

STARK PARKS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF STARK COUNTY PARK DISTRICT 2026-2027

INSIDE

Learn About Upcoming October–March Programs
Celebrate 60 years of Stark Parks

📷 PHOTO OF PIKE RIDGE PARK





Letter from the *Director*

Happy fall everyone. I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am. I often say, "fall is my favorite color."

As we head into this fall and winter seasons, the number of events, programs, and projects does not let up. As you can see in this edition, there are plenty of ways to enjoy your parks and trails this time of year and to check out all the improvements and upgrades that we continue to make in the parks.

While the 2026 calendar is nearing an end, we are preparing for an exciting 2027. Next year is particularly special because 2027 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of Stark Parks. So much has changed in the last 60 years: the number of parks and trails; the quality and quantity of our events and programs; the way we interact with you; the amazing people that we have working and volunteering at the parks;

and the overall magnitude of impact we make and role we play in enriching life in Stark County. But one of the things that has not changed over the years is our commitment to you, our patrons, supporters, and partners, to be good stewards of your precious tax dollars and our natural resources and to strive every day to make the best park system we can.

We have events and activities planned to celebrate this exciting milestone in Stark County. I hope you will join me in taking advantage of as many of these activities as you can. I look forward to seeing you in the parks and on the trails.

So, here's to a happy 60th birthday Stark Parks!

Dan

Dan Moeglin
Executive Director

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
ACTIVITIES	
October	4
November	5-6
December	6-7
January	7
February	8
March	9
60 YEARS OF STARK PARKS ARTICLE	10-11
FRIENDS OF STARK PARKS	12-13
PARKS AND TRAILS	14
2026 STARK EXPLORING CHALLENGE	15

PARK BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings held at the Exploration Gateway,
5712 12th Street NW, Canton, OH 44708

oTuesday, October 6th, 2026 - 5:30pm

oTuesday, November 17th, 2026 - 2:00pm

oTuesday, January 5th, 2027 - 2:00pm



5712 12th St. NW
Canton, OH 44708
Office Hours

Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
STARKPARKS.COM | 330.477.3552

📷 PHOTO OF FRY FAMILY PARK



PARK ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 8TH NATIVE SEED COLLECTION

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us as we collect seeds from native wildflowers while learning about native plant restoration and biodiversity.

FRY FAMILY PARK

FREE 

OCTOBER 15TH NATIVE SEED COLLECTION

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us as we collect seeds from native wildflowers while learning about native plant restoration and biodiversity. This program is part of the Backyard Habitat Series.

PETROS LAKE PARK:

FREE 

OCTOBER 16TH SPOOKY SPECIES: SNAKES

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Celebrate the spooky season by meeting some of nature's most misunderstood wildlife. Discover the fascinating world of snakes and what makes our scaly friends so unique.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

FREE 



ICON LEGEND

 REGISTRATION REQUIRED

 FEE REQUIRED

OCTOBER 17TH FALL FEST

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Celebrate the season with wildlife encounters, hayrides, a treat trail, live music, fall themed games, fishing (bring your own pole) and more. Concessions available for purchase (cash only).

TAM O'SHANTER PARK

FREE

OCTOBER 22ND ADULT ARCHERY

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn about the equipment, proper technique, and safety before spending time working on your skills. All equipment will be provided. Closed-toe shoes are required. Ages 18+

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY

OCTOBER 23RD DATE NIGHT: NATURALLY CURIOUS TRIVIA

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

This month, we'll explore wildlife, ecosystems, and fascinating natural phenomena through trivia questions. Nonalcoholic/ alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase. Ages 21+

TAM O'SHANTER PARK

FREE 

OCTOBER 23RD SPOOKY SPECIES: BATS

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Discover the fascinating world of bats and what makes them excellent predators of the night.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

FREE 

OCTOBER 29TH LORE BY LANTERN

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Take a spooky, lantern lit walk through the forest while listening to the local lore around Quail Hollow Park.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK

FREE 

OCTOBER 30TH SPOOKY SPECIES: OWLS

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Discover the fascinating world of owls and what makes them excellent predators of the night.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

FREE 



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1ST NATIVE PLANT SWAP

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Bring your extra homegrown native plants (in small pots) or seeds (in labeled coin envelopes) to swap with fellow gardeners.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE

NOVEMBER 3RD WILDLIFE WORKSHOP: BAT HOUSE

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Put your DIY skills to the test and build your own bat box. All tools and materials provided. One kit per registration.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
\$20 IN-COUNTY/\$25 OUT-OF-COUNTY
R \$

NOVEMBER 4TH WOODCARVING 101

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn a new hobby or grow your skills! Carving volunteers will be available to help you get started. Equipment will be provided. Adults must remain with any children under 18 years of age. Ages 12+

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
\$5 IN-COUNTY/\$7 OUT-OF-COUNTY
R \$

NOVEMBER 5TH SEED CLEANING

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join us as we clean seeds that will be used to restore and enhance native wildlife habitats throughout our parks.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE **R**

