



MILL CREEK METROPARKS

2 0 1 2 A N N U A L R E P O R T



BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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



APPOINTING AUTHORITY

The Honorable Judge Mark Belinky
Mahoning County Probate Judge

MILL CREEK METROPARKS 2012 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

President	Robert J. Durick
1st Vice President	John Ragan
2nd Vice President	Louis Schiavoni
	Jay Macejko
	Valencia Marrow
Executive Director	Dennis Miller

RECYCLED PAPER
30% Post Consumer Material

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Marketing Director	Linda Kostka
Editor	Linda Kostka
Graphics Manager	Julie Peterson
Graphic Designer	Jaci Askew
Photographer	Kim Moff
Photographer	Lily Martuccio

ABOUT THE COVER

Then and now. Top: Golfers enjoy the recently-installed cart paths, which make play in wet weather possible. Bottom: Golfers in bygone years enjoy a day on the course.

ON THE BACK

The historic Mill Creek Golf Course Field House, constructed in 1928, stands majestically over 36 championship holes. The Field House contains a pro shop and the Hole 37 restaurant.



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 part of any local or other political subdivision. It was established on January 1, 1989, under Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, as the successor to the Youngstown Township Park District subsequent to the voters' approval of the conversion. Mill Creek MetroParks serves all of Mahoning County.

The MetroParks currently operates Mill Creek Park, located in Boardman Township and the City of Youngstown, Yellow Creek Park in Struthers, the MetroParks Farm in Canfield Township, Vickers Nature Preserve in Ellsworth Township, MetroParks Bikeway, which traverses Austintown Township, Canfield Township and the City of Canfield, Sebring Woods in the Village of Sebring, Cranberry Run Headwaters in Boardman Township, Sawmill Creek Preserve in Canfield Township, Mill Creek Preserve in Boardman Township, McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in Coitsville Township and Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Beaver Township.

MetroParks revenue is derived from the 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.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S **CHAIR**

On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners and the entire staff of Mill Creek MetroParks, we are proud to share our 2012 annual report with you. My tenure as Executive Director began in September of 2012, however, I've been with the MetroParks for 15 years. Prior to my appointment, I served as Golf Director, managing our two Donald Ross-designed golf courses and the James L. Wick Jr. Recreation Area. Our facility received national recognition when I made an improbable putt to qualify for the US Open, which was held at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, California in June of 2012.

I am excited about my new position, and look forward to leading Mill Creek MetroParks into the future. Using the Strategic Master Plan as our guide will allow us to embrace the challenges we face over the next ten years and become an even stronger, more vibrant organization.

We have a talented and dedicated staff. With their guidance, I'm confident Mill Creek MetroParks will reach new heights. Despite changes in leadership, our mission remains the same: to be responsive to community needs, environmentally sound, adaptable and economically feasible.

Sincerely,

Dennis Miller

THINGS TO DO IN THE MetroParks

From the eclectic to the ordinary, there's something for everyone at Mill Creek MetroParks. Fulfill your dreams or find your heart's desire with activities that run the gamut from active to passive. Classes in horticulture, pottery or agriculture may teach you skills you never knew you had. Improve your health with a variety of fitness classes. Attend a special event and make family memories that last a lifetime. Have a picnic. Take a walk. See the leaves turn. Cross country ski. Transcend the seasons in Mill Creek MetroParks.

The annual Halloween at the Morley underwent a metamorphosis this year and was reimagined as the Spooktacular Funfest. The event entertained several hundred children and their families with

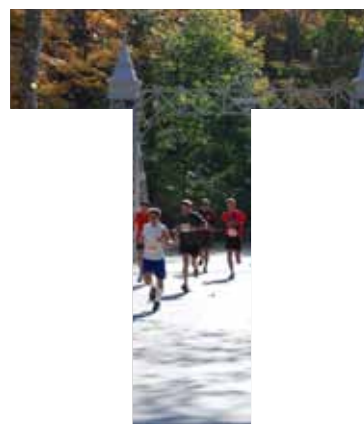
activities such as trick-or-treating at vendor booths, game areas, a petting farm, balloon animals by Jocko the Clown, and of course, the costume competitions. A concert by Hey Kid wrapped up the day's excitement.

Pick-a-Pumpkin Sunday, offered for the first time at the MetroParks Farm, gave visitors the opportunity to pick and purchase Farm-grown pumpkins in the new pumpkin patch. Guests had the opportunity to decorate their prized pick before taking it home. In December, Santa's Winter Barn attracted nearly 500 visitors. Children not only visited with Santa Claus himself, but were able to get acquainted with animals from all corners of the world.

Kayak excursions down the beautiful waterways of Mill Creek Park enjoyed increased participation. New this year were a first ever night paddle on Lake Glacier in June, a trip down the Cuyahoga River from Kent in July, and a midnight float on Lake Newport in August to observe the Perseid Meteor Shower. Our dedicated group of volunteers helped make all of our summer kayak programs possible.

