

Column from the Ashland County Park District

Public relations -

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"In God We Trust"

Summer in the Parks

A walk in the park has been on the schedule for many in the community

taking advantage of the numerous planned events and the fine spring and

summer weather. There's plenty of warm weather for the hiker and walker

for any of the open parks offering miles of paths to cover within acres

of unique, natural or historical significance. As always, the hiker

should wear sturdy shoes and socks as the parks, while well tended, are

not groomed as the local golf courses. Getting dressed for the weather in

summer may include sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and long pants.

Grab a bottle of water, a set of binoculars and your camera to savor the day of memories.

Throughout the Ashland County Park District the trails can be managed by most hikers. The paths of Freer Field may be just what first hikers are looking for and members of Friends of the Park are expected to be on hand during Balloonfest to lead guided walks on Saturday afternoon starting about an hour after the noon hour, as often as the groups gather and until the crowd drops off. The Friends will also offer Mike Hamilton's expertise on Indian artifacts and past activities. Kolleen Crall will assist the younger set create nature crafts during the Saturday afternoon activities.

"Come and enjoy a little bit of the country in the middle of the city,"

Advisory Committee Chairman Steve Huber declared.

On Sunday, July 5 at 2:00 p.m. Ohio State Senator Bob Gibbs of Lakeville

is expected to hike the fairly easy trails of Freer Field. This program

is a part of the summer Walk Ashland Parks that is in full swing cosponsored by the ACPD, Ashland City Parks and Recreation Department,

Samaritan Hospital and the Ashland YMCA. The next walk in this series

will be held on July 12 at Jamison Creek.

Members of the Friends will also be on hand during the Ashland County

Yesteryear Machinery Club' Show for guided people mover wagon rides along

the paths of Byers Woods July 10, 11 and 12. The show is held on the

grounds of the Career Center and provides a park like setting for many

activities and has showcased this park with tractor and horse

driven

wagon rides annually. The wagon rides have proven to be favorite of many

with another opportunity for a wagon ride at the August grand opening of

Gilliom-Cherp Nature Park along the Blackfork River.

People are using the parks. Cool Springs Wildlife Conservation Committee

Chairman Tim McMillian shared, "The park is being used by many, from

fishing, to hiking, to picnicking...to just enjoying nature."

The all volunteer crew are excited for the summer events looking into the

fall. They are grateful for the recent volunteers and for the commitment

of those over the years of its inception. Parks open include Byers Woods,

Blackfork Bottoms Hunting Area, Cooke Family Wildlife Area Park, Cool

Springs Wildlife Conservation Park, Freer Field, Pine Hill/Crall Woods,

River Walk Natural Area and Audubon Wetlands Preserve. a

spotters map is

located on the website at www.ashlandcountyparksdistrict.com and

also for

driving directions and a brief description of the park.

The Park Commissioners are pleased to announce the availability

of raffle

tickets held by members of the Friends and available at the ACPD

activities. Offered is a chance to win a family weekend at Cooke

Family

Wildlife Conservation Area's Bunk House or \$300 worth of gas.

The lottery

winner will be drawn the first of December.

The next ACPD and Friends of the Park meeting is slated for

Monday, July

6 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Rooms A and B or as posted,

beginning

at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to these work session type

meetings.