



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.

President John Ragan

First Vice-President Scott Schulick - (1/2015 - 5/2016)

Second Vice-President Robert Durick Germaine Bennett

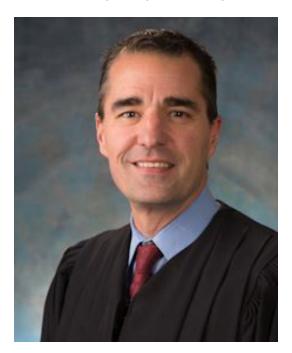
Michael Senchak - (1/2016 - 3/2016)

Lee Frey - (6/2016) Tom Shipka - (6/2016)

Exectuive Director Aaron Young

APPOINTING AUTHORITY

The Honorable Judge Robert N. Rusu, Jr. Mahoning County Probate Judge



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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Enhance Mill Creek MetroParks' mission through effective partnerships, communications, signage, and promotions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

- External organization events accommodated by MCMP: 19
- External event participants using MCMP: 14,225

MetroParks staff from the Horticulture and Operations Departments continued to maintain an area at the Canfield Fair. They again contributed plantings to the picnic area and assisted with the set-up of the picnic tables. The Community Engagement staff spruced up the information area and filled it with the most current information. MetroParks Farm personnel staffed and coordinated Old MacDonald's Barn with the help of MetroParks volunteers.

Fellows Riverside Gardens celebrated the 125th anniversary of Mill Creek Park by centering the theme of the Winter Celebration as One Man's Dream: Celebrating 125 years of Mill Creek Park.

Mill Creek MetroParks' trolley, the Cohasset Express, made an appearance in the Canfield 4th of July parade. The Recreation and Education department, including naturalists and volunteers, were present at the Mahoning Valley Riverfest. MetroParks Police took part in the Unity in the Community parade put on by Warriors, Inc.



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 2016. The picnic was held at the Mill Creek Golf Course.

Volunteer time recorded in 2016 was 12,625 hours. Based on state minimum wage (\$8.10), this time would have an approximate value of \$102,262.50.

9,210 hours were contributed by 290 volunteers and multiple groups at Fellows Riverside Gardens. More than 400 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 3,414 volunteer hours were accrued from 75 Recreation Volunteers and multiple groups (hours include: MetroParks Farm, Ford Nature Center, General Recreation, and Boy Scout Earth Day Clean-up).



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

METROPARKS POLICE

MetroParks Police provide 24-hour patrol of park lands and facilities, and operate a 24-hour dispatch and walk-in information area at the police department. They provide traffic control and security for all park events. While MetroParks Police have the same traditional police powers to enforce laws and make arrests as other police departments, they also have the duty to protect the parks facilities and natural resources.

MetroParks Police utilize both sworn and nonsworn staff. Sworn staff is made of up of full-time, part-time, and reserve police officers. Those who haven't completed Basic Police Officer Training can serve on the MetroParks Auxiliary Police and are a key part of the MetroParks Police team.

POLICE STATISTICS

Part-time Police Hours 11,662
Reserve Police Hours 5,886
Auxiliary Police Hours 817



RECREATION & EDUCATION

Goal

Create broader recreation and education programs that inspire more users to experience Mill Creek MetroParks for the value it provides to the community.

GOLF

The Golf Course had the best year financially on record, beating 2012's record year. Merchandise sales for the year exceeded \$100,000 for the first time ever. 19 more events were added to the golf outing schedule. Major events for the year include: AJGA, NCAA, NBC AM TOUR, NOPGA, DC&P, PGA JR. League, Par-3 Interclub League, Vindy's Greatest Golfer 300+ Field, OHSAA, Vindy's Greatest Junior Big "I", and Junior Par-3 Tournament. The addition of a new golf cart fleet in 2016 will produce an \$18,000 savings in 2017. Addition of a new tournament leaderboard and golf outing tent.

