



Annual Report 2010

Acquire, preserve, and develop natural areas for passive recreation, conservation, education, and nature appreciation.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Financials	3
Park-Wide Highlights	4
Trails & Facilities	
Parks	5
Completed Trail Construction Projects	6
Trail Maintenance	6
Planting	6
Completed Surveys	6
GIS	6
Grants	8
Programming & Special Events	
Programs	10
Participants	10
Distance Learning and Web Statistics	11
Camps	12
Aquatics	12
Internships	12
Congressman Ralph Regula Canalway Center	12
Exploration Gateway	12
Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center	13
Volunteering at Stark Parks	14
Safety in Stark Parks	15
Exceptional People of Stark Parks	
Employee of the Year	18
Employees of the Quarter	18
Outstanding Volunteers	18



# FINANCIALS

Park Levy	3,864,843	50.76%	Personnel & Fringes/Operating	2,775,660	36.45%
Intergovernmental Reimbursements	109,142	1.43%	Capital Projects		
State Government Shared Revenue	16,080	0.21%	Trails	517,349	6.79%
Carryover from 2009	708,691	9.31%	Exploration Gateway (EG)	51,441	0.68%
Public Utility Tax	40,176	0.53%	Magnolia Flouring Mills	153,158	2.01%
Grants			Molly Stark Park	104,815	1.38%
Federal (Save Americas Treasures)	100,671	1.32%	Equipment	73,988	0.97%
Federal (Institute of Museum/Library Services)	12,221	0.16%	Land/Related Exp	53,687	0.71%
Federal (OECA)	25,426	0.33%	Miscellaneous Departmental	12,260	0.16%
Federal (Department of Transportation)	35,433	0.47%	Supplies	246,033	3.23%
State (OEMA/Department of Public Safety)	13,884	0.18%	Utilities	277,235	3.64%
State (ODNR)	133,089	1.75%	Purchased Services	353,413	4.64%
State (Department of Development)	92,433	1.21%	Payment on Note	2,400,000	31.52%
Marinas & Magnolia Flouring Mills	133,387	1.75%	Interest on Note	41,811	0.55%
Lily Pad	16,258	0.21%	Sales Tax	8,518	0.11%
Rentals and User Fees	41,501	0.55%	Special Events/Projects	55,823	0.73%
Rentals and User Fees -Exploration Gateway	17,782	0.23%	Carryover into 2011	489,305	6.43%
Fines and Forfeitures	89	0.00%			
Gifts and Donations	14,069	0.18%	2010 Expenditures	\$7,614,494	100.00%
Note Sale Proceeds	2,200,000	28.89%			
Investment Income	865	0.01%			
Royalties	20,982	0.28%			
Special Projects	330	0.00%			
Miscellaneous	17,141	0.23%			
2010 Revenues	\$7,614,494	100%			



# STARK PARKS 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Stark Parks was voted “Best Place to Spend Time with Your Family” and “Best Outdoor Recreation Site/Park” in the annual contest sponsored by the Canton/Stark County Convention and Visitors Bureau – for the fourth year in a row!

Stark Parks received the 2009-2010 Center for Interactive Learning & Collaboration (CILC) Pinnacle Award for Distance Learning! This award, presented annually, is based on teacher evaluations submitted through the CILC website and recognizes outstanding performance by a content provider. Other recipients were NASA’s Kennedy Space Center, The Bronx Zoo, The Royal Botanical Gardens, and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Stark Parks received the Bronze Healthy Ohioans Award at the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association annual convention in Akron, Ohio.

The Ohio Lake Management Society gave Stark Parks an “Innovation in Lake Management” award for the Sippo Lake dredging project that took place 10 years ago. Continued monitoring over the last 10 years shows the dredging project has successfully restored Sippo Lake water quality and recreational use for the citizens of Stark County and the State of Ohio.



The Deer Creek Bridge and Mahoning Valley Trail opening ceremony was attended by 300+ community members and closed with a biking and walking poker run!

## PARK AND TRAIL MILESTONES

Fry Family Park, Pike Township—Phase 1 acquisition was completed with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant, with technical assistance from the Trust for Public Land.

Molly Stark Park, Nimishillen Township — The Phase 2 Environmental Assessment of Molly Stark Park property was begun by McCabe Engineering with a \$191,000 Clean Ohio Assistance Fund grant.

Deer Creek Reservoir, Lexington Township - Crews completed construction of 4.6 miles of the Mahoning Valley Trail, including a 260-foot pedestrian bridge and a 100-foot boardwalk.

Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail - Crews extended the trail from Route 212 to Shepler Church Avenue.



