

WCPD Naturalist & Marketing Report

February & March 2025



Shannon Pennington, SPennington@warrencountyparks.com, 513-833-7360
Lauren Asquith, LASquith@warrencountyparks.com, 513-409-1389

Community Connections

- In the past 28 days, **Facebook** posts had 29,010 views. Weekly **E-blasts** are reaching 3,030 subscribers. Spring edition of **CenterPoint** magazine reached 33,000 households, see attached
- 2/13: **Herpetology Lecture** and **volunteer recruitment** for **Cincinnati Nature Center Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Training** via Zoom, 45 attendees (SP)
- 2/14: **Press Release** for **Shaker Village Trail**, see attached (SP)
- 2/15: **Great Backyard Bird Count** at **Armco Park** with **Wild Birds Unlimited**, 11 attendees (LA, SP)
- 2/15: **Tree-Tapping Basics** at **Armco Park**, 9 attendees (SP)
- 2/20: Attended **Avian Flu Webinar** with ODNR (SP)
- 2/22: **Winter Workshop: Gardening for Birds, Butterflies and Bees** with guest **Bernie Younkman**, 11 attendees (LA)
- 2/24: **Winter Wellness Walk** with **Laura Stanton** and **OSU Extension** at **Countryside Y's Mulford Nature Trails**, 28 attendees, our biggest crowd yet! (SP)



- 2/25: **Strategic Plan Open House** planning Teams meeting with **Human Nature** and **Matt** (SP, LA)
- 2/26: **Nature Education Team Meeting** to review annual program planning with **Matt** (SP, LA)
- 2/27: **Warren Co. Conservation Collaborative** meeting with **OSU Extension** and **WC Solid Waste** (SP)

- **3/1: Maple Sugaring Community Celebration at Countryside Y's Mulford Nature Trails** with YMCA volunteers **Jim Ludwick** and **Arland Esch**, and supporting activities from **WC Extension**, **City of Lebanon Parks & Rec**, **WC Soil & Water Conservation**, and **Friends of WCPD**, 22 attendees. We got excellent feedback from the public about this inaugural maple sugaring series! (LA, SP)



- **3/3: Mailchimp Teams meeting** with **Matt Latham** and **Cheryl Holly** (SP)
- **3/3: Team Meeting** with **Matt**, **Larry Easterly**, **Haden Englert**, **Bryan Billhimer**, **Kathy Francis** (SP)
- **3/5: Press Release for Strategic Plan Open Houses**, see attached (SP)
- **3/5: Attended webinar on Community Science in Programming** (SP)
- **3/6: Nature Lovers' Book Club** with **OSU Ext** and **Deerfield Township**, 4 attendees (SP)
- **3/8: Lebanon Community Showcase** at Lebanon High School, approx. 250 attendees (SP)
- **3/8: Landen-Deerfield brochures** sent to **CORA Expo** with City of Lebanon's **Casey Burdick** for distribution to attendees, see attached (SP)
- **3/11: Strategic Plan Open House** in Mason, 11 attendees (SP)
- **3/12: Toddler Trek: Log Detective** at **Armco Park**, 13 adults + 18 kids = 31 attendees (LA)
- **3/12: Nature Lovers' Book Club** with **OSU Ext** and **Deerfield Township**, 16 attendees (SP)
- **3/12: Friends of WCPD Meeting**, 9 attendees (SP)
- **3/13: Strategic Plan Open House at Countryside YMCA** (SP)
- Ongoing: **Annual Report** progress, working with Friends of WCPD on **Volunteer Days**, renewing **Education Permits** from Ohio Division of Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife



