

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

September, 2020

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September Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

The September Board Meeting will take place next Wednesday, September 9, at 7 pm. We will meet in the pavilion at Timberman Ridge, 2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013.

Stay healthy!

LABOR DAY



Letter from the President

We are just about to begin our third trimester of confinement. With any luck we won't be waiting for the birth of a baby elephant (95 weeks)! It will be interesting to see whether there is a surge of births in November because of the lockdown. We are already seeing a surge in domestic violence and murders. Sounds to me like it's a good time to get out of the house and into the parks.

We still have three more weeks of summer before fall puts in its annual appearance. Lots of pretty flowers are still on the scene. Ironweed and goldenrod are now in bloom, along with Jerusalem artichoke and autumn phlox. A few trees have already begun to change color. Judging from this preview, it looks like we're in for lovely fall colors this year. Lately I've noticed that waterfowl are starting to practice flying in vees before they head south for the winter. Why wait? Get out to the parks before snowshoes are required. See you in the parks,

Bill Walker



Great Miami River Trail & Trail Ambassador Program

The Great Miami River Trail follows the Great Miami Riverway which has been named a National Water Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2016. Only 22 National Water Trails exist in the United States, with this being the only one in Ohio. The Great Miami Trail is 57 miles of trail that runs from Piqua south to the Franklin/Middletown area. With a small break before the 9-mile segment starting in Middletown that MetroParks manages for the City of Middletown and runs south to Trenton. After another break, the last 10-mile segment starts at Rentschler Forest MetroPark in Fairfield Township and runs south to Water Works Park in Fairfield. The Riverway and Great Miami River Trail offers access to abundant recreational activities along the water making it easy for residents and visitors to enjoy the region's outdoor recreation scene.

The MetroParks Great Miami River Trail Ambassador Program is intended to provide an intergenerational opportunity for interested volunteers to contribute to the community by monitoring, maintaining, and promoting the use of the Great Miami River Trail. The role of Trail Ambassadors is to act as an extension of MetroParks by providing information and assistance to trail users, promoting safe trail use, light trail maintenance, and reporting safety issues. Trail Ambassadors monitor the trail for a minimum of 4 hours a month from March through October between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM or dawn to dusk. Hop on your bike and join us!

MetroParks Trail Ambassador program began on the 9-mile segment in Middletown Ohio. This segment of the Great Miami River Trail has 6 parking lot areas starting in Trenton, Ohio and ending just past lot #6 on North Verity Parkway. Most of our Trail Ambassadors like to start at Parking lot #2 which has a large parking area at the MetroParks River Center facility as well as modern restroom facilities!

In 2020, the MetroParks Trail Ambassador program expanded to include the 10.44 mile segment that starts at Fairfield’s Water Works park and follows the Great Miami River north to Rentschler Forest MetroPark in Fairfield Township. This segment is owned and managed by the City of Fairfield, Fairfield Township, the Hamilton Parks Conservancy as well as MetroParks. Reports that fall into one of the partnering entities management are shared with them to help keep our trails safe and clear.

During the season, interested Trail Ambassadors meet once a month to discuss ways to make the program better, share stories and experiences on the trail and enjoy a cup of coffee. If the weather cooperates, we sometimes enjoy the camaraderie of a group ride.

Enjoy this video that features some of our trained volunteers and learn a little more about the Great Miami River Trail and the MetroParks Trail Ambassadors. If you like to ride and are interested in this trained opportunity, contact Amy Pellman, Manager of Volunteer Resources at MetroParks of Butler County.



MetroParks of Butler County Receives Special Award for Environmental/Conservation Efforts at Elk Creek MetroPark – Meadow Ridge Area from NACPRO

MetroParks is pleased to announce that it has been honored with a national Environmental/Conservation Special Award by the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) for the park system’s efforts at Elk Creek MetroPark - Meadow Ridge Area, located in Madison, Township, OH.

NACPRO is comprised of 110+ member parks across the United States. The annual awards program recognizes and honors excellence in parks and recreation at the county, regional, and special district level throughout the nation. The special award for Environmental/Conservation is presented to recognize an exceptional effort to acquire, restore, preserve, operate, or develop unique or significant conservation and natural areas or programs.

Elk Creek MetroPark, with the addition of the 435 acres at the Meadow Ridge Area, added to the adjoining Sebald Park, was described as a



model for other park systems to follow in terms of providing future public enjoyment and access for thousands of individuals greenspace, through its acquisition, restoration, and re-purposing of the site, previously an under-performing privately owned golf course. The 795 acres comprise Elk Creek MetroPark makes this park the largest park in the park system.

