



Friends of Warren County Park District 2019 Annual Report



Friends of the Warren County Park District was created to... support programs and activities associated with the Warren County Park District, ... encourage volunteerism.... raise funds to further the growth of the Park District...and maintain relationships with other Warren County organizations.”. These purposes comprise our mission.

2019 was another banner year for the FOWCPD and our collaborations in the community continued as we provided new levels of outreach to individual and organizations in Warren County and beyond.

In January David Nuscher was elected as the new President of the FOWCPD after over a decade of outstanding leadership by Judy Bay and Kathy Schroeder. Clint Day agreed to continue his role as Treasure and Cindy Glorius also continued as Secretary.

In February, the annual Great Backyard Bird Count took place again at the Hisey Park Homestead. Bill Lindauer, Dave Woehr, Shannon Russell and “Friends” hosted another huge crowd of “watchers” and the Hisey Bird Count won the coveted “most species identified” of the various other organizations in the region also participating in the count. Over 35 various species were identified. The event, including warm beverages and more food than a country buffet, was a total success.

Moving into spring and summer, our naturalists again provided a very robust array of programs for the Warren County community. Shannon continued her programs at Otterbein and other locations to both young and old. Dave Woehr and Bill Lindauer continued their educational programs and hikes too. Our OCVN members easily reached audiences in the thousands in total over the course of the year and we should certainly be proud of that as it is a big part of our mission.

The Solar Array Project at Armco Park had an official ribbon cutting in June just hours after the Annual Fishing Derby took place that drew over 68 participants. We are certainly a group of multi taskers! A special thanks goes out to Dianna Kenneally and Shannon Russell Pennington for their special efforts on this project and for writing a grant to the Ohio EPA to help fund various aspects of the Solar Array Project. FOWCPD Member and Park Board Commissioner Jeff Blazey, Fred Bay and Ben Yoder assisted in the presentation and ribbon cutting.

The Parks continued our efforts to offer healthy programs for the community and hosted 5 fun run/walk 5K events at Armco Parks. Again, a special thanks to member Anita Schaengold for taking on the responsibility of being the Race Director for this event as well as our other members who volunteered many hours during these Saturday morning events.

Fall was our 14th Annual Hisey Fall Festival. We all agreed the weather was the best ever for this event. Temperatures in the 70s with blue sky overhead all day made a perfect backdrop for the many activities that took place on that special day. We really saw an influx of young children at this event and that is what we are really aiming for in terms of a farm life experience for our youthful audience, if only for a day. Visitors attending were able to participate in corn shelling, tasting homemade apple cider, painting rocks and pumpkins, enjoying a live Civil War reenactment, and pony rides just to name a few of the activities held that day.

It seems like every year we continue to outdo ourselves in terms of events, education and helping support what we feel is one of the best County Park systems in the State of Ohio!

We thank you for the increase in our membership and in the Kroger Rewards program, enabling us to support the park's nature programs and purchase trees to be planted in various parks. We are enclosing our membership application envelope with this letter and hope that you will continue to support the Warren County Park District with your membership and your participation.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Friends of the WC Park District are always encouraging volunteerism in our parks. There are many ways to help including:

1. Participation on the Board of Friends of the Park.
2. Assisting with nature programs.
3. Gardening, planting, landscaping. (Adopt A Park).
4. Set up and help hosting the Great Backyard Bird Count.
5. Set up and helping develop exercise and fitness programs.
6. Set up and help with Hisey Fall Festival.
7. Set up and help with the Youth Fishing Derby.

Include your desire to volunteer with a notation on your membership information.
Just write: I WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED TO VOLUNTEER!

Let us know what you would like to see happen in 2020. We would like to hear from you.

For more information go to:

www.fwcpdoh.com

<http://www.co.warren.oh.us/parks>