



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



Lee Frey President



Germaine Bennett *Vice-President*



John Ragan



Tom Shipka



Tom Frost (3/2017)



Aaron Young Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Mill Creek MetroParks is to provide park, recreational, educational, 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

The Nature Education Standing Committee recommended the word "education" be added to the MetroParks' Mission Statement. The motion was passed by the Board of Park Commissioners with a vote on November 13, 2017.

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.



GOAL

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Each year MCMP staff take part in many community events and participate in local organizations.

- External organization events accommodated by MCMP: 17
- External event participants using MCMP: 14,110

MetroParks staff from the Operations Department continued to maintain an area at the Canfield Fair and participated with the old-fashioned sawmill exhibit. They contributed plantings to the picnic area, assisted with the set-up of the picnic tables, and provided timbers for the sawmill exhibit. The Community Engagement department stocks the information area kiosk with various literature on the most current events and facilities throughout the MetroParks. MetroParks Farm personnel staffed and coordinated Old MacDonald's Barn with the help of MetroParks volunteers.

The Recreation and Education department, including educators and volunteers, participated in various outreach programs throughout the year. These include: Humility of Mary, Easter Seals, Idora Farmer's Market, Boardman Park's Outdoor Family Day, The Big Sit, and Akron Children's Hospital Nature Fest. MetroParks Police took part in the Unity in the Community parade put on by Warriors, Inc.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important supporting component in many areas of park operations. Volunteers support staff efforts in offering events and programs to the community; they play a part in educating and engaging our local community, and ultimately increasing support for our parks. Volunteers make a vital contribution to both Mill Creek MetroParks and to Mahoning County! Volunteers were recognized at the annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic held in August 2017. The picnic was held at the MetroParks Farm in McMahon Hall. Those volunteers who met a specified hour criteria in 2017 also received a complimentary Mill Creek MetroParks volunteer t-shirt.

Volunteer time recorded in 2017 was 14,837 hours from 329 active park wide volunteers and multiple groups. Some of the specific events, exhibits and activities where these hours were used:

Nature Photography Exhibit, Jewels of Winter
Orchid Exhibit, Twice Loved Book Sale
Andrews Horticulture Certificate Program, Trolley
Tours, Star Party, Farm Animal Baby Shower, Plant
the Seed to Read Book Festival, Old-Fasioned Fun
at the Mill, Spring Plant Sale, Family Fun Fridays,

Family Camp in the Park, Camps & Clinics, Reptile and Amphibian Show, Shop in the Gardens, Veggie Gardens, Garden Maintenance at Fellows Riverside Gardens, Green Cathedral Half Marathon, Sunset at the Farm, Pumpkin Carving, Pumpkin Walk at Twilight, Family Halloween Bash, Old Fashioned Christmas at the Mill, Santa's Winter Barn, Winter Celebration, Old McDonald's Barn - Canfield Fair, Hikes, Kayak Guides, Conservation/Preservation, Standing Committees, Garden District Kids, Auxiliary, Garden Guide, Kiosk Stocking





In 2017, the Mill Creek Board of Park
Commissioners created Standing Committees of
the Board of Commissioners. A total of 49 board
appointed volunteers were selected to serve on
one of the seven committees. The purpose of the
committees is to serve in an advisory role to the
Board of Park Commissioners. The committees
consist of seven members from the public and
one staff liaison. The specific areas include:
Finance, Development, Wildlife, Nature Education,
Environment, Horticulture, and Community
Engagement.

Each year efforts are made for recruitment and the future growth of the volunteer program. The Marketing Manager attended the Youngstown State University Volunteer Fair, Kent State University Volunteer and Resource Fair, Boardman High School YES Fest, and Youngstown State University Welcome Week in an effort to educate the area's youth on Mill Creek MetroParks and the volunteer opportunities available.

