HOLLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
FISCAL YR 1982 - FINAL REPORT
WETLAND RESTORATION,
INTERPRETIVE BOARDWALK, SIGNAGE
AND LANDSCAPING

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HOLLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

FINAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 1982
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SUBGRANT LRP-436

HOWARD B. DUNTON PARK

WETLAND RESTORATION, INTERPRETIVE BOARDWALK,
SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING

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FINAL REPORT

Howard B. Dunton Park

Boardwalk and Wetland Restoration

LRP - 436

Development of the Howard B. Dunton Park actually began with a Coastal Management Program planning grant to assist in the preparation of a Master Development Plan which was completed in 1981. Following completion of the Master Plan, a Coastal Management Program construction grant was awarded for the restoration of a small (2 acre) wetland area and the construction of a boardwalk through the wetland area.

The site was a filled wetland area with numerous piles of dumped bituminous concrete and brush waste materials. Much of the area was covered with brush and weed growth typical of sterile, fill and disposal areas. A small portion of the wetland area remained partially in tact with large slabs of concrete and similar disposal materials along its edges.

The wetland restoration portion of the project removed the concrete, wood and other waste materials from along the edges and reshaped the limits of the fill encroachment by moving it back from the wetland, covering the fill with topsoil and grading it to a more natural profile. Drainage patterns in the wetland were improved and a natural pond was constructed. All areas of the wetland and the edges of the fill areas were planted with naturalistic plantings of indigenous materials that improve wildlife habitat and are suitable for nature interpretation.

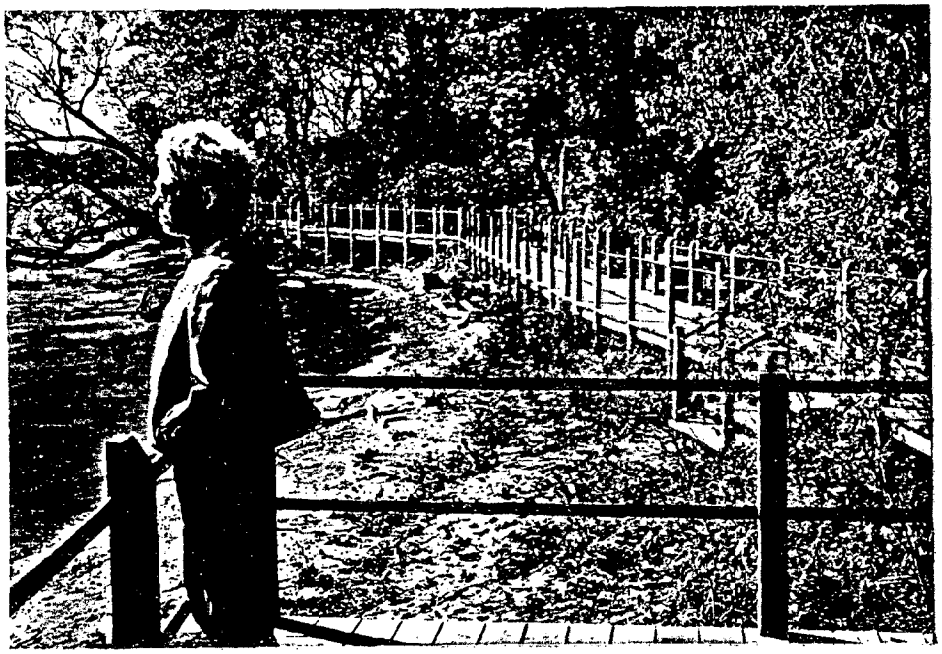
The boardwalk meanders through the various biological communities in the wetland and then out along the shore of Lake Macatawa. Close associations between the plantings, pond and the boardwalk were maintained throughout. Existing plant materials were not removed or damaged in the process except in a few inconsequential situations. The boardwalk is totally handicapped accessible and has railings on both sides for user safety. Benched sitting areas and signage are located at key spots along the boardwalk.

The Township has a total commitment toward the maintenance and further development of the park agreeing to allocate development and maintenance funds on a continuing basis. Additional construction of parking, play area and pathways will be under contract in the Spring of 1983. Contributions from the public, with assistance from the Township, constructed a paved and lighted boat launch ramp facility while the boardwalk project was under construction and additional community interest in further participation is very apparent.

Due to the natural requirements of some of the more fragile indigenous plants, a small number remain to be planted in the Spring of 1983. However, assurances have been given by the contractor that the plantings will be completed by May 31, 1983 at the latest.

