2016 Metro Parks Budget



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2015 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of Metro Parks is to conserve open spaces, while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature. While following that mission, 2015 was a year to remember. The tremendous growth and enduring popularity of Metro Parks is due to the strong support of the community – as voters, as volunteers and as visitors. Metro Parks' primary funding source is the 10-year, 0.75 mill levy approved by Franklin County voters in 2009. The levy provides a sound financial base for operating and improving existing parks, as well as acquiring additional land for future preservation. Below you will find just a snapshot of some of the fine and wonderful accomplishments of 2015.

Rocky Fork Metro Park - In

August, the 17th Metro Park, Rocky Fork opened to a crowd of well-wishers. Rocky Fork is a collaborative effort between the City of Columbus, Plain Township, and the City of New Albany. The park is on pace to have over 60,000 visitors this year alone. Our visitors are experiencing over 1,000 acres of woods, trails, wetlands, and an amazing dog park. In addition to these amenities, visitors are enjoying the pet friendly trails, fitness opportunities, and one of the



most amazing picnic pavilions in our inventory. With over \$12 million invested by our partners for acquisition, design, and development, Metro Parks can now serve a new and growing area of Franklin County.

Land Acquisition – Even though we did not acquire large amounts of acreage in 2015, many significant pieces of land were added, bringing our total land holding to 27,405 acres. Efforts in this area include land along Big Darby Creek and other holdings which complement our existing parks and trails.

Greenways – The Central Ohio Greenways continue to be one of our key areas of focus and we are seeing continued rises in participation and satisfaction. Several key initiatives were completed in 2015 including; the Central Ohio Greenways study, opening of the final section of the Alum Creek Trail, re-opening of the Scioto Mile with multi-use trails on both sides of the river, and increasing participation/growth from our municipal partners.



Homestead Metro Park – On September 1, 2015 the former Washington Township Park became Homestead Metro Park. In a partnership with the Township Trustees, the ownership and operations of this long-standing community asset became the 18th Metro Park. With both active and passive play areas, trails, picnic facilities and a fishing pond, Homestead was a natural fit for us. Staff has already converted their

office/meeting barn into a nature center serving the northwest section of Franklin County.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) – In 2015, Metro Parks expanded our efforts and partnership with the nature center located in Scioto Audubon Metro Park. In addition to some newly shared responsibilities for our maintenance staff, the GIAC became the hub of our Greenways operations. Customers can now visit the center to get information, maps, and gain a better understanding of the Central Ohio Greenways. In addition to the information, staff can meet with the users to help them discover a new trail or even assist in minor bike repairs.

Scioto Grove Metro Park – In spring this year, ground was broken on what will become our 19th park serving the greater Grove City area. In addition to the traditional features common in all of our parks, Scioto Grove will take full advantage of its almost five miles of frontage on the Scioto River. The park will also be home to our first Urban Backpacking

Trail, giving Franklin County access to introductory backpacking trails just minutes from downtown.

Education - Our educational opportunities continue to be an important part of our efforts in the community. Along with our naturalist led programs, we continue to see growth in our collaborative 5th grade educational outreach program. The Students Exploring Ecosystem Dynamics (SEED) is still growing throughout many of the Franklin County School Districts. In 2015, 8,000 5th graders from six school districts visited our parks.



Columbus Schools Initiative (CSI) - This program continues to introduce Columbus Public High School seniors to a positive first job experience. Students in this program not only learn lifelong employment skills, but also provide an invaluable service to the park district. Metro Parks now has several former CSIs working year-round with us.

Camp Chase Trail – In fall 2015 we opened an additional three miles of the trail, now linking western Franklin County to Sullivant Avenue. With the completion of this piece, Metro Parks has completed 12 miles of the trail. The City of Columbus is on schedule to complete their section of trail connecting Sullivant Avenue to downtown Columbus. The Camp Chase Trail is one of the last remaining pieces in the soon to be completed Ohio to Erie Trail.

2016 BUDGET MESSAGE

In keeping with our vision of clean and safe parks, our efforts will continue towards the overall customer satisfaction and experience. Within these parks the operational side of our budget will focus on park maintenance, patron safety, education, and the control of invasive



species. Outside of operations we will continue looking at ways we can control costs while providing the proper level of support to the 19 parks. Listed below are just a few of the projects we are looking at in 2016.

