

2024

Annual Report

TO THE COMMUNITY

Warren County
PARK DISTRICT

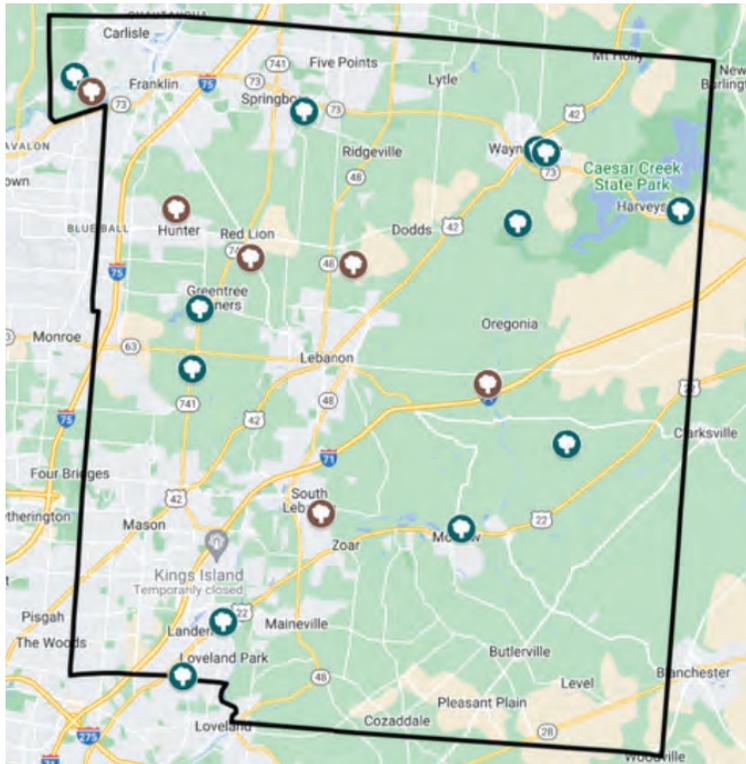


Enjoy. Play. Preserve.

Warren County Park District
1223 North State Route 741
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