The success of the project, if measured by the number of groups of students and residents of the Township who frequently use the facilities, has been fantastic. It is hoped continued support by the Coastal Management Program will enable the Township to continue to the development of this high value public facility.

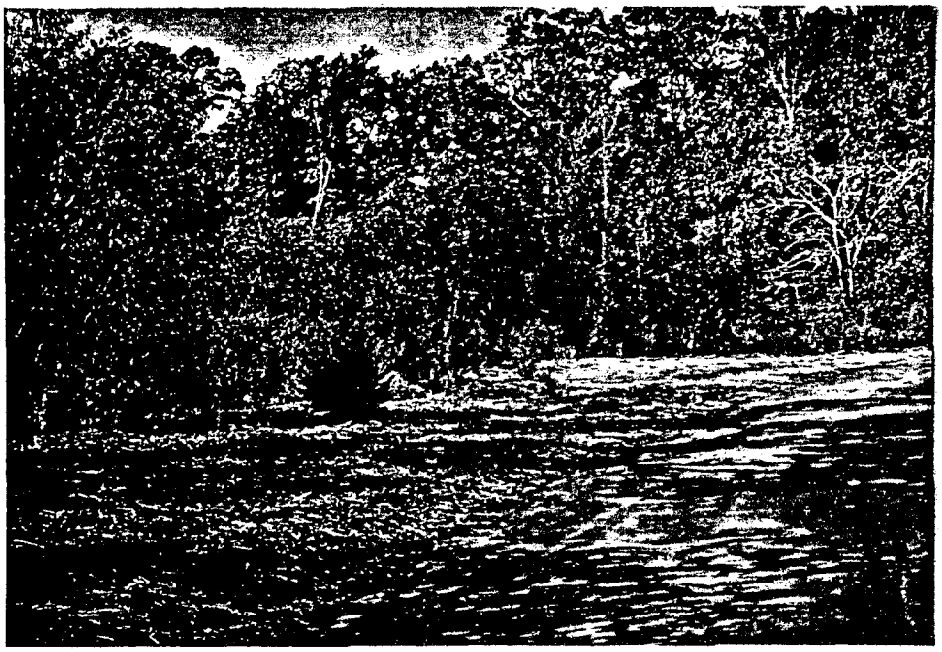
Plans are attached that detail the areas of construction that have been completed under agreement Number LRP - 436.



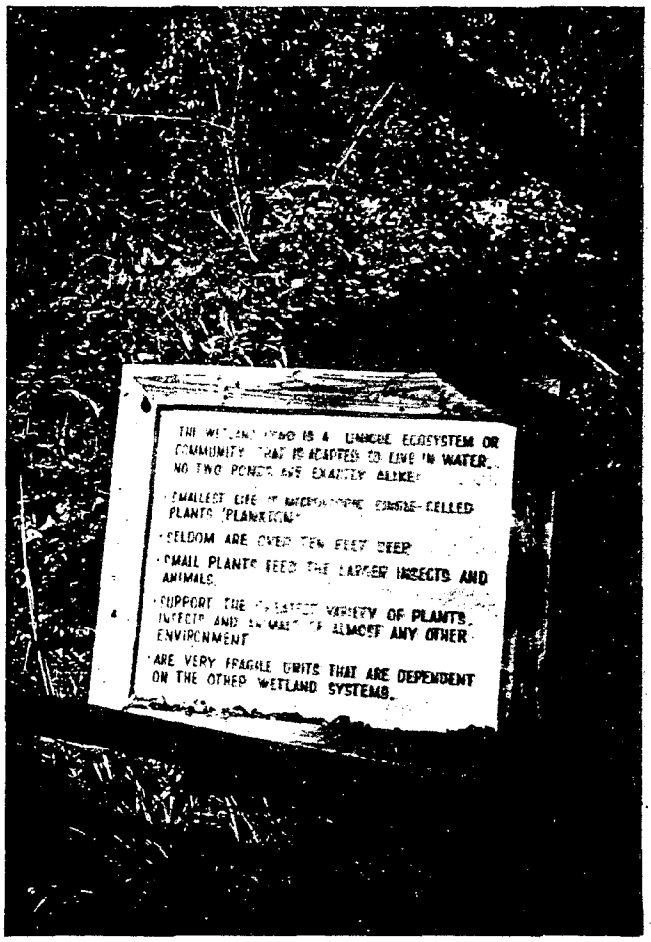
BOARDWALK ALONG LAKE MACATAWA

BEACH CLEAN-UP AREA

DUNTON PARK
HOLLAND TOWNSHIP 10/82



WETLAND RESTORATION PLANTING



TYPICAL INTERPRETIVE SIGN

DUNTON PARK
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