



# PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

## CHAPTER 12



### INTRODUCTION

Parks and recreation are a vital part of every person's quality of life. Parks have a unique way of mixing fun and happiness with recreation and exercise, as well as having a positive impact upon each citizen and on society as a whole. Every individual benefits from quality parks and recreational facilities in one way or another. Organizations such as the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association have identified four major benefit categories in regards to parks and recreation: individual, economic, community and environmental.

In regards to the economic and community benefits, parks and recreation have a significant effect on the shaping of the surrounding lands. They also create real estate opportunities for the area. Families are generally attracted to areas that possess easily accessible parks and recreation. As noted landscape architect Frank Law Olmstead proved to New York City in the 1850's, the increase in nearby property values more than compensated for the cost of developing Central Park. Over a century later, the same principles are at work here in Troy.

Individual benefits of parks and public spaces come in different forms, but the greatest benefit is from the endless opportunities that parks and recreation provide. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, relief from the noise and congestion of the cities, open areas for exercise, places for communing with nature, and simple relaxation. Parks and recreation also create a

common space where members of diverse populations can intermingle.

The City of Troy is made up of over 7,400 acres and covers over 11 square miles. This city size allows for the creation of an extensive parks program and strong recreational facilities that generally cannot be made available in small villages or rural areas. Currently there are 23 parks in the City of Troy. That number includes those parks just within the city limits, which are supplemented by the many recreational opportunities in the surrounding area.

Parks and open spaces inside the city limits of Troy comprise approximately 1,300 acres, or approximately 17% of the City's total land area. This number works out to be 2,500 square feet of parks and recreation per Troy resident. For comparison, an earlier master plan for Troy parks recommended there should be about 12 acres of different type of parks for each 1,000 persons (or 523 square feet per person). With 22,000 persons in the City of Troy as of 2000 Census, Troy has nearly five times the recommended park acreage goal. Table 12-1 shows the existing Troy parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities by type of use, total square footage, acres, percentage, and square feet per resident.

	Total Sq. Ft.	Acres	%	Sq. Ft. per resident
Private Parks	16,104,527.58	370.40	3.80%	732.06
Public Park	16,512,203.48	379.78	3.89%	750.59
Open space	5,904,385.29	135.80	1.39%	268.39
Public Recreation	9,536,902.88	219.35	2.25%	433.52
Private Recreation	8,980,281.53	206.55	2.12%	408.21
Total	57,038,300.77	1,311.88	13.45%	2,592.77

Table 12-1 Use of Parks and Open Space

Troy's Community Park, along with the open space along the river, is meant to act as the centerpiece of a network of parks created by the City of Troy. Smaller neighborhood parks serve individual neighborhoods. Currently, recreational trails are being developed to help link this network of parks together, while providing access to other parts of the City at the same time.

Figure 12-1 at the end of this chapter shows the current placement of all parks, recreational, open space and school facilities in the Troy community. Figure 12-2 shows the location of City of Troy Public Parks, and Figure 12-3 shows existing and proposed recreational trails.

Compared to other cities in the local area, Troy offers many more parks and recreational facilities for its citizens. Table 12-2 below shows a comparison of the sizes of local cities and the number of public parks each currently possesses.

	Total Acres	Square Miles	Population	Current Number of Parks
Piqua	7,296	11.40	20,738	17
Sidney	6,662	10.41	20,211	18
Tipp City	3,955	6.18	9,221	10
Troy	9,754	15.24	21,999	23
Troy Area	40,128	62.70	29,327	25

Table 12-2 Comparison of Parks

The Troy community is very proud of its parks and continues to support the very wide range of recreational activities available to all its citizens. This is shown in the consistently high level of community involvement and the amount of financial support given to parks and recreation.

## GOVERNING BOARDS

As an Ohio statutory City, Troy has two independent boards that govern the use, maintenance, and creation of all public park and recreational activities. These boards also directly supervise the Park and Recreation Departments.

