

ISSUE 3 | FEBRUARY 2026

## TRAILBLAZERS

A newsletter from the  
Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks

CONSERVATION

IMPACT

CONNECTION

### FOUNDATION NEWS



### John Meyer II Memorial Fire Circle Opens at Bill Yeck Park

Thanks to the generous gift of a special donor, and other key supporters, the Centerville-Washington Park District and the Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks proudly celebrated the grand opening of the new John Meyer II Memorial Fire Circle at Bill Yeck Park on November 20. The event brought together donors, community partners, the Foundation committee, and the Park Board and staff for a November ribbon cutting, complete with s'mores, hot chocolate, and plenty of warm smiles.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

John Meyer II Memorial Fire Circle

Donor Spotlight: Marcia O'Rourke

BIG Thanks to our 2025 Donors

Project Updates

Become a Park Gem

Upcoming Event



## THANK YOU, 2025 DONORS!

**Robert Brundige, Jr.**

**City Barbeque, LLC**

**Brian & Luanne Code**

**Melissa Currence & Marc Younkin**

**Deborah & Jim Gross**

**Mr. & Ms. Jonathan Hale**

**The Huff Family**

**Terence Kalba**

**John & Carol Kennard**

**Kimley-Horn**

**Kroger Community Rewards**

**Marcia O'Rourke on behalf of  
John and Betty Meyer Foundation  
(Greene Giving)**

**Mr. & Mrs. Robert Murphy**

**Dustin Parr**

**Alex Pearl**

**Real Life Church**

**Jeff & Sharon Senney**

**Thomas Skelley & Sharon  
Lindquist-Skelley**

**Lavonne R. Warner**

**Regina Whittington**

**Whit's Frozen Custard**



*We appreciate your continued support of the Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks. With your help, we are making a lasting impact on our community's parks and creating spaces everyone can enjoy.*

The project began as an aspirational “wish list” item identified by the Park District. The Foundation embraced the challenge, committing to raise funds for an accessible gathering space that would allow people of all abilities to experience the joy of gathering around a campfire. The design includes an ADA-accessible pathway, a level and supportive surface, inclusive bench seating with mobility clearance, wheelchair-accessible picnic tables, and additional Adirondack chairs to offer comfort and flexibility.

A generous in-kind contribution from Kimley-Horn brought the concept to life. Their landscape architects and engineers created a detailed plan that made it easy to share the vision with the community. That plan ultimately caught the eye and heart of Marcia O'Rourke, who provided the transformative gift that fully funded the fire circle's construction. Her gift, made through the John and Betty Meyer Foundation, allowed the project to be completed in just a few months rather than a full year.

During the celebration, additional donors who contributed enhancements to the site were also recognized and include:

- Brian and Luanne Code
- Carol and John Kennard
- Alex and Jane Pearl
- Jeff and Sharon Senney

The Park District's Operations team was also thanked for managing the construction details and restoring the surrounding landscape.

The fire circle now stands as a welcoming, barrier-free gathering place rooted in family connection, community generosity, and the shared belief that nature should be accessible to everyone. The Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who helped make this meaningful space a reality.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



### **Marcia O'Rourke A Gift from the Heart: Honoring Family Through Accessible Outdoor Experiences**

When the Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks shared the concept plan for an accessible fire circle at Bill Yeck Park with the public, Marcia O'Rourke recognized something special. The very next day, she reached out, moved by the

idea of creating a place where people of all abilities could enjoy gathering around a campfire. As a longtime visitor who frequently walks the trails of Bill Yeck Park, Marcia already felt deeply connected to the park, and seeing the concept plan sparked a sense of purpose.

*(Continued on page 3)*



For Marcia, the project was personal beyond her enjoyment of the park. Her brother, John Meyer II, used a wheelchair from a young age. The thought of a welcoming space designed with comfort and accessibility in mind resonated in a powerful way. Through the John and Betty Meyer Foundation, Marcia provided the gift that brought the fire circle to life in record time.

The fire circle now bears John's name, honoring his life while creating opportunities for visitors to make memories without barriers. Marcia's enthusiasm and generosity brought energy and collaboration to the project. With support from Greene Giving, she helped ensure that John's story will be shared at the site and that visitors understand the meaningful inspiration behind this space.

Marcia's gift is a wonderful example of what it means to connect personal passion with community impact. Her support will enrich the experiences of park visitors for years to come, and her brother's legacy will continue to bring people together around the warmth of a campfire.

## PROJECT UPDATES: ENHANCING YOUR PARK DISTRICT

As the Centerville-Washington Park District looks ahead to 2026, several major projects are planned to maintain and improve existing park facilities. The Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks is actively exploring ways to enhance one or more of these projects through private donations, helping add features that go beyond what public funding alone can provide.

Planned 2026 projects include:

- **Activity Center Park Pickleball Courts**  
Upgrades to increase playability for the continually-growing pickleball community, including resurfacing, seating and shade. A concept plan will be available soon!
- **Grant Park Master Plan Implementation**  
Continued park improvements guided by the community-driven master plan.
- **Community Park Shade Improvements**  
Additional shade planned for five community parks to improve visitor experience on hot, sunny days.

