



2019 Annual Report

Licking Park District

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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”





2019 – Programs & Events

2019 Annual Report – Programs, Special Events, and Natural Resources

2019 Numbers at a Glance

| Total Number of 2019 Program Participants: 9,872 | |
|---|------|
| Attendance for <i>Harvest Moon Festival and Rendezvous</i> | 1000 |
| Attendance for <i>TYSO Kickoff: Outdoor Adventures</i> | 650 |
| Attendance for <i>Howl-o-Ween Dog Parade</i> | 250 |
| Attendance for <i>Wildflower Fairy Trail (Party and Visitor Mail)</i> | 979 |
| Attendance for <i>Pace at the Park</i> | 135 |
| Attendance for <i>Women's Outdoor Skills Workshop</i> | 67 |
| Participants in Paddling Programs | 987 |

2019 Programs & Events

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 9.25% from 2018 to 2019, and by 52% overall in the last five years.

Part of our program success is due to the emphasis we put on being a positive and active community partner. We continue to offer programs for, and develop partnerships and collaborations with, many community organizations. In 2019 we partnered with over 25 organizations to offer programs and resources for Licking County. These programs range from one time, short programs on a requested topic to long-term program series. Our partner list includes: Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists (OCVN), Alexandria Public Library, Granville Public Library, Homer Public Library, The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology, The Dawes Arboretum, Licking County Recycling, Camp O'Bannon, Licking County Community Center (LCCC), Licking County Aging Program, Wellness Coalition, Granville Recreation District, Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR), Denison University, Granville Milling Company, Boy Scouts of America, East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association (ECOBA), LEADS Community Action Agency, River Round Up committee, Newark Veterinary Hospital, Licking County Humane Society, Licking County Dog Shelter, and the Licking Land Trust.





2019 – Programs & Events

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

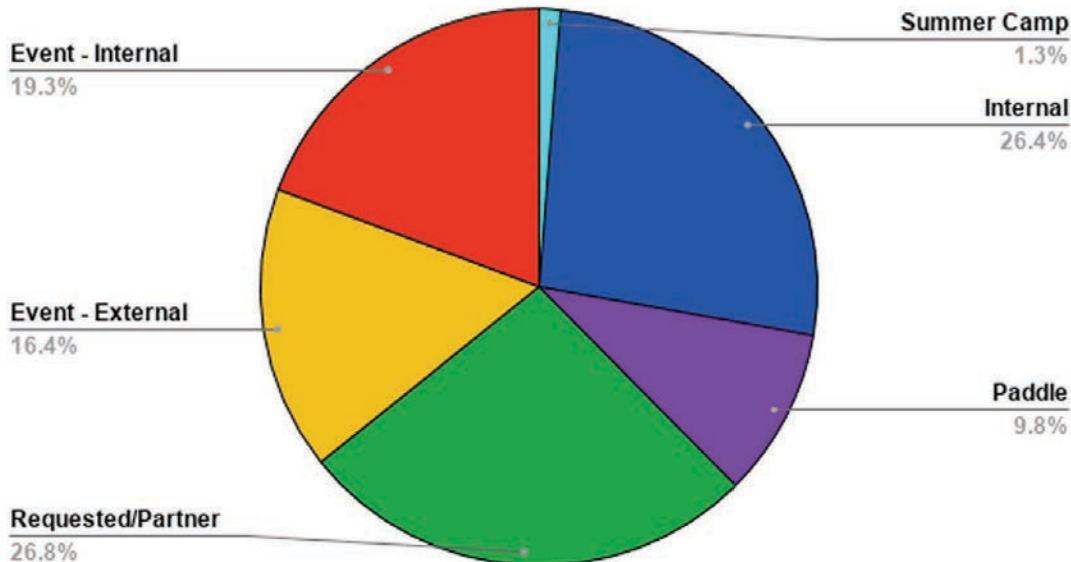
Event Internal: Events organized by the LPD

Event External: Events run entirely by outside organizations

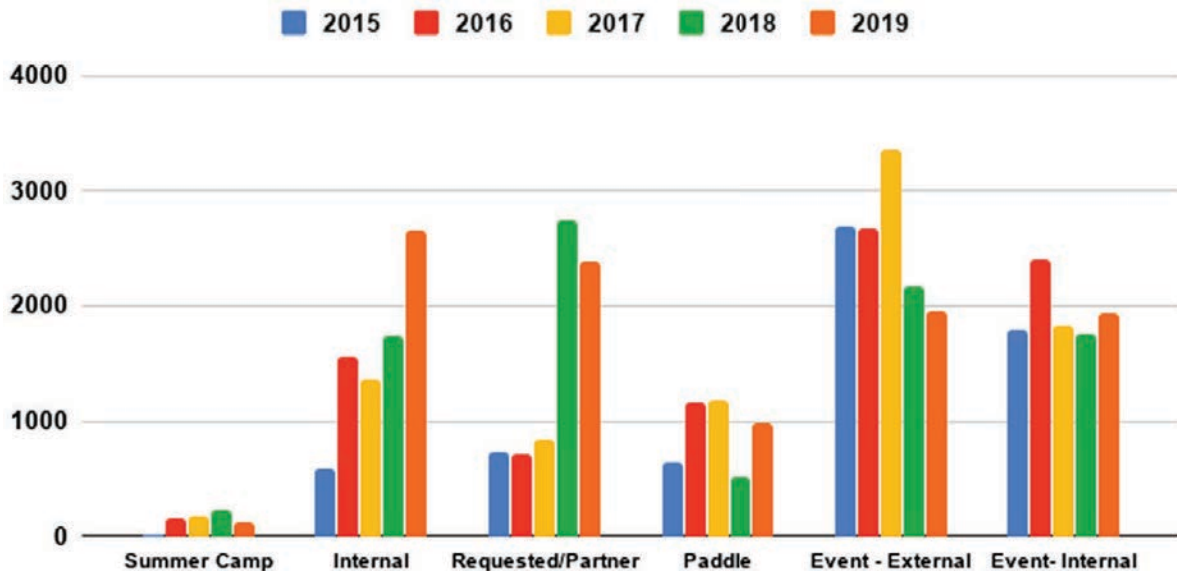
Summer Camp: Run by outside agency/hosted at LPD



