



MetroParks
of Butler County, OH



Salamander Run Preserve

Greenspace Metrics that Matter

A Report to the Community



Elk Creek MetroPark –
Sebald Park Volunteers



Chrisholm MetroPark –
Historic Farmstead

2017–2018



Voice of America
MetroPark

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners is a three-member body whose members according to state law are appointed by the Presiding Judge of Butler County Probate Court for three-year terms. Park Commissioners are VOLUNTEERS who serve without pay and make the policy decisions needed to chart the future course for MetroParks.

Cynamon Trokhan
President

Gregory T. Amend
Vice President

Daryl Nelson
Member

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jonathan R. Granville

PARKS

Bicentennial Commons

Chisholm MetroPark

Elk Creek MetroPark

Forest Run MetroPark

Four Mile Creek MetroPark

Gilmore MetroPark

Governor Bebb MetroPark

Great Miami River Trail

Indian Creek MetroPark

Rentschler Forest MetroPark

Voice of America MetroPark

OWNS & MANAGES

4,332

Acres owned

430

Acres managed

4,762

Total acres owned & managed

14 Multi-use paved trail miles

25 Natural surface trail miles

9 Cross-country trail miles

9 Equestrian trail miles

57 Total mileage all trails



Board of Park Commissioners
(L-R) Nelson, Trokhan, Amend

Visit yourmetroparks.net for address and directions

Indian Creek MetroPark



Prairie – Forest Run MetroPark



Monarch Caterpillar – Chisholm MetroPark



FOR MORE INFORMATION

MetroParks of Butler County
2051 Timberman Road
Hamilton, OH 35013
513.867.5835

YourMetroParks.net or
info@YourMetroParks.net

A Message from the Executive Director



As **YOUR** MetroParks checks in with our 2017 and 2018 Report to the Community of “Greenspace Metrics that Matter”, we would like to thank you for your continued support.

The park system used the resources you have provided to keep parks open, clean and safe for people to enjoy, manage and enhance our natural landscapes, offer educational programs, special events, recreational amenities, reservable facilities and more.

We applaud our park customer/owners for their support because it is indicative of the fact that they value natural green spaces as an important asset! Also, indicating that they are willing to play an active role in improving the quality of their local environment, having an impact on the economic growth of the region in which they reside and enhancing their personal well-being by investing in facilities which enable the pursuit of an active and healthy lifestyle.

We are YOUR MetroParks!

Your local support of the park system is also beneficial because it facilitates MetroParks ability to leverage outside dollars through donations, partnerships, collaborations, sponsorships, and grants to stretch local resources further. These outside dollars deliver many of the park amenities and improvements that you, our customer/owners, have told us that they want to see in their parks, while local dollars are primarily used for operational expenses.

While the conservation of greenspace and natural habitats is always important, it is particularly important here and now in Butler County. As one of the most rapidly expanding counties in Ohio it is situated in the center of the fast-growing Cincinnati-Dayton MetroPlex where the pace of development is accelerating. These dynamics make it essential that residents stay involved in protecting sufficient greenspace, before the opportunity to do so is gone forever.

MetroParks is grateful that our park customer/owners recognize the importance of the conservation of greenspace in the development equation and are pleased to provide a brief summary of how your investments in the park system are put to work.

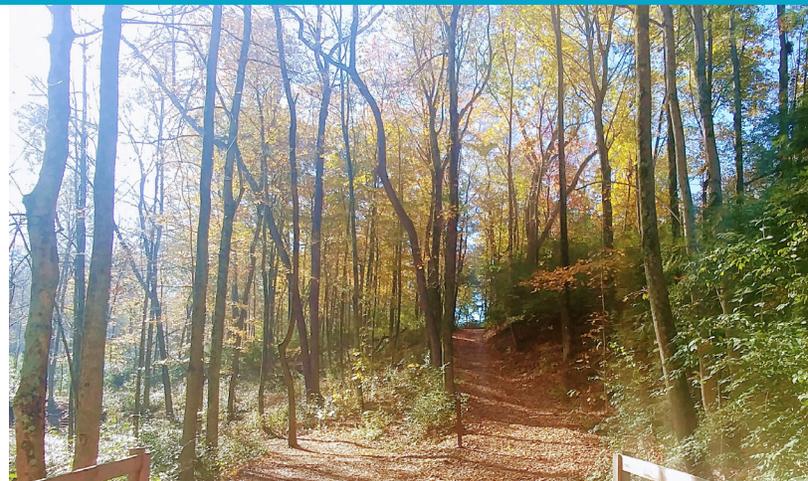
Jonathan R. Granville
Executive Director
April, 2019

Mission

Our mission is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community’s quality of life through conservation, education, and recreation.

