



THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE — 2008 winner of:
Mahoning Valley Historical Society Preservation Award
and Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Annual
Awards of Excellence/Park Area Development



MILL CREEK METROPARKS ANNUAL REPORT 2008

FROM THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

M. Virginia Dailey
President

Carl A. Nunziato
First Vice-President

Rick Shale
Second Vice-President

The Honorable Judge Mark Belinky
Mahoning County Probate Judge

The years 2007 and 2008 were filled with activity for the MetroParks. Because so much of what started in 2007 continued into 2008, we are addressing both years in our annual update.

The MetroParks' new Executive Director, David Imbrogno, completed his first year of service. Dave joined the MetroParks in October, 2007 following the retirement of Susan Dicken, MetroParks' Executive Director from July 2002 through September 2007. Prior to joining the MetroParks, Dave served as Executive Director of Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest in Louisville, Kentucky, for thirteen years.

Attorney Mark Belinky was appointed Mahoning County Probate Judge on December 3, 2007 by Governor Ted Strickland to fill the unexpired term of Judge Timothy P. Maloney, who announced his retirement earlier that year. Judge Belinky retained his seat through election in November 2008, and began his six year term on January 1, 2009. Judge Belinky appoints the MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners.

The mission of providing and preserving open space is paramount to the MetroParks. To that end, the MetroParks acquired a second 186-acre parcel of land at Mill Creek Preserve, located on the northeast corner of Western Reserve and Tippecanoe Roads. From 2005 through 2007, the MetroParks acquired a total of 303 acres at this site at no cost to Mahoning County residents. The current purchase was funded through the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program, administered through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The MetroParks received \$1.6 million in grant monies to acquire this outstanding additional piece of property. The MetroParks' sponsor for this grant was the Village of Lordstown.

On November 20, 2007, the MetroParks celebrated the reopening of the Suspension Bridge after a 5-month renovation. The Suspension Bridge was built in 1895 by Charles Fowler of the Youngstown Bridge Company. The renovation was funded through a Federal Highway Safety Enhancement grant, which covered 80% of the \$524,000 cost of repairing the bridge, improving its structural integrity and restoring it to visual prominence.

Two other noteworthy activities occurred in 2008 that will have a lasting impact on the MetroParks and its facilities. A strategic planning process was started at the end of 2008 to develop a clear vision for the MetroParks 5, 25 and 125 years into the future. The stone staircase at Pioneer Pavilion was restored and other improvements were made to this historic structure to preserve it for future generations.

The Board of Park Commissioners invites you to look in detail at the 2008 Annual Report. You'll see the many accomplishments that will ensure that Mill Creek MetroParks remain an invaluable asset to the Mahoning Valley as well as the surrounding area.

METROPARKS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Mill Creek MetroParks is to provide park, recreational 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 a 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 in Boardman Township and the City of Youngstown, Yellow Creek Park in Struthers, MetroParks Farm in Canfield, Vickers Nature Preserve in Ellsworth Township, McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in Coitsville Township, MetroParks Bikeway which traverses Mahoning County, Sawmill Creek Preserve in Canfield Township, Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Beaver Township, and Mill Creek Preserve in Boardman Township. In 2008, total acreage was 4,575.

The MetroParks is governed by a Board of Park Commissioners consisting of three residents of Mahoning County appointed by the Probate Court of Mahoning County and serving without remuneration or benefits. MetroParks revenue is derived from four main sources: receipts of a tax levy upon all real estate within the District, receipts from the Local Government Fund, receipts from the Local Government Revenue Assistance Fund, and income from MetroParks facilities such as greens fees; rentals of cabins, pavilions, and boats; lesson programs; and other activities.

The policy of the Board has been to maintain MetroParks lands in a natural state, limiting development to those facilities which provide public use consistent with MetroParks conservation and the recreational needs of the community.



