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FARMPARK IS A LAKE METROPARKS FACILITY.

Farmpark's mission is to help our urban society understand how farmers raise food, fiber, and other products that sustain and enhance human life.

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FROM THE HILLTOP

Capital Improvements at Farmpark

BY ANDY BAKER, FARMPARK ADMINISTRATOR

Every year, Lake Metroparks Farmpark makes capital improvements that make the park more inviting and easier to maintain. This fall, you will see a brand new brick front walkway. This upgrade included the Gwalior statue memorial brick area and the new solar tracker exhibit. The best part of the new walk is not even visible. A concrete pad under the brick with extensive drainage below will eliminate the variable fluctuation of brick and concrete due to freezing and thawing. The drainage will remove water that has seeped into and under the Visitor Center.

This past winter, Farmpark staff installed a lower ceiling in the Dairy to help hold the heat in during winter and provide an insulating space during summer. The ceiling, refurbished walls and new milking canopy are also easier to clean than the dusty rafters. The ceiling and fresh paint reflect new lighting, making the whole dairy brighter. In the Grain Place, a new floor surface was installed and Farmpark staff brightened the walls and posts with new colors.

While Lake Metroparks provides capital resources for most of these improvements, donations also play an important role. The new gazebo and plantings in the picnic area were donated by the Foley family in honor of Robert J. and Mary Ellen Foley. The unique educational features of the grant funded solar tracker were developed by



the donation of extra time and energy on the part of Aaron Godwin and Bob Weinberg of the Renaissance Group. A project slated for this fall will provide more space for storage and displays in the Woodland Center thanks to support from Farmpark members and volunteers Chip and Pat Kulp. Through volunteering, donations and participating in events like the Lake Parks Foundation's Barnyard BBQ Bash, you too can make a difference in the quality of the Farmpark experience.