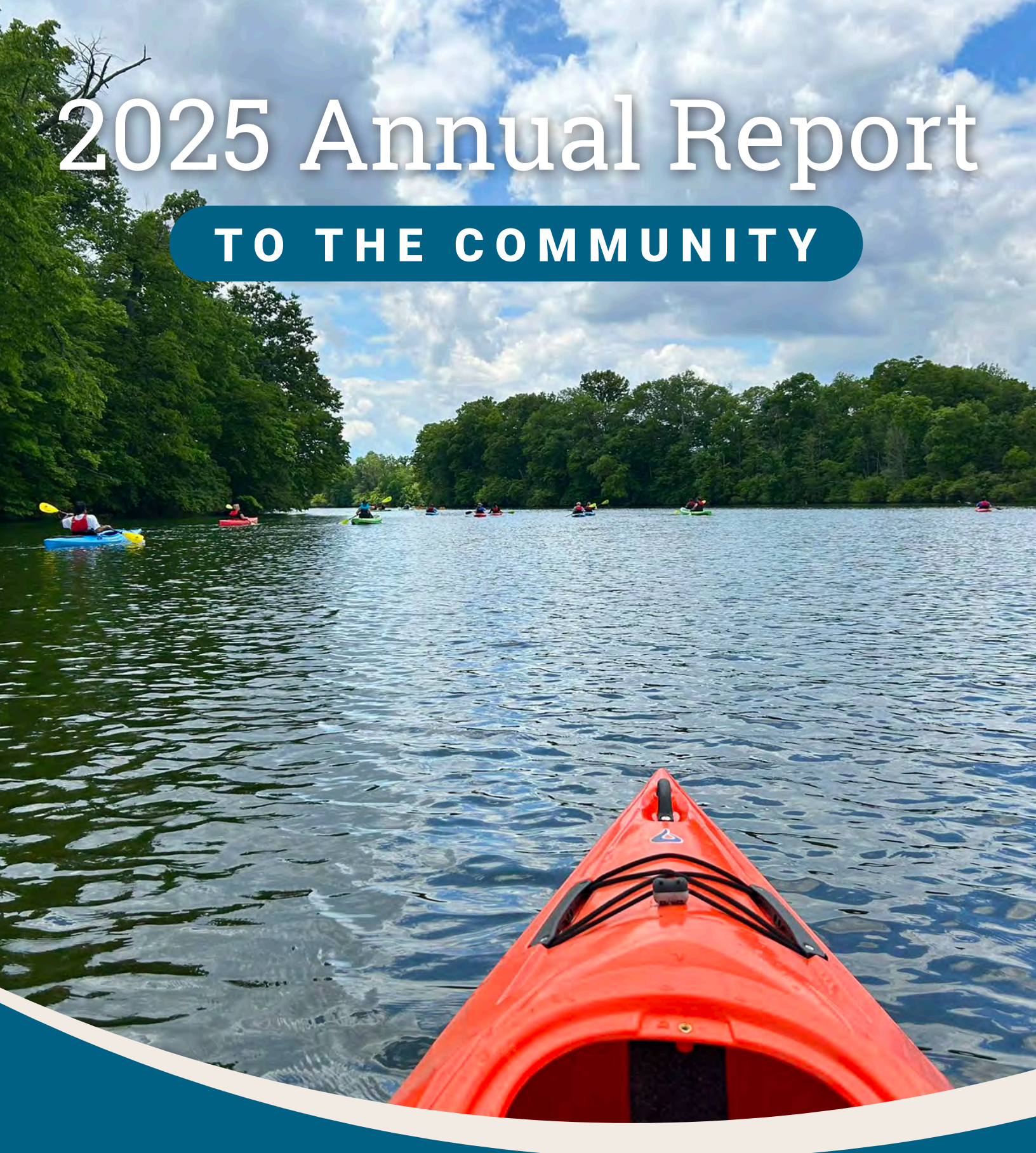


# 2025 Annual Report

## TO THE COMMUNITY



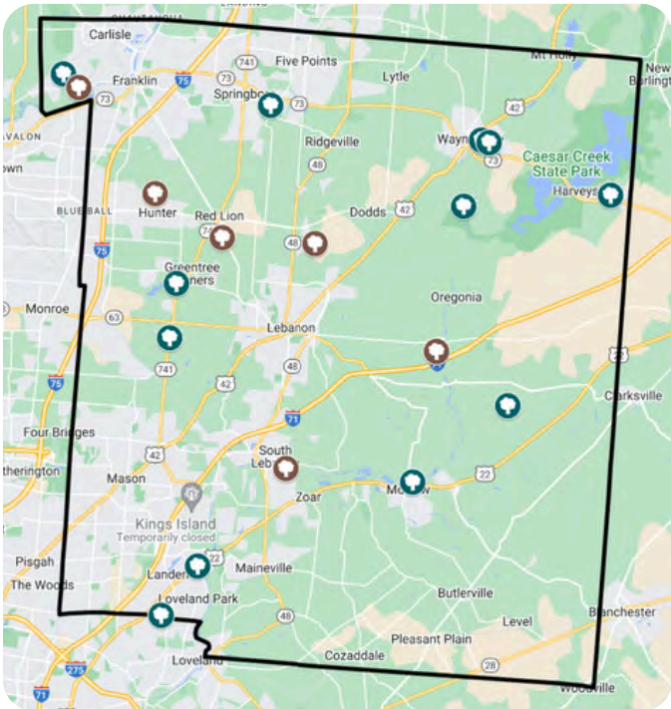
Warren County  
**PARK DISTRICT**  
Enjoy. Play. Preserve.



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

[WarrenCountyParks.com](http://WarrenCountyParks.com)  
[parks@warrencountyparks.com](mailto: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)*

## 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.

## OUR PARKS

### Armco Park

1223 N SR 741, Lebanon 45036

### Bowman Park

5870 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](http://WarrenCountyParks.com/Parks)**

# UC Economic Study

The Warren County Wild Collaborative's Outdoor Recreation Economic Study, conducted by the University of Cincinnati Alpaugh Family Economics Center, highlights the **powerful impact of outdoor recreation** in Warren County. The study shows:



**\$96.4 million**  
in annual economic activity



**> 1,100 jobs** supported



and a return of nearly  
**\$5** for every **\$1** invested

These results focus only on everyday use of parks, trails, and natural areas, and **do not include major attractions or athletic tournament venues.**

The study reinforces that investing in parks and trails not only delivers **real economic value**, but also positively impacts healthcare and infrastructure:



**\$6.6 million**  
in Physical Health Savings and  
Mental Health Benefits Combined

Outdoor activity supports both physical and mental health, **lowering healthcare costs** while **boosting well-being** and **overall quality of life** across the community.



**\$159.5 million**  
in Annual Infrastructure Savings

Outdoor recreation spaces help manage stormwater naturally, **easing strain on infrastructure** while **reducing flooding and sewer overflows.**

## Economic Impact Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Warren County

December 18, 2025  
Final Report

# Message from the Executive Director



“ From nature programs and community events to golf, fishing, and trails, our parks continue to deliver experiences that bring people together and improve quality of life.”

**2025** was a year of **strong momentum** for the Warren County Park District—marked by **growth, partnerships, and a clear vision** for what comes next. Across our 12 parks and more than 1,700 acres, we welcomed over **1.1 million visits**, highlighting the important role parks and trails play in everyday life. From nature programs and community events to golf, fishing, and trails, **our parks continue to deliver experiences that bring people together and improve quality of life.**

We also made **meaningful progress on projects that will shape the future of our park system.** At Landen-Deerfield Park, the Headwaters Restoration project is transforming outdated infrastructure into a natural stream and wetland system that improves water quality while creating new opportunities for recreation and education. Looking ahead, projects like the Armco Bark Park, Union Village Trail, and trail enhancements at Landen-Deerfield Park will expand access, strengthen connections, and reflect what our community values most—all made possible through **strong partnerships and smart investment.**

