

CASCADE PARK, ELYRIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



TO THE CITIZENS OF LORAIN COUNTY





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>ABOUT THE LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>EMPLOYEES.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>YEAR IN REVIEW.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>PROGRAM &amp; VISITOR STATS.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>FINANCIALS.....</i>	<i>11</i>



# ABOUT

## YOUR LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

*The Lorain County Metropolitan Park District was established in 1957 by the Lorain County Probate Court. Under the provisions of Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, Lorain County Metro Parks is a special district operating as a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The Metro Parks provide residents with the preservation of open space, conservation, education, outdoor recreation programs, and facilities.*

*Funding for the Metro Parks is provided primarily by a 1.6 mill county-wide property tax levy. Other sources of income include grants, gifts and bequests, along with fees generated from the Forest Hills Golf Course, Splash Zone, Miller Nature Preserve, Amherst HealthPlex, and facility rentals.*

## BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

*The Board of Park Commissioners is responsible for policy and fiscal oversight. The Director/Secretary is responsible for the daily management of the Metro Parks. The Lorain County Metro Parks staff is comprised of 81 full-time and 19 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 192 seasonal staff members in the summer months. Nineteen members of the Metro Parks' ranger staff are certified Ohio Peace Officers. The rangers are responsible for public safety in the Metro Parks and are also assigned park maintenance and supervisory duties. Other staff members conduct educational programming and special event activities in the park district.*



