



Connecting Parks to Parks. And Parks to People.

By virtually every measure, this was a historic year. Metroparks had not opened a new park in 40 years until 2015, when we opened three. A record 4 million visits to Metroparks, and land holdings surpassed more than 12,000 acres. Middlegrounds will soon be the first Metropark in downtown Toledo. Howard Marsh will be the first near the Lake Erie Shore.

As the number and variety of programs increases, and we continue to restore and protect our natural resources, our vision of connecting parks to parks and parks to people is taking shape. There has never been a better time to get outside and enjoy a Metropark. And get outside yourself.

A background image of a calm lake at sunset or sunrise, with trees silhouetted against the sky and their reflection in the water.

More Metroparks

Highlights

THREE NEW PARKS OPENED IN 2015

It's not every day—or even every decade—that the community gets a new Metropark. In 2015, we opened three parks in five months, each bringing new features to Metroparks' growing assortment of outdoor adventures. Since passage of a land levy in 2002, using local funds to leverage state grants, Metroparks has acquired additional parkland for Lucas County. Today, the park system spans 12,000 acres—a more than 60 percent increase in land holdings since the voter-approved acquisition campaign began.

WIREGRASS LAKE & WESTWINDS

Wiregrass Lake opened in June on North Eber Road in Spencer Township. The picturesque lake has a fishing dock with an accessible, roll-off canoe and kayak launch. There are three primitive campsites and a trail around the lake. Westwinds opened in October on Geiser Road in Holland with the region's first public archery range and 3D archery trail. Both have picnic shelters.

Westwinds and Wiregrass Lake are part of the Oak Openings Corridor connecting Secor and Oak Openings Preserve Metroparks. These parks are an outdoor lover's dream, with kayaking; archery; campgrounds and a guest cottage; trails for hiking, bicycling, skiing and horseback riding; and a variety of nature education and outdoor skills programs.



Wiregrass Lake



Westwinds Metropark



Fallen Timbers Battlefield

FALLEN TIMBERS BATTLEFIELD

Fallen Timbers Battlefield opened in late October with a dedication ceremony attended by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Billy Friend, chief of the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma. The battlefield is one of three sites commemorating the 1794 clash between General Anthony Wayne's Legion of the United States and Native American tribes allied with the British. Wayne's victory resulted in a treaty that led to Ohio becoming a state.

Fallen Timbers Battlefield Metropark is an Affiliated Unit of the National Park Service. Visitors enjoy a scenic interpretive walk through the woods with signs telling the story of the conflict. A bridge crosses a ravine that played a pivotal role in solving a 200-year mystery about where the battle took place. The park is connected to Side Cut and Oak Openings Preserve via the regional Wabash-Cannonball Trail.



Visitors

4M

VISITS IN 2015



RECORD NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED

An estimated 4 million visits made 2015 a record year for attendance. There were more Metroparks to visit, new activities and programs to enjoy, and exceptional weather that extended into winter. Two parks rooted in citizen action led the way in attendance. Wildwood Preserve, established because of a citizens' ballot initiative 40 years ago, had more than 1 million visits. Pearson, founded 40 years earlier thanks to determined residents of the east side, had more than 600,000 visits.



Side Cut Metropark

27K

MANOR HOUSE VISITORS

A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

A 40 year tradition at the Manor House continues and grows. Each year, volunteers decorate the 30,000-square-foot estate home at Wildwood Preserve and invite the community in to celebrate the holidays. This year, a record 27,400 people toured the home over nine days.