This opportunity was made possible by the creative use of state and federal funds; an innovative partnership with the Trust for Public Land, and a seller's discount for most of the local match required by Clean Ohio funding and only approximately \$10,000 coming from MetroParks general fund. 99.5% of the funding came from outside sources, invested in Meadow Ridge, to protect and preserve the passive recreational greenspace for future generations in Butler County.

In addition, the dedication to the strategic execution of the restoration work done in-house or by volunteers helped MetroParks to tackle substantially more acreage restored than planned. To date 29 acres of Upland Prairie, 41 Acres Native Grassland, 300 feet of stream, 140 feet daylighted stream; 15 acres of invasive honeysuckle, 36 greens and miles of pavement removed; 2000 native trees planted, and 617 volunteer hours contributed. Elk Creek MetroPark is Nature Delivered! Visit the Meadow Ridge Area today located at 5101 Circle Pkwy, Middletown, OH 45042 today to Log Off...Shut Down...Get Outside!



LIBERTY TWP 2ND ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

Liberty Twp Historical Society in Conjunction with Liberty Township Parks Committee proudly announce our 2nd Annual Heritage Day Event. This will be held on Saturday, September 19th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Dudley Woods Park. The park is located at 5591 Hankins Rd, Liberty Township, Ohio 45011.

The various displays and demonstrations are spread both location and time wise to allow for social distancing. There will also be hand sanitation stations and face masks available for the safety of visitors.

The 1800's Gregory Cabin will be open, and a docent and various demonstrations will explain the pioneer lifestyle. Additional learning opportunities and highlights include:

- Liberty Twp and Butler County Metro Parks info- Liberty Twp Parks Committee.
- Miniature horses- Mini Acres.
- Daughters of The American Revolution information.
- Pioneer toy and craft making- Greater Miami Valley YMCA/Camp Campbell Gard
- Live blacksmith demonstrations.
- Old time music by the Jericho Old-Time Band- approx. 1:00-3:00 PM.
- Antique tractors, hit and miss engine and agricultural machinery demonstration.
- Pioneer clothes washing, corn shelling and grinding demos.
- Cider press display.
- Cincinnati Chapter of Sons of the Revolution (SAR)- Various exhibits
 - Revolutionary War era camp life demonstrations.
 - British Music-11:00 AM-11:30AM
 - Revolutionary Soldier Drill and Black Powder Firing-11:30 AM-12:15PM
 - Yorktown Presentation-12:00-12:15 PM
 - Washington Crossing the Delaware Talk- 12:30-1245:00 PM

Liberty Township Historical Society will also have all our Barker Ornaments, including the newly issued, 6th one of the Gregory Log Cabin available, for sale. We will also have other merchandise available including several local barn paintings by Dr. Robert Kroeger.

For questions or more info please contact Paul Stumpf or visit our Facebook page: Liberty Township Historical Society



Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



Volunteer News



September 2020

August Volunteers



Trail Ambassador cleaning up the gardens on the Great Miami River Trail in Middletown



Friends of Chrisholm Board members doing some gardening at the Augspurger House - Chrisholm MetroPark



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?

- We can now host group projects! See the opportunities below.
- Fishing and boat launch fees are currently waived at the north lake at Voice of America MetroPark.
- Assist MetroParks by becoming a Campground host at Governor Bebb-Dry Fork Campground! See details below.

September Birthday Corner!

Betty Lowell	9/2	Monica Sakamoto	9/14
Hannah Venerable	9/3	Mutazz Zeidan	9/14
Thomas Weil	9/3	Gregory Bennett	9/15
Arvel Hall	9/8	Barney Riesbeck	9/17
Emma Hancock	9/9	Maggie Hardewig	9/19
Bonny M. Seegmueller	9/9	David Wright	9/19
Anne Jantzen	9/10	Susan Milinkovich	9/20
Shirley Oney	9/10	Christy Earls	9/22
David Scott	9/11	Katie Angst	9/25
Estill Naderman	9/13	Luke Blados	9/28
Michael Bonamer	9/14	David (Dave) Hagedorn	9/30



"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."
Arthur Ashe

MetroPark Volunteer Spotlight



Bob & Barb Riggs – Great Miami River Trail Ambassadors

How long have you lived or worked in Butler County? I have lived in Butler County for 60 years and my wife, Barbara, has for almost 50 years.

Tell me a little about your family: We will be married 50 years on June 6 after having met at Eastern Ky. University. We have one son and twin grandchildren who are now in college. My wife taught elementary school and was a Librarian for Princeton School District for 35 years and I was a contractor in Butler County, doing mostly residential construction.

