



Foundation *for*
Gauga Parks

The Foundation
for All Parks in
Gauga County

2021-2022
Report
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



L-R: Adam Henry, Matthew Burnham

2022 Foundation Trustees

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Matthew Burnham - Co-president
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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.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd".

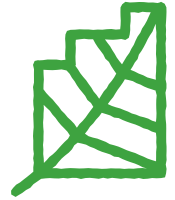
Todd Gaydosh
Executive Director

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

Support & Revenue	2021 Unaudited	2020 Audited
Contributions & Other Income	134,815	134,700
Investment Income (Loss)	70,643	83,686
Total Revenue	205,458	218,386
Expenses		
Program	42,010	29,337
General & Administrative	74,514	64,121
Fundraising	22,928	27,668
Total Expenses	139,452	121,126
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

Assets	2021 Unaudited	2020 Audited
Current Assets	155,880	164,577
Other Assets	9,895	10,864
Marketable Securities	932,633	854,041
Total Assets	1,098,408	1,029,482
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	3,038	118
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

FUNDING *Nature Education*



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.



Virtual introduction to Nature Scopes
Photo: Geauga Park District

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.



Using binoculars as a microscope
Photo: Geauga Park District

788

Students awarded binoculars and field guides for 2020-21 school year



10,000+

Students graduated from Nature Scopes training 2003-2021



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.



415

Children and adults attended 2021 Geauga Skywatchers programs

Geauga Skywatchers Partners

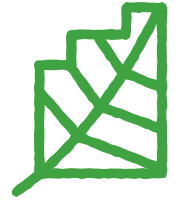


Geauga Skywatchers consists of a team of collaborating organizations that joined forces to inspire and encourage learning about and engaging with the night sky. Offering a combination of in-person and virtual programs throughout 2021, the Skywatchers explored topics like weather, black holes, geocentrism, 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.

FUNDING

Natural Resources Conservation



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.



Solitary Sandpiper in Wetland Habitat
Frohring Meadows
Photo: Paul Pira



Meadow Habitat
Observatory Park
Photo: Paul Pira

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

GROWING *Pollinator Garden Program*



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:

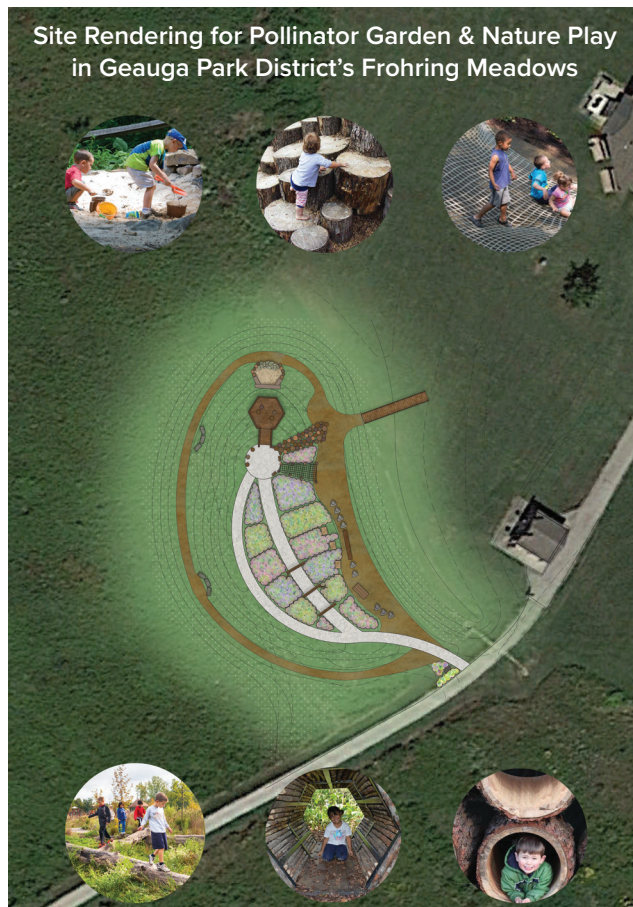
- Learn about the benefits of protecting pollinator habitats
- Learn about birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinating species
- Climb, crawl, dig, balance and tunnel on nature-based play features.

