

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends

of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

January, 2018

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Nick Lengyel

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Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker

January Board Meeting

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

At

Butler County Historical Society

327 N 2nd Street, Hamilton, OH 45011

7:00-9:00 PM

Members and interested parties are
welcome to attend



Letter from the President

Happy New Year to one and all! After listening to everyone complain last month about winter tiptoeing in like a pussy cat, Christmas and New Year's week went out more like a snow leopard. The trouble with cold, sunny weather is that your shadow tends to freeze to the pavement! Speaking of pavement, I was quite surprised yesterday to look out the front window and find a great blue heron standing on my front sidewalk looking in the dining room window. I'm not sure what he expected to find, but he certainly complained as he flew away empty-beaked.

Don't let a little cold weather keep you indoors this month! Join us on January 20 at the Timberman Ridge Welcome Center for a winter tree identification walk.

See you in the parks,
Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Upcoming Events



Show and Tell on the Farm

The days are shorter, and the weather is cooler but the farm on is still bustling. Show and Tell on the Farm is continuing at Chrisholm Metropark in January.

Winter Wizardry Camp



Calling All Muggles age 6-9

Who is ready for a little wizardry fun? Allow the Hat to sort you and then create your own Wand! Campers will have fun with science, geocaching, crafting and recreation with a "magical" twist. Camp will be at Voice of America (VOA) from 9am-4pm. On January 15th.

Blue Moon Hike

A Once in a Blue Moon event



The first three months of 2018 has two Blue Moons and even a Black Moon. Enjoy the blue moon rising while you take a mid-week night hike near the Great Miami River on January 31st from 6:30-8:30pm at Rentschler Forest Metro Park



Murder Mystery Dinner

Come out to Voice of America for a night of mystery and dinner. Included with your ticket is a three course meal and unlimited soda, tea and coffee. Adult beverages will be available for purchase. The Murder Mystery Co. will be there putting on a spectacular show that you get to join in and be part of the adventure in solving the mystery. The show will begin at 6:00pm and will last 3-4 hours, please arrive 30 minutes early. Come dressed in costume to make for a more interesting evening. All shows are rated PG-13.

Below are the themes for each show:
 February 10, 2018 - Dance with Death, 1950's Prom

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

FOMPBC 2017 Calendar of Events

Jan	15	9:00am-4:00pm	Winter Wizardry Camp	VOA
Jan	31	6:00-8:00pm	BlueMoon Hike	Rentschler
Feb	10	6:00-9:00pm	Murder Mystery Dinner	VOA

Did You Know

Kroger Community Rewards Update

FOMPBC organization # 5599

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.



Winter at MetroParks

By Lynette Dean, Program Manager, Park Connections

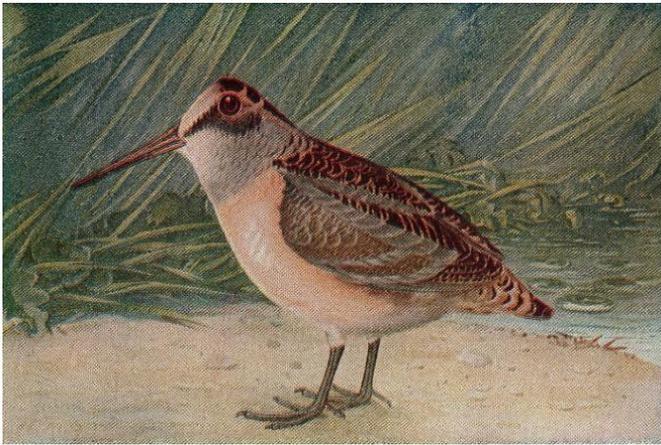
I was asked by someone, “So, what do you do in the winter time since the parks are closed?” It’s not the first time I’ve been asked that question. There is a misconception that parks, in general, shut down during the winter months. That is far from true.

There are many ways to enjoy the parks even in the winter months. Bundle up for a winter hike, observe the winter wildlife, build a snowman, have a snowball fight or join us for the upcoming programs below.

Winter Break Night Hike, Wed., December 27 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Forest Run MetroParks' Wildlife Preserve

Mystery of the Winter Woods – Winter Tree ID, Sat. January 20, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Forest Run MetroParks' Timberman Ridge

Blue Moon Hike, Wed., January 31, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Rentschler Forest MetroParks' Reigart Road Area



Woodcock Wooing, Sat., February 10, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Elk Creek MetroParks' Sebald park Area

'Owl at the Black Moon, Sat., February 24, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Governor Bebb MetroPark

There will also be two school's day out camps on Monday January 15th and Monday February 19th as well as Show & Tells on the Farm Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. PM. You can also pre-register for the Salamander Adventure program that will occur when the Indian Creek salamanders migrate.

