



2020 Annual Report

Newell Recreational Preserve

The Newell Recreational Preserve is named in honor of Owen Davis Newell and Betty (Anderson) Newell. This preserve was dedicated on July 11, 2020 for the purpose of the preservation of the natural wetlands, connection of the Ohio to Erie Bike Trail System and returning a portion of the preserve to its original native state. This preserve will provide educational opportunities regarding the native people who lived here and the flora that once helped sustain human life.



Licking Park District

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740.587.2535
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Mission Statement

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.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Licking Park District to provide parks, paths, and trails of the highest quality to the residents of Licking County. Our goal is to maintain and improve existing facilities while pursuing opportunities for expansion. We provide passive recreational opportunities for the health, wellness, and education of our residents using resources that include public and private collaborations.

“Welcome To Your 1,600 Acre Backyard”





2020 – Programs and Events

Programs and Events

The Magic of the Fairy Trail

2020 was the year the fairy trail went viral. It was decided in March that despite the pandemic a way would be found to provide a safe and whimsical escape from world events by having the fairy trail at Infirmary Mound Park return for its third year. Supply kits were provided to staff, volunteers, and community organizations to take home for the creation of fairy houses. Houses were installed in early May and the trail opening was announced on social media. Within days, the Facebook post had reached over 120,000 people. Visitation began immediately, and ABC6 featured the trail in a story. Multiple family-oriented blogs also highlighted the trail as a must-do activity. The trail continued to be used heavily from May through September, and in late June, a sign featuring a QR feedback form was added. 257 responses were collected. 81.7% respondents rated the trail a 5 out of 5 in terms of enjoyability, with another 15.6% ranking it a 4. 85.6% ranked their likelihood of recommending to a friend 5 out of 5. Visitors primarily came from central Ohio, but some came from around the state and beyond.





2020 – Programs and Events

2020 Program Snapshot

The Wildflower Fairy Trail	Virtual Howl-o-Ween
Nature @ Home: Videos and Home Kits	Virtual Eagle Walks
Park Bingo Challenge	Birding Strolls
Saturday Morning Hikes	STEM with The Works
Tai Chi	Zoom into Nature: <i>Projects WET, WILD, Learning Tree, and Citizen Science</i>
Yoga	Educator Workshops
Full Moon Hikes	Virtual Bird Banding Demonstrations
The Hike, Bike, Paddle Challenge	Zoom DIY Natural Centerpieces
Books and Bees Nature Lovers Book Club	Zoom Night Tree Family Story Night
Zoom Paint the Parks	Night fishing
Art in the Parks: <i>Plein Air</i>	
Drive-in Movie Night	

The LPD programming year started as normal and then in March all programs ground to a halt. As the pandemic unfolded, health guidelines required that we adapt and change to new ways of reaching the public to be able to continue our goal of providing education and outdoor recreation programming for the Licking County community. So we reimagined what programming looked like and increased our virtual presence, created self-led adventures, and offered classes through Zoom. Overall, we had 1,530 people participate in small in-person programs and by Zoom, and we reached over 180,000 through social media and virtual programming.

Program Grants

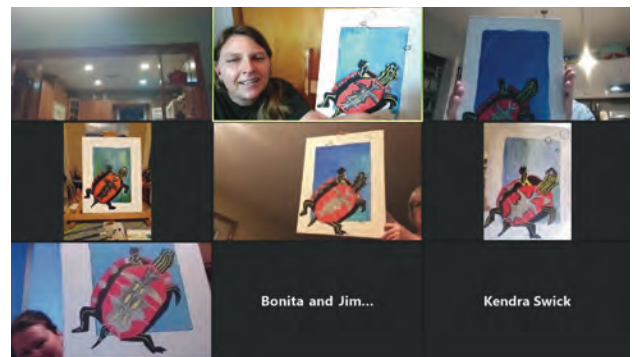
In March of 2019, the LPD was chosen to receive an ODNr, Division of Wildlife Community Archery Range Grant for an education archery trailer. The trailer was designed and delivered in 2020. The trailer is owned by the Licking Park District and used to instruct archery for a variety of audiences at public programs and events. In



Nature BINGO!

How to Play

1. Print out one sheet per player. (No printer? No problem. Just write down what to look for and check off items in order as you find them. Compare to the bingo sheet at home)
2. Explore your backyard or go on a walk around your neighborhood or local park.
3. Observe carefully and kindly. Leave everything where you found it.
3. First one to get all 5 items in a row (up/down, sideways, diagonal) and yell "Nature" wins!





2020 – Programs and Events

addition, the trailer will be available to ODNR and other outdoor recreation organizations when not in use by the Licking Park District.

The Licking Park District received a \$500 grant from the OPRA Foundation to expand the “At Home with Nature Program Series.” Intended to engage and educate the Licking Park District audience through a combination of virtual programs, Do-at-Home activities, and social media outreach, the grant allowed for the purchase of audio and visual equipment.

