

Preservation Parks

Park Plan: For the years 2019-2028

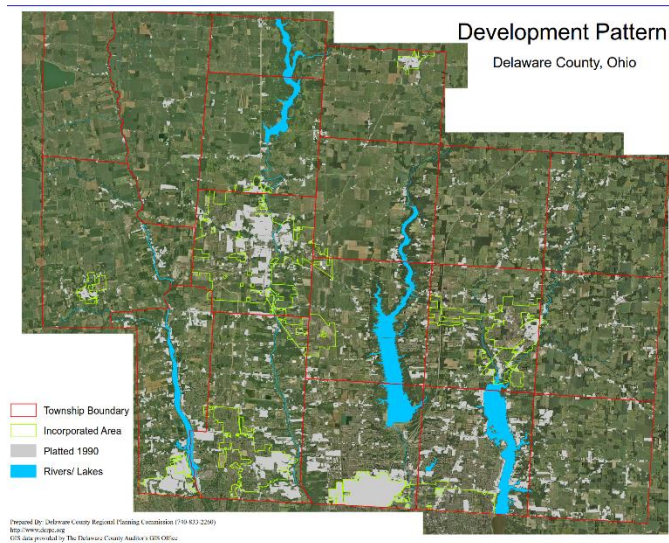
Introduction

The mission of Preservation Parks of Delaware County is to protect and conserve the natural and historic features of Delaware County and to inspire outdoor exploration and learning. With 1,420 acres of protected land, Preservation Parks provides rich experiences in nature, places to reflect and explore, free educational programs, trails to get fit and stay healthy, and picnic areas and shelters to enjoy time with family and friends – seven days a week, 365 days a year.

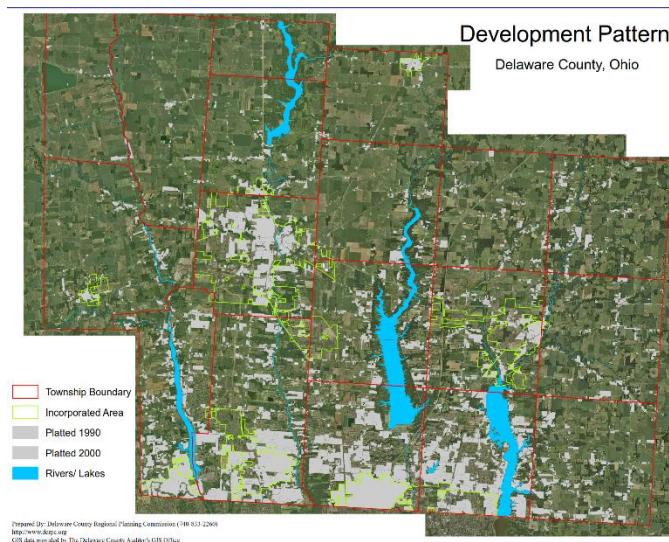


Preservation Parks' ten-year, 0.6-mill levy expires at the end of 2018, and currently provides approximately 80% of the Park District's revenue. Without the financial support of Delaware County residents, the Park District could not sustain its current level of programming, site maintenance, land preservation, and natural resource management. Over the past eight years the Park District has diligently maintained and operated its existing parks; opened three new parks – Gallant Farm, Shale Hollow, and River Run; protected additional natural areas, wildlife habitats, and watersheds (450 acres of land were purchased along the Olentangy River, Scioto River, and Alum Creek watersheds); expanded and improved facilities at every park; and expanded education programming for the enjoyment and enrichment of the Delaware County community.

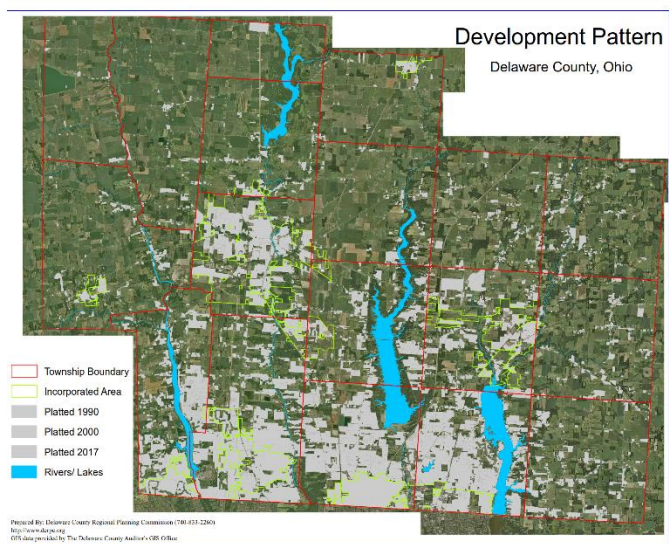
Delaware County is an attractive place to live and its population is growing. Surveys show that parks and recreational areas are integral parts of the Delaware community (2016 Delaware County Economic Development survey) and that residents want more parks and trails (2015 Preservation Parks of Delaware County planning survey). Due to the county's great parks, schools, job opportunities, and trails, the county continues to be among the fastest growing counties in Ohio, having increased in population by 15.7% since 2008. Population projections for the 2019-2028 levy cycle show an additional increase of 14.4% and several Delaware townships and communities including Powell, Genoa Township, Orange Township, and Westerville have anticipated build-out dates within the next 10-15 years. (Dublin is currently built-out in Delaware County.)



Platted 1990



Platted 2000



Platted 2017

Source: Delaware County Regional Planning Commission

Our greatest challenge is to fund the acquisition of natural areas now while opportunities exist, before they are developed and no longer available. The Park District currently protects just 0.48% of the land acreage of Delaware County. This Plan has been developed to guide decisions and establish commitments for the next ten-year period of 2019-2028; it is our roadmap to keep pace with the county's growth by acquiring additional land for new parks, enlarging and improving existing parks, constructing and improving trails and facilities, expanding educational programming and outreach, protecting wildlife habitat and water quality, and ensuring that we reach audiences in the most effective ways. These future plans and improvements will continue to solidify Delaware County's position as one of the best places in Ohio to live, work and raise a family.

