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SEMCOG Proposes Two New Nearby Parks

By TIM RICHARD

New regional parks west of Plymouth and in Novi are recommended in the 1990 recreation and open space plan approved by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

SEMCOG members last week approved a revised plan that emphasizes new facilities closer to built-up area of Detroit and its immediate suburbs.

"Let's get these regional facilities close to where people live," said James Trainor, SEMCOG's acting director, in an interview last week.

THE PLAN, revised from the first one approved a year ago, discusses only regional

(county and multi-county) recreation, not local plans. A major change is that it covers only 64,000 acres instead of the 95,000 listed in the 1971 plan.

Trainor gave two reasons for the reduction. First, planners have revised downward southeastern Michigan's projected 1990 population; they expect only 6.1 million instead of the 6.9 million figure projected prior to the 1970 census.

A second reason is that planners are bringing their ideas a little closer to what the two major regional operating agencies—the state Dept. of Natural Resources and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority—can actually provide.

assigned a fairly high priority (9 on a 10-mark scale) as a regional park.

The area is about five miles west of the Wayne County line and lies roughly midway between Plymouth and Ann Arbor.

Trainor said the site is not an exact recommendation but a generalized idea illustrating a need. The area is now rolling woods and farmland in the vicinity of Joy Rd. and Pontiac Trail.

On the official plan, it's referred to as the "Salem Superior Park."

THE OTHER nearby site is referred to as the "Novi-Wixom Park" and straddles the border between those two largely undeveloped areas. It would be south of the present Proulx Lake State Recreation Area.

That park is assigned a little lower priority—7 on the 10-mark scale.

Also given a high priority is a project already being developed by the state DNR—the new "Maybury Suburban State Park" between Seven and Eight Mile roads in Northville Township.

IN ADDITION, the SEMCOG plan recommends expansions and additions to these facilities:

- The parkways along the Rouge River in western Wayne County.
- Willow, Oakwoods and Lower Huron metropolitan parks in Huron Township in southern Wayne County.
- A total of 50 boating access sites on inland lakes of 200 acres or more, making some 20,000 acres of lakes available to the public. At present, there are 21 such sites, giving access to 9,500 acres of water.
- Canoeing access to 120 miles of rivers, with clearance

of trash and other man-made obstacles, legal transit rights, sanitary facilities and canoe camps. At present, only 40 miles of the Rouge River and 10 miles of the Clinton meet these criteria.

TODAY THE average resident of southeastern Michigan uses a regional facility about three times a year, but planners expect this to reach 4.8 visits by 1990. They base this projection on trends in recreation, incomes, home locations and education.

The plan also recognizes and attempts to conserve 300,000 acres of the most productive farmland, commenting:

"As the nation's self-sufficiency in food production becomes precarious, the region should be prepared to provide its share of prime cropland which might otherwise be lost...None of the

region's cropland is secured at present."

On the need to develop more parks closer to the urbanized area, the plan text notes "severe deficiencies of accessible facilities in the most heavily populated areas of Detroit and its inner suburbs. Three million people, or two-thirds of the population of the region, live in this central area, but there are only

adequate regional park facilities for one million within an hour's drive of their homes. Furthermore, 20 to 30 per cent of the households in the area have no car available."



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Young Candidates Ran Low In School Races

An Observer Roundup

Young adults who jumped into the political waters and ran for school board seats in



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June were baptized with the chilly waters of defeat.

The nine 18 to 21-year-old candidates brought up the tail end of election results in Farmington, Garden City, Westland, Clarencville, Livonia and South Redford on June 12.

Some of them turned off voters with talk of community control of schools, student involvement in hiring and firing of teachers as well as determining curriculum.

LIVONIA'S Michael Peacock, 18, ran last in a field of five candidates. A graduate of Franklin High School, Peacock advocated graduated income tax for financing education, opposition to busing "because it violated the principle of community control of schools," greater use of individualized instruction, and local boards in each school consisting of one-third staff, students and parents.

Two young people ran in Clarencville, and both ran close to the bottom in the eight-man race.

Thomas Taffee, 18, came in third from the bottom and Gary Serline, 21, came in fourth. Both are Clarencville High School graduates.

Taffee intends to study medicine and attends the University of Detroit, and Serline is a Schoolcraft College student who eyes a future in law.

THE ONLY YOUNG woman to enter a race was Judith Cornfoot, 18, who graduated in June from John Glen High School in Westland.

She placed eighth in a field of nine candidates for the Wayne-Westland board.

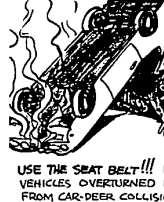
Larry Pallozola, 20, of Garden City, ran a campaign using the educational plank of the Human Rights Party of

which he is a chairman in Garden City. Local voters cast less than 10 per cent of their votes for him, leaving him in last place.

Calling for "student initiated learning" and "self-enforced discipline," 20-year-old Jack Mingo of Farmington came in eighth in a



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field of 12 candidates.

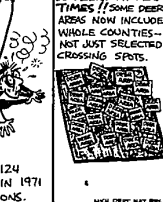
Mingo is a student at Oakland Community College.

SOUTH REDFORD had two young candidates for a five-man race for two seats.

William Maclean, 21, came in fourth and George Toth, 19, was last. Toth maintained a campaign similar to Peacock's and Pallozola's.



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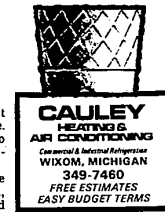


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