

# The Voice of the Turtle



# Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

December, 2018

## FOMPBC Officers

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Bill Walker

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Nick Lengyel

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Carri Mosier

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Craig Wiseman

**Newsletter Editor:**

Bill Walker

## No December Board Meeting! Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

See you in January

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Butler County Historical Society

327 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hamilton, OH 45011

7:00-9:00 PM



## Letter from the President

It's a busy time of year. Some of us practiced our martial arts skills at Black Friday sales, while the rest (the smart ones) just typed our fingers to the bone on Cyber Monday. My favorite martial art is Thumb-fu. Just so long as there aren't too many spaces to type, I shouldn't risk injury in this busy season. What with Thanksgiving, an anniversary, several birthdays, and Christmas (not to mention Hannukah and Kwanza for our friends who celebrate them) in close succession, this is a hectic (and expensive) season. Try to find some time to escape to the peace and serenity of our parks.

Hope that you and yours have a happy and prosperous season until I next see you in the parks,

Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

## Upcoming Events

### Show and Tell on the Farm



Come out and enjoy Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: Presents for the Animals, Ice Harvest, Winter Wreathes, Yokes and Yolks, Holiday's Old and New, Feathers, Fat and Fur.

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

No program on Sunday November 23rd due or Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup> due to the Holiday's.

## Christmas Bird Count



For over 100 years, Audubon has been conducting a Christmas Bird Count throughout the country. It doesn't matter if you are just learning to bird watch or if you are an accomplished birder, come out for a brisk walk to look for the winter birds! Various MetroParks sites will be included.

Saturday, December 15th, 7:00am-12:00pm

Oxford area Meet at the Miami University Research Ecology Research Center at 5806 Somerville Rd, Oxford OH 45056 at 7 AM or contact Larry Gersbach at [larrygers@aol.com](mailto:larrygers@aol.com) for details.

Or

Hamilton Fairfield Area Contact Mike Busam at [mbusam@gmail.com](mailto:mbusam@gmail.com) for details. This bird count is sponsored by the Cincinnati Bird Club

### Let's Go Hiking! Surviving Winter



Join MetroParks of Butler County and the City of Fairfield Parks & Recreation to investigate where the animals have gone. Discover where the animals go during the cold months and how they survive.

This is a FREE program that will take place at Harbin Park Located at 1300 Hunter Road in Fairfield Ohio. Open to all Ages. Meet at Shelter # 6 (not far from the soccer fields).

Registration is requested by calling 513.867.5348

### Breakfast with Santa



Reserve your seat for this fun family event. Enjoy a buffet, entertainment by Charlie Cadabra, and a visit with Santa on Sunday, December 16th from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at Voice of America! Framed photo of your visit with Santa available for a small fee. Space is limited. Reservations required. Registration closes 12/10/2018.

### Winter Break Night Hike



Ready to walk off those Christmas Cookies or maybe you want to get a jump on your New Year resolution. A night hike is a great idea for the whole family. Enjoy the sights and sounds of a mid-winter night as you hike through forest and meadow.

Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30PM

Meet in the back parking lot at 1810 Hamilton-New London Rd., Hamilton OH 45013

### Be on the Lookout for these future events

Let's Go Hike-Winter Tree ID and Owl Hike

## Did You Know

### **Kroger Community Rewards Update**

**FOMPBC organization # TM866**

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.

## National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count in Butler County

By Shawnee Banks



Red-tailed hawk at one of our MetroPark locations

It's time to break out the winter clothes, so grab your coats and join us for the 119th National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count! The first Christmas bird count was established in the 1900's on Christmas Day by Frank M. Chapman in response to concerns about declining bird populations (AS, 2018). Since, the data compiled from all participants have painted a picture of how bird populations have changed overtime (AS, 2018). Because of its importance, the bird count has been a unique tool that conservationists utilize to determine the health and status of bird populations in North America (AS, 2018).

So how does the Audubon Society accurately gather their data? From Citizen scientists just like you! The Audubon Society sets up counting points across North America through experienced volunteers. These counting points cover an area that is 15-mileswide in diameter. The count volunteers will of our MetroParks locations record all the birds they

see and hear for one day and submit their findings to the National Audubon Society.

Want to be involved in the local bird count? It is easy! We have two bird counts in Butler County on December 15th. The counts will start at 7:00 a.m. and last all day. Please, contact Larry Gersbach for the Oxford area bird count at [larrygers@aol.com](mailto:larrygers@aol.com) and Mike Busam for the Hamilton-Fairfield bird count at [mbusam@gmail.com](mailto:mbusam@gmail.com). You can also register for these events here:

<http://reservations.yourmetroparks.net/internal/programs/1663/>.



