

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

March, 2020

FOMPBC Officers

President:

Bill Walker

Vice-President,

Nick Lengyel

Secretary:

Robin James

Treasurer:

Larry Gersbach

Nominating Chair:

Roger Koch

Publicity Chair:

Bill Walker

Outreach Chair:

Michel Price

Finance Chair:

Richard Burgstrom

Grants & Fund Raiser Chair

Robin James

Membership Chair:

Nick Lengyel

Events Chair

Carri Mosier

Web Master:

Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker

March Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

7 PM, March 11

River Center

100 S Carmody Blvd, Middletown, OH 45044

Save the Date

Friends of MetroParks Butler County will be having its 2020 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 6 pm. We will host this event at the Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Reagan Lodge -- Trophy Room, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, Ohio 45069.

Brett Beatty, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, will present; "Coyotes: Their Expanding Range in Ohio". Dinner will be provided.

To make a reservation please see the annual meeting invitation in the March and /or April issue of the Voice. Or, call 513.593.2735, or email kochtrees@gmail.com.

Letter from the President

Time flies when you're having fun. This weekend we return to daylight saving time. (As a Native American chief once said, "Only a European would believe that you can make a blanket bigger by cutting a foot off the bottom and sewing it back onto the top:") Logic notwithstanding, enjoy the extra hour of sleep Saturday since we'll lose it on Sunday.

Despite March winds and temperature swings spring is almost here. Salamanders have already left their winter hibernation for vernal pools. Sounds like a good time to visit our MetroParks.

See you in the parks!

Bill Walker, President FOMPBC



Upcoming Events

Show and Tell on the Farm



Come out and enjoy spring on the farm with Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: Mini Gardens, ABC's of Farm Life, Ohio Feeds the World, Luck of a 4-leaf Clover, Nesting Wreaths, We are Rockin', Let's Help the Little Red Hen, Dogs on the Farm, Fun on the Farm is on Thursdays from 10:00-11:00am and Sunday's from 2:00-4:00pm

Starting April 2nd Show and Tell on the Farm will be 6:30-7:30pm on Thursdays.

Spring Amphibians with Jeff Davis



Jeff Davis is one of Ohio's most well-known herpetologists. Wear your muck boots and join him in the search for amphibians. Salamander Run Preserve is generally closed to the public, so reserve your spot for a special experience! Off-trail and unpaved routes will be used, so be prepared for an adventure.

Pre-Registration is required by 3/6/2020. Space is limited.

Rain date of 3/21/2020.

Saturday. March 7, 9:30-11:30 AM

Salamander Run Preserve - 4821 Layhigh Road,
Hamilton, OH 45013

Let's Go Hiking! Scavenger Hunt



Let's go on a hunt--a scavenger hunt! Use clues to find your way around Huffman Park and explore what the park has to offer. Join in to discover a fun time! Please dress warmly.

FREE and open to all ages. Meet at Shelter A. Registration is requested by calling 513.867.5348. Walk-ups are welcome!

Saturday, March 21, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Huffman Park - 2100 John Gray Road Fairfield Ohio 45014

Things that Flutter Series: Rookeries



Rookeries are so important, but why? Join us at the beautiful Gilmore Ponds MetroPark for an unfor-egg-able birding experience. Participate in a hike around the ponds to view the nesting

colonies where young are raised, and observe the waterfowl species that call this area home. Come out to Gilmore and have a blast! Hon-nest!

Saturday, March 28, 8:00-9:30 AM
Gilmore MetroPark Bilstein Boulevard Natural Area - 8300 Bilstein Boulevard, Hamilton OH 45015

Wild about Spring Wildflowers



Get some fresh air with us as we search for signs of spring! We'll be exploring part of Rentschler Forest MetroPark looking for spring wildflowers such as Trout Lily! Did you know the name comes from the mottled pattern found on the leaves? FREE!

Saturday, March 28, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Rentschler Forest MetroPark – Riverview Shelter 5701 Reigart Road, Hamilton, OH 45011

Did You Know

Kroger Community Rewards Update

FOMPBC organization # TM866

Kroger is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations earn \$4 million in Greater Cincinnati, Dayton and Northern Kentucky through their Community Rewards program. FOMPBC is one of the Many wonderful organizations that benefit from this program.

How Can YOU Help Us?