# TRAILS & FACILITIES

## TOTAL LAND IN 2010: 7,215.44 ACRES

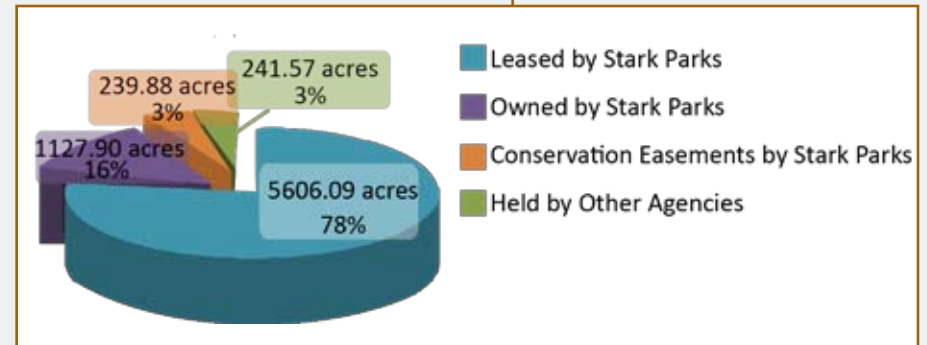
- 7,000+ acres of land, including 2,800 acres of hunting land
- 1,200+ acres of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs
- 70+ miles of hiking/biking and multi-use trail system
- 38 miles of equestrian trails

## FACILITIES

- Sippo Lake Administration Offices and Clubhouse
- Sippo Lake Marina with Rentals
- Exploration Gateway Facility and Education Offices - Includes Meeting and Banquet Rooms and Lily Pad Gift Shop
- Operations and Public Safety Building
- Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
- Magnolia Flouing Mills
- Walborn Reservoir Marina with Rentals
- East Side Operations Maintenance Building
- David Fichtner Outdoor Education Center
- 7 picnic shelters

## PARKS

- Cook's Lagoon (Canton)
- David Fichtner Outdoor Education Center (Hartville)
- Deer Creek Reservoir (Lexington Township)
- Devonshire Park (Jackson Township)
- Frank Esmont Park (Canton)
- Fry Family Park (Pike Township) – Not yet open to the public
- Lock 4 Park (Lawrence Township)
- Magnolia Flouing Mills (Magnolia)



- Molly Stark Park (Nimishillen Township)
- Ohio & Erie Canalway Park (Massillon; Canal Fulton; Navarre; and Lawrence, Jackson, Perry, and Bethlehem Townships)
- Petros Lake Park (Perry Township)
- Sippo Lake Park - East and North Entrances (Perry Township)
- Walborn Reservoir (Marlboro Township)
- Whitacre Greer Park (Sandy Township)



# TRAILS & FACILITIES

## COMPLETED TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

In 2010 crews completed...

- a ¾ mile Towpath extension along SR212.
- trail sections along the Mahoning Valley Trail, including the Deer Creek bridge. This 4+ mile trail links Alliance to Deer Creek Reservoir.
- one mile of the Iron Horse Trail in Alliance.
- grading and stone installation on ½ mile section within the Sanctuary and along the Hoover Trail in North Canton.
- over ½ mile of base stone installation on the West Branch Trail.
- an additional ½ mile of natural surface equestrian trails at Whitacre Greer Park.

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

In 2010 crews...

- evaluated the entire 24+ miles of Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath for immediate and future maintenance needs.
- started a substantial bank retention and access widening project on the Ohio and Erie Canal feeder. When completed this will allow dredging of the feeder and assist in future maintenance.
- installed a relief culvert at Crystal Springs along the Towpath to alleviate repetitive trail damage due to flooding.
- resurfaced trails in the Massillon area of the Towpath.
- continued hazardous tree removal.
- paved the Craig Pittman Park parking lot and trailhead.

## COMPLETED SURVEYS

In 2010...

- 93 species of birds were observed along the Towpath north of Lake Lucerne.
- duck blinds rentals totaled 102 days.
- 27.13 acres of wetland were mapped.

- 21 wood duck boxes were utilized.
- bluebird boxes located at Sippo, Petros, Fichtner, Walborn, and Molly Stark parks produced the following chicks:
  - 31 bluebirds;
  - 52 swallows;
  - 42+ wrens; and
  - 11 chickadees.
- water quality tests were completed at Sippo Lake, Walborn, and Deer Creek reservoirs.

## GIS

2010 planning included...

- the Cook's Lagoon dredging proposal.
- identification of ownership along proposed trail through Alliance.
- trailhead easement along the Iron Horse trail.
- the North Canton trail easement south of Hoover High School.

2010 maps created included...

- the annual Canalway Classic 5K route.
- the newly opened Mahoning Valley Trail.
- the addition of Portage County to the hunting zones.

## PLANTING

In 2010 Stark Parks:

- planted over 100 trees at various parks including:
  - 10 Crabapples (Devonshire Park)
  - 3 Cherry (Devonshire Park)
  - 3 River Birch (Devonshire Park)
  - 1 Buckeye (Devonshire Park)
  - 1 Magnolia (Devonshire Park)
  - 11 White Pine (Devonshire Park)
  - 1 Frazier Fir (Devonshire Park)
  - 1 Norway Spruce (Devonshire Park)



# TRAILS & FACILITIES



More than 40 boy scouts and family members joined in the 2010 tree planting ceremony during Earth Week.

- 7 Arborvitae (Devonshire Park)
  - 2 Dwarf Alberta Spruce (Devonshire Park)
  - 4 Norway Spruce (Exploration Gateway at Sippo Park)
  - 2 Hemlock (Exploration Gateway at Sippo Park)
  - 2 Frazier Fir (Exploration Gateway at Sippo Park)
  - 1 Hawthorne (Lock 4 Park)
  - 2 Elm (Lock 4 Park)
  - 2 Cherry (Lock 4 Parks)
  - 32 mixed varieties (Molly Stark Park)
  - 9 mixed varieties (Iron Horse Trail)
  - 24 mixed varieties (Mahoning Valley Trail)
- crews and program participants planted 400 trees in celebration of Earth Day at the Altman Property including:
    - 100 Winterberry Holly
    - 100 Serviceberry
    - 100 Black Walnut
    - 100 Choke Cherry



# GRANTS

Grants from the state and federal governments, charitable foundations, and businesses provide valuable financial resources that Stark Parks and Friends of Stark Parks use to expand programming, build trails, improve water quality, and preserve green space. These investments in recreational resources are earmarked for specific purposes by the grantors.

