



Washington Township Annual Report



2004

Welcome



We hope you enjoy reading our first consolidated annual report of Washington Township. The old saying that “what is past is prologue” had sustained meaning for our township in 2004. The year was one of planning --identifying goals, prioritizing services, and determining how to leverage our resources to better deliver those services -- for the benefit of our residents and our community.

Our planning efforts included:

- Working with residents and neighbors concerning the future land use in the township, in the Hayden Run and Darby watersheds and in the U.S. 33 corridor between Dublin and Marysville.
- Planning to improve the delivery of solid waste, yard waste and composting services in Washington Township and other townships and municipalities.
- Expanding educational programs, safety and informational services to our community and staff.
- Designing a new township hall and fire training center.
- Taking a critical and strategic look at establishing goals and prioritizing our services, making our operations more effective and efficient, and protecting our community character as our township grows.

A summary of these efforts and our various services can be found in this report.

We look forward to working together with the community as we implement our plans to make Washington Township an even better place in which to work and live.

Sincerely,

Township Administrator

Boards and Commissions

Community Development Committee

Steve Krzykoski
Becky Sharp
Christopher Young
Chi Weber

Zoning Commission

Marvin Briskey
Landon Elswick
Tom Frazier
Walter Stilwell
Patrick Wilkerson
Shirley Walters, Secretary, ex-officio

Fire Appeals Board

John Bokros
Michael A. Boryca
Robert F. Buker
Roger A. Eastep
Richard Geers

Board of Zoning Appeals

Richard Kear
J. Anthony Logan
Harriet Jones
Margaret Haney
Bob Redett
Becky Princehorn, Secretary, ex-ex-officio

Land Use Steering Committee

Marvin Briskey	Ruth Reiss
Carson Combs	Becki Sharp
Edward Cooper	Tom Spring
Margaret Ann Haney	Walt Stillwell
Richard Kear	Janell Thomas
Denise King	Robert Weisenberger
Erin Prosser	Patrick Wilkerson

We have a new Mission

Orchestrate a safe, healthy, and exhilarating living experience for our community.

Board of Trustees

Gene Bostic
Denise Franz King
Kurt Proegler

Clerk

Joyce Robinson

Facilities

Township Administration

5965 Wilcox Place, Suite B

Fire Department Administration

6279 Shier Rings Road

Station 91	6255 Shier Rings Road
Station 92	4497 Hard Road
Station 93	5825 Brand Road
Station 95	5750 Blazer Parkway

Parks and Recreation Department

4675 Cosgray Road

Homestead Park

4675 Cosgray Road

Kaltenbach Park & Community Center

5985 Cara Road

Amlin Park

Corner of Cosgray and Rings Roads



Trustees (left to right) Denise King, Kurt Proegler, and Gene Bostic

The Township

Washington Township encompasses approximately 26.79 square miles of northwest Franklin County, southern Delaware County, and southeast Union County.

Washington Township was founded circa 1809-1810 out of portions of Darby, Franklin and Liberty townships. The town of Dublin, now within the township, was established on the west bank of the Scioto River in 1810, and remained a small village until the 1980s, when the Muirfield community was constructed by Jack Nicklaus. Since then, Dublin has grown to be the township's largest incorporated area with a residential population of over 35,000 and a daytime population of over 75,000.

Today, Washington Township encompasses parts of Franklin, Delaware and Union counties and spans three school districts: Dublin, Hilliard, and Jonathan Alder Schools.

The township provides the following services directly or through outside contracts or cooperative agreements: fire suppression and prevention, parks and recreation, zoning, solid waste collection, law enforcement, road maintenance, and snow removal.

Washington Township is governed by a board of three trustees, which sets policies and establishes services provided to the community. The Township Administrator directs day-to-day operations of non-emergency services offered by the Township. Administrative services include Legal, Human Resources, Information technology, Public information, Parks and Recreation, Roads, Zoning and Real estate.

The fire chief directs the operations for Fire & EMS, as well as public safety education and information, technical rescue services, and fire prevention.

Partners in the Community

The Township capitalizes on its proximity to many neighboring jurisdictions by developing partnerships and cooperative agreements which help to strengthen communication and enhance efficiency. Here are a few examples of 2004 partnerships.

