



2022 ANNUAL REPORT





“Welcome To Your 1,600 Acre Backyard”

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.



Infirmary Mound Park

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.



Infirmary Mound Park



Infirmary Mound Park



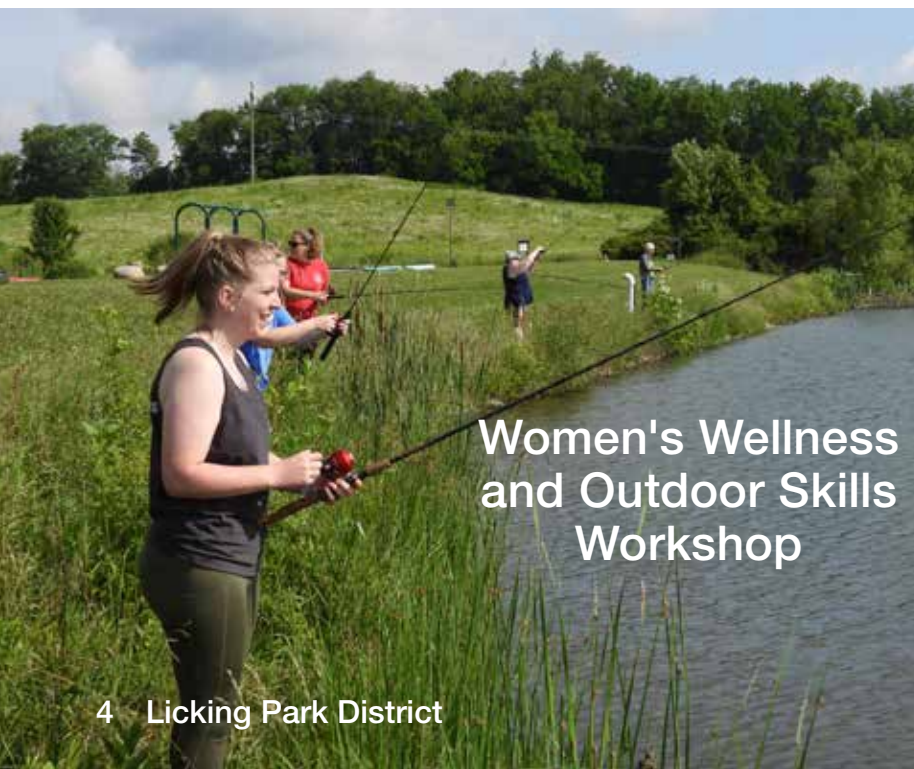
2022 PROGRAMS, EVENTS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2022 at a Glance

Total number of participants across all programs	13,182
Increase in Participation from 2021	16%
Total number of public programs and events offered	228
Attendance for Harvest Moon Festival	1,500
Attendance for Howl-O-Ween	100
Attendance for School Programs	384
Attendance for the Wildflower Fairy Trail	5,000+
Annual Program Budget	\$39,780
Percent of Annual LPD Budget	3.6%

Our goal is to develop and implement a comprehensive education and outdoor recreation program for the Licking Park District that connects the community to its parks system. Community engagement and outreach through in person programs and events, virtual programs, and social media provides access for all residents of the county.

Something for Everyone. Programs are provided in the arts, environmental education, citizen science, adult continuing education, teacher workshops, outdoor skills, backyard ecology, recreation, family programming, pre-K, homeschool, teen, and school age education, and reflect environmental education and recreation trends.



Women's Wellness and Outdoor Skills Workshop



Night Hikes



School Age Programs



Adult Continuing Education



Fairy Trail Party



Music at the Gazebo



Licking County River Round Up



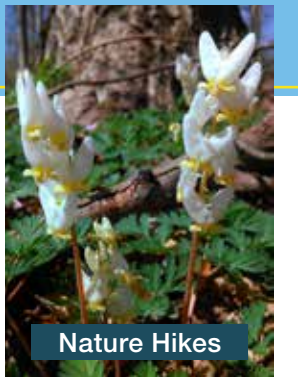
Howl-O-Ween



Partner Programs



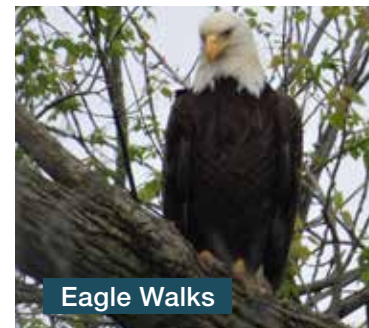
Harvest Moon Festival



Nature Hikes



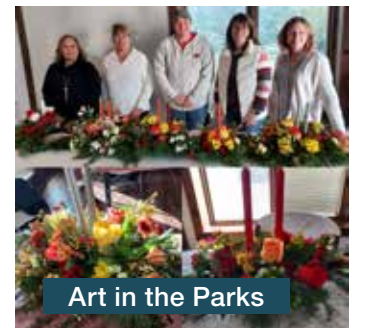
2022 Wildflower Fairy Trail



Eagle Walks



Backyard Conservation



Art in the Parks



School Programs



Paddle Programs



Family Adventures



2022 PROGRAMS, EVENTS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

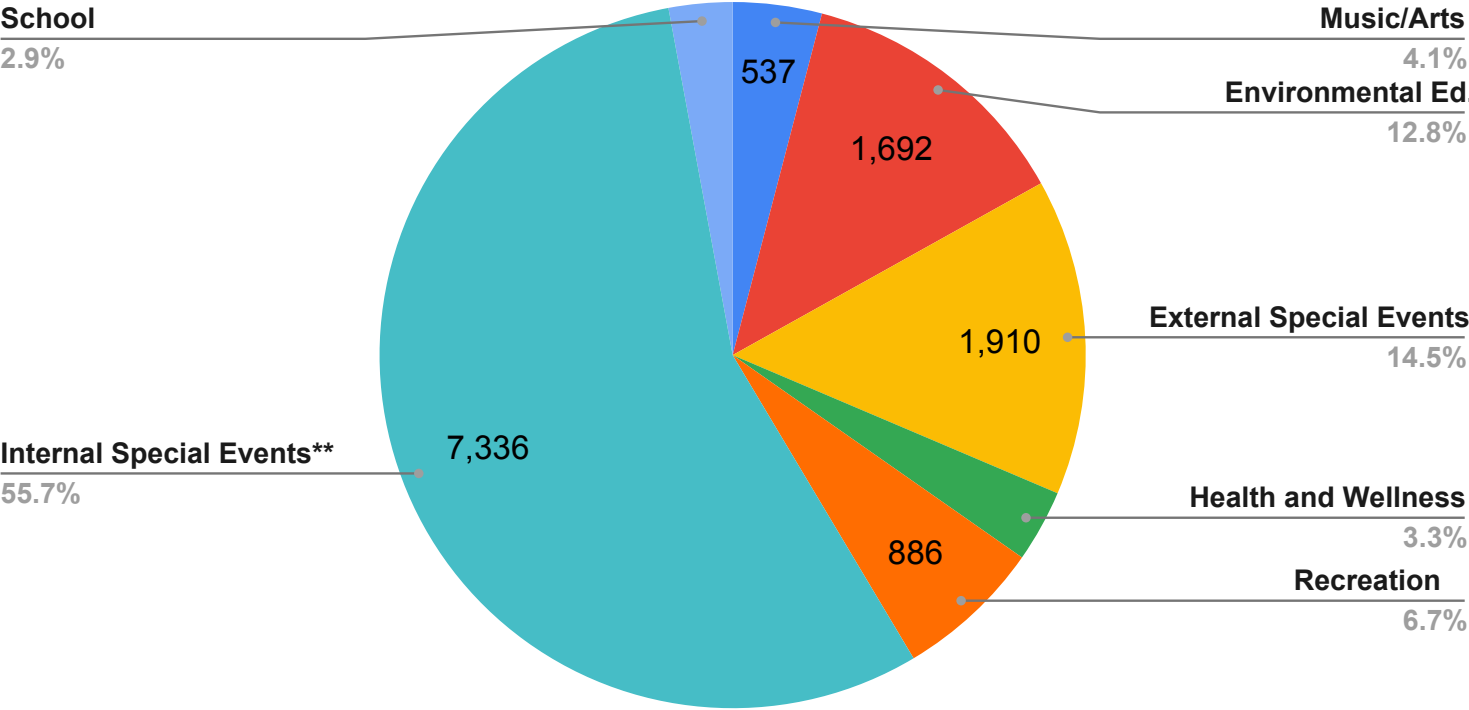
The Importance of Partners

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.