Grants funded in 2010...

A two-year, \$18,164 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ONDR):

- increased accessible boating programs;
- provided 6 “Introduction to Paddling” canoe and kayak classes
- provided 6 Ohio Boater Education Courses;
- bought 8 tandem kayaks, 16 paddles, 16 personal flotation devices, and 1 kayak trailer;
- certified staff to teach OBEC and American Canoe Association courses; and
- emphasized safe-boating messages.

A \$1,391 Summertime Kids grant from the Stark Community Foundation to the Friends of Stark Parks was used to provide a four-day nature education experience to 11 Alliance students ages 8-11 during which the students:

- learned team-building skills;
- designed and renovated a nature area next to their apartment building;
- hosted a reception for Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority staff, senior citizens, and the students’ families;
- made suet feeders for birds and concrete stepping stones with their handprints;
- assembled a picnic table and three park benches;
- planted a butterfly garden;
- installed a toad house, wind chimes, and solar lighting to attract bugs and toads; and
- purchased soil, seed starting kits, seeds and lighting so they can use an on-site green house to grow plants to enlarge their butterfly garden in 2011.

\$20,080 from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) funded a five-day workshop for nine teachers during which the teachers:

- visited North Appalachian Experimental Watershed in Coshocton and attended classes taught by Stark Parks and KSU staff;
- utilized the Freshwater Education for Sustainability course offered at Kent State University Stark campus;
- designed projects to make physical changes to their school sites that will improve water quality in their local watersheds;
- created classroom-specific teaching guides;
- interacted with content providers from the Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Stark County Educational Service Center, Kent State University Stark Campus, the MWCD, and Stark Parks; and
- participated in follow-up sessions to assess progress on their projects and exchange learning outcomes.

A \$191,629 Clean Ohio Assistance Fund grant from the Ohio Department of Development was used to conduct a Voluntary Action Program (VAP) - compliant Phase 2 Environmental Assessment and Asbestos Survey of Molly Stark Park.

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant for \$860,000 from the Ohio Public Works Commission and recommended by Stark County’s Natural Resources Assistance Council enabled the park district to purchase 130 acres of a 322-acre property outside East Sparta that will become the Fry Family Park.

A \$121,812 Severe Repetitive Loss grant was awarded from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to assist in removing a structure to restore .16 acre of flood plain in Lawrence Township.



# GRANTS

Stark Parks closed out grants totaling more than \$2 million from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the Clean Ohio Trail Fund of ODNR, and from the Stark County Bicycle Club that funded:

- the 4.6-mile Mahoning Valley Trail north of Alliance;
- a 260-foot free-span pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the spillway between Deer Creek and Berlin Reservoirs;
- a 100-foot boardwalk under Route 225 north of Alliance; and
- trail signage.

A \$121,000 Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant awarded to Stark Parks by ODNR that initiated construction of Phase 3 of the Hoover Park Connector Trail. The trail will extend the North Canton-area trail west from Marquardt Street in Plain Township through the Sanctuary housing allotment to Hoover High School, Dogwood Park and the city swimming pool, to downtown North Canton near the YMCA.

A \$197,058 Save America's Treasures grant from the federal government helped fund installation of a fire suppression system in the Magnolia Flouring Mill in 2010 and creation of a Mill Rehabilitation Plan in 2009.

A \$62,500 grant from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association. helped fund a .75-mile extension of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail from Route 212 to Shepler Church Avenue in Bethlehem Township.

\$1,500 from the Leonard C. & Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation to the Friends of Stark Parks was used to buy a children's playground frog for Lock 4 Park.

The following grants were awarded in 2010 and will begin in 2011...

A \$465,000 Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant from ODNR will connect 4.53 miles of the Plain Center Trail from Market Avenue east to GlenOak High School, Schneider Park, and Gervasi Winery.

A \$98,000 Housing & Urban Development grant and \$70,000 from Bethlehem Township will build a trail from Navarre-Bethlehem Park to the Towpath Trail YMCA in Navarre.

A \$308,729 grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission and recommended by Stark County's Natural Resources Assistance Council will help acquire easements along 1.5 miles of the Sandy & Beaver Canal to allow public access to the towpath.

\$877,025 from three federal grants will aid in the construction of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Tuscarawas River at the site of an historic aqueduct to connect the Stark County and Tuscarawas County sections of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

\$75,000 from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association will restore the feeder canal along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail near Lake Lucerne.

A \$3,300 Oxbow Animal Health Rescue Grant to the Friends of Stark Parks will construct a 10' x 10' wooden shed with a concrete floor at the Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Sippo Lake Park to store animal food, education materials, and supplies, and free up valuable space for caging wildlife patients.



# PROGRAMMING & SPECIAL EVENTS

## UNDERSTANDING PROGRAMS TYPES

Public Programs: offered to the general public such as hikes, animal, nature, cultural programs, and camps.

