



# Great Parks of Hamilton County

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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**MISSION** To preserve and protect natural resources and to provide outdoor recreation and education in order to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2016 was a pivotal year for Great Parks of Hamilton County as we continued our commitment to enrich lives by connecting people to the great outdoors.

In April we opened a universally accessible canoe and kayak launch at Miami Whitewater Forest that also meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). And in May we celebrated the extension of an additional 3.2 miles of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, one of the longest paved trail systems in the state of Ohio.

Among Great Parks' highest priorities is protecting water quality. One of the most effective methods for protecting waterways and the underlying aquifer is to preserve wooded hillsides, streamside forests and floodplains. Last year we acquired more than 382 acres of additional greenspace including critical bottomland forests along the Great Miami River.

On November 8, the voters of Hamilton County expressed their support and confidence in Great Parks through the passage of the 1 mill replacement levy. This 10-year levy positions Great Parks on a positive course to continue our mission to preserve and protect natural resources and provide outdoor recreation and education for our citizens.

On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, thank you to all of the visitors and friends who showed support for Great Parks of Hamilton County in 2016. I invite you to review this recap of our 2016 accomplishments and to take time in 2017 to visit and explore your Great Parks!

Jack Sutton, Executive Director  
Great Parks of Hamilton County



Jack Sutton

**Established in 1930, Great Parks of Hamilton County** is a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The five members of the Board of Park Commissioners serve without compensation and are appointed by the Judge of Probate Court, the Honorable Judge Ralph E. Winkler.



2016 Board of Park Commissioners

**2016 Board of Park Commissioners from left to right:**  
Joseph C. Seta  
HC Buck Niehoff  
Geraldine Warner  
DeVere E. Burt  
William J. Burwinkler



Judge Winkler

# BY THE NUMBERS

## 2,737

children who attended Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo

## 53,208

trees planted

## 70

community outreach events

## 1,750

volunteers

## 31,594

campsites reserved

## 382

new acres protected

# CONSERVATION

## PROTECTING LAND, PROTECTING WATER

A stream is ultimately a reflection of its watershed. When stormwater runs off a parking lot, it carries oils and other contaminants with it. Those contaminants end up in our local streams, and eventually, in our rivers as well. The result impacts water quality and threatens imperiled animals like mussels and fish. Sensitive aquatic animals are like canaries in the coal mine; their absence should cause concern about the suitability of water for human use.

Streamside forests allow places for runoff to filter through native vegetation and protect water quality. For this reason, Great Parks prioritizes

land acquisition along waterways, because protecting land is truly the key to protecting water. In 2016, Great Parks acquired nearly 400 acres, with several parcels located in strategic spots along our waterways, including the 143-acre Welch Tract and 67-acre Bowles Tract that are both situated along the Great Miami River. Safeguarding these streamside forests allows them to continue to serve as stormwater buffers and helps protected the underlying aquifer from contamination. The areas not only provide a healthy home for local wildlife, but they also give the citizens of Hamilton County a great place to indulge in our area's natural beauty.

## CELEBRATING REFORESTATION

In 2013, several organizations in the tristate region came together with one goal: increase the forest canopy in our metropolitan area by 2 million trees by 2020. This ambitious and important effort was called "Taking Root."

With ash trees dying in parks all over the county from the emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation, Great Parks was expecting to lose 20–30% of its tree canopy. But EAB, which made it to the US in shipping pallets, was only the latest in a growing number of introduced plant and animal species causing damage to the ecology of our forests.

Great Parks responded by making reforestation an agency-wide priority and committed to planting 60,000 trees by the end of 2016. Thanks to many partners, volunteers, grants and donors, the goal was shattered, and the final, three-year tally topped 128,000 trees planted! The accomplishment was celebrated on October 22, 2016, at Winton Woods with a Reforestation Celebration and ceremonial planting of the 100,000th tree. By no means finished, Great Parks plans to push on toward the Taking Root regional goal of 2 million new trees.

## SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

Great Parks of Hamilton County has established itself at the front line of energy conservation with advancements in lighting and solar energy. Great Parks embarked on its first LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lighting project just two years ago and continued in 2016 with several new projects. Though most projects seem small in scale, Great Parks is already seeing the benefits of LED bulbs and other technological advancements in the lighting industry.

LEDs are extremely energy efficient, have a long life span and are more durable than traditional incandescent, neon or compact fluorescent light bulbs. The exceptionally longer life span (60,000 hours) and enormously lower energy usage (90% more efficient) result in reduced maintenance and operating costs for Great Parks. At the close of 2016, the park district had completed a total of 22 LED lighting projects with an average energy savings of 65%.

In December 2016, Great Parks began installation of its first solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Winton Woods maintenance building. A solar PV system is designed to supply usable solar power by collecting and absorbing sunlight and converting it to electricity. This new system includes 176 solar modules that will generate an annual average of 63,000 kilowatt hours of energy to the grid. This will reduce the average annual electric consumption at this facility by approximately 95% and will offset approximately 2.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide over 25 years.

To promote the benefits of this system, educational and interpretive components will be provided to the public. Interactive displays will be available at visitor centers as well as online monitoring showing real-time data and information. The project was funded entirely by grants and matching funds provided by the Great Parks Foundation.



Reforestation Celebration



Solar Panels

## AWARDS

### Excellence in Public Recycling

FROM: Hamilton County Recycling & Solid Waste District

FOR: Increased public recycling containers in the parks

### Club Horticulture Commendation

FROM: The Garden Club of America

FOR: Shaker Trace Nursery

### Commendation from the Governor

FROM: Governor John Kasich

FOR: 100,000th tree planted



## ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Great Parks of Hamilton County partners with several universities to conduct research in order to make informed decisions regarding the management of natural areas. In 2016, Great Parks approved eight research permits, and four contractual research projects were funded. Two important research partners are Emily Franzen with Xavier University and Dr. Ron Canterbury of the University of Cincinnati.

Ms. Franzen's project focuses on which trees are preferred by the Asian long-horned beetle for laying eggs, and it will help to predict which trees will be most impacted as host trees. It also helps Great Parks further understand this insect's ecology and identify its potential presence within the parks.


Dr. Canterbury has a longstanding relationship with Great Parks, and his bird banding research has brought him to multiple parks over the years. Fall banding research at Otto Armleder Memorial Park & Recreation Complex in 2016 analyzed whether areas that are dominated by invasive plant species are suitable for fall bird migrants versus those that have fewer invasive plant species.

As part of its own ongoing research project, Great Parks also monitors plant diversity utilizing a Floristic Quality Assessment Index. This project compares different plant communities by calculating plant diversity scores for 1,826 sites across natural areas in the parks. These scores provide vegetative diversity data, which helps Great Parks prioritize its management efforts.



MAD Scientist Associates conducting a floristic survey

**INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGED**



518.5 acres of invasive honeysuckle treated in 2016



## PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

### COHEN RECYCLING

- Partner for recycling old or broken holiday lights

### HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Partner for 2016 Native Tree & Plant Sale

### MONARCH JOINT VENTURE

- Partnered to protect the monarch butterfly and its habitats

### REI

- Partnered to host a trail building workshop and volunteer trail maintenance event at Mitchell Memorial Forest
- Provided volunteers for invasive species removal, trail maintenance and tree planting projects
- Continued support for reforestation efforts

### OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION & INDIANA WALNUT COUNCIL

- Partnered on a tour of native plants at Shaker Trace Nursery, as well as a tour of mature walnut stands at Shawnee Lookout

### OHIO RIVER FOUNDATION, CINCINNATI PARK BOARD & CLERMONT COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

- In-kind partners in establishing a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
- Partnered on a grant for invasive species management from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

### US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE & OHIO EPA

- Continued partnership with Natural Resource Damage Trustees in the restoration of Oak Glen Nature Preserve after the 2014 oil spill

### US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Partnered on a workshop about management strategies for running buffalo clover, a federally endangered plant found at Shawnee Lookout

### WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

- Volunteers assisted at the Shaker Trace Nursery, and Great Parks provided seed for a small prairie restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve in Addyston

### UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

- Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship (MAPS) to set up a long-term bird monitoring station in the parks
- Partnered on Cincinnati Groundwater Observatory at Miami Whitewater Forest

# EDUCATION



Sharon Woods

## EXPANDING NATURE PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

People are busier now more than ever and are spending their free time differently than they have in the past. In response, Great Parks offered a variety of non-traditional nature education programs in 2016.

