

Little Sioux Wanderings

**A newsletter from the Little Sioux
Valley Conservation Association and the
O'Brien County Conservation Board
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Fishing Platform at Mill Creek

A new fishing platform will be installed at Mill Creek Park by July 1, 2008. This state-of-the-art dock will offer something for everyone!

The handicap-accessible ramp will provide an easy approach for all. In the center of the dock, a railed opening will allow fishing from all sides. In addition, an aerator and night light will be installed in this opening. The aerator will keep ice off the water during the winter allowing for easy ice fishing through the center of the dock. The night light will attract insects and literally throw them into the water over the opening feeding the fish and drawing them in for great fishing during summer nights!

The platform was designed to improve fish habitat as well. Aeration will increase the oxygen content of the water during the winter and will also help to decrease stratification in the lake providing a more unified habitat for the fish. Plastic pipe reefs will be attached to the bottom of the platform and suspended down into the water below. These structures, as well as the boulder and sand/gravel substrate adjacent to the platform, will provide the necessary habitat for spawning, feeding and growth of the fisheries population.

This project, benefiting both the fish populations and the anglers, was funded in part through the Fish Habitat Grant Program sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



The platform will include an open section housing the aerator and will be lit from above with a lighting source.



Once the bugs come to the light, an electric motor with weed-eater type blade, knocks the bugs into the water. --- Dinner is served!