

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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From July through Mid-September, the display at the CoBACH Center, located on Main street in Brighton next to the Millpond is entitled, "Let's Go Camping." This is an extensive display of the many camps around the Brighton Area. Below is just a sample of what will be on display. If you want to learn the "rest of the story," please plan a visit to the CoBACH Center.

The Charles Howell Boy Scout Camp located on Brighton Lake was widely regarded as one of the finest scout camps in America. Brighton Lake started out as the Herbst Pond. Charles Howell purchased 280 acres of land for \$28,000. Intended for development, the depression diminished the idea. During the depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planted thousands of pine trees.... *(Visit CoBACH Center to find out more about this camp and the fond memories that many from Brighton have.)*

"Let's Go Camping" — Recreational Camps of the Area

Overview

When the territorial land was being bought up from the government in the area, land with lakes was looked upon as wasted acreage. No crops could be grown on them. No trees harvested for buildings. The belief of fever and ague were blamed on the wetlands.

Who would have thought that less than a century later that the same "wasted acreage" would become a very popular and desired area! Brighton area boasted to have "50 lakes in a 5 mile radius." Many natural, some man-made, with dams along the many creeks.

Island Lake, and the adjoining lakes of Fonda and Briggs became the most popular and one of the earliest park areas. With easy access by train, which stopped at Island Lake from Detroit, and by car, with the fine gravel Grand River Trail, vacationers flocked to the Brighton area... *(To find out more about this park, visit CoBACH Center to see the display.)*

Crooked Lake: Its camping history goes back to 1897 when Laughlin and Henderson, who operated a store in the town of "Chilson," bought the north island and built a cottage on it. This has been said to be one of the earliest lake cottages or camps in the area.... *(The rest of the story can be found by visiting CoBACH Center to see the entire display.)*

Burroughs Recreation Camp: Burroughs Adding Machine Company purchased and developed a resort/camping area for their employees. The resort had beaches, cabins, camping, fishing, boating, etc. Opening Memorial weekend 1927, and by midsummer had issued 3800 passes to employees to come to "The Farm."... *(More information on this camp is available at the CoBACH Center display.)*

(This is a fascinating display of camps in and around the Brighton area. We hope you will stop by the CoBACH Center and find out more information and view the current display. Thanks to Mindy Kinsey for compiling this information from the Society's archives.)



Island Lake



Charles Howell Boy Scout Camp