



— Summer/Fall 2025 —

The Pathfinder

A newsletter from Greene County Parks & Trails



From the Director's Desk

Chuck Frazier

Like many of you, I'm excited to see winter's chill fade away, making way for green grass, vibrant wildflowers, and all the adventures that come with spring. Now is the perfect time to plan your seasonal outings and put those holiday gifts to good use!

Maybe you received a new pair of hiking boots and can't wait to hit the trails, spotting the many species of spring wildflowers while getting some fresh air and exercise. Perhaps you have a kayak waiting to glide along the Little Miami River as the landscape awakens from winter's rest. Or maybe you're eager to take your new bike for a spin along our extensive trail network, exploring Greene County and beyond. And for those of you who received a new camper—our parks and campgrounds are ready to welcome you!

Springtime Adventures Await

If wildflowers are your passion, you're in for a treat. Our parks offer fantastic opportunities to discover and identify countless species. Visit Indian Mound Reserve near Cedarville, the Narrows Reserve in southern Beavercreek Township, the Russ Nature Reserve in northern Beavercreek Township, or Pearl's Fen near Fairborn—just to name a few!

For river explorers, we provide multiple access points along the Little Miami River. You can start at the Narrows Reserve in Beavercreek, paddle south to Mill Bridge Canoe Launch near Bellbrook, and continue to Constitution Park in Spring Valley, experiencing the beauty of the season from the water.

Cyclists and campers can take advantage of Greene County's 62 miles of paved trails, which connect to the Miami Valley Bikeways—the nation's largest paved trail network, offering over 350 miles across ten counties. Along these routes, you'll find Caesar Ford Campground, conveniently located alongside the Xenia-Jamestown Connector Trail. Last fall, we added a brand-new playground to the campground, providing a perfect spot for families to unwind after a day of exploring. It's an excellent home base for discovering all five bike trails in our region.

More to Explore

In addition to outdoor adventures, we offer award-winning programs for all ages, interests, and abilities. This year's SummerFest Concert Series promises more great performances, and favorite events like the Adult Egg Hunts, Pumpkin Glow, and brand-new programs are on the horizon.



Whether you're seeking an outdoor adventure or simply a peaceful walk in the park, Greene County Parks & Trails has something for everyone. Thank you for your continued support—we can't wait to see you out on the trails!

READ MORE INSIDE!

Programming & Events

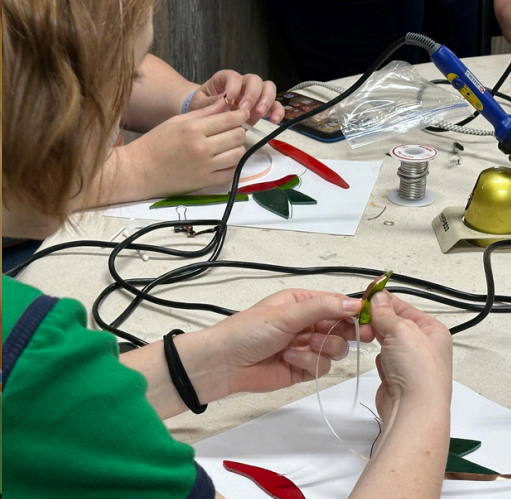
A Word from Chief Ranger Darrell Hannah

Caring For Our Parks & Trails: What Does It Take?

Small Hands, Big Impact: The Power of Local Action at Creekside Reserve

Introducing, Chronolog!

To learn more about GCP&T, visit www.gcparkstrails.com
or give us a call at 937-562-6440



*"There is no wifi in the forest,
but I promise you will find a
better connection."*

-unknown

Programming & Events

By Robin Gregory

The program team has another exciting year planned for you! All of our programs and events are listed on our website, many of which are already open for registration (if required), so be sure to check them out!

We also brought back fan favorites like egg hunts, Wiggle Worms, stained glass classes, summer camps, full moon hikes, and much more!

Beyond programs and events, we have a variety of beautiful locations available for your next family celebration, or simply to relax and recharge. Visit the reservations tab on our website to book your next party in the park, spend a weekend camping at Caesar Ford Campground, or enjoy a peaceful getaway at one of our primitive sites. Or just hang a hammock along the river and soak in the sounds of nature for an afternoon escape.

As always, we look forward to providing the spaces and experiences that help you and your family connect with nature and create lasting memories!

A Word from Chief Ranger Darrell Hannah:

Hello friends,

As we gear up for another exciting and busy season, our Ranger team is hard at work making plans to meet our goals for the year. Along with our usual patrols, helping visitors and campers, and making sure everyone stays safe by following park rules, we've got some fun and meaningful events in the works.

