is preparing summer program flyers to be distributed to all the elementary schoolkids in the county and surrounding area. This takes a lot of time, but it is a great way to reach every household with children.

May 11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Kim Horbas, Volunteer Coordinator

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Volunteer Activity Report

**Miscellaneous**

Cloudy skies and steady rain did not dampen the spirits or efforts of more than 65 volunteers from 12 organizations who braved the inclement weather conditions for the Spring Clean Up. Volunteers helped with weeding, litter patrol and a massive stick pickup mission throughout Lake of the Woods, Homer Lake and River Bend. We sincerely thank each of the participants for assisting with the clean up and making a difference. In addition to that day, it was a bonus to have a few of the volunteers sign up for further commitments of service to the CCFPD. For many, this was their first time visiting the preserves. Despite the weather, they had a great time and were able to see all the amenities available at the parks. I'm very confident they will be visiting the preserves again in the future.

The Trail Steward Program held its second workshop of the year at the Izaak Walton Cabin on a beautiful sunny springtime morning. After a brief housekeeping meeting, Adam Rex took the stewards out on a wildflower identification walk through the adjacent wooded area. Because of the recent prescribed burn in March, this was a great opportunity to see the native species that survived and thrived. After the tour, the stewards grabbed their tools and helped clear a large area of honeysuckle. We were also very excited to welcome four new volunteers who have adopted trails. That brings our total number of stewards on the trails to 51!

CCFPD welcomes the assistance of Elders Nielsen and Patterson to our volunteer program. These two gentlemen are missionaries from the Church of Latter-day Saints, and are in our area for the next three months from the west coast. They have volunteered several hours for the last few weeks working in the garden and assisting with clean up. They will continue helping out at Lake of the Woods for the summer.

**Volunteer Hours**

Museum	175.5
Environmental Education	88.0
Garden Education	44.0
Groups	188.0
Community Service	25.0
Miscellaneous	32.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>552.5 (Wow! What a month!)</b>



*Volunteer Clean-Up Day*



*Trail Steward Workshop*



*Even in bad weather, volunteering causes smiles!*

May 11, 2009

## MEMORANDUM

From: Mary Ellen Wuellner, Grants Coordinator

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Grant Activity Report

### **Grants Approved/Denied**

Donations have been coming in over the last month from local businesses and online retailers for the District's 2009 programs:

- Take Me Fishing contributors: Bob Evans Restaurant, Cabella's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Farm & Fleet, GodSpeed Tackle Co., Meijer (Champaign), Menards, Uncle Boonie's Bait Shop, and WalMart (Champaign). Donations of advertising were provided by the News-Gazette and the Leave No Child Inside Initiative.
- The 2009 Second Sunday Artisan Series will be supported in part with donations from Meijer grocery in Urbana and State Farm Insurance in Mahomet.
- A \$500 donation from the Rantoul WalMart will help with the purchase of educational materials and supplies for the Middle Fork campground naturalist.
- Family programs such as Migration Fest and Prairie Stories are being supported in part with donations from Wild Birds, Inc. and First Mid-Illinois Bank in Mahomet.
- Youth programs such as Eco-Adventures and the summer garden programs received a donation from Fisher National Bank in Mahomet.
- Unfortunately, the District was not awarded a free tiller from the Mantis Corporation.

### **New Grant Applications Submitted**

- An online grant application was submitted to the Lowe's Foundation for \$20,000 in funding to assist with the purchase and installation of new playground equipment at the Middle Fork Campground. A decision is expected within 30 days.

### **Grant Applications Previously Submitted – Decision Pending**

- An Illinois Arts Council grant application for \$1,000 is pending to support the Second Sunday Artisan Series and Family Concerts. A decision is expected before the end of May.
- A decision is expected in July on a grant from the IDNR Wildlife Preservation Fund for Small Projects. The grant of \$1,246 would assist with the purchase of tools and equipment for the volunteer trail stewards and frog call surveyors.
- The District is still awaiting a decision on a grant in the amount of \$4,500 from the American Hiking Society's National Trails Fund. The funds 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 Forest Preserve.

