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Leaflet


Your Connection to Nature  Medina County Park District

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Places of tranquility



Photo of Hubbard Valley Park provided by David Harrison.

2020 in Review

By: John Gladden, Communications Coordinator

Over the years, we go through experiences that define our lives in terms of “before” and “after.” Before having kids and after having kids. Before retirement, after retirement. And now, we can add before COVID-19 and after COVID-19 to the list.

That said, as for other essential service providers, the word “during” will also be part of our vocabulary at Medina County Park District when we look back on this challenging year.

For example, during COVID-19:

-- People of all ages needed parks, trails, nature preserves, and wildlife sanctuaries more than ever as safe places to play, exercise, and refresh their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

-- Naturalists retooled and reinvented public programs to meet the needs of park visitors while keeping them safe. Our staff created online programming and videos and developed popular self-guided park activities that visitors could enjoy on their own schedules.

-- Volunteer Trail Monitor David Harrison -- who, along with his dog, Gypsy, hikes up to 15 miles per day in the parks -- received the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association's Outstanding Citizen award.

-- Friends of Medina County Parks Trustees met virtually, outdoors, with masks and social distancing, and never let up on the group's mission to support the park district through projects like the new accessible fishing platform constructed this summer at Brunswick Lake, made possible by the George Ayers Memorial Fund.

-- Bluebell Valley in Harrisville Township opened to the public with a virtual ribbon cutting, creating first-time access to 86 acres in Black River Nature Preserve acquired more than 15 years ago.

-- Medina County Park District preserved 167.55 acres, including the 95-acre former Chippewa Lake Amusement Park. Other acquisitions included more than 63 acres along the Wolf Creek in Sharon Township and 9+ acres along the Rocky River in Medina Township.

Before and after COVID-19, we believed and will continue to believe that parks and trails, nature education, forests and wetlands, lakes, and rivers and meadows, all are vital to our community's resilience, health, and the high quality of life we enjoy in Medina County. But it was during COVID-19 that those things we always believed to be true were clearly demonstrated to be true. We're grateful to all of you who walk and run and learn and bike and fish and paddle and sled and play and support the parks for making that happen.

Grant Funding Sought for Trail Improvement Projects

By: Isaac Smith, Planning & Operations Manager

Medina County Park District is currently developing plans for two trail improvement projects in Medina County, with the intent to apply for grant funding to the Clean Ohio Trails Fund and Recreational Trails Program administered by ODNR. The first project is to construct a nearly one-mile multi-purpose trail connection from the State Route 18 entrance of Lake Medina in the city of Medina south to the future Chandler Nature Preserve on E. Smith Road in Montville Township. This project will expand upon the growing network of trails offered by Medina County Park District and the city of Medina.

The second project is a rehabilitation of a portion of the existing Chippewa Inlet Trail located just north of Chippewa Road in Lafayette Township. It will include stability and drainage improvements. Questions and comments about these projects may be directed to Isaac Smith, planning & operations manager, at ismith@medinaco.org.

DONATION CORNER

Tree of Life/FOTP
In Memory of Virgil R. Williams
Kim and Sally Zarwey

In Memory of Bob Graham
Robert and Jeanine Haney

Wolf Creek
Environmental Center
Monetary donation
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E-newsletter -- 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.