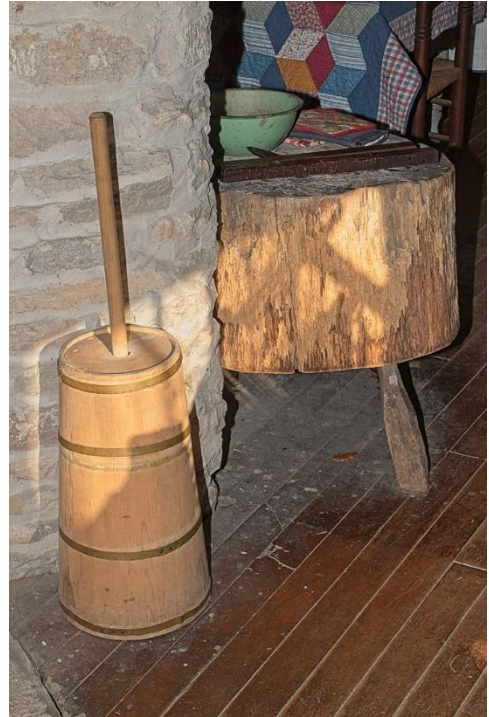
Female Cardinal in the Winter

Not an experienced birder? That's okay! For every bird count, there will be an experienced birder there to assist you in what you see and hear. Just dress warm, bring some binoculars, and have fun!

References:

(AS) "*History of the Christmas Bird Count.*" National Audubon Society, 2018,

**Photo Walks – Seasons in the Park  
Governor Bebb MetroPark**





# Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



## Service days in November



Scout Pack 945-taking down platform tents at Rentschler Forest-Timberhill Area 11/3/18



Scout Pack 945-taking down nets at the Voice of America Athletic Complex 11/10/18

### Contact Us

Give us a call or visit us on the web for more information about service opportunities.


MetroParks Of Butler County  
 2051 Timberman Road  
 Hamilton OH 45013  
 513.867.5835  
[www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net)

Or email Amy Pellman at [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net)

### December Birthday Corner!

Ronald Aylward	12/1	Catherine Eisenschmidt	12/17
Suzanne Eversole	12/2	Gary Stokes	12/19
Jennifer Vanderhorst	12/2	Braden VanWinkle	12/20
Cristina Wier	12/2	Zachary Beltz	12/23
Valerie Langston	12/3	Patrick McDonald	12/23
Nicholas Robbins	12/5	Chris Tompkins	12/23
Carl Ruble	12/5	Brody Armstrong	12/25
Lydia Gehr	12/6	Tracy Palma	12/25
Naomi Galarza	12/12	Larry Gersbach	12/27
Tonya Holman	12/14	Natalie Horne	12/27
Tedi-Lea Debruler	12/16	Mark Troup	12/27



We L  ve our Volunteers!!



# Volunteer Spotlight



## **Carri Mosier- Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Board Member**

**How long have you lived or worked in Butler County?** I'm a lifelong Butler County resident and some of my favorite childhood memories are family trips to Rentschler Forest.

**Tell me a little about your family:** My family consists of my amazing husband and my four-legged and furry kids. We have 3 rescued cats: Chessie, Riley, and Polly and 2 dogs: Molly and, our newest family member, 6-month-old Crosley. Crosley loves the parks as much as I do and is usually with me these days when I visit the parks.

**Do you have any hobbies?** I love to travel and have visited 45 of the 50 states. I'm always planning trips and have several planned and ready to go. I also love to read, and one of my favorite authors is Nevada Barr because her main character is a park ranger and the books take place in national parks.

**What do you like to do for fun or is there a fun fact about yourself you would like to share?** I was fortunate to spend an entire summer in Yellowstone National Park. It will always be one of my favorite places, and I have some great stories to tell!

**What do you love most about volunteering for MetroParks?** Wow, there are so many things I love about volunteering: the wonderful people I have met, getting to spend time in our amazing parks, and the memories I have made with my family. Volunteering is a family affair, and it has been a great way to spend time together making memories while making a difference in our community.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

### Feeder Fill

When: Flexible-Year Round

Where: Forest Run Welcome Center & (Bothwell)

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 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 Joe Dumyahn at [jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net) to schedule training.

### Nest Box Monitor

When: **March – August 2019**

Where: Monitoring sites throughout MetroParks

Register: by March 1, 2019. **Email Joe Dumyahn** at [jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:jdumyahn@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 enjoy the outdoors.

## Ongoing Service Opportunities

### Welcome Center – Middletown River Center **\*\*NEW OPPORTUNITY\*\***

When: Tentatively M/W/F/Saturday

Where: Middletown River Center 120 South Carmody Blvd., Middletown OH 45044

What: Volunteers are needed at the Welcome Center of the Middletown River Center.