Great Parks' naturalists conducted several impromptu programs where park visitors were already congregating. The Winton Woods harbor, campground and multi-use trail served as impromptu locations for learning about local plants and wildlife. Naturalists were also stationed along the paved trails at Fernbank Park and Glenwood Gardens, showcasing a black vulture or a small table of interesting artifacts to pique the interest of the passersby.

Other programs covered a larger span of time to allow park guests more flexibility in their attendance. Festivals such as Maple Sugar Days, Black Walnut Weekend and Weekend in 1800 covered several hours and lots of different historical and nature-themed topics.

Animals were also a big draw during summer theme weeks that included Frog Week, Snake Week and Owl Week. The exhibits were designed to appeal to the entire family. Naturalists and volunteers staffed daily exhibits, talking with guests and answering questions. Since families would often arrive early and wait outside before the exhibit opened, additional free play outdoor activities were added. The more low-key, low-commitment activities were added, the longer families would spend in the park learning about the natural world around them.

Increasing the accessibility of nature programs to park visitors is critical to allowing people to maximize their experience in the parks. Great Parks will continue to provide educational opportunities to park visitors in ways that best fit with their time, abilities, interests or learning styles.

## KIDS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXPO

In 2016 the biggest outdoor event for children in the tristate area moved to Winton Woods. More than 2,737 children converged on the harbor on July 22, 2016, for the annual Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo.

Great Parks of Hamilton County partnered with Green Umbrella to put on a showcase of the many outdoor activities available in our region. Some

of the activity stations that Great Parks presented included fishing, rock wall climbing and obstacle courses. Great Parks' outdoor education staff introduced kids to animals from Parky's Farm and Winton Woods Riding Center, and they also led numerous activities to put the kids in contact with the natural world around them. Great Parks' naturalists got into the Olympic spirit with 'Animal Olympics' where kids could test their abilities in the Fantastic Frog Jump,

Impossible Bird Perch, Amazing Mole Maze and other fun learning stations.

The event was a huge success in its new location thanks in part to the many organizations who also provided memorable outdoor experiences, including the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Groundwork Cincinnati-Mill Creek, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, Row America, Queen City & Trek Bicycle, Morgan Canoe and Dramakinetics.

Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo



## NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

In September 2016, a new outdoor education area was created at Sharon Woods. This amphitheater-style area was designed to allow program participants to become submerged in their surroundings as they learn about nature.

With naturalist staff vision in mind, Great Parks' operations and projects teams prepped the project site, removed honeysuckle, laid a gravel path and spread mulch around the area. Eight benches were constructed using recycled lumber from ash trees felled in the park, with larger stumps turned into tables. A corporate volunteer group from Stantec assisted park staff in putting it all together.

This new outdoor classroom can seat up to 50 guests for public, scout, school and other group programs. Facing a wooded hillside, this space enables Great Parks' naturalists to enhance the way they teach about local wildlife. Nearby trees are used to demonstrate a black rat snake's ability to climb. And the hillside provides enough vegetation to illustrate the amazing camouflage of a box turtle. There are trees, vines and wildflowers growing within a few feet of participants, giving them the opportunity to hear nearby birds, squirrels or insects while learning how all things in nature are connected.