**Partnership is at the core of our success.** Through efforts like the Warren County Wild Collaborative and the Outdoor Recreation Economic Study, we are working with local governments, businesses, and nonprofits to **position outdoor recreation as a driver of economic growth.** At the same time, events like our first annual “Friendsgiving” highlight the impact of volunteers and community partners. Together, these efforts continue to strengthen Warren County’s identity as **Ohio’s Largest Playground.**

While we are proud of this progress, we are also looking ahead. **Our current funding model is not keeping pace with the needs of a growing and aging park system.** Without a sustainable solution, **difficult choices may be required** in the coming years that could affect service levels, maintenance, and access. At the same time, **the Outdoor Recreation Economic Study makes a strong case for investment**—showing that parks and trails deliver **real, measurable returns** for our local economy.

Our 2025 Strategic Plan gives us a clear path forward. Built with input from our community, it focuses on conservation, recreation, education, and connectivity. **With continued support from our partners and community leaders, we are well-positioned to build on this momentum** and create even more opportunities for Warren County residents and visitors to enjoy meaningful outdoor experiences.

Happy Trails,

**Matt Latham, Executive Director,  
Warren County Park District**

# Board of Park Commissioners



*Pictured left to right: Joseph Kirby (Warren County Probate Judge), Chris Hice (Member), Benjamin Yoder (President), Wendy Monroe (Vice President), Matt Latham (Park District Executive Director)*

The Warren County Park District is guided by a three-member, all-volunteer Board of Park Commissioners, appointed by the Warren County Probate Judge and serving staggered three-year terms. The Board provides oversight of policies, finances, and key initiatives while setting a clear, forward-looking vision for the organization. Through their leadership, the Park District remains focused on **responsible stewardship, strategic growth, and delivering lasting value to the community.**



## THANK YOU LARRY EASTERLY!

At the end of March 2026, longtime Park Director and Chief of Operations Larry Easterly retired from the Park District. We are grateful for his 25 years of dedicated service to the community!



**THANK YOU FOR VOTING ARMCO PARK  
AS THE BEST PARK IN WARREN COUNTY**  
in the 2025 Best of Warren County Awards, conducted by the Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

# Updates & Improvements



## HEADWATERS RESTORATION

at Landen-Deerfield Park

The Headwaters Restoration at Landen-Deerfield Park transforms a former three-acre pond into a **natural stream and wetland system** that **improves water quality in the Little Miami River watershed**. Backed by nearly **\$1 million in state and federal funding**, the project creates new opportunities for **nature play, recreation, and environmental education**. By replacing aging infrastructure with a natural system, it reduces flood risk, improves wildlife habitat, and lowers long-term maintenance costs—ensuring a more resilient and engaging park experience.

