

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends

of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

June, 2018

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May Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

VOA MetroPark

Community Room, West Chester, OH 45069

6:00-6:45 PM

Members and interested parties are welcome to
attend



Letter from the President

Chuck Holliday 1950-2018



I first met Chuck Holliday in 2010, after responding to an ad in *The Pulse* seeking volunteers to help lead nature walks in the parks. The first walk, in April of that year, was a wildflower hike led by Bob Henn. After that, each new hike showed me more about how extensive was Chuck's knowledge about nature. Whether insects, butterflies, dragonflies, wildflowers, trees, reptiles, or birds, Chuck was happy to share his expertise.

Chuck drew a wide audience of hikers ranging from kids to senior citizens. He went out of his way to make sure that each age group found something of interest. He provided butterfly nets and magnifying glasses to involve kids in collecting specimens, while teaching adults about host plants for caterpillars and nectar sources for insects and birds. By scheduling walks at different times of the year, Chuck showed what flowers to expect by season and how to identify trees both with and without leaves.

The other side of Chuck was the organization of work days to help maintain the parks. Planting of trees, spreading of mulch, spreading prairie wildflowers, and grooming trails were frequent work day targets. True friends of Chuck know that combat against invasive species was one of his hot button issues. Honeysuckle, garlic mustard, lesser celandine, hybrid pear, teasel, and phragmites, were

enough to cause Chuck to foam at the mouth. The best memorial that we can offer in Chuck's memory is to continue his battle against invaders.

Chuck was a long-time member of the Liberty Twp parks committee. He was one of the founding fathers of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County and served as vice president and president of that group. Perhaps his greatest contribution to these groups was recruitment of new board members. His many friends in school groups, scout troops, and nature organizations were drawn upon to help make sure that local and regional parks receive the support they need.

Of all Chuck's abilities, his skills as a bird watcher stood out. When warblers migrated through the area in the spring and fall he could identify rare species by their song, their movement at the top of a tree, or glimpses through gaps in the leaves. During the Christmas bird count each year, he frequently demonstrated the ability to count the number of birds in large flocks. I will admit that I sometimes became suspicious about the accuracy of these counts, especially when he would casually mention that the fourth bird from the left in the last row had blue eyes. Each time that I joined Chuck for these counts it snowed the night before and began to drizzle the morning of the count. Nothing quite so lovely as peering up into a tree only to have a branch full of wet snow hit you full in the face.

Good times and bad, Chuck could always be counted on to help make sure the job got done. He was my friend, and I'll miss him.

See you in the parks,
Bill Walker, President FOMPBC



Upcoming Events

Show and Tell on the Farm



Come out and enjoy spring on the farm with Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: Chicken Chat, Batty about Bats, Rainbow Gardens, Fabulous Fathers, Summer Solstice on the Farm, Yoga on the Farm, Farming with a Full Moon, and Horsin' Around.

Fun on the Farm is on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm and Sunday's from 2:00-4:00pm except Fathers Day.

Hump Day Concert Series



Need a little Mid-Week pick me up? Come out to Voice of America MetroPark and enjoy live Music, Food & Family Fun Wednesday May 30th at 7:00pm for the start of the Hump Day concert series.

The Concert Series this month will feature: The Belairs a 50's and 60's Rock n Roll Show Band, Jamison Road a indie country trio, Parrots of the Caribbean a blend of zydeco, rock and country, Kelsey Mira Band combine acoustic and

electronica, and David Gerald preforms a blues-infused rock-and-soul hybrid.

Family Fun Friday



MetroParks of Butler County with partners Butler Soil and Water Conservation District and Ohio State University Extension are hosting Family Fun Fridays.