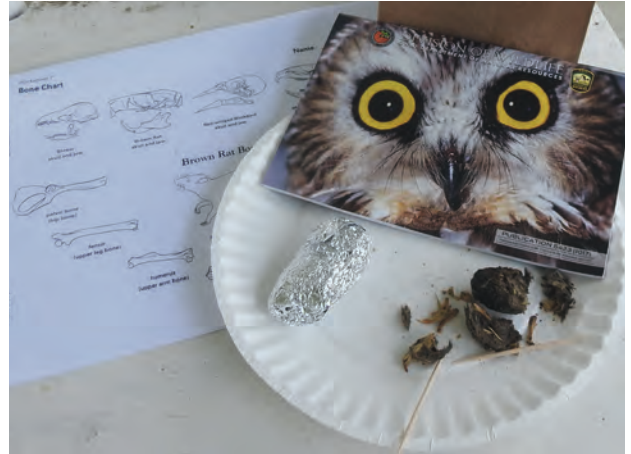
We Pivoted To Nature @ Home

Virtual video programs were created such as bird banding demonstrations, species spotlights, and themed park walks. One video series especially popular was the regular monitoring of an active Bald Eagle nest near Granville, Ohio. A number of in-person programs were transitioned to an online format. Participants got creative with Zoom Paint the Parks and found camaraderie with the Books and the Bees Nature Lovers Book Club in partnership with The Granville Public Library. Annual programs like the Thanksgiving DIY Centerpiece class and the Night Tree Family Story Night were conducted on Zoom with take-home kits provided for pick up for participants.

Families were not left out. A variety of printable activity sheets that featured family-friendly nature activities were created that could be conducted in backyards and neighborhoods, such as the exploration of flight using paper airplanes and firefly hunts. A monthly Nature At Home Zoom and Take Home Nature Kit combo program for ages 7–12 started in September and filled to capacity each month.

Educator Workshop Series Continued

2020 was the fourth year of offering an Educator Workshop Series in partnership with the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District and the Dawes Arboretum. We were one of the first in the state to modify the workshops so they could be completed virtually and we were able to provide continuing education for over 80 educators during the “Zoom Into” Educator Workshop Series.



‘Zoom Into Nature’

TRIVIA NIGHT



How to Participate:

1. Register yourself or your team at LickingParkDistrict.com
2. Join in on Zoom. Trivia starts at 6:30pm on January 21st!
3. Gather what you need to play
Desktop, laptop, or smartphone
Access to Zoom meetings
Your Smarts!



2020 – Programs and Events

Licking County Residents Take Up the Outdoor Adventure Challenges

The *Licking Park District Park Bingo Challenge* was created in the fall of 2020 to encourage people to get outside and visit the parks. A Bingo game board was created with photos of nine spots around the county. Game players had to visit each spot and take a selfie. They could email their photos or share to social media using #LPDbingo. A raffle prize was donated by local businesses. In total, 17 families finished the challenge. Feedback indicated the program was successful in getting people to explore new places: “Thank you for putting on the Licking Park bingo. We saw new places and had so much fun.” “Our family really enjoyed doing this. Thank you for giving us a fun outdoor activity to do during all of this year’s craziness!” “We had a fantastic experience visiting the parks! Thank you for putting this fun event together!”

The *Hike, Bike, Paddle Challenge* was created as another way to offer people a self-guided experience. Explore Licking County hosted the challenge on their website and assisted with advertising. People were asked to hike, bike, or paddle for 30 minutes at either Infirmity Mound Park, Lobdell Reserve, Taft Reserve, Morris Woods Nature Preserve, TJ Evans Bike Trails, LPD park trails, Riverview Reserve, Staddens Landing, or Brownsville Road. Twenty-eight individuals took the challenge and received a prize.

River Round Up

Licking County River Round Up is an annual, county-wide, waterway cleanup event in the Licking River Watershed. Every year it involves hundreds of volunteers that remove thousands of pounds of trash, metals, and recyclables from the Licking River and tributaries. River Round Up is co-hosted by numerous local government agencies and community organizations. 2020 looked a bit different, but the cleanup still happened! To accommodate social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic, River Round Up was held from Friday, September 11 through Friday, September 18. During that time period, individuals and groups were able to sign up for public cleanups, group cleanups and self-guided cleanups. The Licking Park District held a public cleanup at Riverview Reserve.





2020 – Programs and Events

Natural Resources

Prairie Restoration Continued at Infirmary Mound Park

2020 saw a continuation of the partnership started in 2019 between the Licking Park District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (USFWS-PFW) to create roughly 36 acres of new grassland habitat at Infirmary Mound Park. Woody vegetation was mechanically removed from the area in February of 2020 and the area was kept bare throughout the summer. The ground will then be ready to be frost seeded in the winter of 2021 with a mix of wildflower and native warm season grass species. The project will provide critical habitat for pollinators, migratory grassland nesting birds, and other local wildlife species. It will also provide accessible learning opportunities.

Garlic Mustard Challenge

The Licking Park District 2020 Garlic Mustard Challenge was created in April of 2020 as a way to engage the public and prevent the further spread of the invasive plant garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*). The intention is that this will be an annual, collaborative effort where anyone and everyone can help make a difference to our shared green spaces. Volunteers participate by pulling garlic mustard anywhere managed by the Licking Park District where garlic mustard is present. They keep track of how many bags of garlic mustard plants are pulled and make a report using the online form. In 2020, people participated as evidenced by garlic mustard found pulled on park trails. Our challenge in 2021 will be to improve participation reporting.





