

## Board of Commissioners

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medinacountyparks.com  
(330) 722-9364

# Leaflet

Your Connection to Nature



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## Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc. Receives Largest Monetary Donation to Date from Gienke Estate

Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc. has announced the receipt of a gift from the estate of Mary Gienke in the amount of \$1,112,000. The largest cash gift made to Friends to date, the majority of the funds will be directed to the nonprofit's Endowment Fund. A 501(c)3 charitable organization, Friends exists to support the mission of Medina County Park District.

Roy and Mary Gienke were long-time residents of Medina County. Roy was born in Valley City. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. After

graduating from Kent State University with a Master of Arts in Education, he spent his entire career with the Highland Local Schools, where he taught, coached, and was Principal at the elementary and middle school levels.

Mary was born in Columbus and grew up in the shadow of The Ohio State University. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from OSU and moved to Cleveland, where she worked in business administration for the Glidden Company. It was while living in Cleveland that she met Roy.

The couple moved to Medina to be near the Highland school district. Upon Roy's retirement, they moved to the Western Reserve Masonic Community, where they lived out their lives. Both were active in St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Medina, and Roy was active with Kiwanis Club of Medina.

Vice-president of Friends of Medina County Parks Bob Thompson and Nathan Eppink, director of Medina County Park District, accepted the check from the executor of the estate, William Hauelsen, nephew of the Gienkes. "This gift will make a significant impact on the support Friends of Medina County Parks can provide to the park district. It will be witnessed by Medina County residents for years to come," Thompson said of the gift.

According to Eppink, gifts such as these provide welcome support for the park district. "As the park district works to provide additional improvements for the benefit of Medina County residents, support from the community will enhance what can be accomplished," Eppink said.

A portion of the funds will be earmarked for park improvements that will memorialize the gift. The balance will be added to the Friends' Endowment Fund to provide annual assistance to the park district through income from the fund.

For information about the Endowment Fund and planned giving, contact Development Coordinator Natalie Peacock at [npeacock@medinaco.org](mailto:npeacock@medinaco.org) or (330) 722-9364.



William Hauelsen (right), executor of the estate of Mary Gienke, presents a check to Bob Thompson (to his left), Vice President of Friends of the Parks Trustees, and Medina County Park District Director Nathan Eppink.

## Experience the Rewards of Trekking Through Autumn



Medina County Park District's self-guided hiking program, Trekking Through Autumn, is the perfect opportunity for families and individuals to get out and experience the crisp days and spectacular colors of fall.

Back for its 17th year, Medina County Park District's popular annual hiking program offers participants the opportunity to enjoy the splendor of the season and earn

awards by completing at least eight designated hikes between September 1 and November 30. Hikers complete the walks at their own pace and on their own schedules.

Trekking Through Autumn offers a choice of 12 parks and nature preserves that show off the beauty and natural diversity of Medina County. A new program feature is the "Do It Again" option. If an individual truly enjoyed a specific hike, it can be repeated. Medina County park sites are open every day from 6 a.m. until one hour past sunset. Also new this year is the option to hike at Oenslager Nature Center/Alderfer-Chatfield Wildlife Sanctuary on a daily basis from 6 a.m. to one hour past sunset. Please keep in mind that pets are not permitted at Oenslager Nature Center/Alderfer-Chatfield Wildlife Sanctuary. Dogs on leashes are welcome at all other park locations.

To participate, pick up a Trekking Through Autumn form at Medina County Park District Headquarters, Oenslager Nature Center, or simply print one at [www.MedinaCountyParks.com](http://www.MedinaCountyParks.com). Check trails off the list as you complete them. When you've hiked eight or more, bring your completed form to Oenslager Nature Center by December 17 to claim your award (while supplies last). Backpacks are awarded to first-year participants. Hiking pins are awarded in successive years. Awards are free for Medina County residents. Out-of-county residents, as well as Hinckley residents, pay \$10 for backpacks and \$3 for hiking pins. Pins are not available to first-year hikers.

A new backpack or hiking pin isn't the only reward in store. Walking a trail on a fall day is a great way to experience nature, spend time with friends and family, and get some outdoor exercise at a time when temperatures are at their most comfortable, and the season's beauty is at its peak.



## Fall Programs

September, October, and November events are online. Visit [medinacountyparks.com](http://medinacountyparks.com) for details and to register.