



**2021**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**









## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Mill Creek MetroParks is to provide park, recreational, educational, and open space facilities of regional significance. In fulfilling this mission our objectives are:

- To be responsive to community needs
- To be environmentally sound
- To be adaptable
- To be economically responsible

## A SEPARATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF OHIO

Mill Creek MetroParks is a separate political subdivision of the state of Ohio and is not part of any local or other political subdivision. It was established on January 1, 1989, under Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, as the successor to the Youngstown Township Park District subsequent to the voters' approval of the conversion. Mill Creek MetroParks serves all of Mahoning County.

The MetroParks currently operates Mill Creek Park, located in Boardman Township and the City of Youngstown, Yellow Creek Park in Struthers, the MetroParks Farm in Canfield Township, Vickers Nature Preserve in Ellsworth Township, MetroParks Bikeway, which traverses: Austintown Township,

Canfield Township and the City of Canfield, Sebring Woods in the Village of Sebring, Cranberry Run Headwaters in Boardman Township, Sawmill Creek Preserve in Canfield Township, Mill Creek Preserve in Boardman Township, McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in Coitsville Township, Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Beaver Township, and Egypt Swamp Preserve in Green Township.

MetroParks revenue is derived from three main sources: receipts of a tax levy upon all real estate within the District, receipts from the Local Government Fund and income from MetroParks facilities such as greens fees, rentals of cabins, pavilions, and boats; programs, and other activities.

## BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Mill Creek MetroParks is governed by a board of park commissioners consisting of five residents of Mahoning County appointed by the Probate Court of Mahoning County and serving without remuneration of benefits.



Appointing Authority  
**The Honorable Judge Robert N. Rusu, Jr.**  
*Mahoning County Probate Judge*



**Lee Frey**  
*President*



**Germaine Bennett**  
*Vice-President*



**Tom Frost**



**Jeff Harvey**



**Paul Olivier**



**Aaron Young**  
*Executive Director*







# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The first quarter of 2021 continued to be a challenging year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Various programs continued in a virtual format and new virtual programs were added to social media and the website allowing visitors to continue to enjoy MetroParks programming from the safety of their own home. In accordance with the orders from the Governor's Office, the Ohio Department of Public Health, the Mahoning County District Board of Health, and the Center for Disease Control regarding the COVID-19 virus, the MetroParks began a phased re-opening of programs, events, and facility rentals in April 2021. All outdoor based recreation facilities, education programs, recreation leagues, and/or events were open to the public on April 13, 2021. All open-air shelters were opened for reservations on their normal seasonal schedule which began May 1, 2021, as well as visitation to the MetroParks Farm animal barns. All indoor related rental facilities, as well as all indoor based education & recreation programs and events, reopened to the public on May 7, 2021. All visitors were asked to follow the current orders and recommended guidelines with regards to mask wearing, social distancing and capacity limitations. The MetroParks, as a whole, remained open for the community to offer a safe place of peace and relaxation in nature during these unprecedented times.

The MetroParks, including staff and volunteers, participates in various outreach programs, events and speaking engagements

throughout the year. Although these were limited due to the 2021 pandemic, they included: The Big Sit, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program, Youngstown State University's Summer Fest, OH WOW! Silly Science, and Back to School Bashes at Western Reserve Schools and Southside Academy.

MetroParks staff from the Operations Department continued to maintain a picnic



area at the Canfield Fair and participated with the Old-Fashioned Sawmill Exhibit. They contributed plantings to the picnic area, assisted with the set-up of the picnic tables, and provided timbers for the sawmill exhibit.

The Community Engagement department stocks the information area kiosk with various literature on facilities throughout the MetroParks.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important supporting component in many areas of park operations. Volunteers support staff efforts in offering

**“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”**

**- ELIZABETH ANDREW**

events and programs to the community; they play a part in educating and engaging our local community, and ultimately increasing support for our parks. Volunteers make a vital contribution to both Mill Creek MetroParks and to Mahoning County!

