



2014 Annual Report



Board of Park Commissioners—2014



Honorable James C. Cissell

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

DeVere E. Burt was appointed to the Board on January 1, 2013. He served as President and CEO of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History until 1996. He founded Masterworks for Nature in 2000, served as regional Vice President for the Nature Conservancy and was a field biologist for the United States Antarctic Research Program.

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.

HC Buck Niehoff was appointed to the Board effective January 1, 2014. Mr. Niehoff is retired from the law firm of Peck, Shaffer & Williams LLC. He served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati as well as on the boards of many local organizations, including the Cincinnati Museum Center, Mercantile Library and Ohio Cancer Research Associates.

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



Geraldine Warner, HC Buck Niehoff, Donald S. LaRosa, DeVere Burt and Joseph C. Seta

Geraldine "Ginger" Warner was appointed to the Board on May 2, 2012. She is a retired attorney and is currently on 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.

Message from the Executive Director

The year 2014 was an exciting year as Great Parks of Hamilton County continued its commitment of enriching lives by connecting people to nature. In May, we kicked off the season with the Healthy Parks, Healthy People Wellness and Sustainability Fair at Winton Harbor featuring over 40 local health organizations sharing information on wellness initiatives, healthy living, health screenings and products. And our year-long Step It Up! Trail Challenge program offered participants a variety of opportunities to meet their own fitness goals at their own pace as they explored the great outdoors.

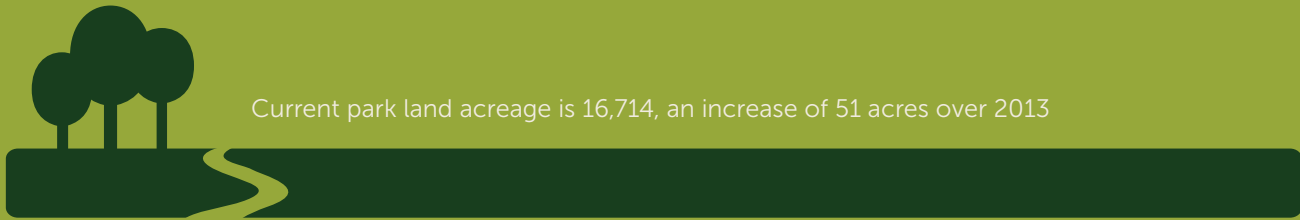
Visitor surveys conducted by Great Parks over the years show that walking, jogging and hiking are among the most popular activities in local and regional parks. Usage studies conducted in 2014 confirmed this as we recorded over 860,000 trail visits on 12 of our paved trails from May through December.

We also continued our collaboration with regional partners in the Taking Root initiative with the goal to plant two million trees throughout the Greater Cincinnati area by the year 2020. To this end, Great Parks led the region by planting more than 34,000 trees during the last two years. Our goal is to plant 60,000 trees by the end of 2016. All in an effort to make sure that our region has a healthy forest system for generations to come.

On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, I am proud to present this 2014 Annual Report and invite you to visit and explore Great Parks of Hamilton County in 2015!

Jack Sutton, Executive Director

POWER IN NUMBERS 2014



Creepy Campouts at Winton Woods sold out with 1,452 reservations over four weekends in October



Great Parks' Naturalists offered 1,995 programs with 79,983 in attendance



From the start of trail counting in May, through December 2014, a total of 860,959 people walked 12 paved trails throughout the park district

Park's Farm InReach programs served 335 school classes in 1,105 programs with a total of over 7,700 participants



28,635 boats were rented at Great Parks' lakes



2,034 individuals volunteered with Great Parks, a 6.5% increase over 2013

Volunteers contributed 66,572 hours of service, equating to 32 full-time employees



549 entries were received for the first year of the Great Parks Photo Contest

Table of Contents

- Adding Value to Our Community.....4
- Making a Difference.....6
- Awards.....8
- Oak Glen.....9
- Cave Salamanders.....9
- Health & Wellness.....10
- Corporate Sponsorships.....12
- Volunteering.....13
- Capital Improvement Projects.....14
- Financial Summary.....15



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Adding Value to Our Community

Great Parks takes great pride in connecting communities to nature. This is accomplished through partnerships with like-minded organizations, by sharing similar visions with community leaders, being active within communities and by inviting the community into nature.

