

MILL CREEK METROPARKS

2013

ANNUAL
REPORT





BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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

APPOINTING AUTHORITY

The Honorable Judge Mark Belinky
Mahoning County Probate Judge

MILL CREEK METROPARKS 2013 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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



Left to Right: John M. Ragan, Jay Macejko, Valencia Marrow,
Dr. Robert J. Durick, Louis Schiavoni, Dennis Miller

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30% Post Consumer Material

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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

from the DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



My first full year as Executive Director of Mill Creek MetroParks has been a busy and productive one. When I reflect on what we have accomplished in 2013, I am truly humbled by the dedication and commitment our employees show each and every day they come to work. Using our Strategic Action Plan as a guide allowed us to focus and prioritize our efforts to create the maximum impact with limited funds.

Our most visible initiative was the creation of a branding campaign last year to strengthen the awareness of the MetroParks and its key facilities. The campaign included a fresh, modern new logo design that debuted at the Canfield Fair, and can now be seen on MetroParks signage, vehicles, publications and clothing. A six-minute informational video was produced to show the diversity of our lands, activities and programs. You can see it on the updated MetroParks website, www.MillCreekMetroParks.org. Late in the year, the MetroParks purchased a trolley, something that we've been wanting to do for many years. Christened the *Cohasset Express*, the trolley will take visitors on tours of the many different areas of the MetroParks and be available to rent for weddings, graduations, and special occasions. We expect the *Cohasset Express* will be a very popular way to explore, experience and enjoy Mill Creek MetroParks.

Much attention was given to our infrastructure this year. The condition of our facilities was evaluated, and targeted maintenance and repairs were completed to keep our cabins, pavilions, comfort stations and historical structures protected, safe and enjoyable. Extra care was put into our many miles of trails, one of the greatest assets of the MetroParks, according to those who completed our comprehensive survey in 2011.

In order to leverage our public dollars wisely, we realize that seeking private funding is essential. To that end, we are embarking on an expansion of our Mill Creek Park Foundation from a three-member distribution committee to a board of directors consisting of 11-15 people who will help raise funds, act as advocates and reach out to connect us to potential community partners. Most of the large projects undertaken by the MetroParks have been privately funded, and our new Foundation will help us expand those efforts.

I look forward to 2014 with excitement and anticipation. We have some great new opportunities on the horizon that I think will serve as a model of collaboration in the community. Our corporate partnership program will provide much-needed funding for our free family events and children's programs. Major upgrades at the Lily Pond and the planned renovation of the Ford Nature Education Center will sustain these beloved facilities for many years to come. I hope you will visit the MetroParks often in the coming year and share our enthusiasm. I think you'll like what you see!

Sincerely,

Dennis Miller
Executive Director

THINGS TO DO in the METROPARKS



LIVE AT THE MORLEY

No matter the season, Mill Creek MetroParks is the recreation destination for thousands of visitors each year. Whether walking or running on scenic trails, hiking through the woods or taking in the beauty of the MetroParks from a kayak, there are recreation activities for visitors of all ages. For bicyclists, the Mill Creek MetroParks Bikeway provides nearly 12 miles of paved, scenic trails. Indoor recreational activities include classes and workshops in horticulture, art, cooking, gardening, and much, much more.

In February, the Nature Photography Show kicked off with the presentation "101 Years of Glacier National Park" by author and guest speaker Eric Broviak. Broviak presented a virtual tour of Glacier National Park, one of our nation's most rugged parks. "Where are the Wolves," a video presentation held in December at Ford Nature Center, educated people about these intelligent and social creatures that have become our "best friend."



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Several new hikes challenged even the most dedicated trekker. Many hardy souls attended the Lincoln Park and Youngstown Wilderness Hike in September, a difficult and demanding journey along Dry Run, the creek that fills McKelvey Lake. "Yellow Creek Park, Old and New," led hikers from Yellow Creek Park in downtown Struthers along primitive trails and through creek crossings to see the new Beeghly House, located on the south side of the park. Other unique journeys had hikers geocaching, observing the 150th anniversary of Morgan's Raid and encountering MetroParks naturalists at the Lily Pond to learn more about the Canada geese that can be found there.

Many familiar MetroParks events had record attendance in 2013, a testament to their appeal across several generations. The Reptile and Raptor Show, Olde Fashioned Christmas at the Mill and Santa's Winter Barn all exceeded attendance expectations. Two new events that were designed to showcase Lanterman's Mill and draw in more visitors accomplished their goal. "Wild with Style Art Show" and "Old Fashioned Fall Fun at the Mill" will both be back in 2014 for families and children to enjoy. At the Mill Creek MetroParks Farm, visitors at the wildly popular Farm Animal Baby Shower were able to purchase "Feed Fund" paper sacks to help support the care and upkeep of our farm animals.

Music lovers who attended either the Elton John or Michael Jackson tribute shows this summer at the Judge Leo P. Morley Performing Arts Pavilion had to



LEARNING CENTER & PRACTICE RANGE

look twice to make sure that the legends themselves weren't up on the stage. Yellow Brick Road and the MJXpressions - Invincible tours rocked the Morley in July and August to enthusiastic and supportive crowds.

On the Terrace at 51, four special evenings of music at Fellows Riverside Gardens, attracted more than 500 visitors to the Garden Café. This summer staple was held on the first Wednesday of May, June, July and August. Guests enjoyed live music, wine and dinner while looking out over beautiful Lake Glacier.

The new Mill Creek Golf Course Learning Center and Practice Range opened to the public in July, and golfers lined up to take advantage of it. Funded mostly by private donations, this new facility will provide the necessary tools to expand our instructional programs that benefit golfers of all ages and skill levels.