METROPARKS POLICE

MetroParks Police provide 24-hour patrol of park lands and facilities. 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 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 8,398
Reserve Police Hours 2,260
Auxiliary Police Hours 328

In 2017, MetroParks Police completed the
Ohio Collaborative & Police Advisory Board
Certification. MetroParks Police also hosted the
annual Hooked on Fishing event at the MetroParks
Farm to teach children about the sport of fishing.



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 5-year Capital Improvement projects began in 2017 for the golf operation. The projects included: South Course complete bunker restoration project (South Course was closed in the fall of 2017 for construction), the addition of a Golf Cart Staging Area, and the Fieldhouse exterior was painted and restrooms were renovated.

It was a record year for the Mill Creek Golf Shop as it surpassed \$150,000+ in merchandise revenue for the first time in history. It was also a record year for the driving range and practice facility surpassing \$36,000 in revenue. PGA instructional and growth of the game programs also saw their largest influx of participants since their inception in 2007.

The Mill Creek Golf Shop finished as a finalist for the National Merchandiser of the Year Award by the PGA of America in the public golf facility category.

Mill Creek Foundation's American Junior Golf Association National (AJGA) Junior All-Star Tournament provided a \$355,000+ financial impact for the Mahoning Valley (hotels, greens fees, dining, shopping, etc.)

2017 ROUNDS

| 9 Hole Resident | 15,507 |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 9 Hole Non-Resident | 140 |
| 9 Hole Junior/Senior | 21,501 |
| | |
| 18 Hole Resident | 10,773 |
| 18 Hole Non-Resident | 2,487 |
| 18 Hole Junior/Senior | 4,418 |
| | |
| Total 9 Hole Rounds | 37,148 |
| Total 18 Hole Rounds | 17,678 |





HORTICULTURE

The total attendance for the Visitor Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2017 was 280,475. There were 66,394 blooming bulbs planted in the fall of 2016, which yielded a spectacular spring show at Fellows Riverside Gardens in 2017. The following amounts were planted in 2017 throughout the park.

- 2.950 bulbs
 - 2.100 Tulips
 - 250 Daffodils
 - 600 Daffodils were planted at Daffodil Meadow, along with an over seed of a wildflower mix
- 100 Flats of annuals
- 30 new perennials
- Many other perennials were divided and used to fill in throughout the park.
- Over 50 trees and shrubs were added to the Golf Course, Lily Pond, and throughout the park.

Various events held throughout the year included: Twice Loved Book Sale, Jewels of Winter, Artist Tony Armeni "Organic Steel" Outdoor Gallery, Daffodil Weekend, Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Spring Plant Sale, Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Summer Garden Party, Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Autumn Plant Sale, Pumpkin Walk at Twilight, Winter Celebration, and 6 exhibits on display in the Weller Gallery.



SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Education staff presented 208 programs at various schools (10,845 participants)
- Education staff provided 4,364 visiting school group participants with on-site programs
- Interpretive Tours at Lanterman's Mill provided for 97 groups/classrooms (2,733 participants)
- Interpretive Tours at Farm, Gardens & Ford
 Nature Center provided for 5,162 participants
 from schools, 140 from youth groups, 1,862 from
 adult/family groups

SPECIAL PROGRAMS, EVENTS, SERIES

- Photo Show: 191 entries
- Farm Animal Baby Shower: 4,300 participants
- Boy Scout Earth Day Clean-up: 411 participants at 25 sites
- Plant the Seed to Read Book Festival: 1,123 participants
- Concerts: 4,310 attendees
- Reptile & Amphibian Show: 933 participants
- Shakespeare Plays: 500 attendees
- Trolley: 1,370 riders Standard & Special program tours
- Solar Eclipse Viewing Party: 2,500 participants
- Children's Vegetable Gardening Program 25th Anniversary Celebration: 70 participants
- Old MacDonald's Farm at Canfield Fair:
 9,500 attendees
- Green Cathedral: 180 participants
- Sunset at the Farm: 1,200 participants
- Halloween Bash: 205 participants
- Old Fashioned Christmas at Lanterman's Mill: 8,800 attendees
- Santa's Winter Barn: 850 participants
- Breakfast with Santa: 185 participants
- Ballroom Dance Classes: 280 participants
- Metro Mutts Programs: 537 participants (24 programs)

