



Great Parks of Hamilton County

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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Great Parks of Hamilton County
 10245 Winton Road
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
 513-521-7275 | greatparks.org

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.

GREETINGS FROM GREAT PARKS

This year was full of excitement and important milestones for Great Parks of Hamilton County. In April, we celebrated a new partnership with Winton Woods City Schools by christening a new dock in Winton Lake for the Winton Woods girls' crew team. And in June, accessing the Ohio River was made easier with the installation of a new boat dock at Woodland Mound.



Jack Sutton

In August, Great Parks embarked on the creation of a Comprehensive Master Plan. This plan will define a clear strategy and decision-making guide for the next 10 years. To ensure the plan is in line with what the public wants and needs from their park district, Great Parks is involving community members throughout the process. Extensive public engagement commenced in the fall of 2017 and will continue into 2018. The plan is expected to be completed by December 2018.

By the year's end, more than 124 acres of new parkland was acquired, including nearly 70 acres along the Whitewater River corridor. According to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Whitewater supports exceptional warm water habitat. Preserving the Whitewater's riparian corridor is critical to the river's long-term protection.

Great Parks is incredibly grateful for the continued support of our dedicated volunteers. Last year, more than 1,300 people volunteered more than 57,000 hours of their time to help Great Parks meet its mission.

On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, thank you to all who showed support for Great Parks of Hamilton County in 2017. I invite you to review this recap of our 2017 accomplishments and to take time in 2018 to visit and explore your Great Parks!

Jack Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Great Parks of Hamilton County

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.



2017 Board of Park Commissioners

2017 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

190

miles of trails mapped with Google Trekker



1,800

milkweed plants grown from seed



212,332

rounds of golf played



1,819

pounds of holiday lights recycled



\$487,592

received from partnership with Great Parks Foundation



57,000

hours of time contributed by volunteers



CONSERVATION

BOBCAT RETURN

The bobcat, *Lynx rufus*, is a native species known for its shorter tail and black-tipped ears. Larger than an average house cat, bobcats have a coat that can vary from grey to reddish brown. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, this cousin of the lynx was numerous in what would come to be the state of Ohio. But by 1850, bobcats were extirpated from the state due to destruction of their habitats, which included forests, swamps and lowlands. It wasn't until as recently as 2014 that bobcats were removed from the state's Endangered and Threatened Species List.

As habitats have become protected and restored over the past 50 years, bobcats have made a return to our region. Found primarily in the forests of the eastern part of Ohio, there have been sightings in Hamilton County and on Great Parks' property. Acreage acquired in 2016 and 2017 on the northern edge of the county is a known habitat for this wildlife species, and there have even been recent sightings of bobcat kittens.

Bobcats are solitary animals with estimates for their home range varying in size from about 1 square mile or less to 23 miles and even more in some areas. Females occupy smaller home ranges than males and rarely have overlapping territory with other females. People rarely run into bobcats, because the animals are very elusive and are crepuscular, meaning most active around morning and evening twilight.

Bobcats typically have one litter per year with two or three kittens. Although born completely furred, they are helpless at birth and do not open their eyes for about 10 days. After eight weeks they are completely weaned and begin dispersing late in the year to live on their own.

By protecting bobcat habitat through

recent property additions, Great Parks is providing a better chance for the animals to survive locally. That's because protecting available habitat is important to sustaining healthy populations. The more bobcats expand into the parks in our region, the more resilient their populations will be to face future challenges.



Verified Bobcat Sightings in Ohio by County from 1970-2014



Bobcat Spotted With a Trail Camera

AWARDS

Operational Facility Award

FROM: National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO)

FOR: Solar PV system at Winton Woods

Great Tree Award: Shade Tree

FROM: Anderson Township

FOR: 67-year-old dawn redwood tree at Withrow Nature Preserve

ZOYSIA GRASS CONVERSION

Water conservation on golf courses continues to land in the spotlight due to increasing populations, long-term droughts and a decreasing water supply. Great Parks uses many tools to keep the grass looking great while still keeping sustainability in mind, but the most visible to park visitors has been the conversion to zoysia grass.