Funding

As an Ohio Park District, MetroParks of Butler County is a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio, organized under Section 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code. The park system serves and is funded by support from our park customer/owners, the residents of Butler County.



Rentschler Forest MetroPark – Cascade Trail

Highlights of Improvements

2017

WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP

- **Voice of America** - Began construction of the sponsored UC Health/West Chester Hospital Fieldhouse (also using grant funding)

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP

- **Rentschler Forest** - Completed a 0.5 mile extension of the Great Miami River Trail to Reigart Road (using grant funding)

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

- Began construction of River Center at Bicentennial Commons

BUTLER COUNTY

New main signage with new logo at all parks

MADISON TOWNSHIP

- **Chrisholm Historic Farmstead** - Held the groundbreaking for the educational farm attraction and completed a nature playscape
- **Meadow Ridge** - Completed acquisition and began restoration of the 456 acre Meadow Ridge area
- **Elk Creek** - Completed a streambank stabilization in the Sebald Park area

MORGAN TOWNSHIP

- **Governor Bebb** - Completed a streambank stabilization and relocation of the park road leading toward the Campground and Murstein Cabin
- **Salamander Run** - Completed acquisition of the 126 acre Salamander Run Preserve Property

2018

WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP

- **Voice of America**
 - Completed the sponsored UC Health/West Chester Hospital Fieldhouse (also using grant funding)
 - Awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Friends of MetroParks and the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty for improvements to Wiggly Field Dog Park

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP

- **Rentschler Forest**
 - Completed a 0.3 mile extension of the Great Miami River Trail along the Boat Club Road through the Line Hill Mound area (using grant funding)
 - Began design of the 0.7 mile extension of the Great Miami River Trail to the Timberhill area

MADISON TOWNSHIP

- **Elk Creek** - Completed restoration in Meadow Ridge Area and opened the area to the public (using grant funding)
- **Chrisholm** - Continued design and construction of the Farmscape educational farm attraction

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

- **Bicentennial Commons**
 - Completed the River Center (using grant funding)

CITY OF HAMILTON

- **Forest Run** - Completed a 1.3 mile paved multi-use trail, new improved main entrance, additional park entrance from Warvel Road and additional parking at the Timberman Ridge area (using grant funding)
- **Gilmore** - Was awarded a \$750,000 Federal Transportation Alternatives grant, and partnered with the City of Hamilton on an additional \$510,064 Federal grant, toward future construction of the Miami 2 Miami Connection paved multi-use trail

Programs

EDUCATION

Children educated during fields trip conducted with the park system	7,000
People “cackling” about their experiences as regular free Thursday and Sunday Farm Programs began at Chrisholm MetroPark’s Historic Farmstead	2,879
Folks who experienced nature first hand in free outdoor park programs	4,037
Members of the Community who attended MetroParks fee based hourly programs at various locations	4,619
Individuals who took advantage of fee based public programming	2,128
Total park customer/owners served in MetroParks programs in 2017 and 2018	20,663

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

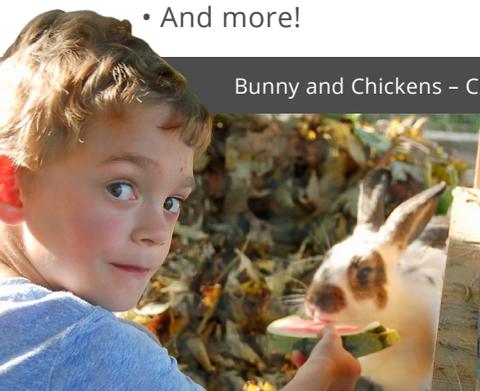
MetroParks Community and Park Connection staff members helped **18,313 people** learn more about what MetroParks offers in their community by participating in numerous Community Outreach Events during 2017 and 2018.

