Message from the President

Welcome to a new year! On behalf of our board of trustees, I invite you to explore this Annual Report and learn about the forward momentum of the Foundation for Geauga Parks. As the Foundation’s new president, I continue to be impressed by the dedication and hard work of this board and staff.

Each committee is actively working toward advancing the work of the Foundation and being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. We are a passionate group of people who love the parks and stand firmly behind our mission to raise money to support all the parks in Geauga County. We invite you to inquire if you have questions about anything from marketing and governance to financial accountability.

We continue to build collaborations with other organizations and individuals. If you are interested in protecting the natural resources of Geauga County, I’d encourage you to learn more about getting involved, donate, or simply come say hello at one of our signature events or monthly Explorer Series hikes!

We can all make a difference together.

Eric Sukalac, President

2023 Foundation Trustees

Eric Sukalac - President
Keith Corkwell - Vice President
Sheryl Vernon - Treasurer
Mary Beth O’Neill - Secretary
Richard Frenchie - Emeritus Trustee

Dan Best
Matthew Burnham
Andy Bushman
Adam Henry
Kyriaki Karalis

Carl Langer
Marcia Owen
Linda Brown Pallay
Mark Sarlson

The Board of Trustees extends its sincerest gratitude to Carolyn Brakey and Jennifer Salo, who completed their Board terms in 2022. Their contributions have been immeasurable.

Staff

L-R: Sue Atkinson, Finance | Paige Orvis, Marketing | Erin Stevenson, Administration

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.
A Year in Review

“For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realize that, in order to survive, he must protect it.” – Jacques-Yves Cousteau

At the core of the Foundation’s mission is to support all the parks and preserves in Geauga County, a destination rich with natural spaces, mature forests, clean water and fresh air. Protecting these resources helps sustain a rich quality of life for our communities and residents.

This past year we have been able to celebrate accomplishments that were made possible in part by support from the Foundation for Geauga Parks (FGP). In 2022, FGP formally launched the Grantmaking Program, by which agencies, municipalities or individuals could request financial support in the areas of parks and trails improvements, nature education programs and conservation education scholarships.

In this Report you will learn a little bit about the funds granted for those purposes, and the ways our communities are being impacted. You will learn how your donations are helping to underwrite park improvement projects in Chardon Living Memorial Park, Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s Great Blue Heron Preserve in Burton Township, and Geauga Park District’s Observatory Park and Maple Highlands Trail.

We can celebrate together the inquisitive minds that are benefitting by your support for Geauga Park District’s Nature Scopes program, Geauga Skywatchers Program, the FGP school field trip transportation grants, and the young scholars awarded conservation education scholarships.

Enjoy this year in review and a glance at what is over the horizon.

Statement of Financial Position (as of December 31, 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022 Unaudited</th>
<th>2021 Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>240,366</td>
<td>130,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income (Loss)</td>
<td>(126,100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>178,880</td>
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<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
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<td>63,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>308,825</td>
<td>135,488</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(194,558)</td>
<td>66,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>1,095,370</td>
<td>1,029,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Net Assets</td>
<td>900,812</td>
<td>1,095,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022 Unaudited</th>
<th>2021 Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td>Marketable Securities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<td>1,098,408</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>2,638</td>
<td>3,038</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>226,075</td>
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<td>Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>900,812</td>
<td>1,095,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets &amp; Liabilities</td>
<td>903,450</td>
<td>1,098,408</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding
Parks & Trails Improvements

Because of your donations, FGP provides grants to improve parks and trails across Geauga County.

Collaborating to Enhance New Parks

Blue Heron Preserve, located in Burton Township, is a newer preserve made available to the public as part of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s (WRLC) Signature Parks and Preserves program. In response to the regional need for access to outdoor spaces during the pandemic, WRLC launched a soft opening of this preserve in 2019, then stepped back in 2022 to make long term improvements. The Foundation for Geauga Parks is pleased to collaborate and grant funds to help underwrite trail improvements in the Blue Heron Preserve.

Collaborating to Improve Existing Parks and Trails

The City of Chardon opened Chardon Living Memorial Park to honor the victims of the 2012 school shooting. In 2022, the city began improvements to include building a new concrete restroom and connecting all of the walking trails to create one continuous loop. Funding from FGP will help improve the trail. Work is expected to continue in the spring of 2023.