Zoysia is known as a warm-season grass. Thriving in drought conditions and high temperatures, it is a much hardier grass than the more common bluegrass and bentgrass varieties that line Great Parks' fairways. It's also more sustainable from a maintenance standpoint. Zoysia grass requires considerably less water, which means it requires less electric to run irrigation pumps and pump stations. It requires minimal pesticide and fertilizer applications. And since it grows slowly, it doesn't need to be mowed as often and further reduces fuel usage and pollutants.

Zoysia grass is a favorite among golfers, too. During the warm season, the grass has a nice light green color that clearly defines it from the rough. The turf is typically in great condition when golf season is in full swing, because it has few known pests and it enjoys the heat. Perhaps the most appreciated perk of having zoysia fairways is the way the leaf blades stand up, providing a "teed up" shot almost every time.

In 2016, Little Miami Golf Center and Meadow Links & Golf Academy began experimenting with different methods of planting zoysia grass on select fairway areas. The goal was to see firsthand how this quirky grass could help in Great Parks' quest to become more sustainable in golf course maintenance practices. In 2017, Little Miami Golf Center converted approximately 3.5 acres of fairways and two target greens on the driving range to zoysia grass. There are 4.5 acres of fairways and three more target greens on the driving range to still convert – a process that is expected to take another 2–3 years to complete.

Great Parks' golf courses currently feature more than 115 acres of bentgrass and bluegrass fairways. The majority of those acres are cared for traditionally, with irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides. But by taking steps to convert some of this acreage to zoysia grass, Great Parks can reduce the carbon footprint and water use of its public courses.



Site of Zoysia Grass Conversion



Little Miami Golf Center

NATIONWIDE BIRD MONITORING

Following a successful pilot survey in 2016, Great Parks completed its first official MAPS survey in 2017. MAPS, or Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, is a nationwide bird banding project aimed at measuring the ability of birds to reproduce and survive in a given area. The data collected has important implications. It gives Great Parks more knowledge about the health of the local bird population in order to make more informed decisions about how park land is managed.

To facilitate the project, Great Parks teamed up with Dr. Ron Canterbury, a master bird bander and Associate Academic Director at the University of Cincinnati. This partnership added Dr. Canterbury's hard-earned expertise to the venture, and ultimately provided both him and the park district with valuable bird population data. The

team chose Dry Fork Meadow at Miami Whitewater Forest as the project site, because the area is a prime location for prairie and old-field species of birds – a group that has been hit hard by human encroachment and development.

Strict protocols were followed to ensure adherence with national guidelines. Ten, 8-meter long mist nets were set up in the study area. The nets stayed up for six hours a session, which occurred every 10 days from mid-May through early August. This consistency allows scientists across the country to compare different sites using equal benchmarks.

After a bird was captured, it was banded with a lightweight metal ring around its leg, given a quick, mini physical examination and then released unharmed. Its weight, age and sex were recorded as part of the process. If a banded bird is captured again, the new data can be

compared to provide data on survival, reproductive rates and sometimes, movement patterns. (Even though Great Parks only has two years of data, it has already recaptured birds that have wintered in Central America!) This information is much more robust than merely population numbers and is critical to Great Parks' conservation and land management efforts.



Avian "Mini-Physical Examination"



Bird Banding Technique



PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS

COHEN RECYCLING

- Holiday lights recycling

HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Native Tree & Shrub Sale

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

- Park attendance research

REI

- Trail stewardship

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

- Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship (MAPS) program
- Cincinnati Groundwater Observatory at Miami Whitewater Forest

EDUCATION



Sharon Woods

AGENTS OF DISCOVERY

In May 2017, Great Parks began using a mobile app to spark an interest in the outdoors among children and adults alike. Agents of Discovery is a mobile game that encourages users to discover hidden geo-located challenges that can only be solved through observation. Players simply download the free Agents of Discovery app to their smart phone or tablet and then walk through the park playing the game.