FALL FUN AT LANTERMAN'S MILL

The Mill Creek MetroParks 2013 Junior Golf program was a great success, with nearly 300 juniors taking advantage of clinics and lessons to acquire or increase their skills. Combined with Family Fun Nights, our own Junior Championship, US Kids events and the Northeast Ohio PGA event, over 500 junior golfers participated in golfing opportunities this summer. Golf clinic income in 2013 increased 47% over income generated in 2012.

Jewels of Winter: Orchids, an exhibition of potted orchids, was on display in the D. D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens in February and March. A marked contrast to the dreariness outside, their stunning colors and varieties attracted visitors to the Gardens to see the diversity found among these plants.

The art of California watercolorist Gary Bukovnik was on display in the Weller Gallery at Fellows Riverside Gardens in September. The exhibit, Eternal



DRAGONS & DAMSELS



MAPLE SYRUP PROJECT

Spring, consisted of a series of beautiful large-scale floral pieces. A highlight of this exhibit took place on October 10th when the large format triptych Fellows Riverside Gardens Iris, a painting commissioned by Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, was unveiled. This new painting completed the botanical art series that hangs in the Radius Room of the D. D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center.

The Garden Conservatory was the theme of Winter Celebration, held from December 7 through January 5 at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Created and installed by staff and volunteers, this holiday exhibit featured the largest holiday blooming plant display in the Mahoning Valley. Live evergreen roping, wreaths, and 50 holiday fir trees that were decorated by area non-profit organizations all added to this plant-inspired display.



METROPARKS FARM



WICK RECREATION AREA

A LIFETIME OF Learning

At the MetroParks Farm, the first-ever park sponsored AgVenture Camp filled to capacity. Campers “visited” Australia to learn about life in the outback and take part in crafts, stories and activities with an Aussie theme.

Environmental education is key to giving students the knowledge to protect our landscapes and forests. Presentations on stormwater and stormwater management projects, conservation, watersheds and watershed quality were given to middle school students in Austintown, Boardman and Struthers, along with the history of Mill Creek Park. Our Planning Manager, along with the Mahoning Soil & Water Conservation District, presented a segment on rain barrels and rain gardens on Cleveland’s NBC affiliate, WKYC.

Horticulture education in the MetroParks continued to grow as students of all ages experienced the world of plants. Over 500 scheduled classes and programs were offered, including those in horticulture, cuisine, self-expression, health and fitness, teen, youth, wellness, and garden travel. Attendance at all educational offerings surpassed 8,500 participants. The Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program at Mill Creek MetroParks wrapped up its 28th year, with 19 students completing the requirements of the program and earning their Master Gardener Certificate.

School programming at Fellows Riverside Gardens completed a successful year, reaching 1433 students

inside and outside of the classroom. This includes both inside classroom sessions of horticulture education presented to Youngstown area schools and outside Botanical Discoveries programs.

Joe Lamp’l, host of the popular PBS-TV gardening show Growing a Greener World, was the spring garden speaker in early May. Joe presented entertaining and stimulating ways to make gardens and landscapes greener while protecting the planet. The week concluded with National Public Gardens Day, a day to celebrate the important role public gardens serve in our communities.

Every Friday from June through October, Family Garden Fridays took place in the Family Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Youth from the neighboring Garden District participated in Tuesday volunteer work sessions in the Family Garden. Staffing for these activities provided hands-on interaction with plants for more than 2600 youth.

The Family Garden was buzzing with activity this summer with the installation of two bee hives, which were located behind a viewing window and fence. The hives provided an educational display about the role of bees in the Garden and were a very popular attraction at Fellows Riverside Gardens. As a bonus, the hives yielded nearly 132 pounds of honey which was sold at the Shop In The Gardens.

Our Valued Volunteers

We are fortunate to have the gift of people’s time and talents to support the many activities that occur in Mill Creek MetroParks. Without the help and enthusiasm of our dedicated corps of volunteers, many events would not be possible. Our volunteers were recognized at the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner that was held in August at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Volunteer time recorded in 2013 was a record 23,054 hours. Based on state minimum wage (\$7.85), this would have an approximate value of \$147,988.20. Over 18,500 of these hours were contributed by the volunteers at Fellows Riverside Gardens, a 35% increase over last year.

Horticulture Department
359 volunteers
18,582 hours recorded

Recreation Department
114 regular volunteers
508 one-time volunteers (Boy Scout Earth Day Cleanup & invasive species removal)
3,332 hours recorded

Natural Areas
1140 hours recorded (wildlife surveys, invasive species management, habitat enhancement)



FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS



FAMILY GARDEN



ARCHERY CAMP

MetroParks Police STAFF UPDATES

MetroParks Police experienced a tremendous amount of change in 2013. Randall Campana was promoted to lieutenant in January to replace retired Assistant Chief Bruce Emery. Officer Antonio Roth was promoted from part-time to full-time to fill the slot vacated by Officer Wilbert Drayton when he retired. Officers Jason Clark and John Novosel were promoted to sergeant with Sergeant Clark handling investigations and Sergeant Novosel handling patrol.

As a measure to meet our financial goals, reserve and auxiliary programs were instituted in the Police Department. The reserve program is for sworn police officers who are in training and the auxiliary are citizen volunteers. These programs allowed the MetroParks Police to save over \$100,000 this year without compromising its mission. Crime remained at a historic low for a fourth straight year.



STAFFING BY THE Numbers

No matter the season, Mill Creek MetroParks staffers spend their time on a myriad of tasks and duties that fulfill our mission. Day to day activities are carried out by 63 full time employees, 85 part time employees, and 150 seasonal employees.