NOVEMBER 7TH VETERUN

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Honor our Veterans by participating in a free 5K VeteRun (or Walk) hosted by our local parkrun organization. Visit parkrun.us/sippolake for more information and to register.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE **R**

NOVEMBER 10TH FALL FORAGING

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Discover the ripe harvest fall can provide. We will discuss acorns, fungi, and fall plants and make shagbark syrup.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
\$5 IN-COUNTY/\$7 OUT-OF-COUNTY
R \$



NOVEMBER 12TH CREATURE FEATURE: BIRDS

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Experience wildlife ambassadors up close and personal. Hear their survival stories, learn about their unique animal adaptations, and hear how we can help!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
FREE **R**

NOVEMBER 13TH NAVIGATING THE NIGHT SKY AND EVENING HIKE

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn about stars, planets, and constellations with The Wilderness Center's Astronomy Club. Feel free to bring your own equipment. A sunset hike will be scheduled at 5:30 pm prior to the stargazing event starting at 6:30 pm. If the sky is cloudy, the Astronomy Club will not be onsite, but the hike will go on.

PIKE RIDGE PARK
FREE **R**

NOVEMBER 14TH PUMPKIN PALOOZA

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Our ambassador animals will be getting a pumpkin filled with their favorite treats to enjoy for us to watch.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
FREE

NOVEMBER 16TH WILDLIFE WINTER PREP

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Learn how creatures like deer, squirrels, frogs, and songbirds prepare for freezing temperatures.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
FREE **R**

NOVEMBER 17TH ADULT ARCHERY

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn about the equipment, proper technique, and safety before spending time working on your skills. All equipment will be provided. Closed-toe shoes are required. Ages 18+

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY
R \$

NOVEMBER 18TH ADVENTURE KIDS: FANTASTIC FALL

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for a story, craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters! Learn about all there is to be thankful for the changing of the seasons and meet an animal who is preparing for the colder months ahead. Ages 3 - 5

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE **R**

NOVEMBER 19TH DATE NIGHT: GLOW SCAVENGER HUNT

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Complete a glow in the dark scavenger hunt, then relax back at the clubhouse with drinks and dessert. Alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Ages 21+

TAM O'SHANTER PARK
\$5 IN-COUNTY/\$7 OUT-OF-COUNTY
R \$





PARK ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 20TH NIGHT HIKE

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Experience the park after dark as we explore the nocturnal sights and sounds of the park's forested trails. Headlamps will be provided.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK

FREE 

NOVEMBER 21ST ADVENTURE KIDS: FANTASTIC FALL

AGES 3-5 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

AGES 6-9 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join us for a story, craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters! This month we will learn about all there is to be thankful for with the changing of the seasons and meet an animal who is preparing for the colder months ahead.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

FREE 

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1ST WINTER PHOTO CONTEST

For more information, visit
StarkParks.com/WinterPhoto

DECEMBER 2ND & 5TH QUAIL HOLLOW CHRISTMAS TEA

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Enjoy the decorated manor house, dine on tea on sweets, and enjoy a Betty White impersonator. Email quailhollowvol@gmail.com or go to www.QHVA.org to register.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK

\$35  

DECEMBER 4TH SANTA CLAUS FOR A CAUSE

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Bring a gift from the center's wish list (starkparks.com/wishlist). Spend time meeting wildlife, hang out at the Holly Hospital station and enjoy live music with hot cocoa.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

FREE



ICON LEGEND



REGISTRATION REQUIRED



FEE REQUIRED

DECEMBER 5TH LIGHT UP MAGNOLIA AND MILL OPEN HOUSE

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The Magnolia Flouring Mills will be open for holiday festivities during the village's annual Light Up Magnolia event.

MAGNOLIA FLOURING MILLS

FREE

DECEMBER 7TH & 17TH NAMASTE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Kick off the holiday season wearing your holiday bling during yoga and enjoying a special Christmas cocktail. Please bring your own yoga mat. Ages 21+

TAM O'SHANTER PARK:

\$8 IN-COUNTY/\$10 OUT-OF-COUNTY



DECEMBER 8TH WILDLIFE HOLIDAY CARDS

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Design a festive holiday card featuring photos of the park's wildlife ambassadors while learning fun facts about each ambassador and conservation.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

\$5 IN-COUNTY/\$7 OUT-OF-COUNTY

DECEMBER 9TH / 16TH CANVAS AT THE CLUBHOUSE

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Enjoy a cozy evening painting a wintry scene and sipping on a beverage. All materials provided, alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Ages 21+

TAM O'SHANTER PARK

\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$12 OUT-OF-COUNTY

DECEMBER 12TH QUAIL HOLLOW MANOR HOUSE TOURS

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Enjoy music and make a holiday craft. For more information and to register go to starkparks.com/manorhouse.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK

\$5 (3 AND UNDER ARE FREE)

DECEMBER 18TH BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Join a naturalist to learn tips on attracting birds to your winter feeders. Then join us by the windows to observe birds visiting our feeders. Binoculars and light treats will be provided.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

FREE 



DECEMBER 21ST WINTER SOLSTICE HIKE-A-THON

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Ring in the winter season with the shortest day of the year, by hiking at several Stark Parks locations. Times and locations available at StarkParks.com/Programs

FREE 

DECEMBER 22ND SANTA'S WINTER WORKSHOP

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Enjoy a craft, scavenger hunt, play Christmas Bingo and watch a holiday cartoon. Don't forget your letter for Santa!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

FREE



CANTON FEDERATION OF MUSICIAN'S CONCERT SERIES



Enjoy free live music from professional local musicians at cozy indoor locations in Stark Parks. Each performance begins at 2pm and will last approximately one hour.

