

Per ORC: 1545.08 Yearly Report

2023 Review for Wayne County Park District

NARRATIVE: 2023 was a busy year for the Park Board. We were fortunate to be awarded two grants in 2022 to improve/restore a wetland area around two old lagoon ponds. It took most of this year for AECOM (engineering) and the County to get all the requirements completed before bidding can begin. The two grants will eventually result in a one-acre fishing pond with boardwalks, trails and fishing bump outs. Completion is slated for summer of 2024.

The Park District has spent much of their meetings working on strategic planning to determine potential growth, fundraising opportunities, and meeting campaign requirements. An operation levy may be on the horizon in order to stay viable. Until that happens, we continue to depend on our volunteers for any programming, projects, workdays, etc.

Picnic reservations remained consistent this year mostly for graduation parties and kid's birthday parties.

NOTEWORTHY:

- Apple Creek Scout Troop 69 was awarded as Volunteers of the Year for their work at several projects and Spring Clean Up.
- No Trick or Treat event happened this year due to ASPO not having sufficient staff to handle the crowd of 150 kids and parents.
- Trail maintenance-Asphalt trail cracks filled-in by McBPaving.
- No HUNTING signs installed around perimeter of Parmenter property.
- Participated in the Wayne County Fair with booth manned by 18 volunteers for the week. Pictures, brochures, and stickers for kids were distributed to bring awareness of Wayne County Park District, Friends group and parks.
- New resources: Volunteers from The JM Smucker Co. and Rayco Manufacturing.

- The Park District was approved to continue the ODOT/MetroParks funding biennium for 2024/2025. Funds can only be used for parking lots and access roads. Funds will be used for the parking lot and entrance to the new venue.
- DJordan was a speaker at numerous civic organizations throughout the year.
- Constructed additional 450 feet of boardwalk with Wooster Kiwanis
- Several more benches have been donated and placed around the park.
- Barnes Preserve hosted the Norwayne Science classes back again this year for an outdoor education day. Over 150 students spent the day learning about nature and diversity of ecosystems from Wayne County Soil and Water education staff and OCVN volunteers.
- Participated in Shreve “Swamp Fest” and Apple Creek Festival
- Joined one year membership with Ohio Parks and Recreation Association

Info and Statistics

Total Revenue: \$ 6,220.50

Total Expenses: \$ 13,888.04

State Audit done: no discrepancies

Land #1: 76 acres at Barnes Preserve (partially developed)

Includes: .9 miles of ADA paved trails through woods and meadow
1 mile of dirt/mulched/boardwalk trails
Large pavilion with picnic tables and grill
Electric available at pavilion
Seasonal port-a-john
2 parking lots (one paved and one gravel)
16 park benches throughout the park

Land #2: 88 acres at Parmenter Preserve (not developed)

Pavilion reservations: 23 Donations: \$ 465 (Friends group)

Average number of active volunteers: 26+

Number of hours of volunteer labor: 1100 hours

Website: waynecountyparkdistrict.org

Facebook: Wayne County Park District and Friends of the Park (posting archived by Archive Social through the county.)

Related Facebook page: *A Walk at Barnes Preserve* (not administered by Park District)

