

Muskingum Valley Park District Newsletter



CONSERVATION KIDS SUMMER

Join us for the third summer of Conservation Kids. The day camp meets every Wednesday (June 7th–August 2nd; field trip on August 9th) during summer recess to educate students about conservation, animal and plant diversity, natural resources, gardening, citizen science, sustainability and environmental impacts, art in nature, and community engagement. See all of our summer themes [here](#).

The ultimate goal of our Conservation Kids summer program is to connect children with nature through experiential learning. All Muskingum County students in grades 1st–12th are welcome; Students in grades 7th–12th sign up as “Junior Naturalists” to help with program needs.

Participant space is limited Cost is \$20 per child due on or before the first day of camp. You will need to pack a lunch. We will provide snacks and water. [Register here!](#)

NATIVE PLANT SALE JUNE 10TH



Our annual “Piece of the Park” Plant Sale is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1720 Euclid Ave in Zanesville. We have over 40 native plant species growing including Spotted Bee Balm, New Jersey Tea, Purple Love Grass, Wild White Indigo and many more! You can view the 2023 plant list [here](#). Plant fact sheets are available to view and download on our website under “Our Plant Sale”. These give you information about native species care and requirements before you buy so you can purchase plants that will thrive in your landscape.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Upcoming Events!

- **Amphibian Palooza!** returns Saturday, April 29th! Join us at McGraw Edison Recreation Area at 2p.m. to go creekin' for critters and searching for salamanders! Details [here](#).

- **National Public Gardens Day**
A celebration at Mission Oaks Gardens from 10a.m. to 2p.m. on Saturday, May 6th. Join us to welcome the fairies back to the gardens, shop arts and crafts, and enjoy the gardens! Details [here](#).

- **Piece of the Park Plant Sale**
Our annual plant sale is from 10a.m. to 2p.m. on Saturday, June 10th. A month later this year to provide you with more mature native species. View the species list and fact sheets [here](#).

April is Ohio Native Plant Month!

[View our events here!](#)

PARK UPDATES

Spring has sprung! Find the beauty in new beginnings!



PC: Michelle Illing

WESTVIEW COMMUNITY PARK

NaturePlay elements are expected to arrive by summer! They include a rope spiderweb, mud kitchen, music and art elements to enhance outdoor creativity. The Rotary Peace Pavilion native planting will begin this spring. The Peace Pole is now on display.



PC: Haley Johnson

JOHN MCINTIRE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

The "classroom" flooring is receiving a more permanent upgrade. Other plans include an ADA path from parking lot to classroom and sidewalk repairs. This area is open to the public. If you want to use this space for an organized event, please request a Special Use Permit.



PC: Michelle Illing

MISSION OAKS GARDENS

A mild winter welcomed early blooms of daffodils, snowdrops, Hellebores, and trees. Follow the spring blooming updates on our Facebook page! The first turtle was seen basking on February 23 (pictured) and a 3 inch juvenile turtle was spotted on March 26! The barred owl and hawks are still active.



PC: Haley Johnson

GALE GARDEN

The tulips will soon be in full bloom. This garden offers a quiet place to watch nature while having lunch. Gale Garden is a great location to have a wedding. This space can accommodate 50 guests. Mission Oaks has venue options, too! Reserve a space now for your special day!



PC: Michelle Illing

MCGRAW EDISON RECREATION AREA

Mcgraw is our best park to see biodiversity in the multiple habitats it offers. Great for flora and fauna observations. Many spring wildflowers are found at MERA. Join us for our 3rd Annual Amphibian Palooza on April 29 for creek and wetland exploration!



PC: MVPD Staff

MUSKINGUM RECREATIONAL TRAIL

MRT offers a great hike to see spring wildflowers. We are on the schedule to pave the trail from Rock Cut Road to Ellis Dam this year. Wetland species like salamanders, frogs, and waterfowl are easy to see and hear along the trail.



PC: Haley Johnson

JOE'S RUN RECREATIONAL TRAIL

This 1.5-mile paved trail is pet and bike friendly. Joe's Run is great for woodland species birding. ATV's, golf carts, etc. are prohibited on the trail. Trail repairs are nearly complete from an erosion slip.



PC: Haley Johnson

COLLEGIAL WOODS TRAILS

We continue to work on the natural surface trails. The gravel trail is a great place to host 5K events. Please obtain a Special Use Permit before scheduling your event. Keep an eye out for bluebirds nesting this spring!

Our *Explore the Muskingum Valley Park District* brochure features all of our park locations and directions to each area. The trails and parks maintained by the Muskingum Valley Park District offer many miles and acres to "Wander into the Great Outdoors".

[EXPLORE HERE](#)





Volunteering with Muskingum Valley Park District

VOLUNTEER CORNER! ↩

We are always looking for volunteers to help with park district needs, including special events, and garden maintenance like weeding and planting. We are starting to grow thousands of plants for the spring plant sale and plan to add them throughout our park properties.

Watch for emails about special opportunities. For a regular volunteer experience, join us on the third Tuesday of each month for "Volunteers Tuesdays" from 10a.m. to noon. [Become a volunteer now](#) or learn more below!

Check out April volunteer opportunities [here!](#)

Thank
you!

[LEARN MORE](#)



LEARN ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR ON YODEL!



WE WANT TO CONNECT!

Our website is full of information about all things park related. We are always happy to answer any questions about our parks, gardens, and trails. [Contact us!](#)

In replacement of our past calendar contest, we are requesting photos of our parks to use for social media posts, on our website, and in our newsletter. Photos will be credited to the photographer. [Email us!](#)

We are recruiting for two Conservation Assistant positions through Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps, an AmeriCorps program administered by Rural Action. The selected members will serve 1700 hours with MVPD as the 2023-24 term host site. Position description, program information and how to apply is on our [website](#).

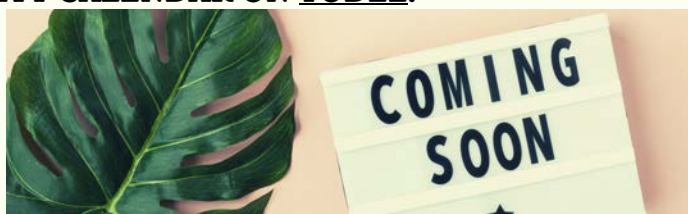
[AMERICORPS](#)



UPCOMING EVENT REMINDERS

Join us on Saturday, May 6 from 10a.m. to 2p.m. to celebrate National Public Gardens Day, an annual event held to show appreciation to local public gardens within your community. Our event welcomes the fairies back to the gardens and shows appreciation for nature's growing things. This year, our event brings back vendors to the gardens! The public can shop local nature-inspired garden arts and crafts. Enjoy the gardens casually or learn park history during a guided tour. Explore the Discovery Shed and play in Olga's Children's Garden. Music, art, and reading stations will be set up throughout the perennial garden. Free to attend and lunch is available.

[LEARN MORE](#)



WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON...

We are excited to announce a partnership with OSU Extensive to offer a Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) course in Muskingum County! The mission is to promote awareness and stewardship of Ohio's environment and natural resources through science-based education and community service. This course will start in late August 2023. Participants will be required to attend 40 training hours. To learn more visit: <https://ocvn.osu.edu/home>. Details coming soon!

Trail of Treats is scheduled for Saturday, October 14 at 5p.m. at Collegial Woods Trails. BOOth registration will open August 1st. Look for details in the June issue!

View our five-year master plan to see what projects we are working on in 2023.

[MASTER PLAN](#)



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