

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

April, 2017

FOMPBC Officers

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Chuck Holliday

Vice-President,

Bill Walker

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Vacant

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Roger Koch

Publicity Chair:

Bill Walker

Outreach Chair:

Chuck Holliday

Finance Chair:

Richard Burgstrom

Grants & Fund Raiser Chair

Kristine Hill

Membership Chair:

Nick Lengyel

Events Chair

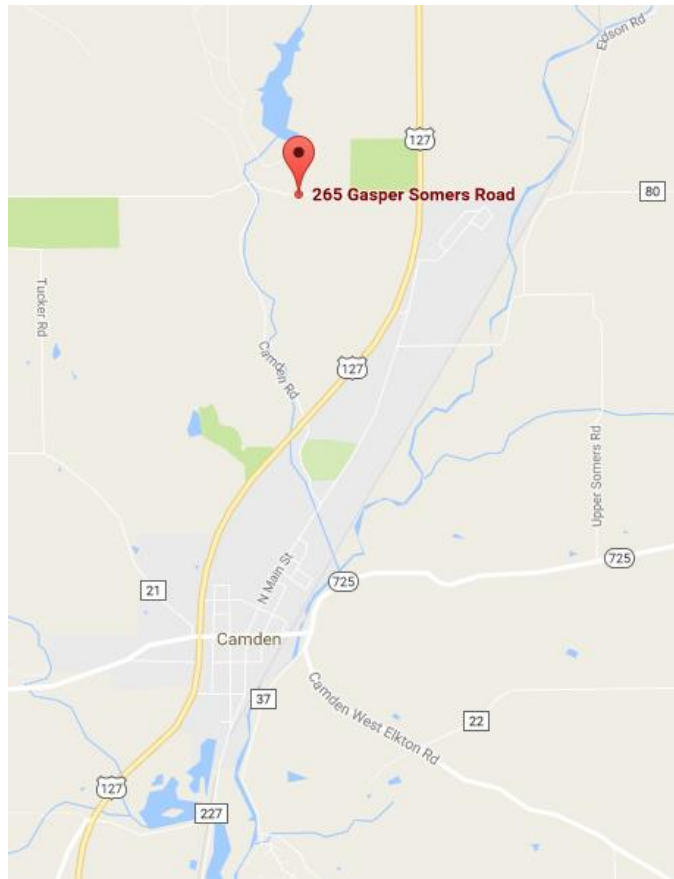
Allison Wagner

Web Master:

Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker



2017 Annual Meeting

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Woodland Trails Scout Reservation

265 Gasper Somers Road, Camden, Ohio 45311

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Dinner (6:30) - Business Meeting - Program

Letter from the President

I would like to say that it has been my pleasure to serve Friends of MetroParks of Butler County as your president for the last two years. Due to some health issues I feel that it is time to step away from these duties and turn them over to new leadership. I would like to remain on the Board of Directors and remain as active as possible.

I hope that you all have made your reservations for the Annual Meeting on April 12.

We do have important issues that need addressed;

- By-Law changes need to be approved by a vote of the membership.
- Election of and renewal of Board of Directors members also need to be approved by a vote of the membership.
- Election of Officers by the Board of Directors.

According to the last part of the Mission Statement of FOMPBC, we are to encourage and participate in volunteer programs for MetroParks. For 2017, we have selected over 10 MetroParks event in which we plan to participate with sponsorships, event participation, and or volunteer participation, along with financial donations for other supplies and prizes.

New for our participation this year will be the Kites in MPX on April 8. This event has drawn very large crowds in the past, over 3000 people the last time it was held. Our plans for this event will include setting up the FOMPBC information table and tent, donation of a gift card to be used for volunteer food, and face painting. We also need to commit to more volunteers to actually help at other MetroParks tables and duties.

Your Friend,

Chuck Holliday, President FOMPBC

Good News Krogers Community Rewards

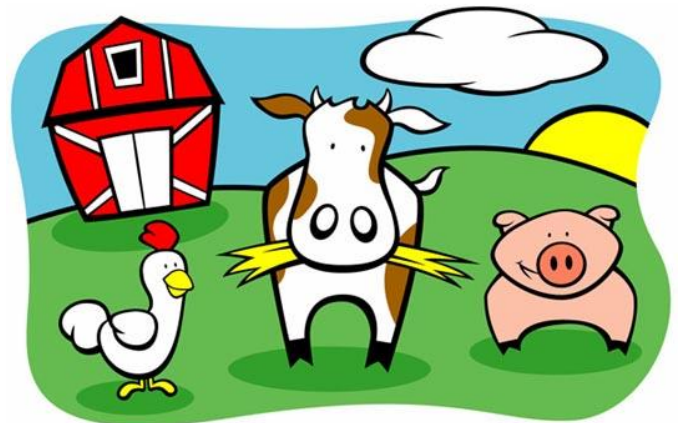
Dear Community Rewards Organization:

Thank you for being a member of the Kroger Community Rewards program. We are 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 our Community Rewards program.