**Opening:** Summer 2026

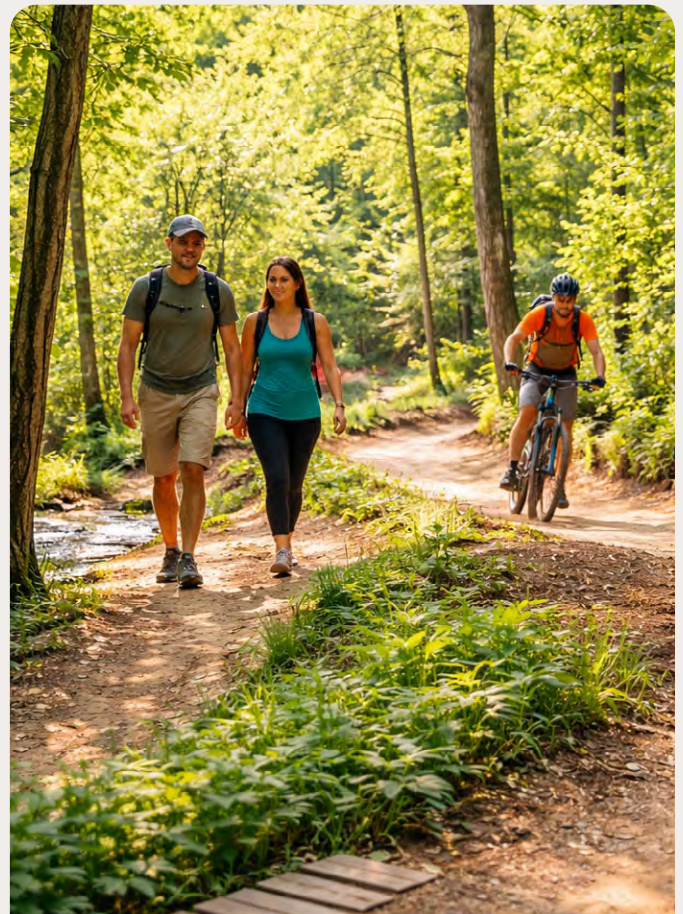
## LANDEN-DEERFIELD PARK

Natural Surface Trail Enhancements

The Landen-Deerfield Park Natural Surface Trail Enhancements project will modernize the park's trail system, **improving experiences for hikers, runners, and mountain bikers** while protecting natural resources. By addressing erosion, improving drainage, and realigning outdated segments, the project will **increase durability and reduce maintenance**. Additional improvements include habitat restoration, simplified trail routes, and upgraded wayfinding for a **safer, more accessible experience**.

The project is supported by collaborations with Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance, Ohio Trails Partnership, and is funded by a **grant from the State of Ohio**.

**Construction Start:** Summer 2026



April 18, 2025

Armco Bark Park  
Vision Plan



## ARMCO BARK PARK

The Armco Bark Park is a **community-driven project** to create a 1.4-acre, fenced off-leash dog park—**funded entirely through donations and partnerships** at no cost to taxpayers. Developed with the Friends of Warren County Park District and the Warren County Kennel

Club, the park will include separate areas for small and large dogs, accessible paths, and shaded seating.

**Construction Start:** Summer 2026



## UNION VILLAGE TRAIL

The Union Village Trail is a **partnership project** connecting Armco Park, Otterbein SeniorLife, and Union Village with a new **0.8-mile paved multi-use trail** along State Route 741. **Supported by grant funding** and local partners, the trail will improve safety, expand access, and support healthier, more active lifestyles. It also lays the groundwork for future **regional trail connections**.

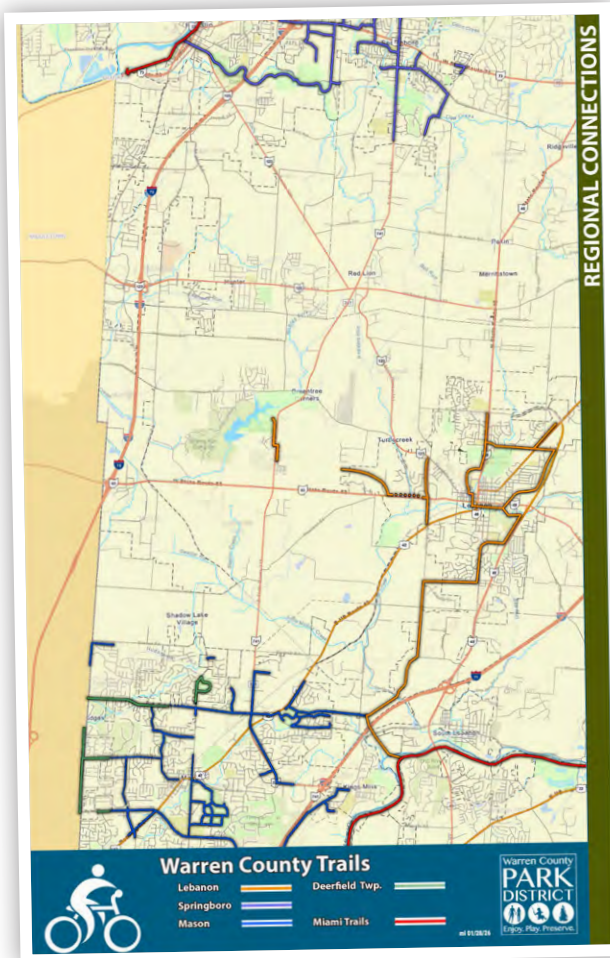
**Construction Start:** Summer 2026

# Partnerships

## WARREN COUNTY WILD COLLABORATIVE

The Warren County Wild Collaborative is a **growing alliance** of businesses, nonprofits, & local governments working together to **position Warren County as a premier outdoor recreation destination**. Built on a shared belief in the value of our parks, trails, and natural spaces, the Collaborative focuses on coordinated promotion, partnership-driven investment, and **expanding outdoor recreation's role in the local economy**. Together, these efforts are helping reinforce Warren County's reputation as **Ohio's Largest Playground**.

