

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

October, 2020

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October Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Matt Latham will present master planning information for Governor Bebb MetroPark.

The September Board Meeting will take place next Wednesday, October 14, at 7 pm. We will meet in the pavilion at Timberman Ridge, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013.

Stay healthy!



Letter from the President

Cool weather is waiting to put in an autumn appearance. No frost yet, but the peppers and tomatoes in the garden are on their last legs before their pointy little heads are frost-bitten. Trees are starting their seasonal color change and promising us a colorful fall. We are presently enjoying what my mother used to call “good sleeping weather”. Halloween this year falls on a full moon. We’re not yet sure whether trick-or-treaters will come visiting, and if so, what type of masks they will be wearing.

There is still plenty of time to visit our parks. See you there.

Bill Walker



Pepos and Pepitas

Not familiar with pepos and pepitas? Sure you are...pumpkins and pumpkin seeds. This common native plant to northeastern Mexico and southern United States with round fruit has been around since 7,500 to 5,000 BC! Besides fall decorations, pumpkin pies and jack-o-lanterns, what are some other uses for pumpkins? Most of the plant is edible including the fleshy shell, seeds, leaves and flowers. They are widely grown commercially as animal and human food, medicine, decorations and recreational items.

Guess which country grows the most pumpkins including squash and gourds? China came in first with over 8 million tons followed closely by India.



Even though the US doesn't grow as many pumpkins as other countries, it is still one of our most popular crops. About 95% of the US crop for processing is grown in Illinois with majority of that for the Libby Nestle company.

Is a pumpkin a fruit or vegetable? Scientifically, it is a fruit because the pumpkin part of the plant contains seeds. Why are some pumpkins orange? This color is due to the orange carotenoid pigments which are converted into vitamin A in our bodies.

Pumpkins produce both a male and female flower and are usually pollinated by bees.



In the USA, we traditionally carve pumpkins into decorative lanterns called jack-o'-lanterns for the Halloween season. In Britain and Ireland the families carve vegetables such as turnips.

Some pumpkins have grown at Chrisholm MetroPark's Historic Farmstead this year and will

be shared with our farm animals this fall. They will enjoy this special treat in a few weeks!

Lara Askill, Ag Ed Farm Manager



Heritage Day 2020

Even though MPX has not been holding group activities in the parks, The Liberty Township Historical Society recently hosted the 2nd annual Heritage Day at Dudley Woods Park. Hopefully next year we will be able to all gather again in the parks.





Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



Volunteer News



October 2020

September Volunteers



Local Girl Scouts cleaning off a footbridge at Forest Run MetroPark - Wildlife Preserve Area



Equestrian Trail Maintenance Stewards clearing a horse trail at Elk Creek MetroPark - Sebald Park 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

Or email Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net

Did you know?

- MetroParks manages a total of 57.6 miles of trails! Including 13.9 miles of paved multi-use trails.
- MetroParks received a national Environmental/Conservation Special Award by the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) for the efforts at Elk Creek MetroPark-Meadow Ridge area.

October Birthday Corner!

Melinda Fuller	10/2	Ayushman Dey	10/20
Alayna Meade	10/2	Anne Holbrook	10/20
Carla Heng	10/3	LaDeana Wilke	10/20
Kerri McLaughlin	10/4	Hayduke Hess	10/24
Don Cook	10/6	James Wissel	10/25
Alyssa Wright	10/7	Cara Satullo	10/27
Thomas Van Horn	10/8	Ellen Heini	10/28
Noah Lampart	10/9	Ronald Hartnagel	10/29
Benjamin Skelly	10/16	Rebecca Petty	10/30



MetroPark Staff Spotlight



Troy Simpson – Senior Park Manager, East Zone

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

I was born and raised on a farm in a small rural town in central Kentucky. After attending the University of Kentucky and graduating from Western Kentucky University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture and Geography, I began my career as the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at an upscale private country club in Louisville, KY. After working there for 5 years, I met my wife, who was from Cincinnati, moved across the river and started working for the Hamilton County Park District in 2003. For the first 6 years I was the Assistant Park Manager/Golf Course Superintendent at Woodland Mound Park and The Vineyard Golf Course. After being promoted, I spent the next 7 years as the Park Manager/Superintendent at the facility. In 2016, I decided to leave the golf industry and began working for MetroParks of Butler County. After a short period as the Central Zone Park Manager, I was promoted to the Senior Park Manager position at The Voice of America Park where I oversee the operations for all grounds and facilities.

Tell us a little about your family:

I have been happily married to my wife Julie for 17 years. We have two children, Levi, who is 13 years old and Ayla, who is 11 years old. We also have two dogs, Louie and Lexi.

Do you have any hobbies?