Seasonal staff are employees who work part-time from March through November in the horticulture, maintenance, recreation and golf departments. Our seasonal staff is an invaluable resource. Without their dedication and commitment, our daily operations would be impossible.

OUR STAFF on the go

The staff of the Ford Nature Education Center attended the Northeast Ohio Regional Parks Conference. Naturalist Ray Novotny attended the National Association of Interpreters workshop.

The Operations and Maintenance staff attended a number of workshops and classes. The Operations Director & Maintenance Manager attended a "High Reflectivity Sign" workshop, the trail crew attended a "Trails" workshop at Cleveland Metroparks, part time trail crew & forestry staff attended a Chainsaw Safety Workshop, our Forestry supervisor attended National Arborist Seminar for ISA recertification and various staff members attended the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber's Safety Council Meetings.

Staff in the Planning & Natural Resources Department also attended professional development workshops. Some of the more interesting classes were the Ohio Environmental Educational Fund Grant Writing workshop, Hydric Soils workshop, Managing Grasslands for Wildlife

workshop, Ohio Community Wildlife Cooperative Conference, LPA Construction Administration training, Combining Green and Grey Approaches in Combined Sewer Watersheds webinar and Managing Natural Resources During Difficult Economic Times.

All full-time & part-time staff attended CPR/First Aid training.

Mill Creek MetroParks Police Chief Jim Willock graduated from the 10-week FBI National Academy.

Samantha Villella, Community Engagement Director, attended the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Summit and Ballot Workshop.

Horticulture Director Keith Kaiser attended the American Public Gardens Association Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. He accepted the position of Chair for the Small Gardens Section of the association.

Assistant Horticulture Director Ellen Speicher and Landscape Supervisor Jack Moss attended the Woodland, Water and Wildlife Conference, presented by Ohio State University Extension.

Horticulture Educator Lynn Zocolo attended the

National Children and Youth Garden Symposium in Denver, Colorado, presented by the American Horticultural Society.

Six staff members from Fellows Riverside Gardens attended the Ohio Gardens Together Day at Cleveland Botanical Garden in October. The day consisted of sessions focused on marketing and education at public gardens. Staff representing 14 gardens in Ohio and nearby states were present.

Two horticulture intern positions funded by the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens we employed at the Gardens in 2013. Nick Avila, a student in horticulture at Kent State University and Leah Baker, an environmental studies student at Youngstown State University participated in many aspects of what takes place at a public garden.

Casey Sclar, Executive Director of the American Public Gardens Association, was the featured speaker at the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Board Retreat in early October. He shared his passion for public gardens and the important role they play in communities across the country. The next morning, Casey shared his knowledge and insight at a session for staff.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

THANK YOU

Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens!

Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens celebrated its 25th anniversary this year with a series of special events to recognize the group's accomplishments. An exhibit in the Melnick Museum, Let's Be Friends, showcased the achievements of the organization from its inception in 1988. Guests celebrated at the Friends' annual meeting in April, and the organization was recognized by the Ohio Senate with a special proclamation. The Friends have raised more than \$8 million in its 25-year existence specifically for Fellows Riverside Gardens, including the \$6 million capital campaign it spearheaded for the construction of the D. D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center.

The MetroParks Farm was the host site for the statewide Envirothon in April, which was organized by the Mahoning County Soil & Water District. More than 400 high school students from across Northeast Ohio gathered in Canfield for this competition, which tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues.

The Mill Creek MetroParks Farm also hosted the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association's 24 Hour Operating Event 4-H Skill-a-thon with 200 families participating in pre-Canfield Fair exhibit activities.

Mill Creek MetroParks and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy collaborated on a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant for the acquisition of 57 acres of property along the Middle Fork Little Beaver Creek in Green Township. This property contains high-quality wetlands habitat and is a new

land holding for the MetroParks. The property has been named Egypt Swamp Preserve, based on this location historically being named Egypt Swamp.

The Mahoning County Engineer and Mill Creek MetroParks worked together on the Engineer's Lowellville Road Bridge rehabilitation project which is adjacent to Yellow Creek Park in Struthers. The MetroParks Planning and Natural Resources staff prepared the construction drawings and helped to manage the project, which included a new overlook sitting area, a new pedestrian walk into the park and an improved vehicular entrance to the park.

An exciting new project had the MetroParks joining forces with the Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association (RRNA) to provide a location at the Wick Recreation Area for maple sugaring activities. RRNA provided the equipment, labor and financial resources needed to tap the trees in the Charles S. Robinson Maple Grove and produced the first-ever batch of Mill Creek Maple Syrup. The syrup was bottled at Fellows Riverside Gardens by volunteers and sold out less than 24 hours of going on sale to the public.

AWARE continued its work with the River Network through the IMPACT program, receiving funds for new marketing materials which included a revised brochure and logo banner. The MetroParks' Natural Resources Manager served as Chair of AWARE. Mill Creek MetroParks and AWARE partnered with the Friends of the Mahoning River for their Riverfest event held in June, and coordinated National Park Service assistance for improving the structure and function of the group.

Planning and Natural Resources staff partnered with local Boy Scouts of America troop members for their Eagle Scout service projects, including construction of wildlife nest boxes for use throughout Mill Creek MetroParks and rehabilitation of the Mindy Henning Memorial Nature Trail at the Mill Creek MetroParks Farm.

