



**Metro Parks
2009 Budget**

The Year in Review - 2008

This has been another productive year for the Metro Parks system, and one that has been thoroughly enjoyed by the park visitors. By year's end, over 6,000,000 visitors will have enjoyed free outdoor recreational and educational activities in the Metro Parks. The parks and facilities continue to be clean, safe and well maintained even as new facilities are opened for public enjoyment.

Scioto Audubon Metro Park remained a focus and significant progress was made in preparing the site for park development. Audubon Ohio's Grange Insurance Audubon Center is under construction with an anticipated completion next summer. Metro Parks provided strong support of Audubon Ohio in their effort to get their facility under construction. Progress has been made towards addressing impacted soils, and Ohio EPA has granted a No Further Action letter for a portion of the property that recognizes that the environmental cleanup has met the appropriate standards. The City of Columbus vacated most of the Recreation and Parks facilities and has made progress towards relocating the impound lot. The City is considering a variety of alternatives with respect to the portion of the Whittier Peninsula that is not leased to Metro Parks, including consideration for enlarging the size and scope of the Metro Park.

Progress was achieved constructing Greenway trails. The trail north of Three Creeks along Alum Creek will soon be finished all the way to Livingston Avenue, with the final gap in the trail at Petzinger Road in its final construction stages. Plans are approved for construction of the Blacklick Creek Greenway Trail bridge over US 33, and the section of the trail from Blacklick Woods to Tussing Road is under construction. The Darby Creek Greenway Trail in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park was constructed from Cedar Ridge to near Broad Street. Additional trail improvements were made throughout the park system.

The school initiative was expanded to include more schools. Programs and activities for seniors were significantly expanded and continue to be well received. Over 300,000 people will participate in Metro Parks' educational programs this year.

The park system will grow by 875 acres this year. The first parcels for the planned new parks near New Albany and along Little Walnut Creek were acquired. Grants and income from municipal partners for land acquisition will exceed \$7 million in 2008. These additional acres will bring Metro Parks' total conserved acreage to over 24,400 acres at year's end.

The Year Ahead - 2009

A primary focus of the coming year will be on passage of the Metro Parks levy. The levy will be submitted to the voters after approval by the Park Board. Planning for the levy includes determining commitments for the next ten years and determination of the necessary millage. It is currently anticipated that the levy will be submitted to the voters in May.

The budget is largely a continuation proposal with a focus on maintaining current facilities and programs as we await the outcome of the Metro Parks levy. Some purchase of equipment and expansion of facilities and programs will be delayed pending the outcome.

The coming year should remain productive for Metro Parks. We anticipate making substantial progress on numerous initiatives. The attached budget provides funds for continued progress at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, including environmental remediation and park construction; additional improvements to the Greenways system and other trails; and upgrades to facilities throughout the park system. Acquisition of an easement from the Camp Chase Railroad will allow Metro Parks to begin construction of the Ohio to Erie Trail.

We will continue with the third year of the Metro Parks Urban Conservation Corps. The Urban Conservation Corps provides jobs, training and conservation education for at-risk youth. The Corps members will complete projects in the Metro Parks while learning skills and gaining exposure to conservation careers.

Land acquisition in 2009 will be limited to projects that are financially supported by grants or contributions from other governments. Grant funding is available for acquisition in the Rocky Fork Headwaters area in northeast Franklin County and along Hellbranch Run in southwest Franklin County. A Clean Ohio grant has been approved for a purchase of land near Big Darby Creek. We will continue to acquire lands to protect natural resources and to provide outdoor recreation and educational opportunities.

Habitat restoration projects will continue in 2009. Grants will assist with funding of four habitat improvement projects along Big Darby Creek. In addition, a new wetland mitigation bank will be established in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park in partnership with the Ohio Wetlands Foundation. These projects should provide water quality benefits, help attract and retain wildlife in the Metro Parks and be an attraction for park visitors.

The attached budget provides \$10.97 million for salaries and benefits, \$5.11 million for operations and administration, \$9.57 million for capital improvements, and \$9.9 million for land acquisition. Efforts will continue to augment tax dollars through soliciting donations, grants and appropriations. These funds will ensure maintenance of the high quality of the current Metro Parks while making significant progress towards improving services for the public.

We all recognize the critical importance passage of the Metro Parks levy in 2009, and it is critical that the Park Board determines appropriate terms for the levy. We will work diligently to inform the community about the benefits that would be realized with passage of the levy.

On behalf of the management team of Metro Parks, we respectfully present the 2009 Budget for Metro Parks. With your support, Metro Parks will continue to provide safe, clean, well-managed parks for the citizens of Central Ohio and will continue to plan for the open space and passive outdoor recreation needs of the community for decades to come.