WarrenCountyParks.com
parks@warrencountyparks.com
513-695-3980

Our Warren County Park District



1,716 Acres
owned & managed

12 Parks
open to the public

6 Conservation Areas *(future parks)*

Armco Park

1223 N SR 741, Lebanon 45036

Bowman Park

200 Corwin Ave., Waynesville 45068

Carmody Park

7525 Martz Paulin Rd., Franklin 45005

Clint Fultz River Park

800 Corwin Ave., Corwin 45068

Gulley Park

2168 Middleboro Rd., Clarksville 45133

Hatton-Lukens Park

5320 Harveysburg Rd., Harveysburg 45032

Hisey Park

5443 Middletown Rd., Waynesville 45068

Keever Trails

3721 Keever Pass, Lebanon 45036

Kesling Park

7201 Red Lion-Five Points Rd., Springboro 45066

Landen Deerfield Park

2258 W SR 22/3, Maineville 45039

Minard Park

3460 Fields Ertel Rd., Loveland 45140

Morrow Veterans Park

200 Hamlin St./104 Lincoln St., Morrow 45152

For more details, visit WarrenCountyParks.com/Parks

What We Offer



The Great
Outdoors



Nature Education
Programs



Trails, Walking,
& Jogging



Little Miami Scenic
Trail Access



Fishing
& Boating



Canoe
& Kayak



Playgrounds
& Nature Play



Sports
Fields



Executive
Golf Course



Disc Golf



Community Impact



83 Nature Programs & Events



159 Children Completed the 100-Hours-Outside Challenge



1,542 Community Members Met with Our Educational Ambassador Animals



61 Armco Park Softball Teams



27,637 Rounds of Golf Played



4,789 Fishing Passes Sold



1,670 Boat Rentals



28 Species Tallied at Great Backyard Bird Count



164 Participants in Cops & Bobbers Fishing Derby



1,045 Tech-Free Tuesdays Visitors



19 Youth Sports Partner Organizations



407,800 Armco Park Estimated Visits in 2024



146,500 Landen Deerfield Park Estimated Visits in 2024



671 Shelter Reservations at Armco Park



11% Increase in 2024 Year-Over-Year Visitors



582 Volunteer Hours Tallied*

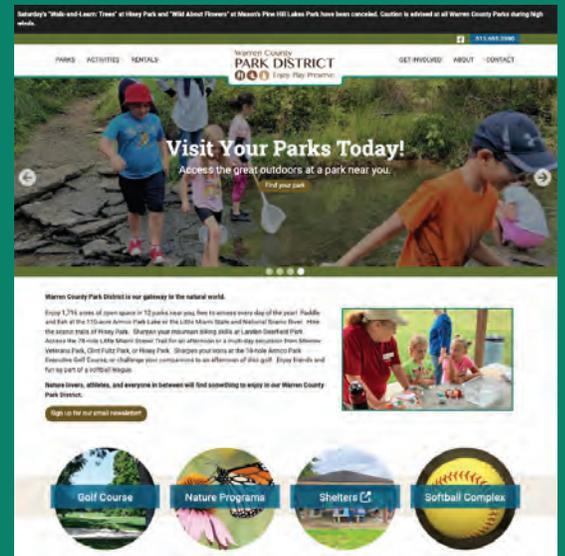
*This figure does not include hours completed by independent park volunteers such as Eagle scouts, Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance, Warren Co. Astronomical Society, or Friends of WCPD

UPDATES & IMPROVEMENTS

Warren County Park District is constantly striving to improve our visitors' experiences. In 2024 we made significant updates to the Softball Complex at Armco Park, launched a new website, and began a Strategic Planning process.



Synthetic turf infields at Armco Park Softball Complex made possible by ARPA grant



New website, [WarrenCountyParks.com](https://www.warrencountyparks.com), which is desktop and mobile friendly

Upcoming Projects



LANDEN-DEERFIELD PARK

Simpson Creek Headwaters Restoration

This project re-imagines Landen-Deerfield Park Pond as a natural stream channel, wetland, and pond system to improve water quality in the Little Miami River Watershed while delivering additional benefits including nature play, nature-based outdoor recreation, educational opportunities, and reduced long-term maintenance cost and flooding risk.

Made possible by grants from H2Ohio and the American Rescue Plan Act

Construction Start: Summer 2025



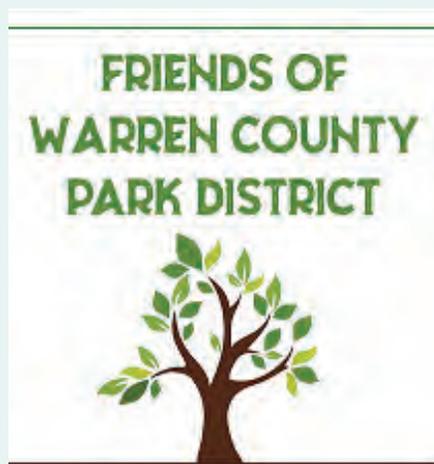
ARMCO PARK

Shaker Village Trail Project

This paved multi-use trail will run 0.8 miles along State Route 741 in Lebanon, Ohio, and will provide a vital connection for pedestrians, cyclists, and golf cart users between key community destinations, including the 311-acre Armco Park, Otterbein SeniorLife Lebanon, and the planned community of Union Village.

Made possible by Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant and a partnership with Otterbein SeniorLife Lebanon and Union Village

Construction Start: Summer 2026



FRIENDS OF WARREN COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

501c3 charitable organization formed to support Warren County Park District

Mission is to improve, promote, and preserve the Warren County Park District and to engage the community through education and experiences

fwcpdoh.org

2025 Board of Park Commissioners



Pictured left to right: Chris Hice (Member), Benjamin Yoder (President), Wendy Monroe (Vice President)

Warren County Park District is governed by a three-member all-volunteer Board of Park Commissioners. Park Commissioners are appointed by the Warren County Probate Judge and serve staggered three-year terms.

Park Commissioners oversee the policies, finances, and projects of the Park District, providing overall direction, big-picture leadership, and vision, enabling the Park District to effectively serve Warren County residents and visitors.



The Park District thanks Commissioner Jeff Blazey for his 12 years of service.

Jeff stepped down from the Board at the end of 2024.



2024 BOARD

Ben Yoder, *President*
Jeff Blazey, *Vice President*
Wendy Monroe, *Member*

Message from the CEO



IN 2024, I was pleased to complete my first full calendar year as CEO of Warren County Park District. Since joining the Park District, I've been struck by how Warren County stakeholders have been so welcoming, collaborative, and eager to partner, so that we can accomplish great things together for our community.

2024 was a year of great progress. We secured almost half a million dollars in additional grant funding from the H2Ohio program to fund the stream and wetland restoration project at Landen-Deerfield Park, which will be under construction in Summer 2025. We played our first season on the synthetic turf that was recently installed at the Armco Park Softball Complex, funded by a subgrant of American Rescue Plan Act funds from the County Commissioners.

