

# 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

## 2009 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ted Bosgraaf, President

Bobbi Jones Sabine, Vice President

Philip D. Kuyers, Secretary

David Van Ginhoven

Paul Geerlings

Roger Jonas

Joyce Kortman

Jim Miedema

Ray Statema

David Vanderkooi



## **PARKS COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT**

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission will enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by preserving parks and open spaces and by providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.

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## **County of Ottawa**



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

Philip D. Kuyers, Chairman

James C. Holtrop, Vice Chairman

Matthew M. Hehl

Dennis W. Swartout

Joyce E. Kortman

Robert Karsten

Gordon D. Schrottenboer

Jane M. Ruiten

Roger G. Rycenga

Donald G. Disselkoen

Jim Holtvluwer



# ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

## **2009 ANNUAL REPORT Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

2009 was a year of continued progress for the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission as it continued to expand the county's system of parks and open spaces in the second year of its ten year millage program as renewed by voters in 2006. At the end of 2009, the Ottawa County Parks and Open Space system included 22 County Parks and 12 Open Space lands totaling 5,716 acres.

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

The Parks Commission's interpretive program's popularity continued in 2009 with 67 programs offered including general nature walks, birding trips, butterfly watching workshops, cross-country ski clinics and many others. The department also continued its popular quarterly newsletter entitled *Outdoors Ottawa County*. The bulk of construction was completed on the new Nature Education Center at Hemlock Crossing with a grand opening planned for spring, 2010. The new facility will house the department's outdoor education functions and function as a visitor center for the entire county park system.

The Parks Commission continued its focus in 2009 on establishing greenways along key river corridors and the Lake Michigan coast with 149 acres of additional park and open space land acquired. Key land acquisitions included two parcels to complete the new Olive Shores site, a new park on Lake Michigan in Port Sheldon Township. Significant progress was also made on the Grand River including the purchase of the 80 acre Kuits Bayou property in Allendale Township.

Many small to mid-size park improvement projects were completed throughout the park system in 2009 which greatly enhanced opportunities available to the public. Key projects included completion of the North Ottawa Dunes trailhead, parking area and donor recognition plaza culminating with a well attended dedication ceremony. Final details were completed at the Mt. Pisgah dune stairs and an open house was held. New trails were added at Riverside Park on 31 acres of land leased from the State and an access point was added at land recently acquired at the Bend Area site in Georgetown Township.



# **2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The 2009 Annual Report of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission was developed to provide a brief summary of Commission activities for the 2009 calendar year to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners as called for in the Board Rules. Additional information regarding all aspects of Parks Commission activities is available by contacting the County Parks Office.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY**

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission oversees acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of 22 County Parks, several undeveloped park properties and 12 Open Space lands totaling 5,716 acres (see Attachment A for a listing of all lands administered by the Parks Commission as of December 31, 2009). In addition, the Commission oversees management of the Musketawa Trail under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Commission's staff during 2009 consisted of fifteen full-time positions including the Parks and Recreation Director, Park Operations Superintendent, Parks Manager, five Park Supervisors, one Park Maintenance Worker, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development, Park Planner, Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services, Naturalist/Information Specialist, Administrative Secretary and the Parks Secretary. The Parks Commission employs approximately 60 seasonal and part-time staff including Park Attendants, Grounds Attendants, an intern and part-time Gatekeepers for 11 of the parks.

