



Mill Creek MetroParks  
2010 Annual Report



# 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



*From left to right: Dan DeSalvo, Jay Macejko, John Ragan, Robert Durick, Judge Mark Belinky, Ginny Dailey, Clarke Johnson, Tom Bresko*

## Appointing Authority

THE HONORABLE JUDGE MARK BELINKY

Mahoning County Probate Judge

## 2010 Board of Park Commissioners

JAY MACEJKO President

JOHN M. RAGAN 1st Vice-President

ROBERT J. DURICK 2nd Vice-President

M. VIRGINIA DAILEY

DAN DESALVO

## Interim Executive Director

TOM BRESKO

## Executive Director

CLARKE W. JOHNSON

## *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 Township, Vickers Nature Preserve in Ellsworth Township, McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in Coitsville 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, Mill Creek Preserve in Boardman Township, Sawmill Creek Preserve in Canfield Township and Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Beaver Township.

The 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 or benefits. 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, 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.

# Executive Directors' Reports

Dear Park Friends and Supporters:

After proudly carrying out the responsibilities of Interim Executive Director of Mill Creek MetroParks for more than 15 months, my administration officially came to a close in mid-December. Despite the unique challenges that a fluid assignment as acting director can bring, I'm pleased to say that 2010 was a very productive year for the MetroParks. Here's a short review:

A couple of historic changes came for the MetroParks this year that will enhance service to the community now and far into the future. Probate Judge Mark Belinky appointed two additional commissioners bringing the total number to five for the first time since the Park's inception in 1891. An historic change of a different nature occurred when the MetroParks underwent a lengthy process to procure a permit to sell beer and wine at the Mill Creek Golf Course, which had been "dry" since its opening in 1928.

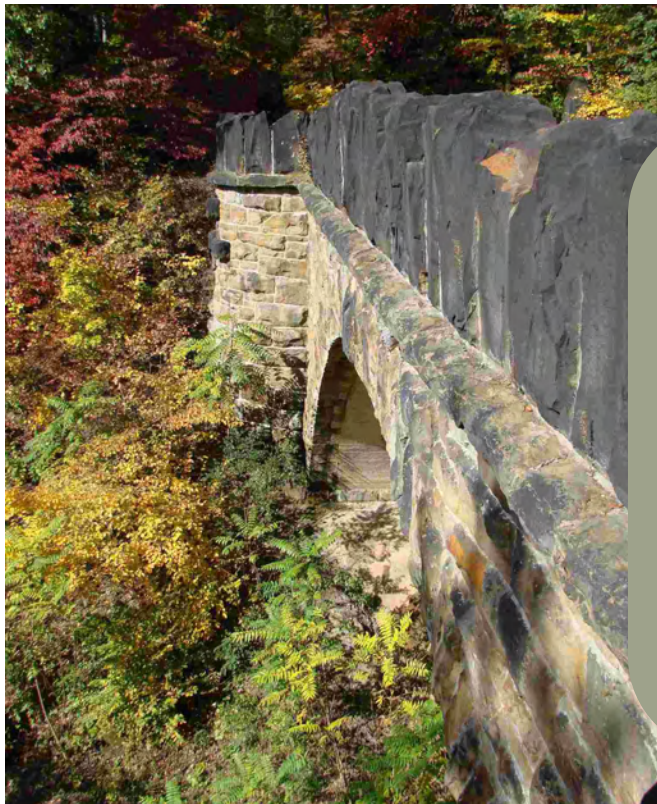
Deeply discussed union negotiations carried over from 2009, with both management and union members conscious of the current state of the economy. An across-the-board wage freeze for three years was agreed upon, employee contributions for health care insurance were directly tied to future costs, jobs lost through attrition were not filled, and a 5% cut in part-time and seasonal hours was implemented. These cost-cutting reductions enabled the Park District to maintain a strong program of capital purchases and improvements, and will assure future financial stability for the MetroParks.

The Board of Park Commissioners' number one priority this year was to hire an Executive Director who would have an immediate impact on the MetroParks as well as take it to new levels in the future. The Board acted thoughtfully, deliberately, and effectively to make this very important decision. This major responsibility was completed

near the end of 2010 and I'd like to be one of the first to welcome the new Executive Director, Clarke Johnson. Clarke's personality, education and experience are a good fit for Mill Creek MetroParks.

I would like to take this final opportunity as Interim Executive Director to express my sincere appreciation to the following: The Mill Creek MetroParks Board of Commissioners who donated freely of their time to give me direction and guidance throughout a challenging year; to the MetroParks staff at all levels for their sacrifice, dedication and hard work, and to the volunteers and financial supporters for their donation of time, energy, and money. It was an honor and a privilege to serve this staff, community and the Mill Creek MetroParks as its Interim Executive Director. My term may have been brief but the wonderful memories will last forever.

Thomas J. Bresko  
Interim Executive Director



## New Executive Director's Message:

Nine days—that is how long I've been the new Executive Director at Mill Creek MetroParks. Long enough to know what a great, committed staff we have working here. Long enough to experience the outpouring of community support we have. But most importantly, long enough to understand what a great treasure we have in Mill Creek MetroParks.

