

2015 Metro Parks Budget



Board of Park Commissioners:

**Greg S. Lashutka
J. Jeffrey McNealey
Jim McGregor**

Executive Director:

John R. O'Meara

METRO PARKS 2015 BUDGET

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November 25, 2014

Gregory S. Lashutka
James McGregor
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BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS,
COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

Dear Park Commissioners:

A fundamental component of our mission is to maintain clean, safe parks. In addition to this primary goal, we were able to make substantial progress fulfilling other commitments that we made to the voters in 2009.

Our finances were stable, but at levels lower than we anticipated when we passed the levy. Almost \$2 million in grant revenue was received in 2014, and an additional \$1.2 million was received from partners. Total income remains below the amounts that were available a few years ago.

The steps that we implemented to streamline operations continue to pay dividends. Personnel costs have only grown about 1% between 2012 and 2014, and other operating expenses have also been held steady.

We have been able to maintain our existing parks, trails and facilities and even make some significant progress on park improvements. Rocky Fork Metro Park is now under construction and good progress has been made on trail projects. Progress on our goals in 2014 has been good, although some of our capital improvement projects have fallen behind schedule.

The Year in Review - 2014

More than 7,500,000 visitors enjoyed time in the Metro Parks again this year as attendance continues to grow. This total does not include the hundreds of thousands of people who utilize the Greenway Trails. Importantly, the parks, trails and facilities continue to be clean, safe and well maintained.

Construction at Rocky Fork Metro Park was initiated in 2014. The planned opening of the park is delayed until 2015. The park will include two shelters, a dog park, a playground, and an extensive trail system.

Other major construction efforts in 2014 focused on the trail systems. The Ohio to Erie Trail is being completed from Battelle Darby Creek to Galloway. We are preparing to complete the trail from Galloway to Hall Road in 2015. The section from Hall Road to Sullivant is under construction and should be completed in the spring. The City of Columbus has initiated construction of the trail east of Sullivant Avenue.

Improvements were made on other sections of the Greenway Trails throughout the county. A paved trail was completed across the central section of Walnut Woods which links the

trails in the Tall Pines and Buckeye areas of the park. Planning began for an extension of the Olentangy Greenway Trail through Highbanks Metro Park.

At Scioto Audubon Metro Park, signage and parking lots were upgraded and other improvements were completed. The obstacle course proved to be a well-used new amenity, while the Grange Insurance Audubon Center continued to attract large numbers of visitors.

Metro Parks will grow by 161 acres this year. These additional acquisitions will bring Metro Parks' total land holdings to 27,335 acres by year's end. Grants and contributions from governmental partners were an important component of the funding for these acquisitions, and we are very grateful for their support.

As an important part of our mission, we strive to protect and improve habitat for wildlife. This improved habitat creates new opportunities for people to observe and enjoy wildlife, and leads to improved water quality that is important to us all. Habitat improvement projects were completed in several parks.

We also made efforts to enhance populations of rare species. The effort to reinforce the populations of the federally endangered riffleshell and clubshell mussels in Big Darby Creek, in cooperation with several conservation partners, received additional attention. Efforts to restore hellbenders and thirteen lined ground squirrels are being considered. Monitoring of Indiana bat populations have again confirmed breeding colonies in the parks.

The Year Ahead - 2015

Metro Parks will continue working to fulfill commitments made to the community during the 2009 park levy campaign. Maintaining the outstanding quality of the existing Metro Parks will remain a top priority, and major construction projects will be completed for the promised new parks and facilities.

The first phase of park construction will be completed at Rocky Fork Metro Park. Funds from Metro Parks and our partners have allowed us to acquire land and develop facilities at this new park. Additional funding for construction of park facilities will allow continued progress in 2015.

Planning is underway for Scioto Grove Metro Park, which is along the Scioto River in Grove City. We anticipate a first round of construction for this park to be underway in 2015.

Substantial trail construction will be completed in 2015. Most notably, the Ohio to Erie Trail along the Camp Chase railroad corridor will be completed from Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park into the City of Columbus at Sullivant Avenue. The City of Columbus will also be working on the segment of this trail through the Hilltop area, connecting the trail to the Scioto and Olentangy Greenway Trails. Following completion of an alignment study, construction will begin on a segment of the Olentangy Greenway Trail extension through Highbanks Metro Park. Other projects that we hope to complete will add trail connections at Sharon Woods, Blacklick Woods, and on the Blacklick Creek Greenway Trail.

Additional efforts will be made to improve Scioto Audubon Metro Park. We will be working closely with our partners at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and the City of Columbus. Educational exhibits will be added in and around the Audubon Center.

Educational programming will continue to be an important part of our efforts. The Students Exploring Ecosystem Dynamics (SEED) program continues its wonderful success with local schools. Our expanded programming for senior citizens will continue and we will provide a wide range of programs that are of interest to people of all ages.

We will continue the Columbus Schools Initiative to provide jobs, training and conservation education for at-risk youth. The participants will complete projects in the Metro Parks while learning skills and gaining exposure to conservation careers.

Land acquisition in 2015 will be focused on projects that are completed in cooperation with partners. Funding from partners is available for acquisition at Rocky Fork Metro Park in northeast Franklin County. Clean Ohio grants will be pursued that will assist in acquisitions for other parks and trails. We will make a second payment for the conservation easement acquired in downtown Columbus in conjunction with the dam removal project. Conserving land in the Darby Creek watershed remains an important goal.

