

Code: 517051
Subject: Interview with David Whited
Date: Monday June, 23
Interviewer: Robin Lashley

Special Notes: Chief of Planning and Development for the Metroparks Serving Summit County

Minutes:

David C Whited June 23, 2008 born in Brookville, Pennsylvania; moved to Ohio when he was a baby, dad a weatherman

Grew up in Whitehall near Columbus; non descript childhood, always wanted to be an architect;

Degree in landscape architecture from Ohio State; designing spaces and engineering structures. Played outside with brother a lot growing up during the 50's and 60's

Chief of Planning and development for park district; long term planning new bike trails and finishing towpath, as well as land acquisitions

Motivated by money to work for parks because of being laid off several times; originally meant as a layover job. Stayed because of fun stuff to do. First Project was Munroe Falls

Built Nature Realm in 1991. Sustainable building policy passed in 2006. (picture of "Green Building")

Hopefully will be first platinum rated building in the state. Categories: Energy conservation (solar panels); indoor air quality

Recycle and reuse materials (use materials from building that have been torn down), Reducing toxins in air

There is a green roof that has plant material on concrete base (900 sq ft). Rest of roof is recycled material.

Toilets in restroom are waterless. Green roof helps to insulate building and lowers heat given back off into the atmosphere Heat Island effect

Partnerships developed: Between city of Akron to develop Cascade Valley Park.

City of Akron bought some land and Metroparks bought some land

Private partners, First Energy & utility corridors, PPG Industries Park Presence helps keep land secure. Win/Win

City of Twinsburg has property that is maintained by the park system set aside greenspace to avoid overcrowding schools

Citizens benefit by having a theraputic piece of land and a place to relax.

Towpath development part of National Heritage Corridor

Metroparks negotiated that they would develop and maintain the trails. There

was no model that the metroparks used to develop the trails

Corridor owned by Metro regional transit is a current project

State owns and operates a lot of corridors along canal. Neighbors of corridor where nervous at first about the trail running near

property; currently still a problem. Park district patrols all trails. full time rangers. And about 500 volunteers that also patrol

City is working on several parts of the trail that runs through downtown. At a standstill because of railroad underpass. New bridge over canal park.

Can be difficult to create a path over interstate. Appealing because you transition from park to downtown/ users downtown workers

Sustainability means living in a way that we save resources for future generations. Oil is a good example. Finite resources.

Society is starting to moving towards conservation more than before because of gas prices. Schumacker and Mustill store are part of Cascade Park. Specifically
21 called Cascade Locks.

Fundraising mode to fund footprint and development of Mustill Store. Gargoyles from Schumacker office building. Park district acquired them. Wanted to find a
22 home for Gargoyles

Worked with library and historcial society to figure out they came from Schumacker office building. Will be displayed at the library. Office building used to be across from knight center in Quaker Square. Not sure who made the Gargoyles; could possibly be masons. Final resting place will be on Main Street
23 window of library.

No clear idea of the origin of the Gargoyles, like to think they came from deep
24 lock quarry, specific location of 4 Gargoyles in the main library,

Changes in park landscape; biggest change is uniformity. Needs to feel like a
25 Metropark with a common theme.

26 Tried to in last 25 years to have standards of development.

Close to 10,000 acres in Summit County Metroparks. 4th largest in state. 2nd
27 oldest park district. Est. in 1921.

Different themes, Munroe Falls~ nautical, Silver Creek~minining, O'Neil woods
28 and Hampton Hills~ topography

Deep Lock~ quarry and canal, Furnace Run~ Industrialist donated land mostly
29 old farmland and forest

30 Trying to develop places in parks to show history of each park.

One of park districts that have parks in the urban areas; i.e. the Gorge and

31 Goodyear Park/ Goodyear has many trails

4 million visitors a year to the Metroparks. Park district before more intraverted, changed dramatically and Dave now works with the communities to get people
32 involved with the park.

Biggest milestone: Park district is now seen a conservation leader. Looked at as
33 providing leadership in sustainability and conservation

Have not had a lot criticism. Sometimes criticized for amount of money park
34 spends to do things. People are usually supportive of the park system.

Had opposition to animal management (deer overpopulation). A lot of time
35 protecting park from development specifically from utilities and developers.

Hydroelectric Plant trying to keep them out so that they do not interrupt the
36 wildlife and ecology.

Hydroelectric company believes they have the right because of the dam being
37 located there.

38 Future vision is to continue to protect land and managing resources.

Biggest fight is exotic and native animal and plant species that take over
39 landscape because they don't have predators and are not native

Goals are the same as national park service but methods are different national
40 policy limits national park

Favorite place~ not one in particular. Depends on mood. Really likes O'Neil
41 Woods and Hampton Hills because they are isolated.

Judge Spicer appoints park commissioners who establishes policies overall
42 authority of the park district

Other people to interview, past directors. John Daily 1964 started with park Bert
43 Szabo late 40's early 50's with park

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