Dec. 20, 2026
Silver and Strings Trio
Tam O'Shanter Clubhouse

Jan 17, 2027
Violin and Percussion Duo,
Emily Cornelius and Ross Karre
Exploration Gateway

Feb 14, 2027
Camarada Brass Quintet
Tam O'Shanter Clubhouse

March 7, 2027
NEO 5 Brass Quintet
Exploration Gateway

April 11, 2027
Azure Strings
Quail Hollow Park, Stewart Manor House


StarkParks.com/Concerts



DECEMBER 28TH & 29TH YOUTH ARCHERY

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

This introductory-level archery program is designed for youth; emphasis will be on safety, proper shooting form, and recreational target shooting. All equipment will be provided. Closed-toe shoes are required. Ages 10-17.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY

R \$

DECEMBER 30TH ADVENTURE KIDS: WINTER OPEN HOUSE

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Join us for animal encounters, a craft, an obstacle course, and more! Be prepared for an outside scavenger hunt. Great for ages 3 - 9 years old.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

FREE

JANUARY

JANUARY 8TH DATE NIGHT: UNDER THE STARS

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Learn about the night sky through trivia, games and stargazing with the Wilderness Center's Astronomy club. Stargazing is weather dependent. Ages 18+

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK

FREE R

JANUARY 8TH NAVIGATING THE NIGHT SKY

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn about stars, planets, and constellations with The Wilderness Center's Astronomy Club. Feel free to bring your own equipment.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK

FREE R

JANUARY 9TH HIKING CHALLENGE: SHIELD DAY

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Celebrate your completion of the Stark Exploring Hiking Challenge and collect your 2026 hiking shield. Receive a free limited-edition glass from Unfused Brew Hall by turning in your passport.

UNFUSED BREW HALL:

120 3RD ST NW, CANTON 44702

FREE

JANUARY 15TH COFFEE WITH CRITTERS

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Start your day with a warm cup of coffee while meeting some of our critters who call the wildlife center home. We will learn all about their stories and discover why they are important to Ohio's ecosystem. Bring your own mug.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

FREE R

JANUARY 20TH ADVENTURE KIDS: ALL ABOUT OWLS

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for a story, a craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters! This month we will have a hoot learning all about owls! Ages 3 - 5

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

FREE R

JANUARY 20TH WOODCARVING 101

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn a new hobby or grow your skills! Carving volunteers will be available to help you get started. Equipment will be provided. Adults must remain with any children under 18 years of age. Ages 12+

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

\$5 IN-COUNTY/\$7 OUT-OF-COUNTY

R \$

JANUARY 23RD HIKING CHALLENGE: SHIELD DAY

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Celebrate your completion of the Stark Exploring Hiking Challenge by turning in your passport and collecting your 2026 hiking shield. Staff will be available to attach your new shields to your stick.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

FREE



JANUARY 23RD ADVENTURE KIDS: ALL ABOUT OWLS

AGES 3-5 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

AGES 6-9 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join us for a story, a craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters! This month we will have a hoot learning all about owls!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

FREE R



JANUARY 27TH OWL PROWL

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Discover the fascinating world of owls during a guided twilight hike. Along the way we will practice our listening skills, learn about different owls and their calls, and maybe catch a glimpse or hoot of an owl in its natural habitat.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY SHELTER

FREE R

JANUARY 29TH WILD WORKSHOP: BLUEBIRD HOUSE

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Put your DIY skills to the test as you build your own Bluebird Box. All tools and materials provided. 1 kit per registration.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

\$20 IN-COUNTY/\$25 OUT-OF-COUNTY

R \$

Ranger Walks

October 14th, 5 PM - 6 PM
Walborn Reservoir
11324 Price St. NE, Alliance

November 4th, 5 PM - 6 PM
Pike Ridge Park
7498 East Sparta Ave., Magnolia

December 2nd, 5PM-6PM
Towpath: Lock 4 Trailhead:
6575 Erie Ave. NW, Canal Fulton

January 6th, 5PM-6PM
Middle Branch Trail: Gervasi Station:
5419 Johnnycake Ridge NE, Canton