Recreation & Education

- Family Fun Fridays: 1,295 participants (12 weeks)
- Pick-a-Pumpkin Family Weekends: 870 participants
- Winter Nights Toy Workshop & Reindeer Games:
 1,064 participants
- The John & Doris Andrews Horticulture
 Certificate Program: 56 participants (3 courses)
- Lectures: 174 participants

DAY TO DAY PROGRAMMING

- Volunteer Led Recreational Hikes: 540 participants
- Interpretive/Education Programs: 5,056
 participants (Includes adult/youth/family
 programs such as hikes, walks, kayaks, wellness,
 cuisine, etc.)
- General Recreational Programs: 1,247 participants







FACILITY VISITOR/USE STATISTICS

- Farm: 1,100 walk-in visitor estimate
- Mill tours: 7,332 walk-in visitors
- FNC: 12.669 walk-in visitors
- · Boating:
 - 8,500 visitors rode on, pedaled or paddled a rented boat
 - 1,000 visitors paddled their own boats on Glacier or Newport
- Fields: 930 games/matches accommodated for diverse sports
 - 57,200 playing or viewing
- Wick Recreation Area
 - Wet Playground was added
 - Junior golf leagues were at record numbers for girls and boys
 - Flag football was added in the spring and fall
 - Beverage cart was added for the Morley Concert series and special events

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.

ANNUAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

COST

\$209,867.15

EAST COHASSET HIKE & BIKE TRAIL

COST

\$336,298.75

ANNUAL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS

COST

\$94,381.23

ANNUAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

COST

\$35,248.27

ANNUAL SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS

COST

\$10,156.54

ANNUAL PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS

COST

\$31.192.45

WICK RECREATION AREA WET PLAYGROUND

COST

\$153,738.25



WICK RECREATION AREA PEDESTRIAN TRAIL EXTENSION

COST

\$45,756.00

LANTERMAN'S MILL WATERWHEEL REPLACEMENT

COST

\$185,200.00

YELLOW CREEK PARK IMPROVEMENTS

COST

\$96,380.47

VOLNEY ROGERS FIELD TENNIS & BASKETBALL COURTS

COST

\$105,296.94

MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE CART STAGING

COST

\$64,197.50

MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE BUNKER RESTORATION

COST

\$219,870.00

CONTINUED

Infrastructure

MILL CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$13,886.53

MILL CREEK PRESERVE IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$13,137.00

VICKERS NATURE PRESERVE/BHP IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$20,529.73

SEBRING WOODS IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$23,874.00

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS DAVIS CENTER REPAIRS

COST \$108,663.99

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS SITE IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$44,780.00

LAKE NEWPORT SITE IMPROVEMENTS

COST \$37,060.38

HITCHCOCK WOODS PARKING LOT

\$16.850.00

GOLF COURSE FIELDHOUSE — BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

COST \$5,651.44

GOLF COURSE FIELDHOUSE — EXTERIOR PAINTING

COST \$9,000.00

FORD NATURE CENTER - REDEVELOPMENT DESIGN

COST \$49,859.80





Our People

The MetroParks had an exciting year with a total of 147 hiring actions. 2017 also brought 11 employee promotions and three employee retirements.

Compensation administration continues to be a priority. The MetroParks regularly participates in compensation and benefit surveys in order to evaluate pay grades and benefit offerings. Compensation adjustments were made for select employees based on several factors, including addition of assigned job duties and transfers to new positions. A 1.5% general increase was also provided to all full-time bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit employees in 2017.

An updated employee manual was released in March of 2017 that introduced policies and procedures compliant with local, state and federal laws and regulations. The employee manual will continually be updated on an annual basis.

The MetroParks participated in several safety and risk management programs and trainings throughout the year. The overall commitment to safety and risk management has led to a reduction in employee injuries and Workers' Compensation premiums for the MetroParks.

