



2018 Annual Report

Licking Park District

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740.587.2535
www.LickingParkDistrict.com

The Mission of the Licking Park District is to acquire, manage, preserve, and conserve natural areas within Licking County, while protecting wildlife and local history in a manner that enriches our communities and provides access to diverse parks, educational opportunities and health and wellness activities.

“Welcome To Your 1,600 Acre Backyard”





2018 – Programs

Programs & Special Events - 2018 by the numbers

Total number of participants in all programs	9,036
<i>Harvest Moon Festival and Rendezvous</i>	700
<i>TYSO Kickoff: Outdoor Adventures</i>	650
<i>Howl-o-Ween Dog Parade</i>	120
<i>Wildflower Fairy Trail</i>	315
<i>Licking Park District Family Fishing Day</i>	90
Participants in paddling programs	512



2018 Programs & Events - “Something for Everyone”

Our goal is to develop and implement a comprehensive education and outdoor recreation program for the Licking Park District. Programs are provided in the arts, citizen science, adult continuing education, teacher workshops, outdoor skills, backyard ecology, recreation, family programming, and pre-K, homeschool, teen, and school age education. Participation in LPD programs increased 3% from 2017 to 2018, and by 40% overall in the last three years. Program offerings increased 77% from 2015 to 2018. In 2015, 123 programs were offered, averaging 10.25 programs a month. **In 2018 there were 218 programs offered**, averaging 17.75 programs a month. In 2015 numbers were largely driven by large special events. In 2018 internal and partner programming was increased and diversified reflecting larger environmental education and recreation trends.



We continue to offer programs for, and develop partnerships and collaborations with, many community organizations. These include: Licking County Library - Main Branch, Alexandria Public Library, Granville Public Library, Homer Public Library, The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology, The Dawes Arboretum, Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District, Licking County Recycling, Camp O'Bannon, Granville Senior Center, Licking County Aging Program, Young Leaders of Licking County, Wellness Coalition, Granville Recreation District, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, Career and Technology Education Center of Licking County (CTEC), Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR), Denison University, Granville Milling Co - Newark, Boy Scouts of America, National Association of Interpretation, East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, Lifelong Learning Institute, and LEADS Community Action Agency.





2018 – Programs

Program Types

Internal: Initiated and carried out by LPD staff

Paddle: Specialized subset of internal programs

Requested/Partner: Program done in partnership with or at the request of an outside organization

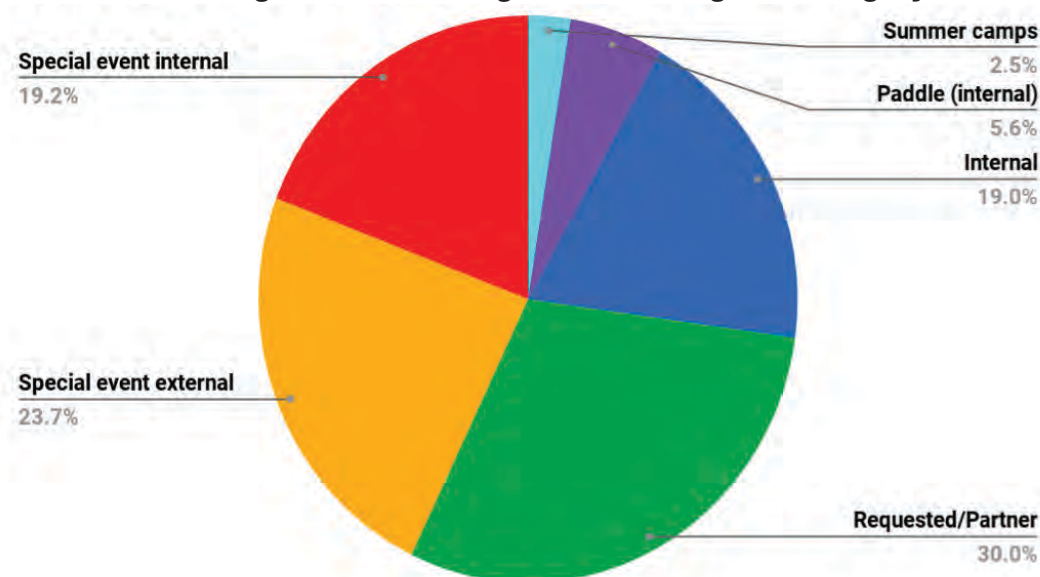
Special Event Internal: Events organized by the LPD

