



**Metro Parks  
2008 Budget**

**METRO PARKS 2008 BUDGET  
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## **METRO PARKS GOALS**

### **For the Year 2008**

1. Maintain clean, safe parks. Provide enjoyable and informative outdoor experiences for more than six million visitors. Maintain high standards for facilities and services at all parks.
2. Continue environmental remediation work and construction of park improvements at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Cooperate and support Audubon's effort to construct the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in the park.
3. Continue the educational initiative to assist school children in learning science concepts and to provide knowledge of the Earth's environment in cooperation with local school districts. Provide quality interpretive programming at all parks. Improve trail signage to educate and orient visitors to the parks.
4. Expand programming opportunities for senior citizens to enjoy and learn in the parks through interpretive programs and on the tram. Provide interesting and informative programs and events designed for seniors throughout the Metro Parks and at senior centers.
5. Continue the Metro Parks Urban Conservation Corps. Hire at-risk youth to assist on Metro Parks' projects. Provide training and exposure to conservation professions.
6. Construct and extend Greenway trails along Blacklick Creek and Big Darby Creek. Improve intersections on the Alum Creek Greenway Trail. Repair and improve existing trails throughout the park system.
7. Complete habitat restoration projects along Big Darby Creek at (1) the Pleasant Valley Quarry site, (2) on the former Angel property near Darbydale, and (3) along Darby Creek Drive on property purchased from Darby Dan. Complete a stream improvement project to restore the channelized section of Hellbranch Run near its confluence with Big Darby Creek. Cooperate on the Big Darby-Hellbranch Wetland Mitigation Bank project.
8. Acquire land along Greenways, in the Big Darby Creek watershed, and adjacent to existing parks. Begin acquiring land for the proposed new Metro Park in Plain Township. Pursue additional acquisitions if grants or other outside funding become available.

9. Continue developing and supporting partnerships that enhance the benefits that Metro Parks provides to the community. Continue involvement in regional planning efforts and cooperative efforts to protect Darby Creek and to improve the Greenways system.
10. Train and equip park staff to provide outstanding public service. Provide staff with tools and training to perform their jobs efficiently and effectively. Work on continuous improvement of employee relations. Strive to create a work force that is representative of the community.
11. Increase public awareness of Metro Parks and conservation issues through newspaper, television and radio publicity. Promote the endless benefits that Metro Parks provides to the community. Continue to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage visitors to utilize trails in the Metro Parks.
12. Manage financial resources wisely. Seek additional funding through grants, appropriations, and partnerships. Complete Annual Financial Reports.

**2008 Financial Summary  
Combined General, Capital and Enterprise Funds**

<b>ESTIMATED ENDING CASH BALANCE - 12/31/07</b>		<b>\$ 9,188,000</b>
<b>Add: New Revenues</b>		<b><u>\$ 27,663,000</u></b>
<b>Total Available Cash Resources</b>		<b>\$ 36,851,000</b>
 <b>Less: Budgeted Expenses</b>		
Salaries and Benefits, excluding golf course	\$ 9,759,000	
Operating and Administrative	\$ 4,100,000	
Enterprise Fund - Golf Course		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 820,000	
Operating	<u>\$ 367,000</u>	
Total Operating Budget	\$ 15,046,000	
Capital Improvement Projects	\$ 7,125,000	
Capital Improvement Projects-Golf Course	\$ -	
Land Acquisition	\$ 11,500,000	
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>		<b><u>\$ 33,671,000</u></b>
 <b>ESTIMATED 12/31/08 CASH BALANCE, IF ALL APPROPRIATIONS ARE FULLY EXPENDED</b>		 <b><u>\$ 3,180,000</u></b>

## Projected Changes in Fund Balances

**BUDGET AMOUNTS:**

	<b>FUND 27 GENERAL FUND <u>Total</u></b>	<b>FUND 29 CAPITAL <u>Total</u></b>	<b>FUND 30 ENTERPRISE <u>Total</u></b>	<b>ALL FUNDS <u>Total</u></b>
<b>Projected New Revenue</b>				
Public Sources:				
Tax Levy	13,000,000			13,000,000
Local Government Fund	4,955,000			4,955,000
Local Government Rev Assist. Fund				-
Grants	10,000	3,630,000		3,640,000
<b>Total Public Sources</b>	<b>\$ 17,965,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,630,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 21,595,000</b>
Earned Income from Operations:				
Golf Courses			1,200,000	1,200,000
Concessions & Shelter Fees	250,000			250,000
Interpretive Program	56,000			56,000
House & Land Rental	98,000			98,000
<b>Total Earned Income</b>	<b>\$ 404,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,200,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,604,000</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>\$ 450,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>		<b>\$ 550,000</b>
<b>Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions</b>		<b>\$ 3,810,000</b>		<b>\$ 3,810,000</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Bequests</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>		<b>\$ 40,000</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 27,000</b>	<b>\$ 37,000</b>		<b>\$ 64,000</b>
<b>Total 2008 Projected Revenue by Fund</b>	<b>\$ 18,871,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,592,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,200,000</b>	<b>\$ 27,663,000</b>
<b>Projected Expenditures:</b>				
Salaries	7,074,000		589,000	\$ 7,663,000
Fringe Benefits	1,530,000		140,000	1,670,000
PERS	1,052,000		82,000	1,134,000
Medicare	103,000		9,000	112,000
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 9,759,000</b>		<b>\$ 820,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,579,000</b>
Admin	\$ 849,130		\$ 4,250	\$ 853,380
Promotion	763,630			763,630
Equipment	744,240			744,240
Park Maintenance	788,190		29,800	817,990
Safety & Law Enforcement	121,855			121,855
Revenue Programs	33,675		332,950	366,625
Rental Properties	139,260			139,260
Education/Interpretive Operations	221,240			221,240
Natural Resource Management	116,100			116,100
Special Facilities	130,680			130,680
Renovations	192,000			192,000
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,100,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 367,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,467,000</b>
Site Improvements		\$ 4,065,000		\$ 4,065,000
Building Construction		327,000		327,000
Facility Improvements		1,672,000		1,672,000
Utilities		-		-
Natural Resource Improvements		1,061,000		1,061,000
Planning		-		-
Miscellaneous		-		-
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>		<b>\$ 7,125,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,125,000</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>		<b>\$ 11,500,000</b>		<b>\$ 11,500,000</b>
<b>2008 Projected Expenditures by Fund</b>	<b>\$ 13,859,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,625,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,000</b>	<b>\$ 33,671,000</b>
<b>CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 5,012,000</b>	<b>\$ (11,033,000)</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>	<b>\$ (6,008,000)</b>
<b>Projected Balance 12/31/2007</b>	<b>\$ 8,204,000</b>	<b>\$ 518,000</b>	<b>\$ 466,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,188,000</b>
<b>Transfer to / (from) Fund</b>	<b>\$ (11,000,000)</b>	<b>\$ 11,000,000</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Estimated Balance 12/31/2008</b>	<b>\$ 2,216,000</b>	<b>\$ 485,000</b>	<b>\$ 479,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,180,000</b>

