

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
October, 2016

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Bill Walker

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Board of Directors Meeting

Just a note to remind you that there will be a Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Board of Directors meeting held on:

October 12, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Forest Run MetroPark

Welcome Center Conference Room

Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH

All Members of Friends of MetroParks of Butler County are welcome to attend.

Please Join US!

**Chuck Holliday
President
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County**

October, 2016

OUR MISSION: The mission of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County is to improve and preserve the parks for future generations, educate and inform the public about the unique qualities of each MetroPark, and to encourage individuals and groups to participate in volunteer programs

Letter from the President

The Perfect Time of the Year

I have always gotten a lot of questions concerning the best way to “get rid of honeysuckle”. I am a firm believer in the fall foliage spraying of honeysuckle. Most everyone has heard the saying “first to get its leaves in the spring and last to lose its leaves in the fall.” Honeysuckle uses the last few warm and sunny days of fall to actively store its energy to its roots, during spring and summer honeysuckle aggressively turns its energy to growth and berry production. Know your enemy!

The Don Gieger Method

In late fall, after the native and natural flora has gone dormant, honeysuckle plants are actively producing next year’s plants. A simple 2% solution of Roundup in a sprayer can do catastrophic damage to a honeysuckle plant if the foliage is spray on a warm (>40 degree) and sunny day because the plant is actively sending its produced energy and accompanying Roundup solution to its root system. The honeysuckle plant should not come back to life the next spring. Remove the dead plant and spot spray any missed plants that may show life.

I have seen this method used quite successfully in many commercial applications: Dudley Woods restoration, Allen Park, Salamander Run, and Hamilton County Parks. It works equally as well in your back yard.

Remember 2% solution of Roundup equals 2.5 ounces of straight Roundup add to 128 ounces of water. Increasing the dosage does not increase the effectiveness spray. Save your money, make more gallons of spray, spray more honeysuckle.

Attack honeysuckle, plant native for birds and butterflies, Good Parks.

Chuck Holliday

President, FOMPBC

“Members Only” Salamander Run Hike

Saturday, October 8, 3-5 pm

4821 Layhigh Rd., Hamilton OH 45013

Guided trek of varied terrain and habitat at Salamander Run, managed and currently owned by Three Valley Conservation Trust. Enjoy the restoration efforts, wildlife and native species to be found at this soon to be park. Suggested: wear long pants and sturdy footwear.

October Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, October 12, 2016

7:00 PM

Forest Run MetroPark: FR Welcome Center
Conference Room - 1976 Timberman Rd.,
Hamilton, Ohio

All members are welcome to attend!

Horse Daze

Another Great event, Thank you to the Ohio Horseman’s Council, Butler County Chapter for hosting this event.

Thank you to our face painters, a great bunch of volunteers! The lines were long and continuous all day.



October, 2016

3976 Hamilton Middletown Road, Hamilton OH 45011
Saturday, October 22, 2016, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

The Howl

October 23, 1-4 pm
Voice of America Park,
7850 Park Drive
West Chester, Oh 45069

Harvest Day

October 29, 11-3 pm
Forest Run MetroPark
1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

THANK YOU!

Last month we launched a new address to our FaceBook page and asked our Voice of the Turtle readers to Like us We are now reaching more people than ever before. By sharing our posts with your friends and family you are helping to spread the word about the mission of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County.

Donna Marquardt,
Friends of MetroParks
FaceBook Team
Member

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMetroParksButlerCounty/> and click "Like" at the top of the page.



Thanks to all the volunteers that gave a hand to the Friends Group.

Upcoming Events

Make a Difference Day

Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Timberhill Activity Area

October, 2016

Horse Daze



Opportunities October 2016

Fall Hayrides

When: Saturday, October 1, 2016 10:45 AM – 2:15 PM

Where: Forest Run Metropark, 1976 Timberman Ridge, Hamilton, OH 45013

What: Assist MetroParks with Fall Hayrides at Forest Run MetroPark. Volunteers will ride on the hay wagon with groups on Saturdays from September 24th to October 22nd.

