



Lorain County Metro Parks

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CITIZENS OF LORAIN COUNTY

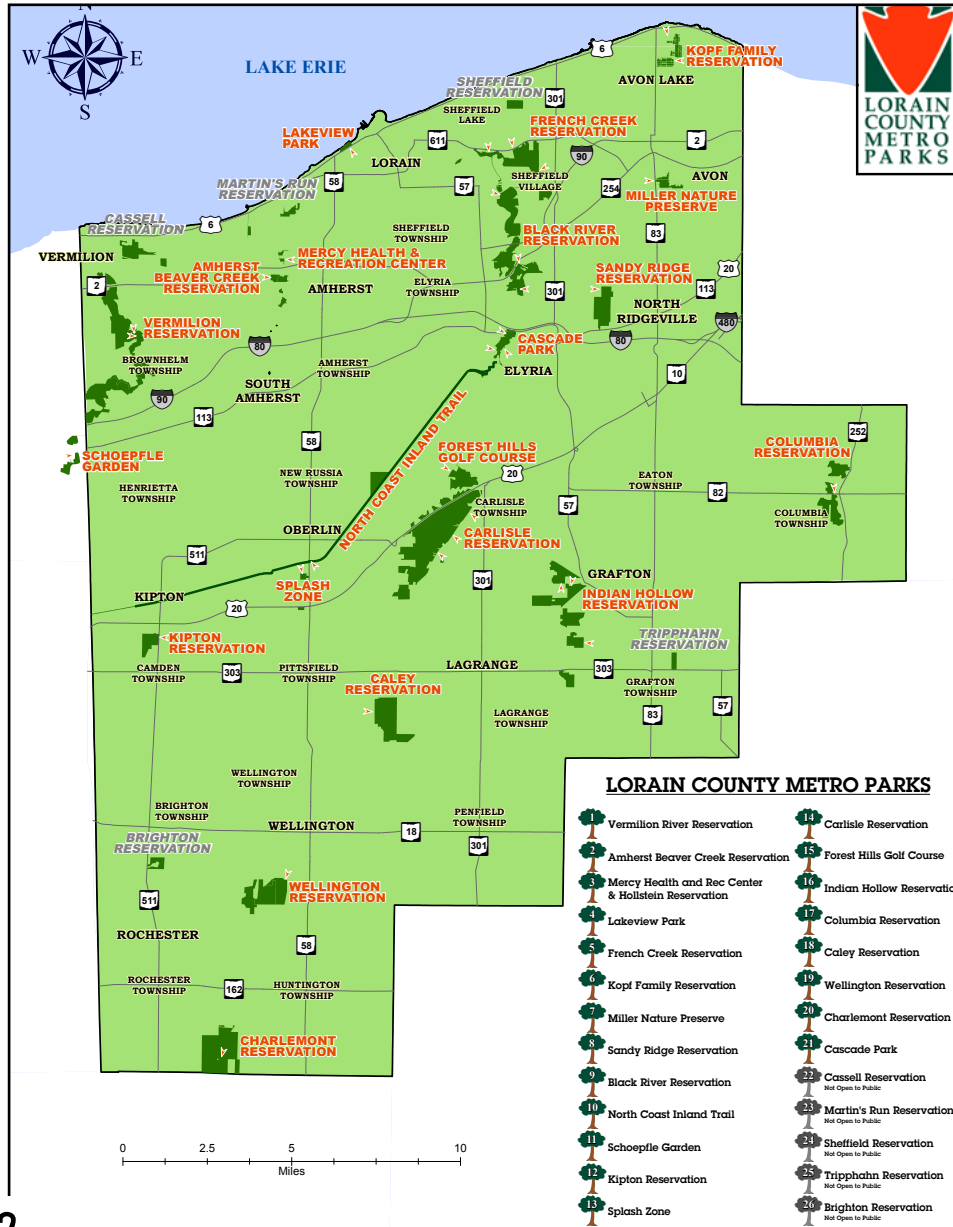
12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Phone: (440) 458-5121

[www.MetroParks.cc](http://www.MetroParks.cc)



