

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT  
STARK COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 - 1997**

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## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Stark County Park District  
Stark County  
5300 Tyner Avenue NW  
Canton, Ohio 44708

To the Board of Commissioners:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Stark County Park District, Stark County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997. 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 audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the District prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

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 District as of December 31, 1998 and 1997, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 11, 1999 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 grants.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Park Commissioners, and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Jim Petro  
Auditor of State

November 11, 1999

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**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND  
CASH BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES AND EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998**

|   | Governmental Fund Types |                    |                     | Fiduciary<br>Fund Type | Totals<br>(Memorandum<br>Only) |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | General                 | Special<br>Revenue | Capital<br>Projects | Expendable<br>Trust    |                                |
| <b>Cash Receipts:</b>   |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Local Taxes   | \$2,148,893             | \$0                | \$0                 | \$0                    | \$2,148,893                    |
| Intergovernmental   | 263,825                 | 13,490             | 141,987             | 0                      | 419,302                        |
| Charges for Services  | 49,288                  | 0                  | 13,630              | 0                      | 62,918                         |
| Interest  | 17,862                  | 7,273              | 56,331              | 0                      | 81,466                         |
| Rentals   | 75,000                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | 75,000                         |
| Other   | 30,661                  | 0                  | 17,689              | 0                      | 48,350                         |
| <b>Total Cash Receipts</b>  | <b>2,585,529</b>        | <b>20,763</b>      | <b>229,637</b>      | <b>0</b>               | <b>2,835,929</b>               |
| <b>Cash Disbursements:</b>  |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Current:  |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Salaries - Employees  | 549,725                 | 23,386             | 84,434              | 0                      | 657,545                        |
| Supplies  | 113,484                 | 20,907             | 72,139              | 0                      | 206,530                        |
| Public Employees' Retirement  | 75,822                  | 3,396              | 8,211               | 0                      | 87,429                         |
| Workers' Compensation   | 12,267                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | 12,267                         |
| Group Insurance   | 105,239                 | 0                  | 18,700              | 0                      | 123,939                        |
| Other   | 37,425                  | 0                  | 2,144               | 350                    | 39,919                         |
| Debt:   |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Payment of Principal  | 0                       | 0                  | 1,000,000           | 0                      | 1,000,000                      |
| Payment of Interest   | 0                       | 0                  | 42,300              | 0                      | 42,300                         |
| Capital Outlay  | 302,416                 | 125,529            | 863,462             | 0                      | 1,291,407                      |
| <b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>   | <b>1,196,378</b>        | <b>173,218</b>     | <b>2,091,391</b>    | <b>350</b>             | <b>3,461,337</b>               |
| <b>Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursement</b>   | <b>1,389,151</b>        | <b>(152,455)</b>   | <b>(1,861,754)</b>  | <b>(350)</b>           | <b>(625,407)</b>               |
| <b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>  |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Proceeds of Notes   | 0                       | 0                  | 550,000             | 0                      | 550,000                        |
| Transfers-In  | 0                       | 173,000            | 683,254             | 0                      | 856,254                        |
| Transfers-Out   | (856,254)               | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | (856,254)                      |
| <b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>   | <b>(856,254)</b>        | <b>173,000</b>     | <b>1,233,254</b>    | <b>0</b>               | <b>550,000</b>                 |
| <b>Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements</b> | <b>532,898</b>          | <b>20,545</b>      | <b>(628,500)</b>    | <b>(350)</b>           | <b>(75,407)</b>                |
| <b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 1998</b>  | <b>321,366</b>          | <b>73,323</b>      | <b>759,482</b>      | <b>500</b>             | <b>1,154,671</b>               |
| <b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 1998</b>  | <b>\$854,264</b>        | <b>\$93,868</b>    | <b>\$130,982</b>    | <b>\$150</b>           | <b>\$1,079,264</b>             |
| <b>Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31, 1998</b>   | <b>\$82,464</b>         | <b>\$475</b>       | <b>\$71,590</b>     | <b>\$0</b>             | <b>\$154,529</b>               |