Trail Ambassador: Trail Ride

When: Monday, October 3, 2016 5:00PM – 7:00 PM

Where: Bicentennial Commons, Carmody Boulevard and Central Ave, Middletown, OH

What: Join trail ambassadors in monitoring the Great Miami River Recreation Trail and learn more about becoming a MetroParks of Butler County trail ambassador. 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.

Fall Hayrides

When: Saturday, October 8, 2016 various shifts 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: Forest Run Metropark, 1976 Timberman Ridge, Hamilton, OH 45013

What: Assist MetroParks with Fall Hayrides at Forest Run MetroPark. Volunteers will ride on the hay wagon with groups on Saturdays from September 24th to October 22nd.

Fall Hayrides

When: Saturday, October 15, 2016 various shifts 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: Forest Run Metropark, 1976 Timberman Ridge, Hamilton, OH 45013

What: Assist MetroParks with Fall Hayrides at Forest Run MetroPark. Volunteers will ride on the hay wagon with groups on Saturdays from September 24th to October 22nd.

Fall Hayrides

When: Saturday, October 22, 2016 various shifts 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: Forest Run Metropark, 1976 Timberman Ridge, Hamilton, OH 45013

What: Assist MetroParks with Fall Hayrides at Forest Run MetroPark. Volunteers will ride on the hay wagon with groups on Saturdays from September 24th to October 22nd.

Stepping Forward: Service Day

When: Friday, October 21, 2016 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Chrisholm MetroPark, Chrisholm Historic Farmstead, 2070 Woodsdale Road Trenton, OH 45067

What: Stepping Forward: Service Days allow for volunteers to do a number of activities at various parks throughout the year. Service Days are held to keep parks clean, improve habitat, complete projects, and prepare for events. Volunteer to complete garden maintenance at the Historic Chrisholm Farmstead alongside the Friends of Chrisholm group.

Stepping Forward: Service Day

When: Saturday, October 22, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

What: Stepping Forward: Service Days allow for volunteers to do a number of activities at various parks throughout the year. Service Days are held to keep parks clean, improve habitat, complete projects,

October, 2016

and prepare for events. Join MetroParks and the Timberhill Restoration Coalition in preparing the Timberhill Activity Area for winter. Help take down tent shelters, perform park clean up, trail maintenance, and general maintenance tasks. This Service Day is part of Make a Difference Day!



Great Miami Clean Sweep

When: Saturday, October 22, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Rentschler Forest MetroPark, 5701 Reigart Road, Hamilton, OH 45011
Great Miami River Recreation Trail, Bicentennial Commons, Carmody Blvd at Central Ave., Middletown, OH, 45042

What: Participate in the Great Miami Clean Sweep by picking up trash in and around the waterways that feed into the Great Miami River from Rentschler MetroPark. Participants will receive a t-shirt. Help keep the Great Miami clean!

The Howl

When: Sunday, October 23, 2016 11:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Where: Voice of America MetroPark, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

What: Join MetroParks of Butler County at Voice of America MetroPark to help with the Howl, a trick or treat trail for dogs and their human families. There are a variety of roles to be filled. Tasks will include event set up, registration, activities along the treat trail, judging dog costume contest, and event take down.



Harvest Day

When: Saturday, October 29, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

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

What: Help with Harvest Day, a day of Fall-themed activities and family fun! Volunteer roles will include event set up and clean up and facilitation of various event activities and booths.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities Trail Ambassadors – Great Miami River Recreation Trail

When: Flexible

Where: Great Miami River Recreation 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.

Administrative Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Volunteers are needed to help with administrative tasks including document filing, copying program flyers, database management, document preparation, and other general office tasks. Volunteers can

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help out on a recurrent basis or just once if desired!

General Maintenance Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Help MetroParks by lending a hand in general maintenance alongside the Operations Department staff at various locations throughout the MetroParks system. Tasks might include painting, mulching, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, etc.

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 volunteer services for more information.

Program/Event Support

When: Program Dependent

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Park Connections staff can always use an extra hand with programs and events. Do you see something on our program calendar that interests you? You can get involved by inquiring about volunteer opportunities for that event. Contact ctammell@yourmetroparks.net for more information on volunteer opportunities for a particular program or event.

Program Preparation Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Park Connections staff presents multiple education, recreation, and conservation programs 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.