### Board of Park Commissioners and Park Department

The Park Department office is located at 265 Adams Street. Staffed with nine full-time and numerous seasonal and part-time employees, the Park Department is responsible for scheduling and maintaining not only Troy's public parks, but also all City of Troy public grounds and buildings, such as street boulevards and entryways to housing developments.

The Park Department reports directly to the Board of Park Commissioners, which consists of three members, all of whom are mayoral appointees in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. The budget is allocated annually by the Troy City Council, and is administered by the Board.

### Recreation Board and Recreation Department

The Recreation Department office is located at 201 North Adams Street, inside Hobart Arena. The Recreation Department reports directly to the independent Recreation Board, which consists of five members. Three members are mayoral appointees and two members are appointed by the Troy City School District Board of Education, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

The purpose of the Recreation Department is to collaborate and cooperate with other community minded recreational and educational agencies to present recreational programs to the community. Much of the Recreation Department's work is done in conjunction with the Park Department. All together, the Recreation

Department handles over 100 recreational programs each year. Examples of these programs include softball, baseball, gymnastics, basketball, cheerleading, and ice skating lessons to name a few. The Recreation Department is also in charge of several special purpose facilities that provide recreational opportunities, such as Hobart Arena.

In the summer, the Recreation Department also works with United Way of Troy to co-sponsor the Troy Playground Program which runs from June to July. The program provides children, ages 6-13, with the opportunity to participate in youthful activities, games, and social situations at several of the local parks.

## EDSALL MASTER PLAN FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

In 1990, Edsall & Associates of Columbus, Ohio, a planning consultant company, was hired to put together an updated Master Plan for Parks and Recreation in the City of Troy. Before the 1990 Plan, the previous Master Plan for Parks and Recreation was completed by Edsall in 1980.

The 1990 Plan took several things into consideration, including: community attitudes, community needs, goals and objectives, existing parks, recreational and school facilities, and community opinion. Edsall gathered information during various interviews and community input sessions. Interviews were conducted with groups such as Troy Junior and Senior High School students, coaches, PTO representatives, etc. In addition to the developmental plans, individual cost estimates were given for the development and/or improvement of particular parks and school facilities. The 1990 Plan focused on everything from site preparation and improvements, to landscaping, to utilities, and to building expansions, etc.

All parks and facilities within the city limits were individually evaluated, with specific development plans being made for several individual parks and school facilities. The park plan for the future emphasized the continued development of new parks dispersed throughout the city, neighborhoods, and subdivisions. The 1990 Plan also called for the development of a network connection by recreational trails and the expansion of current community parks.

## NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK GUIDELINES

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) states that every community has its own unique blend of social and economic characteristics which define it. Each community should be considered on an individual basis to tailor the most appropriate range, quantity and quality of recreational facilities, and open space for an individual community.

In 1995, NRPA deleted old standards of recommending a certain number of developed land acres per 1,000 residents of a city (Troy's earlier park plan had recom-

mended 12 acres per 1,000 city residents or 523 square feet per resident). Instead, NPRA put into place new guidelines to supplement their basic statement that each community is unique and must have its own standards. Their new guidelines included:

- 1) The need to accommodate different ages, cultures, abilities;
- 2) The need to include local citizen opinions in park planning;
- 3) Identification of the fitness and wellness movements;
- 4) Establishment of a local level of service standards;
- 5) Address any new environmental, social and demographic trends;

Besides supporting the NRPA recommendations for parks, the American Planning Association (APA) also has three categories for open space, which includes many more kinds of places than just parks. These categories are private, common, and public. They are defined as follows:

- Private Open Space:* Privately owned spaces that usually are not open to the general public.
- Common Open Space:* Territory jointly owned by a group of individuals.
- Public Open Space:* Territory owned and managed by a public agency for every individual's benefit.