Places MetroParks participated

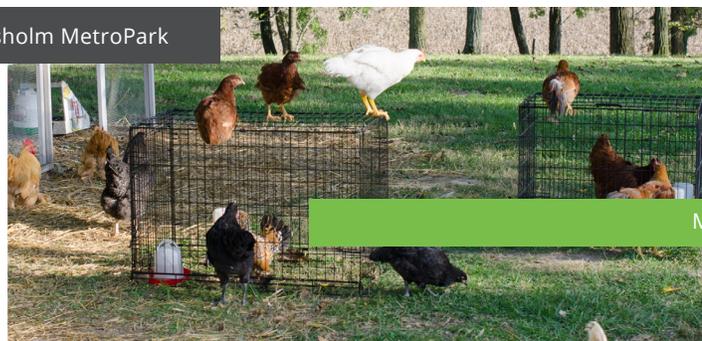
- Numerous Farmer’s Markets
- The Butler County Fair
- School Summer Fun Fairs
- Chamber Business Expos
- Community Earth Day Celebrations
- Clean Sweep Events along the Great Miami River
- Miscellaneous information booths
- And more!



Nature playscape – Chrisholm MetroPark



Bunny and Chickens – Chrisholm MetroPark



Turtles – Gilmore MetroPark

Special Events

21,805

People enjoyed
MetroParks
special events
in 2017-2018

Crazy Cardboard Regatta – Voice of America MetroPark

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The Howl – Voice of America MetroPark



Mud Mania – Rentschler Forest MetroPark



Fun on the Farm – Chrisholm MetroPark



Crazy Cardboard Regatta – Voice of America MetroPark



Great Miami First Peoples Celebration – Governor Bebb MetroPark



Mutt Mania – Rentschler Forest MetroPark

Land Stewardship

OVERVIEW

Conservation Projects and Operations Reports for MetroParks Land Stewardship Unit

2017

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

Occurred in Elk Creek, Forest Run, Four Mile Creek, Governor Bebb, Salamander Run Preserve, Indian Creek, and Voice of America MetroParks

368 Total acres of invasive plants controlled

NATIVE PRAIRIE AND GRASSLAND

6 Acres preserved at Mill Race of Four Mile Creek

69 Acres at Meadow Ridge area of Elk Creek

- **40** Acres of greens, T's, and sand traps
- **29** Acres of upland prairie

75 Total acres of prairies planted

REFORESTATION

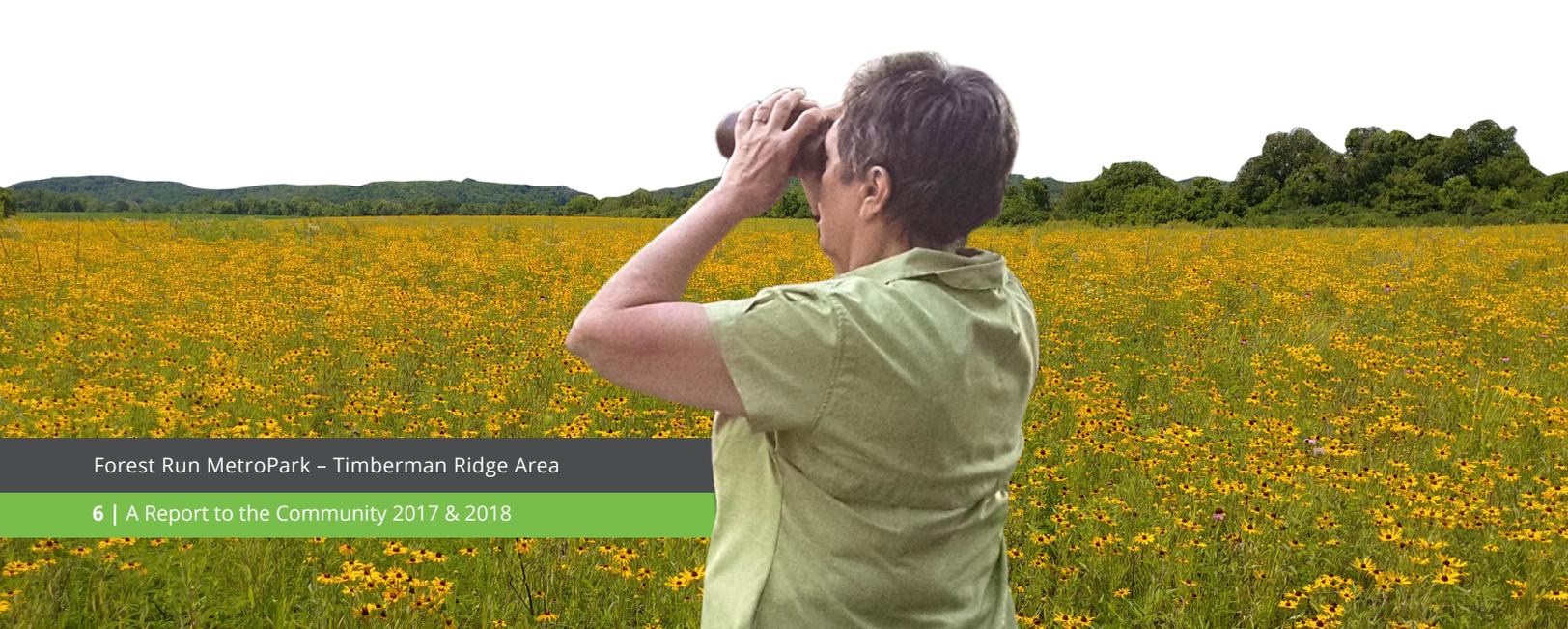
470 Trees planted at Meadow Ridge area of Elk Creek