2019 Programs: Breakdown by Category



Program Participation Across Program Categories





2019 – Programs & Events

2019 – Program Snapshot

| | |
|--|--|
| Saturday Morning Hikes | Eagle Walks* |
| Stream Team | Birding Strolls* |
| Paint the Parks | Curious Kids at The Works |
| Wildflower Fairy Trail | Project WET, WILD, Learning Tree and Citizen Science* |
| Family Adventures* | Educator Workshops |
| Tai Chi* | Bird Banding |
| Yoga* | Rain Barrel Workshops |
| African Hand Drumming* | Homeschool Happenings |
| Elementary School Field Trips* | Art in the Park Series |
| Full Moon Hikes | Speaker Series |
| After School at Alexandria Library and Homer Library | Celebrity Reader |
| Backyard Series: Birdfeeding, Native Bees, Rain Gardens, Recycling | Natural Centerpieces |
| | DIY Holiday |
| | Night Tree Family Story Night |

* new in 2019

Events of 2019

Outdoor Adventures – This free, signature spring festival is the kickoff to *Turn Your Screen Off Week*, an annual event where children, families, and communities are encouraged to turn off screens and “turn on life.” The LPD partners with other organizations to provide week long programming. This year Outdoor Adventures featured paddlesports, a rock climbing wall, bounce houses, archery, disc golf, food trucks, crafts, and community organizations. It drew an attendance of 650!

Wildflower Fairy Trail – Back for a second year! The Fairy Trail was developed along the Wildflower Trail at Infirmary Mound Park in an effort to find a fun and whimsical way to encourage people to get out and explore nature. Fairy houses were created by staff, volunteers, and community organizations. The houses were installed in early May and the trail was opened with a kickoff party featuring a unicorn, crafts, a horse drawn carriage, face-painting, snacks, and kids in costume! The trail featured a mail station where visitors could write to the fairies and LPD interns wrote back if addresses were provided. Almost 1000 pieces of fairy mail were collected between May and September.





2019 – Programs & Events

Women's Outdoor and Wellness Skills (WOWS)

Workshop – The Licking Park District hosted its 3rd biennial WOWS Workshop, designed for women to experience nature and outdoor recreational activities in a fun and non-competitive environment. The workshop featured four sessions from which participants chose topics such as archery, stand up paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, fly fishing, sensory awareness, fire making, drumming, yoga, beekeeping, birding, ecoprinting, nature photography and more. Registration filled in less than one week.



Pace at the Parks – The Licking Park District has an active and committed equestrian community, and we offer this special event for that audience. A hunter pace is a competitive equestrian trail ride designed to closely match the excitement of a fox hunt. This year's event at Infirmary Mound Park was very successful, with 135 participants and spectators.



Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area – The Licking Park District and other Licking County organizations partner to manage the Hartford Fair's Natural Resources Area. The fair ran from August 4th to the 11th in 2019. The Licking Park District taught archery, paint by the pond, DIY native bee houses, and paddlesports, reaching 257 participants.



2019 Licking County River Round Up – The Licking Park District is a proud partner of the annual Licking County River Round Up. We directly manage the three Licking River sections cleaned by canoe and kayak. Overall in 2019 the River Round Up involved 375 volunteers who cleaned up 6750 lbs of trash, 357 tires, and 4900 lbs of recycled material from 30 miles of waterways.



Harvest Moon Rendezvous and Festival – Our signature annual fall event, the Harvest Moon Festival, features family friendly activities including pumpkin painting, crafts, artists, carriage rides, nature activities, food trucks, touch-a-tractor, bounce houses, and a farm animal petting zoo. The Harvest Moon Rendezvous features actors in period dress. An estimated 1,000 people attended, which is the highest in the six years of the event.



2019 – Programs & Events

Howl-O-Ween – A dog friendly event held at Infirmary Mound Park's 4-acre Paws2 Play Dog Park. Attendance doubled in 2019, with 250 attending. The event features a popular dog costume contest, a doggie treat scavenger hunt, adoptable dogs, a bounce house for the kids, and treats for the whole family. Special thanks to Granville Milling Company for providing prize packages. Thanks also to our community partners Newark Veterinary Hospital, Licking County Humane Society, and the Licking County Dog Shelter for providing dog friendly information and adoptable dogs.