Community Partnerships

Fernbank Park & Otto Armleder Memorial Park

Great Parks continued its joint venture with the City of Cincinnati to develop, operate and maintain Fernbank Park, located along the Ohio River in Saylor Park, and Otto Armleder Memorial Park and Recreation Complex, located along the Little Miami Scenic River on the east side of Cincinnati.

Little Miami Scenic Trail

Great Parks partnered with the City of Cincinnati, Anderson Township, Anderson Township Park District, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), to extend the Little Miami Scenic Trail 3.1 miles, from Little Miami Golf Center to Beechmont Avenue. Trail construction is scheduled to occur in 2015.

Green Umbrella & Regional Trails Summit

The Greater Cincinnati area is setting the stage for the development of its regional bike trail network. The initial stages of trail development gained momentum with the recent formation of the Green Umbrella Regional Trails Alliance (RTA). Great Parks of Hamilton County has played a key role in the RTA, which brings together local, regional and national partners to help provide safe and accessible trails, recreational resources and community connections. Goals for RTA include mapping trail projects, identifying funding sources, recruiting "champions" to lead groups and implementing a campaign to build support for trail projects.



Community Outreach

Great Parks Naturalist, Adam McCosham, made a number of regular monthly appearances on FOX-19 News. He educated the public about natural wonders, including making a homemade thermometer, sucking an egg into a bottle, creating an "insect orchestra" and more.

Great Parks participated in the third annual Let's Move! Cincinnati event at Smale Riverfront Park. Event goers enjoyed climbing our 23-foot climbing wall as well as other fitness-focused activities with participating organizations.

For the first time, Great Parks took part in the 2014 Reds Opening Day Parade featuring Great Parks Ranger Color Guard and staff dressed to represent outdoor activities that can be done in the parks.

Winton Woods Campground Office was a host site in the statewide Green Energy Tour, a free event providing people with the opportunity to visit facilities utilizing clean energy technologies. Visitors on the tour were able to see first-hand the building's many sustainable features, including passive solar technology, geothermal heating/cooling and energy efficient lighting.

Great Parks changed to post-consumer recycled replacement products (24-100% recycled content) in summer 2014. Approximately 3,025 pounds of paper and plastic were kept out of the landfill and repurposed.





Community InReach

Park's Farm InReach program invited elementary students from Hamilton County to spend a day at Park's Farm. The curriculum is designed to match specific grade level standards. This year, the program served 335 school classes in 1,105 programs with a total of over 7,700 participants.



Winton Woods Riding Center is home to the only Special Olympics State Equestrian Competition in Ohio. This year's event was hosted in August and featured 12 delegations of athletes from across the state. The Winton Woods Riding Center Hamilton County Special Olympics team succeeded in winning 12 gold, 10 silver and eight bronze medals.

Meadow Links & Golf Academy hosted the 2-day Special Olympics of Ohio Golf Tournament for its 22nd year. This is the largest golf event for Special Olympics in the country with 245 golfers participating in 2014.



Making a Difference

Great Parks of Hamilton County takes pride in making a difference in the community. Whether it be planting trees, cleaning up litter or sprucing up trails, Great Parks is proud to bring people together through volunteer opportunities.

Taking Root

There are many threats to our region's trees including invasive insects and plants, such as the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle and bush honeysuckle. Taking Root is a regional initiative focused on addressing those threats by replacing, retaining and increasing the number of trees in Greater Cincinnati. Great Parks of Hamilton County has committed to planting 60,000 trees by the end of 2016 as part of the Taking Root overall goal of planting two million trees by 2020.

By the end of 2014, over 35,241 trees had been planted in the parks. More than 33,000 of those were young trees between one and two years old. Of the remaining trees, about 1,200 were medium sized and around 240 were larger trees. Different planting methods were utilized, including mechanical planting and hand planting by staff and volunteers. About 9,500 trees have been planted by a mechanized tree planter. The parks held seven planting events open to the public with 383 participants. There were also five corporate groups and several organizations that came out to help plant trees. The combined effort has resulted in over 33 acres of reforestation in 2014 alone.

