

SEMCOG Parks Goal: Double Open Space

A regional plan to double by 1990 land for recreational purposes in Southeast Michigan has been approved by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) General Assembly.

It calls for adding 95,000 acres to the existing 91,000 acres of major recreation or conservation lands in the seven southeast Michigan counties.

In addition, the plan foresees need to preserve for post-1990 development another 143,000 acres.

Thus, the long-range plan calls for 329,000 acres of land to be in use for recreation or preserved for recreation-related open space in

southeast Michigan by 1990. Another 1,445,000 acres would be non-urbanized, principally agricultural, and 1,090,000 acres would be urbanized.

THE PLAN evolved during weeks of liaison between SEMCOG's Planning Division and the directors of planning for the seven SEMCOG counties, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) office of planning services, the City of Detroit's Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), and other concerned agencies.

Donald D. Lamb, chief of SEMCOG's Office of Land Use



WILLIAM L. WEBER has been appointed general manager of Ford Motor Co.'s transmission and chassis division. Weber, 49, of Bloomfield Hills, succeeds Donald R. Tope, who was promoted to head of the general parts division. Weber, a graduate of General Motors Institute, joined Ford in 1953 and had been general operations manager for chassis parts before his promotion.

Phone Progress: Dial-Your-Own

Telephone customers in Farmington, Livonia, Plymouth and other Ob- serverland points will be among the first in Michigan to use a new dial-your-own long distance system.

It will enable them to dial person-to-person, collect, credit card and bill-third-party calls.

Affected are the 47 exchange in Farmington and Livonia; the 45 exchange in Plymouth; the 42, 46, 26, 52, and 59 exchanges in Livonia and parts of Garden City, Westland and Plymouth; and the 34 exchange in Northville.

THE NEW system will also permit coin telephone users to dial their own long-distance calls.

It will go into effect Sunday, July 11, according to Michigan Bell Telephone Co. officials.

"The heart of the new service," Bell officials said, "is a newly developed push-

button console for operators. These consoles, replacing the familiar cord-type switchboards, are backed up by an electronic system that handles the routine details of recording billing information and other details on long distance calls.

Central control equipment at Michigan Bell's new long distance switching center at Plymouth is actually a computer - the "brains" of the system.

TO DIAL ONE of the special long distance calls, customers will dial "0" (Operator), immediately followed by the area code if needed, and then the telephone number in the distant city.

Dialing "0" signals the operator that a long distance call is being dialed which requires special handling.

After the number is dialed, the operator will come on the line long enough to perform whatever special services may be needed; for instance, to get acceptance of a collect call, to quote charges on a coin call, or to arrange to get the proper person on the line on a person-to-person call, etc.

Customers will continue to dial station-to-station calls in the usual manner.

"Introduction of the new service will make it possible for Michigan Bell to keep pace with the growing number of long distance calls," the company said. "It allows faster handling of calls because the calls proceed to their destinations while the operators are obtaining the required details from the callers."

"The new system will provide more accurate billing because the details pertaining to long distance calls are automatically recorded in the memory of the computer and later transferred to magnetic tape for billing."

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TO ESTABLISH criteria for the plan, SEMCOG planners, in concert with representatives from county and local agencies, agreed on a region-wide standard calling for 35 acres of recreation land per 1,000 persons by the year 1990.

Of this, 15 acres would be provided in regional facilities administered by state or federal agencies or the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

The standard further calls for 20 acres per 1,000 of local and county facilities except in those communities with local criteria of less than 10 acres (such as Detroit, with 5.1 acres pre 1,000).

BY THIS standard, it is expected that 92,000 acres of regional park facilities will be needed by 1990.

Presently there are 91,000 acres of all types of land owned by HCMA and DNR in the seven-county SEMCOG area. This total includes wildlife preserves, hunting areas and other lands. Of this 91,000 acres, about 38,000 are

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