**Projected Income Statement  
Enterprise Fund - Fund 30  
Blacklick Woods Golf Course Operations**

	<b>2007 Projected Actual</b>	<b>2008 Budget</b>
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>		
Golf fees, cart rental, merchandise, concessions	\$ 1,127,000	\$ 1,200,000
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
<b>Personnel:</b>		
Salaries	557,000	589,000
Benefits, PERS, Medicare	212,000	231,000
<b>Total Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$ 769,000</b>	<b>\$ 820,000</b>
<b>Operating Costs (non-personnel)</b>	<b>345,000</b>	<b>367,000</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,114,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,000</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>
 <b>ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/07</b>		 <b>\$ 466,000</b>
<b>TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>ENTERPRISE FUND BALANCE-PROJ. 12/31/08</b>		<b>\$ 479,000</b>

## Sources of Revenue

Metro Parks has three designated categories of revenue: public sources (taxes and government grants), operational fees (earned income) and other revenue (donations, interest income, etc.). The total new revenue estimated for 2008 is \$27,663,000. The following narratives provide an explanation for each source of revenue.

### **PUBLIC SOURCES**

Based on estimates for 2008 from the Franklin County Auditor, and projections of the current year receipts, Metro Parks is projecting a increase in its public revenue sources from the projected actual revenue for 2007. Property tax revenues are projected to decrease by \$525,000, or 3.9%, based upon projections from the Budget Commission. Local Government Fund and Local Government Revenue Assistance Fund revenues have been combined into a single fund for 2008. The new fund is projected to decrease by \$89,000 over the projected actual for 2007 for the two funds combined. It should be noted that the original 2007 projection by the Budget Commission was revised downward by \$679,000 in September 2007. Grant revenue is projected to increase by 29.9% or \$838,000. The grants Metro Parks receives are primarily reimbursement type grants. Metro Parks expends its funds and then is reimbursed by the grantor.

Sources of revenue defined:

*Property tax levy* – A 0.65-mill levy on real and personal property passed in Franklin County in May, 1999, with receipts to be received by Metro Parks in the ten year period 2000 through 2009. Levy funds (\$13,000,000) will be deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27). Some of these funds will be transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 29) (\$11,000,000).

*Local Government Fund (LGF)* - A portion of State of Ohio taxes are distributed to local governments pursuant to state law. The undivided Local Government Fund distribution is allocated among the political subdivisions located within Franklin County by the Franklin County Budget Commission. Metro Parks receives a 5.5% allocation of Franklin County's undivided LGF apportionment (\$4,955,000). Proceeds must be used for operational purposes and are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27).

*Local Government Revenue Assistance Fund (LGRAF)* – As a result of changes in State law, this fund has been combined with the Local Government Fund and will no longer be a source of funds.

*Government Grants* – The Federal and State governments provide funding opportunities to assist local governments with projects and programs. Metro Parks has been approved for grants with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Metro Parks anticipates applying for additional grants in the coming year. The anticipated proceeds (\$3,640,000) will be deposited in Fund 29.

## Sources Of Revenue, continued

### OPERATIONAL SOURCES

*Enterprise Fund income* - Receipts generated in the operation of the Blacklick Woods Golf Courses, including, but not limited to, greens fees, cart rental, and the food and banquet facility concession are considered earned income and recorded in the Enterprise Fund of Metro Parks. Income from the golf course operations for 2008 is projected to increase from the 2007 season. The increase projected for the golf course is a modest increase based on more promotion, increased awareness of alcohol sales, and a modest increase in fees. (Fund 30). \$1,200,000

*Income from Other Operations* - The following activities generate revenues, which are intended to cover costs but are not operated as enterprise activities. We are anticipating no change in revenue from 2007. Receipts are deposited into the General Fund (Fund 27). \$404,000

Shelter and room fees - Fees charged to cover the costs of cleaning and maintaining reservable picnic shelters, lodges, and meeting rooms.