Respectfully submitted,
John R. O'Meara
Executive Director

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METRO PARKS GOALS

For the Year 2009

1. Maintain clean, safe parks. Provide enjoyable and informative outdoor experiences for more than six million visitors. Maintain high standards for facilities and services at all parks.
2. Complete plans for Metro Parks for the next ten years that will be funded by the Metro Parks levy. Disseminate information to the community about the levy plans. Submit plans for consideration by the Park Board. Initiate levy funded activities if the levy is approved by the voters.
3. Continue environmental remediation work and construction of park improvements at Scioto Audubon Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula. Cooperate and support Audubon's effort to complete construction and begin utilization of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in the park.
4. Continue the educational initiative to assist school children in learning science concepts and to provide knowledge of the Earth's environment in cooperation with local school districts. Provide quality interpretive programming at all parks.
5. Continue programming opportunities for senior citizens to enjoy and learn in the parks through interpretive programs and on the tram. Provide interesting and informative programs and events designed for seniors throughout the Metro Parks and at senior centers.
6. Acquire easement and begin construction of the Ohio to Erie Trail along the Camp Chase railroad corridor. Extend Greenway trails along Blacklick Creek and Big Darby Creek. Cooperate with ODOT to construct the Blacklick Creek bridge over US 33 and trail extensions under interstates. Begin construction of the Big Walnut Greenway Trail. Improve trail access through Inniswood.
7. Continue the Metro Parks Urban Conservation Corps. Hire at-risk youth to assist on Metro Parks' projects. Provide training and exposure to conservation professions.
8. Complete habitat restoration projects to improve water quality of Big Darby Creek. Complete the stream improvement project along the channelized section of Hellbranch Run near its confluence with Big Darby Creek. Cooperate on the Big Darby-Hellbranch Wetland Mitigation Bank project. Cooperate with the Columbus Regional Airport Authority to help them meet their mitigation needs. Plant replacement trees in picnic areas and at restoration projects.
9. Acquire land with funds received through grants and partnerships. Acquire land for the proposed new Metro Park in Plain Township utilizing funds provided by

Columbus and New Albany. Complete acquisitions with funds from Clean Ohio program and Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program.

10. Continue developing and supporting partnerships that enhance the benefits that Metro Parks provides to the community. Continue involvement in regional planning efforts and cooperative efforts to protect Darby Creek and to improve the Greenways system. Support implementation of the conservation components of the Darby Accord.
11. Train and equip park staff to provide outstanding customer service. Provide staff with tools and training to perform their jobs efficiently and effectively. Work on continuous improvement of employee relations. Strive to create a work force that is representative of the community.
12. Increase public awareness of Metro Parks and conservation issues through newspaper, television and radio publicity. Promote the endless benefits that Metro Parks provides to the community. Continue to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage visitors to utilize trails in the Metro Parks. Fulfill commitments of the Green Pact that was signed with local governments.
13. Manage financial resources wisely. Continue to improve financial reporting. Seek additional funding through grants, appropriations, and partnerships.

**2009 Financial Summary
Combined General, Capital and Enterprise Funds**

ESTIMATED ENDING CASH BALANCE - 12/31/08		\$ 12,040,000 *
Add: New Revenues		<u>\$ 27,833,000</u>
Total Available Cash Resources		\$ 39,873,000
 Less: Budgeted Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits, excluding golf course	\$ 10,080,000	
Operating and Administrative	\$ 4,781,000	
Enterprise Fund - Golf Course		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 833,000	
Operating	<u>\$ 328,500</u>	
Total Operating Budget	\$ 16,022,500	
Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 9,575,000	
Capital Improvement Projects-Golf Course	\$ -	
Land Acquisition	\$ 9,900,000	
Total Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 35,497,500</u>
 ESTIMATED 12/31/09 CASH BALANCE, IF ALL APPROPRIATIONS ARE FULLY EXPENDED		 <u>\$ 4,375,500</u>

* - Note the ending cash balance for 2008 includes \$ 7,191,000 in restricted funds.
These funds are from grants Metro Parks has received relating to land acquisition
and capital projects

Projected Changes in Fund Balances

BUDGET AMOUNTS:

	FUND 27 GENERAL FUND <u>Total</u>	FUND 29 CAPITAL <u>Total</u>	FUND 30 ENTERPRISE <u>Total</u>	ALL FUNDS <u>Total</u>
Projected New Revenue				
Public Sources:				
Tax Levy	12,699,000			12,699,000
Local Government Fund	4,856,000			4,856,000
Grants	-	6,900,000		6,900,000
Total Public Sources	\$ 17,555,000	\$ 6,900,000	\$ -	\$ 24,455,000
Earned Income from Operations:				
Golf Courses			1,100,000	1,100,000
Concessions & Shelter Fees	235,000			235,000
Interpretive Program	60,000			60,000
House & Land Rental	200,000			200,000
Total Earned Income	\$ 495,000	\$ -	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,595,000
Interest Income	\$ 250,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 350,000
Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions		\$ 1,385,000		\$ 1,385,000
Donations & Bequests	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,000		\$ 18,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000		\$ 30,000
Total 2009 Projected Revenue by Fund	\$ 18,340,000	\$ 8,393,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 27,833,000
Projected Expenditures:				
Salaries	7,307,000		601,000	\$ 7,908,000
Fringe Benefits	1,584,000		140,000	1,724,000
PERS	1,084,000		83,000	1,167,000
Medicare	105,000		9,000	114,000
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 10,080,000		\$ 833,000	\$ 10,913,000
Admin	\$ 1,649,470			\$ 1,649,470
Promotion	735,600			735,600
Park Maintenance	1,234,780		-	1,234,780
Safety & Law Enforcement	267,110			267,110
Revenue Programs	36,900		328,500	365,400
Rental Properties	167,960			167,960
Education/Interpretive Operations	252,805			252,805
Natural Resource Management	130,075			130,075
Special Facilities	126,300			126,300
Renovations	180,000			180,000
Operating Expenses	\$ 4,781,000	\$ -	\$ 328,500	\$ 5,109,500
Site Improvements		\$ 6,290,000		\$ 6,290,000
Building Construction		-		-
Facility Improvements		3,025,000		3,025,000
Utilities		-		-
Natural Resource Improvements		210,000		210,000
Planning		50,000		50,000
Miscellaneous		-		-
Capital Improvement Projects		\$ 9,575,000	\$ -	\$ 9,575,000
Land Acquisition		\$ 9,900,000		\$ 9,900,000
2009 Projected Expenditures by Fund	\$ 14,861,000	\$ 19,475,000	\$ 1,161,500	\$ 35,497,500
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	\$ 3,479,000	\$ (11,082,000)	\$ (61,500)	\$ (7,664,500)
Projected Balance 12/31/2008	\$ 5,848,000	\$ 5,791,000	\$ 401,000	\$ 12,040,000
Transfer to / (from) Fund	\$ (5,292,000)	\$ 5,292,000		\$ -
Estimated Balance 12/31/2009	\$ 4,035,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 339,500	\$ 4,375,500