I'm looking forward to becoming a part of the fabric of life in the Mahoning Valley, and meeting our supporters, volunteers and community leaders. As I'm out and about in the MetroParks, I hope you will stop me and introduce yourself. My door is always open, and I value what you have to say. I am proud and honored to be given the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Volney Rogers' visionary leadership.

Clarke W. Johnson  
Executive Director



# Things To Do In The MetroParks

It's estimated that nearly three-quarters of a million people every year are touched by the beauty of Mill Creek MetroParks. Some experience what we have to offer by visiting one of our county-wide facilities for an event, program, hike, or a round of golf. Some come alone to experience the solitude nature has to offer. School children meet our educators in their classrooms. A new fan club was created that connects MetroParks supporters from all over the country through electronic media such as our website and Facebook. We strive to provide something for everyone, and to make each experience memorable.

Nearly 5,000 visitors celebrated the arrival of the baby animals at the MetroParks Farm in April. By October, 13,000 more visitors arrived to learn about country life, make a craft, take a wagon tour of the farm, or attend a special event.

Over 346,000 individuals visited Fellows Riverside Gardens and the D.D. & Velma Davis Education and Visitor Center. Not only did guests visit from Mahoning County and the surrounding areas of northeast Ohio, but from all areas of the United States and several foreign countries.

Recreation areas, ballfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, golf courses, playgrounds, picnic areas, and boating facilities greeted athletes, families, and individuals throughout the seasons. All areas were heavily used again this year, as the MetroParks was the primary destination for "stay-cations".

The Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODNR) stocked 2,500 rainbow trout in Lake Glacier in April, while the MetroParks Police Department attracted many excited children to the banks of Yellow Creek Park in Struthers for the annual Hooked on Fishing Festival.

At Mill Creek Golf Course, new cart paths were installed on the South course, snack bar services were improved with the addition of a new concessionaire, and the fine-tuning of tee time reservations improved play course-wide. March through October saw our 18-hole Par 3 course thoroughly enjoyed with 26,000 rounds of golf.

The Ford Nature Center welcomed 20,000 visitors of all ages through its doors to discover nature, tour the building, and have a "hands-on" experience. This gateway to hiking trails and nature education has been a favorite since 1972.

Pumpkin Walk At Twilight showed off 14,000 pounds of carved jack-o-lanterns to the 6,500 who attended this event at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Winter Celebration: Holiday Scent-Sations attracted 11,000 visitors. Holiday trees, displayed in the Davis Education and Visitor Center, were decorated by 46 community non-profit organizations. The Tyler Classroom was transformed into a Rainforest Adventure by volunteers from Youngstown State University and local schools. Outstanding holiday floral displays and a bakery in the lobby connected the spices and scents that were provided by the plants. Despite the rain, 900 visitors saw the outdoor Gardens aglow with 1,000 candlelit luminarias at Gardens by Candlelight.

Working toward goals established in 2007's Wick Area Master Plan, a land parcel adjacent to the Wick entrance was acquired. Other additions at Wick include new soccer goal posts and a permanent audio structure and dimmer box for the Judge Morley Pavilion to make concerts more enjoyable. New netting was installed over the entire batting cage area.

Displays in the Mill Creek MetroParks' Melnick Museum included Park Patriarch, a brief presentation of Volney Rogers, and Gift of a Garden, a historical background of the Fellows family. The temporary exhibit, The Best Drive in the Park - History of Mill Creek Golf Course, showcased this outstanding 36-hole course, designed by Donald Ross.



*An outdoor art exhibit, Gallery in the Gardens, was on display in the Fellows Riverside Gardens between June and October. Stationed throughout the Gardens, the creative talents of local artists combined nicely with the summer bedding displays.*



It was a great privilege for the Youngstown community to host Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families and Their Neighbors, in October and November. This display highlighted the social and cultural issues wrought by decades of change that touched all members of the farming community, and encouraged visitors to make connections to their own families and communities. This exhibition was funded by NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Since the 1930's, Ernest and Lindley Vickers, park naturalists, were at the forefront in Ohio and even the nation by offering guided walks. The tradition was carried on this year with the program "Hike for the Health of It". Twenty-six hikers earned shields for participating in at least 20 hikes, one reached a cumulative total of 100 hikes, three reached 200 hikes and two made a total of 300 hikes. Ages range from 15 to 75.

Exhibits in the Weller Gallery added to the visitors' experience. Throughout the year, 8 exhibits were displayed in the Gallery. Included was our own Nature Photography Show, where several hundred local amateur photographers vied for prizes.