The coming year should remain productive for Metro Parks. We anticipate making progress on several initiatives. The attached budget provides funds for maintenance and improvements throughout the park system. The budget provides \$14.1 million for salaries and benefits, \$5.4 million for operations and administration, \$7.3 million for capital improvements, and \$4 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 substantial progress in fulfillment of our mission and our commitments to the community.

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. A new Executive Director will guide Metro Parks beginning in 2015 as we continue our efforts to provide the best possible park system for the Central Ohio community.

With your support, Metro Parks will continue to provide safe, clean, well-managed parks for the citizens of Franklin County and surrounding areas, and will continue to plan for the open space and passive outdoor recreation needs of the community for decades to come.

On a personal note, thank you for granting me the honor of serving as Director of Metro Parks. A new Executive Director will lead the park system in 2015 and I hope that he will take Metro Parks to greater prosperity and while finding better ways to serve the public and achieve our conservation goals.

Respectfully submitted,
John R. O'Meara
Executive Director

METRO PARKS GOALS For the Year 2015

1. Our top priority is always to maintain clean, safe parks. Provide enjoyable, informative and healthful outdoor experiences for over seven million visitors in the parks and on the trails. Maintain high quality standards for all facilities and services.
2. Finish the first phase of park development of Rocky Fork Metro Park and open the park for public enjoyment. Construct additional improvements to trails.
3. Complete planning and construct facilities at Scioto Grove Metro Park. Open the park for public enjoyment.
4. Complete planning and initiate construction of the extension of the Olentangy Greenway Trail through Highbanks Metro Park. Construct a component of the trail following completion of the alignment study.
5. Continue to make improvements to the remainder of the Greenways Trail System. Complete the Ohio to Erie Trail along the Camp Chase railroad corridor from Battelle Darby Creek to Sullivant Avenue in Columbus. Construct new trail connections for Sharon Woods and Blacklick Woods. Complete an underpass on the Blacklick Creek Greenway Trail in cooperation with the railroad.
6. Continue the education initiative to assist school children in learning science concepts and to provide knowledge of the environment in cooperation with local schools. Provide quality educational and enjoyable programming at all parks.
7. Continue the Metro Parks' Columbus School Interns program. Hire inner-city youth to assist on Metro Parks' projects and to provide training and exposure to conservation professions.
8. Work towards balancing the budget at Blacklick Woods Golf Courses while continuing to provide great golf opportunities for youth and adults.
9. Complete habitat restoration projects in Battelle Darby Creek in cooperation with partners. Continue efforts to reduce impact of invasive species on native ecological communities. Cooperate in efforts to restore populations of rare native species.
10. Acquire land for existing parks and trails in cooperation with community partners and to conserve high quality natural features.
11. 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 trail system.

12. Train and equip park staff to provide outstanding customer service. Provide staff with tools and training to perform their jobs efficiently and effectively. Strive to create a work force that is representative of the community.
13. Increase public awareness of Metro Parks and conservation issues through newspaper, television and social media. Promote the endless benefits that Metro Parks provides to the community. Continue to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage visitors to enjoy trails, programs 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.

2015 Financial Summary
Combined General, Capital and Enterprise Funds

ESTIMATED ENDING CASH BALANCE - 12/31/14	\$ 9,411,000
Add: New Revenues	<u>\$ 25,330,700</u>
Total Available Cash Resources	\$ 34,741,700
Less: Budgeted Expenses	
Salaries and Benefits, excluding golf course	\$ 13,262,750
Operating and Administrative	\$ 5,054,100
Enterprise Fund - Golf Course	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 866,250
Operating	<u>\$ 344,350</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$ 19,527,450
Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 7,325,000
Capital Improvement Projects-Golf Course	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ 4,000,000
Total Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 30,852,450</u>
Loan Proceeds	\$ 70,000
Loan Payment	\$ (10,000)
ESTIMATED 12/31/15 CASH BALANCE, IF ALL APPROPRIATIONS ARE FULLY EXPENDED	<u>\$ 3,949,250</u>

Projected Changes in 2014 Fund Balances

BUDGET AMOUNTS:

	FUND 27 GENERAL FUND Total	FUND 29 CAPITAL Total	FUND 30 ENTERPRISE Total	ALL FUNDS Total
Projected New Revenue				
Public Sources:				
Tax Levy	19,744,000			19,744,000
Local Government Fund	2,202,000			2,202,000
Grants	3,600	887,300		890,900
Total Public Sources	\$ 21,949,600	\$ 887,300	\$ -	\$ 22,836,900
Earned Income from Operations:				
Golf Courses			950,000	950,000
Shelter Fees, Concessions & Special Events	273,400			273,400
Interpretive Program	74,000			74,000
House & Land Rental	185,900			185,900
Total Earned Income	\$ 533,300	\$ -	\$ 950,000	\$ 1,483,300
Interest Income	\$ 17,600	\$ 7,900		\$ 25,500
Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions		\$ 935,000		\$ 935,000
Donations & Bequests	\$ 19,600	\$ 11,100		\$ 30,700
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 14,600	\$ 4,700	\$ -	\$ 19,300
Total 2015 Projected Revenue by Fund	\$ 22,534,700	\$ 1,846,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 25,330,700
Projected Expenditures:				
Salaries	9,353,250		619,350	\$ 9,972,600
Fringe Benefits	2,392,200		148,900	2,541,100
PERS	1,400,300		89,200	1,489,500
Medicare	117,000		8,800	125,800
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 13,262,750		\$ 866,250	\$ 14,129,000
Admin	\$ 1,074,840		\$ 3,500	\$ 1,078,340
Education/Interpretive Operations	\$ 225,785			225,785
Park Maintenance	\$ 1,728,110		23,000	1,751,110
Promotion	\$ 581,900			581,900
Rental Properties	\$ 406,740			406,740
Natural Resource Management	\$ 173,945			173,945
Revenue Programs	\$ 34,250		317,850	352,100
Safety & Law Enforcement	\$ 285,535			285,535
Special Facilities	\$ 362,995			362,995
Renovations	\$ 180,000			180,000
Operating Expenses	\$ 5,054,100	\$ -	\$ 344,350	\$ 5,398,450
Capital Improvement Projects		\$ 7,325,000	\$ -	\$ 7,325,000
Land Acquisition		\$ 4,000,000		\$ 4,000,000
2015 Projected Expenditures by Fund	\$ 18,316,850	\$ 11,325,000	\$ 1,210,600	\$ 30,852,450
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	\$ 4,217,850	\$ (9,479,000)	\$ (260,600)	\$ (5,521,750)
Projected Balance 12/31/2014	\$ 8,969,000	\$ 392,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 9,411,000
Loan Proceeds			\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Loan Payment			\$ (10,000)	\$ (10,000)
Transfer to / (from) Fund	\$ (9,288,000)	\$ 9,087,000	\$ 201,000	\$ -
Estimated Balance 12/31/2015	\$ 3,898,850	\$ -	\$ 50,400	\$ 3,949,250

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 2015 is \$25,330,600. The following narratives provide an explanation for each source of revenue.

PUBLIC SOURCES

Metro Parks' public source revenue for 2015 is projected to increase slightly compared to 2014 actual revenues. The Franklin County Auditor projects Metro Parks levy revenue based on the fair market value of the property in the county and the levy millage for Metro Parks. Local Government Funds have been funded for 2015 but will remain at the reduced levels of prior years. Metro Parks has several grants in the pipe line for 2015 that are designated for land acquisition and capital improvement projects.

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 (\$19,744,000) 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) (9,087,000) and to the Golf Course Enterprise Fund (Fund 30) (\$201,000).

Local Government Fund (LGF) - A portion of State of Ohio taxes 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 (\$2,202,000). 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 been awarded two grants which are included in our projected revenue for 2015. Metro Parks has been awarded a Clean Ohio grant for land acquisition in the amount of \$373,000 and we have been allocated \$500,000 from the State of Ohio's capital budget.

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 are considered earned income and recorded in the Enterprise Fund of Metro Parks. Income from the golf course operations for 2015 is projected to remain flat for 2015. The golf course has been making improvements and the Morty's Kids and First Tee programs have potential to increase the golf course revenue. (Fund 30) \$949,900

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 decreased revenue from these activities in 2015 due to reduced rental income. Receipts are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27). \$533,300

Sources Of Revenue, continued

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

Special Events - Receipts from businesses and entrepreneurs hosting a special event in a Metro Park for which participants pay a fee.

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 to off-set the cost of land acquisition for Glacier Ridge Metro Park and the Partnership with the City of Columbus, Plain Township, and New Albany for the development of the Rocky Fork Metro Park. \$935,000

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. We are projecting revenue based on a .5 % return. Income is recorded in both the General Fund (Fund 27) and Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 29). \$25,500

Donations and bequests - Bequests, which generate receipts on a regular basis, and one-time donations, are recorded here. \$30,700

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 and plans for Metro Parks' capital improvement projects. \$19,300

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 trusts are classified as non-expendable (only interest earned on the principal may be spent). The aggregate balance of these trust funds is projected to be \$756,700 (excluding the funds managed by the Columbus Foundation, referenced below) by December 31, 2014. The trust funds projected increase for 2015 is \$30,100.

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 interest income in the general fund.

