



**Metro Parks  
2011 Budget**

**METRO PARKS 2011 BUDGET  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Budget Message.....	<i>ii</i>
Metro Parks Goals .....	1
Financial Summary .....	3
Projected Changes in Fund Balances .....	4
Projected Income Statement - Enterprise Fund .....	5
Sources of Revenue.....	6
Revenues and Combined Fund Balances.....	9
Summary of Non-Personnel Op. and Admin. Expenditures.....	10
Operations and Administration Budget Analysis of Changes .....	11
Anticipated Expenditure Summary.....	12
Equipment Budget Highlights .....	13
Summary of Personnel Expenditures.....	14
Personnel Analysis.....	15
Proposed New Positions .....	16
Capital Improvement Projects.....	19
Proposed Land Acquisition.....	25
Appropriations .....	26

November 9, 2010

Robert H. Jeffrey  
Gregory S. Lashutka  
Frances Beasley

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS,  
COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

Dear Park Commissioners:

**The Year in Review - 2010**

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 6,500,000 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.

This was the first year of funding from the park levy that was passed in 2009. A primary focus for the year has been fulfilling the commitments that we made to the voters prior to the levy.

Progress was made at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. The Grange Insurance Audubon Center celebrated its first anniversary and is attracting new audiences. The climbing wall is a big hit with rock climbing enthusiasts. Sand volleyball courts and a dog park opened in keeping with our intent to add facilities that are attractive to young professionals and nearby residents. The impound lot was moved to its new location on November 1 and plans are already underway to address the impacted soils. By the end of the year we anticipate an agreement with the City of Columbus to enlarge the park to include the entire impound lot area.

In July Metro Parks assumed management of the Greenway Trails in Columbus in keeping with our levy commitments. Considerable progress has been made in improving the conditions and safety of the trails.

Progress was also achieved constructing new Greenway trails. The Blacklick Creek Greenway Trail bridge over US 33 is nearing completion and should be open in the spring. The section of the trail near Winchester Pike was completed. Portions of the Camp Chase trail are under construction. Additional trail improvements were made throughout the park system.

The school initiative was expanded to include more schools. 100% of the fifth graders in Columbus City Schools now participate in the Students Exploring Ecosystem Dynamics (SEED) program. Over 350,000 people will participate in Metro Parks' educational activities this year.

The park system will grow by 947 acres this year. These additional acres will bring Metro Parks' total conserved acreage to over 25,800 acres. Grants and income from governmental partners for land acquisition will exceed \$5 million in 2010.

Metro Parks completed more major habitat restoration projects in 2010 than in any prior year. A 500 acre wet prairie restoration project was completed at Battelle Darby Creek. Nearby, bison are being introduced as a major new attraction in support of our restoration and educational efforts. 200 acres of wetlands and 7,000 feet of stream were restored at Walnut Woods. Additional restoration was completed along Little Darby Creek and along Blacklick Creek. Grants and funds from partners assisted with most of these habitat improvement projects. These projects should provide water quality benefits, help attract and retain wildlife in the Metro Parks and be an attraction for park visitors.

### **The Year Ahead - 2011**

Metro Parks will continue fulfilling commitments made during the park levy campaign. Maintaining the outstanding quality of the existing Metro Parks is always a top priority.

Plans for 2011 are clouded by the uncertainty of funding from the State of Ohio. In 2010 Metro Parks received over \$4 million from the State's Local Government fund and \$1.3 million in grants from state agencies. These sources combine to provide 16% of Metro Parks funding. All of these funds are at risk as the state's elected officials work to overcome a projected \$8 billion deficit for their fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. We are unlikely to know the extent of the impact to our budget until the middle of next year.

Because of the uncertainty with state funding, we have developed a conservative strategy that will guide our spending in 2011. Our proposed strategy is to request approval for a budget that is based on the current situation but to designate up front numerous potential expenditures that will be held in abeyance until the budget situation is clarified. These withheld initiatives will include new positions, capital improvements, land acquisition, equipment, and operational expenses. In short, it will affect every phase of our operations.

Notwithstanding the financial challenges caused by the State's financial crisis, we are undertaking several planned projects based on our levy commitments using funds that are already available. Major new projects include construction of a nature center in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and constructing facilities to open Walnut Woods Metro Park. Trail construction will continue in a few areas in keeping with our existing commitments.

The coming year should remain productive in other areas for Metro Parks in spite of the economic uncertainty. We anticipate making progress on numerous initiatives. The attached budget provides funds for environmental remediation at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, improvements to the Greenways system and other trails; and upgrades to facilities throughout the park system. Segments of the Camp Chase trail will be under construction as part of Ohio to Erie Trail. The Ohio to Erie Trail, which will stretch from Cleveland through Columbus to Cincinnati is now 80% complete.

The educational efforts of Metro Parks will continue to be a focus of our efforts. We will work to expand the Students Exploring Ecosystem Dynamics (SEED), which is designed to work in close cooperation with local schools and helps students meet their science achievement goals. In addition, we will provide more programs for senior citizens while continuing to provide a wide range of programs that are of interest to people of all ages.

This will be the fifth 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 2011 will be primarily for projects that are financially supported by grants or contributions from other governments. Funding from partners is available for acquisition in the Rocky Fork Headwaters area in northeast Franklin County. An Ohio EPA grant has been approved to acquire land along Hellbranch Run. Another Ohio EPA grant is approved for acquisition and restoration of land in the Morgan Run wetlands area near Prairie Oaks. Clean Ohio Fund grant applications have been submitted or approved that will support acquisition of additional properties for Rocky Fork, Scioto South and in the Darby watershed. We will continue to acquire lands to protect natural resources and to provide outdoor recreation and educational opportunities.

The attached budget provides \$12.6 million for salaries and benefits, \$5.4 million for operations and administration, \$10.8 million for capital improvements, and \$11 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 progress towards improving services for the public. Expenditures for 2011 are budgeted at \$1.7 million less than the budget for 2010.

The staff of Metro Parks greatly appreciates the support and guidance provided by the Board of Park Commissioners throughout the years and looks forward to working with the Board to maintain and improve the Metro Parks system in the coming year.