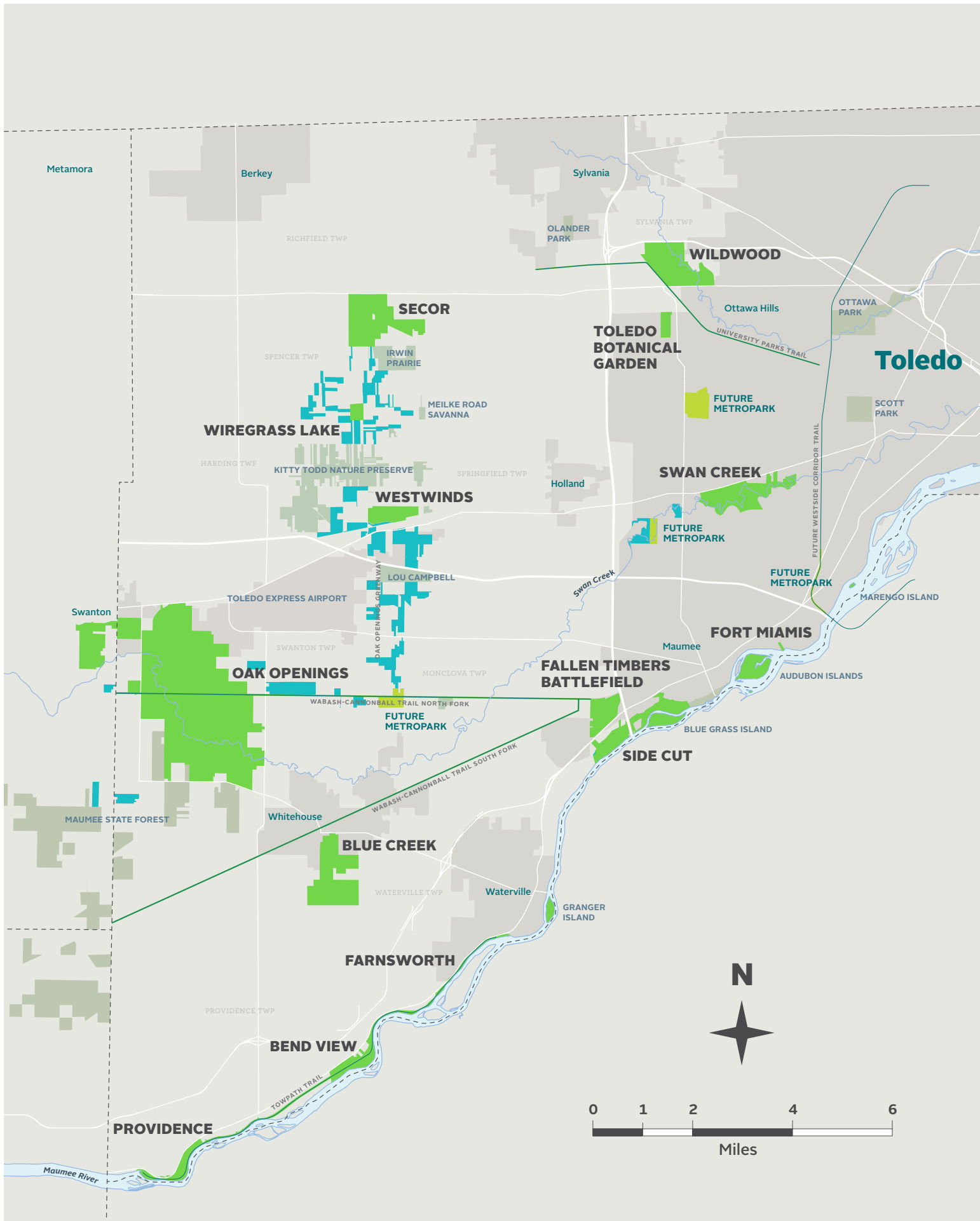


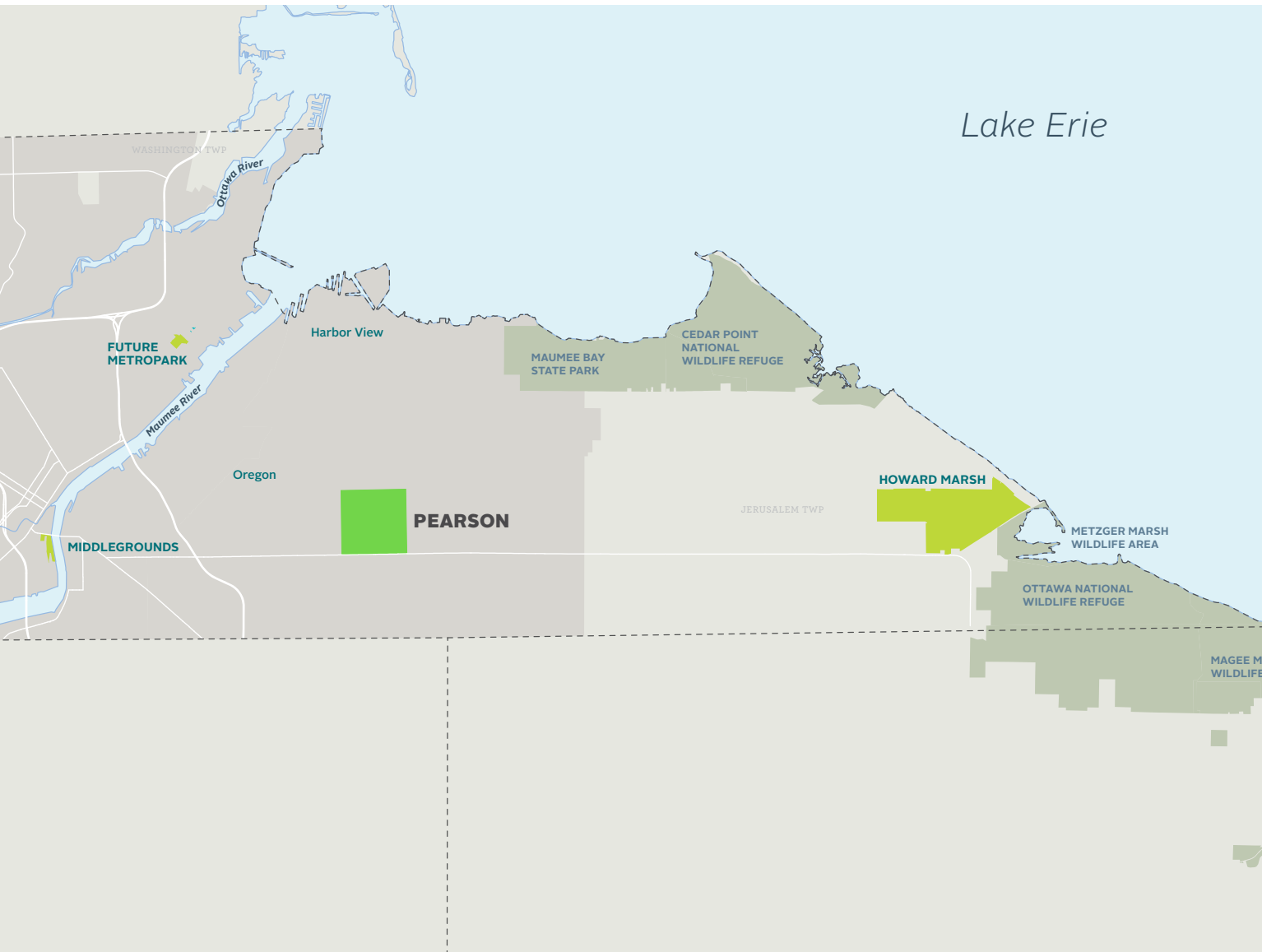
16K

S'MORES SERVED

S'MORE FUN

S'mores may not be a holiday tradition for your family, but they are becoming one at Wildwood. Holiday visitors toasted 16,000 marshmallows over campfires at The Andersons welcome tent to make the gooey, chocolaty, graham cracker sandwiches during their visit to the decorated house.





CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PARKS

Soon, every Lucas County resident will be within five miles of a Metropark. This milestone is the result of new projects being completed and new corridors and greenways connecting the parks, making them more accessible than ever before.



MAP LEGEND

-  INTERSTATES
-  MAJOR ROADWAYS
-  WATERWAY
-  METROPARKS OF THE TOLEDO AREA
-  FUTURE METROPARKS
-  RESTRICTED/LIMITED ACCESS METROPARKS PROPERTY
-  OTHER PARKS & PRESERVES
-  MUNICIPALITY



Projects and Programs



OUTDOOR SKILLS

- Archery
- Bicycling
- Birding
- Camping
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Climbing on playgrounds
- Cross-country skiing
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Ice Skating
- Photography
- Running
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding

ENGAGING AND EDUCATING

More than 83,000 people participated in educational nature, heritage and skill-building programs in 2015. Special events included an Outdoor Adventure Expo attended by 4,000 people, the annual Happy Trails 5K, three Under the Moon after-dark runs—and the first BugFest. Another 9,800 people traveled back in time aboard The Volunteer canal boat at Providence while others toured the Manor House or viewed the work of nationally-known photographers at the National Center for Nature Photography at Secor.