Behind the scenes MetroParks staff members are busy preparing for the upcoming warmer weather seasons. Operations staff are planning the priorities for park maintenance. Finance staff are working on the new fiscal year's budget. Planning is involved in upcoming park projects. Park Connections staff are working on the details of all the programs, special events and service days that will roll out

next year. All MetroParks departments are busy getting ready for 2018.



Animals in Winter

What do we do to make it through the cold winter? Drink hot chocolate with marshmallows, wear warm socks and fun colored long johns. How do our resident animals survive the cold, harsh winter months? They have 3 choices: migrate, tolerate or hibernate. Did you know that we have animals hibernating the winter wonderland away below our feet? Groundhogs (otherwise known as woodchucks and whistle pigs) spend a lot of time preparing for this annual body changing experience. Starting in late summer, these furry critters increase their intake of plants to build up their fat reserves. How does an animal survive months with only fat reserves for nourishment? Groundhogs undergo a severe change as they prepare for this hibernation state. To appreciate what is occurring, let's compare humans to groundhogs. Humans go into mild hypothermia if our body temperature drops 3 degrees F and comatose by 90 degrees F. The body temperature of the groundhog goes from 99 degrees F to as low as 38 degrees F. Their temperature isn't the only thing that changes drastically. Their heart rate will be reduced from 90 beats per minute to about 5 beats per minute, too.

Besides eating more vegetation (to the chagrin of some gardeners), they also prepare winter housing by building a burrow in a wooded or brushy area below the frost line. This helps to keep their immediate environment at a stable temperature. In general, a groundhog's burrow can range in length

from 8 to 66 feet with multiple levels, chambers and exits.

Groundhogs hibernate in late fall for about three months. The males will awaken early and venture out of their dens to make house calls on the females as early as February. After checking on potential mates, these “Romeos” return to bed and sleep till March.

The timing of mating is important, as with many other animal species. If the babies are born too late, they can’t get enough weight put on for the upcoming winter season. If they are born too early, there isn’t enough food available to survive. Unlike their prairie dog cousins, ground hogs are basically loners; except during mating season. The babies are born naked and blind and once weaned are encouraged to begin their loner lifestyle like their parents.



How does the most famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil from Pennsylvania help us besides predict the final date of winter on February 2, 2018? Scientists are studying how the groundhog’s brain doesn’t utilize as much oxygen while it is in hibernation. They want to apply this principle to a human brain to help alleviate stroke damage. They are also studying the hormone which helps the whistle pig relax into hibernation for use in transplants and heart attack patients. And some gardeners thought they were only pests...
by Lara Askill (Ag Ed Farm Manager)

Characteristics To Look For In Winter ID

- Bud arrangement
 - opposite (M.A.D. Horse Bucks)
 - Maples
 - Ashes
 - Dogwoods
 - Horse Chestnuts
 - Buckeyes
 - alternate (Others)
 - whorled (*Catalpa* sp.)
- Shape and color of buds
- Shape and color of leaf scars
- Color and structure of tree bark

Winter Tree Identification

Many of us are used to relying on leaves to help us identify the type of tree. That works fine for half the year, but what do we do the rest of the time? Evergreens are usually not too much of a challenge. Thorns, nuts, seeds, and bark are other useful characteristics that can help identify similar looking trees, as can the overall shape of the tree itself. Come and join us at Timberman Ridge Welcome Center on January 20th to learn the secrets of the MadBuck and other tree ID secrets.



Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



Murder Mystery Dinner Series



Murder Mystery Dinner Series

WHEN

Saturday, December 9, 2017
Friday, January 5, 2018
Saturday, February 10, 2018
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

WHERE

Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge
7850 Voice of America Park Drive
West Chester OH 45069

PRICE

\$35.00/person
\$30/person for groups of 8 or more
\$10 off/person for your second show
Registration required by 5 days
prior to the event

ABOUT

Get your costumes and come to the Ronald Reagan Lodge for a fabulous meal and a killer evening of improv comedy fun!