Duties include welcoming park customer/owners with a smile and providing information about programs and the parks. Training provided. Contact Sara Schapman [sschapman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:sschapman@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. Contact Amy Pellman [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto: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](mailto: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, as well as, volunteer for the program itself. Contact Amy Pellman [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto: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 of Voice of America MetroPark.

Duties include welcoming park customer/owners with a smile and providing information about programs and the parks. Training provided. Contact Sara Schapman [sschapman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:sschapman@YourMetroParks.net).

***"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."***— Erma Bombeck



## Join MetroParks of Butler County and the City of Fairfield for some exciting programming at Fairfield Parks!

### LET'S GO HIKING SERIES

Free & Open to the Public  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
2019 Locations to be determined

- 10/20/18 Fall Blooms  
Harbin Park
- 11/17/18 Habitat Hike  
Huffman Park
- 12/15/18 Surviving Winter  
Harbin Park
- 1/19/19 Winter Tree ID
- 2/16/19 Tracks, Scats & Signs
- 3/16/19 Eastern Bluebirds
- 4/20/19 Spring Wildflowers
- 5/18/19 Spring Birding Hike
- 6/15/19 Creeking
- 7/20/19 Summer Wildflowers
- 8/17/19 Invasive Species
- 9/21/19 Autumn Birding Hike
- 10/19/19 Fall Wildflowers
- 11/16/19 Animal Homes
- 12/21/19 Surviving Winter

### PRE-SMARTIES & SMARTIES

Programming for City of Fairfield Registered Preschool Students Only

- 11/13/18 Amazing Animals
- 2/5/19 Calling All Farm Hands
- 4/9/19 Animal Games



### NATURE PROGRAMS

Free & Open to the Public  
2019 Locations to be determined

- 11/3/18 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Autumn Leaves  
Huffman Park
- 1/26/19 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Owl Hike
- 3/24/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Fossils
- 4/6/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Spring Babies
- 6/1/19 9:00 – 10:30 p.m.  
Night Hike
- 7/2/19 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Water Conservation
- 9/7/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Amazing Animals
- 10/6/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Nature Craft

**Registration is requested for the Let's Go Hiking Series and Nature Programming. Call 513.867.5348 to save your spot!**

# SHOW AND TELL ON THE FARM



## Show and Tell on the Farm

**WHEN** Sundays 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

**PRICE** **FREE programs for all ages**  
No Registration Necessary

### ABOUT

Come on over to Chrisholm Historic Farmstead for Show and Tell on the Farm. Each day will feature different themes with special guest stars — some furry & some feathery — crafts, and games! Come for any amount of time. Designed to delight kids and kids at heart.

<b>November 1</b>	The Three-Sisters Garden
<b>November 4</b>	ABC's of Farm Life
<b>November 8</b>	Turkey Talk
<b>November 11</b>	Pumpkin Smash
<b>November 15</b>	Pilgrims
<b>November 18</b>	Machines that Help Us
<b>November 29</b>	Thanksgiving Feast for the Animals

<b>December 2</b>	Scavenger Hunt
<b>December 6</b>	Presents for the Farm Animals
<b>December 9</b>	Ice Harvest
<b>December 13</b>	Winter Wreaths
<b>December 16</b>	Yokes and Yolks
<b>December 20</b>	Holidays New & Old on the Farm
<b>December 27</b>	Fat, Feather, and Fur on the Farm

\*There will be no Show & Tell on the Farm program on November 22 & 25 and December 23 & 30. Happy Holidays!



513.867.5835 | [YourMetroParks.net](http://YourMetroParks.net)

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



bav/sjb 180802 approved

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



## Breakfast with Santa

**WHEN** Sunday, December 16, 2018  
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**Santa arrives** - 11:30 a.m.  
**Magic show** - 12:30 p.m.  
**Children's Craft Shop** - 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

**PRICE** Age 8 +: \$14.95  
Age 3-7: \$12.95  
Children Under 3: FREE  
\$5.00 for photos with Santa

### ABOUT

"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas... perhaps...means a little bit more!"

It's the most wonderful time of year to have Breakfast with Santa! Enjoy a breakfast buffet, a visit with Santa Claus, Christmas crafts, and a Grinch-themed holiday magic show with Charlie Cadabra!