METROPARKS FACILITY ACREAGE

FACILITY NAME	YEAR ACQUIRED	LOCATION	ACRES
Mill Creek Park	1891-present	City of Youngstown	792
Mill Creek Park	1891-present	Boardman Township	2,090
MetroParks Farm	1990	Canfield Township	400
Yellow Creek Park	1991	City of Struthers	76
Vickers Nature Preserve	1992	Ellsworth Township	262
McGuffey Wildlife Preserve	1998	Coitsville Township	79
MetroParks Bikeway	1999	Austintown, Canfield, and Green Townships;	
		City of Canfield	130
Sawmill Creek Preserve	2001	Canfield Township	154
Cranberry Run Headwaters	2003	Boardman Township	25
Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary	2005	Beaver Township	264
Mill Creek Preserve	2005-07	Boardman Township	303
TOTAL ACRES			4,575

METROPARKS LAND MANAGEMENT

Natural areas management in the MetroParks became part of the newly re-organized Planning and Operations Department. A MetroParks Land Management Advisory Group will help make natural areas management decisions and develop an overall land management plan for the entire MetroParks system.

A land management plan for the golf course was developed incorporating golf, aesthetic and conservation needs. The plan included seeking National Audubon Society golf course certification, using sustainable practices, a tree management plan, identifying native wildflower areas, and ornamental plantings.

On-going management of invasive species in our natural areas continued, including introduction of a beetle to control purple loosestrife at Newport Wetlands, and a proactive management plan for the coming infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and The Ohio State University Extension Service – Mahoning County.

Natural areas inventory studies used a committed group of volunteers to list, monitor and identify native species of animals and plants throughout the MetroParks, with special focus on our wetlands.

VOLUNTEERS IN-THE-PARK

We are fortunate to have the gift of people's time and talents to support our activities. Without the helping hands and enthusiasm of our volunteers, the beauty of our gardens and many of the events in the MetroParks would not be possible. Our volunteers are honored at the annual volunteer recognition picnic. Time recorded for our dedicated volunteers throughout the MetroParks in 2008 totaled 11,991 hours. Based on federal minimum wage of \$7.25 this had an approximate value of \$86,934.75.



HOW DO OUR GARDENS GROW?

Fellows Riverside Gardens celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2008. Elizabeth Fellows donated land and money to build and maintain these free public gardens in 1958. Currently, 41 landscaped sites are tended throughout the MetroParks. This varies from a bike spur entrance needing 2-3 visits in a season to a landscaped site, such as the Mill Creek Golf Course, that requires weekly attention. The staff of the landscape crew estimated that it trimmed the equivalent of over a half mile of hedges and used 1,000 feet of string trimmer cord to maintain the landscaped areas in the MetroParks. Highlights of the year included new plantings at Lanterman's Mill, Kirk Road Trailhead and Krieder's Entrance where 286 herbaceous perennials and 67 woody shrubs were used.

The month-long special event at Fellows Riverside Gardens, "Winter Celebration—Golden Holiday," was free to the public and featured holiday trees decorated by 32 community non-profit organizations. The trees were on display at the D.D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center along with other decorations, displays, and activities for children.

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Visitors to the Gardens	423,360
Spring bulbs planted	42,934
Permanent plants added to collections	506
Records added to plant accession	163
Group Tours	31

THINGS TO DO IN THE METROPARKS

Throughout 2008, hundreds of thousands of community residents took advantage of recreational opportunities that included golf, hiking, biking, boating, tennis, bird watching, fishing, picnicking, batting cages, sand volleyball, sled riding, cross country skiing, visiting historic sites, participating in MetroParks programs, connecting with nature, and much more.

