

Metroparks visitors will see improvements

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Nine million visitors will see big capital improvements at some of the newer Huron-Clinton Metroparks in 1997.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) board gave 7-0 approval Dec. 12 to a \$42 million budget — same as the current year.

It will put a hefty \$10.9 million into capital, up 6 percent to 26 percent of the total.

Biggest project: The family aquatic center at Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake and Springfield townships in northwestern Oakland County. The multi-year, \$10 million project will consume \$3.2 million in 1997 alone.

The target opening date is May of 1999, said controller David L. Wahl. Work in 1998 will consist of completing the pool deck, shade structures, rock work, landscaping, irrigation, fencing, bridge work, and paving

the road and parking lot. "Once this project is under construction, the capital improvement area should return to a more normal level over the next few years," said Wahl's in his budget message.

Other 1997 capital projects:

- Lake Erie Metropark, at the mouth of the Huron River in southern Wayne County, — \$600,000 for a shoreline trail and \$650,000 for marina dock utility renovations. The marina is proving one of the most popular facilities in the metropark system, said spokesperson Dave Moilanen.

- Metro Beach on Lake St. Clair — \$1 million for a west boat launch. Environmental groups have fought the project, saying it will harm marshlands. Final approval is up to the Department of Natural Resources.

- Huron Meadows south of Brighton in Livingston County — \$200,000 for a share of Malt-

by Lake Road costs.

- Kensington, oldest and most popular of the 13 metroparks on 1-98 west of Milford — \$46,000 for a pesticide loading and storage building.
- Stony Creek, north of Rochester — \$36,000 for a salt storage building.

Prices same

Vehicle admissions will remain unchanged in 1997: \$15 regular for the season, \$8 for seniors (62 or older), \$3 on weekends and holidays, \$2 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and free on Wednesdays.

Boat launching fees also will be unchanged: \$18 regular for the season, \$9 for seniors, \$4 on weekends and holidays, \$3 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and free on Wednesdays.

Corporate discounts of 20 percent are available for purchasing

50 or more. Passes for 1997 went on sale Dec. 1.

Most popular of the 13 parks, judging from anticipated operating revenue, are Kensington, \$2.2 million; Metro Beach, \$1.7 million; and Lake Erie, \$1.6 million.

They are followed by the three small parks northeast of Ann Arbor — Dexter, Delhi and Hudson Mills, at \$950,000; Willow and Oakwoods on the lower

Huron River, \$932,600; and Stony Creek, \$930,000.

Huron Meadows, with its golf course, will bring in \$864,000, followed by Indian Springs at \$816,000; Lower Huron, \$328,000; and Wolcott Mill in northern Macomb County, \$68,100.

A new director will take over Jan. 11 when William P. Sherman retires after 40 years with the system. Frank L. Sudek was

promoted from deputy director.

Budget, jobs flat

Wahl said the 1997 operating budget will be almost identical to 1996's. Some \$21.2 million about half the general fund budget, will come from a property tax rate of 0.2236 mills — about \$11 on a house worth \$102,000 on the market.

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ing on changing past behavior patterns. Partner, parent-child, family and work relationships will be addressed. The fee is \$40. A six-week support group entitled, "Women Who Do Too Much," will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, beginning Jan. 27, in room 308 of the campus J building. Kim Kemske, MA, will facilitate the group, which will explore how to achieve life balance. The fee is \$40.

NEED VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers are needed to help the Oakland Literacy Council stay in touch with tutors and students. The Council offers a friendly work environment, free coffee and an occasional donut. To volunteer, call Linda at (810) 338-8840.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Cranbrook Hospice Care in Bloomfield Hills seeks caring volunteers in Oakland County to

provide in-home support to terminally ill patients and their families. Winter training sessions begin in Jan. For details, call Sharon Doyle or Gerry Gold at (810) 334-6700.

HOST FAMILIES

Academic Year in America is looking for families in Oakland County to open their hearts and homes to an international student from Brazil, Germany or Argentina. Host families benefit by learning about another culture, making a friend, and earning scholarships toward designated international travel-study programs.

Exchange students have the opportunity to participate in the American way of life, something many of them only dream about. Students, who are 15 to 18 years old, arrive with their own medical insurance and spending money. Academic Year in America, sponsored by the non-profit American Institute For Foreign Study, has been bringing foreign students and American families together for 15 years. To find out how you can participate, call

AYA Pullen Regional Director Amy Mullen at 1 (800) 322-4678, ext. 5423.

NEW SERVICES

Pontiac-based HAVEN, the Oakland County center for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, implemented a new series of services called "Supervised Parenting Time." The services help HAVEN assist families in working through their problems and establishing new, lasting relationships, and benefit the court system by offering different levels of supervision for parents and children.

The new levels of service include supervised parenting time, intermittent supervised parenting time, supervised exchange, telephone monitoring, family intervention groups, proactive parenting and therapy.

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