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Geauga Park District Report to the Public 2007





our mission

The mission of Geauga Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide the opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate those resources.

Park Commissioners John D. Leech, Robert McCullough, Mark Rzeszotarski

Executive Director Thomas G. Curtin • **Deputy Director** Keith McClintock • **Editor** Cindy Ford

our Responsibility to you

Ever since the League of Women Voters led the charge to establish a park district in Geauga County in 1961, the growth of Geauga Park District has been due to the dedication and commitment of volunteers, staff and citizens of the county. Because of the contributions from each of these individuals and groups, the people of Geauga County can be very proud.

Those who become directly involved in the mission of Geauga Park District have taken up the charge to safeguard the natural areas of the county, so those who live here will have opportunities to ramble through woods, sit beside streams, jog on trails, or gather with loved ones and colleagues in a clean and safe environment.

In these pages you are given just a glimpse into some of the activities and opportunities that were provided in 2007. These are just a sampling of the many initiatives performed in service to you in a year ... services in which we take great pride, and the fulfillment of which we consider our utmost responsibility to you.

Take time to get acquainted with your park district in this report, but better yet, come out to a park near you to experience the wonders first hand.



Bob McCullough

President
Gauga Park District
Board of Park Commissioners





our responsibility...

To protect the beauty of Geauga County and enhance the quality of life of its residents by preserving and conserving the most unique and sensitive natural areas.

To provide parks, amenities, trails and other opportunities for people to connect with the clean air, clean water, and the beautiful and diverse habitats.

- There are 8,250 acres of land in the county that are protected and managed for you by your Geauga Park District.
- 55.8 miles of trails are available for your next outdoor adventure. Some of these, like The Maple Highlands Trail, are fully accessible and paved.
- In 2007 47,763 people reserved a picnic shelter, 30,260 visited the nature centers and another 1,221 headed out for a night at one of the Big Creek campsites.
- The Bio-Centennial exhibit brought 200 years of Geauga history to vivid life and more than 17,000 people came out to this exciting interactive exhibit.

your voice

*"The **Bio-Centennial** exhibit was fantastic! The tremendous effort put into the exhibit was quite obvious. I could not believe you topped the **Ice Age** - but this blew it away!"*
~website comment received 1/23/07

"We all enjoyed the Lodge at Swine Creek Reservation. It gives us a homey atmosphere and the room to visit with all in our party."
~website comment received 8/24/07

your voice

"I am again impressed with your staff. They are enthusiastic and knowledgeable and my kids love when I tell them it is time to go to one of Geauga Park District's programs!"

~website comment received 1/23/07

"The naturalist on our walk was great and she really knew her plants! Its fun to learn about the parks I frequently visit."

~website comment received 7/11/07



our responsibility...

To be a leader in environmental education and appreciation for people of all ages. And to be a resource for Geauga students and educators in their purpose to meet academic standards in science.

- Taking our show on the road: our staff headed off-site to hold 257 programs at community centers and other areas around your county.
- Reaching out to our senior population, Geauga Park District held programs for 81 different groups which were attended by 1,447 seniors.
- In 2007 we held 829 programs from hiking to canoeing, to concerts, art workshops and more. 39,138 of you came out and enjoyed the programs that interested you.
- Connecting kids with nature is an important part of our mission. In 2007 we provided quality nature education programs for 10,441 youths.





our responsibility...

To be fiscally responsible in all projects and activities. And with the time and talents of Geauga Park District Foundation and Volunteers, build partnerships that support, enhance, and augment the services we provide to you.



- Our loyal core of Volunteers (like the newly formed Volunteer Bike Patrol and our Citizen Science Volunteers) donated more than 9,166 hours of their time to programs and events in 2007. In dollars, that amounts to \$172,059 worth of work!

- Geauga Park District Foundation raised \$107,394 to support programs, events, exhibits and other park projects.

financials...

Geauga Park District Combined Fund Results

Revenues & Other Sources**

Levy and Tax Income	\$6,249,731
Intergovernmental/Grants	\$1,130,615
Gifts and Donations	\$476,625
Fees/Refunds/Sales	\$55,403
Investment Income/Other Receipts	\$646,796
Total Sources of Funds	\$8,559,170

Expenditures & Other Uses**

Personnel & Benefits	\$3,151,744
Maintenance/Projects internal	\$370,861
Construction	\$2,627,983
Equipment	\$338,487
Other Expenses	\$99,812
Land Acquisition	\$1,654,426
Total Uses of Funds	\$8,243,313

** Internal transfer from General Fund to Land Improvement fund totaled 3 million dollars and is excluded from this section. Source: Information for 2007 is obtained from the unaudited Geauga Park District records.

thank yous

Geauga Park District and Geauga Park District Foundation extend their gratitude to the following supporters for their generous donations during 2007

A Gift of Land

In 2007, Kenneth and Mary Ann Post donated 10 woodland acres of her family's farm on Hall Road, Claridon Township to Geauga Park District.

"Preserving a part of my parents' land is a legacy of their love for it. We are glad to give this gift and know the land is safe forever."



