



Annual Report

2021

Appointing Authority for Park Board of Commissioners:

The Honorable Judge Latecia Wiles
Wayne County Common Pleas Court

Park District Board of Commissioners:

Denny Jordan, Chr.
Donald Gerber
Joseph Reed
David Armstrong
Carole Van Pelt

Per ORC: 1545.08 Yearly Report 2021 Review

Covid 19 continued to restrict most of our educational classes at Barnes Preserve this year. However, we observed an increase in visitors, young and old, coming to Barnes Preserve to take advantage of the outdoors. Reservations for the Romich Pavilion showed a dramatic increase as people sought places outside to loosely gather. Barnes Preserve continues to be a safe place for visitors to exercise and refresh their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Noteworthy:

- Strategic Planning, facilitated by Elizabeth Schuster, brought together an Ad Hoc committee made up of several key community people and Board members Dave Armstrong and Denny Jordan. The goal was to identify and strengthen the Park District's values. This process is ongoing and will continue with the goal of presenting the people of Wayne County an opportunity to show their support for a fully-funded, multi-property Park District. The ad hoc committee spent many months in planning and will continue with Dave Armstrong taking the lead on the steering committee.
- Approval of MetroParks (ODOT) grant program for another two years.
- Collaboration with the Wilderness Center in providing several education classes for kids. We expect to see an increase as the impacts of COVID-19 subside over the next year.
- Spring Clean Up resulted in 60 volunteers from three organizations doing 151 volunteer hours.
- Participated in the Wayne County Fair with a booth manned by 23 volunteers over the course of the week. It proved to be a worthwhile event. Brochure was revised and business cards made for handouts.
- Received a generous donation by a local couple wanting to see the un-mulched trails improved and expanded.
- Website is being rebuilt with a change of platform; making it easier to update.

- ASPO held their annual Trick or Treat event at Barnes Preserve with 100+ kids participating. Event was successful with 14 vendors and 3 educational stations; all manned by 21 volunteers.
- Change of venue for meetings for both Park Board and Friends group to Buehler's Milltown Community Room. Time was changed to 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. No meetings: Sept. (Fair) and November and December due to COVID concerns.
- Final phase of the development at Barnes Preserve reemerged pending application to NRAC funds and Clean Ohio funds.
- Three large trees removed for safety concerns costing \$ 5,025.
- Volunteers' hours: increased to approx. 300+ hrs.

INFO & STATISTICS

Total Revenue: \$ 29,839.36

Total Expenditures: \$ 6,724.32

Land: 76 acres Barnes Preserve (partially developed)

Includes: .9 miles of meandering ADA compliant asphalt trails
1 mile of mulched paths
Large cathedral pavilion with tables and grill
Observation deck overlooking wetland pond
Seasonal Port a John
2 parking lots (one asphalt and one gravel)

88 acres of undeveloped woods at another location. (tba)

Romich Pavilion reservations totaled: 27 registered

Average number of active volunteers: 30

Number of hours of volunteer labor recorded: 300+ approx. hours
(Does not include scouts hours)

Website: waynecountyparkdistrict.org

Facebook page: Wayne County Park District and Friends of the Park
(postings archived by Archive Social Inc.)

Related Facebook page: *A Walk at Barnes Preserve – not administered by
Park District.*