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration required by 12/10/18

513.867.5835 | [YourMetroParks.net](http://YourMetroParks.net)

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



cw/sjb 180924 approved

## Murder Mystery Dinner



# Murder Mystery Dinner

**WHEN** Saturday, February 9, 2019  
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 per person or \$30 per person  
for groups of 6 or more  
Pre-registration is required

## ABOUT

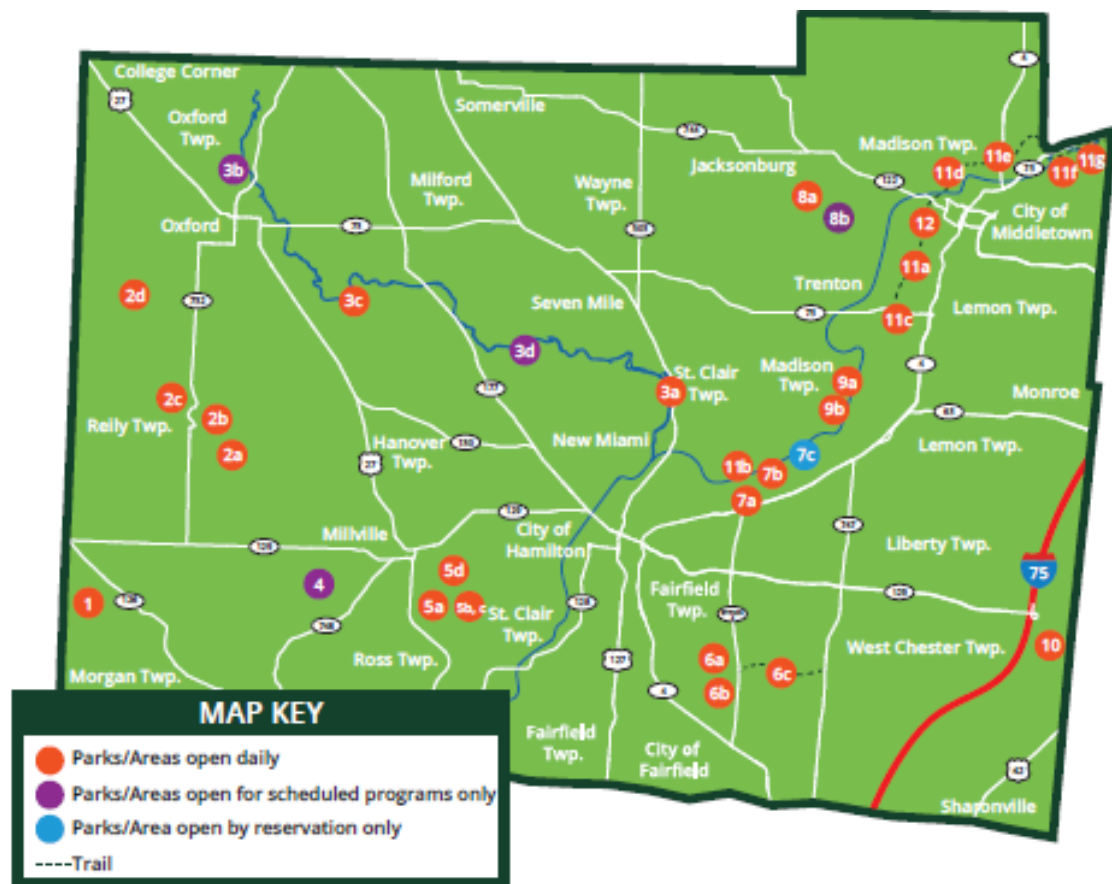
Join us from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
for an evening of fun and mystery!  
Cocktails, appetizers, dinner, dessert,  
and a great mystery show are included  
in this killer evening! Please, arrive  
30 minutes early to mingle with the  
improv comedy cast.



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



SS/sjb 180705 approved



**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**

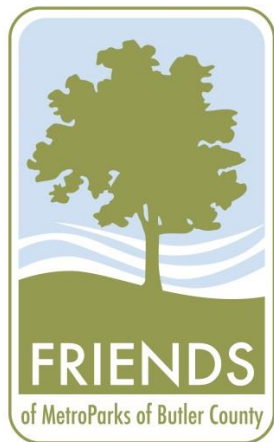
**11A. North Section**  
 50 Oxford State Road Middletown OH 45044  
**11B. South Section**  
 5701 Riegart Road Fairfield Township OH 45011  
**11C. Parking Areas**  
 50 Oxford State Road, Middletown OH 45044  
 26 North. Carmody Boulevard,  
 Middletown OH 45044  
 2399 North Carmody Boulevard,  
 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"> <li>• Invitations to Member-only events</li> <li>• Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks programs and projects</li> <li>• Attend Annual Meeting and have a voice in Friends activities and direction</li> </ul>
Who Are We?	<p><i>Private citizens who have come together to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor programs &amp; activities, promoting the use of MetroParks for conservation, education and recreation</li> <li>• Encourage volunteerism toward support of MetroParks of Butler County</li> <li>• Identify and implement improvements to the park</li> <li>• Assist in raising funds, securing donations, and obtaining grants monies to further MetroParks' mission</li> </ul>

***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) \_\_\_\_\_