In early spring 2016 we expect to complete our Strategic Plan. This plan is being constructed as a guiding document for staff to utilize in setting priorities and direction for the park district. Through a series of public meetings and customer surveys, staff will have a better understanding of what the residents of Franklin County are looking for in their park system. Along with the qualitative data gathered through existing users, the plan will also measure the general consensus of Franklin County voters through an independent survey. Once completed, the document will be reviewed annually for updating and to measure success.

A wide variety of capital projects are being contemplated for this 2016. Priority will be given to those projects which either meet our mission and/or vision. A more complete list can be found in the Capital Projects section of the budget. Examples of these capital projects include:

Reach 2 of Scioto Grove Metro Park – Project includes a 4-season public use structure, access to the quarry area of the park, a maintenance facility, and all associated utility work.

Battelle Darby Creek Park Maintenance Facility – Over the past several years it has become glaringly apparent that the current facility has out served its useful life.

Parking Lot and Park Roadway Projects – As the park system has grown, the assistance we receive from the state is not sufficient to maintain existing roads. Our goal is to utilize our own funds to assist in the maintenance of these roads.

Rocky Fork Metro Park – Similar to the efforts at Scioto Grove, additional user amenities and maintenance facilities will be brought forward as part of the 2016 budget.

Along with our capital program, we have identified other operational areas to address in the 2016 budget. Because of where we are with our Levy commitments, we are now in a place where we can address these opportunities. Additional staffing will be requested to take on the responsibility of opening Scioto Grove, expansion of the Greenways, and for assistance in our marketing and social media outreach. Other efforts in the 2016 budget will be utilized to continue providing excellent parks and the customer service needed.

2009 LEVY COMMITMENTS UPDATE

When we went to the voters in 2009, we made several commitments to the voters other than clean and safe parks.

Maintain existing parks, trails, and programs – *Ongoing* – This goal is listed first in all of our promotional material and continues to be one of our primary areas of focus. This will continue as we head into the second half of the Levy.

Expand programming for school children and senior citizens – Ongoing – Between our efforts at the park level, SEED, and our Metro Five-0 programs, considerable accomplishments are being made annually.

Construct 50 miles of trails. Manage more of the Greenways Trail System — Nearing Completion — In just the first five years of the levy cycle; we have been involved in the construction of over 45 miles of trails throughout Central Ohio. Some of the most significant projects include; the Camp Chase Trail, Highbanks Connector Trail, and miles of trails within the boundaries of our three new parks. Since 2009 Metro Parks has added approximately 40 miles of management responsibility within the Greenways.



Expand Scioto Audubon Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula — Complete — As our first "Urban Metro Park" it will be tough to determine what is expansion or just part of traditional operations. However, since 2009 Scioto Audubon has seen significant growth in the amenities and features for the public. Accomplishments include: new picnic and restroom facilities, dog park, obstacle course, and a functioning park office/maintenance facility. Also scheduled for completion in 2015 are the bocce courts.

Open three new parks – *Nearing Completion* – By the spring of 2016 this commitment will be completed.

Rocky Fork - Opened, August 2015

Walnut Woods - Opened, May 2013

Scioto Grove - Opening, Spring 2016

center, and restore habitat to further protect the rare species of Big Darby Creek
Complete – In 2012 the Nature
Center at Battelle Darby Creek
opened to the public. Since 2009 we have done extensive work to protect this resource including the reintroduction of bison to the Darby Plains and acquired over

670 acres.

Acquire land, build a nature



Restore 1,000 acres of wetlands to attract wildlife and improve water quality Complete – Since 2009, we have completed the construction of over 1,000 acres of wetlands with major projects at Walnut Woods, Rocky Fork, and over 600 acres alone at the Kuhlwein Rd wet prairie.

As the above list shows, our commitment to meeting our promises to the voters is nearing completion. We will continue to conserve open spaces, while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature, while maintaining the cleanest safe parks for our constituents in Franklin County.

