



Lorain County Metro Parks

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CITIZENS OF LORAIN COUNTY

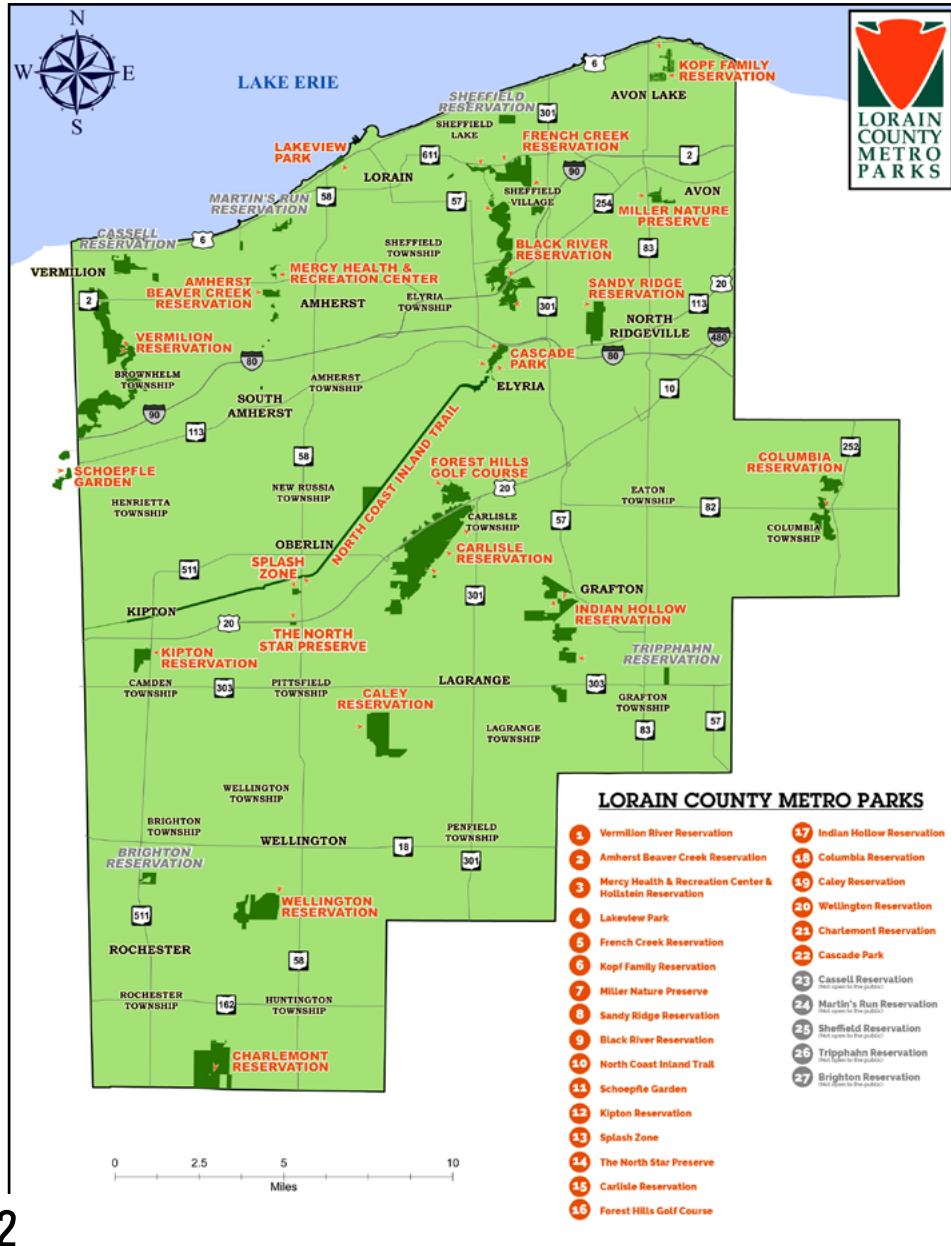
12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Phone: (440) 458-5121

www.MetroParks.cc



ABOUT THE PARK DISTRICT



Carlisle Reservation - Duck Pond Picnic Area

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 1.6 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



**SHERRILL M.
MCLODA**



**JOSEPH E.
HRIBAR**



**FREDERICK L.
ALSPACH**

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 fiscal oversight. The Director/Secretary is responsible for the daily management of the Metro Parks. The Lorain County Metro Parks staff is comprised of 72 full-time and 21 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 287 seasonal staff members in the summer months. Twenty-One 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, 697 volunteers donated 21,970 hours of their time to the Metro Parks.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPENING AND DEDICATION OF HENRY'S BARN AT THE NORTH STAR PRESERVE (OBERLIN)

In November, Lorain County Metro Parks added its newest park – The North Star Preserve – and officially dedicated Henry's Barn. This project was made possible through the generous land and monetary donation from Richard and Kathleen Nord. Henry's Barn was named in memory of the Henry R. Thomas, a freed slave from the Underground Railroad and caretaker of the Johnson House in Oberlin. The barn was deconstructed from that property and re-imagined on the The North Star Preserve on US Route 20. It will serve as a program and special event space for up to 100 guests.