71
PARTNER
PROGRAMS

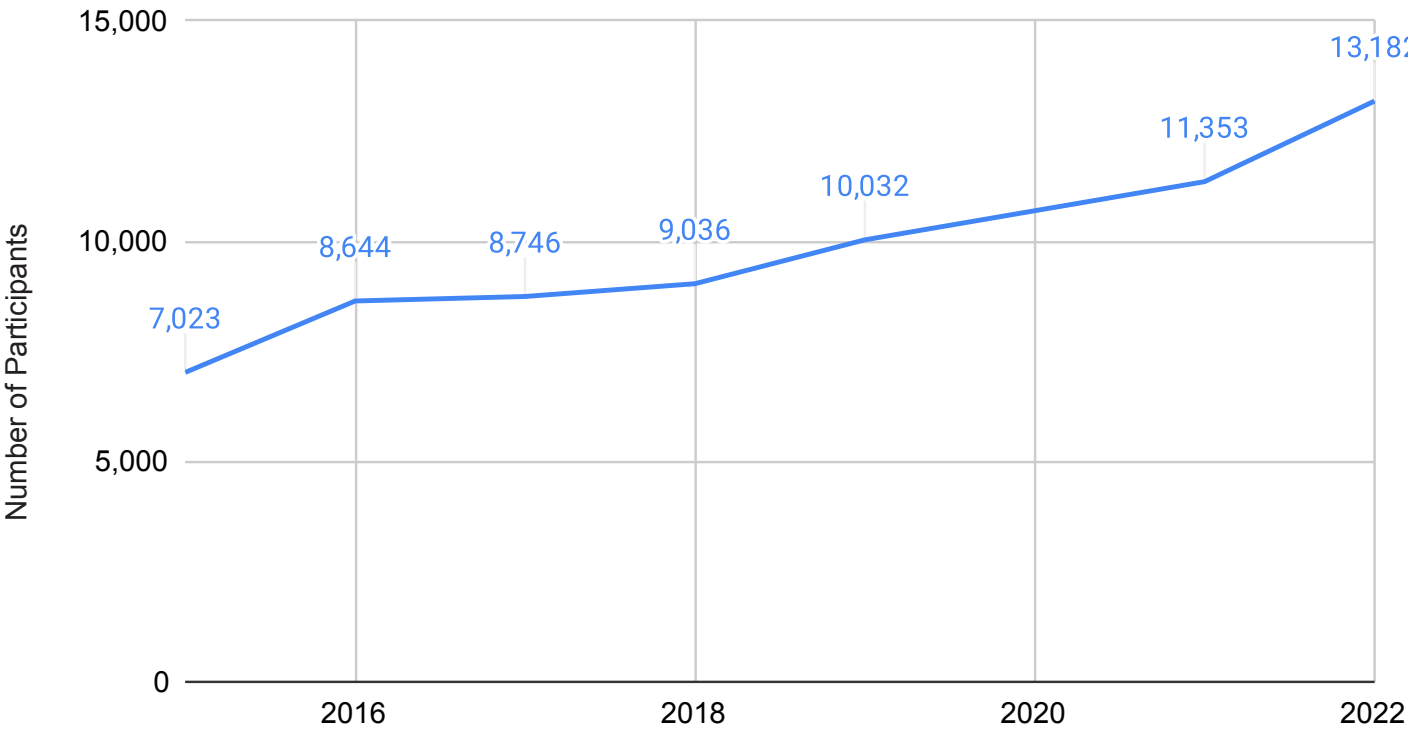
Program Category	Number Programs offered
Music/Arts	23
Environmental Ed.	96
External Special Events	9
Health and Wellness	42
Recreation	46
Internal Special Events	9
School Field Trips	3

Participation Per Program Category in 2022



**Internal Special Events includes Fairy Trail visitation numbers (n=5000)
Internal Special Events: Organized by the LPD
External Special Events: Run by outside organizations

Program Participation 2015 - 2022



16% Annual Increase in Program Participation
88% Increase in Program Participation (including external events) since 2015
151% Increase in Internal Program Participation since 2015

The Fairy Trail Continues

60 houses, 2500 pieces of fairy mail, unlimited magic!

Bigger than ever! The Wildflower Fairy Trail at Infirmary Mound finished its fifth year with record visitation! Houses were installed in late April and the trail opening was announced on social media on April 29th. A returning feature was the “Fairy Mail” station where kids wrote to the fairies and LPD volunteers wrote back either by email or snail mail. We received over 2500 pieces of mail, which allowed us to estimate at least 5,000 visitors hit the trail from May through September. Fairy home supply kits were again provided to staff, volunteers, and community organizations for the creation of fairy houses.

“I absolutely love it. As an adult I found it great for every age. The mailbox was an awesome bonus that I loved and took part in.”

Jordyn Laman

“This trail is a nice little stop for a unique experience for anyone of any age. It is quite the experience and I highly recommend for anyone with children or for a nice little outdoors date.”

Ryan





2022 PROGRAMS, EVENTS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Harvest Moon Festival

Each year the Licking Park District offers a large fall festival in October at Infirmary Mound Park. The Harvest Moon Festival features activities and learning opportunities for the entire community. This year the event corresponded to the arrival of the remnants of a hurricane, but over 1,500 visitors braved the wet weather to enjoy the food trucks, live bluegrass music, and activities. Visitors were able to try their hand at festival games, crafts, archery, rock-climbing, kite flying, and more!



Adult Continuing Education

Throughout the year, the Park District offers programming for lifelong learning. In partnership with the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District and The Dawes Arboretum, the LPD held its annual educator workshop series, reaching over 500 educators over the last six years. 2022 also saw the return of the comprehensive Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program.

The Backyard Conservation program series covered topics such as creating raingardens, citizen science, winter birdfeeding, Ohio native plants, foraging, and more. In partnership with the Ohio Division of Forestry, a tree planting workshop was offered in the fall. The **1500 Trees** organization donated Ohio native tree species to plant at various locations throughout Infirmary Mound Park.



Pace at the Park

A hunter pace is a competitive equestrian trail ride designed to closely match the excitement of a fox hunt. The Licking Park District has an active and committed equestrian community and this event targets that audience.





2022 PROGRAMS, EVENTS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

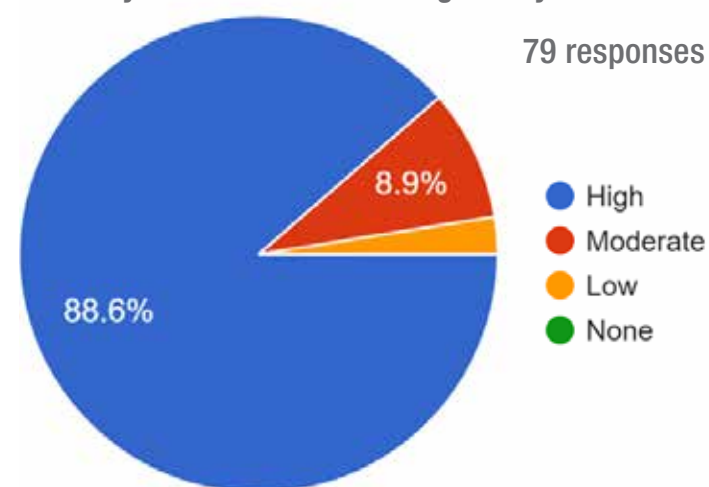
Nature Playscape at Infirmary Mound Park

2022 saw the completion of Phase 2 of the Nature Playscape at Infirmary Mound Park. Nature play encourages creativity, exploration, and hands-on learning in nature. Research has found children play longer on natural playgrounds and engage in more diverse and complex play. In essence, kids are happier, healthier, and smarter when they have access to immersion and play time in nature. Research has also shown that kids with experience being outside in nature show greater stewardship of our natural resources and better mental health as adults. The goal of the Nature Playscape is to provide children of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds a safe, accessible area to interact with the natural world on their terms.

An overall playscape design created by Urban Wild was approved in early 2021. The playscape will be completed over five years. The Licking Park District received funding for Phase 2 from an ODNR Nature-Works grant and a multi-year grant from the Marguerite Halpine Heppenstall Fund of the Licking County Foundation. We want to thank the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Licking County Foundation for helping to make this phase a reality. Phase 2 includes a willow enclosure area, a large sand area, and a slide/boulder climb area. After grants, the amount of LPD levy funds used was \$8,473.