**Projected Income Statement
Enterprise Fund - Fund 30
Blacklick Woods Golf Course Operations**

	2008 Projected Actual	2009 Budget
<u>REVENUES</u>		
Golf fees, cart rental, merchandise, concessions	\$ 1,046,000	\$ 1,100,000
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Personnel:		
Salaries	567,000	601,000
Benefits, PERS, Medicare	216,000	232,000
Total Personnel Costs	\$ 783,000	\$ 833,000
Operating Costs (non-personnel)	298,000	328,500
Capital Improvement Projects		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,081,000	\$ 1,161,500
NET INCOME	\$ (35,000)	\$ (61,500)
 ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/08		\$ 401,000
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS		\$ -
ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/09		\$ 339,500

Sources of Revenue

Metro Parks has three designated categories of revenue: public sources (taxes and government grants), operational fees (earned income) and other revenue (donations, interest income, etc.). The total new revenue estimated for 2009 is \$27,833,000. The following narratives provide an explanation for each source of revenue.

PUBLIC SOURCES

Based on estimates for 2009 from the Franklin County Auditor, and projections of the current year receipts, Metro Parks is projecting a decrease in its public revenue sources from the projected actual revenue for 2008. Property tax revenues are projected to decrease by \$1,735,000, or 12%, based upon projections from the Budget Commission. The Local Government Fund is projected to increase by \$55,000 over the projected actual for 2008. Grant revenue is projected to increase by 27% or \$1,455,000. The grants revenue will be for land acquisition and as such will be restricted to that purpose.

Sources of revenue defined:

Property tax levy – A 0.65-mill levy on real and personal property passed in Franklin County in May, 1999, with receipts to be received by Metro Parks in the ten-year period 2000 through 2009. Levy funds (\$12,699,000,000) will be deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27). Some of these funds will be transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 29) (\$5,292,000).

Local Government Fund (LGF) - A portion of State of Ohio taxes, CAT tax revenue, are distributed to local governments pursuant to state law. The undivided Local Government Fund distribution is allocated among the political subdivisions located within Franklin County by the Franklin County Budget Commission. Metro Parks receives a 5.5% allocation of Franklin County's undivided LGF apportionment (\$4,856,000). Proceeds must be used for operational purposes and are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27).

Government Grants – The Federal and State governments provide funding opportunities to assist local governments with projects and programs. Metro Parks has applied for and been approved for grants with funding from the Clean Ohio Fund, and the WRRSP (Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program). Metro Parks anticipates applying for additional grants in the coming year. The anticipated proceeds (\$6,900,000) will be deposited in Fund 29.

Sources Of Revenue, continued

OPERATIONAL SOURCES

Enterprise Fund income - Receipts generated in the operation of the Blacklick Woods Golf Courses, including, but not limited to, greens fees, cart rental, and the food and banquet facility concession are considered earned income and recorded in the Enterprise Fund of Metro Parks. Income from the golf course operations for 2009 is projected to increase from the 2008 season. The increase projected for the golf course is a modest increase based on more promotion, increased awareness, and a modest increase in fees. (Fund 30). \$1,100,000

Income from Other Operations - The following activities generate revenues, which are intended to cover costs but are not operated as enterprise activities. We are anticipating a slight decrease in revenue from 2008. Receipts are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27). \$495,000

Shelter and room fees - Fees charged to cover the costs of cleaning and maintaining reservable picnic shelters, lodges, and meeting rooms.

Concessions - Receipts from vendors under contract with Metro Parks to deliver specified goods and services for which park visitors pay a fee. Concessionaire contracts exist for disc golf course operation and vending machines, and in Fund 30 for the golf course activities building.

Interpretive receipts - Charges that cover the costs of materials and services used to provide nature education presentations. Also included are receipts from sales of items of interest to park visitors, made available as a convenience to them.

Rentals - House rental and agricultural land lease payments.

