

## *Mill Creek Preserve*

The Mill Creek Preserve boasts a variety of upland and wetland habitats, most notably, a regionally significant 102-acre forested wetland complex. In 2009, a large wetland restoration project was undertaken in an area of the Preserve that had been highly impacted by sod and crop farming. The project restored wetland functions and habitats to the Mill Creek floodplain and provided a buffer to the existing forested wetlands. Invasive plant species were removed and native species were planted. In time, visitors will be able to walk through the restoration area on elevated terraces and observe the various wetland habitats and the wildlife using them. The MetroParks acquired 100% funding through a grant for this wetland restoration project.

## *Mill Creek MetroParks* 2009 Annual Report





## *2009 Board of Park Commissioners*

M. VIRGINIA DAILEY President

JAY MACEJKO 1st Vice-President

CARL NUNZIATO 2nd Vice-President

Appointing Authority

THE HONORABLE JUDGE MARK BELINKY

Mahoning County Probate Judge

The Mill Creek MetroParks Board of Commissioners is a policy making board. Members are responsible for establishing the policies that guide the direction of the Park District.

## *Director's Report*

Each and every year since 1891, Mill Creek MetroParks has changed and grown. The year 2009 was no exception. History was made this year when the Board of Park Commissioners passed a resolution requesting that Probate Court Judge Mark Belinky, the appointing authority of the board, increase the number of commissioners from three to five. This resolution, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, was passed at the October board meeting. The new appointments were scheduled to take place in early January 2010.

Another major change that impacted the MetroParks this past year was the resignation of the Executive Director on August 31. Tom Bresko, Director of Recreation, was appointed Interim Director immediately, and assumed his duties September 1.

Attorney Carl Nunziato, who served on the MetroParks Board of Commissioners from 2003 to 2009, retired as a Board member effective December 31. Attorney Nunziato made many contributions to the advancement of the Mill Creek MetroParks during his tenure and his help and guidance will always be appreciated.

The Mindy Henning Memorial Trail was dedicated on October 3 at the MetroParks Farm in Canfield. Mindy was instrumental in bringing this newest of Park trails from idea to reality. The trail was established in memory of Mindy's 17 years of employment with the Park District as the Manager of Interpretive Services.

The MetroParks was pleased to add two new full-time staff in 2009: a skilled painter and an environmental land manager. Both new staffers bring education and experience to the MetroParks team. Their first year efforts made an impact and noticeable improvements.

Each year we do our best to offer every Park visitor the most memorable experiences possible. I'd personally like to thank the Board of Park Commissioners, the full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff, and the many selfless volunteers who helped us complete our shared goals in 2009. We look forward to a promising 2010 and will work hard to keep the Mill Creek MetroParks a Mahoning Valley gem and one of Ohio's most respected providers of parks and recreation services.

*Tom Bresko, Interim Executive Director*





## *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, located in Boardman Township and the City of Youngstown, Yellow Creek Park in Struthers, the MetroParks Farm in Canfield, the Vickers Nature Preserve in Ellsworth Township, the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in Coitsville Township, the MetroParks Bikeway which traverses Mahoning County, and the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Beaver Township.

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.



## Things To Do in the MetroParks

Every year, MetroParks staff look for new and exciting ways to connect with the public, and 2009 was no exception. People enjoyed groomed softball and hardball fields, soccer and football fields, tennis and basketball courts and a horseshoe court. Children played on playgrounds, and families enjoyed picnicking at pavilions and enclosed buildings. Golfers tested their skills on 36 holes of championship play, while others got their exercise on escorted hikes.

New programs were introduced to the western edge of Mahoning County in Sebring, Smith Township and Springfield Township. Nearly 200 people attended the three programs and learned about all the MetroParks has to offer.

A "Giving Tree" was set up at Olde Fashioned Christmas at Lanterman's Mill in November to collect winter accessories for Mahoning County children in need. MetroParks visitors donated 74 caps, 7 scarves, 97 pairs of gloves, and 22 pairs of mittens. The gifts were distributed through the Mahoning County Educational Service Center.

For the first time, MetroParks *Health and Wellness* walks were led entirely by volunteers. Some notable hikes included camera walks, a maple sugar program that incorporated the little-known Charles S. Robinson Maple Grove, a walk to and in Calvary Run, and two programs that celebrated Tod Cemetery's centennial year.

