

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 28, 2020**

**NOTICE**

MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, CHAPTER 231, P.L. 1975

\*Local Operational Guidance - COVID 19\*

N.J.S.A 10:4-8(b) authorizes local units to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Mercer County Park Commission will hold their OCTOBER MEETING on Wednesday, October 28, 2020; to begin at 5:30 pm via Zoom Webinar. To encourage full public participation of the public meeting, please use the meeting access information below:

Please use the information provided below join the webinar:

- Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88171818100?pwd=RnJnTmZjTitzZ3NKSVk3b2tCZHIFQT09>
- **Passcode: 079099**
- **Webinar ID: 881 7181 8100**
- Or iPhone one-tap : US:+19294362866,,88171818100#,,,,,0#,,079099# or +13017158592,,88171818100#,,,,,0#,,079099#
- Or Telephone:  
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):  
US: +1 929 436 2866 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799
- Public Comment shall take place as indicated on the October 28, 2020 Agenda. Kindly provide public comment when prompted during the meeting via the messaging/chat feature or by the, 'hand-raising' feature, where you will be prompted to speak to provide public comment.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

- Commissioner Schulz called the October 28,2020 meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to order at 5:36 pm, via Zoom Webinar platform.

**Commissioner Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag.**

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**NOTICE OF MEETING:**

- IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUNSHINE LAW (OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT CHAPTER 231, P.L. 1975), ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THAT NOTIFICATION WAS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS: EMAILED TO THE TIMES, TRENTONIAN, AND TO THE MERCER COUNTY CLERK
- LOCAL OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE - COVID 19 [N.J.S.A 10:4-8(B)] AUTHORIZES LOCAL UNITS TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS THROUGH USE OF STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 PARK COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING:**

*Commissioner Davis requested to Amend the draft September 30 Meeting Minutes to reflect the accurate date for the subsequent Park Commission meeting notification*

- Commissioner Schulz seconded said motion; by voice vote of motion and second, the September 28, 2020 Park Commission Meeting Minutes were amended as requested.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2020 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION BILLS:**

- In voice vote, the October 2020 Mercer County Park Commission bills were approved for payment as presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2020 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION REVENUE REPORTS:**

- In voice vote, the September 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports were approved as presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith

**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:**

Presented by: Executive Director Aaron T. Watson; Deputy Director, Joe Pizza; Nominated by Christine Cardinal, Director, Mercer Stables:

- This month's Employees of the Month are the Employees of the Mercer Stables for their tireless efforts in daily Stables operations; specifically, through the Pandemic thus far. Stables Operations were on-going during the closure of many facilities due to the pandemic. Stables employees have been in operations five (5) to seven (7) days per week to ensure proper animal care, facility maintenance and preparation for public program offerings.

**COMMUNICATIONS***(Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson)*

- *C-1-MERCER STABLES TO OFFER WEEKDAY TRAIL RIDING SPECIAL*  
Mercer Stables will be offering a weekday Trail Riding Special at \$35.00 for a forty-five (45) minute trail ride through Mercer Meadows for participants age eight (8) and up.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **In House Staff Operations:**
  - **Masons**-Performing work around the newly constructed fitness area in the Mercer County Park; expanding the patio area at the Mountainview Golf Club with additional stamped concrete.
  - **Carpenters**-Replacing windows at the comfort station located at Mercer County Park Soccer Fields 3-9; working with masons on the construction of the pod structures at the Mercer County Tennis complex.
  - **Painters**-Re-painted the interior of the Mercer County Skating Rink in preparation for an anticipated opening in mid-November;
  - **Electricians and Plumbers**-Replaced the hot water heater at the Princeton Country Club; continue to respond daily to maintenance calls for all facilities; continuing the winterization of various facilities.
- **Hopewell Valley Golf Course** -Work at the Hopewell Valley Golf Course is on-going. Executive staff met with County Engineering staff to evaluate anticipated bridge replacement between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> holes; Mercer County Planning met with contracted Consultant, Brinkerhoff to request the compilation an environmental assessment report for determination of next steps in the evaluation of potable wells at the property; Contracted consulting firm, HMR Architects provided an assessment of the structures currently located on the property to determine next steps for repair. Report findings indicated minor electrical, and carpentry repairs will be necessary.
- **Flooring Replacement** -New flooring has been installed in the banquet room and the restroom areas of the Mountain View Golf Course and at the Boathouse Marina.
- **Mercer County Stables Phase II Renovation**-This project is progressing on-schedule and is anticipated to be completed in early November of 2020. .
- **Mercer Meadows Upland Trail Paving**-This project has been substantially completed. Outstanding punchlist items shall be addressed within the month.
- **LED Lighting Baseball and Softball Fields in the Mercer County Park**-Lighting upgrades have been completed.

