Tourism & Parks
Tourism is the second largest industry in the State of Michigan and employs over 200,000 people. Visitors coming into St. Clair County for a day spend an average of $116.03, and if they stay overnight, spend $366.46 per person. The economic impact of the public parks, trails and recreation facilities in St. Clair County is immense.

With greater emphasis on health, fitness and family, the Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau gets hundreds of requests for information on local parks, trails and recreational activities.

The Blue Water Area is very fortunate to have the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission works with state and local governments to create and improve parks, trails and recreational facilities. These attractions provide tourism opportunities and improve the quality of life in our area.

Marci Fogal, President
Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

To Our Readers...
The St. Clair County Board of Commissioners placed the renewal of the County Parks and Recreation millage on the August 3, 2010 primary ballot.

The requested millage rate will be 0.4956 mils (down from the original millage rate of 0.5 mils) for 6 years. If voters approve the millage renewal, the owner of a house worth $100,000.00 will pay approximately $25.00 per year.

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission does not receive any funding from the St. Clair County general fund.

Future Parks and Trails Projects
The renewal of the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage will allow the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission to continue to make improvements to St. Clair County parks and trails. The St. Clair County Master Recreation Plan 2007-2011 will continue to direct St. Clair County's ongoing investment in parks and trails. Future projects will include …

Bridge to Bay Trail
- Continued support of local trail projects
- Signage Improvements
- Connection to Wadhams to Avoca Trail
- Connection to Macomb Orchard Trail

Columbus County Park
- Paved walking trails
- Lodge building with restrooms, meeting room and pavilion
- Mountain biking trails
- Equestrian trails
- Nature trails
- Canoe & Kayak Launch on Belle River
- Childrens playground

Fort Gratiot Light Station
- Grounds landscaping

Fort Gratiot County Park
- Beach cleanup
- Parking improvements

Goodells County Park
- Columbus Bible Church relocation & restoration
- Buildings maintenance & repairs

Wadhams to Avoca Trail
- Griswold Road parking lot & vault toilet
- Possible trail extensions

Woodsong County Park
- Entrance gate
- Accessible trail down to Black River
- Canoe and kayak launch
- Vault toilet

What’s Inside
Local Millage Distribution 2-4
Community Impact 5
County Parks Progress 6-7
On the Web 8
Local Millage Distribution

The millage will generate approximately $2.4 million per year for parks and recreation facilities and programs. Each year, 25% of the millage funds collected are given to the 33 local units of government (based on population) for local parks and recreation projects. Listed below are some of the local projects funded by the St Clair County Parks and Recreation millage over the past six years.

**Townships**

### Berlin Twp.
- Extended park driveway
- Improved parking lot
- Park director’s salary
- Recreational activities and program development
- Park repairs, maintenance and lawn mowing

### Clay Twp.
- Contributions to Downriver Recreation
- Contributed funds to the Lion’s pool renovation
- Construction of the new township park

### Cottrellville Twp.
- Purchased playground equipment
- Park site excavation
- Special events
- Installed basketball fencing, second pavilion, playscape and sandbox

### China Twp.
- Completed outdoor roller hockey rink
- Built a new park pavilion and baseball backstop
- Picnic tables, walking path and playground equipment

### East China Twp.
- Installed new drinking fountains and electricity in pavilion
- Purchased a slide for River Park
- Purchased protective screens for three pavilions

### Brockway Twp.
- Park maintenance
- Staffing costs
- Built a concession stand
- Installed new playground equipment
- Park operations

### Clyde Twp.
- Community special events
- Remodeled and purchased new appliances for the concession stand
- Purchased playground equipment and benches

### Fort Gratiot Twp.
- Local match for federal grant for Phase II of the bike path
- Purchased property for bike trail
- Design and construction services for the bike path

### Burtchville Twp.
- Resurfaced tennis courts
- Built a skate park
- Purchased picnic tables, grills, & trash receptacles
- Trail work
- Little league park improvements

### Emmett Twp.
- Installed a ADA paved path to a restroom facility
- Village park maintenance
- Cut and removed ash trees
- Donated to three Emmett area parks

### Greenwood Twp.
- Installed a basketball court and new playground equipment
- Installed a new driveway
- Parking lot improvements
- Updated baseball fields

### Casco Twp.
- Installed two gates to park property
- Partnership with the City of Richmond to provide recreation and enrichment activities
- Saving for future projects

### Columbus Twp.
- MDOT grant for bike path
- Restoration of the historic white barn in Columbus County Park
- Cleared sections of the Belle River of wood jams