Family Fun Fridays are from 10:00-11:30 AM at various parks. Topics this month include Something Fishy, Kids Loco-Motion, All About Water, What's Outside, and

National Trails Day Hike



Are you ready for your next adventure? Do you need a break from the hustle and bustle? MetroParks of Butler County is participating in the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day by celebrating the grand opening of a new section of the Great Miami River Trail at Rentschler Forest MetroPark on Saturday June 2nd. Activities will include trail yoga, a guided hike, visits with birds of prey, crafts and more! A ribbon cutting ceremony will commence at 10:00am to officially open this part of the trail to public.

Prairie Tour

Come out Sunday June 3, 9:00AM-12:00PM and join MetroPark Volunteers on an educational hike at Salamander Run and learn about the history and plan species of the prairies. This event is weather dependent.

Creeking in the Park



Stop WATER-ever you are doing and Join MetroParks of Butler County and Butler Soil and Water Conservation District on Thursday's 10:00AM-12:00pm in June and July for an educational adventure. Learn about what lives in the creek and the fossils found in the area. All Ages are welcome. Each week participants will be able to explore a different creek.

Come dressed in clothes and close-toed shoes (No flip-flops) that can get wet and dirty.

Orienteering-Map and Compass Navigation



“Not all those who wander are lost.” J.R.R Tolkien

Using a detailed map of Governor Bebb MetroPark on June 14th and venture into the wilderness and learn to find your way. There will be beginner, intermediate, and advance navigation courses of 1-3 miles-with free training and instructions for beginners. You can arrive any time between 10:00AM-12:00PM. Cost: \$5 per person, \$15.00 Family max

Mountain music Jam



Join Warren and Judy Waldron in impromptu mountain music jam sessions at Indian Creek MetroPark Pioneer church Sunday June 24th, 2:00-4:00PM. Bring a blanket or chair and listen to the music or bring your own instrument and join in. The last Sundays of June, July and August.

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County calendar of Events

June	2 nd	10:00AM	National Trails Day Hike	Rentschler Forest
	3 rd	10:00AM	Prairie Tour	Salamander run
	14 th	10:00AM-12:00PM	Orienteering Map and Compass navigation	Governor Bebb
	25 th - 26 th	9:00AM-4:00PM	Barnyard Palooza Camp	Chisholm
July	3 rd	9:00AM-4:00PM	Paddling Camp	Voice of America MetroParks
	14 th	11:00AM-3:00PM	Cardboard Regatta	Voice of America MetroParks

Be on the Lookout for these future events

Card Board Regatta and Trail Yoga

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.

Don't Forget!!

It's that time of year again. Annual dues need to be paid this month. Individuals owe \$10 per year, while family memberships are only \$15 per year.

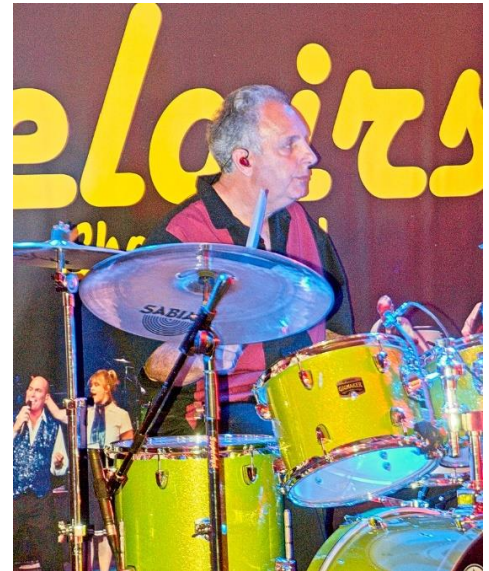
Please complete the attached form and bring it with your dues to the Annual Meeting on April 11th at Christohlm MetroPark. (You have already made a reservation for the meeting, and sent your RSVP to Roger Koch, haven't you?) Remember, only dues paid members are eligible to vote in the election of new board members, and to attend Members Only activities. Hope we see you there!