**ROLL CALL:**

- **The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:**
  - Commissioners: Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz
- **The following Commissioners were absent:**
  - Commissioner Longo

- Commissioner Smith

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

R-1. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, TO MONITOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ONE (1) GAUGING STATION ON THE ASSUNPINK CREEK NEAR CLARKSVILLE, NEW JERSEY. PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT: \$16,900.00. PARK COMMISSION AMOUNT: \$11,425.00; UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AMOUNT: \$5,475.00

- On Motion by Commissioner Mooij seconded by Commissioner Schulz
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith

R-2. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING FOR ENTERTAINMENT PROCUREMENT SERVICES FOR VARIOUS MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION EVENTS

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Schulz
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith

R-3. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION TO THE CARETAKER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MR. TYLER GRAY FOR LIMITED ON-SITE HOUSING AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE APARTMENT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 78 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL; IN EXCHANGE FOR CARETAKING SERVICES FOR THE PROPERTY AND CERTAIN PREMISES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT. ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION PERIOD: NOVEMBER 15, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14, 2021. SIX HUNDRED (600) SERVICE HOURS PER YEAR/FIFTY (50) HOURS PER MONTH

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Mooij
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None.

**Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith.

R-4. AMEND RESOLUTION 2019-53 ADOPTED MAY 29, 2019 AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 2) TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOR CURATORIAL AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS FOR HOWELL LIVING HISTORY FARM TO INCLUDE THE DETERMINED FY-2020-21 FUNDING AMOUNT OF: \$25,046.00; FOR YEAR TWO (2) OF A THREE (3) YEAR GRANT CYCLE. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. ORIGINAL THREE (3) YEAR GRANT PERIOD REMAINS THE SAME

- On Motion by Commissioner Mooij seconded by Commissioner Forrester
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays**- None.  
**Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith

R-5. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION; IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MERCER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT; PRINCETON HYDRO, LLC; THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DELAWARE ESTUARY; AND HUNTER RESEARCH; FOR A DELAWARE WATERSHED CONSERVATION FUND GRANT FOR THE PERMITTING, DESIGN AND PARTIAL INSTALLATION OF A LIVING SHORELINE AND ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY BOAT RAMP IN THE ROEBLING PARK, TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, COUNTY OF MERCER. TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$670,687.00. NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AMOUNT: \$150,000.00 (22%). MATCHING FUNDS FOR TOTAL PROJECT COST:\$520,687.00 (78%). [MERCER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND MATCHED AMOUNT TO DATE: \$161,750.00 (24.1%); FUTURE MERCER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND MATCHING AMOUNT: \$303,450.00 (45.2%); NEW JERSEY CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP MATCHING AMOUNT: \$25,000.00 (3.7%); IN KIND MATCHING AMOUNT: \$26,487.00 (3.9%)]. PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2022 [GRANT ID NO. 0403.20.068622/DUNS NO. 054177662]

- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Mooij
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays**- None.  
**Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith

*Commissioner Mooij requested additional background information regarding R-5*

*Superintendent Cucchi and Director of Stewardship, Jenn Rogers provided background regarding the grant program and on-going restoration efforts*

R-6 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EAST LATITUDE (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL HYDROGEOLOGIC SERVICES FOR THE REVIEW AND TREATMENT OF EXISTING WELLS; WATER SYSTEMS; AND WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT AT THE AT THE HOPEWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE PROPERTY, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$26,500.00. PERIOD: NOVEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2021

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Davis
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith

R-7 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ENGINEERING & LAND PLANNING (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR CART PATH EXPANSION AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT THE HOPEWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE PROPERTY, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$62,850.00. PERIOD: NOVEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH PROJECT COMPLETION