Geauga Park District’s (GPD) Maple Highlands Trail is a staple in Geauga County, allowing pedestrians to peddle, walk, ski or run for 21+ miles from the northernmost edge of the county in Chardon to the southern end of Middlefield. Funding from FGP enabled GPD to install new and improved mile markers along the trail to help trail users identify where they are on the trail at regular intervals, as well as to help safety forces find trail users in distress.

Observatory Park is a signature “Silver Tier Dark Sky Park” in Geauga Park District, and a great fundraising success story for the Foundation for Geauga Parks. After being open to the public for 12 years, the interpretive signage was in need of a facelift. Thanks to the generous donation of the Geneva T. Bateman Endowment Fund, these improvements came to fruition.
Your Dollars at Work - Grantmaking

FUNDING Conservation Education

Because of your donations, FGP provides grants to support nature education programs and scholarships.

Supporting Nature Education Programs

Geauga Park District’s Nature Scopes Binocular Program

It has been an honor for FGP to continue supporting this signature program, created in 2003. The vision has been to inspire our next generation of conservationists by providing the tools of binoculars and field guides and the training to use them at a pivotal age. Since the program’s inception, FGP has been able to fund the binoculars and field guides for the annual program, now serving every public and parochial school in Geauga County.

840 Students awarded binoculars and field guides for 2021-22 school year

11,000 Students graduated from Nature Scopes training 2003-2022

Geauga Skywatchers

Geauga Skywatchers continues to evolve since it was first created in 2019 by a team of collaborating organizations whose common goal is “to inspire scientific thinking in the young and young-at-heart through the study and practice of astronomy.” In 2022, programs were hosted every month, in person and/or virtually, exploring topics like women in space, animals in space, asteroids, Saturn and more.

In addition to programs, FGP has supplied every library in Geauga County with telescopes that may be checked out for private use.

200 Skywatchers attended programs in 2022

113 Number of times telescopes were borrowed from Geauga County libraries since 2019

School Field Trips

FGP awards field trip transportation grants to schools traveling to and from parks. We help ensure school field visits with a naturalist through Nature Scopes and other nature education programs.

276 Students were transported to parks for nature education programs

"I am going to use my binoculars to find cool new things in my creek. I am so excited to use them. Thank you again for doing so much stuff so we can have them. I also love the activities we did.

-- Ora (Cardinal Middle School)"
Your Dollars at Work - Grantmaking

FUNDING
Conservation Education

Supporting Conservation Scholarships

The Foundation is pleased to award education scholarships to students entering fields of conservation. In 2022, FGP helped support the scholarships awarded through Protect Geauga Parks’ Bob McCullough Conservation Scholarships program, established in memory of the beloved Geauga Park District commissioner and educator. Three students earned that esteemed recognition.

Additionally in 2023, FGP launched its own Conservation Scholarship Program. Watch for this year’s recipients in the news.

The Bob McCullough Scholarship has been a huge support for my college education, and a huge benefit for me as I begin my career in agriculture. The scholarship has led me to become more educated on sustainable agriculture. I cannot thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to help further my education. -- Mike Soltis, Wilmington College

Supporting Outdoor Adventure Camps

In 2011, the Chip Henry Institute for Outdoor Adventure was a fund established with the Foundation for Geauga Parks in memory of Geauga County Juvenile and Probate Judge Charles “Chip” Henry. The founders of the fund were driven by the important mission to nurture youth in Geauga County through outdoor adventure, believing that providing skills and experiences at a young age will lead to lifelong pursuits of exploring and enjoying the natural world.

FGP supported Geauga Park District’s Outdoor Adventure Camps by providing funds to purchase camp supplies for the 2022 camper season.

2022 GPD Adventure Camps | Photos: Geauga Park District
CELEBRATING
The Pollinator Project

In October 2022, Foundation trustees, Pollinator Project Committee members, funders and other nature enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the opening of the long-anticipated Pollinator Garden & Nature Play Area in Geauga Park District’s Frohring Meadows. This opening marked the end of phase one of the Pollinator Project that launched in 2019.

This signature garden was designed in collaboration with Geauga Park District and DERU Landscape Architects to incorporate plantings of native perennials and shrubs like butterfly weed, aster, purple coneflower, Joe Pye weed, goldenrod and Standing Ovation little bluestem. Surrounding the pollinator plants are nature-based play features for children to assimilate the behavior of birds and insects.

Families may now keep their youngsters “busy as bees” while teaching them about nature. Kids will be inspired to climb, crawl, tunnel, balance and dig while they and their parents learn about the importance of pollinators. Together we will enjoy the garden setting as the plants continue to grow and spread.