Special Events: large-scale public programs.

Requested Programs: curriculum-based education programs provided when requested by a group.

Distance Learning: programs conducted at park sites and viewed by an audience at another location.

Traveling Trunks: portable programs that are loaned to organizations to conduct classes using Stark Parks lesson plans and materials.

## PROGRAMS

746 programs and special events

This is an 8% decrease from 807 programs in 2009.

## PARTICIPANTS

36,301 participants

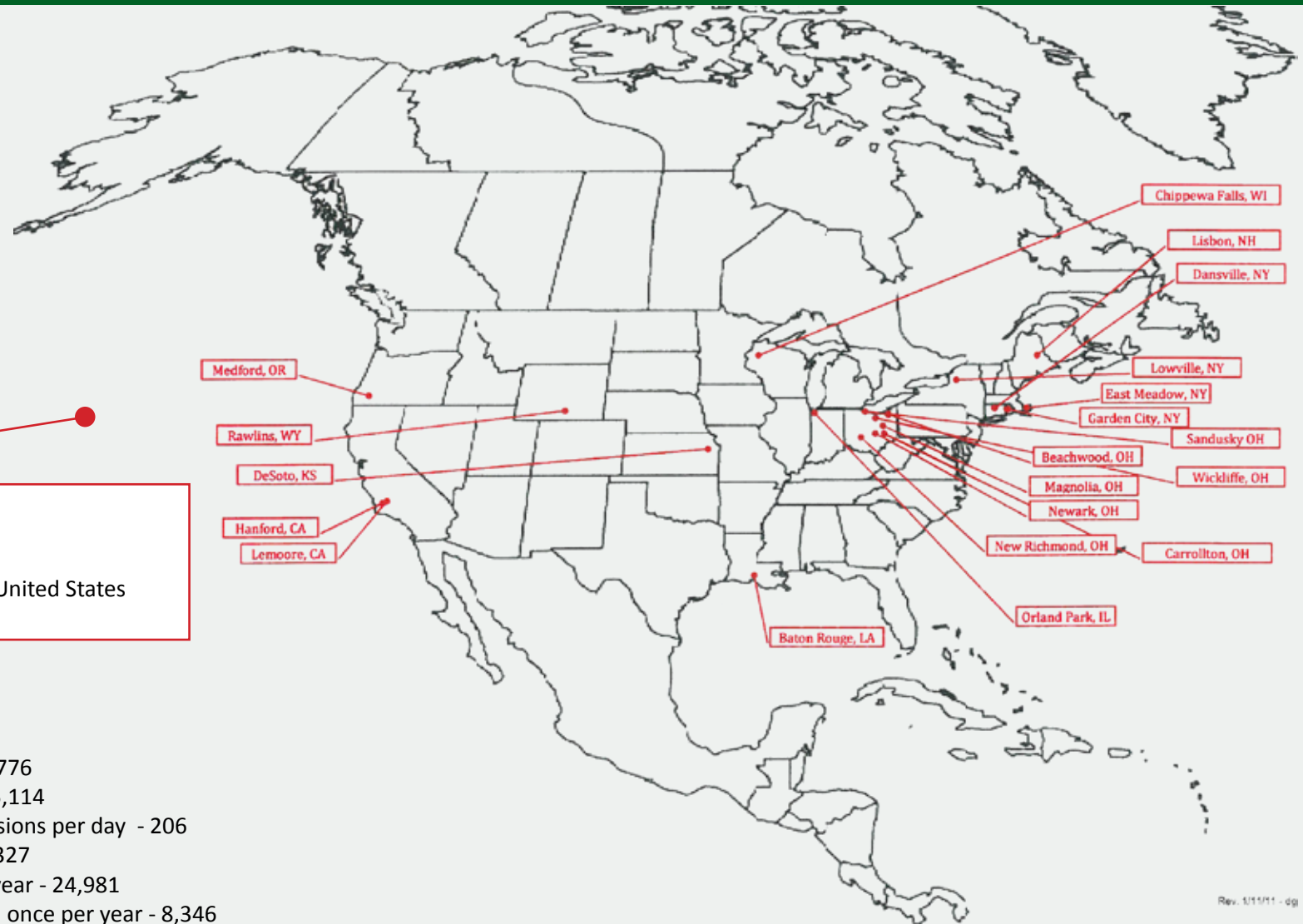
This is a 9% decrease from 39,985 participants in 2009.

The programs and special events noted below are a combination of efforts by all four departments of the Stark County Park District.