Special Event External: Events run entirely by outside organizations

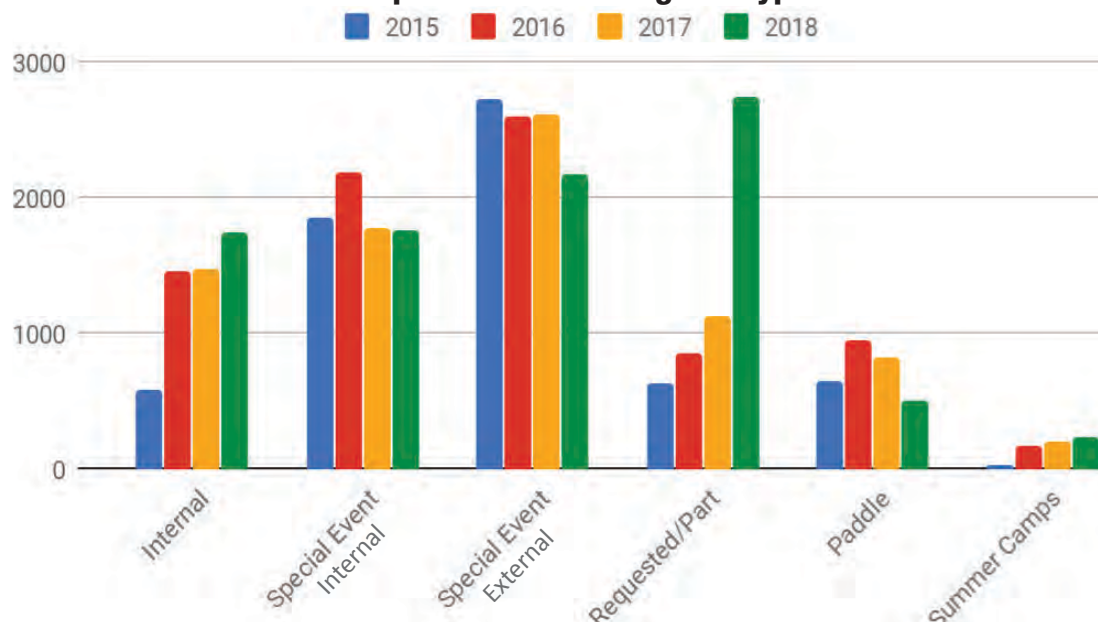
Summer Camps: Run by outside agency/hosted at LPD

NOTE: During 2018 a number of programs and special events were cancelled due to weather

2018 Programs: Percentage of Each Program Category



Participation Across Program Types



NOTE: During 2018 a number of programs and special events were cancelled due to inclement weather.



2018 – Programs

2018 - Programs & Events

Some of the programs & events Licking Park District offered in 2018:

Saturday Morning Hikes	National Association of Interpretation Workshops
Family Fishing Day	Conservation Work Days
Full Moon Hikes and Gatherings	Bird Banding
After school programs with Alexandria Library and Homer Library	Rain Barrel Workshops
Landscape for Life	Homeschool Happenings
Backyard Series: Birdfeeding 101, Native Bees, Rain Gardens, Recycling, & more	Stream Team
Paint the Parks	Celebrity Reader
Speaker Series	Movie Night
Curious Kids at The Works	Fairy Trail
Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree Educator Workshops	Art in the Parks: Willow Workshop, Ecoprinting, Natural Feltmaking
	Holiday Programming: Natural Centerpieces, DIY Holiday, Night Tree Family Story Night

Paddlesports - We continued to have a strong paddlesports program. In 2018, for the fourth year, we utilized boating equipment we received through the Boater Education Safety Grant from ODNr Division of Watercraft. Through a combination of *Try It!* events, skills courses, and river paddles we have reached over 3,500 people since 2015. Many of our paddle programs were cancelled in 2018 due to inclement weather.

Outdoor Adventures - Our 5th annual *Outdoor Adventures* event, held as the kickoff to *Turn Your Screen Off Week*, had an attendance of 650 despite very cold temperatures! Paddling was cancelled due to the cold air/water temperatures.