May 11, 2009

## MEMORANDUM

From: John Baker, Administration

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Administration Activity Report

- Melinda Boyer officially started today as the District's Financial Assistant. Her work through Manpower the preceding three months was quite good. This role has a steep learning curve with payroll and payables deadlines pushing the Financial Assistant to stay on top of the most current vendor and staff information. Melinda has handled this steep learning curve quite well. Her background in financial analysis and management in the private sector are serving the District well in her new role.
- For much of the last month, we've been preparing for the 2008 audit, pulling together various financial reports and documentation. Jerry Pagac, Vern Zehr, Vickie Thompson and I participated in the pre-audit assessment of financial risk for the District. Karl Drake and Heidi Stratton from Bray, Drake and Liles LLC are doing the field work at Headquarters this week.
- All District financials, including investments, depository (except Sidell State Bank for Homer Lake deposits) and checking accounts are now online and can be managed over the Internet. I now check daily activity online and can transfer funds as needed entirely online. Foundation investments and checking accounts also are now set up for online monitoring and activity.
- Andee Chestnut and I attended the IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield May 5-6. Andee represented the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts during Parks Day in the Capitol. Senator Frerichs joined Vickie Mayes, Bobbie Herakovich, Bruce Larson and us for supper that evening to discuss our issues. The next day, Governor Quinn made an appearance to thank IAPD/IPRA members for all we do to serve our communities. He also spoke about Illinois' budget challenges and the need to raise state revenues.
- The District received two IMRF possible rates for employer retirement contributions, the actuarial rate of 10.05% or a phase-in rate of 8.58%. To address its drop in investments in 2008, the IMRF board adjusted its actuarial calculations to spread the investment losses over a longer period of time and to offer districts a phase-in rate that caps employer rates at no more than 10% of the prior year contribution rate.
- We also received the State of Illinois Health Insurance rates for 2009-2010. You may recall that we joined the Local Government Health Care plan at the midpoint of its plan year, so we will have rate adjustments starting July 1 instead of January 1 as in the past. The rates increased 5.5%, as compared to the double-digit rate increases the District has seen in the recent past. The District will need an additional \$12,500 for employee health insurance this year, which still totals an amount less than other providers quoted for FY 2009.
- Mary Beck attended PDRMA's Risk Management Institute April 24<sup>th</sup>. Information was obtained on medical emergencies, AED requirements and work safety information. She also gathered 2008 payroll information to request UI student work cooperative reimbursements that had been awarded in 2008, and she submitted paperwork for us to be included in the program in 2009-2010.

- I attended an update on the Illinois Funds put on by the State Treasurer's Office. The Illinois Fund and Illinois Prime Funds will be consolidated as of July 1, which will really have no effect on our investments there, other than combining them and retaining the liquidity features the District needs. I've been reviewing District investments in the current economic environment, and I met with Don Jessen, who represents the Illinois Park District Liquid Assets Fund, as well.
- The work preparing for the audit, bringing Melinda on board, and handling daily responsibilities have delayed other matters, including the 2009 Action Plan (which comes to you this month), technology purchasing (software licenses, equipment replacement), and the connectivity project at Lake of the Woods.
- The 2008 payments for the Conservation Reserve Program finally arrived for a total of almost \$15,000. These funds came to the District via a CRP lottery. Six sites where we maintain prairie, savannah or woodland habitat were "winners" in the lottery.
- Friend Communications is collecting the last bit of information needed to set up the online camping reservation system. We anticipate that this and staff training will be completed this week. The public will soon have access to reserve Middle Fork sites online once staff has entered all existing 2009 reservations into the system.
- Rental facilities continue to be reserved. Rental paperwork has been sent out to more than 330 renters - this includes both in-house and paid rentals. This represents an increase of about 10% more than last year.
- The following special use permits were submitted and approved:
  - Grace Church / Fishing Derby – May 3 at Lake of the Woods
  - WCIA Best of the Class – May 15 & 16 in the Botanical Garden

11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Dave Torrens, Director of Golf

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Lake of the Woods Golf Course Maintenance Activity Report

- The maintenance seasonal staff needs have been met with many quality applicants. We continue with daily maintenance while training new employees.
- The RPZ valve inspection is scheduled for this year. The valves at the Mindy Garden and at the chemical rinsate pad are inspected yearly.
- Jim Keyser is scheduled to perform the annual pump station check.
- Lincoln's Challenge worked on two days picking up sticks. They helped greatly, and hopefully they can come back next year.