On behalf of the management team of Metro Parks, we respectfully submit the 2011 Budget for your consideration. 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

## **METRO PARKS GOALS For the Year 2011**

1. Maintain clean, safe parks. Provide enjoyable, informative and healthful outdoor experiences for more than 6 ½ million visitors. Maintain high standards for facilities and services at all parks and along trails.
2. Conduct environmental remediation work at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Plan for additional facilities to be constructed on the former impound lot site in 2012.
3. 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 educational and enjoyable programming at all parks. Acquire a new tram for programs and to provide access to the parks for people with limited mobility.
4. Begin construction of new nature center in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. Integrate nature center design with stream, bison, wetland, prairie and archeological features.
5. Improve management and make improvements to the Greenways Trail System. Construct segments of the Ohio to Erie Trail along the Camp Chase railroad corridor. Construct Greenway trail segments along Blacklick Creek and Big Walnut Creek.
6. Open Walnut Woods Metro Park with new trails, fishing and picnicking opportunities. Work towards connecting Walnut Woods by trail to both Canal Winchester and Groveport.
7. Continue extensive tree planting projects and timber management to offset the impacts from the emerald ash borer and gypsy moths, and to restore habitat to benefit wildlife.
8. Complete natural resource management and restoration projects in several parks. Support study of downtown dam removal on Scioto River to improve water quality and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.
9. Acquire land for the proposed new Metro Park in Plain Township utilizing funds provided by Columbus and New Albany. Acquire land for a new park along the Scioto River in southern Franklin County. Complete additional acquisitions with funds from the Clean Ohio program and Ohio EPA's 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, cooperative efforts to protect Darby Creek, and to improve the

Greenways system. Support implementation of the conservation components of the Darby Accord. Fulfill commitments in the Green Pact among local governments.

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. Continue the Metro Parks Urban Conservation Corps. Hire at-risk youth to assist on Metro Parks' projects. Provide training and exposure to conservation professions.
13. Increase public awareness of Metro Parks and conservation issues through newspaper and television publicity. Promote the endless benefits that Metro Parks provides to the community. Continue to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage visitors to utilize trails and facilities in the Metro Parks.
14. Manage financial resources wisely. Provide accurate financial reports in a timely manner. Seek additional funding to fulfill our mission through grants, appropriations, and partnerships. Prepare for changes in state funding formulas that are likely to impact Metro Parks' services to the community.

**2011 Financial Summary  
Combined General, Capital and Enterprise Funds**

<b>ESTIMATED ENDING CASH BALANCE - 12/31/10</b>		<b>\$ 8,613,000</b>
<b>Add: New Revenues</b>		<b><u>\$ 33,908,000</u></b>
<b>Total Available Cash Resources</b>		<b>\$ 42,521,000</b>
 <b>Less: Budgeted Expenses</b>		
Salaries and Benefits, excluding golf course	\$ 11,800,000	
Operating and Administrative	\$ 5,079,000	
Enterprise Fund - Golf Course		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 848,000	
Operating	<u>\$ 349,000</u>	
Total Operating Budget	\$ 18,076,000	
Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 10,750,000	
Capital Improvement Projects-Golf Course	\$ 45,000	
Land Acquisition	\$ 11,000,000	
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>		<b><u>\$ 39,871,000</u></b>
 <b>ESTIMATED 12/31/11 CASH BALANCE, IF ALL APPROPRIATIONS ARE FULLY EXPENDED</b>		 <b><u>\$ 2,650,000</u></b>

## Projected Changes in 2011 Fund Balances

**BUDGET AMOUNTS:**

	<b>FUND 27 GENERAL FUND Total</b>	<b>FUND 29 CAPITAL Total</b>	<b>FUND 30 ENTERPRISE Total</b>	<b>ALL FUNDS Total</b>
<b>Projected New Revenue</b>				
Public Sources:				
Tax Levy	22,187,000			22,187,000
Local Government Fund	4,232,000			4,232,000
Grants	-	4,419,000		4,419,000
<b>Total Public Sources</b>	<b>\$ 26,419,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,419,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 30,838,000</b>
Earned Income from Operations:				
Golf Courses			870,000	870,000
Concessions & Shelter Fees	240,000		30,000	270,000
Interpretive Program	67,000			67,000
House & Land Rental	276,000			276,000
<b>Total Earned Income</b>	<b>\$ 583,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 900,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,483,000</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>\$ 28,000</b>		<b>\$ 52,000</b>
<b>Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions</b>		<b>\$ 1,480,000</b>		<b>\$ 1,480,000</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Bequests</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ 40,000</b>
<b>Total 2010 Projected Revenue by Fund</b>	<b>\$ 27,081,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,927,000</b>	<b>\$ 900,000</b>	<b>\$ 33,908,000</b>
<b>Projected Expenditures:</b>				
Salaries	8,449,000		611,000	\$ 9,060,000
Fringe Benefits	1,964,000		143,000	2,107,000
PERS	1,268,000		85,000	1,353,000
Medicare	119,000		9,000	128,000
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 11,800,000</b>		<b>\$ 848,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,648,000</b>
Admin	\$ 1,076,070		\$ -	\$ 1,076,070
Promotion	479,745			479,745
Park Maintenance	1,445,045		-	1,445,045
Safety & Law Enforcement	704,800			704,800
Revenue Programs	600,225		349,000	949,225
Rental Properties	163,475			163,475
Education/Interpretive Operations	42,030			42,030
Natural Resource Management	244,940			244,940
Special Facilities	142,670			142,670
Renovations	180,000			180,000
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,079,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 349,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,428,000</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>		<b>\$ 10,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 45,000</b>	<b>\$10,795,000</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>		<b>\$ 11,000,000</b>		<b>\$ 11,000,000</b>
<b>2011 Projected Expenditures by Fund</b>	<b>\$ 16,879,000</b>	<b>\$ 21,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,242,000</b>	<b>\$ 39,871,000</b>
<b>CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 10,202,000</b>	<b>\$ (15,823,000)</b>	<b>\$ (342,000)</b>	<b>\$ (5,963,000)</b>
<b>Projected Balance 12/31/2010</b>	<b>\$ 4,180,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 133,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,613,000</b>
<b>Transfer to / (from) Fund</b>	<b>\$ (13,000,000)</b>	<b>\$ 12,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Estimated Balance 12/31/2011</b>	<b>\$ 1,382,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,227,000</b>	<b>\$ 41,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,650,000</b>