Agents of Discovery has been a way to provide Great Parks' visitors with a unique experience. Great Parks' outdoor education staff created challenges at Sharon Woods that would test participant's knowledge of local environmental concepts with multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions, color matching of local wildlife and even the use of augmented reality. The challenges were

strategically placed to encourage players to travel from one side of the park to the other.



In its inaugural year, nearly 350 nature detectives downloaded the game and played the mission at Sharon Woods. To help spread the word, an Agents of Discovery mission was also placed at the nearby Sharonville library. Librarians created challenges to test the library guests' knowledge of nature found in books. During Great Parks' popular Halloween Creepy Campouts at Winton Woods, a mission was created with challenges focused more on spiders, bats and pumpkins for camping families to enjoy together. As popularity of the game grows, Great Parks expects to add more missions to encourage visitors to explore more of their Great Parks.

“There is something to do for everyone [at Great Parks] and the happiness it brings creates lifelong memories.

- GINA HORNBACK

INTERSCHOLASTIC EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION TEAM

The Winton Woods Riding Center Equestrian Team was proud to compete for a second year with the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA). The IEA program is a perfect fit for Great Parks' mission of encouraging outdoor education for kids from all economic backgrounds, as no rider needs to own a horse to participate. Classes are offered in four

ability levels, which closely mirror collegiate hunt seat competition. Teams take turns hosting horse shows throughout the season. Students ride horses that are furnished by the host barn and chosen by random draw. This equalizes competition variables and tests the horsemanship of the contestants.

Riders in grades 6–8 are eligible for middle school teams while riders in grade 9–12 compete at the high school level. Points are tracked for

individual rider accomplishments and for overall team accomplishments. Individuals and teams earn points to qualify for regional, zone and national finals. In its first year of competition, the Great Parks Equestrian Team had three riders qualify for Region 4 Finals, and two seniors were recruited by collegiate teams!

Winton Woods Riding Center has a solid reputation as a consistent, safe lessons facility with fantastic advancement opportunities. There are just eight teams in the region approved to train and compete, and the Great Parks team stands out from the crowd for its affordability and approachability. Team members get so much out of being a part of the team, beyond the intensive skill building. They gain sportsmanship, incredible overall horsemanship and lifelong friendships. Great Parks is looking forward to continuing to grow the size and skill of its team of riders and coaches and develop the next batch of IEA champions in its barns.



Interscholastic Equestrian Team Members



EMPOWERING CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

One of the most-posed questions to Great Parks' naturalists is, "How can I help?" Often this question comes at the end of a public program that includes a wildlife or habitat hardship, such as the decline of our pollinator populations. In 2017, Great Parks assisted people with answering this question by launching a new series called Operation Observation.

The goal of Operation Observation was to connect park visitors with well-established citizen science projects. Programs were held twice a month at two different parks, and each month covered a different national-level project. Most of the projects did not entail special training by the participants, just an interest in the topic and the willingness to keep their eyes open and report what they saw.

During each program, Great Parks' staff provided participants with background knowledge of the subject, as well as an overview of the project itself and information on how to participate. Then, everyone headed out into the field to find the bees, spiders, frogs (or whatever they were learning about that month) in their natural environment. This gave Great Parks the chance to put learning into practice before the participants went home and did it on their own. Whether it was catching and identifying moths to help track their populations or identifying



Citizen Scientists In Action

constellations while exploring light pollution, this hands-on part of each program helped solidify some of the information provided while also building the confidence of the visitor to participate on their own. "Yes, I can do this!" was the feeling they left with.

Operation Observation was an excellent way to encourage not just individuals but whole families to take what they learned at the parks and continue their learning and involvement at home. The series provided Great Parks' visitors with the chance to contribute their sightings to a wealth of knowledge that is helping scientists nationwide create real-time solutions to some of the most pressing problems facing nature today. By participating in Operation Observation, visitors found a way to truly make a difference.