In April 2017 Kroger's updated their Community Rewards process and software. As of April, supporters will no longer have to re-enroll their Kroger Plus Card to earn dollars for your organization. This will make it easier for you to support us! Please take a moment and make sure you are enrolled and supporting FOMPBC. <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

Once you're enrolled you will earn rewards for FOMPBC every time you shop and use your Plus Card.



Amazon Smile

What is Amazon Smile?

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you and your family to support FOMPBC every time you shop from Amazon, at no cost to you. Instead of shopping at Amazon.com you go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FOMPBC.

Farm Animal Fund

Chrisholm Farmstead MetroPark is almost ready to begin adding livestock to the new pens. Because MPX can only make purchases from pre-approved vendors, this red tape makes it difficult to buy animals from individual farmers. Our status as a 501C3 tax-exempt non-profit group makes it possible to streamline livestock purchases for Chrisholm. We have set aside a special account for such purchases. Please send your tax-free donation

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

Please make sure to make a note on the memo line of your check "Chrisholm Animal Fund" to make sure your donation helps populate the new FarmScape.

Spread the Buzz on BioBlitz!

By Stephanie McCabe, Interpretive Naturalist

Have you ever taken part in a BioBlitz? Ever heard that word before? BioBlitz programs have been taking place for over two decades, but still not many people know what they are, let alone participated in them.

A BioBlitz is a citizen science program with a focus on finding, identifying, and recording as many wildlife species as possible. It is also known as a biological inventory. In 1997, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History conducted a BioBlitz at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Riverview Park. This BioBlitz was the first to invite community members to observe the scientists conducting the inventory. Since then, almost all BioBlitz events have involved the public [1].

If you've ever wanted to be a scientist, even if only for a day, here's your chance! Join MetroParks on May 30th, 2020 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Forest Run MetroPark – Wildlife Preserve Area. The data collected during the BioBlitz will go towards the conservation efforts of MetroParks. Join in with staff and volunteer leaders on the search for wildlife in the parks!

If you have a smartphone, feel free to bring it and have the "iNaturalist" app pre-downloaded. This is a useful tool in identifying species, as well as cataloging the findings of the day in one place. Otherwise, we will have resources available for all participants.



References:

[1]<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/bioblitz/>

Fishing in MetroParks by Lucas Young

With spring just around the corner, you may or may not know about the wonderful opportunities there are for fishing within MetroParks of Butler County. For those looking to fish once the weather warms, look no further than Governor Bebb MetroPark, Indian Creek MetroPark, Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Voice of America MetroPark, Elk Creek MetroPark, or Forest Run MetroPark to get hooked!

For those looking to do some fishing in local creeks you'll want to make your way over to Governor Bebb MetroPark, Four Mile Creek MetroPark - Sycamore Bluffs, Indian Creek MetroPark, or the Sebald area of Elk Creek MetroPark.

Anyone wanting to sit down and relax for a while next to a lake or pond will want to seek out Voice of America MetroPark, the Meadow Ridge area of Elk Creek MetroPark, and Forest Run MetroPark.

Here in MetroParks of Butler County we have a wonderful fishing opportunity at Rentschler Forest MetroPark. There is about a half-mile frontage along the Great Miami River. The river offers excellent fishing opportunities for anyone looking to throw a line in.

Within these wonderful parks you are likely to catch a number of different species of fish native to our local habitats: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Smallmouth Bass, Channel Catfish, and Rock Bass

are all there and just waiting for you to throw your bait in the water! That being said, certain species tend to live in certain environments. Smallmouth and Rock Bass tend to stick to creeks and streams, while the rest tend to live in calmer waters like lakes and ponds.

As someone who has fished all of these areas, I would highly recommend sticking to very light tackle. The fish in the parks are a product of their environment, and since most of the ponds and creeks are quite small, the fish tend to be on the smaller side as well. The largest fish you are likely to catch will be around 4 or 5 pounds.

Before grabbing a pole and heading out to catch the big one, make sure that you have your State of Ohio fishing license on hand, it is required for all locations except for Voice of America MetroPark, where a MetroParks fishing permit is required.

Speaking of Voice of America, if you are someone who is new to the hobby, it's a great place to start. With watercraft and fishing pole rentals, as well as live bait for sale it's a great way to dip your toes in the water without spending too much money.

I encourage everyone to get out there and go fishing this spring! It's a great hobby to pick up and can be a great way to relax after a long days' worth of work.