We launched our new user-friendly website, **warrencountyparks.com**. And, most importantly, we kicked off a Strategic Planning process that will continue into 2025 and will involve the whole community in determining the future direction for their Park District.

“We believe that parks, open space and trails are essential components of a healthy and prosperous community.”

We're just getting started. Will Rogers said, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." As an organization, Warren County Park District is committed to continuous improvement. The Strategic Plan, once completed, will act as the Park District's guiding light, to help us focus on the things that will deliver the most benefit for Warren County

residents. It will define our unique strengths (what sets us apart from other park providers) and help us to lean into them, so we are complementing (and not competing with) the good work that others are already doing. We appreciate the hundreds of County residents and partner organizations who contributed to the planning process so far, giving us confidence that it will truly reflect our community's needs and desires for their Park District.

The work we're doing here together will resonate for generations to come. We believe that parks, open space and trails are essential components of a healthy and prosperous community. Together, we have the opportunity to create an enduring legacy by improving the lives of current and future Warren County residents and visitors. We would love for you to join our movement to bring the vision into reality!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Latham, CEO

Strategic Planning Process



**FEBRUARY
2024**

PHASE 1: AWARENESS

Collect & review previous studies, plans, reports, surveys

Inventory Mapping

Benchmarking & Trends Analysis

Board of Park Commissioners Meeting

Steering Committee Meeting #1

Stakeholder Focus Groups (9)

Survey

**AUGUST
2024**

PHASE 2: EXPLORATION & VISION

Summarize Awareness Findings

Steering Committee Meeting #2
(Vision/Mission/Goals)

Draft Mission Statement, Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Steering Committee Meeting #3
(early December)

Public Open Houses (5)
early 2025)

Draft Strategic Plan Report

Steering Committee Meeting #4
(early 2025 - virtual)

Presentation to Board
of Park Commissioners

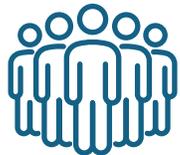
Final Strategic Plan Adoption

**MID
2025**

Who We Heard From

365
Responses
to a Statistically Valid Survey



 **44** Community Leaders
Participating in the
Steering Committee

122 Focus Group
Participants 

Spread Across Eight Groups Including:

- Conservation
- Recreation
- Education
- Connectivity
- Business
- Non-profits
- Civic/Government
- Health/Seniors



Our Mission

Warren County Park District **enhances our community's well-being** by preserving **quality natural spaces** where all are **invited to discover and experience the great outdoors.**