Hiking is one of the most popular activities in the MetroParks. Some new and innovative hikes this year incorporated fishing, whittling, nature journaling, a night walk in Poland Municipal Forest, a salamander search in Sawmill Creek Preserve, and a tour of Berlin Reservoir's dam.

The addition of health & wellness classes gave participants an opportunity to work on their fitness goals with a certified instructor. Pilates, piloxing, and resistance training workshops were added to existing yoga and T'ai Chi classes. Sports camps and clinics provided children with one-on-one instruction from experienced coaches. Classes offered included a tennis camp, batting clinic, and volleyball clinic. Outdoor recreation opportunities such as a family archery class, an air rifle target shooting & safety class, and biking classes were also offered throughout the year. Challenger Sports' British Soccer Camp, a first for the Mahoning Valley, taught young players soccer skills, as well as self-



discipline, good sportsmanship, and respect for others and the game from a team of international experts,.

In October, Masquerade at the Mill—where “mother nature met the Phantom of the Opera”—was enjoyed by our elegantly-clad guests, many of whom never before experienced Lanterman’s Mill. Working with Hands On Volunteer Network, this first-time event was a great success, raising funds for both organizations.

Hooked on Fishing, organized by the MetroParks Police Department, expanded to include two more locations. In addition to Yellow Creek Park, Vickers Nature Preserve and the MetroParks Farm also hosted the program. With this expansion came the opportunity to reach a wider base of young people as well as a prestigious award for those instrumental in the program’s success. Assistant Police Chief Bruce Emery, Sergeant Randy Campana and Officer Patrick Murphy were all presented with the Mahoning Valley Chiefs of Police Community Policing award for their efforts.

The traveling exhibit “Wild Land – Thomas Cole and the Birth of American Landscape Painting” was on display at the Weller Gallery early this year. On loan from Mid-American Arts Alliance and funded through the National Endowment for the

Humanities initiative “NEH on the Road”, this exhibit significantly increased the visitation to Fellows Riverside Gardens during its run. Concurrent with the exhibition, a three day orientation and training session took place at Fellows Riverside Gardens for organizations wishing to host the exhibit. Nearly 25 groups from across the country attended this session, exposing Mill Creek MetroParks and the City of Youngstown to a brand-new audience.

The annual Pumpkin Walk at Twilight experienced its largest visitation ever, with an attendance of 7,040 recorded during the one-day exhibit at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Other popular events at Fellows Riverside Gardens saw increased attendance as well. Winter Celebration-The Snow Garden and Winter Nights attracted quite a few more visitors than last year. The Shop in the Gardens saw sales increase nearly 41% during the wildly popular Girls Night Out at the Gardens. The annual summer Garden Party fundraiser was also well attended—over 300 guests experienced *Sugar Beets Meet City Streets*.

Due to the untimely arrival of spring, tulips peaked early this year. Visitors to Fellows Riverside Gardens and Mill Creek MetroParks enjoyed the displays during the second week of April instead of the first week of May, the normal peak bloom time.

“Beads for Trees”, an outdoor art exhibit at Fellows Riverside Gardens, encouraged the community to pay homage to trees by creating a string of beads to be hung in the foliage at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Beads for Trees was a part of Living As Form, a national art project that was created in 1991.

The Players Club, a new customer loyalty program at Mill Creek Golf Course, was created to reward frequent golfers. The program gives golfers a 10% reward to use in the future towards their greens fees.

The new practice range and learning center at Mill Creek Golf Course was 90% completed by the end of the year. The staff will put the finishing touches on the project in the spring of 2013. The design work for the support structure housing the ball dispenser and teaching studio should be complete in May.

The first ever Mill Creek MetroParks Rib Burn Off was held at the James L. Wick Jr. Recreation Area in May. Six rib vendors, thirteen bands and an assortment of vendors kept the crowd well fed and content during the three-day event. Picture-perfect weather helped MetroParks staff raise \$12,000 for the new Children’s Play Area.



A LIFETIME OF LEARNING



After several years of meticulous work, cataloging the literary collections in the Maxcine Antonucci Horticulture Library at Fellows Riverside Gardens were completed. One hundred eighty-five new items were added to the collection this year, bringing the total titles to 3,516.

Over 2500 students from Youngstown and other districts visited Fellows Riverside Gardens for a variety of horticulture education programs. Indoor classes, as well as outdoor Botanical Discoveries programs, gave students insights into the world of plants.

Ford Nature Center celebrated its 40th birthday on July 5 with a party featuring guest speakers Bill Whitehouse and Jay Blackstone. The mansion housing the Nature Center, a gift from the children of Judge John W. Ford, marked its 100th anniversary through a year-long exhibit at the Melnick Museum in the D.D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center.

