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Biennial Report



From the Board of Park Commissioners

We ended 2009 with a celebration honoring the efforts of many individuals and groups that resulted in an award-winning park district preserving over 970 acres at 48 different park sites throughout the community. The success of the Centerville-Washington Park District was due to the efforts and foresight of many individuals dedicated to preserving open space to be enjoyed by generations to come.

In November of 1959, Centerville and Washington Township was primarily a small farming community that was just beginning to develop. Bill Yeck, having spent a lot of time outdoors with the Boy Scouts, began to formulate some ideas on how to ensure the community preserved open space for parks and nature. He formed a "Committee of 100" to study the community and options for acquiring parks. A park commission was formed (Charles Burkhart, James Boyle, and Arthur Moyer) and on November 3, 1959 the residents of Centerville and Washington Township voted to form a Park District with a vote of 1,390 for and 660 against.

An Open Space Committee was formed in 1960 to identify potential parkland. The "30 Circle Plan" showed areas where parks might exist as the community was developed. The original park master plan showed locations for neighborhood parks with playgrounds, community parks for active recreation, and nature parks to preserve rough terrain and wooded areas along Holes Creek and Sugar Creek.

With support from the City of Centerville and Washington Township, who adopted zoning regulations for parks, and developers who took advantage of programs to set aside land for parks, the district got busy building a program to identify areas and acquire parks for the residents. State laws were changed, funding levies approved, grant monies secured, and in the first 10 years, nine parks totaling 91 acres were acquired, and the only one paid for with tax dollars was Yankee Park!

The success of the Park District is a direct result of support from the residents and partnerships developed with the community. Washington Township, the City of Centerville, Centerville City Schools, the Washington-Centerville Public Library, the Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society, Hithergreen Center, Youth Athletic leagues, Developers, Scout groups, the many volunteers who give their time to the parks and the residents who use the parks have all contributed to building one of the best Park Districts in the state of Ohio. We thank you for your support during our first 50 years and look forward to growing many more memories together!

Sincerely,
Centerville-Washington Park District Board of Park Commissioners

Kim Birdseye, Maggie Weisman, Bill Williams

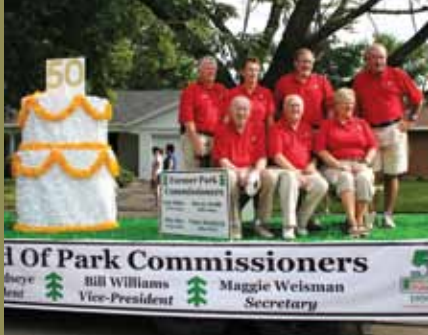
Trivia Tidbits

- No Centerville-Washington Park District levy has failed since 1967!
- 32 parks or parcels were acquired at no cost to the residents through the Density Zoning/Open Space Transfer plan.
- Bill Yeck, in describing the need for parks: "Our main objective is to provide a place for children to play off the streets."
- The William and Dorothy Yeck Nature Fund has provided over \$260,000 since 2001 to enhance the nature park experience for residents.

For more history and trivia, visit our website at www.cwpc.org.



Board of Park Commissioners:
Kim Birdseye (President),
Maggie Weisman (Secretary),
Bill Williams (Vice President)



The Centerville-Washington Park District celebrated a 50 year anniversary in 2009. The celebration lasted all year with many special programs and community events.

Going Greener

The Centerville-Washington Park District has been a leader in the green movement with our focus on environmental conservation and nature preservation for over 50 years. But we continue to look for more ways to help the environment. In recent years, the staff-driven Eco-Crew committee developed plans for new eco-friendly programs in the parks. Some of the highlights include:



- Battery recycling (in partnership with BatteriesPlus)
- Recycling containers set out next to trash cans at shelters and athletic facilities
- Electronic newsletter option to conserve paper
- All materials for monthly Park Board meetings are now provided electronically to reduce paper usage and delivery costs
- Eco-Chat program series presents environmental topics to adults for information and discussion

50th Anniversary Celebration

The Park District turned 50 years old on November 3, 2009 so we spent the year celebrating this milestone with a myriad of exciting programs and events:

- **Staff reunion** – invited over 340 former staff members to join in a celebration at Oak Grove Park.
- **Super Summer Kickoff** included family games at Oak Grove Park, a 5K run at Forest Field Park, and guided nature walks at Bill Yeck and Grant Parks.
- The **Big 5-0 Cache Quest** brought geocachers out to all 47 parks in search of caches.
- **Pathways Program** was developed to get people out walking in their neighborhoods.
- **Americana Festival Theme** focused on the parks: Celebrating 50 years of Open Space... Park District 50th Anniversary
- **BioBlitz** brought professionals and volunteers together to conduct a 24-hour study of plant, animal, and insect life in Grant Park. Over 150 species were recorded.
- **Friday Night Mutt Mixer** celebrated our 4-legged friends with contests, booths, agility demonstrations, and give-aways at the Oak Grove Park Dog Park
- **50th Anniversary Open House** invited the community to the Grant Park Nature Nook for an afternoon of family fun, food, and fellowship.
- **Trivia video series** was developed from interviews with key individuals that helped shape the Park District and is permanently located on the CWPD website and YouTube channel.

Smith Property Acquisition

In 1992, park commissioners Bill Yeck, Harvey Smith, and Bob Miller approved a Master Plan for the Sugar Valley Ecological Park (now Bill Yeck Park). They recognized the critical piece to the success of this nature preserve was the acquisition of the Central Core – 62 acres that was owned by Victor and Mary



Jane Smith. Bill Yeck met with the Smiths to share the master plan and asked them to consider allowing the Park District to purchase the property when they no longer desired to live there. In 1994, the Smiths agreed to sell the back field to the Park District and signed an option agreement, later followed by a purchase agreement which would one day preserve their historic 1800s home and farm as an area for nature study and historic preservation. After 17 years of negotiations, planning, and setting aside money in a land acquisition fund, the Park District purchased the remaining 37 acres in 2009, making Bill Yeck Park the largest nature park in the district at 194 acres.



Programs



Providing outdoor education and recreation is part of the Centerville-Washington Park District's mission. Thousands of children and adults enjoy park programs throughout the year.

Nearly **2,000 children** attended the following educational programs in 2008 and 2009:

- Around the World in 12 Days
- Eco-Explorers (New in 2009)
- Home School Nature Academy
- Junior Nature Club
- Junior and Senior Adventure Camps
- Monthly Preschool Series
- Volunteer Naturalist Guided Hikes



Guided Nature Hike

Park District Athletic Programs drew over **600 participants** in Youth and Adult Tennis Instruction, Adult Tennis Leagues, and Adult Softball Leagues.

Time tested popular programs like the Halloween Mini-Trail and Haunted Trail continued to grow with over **2,400 visitors**. Special programs, such as Adventures in Camping, the Big Rig Gig, Capture the Flag Bonfire, Eggstravaganza, and A Day at the Beach provided fun activities for **1,700 preschool through teenage visitors**.



Adult Softball League

Our nature-based programs, *Hidden Meadows Day Camp* and *Winter Woods Day Camp*, led over **1,300 children** through Grant Park over the past two years.



Hidden Meadows Day Camp

FREE *Summer Recreation* drop-in program and special events totaled over **3,300 attendees**.

Intergenerational programs boasted record attendance for 2008-2009 with over **300 participants**. Two new programs were added—Handmade Holiday and Pumpkinpalooza.

With an enhanced focus on providing fitness and wellness programs close to home, **2,000 participants** took steps to improve their lifestyle at Hike For Your Health, Mini Movers, Spring Into Fitness, Stroller Strength, and Teens Fit For Life.