We've got great news to share with you! We've listened to your feedback and are making updates to our Community Rewards process and software. As of April 1, 2017, your supporters will no longer have to re-enroll their Kroger Plus Card to earn dollars for your organization. We believe this will make it easier for your organization and our customers to support you!

Congratulations to Lara Askill

Please help us in congratulating Lara Askill in her promotion into the role of Agriculture Education/ Farm Manager. Lara brings a degree in Biology as well as extensive experience in animal husbandry, and program development. Lara has already transitioned to a full-time schedule and will be transitioning from the Rentschler Forest office to Chrisholm Historic Farmstead within the next few weeks



Dog-Gone Easter Bone Hunt

A Great Success!

Over 125 dogs were registered for this event on April 1, no JOKE! A great turn out for such a bone chilling day.



MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

FOMPBC 2017 Calendar of Events

Mo	D	Time	Event	Location
Apr	1	1-4 pm	Easter Doggone Bone Hunt	Timberhill
	8	12-5 pm	Kites in MPX	VOA
	9		Eggstravaganza	VOA
	14		Flashlight Egg Hunt	Forest Run
	29 – 5/6		Big Week of Birding	Various MetroParks
May	13	2 – 4pm	Shooting Stars	Indian Creek
	21		Pioneer Salute	Indian Creek
July	9	12-4 pm	Pioneer for a Day	Gov. Bebb
	15	10am-4pm	Crazy Cardboard Regatta	VOA
Aug	4-5		Mud Mania	Rentschler
	12	12-4 pm	Fun on the Farm	Chrisholm
Sep	16	10am-4 pm	Horse Daze	Sebald
Oct	7		Barn Dance	Chrisholm
	21		Run Forest Run	Forest Run
Oct	22	10am- 4pm	The Howl	VOA
Dec	1 2 3	5-9 5-9 4-8 pm	Brilliant Bebb	Gov Bebb

Ongoing Service Opportunities

Feeder Fill/Feeder Watch!

When: Flexible Winter Months

Where: Forest Run Welcome Center 1976

Timberman Rd. Hamilton OH 45013

Who: Families, Adults

What: Stop by and fill the bird feeders once a week.

View wildlife from the wildlife viewing area at the Welcome Center and record your observations!

Training available. Contact Joe Dumyahn

jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net

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 Sara Schapman at sschapman@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.

Welcome Center - Voice of America MetroPark

When: Flexible

Where: Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Reagan Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Dr., 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

Proposed By-Laws Changes

The Board of Directors has requested a change in the current by-laws of the corporation. All changes in the by-laws must be approved by a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting to be held on April 12.

As currently written:

Article III _ Section 3- Number, Term of Office and Qualification:

- a. The number of Directors of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County shall be not less than seven or greater than fifteen.
- b. Directors shall be elected by the general membership to serve as members of the governing Board for no more than two terms of three (3) years each consecutively.
- c. One-third of the Board of Directors shall be elected annually to serve for 3 years in staggered terms such that one-third are elected annually.
- d. Those serving two terms must be then off the board for at least one year before being voted for additional terms.
- e. All members of the Board of directors shall be members of good standing during their term of office.

Proposed change:

Article III _ Governance: Section 3- Number, Term of Office and Qualification:

- a. The number of Directors of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

shall be not less than seven or greater than fifteen.

b. Directors shall be elected by the general membership for a term of three (3) years to serve as members of the governing Board. ~~for no more than two terms of three (3) years each consecutively.~~

c. One-third of the Board of Directors shall be elected annually to serve for 3 years in staggered terms such that one-third are elected annually.

~~d. Those serving two terms must be then off the board for at least one year before being voted for additional terms.~~

d. e. All members of the Board of directors shall be members of good standing during their term of office.

