



Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022

Licking Park District
4309 Lancaster Road, PO Box 590
Granville, OH 43023

740.587.2535
www.LickingParkDistrict.com



Introduction

In 2012, the Licking Park District had a successful levy campaign to support the park district's parks, trails and programs throughout Licking County. Funding started in 2013, and a Director and Program Coordinator were hired to support the goals and operations of the parks. Starting that year with safety in mind, much needed repairs were made to the park's infrastructure, bridges were inspected, 126 potholes were repaired on the TJ Evans Trail, and programs were reintroduced to the parks.

As the Park District Board of Commissioners prepares for the next 5-year levy cycle, they have developed this document to be a tool for the board and staff, and as a communication piece to inform the public about the direction of the park district. This document was developed through countless conversations with community leaders, park and trail users, and leaders in parks and recreation.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Licking Park District is to acquire, manage, preserve, and conserve natural areas within Licking County, while protecting wildlife and local history in a manner that enriches our communities and provides access to diverse parks, educational opportunities and health and wellness activities.

Benefits

Licking County's parks and trails provide excellent enjoyment of outdoor activities and our natural areas. Other benefits to our community include:

- ❖ Individuals and families use them to participate in healthy recreation and educational programs,
- ❖ Support to local environmental protection and conservation.
- ❖ Various cultural and nature outreach programs for adults and children, including historical, scientific, educational, artistic, and recreational programs. This also includes student field trips, in-school visits, and special support for 4-H and Boy and Girl Scout activities.
- ❖ Popular family oriented special events such as seasonal activities and historical re-enactments.

Economic Development

Tourism is significant in Licking County. According to the State of Ohio Office of Tourism, visitors generated \$356 million in business activity in Licking County in 2013, which includes over \$35 million from Recreation and entertainment. In the same year, the data showed that 1 in 12 people in Licking County were employed in tourism related services, with over \$108 million employment income generated. According to a study by the National Recreation and Park Association in 2013, the economic impact of operations and capital spending at local and regional parks in Ohio created over \$4.2 million in economic activity and supported 34,718 jobs within the state.

The Licking Park District's facilities contribute to our community's economic growth by increasing appeal

for business development and tourism, as well as enhancing property values. The following details demonstrate revenue generated for local economies by tourism and a well maintained and diverse park system:

- ❖ Property near a park or trail is on average worth \$8,000 more than one that is not
- ❖ 1/3 of Ohio's travelers' time is spent seeking art, cultural and historical experiences
- ❖ In Columbus, homes near parks sell at 10-25% more than those further away
- ❖ 93% of Central Ohio residents believe that metroparks contribute to the quality of life
- ❖ Trail areas and parks have less crime than non-trail and park areas
- ❖ Tourism employs the second highest number of people in Ohio
- ❖ Ohioans who fish, hunt, and watch wildlife spend \$3 billion annually
- ❖ Tourism is directly responsible for 60,000 jobs in the 29 Appalachian counties
- ❖ For every dollar spent on tourism promotion, tourists spend \$135
- ❖ Tourism generated \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes in 2007
- ❖ A recent Ohio tourism campaign returned \$12 in local taxes for every dollar invested

Leadership

Direction for the park district is supported by the Licking Park District Board of Commissioners and a dedicated and experienced staff.

Licking Park District Board of Commissioners



Steve Holloway, Chair

Steve graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and an Associates Degree in Natural Science. He was appointed to the Licking Park District in 2011, and currently serves as Chairperson. Steve was appointed to the Licking County Planning Commission in 2006, served on the Southwest Licking School District Board of Education, and served on the Etna Township Economic Development Committee to develop the Etna Industrial Park.



Sheena A. Sjöstrand-Post

Sheena graduated from Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, and Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio, where she received her Juris Doctorate with a concentration in Dispute Resolution. She is currently with the Hayes Law Offices in Pataskala. Sheena is also an Adjunct Professor for The Jetter School of Business at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and serves on the Executive Committee of the Licking County Bar Association.