Concessions - Receipts from vendors under contract with Metro Parks to deliver specified goods and services for which park visitors pay a fee. Concessionaire contracts exist for disc golf course operation and vending machines, and in Fund 30 for the golf course activities building.

Interpretive receipts - Charges that cover the costs of materials and services used to provide nature education presentations. Also included are receipts from sales of items of interest to park visitors, made available as a convenience to them.

Rentals - House rental and agricultural land lease payments.

### OTHER SOURCES

*Land Acquisition Reimbursement* – Contributions by City of Dublin, the City of Columbus, and the Village of New Albany to Metro Parks for the purchase of land for Glacier Ridge Metro Park and the proposed Rocky Fork Metro Park. \$3,810,000

*Income from investment* - Revenues earned on funds in various Metro Parks bank accounts and investment securities. Allowed investments include STAR Ohio; U.S. Treasury Bills, Notes and Bonds; securities issued by federal agencies; bonds of the state of Ohio; certificates of deposit; and repurchase agreements with qualified banks. Interest rates have hovered around the 4 to 5% range. We are projecting revenue based on the low end of the range. Income is recorded in both the General Fund (Fund 27) and Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 29). \$550,000

*Donations and bequests* - Bequests, which generate receipts on a regular basis, and one-time donations, are recorded here. We are projecting donations to remain similar to previous years' levels. \$40,000

*Miscellaneous* - all other revenue and non-revenue receipts in small or unpredictable amounts. These include court fines, damage settlements, refunds on prior year

## Sources Of Revenue, continued

payments, reimbursements, sales of salvage and fixed assets, sales of specifications and plans for Metro Parks' capital improvement projects. \$64,000

### **FIDUCIARY FUNDS**

Four trust funds have been established in honor of Allen F. Beck, J.C. Hambleton, E.S. Thomas, and Marian K. and Albert H. Thomas, which are in the Metro Parks' treasury. The Beck Fund and the Marian K. and Albert H. Thomas are expendable (i.e. principal and earnings are expendable), while the other two are classified as non-expendable (only interest earned on the principal may be used). The aggregate balance of these trust funds is projected to be \$525,000 (excluding the funds managed by the Columbus Foundation) by December 31, 2007. The trust funds projected earnings for 2008 is \$26,000.

In addition, the Columbus Foundation manages the Inniswood Fund for Metro Parks. The balance of this fund is projected to remain at \$458,000. This fund generates about \$15,000 per year that is recorded with donations or operating grants.

**REVENUES AND COMBINED FUND BALANCES**

	2006 Actual	2007 Budget	2007 Projected Actual 10/31/2007	2008 Budget	07 Proj. Act. v. '08 Inc (Dec)	% Change Inc (Dec)
<b>NEW REVENUES: GOVT (27,28, 29) &amp; ENTERPRISE (30) FUNDS</b>						
<b>Public Sources:</b>						
Property Tax Levy - .65 mill	13,729,000	13,088,000	13,525,000	13,000,000	(525,000)	-3.9%
LGF	4,509,000	5,070,000	4,561,000	4,955,000	394,000	8.6%
LGRAFF	475,000	531,000	483,000	-	(483,000)	-100.0%
Grants	1,199,000	545,000	2,802,000	3,640,000	838,000	29.9%
Grants - Loan Forgiven			200,000			
<b>Total Public Sources</b>	<b>19,912,000</b>	<b>19,234,000</b>	<b>21,571,000</b>	<b>21,595,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Operational Sources:</b>						
Revenues from Golf Course Operations	1,095,000	1,125,000	1,127,000	1,200,000	73,000	6.5%
<b>Revenues from Incidental Operations:</b>						
Concessions & Shelter Fees	206,000	227,000	245,000	250,000	5,000	2.0%
Interpretive Programs	59,000	65,000	104,000	56,000	(48,000)	-46.2%
House & Land Rental	125,000	80,000	99,000	98,000	(1,000)	-1.0%
<b>Total Income from Operational Sources</b>	<b>1,485,000</b>	<b>1,497,000</b>	<b>1,575,000</b>	<b>1,604,000</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Land Acquisition Municipal Contributions</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>3,810,000</b>	<b>3,425,000</b>	<b>889.6%</b>
<b>Wetland Credits</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Income from Investment</b>	<b>612,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>793,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>(243,000)</b>	<b>-30.6%</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Bequests</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>8.1%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Receipts (incl salvage sale)</b>	<b>291,000</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>(33,000)</b>	<b>-34.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL NEW REVENUES</b>	<b>22,733,000</b>	<b>21,791,000</b>	<b>24,458,000</b>	<b>27,663,000</b>	<b>3,205,000</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
<b>LOAN PROCEEDS - Net</b>			<b>100,000</b>			
<b>TOTAL BALANCES FROM PRIOR YEAR - GOVT &amp; ENTERPRISE</b>		<b>12,727,000</b>	<b>12,727,000</b>	<b>9,189,000</b>	<b>(3,538,000)</b>	<b>-27.8%</b>
				proj. 12/31/2007		
<b>BALANCES PLUS NEW REVENUES - GOVT &amp; ENTERPRISE</b>	<b>22,733,000</b>	<b>34,518,000</b>	<b>37,285,000</b>	<b>36,852,000</b>	<b>(433,000)</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>
<b>FIDUCIARY FUNDS PRIOR BALANCE</b>						
Expendable (Beck & Thomas)	116,000	116,000	116,000	155,000	39,000	33.6%
Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	255,000	255,000	255,000	272,000	17,000	6.7%
Non-Expendable (E.Thomas, Hambleton)	98,000	98,000	98,000	98,000	-	0.0%
Non-Expendable (Inniswood Fund-Cols Found.)	458,000	458,000	458,000	458,000	-	0.0%
<b>Add:</b>						
Current Year Projected Income	22,000	23,000	25,000	26,000	1,000	4.0%
Donations & Bequests	34,000		31,000			
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>22,789,000</b>	<b>34,541,000</b>	<b>37,341,000</b>	<b>37,861,000</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