2016 Rounds

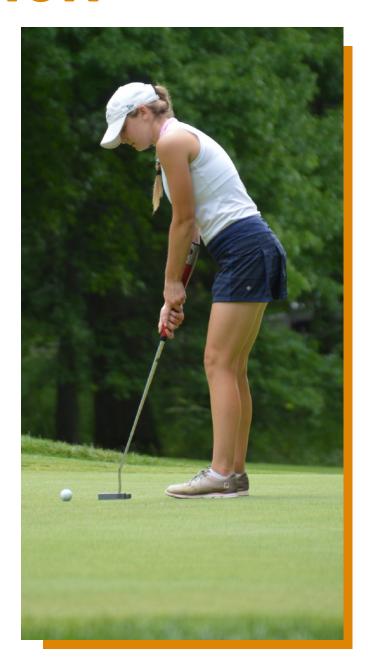
9 hole resident 16,2089 hole non-resident 1279 hole Jr. & Sr. 23,238

 18 hole resident
 9,761

 18 hole non-resident
 939

 18 hole Jr. & Sr.
 5,866

Total 9 holes 39,573 Total 18 holes 16,566

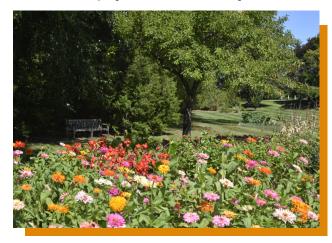


HORTICULTURE

- Total attendance for the Visitor Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2016 was 285,197.
- 41,900 blooming bulbs planted in the fall of 2015 yielded a spectacular spring show at Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2016.
- 237 trees and shrubs, 1005 perennials, 3200 bulbs and 100 flats of annuals were planted in contrived/natural areas maintained by the MetroPark's landscape crew.
- Various Landscape Crew projects included Golf Course South Entrance plant additions and improvements to scoreboard bed, Daffodil Meadow planting and improvements, Lily Pond parking lot and east bank plantings, Lanterman's Mill parking lot plantings, Ford Nature Center entrance butterfly garden, Volney Rogers statue bed rose additions and other improvement projects.
- Developed a new Horticulture Certificate Program to include sustainability-oriented class topics.
- Various events held throughout the year included: Twice Loved Book Sale, Jewels of Winter, "What World is This!" Outdoor Gallery, Plant the Seed to Read Book Fair, Daffodil Weekend, Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Spring Plant Sale, Friends of Fellows Riverside

RECREATION & EDUCATION

Gardens Summer Garden Party, Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Autumn Plant Sale, Pumpkin Walk at Twilight, Winter Celebration, and seven exhibits on display in the Weller Gallery.



HORTICULURE EDUCATION

Horticulture Program & Educational Event Statistics
Total Participants 18,280

Family Participants: 11,175 (61%)
Youth Participants: 2,531 (14%)
Adult Participants: 4,579 (25%)

Family Fun Fridays (June 10 - August 26): 1,321

Garden District Children's Gardening Program (June 14 - August 16): 14 registered; every Tuesday

Garden Adventure Day (June 4): 300

School Participants: 1,201

Super Seeds: 770Leaf It To Us: 26

• Botanical Discoveries: 137

• Outreach - Super Seeds: 235

Outreach - Youngstown City School
 District Afterschool Alliance Night: 33

Programs Scheduled 525

• Programs Held: 480 (91%)

• Programs Cancelled: 45 (9%) due to no registration, low registration and weather

School Programs: 31

• Super Seeds: 14

• Leaf It To Us: 1

• Botanical Discoveries: 7

• Outreach - Super Seeds: 8

• Outreach - Youngstown City School District Afterschool Alliance Night: 1

Garden Tours: 8

Garden Tour Participants: 158

*Tours scheduled for specific groups, not drop-in guided garden tours

Highlights:

- January - December - successful Green Thumbs program, 18 participants - monthly meetings to CONTINUED

develop leadership and teambuilding skills.

- February Education Manager attended the American Public Gardens Association Education Symposium in Seattle, WA.
- April Brent Heath's Undaunted Daffodils lecture.
 Sponsored in part by the John S. & Doris M.
 Andrews Education Endowment.
- September YSU Biology Club programs learning about edible plants and herbs throughout Fellows Riverside Gardens.