Due to the potential spread of the virus and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Mill Creek MetroParks volunteers and staff, all volunteer opportunities continued to be on hold for the first quarter of 2021. Volunteers were welcomed back slowly beginning in May 2021 as the weather improved and outdoor opportunities were available. Volunteer time recorded in 2021 during the continuing

pandemic was 2,658 hours from park wide volunteers and multiple groups. Some of the specific areas where these hours were recorded include: Gardening/Horticulture, Conservation/Preservation, Citizen Advisory Committees, Veggie Gardens/Green Thumbs, Adopt-a-Crag, Kiosk Stocking, and Programs/Special Events.

Each year efforts are made for recruitment and the future growth of the volunteer program. The Community Engagement Director typically attends outreach programs to educate the area's youth on Mill Creek MetroParks and the volunteer opportunities available, but due to the pandemic these were

not held in 2021. The Community Engagement Director was a member of the Forum for Volunteer Administrators and attended various virtual workshops and meetings in 2021.

## **MILL CREEK METROPARKS POLICE 2021**

The MetroParks Police provide 24-hour patrol coverage of Park District lands and facilities. The department provides complete law enforcement services which include proactive enforcement, facility security, preservation of land and resources, and maintaining a presence at park events. The department maintains full police powers to enforce laws, park rules and make arrests, as well as issue summonses.

The department is made up of both sworn and non-sworn staff members. The sworn staff includes full time officers, part time officers. The department also maintains an auxiliary force of non-sworn staff who assists sworn officers at park events with traffic direction and event security.

In 2021, the MetroParks Police Department maintained certification from the Ohio Collaborative. Staff also attended various training programs which included: Ohio Chiefs of Police In-Service Training, various safety trainings by the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation, Public Records, State Mandated Weapons Qualification, Crisis Intervention Training, Policy reviews,





Daily Training Bulletins (DTB's) from Lexipol. Individual Excellence, Computer Skills for the Workplace and Administrative Assistant Applications computer training.

Officers complete Daily Training Bulletins on a variety of topics. These DTB's address many of the Ohio Collaborative Standards. The Bias-Based Policing policy is reviewed annually with all staff. Officers have maintained demographic statistics concerning self-initiated traffic stops. The 2021 self-initiated traffic stop breakdown is listed below:

WHITE MALE	218
WHITE FEMALE	132
BLACK MALE	139
BLACK FEMALE	70
HISPANIC MALE	17
HISPANIC FEMALE	7
OTHER MALE	5
OTHER FEMALE	1

MetroParks Police along with Mahoning Valley Chiefs of Police Executives hosted a community summit at Pioneer Pavilion with area Police Chiefs and Community and Church leaders.

Various officers serve on the following: Ohio Law Enforcement Foundation Certified Law Enforcement Advisory Board (CLEE), the Mahoning County OVI Task Force, the Mahoning County Homicide Task Force, and the Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Executives Association.



Both positive and negative concerns can be addressed by filling out the Police Customer Satisfaction Survey Form posted on the MetroParks website. As always, supervisory staff is available to speak to anyone concerning police department issues.

The MetroParks annual “Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs” program was completed in June. The department sustained its community outreach by continuing their mentor/support of two young boys ages 7 and 13 in Youngstown. Officers also provided the children with Christmas gifts this holiday season.

The MetroParks police continued to be proactive in 2020. Proactive Law Enforcement

Contacts totaled 30,626, arrest totals were 191, and dispatched events totaled 2,512.

Grants were obtained to provide officers with body armor with a 25% match through the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation.

The department also received the Lexipol Gold performance award for the highest levels of policy compliance and completion during 2021.

The department continues to strive in the effort to meet our mission statement:

**“Professional Excellence,  
Every Day, In All We Do”.**







# GOLF & RECREATION

## MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE

In 2021 the golf department completed several capital improvements projects which included new ceilings and lighting in the Fieldhouse and added fairway drainage on the North & South golf course. The equipment replacement schedule for the golf course included new greens rollers, back-hoe, and point of sale system for the golf and recreation department.

