



Lorain County Metro Parks

2013 Annual Report to the
Citizens of Lorain County



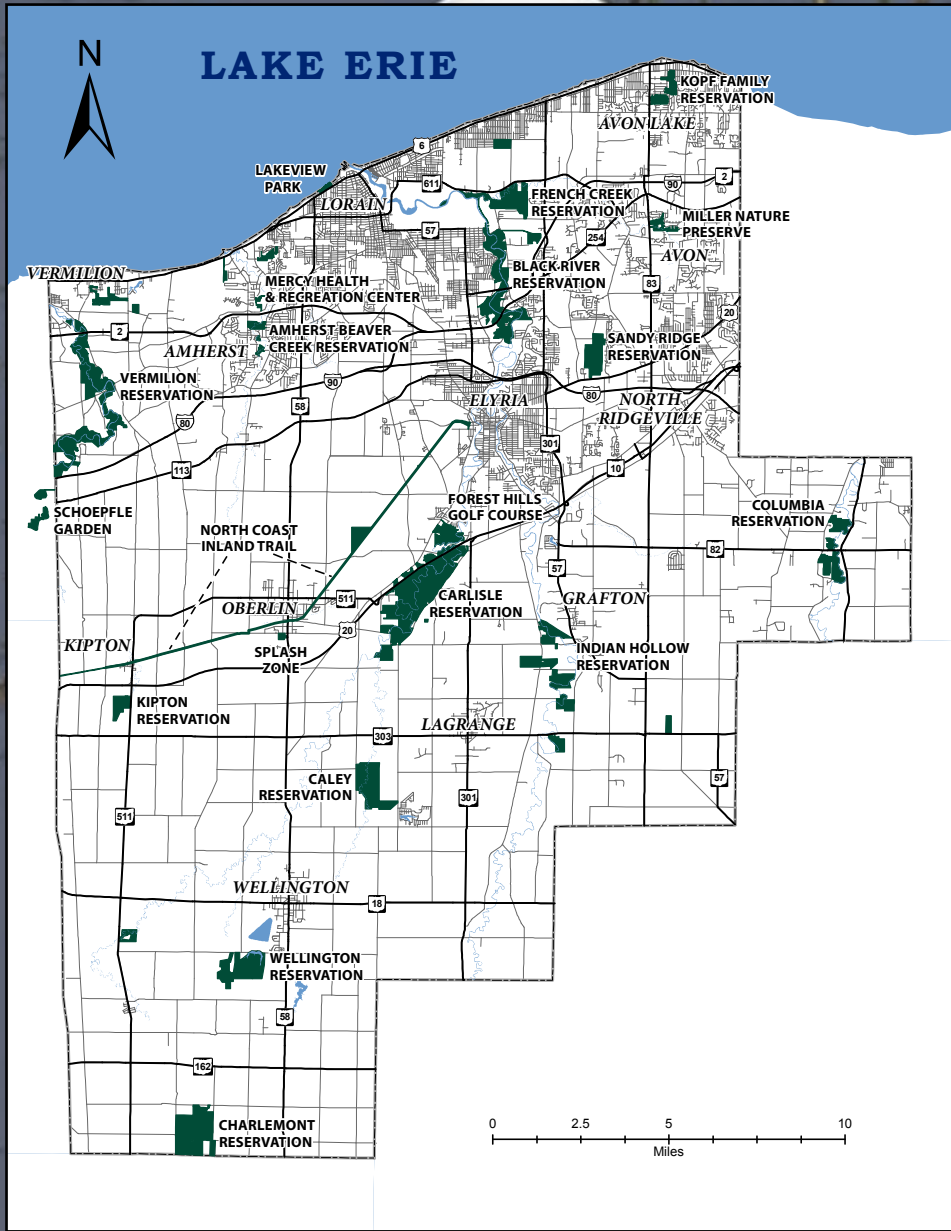
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THE LORAIN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

was established in 1957 by the Lorain County Probate Court. Under the provisions of Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, Lorain County Metro Parks is a special district operating as a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The Metro Parks provide residents with the preservation of open space, conservation, education and outdoor recreation programs and facilities.

Funding for the Metro Parks is provided primarily by a 1.3 mill countywide property tax levy. Other sources of income include grants, gifts and bequests along with fees generated from the Forest Hills Golf Course, Splash Zone, Miller Nature Preserve, Mercy Health & Recreation Center and facility rentals.