Attendance increased at all of our special events, including record numbers at the Reptile and Raptor Show and Sunset at the Farm. The Reptile & Raptor Exhibit, held August 2, attracted its highest visitation ever, with 1,969 attending. Staff promotion on early morning television likely contributed to this success.

Winter Celebration "Home for the Holidays" took place at Fellows Riverside Gardens throughout the month of December. Holiday trees, decorated by 40 local non-profit organizations, were on display in the D. D. & Velma Davis Education and Visitor Center. In addition, a life-sized game of *Candyland*, outstanding holiday floral displays and a reconstructed building in the lobby called "Grandma's House" were enjoyed by more than 23,000 visitors, an increase of 1,500 over 2008.

The MetroParks Farm began its tour season with great weather for the Farm Animal Baby Shower. This popular event attracted 5000 visitors. Overall, weather continued to be beautiful for the almost 20,000 visitors that stopped by the farm this year.

In the Weller Gallery at Fellows Riverside Gardens, visitors enjoyed the annual nature Photography Exhibit as well as other displays throughout the year. Melnick Museum guests learned about Volney Rogers' legacy and the Fellows Family's "Gift of a Garden".

*Visit the MetroParks – the best things in life are here!*

- Take an escorted Hike for the Health of It!
- Slide down Sled Hill.
- Meet friends for On the Terrace at 5.



## MetroParks Special Events

Winter Celebration	23,000
7UP Summerfest Spectacular Concert Series	18,000
Olde Fashioned Christmas at the Mill	8,000
Pumpkin Walk at Twilight	5,200
Baby Shower	5,000
Sunset at the Farm	3,000
Reptile & Raptor Exhibit	2,000
Easter Eggstravaganza	1,500
Gardens by Candlelight	1,500
Halloween at the Judge Morley Pavilion	800
Sunfest	800
Summertime Jubilee	400
Reindeer Games/Santa Program	400
Hooked on Fishing	350
A Midsummer Night's Dream	350
Yellow Creek Park Concerts	300
<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>71,050</b>





## Education

Learning is a lifelong process, and at the MetroParks, we try to ensure that it's full of fun, participation, discovery and enrichment. Children, teens and adults alike gain new confidence, meet new people and discover talents they never knew they had, all while finding an appreciation of nature and the natural world.

The traveling exhibit *Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art* was the highlight of the exhibition year at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Connecting the talents of African based cultures living in the Lowcountry of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina to the viewer, the display focused on the sweet grass basket and its journey from a utilitarian tool to an art form. This exhibit was made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Children's Summer Vegetable Garden Program gives kids the opportunity to learn gardening basics and other gardening-related activities. The program celebrated its 17th year, with 24 children ages 8 – 12 participating. Family Garden Day, held in August at Fellows Riverside Gardens, provided hands-on gardening activities for nearly 200 adults and children.

MetroParks educators presented a diverse array of programs to local school children at their schools and at our facilities. Among the subjects taught were Nature in Winter, Dairy Farm Operation, Food Sources on the Farm, Stream Ecosystems and Exploring the World of Trees.

Summer adventures were plentiful at the MetroParks in 2009. Kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade had fun at Ag Camp at the MetroParks Farm, where they made crafts, sang songs, played games, and learned about agriculture. Children entering 6th and 7th grades learned about nature and became Junior Naturalists, while their younger counterparts were crowned Park Explorers, Park Pals, or Kinder Kritters. Tennis Camp was held at Yellow Creek Park, while Junior Golf Camp and Yoga Camp gave kids a healthy start to a lifetime of fitness.

Programs and historical tours were conducted throughout the year at Lantermans' Mill, Ford Nature Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens and the MetroParks Farm. Visitors ground flour, learned about the habitats of animals, practiced Yoga and Tai Chi, and experienced life on a farm. Kayak excursions and the *Hike for the Health of It* program gave participants an up-close look at the MetroParks.



