



Lorain County Metro Parks

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CITIZENS OF LORAIN COUNTY

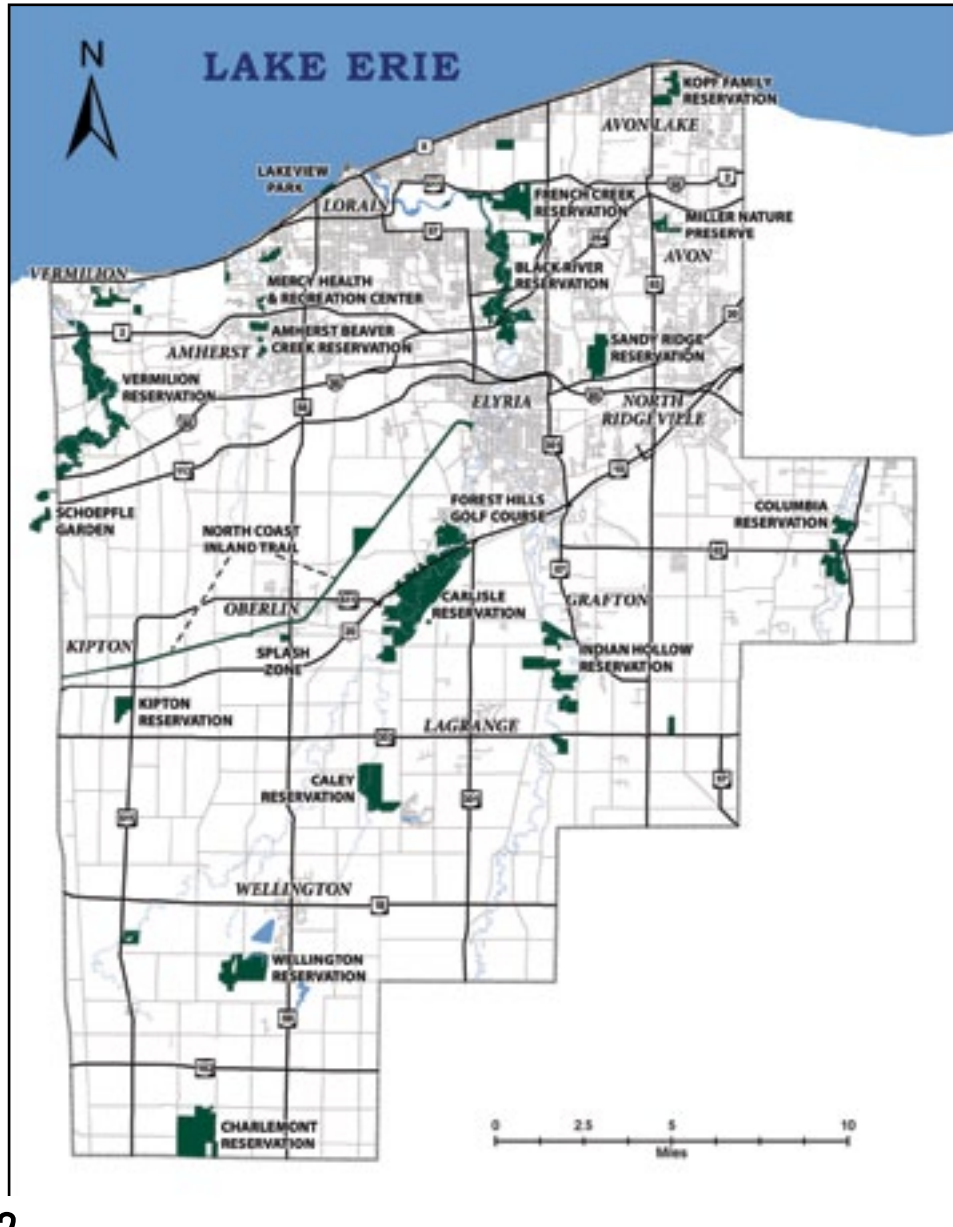
12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Phone: (440) 458-5121

www.MetroParks.cc



ABOUT THE PARK DISTRICT



Visitor Center at Wellington Reservation

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.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



**FREDERICK L.
ALSPACH**



**SHERRILL M.
MCLODA**



**ROBERT M.
CAMPANA**

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.

