

# The Voice of the Turtle



# Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

August, 2020

## FOMPBC Officers

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Bill Walker

**Vice-President,**

Nick Lengyel

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Bill Walker

## July Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

The July Board Meeting will take place next Wednesday, August 12, at 7 pm. We will meet in the pavilion at Chrisholm MetroPark.

Stay healthy!

## Frank and Ernest



## Letter from the President

The calendar says that it's August. Temperatures this morning were in the 60's. Even the weather seems confused by the 50-day long month of March and 90-day long month of April. We have gone through weeks with no rain, followed by weeks with hardly any sunshine. I sort of enjoyed not having to mow the grass every 3 days. Now, after several inches of rainfall in late July, the lawn mower has been awakened from its brief hibernation. The local weathermen have a thankless task trying to out-guess Mother Nature during an Ohio summer. It is often said that if you don't like the weather you should wait five minutes. We wake up most days to sunshine. Clouds often roll in by mid-day. With luck, an afternoon or evening shower may help green the lawns. Many days, however, the clouds' promises are as empty as political speeches pre-election.

The parks are slowly starting to re-open. Picnic shelters are again open for reservation by groups. "Modern" restrooms and water fountains are now unlocked and operating. Rentschler Forest MetroPark (Reigart Road) is now opening at 7am to allow hikers and bikers to get an early start before the heat of the day. All parks are open (subject to practicing social-distancing) for public use during daylight hours.

There are lots of beautiful summer flowers in bloom now. Nice time for a walk, bike ride, or picnic to help break the monotony of quarantine. See you in the parks,

Bill Walker



## MetroPark Prairies



Figure 1. Prairie Plants at Forest Run MetroPark

It is said that less than 1% of the 200 million acres of prairie grassland ecosystems in North America remain. In Ohio, the prairie ecosystem once covered about one million acres before pioneer settlement. Today, few prairies remain. Since 2015, MetroParks of Butler County has been constructing native prairie and grasslands on MetroPark properties in Butler County with the goal of creating diverse natural habitats and favorable conditions for wildlife and pollinator species. Prairies have been planted on former agriculture land at Forest Run MetroPark and Four-Mile Creek MetroPark and on former golf course land at Elk Creek MetroPark. MetroParks and our partners have created and are maintaining 79.5 acres of native grassland and 224.5 acres of prairie.



Figure 2. Seeding native prairie plants using seed drill

Forest Run MetroPark is a good example of the diverse prairies created. There are 7 distinct prairie areas at Forest Run representing 4 different seed mixes. Each prairie area is unique with different plants and different prairie life stages. A prairie is a dynamic process and it is always changing with some native prairie plants taking 3 to 5 years to establish.

Depending on the prairie area you visit and the time of year, you may see plants you recognize like Purple Coneflower, Grayheaded Coneflower, Saw-toothed Sunflower, Tall Coreopsis and Prairie-dock to name a few. If you enjoy the prairies you see you can always create prairies on your property even on a smaller scale and enjoy an ever-changing landscape.



Figure 3. Monarch butterfly on aster in MetroPark prairie



## Summer Wildflowers







# SOCIAL DISTANCING

is trying to keep yourself away from other people during infectious disease outbreaks.



You should maintain a distance of six feet from others and take every effort to distance yourself whenever possible.



[coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

- Social Distancing is trying to keep yourself away from other people during infectious disease outbreaks.
- You should maintain a distance of 6 feet from others and take every effort to distance yourself whenever possible.

# Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



## July Volunteers



Nest box monitoring at Forest Run MetroPark-Wildlife Preserve Area



Long-term survey project at Forest Run MetroPark-Timberman Ridge area



Long-term survey project at Rentschler Forest MetroPark-Reigart Road area

**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](http://www.YourMetroParks.net)  
 Or email Amy Pellman at [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net)

**Did you know?**

- Shelters are now reservable to groups of 10 or less! Reservations can be made by calling 513-867-5835 .
- Modern restrooms and drinking fountains will re-open August 1, 2020!
- We can now host group projects! See the opportunities below.

### August Birthday Corner!

Caity West	8/2	Charles Aynes	8/19
Nathan Hogan	8/3	Henry Campbell	8/19
Suzanne Bruce	8/5	Bryant Riley	8/19
Denise Carnevale	8/8	Nathaniel Coffin	8/21
Braden Thomsen	8/9	Leslie Ward	8/21
Alfredo Ferguson	8/10	Margaret Ernst	8/22
David Johnson	8/10	Kyle Hosler	8/23
Connor Lindberg	8/10	Nathan Adelhardt	8/24
Carri Mosier	8/11	Deb Richardson	8/24
Jake Scott	8/12	Virginia Hertenstein	8/29
Ted Schellenbach	8/13	Emma Jones	8/29
Stephanie Cronin	8/14		





## MetroPark Staff Spotlight



**Phyllis Hitte – Accounting Associate – AR/AP**

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

I retired twice as the Executive Director of Butler Metropolitan Housing Authority. I was the Executive Director for eight years. I started there as a temporary employee in 1990 and hired in August of 1991. I worked my way up through the ranks as opportunities became available and held the following positions, Work Order Specialist, Section 8 Specialist, Procurement Specialist, Accounts Payable and Payroll, Section 8 Director, Housing Director, Interim Executive Director and then Executive Director. We averaged 45-50 full time employees consisting of salaried positions and two employee unions. I retired the first time and went right back because we were assuming another large program in the county. I retired the second time the end of 2016. We remodeled our home, traveled, downsized to a smaller home, and when I found myself having nothing to do, I started looking for something part time within the public employee field. I found the opening at Metroparks and have been here since October 2018.

