



Volunteer News & Views

THOUSANDS OF ACRES AND MILES OF TRAILS. **IT ALL BELONGS TO YOU!** – APRIL 2023

Greene County Parks & Trails Welcomes Spring!

A special "Thank You" to our dedicated GCP&T volunteers who stepped up and volunteered their valuable time to lead Maple Sugaring tours and assist with Rent-A-Bucket tasks during the months of January and February. As a direct result of their participation – along with GCP&T staff members – GCP&T and the public once again experienced a very successful maple sugaring season at the Narrows Reserve! In addition, thank you to Mel Grosvenor and

Jared Merriman, GCP&T Naturalists, and our Teammates, for a job well done!

The GCP&T Team Members have completed the 2023 Events Schedule and look forward to another successful year of providing programs and events of interest to Greene County and our surrounding communities. 2023 programming has already started.

**SEE BACK PAGE
FOR NEW VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

PARKS AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS!

Our lifestyles change as we grow older and one of the most important things that we can do to keep our mind and body active is to get outdoors and enjoy nature! Our 27 Greene County Parks are perfect for this.

Some of the great things that we can do outdoors are: exercising, walking, hiking, playing sports, and enjoying nature together. Picnics, fishing, gardening, photography, and bird watching are just a few of the activities that will stimulate our mind and body in ways that keep us healthy.



Greene County Parks & Trails is adding Seniors Programming in our Parks this year with several activities, events, and programs being geared toward the Seniors in our community. One of our goals is to meet the programming needs of our older adults so that they, too, will come out to our parks and treat themselves to the beauty of

nature. There are 27 parks and several miles of multi-use trails in Greene County, and we invite the residents in our community and surrounding areas to enjoy them all!

Some of the Greene County Parks & Trails senior programs that will be taking place in our parks are: Art & Music in the Park; Picnic in the Park; Western Theme Day; Yoga; Bingo;

Poetry; and Gardening. We hope you will join us at these upcoming special events taking place in our parks. The senior programs are an addition to the multiple outstanding programs already being offered to residents of all ages in the Greene County area.

Studies have shown that spending time in nature can nourish and heal the heart and soul. So, let's put away our phones and computers – if only for a while – to take the time to visit our Greene County Parks & Trails. Let's get back in touch with what is really important in life – our health, enjoying nature, taking care of ourselves and each other, and soaking in the beauty of our Parks!



New Boardwalk at Sara Lee Arnovitz Nature Preserve



New Staircase at Sara Lee Arnovitz Nature Preserve



Narrows Reserve Foot Bridge

GCP&T ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FIRST QUARTER 2023

Greene County Parks & Trails has been busy this past quarter! We are proud to share the following accomplishments with you:

- **Caesar Ford Park Campground** – Phase 2 has been awarded and the Contractor is moving ahead with target completion late this Fall
- **Sara Lee Arnovitz Nature Preserve** – Replaced Boardwalk and added a staircase on the North side of the Creek connecting the Trail from the Creek to Trail on Ridge
- **Entrance Sign Project** – New park signs are up at the following locations: two signs at Russ Nature Reserve; Caesar Ford Park; Hobson Freedom Park; Indian Mound Reserve (Peterson Park & Williamson Lane at the Cabin); and, Fairground Recreation Center (rear entrance Alameda Drive)
- **Xenia-Jamestown Connector** – Brush cutting has been completed and over 400' of fencing has been replaced East of the Route 35 tunnel damaged by fallen trees
- **Little Miami Scenic Trail** – Brush cutting has been completed; replaced over 100' of wooden fence in Yellow Springs near Fairfield-Yellow Springs Road
- **Parks Operations Crews** have replaced **8 foot bridges** in the following parks: Narrows Reserve; Spring Lakes Park; Kinsey Mound Reserve; and the remaining foot bridges are being evaluated at this time
- **Ohio to Erie Trail** – Replaced side rails on the composite bridge near Columbus Street in Xenia damaged by fallen trees
- **Spring Lakes Park** – Work has begun on the North West side of the front Lake to manage the flow of the Springs and to stabilize the bank. When completed, visitors will be able to walk completely around the Lake.

GCP&T ATTENDS OPRA CONFERENCE

During the month of January 2023, members of the Greene County Parks & Trails Team attended the 2023 Ohio Parks and Recreation Conference (OPRA)! These members attended training sessions, developed additional leadership ideas, listened to speakers, and networked with other Park Agency Members from across Ohio.





