

# With 3,000 acres Wolcott Mill home for new metropark

By LEM MESEE  
Outdoors writer

Wolcott Mill is the new name of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's 11th metropark. It will be developed on 3,000 acres in Macomb County's Ray Township, eight miles east of the Oakland County line.

"We want to preserve for all time the Wolcott Mill, which has an important place in the history and development of this area," said Thomas S. Welsh, chairman of the seven-member HCMA board.

The site previously was called North Branch Metropark. It is located at Wolcott Road and the North Branch of the Clinton River.

HCMA last year acquired its first 1,500 acres for the project, a subject of some controversy because of its distance from the most populous part of the five-county region.

## outdoors

No timetable was announced for its development. Welsh said it would be part of an interpretive program.

When it was built in 1841, a sawmill was located on the site. It produced wooden planks for early roads. From the late 19th century until it was closed, Wolcott Mill had a reputation for producing fine baking and pastry flours.

Frederick Beech Wolcott acquired it in 1878. After his death in 1920, his sons Lewis and William operated it until the mid-1960s. It was sold to but never used by Macomb County Community College, which transferred it to HCMA in a property exchange.

## ECOLOGY NOTES:

Cans littering Michigan roads were reduced by 81 percent and bottles 71 percent between the summers of 1978 and 1979, says the Michigan Department of Transportation. Chief reason: The ban on throwaways, which went into effect in December 1978. Total litter was down by 41 percent.

Michigan motorists reduced gasoline consumption 11.5 percent during the last three months of 1979, says Gov. William G. Milliken, who credited lighter vehicles, more efficient engines, lower speeds, a decline in highway travel for the fuel savings. Another cause Milliken didn't mention: High prices. For the first nine months of the

year, prior to the new round of price hikes, gasoline consumption was down only 2.3 percent.

## THIS WEEKEND at the Huron-Clinton Metroparks:

• A hike to find "Spring Around the Corner" will start at 9 a.m. Sunday at the nature center of Stony Creek Metropark northeast of Rochester. Naturalist Bill Thoms will lead the trek. Register in advance by calling 781-4221.

• "A Visitors' Nature Slide Fest" starts at 1 p.m. Sunday at the nature center of Kensington Metropark near Milford. Bring up to 15 of your own nature slides to show and tell a little about them. Register by calling 685-1561.

• **REMOVE ICE** fishing shanties from Stony Creek Lake by this Sunday, or earlier if ice becomes unsafe.

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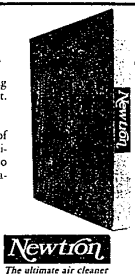
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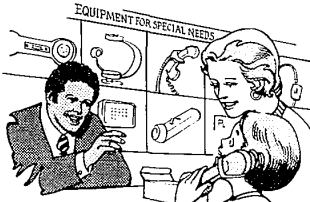
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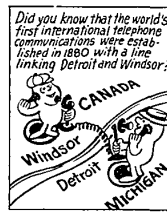
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