During the offseason, the Mill Creek MetroParks golf staff continued their approach for growing the customer base by attending the Cleveland, Columbus, Michigan, New York, Pittsburgh Golf Shows through a tourism grant from the Mahoning Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau. The golf shows equated to an additional 3000+ rounds of golf with overnight stays in the Mahoning County. The travel shows continue to have a positive impact for growing rounds of golf along with creating new tourism opportunities in the county.

In June, Mill Creek hosted the 6th Annual Mahoning Valley Hospital Foundation AJGA Junior All Star National Tournament. The financial impact to the Mahoning Valley this year was \$301,974 in hotel stays, dining, recreational spending, green fees, and shopping. Since 2016, the financial impact for the Mahoning Valley surpassed \$1,911,596 as well as \$72,000+ to local charities over the past 6 years.



In the summer, Mill Creek Golf Course was the host to the Junior Optimist International East Coast Regional Qualifier. This was the third national junior event hosted at the MetroParks and in Ohio over the past seven years. In August 2021 Mill Creek entertained the second Annual Notah BeGay III Tournament East Coast Regional Qualifier. The event hosted players with their families from 47 different states.

September brought 17 collegiate women's golf programs to the Mahoning Valley in the return of the NCAA Roseann Schwartz Invitational presented by Youngstown

State University. This year's event was held the week after the Labor Day where the University of Akron took home the team crown.

The golf course hosted the national PGA Hope Program in October and was only one of two facilities to host this program in the state of Ohio. The PGA Hope Program stands for H-Helping O-Our P-Patriots E-Everywhere. The program is part of the PGA of America's REACH Foundation for giving current military members, retired military veterans and disabled veterans the opportunity to learn and play the game of





golf. This first-year program included free golf instruction, golf, lunch, and prizes for area military veterans. The program had overwhelming success as well as national support from Jack & Barbara Nicklaus and is expected to return in 2022.

During the 2021 season Mill Creek Golf Course was awarded for having the “Best Service” in the Mahoning Valley by the Youngstown Vindicator and Warren Tribune in the golf course category. In the fall, the Mill Creek Golf Shop was awarded with their fourth Merchandiser of the Year Award over the past seven years by the PGA of America. In addition, Mill Creek Golf Course took home its first Ohio Public Parks Association Award (OPRA) for hosting the AJGA Junior Golf Tournament in the special events and community impact events category.

## 2021 GOLF ROUND BREAKDOWN

### NORTH & SOUTH GOLF COURSES

<b>Total 9 Hole Rounds:</b>	58,721
<b>Total 18 Hole Rounds:</b>	28,755
<b>TOTAL ROUNDS PLAYED:</b>	87,476

### WICK RECREATION PAR-3 COURSE

<b>Total 9 Hole Rounds:</b>	14,222
<b>Total 18 Hole Rounds:</b>	12,786
<b>TOTAL ROUNDS PLAYED:</b>	27,008





# RECREATION

In 2021 the Recreation Department added 16 new recreation programs including 3 different Par-3 golf leagues, youth soccer league, sand volleyball league, disc golf tournament, Wick Area family night, rackets and paddles camp, kayak races, youth and adult DEK hockey leagues, Learn to Play DEK alongside the Pittsburgh Penguins, a turkey bowl, and more. Recreation programs reached all age demographics from toddlers to seniors.

The Wick Recreation Area implemented several new improvements during the year including the Judge P. Morley Pavilion exterior re-staining, new Par-3 tee mats, and a new gaga ball pit which was donated and built by William Bacho for his Eagle Scout project.

The Wick Recreation Warming House re-design effort has been on hold for the majority of 2021. The project will go to bid in early 2022. The goal is to have the building open and operational by mid-summer 2022 with bathrooms, a pro shop, recreation offices, and a reservable banquet hall.



## RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Adult Program Participants:</b>	1,906
<b>YouthProgram Participants:</b>	908
<b>Glacier Boat Participants:</b>	3,588
<b>Trolley Passengers:</b>	964
<b>Volunteer Coaches:</b>	18
<b>Christmas at the Mill Visitors:</b>	7,500
<b>Earth Day Cleanup Participants:</b>	3,588
<b>Total Participants:</b>	<b>15,193</b>

## RESERVATIONS

<b>Field Reservations:</b>	1,301
<b>Morley Pavilion:</b>	24
<b>Total Reservations:</b>	<b>1,325</b>









# EDUCATION

A large capital improvement project continued through 2021 which will have a direct impact on the Education Department and the programs being offered. The renovation of Ford Nature Center began in February 2020. In total, the project is expected to take up to 2 years to complete with an anticipated reopening of Spring/Summer 2022. Once complete, the project will allow the Ford Nature Center to continue serving the community as a primary resource for nature-based education through the use of 21st century classrooms, learning labs, exhibits and outdoor environment.

**TOTAL PROGRAMS:** 162

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:** 4,689

**Youth:** 1,244

**Adults:** 3,067

**Volunteers:** 378

**SCHOOL PROGRAMS:**

**Programs:** 19

**Participants:** 827

**INTERPRETIVE TOURS:** 25

*(Includes FRG Tours, Mill Tours, Trolley Tours, Tractor & Wagon Tours, Step-On Tours)*

**Participants:** 685

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS:**

**Programs:** 114

**Participants:** 2,827



**VIRTUAL PROGRAMS:** 100,000 + views  
*(Facebook, MetroParks website, YouTube)*

- **Nature Rocks:** A video series highlighting topics and locations of the MetroParks.
- **Sharp About the Park:** Weekly trivia question about the Park.
- **What's in Bloom!:** A video series that highlights what is blooming at Fellows Riverside Gardens.
- **Nature Rocks Extra!:** Videos highlighting topics that were timely in manner about the MetroParks.

- **From the Archives - Stories of Mill Creek Park!:** A video series of stories about the past of Mill Creek Park as viewed through the local newspaper.
- **Good Morning Mill Creek Park:** Series of pictures and short videos highlighting areas of the Park.
- **What's Going On:** An educational PSA dealing with different aspects of the Park.
- **Happy Trails:** An introduction to the trails of the Park featuring location, length, and difficulty.





The Education Department transitioned in 2021 from virtual programming back to in-person instruction. Classes continued in both formats to get as many participants involved in order to enjoy the beauty of the Park. School programs were back starting in the fall with students experiencing all that the Park has to offer.

New programs were well received and enjoyed by visitors with plans being made for future visits. Programs were designed, with the cooperation of classroom teachers, to meet the Science standards of their curriculum.

## **HORTICULTURE**

The total attendance for the Visitor Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2021 was 167,920. There were 41,900 spring bulbs planted, which yielded a spectacular show at Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2021. Fellows Riverside Gardens staff and volunteers added the following plants to the grounds in 2021:

- 106 roses
- 3 trees
- 9 shrubs
- 204 perennials
- 400 seasonal mums
- 3 new varieties of daffodils added to the permanent collection
- 43,000 new summer annuals



## THE FOLLOWING LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS WERE MADE IN 2020 THROUGHOUT THE METROPARKS:

- 1936 Trees and 295 Shrubs
- 2,226 Perennials
- 1,830 Bulbs
- 323 Native Warm Season Grasses
- Native Wildflower Seed - 1.35 acres

## PROJECTS

**Charles Robinson Maple Grove at Wick Recreation Area** - Tree Planting

**Collier (Mill Creek) Preserve (YSU and FirstEnergy)** - Tree Planting

**Lanterman's Mill Parking Lot Biofiltration Garden** - Pollinator Planting

### Ford Nature Center

- 0.75 Acre Wildflower Meadow
- Landscape Beds
- Rooftop (Liveroof) Garden

**Mill Creek Park Facility Sign at Tod Avenue** - Landscape Bed

**Farm Facility Sign** - Landscape Bed

### Newport Wetlands

**Picnic Area** - Wildflower Meadow

## VARIOUS EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS INCLUDED:

Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Fall Plant Sale, Summer Garden Party and On the Terrace at 5, Pumpkin Walk at Twilight, Winter Celebration-Festival of Trees, Breakfast with Santa, and two art exhibits on display in the Weller Gallery.









