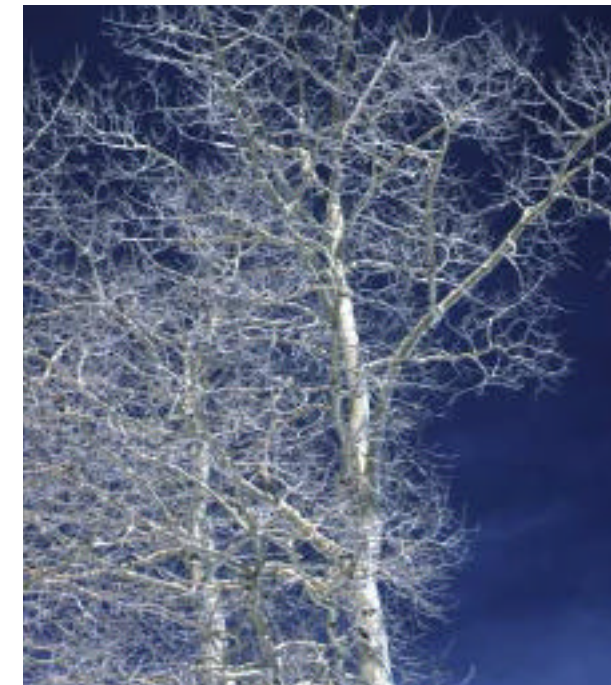


**2002  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
TO  
THE  
CITIZENS  
OF  
LORAIN  
COUNTY**



# ABOUT THE LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS



Lorain County Metro Parks Visitor and Administrative Center  
 12882 Diagonal Road  
 LaGrange, OH 44050  
 Phone: (440) 458-5121  
 1-800-LCM-PARK  
 (1-800-526-7275)  
 Fax: (440) 458-8924  
 Website: www.LorainCountyMetroParks.com  
 E-mail: lcmpark@LorainCountyMetroParks.com



**Board of Park Commissioners**

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



**Director/Secretary**  
James D. Martin



**Probate Court Judge**  
Frank J. Horvath

## YOUR METRO PARKS

- ◆ Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Splash Zone
- ◆ Indian Hollow Reservation
- ◆ Kipton Reservation
- ◆ Vermilion River 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 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, Board of Park Commissioners who are appointed by the Lorain County Probate Court Judge and serve without pay. The Board of Park Commissioners are 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 44 full-time and 12 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 and are also 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.

# PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2002, the Lorain County Metro Parks made a number of improvements and achieved numerous goals. The most significant are detailed below.



Splash Zone, the new Aquatic Center located in Oberlin, Ohio, opened in May and quickly became a favorite family getaway!



Carlisle Visitor Center was re-dedicated in early 2003. Renovations were completed in 2002, updating the original 1981 Visitor Center design.



Holiday Lights 2002 was a success with over 7,000 visitors, 5,500 pounds of food donated and 21 area companies participating!



Significant progress was made to the newest Metro Park, the Columbia Reservation with an opening slated for 2003. Watch for details!



Safari: An African Adventure was 2002's major exhibit held at Westfield Shoppingtown Midway. This change in venue provided ample parking, food and visitors!



Irrigation was added to the Forest Hills Golf Course in 2002. This addition offers staff the opportunity to provide golfers with the best possible playing conditions.



A new addition to the Carlisle Visitor Center is the new train and train building. Open during Halloween Walks and Holiday Lights, this attraction proved very popular!



An "Outstanding Award" was received at the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's annual meeting for the Burrell Home Restoration. The August Picnic opening was attended by many and will become an annual event.

## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The citizens, businesses and foundations of Lorain County were very generous to the Park District in 2002.

Detailed below are the most significant contributions:

Amherst Park Fund.....	\$23,255
General Donations and Memorial Gifts.....	\$53,338
Koppenhafer Bequest.....	\$70,000
Regional Aquatic Center.....	\$1,081,542

## PARK PROGRAMS

The Lorain County Metro Parks' 9th annual major exhibit was called "Safari An Adventure in Africa". Major sponsors were Mike Bass Ford and CenturyTel. Over 45,000 people enjoyed the recreated display.

