



Lorain County Metro Parks

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CITIZENS OF LORAIN COUNTY



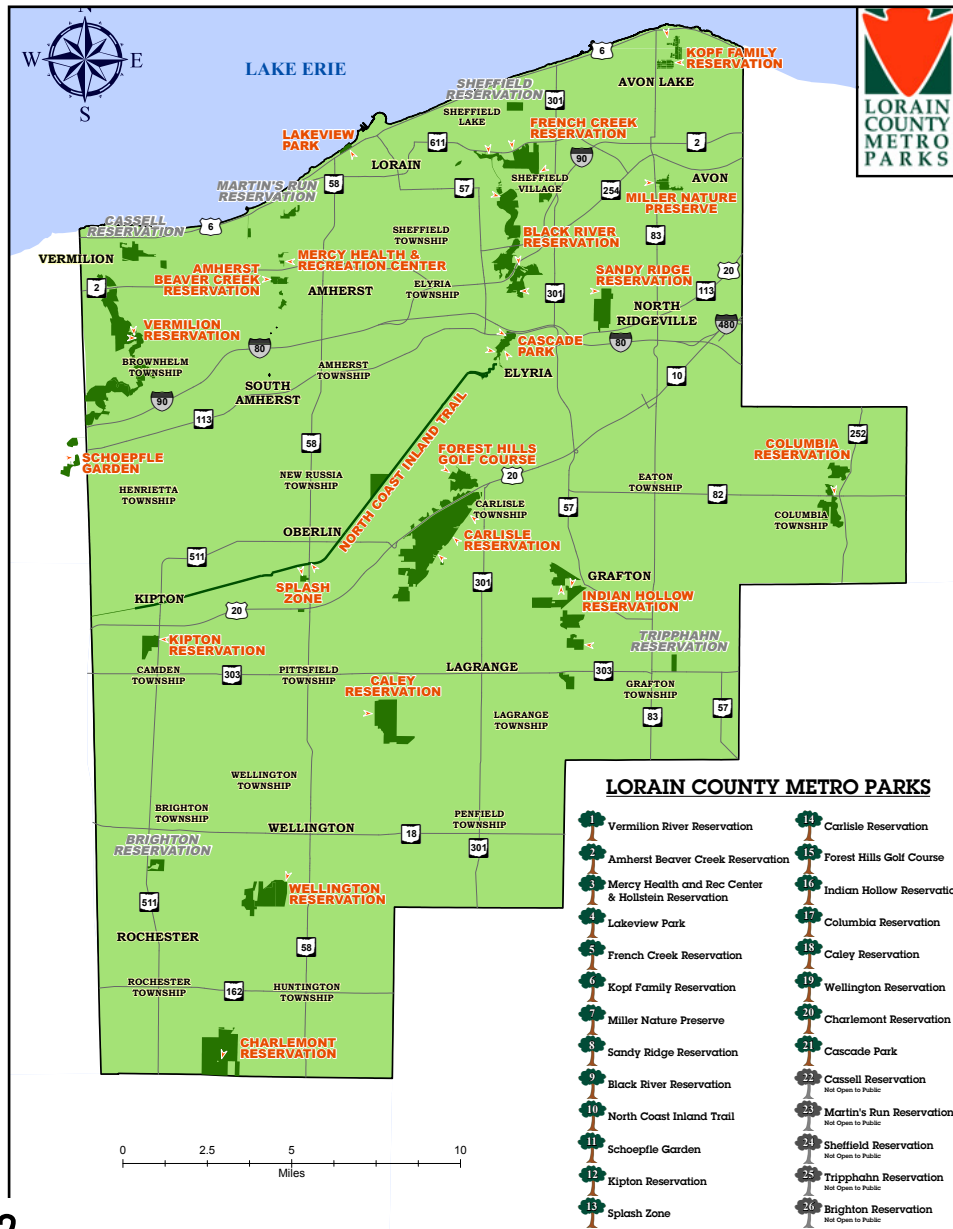
12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Phone: (440) 458-5121

www.MetroParks.cc



ABOUT THE PARK DISTRICT



Pines at Amherst Beaver 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 1.3 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, Miller Nature Preserve, Mercy Health & Recreation Center and facility rentals.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



**FREDERICK L.
ALSPACH**



**SHERRILL M.
MCLODA**



**JOSEPH E.
HRIBAR**

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 decision making. The Director/Secretary is responsible for the daily management of the Metro Parks. The Lorain County Metro Parks staff is comprised of 64 full-time and 14 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 170 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.