This garden is just one aspect of FGP’s Pollinator Project, which began with a vision of the Foundation’s 2019 Board President Jeff Hyde. He recognized that chemicals, habitat loss, and a general lack of knowledge were all threatening the insects and animals responsible for pollinating our food sources and other important resources.

“It is exciting and fulfilling to see phase one of this vision come to fruition. We hope that the thousands of people, young and old, who visit Frohring Meadows each year will pause and take a moment in the pollinator garden to learn more about pollinators and their importance in our everyday lives. They might even have some fun while there,” says Jeff Hyde, chair of the Pollinator Project committee.

The long-range goal is to create opportunities to learn about, engage with, and support pollinator health and eventually to drive the preservation and expansion of pollinator-friendly habitats across Geauga County.

We are grateful to the Cleveland Foundation Lake-Geauga Fund for providing a grant to launch this project. Other funders for this garden are the Paul & Maxine Frohring Foundation, the Ginn Family Fund and Patterson Fruit Farm, among many other generous donors. If you are interested in learning how you can get involved, reach out to the Foundation for Geauga Parks.

Why Pollinators?

• Pollinators like birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles and small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for sustaining approximately 13 of our food sources.
• 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.

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

The Board of Trustees ofers its deepest gratitude to all who supported our work during 2022. We appreciate your generous support through donations and sponsorships. Together we are supporting high quality parks, preserves and nature education.

$100,000
Ginn Family Fund

$7,500 – $15,000
Carol Donaldson
William O. and Gertrude Lewis
Frothing Foundation, Inc.
Raymond Laubenthal

$1,000 – $7,499
Auxin Group Wealth Management
Ams Trucking
Linda L. Brown, Ph.D.
Gary Bryant
Burton Station Fixture Company, LLC
Andrew and Nancy Bushman
Care for Others - Mark Mekota
William Conway
Keith Corkwell
Bill Davis
Richard and Christie Frenchie
Chardon Rotary Foundation
Todd Gaydosh
J ohn W. Rosenthal Capital
Management, Inc.
Ruth Holm
J unction Auto Family
Kinetico Incorporated
The Leining Family
Lubrizol Corporation
The Lubrizol Foundation
Jonathan McKnight
J im McMonagle
David Monger
Mary Beth O'Neill | Keller Williams
Greater Cleveland NE
O'Neill Brothers Foundation
Geauga Feed & Grain
Barry and Marcia Owen
Linda Brown Pallay
J im and Nancy Patterson
Patterson Fruit Farm
Paul Davis Restoration
Steven D. Poe
Reserve Energy Exploration
Company
Sheoga Hardwood Flooring
& Paneling

$501 – $999
Jennie Bemberg
Brakey Energy & Brakey Law
J ames E. Gaydosh, CFP(R) &
Deborah Gaydosh

Adam and Ashley Henry
Linda Henry
Marty and Susan Mullet
J ames J. Spoth
Eric and Deanna Sukalac
Sheryl and J ames Vernon

Larry Plant
Becki Ramsay
J ef Ringness
Ronyak Paving, Inc.
Dean Scherbel
Patricia Schraf
Randy Sharpe
Erin Stevenson
Marta Stone
Chris Stroble
Danielle Szabo
M. Barnes Taft
Taproot Yoga
Claudia Toth
William and J udith Ann Tucholsky
Catherine Ullman
US Window Door & More
J ane Valvoda
Michael Washington
J ohn Wilhelm
Trevor Wilson
J oe Zulandt

Up to $100
Mark Adams
Mike Albright
Kathy Allen
Blake Andres
J nta Angstrom
Blair Arbuckle
Dorothy E Bambach
Elizabeth Basich
Dr. J ohn Bergfeld
Joseph and April Betarie
Mark Binnig
Barbara Bloch
Stephen Bloch
Cynthia Boehmlein
J ay and Beth Brindo
Burroughs Nature Club
Lynne L. Chamey
Richard Childs
Dr. J ulie Clayman
Andrew Clyde
Robert Diehl
Fred Dively
Claudia Dorsett
Lynn Dula
J im Dvorak
Carol A Erickson
Stacie Ettinger
William G. Farrell Jr.
Kathryn Flynn
Ellis Freeman
Kara Gardner