# ABOUT THE PARK DISTRICT



*French Creek 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 1.6 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.  
MCCLODA**



**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.

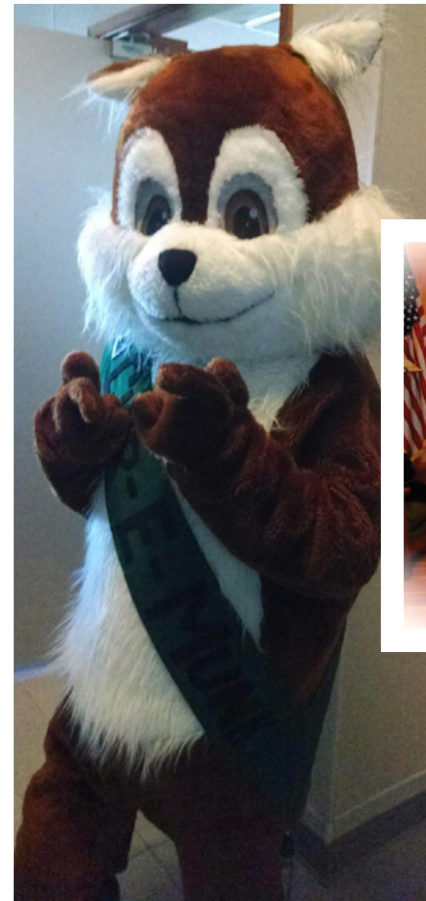


**Director/Secretary  
JAMES E. ZIEMNIK**



**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 67 full-time and 16 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 194 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.

# 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## CASCADE PARK, 19 ACRES PHASE 1 BEGINS

Lorain County Metro Parks' goal to create a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable Cascade Park begins with Phase 1. Park visitors will once again have the opportunity to discover, explore and enjoy the wonders of Cascade Parks' northern peninsula. Restoration of the paved trails along the banks of the Black River were made possible by the construction of a vegetative bioswale which will also reduce the damage to the park during flood season. A new, modern restroom along with new picnic shelters and a rock-themed playground will greet park visitors in Spring of 2017.



*Cascade Park, 19 Acres playground*

## OBERLIN'S JOHNSON BARN DISMANTLING

In collaboration with the City of Oberlin, Oberlin College and a generous benefactor, LCMP dismantled the Historic Johnson Barn during the summer of 2016. A significant amount of the salvaged materials were transported to and are currently being re-purposed in a modern-day interpretation of the structure. The re-construction as well as numerous site improvements are anticipated to be complete in the Summer of 2017 to provide to park visitors and Lorain County residents with additional programming and rental opportunities.

*Original Johnson Barn before dismantling*



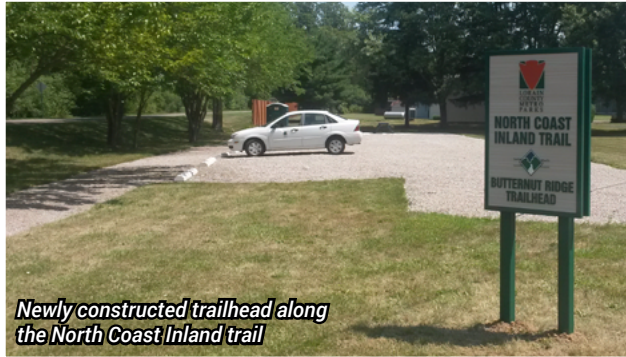
*New barn being re-built*



*Salvaged Johnson Barn wood*

# NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL'S BUTTERNUT RIDGE TRAILHEAD OPENING

In 2016, the Lorain County Metro Parks constructed a minor trailhead at the intersection of Butternut Ridge at the North Coast Inland Trail in New Russia Township. A 10-car, gravel parking lot was installed along with a portable comfort station, picnic table and interpretative signage. With a generous support of the Lorain County General Health District, a bicycle repair station was installed. Metro Parks' staff also use the Trailhead as a maintenance and supply facility for the Trail and Park District.



