

A photograph of a man in a wheelchair being pushed by another man during a marathon. The man in the wheelchair is wearing a grey hoodie and blue sneakers. The man pushing him is wearing a white t-shirt with 'MILL CREEK METROPARKS GREEN CATHEDRAL' printed on it. They are on a paved path with a grassy area and trees in the background. Other people are visible in the background, some sitting on the grass and others standing. An orange cone is on the grass near the path.

MILL CREEK METROPARKS

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

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2nd Annual Green Cathedral Half Marathon



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 Robert N. Rusu, Jr.
Mahoning County Probate Judge

MILL CREEK METROPARKS 2014 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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

MILL CREEK METROPARKS 2015 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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First Vice-President	John Ragan
Second Vice-President	Robert Durick
	Germaine Bennett
	Scott R. Schulick
Executive Director	Aaron Young

All donor lists have been carefully reviewed for accuracy. We sincerely apologize if any names were missed. Please address any errors or omissions to:

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2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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RECYCLED PAPER
30% Post Consumer Material

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, Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Beaver Township, and Egypt Swamp Preserve in Green 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.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2014

Throughout 2014, Mill Creek MetroParks established new and unique programs and events, welcomed the return of old favorites, and improved MetroParks infrastructure.

In January and February, unseasonably cold temperatures allowed the MetroParks to provide an outdoor skating experience to visitors at the Lily Pond. It was the second time since 1990 that it was cold enough for bodies of water in the MetroParks to freeze enough for safe skating. Countless visitors, including the Youngstown Phantoms, enjoyed hitting the ice outdoors. At Fellows Riverside Gardens, the annual Wintertime Tea and the Twice Loved Book Sale fundraisers raised \$3,116 for the Maxcine Antonucci Horticulture Library.

The observation platform at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary was unveiled in April. The three-tiered platform provides panoramic views of the Sanctuary and the opportunity to view numerous wetland bird species, some rare. The first two tiers are barrier-free. Also in April, the Sugar House opened at the Wick Recreation Area. The Sugar House was constructed by a contractor using funds from the Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association as a



Ice Skating on
the Lily Pond

place to make syrup by cooking down sap from the nearby maples in the Robinson Memorial Maple Grove. Last year's batch of Mill Creek Maple Syrup sold out in a matter of hours. The 8th annual Book Fair, Plant the Seed to Read, was held at Fellows Riverside Gardens on April 18 with 1,800 adults and children attending. This event is presented in partnership with the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Western Reserve PBS, and Altrusa International of Youngstown.

78,325 blooming bulbs planted in the fall of 2013 put on a show at Fellows Riverside Gardens in the spring. In May, the redesigned Children's Play Area at the Wick Recreation Area officially opened. Three playgrounds – Adventure, Tot, and Sand – have been completed. The Family Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens was expanded, and the theme (which carried over to Garden Adventure Day and Family Garden Fridays) was Alice in Wonderland. Debuting in the spring was the new trolley, the Cohasset Express. Guided tours through the MetroParks were consistently sold out. During the trolley season, it was booked for private events, showcased at community and MetroParks events, and was used for 82 tours.



Robinson Memorial Maple Grove



YEAR IN

A new fundraiser, Blues Brews & BBQ, was held in June at the Ford Nature Center. The proceeds from the event (just over \$10,300) went toward a comprehensive planning document for the Ford Nature Center renovations. A family camping experience was offered for the first time in the MetroParks. The program was well-received by participants and will occur again in the summer of 2015.



Blues, Brews & BBQ
at Ford Nature Center



The Farmer & The Chef

Returning was the Farmer & the Chef fundraiser, held in September at the MetroParks Farm. The event sold out and raised more than \$9,900 for children's agriculture education programs. Bridal Fair: A Garden Wedding was also held in September at Fellows Riverside Gardens with approximately 100 brides and their friends visiting vendor tables and enjoying an afternoon show with gowns and flowers. Also in September, the Gardens hosted the American Public Gardens Association's Small Gardens Professional Development Symposium with 90 participants from across the US attending 25 educational sessions and activities. The Green Cathedral Half Marathon/5K was held in September. More than 350 participants ran or walked and over \$5,000 was raised for the Children's Play Area at the Wick Recreation Area.

The 2014 Winter Celebration, The Gingerbread Garden, was in place December 6 through January 4 at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Visitors enjoyed the holiday decorations; outdoor electric light displays installed by Edison Lighting and Gardens staff, and live entertainment, along with refreshments provided by Friends Specialty and the Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association.