545 Trees planted at Timberman Ridge area of Forest Run

12 Trees Planted at Pioneer Church Indian Creek

32 Trees planted at Cascades Trail Reigart Road area of Rentschler Forest

1,059 Total trees planted





Prairie planting at Elk Creek MetroPark – Meadow Ridge Area

2018

NATIVE PRAIRIE AND GRASSLAND

Meadow Ridge area of Elk Creek

45 Acres of native grassland installed

REFORESTATION

2,799 Trees planted in Meadow Ridge area of Elk Creek

570 Trees planted in Timberman Ridge area of Forest Run

7 Trees planted, Pioneer Church Indian Creek

3,376 Total trees planted

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL (ALL PARK AREAS)

Occurred in Elk Creek, Forest Run, Four Mile Creek, Governor Bebb, Indian Creek, Salamander Run Preserve, Miami Woods (in partnership with Hamilton Parks Conservancy), Rentschler Forest, and Voice of America MetroParks

680 Acres of invasive plants controlled



Reforestation at Elk Creek MetroPark – Meadow Ridge Area

Safety & Security

2017 AND 2018 DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**15,000
patrol hours**

logged by officers (rangers)
keeping parks safe

8,000 hours

logged by public safety
assistants in support of
officers helping park visitors

6,000+ visitors

were assisted by officers

**1,000+
inspections**

for trail safety

**100,000+
people**

served each year
by facilitating Safety
and Security for special
events and tournaments



Implemented a Ranger Ride Along Program to educate other City, Township, and County Officials about MetroParks.