## MetroParks Special Events Attendance

7UP Summerfest Spectacular Concert Series	13,000
Winter Celebration	11,000
Pumpkin Walk at Twilight	6,500
Baby Shower	4,700
Olde Fashioned Christmas at the Mill	4,000
Sunset at the Farm	2,250
Easter Eggstravaganza	1,800
Kite Festival	1,000
Gardens by Candlelight	900
Bug Day	800
Halloween at The Judge Morley Pavilion	600
Sunfest	500
Scout's Earth Day Clean-Up	500
Santa & Reindeer Visit	400
Yellow Creek Park Concerts	338
Hooked on Fishing	300
<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>48,588</b>

*National recording act WAR, one of the most popular funk groups of the 70's, made their Mahoning Valley debut at the Judge Leo P. Morley Performing Arts Pavilion in Mill Creek Park. WAR has recorded some of the most memorable hits of all time, including "Cisco Kid", "Low Rider", "The World is a Ghetto", and "Why Can't We Be Friends". The concert was part of the annual 7UP Summerfest Spectacular series.*





# Education

Thousands attended classes and programs at the Ford Nature Education Center to view the mysterious natural world of mammals, reptiles, and plants. At the MetroParks Farm, visitors were led through barnyards and fields of crops to see a working farm in operation and experience how the food they eat goes “from the farm to the table”.

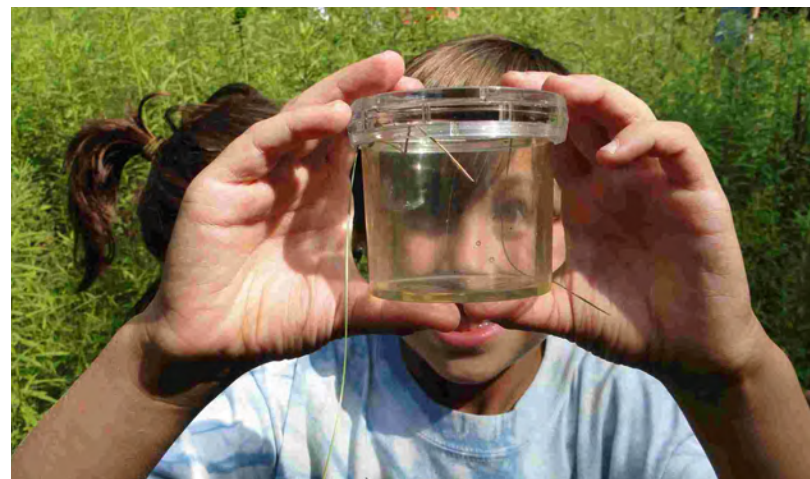
At Lanterman’s Mill, visitors learned about the fine art of grinding grain into flour for baking. They then stepped deep into the cool lower levels of the mill to see how the waters of Mill Creek created the energy for grinding.

MetroParks agriculture educators took programs out to 28,000 students in over 20 communities in Mahoning County and surrounding areas. Subjects were as varied as Food Power Tower, Barnyard Buddies, and Little Red Hen.

The Children’s Summer Vegetable Garden Program marked its 18th year; the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program celebrated its 24th anniversary, and Family Garden Day provided hands-on gardening activities to families. Stephanie Cohen, author of *Small Space Gardening*, conducted a garden author lecture in the spring, while Bryan and Sarah Severns led a cooking symposium, *A Taste of Autumn*, in October.

Operations staff directed a workshop entitled “Rain Gardens – Construction and Benefits”, and traveled throughout the county to present the Mill Creek Preserve Wetland Restoration project to community groups. A guided tour of the Mill Creek Preserve was conducted for members of the Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC).

Summer camps and adventures for kids were plentiful in the MetroParks this summer. Junior Golf Camp, Children’s Creative Yoga Camp, Junior Naturalist, Tennis Camp, and Ag Camp were some of the cool and fun things for kids to do.





## Educational Group Program Attendance\*



*Agriculture Programs Manager, Brenda Markley  
at Beloit Elementary School*

### Mahoning County Residents

	MetroParks Farm	Ford Nature Center	Fellows Riverside Gardens	Lanternman's Mill	Subdivision Totals
Austintown Township	2,309	735	269	220	3,533
Beaver Township	133	115	0	60	308
Beloit Village	0	0	0	0	0
Berlin Township	838	0	0	0	838
Boardman Township	2,010	181	75	164	2,430
City of Campbell	814	267	108	111	1,300
Canfield City & Township	1,227	359	168	239	1,993
Coitsville Township	0	156	0	0	156
Craig Beach Village	0	0	0	0	0
Ellsworth Township	44	0	0	0	44
Goshen Township	80	0	0	0	80
Green Township	132	0	0	0	132
Jackson Township	99	97	0	0	196
Lowellville Village	73	0	30	0	103
Milton Township	42	0	13	0	55
New Middletown Village	91	52	0	0	143
Poland Village & Township	963	448	316	319	2,046
City of Sebring	236	0	0	0	236
Smith Township	95	0	0	0	95
Springfield Township	401	285	25	96	807
City of Struthers	702	192	12	255	1,161
Village of Washingtonville	0	2	11	0	13
City of Youngstown	2,716	1,060	894	1,124	5,794
Total Mahoning County	13,005	3,949	1,921	2,588	21,463

### Program attendance – Nonresidents

Trumbull County	1,252	1,194	206	1,006	3,658
Columbiana County	674	154	153	343	1,324
Other Ohio	3	298	517	37	855
Pennsylvania	291	188	154	0	633
Other State/Country	27	1	166	149	343
Total Nonresident	2,247	1,835	1,196	1,535	6,813
GRAND TOTALS	15,252	5,784	3,117	4,123	28,276

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

*The Family Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens*





## Partnerships and Collaborations

The Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens and the MetroParks Development Department planned the fundraising campaign for the Seasonal Celebration Plaza at Fellows Riverside Gardens. The project consisted of the restoration of the K. Calvin and Helen Sommer Memorial Fountain and adjacent plaza, replacement of the Perennial Garden walkway from the Sommer Memorial Fountain to the South Terrace, replacement of the Shade Garden walkway, grading of the Long Mall, and relocation of the miniature rose beds. The total project cost was \$452,000, with nearly \$238,000 being raised in 2010. This project kicked off the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the D.D. & Velma Davis Education and Visitor Center.

