

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

*Hamilton County
Park District*
It's Great Outdoors!®
GreatParks.org



Board of Park Commissioners—2012

The Hamilton County Park District was created in 1930 with the mission to protect local natural resources and to provide outdoor recreation and education for area residents. The Hamilton County Park District is a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio, governed by a Board of Park Commissioners. The Board is comprised of five individuals who serve without compensation. Board members are appointed by the Judge of Probate Court, the Honorable James Cissell.

Robert A. Goering, Sr., Attorney-at-Law with the firm of Goering & Goering, was first appointed to the Board on January 1, 1994. He is past President and Chairman of the Board of United Cerebral Palsy of Cincinnati, Inc., Living Arrangements for Developmentally Disabled and Find-A-Way, Inc. After serving 19 years on the Board of Park Commissioners, Mr. Goering retired as a Board member in December 2012.

Donald S. "Buddy" LaRosa was appointed to the Board on June 7, 2012. He established LaRosa's Pizzeria in 1954, leading its growth throughout the Greater Cincinnati region. He founded the Buddy LaRosa High School Sports Hall of Fame and is a board member of Adopt A Class.

John T. Reis, formerly with Seasongood & Mayer Investment Securities, was appointed to the Board on January 1, 2010. He is the Executive Director of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Association and has served as a rules official for 16 U.S. Junior Amateur Championships, eight U.S. Opens, seven U.S. Senior Opens and 15 NCAA Division I Golf Championships.

Joseph C. Seta was appointed to the Board on January 1, 2011. He served as the President and CEO of Seta, Appleman & Showell, an advertising and graphic design firm, for 22 years. He has served on the advisory board for the College of Mount Saint Joseph and was a board member for the Central Academy of Commercial Art. He attended Xavier University and the Central Academy of Commercial Art.

Geraldine "Ginger" Warner was appointed to the Board on May 2, 2012. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati, serves as Vice Chair of the Board of the Ohio Arts Council, is Secretary for the National First Ladies Library, and board member of the Cleveland Orchestra and the Greenacres Foundation. Ms. Warner is a retired attorney and a graduate of New York University Law School.



*Commissioners (left to right):
Donald S. LaRosa, Joseph C.
Seta, Geraldine Warner,
Robert A. Goering, Sr. and
John T. Reis*



DeVere E. Burt was appointed to the Board of Park Commissioners by Judge of Probate Court, James Cissell, effective January 1, 2013 (pictured). Mr. Burt served as President and CEO of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History until 1996, before becoming founder of Masterworks for Nature in 2000. Mr. Burt has also served as regional Vice President for the Nature Conservancy and was a field biologist for the United States Antarctic Research Program.

Message from the Executive Director

The year 2012 proved to be an exciting and rewarding year for the Hamilton County Park District as we strived to fulfill our goal of Enriching Lives and Connecting People.

In the spring we welcomed two new Park Commissioners - Ms. Geraldine "Ginger" Warner and Mr. Donald "Buddy" LaRosa. On December 31, Mr. Robert A. Goering Sr. retired from the Board after 19 years of service. We are extremely grateful for Mr. Goering's dedication and commitment to the mission of the Hamilton County Park District.

On June 14 we expanded the region's network of bike trails with the opening of the trail connection between Otto Armleder Memorial Park and the Lunken Bike Path. This connector trail now provides walkers and cyclists a 9.1-mile roundtrip experience and was completed as part of our ongoing partnership with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and Cincinnati Park Board. In addition, a 4-mile extension to the Mitchell Memorial Forest Mountain Bike Trail opened in June, bringing the total length of trail to eight miles and making it the only official mountain bike trail in Hamilton County.

This year also saw the return of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra to Miami Whitewater Forest, as well as the Miami Whitewater Forest Golf Course 50th anniversary celebration. We played host to six "masterpieces" from The Taft Museum of Art during its 80th anniversary Art for All celebration.

In addition to the many special events held throughout the year, the Park District continued to shine as one of the region's treasures, preserving over 16,568 acres of protected greenspace.

On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, I am pleased to present this 2012 annual report and invite you to visit the Hamilton County Park District in 2013!