The Frog Walk held at Vickers Nature Preserve attracted 99 participants. Due to the perfect weather conditions, participants found nearly the same number of frogs during their traipse through the Preserve.

The MetroParks Farm held a two day Ag Camp, "Down on the Farm", in July with 71 campers and 25 volunteer camp leaders in attendance. This year's camp was supported and underwritten in large part by AgLand Co-op and Witmers Feed and Grain. During camp, children participated in fun activities, were taught where their foods came from and prepared some dishes for the family picnic.



Family Garden Fun Days took place in the Family Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays throughout the summer. Staffed by horticulture interns and volunteers, this drop-in program was a very successful way to connect visitors to that part of the Gardens.

National Public Gardens Day was celebrated at Fellows Riverside Gardens on May 11th with nationally recognized topiary artist Pearl Fryar in attendance. His visit to the Gardens included a lecture and the creation of a topiary bird house tree in the Family Garden.

The Fall Garden Author Lecture at Fellows Riverside Gardens featured Felder Rushing, Mississippi native and well-known author of 19 garden books. While here, Mr. Rushing aired his NPR radio program. This lecture was co-sponsored with Men's Garden Club of Youngstown and Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens.

OUR STAFF ON THE GO

Several staff members attended the 2012 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Conference in Sandusky Ohio

Annette Vasko attended the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course offered by National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

Angela McGrady attended Camp Leader Training, (OPRA)

Ray Novotny and Carol Vigorito attended the National Association for Interpretation Conference

Carol Vigorito, Bethany Fuestal, Rikki Brammer and John Beitzel went to the Northeast Ohio Regional Parks Conference

Rikki Brammer attended Professional Development Academy by Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) and Business Writing for Results offered by Fred Pryor Seminars

Horticulture Educators Anita Wesler and Lynn Zocolo attended the National Children and Youth Garden Symposium in Washington, D.C. presented by the American Horticultural Society. Anita was part of a presentation about the children's book *A Walk In the Garden*, released this spring, about Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Horticulture Director Keith Kaiser presented two sessions at the American Public Gardens Annual Conference this year. Presentations included Traveling Exhibits for Small Gardens and participation on a panel about Storm Water Management, which focused on the Rainwater Cascade portion of the Ohio Woodland Garden Project.

Horticulture student Nathan Tinsley, a senior in Public Horticulture at Kansas State University, started a summer internship at Fellows Riverside Gardens in mid-May. This position is funded by the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens. A second summer garden intern, Meg Knapke, began work in June. She is a Public Garden major at Purdue University.

Lily Martuccio was promoted to the full time position of Graphics and Development Specialist in February.

Horticulture Education Manager Anita Wesler retired on December 14th after 13 years with the MetroParks. Asst. Police Chief Bruce Emery retired after 37 years of service to the MetroParks in December and Officer Wilbert Drayton retired in November with 20 years. Rich Cerimele, Wick Recreation Area Manager, retired with 21 years of service.

STAFFING CHANGES

Perry Toth, Golf Course Superintendent, was promoted to Park Operations Director.

Scott Kayla, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, was promoted to Golf Course Superintendent.

Dennis Miller, Golf Director, was promoted to Executive Director.

Dan Walsh was hired to replace the Golf Director as General Manager, focusing on customer



VOLUNTEERS

We are fortunate to have the gift of people's time and talents to support the activities that occur at the MetroParks year-round. We celebrated our volunteers' commitment last year at the annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic, held at the Judge Leo P. Morley Performing Arts Pavilion, where our guests enjoyed the upbeat sounds of Redline.

Bridget Beck was hired as the first Volunteer Coordinator at Fellows Riverside Gardens, dedicated specifically to work with garden volunteers. In 2012 the number of volunteer hours recorded reached 14,343, a huge increase from the total number of 7,359 in 2011.

Time recorded for volunteers throughout the MetroParks was 18,859 hours. Based on the state minimum wage (\$7.70), this would have an approximate value of \$145,214.

VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORDED

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT	14,343
FORD NATURE CENTER	2116
BOY SCOUTS EARTH DAY CLEANUP	1450
METROPARKS FARM	150
MILL CREEK PRESERVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	800

CHRISTIAN HUNTER & DUSTIN STRINES

both received life saving awards for locating and recovering an injured female who fell off the West Newport trail and down a steep gorge.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Fitness Together, a local personal training business, worked with our Recreation Department to hold the first ever race benefitting Mill Creek MetroParks. The event raised \$2,924 for outdoor education in Mill Creek MetroParks.