February 3rd, 5PM-6PM
Wildlife Conservation Center:
800 Genoa Ave NW, Massillon

March 3rd, PM-6PM
Fry Family Park
2533 Farber St. SE, Magnolia



PARK ACTIVITIES



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2ND GROUNDHOG DAY

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Enjoy the evening with live animal viewing, woodchuck facts, games, and crafts.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
FREE

FEBRUARY 3RD ADVENTURE KIDS: TRACKS IN THE SNOW

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for a story, craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters! This month we will learn all about animal tracks and the clues they leave behind. Ages 3-5

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE R

FEBRUARY 6TH ADVENTURE KIDS: TRACKS IN THE SNOW

AGES 3-5 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

AGES 6-9 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join us for a story, craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters! This month we will learn all about animal tracks and the clues they leave behind!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE R



FEBRUARY 8TH CREATURE FEATURE: MAMMALS

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Experience our wildlife ambassadors up close and personal. Hear their survival stories, learn about their unique animal adaptations, and how we can help.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
FREE R

FEBRUARY 9TH ADULT ARCHERY

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn about the equipment, proper technique, and safety before spending time working on your skills. All equipment will be provided. Participants should wear closed-toe shoes. Ages 18+

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY

R \$

FEBRUARY 16TH WINTER TREE ID HIKE

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Join us as we hike the trails and discover some of Ohio's common trees. Learn basic techniques you can then use to identify trees in your own backyard.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK:

FREE R

FEBRUARY 17TH STARK PARKS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Enjoy live animals, family activities, display presentations, and birthday cake for all. Nonalcoholic/alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

TAM O'SHANTER PARK

FREE

FEBRUARY 18TH CREATURE CANVAS

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

If you love the Wildlife Conservation Center Animal Ambassadors, try your hand at painting one. A Naturalist will guide you step by step as we artistically capture the model's likeness.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY

R \$



FEBRUARY 20TH YETI TRAIL CHALLENGE

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Along the 2-mile trail, you will encounter challenges designed to test your skills. The trails are not conducive to strollers and will not be groomed for the event. Warm up after the run with hot chocolate in the welcome center.



FRY FAMILY PARK

FREE R

FEBRUARY 23RD OWL PROWL

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Discover the fascinating world of owls during a guided twilight hike. Along the way we will practice our listening skills, learn about different owls and their calls, and maybe catch a glimpse or hoot of an owl in its natural habitat.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK

FREE R

FEBRUARY 23RD FROGWATCH TRAINING

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

As a trained volunteer, you will assist with identification of our local frog and toad species identifying their various calls, monitoring wetlands, and recording data.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE R

FEBRUARY 25TH DATE NIGHT: WOODCARVING

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

This month, we'll learn the basics of woodcarving by working together on your own small masterpiece. Ages 18+



SIPPO LAKE PARK:

EXPLORATION GATEWAY

COST PER COUPLE

\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY

R \$



MARCH

MARCH 3RD ADVENTURE KIDS: AMPED UP AMPHIBIANS

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for a story, a craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters. This month we'll get amped about amphibians. Prepare to be outside! Ages 3 - 5

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE (R)

MARCH 3RD FELEAP'S BIRTHDAY HOP-UP

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Celebrate FeLeap's birthday with learning activities and games!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE

MARCH 4TH BACKYARD HABITAT: INTRODUCTION

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Learn how to get your yard "Certified Backyard Habitat" designation by Stark Parks. For more info, visit Starkparks.com/backyard

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE (R)

MARCH 6TH ADVENTURE KIDS: AMPED UP AMPHIBIANS

AGES 3-5 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

AGES 6-9 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join us for a story, a craft, outside exploration, and wildlife encounters. This month we'll get amped about amphibians. Prepare to be outside!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
FREE (R)

MARCH 10TH CREATURE FEATURE: REPTILES

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Experience our wildlife ambassadors up close and personal. Hear their survival stories, learn about their unique animal adaptations, and hear how we can help!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
FREE (R)

MARCH 12TH NAVIGATING THE NIGHT SKY AND EVENING HIKE

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Learn about stars, planets, and constellations with The Wilderness Center's Astronomy Club. Feel free to bring your own equipment. A sunset hike will be scheduled at 7:30 pm prior to the stargazing event starting at 8:30 pm. If the sky is cloudy, the Astronomy Club will not be onsite, but the hike will go on.

HOOVER TRAIL
FREE (R)

MARCH 16TH YOUTH ARCHERY

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

This introductory-level archery program is designed for youth. Class emphasis will be on safety, proper shooting form, and recreational target shooting. All equipment will be provided. Closed-toe shoes are required. Ages 10+

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY
(R \$)



MARCH 17TH WOODCARVING 101

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn a new hobby or grow your skills! Carving volunteers will be available to help you get started. Equipment will be provided. Adults must remain with any children under 18 years of age. Ages 12+

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
\$5 IN-COUNTY/\$7 OUT-OF-COUNTY
(R \$)

MARCH 18TH LIP BALM MAKING

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Join a Naturalist to discover the different kinds of lip balm you can make, then try it out for yourself!

