

PLEASE HELP US

...in our endeavor to care for
Wooster Memorial Park!



Friends of Wooster Memorial Park membership is offered to any adult who supports our purpose and pays the annual membership dues. Members receive updates about FWMP activities, may vote at the annual meeting, and have the satisfaction of helping support a unique, local natural area.

Yes, I support the purpose of FWMP and would like to be a member.

_____ *New* _____ *Renewal*

Name (1) _____

Name (2) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Information will only be used by FWMP.

Annual membership(s) (\$10 per adult):

_____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

Add'l contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Additional contributions are very helpful in assisting FWMP to further its purpose, and both membership dues and additional contributions are tax-deductible!

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of Wooster Memorial Park

P.O. Box 1776

Wooster, OH 44691

Friends of Wooster Memorial Park is an Ohio non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status.

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING – Spring beauty, hepatica, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, trout lily, trillium, and wild phlox are just some of the showy, native wildflowers that welcome spring at the park, beginning in early April. Look and listen for migrating and nesting birds.

SUMMER – Look for partridgeberry, shinleaf, Indian pipe, beechdrops, and butterflies. Wade in Rathburn Run to look for minnows and gently turn over rocks to discover creek critters (please leave them in the creek). Observe changes in the Rathburn Run after a rainstorm. Have a picnic at one of two large-timbered pavilions.

AUTUMN – Enjoy fall colors, kick the leaves while hiking and find a variety of acorns and hickory nuts. In addition to magnificent oaks, beeches, and maples, identify trees such as yellow birch and large-toothed aspen, northern species remaining following retreat of the last glacier.

WINTER – A special time to see the park is on a snowy day. With leaves off the trees, the views are long. Look down at the Rathburn Run from the Ledges, and enjoy the dramatic geologic features, the snowy branches of hemlocks, and the icy waters of the Run.

Maps of Wooster Memorial Park are available at the Silver Road park entrance, the Community Center (241 South Bever Street, Wooster, OH) or online at www.friendsofwmp.com.

For questions about the park or Friends of Wooster Memorial Park, please contact Wooster Parks & Recreation at the Community Center at 330-263-5207.

FRIENDS OF WOOSTER MEMORIAL PARK



With 11.6 miles of winding foot trails including 1 mile of ADA-compliant trails, Wooster Memorial Park is known for its beautiful trees, steep ravines, rich spring flora and scenic Rathburn Run (during periods of high water, the Run may not be crossable). This primitive park is located at the intersection of Jefferson and Silver Roads, a few miles west of Wooster, off U.S. 250.

Friends of Wooster Memorial Park is a volunteer community group dedicated to the preservation and public enjoyment of this local, natural treasure. To learn more about FWMP, please visit www.friendsofwmp.com and join us on Facebook.

PURPOSE of FWMP

Through the years, various civic organizations and volunteers have contributed time and money to benefit Wooster Memorial Park.

In 1997, Friends of Wooster Memorial Park was formed. Since its inception, the group has worked to increase understanding and awareness of the park's natural features through public nature walks, encouraged natural history inventories and research, assisted park staff with trails and signs, developed a new park map, and worked with other groups to promote and improve the park as a natural area for public use.

In 2002, FWMP became an Ohio nonprofit corporation with the following purpose:

"Friends of Wooster Memorial Park recognizes and appreciates Paul S. Spangler's foresight and generous gift of this park to the City of Wooster, as well as the donations from the community that have enhanced this gift. As a volunteer organization that values the natural features of the park, Friends of Wooster Memorial Park shall work with the City as an advocate for the park in the following ways:

- * assist in caring for and improving the park while retaining the park's natural character for future generations;*
- * expand public awareness and appreciation of the park in ways that are compatible with the natural areas and foot trails;*
- * increase knowledge and understanding of the park's natural history;*
- * encourage additional gifts and financial support that appropriately benefit the park in accordance with the purpose of this organization."*

Together... we can achieve our purpose and benefit this beautiful park!

WMP's PARK HISTORY

Wooster and Wayne County are extremely fortunate to have this quiet, wooded, 422-acre park. Wooster Memorial Park was created through the vision of Paul S. Spangler (1900-1986). Mr. Spangler, a Wooster native and high school teacher, long dreamed of this area becoming a park. In 1961, he began a series of land donations (133 acres) to the City of Wooster, stipulating that the area be named 'Wooster Memorial Park' in memory of his family and strong faith. Through local foundations, the City purchased 121 acres of adjoining land (part of the former Becker farm) northwest of Mr. Spangler's gift. In June 1963, with Mr. Spangler and Mayor Robert Culbertson in attendance, Wooster Memorial Park was dedicated.

Beginning in 2007, five additional properties were purchased with Clean Ohio and local funds and added to the park: the 71-acre Strock Woods (2007), the 6-acre Monitor Bank (2008), the 49.2-acre Kenwood Acres (2015), the 34.4-acre Roller (2018), and the 16.3-acre Tooley (2018), bringing the total acreage of the park to 422 acres. A portion of the Kenwood was converted into ADA-accessible trails in 2018 through grants from the ODNR and Clean Ohio.

The park has been designated by the City as a permanent natural area.

WMP's NATURAL HISTORY

Throughout its long geologic history, Wooster Memorial Park has been covered by river systems, shallow seas, swamps, and mile-thick glaciers. The last glacial advance withdrew from this area about 14,000 years ago. Rocks in and along Rathburn Run, including some granite boulders that originated in Canada, provide evidence of this glacial past. The many years of weather and erosion since that time have cut the ever-changing Rathburn Run valley. Today, the soil, rocks, and plants in the park reflect its dynamic history.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFO

Would you like to volunteer with Friends of Wooster Memorial Park?

Name

(1) (2)

- Assist with trail work
- Lead public hikes or educational nature walks
- Assist with invasive plant control
- Assist with media and marketing
- Prefer to be a quiet supporter

Special skills, knowledge or areas of interest: _____

How would you like to receive newsletters? (choose one)

- email (as a pdf attachment) or
- mail

Comments/suggestions (including suggestions for future public events/hikes):

Thank you!