Indicate the value that the Nature Playscape adds to Infirmary Mound Park and Licking County.



My kids can play there for so much longer than at a regular playground!



I was so excited to discover this area of the park a year or so ago. I can't wait for the new features to be installed. I recommend it to all of my parent groups:) Thank you so much for taking on this big project!!

Natural Resources

Land Management Continues

2022 saw a continuation of the partnership started in 2019 between the Licking Park District (LPD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (USFWS-PFW) for managing over 50 acres of prairie habitat at Infirmary Mound Park and the Newell Recreation Preserve. The new prairies will provide critical habitat for pollinators, migratory grassland nesting birds, and other local wildlife species. They will also expand educational learning opportunities for the public.

The LPD's ongoing work to control damaging invasive plants continued in 2022 through the Conservation in Action (CIA) program. Staff and volunteers removed Garlic Mustard, Asian honeysuckle, Teasel, and Japanese Knotweed from multiple park properties.

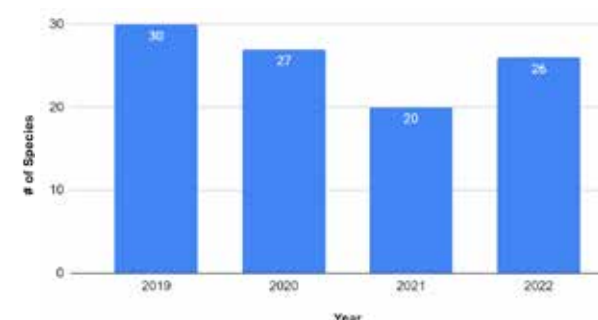
Staff and volunteers conducted a variety of surveys to increase our awareness of the flora and fauna within the LPD. In 2022 we piloted a Monarch Watch Tagging Project. In one afternoon, six migrating monarchs were tagged. The information obtained will allow us to expand the effort in 2023. Bluebird boxes were monitored for nest success and 2022 marked the fourth year of the butterfly transect survey at Infirmary 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. 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.



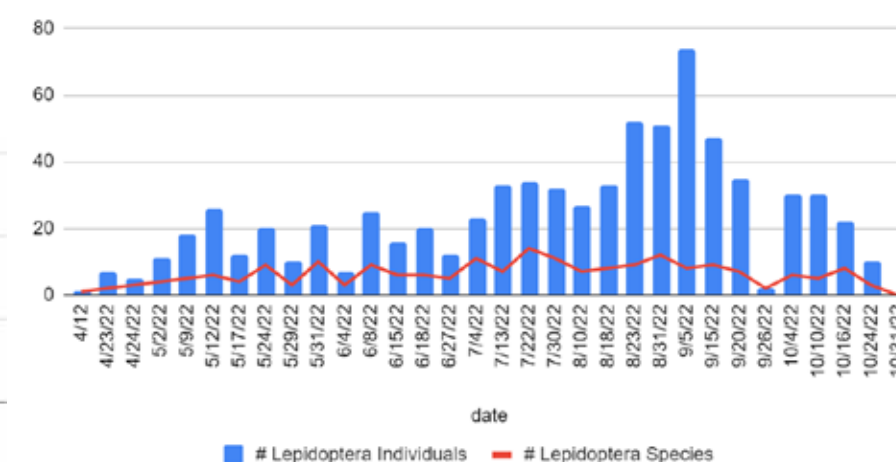
Infirmary Mound Park Lepidoptera (Butterfly) Monitoring Results

In 2022, volunteer monitoring occurred from April through October. In total, 26 species were observed.

Lepidoptera Species Observed During 2019–2022 Transect Surveys



2022 Lepidoptera (Butterfly) Transect Survey at Infirmary Mound Park





2022 PROGRAMS, EVENTS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ohio Native Bee Research

Often European honey bees get the public focused in terms of bee conservation, but Ohio has a large diversity of specialist native bees that are also pollinating powerhouses. Many of these are declining due to lack of forage (flowers for food), pests, pathogens, pesticides, invasive plants, climate change and lack of suitable nesting sites. One of the reasons for prairie creation at Infirmary Mound Park and Newell Preserve is to increase habitat for these beneficial species.

In 2022, OSU PhD candidate Amber Fredenburg conducted native bee research at the Licking Park District. Her project targeted specialist bees so that we can better understand native bee nesting resources. 34 species of wild bees have been identified to date, with four specialist species:

- *Andrena erigeniae* – Virginia Spring Beauty Specialist
- *Andrena violae* – Violet Specialist
- *Melissodes denticulatus* – Ironweed Specialist
- *Melissodes desponsus* – Thistle Specialist

Research will continue in 2023 with a modified field season that will target the Thistle Long-horned Bee - *Melissodes desponsus*



Spring Beauty Bee – *Andrena erigeniae*-Virginia Spring Beauty Specialist



"There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot."

— Aldo Leopold



Licking County River Round Up

The Licking Park District continued to be a co-host for the annual Licking County River Round Up. This county-wide, waterway cleanup event involves multiple county organizations, local government agencies, businesses, Boy Scout Troops, and hundreds of other volunteers. The park district led clean-ups by canoe and kayak from Riverview Reserve in Newark to Staddens Landing.



2022 River Round Up Totals

- Trash to landfill: 25,800 pounds
- Scrap metal: 1,100 pounds
- Tires: 185





2022 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



"I became a volunteer because I love the outdoors, and I believe in community service. Becoming a Park District volunteer is fun and rewarding, and you meet many interesting people."

Robert Hoover, Licking County Probate Judge (Retired)



Our Volunteers are the Heart and Backbone of the Licking Park District.

The Question = How can we restore programs, events, and services to pre-pandemic levels with post-pandemic challenges?

The Answer = Volunteers!

Because of our volunteers, we were able to meet our goals and offer programs and events to our community and provide essential maintenance and services most used and desired by our park and trail users. Our volunteers helped us to maintain our parklands and trails, protect natural resources, and educate and engage our community through programming and events. Our volunteers donated thousands of hours of their time and talent working towards our mission. While the numbers are impressive, they truly cannot represent what volunteers help us to accomplish with their indispensable vital contributions.

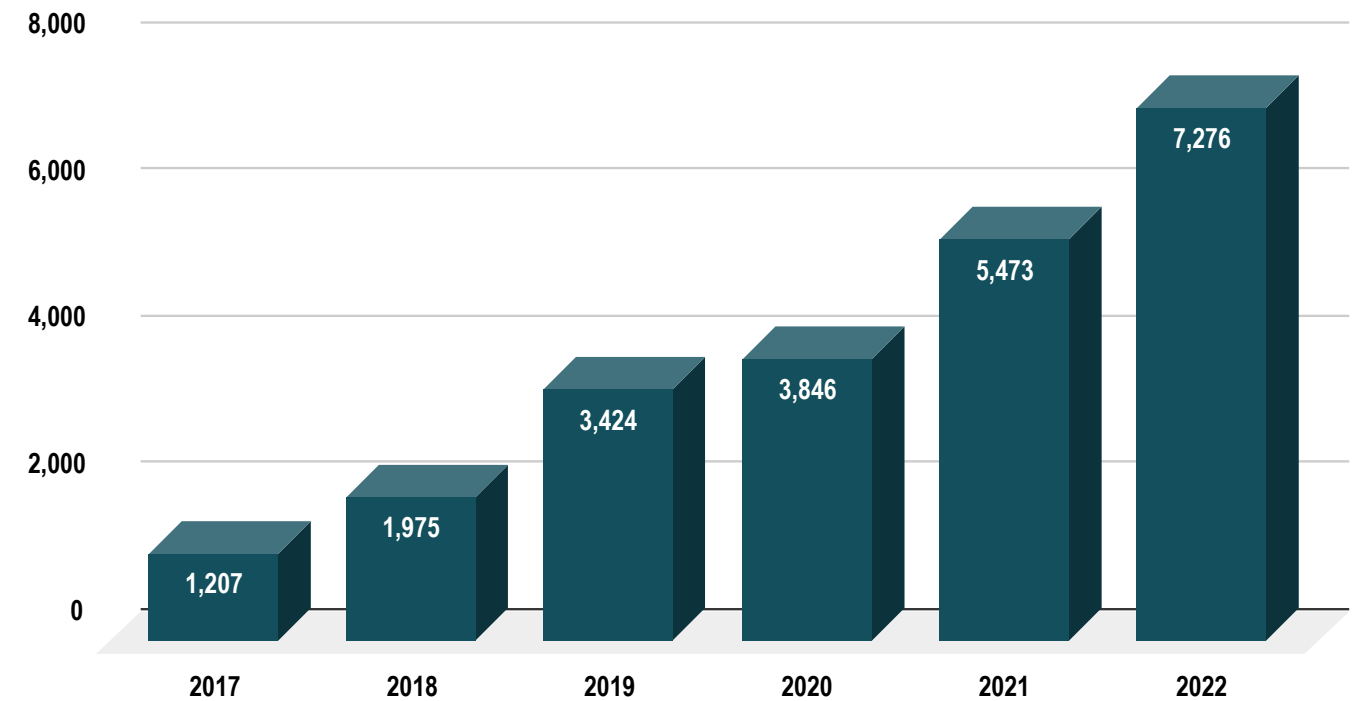
"What I enjoy most about volunteering with the LPD is the flexibility it allows. I committed to being a Trail Monitor, and I can self-schedule my visits to the trails to monitor for safety and ease of traveling for those participants on (walking, biking, running) the trails along with needed clean up. In addition, I receive communication about other volunteer opportunities to assist with park events and projects that I can choose to do. Right up with the flexibility of volunteering is the ability to meet fabulous people with similar interests as me as we volunteer together. Giving back to the parks that give people so much joy is my pleasure!"