Legacy Circle (\$10,000 or more)

Caroline Donaldson
Jim & Donna Kewley

Preservationists (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

David Eichenmiller & Allison Gee
Richard & Christy Frenchie
Pat & John Leech
Mark, Barb & Josh Meister
Bob Page
Barry & Bonnie Pearce
Todd & Mary Ray
Keith & Mamie Tompkins
William Conway

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Joan Harris
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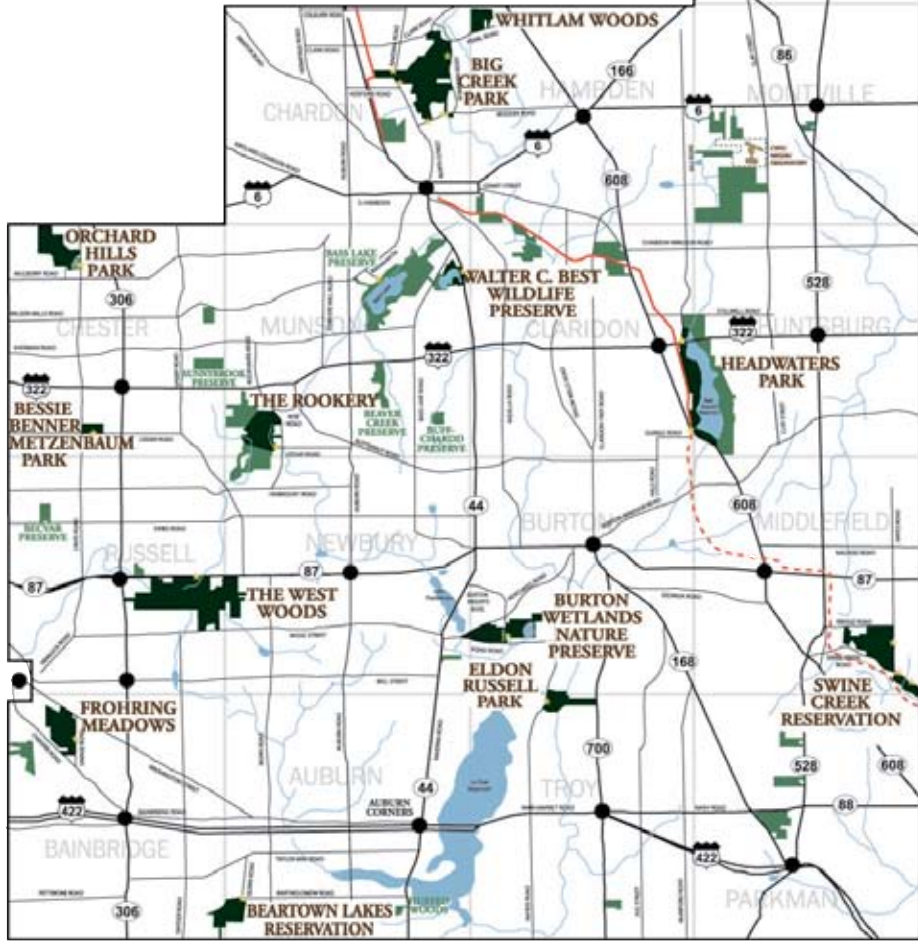
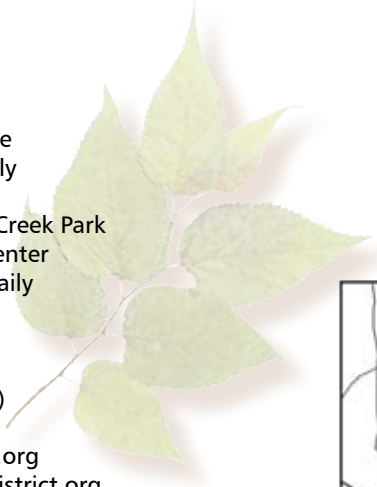
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Geauga County Chapter of the Ohio
Horsemans Council
Kinetic
Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association
Walk in the Woods Celebration
Western Reserve Federation of
Conservationists
Women's Journal

park hours

6:00 AM - 11:00 PM daily
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
is open 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM daily

Donald W. Meyer Center in Big Creek Park
and The West Woods Nature Center
are open 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM daily

For more information:
Phone: 440-286-9516
800-536-4006 (Geauga toll free)
Fax: 440-286-1285
email: info@geaugaparkdistrict.org
on the web: www.geaugaparkdistrict.org



park locations

Bass Lake Preserve
11445 Lakeview Drive, Munson Twp.

Beartown Lakes Reservation
18870 Quinn Road, Auburn and Bainbridge Twps.

Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park
7940 Cedar Road, Chester Twp.

Big Creek Park
9160 Robinson Road, Chardon

Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
15681 Old Rider Road, Burton and Newbury Twps.

Eldon Russell Park
16315 Rapids Road, Troy Twp.

Frohring Meadows
16780 Savage Road, Bainbridge Twp.

Headwaters Park
13365 Old State Road, Huntsburg and Claridon Twps.

The Maple Highlands Trail
Chardon, Claridon, and Huntsburg Twps.

Big Creek Spur
9280 Ravenna Road, Chardon

Mountain Run Station
12601 Chardon Windsor Road, Hambden Twp.

Orchard Hills Park
11414 Caves Road, Chester Twp.

Swine Creek Reservation
16004 Hayes Road, Middlefield and Parkman Twps.

The Rookery
10110 Cedar Road, Munson Twp.

The West Woods
9465 Kinsman Road (Rt. 87), Russell and Newbury Twps.

Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve
11620 Ravenna Road, Munson Twp.

Whitlam Woods
12500 Pearl Road, Hambden Twp.

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