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.



Site Rendering for Pollinator Garden & Nature Play in Geauga Park District's Frohring Meadows



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 1,000 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.



For updates, follow www.foundationforgeaugaparks.org/pages/pollinator-project
Find additional resources at www.pollinator.org

Making a Difference Together

The Board of Trustees offers 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
Keith & Tina Corkwell
The Davey Tree Expert Company
Casey Forbes
Richard & Christie Frenchie
Geauga Grain & Feed
William D. Ginn
Joe Haas
Terence and Laura Holland
Ruth Holm
Junction Auto Family
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Cleveland
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Jaqueline Hoyt
Hustling Hen LLC
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NMS CPAs
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Perkins Charitable Foundation

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James J. Spoth
Barnes Taft
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Ron Hamilton
Jill Harmat
William Hatch
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Elizabeth Hellmuth
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Iola Skinner
Dori Smith
Randolph Snow
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White Management, Inc
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Cheryl Bessette
Kevin Blake
Rosemary Bradt
Craig Brenner
Anne Burke
Lynne L. Charney
Jamie Conkey

Julie Deibel
Annie Demko
Michael Doudican
Tom Duncan
Linda Durante
Joanne Durante
Elizabeth Arnebeck Eagles
Michael & Joan Fath
Sheldon Firem
Bonnie Fish
Kathryn Flynn
Gregory Foley
William Franz
Janice Gallagher Ph.D.
John E. Gazzuolo
Girl Scouts Troop 70011
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Ellen Green
Nancy Hart
Dorothy W Henry
Lisa Hupfer
Robert Johnson
Erin Kearns
Richard Kluchar
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Monica Radu
John Raguz
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Sharon Schnall
John Senderak
Sunil Shah
Gail M Shelley
Patricia C Soper
Robert Starr
Cris Takacs
Dave Terrill
Claudia Toth
Gina Verbrugge
Vickie Ward
Polly Whiting
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In Honor of:

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Stephen Bloch

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Dogwood Valley Garden Club

Nico, Dmitri and Ari Monger

David Monger
Progressive Insurance
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Paige Orvis

William D. Ginn
Emilie Gottsegen

Chris Parker

Blackbrook Audubon Society

Teresa Runion

Rosemary Balazs

Sandy Ward

Mike Albright

Trevor Wearstler

Dogwood Valley Garden Club

In Memory of:

William Angstrom

Linda Angstrom

John Beclay, Sr.

Cara Holmberg
Mary Malloy
Barbara Partington
Nancy Ross

Violet G. Childs

Richard Childs
Lisa Hupfer
Diane Morrissey
John Raguz
Vickie Ward

Brian Eldridge

Robert Johnson

William D. Ginn

Dorothy E Bambach
Elizabeth Buchanan
Michael Fath
Anne & Walter Ginn
Ruth Holm
David & Nancy Hooker
Paige Hosier Orvis
Protect Geauga Parks
Sandra and Robert Reid
Harvey Shankman
The Davey Tree Expert Company

Harley Gozdanovic

Linda Angstrom

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Protect Geauga Parks

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Thomas J & Susan W. Vitello

Robert Wellman Jr.

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Janice Gallagher Ph.D.

Bridle Trail Fund

Carol Donaldson
Linda Golding
Sandra Piktura
Catherine Ullman

Chip Henry Institute

Kinetic Incorporated
Protect Geauga Parks
John D. Peck
Sandy Woolf

Gauga Park District

Dogwood Valley Garden Club
Lorijo Folger
Girl Scouts Troop 70011
Terence & Laura Holland
Marilyn M McAfee

Gauga Skywatchers

Joanne Bambic
Thomas Buckles
Ian Cooper
Ron Hamilton
Susan Krobusek

Nature Education

(including Nature Scopes)

Linda Angstrom
Cheryl Bessette
Dan Best
Stephen Bloch
Barbara Bloch
Cynthia Boehnlein
Anne Burke
Carol Donaldson
Michael Doudican
Bonnie Fish
Chardon Rotary Foundation
Ohio Endowment for Art Music and
Physical Education
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Erwin Leffel
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Pollinator Program

The Cleveland Foundation
Lake-Gauga Fund

2021 Trail Challenge

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Pam Carson
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Michael Ranallo
Sunil Shah
Dori Smith
Dave Terrill
Claudia Toth
Gina Verbrugge
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Polly Whiting
Donald Woodcock

2021 Business Partners

Lead Business Partner

Preston Superstore

Preservation Partner

Auxin Group Wealth Management

Conservation Partner

Kinetico Incorporated

The Lubrizol Corporation

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DogWatch Hidden Fences of Cleveland

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Mary Beth O'Neill, Keller Williams

Greater Cleveland Northeast

Michael Wiseman

NMS CPAs

In-Kind Donations

All About Dogs of NEOH

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Sue Atkinson

Avanti Hair Salon

Bella's Homemade Dog Biscuits

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Camp Hi Canoe & Kayak

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Wayne Chunat

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Crooked Pecker Brewing Co

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DogWatch Hidden Fences
of Cleveland

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Jacqueline Samuel

Mary Ann Sedivy

Sharon James Winery

Shell's Dog Design

Shetler Office Solutions

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!**

**Please plan to join us for this
4th annual event, presented by the
Foundation for Geauga Parks.**

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

<http://bit.ly/2022cavemancrawl>

Twilight Soiree

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Veterans Legacy Woods • Newbury Twp.

Food • Libations • Music • Auction & More

Details updated at <https://bit.ly/FGPTwilightSoiree>

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.

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.

STAYING *Connected*



The Foundation for Geauga Parks consists of a dedicated board of trustees and small staff, and we love staying connected with you who share our passion for the preservation of our natural areas in Geauga County. We provide opportunities throughout the year to join us in the parks or explore nature during educational programs or special events.

Take advantage of our **Explorers Series** to join like-minded individuals in exploring a different park in Geauga County each month by boots, pedals, paddles or skis. Each experience provides a fun way to get outdoors, meet new people and learn more about the natural, historic and cultural beauty of our county. See our full list of outings for 2022 at www.foundationforgeaugaparks.org/pages/explorers-series. Be sure to join our email list if you want to receive updates.

Geauga Skywatchers was formed as a collaboration of organizations interested in promoting scientific thinking for the young and young-at-heart through the study and practice of astronomy. This group typically meets the first Monday of each month for in-person or virtual classes as conditions allow. Watch for program details in the Foundation email announcements.

Thanks to donations to the Geauga Skywatchers fund, **telescopes are available for loan** from every Geauga County library. Collaborators are the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society, Geauga County Public Library, Burton Public Library and Geauga Park District.

Whether you are passionate about protecting and exploring nature in the parks or your own backyard, we'd love to hear from you. We appreciate your ongoing support of the work and mission of the Foundation for Geauga Parks and invite your continued participation.



Explorers Series Hike
Orchard Hills Park • October 2021

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: \$ _____

Name: _____

I would like my donation applied to:

Street: _____

☐ Greatest Need (Unrestricted)

City, State: _____

☐ Park and Trail Enhancements

ZIP Code: _____

☐ Nature Education

Phone: _____

☐ Geauga Skywatchers

Email: _____

☐ Bridle Trail Fund

☐ Pollinator Program

☐ Donation matched by: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Foundation for Geauga Parks

Prefer to donate online? Go to www.foundationforgeaugaparks.org/pages/donate

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(440) 564-1048

www.foundationforgeaugaparks.org

admin@foundationforgeaugaparks.org



Foundation *for*
Gauga Parks

12375 Kinsman Rd, Suite H-10
Newbury, OH 44065



*We are pleased to announce
Preston Superstore as our
2022 Lead Business Partner.*



Explorers Series Hike
The West Woods • February 2021