Many community organizations conduct all or part of their races, walks and other events in Mill Creek MetroParks. Race to the Altar, Youngstown Road Runners Club Mill Creek Distance Classic Half Marathon, Fitness Together 5K, YMCA Memorial 5 Mile Run, Race Against Amyloidosis 5K, Race to Recovery 5K, Cardinal Classic Twilight Run, Shakespeare in the Park, YMCA Triathlon, Rubber Duck Race, Covelli Panerathon, Run Y-town 10 Miler, YUTC Ultra Trail Run 50 & 25K, MS Super Walk, Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk, Heart Reach Ministries 5K, and the Youngstown Peace Race attracted 15,350 visitors to the trails, roads and facilities of the MetroParks.

Graduate students from Youngstown State University received hands-on experience on various graduate study projects, including examining water quality and soil erosion at the Lily Pond in Mill Creek Park, songbird nest studies, and invasive plant species monitoring. We were also selected as one of 12 host sites for an intern from YSU's Williamson College of Business' Summer Honors Internship Program.

The 7th annual Book Festival – Plant the Seed to Read, was held at Fellows Riverside Gardens in April. Over 2,200 adults and children participated in





this literacy event presented by the MetroParks, the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Western Reserve PBS and Altrusa International of Youngstown.

Fellows Riverside Gardens continues to be actively engaged with the American Public Gardens Association (APGA). The Gardens agreed to participate in YOUtopia this year, an initiative centered on the promotion and awareness of environmental stewardship both at our site and through programming by APGA.

The Mahoning Valley Landscape and Nursery Association continued its partnership 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 Gardens Club of Youngstown and Fellows Riverside Gardens hosted the annual Winter Garden Seminar, in which 155 participants attended.

Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown presented four flower shows at Fellows Riverside Gardens. These well-attended shows give local gardeners a showcase for their floral specimens, which are judged and displayed on weekends.

INTO THE COMMUNITY

Staff naturalists had a busy year taking part in many community events. Their "touch table" allowed children and families to get an up-close look at many different types of animal furs. Some of the community events that staff attended were the Panerathon at the Covelli Centre, River Fest at the B & O Station, Antlers & Anglers at Boardman Park, and the Village of Beloit's 150-year anniversary celebration.

Mill Creek MetroParks had a large presence at the Canfield Fair. The MetroParks booth in the Expo Building served as headquarters, where visitors could pick up information about programs and services, grab a Mill Creek MetroParks map and take home giveaway items. Farm staff manned and coordinated Old MacDonald's Barn, the Forestry crew demonstrated log splitting techniques, and the MetroParks Police had a cruiser for kids of all ages to explore. The MetroParks picnic area, located on Goshen Drive, provided a respite for weary fair-goers.

Our Planning & Natural Resources Department was busy sharing their skills and knowledge with many other organizations in the community. Planning Director, Steve Avery, worked closely with the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) on their grant review committee and was part of a focus group for the US 422 Corridor Redevelopment Study. He also worked with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, serving as alternate voting member for the Technical Advisory Committee and Vice Chair of the Environmental Planning Advisory Council. Natural Resources Manager, Kirsten Peetz was busy serving as a representative on the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity, chaired AWARE (Alliance for Watershed Action and Resource Education), and was a member of Mahoning County's Storm Water Phase II Advisory Committee. In addition, she served as Recycling Coordinator for the MetroParks, working with Mahoning County's Green Team. Planning Manager, Justin Rogers was on the City of Youngstown's Design Review Committee, Mahoning River Corridor Initiative's

Environmental and Recreational Enhancement Subcommittee and held leadership roles in the Natural Resources Advisory Committee and Eastgate Regional Council of Government's Environmental Planning Advisory Council.

The Horticulture Department staff and volunteers represented Mill Creek MetroParks at the Youngstown Home and Garden Show held in the Austintown Plaza March 22-24.

Many other MetroParks staff members served the community by participating in local organizations as board members, committee members and volunteers. Director of Development, Linda Kostka was named president-elect for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, sat on the Raymond John Wean Foundation's Capacity Building Advisory Committee and was board secretary for HandsOn Volunteer Network of the Valley. MetroParks staff participating in many other organizations including: the Mahoning County Farm Bureau, Peace Race, Rotary Club of Youngstown, the Mahoning County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Buckeye Horse Park, Youngstown CityScape, Mahoning Commons Association, and the American Public Gardens Association.

The MetroParks Horticulture Department was represented at this year's Youngstown CityScape spring planting day in downtown Youngstown. Landscape Supervisor, Jack Moss continues to serve on the Streetscape Committee of Youngstown CityScape. Horticulture Director, Keith Kaiser serves on the Board of Directors for Youngstown CityScape.



PARTNERS IN THE Park

INDIVIDUAL Contributors

Karen & Dick Abrams
Karen Adams
Mary Agey
Agneta Albinsson
Fred & Mary Lou Alexander
William Allison
Barbara & David Alter
Martha & Robert Altier
Carolyn Anderson
Anna & Ray Clement
Anonymous
Donna Anselmo
James Ray & Suzanne Anzellotti Ray
Vincent & Phyllis Bacon
Leslie Barrett
Bruce & Phyllis Beard
Dolores Beck
Chris Beeman
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Dewey Bridge
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Donna Buzulencia
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Jesse Campbell & Nicole Nocera
Mildred & John Campean
Alan Carney
Joann Carnivale
Holly Carpenter
Judy Carson
Marie Cartwright
Stan Catullo
Doris Cavanaugh
Frank Cavanaugh
Susan Centorame
Mary Cerimeli
Mary Ann & Daniel Chambers
Matthew Cheng
Mary Ann Chiasson
Sandra Chiles
YT & Marilyn Chiu
Saundra & Vincent Cianciola

Albert & Suzanne Cinelli
Deborah & Eric Clark
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Janice Coombs
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Billie-Jo Fiorenza
Marilyn & James Fisher
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Barb Gulgass
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Lawrence Haims & Barbara Brothers
Carole & James Halloran
Judith Hamm
Steven Haught
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Jessica & Glen Hensley
Joseph & Jean Herman
David Hersh
Winifred Hickox
Elsa Higby & Philip Brady

