



2013 Annual Report

FROM THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

With 49 parks scattered around Centerville and Washington Township, residents have the opportunity to discover their favorite way to enjoy the outdoors. The Park District works hard to provide a variety of experiences to engage all interests. Whether hosting a youth athletic game or a grandparents' nature discovery program, parks promote physical and mental health for people of all ages!

In 2013, we focused on getting people outdoors and interacting with others to enhance community pride. Our goal was to provide safe parks where families could create wonderful memories together. As a result, we witnessed a lot of family fun in the parks this year!

To address the growing national concern about children's lack of physical activity and time spent outdoors, a multitude of fitness, recreation and nature programs were provided. To our delight, rosters filled quickly. And when the weather was nice, we were thrilled to see the skatepark filled with teens and adults challenging their physical skills and the sprayground swarming with smiling children splashing in the water.

A passionate community of dog owners shared common experiences while socializing and exercising their dogs at programs offered at the Dog Park at Oak Grove Park. And our popular Neighborhood Park Parties brought neighbors together, developing new friendships, and reinforcing neighborhood pride and a heightened interest in watching out for each other.

In the spirit of giving back to the community, our amazing group of park volunteers donated **2,044 hours** providing programs or assisting with projects and park maintenance. Many citizen science programs were developed in 2013, including seed nursery care, butterfly monitoring, nest box watching, and a garlic mustard pull — all of which involved children and adults caring for our natural environment.

In a recent survey, 96% of voters polled said the parks are very or somewhat important to the quality of their families' lives and 97% agreed or strongly agreed that, "local parks are good for home property values in Centerville and Washington Township." In fact, the importance of our parks to a family's quality of life resulted in a major donation to the Park District in 2013. Bob Mays raised his family in Washington Township and spent many hours in the parks as his children were growing up. Because of his family's connection to the parks, we now have the funds to develop the new Robert F. Mays Park!

Remember, the parks are open during daylight hours, including holidays, just waiting for you to explore in your own special way! How did the parks impact your life in 2013 and how will you enjoy your favorite park this year? Let us know how we can help make it an even better experience for you and your family!



**David
Lee**



**Dan
Monahan**



**Lucy
Sánchez**

*Centerville-
Washington Park
District strives to provide
quality parks, outdoor
education, and recreation while
preserving open space.*

*49 parks for
all to enjoy!*



2013 NOTEWORTHY NEWS

NEW COMMUNITY PARK PLANNED



Open space preserved by the Centerville-Washington Park District has increased to 996 acres with the addition of a new community park currently in development. In January, the Park District purchased 23 acres along Social Row Road using funds obligated for park land acquisition. Around the same time, the Park District was contacted by a local family

interested in making a donation to provide a significant contribution to the Park District for the benefit of the community. Bob Mays raised his family in Washington Township, and parks were a big part of their lives. He made a substantial commitment for the initial development of the new park. In recognition of Bob's generosity, the Park Board officially named the park Robert F. Mays Park.

The Park District completed park development plans with input from residents. Plans include athletic field space for lacrosse, soccer or football, a park shelter with restrooms, playground, walking paths, trees, native grass plantings and parking for 150 cars. The walking paths will connect to the Washington Township Trails, Inc. paths along Social Row and Paragon Roads. The park entrance will be located on the future Paragon Road extension. Development of the park will take place throughout 2014 – 2015.

The generosity of Bob Mays and a partnership with Washington Township Trails is the perfect combination for furthering the mission of the Park District to provide quality parks, outdoor education, and recreation, while preserving open space.

PICKLEBALL IN THE PARK



A group of residents contacted the Park District to express an interest in outdoor pickleball courts in the parks. Pickleball is a cross between tennis, table tennis and badminton. It's played on a court slightly smaller than a tennis court with wooden paddles and a plastic whiffle ball. After researching the sport and gauging resident interest, two tennis courts at Schoolhouse

Park were converted to tennis/pickleball courts with the addition of painted lines. A group of volunteers, dedicated pickleball players, assisted with the painting. The Centerville-Washington Park District is excited to offer this new opportunity promoting active and healthy lifestyles for our community.

OAK GROVE FITNESS TRAIL GRAND OPENING



The Grand Opening of the Oak Grove Park Fitness Trail was held October 1. Festivities included a ribbon cutting, equipment demonstrations, healthy snacks and a Huffy bicycle raffle prize. The Park District received a grant from NatureWorks for funding of the two types of outdoor exercise equipment. The complete Energi™ system is for active individuals ages 13 and up, while the LifeTrail® system is geared toward those ages 50 and over. The LifeTrail® system includes ADA accessible pieces. Head out to Oak Grove Park and give the equipment a try!

GREEN AND BLUE BUSINESS CERTIFICATIONS

The Centerville-Washington Park District received the Montgomery County Dayton Regional Green 3's Green Business Certification, a voluntary program designed to help businesses take basic green measures to reduce their ecological footprint, reduce their energy and resource use and save money in the process. In addition, the Park District showed exemplary water stewardship and qualified for the Water Stewardship Blue Certification.