Continuing Education in 2019

Educator Workshop Series – 2019 was the third year of offering an Educator Workshop Series in partnership with the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District and The Dawes Arboretum. This series offered four workshops (Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, and Environmental Education for Early Childhood) which are correlated to state and national education standards. New in 2019 was a sold out Citizen Science in the Classroom workshop and a one day stormwater related tour of Licking County. Overall the workshop series had 102 attendees with educators from Newark City Schools, Newark Catholic High School, Columbus Metroparks, KinderCare Learning Center, Americorps Hocking County, and more.



Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists (OCVN) – The Licking Park District, The Dawes Arboretum, and Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District co-hosted the Licking County OCVN program in collaboration with The Ohio State University. The OCVN mission is to promote awareness and citizen stewardship of Ohio's natural resources through science-based education and community service. We offer the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist training course every other year. It features 40 hours of instruction provided by the three partner institutions. The class filled at 18 participants.



New in 2019

Family Adventures – Building off a family fishing day in 2018, a Family Adventure series was offered in 2019 that included the first overnight camping program at Infirmary Mound Park. A stream exploration walk and a beginner disc golf program were also planned at Lobdell Reserve. The disc golf class was cancelled due to extreme heat. Overall 130 participated in the series.





2019 – Programs & Events

Wellness Series – Programs were added that emphasized wellness activities that benefit overall physical and mental health, such as outdoor Tai Chi and Yoga in the Park. These classes were offered weekly from June through August, with Tai Chi continuing through the fall. Over the course of the series, Tai Chi had 255 participants, averaging 11 per class. Yoga had 107 participants, averaging 9 per class. A monthly African Hand Drumming class was also offered, attracting 94 participants. Group drumming is a way to relieve stress and find a sense of balance.

School Field Trips – In May we welcomed the John Clem Elementary 2nd grade to Infirmary Mound Park for the first time. Along with their chaperones, 75 students came for the day to explore four habitat stations. They made plans immediately to return in 2020. Earth Ridge Primary spent a day in May at Lobdell Reserve learning about water related topics. This group of 100 students rotated between learning stations. Stations were led by LPD staff and volunteers, and LCSWCD.

Eagle Watch – A section of bike trail just west of Granville features a view of a long-standing, active Bald Eagle nest. In 2019 a spotting scope was purchased and three walks to observe the eagles were conducted. The largest attendance for one walk was 37 people on a lovely weather day. Overall a total of 75 people attended.

Recreation News in 2019

Archery – In March of 2019 the LPD was chosen to receive an ODNr, Division of Wildlife Community Archery Range Grant for an education archery trailer. The trailer will be owned by the Licking Park District and used to instruct archery for a variety of audiences at public programs and events. In addition, the trailer will be available to ODNr and other outdoor recreation organizations on a first come, first serve basis when not in use by the Licking Park District. The trailer will be an asset to organizations in Licking and surrounding counties that rely on the ODNr trailers, which are in high demand and not always available.

Paddlesports – Through a combination of canoe, kayak and SUP Try It! events, skills courses, and Licking River paddles the LPD has served over 4,400 people since 2015, when we received the Boater Education Safety Grant from the Ohio Division of Watercraft.





2019 – Programs & Events

Citizen Science and Natural Resources Programming

The Licking Park District is working to establish baseline information on resident flora and fauna populations for resource management purposes. Information is and will be partly collected through citizen science projects such as Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch, Ohio Lepidoptera Survey, and Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District's Stream Team. Data is also collected by partnering with outside organizations.

Prairie Restoration at Infirmary Mound Park

In 2019 a partnership was formed between the Licking Park District (LPD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (USFWS-PFW) to create roughly 32 acres of new grassland habitat at Infirmary Mound Park. The project will provide critical habitat for pollinators, migratory grassland nesting birds, and other local wildlife species. In addition, it will provide accessible learning opportunities for park programming and a beautiful landscape to relax in for the many visitors who use the trails.

The project will occur in two phases. Phase 1 involves the 15 acres to the east and south of the Paws 2 Play dog park. Vegetation was removed from the area through the responsible application of herbicide in September of 2019. A second herbicide application will occur in 2020. Then the area will be planted with the seeds of 34 Ohio native wildflower species and seven Ohio native warm season grasses using a no-till seed drill. Phase 2 involves the 17 acres along Rt. 37 that lie to the north of the IMP office and west of Mirror Lake. Woody vegetation was mechanically removed in February of 2020. The area will be kept bare throughout the summer by brush hogging and then tilling during the late summer of 2020. The ground will then be ready to be frost seeded in the winter of 2020–21 with the same mix of wildflower and native warm season grass species. Utilizing two methods of planting, drill and frost seeding, will provide a useful learning tool to compare the results.

This project also gives the LPD an opportunity to monitor the changes in wildlife that occur. Citizen scientist volunteers began butterfly monitoring in 2019. This monitoring will continue annually, allowing us to determine if habitat changes have helped attract new species. Future monitoring projects will also include iNaturalist inventories.





