

# Lack of park PR could hamper millage proposal

By TIM RICHARD

Its champions say Oakland County's park system is excellent, some even say marvelous, but they say too few of the county's one million residents know about the six existing parks.

The lack of knowledge could spell trouble in an election year when taxes aren't being raised for the first time in a lot, with the presidential preference primary, a proposal to renew a quarter-mill property tax for the parks system for a third five-year period.

The quarter-mill tax levies per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation costs the owner of a \$40,000 house, 85 a year.

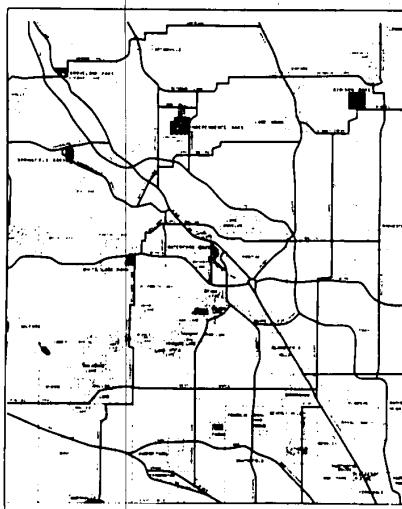
It brings in an estimated \$1.8 million annually, and four-fifths goes for purchase of new land and development. Various fees cover much of the operating costs.

ALL SIX EXISTING parks are in the northern rural part of the county—a fact which brings criticism from southern residents, sometimes—but a seventh park called Blue Creek, in Madison Heights, is scheduled for groundbreaking this summer.

Variety is the policy of the apparatus parks and recreation commission, and in the 2,800 acres the parks have 13 miles of snowmobile trails, six miles of cross-country ski trails, fishing and swimming in three lakes, two 18-hole golf courses, 800 campsites and 80 boats for rent.

A novelty at Waterford Lake west of Waterford is a wave action pool. A skatable and paddleable travel to urban areas.

On the drawing boards are an environmental education center at Independence Park, more camping facilities, four baseball diamonds and other sports facilities at Waterford Lake, and increased senior citizens facilities.



## Benefits gained in HMO service

Over the past several years health maintenance organizations (HMOs) have emerged as an alternative to the traditional fee-for-service payment plan for health care.

The federal HMO Act of 1973 defines an HMO as a system of health care which provides health care services to a voluntarily enrolled group on a prepaid basis.

The most important feature of the one-stop HMO plan is the emphasis shifts from curing disease to preventing it. Since all medical services are paid for in advance, the consumer probably will consult the doctor more frequently and lessen the need for hospitalization.

According to Blue Cross estimates, hospital costs are expected to reach \$1,000 per day by 1980. Conventional health insurance by reimbursing heavily for hospital care, leaves little money to pay for the hospital for illness that might have been prevented or for services that could be performed in the doctor's office.

Comparisons between HMO and fee-for-service subscribers show that HMO participants cut their hospital stay by 80 per cent.

Advocates claim other attractions in the HMO system. One is that the teamwork and "peer review" of the plan may contribute to the high standards of excellence among physicians.

The HMO structure also can free the doctor from administrative tasks and leave him free to practice medicine exclusively. Some HMOs run health education programs for employees.

HMO opponents point out that just as fee-for-service plan may encourage some unnecessary treatment, prepaid medicine can encourage some scripting on health care. They fear replacing financial security and autonomy of doctors with patients' minor controls may cause a decline in health care quality.

Another disadvantage may be impersonal care between the patient and a staff of doctors. Often the patient has little or no contact with his physician.

This concern is not unique to the HMO concept of medicine. Dealing with it remains a challenge to any well-organized system of professional service.

# Celebrate Mother's Day Sunday May 9th

## HERE ARE the locations and facilities at the existing parks

\* Waterford Oaks—112 acres on Watkum Lake, 12 miles west of Pontiac, an activities center for boating, picnics, parties, classes in dog obedience, swimming, tennis, dancing and snowmobile safety.

\* Independence Oaks—750 acres on the 6800 block of Crooked Lake on Sabbath Road near Clarkston, has 120 campsites, 100 picnic areas, 25,000 square foot horse arena, and 1000 square foot boat house. In the future are an indoor-outdoor theater, a community environmental village and farm, commercial exhibits building, midway and amphitheater.

\* Springfield Oaks Youth Activities Center, Andersonville and Davison roads, Davison—3,000 square foot hall for performances and shows, 25,000 square foot horse arena, and 1000 square foot boat house. In the future are an indoor-outdoor theater, a community environmental village and farm, commercial exhibits building, midway and amphitheater.

\* Springfield Oaks Golf Course—Andersonville Road, Davison—the nine-hole course will be expanded to 18. It has a clubhouse, pro shop, dining room and cart rental.

\* Addison Oaks—40 acres on W. Romeo Road, 12 miles north of Rochester, three spring-fed pools, swimming, fishing, camp grounds, basketball, tennis, golf and winter sports, hayrides and nature study. In the plans are an 18-hole golf course, wave-making pool and historic electric trolley line. This park also has a Tudor-style inn for parties and dinners.

\* Greenstone Oaks—200 acres on Dixie Highway at Grange Hall Road in Grosse Pointe and Township, beach, swimming, fishing, camping, nature study, picnicking.

\* Williams Lake Oaks—Williams Lake Road, south of 169, west of Pontiac. The park will feature a clubhouse, pro shop, restaurant facilities for banquets and dinners.



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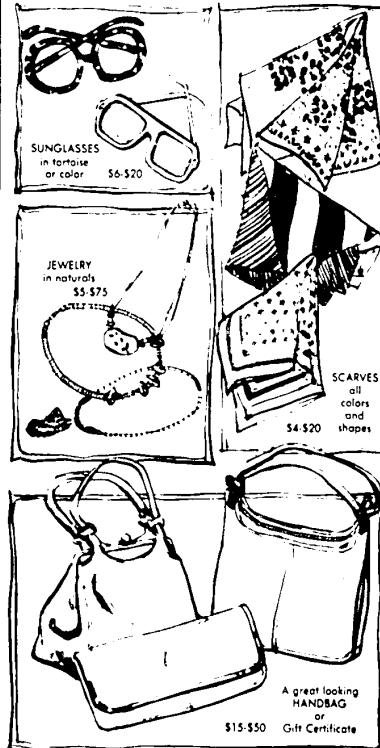
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