The Foundation for All Parks in Geauga County to the Community
Message from the Presidents

The year 2022 started strong with the hiring of our new executive director, the establishment of our strategic plan, and the launching of the Foundation for Geauga Parks’ Grantmaking Program. We are looking forward to accepting grant applications from our park entities in Geauga, whether township, county or municipal.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Geauga Parks, we are pleased to introduce you to our new Executive Director Todd Gaydosh. Todd came to us from the Lake Erie Council of Boy Scouts of America where he acted as Relationship Development Director. He has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Nonprofit Administration from John Carroll University. Todd and his wife, Christine, are expecting their first child this May.

We are pleased that Paige Orvis remains on the team, providing experience and support in the areas of development and marketing, and Sue Atkinson continues to maintain our finances. Together with our growing and engaged board of trustees, we plan to accomplish a lot toward fulfilling the Foundation mission, and truly being the foundation for all parks in Geauga. We look forward to the many opportunities to see you on the trails.

Your co-presidents,

Adam Henry    Matthew Burnham

The Board of Trustees extends their sincerest gratitude to Jonathan Green, Sue Lundstrom and Barbara McCullough, who completed their Board terms in 2021. Their contributions have been immeasurable.

2022 Foundation Trustees

Adam Henry - Co-president
Matthew Burnham - Co-president
Sheryl Vernon - Treasurer
Mary Beth O’Neill - Secretary
Richard Frenchie - Emeritus Trustee

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Eric Sukalac

The Board of Trustees extends their sincerest gratitude to Jonathan Green, Sue Lundstrom and Barbara McCullough, who completed their Board terms in 2021. Their contributions have been immeasurable.

Staff

Todd Gaydosh, Executive Director | Paige Orvis, Director of Development & Marketing | Sue Atkinson, Bookkeeper

Our Mission

The Foundation for Geauga Parks is an independent, non-profit organization created to raise money to fund community engagement with nature through education, preservation, conservation, and appreciation of the unique natural character of Geauga County.
Message from your Executive Director

It is indeed my honor to take the helm as your Executive Director for the Foundation for Geauga Parks (FGP) an esteemed organization now in its 32nd year. In my first months I have had the pleasure to meet many of you in person, by phone or virtually, and I continue to be so impressed by the passion and dedication of the board trustees, volunteers and donors.

In the following pages you will catch a glimpse of how your donations are put into action to ensure we sustain the unique natural areas of Geauga County, and that our next generation has opportunities to engage with nature, with the hope they will continue the legacy of protecting and conserving some of the best parks in the nation.

We are excited to inform you about the new Grantmaking Program detailed on page 6. You will also learn more about the Pollinator Program the FGP is spearheading with support from the Cleveland Foundation Lake-Geauga Fund. Our goal is to enhance ways for our communities to learn more about the importance of protecting habitats for our pollinating insects, birds and mammals. Our first outcome will be the construction of a new Pollinator Garden and Nature Play area in Frohring Meadows.

We are looking forward to hosting more ways for you to gather with us during one or more of our upcoming events and programs. It remains a goal for me to meet more of you. I will be reaching out to many, and I welcome calls or emails from you.

Todd Gaydosh
Executive Director

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Statement of Financial Position (as of December 31, 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support &amp; Revenue</th>
<th>2021 Unaudited</th>
<th>2020 Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>134,815</td>
<td>134,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income (Loss)</td>
<td>70,643</td>
<td>83,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>205,458</strong></td>
<td><strong>218,386</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>42,10</td>
<td>29,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>74,514</td>
<td>64,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>22,928</td>
<td>27,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>139,452</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,126</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Assets                         |                |              |
| Change in Net Assets               | 66,006         | 97,260       |
| Beginning Net Assets               | 1,029,364      | 932,104      |
| **Ending Net Assets**              | **1,095,370**  | **1,029,364**|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2021 Unaudited</th>
<th>2020 Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>155,880</td>
<td>164,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>9,895</td>
<td>10,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketable Securities</td>
<td>932,633</td>
<td>854,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,098,408</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,029,482</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Liabilities                         |                |              |
| Current Liabilities                 | 3,038          | 18           |

| Net Assets                          |                |              |
| Unrestricted Net Assets             | 245,940        | 245,806      |
| Restricted Net Assets               | 849,430        | 783,558      |
| **Total Net Assets**                | **1,095,370**  | **1,029,364**|

| **Total Net Assets & Liabilities**  | **1,098,408**  | **1,029,482**|
Supporting nature education is a core focus of the Foundation mission. The nature education fund underwrites costs for Geauga Park District’s Nature Scopes, program supplies, transportation for schools, and scholarships.