*Education can be fun for all!*

• Learning to plant at The Family Garden



## Educational Group Program Attendance\*

	MetroParks Farm	Ford Nature Center	Fellows Riverside Gardens	Lanterman's Mill	Subdivision Totals
<i>Mahoning County Residents</i>					
Austintown Township	2576	724	88	48	3436
Beaver Township	169	0	2	0	171
Beloit Village	15	0	1	0	16
Berlin Township	4	0	16	15	35
Boardman Township	2369	368	145	62	2944
City of Campbell	390	444	18	90	875
Canfield City & Township	1609	0	329	30	2412
Coitsville Township	0	0	3	0	3
Craig Beach Village	0	0	2	0	2
Ellsworth Township	180	0	4	0	184
Goshen Township	141	0	2	0	143
Green Township	144	0	5	0	149
Jackson Township	252	0	6	0	258
Lowellville Village	34	0	15	0	52
Milton Township	152	0	4	0	156
New Middletown Village	31	12	15	0	58
Poland Village & Township	1098	328	339	0	1765
City of Sebring	198	50	3	62	313
Smith Township	266	0	7	0	273
Springfield Township	382	97	110	80	669
City of Struthers	875	294	37	85	1291
Village of Washingtonville	144	0	9	0	153
City of Youngstown	3101	1419	670	774	5964
TOTAL MAHONING COUNTY	14130	4116	1830	1246	21322
<i>Program Attendance — Nonresidents</i>					
Trumbull County	1405	796	92	355	2648
Columbiana County	536	105	69	125	835
Other Ohio	0	209	26	98	333
Pennsylvania	135	124	43	16	318
Other State/Country	17	0	4	0	21
TOTAL NONRESIDENT	2093	1234	234	594	4155
GRAND TOTALS	16223	5350	2064	1840	25477

\* Educational Group Programs are special programs requested by schools, groups, and organizations.





## Partnerships and Collaborations

On Saturday, April 4th, *Plant the Seed to Read Children's Book Fair* welcomed 2,600 children and adults to a community event presented in collaboration with the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Altrusa Club of Youngstown, Western Reserve Public Media and Mill Creek MetroParks.

Organizations using MetroParks facilities and/or roads for their fundraisers in 2009 included Youngstown Road Runners Club, Youngstown Area Multiple Sclerosis Services Agency, YMCA, US Cycling Federation, Canfield Boosters, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hearts For A Safe Harbor, Cure Thirst, Youngstown Ultra Trail Club, and the Peace Race.

The MetroParks increased its visibility in the community by participating in several fairs and festivals. At the Canfield Fair, we had an informational table in the Expo Building, staffed and provided animals for Old McDonald's Farm, held forestry demonstrations in the antique farm machinery area and set up and maintained the MetroParks picnic area. We also had a presence at the Greater Youngstown Area Home & Garden Show, Grey to Green Festival, the Hispanic Heritage Festival at YSU, and took part in the Downtown Youngstown Holiday Parade.

MetroParks Horticulture department staff collaborated with Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, Youngstown CityScape, Mahoning Commons Association, Garden District Neighborhood Association, Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown and many other local horticulture and non-profit arts organizations.

Connections were strengthened with community organizations such as the Raymond John Wean Foundation, Youngstown City Schools, Youngstown State University and other non-profit organizations through facility rentals.

The MetroParks worked with the City of Struthers to jointly present both groups' summer concerts series. We shared promotional banners, posters and advertisements, sponsored by Becker Funeral Home in Struthers.

Alpha Psi Omega of the YSU School of Theatre furnished 28 hours of skilled labor in rigging and removing the scenery for Halloween at the Judge Morley Pavilion. The fraternity purchased the materials and performed all the construction, painting, and rigging, and removed it on event day.



Loose Knit Group  
donates hand-made blankets



Local high school students paint murals for Winter Celebration. (top)

Yellow Creek Park and the City of Struthers partner to present free concerts throughout the summer. (bottom)



## Development & Marketing

The MetroParks began sharing its extensive photo collection of events, nature and general happenings through Flickr, the online photo sharing website. Anyone can log on to Flickr.com and take a virtual visit to the MetroParks.

The campaign “118 Things to do in the MetroParks This Summer” was launched in June to showcase just some of the many activities that are available to visitors throughout the summer months. A summer discount coupon program made family fun more affordable.

A partnership with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy was established, and “A Celebration of Conservation” was held to promote our mutually shared goal of land protection and preservation. Over 100 people in attendance saw James Centofanti of Canfield receive the Volney Rogers Legacy Award for his commitment to these efforts.

Our partnership with WYSU, the local national public radio station, enjoyed great success in 2009. During WYSU’s twice-yearly pledge drive, donors could choose to have \$10 of their \$120 gift directed to the MetroParks to plant a tree in one of our natural areas. We received enough gifts to plant 130 trees.

This year we proudly celebrated the 20th anniversary of becoming a MetroPark. In 1988, Mahoning County voters approved Issue 3, converting Mill Creek Park from a township park to a county-wide Metropolitan Park District, effective January 1, 1989.