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

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND  
CASH BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES AND EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997**

|   | Governmental Fund Types |                    |                     | Fiduciary<br>Fund Type | Totals<br>(Memorandum<br>Only) |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | General                 | Special<br>Revenue | Capital<br>Projects | Expendable<br>Trust    |                                |
| <b>Cash Receipts:</b>   |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Local Taxes   | \$717,784               | \$0                | \$0                 | \$0                    | \$717,784                      |
| Intergovernmental   | 70,854                  | 103,294            | 145,422             | 0                      | 319,570                        |
| Charges for Services  | 44,431                  | 0                  | 15,682              | 0                      | 60,113                         |
| Interest  | 7,349                   | 26,138             | 4,057               | 0                      | 37,544                         |
| Rentals   | 88,000                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | 88,000                         |
| Other   | 3,489                   | 0                  | 37,012              | 0                      | 40,501                         |
| <b>Total Cash Receipts</b>  | <b>931,907</b>          | <b>129,432</b>     | <b>202,173</b>      | <b>0</b>               | <b>1,263,512</b>               |
| <b>Cash Disbursements:</b>  |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Current:  |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Salaries - Employees  | 452,197                 | 0                  | 23,954              | 0                      | 476,151                        |
| Supplies  | 51,582                  | 12,825             | 128,912             | 0                      | 193,319                        |
| Public Employees' Retirement  | 61,301                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | 61,301                         |
| Workers' Compensation   | 12,007                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | 12,007                         |
| Group Insurance   | 102,287                 | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | 102,287                        |
| Other   | 77,859                  | 977                | 1,035               | 0                      | 79,871                         |
| Capital Outlay  | 106,463                 | 954,319            | 369,630             | 0                      | 1,430,412                      |
| <b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>   | <b>863,696</b>          | <b>968,121</b>     | <b>523,531</b>      | <b>0</b>               | <b>2,355,348</b>               |
| <b>Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements</b>  | <b>68,211</b>           | <b>(838,689)</b>   | <b>(321,358)</b>    | <b>0</b>               | <b>(1,091,836)</b>             |
| <b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>  |                         |                    |                     |                        |                                |
| Proceeds of Notes   | 0                       | 0                  | 1,000,000           | 0                      | 1,000,000                      |
| Transfers-In  | 0                       | 0                  | 41,000              | 0                      | 41,000                         |
| Advances-In   | 50,000                  | 0                  | 18,000              | 0                      | 68,000                         |
| Transfers-Out   | (41,000)                | 0                  | 0                   | 0                      | (41,000)                       |
| Advances-Out  | (18,000)                | 0                  | (50,000)            | 0                      | (68,000)                       |
| <b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>   | <b>(9,000)</b>          | <b>0</b>           | <b>1,009,000</b>    | <b>0</b>               | <b>1,000,000</b>               |
| <b>Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing<br/>Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements<br/>and Other Financing Disbursements</b> | <b>59,211</b>           | <b>(838,689)</b>   | <b>687,642</b>      | <b>0</b>               | <b>(91,836)</b>                |
| <b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 1997</b>  | <b>262,155</b>          | <b>912,012</b>     | <b>71,840</b>       | <b>500</b>             | <b>1,246,507</b>               |
| <b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 1997</b>  | <b>\$321,366</b>        | <b>\$73,323</b>    | <b>\$759,482</b>    | <b>\$500</b>           | <b>\$1,154,671</b>             |
| <b>Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31, 1997</b>   | <b>\$28,962</b>         | <b>\$18,207</b>    | <b>\$60,505</b>     | <b>\$0</b>             | <b>\$0</b>                     |

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY**

The Stark County Park District, Stark County, (the District) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The District is directed by a three-member Board of Commissioners (Board) appointed by the probate judge of Stark County. The District acquires lands for conversion into forest reserves and for the conservation of the 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 same as the Board deems conducive to the general welfare.