On May 11, 2017, the park board of commissioners passed a Resolution of Necessity for a 0.6-mill renewal plus a 0.3-mill additional levy to be placed on the ballot November 7, 2017. The improvements outlined in the Plan can be accomplished if the voters support this levy, bringing the Park District's total millage to 0.9-mill. The current 0.6-mill levy costs a property owner approximately \$19 per year, per \$100,000 valuation of his or her home. The new levy (renewal plus the additional) will cost a homeowner \$28.86 each year, per \$100,000 in home valuation, and will provide an additional \$2.5 million to the Park District annually (based on the updated Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue from the Auditors office dated 5/22/17). This modest increase would allow the Park District to make significant improvements in the benefits provided to the residents of Delaware County.



PROMISES KEPT

Promises Made - With the passage of the current levy in 2008, Preservation Parks promised to:

- Operate and improve existing parks
- Open three more parks
- Expand educational programming
- Secure additional parkland for future enjoyment
- Preserve more natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Protect the air and water quality of our fast-developing county
- Offer financial assistance for development of community parks

Promises Kept - Since passage of the current levy, Preservation Parks has more than met its promises:

- We've taken care of what we have, consistently providing safe, clean, and well maintained parks for the public's use and enjoyment
- Opened three new parks – Shale Hollow, Gallant Farm, and River Run
- Made improvements in each existing park - Deer Haven visitor center, Gallant Farm buildings, hiking trails, restrooms, shelters, natural play areas, parking lots, wildlife blinds, fishing pond, and more.
- Expanded educational programming (including cultural history at Gallant Farm) for all ages. In 2016, nearly 9,000 children attended school outreach programs and more than 7,100 people attended park programs.
- Increased protected parkland from 965 acres to 1,420 acres
- Constructed 2.8 miles of the Ohio to Erie multi-use trail
- Expanded existing parks: Shale Hollow, Hogback Ridge, Emily Traphagen (Summer 2017)
- Purchased 115 acres of land for a future park in Delaware township
- Purchased 112 acres of land for a future park in Orange township (includes land scheduled for purchase in Summer 2017)
- Purchased 57 acres for a future preserve in Porter township
- Provided \$386,800 to townships, villages and cities for their local park needs through the Park District's Community Park Improvement Grant program.



LAND ACQUISITION

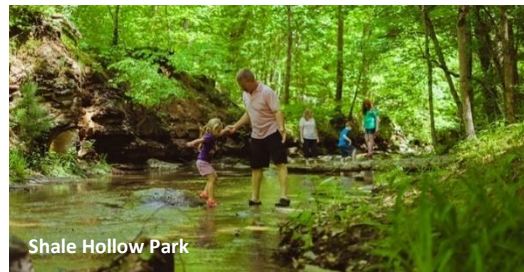
Delaware County residents value the county's natural and rural character, often citing the rapid development of open space and farmland as a primary concern for the future. With continued levy support, Preservation Parks will continue to acquire additional parkland to protect and restore the natural heritage of Delaware County. In several cases, parkland has been acquired at considerable savings to Delaware County residents, thanks to the generosity of preservation-minded donors, and by the Park District's successful pursuit of state and federal grant funds.

Land Acquisition - Accomplished 2009-present

Preservation Parks promised to open three additional parks in the current levy cycle, and to protect watersheds, additional natural areas, and wildlife habitats. We accomplished these goals and more:

- Acquired new land for and opened Shale Hollow
- Acquired new land for and opened River Run
- Opened Gallant Farm (land purchased in 2005)
- Expanded existing parks: Shale Hollow, Hogback Ridge, Emily Traphagen – planned Summer 2017
- Acquired 115 acres for a future park in Delaware Township with funds from the Clean Ohio Greenspace Program
- Acquired 112 acres for a future park in Orange Township (includes land scheduled for purchase in Summer 2017) with funds from the Clean Ohio Greenspace Program
- Acquired 57 acres for a future preserve in Porter Township (Orchard Oaks Preserve)
- Increased protected parkland from 965 acres to 1,420 acres
- Expanded multi-use trails along the Ohio to Erie Trail: Hoover Scenic Trail, Meredith State Trail
- Purchased a facility adjacent to Shale Hollow for Park District Law Enforcement headquarters and Park Operations maintenance facility

Opening of Shale Hollow Park – Located in a rapidly growing area of Liberty and Orange townships, Shale Hollow Park offers scenic views of shale cliffs, mature woods, and Big Run stream, which connects through the park to the Olentangy State Scenic River. The 211-acre park was acquired through several purchases from 2004 to 2015 through a combination of park levy funds, grants, and loans.



Shale Hollow Park

Opening of Gallant Farm – Gallant Farm is a representation of a Depression-era farm and includes a farmhouse with period furnishings, a barn with historic 1890s timbers, a granary, machine shed, demonstration crop fields, garden, orchard, pond, and livestock. Farm staff offer programs, camps, field trips and special events.



Gallant Farm

Opening of River Run Park – Located just downstream of Delaware Dam, River Run offers views and access to the Olentangy State Scenic River. When river conditions are right, kayakers and canoeists can use this access to enjoy a 6.5 mile float to Mingo Park in Delaware City.

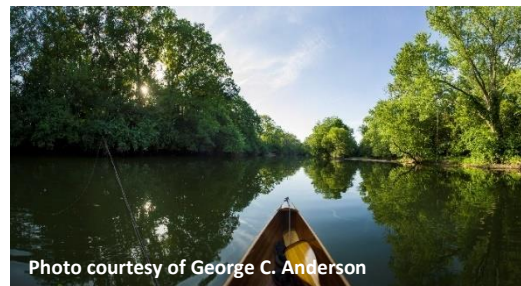


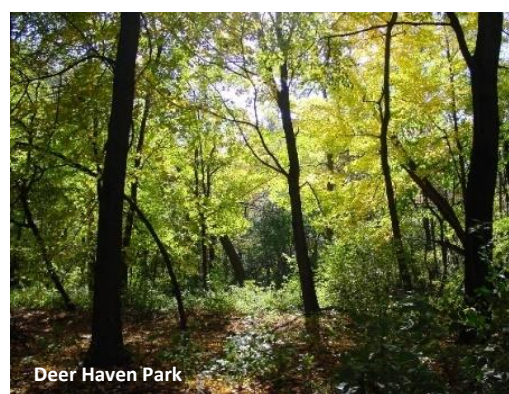
Photo courtesy of George C. Anderson

Land Acquisition - Planned for 2019-2028 (pending levy approval)

