



Volunteer News & Views

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

Greene County Parks & Trails Welcomes Summer!

Another successful quarter has passed and the Greene County Parks & Trails Team continues to keep busy accomplishing multiple goals and offering varied programs and events to the residents of the Greene County communities in our 27 parks! Once again, we would like to thank our volunteers who continue to provide many hours to our mission of getting people in the parks and to help make our programs a success!

**SEE BACK PAGE
FOR NEW VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

JOHN A. FINLAY HONORED FOR 43 YEARS OF SERVING ON THE GREENE COUNTY PARK DISTRICT BOARD!

John A. Finlay has served on the Greene County Park District Board for nearly 43 years! He has recently retired from this role. We will truly miss Mr. Finlay's dedication, spirit, and concern for the parks in Greene County.

Mr. Finlay led the park district through a great transformation over the past 43 years. We thanked him for all of his service on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Russ Nature Reserve, Beaver Creek, Ohio, where we honored him. The large shelter has been named/dedicated: "The John A. Finlay Pavilion". A special heartfelt "Thank You" to John A. Finlay! You will be greatly missed. Thank you for your many years of service to the Greene County community.



Pictured L to R: Jane Newton, Greene County Park District Board Commissioner; John A. Finlay, Greene County Park District Board Past President; and, Tobia J. Pierce, Greene County Park District Board President



LITTLE MIAMI WATERSHED NETWORK

The Greene County Leadership Float was a success! After a (surprisingly fast) canoe ride down the Little Miami River, our community leaders gathered for lunch to connect and discuss issues surrounding the watershed. We are so thankful for everyone who joined us in looking at the land from the river's perspective. We hope to see some of you again for the Warren County Float in July!

Also big thank you to RiversEdge Outfitters for letting us use their canoes and Greene County Parks & Trails for the lunches!



Hobson Freedom Park



Karohl Park



Critter Cove at Spring Lakes Park



Huey Returns to Spring Lakes Park

GCP&T ACCOMPLISHMENTS – SECOND QUARTER 2023

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

- **Caesar Ford Park** – campground phase I completed, phase II started, phase III awarded; water and sewer lines installed.
- **Twin Towers** – new fence installed around show and dressage rings; judges stands rebuilt.
- **Xenia-Jamestown Connector** – progress trees, ditches, and erosion areas.
- **Hobson Freedom Park** – completed drainage work for cricket field.
- **Constitution Park** – poured new approach/ramp to the river.

- **Spring Lakes Park** – bank stabilization and trail work finished; Critter Cove nature center painted, cages installed, animals moved from old nature center.
- **Parking Lots & Driveways** – with funds secured from ODOT and Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA), new parking lots added:
 - Caesar Ford Park – New Jasper Station Road
 - McCalmont Park – new park to open later this year
 - Hebble Creek Reserve
- **Creekside Trail** – seal coating completed.
- **Wright Brothers Huffman Prairie Bikeway** – completed brush removal.



Ranger Classic Car Show

July 22 • 4:00 – 8:00 pm

Caesar Ford Park, 520 S. Stringtown Rd., Xenia

Join our Ranger Team at the Caesar Ford Ranger Classic for a day-long event with endless fun. The fun includes a FREE car show, music, food and more! You don't have to own a classic car to be part of this fun! Come on out and view the cars and enjoy the other festivities occurring that day.

Registration 4-5:30PM

Judging 5:30-7PM

Awards 7PM

Aron Jones & the Kool Kats 8PM



The first 100 participants will receive a dash plaque! Contact our office to register your car!

ANOTHER FUN FISHING DERBY HELD AT SPRING LAKES PARK

In June, a great day was shared by many thanks to the Matt Slusher family!

Greene County Parks & Trails was able to partner with the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Optimist Club and the Greene County Children's Services Team on a fishing derby at the Spring Lakes Park. The Slusher family provided new fishing poles to each child that attended the event in the loving memory of Matt.

Matt Slusher was an avid fisherman who spent endless hours doing what he loved – fishing. His family hopes that they can help children love the sport of fishing as much as Matt did!

A special "Thank You" to the family of Matt Slusher for the most generous donation – especially the meaning behind it!





Karohl Park Grown-Ups and Me



Roughin It Camp



Din-O-Rific Camp



Greene Grasshopper Bubble Party



Wiggle Worms Summer Bash



Babbling Bunnies



Seniors – Beyond Bingo



Home School Science Day



Indian Mound Reserve Hike



Seniors – Picnic in the Park

GCP&T Volunteer Opportunities

July / August / September 2023

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

JUL

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

SEP

09/12	Cold-Blooded Critters/Animal Exp.		Russ Nature Reserve	10:30am - 12:30pm
09/13	Cider Making		Narrows Reserve	10:00am - 11:00am
09/15	Pollinator WingDing		Russ Nature Reserve	10:00am - 2:00pm
09/16	Monarch Tagging		Russ Nature Reserve	1:00pm - 4:00pm
09/19	Greene Grasshoppers		Fairgrounds Rec. Center	6:00pm - 8:00pm
09/21	Wiggle Worms		Fairgrounds Rec. Center	10:00am - 12:00pm
09/23	Princess Movie Night		Russ Nature Reserve	6:30pm - 9:30pm
09/26	Homes School Science Days		Russ Nature Reserve	10:00am - 12:00pm
09/26	Bleach Splattered Shirts		Russ Nature Reserve	5:30pm - 7:30pm
09/30	Super Hero Movie Night		Russ Nature Reserve	6:30pm - 9:30pm

MEET KATE SPRALEY, DEDICATED GCP&T VOLUNTEER!



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce and feature Kate Spraley, GCP&T Volunteer, in this quarter's GCP&T Volunteer Newsletter.

Kate was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. She and her husband of 43 years, Doug, moved to Greene County in 1997 because "they needed more space for a boat and couple of big dogs"!

Kate retired in 2018 after nearly 40 years in sales with one of the largest distributors of electronic components.

Doug and Kate ditched the boat and got a travel trailer. Except for in the dead of winter they, and their two golden retrievers, Buddy and Buster, visit state parks to camp and hike. They enjoy parks that offer great hiking, the beauty of nature, and a good campfire.

When home Kate enjoys gardening, crafting, and reading. Kate recently has taken up pickleball and would like to see more winter snow days so they can get in more snowshoeing!

Kate stated, "I really enjoy my volunteer time with GCP&T. What a great group of people all working together to create awesome activities. Looking forward to more opportunities to learn about these programs".

Thank you, Kate, for being so dedicated and answering our calls to volunteer your valuable time to the GCP&T mission to get people into the Greene County parks! You do a fabulous job and we really appreciate you! Thank you for being a part of our GCP&T family.