To learn how to get involved, email us at [parks@warrencountyparks.com](mailto:parks@warrencountyparks.com)



## WESTERN WARREN COUNTY MULTI-USE TRAIL STUDY

The upcoming Western Warren County Multi-Use Trail Study will plan a new bicycle and pedestrian trail corridor **connecting Warren County's three largest cities—Mason, Lebanon, and Springboro—and linking them to the Great Miami River Trail and Little Miami Scenic Trail**. It will evaluate route options, gather public input, and estimate costs so the project can be **well-positioned for future grant funding**. By improving connections, the project will **support tourism, strengthen local businesses**, and expand transportation options.

**The study is funded by** a partnership of Warren County Park District, the cities of Mason, Lebanon, and Springboro, and the Warren County Engineer.

## FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

### FRIENDSGIVING

In November 2025, the Park District hosted its first “Friendsgiving” event at Armco Park to **celebrate the volunteers and partners** who make our work possible. In 2025 alone, these efforts contributed **855 volunteer hours and supported more than 7,700 program attendees**. The event brought partners together to share ideas, build relationships, and preview upcoming projects—highlighting the **critical role of community support** in advancing our mission.

### FRIENDS OF WARREN COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

The Friends of Warren County Park District is a **volunteer-led nonprofit** that supports and enhances Park District programs, projects, and events. Through fundraising, advocacy, and hands-on volunteer efforts, the Friends help **expand opportunities** across the park system.

**Community members can get involved by** donating, volunteering, or becoming a member. **For more information**, visit [fwcpdoh.org](http://fwcpdoh.org)



# Nature Education Program Highlights



**Nature Education Programs** are one of the most powerful ways the Park District **connects people to the outdoors**. From young children to lifelong learners, these experiences inspire curiosity, build confidence, and **create lasting connections to nature**. In 2025, several standout programs delivered **meaningful impact** across our community.

The **Cops and Bobbers Summer Kickoff** has grown to over 400 participants—doubling since 2022. This event **brings youth together with first responders** for a fun and memorable fishing experience. For many participants, it's their first time fishing—creating **lasting memories and positive community connections**.



**Tech-Free Tuesdays** continue to be a signature offering, encouraging families and individuals to **unplug and reconnect with nature**. These programs provide simple, welcoming opportunities to **explore nature without screens**—through activities like guided hikes, nature play, and informal exploration. These opportunities **help children and families find balance** in an increasingly digital world.

The **Library Program Series** expands the Park District's reach by **meeting residents where they already are**—within local library branches across the county. These nature-themed story times **bring nature education into community spaces**, allowing us to offer these experiences year-round.




**Toddler Treks** offer **sensory-based outdoor experiences** for young children and their caregivers. These programs **enhance early childhood development** by creating **positive early experiences in nature**, fostering long-term connections to the outdoors and supporting the next generation of environmental stewards.

**Together, these programs highlight the Park District's role as both a steward of natural spaces and a catalyst for meaningful outdoor experiences.**

