

2017 Metro Parks Budget



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**METRO PARKS 2017 BUDGET
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2016 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, 2016 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 2016.

Scioto Grove Metro Park – In May, the 19th Metro Park, Scioto Grove opened to a crowd of well-wishers. Much like our other recent projects, Scioto Grove was developed with assistance from our Grove City and Jefferson Township neighbors. With over 20,000 visitors in the first weekend, Scioto Grove is meeting the needs of the residents of southern Franklin County. Scioto Grove also introduced a new amenity to Metro Parks with our first ever overnight backpacking trail.



Shaffer Property – After many years of negotiation and 2.6 million dollars of Clean Ohio Funding, we have entered into a purchase agreement for ownership of what can be considered the most pristine woodlands left in Franklin County. This approximate 100 acres of towering white oaks and 100 foot tall cliffs, will give our visitors a true look at how Ohio looked prior to European settlement. Fronting Big Walnut Creek and just around the corner from Blendon Woods, our park visitors will be amazed at what this new property has.

Pokemon Go – No one could have ever predicted that the release of a video game could have such an impact on the attendance numbers at our parks. While there is no true way of measuring actual Pokemon Go attendance, we saw an increase of over 250,000 visitors at Highbanks for the months of July and August alone. Instead of creating a non-welcoming environment, our staff took on this challenge and made our parks accessible to all. Several parks even created their own special events and programs to build upon the excitement.

Highbanks – In 2016 two significant projects were completed adding significant amenities to our most visited park. Earlier in the year a significant multi-use trail was completed

linking the western edge of the park to the existing trail which circled the northern and eastern edges of the park. We also are preparing to open the River Bluff Area on the west side of the Olentangy River. This western access area will provide unfettered access to the Olentangy for Canoeing, Kayaking, or easy fishing access. It will also give park visitors an additional viewing area for the established Eagle's nest on the eastern shore.

The Plan – Beginning in early 2016 the staff undertook the creation of our first ever strategic planning document. This plan was built for use by the staff to help us to continue providing the best and most diverse park system in all of Ohio. Since this was a staff led initiative, we were able to gather great amounts of information that staff has already begun to implement at their parks. We are both confident and excited about the insights gained through this process and can be seen in the 2017 Budget Plan.

Education – Environmental education still remains as one of the pillars of everything we do here in Metro Parks and 2016 has the numbers to prove it. We made considerable effort this year to provide more spontaneous programming opportunities throughout the District. 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 2016, 8,000 5th graders from six school districts not only visited our parks but took place in a year-round curriculum based program of study.

Camp Chase Trail – Working with our City of Columbus partners, another critical several miles of the Camp Chase Trail was opened to great fanfare this summer. Between these two agencies, only a few more pieces are needed to be put together in our efforts in connecting this critical statewide trail.



Special Events – At the beginning of 2016 staff was challenged to come up with 10 special events which would create new and exciting opportunities for our visitors to enjoy. The only criteria for them was they had to have elements which would attract a new clientele and the anticipated attendance for each of them would be over 200. As of October 31, the District has hosted 34 special events with an estimated attendance of over 40,000 at these events.

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 2017.

Beginning with the 2017 fiscal year, all of the parks are going to be working on what staff has dubbed “Showcase 18.” This program is an effort for us to take a critical look at all of our facilities and infrastructure and address any cosmetic or structural issues. Utilizing the 2016 strategic plan and a newly implemented peer review system, each park will have their version of a clean-up. Items to be covered in Showcase 18 will include but not be limited to: painting, restroom renovation, asphalt sealing and repairs, trail grooming and resurfacing, park entrances, updating of picnic areas, and the overall updating of our user amenities. The goal of this program is to have each and every area of the Park District touched over the next two years. In close conjunction with this effort, the District is going to be creating a new position of Customer Service Manager to focus on our customers throughout the District. This position will act as an ombudsman of sorts making park use even more user friendly than it is today.

