

# *Lorain County Metro Parks*



LORAIN  
COUNTY  
METRO  
PARKS

*2003*  
Annual Report to the Citizens of Lorain County

# Financial Summary as of December 31, 2003

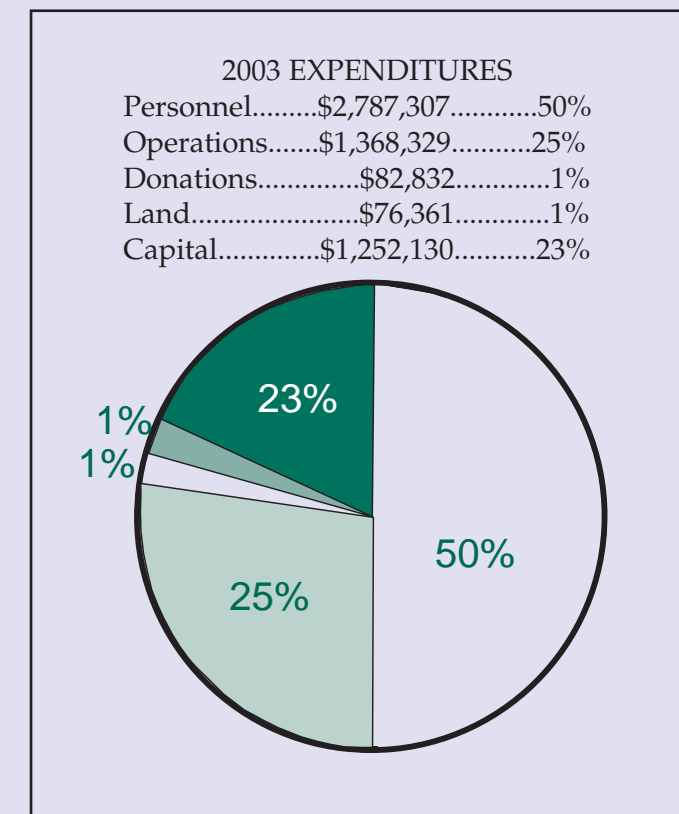
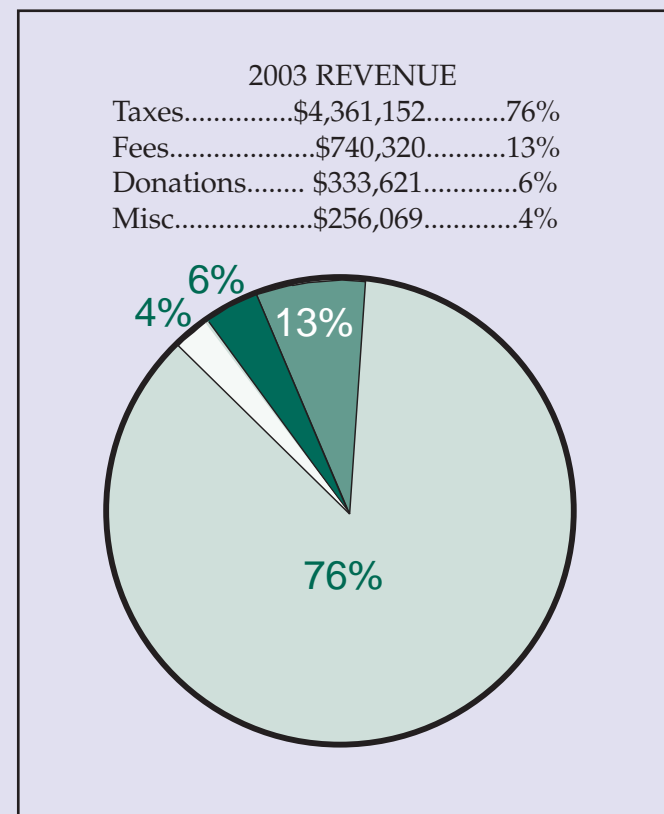
## FUND SOURCES

Property Tax.....	4,361,152
Local Government Funds.....	18,000
Interest on Investments.....	74,310
Schoepfle Trust.....	287,903
Forest Hills Golf Course.....	321,216
Grants.....	6,355
Fees and Charges.....	27,970
Donations & Sponsors.....	39,361
Refunds/Reimbursements/Misc.....	163,757
Splash Zone.....	391,132
<b>TOTAL REVENUE.....</b>	<b>5,691,156</b>

## FUND USES

Salaries.....	2,171,823
Employee Fringe Benefits.....	615,483
Supplies.....	63,087
Programs.....	63,685
Materials/Projects.....	309,898
Repairs/Rentals.....	21,835
Utilities/Services.....	370,865
Advertising/Displays/Printing.....	127,486
Seminars/Training.....	18,432
Insurance/Other Expense.....	200,562
Designated Donations.....	82,832
Equipment.....	192,478
Land Acquisition.....	76,360
Capital Improvements/Contracts.....	1,252,130

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....5,566,956**



### About this Publication

Ohio Revised Code Section 1545.08 requires that park districts periodically publish a report to the citizens summarizing the districts' activities. This report is intended to fulfill this requirement. Other reports regarding specific programs or facilities are available annually. If you have any questions concerning this publication, please contact Lorain County Metro Parks at (440)458-5121. Unless otherwise noted, numbers in this report were accurate as of January 1, 2004.