Mary Ellen "Missy" Harris, Volunteer
Pictured at left with her husband, Volunteer Scott Harris

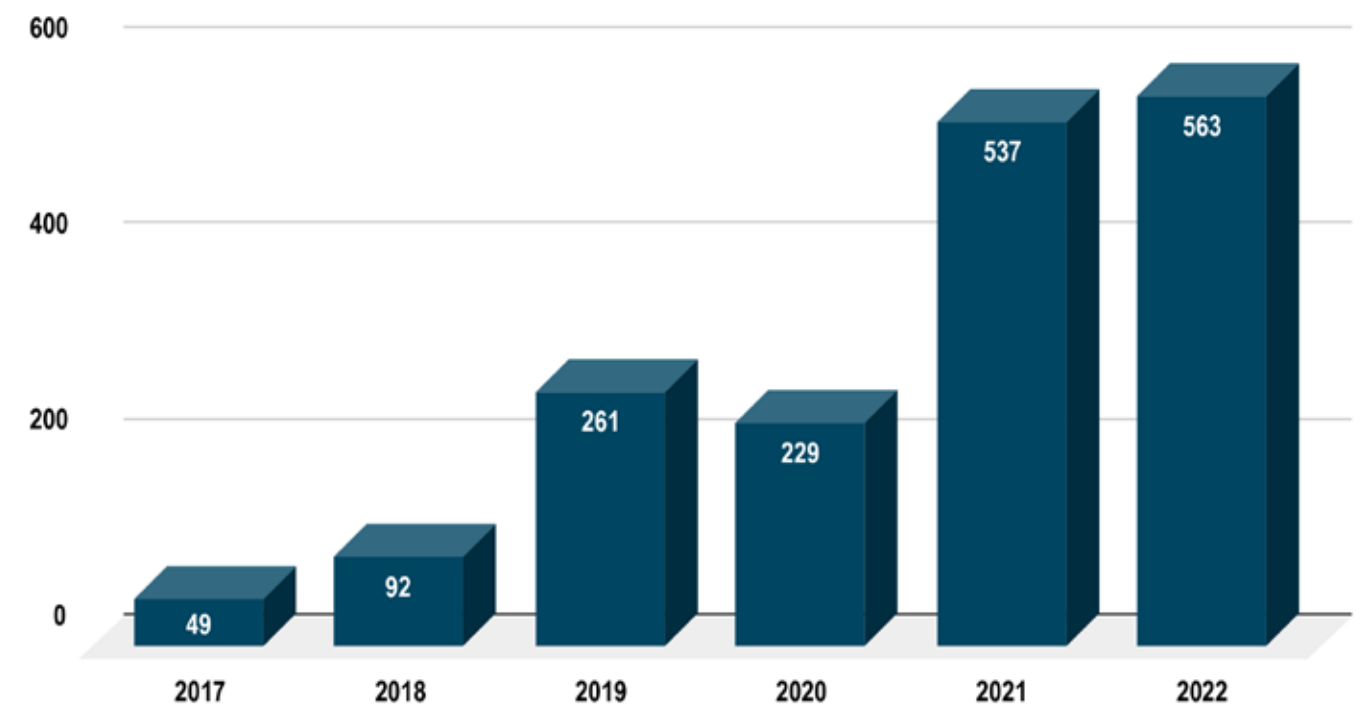


VOLUNTEERS	HOURS	VALUE
563	7,276	\$196,961.32

2017 - 2022 VOLUNTEER HOURS



2017 - 2022 VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION





2022 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



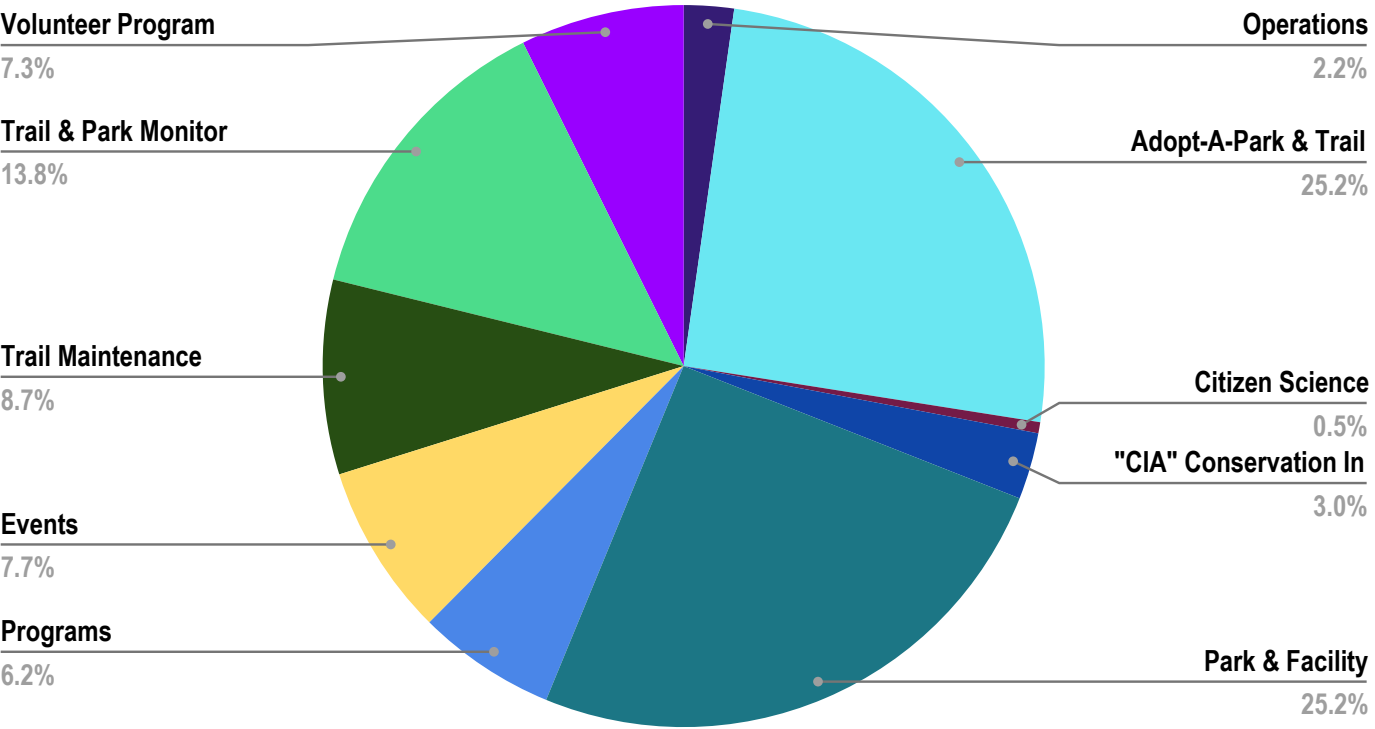
Year of Growth

In 2022, 563 volunteers contributed 7,276 hours of their time to benefit our parks and trails, a 32.9% increase from 2021! According to the Independent Sector, the estimated value of an hour of volunteer service in Ohio is \$27.07. Those 7,276 service hours are valued at \$196,961.32. While that’s impressive, it’s impossible to quantify the enormous value volunteers generously provide. Their passion, dedication, and love for our parks, trails, and community are invaluable.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM SERVICES	
Adopt-A-Trail & Park Program	
"CIA" Conservation In Action	
Citizen Science	
Events & Community Outreach	
Heritage Restoration Projects	
Operations & Administrative Support	
Park & Facility Maintenance	
Paws-2-Play Dog Park Stewards	
Photography	
Programs	
Trail & Park Monitor	
Trail Maintenance	
Volunteer Training	

