

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends

of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

February, 2018

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Nick Lengyel

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February Board Meeting and BBQ Potluck

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

At

Robin's house

6607 Eagle Creek Drive

Liberty Township 45011

(right off Princeton Road)

6:00-9:00 PM

Members and interested parties are
welcome to attend. Bring a dish to share.

RSVP to Robin James

robinjean.james@gmail.com



Letter from the President

Groundhog Day has passed. Valentine’s Day and President’s Day are approaching. Seems that time passes faster every year. Perhaps it’s because I’m growing older, but I prefer to think it’s Punxsutawney Phil’s fault. As you can see from the Upcoming Events section, there are lots of fun activities available to enjoy in MetroParks, even in the dead of winter.

See you in the parks,
Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Upcoming Events

Show and Tell on the Farm



February is a time to fall in love with Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: Love is on the farm, Composite chums, Farmer turned president, Little Red Hen to name a few.

Winter Olympic Camp



Calling Olympic Hopefuls age 6-9

It might be cold outside, but campers can join other campers in going for the **GOLD**. MetroParks Winter Olympic Campers will play games and join in other Olympic themed activities. Camp will be at Voice of America(VOA) from 9am-4pm. On February 19th.

‘Owl at the Moon Hike



February will not have a full moon this is sometimes referred to as a Black Moon. Don’t let the Black Mood get you down instead come join MetroPark on an Owl Prowl. February 24th from 6:30-8:30pm at Governor Bebb MetroPark



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 is the theme for the final show:
February 10, 2018 - Dance with Death, 1950's Prom

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

FOMPBC 2017 Calendar of Events

Feb	10	6:00-9:00pm	Murder Mystery Dinner	VOA
	19	9am-4pm	Winter Olympic Camp	VOA
	24	6:30-8:30pm	Owl at the Moon Hike	Governor Bebb

Be on the Look out for these future events

Spring Amphibians with Jeff Davis, Flashlight egg hunt, Dog-Gone Bone Hunt, Spring Fever Camp and Kites N MPX.

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 Tree ID

Nature lovers joined Shawnee Banks, Jodi Farrell, Chuck Holliday, and Bill Walker at the Timberman Ridge Welcome center on January 20th to learn how to identify trees in the winter. Attendees learned how to use MADBuck (maple, ash, dogwood, and buckeye) to remember which trees have opposite branching. Other helpful characteristics include thorn types, bark appearance, presence of fruits or nuts, and tree shape. The weather cooperated with a brisk, sunny winter day. This just goes to show that all seasons of the year are good times to visit the MetroParks.

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

Animals in Winter



Last month, Lara Askill contributed an informative article about animals in winter, including the groundhog. Since then, Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow on February 2nd, predicting six more weeks of winter. This has triggered massive protests across the country complaining about this outcome. Readers are advised to re-read Lara’s article to reassure themselves that Phil really can’t predict the weather. Besides, with all those TV lights, how could the poor critter avoid seeing his shadow? All you Snowflakes out there should relax in the knowledge that you will have lots of company for the next six weeks.

February Volunteer Opportunities

Woodcock Wooing-February 10, 2018 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Elk Creek MetroPark, Sebald Park Area, Shelter# 11
Murder Mystery Dinner-February 10, 2018 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Reagan Lodge
‘Owl at the Black Moon-February 24, 2018 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Governor Bebb MetroPark, Howe Shelter

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Garden Explorer Camps-April 28, 2018 & September 15, 2018 12:00 p.m – 2:00 p.m

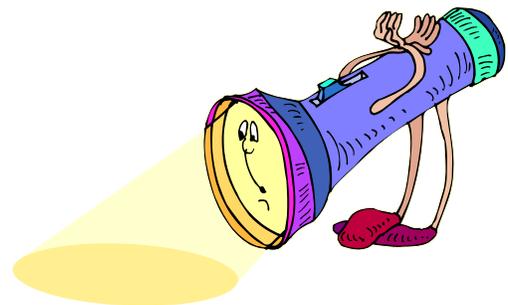
Chisholm MetroPark

Looking for 3-6 volunteers ages 12-14 to assist with preparation of camp materials; camp setup day of; registration. Will work with children and animals.