Jim Bradley

Jim has a BS in Geology from Muskingum College, an MS in Geology and a PhD in Mineralogy from OSU. Jim taught Geology at OSU-Newark for over 30 years, retiring in 2001. From 1982-1990 he was the Licking County Parks & Recreation Director. He has been a Licking Park District Commissioner since 1990. He was a board member of Goodwill Industries and the Licking County Planning Commission for over 20 years, and is a former President and Life Trustee of the Licking County Historical Society.



Jim Kiracofe

Jim graduated with a BS in Animal Science, and an MS Agriculture Economics from Ohio State University. He is currently the owner and operator of 420 acre grain farm in Washington Township. Jim was employed as Administrator for Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District until retirement in 2014. He supports the Hartford Fair's Natural Resources Area's Advisory Committee, and continues involvement in the Licking County River Roundup.



Richard E. Moseley, Jr.

Dick served as the first Chief of the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and managed the program for 20 years. In 1990, Dick became Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources supervising the Divisions of Parks and Recreation, Wildlife, Natural Areas and Preserves, Forestry, and Watercraft. He retired from the Department in 1993 and volunteered for the US Forest Service, San Juan National Forest for 15 years. He is a member of the Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame.

Licking Park District Staff



Bob Williams, Director

With a BS in Parks and Recreation and a MS in Nonprofit Management, Bob has spent the past 10 years in County government park systems. Prior to that, he spent 20 years with nonprofit organizations, working with youth and families in the outdoors. He also serves on the Board of Explore Licking County. Bob is also certified by the American Canoe Association as a Level 1 Kayak Instructor.



Tami McAdams, Operations Administrator

Tami has been with the Licking Park District for 4 years in a full-time capacity, and administers the operational needs for the park district. Her experience covers being an officer with the Florida Marine Patrol, and a Federal Agent with National Marine Fisheries. She is active in our local equestrian community, and will often lead our Moonlight rides.



Heather Glaser, Administrative Assistant

Heather graduated from Central Ohio Technical College with an Associate's degree in Business Management/Human Resources. She has worked with the Licking Park District since June of 2012. Heather enjoys spending time with her family, husband Justin and two kids Jobe and Hadlee. She is also very active in her kid's school activities and sports.



Anne Balogh, Program Coordinator

With a BS in Environmental Science and an MS in Biological Science, Anne continues a career of interpreting the world around us. She has conducted programs in Yellowstone, operated bird banding projects, and has worked with the Audubon Society. Anne is the creative element for the new and expanding programs.



Mike Evans, Maintenance Worker

With over 30 years of general maintenance experience, including training in the US Marines and Multi-Craft Maintenance, Mike manages the equipment, grounds and buildings of the park district. A native of Granville, Mike has spent a career in Licking County.

Community Engagement

The Licking Park District seeks to be engaged in our community, being utilized as an asset and resource for students, educators, families, adults, and all citizens. To this extent, we collaborate with several community partners to open up opportunities for everyone in Licking County. Some examples of our partnerships include:

- ❖ Boating Safety Education programs for campers of Camp O’Bannon
- ❖ Curious Kids Corner once a month at The Works
- ❖ Turn Your Screen Off Week each May, hosting the kickoff event named Outdoor Adventures
- ❖ Host sites for the annual FFA Soil Judging Competition
- ❖ A major leader in the annual River Round Up waterway cleanup
- ❖ Host to the Harvest Moon Rendezvous each October
- ❖ Joining with the Society of Engineering Technology at OSU-Newark for bridge repairs
- ❖ Beneficiary to several Eagle Scout service projects at parks and trails
- ❖ Denison University Environmental Program students as a project site
- ❖ Ohio Pollinator Initiative seed bank and plot establishment
- ❖ Monthly after-school programs at the Alexandria Library
- ❖ Engagement with the Health Department’s Wellness Coalition
- ❖ Teacher academic workshops
- ❖ Stream Team Training with Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District
- ❖ And many others