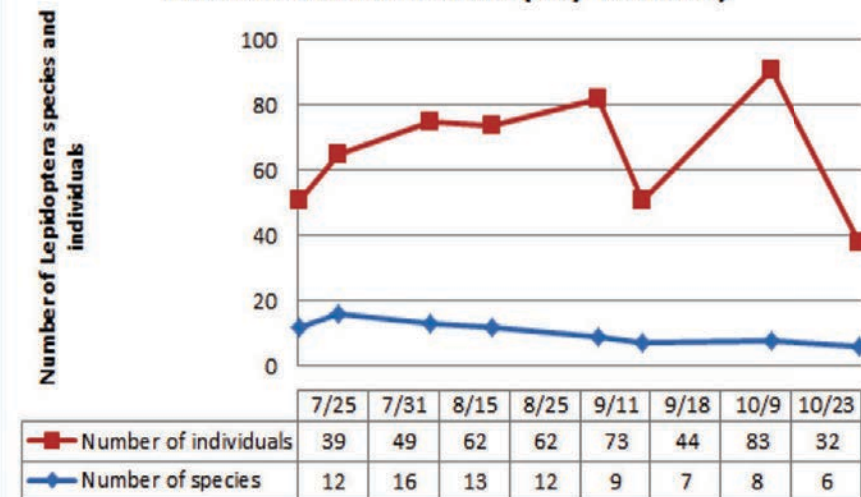
2019 – Programs & Events

Infirmiry Mound Park Lepidoptera (Butterfly) Monitoring

In July 2019 a butterfly transect survey was started at Infirmiry Mound Park. The survey is modeled off of a long-term butterfly monitoring project hosted by the Ohio Lepidopterists, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Ohio Biological Survey. In the future, monitoring will occur from April through October. The goal is to collect long-term data that will help track trends in species diversity and abundance.

A transect is a fixed route along which walks are made and once chosen, the route is not altered. The IMP transect is located partly in the area designated to undergo prairie restoration, so 2019 monitoring should give baseline information to be able to compare to future changes due to the habitat changes. LPD citizen science volunteers were trained in the summer of 2019 and led the monitoring effort. In total, 31 species were observed.

2019 Infirmiry Mound Park Lepidoptera Transect Count Results (July -October)



NestWatch: Bluebird Box Monitoring

Infirmiry Mound Park has 18 bluebird boxes 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 nestboxes are monitored by volunteers and data collection follows the protocol designed by NestWatch, which is 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 2019 Eastern Bluebird box monitoring was led by volunteer Marc Monnin.

2019 Bluebird Box Monitoring Results:

| Bird Species | Nest Attempts | Fledglings |
|---|---------------|------------|
| Eastern Bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>) | 14 | 44 |
| Tree Swallow (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>) | 10 | 27 |
| House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>) | 1 | 3 |





2019 – Programs & Events

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 helps contribute to conserving wildlife by determining 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 as to the types of bird species breeding, their annual fluctuations, and habitat preferences. A banding station was established in 2016 at Infirmary Mound Park. 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.

A total of 46 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.

| 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 |
| 2019 | 34 | 123 | 28 | 151 |

Top Five Bird Species Banded:

| Top 5 Bird Species Banded | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Gray Catbird | Song Sparrow | Gray Catbird | Gray Catbird |
| 2 | Common Yellowthroat | Gray Catbird | Common Yellowthroat | Common Yellowthroat |
| 3 | Northern Cardinal | Willow Flycatcher+ | Northern Cardinal | American Robin |
| 4 | Common Grackle | Common Yellowthroat | American Robin | Northern Cardinal |
| 5 | Song Sparrow | Field Sparrow* | Field Sparrow* | Field Sparrow* |

* High Priority Species

+ Moderate Priority Species





2019 – Programs & Events

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. Ohio has about 170 species of dragonflies and damselflies. Infirmity Mound Park and Lobdell Reserve were visited several times in 2019 by MaLisa Spring, the State Coordinator for the Ohio Dragonfly Survey. She also led a mini dragonfly bioblitz at Infirmity Mound Park as a public program. Observations were photographed and submitted to iNaturalist. Most of the dragonflies and damselflies were as expected for lake habitat. A total of 26 dragonfly and damselfly species were observed. Two of the uncommon species observed were Blue-faced Meadowhawk and Comet Darner (see pictures). Some notable invertebrate non-dragonfly species observed included the American Snout Fly, Bee-mimicking Robberfly, Slender Cuckoo Bee and Lemon Cuckoo Bee.

2020 Special Event Dates

Outdoor Adventures – Kickoff to Turn Your Screen Off Week – Sunday, May 3

Wildflower Fairy Trail Party – Sunday, May 17

Pace at the Park – Saturday, July 11

Hartford Fair Natural Resource Area – Sunday, August 9 to Friday, August 14

Licking County River Round Up – Saturday, September 12

Harvest Moon Rendezvous and Festival – Friday, October 9 to Saturday, October 10

Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade and Costume Contest – Sunday, October 25





2019 – Volunteer Report

Our Volunteers Make A World Of Difference

Devoted volunteers continue to support the mission of the Licking Park District every day by providing their talents, skills, and stewardship. They help to maintain and enhance our trails and parks, protect and restore important natural and cultural resources, and are indispensable to educating and engaging our local community. Volunteers are the backbone of our special events, and truly enrich our visitors' experience. Volunteers make a vital contribution to the Licking Park District.