2016 Financial Summary Combined General, Capital and Enterprise Funds

ESTIMATED ENDING CASH BALANCE - 12/31/15		\$ 8,455,000
Add: New Revenues		\$ 25,308,400
Total Available Cash Resources		\$ 33,763,400
Less: Budgeted Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits, excluding golf course	\$ 14,022,500	
Operating and Administrative	\$ 5,345,800	
Enterprise Fund - Golf Course		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 795,700	
Operating	\$ 237,200	
Loan Payment	\$ 10,000	
Total Operating Budget	\$ 20,411,200	
Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 5,300,000	
Capital Improvement Projects-Golf Course	\$ -	
Land Acquisition	\$ 3,000,000	
Total Budgeted Expenses		\$ 28,711,200
ESTIMATED 12/31/16 CASH BALANCE, IF ALL		
APPROPRIATIONS ARE FULLY EXPENDED		\$ 5,052,200

Projected Changes in 2016 Fund Balances

BUDGET AMOUNTS:

Projected New Revenue	GI	JND 27 ENERAL JND Total	ND 29 PITAL Total	ND 30 TERPRISE Total	A	LL FUNDS Total
Public Sources:						
Tax Levy Local Government Fund Grants		20,135,600 2,549,000 4,800	45,900			$20,135,600 \\ 2,549,000 \\ 50,700$
Total Public Sources	\$	22,689,400	\$ 45,900	\$ -	\$	22,735,300
Earned Income from Operations: Golf Courses Shelter Fees, Concessions & Special Events Interpretive Program House & Land Rental		318,700 73,500 161,800		925,000		925,000 318,700 73,500 161,800
Total Earned Income	\$	554,000	\$ -	\$ 925,000	\$	1,479,000
Interest Income	\$	12,600	\$ 7,400		\$	20,000
Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions	s		\$ 935,000		\$	935,000
Donations & Bequests	\$	9,200			\$	9,200
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$	92,200	\$ 37,700	\$ -	\$	129,900
Total 2016 Projected Revenue by Fund	\$	23,357,400	\$ 1,026,000	\$ 925,000	\$	25,308,400
Projected Expenditures:						
Salaries Fringe Benefits PERS Medicare Salaries & Benefits	\$	9,911,700 2,484,700 1,490,700 135,400 14,022,500		\$ 577,700 130,200 80,900 6,900 795,700	\$ \$	10,489,400 2,614,900 1,571,600 142,300 14,818,200
Admin Education/Interpretive Operations Park Maintenance Promotion Rental Properties Natural Resource Management Revenue Programs Safety & Law Enforcement Special Facilities Renovations	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	1,151,277 218,035 1,928,990 562,923 404,240 168,895 128,730 254,470 348,240 180,000		\$ 3,500 47,000 186,700	\$	1,154,777 218,035 1,975,990 562,923 404,240 168,895 315,430 254,470 348,240 180,000
Operating Expenses	\$	5,345,800	\$ -	\$ 237,200	\$	5,583,000
Capital Improvement Projects			\$ 5,300,000	\$ -		\$5,300,000
Land Acquisition			\$ 3,000,000		\$	3,000,000
2016 Projected Expenditures by Fund	\$	19,368,300	\$ 8,300,000	\$ 1,032,900	\$	28,701,200
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	\$	3,989,100	\$ (7,274,000)	\$ (107,900)	\$	(3,392,800)
Projected Balance 12/31/2015	\$	8,380,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 70,000	\$	8,455,000
Loan Proceeds					\$	-
Loan Payment				\$ (10,000)	\$	(10,000)
Transfer to / (from) Fund	\$	(7,391,900)	\$ 7,274,000	\$ 117,900	\$	-
Estimated Balance 12/31/2016	\$	4,977,200	\$ 5,000	\$ 70,000	\$	5,052,200

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 2016 is \$25,308,400. The following narratives provide an explanation for each source of revenue.

PUBLIC SOURCES

Metro Parks' public source revenue for 2016 is projected to increase slightly compared to 2015 projected 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 2016 and has been projected to increase slightly compared to prior years.

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 (\$20,135,600) 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) (\$7,274,000) and to the Golf Course Enterprise Fund (Fund 30) (\$117,900).

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 (\$2,549,000). 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 no grants in the pipeline for 2016, but Metro Parks will take advantage of any opportunities that become available.

