

Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



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December 3, 2008

'Tis the season

Ease gently into the holiday spirit with a visit to Slate Run Living Historical Farm and discover how farm families in the 1880s celebrated the season. Help decorate the farmhouse in Victorian fashion and make an ornament to take home on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 1 to 6 p.m.

Bring your preschoolers to the farm on Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. and they'll have great fun decorating cookies and learning about the holiday tradition of gingerbread.



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. Most questions will be answered by the end of the next business day.

More on your Metro Parks

website: www.metroparks.net

Infoline: 614.508.8000

Telephone: 614.891.0700

Park Commissioners approve 2009 budget

Metro Parks' Board of Park Commissioners recently approved passage of the park system's 2009 budget... [more](#)

Possible expansion of Scioto Audubon Metro Park

By John O'Meara, Executive Director

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Inniswood Metro Gardens hosts the work of local artist

The paintings of Westerville artist Dianne Capoccia will be on display at the Innis House during the month of December... [more](#)

A moonlit walk in the parks

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Metro Parks making your world a little greener

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Park Commissioners approve 2009 budget

Metro Parks' Board of Park Commissioners recently approved passage of the park system's 2009 budget. The \$35.6 million dollar budget is largely a continuation proposal with a focus on maintaining current facilities and programs as we await the outcome of Metro Parks' levy.

About \$9.5 million will be spent on capital improvements including trail projects, facilities for the public at various parks, continued resource management efforts and several system wide initiatives.

We also anticipate spending about \$9.9 million in acquiring additional land to further protect wildlife and habitat. Grants and contributions from other governments will pay for the new parkland.

The remainder of the budget will provide for daily park operations and employee salaries and benefits.

For a detailed copy of the 2009 budget visit www.metroparks.net and click on the finance button on the top of the home page.

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Possible expansion of Scioto Audubon Metro Park

By John O'Meara, Executive Director

The Columbus Dispatch recently published two articles about the Metro Parks regarding our proposed 2009 budget and possible expansion of Scioto Audubon Metro Park in downtown Columbus. ([Columbus Dispatch Archive login](#)—articles on November 22 and 25) We appreciate the coverage and would like to provide more information about the progress that we are making in serving our community with great parks and trails.

Metro Parks conserves the most land of any park system in the state, we have the lowest voted property tax millage of any of the Metro Parks around Ohio's largest cities, and the lowest cost per county resident. Homeowners are assessed less than \$20 per year per \$100,000 value. By creatively securing grant funding and contributions from municipal partners, Metro Parks will be able to improve parks and trails while acquiring land for the future.

The *Dispatch* noted that our budget will increase by 24% next year. All of the increase can be attributed to grants that help stretch our local dollars. The grants will be used to construct regional trails and to acquire park land. We, along with our partners, are continuing our work to connect and make communities healthier by completing a network of more than 160 Greenway Trail miles.

We are very excited about the possibility of expanding Scioto Audubon Metro Park. If agreement can be reached with the City of Columbus and the voters are willing to support the Metro Parks levy in May, then we will be in position to provide great new facilities in the heart of the city. The business community supports this project because it will attract young professionals.

Metro Parks provides clean, safe natural area parks and protects wildlife habitat while providing Central Ohioans with free access to the wonders of nature. We look forward to working with our partners to help make Central Ohio an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

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Inniswood Metro Gardens hosts the work of local artist

The paintings of Westerville artist Dianne Capoccia will be on display at the Innis House during the month of December. One of Ohio's fine realistic artists, her charming use of color splashes a delectable freshness throughout her work. Located at 940 South Hempstead Road in Westerville. The Innis House is open Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You can meet Dianne during a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec.7 at the Innis House.

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A moonlit walk in the parks

The special monthly names for the full moons go back to ancient cultures, although in the United States, we typically use the names given them by various Native American tribes.

And so December's full moon is called the "Full Cold Moon" or the "Full Long Nights Moon." In December, winter cold fastens its grip and nights are at their longest and darkest.

If you would like to stroll under the full moon, learn more about the folklore behind this celestial body and enjoy a quiet evening along the trail, Metro Parks is offering the following programs in December:

Friday Dec. 12	5 p.m.	Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park
Friday Dec. 12	6:30 p.m.	Blendon Woods Metro Park
Thursday Dec. 11	6:30 p.m.	Pickerington Ponds Metro Park
Friday Dec. 12	5:15 p.m.	Sharon Woods Metro Park

In addition to these programs, two parks are holding **Howl At The Moon** hikes for you to walk on the trails with your canine friends:

Saturday Dec. 13	5 p.m.	Highbanks Metro Park
Sunday Dec. 14	5 p.m.	Three Creeks Park

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Metro Parks making your world a little greener

Metro Parks recently installed a renewable geothermal heating and cooling system at the nature center at Blacklick Woods that will reduce energy consumption by more than 55 percent.

Geothermal heat uses the earth's ability to store heat in the ground and water. At Blacklick Woods, they are taking advantage of the small pond just outside the nature center and using a closed loop system to take advantage of the water.

Because geothermal systems work with nature, not against it, they minimize the threats of acid rain, air pollution and the greenhouse effect. An environmentally friendly fluid is used in the closed, continuous loop.