

RE: School Section Lake Property Owners Association Annual Meeting

We thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on a wide array of exciting improvements and programs taking place with School Section Lake Veterans County Park. We look forward to meeting with your elected officers over the coming weeks in partnership as we continue to work together to provide a safe and healthy lake for all property owners and park visitors.

Park Projects –

Re-Branding – You have probably noticed over the past year that we have changed all of our signage from Green and Orange back to the standard park colors of Brown and White. In addition, we adopted a new logo “as seen at the top of this letter” and have upgraded to aluminum reflective signage in many areas of the park.

Cameras – As a security improvement, we have added security cameras to our park entrance and exit drives, park office and park store. These cameras operate 24 hours a day, year-round.

Grounds Lighting – We are currently in the process of installing 22 brand new LED Streetlights, which are replacing all previous street and outdoor area lighting in the park.

Generators – We are wrapping up a generator installation project which has added 2 Generac units to the park. These units will power our main well, main bathhouse, camp store and will keep water pressure to our entire park grounds during an outage event. During multi-day outages, lakefront property owners and members of the community will be permitted to enter the park to fill water containers, take a shower, use the restrooms, or charge electronics free of charge.

Family Group Camp – Restrooms were completely remodeled this spring.

Playground Updates – We currently have out to bid a \$200,000 playground improvement project, which would add play equipment to 4 different parks and would include new equipment at the “Tot Lot” playground area within School Section Lake Park.

Wi-Fi – We have repaired 2 distribution points and added an additional distribution location for park Wi-Fi this spring. Park visitors have access to free Wi-Fi around the store area of the park.

Park Store – We continue to bring a wider array of products into our park store each year. If you haven’t stopped in recently, please take the time to visit.

Park Expansion – A park expansion project which would add additional camping options to the park is currently out for re-bid. The project is expected to cost in the 1.2-1.4 million dollar range. Detailed plans for the proposed project are available on our website under the “Information” tab by clicking “Public Notice, Meetings, Planning and Policies.” Permits from District 10 Health for an additional well and water withdrawal have been received. Morton Township plan review has been completed. EGLE campground addition permit has been requested. Soil Erosion permit would be applied for once a contractor is selected.

Beach Bathhouse and Beach Playground Replacement Project – We have applied through 2 different grant programs for funding to replace the day use beach bathhouse, pavilion, and playground within the park. Project estimates are around \$850,000 which would include a \$200,00-\$300,000 playground and walkway connectivity improvement to the park. Plans for this project are also available for review on our website. This project is pending the receipt of grant funding.

Park Events –

Our Annual Community Open House Event is this weekend, (June 9th-June 11th.) All entrance fees are waived for park visitors driving into the park during these dates. It is also the DNR Free Fishing Weekend. Visitors arriving to the park by boat are still required to display an annual mooring permit.

Boaters Safety – Is taking place in the park today (Saturday, June 10th). We host this event each year, which is administered by the Mecosta County Sheriff’s Office. We host an additional course at Brower Park on July 8th for those that may be interested in attending.

Weekend Programming – We have staff offering programs each weekend throughout the summer. Event descriptions and times can be found on our Facebook page or picked up from the park office each week.

Annual Park Commission Meet & Greet – July 22nd is our annual park meet and greet where commission members will visit the park, speak about park improvement plans and get to know members of the community. The event will include coffee and donuts and begins at 9:00 AM.

SSLPOA Annual Picnic – August 12th – We are excited to host the Property Owner’s Annual Picnic within the park this season. The Park Commission has waived the pavilion rental fee and vehicle entrance fees for property owners attending this event. Look for a coupon for free entry in your next newsletter. Property owners are welcome to spend the entire day utilizing the park amenities free of charge. Those arriving by boat are required to display an annual mooring permit.