**JAMES E.  
ZIEMNIK**

*DIRECTOR/SECRETARY*



**JAMES T.  
WALTHER**

*PROBATE COURT JUDGE*



113 MILES OF  
MULTIPURPOSE

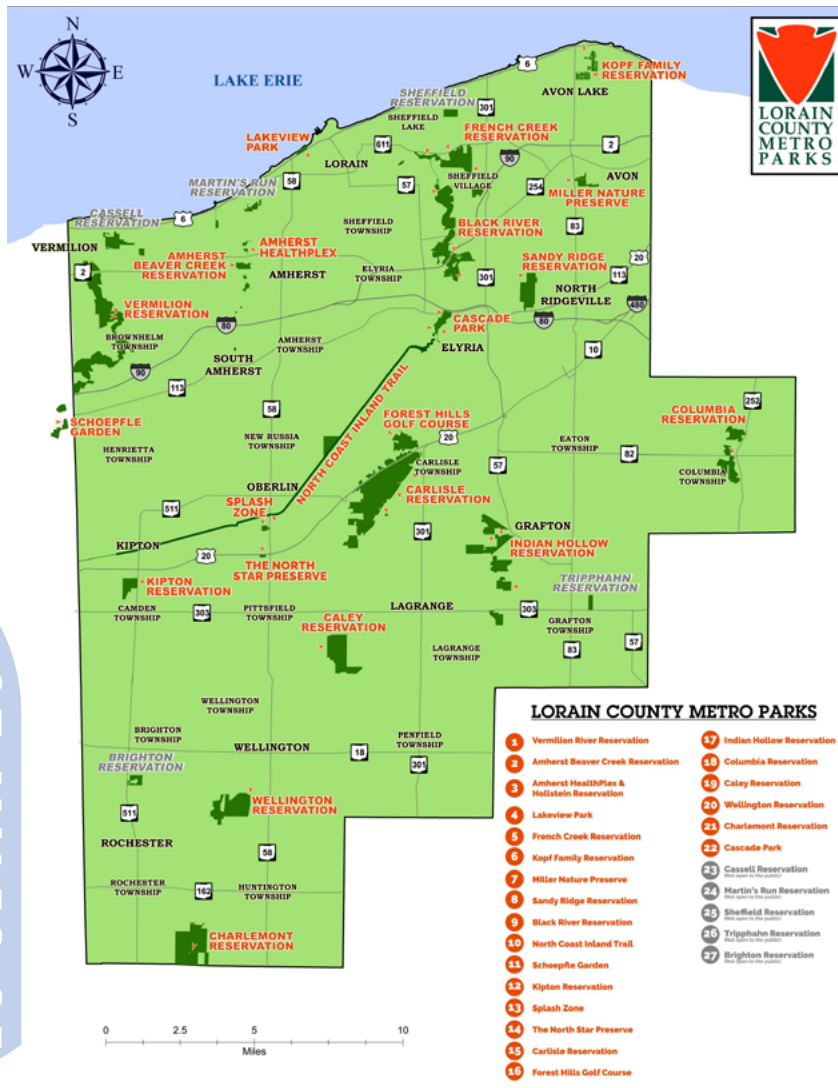


ROUGHLY

140

MILES OF TRAILS

27 MILES OF  
DESIGNATED WATER



**SHERRILL M.  
McLODA**



**JOSEPH E.  
HRIBAR**



**KENNETH M.  
LIEUX**

*Lorain County Metro Parks is governed by a three-member Board of Park Commissioners, who are appointed by the Lorain County Probate Court Judge and serve without pay.*

# THE TEAM

## OF THE LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

EIGHTY-ONE  
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

81

INCLUDING: TEN NATURALISTS

10

NINETEEN SERVICE RANGERS

19

NINETEEN  
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

19

ONE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO  
SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

192

*The entire Metro Parks team consists of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees along with our immense volunteer population in a typical year.*

## FRIENDS OF THE METRO PARKS IN LORAIN COUNTY

*Out of an abundance of caution, volunteer opportunities in 2020 were suspended.*

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

*In 2020, the world was forever impacted as the COVID-19 Pandemic swept across the globe. It was a year of reinventing how we do business and a time to get back to the park district's roots in promoting and cherishing clean and safe outdoor spaces. Lorain County Metro Parks became somewhat of a respite for our residents, giving people the chance to get out of their houses and enjoy a safe activity. Our base services were reintroduced to many as record numbers of park visitors came out to enjoy the fresh air and protected green spaces that make up more than 10,000 acres of preserved land.*

## Here's a snapshot of how the year progressed:

**MARCH 16, 2020:** Governor Mike DeWine issued a state-wide Stay-At-Home Order. All indoor park district facilities, including both recreation centers, were closed to the public. All programs and events are canceled until further notice. The parks remained open, while restrooms and drinking fountains stayed closed. Employees were shifted throughout the park district to accommodate closures and increased park visitation. Masks were mandated of all employees, and a rigorous cleaning regimen was put in place. The park district made additional investments towards cleaning products, hand sanitizer, and plexiglass to ensure a safe work environment.

*All playgrounds were closed, and park hours were adjusted to a 6 p.m. closure. This early closing time was due to being limited to essential employees. No seasonals or temps were hired.*

**APRIL:** Forest Hills Golf Course opens under strict player guidelines.

**MAY:** The stay-at-Home order was lifted under many restrictions. At the parks, limited restrooms re-opened, and park hours were extended until 8 p.m. The Miller Nature Preserve re-opened with reduced capacity. The Sunset Café at Lakeview Park re-opened with "to-go" style dining. LCMP announced the closure of the Splash Zone outdoor pool for the 2020 summer season, as well as the cancelation of the 2020 theatre season. The naturalist department launched virtual programming and "Yours To Explore" educational nature boxes.

**JUNE:** Park district outdoor playgrounds re-opened. The Amherst HealthPlex and Splash Zone re-opened with strict guidelines, including reduced capacity, equipment spacing requirements, and court and lane reservations.

**JULY:** Lorain County Metro Parks facilities, including shelters, nature centers, and special event centers re-opened for room rentals with the capacity reduced to 50%, mandatory face masks, and social distancing. Programs continued with virtual offerings, and in-person programming returned with a reduced group size to 9 or fewer participants. All participants were required to pre-register.

**OCTOBER:** The Annual Halloween Fair was re-imagined into a drive-through event called Halloween Boo-Thru. More than 20,000 visitors enjoyed the all-new event from the safety of their vehicle.

**DECEMBER:** The Annual Holiday Lights program also transitioned to a drive-through event and was re-branded as the Holiday Lights Cruise-Thru. This version was a success seeing nearly 18,000 visitors.

