

Get Out Here!

**St. Joseph County Parks
Annual Report 2010**



Outdoor Fun!

2010 by the Numbers...

28,900 The number of people that participated in Leisure Service programs.

2,304 The number of hours contributed by volunteers for park programs and projects.

281 The number of media contacts, radio and TV appearances and newspaper articles generated by and about St. Joseph County Parks.

14,977 The number of school children and individuals who participated in hands-on Interpretive Programs to learn about local cultural and natural history.

51,821 The dollars generated from picnic and shelter reservations to support operations of the St. Joseph County Parks.

St. Joseph County Parks has dozens of opportunities for kids (and their parents) to enjoy the outdoors from our Learn to Fish workshops to innertubing in the snow, St. Joseph County Parks offers programs and well-maintained facilities to "Get Out There" and participate!

According to the Children and Nature Network, only six percent of children ages nine to 13 play outside on their own in a typical week. Yet, studies show that time out of doors reduces symptoms in children with ADHD; increases self-discipline in girls, and reduces anger and stress. Active kids (and adults) are healthier, too!

We are proud to provide ways you can spend a "Green Hour" with your children at the St. Joseph County Parks: Hike our trails; Paddle a canoe; Play on the playgrounds; Picnic in a shelter; Learn to shoot a bow and arrow; Identify macroinvertebrates; Meet a tree and more!

St. Joseph County Parks

Bendix Woods County Park ♦ LaSalle Trail

Chamberlain Lake Nature Preserve (partnership with IDNR)

Ferrettie-Baugo Creek County Park

St. Patrick's County Park ♦ Place Trail Marsh Natural Area

Spicer Lake Nature Preserve

Administrative Offices

50651 Laurel Road, South Bend, IN 46637 ♦ 574-277-4828



www.sjcparks.org

Get Out Here!

Place Trail Marsh Natural Area

We continue to conduct water level monitoring during the spring, summer and fall to manage for bird and plant life.

We replaced a water control with the help of Ducks Unlimited.

We partnered with Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area to conduct lotteries for public waterfowl hunting in fall. 25 parties of 60 hunters harvested 91 waterfowl.



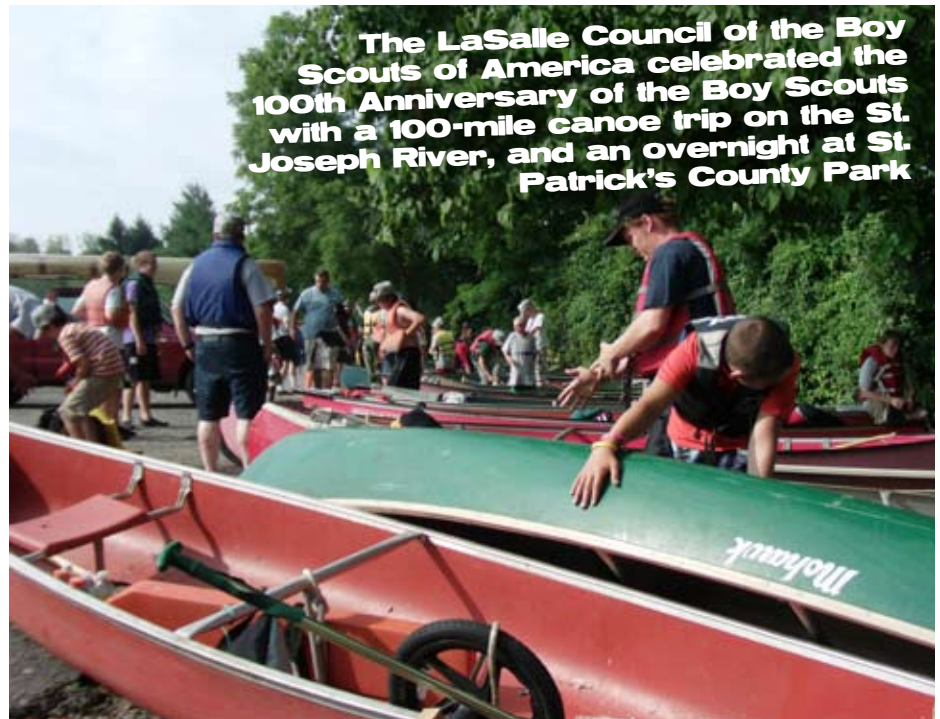
Archery workshops hit the target with teens and adults

Trails

We participated in multiple meetings with the Indiana and Michigan Trail Task Force to plan interstate trail linkages.