Mercury Exchange

As one of 18 partners in the Mercury Exchange Program, the Washington Township Fire Department offered its stations and administration offices as drop-off sites for residents to bring mercury thermometers for safe disposal in exchange for a free digital thermometer. Collectively, program partners helped collect 3227 thermometers containing 63 pounds of mercury, of which 144 thermometers came from Washington Township.

Parks Brochure

Washington Township Parks and Recreation received the 2004 Ohio Parks and Recreation Award of Distinction for the creation of a new brochure, developed to promote visitation and facility rentals at the township's three locations. The brochure was a collaborative project with the Hilliard Convention and Visitors' Bureau, who offered funding to print the brochure and provided assistance in filling requests for information about township parks.

Trash Contract Consortium

Washington Township participated, with eight other local governments, in a consortium to negotiate the most competitive rate for trash removal, recycling, and composting for township residents. The price the township was able to secure, as a member of the consortium, was significantly lower than the price it could have negotiated alone. As a result of the contract, most residents also increased their level of service. The consortium was recognized with awards from the Solid Waste Consortium of Ohio and the Ohio City Managers Association for efforts to reduce the volume of solid waste entering the landfill and for intergovernmental cooperation, respectively.

Heart Safe Awareness

Fire Department personnel trained over 1200 residents of the public in CPR with AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) during 2004. Our CPR program continues to evolve with the inclusion of our Cooperative efforts to expand the Dublin City Schools AED Program. AEDs are user-friendly heart monitoring devices that are designed to be used by laypeople to assist anyone suffering from sudden cardiac arrest. The use of AEDs has been shown to increase a victim's survival rate because it provides advanced medical treatment until medical professionals arrive.

WTFD has currently trained over 90 school employees who can now help support our ongoing efforts to ensure that CPR and AED use is familiar to, and available for the citizens of the township.



Washington Township staff help make the community a better place.

Priority Signal Controls

Five Dublin intersections were equipped with priority signal controls (PSC), a system that will provide Washington Township Fire and EMS vehicles priority access at intersections by giving them a temporary green-light. The intersections that have the new PSC receivers are Avery and Shier Rings, Avery and Route 33 entrance ramp, Avery and Route 33 exit ramp, Avery-Muirfield and Perimeter Drive, Avery-Muirfield and Perimeter Loop, and Avery-Muirfield and Post.

PSCs have been shown to make intersections safer for both emergency personnel and civilians by stopping the traffic in all directions before the emergency vehicle approaches. They also facilitate quicker response times on emergency calls. The project was a cooperative effort between Washington Township and the City of Dublin, who shared in the purchase and installation of equipment.

Land Use Planning

Hayden Run

Washington Township continued to work with neighboring communities to strengthen protection of the Hayden Run stream and watershed, and pressed for good land use decisions among the municipalities. Members also include the cities of Columbus, Dublin and Hilliard, Franklin County and Brown Township.

Plan Update

The township also worked to update its 10-year-old Land Use Plan. A steering committee of residents and public officials met regularly with a planner to revise the plan which will drive implementation strategies and one of the strategic goals for the township in 2005. The plan will help guide the township Zoning Commission in developing mechanisms to strengthen the development code.

Darby Creek

Washington Township joined a regional consortium to hire a planner to help local governments within the Darby Watershed come up with enforceable land use measures to protect the watershed. Washington Township is participating with the townships of Brown, Norwich, Prairie and Pleasant; Franklin County, the cities of Columbus, Grove City and Hilliard; and the Village of Harrisburg.

U.S. 33 Corridor

Washington Township participated in exploratory meetings to discuss, collaborate, and make efforts to create a regional planning group to collectively plan for land use in the vicinity of U.S. 33. This major transportation artery is facing development pressures along the highway. Other members are the Cities of Dublin and Marysville; County of Union; the townships of Darby, Dover, Jerome, Mill Creek, and Paris; and the Village of Plain City.