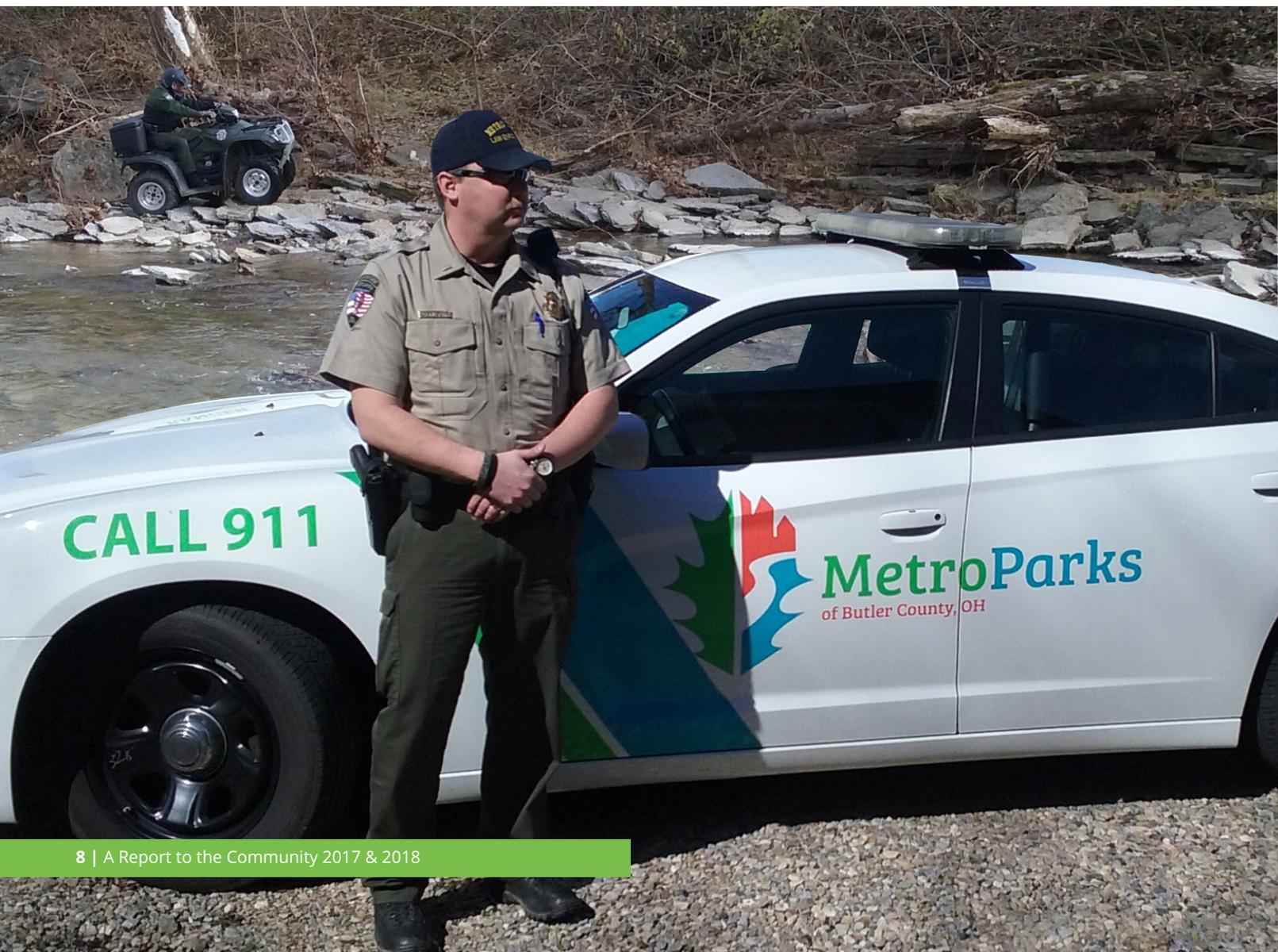
Received additional training in the department of Natural Resources Officer Water Survival Course.



Received Training in a Police Cyclist Course to better serve park customer/owners on trails with a bike patrol.



Hosted a Middletown high school student who served as an intern while participating in a Career Experience Class.