We worked with County Engineering to complete a traffic study for LaSalle Trail at Cleveland Road in preparation for planning a potential crossing.

www.sjcparks.org



The LaSalle Council of the Boy Scouts of America celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts with a 100-mile canoe trip on the St. Joseph River, and an overnight at St. Patrick's County Park

St. Patrick's County Park

The newly erected Goodhue Gazebo is the site of many weddings.

Several new sidewalks and concrete repairs at the Red Barn, the Brown Barn and the Hurwich Shelter provide improved access.

New energy efficient windows in the upper level of the White Barn are lowering our utility bills.

We restored a 1928 gas pump near the red pole barn.

We installed a new aluminum door with accessible hardware for the Harvest Room.

St. Patrick's County Park was noted

as the best maintained facility for storm water management in the county. Storm water protection plans have been generated for each of our sites.

The farm buildings at the park, as well as the Adair Orchard area, were accepted to the Northern Indiana Art and Earth Trail.

1800 riders participated in the first annual Bike the Bend. St. Patrick's County Park served as a SAG and terminus point. New grooming equipment enhanced the cross-country ski trails.

Mutt March and Bike Michiana for Hospice continue to be popular events here. New events included Get Out There and The 24-Hour Run.

Our Mission...

The Joseph County Parks Department strives to enrich the community and the lives of St. Joseph County residents.

We conserve and care for significant natural areas. ♦ We promote understanding and stewardship of our unique natural and cultural heritage through innovative programs and services. ♦ We enhance visitor experiences through well-maintained facilities.

Project & Program Highlights

Spicer Lake Nature Preserve

Professional and amateur scientists and volunteers helped identify over 400 species of plants and animals at BioBlitz 2010 in the rain in May.

We replaced several damaged boards on the quarter-mile accessible boardwalk.



Ferretie Baugo Creek County Park

We installed a new playground border in the Orchard Shelter area.

Volunteer groups, such as Bethel College, assisted us with cleaning and painting buildings and splitting firewood.

We completed the work on another section of Baugo Creek to restore the shoreline and upgrade the Voyageur canoe dock.

Bendix Woods County Park

Construction of a large addition to the Sugar House, funded in part by donations by the Riemenschneiders and Greg Kil-Architect, enhanced our maple syrup programs.

We repaired and acid-cleaned the fresh water well and painted interior walls and ceiling of the Gate House.

The fall special event, Hoots and Hayrides, welcomed hundreds of parents and children eager to explore the night environment.

We replaced a deteriorating column on the Nature Center porch and began roof repairs.



Volunteers Rock!

Everything from trimming trails to leading maple syrup programs, volunteers assist St. Joseph County Parks in many ways!

Thank you: Team Depot, Granger Community Church, Notre Dame Family volunteer camp, Bethel College, Ivy Tech student government, Church of Latter Day Saints: Boy Scouts and LDS young men/women groups, The Disney Store, Wal-mart Supercenter #2680, St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers, Michiana Astronomical Society, Lorica band and Celtic dancers, Grand Rapids Nordic Ski Team, Friends of Bendix Woods and Spicer Lake...





Outdoor Adventure daycampers search for birds

Kudos!

Parks Foundation President, Jim Rahilly received the Hospitality Award from the South Bend-Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau at the annual Tourism Week luncheon.

Oak Tree Awards were presented by the St. Joseph County Parks Foundation to Dan Spencer and Vic and Marge Riemenschneider.

St. Joseph County Parks received the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for Bike the Bend.

Outdoor Elements, our nature show in partnership with WNIT public television, received 1st Place in the 2010 Hoosier Outdoor Writers Awards in Craft Competition in the Broadcast division. *Legacy* magazine (the national magazine for the National Association for Interpretation) featured a story on the show in the Nov/Dec 2010 issue.