Community Service

In support of helping make the community a better place, fire department staff supported a variety of causes by participating in the following events throughout the year:

- read to children at Dublin Schools and the Dublin Branch of the Columbus Public Library
- collected donations for the *Firefighters for Kids* toy drive and *Fill the Boot* for Muscular Dystrophy campaigns
- competed in the *Get Behind the Badge* charity football game to benefit families of police officers and firefighters killed or critically injured in the line of duty
- organized a raffle to benefit the Dublin Food Bank
- adopted two needy families for the holidays

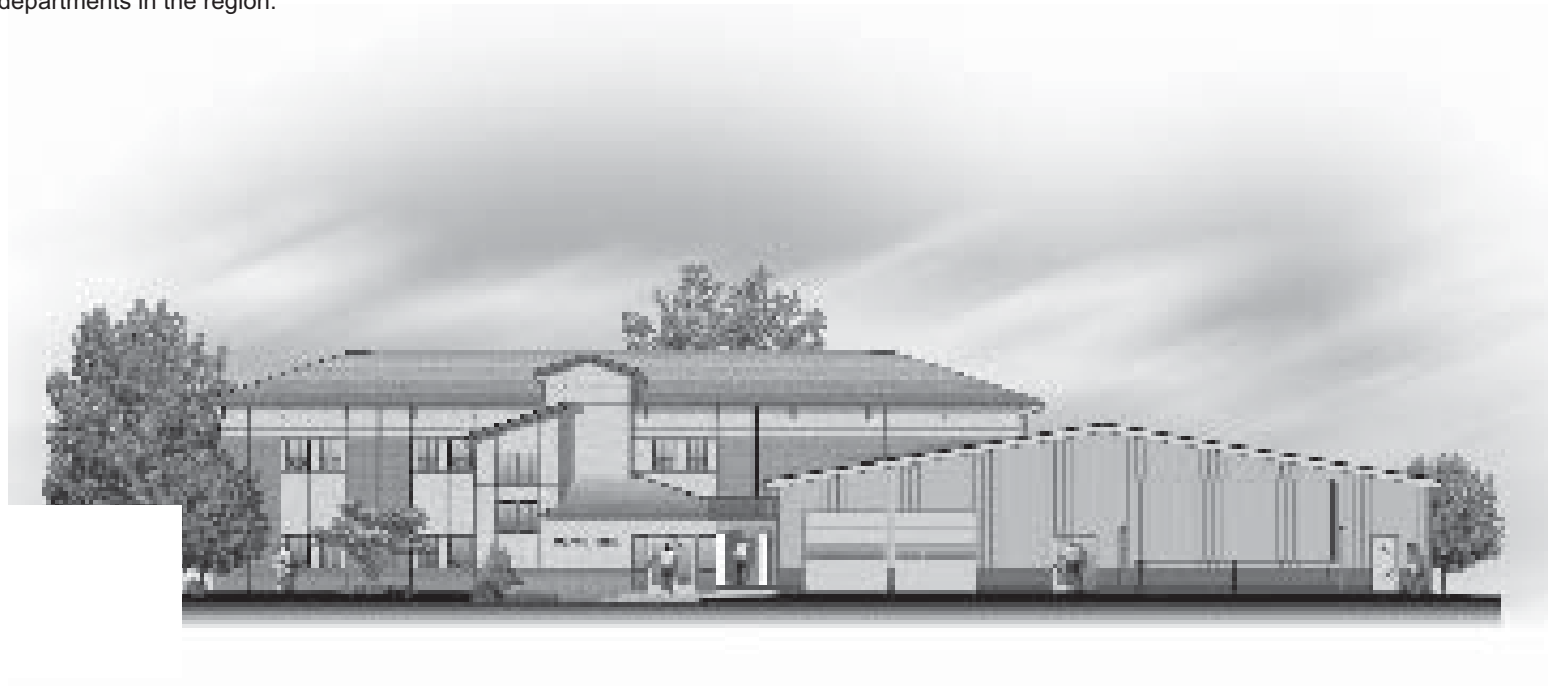
Looking toward the future...

Administrative Offices and Fire Training Facility

Washington Township sold a \$2.5-million bond issue for the purpose of remodeling a new government center that will house the township administration and fire department offices. The firm of Cole and Russell Architects was selected to develop plans and evaluate bids for the remodeling project for the building at 6200 Eiterman Road.

The Eiterman Road facility will enable Washington Township to consolidate offices, provide training space for employees and provide meeting facilities for the trustees, boards and commissions.

A design was selected and plans were approved for the construction of a fire training tower at the same site. This tower will enable the fire department to conduct training which simulates fire conditions without risking the health of our firefighters or polluting the environment. The new facility will also increase the amount and types of training the department can offer to other departments in the region.