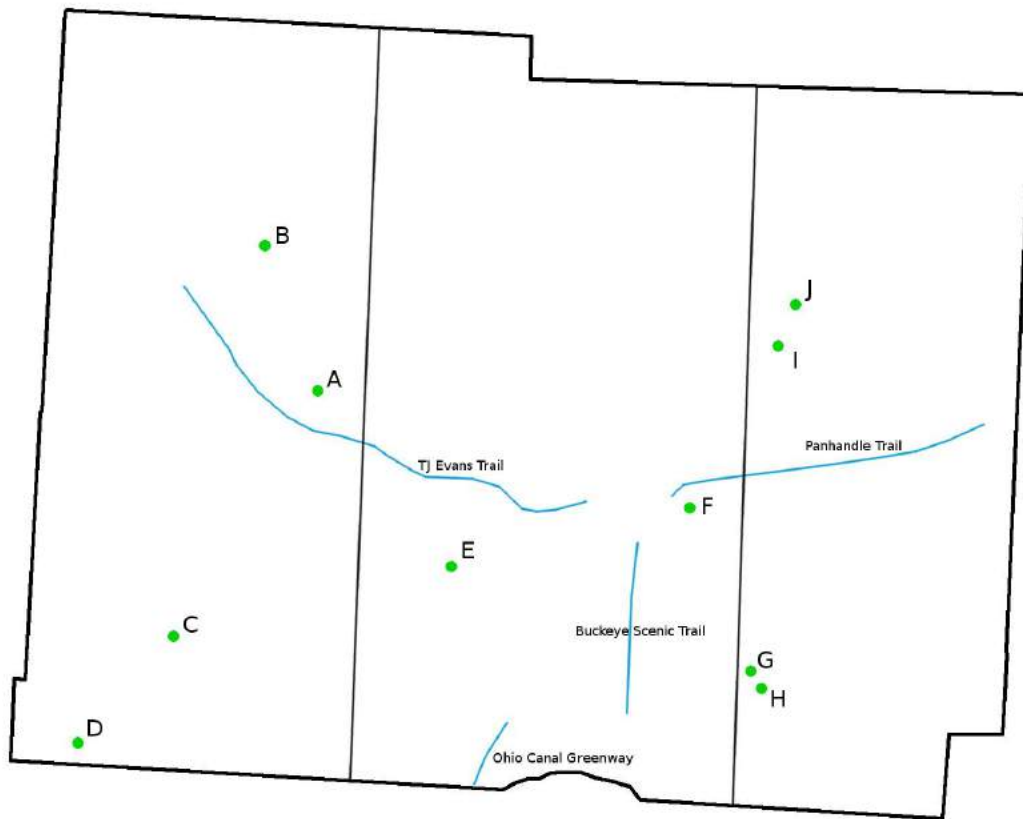
Park District Statistics (2015)





Park Facilities

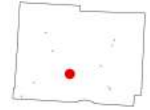
There are parks and trails throughout Licking County. The following pages outline amenities and plans for these sites.



Western Section	Central Section	Eastern Section
(pgs 8-10)	(pgs 6-7)	(pgs 11-13)
<u>Parks</u>	<u>Parks</u>	<u>Parks</u>
A) Lobdell Reserve B) Morris Woods State Nature Preserve C) Tyler Powell Preserve D) Palmer Rd Swamp Preserve	E) Infirmity Mound Park F) Riverview Preserve	G) Taft Reserve H) Brown Preserve I) Boyd Wilkin Reserve J) Reese Wildlife Preserve
<u>Close to:</u> Pataskala Johnstown Alexandria New Albany	<u>Close to:</u> Newark Granville Heath Hebron	<u>Close to:</u> Brownsville Fallsburg Hanover



Park Facilities - Central Section



Infirmity Mound Park

4309 Lancaster Road, Granville, OH 43023

Acres: 315.24

What's Available:

- 4 Acre Dog Park
- 7 Acre Mirror Lake
- 4 shelters
- James Bradley Senior Center
- 7 miles of trails
- Nature Barn

Future Plans:

- Nature-themed playground
- Accessible fishing deck
- Education space developed
- Park roads paved
- Shelter, Bradley Center roofs replaced
- Trail sign improvements
- Water system improvements



