

# WCPD Naturalist & Marketing Report

## February & March 2024



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### Community Connections

- In the past 28 days, **Facebook** posts have reached 30,893 people. **Eblasts** have reached 1,143 people
- 2/14: Attended webinar **"Providing and Enriching Wildlife Habitat."**
- 2/17: Facilitated the **Great Backyard Bird Count** and **Suet-Making Workshop** at Armco Park Jones Pavilion. Thank you to **Wild Birds Unlimited** of West Chester and Springboro for providing birdseed for our feeders and to **Connor Fox** and **Annie Huey** from WBU for leading a bird walk. 65 attendees.
- 2/20: Team Meeting with **Matt Latham**, **Larry Easterly**, **Kathy Francis**, **Haden Englert**, and **Nick Zaccaria**. One-on-one meeting with **Matt**. Meeting with **Niki Marengo** from **Arrow Adventure** and **Dawn Stutz** from **Our Open Home** about potential "Choose Your Own Adventure" weekend at Armco Park this summer.
- 2/21: Attended webinar **"Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants."**
- 2/22: Site visit to **Landen-Deerfield** multi-use trails with **Matt**, **Larry**, and Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance (**CORA**) representatives **Matt Stierwalt**, **Jason Reser**, and **John Fix** to examine current trail structure and address any potential future modifications.
- 2/28: Attended webinar **"Healthy Woods: Common Insects and Diseases."**
- 2/29: Met with **Vicky Van Harlingen**, Associate Director of **Little Miami Watershed Network** about future collaborations.
- 2/29: Met with **Matt** and **Friends of WCPD** president **April Hamlin** and Treasurer **Kathie Bowers** about partnership goals, email list, and trail signage project at Hisey Park.
- 2/29: Hosted educator training with **Meredith Florkey** from Ohio Naturally at Armco Park Jones Pavilion. **"Exploring the Power of Learning Outdoors."** 7 attendees.
- 3/2: Attended **Warren County Astronomical Society** event "How to Prepare for the Solar Eclipse" at **Hisey Park**; they had over 100 people in attendance! Led **pop-up hike** after the event to look for signs of spring around the park. 13 attendees.
- 3/4: Attended **WCPD Commissioners' Meeting** and presented proposal to work with **Rocknoll Energy**, **Picky Bee Apiary**, and several other community partners to install **educational honeybee hives** inside the fencing at the Solar Pollinator Habitat at **Armco Park**.
- Reached out to numerous **community connections** to encourage attendance at the 3/5 Warren County Commissioners' Meeting.
- 3/5: **Team Meeting** with **Matt**, **Larry**, **Nick**, **Haden**, and **Kathy**.
- 3/5: Hosted educator training with **Meredith** at Armco Jones Pavilion. **"Risks and Hazards in the Outdoors."** 8 attendees.
- 3/6: Attended webinar **"Converting Lawns to Natural Areas."**
- 3/7: One-on-one meeting with **Matt**.
- 3/7: Hosted educator training with **Meredith** at Armco Park Jones Pavilion. **"Landscape Analysis and Design: Optimizing Learning in Your Outdoor Playspace,"** 10 attendees.
- 3/9: Hosted booth at **"Let's Lebanon"** event thanks to **Janis Baker** at **Lebanon Chamber of Commerce**. The reptile ambassadors and I shared info about the Park District and connected with around 200 people.



- 3/11: Met with **NEW Part-Time Naturalist Lauren Asquith** and **Larry** to discuss moving nature supplies to lower level of his office to establish a better space for collaboration. Met with **Matt** and **Lauren** to establish direction of nature programming moving forward. Welcome, Lauren!
- 3/12: Met with **Lauren** to get acquainted and discuss future programing and direction of nature outreach.
- 3/12: Met with **Matt, Larry,** and **Deerfield Township Parks and Recreation** representatives **Joel Smiddy, Sarah Kirby,** and others about projects at **Landen-Deerfield Park** and future collaborations.
- 3/12: Met with **Phil Thoms** from **Picky Bee Apiary** and **Jim Yockey** about **honeybee hives.**
- 3/12: Hosted educator training with **Meredith** at Armco Park Jones Pavilion, **"The Lowdown on Fall and Winter Slow Down,"** 8 attendees.
- 3/13: Presented **"Discovering Spring in Southwest Ohio"** to 40+ **Otterbein Lebanon** residents and guests. Connected with programs coordinator **Emily Shah** about future collaborations, including an outing to Hisey Park to see wildflowers with the residents.