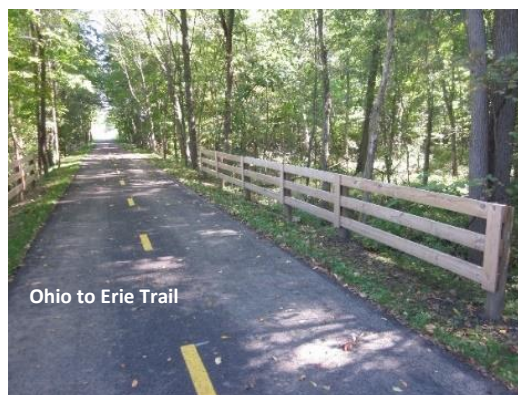
New parkland in Orange Township – The Park District will spend approximately \$4 million to purchase nearly 100 additional acres to expand parkland along Bale Kenyon Road in Orange township, bringing the total future park to 230 acres. The land consists of wooded ravines, floodplain along Alum Creek, farm fields, and a bicentennial barn.



Expansion of Existing Parks – Deer Haven will be expanded; and several others as well, if property can be purchased at a fair price. Nearly all existing parks have potential for future expansion.



Acquisition of land for multi-use trails – Surveys consistently show that residents want more trails – within parks, as well as multi-use connector trails throughout the county. The Park District will pursue the purchase of railroad right-of-ways to complete the Delaware County segments of the Ohio to Erie Multi-Use Trail, as parcels become available at a fair price. Acquisition costs for remaining segments are estimated at \$1,500,000. The Park District will apply for Clean Ohio Trail grant funds to acquire remaining parcels as well as additional trail connections through purchase, lease, or easements along rivers, streams, utility corridors, or right-of-ways to expand the county-wide trail system.



Funding Challenges

Preservation Parks has been able to preserve valuable Delaware County land due, in part, to our success in attaining grants. However, grant funding must be reauthorized periodically and allocations vary from year to year. Regular funding is not guaranteed. In addition, increases in land cost – especially in the rapidly developing southern tier of the county – affect the Park District's ability to purchase new parkland or expand existing parks.

TRAILS

Trails within the parks provide important recreational opportunities, along with health, fitness, social, and economic benefits. Multi-use trails link communities and allow for commuting and transportation uses. Most notable is the Ohio to Erie Trail, which travels along lands formerly occupied by railroads and canals from the Ohio River in Cincinnati, on through Columbus, ending at Lake Erie in Cleveland. Preservation Parks is committed to working to complete this trail in Delaware County as well as the Alum Creek Greenway, and other much needed east-to-west connector trails. The Park District will also pursue equestrian trail options as suitable parkland becomes available.

Preservation Parks partners with townships and cycling organizations including Delaware County Friends of the Trail, the Ohio to Erie Trail Foundation, Rails to Trails, Olentangy Powell and Liberty (OPAL), various townships and others to capitalize on multi-use trail development opportunities. Preservation Parks will coordinate with these partners to provide transportation routes that connect municipalities, recreation areas, shopping and dining areas throughout the county. This work could range from developing plans, to acquiring right-of-ways, to construction of trails as funding allows.

Trails - Accomplished 2009-present

- Constructed gravel trails in Char-Mar Ridge Park and Shale Hollow Park, and expanded the trail system in Gallant Woods, Deer Haven, and Hogback Ridge Parks
- Constructed 2.8 miles of multi-use trail along the Ohio to Erie Trail
- Parking area for the Hoover Scenic Trail (Ohio to Erie Multiuse Trail)

Trails - Planned for 2019-2028 (pending levy approval)

- Construct additional hiking trails in existing and new parks
- Construct Delaware County trail segments of the Ohio to Erie Multi-Use Trail, as right-of-way segments are acquired. Once acquired, the Park District will apply for Clean Ohio Trail grant funds for the estimated \$2,750,000 needed to construct the trail.
- Pending the granting of necessary easements, Preservation Parks will construct a 1.5-mile multi-use trail from Smith Park in Delaware City to Gallant Woods Park. Construction costs are estimated at \$560,000.
- Initiate a Multi-Use Trail Grant program to assist townships and municipalities with planning, engineering, and/or construction of important connector trails in Delaware County.

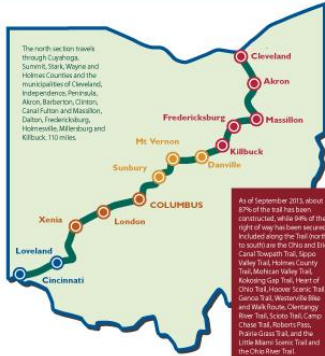


OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

The Ohio to Erie Trail travels along lands formerly occupied by railroads and canals from the Children in Cincinnati, on through Columbus ending at Lake Erie. Cleveland, Akron, and others are able to enjoy this trail while passing through quiet woods, lush fields, charming small towns and exciting urban centers. Everyone who enjoys nature, bird watching, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing will have the opportunity to explore the natural beauty of the trail as it weaves its way across Ohio. The trail holds excitement and adventure to anyone willing to leave the automobile behind.

1 North Ohio Cleveland to Killbuck



- 1** **Bicycle Safety Information**
Bicycles are vehicles. Obey all traffic laws, including stopping for red lights and stop signs. Same road, same rules. Ride in the street. Ride with traffic. Ride predictably: use proper hand signals for turning and stopping. Ride outside the door zone when passing parked cars. Try to make eye contact with motorists in your path. Ride respectfully: single file or no more than two abreast. Keep your eyes and mind on the road. Wear a properly fitting helmet, even on the shortest of rides. Keep your bicycle in working order. Be visible, wear bright clothing. Use a bicycle headlight and taillight at night as well as in inclement weather.
- 2**
- 3**
- 4**



