



Volunteer News & Views

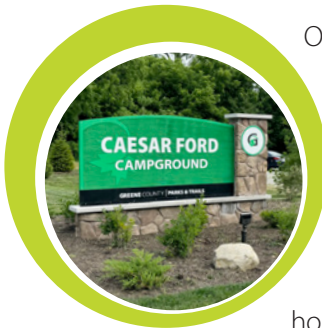
THOUSANDS OF ACRES AND MILES OF TRAILS. **IT ALL BELONGS TO YOU!** – AUGUST 2024

Summer is here with lots of programs & events!

Summer has arrived and the Greene County Parks & Trails Team & Volunteers are busy delivering multiple programs and events to the residents of Greene County and surrounding communities! Please plan to join us and be a part of this exciting season of programming. Remember: just a few of the benefits of spending time in parks are – happier outlook, lower blood pressure, less anxiety, healthier child development, and more! **Make time to visit our parks!**

CAESAR FORD CAMPGROUND OFFICIALLY OPENS

YOUR backyard recently got bigger with the addition of the **Caesar Ford Campground in Xenia!**



On June 25, 2024, the campground was officially dedicated with a ribbon cutting and we thank everyone that spent their morning with us that day! And you have to admit, the s'mores buffet was pretty good!

This class A campground offers 12 full hook-up, pull through sites as well as a shelter, restroom/shower house, direct access to the bike trail and 10 miles of shared use trails. Phase 2 will add more in the near future. Stay tuned!

If you are interested in spending a night or 4 with us, you can reserve your campsite at **gcparkstrails.com/caesar-ford-campground**





L to R: Mel: Naturalist with GCP&T for 21 years with a degree in Art and knowledge in all things nature! Courtney: Started with GCP&T in 2023 with a degree in biology with an emphasis in ecology. Hunter: 2nd summer as an intermittent, attending school for wildlife resource management. Vivienne: 2nd summer as an intermittent, attending school for environmental engineering. Nova: first summer with GCP&T, attending school for geology. Has an education background and leads a homeschool nature co-op program. We appreciate each of them and their outstanding contributions!

MEET OUR EDUCATION TEAM

Thank you to our Intermittent staff members who have been part of the GCP&T Team with our naturalists this Summer! They are doing a super job with our summer camps as well as other programming and events! Both Vivienne Foreman and Hunter McIver were intermittent staff members last summer, and Nova Hoos joined this year.

This outstanding team kicked off our summer camp season with a bang! Responsible for 14 different summer camps that range in age from 2 to 17 years old, they have a lot of fun planned for all! They are all CPR and first aid trained.

COME JOIN OUR WELLNESS WALKERS GROUP!

Do you want to make new friends while getting some exercise and walking in one of your Greene County Parks? Be sure to sign up for Wellness Walkers Group so you can be part of our weekly walks that rotate between our Greene County parks, Fairborn and Beaver Creek parks! These walks are held every Thursday morning and last an hour. We like to think of this as our own walking club...so join, it's FREE!

Rick Inman, GCP&T Operations Manager, leads the group with enthusiasm and the group has lots of fun and laughs while walking and enjoying nature in Greene County Park settings. The group usually consists of 15-35 people who regularly participate in the walks. There are three levels of difficulty: 1, 2, & 3 – ranging from very easy to more challenging. The walks are typically 2-3 miles and you may walk at your own pace. Periodically, at the conclusion of the walk, Rick may surprise the group with such goodies as soft pretzels, pancakes, Kona ice, or even engage you in a build-a-bear event! Recently, Michelle Jenkins, another

GCP&T Teammate, sometimes joins the Wellness Walkers Group to assist with this fun program. We hope you will join Rick and be a part of the Wellness Walkers Group! See you in the Parks!

For a full schedule and to receive notifications about cancellations or changes, sign up at greenecountyoh.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29956



GCP&T ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PROJECTS – APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2024

- **Caesar Ford Campground** is open for business.
- **Xenia-Jamestown Connector** – the resurfacing started mid-June from Washington Street in Xenia to Greene/Fayette Co. Line – expected life span to be 20+ years.
- **Park Entrance sign project** is completed.
- **Cemex Reserve** – graded the driveway and parking lot.
- **Narrows Reserve Building** – the remodeling project has started and the roofing, siding, drywall work, gutters, drainage, and entry way into the building is complete.
- **Koogler Wetland Prairie Reserve** – removed large log jam and beaver dams to reduce stress on the bridge walls on New Germany-Trebein Road.
- **Hobson Freedom Park** – roadway and parking lot maintenance.
- **Pierce Park** – dog park fencing has been replaced.
- **Indian Mound Reserve** – chip sealed the Williamson Mound Lane back to the gate.