Professional Golf Association (PGA ) Growth of the Game initiatives helped us “grow our own golfers” with camps, lessons, and programs. These initiatives are designed to attract new golfers and reintroduce the game to past players.

Many local non-profit organizations brought thousands of visitors and participants to the MetroParks via their fundraising walks, bike-a-thons or runs. Recreation staff partnered with Youngstown Road Runners Club, Peace Race Foundation, Youngstown Ultra Trail Club, March of Dimes, Youngstown YMCA, University of Tennessee, Weight Watchers, Multiple Sclerosis Services Agency, Abdu Breast Cancer Center, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, US Cycling Federation, Hearts for a Safe Harbor, Struthers Rotary, Canfield Boosters, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

MetroParks staff are committed to their communities, and sat on a wide variety of boards, committees and advisory panels. Some examples are: the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Alliance for Watershed Action and Resource Education (AWARE), Youngstown CityScape, Great Ohio Lake to River Greenway, City of Youngstown Design Review Committee, Rotary Club of Youngstown, Mahoning Valley Safety Council, Public Entities Pool of Ohio, Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC), Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), Mahoning River Collaborative Initiative (MRCI), Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and the Mahoning Commons Association.

Operations staff dedicated themselves to environmental planning through involvement with the development of Source Water Protection Plans, the Mahoning County Storm Water Management Program and Watershed Action Plans for Meander Creek, Yellow Creek, and Little Beaver Creek Watersheds.

The MetroParks became a partner in Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP) for Biodiversity. Formed through the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, this group is a consortium of park districts, conservation organizations, and other entities that work within northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania.



*Scout clean-up in Mill Creek Park*



*Family Fun Nights at the Mill Creek Golf Course*



After purchasing a vacant house at the entrance to the Wick Recreation Area, Operations staff coordinated an auction of building materials and fixtures. The unsold materials were donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The construction of a new high tunnel “poly house” began in December at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Funded through the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, this structure will provide additional heated greenhouse space to grow the 50,000 seasonal plants needed each year. A donation of the profits from the chrysanthemum plant sale by the Men’s Garden Club of Youngstown will pay for benches in this new greenhouse.

Staff worked closely with the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) to help their beautification efforts in areas bordering Mill Creek Park. A planting design was prepared, along with a detail of plant material to use for naturalizing vacant property parcels along Parkview Avenue and elsewhere in the Idora Neighborhood. Staff assisted YNDC with site layout and supervision for vegetation planting and split rail fence installation on Parkview Avenue. A site visit was conducted and recommendations were made to YNDC for proposed improvements to the rain garden located in the neighborhood on Mineral Springs Avenue.

Conceptual designs were provided to Community Corrections Association personnel and the Mahoning River Collaborative Initiative (MRCI) members to develop plans for recently improved Woodland Avenue corridor.

Staff at the Ford Nature Center worked with over 500 Boy Scouts from the Mahoning Valley Council for a MetroParks-wide spring cleanup.

*A “friend-raising” event at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary was hosted in collaboration with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Guests toured the property and learned about the unique natural resources here and future plans for the site, which include development and implementation of management plans, educational signage, infrastructure improvements and areas for public access.*



In collaboration with the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Altrusa Club of Youngstown, and Western Reserve Public Media (Channels 45/49), the MetroParks hosted the 4th annual Plant the Seed to Read Children’s Book Fair. The Fair’s goal is to develop a love of reading in children, and attracted a record 2,300 children and adults.

*Nationally known writer and artist, Chris Yambar, was a guest at the Children’s Book Fair.*



## Into The Community

Participation in fairs and festivals allowed the MetroParks to reach out into the community in different ways, increasing our visibility and sharing what we had to offer this year. MetroParks staff supported events at:

- Boardman St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- Greater Youngstown Home and Garden Show
- Canfield Fair
- Grey to Green Festival
- Downtown Youngstown Holiday Parade
- Youngstown State University Earth Day Celebration



# Partners In The Park

## Individual Contributors

*The MetroParks experienced great community support in 2010. Individuals contributed \$212,000, while gifts from organizations, businesses, and foundations totaled \$140,000. The Board of Park Commissioners and staff of Mill Creek MetroParks salute the individuals and businesses that supported the MetroParks as Partners in the Park. Their gifts of time, talent, and financial resources are greatly appreciated. The legacy of Volney Rogers continues on through the inspired support of our community.*

Ramiro & Debbie Albarran  
Barbara Alter  
Elizabeth Arduin  
Beth & Roberto Bacani  
Gary & Lorraine Balog  
Regina Banks  
Paula Barrett  
Rocco J. & Nina Basciano  
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 Philip Zauderer & Karen O'Malia  
 Bernadette Zets  
 Joann & Jack Ziemianski  
 Helene Zlotnick