### Grant Twp.
- Planted shade trees
- Installed benches, picnic tables and concrete pad
- Upgraded electrical service and added lamp pole
- Installed ¼- mile blacktop walking path
In Focus: Ira Township
The millage funds returned to Ira Township helped to purchase new park land adjacent to the Township Offices, which will be developed into a sledding hill and/or a softball diamond or frisbee golf course. In the Municipal Park, canvas sides were purchased for the pavilion and are used to block out the strong winds during recreational events. Millage funds were also used to purchase playground equipment and build a pavilion. Currently a portion of the funds being used for the County Line Road Trail, which will provide a safe pedestrian and bike path for children and parents to use to get to the Anchor Bay High School.

Lynn Zyrowski, Director, Ira Township Parks

Ira Twp.
- Matching funds for a walking path on County Line Road
- Recreation activities
- Bike path construction
- Park improvements to bathhouse, walking path and vinyl sides for the pavilion

Wales Twp.
- Saved several years of funds to provide local match for land grant
- Land purchased for township park
- Parking lot constructed
- Master plan completed

Kenockee Twp.
- Park maintenance
- New backstop for ball field
- Barrier posts, new parking lot and planning a pavilion
- New pavilion constructed
- Park maintenance costs
- Installed new picnic grills

Port Huron Twp.
- Local match for acquisition grant to purchase Bakers Field
- Park improvements, recreation activities, yearly fishing clinics
- Bakers Field planning

Kimball Twp.
- Installed new playground equipment
- Installed ADA sidewalks to the docks
- Updated nature trails and park pavilion
- Park attendant wages

St. Clair Twp.
- Purchased picnic tables
- Maintenance of Neuman Road Park
- Work on bike path
- Purchased benches
- Recreation programming
- Community special events

Lynn Twp.
- Excavated park area
- Added picnic and playground area
- Mowing
- Planning playground equipment and pavilion for new park

Riley Twp.
- Installed new lights and ceiling in pavilion
- Maintenance on playscape and soccer field
- Removal of dead trees
- Improvements to softball field

Mussey Twp.
- Leased parcel of land from Capac schools to develop a sports field
- Installed a parking lot
- Seeding and fencing for baseball diamonds

Millage Spotlight:
Fort Gratiot Township
For the last 16 years, Fort Gratiot Township has used the funds it received from the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage to make many substantial improvements and expansions to the Township’s park system. Current projects in Fort Gratiot that are partially funded by the County Parks Millage include:

- Build an ADA accessible walkway for the canoe and kayak dock at North River Road
- Purchase of 19.9 acres of land to expand the Fort Gratiot Pond Park.
- Design the Bridge-to-Bay Trail link that will connect Burtchville Township’s Trail with Fort Gratiot County Park.

Without funding assistance from the St. Clair County Millage, these improvements and expansions would not be possible.

Robert Crawford, Clerk
Fort Gratiot Charter Township
### Local Millage Distribution

#### Cities/Villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algonac</th>
<th>Emmett</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updates to Community Center</td>
<td>Installed a new backstop and safety tubing on the top of all fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion’s Pool operations</td>
<td>Planted trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural and electric upgrades to Lion’s field</td>
<td>Resurfaced infields on three baseball fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain city’s five parks</td>
<td>New safety surface under all playground equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovations to Lion’s Pool</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capac</th>
<th>Marine City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase II of Recreation plan</td>
<td>Phase III and IV Bridge to Bay Trail construction and engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee wages</td>
<td>Replaced outdated playground equipment at King Road Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park maintenance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Port-a-john rental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic tables and benches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developed a 5-year park plan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Millage Spotlight: Marine City

The City of Marine City used their millage funds to finish its section of the Bridge to Bay Trail, ending at King Road and Chartier Road. The trail gives students in the City and in the adjacent township a safe trail to ride their bikes to the high school and middle school. The trail runs past the “Ward Cottrell Park” where millage funds were used to remove and replace the obsolete playground equipment. The “tot lot” on Main and Washington Streets received a complete face-lift, the obsolete equipment was removed and new swings, a merry-go-round and a playscape for children ages 5-12 was installed. An additional play structure for toddlers has been used practically every day and a much requested picnic table and swinging bench were also added to the park.

