

1999
**LORAIN COUNTY
METRO PARKS**
Report to the Citizens of Lorain County



LORAIN
COUNTY
METRO
PARKS

**Lorain County Metro Parks
Visitor and
Administrative Center**

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LaGrange, OH 44050
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Board of Park Commissioners

Stanley G. Pijor

Kirk E. Stewart

Sherrill M. McLoda



Director/Secretary
James D. Martin



Probate Court Judge
Frank J. Horvath

YOUR METRO PARKS

- ◆ Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation
- ◆ North Coast Inland trail
- ◆ Black River Reservation
- ◆ Caley Reservation
- ◆ Carlisle Reservation
- ◆ Charlemont Reservation
- ◆ Forest Hills Golf Center
- ◆ French Creek Reservation
- ◆ Indian Hollow Reservation
- ◆ Kipton Reservation
- ◆ Sandy Ridge Reservation
- ◆ Schoepfle Garden
- ◆ Vermilion River (Mill Hollow) Reservation

ABOUT THE LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

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 one mill countywide property tax levy. Other sources of income include grants, gifts and bequests along with fees generated from the golf course, nature programs and facility rentals.

Lorain County Metro Parks is governed by a three-member, unpaid Board of Park Commissioners appointed by the Lorain County Probate Court Judge. 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 under the oversight of the Board.

The Lorain County Metro Parks staff is comprised of 37 full-time and 17 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 55 seasonal staff members in the summer months. Ten members of the Metro Parks ranger staff are certified Ohio Peace Officers. The rangers are responsible for public safety in the Metro Parks as well as assigned park maintenance and supervisory duties. Other staff members maintain reservations, perform administrative and accounting duties, conduct educational programming and special event activities in the park district.

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. The organization known as The Friend of Metro Parks in Lorain County, Inc., now totals over 500 members.

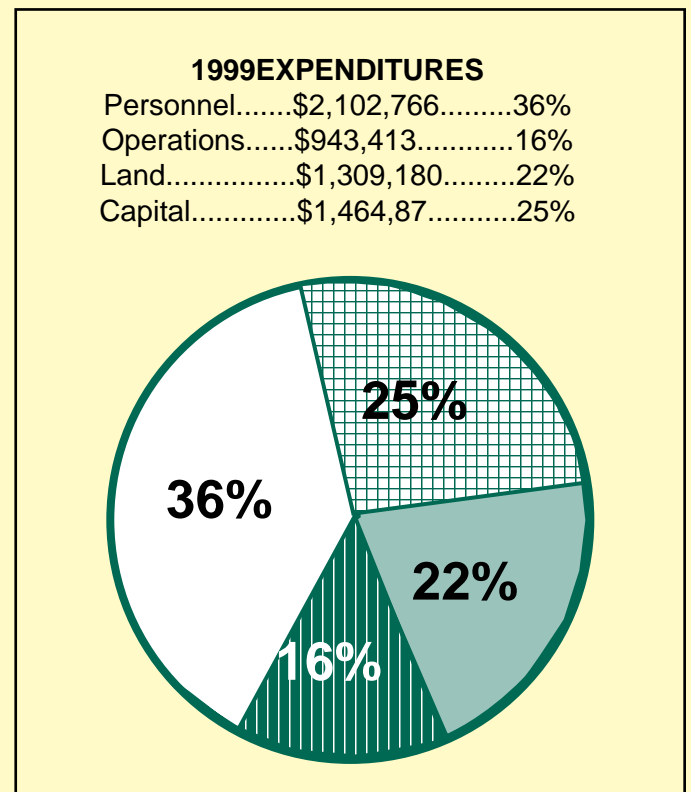
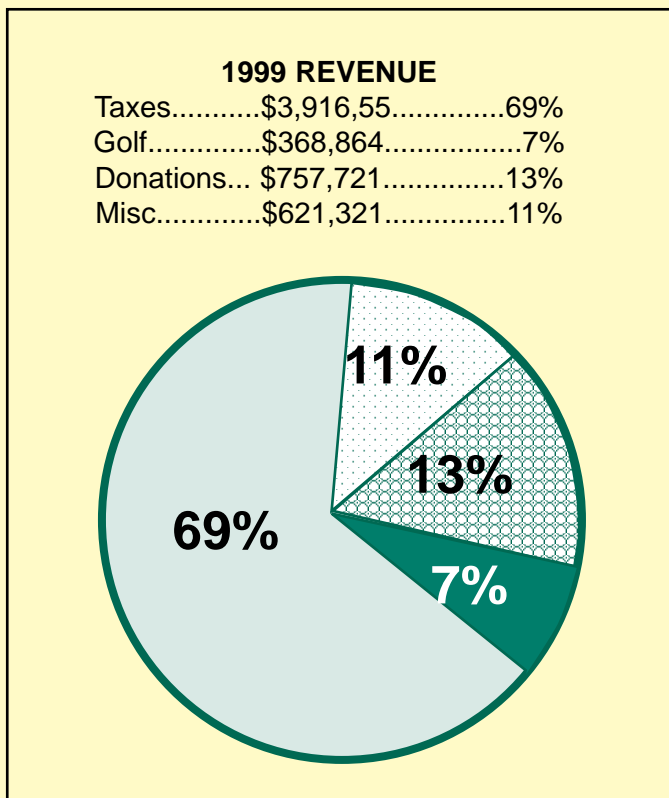
FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1999