REVENUES AND COMBINED FUND BALANCES

	2013 Actual	2014 Projected Actual 10/31/2014	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	2014 Budget v. 2015 Budget Inc (Dec)	% Change Inc (Dec)
NEW REVENUES: GOVT (27, 29) & ENTERPRISE (30) FUNDS						
Public Sources:						
Property Tax Levy - .75 mill	19,331,920	19,308,000	19,489,900	19,744,000	254,100	1.3%
LGF	2,202,874	2,079,000	2,128,000	2,202,000	74,000	3.5%
Grants	1,919,858	1,318,000	39,800	890,900	851,100	2138.4%
Total Public Sources	23,454,652	22,705,000	21,657,700	22,836,900	1,179,200	5.4%
Operational Sources:						
Revenues from Golf Course Operations	1,023,562	950,000	1,171,000	950,000	(221,000)	-18.9%
Revenues from Park Operations:						
Shelter Fees & Special Events	244,068	272,000	237,000	273,400	36,400	15.4%
Interpretive Programs	63,233	73,000	65,000	74,000	9,000	13.8%
House & Land Rental	267,382	186,000	250,000	185,900	(64,100)	-25.6%
Total Income from Operational Sources	1,598,245	1,481,000	1,723,000	1,483,300	(239,700)	-13.9%
Governmental Partnership Contributions	1,435,000	935,000	935,000	935,000	-	0.0%
Income from Investment	17,952	25,000	17,000	25,500	8,500	50.0%
Donations & Bequests	132,181	31,000	34,000	30,700	(3,300)	-9.7%
Miscellaneous Receipts (incl salvage sale)	252,456	19,000	32,700	19,300	(13,400)	-41.0%
TOTAL NEW REVENUES	26,890,485	25,196,000	24,399,400	25,330,700	931,300	3.8%
LOAN PROCEEDS - Net						
BEG UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCES	5,266,497	5,266,000	5,266,000	4,037,000 proj. 12/31/2014	(1,229,000)	-23.3%
FUND BALANCES PLUS NEW REVENUES	32,156,982	30,462,000	29,665,400	29,367,700	(297,700)	-1.0%
FIDUCIARY FUNDS PRIOR BALANCE						
Expendable (Beck & Thomas)	298,518	325,189	325,189	355,819	30,630	9.4%
Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	299,928	303,031	303,031	303,031	-	0.0%
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%
Add:						
Current Year Projected Income	21	30	30	30	-	0.0%
Donations & Bequests	29,753	30,600	30,600	30,000		
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	32,186,756	30,492,630	29,696,030	29,397,730	(298,300)	-1.0%

Summary of Non-Personnel Operating and Administrative Expenditures

The non-personnel and administrative expenditures comprise the operations budget and these expenditures are allocated to accomplish Metro Parks' goal of providing clean, safe parks for the residents of Franklin County and Central Ohio. The operations budget has two components, the park operations which cover all of the parks' budgets and budget centers that relate directly to park operations, and administrative budget centers that have district wide responsibilities.

The 2015 budget for operations is \$4,954,100. 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 \$344,350, 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 (\$10,000) and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (up to \$40,000).

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 \$50,000 or greater. A list of the largest budgeted equipment items, with a \$20,000 threshold, is presented later in this document. Equipment is classified according to the program in which it is utilized to be in conformance with the way equipment is reported on our accrual basis financial statements. For example, 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 2015 proposed operational budget for Fund 27 (excluding personnel) is \$5,054,100.

The operations budget is a compilation of all the budget centers, including parks and administrative requests for funding. The budget is prepared with a philosophy of request what you need to operate your budget center.

The major planned change for 2015 is the opening of Rocky Fork Metro Park. The construction of the park began in 2014 and start-up operational costs for the park are allocated at \$25,000 in addition to the construction costs that are included in the Capital Improvements Budget. Other major expenditures are for upgrading radios (\$100,000) and controlling invasive plants (\$40,000). The education program category shows an increase which is mainly due to the replacement of a vehicle.

The 2015 budget reflects the continuing desire of Metro Parks to meet or exceed the existing standards of service to the community that we have established in terms of administration, maintenance, programming, customer service, law enforcement and natural resource management.

Anticipated Expenditure Summary
Comparison of 2013 Projected Actual and 2014 Budget

CATEGORY	2013 Actual	2014 Projected Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	% Change
		projected from 10/31 actual			Budget to Budget
<u>Personnel (from Fund 27)</u>					
Salaries (including merit increases)	8,196,079	8,669,900	8,897,100	9,353,250	5.13 %
Employee Benefits	1,922,113	2,031,000	2,288,100	2,392,200	4.55 %
PERS	1,211,785	1,291,500	1,307,000	1,400,300	7.14 %
Medicare	104,654	111,000	119,800	117,000	(2.34) %
Total Benefits	3,238,551	3,433,500	3,714,900	3,909,500	5.24 %
Subtotal	11,434,630	12,103,400	12,612,000	13,262,750	5.16 %
 <u>Park Ops & Admin (from Fund 27)</u>					
Admin	936,291	940,000	1,113,455	1,074,840	(3.47) %
Education/Interpretive Operations	168,902	183,000	210,920	225,785	7.05 %
Park Maintenance	1,458,910	1,689,000	1,731,750	1,728,110	(0.21) %
Promotion	551,577	585,000	603,400	581,900	(3.56) %
Rental Properties	278,599	226,000	404,340	406,740	0.59 %
Natural Resource Management	122,807	118,000	120,820	173,945	43.97 %
Revenue Programs	26,314	35,000	35,580	34,250	(3.74) %
Safety & Law Enforcement	122,283	189,000	121,610	285,535	134.80 %
Special Facilities	144,785	157,000	163,275	362,995	122.32 %
Renovations	171,419	183,000	180,000	180,000	- %
Other - Prior Year	82,019	-	-	-	- %
Subtotal	4,063,905	4,305,000	4,685,150	5,054,100	7.87 %
 <u>Capital Improvement Projects (Fund 29)</u>					
<u>Capital Improvement Projects</u>			5,595,000	7,325,000	30.92 %
Miscellaneous	20,303	5,600			
Building Construction	49,058	33,100			
Facility Improvements	26,499	299,600			
Natural Resource Improvements	11,705	-			
Planning	66,129	61,000			
Site Improvements	729,612	5,092,100			
Utilities	350	17,700	-	-	-
Other - Prior Year	3,374,008	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	4,277,666	5,509,100	5,595,000	7,325,000	31 %
 Land Acquisition	1,998,963	2,646,700	4,000,000	4,000,000	
Other - Prior Year	139,725	-	-	-	-
Land Acquisition (from Fund 29)	2,138,689	2,646,700	4,000,000	4,000,000	- %
 TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES - FUNDS 27& 29	21,914,890	24,564,200	26,892,150	29,641,850	10.22 %
 ENTERPRISE FUND EXP. - Golf Course					
<u>Personnel</u>					
Salaries (including merit increases)	636,537	619,600	684,300	619,350	(9.49) %
Employee Benefits	137,501	144,400	154,800	148,900	(3.81) %
PERS	87,657	87,000	93,700	89,200	(4.80) %
Medicare	7,587	9,000	9,900	8,800	(11.11) %
Total Benefits	232,746	240,400	258,400	246,900	(4.45) %
Subtotal	869,283	860,000	942,700	866,250	(8.11) %
 Operations	348,733	274,200	289,025	344,350	19.14 %
Capital Improvement Projects	-	-	-	-	- %
Other - Prior Year	2,190	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND FUND 30	1,220,206	1,134,200	1,231,725	1,210,600	(1.72) %
 TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE ALL FUNDS	23,135,095	25,698,400	28,123,875	30,852,450	9.70 %

