



1/09/2017

Manitowoc County Parks

3500 STH 310

Manitowoc, WI 54220-0610

Gary Robinson

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I would like to thank John Durbrow and the Lakes Association for the invitation.

I want to start by saying that I have been buttoning up loose ends since my seat in the parks department and open grants and projects that were left behind, not to forsake them but to get them completed and move on. I understand that everyone has questions and concerns about our lakes, but this report will address what we are doing with them and in our parks. I hope that this will bring a much clearer understanding of what is happening.

The Parks Department consists of myself and one employee.

We take care of bathrooms, garbage, grass cutting, equipment maintenance, grounds grooming, and tree trimming, grant paperwork, soliciting match, go to meetings, snowmobile clubs, Fish and Game, lakes, and town meetings along with phone calls, questions comments and concerns, and disgruntled insatiable individuals. We do pier installation and removal along with doing all of our preventive maintenance ourselves to save money and get the most for the taxpayers. We are continuously moving forward in small strides and I understand that everyone deserves up dates to the lakes they oversee before them.

Moving forward I have drafted a five year plan that addresses the need for A.D.A. upgrades to all our piers and boat launches along with the access to get to them. All these upgrades for these projects are contingent on budget. At this time we are attempting to do a lot with a little. This is why community involvement, fund raising organizations, brat fry's, etc. along with match donation, State Grant awards, and volunteers all effect the feasibility and are vital to the project's success.

Noting this takes a tremendously longer time to achieve, thinking out of the box and applying strategic creative thinking, and speeds up with community involvement.

First lets reflect on last year.

In 2016 we accomplished quite a few projects.

The **English Lake** bathroom was completed along with the demolition and landscaping of the old bathroom area. There was an asphalt approach along with concrete installed for A.D.A. access to the building, and some new post were added for lawn protection and parking.

Maribel caves bathrooms and electricity went through some changes and the pavilion electricity was completed.

There were power poles installed and wiring was trenched in with dusk to dawn lighting installed. There are receptacles for power, and the pavilion has lighted bathrooms. The ceiling has been installed and has sealed up the truss area with lighting installed there as well. The painting is complete, and there is room for expansion in the electric panel for future planning.

Signage was donated from the State for our endangered species of bats and the Wisconsin Speleological society continues to raise money and donate their time with public tours and trail improvements along with cave development, establishing habitat and tourism attraction. Expansion of the parking lot area has started but will be ongoing as funding and donations allow.



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In 2015 we had the Lara bee Sportsmen's club initiate a great concern for upgrades to **Harpts Lake**. **This project was completed in 2016**

The pier is old and worn and is not A.D.A. compliant.

The launch consisted of broken concrete and gravel that continues to deteriorate with traffic.

The Harpts Lake association and the Larabee sportsmen's club came together with some match funding from the Manitowoc County Fish and Game, this helped set everything in motion and the Parks department filed for an RBF Grant and permits for this project to take place.

The old pier was removed and a new A.D.A. approved 30 foot torsion system floating boarding dock was installed. There is a bench seating on the pier along with rod holders for fishing and a nice bump rail for docking and launching your water craft along with a nice handrail for safety. There is a donation tube installed to help with future maintenance. We removed the bad concrete and poured a new approach, along with asphalt, allowing smooth wheel chair access to the boarding dock.

There is a handy cap parking area now and the New Harpts Lake Sign is in the works and will be installed in spring of 2017.

Shoe Lake, has had a recent facelift as well. The old pier was removed and A.D.A. compliant boarding dock was installed in 2015. The new approach was finished in 2016.

We went from a 10 foot x 8 foot wide piece of expanded metal attached to a treated beam for a launch, and now have a concrete approach 12 feet wide extending twenty feet out. This allows for deeper backing if needed without worry of backing off the approach. This is a flexible concrete that is complimented by an asphalt approach going up the hill. This gives increased traction for safety and stops erosion of the old gravel approach ending up in the lake.

There was new gravel and some ditching done at **Weyer Lake**, as well as a slight increase in the size of the turnaround. I understand that the aerator system is installed up and running.

The expanded metal approach at **Spring Lake** was temporarily fixed and seems to be working well with the addition of some patching material.

Cato Falls took a hit with some old growth trees as well coming down. We cleaned up trails and dangerous areas and safety concerns leaving the forest as natural as possible. The vehicle vandalism on the grass area had to be replaced for the disk golf outing, and there have been several vandalism issues that still need to be prioritized and addressed.

There were some issues at the **West Twin River** where the access was blocked off from downed trees.

Maribel had to have some trees worked on as well. Not nearly as bad as when the tornado went through but none the less tree work that was a safety concern.



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We also had some storm damage tree clean up at **Silver Lake**. We lost some old growth oak and Maple as well as other species; there was fence damage to some adjoining property's and a dangerous situation with a home owner's roof.

We also have to manage **Devils River Trail** and there are ongoing issues with the meadow lane bridge. This is \$90,000.00 issue. Along with downed trees that had taken some of our time to remove, along with gravel and bridge maintenance.