Sharon Woods Outdoor Classroom



Level 1 Kayaking Class

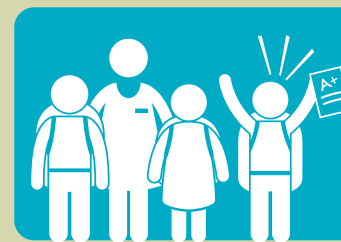
## PUBLIC PADDLING PROGRAMS

Great Parks' paddling classes allowed more people to connect with the natural world in a new way. The classes grew in popularity in 2016, with new programs offered by Adventure Outpost.

A collaborative program with the naturalist department, Birding by Boat, was held at Miami Whitewater Forest. Participants learned some paddling basics and then enjoyed a float on the lake for a unique perspective on birding. The Climb & Canoe Day Camp at Adventure Outpost in Winton Woods enabled kids to spend a lot of quality time on the water learning the traditional art of canoeing. By the end of the two-day camp, the campers were well-versed in maneuvering their canoes and performing rescues.

In addition to exploration, the park district also focused on the importance of safety on the water. Two new levels of American Canoe Association classes were offered in 2016. Aimed at adults, the Level 1 Kayaking class focused on taking the basic skills of Great Parks' introductory courses a step further, while building participants' confidence to become independent paddlers on flat water. Level 2 Kayaking was very similar, a full day for adults with a heavy emphasis on rescue techniques for both flat and moving water.

Adventure Outpost expects to host more classes in 2017 to provide even more people the opportunity to hit the water in a safe, fun environment.



## HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE

2015: 176 students reached

2016: 272 students reached



## PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS

GREEN UMBRELLA

▪ Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo

# RECREATION

## LITTLE MIAMI SCENIC TRAIL EXTENSION

Great Parks reached a significant milestone in 2016 with the 3.2-mile extension of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, one of the longest paved trail systems in Ohio, thanks to a partnership with Anderson Township, Anderson Township Park District and other organizations who support regional trail projects.

The project was made possible by a \$1.94 million federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program grant administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation, a \$1 million capital improvement grant from the State of Ohio administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and local match funds from Anderson Township and Great Parks of Hamilton County. Construction began with an official groundbreaking ceremony on July 8, 2015. After nearly a year of construction, the trail's completion was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Little Miami Golf Center on May 21, 2016.

The paved trail, which stretches from Little Miami Golf Center to the Beechmont Avenue/S.R. 32 Ramp Interchange, connects three public parks, including Great Parks of Hamilton County's Little Miami Golf Center, the Village of Newtown's Robert W. Short Park and Anderson Township Park District's Clear Creek Park. It also connects communities and people by providing a place to walk, run, bike and enjoy the great outdoors.

The final phase of the trail extension is a proposed trail bridge to be constructed over the Little Miami Scenic River on the Beechmont Avenue bridge. This \$5.1 million project would connect the Little Miami Scenic Trail to the City of Cincinnati's Lunken Loop Trail and eventually connect to downtown Cincinnati through other regional trail projects.



Little Miami Scenic Trail Ribbon Cutting

## NEW KAYAK LAUNCH

Access to one of Great Parks of Hamilton County's largest lakes got a little easier for all park visitors in 2016. A new canoe/kayak launch was installed at Miami Whitewater Forest that also meets requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The new access is a floating dock with a canoe and kayak launch area equipped with a universally accessible transfer system that allows an unassisted individual with a physical disability to access a canoe or kayak. It consists of a bench that slides over onto a railing system that allows the individual to sit down in a canoe or kayak and then head out onto the lake. The project was made possible by a \$30,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft for construction of a walkway, gangway, floating dock, accessible system and canoe/kayak launch. Construction was completed in April 2016.



Kayak Launch



Stroller Bike

## FITNESS FOR ALL

Outdoor recreation comes in all shapes and sizes, and biking in Great Parks of Hamilton County was as popular as ever in 2016. Bike rentals were in high demand at Miami Whitewater Forest thanks to the beautiful Shaker Trace Trail. At one time the park's rental fleet consisted of six cruiser bikes, but that number has grown to 75 bikes in a variety of styles built all over the globe.

