



LARRY URBEN didn't waste time putting his talents on canvas when the Livonia summer indoor activities conducted by the Parks and Recreation Dept. began yesterday. His arts and crafts teacher is Arlene Griciunas. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

# Metro Authority Plans 3 Parks

Plans for three new metropolitan parks are under consideration by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority which will ask voters in the Aug. 8 primary to approve an additional one-quarter mill levy for creation of the parks.

The HCMA is a regional agency serving Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. It currently levies one-quarter mill for the several parks areas it maintains in the counties.

INCLUDED IN the current proposals under consideration are park areas in Macomb, Washtenaw and Oakland Counties close to metropolitan communities. The proposals also include plans for leasing

and rebuilding Belle Isle Park in Detroit.

Mill Creek Metropolitan Park would be located in Washtenaw County south of I-48 and west of Ann Arbor in Lima and Freedom Townships. A 650 acre man-made lake is planned as well, and nature trails, a nature center, a golf course, picnic areas and water sports areas.

The site of the Oakland County park has not been determined but would be between the north central section of the county to fill the gap in the HCMA system between Stony Creek and Kensington Metropolitan parks.

A third park, North Branch Metropolitan Park, is planned for the north branch of the

Clinton River in Ray Township of Macomb County. Each site is expected to cost \$12 to \$15 million over a 15 year period or longer including the cost of land and facilities.

THE REDEVELOPMENT plan for Belle Isle is expected to cost as much as \$40 million over a 15 to 20 year period. Plans include a public marina and boat launching facility, nature trails, a cultural arts center, and sports activities center.

Since the five-county population is increasing to 6 million persons, the HCMA indicated it should have a minimum of 65,000 acres of regional park sites by the 1990s including areas shared by the Dept. of Natural Resources and county parks. Currently the HCMA has 17,900 acres including nine parks.

The larger metropolitan parks include Kensington near Milford, Metropolitan Beach on Lake St. Clair, Slony Creek near Rochester, Hudson Mills near Ann Arbor, Lower Huron near Belleville and Willow near New Boston.

The Huron-Clinton has levied the one-quarter mill since 1943 but the taxes cover only operations, maintenance and administration. The additional quarter mill would provide funds for land and the development of new parks and facilities.

A homeowner with property worth \$24,000 assessed at \$12,000 pays \$3 per year to support the parks. The new levy would raise this to \$5. In most cases, longtime area residents have paid less than \$50 to support the parks since 1942.

If the additional levy is passed the one-half mill will be assessed outside the county tax and each citizen will know exactly how much he is paying to support the Huron-Clinton parks.

# DNR Reports Good Fishing

Observerland fishermen will be happy to note that fishing has been good in the lower Detroit River.

Walleye, white bass and crappie are being taken regularly, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Largemouth bass continue to hit on Slony Creek at the drop-off, the DNR officials report, although fishing activity has been light due to cool and cloudy weather.

FAIR BASS fishing was reported on Lake Orion, Pontiac and Union Lakes, according to the weekly DNR report. A few sturgeon have been taken mostly at new locations from other years.

Muskellunge fishing is only fair in Anchor Bay. Walleye fishing is still only spotty in the Bay, but should pick by

this weekend, say DNR officials.

Excellent success on large perch fishing is reported south of the Huron Pointe light and good catfishing at night from Salt River to New Baltimore is also reported.

White bass are still in the area, reports the DNR, and can be found near New Baltimore and Clinton River mouth in mornings and evenings. Walleye are good off the "Delphone" in Grosse Pointe.

White bass are also reported in good supply at the mouth of the Detroit River and above into the Grosse Ptes, along the shoreline.

"Follow the gulls," comments the DNR fishing advisory. "Drifting produces best, although trolling can also be successful."

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