

# Improvements ahead for the county parks

By LEM MESEE  
Outdoors writer.



The first contract has been awarded for development of a road and parking lot at the new Indian Springs Metropark in Springfield and White Lake townships of northern Oakland County. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority awarded the \$61,083 contract to J.D. Armstrong Landscape Co. of Fraser, which expects to complete work by May 31, 1980. Indian Springs will be open to the public in 1981. Indian Springs Metropark covers 2,000 acres nine miles north of the Pontiac State Recreation Area on the headwaters of the Huron River. Temporary entrance is from Crosby Lake Road. Land acquisition is 70 percent complete, said Charles A. Shafer, HCMA board member from Oakland County. Major uses: preservation of natural wild areas, a nature center with interpretive trails, a few picnic areas and playfields.

FOUR DAMS in Oakland County need repairs, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources after an inventory of 400 dams in the state.

They are among 16 dams which "are either being repaired, will be repaired or will be further investigated during the coming year," according to Leon Cook, chief of DNR's hydrologic engineering section.

Dawson Millpond Dam, Herron Lake Dam, Wildwood Lake Dam and Clarkston Dam were four among 16 dams which need some repair.

Only one dam was found to be in need of immediate repair. Portage Plant Dam in St. Joseph County required structural repairs, which were completed by Michigan Power Co. as soon as the problem was discovered.

The dam safety program is part of a nationwide effort initiated in 1977 by President Carter after the Kelly Barnes Lake Dam at Toccoa Falls Bible College in Georgia failed, killing 39 persons. Michigan's inspection project is being coordinated by DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers. Among 61 dams which passed inspection are these five in Oakland County: Quorton Dam, Lake Louise Dam, Lake Neva Dam, Oxbow Lake Dam and Pontiac Lake Dam. Also passing were the nearby Upper and Lower Stony Creek Lake dams in Macomb County.

DAVE MOILANEN, the popular young naturalist at Kensington Metropark, will give his program on "When Pine and Paul Bunyan Were Kings" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28.

Using slides, tall tales and Bunyanesque attire, Moilanen will give visitors a glimpse of the lumberjack's life in the 1840-1900 logging era.

The program is free, but call the nature center at 685-1561 to register. The nature center is on the west side of the park. Use the Kensington Road exit form I-96.

## could you survive?

tips from the Air Force Survival School

It is 4 p.m. You are hunting in a remote mountainous area alone, and are approximately two hours from your camp. It is overcast and starting to rain, the temperature is in the 40s and apparently dropping.

You do not have any protective rain gear with you and are clad only in boots, jeans and a pullover sweatshirt.

### WOULD YOU . . .

A. continue to hike out to your camp.

B. Stop and make a temporary camp and spend the night until daylight the next day.

C. Stop and evaluate the conditions and continue on to your camp.

D. Stop and wait until the rain has stopped and then continue on to your camp.

### TO SURVIVE . . .

B would be the best action, according to survival experts. If caught in an area with approaching darkness and inclement weather, the outdoor enthusiast is wise to stop and spend the night rather than fight the elements.

Extended exposure in the conditions noted can cause irreversible symptoms of hypothermia to set in and lead to incapacitation within a few hours or less.

To continue to hike out, A, might be acceptable if the distance to camp could be covered in a few minutes instead of two hours with the weather conditions as indicated.

C provides little aid since the result is the same as A.

D would be the most acceptable of the remaining alternatives, provided enough daylight remained to negotiate the distance to your camp.

## It's safety first for deer hunters

Deer hunters in Michigan are reminded by State Police fire marshal officers to take special safety precautions when using heating, lighting and cooking appliances in outdoor camping facilities during this game season.

Careless or negligent operation of these appliances or defects in some equipment can cause death and injury, according to past experiences reported to fire marshal investigators.

These past tragedies have included deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning or asphyxiation. In addition, there have been deaths or injuries or property loss resulting from fires and explosions that can result from faulty operation or defective equipment or unsafe storage of inflammable materials.

THE STATE Police fire marshal division recommends that hunters and other outdoor activists follow these recommendations for safety.

- Use only those appliances which have been tested and listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Do not alter the appliance.
- Use only fuel which has been designated for use by the appliance manufacturer.
- Store the fuel in approved containers only and at a safe location.
- Keep combustible materials well away from the appliance.
- Provide adequate venting for the appliance.
- Provide sufficient combustion air for the appliance.

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