Many area organizations conduct their races, walks and other events throughout the MetroParks. Road Runners Club Distance Classic Half Marathon, YMCA Memorial 5 Mile Run, Race Against Amyloidosis, American Cancer Society's Bark for Life, Canfield High School's Cardinal Classic Twilight Run, Youngstown YMCA Triathlon, Ohio Naturopathic Couch-to-5k, Mahoning Valley Player's Shakespeare in the Park, Struthers Rotary Club Rubber Duck Race, Covelli Panerathon, YMCA Community Cup, Multiple Sclerosis Walk, Youngstown Ultra Trail Club's 25k & 50k Run, Garden District Neighborhood Association's 5k Race, National Association for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Walk, Youngstown Peace Race, and Kicks for Kids 5k Race chose to have all or part of their events in the MetroParks. These community events attracted 11,410 visitors.

Mill Creek MetroParks and the Alliance for Watershed Action and Resource Education (AWARE) partnered with the newly formed Friends of the Mahoning River on a display at the Canfield Fair, and assisted with planning of their RiverFest event held in October. AWARE was accepted into the River Network's Building More Impactful Organizations program, which is designed to assist local watershed groups in capacity building. Through the program, AWARE receives consulting services from River Network staff and other resources to help the organization grow and plan for its future in a sustainable fashion.

The MetroParks collaborated with Western Reserve Land Conservancy on a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant application to protect wetlands habitat. The grant was approved, resulting in the purchase of 52 acres of property along Middle Fork Little Beaver Creek in Green Township.

A partnership with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments on an assessment of stream habitat quality in the Mill Creek Watershed looked at

physical habitat quality along Mill Creek and several of its tributaries using the Ohio EPA's Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index.

A stream and wetland restoration project took place at the MetroParks Farm in collaboration with the Mahoning County Engineer's Office. A total of 885 linear feet of channelized stream and 3.7 acres of wetlands were restored and enhanced as mitigation for stream and wetland impacts associated with the County's Western Reserve Road widening project.

Many individuals and groups show their passion and commitment to the MetroParks through their projects. Local Boy Scout of America troop members constructed an information kiosk for the Mill Creek Preserve for their Eagle Scout service project. A YSU graduate student examined soil erosion at Mill Creek MetroParks' Lily Pond and the surrounding watershed and its impact on sediments within the pond for his research project.

MetroParks staff served the community by participating in many local organizations as board members, committee members and volunteers. The diversity of organizations include the Mahoning County Farm Bureau, Peace Race, Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, Rotary Club of Youngstown, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Hands On Volunteer Network, Mahoning Commons Association, and the American Public Gardens Association.

The Mahoning Valley Landscape and Nursery Association partnered with Fellows Riverside Gardens to host the Spring Landscape Clinic. This was a very successful day of educational programs and mini trade show for the local green landscape industry.

Men's Garden Club of Youngstown and Fellows Riverside Gardens-Mill Creek MetroParks hosted the annual Winter Garden Seminar, in which 156 participants attended. The program attracted over a third of the participants from the Mahoning Valley, a third from Western Pennsylvania and a third from other areas of Northeast Ohio. Nearly 30 had never been to Fellows Riverside Gardens before.

A new tool shed was purchased for the Children's Vegetable Garden Program with combined funds from the Mahoning Valley Landscape & Nursery Association, Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown and Mill Creek MetroParks.

INTO THE COMMUNITY



Commitment to the communities we serve is of paramount importance. MetroParks staff participated in a wide variety of events, fairs, parades and festivals that reached tens of thousands of residents.

Boardman St. Patrick's Day Parade

Greater Youngstown Home & Garden Show

Canfield Fair

Watershed Festival

Downtown Youngstown Holiday Parade

Celebrate Poland Festival

The Ford Nature Center also provided an educational "touch table" for events such as the Covelli Panerathon, Antlers & Anglers, Oh WOW Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology, and RiverFest.

The MetroParks Farm staff provided farm animals for the South Range Field Day and "Old McDonald's Barn" at the Canfield Fair.



PARTNERS IN THE **Park**

Mill Creek MetroParks experienced great community support in 2012, with nearly \$204,000 being contributed by individuals organizations, businesses and foundations. The Board of Park Commissioners and staff of Mill Creek MetroParks thank everyone who supported us as Partners in the Park. Their gifts of time, talent and financial resources are greatly appreciated. The legacy of Volney Rogers lives on through the inspired support of our community.

ESTABLISH YOUR **LEGACY**

The Volney Rogers Legacy Society was created to give individuals or organizations the opportunity to make a lasting impact on Mill Creek MetroParks. Your thoughtful gift will help preserve the natural beauty of the MetroParks, support Fellows Riverside Gardens, maintain our historic structures and provide educational opportunities for everyone. Gifts can be made through a variety of estate planning tools such as bequests in a will or trust, IRA designations, gifts of appreciated stock, life insurance and more. Call Mill Creek MetroParks' Development Office at 330-702-3000 for more information.