RECREATION & EDUCATION

CONTINUED

RECREATION

School Education Programs:

- 107 classrooms (2665 participants) visited by Ford Nature Center staff with nature programs.
- 336 classroom presentations by Farm staff reached 6,604 individuals with Ag Ed Programs.
- Nature Programs at Ford Nature Center provided for 144 groups (3666 individuals)
- Education Tours at Lanterman's Mill provided for 116 groups/classrooms (2,445 individuals).
- Education tours at Farm provided for 143 groups (6,365 participants).

Special Programs, Events, Series:

- Photo Show: 185 entries
- Farm Animal Baby Shower: 2,500+ visitors
- Boy Scout Earth Day Clean-up: 401 participants at 25 sites
- Star Party: 80+ participants
- Eggstravaganza MultiCultural Event:350+
- Concerts: 4,600 attendees
- Bug Day: 1,436 participants
- Shakespeare Plays: 425 attendees
- Trolley: 1,390 riders Standard & Special program tours

- Family Camp Out: 101 participants
- Old MacDonald's Farm at Canfield Fair drew 12.000 visitors
- Green Cathedral: 202 Participants
- Sunset at the Farm: 1,800 participants
- Halloween Bash: 200+ participants
- Old Fashioned Christmas at Lanterman's
 Mill: 5,500+ visitors
- Santa's Winter Barn: 500+ participants
- Ballroom Dance Classes: 525+
- Metro Mutts Programs: 603 participants

Day-to-Day Programming

- Farm Wagon & Weekend Ag Ed Programs: 2,529
- Volunteer Led Recreational Hikes: 486 participants
- Interpretive Programs: 2,145 participants (Hikes, Frog walks, roving naturalists, birding, wildflowers, kayaks, interpretive family, children programs, etc)
- General Recreational Programs: 2,752 participants

Facility Visitor Statistics

- Farm Walk-in Visitor Estimate: 912
- Mill Tours provided to 11,313 visitors
- Ford Nature Center Walk-in Visitors: 13.091

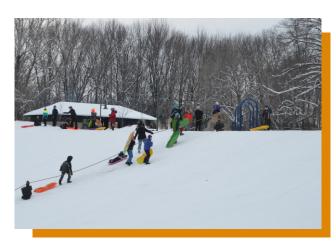
Boat Rentals

8,358

Recreation Field

- 900 games from diverse sports leagues
- 45,000 visitors attending or playing





INFRASTRUCTURE Goal



Create an effective capital improvement and maintenance plan to preserve the historic aspects of Mill Creek MetroParks as well as provide a safe and enjoyable experience.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

WET PLAYGROUND AT WICK RECREATION AREA

COST \$147,000

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS OF LANTERMAN'S MILL WHEEL

COST \$15,000

PARKING LOT AT LILY POND

COST \$133,000





HITCHCOCK WOODS PARKING LOT

COST \$27,900

DAFFODIL MEADOW **IMPROVEMENTS**

COST \$2,977.50

MEMORIAL HILL DRIVE **IMPROVEMENTS**

COST \$106,450

FORD NATURE CENTER REHAB DESIGN & COST **ESTIMATE**

COST \$42,968.52

SIGNAGE REPLACEMENT **PROGRAM**

COST \$20,000

BIKEWAY ASPHALT **MAINTENANCE**

COST \$12,000

INFRASTRUCTURE

LANTERMAN'S MILL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$65,000

900 OLD FURNACE HOUSE CHIMNEY REPAIRS

COST \$17,000

DAVIS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$75,000

PIONEER PAVILION REWIRING

COST \$8,000

GLACIER BOATING DOCK REPLACEMENT

COST \$23,500





OUR PEOPLE

Goal

Provide employees with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their jobs efficiently and effectively, in order to serve the needs of Mill Creek MetroParks and the community.

