

The Centerville-Washington Park District Park Board invites all residents to ... **Explore Your Community's BIG Backyard!**

It was no ordinary year for any of us in 2020. Your Park District, like businesses, schools, cities and organizations, had to adapt, adjust, and invent as the coronavirus pandemic spread. However, the parks were some of the only places that people could recreate, relax and rejuvenate. CWPD could not just shut down. We had to find ways to enable and welcome residents to the great outdoors as a means of coping with the pandemic restrictions.

In this report, you will read about how the Park Board and staff did just that. Never before had parks been more important to a community. Therefore, your Park District mobilized to meet the community's greater need to enjoy parks.

By following State guidelines and with the help of Montgomery County Department of Public Health, the Park District was able to open playgrounds, the sprayground, sports fields, courts, day camps and more.

FINANCES

During the pandemic, CWPD closely watched expenditures. Fortunately for the community, a park district is not funded by State allocations. Those allocations were reduced for many schools and municipalities. CWPD was able to "live within its means" ending the year in the black.

Once again, CWPD received the highest rating from the State of Ohio Auditor. CWPD consistently shows accuracy and proper accounting controls of taxpayers' money.

General fund receipts, not including advance repayments (temporary loans from the general fund to another fund) totaled \$5,479,617. General fund operating expenditures totaled \$3,857,152.

Capital improvements totaled \$785,973 and included: **Bill Yeck Park** master plan improvements, **Grant Park** bank restoration, park development at **Hithergreen**, headquarters building improvements, updated park entry signs, parking lot improvements, several scheduled neighborhood park updates and improvements and various ADA improvements throughout the district.



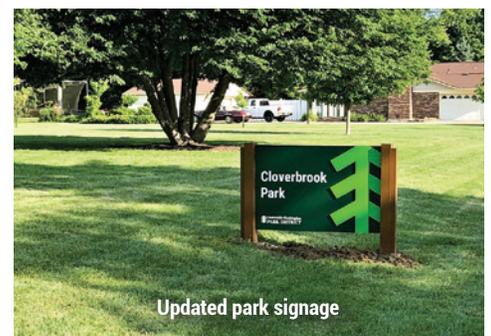
Grant Park yellow trail reopened



Hithergreen Park paved path

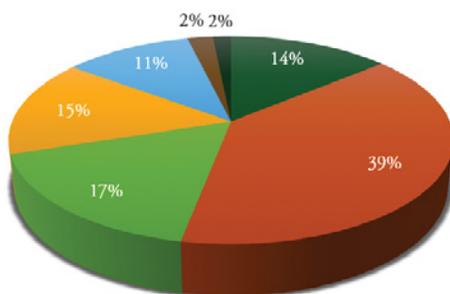


Hithergreen Park playground



Updated park signage

2020 EXPENDITURES



- PAYROLL
- PARK IMPROVEMENTS
- OPERATIONS & EQUIPMENT
- BENEFITS
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, UTILITIES & FEES
- PROGRAMS
- OFFICE OPERATIONS

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

107,000	website hits
13,400	social media followers
1,215	hours volunteered to CWPDP
1,000+	self-guided program participants
600+	children at camps
200+	trees planted
63	take home ReckIts
30	additional acres of pollinator habitat created

PLANNING

Despite the pandemic, CWPDP moved full speed ahead on planning for the future of parks and services. During 2020, the District completed the **Grant Park** Master Plan. Nearly 500 residents and park users gave their input via survey and virtual public meetings. Thanks to their input, the District now has a plan for comprehensive improvement to Grant Park trails, parking, creek crossing, habitat, scenery and more.

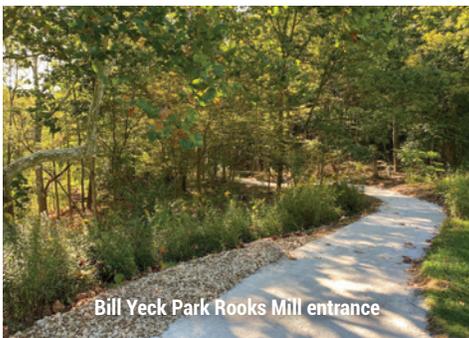
Simultaneously, Board and staff were completing the District-wide master plan. This plan gives direction for the next 10 years. It addresses everything from programs to park improvements; from the value of volunteers to methods of communication. It is extremely timely as term limits have the Park Board changing over all three commissioners in a three-year period. The plan ensures that the District stays on the course of responsiveness, quality and effectiveness.

PARKS

Because parks were so vital to residents in 2020, Park Operations staff quickly adjusted to keep the parks safe and clean and to provide an uninterrupted high level of service. For a while, the State guidelines shut down playgrounds, courts and shelters. However, as restrictions eased, your park staff was ready. During the pandemic, the parks welcomed the highest level of visitation ever.