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BLACK RIVER BIKEWAY

The Black River Bikeway was completed which breeds connectivity throughout the park district. The bikeway travels along West River Road beginning at the entrance of Cascade Park. The path then travels along Ford Road, thus connecting Cascade Park and the High Meadows entrance of the Black River Reservation.



Looking west down West River Road in Elyria



Looking west down Ford Road in Elyria

ROYAL OAKS TRAIL OPENS FITNESS TRAIL OPENS · CLUBHOUSE RENOVATED

The former Royal Oaks Golf Course was acquired at the end of 2014. This section of Indian Hollow Reservation was opened to the public in September, 2015. This beautiful park includes a fitness trail along the 2.5 mile trail that features 15 different workout stations. The Clubhouse was also renovated and is open for rent by the public.



Royal Oaks Trail



Newly renovated clubhouse



Fitness Trail

FRENCH CREEK RENOVATED

The French Creek Nature & Arts center underwent some renovations this past year. The children's play space inside the building was newly renovated. The kiva in the main lobby was also renovated with new carpeting and an HD TV.



Newly renovated kiva in the main lobby at French Creek Nature & Arts Center.

NEW RESTROOM AT KOPF RESERVATION



Construction phase of the new restroom at Kopf.

A new restroom was built at the north end of the trail at Kopf Family Reservation and is open to the public.

WELLINGTON RESERVATION UPGRADES

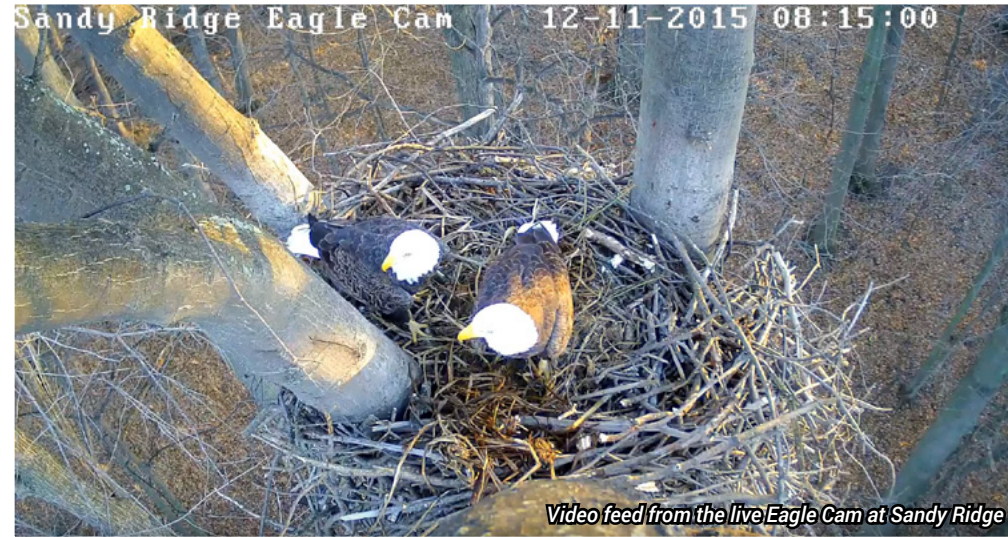
Wellington Reservation saw two upgrades in facilities this past year. First, the visitor center was equipped with a beautiful new pergola at the entrance of the visitor's center. Secondly, the reservoir added a new, easy-to-use kayak launch.



Kayak Launch at reservoir.