By encouraging a love for nature and outdoor activity, over **1,300 participants** attended:

- Campfire Singalong
- Discovery Walks
- Earthy Evening
- Family Camping
- Get Out and Play
- Seasonal Night Hikes
- Storytelling Campfires
- Tuesday Treks



Stroller Strength Participants

Parks



The Park District is halfway through the 10-year Park Improvement Levy supported by the residents of Centerville and Washington Township. The following projects were completed in 2008 and 2009.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Activity Center Park

- Headquarters partial roof replacement
- Irrigation around spray-ground
- Security lighting at headquarters



Forest Field Park

- Arboretum display*

Iron Horse Trail

- Paved Phase I and II*



Oak Creek South Park

- Ballfield renovation
- Playground
- Shelter
- Stream restoration
- Skate park



Oak Grove Park

- Added one-acre lot
- Baseball diamonds (5) with irrigation and fencing
- Baseball spotter's booth and shelter
- Dog park improvements
 - Drinking fountain
 - Entry surface
 - Turf enhancements
- Fishing pier and dock
- Five shelters
- Irrigation system expanded
- Maintenance building interior finished
- Parking lots at baseball complex and Gebhart Road
- Paved walking paths
- Playground near Gebhart entrance
- Stocked pond
- Swale enhancements with bridge installation

Schoolhouse Park

- Overflow parking lot curbed
- Main parking lot sealed
- North field stadium with grandstand and press box
- Scoreboard

Yankee Park

- Baseball diamond #6 renovated
- Parking lot replaced

NATURE PARKS

Bill Yeck Park

- Evaluated entrance walkways *
- Interpretative signs at McGuffey Meadow*
- McGuffey Meadow bird blind*
- Wilmington shelter*

Black Oak Park

- Trail sealed

Grant Park

- Butterfly garden*
- Evaluated entrance walkways*
- Streambank enhancements*

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Village South Park

- Basketball court sealed

Waterbury Woods

- Additional playground equipment



New park development

- Divided Ridge Park
- Stansel Park

NEW PARKS

Trailways Park

Donated by Washington Township

Iron Horse Trail

Community interest and requests spearheaded the movement for increased multi-use trail development in Centerville and Washington Township. A perfect partnership was developed between the Cities of Centerville and Kettering, Washington Township, and the Centerville-Washington Park District to pave the Iron Horse Trail. As part of the Creating Community Connections Multi-Use Trail Plan, the Iron Horse Trail extends north from I-675 into Kettering. Other jurisdictions will eventually connect the Iron Horse Trail to other trails throughout the Miami Valley.



Iron Horse Trail Grand Opening

**These projects were totally or partially funded through the generosity of the William & Dorothy Yeck Nature Fund.*

People



Professional staff, dedicated park commissioners, certified volunteers, and community groups all work together to provide quality parks and programs to be enjoyed by residents.

Park District Staff

Carol Kennard, CPRP

Director

Ken Carter

Operations Manager

Leann Castillo, CPRP

Program Manager

Bob Feldmann, CPRP

Development Manager

Martha Lanese, APRP

Office Manager

Barbara Smith

Business Manager

Jason Beavon

Athletic Supervisor

Jen Brandt, M.Ed., CPRP, AFAA

Recreation Coordinator

Brad Colson

Operations Technician I

Jason Dickensheets

Operations Technician III

Grant George

Facility Supervisor

Kurt Hammond

Operations Technician II

Tim Holtz

Operations Supervisor

Nancy Howitt

Bookkeeper

Andrea Lapp

Program Assistant

Eric Lykins

Operations Technician III

Kristen Marks, CPRP, CIG

Outdoor Education Coordinator

Wes Matthews

Operations Supervisor

Brett Ney

Equipment Supervisor

Matt Sever

Operations Technician II

Lucy Siefker

Naturalist

Brian Sullivan

Operations Technician I

Joel Thornton

Operations Technician I

Adam Voiles

Operations Technician II

Awards won by CWPD

Americana Parade float received the **Mayor's Award** in 2008 and the **Trustees' Award** in 2009.

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association recognizes award winning projects, programs, and professionals throughout the State of Ohio. Carol Kennard received the **Park Professional of the Year** in 2008. The Earthy Evening program and Community Cache Event won **program awards** in 2008. **Development awards** were presented for the Iron Horse Trail and Oak Grove Picnic Shelters in 2009. The Park District was also



Oak Grove Picnic Shelter



Volunteer Naturalists

The **Volunteer Naturalist Program** is an active group of volunteers conducting nature hikes for children and scout groups each spring and fall. These volunteers provided nearly 1,000 service hours in 2008-2009.

