



LICKING PARK DISTRICT

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From: Board of Licking Park District Commissioners
To: Citizens of Licking County

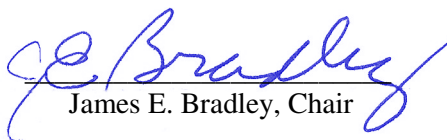
The Park District Commissioners and staff are pleased to share with you our plan of action for 2007 – 2012. This new Five Year Plan offers a vision of the future and a realistic guide for allocating our resources to the end of making the Park District's facilities and programs more relevant and attractive to you, our clients. This Plan sets forth a wide range of activities to encourage participants to enjoy Central Ohio's out-of-doors and our cultural and natural heritage.

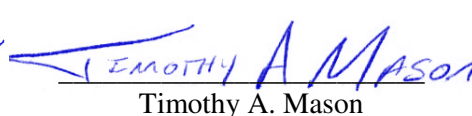
Since the District's inception in 1989, we have offered an ever-growing range of activities. Tens of thousands annually enjoy 27 miles of bike trails, attend programs at the William C. Kraner Nature Center, and visit 1500 acres of woods, wetlands and reserves. Others enjoy family picnics at Infirmary Mound Park, attend the "Drive Thru Haunted Park" or ride their horses on the multiple use trails.

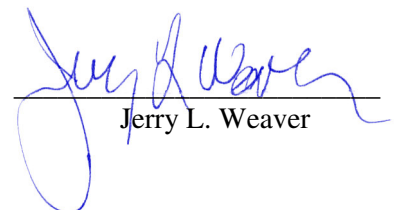
Today, the District faces many of the problems facing other public agencies: growing and diverse numbers of potential clients, escalating costs to obtain and protect open spaces, and greater competition for financial resources. These factors impinge on everything we do – but are acutely felt now by our bike trails. As you will see from the "Bike Trail Operation Plan," there are currently and in the near future major safety issues which must be addressed.

Our Five Year Plan has grown out of a comprehensive review of all District activities begun a year ago. We have reduced our staff, turned from hiring employees to contracting with private sector providers for most maintenance work, and asked user groups to support activities – such as the disc golf course at Lobdell Reserve near Alexandria which was initiated, funded and constructed by two Granville High School students. While the number of programs doubled and visitor rates rose by nearly 100% between 2000 and 2006, the District's personnel and maintenance costs scarcely moved. Indeed, in year 2000 dollars, the District personnel budget is now *less* than it was at the beginning of the decade. Few if any local governmental agencies have such a record of frugality.

We believe that the District has done all it can do with its present level of funding. We have tried but failed to win your support for an operating levy. In part, this failure reflects our inability to convince the electorate that what we do is relevant and useful. To better inform the voters, our Five Year Plan sets forth our best estimate of where the District should go and what it should do over the next five years. It is a set of operating principles and objectives which will guide our allocation of money, staff, information and other resources. We believe that this Plan sets forth a snapshot of public services worth supporting. If you agree, visit and participate; if you like what you see, become a Licking Park District volunteer and help us secure the public support we so badly need.


James E. Bradley, Chair


Timothy A. Mason


Jerry L. Weaver