Winter Celebration

REVIEW

(CONTINUED)



Spring Plant Sale

Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens is a non-profit organization committed to the preservation and improvement of Fellows Riverside Gardens as a cultural, educational, and aesthetic center in the community where people and plants connect. The organization sponsors a variety of programs designed to increase knowledge of the growth and culture of ornamental plants. The Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Spring Plant Sale took place in May generating sales of \$39,400. The Friends held their 23rd annual Summer Garden Party Imagine on July 25 generating a record-breaking profit of \$43,115. A successful Shop in The Gardens Holiday Open House Weekend took place November 6-9. The Friends sponsored Pumpkin Walk at Twilight on October 19. Approximately 7,700 people attended and over 14,000 pounds of pumpkins were carved into jack-o-lanterns by volunteers, staff, and the general public.

The Mill Creek Golf Course served as the host venue for the Northern Ohio PGA Section of Drive Chip & Putt Qualifier; Northern Ohio PGA Kenny Novak Qualifier; Youngstown Vindicator Greatest Golfer, US Kids Golf Get Golf Ready Lesson Programming; Mahoning County Insurance Classic Tournament; and Jack Nicklaus & Annika Sorenstam Fore Kids Initiative Golf Camp. The Course also served as host facility for the Men's and Women's YSU Golf Teams, Six OHSA High School Golf Teams, 21 outside golf leagues and 5 outside golf leagues at the Par 3 Course.



Mill Creek Golf Course



MCMP Social Media

MCMP's marketing and social media efforts grew exponentially in 2014. Commercials were cut from the 6-minute video and run on network news stations. Together with billboards, print, and radio advertising, these marketing efforts all helped increase the MetroParks' brand awareness. The MetroParks' social media channels have increased over the past year - Facebook Likes increased 48%, Twitter followers increased 71% and Instagram followers increased 571%. All this was done organically, without any paid advertising. Visitors and page views to the redesigned MCMP website have also increased since launching in November 2013. Page views increased 58% from December 2013 to December 2014.

The future is bright for Mill Creek MetroParks. We hope visitors will continue to explore, experience, and enjoy all the MetroParks has to offer in 2015.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

MCMP staff had a busy year taking part in many community events and participating in local organizations as board members, committee members, and volunteers.

The Horticulture Department staff and volunteers represented Mill Creek MetroParks at the Youngstown Home and Garden Show held in the Austintown Plaza March 28 – 30 and was represented at Youngstown CityScape spring planting day in downtown Youngstown.

MetroParks staff from the Horticulture and Operations Departments helped create a new campus area at the Canfield Fair. They contributed plantings to the picnic area and assisted with the set-up of the tents, picnic tables, and other areas. The Community Engagement staff assisted with the set-up of the information area. Various MCMP staff members took shifts at the information table/booth. MetroParks Farm personnel staffed and coordinated Old MacDonald's Barn with the help of MetroParks volunteers.

The forestry crew continues to participate with the old-fashioned sawmill exhibition.

Planning Director Stephen Avery served as alternate voting member for the Technical Advisory Committee of the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments.

Natural Resources Manager Kirsten Peetz served as a representative for Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP) for Biodiversity, Chair of AWARE, and was a member of the Mahoning County Phase II Stormwater Education Committee. She presented to area teachers on invasive species at the Environmental Education Council of Ohio Resource Fair, coordinated the AWARE display at the Friends of the Mahoning River's Riverfest event, and presented to Kiwanis Club of Western Mahoning County.

Planning Manager Justin Rogers served on the City of Youngstown Design Review Committee, was a member of the District 6 Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) and served as Vice-Chair. In addition, he served as Secretary and the Mahoning County representative for the Great Ohio Lake to River Greenway. He conducted a trolley tour about the Mill Creek watershed, a tour about the architecture in Mill Creek Park, and a tour for the APGA symposium; coordinated a YSU Biology class site visit to the rain garden at the MetroParks Farm and served on Eastgate Regional Council of Governments' Environmental Planning Advisory Council Steering Committee.

Landscape Supervisor Jack Moss continues to serve on the Streetscape Committee of Youngstown CityScape.

Horticulture Director Keith Kaiser served on the Board of Directors for Youngstown CityScape and President of the Mahoning Commons Association. He also serves as the Chairman of the Small Garden Professional development section for the American Public Gardens Association.

Eight staff members from the Gardens, plus the FFRG Board President Paul Hagman, attended the Ohio Gardens Together day on December 12 at Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio.

Assistant Horticulture Director Ellen Speicher was the MCMP representative at the Beaver Township Fall Festival.

Community Engagement Director Samantha Vilella represented Mill Creek MetroParks at St. Joseph and Immaculate Heart of Mary's Career Day and a Youngstown Lions Club monthly meeting with former Development Director Linda Kostka.