## Upcoming Events and Projects

Date	Event	Attend	Market
3/14	Educator Workshop	X	X
3/19	Team mtg, Legend Web Works Meeting	X	
3/21	Bi-monthly meeting with Matt and Lauren	X	
3/23	Forest Nature Hike at Hisey Park	X	X
3/25	Wellness Walk with OSU Ext (Armco Park)	X	X
4/2	Team mtg	X	
4/4	Bi-monthly meeting with Matt and Lauren	X	
4/9 or 4/19	Salamander program with LMWN	X	X
4/11	Staff CPR/First Aid Training	X	
4/16	Team mtg	X	



# Spring Hiking Series

Come join us this spring as we visit local parks, learning about forests, wildflowers, trees, birds, geology, and more! These FREE hikes will be led by trained naturalists.

## Sat., 3/23/24, 10:30am, Forest Nature Hike

- Join us for this leisurely 1.7-mile hike along the Woodland Trail to learn about the current and past forest ecology while investigating the many tree species in this park. We might also find some very early spring wildflowers starting to peek out.
- **UPDATED LOCATION:** Hisey Park, 5443 Middletown Rd, Waynesville, OH

## Sat., 4/27/24, 10:30am, Spring Wildflower Hike

- By this time, our early spring wildflowers will be in full bloom and more will be starting to show. We will hike grassy fields and woodlands in search of signs of early wildflowers. At the end of our discovery process, you can join us for a 3-mile trek as we hike all the trails at this beautiful park.
- **Hisey Park**, 5443 Middletown Rd, Waynesville, OH

## Sat., 5/4/24, 8:00am, Warbler Walk

- Connor Fox from Wild Birds Unlimited of West Chester and Springboro will lead us on this birding walk in search of spring migrating warblers. Please note the earlier start time for this hike.
- **Armco Park**, 1223 North State Route 741, Lebanon,, OH

## Sat., 5/18/24, 10:30am, Wildflower & Geology Hike

- Even if you attended our earlier Spring Wildflower hike, different wildflowers will now be blooming. We will hike grassy fields and woodlands in search of signs of wildflowers. At the end of our discovery process, you can join us for a 3-mile trek as we hike all the trails at this beautiful park.
- **Hisey Park**, 5443 Middletown Rd, Waynesville, OH

**Come prepared! Dress for the weather and bring water.**  
**Hikes are predicated to last around 1.5-2 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!**

FRIENDS OF  
WARREN COUNTY  
PARK DISTRICT



Support • Improve • Protect • Preserve

## Register Here



[tingurl.com/WCPD2024SpringHikes](https://tingurl.com/WCPD2024SpringHikes)

Warren County  
**PARK  
DISTRICT**



Enjoy. Play. Preserve.







**You're Invited!**

**Friday, April 26, 2024  
Ribbon Cutting at 3pm**

Please join us for the Grand  
Reopening of our Softball  
Complex and AED dedication.



**1223 North State Route 741  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036**

Kindly RSVP by April 24:  
Shannon.Pennington@co.warren.oh.us

# ARMCO PARK SOFTBALL COMPLEX NEW TURF INFIELDS



## SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMS



**Hiking Series  
Night Sky Programs  
Animal Encounters  
Cops & Bobbers  
Tech-Free Tuesdays**

**100-Hours-Outside Challenge**

**[www.co.warren.oh.us/parks/events](http://www.co.warren.oh.us/parks/events)**