A wide variety of capital projects are being contemplated for this 2017. 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:

Scioto River Corridor Project – As negotiations proceed, we anticipate that we will begin our land acquisition process for the 20th park for the District.

Pickerington Ponds Rawn Property Development – We are looking at the creation of a destination area and highly visible park use area for an underutilized area of this growing area of Franklin County

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.

Glacier Ridge/Homestead Park Improvements – After taking possession of Homestead and taking some time in 2016 to observe the park use at Glacier, we are going to be developing several projects to better maximize these two parks.

Restrooms – In response to the input we received with our strategic plan, restrooms were a commonly listed item of interest to our users. In 2017 we intend on

focusing on several of our outdated vault type latrines and install more modern facilities at our high use remote locations.

Along with our capital program, we have identified other operational areas to address in the 2017 budget. Because of where we are with our Levy commitments, we are now in a place where we can address these opportunities. Other than the Customer Service Manager position, our only other staffing changes will be in part-time or seasonal positions. 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 – Complete

Construct 50 miles of trails. Manage more of the Greenways Trail System – Complete

Expand Scioto Audubon Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula – Complete

Open three new parks – Complete

Rocky Fork – Opened, August 2015

Walnut Woods – Opened, May 2013

Scioto Grove – Opened, Spring 2016

Acquire land, build a nature center, and restore habitat to further protect the rare species of Big Darby Creek
Complete

Restore 1,000 acres of wetlands to attract wildlife and improve water quality
Complete



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.

**2017 Financial Summary
Combined General, Capital and Enterprise Funds**

ESTIMATED ENDING CASH BALANCE - 12/31/16		\$ 5,983,000
Add: New Revenues		<u>\$ 25,429,200</u>
Total Available Cash Resources		\$ 31,412,200
 Less: Budgeted Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits, excluding golf course	\$ 14,721,700	
Operating and Administrative	\$ 5,546,000	
Enterprise Fund - Golf Course		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 792,100	
Operating	\$ 323,000	
Loan Payment	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	
Total Operating Budget	\$ 21,392,800	
Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 5,600,000	
Capital Improvement Projects-Golf Course	\$ -	
Land Acquisition	\$ 1,675,000	
Total Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 28,667,800</u>
 ESTIMATED 12/31/17 CASH BALANCE, IF ALL APPROPRIATIONS ARE FULLY EXPENDED		 <u>\$ 2,744,400</u>

Projected Changes in 2017 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	20,066,200			20,066,200
Local Government Fund	2,700,000			2,700,000
Grants	8,000	71,200		79,200
Total Public Sources	\$ 22,774,200	\$ 71,200	\$ -	\$ 22,845,400
Earned Income from Operations:				
Golf Courses			950,000	950,000
Shelter Fees, Concessions & Special Events	355,300			355,300
Interpretive Program	114,200			114,200
House & Land Rental	158,700			158,700
Total Earned Income	\$ 628,200	\$ -	\$ 950,000	\$ 1,578,200
Interest Income	\$ 38,800	\$ 2,100		\$ 40,900
Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions		\$ 935,000		\$ 935,000
Donations & Bequests	\$ 5,000			\$ 5,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 24,300	\$ 400		\$ 24,700
Total 2017 Projected Revenue by Fund	\$ 23,470,500	\$ 1,008,700	\$ 950,000	\$ 25,429,200
Projected Expenditures:				
Salaries	10,299,000		559,658	\$ 10,858,658
Fringe Benefits	2,739,500		147,471	2,886,971
PERS	1,540,240		78,352	1,618,592
Medicare	142,960		6,619	149,579
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 14,721,700		\$ 792,100	\$ 15,513,800
Admin	\$ 1,368,695		\$ 3,700	\$ 1,372,395
Education/Interpretive Operations	\$ 243,235			243,235
Park Maintenance	\$ 1,802,254		58,000	1,860,254
Promotion	\$ 606,523			606,523
Rental Properties	\$ 223,190			223,190
Natural Resource Management	\$ 178,125			178,125
Revenue Programs	\$ 68,290		261,300	329,590
Safety & Law Enforcement	\$ 382,320			382,320
Special Facilities	\$ 348,368			348,368
Renovations	\$ 325,000			325,000
Operating Expenses	\$ 5,546,000	\$ -	\$ 323,000	\$ 5,869,000
Capital Improvement Projects		\$ 5,600,000	\$ -	\$ 5,600,000
Land Acquisition		\$ 1,675,000		\$ 1,675,000
2017 Projected Expenditures by Fund	\$ 20,267,700	\$ 7,275,000	\$ 1,115,100	\$ 28,657,800
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	\$ 3,202,800	\$ (6,266,300)	\$ (165,100)	\$ (3,228,600)
Projected Balance 12/31/2016	\$ 5,908,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 5,983,000
Loan Proceeds				\$ -
Loan Payment			\$ (10,000)	\$ (10,000)
Transfer to / (from) Fund	\$ (6,441,400)	\$ 6,266,300	\$ 175,100	\$ -
Estimated Balance 12/31/2017	\$ 2,669,400	\$ 5,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 2,744,400