### **MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS**

A critical component of the Parks Commission program is providing the highest quality maintenance and operations possible at all Commission operated parks and other sites. 2009 was a challenging year for field staff, with continued emphasis on high quality operations as the complexity of the park system grows and a focus on controlling costs as much as possible in all areas but especially through prudent travel to and from parks, and by use of low cost alternative labor whenever possible. The following offers more detail of key aspects of 2009 maintenance and operations:

- **Park Use Trends in 2009** – The Lakeshore beach parks were very popular in 2009. Especially popular were North Beach Park where you can park next to the water; Rosy Mound Natural Area because of the beautiful trail and long stretch of pristine beach; and Tunnel Park because of its open expanse of beach, excellent dune top views, and proximity to Holland and Holland State Park. Good snow provided the needed setting for a record number of skiers and sledders at Pigeon

Creek Park. Use of the 10 miles of groomed trails, two sledding hills, and the lodge was never higher. Many beginner skiers were observed this season. High skier numbers were due in part to the favorable snow conditions, but also due to the growing popularity of cross country skiing in Ottawa County. Also, snow shoeing has become increasingly popular. Some parks are developing a ‘special following’ that contributed to their use in 2009 – including the Rosy Mound Natural Area (beloved by many for its natural feel), Mount Pisgah at Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (undisputed best views in the County), Spring Grove Park (for weddings and professional photography), and specific hiking parks that were well used in 2009 including Hemlock Crossing, Pigeon Creek Park and North Ottawa Dunes.

- **Parks Revenues Produced in 2009**

Motor vehicle fees:

- The budget estimate for revenues from the sale of 2009 motor vehicle permits was set at \$230,000. Actual revenues collected in 2009 were \$241,808.
- Revenues produced in 2009 increased more than \$10,000 over revenues collected in 2008 (\$231,000).

Experience has shown that lakeshore revenue totals are directly tied to the quality of ‘beach’ weather (i.e. 80° and sunny). The high total in 2009 reflects the favorable weather for beach use during the summer.

Reservation Facilities:

- The 2009 budget estimate for revenues from reservations was \$60,000. The actual revenues produced in 2009 were \$77,664.
- Compared to 2008 (\$66,410), revenues in 2009 increased by more than \$11,000.

Increasing inquiries for fall reservations led to a decision late in the year to extend the reservation season at six sites until mid-October (the season previously ended Labor Day weekend). The extended schedule will begin in 2010.

Pigeon Creek Winter Skiing and Sledding (2009/2010 season):

- Revenues from winter operations generated from ski rentals and concession sales during the 2009/2010 winter season were \$55,280.
- Compared to the 2008/2009 season, revenues for 2009/2010 increased by more than \$17,000.

The amount of revenues produced from this operation is an indicator of its immense popularity this past season and is impressive when considering that all

revenues come from sale of concession items typically \$1 or less in addition to \$8 ski rentals.

- **Highlights of Field Staff Efforts In 2009** – Routine maintenance is mundane but remains critical to the Parks Commission’s success. Routine maintenance in 2009 included tasks such as picking up litter, emptying trash, cleaning buildings and grounds, mowing and trimming, blowing and sweeping, grading gravel lots and drives, cleaning up downed trees (more than 160), and prep/clean up of reservation facilities.

After routine maintenance, priority shifts to work on repairs and special projects which are critical for presenting the highest quality facilities. Repairs were wide ranging – for buildings, on park grounds, on trails, and in other areas. projects also varied greatly – from installing posts and cable to control access at a new property – to sanding, finishing and displaying a huge slice of oak log at the Nature Education Center.

At newer properties, operational tasks, such as rule enforcement and neighbor relations, require a greater time commitment. Most of the efforts were related to restricting illegal use, such as off-road vehicle trespass and controlling illegal hunting and trespassing. Encroachments by neighbors onto park land is also an issue that is being addressed throughout the park system.

- **Land Stewardship** – The role of parks operations staff in land stewardship continues to expand as threats from invasive species grow and the Parks Commission works to maximize the quality of natural lands under its management. Invasive species control continues to require the greatest commitment of staff resources as park staff work to aggressively manage those species considered to be the greatest threat to the park system. Significant progress was made in controlling garlic mustard, honeysuckle, autumn olive and other well established invasive species. Development of “early detection, rapid response” program will assist in recognizing and removing new invasive species before they get established.

