



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Metroparks Board Adopts Ongoing and Future Park Planning Efforts**

Butler County, Ohio (February 25, 2020) –,

While it is not clear who spoke the following words of wisdom, everyone at one point or another has heard the expression, “The failure to plan is a plan to fail”.

Thankfully, the opposite has been true for MetroParks Park Master Plans. Largely, MetroParks has excelled in recognizing that Park Master Plans are a roadmap to an open, clean, safe, and well used park. The Master Planning process will identify where the property/park is today, what needs to be done/invested in to transform the property in question into a park, the direction or step(s) that needs to be pursued to arrive at the desired outcome, and finally the implementation of the plan itself. MetroParks plans are all measured relative to the park system’s mission, holding true to MetroParks Operating Parameters, and enhancing parks for the benefit and use of park customer/owners accordingly.

Without these detailed Park Master Plans prepared for adoption by the Board, grants, donations, and sponsorships to fund the work would likely be very difficult to obtain. Because outside funding is made possible in part due to the quality of the master plan documentation and images, MetroParks chances to support the protection of more native greenspace, provide additional educational opportunities, and create a greater number of experiences for passive recreation is greatly improved by the process itself.

The great news is that at its January 29, 2021 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting, the Board continued a Park Master Planning focus by adopting schedules, with identified targeted dates, to create Park Master Plans for MetroPark locations during 2021 and beyond.

The public should specifically keep in mind that Park Master Plans take a long time to create. Planning usually occurs over a 6-12-month period of time. The Board must then adopt the plan itself. Once adopted the Board Approved Park Master Plan it can take as many as ten-plus years for the concepts on the plans to actually occur. Funding must be available to make the enhancement identified on the plan. It is also entirely possible that outside funding sources may not be available and certain elements of the plan may not ever occur. Funding above and beyond the available operating dollars available to MetroParks, must come from outside dollars come from grants, donations, and sponsorships. These

funding sources are never guaranteed and should not be counted on when putting a master plan together.

The Board of Park Commissioners has prioritized that ongoing master planning processes be completed first.

Secondly, that master plans should be prepared for parks that don't yet have master plans.

Last, for parks with existing master plans, updates to existing plans will be addressed. The oldest plans will be updated first and move to the next oldest.

The Board of Parks Commissioners adopted priorities and efforts targets can be found below.

Planning Efforts to be completed first and targeted timeframes:

<b>Governor Bebb MetroPark Master Plan – Revised Schedule</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Listening Session(s) at Governor Bebb MetroPark, Howe Shelter or Covered Bridge	May 2021
Final Master Plan Preparation	June 2021
Board of Park Commissioners Adoption	July 2021

Second, MetroParks currently do not have a Master Plans, including:

- Indian Creek MetroPark
- Gilmore MetroPark
- Four Mile Creek MetroPark (Mill Race Preserve, Sycamore Bluffs, Davidson Woods, Hueston Farm, Antenen Preserve)
- Layhigh MetroPark (Salamander Run Preserve and Day Farm\*)  
(\*Note: Day Farm is encumbered by a Life Estate and therefore not proposed for master planning in the foreseeable future.)

Indian Creek MetroPark is the oldest MetroPark that does not have a Master Plan. Therefore, we propose that Indian Creek MetroPark be the next priority for master plan preparation. Here is the proposed schedule for the Indian Creek Master Plan:

<b>Indian Creek MetroPark Master Plan – Schedule</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Existing Conditions Inventory	February – March 2021
Opportunities and Challenges Analysis	April 2021
Listening Session(s) Round 1 at Indian Creek MetroPark Shelter or Pioneer Church	May 2021
Preliminary Master Plan Preparation	June – July 2021
Listening Session(s) Round 2 at Indian Creek MetroPark Shelter or Pioneer Church	August 2021
Final Master Plan Preparation	September 2021
Board of Park Commissioners Adoption	October 2021

After the Master Plan for Indian Creek MetroPark is complete, the following schedule is proposed for the remaining master plans, according to the priorities set forth above:

- 2022
  - Four Mile Creek MetroPark  
Mill Race Preserve and Sycamore Bluffs Areas\*
  - Salamander Run Preserve\*
- 2023
  - Four Mile Creek MetroPark  
Davidson Woods, Hueston Farm, and Antenen Preserve Areas\*
- 2024
  - Gilmore MetroPark\*
  - Chrisholm MetroPark (Update from 2014)
- 2025
  - Rentschler Forest MetroPark (Update from 2014)

(\*No existing Master Plan)

For further updates regarding specific opportunities for public input to Master Plans please check MetroParks website at [www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net), under “NEWS” and “Alerts” or MetroParks Facebook page.

MetroParks Administrative Office located at 2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013 during regular office hours, Monday through Friday 10am until 2 pm.

Visit the MetroParks of Butler County website [www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net), For more information, call MetroParks at 513-867-5835, or email [info@yourmetroparks.net](mailto:info@yourmetroparks.net). A two-year Motor Vehicle Permit (FREE to Butler County Residents) is required to enter parks open to the public. Non-resident permits are annual passes and available for purchase (\$5/daily \$10/annually through December 31, 2020)- (1/1/2021 through 12/31/2021 \$8/daily-\$15/annually).

*Established to compliment the work of state and local communities, MetroParks, a separate political subdivision of The State of Ohio, is organized to provide parks and recreation services to the citizens of Butler County. MetroParks is governed by a three-member Board of volunteers, appointed by The County Probate Court, The Board of Park Commissioners. The Mission of MetroParks is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education, and recreation. For more information regarding MetroParks visit our website at [www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net).*