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 2017 is \$25,151,600. The following narratives provide an explanation for each source of revenue.

PUBLIC SOURCES

Metro Parks' public source revenue for 2017 is projected to increase slightly compared to 2016 projected actual revenues, but less than the budgeted amount for 2016. 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 2017 and has been projected to increase slightly compared to 2016 projected actual revenues, but less than the budgeted amount for 2016.

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 (\$20,068,000) 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) (\$6,243,300) and to the Golf Course Enterprise Fund (Fund 30) (\$175,100).

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 (\$2,430,000). 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 two grants in the pipeline for 2017, but the amounts have not been certified so they have not been included in revenues for 2017.

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 2017 is projected to remain relatively flat. 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) \$950,000.

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 2017 due to increased shelter rental

Sources Of Revenue, continued

income and special events permit fees. Receipts are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27) \$594,600.

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 (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 .75 % return. Income is recorded in both the General Fund (Fund 27) and Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 29) \$41,600.

Donations and Bequests - Bequests, which generate receipts on a regular basis, and one-time donations, are recorded here (Fund 27 or 29) \$5,000.

Miscellaneous - all other revenue and non-revenue receipts in small or unpredictable amounts. These include court fines, damage settlements, refunds on prior year payments, reimbursements, sales of salvage and fixed assets, sales of specifications and plans for Metro Parks' capital improvement projects. The on-line auction produce great results in 2016 and we are expecting similar results in 2017. (Fund 27 or 29) \$26,400.

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 \$614,960 (excluding the funds managed by the Columbus Foundation, referenced below) by December 31, 2016. The trust funds projected increase for 2017 is \$30,150.

