



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Stark County Park District
Stark County
5300 Tyner Street N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708

To the Board of Park Commissioners:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 12, 2008

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Stark County Park District
Stark County
5300 Tyner Street N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708

To the Board of Park Commissioners:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Stark County Park District, Stark County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the District's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require Districts to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2007 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2007, or its changes in financial position for the year then ended.

101 Central Plaza South / 700 Chase Tower / Canton, OH 44702-1509
Telephone: (330) 438-0617 (800) 443-9272 Fax: (330) 471-0001
www.auditor.state.oh.us

Stark County Park District
Stark County
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of the Stark County Park District, Stark County, as of December 31, 2007, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 12, 2008, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

We conducted our audit to opine on the financial statements. The accompanying Federal Awards Expenditure Schedule presents additional information and is required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. It is not a required part of the financial statements. We subjected this schedule to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements. In our opinion, this information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 12, 2008

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	<u>Governmental Fund Type</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Taxes	\$2,878,938		\$2,878,938
Intergovernmental	697,903	\$2,178,260	2,876,163
Charges for Services	223,347		223,347
Investment Income	57,374	39,413	96,787
Fines & Forfeitures	56		56
Rent	1,538		1,538
Other Receipts	21,770	46,321	68,091
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	3,880,926	2,263,994	6,144,920
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Personal Services - Salaries and Wages	1,916,913		1,916,913
Personal Services - Employee Benefits	679,512		679,512
Supplies and Materials	519,974	31,616	551,590
Purchased Services	454,595	24,678	479,273
Capital Outlay	546,776	2,329,191	2,875,967
Debt:			
Payment of Principal		3,000,000	3,000,000
Payment of Interest		117,200	117,200
Other	96,630		96,630
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	4,214,400	5,502,685	9,717,085
Total Receipts (Under) Disbursements	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(333,474)	(3,238,691)	(3,572,165)
Other Financing Receipts:			
Sale of Notes		3,000,000	3,000,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts (Under) Cash Disbursements	(333,474)	(238,691)	(572,165)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	922,556	786,606	1,709,162
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$589,082</u>	<u>\$547,915</u>	<u>\$1,136,997</u>
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$873,571</u>	<u>\$419,441</u>	<u>\$1,293,012</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Stark County Park District, Stark County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. The probate judge of Stark County appoints a five-member Board of Commissioners to govern the District. The Commissioners are authorized to acquire, develop, protect, maintain, and improve park lands and facilities. The Commissioners may convert acquired land into forest reserves. The Commissioners are also responsible for activities related to conserving natural resources, including streams, lakes, submerged lands, and swamp lands. The Board may also create parks, parkways, and other reservations and may afforest, develop, improve and protect and promote the use of these assets conducive to the general welfare.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Cash and Investments

As the Ohio Revised Code permits, the Stark County Treasurer holds the District's cash as the District's custodian. The County holds the District's assets in its investment pool, valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The District classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Capital Projects Fund

This fund accounts for receipts restricted for acquiring or constructing major capital projects. The District had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

Permanent Improvement Fund - This fund received state and federal grants, donations and note proceeds. The District is using the proceeds for the construction of the Exploration Gateway (the Gateway), formerly the Canalway Learning Center and to pay the note issuances related to the Gateway.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function level and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Commissioners must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007**

2. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2007 follows:

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$5,082,326	\$3,880,926	(\$1,201,400)
Capital Projects	4,389,901	5,263,994	874,093
Total	\$9,472,227	\$9,144,920	(\$327,307)

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$4,983,083	\$5,087,971	(\$104,888)
Capital Projects	5,397,043	5,922,126	(525,083)
Total	\$10,380,126	\$11,010,097	(\$629,971)

Contrary to Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.40, the Board of Park Commissioners gave approval for the Fiscal Officer to amend appropriations "as needed".

3. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Board adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the District.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007
(Continued)**

4. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Park Improvement Note	\$1,000,000	3.78%
Park Improvement Note	2,000,000	3.49%
Total	<u>\$3,000,000</u>	

The District issued a Park Improvement Note on May 3, 2007, in the amount of \$1,000,000 at an interest rate of 3.78% for a term of one year for the purpose of acquiring and improving lands of the District and to provide funds to retire the \$1,000,000 Note issued in May 2006.

The District issued a Park Improvement Note on November 5, 2007, in the amount of \$2,000,000 at an interest rate of 3.49% for a term of one year for the purpose of acquiring and improving lands of the District and to provide funds to retire the \$2,000,000 Note issued in November 2006.

The interest and principal payment is due in total in one year to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The District's taxing authority collateralized the note.

The above notes, including interest of approximately \$107,600, are scheduled for payment in 2008.

5. Retirement Systems

All District employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007, OPERS members, except for those in public safety, contributed 9.5% of their gross salaries. Members in public safety contributed 9.0% of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.85% of participants' gross salaries, except for those in public safety. For members in public safety, the District contributed 17.17% of gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

6. Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The District insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

The District belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. PEP is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund PEP. PEP pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007**

6. Risk Management (Continued)

Casualty Coverage

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006, PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. PEP pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year.

For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with PEP.

If losses exhaust PEP's retained earnings, APEEP provides *excess of funds available* coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (on or subsequent to January 1, 2006) as noted above.

Property Coverage

Beginning in 2005, APEEP established a risk-sharing property program. Under the program, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. This amount was increased to \$300,000 in 2007. For 2007, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. For 2006, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in 2006, or \$100,000 and \$300,000 in 2007, Travelers will then reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2007 was \$2,014,548.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge PEP's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007
(Continued)**

6. Risk Management (Continued)

Financial Position

PEP's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2007 and 2006:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$37,560,071	\$36,123,194
Liabilities	<u>(17,340,825)</u>	<u>(16,738,904)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$20,219,246</u>	<u>\$19,384,290</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$15.9 million and \$15.0 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$15.0 million and \$14.4 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 443 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The District's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$59,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the District terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with PEP, the expected rates PEP charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to PEP for each year of membership.