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 2016 is projected to remain flat for 2016. 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) \$925,000.

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 an increase in revenue from these activities in 2016 due to increased shelter rental income and special events permit fees. Receipts are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27) \$554,000.

Sources Of Revenue, continued

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

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

<u>Interpretive receipts</u> - 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 (Fund 29) \$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) \$20,000.

Donations and Bequests - Bequests, which generate receipts on a regular basis, and one-time donations, are recorded here (Fund 27 or 29) \$9,200.

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. The on-line auction produce great results in 2015 and we are expecting similar results in 2016. (Fund 27 or 29) \$129,900.

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, 2015. The trust funds projected increase for 2016 is \$30,100.

In addition, the Columbus Foundation manages the Inniswood Fund for Metro Parks. The focus of this fund was to support the operation of the Inniswood Metro Gardens. The fund will still support Inniswood, but earnings will be reinvested in the fund to increase the principle balance for future use as an endowment or emergency fund.

REVENUES AND COMBINED FUND BALANCES

	2014 Actual	2015 Projected Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	2015 Budget v. 2016 Budget	% Change Inc (Dec)
NEW REVENUES: GOVT (27, 29) & ENTERPRISE (30) FUNDS		10/31/2015			Inc (Dec)	
Public Sources: Property Tax Levy75 mill	19,301,250	19,311,000	19,744,000	20,135,600	391,600	2.0%
LGF	2,153,597	2,237,000	2,202,000	2,549,000	347,000	15.8%
Grants	1,316,808	498,000	890,900	50,700	(840,200)	-94.3%
Total Public Sources	22,771,656	22,046,000	22,836,900	22,735,300	(101,600)	-0.4%
Operational Sources:						
Revenues from Golf Course Operations	922,117	905,000	950,000	925,000	(25,000)	-2.6%
Revenues from Park Operations:						
Shelter Fees, Special Events & Concessions	304,827	319,000	273,400	318,700	45,300	16.6%
Interpretive Programs	73,389	73,000	74,000	73,500	(500)	-0.7%
House & Land Rental	259,860	162,000	185,900	161,800	(24,100)	-13.0%
Total Income from Operational Sources	1,560,193	1,459,000	1,483,300	1,479,000	(4,300)	-0.3%
Governmental Partnership Contributions	1,060,000	935,000	935,000	935,000	-	0.0%
Income from Investment	33,004	20,000	25,500	20,000	(5,500)	-21.6%
Wetlands Credits	249,150					
Donations & Bequests	40,069	7,000	30,700	9,200	(21,500)	-70.0%
Miscellaneous Receipts (incl salvage sale)	33,498	530,000	19,300	129,900	110,600	573.1%
TOTAL NEW REVENUES	25,747,570	24,997,000	25,330,700	25,308,400	(22,300)	-0.1%
LOAN PROCEEDS - Net						
BEG UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCES	10,786,299	9,757,544	9,757,544	8,455,000 proj. 12/31/2015	(1,302,544)	-13.3%
FUND BALANCES PLUS NEW REVENUES	36,533,869	34,754,544	35,088,244	33,763,400	(1,324,844)	-3.8%
FIDUCIARY FUNDS PRIOR BALANCE						
Expendable (Beck & Thomas)	325,189	325,189	325,189	355,819	30,630	9.4%
Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	303,031	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	36,563,643	34,785,174	35,118,874	33,793,430	(1,325,444)	-3.8%

Summary of Expenditures Administrative and Park Operations

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 2016 budget for operations is \$5,345,800. 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 \$237,200, 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 (\$18,000) 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.

Administration and Operations Budget Analysis of Changes

The 2016 proposed operational budget for Fund 27 (excluding personnel) is \$5,345,800.

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 believe you need to operate your budget center, but only spend what is necessary.

The major planned change for 2016 is the opening of Scioto Grove Metro Park and the expansion of Rocky Fork Metro Park. The budget for operating these two new parks is projected at \$242,200 for 2016. Equipment purchases were increased this year. New equipment purchases were increased by approximately \$100,000.

The 2016 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.