OTHER SOURCES

Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions – Contributions to Metro Parks by City of Dublin for Glacier Ridge Metro Park and by the City of Columbus for the purchase of land at the proposed Metro Park in northeast Franklin County. \$1,385,000

Income from investment - Revenues earned on funds in various Metro Parks bank accounts and investment securities. Allowed investments include STAR Ohio; U.S. Treasury Bills, Notes and Bonds; securities issued by federal agencies; bonds of the state of Ohio; certificates of deposit; and repurchase agreements with qualified banks. Interest rates have hovered around the 2 to 3% range. We are projecting revenue based a 3% return. Income is recorded in both the General Fund (Fund 27) and Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 29). \$350,000

Donations and bequests - Bequests, which generate receipts on a regular basis, and one-time donations, are recorded here. We are projecting donations based on last year's level. \$18,000

Miscellaneous - all other revenue and non-revenue receipts in small or unpredictable amounts. These include court fines, damage settlements, refunds on prior year payments, reimbursements, sales of salvage and fixed assets, sales of specifications

Sources Of Revenue, continued

and plans for Metro Parks' capital improvement projects. We are projecting miscellaneous revenue based on last years' level. \$50,000

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Four trust funds have been established in honor of Allen F. Beck, J.C. Hambleton, E.S. Thomas, and Marian K. and Albert H. Thomas, which are in the Metro Parks' treasury. The Beck Fund and the Marian K. and Albert H. Thomas are expendable (i.e. principal and earnings are expendable), while the other two are classified as non-expendable (only interest earned on the principal may be used). The aggregate balance of these trust funds is projected to be \$581,000 (excluding the funds managed by the Columbus Foundation) by December 31, 2008. The trust funds projected earnings for 2009 is \$17,000.

In addition, the Columbus Foundation manages the Inniswood Fund for Metro Parks. The balance of this fund is projected to remain at \$458,000. This fund generates about \$15,000 per year that is recorded with donations or operating grants.

REVENUES AND COMBINED FUND BALANCES

	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2008 Projected Actual 10/31/2008	2009 Budget	08 Proj. Act. v. '09 Inc (Dec)	% Change Inc (Dec)
NEW REVENUES: GOVT (27,28, 29) & ENTERPRISE (30) FUNDS						
Public Sources:						
Property Tax Levy - .65 mill	13,904,000	13,000,000	14,434,000	12,699,000	(1,735,000)	-12.0%
LGF	4,439,000	4,955,000	4,801,000	4,856,000	55,000	1.1%
LGRAFF	475,000	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Grants	1,284,000	3,640,000	5,445,000	6,900,000	1,455,000	26.7%
Grants - Loan Forgiven						
Total Public Sources	20,102,000	21,595,000	24,680,000	24,455,000	(225,000)	-0.9%
Operational Sources:						
Revenues from Golf Course Operations	1,101,000	1,200,000	1,046,000	1,100,000	54,000	5.2%
Revenues from Incidental Operations:						
Concessions & Shelter Fees	237,000	250,000	241,000	235,000	(6,000)	-2.5%
Interpretive Programs	104,000	56,000	58,000	60,000	2,000	3.4%
House & Land Rental	118,000	98,000	203,000	200,000	(3,000)	-1.5%
Total Income from Operational Sources	1,560,000	1,604,000	1,548,000	1,595,000	47,000	3.0%
Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions	385,000	3,810,000	5,476,000	1,385,000	(4,091,000)	-74.7%
Wetland Credits	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Income from Investment	763,000	550,000	395,000	350,000	(45,000)	-11.4%
Donations & Bequests	38,000	40,000	18,000	18,000	-	0.0%
Miscellaneous Receipts (incl salvage sale)	114,000	64,000	50,000	30,000	(20,000)	-40.0%
TOTAL NEW REVENUES	22,962,000	27,663,000	32,167,000	27,833,000	(4,334,000)	-13.5%
LOAN PROCEEDS - Net						
TOTAL BALANCES FROM PRIOR YEAR - GOVT & ENTERPRISE	12,727,000	11,069,000	11,069,000	12,040,000 proj. 12/31/2008	971,000	8.8%
BALANCES PLUS NEW REVENUES - GOVT & ENTERPRISE	35,689,000	38,732,000	43,236,000	39,873,000	(3,363,000)	-7.8%
FIDUCIARY FUNDS PRIOR BALANCE						
Expendable (Beck & Thomas)	152,000	152,000	152,000	198,000	46,000	30.3%
Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	275,000	275,000	275,000	285,000	10,000	3.6%
Non-Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	98,000	98,000	98,000	98,000	-	0.0%
Non-Expendable (Inniswood Fund-Cols Found.)	458,000	458,000	458,000	458,000	-	0.0%
Add:						
Current Year Projected Income	25,000	26,000	16,000	17,000	1,000	6.3%
Donations & Bequests	31,000		40,000			
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	35,745,000	38,758,000	43,292,000	40,929,000	(2,363,000)	-5.5%

Summary of Non-Personnel Operating and Administrative Expenditures

The budget for Operations is allocated to accomplish Metro Parks' goal of providing clean, safe parks for the residents of Franklin County and Central Ohio. There are two components in the operations budget. The first component is the operations area, which covers all of the parks' budgets and also budget centers that relate directly to park operations. The second component is administration and this covers the headquarters' functions and budget centers that have district wide responsibilities.

The 2009 budget for Operations is \$1,913,000 and the Administration budget is \$2,868,000 for a total operating budget of \$4,781,000. This includes all operating costs except the Golf Course and personnel costs. An unusual administrative cost for 2009 is the \$700,000 budgeted for the cost of submitting the Metro Parks' levy to the voters. The Operations budget is appropriated under the general fund (Fund 27). The budget for the Golf Course operations is \$326,500, which is appropriated under the Enterprise Fund (Fund 30).

Equipment purchases are included in the operating budget, and will be approved by Resolution of the Board of Park Commissioners prior to purchase if the cost is \$25,000 or greater. A list with a \$15,000 threshold of the largest budgeted equipment items is presented later in this document. In prior years equipment has been a separate category, however in this and future years equipment will be classified according to the program in which it is utilized to comply with how equipment is reported on our accrual basis financial statements. Therefore if a piece of equipment is utilized for park maintenance it will be classified in the park maintenance program category.