Month	Public		Requested		Distance Learning		Booths		Traveling Trunks	
	# Presentations	# Participants	# Presentations	# Participants	# Presentations	# Participants	# Presentations	# Participants	# Presentations	# Participants
January	15	293	19	870	1	6	12	400	1	100
February	12	209	9	375	2	199	5	85	3	215
March	16	1,230	25	1,174	0	0	3	150	2	25
April	34	1,195	33	873	5	604	5	137	4	45
May	27	1,002	79	2107	7	240	6	382	6	620
June	27	990	10	373	2	204	2	65	6	530
July	35	1,166	28	867	8	287	0	0	10	307
August	31	1,471	13	497	2	169	0	0	2	60
September	46	8,960	33	771	2	210	3	70	1	50
October	28	2,824	35	755	2	525	4	141	6	231
November	22	453	17	774	7	281	0	0	1	62
December	17	321	12	253	0	0	3	100	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>20,114</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>9,687</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2,245</b>



# PROGRAMMING & SPECIAL EVENTS



**DISTANCE LEARNING**  
46 classes  
2,725 participants across the United States

## WEB STATISTICS



- Average page views per day - 776
- Number of visits per year - 75,114
- Average number of visitor sessions per day - 206
- Unique visitors per year - 33,327
- Visitors that visited once per year - 24,981
- Visitors that visited more than once per year - 8,346
- Unique visitors per day - 91
- Average visits Per visitor - 2.28
- Most active hour of the day - 1pm to 2pm
- Most active day of the week - Monday

Rev. 1/15/11 - dg



# PROGRAMMING & SPECIAL EVENTS

## CAMPS AND RETREATS

NEW!   
NEW! 

- Nature Rangers (ages 4-7) 11 classes
- Junior Rangers (ages 8-12) 6 classes
- Adventure Camps (ages 9-16) 4 camps
- Beginning Archery Camps (ages 8-16) 4 camps
- Adult Archery Camp (ages 18+) - 1 camp
- Wild Outdoor Women Retreat (women only) - 1 retreat

## AQUATIC

- Two certified American Canoe Association courses
- Family Canoe & Kayak classes
- Spring Splash canoeing, kayaking
- Ohio Boater Education Courses - 95 participants

## INTERSHIPS

Four interns from 4 local universities served a total of 657 hours.

## CONGRESSMAN RALPH REGULA CANALWAY CENTER

2,242 visitors toured the Congressman Ralph Regula Canalway Center. Guided tours were presented to school groups and local agencies. Self-guided visits were comprised of individuals and families. This is a 7% increase from 2009's 2,096 visitors!

## EXPLORATION GATEWAY

34,454 visitors entered the Exploration Gateway. This is a 19% increase from 29,052 visitors in 2009. [It does not include the total number of visitors from the library, which totaled 153,819 in 2010.]



**WOW**

Women enjoyed a weekend retreat exclusively for “Wild Outdoor Women” ages 18 and older, with a variety of programs including canoeing & kayaking, fishing, nature art, music, archery, survival skills, campfire building and cooking, wildlife education, pilates, yoga, and a relaxing spa and massage! They learned outdoor skills while connecting with other women.

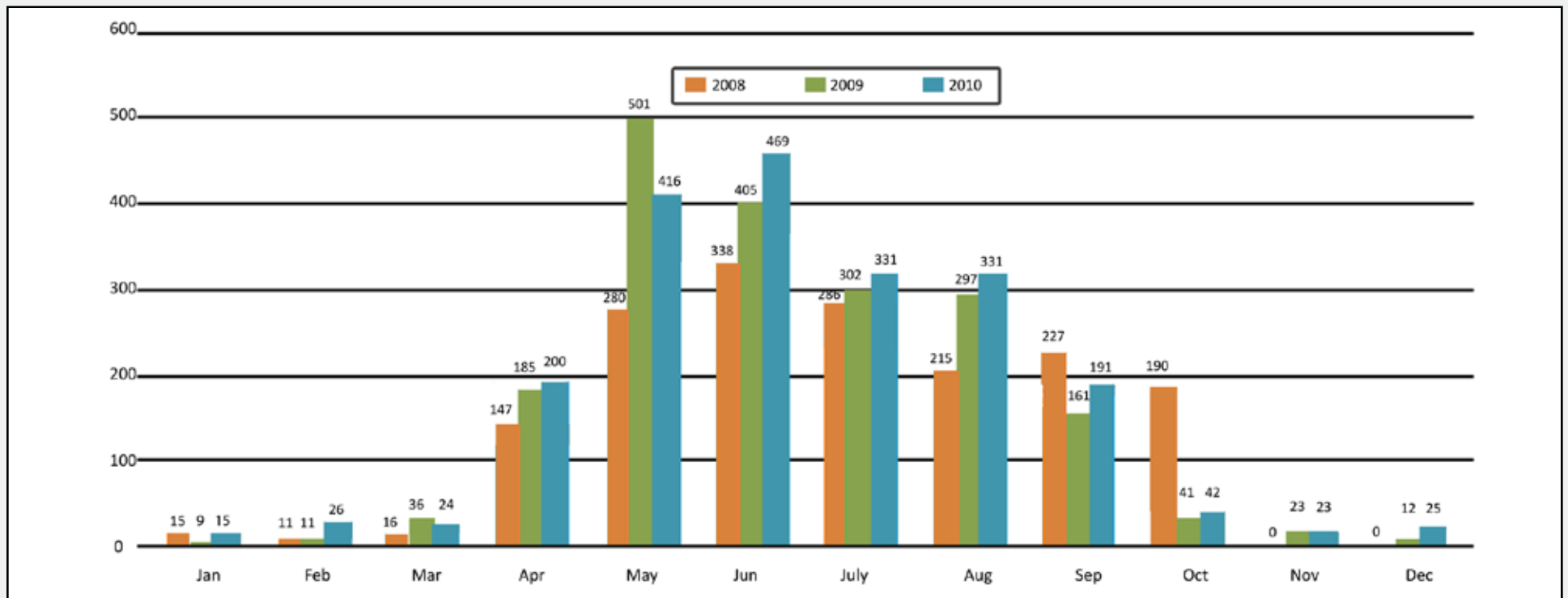


# SANDERS WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER

## INTAKE

The Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center cared for 2,096 animals - a 4.9% increase from 2009's 1,997 animals! The center had a release rate of 59% in 2010 compared to 60% in 2009 - higher than the national average.