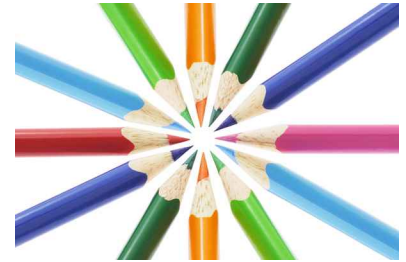
The educational and programming staff of the MetroParks offered a wide array of programs for all ages for free or minimal cost. In 2008, county residents enjoyed 795 MetroParks programs and classes that included escorted hikes and kayak excursions, special events, children's programs, pottery, golf, health & wellness, yoga, cooking, book discussions, workshops, lectures, and numerous horticulture, nature, and agriculture programs. Exhibits at Fellows Riverside Gardens featured works by local and national artists in a multitude of themes and mixed media ranging from photography to paintings to sculpture to flower shows. These exhibits were offered free to the public.



METROPARKS SPECIAL EVENTS

PROGRAM	ATTENDANCE
Winter Celebration	20,910
7UP Summerfest Spectacular Concert Series	18,000
MetroParks Farm Baby Shower	6,000
Olde Fashioned Christmas at the Mill	4,000
Gardens by Candlelight	3,006
Fall Into Fun – FRG 50th Anniversary Festival	2,416
Kite Festival	1,500
Bug Day	1,025
Halloween at the Judge Morley Pavilion	800
Sunset at the Farm	750
Scout's Earth Day Clean-Up	550
Easter Eggstravaganza	500
Sunfest	500
Yellow Creek Park Concerts	425
Hooked on Fishing	350
Summertime Jubilee	300
Hike for the Health of It!	250
Reindeer Games	150
Total Attendance	61,432

EDUCATIONAL GROUP PROGRAMS



MetroParks facilities provided programs on-site and in the community.

	MetroParks Farm	Ford Nature Center	Fellows Riverside Gardens	Lanterman's Mill	Subdivision Totals
COUNTY SUBDIVISION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS				
Austintown Township	2,376	940	311	155	3,782
Beaver Township	250	101	0	45	396
Beloit Village	3	1	0	0	4
Berlin Township	1,088	52	0	0	1,140
Boardman Township	1,920	615	440	246	3,221
City of Campbell	745	138	5	22	910
Canfield City & Township	1,104	245	261	50	1,660
Coitsville Township	0	2	0	0	2
Craig Beach Village	0	0	0	0	0
Ellsworth Township	106	88	3	51	248
Goshen Township	0	2	0	0	2
Green Township	199	1	6	0	206
Jackson Township	144	1	0	45	190
Lowellville Village	0	12	20	0	32
Milton Township	101	1	0	0	102
New Middletown Village	83	90	3	0	176
Poland Village & Township	1,037	341	237	0	1,615
City of Sebring	204	5	9	40	258
Smith Township	296	2	0	0	298
Springfield Township	362	183	110	100	755
City of Struthers	663	312	32	130	1,137
Village of Washingtonville	0	32	0	0	32
City of Youngstown	3,543	1228	979	859	6,609
Total Mahoning County	14,224	4,392	2,416	1,743	22,775
Trumbull County	804	590	278	271	1,943
Columbiana County	724	74	56	15	869
Other Ohio	201	246	117	77	641
Pennsylvania	279	29	2	30	340
Other State\Country	1	0	180	102	283
Total Nonresident	2,009	939	633	495	4,07
GRAND TOTALS	16,233	5,331	3,049	2,238	26,871



DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING IN THE METROPARKS

Fundraising is an important source of income for the MetroParks. Software was acquired to better track the giving history of donors to Mill Creek MetroParks and the Mill Creek Park Foundation. Tracking will allow the MetroParks to properly recognize donors and increase overall giving. Park Development began sharing resources with Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens for a more integrated approach to fundraising. A set of goals for the Mill Creek Park Foundation was established to maximize the Foundation's potential. The Mindy Henning Scholarship Fund was established in honor of the late Mindy Henning, MetroParks Manager of Interpretive Services. This fund will award its first scholarship in 2009 to a student majoring in environmental or outdoor education.