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

	<b>2010 Projected Actual</b>	<b>2011 Budget</b>
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>		
Golf fees, cart rental, merchandise, concessions	\$ 947,000	\$ 900,000
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
<b>Personnel:</b>		
Salaries	613,000	611,000
Benefits, PERS, Medicare	232,000	237,000
<b>Total Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$ 845,000</b>	<b>\$ 848,000</b>
 <b>Operating Costs (non-personnel)</b>	 <b>344,000</b>	 <b>349,000</b>
 <b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>		 <b>45,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,189,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,242,000</b>
 <b>NET INCOME</b>	 <b>\$ (242,000)</b>	 <b>\$ (342,000)</b>
 <b>ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/10</b>		 <b>\$ 133,000</b>
 <b>TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS</b>		 <b>\$ 250,000</b>
 <b>ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/11</b>		 <b>\$ 41,000</b>

## 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 2011 is \$33,908,000. The following narratives provide an explanation for each source of revenue.

### **PUBLIC SOURCES**

Based on estimates for 2011 from the Franklin County Auditor, and projections of the current year receipts, Metro Parks is projecting a slight increase in its public revenue sources from the projected actual revenue for 2010. Property tax revenues are projected to be the same as 2010 based upon projections from the Budget Commission, which is \$61,000 higher than the 2010 projected actual. The Local Government Fund is projected as the same amount as the projected actual for 2010. The Local Government Fund amount is very dependent on the State of Ohio, which is experiencing budget difficulties. These funds could be decreased or eliminated in the second half of the year depending on the State's financial picture. Grant revenue is projected to increase by \$1,603,000 over the projected actual amount for 2010. The grant revenue will be for land acquisition, construction or environmental remediation and as such will be restricted to those purposes.

Sources of revenue defined:

*Property tax levy* – A 0.75-mill levy on real and personal property passed in Franklin County in May 2009, with receipts to be received by Metro Parks in the ten-year period 2010 through 2019. Levy funds (\$22,187,000) 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) (\$12,750,000) and to the Golf Course Enterprise Fund (Fund 30) (\$250,000).

*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 (\$4,232,000). 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 grants from Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) and the Clean Ohio Fund. Metro Parks anticipates applying for additional grants in the coming year. The anticipated proceeds (\$4,419,000) 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 2011 is projected to continue downward as part of a golf industry-wide trend. (Fund 30) \$900,000

*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 the revenue from these activities to remain relatively unchanged in 2011. Receipts are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27). \$583,000

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

*Governmental Partnership 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 planned new Metro Park in northeast Franklin County. \$1,480,000

*Income from investment* - Revenues earned on funds in various Metro Parks bank accounts and investment securities. Permitted 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 remained below 1% most of 2010. We are projecting revenue based a 1% return. Income is recorded in both the General Fund (Fund 27) and Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 29) \$52,000

*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 donations. \$15,000

*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 year's budget. \$40,000

### 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 trust 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 \$620,000 (excluding the funds managed by the Columbus Foundation) by December 31, 2010. The trust funds projected earnings for 2011 is \$3,000.

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**

	2009 Actual	2010 Budget	2010 Projected Actual 10/31/2010	2011 Budget	10 Proj. Act. v. '11 Inc (Dec)	% Change Inc (Dec)
<b>NEW REVENUES: GOVT (27, 29) &amp; ENTERPRISE (30) FUNDS</b>						
<b>Public Sources:</b>						
Property Tax Levy - .75 mill	13,809,451	22,187,000	22,126,000	22,187,000	61,000	0.3%
LGF	4,139,071	4,049,000	4,128,000	4,232,000	104,000	2.5%
Grants	3,230,775	5,675,000	2,816,000	4,419,000	1,603,000	56.9%
<b>Total Public Sources</b>	<b>21,179,296</b>	<b>31,911,000</b>	<b>29,070,000</b>	<b>30,838,000</b>	<b>1,768,000</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>Operational Sources:</b>						
Revenues from Golf Course Operations	1,047,498	1,050,000	947,000	900,000	(47,000)	-5.0%
<b>Revenues from Park Operations:</b>						
Concessions & Shelter Fees	239,030	254,000	224,000	240,000	16,000	7.1%
Interpretive Programs	67,421	67,000	67,000	67,000	-	0.0%
House & Land Rental	275,487	275,000	257,000	276,000	19,000	7.4%
<b>Total Income from Operational Sources</b>	<b>1,629,436</b>	<b>1,646,000</b>	<b>1,495,000</b>	<b>1,483,000</b>	<b>(12,000)</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
<b>Governmental Partnership Contributions</b>	<b>1,485,043</b>	<b>2,485,000</b>	<b>2,342,000</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>(862,000)</b>	<b>-36.8%</b>
<b>Income from Investment</b>	<b>68,714</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>-8.8%</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Bequests</b>	<b>220,898</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>	<b>-54.5%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Receipts (incl salvage sale)</b>	<b>175,155</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>238,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>(198,000)</b>	<b>-83.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL NEW REVENUES</b>	<b>24,758,542</b>	<b>36,187,000</b>	<b>33,235,000</b>	<b>33,908,000</b>	<b>673,000</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>LOAN PROCEEDS - Net</b>						
<b>BEG FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>14,068,099</b>	<b>12,119,721</b>	<b>12,119,721</b>	<b>8,612,000</b>	<b>(3,507,721)</b>	<b>-28.9%</b>
				proj. 12/31/2010		
<b>FUND BALANCES PLUS NEW REVENUES</b>	<b>38,826,641</b>	<b>48,306,721</b>	<b>45,354,721</b>	<b>42,520,000</b>	<b>(2,834,721)</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>
<b>FIDUCIARY FUNDS PRIOR BALANCE</b>						
Expendable (Beck & Thomas)	190,188	209,160	209,160	229,000	19,840	9.5%
Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	290,856	289,175	289,175	291,000	1,825	0.6%
Non-Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	97,796	97,796	97,796	97,796	-	0.0%
Non-Expendable (Inniswood Fund-Cols Found.)	458,000	458,000	458,000	458,000	-	0.0%
<b>Add:</b>						
Current Year Projected Income	1,595	1,000	61	1,000	939	1531.9%
Donations & Bequests	22,697		39,000	23,000		
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>38,850,933</b>	<b>48,307,721</b>	<b>45,393,782</b>	<b>43,619,796</b>	<b>(1,773,986)</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>