Expenditure Summary Comparison of 2015 Projected Actual and 2016 Budget

CATEGORY	2014 Actual	2015 Projected Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	% Change	
CATEGORI	Actual	projected from	Duugei	Buuget	Budget to Budget	
Personnel (from Fund 27)		10/31/15 actual			Dauget to Dauget	
Salaries (including merit increases)	8,425,955	9,050,800	9,353,250	9,911,700	5.97	%
Employee Benefits	2,027,338	2,234,700	2,392,200	2,484,700	3.87	%
PERS	1,230,512	1,306,700	1,400,300	1,490,700	6.46	%
Medicare	109,038	115,000	117,000	135,400	15.73	%
Total Benefits	3,366,888	3,656,400	3,909,500	4,110,800	5.15	%
Subtotal	11,792,844	12,707,200	13,262,750	14,022,500	5.73	%
Park Ops & Admin (from Fund 27)						
Admin	899,989	808,400	1,074,840	1,151,277	7.11	%
Education/Interpretive Operations	161,891	147,600	225,785	218,035	(3.43)	%
Park Maintenance	1,600,391	1,496,000	1,728,110	1,928,990	11.62	%
Promotion	593,619	466,400	581,900	562,923	(3.26)	%
Rental Properties	226,066	342,500	406,740	404,240	(0.61)	%
Natural Resource Management	108,175	76,900	173,945	168,895	(2.90)	%
Revenue Programs	35,263	32,900	34,250	128,730	275.85	%
Safety & Law Enforcement	166,611	445,500	285,535	254,470	(10.88)	%
Special Facilities	146,680	161,500	362,995	348,240	(4.06)	%
Renovations	166,542	190,700	180,000	180,000		%
Other - Prior Year	125,247		<u>-</u> .			%
Subtotal	4,230,475	4,168,400	5,054,100	5,345,800	5.77	%
<u>Capital Improvement Projects (Fund</u> Capital Improvement Projects	<u>29)</u>		7,325,000	5,300,000	(27.65)	0/2
Miscellaneous	5,618	1,122	1,828,000	9,900,000	(21.00)	/0
Building Construction	33,105	2,897,823				
Facility Improvements	301,138	83,739				
Natural Resource Improvements	-	12,674				
Planning	52,267	47,513				
Site Improvements	2,281,823	1,243,705				
Utilities	17,077	36,927	-	-	-	
Other - Prior Year	1,029,832		<u> </u>		<u>-</u> _	
Subtotal	3,720,860	4,323,503	7,325,000	5,300,000	(28)	%
Land Acquisition	2,094,996	606,937	4,000,000	3,000,000		
Other - Prior Year Land Acquisition (from Fund 29)	2,094,996	606,937	4,000,000	3,000,000	(25.00)	%
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TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES - FUNDS 27& 29	21,839,175	21,806,039	29,641,850	27,668,300	(6.66)	%
ENTERPRISE FUND EXP Golf Cour	'se					
Personnel						
Salaries (including merit increases)	622,255	582,900	619,350	577,700	(6.72)	%
Employee Benefits	143,120	127,100	148,900	130,200	(12.56)	%
PERS	85,395	81,500	89,200	80,900	(9.30)	
Medicare	7,334	6,800	8,800	6,900	(21.59)	%
Total Benefits	235,849	215,400	246,900	218,000	(11.71)	%
Subtotal	858,104	798,300	866,250	795,700	(8.14)	%
Onematica	969 109	250,000	244.250	927 900	(21.19)	0/
Operations Capital Improvement Projects Other Prior Year	268,198	256,000	344,350	237,200		% %
Other - Prior Year TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND			<u>-</u>			
FUND 30	1,126,301	1,054,300	1,210,600	1,032,900	(14.68)	%
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE ALL FUNDS	22,965,477	22,860,339	30,852,450	28,701,200	(6.97)	%

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 \$195,265 are budgeted, but did not meet the large item cost threshold.