The MetroParks must also effectively manage its promotional efforts in an economical manner and evaluate visitor experience and satisfaction. The MetroParks website was redesigned at minimal cost to be more user-friendly, allow for quicker information updates, and lay the groundwork for on-line registrations, payments, donations, surveys, and feedback.

Private contributions help the MetroParks leverage public dollars. The Board of Park Commissioners and staff of Mill Creek MetroParks salute the individuals, businesses, and organizations who supported the MetroParks in 2008. Their gifts of time, talents, and financial resources are greatly appreciated.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Aiello, Josephine
Aiello, Marty
Allchin, Diane
Alter, Barbara
Babos, Nancy
Bacon, Vince & Phyllis
Balog, Barbara
Begezda, Steve & Diane
Behrendt, M.J.
Borocz, Marie
Bresko, Thomas J.
Briceland, Regina
Brown, Emory & Beverly
Bukovnik, Gary
Bulmer, Rosie
Cannon, James & Kay
Carvelas, Lucy & Carol
Case, Mr. & Mrs. James
Cavanaugh, Frank
Chifala, Nancy
Cipperley, Betty
Clebhone, Bettina
Colvin, Harry & Marie
Colwell, Cliff
Comstock, Mr. & Mrs. David
Comstock, Springer & Wilson Co. LPA
Conti, Carole & William
Covelli, Fred & Mary
D'Isa, Mr. & Mrs. Frank
Dampf Jr., Harold & Jane
Davidson, Marcia
Define, Gary & Patricia

Define, Phyllis
Demechko, Audrey & Robert
Dickey, Joe & Ellen
Dolan, Deborah
Dominick, Betsy
Dominick, Joseph & Cynthia
Doyle, Bob & Barb
Duke, Uncle
Dunchak, Ted & Coleen
Dwyer, Patricia
Einfalt, Betty
FERENCE, Jim & Linda
Gestosani, Anita
Giampietro, Pauline
Gibson, Barbara
Gilboy, Paul & Julia
Goist, Judith
Grimm, Terrence
Hafiz M.D., Abdul
Hafiz J.D., Rawnaq
Haldiman, Kimberlee & Tim
Hall, Dick & Kay
Haney, Glenn
Heinemann, Heinz
Hemphill, Joanna
Inglis, Mr. & Mrs. Donald
Jones, Maxine
Kimmel, Tom & Stella
Kochalko, Michael
LaRiccia, Gina
Luecke, JoAnn
Martin, Fred

McDermott, Robert & Marion
McFadden, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
McFarland, Mel & Clara
McIntire, John E. & Rosemary
McNair Jr., Mr. & Mrs. John
Mines, Helen
Mowad, Eugene & Lori
Mrozek, Garry & Wanda
Mucitelli, Diana
Murphy, Joan
Neal, K.
Neighbors of Bobwhite Court
Nelson, Billie
Nespeca, Susan
Nova, Raymond
Novotny, Eileen Walsh
Opre, Raymond
Payson, Lauretta
Peterson, Janet
Piesto, Diane
Pratt, John
Ricciuti, Katie
Ritchey, Diana
Robinson, Mary Lou
Rohrbaugh, Paul & Marilyn
Ruddy, Michael & Angela
Rusnak, Bob & Florine
Santisi, Margaret
Schaff, Mary Alice
Sciannamblo, Cathy & Bill
Sebastiano, Patrick
Smith, Richard

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS continued

Smith, Stuart & Susan
Spencer, Ruth & Kenneth
St. Elizabeth Class of Nurses 1957
Stenger, Jane
Stewart, Mr. & Mrs. David
Stroney, Matt & Ann Marie
Sullivan, Irene
Sullivan, Mary Lou
Sunseri, Kathy & Edward
Szauter, Kitty
Tamarkin, Bruce & Kelly
Tamarkin, Jerry & Kay
Tarantine, Mary
Taylor, Mary Beth
Teaberry, Richard & Suzanne
Thompson, Maureen, Jamie & Pamela
Tipton, Ann
Turoly, Dr. & Mrs. Frank