Lynn Hines
Mary Hoerner
Millie Holdford
A. William Holdford Family
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Kirk & Maureen Hough
Joseph & Nancy Houser
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Jennifer Maust
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Claranne McCloud
George & Maggie McCloud
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Lori McGlone

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Heather McMahan
John McNally
Scott McVey
Harry Meshel
Brian & Dawn Metz
Ellen & John Michniewicz
Dennis & Denise Miller
Lisa Miller/Buckeye Elementary Kindergarten
Sharyn & William Milligan
C. Kathleen Mills
Judy & Marc Minto
Everett & Alberta Minto
Lauri Molnar
Nancy Morris and F. William Scragg
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Louis & Joan Schiavoni
Joseph & Sophie Schiavoni
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Jeanne Tyler
Joann Tyma
Jody & Rick Vernal
Deborah & David Verzilli
Lisa Vilkinofsky
Marie "Dolly" Vivalo
Michael & Marie Vostatek
Camille Wade
Steve Walsh
Nancy Waring
Audrey Weaver
Lynn Wedekind
Kurt & Margot Wegner
William Weimer
Jack & Carol Weller
Carrie Williams
Paul Williams
Viola Williams
Warren Williamson
Samie Winick
Adam Wright
Frederick & Shirley Wyker
Janet Yaniglos & Clyde Morris
Jay & Susan Yerian
Andy Yoder
John & Denise York
J. Brann & Judith Young
James Young
Philip Zauderer & Karen O'Malia
Patricia & Mark Zimmerman
Bruce & Rori Zoldan

CORPORATIONS / FOUNDATIONS / ORGANIZATIONS

Acme Steak & Seafood, Inc.
 Agland Co-Op Inc.
 Akron Children's Hospital - Mahoning Valley
 Armstrong Cable
 Audubon Society Mahoning Valley
 Austintown Garden Club
 Becker Funeral Homes
 Boardman Subaru/Boardman Imports
 Butler Garden Club
 Chalet Premier
 Clemente Ambulance Service
 Columbia Pipeline Group
 Community Corrections Association
 Consumers National Bank
 Covelli Enterprises
 Daphne Garden Club
 DeBartolo Corporation
 Do-Cut Sales & Service, Inc.
 Don & Frances Wild Flower Honey
 Dorothy & Jack Coakley Family
 Elmo Tire
 EM Fitness LLC
 Expert Service Exterminating Inc.
 First National Bank
 First Place Bank Community Foundation
 Fitness Together Poland LLC
 Flex-Strut Inc.
 Florence Simon Beecher Foundation
 Frank & Pearl Gelbman Foundation
 Friends of Joe Schiavoni
 G B Miller & Associates
 G B S Computer Solutions
 Gallery Group, Inc.
 Garden Club of Ohio (Youngstown District)
 Garden Club of Youngstown
 Garden District Neighborhood Association
 Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown
 Giant Eagle
 Mary Gibbon & The September Club
 Girard Herb Society
 Gleaners Garden Club
 Glen Gardeners Garden Club

Golf Headquarters
 Greenwood Chevrolet
 Grow Youngstown
 Harry Wollet LLC
 Heller, Maas, Moro, & Magill Co., L.P.A.
 Hill Barth & King, Inc.
 Hill Family Trust
 Home Depot Boardman
 Home Savings and Loan Company
 Ikebana of Youngstown
 Independent Pharmacy Group
 J. Ford Crandall Memorial Foundation
 John D. Finnegan Foundation
 Joseph Scott, D.C., LLC
 Keffler Bridge Company
 Kiwanis Club of Youngstown
 LanzScape Photography
 Learning Dog
 Lowe's Boardman
 Mahoning County Convention & Visitor's Bureau
 Mahoning County Farm Bureau Inc.
 Mahoning Garden Club
 Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society
 Mahoning Valley Landscape & Nursery Assoc.
 Manchester, Bennett, Powers & Ullman
 Marc's
 MAX-FREEZE
 Men's Garden Club of Youngstown
 Meshel Masco Workshop - MCBDD
 Murphy Contracting Company
 Na'Amat USA
 O'Reilly Auto Parts
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 Ohio Structures Inc.
 One Health Ohio
 Penn State Cooperative Extension of Allegheny County
 Pepsi Bottling Group LLC
 Petco
 Pets Are People Too!
 PNC Foundation
 Poland Village Gardeners
 Poland Woman's Club

Robert J. Durick, DDS, Inc.
 Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association
 Rotary Club of Youngstown
 RT Vernal Paving, Inc.
 Rubbermaid
 Service Master by Lewis Construction
 Sherman Creative Promotions
 Shook Construction
 Smile Wright Family Dental
 Sparkle Markets
 Specialty Pipe & Tube, Inc.
 Sprouted Table / Adam Lee
 Star Supply Bargain Outlet
 Stephen Berry Architectural Design
 Stephen P. Goske, Inc. Attorney at Law
 Stifel Nicolaus
 Struthers City Council
 Struthers Federal Credit Union
 Summit 91.3 FM
 Superior Beverage Group
 Sweeney Chevrolet Buick GMC
 Terra Design Studios
 Thomases Family Endowment
 Tom's Sewer & Septic
 Trailwood Gardeners
 Travco Behavioral Health Inc.
 U.S. Petroleum Exploration, Inc.
 Uncle Joe's Storage
 Universal Percussion, Inc.
 Valley Home Health Care, LLC
 W. E. Bliss Foundation Charitable Trust
 Warren P. Williamson, Jr. Fund
 Raymond John Wean Foundation
 Wild Birds Unlimited
 Women of First Presbyterian Church
 Workshop Arch + Design, LLC
 WYSU - FM
 Youngstown Foundation
 Youngstown Orthopaedic Associates
 Youngstown Propane, Inc.
 Yurchyk and Davis CPA's, Inc.