# OUR PEOPLE

## Our employees are the key to the success of Mill Creek MetroParks.

2021 brought one retirement, thirteen employee promotions and one hundred and thirteen hiring actions.

All full-time bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit employees received a one-percent general wage increase in 2021. Several full-time and part-time positions were also adjusted based on merit and added duties. Part-time pay grades were established in order build a fair and equitable pay structure for part-time staff. The MetroParks also successfully negotiated a mutually beneficial collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Mill Creek MetroParks continues to invest in employee education and training. It is our goal to foster an environment that encourages knowledge advancement and professional development. Building on these competencies and skills allows the MetroParks to fulfill its mission effectively. Training and development opportunities were provided to employees on a wide range of topics throughout 2021. Training opportunities included Diversity and Inclusion, Workplace Safety, Leadership, Emergency Action Plan, Drug Free Workplace and Antiharassment. Employees also received continuing education in the following areas:



CPR and First Aid Certifications, CPR and First Aid Instructor Certification, PGA Junior League Coaching Certification, Sunshine Law Certification, Center for Public Investment Management Certification and Professional Disc Golf Association Certification.

The Employee Association is a MetroParks employee-run group, sustained by employee

donations. The Association sent flowers for employee celebrations, hospital stays and bereavement in 2021. The Association also made charitable contributions to seven other local non-profit organizations. The Wellness Committee, a second employee ran group focused on employee physical and mental health, held employee classes on general wellness and healthy meal planning.







# INFRASTRUCTURE

## ANNUAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$625,000.00

## ANNUAL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$200,000.00

## ANNUAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$125,000.00

## ANNUAL SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$25,000.00

## ANNUAL PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$25,000.00

## MILL CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$20,000.00

## MILL CREEK PRESERVE IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$20,000.00

## LANTERMAN'S MILL SITE IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$10,000.00

## METROPARKS FARM IMPROVEMENT

**COST:** \$14,500.00



## FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS - DAVIS CENTER REPAIRS

**COST:** \$75,000.00

## FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS - ROSE GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$35,000.00

## FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS - OUTDOOR EDUCATION BUILDING

**COST:** \$400,000.00

## FORD NATURE CENTER - REDEVELOPMENT

**COST:** \$1,991,094.89

## FORD NATURE CENTER - EXHIBIT CONSTRUCTION

**COST:** \$360,000.00

## GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

**COST:** \$7,000.00

## FUEL STATION UPGRADES

**COST:** \$135,000.00

## WICK WARMING HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT

**COST:** \$800,000.00







# NATURAL RESOURCES

**Canada goose management efforts were continued in 2021.** Various MetroParks departments carried out Canada goose harassment efforts at key locations throughout the MetroParks using pyrotechnic launchers, lasers, and exclusionary fencing. Following harassment activities, a nest destruction permit was obtained through ODNR. USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services was contracted to perform nest inspection and egg addling activities at these same key locations. In total, forty-four (44) nests containing sixty-two (62) eggs were located – of those located, eight (8) nests and thirty-nine (39) eggs were treated (no addling took place at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary). The 4th annual Canada goose count performed by the local Audubon Society produced a 2021 population count of 151 individuals throughout the park, a slight decrease from the 2020 count of 209 individuals.

Public outreach efforts, including signage, public service announcements, brochures, enforcement, and education programs were also continued to further the “Do Not Feed Wildlife” campaign throughout the MetroParks.