Turza, Diane
Vargo, Don & Barb
Walsh, Sheila
Walsh, T. Kevin
Wasylyshyn, Nancy
Watson, Frank & Norma
Weaver, Diane
Winick, Samie
Workman, Patricia
York, John & Denise

CORPORATIONS/FOUNDATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

A. M. Party Rentals
AARP Chapter 3104 Canfield
Allstate Foundation
Alpha Zeta Fraternity
Altronic, Inc.
American Church Inc.
Arcadia Publishing
Armstrong Cable
Austintown Garden Club
Ballet Western Reserve
Boardman Medical Supply
Bonfoey Gallery
Cadbury Schweppes Bottling Group
Cater 2U
CBOSS, Inc.
Celtic Healthcare
Chalet Premier
Clarencedale Cakes
Coldwell Banker First Place Realty
DeBartolo Corporation
Discount Cash Register
Family Dollar Stores Dist. 120 Reg. 16
First National Bank
First Place Bank Foundation
Forsyth Country Day School Foundation
Frances Schermer Charitable Trust
Fred Martin Ford
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens
Garden Club of Youngstown
Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown
Girard Herb Society
Gleaners Garden Club
Grainger
Hill Barth & King, LLC
Hubbard Jr. Garden Club
Hynes Industries, Inc.
Immaculate Heart Garden Club
Joe Dickey Electric
Johnny Appleseed Garden Club
Julia Kirinko Trust
L&E Rental

LanzScape Photography
Liberty Steel Products
Luzerne County Detectives
Mahoning Valley Landscape & Nursery
Assoc.
Mahoning Garden Club
Manchester, Bennett, Powers and Ullman
Men's Garden Club of Youngstown
Micro Doctor, Inc.
Mignonette Garden Club
Moccasin Flower Garden Club
Morrill Chapter Brothers & Friends
Murphy Contracting Company
National City Bank
Peskin Family Foundation
Precision Machine Controls
Professional Risk Management
Ralph and Marion G. Kroehle Foundation
Recording Industry Trust Fund
Rich Print
Roth, Blair, Roberts, Strasfeld & Lodge
Saratoga Catering
Schwebel Family Foundation
Spring Maids Garden Club
Tourist Club
Treasured Moments Bridal
WBBG
WFMJ-TV
WKBN
WNCD
WNIO
WYTV
WYSU
Warren P. Williamson Jr. Fund
Youngstown Foundation
Zita M. & Joseph DiYorio Charitable Trust

MINDY HENNING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ackerman, Pauline
Altman, Neil & Denise
Antonelli, Carl R.
Armstrong, Linda S.
Bresko Law Firm
Bresko, John & Peg
Burkhardt, Deborah S.
Burkhardt, Edwin & Linda
Cannell, Christine A.
Chipelock, Gene
Connolly, James P.
Crewson, Janet & Scott
Dailey, M. Virginia
DeNiro, Nicole
Dolak, Mark & Barbara
Elser, Virginia
Faler, Bill & Denise
Ferranti, Janet
Garritano, M.D., F.A.C.S., Daniel
Glod, Rosemary H.
Hannum, Michael J. & Sally B.
Haschenburger, Alvin Jr. & Mariann
Hartz, Gregory, Teresita, Michael,
Rebecca & Kristen
Henderson, Jim L.
Henning, Mary A.
Henning, Robert Jr. & Shirley
Jones, Lind Randall C.
Kistler, Thomas
Kline, Robert A. & Glenda D.
Krcelic, Edward J. & Ida L.
Krok, Robert & Margaret
LaManna, Linda S.
Luggie, Laretta
M&G Title Search Inc.
Mangino, Lauren
Mehle, Anthony & Irene
Metz, Duane & Brenda
Pavelko, Penny
Peace Race Foundation
Platt, Sherron L.
Reniff, Susan R.
Sachire, Frank & Patricia
Schrode, Sandra J.
Shale, Rick
Shipka, Katherine K.
Sizemore, Lisa
Sullivan, William J.
Thornton, James E.
Trinckes, Vince & Pam
Yerian, Susan
Zabel, Donald E. & Patsy Anne
Zombeck, Walter & Louise