*Due to a spike in COVID-19 cases, indoor room reservations and programs were canceled for the rest of the year. The pandemic continued while vaccine roll-out began for the highest-risk populations.*



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## FROM THE YEAR 2020

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

• **BLACK RIVER BIKEWAY TRAIL EXTENSION** •  
*Phase 3C Completed*

• **CASCADE PARK** •

*New Bridge Installed Over the Black River connecting Elywood to Cascade Park (photos below)*





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## FROM THE YEAR 2020

### MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

• **BLACK RIVER RESERVATION** •  
*Bridgeway Trail bridge re-decking continued*

• **NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL** •  
*Culvert replacement between Albrecht and West River Roads in Elyria Township*

• **AMHERST BEAVER CREEK RESERVATION** •  
*Brandt Street parking area asphalted*

• **CARLISLE RESERVATION** •  
*Equestrian Center and Central Maintenance Facility entrance road and parking lot re-paved*

• **FOREST HILLS GOLF COURSE** •  
*Parking lot and roadway re-paved*

• **SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION** •  
*Entrance road and parking lot re-paved*

### PROGRAMS

• **YOURS TO EXPLORE BOX** •  
*The Naturalist Department developed and delivered the Yours To Explore Box to bring nature activities to residents' backyard. The initiative was recognized with a 2nd Place Award by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association in the Environmental and Interpretive category.*

• **HALLOWEEN BOO-THRU** •  
*The Annual Halloween Fair was reimaged into a drive through event called the Halloween Boo-Thru at the Equestrian Center. More than 20,000 visitors experienced the spooks and startles from the safety of their vehicles.*

• **HOLIDAY LIGHTS CRUISE-THRU** •  
*The annual Holiday Lights program was also transformed into a drive through event. In 2020, 16,081 pounds of food was donated to Second Harvest Food Bank as part of the program.*

# PROGRAMS & VISITORS

## FROM THE YEAR 2020

PROGRAMS	RESERVATIONS	ATTENDANCE
<b>Total Requested Programs</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1,844</b>
Halloween Fair	N/A	21,901
Holiday Lights	N/A	17,775
Other Public Programs	1,263	24,339
<b>Total Public Programs</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>64,015</b>

FACILITY USE	RESERVATIONS	ATTENDANCE
Amherst Beaver Creek	114	3,750
Amherst HealthPlex*	11,978	10,093
Black River Reservation	96	4,456
Carlisle Visitor Center	196	9,679
Cascade Park	55	2,483
Charlemont Reservation	5	340
Columbia Reservation	16	498
French Creek Nature Center	58	2,131
Indian Hollow Reservation	36	1,091
Kipton Reservation	1	30
Kopf Family Reservation	4	375
Lakeview Park	235	9,394
Miller Nature Preserve	124	3,002
North Star Preserve	46	3,170
Sandy Ridge Reservation	40	1,291
Schoepfle Garden	61	509
Splash Zone*	13,889	10,224
Vermilion River Reservation	203	8,545
Wellington Reservation	36	1,628
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,193</b>	<b>72,689</b>

\*Amherst HealthPlex and Splash Zone numbers include lane and court reservations required due to COVID restrictions.

### • METRO PARKS DAY-USE VISITORS •

Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation	257,912	Kipton Reservation	16,530
Amherst HealthPlex	44,546	Lakeview Park	1,170,225
Black River Reservation	445,104	Miller Nature Preserve	89,166
Caley Reservation	6,672	North Coast Inland Trail	40,360
Carlisle Reservation	251,172	North Star Preserve (Henry's Barn)	3,956
Cascade Park	200,366	Sandy Ridge Reservation	190,360
Columbia Reservation	155,690	Schoepfle Garden	133,272
Forest Hills Golf Course	109,554	Splash Zone	77,336
French Creek Reservation	382,838	Vermilion River Reservation	435,768
Indian Hollow Reservation	149,848	Wellington Reservation	81,974