The year began with the MetroParks' implementation of a functional management model as outlined in the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan. Although the changes were difficult, they were necessary in ensuring the long term sustainability of the MetroParks. The MetroParks maintained its commitment through continued training opportunities, a dedicated full-time Human Resources department, and an annual increase in staff wages, the first in nearly a decade. The MetroParks also contracted a Virtual Information Officer for updated technology. An evaluation and update of personnel policies and procedures were implemented as well as All Staff Meetings.







NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal

Enhance Mill Creek MetroParks' management of natural resources through improved access of developed trails, opening new parks in underserved areas of the County, and incorporation of a natural resources management plan.

Canada goose management measures were continued in 2016. "Do Not Feed Wildlife" efforts included signage, public service announcements, brochures, enforcement and incorporating education into programs. Various MetroParks departments carried out Canada goose harassment efforts, including pyrotechnic launchers. An ODNR Canada goose nest destruction permit was obtained and USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services was contracted to perform nest inspection and egg addling activities. 69 nests were located and 363 eggs were addled. A repellant product was applied to the Daffodil Meadow area.

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

Operations and Horticulture installed native shrubs and applied wildflower seed mix at Lanterman's Mill, Lily Pond, and the Golf Course.

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 battle 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 68 bird species were observed at the Wildlife Sanctuary, which placed the Sanctuary first in Ohio and seventh overall in the world!

Ongoing efforts to reduce invasive non-native plants throughout areas of the MetroParks occurred again this year including invasive spraying at the Ford Nature Center, Newport Wetlands, Mill Creek Preserve, Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, and MetroParks Bikeway.

LAND ACQUISITIONS

Volney Rd - Donation 0.68 acres
Lakeview Dr- MCLRC 0.14 acres
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Glenwood Ave - MCLRC 0.35 acres
Youngstown Salem Rd - Donation 2.70 acres



STEWARDSHIP

Goal

Establish a long term financial and cost recovery plan for the MetroParks through effective use of the Mill Creek Park Foundation, grants, and business management practices.

BIKE RENTAL PARTNERSHIP

In 2016, Trailside Bicycle Company began offering hourly and daily bike rentals from the Kirk Road Trailhead located at 6685 Kirk Road, Canfield. The rentals are being offered as part of a lease agreement between Mill Creek MetroParks and Trailside Bicycle Company.





METROPARKS BIKEWAY • PHASE III

Consultant services for the extension of the MetroParks Bikeway, beginning at Western Reserve Road and running 6.4 miles to the Village of Washingtonville.

Managed consultant services with GPD Group to prepare final right-of-way plans and to begin property appraisal work.

Managed consultant services with Environmental Design Group (EDG) to conduct site assessments, ecological work, geotechnical testing, environmental documentation, bridge/culvert analysis and preparation of preliminary construction drawings.

CONSULTANT SERVICES COSTS \$627,845,60

Project substantially funded through a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant at 80% (\$179,210.61 Federal/\$44,802.65 MetroParks).



MEMORIAL HILL DRIVE RESURFACING

Memorial Hill Drive is the historic entrance to Mill Creek Park, which stretches from Glenwood Avenue to West Glacier Drive. The drive was closed for a pavement resurfacing and infrastructure improvement project. The project addressed improving safety and driving conditions for park patrons vehicular traffic, preserving the roadway's original function and historic features, and restoring the user experience along Memorial Hill Drive in Mill Creek Park.

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST \$123,000

PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

Project managed restoration work on a COCF Round 7 project at the Mill Creek Preserve, including invasive vegetation treatment and preparation of soil for planting of native seed. Coordinated grant reporting and contract management on the various projects.

TOTAL COSTS \$85,246.40

Projects were substantially funded by Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grants at 75% (State/ MetroParks).

STEWARDSHIP

LILY POND IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements included a new observation deck, floating bridge, signs to educate visitors on wildlife, landscaping, and native plants were added.

Previously, more than \$250,000 improvements to the area had been made. Those improvements included new trails, an arrival plaza with an information kiosk, and boardwalks that had been mostly funded by donors.

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST \$14,523.80

SWIF GRANT

More than \$123,000 in Ohio EPA grants funded the improvements. Improvements included new permeable pavers, new curb, a bioswale and native plant stormwater garden.





