

Security Precautions Taken At Maybury

Safety security projects are under way at the new Maybury State Park near Northville to set the stage for development of public recreational facilities at the former sanatorium site on Seven Mile Road west of Northville.

This June, the Department of Natural Resources plans to complete fencing the entire 865-acre park to keep people out of the area until it is safe and developed for initial public use. DNR is having the six-foot-high chain-link fence put up to control access and protect adjoining landowners from trespass problems by recreationists after the park is opened to limited public use—hopefully by the fall of 1974.

DNR has also contracted for demolition this summer of sanatorium buildings which generally are in a state of disrepair. Some of these brick, multi-story units house laboratories with potentially dangerous debris from chemicals and equipment.

In general, the former sanatorium complex is interlaced with many other pitfalls to public safety—underground steam passageways and water supply tanks and repair holes, boiler rooms, power house systems.

"By necessity," explains Park Chief O.J. Scherschligt, "our first order of priorities been to keep Maybury closed to the public until we could remove or seal off these hazards. After that, of course, we want to get on with the job of developing the area for public recreation."

Since the DNR acquired the Maybury site from the City of Detroit for \$3 million in 1972, it has provided a custodial staff there to enforce its closed-to-the-public order.

State Police and local enforcement agencies have assisted the DNR in this safety security measure.

A number of persons have been arrested at the site and charged with trespassing. A trespassing conviction can bring up to a \$100 fine and 90 days in jail.

Prior to the DNR's acquisition, the sanatorium site was patrolled by private police crews under a similar off-limits rule.

DNR will push ahead with the development of parking areas, access roads, picnic site, and toilet facilities within the 865-acre area. If the present timetable holds, the gates at Maybury will swing open to the public for limited recreation in the fall of 1974.

At that time, recreationists there may also find trails throughout the tract for hiking and nature interpretation.

Also on the DNR's drawing boards for this early stage of development is a living farm complex where children will be able to "touch and see" cows, pigs, lambs, and other such animals in a down-on-the-farm setting.

Beyond a year from this fall, the DNR hopes to carry through on its \$7 million master plan of development for Maybury State Park to provide such improvements as a children's day camp, playgrounds, winter sports areas, fishing ponds, and an indoor recreational activity center.

Generally, the DNR's sweep of planned facilities for the area will be programmed and operated for people of all ages plus Detroit area residents who are handicapped or economically disadvantaged. In the picture, too, as these developments take shape, are horseback riding trails and other facilities for high intensity use.



CURRIE R. WEED, 12570 Beacon Hill, Plymouth Township, has been named a service development manager in the public relations department of Ford Motor Co. joining Ford in 1966 as a service training specialist, he has served as a Lincoln-Mercury district service instructor, service representative, and warranty and policy representative. Prior to being named to his new position, he was supervisor of Ford Customer Service Division's service merchandising section.

Wayne County Seeks Regional Parks Deal

An offer to discuss "mutual concerns" has brought a temporary suspension of a decision by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners to withhold millage payments to the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA).

Commissioners decided last week to hold in abeyance their May 3 decision to withhold the funds and to take legal action against the regional park authority.

They acted after receiving a letter from Eugene J. Ellison, chairman of the HCMA board, stating that he and other board members "would be glad to meet... to discuss your position, our situation and our mutual concerns."

The Wayne County board directed its public work committee to meet with the HCMA representatives. Public Works Chairman Thomas P. O'Rourke scheduled a meeting May 30 in the City-County Building.

Commissioners had directed the County Board of Auditors to withhold the balance of this year's millage payments to HCMA. Some \$2.4 million is involved.

They also directed the county corporation counsel to file suit challenging the structure of the authority board as violating the "one-man, one-vote" principle enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The seven-member HCMA board consists of one member from each of the five counties covered by the park authorities, plus two members appointed by the governor.

The high court's one-man, one-vote decisions established the principle of representation based on population. Wayne is the most populous county of the five.

The May 3 actions regarding the funding and structure of the HCMA automatically will come before the commissioners at their next board meeting June 7. They indicate their decisions at that time will depend on the outcome, if the May 30 meeting with the HCMA board.

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The center is sponsored by Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

Courses starting the week of June 18 will be given afternoons and evenings in Detroit, Ann Arbor and Southfield as well as Kensington Metropark Nature Center and the University of Michigan Botanical Gardens.

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