



Geauga Park District



STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2011



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Geauga Park District



Executive Summary

Geauga Park District (GPD) has been part of modern Geauga County’s history since 1961 when the League of Women Voters petitioned Judge Robert S. Ford to establish a park system. Since that time, GPD has remained committed to our mission: “to preserve, conserve, and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide the opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate those resources.”

The purpose of the 2006-2011 Strategic Plan is to provide clear direction and a unified framework for the future of GPD. The process takes a comprehensive approach to melding goals, objectives and strategies with the values of the community to create a structured plan that addresses issues facing GPD.

While GPD’s basic functions have remained the same since 1961, areas of emphasis have shifted and staff skill sets and organizational structure have evolved to meet changing needs. To meet the challenges of the future, GPD must continue to adapt to changing trends, while always staying true to our core mission. The comprehensive analysis outlined in this strategic plan will serve as a roadmap guiding essential change and partnership building for years to come.

The Strategic Plan is divided into four sections: land acquisition and park development, partnership building, environmental stewardship and financial accountability.

Land Acquisition and Park Development:

Facility improvements and land acquisition over the next five years will specifically target those areas of the county that are currently underserved by park facilities; areas where important natural resources are present and/or threatened; and areas adjacent to existing parks and preserves.

GPD will design and provide visitor facilities and parks that are appropriate and consistent with the conservation of natural resources and the park’s mission.





Partnership Building:

GPD will seek to translate community support and interest in the parks into action, enlisting partners and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds in a wide variety of conservation, stewardship and community programs.

GPD will partner with governmental and conservation agencies at the township, county, regional, and federal level to further our mission and to promote cooperation between agencies for the benefit of the citizens of Geauga County.

Environmental Stewardship:

GPD will develop a comprehensive management plan for each park that will guide us in the wise stewardship and development of these areas.

Through interpretive and educational programs, GPD's goal will be to instill in park patrons an appreciation and enjoyment of the significance of parks and their natural resources.

Financial Accountability:

A chief objective of our strategic plan will be to establish long-term funding alternatives for capital improvements and operations in order to reduce GPD's dependence on tax supported funding. GPD will investigate all available funding opportunities to maximize the leverage of public funds with other sources of funding such as foundations, grants, public and private donations, endowments, other sources of philanthropy, and government agency funds.

Summary:

Over the next five years, GPD will acquire lands in underserved areas of the county, enhance visitor access to our parks, protect crucial natural resources, provide educational programs on Geauga's unique natural and cultural heritage through fun and engaging programs, be a leader in environmental stewardship and community partnership and seek out all available funding opportunities. GPD is committed to preserving, conserving and protecting the natural features of Geauga County and to providing opportunities for the public to enjoy those natural features. This strategic plan provides a framework to achieve that goal for the citizens today and for our future generations.