*Newly constructed trailhead along the North Coast Inland trail*



*Connector being paved*

# AMHERST BEAVER CREEK TRAIL CONNECTOR

As part of Lorain County Metro Parks' 10-year Plan, the Beaver Creek Trail is planned to connect Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation with the shores of Lake Erie. The construction of Phase 1A which begins at the Amherst-Beaver Creek entrance and runs parallel to Lake Avenue, Cooper-Foster Road and Hollstein Drive to the Mercy Health and Recreation Center 95% complete. Phase 1B which we anticipate to build in 2017 would extend the Phase 1A trail approximately 3,500 feet north along the wooded edges of farmland and the slopes of an unnamed tributary of Beaver Creek. The last portion of the trail slope down and terminate at an observation deck overlooking Beaver Creek. Once completed, an additional 1.5 miles will be added to LCMP's paved trail inventory.



*Trail construction near Beaver Creek entrance*



*Trail connector near Hollstein Drive.*

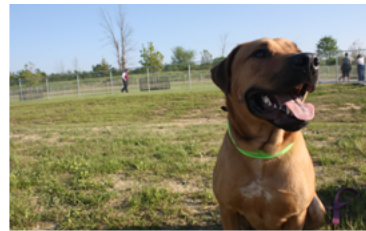
# SILVER SNEAKERS

2016 marked the first full year with Silver Sneakers at Mercy Health & Recreation Center and Splash Zone. Lorain County Metro Parks brought in the Silver Sneakers programs to provide better access to our facilities to the Lorain County Senior Citizen population. Through the program, the recreation centers gained 2,000 members.



# SPLASH ZONE DOG PARK

Lorain County Metro Parks had the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new dog park on Monday, May 23, 2016. Located at 95 W. Hamilton Rd. in Oberlin behind Splash Zone, the park sits on one acre and features two separate areas for large dogs and small dogs with one main entrance. A shelter, shade trees, benches and drinking fountain have been installed for visitors' comfort and convenience. Membership forms are available at Splash Zone or Carlisle Reservation the cost is \$10 and \$5 for each additional dog.



# FRENCH CREEK THEATRE

Lorain County Metro Parks was proud to announce the inaugural season for the new French Creek Theatre earlier this year. Located within the French Creek Nature & Arts Center on the picturesque French Creek Reservation in Sheffield Village, French Creek Theatre is comprised of Ewing Theatre and Pijor Hall, two uniquely intimate, comfortable and professionally equipped performance spaces playing host to 12 different productions for the 2016-2017 season. These shows include Jekyll & Hyde, White Christmas, Death of a Salesman, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Willy Wonka, and many more!



*Ewing Theatre opening show, 'Jekyll & Hyde'*

# GREAT SCAVANGER HUNT

Lorain County Metro Parks hosted the Great Scavenger Hunt exposing teams to multiple parks throughout the county. This year 72 participants raced to Miller Nature Preserve, Royal Oaks, Schoepfle Gardens, Carlisle and Caley Reservations collecting clues and completing challenges. This event gains in popularity from year-to-year and has become an annual program.



*Scene from 'Death of a Salesman'*

# SUNSET TERRACE AT LAKEVIEW

The former Rose Café was rebranded Sunset Terrace this year. Lorain County Metro Parks contracted with A Taste of Excellence as the exclusive caterer. Sunset Terrace has become a destination for beach and beach-themed weddings and special events. Over the summer, Sunset Terrace was host to more than 20 events.



*Sunset Terrace*  
at LAKEVIEW 



# LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS PROGRAMS

In 2016, 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	284	14,226
Public Programs	1,025	82,760
Senior Citizen Bus Tours	330	4,225
Halloween Fair		27,301
Holiday Lights		13,402
Amherst Beaver Creek	507	17,560
Carlisle Visitor Center	1743	77,282
Cascade Park	828	127
Forest Hills		20,282
French Creek Nature & Arts Center	383	10,789
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	655	5,636
Mill Hollow, Carriage Barn	1255	51,081
Miller Nature Preserve	364	8,730
Sandy Ridge, Johnson Wetland Center	509	10,171
Schoepfle Garden	409	13,166
Splash Zone	456	5,072
Wellington Reservation	452	9,822
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>371,632</b>