With the Marketing Manager Leslie Cusano, Samantha Vilella gave a presentation at the Outspokin' Wheelman meeting and Leslie Cusano represented the MetroParks at Cardinal Mooney High School's Yes Fest.

Several employees and a board member participated in the Mahoning Valley St. Patrick's Day Parade and staff members participated in the Canfield Fourth of July Parade.

The Recreation and Education department, including naturalists and volunteers, were present at 15 community events including Family Conservation Day for the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Riverfest, Panerathon, and Family Celebration of the Great Outdoors at Boardman Park.

Outdoor Education Manager Ray Novotny presented at the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Regional Workshop in April, and in November received the Meritorious Service Award from NAI.

Recreation and Education Manager Carol Vigorito presented sessions on Citizen Science to area teachers at Environmental Education Council of Ohio Resource Fair.

MetroParks Farm staff collaborated with Junior Fair Board members and the Mahoning County agricultural community to present several new educational family programs including Bunny Day and Llama Fiber Fun Day.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



Fellows Riverside Gardens staff participated in YOUtopia for a second year, an initiative of the American Public Gardens Association centered on promotion and awareness of environmental stewardship both at the Gardens and through its programming.

The Mahoning Valley Landscape and Nursery Association partnered with Fellows Riverside Gardens on March 12 to host the Spring Landscape Clinic for the second year in a row.

The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown hosted the annual Winter Garden Seminar for 150 attendees.

The Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown presented four Flower Shows at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

MCMP staff collaborated with Western Reserve Land Conservancy on a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant application for the acquisition of 19 acres of property adjacent to Egypt Swamp Preserve.

Alliance for Watershed Action and Resource Education (AWARE) continued its work with the River Network through the IMPACT program. The MetroParks' Natural Resources Manager served as Chair of AWARE.

Mill Creek MetroParks and AWARE partnered with the Friends of the Mahoning River's Riverfest event held in June.

MCMP staff partnered with Mahoning Soil & Water Conservation District (MSWCD) on the Junior Envirothon,

held at the MetroParks Farm in April. Middle school students from across Northeast Ohio gathered for this competition which tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues

Recreation Staff collaborated with local scout groups for the 32nd annual Boy Scout Earth Day Cleanup. Together they cleaned 28 sites throughout MCMP, picked up 79 bags of trash and 48 bags of recyclables. There were 380 participants (256 youth, 124 adults), for a total of 1,140 hours volunteered.

RECYCLABLES

TIRES

57 used car/truck tires
25 used tractor/mower tires
(through partnership with Mahoning County)

BATTERIES

21 used vehicle batteries

USED OIL

880 gallons
(through Rice Environmental)

OIL FILTERS

One (1) 55 gallon drum
(through Rice Environmental)

CARDBOARD

217,825 pounds
(through Mahoning County Green Team)

GLASS/PLASTIC/CANS

267,062 pounds
(through Mahoning County Green Team)

PAPER/MAGAZINES

157,673 pounds
(through Mahoning County Green Team)

LIGHT BULBS/TUBE

225 bulbs
(through Mahoning County Green Team)

METAL SCRAP

17,480 pounds

GENERAL TRASH

89,440 pounds compacted and disposed of

CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

59,880 pounds disposed of

VAULT RESTROOM FACILITIES

5,000 – 5,500 gallons of sanitary sewage pumped out and disposed of through certified contractor

STREET SWEEPINGS

30 - 35 tons swept, stockpiled, covered and tested



GRANTS & AWARDS

In 2013, a grant for \$12,000 was received from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. This grant was used for mapping of Fellows Riverside Gardens, which provided the funding for the creation of a series of maps for collections in BG-Map (a botanical garden mapping system) by 2014 intern Thomas Bralich.

The property at 108 McKinley Avenue located within the proposed future Gardens Northwest expansion area at Fellows Riverside Gardens was purchased by Mill Creek MetroParks with funds from the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens.

MCMP received a Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) grant for Lily Pond improvements including permeable pavers in the parking lot and the creation of biofiltration areas.

A grant application to Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Transportation Alternative Program was prepared and submitted for rehabilitation of the historic Orchard Meadow and Rogers stone arch bridges in Mill Creek Park. Grant application was approved August 2014.