2020 – Programs and Events

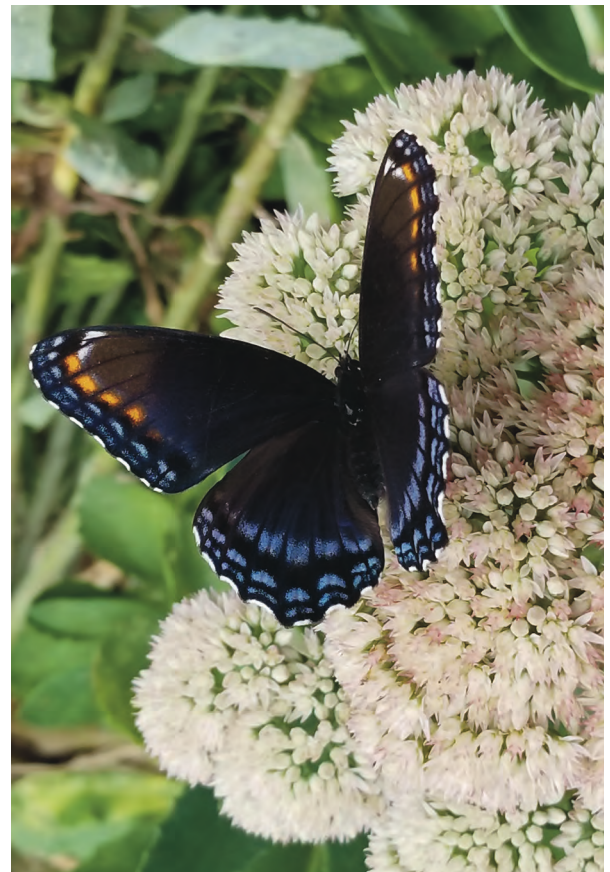
Infirmiry Mound Park Lepidoptera (Butterfly) Monitoring

In 2019, a butterfly transect survey was started at Infirmiry Mound Park (IMP). 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. The transect is a fixed route along which walks are made. The route is not altered from the previous year. The goal is to collect long-term data that will help track trends in species diversity and abundance. The IMP transect is located partly in the area designated to undergo prairie restoration, so 2020 monitoring reflects a large mowed area that will feature prairie plantings in future years.

In 2020, volunteer monitoring occurred from April through October. In total, 39 species were observed. In 2019, 30 species were observed.

Species List: Lepidoptera Species 2020

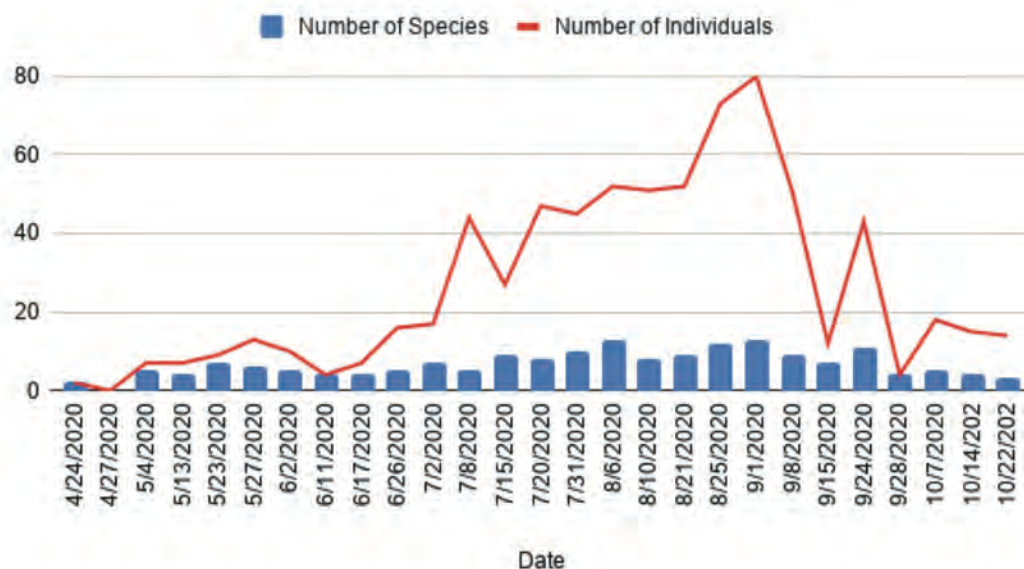
American lady *	Painted Lady *
American Snout	Pearl Crescent
Black Swallowtail	Peck Skipper *
Blue Azure +	Pipevine Swallowtail +
Cabbage White	Question Mark
Checkerspot	Red Admiral
Clouded Sulphur	Red Spotted Purple +
Common Buckeye	Silver Spotted Skipper
Dun Skipper *	Silvery Checkerspot
Eastern Comma	Spicebush Swallowtail *
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail +	Spring/Summer Azure +
Eastern Tail Blue	Summer Azure +
Gray Hair Streak	Tawny Emporer
Great Spangled Fritillary *	Tiger Swallowtail
Hackleberry Emporer *	Variegated Fritillary +
Least Skipper *	Viceroy +
Meadow Fritillary	Zabulon Skipper
Monarch	Zebra Swallowtail
Northern Crescent	<i>New species in 2020 (*)</i>
Northern Pearly Eye	<i>Species in 2019, NOT</i>
Orange Sulphur	<i>in 2020 (+)</i>





2020 – Programs and Events

Results of 2020 Lepidoptera (Butterfly) Transect Survey



Bobcats? Oh My!

A pilot study to assess the presence/absence of bobcats, red fox, gray fox, and coyotes within Licking County was led by Dr. Shauna L. Weyrauch of the Ohio State University at Newark. Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) in particular were of interest as they are a recovering species in Ohio after being extirpated in the mid-1800s. Currently little is known about their abundance and distribution within Licking County, which sits on the northwest edge of their range. Multiple parks managed by the Licking Park District were selected for observation using non-baited camera trapping stations set up along game trails.

