

2000  
**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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**Board of Park Commissioners**

**Sherrill M. McLoda   Kirk E. Stewart   Stanley G. Pijor**



**Director/Secretary**  
James D. Martin

**Probate Court Judge**  
Frank J. Horvath



# 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 39 full-time and 14 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.

## 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

# PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**During 2000, the Lorain County Metro Parks made a number of improvements and achieved numerous goals. The most significant are detailed below.**



**First year of operation for the Sandy Ridge Reservation and Perry F. Johnson Wetland Center 309 acre, "great birding" sanctuary park, enjoyed by 60,000 visitors.**



**Carlisle landscape improvements financed by park user donations highlighted 2000. Also, Wetland Restoration Project totaling 57 acres. All-private funds.**

**Visitors increased to the Schoepfle Garden Visitor Center. Host to OPRA Park Section Meeting in October, 2000.**



**February, 2000 debuted the Metro Parks Web Page. Currently averaging 5,000 hits per month.**



**New partnership with Amherst to build and maintain this park. Construction completed in 2000-Paving in early 2001.**



**175 acres were acquired in Columbia Station with acquisition of 30 acres at Indian Hollow Reservation.**

**Funded by private donors, the John D. Nielsen Observatory is home to two large telescopes. Dedication attended by 300 people in August, 2000.**



**Fundraising efforts for the Aquatic Center continued totaling \$5.3 million while the design team was selected. Construction to begin in spring of 2001.**



# GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The citizens, businesses and foundations of Lorain County were very generous to the Park District in 2000. Detailed below are the most significant contributions:

Amherst Park Fund.....	\$238,000
Corporate Sponsorships.....	\$15,200
General Donations and Memorial Gifts.....	\$50,396
Telescope Building Fund.....	\$5,525
French Creek Indoor Playground.....	\$7,550
Koppenhafer Bequest.....	\$50,762
Regional Aquatic Center.....	\$2,247,820

## PARK PROGRAMS

The Lorain County Metro Parks' 7th annual major exhibit was called "Okefenokee" and was sponsored by Mike Bass Ford and CenteryTel. Over 35,000 people enjoyed the recreated Okefenokee swamp filled with alligators, snakes and native flora and fauna of the area.

In addition, the Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 803 requested programs and 663 public programs with over 55,000 people in attendance.

## METRO PARKS VISITOR AND PROGRAM ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

Golf Rounds.....	30,984	Public Programs (644).....	29,161
Major Exhibit.....	35,000	Senior Citizen Bus Tours (128).....	2,708
Requested Programs (803).....	26,144	Meeting Room Rentals (555).....	26,022

## PARK DAY-USE VISITORS

Ball Diamonds.....	13,102	French Creek Nature Center.....	61,340
Bikeway.....	139,500	French Creek Picnic Area.....	87,928
Bur Oak.....	160,069	High Meadows .....	130,720
Caley.....	11,604	Horse Trails.....	46,531
Carlisle Reservation .....	50,304	Indian Hollow.....	34,246
Day's Dam.....	119,829	Mill Hollow.....	213,344
Duck Pond Picnic Area.....	59,377	Schoepfle Garden.....	69,373
Sandy Ridge.....	60,812	<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>1,258,079</b>

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000

## FUND SOURCES

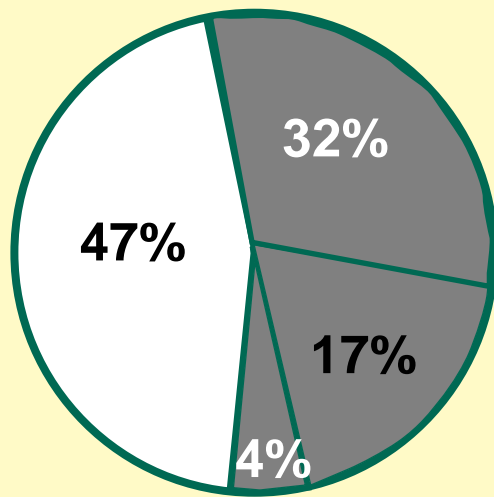
Property Tax.....	\$3,996,815
Local Government Funds.....	18,000
Interest on Investments.....	265,195
Schoepfle Trust.....	340,424
Forest Hills Golf Course.....	343,965
Grants.....	0
Fees and Charges.....	59,688
Corporate Sponsors.....	15,200
Donations - General.....	63,471
Donations - Amherst Park.....	238,000
Donations - Aquatic Center.....	2,457,820
Wetland Mitigation Program.....	393,394
Koppenhafer Bequest.....	50,762
Reimbursements/Miscellaneous.....	334,596
<b>TOTAL REVENUE.....</b>	<b>\$8,577,330</b>

## FUND USES

Salaries.....	\$1,636,003
Employee Fringe Benefits.....	424,560
Supplies.....	34,388
Programs.....	35,203
Materials/ Projects.....	264,167
Repairs/Rentals.....	20,731
Utilities/Services.....	200,198
Advertising/Displays/Printing.....	102,263
Seminars/Training.....	9,548
Insurance/Other Expense.....	81,096
Designated Donations.....	847,076
Equipment.....	132,920
Land Acquisition.....	1,201,456
Capital Improvements/Contracts.....	705,239
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....</b>	<b>\$5,694,848</b>

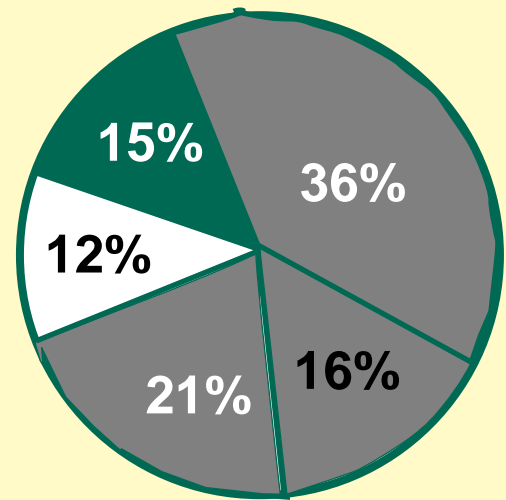
### 2000 REVENUE

Taxes.....	\$4,014,815.....	47%
Golf.....	\$343,965.....	4.0%
Donations...	\$2759,291.....	32%
Misc.....	\$621,321.....	17.0%



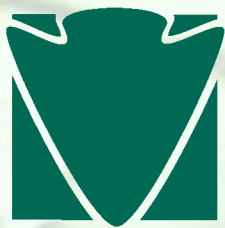
### 2000 EXPENDITURES

Personnel.....	\$2,060,563.....	36%
Operations.....	\$880,514.....	16%
Donations.....	\$847,076.....	15%
Land.....	\$1,201,456.....	21%
Capita l.....	\$705,239.....	12%



### 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, 2001.



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