*John and Virginia Sommer Robertson were guests of honor at the dedication of the Seasonal Celebration Plaza and K. Calvin & Helen Sommer Memorial Fountain on November 17.*



# Partners In The Park (continued)

## Corporations / Foundations / Organizations

Akron Children's Hospital - Mahoning Valley  
Alex Downie & Sons  
Altronic, Inc  
American Bottling Company /  
7UP Bottling of Youngstown  
Arcadia Publishing Inc.  
Austintown Garden Club  
Barry Dyngle's  
Becker Funeral Homes  
Cadman's Appliances  
Canfield Community Care Net  
Cerimele, Meyer & Wray LLC  
Class of 1947 - The Rayen School  
Covelli Enterprises  
Daphne Garden Club  
DeBartolo Corporation, John and Denise York  
Eat'n Park  
Faniro Architects, Inc  
FAB Limousines Inc  
Farmers National Bank  
Fellows Riverside Gardens Staff  
First National Bank  
First Place Bank Community Foundation  
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens  
Garden Club of Youngstown  
Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown  
Gleaners Garden Club  
Glen Gardeners  
Hammond, Sowards and Williams  
Heart of Ohio Hikers  
Hitchcock Woods Garden Club  
Ikebana of Youngstown  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
Jane F. Lamb Charitable Foundation  
John F. & Loretta A. Hynes Foundation  
Johnson & Johnson Attorneys at Law  
Mahoning Garden Club  
Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society  
Mahoning Valley Landscape & Nursery Assoc.  
Mahoning Valley Rose Society  
Manchester, Bennett, Powers & Ullman  
Men's Garden Club of Youngstown  
Mignonette Garden Club

Monday Book Review Club  
Murphy Contracting Company  
Our Lady of Fatima Garden Club  
Packer Thomas  
Patriot Seating  
Peace Race Foundation  
Pediatric Associates of Youngstown  
PNC Bank  
Poland Village Gardeners  
Edward W. Powers Charitable Fund  
RT Vernal Paving, Inc.  
Saratoga Restaurant & Catering, Inc.  
Schaefer Equipment  
Schwebel Family Foundation  
Silver Creek Garden Club  
Spring Maids Garden Club  
St. John Lutheran Church, Ladies Altar Guild  
Strollo Architects  
Summit 91.3 FM  
Touched by Nathan Foundation  
Tourist Club  
Trailwood Gardeners  
Up and Over / Hunter and Combined Training  
Warren Development Association  
Walter E. and Caroline H. Watson Foundation  
Warren P. Williamson, Jr. Fund  
The Raymond John Wean Foundation  
Youngstown Foundation  
Youngstown State University  
Yurchyk and Davis CPA's, Inc.



*Mill Creek MetroParks hosted students from the Youngstown Ulster Project for the Shaffer Brothers concert at the 7UP Summerfest Concert Series.*



# Volunteers

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 were honored at the annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic in August. Time recorded for the dedicated volunteers throughout the MetroParks was 10,917 hours. Based on minimum wage (\$7.30) this would have an approximate value of \$79,694.41.

Volunteer hours recorded:

Horticulture Department	7,539
Boy Scouts Earth Day Cleanup	1,464
Recreation Department	1,214
Operations	500
MetroParks Farm	200





# Maintaining the MetroParks

A significant feature of the MetroParks is its extensive acres of managed forested areas. These areas require constant maintenance and attention to keep visitors safe and facilities operational. With over 20 miles of MetroParks roads and endless neighboring property lines, the task to ensure that downed and potentially hazardous trees are cared for is enormous.

Crews planted new trees, perennials, and woody plants at various areas within the MetroParks. The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown established an American Elm Tree Demonstration Area to evaluate growth and educate visitors on the different varieties of American Elm that are resistant to the devastating effects of Dutch Elm Disease.

At Mill Creek Preserve, 100 native tree seedlings, donated by WYSU listeners, and 30 native trees were planted as part of the habitat restoration effort there. Nearly 54,000 seasonal bulbs were planted at Fellows Riverside Gardens, Narcissus was added to Daffodil Meadow, and other permanent bulbs were planted at various landscaped sites.

Behind the scenes, inter-departmental coordination assured the MetroParks was ready for visitors. Rental facilities, picnic areas and comfort stations were cleaned, roads and shores were cleared of debris, and vehicles and equipment were serviced. Roads and parking lots were repaired, storm damage was cleaned up, guardrails, signs, picnic areas were mended or replaced, utility, road, and bridge inspections were completed, seasonal areas and equipment were set up and then winterized, and hiking trails were cared for.

Nearly 150,000 pounds of trash and debris were disposed of, 1,000 tons of highway salt and slag were deposited and 48 tons of street sweepings were stockpiled, covered and tested by MetroParks maintenance crews.

Keeping the MetroParks safe and secure is the top priority of the MetroParks Police Department. Proactive policing led to a 50% decrease overall in crime and accidents, the least amount reported by the Department in five years. Our officers are professionals whom visitors commonly see patrolling the roads and trails offering assistance in countless ways.