Jack Sutton, Executive Director

POWER IN NUMBERS 2012

Revitalization of the bluebird nesting box monitoring program by staff and volunteers resulted in **307** bluebirds fledged, nearly doubling the 157 that fledged in 2011.



During the 39th Annual Winter Bird Count, **31,180** birds among **85** different species were counted, which is an increase over last year by **11** species.



Otto Armleder Memorial Park trail was extended to connect with the five-mile Lunken Bike Path, creating a

9.1-MILE trail loop.



Hamilton County Parks Foundation raised **\$685,933** for the Simmonds Family Dog Park, enabling the Park District to start construction and host a groundbreaking in November.

The Mitchell Memorial Forest Mountain Bike Trail was extended from 3.9 miles to over

8 MILES thanks to volunteers and grant funding.

Meadow Links & Golf Academy hosted the largest Special Olympics tournament in the country with a total of **244** participants, including golfers and their playing partners.



320

volunteers from nine corporations completed **11** projects, donated **1,551** hours of service and contributed **\$14,400** to the Hamilton County Parks Foundation.

Volunteers recorded **70,079** hours of service, a **5.5%** increase over 2011.



Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo in June had a record attendance of over **5,000**.

A record **616** acres of park land was treated for invasive species by Park District employees, as well as **135** acres treated through contract work. This brings the total for the year to **751** acres treated.

A combined **123,294** people attended **3,672** programs provided by Adventure Outpost, Naturalist Department, Glenwood Gardens and Parky's Farm.

The first class of bluegill fingerlings raised at the aquaculture ponds since 2009 was harvested in April, with **500** pounds going to Lake Isabella and **250** pounds split between Miami Whitewater Forest Lake and Campbell Lakes.

Parky's Farm In-Reach program had a **5%** increase in the number of groups, and debuted new curriculum for first and third grades in 2012.

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Hamilton County Park District

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AWARDS



OPRA

The Hamilton County Park District was honored with three top awards from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA). The corporate volunteer playground builds with U.S. Bank at Harper Meadows in Winton Woods received first place in the Facility category, the television initiative with WCPO-Channel 9 received first place in Marketing (Broadcasting & Electronic), and Mitchell Memorial Forest Mountain Bike Trail Extension project with Cincinnati Off Road Alliance (CORA) received second place in the Partnership category.

CAFR

In 2012, the Park District was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for our 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

NACPRO

The Hamilton County Park District was awarded first place in the Park and Recreation Program Class II by the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) for its involvement in presenting the Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo.

BEST OF THE NORTH

Sharon Woods was voted Best of the North "Best Park" by *Cincy Magazine*.

HORTICULTURE

Highfield Discovery Garden in Glenwood Gardens was awarded the Gardener Recognition Award by the Cincinnati Horticultural Society.

SOUTHERN OHIO PGA

Hamilton County Park District golf professionals were recognized with awards from the Southern Ohio PGA. Golf Manager Doug Stultz received the Bill Strausbaugh/Community Relations Award, Golf Professional Gene Powell received the Horton Smith Award and Teaching Professional Melissa Yeazell received the President's Plaque for growing the game of golf.

CAVA

Congratulations to Park District Volunteer Dale Hoffmann who received the Outstanding Agency Volunteer Award from the Cincinnati Association of Volunteer Administrators (CAVA). Dale was selected from a field of 12 nominees from across the greater Cincinnati area for his outstanding support of the Hamilton County Park District.

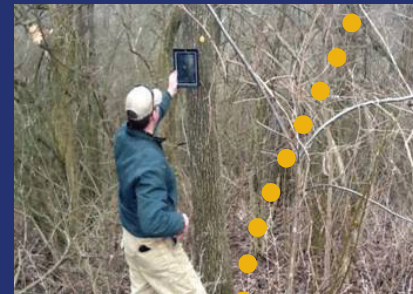


Responding to the Emerald Ash Borer Challenge

Response to the infestation of the emerald ash borer (EAB) throughout the Park District required more resources as the number of ash trees impacted by the insect increased dramatically in 2011 and 2012. In 2012 the Park District began using GPS equipped tablet computers to locate, assess and prioritize all ash trees in developed areas and along park boundaries, where trees may pose a threat to public safety, park infrastructure, or neighboring infrastructure. Based on standards of the International Society of Arboriculture, trees are assigned a hazard rating for management purposes. During 2012, a total of 4,188 ash trees were located and assessed and 992 ash trees were removed. Trees continue to be removed by staff, contractors and utility company contractors.

