

# Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



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December 12, 2008

## Christmas bird count

### Highbanks Metro Park

Saturday Dec. 20, 8 a.m.

(Meet at nature center)

### Sharon Woods Metro Park

Saturday Dec. 20, 10 a.m.

(Meet at Apple Ridge Bulletin Board)

Search for birds on- and off-trail for the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Enjoy hot cocoa afterward.



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.

## More on your Metro Parks

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

**Infoline:** 614.508.8000

**Telephone:** 614.891.0700

## Metro Parks honored with innovation award

Metro Parks along with the City of Columbus and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission recently received the 2008 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award... [more](#)

## Metro Parks secures another Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant

Metro Parks has been awarded a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant to help purchase property along Big Darby Creek in Prairie Township, Franklin County... [more](#)

## Get out, get active and have some fun

Get 2009 off to a healthy start and maybe begin a new family tradition with Metro Parks' Annual Winter Hike Series. The series kick off at Blacklick Woods on Saturday Jan.3 at 10 a.m. ... [more](#)

## Metro Parks solstice walks

The mid-December solstice on Dec. 21 marks the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere. Learn about some of the ancient rituals associated with this winter festival on a solstice walk in the Metro Parks... [more](#)

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## **Metro Parks honored with innovation award**

Metro Parks along with the City of Columbus and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission recently received the 2008 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for their efforts on the Central Ohio Greenways Initiative.

Since 1986, the NADO Innovation Awards Program has recognized organizations that have demonstrated innovative approaches to regional economic and community development. The National Association of Development Organizations provides advocacy, education, research and training for the nation's regional development organizations.

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## **Metro Parks secures another Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant**

Metro Parks has been awarded a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant to help purchase property along Big Darby Creek in Prairie Township, Franklin County. The grant of \$987,000 will cover 70 percent of the purchase price of 241 acres on the Davis and Sons property. Metro Parks will acquire the land in 2009. This acquisition will preserve an important portion of the riparian corridor of Big Darby Creek and a wooded wetland east of Hubbard Road.

The Clean Ohio Fund restores, protects and connects Ohio's important natural and urban places by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and by cleaning up brownfields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities.

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## Get out, get active and have some fun

Get 2009 off to a healthy start and maybe begin a new family tradition with Metro Parks' Annual Winter Hike Series. The series kick off at Blacklick Woods on Saturday Jan.3 at 10 a.m. This year 13 parks will offer hikes through the end of February. Hikes range from a mile to seven miles and vary with each park. Refreshments will be served and anyone who completes seven hikes will receive a patch.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Starts at</u>
Sat Jan 3	Blacklick Woods	2 or 4 miles	10 a.m.
Sat Jan 10	Sharon Woods	1.5 or 3.5 miles	10 a.m.
Sat Jan 17	Scioto Audubon	2 or 4 miles	10 a.m.
Sun Jan 18	Prairie Oaks	1, 3 or 5 miles	2 p.m.
Sat Jan 24	Clear Creek	1, 2, 3, 5 or 7 miles	10 a.m.
Sun Jan 25	Inniswood	2 miles	2 p.m.
Sat Jan 31	Blendon Woods	2, 4 or 6 miles	10 a.m.
Sun Feb 1	Chestnut Ridge	1.4 or 2 miles	10 a.m.
Sat Feb 7	Three Creeks	1, 3 or 5.6 miles	10 a.m.
Sat Feb 14	Highbanks	2.5 or 5 miles	10 a.m.
Sun Feb 15	Glacier Ridge	2 miles	2 p.m.
Sat Feb 21	Slate Run	2 or 4.5 miles	10 a.m.
Sat Feb 28	Battelle Darby Creek	2, 4 or 6 miles	10 a.m.

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## Metro Parks solstice walks

The mid-December solstice on Dec. 21 marks the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere. In astronomy, the winter solstice is the moment when the earth is at a point in its orbit where one hemisphere is most inclined away from the sun. This causes the sun to appear at its farthest below the celestial equator when viewed from earth. The day of the winter solstice is the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

The winter solstice is one of the most ancient and most widely celebrated festivals in history. Because of its enduring popularity, the winter solstice has taken on many different traditions and has been known in many different ways, shapes and forms throughout history.

Find out more about some of these ancient rituals and share your stories on one of the following solstice walks in the Metro Parks, all on Sunday Dec. 21.

Blacklick Woods	First Walk of Winter	2 p.m.	(2-mile walk)
Blendon Woods	Winter Solstice	2 p.m.	(2-mile walk)
Sharon Woods	Solstice Stroll	5:15 p.m.	(lantern-lit 1-mile stroll)

In addition, Inniswood Metro Gardens is holding a Winter Solstice Celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. on the same day, Sunday Dec. 21. Learn about the winter solstice with astronomy experts and enjoy refreshments.