Construction of the infrastructure for a new children's play area, consisting of an adventure playground, a tot playground, a sand playground, and sand volleyball courts, began in the spring. The project included demolition of existing features, replacement of all underground utilities, construction of the three lighted, sand volleyball courts, concrete walks, a new terrace for the Wick Pavilion and construction of the infrastructure for the new playgrounds. This portion of the project was substantially funded through a \$400,000 bequest.

At the end of the year, Mill Creek MetroParks accepted a generous and thoughtful gift from long-time supporters Bruce and Nancy Beeghly. The Beeghlys donated 6 acres of property, including a 3600 square foot residential structure, to the MetroParks. The property lies adjacent to Yellow Creek Park in Struthers and Poland Township and contains a hiking trail and other features.

Fred Martin Ford donated a Dodge Grand Caravan for use in the MetroParks. This vehicle will be assigned to Fellows Riverside Gardens and used for picking up plants and supplies, as well as, for staff attending meetings.

INDIVIDUAL **Contributors**

Christopher & Kathleen Ackerman

Anonymous

Renee V. Anderson

Kathy Arens

Judith Arlow

William M. & Karen Arnold

Suzanne Barbaty & Bill Florig

Richard & Judy Bartlett

Brenda Bates

Dolores Beck

Phyllis Berkowitz

James R. & Lori Blair

Robert & Ann Bryan

Kaaren Cabraja

Amy Camardese

JoAnne Carney

Mary Ann & Daniel Chambers

Geoffrey L. Chentow

Karen & Mark Cherol

Y. T. & Marilyn Chiu

Mark & Terri Cleland

Barbara & Dennis Clouse

William & Carole Conti

Robert J. & Marguerite Heffner Craciun

Max T. & Sarah Crosby

Frank W. & Barbara Cubbon

Caren & Ryerson Dalton

M. Virginia Dailey & William Rubenstahl

Nicole Deniro

Angela & Bob Dietl

Candace Dobro

Janey & Jack Donadee

Robert L. & Eva J. Doyle

Bruce & Suzyn S. Epstein

Lauren Feinberg

Stephanie Flyak

Mary Grace & Ed Fowler

Arthur & Phyllis Friedman

Terry Gallagher

Charlotte Gelhaar

Melanie Gemme & Willaim Cann

Joshua S. & Melissa Gerth

David A. & Mary Ellen Gillie

Fred W. & Donna Gohlke

Douglas & Jeanne Goodman

Christine & Steven Grabert

Bobbi & Peter Grinstein

Charles E. & Grace Hageman

Dale Hammes

Jim & Kerry Hammond

Charles Henry

Ellen T. Herman

Jan & Howard Hubbard

Gary W. Huff

Kristin Jacobs

Regina Jenkins

Fred & Sharon Jennings

Patty Johnson

Keith & Marcy Kaiser

Katherine & Andrew Kartalis

William & Lori Kavanaugh

Mary Ann Kessler & Guenther A. Hladiuk

George J. Kopcial

Therese Krieger

Jennifer Lackey & Jamie Moseley

Rochelle Landy

Gunther Lange

G.M. Leck

Leslie Lewis

Charles Luce

Laura A. & Paul Lyden

James & Dolores Lynn

Betty G. Mallery

John J. Manolukas

James C. & Kaliope Manuel

Rick & Ronna Marlin

Carilla Marsh

Fred Martin

Susan B. McHugh

Lynn & Peter Mendelson

Lisa & Bill Miller

Jackie Motsinger

Colleen J. Muckridge

Diana Mullins

Margi Napoli

Mary Neel

Bradley W. & Kim Newman

Mary Lou Newstead

Frances & Mark Niemiec

Alice Noga



INDIVIDUAL Contributors (CONTINUED)

Carol Ostheimer
Stanley & Linda Palumbo
Joseph & Judith Pasquarella
Philip D. Patey & Deborah Van Slyke
John & Michelle Perdue
Rob & Jessica Reed
Ruth Ricci
Veronica Rishell
Virginia S. & John Robertson
Norma & Art Roden

Roseanne Roh
Gregg & Becky Rossi
Linda Ruse & James Krivanek
Harold & Helen Sacherman
Brian & Helen Sassone
Scott R. Schulick
Anne M. Schumacher
Sara C. Scudier
Michael G. & Donna Sekman
Andrea J. Shirilla

Mary Sigel
Jeanne & John Simeone
Jeffrey M. & Kimberly Simon
Jenny Slate
Stephen & Marilyn Sniderman
John Sodomka
Ellen Speicher
Louetta Ann & Neil Stertzbach
David & Nancy Stewart
Denise E. Stewart & Robert J. McGowan

Douglas M. & Karen Van Slyke
Sam & JoAnn Traficant
Marjorie A. Villano
Nanette Walker
Jack & Carol Weller
Samie Winick
Gary A. Wolfinger
Pamela Woolensack
Richard L. Jr. & Beate Wright
Janet Yaniglos & Clyde Morris