**Efforts continued at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary to improve dike conditions and restore water fluctuation capabilities.** In 2021, the MetroParks successfully completed numerous leak repairs which restored function to approximately forty-one (41) acres of wetland complexes. Projects such

as these improve wildlife habitat and help reduce invasive species at the facility. In October, volunteers participated in the “Big Sit” event at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. This annual international birding competition provides the opportunity for sites around the world to battle against each other, with participants hoping to record the highest number of bird species observed from one location within a 24-hour period. This year a total of 72 bird species were observed during this event at the Wildlife Sanctuary, ranking 1st in Ohio.

Separate from the “Big Sit”, numerous volunteers contribute to an annual species count at the Sanctuary, which documents the total number of different bird species encountered at the Sanctuary for a given year. The all-time species count for the Sanctuary has now risen to an all-time high of 260 species.

**Efforts continued this year to reduce and control non-native/invasive plants throughout areas of the MetroParks, most notably the Mill Creek Preserve and Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, where a combined 70 acres were treated.** Herbicide applications and/or physical removal of undesirable species were also conducted at properties such as the Lily Pond, Lake Newport Wetlands, Vickers Nature Preserve, Sawmill Creek Preserve, Mill Creek Park, and the MetroParks Farm.

**The MetroParks continued the Healthy Streams Initiative, an annual project aimed at restoring natural flow patterns and reducing erosion along Mill Creek and its tributaries by removing fallen trees and woody debris from the stream.** In 2021, the project focused on Indian Run as it flows through the Huntington Woods Development, beginning at Huntington Drive and continuing North until Route 224 and Mill Creek between Route 224 and the East Golf Hike & Bike Fording Bridge. This year’s project successfully improved 4,444 linear feet of stream and throughout the lifetime of this program, Mill Creek MetroParks has improved over 7.5 miles of stream including portions of Mill Creek, Indian Run, and Anderson Run.

**The Lily Pond was the focus of numerous improvement projects in 2021, most notably the continued planting Yellow Cow-Lilies to enhance the overall biodiversity of the site and reintroduce the once abundant water lily.** The Lily Pond also received ongoing management efforts focusing on algae treatments, invasive species treatment, and invasive species removal.

**Through partnerships with FirstEnergy and the YSU Legacy Forest Committee, the MetroParks began a tree planting initiative** at the Collier Preserve and successfully planted 1,900 native trees over approximately five (5) acres in an effort to reforest areas of reverting farmland.







# STEWARDSHIP

## LAND ACQUISITION:

- 218.58 acres – Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Expansion
- 88.38 acres – Springfield Forest
- 161.76 acres – Hawkins Marsh
- 0.20 acres – Land Bank Coordination

**Total Acres Acquired in 2021:** 468.92 acres

## GRANT STEWARDSHIP:

### MetroParks Bikeway Phase III

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant funding for right-of-way consultant services and property acquisition. Federal property acquisition process continued throughout the year. \$68,975.00 was expended (*grant funded at \$228,005.00*).
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) CMAQ program grant funding for design & engineering consultant services. Construction drawings were completed. \$0.00 was expended (*grant funded at \$20,981.48*).

### Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Round 14

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant was received to acquire two (2) parcels of property totaling 218.58 acres along Mill Creek in Beaver Township. The property, comprised of fields, wooded areas, wetlands, floodplains and Mill Creek, will expand the existing Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Acquisition completed with \$603,456.50

expended (*grant funded at 75% - \$450,000; MCMP Foundation funding at 25% - \$150,000.00*).

### Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Round 15

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant was received to acquire one (1) parcel of property totaling 88.38 acres along Springfield Road in Springfield Township. The property is comprised of fields, wooded areas, wetlands, and a portion of a lake. Acquisition completed with \$392,575.00 expended (*grant funded at 75% - \$294,431.00; private contribution of \$30,445.00*).

### Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Round 15A

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant was received to improve the Springfield Forest property. Proposed improvements include establishment of a parking lot with entry drive, improved trail system, access to lakeside structures, ecological restoration, signage, etc. Improvements are scheduled for 2022. \$0.00 expended to date (*grant funded at 75% - \$182,202*).

### Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Round 16

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant was received to acquire two (2) parcels of property totaling 161.76 acres along a tributary to Berlin Lake in Smith Township. The property is comprised of fields, wooded areas, wetlands, floodplains and includes. Acquisition completed with \$1,143,530.00

expended (*grant funded at 73.8% - \$843,800; private donation of \$299,730.00*).

### CXT Restroom/Comfort Station

An Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks grant was received for construction of a new comfort station at the Golf Course. Construction is scheduled for 2022. \$0.00 was expended (*grant funded at \$15,247.00*).

### Old Orchard Bridge Improvements

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation Program grant funding for improvements to the Dividing Sycamore Bridge on Chestnut Hill Drive in Mill Creek Park. Improvements included cleaning and repointing of stone masonry, installation of weatherproofing, underdrains, concrete walk, concrete curb and asphalt pavement. The project was substantially complete in 2021. \$93,180.00 was expended (*grant funded at 80% - \$160,000.00*).

### East Park Hike & Bike Trails Phase II

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding for construction of the East Park Hike & Bike Trail Phase II. Construction of the second phase of the East Park Hike & Bike Trail that will extend the first phase of the trail from the Lanterman's Mill overflow parking lot (Idora) to East Cohasset Hike & Bike Trail at East Park Drive. \$0.00 expended in 2021 (*grant funded at 80% - \$136,000.00*); environmental authorization and construction anticipated for 2022.



## FORD NATURE CENTER REDEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

*In 2021, the following donors have generously contributed and pledged gifts towards the \$3 million redevelopment of the Ford Nature Center. These donations were made through the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation.*

Andrews Trust

Barbara Anthony

Lily Appugliese

Robert and Joanne Backes

Michelle Barwell

Beecher Family Foundation

Rachael Blum

Mary Beth Breckenridge

Bresnahan Foundation

Mike Budge

Kaaren Cabraja

John Callery

John Campbell

Brian Cartwright

Centofanti Foundation

Alyson Chepla

City of Youngstown

Matthew Coppage

Kellianne Craig

Harold Dampf

Suzette Darden

James Dobran

Christine Donaldson

Estate of David Watson

Joan Fitzgibbon

Al & Sandra Gordon

Aidan Guinan

Michelle Hatzileris

Michael Hernan

Home Savings Foundation

Michael Hripko

Steven Hurst

Timothy Inglis

J. Ford Crandall Foundation

John D. Finnegan Foundation

Dorothy Johnson

Kate Kaiser

Steven Krill





Kristen Kriss  
Greg Krystek  
Charles Lanz  
Kristen Lauer  
Barbara Ann Levy  
Chris Litton  
Raymond Lombardi  
Michael Malkin  
Maxine Mantell  
Ilene McMurray  
Anthony L. Mehle  
Ron & Marsha Miles  
Justin Mondok  
Melinda Mondok  
Hannah Moses  
Jean Mulholland  
Elizabeth Myer  
Susan Nadenichek  
Paul Olivier  
Karen O'Malia  
Donna Panazzi  
Pepe Parish  
Martin Pfinsgraff  
Wayne Potratz



Dennis Poulton  
Power Management Co., LLC  
David Remias  
Laura Ress  
Sand Hill Foundation  
Charles and Char'Lette Sauerwein  
Patrick and Lori Schafer  
Scott Schulick  
David Seifert  
George Semer  
Rick Shale  
Angela Sherick  
Beth Sheridan

Judith Lynn Sibbet  
Andrea Small  
Larrie Smith  
Melanie Smith  
Kesha Szeljack  
Scott Szeljack  
Ivan Tomic  
Barbara Walker  
Thomas Walker  
Brooks Wallington  
Youngstown Clothing Co.  
Charlene Yuengert  
Sharyn Zembower