1 north section

The north section, map 1, of the Ohio to Erie Trail Map connects Cleveland to Killbuck. South of Ohio City and downtown Cleveland, there is a road route that crosses the Abbey Avenue Bridge and follows W 14th Street to the bike trail at Hamilton Avenue. This trail ends at Jennings Road where the route continues on road to the Harvard Road Trailhead of the Ohio to Erie Canal Towpath Trail. The trail is paved to Rockside Road and switches to a gravel limestone as it enters the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and continues through Peninsula, Akron, Barberton, Clinton, Canal Fenton and Massillon. The Ohio to Erie Trail leaves the township in Massillon and turns west on the Sipco Valley Trail to Dalton. Some sections of Sipco Valley Trail are paved and some are crushed limestone or ballast. There is a road route that connects Dalton and Frederickburg and has significant hills. The Ohio to Erie Trail follows The Holmes County Trail from Frederickburg to Killbuck. There are other upcoming additions for extending bike trails that may be added to The Ohio to Erie Trail. These projects include trails in Wayne and Holmes Counties. To stay informed on these improvements please visit The Ohio to Erie Trail website regularly or send in a donation to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

Trailheads

Harvard Road, Rockside Road, Canal Road, Station Road, Bottom Stone, Peninsula, Sipco, Memorial Parkway, Wabash Road, Snyder Avenue, Canal Fenton, Lake Avenue, Dalton, Massillon

To complement this map The Ohio to Erie Trail is signed in 10 counties due to a collaborative effort among the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Federal Highway Administration, Recreational Trails Program, local communities, trail groups, and The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund.

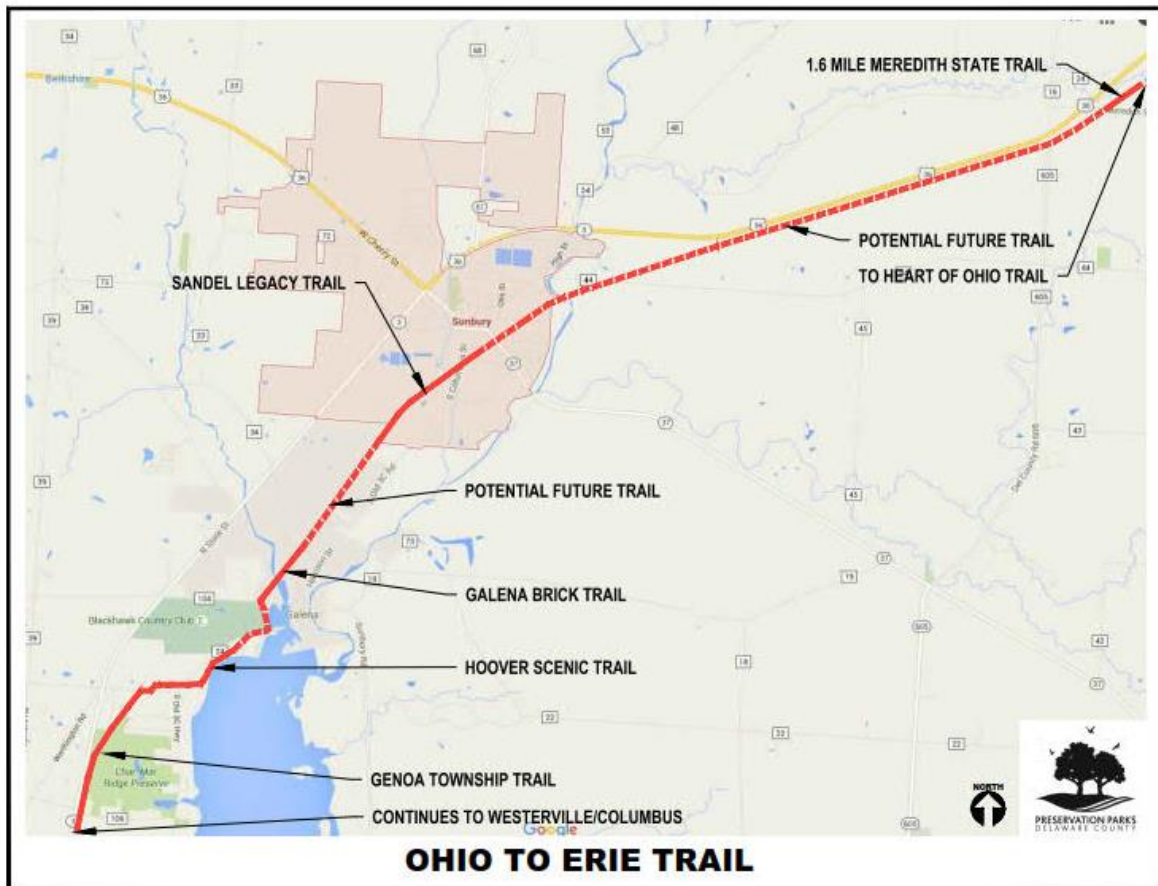
HOW TO USE THIS Ohio to Erie Trail Map

The route is divided into four color-coded segments: 1 north, 2 north central, 3 south central, 4 south. There is a separate sheet for each of the four segments and this map parallels the trail. Read the map parallel to top, bottom, left to right for north to south and bottom to top, right to left for south to north. Each map is numbered and oriented with north at the top. Trails are indicated by a green line. Road routes are indicated in white. Mileage is approximate.

The Ohio to Erie Trail road	The Ohio to Erie Trail on road
other trail	other road
bridge	bridge
interstate or non-bike road	interstate or non-bike road

The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund
116 Grandview Blvd., #404
Columbus, Ohio 43214
(614) 491-3836
www.ohio-to-erie-trail.org
Facebook: Ohio to Erie Trail

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www.coleman.com



PARK DEVELOPMENT – NEW & EXISTING

Over the past nine years, Preservation Parks has added amenities to many of the parks, providing ease of accessibility and adding features that park users value. Park improvements provide additional ways for the public to enjoy the parks, allowing them to extend their visits and learn more about the natural world.