SAVE THE DATE:

The Friends of MetroParks of Butler County is holding its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at Voice of America MetroParks, Ronald Reagan Lodge-Trophy Room, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, Ohio 45069.

The Meet and Greet begins at 6:00pm with dinner at 6:30 consisting of Mango Chicken, Pecan Rice, Roasted Vegetables, Rolls, and Tossed Salad. Homemade desserts will be provided by the Friends of MetroParks board members. The program will begin at 7:15 after a short business meeting. Mr. Brett Beatty, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Management Supervisor, will present; "Coyotes: Their expanding Range in Ohio".

Reservations are required for the dinner. The cost is \$20, \$5 for children under 12, payable at the door. To RSVP call 513-593-2735, or email kochtrees@gmail.com. Please specify the number attending and if there are any special dietary needs. The deadline for reservations is April 1, 2020.



Critter Corner



A wonderful bird is the pelican,
His bill will hold more than his belican
He can take in his beak
Food enough for a week
But I'm damned if I see how the helican.

Dixon Lanier Merritt

Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



2020 ANNUAL MEETING



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County 2020 Annual Meeting

WHEN April 8, 2020 6:00 pm.
Registration deadline March 30, 2020.

WHERE Voice of America MetroPark,
Ronald Reagan Lodge-Trophy Room
7850 VOA Park Drive,
West Chester OH, 45069

PRICE \$20 per person includes
dinner. Registration
required. Email Roger Koch
at kochtrees@gmail.com
The public is welcome!

*Please inform us of any special dietary needs.

ABOUT

Friends of MetroParks Butler County will be hosting its 2020 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm. This event will be hosted at the Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Reagan Lodge -- Trophy Room.

Brett Beatty, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, will present; "Coyotes: Their Expanding Range in Ohio". Dinner will be provided.

To make a reservation, call Roger Koch at 513.593.2735 or email kochtrees@gmail.com



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.



acp approved

MARCH EVENTS



MARCH 2020

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
IN LIKE A LION, OUT LIKE A LAMB**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., March 1, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
MINI GARDENS**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., March 5, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

**SPRING SALAMANDERS WITH JEFF
DAVIS**
Salamander Run Preserve
Sat., March 7, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Registration Required by 3/6/2020
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
ABC'S OF FARM LIFE**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., March 8, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
OHIO FEEDS THE WORLD**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., March 12, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
LUCK OF A 4-LEAF CLOVER**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., March 15, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
NESTING WREATHS**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., March 19, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

**LET'S GO HIKING SERIES
SCAVENGER HUNT**
Huffman Park
2100 John Gray Road, Fairfield 45014
Sat., March 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Pre-register by calling 513.867.5348
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
WE ARE ROCKIN'**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., March 22, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
LET'S HELP THE LITTLE RED HEN**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., March 26, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

**THINGS THAT FLUTTER SERIES:
ROOKERIES**
Gilmore MetroPark
Bilstein Boulevard Area
Sat., March 28, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
FREE

**WILD ABOUT SPRING WILDFLOWERS
RENTSCHLER FOREST METROPARK**
Reigart Road Area
Sat., March 28, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
FREE

**SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
DOGS ON THE FARM**
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., March 29, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

bav 200114

The mission of the MetroParks of Butler County is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education, and recreation. For more information visit us at www.YourMetroParks.net or call 513.867.5835
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.

APRIL EVENTS



APRIL 2020

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM CHILLIN' WITH VEGGIES

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., April 2, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FREE

FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT TRAIL COURSE

Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve
Fri., April 3, 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Registration Required by 4/1/2020
\$5.00/participant

WILD ABOUT SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Indian Creek MetroPark
Springfield Road Area
Sat., April 4, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FREE

DOG-GONE BONE HUNT

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Reigart Road Area
Sun., April 5, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
\$5.00/dog through 3/29/2020
\$6.00/dog after 3/29/2020

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM ABC'S OF FARM LIFE

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., April 5, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
FREE

EGG ORIENTEERING

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Line Hill Mound Area
Thurs., April 9, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Beginner Course \$4.00/child
Advanced Course \$10.00/OCIN
Members \$15.00/Non-Members

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM BREAK OUT OF THE SHELL

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., April 9, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FREE

FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT FIELD COURSE

Elk Creek MetroPark
Sebald Park
Fri., April 10, 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Registration Required by 4/8/2020
\$5.00/participant

