

## New Members-only Benefits for Friends of Medina County Parks

**By: John Gladden, Communications Coordinator**

Would you like to get a behind-the-scenes look at future Medina County park sites that are not yet open to the public? How about exclusive tours of other Northeast Ohio natural treasures including Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Metroparks?

Membership in Friends of Medina County Parks has its rewards. And most of them are priceless.

Since 1972 -- before our first park even opened -- Friends of Medina County Parks members have supported the mission of the park district through their membership dollars and hands-on involvement. We have all benefited from the Friends' commitment to the parks -- from the joy of seeing children connect with nature, to the protected river corridors, lakes, watersheds and green spaces that contribute to a high quality of life in Medina County.

In 2017, Friends of Medina County Parks is offering a greatly expanded line-up of members-only events -- including a number of small group hikes led by retired Chief Naturalist Dan Bertsch to unique Medina County and Northeast Ohio locations. You'll

experience active bald eagle and great blue heron nesting areas, a forest canopy walk, and breathtaking displays of wildflowers. Is mobility difficult for you? The schedule also includes golf cart tours of two Medina County parks.



The benefits of membership include invitations to these and more Friends-only events, a quarterly newsletter and program calendar mailed directly to your home, as well as a discount on a shelter reservation. Membership rates are just \$10 for seniors, \$15 for individuals, and \$25 for families. Friends of Medina County Parks is a 501(c)3 organization, so your membership is tax-deductible.

Chris Gambaccini and his wife always enjoyed taking their young children to visit the parks, but it wasn't until joining Friends of Medina County Parks that he really discovered all it had to offer. Today, he serves on the Friends' Board of Trustees.

"We were blown away by the benefits that Friends of Medina County Parks offers its members," he said. "We have, as well as several friends and family, used the benefit of reduced-cost facility rentals. The park district has some of the best facilities in Medina County. *The Acorn* newsletter is a great resource of park district events, including Friends-only events. The Friends-only events provide you more of an opportunity to learn about each individual park. I am happy being a trustee and helping support the park district, but my family has really enjoyed the benefits membership has provided us."

Make new discoveries, meet others who share the same passion for nature, and know that your membership in Friends of Medina County Parks is helping make Medina County a greener, healthier place to live.



To learn more, call the park district at 330-722-9364 or e-mail [fotp@medinaco.org](mailto:fotp@medinaco.org). You can even sign up to become a member of Friends of Medina County Parks online at [www.MedinaCountyParks.com](http://www.MedinaCountyParks.com).



**March, April, and May programs are now online at [www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com).**



Spring Native  
Wildflower  
Challenge

March 1 through June 1

We offer this challenge as a means to get you outside and enjoy the unfolding of nature in Medina County parks as you search for common native spring wildflowers. These beauties aren't here for very long, so you have to be quick! You can pick up a brochure at Wolf Creek Environmental Center or download a brochure at [www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteers are an integral part of Medina County Park District. They contribute time, energy, knowledge, and skills to enhance many of the programs and events that are offered and help to keep the parks clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. There are many volunteer opportunities to fit your passion for the parks. We can use your time and talents in a variety of areas.

- Program Assistant
- Program Leader
- Puppeteer
- Trail Monitor
- Citizen Science
- Facility Gardening
- Office Assistant
- Special Events
- Cookie Baker
- Animal Care
- Invasive Species Control
- Carpentry/Construction Projects

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, visit [www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com) to download the volunteer application or contact the volunteer coordinator at 330-239-4814 or [volunteercoordinator@roadrunner.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@roadrunner.com) to have one sent to you.

## Donation Corner

### Tree of Life

**In Memory of Bruce A. Gentry**  
Tara Billeter

**In Memory of Mary C. Billeter**  
Tara Billeter

**In Memory of Don Butler**  
John and Barbara Gillette

**In Memory of Stanley Zajac**  
Richard Wolan

**In Memory of Jeanette Bixby**  
The Doyle Family

**In Memory of Patricia Uhler**  
Skip and Cathy Jones

Richard Lavery Sr.  
Melva Lavery  
Todd Spinell  
Barry and Nancy McKenna  
Pamela Gaston  
Marol Taylor  
Jennifer Zylko  
Sandra Koch  
James Uhler

Anthony and Elaine Peskar  
Janice Stough

Sheila Lanning  
Richard and Mary Noll  
Helen Sterner

Kristie and Carl Perry  
William and Dorothy Ritchie  
Mark and Carol Kovachy

Linda Gelb  
Megan Lutz  
Don Moellering  
Ron Kohudic, Jr.  
Robert Taylor  
Daniel Goodrow

Laura and Robert Bogdanski  
Brenda Burke  
The Doyle Family

### Other

**Donation for trail maintenance**  
Peter and Sydney Benson

**Bench in Honor of Bill Arbutina**  
Teri Arbutina

Follow the park district on social media



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Be sure to "Like" Friends of Medina County Parks