Metro Parks will continue to support the Greenways Program at the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). This support is provided to MORPC for the collaborative and administrative costs of the Greenways Program in the amount of \$45,000. Metro Parks also has a contractual relationship with the Ohio Wildlife Center. Ohio Wildlife Center provides care for injured wildlife and animals used for educational programs, live animals for Metro Parks programs, training for park staff, and a hotline for care of wild animals at a cost of \$14,500.

Operations and Administration Budget Analysis of Changes

The proposed operational budget for Fund 27, (excluding personnel) for 2009 is \$4,781,000. This represents a \$789,000 or 19.8% increase when compared to the projected actual for 2008. However, included in this amount is an estimated \$700,000 to pay Metro Parks' share of opening polling locations for the election when our levy will be on the ballot. We estimated that Metro Parks' share of could be \$700,000 due to the limited number of other ballot issues, although we hope that the amount will be less.

The overall operations budget for 2009 only increased \$89,000 (2.23%) from the 2008 projected actual cost when you exclude the election cost. This increase is mainly due to the uncertainty of fuel cost in the coming year. We have attempted to control the over budgeting for fuel by setting up a fuel fund in the deputy director's budget to cover shortages in the park budgets. We also eliminated equipment as a separate category. This was mainly done to accommodate the auditors. The auditors classify our expenses according to programs, and equipment is not a program, so they were reclassifying the equipment to the program they deemed appropriate. We believed our staff should perform the classification of equipment to the appropriate program. The impact of this change will be that the comparison of categories will be distorted this year compared to previous budgets. The only other major change is the inclusion of the election cost referenced above.

The 2009 budget reflects the continuing desire of the Metro Parks to meet or exceed the existing standards established in terms of administration, maintenance, programming, customer service, law enforcement and natural resource management.

**Anticipated Expenditure Summary
Comparison of 2008 Projected Actual and 2009 Budget**

CATEGORY	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2008 Projected Actual	2009 Budget	% Change
Personnel (from Fund 27)					
Salaries (including merit increases)	6,668,500	7,119,000	7,095,000	7,307,000	2.99%
Employee Benefits	1,366,274	1,485,000	1,418,000	1,584,000	11.71%
PERS	964,665	1,052,000	1,037,000	1,084,000	4.53%
Medicare	83,043	103,000	89,000	105,000	17.98%
Total Benefits	<u>2,413,982</u>	<u>2,640,000</u>	<u>2,544,000</u>	<u>2,773,000</u>	9.00%
Subtotal	<u>9,082,481</u>	<u>9,759,000</u>	<u>9,639,000</u>	<u>10,080,000</u>	4.58%
Park Ops & Admin (from Fund 27)					
Admin - Levy Cost				700,000	
Admin	778,295	850,853	859,000	949,470	10.53%
Education/Interpretive Operations	233,978	221,433	187,000	252,805	35.19%
Equipment	724,425	744,575	691,000	-	-100.00% *2
Park Maintenance	705,363	791,930	780,000	1,234,780	58.31%
Promotion	613,199	758,305	665,000	735,600	10.62%
Rental Properties	72,473	139,260	130,000	167,960	29.20%
Natural Resource Management	96,263	116,100	77,000	130,075	68.93%
Revenue Programs	27,805	33,675	40,000	36,900	-7.75%
Safety & Law Enforcement	58,637	121,520	66,000	267,110	304.71%
Special Facilities	87,779	130,680	73,000	126,300	73.01%
Renovations	226,188	191,670	155,000	180,000	16.13%
other	-	-	269,000	-	-100.00%
Subtotal	<u>3,624,406</u>	<u>4,100,000</u>	<u>3,992,000</u>	<u>4,781,000</u>	19.76%
Spec Pk Dist Forum (from Fund 28)					
Admin	61,604				
Promotion	6,827				
other	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	<u>68,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	0.00%
Capital Improvement Projects (Fund 29)					
Site Improvements	1,824,714	3,930,972	3,841,000	6,290,000	
Building Construction	184,025	5,677	18,000	-	
Facility Improvements	211,739	574,059	622,000	3,025,000	
Utilities	5,706	44,982	46,000	-	
Planning	331,179	573,379	608,000	210,000	
Natural Resource Improvements	14,685	1,241,724	1,386,000	50,000	
Miscellaneous	9,731	754,207	14,000	-	
Subtotal	<u>2,581,778</u>	<u>7,125,000</u>	<u>6,535,000</u>	<u>9,575,000</u>	46.52%
Land Acquisition (from Fund 29)	5,463,499	11,500,000	7,327,000	9,900,000	35.12%
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES - FUNDS 27, 28 & 29	<u>20,820,596</u>	<u>32,484,000</u>	<u>27,493,000</u>	<u>34,336,000</u>	24.89%
ENTERPRISE FUND EXP. - Golf Course					
Personnel					
Salaries (including merit increases)	553,540	594,000	567,000	601,000	6.00%
Employee Benefits	118,512	135,000	127,000	140,000	10.24%
PERS	87,086	82,000	83,000	83,000	0.00%
Medicare	5,858	9,000	6,000	9,000	50.00%
Total Benefits	<u>211,456</u>	<u>226,000</u>	<u>216,000</u>	<u>232,000</u>	7.41%
Subtotal	<u>764,996</u>	<u>820,000</u>	<u>783,000</u>	<u>833,000</u>	6.39%
Operations	317,356	367,000	260,000	328,500	26.35%
Capital Improvement Projects	-	-	38,000	-	-100.00%
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND - FUND 30	<u>1,082,352</u>	<u>1,187,000</u>	<u>1,081,000</u>	<u>1,161,500</u>	7.45%
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE ALL FUNDS	<u>21,902,947</u>	<u>33,671,000</u>	<u>28,574,000</u>	<u>35,497,500</u>	24.23%

*1 Note: excluding the \$700,000 for the levy cost, the operations budget only increased 2.23% or \$89,000 over the projected actual for 2008.

