



The Great Parks of Hamilton County

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THE GREAT PARKS OF HAMILTON CO.

- The Great Parks of Hamilton Co. is a nonprofit organization that oversees most of our local parks in all of Hamilton County.
- The organization was founded in 1930 as the Hamilton Co. Park District.
- Great Parks is a separate subdivision of the State of Ohio.
- The Great Parks of Hamilton Co. is operated by a board of commissioners. The board is made up of five individuals.
- In addition to the board of commissioners, the park also has an operating team that consists of a CEO, CFO, etc.
- All the Great Parks of Hamilton Co. are open dusk to dawn, 365 days a year.
- The image below lists all the locations operated by Great Parks in Hamilton Co.

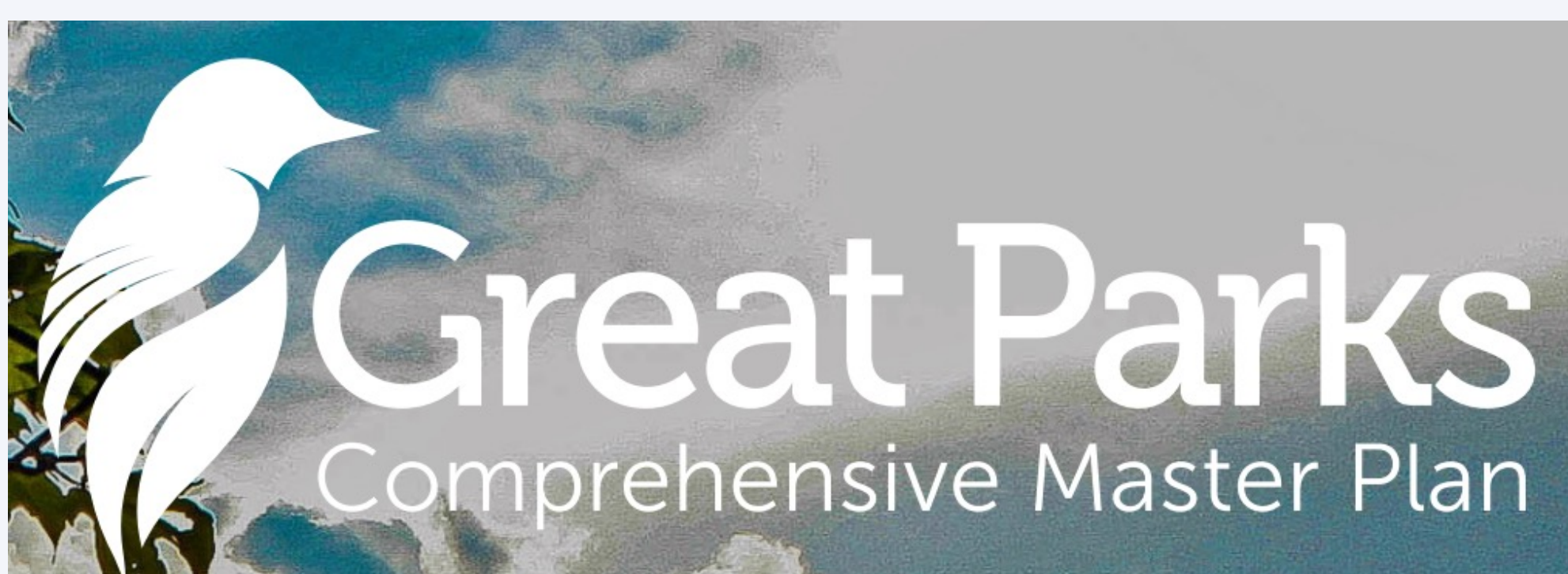
PARKS	CONSERVATION AREAS	MORE ADVENTURES
Campbell Lakes Preserve	Otto Armleder Memorial Park & Recreation Complex	Kroger Hills
Embshoff Woods	Sharon Woods	Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary
Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve	Shawnee Lookout	Oak Glen Nature Preserve
Fernbank Park	Triple Creek	Richardson Forest Preserve
Francis RecreAcres	Werk Road Property	Adventure Outpost
Glenwood Gardens	Winton Woods	Highfield Discovery Garden
Lake Isabella	Withdraw Nature Preserve	Nature Center at The Summit
Little Miami Golf Center	Woodland Mound	Parky's Farm
Miami Whitewater Forest	View All Map	Winton Woods Riding Center
Mitchell Memorial Forest		