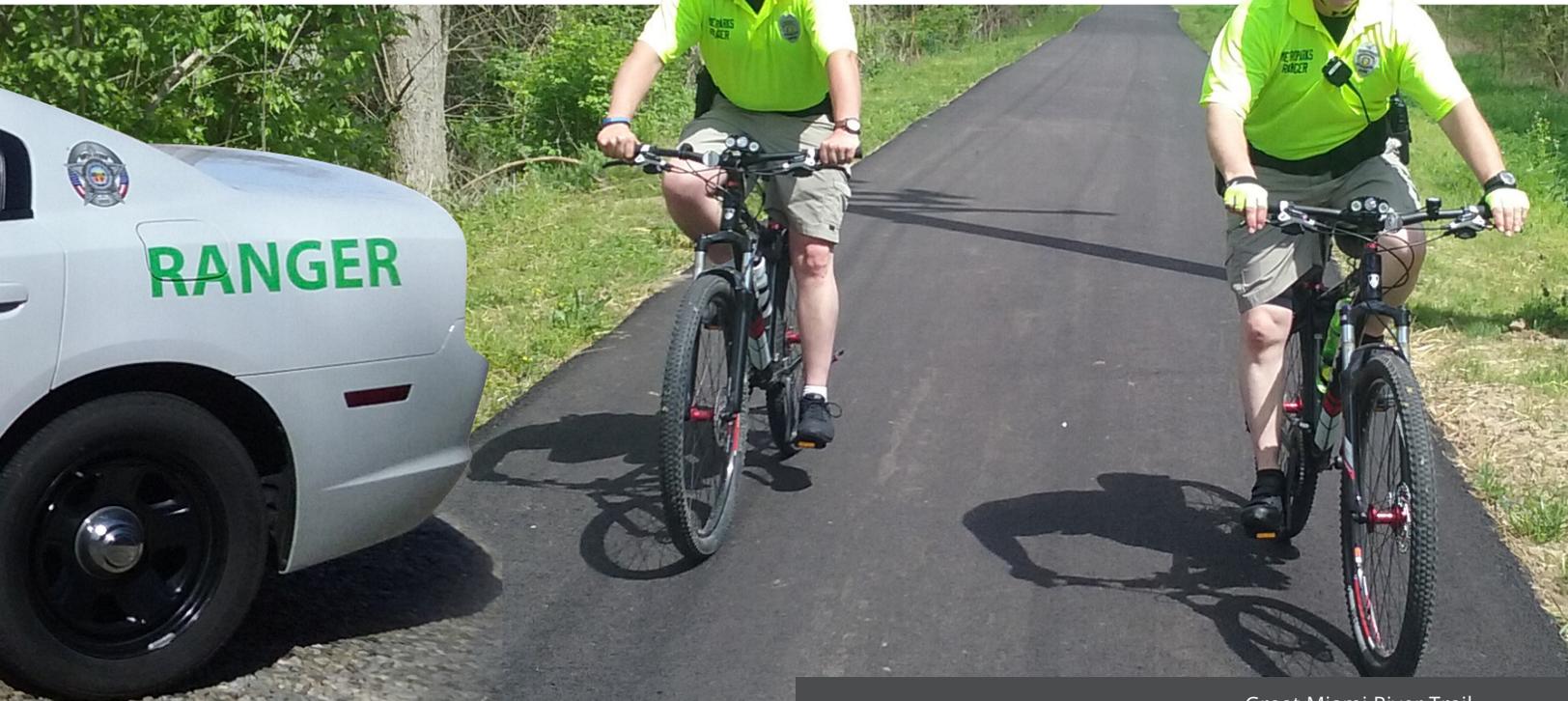




Swearing in – Forest Run MetroPark
Timberman Ridge – Welcome Center



Voice of America MetroPark



Great Miami River Trail

Volunteers

2017

6,589 hours

By volunteers



x \$24.14/hour*



= \$159,058.46

Total value of service



* WASHINGTON, APRIL 20, 2017

Independent Sector announces that the latest value of a volunteer hour

\$24.14 Per hour

2.5% from the previous year

Estimated from data collected in 2016 shows the contributions volunteers make to our communities and our country.

“ (No One) can do everything but (Everyone) can do something ” — unknown



Rentschler Forest MetroPark – Reigart Road Area



Volunteers Wild Garlic Pull



2018

6,088 hours

By volunteers



× \$24.69/hour*



= \$150,312.72

Total value of service



* **WASHINGTON, APRIL 19, 2018**

Independent Sector, in partnership with IMPLAN, announces that the latest value of a volunteer hour

\$24.69 Per hour

2.2% from the previous year

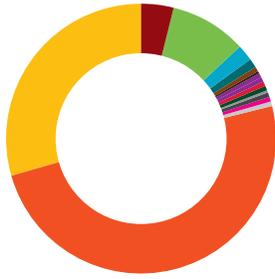
Estimated from data collected in 2017 shows the contributions volunteers make to our communities and our country.



Garlic Pulling

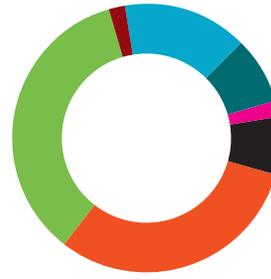
2017 Financial & Leveraged Dollars

RECEIPTS MIX (General Fund)



Property Taxes	49%
Capital Projects Bond	29%
Grants	9%
Facility Fees	4%
Local Government Funds	2%
Commissions	<1%
Donations	<1%
Fees & Fines	<1%
Homestead Rollback	<1%
Interest Income	<1%
Misc. Sales	<1%
MVP's	<1%
Other Revenue	<1%
Program Fees	<1%
Sponsorships	<1%