Every attempt has been made to ensure this list is complete and accurate, however, some names may have been inadvertently omitted. If you have a correction, please call the MetroParks' Development Department at 330-702-3000.

STATISTICS

RENTAL FACILITIES

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CABINS/INDOOR					
Bears Den	52	50	50	36	27
Birch Hill	234	204	224	221	220
Log Cabin	30	32	33	37	47
Pioneer	133	132	113	108	121
PICNIC PAVILIONS					
Slippery Rock	33	39	37	33	34
Chestnut Hill	37	38	43	48	35
Stitt	54	42	37	43	49
Scholl	101	87	88	95	90
Wick	75	74	80	50	49
YELLOW CREEK PARK					
Yellow Creek Lodge	118	106	92	102	108
John Struthers Pavilion	28	25	22	25	21
FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS					
Rossi Auditorium	141	155	164	158	162
Café	34	29	35	40	40
Radius Room	85	75	74	88	81
Classrooms	386	354	317	311	248
Weddings	103	110	110	113	110
METROPARKS FARM					
Classroom A	131	151	137	91	94
McMahon Hall	206	222	233	176	252
Totals	1,981	1,925	1,889	1,775	1,788

RECREATION STATISTICS



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
GOLF COURSE ROUNDS					
Adult	48,358	58,073	54,163	53,490	51,294
Junior	3,675	4,584	4,512	4,958	4,779
Senior	21,868	28,356	25,571	28,093	27,084
TOTAL	73,901	91,013	84,246	86,541	83,157
9-Hole Rounds	48,447	55,753	53,368	53,466	51,265
18-Hole Rounds	12,727	17,630	15,456	16,505	15,946
PAR 3 GOLF COURSE ROUNDS					
Student	10,810	10,768	11,141	9,928	10,732
Senior	2,856	2,730	2,523	2,436	3,233
Adult	13,417	14,637	13,117	13,815	12,444
Evening	1,741	2,566	1,122	561	1,398
TOTAL	28,824	30,741	27,903	26,740	27,807
WICK BATTING CAGES PLAYS					
	19,674	21,937	17,388	21,218	18,003
LAKE GLACIER BOAT RENTALS					
	1,386	1,217	1,250	1,645	1913
LAKE NEWPORT BOAT RENTALS					
	661	789	725	772	900

A new golf cart, for the exclusive use of disabled golfers, was placed at the Par 3 course in response to a request by a MetroParks' visitor who could not walk the course.

A sponsored golf yardage book was produced with new maps of each hole, which also appear in the golf section of the MetroParks' new website.

The trees on the Mill Creek Golf Course received special attention this year, making significant improvements to the field of play. The project was guided by a carefully crafted land management plan for the golf course.

Improvements were made to the golf course irrigation system.

METROPARKS POLICE

STATISTICS

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Accidents					
Traffic	27	22	24	15	24
Non-Traffic	52	51	64	89	62
Arrests/Misdemeanor Citations					
Adults	39	43	43	41	28
Juveniles	18	14	11	17	13
Citations—Traffic					
Adults	57	74	82	30	22
Juveniles	5	8	2	1	6
Crimes Against Persons	5	9	9	6	3
Crimes Against Property	23	56	66	89	62
Fires	1	2	2	7	2
Thefts	30	23	27	34	19
Towed Vehicles	35	47	41	26	23
Recovered Vehicles	11	7	4	4	3
Stolen Vehicles	1	0	2	1	4
Parking Tickets	38	36	37	61	45
Police Hours	37,952	40,671	38,853	38,270	38,084
Police Cruiser Mileage	187,282	190,254	201,891	193,320	198,567

