

1980 – 1989 PROGRESS CONTINUES

1980

- By the end of the year, 13 parks, preserves and sportsmen's access sites and historic sites total almost 200 acres under HPD management.
- Riverside Park Waterfront renovations begin with the first of five phases.
- A three acre Giertz Lake, funding provided as a gift from the Bessie Giertz Memorial Fund, was installed at Riverbend to provide additional outdoor activities.
- The old Greenmill Gardens (roller skating rink) at Riverside Park was replaced with a new a Waterfalls Pavilion for public rentals.
- Blue Rock became the first "Adopt- a-Park" venture with area service and garden clubs.

1981

- HPD's newest park, Blue Rock Nature Preserve, opens to the public with trails, woods, meadows and water.
- New Fit Trail is installed at Riverbend along with an Activity Center located right on Giertz Lake is made possible by numerous gifts, grants and donations.
- Hancock Parks Foundation is organized to support the parks system.

1982

- New Trailside Interpretive Center at Riverside is completed with volunteer help from eagle scouts and Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

1983

- Six acres (Butternut Farm) is transferred to the HPD from the City of Findlay located south of Riverbend. The house setting on the property is used for 24-hour protection at Riverbend and Findlay Reservoir Area.
- The city of Fostoria joins the HPD parks network and Sportsmen's Reservoir Access opens in Washington Township.
- Phase one of the renovated Heritage Trail opens along the river in Findlay.

1984

- Planning for the new Findlay-Blanchard River Bike Path begins.
- HPD acquires 75 acres (Oakwoods Nature Preserve) which surrounds a 9 acre Shank Lake southwest of Findlay after 2 ½ years of planning. A \$90,000 grant from the National Parks Service matched by local funds provided the acquisition, along with a \$5,000 grant from Hancor, Inc.
- Phase 2 of the Heritage Trail, Riverside Park to Downtown Findlay, begins with the approval of \$150,000 from the Ohio Department of Transportation.

1985

- Construction of Phase 2 of the Heritage Trail, 10' wide paved bike path, is completed and opened to help open up access and beautify the riverfront.
- New 10 year Outdoor Recreation Plan is completed bases on input from county park and recreation committees.

1986

- Voters approve HPD levy for continued park maintenance and improvements with approval of a new ten year, 0.5-mill levy.

1987

- Findlay-Blanchard River Bike Path and Downtown Riverwalk opens.
- Over \$417,000 in grant funds are secured for park projects and programs.
- HPD Headquarters 819 Park Street, Findlay under goes major renovation.
- Staff continues to grow with new horticulture, forestry and landscape crew organized with a full time horticulturist to help with land stewardship program.

1988

- Twenty three management areas are now the direct responsibility of the HPD, in addition to 10 villages and the Cities of Findlay and Fostoria with cooperative ventures for HPD to assist through various projects.
- 105 acres (Litzenberg Memorial Woods) is bequeathed to HPD, by the late Otta Litzenberg, to be the newest park area. Additional acreage, as part of the estate, will be forthcoming in future years.
- Exterior renovations of HPD Headquarters are completed.
- A Program Coordinator position is employed bringing programming to a new level with lots of new popular programs for "kids of all ages".

1989

- Clean up begins at Litzenberg along with trail work.
- Centennial Park opens with new fitness equipment center.
- Hancock Parks Foundation is created by area citizens to support the parks system. First Board of Trustees included: Jerry Staley, Bentley Burr, Kent Hampton, William Nolan, Barbara Hochstettler and HPD Director Tim Brugeman.