

News Release

December 3, 2009

Montrose Twp. Park to Receive DNR Development Grant

\$348,500 awarded to Barber Memorial Park for improvements

LANSING – State Representative **Richard E. Hammel** (D-Mt. Morris Township) today announced that Montrose Township will receive \$348,500 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make improvements to Barber Memorial Park.

"I'm very pleased that our local community through the efforts of Township Supervisor **Mark Emmendorfer** and the remaining Township Board worked very hard to receive this competitive grant for the Barber Memorial Park," Hammel said. "And I am thrilled at the state's recognition of Montrose Township's efforts to improve the quality of life for its residents. I look forward to seeing the project get underway."

Supervisor **Emmendorfer** stated that the Township will receive the \$348,500 development grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to build shore fishing and viewing platforms, a boat launch, a restroom building, a playground and path extensions at Barber Memorial Park. All of the new facilities will be universally accessible to residents in wheelchairs and those with other disabilities.

The project is one of 67 recreation projects and land acquisitions totaling \$35.7 million to be funded in 2010, by the MNRTF board which competitively evaluated 175 project requests before choosing which projects to fund.

The MNRTF was created in 1976 to provide funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and outdoor recreation. The funding comes from royalties on the sale and lease of state-owned mineral rights. In 1985, Michigan voters chose to make the program part of Michigan's constitution, ensuring its future.

"Michigan has some of the most beautiful natural areas you'll find in the country," said Lt. Gov. **John D. Cherry, Jr.** "The unparalleled beauty is what brings tourism dollars into our economy and supports jobs for our workers. These recreation and land acquisition grants are vital to ensuring that the incredible parks I valued growing up, including those in Montrose, are protected for generations to come."

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