Selection of the tree species to be planted is based on characteristics of the site, including the type of soil and amount of sun exposure and whether or not it is native to the region and adapted to local conditions. Examples of species planted are native oaks, maples, and hickories as well as understory trees such as pawpaw, dogwoods, redbud and persimmon, for a total of 44 tree species. Depending on the deer population around the planting site, tree tubes and cages were installed as protection from deer browsing.

The areas selected for planting are chosen based on size, planting conditions and management concerns. Some trees are planted in landscape beds while most are planted in previously mowed grassy areas or existing fields. These plantings either create or change habitat to young forest which was the dominant land cover type before the area was converted to other land uses by settlers. Once established, forests also require less intensive management compared to other habitats such as prairie, which require periodic disturbance including burning or mowing.

Tree planting plans for 2015 will include over 84 acres to be planted by staff, volunteers and corporate groups. Great Parks of Hamilton County is on track to meet its goal by 2016, but hopes to continue planting beyond its target of 60,000 trees.



Emerald ash borer damage



How many trees does Great Parks need to plant to complete our goal? We are currently at 35,241 planted with 24,759 trees more to go!

Volunteer Tree Planting

In 2014, 616 volunteers planted more than 4,000 trees during 12 reforestation projects, as part of the Taking Root initiative. 383 community volunteers planted 2,945 trees and 233 corporate volunteers from Starbucks, GE, U.S. Bank, Eye Med and Glazers Distributors planted 654 trees.

In addition, Starbucks contributed \$2,500, GE contributed \$3,800 and Glazers Distributors contributed \$500 toward these reforestation efforts. REI contributed \$10,000 to the REI tree planting that took place at Sharon Woods on October 4.

Make a Difference Day

Over 100 community volunteers came out for Make a Difference Day, the Nation's largest day of community service. Rumpke co-sponsored this event and provided water bottles for volunteers.

Volunteers removed invasive plants, picked up litter, planted trees and took part in the statewide Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River.

Building Fences

Thanks to a generous donation of lumber from Greentree Forest Products, Inc. and a workforce from Turner Construction, the Winton Woods Riding Center now has a new fence around its parking lot pasture! It was a cold and rainy day, but the 17-member construction team completed the work in just under four hours.



REI Partnership



The Great Parks Foundation received a \$10,000 grant from Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) to be used towards the Great Parks of Hamilton County volunteer stewardship program. Thanks

to these funds, Great Parks was able to reforest nearly two acres of land at the entrance of Sharon Woods. Volunteers planted, staked and protected 550 native trees.

Great Parks also partnered with REI on programs beyond the grant-funded project.

- At the second annual backyard campout, 250 individuals experienced family camping while REI provided camping demos.
- REI provided lunch and drinks at the tree planting that took place at Michell Memorial Forest on April 5 – More than 60 community and Great Parks volunteers planted, staked and protected 1,000 tree seedlings during this tree planting.
- REI provided water bottles and T-shirts for volunteers during our second National Trails Day project, where 29 volunteers resurfaced a 1.0-mile nature trail.
- Great Parks attended the second annual REI Outdoor Expo with a climbing wall and trail display.
- Great Parks provided two speakers for REI in-store classes in 2014 who presented programs on backpacking and cycling.



Awards

Ohio Parks and Recreation

Stewardship Manager, **Bob Mason**, received the 2014 OPRA Jack Hanna Resource Conservation Award from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) for his 42 years of leadership in conservation with Great Parks.

Great Parks received a third place award from OPRA in the category of Health and Wellness Programs for the 2014 Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative.

Financial Reporting

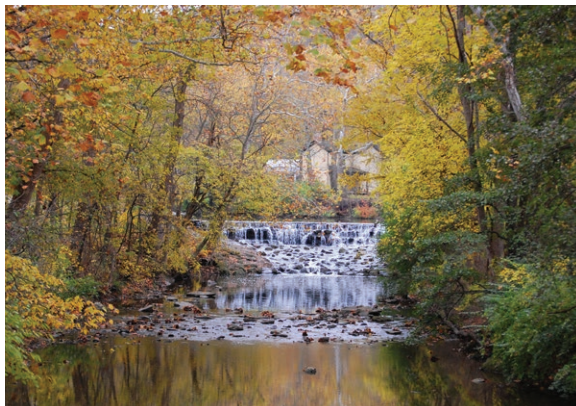
Great Parks received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting in 2014 by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its 2013 comprehensive annual financial report.