Park	Item Description	Budgeted
Highbanks	Pro Gator 2003A diesel w/ cab 4X4 Utility Vehicle	26,600.00
Slate Run	Full Size extended cab, 4 wheel dr. truck.	32,000.00
Pickerington Ponds	Ranger truck replacement	30,000.00
Blacklick Woods Golf Course	Rotary Mower	21,000.00
Three Creeks	Regular cab 4x4 Ranger Truck with light	32,000.00
Glacier Ridge	Crew Cab regular bed truck for patrol	30,000.00
Scioto Audubon	Toro Workman F350 w/Plow	22,000.00 35,000.00
Rocky Fork	utility vehicle with plow	21,000.00
Finance	Replacement Color Copier	25,000.00
Roving Crew	New Truck E1 - 4x4 extended cab	25,000.00
Greenways	Toro 360 Mower	47,500.00
Scioto Grove	cng truck / w plow and light bar tractor toro utility vehicle out front mower	40,000.00 35,000.00 21,000.00 20,000.00
	Equipment budget items under \$20,000	195,265.00
	Total 2016 Equipment Budget:	658,365.00

Summary of Personnel Expenditures

Throughout 2015 personnel costs were monitored and strategic decisions made that allowed Metro Parks to utilize staff where they were needed most without a great impact on the personnel budget. For each position that was vacated, an analysis was conducted reviewing the operational necessity, the functionality, and the location of the position. Some positions were eliminated and others were converted to part-time or seasonal status.

The seasonal, intermittent and intern programs were a big success and additional requests were received from park managers to convert vacant positions to one of these appointment types. The Columbus City High School Intern program was also expanded to include students from an additional high school.

In 2015 a new recognition program was implemented. The intent of the program is to reward exemplary employee behavior and actions in a timely manner. Nominations for this recognition may be made by anyone on staff. Awards can vary based upon the content of the nomination and may range from a thank you note to a monetary award as determined by one of the Directors.

The proposed 2016 Personnel Budget includes:

- \$169,300 for 2016 merit, skill based, and intermittent/seasonal/intern pay increases.
- \$195,700 of the personnel budget will be reserved to award the additional merit provided through the recognition program.
- The benefit year for health care begins in April, and actual numbers for health care cost and projected increases are not yet known. An estimate of 6.7% has been included in the personnel budget to cover the projected health care increase.

Once health care increases are known, a pay resolution will be presented to the Board of Park Commissioners and will include the proposed pay ranges and merit pay system for full-time and part-time employees, as well as the proposed pay increases for returning seasonal, intermittent and intern employees.

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 as established for non-bargaining unit employees.

An analysis of the inflation rate, consumer price index, projected pay increases granted by other local agencies, and general economic conditions will be conducted to determine the forthcoming pay range and merit/pay increase recommendations.

Personnel Analysis

Budget vs Budget

TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:	2016 Budget	2015 Budget	% Change	\$ Change
EXCLUDING NEW POSITIONS	14,255,000	13,902,300	2.54%	352,700
INCLUDING NEW POSITIONS	14,818,200	14,129,100	4.88%	689,100

	Projected Actual vs Budget					
	2016	2015	%	2015	%	
	Proposed	Projected	Change	Budget	Change	
	Budget	Actual	#		##	
PERSONNEL COSTS:						
Staffing/FT & PT positions:						
Salaries	\$ 9,786,608	\$ 9,426,400	3.82%	\$ 9,722,600	0.66%	
New Positions	563,200					
Health Care Benefits	2,417,700	2,228,100	8.51%	2,415,400	0.10%	
PERS	1,512,000	1,388,200	8.92%	1,489,500	1.51%	
Medicare	136,500	121,700	12.16%	125,800	8.51%	
Salaries and Benefits Total	14,416,008	13,164,400	9.51%	13,753,300	4.82%	
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS:						
Merit	195,700	168,700	16.00%	191,400	2.25%	
Uniform Allowance	2,000			33,600	-94.05%	
Claims-based Expenses:						
Retirements*	109,392	38,800	181.94%	58,600	86.68%	
Unemployment	7,000	(700)	-1100.00%	6,000	16.67%	
Workers Comp	88,100	134,300	-34.40%	86,100	2.32%	
Total Other Appropriations	402,192	341,100	17.91%	375,700	7.05%	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$14,818,200	\$ 13,505,500	9.72%	\$ 14,129,000	4.88%	

^{* (}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 2016 Budget

Staffing levels within Metro Parks are continually monitored for operational necessity, functionality, and appropriateness. Whenever and wherever feasible, positions are filled on a seasonal or intermittent basis as this allows for Metro Parks to hire when the work load is greatest, during the better weather months. When necessary, part-time or full-time positions are proposed to allow for the efficient year-round operation of Metro Parks.

