

Project Profile

Synopsis

Project Title:

Oscoda Beach Park Observation & Fishing Pier

Grantee Organization:

Charter Township of Oscoda

Project Team:

Charter Township of Oscoda, Board

Robert Stalker II, Superintendent

Jim Baier, Supervisor

Jaimie McGuire, Treasurer

Christine Carrasco, Clerk

Rick Binkowski, Trustee

Martin Gayeski, Trustee

Matt Hinckley, Trustee

Aaron Weed, Trustee

Charter Township of Oscoda Department of Public Works, boardwalk construction

Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan engineer for development of design/construction

RCL Construction Co., Inc., of Sanford Michigan construction contractor for project

Contech Engineered Solutions, of West Chester Ohio pedestrian bridge fabrication/paint

Contact Person:

Ann Richards, Community Development Coordinator, Charter Township of Oscoda

Email address ddadirector@oscodatwp.com

Grant Amount: \$201,500

Time Frame:

Spring 2012-Fall 2012

Focus Area:

Access

Brief Project Summary:

The primary focus of this project was to construct a 300-foot long universally accessible observation and fishing pier (with a 150-foot long boardwalk) equipped with handrails and lighting at the Township owned Oscoda Beach Park on Lake Huron. Completion of this project allows all visitors the ability to take a barrier-free route from the parking lot more than three hundred feet offshore.

In order to achieve the above identified project, Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan, was contracted as the engineer for development of design and bid specifications for construction of the pier and boardwalk structures to withstand a minimum of 50 years and satisfy Universal Accessibility standards as well.

Project in Context

Oscoda Township is the site of the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, which closed in June of 1993. The economic impact of base closure was well documented and severe, approximately 4,800 jobs were lost and regional income was reduced by about \$144 million. During the past 19 years the Township has pursued an aggressive strategy of acquiring and developing recreational facilities as a critical element in the economic recovery strategy since that closure. Recreation and natural resources are key amenities offered by the Oscoda area. Enhancement of these amenities is viewed as a strong catalyst in fostering economic activity. The linkage of these amenities to successful tourism is strong and translates into positive impact. The pier project was identified at the head of the list in terms of potential for generation of such benefits.

During the planning process the project had been the subject of two public hearings including one to obtain public input regarding universal access consideration for the project. It was discussed in several Township Board work sessions as part of the goal setting process and then formally adopted at a board meeting in a portion of the goal resolution. During the development of the "Blueprints for the Downtowns" plan (adopted March 2007) that required significant community input and involvement through a week long series of focus groups, public meetings the pier was identified as an important community priority. Although outside of its district the Downtown Development Authority has continued to list the Pier as one of its top 3 goals and objectives for the last three consecutive years.

The location of the project is the beautiful 11-acre Oscoda Beach Park that offers more than 1,000 feet of sand beach and is a destination in the Township's non-motorized trail plan. When the plan is fully implemented will allow the board walk and pier connectivity to more than 40 miles of local pedestrian and bike trails. The Pier provides a no-cost experience to all members of the general public on a barrier free basis. It offers new recreational opportunities while significantly expanding and enhancing those that currently exist.

Goals of the Effort: The key goal was to provide the public with a barrier-free universal pier for observation and fishing recreational use.

Results: The results were a 150 foot wooden board walk that leads to a 300-foot long universally accessible observation and fishing pier with handrails and lighting at the Township owned Oscoda Beach Park on Lake Huron.

Products and Resources:

The project was featured in a publication by the engineering firm, Spicer Group Inc. and can be found by going to the following website.

http://www.spicergroup.com/images/stories/straightline_covers/spring%202012%20news.pdf