We received a grant from IN Tek/IN Kote to survey and treat invasive species at Bendix Woods County Park. A grant from South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society helped us maintain the prairie at Spicer Lake Nature Preserve.

For nature notes and program reminders...



Giving to the Community

Throughout the year we provide low or discounted programming to various agencies including free monthly nature programs for children at the YWCA.

We also partnered with the SJC Soil & Water Conservation District, for free fall "owl prowl" hikes at St. Patrick's County Park for 300 visitors.

Partnering in the Community

We partnered with 45 different agencies and sponsors in 2010 including the YWCA of North Central Indiana, the YMCA and the LaSalle Council of the Boy Scouts of America. For a complete list, see our Annual Report on the web: www.scjpark.org

Sites for Research

The County Parks continue to be sites for research including: Earthworm research at Bendix Woods by Purdue University, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology; Eastern box turtle research at Bendix Woods and Spicer Lake by Purdue University, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources; frog and toad monitoring at Chamberlain Lake Nature Preserve and Place Trail Marsh, FrogWatch USA

Helping Local Schools

Through a transportation grant program funded by donors, we provided reimbursement for bus transportation to the County Parks for interpretive programs for several schools. The Donna Pfeil School Scholarship Fund also assisted several schools with subsidized fees to attend interpretive programs such as Maple Syrup Programs, Pond Studies and more.

Community Events

We participated in the following community events among others:
 St. Joseph County Fair, Nature Center Science Alive
 One Book One Michiana
 Green Weekend/EcoFest
 "History Happened Here" at Center for History
 Bike the Bend

2010 County Park Board

Larry Catanzarite, President
 Donna Pfeil, Vice President
 Marge Riemenschneider, Secretary
 Virginia Calvin
 Bill Mihelich
 Sam Mirkin
 Rick Podell/Phil Sutton

2010 County Commissioners

Robert Kovach, President
 Dave Thomas, Vice-President
 Andy Kostielney

2010 County Council

Rafael Morton, President
 Mark Catanzarite
 Dale Devon
 Mike Hamann
 Daniel Herbster
 Michael Kruk
 Robert McCahill
 Corey Noland
 Mark Root



2010 Parks Foundation Officers

Bob Witt/Jim Rahilly, President
 Don Sporleder, Vice-President
 Mike McFarland, Treasurer
 Kay Easton, Secretary

2010 Cooperative programming/sponsorships were provided by the following agencies, individuals and businesses:

American Electric Power
American Red Cross
Apple Cider Century
Between the Buns
Bike Michiana Coalition
Boy Scouts of America
Brothers of the Wind
Bulger, Aaron, program supporter
Clay Fire Territory
Craft, Ruth, astronomy instructor
Flanagan, Nancy, dulcimer and weaving instructor
Fluid Fun
Friends of Bendix Woods and Spicer Lake
Friends of Potato Creek State Park
Gard, Melissa, pottery instructor
Gordon's Food Service of Elkhart
Grand Rapids Nordic Ski Team
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indiana Living Green Magazine
Indiana University of South Bend
Ivkovich, Jan, water monitoring instructor
Lorica band and Celtic dancers
Logan Center
Lupus Coalition
Madison Center
Martin's Supermarkets
Michiana Amateur Radio Club

Michiana Astronomical Society
Michiana Watershed
Mishawaka Parks and Recreation
Native Peoples of North America, Jon Ogemaw
Paddlefest
PetsConnect!
Purdue Cooperative Extension
Rock Star Kettle Ball Gym
Riverside Terrace
Rum Village Nature Center
St. Joseph County SWCD
St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers
South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society
South Bend-Mishawaka Convention and Visitor's Bureau
South Bend Lion's Club
South Bend Parks and Recreation
YMCA of South Bend
YWCA of St. Joseph County
Wegner, Michael, archery instructor

Media Partners

WRBR radio
WSBT radio group
WSBT television
WNIT television
WVPE radio

Innertubing means winter fun at St. Patrick's and Ferrettie-Baugo Creek County Parks