A wide range of criteria was met to gain the certifications, including meeting standards in waste reduction, recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, water and energy conservation, and pollution prevention.

"Being green is not just something we do at the Park District; it is something we teach others to do. We feel it is important to be role models in our community as we all work toward a sustainable future," said Katy Malcolm, Centerville-Washington Park District Naturalist and head of the Eco-Crew, the green initiatives group made up of Park District staff.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Centerville-Washington Park District received two Awards of Excellence from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) in 2013. The Oak Grove Park archery range was awarded first place in the sports programs category. The native seed nursery, located at Bill Yeck Park, was awarded third place in the natural resources and conservation category. The OPRA Awards of



Excellence are judged on project purpose, goals and objectives, evaluation, community engagement and use of external resources, challenges and creative solutions, and the overall impact of the project. Leaders from parks and recreation agencies statewide judge the projects.



PROGRAMS

We were pleased to offer the following new programs in 2013:

FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT

We offered this new program for our adults in March 2013. The 400+ attendees enjoyed an egg and spoon relay, egg toss and more while waiting for the sun to set at Forest Field Park. Then, it was time to turn on the flashlights and get ready to hunt! Eggs were filled with candy and vouchers for bigger prizes, such as gift cards from local retailers and restaurants. We had over 80 prizes from local businesses! Once the staff said "Go!" the field was immediately aglow with people collecting as many eggs as they could. It was quite a sight and a really fun night!

TRAIL TREKKING

Thanks to two generous donations, the Park District was able to purchase 30 sets of Nordic poles allowing us to offer a new type of walking program. Walking with the addition of Nordic poles adds an opportunity to burn more calories and target heart health, and through Trail Trekking, participants learned to use the Nordic poles and add to their weekly workouts in a beautiful park setting.

Participation in Park District fitness programming was up 41% in 2013!

STARRY CELEBRATION

The Park District offered this nighttime event in September 2013. The event was designed for individuals of all ages and offered something for everyone — glowing craft station, glow in the dark bowling, face painting, nocturnal wildlife artifacts, night hikes and stargazing with the Miami Valley Astronomical Society. Forest Field Park was buzzing with activity. It was a beautiful night to be in the park!

NATURE PLAY FOR NEW NATURALISTS

The benefits of introducing children to unstructured nature play at a young age include better focus, development of critical thinking skills, fostering of creativity, and the development of social skills as they interact with others. During the summer months we offered a new program called Nature Play for New Naturalists that focused on introducing preschool-aged children to nature in a playful environment. We used the Mark Kreusch Nature Playce as a meeting place for this unique program. Children could explore the natural playground complete with stump jumps, digging pit, fort building and balancing logs. From this area, they could also grab a net and explore the nearby meadow for butterflies and other insects, head down to the creek in search of critters and fossils, or a number of other fun nature-based activities.

Nature Play for New Naturalists is returning for the 2014 summer season to introduce more little ones to the wonders of nature!

SCOUTS IN THE PARKS

Girl Scout Troop 30651 helped the Park District with the native seed nursery and Troop 31046 helped with butterfly surveys in 2013.

Several boy scouts completed projects in the parks to earn their Eagle Scout award:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • Brad Anderson | • Jason Gaitonde | • Mike Schlegel |
| • Nathan Benedict | • Tyler Gillette | • Derek Schulte |
| • Jackson Bennett | • Alex Hamer | • James |
| • Alex Flesburg | • Cole Hundley | Washington |

Well done, Scouts!



2013 PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Activity Center Park

- Playground resurfaced

Bill Yeck Park

- Parkhaven entrance improvements (new nature playground, bench swing, etc.)
- Smith entrance improvements began
- Seed nursery interpretive signs added
- Orange trail markers installed

Concept Park

- Molded bucket accessible swing

Iron Horse Park

- Trail improvements

Little Mound Park

- Molded bucket accessible swing

Oak Creek South Park

- Skate park concrete decking expanded

Oak Grove Park

- Batting cage
- Energi™ and LifeTrail® Fitness Trails
- Molded bucket accessible swing

Robert F. Mays Park

- Completed master plan and approvals

Schoolhouse Park

- Pickleball court lines added to tennis court
- Parking lot lighting
- Sound system on south field

Wow!
Volunteers
provided us with
a cost savings of
approximately
\$45,250* in 2013.
Thank you!



