

FROM THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



2014 ... an eventful year for the Centerville-Washington Park District!

The most important and exciting news of the year, **Centerville and Washington Township voters renewed the Park District's 0.9 mill levy** in May! The levy will fund park operations for another 10 years with **no increase in taxes** for the community! The new levy will provide:

- operating funds for 50 parks encompassing 1,000 acres;
- the upkeep of athletic facilities, trails, shelters, playgrounds, skatepark, sprayground, dog park and other amenities;
- and, park improvements requested by residents.

We are excited to continue work on park improvements for you and your family to enjoy! **Several large projects are in progress and will be nearing completion in 2015 – 16.**

Little Woods Park. The William and Dorothy Yeck Family Foundation donated 3.6 acres along Far Hills Avenue at Colonial Lane. Little Woods Park is being developed primarily as a nature park, with an emphasis on native plantings. A Nature Literature Trail, in partnership with the Washington-Centerville Public Library and the Yeck Family Foundation, will also be installed along the path.

Mays Park. The Park District is making progress on this new community park! The shelter with restrooms, playground, walking paths, rain gardens, native seeding, turf seeding and parking lot are all planned for completion in 2015.

Also significant news, the Park District experienced several staffing changes in late 2014.

Carol Kennard, director of the Park District for 17 years, retired in December after 33 years. Robert Feldmann, development manager, and Barbara Smith, business manager, both retired in October after 40 and 19 years of service, respectively. Each of these former

staff members leaves a long-lasting legacy with the Park District. Their contributions to our community are numerous and we wholeheartedly wish them the very best!

Moving forward, Arnie Biondo has been selected to lead the organization as the executive director. Biondo began his work at the Park District at the end of December. He has served in the field of parks and recreation for more than 39 years. We are pleased to have his experienced leadership on board!

In closing, thank you for supporting your community's parks! We want to know *your* opinion about our future priorities. Complete a short survey to let us know your ideas. What programs would you like to see us provide in the future? What park amenities are most important to you and your family? Go to www.cwpd.org/survey to complete the survey. The survey is anonymous, but you will have the opportunity to submit your contact information to enter a drawing for a **\$100 Visa gift card!**

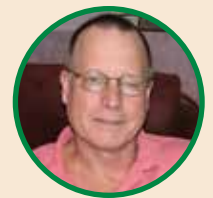
As always, we look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence in Centerville and Washington Township — a great place to live, work and play!



David Lee
President



Lucy Sánchez
Vice-President



Dan Monahan
Secretary



2014 PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Activity Center Park

- Sprayground shade structures with accessible picnic tables
- 3-acre native prairie seeded

Bill Yeck Park

- Nature literature trail, Owlexander's Tree Trek
- Smith entrance improvements
- Smith house renovations

Bill Yeck Park (continued)

- Creek crossing stepping stones added in several locations
- Trail improvements

Iron Horse Park

- Large group shelter with public restrooms

Little Woods Park

- Park development began

Oak Creek South Park

- Wetland boardwalk and observation deck

Robert F. Mays Park (Phase I)

- Grading, seeding and landscaping
- Parking lot
- Hitting wall

Yankee Park

- Pickleball court lines added to two tennis courts

ANNUAL REPORT



Additional Noteworthy News

Ohio Department of Natural Resource Grants

The Centerville-Washington Park District was awarded \$500,000 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Clean Ohio Trails Fund. The awarded funds will be used for design and construction of a multi-use asphalt trail along Upper Holes Creek between Holes Creek Park and Silvercreek Park.

ODNR also awarded the Park District an \$84,667 NatureWorks grant. The NatureWorks funds will be used to install a shelter with restrooms at Robert F. Mays Park.

2014 Buy Recycled Grant

The Montgomery County Solid Waste District awarded the Centerville-Washington Park District a 2014 Buy Recycled Grant. The Park District received \$32,904, which was used to build a wetland boardwalk and observation deck at Oak Creek South Park. Materials used to construct the boardwalk and deck were made of recycled content.

Owlexander's Tree Trek Grand Opening

Owlexander's Tree Trek, the newest Nature Literature Trail, officially opened Saturday, June 14, 2014. Approximately 50 people attended along with representatives from the Washington-Centerville Public Library and the Park District.

The Tree Trek features 14 tree species. It is a one-mile path that runs through the woods at Bill Yeck Park's Rooks Mill entrance.

Owlexander's Tree Trek is the third trail in a creative collaboration between the Washington-Centerville Public Library and the Centerville-Washington Park District.

The Nature Literature Trails are funded by the Yeck Family Foundation.

Programs

In 2014 there were over 12,000 participants in 295 Park District programs, including several new program additions — **Sledding with Owlexander**; **Early Adventures**; and **Bikes, Boards, and BBQ!**

Outreach Programming

An additional 2,214 residents were reached through outreach programming. Nearly 1,900 school children were presented with curriculum-based programming in their classrooms. Nature and outdoor skills for scouts, as well as enrichment programming for Hithergreen Center and St. Leonard's made up the remainder of outreach efforts.