# Natural Areas and Conservation

Preservation and protection of land and habitat is at the core of the mission of Mill Creek MetroParks. Nowhere is that more evident than in our efforts to acquire properties that provide regional conservation value in order to protect these areas and the natural resources they contain.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at the Mill Creek Preserve in October to celebrate the 50-acre wetland restoration project and the opening of its two miles of trails to the public. Local dignitaries, donors, media and guests toured the facility and were treated to a presentation about how the land was acquired and its importance to the MetroParks and community.

Staff and volunteers participated in the "Big Sit", an annual international bird observation and recording event, that took place on October 10 at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Sixty-two bird species were identified, tying one other location in the entire state of Ohio for the largest count. Three new trails were also established through the Sanctuary's coniferous hillside area.

The Northeast Ohio Naturalists (NEON)/Cleveland Museum of Natural History field survey took place on May 15 at Sebring Woods, our newest MetroParks facility. Dr. Jim Bissell of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History was on hand, and along with staff, collected rare plant species to add to Mahoning County's plant record.

## Grants and Awards

Nearly all of the "extras" that make the MetroParks great are accomplished through grant monies, both state and private. Purchases of land, major improvements, and special projects are not part of the MetroParks annual budget.

**FHWA TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT** to improve 0.79 miles of East Cohasset Drive in Mill Creek Park. **\$250,800**

**OPWC CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND GRANT** to acquire 39 acres of property in the Village of Sebring in Smith Township. **\$108,000**

**OHIO EPA SECTION 319 GRANT** for reconstruction of the Newport Wetlands parking lot in Mill Creek Park using storm water management solutions, including pervious pavement, bio-retention and storm water filtration components. **\$55,353**

**OHIO EPA SURFACEWATER IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT** for construction of a demonstration rain garden at the MetroParks Farm. **\$10,850**

**ODNR NATUREWORKS GRANT** for construction of a natural playground at the MetroParks Farm. **\$7,097**

The MetroParks Police Department received a Homeland Security Grant from Region 5 to install a license plate reader on the supervisor's Charger. This boosts safety in the MetroParks by comparing vehicles in the Park District against stolen vehicle, warrant, and sex offender registries. **\$20,000**



## Capital Improvement Projects

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS	
Sommer Fountain, Perennial Garden & Shade Garden Walkways	\$452,000
WEST GOLF DRIVE • Resurfacing of 0.86 miles of West Golf Drive	131,498
MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE	
Cart Paths, south course	124,659
Field House Sanitary Sewer	40,020
Windows and doors for the restaurant area	18,000
Mini-split air conditioning wall units with condensers	9,000
Irrigation Pump House Upgrade	39,500
WEST GOLF DRIVE • Improvements to 0.86 miles of West Golf Drive	67,998
CHESTNUT HILL PAVILION • Playground Replacement	29,304
FORDING PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE • Rehabilitation and replacement	29,085
METROPARKS DRIVES AND PARKING LOTS • Inspection and Paving	25,272
METROPARKS BIKEWAY – PHASE III • Consultant, surveying	25,082
WICK RECREATION AREA	
Netting for batting cages	12,945
Audio structure, Judge Morley Pavilion	1,700
OLD FURNACE ROAD • Improvements from West Drive to Pioneer Pavilion	8,000
LANTERMANS' MILL (Funded through Mill Creek Park Foundation)	5,725
PIONEER PAVILION • Renovations, replacements and repairs	5,007
VOLNEY ROGERS FIELD • Comfort Station Renovations	4,073
YELLOW CREEK PARK • Kiosk	2,745

*West Golf Drive improvements*



*New MetroParks police cruiser*

## Capital Equipment

Police Cruiser(s)	\$53,633
Groundskeeper rough mower	47,642
Crew-cab truck	40,813
Dump truck with bed and plow kit	34,878
Fairway aerifier	24,282
Triplex greens mower	23,779
Two greens rollers with trailers	22,012
Greens aerifier	21,186
Tractor/Mower	13,007
Kawasaki Mule for Police	12,499
Surveillance Equipment	7,543
Miscellaneous painting equipment	4,480
Miscellaneous police equipment	2,346
Equipment trailer	1,500
Walk-behind blower	1,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$310,600</b>



# 2010 Statistics

## Attendance

### METROPARKS FARM

Visitors to Farm	8,177
School Presentations	8,679
TOTAL	16,856

### FORD NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Visitors to FNEC	15,864
Program Attendance	3,735
Total	19,599

### LANTERMAN'S MILL

Adult	5,045
Student	1,656
Senior	1,264
Under 6 Years	3,167
TOTAL	11,132

## Golf Statistics

### GOLF COURSE ROUNDS

Adult	51,880
Junior	5,517
Senior	29,226
TOTAL ROUNDS	86,263
9-Hole Rounds	51,003
18-Hole Rounds	17,630

