



NEWS AND INFORMATION

McLeod County Newsletter



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McLeod County Toward Zero Deaths Safe Roads Coalition(TZD): Mock Crash

The McLeod County Toward Zero Deaths Safe Roads Coalition is preparing to hold its annual spring mock crash at the Glencoe - Silver Lake High School.

The event's location, first held in 2019, alternates between schools in Glencoe-Silver Lake, Hutchinson and Lester Prairie. For its 2021 event, the mock crash was held in Lester Prairie and attended by students from Lester Prairie High School and Winsted Holy Trinity High School.

Held in the spring of the year, the event aims to encourage students to make good choices during the events and celebrations that occur at the end of the school year, such as prom and graduation.

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Pictured above: A scene from the 2021 Mock Crash event held in Lester Prairie, MN.



McLeod County Health and Human Services

COVID-19 Vaccine Update *as of March 18, 2022*

**Vaccine statistics include only doses provided by McLeod County Public Health*

10,621 Total doses administered

485 Pfizer doses administered

9,534 Moderna doses

602 Moderna Booster doses



Toward Zero Deaths Safe Roads Coalition

Annual Mock Crash Event



Continued from page 1

Students from the school where the event is being held are cast as actors for the mock crash. The goal of the event is to educate student drivers about the effects of the choices they make prior to and while driving. The mock scenario usually has to do with drunk driving or distracted driving.

The mock crash incorporates partnerships between law enforcement, area fire departments, local ambulance services and a local funeral home to show students exactly what happens at the scene of a fatal motor vehicle crash. It is narrated so that the students know exactly what is happening throughout the entire event.

Pictured below: Participants from the 2021 Mock Crash event held in Lester Prairie, MN.



"The goal of the event is to educate student drivers about the effects of the choices they make prior to and while driving."

*- Sgt Scott Wawrzyniak,
McLeod County Sheriff's
Office*

Video from 2021 Mock Crash in
Lester Prairie, MN
(available on [YouTube](#)):



Estimated Market Value:

How is your property value established?



ASSESSMENTS



January 2nd each year the McLeod County Assessor's Office adjusts property values based on sales data from the previous sales cycle.

January 2nd 2022 assessments are based on sales from October 2020 through September 30, 2021.

QUESTIONS / APPEALS



Contact the McLeod County Assessor's Office as soon as possible with questions or if you'd like to appeal the value of your property. Local Board of Appeals meetings are held in **April**.

PROPERTY VALUE



Values are calculated for all properties based on the characteristics of the property (ie- square footage, age, quality, condition, lot size, etc.)

VALUATION NOTICES



Valuation notices are sent out to all property owners in **March**. Valuation notices contain important information including your property's Estimated Market Value (EMV) and dates, times and location for Local Board of Appeals meetings.

For more information on Estimated Market Values, visit the Minnesota Department of Revenue website at: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/estimated-market-value>

The Local Board of Appeals process begins on April 1st. This is an opportunity for a property owner to appeal the Estimated Market Value (EMV) that has been established on their property. Date, time and location of the Local Board of Appeals meetings can be found on the valuation notice, which property owners received with their tax statements.

McLeod County rural residential residents will see significant increases in their estimated market value this year. Assessed values are required by statute to be within a range of 90 - 105 percent of recorded comparable sales. In order to be compliant with this requirement, many property owners are seeing large increases in their EMV this year as a result of extreme recent increases seen in sale prices of homes.

If you wish to appeal your EMV, please call the McLeod County Assessor's Office at 320-864-1254 to set up an appointment as soon as possible. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.



AUDITOR-TREASURER

REDISTRICTING must be completed before the state primary in August 2022, and the process is in the final stages for all local units of government: the legislative plans were released in February, the cities and towns and other entities are reestablishing or establishing precincts and polling locations in March, and the County is currently working on reestablishing the Commissioner Districts. The County's preliminary plan does not include any changes to the McLeod County Commissioner Districts.

A public hearing is scheduled for April 5th at 9:30 a.m. at the McLeod County Government Center to hear public input on the County plan. Once the plan is adopted, County Elections may begin updates in the Statewide Voter Registration System. After that is completed (this summer) the County will be sending Postal Verification Cards to all registered voters in the County to notify of their polling place, precinct and other election districts.

Below are links to verify voter registration or register to vote:

- To verify voter registration status:
<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>
- To register to vote online:
<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>
- To register to vote on paper: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-paper/>



ANNUAL SWCD TREE SALE

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) annual tree sale is in full-swing, utilizing an online sale platform for the second year in a row. The use of an online sale platform has increased the SWCD's tree sales by nearly 90 percent compared to previous years.

SWCD is offering a variety of tall and medium deciduous trees, conifers and shrubs.

For more information or to place an order, visit <https://mcleod-swcd.square.site/>.

Administrator's Message

McLEOD COUNTY FAMILY FUN

Family
Fun



We are excited to see all the smiling faces of McLeod County families enjoying Spring! Our family enjoys the fishing channel at Stahl's Lake Park, the public fishing and boating piers at Lake Marion Regional Park & Swan Lake Park, & the beach and camping spaces at Piepenburg Regional Park.



JUNE 10-12, 2022

Minnesotans age 16 or older who take a child 15 or younger fishing don't need a license on this special weekend. So plan a special fishing day or weekend and catch some quality time with friends and family. Shore fishing is a great way to enjoy at day at the lake.