Great Parks has transitioned from industrial Workmen cruiser bikes to a modern rider-friendly Trek bicycle built in Wisconsin. Quadracycle rentals spiked to more than 700 this year thanks to new surreys built in Texas. Teenagers loved the Berg pedal carts manufactured in Germany, as well as the Fun Cycles from Florida. New kid-friendly bike options were also introduced this year. The Stroller Bike, built by Taga in Taiwan, was a very popular choice for guests with toddlers. And Trek's Tag-a-Long was perfect for adults with children ages 4-7.

Great Parks is proud of a rental fleet that includes options for all ages and ability levels, and the numbers reflect their popularity. More than 3,300 bikes were rented in 2016 — a 10% growth over 2015!



PGA HOPE

## PGA HOPE

In 2016, Meadow Links & Golf Academy hosted an eight-week program for veterans through the PGA of America REACH Foundation. The purpose of PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is to enhance veterans' rehabilitation, well-being and assimilation back into the community.

Meadow Links & Golf Academy partnered with the Southern Ohio PGA, along with VA hospitals in Cincinnati and Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, to help implement and promote the program. Veterans were provided two hours of free instruction each week, led by PGA golf professionals who were certified as PGA HOPE instructors through the PGA of America. The final day was a 9-hole golf event that paired a PGA professional with three veterans.

The PGA of America is trying to host at least one HOPE program in all 50 states. Meadow Links & Golf Academy was the first site to host a HOPE program in the Southern Ohio PGA Section.



**2016 SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES**

- 314 Special Olympics Golf Participants
- 177 Special Olympics Fishing Participants
- 101 Special Olympics Ohio Equestrian Competition Participants

## AWARDS

**Donald C. Schramm**  
**Transportation Improvement Award**  
 FROM: ASHE  
 FOR: Little Miami Scenic Trail extension project

**NACPRO AWARD**  
 FROM: National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO)  
 FOR: Horse trail renovation project

**Patriot Award**  
 FROM: Southern Ohio PGA  
 FOR: PGA Professional Doug Stultz

**Player Development Award**  
 FROM: Southern Ohio PGA  
 FOR: PGA Professional Matt Starr

**Hall of Fame**  
 FROM: Southern Ohio PGA  
 FOR: PGA Professional Jeff Steinberg

**Top 50 Stand Alone Ranges in America**  
 FROM: Golf Range Association of America  
 FOR: Meadow Links & Golf Academy



## PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS

- YMCA OF GREATER CINCINNATI
- THE FIRST TEE OF GREATER CINCINNATI/NORTHERN KENTUCKY
- SOUTHERN OHIO PGA
- GREATER CINCINNATI GOLF ASSOCIATION
- CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF OHIO
- CINCINNATI VA HOSPITAL



# COMMUNITY

## BRINGING NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

With parks spread out across Hamilton County, a nearby Great Park is often the gathering place for its surrounding community. Great Parks offered many free events throughout the year as a way to bring its neighbors together.

Four Great Parks Days were held at different parks throughout the summer. These free days of fun were sponsored by the Great Parks Foundation so that everyone had the opportunity to enjoy all their Great Parks had

to offer. More than 9,637 people tried golfing, stand-up paddleboarding, fishing and more – many for the first time. The Great Parks Foundation also sponsored several free art events throughout the summer. Two Shakespeare in the Park performances brought the bard to life for visitors at Glenwood Gardens and Miami Whitewater Forest. And more than 5,000 people packed picnics and mingled with other music lovers to enjoy the Cincinnati Pops at twilight along the lake at Miami Whitewater Forest. Almost every week throughout the summer, Great Parks hosted an event for people to come together.



Great Parks Day at Sharon Woods



Great Parks Day at Woodland Mound



Great Parks Day at Miami Whitewater Forest



Great Parks Day at Winton Woods



Cincinnati Pops Orchestra at Miami Whitewater Forest



Great Parks Day at Miami Whitewater Forest



Shakespeare in the Park at Glenwood Gardens

## BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

In 2016, Great Parks continued its commitment to helping people get healthier. Free nature hikes served those who needed a slower pace, while others got their blood pumping at free weekly outdoor fitness classes led by YMCA of Greater Cincinnati instructors. After-work yoga was offered at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve and the YMCA Healthy Kids Day brought approximately 5,000 people out to Parky's Farm.