WILD ABOUT SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Davidson Woods Area
Meet at Meijer on Main Street
to carpool
Sat., April 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Registration Required by 4/10/2020
FREE

EGG ORIENTEERING

Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve Area
Sat., April 11, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Beginner Course \$4.00/child
Advanced Course \$10.00/OCIN
Members \$15.00/Non-Members

ANIMAL GAMES

Huffman Park
2100 John Gray Road, Fairfield 45014
Sat., April 11, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Pre-register by calling 513.867.5348
FREE

MORE EVENTS ON BACK

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., April 16, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FREE

PHOTO WALK CLOSE-UPS & LANDSCAPES

Forest Run MetroPark
Timberman Ridge Area
Thurs., April 16, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Registration Required by 4/15/2020
FREE

LET'S GO HIKING SERIES WILD ABOUT SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Harbin Park
1300 Hunter Road, Fairfield 45014
Sat., April 18, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Register by calling 513.867.5348
FREE

MEDICINAL & EDIBLE PLANT WORKSHOP

Governor Bebb MetroPark
Sat., April 18, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration Required by 4/17/2020
FREE

STAR GAZING DEEP SPACE

Governor Bebb MetroPark
Sat., April 18, 8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Registration Required by 4/17/2020
FREE

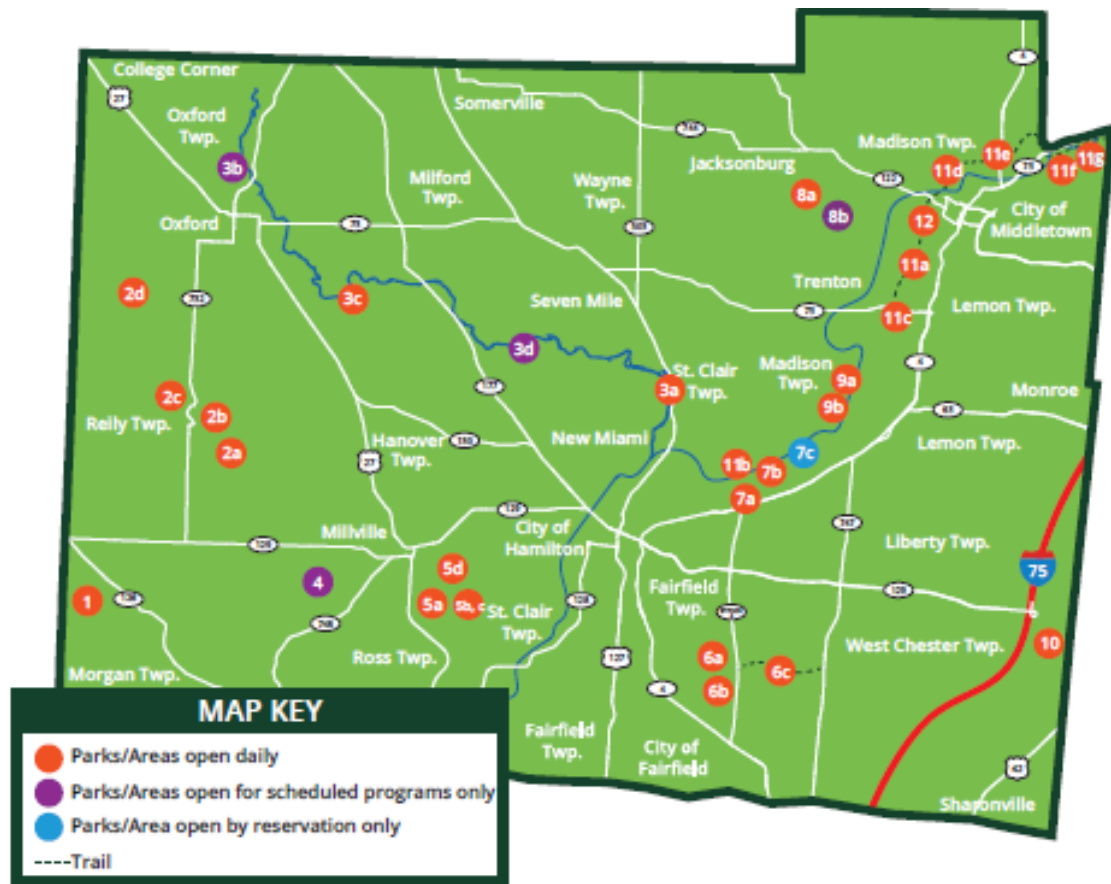
SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM WEE LITTLE ONES

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., April 19, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
FREE

bav 200218 approved

The mission of the MetroParks of Butler County is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education, and recreation. For more information visit us at www.YourMetroParks.net or call 513.867.5835

Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.



