

**FRIENDS
OF
WOOSTER MEMORIAL
PARK**



With over 7 miles of winding foot 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, 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, visit www.friendsofwmp.com.

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 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.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFO

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

Name

(1) (2)

- ___ Trail monitoring and clean-up
- ___ Trail repair and construction
- ___ Public hikes or nature walks
- ___ Nature education
- ___ Computer graphics, publishing
- ___ Photography
- ___ Music, arts and crafts, storytelling
- ___ Publicity
- ___ Public speaking about the park
- ___ Fund-raising activities
- ___ Grant writing
- ___ Serve on the board of directors
- ___ 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:

Thank you!

WMP's PARK HISTORY

Wooster and Wayne County are extremely fortunate to have this quiet, wooded, 325-acre park. Wooster Memorial Park was created through the vision of Paul S. Spangler (1900-1986). A Wooster native and high school teacher, Mr. Spangler long dreamed of this area becoming a park. In 1964, he began a series of land donations to the City of Wooster, stipulating that the area be named 'Wooster Memorial Park' in memory of his family and his strong faith.

In 1968, through local foundations, the City purchased 121 acres of land (part of the Becker farm) northwest of Mr. Spangler's gift. In June 1970, with Mr. Spangler and Mayor Paul Tilford in attendance, Wooster Memorial Park was dedicated. An additional 71 acres, purchased with Clean Ohio funds, were added to the park in January 2008. The park has been designated by the City as a permanent natural area.

WMP's NATURAL HISTORY

Throughout its long history, the land that makes up 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.

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 Rathburn Run after a rain storm. Have a picnic at one of two large-timbered pavilions.

AUTUMN – Enjoy fall colors, kick the leaves while hiking and find various kinds of acorns and hickory nuts. In addition to magnificent oak and maple trees, identify trees such as yellow birch and large-toothed aspen, northern species that remain following the retreat of the last glacier.

WINTER – A special time to see the park is on a snowy day. With leaves off the trees, greater distances can be viewed. Look down at the Rathburn Run from the Ledges, enjoy the geologic features, the snowy branches and icy waters of the Run.



Maps of Wooster Memorial Park are available at the Silver Road park entrance, the Community Center or online at www.friendsofwmp.com. For questions about the park or Friends of Wooster Memorial Park, contact Wooster Parks & Recreation at the Community Center, 241 South Bever Street, Wooster, OH, 44691, 330-263-5207.

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 and hikes, has 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, the Friends became an Ohio non-profit 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.