A new program called Great Cincy Strides was launched by Great Parks in 2016. With a goal of getting people to explore new trails while getting fit outdoors, Great Cincy Strides offers an easy-to-use tracking system for participants to log their miles, earn prizes for their efforts and find group hikes to make friends and stay motivated.

YMCA Healthy Kids Day



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

<p><b>2015:</b> 154 hours 56 events</p>	<p><b>2016:</b> 315 hours 70 events</p>
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## PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS

YMCA OF GREATER CINCINNATI

- Healthy Kids Day

LANG FINANCIAL

- Great Cincy Strides

## AWARDS

Platinum Excellence Award

FROM: Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA)

FOR: Great Parks Ranger Department



Public Listening Session

## LISTENING TO RESIDENTS

Great Parks loves to hear what community members want and need from their parks. In addition to the many visitor surveys conducted throughout the year, Great Parks also hosted a series of public listening sessions in 2016. More than 800 comments were gathered at 12 open houses held throughout Hamilton County in March and April. Attendees came from a wide variety of neighborhoods and backgrounds, giving valuable feedback on the park district that Great Parks will use as it plans for the future.

# FINANCIALS

## 2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### GENERAL, & CAPITAL FUNDS

Unencumbered	\$8,404,430
Encumbered	3,298,085
<b>Balance 1/1/2016</b>	<b>11,702,515</b>
Revenue Received	32,479,226
Total Funds Available	44,181,741
Expended	34,513,552
<b>Balance 12/31/2016</b>	<b>\$9,668,189</b>

### REVENUE

#### Taxes

Local Government Fund	\$289,297
Real Estate, Public Utilities, & Other	17,184,033
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>17,473,330</b>

#### Earned Revenue

Adventure Outpost	34,749
Athletics	238,201
Golf Management	5,572,490
Golf Merchandise	758,298
Guest Services	354,877
Motor Vehicle Permits	1,852,594
Nature's Niche	304,911
Naturalists	195,304
Park's Farm	167,977
Recreation Services	3,423,891
Riding Center	404,554
Special Events	358,654
<b>Total Earned Revenue</b>	<b>13,666,500</b>

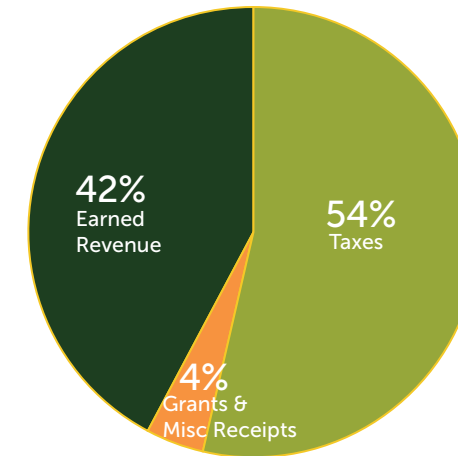
<b>Grants &amp; Misc Receipts</b>	<b>1,339,396</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$32,479,226</b>

### EXPENSES

Operations	\$6,672,788	19.33%
Greenspace Preservation	3,780,277	10.95%
Rangers	3,383,720	9.80%
Recreation Services	2,626,260	7.61%
Administration	2,397,852	6.95%
Golf Management	2,197,537	6.37%
Facilities	2,009,170	5.82%
Visitor Services	1,553,957	4.50%
Naturalists	1,135,193	3.29%
Development	1,087,533	3.15%
Natural Resources	927,967	2.69%
Communications	638,901	1.85%
Golf Merchandise	591,283	1.71%
Landscape	583,230	1.69%
Information Technology	579,670	1.68%
Special Events	570,085	1.65%
Planning	567,764	1.65%
Park's Farm	532,646	1.54%
Riding Center	418,762	1.21%
Projects	400,268	1.16%
Construction Management	310,076	0.90%
Nature's Niche	290,948	0.84%
Guest Services	256,566	0.74%
Armlerder	239,238	0.69%
Athletics	213,297	0.62%
Adventure Outpost	204,680	0.59%
Fernbank Park	185,797	0.54%
Volunteers	158,087	0.46%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$34,513,552</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