Red pine management, a process begun in 2007, was completed in 2009 with work to thin pine plantations at Pigeon Creek Park. Red pine is not native to mid-Michigan and is experiencing significant disease problems. As the red pine plantations are thinned, native tree and plant species are able to naturally re-vegetate the areas. In areas where native vegetation is slow to become established, park staff worked with volunteer groups to plant native tree seedlings.

- **Alternative Labor Use** – The Parks Commission has always emphasized efforts to use low cost alternatives to hiring full-time staff. Extensive use of seasonal employees (primarily Park Attendants and Grounds Attendants) and the use of part-time workers (primarily Gatekeepers) continued to provide an efficient labor source in 2009.

In 2009, parks staff studied alternatives to the use of SWAP (jail inmate crews) due to increasing costs. This study led to a plan for the replacement of SWAP with a year-round, part-time crew of five workers (starting in 2010) with a goal to provide a more cost-effective labor source with more capability to meet expanding labor needs in the park system.

Volunteers once again played an important role in 2009. A developing relationship with Ottawa County United Way, efforts of many school groups and work from area corporations provided over 3,800 hours of help. This is up from approximately 3,200 hours in 2008. Volunteer spirit is alive and well in Ottawa County, and parks staff is very appreciative of the help provided. As good as it has been, staff feels there is still potential for growth in this area.

In summary, the 2009 field maintenance and operations continued to grow, requiring a continued emphasis on quality and a focus on controlling costs. These efforts will make sure standards established in the past will continue into the future with minimal 'growing pains'. The Parks Commission's goal is to provide park users the highest quality experience possible at the lowest cost possible in order to fulfill our role in the broader Ottawa County effort to provide the best quality services possible for its citizens and visitors.

## **INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

**Interpretive Programs and Activities** – Ottawa County Parks offered 67 public interpretive programs throughout the parks system in 2009.

The following is a summary of 2009 public interpretive programs:

### ***WINTER (December, January, and February)***

- Winter Birding Field Trips (2 trips)
- A Close-Up Look at Nature (2 programs)
- Winter Discovery Hikes (2 hikes)
- How to Know Your Holiday Trees
- Budding Naturalist Series - Winter Wonderland Walk

### ***SPRING (March, April, and May)***

- Signs of Spring Nature Walk Series (11 walks)
- Spring Bird Walks (6 walks)
- Stewardship Workdays (2 days)
- Spring Birding Trips (5 trips)

### ***SUMMER (June, July, and August)***

- Focus on Nature Walk Series (6 walks)
- Beach Zone (2 days)
- Butterfly Day for Kids

- Summer Birding Field Trips (2 trips)
- Butterfly Counts (2 counts)
- Stewardship Work Days (3)

***FALL (September, October, and November)***

- Fungi Field Trip
- Budding Naturalists Series (3 programs)
- A Close-Up Look at Seeds
- Fall Color Walks (3 walks)
- Bird Walks (4 walks)
- Fall Birding Trips (3 trips)
- Pigeon River Kayak Trips (2 trips)
- Raptor Watch at Mt. Pisgah
- Stewardship Workdays

