

1986-87 Park Annual Report

The first project of the park board was to make repairs and other maintenance projects before the July 4 celebration. They included repairing picnic tables, steps leading to scoreboard, resetting volleyball net posts, repairing a toilet, placing toilet paper rolls in restrooms, covering windows and lightfixtures with metal grating and other smaller projects.

The board then spent considerable time in developing plans for continuing development and improvement of the park. Those in order of priority are

- Children's Play Area
- General Upgrading (tables, benches, water fountain, parking expansion)
- Handicapper Access
- Renovating tennis courts
- Acquiring additional land
- Improving new land, adding facilities

The township board was approached about providing funding for these projects over and above the amounts normally spent on the park. \$5,000 was added to the 86-87 budget and \$15,000 budgeted for 1987-88 capital outlay.

The wood play structure, picnic tables and benches were purchased and installed in March of 1987. The tables are on a single post thus making them handicap accessible. The bench near the pavillion has arm rests making it easier for handicapped people to get up and down from. Total cost for these projects was \$4,660.

The \$15,000 allocated for capital outlay in 1987-88 will be spent on sewer and water hook-up (\$6675), parking lot expansion (\$6100) and sand around play area.

Sidewalks from parking lot to restrooms and to pavillion to allow handicapped easier access to facilities would cost approximately \$2300. A mini-grant or local donations will be sought. If these are unsuccessful, this will be added to the 88-89 expenditures along with tennis court renovation.

The commercial activity at the area made the cost of Johnson's property out of the park board's range. Johnson offered us a lower price but it was still unaffordable thus eliminating that expansion possibility.

Total expenditures for the park in 86-87 were \$11,930.00. \$714 of this came from park reservations and league fees. The remaining \$11,216.00 was from Birch Run Township general funds. In addition to the \$15,000 allocated for capital outlay, the township has budgeted \$5,090 for park expenses (utilities, mowing, repair/maintenance, supplies, park board meetings).

Amendments to the park rules as attached were made at the December meeting. Closing time was changed to sunset year around with reopening set at 9 a.m. Recreational vehicles are barred from all areas of the park and user fees are to set annually and are required at time of reservation.

The park board was approached by Horizon, Inc. about moving the park. The park board agreed to work on a proposal that would be amicable to all parties. They also agreed that if the park is moved it should not be located within the villge of Birch Run.