PARTNERS IN THE PARK

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous
Paula Ackerson
Karen Adams
Joel Adelman
Valerie Allen
Neil H. Altman
Frank Ansevin
Mahbod and Margaret Aziminia
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Mary Baker
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Daniel Mancuso
Michelle A. Manzo
Richard A. and Ronna Jo Marlin
Pat Martinec
Meg and Nick Martino
Lily Martuccio
Jana Massary
Thomas Masters
Doris Mathews
Janet McCauslin
Susan McCoy
Raymond McCune
Helen McGarry
Charles and Monica Merdich
Eileen Merz
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Sally Miller
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Alice Noga
Barbara Nord
Kathy Oberman
P.V.-C.V. teams at St. Elizabeth
Surgery
John B. Parker
Joe and Judy Pasquarella
Dana Patrick
Kathi Paull
Amy Peduzzi
Elizabeth Pendzich
John and Michelle Perdue
Marie S. Peterson
Elizabeth Petrie
Gary Philbin
David and Margaret Ann Phillips
Patricia Pinkerton
Ron and Karen Pollock
Thomas G. Prager
Paul Putarek
Kevin F. Ramach
Matt Rankin - Eagle Scout
Nova J. Raymond
Gina Reese

Gina Richardson
Alan S. Ritterband
Ronald and Kathy Robertson
Lori Rose
Jack and Barbara Ross
Brena Ross
Jack Ross
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Susan Stevens
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James Stewart
Mark S. Stewart
Mary F. Storey
Joanne Stringer
Douglas Styka
Cheryl E. Sullivan
Timothy Sullivan
Ilga Svech
Dawn Swan
Lee Swan
William Swan
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 Nan Wicker
 Rhonda and Dave Wilhelm
 Samie Winick
 Donald Wittman
 Cheryl Wlodarski
 Mary K. Woloschak
 Charles Woodman
 Nancy Woodman
 Dwight and Ellen Worthy
 Claudia and Richard Wright

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Yarab
 Susan D. Zachardy
 Sandra Zarlengo
 Matthias Zeller
 Bernadette Zets



BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS

88.5 WYSU
 4th Ward Council - City of Youngstown
 Ad Tapes
 Aerolite Extrusion Co.
 AFSCME Local 2498
 Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley
 All Points Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 Altieri's Home and Garden
 Altrusa International of Youngstown, Ohio
 Aurora Seniors
 Austintown Garden Club
 Austinwoods Nursing Center, Inc.
 Avalon Downtown
 Becker Funeral Homes
 Beckers Angels Rest Pet Cremation Services
 Boardman FOP
 Buckeye Lawn Service
 Burgan Real Estate, Ltd
 Butler Garden Club
 CAS Ambulance Service
 CKC Cleaning Specialist
 C. L. Firestone Inc
 Chalet Premier
 Circle of Service Foundation
 City of Youngstown
 Cohen and Company
 Community Corrections Association
 Community Foundation of Mahoning Valley
 - Schmutz Family Fund
 Covelli Enterprises
 Crandall, J. Ford, Memorial Foundation
 Cutco

D & D Landscaping
 Daisy Dozen Garden Club
 Danny Price Charities, Inc.
 Do-Cut Sales & Service, Inc.
 Don and Franks Wild Flower Honey
 Dynamic Sensor Systems, LLC
 EM Fitness LLC
 Farmers Trust Co.
 Fellows Riverside Gardens Staff
 Filbrandt Investment Advisors
 First National Bank
 Fred Martin Ford Mercedes-Benz
 Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens
 Friends of Joe Schiavoni
 Garden Club of Ohio (Youngstown District)
 Garden Club of Youngstown
 Garden Forum of the Greater Youngstown Area
 Gardener Supply
 Gardening Indoor LLC
 Giant Eagle
 Girard Herb Society
 Girl Scouts
 Greenland Gardener
 Gresham Educational Group
 Handel's Ice Cream, Creekside
 Hine Memorial Fund
 Hill Barth & King
 Hoffman Kane Distributors Inc.
 Home Savings Charitable Foundation
 Home Works
 Huntington National Bank
 Ikebana International Chapter 70

Komara Jewelers
 Landscape by Design
 Liberty Steel
 Lyden Oil Company
 MCCTC
 M & G Title Search, Inc.
 Macy's
 Mahoning County Farm Bureau Inc.
 Mahoning Valley Hospital
 Mahoning Valley Landscape & Nursery Assoc.
 Manchester, Newman & Bennett
 Marshall Vale
 Mayo & Associates
 Men's Garden Club of Youngstown
 Mignonette Garden Club
 Murphy Contracting
 Murray Hill LLC
 Na'Amat USA
 National Healthcare Access Inc.
 PNC
 Packer Thomas
 Paragon Plastics
 Pepsi Bottling Group LLC
 Phantom Fireworks
 Platinum Paw Barkery
 Poland Village Gardeners
 Richard E. Smith Estate
 Ridgewood Garden Club
 Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association
 RT Vernal Paving & Excavating
 SDS Logistics Services
 Sam's Club