The MetroParks incorporated quarterly training opportunities into all-staff meetings. Trainings cover topics such as sexual harassment, drug free workplace and various safety topics. Trainings topics are also provided based on request of employees.

The Employee Association is a MetroParks employee run group sustained by employee donations. The group provides various items of good will such as fruit baskets and condolence flowers. The Employee Association held a Spring Fling Lunch gathering in March of 2017. The group also came together to collect non-perishable food items for the local Rescue Mission and contribute financial donations to six non-profit groups.

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.







GOAL

Enhance Mill Creek MetroParks' management of natural resources through improved access o 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 2017. "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. Fifty-three nests were located and 242 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 69 bird species were observed at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

- MetroParks Bikeway, Maple Drive (Donation) 5.0 acres
- Mill Creek Park, Devonshire Drive 0.66 acres
- Mill Creek Park, Glenwood Avenue (MCLRC) 0.28 acres
- Mill Creek Park, Park Hill Avenue (MCLRC) –
 0.23 acres
- Mill Creek Park, Lakeview Avenue (MCLRC) 0.14 acres





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.

METROPARKS BIKEWAY PHASE III

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant funding for right-of-way consultant services. Right-of-Way drawings were completed. Legal descriptions, deed research and appraisal work was completed. Federal property acquisition process was begun. Grant funding at 100%.

COST \$12,025

METROPARKS BIKEWAY PHASE III

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

CMAQ program grant funding for design & engineering consultant services. Preliminary construction drawings were completed.

Additional environmental studies and testing were completed. No grant funds were expended in 2017.

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND ROUND 7

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant was used to continue restoration efforts at the Mill Creek Preserve. Planting of native shrubs and invasive vegetation treatment continued. Grant funding at 75%.

COST \$10,882

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND ROUND 11

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant application for \$40,620 was approved in 2017 to acquire five parcels of property totaling 2.86 acres in the Glenwood Avenue/Devonshire Drive area of Mill Creek Park. No grant funds were expended in 2017.

EAST COHASSET HIKE & BIKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding
for improvements to 1.08 miles of East Cohasset
Hike & Bike Trail. Grant funding at 80%.

COST \$336,298.75



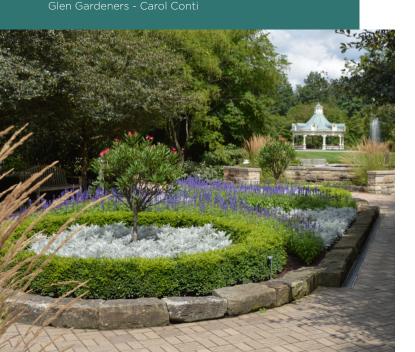
CONTINUED

Stewardship

DONORS

Virginia Landgreen Trust
Community Foundation
Youngstown Youth Flag Football League
Prout Boiler & Heating
The Youngstown Foundation
Handel's Ice Cream
State Farm Insurance
Olsavsky Jaminet Architect
Garden Forum of the Greater Youngstown Area
Farmer's National Bank
Rhiel Supply
Janis Cefalu Insurance Agency
Stark Truss Company
Buckeye Beverage
Lanzscape Photography LTD

The Electrical League of Eastern Ohio
Nolfi & Associates Insurance and Financial Services
Mahoning Valley Hospital Foundation
Becker Funeral Homes
EM Fitness LLC
Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation
Garden Club of Youngstown
J. Tressel, Inc.



