

Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
ANNUAL REPORT



Ohio & Erie Canal 🍁 Towpath Trail

2012
Two Thousand and Twelve

MetrO Parks
SERVING SUMMIT COUNTY

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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summitmetroparks.org

PARKS & MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

Cascade Valley Metro Park
Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm
Firestone Metro Park
Furnace Run Metro Park
Goodyear Heights Metro Park
Gorge Metro Park
Hampton Hills Metro Park
Liberty Park
Munroe Falls Metro Park
O'Neil Woods Metro Park
Sand Run Metro Park
Silver Creek Metro Park
Springfield Bog Metro Park

Bike & Hike Trail
Freedom Trail
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

*Visit our website for addresses
and directions.*

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Our Mission

The mission of
Metro Parks,
Serving Summit
County is to
acquire, conserve
and sustainably
manage natural
resources to provide
the public with
passive outdoor
recreational
and educational
opportunities
through a regional
system of natural-
area parks.



Metro Parks, Serving
Summit County manages
11,500 acres, including 14
developed parks, several
conservation areas and
more than 125 miles of
trails, with 22.4 miles of
the Ohio & Erie Canal
Towpath Trail. Annual
attendance averages
5.2 million visits.



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Welcome



(l-r) Judge Elinore **Marsh Stormer** and park commissioners **Roland H. Bauer**, **Frances S. Buchholzer** and **Mark A. Spisak**

Board of Park Commissioners

Every day, thousands of Summit County residents witness their levy dollars at work in the Metro Parks: clean, safe trails and facilities; programs, events and passive recreational opportunities; quiet, sustainable places to view wildlife; and so much more.

You make possible these locally owned natural-area parks that are among the best in the nation. Our role is to help people enjoy Metro Parks and to preserve them for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support.

We're Your Back Yard



Senior Staff

Keith D. Shy Director-Secretary

Loretta Bowers Chief of Human Resources & Administration

Nathan Eppink Chief of Marketing & Communications

Shannon Hasenstab Executive Secretary

Neal Hess Chief of Special Projects

Michael Johnson Chief of Natural Resources

Robert Peters Chief of Operations

Douglas Shepard Chief of Rangers

Paul Wilkerson Chief of Planning & Development

Park Improvements

The following is a partial list of the work completed in 2012.

CASCADE VALLEY METRO PARK | Akron 44313

- Upgraded the Chuckery Area restroom to a four-season facility, and resurfaced the Overlook and Schumacher trails

FIRESTONE METRO PARK | Akron 44319

- Installed a new restroom building in the Tuscarawas Meadows Area, completed roofing and flooring work on Coventry Oaks Pavilion, and replaced 800 linear feet of boardwalk on Redwing Trail



FURNACE RUN METRO PARK | Richfield 44286

- Renovated the restrooms in Brushwood Pavilion and completed stream and shoreline restorations

GOODYEAR HEIGHTS METRO PARK | Akron 44305

- Installed a new restroom building at the northwest lot off Newton Street

LIBERTY PARK | Twinsburg 44087

- Added 1,550 linear feet of boardwalk to Buttonbush Trail, and installed bat gates on two off-trail caves to prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome, which is killing bats by the millions nationwide

F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM | Akron 44313

- Repaired the abutments for the suspension bridge, and installed walkway lights between the visitors center and the campfire area

SAND RUN METRO PARK | Akron 44313

- Resurfaced most of the six-mile Jogging Trail and completed major stream-bank and culvert repairs

SILVER CREEK METRO PARK | Norton 44203

- Constructed two new reservable shelters near the swim lake, repaved 1.4 miles of the parkway and completed the restoration of the Civil War-era Harter Barn



SPRINGFIELD BOG METRO PARK |

Springfield Twp. 44312

- Installed a new restroom building, information kiosk and trailhead sign



MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

BIKE & HIKE TRAIL | 34 miles

- A new bridge over I-271 completed the off-road re-alignment of the trail in Sagamore Hills, and new concrete decks were placed on three existing bridges in Hudson and Stow.



FREEDOM TRAIL | Currently 4.2 miles

- Completed Phase 1, between Tallmadge Circle and Middlebury Road, for this new eight-mile multipurpose trail that will connect Akron and Kent

OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL | 22.4 of 41 miles in Summit County

- Opened the final Summit County section of the trail in Barberton, and resurfaced nearly two miles of the trail elsewhere in the county



DISTRICT-WIDE

Boundary Surveys

- Part of a multi-year project, surveys of park boundaries were conducted for existing and yet-to-open Metro Parks.

