

# MetroParks Volunteer Newsletter

January 2022



With the winter days ahead, we encourage you to move your body and heal your mind by visiting our MetroParks! The cold may deter some from venturing outside, but with the proper preparation there are many winter activities to enjoy in our MetroParks like birding, hiking, snowshoeing, sledding, and more. Before heading out, make sure that you are prepared by reviewing the [#RecreateResponsibly Winter Edition Guidelines](#) of Know Before You Go, Plan and Prepare, Build an Inclusive Outdoors, Respect Others, Leave No Trace, and Make it Better. To learn more, visit [recreateresponsibly.org](http://recreateresponsibly.org)!



Need a little extra motivation to get you out the door? Start by becoming a volunteer Trail Maintenance Steward (*more information on page 3*),

joining us for a [Show & Tell on the Farm](#) program, or tagging along for one of our free Owl Prowl Night Hikes on [January 22](#), [January 29](#), [February 5](#), or [February 12](#)!

The [Friends of MetroParks of Butler County](#) invite you to a wildlife photography presentation tonight, **Wednesday, January 12, 2022**! Ernie Martin, former President of the West Chester Photography Club, will present "Appreciating Wildlife" following the Friends' Board Meeting. *For more information, please see page 3!*



Photo by Joshua French

Field and trees at Elk Creek MetroPark, Meadow Ridge Area.



Photo by Debra Nieport

Jr. Farm Volunteer at Chisholm MetroPark, Historic Farmstead.

We want to see your MetroParks photos! Tag us in your photos on Facebook ([@MetroParks of Butler County](#)) and/or Instagram ([@metroparks\\_of\\_butlercounty](#)) and use the hashtag #MetroParksBCO. Not on social media? Email your photos to [volunteering@yourmetroparks.net](mailto:volunteering@yourmetroparks.net)!

## ❄️ January Birthdays ❄️

Emily Bottoni	Daniel Byrd	Benjamin Kanoza	Marsha McIntosh	Jackson Proctor	Vonne Tucker
Cora Bowen	Lawanna Casto	Caroline Kerby	Jordan Miller	Nancy Schuler	Sue Tutas
Eric Burgess	Beth Ann Dabbelt	Ethan Mallory	Dan Pellman	Carol Souder	Roxanne Wilson
Sarah Burkhart	Connor Fluhart	Therese McGoron	Becky Simpson	Jonathan Thomsen	

# MetroParks Staff Spotlight

Molly Takeute | Outdoor Education Program Coordinator

**How long have you been working for the MetroParks of Butler County? What has been your favorite MetroParks experience so far?**

"I have been with MetroParks since August of '21. My favorite MetroParks experience has definitely been time spent with field trip groups at Governor Bebb MetroPark. Cornbread, costumes, and kiddos—oh my!"

**Where is your favorite place that you have lived?**

"Growing up with a military parent, I've lived all over the country and abroad, however Ohio will always be home. I genuinely enjoy all the Greater Cincinnati Area has to offer from its natural spaces to its museums to its Skyline Chili. As Dorothy said, 'There's no place like home'."

**What are your favorite interests or hobbies?**

"My husband, Raul, and I enjoy taking our two dogs on as many hiking trips as we can—bonus points if that includes traveling to a new location! Our goal is to visit all 63 National Parks, so if you have favorites or travel tips let me know!"

**If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?**

"If I could have a superpower, I would love the ability to teleport. I have friends and family that live scattered throughout the world and I would love nothing more than to be able to snap my fingers and visit them. Also, think of a world where you never need to sit in traffic!"



*If you are interested in scheduling a field trip, email [programs@yourmetroparks.net](mailto:programs@yourmetroparks.net)!*

# MetroParks Opportunities

## Ongoing Volunteer Roles



### Trail Maintenance Steward

**When:** Flexible; 8 am to dusk

**Where:** Designated hiking trails within our MetroParks

**Volunteer Role Description:** A Trail Maintenance Steward hikes marked trails in an assigned MetroPark at least four hours per month! Stewards report any maintenance and safety concerns to MetroParks staff, pick up any trash, and engage with the trail user community.

### Farm Caretaker

**When:** Flexible; Dependent on needs of the Farm

**Where:** Chrisholm MetroPark, Historic Farmstead, 2070 Woodsdale Road, Trenton, OH 45067

**Volunteer Role Description:** A Farm Caretaker assists staff with daily animal care of donkeys, goats, chickens, and a bunny who live at the farm! In addition, staff need

assistance with general cleaning and maintenance at the Farm to keep our furry friends happy.

## One-Day Volunteer Events

We offer one-day volunteer events that include tasks like planting trees, removing invasive species, cleaning up trash, and more for companies, businesses, schools, universities, service groups, families, and friends! Email [volunteering@yourmetroparks.net](mailto:volunteering@yourmetroparks.net) or call 513-867-5835 ext. 221 to schedule a volunteer opportunity today!

## Events & Programs

### “Appreciating Wildlife” with Ernie Martin

**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022

**Time:** ~7:30 pm (following the Friends of MetroParks’ Board Meeting at 7 pm)

**Location:** River Center, Great Miami Room, 120 Carmody Blvd, Middletown, OH

**Event Description:** Ernie Martin, former President of the West Chester Photography Club, will share with us the best practices while taking photos of wildlife along with a slideshow of his photos from over the years. This event is open to Friends members and nonmembers.

### Galentine’s Day Brunch

**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2022

**Time:** 10 am to 12 pm

**Location:** Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Reagan Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

**Event Description:** “What’s Galentine’s Day? Oh, it’s only the best day of the year!” - Leslie Knope from Parks & Recreation. Show your besties some love and enjoy brunch with waffles from Taste of Belgium, express your creative side through a craft and activities, and show off your skills through trivia about Women’s history and famous friendships. [Save your spot today!](#)

**Cost:** \$15 per person (includes brunch, one mimosa for those 21+, craft items, trivia, and more)