Golf Hole PARTNERS

Alan Murray - Allstate
 Altieri's Home & Garden / CBS Topsoil
 Asphalt Solutions
 Bob & Chuck Eddy
 Buckeye Beverage
 C. L. Firestone Inc.
 Tim Clymer - Edward Jones
 Eye Care Associates
 Farmers Bank
 Golf Headquarters
 Handel's Homemade Ice Cream
 Hole 37 / Barry Dyngles
 J. M. Verostko Inc.
 Joe Myers - Borgan Real Estate
 ms consultants
 National Healthcare Access
 Olsavsky Jaminet Architects
 Patti Mika - Volpini Realty
 The Rhel Supply Co.
 Stonebridge
 Uncle Joe's Storage
 Youngstown Propane

PARTNERS IN THE PARK

Mill Creek MetroParks and the Mill Creek Park Foundation experienced great community support in 2013, with more than \$318,000 donated by individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations. Their generosity helped complete projects, support programs and sponsor events. The legacy of Volney Rogers lives on through their thoughtfulness

Every effort has been made to ensure all who made a gift in 2013 were included in this report. Our sincere apologies if you were missed. Please call our Development Department at 330.702.3000 if you have any questions.

A GIFT WITH A View

What do you get when several dedicated birders decide to share their generosity with the community? A viewing platform at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary! Long-time volunteer and supporter Nancy Brundage, along with Jeff Harvey and Audubon Society of Mahoning Valley, provided the lead gift for the construction of the platform. The viewing platform will give visitors the ability to look out over a large part of the Sanctuary, however, access to the entire 264-acre property is by permit only or guided hikes.



JEFF HARVEY &
NANCY BRUNDAGE



MILL CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

MAINTAINING *the* METROPARKS

Much goes on behind the scenes to keep Mill Creek MetroParks' facilities and grounds maintained. Some structural improvements were made to the roof at the Ford Nature Center, and the roofs at the Oak Grove comfort station, Bears Den Cabin and Pioneer Pavilion were replaced. The pedal boats were cleaned, repaired, prepped and painted, and numerous buildings and facilities throughout the MetroParks were cleaned and prepped for new painting/staining of exteriors. Trail improvements and general trail maintenance were completed, grass was mowed and litter picked up, and road maintenance along MetroParks drives and parking areas was completed. General road maintenance along park drives and parking areas was completed, along with the janitorial services that are necessary at all rental facilities.

Recycling by the numbers in *2013*

- The Boy Scout Earth Day Cleanup on April 20 produced 56 33-gallon bags of regular trash and 42 33-gallon bags of recyclables.
- 324 gallons of used oil was recycled or discarded
- 10,950 lbs. of cardboard was recycled
- 13,820 lbs. of glass, plastic, paper & tin was recycled
- 79,300 lbs of trash was removed
- 77,713 lbs. of construction debris was removed

The replacement of the water wheel's main support beam at Lanterman's Mill was a year-long process. Our Forestry Crew cut the beam at the Canfield Fair in 2012, then allowed it to dry for nearly 12 months. It was lowered into place in July by a contractor who specializes in working on historic structures. After sitting idle for eight months, the water wheel was able to turn freely again to grind wheat and corn.

Thanks to funding from The Farmer & the Chef fundraiser, we were able to replace the canopy and side tarps on the farm wagon. The wagon takes thousands of children and adults on tours of the MetroParks Farm every year.

Large construction projects occur annually in the MetroParks and are managed by our Planning Department. Countless hours of organization goes into each and every one of these projects. A new Mill Creek Park facility sign was installed on Route 224 and West Golf Drive, a landscape plan was prepared, and the installation of sandstone walls and plants were coordinated. At the MetroParks Farm, a labyrinth and various pieces of equipment were installed at the Natural Playground to complete this project. Staff worked with a contractor to install asphalt material at the Lake Glacier Boathouse to eliminate steps and uneven pavement, making the facility more accessible. When two properties that were acquired near Fellows Riverside Gardens needed to be demolished, the Planning Department managed that demolition and worked with the contractor.

Bridge inspections, asphalt paving and repair, and property acquisition all fall under the auspices of the Planning Department. Eight vacant property parcels adjacent to MetroParks lands were acquired through the Mahoning County Land Bank, and staff worked with that organization to see the processing through.

A stream restoration project at the MetroParks Farm that included excavation and realignment of the channel, installation of fencing to prevent cattle from directly accessing the stream, and installation of an approved cattle crossing was managed by Planning. Project costs were funded privately as an Ohio EPA mitigation project.

The Landscape staff had quite a busy season. Planting beds near the new Practice Range and Learning Center at Mill Creek Golf Course were installed, a new donor bed was created on 8 North, landscapes added to tees at 10 and 18 North and



plantings were set up at the Fieldhouse. A newly designed and planted landscape was installed at the West Golf Entrance to the MetroParks from Route 224. The planting of the new biofiltration garden at the East Newport Wetlands Parking area took place by MetroParks staff as well as the planting of native and aquatic plants around the newly established pond at the MetroParks Farm.

At Fellows Riverside Gardens, turf areas, including the Great Lawn, underwent a major renovation in the spring due to the Ohio Woodland Garden construction project the year prior. In the Long Mall, 18 planting containers added a new dimension to this landscape featured area, with tropical plants growing in them this year. New permanent plant accessions added to Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2013 were 10 trees, 156 shrubs, 515 herbaceous perennials and 51 rose plants.