***Other 2009 programs, activities and events:***

- Cross Country Ski Clinics at Pigeon Creek Park (12 clinics)
- Pigeon Creek Biathlon (13th Annual)
- Conducted a program at the Spring Lake Library for the Tri-Cities Garden Club on “What’s New in Ottawa County Parks” for 14 people.
- Conducted two cross country ski clinics at Pigeon Creek Park for 19 kids from the Grand Rapids Boys and Girls Club.
- Presented a program on Invasive Species Control Efforts in Ottawa County Parks for the Michigan Invasive Plant Council’s Annual Symposium in East Lansing with 30 people attending.
- Presented a program to 26 elementary students from Fruitport Schools on wetlands.
- Coordinated four days of stewardship work for 240 eighth graders from Fruitport Schools (60 different kids each day). Two days were spent at Pigeon Creek Park and two days at Hemlock Crossing. Melanie Good (from Land Conservancy of West Michigan) and Parks staff presented a program each day before the students worked pulling garlic mustard, building brush piles for wildlife and planting trees in recently-logged areas.
- Led a birding field trip for an international group as part of the Annual Benthos Conference sponsored by GVSU with eight people attending.
- Conducted a program on Ottawa County Parks for the White Pine Chapter of the Michigan Botanical Club with six people attending.
- An invasive plant training, with emphasis on buckthorn, was attended by 26 parks staff, monitors, Friends and other volunteers. Most properties were surveyed for this very invasive plant in fall 2009.
- Parks staff, along with Hoffmaster staff, conducted a dunes program for 60 adults as part of a language class at Hoffmaster State Park.
- A dune ecology program was conducted at Rosy Mound for 50 middle school students from West Ottawa schools.
- A fall hike was conducted for 18 home school students at Grand River Park.

**Nature Education Center Project** – Construction of the new 8,000+ square foot center began in early April after the hiring of CL Construction as the contractor. Good progress was made throughout 2009 and parks staff gained occupancy of the building in late December. Chip Francke, Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services, and Kristen Hintz, Parks Naturalist, have their offices in the center. Kristen was hired in July 2009.



## **Parks Information**

- **Newsletter** – *Outdoors Ottawa County* is the quarterly newsletter of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission. At the end of 2009, the newsletter was being mailed to 5,006 households as well as being distributed to libraries and other public locations. There was a large jump in the number of newsletters mailed due to a new newsletter check box on annual parking permit forms. The newsletter provides current information on park projects and includes the seasonal schedule of interpretive programs and Friends of Ottawa County Parks events.
- **Web Site** – A new format for the Parks web site was implemented in 2009. This format makes the web site more user-friendly and provides updated information about the parks and park projects.

**Friends of Ottawa County Parks Activities** – Friends are a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting people with nature, recreation and community by partnering with and supporting the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission. Friends members planned and conducted the following activities in 2009:

- Santa at the Weaver House
- Reuse Resale (raised \$3,500 for the Nature Education Center project)
- Grand Lady Cruise
- Earth Day Celebration
- Family Fishing Days (2)
- Picnic in the Park
- Annual Meeting
- Spring Grove Park Work Bee
- National Trails Day activities at Hemlock Crossing

- GVSU Fitness Expo (650 people visited the Friends booth)

## **PARK PLANNING**

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

- **Eastmanville Bayou master planning** – Following acquisition of a key parcel in late 2008, initial site preparation and planning for public access improvements including parking, boat launch, and trailhead features was initiated including two public input meetings to gather resident input and ideas.
- **Bur Oak Landing Trails** – Site analysis to plan the trail system at Bur Oak Landing began with the goal of implementing trail construction in 2010.
- **Deer Creek Connector Bridge Study** – An engineering consultant was retained to study the possibility of connecting Deer Creek Park to the newly expanded Ripps Bayou property by means of a bridge over the Deer Creek near its confluence with the Grand River. Functional, technical, cost, and regulatory issues were evaluated and several alternative designs suggested as part of the study.
- **Olive Shores Master Plan** – A comprehensive master plan for the newly acquired Olive Shores property on Lake Michigan was completed in early fall, 2009. Assisted by a grant from the Michigan Coastal Management Program, the public planning process for this park resulted in a master plan and construction drawings detailing all park improvements including trails, boardwalks, stairs, restroom, and other amenities planned for this 20-acre site.
- **Connor Bayou Master Plan** – Master Plan work for the Connor Bayou site on the Grand River in Robinson Township began and focused on design of visitor amenities including parking, trails, boardwalks, and overlooks, as well as renovation of the existing log home for use as a rental facility. Additional work is scheduled to further evaluate the potential of a campground for this site.
- **Bend Area Planning** – Planning work continued to further define the potential of this site for future park facilities, even as gravel mining activities continue. Adjustments to the existing master plan were analyzed based on the latest information relating to mining time-frames and the likely extent of gravel extraction.
- **Holland Harbor Fishing Access Planning** – Spurred on by a \$500,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, planning began for improvements to this site located on the north shore of Lake Macatawa at the eastern end of the Holland Harbor channel adjacent to Holland State Park. This \$650,000 project will

provide an extensive system of docks and boardwalks to provide access to a particularly scenic and productive fishing location.