**TOTAL** **4,242,649\***

\*NOTE: Up 18% over 2019....+657,398

# FINANCIALS

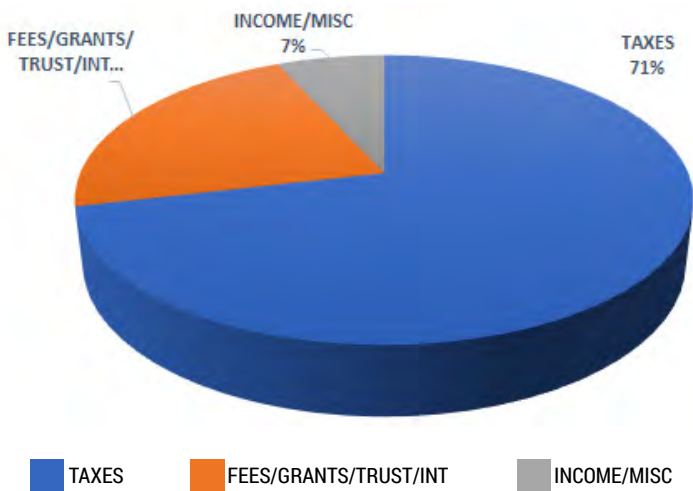
## FROM THE YEAR 2020

### REVENUE

Property Tax .....	\$10,732,844.58
Interest on Investments .....	\$42,793.03
Schoepfle Trust .....	\$262,672.00
Grants .....	\$1,981,125.17
Mitigations .....	\$50,000.00
Fees and Charges .....	\$960,221.02
Forest Hills Golf Course .....	\$393,373.00
Lakeview Park .....	\$73,240.20
Amherst HealthPlex .....	\$237,835.39
Miller Nature Preserve .....	\$37,392.67
North Star Preserve .....	\$20,295.00
Splash Zone .....	\$237,888.38
French Creek Theatre .....	\$14,407.50

**TOTAL REVENUE \$15,044,087.94**

Taxes .....	\$10,732,844.58	63%
Fees/Grants/Trust/Int .....	\$3,296,811.22	25%
Income/Misc .....	\$1,014,432.14	12%

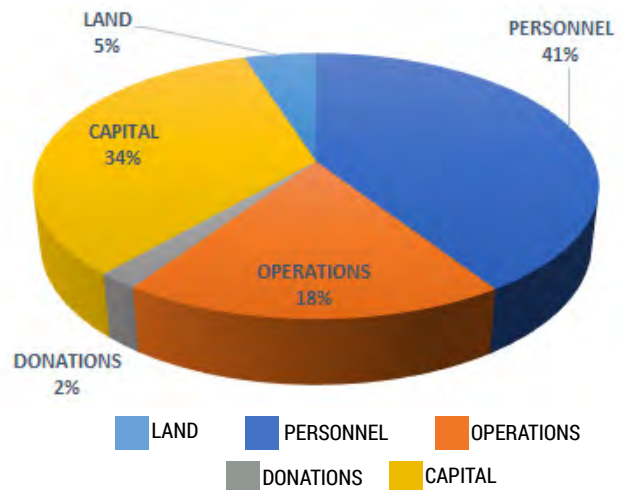


### EXPENDITURES

Salaries .....	\$4,527,086.12
Employee Fringe Benefits .....	\$1,599,230.03
Supplies .....	\$78,522.36
Programs .....	\$65,696.64
Materials .....	\$624,197.30
Repairs/Rentals .....	\$62,170.20
Utilities/Services .....	\$1,356,371.07
Advertising/Displays/Printing .....	\$106,507.91
Projects .....	\$127,927.91
Seminars/Training .....	\$10,613.73
Equipment .....	\$349,767.38
Designated Donations .....	\$299,699.87
Land Acquisition .....	\$737,920.41
Capital Improvements/Contracts .....	\$3,065,930.58
Grants/Misc .....	\$1,984,910.03

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$14,996,551.54**

Personnel .....	\$6,126,316.15	33%
Operations .....	\$2,781,774.50	18%
Donations .....	\$299,699.87	3%
Capital .....	\$5,050,840.61	43%
Land .....	\$737,920.41	3%







19 ACRES, CASCADE PARK, ELYRIA



LORAIN  
COUNTY  
METRO  
PARKS