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

BIG WEEK OF BIRDING



Big Week of Birding in Butler County

First Things to Expect with Dave Russell

Tuesday, April 21, 2020
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Chrisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead

Big Week of Birding Dates

Saturday, April 25, 2020
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Gilmore MetroPark
Gilmore Road Area

Saturday, April 25, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Indian Creek MetroPark
Springfield Road Area

Sunday, April 26, 2020
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Forest Run MetroPark
Timberman Ridge

Sunday, April 26, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Salamander Run Preserve

Monday, April 27, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve Area

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Elk Creek MetroPark
Meadow Ridge Area

Wednesday, April 29, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Riegart Road Area

Thursday, April 30, 2020
7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Hueston Woods State Park
Bird Banding Station

Thursday, April 30, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Mill Race Area
Pre-registration required by
5/1/2020

Friday, May 1, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Davidson Woods Area
Pre-registration required by
5/2/2020

Saturday, May 2, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Governor Bebb MetroPark

About

It's the time of year to keep our eyes open for some amazing spring migrants like warblers, vireos, and orioles. Join us with members of the Audubon Miami Valley in celebration of these birds and many other species during the 7th annual Big Week of Birding. Enjoy bird hikes at various MetroParks locations lead by birding experts. Binoculars will be available to those who need them. All programs are FREE and most do not require pre-registration.



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.



See map on reverse side for address.

SAB

February Volunteers



Chi Psi Fraternity Service Day, Forest Run MetroPark – Timberman Ridge Area February 22, 2020

March Birthday Corner!

Alissa Smith	3/2	Susan Corthell	3/12
Joan Stine	3/2	Eric Hollins	3/14
Paulette Walker	3/2	Candace Rapking	3/14
Pamela Knudson	3/7	Rachael Weekley	3/16
Natalia Tooley	3/7	Patti McDonald	3/17
Addison Kennedy	3/10	Andrea Ballinger	3/25
Michael Smith	3/10	Cathy Chase	3/27
Thomas Lacerda	3/11	Jennifer Roth	3/30
James Schuler	3/11		



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

Did you know?

- Volunteer hours are reported to the MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners EVERY month? Please be sure to log your hours or email them to Amy for entry!
- Visit www.YourMetroParks.net, select "Support Us", then "Volunteering". Scroll down to the Volunteer Policy. On page 8 is the list of all the rewards! Don't know how many hours you have? Just ask me!

We L♥ve our Volunteers!!

MetroPark Staff Spotlight



Ally Ernst – Outdoor Educator

Tell us a little about your background and what brought you to MetroParks?

I've always wanted to be a naturalist, and I went to school to study Zoology. While everyone in that major was pre-med, I was out chasing birds and collecting wildflowers. I would freak out my friends because I'd just pick up a plant and start eating it! After college, I got my CIG (Certified Interpretive Guide) certificate and became an Ohio Master Gardener.

Tell us a little about your family:

My family consists of my Mom, Dad, my younger brother, myself and our dog Lacy. My Mom is an avid (some would say rabid) volunteer. She works the Pioneer field trips over at Bebb. She just loves to play "dress up"! As I was growing up, she was a stay-at-home mom, and she would take me and my brother out on day trips to parks and nature centers where I was "that kid". The naturalists all knew me by name and when they were presenting, they told me to let other kids have a chance to answer the question. My Dad is a golfer and it was because of this love of golf that got me through college. He received an Evan's Scholarship which is a full ride scholarship given to golf caddies. He got me a job as a caddy at his old course and I eventually got an Evan's Scholarship too and went to Miami University. My Brother, who is 2 years younger than me, just finished his undergrad at Ohio State (sorry The Ohio State) and he is currently going to school at Cincinnati State to get his surveyor license.

Do you have any hobbies?

When I'm not running through the woods somewhere, I can usually be found reading, or crocheting, or conducting experiments in the kitchen when my Mom isn't looking.

What do you like to do for fun or is there a fun fact about yourself you would like to share?