Citizen Scientists In Action

“ Thank you for all your efforts in creating such a welcoming environment for our guys to explore the great outdoors!

-CHRISTINA ALBERT



PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

- Owl Week 2017

CIVIC GARDEN CENTER

- Monarchs & Milkweed programs

GREEN UMBRELLA

- Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo

HOPE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Winton Woods Riding Center program

STANTEC

- Nature play area at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve

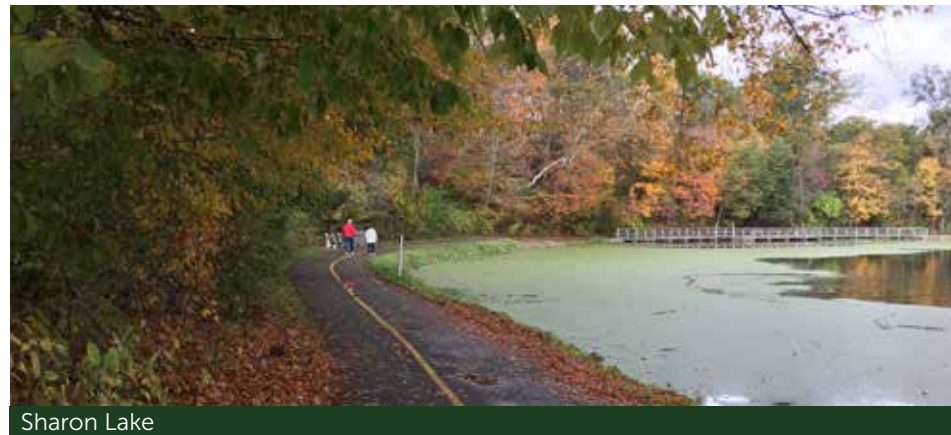
RECREATION

SHARON LAKE RESTORATION

In 1938, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) built the Kreis Dam on Sharon Creek to create Sharon Lake as a depression-era public works project. The lake has since become the centerpiece of one of the most beautiful parks in the region. It's the place where many young people catch their first fish, where families rent a boat to enjoy the sights on a summer day and where trail walkers can watch wood ducks forage in the shallows.

Because Sharon Lake lies within a highly developed watershed in both Hamilton and Butler Counties, it has exhibited many problems often associated with reservoirs in urban areas. Over many decades, extensive development in the watershed has increased erosion in the lake's tributary streams, which continually increases the amount of sediment in the lake. Sharon Lake was dredged in 1988–1989 to help combat this issue. However, the lake has filled in again over the years, creating the perfect conditions for duckweed to take over. Often mistaken for algae, this tiny flowering plant impacts both water quality and visitors' ability to enjoy fishing, boating and most other water activities.

Great Parks hired a consulting firm in 2017 to conduct a project feasibility study. The study, which will be completed in spring 2018, will provide four rated options for dredging methods and how to dispose of the huge volume of sediment. The project is scheduled to commence in 2019–2020. Although this will be a long project with a noticeable impact, it will ultimately result in a healthier lake and improved experience for those who visit Sharon Woods.



Sharon Lake

EXTREME GOLF AT SHAWNEE LOOKOUT

Extreme golf activities were introduced this year at Shawnee Lookout Golf Course. In addition to traditional golf, the facility now also offers golf bikes, Fling Golf and FootGolf. The golf bikes, which are specially designed to handle all types of terrain, are an alternative to taking a golf cart or walking and offer a nice workout. Fling Golf is played by throwing a golf ball around the course with the use of a club that is similar to a Lacrosse stick. For FootGolf, players hit the course with a soccer ball instead of clubs. The game is played from tee to green, and the ball is holed once it hits the green. These activities offer visitors to Shawnee Lookout a new way to enjoy the park and the course.