Park Development - Accomplished 2009-present

Preservation Parks promised to expand and improve facilities at all parks. During the current levy period, the following features have been added:

- Gallant Farm farmhouse, historic barn, granary, implement shed and outbuildings
- Visitor Center at Deer Haven
- Renovation of McKay Lodge at Shale Hollow
- Picnic shelter at Emily Traphagen
- Interpretive Gateway at Gallant Woods
- Entrance drive, parking, and kayak/canoe access to the Olentangy State Scenic River at River Run
- New restrooms at Char-Mar Ridge, Blues Creek, and Emily Traphagen
- Sledding hill, fishing pond, pier, and trails at Blues Creek
- Wildlife blinds at Char-Mar and Deer Haven
- Paved entrance drives and parking lots at Emily Traphagen, Shale Hollow, and Hogback Ridge
- Natural play areas at Char-Mar, Deer Haven, Emily Traphagen and Shale Hollow
- Trail connection from Hogback Ridge to the Alum Creek equestrian trail; tie-up for horses at Hogback Ridge
- New information kiosks in all parks to enhance visitor experiences
- Maintenance facility at Hogback Ridge



Park Development - Planned for 2019-2028 (pending levy approval)

Delaware Township - Development of the Logan property on Pollock Road into a park. The Park District will spend \$2 million to develop this park for public use and enjoyment. Conceptual design is underway; planned amenities include:

- Year-round large shelter and restroom facility
- Trails
- Wetland and woodland restoration
- Natural play features
- Parking and roadway
- Sled hill
- Fishing pond

Orange Township – Development of a park along Alum Creek. The Park District will spend approximately \$3.5 million to develop this park with the following amenities:

- Renovation of the bicentennial barn for year-round reservable use
- Trails within the park as well as connections to Westerville and Orange Township trails
- Restrooms
- Picnic areas
- Parking
- Access to Alum Creek for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking
- Woodland, stream, and wetland restoration

Shale Hollow Park – Conversion of an existing garage to an open shelter will provide additional reservation and school field trip opportunities.

Blues Creek Park – Widen and pave the park entrance drive and pave the parking lot

Emily Traphagen Park – Expand the parking lot to nearly double the number of spaces

Other improvements - As additional parkland is acquired, Preservation Parks will develop trails, restrooms, shelters, picnic areas, natural play spaces, parking areas, etc., as appropriate to the site and needs of the community. The park district will also make improvements in existing parks, based upon need and demand.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Education Services Department provides high quality learning experiences for a diverse audience - from free public programs in the parks, to scout programs at Gallant Farm, to classroom programs in the schools, and more. Staff connects residents to Delaware County's natural and historic resources, engages visitors through a variety of enjoyable and educational programs, and inspires them to help protect and conserve natural and historic features for current and future generations to enjoy.

Education & Outreach - Accomplished 2009-present

- 105,000 people of all ages attended more than 2,300 park programs, special events, and community outreach programs
- Provided educational outreach and support in 40 Delaware County elementary and secondary schools, public and private
- Opened Gallant Farm to the public, providing a dedicated site for connecting residents to the county's agricultural heritage
- Opened interpretive exhibits at Deer Haven Visitor Center, which is open to the public 7 days a week
- Expanded Summer camp offerings.
- Developed partnerships with the Delaware County Master Gardeners, Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, Central Ohio Wild Ones, Ohio Wildlife Center, and the Delaware County, Sunbury Community, and Ashley Library systems.
- Partnered with The Ohio State University to offer Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist training classes.
- Provided field experience grants for schools to visit the parks
- 200-plus volunteers contributed numerous hours to the Park District and their community



Education & Outreach - Planned for 2019-2028 (pending levy approval)

- Expand summer camp opportunities to reach new ages and provide new outdoor experiences
- Create special exhibits and programs related to an annual interpretive theme
- Continue to provide field experience grants to assist schools in visiting the parks
- Partner with county schools to develop grade-level specific nature and agricultural curriculums
- Develop a mobile "nature center" that will visit schools and community events
- Increase adult and senior programming experiences
- Grow outreach programs to reach new sites and diverse audiences
- Expand livestock types at Gallant Farm to further enrich visitor experiences
- Enhance existing partnerships and seek out new partners



HABITAT PROTECTION & RESTORATION

Protecting and restoring natural areas within Delaware County is a primary function of the park district. As Delaware County was converted to farmland in the 1700s and 1800s, the forests that covered the landscape were cut down and about 97 percent of the original vegetated wetlands were drained. These practices dramatically reduced the natural habitat for hundreds of species.

Now, our parks protect and restore forest, prairie, and wetland habitats. Staff and volunteers work to establish native plants, reduce invasive species, and restore wetlands in areas that have been altered by past land use. Whether through protection or active management, the goal is to ensure unique and valuable natural areas to be enjoyed by future generations.



Habitat Protection & Restoration - Accomplished 2009-present

- Added 13 acres of wetlands and restored natural hydrology to many former agricultural fields by removing drain lines
- Established 80 acres of prairie habitat
- Planted more than 47,000 native tree seedlings and shrubs to aid the reforestation process on 90 acres of former field areas
- Conducted invasive plant management in more than 300 acres of restoration project sites including wetlands and reforestation sites
- Since 2010, nest boxes have fledged 527 Eastern bluebirds, 1,557 tree swallows, 178 purple martins (new in 2014), thanks to volunteer monitors



Habitat Protection & Restoration Planned for 2018-2028 (pending levy approval)

- Restore wetland habitat in areas that have been altered through drain tiles and ditches
- Establish and maintain diverse prairie habitats that improve soil conditions and benefit pollinators
- Increase forest habitat in former field areas by planting native trees and shrub species
- Continue removing invasive plants that threaten our native plant and animal communities



PUBLIC INFORMATION

The public's desire for information about parks and programs has grown exponentially over the past eight years, paralleling the expansion of the park system and the population growth in the county. The explosion of social media and other digital communication platforms over this time has allowed the park district to reach many more people in a wide variety of ways, many of which were unimaginable eight years ago. In fact, the Park District conducted a 2015 public survey where respondents were asked to identify the best way(s) for Preservation Parks to tell them about programs, activities, and events. The data showed that the majority prefer to receive information via social media or the Park District's website.

Currently, the Park District disseminates information in the following ways: traditional print and electronic media news releases; print publications (brochures and program guides); e-newsletters; website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube; third-party websites and bloggers; google business pages; social media advertising; and digital advertising on popular websites.