**Tell us a little about your family:**

I was married to my sweetheart for over 47 years and he passed away in March of this year. We have two daughters and two grandsons. My older daughter, Carrie and her husband Steve live in Oak Ridge, TN with our two awesome grandsons, Levi and Caleb. My younger daughter, Sarah lives in Fremont, MI.

**Do you have any hobbies?**

My hobbies are music (especially playing piano) and reading. When I retired the second time my Board presented me a gift and I purchased my dream – a six-foot Yamaha Grand.

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

For fun I enjoy time with my friends and my dog, Dexter – a very feisty Dachshund. My husband and I enjoyed our restored 1950 Ford Coupe street rod.

**What do you love most about working for MetroParks?**

I enjoy working with great staff at MetroParks and feeling that I am a small part of serving our community with wonderful outdoor opportunities.

## Cotton Mask Donations

Do you like to sew? Would you be interested in making and donating facemasks/face coverings? MetroParks is looking for crafty volunteers who would be interested in making and donating cotton facemasks/coverings for our staff. There are about 50 staff members working, and donations could bolster their supply. If interested, contact Amy Pellman at [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net)

## Ongoing Service Opportunities

### 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](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net) for more information.

### 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 at [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net) for more information.

### Long-term Survey Project

When: flexible

Where: Governor Bebb MetroPark, Voice of America MetroPark

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](mailto: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](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net).

### Group Service Projects

**\*\*REPOSTED OPPORTUNITY\*\***

When: Flexible

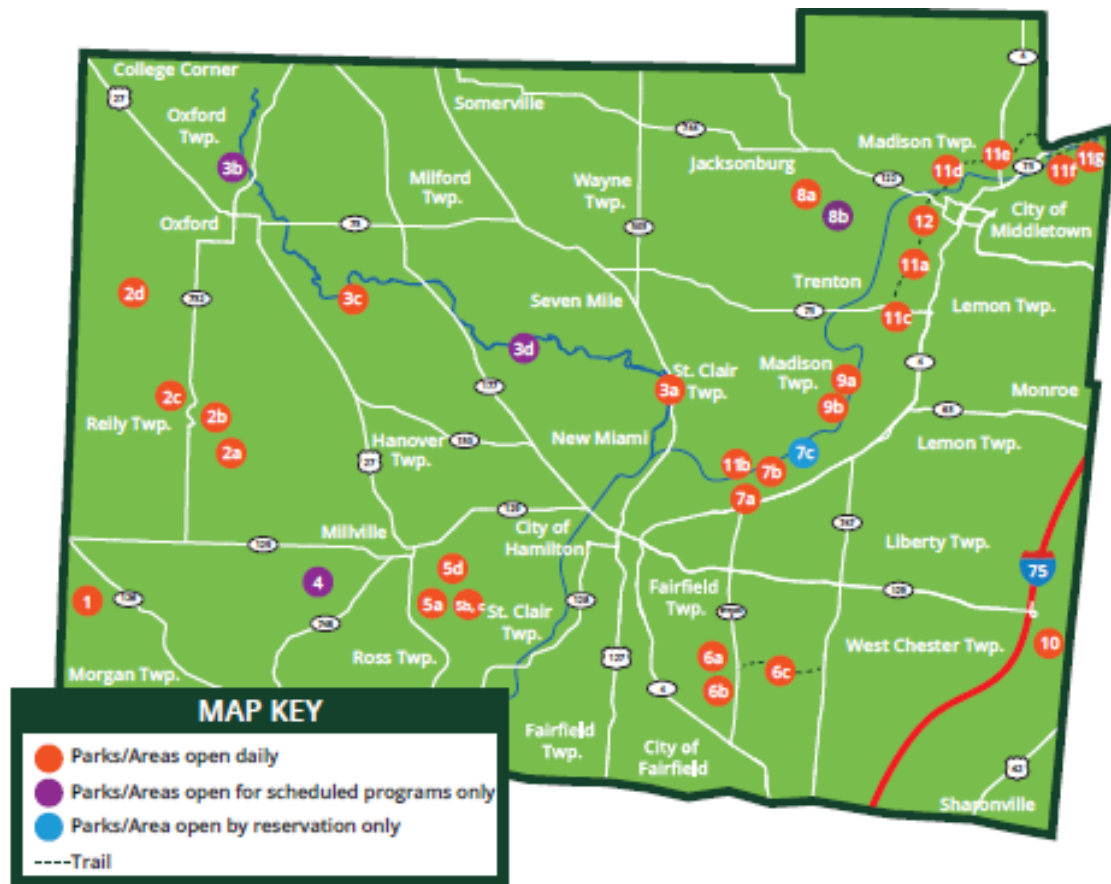
Where: Various

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](mailto: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](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net).

"Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns." ~  
**Author Unknown**



**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 Wooddale Road Trenton OH 45067  
**9B. Wooddale Regional Park**  
 1917 Wooddale 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"> <li>• Invitations to Member-only events</li> <li>• Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks programs and projects</li> <li>• Attend Annual Meeting and have a voice in Friends activities and direction</li> </ul>
Who Are We?	<p><i>Private citizens who have come together to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor programs &amp; activities, promoting the use of MetroParks for conservation, education and recreation</li> <li>• Encourage volunteerism toward support of MetroParks of Butler County</li> <li>• Identify and implement improvements to the park</li> <li>• Assist in raising funds, securing donations, and obtaining grants monies to further MetroParks' mission</li> </ul>

***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) \_\_\_\_\_