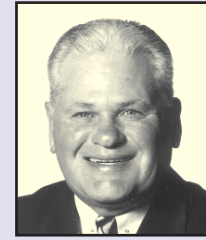
# About the Lorain County Metro Parks



*Board of Park Commissioners*  
 Sherrill M. McLoda    Kirk E. Stewart    Stanley G. Pijor



*Director/Secretary*  
 James D. Martin



*Probate Court Judge*  
 Frank J. Horvath

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 and outdoor recreation programs and facilities.

*Funding for the Metro Parks* is provided primarily by a one - mill countywide property tax levy. Other sources of income include grants, gifts and bequests along with fees generated from the golf course, Splash Zone, nature programs and facility rentals.

*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 Board of Park Commissioners are responsible for policy and decision making. The Director/ Secretary is responsible for the daily management of the Metro Parks.

The Lorain County Metro Parks staff is comprised of 46 full-time and 12 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 55 seasonal staff members in the summer months. Ten 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 maintain reservations, perform administrative and accounting duties, conduct educational programming and special event activities in the park district.

*Volunteer support* is an essential element to the success of the Metro Parks. Over the past year, volunteers donated over 25,000 hours of their time to the Metro Parks. The organization, known as The Friend of Metro Parks in Lorain County, Inc., now totals over 500 members.

*Lorain County Metro Parks Visitor and Administrative Center*  
 12882 Diagonal Road  
 LaGrange, OH 44050  
 Phone: (440) 458-5121 1-800-LCM-PARK  
 (1-800-526-7275) Fax: (440) 458-8924  
 Website: [www.LorainCountyMetroParks.com](http://www.LorainCountyMetroParks.com)  
 E-mail: [lcmpark@LorainCountyMetroParks.com](mailto:lcmpark@LorainCountyMetroParks.com)

## Your Metro Parks

- ◆ Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation
- ◆ Black River Reservation
- ◆ Caley Reservation
- ◆ Carlisle Reservation
- ◆ Charlemont Reservation
- ◆ Columbia Reservation
- ◆ Forest Hills Golf Center
- ◆ French Creek Reservation
- ◆ Indian Hollow Reservation
- ◆ Kipton Reservation
- ◆ Miller Nature Preserve
- ◆ North Coast Inland Trail
- ◆ Sandy Ridge Reservation
- ◆ Schoepfle Garden
- ◆ Splash Zone
- ◆ Vermilion River (Mill Hollow) Reservation

# Park District Accomplishments

During 2003, the Lorain County Metro Parks made a number of improvements and achieved numerous goals. The most significant are detailed below.



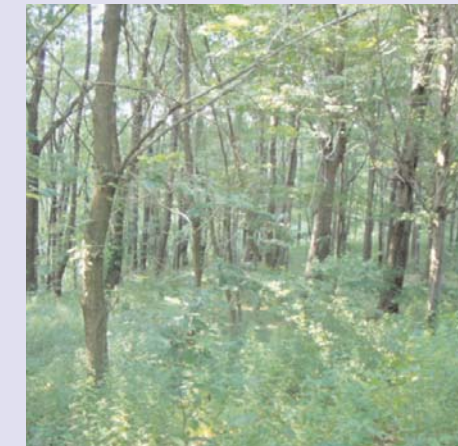
Columbia Reservation was dedicated and opened in August to rave reviews! Wetlands and wildlife are the attractions!



River's Edge Pizza Shop was renovated for the opening of Columbia Reservation. Hikers can enjoy ice cream or other refreshments after their hike!



A bridge over the Black River was added to the Equestrian Center to give horses and pedestrians a crossing without worrying about vehicular traffic.



"Save the Woods" preserved over 68 acre of woodlands in Avon Lake for a future Metro Park.



"Pole to Pole", an exciting, interactive exhibit featuring the Arctic and Antarctic opened and is now running at the French Creek Nature Center in Sheffield Village.



The Raptor Center at the Carlisle Visitor Center welcomed its first Bald Eagle! This magnificent bird, unable to be released to the wild, will be used for educational purposes.



Park land was acquired in Wellington for a new Metro Park to be completed in 2007. Public support for this project is amazing!



A new playground at Mill Hollow in the Vermilion River Reservation is fun for all!

## Park Programs

The Lorain County Metro Parks' 10th annual major exhibit was called "Northern Wilderness" and was sponsored by Mike Bass Ford and CenturyTel. Over 53,000 people enjoyed the recreated display. This exhibit was honored as the best community program in Ohio for 2003.

In addition, the Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 594 requested programs and 625 public programs with over 43,000 people in attendance.

This special Bicentennial Exhibit at French Creek Nature Center welcomed 14,000 guests.

## Metro Parks Facility and Room Use

Requested Programs (594).....	21,767	Carlisle Visitor Center (285).....	11,132
Public Programs (625).....	21,033	Carriage Barn (133).....	5,248
Senior Citizen Bus Tours (119).....	2,076	Forest Hills.....	24,519
Halloween/Holiday.....	21,457	French Creek Nature Center (36) .....	1,539
Major Exhibit.....	53,784	Johnson Wetland Center (97).....	2,847
Amherst Beaver Creek (387).....	10,882	Schoepfle Garden (40).....	674

## Park Day-Use Visitors

Amherst.....	159,000	Indian Hollow.....	56,490
Black River.....	400,361	North Coast Trail.....	120,000
Caley.....	9,243	Sandy Ridge.....	44,746
Carlisle Reservation.....	172,338	Schoepfle Garden.....	49,129
Columbia.....	35,338	Splash Zone.....	82,185
French Creek Center.....	181,462	Vermilion.....	167,276
<b>TOTAL.....</b>		<b>1,654,526</b>	
<b>(Facility and day use visitors)</b>			