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
EXPLORATION GATEWAY
\$5 IN-COUNTY/\$7 OUT-OF-COUNTY
(R \$)

MARCH 20TH SAP TO SYRUP

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us for this sweet adventure of sap tapping, collecting, boiling and syrup tasting for curious beginners and aspiring syrup makers. Drop-in and visit each station to gain the knowledge, skills, and experience to make your own pure maple syrup.

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK
FREE

MARCH 24TH DATE NIGHT: PARTNER PICASSO

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

This month, we'll paint along with a Naturalist as we craft a beautiful spring scene. Alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase. Ages 21+

TAM O'SHANTER PARK
\$10 IN-COUNTY/\$15 OUT-OF-COUNTY
(R \$)



MARCH 25TH SIGNS OF SPRING HIKE

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

There are many things that let us know warmer weather is on the way. Lace up your boots and join us as we hike the trails to look for signs of spring.

SIPPO LAKE PARK:
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER
FREE (R)





60 years
—of—
STARK PARKS

60 YEARS OF NATURE, COMMUNITY & MEMORIES



Humble Beginnings (1960s)

Over 60 years ago a group of Stark County citizens recognized a need for land preservation and recreation opportunities as development and growth occurred in cities and the suburbs. It was a lot of work to form the "Stark Metropolitan Park District" officially on Feb. 17, 1967, but that was just the first step. It took even more dedication and perseverance to keep the dream of a countywide park system alive with little funding to maintain the two original parks (Faircrest Park and Lock 4 Park) and getting the word out to all communities to paint the picture of what could happen in their area. A volunteer grass roots effort, with incredible vision and passion, worked for the next two decades to keep the dream alive as funding and interest had challenges.



Taking Shape (1970s and 80s)

Sippo Lake Park was added in 1977 along with a park director position for the first time. In 1981, metropolitan was removed from the name to "Stark County Park District" which remains the official name today, although the shorter "Stark Parks" is used most of the time. This period is when programming and field trip visits with guided tours of the trails became popular and introduced thousands to what conservation efforts meant.

Community interest also grew with community clubs hosting fishing derbies, organizing awareness events for public support, and more. Relationships with schools and educators increased, with many field trips and classroom visits continuing today, becoming annual traditions.

Becoming Countywide (1990s)

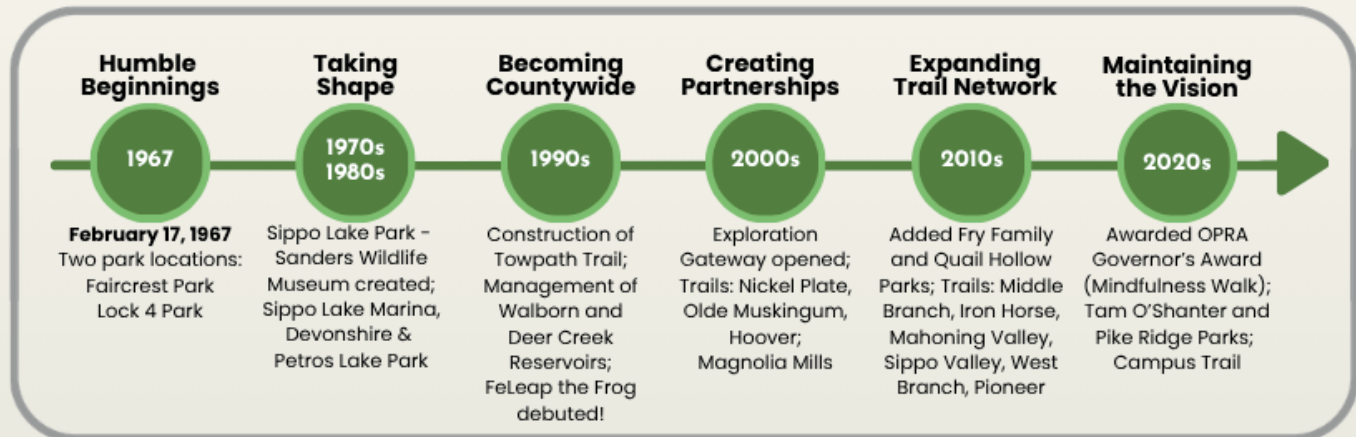
The Towpath Trail started its transition from a dirt path following the former Ohio & Erie Canal to a widened multi-purpose trail in the mid-1990s and continued through the early 2000s, linking 26 miles from Canal Fulton through Massillon to Navarre. Today, it is part of a 90+ mile trail and 110-mile Canalway corridor from Dover to Cleveland.

The first section of trail between Lock 4 and Butterbridge Rd. was constructed as a concept to show what could be. Before this, a bike on the back of a car typically meant they were leaving Stark County. The Towpath Trail would continue to develop and grow for over a decade in Stark County in segments and pieces. In the late 1990s, an agreement to manage Walborn and Deer Creek Reservoirs provided significant park destinations in eastern Stark County and the Alliance area. These areas remain a quiet wilderness unlike any other public recreation spot in Stark Parks and Stark County with adventures on the water, shoreline, and surrounding woodlands. Many people do not believe they are in Stark County or northeast Ohio! If you have not been to either location, put this on your "To Visit" list!



