Atwood Trail Phase I is Open for Business

The first phase of the Atwood Lake Trail has been completed and is the first step in achieving the overall goal of traversing around the entire lake. The first phase demonstrates to MWCD customers the potential that exists when trails are available and will serve as a prototype for future trail segments. Trails provide a safe and scenic route for pedestrians and bicyclists separate from vehicular traffic. The trails will provide the opportunity for park users to more easily access and enjoy other great areas around Atwood Lake. Originating near the Atwood West Marina with a parking lot/trail head, and accessible to campground areas 1 through 4, the trail meanders 0.6 miles through the woods and terminates just south of the Atwood Lake Park entrance. The next phase of the trail will bridge an inlet on the lake and connect to the new Welcome Center and Atwood Lake Park. Comments on this high traffic prototype trail are welcome and may be submitted through the District’s website at mwcd.org through the Fishing for Feedback side tab. Enjoy!
The 2015 Coachman Clipper from General RV Center in North Canton along with a campsite at one Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Campground was awarded to Christopher Davis of Zanesville as the winner of the Great Camper Give Away contest which ended August 31. Adria Bergeron, MWCD Recreation Marketing Coordinator (far left), and General RV Center’s Sales Manager, Tim Nicholson (far right), are shown with Christopher and his family who are excited to camp and fish at Seneca Lake next summer. Congratulations to the Davis Family!

MWCD has been awarded the designation as a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which signifies commitment as a trusted partner in building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. This was the result of the District purchasing and installing six weather stations in Eastern Ohio which give real time weather data. Funding for this public benefit was through revenues generated from the recent sales of water to the oil and gas industry. Weather Stations are located at Atwood, Leesville, Piedmont, Tappan, Clendening, and Seneca. These new weather stations fill a gap in reporting between Pittsburgh, Columbus and Cleveland stations and give real time and historical data for the following weather parameters:

- Precipitation
- Wind speed
- Wind direction
- Relative humidity
- Net solar radiation
- Evapotranspiration
- Air temperature
- Atmospheric pressure

In addition, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides real time data on reservoir elevations, stream gages and precipitation gages at the dams located throughout the Muskingum Watershed Basin at:

http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wm

A Weather Ready Nation empowers everyone to make life saving decisions that also prevent devastating economic losses in the face of extreme weather and flooding conditions. Plus, the data is pretty darn useful to anglers and to the District’s 5.5 million customers who enjoy MWCD’s outdoor recreational opportunities.
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Court Appoints New Member of the Board of Directors

The thirteen judges attending the annual Conservancy Court session of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) appointed a retired executive officer of Goodyear Tire and Rubber to fill a vacancy on the five member MWCD Board of Directors.

Clark E. Sprang of Big Prairie, Holmes County was appointed to a five-year term on the Board of Directors during the Court’s annual session held in June at the Tuscarawas County Courthouse in New Philadelphia. Sprang replaces Harry C. Horstman of Scio, Harrison County, whose term expired after 13 years of service on the Board.

Sprang retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber in 2003 after a 38-year career with the organization where he served as an executive in local, regional and global operations culminating as an executive officer in Global Corporate Development. From 1973-2004, Sprang served as a board member with several Goodyear operating companies and joint venture operations around the world with the responsibility for finance, accounting and strategic planning. His volunteer activities include serving as a Board member of the American School in Paris, France and Board member of the Casablanca Branch in Casablanca, Morocco.

At his request and part of his orientation, Mr. Sprang spent 3 days visiting MWCD facilities and taking time to listen to the many employees he encountered while also sharing some of his management experience and insights.

Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the Court to oversee the operations and business affairs of the MWCD, which manages 54,000 acres of land and water dedicated to public use, including 10 lakes, five lake parks, eight campgrounds and three of the ten marinas on the MWCD properties. Board members meet once a month in open, public session.

Other members of the MWCD Board of Directors are Joanne Limbach of New Philadelphia in Tuscarawas County who is the current Board president; Gordon T. Maupin of Orrville in Wayne County; Richard J. Pryce of North Canton in Stark County; and David L. Parham of the Atwood Lake region in Carroll County.