## **Summary of Non-Personnel Operating and Administrative Expenditures**

The budget for Operations is allocated to accomplish Metro Parks' goal of providing clean, safe parks for the residents of Franklin County and Central Ohio. There are two components in the operations budget. The first component is the operations area, which covers all of the parks budgets and budget centers that relate directly to park operations. The second component is administration and this covers the district office functions and budget centers that have district wide responsibilities.

The 2008 budget for Operations is \$2,352,025 and the Administration budget is \$1,747,975 for a total operating budget of \$4,100,000. This includes all costs except the Golf Course and personnel costs. The Operations budget is appropriated under the general fund (Fund 27). The budget for the Golf Course operations is \$367,000, which is appropriated under the Enterprise Fund (Fund 30).

Equipment purchases are included in the operating budget, and will be approved by Resolution of the Board of Park Commissioners prior to purchase if the cost is \$25,000 or greater. A list of the largest budgeted equipment items is presented later in this document. A threshold of \$10,000 was used for this list to present to the Park Board a listing of the more expensive types of equipment that are used by Metro Parks' staff.

Metro Parks will continue to support the Greenways Program at the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). This support is provided to MORPC for the collaborative and administrative costs of the Greenways Program in the amount of \$45,000. Metro Parks also has a contractual relationship with the Ohio Wildlife Center. Ohio Wildlife Center provides care for injured wildlife and animals used for educational programs, live animals for Metro Parks programs, training for park staff, and a hotline for care of wild animals at a cost of \$14,500.

## **Operations and Administration Budget Analysis of Changes**

The proposed operational budget for Fund 27, (excluding personnel) for 2008 is \$4,100,000. This represents a budget-to-budget decrease of 0.10% and a 5.13% increase budget to projected actual for 2007. An \$11,000,000 transfer from Fund 27 to Fund 29 is included in the Fund 27 Appropriation.

The operations budget for 2008 is largely unchanged from 2007. Park managers kept a tight rein on their budgets in 2007 trying to offset the impact of higher fuel and utilities costs. The 5.13% increase in the 2008 budget compared to the 2007 projected actual reflects inflationary cost increases plus increased operational expenditures for Scioto Audubon Metro Park. The slight budget-to-budget decrease can be attributed to savings on law enforcement and special facilities purchases offsetting an increase in equipment purchases.

The 2008 budget reflects the continuing desire of the Metro Parks to meet or exceed the existing standards established in terms of administration, maintenance, programming, customer service, law enforcement and natural resource management.

**Anticipated Expenditure Summary  
Comparison of 2007 Projected Actual and 2008 Budget**

CATEGORY	2006 Actual	2007 Budget	2007 Projected Actual	2008 Budget	% Change
			projected from 10/31 actual		
<b>Personnel (from Fund 27)</b>					
Salaries (including merit increases)	6,374,641	6,934,000	6,789,000	7,074,000	4.20%
Employee Benefits	1,292,230	1,424,000	1,408,000	1,530,000	8.66%
PERS	900,882	987,000	981,000	1,052,000	7.24%
Medicare	78,138	98,000	85,000	103,000	21.18%
<b>Total Benefits</b>	<u>2,271,250</u>	<u>2,509,000</u>	<u>2,474,000</u>	<u>2,685,000</u>	8.53%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><b>8,645,892</b></u>	<u><b>9,443,000</b></u>	<u><b>9,263,000</b></u>	<u><b>9,759,000</b></u>	5.35%
<b>Park Ops &amp; Admin (from Fund 27)</b>					
Admin	774,632	853,640	807,000	849,130	5.22%
Education/Interpretive Operations	173,164	225,390	273,000	221,240	-18.96%
Equipment	506,347	668,350	759,000	744,240	-1.94%
Park Maintenance	656,024	769,900	735,000	788,190	7.24%
Promotion	553,264	753,700	713,000	763,630	7.10%
Rental Properties	97,440	141,150	70,000	139,260	98.94%
Natural Resource Management	88,349	112,100	85,000	116,100	36.59%
Revenue Programs	22,539	35,025	30,000	33,675	12.25%
Safety & Law Enforcement	75,358	202,645	81,000	121,855	50.44%
Special Facilities	63,253	162,100	95,000	130,680	37.56%
Renovations	131,631	180,000	252,000	192,000	-23.81%
other	14	-	-	-	0.00%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><b>3,142,015</b></u>	<u><b>4,104,000</b></u>	<u><b>3,900,000</b></u>	<u><b>4,100,000</b></u>	5.13%
<b>Spec Pk Dist Forum (from Fund 28)</b>					
Admin	(500)				
Promotion	3,160	85,000	68,000		
other	3,160	-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><b>5,819</b></u>	<u><b>85,000</b></u>	<u><b>68,000</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	-100.00%
<b>Capital Improvement Projects (Fund 29)</b>					
Site Improvements	2,545,723	3,725,000	3,454,000	4,065,000	
Building Construction	202,253	350,000	178,000	327,000	
Facility Improvements	203,227	1,790,000	27,000	1,672,000	
Utilities	1,548	-	12,000	-	
Planning	269,927	-	304,000	-	
Natural Resource Improvements	-	1,135,000	7,000	1,061,000	
Miscellaneous	19,833	-	3,000	-	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><b>3,242,511</b></u>	<u><b>7,000,000</b></u>	<u><b>3,985,000</b></u>	<u><b>7,125,000</b></u>	78.80%
<b>Land Acquisition (from Fund 29)</b>					
	595,512	9,000,000	7,045,000	11,500,000	63.24%
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES - FUNDS 27, 28 &amp; 29</b>					
	<u><b>15,631,749</b></u>	<u><b>29,632,000</b></u>	<u><b>24,261,000</b></u>	<u><b>32,484,000</b></u>	33.89%
<b>ENTERPRISE FUND EXP. - Golf Course</b>					
<b>Personnel</b>					
Salaries (including merit increases)	537,874	559,000	557,000	589,000	5.75%
Employee Benefits	112,815	117,000	116,000	140,000	20.69%
PERS	72,544	77,000	90,000	82,000	-8.89%
Medicare	5,728	8,000	6,000	9,000	50.00%
<b>Total Benefits</b>	<u>191,087</u>	<u>202,000</u>	<u>212,000</u>	<u>231,000</u>	8.96%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><b>728,961</b></u>	<u><b>761,000</b></u>	<u><b>769,000</b></u>	<u><b>820,000</b></u>	6.63%
Operations	301,916	348,000	345,000	367,000	6.38%
Capital Improvement Projects	-	-	-	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND - FUND 30</b>	<u><b>1,030,877</b></u>	<u><b>1,109,000</b></u>	<u><b>1,114,000</b></u>	<u><b>1,187,000</b></u>	6.55%
<b>Loan Payment - Net</b>			<b>100,000</b>		
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE ALL FUNDS</b>					
	<u><b>16,662,626</b></u>	<u><b>30,741,000</b></u>	<u><b>25,275,000</b></u>	<u><b>33,671,000</b></u>	33.22%