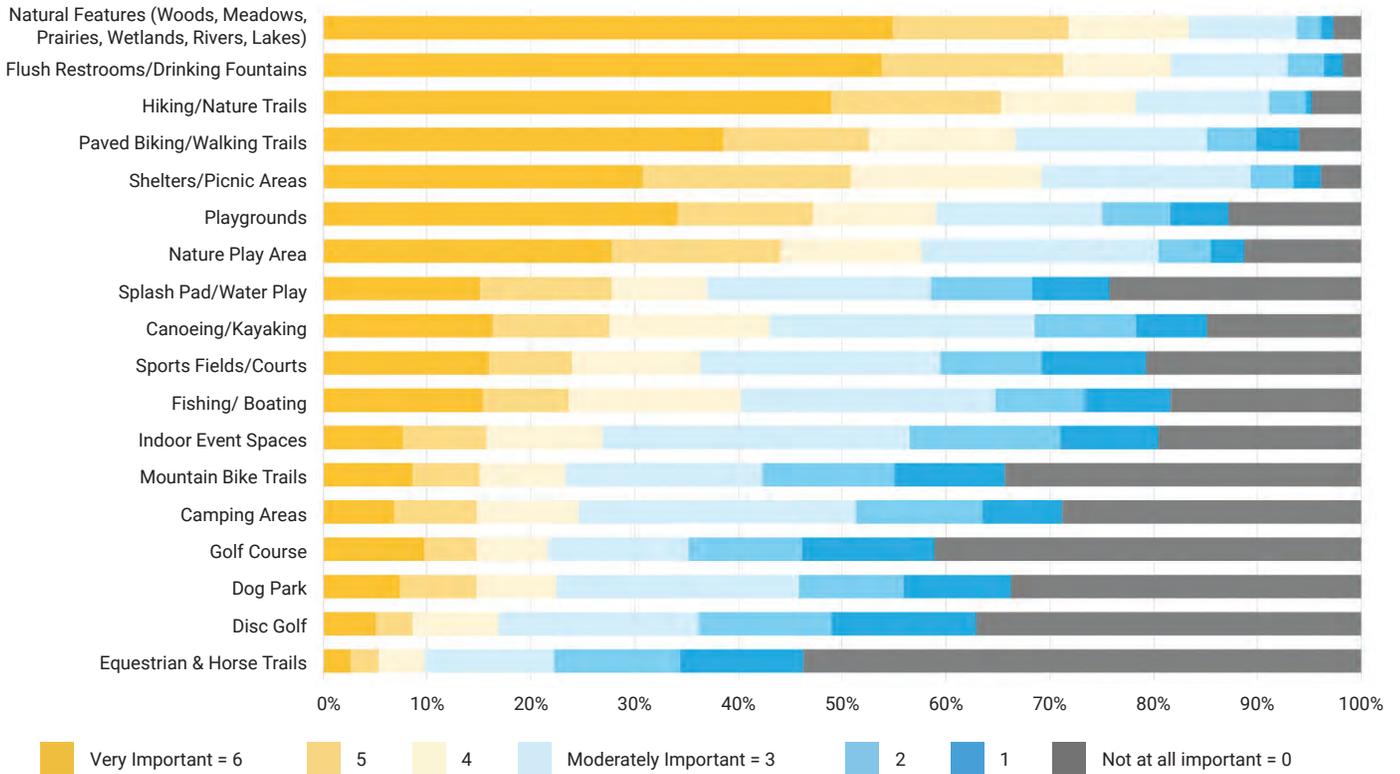
Our Vision

Warren County Park District aspires to be a **leader in natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and nature education** by **building partnerships** and **working toward a connected network of green space and trails** that enhance our community's quality of life.