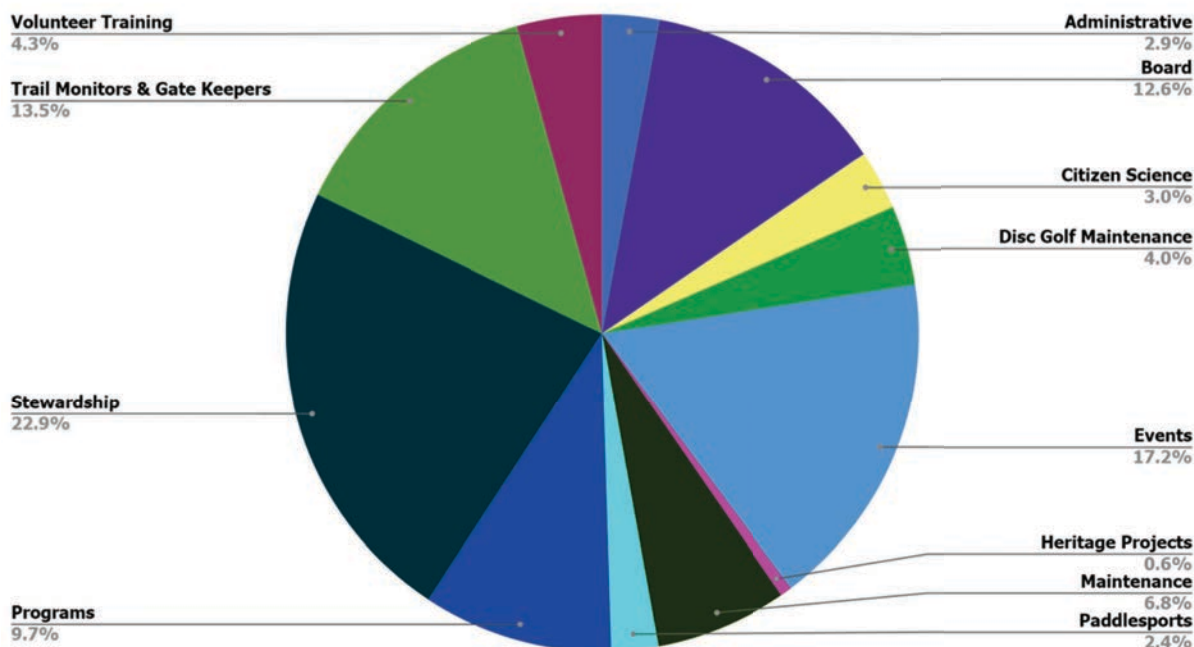
Year Of Growth

This year marked an exceptional year in volunteerism with the Licking Park District. Our Volunteer Program has seen impressive growth in participation and hours of service donated. In 2019 volunteers donated 3,424 hours of their time, an incredible 73.4% increase from 2018!

John Heywood wrote the well known saying “many hands make light work.” In 2019, we were fortunate to have 265 pairs of willing hands, signing up for 379 volunteer opportunities. Our volunteers made light work of ambitious conservation stewardship goals, and tackled deferred maintenance with enthusiasm. Volunteers contributed to important Citizen Science research projects sharing their skills and creativity while supporting programs, paddlesports, archery, and operations.



2019 Volunteer Program Service Hours





2019 – Volunteer Report

| Volunteer Service Category | Total 2019 Volunteers | Total Hours Per Service Category |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Stewardship | 136 | 786 |
| Events | 75 | 591 |
| Trail Monitors & Gate Keepers | 17 | 462 |
| Board | 5 | 430 |
| Programs | 27 | 332 |
| Maintenance | 37 | 231 |
| Volunteer Training | 42 | 149 |
| Disc Golf Maintenance | 4 | 138 |
| Citizen Science | 13 | 103 |
| Administrative | 8 | 100 |
| Paddlesports | 10 | 82 |
| Heritage Projects | 4 | 20 |
| Total Volunteers and Hours | 378 | 3424 |



Volunteer Program Highlights

New Heritage Volunteer Initiative

Protecting local history is an important part of the Licking Park District's mission. In 2019, the Volunteer Program added the Heritage Volunteer role to support natural and cultural resource management projects, research work, and historic restoration projects. Currently our Heritage Volunteers are providing support for our Memorial Tree Garden Restoration Project.

Trail Maintenance Stewardship & Tree Care

It's been a busy year for trail maintenance stewardship! Volunteers have been clearing trails of debris, lopping back vegetation, cutting invasive vines that threaten tree health, and installing new culverts to accommodate waterflow. The Park District maintains 46 miles of paved bike trails and 25 miles of natural surface trails.

Our volunteers have been assisting with tree care, such as pruning to improve sunlight penetration and increase air movement, removing damaged limbs to control disease and insect infestation, and to restore tree health. A focused pruning effort has been on tree crown uplifting to increase safety and improve access for park visitors and maintenance equipment.