## **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 2011 budget for Operations is \$2,583,000 and the Administration budget is \$2,496,000 for a total operating budget of \$5,079,000. This includes all operating costs except the Golf Course and personnel costs. The Operations budget is appropriated under the general fund (Fund 27). The budget for the Golf Course operations is \$349,000, which is appropriated under the Enterprise Fund (Fund 30).

Metro Parks will continue to work closely with partners in pursuit of our mission. Funds are allocated to continue partnering with the Ohio Wildlife Center (\$15,000) and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (\$50,000).

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. Equipment is classified according to the program in which it is utilized to be in conformity with how equipment is reported on our accrual basis financial statements. Therefore if a piece of equipment is utilized for park maintenance it is classified in the park maintenance program category.

## **Operations and Administration Budget Analysis of Changes**

The proposed operational budget for Fund 27, (excluding personnel) for 2011 is \$5,079,000. This represents an increase of \$468,000 or 10% when compared to the projected actual for 2010. The two largest factors contributing to the increase in the operational budget is Metro Parks assuming responsibility for the Greenways that were previously managed by the City of Columbus and the projected opening of Walnut Woods Metro Park. The tram has been a popular feature with park visitors and as the current tram is approaching 10 years old a replacement tram has been budgeted. The first tram would be retired to back up and for special events duty.

The 2011 budget reflects the continuing desire of 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 2010 Projected Actual and 2011 Budget**

CATEGORY	2009 Actual	2010 Budget	2010 Projected Actual	2011 Budget	% Change
<b>Personnel (from Fund 27)</b>			projected from 10/31 actual		
Salaries (including merit increases)	7,504,378	7,876,909	7,658,000	8,449,000	10.33%
Employee Benefits	1,570,408	1,820,361	1,652,000	1,964,000	18.89%
PERS	1,113,342	1,173,207	1,133,000	1,268,000	11.92%
Medicare	94,080	113,024	96,000	119,000	23.96%
<b>Total Benefits</b>	<u>2,777,830</u>	<u>3,106,591</u>	<u>2,881,000</u>	<u>3,351,000</u>	16.31%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>10,282,208</u>	<u>10,983,500</u>	<u>10,539,000</u>	<u>11,800,000</u>	11.97%
<b>Park Ops &amp; Admin (from Fund 27)</b>					
Admin	801,759	1,645,180	1,605,000	1,076,070	-32.96%
Education/Interpretive Operations	225,256	279,995	209,000	479,745	129.54%
Park Maintenance	1,127,450	1,409,956	1,292,000	1,445,045	11.85%
Promotion	573,831	668,010	402,000	704,800	75.32%
Rental Properties	325,234	317,534	416,000	600,225	44.28%
Natural Resource Management	102,956	154,875	133,000	163,475	22.91%
Revenue Programs	32,850	40,810	31,000	42,030	35.58%
Safety & Law Enforcement	170,667	240,770	267,000	244,940	-8.26%
Special Facilities	79,082	112,870	70,000	142,670	103.81%
Renovations	85,436	180,000	186,000	180,000	-3.23%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>3,524,521</u>	<u>5,050,000</u>	<u>4,611,000</u>	<u>5,079,000</u>	10.15%
<b>Capital Improvement Projects (Fund 29)</b>	<u>5,325,065</u>	<u>13,140,000</u>	<u>10,647,000</u>	<u>10,750,000</u>	0.97%
<b>Land Acquisition (from Fund 29)</b>	4,592,807	11,250,000	8,270,000	11,000,000	33.01%
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES - FUNDS 27 &amp; 29</b>	<u>23,724,601</u>	<u>40,423,500</u>	<u>34,067,000</u>	<u>38,629,000</u>	13.39%
<b>ENTERPRISE FUND EXP. - Golf Course</b>					
<b>Personnel</b>					
Salaries (including merit increases)	589,031	596,411	613,000	611,000	-0.33%
Employee Benefits	132,626	138,188	143,000	143,000	0.00%
PERS	82,370	81,827	82,000	85,000	3.66%
Medicare	6,118	8,474	7,000	9,000	28.57%
<b>Total Benefits</b>	<u>221,114</u>	<u>228,489</u>	<u>232,000</u>	<u>237,000</u>	2.16%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>810,145</u>	<u>824,900</u>	<u>845,000</u>	<u>848,000</u>	0.36%
Operations	274,750	337,550	344,000	349,000	1.45%
Capital Improvement Projects	-	-	-	45,000	0.00%
<b>TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND - FUND 30</b>	<u>1,084,895</u>	<u>1,162,450</u>	<u>1,189,000</u>	<u>1,242,000</u>	4.46%
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE ALL FUNDS</b>	<u>24,809,496</u>	<u>41,585,950</u>	<u>35,256,000</u>	<u>39,871,000</u>	13.09%

## Equipment Budget Highlights

The following is a list of Equipment items that are budgeted at amounts over \$15,000. Purchases over \$25,000 must be approved by Resolution of the Board of Park Commissioners. Additional pieces of equipment totaling \$150,395 are budgeted, but did not meet the large item cost threshold. Some of these purchases will be delayed or possibly eliminated pending the outcome of the State of Ohio's budget process as detailed on page 24.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Budget Center</u>
Maintenance Truck	20,000	Blacklick Woods
Replacement Mower	15,000	Blendon Woods
4WD extended cab, Full size Truck for Patrol	25,000	Battelle Darby Creek
4WD SUV Patrol Vehicle	25,000	Battelle Darby Creek
Fleet Vehicle	18,000	Sharon Woods
TRAM	200,000	Three Creeks
Toro Z Mower	17,500	Three Creeks
Maintenance Truck	18,000	Walnut Woods
Tractor/brush hog	35,000	Walnut Woods
Ranger Vehicle w/plow	30,000	Walnut Woods
Copier - Replacement	25,000	Finance
Stake Body Truck - replacement	42,000	Roving Crew
Radios	20,000	Operations
Ranger Vehicle with equipment	20,000	Greenways
<b>Total Large Items</b>	<b>510,500</b>	
Additional Less Expensive Equipment	150,395	
<b>Total Fund 27</b>	<b>660,895</b>	