Best of the North

Sharon Woods won Cincy Magazine's Best of the North award for Best Park for the second year in a row.



Stewardship Manager, Bob Mason



Frank Henson, Nern Ostendorf and Jack Sutton

Golf Range Association of America Top 50 Range

Meadow Links & Golf Academy was recognized as a "Top 50 Stand Alone Golf Ranges" for 2014 by Golf Range Association of America.

Staff Recognition



Dennis Wells, Golf Professional at Little Miami Golf Center, received the Junior Golf Leader Award from the Southern Ohio PGA Section.



Tom Bach, Golf Professional at Sharon Woods, received the Golf Professional of the Year Award from the Southern Ohio PGA Section.

Bike Friendly Destination

Great Parks was awarded four Bike Friendly Destination awards from Queen City Bike for offering amenities that encourage the culture of cycling to, from and within parks.

Cleanest Kitchen Award

The Miami Whitewater Forest snack bar received a 2014 Cleanest Kitchen Award from Hamilton County Public Health.

Oak Glen Nature Preserve

Karen and Eugene Schunk, being deeply committed to nature, carefully managed their Colerain Township home and its surrounding 109 acres to maximize native wildlife diversity. When the Schunks offered their property to the park district in 1999 to assure its continued preservation, Great Parks quickly agreed and designated it Oak Glen Nature Preserve. Since 1999, Great Parks has added additional, adjoining parcels bringing the preserve up to its current 372 acres. In early 2015, we will be adding another 28 acres. From its inception, Oak Glen has been an exceptionally fine preserve with mature forests and diverse native wildlife unsurpassed in the Great Parks' system. It is home for two state endangered animals (cave salamander and the lark sparrow), two potential threatened plant species (pale umbrella sedge and spring coral-root) and provides habitat for many other animals.

On March 17, 2014 Great Parks Park Rangers discovered that an underground pipeline owned by Mid-Valley Pipeline and managed by Sunoco Logistics carrying crude oil from Texas to Michigan had ruptured, releasing approximately 20,000–30,000 gallons of crude oil into Oak Glen Nature Preserve.

Because only approximately 18,800 gallons of oil were recovered, a substantial quantity of oil remains in the environment, largely subsurface. The break occurred just outside the preserve boundaries but the oil quickly entered Oak Glen following approximately 3,000 linear feet of an existing stream which flows into a vernal pool wooded wetland. A unified command was established with the U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, Great Parks of Hamilton County, Colerain Township and Sunoco Logistics / Mid-Valley Pipeline to address the immediate effects of the spill. The discharge of the crude oil, coupled with the emergency response and initial cleanup activities, has caused significant long-term impact to the preserve, the intervening private properties and native flora and fauna, including the two state endangered animals.

Field work by Sunoco Logistics and its contractors continued throughout all of 2014 in an effort to complete emergency cleanup and begin the remediation and restoration of the nature preserve. Work will continue in 2015 and well beyond to remediate and restore the damaged natural resources and monitor the ongoing effects of this significant environmental impact to a unique natural treasure within Hamilton County.



Cave Salamanders

The cave salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*) is a state-endangered salamander that has been found only in Hamilton, Butler and Adams counties in Ohio. This means cave salamanders, which are bright orange in color, can be found in many of the Great Parks, especially those on the west side of town where limestone bedrock slabs are exposed as part of that region's local geology.

How do cave salamanders live in an area that doesn't have caves? As groundwater percolates through the bedrock, it dissolves parts of the limestone layers and causes "solution channels" to perforate the rock. A solution channel is formed when rain soaks into the soil and travels along the bedrock layer over centuries, dissolving small channels in the rock. These little channels make for tiny caves - perfect for these slender, orange beauties.

Cave salamanders were found at Oak Glen Nature Preserve in 2014, and have also been documented at Miami Whitewater Forest and Mitchell Memorial Forest.



Health & Wellness

The 2014 Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative was created to bring people outdoors and into Great Parks to connect with nature. The goal of the program was to positively influence involvement in physical activity and behavior while educating park guests about wellness-themed programs Great Parks of Hamilton County has to offer. Four free programs/events were developed with the initiative: Healthy Parks, Healthy People Wellness and Sustainability Fair; Step It Up! Trail Challenge; Take a Walk in the Park and Try It Fitness Classes.

