



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Stark County Park District
Stark County
5300 Tyner Avenue NW
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, 2003. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit 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 audit provides 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, 2003, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 21, 2004 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. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

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

Stark County Park District
Stark County
Independent Accountants' Report
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This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Park Commissioners, federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 21, 2004

**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, 2003**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Taxes	\$2,850,658		\$2,850,658
Intergovernmental	1,214,769		1,214,769
Charges for Services	113,258		113,258
Investment Income	7,155	\$143	7,298
Fines and Forfeitures	389		389
Other Receipts	6,251		6,251
	<u>4,192,480</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>4,192,623</u>
Total Cash Receipts			
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
Personal Services - Salaries and Wages	1,591,399		1,591,399
Personal Services - Employee Benefits	450,420		450,420
Supplies and Materials	260,418		260,418
Purchased Services	318,429	800	319,229
Other Allocations	53,937		53,937
Capital Outlay	992,615		992,615
Debt:			
Payment of Principal	400,000	300,000	700,000
Payment of Interest	17,601		17,601
	<u>4,084,819</u>	<u>300,800</u>	<u>4,385,619</u>
Total Cash Disbursements			
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>107,661</u>	<u>(300,657)</u>	<u>(192,996)</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):			
Proceeds of Notes	<u>0</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>0</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements	107,661	(657)	107,004
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>365,535</u>	<u>13,725</u>	<u>379,260</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$473,196</u>	<u>\$13,068</u>	<u>\$486,264</u>
Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	<u>\$377,517</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$377,517</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, 2003**

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 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

As permitted by the Ohio Revised Code, the Stark County Treasurer holds the District's cash as custodian for the District. 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. Stark County, acting as fiscal agent for the District, maintains a General Fund and Capital Projects Fund. The District classifies its funds into the following types:

1. 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.

2. Capital Projects Funds

These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The District had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

Park Improvement Note Fund - This fund received note proceeds used for the purpose of purchasing land for park expansion.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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 or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. Appropriation Authority includes current year appropriations plus encumbrances carried over from the prior year (if any). The Board must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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 commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2003 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. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the basis of accounting the District uses.

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ended 2003 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$4,756,100	\$4,192,480	(\$563,620)
Capital Projects	1,000,250	300,143	(700,107)
Total	\$5,756,350	\$4,492,623	(\$1,263,727)

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003
(Continued)**

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$4,882,939	\$4,462,336	\$420,603
Capital Projects	300,800	300,800	0
Total	\$5,183,739	\$4,763,136	\$420,603

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 of Park Commissioners. 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 payment, 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, 2003:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Park Improvement Note, Series 2003	\$300,000	1.85%

The District issued Park Improvement Notes on August 6, 2003 in the amount of \$300,000 at 1.85% for a term of one year to improve the parks and acquire additional park land. Interest and principal payments are due on August 20, 2004.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The District's full-time employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS 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.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2003, members of OPERS contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries through December 31, 2003. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003
(Continued)**

6. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP

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.

Casualty Coverage

PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss 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 \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust PEP's retained earnings, APEEP covers PEP losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

Property Coverage

PEP retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$1,250,000 for 2002. There is no aggregate for 2003 and future accident years. Beginning in 2003, PEP retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

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 entity.

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, 2003 and 2002:

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$25,288,098	\$20,174,977
Liabilities	<u>(12,872,985)</u>	<u>(8,550,749)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$12,415,113</u>	<u>\$11,624,228</u>

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003
(Continued)**

6. RISK POOL MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets	\$3,158,813	\$2,565,408
Liabilities	<u>(792,061)</u>	<u>(655,318)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$2,366,752</u>	<u>\$1,910,090</u>

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

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. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

In May 2004, the District issued a \$1,500,000 improvement note for the purpose of acquiring and improving land at an interest rate of 1.93%. The note matures on May 5, 2005.

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**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

Federal Grantor/ Pass Through Grantor Program Title	Pass Through Entity Number	Federal CFDA Number	Expenditures
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</u>			
<i>Direct</i>			
Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grant	N/A	16.710	\$29,866
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR</u>			
<i>Direct</i>			
Ohio and Erie Canal	N/A	15.XXX	153,476
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</u>			
<i>Passed through the Ohio Department of Transportaion</i>			
Highway Planning and Construction	N/A	20.205	258,712
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY</u>			
<i>Passed through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency</i>			
Public Assistance Grants	N/A	97.036	11,391
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Funds for the Improvement of Education	N/A	84.215	<u>95,850</u>
Total			<u><u>\$549,295</u></u>

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

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

NOTE A -- SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Federal Awards Expenditures (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.

NOTE C -- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL AWARDS

The Federal Homeland Security Act of 2002 established the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) to consolidate functions of other Federal agencies related to homeland security. Effective January 24, 2003, the Department began to administer certain Federal awards the District received which were previously administered by other Federal Agencies. The accompanying Schedule of Federal Awards Expenditures reports all such 2003 award amounts under the Department's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers. The purposes and compliance requirement of these programs has not changed.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT 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 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, 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated July 21, 2004. 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 *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 audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated July 21, 2004.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, 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 the District's management in a separate letter dated July 21, 2004.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Park Commissioners, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 21, 2004



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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

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

To the Board of Park Commissioners:

Compliance

We have audited the compliance of 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 are applicable to its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2003. The District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings. Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to its major federal programs is the responsibility of the District's management. 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 obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance occurred with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that 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 District complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that are applicable to its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Internal Control Over Compliance

The management of the District is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with 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 have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133.

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Stark County Park District
Stark County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to Major Federal Programs and Internal Control Over
Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133
Page 2

Our consideration of the internal control over compliance would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control 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 noncompliance with applicable requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants that would be material in relation to a major federal program 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 compliance and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Park Commissioners, federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

July 21, 2004

**STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
OMB CIRCULAR A-133 § .505
DECEMBER 31, 2003**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material control weakness conditions reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any other reportable control weakness conditions reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material internal control weakness conditions reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any other reportable internal control weakness conditions 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):	Highway Planning and Construction CFDA - #20.205 Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grant - CFDA #16.710
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$ 300,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	No

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

None

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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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.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 21, 2004**