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Medina Gazette Edition

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Leaflet


Your Connection to Nature  Medina County Park District

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New H2Ohio Wetland Project Coming to Medina County

As part of Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Medina County Park District (MCPD) are announcing their third collaborative wetland project. The 173-acre land acquisition made through an H2Ohio grant will be the site of the new Little Killbuck Creek Wetlands project.

"This is the latest example of how the H2Ohio initiative continues to expand and grow to serve the people of Ohio," Gov. DeWine said. "All the work we've done and continue to do is to ensure that future generations have a clean, reliable water supply."

At least 55 acres of wetland will be restored at the Little Killbuck Creek Wetlands site. The project will provide tremendous

nutrient reduction and water quality improvements and would enable the closure of a major point of weakness between the Mississippi Rivers Basin and the Great Lakes.

"We are really excited to add to the growing list of H2Ohio wetlands and share the benefits of these projects with everyone in Ohio," ODNR Director Mary Mertz said. "Each new project strengthens our efforts to ensure that communities in Ohio have safe, clean water."

Nearly 70 percent of the property is located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain, an area that currently connects the Lake Erie Basin to the Ohio River Basin and poses a risk for the movement of aquatic invasive species. MCPD will work with the ODNR Division of Wildlife to build an interceptor berm that will help prevent the passage of invasive carp species from entering the Great Lakes Basin through the flood zone of Little Killbuck Creek.

The area also has a diverse wildlife population. Seventy-four species of birds including the state endangered Northern harrier and the state threatened trumpeter swan have been documented in nearby fields.

"We're actively preserving what people love about Medina County," Medina County Park District Director Nathan D. Eppink said. "The H2Ohio program has been a big part of our recent success, and we're excited to bring this new property into the park district."

MCPD received a \$900,000 H2Ohio grant to purchase the latest property. The park district previously received a \$1.52 million H2Ohio grant to restore three areas near Chippewa Lake, including the former Chippewa Lake Amusement Park and a \$900,000 H2Ohio grant to restore 145 acres in Litchfield Township.

Governor DeWine created H2Ohio in 2019 as a comprehensive, data-driven approach to combatting algal blooms, enhancing water quality, and improving water infrastructure over the long term. H2Ohio was launched with support from the Ohio General Assembly, which invested in the program in Ohio's two most recent operating budgets. H2Ohio operates in partnership among the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The initiative focuses on encouraging agricultural best management practices, restoring and enhancing wetlands, upgrading outdated water infrastructure, and replacing lead pipes. For more information on the H2Ohio initiative, please visit h2.ohio.gov.

Feeding Medina County and Medina County Park District's Food Distribution Partnership in Lodi Wins First-Place Award of Excellence

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) has announced the winners of its 2022 Annual Awards of Excellence. Feeding Medina County and Medina County Park District were awarded first place in the Health and Wellness Programs & Events category for their unique partnership.

Medina County Park District's mission includes the words "to enhance the quality of all life," but that doesn't always take the form of parks, trails, and conservation.

Beginning last year, the park district partnered with local food pantry Feeding Medina County (FMC) to bring monthly food distribution events to the district's

then-underused Hidden Hollow Camp just outside the village of Lodi, where nearly 15 percent of residents live in poverty. By doing so, FMC and its volunteers—some of whom are park district staff—are able to serve those in need close to home in a beautiful park area that is open to all.

Katy Fuerst, executive director of Feeding Medina County, stated: "Partnering with the Medina County Park District has made a huge impact on the accessibility of healthy, free food for families and individuals in the southwestern portion of our county." At the first distribution event at Hidden Hollow Camp in April 2021, 119 people were served. "Little did we know that by November 2022, we would serve 490 people. To date, a total of over 37,000 meals have been provided to participants in this food distribution." FMC hosts its food distribution at Hidden Hollow Camp on the first Thursday of each month from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The OPRA Awards of Excellence were judged by a panel of 36 parks and recreation professionals from around Ohio. OPRA Executive Director Woody Woodward stated: "This was a highly-competitive process, and the winners have gone above and beyond in improving the quality of life in their communities." In all, 12 agencies won first-place awards, and 24 different agencies were recognized.

The OPRA Annual Awards of Excellence will be presented at a banquet hosted by the association on January 31, 2023 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Sandusky in conjunction with the 2023 OPRA Conference & Trade Show.



December, January, and February programs are online at www.medinacountyparks.com.

DONATION CORNER

Tree of Life
In Memory of Jonathan Brenneman
Jackie Landis

In Memory of David Nells
Dennis Doherty

Other
Two flats of perennial native wildflowers
Shelley Tender

Snowy owl framed photo
Roni Leatherman

Dell 17" monitor
Mark Ludwig

Firewood for SHNC
Linda and Joe Scarcella