Wildflower Fairy Trail - In 2018 a fairy trail was created along Infirmary Mound Park's Wildflower Trail. The trail opened with a party, complete with a Cinderella horse drawn carriage, a unicorn, and crafts. The trail drew visitors from all around Central Ohio. A fairy mail station provided a way for people to correspond with the fairy folk and LPD interns along with volunteers wrote back to continue the connection. The LPD views the fairy houses as a way for children, families, and individuals to share time together outside, experiencing the wonder of the woods in a whimsical way.





2018 – Programs

held the first family fishing day in June. Participants took part in a range of fishing related activities: make your own bamboo fishing pole, a fishing derby, water quality testing, and a free hot dog picnic lunch!

Willow Furniture Workshop with Bim Willow from Michigan

- In 2018 we offered an Art in the Park series which included a willow furniture workshop with Bim Willow. Bim has been building furniture and teaching for about 30 years, and has been featured on HGTV. Participants started with an introduction of the history behind rustic willow furniture and ended with a piece they made themselves! We expect to this successful event to return in the future.

Hartford Fair - The Licking Park District continued to participate in the Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area, alongside the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Licking County Recycling. We provided paddlesports programming and environmental education.

Harvest Moon Rendezvous and Festival - The Harvest Moon Rendezvous and Festival is held on the second weekend in October. In 2018, over 700 people attended. Activities included an encampment with people in period dress, carriage rides, a bounce house, crafts, *Bring the Farm to You* petting farm, apple butter making, Moe's BBQ Food Truck, the ODNR Archery Trailer, Land of Legend Antique Tractor Club - Touch a Tractor, game zone, woodcarving, and face painting.

River Round Up - The Licking Park District was again a partner for the 24th annual Licking County River Round Up. This year's event participation was significantly decreased due to heavy rain. The paddling activities were cancelled.

Howl-o-Ween - On October 21, 2018 the third Howl-o-Ween was held at the Infirmary Mound Dog Park. Partners included the Newark Veterinary Hospital, Licking County Dog Shelter, and the Licking County Humane Society.



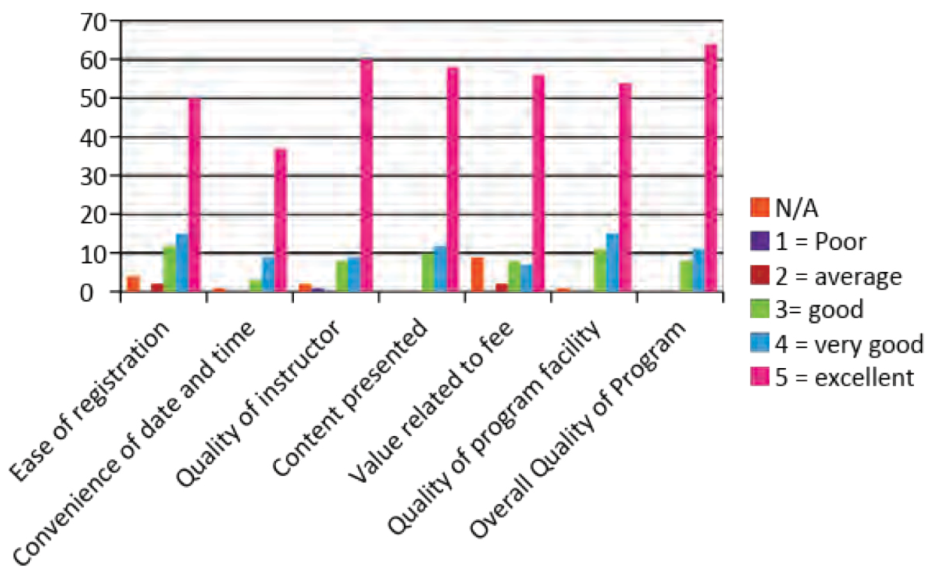


2018 – Programs

Program Survey Results:

An online program evaluation form was developed to begin collecting feedback on 2018 programs. The survey was distributed to program participants that provided email contact information. The results are as follows:

How would you rate the program?



Citizen Science and Natural Resources Programming

The Licking Park District is working to establish baseline information on resident flora and fauna populations to provide to our resource management partners. Information is and will in part be collected through citizen science projects such as NestWatch, Ohio Lepidoptera Survey (2019), and Stream Team with Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District. Data is also collected by partnering with outside organizations such as The Ohio State University.