With the operation of Homestead Metro Park, it was necessary to add staff to Glacier Ridge Metro Park mid-2015. These positions included a Park Technician 2, a part-time Naturalist, 2 additional part-time Rangers, and a seasonal Ranger.

Per the Park Manager's recommendation, a full-time Park Technician 1 was reclassified to an Intermittent Maintenance Worker at Slate Run in 2015.

In order to meet the growing needs and demands of specific areas, the personnel proposal includes the addition of several newly created positions in 2016 as listed below:

Elimination of Position

Naturalist at Slate Run Metro Park – This position became vacant in late 2014 when the Naturalist was promoted to Senior Naturalist at another location. Visitor and programming trends were studied in 2015 and it was determined that programming needs could be better served through our existing Naturalist staff, thus resulting in the recommendation to eliminate this position and reallocate the funds to cover the costs of newly created positions necessary to operate new parks and expanded Greenway Trail responsibilities.

Additional Positions

Scioto Grove Metro Park – With the opening of Scioto Grove and its anticipated visitation, a staffing compliment will be necessary. In the 2016 personnel budget the following Scioto Grove positions are requested: Park Manager, Assistant Park Manager, one full-time Park Ranger, three part-time Rangers, one Park Technician 1, and two part-time Park Technicians.

Greenway Trails – With the continued expansion of the Greenway Trails system and increased trail connections, there is a need for additional staff to keep up with the increased visitation, patrolling, and maintenance of these trails. After studying needs, it was determined the trails would be best served to add employees to the Greenways unit

Proposed Positions FY 2016 Budget

rather than at specific parks. The following positions are requested: Park Technician 1 and four part-time Rangers.

Social Media & Public Relations Specialist – There is a growing need to have a larger digital presence and to increase Metro Parks' brand. The addition of this position will assist in reaching the trending digital audience and create better name recognition for Metro Parks.

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 located at Clear Creek (1), Glacier Ridge/Homestead (1), Rocky Fork (1), and Sharon Woods (1).

Camp Coordinator/Youth Head Camp Counselor – Youth camp programming is expanding in 2016. In addition to the week-long age-based camps scheduled throughout the park district, newly designed, summer-long camps will be held at Blacklick Woods, Highbanks, and Homestead. To supervise these extra camps, a newly created Camp Coordinator/Head Camp Counselor will be necessary.

Design/Visitor Services Intern – In addition to existing Intern positions, two new Interns are requested to assist with the operation of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center during the summer programming months. These Interns will provide assistance with summer camps, educational programming, nature center duties, and administrative tasks.

2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2016 Capital Improvement Budget Available Funds \$5.3 million

Scioto Grove Reach 2. Components of this project will include extending roadway south to the quarry area, constructing a large structure for public use (nature center, day lodge, large 3 season picnic shelter, or a combination thereof). This structure will provide restrooms for this portion of the park and will involve extending water and sanitary utilities from the existing infrastructure installed in 2015. Funds will also allow for construction of a park office/maintenance facility. Additional trails will also be included.

Rocky Fork Reach 2. Components of this project will include extending the paved trail system to Bevelheimer Road, developing a public use area at the Harlem Road Wetland Area in the western portion of the park, road repairs, and developing a satellite maintenance facility for the park.

Roadway/Parking Lot Resurfacing Projects. As our system has grown, the biennial funds from ODOT are not sufficient to address all of our needs relative to maintaining our roadways and parking lots. These funds will be used to install a bike lane and resurface the Indian Ridge roadway (part of the Camp Chase RR Trail) at Battelle Darby Creek and to improve the entrance road to Darby Bends Lake area of Prairie Oaks, and at least one other major roadway/parking lot resurfacing project.

Homestead Park Improvements. Several facilities at Homestead Park will need upgraded as part of our overall renovation of the park including playgrounds, picnic shelters, and the nature center.

Highbanks River Bluff Trailhead Development. Funds will allow us to develop parking and river access at the "Bodycombe Property" along SR 315. This will become a major component of the extension of the Olentangy Greenway Trail to Highbanks and will also be a focal point to access or leave the Olentangy River Water Trail which is being developed in concert with Preservation Parks of Delaware County.