NOTE: These numbers represent individual animals received during each four-week period.



# VOLUNTEERING AT STARK PARKS

## HOURS DONATED BY VOLUNTEERS

In 2010, 244 volunteers served 7,798.25 hours compared to 2009 with 583 volunteers serving 10,300.56 hours. This is a 6.4% decrease in volunteers with 24% decrease in hours.

Six volunteers worked 356 hours in the Lily Pad Gift Shop raising \$1,780 to go towards the wildlife rehabilitation building fund!

## MONEY SAVED

According to the Independent Sector - the leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs committed to advancing the common good in America - an hour of volunteer service in 2009 was valued at \$20.85 per hour. This makes the total value of Stark Parks' volunteering \$162,593.51.

This money is the equivalent to approximately:

- 54 family-fun programs and events OR
- 5 full-time employees (based on the average Stark County wage of \$30,470)



Stark Parks volunteer, Larry Gorman, helps one of the children who participated in the Summertime Kids grant. This four-day nature education experience included Alliance students ages 8-11.

# SAFETY IN STARK PARKS

## ALARM ACTIVATION

37 alarm activations in 2010

This is a 26% decrease from 2009 - 50 activations

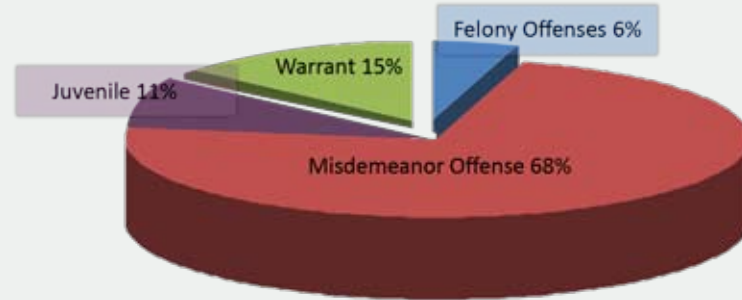
Sippo Lake Maintenance P/S 0%  
 Sippo Lake Maintenance Bldg #2 0%  
 Sippo Lake Maintenance Sm. Bldg #1 0%  
 Timken Gatehouse 0%



## ARRESTS

66 arrests in 2010

This is a 260% increase from 2009 - 23 arrests



## LICENSE INSPECTIONS

4,569 license inspections in 2010

This is a 2% decrease from 2009 - 4,659 inspections

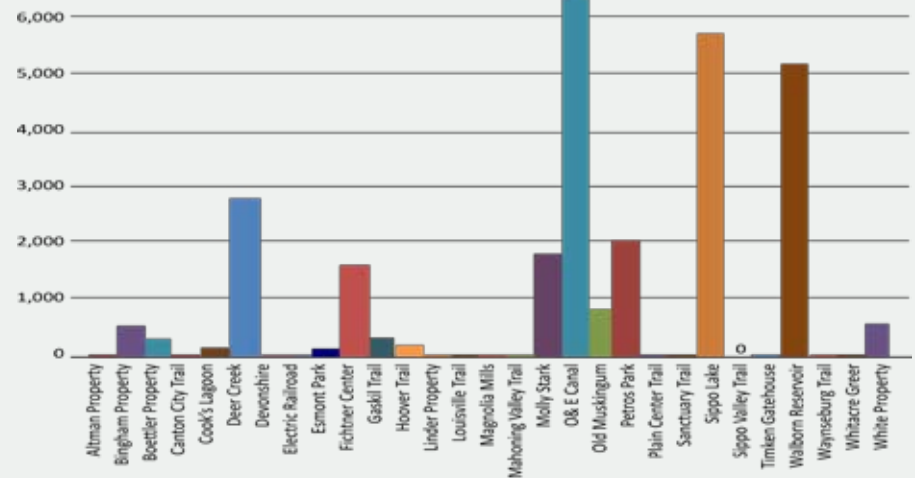
Fishing:	4,529
Hunting:	23
Trapping:	0
Watercraft:	17

## DETEX / PATROL OF PARKS

Detex indicates when a ranger has checked in at a site.