Fire Department



The Fire Department operates from four fire stations which are strategically located to allow for rapid response to calls for assistance.

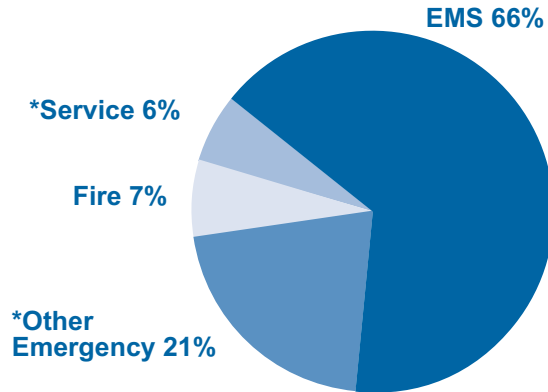
Fire services include suppression, prevention, investigation, emergency medical services, and safety and prevention education.

Education programs include utilizing the Fire Safety House, fire station tours, juvenile fire setter programs, CPR instruction, fire extinguisher training, car-seat safety inspections, EMS bicycle patrol, and bicycle safety programs. These programs are offered to local schools, businesses, the general public, and other professional fire organizations.

The Fire Department responded to 4,042 calls in 2004

Response Time

Response time is measured from the time the call is received from the dispatcher to the time the company arrives on the scene. WTFD response times are significantly lower than other departments with similar- sized service areas. The number of stations in the district and their strategic placement throughout the service area support our excellent response times, which are imperative for high quality emergency service. Average response time was five minutes, forty-one seconds, which is significantly lower than the national average.



* Other emergency calls are calls that cannot be classified as fires or medical calls such as vehicle accidents, fuel spills, gas leaks, open burning, smoke, false alarms, and mutual aid with other fire departments.

*Service calls include lock outs, foreign odors, trouble alarms, cancelled calls and the like.

Mutual Aid

year	# given	# received
2002	903	213
2003	475	220
2004	306	249

Annual Call Volume

2004	4042
2003	4243
2002	4363
2001	4586
2000	4299
1999	3472

The 5% reduction in the number of calls from 2003 to 2004 can be attributed to receiving fewer calls overall and 169 fewer mutual aid requests than in 2003.

Mutual Aid

Department	# provided	# received
Concord Township	13	15
Jerome Township	19	22
Liberty Township	22	38
Norwich Township	130	93
Pleasant Valley Fire District	31	2
City of Worthington	1	1
City of Columbus	87	72
Other	3	6
Total	306	249

Fire services include suppression, prevention, investigation, emergency medical services, and safety and prevention education.

Commercial Building Preplans

To ensure the rapid implementation of an effective firefighting plan or rescue, preplans are developed and/or updated annually for all commercial buildings in the township. Preplans are structural and content building inventories that serve as the department's detailed record of building parameters including exits, stairways, elevators, gas, water supplies, building construction materials, sprinkler systems, hydrants, storage areas, hazardous materials and more. Preplans help reduce firefighters' risk of injury by providing critical information about potential hazards. They also can help limit damage to structures when they facilitate rapid intervention which prevents a large-scale incident. Preplans were completed for 274 new properties this year, bringing the total number of preplans on file to 879 which is 88% of all commercial buildings in the Washington Township district.



Preventive Hydrant Maintenance

To help ensure that all water hydrants are in proper working order at all times, firefighters inspect, flush and/or pump all publicly-owned water hydrants twice a year. Flushing helps reduce sediment that could interfere with hydrant flow and is done in the spring. Pumping, which is performed in the fall, removes water that can freeze during winter months and damage the hydrant. In 2004, the total number of hydrants that received maintenance was 2,631, a 13% increase over last year.

Inspection Type	Number conducted
Fire protection system	140
New construction	275
Existing commercial structures	913
Re-inspections	1107
Residential home fire safety	10
Total inspections	2445
Total violations	3814

Emergency Medical Services Division

Training

Continuing education helps the department maintain a medical staff that is well-prepared and stays current on the latest fire suppression, prevention, rescue, and medical treatments and procedures. Being on the forefront of new technology and best practices has enabled the department to be a change agent for new initiatives which have proved to increase efficiency, staff effectiveness, and even encourage better performance of other departments. Much of the training that staff members complete is offered by our personnel who are certified in areas including Emergency Medical Services, Basic Life Support, Basic Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Basic Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Providers, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Structural Collapse, Fire Inspector, Fire, and Structural Collapse.