Eight community, scout, church, and business groups volunteered their time to spruce up park areas.

recognized at the **Bronze Level** in 2009 for participating in Healthy Ohio.



Bill Yeck Park, Bird Blind

Scouts

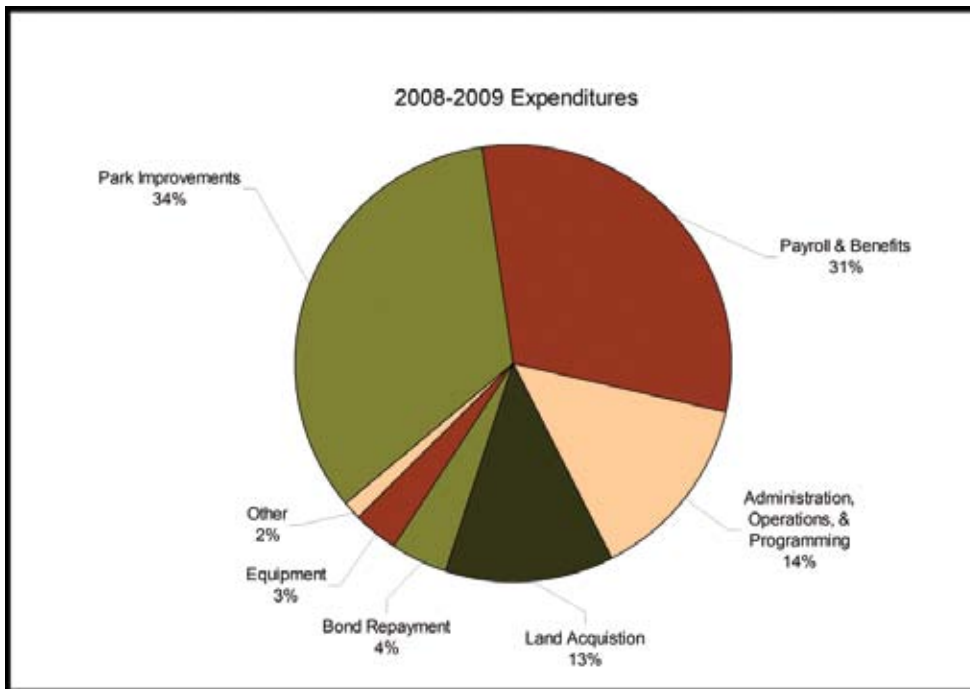
Seventeen local scouts from nine troops completed projects in six different parks. Their hard work and dedication saved tax dollars that were then directed to complete other projects.

David Aceto, Troop 530
Elliott Beeman, Troop 193
Brian Berger, Troop 516
Joseph Berling, Troop 530
Devin Burke, Troop 516
Alex Caswell, Troop 116
Alex Foley, Troop 516
Jay Gruner, Troop 316
David Hoy, Troop 49
Josh Hughes, Troop 530
William Irwin, Troop 516
James Johnson, Troop 299
Chas Miller, Troop 530
Nick Neff, Troop 235
Adam Schultz, Troop 316
Alex Valencia, Troop 425
Ben Waldron, Troop 425

Financial Highlights



The citizens of Centerville and Washington Township fund the Park District through their property taxes. The park improvement levy, passed in 2004, funds park improvements and will expire in 2014. The operating budget, funded by a 2.0 mill levy, provides staff and operating funds to care for 48 parks.



General Donations

Mary Rose Back
 George Greenleaf
 Marilyn Johnston
 Kettering Tennis Center/Quail Run Racquet Club
 Alan Krohn
 Jain I Lin, M.D.
 Gilbert Nelson
 Marian Otterbein
 Penbrooke Garden Club
 Otey Peters
 Wayne Ransom
 E. C. Ruffolo
 United Way of Greater Dayton
 Ron Weir
 Welch Family Prayer Group

Grant Funding

Bikes Belong
 Clean Ohio Trails Fund
 Montgomery County Auditor
 Buy Recycled Grant
 NatureWorks
 Yeck Family Foundation

In Memorial

Centerville United Soccer Association
 Patricia Kellogg
 Ann Wennberg
 Deborah Wolterman