- **Ottawa Beach Riparian Rights Study** – As part of the planning process for the currently unimproved portions of the Lake Macatawa shoreline, riparian rights were determined for the park parcels in relation to existing government (Coast Guard) and private (Parkside Marina) parcels in this area.
- **Holland Country Club** – Planning work began in late 2009, as required to facilitate submission of a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Initial planning included evaluating this 122-acre proposed park site in terms of its potential for park activities, park and greenway trail systems, and native habitat restoration.

## LAND ACQUISITION

The Parks Commission acquired 149.3 acres of land in 2009. This includes the following properties:

- **Olive Shores** – Two parcels, comprising 13.6 acres with 538 feet of Lake Michigan frontage, were acquired in Port Sheldon Township to expand a waterfront site previously acquired in 1999. A \$2 million grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund assisted with the \$3,842,000 purchase.
- **Upper Macatawa Natural Area Expansion** – The Upper Macatawa site was expanded to 612 acres with the purchase of 17.1 acres on its southeast boundary. The \$85,500 purchase was completed with park millage funds.
- **Kuits Bayou Purchase** – Progress in acquiring key land along the Grand River continued with the acquisition of 80 acres in Allendale Township. County Parks acquired the land from two owners for a total of \$341,720. The property is a wooded floodplain with 1.2 miles of frontage on the Grand River and 2,650 feet of frontage on Kuits Bayou.
- **Crockery Creek Natural Area Expansion** – A 28-acre parcel with extensive frontage on Crockery Creek was acquired, bringing the total acreage of this natural area park to 334 acres. The acquisition will preserve wooded floodplain and protect key views within the park.
- **Ripps Bayou Property Trade** – An important property trade was completed, linking Deer Creek Park to Ripps Bayou. The trade also added 10.6 acres to Ripps Bayou Open Space, which now features nearly 1.5 miles of continuous Grand River frontage.

## PARK DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS

Major park improvement projects undertaken in 2009 are summarized below:

- **Eastmanville Farm Equestrian Trails** – An equestrian parking area, trail head and 3.5 miles of equestrian trail were completed at Eastmanville Farm and the site was officially opened to the public. Hiking trails also provide opportunities to explore the site and view the 1930's era barn that was painted in 2009, completing an extensive renovation process.



- **The DeVries Room** – The DeVries Room at Hager Park was established by remodeling former museum/exhibit space and adding a small kitchen and other amenities. Following a dedication ceremony honoring past Parks Commission member Andrew DeVries, the room was opened to the public for reservations.
- **Pigeon Creek Equestrian Parking Expansion** – A new gravel parking area was constructed to provide easier access for larger equestrian trailers and other vehicles. The lot doubles as overflow for busy winter skiing and sledding days.
- **Upper Macatawa Natural Area Grassland Restorations** – Efforts continued to improve habitat included preparing and seeding 24 acres of land with native wetland and grassland plantings.
- **North Ottawa Dunes Donor Recognition Plaza and Trails** – Final details were completed to the parking lot and trailhead plus over eight miles of trails and stairs linking the 500-acre North Ottawa Dunes property with North Beach Park and P.J. Hoffmaster State Park. A public dedication was held in late May. A donor

recognition sign lists the names of the nearly 700 individuals and organizations that donated funds to help purchase the dune preserve.