Volunteers Needed

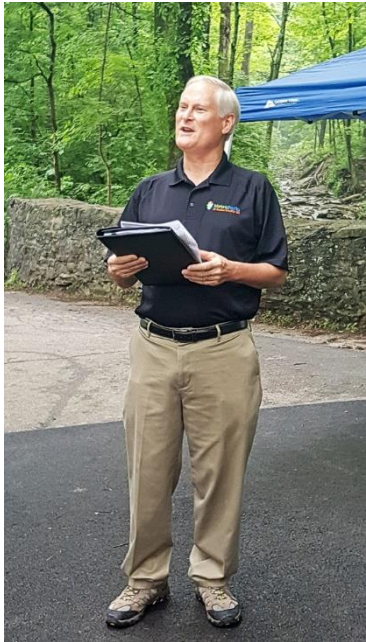
The Board of Directors of Friends of MetroParks of Butler County presently has three vacancies. We ask interested members to contact your editor, Bill Walker, at bug_jock@yahoo.com to volunteer to bring new blood and ideas to the board. If you are interested, please let us know. Interested parties are welcome to visit a board meeting to learn more.

**Hump Day Concert 1,
The Belairs**





Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Great Miami River Trail Expansion



Hump Day Concert 2, Jamison Road



The Voice of the Turtle, June, 2018



Chuck Holliday Memorial Fund

Several members have asked about making contributions in Chuck's name. Checks should be made out to "Friends of MetroParks of Butler County", with a memo line "Chuck Holliday Memorial". Suggestions of suitable memorials should be sent to your editor at bug_jock@yahoo.com.

Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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





HUMP DAY CONCERT SERIES

WHEN Every Wednesday
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
May 30th – August 22nd
(excluding July 4th)

WHERE Volce of America MetroPark
Gazebo on the Lake
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester, OH 45069

PRICE FREE TO THE PUBLIC

REGISTER YourMetroParks.net
Registration Not Required

FEATURING

- Free music
- Midweek relaxation
- Food & adult beverages for purchase
- Lake activities
- Bike & boat rentals
- Playground for the kids

- MAY 30** The Belairs *(50s & 60s/Las Vegas Show Band)*
- JUNE 6** Jamison Road *(Modern Country)*
- JUNE 13** Parrots of the Caribbean *(Jimmy Buffett Tribute)*
- JUNE 20** The Kelsey Mira Band *(Pop/Top 40s)*
- JUNE 27** David Gerald *(Rock-N-Soul)*
- JULY 11** Frontier *(Soft Rock/Country)*

- JULY 18** The McCartney Project & Vinyl Sunshine *(Beatles/British Invasion)*
- JULY 25** Ryan Broshear *(Country)*
- AUG 1** The SunBurners *(Island Party/Steel Drum)*
- AUG 8** Dat Band *(Rock/Soul/Funk/R&B)*
- AUG 15** DV8 *(Rock)*
- AUG 22** Stagger Lee *(Country Rock)*



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.



We L♥ve our Volunteers!!

June Volunteer Opportunities

Butterfly Garden Weeding

When: May through September

Where: Forest Run MetroPark, Timberman Ridge Area
1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton OH 45013

What: A volunteer is needed to help care for the butterfly garden at the Timberman Ridge Area of Forest Run MetroPark. The butterfly garden volunteer will be responsible for removing weeds from the garden every 1-2 weeks and watering during dry periods, as needed. Strong skills in native prairie plant identification is **required** in order to successfully differentiate weeds from desired pollinator plants. This is an ongoing opportunity that would require a commitment from May-September.