Wellness Fair

Great Parks' Healthy Parks, Healthy People Wellness and Sustainability Fair took place on May 18, 2014. Over 40 local health organizations helped educate the public on wellness initiatives, healthy living, health screenings and products. It also featured 15 interactive programs and a Kid's Zone. Over 2,500 guests attended the event that was located at Winton Woods Harbor.

Step It Up! Trail Challenge

This was an interactive program that allowed participants to meet their individual fitness goals at their own pace as they explored Great Parks' trails. Participants were challenged to walk five out of seven designated trails, between April 21 and September 1, and log accomplishments on the Step It Up! webpage. Those who completed the challenge received a t-shirt for their accomplishment. The program had 599 guests sign up with 147 completing the challenge. Participants ranged in age from 3–80!

Take a Walk in the Park

More than a mile of Sharon Woods' main park road was closed to vehicular traffic on September 28, allowing park guests to walk, run, bike, skate or dance along the road. Group fitness, dance, arts, naturalist and hiking programs were offered throughout the day with a health awareness area offering free screenings.

Try It Fitness Classes

June–August, over 365 park guests got moving during free outdoor fitness classes. The program was developed through a partnership with the Greater Cincinnati YMCA. Five classes offered hip hop aerobics, kickboxing, cardio combo, yoga and ZUMBA. All classes were led by fitness instructors from the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati.



Interact for Health

Great Parks received an \$8,000 grant from Interact For Health to help fund the Healthy Parks, Healthy People Wellness and Sustainability Fair.

The goal with the grant was to improve access and connections to physical activity for thousands of people attending the fair.



FootGolf

FootGolf combines the popular sports of soccer and golf. Players kick a soccer ball, trying to get it into a 21-inch diameter circle. The game was introduced in Great Parks on the Par 3 course at Little Miami Golf Center. A total of 539 golfers played during the first season. Due to the good turnout, the golf department is looking to introduce the game at Meadow Links & Golf Academy in 2015.

SUP

One of the fastest growing recreational activities in the area has been stand up paddleboarding (SUP). This was the first year Great Parks offered SUP rental at Miami Whitewater Forest, Winton Woods and Sharon Woods. Rentals started off slow, but gradually picked up as the season progressed, resulting in 358 total rentals. The amount of interest in 2015 will indicate the long-term rental potential at the boathouses.

Public Links

Sharon Woods Golf Course hosted the USGA Public Links Qualifier on June 16, 2014. A total of 53 amateur golfers tried to qualify for the national championship which was played at Sand Creek Station Golf Course in Newton, Kansas. This was the final year the USGA offered this championship.



Archery

Certified and trained staff at Adventure Outpost in Winton Woods hosted 23 archery programs for 218 participants. This is a 53% increase in archery programs conducted with a 33% revenue increase over last year. Archery was also offered at the Great Outdoor Weekend, which had 199 participants.



Climbing Wall

The 23-foot portable climbing wall operated by certified and trained staff with Adventure Outpost, was featured at many events through the year. This included the Cincinnati Travel, Sports and Boat Show, REI Outdoor Expo, Great Parks' Wellness and Sustainability Fair, Paddlefest Kids' Outdoor Adventure Expo, Great Parks Reds Day, Let's Move! Cincinnati, Great Outdoor Weekend and Midwest Outdoor Experience.



Corporate Sponsorships

Great Parks' sponsorships play a substantial role in providing special events, programs and park features for all park guests to enjoy. Many of these sponsorships have been strong for years, and they have made it possible for Great Parks to provide such great services. A big thanks to the following sponsors for their support in 2014:

Interact for Health

Grant supporting Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative



Coors Light

Entertainment sponsor of the Sizzling Summer Nights Concert Series



Bud Light Lime

Entertainment sponsor of the Friday Night Grill Outs



REI

Great Parks Backyard Campout demonstrations



Cincinnati Astronomical Society

Great Parks Backyard Campout demonstrations



YMCA of Greater Cincinnati

Partnership for Try It Fitness Classes and Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative



Pones Inc.