- **Mt. Pisgah Trails and Signage** – Although substantially completed in 2008, interpretive signs, trail maps, and other final details were finished in 2009 in time for a June open house.
- **Hager Park Stream Fencing** – In order to protect previous work to restore stream erosion in Hager Park, permanent fencing was installed along the creek in the high use picnic area of the park.



- **Nature Education Center** – Tremendous progress was made in the design and construction of the new Ottawa County Parks Nature Education Center. The 8,000+ square foot facility opened in early 2010. The new facility houses all nature interpretive functions including the department’s two naturalists and also

serves as a visitor center for the County Park and Open Space System. The new center is expected to be LEED certified at the gold level and features geothermal heating and cooling. The \$1,840,000 cost of the new facility is funded by \$443,000 in donations, \$420,000 in red pine thinning revenues and \$977,000 from the parks millage.

- **Grand River Park Path Paving** – Major renovations to the existing path system were initiated, including new concrete paths connecting the Picnic Building to adjacent features, and resurfacing of deteriorating bituminous paths. New barrier free features including picnic table pads and a lake overlook path loop were also added.
- **Bend Area Access** – A new parking area was added to provide access for hikers and fishermen using the 188 acre Bend Area Open Space, which was acquired in 2008.
- **Black Lake Shoreline Improvements** – The second phase of improvements along Lake Macatawa in front of Black Lake Avenue at Historic Ottawa Beach Parks was completed in early summer. The project includes a walkway extension and waterfront viewing deck.



- **Riverside Park Trails** – A lease of approximately 31 acres from the State of Michigan expanded Riverside Park to 95 acres and allowed for development of trails on a point of land east of the park. Two miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails have been completed and a new trailhead constructed within Riverside Park.
- **Ottawa Beach (Park 10) Resident Parking** – As part of the continuing effort to manage the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks for the benefit of the public and residents and to implement the park master plan, an additional resident parking

area was defined and constructed. This project not only improved the area from a functional perspective, but also resolved significant resident encroachments on public park property.



## 2010 PARKS COMMISSION GOALS

*Integrate New Operational Commitments While Continuing High Quality Park Operations* – The Parks Commission will strive to continue balancing operational capability with growth of the park system. A new position focused on natural resources management and volunteer coordination will expand the Commission's ability to utilize volunteers in controlling invasive species and other land management tasks.

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

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

*Long Range Parks Plan* – Complete update of five-year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, including survey of County residents.

*Public Relations* – Continue efforts to promote awareness of the County Park system with County residents and seek to add the use of social networking sites to accomplish this goal. Continue to improve content on the Parks website.

*Grand River Greenway* – Continue with the development of a detailed greenway master plan and work to build public and local government support for the greenway initiative. Continue efforts to expand public access to recently acquired greenway properties including Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Bayou and Connor Bayou. Develop water trail and seek designation as a Michigan Heritage Water Trail. Continue to monitor and acquire key lands in the river corridor.

*Pigeon River Greenway* – Continue to monitor the availability of key lands in the river corridor for potential acquisition.

*Macatawa River Greenway* – Complete grassland and wetland restoration projects at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. Undertake planning for the newly acquired Holland Country Club property and seek funding assistance for site restoration.

*Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway* – Seek funding assistance to undertake first phase improvements at Olive Shores, as called for in the new master plan.

*Interpretive Programs and Nature Education Center* – Begin operation of the Nature Education Center and hire/train part-time Naturalist Guides. In addition to continuing successful year-round interpretive programs, begin offering programs to school and other youth groups through the Nature Education Center. Continue soliciting donations for the Nature Education Center Endowment Fund.

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

*Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (Park 12)* – Construct expanded fishing opportunities through implementation of the Holland Harbor Fishing Access project, consistent with the park master plan. Take additional steps to implement the park master plan.