<u>Contributions to PEP</u>	
2005	\$38,820
2006	\$48,139
2007	\$51,634

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined PEP provided they provide written notice to PEP 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's budgetary contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

The District also provides health insurance and dental and vision coverage to full-time employees through the Stark County Commissioners health plan.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007**

7. Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

8. Subsequent Event

In May 2008, the District issued a \$1,000,000 Park Improvement Note for the purpose of acquiring and improving land at an interest rate of 2.47%. The note replaces the \$1,000,000 improvement note issued in May 2007 and matures on April 30, 2009.

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**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

Federal Grantor/ Pass Through Grantor Program Title	Pass Through Entity Number	Federal CFDA Number	Expenditures
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</u>			
<i>Passed through the Ohio Department of Transportation</i>			
Highway Planning and Construction	N/A	20.205	150,180
<u>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</u>			
<i>Direct</i>			
Save America's Treasures	N/A	15.929	44,463
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR</u>			
<i>Direct</i>			
Ohio and Erie Canalway Association	N/A	15.XXX	37,500
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</u>			
<i>Passed through the Stark County Commissioners</i>			
Community Development Block Grant	N/A	14.218	195,750
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>			
<i>Direct</i>			
Funds for the Improvement of Education	N/A	84.215K	109,445
Total			<u><u>\$537,338</u></u>

The accompanying notes to this schedule are an integral part of this schedule.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

NOTE A - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Federal Awards Expenditures Schedule (the Schedule) summarizes activity of the District's federal award programs. The Schedule has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting.

NOTE B - MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Certain Federal programs require that the District contribute non-Federal funds (matching funds) to support the Federally-funded programs. The District has complied with the matching requirements. The expenditure of non-Federal matching funds is not included on the Schedule.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Stark County Park District
Stark County
5300 Tyner Street N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708

To the Board of Park Commissioners:

We have audited the financial statements of the Stark County Park District, Stark County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated September 12, 2008, wherein we noted the District followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider the following deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting: 2007-001.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, we believe finding number 2007-001 is also a material weakness.

We also noted a certain matter that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated September 12, 2008.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2007-001.

We also noted a certain noncompliance or other matter not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated September 12, 2008.

The District's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the management, Board of Park Commissioners, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 12, 2008



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133

Stark County Park District
Stark County
5300 Tyner Street N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708

To the Board of Park Commissioners:

Compliance

We have audited the compliance of the Stark County Park District, Stark County, Ohio, (the District) with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Circular A-133, Compliance Supplement* that apply to its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2007. The summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings identifies the District's major federal program. The District's management is responsible for complying with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each major federal program. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether noncompliance occurred with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could directly and materially affect a major federal program. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with those requirements and performing other procedures we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, the Stark County Park District complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that apply to its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Internal Control Over Compliance

The District's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over compliance with requirements that could directly and materially affect a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance.

101 Central Plaza South / 700 Chase Tower / Canton, OH 44702-1509
Telephone: (330) 438-0617 (800) 443-9272 Fax: (330) 471-0001
www.auditor.state.oh.us

A *control deficiency* in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect noncompliance with a federal program compliance requirement on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to administer a federal program such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect more-than-inconsequential noncompliance with a federal program compliance requirement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect material noncompliance with a federal program's compliance requirements.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management, Board of Park Commissioners, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 12, 2008

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
OMB CIRCULAR A -133 § .505
DECEMBER 31, 2007**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material control weaknesses reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material internal control weaknesses reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under § .510?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Community Development Block Grant CFDA - #14.218
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$ 300,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	Yes

**2. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

FINDING NUMBER 2007-001

Material Weakness and Material Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.40 provides that any appropriation measure may be amended or supplemented provided that such amendment or supplement complies with all provisions of law governing the tax authority in making the original appropriation. Transfers may be made by resolution or ordinance from one appropriation item to another. *Burkholder v. Lauber* (1965), 6 Ohio Misc. 152, indicates that a local government's governing board is prohibited from delegating those discretionary duties statutorily assigned to it. Following such reasoning, a governing board is prohibited from delegating the ability to amend appropriations as provided for in Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.40.

During 2007, the Board of Park Commissioners gave approval for the Fiscal Officer to amend appropriations "as needed". The financial statements have been adjusted to exclude appropriation amendments not specifically approved by the Board at the legal level of control by amounts ranging from \$70,176 to \$450,000 within the General and Capital Projects Permanent Improvement Funds. As a result, expenditures exceeded appropriations at the legal level of control by amounts ranging from \$87 to \$473,369 within the General and Capital Projects Permanent Improvement Fund contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B).

The Board of Park Commissioners should specifically approve all amendments to appropriations at the legal level of control. This approval should be documented within the District's minute records.

Official's Response: The Park Board annually adopts the Capital/Projects with the listing of projects as well as the sources/amounts of funds. In the past the Board adopted the project list as well as the funding sources and gave authority to appropriate/encumber as the funds become available. The board periodically adopted a revised budget throughout the year. This ensured that the budget was not over certified for the year and was a true indication of the financial position of the Park District.

The Board reviewed monthly a revised budget for the month that showed the amendments if any that had been made. This change also showed up on the financial report and the financial summary that the Board reviewed monthly. When this issue was first identified on July 25, 2008 (during the 2007 audit) the procedure was immediately revised to be in compliance with ORC Section 5705.40. The Board now adopts by specific resolution any additional certificate of resources/appropriations.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

STARK COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**