4 Paws for Ability



Amphibians Program



Anything on Wheels



Wiggle Worms

Summer Camps 2024



90's Throwback Prom



Babbling Bunnies



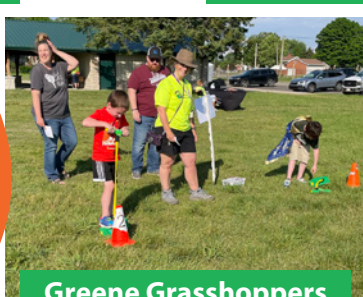
Fabulous Fairy Gardening



Mother's Day Surprise



Father's Day Fishing



Greene Grasshoppers Bug Scavenger Hunt



Senior Fishing



Senior Picnic in the Park



Ranger Classic 2024



Senior Palooza



Touch-a-Truck

GCP&T VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

August & September 2024

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

AUG

08/08 Under the Sea Stuffed Animal Program
08/09 Trivia
08/09 Cincinnati Zoo Trip Bus
08/10 Touch-A-Truck
08/20 Homeschool Science Days: Geology
08/20 Greene Grasshoppers – Bubbles
08/23 Teens Slip n' Slide Kick Ball
08/27 Homeschool Science Discovery Hike

Russ Nature Reserve 6pm-8pm
 Russ Nature Reserve 6pm-8pm
 Leaves from Spring Lakes 9am-5pm
 Fairgrounds Rec. Center 10am-12pm
 Indian Mound Reserve 10:00am-12:00pm
 Fairgrounds Rec. Ctr. 5:30pm-8:30pm
 Russ Nature Reserve 6pm-9pm
 Indian Mound Reserve 9am-11:30am

SEP

09/04 Pups on a Mission Colorless Rainbow
09/13 Concert
09/17 Insects & Spiders
09/17 Greene Grasshoppers
09/19 Wiggle Worms
09/20 "Migration" Outdoor Movie/Activity
09/21 Monarch Tagging
09/24 Homeschool Science Discovery Hike
09/24 Bleach Splattered Shirts

Russ Nature Reserve 6pm-8pm
 Caesar Ford Park 6:30pm-9:30pm
 Russ Nature Reserve 10am-12pm
 Fairgrounds Rec. Center 6pm-8pm
 Fairgrounds Rec. Center 10am-12pm
 Russ Nature Reserve 6:30pm-10:00pm
 Russ Nature Reserve 1pm-4pm
 Russ Nature Reserve 9am-11:30am
 Russ Nature Reserve 5:30pm-7:30pm

GCP&T CELEBRATES THE OHIO TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



During the month of April 2024, in order to celebrate the Total Solar Eclipse, Greene County Parks & Trails set up both a story book trail and an educational trail at Russ Nature Reserve in Beavercreek! Both trails were open for several days and free for those who wanted to learn more about the eclipse on two different levels – kids and adults!

The story book trail along with age-appropriate fun facts was located near the pond at Russ, and the educational trail was located at the entrance of the trail.

In addition to the trail programs, GCP&T provided free eclipse glasses to the public and also provided supplies to make 500 pinhole cameras. This provided an opportunity to be a great science project for kids! It was a rare, unique, and fun experience!



GCP&T "TRAIL MIX" FEATURED ON WBZ (FM 100.3 / AM 1500)

Tune in to Real Roots Radio (WBZ FM 100.3 / AM 1500) at 12:10 am, each week on Monday mornings for the next few months to hear "TRAIL MIX" – a program during which Greene County Parks & Trails staff members present topics of interest! The "Mix of Conversations" to date have included such topics as: general information about Greene County Parks & Trails, presented by Chuck Frazier, Director; Ranger Division information, presented by Darrell Hannah, Chief Ranger; Parks Programming and Events, presented by Ashlee Schmitt, Program/Event Supervisor; and, Snakes of Ohio, presented by Courtney Burdiss, Naturalist!

We hope you will tune in to hear our teammates share valuable and interesting information about GCP&T, and your Greene County Parks!