SimMan

As two-thirds of all calls answered by the fire department are medical emergencies, maintaining the most-prepared and highest qualified medics is a top priority for the department. A computerized simulated patient called SimMan is used to simulate both common and uncommon symptoms the medics can encounter on medical emergency calls. SimMan is a life-like patient that can be programmed to exhibit a wide array of symptoms, giving medics the opportunity to test their knowledge and skills and practice patient assessment skills they need to perform quickly. SimMan helps ensure that the medical care provided by all medics is consistent and complies with the department's policies and procedures set by on-staff physicians who specialize in adult and pediatric medicine.

MobilEMS

The EMS Division continued in its efforts to improve the capabilities of MobilEMS. In cooperation with the vendor, Clayton I.D.S., we were able to continue to reduce the number of paper documents produced. We accomplished this through the use of electronic forms.

Mark I

The EMS Division trained all line personnel on the use of MARK I kits. In response to federal, state and local mandates, the EMS Division, in cooperation with the Columbus and Metropolitan Medical Response System (CMMRS), placed Mark I kits on all of our front line vehicles. The kits are designed as antidotes for our use as well as for the public at large in the event of a nerve agent biological event. This program was fully funded by the CMMRS with training provided by the division.

Business Practices

After nearly three years of effort involving over thirty hospital, fire and EMS representatives, we were able to finalize efforts to allow hospitals to share patient-specific information with Central Ohio Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinators or their designees who serve in a formal oversight role of Performance Improvement (PI) at their EMS agency. This protocol between central Ohio hospitals and EMS agencies promotes the provision of vital feedback to local EMS providers so that optimal pre-hospital care is achieved in the region.

Child Car Seat Safety

Consultation, product recall check, and car seat placement and fitting are all part of this the free car seat safety check service, which is offered by appointment throughout the year. Car seat technicians, certified by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, educated parents and other caretakers on how to properly secure 306 car seats, a 66% increase from 2004. They also distributed 20 car booster seats and consulted with parents at the Family Safety Day to promote child car seat safety.



Fire Prevention Division



Fire Prevention Inspectors conducted 2445 inspections, the largest number the department has ever conducted in a given year.

Fire Investigations

Fire prevention members investigated twenty-four fires throughout 2004. Thirteen residential losses were the lowest in dollar cost in several years totaling only \$10,000. Eleven commercial losses were well under typical annual amounts until the December 23 Amanda Hall fire on Riverside Drive that totaled the structure at initial cost estimates of \$200,000. The total loss for all fires was \$263,100. This fire is still under investigation.

The largest residential fire occurred on Glenree Place in April and originated in a clothes dryer. At every fire, determining the fire origin and cause is important, regardless of whether the fire was intentionally set or deemed accidental in nature. Finding the fire origin and cause can have a significant impact on the community and public education efforts by the township.

Prevention Staff Certifications

Captain Perkins received certification through the National Fire Protection Association as a Fire Protection Specialist in May. This credential has been awarded to only 1,400 professionals worldwide and is internationally recognized as a mark of achievement within the fire protection field. There are currently only four other fire officials in the State of Ohio with the CFPS certification.

FIRELINE Fire Prevention Fact Sheet Series

A new fire prevention fact sheet series was initiated by the fire department in 2004 called FIRELINE. The educational fact sheets are available by request and currently cover 43 different fire prevention and safety topics. Examples of topics include arson awareness, candle safety, home fire hazards, kitchen fire safety and smoke alarm testing. Residents can request fact sheets by phone or pick them up at any of the four fire stations.

Public Education and Awareness

The township strives to provide comprehensive community fire and injury prevention programs that are designed to eliminate or mitigate situations that endanger lives, health, property, or the environment. The number of people reached through public education and awareness programs increased slightly from the previous year to 19,312. Outreach education is delivered in three formats: presentations, training, and awareness. Program presentations include fire station tours and classroom and business lectures. Training is delivered utilizing the Fire Extinguisher Tutor, Sparky's Safety House, the Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest, and CPR certification classes. Awareness programs include displays and printed materials distribution at special events such as station open houses and Family Safety Day.