*Stewardship Activities* – Continue efforts to provide a high level of land stewardship through control of invasive species, development of land management and stewardship plans, and restoration of degraded sites. Focus on dune stabilization and restoration at both North Beach Park and Mt. Pisgah. Evaluate the need to manage deer populations in and around various park sites to protect native vegetation and the ecological health of the park properties.

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

*Connor Bayou* – Undertake campground feasibility study and complete master plan work. Initiate first phase improvements to enhance public access.

*Eastmanville Farm* – Coordinate efforts with Friends of Ottawa County Parks on cemetery restoration efforts. Continue efforts to evaluate farm park feasibility with an expanded role by Farm Bureau and the agricultural community.

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

*Open Space Lands* – Continue efforts to improve public awareness and access to Open Space lands. Construct and mark trails at selected Open Space lands to promote use.

Attachment A

<b>Ottawa County Parks and Open Spaces Acreage and Water Frontage</b>		<b>Water Frontage</b>		
<b>December 31, 2009</b>				
<b>Parks and Open Spaces</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>River Frontage (Grand River, Pigeon &amp; Macatawa) Bayou &amp; Inland Lake Frontage (feet)</b>		
		<b>Lake Michigan Frontage (feet)</b>	<b>Macatawa (feet)</b>	<b>Bayou &amp; Inland Lake Frontage (feet)</b>
<b><u>Grand River Greenway</u></b>				
Connor Bayou	142	0	4,563	1,687
Crockery Creek Natural Area	334	0	2,640	0
Jubb Bayou (Open Space)	97	0	4,589	4,026
Riverside Park	64	0	4,250	0
Bur Oak Landing (Open Space)	261	0	7,392	5,267
Eastmanville Farm	229	0	1,365	0
Eastmanville Bayou	157	0	9,364	8,300
Deer Creek Park	2	0	530	0
Ripps Bayou (Open Space)	172.5	0	5,680	7,992
Kuits Bayou (Open Space)	80	0	6,191	2,650
Fillmore at the Bend (Open Space)	68	0	0	0
Grand River Park	162	0	2,505	0
Bend Area (Open Space)	188	0	3,145	0
	<b>1,956.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52,214</b>	<b>29,922</b>
<b><u>Pigeon River Greenway</u></b>				
Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend	239	0	7,920	0
Pigeon River Open Space	30	0	2,354	0
Pigeon Creek Park	282	0	3,200	0
Pigeon Creek Forest (Open Space)	130	0	0	0
	<b>681</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,474</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Macatawa River Greenway</u></b>				
Adams Street Landing	10	0	1,100	0
Upper Macatawa Natural Area	612	0	13,100	0
Middle Macatawa	40	0	1,792	0
	<b>662</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,992</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway</u></b>				
North Ottawa Dunes	513	0	0	0
North Beach Park	7	745	0	0
Rosy Mound Natural Area	164	3,450	0	0
Kirk Park	68	1,850	0	0
Olive Shores	20.5	738	0	0
Tunnel Park	22.5	950	0	0
Historic Ottawa Beach Parks	58	756	0	2,560
	<b>853</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,560</b>
<b><u>General Parks, Open Space and Trails</u></b>				
Musketawa Trail	NA	0	0	0
Conklin Trailhead	0	0	0	0
Marne Trailhead	0	0	0	0
Un-named Site - Wright Township	8	0	0	0
Grose Park	40	0	0	823
Marne Bog	40	0	0	0
Robinson Forest (Open Space)	80	0	0	0
Johnson Street Forest (Open Space)	50	0	0	0
Hiawatha Forest (Open Space)	365	0	0	0
Hager Park	104	0	0	0
Port Sheldon Natural Area (Open Space)	440	0	0	0
VanBuren Street Dunes (Open Space)	120	0	0	0
Spring Grove Park	16	0	0	0
Riley Trails	300	0	0	0
	<b>1,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>823</b>
	<b>5,715.5</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>81,680</b>	<b>33,305</b>
Miles		1.6	15.5	6.3