



2023 MIAMI COUNTY PARK DISTRICT YEAR IN REVIEW

EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Through levy funds, the Park District offers award winning educational programs, public programs and events to the community. These programs help to promote stewardship, tourism and healthy lifestyles.

2023 SCHOOL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- 22 County schools participated in our education programs
- 3,419 students participated in our classroom programs
- 9,093 students visited the parks as part of our field programs
- 3,343 teachers, students and chaperons attended the week-long Hug the Earth School Festival
- 500 students participated in Nature Quest
- 614 students from 6 different schools participated in the after-school Outdoor Adventure Club



2023 PUBLIC PROGRAM AND OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 1,100,000 people visited Miami County Parks
- Approximately 3,500 people attended 241 public programs
- Nearly 3,900 people attended the Hug the Earth Festival
- Over 9,200 people attended the Fall Farm Feet
- 385 people registered for the 2023 Trail Run Challenge
- Thousands of vehicles went through the Holiday Lights and programs
- Over 819 volunteers logged 3,206 hours helping with projects and programs
- Seven libraries participated in programs with 153 adults and 258 children attending
- Conducted hunter and trapper training for UVCC and other organizations
- Participated in the Pollinator Expo



PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Spring Creek Confluence

Installation of two observation decks overlooking the Springcreek Confluence and the Great Miami River, north of the City of Troy's Duke Park - Robinson Reserve.



Charleston Falls Preserve

- Rebuilt lower south steps at the falls
- Installed new kiosk
- Added new benches
- Replaced subvert
- Completed restroom repairs

Lost Creek Reserve

- Installed a new climbing tower funded by a NatureWorks grant. This 35' tower is designed for children ages 5-12 and allows participants to safely enjoy a climbing experience and the adrenaline rush of riding on a zip line.
- Completed Administration office roof/kitchen repairs
- Added a workshop in the maintenance building
- Installed six new headstones in cemetery for war veterans
- Built and installed raised garden beds
- Updated natural play area

John A. Wansinger Nature Reserve

The John A. Wansinger Nature Reserve habitat restoration project is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Miami County Park District to restore streams, wetlands and adjacent riparian areas on approximately 57 acres that were impacted by past agricultural activities.

The project's goal is to provide substantially enhanced habitat diversity to the Reserve, improve water quality in the Upper Great Miami watershed and significantly improve recreation opportunities for park visitors. The project is associated with and fully funded by TNC's Ohio Mitigation Program.



Stillwater Prairie Reserve & Maple Ridge Reserve

- Installed culverts and drainage tile
- Added a 25 car parking lot
- Updated the natural play area
- Placed a stone recognizing the late Doug Haines for his years of service as Park Commissioner
- Installed new benches

Miscellaneous Parks

- Hobart Urban Nature Preserve - added stream control around bridges and installed a new bench
- Gurby Big Woods Reserve - replaced doors on barn and improved the archery range
- Greenview Falls - added/stabilized steps

THANK YOU!

This year over 819 volunteers logged 3,205 hours to make our events, festivals and park improvements possible. Thank you to each and every person and organization that volunteered their time in 2023. We couldn't do it without you!

We would also like to thank our amazing sponsors and donors. If you enjoyed any of the activities at Miami County Park District parks, there is a chance these businesses had a hand in making them better. So, next time you visit their business, be sure to thank them!

FALL FARM FEET, HOLIDAY LIGHTS & TRAIL RUN CHALLENGE SPONSORS



French Hill Winery, Maple Farm Dairy, Haines Technology, Greystone at Housley, Appleton, HillsCape, Apple Farm Service, The Hay Foundation, Island of Dr. J.G. Pappalardo, Inc., Whispering Oaks Estates, Power 107.1 FM, DuPont Family Farms, Can't Stop Raining, Miami County Public Health, Sweet that Market and Wines, Chocolates & Coffee

HOW & WHY TO PREREGISTER FOR PROGRAMS

In order to secure adequate staff and materials, some programs have a pre-registration fee. Pre-registration allows us to better manage our resources and ensure that we have enough staff and materials to run the program you plan to attend. This allows us to only pay the \$2.25 processing fee once, changed or canceled. Reservations are not required for our annual festivals.

Most programs are free, but if you plan to register for several activities that day, we will charge you a fee to help us pay the \$2.25 processing fee once. The processing fee is not a Park District fee. It is required by the credit card company.

To register for a program, visit: <https://miamicountyparks.facebook.com/Community/Calendar>

DONATING IS EASY...

There are many ways to support the Miami County Park District and its mission through your charitable contributions. Your donations benefit the parks, school education and public programs, as well as important conservation initiatives.

Become a Friend - Your tax-deductible Friends of the Miami County Park District sponsorship will help assist with funding for capital projects, program development, outreach, advocacy and the continued protection of natural resources in Miami County.

Recognition Power - Commemorate a special occasion, remember a loved one, or simply reflect your love of nature when you sponsor a power in one of our recognition areas at Charleston Falls Preserve or Hobart Urban Nature Preserve.

Dedicate a Bench - Honor a loved one or commemorate a special day with a unique and lasting gift of a bench at one of your favorite parks.

Blowby - Support the continued enhancement of the lake/way through wildlife habitat enhancement, interpretive signage and benches.

Property or Historic Artifacts - Donate property for conservation purposes or objects that have historic value relative to the Park District.

To get a complete list of options and ways to donate, visit: <https://www.miamicountyparks.com/donate>



INTERACTIVE TRAIL MAPS WITH OUTERSPACE!

Did you know that you can access information about our parks, trails, and unrated outings from your mobile device through an app powered by OuterSpace? The app is free and doesn't require a cell phone signal to access, offline mapping and navigation. The app will help you to:

- discover new places
- locate parking, restrooms, picnic areas & other park amenities
- access info about different points of interest & more
- navigate while out on the trails

MiamiCountyParks.com