Welcome Center - Voice of America MetroPark

When: Flexible

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 customers with a smile, provide information about programs and the parks. Training provided.

Other Ideas?

If you have skills or interests that you would like to translate into volunteer service for MetroParks, but don't see that option listed, contact us! MetroParks is always looking for new and innovative ways to get volunteers involved in the parks.

PLEASE NOTE: All ongoing volunteer opportunities must be scheduled directly with volunteer services. If you are interested in any of the above ongoing volunteer opportunities, please contact ctammell@yourmetroparks.net or call (513) 867-5835 for more information.

Looking Ahead....

MetroParks asks that you begin thinking about any interest you may have in future volunteer opportunities. Some volunteer opportunities to be looking forward to include:

Volunteer Celebration – Celebrate the volunteers of MetroParks on Thursday, November 10th, 6:30pm-8:30pm. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, music, and good company!

If any of these future opportunities sound interesting to you, please email Cris Trammell at ctammell@yourmetroparks.net for more information.

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A Batty Time of Year!

By Kathy Edelen
Program Leader, Park Connections
MetroParks of Butler County

Fall is here, the kids are back in school and bats are swarming! Love is in the air as bats start to prepare themselves for their migration and subsequent hibernation.

Bats start swarming looking for a good place to hibernate, generally a cave or mine. As they are inspecting each little crevice they find, females are likely cataloging areas they might come back to in the spring to raise their young, when they will form a maternity colony.

While technically bats do not hibernate, they do go into a torpor (not a true hibernation because it is more dependent on temperature rather than length of sunlight...and some species will wake during winter warm spells to forage). Winters around here mean no bugs to eat, so they sleep the winter away. For this reason, bats have evolved a bizarre reproductive solution called delayed fertilization.



If you are planning on putting up a bat house, it is good to have it up before this swarming behavior starts—then they might remember it in the spring!

They mate in the fall, but the females do not ovulate until spring...so the sperm hang out in the reproductive tract throughout hibernation. After their winter sleep, females wake in the spring, ovulation & fertilization happens, and they give birth in late May to early June. Babies are reared rather quickly, reaching adult size by the fall when they prepare for migration and hibernation. Females that are born this year are not ready to mate this fall, but will be by the next autumn swarming season.

During late summer and early fall, it is possible for you to end up with a flying friend in your home. This year's babes are just striking out on their own and as they start checking things out, often find

themselves in a human building confused as to how to get out. If you stumble upon such a scene, simply open a window or a door and they will find their way out using echolocation (imagine using your own echo as a means of navigation!!). If this does not work, you can remove the bat by putting on leather gloves and encouraging the bat into a box (a cereal or cracker box is perfect for this job). Then take the box outside and lay it on its side somewhere high up (such as the top of a vehicle) and open the lid. The bat will be able to leave and fly away, hopefully finding a more natural habitat!

May your fall be full of beautiful leaves and many bat sightings!

For more bat info:
www.batcon.org
batconservation.org
#SaveTheBats

Birds in the Bog

By Bill Walker

I just returned from a week in Hilton Head, SC. For a change, we timed things correctly – instead of hearing “you should have been here last week”, we were treated to a week of mostly sunny weather. It goes without saying that it is also a good thing not to have been there next week. Plenty of water birds were in view, ranging from sanderlings to brown pelicans. During one memorable bog walk, in one pond we saw a black-crowned night heron, several common gallinules, a green heron, and a hungry Cooper’s hawk (who thought the green heron looked tasty).



Sanderling

October, 2016



Juvenile Black-Crowned Night Heron



Female Green Heron

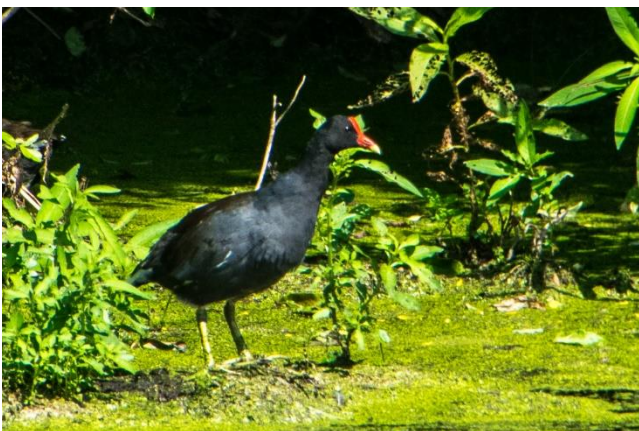
To those of you who notice the absence of a photo of the Cooper's hawk, let's just say that he was faster than I was!