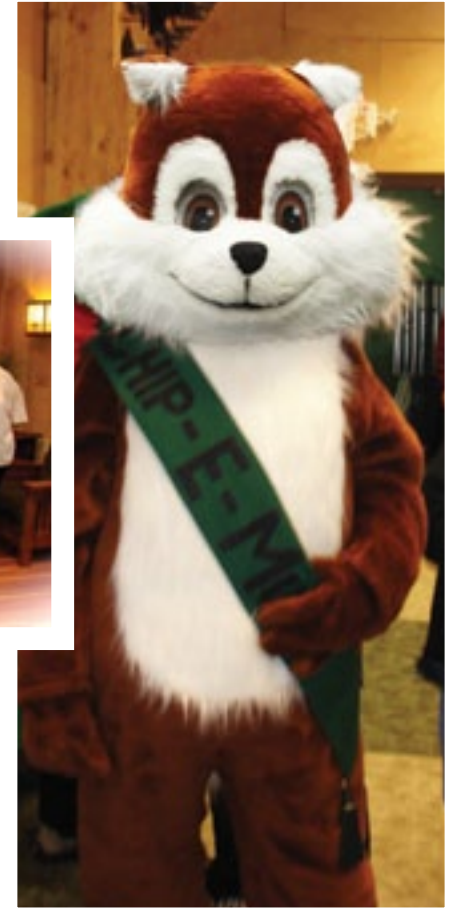


**Director/Secretary
JAMES E. ZIEMNIK**



**Probate Court Judge
JAMES T. WALTHER**

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.



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.

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Yard signs displayed during levy campaign

LEVY PASSED

On Nov. 4, 2014, Lorain County Metro Parks went on the ballot asking Lorain County taxpayers to support a 1.3 mill renewal and 0.3 mill increase. The Park District won with 59% voting yes on the campaign. During the campaign Lorain County Metro Parks' officials touted "Connectivity" as the theme for the next 10 years.



One of many print ads used during campaign

ROYAL OAKS ACQUIRED

The former Royal Oaks Golf Course was acquired at the end of 2014. The 97 acre parcel will give park visitors new trail experiences. Royal Oaks will be added to the existing Indian Hollow Reservation.



Map of Royal Oaks property

KOPF STORYBOOK TRAIL

In partnership with the Avon Lake Public Library, a Storybook Trail was added to a portion of trails in the Kopf Family Reservation. Park visitors can enjoy a story as they walk.

Story Book Trail now open



The Chronicle Telegram on the Storybook Trail



ARTS IN THE PARK

The 2014 outdoor concert season was well received this year. The Park District put on more than 30 outdoor concerts at Miller Nature Preserve, Lakeview Park, Vermilion River Reservation, Columbia Reservation and French Creek Nature & Arts Center.



Music Under the Stars at Lakeview Park



Music Under the Stars at Lakeview Park



Music Under the Stars at Lakeview Park



Arts in the Park Series at Miller Nature Preserve



Man of La Mancha



Of Mice and Men



A Christmas Story: The Musical



The Addams Family

TRUENORTH THEATRE

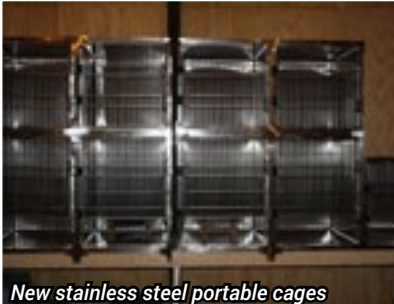
This season, theatre-goers were entertained by such notable works as Man of La Mancha, Of Mice & Men, The Addams Family and A Christmas Story, The Musical. More than 6,000 tickets were sold for the Main Stage theatre season.

RAPTOR CENTER RENOVATIONS

Through a generous donation by the Friends of Lorain County Metro Parks, the Raptor Center at Carlisle Visitor Center is now equipped with stainless steel, portable cages. The cages will allow us to house sick birds or transfer them in the event of another “polar vortex”. The Raptor Center also underwent some renovations, making working conditions more comfortable for our staff and volunteers.



New insulated walls inside the Raptor Center



New stainless steel portable cages



Red-Tailed Hawk

ECHO THE PARROT

Miller Nature Preserve has a new resident. Echo is a Yellow-naped Amazon. Echo previously lived in another greenhouse and was donated to us when it shut down. We look forward to using Echo for educational programming.



Echo the Parrot at Miller Nature Preserve



Eurasian Wigeon located on the left (red head) photographed at Sandy Ridge Reservation

**Photo Credit: Dane Adams*

SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION RARE BIRD SIGHTING

Since 1995, 240 bird species have been recorded at the spectacular Sandy Ridge Reservation. This year had some particularly impressive sightings! The Eurasian Wigeon- a “celebrity” duck which normally is found in Asia and Europe drew birders from all over the state. There were articles in The Plain Dealer, Chronicle-Telegram, Columbus Dispatch, and Toledo Blade, as well on several websites. Other new birds that were added to the list were the red-necked Grebe and the Prairie Warbler. Repeats but rarities included the Little Blue Heron and Wilson’s Phalarope.