Since EAB related removals started in 2010, a total of 2,256 ash trees have been removed and 2,448 replacement trees have been planted. Replacement species include sugar maple, pin oak, hackberry, flowering dogwood, sweet gum and others. In 2012 ash tree removals occurred at Little Miami Golf Center, Withrow Nature Preserve, Woodland Mound, Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve, Miami Whitewater Forest, Sharon Woods and Winton Woods. As of November 2012, only two parks, Shawnee Lookout and Fernbank Park, showed no significant evidence of EAB infestation.

From 2010 to 2012, approximately 850 selected ash trees across the Park District were treated with a highly effective injectable insecticide. These trees will continue to be treated until newly planted trees have several years of growth.



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

In collaboration with the Hamilton County Parks Foundation, the Corporate Volunteering Program provides team-based projects that strengthen organizations by building leadership and communication skills, all while having fun and making a positive impact in the community.

Playground Builds with U.S. Bank

The Hamilton County Park District partnered with U.S. Bank to complete two successful playground builds. Over 70 U.S. Bank volunteers helped with the project on May 8, 2012 by assembling universally accessible play equipment, planting trees and mulching landscape beds at Harper Meadows in Winton Woods. The volunteers contributed over 560 hours of service to complete the project. The playgrounds opened with an official ribbon cutting on June 6, 2012.



REI River Cleanup

REI, Park District and community volunteers spent 320 hours collecting over 200 bags of litter and other debris along the Ohio River at Steamboat Bend in Woodland Mound. The project was done in September; REI provided lunch, t-shirts and water bottles to all participants.

REI Forest Restoration & Rain Garden Project

REI, Park District and community volunteers took part in a Forest Restoration and Rain Garden project at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve in October. Volunteers spent 120 hours planting and mulching 118 trees. They also installed deer fencing and a rain garden. REI provided lunch, t-shirts and water bottles for the volunteers. The project was funded with a \$10,000 seed grant from REI.

GE Volunteers

General Electric volunteers contributed 116 hours of service by spreading mulch and planting trees, shrubs and perennials at Glenwood Gardens in April. GE Volunteer Foundation contributed \$3,500 to the landscaping project.



PARTNERSHIPS

Mitchell Memorial Forest Mountain Bike Trail Extension

Park District staff worked closely with Cincinnati Off Road Alliance (CORA) volunteers to design a mountain bike trail extension at Mitchell Memorial Forest. The trail was extended 4.2 miles, providing a greater mountain biking experience based on International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) standards. The now 8.1-mile trail was made possible by an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grant and 1,600 hours of volunteer service. The trail was officially opened June 1, 2012 with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Rumpke Recycling

Thanks to a partnership with Rumpke Consolidated Companies, Inc., recycling cans were placed at 83 locations throughout the Park District to increase recycling efforts and to serve our guests. To facilitate the recycling program, 14 large recycling receptacles and five additional co-mingled recycling dumpsters were placed in service.

Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo

The Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo, presented by the Hamilton County Park District and other organizations, is a one-day event held every June that offers children and families an opportunity to learn about nature and the environment. More than 5,000 people experienced over 40 environmental education exhibitors at the event held at Coney Island in 2012. Close to 50 Park District employees and volunteers assisted with registration, putting on life jackets, assisting children into boats and handing out water bottles and goodie bags. The Winton Woods Riding Center, Parky's Farm, Naturalists and Adventure Outpost were all exhibitors.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Hamilton County Park District is proud to offer recreational opportunities with the Special Olympics in golf, horseback riding and fishing.

For the 20th year, Meadow Links & Golf Academy hosted clinics and tournaments, as well as a two-day golf tournament championship in September. This is the largest golf event for Special Olympics in the country, with a total of 244 athletes, which included players and their playing partners.

