This fall, customers of Tappan Lake Marina will begin to see the first steps of a complete renovation of the MWCD-owned and operated facility. The approximately $6 million project will include the development of a new 250-seat restaurant on the main floor of the marina, including seating for over 100 on a covered outdoor deck overlooking the lake. Kent and Cindy Murray, operators of the new Latitude 40 Restaurant at Tappan Marina, have been involved in the design process while serving customers this season, and are looking forward to serving even more diners in a brand-new facility next year.

Improvements at the facility actually began in 2017 with the installation of over 200 new boat slips, and the addition of 36 more in 2018. The lower level of the marina and adjacent waterfront areas will be redeveloped as well, to make it easier and more accessible for the public to get to their docks, rent boats, and buy fuel, bait, snacks, and boating supplies.

Boat sales, provided by Keith Ott and Ohio Valley Boats, will have a new home in a completely renovated sales and showroom building next to the main marina building. Ott is also working on plans for a separate project — a new service building on the north side of Rt. 250, to handle the area’s boat repair and storage needs.

As the most visible of all MWCD facilities, site work will be extremely important. Parking, signage and lighting improvements will be highlighted, and an impressive landscaping design has been proposed. The site will also feature elements of green infrastructure, including storm water management and vegetative filter strips to protect the water quality of Tappan Lake, and the use of geothermal energy to reduce utility costs.

The multi-faceted project, scheduled for completion in 2020, will provide Tappan Lake area residents with a first-rate facility that will offer an inviting gateway to the Tappan Lake region.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATES AND STATUS

Atwood
In 2018, construction was completed with the overhaul of Area A and the development of Area G campgrounds. Combined, these areas offer 106 full hook-up sites with 50-amp power service and concrete pads. During the 2019 season, a new restroom with showers will be installed in Area 4, and work will continue to improve the park trail system. The next camp areas to be renovated will be Areas B and C, starting in 2020.

Charles Mill
Construction on Phase 2 has begun, which will result in the renovation of the main camp area. Once complete, 66 sites will have full hook-up utilities and 50-amp power service. Nine additional tent sites will also be added. A new shower building with laundry facilities will replace a restroom-only facility, and the existing small shower building will be renovated as well.

Piedmont
The construction of a new water supply, treatment and distribution project is underway for the campground and the marina. A new water storage tank is being built along the marina entrance road, and a small water treatment building will be installed near the motel. Site work was completed in 2018 for six park model rental units which will be placed in the cul-de-sac area of the newly constructed campground.

Pleasant Hill
Construction on campsite Areas A and B is underway and is expected to be finished by Spring 2020. Once completed, 46 campsites will offer full hook-up and 50-amp power service, concrete pads, and a new playground. During construction, the restroom/shower building in Area A will remain open, with access maintained through Area D. Construction of ten new cabins has begun and is expected to be completed by Summer 2020. The cabins will feature an open concept living area with vaulted ceilings, two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Each deck will be equipped with a hot tub, while a fireplace inside will create a comfortable atmosphere for year-round use.
During 2018, contractors began work on the reconstruction of campground Area 1, expected to be completed in Spring 2020. Area 1 will have a new playground and a total of 61 sites: 43 will be full hook-up and 18 with water/electric. All sites will have 50-amp power and concrete pads to provide a level foundation for campers. There will be a new full-size restroom/shower house with laundry located between Areas 1 and 3. Also under construction are improvements to the sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment system located behind Area 3.

Construction on Phase 1 of the renovation of Marina Point began this past winter. Once finished, 98 campsites will have full hook-up utilities and 50-amp power service. A new restroom/shower building and picnic shelter will be available to accommodate campers. A basketball court and playground will be installed to provide recreation all summer long. In addition, cluster docks will be installed, offering a place where campers can easily access their boats. A new accessible kayak launch was installed at the public boat launch, providing both beginners and advanced kayakers a safe area to enter and exit a kayak. A launch site is also available near the courtesy docks at the swim beach, where kayakers can easily visit restrooms or grab a snack at the recently constructed concession stand. A new launch ramp has been installed along with a fishing pier and cluster dock at Parkside.

For more details on parks and projects, visit MWCD.org/planning
Forestry held the 2019 Tree Giveaway for MWCD Leesville and Tappan Lake cottage lessees on April 13th. The event had a total of 54 participants this year, and resulted in a total of 846 trees planted around Tappan and Leesville Lake areas. In addition, Forestry, along with other MWCD staff volunteers, planted 1,315 hardwoods consisting of 12 species on a reverting dredge disposal site along Addy Rd. and Rt. 250. Forestry will continue to monitor the site’s growth and health.

On April 16th, Conservation staff attended a Cover Crop Field Day sponsored by Ashland, Holmes, and Wayne Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The event was held at the Carl Ayers Farm in Perrysville, Ohio. Attendees toured the farm to learn more about utilizing cover crops and other agricultural methods to improve soil health. Through 2018, approximately 31,000 acres of cover crops were planted in Ashland, Holmes, and Wayne counties alone, and over 100,000 acres of cover crops are being planted across 17 counties within the MWCD. The district provides funding through our partnership and Cooperative Agreement with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

2019 was MWCD’s third year of the Tire Clean-Up project at MWCD lakes. In the past several years we have collected 15 truckloads, for a total of approximately 1,500 tires disposed of on our properties.
Free Kayak Try-Its: Free kayaking programs will be offered throughout the summer at our five Lake Parks. Participants will receive a short introduction onshore, then try single or double kayaks near the shoreline for short periods of time.

Kayak Tours: Guided kayak tours and moonlight kayak trips are planned throughout the summer. Group tours are guided by park staff and offer an experience on the water to discover the plants, animals, and history of the lakes. Moonlight trips are guided tours under the light of the full moon, from June through September.

Learn to Kayak: If you have a kayak or are thinking about purchasing your own, the Learn to Kayak course is perfect for you! Each lake hosts a 3-hour course designed by the American Canoe Association that includes equipment and safety discussions, as well as on-water paddling skill development. Staff will also demonstrate what to do if the kayak capsizes in the middle of the lake.

NEW - Private Group Tour
Schedule a tour just for your group! Choose your lake and topics, and we’ll do the rest. Minimum group size is six people. Prices vary based on day, time, and group size.

For more information or to schedule and purchase tickets for a Kayak Tour, call 330-343-6647 or visit mwcd.org/kayak

In order to ensure safe experiences, age and weight limits will apply for all kayak programs.

Looking for a variety of outdoor family fun options? Check out the MWCD park event schedules found on each park website. Activities at each park include moonlight kayaking, crafts, beach parties, concerts, Explorers of Nature, movies at the lake and many other family fun events!

- AtwoodLakeOhio.org
- CharlesMillLakeOhio.org
- PleasantHillLakeOhio.org
- SenecaLakeOhio.org
- TappanLakeOhio.org

ALL YOU CAN DO FOR $10 PER VEHICLE: Enjoy the swimming beach and playgrounds, go picnicking, take a hike, go fishing, or experience one of our Park-led programs. All for just $10 per vehicle!
A male bobcat, rescued as a kitten, was recently released back into the wild in the forest near Clendening Lake. Tappan Lake area resident Nicole Perez rescued the kitten in April 2018. The bobcat was cared for and rehabilitated at the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center at Penitentiary Glen Reservation for over a year before its re-entry into its natural habitat.

Read the full story here: mwcd.org/news