John E. Gazzuolo
Valerie George
Gene Gibbons
J onathan and Marlene Green
William Hatch
J ula Hearme
J anne Henry
Michelle and Scott Henry
Hugh Hyre
J oy Keco
Patricia Kirkland
Albert Klaus
Patricia Kreuz
Dr. Gerald Lackey
Kathy Leavenworth
Erwin Lef el
Gloria Leven
Thomas E. Long
Sue and Bill Lundstrom
Gene McCune
Mary McDonald
Edward McHenry
Mihalic Associates & Auctioneers LLC
Robert Morecki
Alice Munn
J ane Neubauer
William Norwick
Matthew O'Heam
Carol Owens
William Papenbrock
J oan Papes
Bonnie Pearce
Ronald Pelletiere
Verne Pignolet
Gary Platek
Katherine Porter
Protect Geauga Parks
Wendy Radtke
Matthew Rambo
Frank Rausche
Gabe Rhoads
Teresa Runion
Eric Schantz
Allan Schinagle
Schwartz Land Surveying, Inc.
Diana Sells
J ohn Senderak
Gail M Shelley
Todd Shivers
Iola Skinner
J od Smoley
Tim & Polly Stef en
Tremco Incorporated
Kris Treu
Melissa Vlasak

Listed are gifts received between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please let us know of any omissions or errors.
In Honor of:
Marc and Barbara Bloch
Stephen Bloch
Todd Gaydosh
Barbara Partington
John and Pat Leech
Protect Geauga Parks
Nico, Dmitri and Ari Monger
David Monger
Progressive Insurance Foundation

In Memory of:
Fred Benberg
Iola Skinner
Violet G. Childs
Richard Childs
Progressive Insurance Foundation
Joan Eippert
Carol A Erickson
Paige Hosier Orvis
Patricia Schraf
Desra Wortman
Bryan Eldridge
Rotary Club of Burton-Middlefield
William D. Ginn
Ginn Family Fund
Trevor Wilson

Chip Henry
Jeanne Henry
Audrey Hudak
Larry Brobst
Ellis Freeman
Hugh Hyre
Lyne L. Leftel
Erwin Leftel
Alice Merryman
Ruth Holm
Carol M. Plant
Larry Plant
Thomas J & Susan W. Vitello
Robert Wellman Jr.

Bridle Trail Fund
Carol Donaldson
Joy Keco
Sandra Pikturna
Catherine Ullman

Geauga Park District
Iola Skinner

Geauga Skywatchers
Iola Skinner
Verne Pignolet
Todd Shivers
M. Barnes Taft

Nature Education
(including Nature Scopes)
Kathy Allen
Linda Angstrom
Daniel Best
Barbara Bloch
Stephen Bloch
Cynthia Bohnelein
Gary Bryant
Burroughs Nature Club
Chardon Rotary Foundation
Carol Donaldson
William O. and Gertrude Lewis
Frohring Foundation, Inc.
Valerie George
Ruth Holm
Kathy Leavenworth
Mary McDonald
Donna Murphy
Bonnie Pearce
Terese Runion
Robert Wellman
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Sonny Williams
Sandy Woolf

Park & Trail Enhancement
Kevin Barnes
Keith Chelm
Andrew Clyde
Allen Holland

Erwin Lefel
Gloria Leven
Thomas E. Long
Jonathan McNight
Robert Morecki
William Norwick
Joan Papes
Steven D. Poe
Katherine Porter
Becki Ramsay
Diana Sells
Randy Sharpe
Michael Washington

Pollinator Program
Jennie Bemberg
Dr. Julie Clayman
Carol A Erickson
Todd Gaydosh
Ginn Family Fund
Gene McCune
Paige Orvis
Patterson Fruit Farm
Frank Rausche
Patricia Schraf
J udith Ann Tucholsky
Desra Wortman

Tribute to a Conservation Hero -- William D. Ginn
By Paige Hosier Orvis

In June 2021 many of us in the conservation community and far beyond celebrated the life of William (Bill) D. Ginn, who passed away at the age of 97 after making a tremendous and lasting impact on so many. I first met Bill in 1995 when he was a founding member and president of the board of the Geauga Park District Foundation. I had joined Geauga Park District (GPD) as an employee at the time when The West Woods preservation campaign was in full swing, and Bill was introduced to me as the “hero” who “saved” the land by securing a loan on behalf of GPD until they could pass a levy to pay it off. The West Woods is now a nearly 1000-acre signature park in Geauga County that is enjoyed by thousands each year. We can all celebrate Bill’s contribution to the preservation of that land.

