



C. Warren Parks

## Friends of Warren County Park District 2017 Annual Report

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[www.co.warren.oh.us/parks](http://www.co.warren.oh.us/parks)

### *2017.... a year of “growth” for the Park District and Friends of the Park.*

Warren County Armco Park is growing with the addition of a new softball field concession building (to be finished in 2018) while the Hisey Park Observatory was completed and dedicated in November, 2017. Children of all ages are enjoying the playscape in WC Armco Park as natural play features and new plants and flowers are a continuing addition.

Friends are financially supporting program materials to newly hired Park Naturalist, Shannon Russell. Shannon is a seasonal employee of the Park District April thru October. Her creativity, knowledge and enthusiasm has added new interest and attendance in our nature programs for the district.

Trees in the parks are lost every year from disease, wind and age. Friends of the Park use their monies from fundraising events and the Kroger Community Rewards program to purchase new trees native to southern Ohio to be planted in the various parks.

A new website was launched by Friends with the convenience of using Pay Pal for memberships, donations, and registrations. An electronic newsletter is published monthly, in season, with news of the park and a calendar of events.

Since Hisey Park was originally a working farm, Bill Lindauer, OCVN, continues the tradition by planting trees and a variety of landscape greenery in the Hisey seed garden. Bill maintains the garden and presents demonstrations of harvesting wheat, sunflowers and corn in his nature programs. Pumpkins are grown from seed and harvested for the annual Hisey Fall Festival. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the annual festival and a record crowd was in attendance.

The second year for the Fun Runs brought a growing number of new participants. This fundraiser for our park district introduces an opportunity to exercise along a picturesque and safe course within WC Armco Park. The event is for new as well as seasoned runners and walkers. First place medals are presented along with food and water for the participants.

Friends invited the community into the parks by sponsoring events like the Landen Deerfield Summer Concert Series, the WC Armco Fishing Derby, Hisey Fall Festival, the Great Backyard Bird Count and the 5K Fun Run/Walks.

The Ohio Certified Volunteer Program continued again and Friends continue to provide scholarship money to participants who attend and graduate from the program. For more information about the 2018 OCVN program, contact Erin Shaw at [littlemiamiregion@gmail.com](mailto:littlemiamiregion@gmail.com). OCVNs are an important part of our volunteer system as they provide valuable education to our nature program participants.

We invite you to join with us in our effort for continued growth for our parks in 2018 by becoming a member of Friends of the Park, sharing your time and talent through volunteering, or making a donation in support of YOUR local Warren County Park District.

Thank you and our very best to you this holiday season.

Judy Bay, President  
Cindy Glorius, Secretary  
Clint Day, Treasurer