## Equipment Budget Highlights

The following is a list of Equipment items that were budgeted for amounts over \$10,000. Purchases over \$25,000 must be approved by Resolution of the Board of Park Commissioners. Additional pieces of equipment totaling \$136,000 were budgeted, but did not meet the large item threshold.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Budget Center</u>
Ranger truck	20,000	BLACKLICK WOODS
Ranger truck	20,000	BLACKLICK WOODS
Toro Workman	16,200	BLACKLICK WOODS
John Deere 72" cut mower w/diesel engine	12,500	BLENDON WOODS
JD 100hp 4x4 tractor	50,000	BATTELLE DARBY
Replacement mower	11,000	BATTELLE DARBY
Replacement Ranger Truck with plow	25,000	SLATE RUN
On Road Vehicle/Flex Fuel	20,000	INNISWOOD
Ranger Vehicle (1/2 ton extended cab)	25,000	CLEAR CREEK
Replacement Ranger truck with plow	25,000	THREE CREEKS
Replacement Mower	20,000	THREE CREEKS
Color Copier	22,000	FINANCE
Replacement Industrial Backhoe/Loader	69,000	ROVING CREW
Backup & Disaster Recovery System	20,000	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Replacement Computer Workstations	13,500	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Portable Surveillance Cameras	15,000	OPERATIONS
Radios	10,000	OPERATIONS
<b>Total Fund 27</b>	<b><u>394,200</u></b>	
Fairway Mower	39,000	GOLF COURSE
26 Gas Golf Carts	34,500	GOLF COURSE
Tri-plex Mower	19,000	GOLF COURSE
<b>Total Fund 30</b>	<b><u>92,500</u></b>	

## Summary of Personnel Expenditures

Proposed personnel expenses increase from \$10,032,000 (projected actual) to \$10,579,000. This represents an increase of 5.45%. This increase can be attributed to merit and general increases for eligible employees; bonuses for outstanding performers; increasing costs for health benefits; a required increase in payments to the Public Employees Retirement System; new positions (\$102,000); implementation of compensation study recommendations (\$81,000), workers compensation, retirement and unemployment costs (\$164,000); and a 2% range adjustment that will affect pay for new hires and for long-term employees at the top of their range. Due to a change in interpretation of Internal Revenue Service regulations, we will be providing a uniform allowance for employees who are required to wear uniforms (\$20,000).

It is estimated that the 2007 Projected Actual Budget for Salaries and Benefits will be 1.69% under budget.

The 2008 proposed Personnel Budget includes:

- A 3.5% merit increase for eligible full-time employees based on performance appraisal. Employees approaching or performing below expectations will receive a 1.75% increase. Unsatisfactory performers will not receive an increase. Eligible full-time employees who receive an outstanding appraisal evaluation will receive a 4.0% increase and a \$1000 bonus. Merit increases will be given to eligible full-time employees up to the maximum rates established for their range.
- A 3.0% general increase for eligible part-time employees. General increases will be given to eligible part-time employees up to the maximum rates established for their range.
- All increases will be given the first full pay period in March 2008. Merit increases will be pro-rated for all full-time employees hired after March 1, 2007.
- A salary range adjustment of 2.0%.
- Implementation of Compensation Study recommendations.

Findings from a recent study conducted by the Employers Resource Association for Central Ohio for the period 8/1/07 to 7/31/08 projects that those companies planning annual salary increases for 2008 were planning 3.8% for executives, 3.5% for exempt supervisory, managerial and professional positions, 3.5% for non-union hourly employees, 3.4% for non-exempt clerical and technical positions. Our recommendations are in line with these regional pay increase projections.