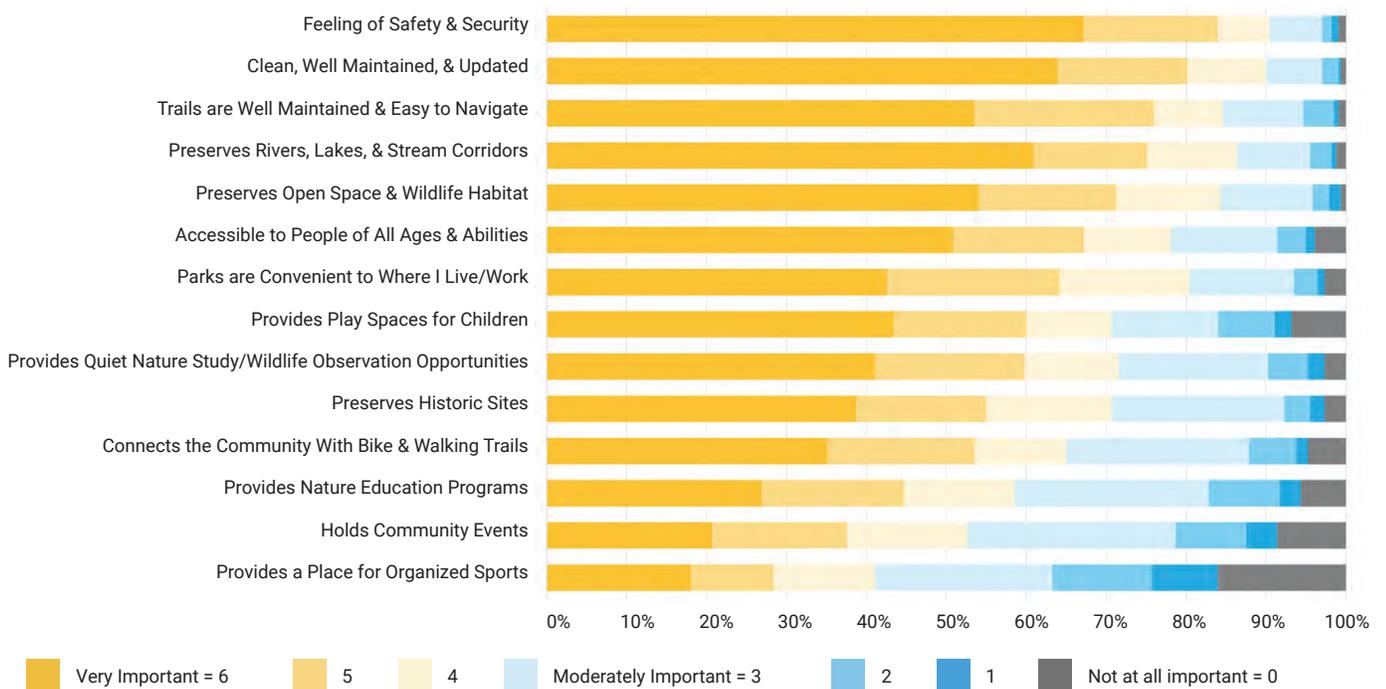


Survey Results

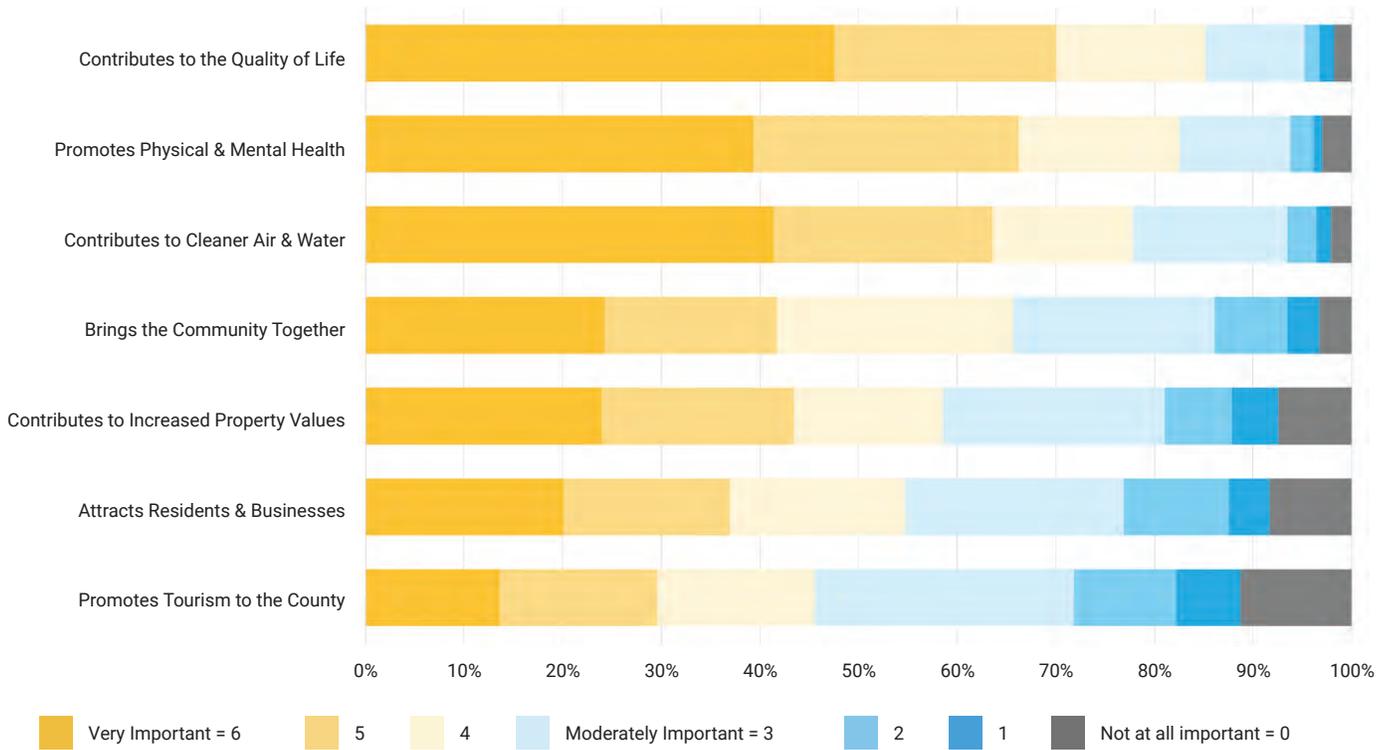
Natural/Ecological and Convenience Features rate most important with respondents.