*2 Note: the % change column for Park Operations and Administration reflects an accounting change. Funds for equipment purchases have been redistributed to the related functional program.

Equipment Budget Highlights

The following is a list of Equipment items that are budgeted for amounts over \$15,000. Purchases over \$25,000 must be approved by Resolution of the Board of Park Commissioners. Additional pieces of equipment totaling \$183,200 are budgeted, but did not meet the large item threshold.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Budget Center</u>
Ranger truck - replacement	19,000	BLENDON WOODS
Bomford mower	25,000	BATTELLE DARBY
4X4 Ranger Truck and snow removal	25,000	HIGHBANKS
4x4 Utility Vehicle	16,300	HIGHBANKS
4 Wheel Drive 72" Mower	22,300	CLEAR CREEK
Ranger truck - replacement	22,000	PICKERINGTON PONDS
Ranger truck - replacement	25,000	THREE CREEKS
Ranger truck	20,000	GLACIER RIDGE
Chipper	50,000	OPERATIONS
Total Large Items	224,600	
Additional Less Expensive Equipment	171,200	
Total Fund 27	395,800	
Tri-plex Mower	24,000	GOLF COURSE
Additional Less Expensive Equipment	12,000	
Total Fund 30	36,000	

Summary of Personnel Expenditures

Proposed personnel expenses increase from \$10,422,000 (projected actual) to \$10,913,000. This represents an increase of 4.1%. This increase can be attributed to the additional pay period (27 pay periods) in 2009, merit and general increases for eligible employees; bonuses for outstanding performers; increasing costs for health benefits; a required increase in payments to the Public Employees Retirement System; new positions (\$64,000); workers compensation, retirement and unemployment costs (\$164,000); a 2% range adjustment that will affect pay for new hires and for long-term employees at the top of their range; and a uniform allowance for employees who are required to wear uniforms (\$20,000).

It is estimated that the 2008 Projected Actual Budget for Salaries and Benefits will be 1.48% under budget.

The 2009 proposed Personnel Budget includes:

- A 3.0% merit increase for eligible full-time employees based on performance appraisal. Employees approaching or performing below expectations will receive a 1.5% increase. Unsatisfactory performers will not receive an increase. Eligible full-time employees who receive an outstanding appraisal evaluation will receive a 3.5% increase and a \$1000 bonus. Merit increases will be given to eligible full-time employees up to the maximum rates established for their range.
- A 3.0% general increase for eligible part-time employees. General increases will be given to eligible part-time employees up to the maximum rates established for their range.
- All increases will be given the first full pay period in March 2009. Merit increases will be pro-rated for all full-time employees hired after March 1, 2008.
- A salary range adjustment of 2.0%.

These salary increases consider survey data for projected annual salary increases, cost of living increases, recent pay increases granted by local agencies, increases in employee contributions for health care and general economic conditions.

Personnel Analysis

2009 BUDGET WITH PROPOSED RANGE CHANGES, CLAIMS COSTS, EXCLUDING NEW POSITIONS

	Projected Actual vs Budget				Budget vs Budget			
			%	\$			%	\$
	08 Projected Actual	Budget	Change	Change	08 Total Budget	09 Budget	Change	Change
2008 Cost	10,422,000	10,579,000	-1.48%	157,000				
2009 Cost	10,422,000	\$10,849,000	4.10%	427,000	10,579,000	\$10,849,000	2.55%	270,000

2009 BUDGET WITH PROPOSED RANGE CHANGES, CLAIMS COSTS, INCLUDING NEW POSITIONS

Personnel Cost	10,422,000	\$10,913,000	4.71%	491,000	10,579,000	\$10,913,000	3.16%	334,000
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TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:

Staffing/FT & PT positions:

Salaries	\$ 7,792,000
New Positions	64,000
Fringe Benefits	1,579,000
PERS	1,161,000
Medicare	113,000
Salaries and Benefits Total	10,709,000

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS:

Performance Lump Sums	20,000
Uniform Allowance	20,000

Claims-based Expenses:

Retirements	30,000	Accrued vacation/sick leave payment
Unemployment	4,000	
Workers Comp	130,000	Prior year/extraordinary claims
Total Other Appropriations	204,000	

TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$10,913,000
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PROPOSED NEW POSITIONS FY 2009 BUDGET

Two new positions for FY 2009 are proposed in the budget. A full-time Park Technician 2 position at Three Creeks Park will enable us to better meet the increasing maintenance requirements as trails are extended throughout the park. We also propose adding a part-time Ranger position at Scioto Audubon to help us meet the needs of the public as attendance increases and we open additional areas of the park. Neither of these positions would be hired until after the Metro Parks levy is approved by the voters. Position justifications are:

- 1. Park Technician 2 at Three Creeks** – There are currently 2 full-time Park Technician 1's and 1 part-time Park Technician (1,040 hours) at Three Creeks. These technicians function under the direction of the Park Manager and Assistant Park Manager and are responsible for maintaining approximately 17 miles of trails throughout the 1,050-acre park. Maintenance responsibilities at this park consist of maintaining five distinct areas that are connected to one another through the Alum Creek Greenway. In addition, the maintenance staff is responsible for maintaining the picnic area, a natural play area and coordinating tram maintenance and scheduling the tram throughout Metro Parks.