May 10, 2009

## MEMORANDUM

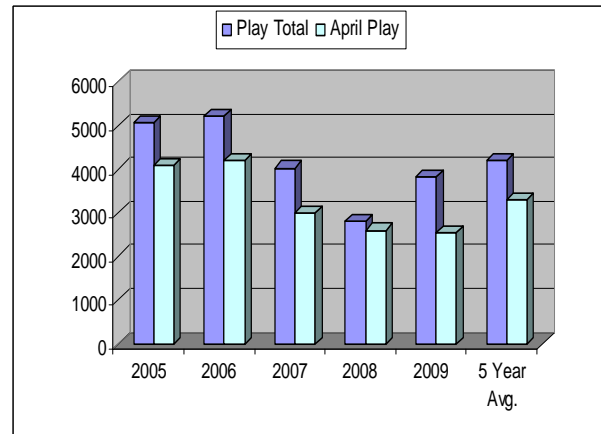
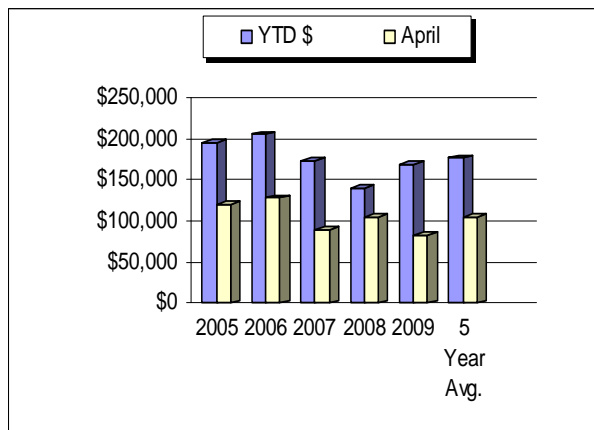
From: Dave Huber, Golf Professional/Manager

To: Board of Commissioners

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

### Operations

Revenue for this April was not as good as last year, mainly due to season pass sales. Last year, most of the season passes were purchased in April because the weather in March was so poor. April play this year was actually almost the same, with only 43 fewer players for the month.



### Tournaments and Outings

April 25-26

Two-Person Season Opener

88 players

### Other Activities

- The new website with 1-2-1 Marketing is up and running.
- We have started a new adult lesson program included with the national Play Golf America promotion, called Get Golf Ready in Five Days. We have a full roster of 12 golfers for the first series, with two other double sessions scheduled.
- We are conducting ongoing training for seasonal employees.
- The new ice maker for the beverage cart has been installed in the cart shed.
- Our men's and women's golf associations started the first week of May.
- Several UI students volunteered at the golf course in order to receive credit in their Recreation Sport and Tourism class.
- We installed new lighting and signage in the hallway leading to both locker rooms as well as new lighting fixtures in the women's locker room.

May 8, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Thomas M. Pike, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

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

- The first mowing of the 2009 season has just finished. It was muddy in spots, but overall it looks pretty good.
- Staff has begun to spray Roundup and Oust around the parking blocks, parking lots, buildings and sidewalks. They will spray around trees and sign posts next.
- The 2009 John Deere backhoe has been ordered, and we should receive it around the end of May.
- The final janitorial orders should be delivered shortly.
- Staff has finished opening all of the drinking fountains and buildings for the 2009 season.
- All of the seasonal employees for Lake of the Woods have been hired, and some have already started to work.
- Staff has been working on getting the rental boats and the boathouse ready for the 2009 season.
- 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.

May 11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Matthew Kuntz, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Middle Fork River Forest Preserve Activity Report

- Our new campground host has started and is doing a wonderful job. The new cabin is also up and running, and we are receiving great feedback from our guests as to how it is being used and on the looks of the cabin itself.
- The construction crew built the ramp and steps to the new campground host cabin, making it accessible. We appreciate their help.
- The silent host gatehouse has been removed from the front entrance of the campground. We have also installed a new entry sign at the front entrance with the help of the construction crew.
- The water has been turned back on throughout the campground and user areas. The showerhouse is now open, and all water fountains have been put back into place.
- We are currently working with contractors on getting the showerhouse and Activity Center painted this summer.
- Spraying and weed eating has started throughout the user areas in preparation for the Memorial Day weekend. Mowing has been more difficult this spring with the amount of rain we have received.
- The remainder of the month has been spent doing routine maintenance throughout the forest preserve.

May 11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Brian Taylor, Site Superintendent

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Homer Lake Forest Preserve Activity Report

- Staff constructed some Leopold benches (pictured at right) that we plan to install along sections of trails where needed. We will eventually include some interpretive information on each of the benches so people can appreciate the design concept.
- I met with IDNR Fisheries Biologist Mike Garthouse to discuss issues related to the status of Homer Lake's fish population. He has suggested changing the fishing regulations on crappie and blue gill for the 2010 season. We agreed to a proposal to impose a 9-inch length limit and 25-per-day harvest limit on crappie, and a proposal to eliminate the 8-inch length limit and 10-per-day harvest limit on blue gill that has been in effect since 1999.



- Birkey's allowed us to use a piece of equipment called an Aeravator (pictured at left) to aerate and apply seed to areas in the preserve where the turf was in very poor shape. This could be a potential capital equipment consideration in the future.
- Staff has been mowing between rain storms, but the park has not been completely mowed yet.