Results revealed bobcat sightings at two locations, Taft Reserve North and Frederick R. Reese Wildlife Sanctuary, out of the eight parks/reserves surveyed. The absence of sightings at six of the monitored locations may indicate bobcats are still relatively rare in Licking County and/or that they avoid parks with a higher rate of recreational use. Other predatory species observed included coyotes at multiple parks and red fox at Infirmity Mound Park. Gray fox were not photo captured at any site. It should be emphasized that the presence of these species does not represent a danger to visitors to the parks. The hope is that this preliminary study will be followed by future surveys of bobcat occupancy in the coming years.





2020 – Programs and 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. A banding station was established in 2016 at Infirmary Mound Park.

In 2020, 119 birds were banded and 27 birds were recaptured. The species with the most individuals captured was the gray catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*. Since 2016, a total of 48 species have been banded, of which, eight have a designated conservation status of moderate to highest priority from the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI). The OBCI is a collaboration of nonprofit groups, businesses, state and federal government agencies, and citizens that are participating in or are interested in bird conservation for the state of Ohio.

Bird banding also has a vital education component and can provide a lasting connection between people and nature. A series of virtual bird banding demonstrations was offered in 2020 that reached 1,529 people through Facebook alone.



Year	# of Bird Species	# of New Birds Banded	# of Recaptures	Total Birds Captured
2016	29	117	0	117
2017	27	116	32	148
2018	28	137	45	182
2019	34	123	28	151
2020	24	119	27	146



2020 – Programs and Events

Eagle Scout Projects

Prothonotary Warbler, American Kestrels, and Wood Ducks

Prothonotary Warblers are small golden birds with large black eyes and blue-gray wings. One of only two warblers known to be cavity nesters, its population is declining due to loss of forested wetlands in the U.S. and mangroves on its wintering grounds. Ohio is at the northernmost part of their breeding range, but there is some indication their population is limited by appropriate nesting conditions. Riverview Reserve has riparian forested habitat that may prove to be suitable for these brilliant little birds.

To complete his Eagle Scout project, Curtis Blasco of Boy Scout Troop 100 out of Kirkersville built and installed 34 Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes along the Licking River at Riverview Reserve in 2020. Eleven of them were constructed of cedar, 14 of them were constructed of pine, and nine of them were donated.

In addition, he retrofitted two American Kestrel nest boxes at Infirmary Mound Park with a pulley and crank mechanism which allows the boxes to be raised and lowered for easy monitoring. He also built and installed two Wood Duck nest boxes, with a third donated by Ducks Unlimited. They can be spotted on the lake, marsh, and pond at Infirmary Mound Park.

American Kestrel and Eastern Screech Owl Nest Boxes

Another Eagle Scout project in 2020 focused on nest boxes. David Marty of Troop 4 installed two American Kestrel boxes at Infirmary Mound Park. The American Kestrel, also called a Sparrow Hawk is the smallest, fiercest, and most common falcon in North America. However, studies show the species has lost half its population in the past 50 years. By providing nest boxes, we can provide valuable habitat requirements for these birds.

David also constructed and installed eight Eastern Screech Owl boxes at Infirmary Mound Park. These small owls are the most common owl in Ohio and regularly use nest boxes. Having the boxes at the park will allow for monitoring of our local owl population.

Photo Credit: William H. Majoros



Photo Credit: Andy Morffew – flicker.com





2020 – Projects and Improvements

Bike Trail Improvements

In cooperation with our public partners in Johnstown, Granville, and Heath, Licking Park District paved 4.5 miles of the TJ Evans trail and the Hoback Park trail in Heath.

Slip repairs along the bike trails were made in Granville Township and the Park District worked with the City of Newark to address several slips near the Reddington Road/Cherry Valley Road areas.

The Licking Park District installed wayfinding signs on the TJ Evans trail from Johnstown to W. Main Street in Newark. This project was completed with the assistance of LCATS and the LC Health Department. The new signage lets walkers/bikers along the trail know distances to locations and also helps safety personnel to find persons along the path with medical emergencies.



Ohio Canal Greenway (OCG)

Design is underway for paving the Ohio Canal Greenway from Hebron to S.R. 79, using Transportation Alternative Program grant dollars from ODOT. A parking lot has been constructed at the southern terminus.



Buckeye Scenic Trail

A grant was submitted to ODOT for extending the Buckeye Scenic Trail from U.S. 40 south to Christland Hills Road.

This is part of a larger trail connectivity effort throughout Licking County. It is hoped to eventually connect to the new trail on top of the Buckeye Lake Dam constructed by ODNR in 2018.

Panhandle Trail

Major drainage work was completed in two areas on the Panhandle Trail. This eliminated water and mud issues that were experienced throughout the spring and summer months.

Dead and dangerous trees were removed along the 7.75 miles of the Panhandle Trail by a professional tree company in 2020.





2020 – Projects and Improvements

Park Improvements

All driveways and parking areas were paved at Infirmary Mound Park (IMP) in 2019 and 2020. This was made possible through use of Metro Park Funds (101G) from gas tax dollars received by ODOT. Metro Park Funds were also used to build additional parking at IMP near Shelter 6 and put down gravel at Lobdell Reserve, at the Mounts Road parking lot.