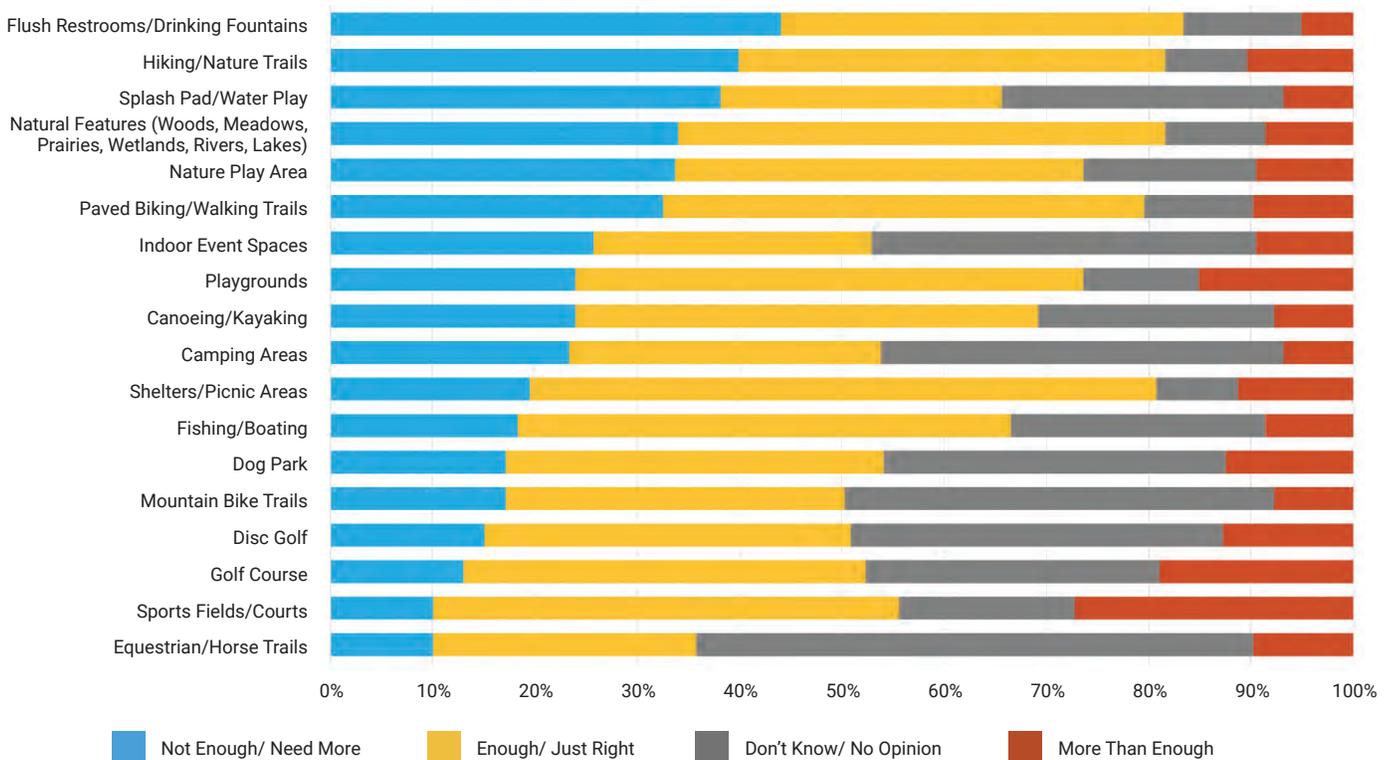
Safety and Cleanliness, along with Preservation, Maintenance and Habitat rank among the most important factors for park guests.