## PERSONNEL ANALYSIS

### 2008 BUDGET COMPARISON WITH PROPOSED RANGE CHANGES, CLAIMS COSTS, COMPENSATION STUDY, *EXCLUDING NEW POSITIONS*

<b>07/08 ANALYSIS</b>	Cost	Change	Explanation
07 Projected Actual	10,032,000	172,000	-1.69% under 07 budget
07 Total Budget	10,204,000		
08 Budget	10,476,000	272,000	2.67%
08 Budget vs. 07 Proj. Actual		444,000	4.43%

### 08 BUDGET COMPARISON WITH PROPOSED RANGE CHANGES, CLAIMS COSTS, COMPENSATION STUDY AND *INCLUDING NEW POSITIONS*

08 Budget w/new positions	\$10,579,000		
08 Budget w/new vs. 07 Budget		375,000	3.68%
08 Budget vs. 07 Proj. Actual		547,000	5.45%

#### **TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:**

Staffing/FT & PT positions:	
Salaries	\$ 7,593,000
New Positions	102,000
Fringe Benefits	1,445,000
PERS	1,125,000
Medicare	110,000
Salaries and Benefits Total	10,375,000

#### **OTHER APPROPRIATIONS:**

Performance Lump Sums	20,000	
Uniform Allowance	20,000	
<b>Claims-based Expenses:</b>		
Retirements	30,000	Accrued vacation/sick leave payment
Unemployment	4,000	
Workers Comp	130,000	Prior year/extraordinary claims
<b>Total Other Appropriations</b>	<b>204,000</b>	

**TOTAL PERSONNEL** \$10,579,000

## NEW POSITIONS FY 2008 BUDGET

New positions for FY 2008 include the addition of one new full-time Education Counselor position, converting one part-time Ranger position to a full-time Park Ranger position, eliminating one part-time position, adding two new intern positions and additional ranger hours. The full-time Education Counselor position will enable us to better meet the needs of the senior population by increasing our senior outreach programming. Converting one of the part-time Ranger positions to a full-time Park Ranger position at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park will enable us to better meet the needs of the public as the park continues to grow. A part-time Ranger position will be eliminated at Slate Run Metro Park. It is recommended that a 6-month maintenance intern be added at Prairie Oaks Metro Park to assist with the increasing maintenance requirements as public use areas and facilities are added. A new part-time Planning Assistant will be added in the office to assist with land acquisition administrative duties and updating the Geographical Information System. Additional ranger hours were added at Three Creeks Park to help to ensure the level of customer service and safety at the park continues at the same high standard. Additional positions include:

- 1. Full-time Education Counselor** – Outreach to seniors has grown significantly over the last few years. The response to the increased senior programming and senior camp programs has been tremendous. The current camp staff consists of a Camp/Senior Outreach Coordinator, a Part-time Outreach Naturalist and a Part-time Education Counselor. The focus of this position will be to provide more programs for seniors, both in the parks and at seniors' facilities. This new position will also enable the Camp/Senior Outreach Coordinator to develop more programming and outreach opportunities.
- 2. Conversion of a Part-time Ranger to a Full-time Park Ranger at Battelle Darby Creek** – There are currently 2 full-time Park Rangers and 4 part-time Rangers at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. The addition of new facilities, the canoe accesses, expansion of the Darby Greenway trail, expansion of the park and increased park attendance, has and will continue to stretch ranger coverage even thinner. The conversion of one part-time Ranger position to a full-time Park Ranger position will enable us to provide greater customer service at the park in the form of increased visibility and patrol. The Park Ranger will enforce rules and regulations, coordinate scheduling and training of the part-time ranger staff, and work with various outside agencies.
- 3. Maintenance Intern at Prairie Oaks** – There are currently 2 full-time Park Technicians and one part-time Park Technician who are responsible for the general park maintenance duties at Prairie Oaks. The part-time Park Technician works 1 to 3 days each week. The additional public use areas and the expanded facilities area at the park have increased the daily maintenance duties. With the addition of the Darby Bend Lakes area, Beaver Lake and the Upper Darby canoe

## **NEW POSITIONS**

### **FY 2008 BUDGET, continued**

access area and increased attendance, more staff time is needed to maintain these areas and facilities particularly during the busier months of the year. The addition of a 6-month maintenance intern will help us meet these increasing maintenance responsibilities at the park during the busiest season.

- 4. Part-time Planning Assistant** – will assist with the data entry and database maintenance tasks associated with our Geographical Information System (GIS) and assist with administrative duties related to the land acquisition program. Our current GIS system has real estate and resource management databases, which are used in land acquisition planning, map creation, and natural resource management. The addition of this position will help us to ensure the databases are accurate and updated in a timely manner and able to provide accurate information and support to strategic planning, resource management and other staff.
  
- 5. Part-time Ranger Hours** – With the expansion of the Alum Creek and Blacklick Creek Greenway Trails and continued growth in attendance, 600 additional part-time ranger hours are necessary at Three Creeks. The additional hours will allow us to maximize visitor safety and park security and cover needed shifts. These hours will also enable the staff to assist with district-wide events.