Adopt-A-Prairie

When: Flexible; Ongoing

Where: Forest Run MetroPark – Timberman Ridge Area
1976 Timberman Road Hamilton, OH 45013

What: The prairies at MetroParks offer beautiful color displays for us during the summer and provide much needed resources for pollinators, and other wildlife. However, the prairies, like other natural areas, are threatened by non-native invasive plants and noxious weeds. These undesired plants create competition for the native forbs and grasses that make up the prairies and grasslands. Adopt-A-Prairie volunteers will be assigned a prairie, or a section of a prairie, which they will monitor for invasive plants. The volunteer will walk their assigned area and remove the invasive plants with hand tools. This volunteer opportunity requires walking through thick grass and brush where ticks, poison ivy, and other irritants found in nature may be encountered. This is an ongoing opportunity that would require the volunteer to monitor their assigned location from June-September.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Crazy Cardboard Regatta

When: **Saturday, July 14, 2018**

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Shifts available: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Where: Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive West Chester OH 45069

What: All hands on deck!! Looking for 50-60 volunteers to assist with setup, boat registration, boat inspection, concessions, children's activities, boat retriever/launchers, timers, go-fers and cleanup.

Ongoing Service Opportunities

Feeder Fill

When: Flexible-Year Round

Where: Forest Run Welcome Center

1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013

What: Families & Adults who 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.

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. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

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



VOICE OF AMERICA METROPARK Fishing Information



Fish	Daily Limit	Size
Bluegill	15	none
Channel Cat	4	14 in.- 22 in.
Crappie	5	> 8 in.
Hybrid Striped Bass	2	14 in. - 18 in.
Largemouth Bass	2	14 in.- 18 in.
Shovelhead Cat	2	12 in.- 18 in.
Redear Sunfish	8	> 8 in.
Tilapia	2	> 8 in.

Daily Permit

Single	\$8.00
Child (6 & under)	Free
Group/Family	\$20.00

Annual Permit

Adult	\$100.00
Youth (7-16)	\$50.00
Group/Family	\$135.00 per year

Fishing Permit Discounts

Senior	20% (\$6.40 daily, \$80.00 annually)
Military	20% (\$6.40 daily, \$80.00 annually)

Fishing Pole Rental (Does not include Fishing Permit)

1 Hour	\$7.00
3 Hours	\$12.00
Daily	\$20.00

Live Bait

Night Crawlers, Red Worms, Wax Worms	\$4.00
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Rules and Regulations

Bank fishing is permitted from the south, east, and north shores, and east of the boat launch ramp.

No fishing from the west shore, boat docks, bridges, Gazebo, or immediately below the Gazebo.

No purchasing or trading fish.

All vehicles must be parked in the parking lot.

All fish must be checked in at the Wheelhouse prior to leaving the park.

Each person fishing is limited to two poles.

Persons possessing fish over the daily limit may be charged with a minor misdemeanor.

Cleaning of fish on VOA MetroPark Property is prohibited.

Throw nets and lines are prohibited. Use of live fish as bait is prohibited.

No alcoholic beverages may be into the park

For more information, call (513) 755-4402.



2018 WHEELHOUSE OPERATING DATES AND HOURS

March 31, 2018 Wheelhouse opens for **weekend** operation.

	<u>Monday-Thursday</u>	<u>Friday-Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
March 31 – May 25	Closed	11:00am – 6:30pm	12:00pm – 5:00pm

May 25, 2018 Wheelhouse opens for **daily** operation.

	<u>Monday-Thursday</u>	<u>Friday-Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
May 25 – Aug 16	11:00am – 8:00pm	9:30am – 8:30pm	11:00am – 6:30pm

Aug 17, 2018 Wheelhouse ends Monday-Thursday daily operation.

	<u>Monday-Thursday</u>	<u>Friday-Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Aug 17 – Sept 9	Closed	11:00am – 6:30pm	12:00pm – 5:00pm

	<u>Monday-Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Sept 10 – Sept 30	Closed	11:30am – 6:00pm	12:00pm – 5:00pm