# Community Impact

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

 **855** Volunteer Hours\*

 **46%** Increase from 2024

Equivalent Dollar Value **\$27,719**


## SPORTS

 **1,026** Softball League Players

 **4,694** Youth Sports Participants


*Not including Armco Park Softball Complex tournaments.*

## VENUE STATISTICS

 **26,563** Golf Rounds Played

 **5,703** Fishing Passes Sold

 **1,432** Boat Rentals

 **765** Shelter Rentals

## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

 **134** Nature Education Programs

 **7,720** Attendees

## VISITATION

 **1,113,400** Total Park District Visitor Occasions

 **584,300** Armco Park Visitor Occasions

 **235,000** Landen Deerfield Park Visitor Occasions

*\*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*

# Our 2025 Partners SHARING RESOURCES & EXTENDING REACH

American Heritage Girls

B&B Carryout

Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's

Blooms & Berries Farm Market

Caesar Creek State Park

Cincinnati Nature Center

Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance

City of Lebanon

City of Mason

City of Springboro

Deerfield Township

Duke Energy Foundation

Franklin-Springboro Public Library

Friends of Warren County Park District

Girl Scouts USA

Heroes on the Water

Hometown Marketplace

Jamie Gabbard, Realtor

LCNB National Bank

Lebanon Public Library

Little Miami Conservancy

Little Miami Watershed Network

Loveland Paddlesports

Mary L Cook Library

Mason Public Library

Miami University's Project Dragonfly

Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside

Minuteman Press

North Pohl Farms

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Orienteering Cincinnati

Otterbein SeniorLife of Lebanon

ParkRun

Prickett's Barbershop

River Dogs Paddlesports

Rocknoll Energy

SAFE on Main

Salem Township Public Library

Scarlet Barn Antiques

Scouting America

State of Ohio

Stubbs-Conner Funeral Home

Texas Roadhouse

Turtlecreek Township Fire/EMS

Union Village

University of Cincinnati

Warren County Astronomical Society

Warren County Children Services

Warren County Commissioners

Warren County Engineer

Warren County Foundation

Warren County OSU Extension

Warren County 4H

Warren County Kennel Club

Warren County Post

Warren County Sheriff's Office

Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District

Warren County Solid Waste Management District

Warren County United Way

Warren County Wild Collaborative

Wayne Township Trustees

Waynesville American Legion Post #615 Women's Auxiliary

Whitetails Unlimited

Wild Birds Unlimited of West Chester and Springboro

& More!

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

# Strategic Plan Update



**Adopted in 2025**, the Strategic Plan provides a **clear, community-driven roadmap** for the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Warren County. Built through extensive public input, the plan outlines priorities for conservation, recreation, education, and connectivity—ensuring the Park District continues to meet community needs, enhance quality of life, and **position Warren County as a great place to live, work, and play.**



## GOAL 1: CONSERVATION

**Become a recognized leader in the conservation and stewardship of Warren County's natural and scenic resources.**

- Enhance the ecological and wildlife habitat value of Park District lands while maintaining an appropriate balance of recreational opportunities.
- Identify priority areas for conservation and/or restoration and acquire land from willing sellers.
- Preserve and restore headwater streams and wetlands to improve the region's water quality.
- Regularly convene and facilitate representatives of park providers, land trusts, and related organizations serving Warren County to coordinate regional conservation, preservation and restoration efforts.



## GOAL 2: RECREATION

**Provide a variety of opportunities for relaxation and recreation in the great outdoors.**

- Provide a variety of outdoor recreation experiences across the park system, while retaining and refining the unique identity, character, and purpose of each park within that system.
- Improve access to outdoor recreation experiences for all users by providing improved comfort facilities, signage, wayfinding, parking, and trail access.
- Enhance access to outdoor recreation experiences for guests of all ages and ability levels.
- Maintain and enhance public safety in the Park District so that residents and visitors can comfortably access outdoor recreation opportunities.



## GOAL 3: EDUCATION

**Increase understanding and appreciation of the county's parks and natural areas.**

- Expand nature education opportunities and spread those offerings to parks not currently being served.
- Develop outdoor adventure programs to introduce people to nature-based recreation activities.
- Raise awareness of program offerings in Warren County by cross-marketing opportunities provided by community partners that are aligned with the Park District's mission.
- Expand education opportunities to residents in areas where the Park District lacks a physical location.
- Create nature education opportunities outside of the traditional scheduled program framework, which could include interpretive signage along trails or the use of digital apps.
- Regularly convene and facilitate representatives of park providers and related organizations serving Warren County to coordinate and fill gaps in nature education programming efforts.