Adult Night Heron



Brown Pelican



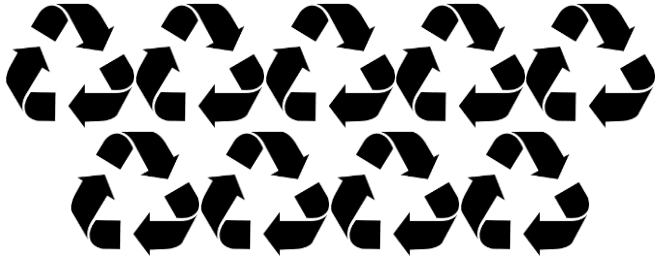
Common Gallinule

Too bad that many of these critters are scarce in Ohio. We do have night and green herons locally, but the gallinules are replaced by coots (not to be confused with your editor). We did spot about 1,000 white pelicans in Iowa over the Labor Day holiday, but that's the other 4-letter, 3-vowel state.

The wood storks (including the kamikaze who tried to fly through the windshield of the van before he veered away), ibises, great-, snowy-, and cattle-egrets, little blue herons, and great blue herons stayed far enough from the camera to avoid joining the mug gallery this trip. Also missing are the spectrum of gulls, cormorants, and terns seen but not photographed (not even a tern for the worst). Oh well, there's always next time.

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
- Clean & empty 2 liter bottles
- Clean & empty large coffee containers
- Clean & empty large cottage cheese containers
- Clean & empty large yogurt containers
- Clean & empty paper egg cartons
- 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.



HARVEST HAYRIDES

Saturdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22

11 AM, Noon, or 1 PM

Forest Run MetroPark
1976 Timberman Rd., Hamilton

\$75 per group

All ages welcome · Reservations required

Includes:

Group Hayride · Hay Bale Maze
Campfire · S'mores · Pumpkins

Book your adventure at

metroparks

OF BUTLER COUNTY

NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

www.YourMetroParks.net

513.867.5835

Motor Vehicle Permits required. Free to Butler Co. residents. Non-residents: \$5 daily, \$10 annually.



OF BUTLER COUNTY

Special Events & Programs

HORSE DAZE

Saturday, September 17
Sebald Park
10 AM – 4 PM

The HOWL

Sunday, October 23
Voice Of America
MetroPark
12:30 PM – 4 PM

BRILLIANT BEBB:

ILLUMINATED PIONEER VILLAGE

December 2 & 3 (5 - 9 PM),
December 4 (4 - 8 PM)
Governor Bebb MetroPark

SANTA'S BRUNCH



Sunday, December 11
Voice Of America
MetroPark
12:30 PM – 3 PM

More information is available at www.YourMetroParks.net or at 513.867.5835

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



Saturdays

(11 AM, 12 or 1 PM)

Sept. 24 & Oct. 1, 8,
15, and 22

Forest Run
MetroPark

Group Hayrides by
Reservation Only



NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

The HOWL



- WHAT:** Dog Costume Parade
plus a Trick-or-Treat trail
For dogs AND children
- WHEN:** Sunday, October 23, 2016
Registration begins at 12:30pm
Parade at 1pm-1:30pm
Trick or treat trail 1:30pm-4:00pm
- WHERE:** Voice of America MetroPark
7850 Park Dr., West Chester, OH 45069
- BENEFITING:** Wiggly Field Dog Park Fund

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www.YourMetroParks.net
513.867.5835

community foundation the heart of
WEST CHESTER - LIBERTY the gateway

**ALL AGES
WELCOME**



REGISTRATION:

DAY OF EVENT at the lodge
\$5.00 per dog
Children FREE with a paid
canine



FEATURING: Costumed
Dog Parade with prizes.
Stations around the lodge.
Treats/prizes for dogs AND
children.
Yummy concessions.
"Rent" a dog from a rescue
center for trail.
**Vendors selling fun doggy
items.**
Dog obstacle course.