MAINTAINING THE METROPARKS

Caring for the MetroParks involves much more than mowing the grass, planting gardens, and picking up litter. Hundreds of miles of snow and ice were removed from MetroParks roads and walkways, dozens of facilities were winterized then reopened in spring, MetroParks vehicles and other equipment were maintained, potholes were patched, storm damage was cleared, 87 structures were cleaned and repaired throughout the MetroParks by the maintenance crew. Miles of roads and acres of parking areas were patched and seal-coated. Two hundred eighty three gallons of vehicle oil, 65 car tires, 41 truck tires, and 19 tractor tires, 18,040 gallons of grey water from park vault toilets, 500 tons of highway salt, 400 tons of road slag, 252 cubic yards of trash, and 60 cubic yards of construction debris was used, processed, and recycled by the MetroParks maintenance operation.

The MetroParks Forestry Department assured visitor safety and improved the aesthetics of over 20 miles of MetroParks roads and seemingly endless miles of neighboring property lines. Throughout the year, the chainsaws operated by the forestry staff wore out 42 yards of chain.

The MetroParks Police continued to work for accreditation through The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), to better serve park visitors. The process is expected to be completed in 2009. Finally, more than 90 miles of MetroParks boundary was patrolled and inspected by the MetroParks Police.

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
METROPARKS FARM					
Visitors to Farm	10,088	10,215	11,164	10,750	11,684
School Presentations	10,499	16,937	11,029	17,270	16,253
Total	20,587	27,152	22,193	28,020	27,937
FORD NATURE EDUCATION CENTER					
Visitors to FNEC	9,263	8,008	6,773	6,125	13,543
Program Attendance				5,707	4,259
Total				11,832	17,802
LANTERMAN'S MILL					
Adult	8,861	7,534	3,736	3,089	3,501
Student	2,195	1,163	1,234	1,073	1,184
Senior	627	536	470	593	834
Under 6 Years	1,284	1,130	644	797	3,084
Total	12,967	10,363	6,084	5,552	8,567

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Trucks and related equipment.....	\$ 72,563
Golf Course and Par 3 equipment (mowers, utility vehicles, etc.)	56,253
Police vehicles and related equipment	32,323
Utility Vehicle (Administration)	13,175
Passenger Boat Conversion (Lake Glacier)	9,150
Body armor (Police).....	8,736
All Terrain Vehicle	7,729
Computer system upgrades.....	7,365
Maintenance Shop Tool upgrade.....	5,895
Stove/Refrigerator (McMahon Hall).....	2,364
Cooler (Golf Course Restaurant).....	1,778
TOTAL.....	\$217,331

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

SLIPPERY ROCK BRIDGE	\$284,447
Rehabilitation of bridge. Funding (80%) through the Federal Highway Administration Enhancement Grant Program administered by Eastgate Regional Council of Governments	
PLANNING, PROPERTY ACQUISITION, AND IMPROVEMENTS.....	188,321
Associated costs of planning, surveying, and acquiring of several parcels of property	
JAMES L. WICK, JR. RECREATION AREA TENNIS COURTS.....	129,390
Improvements to the synthetic grass and sand tennis courts. Funding by Mill Creek Park Foundation	
PIONEER PAVILION	84,493
Reconstruction of the exterior stone stair system and improvements to this historic structure	
FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS PHASE I WALKWAY PROJECT.....	42,120
Installed of 240 feet of concrete pavers to the Gazebo. Funding by Mill Creek Park Foundation	
YELLOW CREEK PARK.....	31,852
Yellow Creek Lodge improvements, resurfacing of the tennis courts, and demolition of former office structure	
STITT PAVILION	29,895
Installed of a new play structure	
DRIVES	19,660
Replaced culvert at Calvary Run. Funding (80%) through the Federal Highway Administration STP Grant Program administered by Eastgate Regional Council of Governments	
GOLF COURSE	13,104
Improved the irrigation system	
PARK PROMOTION	7,946
New website design, installation of voice mail system at the administrative offices, and acquisition of fund-raising software	
PLANT MATERIAL AND FOREST AREAS	7,903
Renovation of plant collections at Fellows Riverside Gardens and tree plantings at various areas throughout the MetroParks	
METROPARKS FARM	7,607
Miscellaneous building and roof repairs and the painting of McMahon Hall	
LILY POND	5,210
Treatment for weed/algae control	
MISCELLANEOUS FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	11,771
TOTAL.....	\$863,719