In December, an acknowledgement was received from the Davis Foundation of a four-year pledge for \$500,000 for the “Growing On” project and campaign. This project will address three major improvements to Fellows Riverside Gardens in accordance with the Gardens Master Plan: the new Fellows Drive extension to Whitney Avenue and parking lot entrance; an upgrade and renovation to the Horticulture Maintenance Center; plus an expansion of the Family Garden.

Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, Inc. celebrated 21 years of supporting Fellows Riverside Gardens. Since the organizing year in 1988, membership has grown to currently include 810 individuals or families.





## Partners in the Park 2009

The Board of Park Commissioners and staff of Mill Creek MetroParks salute the individuals and businesses who supported the MetroParks as Partners in the Park in 2009. Their gifts of time, talent, and financial resources are greatly appreciated. The legacy Volney Rogers left our valley continues on through the inspired support of our community.



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.

## Businesses, Organizations & Foundations

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Affluent Travel                                | LanzScape Photography                         |
| Allstate Foundation                            | Liberty Steel                                 |
| Altronic, Inc.                                 | Mahoning Garden Club                          |
| Arcadia Publishing                             | Mahoning Valley Historical Society            |
| Armstrong Cable                                | <i>Mahoning Valley Parent Magazine</i>        |
| American Bottling Company                      | Mahoning Valley Rose Society                  |
| Audubon Society Mahoning Valley                | Manchester, Bennett, Powers & Ullman          |
| Austintown Garden Club                         | Men's Garden Club of Youngstown               |
| Ballet Western Reserve                         | Meritain Health / PRM                         |
| Becker Funeral Homes                           | <i>Metro Monthly</i>                          |
| Blackburn Home                                 | Mid-America Arts Alliance                     |
| Cater 2U                                       | Mignonette Garden Club                        |
| Chalet Premier                                 | Motorist Insurance Group                      |
| Columbiana Garden Club                         | Murphy Contracting Company                    |
| Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley    | NEH on the Road                               |
| Davis Foundation                               | Ohio Council of Nationally Accredited Flower  |
| DeBald & Company                               | Ohio Dept of Natural Resources                |
| Joe Dickey Electric                            | Show Judges NE                                |
| Discount Cash Register                         | Pacentrani Women's Auxiliary of Youngstown    |
| East Garden Club                               | Parker Hannifin Corporation                   |
| Eat'n Park                                     | Pat Catan's Craft Center – Boardman           |
| Employees of Fred Martin Ford                  | PNC Bank                                      |
| Farmers National Bank                          | Poland Women's Club                           |
| Farmers Trust Company                          | Schwebel Family Foundation                    |
| First Place Bank Community Foundation          | Stadium GM                                    |
| Frank & Pearl E. Gelbman Charitable Foundation | Stoneburner Enterprises                       |
| Fred Martin Ford & Mercedes-Benz               | Treasured Moments Bridal & Formal             |
| Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens           | Villas at Fair Park Condo Association         |
| Garden Club of Youngstown                      | WFMJ  |
| Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown             | WKBN  |
| Garden Gate Garden Club of Poland              | WYSU  |
| Garden Club of Youngstown                      | WYTV  |
| Georgetown                                     | Warren P. Williamson, Jr. Fund                |
| Glen Gardeners                                 | Yo-Mah-O Chapter International Association of |
| Health Food Center of Youngstown               | Administrative Professionals                  |
| Hill Barth & King                              | John & Denise York Foundation                 |
| Ralph and Marion G. Kroehle Foundation         | Youngstown Area Federation of Women's Clubs   |
| L & E Rental                                   | Youngstown City Schools Credit Union, Inc.    |
| Lake Country Garden Club                       | Youngstown Foundation                         |





