

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

March, 2021

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March Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Because Covid has still not left the building, we will not have an in-person Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, 3/10. I am working with Craig Wiseman to choose software for teleconferencing. If possible, we will try to schedule an online conference for this Wednesday at 7 pm.

Stay healthy!



Letter from the President

Despite the Old Farmer's Almanac, March failed to enter like a lion. True enough, we did have the 2nd snowiest February in recorded history, which was predicted. At least the snow blower started each time I pulled it out of the garage. Having the last week of February above freezing did an even better job of cleaning the driveway, however.

I'm still waiting for my second Covid shot. Despite the wonderful job done by the Butler County Health Department for the first shot, UC did them one better in my wife's case by prescheduling her second shot after giving her first shot. I don't know why scheduling an appointment should be tougher than woodpecker lips, but that's how it seems to be.

Spring flowers are convinced that spring is here to stay. At least three species are presently blooming in the front flowerbeds. It won't be long before dandelions start popping up and I'll need the lawn mower instead of the snow blower. Given the choice of shoveling or mowing, I'll take the latter.

Spring flowers are on their way to MetroParks. What better time to visit our parks? See you there. Be sure to get your vaccinations as soon as possible so that we can return to our parks and once again participate in group activities! I hope to see you soon.

Bill Walker

Spooling Up

One of the many activities sponsored by Friends of MetroParks is the Animal Fund to buy and help care for the farm animals at Chrisholm MetroPark. The most recent request from MPX was back scratching pads for the goats, a dehumidifier for the barn, and wooden spools to serve as a jungle gym for the goats.



The dehumidifier did not present a problem, but locating cable spools proved more difficult. Luckily, Amy Pellman's cousin, Jamey, has access to the appropriate spools and was willing to donate some if we could pick them up from Kentucky. Board member Darryl Young provided truck, trailer, and strength of back to help move the spools to Chrisholm. Thanks to all involved!





Signs of Spring

Becky Vanderpool,
Senior Manager of Park Connections

It may not feel like it now, but spring really is just around the corner! Use your senses to watch for these tell-tale signs that the season really is changing.

Watch for spring colors to return! Early bulbs, like crocuses, are sure to sprout and bloom soon, if they haven't already done so. Take a close look at the branches on Silver Maple trees. They are one of the first trees to sprout buds in the early spring.



Take a deep breath in through your nose! The air after a spring rain has a distinctive smell. Lawns will be mowed soon, adding the scent of fresh cut grass to the air. And fragrant spring wildflowers are another sign of the season.

Feel the spring breeze! Take a walk in the park without having to be bundled up in layers. Open your windows at home and in your car as you are out and about.

Listen for this next welcome sign of Spring! When the ponds and wetlands thaw, the Spring Peepers will become quite vocal! Just like their name says, their calls are a single high pitched "Peep."



The sounds of a lot of them together goes from one "peep" to a repetition of "peep, peep, peep, peep." Take a walk at Indian Creek MetroPark just before dusk in mid-March or after and you will hear them for sure. Other sounds of spring include owls hooting, woodpeckers drumming and songbirds, like the tufted titmouse.

Add the flavor of fresh spring greens to your meals! Lettuce, spinach, and others will be abundant in backyard gardens & produce markets very soon.

What tell-tale signs just have you seen so far this year?



Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

- Upcoming members events & meetings
- Volunteering with MPX
- MPX programming



February Volunteers



Hamilton High School ASTRA club members helping out at the Chrisholm Historic Farmstead 2/28/2021

****Keep sending in your pictures! We love to see them...and share them!****

March Birthday Corner!

Andrea Ballinger	3/25	Thomas Lacerda	3/11
Whitney Brown	3/14	Grace Lampart	3/3
Jackson D'Imperio	3/28	Patti McDonald	3/17
Morgan Dixon	3/11	Ellen Roush	3/23
Ed Estoye	3/25	James Schuler	3/11
Eric Hollins	3/14	Michael Smith	3/10
Denise Keegan	3/21	Paulette Walker	3/2
Pamela Knudson	3/7		



Don't Forget!

- Would you like to be in the spotlight? Let us know and maybe YOU can be in a future newsletter!

Did You Know?

- In person programming has begun! Check it out under Programs and Events on our website. Pre-registration required.
- Group projects are ramping up! In March alone, we have 5 service days scheduled. Most with 2 shifts per day! Group sizes are limited to 10.
- MetroParks' Board of Park Commissioners has made it a priority to find ways to complete the Great Miami River Trail in cooperation with other organizations.