2019 – Volunteer Report

Conservation Stewardship Clean-Up Work Days

Our volunteers help keep our parks, trails, and waterways clean and safe for wildlife, plants, and visitors by assisting with litter and debris removal. Throughout 2019, volunteers cleared litter from Infirmary Mound Park, Lobdell Reserve, Taft Reserve, and Morris Woods State Nature Preserve open space, trails, and streams. They also cleared litter from the TJ Evans, Ohio Canal Greenway, Pan Handle, Cherry Valley and Buckeye Scenic Bike Trails.

Infirmary Mound Park – Paws 2 Play Dog Park

In unseasonably hot weather, our maintenance volunteers assembled two gazebos for our Paws 2 Play Dog Park at Infirmary Mound Park. These new gazebos provide shade and shelter for our canine guests and their humans.

Taft Center Beautification Project – Landscaping

This is a great example of how our volunteers help us with deferred maintenance. Taft Center's garden beds had become overgrown. Our volunteers arrived with weed wackers, loppers, rakes, grit and gumption, and came out beautifully victorious!

Infirmary Mound Park – Horse Arena Restoration Project

Amazing maintenance volunteers completely restored Infirmary Mound Park's horse arena flagpole, and repaired and power washed the fence and announcer booth.

Special Events and Festivals

Our volunteers generously gave their time and talents, helping to make all of our 2019 events and festivals a success. Volunteers served on event set-up and break-down crews, helped manage event parking, and staffed our registration and activities areas. Specially certified volunteers assisted with our paddlesports and archery event programming as well.





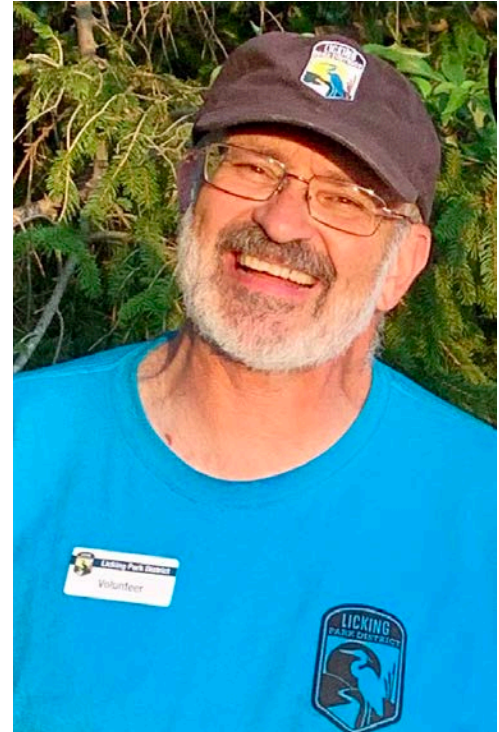
2019 – Volunteer Report

Volunteer Recognition

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
– Margaret Mead

Vincent Alessi has volunteered hundreds of hours over the last eleven years serving as a Living History and Primitive Fire Making Instructor, Trail Monitor, Conservation Steward, and Program and Events Assistant. His attention to detail, combined with his enthusiasm and fantastic sense of humor, makes him a pleasure to work with on all volunteer initiatives. When asked why he volunteers, Vincent replied, “As a software professional, outdoor activities are a refreshing break from technology, gets me grounded back in the real world. I felt it was very important and rewarding, to give back.” Vincent is an outstanding volunteer whose dedicated service has made a significant difference in the Licking Park District.

The Licking Park District exists today due to grassroot volunteer efforts that date back to the 1970s. Dedicated volunteers have been donating time to the Licking Park District long before a formal volunteer program was established. Thanks to all of our volunteers who help make it all happen!



Volunteer of the Year – Vince Alessi

| Volunteers with 30 + Hours of Service | Hours |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Washka, Craig | 195 |
| Pound, Debbie | 161 |
| Alessi, Vincent | 131 |
| Long, John | 107 |
| Pertee, Kelly | 102 |
| Vohs, Kim | 91 |
| Greer, Jerry | 75 |
| Yohman, John | 72 |
| Galbreath, Mirra | 58 |
| McCabe, Karen | 55 |
| Long, Barbara | 46 |
| Wielezynski, Tadeusz | 43 |
| Nazarian, Birgit | 40 |
| Raymond, Mark | 39 |
| Tisko, Todd | 32 |
| Parsons, Steven | 31 |
| Raymond, Jan | 30 |

| Group Volunteers | Hours |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| The Duccg Beard Group | 143 |
| Asbury Place | 111 |
| St. Francis Scout Troop 8 | 90 |
| The Barlow Family | 72 |
| Scout Troop 2 | 70 |
| Wyld Life Young Life Christian Group | 50 |
| Kendal at Granville | 50 |
| Park National Bank | 50 |
| Ohio Horseman’s Council | 40 |
| Four Paws 4-H Dog Club | 40 |
| Heritage Middle School | 36 |
| Newark High School | 36 |
| Girl Scout Troop — Lakewood | 36 |

The Licking Park District would like to thank all of our volunteers who contributed their time and talent in 2019!



