



METROPARKS
TOLEDO

The Value Of Trails And Greenspace During The COVID-19 Pandemic

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Joe Fausnaugh

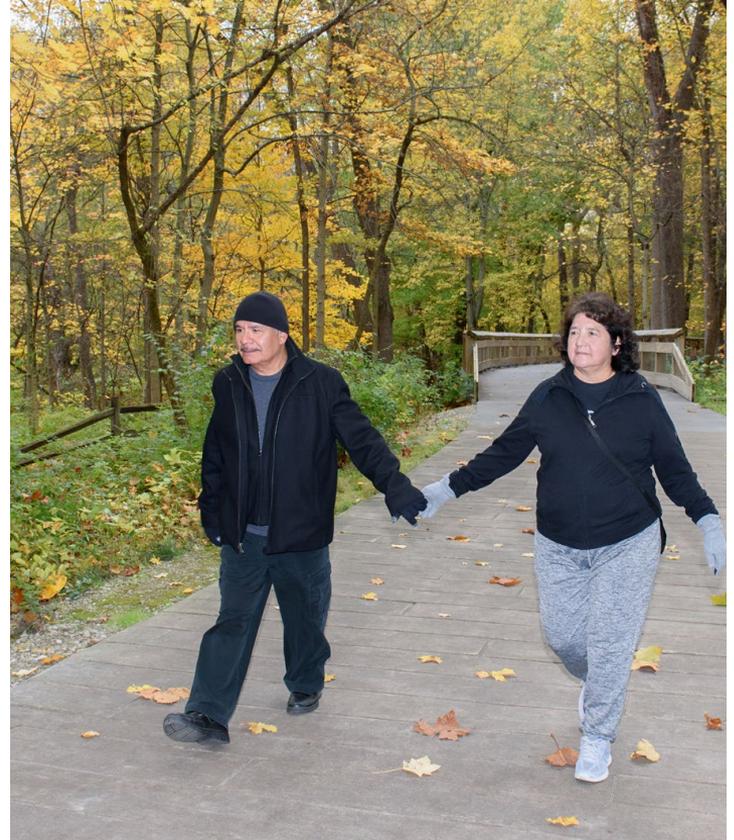
Chief of Operations
Metroparks Toledo





Use of Parks and Regional Trails during COVID

- Most modes of transportation saw a reduction in use due to people staying home and avoiding contact with others in public
- Throughout the pandemic Governor Dewine, has promoted parks and greenspace as a safe option for leaving home.
- Metroparks Toledo and parks across Ohio were able to stay open when virtually everything else was locked down
- These open air spaces became critical sources of respite from the mental toll of being separated from family, friends, and co-workers.





Visitation Statistics

- Increased use of parks, trails, and greenspace was recorded across the country
- Metroparks Toledo saw periodic spikes in visitation at our parks and regional trails of approximately 60%
- Overall visitation at Metroparks in 2020 was just over 6 million people which equates to a 20% increase over 2019.
- These statistics hold even greater weight when you take into account that we were not able to hold any of our large festivals, special events, or rent our banquet facilities.





Progress on Trail Projects and New Parks

Progress despite obstacles of operating within mandated restrictions imposed during the pandemic and supply chain interruptions:

- Wabash Cannonball Regional Trail Extension
- Paved All-Purpose Trail Loop at Blue Creek Metropark
- Open Manhattan Marsh Metropark
- Open phase one of Glass City Metropark



Wabash Cannonball Trail Extension

- The Wabash Cannonball Trail was extended 6 miles west from the Lucas/Fulton County line to St. Rt. 109
- Provided a trail connection to the Village of Delta
- Operated in partnership with NORTA
- Regional connectivity plan calls on us to connect parks to parks





Paved Loop Trail at Blue Creek

- X.X mile loop trail was completed at Blue Creek Metropark in Whitehouse
- Visitation at the park has increased significantly since the loop trail was installed
- Provided a barrier-free trail for the village of Whitehouse residents
- Regional connectivity plans also work toward connecting parks to people





Manhattan Marsh

- Manhattan Marsh was opened in North Toledo
- This park completed our promise to put a Metropark within 5 miles of every Lucas County resident
- Innovative modular concrete boardwalk utilized to cross marsh wetlands





Glass City Metropark

- Phase 1 of Glass City Metropark was opened on the riverfront in downtown Toledo
- Great example of how conservation projects can compliment private development for the benefit of the local community





Lasting Impacts of COVID

- Increased use of parks and regional trails by people who had never utilized them before
- Increased appreciation for our parks and trails
- **Most Importantly.....**
- There was increased recognition of the value that parks and regional trails bring to a community's physical health, mental wellness, and economic vitality.



Overwhelming Passage of a Levy Investing in our Community's Future through Glass City Riverwalk