## Summary of Personnel Expenditures

The 2010 projected actual for personnel will be 3.6 % under the 2010 budget due to a variety of factors including extended vacancies and significant delays in starting new positions. In particular the Greenways staff started months later than projected due to delays in finalizing management agreements. This large percentage under budget should not be realized again in 2011 since the delayed and vacant positions will be filled.

The personnel budget for 2010 was 11,808,400. The proposed personnel expenses for 2011 increase from \$11,384,000 (2010 projected actual) to 12,648,000. This represents an increase of 11.1%. The budget-to-budget numbers indicate an increase of 7.1%. This increase can be attributed to new positions necessary to support Metro Parks' growth as 1) we open Walnut Woods Metro Park, 2) improve management of the Greenways Trails, 3) expand our educational initiatives, and 4) continue development of Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Metro Parks share of the health care costs are expected to rise 8%. The remainder of the increase results from an estimated average 2.4% pay adjustment for eligible employees; skill based adjustments for eligible employees; and a required increase in payments to the Public Employees Retirement System for law enforcement personnel. Non-salaried employees will be eligible to choose between overtime pay or compensatory time for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week.

The 2011 proposed Personnel Budget includes:

- Merit increases, ranging from 0 – 3 % for eligible full-time employees based on performance up to the maximum rates established for their range. Employees rated as meeting expectations would receive a 2.5% increase. Eligible full-time employees who receive an outstanding appraisal evaluation will receive a 3% increase plus a \$1,000 merit lump sum.
- A 2% 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.
- Pay ranges will remain the same due to the low rate of inflation. A one-time lump sum of \$500 for an 'achieves expectations' appraisal or \$1,000 for an outstanding appraisal is approved for a limited number of full-time employees who are at the top of their range who otherwise would not receive an increase. This lump sum is approved to recognize performance of these individuals and to offset reductions in their take home pay level in light of the increase in employee health care contributions.
- Merit increases will be pro-rated for all full-time employees hired after March 1, 2010.
- All increases will be effective the first full pay period in March 2011.

These salary increases take into consideration employee performance, survey data for projected annual salary increases, projected pay increases granted by local agencies, increases in employee contributions for health care, and general economic conditions.

## Personnel Analysis

### Budget vs Budget

	2011 Budget	2010 Budget	%	\$
			Change	Change
<b>EXCLUDING NEW POSITIONS</b>	12,464,000	11,808,400	5.55%	655,600
<b>INCLUDING NEW POSITIONS</b>	12,648,000	11,808,400	7.11%	839,600

### Projected Actual vs Budget

	2011 Proposed Budget	2010 Projected Actual	%	2010 Budget	%
			Change #		Change #
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:</b>					
Staffing/FT & PT positions:					
Salaries	\$ 8,809,000	\$ 8,154,000	8.03%	\$ 8,629,035	5.51% *
New Positions	184,000				
Fringe Benefits	1,931,000	1,682,000	14.80%	1,666,461	-0.93%
PERS	1,321,000	1,215,000	8.72%	1,193,198	-1.83%
Medicare	125,000	102,000	22.55%	115,706	11.85%
Salaries and Benefits Total	12,370,000	11,153,000	10.91%	11,604,400	3.89%
<b>OTHER APPROPRIATIONS:</b>					
Skill Base & Merit Lump Sum	85,000	44,000	93.18%	20,000	-120.00%
Uniform Allowance	10,000	5,000	100.00%	20,000	75.00%
<b>Claims-based Expenses:</b>					
Retirements**	53,000	74,000	-28.38%	30,000	-146.67%
Unemployment	6,000	6,000	0.00%	4,000	-50.02%
Workers Comp***	124,000	102,000	21.57%	130,000	21.54%
<b>Total Other Appropriations</b>	278,000	231,000	20.35%	204,000	-13.24%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	\$12,648,000	\$ 11,384,000	11.10%	\$ 11,808,400	3.59%

\*\* (Accrued vacation / sick leave payment)

\*2010 Budget salaries includes \$625,000 budgeted for new positions

\*\*\* (Prior year & extraordinary claims)

# % Change is showing the change of 2011 proposed budget & the 2010 budget (respectively) to the 2010 proposed actual

## **Proposed New Positions FY 2011 Budget**

Three new full-time and four new part-time positions that are proposed in the 2011 budget relate to the opening of Walnut Woods Metro Park. In addition, three new part-time positions are requested as part of the continued development at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, and the Greenways. An additional part-time Naturalist position has been proposed to assist in meeting the objectives of Metro Parks' educational strategy. Two positions are being modified to reflect changing responsibilities. Position justifications are:

- 1. Park Manager, two full-time Park Technician 1's and four part-time Park Rangers – Walnut Woods Metro Park** – It is anticipated some park trails will be available to the public in late 2010 and additional trails and other facilities will open in 2011. Growth in public visitation is expected as soon as the park is opened. With the expansion of the Blacklick Greenway, the support staff for Walnut Woods that we have used from Pickerington Ponds and Three Creeks to date will need to focus on those elements of our operation. At that time, Staff will be needed to maintain and patrol Walnut Woods Metro Park. The Park Manager would oversee the overall operations, construction and development of the park, patrol the park, and supervise staff and volunteers as they are added at Walnut Woods. The part-time Park Rangers would patrol the park and ensure the safety of our visitors. The full-time Park Technicians would help to maintain the grounds and facilities as they are added and ensure they are maintained at the high quality level set by Metro Parks. The projected start date for the Park Manager position would be March 2011. The projected start date for one Park Technician 1 and two part-time Park Ranger positions would be May 2011. The remaining full-time Park Technician 1 and two part-time Park Rangers would have a projected start date of July 2011.
- 2. Part-Time Park Ranger – Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park** – The addition of new facilities such as the canoe access, the Darby Greenway trail, the Pleasant Valley Quarry, and the Bison pasture, as well as increased visitor attendance at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, have created the need for additional Ranger services. A new part-time Park Ranger position would allow for critical shifts to be covered, greater visibility, and customer service to visitors and the surrounding community. The addition of this position would also allow for increased support to district wide initiatives, events, programs, and training. The projected start date for this position would be July 2011.
- 3. Part-Time Park Ranger – Greenways** – The original staffing plan for the Greenways centered on the initial take over of the Greenways trails and the basic maintenance and patrolling of the trails. With several months of analysis, a better understanding of what is needed to manage the trail system has been developed. The addition of a part-time Park Ranger would enable the trail system to be patrolled more frequently for longer periods of time and to cover multiple sections of the trail during the same shifts. By patrolling more areas more often, visibility will be increased and safety will be enhanced resulting in an enhanced experience for the public. The projected start date for this position would be July 2011.

4. **Part-Time Park Technician – Scioto Audubon Metro Park** – The development at Scioto Audubon Metro Park has continued and the demands on the maintenance staff have increased. In addition to the day-to-day maintenance activities, the ongoing projects also need the attention of maintenance personnel. The addition of a part-time Park Technician will allow projects to be completed in a more timely manner, maintain the current and newly developed features of the park, as well as lessen the need for constant assistance from other parks. With the relocation of the impound lot there will be increased maintenance responsibilities. The projected start date for this position would be July 2011.
5. **Part-Time Naturalist – Three Creeks** – It is recommended that this position be added to the 2011 budget to support the expansion of the education program to youth and seniors as outlined in the levy commitments and Educational Strategy. This part-time Naturalist position will be involved in the expanded Students Exploring Ecosystem Dynamics (SEED) program during the fall months, as well as the spring months when implemented (spring 2012). This position will also help with additional outreach to schools, including Groveport and Canal Winchester making use of Walnut Woods. Another major focus will be outreach programs for senior adults including increased use of the Tram to accommodate those who have limited mobility. It is also expected that this position will serve as a satellite Naturalist for Walnut Woods. The projected start date for this position would be July 2011.
6. **Human Resources Coordinator** – In order to provide a more streamlined, efficient approach to recruitment and selection, training, communications, and employee relations, the reclassification of the existing Executive Assistant to a Human Resources Coordinator position is recommended. Some of the executive assistant duties would still be retained by this position and additional duties would be assigned. This position would focus on recruitment and interviewing for specified positions, coordinating a portion of the Urban Youth Internship program, conducting training sessions (i.e. new hire orientation), responding to employees' requests/needs, coordinating both in-house and external training opportunities, and managing the human resources records management function. The projected effective date of this reclassification would be July 2011.
7. **Assistant Resource Manager** - Upon on review of the Assistant Resource Manager position, the responsibilities have changed and increased since the last compensation study. To recognize these additional duties and level of responsibility, it is recommended that the pay grade be changed from 5 to 7 effective the first full pay period in March 2011.

With the exception of the Walnut Woods Park Manager and a Park Technician, the proposed new positions will be deferred until July 2011 when the outcome of the State's decision regarding Local Government Funds is known. The remaining positions at Walnut Woods will probably still need to be filled in 2011. The other positions proposed above will be reviewed again in July 2011 and alternatives considered, depending upon the results of the State's budget decisions.

## 2011 Metro Parks Capital Improvement Projects

The 2011 Capital Improvement Budget focuses on additional trail projects, facility development (in particular the Nature Center at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park), resource management projects, and several district-wide initiatives.

**TRAIL PROJECTS.** 2011 should be an exciting year in Central Ohio as much of the efforts over the past several years will reach fruition. With the successful bidding of the last section of the Blacklick Greenway Trail and its completion in 2011, this trail will be complete and connect Blacklick Woods, Pickerington Ponds, and Three Creeks. The City of Columbus is expected to work on the last section of the Alum Creek Greenway Trail thus connecting Three Creeks with Westerville. The Camp Chase Trail will continue to be a priority. These trails are essential for providing a healthy alternative to Central Ohioans and as one of the amenities that will allow us to attract and retain employees and employers so essential to the Central Ohio economy.

*Camp Chase Trail.* Three related projects are included in the 2011 CIP budget including construction of a section of trail (1.6 miles) from the current terminus of the Ohio to Erie Trail in Madison County to sections of trail that Metro Parks will complete in 2010 in Lilly Chapel. Land acquisition issues have been resolved and that section of trail is being designed. Additionally, funds are budgeted to address the Alkire Road Bridge crossing that is being managed by the Franklin County Engineer. This project will involve “hanging” a pedestrian/bicycle bridge on the existing bridge, which is a cost effective approach to crossing Big Darby Creek. We will also begin constructing the section of the trail from Battelle Darby Creek east to Galloway.

Wilson Road to Lilly Chapel	\$700,000
Alkire Road Bridge Improvements	\$600,000
Battelle Darby Creek to Galloway	\$1,500,000

*Greenways Trails.* In 2010, Metro Parks began managing the City of Columbus portions of the Greenway Trail system. As noted above, progress is being made to complete the system of trails bringing recreation opportunities closer to many in the community. Funds are earmarked to make trail improvements in sections of trail we inherited that require significant maintenance and repaving. Additionally, funds are allocated to extend the Blacklick Greenway trail through Blacklick Woods Metro Park to create a direct trail connection to Livingston Avenue, thus eliminating the need for users (walkers and bicyclists) to utilize the relatively narrow main park roadway. Additionally, consistent with a legal option we signed, the section of the proposed Big Walnut Greenway Trail that will cross the Little Turtle Golf Course must be constructed in 2011. This trail will be 1.2 miles long and go north from SR 161 to the north property line of the Little Turtle Golf Club. Finally, a 1/2 mile trail

## 2011 Metro Parks Capital Improvement Projects

will be paved between the entrance road to Highbanks and Powell Road which will then connect into the Orange Township Trail System allowing many users to enter the park in a non-vehicular fashion. Orange Township will pay most of the cost of this last trail segment.

