



FRIENDS OF WARREN COUNTY PARK DISTRICT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Friends of Warren County Park District is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working as a volunteer effort to support and promote the parks in the Warren County District.

LEADERSHIP: We welcomed April Hamlin as President and Cheryl Holly as Secretary. Kathie Bowers continued as Treasurer as well as Dave Nuscher as Vice President.

Annual Update from the President of Friends of the Parks is read by April H. Copy of letter can be requested through the Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP: As of December, our memberships are at 65. This is slightly lower than 2023 which was at 74. Our next membership will be held early 2025.

FINANCIAL ACCT SUMMARY:

2024	Beginning	Deposits	Withdraws	Ending
January	\$25,657.46	\$1,236.94	-\$257.38	\$26,637.02
February	\$26,637.02	\$572.21	-\$149.35	\$27,059.88
March	\$27,059.88	\$282.58	-\$546.66	\$26,795.80
April	\$26,795.80	\$80.00	-\$144.89	\$26,730.91
May	\$26,730.91	\$0.40	-\$1,151.19	\$25,580.12
June	\$25,580.12	\$1,275.07	-\$788.69	\$26,066.50
July	\$26,066.50	\$5,000.89	-\$4,321.57	\$26,745.82
August	\$26,745.82	\$1,075.85	-\$955.77	\$26,865.90
September	\$26,865.90	\$172.60	-\$371.57	\$26,666.93
October	\$26,666.93	\$97.00	-\$1,224.84	\$25,539.09
November	\$25,539.09	-	-\$68.53	\$25,470.56
December	\$25,470.56	\$84.07	-\$68.05	\$25,486.58
		\$9,877.61	\$10,048.49	\$25,486.58

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE: The website for Friends of Warren County Park District has undergone many changes. For starters, we changed the domain from (dot)com to (dot)org to better represent ourselves as a non-profit organization. And the entire site has undergone a makeover to better help with functionality.

We have started a quarterly blog called Our True Nature Friends Blog. Learn more about what goes on behind the doors of the outdoors at <https://fwcpdoh.org/blog>.

As always you can find out about upcoming events at our website <https://fwcpdoh.org/> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsWCPD>

A FEW EVENTS:



We kicked things off with the Spring Hiking Series visiting local parks, learning about forests, wildflowers, trees, geology and more.



WCPD was gifted a large amount of native tree and shrub seedlings from the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, so we all pulled together to pull invasive species to make room for the seedlings.



Self-guided hike through Hisey and Caesar Creek Gorge where we provided trail maps and marked the course.



Hisey Fall Festival 2024: The annual fall festival was a huge success. Many thanks go out to all the sponsors, vendors, volunteers, OCVN's and park members for their time and effort towards this awesome event.

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL & REMOVAL: We held several invasive removal events throughout the year. A huge shout out to Kathie Bowers who received her Commercial Pesticide license which will help tackle the problem with invasive species throughout our Warren County Parks.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP: Thank you for enabling us to support programs in our parks. We hope that you will continue to support Warren County Park District with your membership and your participation.

You can renew online with options to pay via check, PayPal, or credit card at www.fwcpdoh.org, or scan the QR code.



KROGER REWARDS: To sign up for Kroger Rewards, visit

www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards

Organization Name:

Friends of Warren County Park District Organization Number: UU763

Thank you to all our sponsors, partners, volunteers and our community for your dedicated support and donations. Your generosity and commitment means everything to us.

- Friends of Warren County Park District

2024 Nature Outreach Impact Summary

As of 12/13/24

- Programs and Events: 83
 - 31 children's programs
 - 18 family programs
 - 10 fairs and booths
 - 17 adult programs
 - 8 programs for groups with similar missions
- Interactions with the public: 8,299
- WCPD properties where we led programs: Armco, Landen-Deerfield, Hisey, Gulley, Carmody
- Other program/event locations: Warren County Fairgrounds, Libraries, Deerfield Township's Kingswood Park, Deerfield Towne Center, Miller Ecological Park in Lebanon, City of Franklin
- 74% of our programs and events were held in coordination with community partners
- 37% of our programs and events were assisted by volunteers
- WCPD properties people volunteered: Armco, Landen-Deerfield, Hisey, Gulley, Carmody, Morrow Veterans, Keever Trails
- Volunteer Hours Tallied*: 582.83 (*does not include Eagle scouts, CORA, WCAS, or FWCPD)
- Volunteer time quantified: \$18,172.64

2024's Warren County Park District Nature Team:

Warren County Park District Naturalists Shannon Pennington and Lauren Asquith, with support from the entire WCPD administrative and maintenance teams.