Bridge Inspections

- Annually, inspections are conducted on our more than 150 bridges. Roadway bridge inspections are completed in cooperation with the Summit County Engineer's Office.

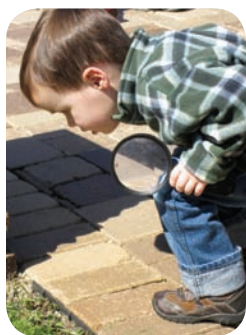
Programs & Events

EDUCATION

Naturalists led 838 programs, teaching 28,309 visitors of all ages about environmental education, recreational activities and the park district's natural and cultural history. Scouts earned badges and students met Ohio's science standards through experiential learning in an outdoor setting.



More than 65,000 visitors learned about nature with educational exhibits, native live animals, events and naturalist interactions at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Spree For All

An estimated 10,000 visitors enjoyed flat, easy trails during this award-winning annual hiking series for people of all ages, health levels and physical abilities. More than 2,000 rewards were earned.

**SPREE
FOR ALL**

Fall Hiking Spree

An estimated 50,000 hikers experienced Summit County's breathtaking fall foliage while hitting the trails during this annual hiking series. More than 12,000 hiking shields were awarded.

**FALL
HIKING
SPREE**

Fall Family Outings

Thousands of families enjoyed free hayrides, naturalist-led activities, live music, cider, popcorn, cookies and more at Goodyear Heights and Silver Creek.

**FALL
FAMILY
OUTINGS**

Resource Management

MASS PLANTINGS

- Nearly 1,200 trees and shrubs were planted in the Tallmadge Meadows Area in Munroe Falls Metro Park, and almost 2,400 shrubs in Furnace Run Metro Park.



CONTROLLED BURNS

- Prescribed fires were used to help control invasive species at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm and Springfield Bog Metro Park.

STREAM RESTORATION

- In Furnace Run Metro Park, the restoration of the main stem of Furnace Run was completed, and restoration work continued on Pond Brook in Liberty Park.

Safety & Security

- Rangers tallied 9,700 hours of foot patrols and 555 hours of bicycle patrols, resulting in more than 60,000 contacts with visitors.
- The Bike Patrol, which consists of more than 70 volunteers, rode the Bike & Hike and Towpath trails to offer assistance to visitors.
- Thirty-five lifeguards kept watch during the swim season at Munroe Falls Metro Park and Silver Creek Metro Park.



Volunteers

Annually, 700-plus volunteers give more than 36,000 service hours. Roles include support of customer service, resource management, interpretation, rangers, operations and more.



Financial Summary & Fund Balance

2012

Fund Balance on January 1 \$15,834,827.83

Resources

Taxes \$15,687,382.86

Grants*/Special Revenue \$487,465.03

Donations \$25,252.47

Investment Income \$23,858.86

Swimming Fees \$257,044.95

Merchandise Sales & Concessions \$107,192.41

Programs & Services \$41,250.00

Pavilion/Shelter/Property Rentals \$168,350.00

Other Receipts \$412,196.90

Total Resources \$17,209,993.48

Total Resources & Fund Balance **\$33,044,821.31**

Expenditures

Wages & Salaries \$6,055,312.46

Employee Benefits \$1,076,525.70

Administration/Operations \$4,360,532.70

Development & Capital Improvements \$2,660,195.99

Other Expenses \$412,679.76

Equipment \$520,137.67

Land Acquisition \$1,474,057.23

Total Expenditures **\$16,559,441.51**

*** A number of projects, programs and initiatives would not have been possible without grants from the following:**

Akron Community Foundation • AMATS • F.W. Albrecht Family Foundation • Metro Parks Foundation • Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation • Ohio & Erie Canal Association • Ohio & Erie Canalway • Ohio Department of Natural Resources • ODOT • Ohio EPA 319 Program • Ohio EPA WRRSP • Ohio Public Works Commission (Clean Ohio) • Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District • Summit County Community Grant Program

YOUR LEVY DOLLARS AT WORK

Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax.



PSRT STD

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MetroParks

SERVING SUMMIT COUNTY

975 Treaty Line Rd.
Akron, OH 44313-5837



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