The City of Troy offers an extremely well mixed variety of open spaces. Troy defines areas of open space as those used for public and private parks and green spaces that preserve the natural characteristics of the region. Open space is also used for recreation, conservation, and scenic resources. When planning the use of an open space, park planners work to protect existing natural and scenic resources while providing diverse recreational opportunities for present and future residents.

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

In the early 1970s, Troy began its first endeavors into the development of bicycle trails. These early trails, which are still in use today, were located along the banks of the Great Miami River. These bike trails provided connections from the Miami Shores Golf Course by way of the municipal pool, stadium and into the Westbrook housing subdivision of Troy. They were supplemented by "bike routes," which were located on less busy streets and were identified by posted signs. The bike routes fell into disuse, but the bike trails were the nucleus for other recreational use of the river's edge, including jogging, skating and an exercise course.



Modern, well-designed recreational trails are now an important part of Troy's park and recreation planning process. The trails provide access to important recreational facilities such as Hobart Arena, Troy Memorial Stadium, and many Troy parks. Recreational trails also provide for bicycle and pedestrian connections to downtown Troy's retail and restaurant opportunities. These trails also assist in our community's renewed interest in physical activity for all ages. In 2003, the City of Troy created new trails in Duke Park and through the Westbrook Subdivision to the city's northern border at Lytle Road. These trails are illustrated on Figure 12-3, at the end of this chapter.

Troy continues to be an active member of the Miami County Recreational Trails Task Force, which started in 2001. The Troy City Council and the Board of Park Commissioners have proactively supported the overall goal of a multi-regional trail system. This includes a Resolution of Support of several counties' efforts in the development of this program. The Task Force currently has created a seven segment construction plan. The Concord Township Southern Segment is now complete. Like other future sections of the Miami County Trail Plan, township areas developed outside of incorporated boundaries will be owned and maintained by the Miami County Parks District. Segments developed within corporate boundaries will be the responsibility of the individual municipalities to maintain. Due to the completion of the Concord segment, which has already helped qualify other segments for funding, Miami County has already enjoyed a return on investment. Grants have been secured for new trails through Tipp City and into Five Rivers Metro Parks in Montgomery County.

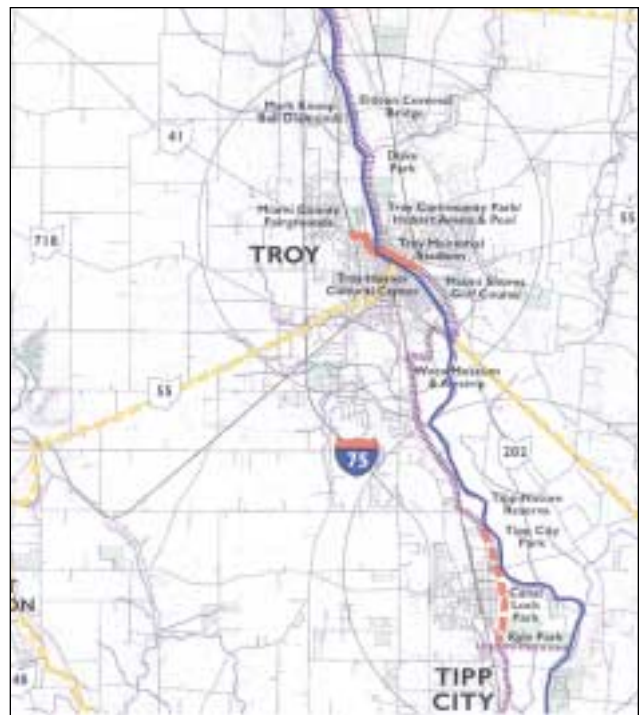


Table 12-3 Miami County Recreational Trails Task Force Plan

In the summer of 2004, work began on the Troy-Concord Connector (segment 2, Lock 13). This section of recreational trail is a joint effort by the City of Troy, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Concord

Township, Miami County Parks District and the Miami Conservancy District. This trail crosses the Great Miami River, connecting the rural Concord Township trail to the nucleus of trails in Troy.