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

	2015 Actual	2016 Projected Actual 10/31/2016	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	2016 Budget v. 2017 Budget Inc (Dec)	% Change Inc (Dec)
NEW REVENUES: GOVT (27, 29) & ENTERPRISE (30) FUNDS						
Public Sources:						
Property Tax Levy - .75 mill	19,313,127	19,762,000	20,135,600	20,066,200	(69,400)	-0.3%
LGF	2,355,607	2,185,000	2,549,000	2,700,000	151,000	5.9%
Grants	1,886,562	579,000	50,700	79,200	28,500	56.2%
Total Public Sources	23,555,296	22,526,000	22,735,300	22,845,400	110,100	0.5%
Operational Sources:						
Revenues from Golf Course Operations	916,315	925,000	925,000	950,000	25,000	2.7%
Revenues from Park Operations:						
Shelter Fees, Special Events & Concessions	343,539	355,000	318,700	355,300	36,600	11.5%
Interpretive Programs	73,453	114,000	73,500	114,200	40,700	55.4%
House & Land Rental	240,795	159,000	161,800	158,700	(3,100)	-1.9%
Total Income from Operational Sources	1,574,100	1,553,000	1,479,000	1,578,200	99,200	6.7%
Governmental Partnership Contributions	935,340	935,000	935,000	935,000	-	0.0%
Income from Investment	25,798	41,000	20,000	40,900	20,900	104.5%
Wetlands Credits						
Donations & Bequests	6,419	90,000	9,200	5,000	(4,200)	-45.7%
Miscellaneous Receipts (settlements,refunds,salvage sale)	533,380	219,000	129,900	24,700	(105,200)	-81.0%
TOTAL NEW REVENUES	26,630,333	25,364,000	25,308,400	25,429,200	120,800	0.5%
LOAN PROCEEDS - Net						
BEG FUND BALANCES	13,446,344	11,432,129	11,432,129	5,983,000 proj. 12/31/2016	(5,449,129)	-47.7%
FUND BALANCES PLUS NEW REVENUES	40,076,676	36,796,129	36,740,529	31,412,200	(5,328,329)	-14.5%
FIDUCIARY FUNDS PRIOR BALANCE						
Expendable (Beck & Thomas)	306,737	103,468	355,819	108,232	(247,587)	-69.6%
Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	321,483	378,054	303,031	408,932	105,901	34.9%
Non-Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	97,796	97,796	97,796	97,796	-	0.0%
Non-Expendable (Inniswood Fund-Cols Found.)	457,296	457,296	458,000	457,296	(704)	-0.2%
Add:						
Current Year Projected Income	137	270	30	150	120	400.0%
Donations & Bequests	30,627	35,372	30,000	30,000		
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	40,107,441	36,831,771	36,770,559	31,442,350	(5,328,209)	-14.5%

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 2017 budget for operations is \$5,546,000. This includes all operating costs except the Golf Course and personnel costs. The Operations budget is appropriated under the general fund (Fund 27). The budget for the Golf Course operations is \$333,000, which is appropriated under the Enterprise Fund (Fund 30).

Metro Parks will continue to work closely with partners in pursuit of our mission. Funds are allocated to continue partnering with the Ohio Wildlife Center (\$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 \$25,000 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 2017 proposed operational budget for Fund 27 (excluding personnel) is \$5,546,000.

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.

Operations is implementing a new program in 2017 called “Showcase 2018”. This program is an opportunity for park managers to take an outsiders view of their park and tweak the things that maybe missed when you view something every day. To accomplish this renovation funds were increased from \$180,000 to \$325,000. To improve efficiency and to maintain Metro Parks high standards the equipment budget was also increased.

The 2017 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 2016 Projected Actual and 2017 Budget**