2018 – Programs

Nestwatch: Bluebird Box Monitoring

In 2017 Granville Boy Scout Troop 65 made and installed 18 bluebird boxes at Infirmary Mound Park. The boxes were placed in pairs throughout the park. Pairing the nest boxes decreases competition between Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds such as Tree Swallows. The goal is to have boxes monitored by volunteers. Volunteers will contribute extremely valuable information to science, while learning firsthand about birds and developing a lifelong bond with the natural world. Data collected is valuable to the Licking Park District and is also submitted to NestWatch, a citizen science project run by Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. Nestwatch is used by researchers to understand bird populations across the country and how they may be changing over time as a result of habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

In 2018 Eastern Bluebird box monitoring was led by volunteer Marc Monnin, who put in 29 hours. Two additional volunteers were trained and will begin monitoring in 2019. Additional trainings will be held.



2018 Bluebird Box Monitoring Results:

Bird Species	Nest Attempts	Fledglings
Eastern Bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>)	18	78
Tree Swallow (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>)	14	54
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	6	0
House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>)	1	0

MAPS Bird Banding

In 1989 The Institute for Bird Populations created the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program to assess, monitor, and provide critical conservation and management information for the breeding population of over 150 North American bird species. The results of this monitoring effort help contribute to conserving wildlife by determining



2018 – Programs

population trends in many species of migratory songbirds. The data can also assist with land management at the park level. Information collected will inform resource management partners of the types of bird species breeding, their annual fluctuations, and habitat preferences.

A banding station was established in 2016 at Infirmary Mound Park. A total of 37 species have been banded, eight of which have a designated conservation status of moderate to highest priority from the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI).

The OBCI is a collaboration of non-profit groups, businesses, state and federal government agencies, and citizens that are participating in or are interested in bird conservation for the State of Ohio. Banding is extremely popular with volunteers and interns, giving a unique and hands-on scientific opportunity. In addition the banding effort increases opportunities for programming. On select banding days, we offered banding demonstrations to the general public, travelled to local schools, public libraries, and The Dawes Arboretum to do banding programming.

Year	# of Bird Species	# of New Birds Banded	# of Recaptures	Total Birds Captured
2016	29	117		117
2017	27	116	32	148
2018	28	137	45	182

Top 5 bird species banded	2016	2017	2018
1	Gray Catbird	Song Sparrow	Gray Catbird
2	Common Yellowthroat	Gray Catbird	Common Yellowthroat
3	Northern Cardinal	Willow Flycatcher+	Northern Cardinal
4	Common Grackle	Common Yellowthroat	American Robin
5	Song Sparrow	Field Sparrow*	Field Sparrow*

* High Priority Species

+Moderate Priority Species





2018 – Programs

Ohio Bee Atlas Project

Infirmity Mound Park was surveyed in the summers of 2017 and 2018 by the Bee Team — a group of bumble bee researchers from The Ohio State University and the University of Akron. The statewide Ohio bumble bee survey project, funded by ODOT, visited more than 275 wildflower meadows in 66 Ohio counties and observed more than 25,000 bumble bees of 10 species.

At Infirmity Mound Park they observed 75 bumble bees of five species. The three most common were: Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*B. impatiens*), Brown-belted Bumble Bee (*B. griseocollis*), and Two-spotted Bumble Bee (*B. bimaculatus*). Confusing Bumble Bee (*B. perplexus*) and Half-black Bumble Bee (*B. vagans*) were also seen with less frequency. In the future LPD staff and volunteers will monitor for these species and continue to contribute to the Ohio Bee Atlas Project.



Ohio Odonata Society: Ohio Dragonfly Survey

The Ohio Dragonfly Survey is a citizen science organization funded through the ODNR to document species of dragonflies and damselflies across the state. The survey runs until the end of 2019. Ohio has about 170 species of dragonflies and damselflies. A preliminary survey at Infirmity Mound Park (late 2018) showed only a few species: Swamp Darner, Autumn Meadowhawk, and Common Green Darner. Surveys scheduled through the summer of 2019, include a dragonfly bioblitz open to volunteers and public participation.



