



Register photo/TOM JACKSON

Two Erie MetroParks employees, Osborn Park Manager Jay Yochem, right, and maintenance technician Bruce Garlock, demonstrate the parks system's new portable sawmill in a parking lot at Osborn Park.

Erie MetroParks takes delivery of portable sawmill

By **TOM JACKSON**

tomjackson@sanduskyregister.com

HURON

Erie MetroParks plans to use its new portable sawmill to turn hundreds of ash trees into lumber for park projects, says Jon Granville, director-secretary of the parks system.

Before Wednesday's meeting of the parks board at Osborn Park, two park employees demonstrated the sawmill, using it to slice up part of a trunk from a pine tree.

Parks officials believe their ash trees are doomed to destruction by the emerald ash borer, so they plan to use the sawmill to salvage lumber from the trees. The first project for the

sawmill will be to produce a fence and rails for the planned dog park at Osborn Park.

Erie MetroParks paid \$18,940 for the sawmill. Most of the cost was covered by \$16,550 in donations. Donors included Schlessman Seeds, the Dog Park Committee, Fred Deering, Friends of Erie MetroParks, Great Lake Tires Inc., Hoty 250 Water Ltd., Foster Chevrolet-Cadillac Inc., Gardner Insurance Agency and Dr. James Wysor.

During the meeting, Granville reported to parks board members Micah Vawters and Tom Dusza the family of the late Paul Kreidler has donated \$1,134 for a memorial bench that will be located inside the new

dog park.

Kreidler liked to walk his dog at Osborn Park and was a member of the Pioneer Power Association, which displays old farm equipment. He was a good friend of the parks, Granville said.

"We were disappointed to learn he had passed away. This is an appropriate memorial location," Granville said.

Parking lots in the various parks are being stocked with new brochures directing visitors to nearby restaurants, hotels and gift shops, Granville said. Businesses that responded to invitations from Erie MetroParks are being listed as a free service.