

M-25: White Rock Motorist Park

Context

White Rock Motorist Park is located along Lake Huron off M-25 in Huron County.

Purpose and Description

The park preserves the natural character of the site and enhances the travel experience. Components of the motorist park include a picnic area, restroom facilities, interpretive signage, stairway to the shoreline, and a carpool lot that accommodates buses. A unique element of the project is the interpretive sign and viewing opportunities for the “White Rock” that marked an 1807 treaty with local tribes.

Public Engagement

The project began with a request from a member of the local historical society. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan was asked to provide input for the interpretive sign. The tribe’s participation helped assure an accurate portrayal of the history and oral tradition related to the significance of White Rock.

Context Sensitive Solutions Approach

The project provides sensitive treatment of the natural, cultural, and historical resources while addressing recreation and transportation needs of local residents and visitors to the Lake Huron shoreline. The stairway allows access to the Lake Huron while protecting the steep slope from erosion. With the exception of the stairway, all park amenities area ADA accessible.

Outcome

The project prevented the loss of this picturesque site to private development and preserved it for public use. White Rock Motorist Park complements the new multi-use non-motorized path along of M-25, installed in 2003 as part of a road maintenance project and funded by a Transportation Enhancement Program grant. The park serves as a trailhead for pedestrians and bicyclists using the non-motorized path. Maintenance of the park will be performed by the Huron County Road Commission through a contractual agreement with MDOT.

Funding

The project, including the purchase of undeveloped waterfront property, was funded by several Transportation Enhancement Program grants. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan provided funding to replace the bronze plaque identifying the White Rock (photo at top of page) that the Daughters of the American Revolution placed on the stone in 1927, but disappeared in the 1950s.



Contact: Cary Rouse, Resource Specialist, Bay Region, 989-754-0878