Winton Woods Riding Center (WWRC) was approved as an official site for Special Olympics Equestrian Competition in 2012. It is only the eighth sanctioned event for the State of Ohio and will be held as a two-day event in 2013. The WWRC Special Olympics team also had 22 participants who traveled to the Kentucky Special Olympics to compete in 2012.

Special Olympics fishing events are held every October at Lake Isabella, Winton Woods and Miami Whitewater Forest Lakes. For three days, hundreds of local students involved in Special Olympics learn how to fish and enjoy nature. The Park District provides bait and volunteers to assist with any needs the groups may have. The Hamilton County Special Olympics has provided its fishing program for nearly 25 years.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SPECIAL EVENTS

Cincinnati Pops Orchestra Concert in the Park

On June 8, 2012, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra returned to the parks to play a free concert at Miami Whitewater Forest. The concert featured conductor John Morris Russell and was made possible through a generous grant from The John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trust, PNC Bank and an endowment gift from Rosemary & Frank Bloom to the Concerts in the Park Fund. Approximately 3,000 people attended the event.

MWF Golf Course 50th Anniversary

Miami Whitewater Forest Golf Course celebrated its 50th Anniversary on May 19 – 25, 2012 with a week's worth of golf events. The tournament had 112 players participate and seven golf equipment companies offered demos. There was a daily drawing and discount golf specials through the week, with 1,512 total rounds played.

Walk/Run Events

The Hamilton County Park District was host to several walk/run races in 2012, including: the ALS Association "Walk to Defeat ALS" at Winton Woods (1,500 participants); the SPCA "Doggie Dash" at Glenwood Gardens (800 participants); the Spina Bifida Association of Cincinnati "Walk and Roll for Spina Bifida" at Miami Whitewater Forest (450 participants); and the Tyler's Run Foundation "Tyler's Run" at Miami Whitewater Forest (300 participants).



Ohio Valley Greenmarket

Ohio Valley Greenmarket was made possible thanks to a partnership with *edible Ohio Valley* magazine. The three-day event, held August 3 – 5, 2012, included a pig roast with over 100 guests on Friday, a floral workshop on Saturday and a free celebration on Sunday at Glenwood Gardens and Highfield Discovery Garden. Close to 3,000 people attended the event on Sunday, which included 65 local vendors, children's farmers market, demonstrations and giveaways.



Reds Day

The Park District had its first Reds Day experience on August 5, 2012 with activities set up in the Fan Zone at Great American Ballpark. Fans enjoyed the climbing wall, golf swing practice with PGA professionals and naturalists with live birds of prey. Parky was even there to greet fans and hang out with the Reds' mascots!



Art for All

The Hamilton County Park District participated in a unique celebration with The Taft Museum of Art, who celebrated 80 years of excellence. Art for All, was a public art program that featured 80 reproductions of works from the Taft collection placed throughout Greater Cincinnati, including six in the Hamilton County Parks, from June 1 – September 30, 2012. The life-size paintings were exhibited at Woodland Mound, Otto Armleder Memorial Park, Sharon Woods, Fernbank Park, Winton Woods and Glenwood Gardens. Themed nature programs were also offered throughout the exhibit's duration.



Eddie Bauer Day

On September 15, 2012, the Park District teamed up with the Kenwood Mall Eddie Bauer store for its Gives Back Program. Those who shopped at the store that day received 15% off their purchase, with 10% of the store's profits benefiting the Hamilton County Parks Foundation. The Park District also featured live animals and an opportunity to learn more about the Foundation.



WCPO INITIATIVE

"Great Parks Great Outdoors!" was a television initiative designed to highlight Park District events, programs, services and projects with host, Executive Director Jack Sutton. Twenty-two segments aired March—October 2012 during the Saturday morning news hour on WCPO-TV, Channel 9.

WCPO reported that an estimated 86.07% of all households in the Cincinnati viewing market were exposed to the television initiative between March 21 and September 15, 2012.

The Hamilton County Park District thanks its corporate sponsors for their support of the initiative: Gold Star Chili, Lang Financial Group, Inc., Rumpke Consolidated Companies, Inc. and Subaru.