Final Reading

Article III _ Governance: Section 3- Number, Term of Office and Qualification:

a. The number of Directors of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County shall be not less than seven or greater than fifteen.

b. Directors shall be elected by the general membership for a term of three (3) years to serve as members of the governing Board.

c. One-third of the Board of Directors shall be elected annually to serve for 3 years in staggered terms such that one-third are elected annually.

d. All members of the Board of directors shall be members of good standing during their term of office.

Critter Corner

By: Bill Walker



Here's a bird I spotted last week. In size, somewhere between a warbler and a finch. Stripes of black, white, and yellow were in evidence. While not obvious from this picture, the bird wears a small mask of red. It eats thistle seeds and small insects. Since it was the first week of spring, it can be assumed that plumage was ready for courtship.

Who can identify this beauty? Perhaps I should have mentioned that the tree branch on which she sits belongs to an olive tree, and that said tree was on the slope below the church of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy. I confess that this is a female goldfinch (European goldfinch, that is). The male has similar coloration, but with a larger red mask on the face.

Many other of the local birds were much more familiar to the wandering American birder, including English sparrows, rock doves (pigeons), ring-neck doves, ring-neck pheasants, egrets, grey herons (very similar to the great blue heron), laughing gulls, and herring gulls. Amazing how many invasive species there are on this old Earth (including the author).

MetroParks Educational Programs Materials Wish List:



As you sort your recyclables on trash night, please consider donating some of the following items to us that might otherwise end up in Rumpke. Please take any donations to:

VOA Welcome Center , VOA Park Drive, West Chester; when open, generally 9am- 4:30 pm

Forest Run Engel House (Administrative Building), 2051 Timberman Rd., Hamilton ; 9am- 4:30 pm week days.

Recyclable/ re-purposed materials:

- Craft sticks- any sized
- Gently used athletic equipment
- Gently used board games
- Gently used Legos
- Any length of 2x4 boards
- Fabric scraps

Other things you may have laying around:

- Pencils
- Pens
- Paper cups
- Paper plates
- Rubber bands
- Clothespins
- Ziplock baggies
- Craft materials: glitter, stickers, pipe cleaners, feathers, beads, etc.
- Paper for crafts: tissue paper, construction paper, foam paper, cardstock paper, etc.



Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



April

OPPORTUNITIES

Dog Gone Bone Hunt

When: Saturday, April 1, 2017 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Timberhill Area
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road
Hamilton OH 45011

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed for set up, filling eggs for dogs, event registration, safety, and much more.



Kites 'N MPX

When: Saturday, April 8, 2017 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Voice of America MetroPark
7820 VOA Drive
West Chester OH 45069

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed for set up, event registration, safety, and much more.



Eggstravaganza

When: Sunday, April 9, 2017 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

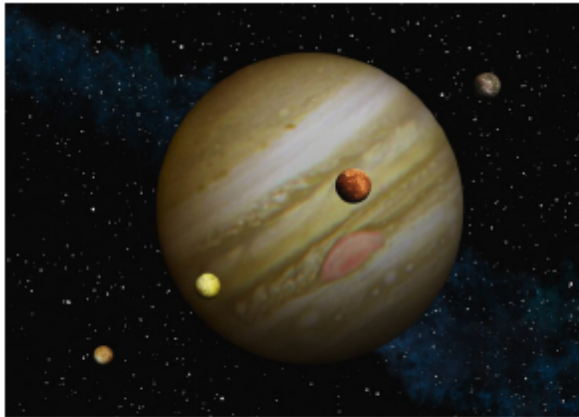
Where: Voice of America MetroPark
7820 VOA Drive
West Chester OH 45069

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed for set up, event registration, assisting with the egg hunt and much more.



Night Time Exploration Hike



Jupiter is close!

Where: Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve Area
1810 New London Road
Hamilton OH 45013

When: Friday, April 7, 2017
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy a nature hike experiencing the park at night while viewing the skies. Bring your binoculars to view Jupiter and its moons.



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

FREE

All ages welcome

Registration is required
Call 513.867.5835 or visit
www.YourMetroParks.net

Night hike
Sensory activities
Nocturnal animals
Star search



Hike is weather dependent.
Participants will be notified
by email if program is
cancelled.