Equipment Budget Highlights

The following is a list of equipment items that are budgeted at amounts over \$20,000. Purchases over \$50,000 must be approved by resolution by the Board of Park Commissioners. Additional pieces of equipment totaling \$206,911 are budgeted, but did not meet the large item cost threshold.

Park	Item Description	Budgeted
Operations	Radio Upgrades	\$100,000.00
Blendon Woods	natural gas ranger truck	\$35,000.00
Prairie Oaks	Ranger Truck	\$35,000.00
Battelle Darby Creek	Maintenance Truck	\$30,000.00
Blacklick Woods	Ranger Truck	\$25,000.00
Sharon Woods	Passenger Van	\$24,000.00
	Equipment budget items under \$20,000	\$206,911.00
	The remaining equipment budget Includes: Utility vehicles, Mowers, Powers tools, computers, benches and grills etc.	
	Total 2015 Equipment Budget:	455,911.00

Summary of Personnel Expenditures

We continued to evaluate staffing levels in 2014. The seasonal employment program was evaluated and expanded, and included the conversion of several positions from part-time to seasonal status, resulting in personnel cost savings.

The merit system, which was redesigned in late 2013, was fully implemented in 2014. The lump sum merit component was highly successful and awarded individuals whose performance was integral to Metro Parks achieving its established goals and priorities closer to the time those accomplishments were realized. The annual merit recognition component continues to recognize the efforts of employees in meeting or exceeding performance criteria throughout the year. With the success of the merit program, the proposed personnel budget includes funds to continue this recognition. Funds for merit recognition amount to 2% of the personnel budget.

The 2015 proposed Personnel Budget includes:

- Cost of living increase of 1.7% for full-time and part-time employees hired prior to January 1, 2015. For those employees at the maximum of their classification's pay range, the 1.7% would be awarded in two lump sums, half in March and half in September. The "maxed out" employees' base pay rates would not be adjusted and they would remain at the maximum of their pay range.
- Merit increases of 1% for eligible full-time and part-time employees who receive at least an "Achieves" rating on the annual performance evaluation. This merit will be applied to full-time and part-time employees hired prior to January 1, 2015. Increases will be given up to the maximum rate established for each position's pay range.
- \$106,000 of the personnel budget will be reserved to award additional merit payments to those employees who demonstrate outstanding performance in conjunction with their annual performance appraisal and for skill based increases for eligible employees. An additional \$85,400 will be used throughout the year in the merit program to provide recognition for outstanding performance and/or for playing an active role in assisting Metro Parks in meeting its goals.
- Returning seasonal, intermittent and internship employees will receive an increase of 10 cents per hour. Increases will be given up to the maximum rate established for each position's range.
- Per the Labor Agreement between Metro Parks and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, full-time Park Rangers will receive the greater of a 1.25% general wage increase or the increases awarded through the merit program. The pay increase amount will be the same amount as awarded to non-bargaining unit employees. Full-time Park Rangers will also be eligible for the merit recognition program.
- Lump sum payments, whether for cost of living or merit, are not included in the wage ranges. Wage ranges are not being adjusted for 2015.
- All increases for full-time, part-time, and intermittent employees will be effective February 23, 2015 and will be dispersed on the March 20, 2015 pay date.

These salary proposals take into consideration employee performance, projected pay increases granted by local agencies, and general economic conditions.

The benefit year for health care begins in April, and actual numbers for health care cost are not yet confirmed. An estimated 4% increase in health care costs has been included in the budget. Projections for employee contribution to health care are not yet known. Any additional changes that may occur will be in accordance with the Affordable Care Act.