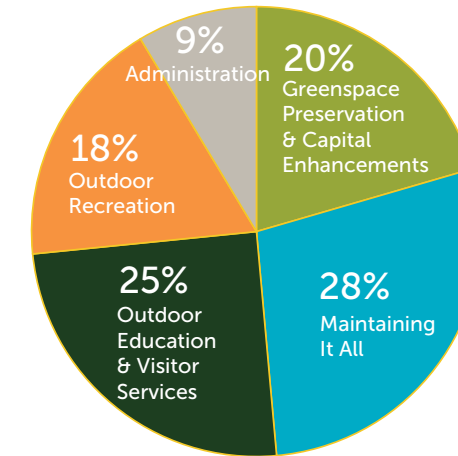
## 2016 SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Fund Name	Balance 1/1/2016	Revenue	Interest Revenue	Change in Fair Market Value of Investments	Expenditures	Balance 12/31/2016
Mitchell	\$3,951,409	\$297,271	\$164	\$425,661	\$(171,388)	\$4,503,117
Burchenal	2,098,501	57,916	878	101,246	-	2,258,541
Evergreen	1,420,908	465,253	3,363	N/A	(374,009)	1,515,515
Drug Law Enforcement	14,854	22,851	37	N/A	(11,000)	26,742
Law Enforcement	6,629	-	15	N/A	-	6,644
Law Enforcement & Education	2,639	75	6	N/A	-	2,720
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$7,494,940</b>	<b>\$843,366</b>	<b>\$4,463</b>	<b>\$526,907</b>	<b>\$(556,397)</b>	<b>\$8,313,279</b>



### REVENUES

Taxes	\$17,473,330
Earned Revenue	13,666,500
Misc Receipts & Grants	1,339,396
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,479,226</b>



### EXPENSES

Maintaining It All	\$9,690,223
Outdoor Education & Visitor Services	8,573,460
Greenspace Preservation & Capital Enhancements	7,073,885
Outdoor Recreation	6,198,462
Administration	2,977,522
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,513,552</b>

## 2016 LAND ACQUISITIONS

Location	Date acquired	Acreage	Grant	Cost
Mitchell Memorial Forest	3/24/16	3.078	\$0	\$67,716
Miami Whitewater Forest	4/8/16	42.7034	624,109	625,000
Oak Glen Nature Preserve	10/28/16	142.9225	982,500	982,500
Miami Whitewater Forest	10/28/16	122.798	645,500	645,500
Miami Whitewater Forest	12/6/16	66.542	598,878	598,878
Woodland Mound	12/13/16	4.018	90,000	90,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>382.0619</b>	<b>\$2,940,987</b>	<b>\$3,009,594</b>

Total greenspace preserved and protected by Great Parks of Hamilton County as of December 31, 2016 was 17,382 acres, including fee simple acquisitions, lease agreements, conservation easements, bike trail easements, out-leases and cooperative management agreements.

## MOTOR VEHICLE PERMIT PRICING UPDATE

In 2016, Great Parks shifted to a tiered pricing system of its motor vehicle permit (MVP). Beginning October 1, 2016, the cost of an MVP for a park guest who is not a resident of Hamilton County increased from \$10 to \$14 annually and from \$3 to \$5 daily. The cost for a resident of Hamilton County remains unchanged. Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners, the decision was made based on recent research and surveys of park guests.

## AWARDS

**Auditor of State Award with Distinction**  
FROM: State of Ohio



**Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**  
FROM: Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA)





**Great Parks of  
Hamilton County**  
10245 Winton Road  
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