Park District's New Prairie Patch

LPD planted a small experimental prairie at Infirmity Mound Park to give park visitors an opportunity to see and enjoy the native prairie plants that once covered the western portions of Ohio following the Wisconsin glaciation. After the glaciers receded, the state experienced a period of hot, dry weather that was conducive to prairie grasslands migrating into Ohio from the west. The eastward expansion of these prairie grasslands is known as the Prairie Peninsula. Portions of these grasslands remained even when cooler and wetter conditions returned favoring the hardwood forests in the state.

The new prairie was planted in late spring of 2018 and was seeded with over 40 species of prairie plants native to Ohio including: Prairie coneflower, Purple coneflower, Prairie dock, Compass plant, Big bluestem, Indian grass and more. The first two years of the prairie growth will display limited flowering as most species are primarily growing deep roots to withstand drought conditions. Come, visit and watch the prairie transformation happen.





2018 – Volunteer Report

Licking Park District Volunteers make a difference.

Volunteers help to promote the mission of the Licking Park District every day by providing their talents, skills, and service. Our volunteers help maintain our trails, protect important natural and cultural resources, and are indispensable ambassadors educating and engaging our local community.

Volunteer Coordinator

In August 2018, the Licking Park District welcomed Karen Jennings as our new part-time Volunteer Coordinator. Karen began a new initiative designed to update and enhance existing volunteer policy by creating Volunteer Management Guidelines. These guidelines focus on every aspect of volunteering with streamlined best practices for every step of volunteer management: Developing Strategic Roles, Cultivation, Screening and Placement, Training, Support, Evaluation and Recognition, and Sustaining Engagement.

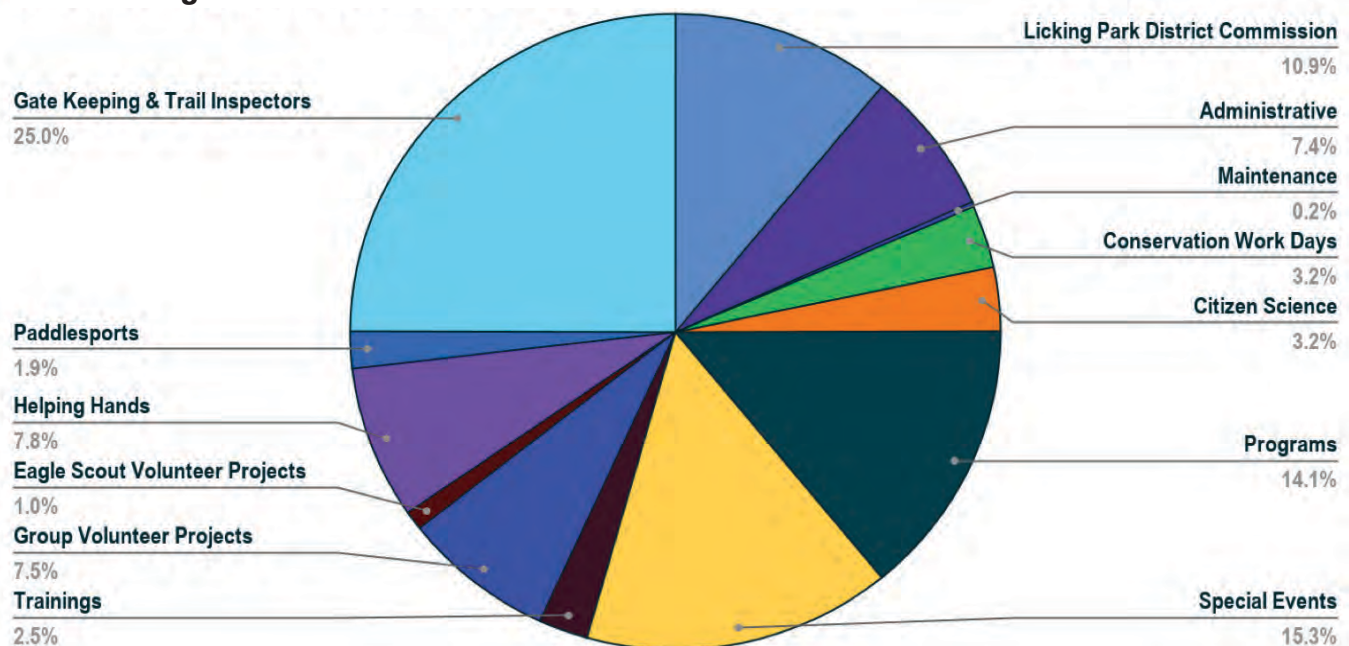
Karen's goal is to develop and expand the Volunteer Program through training and skills development; by cultivating increased corporate, group, and school partnerships, through ongoing individual recruitment throughout Licking County; and by increasing meaningful volunteer opportunities and experiences. The Volunteer Program will be introducing new Adopt-a-Trail/Park stewardship programs.