Personnel Analysis

Budget vs Budget

TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:	2015 Budget	2014 Budget	% Change	\$ Change
EXCLUDING NEW POSITIONS	13,902,300	13,565,000	2.49%	337,300
INCLUDING NEW POSITIONS	14,129,100	13,812,000	2.30%	317,100

Projected Actual vs Budget

	2015 Proposed Budget	2014 Projected Actual	% Change #	2014 Budget	% Change ##
PERSONNEL COSTS:					
Staffing/FT & PT positions:					
Salaries	\$ 9,570,300	\$ 9,228,600	3.70%	\$ 9,323,400	2.65%
New Positions	152,400				
Health Care Benefits	2,414,000	2,041,200	18.26%	2,307,500	4.62%
PERS	1,489,500	1,381,400	7.83%	1,400,700	6.34%
Medicare	125,800	118,800	5.89%	129,700	-3.01%
Salaries and Benefits Total	13,752,000	12,770,000	7.69%	13,161,300	4.49%
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS:					
Merit	191,400	91,200	109.87%	180,000	6.33%
Uniform Allowance	33,600				0.00%
Claims-based Expenses:					
Retirements*	58,600		0.00%	78,000	-24.87%
Unemployment	6,000		0.00%	6,000	0.00%
Workers Comp	87,400	133,700	-34.63%	129,400	-32.46%
Total Other Appropriations	377,000	224,900	67.63%	393,400	-4.17%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$14,129,000	\$ 12,994,900	8.73%	\$ 13,554,700	4.24%

* (Accrued vacation / sick leave payments)

% Change is showing the change from 2015 proposed budget to the 2014 projected actual

% Change is showing the change from 2015 proposed budget to the 2014 Budget

Proposed Positions FY 2015 Budget

In order to meet the growing needs and demands of specific areas, the personnel proposal includes the addition of one part-time maintenance position and converting an existing part-time Park Technician to a full-time classification, addition of a Ranger on the Greenways, as well as mid-year staffing for Rocky Fork Metro Park. In keeping with our personnel strategies, each vacancy is reviewed for operational necessity, appropriateness, and functionality.

The past year allowed for the expansion and evaluation of the seasonal employee program. As a result, the proposed personnel changes for 2015 consist of adding four new seasonal positions and converting an existing part-time vacancy to seasonal status.

The following are the specific proposed personnel changes:

Conversion of Existing Positions

Part-Time Park Technician to Full-Time Park Technician 1 at Scioto Audubon Metro Park – Increased visitation and expanding amenities at Scioto Audubon have impacted maintenance operations. Converting the existing part-time Park Technician position to full-time status will enable maintenance staff to keep up with the growing demands at this park.

Part-Time Ranger to Seasonal Ranger at Highbanks Metro Park – Having evaluated the success of the seasonal Ranger program, converting the existing part-time position to seasonal status will allow this park to be properly staffed during peak times when staffing needs are greater.

Elimination of Position

Part-Time Ranger at Sharon Woods Metro Park – Analyzing the impact of the placement of seasonal Rangers at Sharon Woods in 2014 has resulted in the decision that the existing vacancy of this part-time Ranger position does not need to be filled. Sharon Woods was able to complete their responsibilities with current part-time Rangers in concert with seasonal Rangers during peak times.

Additional Positions

Full-Time Ranger and Seasonal/Part-Time Maintenance on the Greenway Trails – With the expansion of the Greenway Trail system, there is a need for additional staff to keep up with the increased visitation, patrolling and maintenance of these trails. While many of the Parks contribute and assist with the trails adjacent to their parks, there is still a demand for additional staff beyond the areas where parks assist. After more study on

exact maintenance needs, a final decision will be made in regard to whether the maintenance staffing should be part-time or seasonal in nature.

Seasonal Maintenance – The success of the seasonal program has prompted many Managers to evaluate the use of seasonal employees to address specific maintenance needs during the busier time of the year. The use of seasonal employees has benefited Metro Parks by allowing the employees to focus on the necessary routine maintenance needs at the parks during the summer and freeing up the full-time staff to focus their efforts on special projects when the weather typically tends to be better. This concept has also benefited the seasonal employees as many receive “intern” credit toward their degree in the environmental and natural resources field. This proposal creates four new seasonal maintenance positions at Blendon Woods, Glacier Ridge, Slate Run, and Walnut Woods. For Glacier Ridge, Slate Run, and Walnut Woods, this would be the first seasonal maintenance position. For Blendon Woods, this would be an addition to their existing seasonal staff, but would allow greater focus on maintenance duties for both Rocky Fork and the disc golf course in addition to the general duties at Blendon Woods.

One Full-Time Park Technician 1 and Two Part-Time Rangers for Rocky Fork Metro Park – Based upon the continued development of Rocky Fork, a full-time Park Technician 1 and two Part-Time Rangers would be budgeted to begin mid-May 2015. The plan is to have these positions work out of Blendon Woods until the initial development nears completion and visitation warrants staffing directly at Rocky Fork.

2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The primary focus of the 2015 Capital Improvement Budget is to continue to address commitments made during the 2009 Park Levy campaign, extend the Regional Greenway Trail System, and address on-going initiatives.

SCIOTO GROVE PARK DEVELOPMENT (\$3,200,000). These funds will be used to complete the initial development of park facilities at Scioto Grove Metro Park, the new park that will be opened along the Scioto River near Grove City. A portion of the funds will be used to hire consultants to complete master plan efforts, engineering support, and developing detailed construction plans. The package of improvements will include entrance roadway(s), parking facilities, trails, other facilities identified in the next few months as desirable for park development (shelters, play areas, interpretive hubs, access to the Scioto River including a canoe ingress/egress, recreational facilities, other items to be determined following the master plan process), and additional habitat improvements.