Old playground



New Playground



Boater Safety Education Program



New Restrooms Installed

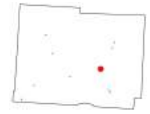


Park Facilities - Central Section

Riverview Preserve

375 Ohio Street, Newark, OH 43055

Acres: 94.96



What's Available:

- Canoe & Kayak Launch
- Open recreation field
- Parking for 40+ cars
- Located in South Newark

Future Plans:

- River viewing deck
- Shelter
- Restrooms
- Trail improvements



River Access - Before



Canoe & Kayak Launch Ribbon Cutting



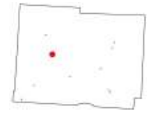
Park Cleanup



Crafts at Movie Night



Park Facilities - Western Section



Lobdell Reserve

3100 Mounts Road, Alexandria, OH
Acres: 210.53

What's Available:

- 18-Hole Disc Golf Course
- Lobdell Creek
- 7 miles of trails

Future Plans:

- Shelter at Mounts Road
- Trail repairs and signage



Disc Golf Parking Lot Expansion



Nature Hikes



Lobdell Creek Stream Study



Lobdell Parking Lot Improvement

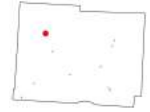


Park Facilities - Western Section

Morris Woods State Nature Preserve

7495 Dutch Lane, Johnstown, OH

Acres: 107.21



What's Available:

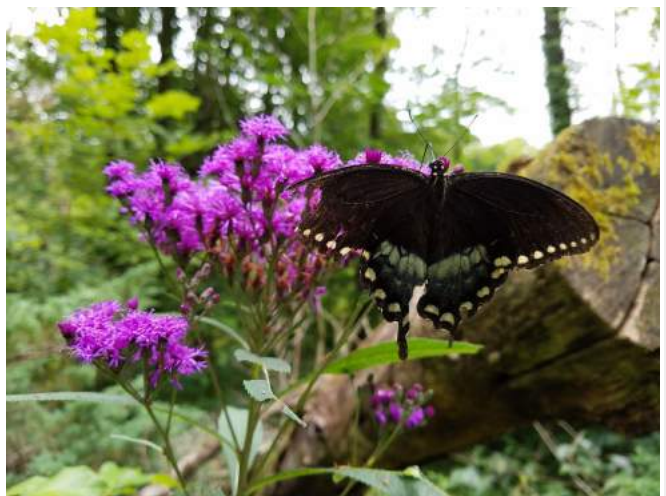
- Trails with boardwalks
- Lake Helen
- Great birding area

Future Plans:

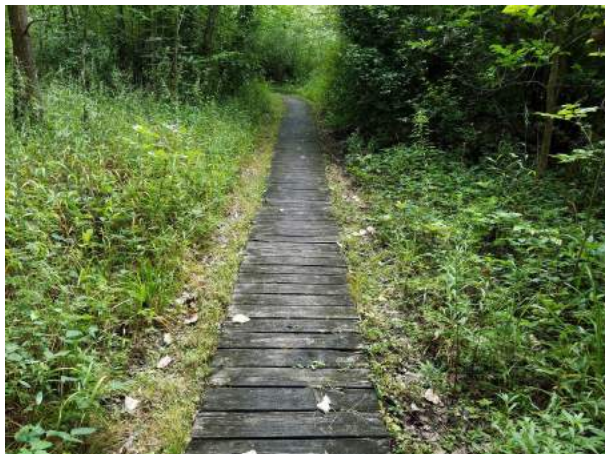
- Shelter
- Outdoor classroom
- Restroom
- Road improvements
- Benches on trail, by lake



Morris Woods monument



Wildflowers and wildlife



Trail boardwalks



Marked loop trails



Park Facilities - Western Section

Tyler Powell Preserve

Mill Street, Pataskala, OH 43062

Acres: 13.01



What's Available:

- Along Mill Creek
- Site is under development

Future Plans:

- Connect with Pataskala
- Stream bank stabilization



Muddy Fork



In Pataskala

Palmer Road Swamp Preserve

28 Roga Drive, Reynoldsburg, OH

Acres: 25.99



What's Available:

- Wetland mitigation project
- Site is under development

Future Plans:

- Driveway and parking lot installed
- Trail network developed



Wetlands in development



In Etna Township



Park Facilities - Eastern Section

Taft Reserve

10250 Flint Ridge Road, Newark, OH 43055

Acres: 416.71



What's Available:

- 8+ miles of trails
- 2 Ancient Mound structures
- Picnic grove

Future Plans:

- Driveway and parking lot in site's center
- Trail improvements
- Archaeology study near mounds
- Develop program site and amphitheater



Meadow Trail



FFA State Competition



Volunteers painting fence



Moonlight Gathering

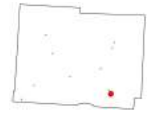


Park Facilities - Eastern Section

Brown Preserve

Fairview Road, Heath, OH

Acres: 150.22



What's Available:

- Hunting is permissible by permit
- Site is under development

Future Plans:

- Develop trail network
- Install parking lot
- Introduction of native trees



Young Holly Trees



Old homestead area

Reese Wildlife Preserve

6210 Grumms Lane, Newark, OH 43055

Acres: 103.0



What's Available:

- Large forest stand
- Site is under development

Future Plans:

- Install parking lot
- Develop trail network



Early winter hike



Snow trek



Park Facilities - Eastern Section

Boyd Wilkin Reserve

11770 Wilkins Run Road, Newark, OH 43055

Acres: 160.19



What's Available:

- Former dairy farm
- Site is under development

Future Plans:

- Install shelter
- Develop trail network
- Restroom



Barn repairs



FFA Soil Judging



New driveway and parking lot



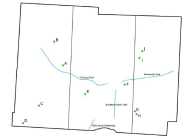
In Mary Ann Township



Multi-Use Trails

Current Trails

- ❖ TJ Evans Trail - Johnstown, Alexandria, Granville, Newark
- ❖ Panhandle Trail - Newark, Hanover
- ❖ Buckeye Scenic Trail - Heath
- ❖ Ohio Canal Greenway - Hebron



Future Plans:

- Continue paving and sealing
- Continue bridge repairs
- Connect Panhandle Trail to Wyatt Adkins Park
- Repair covered bridge on the Ohio Canal Greenway
- Develop a Rt. 79 parking lot for the Ohio Canal Greenway



Trail paving



Bridge repair



Ohio Canal Greenway connector



Benches on Buckeye Scenic Trail



Goals

Immediate Goals

- ❖ Maintain clean, safe parks
- ❖ Provide enjoyable experiences
- ❖ Perform facility and bike trail repairs
- ❖ Improve and grow bike trail network

Short-term Goals

- ❖ Partner with local organizations for community benefit
- ❖ Increase awareness of the park district
- ❖ Improve access to parks and trails
- ❖ Offer educational opportunities
- ❖ Improve bike trail quality, bringing network to standards



Long-term Goals

- ❖ Be involved in regional recreational planning efforts
- ❖ Promote healthy lifestyles
- ❖ Seek diversified funding to support programs and projects
- ❖ Continue development of community collaborations
- ❖ Continue growth of bike trail network



Arbor Day



Call to College program



Capital Improvement Projects

Infirmity Mound Park	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Convert old office into an Education/Activity area	20,000				
Wetlands observation deck improvements				1,500	
Develop central, natural elements playground	80,000	40,000			
Develop wedding/photo venue by lake					3,000
Trail signage enhancements	1,000				
Handicap fishing deck		5,000			
Water system improvements			10,000		
Pave park roads (*roads paid through MetroPark funds)	*				
Replace 5 shelter roofs				25,000	
Replace JBSC roof			15,000		
Mound interpretive signs					3,000
Infirmity Mound sub-total	101,000	45,000	25,000	26,500	6,000

Riverview Preserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Install a shelter	12,000				
Install restroom		45,000			
Install utilities (water, sewer, electric)		15,000			
Construct a river viewing deck			30,000		
Trail repairs			4,000		
Trail signage enhancements			1,000		
Access control for ATVs		3,500			
Parking lot and canoe launch at Staddens Bridge	20,000			70,000	
Riverview Preserve sub-total	32,000	63,500	35,000	70,000	0



