

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Muskegon County Park Doubles in Size: Come Celebrate!**

*May 17, 2011, Muskegon County* – Muskegon County and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan invite area residents and visitors to celebrate the addition of 95 acres to Meinert Park. A celebration event is planned to begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Meinert Park.

The celebration will include a short ribbon cutting ceremony, summer refreshments, and optional guided hikes through the steep wooded dunelands. This dedication event is open to all, and guests are encouraged to RSVP by contacting the Land Conservancy of West Michigan at 616-451-9476 or [lcwm@naturenearby.org](mailto:lcwm@naturenearby.org).

In November 2010 Muskegon County took possession of 95-acres of additional park land with the help of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. This expansion more than doubles the size of Meinert Park. The park is located north of Whitehall, Michigan and offers Lake Michigan beach, a creek system, seasonal wetlands, wooded dune land, and hiking on 183 acres.

“I view the Meinert Park property addition to be one of the better accomplishments of my tenure as a county commissioner,” said Ken Mahoney, Chairman of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners. “I’ve always enjoyed Meinert Park and now it has even more to offer Muskegon County. I’m looking forward to the public dedication on June 4.”

A grant of over \$400,000 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and over \$150,000 raised by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan provided funding for the project. A long term endowment fund for the upkeep of the property will be housed at the White Lake Community Foundation.

“I hope the public comes out and joins us,” said Peter Homeyer, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. “The dedication will be a fun day celebrating a great working partnership which has protected a wonderful piece of duneland.”

Park photos and information on this Meinert County Park Expansion Project can be found on the Land Conservancy of West Michigan website, [www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org).

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*The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is a local, nonprofit organization that preserves natural land and open space in eight West Michigan counties. It is the only organization devoted solely to preserving natural and scenic lands that are an important part of West Michigan's community character. With thirty-plus years of experience keeping nature nearby, the Land Conservancy has protected over 7,300 acres with nature preserves, conservation easements, and project assistance to local governments.*