

Lorain County Metro Parks 2009

Annual Report to the Citizens of Lorain County



LORAIN
COUNTY
METRO
PARKS

Your Lorain County Metro Parks



Amherst
Beaver
Creek



Black River
Reservation



Caley
Reservation



Carlisle
Reservation



Charlemont
Reservation



Columbia
Reservation



Forest Hills
Golf Course



French Creek
Reservation



Indian Hollow
Reservation



Kipton
Reservation



Kopf Family
Reservation



Lakeview
Park



Miller Nature
Preserve



North Coast
Inland Trail



Sandy Ridge
Reservation



Schoepfle
Garden



Splash
Zone



Vermilion
Reservation



Wellington
Reservation



The Metropolitan Park District



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 1.3 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 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 is 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 56 full-time and 8 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 155 seasonal staff members in the summer months. Fifteen 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.

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.

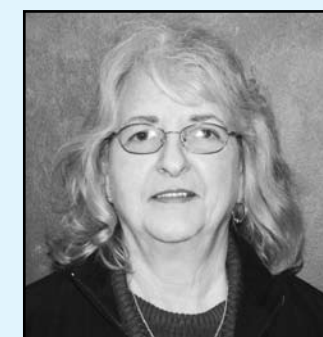
Lorain County Board of Park Commissioners



Frederick L. Alspach



Robert M. Campana



Sherrill M. McLoda

Director/Secretary Probate Court Judge



James D. Martin



James T. Walther

Lorain County Metro Park Programs



In 2009, the Lorain County Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 649 requested programs (those programs requested by outside groups) and 1,332 public programs (those listed in the ARROWHEAD, the District's newsletter) with over 75,000 people in attendance.

METRO PARKS FACILITY USE ROOM USE AND PROGRAMS

Requested Programs (649).....	25,536
Public Programs (1,332).....	58,689
Senior Citizen Bus Tours (120).....	3,366
Halloween Fair/Holiday Lights.....	35,535
Amherst Beaver Creek (440).....	13,641
Carlisle Visitor Center (458).....	17,672
Carriage Barn (158).....	7,241
Forest Hills.....	24,256
French Creek Nature Center (64).....	3,043
Johnson Wetland Center (141).....	4,926
Schoepfle Garden (31).....	593
Total.....	194,498

METRO PARKS DAY-USE VISITORS

Amherst.....	155,000
Black River.....	383,485
Caley.....	8,227
Carlisle.....	156,142
Columbia.....	29,837
French Creek.....	69,332
Indian Hollow.....	36,809
North Coast Inland Trail.....	128,000
Sandy Ridge.....	52,568
Lakeview.....	930,000
Schoepfle Garden.....	62,371
Splash Zone.....	265,300
Vermilion.....	203,459
Wellington.....	55,516
Total.....	2,536,046

(Facility and day-use visitors)...



Splash Zone New Additions! Adult Pool, Children's Pool and Field House with Basketball and Volleyball Courts and Track.



SPLASH ZONE ADDITION
In 2009, Splash Zone expanded their facility and program offerings. A second four-lane pool was added as well as a children's water play area. The children's area is available both winter and summer months.

A Field House was also added that includes a four lane rubberized walking track, two full size basketball courts (or four short courts) and four regulation size volleyball courts. Basketball and Volleyball leagues began in September 2009.

Lorain County Metro Parks

Lorain County Metro Parks is a unique blend of development and preservation, recreation for wildlife abound, but there also is a place for you. Picnic areas to play in, nature centers everyone. Each Lorain County Metro Park strives to improve the parks and programs for to the parks including a new clubhouse, an addition to Splash Zone and a new kayak/ commissioned two plays, and introduced a new website. When it comes to recreation,



Metroparks.cc

In the fall of 2009, Lorain County Metro Park unveiled a new web address and new website. The homepage was redesigned for easier use and links were made available to quickly access other areas of the website. Eight new pages were added with focus on outdoor adventure, arts, nature, education, recreation, history, gardening, and specialty programs.



Frank Horvath Clubhouse

A new clubhouse was opened at the beginning of the 2009 golf season at Forest Hills Golf Center. The clubhouse includes a restaurant to relax in after a game of golf and a pro shop with the latest golf apparel and equipment. On July 18, 2009 the clubhouse was named in honor of Probate Court Judge Frank Horvath, who served the Lorain County Metro Parks as appointing judge of the Board of Park Commissioners for over 18 years.



Freedom's Light: A Stop Along the Underground Railroad

The Lorain County Metro Parks and TrueNorth Cultural Arts commissioned the play "Freedom's Light: A Stop Along the Underground Railroad." The play followed Nellie as she escaped her master in Tennessee and followed the Underground Railroad to freedom. Her last stop was the Burrell Homestead in Sheffield Village. Over 2,000 people attended the play.

District Accomplishments

and conservation. Forests of hardwoods blend into wetlands teeming with life. Habitats to learn in, observation areas to watch from and new areas to explore are available to the citizens of Lorain County. 2009 brought several new additions and improvements to the parks including a new clubhouse, an addition to Splash Zone and a new kayak/ commissioned two plays, and introduced a new website. When it comes to recreation,



Splash Zone Field House

With the increase in membership at Splash Zone, the facility expanded with a second indoor pool and a field house in 2009. The Field House has a three-lane rubberized walking track, four volleyball courts and four basketball courts. Volleyball and Basketball leagues began in September 2009.



Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail

The Vermilion – Lorain Water Trail became the fourth designated water trail in Ohio on July 1, 2009. The trail is 27 miles long and runs along the Vermilion River, Lake Erie and the Black River. The Water Trail is a partnership between the City of Vermilion, the City of Lorain, the Vermilion Port Authority, the Lorain Port Authority, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft and Division of Wildlife.



Cleveland Pops Lakeview Park

Lorain County Metro Parks hosted the Cleveland Pops Orchestra at Lakeview Park on August 23, 2009. The rain held off and over 5,000 people attended this amazing concert. Sponsors of this event were the Ohio Arts Council, the City of Lorain, the Morning Journal, the Lorain Port Authority, Lorain City Schools, CT Consultants, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc, Lorain National Bank and Community Health Partners.

*Financial Summary as of
December 31, 2009*

Revenue

Property Tax.....	\$8,405,114
Interest on Investments.....	34,925
Schoepfle Trust.....	111,911
Forest Hills Golf Course.....	347,393
Grants.....	30,009
Fees and Charges.....	523,767
Splash Zone.....	597,233
Total Revenue.....	10,050,324

Expenditures

Salaries.....	\$3,118,970
Employee Fringe Benefits.....	1,033,339
Supplies.....	61,120
Programs.....	100,485
Materials.....	373,696
Repairs/Rentals.....	43,738
Utilities/Service.....	624,744
Advertising/Displays/Printing.....	135,891
Projects.....	72,606
Seminars/Training.....	12,120
Designated Donations.....	165,978
Equipment.....	222,831
Land Acquisition.....	335,445
Capital Improvements/Contracts.....	4,595,196
Grants/Miscellaneous.....	231,741
Total Expenditures.....	11,127,900

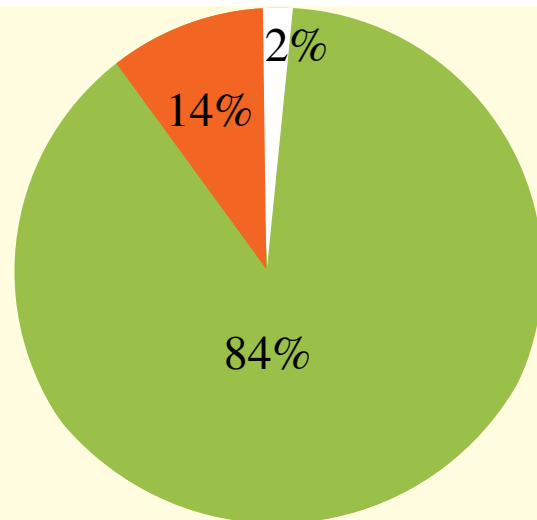


Lorain County Metro Parks Programs



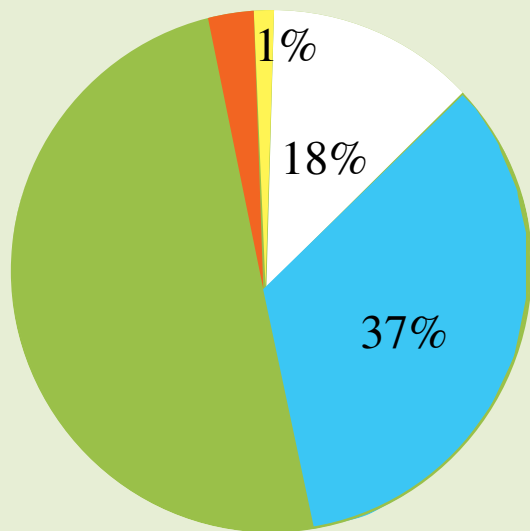
2009 Revenue

Taxes.....	\$8,405,114.....	84%
Fees.....	\$1,473,299.....	14%
Donations.....	\$171,911.....	2%
TOTAL.....	\$10,050,324.....	100%



2009 Expenditures

Personnel.....	\$4,152,309.....	37%
Operations.....	\$1,965,893.....	18%
Donations.....	\$165,978.....	1%
Capital.....	\$4,508,274.....	41%
Land.....	\$335,446.....	3%
TOTAL.....	\$11,127,900.....	100%



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, 2010.

Theatre Productions



TRUENORTH CULTURAL ARTS
2009 was a big year for the partnership between Lorain County Metro Parks and TrueNorth Cultural Arts. Two plays were commissioned for the year. They were "Freedom's Light: A Stop Along the Underground Railroad" and "The Master Carver: A Whimsical Halloween Mystery".

Lorain County Metro Parks and TrueNorth Cultural Arts also hosted the first Youth Theatre Camp in the summer of 2009. Through a grant from the Community Foundation of Lorain County, over 25 kids were able to participate in the camp on scholarships. The camp ended with the performance of "Honk! Junior" with over 300 attending.

"Photos provided by TrueNorth Cultural Arts".

*Kayaking on the
Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail*



*The Metro Parks New
Forest Hills Golf Course Club House*