Saratoga Catering
 Schwebel Family Foundation
 Shook Construction
 Smilewright Family Dental, LLC
 Soft Touch Wood
 Something New Florist & Events
 Southern Park Golf, Inc
 Stairmaster
 Stanley Smith Horticulture Trust
 Star Supply
 Star Trac
 Stifel Nicolaus
 Sweeney Chevrolet Buick GMC
 Terra Design Studios
 The Cafaro Company
 The Columbus Foundation
 The DeBartolo Corporation
 The Honeybee Unit
 Trailwood Gardeners
 Type Twenty Seven
 Uncle Joe's Storage
 Village Plaza Sparkle
 Virginia Marti Inc.
 WFMJ/WBCB
 WKBN/WYTV/MyWTV
 Warren P. Williamson, Jr. Fund
 Youngstown Foundation
 Youngstown Orthopaedic Associates
 Youngstown Propane, Inc
 Youngstown State University
 Yurchyk & Davis CPA's
 ZIM'S MAX-FREEZE

NATURAL AREAS & CONSERVATION

Efforts to reduce invasive non-native plants throughout areas of the MetroParks continued again in 2014 including invasive species control work at the Ford Nature Center, Newport Wetlands, and Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ribbon cutting ceremony for the observation deck at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary was conducted on April 22.

MCMP staff assisted the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Cleveland Museum of Natural History's site inspection and biodiversity inventory at the Egypt Swamp Preserve.

MCMP staff coordinated with Ohio EPA concerning their ongoing water quality testing and analysis work in the Mill Creek and Yellow Creek Watersheds.

MCMP staff coordinated and managed Healthy Stream Initiative work by contractors to remove tree/log blockages along 2,000 linear feet of Mill Creek.

Canada goose management measures were continued in Mill Creek Park. The large population of Canada geese not only affects water quality but their aggressive behavior can be dangerous for visitors. Staff coordinated a concerted 2014 "Do Not Feed Wildlife" campaign and related Canada goose management issues and carried out various Canada goose harassment efforts. Staff obtained a 2014 Canada goose nest destruction permit from ODNR and carried out Canada goose nest inspection and egg adding activities (52 nests and 268 eggs). Staff coordinated with ODNR to investigate additional control options and subsequently obtained a Canada goose roundup permit.

In October, staff and volunteers participated in the "Big Sit" event at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. This annual international birding event 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 82 bird species were observed

at the Wildlife Sanctuary, which placed MCMP first in Ohio and fifth overall (out of 187 sites) throughout the world.

Native plants were incorporated into various landscaping projects throughout the MetroParks to not only enhance habitat for wildlife, but also to attract and provide food for important native pollinators. 156 woody plants and 749 perennials were planted in natural areas maintained by the MetroParks landscape crew.

Staff coordinated with Ohio EPA and private landowners for implementing a planting and restoration plan for a stream at the MetroParks Farm. Staff developed a planting plan and managed invasive species control work.



Our Valued Volunteers

Volunteers help support the many activities that occur in Mill Creek MetroParks. Without the commitment of dedicated volunteers, many events would not be possible. Volunteers were recognized at the annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic held in August at the MetroParks Farm.

Volunteer time recorded in 2014 was 22,139 hours. Based on state minimum wage (\$7.95), this time would have an approximate value of \$176,005.05.

17,214 hours were contributed by volunteers to Fellows Riverside Gardens.

More than 1,100 volunteer hours were accrued at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary and other preserves for wildlife surveys, invasive species management, and habitat enhancement projects.

A total of 3,825 volunteer hours were accrued from Recreation Volunteers (this includes: MetroParks Farm - 480, Ford Nature Center - 866, General Recreation - 1,339, and Boy Scout Earth Day Clean-up - 1,140)



STATISTICS

HORTICULTURE

New permanent plants added to Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2014, totaled 95 new records represented by 2 trees, 87 shrubs, 886 herbaceous perennials, 110 roses and 3,239 new permanent bulbs.

In the fall of 2014, staff and volunteers planted 79,739 bulbs – 76,500 for spring seasonal displays and 3,239 for permanent plantings.

Staff and volunteers at Fellows Riverside Gardens created more than 75 wreaths along with a large 6' wreath for Lanterman's Mill for Olde Fashioned Christmas at the Mill.

In 2014, 657 classes and programs were offered at Fellows Riverside Gardens; including those in true horticulture, cuisine, self-expression, healthy living, family, teen, youth, and garden travel. Overall attendance for horticulture education offerings was 14,516 participants; including 3,793 family participants; 3,880 youth participants; and 6,843 adult participants. 646 volunteers assisted with the education programs.

