

Tree of Life/Friends of the Parks

In Memory of Noah Elliot Taylor
Melanie Green

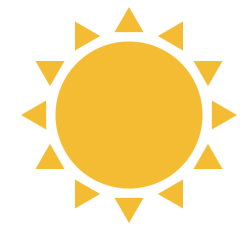
In Memory of Jim Albert
Sue Rea

In Memory of Glen Loeffler
Sue Rea

In Memory of Juanita Barowicz
Earl and Christa Rindfleisch

Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Mushroom posters
Jim Karabinus



June, July, and August programs
are now online at
medinacountyparks.com.

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Medina County Parks on Facebook



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If you would like to receive a monthly e-newsletter from the park district, send an email to parks@medinacountyparks.com, asking to be placed on the list.

What's the Buzz about Pollinators?

By: Shelley Tender, Interpretive Services Manager

Pollinators are a big topic of conversation these days. Everywhere you turn, folks are talking about the importance of pollinators . . . and for good reason! So, who, exactly, is doing the pollinating, and why are they so important? The most famous pollinators are bees, and it is true, bees are certainly the most important pollinators we have.

These fast-flying, fuzzy insects assist in the production of an estimated 1/3 of the human food supply and are major contributors in allowing wild plants to produce the foods that form the base of the natural food web. Researchers report that roughly one out of every three or four bites of food that we eat is a direct result of pollination by bees. Thank you, bees!

We are all familiar with the honey bee, but do you know there are thousands of other species of pollinating bees worldwide that are just as important? In Ohio, over 400 species of bees in varying groups including mason bees, bumble bees, leafcutter bees and mining bees provide beneficial pollination services. Bees spend most of their adult lives flying from flower to flower collecting pollen to feed their developing offspring, and because bees have a longer proboscis (tongue) than other insects, it allows them to reach further into the flowers to obtain the energy-producing nectar they need to survive.

But bees aren't the only beneficial pollinators! Butterflies, beetles, flies, moths, ants, and hummingbirds (to name a few) are also valuable contributors since they, too, rely on plants for nectar, pollen, or shelter. With so many different types of pollinators out there, you'd think we would have nothing to worry about, yet, pollinators worldwide are disappearing! Reasons for decline include habitat loss and degradation, disease, non-native species competitors, and rampant use of pesticides.

But there is good news! Everyone can take actions, big or small, to aid in the recovery of these incredible species. Here are just a few ideas for action steps anyone can take to help pollinators thrive.

1. Create a pollinator habitat using native plants, trees, and shrubs. Select those varieties that provide larval food for a variety of species and pollen and nectar sources in all seasons. Increase nesting opportunities for bees by leaving standing plant stems and woody debris and providing open, bare patches of ground. Reduce the amount of turf grass by replacing it with flower beds.
2. Eliminate or reduce pesticide use. Use insecticides and herbicides only as a last resort or if there are no other alternatives. Learn about and practice IPM (Integrated Pest Management). Be sure to follow label directions, apply with caution, and pay special attention to "bee toxicity" information.
3. Adopt an attitude of minimal environmental impact. Buy locally produced and/or organic food, or grow some of your own. Work toward a zero-waste lifestyle.
4. Be an active participant. Volunteer for pollinator-friendly organizations and garden groups. Vote! Make your voice heard for pollinators. Cultivate your relationship with the natural world by enjoying time outdoors.

This summer, the park district is hosting a variety of pollinator-themed programs including the Pollinator Palooza on June 15 at Wolf



Creek from 12-4 p.m. Check the park district's online program listing for information about all of the opportunities to learn more about local pollinators from our dedicated park naturalists!



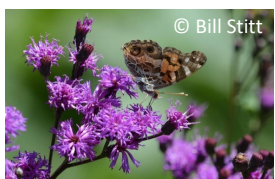
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2019 Summer Wildflower Challenge

Medina County Park District challenges you to get outside and explore the beautiful Medina County parks as you search for common native summer wildflowers.



Do you accept the challenge? Visit www.medinacountyparks.com, click on *Programs*, then on *Special Events*.

Cycling Makes Sense Fitness Rides

All programs are 6:30 to 8 p.m.

June 27 - Buckeye Woods Park
July 9 - Brunswick Lake Trail
July 25 - Lester Rail Trail
August 6 - Lake Medina
August 22 - Buckeye Woods Park



This program, offered by Medina County Park District and Century Cycles, is a great way for you to get out on your bicycle for a non-aggressive ride and experience the park district's wonderful multipurpose trails. Before we begin our six- to ten-mile ride, Lynne of Century Cycles will share basic tips on how to keep you and your bike fit. Helmets are required. Ages 16 to adult. No registration is required.