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL REST AREA

Lorain County Metro Parks partnered with Silver Wheels Bicycle Club and Swerve Bike Shop in Oberlin to build a rest area on the North Coast Inland Trail. The platform features picnic tables and a bike rack on a longer stretch of the trail between.



Ribbon cutting at new rest stop along the North Coast Inland Trail



LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS PROGRAMS

In 2014, the Lorain County Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 360 requested programs (those programs requested by outside groups) and 1,468 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	360	15,542
Public Programs	1,468	72,736
Senior Citizen Buss Tours	168	3,746
Halloween Fair		21,767
Holiday Lights		22,124
Amherst Beaver Creek	407	15,236
Carlisle Visitor Center	657	31,601
Forest Hills		19,054
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	257	7,457
Mill Hollow, Carriage Barn	630	35,004
Miller Nature Preserve	71	899
TrueNorth Cultural Arts:		
Concerts		1,095
Mainstage Theatre		4,714
Family Life Series		1,720
Sandy Ridge, Johnson Wetland Center	235	8,031
Schoepfle Garden	123	1,731

METRO PARKS DAY-USE VISITORS

Amherst Beaver Creek	88,060	North Coast	
Black River	259,854	Inland Trail	26,930
Caley	9,860	Sandy Ridge	112,536
Carlisle	240,120	Lakeview	778,442
Columbia	98,628	Schoepfle Garden	83,962
French Creek	359,276	Splash Zone	366,725
Indian Hollow	75,826	Vermilion	243,054
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	365,053	Wellington	124,924
Miller Nature Preserve	75,230	TOTAL	3,308,480

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

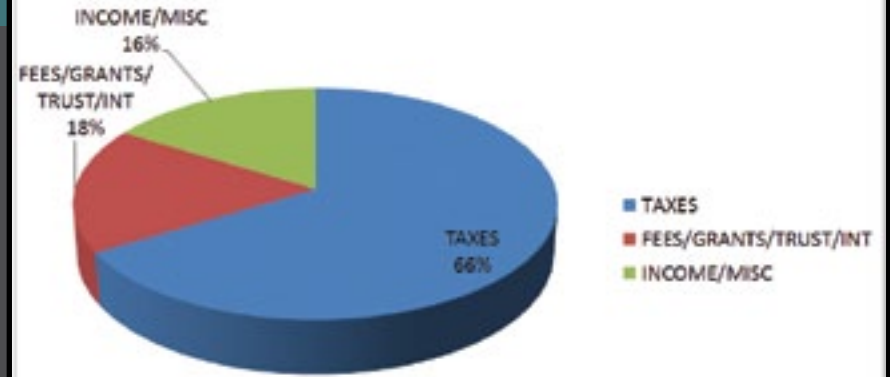
REVENUE

Property Tax	\$7,900,328.45
Interest on Investments	\$1,916.84
Schoepfle Trust	\$307,491.15
Forest Hills Golf Course	\$264,033.76
Grants	\$1,142,533.01
Fees and Charges	\$644,655.82
Miller Nature Preserve	\$58,472.57
Theatre	\$68,331.69
Splash Zone	\$625,440.33
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	\$914,075.76
TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,927,279.38

EXPENDITURES

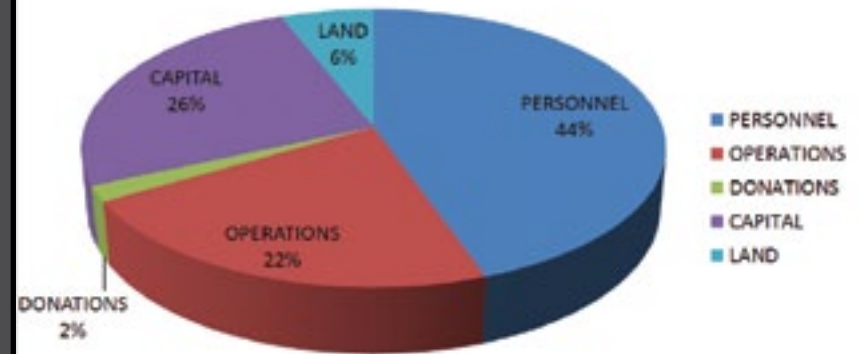
Salaries	\$3,617,997.94
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$1,322,086.50
Supplies	\$79,956.16
Programs	\$93,262.82
Materials	\$523,855.60
Repairs/Rentals	\$49,109.66
Utilities/Service	\$1,187,690.49
Advertising/Displays/Printing	\$149,017.25
Projects	\$78,845.36
Seminars/Training	\$16,811.29
Designated Donations	\$198,892.24
Equipment	\$249,301.20
Land Acquisition	\$662,659.19
Capital Improvements/Contracts	\$1,348,863.67
Grants/Misc	\$1,496,029.32
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,074,378.69

