

Foundation to aid Oakland parks

A citizens group has formed a non-profit foundation to preserve and develop parks and recreation facilities in Oakland County.

Marty Yates of Troy, president of the Oakland Parks Foundation, recently discussed plans for the foundation before the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Yates, a former park commissioner in Illinois and a leasing agent for the Taubman Co., said the foundation was formed to accept funds and gifts of land or other contributions to provide recreational opportunities for Oakland County residents.

THE GROUP will work with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Commission to help achieve future goals, Yates said.

Parks Commission member George Kuhn called the creation of the foundation an "historical benchmark."

"Second to the inception of the Oakland County Parks, the foundation is the most important development to perpetuate an outstanding parks and recreation system for years to come," said Kuhn, who is Oakland County's drain commissioner.

The Parks Foundation will begin seeking donations from businesses and residents after it receives approval for tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

any parks systems have been able

to acquire lands through matching federal and state grants, but the lands remain undeveloped, Yates said.

The independent foundation will assist in meeting the development goals set in the Oakland County Parks master plan, he added.

ONE PROJECT is development of Orion Oaks, the largest park recently acquired by Oakland County.

The 927-acre wooded parcel includes a lake. It was acquired with state and federal grants, but funds have not been available to develop the site.

Oakland County Parks manager R. Eric Reickel hopes that Orion Oaks will become a "people's park" with facilities for camping, fishing, boating, pic-

nicking and winter sports.

Reickel said he hopes money for its development will come from private donations.

Other trustees of the newly-formed parks foundation are: vice president Godfrey Hopper of West Bloomfield; secretary Marjorie Walker of Birmingham, a former Oakland County Parks commissioner; and treasurer Donald Van Loo of Birmingham.

Trustees include: R.J. Alexander of Birmingham; Robert Allen of Bloomfield Hills; Oakland County Parks Commissioner Harold Cousins of Pontiac; Barbara Goldman of Birmingham; Ruth Ann Walsh of Franklin; and Oakland County Parks Commission Chairman Lewis E. Wint of Clarkston.

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outdoors

Nature programs, film festival on tap

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It shows the parks, freeways and major roads in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

You can pick up one at the park office at such places as Stony Creek, Indian Springs or Kensington.

Or send 40 cents in a coin (to cover mailing costs) to: Metroparks Maps Dept. W-26, 3050 Penobscot Building, Detroit 48226.

THE WOODCOCKS get "dance fever" at this season of the year, and you can hear them at night at Independence Oaks County Park, Sashabaw Road, 2 1/2 miles north of I-75 at Clarkston.

A nature interpretive program starts at the Twin Chimney Shelter at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Register in advance by calling the park office 850-0903 during business hours.

Vehicle entrance fee at the park gate is \$2.50 for Oakland County residents.

"ACID RAIN: Requiem or Recovery," the Canadian documentary which the U.S. Justice Department branded "political propaganda," will be shown by the East Michigan Environmental Action Council at its environmental film festival.

The festival begins at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Birmingham Unitarian Church, Woodward at Lone Pine roads, Bloomfield Hills.

The film urges both the U.S. and Canada to curb industrial air pollution, according to EMEAC President Elizabeth Harris.

A second film is "Lovins on the Soft Path," which analyzes the energy problem as posed by Amory and Hunter Lovin.

EMEAC uses the film festival to introduce interested folks to its activities. Or you can call staff person Bonnie Anderson at 879-6040.

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have a raft of nature programs in the week ahead. Everything is free, unless otherwise noted, and they usually last 1 1/2-2 hours. There is a vehicle admission to the park, and you should call the park office to pre-register.

• "Step Into Spring" — family nature program at the nature center of Kensington Metropark near New Hudson — 10 a.m. Sunday; 685-1561.

• "Mom, Spring and You" — family nature walk at the Kensington nature center — 2 p.m. Sunday; 685-1561.

• "Feathers and Petals" — spring

flower and bird walk at the nature center of Stony Creek Metropark northeast of Rochester — 10 a.m. Sunday, and bring your binoculars; 781-4821.

• "Walk-a-Mom" — nature center of Stony Creek from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Children of all ages may bring their mothers and walk the trails to earn a "Walk-a-Mom" certificate. But don't rush — enjoy the wildflowers and bird songs; 781-4821.

• "Mother's Day Wildflower Walk" — family nature walk at nature center of Indian Springs Metropark near Clarkston — 1 p.m. Sunday; 625-2781.

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