Kites 'N MPX



WHEN:

Saturday, April 8th, 2017

TIME:

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

WHERE:

Voice of America MetroPark
7850 VOA Park Dr. West Chester, OH 45069



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

**FREE Family
Friendly Event**

**Gigantic
Kite Flying
Demonstrations**

FEATURING:

- Kite Ballet
- Learn-to-fly Field
- Kite Sales
- Kite Making
- Vendors
- Food & Drinks



**Co-Sponsored
by:**



MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

Opening Day

on the trails

Cascade Trail Wildflower Hike



FREE!

All ages welcome!

For more information, visit
www.YourMetroParks.net
or call 513.867.5835

Saturday, April 8, 2017

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

Rentschler Forest MetroPark

5701 Reigart Road
Fairfield Twp. OH 45011



#MPX50FunThings



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

SPRING ORIENTEERING



Thursday, April 13, 2017

5 PM - 7 PM

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
5701 Reigart Rd.
Fairfield Township, OH 45011

Saturday, April 15, 2017

11 AM - 1 PM

Forest Run MetroPark
Welcome Center
1976 Timberman Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45013

Sunday, April 16, 2017

2 PM - 4 PM

Indian Creek MetroPark
6500 Springfield Rd.
Oxford, OH 45056

Find your way through checkpoints using a detailed map. Think of it as a hike with a treasure hunt thrown in or a cross-country race, with the challenge of finding the fastest route between checkpoints.

The beginner's course will have baskets of plastic Easter eggs at each checkpoint. Children will collect the plastic eggs and exchange them for prizes at the finish.

EVERY TIME IS A DIFFERENT, EXCITING ADVENTURE IN NATURE



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

All Abilities Welcome

Instruction for beginners
Courses of various length
and difficulty

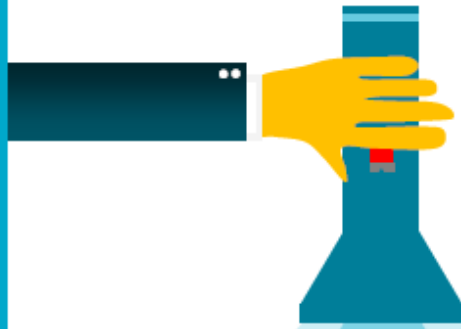


Orienteering Cincinnati, Inc. will teach this fun sport!

- \$3 for the Kid's Egg Trail
- \$7 for OCIN members
- \$10 for non-members
- \$2 discount if you have your own SI timing card
- Free for TROL (Tri-State Regional Orienteering League) Season Pass holders.

Orienteering Cincinnati Inc. (OCIN)

OCIN is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing orienteering programs for education and recreation throughout the greater Cincinnati area. OCIN collaborates with MetroParks of Butler County to bring orienteering activities to various MetroParks locations across the county.



Flashlight Egg Hunt

When:
Friday April 14, 2017

Time:
8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Where:
Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve Area
1810 New London Rd.
Hamilton OH 45013

When the park is dark, your flashlight will be your guide!

*Egg cartons will be provided for each
participant to collect their eggs.*

*Every participant will collect one dozen eggs
filled with candy and prizes!*

*Concessions and glow items will be available
for purchase and the Easter Bunny will hop by!*



FAMILY FRIENDLY!
\$3 per participant

Pre-registration required!
Register at
www.YourMetroParks.net
or call 513.867.5835

Registration deadline:
Apr. 12, 2017

--Bring a flashlight
--Wear close-toed shoes

Hunt Schedule:
9:00 p.m. - 3-5-year-olds

9:00 p.m. - 6-8-year-olds

9:30 p.m. - Family Hunt
(if you have multiple aged
children that want to
participate together)

9:30 p.m. - 9-12-year-olds



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

2017 BIG WEEK OF BIRDING IN BUTLER COUNTY



SAT. APRIL 29 - SAT. MAY 6, 2017

WARBLER REFRESHER with Dr. Dave Russell
Tue. April 18, 2017 from 7 - 9 PM
Voice of America MetroPark