FUND SOURCES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Property Tax..... | \$3,916,550 |
| Local Government Funds..... | 18,000 |
| Interest on Investments..... | 175,483 |
| Schoepfle Trust..... | 228,330 |
| Forest Hills Golf Course..... | 368,864 |
| Grants..... | 85,787 |
| Fees and Charges..... | 47,155 |
| Corporate Sponsors..... | 13,550 |
| Donations - General..... | 35,566 |
| Donations - Amherst Park..... | 438,875 |
| Donations - Aquatic Center..... | 1,050 |
| Wetland Mitigation Program..... | 168,460 |
| Koppenhafer Bequest..... | 40,350 |
| Reimbursements/Miscellaneous..... | 126,436 |
| TOTAL REVENUE..... | \$5,664,456 |

FUND USES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries..... | \$1,648,961 |
| Employee Fringe Benefits..... | 453,803 |
| Supplies..... | 29,491 |
| Programs..... | 34,838 |
| Materials/ Projects..... | 251,591 |
| Repairs/Rentals..... | 21,238 |
| Utilities/Services..... | 206,855 |
| Advertising/Displays/Printing..... | 107,225 |
| Seminars/Training..... | 8,257 |
| Insurance/Other Expense..... | 69,150 |
| Designated Donations..... | 72,511 |
| Equipment..... | 142,257 |
| Land Acquisition..... | 1,309,180 |
| Capital Improvements/Contracts..... | 1,464,871 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES..... | \$5,820,230 |



About this Publication

Ohio Revised Code Section 1545.08 requires that park districts periodically publish a report to the citizens summarizing the districts' 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, 2000.

PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 1999, the Lorain County Metro Parks made a number of improvements and achieved numerous goals. The most significant are detailed below.



◆ **The Sandy Ridge Reservation and Perry F. Johnson Wetland Center** were opened in North Ridgeville. This 309 acre park was funded with \$1.5 million in wetland mitigation fees, a NatureWorks grant and by

funds from an Ohio Department of Transportation road improvement project.

◆ The park features over 100 acres of restored wetlands, 1.5 miles of trails, a playground and picnic area, and the Perry F. Johnson Wetland Center.

◆ The Johnson Wetland Center houses public restrooms, an office for Park employees, and a meeting room which may be rented by the public when it is not being used for Park District activities. Call (440) 458-5121 or 1-800-LCM-PARK for more information.