For Troy, the Midway Island connector from Treasure Island to Duke Park is the next high priority trail. New bridges across the Great Miami River are already being designed. In conjunction with a proposed revitalization of Treasure Island's Marina, the Board of Park Commissioners hope to create an area in which bicycles, canoes and paddle boats may be rented for recreation. This will help revitalize the river's edge for many recreational activities.

The next challenge for the City of Troy and the Miami County Recreational Trails Task Force will be to develop the proposed trail northward to Piqua. Functional and economic reviews are now underway to establish a route.

## PUBLIC PARKS



While Troy is a small city with approximately 22,000 residents and 11 square miles of land area, it maintains vast areas of public and private parks. These parks are shown on Figure 12-2, at the end of this chapter. The City of Troy Park Department maintains over twenty parks throughout the community. Each park is unique and offers a wide range of activities for individuals of all ages. The Troy Recreation Department annually publishes a directory of Troy parks and recreation programs, to help encourage citizens to participate in these recreational activities.

The 1990 Master Plan for Parks and Recreation cited five different types of parks within the City. They include sub-neighborhood, neighborhood, community, city, and special facility parks.

### Sub-Neighborhood & Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks, according to the 1990 Master Plan, can be categorized two different ways, either as sub-neighborhood parks or neighborhood parks and ball fields. Sub-neighborhood parks are also classified as mini-parks or playgrounds. They are defined as having a hard surface area with miscellaneous facilities, open space, playgrounds and sitting areas. Parks in this category usually are between 2,500 square feet and 5 acres of land. These parks have a service area of only about 1/4 mile. The City of Troy currently has ten sub-neighborhood parks:

Amelia Park	Kensington Park
Brukner Park	Lincoln Center
Campbell Park	Peters Park
Herrlinger Park	Waco Park
Hook Park	Westbrook Park

Neighborhood parks differ from sub-neighborhood parks in that they usually are between 5 and 20 acres of land and have a service area of 1/4 to 1/2 miles. These parks offer more variety in recreational activities than sub-neighborhood parks. The City of Troy has ten neighborhood parks:

Archer Park	King's Chapel Park
Boyer Park	McKaig-Race Park
Carriage Crossing Park	Menke Park
Cookson Park	Trinity Park
Heywood Park	Trostle Park

As new residential neighborhoods are created, the Troy Planning Commission and the Board of Park Commissioners review each proposal to determine the best policy for improving a nearby park or creating a new park. Convenience for park patrons and concerns for park maintenance are both considered.

### Community and City Parks

In the 1990 Master Plan, community parks are classified as those parks which are usually between 5 to 20 acres of land. Activities at these parks include court games, miscellaneous facilities, open space, ball fields, playgrounds, and/or water recreation. These parks serve all residents within a service area of 1/2 mile to 3 miles. Currently the City of Troy has two community parks, Troy Community Park and the North Market Street Ball Fields

Located on 38 acres of land along the Great Miami River, Troy Community Park offers a wide selection of recreational activities for all ages. The park currently has a baseball/softball field, two basketball courts, nine tennis courts, and a volleyball court. The park also offers playground and picnic equipment, and sixteen covered shelter houses that offer electricity and grills. Troy Community Park is also home to the Troy Civic Theatre, which operates the "Barn in the Park", also considered a recreation facility.

The North Market Street Ball Fields include a lighted softball field and a lighted baseball field with stadium-style seating. New concession stands were constructed in the past few years. These fields are home to home to the Troy High School softball teams, as well as many little league teams.