Rent-A-Bucket Tours



Maple Sugaring Tours

the Great PANCAKE PICKUP



GCP&T Park Rangers educate Boy Scout Pack 68



GCP&T Volunteer Opportunities

May through August 2023

To sign up to VOLUNTEER for any of these events, please contact Amy at 937-562-6442

MAY

5/2	Cold-Blooded Critters	4 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	10:30am - 12:30pm
5/4	Insect Investigators	1 Vol.	Russ Nature Reserve	9:30am - 2:00pm
5/5	Get Outside Day	2 Vols.	Caesar Ford Park	10:00am - 12:00pm
5/11	Get Outside Day	2-3 Vols.	Caesar Ford Park	10:00am - 12:00pm
5/12	Trivia Quest	1 Vol.	Russ Nature Reserve	6:00pm - 8:00pm
5/15	How Greene Co. Was Made	Vols.	Indian Mound Reserve	9:30am - 11:30am
5/16	Greene Grasshoppers	6 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	6:00pm - 8:00pm
5/17	Get Outside Day	1 Vol.	Russ Nature Reserve	10:00am - 12:00pm
5/18	Wiggle Worms	4 Vols.	James Ranch Park	10:00am - 12:00pm
5/19	Bird Fest	2-3 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	10:00am - 12:00pm
5/22	Examining Ecosystems	1 Vol.	Russ Nature Reserve	10:00am - 12:00pm
5/23	Homeschool Science Days	3 Vols.	Narrows Reserve	10:00am - 12:00pm
5/24	Western Day/Seniors	2 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	2:00pm - 3:30pm
5/25	Life on the Little Miami	2 Vols.	Narrows Reserve	10:00am - 2:30pm
5/26	Night Owls	2-3 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	5:30pm - 7:30pm

JUN

5/26	GTO	2-3 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	8:00pm - 10:00pm
6/1	Fishing at Spring Lakes/Seniors	2 Vols.	Spring Lakes Park	1:30pm - 3:30pm
6/2	Anything on Wheels	2 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	10:00am - 12:00pm
6/2	Romantic Movie Night	2 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	9:00pm - 11:00pm
6/6	Pups on a Mission	3 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	6:00pm - 9:00pm
6/9	Trivia Quest	1 Vol.	Russ Nature Reserve	6:00pm - 8:00pm
6/12-16	Roughin' It Camp	2 Vols. Per Day	Caesar Ford Park	9:00am - 12:00pm
6/13	Bingo in the Park/Seniors	2 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	1:30pm - 2:45pm
6/15	Wiggle Worms	4 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	10:00am - 12:00pm
6/20	Greene Grasshoppers	2 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	6:00pm - 8:00pm
6/20-23	Dinorific Camp	2 Vols. Per Day	Russ Nature Reserve	9:00am - 1:00pm
6/21	Picnic in the Park/Seniors	2 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	11:00am - 1:00pm
6/23	Nite Owls	2 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	5:30pm - 7:30pm
6/23	GTO	2 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	8:00pm - 10:00pm
6/23	Lantern Hike	2 Vols.	Caesar Ford Park	8:30pm - 10:00pm

JUL

6/26-30	Mad Science Camp	1 Vol. Per Day	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	9:00pm - 2:30pm
7/7	Firefly Party	4 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	8:30pm - 10:00pm
7/14	Trivia Quest	1 Vol.	Russ Nature Reserve	6:00pm - 8:00pm
7/18	Greene Grasshoppers	4 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	6:00pm - 8:00pm
7/22	Ranger Classic	3 Vols.	Caesar Ford Park	4:00pm - 8:00pm
7/28	Nite Owls	3 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	5:30pm - 7:30pm
7/28	GTO	3 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	8:00pm - 10:00pm
7/31-8/4	Your Mission Is...	2 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	9:00am - 1:00pm

AUG

8/8	Bingo in the Park/Seniors	2 Vols.	Fairgrounds Rec. Center	1:30pm - 2:45pm
8/10	Furever Furry Friends	15 Vols.	Russ Nature Reserve	6:00pm - 8:00pm
8/11	Trivia Quest	1 Vol.	Russ Nature Reserve	6:00pm - 8:00pm
8/21	Life on the Little Miami	Vols.	Narrows Reserve	9:00am - 11:30am
8/22	Homeschool Science Days	3 Vols.	Indian Mound Reserve	10:00am - 12:00pm