Public Information - Accomplished 2009-present

- New mobile-responsive website launched in 2016 with search engine optimization
- Launched Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Pinterest; since 2015, PPDC has increased the amount of content in those outlets, exposing more people to the Park District and its activities
- Expanded participation in community expos, festivals, and other events; in 2016, Preservation Parks was a presence at more than 30 community events
- Redesigned the general information park brochure, individual park brochures and the quarterly programs and events guide
- Partnered with new outlets/retail organizations to disseminate Park District information

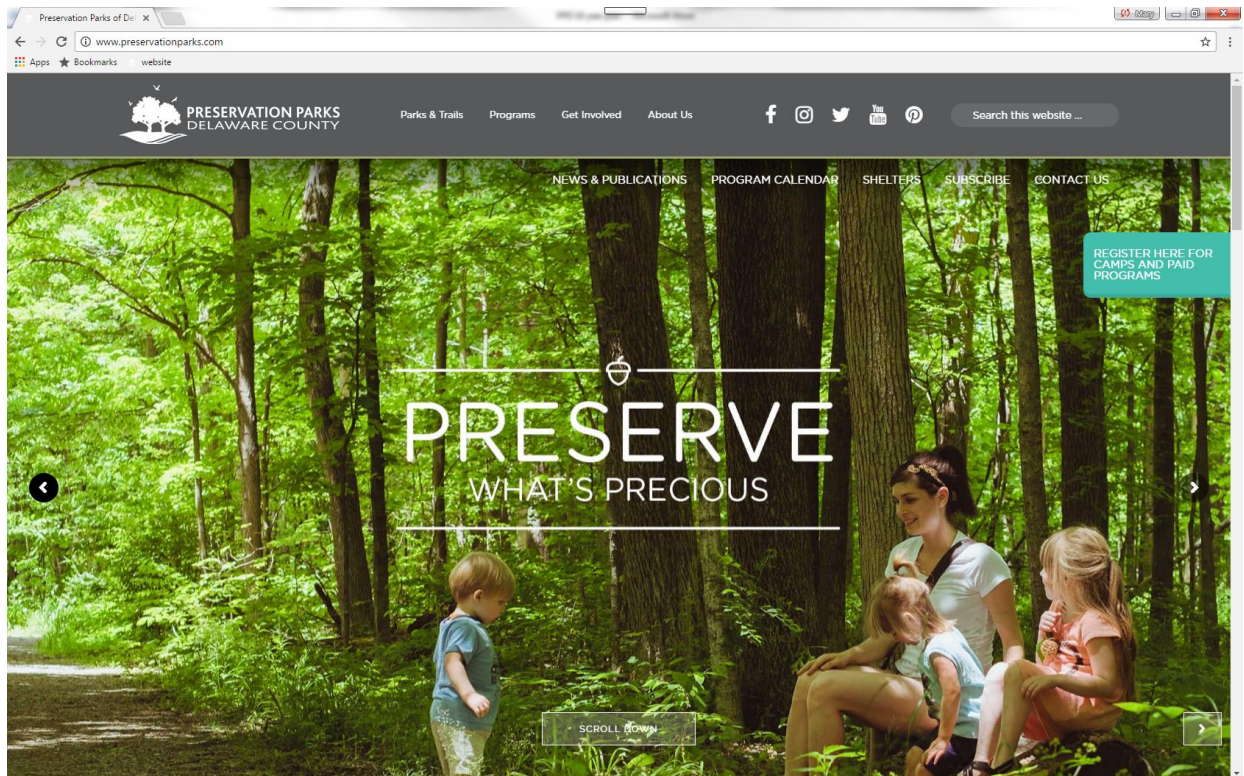
Public Information - Planned for 2019-2028 (pending levy approval)

- Conduct periodic public surveys to gauge attitude, awareness, and needs, and most effective ways to share information with Delaware County residents
- Monitor social media trends and explore new ways to provide information to residents across a variety of digital platforms
- Further expand PPDC presence at community festivals and other events
- Continue utilizing print media where effective, and become a regular presence in broadcast media (television and radio)
- Continue to update our website and print material to respond to current social media and print trends

Social Media Posts



Website Redesign



Redesigned Park Information Brochures



**PRESERVE
THE PRECIOUS**

Kori Gasaway

DEER HAVEN PARK

4183 LIBERTY ROAD
DELAWARE, OHIO 43015
740.362.0283

97
ACRES

1.5 MILES
OF TRAILS

SUMMER HOURS
MARCH 1-OCT. 31
8 a.m.-9 p.m.

WINTER HOURS
NOV. 1-FEB. 28
8 a.m.-7 p.m.

VISITOR CENTER HOURS
NOON-5 p.m. Year Round

Photos by Preservation Parks unless otherwise indicated.
Cover photo by Kori Gasaway

Preservation Parks protects what matters—the natural and historic features of Delaware County. The untouched beauty of these parks helps time stand still. So small moments seem much bigger. **And that's worth making time for.**

Make time to visit your Preservation Parks.
PRESERVATIONPARKS.COM

PRESERVATION PARKS INFORMATION

MISSION

To protect and conserve the natural and historic features of Delaware County and to inspire outdoor exploration and learning.

VISITING THE PARK

- **Pets are not allowed** on the trails at Deer Haven; however, the adjacent Havener Park offers 1.5 miles of pet-friendly trails that can be accessed from the Deer Haven parking lot.
- Removal of natural features from the park (wildflowers, mushrooms, etc.) is prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- A complete list of rules is available at preservationparks.com.
- Anyone needing assistance in the park may call Park Police at 614.989.1972. In case of emergency, call 911.

DISTRICT OFFICES AT HOGBACK RIDGE PARK

2656 Hogback Road
Sunbury, OH 43074
740.524.8600
contactparks@preservationparks.com
Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri

DIVISION OF PARK POLICE

614.989.1972
parkpolice@preservationparks.com

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, using soy-based inks.

PRESERVATIONPARKS.COM


PRESERVATION PARKS OF DELAWARE COUNTY

DEER HAVEN PARK

Amy Clark-Bader Bird Sanctuary



PRESERVATIONPARKS.COM



Ford Road

Liberty Road

HAVENER PARK (Liberty Township)

Visitor Center


Amy Clark-Bader Bird Sanctuary

MAP KEY
97 ACRES

- WOODLAND
- REFORESTATION
- WATER
- WETLAND
- PRAIRIE
- MEADOW OR LAWN
- NATURAL PLAY AREA
- NATIVE PLANT POLLINATOR GARDEN
- RESTROOMS
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- INFORMATION KIOSK
- PARKING
- STEPS
- PICNIC AREA
- WILDLIFE BLIND
- GRASS TRAIL
- TREE SWALLOW TRAIL
- BENT TREE RIDGE TRAIL
- CREEK CROSSING
- GRAVEL CONNECTOR TRAIL (pet access to Havener Park)

NORTH

PRESERVATION PARKS OF DELAWARE COUNTY



DEER HAVEN PARK

4183 LIBERTY ROAD
DELAWARE, OHIO 43015

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

The success of Preservation Parks can be attributed in large part to the outstanding work of dedicated staff and volunteers. As new parks, trails, and facilities are opened to the public, there is a need to increase staff to keep pace with the Park District's high standards for maintenance, programming and public service; however, the Park District will continue to remain conservative with staff additions, ensuring that tax dollars are spent as efficiently as possible. In addition, the Park District continuously invests in staff training and development.