Mirror Lake

The Licking Park District (LPD) continues to monitor and stock fish in Mirror Lake at Infirmary Mound Park. We have a lake management agreement with ODNR to maintain the lake at an optimal level for fish health, size, and numbers. In spring of 2020, LPD purchased 265 bluegill and the ODNR Fish Hatchery added an additional 200 catfish.

As part of the requirements from ODNR to keep the dam clear of woody vegetation, LPD removed trees from the dam and placed several in the water to add additional habitat for fish. This will facilitate an increase in population numbers and size.

LPD opened Mirror Lake to non-motorized (canoe/kayak/paddleboards) during the warmer months. A canoe/kayak launch ramp and access path was created to allow ease of access, and additional parking was added near Mirror Lake.

Lobdell Reserve

Extensive trail work was performed at Lobdell for safer travel by horseback riders and hikers. The parking area off Mounts Road was rebuilt providing smooth access for horse trailer and vehicle traffic. Improvements were also made to areas affected by standing water.

A total of more than 2 miles of new trails were built by staff and volunteers. Trail monitor volunteers not only inform staff of issues along the trail but also assist in maintaining/improving trails throughout the park system.

A kiosk was installed at the disc golf parking area to keep visitors informed of current events at the parks.





2020 – Projects and Improvements

James Bradley Center at Infirmary Mound Park

Extensive renovation was completed at the James Bradley Center indoor rental facility at Infirmary Mound Park. Updates included flooring, drywall, painting, lighting, and siding.

Park Signage

Park entrance signage was erected at Staddens Landing and Riverview Reserve in 2020.

Research and planning is underway for interpretive signage to be erected in 2021 for prairie projects and the District's American Indian mounds.

Mapping

A significant mapping project of park trails was initiated in 2020. New maps are anticipated to be completed in early 2021 for Infirmary Mound Park, Lobdell Reserve, and Taft Reserve. Additional mapping is planned for other Park District properties.

Canoe/Kayak River Access

The launch at Staddens Landing was used six times in 2020 for emergency personnel to access the river for water rescues.

Riverview launch was cleared and made accessible for access to the Licking River.

A proposed new launch site is being evaluated for the confluence of the Licking River and Claylick Creek, off of Brownsville Road near the north end of Black Hand Gorge. Additional parking is also being considered.

The Park District and Licking Soil and Water Conservation District are in discussions with ODNR in regard to designating the Licking River as an official Ohio Water Trail. The trails are planned and recommended on the local level to designate existing access sites for a proposed trail. ODNR helps guide the process and funds the implementation of the trail through reimbursement grants for brochures, maps, and signage. A designated water trail ensures that paddlers have the best safety and access information as they explore a waterway.





2020 – Projects and Improvements

Newell Recreation Preserve

In cooperation with the Knox County Park District, a joint Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant application was submitted to ODNR to construct a trail to connect Delaware County to Knox County. This trail will be a part of the Ohio to Erie Trail that connects Cincinnati to Cleveland.

A parking lot is being constructed off N. County Line Road for use by the public for exploring the wetlands at Newell Recreation Preserve, and eventually, provide access to the Ohio to Erie Trail.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will seed the 32 acre open space with prairie grasses and pollinator plants.



Equipment Purchases and Replacements

The Park District replaced an aging zero turn mower in 2020 and obtained a walk-behind brush cutter for maintenance and trail construction. Designed for cutting tough, overgrown brush, it is ideal for cleaning meadows and fields, or cutting paths and trails, making quick work of clearing under-brush, bramble, tall grass, and small trees.



Collaboration Projects with Public Partners

- Granville: TJ Evans Bike Trail paving
- Newark: Slip repairs in 2019 and 2020
- Johnstown: TJ Evans Bike Trail paving; Dog park in 2021
- Heath: Trail paving at Hoback Park
- Pataskala: Planning for walking trail at Foundation Park in 2021
- Licking Co Commissioners and Newark: Licking Co. Children's Home Memorial Park
- LCATS & LCHD: Wayfinding signs on TJ Evans Bike Trails
- Licking Co Engineers Office: Thermoplastic mile markers added to TJ Evans Bike Trail
- Knox Co Park District: Joint Clean Ohio Trail Fund Grant Application for Newell Recreation Preserve
- US Fish and Wildlife Service: Ground preparation for pollinator plants and grasses to be seeded Newell Preserve and at Infirmary Mound Park in 2021





2020 – Volunteer Program

Licking Park District volunteers stepped up and moved forward in the face of uncertainty to serve our community in positive and innovative ways.

The COVID-19 pandemic swept in like a brushfire and changed everything. We were immediately faced with shut-downs, quarantines, and mandatory social distancing guidelines for how to live day-to-day. While everything was changing all around us, our parks and trails remained open and became a much needed opportunity for outdoor respite for our entire community. Our volunteers began reporting dramatic increases in the number of park goers and trail visitors. We adjusted our volunteer roles to create self-scheduled independent and remote opportunities that complied with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines. Our volunteers faced unprecedented challenges head-on, and continued to serve the Licking Park District with unmatched dedication and commitment.