AMHERST BEAVER CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION

In 2017, the Lorain County Metro Parks completed another phase of the Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation Trail. The trail extends the existing link between Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation and the Mercy Health & Recreation Center northward into the city of Lorain. The Trail meanders in and out of the woods before descending down a spectacular, serpentine path to the banks of Beaver Creek. Although the path is less than a mile in length, it provides scenic beauty to an area previously inaccessible to the general public and has been an instant hit with park visitors.



Paved Amherst Beaver Creek Trail



Construction being done to complete the trail



Bacon Woods multi-purpose facility

VERMILION RIVER RESERVATION FACILITIES UPGRADE

In the Lorain County Metro Parks' continuing efforts to provide residents and visitors with the best facilities, modern comfort facilities were constructed at two locations in the Vermilion River Reservation. The existing pit toilets at the Bacon Woods Amphitheatre were demolished and replaced by a contemporary, three unit facility that was placed in close proximity to the playground, shelter, sledding hill as well as the Amphitheatre. Space within the structure has been dedicated for a concession stand that can be converted into a bride and/or theatre dressing room to create a more function and multi-purpose facility for LCMP patrons. In addition, to better serve our families that participate in the Vermilion Soccer programs, LCMP constructed a similar, modern restroom facility at the soccer complex on North Ridge Road. This structure also includes a dedicated, leased concession space to help subsidize operations.



Modern restroom facility under construction at North Ridge Road soccer complex

CASCADE PARK RE-CONSTRUCTION

Once the improvements were completed at 19 Acres in April 2017, the LCMP embarked upon its largest capital improvement, the re-construction of the central portion of Cascade Park. A new park entrance is being created down into the valley to showcase the riverfront via walking trails among newly planted groves of trees and lawn panels. In addition to the new parking lots, shelter and comfort facilities, the Elyria Rotary Club has funded a new, inclusive play area that features swings, climbers, slides and other play elements as well as twin waterfalls and a spray basin for all to enjoy. The Metro Parks looks forward to welcoming Lorain County to the new accessible, inclusive and sustainable Cascade Park.



Looking east toward Bungari Island



Looking north toward Cascade Nature Center

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Last year, 2017, marked the 60th anniversary for Lorain County Metro Parks. The Dinosaurs! exhibit paid homage to our 60 year history while providing an exciting and interactive temporary display at an affordable family price. In the past, LCMP sponsored popular annual exhibits. They were conducted in winter months indoors. The Dinosaurs! exhibit not only had an indoor exhibit hall featuring casts of life sized dinosaur fossils, but also an outdoor walking trail with animatronic dinosaurs. The exhibit was enhanced through Naturalist-led programming. The event attracted 21,600 people and 1,956 school children attending during the weekday programming.



Indoor 'Dinosaurs!' exhibit



Outdoor 'Dinosaurs!' exhibit



ORCHID CAFÉ REOPENS

After a brief closure, the Orchid Café reopened in March. The café is now operated by Lorain County Metro Parks' staff. The café is open year-round for lunch featuring a selection of soups, salads and sandwiches. The Orchid Room is also open year-round for rental for large events such as weddings.



Orchid Room set up for a wedding



Orchid Café half wrap and salad

In Memoriam

LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS PROGRAMS & VISITORS

THE PASSING OF FRED ALSPACH

On July 19, 2017 Lorain County Metro Parks lost its beloved Board Member Fred Alspach. Fred served on the board since 2008. As a former Village of Wellington councilman, Fred was instrumental in the creation of Wellington Reservation. His never-ending commitment and passion for Lorain County and the Metro Parks made our community and region a substantially better place to live, work and play. He is deeply missed.