Upcoming Events and Projects

- 3/15: **Walk and Learn: Trees** with OCVN Kathie Bowers at Hisey Park
- 3/15: **Nature Walk** with Mason Parks & Rec at Pine Hill Lakes Park (LA)
- 3/18: **Team Meeting** (SP)
- 3/18: **Warren County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** meeting (SP)
- 3/18: **Strategic Plan Open House** in Waynesville (SP)
- 3/20: **Toddler Trek: Log Detective** at Armco (LA)
- 3/20: **United Way** luncheon with Matt (SP)
- 3/20: **Strategic Plan Open House** in Morrow (LA)
- 3/22: **Bird Walk** and Tree ID with **Wild Birds Unlimited** (SP)
- 3/22: **Winter Workshop: Intro to Community Science** (SP)
- 3/22: **Volunteer Work Day** at Landen Deerfield-Park with **Friends of WCPD, CORA** and John Fix
- 3/26: **Nature Education Team** meeting with **Matt** (SP, LA)
- 3/26: **Strategic Plan Open House** in Springboro (LA)
- 4/2: **Toddler Trek: Colors of Spring** at Landen-Deerfield (LA)
- 4/7: **Wellness Walk** with OSU Extension at Hisey Park (SP)
- 4/9: **Nature Ed Team Mtg** with Matt (SP, LA)
- 4/9: **Friends of WCPD** quarterly check-in (SP)
- 4/12: **Nature Walk** with **Mason Parks & Rec** at Pine Hill Lakes Park (SP)
- 4/13: **4H Program** for Archery Club (SP)



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Shannon Pennington
Warren County Park District
(513) 695-3980 ext. 4
spennington@warrencountyparks.com

Release Date: February 18, 2025 – For Immediate Release

Warren County Park District Secures \$500,000 Grant for Shaker Village Trail Project

Lebanon, Ohio - February 18, 2025 – Warren County Park District (WCPD) is excited to announce that it has partnered with Otterbein SeniorLife Lebanon and Union Village to secure a \$500,000 Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to fund the Shaker Village Trail. This paved multi-use trail will run 0.8 miles along State Route 741 in Lebanon, Ohio, and will provide a vital connection for pedestrians, cyclists, and golf cart users between key community destinations, including the 311-acre Armco Park, Otterbein SeniorLife Lebanon, and the planned community of Union Village.

The future Shaker Village Trail is named in honor of the Shakers who settled the area in 1805. This accessible paved trail will enhance pedestrian and bicycle access in an area that currently features high-speed rural roadways and will vastly improve safety and connectivity for the surrounding communities. The Shaker Village Trail is part of the Lebanon-Turtlecreek Trails Initiative (LTTI), and future trail extensions are planned to extend to Historic Downtown Lebanon, the Little Miami Scenic Trail, and the Miami Valley Trail Network.

Matt Latham, CEO of the Warren County Park District, expressed his enthusiasm: *"This grant will be a transformative step toward creating safer, more accessible pedestrian and bicycle connections. The Shaker Village Trail will not only connect three vital destinations but also enhance the outdoor experience for walkers, bikers, and residents, promoting healthier lifestyles and a stronger sense of community."*

Jill Wilson, President/CEO of Otterbein SeniorLife, highlighted the benefits for the Otterbein Lebanon community: *"Otterbein sees the Shaker Village Trail as a win-win for the entire community. It will boost park visitation for the Park District, improve connectivity for Union Village residents, and promote healthy, active living for seniors at Otterbein."*

"We are excited to be a part of this important project," said Matt Obringer, project manager at Union Village Ohio. "The trail will provide Union Village residents with easy and safe access to Armco Park and its many outstanding amenities."

The total project cost of the Shaker Village Trail is estimated at \$770,000. The \$500,000 ODNR grant will cover most of the project, with the remaining \$270,000 to be split equally between Union Village, Otterbein, and the Warren County Park District. Construction is scheduled to begin in Summer 2026.

About Warren County Park District – Warren County Park District is a county-wide park and green space provider, managing 1,716 acres in 12 parks across the County including its flagship parks, Armco and Landen-Deerfield. Our mission is to enhance our community's well-being by preserving quality natural spaces where all are invited to discover and experience the great outdoors. For information, see www.WarrenCountyParks.com, email parks@warrencountyparks.com, or call (513) 695-3980.