Education Program Type	# of occurrences	# of youth	# of adults
Presentation	86	1741	418
Training	54	2690	963
Awareness	14	4050	9450

Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department provides facilities, programs, events, and services that offer environmental, economical, community, and individual benefits. Programs target youth, teens, adults, families and seniors.

The township operates a community center and three parks, Amlin Crossing, The Homestead, and Ted Kaltenbach, where the Community Center is located. Park acreage totals 60.5, on which there is a prairie, several ponds, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and paved trails.



Caboose Refurbished

Homestead Park, being located adjacent to the Heritage Rail Trail, has several park features that follow a railroad theme. One of these features is a caboose which was donated by Consolidated Rail Corporation in 1998 and moved to the Homestead Park in 1999. This year, the caboose got a face lift with exterior paint donated by Sherwin Williams and labor donated by RAW Painting. The interior of the caboose was also restored with help from a volunteer who is a railroad enthusiast. The completion and grand opening of the caboose is scheduled for July of 2005. The caboose will be open for tours during special events. Both educational and historic, this project supports the parks' mission of preserving the history of the township.

Program Type	#	# of Sessions	Attendance
Classes	18	39	313
Special Events	15	N/A	7160



Fun Fridays

A new weekly program feature called Fun Fridays was added in 2004. Each Friday highlighted a new event and brought many visitors to the park.

Activities included art projects, animal displays and demonstrations, safety demonstrations, sidewalk chalk mural contests, and races with Big Wheels. Fun Fridays complemented the free family entertainment held each Thursday evening in Eberhart Commons

Amphitheater. Entertainment included musicians, a magician, ventriloquist, and ice carver. Special events offered this year were Bunny in the Park, Touch a Truck, Punt Pass and Kick, Homestead Harvest and Santa Comes to Visit.



Play Area

An upgraded, ADA-compliant, accessible play area which contains features geared for preschool and school-age children was installed at Kaltenbach Park. Each area contains a large multi-component structure along with swings and other free standing features including a giant triple slide, infinity climber, lions head and big red car.

Prairie

Kaltenbach's prairie, which was established in 2001, was improved with interpretive signs. Enhanced with photos, these signs help educate visitors about the variety of plants, wildlife, birds, and insects visitors can see in the prairie. The 0.66 mile paved walking trail connects the community center to the prairie and meanders through acres of native trees and shrubs.



Bluebird Breeding Program

In 2004, our bluebird breeding program was enhanced at all of the park locations. Several old bluebird boxes were removed from The Homestead and new boxes were built by a local Eagle Scout candidate Mike Templeton. Ten new nesting boxes were installed at various park locations using National Bluebird Society guidelines. Each box is monitored throughout the breeding season to identify invasive sparrow activity, predation and nesting success of bluebirds or other desirable native species. Nesting activity at the parks will be recorded annually and reviewed to improve the program.

Park Visitor Statistics

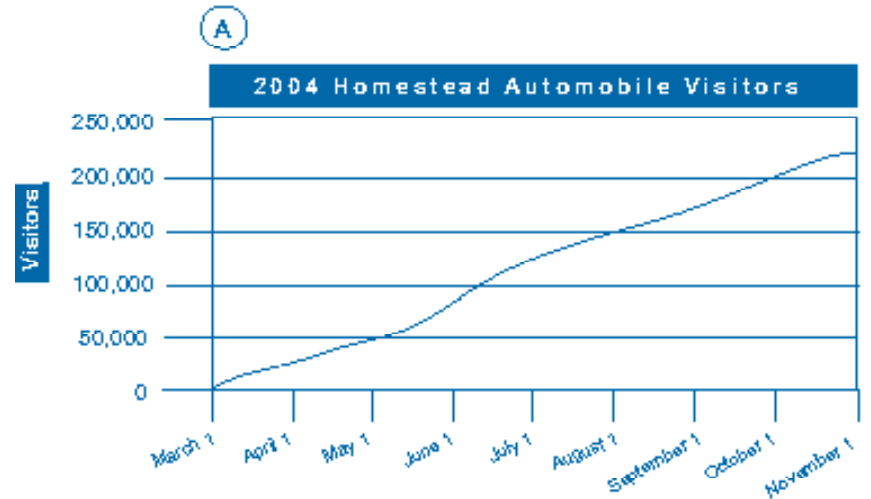
Collecting park visitor and facility use statistics is becoming increasingly critical as the demand for our park facilities increases. These statistics are used in conjunction with visitor surveys to predict future trends in visitation and assist in both short and long range planning. Decisions about programs, facility maintenance, and land purchases are impacted by how often, in what capacity, and when the parks are used.