# GOAL 4: CONNECTIVITY

**Develop a connected network of green space and non-motorized trails, including land-based trails, water trails, and habitat corridors.**

- Provide access to public green space, land-based trails, water trails, or WCPD program offerings within a ten-minute drive of every county resident.
- Increase utilization of existing trails through improved mapping, signage, wayfinding, and marketing.
- Connect to larger regional networks, facilitating tourism through multi-day trail excursion experiences.
- Collaborate with partners to quantify and publicize the economic impact of trails.
- Collaborate with partners to market the County's trail offerings to local and regional audiences.
- Collaborate with state, local, and nonprofit partners on a regional approach to trail planning, funding, maintenance, and management.



# GOAL 5: COMMUNITY

**Bring people and organizations together to build community and achieve common goals.**

- Leverage the county-wide reach of the Park District to facilitate collaboration and partnership between jurisdictions and organizations, fostering a regional approach to parks, trails, and programming.
- Design programs, partnerships, and events that engage new audiences and park user groups while promoting inclusion and combating social isolation.
- Market the parks as welcoming spaces where people can gather, interact, and build community by providing a shared environment for activities, social events, and casual encounters.
- Build partnerships with organizations that deliver programming on natural resources, public health, and arts and culture. Collaborate to cross-market those programs that align with the Park District's mission.
- Emphasize parks as spaces that enhance physical and mental health for people of all ages, and promote mission-aligned activities that support improved health.
- Pursue increased volunteerism as a community-building activity that can deliver multiple benefits for parks, trails, and green space.
- Increase awareness and relevancy of the Park District and the value it brings to the community.
- Conduct ongoing market research to refine goals, improve services, and evaluate outcomes.
- Subject to funding availability, develop and implement a community grants program to support improvements to park spaces operated by municipalities, townships, and mission-aligned non-profits consistent with the Park District's mission.



# GOAL 5: OPERATIONS

**Build an exceptional organization to ensure positive park experiences for all guests.**

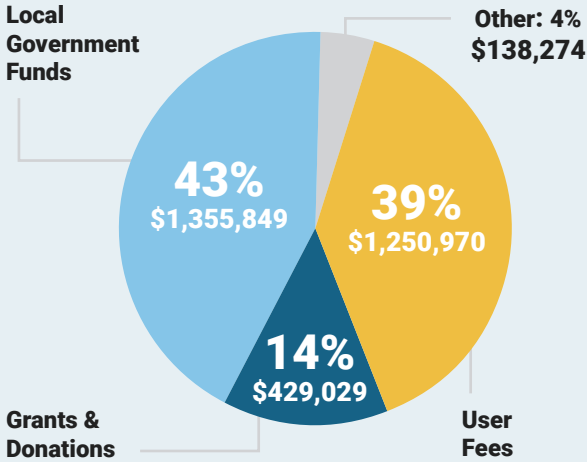
- Deliver a consistently high standard of park maintenance and appearance.
- Ensure that park facilities remain functional and relevant in a changing world.
- Drive efficiency and sustainability.
- Make Warren County Park District a great place to work.
- Develop a diverse and sustainable funding strategy that demonstrates fiscal responsibility.



