



TUSCARAWAS COUNTY PARK DEPARTMENT 2008 Year in Review

- **New Director:** Gail Doyle was appointed as the "First" Director. She has developed a power point presentation, established good working relationships with the various early action projects, government contacts, schools, community organizations, etc.
- **New Logo:** A contest was held to design a logo. Above is the contest winner as designed by Zach Pirillo.
- **Park Department Display:** There is a "stand alone" display with information on the Park Department that can be used at area gatherings to promote the Park Department Mission and Vision.
- **Grants:** Grants were secured for the Scenic Byway Signage Project. This project is a collaboration between Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark, and Tuscarawas Counties for unified signage along the Ohio & Erie Canal.
- **Business Plan/Goals:** The Business Plan has been reviewed and updated along with the Park Department Goals.
- **Trenton Heritage Park:** Preliminary plans to enhance the wildlife preservation were made. A clean up is being planned for April 4, 2009.
- **Port Washington Road:** The Grand Re-opening was held on July 26, 2008. An antique auto tour was held to commemorate the event. They also held a Fall Foliage Tour on October 11, 2008 where the road was opened to Antique Tractors, horse-drawn vehicles, and saddle horses. The signs are completely installed. Brochures are being printed that will provide driving instructions and historical society information for Millersburg, Baltic, and Port Washington.
- **Canal Lands:** The Boardwalk around the old rail abutment that formerly served the Village of Zoar with rail access has been completed. Signs were installed for the boardwalk and for "pets on leash". The bollards were modified for easier access to locks and all locks were replaced. Erosion damage and the kiosk was repaired.

- **Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and Southern Gateway**

The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail Alignment Committee is working with the consultant on the proposed routes for the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail from Zoarville to New Philadelphia. The initial mapping is complete, and the consultant is finalizing the research regarding several issues associated with the proposed routes. It is anticipated that that final plan should be completed by the 1st quarter of 2009.

- **Buckhorn Creek Trail**

During 2008, there was tremendous progress regarding the development of the Buckhorn Creek Trail. Working in partnership with over 200 volunteers, including Boy Scouts, Zimmer and the National Park Service, over 3,000 trees were planted along the banks of the Buckhorn Creek Trail. Through their hard work and dedication, the stream bank work and protection for the trail was completed. In addition, through the generosity of Dominion, a trailhead was constructed at Wolf State for trail users, and a signage plan was developed through the support of the Tuscarawas County Engineer Joe Bachman. With continued support and assistance, it is anticipated that a section of this important regional trail will be opened in 2009.

- **Panhandle Passage**

Working in partnership with the local Steering Committee, over \$17,500 was raised for the development of a Schematic Plan for the Panhandle Passage Trail, linking the Village of Dennison, City of Uhrichsville and Mill Township. Through our regional conversations, it was suggested that the local Steering Committee discuss the regional plan with the surrounding Townships to examine the possibility of linking the regional trail to New Philadelphia and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

- **Bolivar Canal Park**

During 2008, funding has been secured for the final construction plans including the preparation of the bid documents along with bringing the project under Ohio Department of Transportation requirements for the Bolivar Towpath Trail. This trail is 1.57 miles of trail that will go from Ft. Laurens onto the I77 right-of-way through Bolivar and will be within $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 mile from the Stark County connection. Canal Street Park is approximately one acre of land along the trail that will include a trail head and park area.

- **Norma Johnson Center**

The restroom project is completed! It is hard to believe, but after a year of hard work the Norma Johnson Center can now offer an upscale restroom facility to its visitors. Another new addition in 2008 is the Monarch Nursery where you can witness the most amazing transformation of the Monarch. We are so thankful for foundation and community support of our much needed restroom project. Many activities were held during 2008 including Picnic by the Pond, Insects at Dusk, Fall Festival, Celebrate the Season Event, and tracking class along with teaming up with The Ohio State University for the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program offered again.