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Forrester
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith

*Commissioner Schulz asks, “How long will the physical bridge replacement be anticipated, once designed?”*

*Executive Director Watson responded, “The actual replacement is not anticipated to have a long duration period; various technologies regarding replacement are currently in discussion with Mercer County Engineering Staff.”*

R-8 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED OCTOBER 7, 2020, TO K. MOOREA CO., LLC/DBA TRAFFIC PLAN FOR FOUR (4) PLUS ONE (1)

ADDITIONAL ALTERNATE WANCO SOLAR POWERED MESSAGE BOARDS MODEL# WVTMM, OR EQUIVALENT FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$66,000.00. FOUR (4):\$52,800.00. ADDITIONAL ALTERNATE ONE (1):\$13,200.00 (AB2020-39)

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Forrester
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith
- R-9 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED OCTOBER 9, 2020, TO SCOZZARI BUILDERS, INC., FOR BUILDING OF A LARGE RAPTOR FLIGHT CAGE AT THE MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$231,243.00. PERIOD: ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY (120) CALENDAR DAYS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED (AB2020-38)
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith
- R-10 PARTIAL AWARD OF BID RECEIVED OCTOBER 20, 2020 TO MULTIPLE VENDORS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOLF SUPPLIES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. PERIOD: TWO (2) YEARS; NOVEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2022. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$300,000.00 ;YEAR1-\$150,000.00;YEAR 2-\$150,000.00 (AB2020-42)
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Davis
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith
- R-11 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 TO GOLF CART SPECIALTIES THE LEASE, SERVICE AND RENTAL OF GOLF CARTS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND ONE (1) YEAR. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$473,080.000; YEAR ONE (1): \$236,540.00;YEAR TWO (2):\$236,540.00;YEAR THREE (3) OPTION YEAR: \$236,540.00 (AB2020-34)
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Forrester
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith

- R-12 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSISON AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER (CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL) WITH PADOVANI ROOFING AND CONSTRUCTION FOR EXTERIOR DOOR REPLACEMENT AT MERCER OAKS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY: +\$4,354.56 (+13.33%). REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$37,024.56. CONTRACT PERIOD REMAINS THE SAME (AB2020-12)
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith
- R-13 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSISON AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CHANGE ORDER (CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 AND FINAL) WITH MOUNT CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. FOR MERCER MEADOWS UPLAND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. INCREASE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY +\$90,816.25 (+4.79%). REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$1,985,909.47 (AB2019-43B)
- On Motion by Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Schulz
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith
  - On Motion to add a LATE STARTER to the October 28, 2020 Park Commission Meeting Agenda by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Davis.
  - By voice vote, a LATE STARTER was added to the October 28, 2020 Park Commission Meeting Agenda
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith
- LS-1 AWARD OF NEGOTIATED CONTRACT TO EASTERN IRRIGATION AND PUMP COMPANY FOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND FOUNTAIN AND PUMP HOUSES. PERIOD: TWO (2) YEARS (NOVEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2022). TOTAL AMOUNT FOR TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED: \$94,620.00 (AB2020-26N)
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz
  - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None.



**Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson*

### **INTER-DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANCE**

- Due to an overwhelming number of mail-in ballots needing to be counted in our County Board of Elections (BOE) office, the Park Commission has been providing staffing to assist in tabulating ballots. Park Commission employees have responded overwhelmingly to the call. Over forty (40) Park Commission employees are assisting the BOE weekdays, evenings, and weekends. This assistance will continue for the next two (2) weeks as needed.

### **NEW OFFERINGS:**

- **Spray Park**  
The Spray Park opened Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Par Commission temporarily closed it to improve surface conditions. The Spray Park was reopened on Saturday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, the park was shut down for the season and winterized.
- **Fitness Course**  
The Fitness Course was completed this week, and will officially open on Saturday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>

### **GOLF:**

- To date, we have recorded 18,000 rounds of golf at all our courses, by comparison in 2019, when we recorded 16,050 rounds of golf played. This is an increase of almost 2,000 rounds for this year.
- Our pro shops sold \$28,000 of merchandize through September as compared to \$23,000 in 2019.
- We hosted eleven (11) outings in September; for the year we held thirty (30) outings. In all of 2019 our courses held forty-two (42) outings.
- Back in April, golf revenue was down 37%. As of September, we are only 6% down over 2019 figures. This is significant considering our courses were shuttered for all of April and May due to the pandemic.