2019 – Projects, Improvements, & Acquisitions

Project List 2019

Infirmiry Mound Park – Office Stairway

At the Park District office the maintenance staff replaced the entire stairway from the basement to the second floor. This project replaced the original stairway of the historic 1838 office building.

Lobdell Disc Golf Receives New Shelter

With funding donated by the Trust of Rosanna Moore, a shelter house was installed at the Lobdell Reserve Disc Golf Course. Ms. Moore was an Alexandria resident, teacher, and well-known woodworking artist in the community.

IMP Shelters Receive New Metal Roofing

At Infirmiry Mound Park, Shelters 2, 3, 4, and 5 received much needed roof replacements. The majority of these shelters were constructed in the mid to late 80s by workers under the Federal Government Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (C.E.T.A), enacted to train workers and provide them with jobs in public service.

IMP Shelters Receive Electric Replacement

At Infirmiry Mound Park, new electric service was installed from Shelter 3 to Shelters 4 & 5. This replaced the original lines that were nearly a quarter century old.

Johnstown Trailhead Restroom

In partnership with the Village of Johnstown, a new restroom was installed on the TJ Evans Trail at the Johnstown trailhead. The Village of Johnstown is planning for additional improvements here, including a family park and an interpretive historical marker about the discovery of the Johnstown Mastodon in 1926.





2019 – Projects, Improvements, & Acquisitions

Infirmity Mound Park – Paving Project

LPD is fortunate to participate in a program with ODOT who collects gas tax money that is dedicated to parks throughout the State of Ohio. These funds can be used for the paving and parking lot work in the parks. The gas tax funds were used to pay for an asphalt overlay of half of the driveways and the dog park parking area within the Infirmity Mound Park. This improvement will significantly prolong the life of drives and parking areas in our park.



Staddens Landing – Boat Launch

A new kayak and canoe launch was installed at Staddens Landing east of Newark. This new launch provides a safe and convenient access point to the Licking River. This launch is mid-way between access locations at Riverview Preserve and Brownsville Rd.



Newark Slip Repairs

The LPD works in collaboration with the City of Newark on paving projects and emergency projects when funds allow. Newark asked for LPD assistance on four slips along bike trails inside the Newark corporation limits. Slips in the banks of the bike trail were repaired: two towards Granville, one towards Newark, and one near the Licking County Jail. Over \$70,000 of repairs were completed with the costs being shared by both LPD and the City of Newark.



Newark Gazebo

The Licking Park District entered into a shared management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with the City of Newark and the Licking County Commissioners for the management of the historic Newark Gazebo. It is now located in a park setting in East Newark on the former site of the Licking County Children's Home.



2019 – Projects, Improvements, & Acquisitions

Grants

Inflatable BB Gun Equipment

With funding provided by a grant from Whitetails Unlimited – Licking County Chapter, LPD purchased an inflatable BB Gun Range. This is used as an educational outdoor activity for youth at Park District events. Staff from ODNR Division of Wildlife and members of the Johnstown Sportsman Club volunteer and staff the range to instruct the youth participants.

AED Grant from PEP

The Park District received a \$1000 Public Entities Pool (PEP) Safety Grant which was applied toward the purchase of a first aid Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit. Park District staff receive regular training to maintain emergency first aid, CPR, and AED certification.

Archery Trailer

Funded by an award of the Cooperative Shooting Range Grant from ODNR Division of Wildlife, the Park District was able to purchase and outfit a mobile Archery Range trailer. This equipment will be used during special events and loaned out to other organizations, such as Boy Scouts and 4-H.



Newell Recreation Preserve

The Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) and the partnership of Licking Park District and the Licking County Commissioners facilitated the purchase of 40 acres in northwest Licking County. The purchase was made possible through funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission, Natural Resource Assistance Council (OPWC NRAC), and an in-kind donation from the Rodney Newell family. The Licking Park District is working with the Knox County Park District to connect bike trails from Delaware and Knox Counties. This bike trail is part of the Ohio Erie Trail System that stretches from Cincinnati to Cleveland.



The Newell property is home to several high quality wetlands. LPD plans to construct a driveway and parking area to accommodate trail users and educational outings to the wetlands.



2019 – Projects, Improvements, & Acquisitions

Hanover – Wyatt Adkins Legacy Park Trail Completed

Legacy Park is a community park dedicated to the memory of Wyatt Adkins. The 14.3 acre park has an inclusive playground, ball diamonds, basketball courts, volleyball courts, a multipurpose equipment building with restroom facility, an all purpose field, a picnic shelter, a 24-hour library and a walking trail. Work was completed on a connector joining the Wyatt Adkins Legacy Park path to the TJ Evans Bike Trail.



Panhandle Chain Link Fence Repair

Repairs were made to the chain link fence on the Panhandle Trail, including one large section that was damaged following the collision of a train and a tree across the tracks.

Lobdell Reserve – Disc Golf

A new entrance sign was erected at Lobdell Reserve Disc Golf Course.



IMP Mirror Lake – ODNR Shock Survey

As part of an ongoing, 10-year Mirror Lake Fish Management Plan personnel from ODNR conducted a fish count survey. The purpose of this survey was to determine progress in increasing populations of several fish species through habitat improvement and periodic stocking.