Partnership for Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative



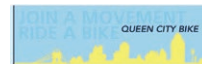
Roads, River and Trails (RRT)

Partnership for Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative



Queen City Bike

Partnership for Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative



Foundation for Wellness Professionals

Partnership for Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative



VITALITY of Cincinnati

Partnership for Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative



SPCA Cincinnati

Partnership for Simmonds Family Dog Park events and opening, Tri County Pet Adoption Day and Walk the Lights at Holiday in Lights

Cincinnati Reds

Partnership for Healthy Parks, Healthy People health and wellness initiative and Great Parks at Great American Ball Park Day

Target

Supporting sponsor for Halloween Nights

Ellenbee Leggett

Friend of the Park sponsor for Halloween Nights

Arts Rental Equipment and Supply

In-kind goods and services for Halloween Nights

GE Aviation Legal Operations Division

In-kind labor services for setup of Halloween Nights

The Alleen Company

Partnership with Holiday in Lights

Fifth Third Bank

Title sponsor for Holiday in Lights

Panera Bread

Partnership for Panerathon and Holiday in Lights 5K Race

Bass Pro Shops

Gift cards for all Great Parks fishing tournament prizes

Lang Financial Group

Sponsor for Take a Walk in the Park and Great Parks Walk Club.

Gold Star Chili

Title sponsor for Halloween Nights.

Rumpke

Event sponsor for Halloween Nights and Make a Difference Day.

Volunteering

Great Parks believes in providing opportunities in which people can give back to their community and take pride in what they accomplish, whether its by joining the Great Parks Volunteer team, being part of an organized volunteer group or providing time and energy as an individual volunteer.

Great Parks Volunteers

In 2014, 135 new Great Parks Volunteers joined the team, bringing the total number of active Great Parks Volunteers to 638. These numbers reflect long-term and unpaid volunteers only; they do not include one-time, community-based, corporate volunteers or scout volunteers. The largest percentage of volunteer service (10,621 hours) was contributed to the Naturalist department where volunteers answer phones, assist guests in the visitor centers, help take care of program animals and support naturalist programming.

Corporate

Great Parks actively engaged 14 different business groups with unique projects tailored to meet their goals and Great Parks' needs. Corporate volunteers were able to learn about the park district and its mission through tree plantings, invasive plant removal, litter pickups, maintenance projects and trail improvement work. In 2014, 400 corporate volunteers contributed 1,464 hours of service. Corporate volunteers included Starbucks, General Electric, U.S. Bank, Procter and Gamble and Duke Energy, among others.



Simmonds Family Dog Park Grand Opening

The grand opening of the Simmonds Family Dog Park was on a beautiful day in June 2014. The day was filled with doggie-themed activities, live demonstrations, giveaways, 20 pet-friendly vendors and the opportunity for guests to be the first to enjoy this 11-acre doggie paradise. The opening of the region's largest dog park was made official with a ribbon cutting that included members of the Simmonds family, Great Parks, Great Parks Foundation and Jerry Lotz. The dog park features four separate play fields, an all-season play field, dog agility and play zones, benches, trees, shade structures and water features.

The facility is maintained by Great Parks of Hamilton County with support through the MABLOTZ Fund. The



MABLOTZ Fund is a special fund within the Great Parks Foundation, established to provide financial assistance in the cost of maintenance and care of the Simmonds Family Dog Park. This fund was established in 2014 by Mr. Jerry Lotz in memory of his canine companions – Mitzy, Annie and Bandit. To learn how you can contribute to the MABLOTZ Fund and other Great Parks Foundation programs please visit greatparksfoundation.org.



SPCA Partnership

Great Parks opened the 11 acre Simmonds Family Dog Park at Miami Whitewater Forest in June 2014. Construction was funded completely through private funds raised by Great Parks Foundation. A trail will soon connect the dog park to the SPCA Cincinnati Simmonds Farm, a proposed animal husbandry and agriculture education facility. The collaboration with Great Parks will create a great connection for park guests.