28,093 detex in 2010

This is a 3.5% decrease from 2009 - 29,086 detex



## INCIDENT REPORTS

152 incident reports in 2010

This is a 5% increase from 2009 - 144 reports



# SAFETY IN STARK PARKS

## EXPLORATION GATEWAY PATROL HOURS

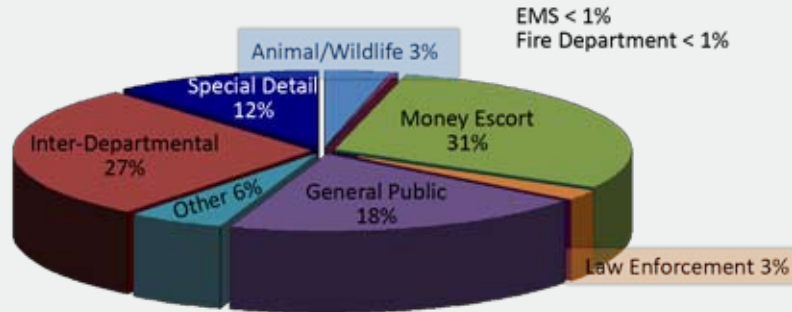
592 hours and 54 minutes in 2010

This is a 7% increase from 2009 - 552 hours and 47 minutes

## ASSISTANCE CALLS

2,011 assistance calls in 2010

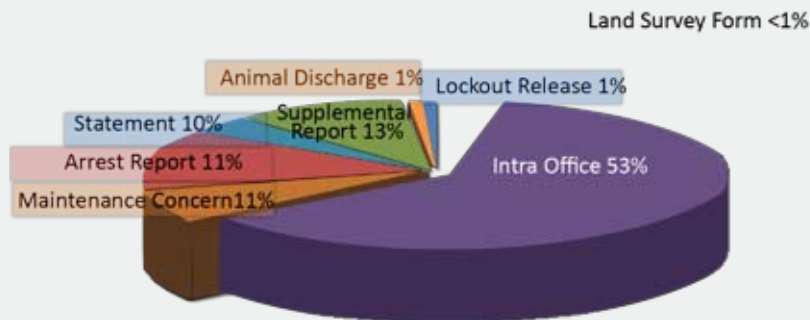
This is a 7% decrease from 2009 - 2,170 calls



## ADDITIONAL FORMS

438 additional forms in 2010

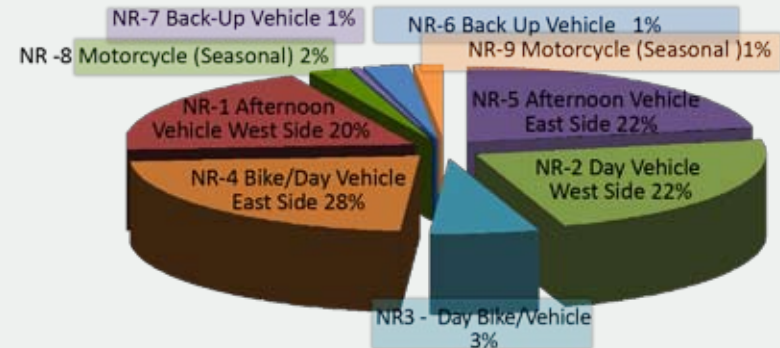
This is a 3% decrease from 2009 - 450 various



## MOTOR VEHICLE MILEAGE

144,340 miles in 2010

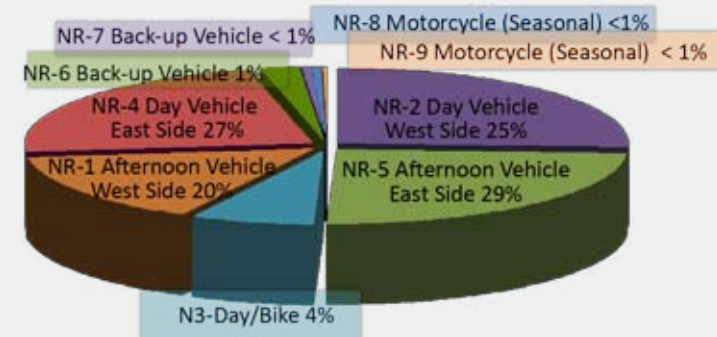
This is a 2% increase from 2009 - 141,661 miles



## MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL USAGE

9,320 gallons in 2010

This is a 1% increase from 2009 - 9,236.45gallons



# SAFETY IN STARK PARKS

## ALTERNATIVE PATROL METHODS

Miles - 313 total

Boat Patrol Miles not tracked

Bicycle Patrol 313

ATV Patrol 0

This is a 37% decrease from 2009 - 499 miles

Hours -30 hours and 58 minutes total

Boat Patrol 7 hrs. 34 mins.

Bicycle Patrol 23 hrs. 24 mins.

