



# Friends of Erie MetroParks Update

Vol. 22 Issue 1  
Winter 2025

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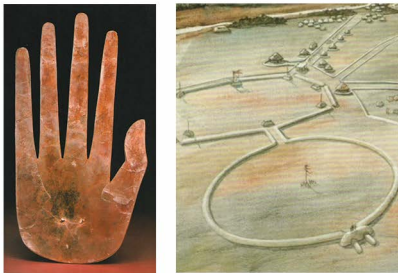
## EMP STAFF

Melissa Price  
Mike Hensley  
Mark Malone

## 21st Annual Gathering April 27, 2025 • 12:30 – 2:00

*Great Food  
Great Fellowship  
Guest Speaker*

## Ohio's UNESCO World Heritage Site: Recognizing and Preserving the Hopewell Culture



Speaker: Mark F. Seeman,  
*Professor emeritus*  
Dept. of Anthropology,  
Kent State University

Ohio last year achieved the distinction of its huge ancient earthworks located in Chillicothe and Newark being named a World Heritage Site, a designation granted by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization). It places the earthworks, attributed to people of the Hopewell Culture who flourished in southern Ohio between 1-350 CE, in a class reserved for the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge. The earthworks themselves are huge geometric constructions of conjoined circles, squares, octagons, and parallel walls that show shared dimensions and arrangements. Their earthen walls can extend for several miles; all built a basket-load at a time. A UNESCO designation recognizes such places as part of our common world heritage—as irreplaceable sources of life, inspiration from the past, and what we pass on to future generations. They are recognized as of “outstanding universal value.” The new UNESCO designation is projected to have a major impact on tourism in south central Ohio where the earthworks are located. My talk will discuss many of the specific achievements of the Hopewell culture in Ohio and why they are important. I am an archaeologist and have excavated Hopewell sites, studied their culture, and written about it for 50 years.

Join us on Facebook.  
Friends of Erie MetroParks/  
ErieMetroParks



## Annual Gathering @ Roger Johnson Nature Center

Sunday, April 27 @ 12:30 • RSVP SOON – space limited to 100. Call 419.625.7783 ext. 221 or email [behere@eriemetroparks.org](mailto:behere@eriemetroparks.org).

Visit [eriemetroparks.org/friends](http://eriemetroparks.org/friends) to become a 2025 member and pay online, or Scan the QR code to the right.



# Spring Into Nature with Erie MetroParks

Mike Hensley, Park Naturalist



As the days grow longer and the weather warms, we're excited to invite you to explore all the amazing spring programs Erie MetroParks has to offer! After a chilly winter, it's time to get outside and discover the beauty of spring. Whether you're a birding enthusiast or an avid hiker, there's something for everyone at Erie MetroParks. The Roger Johnson Nature Center is buzzing with activity. Check out our educational and outdoor programs. For more information visit our website at [www.eriemetroparks.org](http://www.eriemetroparks.org) or scan the QR code below.

Join Naturalist Mike Hensley for our Wings Over Lake Erie Birding Series this spring, where you'll have the opportunity to observe and learn about the diverse bird species that migrate through our region. For families, our Earth Day Extravaganza on April 26th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., is a can't-miss event, filled with hands-on activities, educational opportunities, and outdoor fun as we celebrate the planet we call home.

Our Natural Resource team is proud to continue the Erie County Invasive Buy-Back Program, helping to protect our natural landscapes by removing invasive species and offering incentives to those who participate.

<https://eriemetroparks.org/buyback/>

We also have various volunteering opportunities that can get you outside and help keep our parks beautiful. Check out our volunteering opportunities here

<https://eriemetroparks.org/volunteer/>.



**SCAN FOR PROGRAMS**



## Community Garden Initiative

Hannah Mahr & Katie Burnsworth, Park Naturalists

A new initiative at the Erie MetroParks Community Gardens is designed to help reduce the food waste of gardeners and encourage the sharing of excess produce within the community. The stand which operates on a "take what you need, leave what you can" philosophy allows gardeners to share surplus fruits, veggies, and herbs with others who may need them. Gardeners can leave their extra harvest and prevent perfectly good food from going to waste.



A new gardening club instructed by Katie Burnsworth and Hannah Mahr aptly named "Seedlings to Stewards" is a program to educate a new generation on the ins and outs of growing their food. Children will learn the basics while getting their hands dirty through the growing season and finally learning to cook what they grow.

Hannah Mahr said "We are very excited to restart a gardening club here at the parks and we hope the farm stand is an asset to the community." Katie has plans to add a rain barrel to help teach the kids to conserve water. It's going to be great, and we are thankful for Rick Bressler, Ken Tkach, and all our FEMP members for helping us make it a reality!