For more information, visit the Minnesota DNR Website:
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/takeakidfishing/index.html>



Sheila Murphy, McLeod County Administrator
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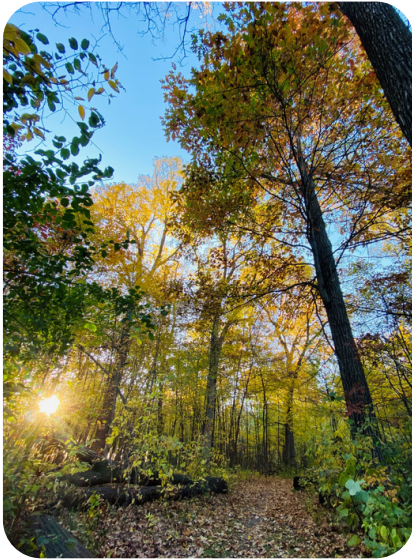
McLeod County Parks:

Campgrounds Open Friday, April 29, 2022

For Reservations: <https://mcleodcounty.perfectmind.com/>



After a seemingly endless winter, filled with cold temperatures and a lot of wind, we are looking forward to warmer weather and outdoor activities. McLeod County Parks and Recreation encourages you to get outside!



Buffalo Creek Park photo by Dan Ehrke

The new PerfectMind campground reservation site launched on March 1st. Remember, if it is your first time camping with McLeod County or your first time using the new PerfectMind reservation system, you will need to create a new account, complete with a username and password.

Once your account registration is complete, you are set to reserve your camping spot at Lake Marion Regional Park or Piepenburg Regional Park. Campgrounds will be open starting Friday, April 29, 2022. Shelter rentals for all six McLeod County parks are also available. The reservation site for both campgrounds and shelters can be found at: <https://mcleodcounty.perfectmind.com/>.

For reservation assistance, please call the McLeod County Parks and Recreation staff at 320-484-4334.

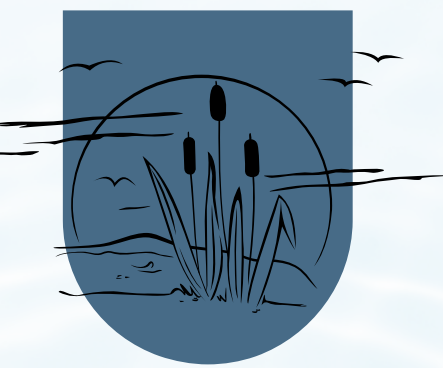
Warmer weather brings many other outdoor opportunities at the parks: hiking, picnics, bird watching, photography opportunities and more! Fishing is big in the spring in Minnesota and McLeod County Parks provide several opportunities. You can find fishing piers at Piepenburg Regional Park, Lake Marion Regional Park and Swan Lake Park. You can also fish the channel at Stahl's Lake Park. The Minnesota walleye opener is Saturday, May 14th; many people take that opportunity to combine two of their favorite pastimes: fishing and camping.

Spring also brings increased activity to the McLeod County Fairgrounds as graduations, confirmations, weddings and other activities begin to fill the calendar. Additionally, the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA) Power Pull returns this June! Continue to keep an eye on the McLeod County website for information as more events are lined up at the Fairgrounds this Spring.

Additional information on camping, shelter rentals or Fairgrounds rentals can be found online at www.mcleodcountymn.gov or by calling the McLeod County Parks and Recreation office at 320-484-4334.



Jon Carrigan,
Parks and Recreation Manager



SPOTLIGHT: Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Shifting Into Spring

Grant Awards

The McLeod County SWCD team has been awarded two different competitive Clean Water Fund Grants in 2022:

- \$218,877 One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Planning grant for administration of the comprehensive watershed management planning process for the South Fork Crow River Watershed
- \$123,546 Multipurpose Drainage Management grant for continuation of the ongoing conservation efforts taking place within the County Ditch 11 Drainage System's watershed.

Pictured (right) is a water and sediment control basin installation within the County Ditch 11 Watershed. This project was completed using 2019 competitive grant funds and is one of many projects aimed to improve water quality by correcting erosion.



Drainage Systems

The SWCD also continues with the implementation of \$1.2 million appropriated to McLeod County Drainage Systems by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to repair systems that were negatively affected by the 2018 snow/flooding event that was deemed a national disaster.

The Redetermination of Benefits process has been recently completed for County Ditches 5, 13 and 29; this allows for an accurate assessment process to those who benefit from the presence of the Drainage System. In many cases, the process brings drainage system watersheds up to date from the 1900s when the drainage systems were first established. The next step for these systems will be to navigate the repair report process: utilizing a consultant and SWCD staff to analyze the existing conditions of the drainage systems and work towards accurately repairing the ditch to allow it to function as it did at the time of establishment.

Water Sampling

Water sampling at two of the County's water courses are underway now that ice-out conditions have occurred; the Buffalo Creek (near Glencoe) and South Fork Crow River (near Lester Prairie). These water courses are sampled in conjunction with snow melt and rain events from spring through October 31, annually, through a partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Data collected from the sampling efforts are used to gauge the health of water courses throughout the state.

Annual Nature Field Day

The Annual Nature Field Day is scheduled for May 10th and May 11th at Piepenburg Regional Park. This event educates area 4th grade students about a variety of outdoor-related topics.

Hosted by SWCD, this event is in its 30th year and continues to be an exceptional partnership with McLeod County Parks and Public Works, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and area volunteers.



Area 4th grade students learn about the Bald Eagle courtesy of the University of Minnesota Raptor Center.

McLEOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Sheila Murphy

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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55336
320.864.1320

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | APRIL 05, 2022 | 9:00AM
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | APRIL 19, 2022 | 9:00AM
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | MAY 03, 2022 | 9:00 AM
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | MAY 17, 2022 | 9:00 AM
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | JUNE 07, 2022 | 9:00 AM
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | JUNE 21, 2022 | 4:30 PM
McLeod County Government Center

BOARD OF APPEALS AND EQUALIZATION | JUNE 21, 2022 | 6:00 PM
McLeod County Government Center



MCLEOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

520 CHANDLER AVENUE N
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA 55350