Motor Vehicle Permit required at MetroPark locations. Free to Butler Co. residents, Non Residents: 5/

160812 kjb approved

Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



Pilgrims and Turkey Talk



WHEN: Saturday, November 12, 2016
10:00am-11:00am

WHERE: Chrisholm MetroPark
Chrisholm Historic Farmstead
2070 Woodsdale Road
Trenton, OH 45067

Visit with an 1600's pilgrim who will share the story of the First Thanksgiving Feast, through fun, interactive activities.

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

FREE



Registration requested.
Walk ups welcome.

513-867-5835

www.YourMetroParks.net



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513.867.5835

BRILLIANT BEBB:



ILLUMINATED PIONEER VILLAGE



WHEN:

December 2nd, 3rd, & 4th, 2016

TIME:

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm Friday & Saturday

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Sunday

WHERE:

Governor Bebb MetroPark

1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053

*Holiday Light
Display*

*Arts & Craft
Vendors*

COST:

\$10/ car or van

FEATURING:

- Father Christmas
- Musicians
- Demonstrations
- Family Photo Op
- Food & Drinks
- Decorated Pioneer Village



metroparks

OF BUTLER COUNTY

NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

www.YourMetroParks.net

513.867.5835

WINTER ORIENTEERING



Sat., Dec. 10, 2016
Start times 11 AM - 1 PM

Sebald Park
5580 Elk Creek Rd.
Middletown, OH 45042

Sat., Dec. 17, 2016
Start times 11 AM - 1 PM

Forest Run MetroPark
Welcome Center
1976 Timberman Rd
Hamilton OH 45011

Sat. Dec. 31, 2016
7PM - 12 AM
Advanced New Year's
Orienteering
Rentschler Forest MetroPark-
Timberhill Activity Area
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45011
Advanced orienteering
experience required.

Sun. Jan. 1, 2017
Start times 11 AM - 1 PM

New Year's Day Orienteering
Rentschler Forest MetroPark-
Timberhill Activity Area
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45011

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.

Every time is a different, exciting adventure in nature.



ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

Instruction for beginners
Courses of various length
and difficulty



Join Orienteering Cincinnati, Inc. to learn this fun sport.

- \$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 not for profit 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 MetroPark locations across the county.

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

Join the Timber Hill Restoration Coalition and MetroParks of Butler County on their 10th annual:

Make a Difference Day

Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Timberhill Activity Area

3976 Hamilton Middletown Road, Hamilton OH 45011

Saturday, October 22, 2016, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

The Timber Hill Restoration Coalition and MetroParks of Butler County need **your** help in improving, maintaining, and preserving this one-of-a kind youth camping facility for the youth of Butler County and surrounding communities.

- Take down and store tents for the winter
- Renovate and Paint the buildings
- Trail work- beat back the honeysuckle and smooth the way
- General camp cleanup and infrastructure improvements
- Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Youth under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Parental consent form required for under the age 18.



Timberhill is located on Route 4 just north of Hamilton between Bypass 4 and Liberty Fairfield Road.

- Enjoy company of others making a difference. Lunch and drinks will be provided.
- Gloves and tools are available. Details and directions to Timberhill will be emailed to you.
- Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

REGISTER NOW!

To register: please email the following information to Zach Marcum at zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net or phone (513) 867-5835

Registration Deadline: Monday, October 17 (walk-ins will be welcomed)

Name: _____ **Organization:** _____

Address: _____

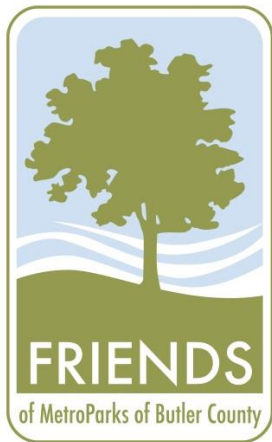
E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Number of Adults: _____ **Number of Youth:** _____ **Youth Ages:** _____

www.yourmetroparks.net
513.867.5835
www.timberhill.org



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 _____
 Group or Business Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home/Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email (required to receive newsletter) _____