Beloved Board Member, Fred Alspach

Metro Parks Facility Use Room and Programs	Reservations	Attendance
Requested Programs	252	14,947
Public Programs	1,926	106,152
Senior Citizen Bus Tours	135	2,705
Halloween Fair	N/A	30,700
Holiday Lights	N/A	21,566
French Creek Theatre	69	6,402
Amherst Beaver Creek	406	15,371
Black River Reservation	360	22,381
Carlisle Visitor Center	446	22,407
Cascade Park	24	1,060
Charlemont Reservation	11	504
Columbia Reservation	27	676
Forest Hills	N/A	19,075
French Creek Nature Center	131	7,873
Indian Hollow Reservation	96	5,480
Kopf Family Reservation	3	425
Lakeview Park	373	15,874
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	299	7,403
Miller Nature Preserve	435	11,257
Sandy Ridge (Johnson Wetland Center)	204	7,601
Schoepfle Garden	127	1,762
Splash Zone	451	4,267
Vermilion River Reservation (Mill Hollow)	576	30,461
Wellington Reservation	189	9,528
TOTAL	6,540	365,877

Metro Parks Day-Use Visitors

Amherst Beaver Creek	134,256	Lakeview	842,122
Black River	259,030	Mercy Health & Rec Center	169,366
Caley	13,434	Miller Nature Preserve	110,324
Carlisle	216,344	North Coast Inland Trail	26,868
Cascade	206,018	Sandy Ridge	117,804
Columbia	98,424	Schoepfle Garden	102,332
Forest Hills Golf Course	200,050	Splash Zone	158,050
French Creek	206,354	Vermilion	556,178
Indian Hollow	110,968	Wellington	119,088
Kipton	18,300		
TOTAL		3,656,180	

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

REVENUE

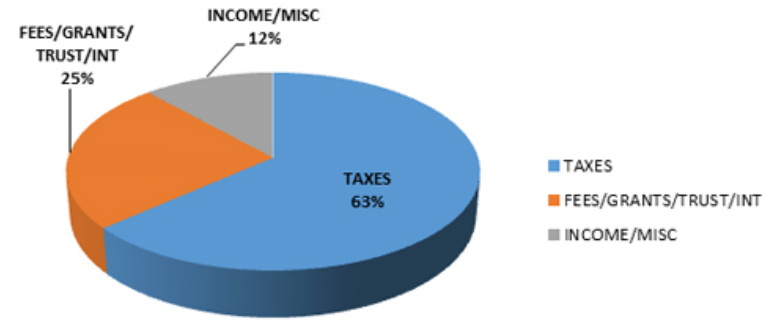
Property Tax	\$10,246,955.75
Interest on Investments	\$34,696.57
Schoepfle Trust***	\$232,259.83
Grants	\$1,988,017.98
Mitigations	\$50,000.00
Fees and Charges	\$1,690,399.99
Forest Hills Golf Course	\$263,001.00
Lakeview Park	\$37,131.24
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	\$699,249.79
Miller Nature Preserve	\$72,306.17
Splash Zone	\$719,142.91
Theatre	\$103,193.73
TOTAL REVENUE	\$16,136,354.96

***Adjusted per Auditor from market value to cash value

EXPENDITURES

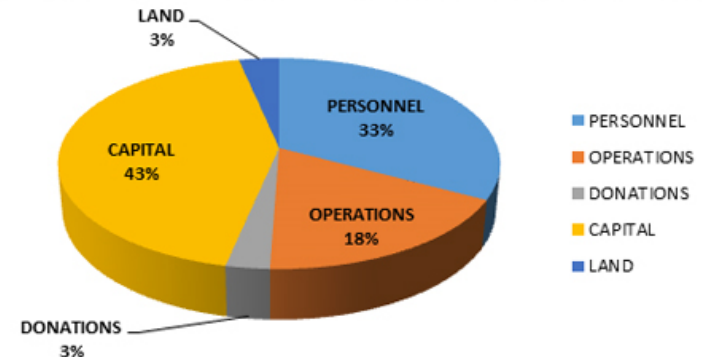
Salaries	\$4,344,042.60
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$1,634,487.86
Supplies	\$95,183.86
Programs	\$96,144.72
Materials	\$818,319.29
Repairs/Rentals	\$68,524.46
Utilities/Service	\$1,567,572.86
Advertising/Displays/Printing	\$127,840.47
Projects	\$92,372.01
Seminars/Training	\$21,180.91
Equipment	\$349,000.00
Designated Donations	\$509,023.39
Land Acquisition	\$615,546.61
Capital Improvements/Contracts	\$5,846,944.39
Grants/Misc	\$2,036,496.61
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$18,222,680.04