**Geauga Park District’s Nature Scopes**

The Foundation for Geauga Parks has been the primary funder of binoculars, field guides and other supplies since this groundbreaking program’s inception in 2003. Geauga Park District’s Nature Scopes trains fifth-grade students in all Geauga County schools how to use binoculars for observing nature at a distance or up close with a microscopic view.

From virtual classroom to schoolyard exploration, fifth-grade classes in the 2020-21 school year participated in hybrid Nature Scopes learning. Eleven Geauga schools joined the program, and every participating student received a pair of Celestron 7X35 Binoculars, The Night Sky guide and a Geauga County Plants & Animals guide paid for through funding from the Foundation for Geauga Parks.

**School Field Trips**

FGP awards field trip transportation grants to schools traveling to and from parks for school field visits with a naturalist through Nature Scopes and other nature education programs. The Foundation stands ready to fulfill those needs when schools are ready to return to their nature classrooms in the parks.

**Geauga Skywatchers**

415

Children and adults attended 2021 Geauga Skywatchers programs

Geauga Skywatchers consists of a team of collaborating organizations that joined forces to inspire and encourage learning about and engaging with the night sky. Offering a combination of in-person and virtual programs throughout 2021, the Skywatchers explored topics like weather, black holes, geocentrism, UFOs and more, led by guest speakers from NASA, Geauga Park District, Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society and others. Consequently, attendance continues to soar.

The Foundation for Geauga Parks collects and manages funds for this growing group of night sky enthusiasts. Through these funds, Geauga Skywatchers has supplied high-quality telescopes to each of the Geauga County libraries, where they are available to check out for free.
The Foundation for Geauga Parks continues its commitment to conserving the beautiful and diverse habitats of Geauga County. In 2021, funds raised specifically for conservation projects within Geauga Park District were distributed to conduct the ongoing natural resource management work in Frohring Meadows in Bainbridge Township and Observatory Park in Montville Township.

**Habitat Management**

A critical function of Geauga Park District's Natural Resource Management department is to manage the reduction and prevention of undesirable invasive plants like Canada thistle, common teasel, hybrid cattail and reed canary grass. If left unchecked these species would choke out critical habitat for pollinators, migratory wetland/shorebirds, amphibians and reptiles.

Management practices include physical removal, chemical control and prescribed burns. To continue to propagate desirable species, staff and volunteers collect native seeds to be used in future meadow restoration projects and to contribute to a multi-state pollinator initiative entitled Project Wingspan, which is part of The Pollinator Partnership.

Geauga Park District staff continues to manage wetlands with the goal of restoring and creating habitats for waterfowl and migrating and nesting bird species. Their success is evidenced by the wildlife attracted to these parks.
Your Dollars at Work

GRANTING

FGP Grantmaking Program

During the year 2021, Foundation Trustees and staff made it a priority to establish a Grantmaking Program to make funds available for all park entities in Geauga County, whether they are managed by township, county or municipal authorities.

The purpose of the Foundation for Geauga Parks is to help parks and organizations raise funds for projects and programs that align with our mission and help ensure residents and visitors have the opportunity to access and appreciate the beauty of our county’s natural spaces. We encourage organizations to apply for funding assistance, and we have a menu of resources available to help our communities.

Small Grants Program
Each year, FGP budgets a specific amount of restricted funds available for small grants in the range of $500 - $5,000 to support:
• Park and trail improvements
• Nature education programs
• Education scholarships for studies in natural resources

Applications are available on the Foundation website and will be accepted by:
June 1 for decision at July 20th board meeting or
November 1 for decision at December 14th board meeting

School Field Trip Transportation Grants
The Foundation continues to offer transportation grants for schools to travel to parks for naturalist-led programs. The Foundation will reimburse bus fees up to $200 per bus and reserves the right to fund only one field trip per building per grade per school year.
Applications must be submitted no less than one month prior to the field trip.

