Regional and County Parks Roundtable

1. Funding
   - Discussed different types and amounts of funding
   - Renewable and non-renewable budgets
     - Terms
   - Tax Caps
   - Budget cuts and Legislation involved
     - Property Taxes

2. Lumber
   - Selling fallen trees for revenue

3. Master plans for Nature Preserves for Function and Values

4. Fees for Programs and Rentals
   - Lack of ability of programs and rentals to pay for the buildings and materials

5. Vandalism and Crime
   - Security and Deer cameras/related signage
   - Security and Ranger Forces
     - Using county sheriff’s departments and local police
   - Cult Activity
     - Using Google to find information on blogs about cult meetings
   - Use parallel parking instead of side by side to cut down on the drug dealing

6. Non-native and Invasive Species
   - Equipment used to remove
     - Brush grapple on Bobcats
     - Thumb attachments
   - Using Volunteers
     - Cutting and Spraying

7. Volunteers and Trustees
   - Groups to use
   - Activities they can be used for
   - “Experience Works” program
   - Trustees and Community Service as workers

8. Garbage Cans
   - In-ground Rural Systems
   - Compacting Cans
• “carrying out your own trash”
  o Using no trash cans
• Raccoon proofing

9. Emerald Ash Borer
• Firewood transportation and policies

10. Ebay / Auctions
• Selling surplus vehicles

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**Municipal Park Forum**

1. Alternative Fuels
• B5
• Positive affects on vehicles
• Cost effective

2. Organic Fertilizers
• Current Tests
• Low Activity areas

3. Law Enforcement in Parks
• Security Guards
• Police Department Partnerships

4. Dog Parks
• Size of Area
• Rotating Fields
• Double Gates
• Complaints by Users

5. Using a Master Plan to Gain Support
• Helps get what you want for board/mayor

6. User Fees for Private Organizations
• Getting groups to pay that have been using for free
• Private Youth Sports Leagues
• Synthetic Fields
  o Indoor and Outdoor
State Parks

Illinois:
- Rebuilding numbers and more stability with budget
- Emerald as bore made it to state
  - No total ban on firewood into parks, but working on it
- Purchasing camper cabins
  - Looking for approximately 40
- No entrance fees
- OHR Parks
  - Pressure for / Looked for Feedback

Michigan:
- Reviewing goals and how to afford
- On their own for capital funds
- Had an endowment program but crashed
- Hard time with funds
- No longer get general funds
- Using up the bank currently
- Oak trees (type of fungus) will take a perfectly healthy oak and in three weeks be done
- Beech snap (thinks it’s a fungus)
- Western side and have facilities and infrastructure
- Southeast part of Michigan lacks facilities
  - Some talk about the use of yertz (type of canvas)
- Trying to make Muskegon totally green, bio everything
  - Depends on grants

Wisconsin:
- Prohibited from having camper cabins because of mom and pops businesses
  - Have a few available though for people with disabilities (ADA)
- Project to have is yertzs put in a park near Wisconsin Dells
- Can’t electrify certain percentage of sites due to legislation to keep rustic feel
- Has hurt business/revenue
- Firewood bought 50 mile radius of park cannot be brought in
- Chronic wasting disease battling
- Paid a lot of money to make it possible
- Winter operation
- Looking for smarter ways to operate due to utility increases, but not revenue increases
- Stewardship program that deals with land acquisition money goes to local units of government
- Partnership with local tourism group
- Travel Green ads, etc. People pay to be green friendly
Indiana:

- More emphasis on interpretative programs
- Allowing managers to take ideas for revenue and run with it
- Updated vehicles
  - Still need to update to alternative fuel by 2010
- Water systems and maintenance is difficult in Indiana because we have to make lakes
  - Lots of money to account for
- Looked at budgets and realigned where needed and fixed areas
- Will and can close facilities to help conserve to maintain their mission
- Fees went to supply and demand
- Non-union in Indiana