Fling Golf



Woodland Mound Boat Dock



Little Miami Scenic Trail

NEW BOAT DOCK

Accessing the Ohio River was made easier for park guests in 2017 with the installation of a new boat dock at Woodland Mound. The project was completed in June with the installation of an 8'x35' aluminum dock secured by two steel piles, which allows the dock to float with river level fluctuations. The dock was installed next to the existing boat ramp to allow park guests convenient access in and out of their watercraft.

LITTLE MIAMI SCENIC TRAIL UPDATE

The Little Miami Scenic Trail is one of the longest paved multi-use trails in the United States. Great Parks extended the trail by 3.15 miles in 2016 to its current terminus near Beechmont Avenue and State Route 32. In 2017, Great Parks was awarded grant funding from the Ohio Statewide Urban Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Committee for the Little Miami Scenic Trail Beechmont Connection project. The grant will provide 80% of the \$5.4 million project, with Great Parks providing the 20% local match through a combination of capital budget funds, State of Ohio

capital improvement funds and other planned grant funding requests.

Great Parks is working with the City of Cincinnati to design this final phase, which includes a bridge over the Little Miami Scenic River, a retaining wall underneath the bridge and a tunnel under the State Route 32 westbound ramp to Beechmont Avenue. Design will be completed by spring 2019 with permitting and bidding completed by summer 2020. It is anticipated that construction will begin in fall 2020 with project completion in fall 2021. This funding brings Great Parks one step closer to connecting the Little Miami Scenic Trail to the city of Cincinnati as part of the statewide Ohio to Erie Trail.

AWARDS

- Patriot Award**
FROM: Southern Ohio PGA
FOR: PGA Professional Doug Stultz
- Youth Player Development Award**
FROM: Southern Ohio PGA
FOR: PGA Professional Matt Starr
- Player Development Award**
FROM: Southern Ohio PGA
FOR: PGA Professional Brian Fennen
- Top 50 Range**
FROM: Golf Range Association of America
FOR: Meadow Links & Golf Academy



PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

- 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
- CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
- CINCINNATI SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
- ALLEEN COMPANY



“Thanks for having such great parks for our families to enjoy!”

-BART GEIS

COMMUNITY



Winton Woods High School Crew Team Practice

A NEW CREW

Great Parks is used to being a space for sports. Dozens of fields accommodate everything from soccer and softball to flag football and ultimate frisbee. This year, the park district began hosting a sport never before seen in the parks: rowing. Winton Woods City Schools and Great Parks entered into an agreement to provide Winton Woods High School with access to Winton Lake to serve as their crew team practice facility. The partnership grew over a three-year period and became a reality in spring 2017 as the school launched "Opportunities One." The inaugural all-female crew team has kicked off not only a new sport for the school, but also future opportunities for other students to challenge themselves in a competitive field of athletes. The sport also has the potential to provide local high school students with scholarship opportunities not seen before in the urban sectors of our region.



PARTNERSHIPS/ COLLABORATIONS



YMCA OF GREATER CINCINNATI

- Healthy Kids Day

LANG FINANCIAL

- Great Cincy Strides

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

- Great Parks Walk Club

WINTON WOODS CITY SCHOOLS, CITY OF FOREST PARK, VILLAGE OF GREENHILLS, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- Safe Routes to School



Winton Woods Cleanup

30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY CLEANUP

This year brought a variety of passionate individuals to Great Parks. Volunteers showed up at 13 conservation projects, which included litter pickups, tree plantings and invasive plant removals. In March, Great Parks and the City of Forest Park Environmental Services celebrated the 30th year of the popular Winton Woods Cleanup. Year after year, community members from neighborhoods around the park show up at this event to help to keep their community clean. The partnership has grown over the years to include many local scout, high school and community groups. Great Parks is incredibly grateful for the continued support of such dedicated community members. In 2017 alone, more than 1,300 people volunteered more than 57,000 hours of their time to help Great Parks meet its mission.