New pergola at Visitor Center entrance.



Video feed from the live Eagle Cam at Sandy Ridge

SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION EAGLE CAM

In December, the Lorain County Metro Parks went live with an Eagle Cam of the ever-popular pair of Eagles that have set up a nest at Sandy Ridge Reservation. There has been a pair of eagles nesting at Sandy Ridge since 2002 so this past year, a web cam was set up to be able to watch these beautiful creatures build and maintain their nest.



Solar panel set up to power the camera.



The pair of eagles in their nest in 2002.

**Photo Credit: Lou Gaeta*

CASCADE PARK OPERATION

On January 1, 2015 the Lorain County Metro Parks assumed operation of Cascade /Elywoods Park. Public meetings were held for input during the development of the master plan, which was ultimately unveiled to the public later in the year.



Cascade Park in early autumn

LAKEVIEW PARK UPGRADES



New rose-shaped bike racks.

A new retaining wall was built at Lakeview Park as well as upgraded lights along the walkway. A new set of bike racks were also installed and were designed to look like roses to match the park's Rose Garden.

METRO PARK APPAREL

A brand new apparel line was rolled out in December. Customers can now purchase any of the more than 4 different T-shirt designs in a number of colors. A hoodie is also available for purchase. They are available in person at 3 different park facilities or at the online store.



White Christmas



Back to the 80's: The totally awesome musical

TRUENORTH THEATRE

This season, theatre-goers were entertained by such notable works as *White Christmas*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the summer theatre camp production of *Back to the 80's: the Totally Awesome Musical* and many others. More than 6,000 tickets were sold for the Main Stage theatre season.

PADDLE & PEDAL FEST

This year, the annual Kayak Symposium at Lakeview Park integrated a bicycle portion and re-branded itself as the "Paddle & Pedal Fest." Not only did participants get to learn and practice in the water on kayaks, canoes and standup paddleboards, but they also learned bicycle safety and took part in cycling activities. Children were also given free bike helmets as a part of the American Academy of Pediatrics "Put a Lid on It" campaign.



SPIRIT OF AMERICA BOATING CAMP

The Lorain County Metro Parks partnered with Spirit of America to offer a boating education camp for kids entering 8th grade. Participants learned safe boating skills and became a “captain of their own vessel” by riding in and operating sailboats, powerboats, jet skis, canoes, kayaks and standup paddleboards. This camp also gave students the opportunity to earn a state boating certificate.



On-water powerboat lessons

SPLASH ZONE UPGRADES



Brand new fitness equipment

This past year, Splash Zone in Oberlin saw quite a few renovations and also added an outdoor Dog Park on the property. The Dog Park, located adjacent to the parking lot, is almost a full acre in size and is divided into a small dog area and a large dog area. Among the renovations to the inside of Splash Zone are brand new fitness equipment and new floors.



Brand new aerobics room floor

LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS PROGRAMS

In 2014, 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	282	14,281
Public Programs	1,208	96,000
Senior Citizen Bus Tours	202	4,801
Halloween Fair		26,072
Holiday Lights		25,198
Amherst Beaver Creek	415	16,790
Carlisle Visitor Center	610	28,736
Cascade Park	117	5,227
Forest Hills		19,280
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	357	8,396
Mill Hollow, Carriage Barn	558	29,843
Miller Nature Preserve	70	860
TrueNorth Cultural Arts:		
Mainstage Theatre		5,266
Family Life Series		1,934
Sandy Ridge, Johnson Wetland Center	236	8,709
Schoepfle Garden	126	1,803
Splash Zone	262	2,830
Wellington Reservation	228	10,273
TOTAL	4,671	280,227

METRO PARKS DAY-USE VISITORS

Amherst Beaver Creek	91,524	Miller Nature Preserve	78,823
Black River	262,325	North Coast	
Caley	9,975	Inland Trail	28,905
Carlisle	262,120	Royal Oaks	32,165
Cascade	272,264	Sandy Ridge	114,239
Columbia	104,934	Schoepfle Garden	72,448
Forest Hills Golf Course	52,282	Splash Zone	363,630
French Creek	355,353	Vermilion	252,996
Indian Hollow	75,102	Wellington	132,914
Lakeview	772,258		
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	368,280	TOTAL	3,702,537