About Otterbein SeniorLife

Active since 1912, Otterbein SeniorLife is a faith-based, senior care organization with locations throughout Ohio and in Franklin, Indiana. Otterbein serves over 7,500 seniors annually via 11 full-service senior continuing care communities, nine skilled nursing and rehabilitation neighborhoods, multiple home health and hospice care agencies, and a staffing organization. The Otterbein SeniorLife mission is "Inspired by faith, we strive to enrich individual life journeys for all." For more information, visit www.otterbein.org.

About Union Village Ohio

Union Village Ohio is a unique village under construction in Turtlecreek Township (Warren County) Ohio. Designed on the principles of new urbanism, Town Architect Michael Watkins earned the Urban Planning John Russell Pope Award for the Union Village master plan. Touting charming front porches, masterfully crafted homes, beautiful park spaces and tree-lined streets, the Village will grow to include restaurants, shops and amenities in walking distance to homes. For more information visit unionvillageohio.com or call (513) 409-3190.

##



The Shaker Village Trail (in yellow) will provide access between Union Village, Otterbein SeniorLife Lebanon, and Warren County Armco Park.

Trail Features

Choose your own adventure! Some of the trails in this location include flowy, bumpy paths and tablo-tops, while others feature tough, tight, rocky trails, and punchy climbs.

Great for beginners and experienced trail riders alike, the forest trails at Landen-Deerfield Park are a great place to progress your skills.



Park Amenities

www.warrencountyparks.com/landen-deerfield-park

The park's northern side is a quiet oasis with Simpson Crock, a tributary of the Little Miami, as its main feature, and a network of multi-use mountain biking trails. Native plant restoration zones and bluebird trails enhance the area.

The southern part of the park, closer to US 22/3, features more active offerings like athletic fields (rectangular fields and ball diamonds), basketball, pickleball, and tennis courts, challenge course, playground, splash pad, and shelters.



A Natural Partnership

Warren County Park District (WCPD)

Warren County Park District enhances our community's well-being by preserving quality natural spaces where all are invited to discover and experience the great outdoors.

www.WarrenCountyParks.com



Cincinnati Off Road Alliance (CORA)

CORA is dedicated to mobilizing resources and fostering community awareness, action, and education to serve as the catalyst for a vibrant outdoor culture centered on natural surface trails. We focus on enhancing engagement, connectivity, and stewardship of our natural environments within Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

