

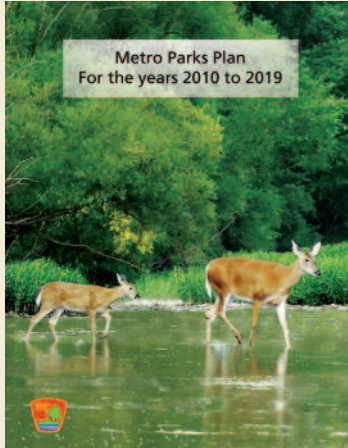
# Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



feel free!

January 16, 2009



[Click to read the full levy plan](#)

## Outfitting for survival

Sunday January 18, 2 p.m.

**Sharon Woods Metro Park**  
Spring Hollow Lodge  
1069 W. Main Street  
Westerville OH 43081

Discover outdoor survival tips and what gear to take along, with John Biesecker of the Coyote Trails School of Nature.



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 levy on ballot

By John O'Meara, Executive Director

Metro Parks' current ten-year levy expires in 2009. In order to continue maintaining and operating the existing Metro Parks, it is essential that a levy be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters. Since the levy will guide the operation of the Metro Parks for the next ten years, it is important that we take a long term view and plan for the future.... [more](#)

## New volunteer training class

Inniswood Metro Gardens will be holding its annual orientation series for new volunteers in March... [more](#)

## Winter fun

There are still eleven hikes to go in the annual Metro Parks Winter Hike Series, including two hikes this weekend... [more](#)

## Get up and get out

Stop by Metro Parks' Great Outdoors Area at the AAA Great Vacations Expo at Veterans Memorial this weekend as Metro Parks brings the outdoors inside... [more](#)

## Metro Parks acquires land in Madison Township

Metro Parks acquired 482 acres from Eastside Nursery in December 2008. This large, beautiful tract includes several lakes and frontage along Little Walnut Creek... [more](#)

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## **Metro Parks levy on ballot**

By John O'Meara, Executive Director

Metro Parks' current ten-year levy expires in 2009. In order to continue maintaining and operating the existing Metro Parks, it is essential that a levy be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters. Since the levy will guide the operation of the Metro Parks for the next ten years, it is important that we take a long term view and plan for the future.

The Metro Parks Levy provides more than half of all income for the park system. We are requesting approval of a 0.75-mill levy that will replace the 0.65-mill levy that is expiring. The new levy, if approved, will cost homeowners \$23 per year for each \$100,000 of residential value, an increase of \$10 per year. The increase will allow Metro Parks to improve the parks and services we provide to the community.

The highlights of the Metro Parks Ten-Year Plan that will be followed if the voters approve the levy are:

- Keep the Metro Parks free and well maintained
- Expand programs for children, seniors and special populations
- Open three new Metro Parks in Franklin County
- Add 50 miles of new trails and manage more of the Greenways Trail system
- Increase protection for Big Darby Creek
- Restore habitat to improve water quality and sustain wildlife
- Expand Scioto Audubon Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula

To see the entire Ten-Year Plan [click here](#)

To see the Fact sheet [click here](#)

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## New volunteer training class in March

Innsiwood Metro Gardens will be holding its annual orientation series for new volunteers in March. Volunteers participate in all aspects of the Gardens including maintenance, educational programming and special events. Both weekday and weekend hours are scheduled for the four sessions. Deadline for registration is March 1.



Emily Eby

Please call Emily Eby, Volunteer Coordinator, at 614.895.6226 for more information or to receive registration materials.

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## Winter fun

There are still eleven hikes to go in the annual Metro Parks Winter Hike Series, including two hikes this weekend. Check out the new Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula in downtown Columbus this Saturday at 10 a.m. at Scioto Audubon, and on Sunday at 2 p.m. try the hike at Prairie Oaks Metro Park. [Park directions](#)

This weekend should also have great weather conditions for sledding hills, skating ponds and cross country ski trails. [Metro Parks winter sports facilities](#)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Park</u>          | <u>Length</u>         | <u>Starts at</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 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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## Get Up and Get Out

Stop by Metro Parks' Great Outdoors Area at the AAA Great Vacations Expo at Veterans Memorial this weekend. Metro Parks brings the outdoors inside. You'll check out a wild and natural area within the EXPO and enjoy programming for the entire family, including nature and wildlife presentations and more.

Friday, 2 to 8 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[More information](#) about the Great Vacations Expo

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## **Metro Parks acquires land in Madison Township**

Metro Parks acquired 482 acres from Eastside Nursery in December 2008. This large, beautiful tract includes several lakes and frontage along Little Walnut Creek. It will become the core of a new Metro Park between Canal Winchester and Groveport in Franklin County, if voters pass the Metro Parks levy on the May 5, 2009 ballot. We take possession of this property on January 1, 2010.