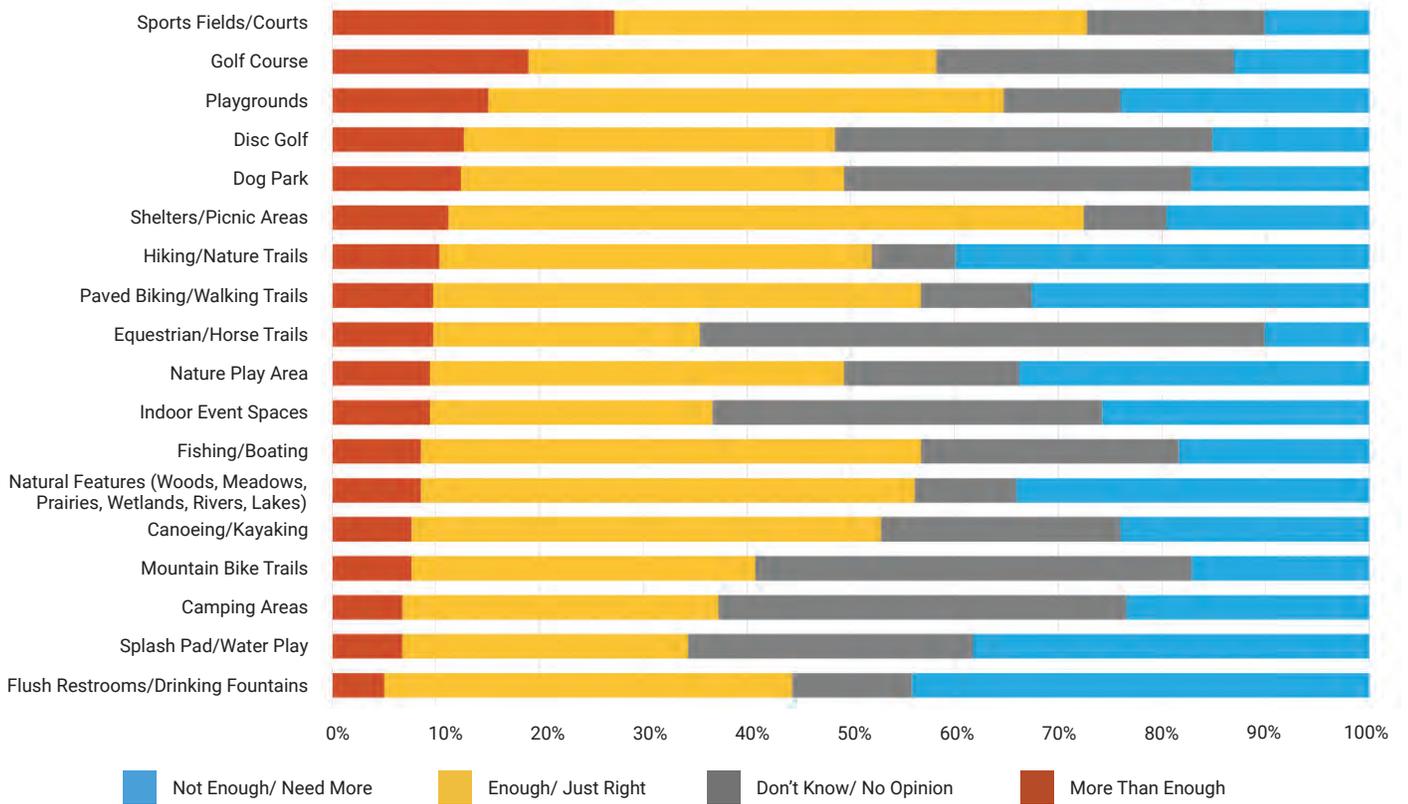
WCPD visitors believe the most important park benefits are **Contributions to Quality of Life** and **Physical and Mental Health**.



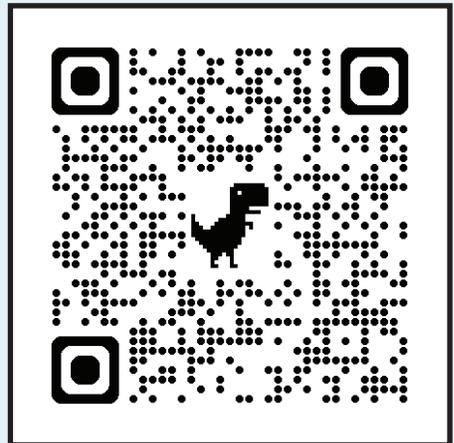
WCPD visitors would like more **Flush Restrooms/Drinking Fountains** and **Hiking/Nature Trails**.



Sports Fields/Courts and Golf Course were the two highest rated **“More Than Enough”** park features.



Strategic Plan Goal Topics

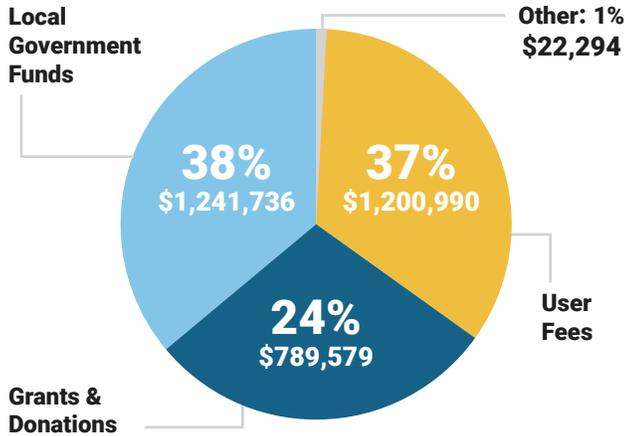


Scan this QR code for complete strategic plan details and progress updates!