From that early meeting, and as I progressed through my own conservation career, Bill became a dear friend and mentor. Bill was an influencer who demonstrated his philanthropic and conservation ethic by building collaborators around causes important to him and his wife, Arlene. Bill was a skilled corporate lawyer with Thompson Hine, and over the years served on 100 or more boards and committees. He leveraged the many relationships he built through his career to initiate collaborations, invoke change and inspire growth.

Just a few local causes Bill supported were the preservation of The West Woods and Observatory Park, the protection of the South Newbury Union Chapel, The Nature Conservancy of Ohio, Great Lakes Science Center, DDC Clinic, the BCC Nevus Syndrome Life Support Network and many others.

Bill ensured that his and Arlene’s impact would extend far beyond their lives when he established the Ginn Family Fund as part of their estate plans. Through the administration of the Ginn children, Bill, Randy, David and Anna, the Foundation for Geauga Parks and many other worthy organizations and causes have been granted estate gifts from this fund.

We continue to be so grateful to Bill Ginn for his many contributions and for continuing to leave a lasting legacy through planned giving. No matter what our capacity, may we all learn from his example. Consider a legacy gift to the Foundation for Geauga Parks.
Thank you to Our Business Partners, Sponsors and In-kind Donors

2022 Business Partners

Lead Business Partner
The Chevy Network / Preston Superstore

Preservation Partner
Auxin Group Wealth Management

Conservation Partner
Kinetic Incorporated
Patterson Fruit Farm
J ohn W. Rosenthal Capital Management, Inc.

Sustainability Partners
Linda L. Brown, PhD LLC
Geauga Feed & Grain
B arry and Marcia Owen
Paul Davis Restoration

Event Sponsors

Caveman Crawl
Bethlehem Hills Christmas Lighting
Brakey Energy
Andrew and Nancy Bushman
Ravenwood Health
Chardon Custom Polymers
Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan
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J unction Auto Family
Mary Beth O’Neill | Keller Williams Greater Cleveland NE
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Event Sponsors

Twilight Soiree
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Arms Trucking
Brakey Energy & Brakey Law

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Automatic Garage Door Company
Bella’s Homemade Dog Biscuits
Blazin Bills
Buckeye Chocolates
Casey Forbes
Ciara Stroh
Corner Field Model Railroad Museum & Trading Post Train Shop
Crooked Pecker Brewing Company
Dan Best
David Patterson, Patterson Fruit Farm

Burton Station Fixture Company, LLC
Andrew and Nancy Bushman
Covia / Best Sand
Pete Franz
Richard and Christie Frenchie
J ames E. Gaydosh, CFP(R) & Deborah Gaydosh
Good Nature Organic Lawn Care
Linda Henry
J unction Auto Family
Company 119
The Leininger Family
Lubrizol Corporation
Middlefield Banking Company
Honest Scales Recycling LLC
NMS CPAs
Mary Beth O’Neill
Burton Station Fixture Company, LLC
Reserve Energy Exploration Company
Ronyak Paving, Inc.
Sheega Hardware Flooring & Paneling

Rosegold Studio / Deanna Sukalac
DogWatch Hidden Fences of Cleveland
Emilie Gottsagen
Geauga Park District
Gene McCune
Glenn Frohring
Great Lakes Growers
Heartwood Coffee Roastery
Heidi O’Neill
Heritage Meats
Hustling Hen LLC
J ackson Grey Jewelers
J ohn Fabian
Keith Corkwell
Linda Pallay
Lowe’s Greenhouse
Marc Wise
Marcia Owen
Marty Mullet
Mary Beth O’Neill
Native Landscapes
Pat Leech
Protect Geauga Parks
Ramble Inn
Re/MAX Rising
Rescue Village
Rhian Parkinson
Rich Bradshaw Training Stables
Rodney Kozar
SignChrome
Sima’s Farm Market & Restaurant
Sue Kirkland
Sue Lundstrom
Sugar Pines Farm
The Everarbor Company
Todd Gaydosh
Vinny’s Italian Kitchen
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Save these Dates

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

CAVEMAN CRAWL
5K TRAIL RUN
& 1-Mile Fun Walk
The West Woods • Russell Twp.

RUN • WALK • CRAWL

Friday, August 18, 2023
Meadow Ridge Farm, Huntsburg Twp.

Food • Libations • Music • Auction & More
Thank you for your support! With your generosity we can continue a legacy of education, preservation and exploration in Geauga County through 2023.

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: _______________________

☐ I would like to make an estate gift to the Foundation.

Please make checks payable to: Foundation for Geauga Parks

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