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

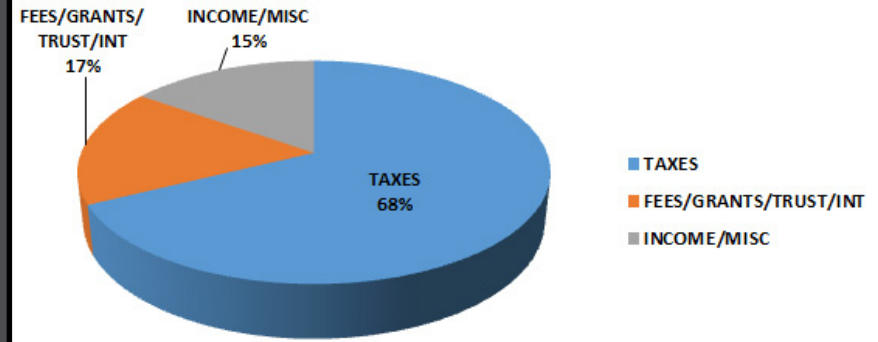
REVENUE

Property Tax	\$7,969,616.81
Interest on Investments	\$2,013.00
Schoepfle Trust	\$247,465.73
Forest Hills Golf Course	\$271,296.40
Grants	\$940,248.28
Fees and Charges	\$824,249.52
Miller Nature Preserve	\$81,349.96
Theatre	\$76,858.25
Splash Zone	\$652,709.34
Mercy Health & Recreation Center	\$710,519.31
TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,776,326.60

EXPENDITURES

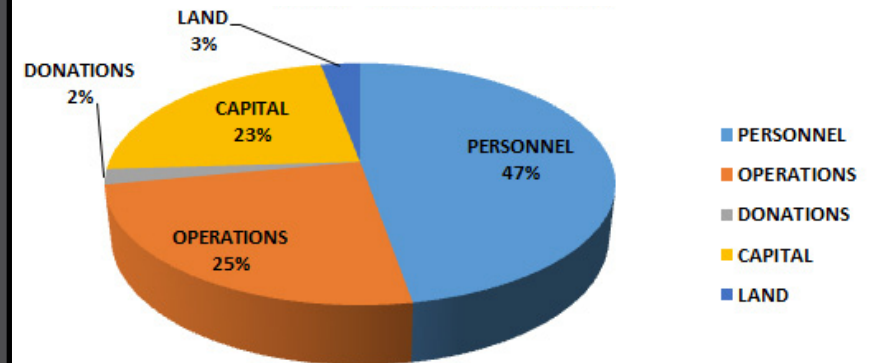
Salaries	\$3,961,716.93
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$1,455,015.52
Supplies	\$90,930.59
Programs	\$105,694.81
Materials	\$732,064.36
Repairs/Rentals	\$47,140.74
Utilities/Service	\$1,325,869.16
Advertising/Displays/Printing	\$148,027.94
Projects	\$90,775.14
Seminars/Training	\$24,191.13
Designated Donations	\$233,845.65
Equipment	\$269,742.86
Land Acquisition	\$341,248.89
Capital Improvements/Contracts	\$1,699,183.70
Grants/Misc	\$937,834.44
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,463,281.86

2015 REVENUES



Taxes	\$7,969,616.81	68%
Fees, Grants, Trust, Int	\$2,013,976.53	15%
Income, Misc	\$1,792,733.26	17%
TOTAL	\$11,776,326.60	

2015 EXPENDITURES



Personnel	\$5,416,732.45	47%
Operations	\$2,834,436.73	25%
Donations	\$233,845.65	2%
Capital	\$2,637,018.14	23%
Land	\$341,248.89	3%
TOTAL	\$11,463,281.86	

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, 2016.



WEST BEACH

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