Secor Metropark



Clean, Safe, Natural.

SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camp attendance was up 121 percent in 2015, with 1,000 more young day-campers than the year before.

FAMILY MEMORIES

Families, clubs, business and other groups designed their own events in the Metroparks, from weddings to reunions and church picnics. Income from rental facilities increased 10 percent in 2015.

VOLUNTEERS

More than 5,000 volunteers contributed nearly 48,000 hours of service to keep the parks clean, safe and natural. Members of the Volunteer Trail Patrol set out on foot, bike and horseback to give assistance to visitors. Other volunteers lent a hand managing natural areas, assisting with programs, interpreting the parks for visitors, maintaining parks and trails, doing administrative work and helping at special events. We couldn't do it without them.

Looking Forward

Future Projects



COMING SOON

- Dog Off-Leash Area
Middlegrounds
- Trail Loops,
Observation Tower
Pearson (North)
- Trail Improvements
with Boardwalk
Secor, Oak Openings
Corridor
- Canoe/Kayak
Landings
Providence,
Middlegrounds,
Howard Marsh
- Playground
Replacements
Wildwood,
Oak Openings

Introducing:
*Middlegrounds
& Howard Marsh
Metroparks*



Middlegrounds Metropark



Howard Marsh Metropark

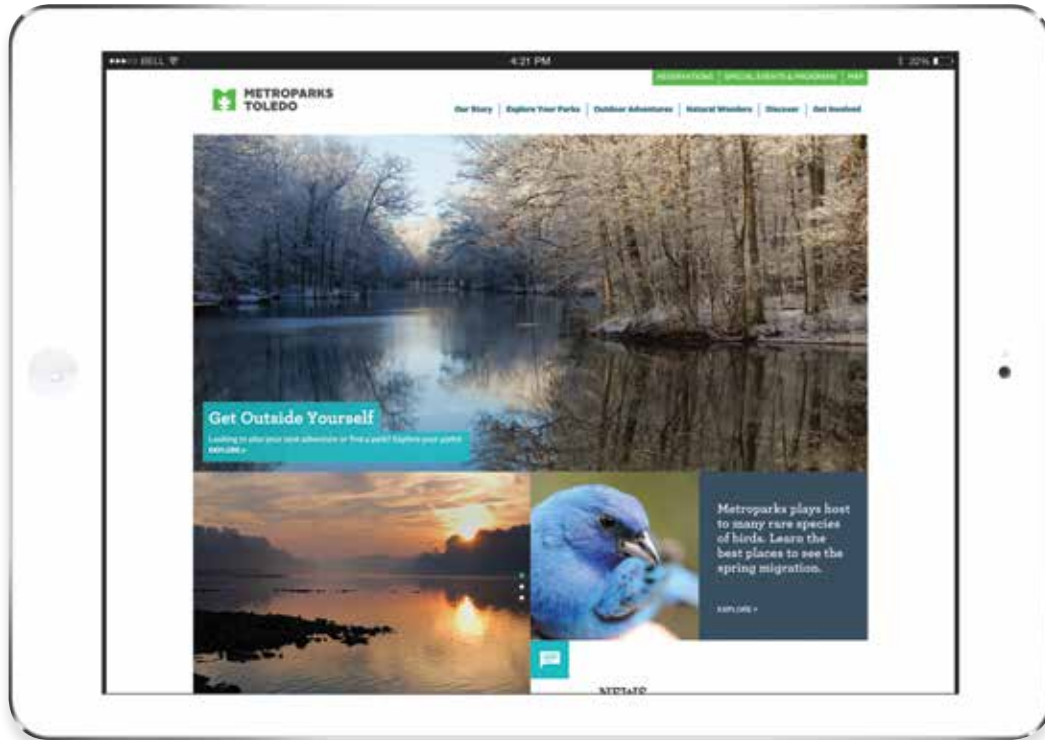
MIDDLEGROUNDS COMING DOWNTOWN

Middlegrounds in downtown Toledo will be the next Metropark. Scheduled to open in the fall, the new park under the Anthony Wayne Bridge will be an oasis in the heart of the city. With views looking up and down river, a kayak lagoon, trails and an innovative system for capturing and cleaning water runoff from the historic bridge, Middlegrounds will add interesting features for those living, working and visiting downtown. A new picnic facility sponsored by the Rotary Club of Toledo will be a focal point of the park and a place for groups to gather.