CATEGORY	2015 Actual	2016 Projected Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	% Change Budget to Budget
Personnel (from Fund 27)		projected from 10/31/16 actual			
Salaries (including merit increases)	8,625,403	9,643,089	9,911,700	10,299,000	3.91 %
Employee Benefits	2,135,082	2,380,123	2,484,700	2,739,500	10.25 %
PERS	1,284,486	1,379,854	1,490,700	1,540,240	3.32 %
Medicare	112,823	123,756	135,400	142,960	5.58 %
Total Benefits	3,532,392	3,883,733	4,110,800	4,422,700	7.59 %
Subtotal	12,157,795	13,526,821	14,022,500	14,721,700	4.99 %
Park Ops & Admin (from Fund 27)					
Admin	834,991	926,613	1,151,277	1,368,695	18.88 %
Education/Interpretive Operations	159,427	184,232	218,035	243,235	11.56 %
Park Maintenance	1,518,447	1,640,341	1,928,990	1,802,254	(6.57) %
Promotion	505,496	492,763	562,923	606,523	7.75 %
Rental Properties	346,320	172,307	404,240	223,190	(44.79) %
Natural Resource Management	112,521	93,932	168,895	178,125	5.46 %
Revenue Programs	36,072	35,832	128,730	68,290	(46.95) %
Safety & Law Enforcement	427,232	404,021	254,470	382,320	50.24 %
Special Facilities	183,189	144,851	348,240	348,368	0.04 %
Renovations	186,499	120,334	180,000	325,000	80.56 %
Other - Prior Year	158,359	541,331	-	-	-
Subtotal	4,468,552	4,756,556	5,345,800	5,546,000	3.74 %
Capital Improvement Projects (Fund 29)					
<u>Capital Improvement Projects</u>			5,300,000	5,600,000	5.66 %
Miscellaneous	1,122	828			
Building Construction	3,981,347	2,764,877			
Facility Improvements	86,339	99,013			
Natural Resource Improvements	12,674	-			
Planning	47,513	53,550			
Site Improvements	2,986,406	1,911,205			
Utilities	36,927	-			
Other - Prior Year	2,651,663	1,759,323	-	-	-
Subtotal	9,803,990	4,829,473	5,300,000	5,600,000	6 %
Land Acquisition	614,416	4,895,238	5,000,000	1,675,000	
Other - Prior Year	570,311	-	-	-	
Land Acquisition (from Fund 29)	1,184,728	4,895,238	5,000,000	1,675,000	(66.50) %
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES - FUNDS 27& 29	27,615,066	28,008,088	29,668,300	27,542,700	(7.16) %
ENTERPRISE FUND EXP. - Golf Course					
Personnel					
Salaries (including merit increases)	563,298	570,526	576,200	559,658	(2.87) %
Employee Benefits	127,155	126,109	130,200	147,471	13.26 %
PERS	78,772	79,644	80,700	78,352	(2.91) %
Medicare	6,500	6,554	6,900	6,619	(4.08) %
Total Benefits	212,426	212,307	217,800	232,442	6.72 %
Subtotal	775,724	782,833	794,000	792,100	(0.24) %
Operations	253,758	252,673	237,200	323,000	36.17 %
Capital Improvement Projects	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Prior Year	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND FUND 30	1,029,482	1,035,506	1,031,200	1,115,100	8.14 %
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE ALL FUNDS	28,644,548	29,043,594	30,699,500	28,657,800	(6.65) %

Equipment Budget Highlights

The following is a list of equipment items that are budgeted at amounts over \$25,000. Purchases over \$50,000 must be approved by resolution by the Board of Park Commissioners. Additional pieces of equipment totaling \$313,083 are budgeted, but did not meet the large item cost threshold.

Park	Item Description	Budgeted
Blacklick Woods	Ranger truck with plow	35,000.00
Blendon Woods	JD Pro Gator with cab	25,000.00
Battelle-Darby Creek	2 Patrol Trucks, Extended Cab 4WD	60,000.00
Highbanks	Ranger Truck	30,000.00
Clear Creek	Patrol Vehicle, 4x4, Crew Cab	30,000.00
Blacklick Woods Golf Courses	Rotary Mower	32,000.00
Prairie Oaks	Ranger Truck	30,000.00
Walnut Woods	Ranger Truck/light bar	27,000.00
Finance	Color Copier	25,000.00
Information Systems	Storage Array	64,000.00
Information Systems	Replacement Workstations	30,000.00
Operations	Radios for SGR and RKY 4 MDT	36,000.00
Scioto Grove	eng truck / w plow and light bar	40,000.00
	Equipment budget items under \$25,000	313,083.00
Total 2017 Equipment Budget:		777,083.00

Summary of Personnel Expenditures

2016 presented a year of change in the realm of personnel. Five long-term employees retired, presenting the opportunity to evaluate and assess the work unit structures, operational needs, and functionality of those positions. The same review was also conducted for each vacancy that occurred throughout the year. These reviews are part of the commitment to monitor personnel costs and utilize staff where they are most needed without much impact on the personnel budget.

In 2016, the decision was also made by the County Joint Benefits Consortium to change the health insurance plan year to a calendar year in 2017 from the previous April 1 – March 31st plan year. This is a positive change because it allows for better decision making during the open enrollment period since it coincides with spouse/domestic partner open enrollment periods in the majority of cases. It also provides for a more unified approach in matching health insurance coverage year to the Flexible Spending Account year. To the benefit of Metro Parks, this change makes known any contribution increases prior to the budget process, thus allowing accurate information to be included.