A must mention in this period was the creation of the hiking frog mascot, FeLeap, a popular attraction at community events, parades, and park events. Hopefully, you have given a high five, wave, or taken a picture with him over the years.

Partnerships continued to help make experiences and places happen and possibly the most prominent was with the Stark County District Library to build the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park. Opening in 2007, this was believed to be the first park and library partnership building in the nation. It continues to be a community hub in Perry Twp. and hosts programs, events, and field trips.



People Got Involved!

Just as important as the spaces were the people who were involved in preserving and enhancing them. Volunteer opportunities expanded and became more formalized with Trailblazers on the trails providing information and a face-to-face connection with park representatives. Ways to give back included helping injured wildlife, landscaping and wildlife surveying, pontoon boat captains, parade units, serving as FeLeap, and helping at nature and wildlife events and programs. Long-term and short-term volunteers continue to dedicate thousands of hours to the cause each year, a vital part of Stark Parks that completes so many experiences.

Maintaining the Vision (2020s)

The last half decade has been focused on improving features and experiences for another generation by using grant funds to supplement local funds. Resources have provided for trail surface improvements, bridge replacements, facility and restroom improvements, trail amenities like benches, wildlife habitat with invasive species removal, and refreshed signage and mapping.



Stark Parks is proud to be in your community with 15 parks, 4 lakes, and 120+ miles of trails open daily in every season. The goal remains to offer places and opportunities for you to enjoy and explore. We will keep working hard to do that each day!



Canalway Classic Spring Peeper

Saturday, March 27th, 2027 at St. Helena Heritage Park
123 Tuscarawas St NW, Canal Fulton, OH

Mark your calendars for our annual race in Canal Fulton! This family-friendly run helps Friends of Stark Parks fundraise for a number of Stark Parks projects throughout the year.

Run/walk 2 miles, 5 miles, or 10 miles on trail

- Open to all ages
- T-shirt and medal for all finishers
- Age-group awards for top 3 finishers in each age group for 5 and 10 mile races



Registration is now open! Sign up before December 31st for early-bird pricing. Scan this QR code to register or visit runsignup.com/Race/OH/CanalFulton/CanalwayClassicSpringPeeper



This holiday season, Friends of Stark Parks is inviting the community to shop local, discover unique gifts and support the parks, trails and natural spaces that make Stark County special.

From November 6-16 2026, our inaugural Trails & Treasures online auction will feature an exciting collection of items and experiences in categories such as:

- Happy Campers- family activities, gifts and adventures
- Pick Your Prize- gift cards and bundled experiences
- Gear Up & Get Out- outdoor equipment and recreation
- The Good Stuff- food, beverages and entertaining essentials
- Time Well Spent- memorable experiences and excursions
- Local Treasures- locally made products and hometown favorites
- For the Love of the Parks- unique Stark Parks experiences
- Off the Beaten Path- one-of-a-kind surprises

Every winning bid helps Friends of Stark Parks continue supporting the parks, programs and natural spaces our community enjoys year-round.

Pre-register to get an alert when bidding opens by scanning this QR code or visiting TrailsAndTreasures.ourfundraiser.events





15 Year Membership

Allen, Mary Carol	Hert, Tim & Kim
Anastis, Dan & Lindy	Hilltop Hikers
Ball, Jim & Brenda	Hunt, Bonnie & Bill
Beall, James & Maryanne	Jackson, Edward
Berrodin, Robert	Jagger, Betty
Bishop, Mike & Donna	Kelly, George M.
Blake, Chantelle	Kneidel, Kurt & Judith
Baldon, Thaine & Kathleen	Kramer, Larry J.
Brainerd, Rita	Krause, John & Mary Jo
Brundelet, Martha	Laursen, James & Marilyn
Buell, William & Ginny	Leake, Marianne
Cardarella, David	Lively, Donna J.
Case, John & Tamara	Luntz, Sharon
Chambers, Walt & Cathy	Maier, Robert & Nancy
Clevenger, Tom & Christine	Marshall, Cindy
Coughlin, Karen	Marulli, John
Cozy, Mark & Brenda	McClagherty, Charles & Martha
Crawford, Paula J.	McIlroy, Joelle
Cromer, John & Carol	Miller, Pamela R.
Csanyi, Steve & Suzanne	Miner, Bernie & Sally
Dahlheimer, Doug & Rhonda	Morris, William & Katharine
Derry, Ron	Narens, Robert & Susan
Dunlap, Richard & Sharon	Nero, Bertha
Elder, Tim	Palombo, Barbara
Elson, Gus & JoLane	Pfund, Philip & Marilyn
Fay, Robert & Peg	Pickens, Walter & Lorali
Forgan, Dalene	Pocock, Judith
Fuller, Richard	Rhodes, Carol A.
Geis, Karen	Rice, Tom & Nancy
Gessner, Susan	Rife, Terry & Linda
Gheen, Barbara I.	Riffle, Margaret
Gooding, Marianne	Rook, Clement & Ruth
Harding, Susan	Rosenik, Phil & Judy
Harrison, Dan & Lindy	Schaffner, Larry & Lori
Helwig, Jane	Schuster, John & Ann
	Schwartz, Bob & Patricia