www.coiatrails.org

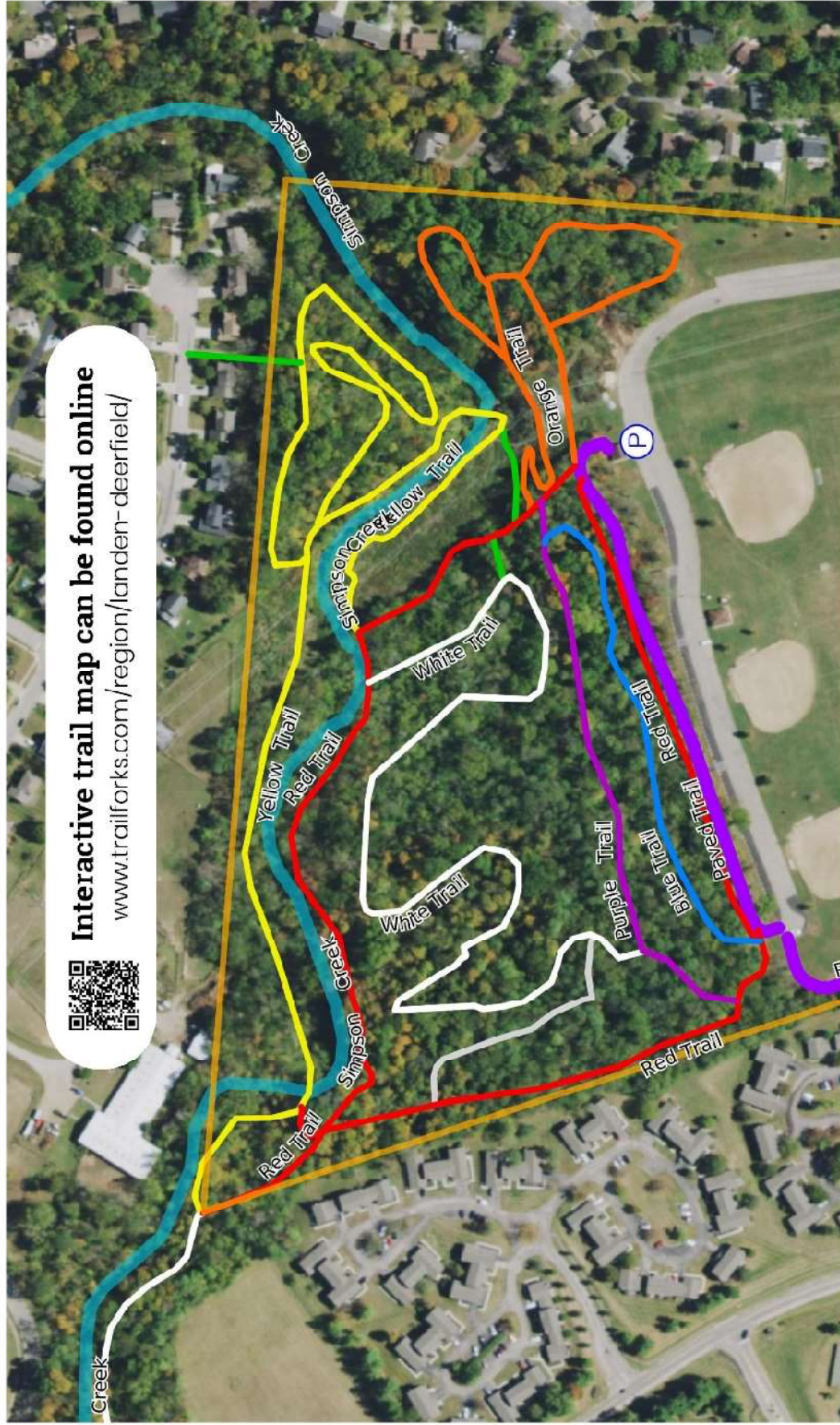


Landen-Deerfield Park Multi-Use Trails

Located in the suburbs of Cincinnati in a neighborhood setting, Landen-Deerfield Park provides locals and visitors with nearly three miles of combined mountain biking and hiking trails, two stream crossings, and 45 acres of woods.

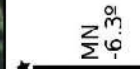
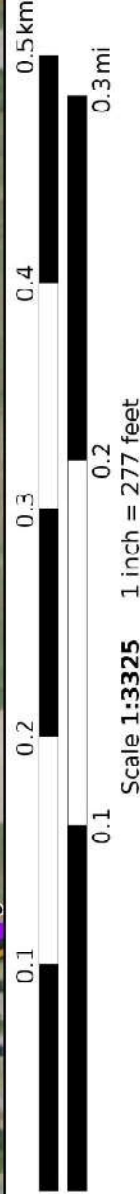
**2256 US 22/3,
Maineville, OH 45039**





Interactive trail map can be found online
www.trailforks.com/region/landen-deerfield/

Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 UTM Zone 16S



Remember to check if your trail is open before you head out!
www.coratrails.org/trails





PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Shannon Pennington
Warren County Park District
(513) 695-3980 ext. 4
spennington@warrencountyparks.com

Release Date: March 5, 2025 – For Immediate Release

Exciting Opportunities for Community Input: Informal Open Houses for Park District Strategic Plan

Warren County, Ohio – March 5, 2025 – The Warren County Park District is excited to announce a series of informal open houses during which residents can directly engage with park district staff, board members, and planners to help shape the future of our parks and recreational spaces. These open houses are part of the development of a comprehensive Strategic Plan, and we invite all community members to stop by, share their ideas, and get involved in creating a vibrant future for our parks!