The Park Technician 2 would be responsible for leading the maintenance work crew, performing maintenance work, training employees, and assisting with project planning and a variety of administrative tasks. This position would provide consistent supervision and direction to the maintenance crew and improve the overall quality of routine maintenance and park projects. It would also allow the Park Manager and Assistant Manager to better focus on the overall operation of the park, customer service, enforcement issues and district wide events. This position will enable us to better meet the increasing maintenance needs of the park and improve overall quality and productivity.

- 2. Part-time Ranger at Scioto Audubon** – Currently, there is a Park Manager, 2 full-time Park Rangers and a full-time Park Technician at Scioto Audubon. The Grange Insurance Audubon Center will open in the park in summer 2009. With the increase in attendance and the need to continue to establish our presence and maintain our standard of providing clean, safe parks, we recommend the addition of a Part-time Ranger budgeted at 1,040 hours per year. This position will allow us to maximize visitor safety and park security and enable us to provide greater customer service at the park in the form of increased visibility and patrol.

2009 Capital Improvements Projects

The 2009 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes funds for trail projects, public facilities at a variety of parks, resource management efforts, and several system-wide initiatives. The total proposed CIP program involves \$9,575,000. Several projects involve grants which total \$2,683,000 resulting in a net expenditure of Metro Parks funds for 2009 CIP projects of approximately \$ 6,892,000.

Trail Projects. Continuing our efforts over the past several years, a significant amount of money will be allocated to several major trail projects. The total allocation for trail projects is \$6,820,000 (with \$2,550,000 provided from non-Metro Park sources).

Camp Chase Railroad. We are proposing constructing the western 7.3 miles of this eventual 11.4 mile trail. The total cost of this portion of the project is estimated to be **\$4,200,000**. We will be utilizing grant funds in the amount of \$2,550,000 (State of Ohio Capital Funds) thus resulting in a net expenditure of \$1,650,000 in Metro Parks' funds.

Blacklick Greenway US 33 Bridge. The money allocated will consist of Metro Parks 20% cost share in this project that is being directed by ODOT. Along with the next project, the Blacklick Greenway Trail will then be completed from Blacklick Woods to Three Creeks/Pickerington Ponds. Estimated cost: **\$700,000**.

Blacklick Greenway Phase 11. This portion of the trail (the last connection between Blacklick and Pickerington Ponds and Three Creeks) will run along Tussing and Hines Roads and through property owned by Columbus. The project involves an underpasses under the railroad to the north of Portman Park and under Refugee Road. Estimated cost: **\$1,000,000**.

Big Walnut Creek Trail. These funds will be utilized to design the trail along the Little Turtle golf course and south of State Route 161, connecting to Blendon Woods Metro Park. Following design we will begin construction of a first phase of this trail. Estimated cost: **\$400,000**.

Inniswood Chipmunk Chatter Trail Extension. This project involves extending the multiple use trail at Inniswood. Currently, the trail ends at the east end of the parking lot. Extending the trail (additional 2,500 feet) will open up the property south of the existing gardens to public use. In addition, bicyclists and pedestrians will be able to avoid the congestion of the parking lot. Estimated cost: **\$120,000**.

Darby Creek Greenway. This project involves constructing an underpass under I-70 south of Prairie Oaks Metro Park. Given the need to work with ODOT, we have been developing a design for this work. This project only involves work under I-70 as the next phase is dependent on working with adjacent property owners. Estimated cost: **\$400,000**.

2009 Capital Improvements Projects

Park Facility Projects. These projects address public facility needs throughout Metro Parks. Total funds allocated in this area is \$ 2,325,000.

Scioto Audubon Public Facilities. With the adoption of an updated concept plan, we will be in a position to develop additional public facilities at Scioto Audubon. Possible projects include rebuilding the boat ramp, construction of a shelter, construction of additional trails, climbing wall, etc. Estimated cost **\$1,500,000**.

Parking Lot Lights—Blendon Woods/Battelle Darby. This project would replace parking lot lights at Blendon Woods Shadblow Reserved Picnic Area and the Cedar Ridge area of Battelle Darby. The light poles have deteriorated and will be replaced with new poles. Estimated cost: **\$100,000**.

Darby Dan Facilities. This project will construct a parking lot that will service the Darby Dan racetrack area and also serve as a trailhead for the Darby Greenway trail. A roadway will be built off of Broad Street and an entrance sign will be included. Funds will also be used to continue renovations of the grandstand. With the development of the trail, restoration of wetlands, etc., this is destined to be an extremely popular area with the public. Estimated cost: **\$150,000**.

Three Creeks Heron Pond Shelter. With the increased popularity of Three Creeks, a need exists to build a second picnic shelter in the park. Heron Pond is one of the primary general public use areas with its proximity to Alum Creek, Heron Pond and trail around the pond, and Alum Creek Greenway Trail access point. Parking is already present and access is off of Williams Road making it very easy for the public to find. The shelter will likely be a timber frame kit and may be constructed by Metro Parks Roving Crew to stretch funds. Estimated cost: **\$70,000**.