Easter Dog Gone Bone Hunt-March 25, 2018 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Reigart Road Area

Looking for 8-10 volunteers ages 12 and up to work with people and dogs! Prior to the event, need assistance filling the eggs with treats. Setup and cleanup help needed day of the event as well as help with hiding the eggs, registration, prize table and the Easter Bunny!



Flashlight Egg Hunt- 8:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

March 23, 2018 Forest Run MetroPark, Wildlife Preserve

March 30, 2018 Elk Creek MetroPark, Sebald area

Looking for 10-12 volunteers ages 14 and up. Will work with children. Able to work in the dark on uneven ground. Please bring your own flashlight or headlamp. Prior to the event, assistance is needed counting and filling the eggs. Setup and cleanup help needed the day of the event as well as help hiding eggs, filling eggs, registration, collection of eggs at end of hunt.

Ongoing Service Opportunities

Feeder Fill

When: Flexible-Year Round

Where: Forest Run Welcome Center

1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013

Who: Families, Adults

What: A volunteer will fill bird feeders at the bird viewing area located at the Welcome Center in the Timberman Ridge Area of Forest Run MetroPark. Filling feeders takes approximately 30 minutes and should be done on 1 or 2 days each week between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. By filling feeders and maintaining the feeder area, MetroParks is able to provide an excellent location for viewing birds. If interested, contact Zach Marcum at zmarcum@YourMetroParks.net to schedule training.

Nest Box Monitor Training

When: Saturday, February 17, 2018

Where: Chrisholm MetroPark, Historic Farmstead Augspuriger House

2070 Woodsdale Road, Trenton OH 45067

Register: by February 14, 2018

Email Zach Marcum at
zmarcum@YourMetroParks.net

What: Learn about becoming a volunteer Nest Box Monitor with MetroParks! Volunteers are needed to monitor nest boxes every 3-4 days from the beginning of March through the end of August. Monitors will record data to be submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Monitoring sites are available in several parks. Nest Box Monitoring is a great way to learn about nesting birds and collect volunteer hours to be redeemed for rewards!

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 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.

Group Service Projects

When: Flexible

Where: Flexible

What: MetroParks always has various 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.

Program Event & Preparation Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Park Connections staff presents multiple education, recreation, and conservation programs and events throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing for MetroParks events and programs. Volunteers may create crafts, prepare signage, organize materials and supplies, clean materials and supplies, and other general tasks and volunteer for the program itself. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net

Welcome Center - Voice of America MetroPark

When: Weekends

Where: Voice of America MetroPark

Ronald Reagan Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester OH 45069

What: Volunteers are needed at the Welcome Center at Voice of America MetroPark. Welcome park customer/owners with a smile, provide information about programs and the parks. Training provided. Contact Claudia Whitacre cwhitacre@YourMetroParks.net

“Volunteers DO NOT necessarily have the time; They have the Heart.”

Elizabeth Andrew

Egg-citing March Programs

Old man winter is moving out, and spring is just around the corner!

It's hard to believe we have already jumped into February. Our staff already has their eyes set on March and April when the programs pick up! We have two very popular events back by demand for 2018 coming up in late March. The Dog Gone Bone Hunt and the Flashlight Egg Hunt.

Make sure you "bark" your calendars for our Dog Gone Bone Hunt on March 25th, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event goes to the dogs, where they get the chance to sniff out plastic eggs filled with yummy treats! Along with the egg hunt, there will be an obstacle course, socializing, and dog friendly vendors to visit. Last year's attendance brought in roughly 250 people and dogs!



Another program to get "egg-cited" about is our Flashlight Egg Hunt! It's not often we get to hunt for Easter eggs, especially at night time. With a flashlight as their guide, children and families will search designated trails and areas for eggs. Due to the event filling up last year, we have opened a second day for the Flashlight Egg Hunt. On March 23rd, 2018 from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participants hunt for eggs at Forest Run MetroPark - Wildlife Preserve Area. On March 30th, 2018 from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participants hunt for eggs at Elk Creek MetroPark - Sebald Park Area.



We hope to see many new and familiar faces at our upcoming programs in March!



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.