Lynn Zyrowski Director, Marine City Recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marysville</th>
<th>Richmond</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Splashpad at Marysville City Park</td>
<td>Recreation programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skatepark in Morton Park</td>
<td>Partnership with Casco Township to provide recreation and enrichment activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge to Bay Trail construction along M-29</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Save funds to build an open field/soccer complex</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Memphis</th>
<th>St. Clair</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity to gazebo in Musial Park</td>
<td>Land acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planted trees</td>
<td>Park development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased picnic tables and guardrails at Musial Park</td>
<td>Master plan projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saving for a merry-go-round</td>
<td>Bridge to Bay Trail construction along Carney Drive, Brown Street and along Jordan Creek</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port Huron</th>
<th>Yale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Playscape for Knox Field</td>
<td>New pavilion for City Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of the Bridge to Bay Trail</td>
<td>Repairs to old pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General improvements to parks and swimming pools, Port Huron Museum and Pine Grove Park</td>
<td>New picnic tables</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>New park lighting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Removal of dead trees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planted new trees</td>
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Investing in Our Community Through Parks & Trails

Over the past six years, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission has invested St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage funds in the County Parks and trails. In the process of contracting for construction, materials and supplies, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation has put numerous local companies to work.

Below is a list of most of the area companies that the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission has contracted with for goods and services since 2004:

ABC Bees Wasps and Spiders, LLC, Algonac
AC-DC Electrical Contractors, Wales Twp.
A. W. Ellis Construction Company, Port Huron
Aarow Signs, Fort Gratiot
Acme Locksmiths, Port Huron
AIS Equipment, Richmond
Aco Hardware, Port Huron
Acom Restorations, Marine City
Active Tree Experts, Columbia Township
Ainsworth Electric, Inc., Port Huron Township
Allegro Print & Imaging, Fort Gratiot Township
Alpine Services, LLC, Lexington
Anna’s Gardens, Wales Township
Applied Industrial Technologies, Marysville
Associated Design & Services, Kimball Twp.
AutoZone, Port Huron and Richmond
B & L Industries, Inc., Port Huron
B and T Electric, Inc., St. Clair Township
B C Electrical, Inc., Wales Township
Bat Masters, LLC, Clay Township
Best Buy, Fort Gratiot
Bicycle and Fitness Barn, Kimball Township
Bienro’s Carpet One, Port Huron
Bill Leslie & Sons, Inc., Port Huron
Black River Concrete, Inc., Kimball Township
Blue Flame Propane, Inc., Richmond
Blue Water Aggregates Co. Marysville
Blue Water Docks, LLC, Algonac
BMJ Engineers & Surveyors, Inc., Port Huron
Brown Builders and Contracting, Lexington
Burgess Contracting Company, Marysville
By-Lo Oil Company, Kimball Township
C & A Building Movers, Berville
C. C. Energy Systems, East China Township
Campbell & Shaw Steel, Marysville
Carl’s Septic Service, Yale
Carrigan Development, Inc., Port Huron
Carver Lumber, Kimball Township
Cedar Hill Graphics, Port Huron
Cellular Advantage, Fort Gratiot
Chef Shell’s Catering, Inc., Port Huron
Classic Plastering and Drywall, St. Clair
Comm. Diving & Marine Supply, Port Huron
Cooper Nesbit Appraisal, Inc., Port Huron
Crawford Door Co., Kimball
D and G Underground Construction, Yale
Dan Halliday Painting, Kimball Township
Dano’s Top Shelf Painting, Fort Gratiot Twp.
Darling’s Bettline, LLC, Port Huron
Deer Country Lawn & Garden, Kimball Twp.
Dennis Young Residential Builders, Emmett
Dependable Heating Cooling and Refrigeration, Kimball Township
Downriver Refrigeration, Inc., Kimball
Dyck Security Services, Inc., Port Huron
Emmet Hardeware, Emmett
Erv’s Heating & Cooling, Kimball Twp.
Expert Machine & Tool, Inc., Port Huron
Extreme Masonry, Jedd
Family Farm & Home, Richmond
Fastenal Company, Port Huron
Feed ‘N Seed, Port Huron
Ferguson Steel, Inc., Port Huron
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., Port Huron
Ferrell Gas, Port Huron
Flags N More, Inc., Fort Gratiot Township
Fletcher Fealko Shoudy & Moeller, Port Huron
Foster Blue Water Oil, LLC, Richmond
Francoel Water Conditioning, Avoca
Gander Mountain, Fort Gratiot Township
Gary Bertossi Building, Richmond
Great Lakes Tire, Columbus Township
Gresley Mackay, Inc., Marysville
Halliday and Sons, Inc., Kimball Township
Hammer’s Contracting, LLC, Kimball Twp.
Harbor Freight Tools, Port Gratiot
Hill’s Garage, Kimball Township
Hobby Lobby, Fort Gratiot
Hohmann Sheet Metal, Marysville
Home Depot, Fort Gratiot and Chesterfield
Huron Custom Construction, Port Huron
Huron Title Company, Port Huron
Image Authentics, Inc., Kimball
Imprint House, Port Huron
J. B. Fenner Painting, Kimball Township
Jim Nolan Contracting, Wales Township
Jones Equipment, Fort Gratiot and Marysville
K & E Electric Supply Corp., Port Huron
KF Engineering, Port Huron
Kerr-Albert Office Supply, Port Huron
KMart, Richmond and Port Huron
L. D. Landsheet and Son, LLC, St. Clair
Laethem Buick Pontiac GMC, Richmond
Larry Bullie Construction, Inc., Port Huron
Lawyers Title Insurance Corp., Port Huron
Michael Lietz Masonry, Allenton
Lowe’s, Fort Gratiot and Chesterfield
Lumber Jack Lumber, Marysville and China
M & R Surplus, Kimball Township
Mail Management Service Center, Port Huron
Marquette Disposal Co., Port Huron Township
Marine City Nursery Company, Marine City
Marketing Promotions & Events, Fort Gratiot
Marshall E. Campbell Co., Inc., Port Huron
Martin Construction, LLC, Port Huron
Marysville Truck Equipment, St. Clair Twp.
May-Wilbert Vault Corp., Port Huron Township
McNeice Wood Floors, Inc., Port Huron
Mechanical Fabricators, Marine City
Medler Electric Co., Port Huron Township
Meinhardt Batteries, Port Huron
Meijer, Fort Gratiot, Marysville and Lenox
Mid-West Appraisal Company, Port Huron
Modern Motor Service, Inc., Port Huron
Modern Sewer & Drain Cleaning, Port Huron
Motter & Son Lumber Co., Port Huron
Murray’s Discount Auto Stores, Port Gratiot
Nabozny Excavating, Fort Gratiot
Nolan Construction, Wales Township
Parish Farm and Greenhouse, St. Clair
Pete’s Camping Service, Inc., Kimball
Port Huron Auto Glass, Port Huron
Port Huron Building Supply, Port Huron
Port Huron Paint Company, Port Huron
Port Huron Tire & Service, Inc., Port Huron
Preferred Towing, Fort Gratiot
Proper Framing, Port Huron
R and D Foglesong Construction, Lakeport
R. Janus Supply Company, Port Huron
Radio First, Port Huron
Raymond Excavating Company, Marysville
Rhino Linings of Port Huron, Fort Gratiot
Richmond Glass, Columbus
Richmond New Holland, Richmond
Rock-N-Wood Supply Yard, Inc., Port Huron
Ross Brown’s Excavating, Avoca
Russell Electric, St. Clair Township
S. A. Tonello, Inc., Port Huron Township
Sears Roebuck, Fort Gratiot and St. Clair
St. Clair Chrysler Jeep Dodge, St. Clair
St. Clair Nursery Company, East China
St. Clair Packaging, Inc., Marysville
Schwehofer Doors, Inc., St. Clair Township
Scotty’s Potty’s, Port Huron
Shannon Excavating Company, Wales
Sherman Nursery Farms, Columbus Twp.
Siegel Sand & Gravel, Emmett
Sign’s Plus, Fort Gratiot
Sir Speedy, Port Huron
Sophia Underground Maintenance, Avoca
Souliere Drywall, Kimball Township
Stephenson Electric Co., Port Huron
Steve’s Painting, St. Clair
Stewart Beauvais and Whipple, Fort Gratiot
Stone’s Ace of Richmond, Richmond
Sunshine Pools, Kimball Township
Superior Floor Service, Inc., Memphis
Superior Heating and Cooling, Inc., Columbus
Sy Design, Port Huron
Tellow Contracting, Casco Township
The Times Herald, Port Huron
Thiet Products, Inc., Marysville
Thorpe Printing Services, Inc., Marysville
Thumb Fire Extinguisher Service, Port Huron
Tractor Supply Company, Port Huron, New Haven and New Baltimore
Vandergraaff Custom Homes, Lexington
Tom Verbeke Home Improvement, Marysville
Wadhams Fence, Smiths Creek
Mike Walsh, Fargo
Webb Well Drilling, Wales
Wetson Transport, Inc., Kimball
Whaling Class Appraisal, Inc., Port Huron
William Vogan Architects, Port Huron
Wilson’s Rubber Stamps, Port Huron
Wood Works, Emmett
Young Lumber, LLC, Columbus
Young Sign and Advertising Co., Port Huron
Zimmer Roofing and Construction, Port Huron
Zimmer’s Sales and Service, China