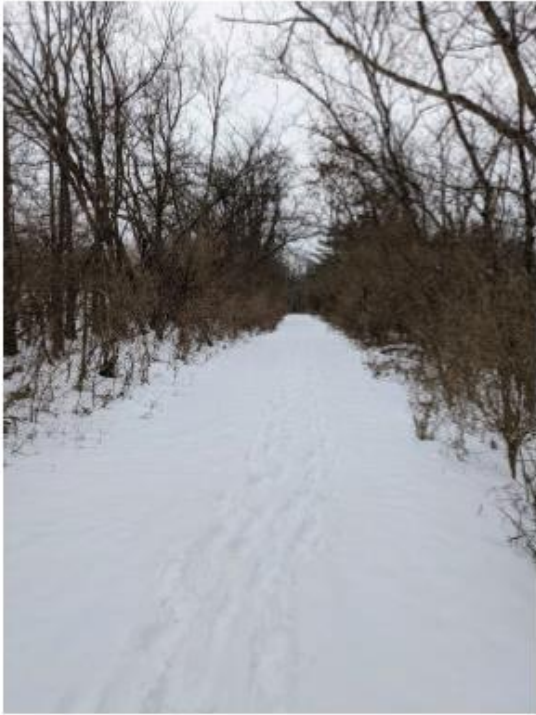
Contact Us

Give us a call or visit us on the web for more information about service opportunities.

MetroParks Of Butler County
 2051 Timberman Road
 Hamilton OH 45013
 513.867.5835
www.YourMetroParks.net

Or email Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."
 Oscar Wilde



Governor Bebb MetroPark-February 13, 2021. Photos by Kelly Cowan

MetroPark Volunteer Spotlight



Carole Poffinbarger – Nest Box Monitor

How long have you lived or worked in Butler County? I have lived in Butler County for 58 years.

Tell me a little about your family: My husband Karl and I have been married for 34 years. We have two children Emily and Joe, and three Grandchildren, Aidan, Alec and Ashton.

Do you have any hobbies? Biking, hiking, birding, and gardening.

What do you like to do for fun or is there a fun fact about yourself you would like to share? My husband and I rode our bikes on the C&O towpath twice, which is 184.5 mile that runs from Cumberland Maryland to Washington DC. We have also biked other Rails to Trails.

What do you love most about volunteering for MetroParks? Volunteering gets me outdoors and keeps me active. It has increased my interest in birding. I enjoy monitoring the Blue Bird boxes starting in the spring. It is always exciting listening for their melody, watching them choose which box they are going to use, the first egg that is laid, and the last young one to fledge.

Ongoing Service Opportunities

Feeder Fill Monitor

**** NEW OPPORTUNITY****

When: Saturday or Sunday; during park hours 8:00 am – dusk

Where: Forest Run MetroPark – Timberman Ridge area, Welcome Center

What: This opportunity is for the birds. Literally! Become a Feeder Fill Monitor and help keep our birds happy and full. Monitors fill up to eight (8) feeders in a central location at the Welcome Center and clean the bird bath on a weekly basis. Volunteers in this position will need to successfully complete a background check prior to starting the position. If interested, contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Campground Host

****NEW OPPORTUNITY****

When: Mid-April through mid-October

Where: Governor Bebb MetroPark – Dry Fork Campground

What: Like to camp and help others? We are looking for some friendly faces who like to camp and have their own equipment to setup camp at the Dry Fork Campground-on us! The Campground host will greet other campers, answer questions, and periodically check the restroom facilities. In return, camping fees would be waived. Training and background check required. If interested, please contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Trail Maintenance Steward

When: Flexible; during park hours 8:00 am - dusk

Where: Assigned hiking trails within MetroParks

What: Trail Ambassador Stewards hike marked trails in an assigned MetroPark at least 4 hours a month. Stewards report any maintenance and safety concerns to MetroParks staff and pick up any trash. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

Long-term Survey Project

When: flexible

Where: Governor Bebb MetroPark, Voice of America MetroPark, Forest Run MetroPark & Rentschler Forest MetroPark

What: We are looking for volunteers to assist staff by collecting data. Counting passengers in vehicles will help us see how many people visit the parks. This information will help guide us where we need to focus our efforts. Timing can be flexible in 1-2 hour increments. We will provide equipment and training. If interested contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Group Service Projects

When: Flexible

Where: Various

What: MetroParks always has a variety of projects for groups to complete! If you have a youth group, church group, student group, or business group that is interested in scheduling a private service day, contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information. To comply with the current regulations surrounding groups, the maximum allowed attendees is 9. A complete listing of the requirements can be shared upon request.