## 2008 Capital Improvements Projects

The 2008 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) focuses on several major areas including the development and continued progression of Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Blacklick Creek Greenway (including the long awaited US 33 bridge) and Darby Creek Greenway trail extension, and resource management restoration projects along Darby Creek. We will focus attention on public facilities at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park by replacement of a restroom, development of the former Darby Dan Farm Area, and other renovation projects. Slate Run and Inniswood will also be featured in the CIP program. We will continue our efforts to keep our existing paved trails in good condition by allocating funds for trail sealing and other preventative maintenance activities that extend the life of the trails. The total appropriation for the CIP's is \$7,125,000.

**Scioto Audubon Metro Park.** This will be a major focus of the 2008 CIP. In 2007 Whittier Street was relocated, the boat ramp area renovation project was completed and soil contamination/wetland development issues were addressed in the northern tier. Park staff established themselves on the peninsula on a regular basis and improvements were seen in safety and law enforcement. By the end of 2007 we hope to have a contract in place to complete demolition of the remainder of the Lazarus Warehouse and various Columbus Recreation and Parks Department structures. In 2008, we will be working on site development for the Grange Insurance Audubon Nature Center, construction of a major parking lot to serve the nature center and the park, development of park facilities and trails (including relocation of the bike trail), and other activities. Once the City has determined the intended use of the non-Metro Parks portion of the Whittier Peninsula, we will need to update our master plan and we may be in a position to design support facilities for our staff. **\$2,000,000**

### TRAIL PROJECTS

**Blacklick Creek Greenway.** Several phases of the Blacklick Greenway project will be addressed using 2008 CIP Funds. These phases involve extensive coordination with other agencies and, due to complications in the design and planning processes, some were carried over from 2007. Phase 7 involves the relocation of Shannon Road. The relocation must be approved by both the City of Columbus and Franklin County. Phase 9 involves the portion of the trail that proceeds south from Blacklick Woods under I-70 to Tussing Road and thus involves ODOT, Fairfield County, and the City of Columbus. The US 33 bridge is a major undertaking that involves complex design issues as well as the purchase of land. It is anticipated that all of these projects will be underway in the first half of the year and that the Blacklick Greenway Trail will connect Blacklick, Pickerington Ponds, and Three Creeks by 2009. Phase 10 will connect the trail between where Phase 9 ends (Tussing Road) and Portman Park where the current trail terminates. Coordination is required with the City of Columbus regarding the alignment of the trail and possible upgrades in road and bridges in the area. **\$2,100,000**

**Darby Creek Greenway.** We will continue our efforts to extend the Darby Creek Greenway between Prairie Oaks and Battelle Darby. These funds will provide financial resources for our roving crew to buy materials and rent equipment. Primary focuses will be on the portion of the trail heading south from Prairie Oaks (does not include an underpass under I-70 which is still being designed), completing road crossings in the

## 2008 Capital Improvements Projects

area of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and continuing where the project leaves off in 2007 in the Darby Dan Farm area. **\$200,000**

**Alum Creek Greenway.** The trail intersections at Petzinger Road and Livingston Avenue need to be completed and improved from a safety perspective. **\$60,000**

**Glacier Ridge Trail Extensions.** A strong demand exists to provide a pedestrian connection from Hyland-Croy Road paralleling the main entrance road. This would provide a connection to the local elementary school that is used for overflow parking during special events. In addition, an opportunity is present to extend our trail system in the middle section of the park in association with the development of a neighboring property (Ciotola). This trail section will provide access for a number of people and will provide an additional opportunity for park visitors interested in a different trail experience. **\$140,000**

**Inniswood Chipmunk Chatter Trail Extension.** Currently, the Chipmunk Chatter Trail terminates at the parking lot turnaround and maintenance center drive, creating a very congested situation. Bicyclists and joggers then utilize the parking lot to get to Hempstead Road and Westerville's bike trail system. With the increased visitation to Inniswood, this situation creates the possibility of accidents in the parking lot. This trail would eliminate the need to go through the parking lot and would provide access to the southern portions of our property at Inniswood. **\$75,000**

**Camp Chase Railroad Planning/Design.** Negotiations continue on developing a trail along the Camp Chase Railroad. These funds would be used to develop detailed plans and designs of the trail and to prepare for construction in future years. **\$100,000**

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Darby Dan WRRSP Wetland and Habitat Restoration.** We will be continuing our efforts to complete restoration work on the former Darby Dan Farm property as outlined in our agreement with Ohio EPA. This work will include development of a wetland and reforestation efforts, demolition of existing structures, and other restoration efforts which must be completed in 2008 for reimbursement. **\$200,000 (reimbursable)**

**Pleasant Valley Quarry 319 Habitat Restoration Project.** This project is underway currently and funds are being allocated to continue additional planting of native grass and tree species as well as invasive species control beyond what is included in the current project. **\$100,000 (60% reimbursable)**

**Hellbranch Run and Angel Property WRRSP Restoration.** Funds from Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) will be used to initiate a major stream improvement project along Hellbranch Run near its confluence with the Big Darby Creek. This will be the most ambitious stream restoration project Metro Parks has been involved in and it will lead to improvements for the water quality of Big Darby Creek and Hellbranch Run. In addition these funds will be used to do restoration work on the recently purchased Angel property. **\$1,000,000 (reimbursable)**

## 2008 Capital Improvements Projects

**Prairie Oaks 319 Levee Removal Final Phase.** Funds are provided to further improve the site of the levee removal project at the Darby Bend Lakes Area of Prairie Oaks, primarily with tree plantings. **\$25,000 (60% reimbursable)**

### **OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS**

**Replacement of Restroom at Battelle Darby.** Several years ago one of the restrooms in the Cedar Ridge picnic area was replaced. The second restroom (a vault latrine) is extremely outdated and needs replacement to better serve the public. **\$300,000**

