



Monthly Director's Report, October 2021
City of Clare Parks and Recreation
Prepared by Joy Simmer

Current and Upcoming Programs/Events

The **Senior Cards and Coffee** has resumed at the Pere Marquette District Library. The group is supplied with coffee and card decks. The program takes place on Wednesday's from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Soccer started on September 11, 2021 and the last day will be taking place on October 16, 2021. So far we have had great weather for our soccer Saturday's and had a great night under the lights (at the Brookwood Turf Field) on October 1, 2021 with our 7th and 8th graders.

The **Recreation Complex Raffle** tickets have been checked out to the youth soccer players, with each player getting 30 tickets to sell. The tickets are \$1/each or 6/\$5 and the proceeds from the raffle will go towards Emerald Isle Recreation Complex projects. The players who sell all of their tickets were able to request additional packs and for every pack they sell they are entered into a player drawing for various prizes. The raffle will take place at noon on October 16, 2021 and the player prizes will also be listed and available for pick-up during the last game day.

Halloween events will take place on Saturday, October 30, 2021. The Pumpkin Run will be held once again at the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex and then from 12-2 p.m. we will be holding a Tract-or-Treat in the complex parking lot. There will be one-way traffic through this event and the tractors will line up along the south line of the parking lot. The farmers will be handing out candy, pumpkins, apples, cheese sticks, etc... There will also be some local organizations handing out candy and playing games with the kids.

Emerald Isle Recreation Complex

The equipment for Emerald Isle Recreation Complex was delivered in May and had been waiting for Sinclair Recreation to be able to come and install it. On September 27, 2021 they had an opening in their schedule and were able to come to Clare for the installation. The installation of equipment was finished by September 29, 2021. It has been a great addition and has been getting heavy use from visitors of the complex.

The **butterfly garden** is starting to come together. The garden interpretive signage will be put into place as soon as most of the plants have been identified. Donation plates are currently being made for the gazebo and footbridge. The trail through the garden area has now been developed and Afton Stone has been put down on the trail. The trail through the garden is 300 ft long and 8 feet wide. A local Eagle Scout made a few wooden benches and they were placed within the garden area on October 10, 2021.

Additional Information

Art in Sculpture – Parks and Recreation has been working with Middle Michigan Development Corporation, the Clare County Arts Council, and local artist Jeff Best for this 2022 art event.

Simmer has been working with the Clare County Arts Council on the potential **Leprechaun Door** construction and placement around the City of Clare. These doors will be mapped out and allow people who live in and travel to Clare to participate in a fun scavenger hunt to look for the doors and where the leprechauns live. This will take place in 2022.

The city has been continuing to meet and correspond with MDOT to keep the project moving for the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail extension. Simmer submitted a timeline update for the project to MDOT. The project timeline had to be adjusted because the project needed to include the need for a ROW phase to be included due to consents to grade being required, as well as additional survey work at Pioneer Parkway to evaluate trail routing options. Proposed Schedule: • Plan Review (GI Meeting) – Late September 2021 • Plan Completion/ROW Certification – 12/17/2021 • Advertisement – 1/20/2022 • Letting – 3/04/2022 • Anticipated construction start date – 5/02/2022.

Simmer is currently working on the update for the **5-Year Michigan DNR Recreation Master Plan**. Now that the census information has come through that will be plugged into the updated plan and Simmer will soon be scheduling the open meeting.