DISBURSEMENTS MIX (General Fund)

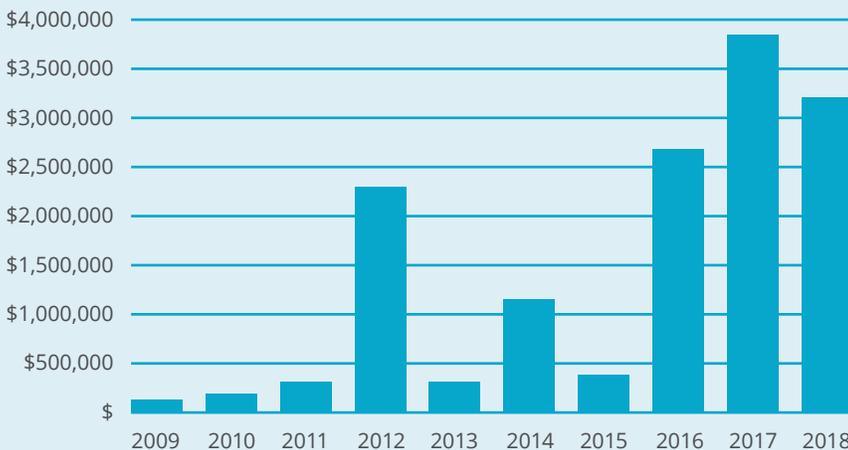


Capital Projects	35%
Operational Expenses	31%
Contracts	15%
Materials & Supplies	8%
Other Expenses	7%
Note / Bond Payments	2%
Transfer Out to Debt Fund	2%

Beginning Cash	\$2,120,169
+ Receipts	\$10,463,451
- Disbursements	\$9,415,712
= Ending Cash	\$3,167,908

Gifts, Grants & Donations

2017 AND 2018 ANNUAL TREND ANALYSIS



2017

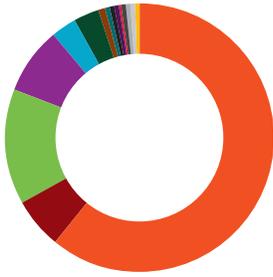
Cash Donations	\$13,476.14
+ In-Kind Donations	\$7,178.73
+ Grants	\$3,716,740.12
+ Volunteer Hours (Monetary Value)	\$159,058.46
= Total Donations	\$3,896,453.45

2018

Cash Donations	\$11,379.06
+ In-Kind Donations	\$9,442.09
+ Grants	\$151,660.17
+ Volunteer Hours (Monetary Value)	\$150,312.72
= Total Donations	\$322,824.04

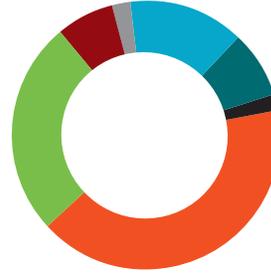
2018 Financial & Leveraged Dollars

RECEIPTS MIX (General Fund)



Property Taxes	61%
Grants	14%
Homestead Rollback	8%
Facility Fees	6%
Local Government Funds	3%
MVP's	3%
Commissions	<1%
Debt Proceeds	<1%
Donations	<1%
Fees & Fines	<1%
Interest	<1%
Misc. Sales	<1%
Other Revenue	<1%
Program Fees	<1%
Sponsorships	<1%

DISBURSEMENTS MIX (General Fund)



Operational Expenses	41%
Capital Projects	26%
Contracts	14%
Materials & Supplies	8%
Transfer Out to Debt Fund	7%
Advanced Out	2%
Other Expenses	2%
Note / Bond Payments	0%
Vehicles	0%

Beginning Cash	\$3,167,908
+ Receipts	\$7,793,276
- Disbursements	\$8,219,473
= Ending Cash	\$2,741,712





UC Health/West Chester Hospital – Fieldhouse Grand Opening



MetroParks

of Butler County, OH

MetroParks of Butler County

2051 Timberman Road

Hamilton, OH 45013

513.867.5835

YourMetroParks.net



Voice of America MetroPark – Athletic Complex – Fieldhouse Ribbon Cutting

Voice of America MetroPark – Athletic Complex



Crisholm MetroPark – Nature Playscape Grand Opening

Creeking – Elk Creek
MetroPark – Sebald Park