Long Lake too had some tree damage that needed to be cleaned up.

We also had received some money from the Long Lake association and filed for a permit to put another fishing pier in the lake. This has been installed.

Gass Lake has had some vegetation removal done by land owners and this park seems to be a notorious area for dumping. We have had to clean up couches and televisions along with other garbage. Several times last year. This is at a cost.

Fischer Creek Park and **Point Creek Park** have been going through some changes. As well, the volunteer groups and the Glacial Lakes conservancy, have been removing honey suckle and the county hauls it away. Invasive removal efforts are ongoing.

Mind you that during the park season months April 1st thru October 31st, the county is on a four day ten hour work shift.

All the Parks and Lakes go through trash removal and bathroom cleaning every Monday. This leaves 3 days for grass cutting and grounds grooming for 24 lakes and parks, along with equipment maintenance and any UN for seen circumstances such as storm damage, culvert failures, etc. Now for 2017

In the upcoming year for 2017, so far we have on the agenda,

Silver Lake boat launch improvements and berm project.

Two separate projects, we have filed for an RBF Grant of \$150,000 along with the sisters matching donation was received.

This will consist of a parking lot extension of 20 feet to the east, and an engineer designed arch style bridge launch that is very similar to the walking bridge we have now. This will match the aesthetics of the park but in the manner that will meet load ranges allowing safe ingress and egress of water craft with a vehicle. Lining up in the parking lot and not fighting with traffic on hwy 151 or parking lot traffic in and out.

There will be a new launch set in place and we are contemplating something similar to Shoe Lake, a flexible style that will not crack and contours the bottom.

The old pier has plans to be replaced with a Floating Torsion system boarding dock that is A.D.A. located next to the new launch.

The old pier will be removed and the old boat launch and concrete box culvert will also be removed.



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We have A **CCA** in the amount of \$10,000.00 and I am looking for match opportunities at this time. These monies are for the berm work height increase and to contour the bank area back to its original shape, allowing natural flow of the creek. Hopefully helping to eliminate any overtopping issues in the future. I am also welcoming any possible ideas to help build off of this such as fish cribs etc. as well as entertaining any thoughts on match funds helping the cause. Volunteers have been helping clean the creek bed of fallen timber obstructions and keeping the parks paths neat and usable.

We have also set up a timber harvest for this year at **Point creek Park** and intend to harvest a 15 acre portion through row stripping and choice area openings, allowing places of hard wood plantings forestry plan to take place. The money from the harvest will go back into the park for hardwood trees and better forest management practices per the D.N.R. assistance. This will be the last harvest with Manitowoc County Forest Ranger Andy Noth.

There will no longer be a forester position in Manitowoc County. There are going to be Managed Forest Law foresters who deal just with MFL and private/public lands foresters in Green Bay, Appleton, and Plymouth. This is all I know at this stage. We were first made aware of these changes in Early December.

We also have had monies come in for tree planting projects for Silver Lake and Cato Falls. As well as some for Maribel Caves. This money is for trees only and we are looking for match opportunities for this as well also volunteers are always welcome to help do some planting when the time comes. As I mentioned earlier the five year plan projects are dependent on donations, match, volunteers and support from the community to get them to become reality. I am working on all the possibilities that I can juggle effectively and appreciate any and all ideas. Please be patient and understand that we will get there it is just a matter of time.

We have staircase repairs need to be done in Cato that access the river.

We are building new signs for Horse Shoe Lake, Cedar Lake, and Harpts Lake.

There were also some issues about time changes on the lakes and these will stay as they are. Park hours 6am to 11pm.

Rebuilding some of our picnic tables

Maintain playground equipment.

Gravel grade maintenance. Pot holes and drag west twin, shoe, weyers, etc.
Move small pavilion at English lake away from the bathroom, and re-seed that area.

Devils River trail spraying and trail grade repairs.

Feb. 13th

Phragmites

Tom
John

LNR P

Silver Lake Waterway Project Update

This is a brief update to keep you informed that we are moving forward with this divine plan.

The Silver Lake waterway project design for bidders has been completed.

The notice has been posted in the local paper and the chronicle.

The folks who are interested in bidding on the project can pick up forms from OMNI after January 23rd, bids will be accepted through the month of February with a due date deadline of February 22nd. 2:00pm

The bids then will be opened at the highway department.

Construction Contract preparation will be April 25th, 2017

There will be approximately 12-13 weeks for the structure fabrication with a (two week over lap for abutment construction)

Taking into consideration of the pike spawn,

Construction start will be July 11th, 2017

The bridge structure : +/- July 25th, 2017 with a +/- 6weeks overall construction time frame

Construction completion September 1, 2017.

The existing launch will stay intact until this new structure is complete.

We then will begin the old structure removal, and see where we are at with phase II elevations and contouring the bank.

There may be a short time when we will have to close the park off to the public for safety reasons, as in example of when the bridge will be delivered and if there is a crane setting it into place etc.

The park would be open on the weekends but may be closed for certain times during the week. Depending on the type of work hindering safety.

There will be many more updates as we move forward.