I really don't have many hobbies. My primary focus over the last few years is trying to be the best husband to my wife and father to my children. I've played the role of coach on almost every football, basketball, baseball and softball season for my kids during their youth. Spending time with them enjoying their hobbies is my biggest hobby.

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

I enjoy being with family and friends, serving at our community church and being involved with our local schools. Watching and attending sporting events has always been a joy of mine. I have always been a big fan of the University of Kentucky, the Cincinnati Bengals and the Cincinnati Reds. Over the years, I've grown to enjoy the University of Cincinnati athletics as well.

What do you love most about working for MetroParks?

Whether it's our immediate crew, another department, a contractor or a park guest, I enjoy the people I work with and encounter each day. It's satisfying work when you see a family enjoying the park taking a walk or having a picnic together, watching a kid playing on the playground or endlessly practicing the skills of their sport, or just seeing guests that appreciate the park waving with a big smile as you pass them simply enjoying being at our parks.

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 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

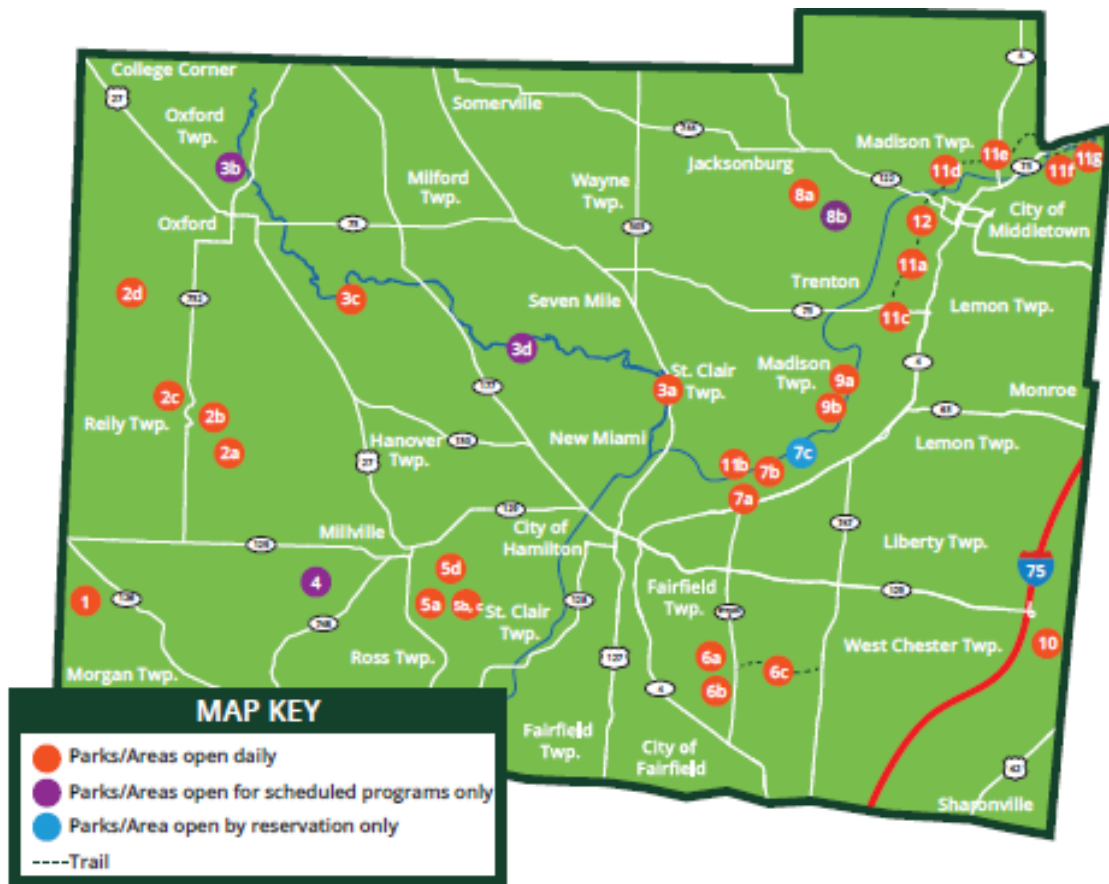
Where: Various

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.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
Mahatma Gandhi



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

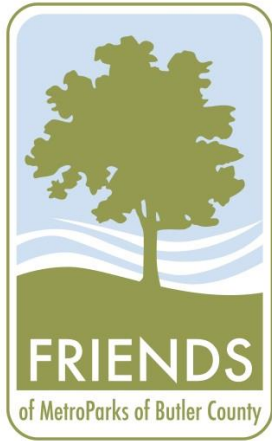
11. Great Miami River Trail

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) _____