Do you have any hobbies? Barbara's hobbies include teaching line dancing at church and has been a quilter for many years. I like to fish in my spare time and we both love gardening and canning.

What do you like to do for fun or is there a fun fact about yourself you would like to share? Our favorite thing to do together is ride our bicycles. We started biking around 1995 and have been biking ever since for exercise. We have done 14 cycling tours in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Canada. We found it was something that we could do together and still bike 1000-1700 miles a year.

What do you love most about volunteering for MetroParks? When we were approached about being Trail Ambassadors it did not take long to say yes, since we had been riding the Middletown trail for about 10 years. We have biked over 50,000 miles and love helping others learn to enjoy the sport and learn about the safety of bicycling. This year I fixed 4 flats on the bike trail, two of those were for my wife.

Ongoing Service Opportunities

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.

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 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

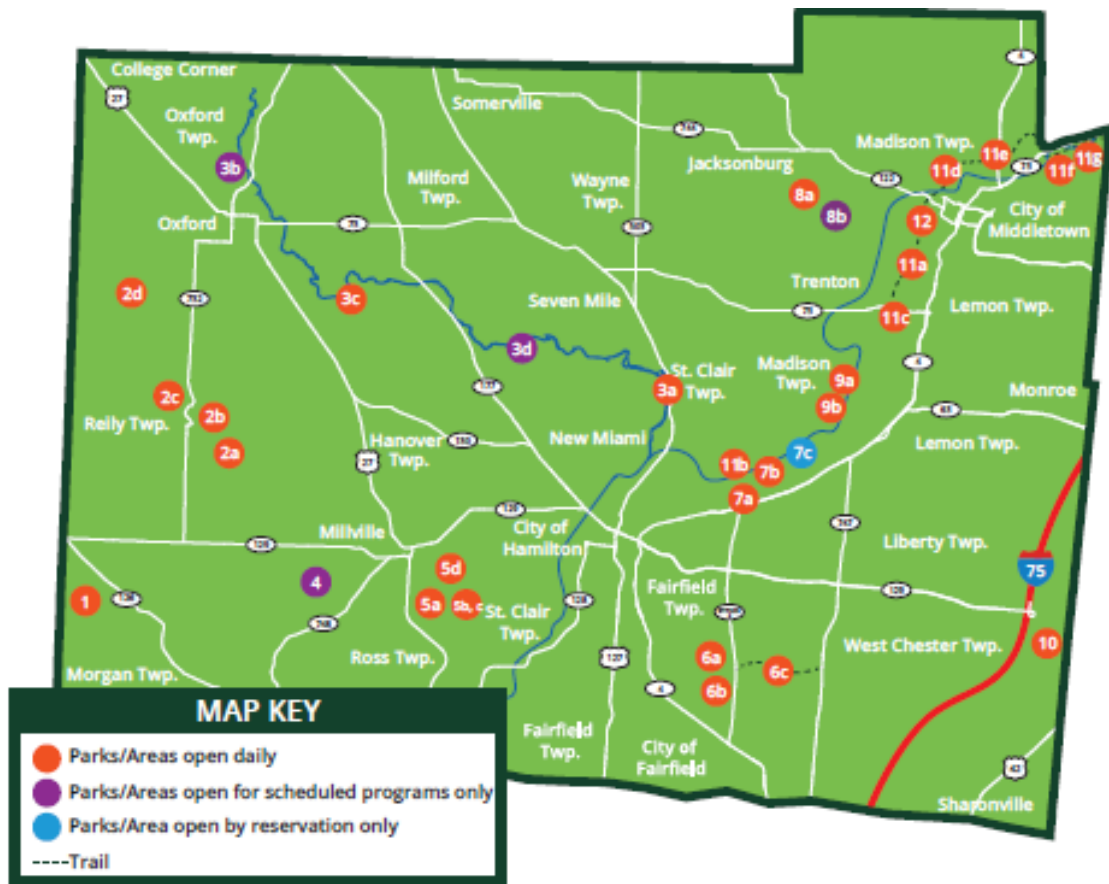
When: Flexible

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.



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

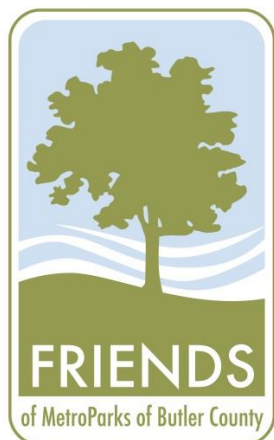
11. Great Miami River Trail

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) _____