TRAIL PROJECTS

Olentangy Greenway Trail Extension/Highbanks Metro Park (\$2,080,000). Funds will be used to construct a segment of the Olentangy Greenway Trail through Highbanks Metro Park on the selected trail alignment (that is currently under review by a consultant) and possibly across the Olentangy River through the Delaware County Sewer Plant and to the recently acquired Bodycombe Property. A trailhead may be developed at Bodycombe. The City of Columbus will extend the trail north from the Worthington Hills Shopping Center (current terminus) to Highview Road in the coming years. The entire trail will be linked together in future years.

Camp Chase Railroad Trail (\$350,000). Funds will be used to complete the section of trail between Galloway and Hall Road thus finishing all of the connections in the Metro Parks portion of the Camp Chase Railroad Trail. Work has begun on this section of trail and paving should occur by the summer of 2015. Funds are also set aside for potential change orders on the I-270 project which should be completed by May, 2015.

Alum Creek Greenway—Sharon Woods Connector Trail (\$300,000). This project involves a partnership with the City of Westerville connecting the Alum Creek Greenway to Sharon Woods Metro Park. Previously, Metro Parks has contributed money for the design work and funds were budgeted in 2014 for the actual construction of the trail. Westerville was unable to successfully bid the project and plans to do so in early 2015 to take advantage of a projected positive bidding climate.

Blacklick Greenway Trail-Norfolk Southern Crossing (\$120,000). Upon approval by Norfolk and Southern, Metro Parks will connect the sections of the Blacklick Greenway Trail that are separated by property controlled by the railroad. This project includes paving a short section of trail, design, construction and installation of a protective screen protecting trail

visitors from debris falling from passing trains, and signage and fencing to help keep trail users off of the railroad.

Blacklick Greenway Trail-Extension through Blacklick Woods (\$250,000). Funds will be used to develop a parallel trail that will extend from the current terminus of the trail to Livingston Avenue. This will create a safer alternative vs. having bicyclists on the highly traveled main roadway. This project will allow the aggregate surface of the current Multiple Use Trail to remain (consistent with public demand and requests) but allow bicyclists to have a better connection to the Greenway Trail system.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Rocky Fork Facilities (\$400,000). These funds will be used to pave trails along the entrance roadway and the first phase of the east-west multiple use trail (aggregate base will be completed in late 2014). A second phase of the multiple use trail will also be completed. Finally, an interpretive node will be constructed (including a small parking lot) in the western portion of the park. If funds are available, we may also begin to address park office and maintenance compound issues.

Scioto Audubon (\$60,000). Because of issues with other 2014 CIP projects, we were able to accelerate some of the needed components of a completed Scioto Audubon Metro Park. For 2015, our primary project will involve reconfiguring the parking lots around the park office including replacing curbs, lighting, and accessibility issues.

Highbanks Nature Center HVAC Improvements (\$30,000). Several of the air conditioning units at the nature center are in need of replacement and the others are not far behind in terms of age and likely failure. These funds will be used to replace all of the air conditioning units at the same time with more efficient units.

Headquarters (\$50,000). The carpet at the headquarters is in a poor condition and should be replaced. HVAC units continue to struggle and several other cosmetic and infrastructure improvements are in order.

Inniswood Greenhouse Education (Donation). Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Mrs. Dottie BeVier, a greenhouse education facility is being planned. The Inniswood Garden Society (IGS) is committed to raising additional funds to assist with construction of the facility. Metro Parks also has dedicated funds that can only be used for facilities at Inniswood that could be used to complete the project.

MISCELLANEOUS

Roadway/Asphalt Trail Crack Repair, Sealing, and Striping (\$100,000). Throughout the District there are roadways and trails that require some maintenance including crack repairs, sealing, and restriping pavement markings. Larger roadway projects are deferred until ODOT funds are available (July, 2015).

Demolition (\$100,000). Due to other priorities we have deferred demolition of structures we have “inherited” during recent land acquisition initiatives. These funds are District-wide to facilitate removal of structures that have no value to Metro Parks’ operations nor have a viable future as a revenue-generator.

Signage (\$75,000). District-wide we have needs for additional or replacement directional, informational, enforcement, and interpretive signage. These funds will also address a need for interpretive signs along the Olentangy Greenway Trail.

Battelle Darby Creek Maintenance Compound Planning/Design (\$50,000). In 2016, we will need to undertake the relocation of the maintenance compound at Battelle Darby Creek. The current compound is dated, inefficient, and the space could be better used as a public use area. These funds would be used to identify an appropriate location and to do initial design work on the compound.

Battelle Darby Creek Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) (\$35,000). This is the final phase of a multi-year project that was used to enhance a variety of habitats at Battelle Darby Creek. Most of these funds will be reimbursed.

Slate Run Buzzards Roost Lake Restoration (\$125,000). The lake is in need of restoration as a result of siltation and the growth of aquatic vegetation. Funds would be used to create deep pools for fish survival and to develop silt traps to prevent future siltation problems.