Horticulture school programming completed 27 programs and reached 1,166 students and adult chaperones.

Family Garden Fridays took place in the Family Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens with drop-in activities taking place on Fridays from May 9 to October 17. 2,484 family participants came to Family Garden Fridays.

The 2nd year of the Garden District Children's Gardening program was completed with 15 youths and five volunteers

Six Weller Gallery exhibits were on display including the fabrication of Plant Spirals from Smith College to use for other educational purposes.

Two Outdoor Gallery exhibits were held, *Youngstown Steel* and *Gathered*. *Youngstown Steel* featured the steel sculptures of Tony Armeni and was on display April through October.

February & April – Garden Guide training with 24 new and existing Garden Guide volunteers.

March - two additional bee hives were installed in the Family Garden with over 200 pounds of honey harvested and sold to the public or used for educational programming.

March – the 22nd annual Children's Vegetable Garden program was offered at the MetroParks Farm attracting 16 student gardeners, 10 Green Thumb youth volunteers and 13 adult volunteers.

May – Amy Stewart, New York Times best-selling author of *The Drunken Botanist*, was the spring lecturer sponsored in part by the John & Doris Andrews Education Endowment.

May - National Public Gardens Day, a day to celebrate the important role public gardens serve in communities across the country, was celebrated at Fellows Riverside Gardens on Friday, May 9, which included the launch of Yoko Ono's Wish Tree a conceptual art project and the 2014 Family Garden Fridays

September - completion of the Compost Campaign with Grow Youngstown in which MCMP provided classroom and compost space for two classes and a stakeholder's meeting from November 2013 to September 2014

September – Dan Hinkley a world-renowned plantsman, author, plant collector, and lecturer was the autumn lecturer in conjunction with the APGA Small Gardens Symposium sponsored in part by the John & Doris Andrews Education Endowment.

September - Education Strategic Plan initiation to align programs with MCMP mission, FFRG mission, and the FRG interpretive plan

October - The Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program in Mill Creek MetroParks wrapped up its 29th year in 2014, which included 16 students who earned their Master Gardener Certificate. This increased the total number of graduates from this program to 445.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION

In 2014, the Recreation and Education Department provided 90 classroom visits (2,250 participants) by the Ford Nature Center staff with nature programs; 370 (7,404 participants) classrooms were visited by the MetroParks Farm staff with agriculture education programs.

Nature programs at Ford Nature Center provided educational opportunities for 186 classrooms/groups (4,650 individuals), educational tours at Lanterman's Mill provided for 115 groups/classrooms (2,875 individuals), and educational tours at the MetroParks Farm provided for 132 groups (6,309 participants).

Day-to-day and special programming offered by the Recreation and Education Department reached 7,952 participants. These programs included weekly and monthly interpretive, educational or recreational programs, such as hikes, kayaks, wagon tours, and trolley tours as well as special programs such as Movie Night, Cabin Fever Fest, Shakespeare Plays, Nature Photography Exhibit, and Halloween Bash.

Interpretive Hikes	773 participants
Kayak Tours	215 participants
Volunteer Led Recreational Hike	556 participants
Birding Programs/Walks	351 participants
Interpretive Programs (frog walks, roving naturalists, wildflowers, etc.)	291 participants
Children's Nature Programs	861 participants
Kid's Camps	154 participants
General Recreational Program	569 participants
Metro Mutts Programs	379 participants
Cabin Fever Fest	150 participants
Photo Show	146 entries
Bunny Day	250 participants
Shakespeare Play	300 attendees
Trolley, Standard Tour	741 riders
Trolley, Special Program Tour	272 riders
Movie Night	150 attendees
Bike Safety Day	100 participants
Family Camp Out	18 families (~65 participants)
Green Cathedral	355 participants
Halloween Bash	16 families (~45 participants)
Santa's Winter Barn	400 participants

SPECIAL EVENT ATTENDANCE

Plant The Seed to Read Book Fest.	1,840 participants
Garden Adventure Day	1,241 participants
Pumpkin Walk at Twilight	7,700 participants
Winter Celebration (12/6/14-1/4/15)	26,000 attendees
Winter Nights	8,100 attendees
Farm Animal Baby Shower	5,000+ attendees
Boy Scout Earth Day Clean-up	380 participants
Kite Festival	600+ participants
Concerts	2,600+ attendees
Sunfest	350+ participants
Bug Day	574 participants
Sunset at the Farm	2,600 participants
Old Fashioned Christmas at the Mill	6,500+ attendees



