

WCPD Naturalist & Marketing Report October & November 2024



Shannon Pennington, Shannon.Pennington@co.warren.oh.us, 513-833-7360
Lauren Asquith, Lauren.Asquith@co.warren.oh.us, 513-409-1389

Community Connections

- In the past 28 days, **Facebook** posts have reached 4,569 people. **E-blasts** are reaching 3,110 subscribers
- 10/11: Meeting with **Laura Stanton** from **OSU Extension** re. upcoming partnerships (SP)
- 10/12: **American Heritage Girls** presentation with reptile ambassadors, 45 attendees (SP)
- 10/15: Budget meeting with **Matt Latham** and **Haden Englert** (SP)
- 10/15: Team Meeting; **Armco Park Tree Trail** review with **OCVNs Bill Lindauer, Bill Schiemann, and Dave Woehr** (SP)
- 10/15: Hosted **Miami Valley No Child Left Inside** meeting and led tour of **Nature Playscape** (SP)
- 10/16: Met with **Countryside YMCA** volunteers **Jim Ludwick** and **Arland Esch** about potential partnerships with maple tapping at their public nature trail (SP)
- 10/16: Met with **Friends of WCPD** Secretary **Cheryl Holly** re. MailChimp (SP)
- 10/17: **Toddler Trek: Colors of Fall** at **Landen-Deerfield Park**, 4 adults, 8 children = 12 total participants (SP)
- 10/18: **Warren County Resource Rally** at Fairgrounds with one of our ambassador turtles. This was an EXCELLENT networking opportunity and we should definitely participate again next year! (SP)
- 10/19: **Reptile presentation** for Hisey family reunion at **Hisey Park**, 18 attendees (SP)
- 10/22: **ODNR** Division of Watercraft **Grant Writing Workshop** in Columbus (SP)
- 10/23: **Nature Education Team** meeting with Matt (SP)
- 10/23: Met **Friends of WCPD** Treasurer **Kathie Bowers** to store items (SP)
- 10/23: Met with **Casey Burdick** from City of **Lebanon Parks and Rec**, **Erin Shaw** from **Caesar Creek State Park**, and **Dawn Stutz** from **Our Open Home** about winter programs and potential partnerships, including **Maple Sugaring Series** (see attached flyer) (SP)
- 10/23: Met with **Jacob Payzant** and **Colton Patak** from **City of Mason** about partnering on spring nature walks at **Pine Hill Lakes Park**. Their quarterly mailing reaches approximately 35,000 households so this will be great exposure (SP)



- 11/2: **Winter Tree Identification** program with special guest **Casey Burdick** at Armco Park, 2 volunteers, 2 minors, 18 adults = 22 participants (SP)
- 11/4: **Landen-Deerfield Publicity Meeting** and review of **press release** (see attached) with Matt (SP)
- 11/4: Pre-hike at **Kingswood Park** for joint **Winter Tree Identification** program with **Deerfield Township Parks and Rec Department** in new year (SP, LA)
- 11/5: **Team Meeting** with **Matt, Haden, Larry Easterly, Kathy Francis, and Bryan Billhimer** (SP)
- 11/6: **Nature Lovers' Book Club** gathering at **Armco Park** with **OSU Extension** and **Laura Stanton** (SP)
- 11/7: **Toddler Trek: Squirrel Search** at **Armco Park**: 3 adults, 4 kids = 7 attendees (SP)
- 11/7: **Strategic Plan Work Session** at **Human Nature** with **Matt, Larry, Haden** and **Bryan** (SP)
- 11/8: Meeting with **Friends of WCPD** and **OCVN Dianna Kenneally** (SP)
- 11/8: Meeting with **Vicky Van Harlingen** from **Little Miami Watershed Network** about upcoming programs and potential partnerships (SP)



Upcoming Events and Projects

- **Continuing projects:**
 - **Duke Energy Grant** implementation to share solar panel production stats and upcoming programs and events with **Armco Park** patrons. Display units have been installed. Computers are currently at Tech Services being set up
- 11/15: **Nature Education Team Meeting** with **Matt** (SP)
- 11/18: **Wellness Walk** in partnership with **Laura Stanton** and **OSU Extension** at **Gulley Park** (SP)
- 11/18: Meeting with **Countryside YMCA** staff and volunteers regarding potential partnership opportunities (SP)
- 11/18: **Team Meeting** (SP)
- 11/21: Meeting with **Legend Web Works** about new website (SP)
- 11/26: Meeting with **Eagle Scout** candidate SJ Smith, a representative from **Cincinnati Off Road Alliance, Matt,** and **Larry** at **Landen-Deerfield Park** (SP)
- 11/27: **Nature Education Team Meeting** with **Matt** (SP)
- 12/4: **Toddler Trek: Woodpecker Walk** at **Gulley Park** (LA)
- 12/4: **Mystery reader** for South Lebanon Elementary School with *Dr. Seuss's Miles and Miles of Reptiles* and our **ambassador animals** (SP)
- 12/10: **Team Meeting** (SP)
- 12/11: **Nature Education Team Meeting** with **Matt** (SP, LA)
- 12/13: **Toddler Trek: Woodpecker Walk** at **Armco Park** (LA)
- 12/17: **Story Time** at **Mason Public Library** (LA)



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Shannon Pennington
Warren County Park District
(513) 695-3980 ext. 4
shannon.pennington@co.warren.oh.us

Release Date:

November 5, 2024 – For Immediate Release

Warren County Park District Announces Headwaters Restoration at Landen-Deerfield Park

[Lebanon, OH, November 5] – Warren County Park District will be holding an open house this coming Thursday to answer the community’s questions about an upcoming stream restoration project slated for Landen-Deerfield Park.

