



metroparks
TOLEDO AREA

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk with a railing, leading through a misty forest. The boardwalk is made of dark wood and has a railing with vertical slats. The forest is dense with trees, and the mist is thick, creating a serene atmosphere. The boardwalk curves to the right in the distance.

Metroparks of the Toledo Area
2014 Annual Report

A Year in Your Metroparks



3,464,379 Visitors

Visitors to the Metroparks in 2014 could fill every seat in Mud Hens stadium more than 387 times.

81,783 Program Participants

People of all ages attended 990 public or requested educational programs. That many students would fill Driscoll Center Auditorium at the University of Toledo 235 times.

11,736 Acres of Land

18 square miles of land (more than 500 million square feet!) preserved your region's natural heritage, keeping the Toledo Region green and adding value to the community.

120 Miles of Trail

If you hiked every mile of trail in the Metroparks, it would be like walking from Toledo to Detroit – and back.

At Least 127,866 Memories

That's how many people attended 2,584 private functions, from family reunions in park shelters to weddings in natural settings as memorable as the occasion.

4,585 Dedicated Helpers

Volunteers donated more than 47,000 hours of their time to keep the parks clean, safe and natural. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a great year!

FINANCES

at a

GLANCE

2014 Revenue

\$19.2 million

Local property taxes	\$ 15.7 million
Donations, federal/state grants	\$ 2.5 million
Income from fees	\$ 1.0 million

2014 Expenses

\$22.4 million

Salaries/personnel	\$ 8.3 million
Land acquisition	\$ 3.0 million
Park development/major maintenance	\$ 6.3 million
Park operations, utilities, materials, etc.	\$ 4.8 million

2014 Will Be Remembered For...

A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a vibrant red flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

The elevated boardwalk and covered bridge connecting the east and west sides of Wildwood Preserve Metropark (pictured on the cover) reopened after months of reconstruction.

A record number of people – nearly 21,000 – attended Holidays in the Manor House to admire the decorations by volunteers and make a freshly-toasted s'more at a new welcome tent sponsored by The Andersons.

The National Center for Nature Photography, Window on Wildlife and Secor Room at Secor Metropark reopened after an extensive renovation.

Staff and volunteers connected with people at 87 community events, from festivals to parades. Elementary students came to the Metroparks during 15 days of after-school field trips. And three new mascots – Otis, Owlberta and Boggs – joined the staff.

New picnic shelters and playgrounds opened at Farnsworth and Pearson Metroparks. A new Heritage Center opened at The Canal Experience at Providence Metropark.

The first Outdoor Skills Expo in May at Side Cut Metropark debuted outdoor skills programs such as archery and kayaking that are now offered on a regular basis.

More than 2,000 people camped during the first full season of the White Oak Campground at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark, where the Caretaker's Cottage also opened for overnight accommodations. Historic Adirondack shelters at Farnsworth were restored to provide another, unique camping option.

The Old Guard of the U.S. Army marched in to help celebrate the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Fallen Timbers, where the famed fife and drum corps began.

Looking Ahead: A Master Plan

Comprehensive Master Plan: Today, Tomorrow Our Future

In 2014, the Metroparks completed a three part comprehensive plan that will serve as a roadmap for today, tomorrow and our future.

Maintaining and Protecting Existing Resources and Services

The Metroparks consist of 10 stand-alone parks that are the foundation of the park district today. We will continue to focus on what we're best at – protecting habitat and providing clean safe natural areas for people and wildlife to enjoy. We will also continue to provide informative educational programs for children and adults, encouraging appropriate use and appreciation of the Metroparks and all of the natural resources of northwest Ohio. Metroparks remains committed to being fiscally conservative, pursuing grants and outside funding whenever possible.

Completing Projects The comprehensive plan establishes timelines for the completion of a number of important projects and provides guidelines for sustainable, controlled growth.

Over the next decade, the park district will complete projects that were initiated years ago, which will result in several new park areas. When they are completed, everyone in Lucas County will live within five miles of a Metropark.

Planning For The Future Looking ahead, as projects are completed Metroparks will slowly transition resources from a development to an operational mode. Today, tomorrow and in the future Metroparks will continue to play a contributing role in important issues facing northwest Ohio, including: regional identity, environmental and personal health, the preservation of habitat and open space, and maintaining or improving a myriad of quality-of-life indicators.

While Metroparks reflects on 87 years of conservation, education and recreation with much pride, we're also excited to have a comprehensive master plan in place to help guide the operation and development of the park district over the next two decades.

Connecting people to nature is and will continue to be a priority for the park system. Metroparks

enhances the lives of millions of visitors each year. We encourage everyone to get out of doors, connect with the world around us and discover the breathtaking natural beauty of your Metroparks.

Metroparks of the Toledo Area Board of Park Commissioners

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