- December 9 – The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year
- January 5 – Murder at the Masquerade
- February 10 – Dance with Death 1950's Prom

Please arrive 30 minutes early.

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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



JANUARY EVENTS



JANUARY 2017

NEW YEAR'S ORIENTEERING

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Timberhill Area
Mon., January 1, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
\$7/OCIN member, \$10/Non-Member

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM IT'S ALL IN THE SNOW

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 4, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FREE

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER SERIES MURDER AT THE MASQUERADE

Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge
Fri., January 5, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
\$35/person
\$30/person for groups of 8 or more
\$10 off/person for your second show

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM KITS, KITS AND KITS

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., January 7, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM THERE'S A COW IN MY MARSHMALLOW

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 11, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FREE

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

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., January 14, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

ADVENTURE CAMP WINTER WIZARDRY

Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge
Mon., January 15, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
\$40/Butler County Resident
\$50/Non-Resident
Pre-registration required

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM WIGGLY WORMS KEEPING WARM

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 18, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FREE

MYSTERY OF THE WINTER WOODS TREE ID

Forest Run MetroPark
Timberman Ridge
Sat., January 20, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM WHERE ARE THE BATS?

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., January 21, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM WHO'S MITTEN IS THIS?

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 25, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM GROW AS WE GO

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., January 28, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

BLUE MOON HIKE

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Reigart Road Area
Wed., January 31, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
FREE

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.

CAMPS



ADVENTURE AWAITS!

WINTER WIZARDRY CAMP

Calling all "muggles"! Join us on a day off from school for a little bit of wizardry fun. Allow the Hat to sort you and create your very own wand. Campers will have fun with science, geocaching, crafting, and recreation with a magical twist.

Ages: 6-9

Date: January 15, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge

Cost: \$40/Butler County Resident. \$50/Non-Resident

WINTER OLYMPICS CAMP

Campers will take part in their very own MetroParks Olympics! They will play games and do activities related to the theme of the camp.

Ages: 6-9

Date: February 19, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge

Cost: \$40/Butler County Resident. \$50/Non-Resident

SPRING FEVER CAMP

Campers who are itching to get outdoors will enjoy this 2-day camp with outdoor activities, crafts, and games to shake off the winter blues!

Ages: 6 - 9

Date: April 2 & 3, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Reigart Road Area

Cost: \$70/Butler County Resident. \$85/Non-Resident

GARDEN EXPLORERS CAMP

Calling preschoolers plus adult chaperones to join us outside and get your hands dirty. Let's dig, plant and sow the seeds of wonder. Perfect way to explore our natural world through interactive gardening activities on the farm. This camp is co-sponsored by the OSU Extension and MetroParks of Butler County.

Ages: 3-5

Date: April 28, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead

Cost: \$10/Butler County Resident. \$15/Non-Resident

Registration is required and open now at www.YourMetroParks.net/experiences/adventure-camps

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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



JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS CAMP

Perfect way to get outside and encourage kids to grow it, try it and like it! Let's dig, plant and sow the seeds of wonder. We will explore our natural world through interactive gardening activities on the farm. This camp is co-sponsored by the OSU Extension and MetroParks of Butler County.

Ages: 6-12

Date: April 28, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead

Cost: \$10/Butler County Resident. \$15/Non-Resident

BARNYARD PALOOZA CAMP

Campers will spend some time out at the farm learning about the fun animals that call Chrisholm home. Games and other related activities will keep campers busy during this 2-day camp!

Ages: 6 - 9

Date: June 25 & 26, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead

Cost: \$70/Butler County Resident. \$85/Non-Resident

PADDLING CAMP

Come Spend the day on the water! Campers will have the opportunity to experience the popular water recreations activities: kayaking, paddle boarding, and canoeing.

Ages: 10-12

Date: July 3, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Voice of America MetroPark

Cost: \$40/Butler County Resident.

\$50/Non-Resident

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE CAMP

At this week-long day camp, campers will learn outdoor survival skills to help in a number of outdoor adventures!

Ages: 6 - 9

Date: July 9 - 13, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Rentschler Forest MetroPark

Reigart Road Area

Cost: \$140/Butler County Resident. \$165/Non-Resident

PADDLING CAMP

Come Spend the day on the water! Campers will have the opportunity to experience the popular water recreations activities: kayaking, paddle boarding, and canoeing.