BIG WEEK OF BIRDING



MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

Big Week of Birding in Butler County

Warbler Refresher Workshop

Tuesday, April 17, 2018
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Chrisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead

Big Week of Birding Dates

Saturday, April 28, 2018
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Gilmore MetroPark
Gilmore Road Area

Saturday, April 28, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Indian Creek MetroPark
Springfield Road Area

Sunday, April 29, 2018
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Chrisholm MetroPark
Woodsdale Regional Park

Sunday, April 29, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Salamander Run Preserve

Monday, April 30, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve Area

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Hueston Woods State Park
Bird Banding Station

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Elk Creek MetroPark
Meadow Ridge Area

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Davidson Woods Area
Pre-registration Required

Thursday, May 3, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Sycamore Bluffs Area

Friday, May 4, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Governor Bebb MetroPark

Saturday, May 5, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Great Miami River Trail
50 Oxford Road
Parking Area

About

It's the time of year when over 200 species of birds migrate through the area. The 5th annual Big Week of Birding in Butler County is a celebration for anyone with an interest in birds. Hikes are guided by experts and binoculars will be available to those who need them. Birding hikes will take place at 11 locations around Butler County over the course of the week-long series. The programs, held by MetroParks of Butler County in partnership with Audubon Miami Valley, are FREE and most do not require pre-registration.



See map on reverse side for address.

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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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

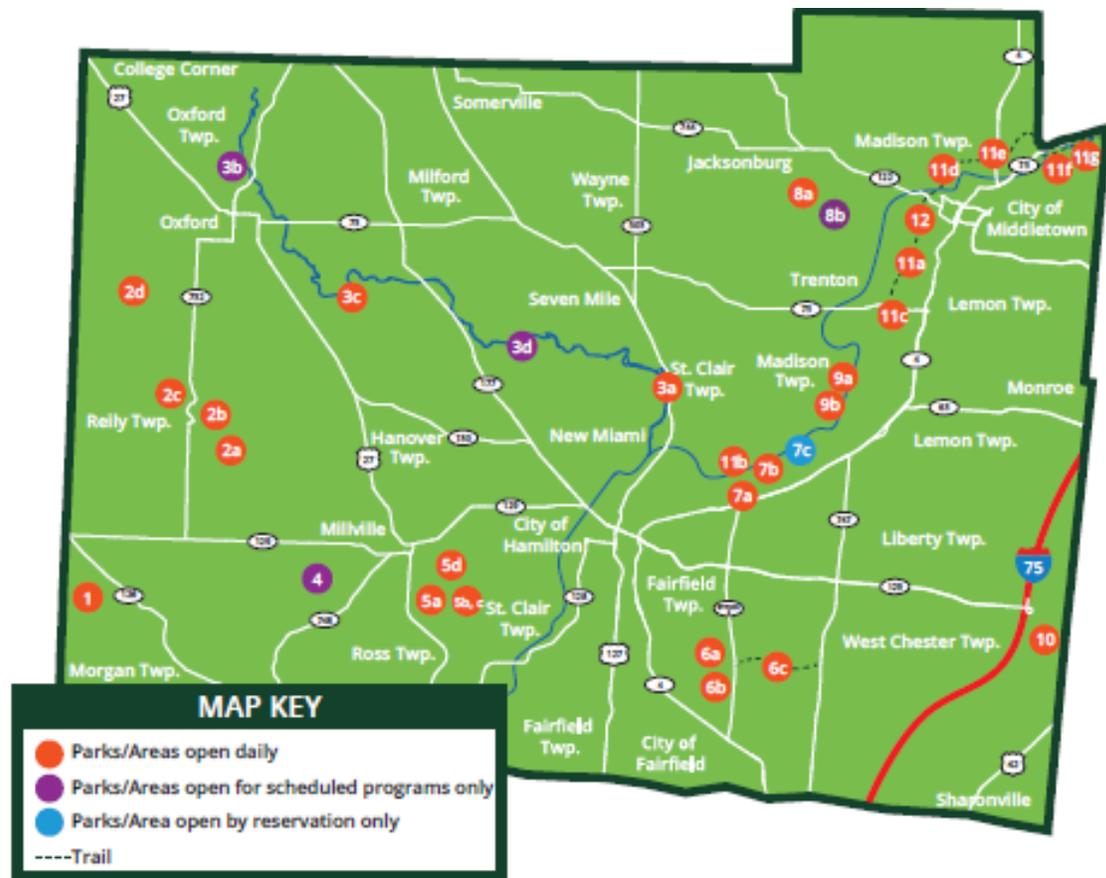
Cost: \$10/Butler County Resident. \$15/Non-Resident

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

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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) _____