

St. James Township Campground Season-End Report 2022

Season: May 15 to October 31st with 413 Reservations taking in **\$13,157.00.**

467 Adults, 80 Children, 35 pets

Busiest sites: Site 1 and 2 non-electric, Sites 14 and 18 Electric

Lost \$986.00 in cancellations – mostly ferry related.

Firefly Reservation System and BASYS Systems did a fine job in providing Credit Card reserved service to our campers. Very few issues and all resolved quickly. Handled all reservations, correspondence with campers, reservation cancellations and refunds automatically.

Campground Host: Tony Miller from June 15th to September 21st - Great Host

Campground Host Recommendations:

- Materials and Supplies
- Put St. James Township on Camping websites to extend awareness
- Most people used Reservation system – heaviest weekend Homecoming
- Need access to the Lake!
- Update Signs with larger font: Water, Camp Host, Registration, Firewood
- Charging Station for cell phones/laptops
- Need a Firewood Vendor/Kiosk
- Did not observe much shower use outside campers – may still want to consider a donation box outside showers

Campground Improvement Grant – DNR \$150,000 \$50,000 SJT Match

Total Project Costs: \$226,550.21

Showers were operational June 15, 2022 with construction completed. There were two main issues in the construction which are underway to being resolved:

- Sub-standard gravel with glass shards is being replaced in all parking areas
- Cracked sidewalk near showers removed and will be replaced

The Final Grant Report is due by December 31, 2022. Grant will reimburse the Township with the remaining \$90,060* to be placed in the General Fund for township use. *\$59,060 Reimbursed to date.

* \$41,450.42 WAS PAID ON 9/7/22 LEAVING \$49,489.36 OUTSTANDING

Campground Enhancement Grant – Charlevoix County Park Millage \$10,000

New fencing installed along bluff and along bike path. Signs installed along roadway.

ADA Porta-John being ordered and reviewing what other items can be added: ie; firewood kiosk?

FUTURE NEEDS:

1. Upgrade pit toilet building with new roof/ventilation system. Toilet paper dispensers, hand sanitation dispensers and trash cans.
2. Figure out a way to use the Jiminy Crick outlet as access to beach. One idea was a removable stair/platform at the steepest point and a few log stairs to make it easier to negotiate the hill. Remove some downed/overhung trees for safety
3. Firewood Kiosk and Vendor – need to be able to have firewood available for campers near the Host site so that the Host can monitor activity.
4. Purchase additional (2) fire rings, 3 picnic tables, 2 grills
5. Clear paths for walking along bluff and to new Enclosure
6. Review price for campsites: \$25 for Non-Electric Sites 1-12, \$35 for Electric smaller sites Sites 14-16. \$45 for larger RV/ADA sites Sites 17 and 18.
7. FUTURE BATH HOUSE – apply for grant?