CORPORATIONS / Foundations / ORGANIZATIONS

7Up Bottling of Youngstown
Agland Co-Op Inc.
Altronic, Inc.
Akron Children's Hospital - Mahoning Valley
Altrusa International of Youngstown, OH
Anguili's Farm Market
Barry Dyngles
Becker Funeral Homes
Florence S & Ward Beecher Foundations
Bennett Trailer Sales Inc.
Better Business Bureau
Bob & Chuck Eddy Chrysler Dodge
Jeep & Fiat
G. Burbick Farms
Cadman's Appliances
Cater 2 U
Catullo's Prime Meats
Chuck E. Cheese's
Cinemark Tinseltown
City Machine Technologies, Inc.
Clear Channel
Community Foundation of the
Mahoning Valley
Compco Industries
Consumers National Bank
Covelli Enterprises
J. Ford Crandall Foundation
DeBartolo Corporation
Do-Cut True Value
Dom's Ice House

DOT Construction
Robert J. Durick, DDS, Inc.
EM Fitness LLC
Emerging Marketing
John D. Finnegan Foundation
First National Bank
First Place Bank Community Foundation
Frances Schermer Charitable Trust
Garden Club of Youngstown
Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown
GBS
The Georgetown
Ghossain's Gourmet Mediterranean Foods
Gia Russa
Girard Herb Society
Gleaners Garden Club
Gordy's Specialty Market
Greier Ag Center Inc.
Handel's Ice Cream, Creekside
Hitchcock Woods Garden Club
The Home Savings & Loan Co.
Hubbard Elementary School Social Fund
Huffman Fruit Farm
Huntington Bank
Hynes Industries, Inc.
Immaculate Heart Garden Club
Jane F. Lamb Charitable Foundation
Joe Maxx Coffee
The Muransky Companies
Lake-To-River Food Cooperative

LanzScape Photography
Learning Dog LLC
The Lizzies
MAC Trailer Manufacturing
Mahoning County Farm Bureau Inc.
Mahoning Garden Club
Mahoning Valley Landscape &
Nursery Assoc.
Manchester, Bennett, Powers & Ullman
Manos Promotions
Fred Martin Ford
Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County
Men's Garden Club of Youngstown
Mignonette Garden Club
Mill Creek Park Employees Association
Moccasin Flower Garden Club
Molnar Farms
Monday Book Review Club
Myriad Media Group Inc.
National Barbecue Cookers Association
National Healthcare Access Inc.
North Side Hospital
Ohio Humanities Council
Olive Garden
Olsavsky Jaminet Architects Inc.
Parish Family Revocable Living Trust
Patti Mika Inc.
PNC Bank Foundation
Poland Women's Club
Polish Youngstown

Prime Thyme Herb Guild
R. T. Vernal Paving Inc.
Rhie Supply
Save-A-Lot | George & Carole Kolman
Schwebel Family Foundation
Something New
St. Michael Garden Guild of Canfield
Staley Communications
Stouffer's Farm Market & Greenhouse
Superior Beverage Group
Sweeney Chevrolet Buick GMC
Terra Design Studios
Thomases Family Endowment
Tri-County Credit Union Inc.
Uncle Joe's Storage
V & V Appliance Parts Inc.
Van Pelt Farm Market
Warren P. Williamson, Jr. Fund
White House Fruit Farm
Witmer's Inc.
WKBN/WYFX Television
Youngstown Orthopaedic Associates
Youngstown Pipe & Supply, LLC
Youngstown Propane, Inc.
Youngstown State University
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
of Commerce
Yurchyk and Davis CPA's, Inc.



MAINTAINING THE MetroParks

Much goes on behind the scenes to keep Mill Creek MetroParks looking great. Just some of the day-to-day activities include rental facility cleaning & maintenance, comfort station cleaning & maintenance, trash, litter & recycling collection and processing, vehicle and small equipment maintenance and repairs, and pothole repair & patching on park drives.

Each season brings its own challenges to our hardy maintenance staff. Snow & ice were removed from drives, parking areas, walkways & facilities, and setup and tear-down of pavilions occurred in the spring and fall. The snow making machine and associated water line at the Wick Recreation Area, along with Sled Hill, also were put up and torn down for the season. Grass mowing & trimming of lawns, meadows, facilities & frontages is a never-ending task during the summer months. Cleaning, delivery and pick-up of pedal & row boats from Lake Glacier & Lake Newport as well as setup and tear-down of ball fields keep our crews busy. Maintenance and repairs on our miles of hiking trails is an ongoing task.