## METRO PARKS DAY-USE VISITORS

Amherst Beaver Creek	94,676	Mercy Health & Recreation Center	370,334
Black River	226,416	Miller Nature Preserve	86,865
Caley	9,986	North Coast	
Carlisle	265,632	Inland Trail	30,122
Cascade	273,103	Sandy Ridge	120,390
Columbia	110,258	Schoepfle Garden	73,122
Forest Hills Golf Course	53,126	Splash Zone	391,327
French Creek	357,462	Vermilion	251,876
Indian Hollow	254,031	Wellington	134,026
Lakeview	782,262		

**TOTAL** 3,885,014

# FINANCIAL SUMMARIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

## REVENUE

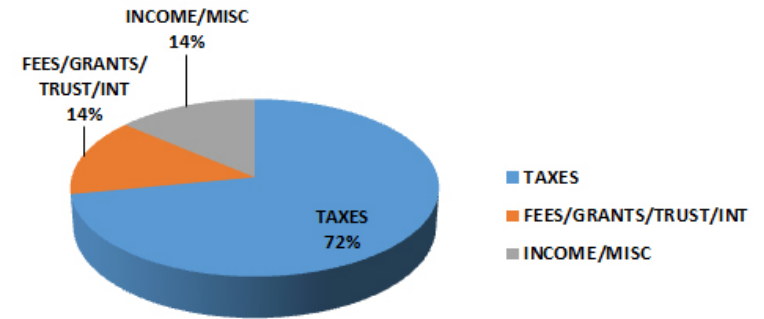
Property Tax	\$10,100,316.80
Interest on Investments	\$54,215.47
Schoepfle Trust***	\$93,460.58
Grants	\$660,158.58
Mitigations	\$339,686.97
Fees and Charges	\$843,591.70
Forest Hills Golf Course	\$288,243.00
Lakeview Park	\$43,537.56
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	\$759,861.43
Miller Nature Preserve	\$48,364.85
Splash Zone	\$694,748.43
Theatre	\$106,249.18
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$14,032,434.55</b>

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

## EXPENDITURES

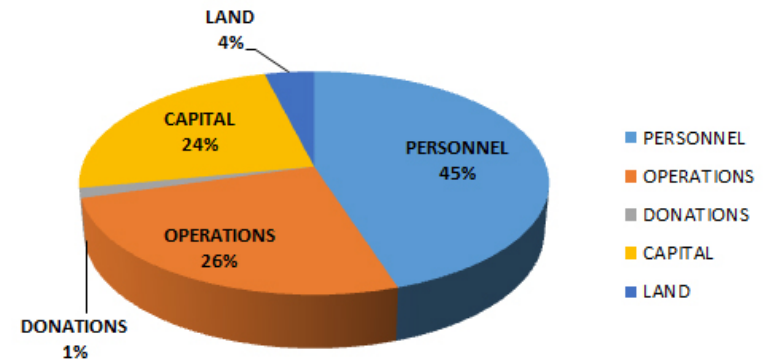
Salaries	\$4,204,736.40
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$1,551,855.80
Supplies	\$92,513.74
Programs	\$111,310.76
Materials	\$836,599.06
Repairs/Rentals	\$61,472.60
Utilities/Service	\$1,524,102.03
Advertising/Displays/Printing	\$154,789.48
Projects	\$112,831.69
Seminars/Training	\$23,987.99
Equipment	\$348,360.55
Designated Donations	\$181,839.01
Land Acquisition	\$504,031.29
Capital Improvements/Contracts	\$2,115,690.46
Grants/Misc	\$971,823.20
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$12,795,944.06</b>

## 2016 REVENUES



Taxes	\$10,100,316.80	72%
Fees, Grants, Trust, Int	\$1,991,113.30	14%
Income, Misc	\$1,941,004.45	14%
	<b>\$14,032,434.55</b>	

## 2016 EXPENDITURES



Personnel	\$5,756,592.20	45%
Operations	\$3,265,967.90	26%
Donations	\$181,839.01	2%
Capital	\$3,087,513.66	24%
Land	\$504,031.29	3%
	<b>\$12,795,944.06</b>	

### 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, 2017.





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