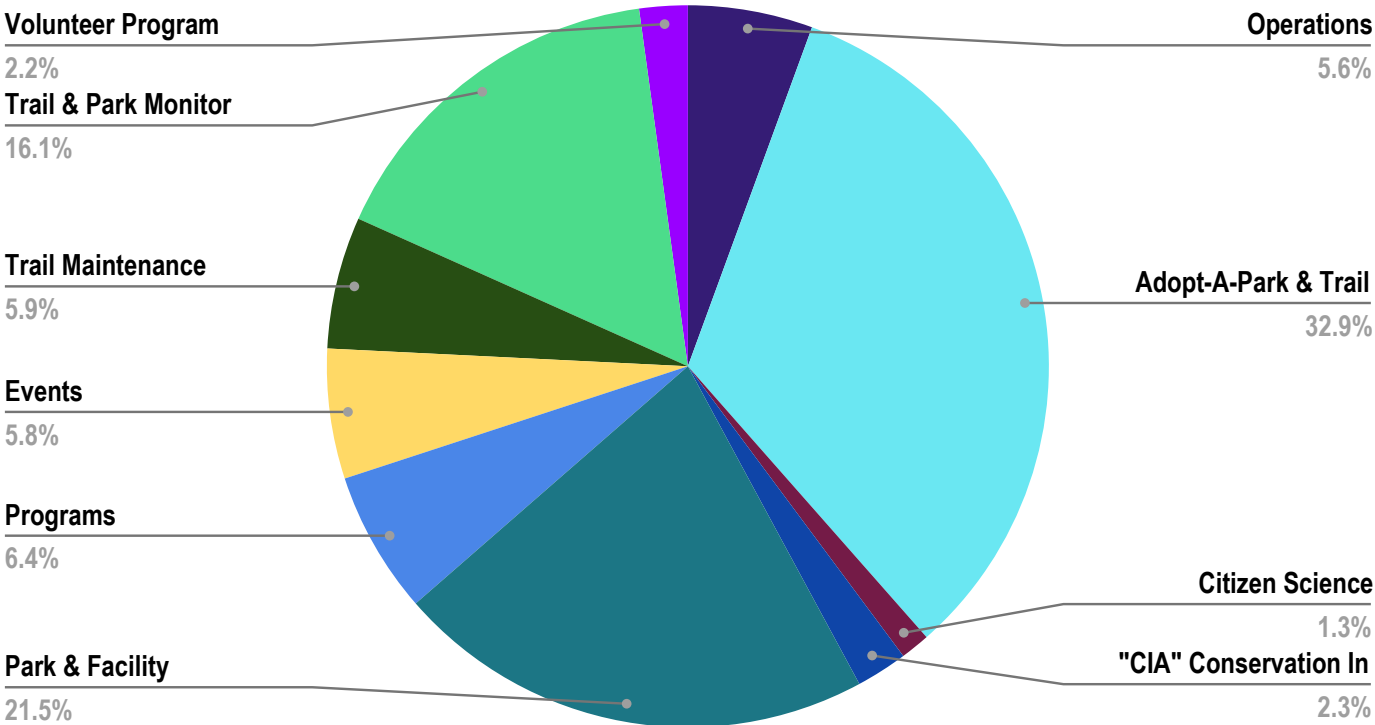
2022 Volunteer Count by Assignment



Volunteer Program Highlights

Our volunteers are dedicated, passionate about our parks and trails, and bring enthusiasm and talent to every task. We proudly share their accomplishments and highlight their outstanding volunteer service in 2022.

2022 Volunteer Service Hours by Assignment





2022 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Adopt-A-Trail/Park Program

Our Adopt-A-Trail/Park program is starting to take off! Individuals and groups can become active participants in preserving the natural beauty of trails and parks within the Licking Park District. Adopters help maintain beautiful trails and parks so everyone in our community can enjoy them.

"Taft Reserve's trails are my favorite. I spend the most time there volunteering and enjoy riding them on my trusty steed Ruby. I was involved in clearing a new trail at Lobdell Reserve, and it is a great feeling whenever I take my horse on it and know that I was part of creating it."



Sigrid Batten, Volunteer

Trail Maintenance

Our goal is to create, enhance, and preserve, sustainable multi-use trails throughout our Park District. Volunteers are helping us improve and repair our existing trails throughout our Park District.

"A favorite trail of mine is the Johnstown Bike path. It is very scenic, with rolling farmland and forest. One can walk many miles on the path, do trail monitoring, and get exercise at the same time."



Ronald Forgrave, Volunteer

Trail Monitors

Our Trail Monitors are walking, running, biking, and horseback riding on our trails to observe conditions daily. Trail Monitors report hazards, pick up litter and remove fallen limbs and branches. Our Trail Monitor role is an independent, self-scheduled volunteer assignment. Volunteers choose to monitor any of our trails from dawn to dusk on any day.



Park & Facility Maintenance

Our dedicated volunteers assisted with ongoing projects and preventative maintenance tasks throughout 2022. Volunteers mowed Infirmary Mound Park's Paws-2-Play Dog Park and managed waste disposal, landscape, and tree care during the summer months, and much more, saving hundreds of maintenance staff hours.



"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value."

Theodore Roosevelt,
speech before the Colorado Livestock Association, 1910

Conservation in Action (CIA) Volunteers!

Habitat fragmentation, introducing the spreading of non-native species, and climate change threaten Ohio's native ecosystems and reduce biodiversity. In 2022, our CIA volunteers were working to protect our parks' ecosystems and native habitats by removing invasive plant species. Volunteers painstakingly hand-cut Japanese Knotweed from Riverview Reserve, and Canada Thistle and Common Teasel from Infirmary Mound Park's prairie fields. CIA volunteers pulled Garlic Mustard and cut Asian honeysuckle and Oriental Bittersweet throughout Lobdell Reserve and Morris Woods State Nature Preserve. Our volunteers understand parks are critical natural infrastructure and have committed to future efforts in supporting biodiversity.





2022 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Programs & Events

Our events would not be possible without the help and support of our volunteers. Volunteers are raising tents, welcoming festival-goers, directing event parking, managing registration tables, assisting with the game, craft, and educational stations, and assisting people trying archery or a paddlesport for the first time. Volunteers come early to set up and stay late to clean up. They are the backbone of every event, and we couldn't have been as successful as we were in 2022 without their support.

"I like helping other people explore new adventures, whether paddling a canoe or learning about plants or wildlife."



Joseph Windholtz,
Volunteer



Photography

Our talented volunteers take pictures of events and visit our parks to capture beautiful landscapes, wildflowers, and wildlife in action.





2022 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Volunteer Recognition

Our successes are due to our volunteers' dedication, time, and talents. We are humbled, inspired, and proud to celebrate all of our amazing volunteers.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event

Every April, the Park District holds an open-house-style event during National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We are honored to celebrate their fantastic year of service.

Volunteer of the Year

The Licking Park District established the Volunteer of the Year award in 2015 to acknowledge outstanding representatives of our dedicated volunteers. This award recognizes individuals who exhibit enthusiasm for their volunteer service, leadership characteristics for the projects they lead, and their willingness to promote volunteerism in others. The Licking Park District is proud to name Bill Fleitz as our Volunteer of the Year for 2022!

Q & A with LPD Volunteer of the Year Bill Fleitz

What motivated you to become a Licking Park District volunteer?

"Karen Jennings reached out to me when they wanted to build the gazebos at the dog park. After working on that project, I wanted to be more involved with the park district."

What do you like most about volunteering with the LPD?

"The sense of accomplishment when you complete a project. Also, the friendships I have made with both the staff and other volunteers."