2014 Capital Improvement Projects

Dry Fork Creek Restoration at Miami Whitewater Forest

Great Parks restored 1,500 linear feet of streambank along Dry Fork Creek at two locations in Miami Whitewater Forest. The work was funded in part by a \$700,000 grant through the Clean Ohio Conservation Greenspace Program. The design for the project included bio stabilization techniques to protect park infrastructure that was threatened by streambank erosion, with the additional objectives of improving water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat. The stabilization was accomplished through a combination of earthwork, installation of rock structures and native plants to reinforce the soils along the creek.

Little Miami Scenic River Bridge Funding

Great Parks is continuing to make progress on connecting the Little Miami Scenic Trail to Lunken Field, Otto Armleder Memorial Park and the Ohio River Trail. In 2014, Great Parks received a \$1 million capital grant from the State of Ohio. The funds will be used to provide engineering services for a new multiuse trail bridge across the Little Miami Scenic River, adjacent to the existing Beechmont Avenue bridge. Great Parks is working cooperatively with the City of Cincinnati to create a project management strategy and identify construction funding sources for the new bridge and associated trail connectors, which has an estimated construction cost of \$5.6 million.



Bike trail bridge at Newtown Road

Capital Improvements

- Phase one construction was completed at Simmonds Family Dog Park in Miami Whitewater Forest.
- Streambank stabilization projects were completed at two sites on Dry Fork Creek at Miami Whitewater Forest. The projects were funded through the Clean Ohio Conservation Greenspace program.
- Completed improvements to Winton Woods Central Operations facility.
- Completed asphalt paving projects at Winton Woods and Miami Whitewater Forest.
- 3.3 miles of horse trails were improved or rebuilt at Miami Whitewater Forest, creating a safer and more sustainable trail. Great Parks funding for this multi-year project was matched by private contributions and grant funding secured by Great Parks Foundation.

2014 Land Acquisitions

Location	Date Acquired	Acreage	Cost
Little Miami Scenic Trail ¹	4/14/2014	1.57	\$0
Little Miami Scenic Trail ¹	6/18/2014	.60	\$150,000
Little Miami Scenic River	11/21/2014	.08	\$0
Little Miami Scenic Trail ¹	12/03/2014	2.85	\$0
Miami Whitewater Forest ²	12/11/2014	77.84	\$0
Miami Whitewater Forest ²	12/31/2014	14.40	\$34,197
Total		97.34	\$184,197

2014 Land Dispositions

Location	Disposition Date	Acreage
Lochcrest Drive	10/28/2014	.01
Bridle Road ²	11/13/2014	45.03
Total		45.04

Total greenspace preserved and protected by Great Parks of Hamilton County as of December 31, 2014 is 16,714 acres, including fee simple acquisitions, lease agreements, conservation easements, bike trail easements, out-leases and cooperative management agreements.

1. Great Parks acquired land, totaling 5.02 acres, to facilitate creation of a corridor for the extension of the Little Miami Scenic Trail to the south of Little Miami Golf Center.
2. Great Parks was awarded \$945,600 from the State of Ohio's Clean Ohio Conservation Program for land acquisition and natural area restoration projects. The state funding allowed for the purchase of 92.24 acres to expand Miami Whitewater Forest.
3. Great Parks transferred 45.03 acres to Anderson Township Park District to be included in Johnson Hills Park while retaining a conservation easement on the acreage,

