

Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



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February 17, 2009

Metro Parks levy

For more information about Metro Parks' proposed levy that will be on the ballot May 5 in Franklin County, [click here for a fact sheet](#) and feel free to reproduce it or email it to friends and family. You can also see the [entire levy plan](#), which details the exciting programs and plans that the park system will implement over 10 years, pending voter approval of the levy

Metro Parks Annual Report for 2008

The Metro Parks Community Update document is [now available online](#) and you can receive a print copy by calling 614.891.0700.



More on your Metro Parks

website: www.metroparks.net

Infoline: 614.508.8000

Telephone: 614.891.0700

Land acquisitions

Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners approved the purchase of 92 acres of land in northern Plain Township at the February Park Board meeting... [more](#)

Birds of prey hover at Pickerington Ponds

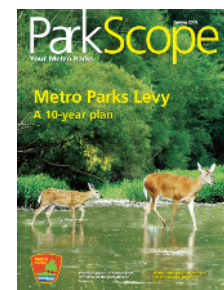
A couple of rough-legged hawks and several northern harriers have been observed at Pickerington Ponds... [more](#)

Fun events for the family

Try maple syruping over the next two weekends at Slate Run Living Historical Farm, or visit the Inniswood Metro Gardens booth at the Home and Garden Show from Saturday February 28 and vote for your favorite Metro Park... [more](#)

Spring edition of Parkscope

The spring edition of Metro Parks' quarterly Parkscope magazine will be distributed with the Columbus Dispatch on Wednesday February 25... [more](#)



Two winter hikes to go

There are two hikes to go in the annual Metro Parks Winter Hike Series... [more](#)



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.

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Land purchase approved in Plain Township

Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners approved the purchase of 92 acres of land in northern Plain Township at the February Park Board meeting. Metro Parks has an additional 108 acres under contract and owns about 214 acres in the area that will be the site of a proposed 1,200-acre park contingent upon passage of the Metro Parks levy on May 5.

Land acquired along Blacklick Creek

Metro Parks recently acquired a 35-acre parcel of land along Blacklick Creek and Brice Road, near Pickerington Ponds. This parcel is adjacent to the Blacklick Creek Greenway Trail and includes over 500 feet of Blacklick Creek. Ninety percent of the site is in the 100-year floodplain. This acquisition will help to preserve the riparian corridor of Blacklick Creek and improve water quality.

Land acquired in Big Darby Creek Watershed with grant from the Clean Ohio Fund

Metro Parks received a grant for \$987,000 from the Clean Ohio Fund to help purchase about 241 acres of land along Big Darby Creek and in the Big Darby Watershed. Metro Park will contribute about 423,000 of the projected \$1.4 million cost of the land. This will allow Metro Parks to continue its protection of this area.

The Clean Ohio Fund was established to preserve green space and farmland, improve outdoor recreation, and revitalize blighted neighborhoods by cleaning up and redeveloping polluted properties.

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Birds of prey hover at Pickerington Ponds

A couple of rough-legged hawks and several northern harriers have been observed at Pickerington Ponds in the last few weeks. These birds can be seen hunting in the fields throughout the park. A great horned owl is also sitting on her nest in the heron rookery and can be seen from both the Wright Road and Bowen Road observation areas.



Tim Daniel

Northern harrier

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Maple syruping

Join in the fun over the next two weekends at both Slate Run Metro Park and Slate Run Living Historical Farm. At the farm, you'll see maple syrup made the 1880s way and try some of this sweet treat for yourself. You can also join a hike to the sugarbush, meeting at the Buzzard's Roost picnic shelter, help to tap trees and collect the maple sap.

Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22

Saturday and Sunday, February 28 and March 1

Maple syrup making at the farm from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. each day

Hikes to the sugarbush at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. each day from Buzzard's Roost picnic shelter

Home and Garden Show

The Inniswood Metro Gardens booth will be staffed by Metro Parks employees and volunteers who can provide information and answer your questions about Metro Parks. You can also vote for your favorite Metro Park and take away promotional materials about the parks.

Ohio Expo Center (Ohio State Fairgrounds)

717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio

February 28 to March 8

Open hours:

Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sundays: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday: 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuesday: 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday: Noon - 9 p.m.

Thursday: 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday: Noon - 9 p.m.

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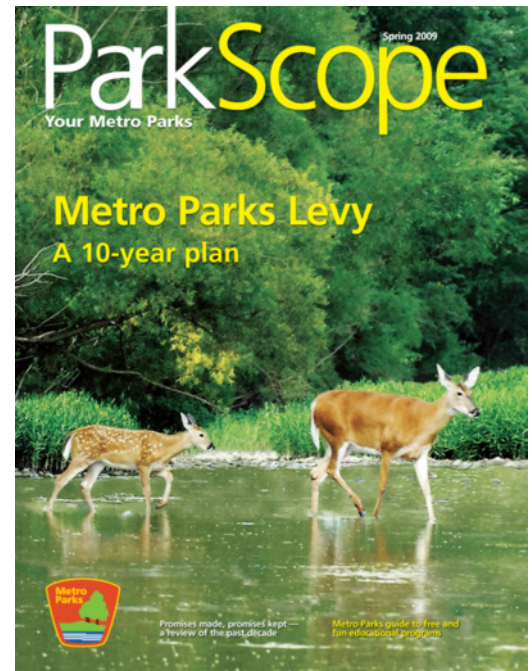
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Spring edition of Parkscope

The spring edition of Parkscope will be distributed with the Columbus Dispatch on Wednesday February 25, and will also be available in the 15 Metro Parks and online at www.metroparks.net.

This edition of Parkscope will focus on the accomplishments of Metro Parks in the 10-year period since the passing of the last Metro Parks property tax levy in 1999, with a review of the promises made (and kept) to voters back then, and a preview of Metro Parks' plans for the coming 10-year period, dependent on the passing of a new Metro Parks' property tax levy by Franklin County voters on the May 5 ballot.



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Two winter hikes to go

There are two hikes to go in the annual Metro Parks Winter Hike Series. This Saturday (February 21), Slate Run Metro Park hosts a 2-mile or a 4.5-mile hike, starting at 10 a.m. The following Saturday (February 28), Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park hosts the final hike in the series, also starting at 10 a.m., with hikes of two, four or six miles. [Park directions](#)