A total of five open houses will be held at various locations throughout the county, ensuring accessibility for all residents. You can drop in at any time during one of the scheduled events to participate in one-on-one conversations, ask questions, and share your thoughts on the park district's direction. If you are passionate about parks, trails, and green space, this is your chance to make your voice heard in a welcoming, casual setting.

Open House Schedule:

- **MASON:** Tuesday, March 11, 6–8pm, at the Municipal Center Community Room 1029, [6000 Mason Montgomery Road](#)
- **LEBANON:** Thursday, March 13, 6–8pm, at the Countryside YMCA, Henkel Board Room, [1699 Deerfield Road](#)
- **WAYNESVILLE:** Tuesday, March 18, 5–6:45pm, at the Mary L. Cook Library, [381 Old Stage Road](#)
- **MORROW:** Thursday, March 20, 6–8pm, at The 315, [315 West Pike Street](#)
- **SPRINGBORO:** Wednesday, March 26, 6–8pm, at the Springboro Municipal Building, [320 West Central Avenue](#)

“We want to make sure that all Warren County residents have the opportunity to get involved in this important planning process,” said Matt Latham, Warren County Park District CEO. “We look forward to hearing from the people we serve about how the Park District can best support the mental, physical, and economic health of our community.”

An online participation option will be offered for those who are unable to attend the in-person open houses, which will be announced on the Warren County Park District's website after the open houses

have concluded. For more information about the strategic plan, open house details, or ways to get involved, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/StrategicPlanWCPD>.

About Warren County Park District – Warren County Park District is a county-wide park and green space provider, managing 1,716 acres in 12 parks across the County including its flagship parks, Armco and Landen–Deerfield. Our mission is to enhance our community's well-being by preserving quality natural spaces where all are invited to discover and experience the great outdoors. For information, see www.WarrenCountyParks.com, email parks@warrencountyparks.com, or call (513) 695-3980.

##



Learn More



**Strategic Plan
Public Open
Houses**

**Envision the future of our
Warren County Parks!**

**Warren County
PARK DISTRICT**
Enjoy. Play. Preserve.

- **MASON:** Tues, 3/11, 6-8pm: Municipal Center Community Rm 1029; 6000 Mason-Montgomery Rd
- **LEBANON:** Thurs, 3/13, 6-8pm: Countryside YMCA, Henkel Board Rm, 1699 Deerfield Rd
- **WAYNESVILLE:** Tues, 3/18, 5-6:45pm: Mary L Cook Library, 381 Old Stage Rd
- **MORROW:** Thurs, 3/20, 6-8pm: The 315, 315 W Pike St
- **SPRINGBORO:** Wed, 3/26, 6-8pm: Springboro Municipal Building, 320 W Central Ave
- Online option coming soon!

SPRING 2025



WALK AND LEARN



Join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Kathie Bowers this spring to learning about forests, wildflowers, and fossils! FREE programs. Registration is required.

- **Trees:** Sat., 3/15/25, 10-11:30am
- **Wildflowers:** Sat., 4/19/25, 10-11:30am
- **Fossils:** Date TBD, 10- 11:30am



HISEY PARK, 5443 MIDDLETOWN RD, WAYNESVILLE, OH

**MORE INFO AND
REGISTRATION**

www.WarrenCountyParks.com/events

Come prepared! Dress for the weather and bring water. Hikes are predicated to last around 1.5 hours, although you are welcome to stay as long as you'd like. You may attend all of the hikes or just one or two!