

# Muskingum Valley Park District Newsletter



PC: Michelle Illing

## MVPD MASTERPLAN

The Board of Muskingum Valley Park District Commissioners adopted a five-year master plan during their September regular monthly meeting. The plan, based on statistically valid data from the district's 2019 community survey, identifies site specific actions for each of the district's current landholdings as well as community-wide initiatives to secure gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages and economic status. A primary focus of the plan is to expand the district's recreational trail system with the goal of connecting communities throughout Muskingum County. The plan may be viewed on the Muskingum Valley Park District website.

## END OF OUR SEASON & STAFFING

We consider March–October our busy season with mowing and other trail and garden maintenance. Even though the end of growing season is near, we are accepting applications for a seasonal gardener position. [Apply here.](#)

We currently have 3 full-time employees which includes, Russ, Executive Director, Mike, Maintenance Technician, and Michelle, Administrative Assistant. All of the staff has focus areas in their job description. We also have two AmeriCorps Service Members, Haley and Skylar, serving 1700 hours for the 2022–2023 fiscal year. These two have focus areas, as well, while serving us as their host site.

We are always looking for volunteers. The MVPD volunteer program is fairly new with about 10 active volunteers. So far this year, they have contributed 500 hours within our parks and gardens. THANK YOU! More about volunteering in our "Volunteer Corner" on page 3.

[VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

## Upcoming Events!

- **Mystery Dinner Party!**

Join us Oct 22 6-9pm at Pizza Cottage! Guests will step back into New York City's Little Italy during late 1940's to unravel the murder of Giuseppe (Pepi) Roni at the family owned restaurant. Tickets are \$30. [Get yours here!](#)

- **Trail of Treats-Oct 8 5-7pm**

Join us on the Collegial Woods Trails for a family-friendly Trick-or-Treat with local vendors. Wear your costume and visit the booths for treats!

- **Fall Plant Sale-Oct 15 10a-2p**

Get your plants for next season!

- **Poisoned Picnic Escape Room Coming October through Nov!**

This adventure will take you to a house in the woods looking for an antidote for a Death Cap mushroom poisoning. Will you follow the clues to solve puzzles and get the antidote in time?!

[View our events here!](#)

# PARK UPDATES

## Welcome Autumn! The trees show us their true colors and let go!



### WESTVIEW COMMUNITY PARK

We are still continuing to add NaturePlay elements. The Muskingum County Master Gardener's have made a commitment to landscape at Westview. Planting will begin in October. The Park Society is planning a holiday celebration for this December. Stay tuned!



### JOHN MCINTIRE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

The geology feature construction has begun! The outdoor classroom recently had an overhaul of weeds to make room for fall planting. Jack, a volunteer, refinished the benches. Thank you! We are looking forward to using this space next summer!



### MISSION OAKS GARDENS

You can visit the Fairy Garden villages in the perennial garden now through Oct 31. We have a dedicated bench to Dr. Michele Encoignard in the Fairy Garden with a remembrance area. We hosted "Let's Go Mothing" and found over 20 kinds of moth species! Photo of *Euchlaena mollisaria*.



### GALE GARDEN

Gale Garden is a great location to have a wedding. This space can accommodate 50 guests. Our hostas took damage from the hail storm in May, but maintained well. We look forward to a fresh start next spring by adding some early bloomers and a few more hosta varieties.



### MCGRAW EDISON RECREATION AREA

Our volunteer, Susan, maintains our bird boxes at MERA. This year she reported 8 Bluebirds, 10 Tree Swallows, and 27 House Wrens. Thank you! We plan to have a work day on October 22 for Make A Difference Day. Sign up on our website as a volunteer to join us!



### MUSKINGUM RECREATIONAL TRAIL

We are on the project list for 2023 to finish the paving of the trail to Ellis Dam. Our observation deck is a great place to go birding for waterfowl. This trail continues to suffer from storm damage. Report any trees via website "Contact Us".



### JOE'S RUN RECREATIONAL TRAIL

This 1.5 mile paved trail connects Blue Avenue to the college campus on Newark Road at Collegial Woods Trails. The trail is pet and bike friendly. All off road vehicles are prohibited on ANY of our trails. If you see one after hours, call 740.455.0700.



### COLLEGIAL WOODS TRAILS

Work on our natural surface trails continues. We will soon have them blazed and start invasive species control. The perimeter gravel trail will host our Trail of Treats event on October 8. The Rogge pavilion is owned by OUZ, but will receive improvements this fall.

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](#)



**NEW**

Favorite our schedules on **Yodel**





### VOLUNTEER CORNER!

We are always looking for volunteers to help with park district needs. We have garden maintenance like weeding and planting. We grew thousands of plants this year and plan to add them throughout our park properties this fall and next spring.

"Volunteers Tuesdays" are every third Tuesday of each month. We also have Make a Difference Day 9a-12p on Saturday, October 22 at McGraw Edison.

As of Sept 1st, our volunteers have put in over 500 hours of work throughout the gardens and special programs for the Park District. We appreciate all of you and your hard work so far this year!

Thank you!

[LEARN MORE](#)



**\*LEARN ABOUT THE NEW COMMUNITY CALENDAR ON YODEL!\***



### WE WANT TO CONNECT!

Our website is full of information about all of our park locations (which includes directions), events calendar, Conservation Kids program, and fact sheets on the native plants for the plant sale.

We also have information about our rental venues and policies for special occasions like birthday parties, dinners, weddings, and business meetings.

You can find links to community organizations and our partners, brochures about our parks, and all of the trails in Muskingum County, and more!

We are always happy to answer any questions about our parks, gardens, and trails. Click below to contact us.

[CONTACT US](#)



### UPCOMING EVENT REMINDERS

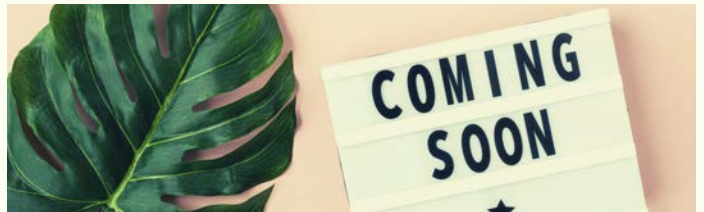
Trail of Treats is an annual event on the second Saturday of October. Local businesses are welcome to set up and pass out treats to the community. Wear a costume and join us at Collegial Woods at 5p!

We have a Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, October 15 from 10a-2pm at Mission Oaks Gardens. Fall is a great time to plant for next year's blooms. You can view our native plants on our website to see what would be best for your yard.

Murder Mystery Dinner party tickets are available for \$30 per person. RSVP by Oct 17. Event on Oct 22.

Poisoned Picnic-Escape Room in the Park coming soon! Registration opens early in October on our website and Yodel.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON...

\*\*\*We have a committee working on a holiday event at Westview Community Park. Decorations, hot cocoa, singing and more! The decorations will last through December, but the main event is scheduled for Saturday, December 10.\*\*\*

We have repairs on structures that received hail storm damage. Buildings on the Mission Oaks property will receive new roofs.

Reminder: We require a Special Use Permit to use any of our parks for organized group activities. This includes 5K's, education programs, celebrations, and field trips. All activities must follow our rules and regulations.

[RULES AND REGS](#)