In addition to the continuing tasks performed by our Maintenance Department, more extensive projects inevitably crop up each and every year. The Orchard Meadow Comfort Station received interior and exterior renovations, and the women's restroom at the Ford Nature Center was also updated. A new gift shop was constructed at the MetroParks Farm in McMahon Hall, while the hall itself received a stunning new paint job and new laminate floors. At historic Lanterman's Mill, exterior siding, doors and fencing of the restroom building were refinished. The picnic shelter at Volney Rogers Field was refinished, and four deteriorated steel man-doors at MetroParks Service Facility were replaced.

Sadly, our Forestry Crew had to remove over 375 ash trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer, most of them along East Golf Drive. The battle against Emerald Ash Borer in the MetroParks continues with the removal of trees infested with this invasive insect by the Forestry crew. Unfortunately, most of the Ash trees in the MetroParks will ultimately become infested with this invasive Asian species and will need to be removed. However, a few trees that grow in prominent landscape sites have been treated with an insecticide to preserve them.

The landscape surrounding the Volney Rogers Statue at the Glenwood and Falls Avenue entrance to Mill Creek Park was redesigned. New plantings included 60 boxwood shrubs that formed a hedge, and 60 red double Knockout roses that filled in behind it. This design reflects the original plantings from the 1920's, when the statue was first installed.

The Landscape crew combined efforts with our Planning Department to install a wildlife garden at the corner of Lakeview Road and Mayfield Avenue in the Garden District neighborhood of Youngstown. A certified butterfly garden was included as part of the project.

At Lanterman's Mill, a newly designed 'Flight of Fancy' butterfly Garden was installed. This brings the total butterfly gardens in the MetroParks to eight.

The majority of bulb planting took place in October, with over 50,000 planted at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Bulbs were planted by the Landscape staff for spring display in other areas of the MetroParks also, including additional Narcissus at Daffodil Meadow. At Mill Creek Golf Course, three new permanent beds and one new annual planting area were added to the landscape.



NATURAL AREAS & CONSERVATION

This year marked the second in a row for active Canada goose management in Mill Creek Park. The large population of Canada geese not only affects water quality but their aggressive behavior can be dangerous for MetroParks visitors. Staff worked closely with the Ohio Division of Natural Resources to help reduce the number of goose nests within Mill Creek Park.

In October, staff and volunteers flocked to the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary to participate in the “Big Sit”, an annual international bird observation and

recording event. A total of 77 bird species were observed from sun-up to sun-down, beating the previous year’s results and coming in FIRST place for sites competing within Ohio.

New “Wildlife Habitat Area” signs were developed to inform park visitors that reduced mowing frequency in the area is beneficial to local wildlife.

Several Youngstown State University graduate students worked with the MetroParks on research projects throughout our natural areas studying

songbirds, invasive plant species, and other topics. Their studies benefit the MetroParks by providing data that can be used in making important land management decisions.

Through local Boy Scouts, school groups, and concerned citizens, the MetroParks has been able to add a number of wildlife nest boxes throughout our natural areas. These nest boxes not only provide places for songbirds and waterfowl to raise their young, but also provide needed shelter to other wildlife as well.

Grants & Awards

Many major improvements and projects were completed because MetroParks staff diligently looked for alternative sources of funding. These endeavors cannot be funded through the MetroParks budget.

PROJECTS - GRANT FUNDING

\$ 265,393.90

Federal Transportation Enhancement Program Grant
Improvements on .79 miles of East Cohasset Drive

\$ 101,779.80

Ohio Department of Transportation
Improvements to .45 miles of Robinson Hill Drive

\$ 201,300.00

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant; private donation
Purchase of 52 acres of property situated on
Middle Fork Little Beaver Creek

\$ 18,228.20

Federal Highway Administration grant
Consultant services for Phase III of MetroParks Bikeway

\$ 3,000

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
Construction of a wildlife garden in Mill Creek Park
in the Garden District Neighborhood

TOTAL GRANTS RECEIVED: **\$ 589,701.19**



RENTAL FACILITY USAGE

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS	
Rossi Auditorium	108
Garden Café	23
Radius Room	13
Classrooms	158
Wedding Ceremonies	155
CABINS	
Bears Den	85
Birch Hill	283
Log Cabin	67
Pioneer	120
PICNIC PAVILIONS	
Slippery Rock	50
Chestnut Hill	44
Stitt	56
Scholl	115
Bresko (Wick) (under construction)	12
YELLOW CREEK PARK	
Yellow Creek Lodge	106
Capt. John Struthers	47
METROPARKS FARM	
McMahon Hall	221
Classroom A	139

POLICE STATISTICS

Accidents	
Traffic	12
Non-traffic	67
Arrests / Misdemeanor Citations	
Adults	43
Juveniles	5
Citations-Traffic	
Adults	47
Juveniles	2
Crimes Against Persons	5
Crimes Against Property	30
Fires	3
Thefts	18
Towed Vehicles	21
Recovered Vehicles	2
Stolen Vehicles	0
Parking Tickets	23
Police Hours	38,358
Police Cruiser Mileage	164,808

