

Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



feel free!

July 16, 2008



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.

New power at Glacier Ridge

Glacier Ridge Metro Park flipped the switch on July 3rd and is now generating and using electricity at the park. Currently, the electricity powers the restrooms and shelter. This is just one more example of how your Metro Parks is going green.

To date we have generated about 100 kilowatt-hours of electricity. Visitors can see the meter turning outside the restroom. Work continues on the park's wind and solar education center.

More on your Metro Parks

website: www.metroparks.net

Infoline: 614.508.8000

Telephone: 614.891.0700

From the Executive Director Metro Parks to purchase Eastside Nursery

By John O'Meara, Executive Director

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[\(more\)](#)



A prairie morn in your Metro Parks

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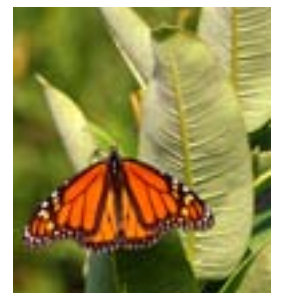


The dog days of summer

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Winged wonders at Blendon Woods

Sarah Dalton, Metro Parks reigning monarch queen, and her staff at Blendon Woods invite you to stop by the monarch mansion just outside the park's nature center... [\(more\)](#)



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Metro Parks contracts to purchase Eastside Nursery

By John O'Meara, Executive Director

Metro Parks is excited to announce that we have signed a contract to purchase the 485 acre Eastside Nursery property. The property is located in Madison Township of Franklin County, between Canal Winchester and Groveport. Walnut Creek, sometimes referred to as Little Walnut Creek, flows along the border of the property.

Eastside Nursery provides landscaping services in addition to their nursery business. The landscaper's eye is reflected in the property, which has long been managed to be aesthetically attractive. With three large ponds, over 100,000 nursery plants, and a gently rolling terrain, the property already looks much like a park. At 485 acres, it is as large as Chestnut Ridge Metro Park. The property is one of the largest privately owned tracts in Franklin County.

Metro Parks will assume ownership of the property by the end of the year. Eastside Nursery will lease the property back from Metro Parks through 2009 and will use that time to close down the nursery operation and sell off some of the nursery plants. Eastside Nursery plans to continue in business as a landscaping company. Development of the property into a park should begin in 2010 as long as the Metro Parks levy passes in 2009. This should be another wonderful addition to the Metro Parks family of parks.

John O'Meara

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A prairie morn in your Metro Parks

Be sure and head out to the prairies at Battelle Darby Creek and Prairie Oaks Metro Parks within the next few weeks to catch the activity on the prairies. A prairie in bloom is one of nature's most striking landscapes. Brilliant yellow, purple and red wildflowers mixed with the cool green of the tall grasses dance in the wind against the backdrop of a summer blue sky.

The prairies provide a haven for insects and other wildlife. You'll see grasshoppers jumping from big bluestems and other grasses, butterflies floating effortlessly in the air and bees flitting from flower to flower.

Little remains of the prairies that once blanketed the area west of Columbus in the 1800s and were converted to farmland. But thanks to the restoration efforts of Metro Parks staff beginning in 1976, more than 500 acres of prairies have been restored at both parks using original seed from the Darby Plains.

If you want to explore this delightful habitat and learn about Metro Parks prairies restoration efforts, join prairie restoration expert Jack McDowell on July 19 or 27 from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Cedar Ridge Lodge just inside the main entrance to Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. You may want to wear long pants, wear a hat and bring something to drink.



John Watts

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The dog days of summer

The hot sultry days of summer—also known as the dog days of August—are upon us and there’s no cooler place for you and your canine to exercise than an early morning or an early evening jaunt along one of the many pet trails in several of the Metro Parks. For a listing of parks with pet trails click on the following link: [Metro Parks Pet Trails](#)

You may even want to take your dog or dogs to the ever-popular “Howl at the Moon Hikes” offered at some parks. Highbanks will feature a 3-5 mile hike along the Coyote Run Trail, Friday July 18 at 8 p.m. and Clear Creek is offering a 1.5-mile hike to Lake Emily under the full moon the same night beginning at 8:30 p.m. while Battelle Darby Creek’s hike on Friday is from 9 to 11p.m. Glacier Ridge’s monthly “Walk and Woof” program will step off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 19.

The term “dog days” has its origin in pre-recorded times and describes the hottest, most sultry days of summer—not because it was an uncomfortable time just for dogs but because it coincided with the 20 days preceding and 20 days following the conjunction of Sirius (the Dog Star) with the Sun (about July 3 through August 11).



Don Danielson

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Winged wonders at Blendon Woods

Sarah Dalton, Metro Parks' reigning monarch queen, and her staff at Blendon Woods invite you to stop by the monarch mansion just outside the park's nature center to discover the wonders and mysteries of this winged wonder.

From now until September, when the monarchs begin their long journey to their winter colonies in Mexico, you can see the caterpillar's transition as it matures, changes into a chrysalis and finally emerges as a butterfly.

The folks at Blendon Woods will also give you tips on transforming your yard into a butterfly habitat. And if you're a classroom teacher, find out how to get your students involved in various monarch-monitoring programs.



Eugene Barnes

The nature center opens daily at noon and 10 a.m. on weekends and closes at 8 p.m. For more information about monarchs, call 614.895.6221.