Kim Griffin & Pam Martuccio Daniel & Alissa Hallock Gary & Carla Zinz Paul & Sharen Vogel Sarah Dykes & John & Louise Moen Ruth Ann & Dr. Vericella Tod & Rebecca Baxter Margaret Gula Patricia Koontz Victor & Colleen Berlon Charles & Patricia Mound Mr. & Mrs. James Bucci Sue Montgomery & Chair Morey Jeffrey Stoiber Mary Gamberale Dave & Dawn Johnson Megan Gula & David Turkaly Kim & Stephen Tharp Bill & Doreen Robinson Dennis & Diane Collins Sue Staiger Neal & Melissa McNally Ashley Lucas JM Verotsko Donna & Angelo Moretto Tom Danko Jack Moss Betty Anania Jim & Lori Graneto Diana Melnick Robert & Doreen Chance Bernice Carol Delores Pernotto Carilla Marsh Mr. & Mrs. Howard Brinkman Thomas & Beverly Salmon Marcia Miot Virginia Dineen Madison Shores, William & Emily DeToro Donna, Mark, Marin Mazzie Mr Emerson Robert Kempe Virginia Chiarello

Jeanette Hunter

Vince Pecchia

Haviland Family

Nancy & James Collins

Caroline Wilms Hall

Scott Hunter & Michelle Barone

Chuck Corroto Memorial Fund Edward Klein & Marianne Klein J.D. Tvler Kollay Family Trust James "Ted" Roberts Stefan Bury Marti L. Snow Raymond J. & Michele V. Victor Carol Traynor Jennifer Stark Anne Jennifer Cushwa Sherry Madding Marjorie Strimbu Mark Wittow Susan Kodish Susan & Richard Sokolov Steven Landau Lvnda Campana Jov Cushwa The John P. Batt and Mara E. Cushwa Family Helene K. 7lotnick Trust Jon Benedict Judith & Andrew Moyer Missy and Richard White Shelly S. Marlowe Renee K. Burke Nancy Sprockett Sherry Ault Loren & Dolores Beck Hugh G. Earnhart Devon Cretella Sallie B. Jones Jane Beeghly Schmutz Family Fund Karen Krolopp Kayla Lewis Elizabeth McPherson Laura Beeghly

Denise DeBartolo York

Lynne Grinham

Stewardship

RENTAL FACILITY USAGE

Fellows Riverside Gardens

- Auditorium 81 rentals
- Classrooms 89 rentals
- Ceremonies (indoors & outdoors) 115 rentals
- Garden Café 7 rentals
- Radius Room 26 rentals
- Wedding Receptions 30

MetroParks Farm

- Classroom A 110 rentals / 2,405 attendance
- Kenneth McMahon Hall 188 rentals / 18,712 attendance

Cabins

- Bears Den Cabin 132 rentals / 3,530 attendance
- Birch Hill Cabin 265 rentals / 10,080 attendance
- Old Log Cabin 64 rentals / 1,277 attendance

Pavilions

- Chestnut Hill Pavilion 38 rentals /
 2.640 attendance
- Pioneer Pavilion 158 rentals / 10,277 attendance
- Scholl Pavilion 95 rentals / 4,011 attendance
- Slippery Rock Pavilion 33 rentals / 2,765 attendance

- Stitt Pavilion 38 rentals / 2,550 attendance
- Thomas J. Bresko Pavilion 105 rentals / 4,159 attendance

Yellow Creek Park

- Capt. John Struthers Pavilion (Yellow Creek Park) - 52 rentals / 2,774 attendance
- Yellow Creek Lodge 105 rentals / 6,150 attendance



Stewardship

TOTAL ALL FUNDS

UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE January 1, 2016 \$3,146,607.53
PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES 363,761.94

INCOME:

General Property Tax 7.746.946.56 Park District Activities 1.934.675.55 Local Government Fund 322,466,60 Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation 238.947.55 Donations 283.551.95 Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens 127.828.56 ODOT Grant 46.646.04 Gas Royalties & Interest 67.931.87 Law Enforcement Training Revenue 6.585.00 Total Income \$10,775,579.68

DISBURSEMENTS:

Materials & Supplies
Salaries & Wages
Capital Equipment
Capital Improvements

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$14,285,949.15

2,671,116.46 5,217,747.14 380,775.21 1,364,507.76

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$9.634.146.57

Year End Cash Balance December 31, 2017
Year End Encumbrances
Unencumbered Cash Balance

\$4,651,802.58 \$1,592,328.97 \$3,059,473.61