Volunteers associated with Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, Friends of Warren County Park District, scout troops, Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance, Warren County Astronomical Society, Master Gardeners, Kings High School, and others

Community Partners: Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension and 4H, Warren County Solid Waste Management, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Division of Wildlife, SAFE on Main, Little Miami Watershed Network, Little Miami Conservancy, Caesar Creek State Park, White Tails Unlimited Caesar Creek Chapter, Lebanon Public Library, Warren County Sheriff's Office, Mary L. Cook Library, Otterbein Senior Life Lebanon, Countryside YMCA, City of Lebanon Parks and Recreation, City of Mason, Hamilton Township Parks and Recreation, Deerfield Township Parks and Recreation, Cincinnati Nature Center, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Warren County Children Services, Miami Valley No Child Left Inside, Loveland Paddle Sports, Wild Birds Unlimited, Our Open Home, Arrow Adventure, Cincinnati Museum Center, RAPTOR, Inc. Buckeye United Fly Fishers, and many more



2024 Naturalist Report

Warren County Park District Staff Naturalists
Lauren Asquith and Shannon Pennington
www.WarrenCountyParks.com

Our biggest announcement of 2024 is that we hired a second part-time naturalist, **Lauren Asquith**, to help support our growing nature programming efforts. Lauren comes to us with over ten years of experience as a professional naturalist at Five Rivers Metroparks and she has brought fresh ideas and new energy to our team. We are so excited to have her on board!

The creation of a **Strategic Plan** is our second big announcement this year. Under the leadership of CEO Matt Latham, and with input from hundreds of patrons, park staff, focus groups, and a steering committee made up of community leaders, we now have a clear plan for the future of WCPD, with themes of **Conservation, Recreation, Education, and Operation**. This Strategic Plan will help shape our park district over the next five to ten years and will provide invaluable roadmap for how to achieve our goals.

Finally, as a capstone to 2024, WCPD just successfully launched a **NEW Park District Website!** This digital transformation marks a major leap forward for the Park District in delivering timely, user-friendly information for nature lovers in the region. Highlights of the [New Website](#) include an [Interactive Park Map](#), [Event Calendar](#), and [Mobile-Friendly Design](#). Start planning your next experience in the great outdoors at www.WarrenCountyParks.com.



In 2024, we hosted **83 programs/events**, and had **8,299 in-person interactions** with the public! In addition to programming at WCPD locations, one of our long-term goals is to reach areas of the county that we currently do not have WCPD properties, so this year we expanded our partner programming to include on-site events at the Warren County Fairgrounds, Deerfield Township's Kingswood Park, Miller Ecological Park in Lebanon, and the City of Franklin! Naturalist Lauren also began doing children's programs at libraries across Warren County and introduced "Toddler Treks" to our list of offerings.

It would be impossible to achieve so much without our dedicated supporters. Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Kathie Bowers helped us expand our invasive species removal efforts and native sapling plantings. She also led a series of Winter Workshops at Armco Park and a "walk and learn" spring hike series at Hisey Park, as well as a series of Winter Workshops at Armco Park. **OCVNs and Friends of WCPD were instrumental in helping us pull off our annual Cops & Bobbers Fishing Derby, our ever-popular Tech-Free Tuesday programs, and Hisey Fall Festival!** Thank you to the Friends of Warren County Park District for supporting these activities through your contributions and volunteering!

74% of our programs and events were held in coordination with **community partners**, and 37% of our outreach efforts were assisted by **volunteers**. Our volunteers tallied over 580 hours this year, and this does NOT include self-led efforts of Eagle Scout projects, the Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance (CORA), Warren County Astronomical Society, or the behind-the-scenes work of the Friends of Warren County Park District. We are so grateful for your assistance in sharing our wonderful Park District with the public!



Coming in 2025: Our nature programs continue to be a highlight of the Park District, and they are growing more every year. In 2025 we hope to introduce additional programming as well as opportunities to participate in new adventures with community partners! Follow us on social media or subscribe to the Friends newsletter for updates! If you are interested in helping, **please join as a Friends member today!**

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Warren County Park District and, by extension, our community nature programs. Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2025! ~Shannon & Lauren