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

The Great Parks of Hamilton Co. completed a master plan in January of 2019. The purpose of this plan was to act as a guide document to all of the parks and set the vision for facilities, programming, and services over the next 10 years of operation.

The Master plan identified eight priorities for implementation:

- Build more trails
- Add programming and events for diverse audiences
- Provide access to conservation areas
- Establish a blueway system (special trails for people with interest in water sports)
- Focus on partnerships
- Build ecological resiliency and sustainability
- Expand access for all users
- Plan for the future of every park



MY EXPERIENCE

Over the course of the spring semester, I worked with Great Parks of Hamilton Co. doing various activities! I met many new people; some that work at the parks, students like me, and others that just frequently volunteer! The time I have spent with Great Parks has been amazing. The parks rely heavily on the help of volunteers to carry out the necessary functions at the parks. The process has been very humbling for me. Picking up litter has made me appreciate the work that goes into maintaining the parks (and taught me that people can be gross!) The volunteer events have all left me feeling tired and worn out. This has had a very positive impact on me. The organization and its employees work SUPER hard to make sure that our parks are a clean and great place to be. The impact I made as a volunteer allows the park system to stay on top of their work and work towards their master plan.

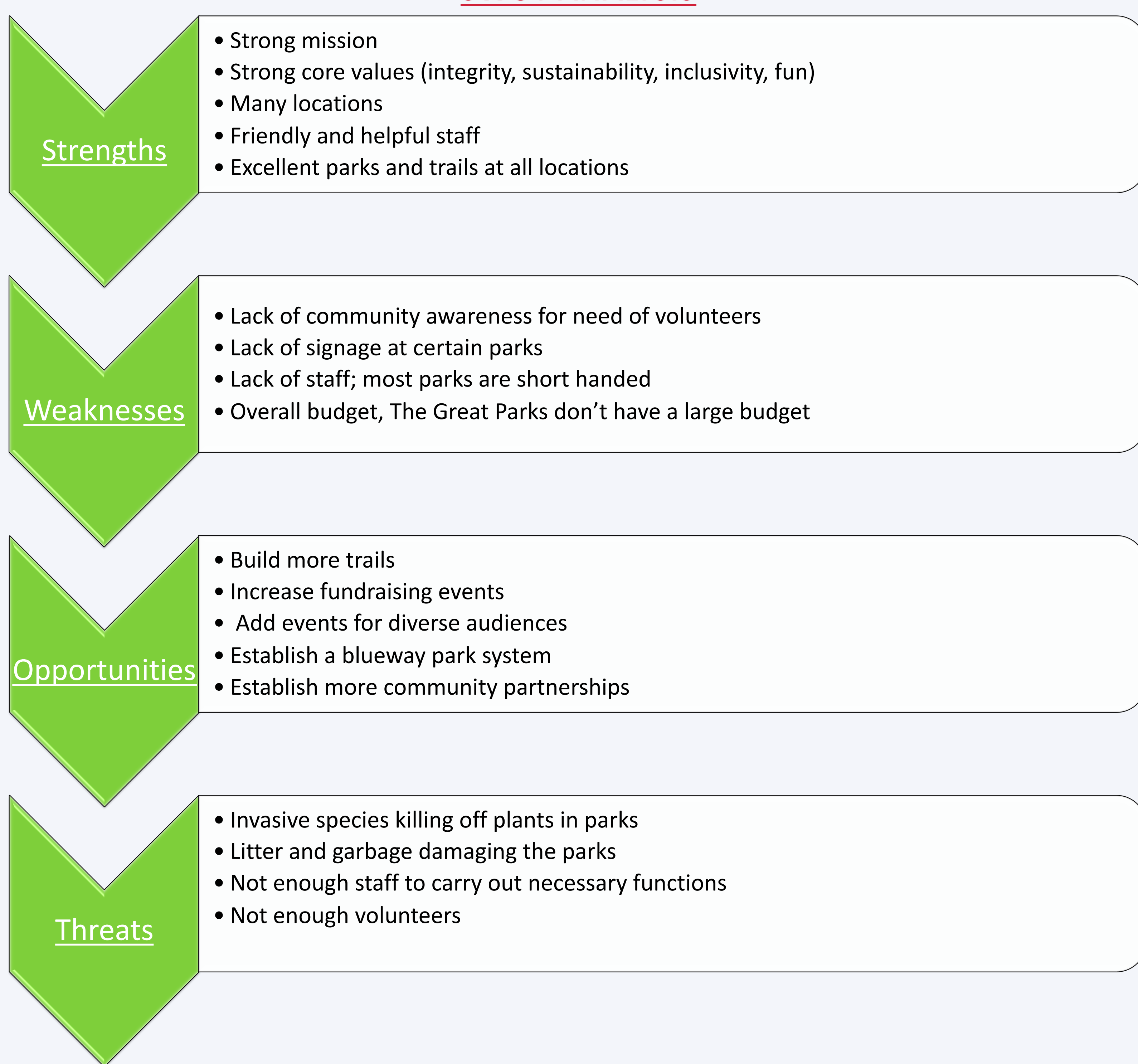
Activities that I have done:

- Litter pick up
- Invasive plant removal
- A reforestation event at Glenwood Gardens where we packaged baby trees to give to local schools in the area.

Other activities the park has available to volunteers:

- Planting trees
- Trail maintenance
- Collecting native seeds
- Construction
- And more!

SWOT ANALYSIS



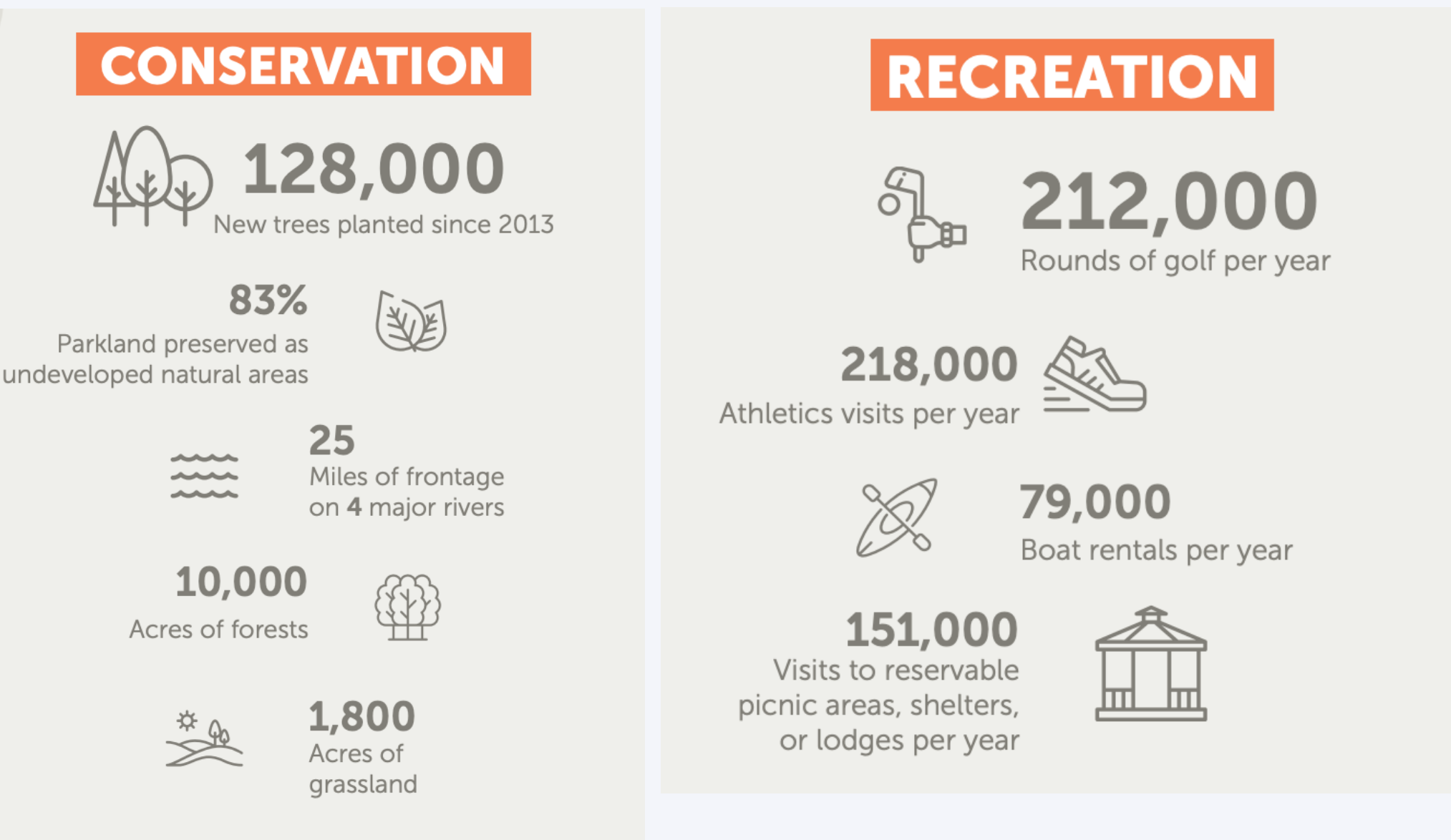
RECOMMENDATIONS

After working with and lending a hand at Great Parks of Hamilton County, I can honestly say that I enjoyed my time working with them. All the work I did for the parks was rewarding and felt like I was making a true difference. After spending this time with the parks, I have a few recommendations. First, I think the parks should spread more awareness about the importance of volunteering! With the low funding the parks receive, they need all the help they can get when it comes to maintaining the parks. Second, I also think Great Parks should set up more fundraising events so they can have extra spending money for various projects. Lastly, I would also recommend creating some sort of signage at ALL parks. Some parks have great signage that give you directions to certain areas. Then, on the other hand, I've been to a few of their locations that don't have any signs at all.

Overall, I will encourage EVERYONE to give Great Parks of Hamilton Co. a try if they want to get involved in our community and volunteer. The work is rewarding, fun, and provides great exercise working outdoors!

MISSION STATEMENT

"To preserve and protect natural resources and to provide outdoor recreation and education in order to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations."



CONTACT INFO & WORKS CITED

My volunteer coordinator contact: Kris Roselle – kroselle@greatparks.org – (513)245-7446
 "About." Great Parks of Hamilton County, <https://www.greatparks.org/about>.

"Blueways and Greenways." City of Leakesville, Mississippi, <https://leakesvillems.com/blueways-and-greenways#:~:text=A%20blueway%20or%20water%20trail,canoists%2C%20paddle%20boarders%20and%20kayakers>.

Board of Commissioners. "My Great Parks – Improving Lives by Connecting People to Nature." Great Parks of Hamilton Co., Great Parks of Hamilton Co, 1 Jan. 2019, <https://www.mygreatparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/190215-Executive-Summary-HR-draft.pdf>.