Spring bulb displays continue to be a highlight of the season at Fellows Riverside Gardens. In the fall of 2013, staff and volunteers planted an amazing 78,325 bulbs. This consisted of 72,600 for spring seasonal displays and 5,725 for permanent plantings.

NATURAL AREAS & CONSERVATION

Canada goose management measures were continued in Mill Creek MetroParks. Not only does the large population of Canada geese affect water quality, but their aggressive behavior can be dangerous for MetroParks visitors. Mill Creek MetroParks staff worked closely with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to help reduce the number of goose nests within Mill Creek Park. Mill Creek MetroParks Police and other staff also worked to educate the public on the important reasons why feeding the geese is prohibited.

In October, staff and volunteers participated in the “Big Sit” event at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. This annual international birding competition provides the opportunity for sites around the world to compete against each other, with participants hoping to record the highest number of bird species observed within a 24-hour period from one location. This year a total of 75 bird species were observed at the Wildlife Sanctuary, which placed us first in Ohio and ninth overall out of 184 sites.

Through local Boy Scout troops, school groups, and concerned citizens, the MetroParks continues to add wildlife nest boxes throughout our natural areas. These nest boxes provide places for birds (including songbirds, waterfowl, and owls) to raise their young, along with needed shelter to other wildlife as well.

Native plants were incorporated into our various landscaping projects throughout the MetroParks to not only enhance habitat for wildlife, but also to attract and provide food for our important native pollinators.

Mill Creek MetroParks coordinated with the Ohio Public Works Commission to properly process successful Clean Ohio Conservation Fund property acquisition projects at the Mill Creek Preserve, MetroParks Farm and Mill Creek Park.

A habitat restoration plan was developed for 87 acres of the upland area of the Mill Creek Preserve. A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant application was submitted for this project and approved for funding.



DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

BEFORE



The story of Mill Creek MetroParks' future focuses on innovation and improvement, and in 2013 there was much progression toward this growth. Spearheading this effort is the new branding of Mill Creek MetroParks. The logo, created in-house, is modern and fresh and debuted at the 2013 Canfield Fair. An important factor in creating this logo was to have one logo to unify all the departments throughout the MetroParks. All vehicles, signage, apparel, print materials, and website include this new logo.

The new Mill Creek MetroParks website played a vital role in establishing the new brand identity. The newly designed home of the MetroParks on the web (www.millcreekmetroparks.org), introduced in the fall, offers quick, easy access to essential MetroParks information while creating a more interactive and user-friendly experience. Features of the new website include a

AFTER



responsive layout that is mobile-friendly, an interactive map with landmarks and points of interest within the MetroParks, and incorporation of MetroParks social media channels. Also featured on the website is a new 6-minute informational video that details what the past, present, and future of Mill Creek MetroParks has to offer.

A trolley was purchased late in the year, and will serve as a mobile landmark that constantly promotes Mill Creek MetroParks. It will provide transportation and eliminate traffic for many MetroParks visitors and will be available for local weddings, graduation parties, and prom rentals. Weekly, monthly, and quarterly guided tours will occur not only throughout Mill Creek MetroParks, but the community as well.

New fundraisers were implemented last year to help support various projects throughout the MetroParks.

Luau at the Lily Pond raised \$11,600 for enhancements to the Lily Pond. To date, completed projects include reconstruction of the Westerly Trail, resetting of a boulder cluster for open seating, resetting and refinishing benches, main signage, and on-going goose management. Projects still to be completed include the easterly trail, frog pond observation platform, welcome area, spillway improvements, observation platform, wood boardwalk and other general improvements.

A second new fundraiser, the Green Cathedral Half Marathon 5K and Kids Fun Run, was held in September and had more than 350 participants. The race raised more than \$5,000 for the new Children's Play Area at the Wick Recreation Area, a project spearheaded by \$400,000 from the Juliana Kurinka Trust.

The Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens held their 22nd annual summer Garden Party, Reflections, in July. Perfect weather yielded an event that exposed the Gardens to over 300 guests, who enjoyed cocktails in the new Outdoor Gallery followed by dinner in the Long Mall. Title sponsor PNC Foundation, along with 3 corporate underwriters and 16 sponsors, generated support of \$29,500.

A task force was assembled late in 2013 to look into the expansion of the Mill Creek Park Foundation from its current three-member distribution committee to a larger board of directors consisting of 11-15 members. These board members will help Mill Creek MetroParks increase its fundraising potential through the strategic evolution of the Foundation.



CANFIELD FAIR DISPLAY



GREEN CATHEDRAL KIDS FUN RUN

RENTAL FACILITY USAGE

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Rossi Auditorium	131
Garden Café	15
Radius Room	39
Classrooms	190
Wedding Ceremonies	122
Wedding Receptions	44

CABINS

Rentals Attendance

Bears Den	106	2,947
Birch Hill	251	10,403
Old Log Cabin	63	1,251
Pioneer Pavilion	152	9,126

PICNIC PAVILIONS

Bresko	75	1,882
Chestnut Hill	58	3,540
Scholl	96	3,820
Slippery Rock	39	3,535
Stitt	54	3,532

YELLOW CREEK PARK

Capt. John Struthers	63	1,251
Yellow Creek Lodge	108	5,604

METROPARKS FARM

Classroom A	158	5,108
McMahon Hall	238	41,584

TOTAL RENTALS 1461 95,500

FACILITY ATTENDANCE

METROPARKS FARM

School Presentation Attendance	7,469
Visitors	7,990
(Includes family programs and walk-ins)	