A fun fact about me is that I make my own wine. I've made apple, sweet potato, dandelion, pear, pear persimmon, mint, and red bud. But to be honest I really don't drink all that often, I just like to experiment!

What do you love most about working for MetroParks?

MetroParks feels like a family and we all look out for one another. We have each other's back!

Upcoming Service Opportunities

Service Day at Rentschler Forest – Timberhill Area

When: **March 14, 2020** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Rentschler Forest – Timberhill Area
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road
Fairfield Twp., OH 45011

What: What do you call an early morning volunteer? A Dew-something! Come out and be an early morning “dew-er” and help us put the canvas tents up at Timberhill!

Volunteers are needed to assist putting up the tents on wooden platforms. Great group project! If interested, contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

Flash Light Egg Hunt

Event runs: 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

When: **April 3, 2020**

Shifts available: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Where: Forest Run MetroPark, Wildlife Preserve
1810 New London Road Hamilton OH 45013

When: **April 10, 2020**

Shifts available: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Elk Creek MetroPark, Sebald Park Area
5580 Elk Creek Road Middletown OH 45042

What: Ready for some ‘eggs’citing fun while helping out? We are looking for 10-12 volunteers ages 16 and up to help out! This event is held at night, so volunteers must be able to work in the dark on uneven ground. Please bring your own flashlight or headlamp. Setup and cleanup help needed the day of the event as well as help hiding eggs, filling eggs, registration, collection of eggs at end of hunt. Don’t egg-nore these egg-cellent jokes! If interested, contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

Dog Gone Bone Hunt

Event runs: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

When: April 5, 2020 Rain date: April 19, 2020

Shifts available: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Reigart Road Area
5701 Reigart Road, Fairfield Township OH 45011

What: The Easter Bunny loves this time of year....he can feel spring in the ‘hare’! Come help out at this egg-citing event! We are looking for 8-10 volunteers ages 12 and up to work with people and dogs. Setup and cleanup help needed day of the event, as well as, help with hiding the eggs, registration, prize table, and performing as the Easter Bunny!

Ongoing Service Opportunities

Nest Box Monitor

When: **March – August 2020**

Where: Monitoring sites throughout MetroParks

Register: by March 31, 2020. **Email Joe Dumyahn** at jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net

What: Learn about becoming a volunteer Nest Box Monitor with MetroParks! Volunteers are needed to monitor nest boxes every 3-4 days from the beginning of March through the end of August. Monitors will record data to be submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Monitoring sites are available in several parks. Nest Box Monitoring is a great way to learn about nesting birds and enjoy the outdoors.

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.

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. Please allow a minimum of 2-3 months for planning.

Program/Event & Preparation Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Park Connections staff presents multiple education, recreation, and conservation programs and events throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing for MetroParks events and programs. Volunteers may create crafts, prepare signage, organize materials and supplies, clean materials and supplies, and other general tasks, as well as, volunteer for the program itself. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Administrative Office Support

When: Flexible

Where: Forest Run MetroPark-Administrative Office
2051 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013

What: Comfortable with spreadsheets and data entry? We are looking for a volunteer to help with entering information into our Motor Vehicle Permit database. If interested, please contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

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 apellman@YourMetroParks.net

Trail Ambassadors - Great Miami River Trail

When: Flexible

Where: Great Miami River Trail - Trenton to Middletown Section

What: Trail Ambassadors monitor the trail at least 4 hours a month (March through October) on their bicycle. Trail Ambassadors report maintenance and safety concerns to MetroParks staff, assist trail users when necessary, provide information to trail users, and perform light trail maintenance. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

Long-term Survey Project

When: flexible

Where: Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Elk Creek MetroPark, Forest Run MetroPark - Wildlife Preserve Area

What: We are looking for volunteers to count passengers in vehicles coming into the three park areas listed above. Timing can be flexible in 1-2 hour increments. We will provide equipment and training. If interested contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Historical Interpreter

When: During Field trip season which typically runs the end of March through mid to late May as well as late August – mid November.

Where: Governor Bebb MetroPark, Pioneer Village, 1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana OH 45053

What: Do you have a love of history? A desire to educate? Want to learn how? We have the job for you! We are looking for interested individuals to train as historical interpreters. All training and period clothing will be provided. If interested, contact Amy Pellman.

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." ~

Zig Ziglar

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) _____