2012 CAPITAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Armleder to Lunken Trail Connector

The Hamilton County Park District, through continued collaboration with the City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Park Board and Cincinnati Recreation Commission, opened a one-mile trail connecting the two-mile Otto Armleder Memorial Park and Recreation Complex trail with the five-mile Lunken Bike Path. The trail connector was officially opened on June 14, 2012 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new trail connection will eventually join with the Ohio River Trail and the Little Miami Scenic Trail.



Columbia Terrace Drive Improvements at Shawnee Lookout

Construction began in fall of 2012 on the repair of hillside slippage along the Columbia Terrace Drive in Shawnee Lookout. The project includes the installation of approximately 105 drilled piers along 630 lineal feet of park road. The project is located within the Shawnee Lookout Archaeological District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic places. The project is being completed in consultation with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. No archeological sites are affected by the project.

EPA Grant Supports Sustainability Project

In early 2012, the Park District was notified that it received a Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund projects that will improve surface water quality. The Park District decided to use the grant to improve the rainwater runoff from around its main administration building in Winton Woods. In spring 2013, Park District staff and volunteers will begin construction on a series of rain gardens and bio-swales around Winton Centre's main parking lots and entry drive to help improve water runoff.

Miami Whitewater Forest Campground Upgrades

A new shower building and playground was installed at Miami Whitewater Forest Campground in early spring 2012. The shower building utilizes many sustainable features, including a cultured stone veneer, passive solar lighting, high efficiency hand dryers and tankless water heaters. The playground was replaced with a universally accessible playground, which includes a rubber safety surface and interactive features to encourage physical fitness and coordination.

Park's Farm

Renovations were completed in 2012 at the Park's Farm exhibit barn. Six new indoor animal pens were constructed with new fencing installed. The existing stalls were also updated. The pens were refurbished to improve safety for the public and staff, and better housing for the animals.

Simmonds Family Dog Park

In 2012, construction began on a dog park at the former Simmonds farm located at Miami Whitewater Forest. The 11-acre off-leash dog park will be the largest in the Greater Cincinnati area and will include separate play fields, an all-season play field, dog agility and play zones, benches, trees and shade structures.

The Hamilton County Parks Foundation raised a total of \$685,933 for the dog park, enabling the Park District to start construction in October 2012. To help in fundraising efforts, the Foundation held its first golf tournament at Miami Whitewater Forest Golf Course on October 8, with all proceeds supporting the dog park. The official groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 9, 2012.



2012 LAND ACQUISITIONS

Tract	Date Acquired	Acreage	Cost
Little Miami Scenic Trail Corridor ¹	11/7/2012	0.0513	\$5,922.40
Little Miami Scenic Trail Corridor ¹	11/8/2012	3.819	\$145,000.00
Little Miami Scenic Trail Corridor ¹	12/28/2012	0.813	\$160,000.00
Total		4.6833	\$310,922.40

Total greenspace preserved and protected by the Hamilton County Park District as of December 31, 2012 is 16,568 acres including fee simple acquisitions, lease agreements, conservation easements, bike trail easements, out-leases and cooperative management agreements.

1. The Park District acquired land, totaling 4.6833 acres, for use as a corridor for extension of the Little Miami Scenic Trail through the Village of Newtown.

2012 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GENERAL & CAPITAL FUNDS

Unencumbered	\$6,139,839
Encumbered	1,175,335
Balance 1/1/2012	<u>\$7,315,174</u>
Revenue Received	\$32,448,208
Total Funds Available	<u>\$39,763,382</u>
Less Appropriated and Expended	\$29,802,221
Balance 12/31/2012	<u>\$9,961,161</u>

REVENUE

Taxes	
Local Government Fund	\$300,000
Real Estate, Public Utilities, & Other	17,568,407
Total Taxes	<u>\$17,868,407</u>
Earned Revenue	
Golf Courses	\$5,649,227
Recreation Services	3,235,378
Motor Vehicle Permits	1,908,562
Golf Merchandise	884,676
Riding Center	382,524
Nature's Niche	284,852
Guest Services	302,268
Athletics	285,404
Special Events	326,457
Glenwood Gardens	87,956
Park's Farm	116,744
Outdoor Education	90,978
Adventure Outpost	53,590
Total Earned Revenue	<u>\$13,608,616</u>
Grants	<u>\$17,079</u>
Miscellaneous Receipts	<u>954,106</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$32,448,208</u>

