

The Will S. Kendrick Sports Complex Dedication Ceremony
April 4, 2008 – Will S. Kendrick Sports Complex
Van W. Johnson, Sr., Director Parks & Recreation Department
Welcome Speech

Good afternoon – it is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to welcome you to the grand opening and dedication of the Will S. Kendrick Sports Complex.

This facility was carved out of 89-acres of land purchased by the County from the St. Joe Company for the sole purpose of building a sports complex that would accommodate the immediate needs of the community and have enough room for future growth.

The facility consists of a three quarter mile paved walking track, a high school size football/soccer field, five lighted baseball fields, a basketball court, volleyball court, a kids playground area and picnic pavilions.

The County obtained funding for construction through a series of grants and special legislature appropriations and opted to construct the facility in-house using their Public Works Department and labor provided by the Franklin Correctional Institution and the Bay City Work Camp.

The result is that we now have a well-planned park where our children can gather to enjoy the outdoors, play ball and have birthday parties.

Your presence here this afternoon demonstrates your support and understanding that our greatest obligation is to our children and families, and that the buildings of safe parks is essential their health and well-being.

For this, thank you and again welcome.