# Financial Overview

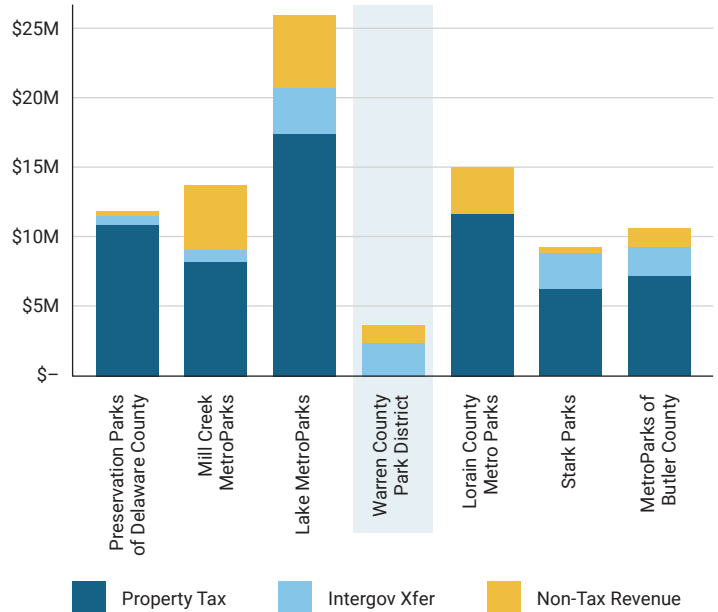
## 2025 REVENUE

**\$3,174,122**



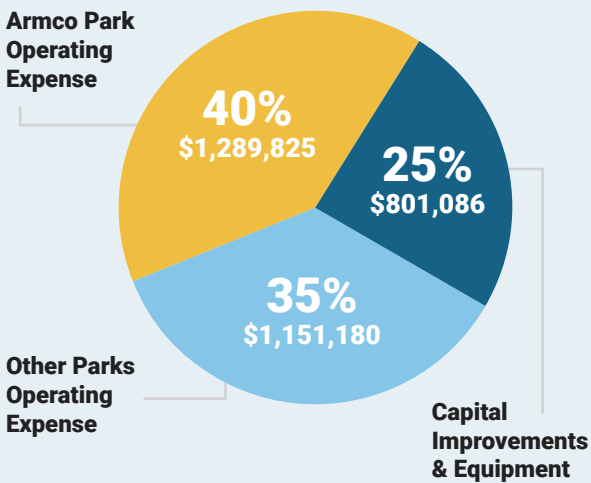
## ANNUAL FUNDING COMPARISON

To other Ohio Park Districts serving similar population size

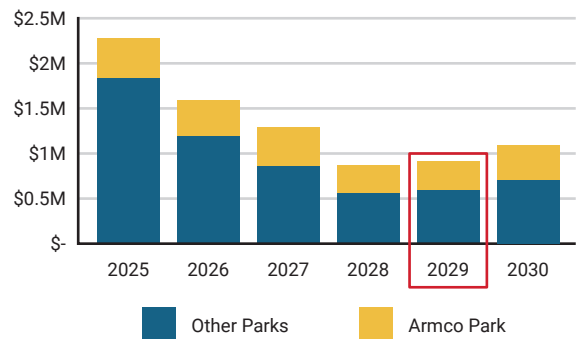


## 2025 EXPENSES

**\$3,242,091**



## EOY PROJECTED FUND BALANCE



In 2029, significant service reductions, including park closures, will be needed to achieve a balanced budget if new funding is not identified.

**Did you know that Warren County Park District is the largest park district in the State of Ohio (by population served) without a dedicated property tax levy?**

The Park District's primary public funding comes from Local Government Funds distributed by the State of Ohio through the Warren County Commissioners, supplemented by user fees for premium services, grants, and donations. **This approach continues to create challenges in keeping pace with the park system's operational needs.**

**Armco Park remains a strong example of a fee-supported model in action.** In 2025, revenues generated from golf, boating, tournaments, and facility rentals once again covered almost all day-to-day operating costs, with those funds being restricted for use within Armco Park. **Across the rest of the system, however, Local Government Funds must be spread across 11 other parks—resulting in a limited level of service and fewer amenities.**

**Grants and partnerships continue to play a critical role in sustaining progress.** External funding supports a significant share of capital improvements, helping the Park District reinvest in facilities while preserving operating dollars for basic maintenance and services. **Even with these efforts, the gap between ongoing costs and available revenue continues to grow as assets age and costs increase.**



Looking ahead, financial projections show that **without a new, sustainable funding source, the Park District will need to make significant service reductions by 2029 to maintain a balanced budget.** This would likely include consolidating operations into just a couple of parks, resulting in the closure of most other sites due to the need for reduced staffing and maintenance.

Continuing to preserve and enhance the **quality, accessibility, and community value** of Warren County's parks and trails—including their role in supporting local **economic activity, tourism, and workforce attraction**—will depend on aligning long-term funding with the reality of what it takes to maintain a regional park system serving a growing county of over 250,000 residents.





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