Financial Overview

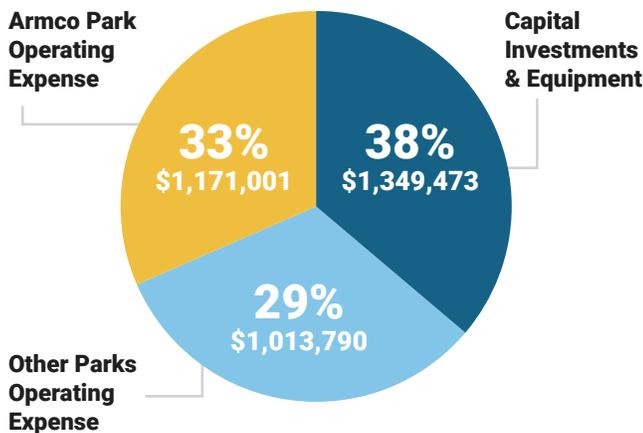
2024 REVENUE

\$3,254,599

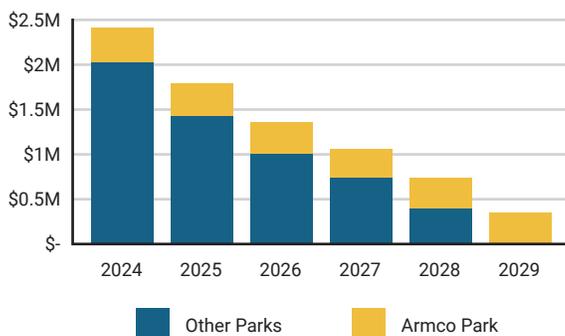


2024 EXPENSES

\$3,534,264



EOY PROJECTED FUND BALANCE



ANNUAL FUNDING COMPARISON

To other Ohio Park Districts serving similar population size



Did you know that Warren County Park District receives no direct local taxpayer funding? The Park District is grateful to receive a portion of the “Local Government Funds” returned to the Warren County Commissioners by the State of Ohio. Other funding sources we use include user fees for premium services, grants for capital improvements, and donations.

Thanks to the continued strong support of our loyal park customers, Armco Park paid for its own operations in 2024 (excluding capital improvements and equipment). All proceeds from Armco Park activities go into a dedicated fund that can only be spent at Armco Park. The Local Government Funds that the Park District receives are spread out to manage the 11 other parks in the Park District, leading to a distinct difference in the level of service provided between Armco Park and the rest of the Park District.

More than half of the Park District’s capital investments in 2024 were paid for using grants and donations.

The cost to operate the Park District, even at a minimal level of service, currently exceeds the revenue coming in. Within the next four years, additional funding sources will need to be identified in order to avoid drastic cutbacks and potential park closures.

Our 2024 Partners

SHARING RESOURCES AND EXTENDING REACH

Arrow Adventure

B&B Carryout & Diner

Blooms & Berries Farm Market

Buckeye United Fly Fishers

Cabela's/Bass Pro

Caesar Creek State Park

Cincinnati Nature Center

City of Lebanon Parks and Recreation

City of Mason

Countryside YMCA

Dayton Dragons

Deerfield Township Parks and Recreation

Franklin-Springboro Public Library

Friends of Warren County Park District

Groceryland

Hamilton Township Parks and Recreation

Heroes on the Water

Jamie Gabbard, Realtor

Lebanon Public Library

Little Miami Conservancy

Little Miami Watershed Network

Loveland Paddle Sports

Mary L. Cook Library

Mason Public Library

Miami Valley No Child Left Inside

Minuteman Press

North Pohl Farms

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Ohio Division of Wildlife

OSU Extension of Warren County

Otterbein Senior Life Lebanon

Our Open Home

PARK Run

Prickett's Barbershop

SAFE on Main

Salem Township Public Library

Scarlet Barn Antiques

Texas Roadhouse

Triple A Pro Services

Turtlecreek Township Fire Department

Union Village

Warren County 4H

Warren County Astronomical Society

Warren County Children Services

Warren County Post

Warren County Sheriff's Office

Warren Co. Soil and Water Conservation District

Warren County Solid Waste Mgt District

Wayne Township

Wayne Township Trustees

Waynesville Am. Legion Post #615

Women's Auxiliary

White Tails Unlimited Caesar Creek Chapter

Wild Birds Unlimited VOA and Springboro

MORE!

Visit [WarrenCountyParks.com](https://www.warrencountyparks.com) to explore potential partnership, volunteer, and sponsorship opportunities.



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PARK DISTRICT



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