## *Individuals*

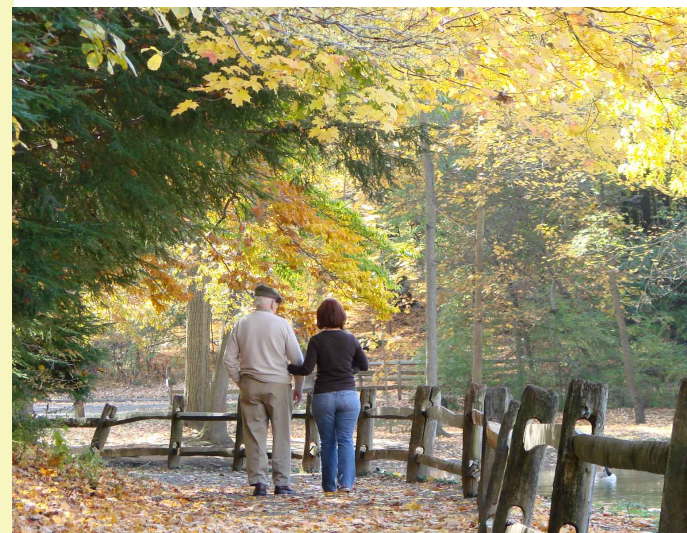
Corrie & Charlie Adams  
Muriel Altman  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Anderson  
Geraldine Baker  
Charles & Joan Bannon  
Nancy Barber  
Paula Barrett  
Margaret Biroshak  
Gretchen Bradley  
Marie Borocz  
George & Nancy Brundage  
Annette Camacci  
Angela Carden  
Mr. & Mrs. David Conway  
Frank & Barbara DiGiacomo  
Robert & Eva Doyle  
Ginger, Ronald & Eilish Deuley  
John DiRienzo  
Kathleen Edwards & Jens Cramer  
Linda Evans  
Nancy Felton  
Mrs. Oliver H. Ferry  
Rose Fiorentine  
Karen Folkenwein  
Sheila Fox  
Atty. & Mrs. Michael Gallo, Jr.  
John & Beverly Gronvall  
Daniel Hanneman  
Pauline Giampietro  
David & Giselle Herbert  
James W. Herr  
Linda & Thomas Hite  
Julia Hoover  
Karin & Michael Hudock  
Donald & Stephanie Hunsinger  
William Hunsinger  
J. Bruce Ipe

Paul C. & Betty Jagnow  
Nancy Johngrass  
Bob & Ritchie Jones  
James D. Jones  
Randall C. Jones  
Robert W. Jones  
Ron Kansa & Rich Kansa  
Richard & Kay Karas  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Katz  
Aileen Kepler  
Sandy & Chaya Kessler  
David & Sylvia Kidder  
Joan Knisely  
Sharon Kurjan  
Jacqueline Land  
C. Scott & Arlene Lanz  
John MacIntosh  
Charlotte Manly  
David & Laurie Marsolo  
Fred Martin  
Tony & Irene Matlak  
Ethel Maxim  
John McNair  
Lynn & Peter Mendelson  
Carla Miller  
Lisa Miller  
Edward & Patricia Moran  
Eugene & Lori Mowad  
Curtin Nickel  
Leonard A. & Dolores Olson  
Jeff O'Nesti  
David H. & Nina Parker  
Susan Patella  
Robert Pennell  
George & Patsy Perry  
Marie Peterson  
Thomas & P. Kathy Platt

Joyce & Perry Pogany  
John & Linda Pratt  
Virginia Pugh  
Dr. & Mrs. Gene Pusateri  
Erven & Connie Robinson  
Sylvia Roesch  
Frances Rogan  
Roseanne Roh  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rudge, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rusnak  
Carly Sachs  
Sandra Sachs  
Frank W. & Patricia Sachire  
Donna & Jack Savage  
Susan Schwartz  
David & Donna Scott  
Paul & Virginia Shanabarger  
Richard Smith  
Christine Soriano  
Herb & Susan Soss  
W. E. Sovik, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. David Sweet  
Patricia A. Syak  
Judith Szpiech  
Cynthia Tareshawty  
Wayne & Becky Tennant  
Douglas Toot  
Carol Beeghly Traynor  
Gail Van Ness  
Bob & Marilyn Wagmiller  
Walters Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Watson  
Mary Lou Wedekind  
Samie Winick  
Janet Yaniglos & Clyde Morris  
Tod Zetts

## *Mindy Henning Scholarship Fund*

Anonymous  
Kerry Aufderkeide  
Stephen Avery  
Linda Boardsen  
Thomas J. Bresko  
George & Nancy Brundage  
Anna Ciambotti  
Molly & Harold Comer  
Donna Fedorek  
Robert & Shirley Henning  
Randall Jones  
Patricia Kerezman  
Robin Kroener  
Meredith Laut  
Anthony Leone  
Lily Martuccio  
Janet Keich McHenry  
Mill Creek Park Employees Association  
Raymond Novotny  
Peace Race Foundation  
Julie Peterson  
James & Pat Pieron  
Lisa Sizemore  
Susan Yerian  
Youngstown Road Runners Club







Unexpected breakage led to the replacement of the “bull gear” at Lantermans’ Mill. The grinding of meal and flour was temporarily suspended while the new gear and related parts were cast. Installation was finished in October.

