



# Friends of Clare County Parks & Recreation

P.O. Box 274, Clare, Michigan 48617

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October 12, 2017

## Clare County Community Foundation grant will help give disabled access at Wilson State Park beach

Starting next summer visitors to Wilson State Park in Harrison with physical challenges will have easier access to the clear water of Budd Lake, thanks to a generous grant from the Clare County Community Foundation. The \$4,000 grant will allow the purchase of a special mat that will run from the parking area to the lake and allow for people with disabilities, walkers and elderly visitors to join friends and family in the water.

"This mat is something that the Clare County Parks and Recreation Commission has been working on obtaining for nearly two years, and this grant makes it possible," according to Don Kolander, Parks and Recreation Chair. Kolander noted that the Commission purchased floating chairs with large wheels earlier this year for those with disabilities to use while in the water. Those purchases were the result of community support of fundraisers and a grant from Friends of Clare County Parks & Recreation. "Now people who need to use those chairs will be able to get to the water since we can now purchase 133 feet of mat to complete the project."

Kolander explained the mat is a semi-rigid and portable foot wide walkway that unrolls on the beach and can be removed at the end of the season. The product is ADA compliant and made of 100 percent recycled materials.

"We're grateful to the Foundation for its support of this project," said Kolander. "Now all we need is a return of summer so we can put them all to good use," he said with a laugh.

The Clare County Community Foundation strengthens our community by providing leadership, fostering collaboration on local needs and issues and encouraging a legacy of giving through grants, scholarships and event. Clare County Parks and Recreation Commission and its "Friends" support group help increase recreational opportunities in the county.

*For immediate Release.*

*Call Marty Johnson with questions at 734-755-2638*