The Washington Township Parks and Recreation Department installed a car counter at Homestead Park to establish a means by which to estimate visitation to the park could be estimated. An estimated 220,000 automobile visitors were calculated from March 1 to November 1, 2004 (see graph A) with the highest number of visitors occurring during the

months of May through August. Sporadic peaks of >5,000 visitors per week occurred in the spring and fall, which coincided with special events offered.

Those who visit in groups often take advantage of the opportunity to reserve rooms, shelters, the covered bridge, multipurpose athletic field or the amphitheatre. The number of groups requesting and reserving these facilities has continually increased with local residential growth. Reservations for facility use at The Homestead totaled 336 and have increased by 10% since 2001 (see graph B).

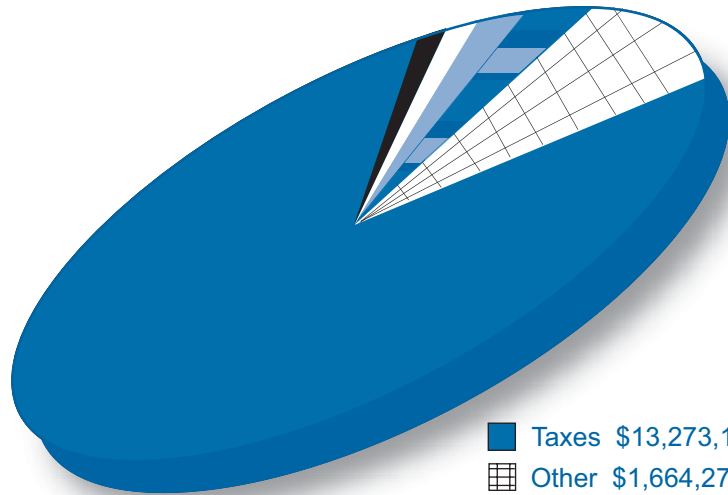
Community Center reservations totaled 142 and have increased by 45% since 2001. These figures do not include annual contracts with the local YMCA, who uses some facilities daily during some months.



Our mission: to orchestrate a safe, healthy, and exhilarating living experience for our community

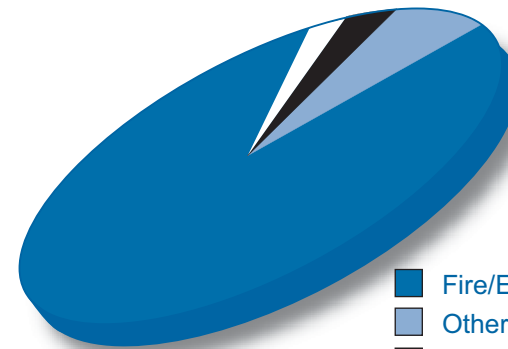


Revenue by Source



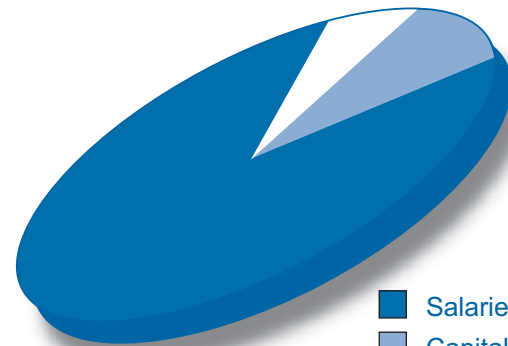
- Taxes \$13,273,106.16
- ▤ Other \$1,664,272.73 ♦
- Interest Earned \$180,497.52
- Intergovernmental Receipts \$145,899.57
- Licenses, Permits & Fees \$23,726.01
- Charges for Services \$17,233.53

Expenditures by Department



- Fire/EMS \$13,302,860.88
- Other \$1,293,128.89 ♦
- Parks & Recreation \$590,542.46
- Administration & Zoning \$518,470.89

Expenditures by Function



- Salaries & Benefits \$11,421,408.37
- Capital Improvements \$2,494,530.51
- Purchased Services \$1,889,074.15