HOWARD MARSH ON THE HORIZON

When it opens in 2017, Howard Marsh in Jerusalem Township will be the second largest Metropark, and the closest to the Lake Erie shore. It will have a restored marsh to provide critical habitat for migrating birds in the “warbler capital” of the world, plus a new water trail and dike-top hiking trail for park visitors.

New Brand and Materials



METROPARKS TOLEDO

IDENTITY

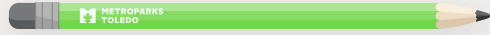
Metroparks is announcing a new brand identity to bring a fresh look to a bright future. The iconic “M” with stylized oak leaf continues the tradition of the oak tree used since the late 1990s, but in a format more suited to small screens where more people today get their information. The name of the agency, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, remains the same, but as in the past, it is shortened to Metroparks Toledo for immediate recognition.

WEBSITE

An all new MetroparksToledo.com replaces a decade-old site developed before the revolution in mobile communications put the internet in everyone’s pocket. An interactive map will help park users navigate trails, while the bold, colorful graphics of beautiful scenery will invite visitors to explore all that northwest Ohio has to offer.

GET OUTSIDE YOURSELF

The new slogan, “Get Outside Yourself,” is an invitation—even a gentle nudge—to look beyond yourself and your own neighborhood to discover the natural treasures found in our region. The Toledo area has beautiful natural areas, and spending time in nature is good for the body and soul.



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METROPARKS TOLEDO

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Legacy

LEGACY

For nearly 90 years, Metroparks has been a natural backdrop for a long walk in the woods, a healthy run on the trails, a family picnic near a playground or just a beautiful place to simply be.

Today, this is truer than ever.

Millions of visitors each year make Metroparks a part of their lives and traditions. They are connected to the more than 12,000 acres of unique natural habitat through experiences that enrich them, inspire them, challenge them and calm the spirit.

To ensure that Metroparks will be here to continue to connect this and future generations, funding is needed.



Wildwood Metropark



Fallen Timbers Monument

PLANNED GIVING

Make planned giving a part of your Metroparks connection. By leaving a legacy, you ensure future generations will benefit from the natural beauty and historical significance that makes this park district an indispensable component of the quality of life, wellness and vitality of our community.

Planned Gifts may be tailored to suit donors' individual needs, designated for a specific Metroparks project or given as an undesignated gift.

METROPARKS OF THE TOLEDO AREA

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Scott J. Savage
PRESIDENT

Lera Doneghy
VICE-PRESIDENT

Fritz Byers
VICE-PRESIDENT

METROPARKS ADMINISTRATION

Stephen W. Madewell
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dave Zenk
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Matt Cleland
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Financials

2015 REVENUE

\$22.0 M

Local Property Taxes

\$16.2 M

Donations, Federal/State Grants

\$5.2 M

Income From Fees

\$600 K

2015 EXPENSES

\$21.9 M

Salaries/Personnel

\$8.9 M

Land Acquisition

\$4.5 M

Park Development/Major Maintenance

\$4.0 M

Park Operations, Utilities, Materials, etc.

\$4.5 M

LEADING IN TRANSPARENCY

Metroparks was the first park system and special district in Ohio to commit to posting its spending on OhioCheckbook.com, becoming only the second government entity in Lucas County to volunteer to share its finances in this new, accessible way. Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced the partnership with Metroparks at a July meeting of the Rotary Club of Toledo.

When the information is posted this year, OhioCheckbook.com will bring greater access and a user friendly format that will help to facilitate a high level of transparency. Metroparks believes it will be an important tool to help the community understand how its tax dollars are being spent.