**Darby Dan Farm Property.** We are working on conceptual plans for public use of the former Darby Dan Farm Property (race track, grandstand, arena, etc.) and some efforts should be underway in 2007. These funds will allow us to continue this work with a likely focus being continued renovation of existing structures, development of a parking lot to service the area, and providing other public services. The Darby Creek Greenway trail is approaching this area from the south and this area is anticipated to become a major trailhead for the Greenway trail. **\$200,000**

**Additional Parking—Battelle Darby Canoe Access Area.** With our emphasis on canoe access along Big Darby Creek, use of this area has greatly increased and the current parking lot fills up regularly. In addition, this area also houses the sled hill and its popularity leads to major parking problems during the sledding season. **\$30,000**

**Parking Lot Pole Replacement at Battelle Darby and Inniswood.** Light poles in the Cedar Ridge area of Battelle Darby Creek are all in need of replacement due to age and deterioration. Similarly at Inniswood, light poles in the parking lot also need to be replaced. **\$45,000**

**District Office Carpeting.** The carpeting in the District Office is worn and needs to be replaced. In conjunction with the painting project slated for 2007, these improvements should leave the District Office interior in good condition for many years. **\$35,000**

**Program Structure at Inniswood.** In 2007, the roving crew built a pad that served as the base for a tent that was used for Big Bugs programming. A more permanent structure (in lieu of a tent) will be constructed that will provide a site for educational and other programs at Inniswood (3 season structure similar to the Northern Reserve Shelter). This location will make use of existing restrooms and parking lots and is in a strategic location for the public. **\$75,000**

**Rawn Property Planning—Pickerington Ponds.** Funds will be used to develop a site plan and conceptual design for the usage of the recently purchased Rawn Property with a focus on developing a major public access off of Gender Road and trail extensions. **\$50,000**

**Slate Run Buzzards Roost Waterline.** “City” water is being provided along Duvall Road and these funds will allow us to extend water to the Buzzard’s Roost picnic area,

## 2008 Capital Improvements Projects

thus eliminating our dependence on unreliable wells and eliminating the ever-increasing costs of water tests and remedial activities. **\$80,000**

**Slate Run Historic Farm Cold Storage Building.** A small pole barn will be constructed near the farm to provide on-site storage of equipment, thus increasing the efficiency of farm operations and also allowing us to better utilize existing facilities for public programming. **\$20,000**

**Imagination Playground.** At Scioto Audubon Metro Park we will construct a distinctive playground for children to help capture their imagination and increase awareness of the natural environment. **\$50,000**

### DISTRICT WIDE PROJECTS

These projects involve efforts throughout Metro Parks. Many are on-going responsibilities.

**Resurface, Seal and Stripe Trails.** This is a new initiative and recognizes the investment we have made in paved trails throughout Metro Parks in the past several years. These funds will allow us to keep these trails in excellent condition, precluding the need for major replacements in future years. **\$70,000**

**Demolition of Structures.** As we have purchased land, we “inherit” structures that serve no purpose for Metro Parks. These funds are used to demolish the structures and restore the area. **\$50,000**

**Signage.** We will continue our signage improvement program in terms of trail orientation, external directional signs, and interpretive signs. A major part of this project will be replacement of faded logos and general attention to our entrance signs. **\$50,000**

**Picnic Area Trees.** Continuing a program begun in 2007, we will be planting specimen trees in our picnic areas to replace trees that have died due to age, storms, soil compaction, etc. and also in anticipation of the impacts of the emerald ash borer. **\$70,000**

**ODOT Projects.** We will also be undertaking a number of projects utilizing funding provided by ODOT (approximately \$450,000 for the biennium for Metro Parks) to park districts throughout the State. ODOT is responsible for contracting and thus the money is not part of our CIP budget. However, the projects are very important and part of our CIP program. Projects to be undertaken with these funds will include paving of a parking lot at Prairie Oaks, constructing a mandated turn lane at the new Highbanks Day Camp on Powell Road, repaving the access road to the Confluence Area at Three Creeks, and crack sealing/stripping of roadways at Slate Run.

## Land Acquisition

The 2008 budget appropriates \$11,500,000 for land acquisition. The Land Acquisition Strategy will dictate properties for consideration.

No properties will be purchased unless specific authorization is received from the Park Board and funds are available.

For Comparison:

Projected actual expenditures for land acquisition in 2007:	\$7,045,000
plus a set aside of \$1,500,000 for the Rocky Fork Headwaters project as required by the Metro Park Development Agreement.	

**APROPRIATIONS  
Based on 2008 Budget**

The budget for Metro Parks for the the fiscal year 2008 is listed below. The total budget is appropriated by fund, and the amount to be appropriated by each fund is also listed below. These appropriations were approval by the Park Board.

		<b><u>TOTAL NEW APPROPRIATIONS (1)</u></b>
	<b>Personnel</b>	9,759,000
	<b>Non-Personnel</b>	4,100,000
	<b>Inter Fund Transfer</b>	11,000,000
	<b>Fund 27 Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,859,000</b>
	<b>Fund 29 Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,625,000</b>
	<b>Personnel</b>	\$ 820,000
	<b>Non-Personnel</b>	\$ 367,000
	<b>Fund 30 Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b><u>\$ 44,671,000</u></b>

(1) 2007 encumbrances will be identified and carried forward as of 12/31/2007 and are not included above. The 2007 encumbrances will be charged against the 2007 budget.