### **TENNIS**

- USTA Junior Team Tennis Program finished on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The National Junior Tennis and Learning Program of Trenton is scheduled to begin their programming on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **RECREATION AND EVENTS**

#### **– 2021 Concert Season**

Planning is already underway for next year's Concert Season. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is being substantially revised to reflect the current needs and provisions required in light of the on-going public health emergency.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

#### **- Swimming to Rowing :**

- A Meeting with the YMCA marketing team to discuss the creation of a video to promote the program has been scheduled.
- An organization called the *Center for Child and Family Development* has committed to paying for and sending 6 of their students when the program is up and running again in 2021.

#### **- Bike Drive**

We are working with the organization, *Bike Exchange*, to host a used bike donation drive at the Hunt House and Ranger Headquarters. The *Bike Exchange* is an organization that raises money to help support the Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County.

### **STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT**

- **Land Steward, Alex Rivera recently received his *Green Infrastructure Practitioner certification*** through the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program. Funding for this training was provided by a competitive grant through the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA). With this training, Mr. Rivera is now able to assist the Park Commission with identifying places where we can better manage stormwater through rain gardens and other green systems.

#### **- Rosedale Lake tree planting**

This year's Roots for Rivers planting culminated with a volunteer tree planting event on October 27 at Rosedale Lake. Over thirty (30) volunteers assisted the Park Commission by planting eighty (80) trees donated by the Wakefern Company and the non-profit, One Tree Planted organization. This project supports the broader multi-year effort the Park Commission has initiated to enhance the water quality and wildlife habitat of the Rosedale Lake and the Stony Brook.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:**

#### **– Trenton Youth Fishing Derby**

Environmental Education Director Kelly Rypkema co-hosted Trenton's annual Youth Fishing Derby on October 17. The longstanding annual event is historically hosted by the City of Trenton, with support from the NJDEP; but at the City's request, the Park Commission helped organize this year's event. Several of the volunteer mentors at the event were 'graduates' of the Park Commission's *Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs* program at the Nature Center.

– **Camp Out**

This year's Camp Out event on October 10<sup>th</sup> was a success; with all ten (10) campsites in the East Picnic Area being filled. Over fifty (50) people attended and participated in a variety of activities organized by the Environmental Education staff.

**MERCER STABLES:**

– **Trail Rides, Group Lessons, and New Rider Lessons**

Trail Rides, Group Lessons and New Rider Lessons are steadily increasing.

- October participants- 87

– **Trail Rides:**

- The trail riding response has been very successful
- Seventy-seven (77) trail rides have been booked since opening day on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Many weekdays are booked full.
- Saturdays are completely booked until November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**HOWELL FARM**

- **Trenton Central High School Volunteer Program:**

- The farm has resumed its program with the Trenton Central High School Volunteer Club, providing students with opportunities to see and learn about careers in parks and recreation, teaching, agriculture and community development.

- ***Share the Harvest Program:***

- To date, 25,000 lbs. of grain products, vegetables and eggs have been donated to local food banks and pantries through farming operations seen by the public and schools .

- **Educational Program Expansion:**

- New programs are now available for schools that cannot visit the farm due to traveling distances, budgets or health restrictions. ***Farm Animals, Pollinators & Honeybees*** and ***Wheat Planting & Harvest*** are among them.
- Trenton's Parker School, Hamilton's Greenwood Elementary School and Princeton's Johnson School are among the first to take advantage of the new virtual offerings.

**WILDLIFE CENTER:**

- **New patients YTD** – More than 2,530 patients have been treated this year.
- **Outdoor Education Environment** – Re-opened on October 24 for self-guided tours only.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

- No members of the public participated in the public session

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETING:**

- The November/December 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting is

scheduled to take place on December 9, 2020; at a location to be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- On motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, Adjournment took place at 6:40 pm

Heather Mauro

*Heather Mauro*

Executive Secretary

Secretary to the Commission