RENTAL FACILITY USAGE

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Auditorium	118 rentals
Classrooms	123 rentals
Ceremonies (indoors & outdoors)	135 rentals
Garden Café	21 rentals
Radius Room	21 rentals
Wedding Receptions	44

MetroParks Farm

Classroom A	201 rentals/4,873 attendance
Kenneth McMahon Hall	256 rentals/30,825 attendance

Cabins

Bears Den Cabin	111 rentals/4,115 attendance
Birch Hill Cabin	239 rentals/8,440 attendance
Old Log Cabin	66 rentals/1,371 attendance

Pavilions

Chestnut Hill Pavilion	50 rentals/3,718 attendance
Pioneer Pavilion	148 rentals/8,468 attendance
Walter H. Scholl Pavilion	95 rentals/3,859 attendance
Slippery Rock Pavilion	51 rentals/3,720 attendance
Walter C. Stitt Pavilion	49 rentals/3,372 attendance
Thomas J. Bresko Pavilion	87 rentals/1,479 attendance

Yellow Creek Park

Capt. John Struthers Pavilion	62 rentals/3,681 attendance
Yellow Creek Lodge	131 rentals/6,279 attendance

Other

Glacier Boathouse – boat rentals	2,985 attendance
Newport Boathouse – boat rentals	787 attendance

GOLF STATISTICS

	<i>Rounds</i>
9 hole resident	16,295
9 hole non-resident	38
9 hole Jr.	1,473
9 hole Sr.	17,586
18 hole resident	7,677
18 hole non-resident	1,576
18 hole Jr.	305
18 hole Sr.	5,437
Total 9 holes	35,288
Total 18 holes	15,262
Riding Cart	35,516
Pull Cart	4,432

Rainfall for 2014 was approximately 40 inches.
Opening Day was April 10, 2014.

Practice Range and Learning Center

Small Buckets	2,426
Large Buckets	1,552
Total Buckets	3,978



PROJECTS

GRANT FUNDED

WEST GOLF DRIVE RESURFACING

- Asphalt resurfacing of 1.33 miles of West Golf Drive, beginning at the northerly parking lot of the Mill Creek Golf Course and terminating at the intersection of Shields Road, including asphalt concrete paving, installation of compacted aggregate shoulders and application of pavement markings.
- Prepared all environmental documentation, construction drawings and contract documents
- Carried out all contract management, project management, reporting and site inspection

METROPARKS BIKEWAY PHASE III (Western Reserve Road to SR 14)

- Managed consultant services with GPD Group to prepare final right-of-way plans.
- Conducted an ODOT approved consultant selection process for environmental, design and engineering services and selected Environmental Design Group (EDG).
- Managed consultant services with EDG to conduct site assessments and begin environmental documentation.
- Project is substantially funded through a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant

PROPERTY ACQUISITION CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

- Coordinated completion of three Round 6 and Round 6A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund (COCF) property acquisition projects totaling 93 acres.
- Prepared and submitted two COCF Round 8 grant applications for properties adjacent to Mill Creek Park totaling 6.5 acres. Both grant applications were approved.
- Coordinated property line surveying, grant reporting and contract management on the various projects.
- Partnered with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to prepare a COCF Round 9 grant application.



GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

WICK RECREATION AREA – CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

- Added new play equipment to the adventure playground.
- Completed construction of the Tot Playground and the Sand Playground.
- Developed a comprehensive planting plan and coordinated with Operations and Horticulture to install the trees, shrubs and perennials.
- Installed twelve new benches.
- Conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 30.

FORD NATURE CENTER

- Replaced five dormer windows and refinished metal roofing over dormers.
- Replaced roofing on garage structure.
- Hired Faniro Architects and conducted a planning process for redevelopment of the Ford Nature Center structures and adjacent site. Produced a comprehensive assessment and planning document to guide future improvements.

WEST GOLF DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

- Excavation and grading of 2.66 miles of ditches by contractor.
- Prepared construction drawings for storm drainage culvert improvements
- Replaced and extended various storm drainage culverts

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

- Gazebo: Reconstructed the six planters, reconstructed the cupola, conducted extensive carpentry work to replace deteriorated trim, fascia, dormer and

post members, painted the entire structure. *(Project was substantially funded by Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens.)*

- Structural repairs to the Trellis, Bench Arbors and Bower in the Perennial Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens, were completed with financial support from Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens
- In July, installation of the Christina's Garden Labyrinth took place with support from family and friends of Christina Camardese Savage in whose name it is dedicated

YELLOW CREEK PARK

- Purchased and installed eight new windows in the Yellow Creek Lodge, as per 2007 renovation report.
- Substantially completed replacement of the exterior siding and trim on the Yellow Creek Lodge.