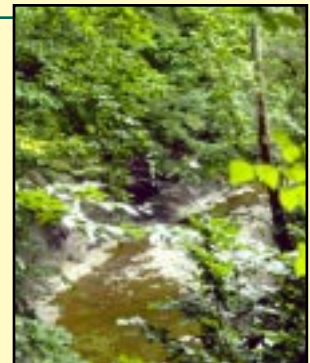
◆ **Renovation of the entrance for the Schoepfle Garden** in Birmingham was completed in September. Funded by the Schoepfle Trust, this project included a new parking lot, entry garden,

stage and gathering area.

◆ The third and final phase of the Forest Hills Golf Course cart path improvements were completed. Drainage improvements were installed on holes 1, 9, 10 and 18. The ponds on holes 2 and 11 were drained and renovated.

◆ The 50 foot high bank behind the French Creek Nature Center in Sheffield Village was stabilized using a pre-engineered fabric material to prevent erosion.

◆ **The Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation** fundraising effort was completed with \$572,875 being pledged. A NatureWorks grant was received for approximately one-third of the cost to construct the new enclosed shelter. Groundbreaking occurred in early October.



◆ **In May, philanthropist Eric Nord proposed the development of a regional family aquatic center.**

The Park Board conducted a public opinion survey which demonstrated over 90% support for the project, which will cost approximately \$5 million.

Mr. Nord pledged to raise \$2 million, the City of Oberlin \$1.5 million, and Oberlin College \$500,000. A capital committee has been formed to raise the balance of the funds.

This facility will be located near the intersection of Rt. 58 and Hamilton Street south of Oberlin.

◆ **The Park District** acquired additional property in Amherst (20 acres) and Columbia Station (70 acres) with wetland mitigation funds.

◆ **The 119-acre Yarish homestead** was added to the Indian Hollow Reservation in Grafton Township.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The citizens, businesses and foundations of Lorain County were very generous to the Park District in 1999.

Detailed below are the most significant contributions:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Amherst Park Fund..... | \$438,875 |
| NatureWorks Grant for P.F. Johnson Wetland Center..... | \$67,000 |
| Corporate Sponsorships..... | \$13,000 |
| General Donations and Memorial Gifts..... | \$32,528 |
| French Creek Playground Grant..... | \$16,287 |
| Telescope Building Fund..... | \$3,038 |
| The Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County Grant..... | \$2,500 |
| Koppenhafer Bequest..... | \$40,350 |

PARK PROGRAMS

The Lorain County Metro Parks' 6th annual major exhibit was called "Into the Sea" and was conducted in conjunction with SeaWorld of Ohio and was sponsored by Mike Bass Ford and CenteryTel. Over 49,000 people enjoyed the sharks, stingrays and hundreds of saltwater fishes.

In addition, the Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 910 requested programs and 644 public programs with over 60,000 people in attendance.

METRO PARKS VISITOR AND PROGRAM ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Golf Rounds..... | 35,026 | Public Programs (644)..... | 24,954 |
| Major Exhibit..... | 45,698 | Senior Citizen Bus Tours (128)..... | 2,468 |
| Requested Programs (910)..... | 35,295 | Meeting Room Rentals (555)..... | 26,589 |

PARK DAY-USE VISITORS

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Ball Diamonds..... | 19,802 | French Creek Nature Center..... | 61,119 |
| Bikeway..... | 144,500 | French Creek Picnic Area..... | 62,295 |
| Bur Oak..... | 135,545 | High Meadows | 101,504 |
| Caley..... | 15,620 | Horse Trails..... | 45,877 |
| Carlisle Reservation | 49,142 | Indian Hollow..... | 42,950 |
| Day's Dam..... | 110,391 | Mill Hollow..... | 181,919 |
| Duck Pond Picnic Area..... | 61,912 | Schoepfle Garden..... | 24,912 |
| | | TOTAL..... | 1,057,488 |



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