♦ includes motor vehicle tax, gas tax, police, bond and capital projects

State Financial Report

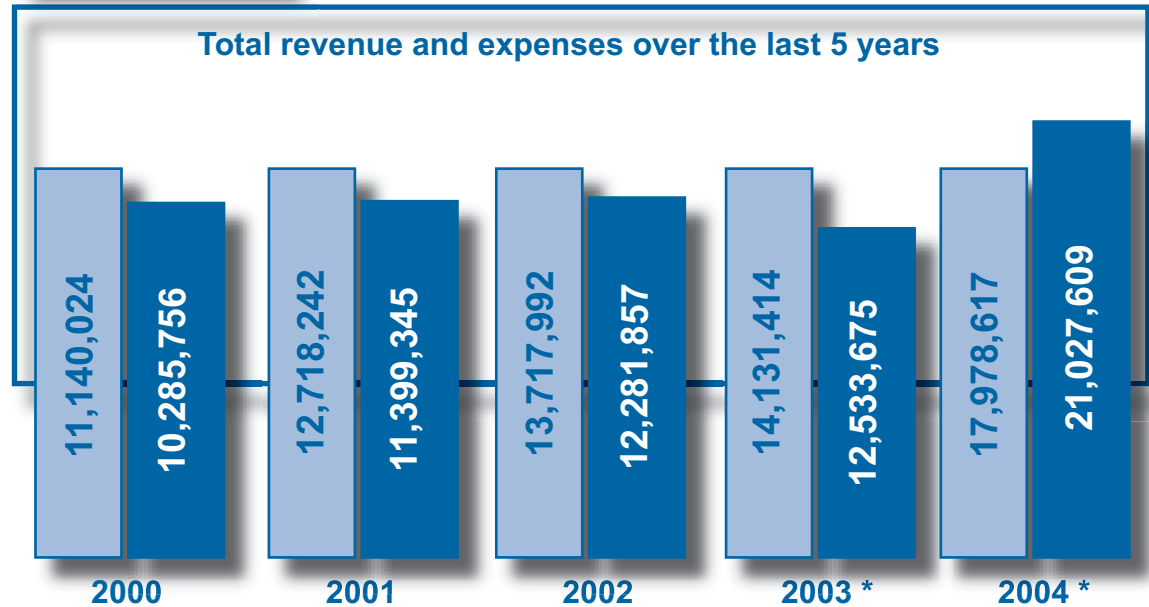
Beginning Balance (1/1/04)	14,741,353.09
Revenues	
Taxes	13,273,106.16
Charges for services	17,233.53
Licenses, permits, fees	23,726.01
Intergovernmental receipts	145,899.57
Interest	180,497.52
Proceeds from notes	2,500,000.00
All other revenue	1,664,272.73
TOTAL	17,804,735.52
Expenditures	
General Government Services	957,187.13
Public Safety	12,323,261.00
Public Works	28,370.64
Subtotal Operating Expenditures	13,482,700.59
Capital Outlay	1,992,014.26
Debt Service	5,552,890.14
TOTAL	21,027,604.99
Ending Balance (12/31/04)	11,692,365.44❖



Revenue

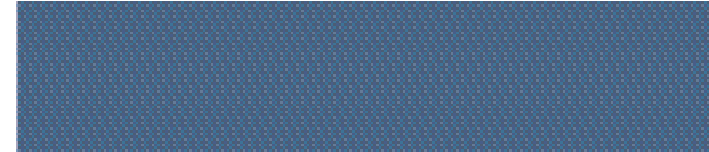
Expenses

Total revenue and expenses over the last 5 years



❖ Township rules require an amount equal to 25% of operating expenditures be carried over to the following year to pay bills during the first quarter of the following year. Because townships are funded primarily through real estate and property taxes, the carryover requirement was established to enable the township to pay bills until the first half tax settlement in mid March. The remainder is reserved to fund future capital projects, such as open space acquisition and replacement of fire engines and medic vehicles, and debt service obligations.

* In 2004, Washington Township spent \$5 million to pay off a \$2.5 million short-term note issued in 2003 and another \$2.5 million note issued in 2004. These notes were issued in anticipation of a bond issue for a new township hall.



Washington Township
 6279 Shier Rings Road
 Dublin, OH 43016
 614-652-3921
www.wtwp.com