Volunteers extend the park district's resources in significant ways – more than 200 volunteers currently donate their time (35,000 hours since 2009) to staff the Visitor Center, assist with programs, and maintain the beautiful parks that Delaware County residents enjoy. This work makes a positive impact on the lives of Delaware County residents in addition to significant financial savings from thousands of donated hours.

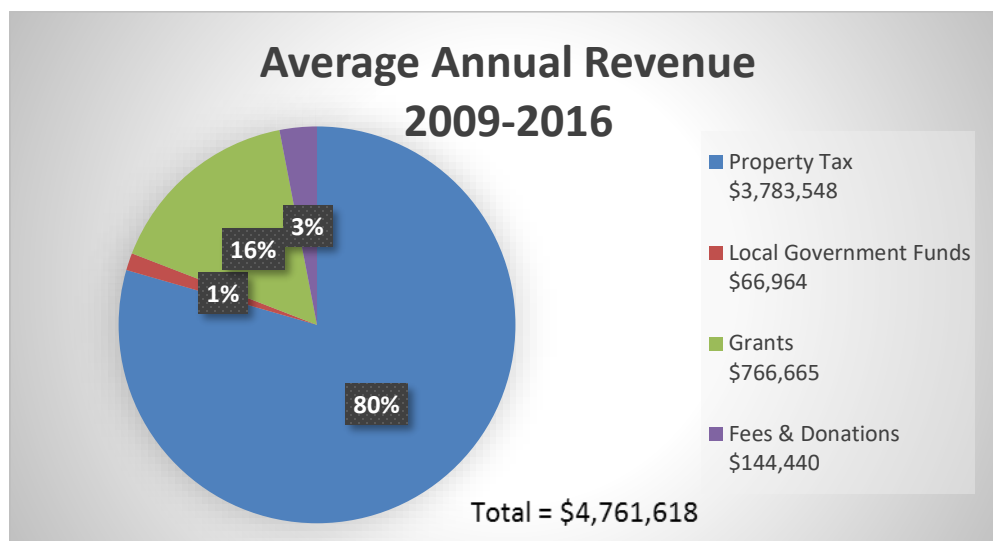


Volunteers and staff collecting prairie seed at Blues Creek Park for prairie establishment in new parks.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE 2009-2016

Revenue 2009-present (based on data through 2016)

Preservation Parks revenue is generated from a voter-approved property tax levy, intergovernmental funds, grants, fees, and donations. Over the past eight years, Preservation Parks has been able to leverage tax dollars with grants, donations, negotiated price reductions and other funds. Current levy dollars are available for operating expenses, capital improvements, and land acquisition until the end of 2018.



Property Tax Levy. A voter approved 10-year 0.6-mill property tax levy passed in Delaware County in 2008. Ohio's landowners have enjoyed a 10 % reduction in property tax on non-business property (includes farming, which is considered non-business use for this reduction) and a 2.5 % reduction in the tax due on the value of an owner-occupied home.

Local Government Funds (LGF). The local government fund is a percentage of state general revenues, which largely come from income and sales taxes that are returned to County government to be disbursed to local agencies.

Grants. Preservation Parks has enjoyed much success with grants in the currently levy period. Most of these grant funds were received through the Clean Ohio Greenspace Program for land acquisition and restoration. Of \$13,080,800 spent on land acquisition since 2009, \$6,133,322 (47 %) was provided by grants or sources other than tax dollars. Other grants and state funding were received from NatureWorks, Clean Ohio Trail Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and ODOT's Metropark Paving Fund (\$400,000 since 2009).

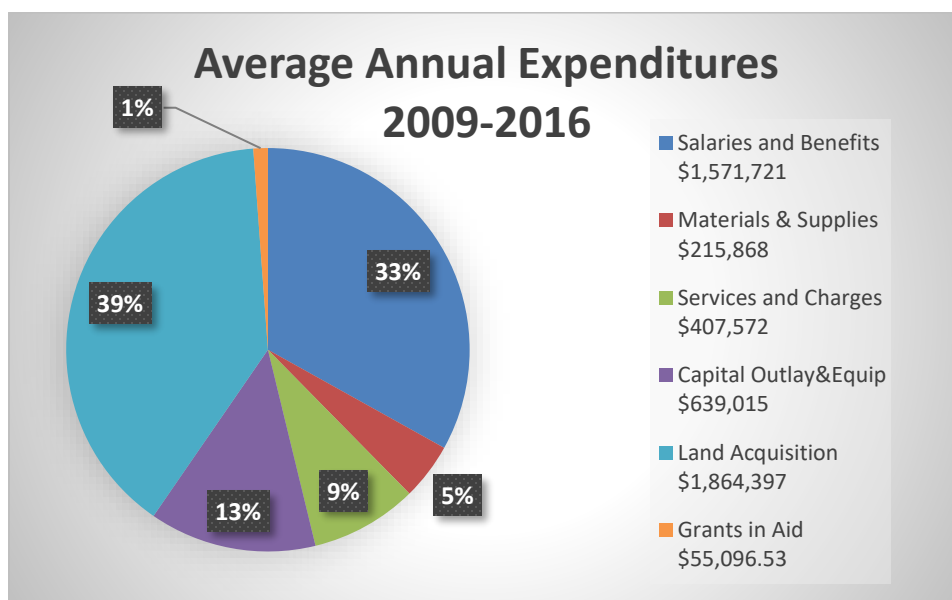
Fees and Donations. These funds are from donations, estate gifts, program fees, and shelter reservations. Program and shelter reservation fees typically generate around \$17,000 per year. Donations include land donations or bargain sales. More than \$723,000 has been donated to the Park District through land donations or bargains sales during the current levy period.

Expenditures 2009-present (based on data through 2016)

Since 2009, the Park District has increased protected parkland by 450 acres, spending \$13 million on land acquisition. Nearly half of that cost (\$6.1 million) was secured through grants or sources other than local tax dollars.

Preservation Parks maintained conservative staffing levels at 33% of the overall budget over the last eight years, yet succeeded in operating effectively as it acquired land, developed and maintained parks, and provided programming to an ever-growing Delaware County population.

During the current levy period, Preservation Parks awarded \$387,000 to Delaware County townships and municipalities through the Park District's Community Park Improvement Grant program to provide new outdoor recreation facilities to meet growing demand, address health and safety issues, increase service to constituents, or to enhance and augment existing parks facilities.



ESTIMATED REVENUE & EXPENDITURE 2019-2028

Below are the ten year projected revenues and estimated expenses, including the projects outlined in this plan, following passage of a 0.6-mill renewal plus 0.3-mill additional park levy. Local government funds, miscellaneous income, and grant estimates are based on average annual amounts in the current levy period.

Revenue Source	Estimated
Property Tax Levy	\$62,650,000
Local Government Funds	\$670,000
Miscellaneous Income	\$420,000
Grants	\$7,260,000 (based on average annual 2009-present)
Total	\$71,000,000

Grants: While it is anticipated that grants will be available and awarded to the Park District in the future, they are narrowly focused for a specific purpose and income from grants fluctuates from year to year. Preservation Parks will continue to pursue grants to achieve our mission; however, specific income is uncertain.

Donations: Donations are likely to remain an on-going source of revenue, but amounts are unpredictable.

Expenditure	Estimated
Salaries & Benefits*	\$32,500,000
Materials & Supplies	\$5,000,000
Services & Charges	\$10,500,000
Capital Outlay (not including land)	\$2,500,000
Land Acquisition & New Park Development	\$16,000,000
Trail Development	\$3,500,000
Grants-in-Aid (Multi-Use Trail Grants)	1,000,000
Total	\$71,000,000

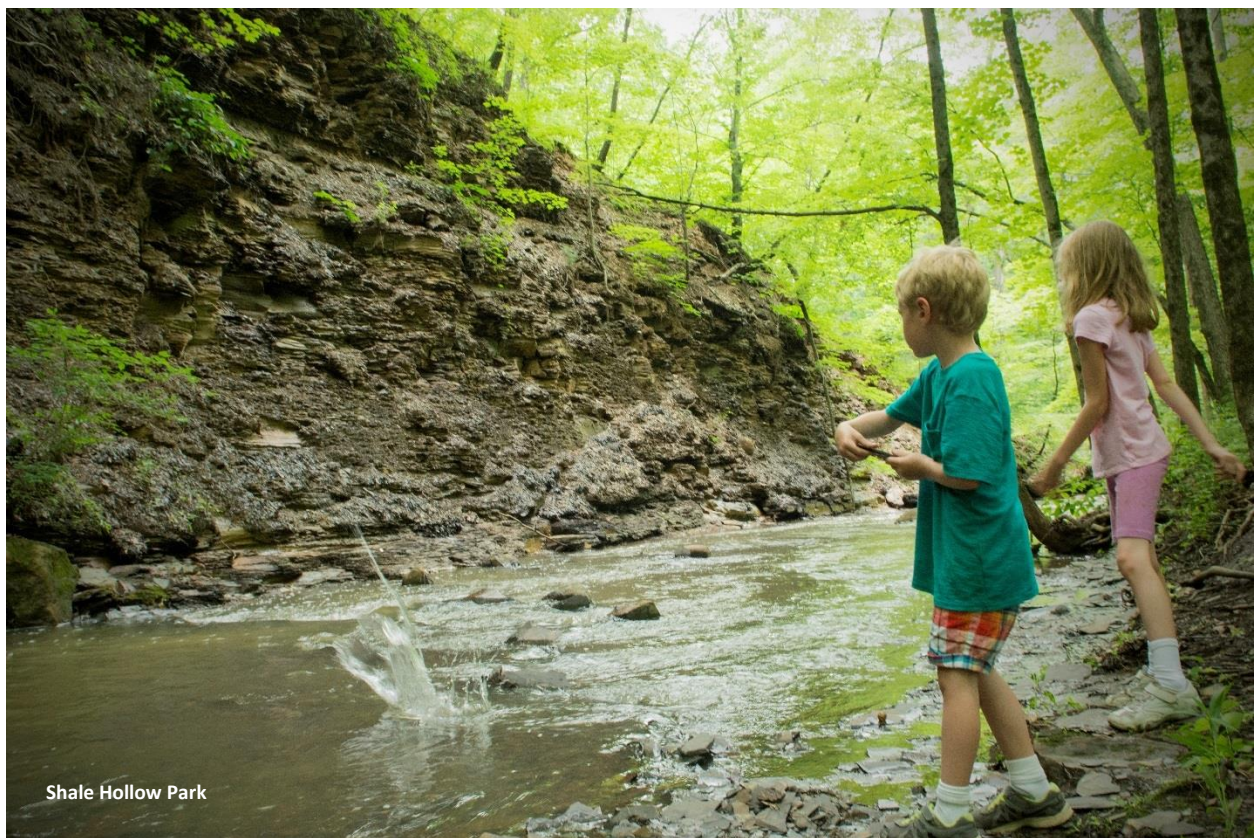
*Based on projected 30% increase in benefits due to unpredictable and rising health care costs

Proposed habitat improvement projects and education initiatives are included within the above categories.

CONCLUSION

Preservation Parks enhances the lives of Delaware County residents by providing rich, close to home experiences in nature such as exploring, hiking, biking, picnicking, birdwatching, and learning. But remaining open space in the County is quickly being developed. Passage of this levy will allow the Park District to expand parkland, trails, and programs to meet the growing need of our county, so that all residents have convenient access to natural and scenic public parkland.

Great parks, trails, schools and jobs make Delaware County a desired place to live, work, and raise a family. The strategic goals described in this plan will guide the Park District for years to come and ensure the community's continued success.



Shale Hollow Park

Photo courtesy of Wendy Pramik