2024 Annual Report



Natural Resources

- Preserved over 500 acres
- Planted 6,448 native trees and 6,050 live stakes

Medina County Park District

- Stocked 3,700 lbs. of rainbow trout
- Restored 119 acres of fields/wetlands
- Broadcasted over 6,600 lbs. of native seed
- Raised state-threatened and endangered fish for release at Killbuck Lakes

Citizen Science Wildlife Observations

- Nestbox Monitoring 19 locations; 133 boxes; 609 birds fledged; 4 different species
- Butterfly Survey 3 locations; 3,502 observations; 39 species
- Frog Watch 37 stations; 440 observations; 10 different species
- Project Feeder Watch 2 locations; 1,954 observations; 24 species
- Audubon Bird Walks 1 location; 748 observations; 85 species
- Wood Duck Monitoring 60 nestboxes; 170 ducklings

Park Police

- Patrolled 59,410 miles by vehicle; 1,500 miles by foot
- Renovated building for new park police headquarters

Visitors, Programs, and Volunteers

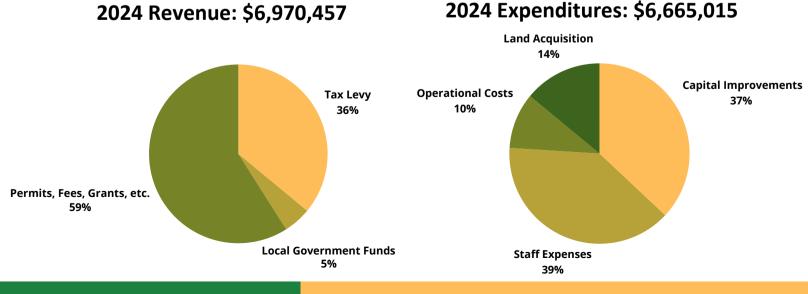
- Offered 319 public programs with more than 16,616 participants
- Presented 45 programs to schools with 1,807 students attending
- Presented to 44 community groups with 1,032 people attending
- Oenslager Nature Center visitors: 14,461
- Susan Hambley Nature Center visitors: 3,620
- 10,730 volunteer service hours from 217 active volunteers
- 190 independent volunteers participated in group projects

New Areas and Amenities

- Chippewa Lake Paddlecraft Launch
- Chippewa Lake Birding & Bridle Trail
- Phase 2 of Plum Creek Parkway
- Playground at River Styx Park
- Farm-themed Playscape at Allardale Park

Facilities

- Processed 2,107 lodge/shelter reservations serving 97,716 people
- Installed open-air picnic shelters at Bluebell Valley and Sharon Nature Preserve funded by Friends of Medina County Parks
- Managed 13 reservable lodges and shelters, 24 fleet vehicles, and 36 outdoor restrooms
- Installed 6 new entrance signs and 4 interpretive maps



Additional Funding Sources

These figures are included in the calculations above in the Capital Improvements fund: Ohio Department of Natural Resources/H2Ohio - \$577,288



Allardale Park Playscape Wins First-Place Award of Excellence

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) has announced the winners of its 2024 Annual Awards of Excellence. Medina County Park District won the first-place award in the Capital Improvement Projects (up to \$500,000) category for the Allardale Park Playscape.

Medina County Park District opened the exciting new farm-themed playscape at Allardale Park in Granger Township, 401 Remsen Road, Granger Township, in September 2024. It features a 30-foot slide, giant tire swing, balance beam and hopping logs, a play tractor, and more. Many of the components have a 'DIY' feel.

For parents and grandparents seeking relaxation, three large silos at the site provide shade, and picnic tables offer ample seating. Additionally, a new crushed limestone trail surrounds the playscape, ensuring inclusivity and easy access for everyone. A nearby open-air shelter, with views of the playscape, can be reserved.

The playscape was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Allard family. Stan and Esther Allard, who donated their 100 acres to the park district in the 1990s, had no children. However, the couple's nieces and nephews had dreamed of a playscape at the park for more than a dozen years and contributed \$250,000 toward the project through the nonprofit Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc.



Koontz Creek Conservation Area: 111 acres Purchased in Sharon Township



The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) played a pivotal role in facilitating the purchase of the Koontz Creek Conservation Area by providing over \$1.1 million in project funding.

Over 4,000 lbs. of Fresh Produce Donated

Hope Recovery Farm is located at the Brown-Trump Homestead in Medina Towship. In 2024, over 4,000 pounds of fresh produce was grown and donated to those in need in Medina County.





Me Dat

Established in 1965, Medina County Park District seeks to enhance the quality of all life through education, conservation, and the protection of natural resources. We manage nearly 9,000 acres and over 50 different trails.

The Honorable Kevin W. Dunn, Probate Judge

Kathleen E. Davis, Commissioner Dennis B. Neate, Commissioner Jason C. Venner, Commissioner

Nathan D. Eppink, Director



Photo courtesy of Medina Gazette, Patrick Rhonemus Chippewa Lake Historical Society and Medina County Park District Announce Partnership and Plans for Museum, Parking

Medina County Park District (MCPD) and the Chippewa Lake Historical Society (CLHS) have partnered on a tenyear lease that will bring a museum and new trailhead to Chippewa Lake Park in 2025.

CLHS is leasing property from MCPD located at 7464 Lake Road in Lafayette Township. The three-bedroom, 1,000square-foot house, built in 1920, sits at the corner of Lake Road and Longacre Lane, at the north end of the former amusement park property. CLHS plans to use this historic home as its headquarters and as a small indoor museum. The surrounding yard will feature artifacts from the former amusement park, including a ticket booth and ride cars. In 2025, MCPD will begin Phase 1 construction of public access amenities at the former amusement park property, including parking, trails, restrooms, and picnic shelters north of Main Drive. The area leased to CLHS will serve as one of two planned trailheads in this first phase of development.

Once parking is established, CLHS plans to open its museum doors one Saturday per month from May through October each year.



Medina County Park District

Celebrating 60 Years

Park District Headquarters 6364 Deerview Lane Medina, OH 44256 Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays) medinacountyparks.com parks@medinacountyparks.com (330) 722-9364 or toll free (844) 722-9364



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