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, EXPENSES, AND BALANCES

For Year Ending December 31, 2008

Encumbered Funds 01/01/08	\$ 433,034.67
*Available Cash Balance from Previous Year	2,557,757.51

RECEIPTS

Property Tax	6,886,063.99
Local Government Fund	657,098.03
MetroParks Activities	2,881,577.88
Fellows Trust Fund	20,318.90
Grants	2,004,660.25
Transfers/Advances	310,046.75

TOTAL RECEIPTS AND BALANCES	\$ 15,750,557.98
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EXPENSES

Operating – Materials & Supplies	\$ 1,769,758.87
Operating – Salaries & Wages	4,581,475.63
Capital Equipment	206,741.27
Capital Improvements	886,842.10
General Expense	2,873,834.15
Transfers/Advances	310,046.75
Encumbered Funds Forward	308,310.17
*Available Year End Balance	4,813,549.04

TOTAL EXPENSES AND BALANCES	\$ 15,750,557.98
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*The available cash balance is used to sustain MetroParks operations during the first quarter of the following year until tax collection commences.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2008



Working with Smith Township trustees, the MetroParks produced a Community Day event in the township. Community Days events are part of an effort to reach out to areas of the county where we do not have a physical presence.

The MetroParks partnered with the City of Sebring to establish the MetroParks' first western park and nature preserve. At the close of 2008, a grant request to the Clean Ohio Fund was pending for this purchase.

The MetroParks collaborated with WYSU for their annual pledge drive by offering to plant a tree in the MetroParks as part of our natural areas restoration program. All donors received a "behind the scenes" hike led by the Mill Creek MetroParks Executive Director. Staff appeared on-air during the drive and over 60 supporters pledged \$120 each for the tree/hike package.

The MetroParks remained a strong partner with Youngstown CityScape addressing beautification and related issues.

The MetroParks developed a relationship with the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative. The Collaborative is working on the issue of abandoned and blighted property in the city, some of which may be returned to green space.

Participating in other collaborative relationships and projects, the MetroParks:

- Worked with the Board of Elections to use the MetroParks Farm as a spring and fall election polling place.
- Continued and expanded the MetroParks' presence at the Canfield Fair.
- Met with the City of Struthers and combined our summer concert series with theirs.

Many other partnerships were continued or established in 2008. Some of the organizations are: YMCA, Peace Race Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, Youngstown RoadRunners Club, Multiple Sclerosis Services Agency, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, American Public Gardens Association, All-America Rose Selections, Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, Garden Forum of the Greater Youngstown Area and American Dahlia Association.

MetroParks staff became more involved in the community by serving on various boards and committees. The following are just some examples: The Mahoning River Corridor Steering Committee, Alliance for Watershed Action and Riparian Easements (AWARE), Eastgate Technical Advisory Committee, Eastgate's 2008 Transportation Enhancement Grant Review Selection Committee, Eastgate's Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), Project Safe Neighbors Program, the Violent Crime Task Force, Ohio Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) program, the Board of Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority, Second Harvest Food Bank, Great Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway, Rotary Club of Youngstown, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.