Investing in the Future

In addition to contracting for goods and services, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation hires St. Clair County residents to work at St. Clair County parks. Most of the parks and trails mowing, cleaning and facility set ups are handled by seasonal staff. The majority of the seasonal staff are college students earning funds for school. Current summer employees attend Baker College, Central Michigan University, Lawrence Tech, Michigan Technical University, St. Clair County Community College, University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University.
Six Years of Progress..........

Goodells County Park

- Splashpad
- C.C. Peck Bank Restoration
- Murphy/Ryan Farmhouse Interior Renovations
- Schoolhouse Interior Renovations
- Windmill Restoration
- Restroom Renovation
- Concession Stand Renovation
- Riding Ring #1 Drainage System
- Riding Ring #2 Rebuilt
- Riding Ring #2 Lighting
- Horse Barn Repairs & Upgrades
- Historic Barns Repairs
- Routine Building Painting
- Parking Lot Expansion & Paving
- Tree Plantings
- ADA Access Improvements
- Handicapped Parking Improvements
- Mudge Log Cabin Restoration
- Cemetery Restorations
- Farm Lane Bridge Replacement

Future Projects

- Roofing Repairs and Replacements
- Columbus Bible Church Relocation & Restoration

Fort Gratiot County Park

- Roadways and Parking Lots
- Paved Walking Paths
- Site Utilities
- Restroom/Maintenance Building
- Children’s Playground
- Beach Cleanup
- 2 Picnic Pavilions
- Beach Gateway Pavilion
- Beach Boardwalk
- Information Station
- Vending Machine Shelter
- Overflow Parking Area
Columbus County Park

- 3 Properties Purchased
- Purchased 291-Acres with Grant
- 3 Temporary Parking Lots Constructed
- Entrance Road and Parking Lot
- Electrical Utilities & Well
- Lighted Sledding Hill
- Barbed Wire Fencing Removed

Future Projects

- Lodge Building with Restrooms
- Entrance Sign
- Paved Walking Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Mountain Biking Trails
- Playground
- Canoe and Kayak Launch

Wadhams to Avoca Trail

- 2.6 mile Extension to Griswold Road
- Lapeer Road Parking Lot and Toilet
- Wadhams Road Crossing & Signals
- Paving Bartlett Road to Wadhams Road
- Limestone surfacing
- Four Information Kiosks

Future Projects

- Additional trail extentions

Other Projects

- 2nd Portable Stage Purchased
- Original Portable Stage Replaced
- 2 Accessible Canoe & Kayak Launches Purchased
- Additional Accessible Canoe & Kayak Launches
- Bridge to Bay Trail Signage

Woodsong County Park

- Purchased Property with MNRTF Grant
- Temporary Parking lot and Informational Kiosk

Future Projects

- Entrance Gate
- Canoe and Kayak Launch
- Accessible Trail to Black River
- Vault Toilet

In County Parks
Check Out St. Clair County Parks & Recreation On The Web!
www.stclaircountyparks.org

County Parks
www.goodellscountypark.org
www.columbuscountypark.org
www.fortgratiotcountypark.org

Trails
www.bridgetobaytrail.org
www.wadhamstoavocatrail.org
www.cis.stclaircounty.org/blueway.asp

We are on Facebook!
Keyword Search  St. Clair County Parks
Are you a Fan?

Questions?
Email us at countyparks@stclaircounty.org

St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commissioners
Dennis Basinski........................Chair
Frederick F. Swegles..............Vice Chair
William J. Bier........................Secretary
John Cooper............................Commissioner
Charles S. Mathews ..............Commissioner
Steve Cooper........................Commissioner
Robert Wiley ......................Commissioner
Tom Sass ................................Commissioner
Howard Heidemann ..............Commissioner
Timothy LaLonde...............Commissioner

Parks and Recreation Staff
Mark Brochu, CPRP.................Director
Lynn Smith .........................Office Manager
Matt Sharp..........Parks Operations Supervisor
Dennis C. Delor .................Special Events, Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator

A Progress Report is published by
St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission