

Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



feel free!

October 2, 2008

Join the Green Energy Ohio Solar Tour

Glacier Ridge Metro Park will be one of the featured stops on the Green Energy Ohio Solar Tour, Saturday Oct. 4 beginning at 11 a.m. Visitors will see the park's wind turbine and various solar arrays.

The Ohio Solar Tour encompasses sustainable features in all corners of the state, highlighting hundreds of solar, wind, biomass, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) facilities and energy-saving technologies.

For other stops along the tour, visit www.greenenergyohio.org.



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

Thousands of trees damaged

Despite damage to thousands of trees as a result of the September 14th windstorm that hit Ohio, all 15 Metro Parks remained open to visitors ... [\(more\)](#)

Safe crosswalk in the works for Petzinger Road

Construction has begun on the Petzinger Road crosswalk on the Alum Creek Greenway Trail north of Three Creeks Park ... [\(more\)](#)

Fall teacher workshop at your Metro Parks

Metro Parks and The Wilds are teaming up to offer a special opportunity for teachers ... [\(more\)](#)

Darby Creek Day

Join us for an afternoon of fun and learning as Metro Parks and the Darby Creek Association present Darby Creek Day ... [\(more\)](#)

Commit To Be Fit and Full Moon hikes

Join us the next two Commit To Be Fit hikes in October, and our full moon hikes (with or without your furry friend) ... [\(more\)](#)

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Thousands of trees damaged and some beyond repair

Despite damage to thousands of trees as a result of the September 14th windstorm that hit Ohio, all 15 Metro Parks remained open to visitors.

Park staff closed several trails that were blocked by trees and began clearing those trees along trails, in picnic areas and along roadways. Trees that fall in the woods and are not a hazard to visitors are left to decompose.

Once the trails were cleared and safe, Metro Parks sent crews to help staff at Columbus Recreation and Parks deal with affected areas within four city parks.

According to Metro Parks arborist Andrew Boose, Sharon Woods incurred the heaviest loss of trees. About 14,000 of the 24,500 acres in the park system are wooded. Boose also noted that park squirrels are still "slinking around and are a bit gun shy" as nuts and branches from trees continue to fall.

Several honeybee hives have been affected. When the trees fall and the nests are exposed the bees become prey for raccoons and possums as well as yellow jackets and hornets.

Many thanks to all the park visitors who helped with cleanup efforts by picking up limbs and branches at our parks.

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Safe crosswalk in the works for Petzinger Road

Construction has begun on the Petzinger Road crosswalk on the Alum Creek Greenway Trail north of Three Creeks Park. This will provide a safe, easier and barrier free passage for joggers and cyclists. The project should be completed sometime this fall. For everyone's safety, Metro Parks is recommending that you avoid that section of the trail until construction is completed.

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Two-day fall teacher workshop at your Metro Parks

Metro Parks and The Wilds are teaming up to offer a special opportunity for teachers on October 17 and 18. Emphasis will be on the newly emerging interdisciplinary field of restoration ecology (repairing the ecological integrity of damaged, altered or degraded habitats). Methods of restoring forest, wetland and grassland habitats as well as hands-on applications to the classroom and Content Standards will be the focus of this workshop.

Teachers will participate in hikes and/or tours of both Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and The Wilds to see different habitat restoration projects – some of which are completed and others that are in process. Teachers will participate in discussions about the science and methods used in restoration projects and will learn classroom friendly activities that illustrate concepts taught. Teachers will also learn how habitat loss is impacting wild animal populations around the globe.

You may register for this workshop online at www.metroparks.net. You may only register online using a credit card.

If you must use another method of payment, you may mail the payment along with a [completed registration form](#) to Metro Parks Headquarters, 1069 W. Main St., Westerville OH 43081.

One semester hour of credit will be offered. Participants can choose to use either Ashland University or Muskingum College. Registration and payment for credit is separate and can be done at the workshop.

To learn more about The Wilds, please visit their website www.thewilds.org.

For more information about the workshop, please contact Susan Boggs at 614.895.6211 or sboggs@metroparks.net.

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Darby Creek Day at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park

Sunday October 5, 2008

Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park

Indian Ridge Picnic Area

1 to 4 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fun and learning as Metro Parks and the Darby Creek Association present Darby Creek Day. This annual event provides visitors of all ages with an opportunity to learn about and enjoy the Big and Little Darby Creeks, dedicated State and National Scenic Rivers.

During this program the agencies and organizations who are concerned with the protection efforts of this valuable ecosystem will be on hand with educational displays, hands-on activities and answers to your questions. Also, creeking, fish sampling, crafts, canoeing, fly fishing and live critters will be just a few of the opportunities that await the visitor. Hope to see you there.

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Commit To Be Fit Healthy Hikes

Join us at the next two hikes in the Commit To Be Fit series:

Sunday Oct. 5 at Slate Run Metro Park

Sunday Oct. 12 at Sharon Woods Metro Park

All of these 2-mile leisurely hikes begin at 1 p.m. and are led by park rangers.

Full moon walks

FULL MOON HIKE

Saturday Oct. 11

Blendon Woods — a 2-mile hike at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Oct. 12

Chestnut Ridge Metro Park — a 2-mile hike at 7 p.m.

Monday Oct. 13

Pickerington Ponds Metro Park — a 2-mile hike at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Oct. 14

Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park — a 4-mile hike at 7 p.m.

Sharon Woods Metro Park — a fast-paced 4-mile hike along gravel, paved and natural surface trails at 7:15 p.m.

HOWL AT THE MOON (for you and your canine friend)

Saturday Oct. 11

Highbanks Metro Park — a 3.5-mile hike at 6 p.m.

Sunday Oct. 12

Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park — a 2-mile hike at 7 p.m.

Blendon Woods Metro Park — a 2-mile hike at 6:30 p.m.

Clear Creek Metro Park — a 1.5-mile rugged hike at 5 p.m.

Tuesday Oct. 14

Prairie Oaks Metro Park — a 2-mile hike in the Darby Bend Lakes Area