Ages: 10-12

Date: July 24, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Voice of America MetroPark

Cost: \$40/Butler County Resident. \$50/Non-Resident

OUTBACK CAMP

Campers will experience outdoor games and activities to enjoy what is left of summer at this 2-day camp.

Ages: 6 - 9

Date: July 30 & 31, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Elk Creek MetroPark Meadow Ridge Area

Cost: \$70/Butler County Resident.

\$85/Non-Resident

GARDEN EXPLORERS CAMP

Calling preschoolers plus adult chaperones to join us outside and get your hands dirty. Let's dig, plant and sow the seeds of wonder. Perfect way to explore our natural world through interactive gardening activities on the farm. This camp is co-sponsored by the OSU Extension and MetroParks of Butler County.

Ages: 3-5

Date: September 15, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead

Cost: \$10/Butler County Resident. \$15/Non-Resident

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS CAMP

Perfect way to get outside and encourage kids to grow it, try it and like it! Let's dig, plant and sow the seeds of wonder. We will explore our natural world through interactive gardening activities on the farm. This camp is co-sponsored by the OSU Extension and MetroParks of Butler County.

Ages: 6-12

Date: September 15, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead

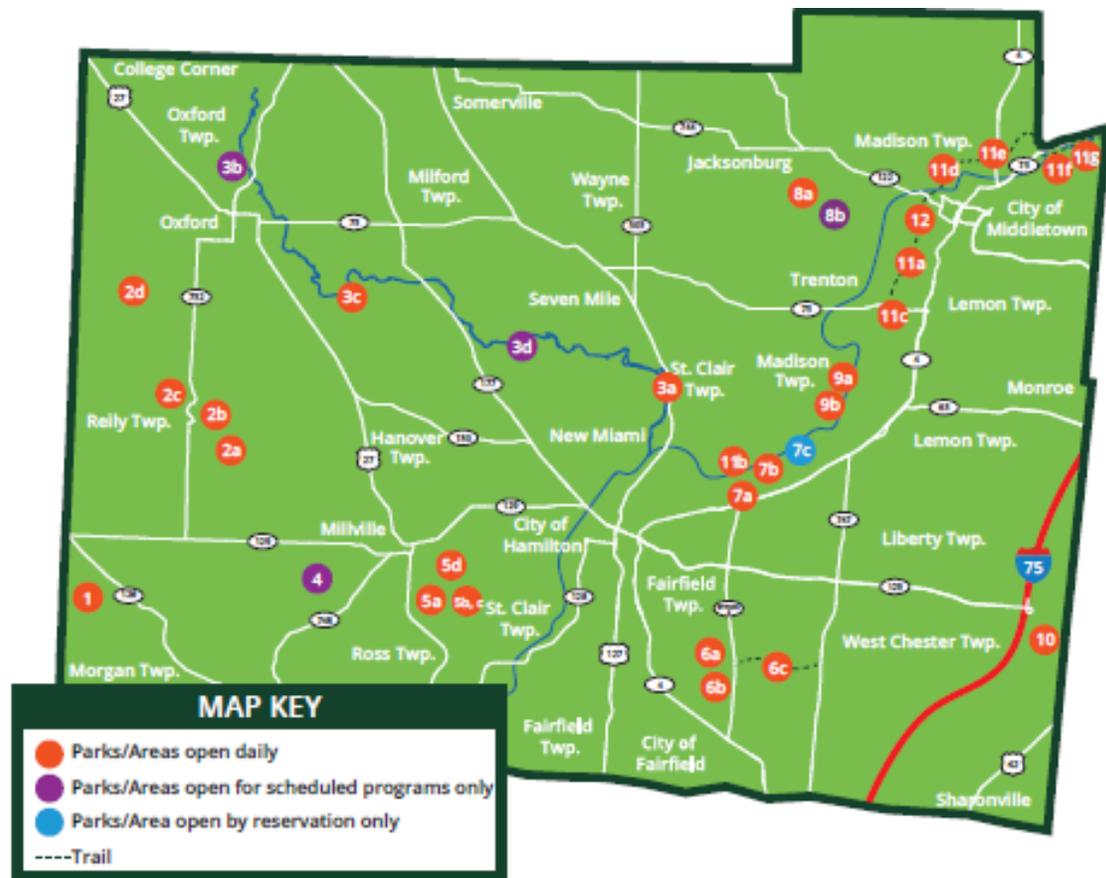
Cost: \$10/Butler County Resident. \$15/Non-Resident

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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) _____