Year Of Growth

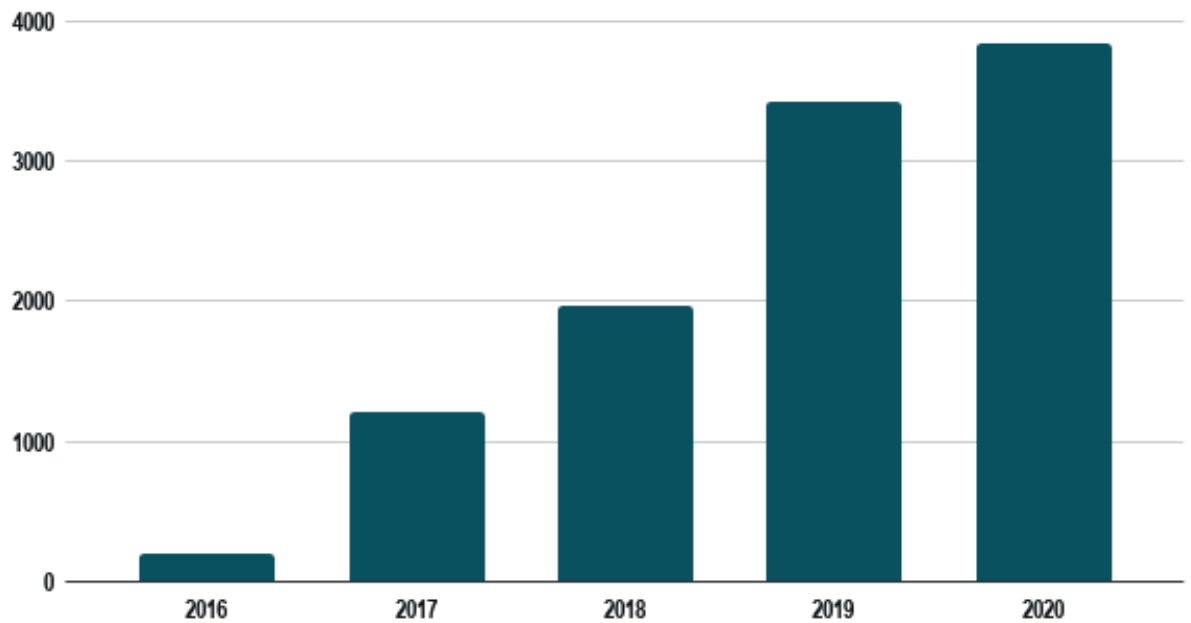
Our volunteers contributed 3,828 service hours in 2020! That's 229,680 minutes that volunteers spent helping us with essential programming, conservation stewardship, and maintenance that keep our community engaged and our parks and trails clean, clear, and safe for everyone to enjoy. This is impressive considering our volunteers were faced with having to manage their work, childrens' education, and everything else remotely! Our thoughtful and committed volunteers are collectively impacting the Licking County community in positive and meaningful ways every day. We are so proud of our volunteers' accomplishments and are honored to highlight their amazing contributions.