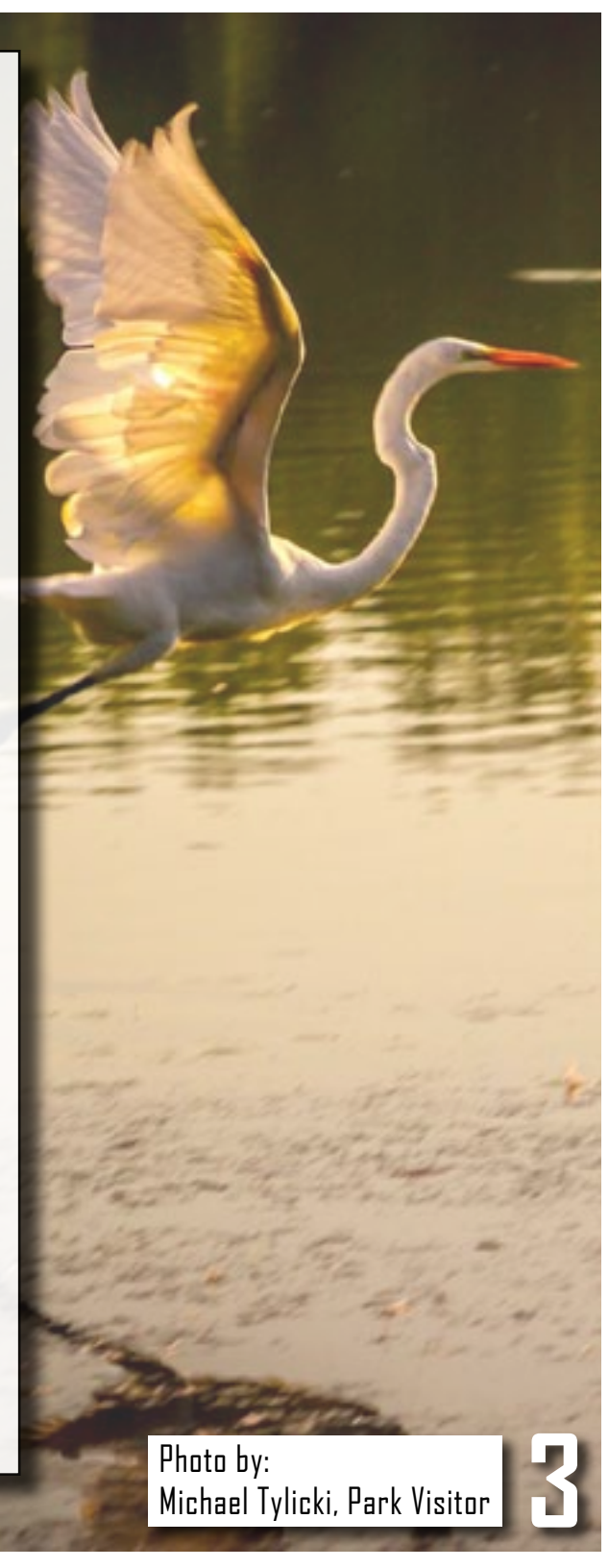


Photo by:
Michael Tylicki, Park Visitor

LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Lorain County Metro Parks is governed by a three-member Board of Park Commissioners, who are appointed by the Lorain County Probate Court Judge and serve without pay.



FREDERICK L. ALSPACH SHERRILL M. MCLODA ROBERT M. CAMPANA

The Board of Park Commissioners is responsible for policy and decision making. The Director/Secretary is responsible for the daily management of the Metro Parks. The Lorain County Metro Parks staff is comprised of 68 full-time and 10 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 160 seasonal staff members in the summer months. Fourteen members of the Metro Parks' ranger staff are certified Ohio Peace Officers. The rangers are responsible for public safety in the Metro Parks and are also assigned park maintenance and supervisory duties. Other staff members maintain ties and conduct educational programming and special event activities in the park district.

*DIRECTOR/
SECRETARY*



JAMES E. ZIEMNIK

*PROBATE COURT
JUDGE*



JAMES T. WALTHER

FRIENDS OF THE METRO PARKS IN LORAIN COUNTY, INC.