The Forestry crew planted a new sycamore tree in the Flats to replace the historic sycamore destroyed during a storm. Forestry also planted 16 trees on the Par 3 course at the Wick Recreation Area, 8 new trees along East Golf Drive and 2 trees in the meadow near the Lily Pond.

## Maintaining the MetroParks

MetroParks staff from Forestry, Maintenance, Planning and Operations, and Horticulture all play a role in preserving the beauty of our 4500 acres. Maintenance is ongoing throughout each season and includes paving parking lots and roads, landscaping MetroParks areas, turf maintenance, snow removal, facility upkeep and repairs, and much more.

The 27th Annual Boy Scouts Earth Day Cleanup drew 485 Scouts and Scouters (adults) into the MetroParks on Saturday, April 25, to remove the buildup of debris and litter that accumulated over the winter. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and students from Chaney High School removed over 1000 bags of trash, over 400 bags of recyclables, and items such as furniture, pipes, electronics, and the proverbial kitchen sink.

Turtle logs were constructed and installed in the waters of the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. These flattened and weighted logs allow easy access for turtles to crawl upon, giving them needed basking areas.

Over 42,000 seasonal bulbs were planted in October for spring bloom at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Many permanent bulbs were planted as well, with 450 *Narcissus* planted at Daffodil meadow, including 100 *Narcissus* ‘Fellows Favorite’, along with 1,400 other permanent bulbs at other MetroParks sites.







## Visitor Services

Hundreds of thousands of people visited the MetroParks last year to take part in programs, attend an event, picnic at one of our pavilions and tour the MetroParks Farm. If visitors are in need of help, the MetroParks police are there to assist, and keep their visit safe and secure. The Mill Creek MetroParks Police Department experienced a major transition with the retirement of Chief Nathaniel Pinkard after 28 years of service. Lieutenant Bruce Emery led the department as acting chief until a new chief could be selected. In October, Chief Jim Willock was sworn in by Probate Court Judge Mark Belinky. Jim came to the MetroParks from the Goshen Police District where he was chief for 8 years.

MetroParks facilities had an increase in rentals and attendance in 2009. The MetroParks offered economical opportunities for individuals and families to vacation close to home.

*Shop in the Gardens*, operated by Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, completed another profitable year with a 15% increase in sales, and made a significant donation to help support the Gardens.

## 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, many of the events in the MetroParks would not be possible. Our volunteers are honored at the annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic. These volunteers assist the paid staff by working outdoors in the garden areas, with educational needs, at special events, leading hikes, and many other activities.

In April, long-time park volunteer Nancy Brundage, also a Certified Ohio Volunteer Naturalist, was among those honored for their devotion by the Hands On Volunteer Network of the Valley. Nancy has led spring and fall bird walks since 1986. On a walk at Willam Holmes McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in May, she reported the largest concentrations of yellow warblers she had ever seen.

Our volunteers contributed 11,701 hours of their time in 2009 for a value of \$84,832.25 at minimum wage (\$7.25).



## Volunteer Hours for 2009

Horticulture Department	8642
Recreation Department	2736
Police Department	323
<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>11,701</b>





## Fellows Riverside Gardens

Fellows Riverside Gardens was established in 1958 through a gift from Elizabeth Fellows. These twelve acres teem with plant displays, trees, shrubs, roses, perennials and annuals. In keeping with its educational mission, gardening courses and many other classes are available to the public.

In 2009, Fellows Riverside Gardens became a registered participant in the *International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation* with Botanic Gardens Conservation International. BGCI was founded in 1987 and now has over 500 member institutions in 111 countries. The Agenda promotes the role of botanic gardens in conservation.

Fellows Riverside Gardens hosted the first Ohio Gardens Together symposium in October. This very successful day was attended by 58 professional staff representing 14 public gardens throughout the state of Ohio.

