

# Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



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October 29, 2008

## Restoration project improves the health of the Darby Creek floodplain

Metro Parks has begun construction on a section of the Hellbranch Run, a tributary of Big Darby Creek, that was previously channelized. The project entails creating an oxbow stream channel on the site, removal of invasive plant species and the planting of native trees and shrubs. The major goal of this work is to improve the health and integrity of Big Darby Creek through habitat restoration of its floodplain and habitat improvements to Hellbranch Run.

As a result of this restoration, Hellbranch Run's stream flow will be slowed and filtered through the new floodplain and thus improve the water quality that flows into Big Darby Creek. Habitat will be improved for species that rely on both Big Darby Creek and its tributaries.

Metro Parks will fund part of the project and be reimbursed for a significant amount of the costs through a grant from the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The project is expected to be completed by spring of 2009

## More on your Metro Parks

**website:** [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net)

**Infoline:** 614.508.8000

**Telephone:** 614.891.0700

## The Clean Ohio Fund

by John O'Meara, Executive Director

I am proud to support the continuation of the Clean Ohio Fund and I encourage all Central Ohio residents to vote YES on Issue 2 ...

[\(more\)](#)



## Your photos could be seen in a Metro Parks publication

Bruce Miller's photo "Worm Eating Warbler" won "Best of Show" at the recent Metro Parks Photo Exhibit ... [\(more\)](#)



## See remoter areas of parkland this weekend on an off-trail hike

Several Metro Parks will be offering hikes this weekend where visitors can go off the beaten path with the naturalist ... [\(more\)](#)

## New signage promotes Greenway Trails for healthy recreation

A new system of cohesive signage has been agreed by Metro Parks and its Central Ohio Greenway System partners ... [more](#)



If you have a question about some aspect of nature or about a Metro Park, the naturalists at Blendon Woods Metro Park can help. Email your question to [enaturalist@metroparks.net](mailto:enaturalist@metroparks.net). Most questions will be answered by the end of the next business day.

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## The Clean Ohio Fund

by John O'Meara, Executive Director

I am proud to support the continuation of the Clean Ohio Fund and I encourage all Central Ohio residents to vote YES on Issue 2.

Metro Parks has received almost 4 million dollars in Clean Ohio conservation funds that were used to purchase over 1,000 acres of land at five Metro Parks—all without raising taxes. In addition, we have received Clean Ohio Assistance Fund dollars to help with the environmental restoration for Scioto Audubon Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula.

The Clean Ohio funds were used to acquire land that helped to protect Big Darby Creek and expand the Greenway trail system. We were also able to conserve land at Glacier Ridge and Clear Creek Metro Parks. All of these activities will help to make Central Ohio a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Clean Ohio is the highly successful bond issue, first passed in 2000, which provides funding for conservation, farmland preservation, recreational trails and the clean up of polluted, abandoned sites. It is up for renewal on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

Since the program began in 2001, it has enabled the clean up of 173 abandoned and polluted sites which will result in nearly 15,000 new jobs and \$2.6 billion in leveraged investment across the state. The Clean Ohio Program has also conserved 26,000 acres of natural and wildlife habitat, preserved 20,000 acres of farmland and created 216 miles of additional recreational trails.

Issue 2 has earned bipartisan support from Ohio's legislature and received over 150 endorsements from organizations throughout Ohio, including Metro Parks. For more information on Issue 2 and a complete list of endorsements, visit [www.cleanohio.org](http://www.cleanohio.org).

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## Your photos could be seen in a Metro Parks publication

Bruce Miller's photo "Worm Eating Warbler" won "Best of Show" at the recent Metro Parks Photo Exhibit at the High Road Gallery in Worthington. More than 60 photographers entered their images, all taken in a Metro Park.

We are always looking for images to use on the web and in park publications. Feel free to submit your images to Virginia Gordon at [vgordon@metroparks.net](mailto:vgordon@metroparks.net) or send them to her at Metro Parks, 1069 W. Main St., Westerville, OH 43081.

If you are interested in learning more about nature photography, you may want to attend the next Lens and Leaves Camera Club meeting at 7 p.m., Nov. 7 at the the nature center at Blacklick Woods Metro Park in Reynoldsburg (directions). For more information about the club, visit the [Lens and Leaves website](http://www.lensandleaves.org/). <http://www.lensandleaves.org/>

You may also want to stop by the nature center at Blacklick Woods this weekend to view the photographic enteries and cast your vote for the People's Choice Award in the Metro Parks Nature Print contest—Saturday 10 a.m to 5 p.m. or Sunday 10 a.m to 4 p.m.



Bruce Miller

A worm eating warbler at Clear Creek Metro Park.

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## See remoter areas of parkland this weekend on an off-trail hike

Several Metro Parks will be offering hikes this weekend where visitors can go off the beaten path with the naturalist and explore more remote sections of the parks. This is a great time of the year to see a white-tailed deer bounding through the fields with the onset of the breeding season. You may see or hear wild turkeys, Ohio's largest upland game bird, on your jaunt. Wild turkeys typically forage on forest floors but can also be found in grasslands and swamps.

Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park will feature a 6-mile off-trail hike on Saturday, Nov. 1 from noon to 3 p.m. beginning at the naturalist's office.

Enjoy one of the most beautiful vistas in the Hocking Hills Area on a rugged 4-mile backcountry trek through the Buzzard's Roost Area at Clear Creek Metro Park, Sunday, Nov. 2 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Fern parking lot.

You can traipse through the fields and ravines with the naturalist at Chestnut Ridge and explore some of the more remote areas of this 486-acre park on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

Discover the 320-acre Edward Thomas Nature Preserve on a hearty hike at Sharon Woods Metro Park on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. This preserve is named in honor of Edward S. Thomas, the renowned Ohio naturalist and long-time Metro Parks board member.

You may want to bring binoculars, cameras and water for the hikes. Visit [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net) for park directions and maps.

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## New signage promotes Greenway Trails for healthy recreation

A new system of cohesive signage has been agreed by Metro Parks and its Central Ohio Greenway System partners, MORPC and the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.

The Metro Parks Design Department has created the first of the signs for Greenways in a Metro Park. Forty-one signs have been installed along the 4-mile length of the Darby Creek Greenway Trail, which extends north from the Cedar Ridge Area of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. The signs include trail identification, directional signs with distances and location maps. As signs need replacing on other Greenways, they will be replaced with the new style as seen below.

The new graphic unity will increase trail recognition and awareness of the Greenways system, an expanding network of recreational trails along our most valuable natural resources. The greenway network includes six rivers and creeks with 150 miles of planned trails, 20 miles of which Metro Parks has completed and nine more of which are in the works. The trails provide countless opportunities for people to experience the many streams, rivers and wooded corridors throughout Central Ohio and connect parkland, open space and communities.