Volunteer Support is an essential element to the success of the Metro Parks. Over the past year, volunteers donated over 25,000 hours of their time to the Metro Parks. Friends of Metro Parks in Lorain County Inc. now totals over 450 members.



FRIENDS BOARD



NEW THIS YEAR:

SANTA SHOP

Set up at Carlisle Visitor Center Dec. 16 and 23 during Holiday lights. A place where children 12 and under can buy special gifts for mom, dad, aunts, uncles and siblings, with Free gift wrapping.

8TH ANNUAL MUSICAL MYSTERY DINNER

Win, Lose or Die sponsored by Friends. This years' production featured a game show theme. Dinner was catered by Sterk's.

AVON HERITAGE DUCT TAPE FESTIVAL

June 16, Friends entered a float in the parade featuring activities within the parks, including biking, hiking, butterflies, Holiday Lights, Halloween fair and canoeing just to name a few. All made out of duct tape, the building of the float was a group effort which paid off with a 2nd place win!

LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS DISTRICT 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



MERCY HEALTH & RECREATION CENTER



In February, Lorain County Metro Parks opened Mercy Health & Recreation Center. Located off Cooper Foster Park Road in Amherst, the project represents a partnership between the park district and Mercy Hospital. The 50,000 square foot facility is home to the hospital's physical, speech and occupational services, while the recreation center features an eight-lane swimming pool, therapy pool, cardio and circuit fitness area, walking track, cycling room, three aerobics rooms and locker rooms. The project was made possible through the generous land donations of the Hollstein and Campana families.

THE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT HOLLSTEIN RESERVATION



The Inclusive Playground at Hollstein Reservation officially opened in July. The playground was created in conjunction with The Lorain County Department of Developmental Disabilities, Murray Ridge Center and several families that have children impacted by a disability. The playground includes 17 play spaces featuring nature play, structured play and aquatics play, for children of all abilities. In its first year the playground had more than 4,000 visitors.



TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

MILLER NATURE PRESERVE NEW TRAIL

A half mile long gravel trail was constructed and opened in 2013 at Miller Nature Preserve. The six foot wide trail offers a relaxing hike through forested wetland and over a small footbridge before it connects with the Arbor Acres subdivision. The trail provides great access to Miller Nature Preserve for the local schools and residents.



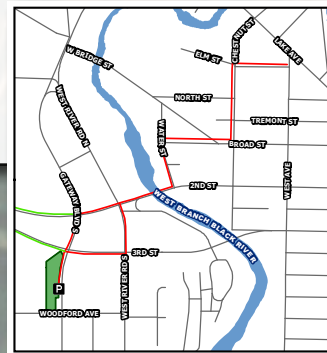
SAUTER PROPERTY

In the fall of 2013, eighty seven acres of land was purchased on the border of LaGrange and Grafton Townships with the help of the Clean Ohio Fund and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Known as the Sauter property, this land resides along the East Branch of the Black River and hosts a diverse landscape including farmland, forest, floodplain and wetlands.



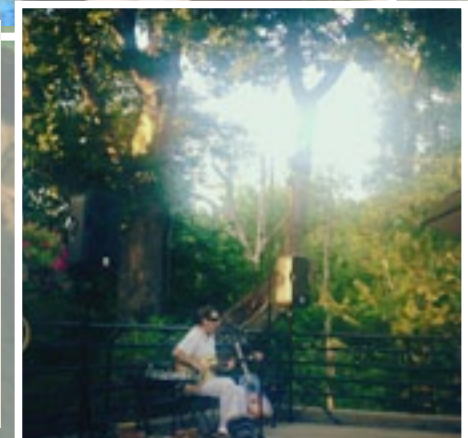
BRIDGEWAY TRAIL EXTENSION

The most recent phase of the Black River Bikeway has been completed which connects the trailhead of the North Coast Inland Trail on Gateway Boulevard to the Elyria Police Station near Cascade Park. The one mile multi-use path is part of a federally funded regional bikeway plan that will connect the City of Lorain to the North Coast Inland Trail in the City of Elyria, and ultimately westward to the City of Toledo.