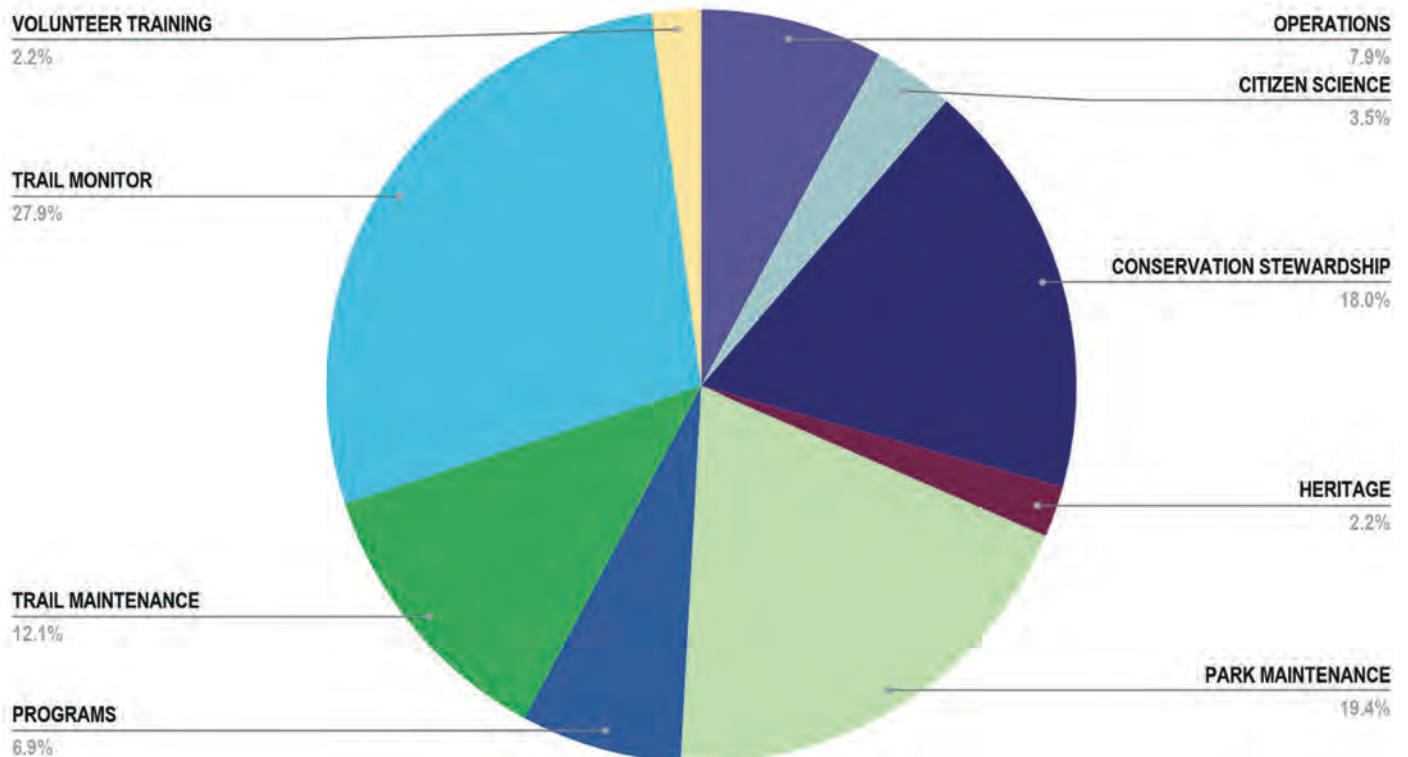


2020 – Volunteer Program

2016 – 2020 Volunteer Hours



2020 Volunteer Service Hours





2020 – Volunteer Program

Volunteer Program Highlights

Trail Monitors

Trail Monitors hike, run, bike, and horseback ride on over 70 miles of natural and paved trails on a daily basis to help us identify and mitigate safety hazards and maintenance needs throughout our entire trail system.

Conservation Stewardship

Volunteers kept our parks and trails clean and safe for all by picking up litter from our parks' open space, trails, and waterways. Volunteers also participated in our "Great Mustard Challenge" and removed the harmful invasive species throughout our parks and trails.

Paws-2-Play Dog Park Stewardship

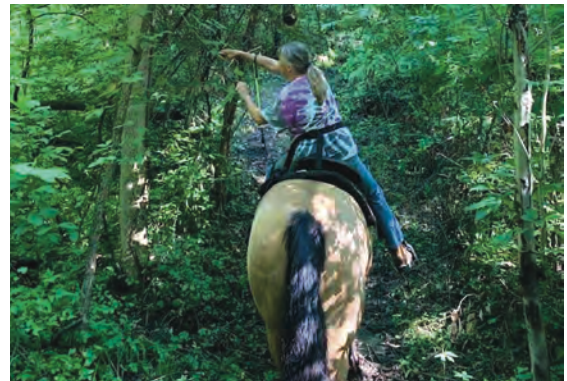
Our canine loving volunteers help ensure cleaner sneakers and happier pups by removing waste from our Paws-2-Play Dog Park. Volunteers hauled over 2,500 gallons of well water for our dog park's newly planted trees! That's 20,850 pounds of water our volunteers lifted in buckets to water those trees (which is only a few pounds shy of a full-size school bus). Several group volunteers also helped us repair and protect our new dog park gazebos.

Memorial Tree Garden Heritage Project

Volunteers assisted with clearing brush and vines from around each tree, as well as elevating and pruning. Their efforts improved visibility, maintenance equipment maneuverability, and visitor accessibility. Volunteers also used metal detectors to find buried dedication plaques, and created a GIS map and key referencing each tree's species, age, health, and name of individual or group honored.

Grill and Trash Can Pads Maintenance Project

All of Infirmity Mound Park's grill and trash can pads were given a makeover! Grills and wood borders were power washed, pads were weeded and filled with fresh gravel, and grills were scrubbed and treated to a beautiful high heat paint job!





2020 – Volunteer Program

Taft Reserve South Fence Demo & Installation Project

Volunteers removed the old wooden fence and installed a new, high tensile fence that has a smooth, clean appearance with minimal future maintenance needs and blends beautifully into Taft Reserve's environment.



Trail Development and Maintenance Projects

Volunteers assisted in building new sustainable multi-use trails that connect the east and west trail systems at Lobdell Reserve. These new trails enhance user enjoyment and showcase Lobdell's beautiful ravines and creeks. Many miles of existing trails were restored and improved as well! Volunteers cut back vegetation impeding the trail treadways, and performed benching and sloping to widen and grade the trail surfaces to move water off the trail to improve multi-user experience.



"Cabin in the Woods" Restoration Project

Volunteers cleared trees, brush, and vines around Infirmary Mound Park's hidden gem, the "Cabin in the Woods." The cabin and fence were power washed, painted, and weather sealed. What a difference volunteers make!



Tree and Pond Care Maintenance

Trees, shrubs, and vines were removed around Duck Pond and Mirror Lake to restore dam integrity and improve visibility and accessibility for park visitors. Trees along Lancaster Road were cleared of invasive vines and brush and elevated to improve visibility and maintenance equipment maneuverability.





2020 – Volunteer Program

Platform and Boardwalk Restoration Project

Volunteers helped to clear trees and brush growing in and around Duck Pond's boardwalk and platform. Volunteers also assisted with repairs, power washing, and weather sealing to extend the life of these park assets.

Volunteer Recognition

Our success would not be possible without the support and resilience of our courageous volunteers who have embraced our newly designed volunteer roles and served our community through truly unprecedented times. Our volunteers have demonstrated exceptional commitment, service, and cooperation throughout 2020. We are humbled, inspired, and so grateful to all of our amazing volunteers!