Schwartz, Jan & Richard
 Scott, Mary Jane
 Simone, Johanne
 Singer, John & Judith
 Smith, Dan & Kathy
 Smith, Idalee
 Smith, Robert & Jan
 Stuck, Richard
 Suggett, Sandra
 Thomas, Robert
 Tolerton, Joyce
 Trapani Jr., John G.
 Violand, Charles & Karen
 Wagner, Tom & Tina
 Wallace, David & Josette
 Watson, Lindy
 Weiner, Peter
 Weise, Lynda
 Williams, David & Ruth
 Williams, Jill
 Zaleski, Linda
 Zorn, Bill & Deb

20+ Year Membership

Berner, Kay
 Bremer, Dal & Janet
 Castner, Larry Jr.
 Dolan, Rosalie
 Headley, Susan
 Heath, Antonio
 Leonard, John
 Lepucki, Richard & Shellie
 Monter, Richard & Cathy
 Moore, Gary & Janis
 Musselman, Gary & Nancy
 Savage, Gary R.
 Schultz, Carl & Andrea
 Slagle, Larry & Maude
 Stroup, Winston W.
 Vojir, Frances

Lifetime Members

Abrams, Michael & Peggy
 Crum, Deb
 Fonte, Robert Anthony
 Long, Philip & Deena
 Moore, Allan & Donna
 Sweitzer, Kirby
 Nolan, Terry & Joyce
 Witner, E James & Rachel

Tribute Donations

Donald Shook • Gerrilyn Minen • James Linerode
 Kate Morris • Kelli White • Kitty Bordner
 Marianna Wasef • Patricia Quick



Membership Application

Friends of Stark Parks is a charitable 501c3. Proceeds raised through Friends of Stark Parks events will be put towards the development of Stark Parks efforts to provide quality services to Stark County's communities.

Name or Company Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please fill out info above in the name of the person(s) receiving the membership

☐ New Member

☐ Renewing Member

Membership Levels: ☐ \$25 Friends of Stark Parks ☐ \$50 Nature Explorer ☐ \$100 Park Defender ☐ \$500 Forever Friend

☐ I would like to make a tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

☐ Please send me more information on upcoming fundraising and sponsorship opportunities.

☐ Please send me more information about volunteering at Stark Parks.

Thank you for your support!

TOTAL CHECK ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please tear off and include a check payable to Friends of Stark Parks at 5300 Tyner St NW, Canton 44708. Online payment at StarkParks.com/Friends.



PARKS & TRAILS

CAMPUS TRAIL (1.4 MI)

Between Frank Ave. and Dressler Rd., North Canton, OH

CONGRESSMAN RALPH REGULA TOWPATH TRAIL (26.4 MI)

Erie Ave. in Canal Fulton, Massillon, and Navarre Towpath Trail

COOK'S LAGOON (0.3 MI)

1819 Mahoning Rd. NE, Canton, OH

DEER CREEK RESERVOIR

14514 Price St. NE, Alliance, OH

DEVONSHIRE PARK (0.7 MI)

4679 South Blvd. NW, Canton, OH

ESMONT PARK (0.6 MI)

194 Mill St. SE, Canton, OH

FICHTNER PARK (0.4 MI)

12833 Market Ave. Hartville, OH

FRY FAMILY PARK (4.1 MI)

2533 Farber St. SE, Magnolia, OH

HOOVER TRAIL (5.4 MI)

Hoover Community Recreational Complex, 1325 E. Maple St., North Canton, OH

IRON HORSE TRAIL (7.3 MI)

First Christian Church, 1141 W. Beech St, Alliance, OH

MAGNOLIA FLOURING MILLS

261 Main St., Magnolia, OH

MAHONING VALLEY TRAIL (4.9 MI)

(Deer Creek Reservoir)
14514 Price St. NE or 182 E. Gaskill St. Alliance, OH

MIDDLE BRANCH TRAIL (7.7 MI)

Veterans Community Park, 1714 Schneider St., Canton, or Martindale Park, 4000 block of Martindale Rd. NE, Canton, OH

MINERVA CONNECTOR TRAIL (0.5 MI)

501 Alameda Ave., Minerva, OH, next to Minerva High School

NICKEL PLATE TRAIL (5.7 MI)

2923 Pinevale Ave NE, Louisville, OH

OLDE MUSKINGUM TRAIL (5.7 MI)

Forty Corners St. in Massillon to Cherry St. in Canal Fulton, 220 Cherry St. W, Canal Fulton, OH

*PETROS LAKE PARK (3.2 MI)