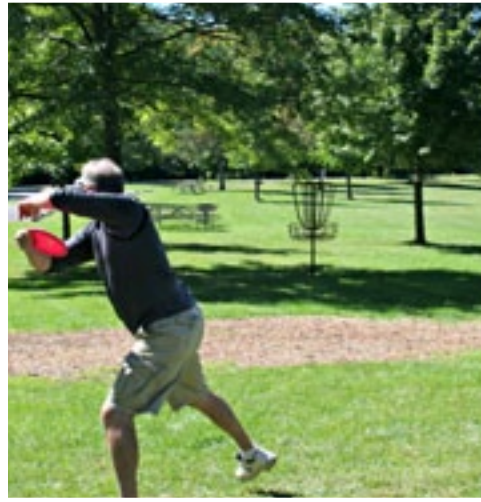
ARTS IN THE PARK SERIES

Lorain County Metro Parks expanded its musical offerings in 2013 with the Arts in the Park series. The series added Miller Nature Preserve and French Creek Nature & Arts Center to the district's many outdoor concert venues. Music Under the Stars and the Sunset Concert Series continued at Lakeview Park along with the Summer Concert Series at Mill Hollow entertaining thousands of Lorain County residents.



NEW DISC GOLF COURSE

The park district's newest recreational opportunity came in the form of disc golf. A 9-hole disc golf course was installed in the Bacon Woods area of Vermilion River Reservation. Spanning open fields, along ponds and through tall grass, the players enjoy a wide array of scenic and challenging terrain.



SPLASH ZONE POOL DECK REFINISHING

In its 11th year, the Splash Zone indoor pool was in need of a face lift. The park district invested in a new, anti-slip surface for the pool deck. The remodel shut down the pool for about 6 weeks, but the outcome was well worth the wait. The project is the first of more to come for Splash Zone.



TRUENORTH PERFORMANCES

The 2013 theatre season, in collaboration with TrueNorth Cultural Arts, was record-breaking with several sold out performances. Productions included the hits *Miracle Worker*, *West Side Story*, *Happy Days*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Shrek, The Musical*. Nearly 10,000 people visited French Creek Nature & Arts Center for the many concert, visual arts and theatre offerings.



"THERE'S A PARK FOR THAT" CAMPAIGN

2013 was the year of "There's a Park That". A rebranding campaign was kicked off by asking our visitors to participate in a photo contest showing them having fun in the parks. Their photos were then featured in the local weekly and daily newspapers. With the grand prized winner featured in a commercial.



Mark Teleha of Lorain, *Photographer*

CASCADE PARK

In 2013, Lorain County Metro Parks entered into an agreement with the City of Elyria to restore and maintain Cascade Park. The park district saw this as an excellent opportunity because of the parks regional significance. Work on the project is expected to begin in early 2015.



SUMMER CAMPS



Summer Camps offered a variety of fun with Outdoor Adventure, Nature, Birding and Fishing camps for kids of all ages. Family camp offered a new and unique opportunity to celebrate nature with the entire family. We are looking forward to 2014 camps for more fun.

MILL HOLLOW CAR SHOW

Mill Hollow Classic Cruisin' Car Show broke all attendance records this year with over 14,000 visitors. This annual event in its 15th year is one of Ohio's largest car shows with all cars over 25 years old.



ADVENTURE FEST

This annual family fun filled event takes place at Mill Hollow Bacon Wood in July. Activities include rock climbing wall, pony rides, fishing derby, birds of prey program and more. You will hear live music and see a variety of local vendors selling arts, crafts and produce.

LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS PROGRAMS

In 2013, the Lorain County Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 498 requested programs (those programs requested by outside groups) and 1,491 public programs (those listed in the ARROWHEAD, the District's newsletter) with nearly 150,000 people in attendance.

METRO PARKS FACILITY USE ROOM AND PROGRAMS

	Reservations	Attendance
Requested Programs	498	19,972
Public Programs	1,491	98,228
Senior Citizen Buss Tours	82	1,535
Halloween Fair		20,809
Holiday Lights		12,886
Amherst Beaver Creek	461	17,842
Carlisle Visitor Center	636	25,339
Forest Hills		20,000
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	93	3,063
Mill Hollow, Carriage Barn	542	28,367
Miller Nature Preserve	42	681
TrueNorth Cultural Arts:		
Concerts		417
Mainstage Theatre		7,868
Family Life Series		2,235
Sandy Ridge, Johnson Wetland Center	181	6,470
Schoepfle Garden	95	19,11