*Cost savings based on data gathered by http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

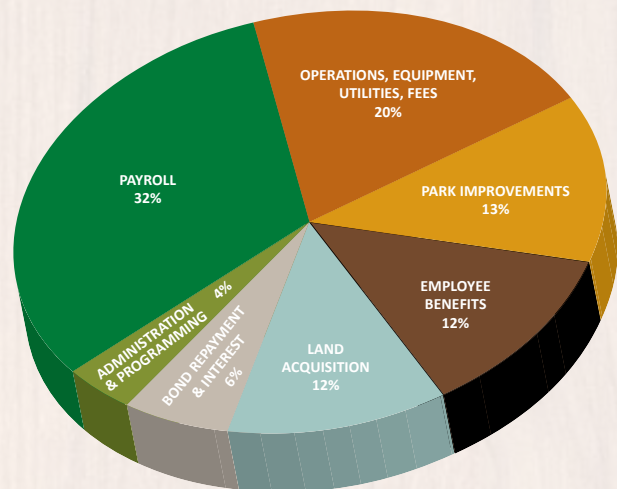
FINANCIAL REPORT

The residents of Centerville and Washington Township provide funding for the Park District through two ten-year levies approved by the voters. Funds from the 0.9 mill levy approved in 2004 have provided improvements in the parks and funds received from the 2.0 mill levy approved in 2007 provide the operating budget for all 49 parks.

The 2004 levy funding allowed the Park District to make major facility improvements at the seven community parks including the sprayground, all-access playground, and picnic shelter at the Activity Center; the soccer practice area and additional parking at Forest Field Park; the skatepark, paved walking paths, baseball diamond renovation, and group shelter at Oak Creek South Park; five picnic shelters, three tennis courts, the dog park, playgrounds, paved walking paths, and soccer and baseball fields at Oak Grove Park; a second football field, additional parking, and expanded walking paths at Schoolhouse Park; and paved walking paths, parking lot repaving, and sand volleyball courts at Yankee Park. Nature park improvements funded by the levy include the Nature Nook program building with parking at Grant Park, the Smith entrance to Bill Yeck Park, and Holes Creek Park improvements planned for 2014. Seven neighborhood parks have already received new facilities with Silvercreek Park improvements to begin in 2014. The expiration of this levy in 2013 means the final collections will be received in 2014. Voters will have the opportunity to renew the levy on May 6, 2014 with no increase in cost to taxpayers. The renewal of the levy will provide operating funds for these new facilities and allow for additional projects over the next ten years.

Additional funding of the Park District during 2013 included generous donations from Robert F. Mays for the development of the new Robert F. Mays Park; grant funding from the William & Dorothy Yeck Nature Fund for projects at Bill Yeck Park; funds awarded from the Montgomery County Solid Waste District for using recycled material in the safety surface under the all-access playground at the Activity Center; and grant funding from the

2014 EXPENDITURES



Centerville-Washington Foundation for adaptive swings installed at Little Mound, Concept, and Oak Grove Parks and for materials used at school outreach programs.

Partnerships with community organizations and other local governments contributed to financial efficiencies. The Centerville Noon Optimist Club again funded the Mini Trail and Haunted Trail in October and volunteers from throughout the community made these programs possible with their performances. At Grant Park the Centerville Rotary Club maintained the evergreen forest at the McEwen Road entrance and the Centerville Schools and the Park District shared facilities at the Normandy School entrance.

As you will see from the list below, many members of our community contributed to the success of the Park District in 2013. Residents remembered their loved ones with memorials in the parks, local vendors donated supplies and prizes for numerous programs, and youth athletic leagues contributed to projects in the parks. The support of the taxpayers along with contributions from many groups and individuals within our community enable the Park District to achieve its mission to provide quality parks, outdoor education, and recreation while preserving open space.

Every donation makes a difference. Each helps provide park experiences for generations to come. We wish to thank the following donors for their generosity.

GENERAL DONATIONS

- Bill Abrams
- Patrick Beckel
- Judy Budi
- George Greenleaf
- Robert F. Mays
- George Schenk
- Joyce Young
- Centerville Baseball Softball League
- Centerville Noon Optimist Club
- Centerville United Soccer Association
- Centerville Wee Elk Football Association
- Centerville Youth Lacrosse Club
- Kettering-Centerville Kiwanis Club
- Key Sports
- KTC Quail Tennis Club
- Penbrooke Garden Club
- Rose Estates Civic Association
- United Way of Greater Dayton
- Weatherstone Estates Owners Association

MEMORIALS

- Christopher Eastabrooks
- Eric Engler
- Chad Kohls
- Brad Moorhead

LAND DONATIONS

- Washington Township

GRANTS (provided 80–100% of project costs)

- Centerville-Washington Foundation
- Montgomery County Solid Waste District
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- William & Dorothy Yeck Family Foundation
- William & Dorothy Yeck Nature Fund

VENDORS

- Archer's Tavern
- Bill's Donut Shop
- Boston Stoker

- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Caribou Coffee
- Carraba's Italian Grill
- City Barbeque
- Dairy Queen
- DiBella's Old Fashioned Submarines
- Flavors Eatery
- Fricker's
- Huffy Corporation
- Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
- JuneBug's Cupcakes
- Maggie Moo's Ice Cream and Treatery
- MainStreet Salon
- The Melting Pot
- Miami Valley Spice Traders
- My Favorite Muffin
- North China
- Piada Italian Street Food
- RiversEdge Outfitters
- Tropical Smoothie Café