



# Medina County Park District

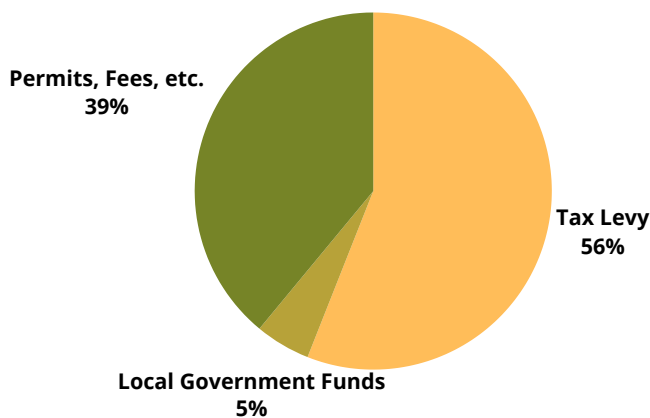
## 2023 Annual Report



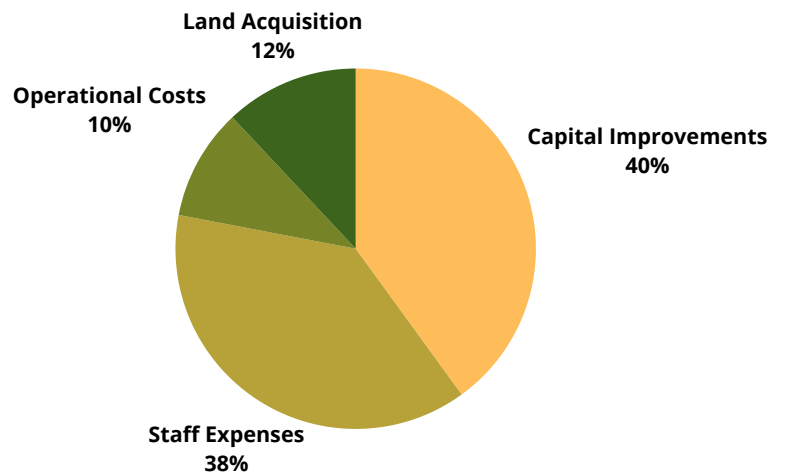
# Highlights

- Acquired 90 acres
- Staff and volunteers planted over 10,500 native trees and shrubs
- Stocked 3,865 lbs. of rainbow trout
- Seeded/established native grasses and wildflowers on 110 acres
- Offered 313 public programs with more than 16,400 participants
- Presented 44 programs to schools with 1,766 students attending
- Patrolled 48,635 miles by vehicle; 1,362 miles by foot
- 9,961 volunteer service hours from 223 active volunteers
- 104 independent volunteers participated in group projects
- Processed 907 lodge/shelter reservations serving 51,520 people
- Managed 13 reservable lodges and shelters, 21 fleet vehicles, and 36 outdoor restrooms
- Installed 6 new entrance signs and 2 interpretive maps
- Opened Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve and Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
- Rare Fish Program: raised state-threatened and endangered fish for release at Killbuck Lakes  
(103 lake chubsucker, 153 Iowa darter, 685 blackchin shiner, and 447 blacknose shiner)
- Citizen Science Wildlife Observations
  - Nestbox Monitoring - 19 locations; 133 boxes; 629 birds fledged; 3 different species
  - Butterfly Survey - 3 locations; 2,132 observations; 32 species
  - Frog Watch - 31 stations; 420 observations; 9 different species
  - Project Feeder Watch - 2 locations; 1,931 observations; 32 species
  - Audubon Bird Walks - 1 location; 755 observations; 91 species
  - Wood Duck Monitoring - 77 nestboxes; 223 ducklings

### 2023 Revenue: \$7,869,257



### 2023 Expenditures: \$6,585,180



### Additional Funding Sources

These figures are included in the calculations above in the Capital Improvements fund:  
 Friends of Medina County Parks - \$33,656  
 Ohio Department of Development H2Ohio - \$351,983



**Park District Partners with Cleveland Museum of Natural History**

Medina County Park District (MCPD) entered into a 25-year lease agreement with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to restore and manage a portion of the 69-acre Cox Nature Preserve, located on Wooster Pike Road (State Route 3) in Guilford Township. This agreement marked the first time the Museum, which stewards more than 12,300 acres of nature preserves throughout northern Ohio, partnered with a park district to develop and manage the infrastructure at one of its preserves.