Greenway Trail Improvements	\$300,000
Blacklick Extension to Livingston Ave	\$335,000
Big Walnut Trail	\$1,000,000
Highbanks Orange Township Trail	\$100,000

**FACILITY DEVELOPMENT.** In a desire to make the Metro Parks more user friendly and to expand our opportunities to serve the public, several projects are planned.

*Battelle Darby Creek Projects.* Three projects have been selected to improve our facilities at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, including developing a 10,500 square foot nature education center, providing a viewing tower and decks overlooking recently constructed wetlands, and providing a parking lot in vicinity of the grandstand/walking trail at the end of the Darby Creek Greenway near Broad Street. The nature center will be a state of the art educational facility featuring classrooms, exhibits and displays, a multiple purpose room, and other amenities that will attract visitors to Battelle Darby and interpret the creek, watershed, bison, wetland restoration, and other nearby features. The budget for this project includes establishing a roadway, parking, utilities, and other infrastructure improvements associated with the new building.

An observation tower and viewing decks will be built to improve public access to the 500 acre prairie/wetland that was constructed in 2010. Finally, a parking lot will be established that will allow visitors to enter the park directly off of US 40 and provide easy access to the Darby Creek Greenway Trail and the grandstand/race track area.

Nature Center and Site Improvements	\$4,000,000
Wetland Observation Tower/Decks	\$ 100,000
US 40 Parking Lot	\$ 100,000

*Walnut Woods.* While much progress was made in 2010 in terms of habitat restoration, removal of debris and dilapidated structures, and the paving of the initial phase of a trail system, additional facilities will be needed to allow the park to fulfill the needs of the public. Based on the conceptual master plan, facilities including additional trails, a picnic shelter, observation decks, parking lots and roadways, and restrooms will be constructed.

Walnut Woods Facility Development	\$750,000
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## 2011 Metro Parks Capital Improvement Projects

*Scioto Audubon.* With the relocation of the impound lot, efforts will be undertaken to complete environmental remediation and prepare for additional development in 2012. Currently, environmental assessments are underway. It is hoped expenditures for environmental clean-up will at least partially be reimbursed by grants from the State or Federal governments and funds from the City of Columbus.

Scioto Audubon Environmental Cleanup	\$700,000
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*Other Facility Development.* In an attempt to improve energy efficiency, a pilot project will be undertaken to install solar panels at the Blacklick Woods ranger station. Coupled with the conversion to geothermal heating at the nature center, Blacklick Woods is serving as a demonstration project on alternative renewable energy. At Prairie Oaks, a need exists to replace the posts that were installed during construction of family picnic shelters. The design of the shelters called for use of posts comprised of Pacific Northwest Douglas Fir which have deteriorated. A more traditional construction will replace this experimental design. Finally, curbs and sidewalks need to be replaced in the Inniswood Parking Lot as the current asphalt curbing has deteriorated over time.

Blacklick Ranger Station Solar Panels	\$35,000
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Prairie Oaks Shelter Posts	\$25,000
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Inniswood Curbs and Sidewalks	\$30,000
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### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Several capital improvement projects are projected that primarily continue efforts in habitat restoration that are currently underway. Much of these funds will be reimbursed through grants already in place. Projects include following up on the Walnut Woods habitat restoration, Battelle Darby Kuhlwein Road Wetland, and the Battelle Darby Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) project. Additional plantings including trees and shrubs and further control of invasive species will occur. Funds have been allocated to do additional planning work for restoration to be undertaken in conjunction with the Morgan Run acquisition (Prairie Oaks) as part of the first phase of a Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) grant funded project. Finally, we will continue to address the emerald ash borer infestation in terms of removing hazardous dead ash trees and replacing them in picnic areas and other key locations.

Walnut Woods Habitat	\$25,000
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Kuhlwein Rd Wetland	\$40,000
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Morgan Run WRRSP	\$40,000
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Battelle Darby WHIP	\$100,000
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Emerald Ash Borer Recovery	\$95,000
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# 2011 Metro Parks Capital Improvement Projects

## DISTRICT-WIDE PROJECTS

Efforts will continue upgrade interpretive, orientation, and directional signage throughout Metro Parks particularly relative to trails. Metro Parks has committed to providing \$50,000 towards a study of the feasibility of removing the Main Street Dam in downtown Columbus. Finally, funds are allocated to demolish structures that are inherited during the course of land acquisition that are not usable for future park purposes.

Signage	\$50,000
Downtown Dam Removal Study	\$50,000
Demolition	\$75,000

## GOLF COURSE

A few small projects are recommended in conjunction with a detailed study of golf course revenues and operations. These include a driving range study and improvements to the HVAC and irrigation systems. \$45,000

## 2011 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY

### FUND 27

#### TRAIL PROJECTS

CAMP CHASE RAILROAD TRAIL	
WILSON RD TO LILLY CHAPEL	\$700,000
ALKIRE ROAD BRIDGE	\$600,000
BATTELLE DARBY CREEK TO GALLOWAY	\$1,500,000
GREENWAYS TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS	\$300,000
BLACKLICK TRAIL-EXTEND TO LIVINGSTON AVE	\$335,000
BIG WALNUT TRAIL-LITTLE TURTLE GC	\$1,000,000
HIGHBANKS CONNECTION TO ORANGE TWP TRAILS	\$100,000

#### FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

BATELLE DARBY	
NATURE CENTER AND SITEWORK	\$4,000,000
WETLAND OBSERVATION TOWER/DECKS	\$100,000
GRANDSTAND PARKING/ACCESS	\$100,000
WALNUT WOODS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT	\$750,000
SCIOTO AUDUBON IMPOUND LOT CLEANUP	\$700,000
BLACKLICK RANGER STATION SOLAR PANELS	\$35,000
PRAIRIE OAKS REPLACE SHELTER POSTS	\$25,000
INNISWOOD CURBING/SIDEWALKS	\$30,000

#### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

EASTSIDE NURSERY FOLLOW-UP	\$25,000
KUHLWEIN ROAD WETLAND FOLLOW-UP	\$40,000
MORGAN RUN WRRSP	\$40,000
DARBY W.H.I.P.	\$100,000
EMERALD ASH BORER RECOVERY/TREE PLANTING	\$95,000

#### DISTRICT-WIDE

DOWNTOWN DAM REMOVAL STUDY	\$50,000
SIGNAGE	\$50,000
DEMOLITION	\$75,000

**TOTAL** **\$10,750,000**

### FUND 30

GOLF COURSE (DRIVING RANGE STUDY/IRRIGATION/HVAC)	\$45,000
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**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS GRAND TOTAL** **\$10,795,000**

## Land Acquisition

The 2011 budget appropriates \$11,000,000 for land acquisition. Most of the proposed land acquisition projects for 2011 are funded by grants or through agreements with governmental partners. The preliminary allocation of these funds shown below is based on assumptions regarding the availability of property from willing sellers at a reasonable price. Some shifting in these allocations is likely to occur.

The largest allocation, \$4,000,000, 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 2008 to establish this new Metro Park. The City of Columbus has contributed \$6 million and has committed another \$1.5 million for this project. The Village of New Albany has contributed \$1,850,000 for this project and donated a parcel valued at \$650,000. Metro Parks contributed \$3 million to this fund.

Metro Parks has a commitment for \$1.4 million in funding from the Ohio EPA to purchase land and restore habitat along Hellbranch Run. We have also received approval for an additional \$2.45 million in Ohio EPA funds for land acquisition and habitat restoration in the Morgan Run headwaters area of western Franklin County. We do not anticipate spending all of the Morgan Run funds in 2011.

We have applied for grants totaling \$2.5 million from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund that will help fund additional acquisitions, if approved. We are projecting receipt of \$1.5 million from this source in the budget in 2011.

We anticipate applying for additional grants through the Clean Ohio program and the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program in 2011 to support additional acquisitions. These grants have the potential to significantly increase the amount of funding available for land acquisition.

The list below represents a preliminary allocation of the available land acquisition funds by project area. Additional properties may be considered if additional funds become available.

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

<b>Park/Project</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Battelle Darby Creek	1,500,000
Hellbranch Run	1,400,000
Prairie Oaks / Morgan Run	1,400,000
Rocky Fork Headwaters	4,000,000
Scioto Audubon	200,000
Scioto South	1,500,000
Walnut Woods	<u>1,000,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,000,000</b>

For Comparison:

Projected actual expenditures for land acquisition in 2010: \$8,270,000

## Local Government Fund Uncertainty

The State of Ohio is facing an unprecedented budget shortfall that must be resolved by July 1, 2011. We do not know what Governor Kasich will propose or how the legislature will respond. However, there has been much discussion about eliminating or greatly reducing the Local Government Fund. The Local Government Fund (LGF) is a major source of funding for Metro Parks. We received \$4.1 million from this fund in 2010 and it has provided similar or greater levels of annual funding for the last several decades. If it is eliminated or greatly reduced in 2011 it is likely that it will remain reduced for the foreseeable future.

Because nothing is likely to happen before July 1, we anticipate that we will receive about half of the normal LGF funds in 2011 (\$2 million). We are required to use the budget estimates we receive from the budget commission, and they have based their estimates on the current law; therefore this proposed budget shows \$4.1 million as the anticipated revenue from LGF. We also receive several million dollars of grant funding from the state in most years. This grant funding is also at great risk as the state seeks to balance its budget. LGF and grants from state agencies accounted for 16% of our income in 2010.

With this uncertainty in regards to major sources of funding for our agency, we will not take any action on several elements of the proposed budget in the first half of the year. These budget elements, and the funds that will not be spent, are being withheld not only because we anticipate a major reduction in funds in 2011, but also because this funding is disappearing for many years to come. We don't want to initiate commitments in 2011 that we will not be able to sustain over the remainder of our ten year levy cycle. Therefore the projects that will be held in abeyance exceed the \$2.1 million shortfall that we anticipate in 2011.

A decision will be made on which, if any, of the withheld elements will be completed in 2011 after we see what the State has decided to do.

The following list indicates components of the budget that will not be actively pursued before July 1, 2011 and which may not be utilized at all depending on the outcome of the State's budget process and our financial situation.

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
<b>Operations</b>	
New Positions	
One full-time and six part-time positions	50,000
Equipment	
The tram, two vehicles, two mowers, a tractor and other small equipment	350,000

*Continued next page*

## Local Government Fund Uncertainty

### Capital Improvement Projects

Greenway Trail Improvements	200,000
Blacklick Trail Extension	335,000
Wetland Observation Tower – BDC	100,000
US 40 Parking Lot - BDC	100,000
Blacklick Solar Panels	35,000
Curbs - Inniswood	30,000
Resource Mgmt	100,000

### Land Acquisition

Projects not funded by grants or partners	2,000,000
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<b>Total</b>	<b>3,300,000</b>
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**APROPRIATIONS**  
**Based on 2011 Budget Proposal**

The proposed budget for Metro Parks for the the fiscal year 2011 is listed below. The total budget is appropriated by fund, and the amount to be appropriated by each fund is listed below. The appropriation for Fund 27 includes an interfund transfer amount which is the movement of monies between Funds, but not a budget item. Any disbursement of funds, including transfers between Funds, must be an approved appropriation. These appropriations are being recommended for approval by the Park Board.

		<b><u>TOTAL NEW</u></b>
		<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b> (1)
	<b>Personnel</b>	11,800,000
	<b>Non-Personnel</b>	5,079,000
	<b>Inter Fund Transfer</b>	13,000,000
	<b>Fund 27 Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,879,000</b>
	<b>Fund 29 Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,750,000</b>
	<b>Personnel</b>	\$ 848,000
	<b>Non-Personnel</b>	\$ 394,000
	<b>Fund 30 Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,242,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b><u>\$ 52,871,000</u></b>

(1) 2010 encumbrances will be identified and carried forward as of 12/31/2010 and are not included above. The 2010 encumbrances will be charged against the 2010 budget.