Volunteer Activities

In 2018 a total of 180 volunteers donated over 1,200 hours of their time supporting the Licking Park District. Volunteers contributed their time, energy, and knowledge to programs and special events, trail inspecting and gate keeping, Citizen Science and conservation work days, and administrative and maintenance assistance.

2018 Licking Park District Volunteer Hours





2018 – Volunteer Report

2018 Volunteer Recognition

Congratulations Debbie Pound! Debbie was honored as the 2018 Volunteer of the Year. Debbie began volunteering in 2017 and has donated more than 170 hours of service to the park district.

Thank you volunteers who donated the most hours in 2018.

Lee & Nelly Barlow	208	Marc Monnin	29
Debbie Pound	112	Geraldine Jacobs	24
Todd Tisko	85	Sasha Mikheidze	20
John Yohman	57	Vincent Alessi	18.5
Marcia Koester	51	Cathy Dixon	18
John & Barbara Long	47	Kelly Strauch	18
Jerry Greer	39	Kelly Pertee	15.5
Brenda Sams	38	Karen McCabe	15
Kim Vohs	34.5	Lynna Kiracofe	13



Licking Park District Volunteer Services	Hours
Licking Park District Park Board	135
Administrative	91
Maintenance	3
Conservation Work Days	39
Citizen Science	40
Programs	174
Special Events	189
Trainings	31
Group Volunteer Projects	93
Eagle Scout Volunteer Projects	691
Helping Hands	96
Paddlesports	23
Gate Keeping & Trail Inspectors	308
Total Volunteer Hours	1913



2018 Projects, Improvements, and Acquisitions

2018 Projects, Improvements, and Acquisitions:

Bike Trail Maintenance

The Park District and the Village of Granville paved 1.25 miles of trail on the TJ Evans Bike Trail between Main St and Moots Run Rd in Granville.

The Park District and the City of Newark paved the TJ Evans Bike Trail from the YMCA to Goosepond Rd. Completed in fall 2018, this was a 2018–2022 Strategic Plan item.

Office Improvements

The upstairs office flooring was replaced with vinyl planking in January of 2018.

Maintenance Equipment Additions

In Spring 2018 the 18-year old maintenance work truck was replaced with a 2018 Ford F350. The vehicle is equipped with a lift-gate and enhanced towing package for hauling large equipment.

A tow-behind blower was purchased for bike path maintenance.

Slip Repair Project

The Granville Bike Path erosion repair project was started July 18 but not completed due to excessive rain. Completion plans have been forwarded to 2019.

Wyatt Adkins Park Connection

The bike trail base was finished in 2018. Paving of the path connection is to be part of larger paving project at the Wyatt Adkins Park.





2018 Projects, Improvements, and Acquisitions

Taft Reserve South Meeting Center

Taft Reserve South Meeting Center has been reopened! Assisted by the East Central Ohio Beekeeper's Association (ECOBA), the furnace has been replaced and installed, multi-media equipment added, along with other upgrades. Flooring is scheduled for 2019.

Ohio Canal Greenway Covered Bridge

Facilitated by Licking County Planning & Development, the Park District was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for repair of the covered bridge on the Ohio Canal Greenway multi-use trail. The rehabilitation work included a new roof, new bridge decking, replacement of deteriorated outer wallboards, and the addition of concrete approaches with safety end treatments and flared wings. The CDBG program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.



Eagle Scout projects

Orienteering Course at Infirmary Mound Park

A new park feature is an Orienteering Course created by Andrew Lowery of Granville Troop 65. The course is modeled after those set up by the Ohio Orienteering Club. Completing his Eagle Scout project with the help of fellow scouts from Granville Troop 65, three courses of varying complexity were put in place at Infirmary Mound Park. There is a one-mile trail, a two-mile trail, and a three-mile trail.