Project-Specific Donations

Centerville Rotary Club
 Centerville Soccer League
 Centerville United Soccer Association
 ISC Storm Soccer Club
 Kiwanis Club of Centerville/Kettering
 Noon Optimist Club of Centerville
 The Dayton Foundation
 Wee Elk Football Association
 Washington Township Trustees

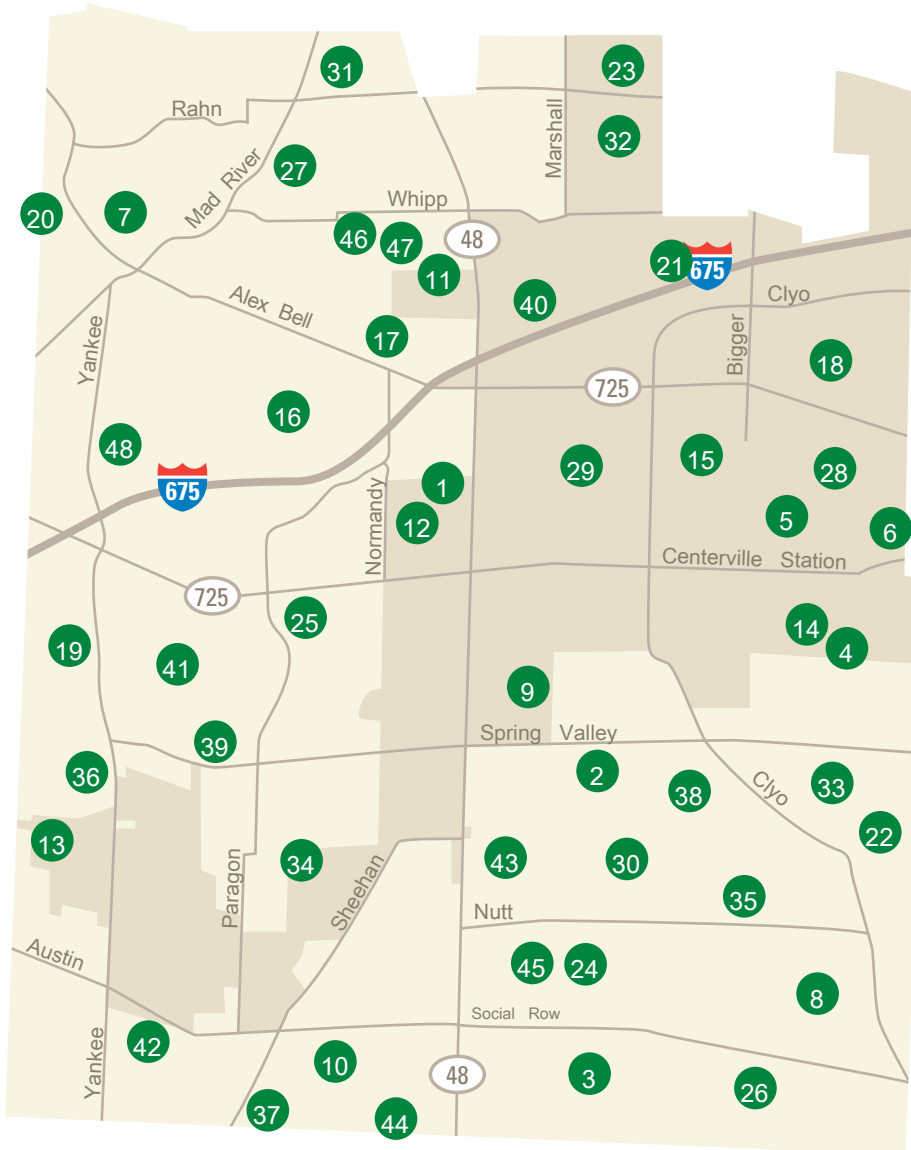
Alternate Funding

Although the primary source of revenue for the Centerville-Washington Park District is from property taxes, alternate funding sources are often utilized. The Iron Horse Trail paving project was funded not only from the Park District's general fund but several grants and donations were also used including a Clean Ohio Trails grant, a Bikes Belong grant, and donations from the William and Dorothy Yeck Nature Fund, City of Centerville, and Washington Township. Additionally, NatureWorks Funds were used at Oak Creek South Park. Many other groups and individuals within our community also help fund improvements and preserve park land.