2017 REVENUES



Taxes	\$10,246,955.75	63%
Fees, Grants, Trust, Int	\$3,995,374.37	25%
Income, Misc	\$1,894,024.84	12%
Total	\$16,136,354.96	

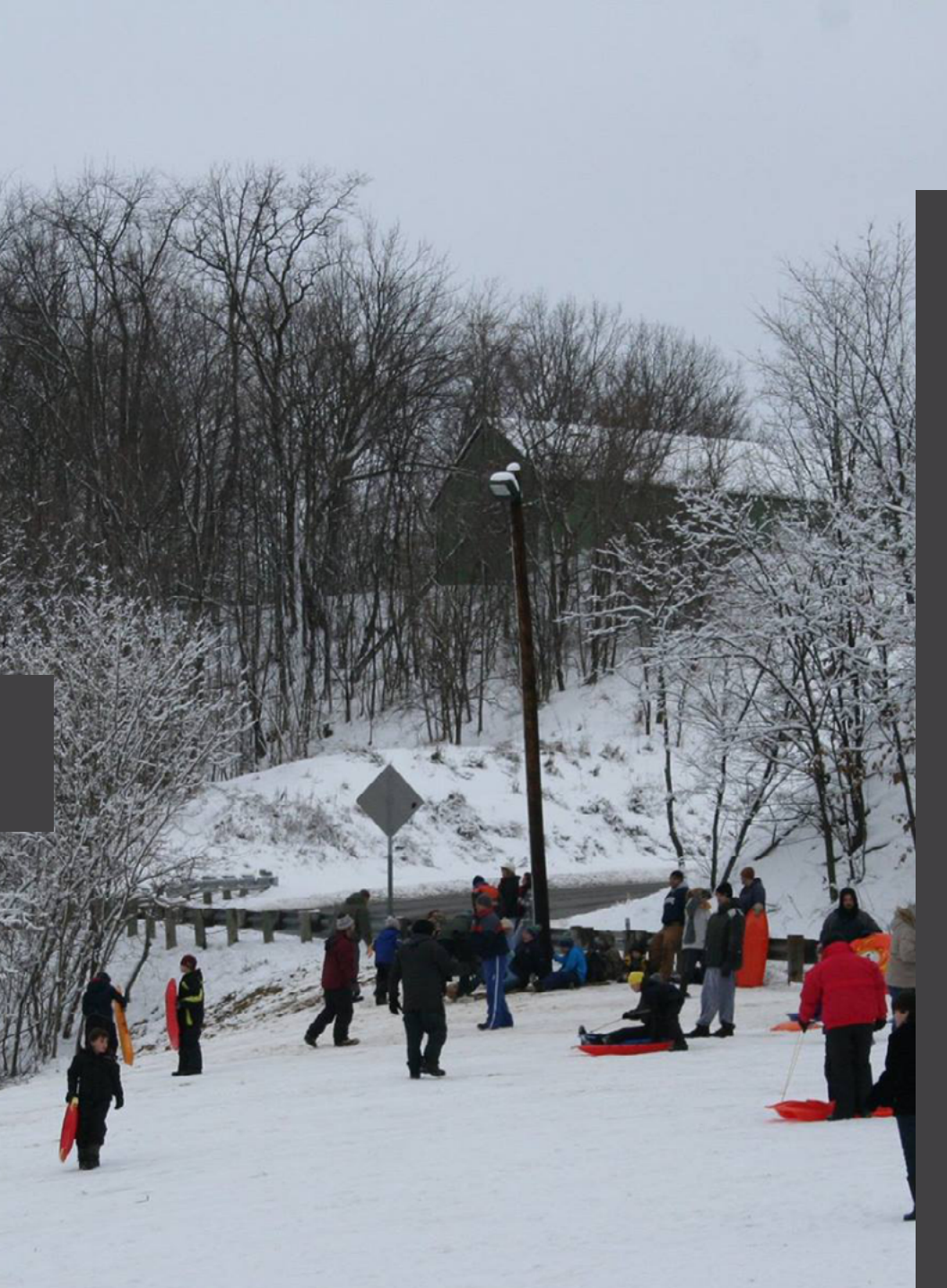
2017 EXPENDITURES



Personnel	\$5,978,530.46	33%
Operations	\$3,236,138.58	18%
Donations	\$509,023.39	3%
Capital	\$7,883,441.00	43%
Land	\$615,546.61	3%
Total	\$18,222,680.04	

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, 2018.



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