Master Plan Community Workshop

MASTER PLAN PUBLIC INPUT

After the successful passage of a 10-year replacement levy in 2016, Great Parks embarked on the creation of a Comprehensive Master Plan in 2017. This plan will define a clear strategy and decision-making guide for the next 10 years. It will set forth a plan of action for facilities, programs and services—all supporting our conservation and preservation efforts—that address the community's social, health and wellness needs and will include detailed assessments of current services and facilities.

To ensure the plan is in line with what the public wants and needs from the park district, Great Parks is involving community members throughout the process. Great Parks' planning team and the master plan consultant met with key stakeholder groups to better understand how they use facilities and amenities and what

they expect from their Great Parks. A 20-member advisory committee was also established, which is comprised of diverse community and business leaders. More than 100 community members attended four public workshops held across Hamilton County, and hundreds more contributed input online. More community workshops will be held in the spring of 2018, so that the public can provide further input on the preliminary findings and recommendations of the comprehensive master plan. The plan is expected to be completed by December 2018.

“ My son, Tucker, really loves his volunteer work with the Stew Crew. It is part of what inspired him to apply for a semester away at Conserve School, a special high school focused on Environmental Science and Stewardship. ”

-DIANE WRIGHT

AWARDS



Platinum Excellence Award

FROM: Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA)

FOR: Great Parks Ranger Department

Law Officer of the Year

FROM: The Ohio American Legion

FOR: Ranger Darryn Chenault

Patriot Award

FROM: U.S. Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

FOR: Ranger Lt. Greg Grimm

FINANCIALS

2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GENERAL & CAPITAL FUNDS

Unencumbered	\$6,834,586
Encumbered	<u>2,833,603</u>
Balance 1/1/2017	9,668,189
Revenue Received	<u>37,641,947</u>
Total Funds Available	47,310,136
Expended	31,589,656
Balance 12/31/2017	<u>\$15,720,480</u>

REVENUE

Taxes

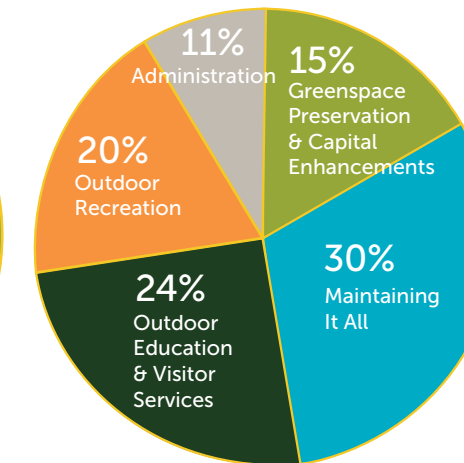
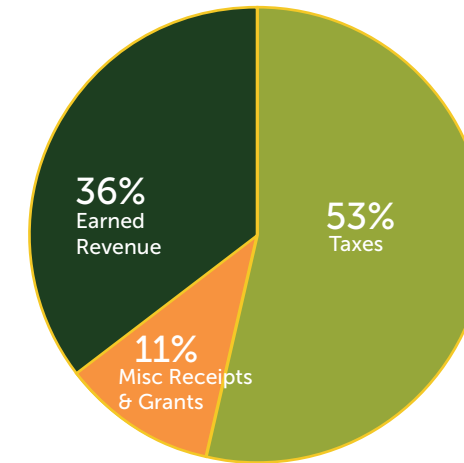
Local Government Fund	\$292,341
Real Estate, Public Utilities, & Other	<u>19,471,144</u>
Total Taxes	<u>19,763,485</u>

Earned Revenue

Adventure Outpost	29,814
Athletics	257,835
Golf Management	5,983,338
Guest Services	394,959
Nature's Niche	316,642
Naturalists	233,841
Park's Farm	174,590
Recreation Services	5,503,730
Riding Center	402,985
Special Events	315,520
Total Earned Revenue	<u>13,613,254</u>
Grants & Misc Receipts	<u>4,265,208</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$37,641,947</u>