2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Scioto Grove Metro Park Development	\$ 3,200,000
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Trail Projects

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---|
| • Olentangy Trail Extension | \$ 2,080,000 | (Phase 1 trail construction) |
| • Camp Chase Trail | \$ 350,000 | (Pave Galloway to Hall Rd./change orders) |
| • Alum Creek Greenway | \$ 300,000 | (Connect to Sharon Woods/Westerville) |
| • Blacklick Greenway* | \$ 120,000 | (Norfolk Southern crossing) |
| • Blacklick Greenway | \$ 250,000 | (Extend to Livingston Ave.) |

Facility Improvements

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • Scioto Audubon | \$ 60,000 (Parking lot improvements) |
| • Rocky Fork | \$ 400,000 (Additional Development-trails/paving) |
| • Headquarters | \$ 50,000 (Carpet Replacement) |
| • Highbanks Nature Center HVAC | \$ 30,000 |
| • Inniswood Education Greenhouse | Donation (partner with IGS) |

Miscellaneous

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Signage | \$ 75,000 (includes Greenways interp signage) |
| • Demolition | \$ 100,000 |
| • WHIP | \$ 35,000 |
| • Roadway Trail Striping/Crack Seal | \$ 100,000 |
| • Consulting BDC Mtce Compound | \$ 50,000 |
| • Buzzards Roost Lake Restoration | \$ 125,000 |

TOTAL	\$7,325,000
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*assumes Blacklick Greenway/Norfolk Southern crossing is deferred to 2015

Land Acquisition

The 2015 budget proposal allocates \$4 million for land acquisition. These funds will allow Metro Parks to pursue strategic land acquisition opportunities and to participate in grant programs that require matching funds. The following is a proposed generalized allocation of the funds.

\$1 million is allocated to Rocky Fork Metro Park in keeping with commitments to our partners in the Park Agreement.

\$1,665,000 is allocated for acquisitions necessary for trails and for additions to existing parks, including land for extension of the Olentangy Greenway Trail.

\$1 million is for additions to parkland in the Darby Creek watershed in keeping with commitments made in the 2009 levy.

\$335,000 is for the 2nd payment for the conservation easement on along the Scioto River in downtown Columbus.

We will be applying for grants to support acquisitions. These applications, if they are successful, have the potential to increase the amount of funding available for land acquisition or other purposes.

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

Blacklick Woods Golf Course Summary

2015 GOLF COURSE BUDGET

Revenues. We are projecting revenues derived from greens fees, rental of the activity building, resale of merchandise and food, cart rental, etc. to be flat for 2015 at \$950,000. We are continuing to work at increasing in revenue with our partnership between First Tee and Morty's Kids, and exploring league play with the local school systems.

Expenditures. The golf course is still working on streamlining its operation to align with the revenue it is generating. It made some progress in 2014, but there is still much work to be done. The golf course reduced its payroll by attrition and we are looking at creative ways to maintain the quality of the course while reducing cost. The loan described in the next paragraph will allow the golf course to buy some needed equipment.

Loan. The down turn of the golfing industry has created strains on the operations, but there is still the need to maintain and replace aging equipment. This could be handled with a couple of different options. One option would be to lease new equipment. This reduces the need for a large cash outlay, and monthly payments could be fixed at a manageable level. However at the end of the lease you may or may not own the equipment depending on the type of lease. Another option would be to borrow the money needed. With this option you would own the equipment, but interest rates and time frames may not be very flexible. The decision was made to go for the latter option with a slight variation. The golf course would borrow the money, but from the Metro Parks' general fund, which would allow more flexibility in the terms of the loan. The loan would be for \$70,000 with a repayment over seven years. The time frame for the repayment of the loan could be reduced if cash flow allows.

For reference, we are budgeting transfer up to \$200,000 from the General Fund to the golf course in 2015. This is will be needed until we achieve a balanced and eventually profitable golf course operation.

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

	2014 Projected Actual	2015 Budget
<u>REVENUES</u>		
Golf fees, cart rental, merchandise, concessions	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Personnel:		
Salaries	619,600	619,350
Benefits, PERS, Medicare	240,400	246,900
Total Personnel Costs	\$ 860,000	\$ 866,250
 Operating Costs (non-personnel)	 274,200	 344,350
Capital Improvement Projects		
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 <u>\$ 1,134,200</u>	 <u>\$ 1,210,600</u>
 NET INCOME	 <u>\$ (184,200)</u>	 <u>\$ (260,600)</u>

ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/14	\$ 50,000
Loan Proceeds	\$ 70,000
Loan Payment	\$ (10,000)
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$ 201,000
ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/15	\$ 50,400

Transfer to the Golf Course will only be made if necessary for cash flow

APROPRIATIONS

Based on 2014 Budget Proposal

The proposed budget for Metro Parks for the the fiscal year 2015 is summarized 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 an expense paid to others. Any disbursement of funds, including transfers between Funds, must be an approved appropriation. These appropriations are being recommended for approval by the Park Board.

<u>TOTAL NEW</u>	
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u> (1)	
Personnel	13,262,750
Non-Personnel	5,054,100
Inter Fund Transfer	9,288,000
Fund 27 Total	\$ 27,604,850
Capital Projects & Land Acquisition	\$ 11,325,000
Fund 29 Total	\$ 11,325,000
Golf Course Personnel	\$ 866,250
Non-Personnel	\$ 344,350
Fund 30 Total	\$ 1,210,600
Grand Total	<u>\$ 40,140,450</u>

(1) The total budget for 2015 excluding interfund transfers is \$30,861,600.

(2) 2014 encumbrances will be identified and carried forward as of 12/31/2014 and are not included above. The 2014 encumbrances will be charged against the 2014 budget.