Sign up for the Free MWCD Emergency Notification System

Get notified about emergencies and other important reservoir information by signing up for the MWCD Notification System. This free system enables MWCD to provide critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, reservoir flooding events, unexpected road closures, missing persons and other alerts regarding imminent threats to health and safety.

Enrollees can pick where and how to be notified to receive time-sensitive messages. Messages can be received by a combination of home phones, mobile devices, business phones, home email addresses, work email addresses, text messages and/or other designated devices.

To receive automated weather alerts from the National Weather Service and messages from MWCD for locations of interest, sign up for an account through www.mwcd.org. One can register to receive alerts for up to five MWCD locations of their choosing. Options include:

- Atwood Lake Park
- Charles Mill Lake Park
- Clendening Lake
- Leesville Lake Campground
- Kokosing Lake Campground
- Piedmont Lake Marina
- Pleasant Hill Lake Park
- Seneca Lake Park
- Tappan Lake Park
- Wills Creek

Providing the emergency notification system is another service to keep our customers and the general public informed and safe.
The Capital Improvement Plan

Design teams are in place and dozens of projects, large and small, have been completed. Over $18 million in improvements throughout the MWCD’s five major Parks and two of the District’s Marinas have been realized to date. Park users should already see improvements taking shape, including the completed (or nearly completed) projects listed below.

Projects Completed

Atwood
- Amphitheater Cabin Hill Primitive Campground Construction
- Amphitheater Trail Connection
- Dog Park Construction
- Vacation Cabin ADA Walkway and Fishing Docks
- Water Treatment Plant Construction
- Dock Replacements
- Trail Phase 1
- Welcome Center *
- Beach Seawall

Charles Mill
- Activity Center (Messerly Building)
- Activity Center Deck Addition
- Beach Concession and Restroom Renovation

Piedmont
- Marina Site Improvements
- Restroom at Marina Launch Ramp
- Dock Replacements
- Steps to access Dock 5
- Marina Dock Access drive *

Pleasant Hill
- Beach Restroom and Changing Rooms
- Horse Camp New Restroom
- Dock Replacements
- Activities Center Office and Deck Roof Addition

Seneca
- Welcome Center
- Marina Building Renovations
- Marina Shower House
- Marina Service Building
- Dock Replacements

Tappan
- SR 250 Launch Ramp Replacement and Parking Lot
- Park Seawall
- Dock Replacements

*Completion by Spring 2016
The Capital Improvement Plan is Moving Full Steam Ahead!

The $161 million Park and Marina Improvement Plan, also known as the Master Plan, is well underway. The planning process has identified each park’s unique features and characteristics. Efforts to build on these features are seen in final design and implementation. Each Park’s main theme is:

- Atwood Lake Park: Special Events and Entertainment
- Charles Mill Lake Park: Discovering Nature
- Piedmont Lake: Fishing Retreat
- Pleasant Hill Lake Park: Edge Sports
- Seneca Lake Park: Water Adventures
- Tappan Lake Park: Edge Sports

The completion of the new covered deck at Pleasant Hill created additional space for planned activities and a scenic view of the lake for MWCD customers.

**Projects Starting in 2016**

The following projects are in final design and are scheduled to commence construction in 2016.

**Future Phases**

Future projects include more RV and tent campgrounds along with restroom/shower facilities, cabins, new trails, beach improvements, and major infrastructure upgrades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ATWOOD LAKE PARK</strong></td>
<td>New RV campgrounds with restrooms/shower buildings and other amenities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group campgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trail expansion, improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PIEDMONT LAKE MARINA &amp; CAMPGROUND</strong></td>
<td>New fishing cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLEASANT HILL LAKE PARK</strong></td>
<td>New RV campgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beach improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENECA LAKE PARK &amp; MARINA</strong></td>
<td>ADA trail and fishing pier</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park entrance improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TAPPAN LAKE PARK</strong></td>
<td>New RV campgrounds with restrooms/shower and other amenities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seacrest Park ADA fishing dock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main campground road - new culvert</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East park area sewer construction</td>
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**Typical Dock Improvements**
Those who travel the US 250 corridor in Harrison County along Tappan Lake may have noticed the little blue boat and other activity at the east end of the lake. The boat is known as the “Cadiz” and is the dredge barge that will remove sediment from Tappan Lake. Beneath the barge lies a large capacity cutter head and pump system that works like a giant shop-vac to collect and pump the silt and sediment to the upland settling ponds and drying basins. Temporary piping under US 250 takes the sediment from Tappan Lake to property owned by MWCD at the northeast corner of Addy Road and US 250.