Pickerington Ponds Master Plan. We have added a few properties to Pickerington Ponds in recent years and we plan to update the plan for the park to identify public use opportunities and other improvements. We will plan for access off of Gender Road and will include trail access, parking, day use activities such as picnic areas, and future habitat improvements. Estimated cost: **\$50,000**.

Inniswood Program Structure (2008 Carryover Project). We propose building a permanent structure at the former location of the program tent to provide a venue for educational and special events. The tent was destroyed in the Hurricane Ike windstorm. Prior to the Big Bugs exhibit a concrete pad was installed. We will put a structure over the pad. This project was deferred in 2008 due to other priorities. Education programming continues to gain popularity at Inniswood and this facility will be well used. Estimated cost: **\$130,000**.

Battelle Darby Cedar Ridge Restroom (2008 Carryover Project). This project would involve constructing a second restroom at the Cedar Ridge Picnic Area. This restroom would serve the picnic area (western end) and also the two reserved picnic shelters at Battelle Darby. We will also be constructing a treatment system to support this structure. Structure will be very similar to the newer restroom constructed a few years ago in the same area. This will replace existing vault latrines that are in terrible condition. Estimated cost: **\$300,000**.

2009 Capital Improvements Projects

Inniswood Rose Trellis. The rose garden serves as a very popular spot in the gardens and is the site of many weddings and picture opportunities. The rose trellis (one of the original features at Inniswood) is in very bad shape and beyond “repair”. Much of this work will be done this winter by the Roving Crew as an indoor project. Estimated cost: **\$25,000**

Resource Management Projects. We will continue to do some large scale resource management projects, making use of grant funds to help finance these efforts. A total expenditure of **\$210,000** (with \$133,000 reimbursable) is proposed for resource management projects.

Battelle Darby Creek WHIP. We have received a grant to continue with ecological restoration at the Battelle Darby through the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) administered by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). This project will involve archaeological studies, reforestation, wetland restoration, and invasive species control and is partially reimbursable. In addition, we are planning to plant around \$30,000 worth of trees in the Darby Dan Area. Estimated cost: **\$130,000** with a net expenditure of \$45,000 in Metro Park funds with the balance being reimbursed from the federal government.

Battelle Darby Pleasant Valley Quarry Ecological Restoration. This project will finish reforestation and other ecological efforts at the Pleasant Valley Quarry. Up to 60% of expenditures will be reimbursed through Ohio EPA’s 319 Program. Estimated cost: **\$80,000** with a net expenditure of \$32,000 in Metro Parks funds.

District Wide Initiatives. We have allocated funds for certain program areas that extend across Metro Parks. These funds are used to upgrade signage, demolish buildings we inherit through land acquisition, continue to replace picnic area trees lost to storms, age, or insects, and to make on-going repairs to our ever growing system of paved trails. Allocations are as follows:

<i>Trail Improvements</i>	\$ 70,000
<i>Demolition</i>	\$ 50,000
<i>Picnic Area Trees</i>	\$ 50,000
<i>Signage Upgrades</i>	\$ 50,000

Total District-wide Initiatives **\$ 220,000**

Land Acquisition

The 2009 budget appropriates \$9,900,000 for land acquisition. **All of the proposed land acquisition projects for 2009 are funded by grants or through agreements with governmental partners.**

The largest allocation is for the proposed new park in northeast Franklin County in the Rocky Fork headwaters area. Metro Parks, the City of Columbus, the Village of New Albany and Plain Township signed an agreement in February to establish this new Metro Park. The City of Columbus has contributed \$2.7 million and has committed another \$1.5 million for this project before the end of 2009. The Village of New Albany has contributed \$1,850,000 for this project in addition to donating a 107 acre parcel for the park.

We have a commitment for \$2 million from the Ohio EPA to purchase land and restore habitat along Hellbranch Run. Metro Parks has already received funds from the State of Ohio for the purchase of the Camp Chase Railroad easement. A grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund has been approved for the acquisition of a parcel near Big Darby Creek.

The list below represents a preliminary allocation of the available land acquisition funds by project area. Additional properties may be considered if funds become available, particularly if the voters approve the Metro Parks levy.

No properties will be purchased unless specific authorization for each property is received from the Park Board and funds are available.

Park/Project	Allocation
Blacklick Greenway	\$ 250,000
Hellbranch Run	1,425,000
Rocky Fork Headwaters	6,000,000
Prairie Oaks / Darby Greenway	1,400,000
Camp Chase Trail	825,000
Total	\$9,900,000

For Comparison:

Projected actual expenditures for land acquisition in 2008: \$8,385,000
(includes parcels encumbered in 2007 but acquired in 2008)

APROPRIATIONS
Based on 2009 Budget Proposal

The proposed budget for Metro Parks for the the fiscal year 2009 is listed below. The total budget is appropriated by fund, and the amount to be appropriated by each fund is also listed below. These appropriations are being recommended for approval by the Park Board.

		TOTAL NEW APPROPRIATIONS (1)
	Personnel	10,132,000
	Non-Personnel	4,781,000
	Inter Fund Transfer	5,292,000
	Fund 27 Total	\$ 20,205,000
	Fund 29 Total	\$ 19,475,000
	Personnel	\$ 836,000
	Non-Personnel	\$ 328,500
	Fund 30 Total	\$ 1,164,500
Grand Total		\$ <u>40,844,500</u>

(1) 2008 encumbrances will be identified and carried forward as of 12/31/2008 and are not included above. The 2008 encumbrances will be charged against the 2008 budget.

(2) It should be noted that the amount appropriated for personnel cost is higher than the amount budgeted for personnel cost.