

July Park Report

By Doug Donnelly



ALVAR PRAIRIE UPDATE

The Nature Conservancy has cleared roughly 2 acres of woods at the park after several work days at the park. The township board gave the okay earlier this year for TNC to restore a rare alvar prairie to about 14 acres on the park property.

Mike Losey, a crew leader with TNC, met July 17 with Supervisor Walt Ruhl and myself and gave a tour of the site. Crews have cleared part of the woods of invasive species and is now working on a management plan that includes clearing more of the property and a controlled burn on site. Watch the park Web site for photo links, lists of plant species discovered on the site, etc. (www.whitefordpark.wordpress.com)

BALL FIELDS UPDATE

The season is complete for the outside organizations that scheduled games at the park, as well as the Whiteford Recreation Commission teams (baseball and softball). The portable restrooms have been removed for the season. The company has agreed to bring back a restroom if there is a tournament or anything planned for the late summer or fall.

ISSUES TO BE AWARE OF FOR NEXT YEAR

There must be a better communication made with WRC to reduce the number of vehicles parked between the diamonds during practices and/or games. For safety reasons, we need to keep those vehicles from parking up there. Dropping off equipment or supplies is acceptable; Parking there throughout a practice/game should not be unless there is some extenuating circumstance. Next season, I suggest the township board submit a letter to the WRC asking for their cooperation on this issue.

Final numbers for the season

Number of fields lined for games: 71; Rainouts: 3

INVOICES STILL OUTSTANDING

An invoice for \$225 has been sent to the Sylvania Copperheads and \$100 to the State Line Thunder for their use of the park, per agreements established before the season. I will have results from the post-season park & field survey next month.

MONROE COUNTY SOLID WASTE GRANT UPDATE

I am attempting to arrange a meeting with a supervisor with the Toledo Area Metroparks to discuss where they purchase recycleable benches and interpretive signs – both are things that we have been awarded a grant for. (Grant: \$3,000/spent so far: \$0)

OTHER GRANTS

I will be starting to find additional grants that our park could qualify for and begin a process of writing those grants now that the ball seasons have completed at the park. [NOTE: The work by The Nature Conservancy and the Alvar Prairie might be the basis for new grant money for trails.