EXPENSES

Operations	\$6,432,185	20.36%
Greenspace Preservation	1,358,478	4.30%
Rangers	3,028,247	9.59%
Recreation Services	3,207,275	10.15%
Administration	2,581,128	8.17%
Golf Management	2,446,830	7.75%
Facilities	1,966,244	6.22%
Visitor Services	1,156,390	3.66%
Naturalists	1,150,842	3.64%
Development	1,287,798	4.08%
Natural Resources	961,669	3.04%
Communications	596,856	1.89%
Landscape	561,467	1.78%
Information Technology	751,922	2.38%
Special Events	574,642	1.82%
Planning	850,480	2.69%
Park's Farm	496,048	1.57%
Riding Center	436,440	1.38%
Projects	304,139	0.96%
Nature's Niche	292,116	0.92%
Guest Services	168,298	0.53%
Armlider - Maintenance	229,222	0.73%
Armlider - Capital	7,523	0.02%
Athletics	206,338	0.65%
Adventure Outpost	193,577	0.61%
Fernbank Park	183,448	0.58%
Volunteers	160,054	0.51%
Total Expenses	<u>\$31,589,656</u>	100.00%



REVENUES

Taxes	\$19,763,485
Earned Revenue	13,613,254
Misc Receipts & Grants	4,265,208
Total	<u>\$37,641,947</u>

EXPENSES

Maintaining It All	\$9,372,566
Outdoor Education & Visitor Services	7,678,868
Greenspace Preservation & Capital Enhancements	4,770,087
Outdoor Recreation	6,435,085
Administration	3,333,050
Total	<u>\$31,589,656</u>

GREAT PARKS FOUNDATION

Great Parks Foundation is the philanthropic partner of Great Parks of Hamilton County. While the two are independent organizations, park district staff work closely with Great Parks Foundation's Board of Directors and staff to identify and prioritize opportunities to achieve the shared vision.

In 2017, Great Parks received \$487,592 from its partnership with Great Parks Foundation. This support enabled the park district to expand conservation, education and recreational opportunities through projects like Sharon Lake water quality improvement, a new hayride wagon for Park's Farm and the educational Agents of Discovery app.

2017 SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Fund Name	Balance 1/1/2017	Revenue	Interest Revenue	Change in Fair Market Value of Investments	Expenditures	Balance 12/31/2017
Mitchell	\$4,503,117	\$1,464,743	\$2,919	\$1,573	\$(1,161,281)	\$4,811,071
Burchenal	2,258,541	59,366	3,183	169,107	-	2,490,197
Evergreen	1,515,515	351,208	9,814	N/A	(318,877)	1,557,660
Drug Law Enforcement	26,742	3,580	194	N/A	-	30,516
Law Enforcement	6,644	359	47	N/A	-	7,050
Law Enforcement & Education	2,720	6,870	59	N/A	-	9,649
Totals	\$8,313,279	\$1,886,126	\$16,216	\$170,680	\$(1,480,158)	\$8,906,143

2017 LAND ACQUISITIONS

Location	Date acquired	Acreage	Grant	Cost
Mitchell Memorial Forest	9/6/17	54.3261	\$945,000	\$1,000,000
Whitewater River Corridor	11/1/17	7.916	273,750	273,750
Embshoff Woods Nature Preserve	11/14/17	.784	0	0 (donation)
Whitewater River Corridor	11/28/17	61.6858	418,500	418,500
Total		124.7119	\$1,637,250	\$1,692,250

Total greenspace preserved and protected by Great Parks of Hamilton County as of December 31, 2017, was 17,507 acres, including fee simple acquisitions, lease agreements, conservation easements, bike trail easements, out-leases and cooperative management agreements.



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) with a special commemoration from the Senate of the 132nd General Assembly of Ohio



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2017 Board of Park Commissioners
DeVere E. Burt William J. Burwinkel
HC Buck Niehoff Joseph C. Seta
Geraldine Warner

Chief Executive Officer: Jack Sutton



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