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

**B. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized 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 prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

**C. CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code, the District's cash is held and invested by the Stark County Treasurer, who acts as custodian for District monies. The District's assets are held in the County's cash and investment pool, and are 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:

**General Fund**

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997**  
**(Continued)**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**D. FUND ACCOUNTING (Continued)**

**Special Revenue Funds**

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Sippo Restore OEPA 314 Grant Fund - This fund receives federal grant monies from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of dredging and otherwise restoring Sippo Lake.

Sippo Restore Local Match Fund - This fund receives local tax monies which are utilized to meet federal grant award local matching requirements for the purpose of dredging and otherwise restoring Sippo Lake.

**Capital Projects Funds**

These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects. The District had the following significant Capital Projects Funds:

Canal Corridor Fund - This fund receives monies from various sources for the purpose of developing and constructing the Canal Corridor Trail along the Ohio Erie Canal Lands.

Park Improvement Note Fund - This fund receives monies from short-term debt incurred by the District for the purpose of improving park lands and structures.

Natureworks Star 009 Fund - This fund receives monies from various sources for the purpose of dredging Sippo Lake and constructing containment basins related to the project.

**Fiduciary Fund (Trust)**

Trust funds are used to account for resources restricted by legally binding trust agreements. Funds for which the District is acting in an agency capacity are classified as agency funds. The District had the following significant fiduciary fund:

Richard H. Fry Memorial Fund - This fund was established through donations received in memory of Richard H. Fry, the former District Director. The donations received into this fund and income earned from the fund are used to sponsor a fishing tournament held at Petros Lake Park.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997  
(Continued)**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**E. BUDGETARY PROCESS**

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

**Appropriations**

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board 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.

**Estimated Resources**

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

**Encumbrances**

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

A summary of 1998 and 1997 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

**F. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as capital outlay disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

**G. UNPAID VACATION AND SICK LEAVE**

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the cash basis of accounting used by the District.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997  
(Continued)**

**2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ending follows:

**1998 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts**

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Budgeted<br/>Receipts</u> | <u>Actual<br/>Receipts</u> | <u>Variance</u>    |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| General          | \$2,471,168                  | \$2,585,529                | \$114,361          |
| Special Revenue  | 210,248                      | 193,763                    | (16,485)           |
| Capital Projects | 2,081,309                    | 1,462,891                  | (618,418)          |
| Fiduciary        | <u>0</u>                     | <u>0</u>                   | <u>0</u>           |
| Total            | <u>\$4,762,725</u>           | <u>\$4,242,183</u>         | <u>(\$520,542)</u> |

**1998 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures**

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Appropriation<br/>Authority</u> | <u>Budgetary<br/>Expenditures</u> | <u>Variance</u>   |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| General          | \$2,543,870                        | \$2,135,096                       | \$408,774         |
| Special Revenue  | 260,205                            | 173,693                           | 86,512            |
| Capital Projects | 2,504,580                          | 2,162,981                         | 341,599           |
| Fiduciary        | <u>500</u>                         | <u>350</u>                        | <u>150</u>        |
| Total            | <u>\$5,309,155</u>                 | <u>\$4,472,120</u>                | <u>\$837,035.</u> |

**1997 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts**

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Budgeted<br/>Receipts</u> | <u>Actual<br/>Receipts</u> | <u>Variance</u>    |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| General          | \$857,074                    | \$981,907                  | \$124,833          |
| Special Revenue  | 314,457                      | 129,432                    | (185,025)          |
| Capital Projects | 1,585,823                    | 1,261,173                  | (324,650)          |
| Fiduciary        | <u>0</u>                     | <u>0</u>                   | <u>0</u>           |
| Total            | <u>\$2,757,354</u>           | <u>\$2,372,512</u>         | <u>(\$384,842)</u> |

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997  
(Continued)**

**2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)**

**1997 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures**

| <u>Fund Type</u> | <u>Appropriation<br/>Authority</u> | <u>Budgetary<br/>Expenditures</u> | <u>Variance</u>           |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| General          | \$1,090,550                        | \$951,658                         | \$138,892                 |
| Special Revenue  | 1,164,355                          | 986,328                           | 178,027                   |
| Capital Projects | 1,427,082                          | 634,036                           | 793,046                   |
| Fiduciary        | 0                                  | 0                                 | 0                         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b><u>\$3,681,987</u></b>          | <b><u>\$2,572,022</u></b>         | <b><u>\$1,109,965</u></b> |

**3. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by the Board. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payments, 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.

