

Metro Parks E-Newsletter

Columbus & Franklin County



October 6, 2011

Metro Parks October board meeting

The October board meeting is at 4pm on Tuesday October 11 at Sharon Woods' Spring Hollow Lodge and is open to the public.

One week left to enter the annual nature print contest

The entry deadline for the Metro Parks Nature Print Contest is Thursday October 13. All entries will be displayed in public exhibitions at Inniswood Metro Gardens, and at Blacklick Woods and Highbanks nature centers.

[Full Rules](#)

[Entry Form](#)



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More on your Metro Parks website: www.metroparks.net

Infoline: 614.508.8000

Telephone: 614.891.0700

Try a little "Breakfast with the Bison"

The Stewards of Metro Parks invites the Central Ohio community to participate in the Breakfast with the Bison hike, taking place on Saturday October 15 at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park...

[\(more\)](#)

Nature center at Battelle Darby Creek slated for opening next year

Construction is underway on the road to the new nature center at Battelle Darby Creek which is expected to open in September 2012... [\(more\)](#)

First over the bridge

About 80 walkers and cyclists braved the early morning rain on October 1 to be the "first over the bridge" over the new Blacklick Creek Greenway trail bridge spanning US Route 33... [\(more\)](#)

New trail opens for mountain bikers

A 7-mile loop of the mountain bike trail at Chestnut Ridge will open Sunday October 16... [\(more\)](#)

Enjoy the colors of fall on a Commit To Be Fit hike

There are four hikes left in the annual Commit To Be Fit Healthy Hikes Series, starting with the hike at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park this Sunday... [\(more\)](#)

Fall events in your Metro Parks

Battelle Darby Creek and Slate Run Metro Parks host their big annual fall events in October and Metro Parks invites everyone to join the family fun... [\(more\)](#)

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Try a little *BREAKFAST WITH THE BISON* at Battelle Darby Creek

The Stewards of Metro Parks invites the Central Ohio community to participate in the Breakfast with the Bison hike, taking place on Saturday October 15 at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.

The 2-mile roundtrip hike will begin at 8:30am and start from the naturalist office at the Cedar Ridge entrance, located off Darby Creek Drive. A Metro Parks naturalist will lead the hike and provide an insiders view to the new bison habitat. Participants will also enjoy a continental breakfast.

The cost for participation is \$10 per family. This fee includes an annual Family Membership to the Stewards of Metro Parks. Advance registration, by October 10, is required. RSVPs can be submitted to membership@stewardsofmetroparks.org.

“We’re encouraging the Central Ohio community to come out and enjoy the natural settings of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and to learn more about the reintroduction of bison to the park,” said Colleen Buzza, President of the Stewards of Metro Parks. “It’s a great family-friendly event at an affordable price, plus a great way to become involved in the Stewards of Metro Parks.”

The reintroduction of bison to Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park is part of an effort by Metro Parks to restore the park to its original condition and to serve as a valuable educational tool for years to come. Six bison, all females between ages two and eight, arrived at their new home on February 4, 2011. They were transported to the park from The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio.

The Stewards of Metro Parks is a non-profit volunteer-based organization committed to supporting Metro Parks so that current and future generations have access to and value natural spaces. Additional information about the Stewards of Metro Parks is available at www.stewardsofmetroparks.org.

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Nature center at Battelle Darby Creek slated for opening next year

Construction is underway on the road to the new nature center at Battelle Darby Creek which is expected to open in September 2012. It will be in close proximity to the bison herd, Big Darby Creek, archeological features, the Darby Creek Greenway Trail and a major wetland restoration project.

The nature center will be 1,400 square feet and among the many exhibits will be an innovative indoor living stream exhibit. This 53-foot-long freshwater aquarium will feature a naturally-sourced fully functioning aquatic ecosystem. To see a prototype of this stream go to <http://darbycreeklivingstream.wordpress.com/>



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First over the bridge

About 80 walkers and cyclists braved the early morning rain on October 1 to be the “first over the bridge” over the new Blacklick Creek Greenway trail bridge spanning US Route 33. Construction is still underway as the contractor finishes work on the 874-foot span bridge. Folks will be able to cross the bridge when the barricades are down. Please check our [facebook page](#) for updates or our [twitter](#) feed or call 614.891.0700. The distance from Three Creeks to the Glacier Knoll Area of Pickerington Ponds is about nine miles. Construction continues on the trail to link Pickerington Ponds with Blacklick Woods and is expected to be completed sometime in 2012.



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New trail opens for mountain bikers

A 7-mile loop of the mountain bike trail at Chestnut Ridge will open Sunday October 16. In 2010 Metro Parks entered into an agreement with the Central Ohio Mountain Bike Organization to build 12 miles of trails in a 110-acre area of the park that had not been open to the public. For the past year, members of COMBO have worked on various weekends to layout and clear the trail. The area has some excellent terrain for mountain biking with hills, ravines and bridges over a stream. The area will be open for mountain bikes only. Trail hours will be 6:30am to a half hour before the park closes at dark.



COMBO volunteers work on clearing the ground for the mountain bike trail at Chestnut Ridge Metro Park.

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Enjoy the colors of fall on a Commit To Be Fit hike

There are four hikes left in the annual Commit To Be Fit Healthy Hikes Series, starting with the hike at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park this Sunday (October 9) at 1pm.

These final four hikes are a must for anyone who loves the beautiful fall transformation of the forests in your Metro Parks. See the colors change and meet up with old friends as you enjoy the scenery and fall weather. All the hikes begin at 1pm and are free. No pets are allowed on the Commit To Be Fit hikes.

Oct 9 **Battelle Darby Creek**

Oct 16 **Sharon Woods**

Oct 23 **Chestnut Ridge**

Oct 30 **Highbanks**

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Fall events in your Metro Parks

Battelle Darby Creek and Slate Run Metro Parks host their big annual fall events in October and Metro Parks invites everyone to join the family fun.

DARBY CREEK DAY

Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park
Sunday Oct 9, 1–4pm

Enjoy seining, noodling for mussels, canoeing, fly-fishing, live animals and more along Big Darby Creek. Meet representatives from organizations working to protect the Darby Watershed.

FALL FEST

Slate Run Metro Park
Saturday Oct 22, 2–5pm

Celebrate Slate Run Metro Park's 30th anniversary with games, crafts and activities that focus on the park's habitats and history. Play with pioneer toys, jump in a giant leaf pile, take a tram ride and see farm animals. Enjoy a popcorn and apple cider snack while listening to fun, folksy, acoustic music by The Mighty Troubadors.