GOLF STATISTICS

PAR 3 GOLF COURSE ROUNDS	
Adult	10,321
Junior/Senior	9,611
Evening	1,405
TOTAL ROUNDS	21,337
MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE ROUNDS	
9-Hole Rounds	47,939
18-Hole Rounds	21,027
TOTAL ROUNDS	89,993



FACILITY ATTENDANCE

METROPARKS FARM	
School Presentation Attendance	8963
Tours	5865
Visitors	1846
FORD NATURE CENTER	
Program Attendance	5712
Visitors	13886
FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS	
Visitors	394,841
LANTERMAN'S MILL	
Visitors	9571
OTHER	
Newport Boathouse -boat rentals	631
Glacier Boathouse -boat rentals	2275

SPECIAL EVENT ATTENDANCE

Winter Celebration	20,535
7Up Summerfest Spectacular Concert Series	9,900
Pumpkin Walk at Twilight	7,040
Winter Nights	4,600
Olde Fashioned Christmas at the Mill	4,500
Animal Baby Shower	3,300
Book Festival	2,200
Sunset at the Farm	2,000
Kite Festival	1,200
Bug Day	600
Easter Eggstravaganza	600
Santa's Wintertime Barn	500
Sunfest	500
Spooktacular Funfest	550
Movie Under the Stars	100
TOTAL	58,125

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES



ROADS	\$ 34,611
Asphalt paving & pavement marking, General improvements on .32 lane miles & 5 drives	
FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS	\$ 30,000
Ohio Woodland Garden Project Tile replacement in Visitor Center	
PARKING LOTS	\$ 25,698
Asphalt paving	
LILY POND	\$ 20,976
Trail reconstruction; goose management equipment	
METROPARKS FARM	\$ 19,974
Pond improvements	
SLIPPERY ROCK BRIDGE	\$ 10,175
Stone masonry repairs	
PROPERTY ACQUISITION & IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 6,062
STREAMS	\$ 5,000
Healthy Stream Initiative	
TRAFFIC SIGN REPLACEMENT	\$ 3,920
HIKING TRAILS	\$ 3,889
Boardwalk construction, bridge replacement, pavement repairs	
FACILITY SIGN	\$ 1,713
New sign at West Golf Drive and Route 224 entrance	
MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS	\$ 825
Roof repairs at Old Log Cabin	
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 162,843



CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

POLICE CRUISER & EQUIPMENT	\$ 25,835
DODGE GRAND CARAVAN VAN	\$ 12,000*
BALL DISPENSER & CLUB CART, MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE	\$ 9,982
FARM GIFT SHOP CONSTRUCTION	\$ 7,395
LIVESTOCK TRAILER, METROPARKS FARM	\$ 4,780*
PEDAL BOATS, LAKE GLACIER	\$ 2,445
PEDAL BOATS, LAKE NEWPORT	\$ 2,445
GAS RANGE & COUNTERTOPS, BIRCH HILL CABIN	\$ 1,724
TOTAL CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	\$ 66,606

*These items made possible through private donations.

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, EXPENSES AND BALANCES

MILL CREEK METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

Combined Income Statement For Year Ending December 31, 2012

ENCUMBERED FUNDS 01/01/2012 \$ 893,391.84

*AVAILABLE CASH BALANCE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR \$ 3,972,354.34

REVENUE:

General Property Tax	\$ 6,643,063.70
Local Government Fund	402,177.29
MetroParks Activities	2,582,660.98
Fellows Trust Fund	22,857.92
Grants	292,454.90
Golf Course Donations	4,525.00
Transfers/Advances	452,401.84

TOTAL REVENUES: \$ 10,400,141.63

TOTAL REVENUE AND BALANCES \$ 15,265,887.81

EXPENSES:

Operating-Materials & Supplies	\$ 2,089,352.85
Operating-Salaries & Wages	4,832,042.97
Capital Equipment	121,139.30
Capital Improvements	1,664,088.05
General Expense	1,955,642.17
Transfers/Advances	452,401.84

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 11,114,667.18

CASH BALANCE AS OF 12/31/2012 \$ 4,151,220.63

2012 YEAR END ENCUMBRANCES \$ 475,688.68

*AVAILABLE 2012 YEAR END BALANCE \$ 3,675,531.95

*The available cash balance is a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds.

This was a financially challenging year for the MetroParks. Park activity revenues increased due to an excellent golf season and new fee based programs, while property taxes and local government funding declined along with gas royalties. Expenses increased mostly from capital equipment and improvement projects which were greatly needed. Once again, local government revenues as well as property taxes will be reduced, and interest revenue and gas royalties are expected to remain low.

We were pleased to implement a new online facility rental reservation system and will continue to work toward providing customer friendly payment services.





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