Fellows Riverside Gardens was designated an official Daffodil Display Garden by the American Daffodil Society, an honor shared with only 21 other Display Gardens in the United States. Our daffodil plant collection consists of over 150 cultivars. The April 24, 2009 issue of *USA Today* recognized Fellows Riverside Gardens as one of the top ten places to view daffodils. The highlight of the daffodil season was the first time blooming of *Narcissus* 'Fellows Favorite,' the daffodil named to honor the 50th anniversary of the Gardens in 2008.

Plant collections grew with the addition of 664 permanent plants. These plants increased the number of new plant accessions by 140. In the fall 1,446 permanent bulbs were planted, including 400 *Narcissus* 'Fellows Favorite'. For the spring 2010 display, over 42,000 seasonal bulbs were planted.

A design for the Seasonal Celebration Plaza including the K. Calvin Sommer Fountain and the walkway between the Perennial Garden and Climbing Rose Allee was completed by Terra Design Studios in September.

Fellows Riverside Gardens continued to be the most highly visited area of the MetroParks. Visitors in 2009 represented 20 different countries and all 50 states.

### How Do Our Gardens Grow?

Visitors to Fellows Riverside Gardens	402,627
Spring bulbs planted	42,306
Permanent plants added to collections	664
Records added to plant accession	140
Group Tours	35





## Natural Areas & Conservation

Preservation and conservation of land and habitat are the heart of the Mill Creek MetroParks' mission. As Volney Rogers, founder of Mill Creek Park so aptly stated, every city should have open spaces distributed within its area for residents to enjoy.

Several undeveloped residential parcels adjacent to Mill Creek Park on Glacier Avenue in Youngstown were acquired by working with Lien Forward Ohio. Lien Forward provides low cost legal and real estate services through which the MetroParks can acquire abandoned or vacant properties.

Additional recycling containers for use at Mill Creek Golf Course were purchased through a mini grant from the Mahoning County Green Team.

An Environmental Land Manager was hired to develop management and stewardship plans for MetroParks natural areas. The responsibilities of this position include coordination of invasive species removal, wildlife habitat enhancement, ecosystem restoration, and land acquisition projects.

A 44-acre restoration project was undertaken at Mill Creek Preserve on Western Reserve Road to restore wetland functions and habitats, and provide a buffer to the existing forested wetlands. The project was 100% grant funded through the Ohio EPA-WRRSP (Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program).





## Mill Creek Golf Course

Nestled in the beauty of Mill Creek MetroParks, the Mill Creek Golf Course boasts two 18-hole championship courses. Designed by famed golf course architect Donald Ross, both courses are par 70 with four sets of tees, challenging the skills of golfers at all levels.

Each season Mill Creek Golf Course offers individual golf lessons by our PGA staff, golf camps, clinics, and activities for kids as well as adults. Over 300 students attended the camps and clinics in 2009. A pro-am tournament is held each year, and the 7UP Junior Golf Tournament has become an institution. Get Golf Ready, a "growth of the game" initiative from PGA of America, was offered at Mill Creek Golf Course in 2009. The goal of this program is to attract new golfers to the game and bring former golfers back to the course. Many outings take place at Mill Creek Golf Course and an outing tent was constructed to accommodate these groups. In the winter months, cross country skiing is permitted on the golf course if there is sufficient snowfall.

Improvements in 2009 to Mill Creek Golf Course included: new tee signs on both courses to assist golfers with yardage and directions; bunker renovations on 3 North and 16 South and major repairs on 4, 11 and 16 North; shaping, contouring and edging all bunkers; and tree maintenance which included stump grinding, lifting, trimming, root pruning and removal.



Golf professionals in the Pro-Am Tournament



## 2009 Golf Statistics

### MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE ROUNDS

Adult	57,043
Junior	5,024
Senior	28,469
TOTAL ROUNDS	90,536
9-Hole Rounds	53,172
18-Hole Rounds	18,682