There, travelers along this corridor will see steel framing lined with filter fabric known as geo pools, sediment ponds and conveyor systems that in sequence will remove the water and dry the sediment. Water removed from the dredge material is returned to the creek that flows into Tappan Lake. Dredge material will also be deposited at the site using traditional excavation and trucking methods during the fall-spring drawdown. It is expected the dried dredge material will be acceptable for construction fill, landfill caps, farming and other useful applications.

An estimated 400,000 cubic yards of materials will be removed from Tappan Lake in order to restore flood capacity to the 80+ year old reservoir.

This $10 million project is expected to be completed by 2017. Funding for this project is partially through the current $5.5 million/year maintenance assessment and supplemented by revenues generated by oil and gas leasing opportunities.
Be Patient with the Growing Pains

A top priority throughout the implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan is to minimize the stress due to temporary relocation of MWCD’s longtime campers. Temporary relocation is eventually needed at each campground to accommodate badly needed utility and campsite construction improvements. And unfortunately, camping season coincides with construction season. Relocations will be scheduled in a way to give affected campers advance notice to allow for adequate planning and to minimize disruption of the camping season.

Affected campers will be given clear and advance notice of all phased relocation and phased construction schedules once the detailed plans and schedules are established. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is on the website at mwcd.org under the Park Master Planning side tab.

Another means to communicate upcoming projects is through a new web link created to report the progress and schedules of the capital improvements. Project list updates and progress photos of construction will be reflected on the website. Updates will occur on a regular basis, so be sure to check back often!

Follow the status of the Park and Marina Capital Improvement Plan at mwcdcip.org

FFA Camp Muskingum Celebrates New Facility

Congratulations to the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Camp Muskingum on the shores of Leesville Lake in celebrating the groundbreaking of their new 7,500 sq ft multi-purpose facility, The Discovery Center. The facility has an occupancy of 350 for banquet, educational and recreational presentations which will be used by FFA chapters as well as business groups and other non-profits. This is the only FFA camp in the state of Ohio and serves thousands of children across the state. MWCD provided sanitary sewer upgrades that serve the camp as an effort to keep lake waters clean.

Pictured in the groundbreaking are contributors and supporters of FFA Camp Muskingum including representatives from MWCD.
On June 19, 2015, at 6:14 pm, MWCD Ranger Corey Tedrow was notified by the Ashland County Sherriff’s office of a possible drowning at Pleasant Hill Lake on the spillway side of the Dam. Upon his arrival, he donned his life jacket and proceeded down to the spillway area where he saw a female victim trapped in the vicious current against a concrete wall. Deputy Kinter, of the Ashland County Sherriff’s Office arrived at the scene and attempted to slide a life vest to the young lady along a line that had been thrown to her. She was having problems staying afloat and the life vest appeared to be slipping off when Ranger Tedrow told Deputy Kinter he was going into the water to rescue her.

After securing a throwable line from Deputy Kinter and entering the water, the swift current immediately took Ranger Tedrow past the victim. Deputy Kinter was able to gain leverage on the rope and pull Ranger Tedrow back to the teenager where he instructed her not to let go of the rope even while the current continued whipping then around and taking them under at times. Fire Department officials arrived at the scene and were able to pull them to the shoreline. With quick and calm thinking, Ranger Tedrow was able to keep the 14 year-old girl above-water, despite the rapid current and remained with her until she was safely out of the water. Only then did he himself exit the water and crawl to safety.

It is with honor that the MWCD Board and Staff commend Ranger Corey Tedrow for going above and beyond the call of duty and for exemplifying the highest and meritorious act of risking his own life in an effort to save the lives of others.