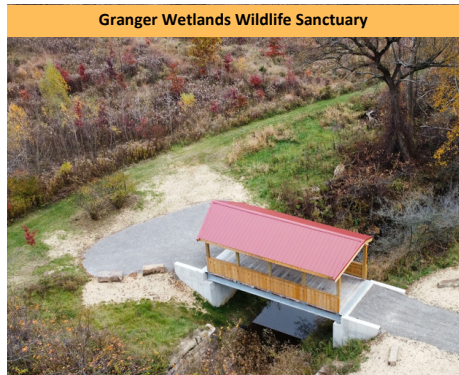


Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve opened Tuesday, June 6, 2023. The nature preserve is located at 3005 Avon Lake Road in Litchfield Township and is the first MCPD area to open in this part of the county.

Davey Resource Group and Marks Construction assisted MCPD with the transformation of the 145-acre former agricultural site, which now includes 80 acres of wetland habitat. The property is located in the Central Basin of Lake Erie with water flowing north to our Great Lake. The restoration reduces nitrogen and phosphorous loading in the watershed which can contribute to harmful algal blooms -- an issue that has plagued Lake Erie in recent years.

Public amenities include a 1.7-mile ADA-accessible crushed limestone trail, 200-foot-long boardwalk, and a 30-car parking lot.

MCPD was awarded \$900,000 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, as part of Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, to restore the site. MCPD budgeted \$300,000 of its own capital improvement dollars for public access amenities. The land was purchased by MCPD in 2009 with Clean Ohio funding. (Clean Ohio grants are administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission.)



*Chippewa Lake Park's new paddlecraft access will officially open in May 2024.*

The park district completed the enhancement of wetlands at the corner of Kennard Road and Lake Road in the Chippewa Watershed. In addition to wetland restoration, paddle-craft access and a small parking lot were constructed. This new area will offer visitors a convenient launch point for kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards on Chippewa Lake. MCPD will open this site to the public in spring 2024, and it will be open May through October each year. Governor DeWine's H2Ohio initiative funded \$100,000 of the project, with MCPD contributing the balance. The park district appreciates the continued support of Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the H2Ohio program.



Chippewa Inlet Trail is closed through summer 2024 for a wetland restoration and trail reconstruction project between Wedgewood Road (State Route 162) and Chippewa Road. The project, which began in 2023, will focus on diverting water from the Chippewa Inlet through more than 4,000 feet of linear wetland to reduce nutrients and improve water quality north of Chippewa Lake. Portions of the trail will be permanently rerouted to accommodate the wetland restoration. The project will also improve sections of the popular walking and biking trail by making it more accessible during wet weather. The portions of the trail located north of Wedgewood Road through Buckeye Woods Park will remain open during construction.

Funding for the wetland construction project is provided by H2Ohio.

Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary, located at 4023 Beachler Road in Granger Township, is the 22nd Medina County Park District (MCPD) site to open. As a mitigation project, Stream + Wetlands Foundation purchased the land in 2006 and restored the area, building a forested wetland. In 2019, Stream + Wetlands Foundation donated its 150 acres to the park district. Simultaneously, the park district purchased just over 13 acres off Beachler Road for the public entrance, increasing the wildlife sanctuary's total acreage to 163. Due to the sensitive habitat and classification as a wildlife sanctuary, pets and biking are not permitted at this site. The mowed trail is 1.31 miles long. It will remain a mowed trail due to a restrictive conservation easement on the property.

MCPD's nonprofit partner, Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc., invested more than \$200,000 in Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary to help fund the covered bridge, its concrete abutments, and the parking lot. The abutments from an old farm bridge are still present, though, as a reminder of days gone by. Many community members also contributed funds. A plaque with donor names will be mounted near the covered bridge. This is the first MCPD site with a covered pedestrian bridge, which creates a unique experience for visitors as they enter the wildlife sanctuary.

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association 2023 Annual Awards of Excellence

**The Recovery Farm at Brown-Trump Homestead Wins First-Place Award for Management Innovation**

One of three finalists for the 2023 Governor's Award for Parks and Recreation

**Established in 1965, Medina County Park District seeks to enhance the quality of all life through education, conservation, and the protection of natural resources. We manage over 8,300 acres and over 50 different trails.**

**The Honorable Kevin W. Dunn, Probate Judge**

**Kathleen E. Davis, Commissioner**  
**Dennis B. Neate, Commissioner**  
**Jason C. Venner, Commissioner**

**Nathan D. Eppink, Director**

**Park District Headquarters**  
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**Medina, OH 44256**  
**Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Monday through Friday (except holidays)**

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