City parks are defined as those between 100 to 250 acres, with a 20-minute driving range. These parks should offer court games and facilities, open space, picnicking, ball fields, playgrounds, trails, and/or water recreation. Currently, Troy has one city park, Paul G. Duke Park. This is the city's largest park, with 70 developed and another 70 undeveloped acres. Located at 1670 Troy-Sidney Road, Duke Park offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities for all ages. Currently there are three lighted softball fields, two lighted baseball fields, one lighted football field, four unlighted fields, tennis and basketball courts, playground equipment, ten picnic shelters with grills, eleven soccer fields, and a 1.8-mile recreational trail and a special mountain bike trail.

## Special Facilities

The Troy community enjoys several specially designed recreational facilities and community centers. These include:

Hobart Arena	Troy Memorial Stadium
The Public Square	Eldean Covered Bridge
Prouty Plaza	Twin Arch Reserve
Treasure Island Marina	Riverside Cemetery
North Ridge Skate Park	Hobart Urban Nature Preserve
Troy Family Aquatic Center	Troy Senior Citizen's Center
YMCA Robinson Branch	Bruckner Nature Center
WACO Field	King's Chapel Community Center
Kenworthy's Motocross	Lincoln Community Center
Troy Fish & Game	Troy Rec
Barn in the Park	

These special facilities are used by organized groups and individuals for many different community, recreational, educational, social and nature activities. The facilities provide homes for recreational and community programs that many larger cities cannot equal.

## RECREATION FACILITIES

Over the years, recreational services and facilities have provided something for all age groups in the Troy community. With new residential areas developing and with the constant shift of age groups, the diverse needs of Troy must be evaluated continually. These evaluations ensure that leisure activities and parklands continue to have viable uses and commensurate benefits for the taxpayers. Continued enhancements and additions to the parks and recreation programs have made them some of the best in the State of Ohio.

Just as modern standards for park acreage have become more subjective, current national standards for recreational facilities are flexible, and consider variations in climate, preferences, and resident age and income. Table 12-4 shows the national standards in regards to population and recreational facilities, and compares suggested goals for Troy along with the current offerings in the Troy park and recreation programs.

FACILITY	POPULATION STANDARD	CITY SHOULD HAVE	CITY ALREADY HAS
Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000	4	19+
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	4	12+
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	1	2+
Golf-Driving Range	1 per 50,000	0	2
Golf Course	1 per 25,000	0	2
Ice Hockey Arena	1 per 100,000	0	1
Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	2	15+
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	1	2
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	11	19+
Trails	1 per Region	1	1+

Table 12-4 National Guidelines for Recreational Facilities

The City of Troy has met or exceeded all of the national standards for these types of facilities. In fact, Troy has in three situations (golf-driving range, golf course, and ice hockey arena) possessed facilities the standards suggest the community would be too small to warrant. This variety of recreational facilities has given the residents of the entire Troy community more diverse recreational options than are available in any similar cities.



## Hobart Arena

In 1946, William H. and Edward A. Hobart had a vision. Their vision was a vastly expanded recreational program for the City of Troy. This expansion would involve an 18-hole golf course, a new football stadium, and a winter sports arena. They proposed that if the citizens of Troy passed a \$450,000 bond issue to build the golf course and stadium, the C.C. Hobart Foundation would build and give to the City of Troy, a winter sports facility. The Troy City Council accepted and approved the plan. At a special election in 1947, the citizens overwhelmingly approved the plan. On September 6, 1950, the vision became a reality with the opening of Hobart Sports Arena.

## Hobart Arena - 201 North Adams Street

The Hobart family continued to be very involved in community life. In 1995, Lucia Bravo visited Hobart Arena and noticed several areas that needed to be upgraded. She and her husband, Robert, gave more than a million dollars to be used as seed money for renovation. They felt that by committing such a large amount, the citizens of Troy, as well as other groups and organizations, would also donate towards the upgrading of the facility. Troy City Council and the Recreation Board approved the plan for renovations in 1996.

