

Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday August 29th, 2024 | 3:00 PM

Stitt Pavilion

Prepared by Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Manager*



Committee Members in Attendance

Nick Derico | Joshua Noble | Ryan Jackson | Daniel Wright | Peter Milliken | Sara Scudier | John Zimmerman | Ronald Kichton | Gary Davenport | Joshua Emanuelson |

Public Attendees:

None	



I. Call to Order – 3:08 PM

Old Business

- * **Review of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**

II. **New Business**

Deer Management Updates

1. Derico provided updates since the previous meeting concerning the deer management plan, including results from the 2024 forest regeneration survey and the 2024 trail camera survey. The group discussed goals and objectives for the program in 2024, and changes that were made to the controlled hunt program, from the previous management year.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

1. Derico shared an upcoming acquisition opportunity through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund for the project titled “ Sharrott Road Park” which would preserve ~62 acres along Sharrott Road in Beaver Township. Secondly, Derico shared the MetroParks’ desire to submit a second application that would focus on improvements to the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

Section 319 Grant

1. Derico shared the MetroParks' plan to submit for 319 grant funding to complete a second phase of stream, floodplain, and wetland restoration at the Mill Creek Golf Course (Phase 1 completed in 2023 through the H2Ohio Program).

Sanctuary Expansion Improvements

1. Derico provided an update on the status of the project titled "Sanctuary Expansion Improvements", which the MetroParks was awarded grant funding to complete through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. Updates include the completion of the parking lot/access drive, and ongoing improvements to the natural areas including invasive species spraying, native prairie planting, and tree planting.

Open Discussion

Nick Derico

Introduced the idea of fall trout stocking to the group, which was an idea brought forth as a public request. A fall trout stocking would create an expanded and longer lasting version of the popular trout stockings conducted in the spring. The group was supportive from a recreational perspective, but expressed concern and the need for greater research into the impact more long-term stockings would have to native stream flora/fauna.

Josh Noble

Brought up the topic of restoring the Edith Kaufman Quarry Garden, while the group's long-term desire would include a large scale restoration of the area, a short term goal was revisited that would include clearing of the trails to regain pedestrian access to the quarry.



Public Comment

None

III.

Committee Questions/Comments.

Gary Davenport – Commented on the lack of wind damage from the recent storms, praising the MetroParks for their roadside forestry work over the winter, citing a stark reduction in the number of downed trees blocking roadways compared to years past.

IV.

Sara Scudier – Commented on the state of Fellows Riverside Gardens, stating that conditions of the Gardens were much improved as compared to recent years and commended the staff for their efforts.

Date of Next Meeting

V.

TBD – Derico will send Doodle Poll

VI.

Adjournment – 4:35 PM