Special Revenue Funds

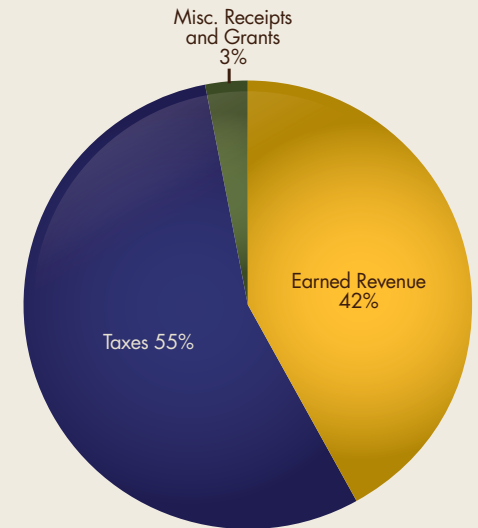
Fund Name	Balance 1/1/12	Revenue	Interest Revenue	Change in Value of Investments	Expenditures	Balance 12/31/12
Mitchell	\$2,804,307	\$120,409	\$88	\$135,773	\$(132,112)	\$2,928,465
Burchenal	1,609,600	47,934	163	25,583	-	1,683,280
Evergreen	1,386,801	308,925	1,151	N/A	(491,210)	1,205,667
Drug Law Enforcement	12,825	4,320	13	N/A	-	17,158
Law Enforcement	6,568	-	6	N/A	-	6,574
Law Enforcement & Education	2,446	297	2	N/A	-	2,745
FEMA	-	14,075	10	N/A	(14,085)	-
TOTALS	<u>\$5,822,547</u>	<u>\$495,960</u>	<u>\$1,433</u>	<u>\$161,356</u>	<u>\$(637,407)</u>	<u>\$5,843,889</u>

Expenditures

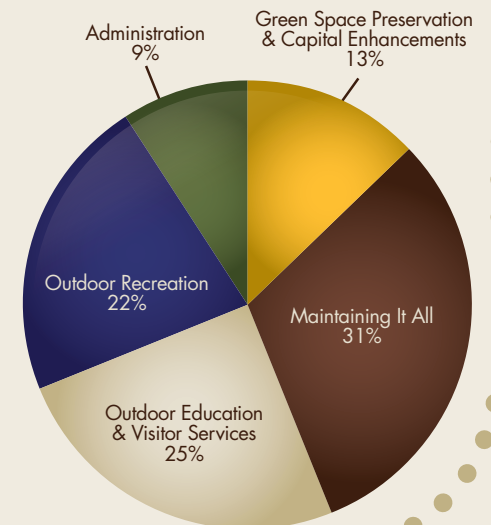
Operations	\$6,029,895
Safety	3,626,424
Recreation Services	2,647,427
Golf Management	2,477,564
Facilities	2,037,946
Administration	1,974,020
Development	1,013,914
Outdoor Education	984,241
Greenspace Preservation	881,344
Golf Merchandise	742,988
Visitor Services	714,949
Stewardship	602,323
Glenwood Gardens	536,337
Armleder - Capital	507,407
Special Projects	518,925
Communications	491,335
Information Systems	492,433
Park's Farm	456,664
Projects	400,557
Riding Center	389,142
Landscape	305,654
Construction Management	303,152
Guest Services	290,510
Nature's Niche	258,159
Planning	237,362
Armleder - Maintenance	222,947
Athletics	197,869
Fernbank Park	177,099
Adventure Outpost	170,975
Volunteers	107,498
Little Miami Trail	5,161

2012 Total Expenditures **\$29,802,221**

Revenue



Expenditures



**Hamilton County
Park District**

10245 Winton Road
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GreatParks.org

**Board of Park
Commissioners**

DeVere E. Burt
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Executive Director

Jack Sutton



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