During the renovation, Hobart Arena's exterior areas were extensively repaired, exterior lighting was upgraded, and new landscaping was added. New concession stands were constructed and two existing concession stands were relocated to make room for the construction of the Troy Hall of Fame entrance. The restrooms and locker rooms were both renovated in the process. The arena's ceiling was painted and the ice surface was enlarged, including a new dasher board system, new lighting over the ice, and new plastic seating to meet current safety requirements. The acoustics were evaluated and new baffles and new sounds systems were installed. The City Council provided extra funds for a new electrical and air-conditioning system.

As a result of the above renovations, Miami Valley's showplace of the 1950s and 1960s is shining again. With a seating capacity of over 4,000, some of the best known entertainers in the world have performed at Hobart Arena, including Elvis Presley in 1963. The Arena has hosted all types of sporting events, ice shows, trade shows, conferences, and concerts. In addition, it has been home to the Troy Skating Club since its inception in 1951, the home of the Troy High School Varsity Hockey Team, and the Recreation Department's Youth Hockey Program. Hobart Arena is the site of the Ohio High School Sectional Basketball Tournaments and the Ohio High School Regional Hockey Tournaments.

## Troy Memorial Stadium

Another part of the above-mentioned Hobart plan was the construction of a stadium. The same vote that cleared the way for the Hobart Arena created the Troy Memorial Stadium. The first football game was held on Friday, September 9, 1949. The stadium was dedicated as a memorial for all of those who have fought and died for our country. A dedication ceremony was held one year after the stadium opened. Since that time, the stadium has served as a source of pride for the Troy community and is home to various athletic contests including football, soccer, and track.



By 1989 it was evident that renovations and additions to the stadium would be needed to keep it in top shape. The renovations would be completed in two phases starting in 1993. The first phase renovations on the stadium were completed in September of 1994 at the cost of \$1.1 million. This project included moving the south stands back so that a new all-weather metric track could be constructed. The field was re-graded and rebuilt for better play of soccer and football, new lighting was installed, and the scoreboard was replaced. After the renovations were complete the stadium was rededicated in September of 1994.

More recently, starting in 2002, the stadium underwent additional renovations and additions. The changes included an upgrade to the restrooms, concession stand, and locker rooms. In addition to these upgrades, a new press box was installed for the media. Handicap accessibility was made easier with the addition of wheelchair seating. Seating capacity is over 10,000 seats.

With these additions and renovations, the City of Troy is hoping to attract events such as regional track meets, Olympic qualifiers, and larger events such as concerts to the stadium and the Troy area.

## Troy Family Aquatic Center

Located between Hobart Arena and Troy Municipal Stadium, this outdoor aquatic facility offers summer recreational swimming, as well as recreational programs such as a swim team and swim lessons. To continue to provide the high level of service the Troy community desires, the City Council authorized the complete reconstruction of this facility, beginning immediately after the close of the 2004 summer swimming season. Like other major community facility investments made by City Council in the past decade, this project will give better service to the community than more simple upgrades to the existing facility would have accomplished. The new state of the art \$3.9 million dollar Troy Family Aquatic Center will be over 10,000 square feet, accommodate over 1,000 swimmers and holding over 300,000 gallons of water.



The Olympic size pool will have 6 lanes, zero depth entrance, two giant water slides and tube, interactive water play equipment, diving board and up to 12'6" feet of depth.

## COMMUNITY CENTERS

### Troy-Hayner Cultural Center

Located on 301 West Main Street, the former Mary Jane Harter Hayner family mansion was built in 1914, and now stands as a tribute to local history with special interest given to visual and performing arts in Miami County. The hallways of this English Tudor/Renaissance structure are lined with art work unique to the county and its people. With European and Victorian furnishings set amongst delicate interior wood work, visitors to the cultural center can tour exhibits focusing on Miami County's rich history, or take part in a number of activities including musical concerts. Classes and workshops are also offered on a variety of topics. See Chapter 11 "Museums and Culture".