In 2017, wellness initiatives will be in the forefront. The health insurance program has been renamed and will now be called the Franklin County Health Care Improvement Program. Wellness initiatives will be instituted and actions undertaken by employees and their spouses/domestic partners will have an impact on incentives earned and reduced deductibles in 2018.

The recognition program was highly utilized in 2016. Over 110 recognitions were issued with a variety of recognition awards. Metro Parks' saw increased participation throughout the year with nominations being made by employees at all levels within the organization.

Changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act in 2016 resulted in Metro Parks reviewing the classification status (exempt and non-exempt) of its positions. Positions that were designated exempt were evaluated to determine if eligibility for exempt status remained. In cases where the position did not meet the criteria, the position was changed to non-exempt, thus resulting in the position being overtime eligible. In the cases where the position did meet the criteria, the minimum of the pay range was changed to meet the federal regulation.

The Labor Agreement between Metro Parks and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council representing the full-time Park Rangers will expire January 31, 2017. Negotiations for a new contract will commence in December 2016. Discussions on wage increases, merit, and other benefits will be included in upcoming negotiation sessions.

The proposed 2017 Personnel Budget includes:

- \$102,600 for 2017 merit, skill based, and intermittent/seasonal/intern pay increases.
- \$239,300 of the personnel budget will be reserved to award the additional merit provided through the recognition program.

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:	2017	2016 Budget	%	\$
			Change	Change
EXCLUDING NEW POSITIONS	14,938,704	14,253,300	4.81%	685,404
INCLUDING NEW POSITIONS	15,513,800	14,816,500	4.71%	697,300

Projected Actual vs Budget

	2017 Proposed Budget	2016 Projected Actual	%	2016 Budget	%
			Change #		Change ##
PERSONNEL COSTS:					
Staffing/FT & PT positions:					
Salaries	10,377,873	\$ 10,213,615	1.61%	\$ 9,785,108	6.06%
New Positions	259,608			563,200	
Health Care Benefits	2,767,774	2,354,513	17.55%	2,417,700	14.48%
PERS	1,551,282	1,459,498	6.29%	1,511,800	2.61%
Medicare	143,203	130,309	9.89%	136,500	4.91%
Salaries and Benefits Total	15,099,739	14,157,935	6.65%	14,414,308	4.76%
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS:					
Merit	239,288			195,700	22.27%
Uniform Allowance	2,000			2,000	0.00%
Claims-based Expenses:					
Retirements*	76,200			109,392	-30.34%
Unemployment	3,500	1,838	90.45%	7,000	-50.00%
Workers Comp	93,073	149,881	-37.90%	88,100	5.65%
Total Other Appropriations	414,061	151,719	172.91%	402,192	2.95%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$15,513,800	\$ 14,309,654	8.41%	\$ 14,816,500	4.71%

* (Accrued vacation / sick leave payments)

% Change is showing the change from 2017 proposed budget to the 2016 projected actual

% Change is showing the change from 2017 proposed budget to the 2016 Budget

Proposed Positions FY 2017 Budget

Focus on staffing in 2017 will be in the areas of customer service and visitor outreach. With increased visitation in the parks, it is also necessary to create some additional staffing in the seasonal, intermittent, and part-time realm. By creating seasonal, intermittent, and part-time positions, Metro Parks can hire and staff based on operational necessity, when the work load is greatest while limiting costs associated with full-time positions.

In order to meet customer service goals, as well as the growing needs and demands of specific areas, the personnel proposal includes the following recommended changes:

Additional Positions Requested

Customer Service Manager – This full-time position would focus on customer service from both headquarters' and field perspectives. This position would establish customer service metrics, analyze results, and work with staff to implement changes where necessary. Also included in the job description would be community outreach, special events, and local project support.

Seasonal Naturalist (Highbanks)

Seasonal Ranger (Battelle Darby Creek)

Seasonal Maintenance (Slate Run)

With increased visitation, special events, and resource management initiatives, three additional seasonal positions are requested. Use of seasonals during the busiest time of the year (spring and summer) allows attention to visitor needs, while full-time and part-time staff to focus on specific projects and initiatives.