Several projects were slated for 2020, and though some construction companies had to dial back, and some workers were unavailable, CWPDP was still able to complete some key park improvements: A few 2020 park improvements you may have enjoyed are listed:

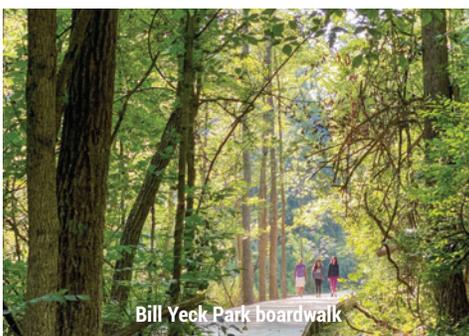
- The large and necessary erosion repair and prevention project on Holes Creek, along the **Grant Park** yellow trail, was completed by summer.
- New trailheads at the Rooks Mill and McGuffey Meadow entrances to **Bill Yeck Park**. Trails rerouted for improved navigation and safety. Creek crossings were rebuilt to be easier and safer while minimizing future erosion.
- 30 acres of parkland converted to native plant habitat.
- **Hithergreen Park** paved perimeter paths, picnic shelter and playground were installed.
- Accessible playground additions at **Concept, Grant's Trail, Hithergreen, and Little Mound Parks**. Accessible paths were added at **Cloverbrook, Hithergreen and Willowbrook Parks**.
- **Schoolhouse Park** playground was replaced, in part with a \$120,356 Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks grant.
- Picnic pads—with shade tree and pollinator garden— added at **Brittany Hills, Cherry Hill and Manor Parks**.
- 500-foot long boardwalk was installed on the **Bill Yeck Park** brown trail, extending use during all weather conditions.
- More than 200 trees were planted in parks.



Bill Yeck Park Rooks Mill entrance



Schoolhouse Park playground



Bill Yeck Park boardwalk

PROGRAMS

Many CWPD programs and activities had to be canceled to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. Sadly, special events and group programs were set aside. However, CWPD program staff was not discouraged! They pivoted to create new programming models. Take a look at what they were able to provide with almost no advance notice:

- Over 600 day-campers enjoyed modified summer camps without a single case of COVID-19 infection.
- Offered more than 63 take-home RecKits with over 600 registrants.
- More than 1,000 residents participated in self-guided programs, such as
 - Can you Find Grassman?
 - Where in the Parks is Owlexander?
 - Chalk Bingo
 - Halloween Hop & Howl
- Self-guided programming included a way for participants to send photos and provide feedback about their experience.



Summer camps



Chalk it up RecKit

AWARDS



For the second time in three years, CWPD was recognized by the National Recreation and Park Association as one of the four best park systems in the United States for our population category. CWPD was awarded the Gold Medal Finalist designation for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Forest Field Park won Best Park Design Award by the Great Lakes Parks Training Institute.

Ohio Park and Recreation Association named outgoing Director Arnie Biondo as Professional of the Year.

The newest addition to the district, **Hithergreen Park**, received a second-place Ohio Park and Recreation Association award in the capital improvements project category (up to \$1M).



Where in the Parks is Owlexander?

The Centerville-Washington Park District's mission is to deliver fun, healthy, and outstanding park experiences that connect the community with the outdoors.



GLPTI Best Park Design Award

DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following donors for their generosity:

- Centerville-Washington Foundation
- Papp Family
- Uhl Family Foundation
- United Way of Greater Dayton
- William and Dorothy Yeck Nature Fund

Additional donations were made in honor of:

- Daniel 'Danny' Allbery
- Warren & Mary Rose Back
- Barbara Battin
- James & Dorris Beale
- Natalie & Hannah Bigelow
- JP Boone
- Kevin Boone
- Joan Brickler
- Connie Chamberlain
- The Cone Family
- Carol Covey
- Bill DeVito
- Mr. and Mrs. McElligott
- Brian 'Monte' Edwards
- Tommy Flanders
- Chris Frost
- Girl Scout Troop 32284
- Sarah Grossman
- William Haffner
- Dan Hart
- The Hithergreen Community
- Chuck Irvin
- Zella Mae Johnson
- Shawn Gross Lewis
- Steve & Suzanne Millard
- Laurie Mitrovich
- Juliet Adrien Mochocki
- Pederson Family
- Gary Reeder
- Jim Reppert
- David & Jenni Roer
- Terry & Cheryl Smith
- Nick Snyder
- Bob & Toni Sprinkel
- Geoffrey C. Valley
- John David West
- Angela White
- Don Wildenhaus
- Neil Will
- David & Phyllis Yingling

Every donation makes a difference! Each will help provide fun, healthy, and outstanding park experiences for generations to come.

PEOPLE AND PARTNERS

Big thanks to our Park District volunteer corps, who provided extra help to complete trail inspections at numerous parks.

Volunteer teams removed over **1,000 pounds** of invasive garlic mustard plants this year.

This past year, the District thanked David Lee for his nine years of service as a Park Commissioner. At the same meeting, the Board welcomed Alex Pearl to his first year as Commissioner, replacing Lee. Park Commissioners serve without compensation.

Many thanks to all the people and organizations that partnered with CWPD to deliver great services through 2020:

- Rachel Abshear – Lift Up & Laugh
- Bike Centerville
- Bogg Ministries
- Boonshoft Museum of Discovery – Pop-Up Park Challenges
- Clem & Thyme
- Rotary Club of Centerville – Pop-Up Pup Parks
- Christina Willis – Forest Therapy
- And, as with every year, Centerville City Schools, City of Centerville, Centerville-Washington History, Montgomery County, Washington-Centerville Public Library, Washington Township and the State of Ohio.

Please keep sharing your suggestions with us. All communication is valuable, and the more we hear from you, the better. We want to hear what is important to the community, so we can better serve you!

We will continue to strive to meet your outdoor recreation needs.



Dan H. Monahan
Vice President



Alex Pearl
Secretary



Lucy M. Sánchez
President

Questions? Contact us at mail@cwpd.org or 937-433-5155.