### King's Chapel Community Center

The King's Chapel Community Center, located at 133 Kings Chapel Drive, is a neighborhood community center, which was built in 1997. Funds to build the center came from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Currently the center is open year round for children to "drop-in" and enjoy the recreational activities that the center offers.



### Lincoln Community Center

The Lincoln Community Center is located at 110 Ash Street. The center is currently equipped with an indoor swimming pool, basketball court, ping pong tables, weight lifting equipment, arts & crafts, and a pre-school program. The center is open Monday through Saturday.

### Trojan Senior Citizens' Center

Located at 134 N. Market Street, the center gives senior citizens in the area the chance to gather for companionship along with providing enjoyable activities such as scheduled day trips, dancing, exercise opportunities and various types of games.



## **Troy Recreation Center**

The Troy Recreation Center is located at 11 North Market Street. The center offers games, arts and crafts, and activities such as pool, table-tennis and weekend dances for the youth of Troy. Activities are offered to those at the junior high age through the age of eighteen.

## **GOLF FACILITIES**

The City of Troy and surrounding area currently offers a variety of both public and private golf courses and driving ranges. These currently include:

### **Miami Shores Golf Course (Public)**

Owned and operated by the City of Troy, the Miami Shores Golf Course, is a golf course which features 130 acres and 18 holes with rye fairways and bent grass greens. Located on East Staunton Road, the course was designed by architect Donald Ross and was completed in 1949. Two major renovations have occurred since that time, once in 1977 and then again in 1997. During these renovations both the front and back nine holes were renovated.



Currently the course offers a pro-shop, practice area, locker rooms, and a concession area with a grill. Banquet facilities are also available on the grounds to accommodate up to 128 patrons. Golf outings can be scheduled for up to 128 players. Both members and non-members are invited to play at Miami Shores Golf Course.

### **Troy Country Club (Private)**

Located at 1830 Peters Road, the Troy Country Club offers a wide variety of amenities including swimming, golf, banquet facilities, etc. for its patrons. In 2002 the club underwent a \$1.2 million renovation project, which included an addition of a new golf shop and pool house.

### **Brukner View and Hole Hunter Driving Ranges**

Troy is home to two of the finest driving ranges in the Miami Valley. Brukner View Golf Range is located at 1360 Swailes Road, next to the Troy Country Club.

Hole Hunter Golf and Driving Range is located at 2315 South County Road 25-A. This facility is open to all, and offers custom golf equipment, lessons, and year-round driving practice. Hole Hunter has open tees, putting greens, and a heated teebox building for the off-season.

## **MIAMI COUNTY PARK DISTRICT**

The City of Troy, being located in the heart of Miami County, enjoys easy access to a variety of parks and recreation also offered in nearby townships. The Miami County Park District encompasses all of Miami County and features a number of natural areas and reserves. The District administers all of Miami County's park sites.

Recent donations ensure that the District will continue to grow in the years to come. In 1996, Mark Knoop donated 239 acres, east of Troy, to the Park District. This area, now known as Lost Creek Reserve, will eventually become a nature education program area. In 2003, Twin Arch Reserve was created. This park is located north of Troy along the Great Miami River and County Road 25-A. It includes a restored stone bridge that was once part of the Miami-Erie Canal. The completed Twin Arch Reserve will support river and pond fishing, hiking, and other woods activities. This park will be connect by a proposed recreational trail to the ball field complex near the Eldean Covered Bridge.

The Miami County Park District also is now developing the Hobart Urban Nature Preserve. This is an 80-acre parcel of property right in the heart of the City of Troy, just south of Menke Park (See Figure 12-1). Once complete, this preserve will be used for nature education and leisure activity of future generations of city residents. The plan for the Preserve has won national awards for conservation and design.

## **PRIVATE OPEN SPACE FACILITIES**

### **WACO Field**

WACO Field is located at 1865 South County Road 25A and Dye Mill Road.