Capital Improvement Projects

Lobdell Reserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Shelter at Mounts Road parking lot	25,000				
Trail repairs, fix major trail issues			8,000		
Trail signage enhancements	1,000				
Re-route disc golf baskets #7 & #8		1,000	1,000		
Lobdell Reserve sub-total	26,000	1,000	9,000	0	0

Morris Woods State Nature Preserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Construct a shelter at the old home site				10,000	
Construct boardwalks	5,000				
Trail signage enhancements	1,000				
Develop an outdoor classroom				120	
Develop a bird blind	1,000			1,000	
Demolition of existing garage				3,500	
Install restrooms					2,000
Expand and improve gravel road					2,000
Install benches by the lake			1,000		
Morris Woods State Nature Preserve sub-total	7,000	0	1,000	14,620	4,000

Palmer Road Swamp Preserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Install a gravel parking lot			2,000		
Install a gravel driveway			2,000		
Develop hiking trail			2,000		
Palmer Road Swamp Preserve sub-total	0	0	6,000	0	0



Capital Improvement Projects

Taft Reserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Acquire adjacent property (27 acres)					79,000
Trail signage enhancements	1,000				
Trail repairs	1,000	1,000	1,000		
Old farmhouse demolition	8,000				
Archeology study at farmstead, fields			10,000		
Parking lot, driveway improvement at old farmstead			*		
Taft Reserve sub-total	10,000	1,000	11,000	0	79,000

Wm. C. Kraner Nature Center	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Develop a plan for use of the site				7,500	
Install a deck over the pool			3,000		
Education amphitheater					10,000
Develop a landscape plan					7,000
Wm. C. Kraner Nature Center sub-total	0	0	3,000	7,500	17,000

Brown Preserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Create hiking trail			8,000		
Install gravel parking lot	10,000				
Forest mgmt plan, introduce native trees			7,500		
Build kiosk	1,000				
Brown Preserve sub-total	11,000	0	15,500	0	0



Capital Improvement Projects

Frederick Reese Wildlife Preserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Install a gravel parking lot, driveway			5,000		
Develop a hiking trail network	10,000				
Trail signage	1,000				
Forest mgmt plan, introduce native trees					7,000
Build kiosk				1,000	
Install driveway gate		800			
Frederick Reese Wildlife Preserve sub-total	11,000	800	5,000	1,000	7,000

Boyd Wilkin Reserve	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Construct a shelter			10,000		
Install restrooms				30,000	
Create a hiking trail network			8,000		
Trail signage				1,000	
Property acquisition along powerline, southwest					7,000
Forest mgmt plan, introduce native trees					7,000
Farm plan development					7,000
Boyd Wilkin Reserve sub-total	0	0	18,000	31,000	21,000

TJ Evans Trail	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Continue with paving cycle		100,000	75,000	100,000	60,000
Assist Johnstown in park development at trailhead			50,000		
TJ Evans Trail sub-total	0	100,000	125,000	100,000	60,000



Capital Improvement Projects

Panhandle Trail	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Trail sealing	40,000				
Repair parking lots			10,000		
Panhandle Trail sub-total	40,000	0	10,000	0	0

Ohio Canal Greenway Trail	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Repair covered bridge roof and siding		18,000			
Develop a southern terminus parking lot	5,000				
Ohio Canal Greenway Trail sub-total	5,000	18,000	0	0	0

Heath-Newark Trails	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hopewell to Forry extension	45,000				
Forry to Raccoon Creek extension		25,000			
Raccoon Creek to 2nd Street extension					35,000
Heath-Newark Trails sub-total	45,000	25,000	0	0	35,000

Buckeye Scenic Trail	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Rt 40 Crossing to Lakewood School		35,000			
Trail asphalt sealing	20,000				
Buckeye Scenic Trail sub-total	20,000	35,000	0	0	0



Capital Improvement Projects

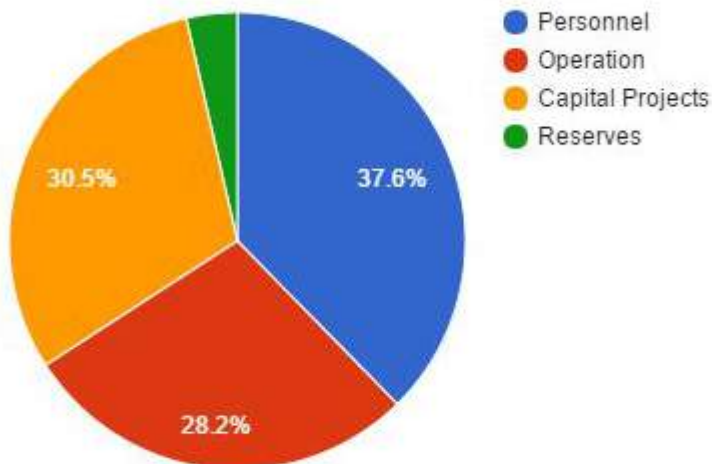
Total Capital Improvements	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Parks Sub-Total	198,000	111,300	128,500	150,620	134,000
Multi-Use Trail Sub-Total	110,000	178,000	135,000	100,000	95,000
Total Capital Improvements	308,000	289,300	263,500	250,620	229,000

Additional planned expenses:

- ❖ Vehicle replacement (4)
- ❖ Computer equipment replacement
- ❖ Equipment purchase or replacement
- ❖ James Bradley Senior Center improvements

Annual Budget Expense Categories (2016)

Personnel	375,973.96	37.6%
Operation	281,972.04	28.2%
Capital Projects	305,000.00	30.5%
Reserves	36,000.00	3.6%
Total	998,946.00	





Projected Budget Proforma

2017-2022 Revenue and Expense Summary

Income	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Inter-Gov. Receipts	958,689	960,000	960,000	960,000	960,000	960,000
Rentals	18,000	18,540	19,096	19,669	20,259	20,867
Donations and Other	4,527	4,600	4,800	5,000	5,200	5,500
Program Fees	17,730	18,000	18,360	18,727	19,102	19,484
Total Income	998,946	1,001,140	1,002,256	1,003,396	1,004,561	1,005,851
Expenses	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Personnel	375,974	391,013	406,653	422,920	439,836	453,031
Supplies	40,999	41,819	42,655	43,508	44,379	45,266
Contract Services	92,390	94,238	96,123	98,045	100,006	102,006
Contract Repairs	3,000	3,090	3,183	3,278	3,377	3,478
Utilities	21,774	22,427	23,100	23,793	24,507	25,242
Equipment	10,050	10,352	10,662	10,982	11,311	11,651
Capital Improvements	305,000	308,000	289,300	263,500	250,620	229,000
Insurance	18,532	19,088	19,660	20,250	20,858	21,483
Land Acquisition	18,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
License & Fees	11,043	11,374	11,716	12,067	12,429	12,802
Fuel	7,000	7,140	7,283	7,428	7,577	7,729
Maintenance Reserve	18,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
Marketing	36,885	37,992	39,131	40,305	41,514	42,760
Program Expenses	40,299	42,314	44,430	46,651	48,984	51,433
Total Expenses	998,946	998,846	1,003,896	1,002,728	1,005,397	1,005,881
Summary						
Rollover		0	2,294	655	1,323	487
Total Income	998,946	1,001,140	1,002,256	1,003,396	1,004,561	1,005,851
Total Expenses	998,946	998,846	1,003,896	1,002,728	1,005,397	1,005,881
Difference	0	2,294	655	1,323	487	456

Conclusion

The Licking Park District is a vital part of our community that is widely supported and needs to continue for our community benefit. We would like to thank the many volunteers and dedicated staff who contributed not only to provide these opportunities and to take care of these precious resources, but to look to the future in the preparation of this document. The Licking Park District appreciates the opportunity to continue in these efforts in making an impact on our community.



For more information on this report, as well as program, volunteer, and other opportunities of the Licking Park District, please visit our website at www.LickingParkDistrict.com, follow us on Facebook, or call the office at 740.587.2535.



2015 Impact Award winner - Attraction of the Year
Riverview Canoe & Kayak Launch