3519 Perry Dr SW, Canton, OH

PIKE RIDGE PARK (3.2 MI)

7498 East Sparta Ave., Magnolia, OH

PIONEER TRAIL (1.3 MI)

2600 Harvard Ave. NW, Canton, OH

QUAIL HOLLOW PARK (13.4 MI)

13480 Congress Lake Avenue, Hartville, OH

SANDY VALLEY TRAIL AND WAYNESBURG PARK LOOP TRAIL (2.6 MI)

262 Maple St., Waynesburg, OH

SARATOGA HILLS TRAIL (1.6 MI)

6000 Block of Northview Ave NE, Canton, OH

*SIPPO LAKE PARK (4.2 MI)

Sippo Lake Marina:

5300 Tyner St., Canton, OH

Exploration Gateway:

5712 12th St. Canton, OH

Wildlife Conservation Center:

800 Genoa Ave., Massillon, OH

SIPPO VALLEY TRAIL (7.9 MI)

2069 Skyland Ave NW, Massillon, OH

STARK ELECTRIC RAILWAY TRAIL (1.2 MI)

Mahoning Rd. NE in Canton, OH

TAM O'SHANTER PARK (3.3 MI)

5055 Hills & Dales Rd. NW, Canton, OH

TUSCARAWAS WATER TRAIL

Tuscarawas River, Canal Fulton, Massillon, and Navarre

WALBORN RESERVOIR (6.9 MI)

11324 Price St. NE, Alliance, OH

Eagle Observation Area

13600 Marlboro Ave, Alliance

WEST BRANCH TRAIL (4.8 MI)

1305 Stadium Park Dr. NW, Canton, OH

Legend

1-13 Towpath Trailheads

- 1 Canal Bend
- 2 Craig Pittman
- 3 Wooster St.
- 4 John Glenn Grove
- 5 Massillon Rec. Center
- 6 Lake Ave
- 7 Bridgeport Quarry
- 8 40 Corners
- 9 Crystal Springs
- 10 Butterbridge Rd
- 11 Lock 4
- 12 St. Helena Heritage Park
- 13 Lake Lucerne

Map is not to scale

Hours:
* Parks are open 24 hours a day; unless noted otherwise.





Hike 8 of the designated trails to earn your Stark Exploring hiking stick and shield. Complete all 12 trails and receive a limited-edition wooden token.

To receive your reward, turn in your completed passport at Sippo Lake Park Exploration Gateway, open Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM - 4 PM. Supplies are limited. Forms must be turned in by January 23rd, 2027.



Hiking shield attachment assistance will be offered on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 9th, 2027, 11 AM - 2 PM
Unfused Brew Hall
120 3rd St NW, Canton, OH
- Saturday, January 23rd, 2027, 10 AM - 1 PM
Exploration Gateway
5712 12th St. NW, Canton, OH

I'd like to purchase:

First-year Stick (\$15) _____

2026 Shield _____

*Free for Stark County residents
\$5 for out-of-county residents
Cash/check only

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Email _____
(to receive program, park, and trail info)

Shield recipients can send a stamped and self-addressed envelope with check payable to Stark Parks 5712 12th St. NW, Canton OH 44708.

1 Fry Family Park (Visitor's Center)
Shelter Loop: 1 mile
OR Shelter Loop to Woodland Trail: 1.75 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

2 Hoover Trail (Hoover Complex TH)
Washington Square Loop: 2.3 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

3 Mahoning Valley Trail (Gaskill TH)
Gaskill to Turnaround: 2 miles
OR Gaskill to Rockhill: 5 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

4 Petros Lake Park (Woodland Shelter)
Mindfulness Walk: 1.10 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

5 Pike Ridge Park (Parking Lot)
Parking lot to turnaround: 1 mile
OR Loop Trail: 2.5 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

6 Quail Hollow Park (Pond Parking Lot)
Green Trail: 1.25 miles
OR Green Trail to Red Trail: 3.75 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

7 Sippo Lake Park (Marina)
Sippo Lake Trail to Exploration Gateway: 1.3 miles
OR Sippo Lake Trail to Wildlife Center: 2.5 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

8 Sippo Valley Trail (Skyland TH)
Skyland Ave to Deermont Ave: 2 miles
OR Skyland Ave to 17th St: 5 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

9 Tam O' Shanter Park (Shelter)
Green Trail: 1.2 miles
OR Green Trail to Brown Trail: 2.2 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

10 Towpath Trail (Lock 4)
Lock 4 to Butterbridge: 2.6 miles
OR Lock 4 to Crystal Springs: 7.6 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

11 Walborn Reservoir (Reeder Ave TH)
Shoreline Trail to Turnaround: 2 miles
OR Shoreline Trail: 4.6 miles

Initial: _____ Date: _____

12 Hiker's Choice
Choose any trail within Stark Parks

Initial: _____ Date: _____

Trail: _____

Visit starkparks.com/starkexploring for more detailed trail information.



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 PHOTO OF WALBORN RESERVOIR