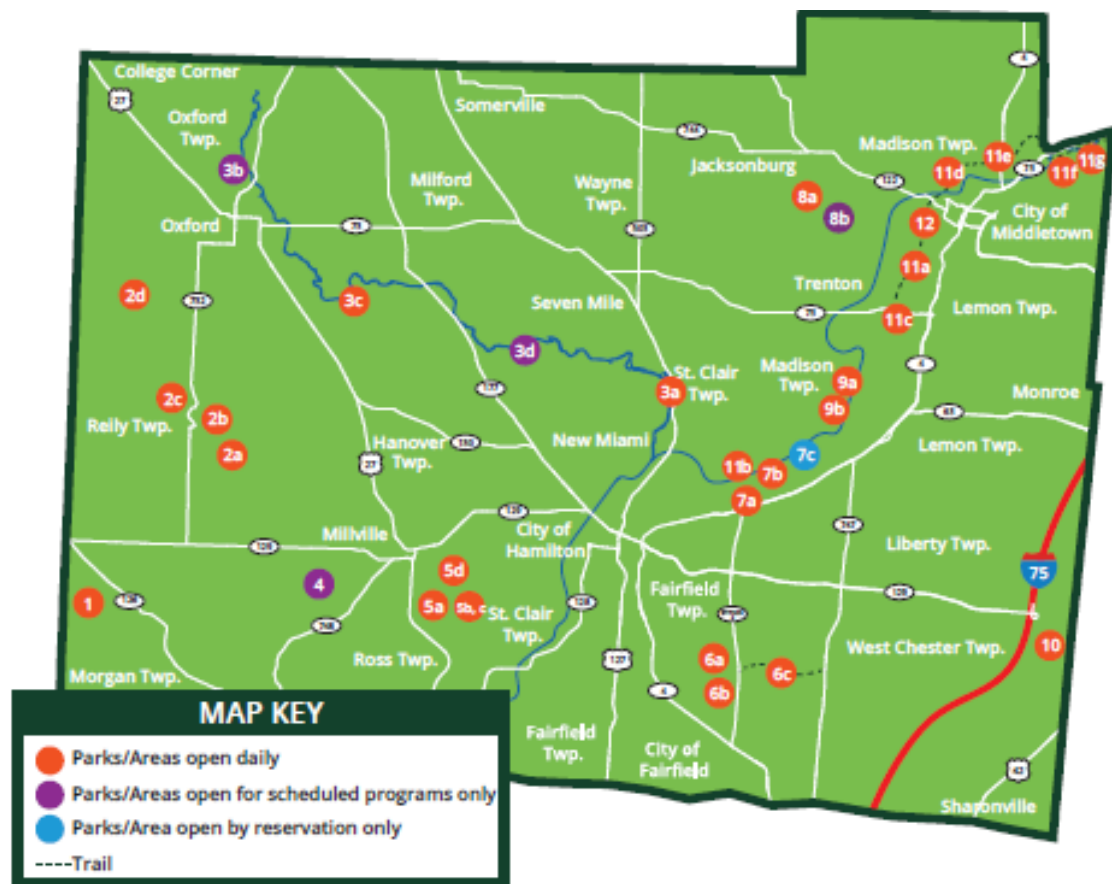
October operating hours TBD

HOLIDAY HOURS

Memorial Day (Monday, May 28 th)	11:00am – 6:30pm
Independence Day (Wednesday, July 4 th)	11:00am – 6:30pm
Labor Day (Monday, Sept 3 th)	11:00am – 6:30pm

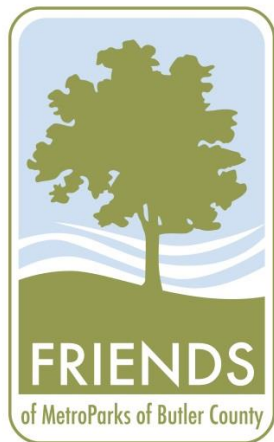
Wheelhouse operation is weather dependent.

- For rental questions, lake conditions, or if inclement weather is expected, please contact the VOA Welcome Center Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm or call 513-755-4402.
- Live bait and tackle machine located at the Ronald Reagan Lodge open dawn to dusk.
- Wheelhouse closed during MetroParks Special Events



- 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) _____