Volunteer of the Year

Jack Lyon has signed up for almost every volunteer role we have! Jack has picked up trash, made holiday ornaments, cleared, graded, and benched miles of new trails by hand, restored older trails, created Fairy Trail houses, pulled weeds and invasive species, cut a zillion Wild Grape Vines threatening mature hardwoods and trees along our trails. Jack cleared countless trees that had fallen over our trails. It doesn't matter if it's raining, snowing, freezing, or we're having a heat wave, Jack is there giving 100% from start to finish. Jack has never said "I can't" or "this is too hard," only "I'll be there." Jack approaches every volunteer role with enthusiasm and has made outstanding contributions of his time and talent for the Licking Park District. Congratulations to our 2020 Volunteer of the Year!





2020 – Volunteer Program

100+ HOURS OF SERVICE

Alessi, Vincent

DUNCG Beard Group

Eagle Scout Projects

Harris, Mary Ellen

Nazarian, Birgit

Washka, Craig

50+ HOURS OF SERVICE

Barlow Family Group

Bering, Linda

Boring, Alexandra

Christensen, Paul

Crommes, Mike

Howard Family Group

Kiracofe, Jim

Lyon, Jack

Nazarian, Armen

Licking County Ohio Horseman's Council

Parsons, Steven

Pertee, Kelly

Pound, Debbie

Raymond, Jan

Raymond, Mark

Sams, Brenda

Wallace, Sharon

Yohman, Jeffrey

Yohman, John

The Licking Park District would like to thank all of our volunteers who contributed their time and talent in 2020!



20+ HOURS OF SERVICE

Bering, Bill

Bradley, James

Gerber, Gloria

Greer, Jerry

Jennings, Gabriel

Jennings, Nathaniel

Kalinosky, Susie

Mikheidze, Sasha

Misner, Brittany

Monnin, Marc

Moseley, Richard

Ryckman, Dave

Stevens, Debbie

Stevens, Mark

Vohs, Kim

White, Sam

Wieleżyński, Tadeusz



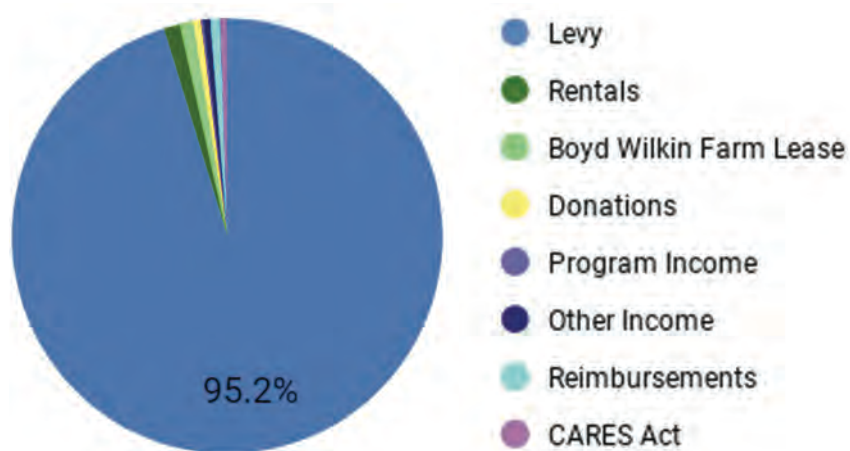


2020–Financial Facts, Governance, and Staff

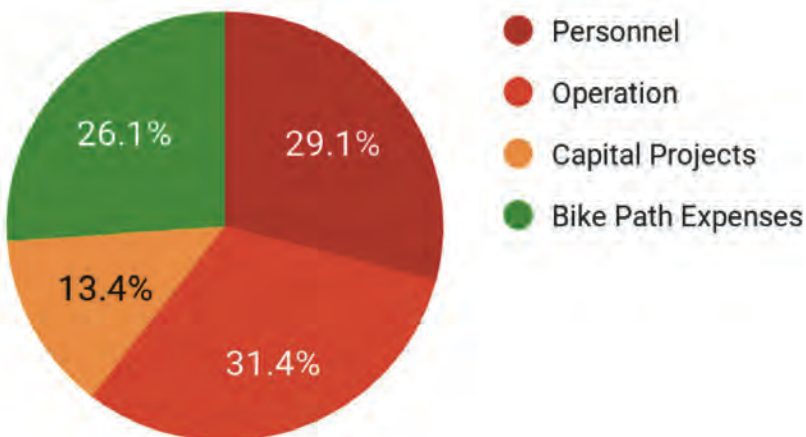
Financial Facts

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.

2020 Licking Park District Revenue



2020 Licking Park District Expenses





2020 – Financial Facts, Governance, and Staff

Governance

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

Jim Kiracofe, Chair

Richard Moseley, Vice Chair

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 30 miles of natural surface trails.

Richard Waugh, Director

Tami McAdams, Operations Administrator

Kris Lohrman, Office Administrator

Anne Balogh, Program Coordinator

Mike Evans, Maintenance Worker

Denny Lane, Maintenance Worker (not pictured)

Karen Jennings, Volunteer Coordinator

Thank You

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

Board of Park Commissioners



Jim Kiracofe



Dick Moseley



James Bradley



Sam White



Brenda Sams

Licking Park District Staff



Richard Waugh



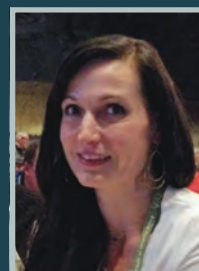
Tami McAdams



Kris Lohrman



Anne Balogh



Karen Jennings



Mike Evans



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The “Elbow Tree” at Taft Reserve

This bent tree resembling an elbow serves as a wayfinder for many visitors as they navigate the trails at Taft Reserve.