Operations Intern and 4 High School Interns

By adding a college Intern and 4 high school interns, special focus can be added to the maintenance of the expanding Greenway Trails. By using these types of positions for basic maintenance, such as trail work and pruning, full-time and part-time staff can focus on more specialized maintenance needs on the trails.

Part-Time Ranger

Intermittent Activities Room Worker

Part-time Outdoor Programmer

These positions would be added to the staffing levels at Scioto Grove Metro Park. With increased visitation and the addition of the Activities Room, these positions would assist

Proposed Positions FY 2017 Budget

in meeting visitor needs, creating more in-park events, and serving users of the multipurpose room.

Part-Time Outdoor Programmer

With such high utilization of the Greenway Trails, creating a part-time Outdoor Programmer position would tap into an audience the typical Naturalist would not reach. Coordinating events and programs around users of the trails and their unique interests would be a massive outreach to groups who may not necessarily be traditional park users.

Additional Positions Requested and Placed in Budget with Adoption of Positions Dependent Upon Further Analysis

1 Head Camp Counselor and 7 Camp Counselors

With the opening of Scioto Grove, one goal is to offer a summer camp program at this park location. Additional staff would be needed to operate this camp in addition to the other camps offered at other locations throughout the summer. With the retirement of the existing Camp & Community Events Coordinator, expanding the camps to Scioto Grove in 2017 would be dependent upon analysis and input of a new Camp & Community Events Coordinator.

Intern – Design Work Unit

An anticipated increase in design projects would provide the opportunity for an Intern to provide needed support while offering the student valuable job related experience. A more detailed analysis of design projects and work load will be conducted before moving forward with this position.

2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2017 Capital Improvement Budget Available Funds \$5.6 million

Project Q. Due to non-disclosure agreement, we will not share details at this time however this will be the first phase of work at this project and will involve environmental cleanup, detailed planning and design, and some form of public access. This project will be a cornerstone of the 2019 levy and is strategically important to Metro Parks.

\$500,000 (in addition to \$500K that will be reimbursed from an already identified source of funds)

Pickerington Ponds Rawn Property Development. This is another strategically important project for Metro Parks. Although not included in the 2009 promises, it will be highly visible in the community. These funds will pay for the first phase of facility development and will likely include some ecological restoration. Scope of the project likely will include roadway, parking lots, and an initial round of public use facilities. Detailed planning likely will occur this fall using 2016 CIP funds for consultants as needed.

\$1,000,000

Golf Course Activities Building. This project was budgeted in 2016 but was delayed as we discussed the issue of sprinklers and what actually was needed to give us a venue that could accommodate approximately 150 people. The project will be bid in December and awarded in January, 2017.

\$1,000,000

Paving of Roadways and Parking Lots. In 2016, we allocated Metro Parks funds to complement ODOT funds historically used to pave roadways and parking lots—the sheer need for paving outpaces our biennial allocation from ODOT. Additional ODOT funds should be available after July 1, 2017 but we likely need to do some major work prior to its availability. Among the projects that will be included are the repaving of much of Sharon Woods roadways and parking lots, extensive work at Scioto Audubon, finishing up work at Highbanks, repaving of Barneby Hambleton roadway at Clear Creek, some major trail projects (not eligible for ODOT funds) at Blacklick, Glacier Ridge, Battelle Darby (Cedar Ridge) and minor trail/path projects at other parks including Inniswood.

\$500,000 (addition to \$530,000 in ODOT funds that will be available after July 1, 2017)

Restrooms. As noted in “The Plan”, an area of improvement offered by both users and staff is up-grading restroom facilities, particularly those in areas not served by City water and sanitary services. We will be looking to purchase numerous pre-manufactured restroom units that can be installed in rapid order. Likely locations where these restrooms will be installed include: Clear Creek Creekside Meadows, Battelle Darby (Indian Ridge and remote locations with older pit latrines), Blendon Day Camp, Chestnut Ridge COMBO trailhead, on the golf course, Highbanks Big Meadows, among others.