Large-scale Funding Support
Your park district or municipality may have a project planned for land acquisition or park improvements that exceeds the maximum funds available through grants from the Foundation. If this is the case and your project falls within our grantmaking intent, we would consider making resources available to assist your team in raising money for your projects.

Our team may collaborate with your team to:
• Develop a strategic fundraising plan
• Build collaborations with complimentary organizations
• Research sources of funding (public, private, nonprofit)
• Write grant applications
• Develop metrics to measure the progress and success of your project or program.

Learn more about the Grantmaking Program at www.foundationforgeaugaparks.org/pages/grants

Welton’s Gorge, Geauga Park District
Plans continue to move ahead for the Pollinator Garden Program initiated in 2020 by the Foundation for Geauga Parks, with support from the Cleveland Foundation Lake-Geauga Fund. Project goals include:

- Establishing one or more demonstration gardens
- Creating educational materials and signage
- Equipping our local citizens with the knowledge to protect pollinators in their own neighborhoods.

During 2020 and 2021 the Foundation for Geauga Parks worked in collaboration with Geauga Park District (GPD) to create a demonstration garden in Frohring Meadows, one of GPD’s most popular properties. Together we contracted with DERU Landscape Architecture to create a plan for a Pollinator Garden & Nature Play area where kids of all ages can:

- Learn about the benefits of protecting pollinator habitats
- Learn about birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinating species
- Climb, crawl, dig, balance and tunnel on nature-based play features.

This signature garden is slated for construction in 2022, and we look forward to celebrating its opening.

Meanwhile, we continue to expand our network to build a partnership of organizations in the county that are committed to raising awareness of practices that will stem pollinator habitat loss, encouraging those practices, and providing educational opportunities for students and the public at large.

Why Pollinators?

Pollinators like birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles and small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for sustaining approximately 1/3 of our food sources and our planet’s ecosystems. Pollinators around the world are facing threats from habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. We can all help stem these losses.

- Between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for fertilization.
- More than 200,000 species act as pollinators. Of those, about 1000 are hummingbirds, bats and small mammals such as mice. Others are insects, like beetles, bees, ants, wasps, butterflies and moths.
- In the U.S., pollination produces nearly $20 billion worth of products annually.
- Geauga County, Ohio, is home to nearly 70,000 acres of farmland, roughly 20% of the county land use.
Making a Difference Together

The Board of Trustees offer its deepest gratitude to all who supported our work during 2021. We appreciate your generous support through donations and sponsorships. Together we are supporting high quality parks, preserves and nature education.

$10,000 +
Carol Donaldson
Ray & Patty Laubenthal
Preston Superstore

$1,000 – $7,500
Auxin Group Wealth Management
Brakey Energy Retail LLC
Linda L. Brown, Ph.D.
Chardon Rotary Foundation
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$101 – $499
Mike Albright
Linda Angstrom
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Cynthia Boehnlein
Edgar Boles
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Elizabeth Buchanan
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Jill Harmat
William Hatch
Dogwood Valley Garden Club
Sheryll Hatridge
Elizabeth Hellmuth
Adam & Ashley Henry
Linda Henry
J. Anne Henry
J. John Hollister
Cara Holmberg
David & Nancy Hooker
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Ohio Endowment for Art Music and Physical Education

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Karen Wright

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J. Anne & David Bambic
Diane Bellas
Cheryl Bessette
Kevin Blake
Rosemary Brandt
Craig Brenner
Anne Burke
Lynne L. Charney
Jamie Conkey

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DogWatch Hidden Fences of Cleveland
Robert Frieden
Kevin & Kristina Hocevar
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$101 – $499
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James Bottger
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John Budz and Jennifer Goulden
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Kimberly Erdman
Getchen Faro
Mark Ferguson
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Lorin Folger
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Linda & Leonard Golding
Julie Gorenc
Emilie Gottsegen