Photography Opportunity

Are you an amateur/professional/hobbyist photographer? Do you like to take pictures of people, places and special events? We are looking for high resolution photos with a dpi of 300 or more. If interested, please contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.



2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013
 513-867-5835, fax 513-867-5954
www.yourmetroparks.net

Monthly Volunteer Time Sheet

(Please Print or Type)

Group/Individual Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/E-mail: _____

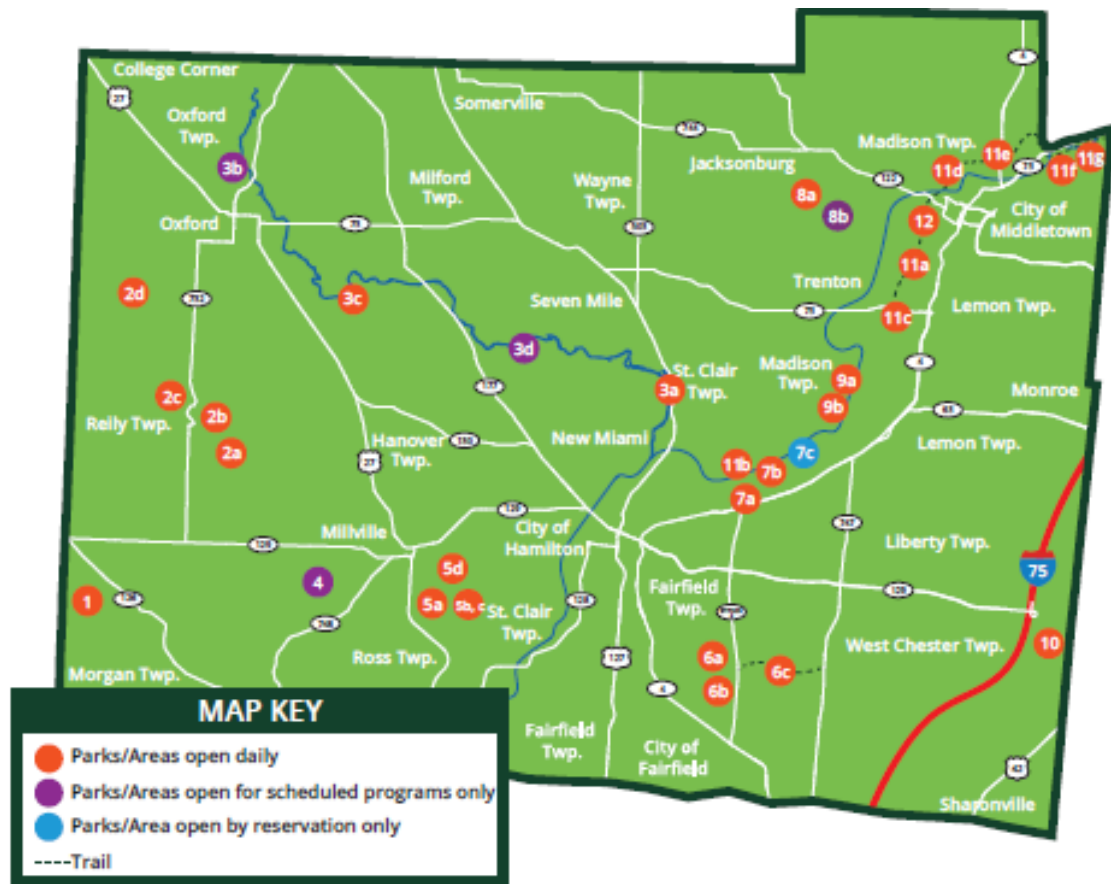
Month and Year: _____

Date	Location of Project or Event	Description of Work Being Performed	Time Worked
Total:			

Please sign below and turn in your form at the end of each month to a supervising staff member or the Administrative Office.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I recognize there are certain risks of injury as a result of my (or my child's) participation in this volunteer activity. I agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages, or loss which I (or my child may) sustain as a result of participating in any and all of the activities connected with or associated with this program, or products provided, including allergic reactions to foods consumed. I agree to waive and relinquish all claims I may have, as a result of my (or my child's) participation in this program, against MetroParks of Butler County and their agents, employees, and volunteers and against any co-sponsors of the program. I understand that neither MetroParks of Butler County, its staff, nor its volunteers assume responsibility for accident or injury to participants during this activity. MetroParks of Butler County Staff photographers may document the programs and events. MetroParks of Butler County reserves the right to use photographs of participants taken for the purposes of advertising and promoting its programs. I agree to these conditions.