**4. DEBT**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 1998 was as follows:

|                                     | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest<br/>Rate</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Park Improvement Notes, Series 1998 | \$550,000        | 4.09%                    |

The District issued Park Improvement Notes on July 1, 1998, in the amount of \$550,000 at 4.09% for a term of one year to acquire and improve lands of the District. Interest and principal payments were due on July 16, 1999 to Bank One, National Association.

**5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

The District's full-time employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997  
(Continued)**

**5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM (Continued)**

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 1998 and 1997, members of PERS contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for all District employees except park rangers for which an amount equivalent to 16.7% was contributed. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 1998.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability
- Vehicles

The District also provides health insurance and dental and vision coverage to full-time employees through private carriers.

**7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. Any disallowed costs may require refunding to the grantor. Amounts which may be disallowed, if any, are not presently determinable. However, based on prior experience, management believes such refunds, if any, would not be material.

**8. YEAR 2000 ISSUE**

The year 2000 issue is the result of shortcomings in many electronic data processing systems and other electronic equipment that may adversely affect the District's operations as early as fiscal year 1999. The District has completed an inventory of computer systems and other electronic equipment that are considered to be mission critical. The District has identified the following systems requiring Year 2000 remediation:

Buildings, utilities, security, and fire systems

As of December 31, 1998, the District identified American Electric Power (building electricity), East Ohio Gas (building gas), Consumers Ohio Water (building water), Stark County Metro Sewer (building sewer), Ameritech (local telephone service), and Quest LCI (long-distance telephone service) as mission critical utility services. These utility companies are responsible for remediating these systems, and are solely responsible for any associated costs. ACY Communications (building phone system), Security Associates International, Inc. (building security system), and Ademco (building security alarms) have been identified as mission critical building services. These alarm and security system companies are responsible for remediating these systems and are solely responsible for any associated costs.

Business office systems

As of December 31, 1998, the District identified the Stark County Auditor (fiscal agent) as a mission critical business system.

The Stark County Auditor serves as the fiscal agent for the District. The County is responsible for remediating its mission critical systems and is solely responsible for any costs associated with the remediation of those systems.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997  
(Continued)**

**8. YEAR 2000 ISSUE (Continued)**

Because of the unprecedented nature of the Year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Management cannot assure that the District is or will be Year 2000 ready, that the District's remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with whom the District does business will be year 2000 ready.

**9. SUBSEQUENT EVENT**

On July 16, 1999, the District retired the \$550,000 Park Improvement Notes outstanding at December 31, 1998. The related interest payment was also made on that date as scheduled.

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON  
INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Stark County Park District  
Stark County  
5300 Tyner Avenue NW  
Canton, Ohio 44708

To the Board of Commissioners:

We have audited the financial statements of the Stark County Park District, Stark County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 1998 and December 31, 1997, and have issued our report thereon dated November 11, 1999. We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

**Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audits and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

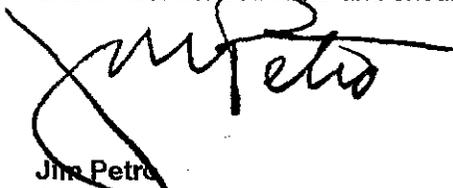
**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audits, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the District in a separate letter dated November 11, 1999.

Stark County Park District  
Stark County  
Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on  
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*  
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This report is intended for the information and use of management and the Board of Park Commissioners and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Petro", is written over the printed name.

Jim Petro  
Auditor of State

November 11, 1999



STATE OF OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

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Canton, Ohio 44702

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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.

By: Susan Babbitt  
Clerk of the Bureau

Date: JAN 11 2000