\$600,000

Homestead/Glacier Ridge. With expanded knowledge of Homestead Metro Park, there are a number of pressing needs that will be included in this project including restroom (s), restoration of day use areas including playgrounds, and others. The result coupled with initial work in 2016 will be a major face-lift to the park. In addition, we will add some

2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

facilities/opportunities for the public at Glacier Ridge to make it a more desirable venue.
\$700,000

Prairie Oaks Dombey Property Wetland. In 2009 we committed to restoring 1,000 acres of wetlands. This project would restore 270 acres, thus making it strategic relative to a levy commitment.
\$400,000

Scioto Grove Phase 3. With the popularity of the park in its first year, additional public amenities could be included such as additional playground opportunities, developing paved bike trails that would tie into connector trails from Grove City, and other improvements.
\$300,000

Scioto Audubon Climbing Wall Safety Surface. The existing safety surface surrounding the climbing wall needs replaced.
\$140,000

Scioto Audubon Pedestrian Bridge Design Consultant. Funds will be provided for design of the pedestrian bridge to Scioto Audubon (additional State of Ohio CIP funds are also available).
\$100,000

Demolition (District-wide). We have a number of structures that have outlived their useful lives and should be demolished.
\$100,000

Signage (District-wide).
\$50,000

Resource Management (District-wide Tree Planting and Invasive Removal)
\$200,000

TOTAL: \$5,590,000

Land Acquisition

The 2017 budget proposal allocates \$1.675 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, some funds are dedicated to land acquisition at Rocky Fork Metro Park.

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.

Not included in the 2017 request is funding for the Scioto River Corridor (Project Q) land acquisition costs. Since we do not have a cost nor a complete working knowledge of the project, we intend on bringing that forward to the Board when the opportunity arises. With the potential of this acquisition exceeding 2017 available funds, we will also have to consider alternative funding sources including but not limited to: grants, partnerships, and proceeds from bond sales.

Blacklick Woods Golf Course Summary

2017 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 2017 at \$950,000. 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 2016, but there is still 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 \$175,100 from the General Fund to the golf course in 2017. This is will be needed until we achieve a balanced and eventually profitable golf course operation.

Projected Income Statement - Enterprise Fund

	2016 Projected Actual	2017 Budget
<u>REVENUES</u>		
Golf fees, cart rental, merchandise, concessions	\$ 925,000	\$ 950,000
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Personnel:		
Salaries	570,526	559,658
Benefits, PERS, Medicare	212,307	232,442
Total Personnel Costs	\$ 782,833	\$ 792,100
 Operating Costs (non-personnel)	 252,673	 323,000
 Capital Improvement Projects		
 Loan Payment		 \$ 10,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,035,506	\$ 1,125,100
 NET INCOME	 \$ (110,506)	 \$ (175,100)
 ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/16		 \$ 70,000
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS		\$ 175,100
 ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/17		 \$ 70,000

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

APROPRIATIONS
Based on 2017 Budget Proposal

The proposed budget for Metro Parks for the the fiscal year 2017 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.

		<u>TOTAL NEW</u>
		<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u> (1)
Personnel		14,721,700
Non-Personnel		5,546,000
Inter Fund Transfer		<u>6,441,400</u>
Fund 27 Total	\$	26,709,100
Capital Projects & Land Acquisition	\$	<u>7,275,000</u>
Fund 29 Total	\$	7,275,000
Golf Course Personnel	\$	792,100
Non-Personnel	\$	<u>333,000</u>
Fund 30 Total	\$	1,125,100
Grand Total	\$	<u><u>35,109,200</u></u>

(1) The total budget for 2017 excluding interfund transfers is \$28,667,800.

(2) 2016 encumbrances will be identified and carried forward as of 12/31/2016 and are not included above. The 2016 encumbrances will be charged against the 2016 budget.