## 2021 ENDOWMENT DRIVE

*The following donors have supported endowment funds for the perpetual care and preservation of Mill Creek MetroParks*

Community Foundation  
of the Mahoning Valley

Thomas P. Danko

Donald Ross Society Foundation

Thomas Dundon

Farmers National Bank

Charles & Mary Fowler

Jeanne D. Goodman

Kris Gregory

Deborah Grinstein

Jane Johnston

Sallie B. Jones

Pete Karpyk

Margaret Keasey

Marianne Klein

William Koch

Joseph Kope Estate

Lakeshore Hockey Association Inc.

Al Leonhart

Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association

Mahoning Valley Hospital Foundation

Mayo Realtors

Packer Thomas

Beverly Parks

Catherine F. Penrod

PNC

Martha Pomeroy

Gene J. Pusateri

Connie Robinson

Joseph Rozonsa

Theodore Schmidt

Judy Sees

Thomas Shipka

Southern Park Golf, Inc.

Nancy Sprockett

William Terlesky

The Youngstown Foundation

Karen Thompson

Ellen Tressel

Carol Truitt

Mark & Sharon Walker

Florence Webster

Western Reserve Architectural Historians

Western Reserve Nursery & Garden Centers

Elaine Young

ZID Realty & Associates





## RENTAL FACILITY USAGE

### FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

- **Auditorium:** 52 rentals
- **Classrooms:** 55 rentals
- **Ceremonies (*indoors & outdoors*):** 115 rentals
- **Garden Café:** 24 rentals
- **Radius Room:** 22 rentals
- **Wedding Receptions:** 41 rentals

### METROPARKS FARM

- **Classroom A:** 25 rentals/320 attendance
- **Kenneth McMahon Hall:** 143 rentals/8,602 attendance

### CABINS

- **Bears Den Cabin:** 104 rentals/3,122 attendance
- **Birch Hill Cabin:** 167 rentals/6,910 attendance
- **Old Log Cabin:** 40 rentals/681 attendance

### PAVILIONS

- **Chestnut Hill Pavilion:** 46 rentals/2,005 attendance
- **Pioneer Pavilion:** 70 rentals/4,353 attendance
- **Scholl Pavilion:** 55 rentals/2,375 attendance



- **Slippery Rock Pavilion:** 54 rentals/3,655 attendance
- **Stitt Pavilion:** 55 rentals/2,579 attendance
- **Thomas J. Bresko Pavilion:** 69 rentals/1,513 attendance
- **Kirk Road Pavilion:** 5 rentals/131 attendance

### YELLOW CREEK PARK

- **Capt. John Struthers Pavilion:** 15 rentals/791 attendance
- **Yellow Creek Lodge:** 65 rentals/3,577 attendance

### EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

- **Equestrian Rings:** 4 rentals/120 attendance



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

Unencumbered Cash Balance January 1, 2021	\$4,195,223.64
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$4,192,921.58

### INCOME:

General Property Tax	\$8,156,105.34
Park District Activities	\$2,216,906.57
Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation	\$461,165.19
Local Government Fund	\$397,413.04
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens	\$232,706.19
BWC Rebates & Grants	\$205,838.82
Interest	\$71,510.65
Gas Royalties	\$70,787.80
ODNR Grants	\$53,301.00
Law Enforcement Training Revenue	\$2,407.50
Total Income	\$11,868,142.10

**Total Funds Available** **\$20,256,287.32**

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Capital Improvements	\$5,250,487.74
Salaries & Wages	\$5,166,518.53
Materials & Supplies	\$2,950,396.40
Capital Equipment	\$396,177.61

**Total Disbursements** **\$13,763,580.28**

Year End Cash Balance December 31, 2021	\$6,492,707.04
Year End Encumbrances	\$1,670,681.01
Unencumbered Cash Balance	\$4,822,026.03