Battelle Darby Creek Maintenance Compound. The current maintenance building at Battelle Darby is inadequate to support the current park and is in very bad condition. Funds will allow us to build a more suitable maintenance building either at the existing location or at a more strategic location within the park.

Demolition/Signage. These funds will be used District-wide to demolish inherited structures and to improve existing signage, particularly relative to trail heads.

Inniswood Greenhouse. As part of the multi-purpose building project that is underway and funded by the Inniswood Garden Society, we want to replace our current aged greenhouse with a new one.

Calary Pear and Other Invasive Species Removal/Reforestation Efforts. We are fighting a major battle with invasive species (particularly calary pear) that is more than

2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

what we can do in-house. Funds will allow us to hire contractors to support our on-going efforts at targeted areas throughout Metro Parks.

Blacklick Woods Golf Course Activities Building. This project will allow us to expand and improve the existing banquet room, including upgrading HVAC systems enhancing our ability to attract larger groups and increase revenues. Since we have begun to self-operate the banquet room, we have seen additional usage for weddings and receptions and other functions.

Walnut Woods Central Area Development. With the development of the Tall Pines and Buckeye Areas, the last major part of the park to be developed is the Central Area located behind the office/maintenance complex. This project would involve developing trails, decks, and shelters, improving or eliminating the ponds that were part of the nursery irrigation system, and building a parking lot (serving the trail head and also park office) This project would open up the vistas overlooking the wetland/stream restoration area and would also include extending a trail towards the Groveport Recreation Center.

Highbanks Powell Road Barn Event Center. This project would involve converting the Powell Road barn into an event center for parties, weddings, receptions, corporate retreats and other gatherings. This will require bringing the structure up to code and providing restrooms and other amenities. Parking is already in place due to the Dragonfly Day Camp.

Land Acquisition

The 2016 budget proposal allocates \$3 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.

In keeping with commitments to our partners, Columbus, New Albany and Plain Township, in the Park Agreement, \$1 million is dedicate to land acquisition at Rocky Fork Metro Park

The final payment of \$335,000 for the conservation easement on along the Scioto River in downtown Columbus is due this year.

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

2016 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 2016 at \$925,000. We are continuing to work on increasing 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 more progress in 2015, 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.

For reference, we are budgeting a transfer up to \$117,900 from the General Fund to the golf course in 2016. This is will be needed until we achieve a balanced and eventually profitable golf course operation.

Projected Income Statement - Enterprise Fund

	I	2015 Projected		2016
REVENUES		Actual	Budget	
	•	007.000	•	027.000
Golf fees, cart rental, merchandise, concessions	\$	905,000	\$	925,000
<u>EXPENSES</u> Personnel:				
Salaries		582,900		577,700
Benefits, PERS, Medicare		215,400		218,000
Total Personnel Costs	\$	798,300	\$	795,700
		27.0.00		22= 222
Operating Costs (non-personnel)		256,000		237,200
Capital Improvement Projects				
Loan Payment			\$	10,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	1,054,300	\$	1,042,900
NET INCOME	-\$	(149,300)	\$	(117,900)
ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/15			\$	70,000
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS			\$	117,900
ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/15			\$	70,000

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

APROPRIATIONS Based on 2016 Budget Proposal

The proposed budget for Metro Parks for the the fiscal year 2016 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 Board of Park Commissioners.

TOTAL NEW	
APPROPRIATIONS	(1)

Personnel		14,022,500
Non-Personnel		5,345,800
Inter Fund Transfer		7,391,900
Fund 27 Total	\$	26,760,200
Capital Projects & Land Acquisition	\$	8,300,000
Fund 29 Total	\$	8,300,000
Golf Course Personnel	\$	795,700
Non-Personnel	\$	237,200
Fund 30 Total	\$	1,032,900
Grand Total	<u>\$</u>	36,093,100

- (1) The total budget for 2016 excluding interfund transfers is \$28,701,200.
- (2) 2015 encumbrances will be identified and carried forward as of 12/31/2015 and are not included above. The 2015 encumbrances will be charged against the 2015 budget.