



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MetroParks of Butler County Receives Special Award for Environmental/Conservation Efforts at Elk Creek MetroPark – Meadow Ridge Area from NACPRO**

Butler County, Ohio (August 21, 2020) –



MetroParks is pleased to announce that it has been honored with a national Environmental/Conservation Special Award by the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) for the park system’s efforts at Elk Creek MetroPark -Meadow Ridge Area, located in Madison, Township, OH.

NACPRO is comprised of 110+ member parks across the United States. The annual awards program recognizes and honors excellence in parks and recreation at the county, regional, and special district

level throughout the nation. The special award for Environmental/Conservation is presented to recognize an exceptional effort to acquire, restore, preserve, operate, or develop unique or significant conservation and natural areas or programs.

Elk Creek MetroPark, with the addition of the 435 acres at the Meadow Ridge Area, added to the adjoining Sebald Park, was described as a model for other park systems to follow in terms of providing future public enjoyment and access for thousands of individuals greenspace, through its acquisition, restoration, and re-purposing of the site, previously an under-performing privately owned golf course. The 795 acres comprise Elk Creek MetroPark makes this park the largest park in the park system.

This opportunity was made possible by the creative use of state and federal funds; an innovative partnership with the Trust for Public Land, and a seller's discount for most of the local match required by Clean Ohio funding and only approximately \$10,000 coming from MetroParks general fund. 99.5% of the funding came from outside sources, invested in Meadow Ridge, to protect and preserve the passive recreational greenspace for future generations in Butler County.



In addition, the dedication to the strategic execution of the restoration work done in-house or by volunteers helped MetroParks to tackle substantially more acreage restored than planned. To date 29 acres of Upland Prairie, 41 Acres Native Grassland, 300 feet of stream, 140 feet daylighted stream; 15 acres of invasive honeysuckle, 36 greens and miles of pavement removed; 2000 native trees planted, and 617 volunteer hours contributed. Elk Creek MetroPark is Nature Delivered! Visit the Meadow Ridge Area today located at 5101 Circle Pkwy, Middletown, OH 45042 today to Log Off...Shut Down...Get Outside!

MetroParks locations require a Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP); non-resident permits will be available for purchase (\$5-day pass/\$10 annual pass) and FREE 2019-2020 resident permits will be available at the event entrance. MVPs can also be purchased on MetroParks of Butler County website [www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net). Information on volunteering, sponsoring, and events/programs can also be found online. For more information, call MetroParks at 513-867-5835.

*Established to compliment the work of state and local communities, MetroParks, a separate political subdivision of The State of Ohio, is organized to provide parks and recreation services to the citizens of Butler County. MetroParks is governed by a three-member Board of volunteers, appointed by The County Probate Court, The Board of Park Commissioners. The Mission of MetroParks is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education and recreation. For more information regarding MetroParks visit our website at [www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net).*