2014 REVENUES



Taxes	\$7,900,328.45	66%
Fees, Grants, Trust, Int	\$2,096,596.82	18%
Income, Misc	\$1,930,354.11	16%
TOTAL	\$11,927,279.38	

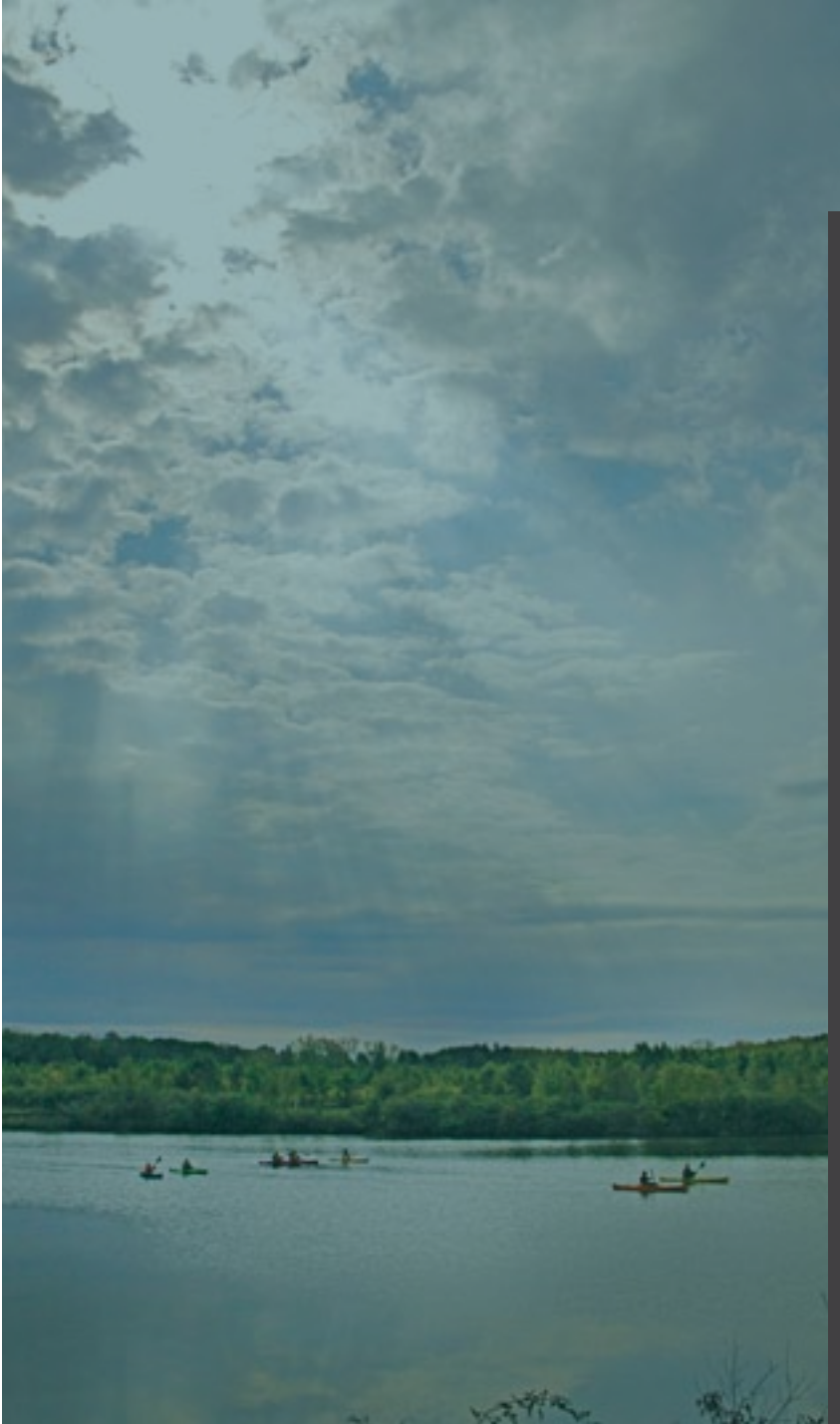
2014 EXPENDITURES



Personnel	\$4,940,084.44	44%
Operations	\$2,427,849.83	22%
Donations	\$198,892.24	2%
Capital	\$2,844,892.99	26%
Land	\$662,659.19	6%
TOTAL	\$11,074,378.69	

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, 2015.



12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050
Phone: (440) 458-5121
www.MetroParks.cc