METRO PARKS DAY-USE VISITORS

Amherst Beaver Creek	115,000	North Coast	
Black River	185,692	Inland Trail	126,719
Caley	5,736	Sandy Ridge	51,902
Carlisle	184,587	Lakeview	879,026
Columbia	62,369	Schoepfle Garden	56,194
French Creek	181,027	Splash Zone	382,652
Indian Hollow	54,102	Vermilion	150,195
Mercy Health &		Wellington	84,508
Recreation Center	353,063		
Miller Nature Preserve	33,670	TOTAL	2,906,440

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013

REVENUE

Property Tax	\$7,769,806.10
Interest on Investments	\$2,448.57
Schoepfle Trust	\$316,937.93
Forest Hills Golf Course	\$286,344.50
Grants	\$1,380,803.71
Fees and Charges	\$666,344.05
Miller Nature Preserve	\$65,048.29
Theatre	\$88,086.91
Splash Zone	\$628,047.12
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	\$786,490.64
TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,990,357.82

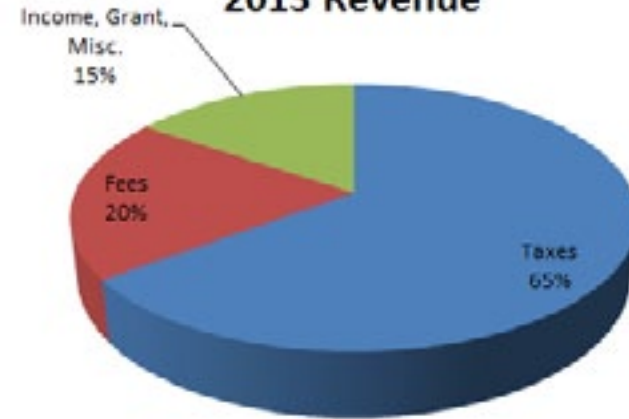
EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$3,451,938.49
Employee Benefits	\$1,176,532.36
Supplies	\$82,131.35
Programs	\$97,205.20
Materials	\$730,781.10
Repairs/Rentals	\$43,795.97
Utilities/Service	\$1,184,087.44
Advertising/Displays/Printing	\$151,620.61
Projects	\$79,585.60
Seminars/Training	\$13,237.96
Designated Donations	\$107,007.39
Equipment	\$235,176.06
Land Acquisition	\$67,101.36
Capital Improvements/Contracts	\$2,297,867.69
Grants/Misc	\$1,380,803.37
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,098,871.95

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

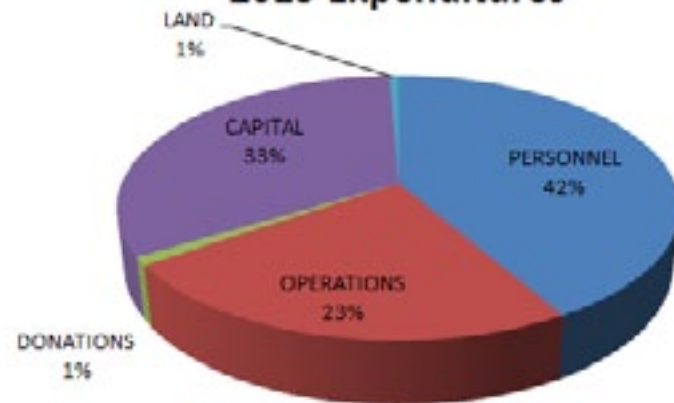
Ohio Revised Code Section 1545.08 requires that park districts periodically publish a report to the citizens summarizing the district's activities. This report is intended to fulfill this requirement. Other reports regarding specific programs or facilities are available annually. If you have any questions concerning this publication, please contact Lorain County Metro Parks at (440) 458-5121. Unless otherwise noted, numbers in this report were accurate as of January 1, 2014.

2013 Revenue



Taxes	\$7,769,806.10	65%
Fees	\$2,366,534.26	20%
Income, Grants, Misc	\$1,854,017.46	15%
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	\$11,990,357.82	

2013 Expenditures



Personnel	\$4,628,470.85	42%
Operations	\$2,617,621.29	23%
Donations	\$107,007.39	1%
Capital	\$3,678,671.06	33%
Land	\$67,101.36	1%
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	\$11,098,871.95	



LORAIN
COUNTY
METRO
PARKS