### PAR 3 GOLF COURSE ROUNDS

Adult	13,042
Student	9,105
Senior	1,999
Evening	1,266
TOTAL ROUNDS	25,412

## Rental Facility Usage

### CABINS

Bears Den	74
Birch Hill	236
Log Cabin	46
Pioneer	137

### PICNIC PAVILIONS

Slippery Rock	46
Chestnut Hill	50
Stitt	48
Scholl	87
Wick	88

### YELLOW CREEK PARK

Yellow Creek Lodge	128
John Struthers Pavilion	29

### FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Auditorium	170
Cafe	36
Radius Room	96
Classrooms	216
Weddings	138

### METROPARKS FARM

Classroom A	121
McMahon Hall	243
TOTALS	1,989

## Other Rentals

### BOAT RENTALS

Lake Glacier	2,084
Lake Newport	874

WICK BATTING CAGES PLAYS	19,723
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## MetroParks Police Statistics

### Accidents

Traffic	19
Non-Traffic	65

### Arrests/Misdemeanor Citations

Adults	53
Juveniles	9

### Citations-Traffic

Adults	82
Juveniles	8

### Crimes Against Persons

Crimes Against Persons	4
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### Crimes Against Property

Crimes Against Property	43
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Fires	2
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Thefts	16
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Towed Vehicles	44
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Recovered Vehicles	0
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Stolen Vehicles	0
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Parking Tickets	79
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Police Hours	36,732
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Police Cruiser Mileage	183,876
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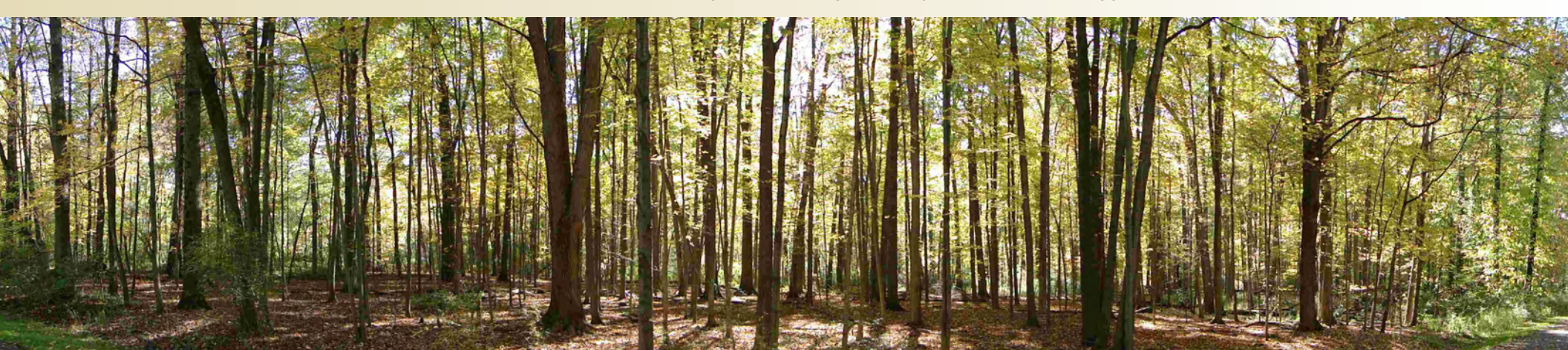


# Summary of Receipts, Expenses and Balances

For Year Ending December 31, 2010

Encumbered Funds 01/01/10	\$ 204,304.79
*Available Cash Balance from Previous Year	\$ 4,836,378.84
RECEIPTS	
Property Tax	\$ 6,942,951.62
Local Government Fund	563,355.55
MetroParks Activities	2,451,202.47
Fellows Trust Fund	14,087.35
Grants	303,818.24
Transfers/Advances	260,967.76
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND BALANCES	\$ 15,577,066.62
EXPENSES	
Operating - Materials & Supplies	\$ 1,695,180.10
Operating - Salaries & Wages	4,758,940.91
Capital Equipment	234,985.04
Capital Improvements	997,430.76
General Expense	2,576,403.47
Transfers/Advances	260,967.76
Encumbered Funds Forward	282,012.94
*Available Year End Balance	\$ 4,771,145.64
TOTAL EXPENSES AND BALANCES	\$ 15,577,066.62

