

*Lorain County  
Metro Parks*

**2004**  
**Annual Report**  
to the  
**Citizens**  
of  
**Lorain County**





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Sherrill M. McLoda



Kirk E. Stewart



Stanley G. Pijor

**Board of Park Commissioners**



**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, which is appointed by the Lorain County Probate Court Judge and serves without pay. The Board of Park Commissioners is 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 47 full-time and 12 year-round, part-time employees, supplemented by up to 55 seasonal staff members in the summer months. Twelve 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 550 members.



## Your Metro Parks

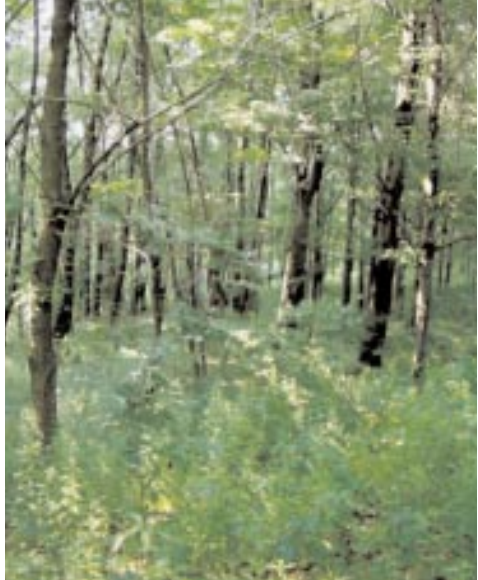
- |                                    |                             |                               |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation | ■ Columbia Reservation      | ■ North Coast Inland Trail    |
| ■ Avon Lake Reservation            | ■ Forest Hills Golf Center  | ■ Sandy Ridge Reservation     |
| ■ Black River Reservation          | ■ French Creek Reservation  | ■ Schoepfle Garden            |
| ■ Caley Reservation                | ■ Indian Hollow Reservation | ■ Splash Zone                 |
| ■ Carlisle Reservation             | ■ Kipton Reservation        | ■ Vermilion River Reservation |
| ■ Charlemont Reservation           | ■ Miller Nature Preserve    | ■ Wellington Reservation      |

# Park District Accomplishments



New modern restrooms are now completed at French Creek and Indian Hollow Reservations.

Renovations of the French Creek Nature Center gave a needed lift to this 13 year old facility.



Avon Lake Reservation Continues to grow with the assistance of the "Save the Woods" organization.

The new trail and bridge at the Carlisle Reservation opens the southern portion of the park to visitation.



The addition of the Stanley G. Pijor Distance Learning Classroom at the French Creek Nature Center allows the District to educate in the classroom and beyond.

An additional one-half mile of asphalt trail in the Schoepfle Garden makes the park accessible to all.



The Replacement of the bridge in the Caley Reservation offers safer access to the hiking trails in the park.

The boardwalk at the Columbia Reservation is an Eagle Scout project. The walk is made out of recycled tires and wood, making the park trails safe and accessible.





## Park Programs

The Lorain County Metro Parks' naturalist staff conducted 545 requested programs (those programs requested by outside groups) and 702 public programs (those listed in The Arrowhead, the District's newsletter) with over 52,000 people in attendance.

## Metro Parks Facility, Room Use and Programs

Requested Programs (545).....	23,388	Carlisle Visitor Center (357).....	13,048
Public Programs (702).....	28,696	Carriage Barn (153).....	5,956
Senior Citizen Bus Tours (97).....	2,083	Forest Hills.....	27,460
Halloween/Holiday Lights.....	22,646	French Creek Nature Center (69) .....	2,686
Amherst Beaver Creek (356).....	10,075	Johnson Wetland Center (112).....	3,436
		Schoepfle Garden (27).....	401

## Park Day-Use Visitors

Amherst.....	161,000	Indian Hollow.....	57,587
Black River.....	354,094	North Coast Trail.....	125,000
Caley.....	10,649	Sandy Ridge.....	51,107
Carlisle .....	159,578	Schoepfle Garden.....	54,725
Columbia.....	69,749	Splash Zone.....	85,641
French Creek .....	201,672	Vermilion.....	207,330
		<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>1,678,007</b>
		(Facility and day use visitors)	

# Financial Summary as of December 31, 2004

## Fund Sources

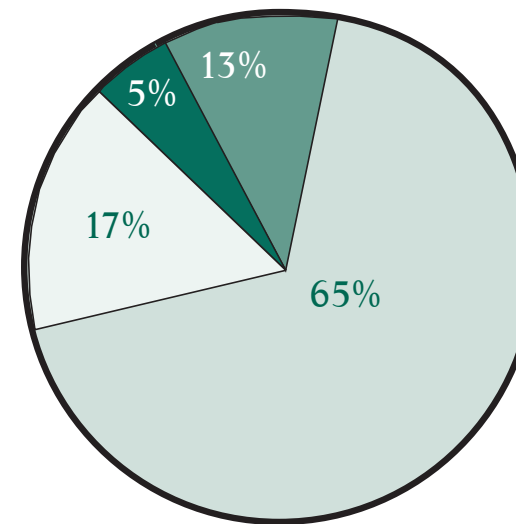
Property Tax.....4,411,052	Grants.....10,196
Local Government Funds.....0	Fees and Charges.....104,481
Interest on Investments.....49,589	Donations & Sponsors.....357,687
Schoepfle Trust.....279,060	Refunds/Reimbursements/Misc.....788,343
Forest Hills Golf Course.....330,744	Splash Zone.....409,343
<b>TOTAL REVENUE.....6,740,505</b>	

## Fund Users

Salaries.....2,220,169	Advertising/Displays/Printing.....129,246
Employee Fringe Benefits.....653,579	Seminars/Training.....11,554
Supplies.....59,873	Insurance/Other Expense.....213,672
Programs.....69,997	Designated Donations.....743,723
Materials/Projects.....272,229	Equipment.....160,781
Repairs/Rentals.....31,941	Land Acquisition.....710,748
Utilities/Services.....409,963	Capital Improvements/Contracts.....1,819,944
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....7,578,091</b>	

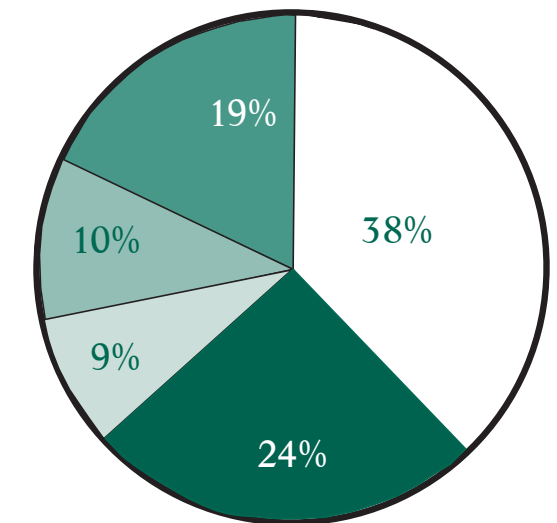
### 2004 Revenue

Taxes.....\$4,411,052.....65%
Fees.....\$844,568.....13%
Donations.....\$357,697.....5%
Misc.....\$1,127,188.....17%



### 2004 Expenditures

Personnel.....\$2,873,748.....38%
Operations.....\$1,429,928.....19%
Donations.....\$743,723.....10%
Land.....\$710,748.....9%
Capital.....\$1,819,944.....24%



#### 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, 2005.