

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

April, 2020

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April Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Called on account of social distancing.

The annual meeting has been indefinitely postponed pending relaxation of rules limiting gatherings of ten or more individuals.

A ballot will be emailed to members to ratify new terms of members of the board of directors.

Watch this space for further news. Rescheduling of the annual meeting will depend on how long we are confined to quarters.

Stay healthy!

**Solitary confinement
can create mental illness
where none previously
existed, or exacerbate
pre-existing illness.**

Letter from the President

Seems like only yesterday that we were all footloose and fancy free, going about our business in public. Lots of scheduled events in the parks were on the calendar. Next thing we knew the scope of our schedule became much more restricted. I have seen more of my wife in the past two weeks than in the previous month. She seems nice.

The hardest part of the confinement is trying to come up with variety in meal planning. At least our deep freeze and pantry are starting to clear out items that have been unseen by human eyes for several years. I haven't found any Twinkies yet, so I can't offer any insight into their shelf life. We have been able to visit the grocery, so are in no danger of running out of food. Yesterday, I even scored a package of toilet paper. (It's nice to know that the hoarders will be able to get their s#17 together for years to come.)

Not everything has a downside. It's nice to be able to lounge around the house all day in pajamas. Come to think of it, that's one of the many benefits of being retired! We have been walking around the neighborhood and are looking forward to warmer days to let us get out to the parks. The invasive trees are in bloom, to the delight of the newscasters. For some reason, they focus on the beauty of the trees instead of their long-term adverse effects on the environment. I'm sure that Chuck Holliday is looking down disapprovingly from on high.

I'm seeing lots of photos of wildflowers in bloom on Facebook. This would be a good time to go for walks in the parks. The MetroParks are open for their normal operating hours, but playgrounds and indoor activities are closed until further notice. All nature walks and educational programs are also cancelled. Don't let the lack of formal programs keep you and your immediate, locked-in family trapped indoors. There are plenty of flowers in bloom and critters who are missing the usual visitors. Visit the parks. In the words of Simon and Garfunkel, "the animals will love it if you do".

See you in the parks, Bill Walker

Get Thee to a Rookerie



Tis spring and the herons and egrets are in their rookeries at Gilmore Pond, 4-Mile Creek, plus one I noticed by the pond south of Ikea.

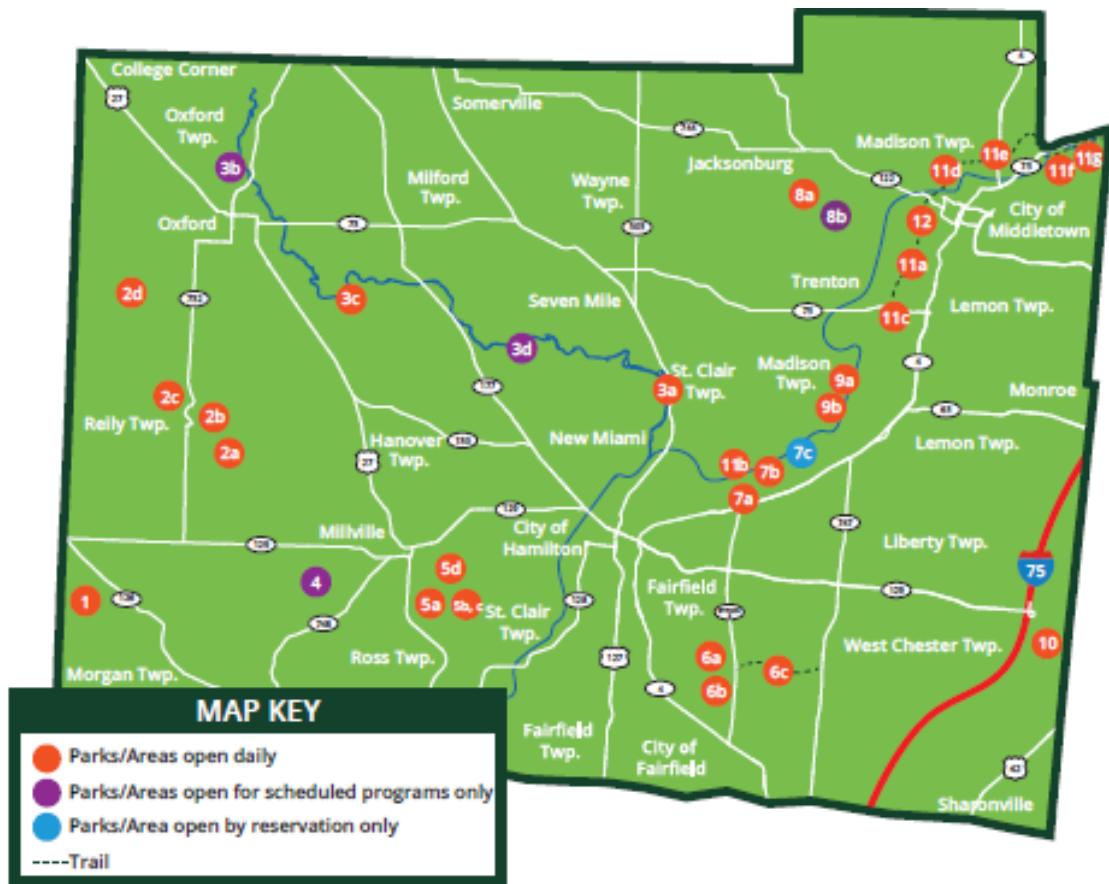
There was a nature walk scheduled for Gilmore MetroPark on Saturday, March 29. Unfortunately, this was one of the events cancelled. The birds do not feel constrained to obey social distancing. In fact, rookeries are notorious for both crowding and antisocial squabbling. This does not prevent us from observing the nursery from the birding platform. Enter the park from the parking lot off Symmes Road and take the trail to the east (right). The observation deck is on the west side of the pond, with the nests on the opposite (east) side. Be sure to bring binoculars or a spotting scope to better view the pageant. A camera with a long telephoto lens and a good tripod is another way to enjoy the show. Be sure to examine the resulting photos closely. When I looked carefully at some of the pictures after I returned home, I noticed that some of the shots with one or two birds actually also showed up to a dozen nests. It is best to get out looking for the rookeries soon. If we wait too long, the budding leaves will open up and conceal view of the nests.

Enjoy the parks. Maintain correct social distancing. Stay healthy. Happy trails to you until we meet again.

Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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





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

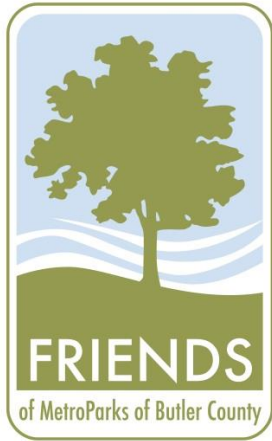
11. Great Miami River Trail

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) _____