

Charlotte Rotary Lakeside Trail Breaks Ground at Crandell Lake

Charlotte Rotarians and Eaton County Parks and Recreation representatives met at Crandell Lake last month to officially break ground on the new 2.5-mile multi-use looped trail around Eaton County's newest park at Crandell Lake. The lake is located on M-50 between Charlotte and Eaton Rapids, and it is planned the trail will be completed for use this summer.

According to Eaton County Parks Director Troy Stowell, "the County Board of Commissioners loved the trail concept at Crandell lake when it was proposed by Charlotte Rotary Club and Rotarian Randy Crandell."

The trail started with a conversation between Rotarians Dr Ed Foster and Randy Crandell when it was suggested Charlotte Rotary was looking for a new project. Crandell had a dream of constructing the trail and it was a perfect fit for the next large Rotary project.

It was agreed Rotary would match up to \$100 thousand with a similar amount from Crandell over a period of four years for a

total donation of \$200 thousand to fund the total trail cost. A fundraising event by Rotary in November raised enough to cover the first year of a four-year commitment for the trail. The trail is named Charlotte Rotary Lakeside Trail.

"It is important to give people access to this big, beautiful piece of property," Crandell said. "I am excited about partnering with Charlotte Rotary. It feels really good for the Club to want to partner in this real asset for the community. It's a big step".

"I see it as a destination for a ton of people to use from Eaton County and beyond. It will be unique for our county," Crandell said. "The lake area was originally 12 to 13 properties that were put together to develop 432 acres. We spent years mining and developing the property through Crandell Brothers Trucking."

"The lake concept started with Eaton County years ago. "We worked on it for five years to get it purchased through the DNR Trust Fund. The Trust Fund sup-

plied funds for the county to partner for these types of projects as a 25% match," Crandell said.

Charlotte Rotary President Jerry Sommer said "I like the fact that it provides a great asset for the communities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Olivet and the entire county. This is unique because it is a county park, and we can help kick-start this improvement."

Rotary recently partnered with other community organizations to revitalize and remodel Charlotte's downtown Beach Market. "It's a new outdoor covered venue that is available for use through the Chamber of Commerce for a farmer's market, parties, weddings, concerts, and it brings people downtown. We preserved a 100-year-old deteriorating structure that will now be useful decades into the future", Sommer said. "Anyone who wants to get involved with time, talent, or treasure should reach out to get involved with Rotary."

Parks Director Troy Stowell said this is the perfect

time for this partnership as the county has just completed its new master conceptual plan effective 2021-25 (see www.eatoncounty.org/384/Parks-Master-Plan). "This trail will be the first phase of the plan with work starting in the spring for a three-week process. The trail will allow more people to use the park and enjoy this 160-acre lake. I look forward to seeing families pushing strollers and enjoying everything we have. All future work at the park will be based on the availability of funds", Stowell said.

County Commissioner and Rotarian Brian Lautzenheiser said he is excited to see this accepted project. "This park will only be developed through service clubs and non-profits organization such as Friends of Eaton Co parks. This project was welcomed with open arms. We feel the public will truly enjoy the more refined trail", he said.

The new county master plan shows that nonmotorized trails is one of the top three priorities for Crandell Park. The top three desired activities include fishing,

sailing/boating/kayaking, and biking. There was also strong support for a trail from Eaton Rapids to Charlotte.

"I think having a jogging and bike trail around the lake will be a huge draw to Charlotte and surrounding communities with having the potential of connecting a trail between Eaton Rapids and Charlotte. I would eventually like to see a trail run from Crandell Lake to Charlotte", Foster said.

A recent study from Cobalt Community Research showed that between June and August of 2021 the following visitation was reported:

- Total visits: 26 K
- Unique individuals visiting: 13.2 K
- Average visits per individual: 1.96

Visitors from Charlotte accounted for 31 percent, while Eaton Rapids visitors accounted for 19 percent of the total visitors during the period. Most visits occurred on Saturdays and Sundays.

Rotary clubs exist worldwide to improve communities through a range of

humanitarian, intellectual, and educational activities. Clubs advance international understanding by partnering with clubs in other countries. Rotary encourages high ethical standards in all vocations. Polio eradication and providing clean water systems to help stop the spread of polio have been hallmarks of Rotary success worldwide in recent years.

Rotary clubs address critical issues at home and abroad by providing health care and medical supplies, clean water, food, job training, youth development, and education to millions of people in need.

Regional clubs have identified the main reasons for joining Rotary including: friendship, fellowship, fun; opportunity to serve; business development & networking; personal growth and leadership development; citizenship in the world; family programs; public speaking skills; the development of ethics, and cultural awareness.

Written and submitted by Donald Sovey

WORLDWIDE ERADICATION OF POLIO

Over two billion children immunized against polio, in partnership with WHO, UNICEF, CDC and other world health leaders

Polio Eradication Gifts Since 1985:

Charlotte Rotary \$164,354
District 6360 \$1.9 Million



THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do...

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Charlotte Rotary is proud of the work it has done for the betterment of the Greater Charlotte community since its inception over 100 years ago.

Rotary is an international membership organization made up of people who share a passion for and commitment to enhancing communities and improving lives across the world. Internationally, Rotary is noted in recent years for its efforts to eradicate polio world-wide.

Rotary is a volunteer organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help to build

goodwill and peace in the world. There are about 1.2 million Rotary club members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Charlotte hosts two Rotary clubs which meet weekly. The larger club meets on Wednesdays at noon and the newer Satellite Rotary Club meets on Thursday afternoons at 5:30 p.m. to accommodate various work schedules.

Some of the recent projects completed by Charlotte Rotary are shown on this page. This represents Charlotte Rotary as People of Action. The new Charlotte Rotary Lakeside

Trail, which is now in development for the summer of 2022, is the next significant project for the club.

If you are interested in learning more about Charlotte Rotary Club

including how to join, please feel free to call (517) 231-0563 for more information. You may also contact any other member of Rotary for information.

NEW CHARLOTTE SATELLITE CLUB – FIRST IN THE DISTRICT



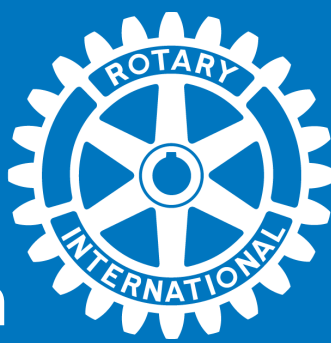
BEACH MARKET

Charlotte Rotary Club Gift: \$50,000 plus donated time; working with community partners.



Charlotte Rotary

People of Action



ROTARY TRAIL GROUNDBREAKING AT CRANDELL PARK

Charlotte Rotary Club Gift: \$100,000 plus donated time



SOAR MULTI-PURPOSE ACTIVITY GYM AT ALIVE

Charlotte Rotary Club Gift: \$125,000 plus donated time

LINCOLN PARK

Charlotte Rotary Club Gift: \$116,000 plus donated time



ROTARY PARK SOCCER FIELDS AT PARKVIEW SCHOOL

Charlotte Rotary Club Gift: Over \$200,000 plus donated time



DEAN PARK