What volunteer activities have been most memorable for you?

"Probably rebuilding the bathroom at Taft North. We had no idea what we were getting into until we started, it was really in bad shape. I am proud of how it looks now."

Favorite LPD park or trail?

"I am partial to the dog park at Infirmary. I take my dog there and monitor it. I also help cut the grass at the park."

Do you have a wish list volunteer project?

"Anything that involves hammers and power tools!"

Do you have any advice for anyone considering volunteering with the Licking Park District?

"I would say just jump in and get started. The rewards of helping your community are tremendous."



100+ HOURS OF SERVICE

Beth Little
Bill Fleitz
Columbus Flyers Disc Golf Club Lobdell Reserve Park Adopter Group
Craig Washka
Dave Ryckman
Debbie Pound
Gwendolyn Blasco Infirmary Mound Park Nature Playscape Prairie Patch Eagle Scout Project
Jack Long
Jack Lyon
Jim Kiracofe
Kenneth Apacki
Kiwanis Granville T.J. Evans Bike Trail Adopter Group
Licking/Knox Goodwill Industries, Inc.
Matthew Montgomery "Walk & Talk" Infirmary Mound Park Trail Adopter Group
Tim Gilbert
Vincent Alessi

20+ HOURS OF SERVICE

Adam Jenkins	Howard Family Lobdell Reserve Trail Adopter Group	Pam Barnett
American Heritage Volunteer Group	James Bradley	Pat Maahs
Barbara Polack	Mark & Jan Raymond	Paul Christensen
Barlow Family Morris Woods Park Adopters	Janiqua Simon	Richard Moseley
Batten Sigrid	Joseph Windholtz	Rocky Fort Headly Hunt Club
Birgit Nazarian	Josh Thompson Lobdell Reserve Park Adopter	Rockett Morgan Friends & Family Volunteer Group
BSA Scout Troop 51 - Granville	Joyce Witte	Ron Lohrman
BSA Scout Troop 65 - Granville	Jude Hall	Ronald Forgrave
Denison University 4-H Volunteer Group	Judge Robert Hoover	Ruth Meyer
Denison Women's and Men's Lacrosse T.J. Evans Bike Trail Adopter Group	Kelly Pertee	Sacha Mikheidze
Dixon Family Staddens Landing Adopter Group	Kim Vohs	Sam White
Elliot Family Riverview Reserve Park Adopter Group	Lynna Kiracofe	BSA Scout Troop 7145 - Newark
Gabriel Jennings	Letitia Zurawick	Sharon Wallace
Mary Ellen (Missy) & Scott Harris	William & Linda Cornell	Sigrid Batten
	Mark Masters	Stephen Campbell
	Marc Monnin	Steven Parsons
	Nathaniel Jennings	Tadeusz Wielezynski
	Native Landscaping and Consulting LLC Morris Woods Park Adopter Group	The Trail Troopers Lobdell Reserve Trail Adopter Group
	Northridge High School Viking Volunteer Group	

***The Licking Park District would like to thank all volunteers
who shared their time and talent in 2022!***

VOLUNTEERS MAKE AN IMPACT

We offer individual and group volunteer opportunities to help maintain our parks and trails, protect natural and cultural resources, and engage our local community to promote environmental stewardship.





2022 PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

ADA Walks, Dock

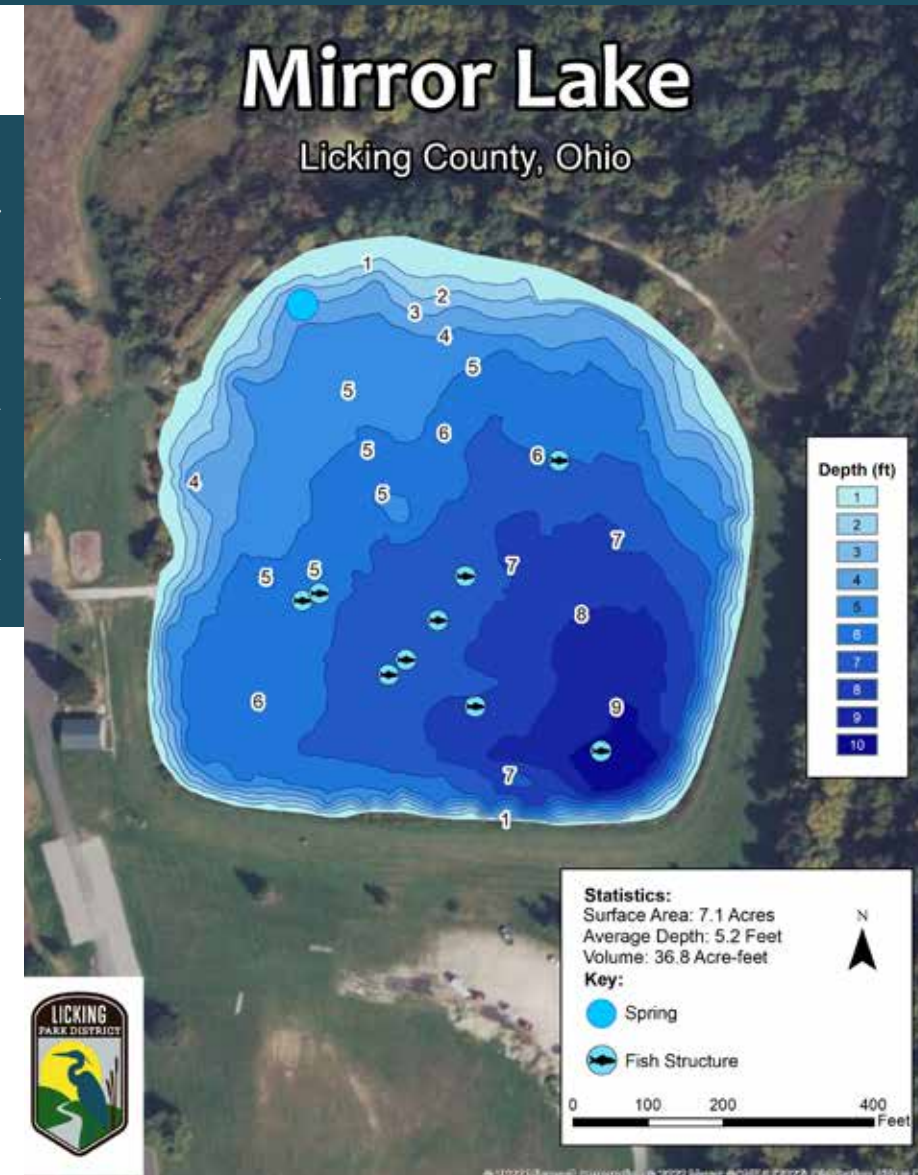
In 2022, the Licking Park District was pleased to announce the opening of a newly paved path at Infirmary Mound Park. The six-foot wide path is .42 miles in length and surrounds Mirror Lake. Since its completion, the path has been used daily by people of all ages for walking and jogging.

In addition to the lake's paved path, the Licking Park District installed a floating ADA kayak/canoe launch at Mirror Lake. The floating dock will also be available for persons to fish from or get closer to nature. Other recent ADA access work at Infirmary Mound Park includes the installation of sidewalks from the parking lots to four picnic shelters.



Mirror Lake Bathymetric Mapping

A Bathymetric Map is similar to a contour map but underwater. In making a bathymetric map a SONAR depth finder is used along with a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS). AquaDoc Inc. conducted a Bathymetric mapping of Mirror Lake at Infirmary Mound Park to find depth, vegetation growth, sediment hardness, and habitat structures. This information will assist the District in future management of the lake and assist anglers in their fishing enjoyment.



Lobbell Disc Golf Course Received New Baskets Via Columbus Flyers DG Club

Out with the old, in with the new! Nineteen new baskets were installed at the Lobbell Disc Golf Course as part of a partnership between the Licking Park District and the Columbus Flyers Disc Golf Club. With these new baskets, the Lobbell course will remain one of the top courses in the state. With their donation and installation of the new baskets, the Columbus Flyers Disc Golf Club continued their volunteer service in assisting with the maintenance of the Lobbell course. The new baskets will meet the modern-day disc-catching requirements of the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) for different tiers of tournaments: C-tier, B-tier, A-tier, and Elite series.