### PAR 3 GOLF COURSE ROUNDS

Student	11,703
Senior	2,444
Adult	16,837
Evening	1,790
TOTAL ROUNDS	32,774



## Capital Improvement Projects

MILL CREEK PRESERVE • Wetland Restoration (Water Resource Restoration grant)	\$ 317,345
DRIVES • Repair and Maintenance	203,717
CALVARY RUN DRIVE AREA • Resurfacing (funding by ODOT)	111,231
CALVARY RUN DRIVE AREA • Improvements	63,672
PROPERTY ACQUISITION	56,057
PIONEER PAVILION • Exterior Staircase	50,850
LANTERMAN'S MILL • Gear/Equipment Repairs	26,447
MILL CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY • Museum Study, Land Management Activities	23,783
SLIPPERY ROCK PAVILION • Playground Replacement	23,670
GOLF COURSE • Outing Tent w/Concrete Pad	23,617
SLIPPERY ROCK PAVILION • Playground	23,238
LAKE NEWPORT • Dam Repairs	22,803
MILL CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY • Improvements	12,272
METROPARKS SERVICE FACILITY • Fencing Improvements	10,925
PARKING LOTS • Preventive Maintenance	9,990
YELLOW CREEK PARK • Lodge Renovations	8,253
DAVIS EDUCATION & VISITOR CENTER • Upgrade Security System	7,299
GOLF COURSE • Irrigation and Drainage Repairs	6,233
METROPARKS FARM • Roof Repairs	6,000
PIONEER PAVILION • Renovations	5,330
LILY POND • Chemical Treatment	5,210
PLANT COLLECTIONS • Renovations	2,760
VOLNEY ROGERS FIELD • Comfort Station Renovations	2,249
TREE PLANTING	2,184
METROPARKS FARM • Structure Repairs	1,977
VOLNEY ROGERS FIELD • Tennis Court Repairs	1,450
STITT PAVILION • Playground	303



## Capital Equipment

Golf Course & Par 3 Equipment	\$ 56,253
MetroParks Farm Van	19,859
1-Ton Dump Truck	19,004
Police Equipment	12,837
Computer System Upgrades	8,930
Log Mauler/Lifter	4,795
Compressor	3,723
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$125,401</b>



## 2009 Statistics

### Rental Facility Usage

MILL CREEK PARK • Indoor Facilities	
Bears Den Cabin	51
Birch Hill Cabin	228
Old Log Cabin	45
Pioneer Pavilion	142

#### MILL CREEK PARK • Outdoor Pavilions

Chestnut Hill	51
Scholl	90
Slippery Rock	46
Stitt	48
Wick	91

#### FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Garden Café	33
Kidston & Tyler Classrooms	213
Radius Room	90
Rossi Auditorium	159
Wedding Ceremonies	129

#### YELLOW CREEK PARK

Capt. John Struthers Pavilion	37
Yellow Creek Lodge	108

#### METROPARKS FARM

Classroom A	126
McMahon Hall	293

TOTAL FACILITY RENTALS 1,980

### Other Rentals

#### BOAT RENTALS

Lake Glacier	2,050
Lake Newport	863

BATTING CAGE PLAYS 20,385

### Attendance

#### METROPARKS FARM

Visitors to Farm	9,378
School Presentations	9,726
TOTAL	19,104

#### FORD NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Visitors to FNEC	14,831
Program Attendance	4,547
TOTAL	19,378

#### LANTERMAN'S MILL

Adult	2,413
Senior	1,177
Student	1,057
Under 6 Years	2,866
TOTAL	7,513

### MetroParks Police Statistics

#### Accidents

Traffic	22
Non-Traffic	76

#### Arrests/Misdemeanor Citations

Adults	30
Juveniles	19

#### Citations—Traffic

Adults	55
Juveniles	4

#### Crimes Against Persons

Crimes Against Property 76

Fires 3

Thefts 24

Towed Vehicles 33

Recovered Vehicles 3

Stolen Vehicles 0

Parking Tickets 28

Police Hours 38,485

Police Cruiser Mileage 197,976



## Summary of Receipts, Expenses and Balances

For Year Ending December 31, 2009

Encumbered Funds 01/01/09	\$ 308,310.17
*Available Cash Balance from Previous Year	4,813,549.04
RECEIPTS	
Property Tax	6,891,928.14
Local Government Fund	569,983.92
MetroParks Activities	2,412,885.36
Fellows Trust Fund	13,722.71
Grants	192,245.35
Transfers/Advances	130,405.44
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND BALANCES	\$ 15,333,030.13
EXPENSES	
Operating – Materials & Supplies	\$ 1,653,712.27
Operating – Salaries & Wages	4,940,505.72
Capital Equipment	125,400.99
Capital Improvements	931,090.42
General Expense	2,511,231.66
Transfers/Advances	130,405.44
Encumbered Funds Forward	204,304.79
*Available Year End Balance	4,836,378.84
TOTAL EXPENSES AND BALANCES	\$ 15,333,030.13

\*The available cash balance is used to sustain MetroParks operations during the first quarter of the following year until tax collection commences.