In addition, the Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 703 requested programs and 756 public programs with over 44,000 people in attendance.

## METRO PARKS VISITOR AND PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Golf Rounds.....	29,645	Public Programs (756).....	26,047
Major Exhibit.....	45,000	Senior Citizen Bus Tours (93).....	2,537
Requested Programs (703).....	10,296		

## PARK DAY-USE VISITORS

Amherst.....	151,000	Splash Zone.....	64,995
Bikeway.....	120,000	Indian Hollow.....	55,418
Caley.....	12,249	Mill Hollow.....	174,698
Carlisle Reservation .....	176,702	Sandy Ridge.....	60,735
French Creek Center.....	182,066	Schoepfle Garden.....	57,398
Black River.....	383,015		

**TOTAL.....1,438,276**

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002

### FUND SOURCES

Property Tax.....	\$4,240,831
Local Government Funds.....	18,000
Interest on Investments.....	89,736
Schoepfle Trust.....	297,917
Forest Hills Golf Course.....	322,749
Grants.....	65,749
Fees and Charges.....	62,832
Donations & Sponsors.....	76,593
Donations - Aquatic Center.....	1,081,542
Koppenhafer Bequest.....	70,000
Reimbursements/Miscellaneous.....	904,528
Splash Zone.....	314,881

**TOTAL REVENUE.....\$7,545,358**

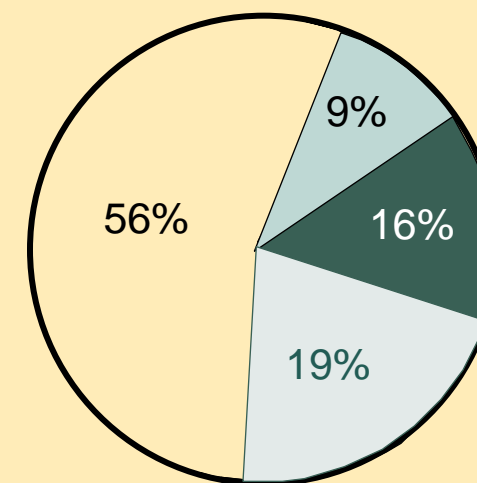
### FUND USES

Salaries.....	\$2,023,195
Employee Fringe Benefits.....	530,081
Supplies.....	63,262
Programs.....	70,826
Materials/ Projects.....	326,304
Repairs/Rentals.....	20,786
Utilities/Services.....	366,032
Advertising/Displays/Printing.....	129,303
Seminars/Training.....	20,015
Insurance/Other Expense.....	127,357
Designated Donations.....	2,386,248
Equipment.....	165,314
Land Acquisition.....	136,845
Capital Improvements/Contracts.....	3,244,766

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....\$9,610,332**

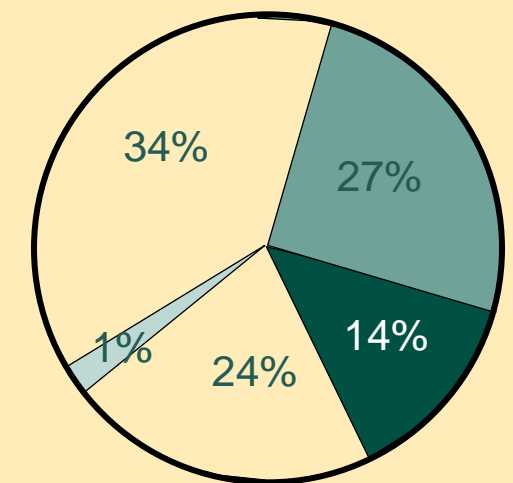
### 2002 REVENUE

Taxes.....	\$4,240,831.....	56%
Fees.....	\$700,462.....	9%
Donations.....	\$1,158,135.....	16%
Misc.....	\$1,445,930.....	19%



### 2002 EXPENDITURES

Personnel.....	\$2,553,276.....	27%
Operations.....	\$1,289,199.....	14%
Donations.....	\$2,386,248.....	24%
Land.....	\$136,313.....	1%
Capital.....	\$3,244,766.....	34%



### 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, 2003.