Infirmary Mound Dog Park Lighting

New lighting has been installed at the Paws 2 Play Dog Park at Infirmary Mound Park. These lights turn on automatically at dusk and remain on until approximately 8 pm in winter months. Although the rest of the park closes at dusk, dog park users are allowed to remain at the dog park until the lights go out.





2022 PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

PARKING LOTS

Lobdell Disc Golf Parking Lot Expansion.

At Lobdell Reserve, the parking lot at the disc golf course off of Battee Road was expanded to accommodate increasing numbers of disc golf players, trail users, and park program attendees. New perimeter fencing was recently installed and future improvements include the addition of a permanent restroom facility in 2023.



Concord Road Parking Lot

The Licking Park District installed a new bike trail parking lot in Johnstown, at Concord Road. This parking lot will serve as additional parking to access the TJ Evans Bike Trail. The Thomas J. Evans Foundation generously funded the construction of this parking lot. Safe, accessible parking is essential for ease of mobility as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety.



Frederick Reese Wildlife Sanctuary Lot

A parking lot was installed at the Frederick Reese Wildlife Sanctuary property north of Newark near Wilkins Corner. This 103-acre woodland is home to impressive sandstone outcroppings, wildflowers, and wildlife. A permit is required to access this property for hiking, photography, and nature research.

Two Memorial Benches were placed in 2022

At Infirmary Mound Park, a memorial bench was placed on the Mirror Lake overlook in memory of Darrell Hensley. This bench was made possible through donations from Darrell's family and friends. Darrell was a dedicated supporter of the Licking Park District, a long-time volunteer, and a prior employee.



Donated by the family of Jessica Elizabeth Gerber Speelman, a memorial bench was placed in her memory on the trails of Lobdell Reserve, creating a resting spot overlooking scenic Lobdell Creek. This is a popular location for equestrians, with a mounting block being added to the site in 2023.





2022 PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

Bike Trail Improvements

Buckeye Scenic Trail Extension

The Licking Park District has been awarded a \$1,001,444 ODOT TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) grant for construction of a multi-use trail extension of the Buckeye Scenic Trail (BST). The BST currently runs 5.5 miles from Hopewell Dr. in Heath south to US 40.

This grant will extend the trail from US 40 south to Cristland Hill Rd., another 1.2 miles. The Buckeye Scenic Trail includes spurs that connect to the Heath Water Park, HNLCPA, and various area schools, recreational facilities, and neighborhoods.

Construction anticipated in 2024. Preparation of the new trail began in 2022 with clearing of old rails and trees.



Newell Recreation Preserve

The Newell Recreation Preserve paved multi-use trail was formally dedicated on June 25, 2022. This connection project was first envisioned 30 years ago and fills a one-mile gap on the Ohio to Erie Trail (OTET) between the Delaware and Knox County trails. The OTET stretches from Cincinnati to Cleveland, 326 miles.

The Park District has worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to plant 33 acres of pollinator flowers and prairie grass. The site also boasts a natural wooded wetland and parking area to complement the recreational trail connection.

This project was made possible by many organizations and funding agencies including; Ohio Public Works - Clean Ohio Trail Fund, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Newell family, Licking and Knox County Park Districts, Licking County Commissioners, and private donations.





2022 PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

Bike Trail Improvements *(continued)*

Partnership Agreement for Bike Trail Maintenance

In an effort to maintain the multi-use trails at the highest level possible, the TJ Evans Foundation, the Board of Licking County Commissioners, and the Licking Park District have entered into new agreements to clarify maintenance responsibilities for portions of the trail and provide a dedicated fund to cover major repairs. These agreements assure our bike trail system is properly maintained for many years to come.



Taft Reserve

Tippett Mound, also known as Huffman Mound, is located within Taft Reserve. The Tippett Mound dates to the Pre-Columbian Native American Adena cultural period and is an ancient burial mound.

Located just a short distance off the Taft trail system, maintenance staff has created access to the mound by clearing the surrounding field, deadfall, and invasive vegetation from the mound. An interpretive information panel will be installed in 2023.





2022 PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

Park Trails Improvements

Many improvements were made to natural surface trails at Infirmary Mound Park, Lobdell Reserve, Brown Reserve, and Taft Reserve, including trail mowing and widening, installation of culverts, swales, and raised “turnpike” sections to improve drainage, re-routes of eroded and decommissioned trail sections, and the addition of a bridge deck for a creek crossing.

Drainage Improvement at Taft Reserve



Trail Improvement at Brown Reserve



Trail Improvement at Taft Reserve



Step 1 Trail Improvement at Infirmary Mound Park



Step 3 Trail Improvement at Infirmary Mound Park



Trail Improvement at Infirmary Mound Park



Step 2 Trail Improvement at Infirmary Mound Park



Step 4 Trail Improvement at Infirmary Mound Park



Step 5 Trail Improvement at Infirmary Mound Park



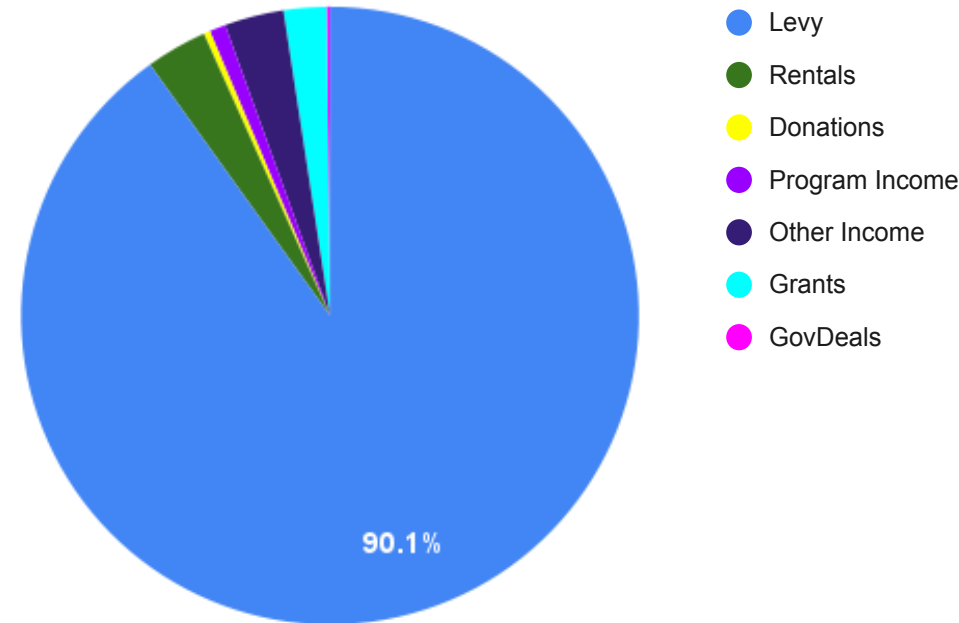


District Revenues

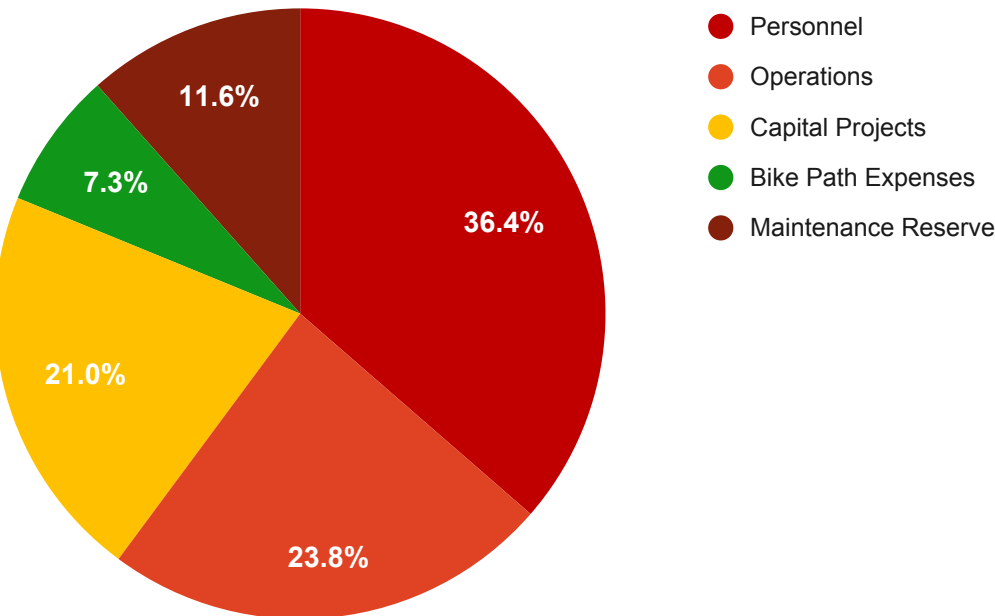
2022 was the final year of the 5-year renewal levy passed in 2017. The residents of Licking County again supported the Licking Park District by passing a replacement levy in November 2021, which went into effect in 2022, with the new additional funds coming in 2023.