48 parks provide year-round enjoyment



1. Activity Center Park – 221 North Main Street (21 acres)
2. Beechwood Springs Park – 1141 Quiet Brook Trail (11 acres)
3. Big Bend Park – 1328 Spring Ash Drive (8 acres)
4. Bill Yeck Park – 8798 Rooks Mill Lane/7893 Wilmington Dayton Road/2230 E. Centerville Station Road (194 acres)
5. Black Oak Park – 1552 Ambridge/7766 Bigger Road (18 acres)
6. Black Oak East Park – 2501 E. Centerville Station Road (25 acres)
7. Brittany Hills Park – 5825 Batsford Drive (4 acres)
8. Cherry Hill Park – 10244 Cherry Tree Terrace (6 acres)
9. Concept Park – 345 Clarendon Lane (6 acres)
10. Divided Ridge – 347 Beck Drive (1 acre)
11. Donnybrook Park – 6161 Donnybrook Drive (5 acres)
12. Elizabeth Hoy Park – 185 Hampton Drive (4 acres)
13. Fence Row Park – 1650 Haley Drive (2 acres)
14. Forest Field Park – 2100 E. Centerville Station Road (44 acres)
15. Forest Walk Park – 7570 Forest Brook Boulevard (8 acres)
16. Grant Park – 501 Normandy Ridge Road/6588 McEwen Road (188 acres)
17. Green Park – 6661 Green Park Drive (5 acres)
18. Greene Line Park – 6774 Crossbrook Drive (11 acres)
19. Holes Creek Park – 8575 Yankee Street/1600 Lyons Road (25 acres)
20. Huffman Park – 1616 West Alex-Bell Road (12 acres)
21. Iron Horse Park – 6161 Millshire Drive (31 acres)
22. Little Mound Park – 9490 Still Meadow Lane (5 acres)
23. Manor Park – 989 Thorndale Drive (7 acres)
24. Nutt Woods Park – 10188 Ashpark Court (3 acres)
25. Oak Creek South Park – 790 W. Miamisburg-Centerville Road (24 acres)
26. Oak Grove Park – 1790 E. Social Row Rd./11111 Gebhart Rd. (101 acres)
27. Old Lane Park – 500 Druewood Lane (4 acres)
28. Pelbrook Park – 7566 Cloverbrook Drive (6 acres)
29. Pleasant Hill Park – 358 Zengel Drive (5 acres)
30. Quail Run Park – 1180 Timber Hawk Trail (9 acres)
31. Rahn Park – 223 West Rahn Road (1 acre)
32. Red Coach Park – 5500 Royalwood Drive (5 acres)
33. Rooks Ravine Park – 9100 Rooks Road (5 acres)
34. Rosewood Park – 475 Roselake Drive (13 acres)
35. Schoolhouse Park – 1875 Nutt Road (36 acres)
36. Silvercreek Park – 9369 Yankee Street (9 acres)
37. Stansel Park – 1304 Sarah Freeman Drive (4 acres)
38. Stringtown Park – 9191 Woodstream Lane (4 acres)
39. Trailways Park – 1165 W. Spring Valley Road (1 acre)
40. Village South Park – 411 North Village Drive (10 acres)
41. Wagon Trail Park – 8450 Washington Village Drive (7 acres)
42. Waterbury Woods Park – 1350 West Social Row Road (7 acres)
43. Watkins Glen Park – 825 Watkins Glen Drive (5 acres)
44. Weatherstone Park – Pennfield Road (5 acres)
45. Willowbrook Park – 10225 Park Edge Drive (18 acres)
46. Woodbourne Green Park – West Whipp @ Paddington Road (0.11 acres)
47. Woodbourne Springs Park – 220 West Whipp Road (7 acres)
48. Yankee Park – 7500 Yankee Street (37 acres)

973 acres of Open Space, open 365 days a year
Please visit www.cwpd.org for more park information!