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







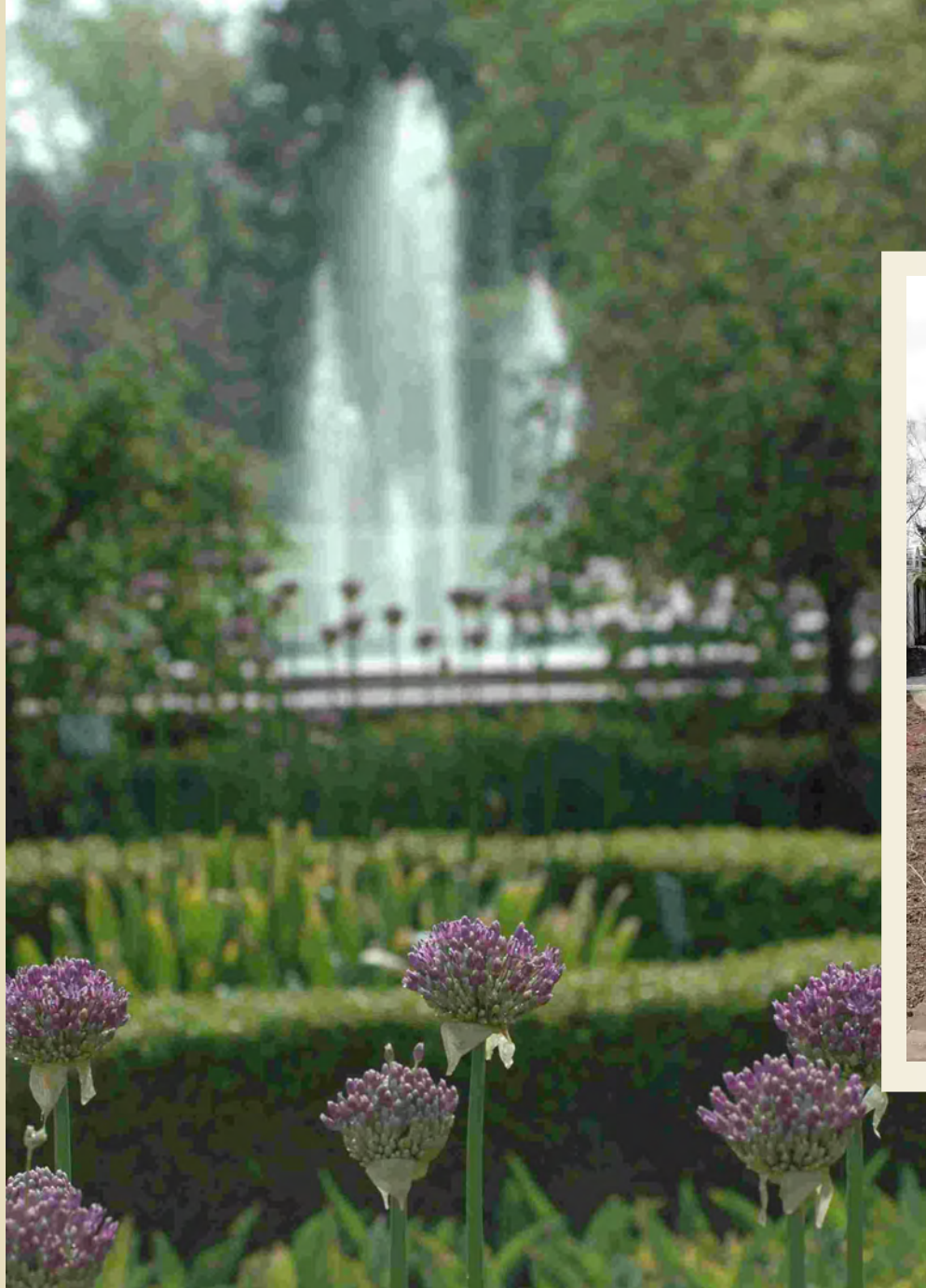
## SPECIAL EVENTS



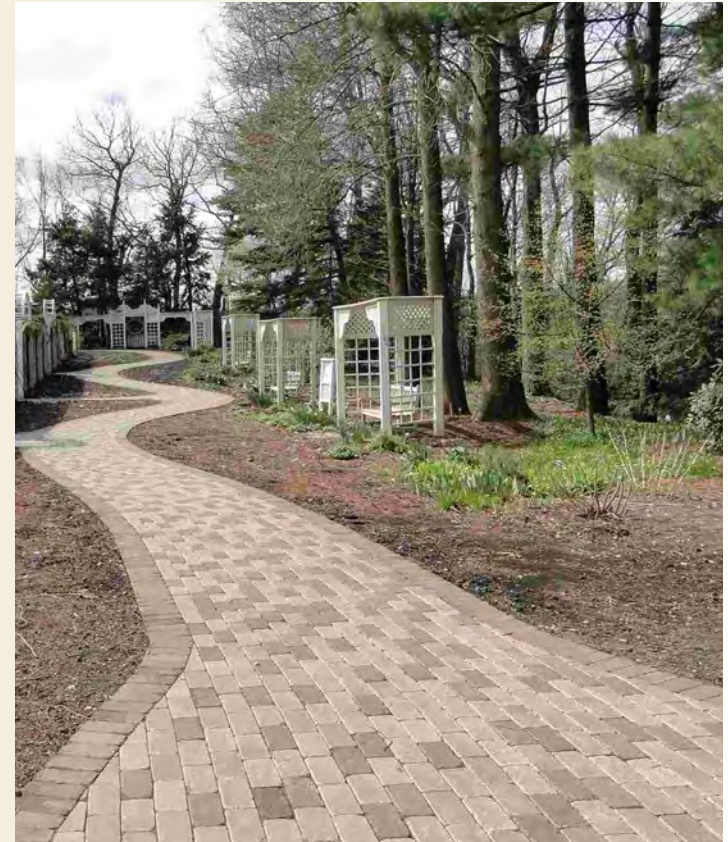
at Mill Creek MetroParks







*Front cover: The splash was restored to the K. Calvin & Helen Sommer Memorial Fountain at Fellows Riverside Gardens. The Fountain restoration was part of an overall project, the Seasonal Celebration Plaza, which was funded primarily through private donations.*



*Above: A view of the new perennial walkway in Fellows Riverside Gardens.*