We are thankful for the community’s continued support and look forward to continuing our mission and extending our reach into Licking County communities.

2022 Licking Park District Revenue \$1,103,779.08



2022 Licking Park District Expenses \$1,322,615.94



Emily Fouts continued her AmeriCorps service at the Licking Park District for her second year as part of the Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps (AORC). The mission of AmeriCorps is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. AORC members work specifically in Appalachian regions of Ohio to promote the conservation and preservation of the unique ecosystems of this area, as well as strengthen community engagement through outdoor activities.



AmeriCorps is all about serving the community, and Emily loves doing just that at LPD. She has assisted with planning and executing programs for both children and adults, paddlesports, archery, stream walks, homeschool programs, Kids’ Art in the Park, monthly Wild Storytime programs, monthly Curious Kids programs at the Works, puzzle hikes, building fairy houses for the fairy trail, writing fairy mail, and so much more. She also helped with large events including Howl-O-Ween, the Harvest Moon Festival, the Licking County River Roundup, and teaching the canoeing class at the Women’s Outdoor Skills Workshop. She has loved working with and getting to know our LPD volunteers at programs, as well as leading Conservation in Action volunteer teams to remove invasive species. Emily also planned and organized the LPD’s annual Partnership Appreciation Open House for our community partners and worked on citizen science projects like identifying and counting butterfly species on the butterfly transect at Infirmary Mound Park, and tagging monarch butterflies before they migrate.

Emily was also able to gain new knowledge through training workshops and certifications. She has completed both Project WILD and Project WET educator workshops, a Citizen Science Education workshop, earned certification as a basic archery instructor, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, and an ODNR certified canoe instructor.

Emily is so thankful for the Licking Park District and the AmeriCorps program, and all the different and new experiences she has been able to have because of them, serving her community and growing as a person. During her time so far at LPD, she feels she has really flourished and been able to become the best version of herself so far and is looking forward to continuing to improve her skills and serve the community that she loves.





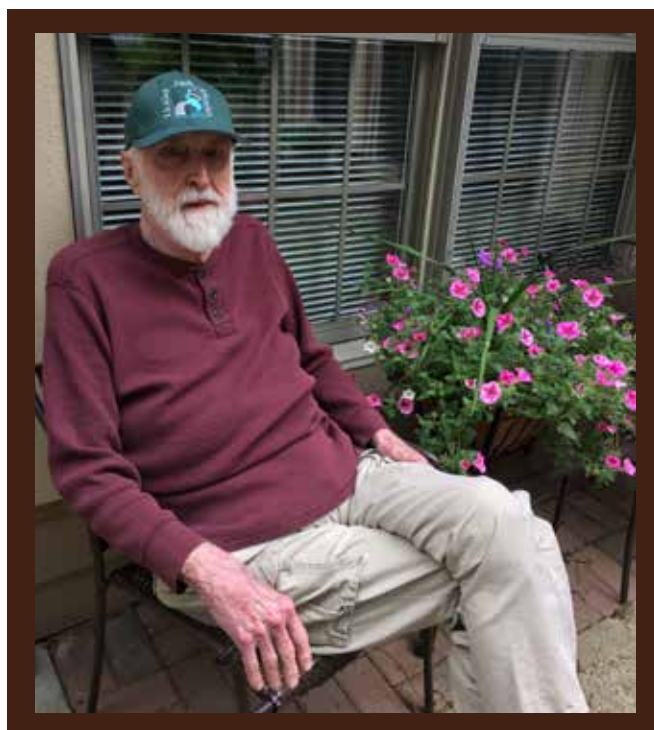
Our Gratitude to James Bradley for His Many Years Dedicated Service to Licking Park District

Dr. James Bradley earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Muskingum College (1954), a Masters of Science Degree in Geology and PhD in Mineralogy from The Ohio State University. He taught Geology at OSU-Newark for over 30 years, retiring in 2001. He is a past member of the Board of Goodwill Industries and the Licking County Planning Commission and is a former president and Life Trustee of the Licking County Historical Society.

Jim has long been dedicated to the citizens and parks of Licking County, Ohio. He began his service as Licking County Park Supervisor in July of 1982. From 1982 to 1990 he served as the Licking County Parks & Recreation Director. In 1989, Mr. Bradley was chairman of a Licking County Planning Commission committee to study parks and recreation in the county. Since the formation of the Licking Park District in 1990, he served over 30 years on the Licking Park District's Board of Park Commissioners, serving through 2022.

During his tenure as an employee and board member, the Licking Park District has grown to over 1,600 acres of park land. The multi-use trail system now encompasses over 46 miles of paved paths and 30+ miles of natural surface trails. Every year, thousands of people of all ages participate in the Park District's programs and special events. Mr. Bradley solicited donors and volunteers to construct a meeting and banquet facility at Infirmity Mound Park, which was later dedicated as "The James E. Bradley Center" in his honor in 2001. He has also been instrumental in the passing of three park district levies.

For forty years, Jim Bradley has been an integral part of the Licking Park District's history, culture, and vision. The Licking Park District Board of Commissioners and staff are forever grateful for his caring nature, passion, knowledge, creativity, leadership, mentorship, and loyalty. All of the Licking Park District's achievements were made possible because of his efforts and the efforts of his fellow board members and team members who he treated like family.





The Board of Park Commissioners Appoints New Director of the Licking Park District

In the Fall of 2022, the Board of Park Commissioners announced the appointment of Kyle Lund as the new Director of the Licking Park District. Kyle has an extensive background in park and recreation operations, having served 19½ years with the City of Groveport, Ohio; the first 7 years as the Parks and Recreation Director, and the last 12½ years as the Recreation Director.

While at Groveport, Kyle helped to build the department from scratch and oversaw the construction of the City's award-winning outdoor water park and recreation/senior centers. He and his team developed hundreds of year-round recreation programs. Other career highlights while at Groveport include the construction of Groveport and Cruiser Park, restoration of historic Lock 22, installation of a digital marquee sign, community garden development, tennis court & leisure path resurfacing, creation of a Park System Master Plan, and purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art playground with ODNR Nature Works grant funding.

Kyle is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Parks & Recreation Management. Prior to working for the City of Groveport, OH, Kyle worked in Michigan for the cities of Riverview, Oak Park, Holland, and Trenton. He has been married to his wife Sheryl for twenty-eight years and has two children (Lauren, 23, and Nick, 18). In his spare time, he enjoys biking, hiking, kayaking, landscaping, and reading.

Kyle is looking forward to the challenges of maintaining park properties, the trail system, and the extensive programming provided to the citizens of Licking County. He is also looking forward to continuing the partnerships that have been developed with the stakeholders in Licking County.



Kyle replaces Richard Waugh, who served as Director of the Park District for three years. Richard was appointed to the Licking Park District Board of Park Commissioners in 2018 and was subsequently hired as the Park District Director in August 2019.

Prior to serving as the Park Director, Richard served on the Heath City Council and as Mayor for the City of Heath. He also worked in business development and grant writing for ADR & Associates in Newark. This experience assisted him in his project management work for the Licking Park District.

Richard and his wife, Leslie, moved to Florida to enjoy another chapter of their lives in the Sunshine State.



Governance

The Licking Park District is formed under ORC 1545. The district is 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

Sam White, Vice Chair

James Bradley

Richard Moseley

Adam Jenkins

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. We provide year-round programs and special events.

Kyle Lund, Director

Tami McAdams, Operations Administrator

Kris Lohrman, Office Administrator

Anne Balogh, Program Coordinator

Karen Jennings, Trail and Volunteer
Program Manager

Mike Evans, Maintenance Specialist II

Emily Fouts, AmeriCorps Service Member

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



Sam White



Jim Bradley



Dick Moseley



Adam Jenkins

Licking Park District Staff



Kyle Lund



Tami McAdams



Kris Lohrman



Anne Balogh



Karen Jennings



Mike Evans



Emily Fouts



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