1. GOVERNOR BEBB METROPARK

1979 Bebb Park Lane Okeana OH 45053
Bebb Natural Area
Dry Fork Campground
Pioneer Village

2. INDIAN CREEK METROPARK

2A. Bunker Hill Cemetery
 5351 Reily-Millville Road Oxford OH 45056
2b. Oxford Road Area
 1899 Oxford-Reily Road (SR 732)
 Oxford OH 45056
2C. Springfield Road Area
 6500 Springfield Road Oxford OH 45056
2D. Pioneer Church
 3000 Indian Creek Road Oxford OH 45056

3. FOUR MILE CREEK METROPARK

3A. Antenen Preserve
 2385 Treiber Road Hamilton OH 45011
3B. Mill Race Area
 5911 Morning Sun Road Oxford OH 45056
3C. Sycamore Bluffs Area
 3742 Lane: Mills Road Hamilton OH 45011
3D. Davidson Woods Area
 1200 HogUe Road Hamilton OH 45013

4. SALAMANDER RUN PRESERVE

4821 Layhigh Road Hamilton OH 45013

5. Forest Run MetroPark

5A. Engle House - Little Dry Run - Administrative Office
 2051 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
5B. Welcome Center
 1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
5C. Timberman Ridge
 1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
5D. Wildlife Preserve Area
 1810 New London Road Hamilton OH 45013

6. GILMORE METROPARK

6A. Gilmore Road Area
 7950 Gilmore Road Hamilton OH 45015
6B. Bilstein Boulevard Area
 8500 Bilstein Boulevard Hamilton OH 45015
6C. Port Union Trail Area

7. RENTSCHLER FOREST METROPARK

7A. Riegart Road Area
 5701 Riegart Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
7B. Line Hill Mound Area
 3620 Hamilton-Middletown Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
7C. Timberhill Area
 3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road Fairfield Township OH 45011

8. Elk Creek MetroPark

8A. Sebald Park Area
 5580 Elk Creek Road Middletown OH 45042
8B. Meadow Ridge Area
 5101 Circle Parkway Middletown OH 45042

9. Chrisholm MetroPark

9A. Chrisholm Historic Farmstead
 2070 Woodsdale Road Trenton OH 45067
9B. Woodsdale Regional Park
 1917 Woodsdale Road Trenton OH 45067

10. Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive West Chester OH 45069
Athletic Complex
Ronald Reagan Lodge
Natural Areas & Chill Hill Sledding Hill
Wiggly Field Dog Park
Wheelhouse Outdoor Area

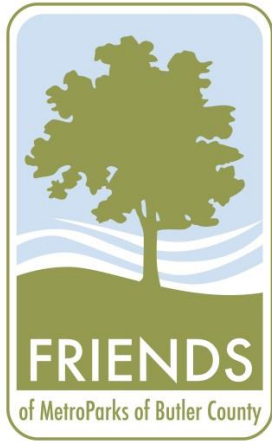
11. Great Miami River Trail

11A. North Section
 50 Oxford State Road Middletown OH 45044
11B. South Section
 5701 Riegart Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
11C. Parking Areas
 50 Oxford State Road, Middletown OH 45044
 26 North. Carmody Boulevard,
 Middletown OH 45044
 2399 North Carmody Boulevard,
 Middletown OH 45042
 3801 North Verity Parkway,
 Middletown OH 45042
 4401 North Verity Parkway,
 Middletown OH 45042

12. Bicentennial Commons

Carmody Boulevard at Central Avenue

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County



Our Mission	To improve and preserve the parks for future generations, to educate and inform the public about the unique qualities of each MetroPark, and to encourage individuals and groups to participate in volunteer programs
Member Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations to Member-only events • Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks programs and projects • Attend Annual Meeting and have a voice in Friends activities and direction
Who Are We?	<p><i>Private citizens who have come together to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor programs & activities, promoting the use of MetroParks for conservation, education and recreation • Encourage volunteerism toward support of MetroParks of Butler County • Identify and implement improvements to the park • Assist in raising funds, securing donations, and obtaining grants monies to further MetroParks' mission

Yes, I/We want to be a member of Friends of MetroParks of Butler County!

Detach the form below and Mail it with your check to the address below

Become a Friend!

Simply fill in this form, detach and mail it with your check. Made payable to:

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County
PO Box 691
Hamilton, OH 45012

Pick an Annual Membership

- Individual - \$10
- Family - \$15
- Group/Business - \$100
- Donation - \$ _____

Name(s)/Contact _____ Date _____

Name(s)/Contact _____ Date _____

Group or Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home/Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email (required to receive newsletter) _____