We're especially looking forward to hosting our Jr. Ranger Camp, the always-popular cruise-ins and car show, and an exciting concert series. We'll also be offering archery programs and partnering with the Veterans Warrior Resilience Team for some special events. It's shaping up to be a full and rewarding year — all while making sure we stay up-to-date with our annual training.

We're also hoping to welcome a new member to our team! **Applications are open**, and we're looking for someone who's ready for a role that's as dynamic as it is meaningful. Being a Park Ranger means you'll wear many hats — from enforcing rules and keeping the peace to investigating incidents and educating the public. It's a job that keeps you on your toes, but it's also one of the most fulfilling ways to serve and protect our community and natural spaces.

Here's to another great year ahead — we're excited for what's to come!



Caring for Our Parks & Trails: What Does it Take?

Greene County Parks & Trails are clean, safe, and beautiful thanks to a small dedicated team of 10 full time maintenance technicians. These behind-the-scenes workers are responsible for mowing over **30 parks** and **62 miles of bike paths**, a huge task that keeps our public spaces looking top notch!

After severe storms, downed trees and debris are quickly removed from roads and walkways, ensuring public safety. They also play a key role in setting up, tearing down, and supporting events and concerts throughout the year.

Their responsibilities extend to land management—bush hogging overgrown areas and spraying to control invasive plants. They maintain hiking trails, repair bridges and boardwalks, and handle bike path issues like root pops, seal coating, and erosion damage.

Even niche areas like the Caesar Ford Disc Golf Course benefit from gravel being periodically added to tee pads to keep them in great shape.

With such a wide range of duties, this small crew plays a big role in keeping our parks safe, welcoming, and well-maintained for everyone!



To join our team, visit:
governmentjobs.com/careers/greeneoh

Small Hands, Big Impact: The Power of Local Action at Creekside Reserve

This Earth Day, the community came together in a powerful way during the Creekside Reserve Clean Up Challenge in Beavercreek. Hosted by Greene County Parks & Trails in partnership with Greene County Sanitary Engineering, the event highlighted the importance—and impact—of local action in protecting our environment.

As spring rains had washed debris into local waterways, volunteers of all ages stepped up to help remove trash and litter from the creek and surrounding areas. Their efforts not only improved the health of the stream but also restored habitats, safeguarded local wildlife, and preserved the natural beauty of Creekside Reserve.

Participants didn't just make a visual difference—they made an ecological one. By removing harmful waste, they helped prevent long-term damage to water quality and ecosystems. The event also sparked meaningful conversations and inspired a deeper connection to the land right here in Greene County.

In true community spirit, the challenge included lighthearted competition with prizes for the most trash collected, the oddest item found, and the best dressed volunteer. It was a reminder that doing good for the planet can also bring joy, connection, and pride.

The success of this event proved that even small, local efforts—when multiplied—can lead to lasting change. The Creekside Reserve Clean Up Challenge wasn't just a cleanup; it was a celebration of what's possible when a community cares deeply about its environment.



Introducing, Chronolog!

Calling all Citizen Scientists! (This means YOU!)

We have an exciting announcement, the first Chronolog stations within Greene County Parks & Trails are LIVE!

So what's Chronolog? Chronolog is a platform that powers ongoing timelapses to record environmental change. Chronolog is used by over 100 organizations worldwide, including National Parks, wildlife refuges, universities, and museums. This will allow us to monitor vegetation growth, water levels, erosion, and more at select locations around Greene County. And the best part? The GCP&T timelapses are easily accessible on Chronolog's website, along with hundreds of other locations worldwide!

When you find a Chronolog station in our parks, simply place your phone in the bracket as directed, snap a photo, and scan the QR code on the sign to upload the photo to the time-lapse. Easy!

Explore more at
[chronolog.io/map!](https://chronolog.io/map/)



Where can you find a Chronolog station?

James Ranch
Indian Mound Reserve

Pearl's Fen
Beavercreek Wetlands Reserve



DON'T MISS THESE EXCITING ANNUAL EVENTS!

Caesar Ford Ranger Classic
July 19, 4-8 pm

**Caesar Ford Summer Fest:
Classic Rock**

July 25, gates open 5:30pm

**Caesar Ford Summer Fest:
Hip-Hop**

September 5, gates open
6:30pm

EXTREME Halloween Egg Hunt
October 10, 7:30-10 pm

Pumpkin Glow

October 23-25, 6:30-9:30 pm

ParkLights

December 1-31, 6-9 pm