2014 Financial Summary

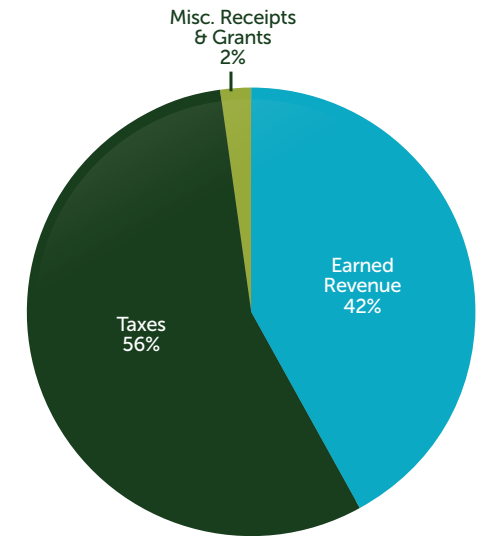
GENERAL & CAPITAL FUNDS

Unencumbered	\$10,812,159
Encumbered	1,347,317
Balance 1/1/2014	<u>\$12,159,476</u>
Revenue Received	\$31,606,129
Total Funds Available	<u>\$43,765,605</u>
Less Appropriated and Expended	\$32,180,200
Balance 12/31/2014	<u>\$11,585,405</u>
REVENUE	
Taxes	
Local Government Fund	\$267,522
Real Estate, Public Utilities, & Other	17,398,817
Total Taxes	<u>\$17,666,339</u>
Earned Revenue	
Adventure Outpost	\$50,833
Athletics	271,908
Glenwood Gardens	69,306
Golf Management	5,264,546
Golf Merchandise	712,182
Guest Services	307,439
Motor Vehicle Permits	1,956,667
Nature's Niche	298,162
Outdoor Education	123,087
Park's Farm	140,502
Recreation Services	3,200,950
Riding Center	414,575
Special Events	340,606
Total Earned Revenue	<u>\$13,150,763</u>
Miscellaneous Receipts	<u>\$789,027</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$31,606,129</u>

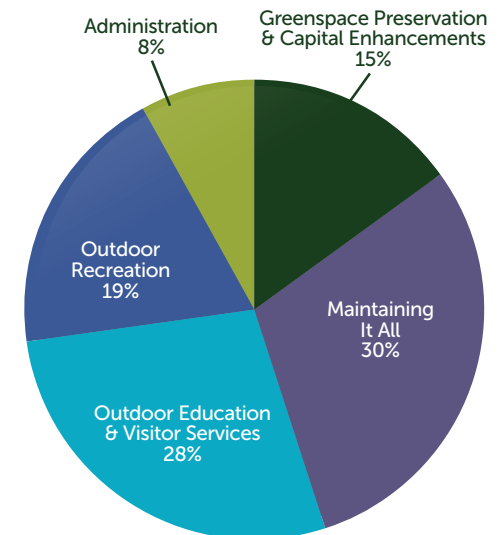
Expenditures

Operations	\$6,181,912	19.21%
Safety	3,705,189	11.51%
Recreation Services	2,577,623	8.01%
Facilities	2,222,926	6.91%
Golf Management	2,075,401	6.45%
Greenspace Preservation	2,071,334	6.44%
Administration	2,038,341	6.33%
Visitor Services	1,694,621	5.27%
Naturalists	1,069,195	3.32%
Development	1,017,944	3.16%
Stewardship	725,865	2.26%
Golf Merchandise	660,179	2.05%
Communications	574,437	1.79%
Special Projects	543,333	1.69%
Landscape	504,712	1.57%
Park's Farm	494,277	1.54%
Information Systems	445,465	1.38%
Riding Center	431,031	1.34%
Projects	414,129	1.29%
Glenwood Gardens	411,949	1.28%
Planning	380,397	1.18%
Guest Services	345,788	1.07%
Construction Management	333,896	1.04%
Nature's Niche	267,490	0.83%
Armlerder - Maintenance	240,504	0.75%
Fernbank Park	220,706	0.69%
Athletics	216,836	0.67%
Adventure Outpost	164,036	0.51%
Volunteers	117,575	0.37%
Armlerder - Capital	33,109	0.10%
2014 Total Expenditures	<u>\$32,180,200</u>	100%

Revenue



Expenditures



Special Revenue Funds

Fund Name	Balance 1/1/14	Revenue	Interest Revenue	Change in Value of Investments	Expenditures	Balance 12/31/14
Mitchell	\$4,238,080	\$123,730	\$209	\$34,564	\$(149,277)	\$4,247,306
Burchenal	2,028,069	54,900	870	210,009	-	2,293,848
Evergreen	1,369,140	397,613	4,033	N/A	(539,781)	1,231,005
Drug Law Enforcement	1,342	5,812	9	N/A	-	7,163
Law Enforcement	6,593	-	20	N/A	-	6,613
Law Enforcement & Education	2,898	75	8	N/A	(374)	2,607
TOTALS	\$7,646,122	\$582,130	\$5,149	\$244,573	\$(689,432)	\$7,788,542



**Great Parks of
Hamilton County**
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greatparks.org

**2014 Board of
Park Commissioners**
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Donald S. LaRosa
HC Buck Niehoff
Joseph C. Seta
Geraldine Warner

Executive Director
Jack Sutton



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