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS – UTILITY STUDY

- Hired CT Consultants to conduct an extensive study of existing utilities adjacent to FRG to determine recommendations in carrying out the proposed master plan development.

LILY POND IMPROVEMENTS

- Awarded an OEPA SWIF Grant (\$123,360) for parking lot rehab and stormwater demonstration areas.
- Topographic survey and mapping was completed.
- Developed a comprehensive planting plan for the westerly trail and

GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (continued)

coordinated with Operations and Horticulture to install the trees, shrubs and perennials.

- Hired consultant for final design and to produce construction drawings for the boardwalk and observation decks as proposed in the master plan.

LANTERMAN'S MILL – TIMBER DAM REPAIRS

- Repairs made to timber dam located in Mill Creek to eliminate leaks between deteriorating timbers.

LAKE COHASSET – DAM REPAIRS

- Repairs made to underwater sluice gate mechanisms by professional diving company to restore gate to operational condition.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – 816 GLENWOOD

- Completed professional inspection, sampling and testing of floor tile materials. Floor tile was determined to contain asbestos and was abated by a certified contractor.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

- Coordinated with Summit Resources on their pipeline replacement project through MetroParks properties. Prepared cost estimates for mitigation of impacts.
- Coordinated removal of utilities from residential structure at 1500 Mahoning Avenue in preparation for demolition. Coordinated asbestos inspection, sampling and testing for the structure.
- Demolished garage structure at 104

McKinley.

- Prepared draft Emergency Action Plans (EAP) and Operation, Maintenance and Inspection (OMI) manuals for Lake Glacier, Lake Cohasset and Lake Newport dams and submitted to ODNR for approval.
- Prepared a preliminary design for a proposed Donor Wall to recognize financial donors to the Practice Range & Learning Center at the Golf Course.
- Furnished assistance to Graphics for developing the design of replacement interpretive signs at Newport Wetlands and coordinated installations.
- Furnished design, engineering and construction administration for replacement of two bridges on the Mill Creek Golf Course.
- Coordinated with an interior designer to determine appropriate colorations for repainting of interior chimney and fireplace at Pioneer Pavilion. Fireplace/ chimney was successfully painted by Operations.
- Conducted annual bridge inspections and submitted to ODOT. Coordinated with ODOT to include Mill Creek Park bridges in their Bridge Load Rating Program.
- Conducted annual dam inspections.
- Prepared framing details for the new Mill Creek Park facility sign for West Golf Drive/US 224. Coordinated with Operations and sign fabricator for construction of the sign. Prepared a landscape plan and coordinated with Operations to construct a new stone wall. Prepared a planting plan and coordinated with Horticulture to purchase and install the plant material.
- Managed annual asphalt preventive maintenance work for numerous parking lots throughout the MetroParks.
- Coordinated several donor benches and assisted Community Engagement in the development of brochure/ website information for public donor opportunities.
- Coordinated and managed annual asphalt patch paving program on various Mill Creek Park drives.
- Coordinated and managed diving contractor's inspection and resolution of the leaking sluice gate for Lake Newport.
- Coordinated with attorneys and property owner for acquisition of residential property at 1855 McCollum Road.
- Coordinated with MetroParks attorney to process gifting of residential property at 2104 Volney Road.
- Signage program (facility)



SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, EXPENSES & BALANCES

MILL CREEK METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT For Year Ending December 31, 2014 TOTAL ALL FUNDS

UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE January 1, 2014	\$	3,341,538.00
PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES		569,642.48
INCOME:		
General Property Tax		6,567,633.98
Park District Activities		2,152,046.09
Local Government Fund		298,617.64
Fellows Trust Fund		19,779.96
ODOT Drives Grant		11,083.20
Mill Creek Park Foundation		55,639.50
Gas Royalties		118,177.98
Clean Ohio Grant-Property Acquisition		354,047.26
FHWA-Bikeway Phase III		297.75
Transfers From Other Funds		43,287.00
Advances From Other Funds		7,340.88
	\$	9,627,951.24
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$	13,539,131.72
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Operations-Materials & Supplies		2,314,645.85
Operations-Salaries & Wages		4,639,543.16
Capital Equipment		123,269.99
Capital Improvements		845,426.73
General Expense		1,966,352.00
Transfers to other Funds		16,118.03
Advances to other Funds		50,627.88
	\$	9,955,983.64
Year End Cash Balance December 31, 2014	\$	3,583,148.08
Year End Encumbrances	\$	1,377,708.82
Unencumbered Cash Balance	\$	2,205,439.26





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