This airfield is part of a historical aviation complex being developed at the same location. Currently, the airfield offers a 2,200 feet long grass runway (1,800 useable feet). This fully operational grass flight



strip is used throughout the year by amateur pilots. In the summer, the annual WACO Fly-in brings vintage aircraft from around the country. During the festival, or by appointment, visitors can take a ride in a vintage aircraft and see Troy from a bird's-eye-view.

### **Conservation Lands**

The farmland preservation movement has created conservation opportunities for environmentally conscious farmers. New state and federal programs can help pay for protection of certain types of land. Open space listed under conservation lands is usually not developable and is protected because it contributes to the surrounding natural landscape. Some examples are wild habitats, slopes, soil conservation and groundwater protection. For more information on slopes and groundwater protection in the City of Troy, please refer to Chapter 6, "Natural Resources".

Other types of conservation lands include scenic locations such as wetlands, streams, rivers, waterways, pond banks, and reserves. While the City of Troy does not offer all of these types of conservation lands, the oldest and most significant conservation area is the wide basin of the Great Miami River, above the Troy Low-Water Dam.

### **Brokner Nature Preserve**

Located on Horseshoe Bend Road, west of Troy, Brokner Nature Center is organized as a charitable, educational, and scientific center that emphasizes natural history and environmental education for residents in and around surrounding communities of Miami County. The center has 165 acres of rolling hills, which are accessed through six miles of hiking trails. Along the trail, visitors experience a pine forest, deciduous woods, thickets, a prairie, a swamp, ponds, streams, and the scenic Stillwater River. There is also the restored 1804 Iddings Log House, located on its original site. The Interpretive Center houses display and animal viewing areas, an auditorium, a reference library, administrative offices, and a gift shop. Brokner Nature Center offers both in-school and after-school programs for students and adults. These programs are in addition to live animal presentations, summer programs, day-camps, camping trips and more.



### **Kenworthy's Motocross Park**

Located at 2308 Ebberts Road, Kenworthy's Motocross Park offers the best facilities for motocross competition in the entire Miami Valley region. Recently the park underwent significant improvements, which included a new concession stand, additional communication capabilities, track preparation equipment, and a new announcer's tower. The park has a 1.3 mile stretch of track and a 1.6 mile professional track. With areas dedicated for family use, which prohibit both smoking and drinking, the park accommodates exciting motocross while still offering a family-friendly atmosphere.

### **Robinson Branch of the Miami County YMCA**



The Robinson Branch of the Miami County YMCA is located at 3060 South County Road 25A, just outside the City of Troy. Built in 2000, the original

structure was approximately 12,000 square feet and offered a fitness center, exercise machines, weight training, elevated track, swimming pool, and an optional health center with whirlpool, sauna, and steam rooms.

In December of 2001, due to an unexpected high number of memberships, the Robinson Branch underwent a major expansion project. This added a 3,000 square foot extension to the fitness center, construction of a 2,500 square foot multipurpose room, two classrooms, and a game/lounge area.

### **Miami County Fairgrounds**

Located on County Road 25A, the Miami County Fairgrounds are the home of the annual Miami County Fair held every August. The fairgrounds are also home to various events such as horse races, concerts, dinners, meetings and a variety of specialty shows.

## **PRIVATE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

In addition to all of the public parks and recreational facilities in the City of Troy, many private individuals, groups, and companies offer additional park and recreation space. Most of these locations offer some of the same activities as the public parks and recreation.

Several public-minded companies in Troy offer space on their grounds for park and recreational activities. These include soccer and baseball fields at Archer Industrial Park, Goodrich Aerospace, Hobart Brothers, and Honda. Private parks are also operated by the VFW, Redman's Lodge and the Troy Fish & Game Association.

Private recreational facilities in addition to the above-described Troy Country Club and the WACO Field include Kenworthy's Motocross Park and the Robinson Branch of the Miami County YMCA.