The Simpson Creek Headwaters Restoration project re-imagines Landen-Deerfield Park Pond as a natural stream channel, wetland, and pond system to improve water quality in the Little Miami River Watershed while delivering additional benefits including nature play, nature-based outdoor recreation, educational opportunities, and reduced long-term maintenance cost and flooding risk. The project is being funded through \$923,179 in grants from the H2Ohio initiative and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The current pond at Landen-Deerfield Park, located at 2258 US 22/3, Maineville, OH, was created for aesthetic and recreational purposes in the early 1980’s by damming a stream, a practice that is no longer permitted. The pond does not serve any stormwater function and has historically been a drain on Park District finances due to high costs of dredging and treatment of unhealthy algal and invasive plant blooms.

Re-establishing the natural stream channel in this area will improve water quality and reduce downstream flooding risk while serving as a permanent solution to costly long-term maintenance obligations. The project will incorporate nature play elements, observation areas and trails to allow park guests of all ages more opportunities to connect with nature. A half-acre pond will be maintained for fishing.

“The Park District is excited to bring this nearly \$1 million investment to Landen-Deerfield Park,” said Matt Latham, Park District CEO. “What we love most about this project is the multiple benefits it will deliver. These include nature play, where children and families can safely interact with the restored stream, education about the important role healthy streams play in our water quality, and reduced maintenance cost and flooding risk.”

Construction is scheduled for the second half of 2025 with completion by the end of 2025. Native vegetation establishment and touch-ups will continue into 2026. The park will remain open during construction.

The open house will be held on November 7, 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Deerfield Township Fire Station 57, 3435 US 22 & 3, Loveland, OH 45140. More information about the project, including draft plans, artist’s renderings, and other public input opportunities, can be found on the Park District’s website, www.warrencountyparks.com.

###

Maple Sugaring for Beginners

Ohio has a rich history of maple sugaring. Join us for winter tree identification and tree tapping to learn more about the history and evolution of the process.



Winter Tree ID Walks

Sat., 11/2/24, 10-11:30am, led by Casey Burdick at Armco Park, 1223 N SR 741, Lebanon. Registration required at www.WarrenCountyParks.com

Sat., 12/7/24, 1-3pm, led by Erin Shaw at Caesar Creek State Park Nature Center, 4006 Pioneer Village Rd, Waynesville. No registration required.

Sat., 1/11/25, 1-3pm, led by Erin Shaw at Caesar Creek State Park Nature Center, 4006 Pioneer Village Rd, Waynesville. No registration required.

Sat., 1/18/25, 10-11:30am, led by Casey Burdick at Armco Park, 1223 N SR 741, Lebanon. Registration required at www.WarrenCountyParks.com

Sat., 1/18/25, 1-2:30pm, led by Lauren Asquith at Deerfield Twp Kingswood Park, 4188 Irwin-Simpson Rd, Mason. Registration required at www.DeerfieldRec.com



Tree-Tapping Basics

Sat., 1/25/25, 3-4:30pm, led by Erin Shaw at Armco Park 1223 N SR 741, Lebanon. Registration required at www.WarrenCountyParks.com

Wed., 2/12/25, 6-7:30pm, led by Shannon Pennington at Kingswood Park, 4188 Irwin-Simpson Rd, Mason. Registration required at www.DeerfieldRec.com

Sat., 2/15/25, 1-2:30pm, led by Shannon Pennington at Armco Park, 1223 N SR 741, Lebanon. Registration required at www.WarrenCountyParks.com

This FREE community learning series is provided by the Warren County Conservation Collaborative. You may attend just one session or as many as you'd like!



Winter LIBRARY PROGRAMS



Join Warren County Park District Naturalists as we team up with libraries throughout Warren County for programs based around The Mitten by Jan Brett. We will bring mammal furs and track examples that relate to the story as well as furs from other mammals that call Ohio home. Please check with each library for any registration information, if it's required, and children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Mason Public Library

Family Story Time <https://masonpl.libcal.com/event/12838967>
December 17, 2024 7:00pm
200 Reading Rd. Mason, OH 45040



Franklin-Springboro Public Library

Preschool Story Time <https://www.fspl.org/storytimes>
January 8, 2025 11:30am
Franklin Library- 44 E.4th St. Franklin, OH 45005
January 9, 2025 11:30am
Springboro Library- 125 Park Ln. Springboro, OH 45066



Mary L. Cook Public Library

Preschool Story Time <https://www.mlcook.lib.oh.us/content/storytime-0>
January 16, 2025 10:30am
381 Old Stage Rd. Waynesville, OH 45068



Lebanon Public Library

Homeschool Hangout https://lebanonlibrary.org/event/homeschool-hangout-4/?instance_id=16864
February 1, 2025 10:00am
101 S Broadway St, Lebanon, OH 45036
STEAM Saturday https://lebanonlibrary.org/event/steam-saturday-4/?instance_id=16866
February 1, 2025 11:30am
101 S Broadway St, Lebanon, OH 45036



Salem Township Public Library

Family Story Time <https://www.salem-township.lib.oh.us/calendar/month>
February 10, 2025 6:30pm
535 W Pike St, Morrow, OH 45152



SEE YOU THIS WINTER!

For questions call 513-409-1389
or email
Lauren.asquith@co.warren.oh.us



www.warrencountyparks.com