Taft Farm Demolition

Several buildings from an old farm in Taft Reserve were demolished for safety reasons. The contractor salvaged as much as practical during demolition.



OHC Culvert

Ohio Horseman's Council (OHC) volunteers worked with the maintenance department to install two 18-inch culverts near the Appomattix Trail at Infirmary Mound Park to make a safe creek crossing.



2019 – Memorials

Memorials – Gazebo and Benches

Memorial Bench at the Dog Park

The Park District installed a memorial bench at the dog park in memory of Volunteer Susan Bracey whose vision, passion, persistence and fundraising culminated in the construction of the Paws 2 Play Dog Park at Infirmary Mound Park in 2014. With the help of many volunteers whom she recruited, Ms. Bracey tirelessly researched designs and raised over a third of the funding for the new dog park.

Memorial Gazebo at the Dog Park

Friends of Dr. Seana Lowe Steffen donated funds for a memorial gazebo shelter to be erected in her honor in the Large Paws portion of the dog park. The Park District matched the funding and installed a second gazebo shelter in the Small Paws area. Park District volunteers constructed the gazebos and roofing materials were provided by through a donation from Owens Corning Corp and installation was donated by Mickey's Roofing.

Memorial Bench on the Wildflower Trail

The Huffman family donated and installed a memorial bench on the Wildflower Trail at Infirmary Mound Park in honor of a beloved family member. Family and friends volunteered to do the installation as part of the donation and memorial.



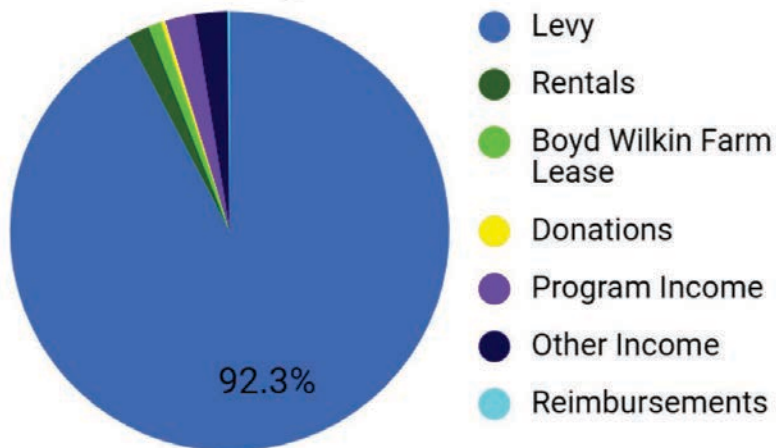


2019–Financial Facts, Governance & Staff

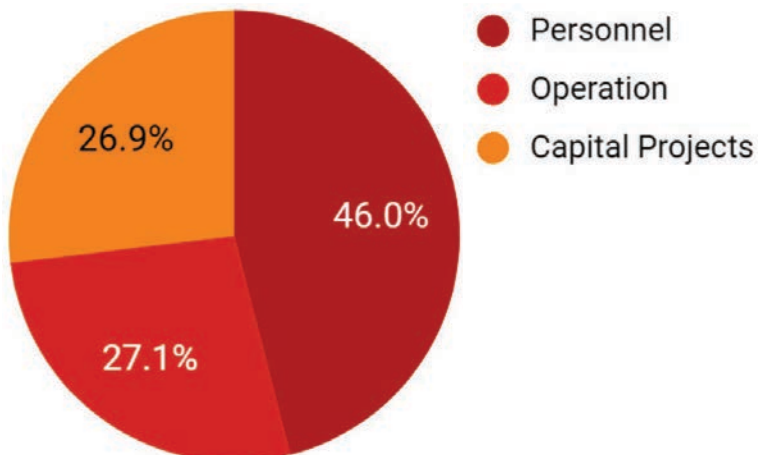
Financial Facts

The Licking Park District is mostly funded by a $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 mill property tax. This costs the homeowner \$7.00 per \$100,000 valuation per year. The original millage was effective in 2012 and was renewed by homeowners in 2017.

2019 Licking Park District Revenue



2019 Licking Park District Expenses





2019–Financial Facts, Governance & Staff

Governance

The Licking Park District was formed under ORC 1545. We are governed by a five-person Board of Park Commissioners. The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at Infirmary Mound Park, the public is invited to attend.

Jim Kiracofe, Chair

Richard Moseley, Vice Chair

James Bradley

Sam White

Brenda Sams



Jim Kiracofe



Dick Mosely



James Bradley



Sam White



Brenda Sams

Staff

The Licking Park District has seven full-time employees. We manage 12 sites, over 1,600 acres, 46 miles of paved bike trails and 25 miles of natural surface trails.

Richard Waugh, Director

Tami McAdams, Operations Administrator

Kris Lohrman, Office Administrator

Anne Balogh, Program Coordinator

Karen Jennings, Volunteer Coordinator

Mike Evans, Maintenance Worker (not pictured)

Denny Lane, Maintenance Worker (not pictured)



Richard Waugh



Tami McAdams



Kris Lohrman



Anne Balogh



Karen Jennings

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.



Licking Park District

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