FORD NATURE CENTER

Visitors	13,571
School programs	4,777
Other programs & hikes	4,048
Community Contacts	2,007

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Visitors	377,670
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LANTERMAN'S MILL

Visitors	9,801
Education Programs	3,200

OTHER

Newport Boathouse - boat rentals	606
Glacier Boathouse - boat rentals	2,475



GOLF STATISTICS

PAR 3 GOLF COURSE ROUNDS

Adult	9,364
Junior/Senior	10,897
Evening	1,046

TOTAL ROUNDS 21,304

MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE ROUNDS

9-Hole Rounds	41,012
18-Hole Rounds	16,113

TOTAL ROUNDS 57,125

2013 POLICE STATISTICS

Part-time Police Hours	15,104
Reserve Police Hours	3,993
Auxiliary Police Hours	352
Calls for service	5,446
Crashes	21
Accidents (non-traffic)	43
Crimes against persons	4
Property crimes	33
Traffic Stops	429
Warnings	350
Citations	79
OVI's	14
Adult Arrests	73
Drug Offenses	17
Animal Complaints	192
Criminal Damage/Mischief	38
Feeding the wildlife offenses	29
Property Damage	61
Thefts	21
Towed Autos	20
Trees Down	83
Visitor Assists	50

Special Event ATTENDANCE

Winter Celebration	13,728
Pumpkin Walk at Twilight	6,700
Olde Fashioned Christmas at the Mill	6,000+
Farm Animal Baby Shower	4,200
Sunset at the Farm	2,300
Reptile & Raptor Show	2,281
Plant the Seed to Read Book Festival	2,200
Winter Nights	1,775
On the Terrace at 5	1,500
Easter Eggstravaganza	800+
Boy Scout Earth Day Clean-up	503 participants
Girls Night Out at the Gardens	450
Santa's Winter Barn	400
Sunfest	300
Nature Photography Exhibit	298 entries
Movie under the Stars	100
Wild With Style Art Show	25 entries

TOTAL

43,560



GRANTS & AWARDS

\$ 113,752.00

Federal Transportation Enhancement Program;
improvements to Slippery Rock Bridge

55,353.00

Ohio EPA Section 319 Grant;
reconstruction of the Newport Wetlands parking lot

25,000.00

Frank & Pearl Gelbman Foundation
Children's Play Area, Wick Recreation Area

25,000.00

W.E. Bliss Foundation Charitable Trust
Children's Play Area, Wick Recreation Area

18,595.31

Federal Highway Administration grant;
Phase III of the MetroParks Bikeway expansion

10,000.00

J. Ford Crandall Memorial Foundation
Children's Play Area, Wick Recreation Area

10,000.00

John D. Finnegan Foundation
Canopy tree walk at Fellows Riverside Gardens

6,336.00

Mahoning County Green Team;
construction of a fence around the recycling area at the Metro Parks Farm

Total Grants Received: **\$ 264,036.31**

Capital IMPROVEMENT Expenditures

DAVIS CENTER***	\$30,200
The replacement of carpet in offices	
Repairs to the HVAC system	
Purchase of two food coolers	
Stripping of terrace railings	
WICK RECREATION AREA**	100,821
Construction of the Children's Play Area	
Purchase of playground equipment	
Bresko Pavilion Upgrades	
YELLOW CREEK PARK	
Trail Bridge Replacement*	60,495
Water Line Replacement	12,877
PIONEER PAVILION	
Chimney repairs, roof replacement, light fixtures	29,394
LILY POND	25,760
Various improvements	
Master Plan Creation	
MILL CREEK SANCTUARY	21,000
Observation Deck Construction**	
CALVARY RUN PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**	12,457
Stone masonry repair, flagstone pavement;	
Replacement of all lumber; asphalt paving, channel excavation	
METROPARKS FARM	7,572
Pond Improvements	

*funded through insurance claim

**partially funded with private donations

***funded from the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Davis Endowment

MILL CREEK METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
For Year Ending December 31, 2013
TOTAL ALL FUNDS

Summary of

RECEIPTS,
EXPENSES &
BALANCES

UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE January 1, 2013	\$	3,675,531.95
PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES		475,688.68

INCOME:

General Property Tax	6,529,346.88
Local Government Fund	305,450.39
Park District Activities	2,119,539.53
Fellows Trust Fund	19,536.92
ODOT Drives Grant	101,779.80
Mill Creek Park Foundation	108,045.00
Gas Royalties	133,446.55
Replacement Reserve Interest	4,021.45
WRSSP Grant	7,400.00
FHWA-Bikeway Phase III	18,595.31
Ohio EPA Grant - Newport	55,353.00
FHWA Grant-E. Cohasset	18,929.65
ODNR Grant-Natural Playground	4,345.18
Slippery Rock Bridge Painting	113,752.00
Transfers From Other Funds	81,034.71
Advances From Other Funds	27,581.18
	\$ 9,648,157.55

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$	13,799,378.18
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DISBURSEMENTS:

Operations-Materials & Supplies	2,061,248.65
Operations-Salaries & Wages	4,566,761.32
Capital Equipment	167,347.04
Capital Improvements	1,082,600.35
General Expense	1,901,624.45
Transfers to other Funds	81,034.71
Advances to other Funds	27,581.18
	\$ 9,888,197.70

Year End Cash Balance December 31, 2013	\$	3,911,180.48
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Year End Encumbrances	\$	573,242.48
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Unencumbered Cash Balance	\$	3,337,938.00
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the Farmer
& the Chef 2013



7574 Columbiana-Canfield Rd.
PO Box 596
Canfield, Oh 44406-0596

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MILL CREEK METROPARKS FARM