Tuesday April 18	7-9 PM	Voice of America MetroPark 7850 VOA Park Dr., West Chester 45069
Saturday, April 29	7:30-9:30 AM	Gilmore MetroPark 7950 Gilmore Rd., Hamilton 45015
Saturday, April 29	6:30-8:30 PM	4-Mile Creek MetroPark- Davidson Woods Pre-registration required.
Sunday, April 30	7:30-9:30 AM	Chrisholm MetroPark: Woodsdale Regional 1917 Woodsdale Rd., Trenton 45067
Sunday, April 30	6:30-8:30 PM	Forest Run MetroPark Wildlife Preserve 1810 New London Rd., Hamilton 45013
Monday, May 1	6:30-8:30 PM	Salamander Run Preserve Pre-registration required.
Tuesday, May 2	7:30-9:30 AM	Hueston Woods State Park Banding Stn 6301 Park Office Rd., College Corner 45003
Wednesday May 3	6:30-8:30 PM	Elk Creek MetroPark 5401 Mosiman Rd., Middletown 45042
Thursday May 4	7:30-9:30 AM	Governor Bebb MetroPark 1979 Bebb Park Ln., Okeana 45053
Friday May 5	6:30-8:30 PM	4-Mile Creek MetroPark - Sycamore Bluffs 3884 Wallace Rd., Oxford 45056
Saturday, May 6	7:30-9:30 AM	Indian Creek MetroPark 6500 Springfield Rd., Oxford 45056
Saturday, May 6	6:30-8:30 PM	Rentschler MetroPark: Timberhill 3976 Hamilton-Middletown Rd., Hamilton 45011

Winner of the 2016 Award of Excellence for Environmental & Interpretive programs by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (3rd place)

**ALL AGES &
BIRDING ABILITIES
WELCOME**
COST: FREE



- 4th Annual BIG WEEK of birding
- Details on MetroParks website
- New Locations added this year!
- Pre-Registration required for some programs
- www.YourMetroParks.net
- 513-867-5835




MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

Community Partner:
Audubon Miami Valley



Motor Vehicle Permit required at MetroParks locations. Free to Butler Co. residents, Non Residents: \$5/Daily; \$10/annually



Stream Biology

Saturday, May 20 9 am—12 noon

Indian Creek MetroPark
1899 Oxford Reily Rd, Reily, Ohio



Are you interested in the health of our local streams? If so, join Butler Soil and Water Conservation District and MetroParks of Butler County to learn about the biology of streams. After a brief background on streams, water quality, and the stream creatures, we will enter the creek to conduct a stream sample. This biological sample will help us to assess the health of the water. Interested attendees can become samplers for the Butler County Stream Team, a local water quality citizen science group.

Please wear closed toe footwear that can get wet. Please be aware this entire class will be held outdoors rain or shine. There are no shelters in this portion of the park.

This class is geared for teens and adults. Anyone under the age of 14 is welcome to attend one of the many free, family friendly, creek walk programs held throughout the summer. Please see www.yourmetroparks.net for more details on locations and dates.



Pre-Registration is required by May 18. To register, please contact Butler SWCD at 513-887-3720 or email your name to ButlerSWCD@ButlerCountyOhio.org.



metroparks



mojo
Running
Triathlon

WHEN:

June 18th, 2017 at 7:00 AM

WHERE:

Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

WHO:

Open to triathletes of all experience levels with Sprint, Olympic, & Relay options

Tri a MetroPark....Live Life in
))) Forward Motion

~3rd Annual~

Cost:

- Sprint: \$70
- Olympic: \$80
- Sprint Relay: \$115
- Olympic Relay: \$130

Race:

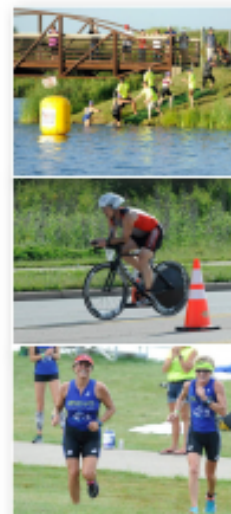
Swim in VOA lake, run along park trails, and bike on streets of West Chester!

Registration:

<https://www.racemine.com/Mojo-Running/events/2017/MetroParks-Mojo-Running-Triathlon>

Registration closes on June 14th, 2017

Register before May 1st to receive \$5 off on any registration!



MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

You're invited....



**2017 Annual Meeting
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County**

Woodland Trails Scout Reservation

265 Gaspers Somers Road, Camden, Ohio 45311

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Dinner (6:30) - Business Meeting - Program

*Dinner by Holly's Homestyle Eats & Treats, \$15/person, \$5 under 12
Ham & Herbed Chicken Breast Dinner, with homemade desserts*

Speaker:

Mike Henderson, "Woodland Trails, It's History and Ecology"

Please make your check payable to:

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County, PO Box 641, Hamilton, OH 45012

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Attending: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____ **Pay at the Door** _____

Or e-mail your RSVP to kochtrees@gmail.com (state name, # attending)

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) _____