Mary Perkins
Christopher Powell
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Dean & Susan Scherbel
Therese Sobolay
James Spohr
Barnes Taft
Sheryl & James Vemon
Michael Wiseman

Melissa Graham
Jonathan Green
Ron Hamilton
Jill Harmat
William Hatch
Dogwood Valley Garden Club
Sheryll Hatridge
Elizabeth Hellmuth
Adam & Ashley Henry
Linda Henry
J. Anne Henry
J. John Hollister
Cara Holmberg
David & Nancy Hooker
Richard Hyde
Gideon Johnson
George Jordan
Kyraki Karalis
Joy Keco
Kathy Leaver
John & Pat Leech
Erwin Leif
Kimm Leininger
Ann Lentz
Lucie Liang
Jim Lieber
Brooke Long
Betsey Luce
Mary Malloy
Janet Maurer
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Tim & Polly Stef en
Marta Stone
Chris Stroble
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Karen Wright

Up to $100
Rosemary Balazs
J. Anne & David Bambic
Diane Bellas
Cheryl Bessette
Kevin Blake
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Craig Brenner
Anne Burke
Lynne L. Charney
Jamie Conkey
2021 Donor Recognition

In Honor of:

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Teresa Runion  
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In Memory of:

William Angstrom  
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John Beclay, Sr.  
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Stephen Bloch
Barbara Bloch
Cynthia Boehlhein
Anne Burke
Carol Donaldson
Michael Doudican

Bonnie Fish
Chardon Rotary Foundation
Ohio Endowment for Art Music and Physical Education
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Donna Murphy
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Chris Stroble

J udith Ann Tucholsky
Robert Yusek

Pollinator Program

The Cleveland Foundation
Lake-Geauga Fund

2021 Trail Challenge

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Matthew Burnham

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J ulie Deibel
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Barry Owen
Marcia Owen
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DogWatch Hidden Fences of Cleveland
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In-Kind Donations
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Avanti Hair Salon
Bella's Homemade Dog Biscuits
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James Bottger
Rich Bradshaw
Buckeye Chocolates
Burton Carpet Shoppe
Camp Hi Canoe & Kayak
Chagrin Valley Music
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Crooked Pecker Brewing Co
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Mary Ann Sedivy
Sharon James Winery
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Sunrise Farms
Jeff Suntala
The Nature Conservancy in Ohio
Vintage Wine Distributor

Save the Dates

Geauga Park District & the Foundation for Geauga Parks are excited to co-present this year's Caveman Crawl!

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
Caveman Crawl
5K Trail Run & 1-Mile Fun Walk
The West Woods • Russell Twp.

Cave garb encouraged!
Registration: 7 AM
Race Start: 9 AM

All proceeds support the Pollinator Garden and Nature Play Area, built through the collaboration of the Foundation for Geauga Parks and Geauga Park District. Funding provided in part by the Cleveland Foundation Lake-Geauga Fund.

Twilight Soiree
Saturday, August 20, 2022
Veterans Legacy Woods • Newbury Twp.

Food • Libations • Music • Auction & More


All proceeds support the Foundation for Geauga Park’s mission to fund community engagement with nature through education, preservation, conservation and appreciation of the unique natural character of Geauga County. This magical evening celebrates all of the parks of Geauga County.
Thank you for your support! Through your generosity we can continue a legacy of education, preservation and exploration in Geauga County through 2022.

Donation Amount: $ ________________

I would like my donation applied to:

☐ Greatest Need (Unrestricted)
☐ Park and Trail Enhancements
☐ Nature Education
☐ Geauga Skywatchers
☐ Bridle Trail Fund
☐ Pollinator Program
☐ Donation matched by: ________________

Name: ________________________________
Street: ________________________________
City, State: ____________________________
ZIP Code: ____________________________
Phone: ______________________________
Email: ______________________________

Please make checks payable to: Foundation for Geauga Parks

Prefer to donate online? Go to www.foundationforgeaugaparks.org/pages/donate
We are pleased to announce Preston Superstore as our 2022 Lead Business Partner.