

Regional and County Parks Roundtable

1. Funding
 - Discussed different types and amounts of funding
 - Renewable and non renewable budgets
 - Terms
 - Tax Caps
 - Budget cuts and Legislation involved
 - Property Taxes
2. Lumber
 - Selling fallen trees for revenue
3. Master plans for Nature Preserves for Function and Values
4. Fees for Programs and Rentals
 - Lack of ability of programs and rentals to pay for the buildings and materials
5. Vandalism and Crime
 - Security and Deer cameras/related signage
 - Security and Ranger Forces
 - Using country sheriff's departments and local police
 - Cult Activity
 - Using Google to find information on blogs about cult meetings
 - Use parallel parking instead of side by side to cut down on the drug dealing
6. Non-native and Invasive Species
 - Equipment used to remove
 - Brush grapple on Bobcats
 - Thumb attachments
 - Using Volunteers
 - Cutting and Spraying
7. Volunteers and Trustees
 - Groups to use
 - Activities they can be used for
 - "Experience Works" program
 - Trustees and Community Service as workers
8. Garbage Cans
 - In-ground Rural Systems
 - Compacting Cans

- “carrying out your own trash”
 - Using no trash cans
 - Raccoon proofing
9. Emerald Ash Borer
- Firewood transportation and policies
10. Ebay / Auctions
- Selling surplus vehicles

Municipal Park Forum

1. Alternative Fuels
 - B5
 - Positive affects on vehicles
 - Cost effective
2. Organic Fertilizers
 - Current Tests
 - Low Activity areas
3. Law Enforcement in Parks
 - Security Guards
 - Police Department Partnerships
4. Dog Parks
 - Size of Area
 - Rotating Fields
 - Double Gates
 - Complaints by Users
5. Using a Master Plan to Gain Support
 - Helps get what you want for board/mayor
6. User Fees for Private Organizations
 - Getting groups to pay that have been using for free
 - Private Youth Sports Leagues
 - Synthetic Fields
 - Indoor and Outdoor

State Parks

Illinois:

- Rebuilding numbers and more stability with budget
- Emerald as bore made it to state
 - No total ban on firewood into parks, but working on it
- Purchasing camper cabins
 - Looking for approximately 40
- No entrance fees
- OHR Parks
 - Pressure for / Looked for Feedback

Michigan:

- Reviewing goals and how to afford
- On their own for capital funds
- Had an endowment program but crashed
- Hard time with funds
- No longer get general funds
- Using up the bank currently
- Oak trees (type of fungus) will take a perfectly healthy oak and in three weeks be done
- Beech snap (thinks it's a fungus)
- Western side and have facilities and infrastructure
- Southeast part of Michigan lacks facilities
 - Some talk about the use of yertz (type of canvas)
- Trying to make Muskegon totally green, bio everything
 - Depends on grants

Wisconsin:

- Prohibited from having camper cabins because of mom and pops businesses
 - Have a few available though for people with disabilities (ADA)
- Project to have is yertz put in a park near Wisconsin Dells
- Can't electrify certain percentage of sites due to legislation to keep rustic feel
- Has hurt business/revenue
- Firewood bought 50 mile radius of park cannot be brought in
- Chronic wasting disease battling
- Paid a lot of money to make it possible
- Winter operation
- Looking for smarter ways to operate due to utility increases, but not revenue increases
- Stewardship program that deals with land acquisition money goes to local units of government
- Partnership with local tourism group
- Travel Green ads, etc. People pay to be green friendly

Indiana:

- More emphasis on interpretative programs
- Allowing managers to take ideas for revenue and run with it
- Updated vehicles
 - Still need to update to alternative fuel by 2010
- Water systems and maintenance is difficult in Indiana because we have to make lakes
 - Lots of money to account for
- Looked at budgets and realigned where needed and fixed areas
- Will and can close facilities to help conserve to maintain their mission
- Fees went to supply and demand
- Non-union in Indiana