STEWARDSHIP



DONORS

Barktastic K9 Cupboard Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association Johnny Appleseed Garden Club Mahoning County Visitors Bureau Mahoning Valley Hospital Foundation Masonry Materials Plus Commercial Truck & Trailer Mill Creek Golf Course staff Haf-Hil Services Pest Control Becker Funeral Homes Mahoning Garden Club Preneed Funeral Program Youngtown Youth Flag Football The Youngstown Foundation Green Leaves Garden Club AVP Digital, Inc Mahoning Valley Hospital Foundation Home Savings Charitable Foundation American Junior Golf Foundation

Jason DiPasqua Karen Zook Brian Tolnar Larry Maravola Anonymous Melinda Wright Shelley Engellenner Gloria Jean Rubbo Christine Davidson Marie Jones Jeffrey Deeds Denise DeBartolo York Linda Devlin Mary Kay Lee Amy Goldberg Susan Digracomo Gunther Lange Harold Dampf Brad Chamberlain Gail Frankeberger Jeanne & John McNally

Edward & Marianne Klein Maynard & Ruby Jo Bryant Diane & Jeff Antalik Jeffrev Doinoff Linda Wagner Kathy Baun Sherry Walker Janet & Paul Williams John, Laura, Dave & Marv Bertsch Julie Modarelli Nancy Sprockett Stacy Kolenich Vera Mileusnich Paul Blankenmeister Sharyn Campbell Kevin O'Brien Kathleen DeLuca Bob and Carol Davis

STEWARDSHIP

RENTAL FACILITY USAGE

Fellows Riverside Gardens

- Auditorium 95 rentals
- Classrooms 98 rentals
- Ceremonies (indoors & outdoors) 132 rentals
- Garden Café 5 rentals
- Radius Room 38 rentals
- Wedding Receptions 43

MetroParks Farm

- Classroom A 78 rentals / 2,391 attendance
- Kenneth McMahon Hall 224 rentals / 19,334 attendance

Cabins

- Bears Den Cabin 126 rentals / 3.478 attendance
- Birch Hill Cabin 252 rentals / 10,078 attendance
- Old Log Cabin 59 rentals / 1,228 attendance

Pavilions

- Chestnut Hill Pavilion 49 rentals / 3.108 attendance
- Pioneer Pavilion 134 rentals / 8,571 attendance
- Scholl Pavilion 114 rentals / 4.742 attendance
- Slippery Rock Pavilion 41 rentals / 3,279 attendance
- Stitt Pavilion 50 rentals / 3,435 attendance
- Thomas J. Bresko Pavilion 81 rentals / 1,835 attendance

CONTINUED

Yellow Creek Park

- Capt. John Struthers Pavilion (Yellow Creek Park)
 44 rentals / 2,273 attendance
- Yellow Creek Lodge 101 rentals / 5,799 attendance

Other

 Lake Glacier Boathouse Room - 5 rentals / 79 attendance



STEWARDSHIP

TOTAL ALL FUNDS

UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE January 1, 2016 \$1,610,281.80 PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES \$1,314,718.17

INCOME:

General Property Tax	\$7,069,592.62
Park District Activities	\$1,981,566.86
Local Government Fund	\$319,150.82
Lily Pond SWIF Grant	\$121,380.00
OPWC Clean Ohio Grant	\$44,638.44
ODOT Grant	\$329,985.82
Gas Royalties & Interest	\$26,212.66
Insurance Settlements	\$96,750.09
Law Enforcement Training Revenue	\$5,612.00
Total Income	\$9,994,889.31

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$12,919,889.28

DISBURSEMENTS:

Materials & Supplies \$2,596,139.24
Salaries & Wages \$5,445,593.40
Capital Equipment \$250,089.09
Capital Improvements \$1,117,698.08

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$9,409,519.81

Year End Cash Balance December 31, 2016 \$3,510,369.47
Year End Encumbrances \$363,761.94
Unencumbered Cash Balance \$3,146,607.53