New Viewing Benches for Mirror Lake

Infirmary Mound's Mirror Lake has some new viewing benches. To complete his Eagle Scout project, Isaac Cotterman of Croton Troop 25 installed three benches around the lake with the help of troop members for park visitors to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings of Mirror Lake.





2018 Projects, Improvements, and Acquisitions

Chimney Swift Tower

As you drive into Infirmary Mound Park, and after passing the dog park, look to the right. You will notice a new 12-foot high white column rising from the fields. The structure is a Chimney Swift tower, constructed by Ben Smith of Newark Troop 2 to complete his Eagle Scout project. A tower of this size will support a breeding pair of Swifts during the summer months. The size of the tower dictates the number of roosting Swifts. Potentially many more will roost during fall migration when Chimney Swifts travel in larger numbers. The tower will provide not only beneficial habitat for Chimney Swifts but will also provide valuable educational opportunities.

Mile markers on TJ Evans and Panhandle Trails

Do you ever wonder why mile markers are on bike trails? They don't just measure distances travelled but are a safety feature too. In the event of an emergency, authorities can locate you by using the mile markers. Charles Meadows Newark Troop 2 installed mile markers beside the TJ Evans Bike Trail from West Main St. in Newark to Johnstown to complete his Eagle Scout project. Also, Scout Brennan Peterson installed 12 miles of markers along the Panhandle Trail. The Panhandle Trail runs from East Main St., Newark to Felumlee Rd. in Nashport. That's 26 miles of new mile markers!

Bike Repair Stations

Two new bike repair stations were installed by David Drushal of Newark Troop 4. The bike stations are equipped with bike repair tools and an air pump for cyclists to make simple adjustments to their bikes. The newest stations are at Reddington Rd. Newark and the Alexandria Depot St. bike trail access.

Morris Woods State Nature Preserve

Eagle Scout Graham Squire of Newark Troop 2 built and installed 100 feet of boardwalk on the trails at the Morris Woods State Nature Preserve. This project improved access across a low, often wet section of trail.





2019 – Special Programs & Event Dates

2019 Special Programs and Event Dates

Outdoor Adventures - Kickoff to Turn Your Screen Off Week - Sunday, April 28

Fairy Trail Party! - Sunday, May 5

Women's Outdoor Skills Workshop - Saturday, June 1

Family Adventures - Licking Park District Family Fishing Day - Saturday, June 22

Pace at the Park - Saturday, July 13

Family Adventures - Disc Golf at Lobdell - Saturday, July 20

Hartford Fair Natural Resource Area - Sunday, August 4 to Friday, August 9

Licking County River Round Up - Saturday, September 7

OhioLina - Friday, September 20 to Sunday, September 22

Harvest Moon Rendezvous and Festival - Friday, October 11 to Sunday, October 13

Howl-o-Ween Dog Parade and Costume Contest - Sunday, October 27





Licking Park District

Licking Park District Staff

Richard Campitelli, Director

Tami McAdams, Operations Administrator

Heather Glaser, Admin Assistant 1st half year.

Kris Lohrman, Admin Assistant 2nd half year.
(not pictured)

Anne Balogh, Program Coordinator

Mike Evans, Maintenance Worker

Denny Lane, Maintenance Worker
(not pictured)

Karen Jennings, Volunteer Coordinator
(not pictured)



Front row left to right: Tami, and Heather.
Back row left to right: Rich, Mike, and Anne.

Licking Park District Board of Commissioners

Jim Kiracofe, Chair

Richard Moseley, Vice-Chair

Jim Bradley

Sam White

Richard Waugh

The Park District is governed by a five-member Board of Park Commissioners that meets monthly. Licking Park District said goodbye to two board members in 2018, Sheena Sjostrand-Post and Steve Holloway. Sjostrand-Post served on the board from 2015 through April 2018. Holloway joined the board in 2010 and served as chairman from 2010–2017. We gained two new board members, Richard Waugh and Sam White, in 2018.

Thank You

The Staff and Park Board of the Licking Park District would like to thank all of you, our committed volunteers and community supporters, who help make these projects and programs available to our neighbors in our community. Your ongoing support allows us to enhance the life of all of our residents.



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