Successful Special Events

Big Rig Gig hosted more than a dozen vehicles for nearly 600 attendees to climb on, honk and pretend to steer.

Grant Park was once again transformed into a haunted forest with the help of 400 volunteers. Over 1,200 people screamed their way through the 31st annual **Haunted Trail**.

December's **Holiday Luminary Walk** welcomed hundreds of people celebrating the season with candlelit trails through woods and meadow, beautiful dulcimer music from the Hithergreen Strummers, crafts and refreshments.

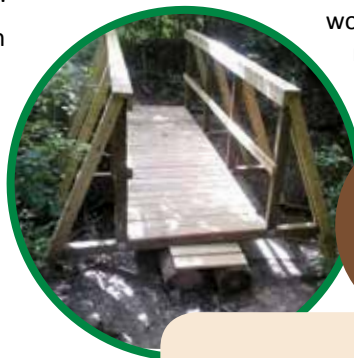
Volunteer Update

The Park District is fortunate to have a group of volunteers dedicated to improving the community! The group logged over 2,300 hours in 2014! Which means volunteers provided the Park District an **estimated cost savings of nearly \$52,000*** in 2014!

Volunteers provided assistance with nest box monitoring, special events, office work, school outreach, collecting items for programs, Americana float preparation, program assistance, and **many** other things throughout the year.

Together, we went on several volunteer field trips, and celebrated their contributions with a volunteer appreciation dinner.

Becoming a volunteer is fun, rewarding and wonderful for the community! To learn more about volunteer opportunities please call Erin Morley or Ally DeShurko at (937) 433-5155.



Bridge at Grant Park built by Eagle Scout Grant Williamson and friends.

SCOUTS IN THE PARKS

Girl Scout Troop 30651 helped the Park District with the native seed nursery.

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

- William Braun
- Jonathan Hume
- Mason Kilroy
- David Lopez
- Nick Muly
- Jon Nielsen
- Charles Perry
- Trever Wertz
- Grant Williamson
- Zach Spangler

Well done, Scouts!

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

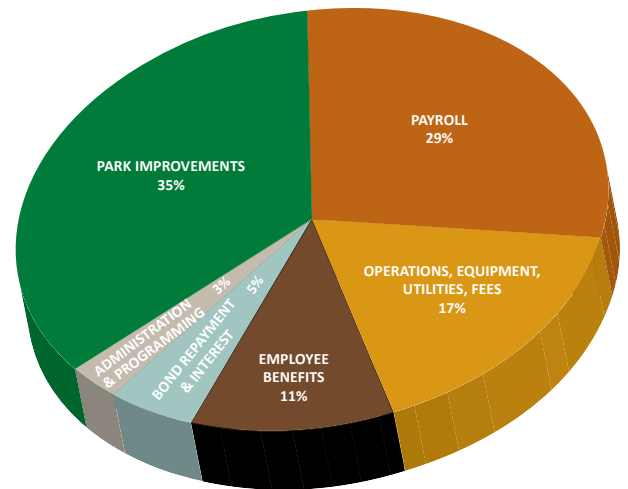


Financial Report

Total general fund receipts, before transfers, in 2014 were \$4,967,511. Expenditures during the same period were \$4,567,707. Of the Park District's \$5,606,245 budget, approximately \$771,650 carried forward to 2015. Significant savings to the budget were incurred because several large projects were carried over into 2015.

Larger projects of note during 2014 were Robert F. Mays Park development (\$692,648), the Iron Horse Park shelter (\$407,117) and Bill Yeck Park/Smith House Renovations (\$504,236).

2014 EXPENDITURES



Technology update

During 2015 the Park District will be making significant Information Technology upgrades. Planned improvements include upgraded email service, wide-band internet, a new website and an upgrade to the newest version of our financial accounting software ... all to better and more effectively provide services to the community.

DID YOU KNOW ...

In 2014, almost \$1,000,000, or around 20% of the total tax revenue collected, went back into the community in the form of employee pay, building contracts and vendor purchases!

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

- George Greenleaf
- Centerville Noon Optimist Club
- Centerville United Soccer Association
- Centerville Wee Elk Football Association
- Centerville Youth Lacrosse Club
- Dayton Foundation
- Penbrooke Garden Club
- United Way of Greater Dayton

DEDICATIONS

- Dwayne Dicks
- James and Joyce Durham
- Christopher Eastabrooks

GRANTS

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

VENDOR DONATIONS

- Bill's Donut Shop
- Bob Evans
- DK Bikes
- Dorothy Lane Market
- Epic Loot Games & Comics
- Fricker's
- Graeter's Ice Cream

- Huffy Corporation
- Kroger
- Laser Web Dayton
- Maggie Moo's Ice Cream and Treatery
- The Melting Pot
- Tim Hortons
- Whitman's Ride Shop

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



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Please contact us anytime if you have questions about the Centerville-Washington Park District. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to hearing from you!