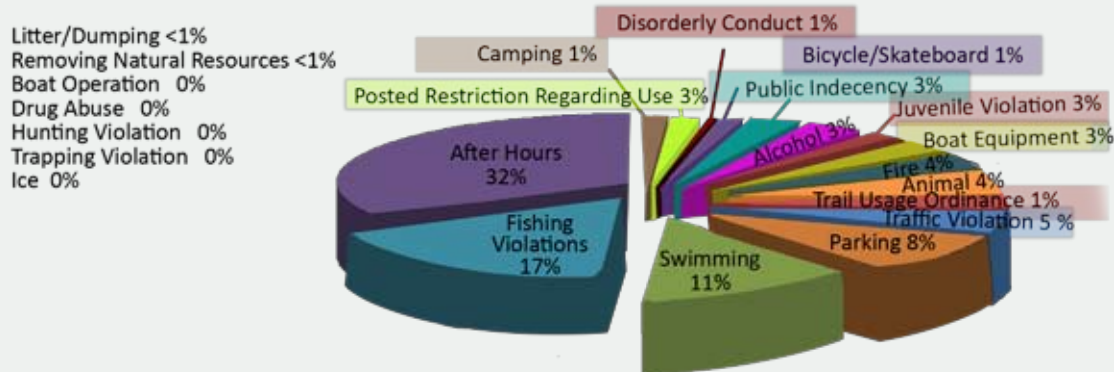
ATV Patrol 0

This is a 42% decrease from 2009 - 53 hours and 35 minutes

## VERBAL WARNINGS

342 verbal warnings in 2010

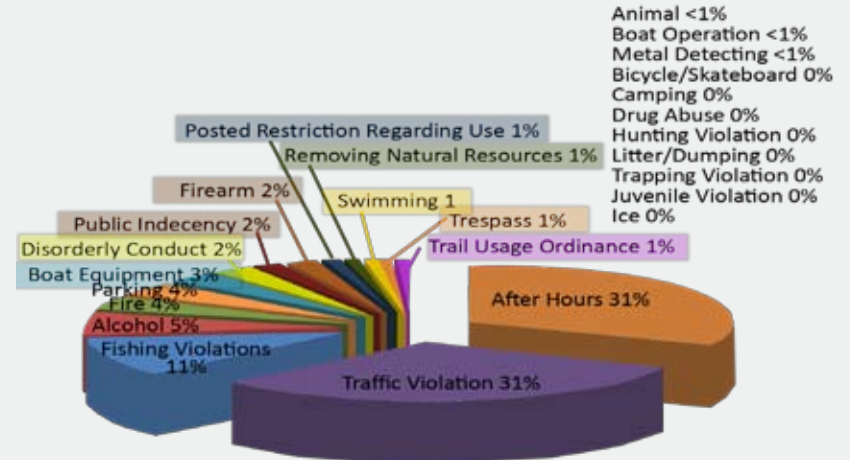
This is a 4% decrease from 2009 - 358 warnings



## WRITTEN WARNINGS

252 written warnings in 2010

This is a 177% increase from 2009 - 142 warnings



# EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE OF STARK PARKS

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Jared Shive, marketing assistant, was named Employee of the Year for 2010. A plaque with his name and photograph is displayed in the Education Department at the Exploration Gateway.

Jared began his career with Stark Parks as a marketing intern while still a student at Mt. Union College. After graduating he was hired to serve as a liaison between the Education and Marketing departments. His first assignment involved researching canal history and securing permission for use of various display elements for the Canalway Center.

Over the years his responsibilities began to expand park-wide. Jared has been a key component to the successful online and social media efforts. He has provided and maintained successful relationships with many local organizations and civic groups including the Louisville Rotary and Alliance Symphony Orchestra. He works diligently with the Perry Sippo Branch Library staff to provide Movie Nights at Sippo Lake and Molly Stark parks. Jared also serves as chair of the annual Family Fall Fest at Petros Lake Park. In addition, he plays an active role in the membership committee for the Friends of Stark Parks and worked tirelessly in his off hours during park levy campaigns. Jared is an exceptional representative of the Stark County Park District and a valuable community ambassador.

## EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

First Quarter - Kara Musser, Naturalist

Second Quarter- Aimee Engelhart, Marketing Coordinator

Third quarter- Gail Gollbach, Administrative Assistant

Fourth Quarter- Dick Schaffner, Ranger

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

### RETIRING PARK AND FRIENDS BOARD MEMBERS

JoLane Elson of Magnolia and Jeff Zellers of Hartville were recognized for their service on the Stark County Board of Park Commissioners. Both retired at the end of 2010.



Andy Leach of North Canton--Outgoing President of the Friends of Stark Parks-- Leach has been a member of the Friends of Stark Parks Board since 2003 and completed his second year as President in 2010.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Joe Sommer of North Canton--A former Stark County Commissioner and Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Sommer served on the first county park commission in 1967 and is now a member of the Friends of Stark Parks. The Sippo Lake Marina is dedicated to him. He was recognized for more than 40 years of dedicated service on behalf of the park district.



# EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE OF STARK PARKS

## COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD

Nickles Bakery of Navarre has had an enduring partnership with Stark Parks. As the major sponsor of the Friends of Stark Parks Canalway Classic 5K Run for 11 years, Nickles Bakery has provided more than 4,000 t-shirts and 8,000 loaves of bread to runners and volunteers, making the race profitable as well as one of the most popular events in the Ohio Challenge Series. The company also donates product for the Partners for Parks & Trails annual Chicken Dinner.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Andy Findlay of Canton began volunteering for Stark Parks more than 10 years ago as a Trailblazer. However this year he was recognized for taking the lead in constructing a new barn at the Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center on the west side of Sippo Lake Park. The barn provides valuable space for raptors and other injured birds brought to the Center.

## RISING STAR AWARD

Dawn Jones of Canton is a first-year Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution of both time and effort.



## WILDLIFE REHABILITATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Sandy Copen of North Canton took more than 40 raccoons, injured and orphaned, into her home in 2010 and is always willing to take “one more” to nurse it back to health for release.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Dale Zutavern of Canton has been involved with many Stark Parks programs and events and has made himself available even when the district calls him at the last minute!



## HEART OF STARK PARKS

Barberton Veterinary Clinic was recognized as an organization that significantly supports the park district through a major philanthropic donation. The Barberton Veterinary Clinic’s donations have exceeded \$36,000 in top notch medical care, medications, and service hours treating park district wildlife patients. Dr. Gary Riggs and Dr. Mike Selig own the clinic which is so important to the professional care provided to injured wildlife at the Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