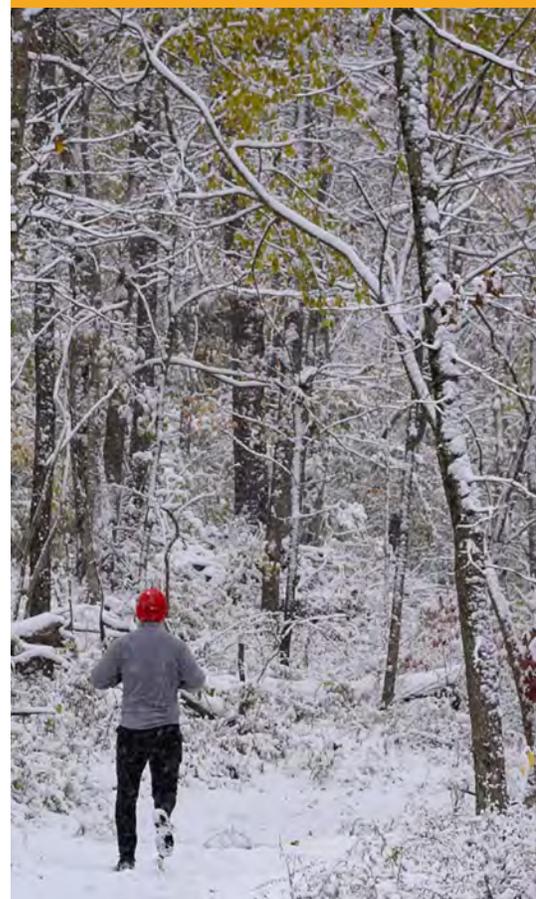
These projects reflect the Park District's commitment to stewardship, accessibility, and continuous improvement. With support from the Foundation, donors have an opportunity to help elevate these improvements and make a lasting local impact.

In addition to these large-scale projects, the Foundation will continue to fund smaller park improvements. Future possibilities include drinking foundations, playground features and swinging benches.

Help strengthen and enhance your parks with a gift to the Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks at [cwpd.org/support/foundation-for-centerville-washington-parks/](https://www.cwpd.org/support/foundation-for-centerville-washington-parks/).

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”*

*~Margaret Mead*



## BECOME A PARK GEM

Looking for a simple way to support your parks year-round? The Park Gem program allows you to make monthly gifts that are automatically deducted from your bank account, making giving easy and consistent.

Park Gem donations support the Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks and help enhance park projects and experiences throughout the community. Select **1875 Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks** when making your donation on [cwpd.org/support/foundation-for-centerville-washington-parks/](http://cwpd.org/support/foundation-for-centerville-washington-parks/). Please add the words “Park Gem” to the form field labeled “Special instructions for Dayton Foundation staff.”

Your monthly gift keeps our parks thriving!

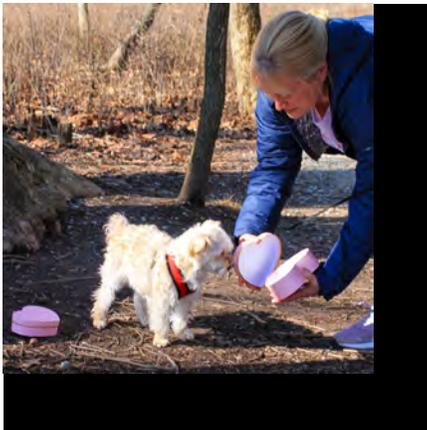
## 2026 TAX LAW CHANGES

Your generosity makes our work possible. Tax law changes may be helpful to keep in mind as you plan your charitable giving.

### New deduction for non-itemizers

Starting in 2026, taxpayers who take the standard deduction can deduct cash donations up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married couples filing jointly). This means more donors can receive a tax benefit for their generosity, even without itemizing deductions. Please consult with your tax or financial advisor to determine how this change may apply to your individual situation.

## UPCOMING EVENT



### I Wuff You Valentine Hike

Celebrate Valentine’s Day with your favorite pups! Join CWPDP on **Saturday, February 14**, for a self-guided afternoon hike through the trails of Bill Yeck Park. You and your pup will be pampered with special treats and stations along the way!

Participants are welcome to start the hike anytime from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Preregistration is not required.

*If you love your parks, please consider making a gift. All donations, sponsorships and gifts will adhere to the policy, procedures, and guidelines and be consistent with the Park District mission, policies, park property restrictions, park master plans, and the most current Comprehensive Master Plan.*

*We would like to thank you in advance for your contribution. If you have any questions or need help with a donation, please contact our office at (937) 433-5155 or [mail@cwpd.org](mailto:mail@cwpd.org).*



*Donations may also be mailed to:*

*Foundation for  
Centerville-Washington Parks  
221 N. Main St.  
Centerville, OH 45459*

The Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks was created for securing philanthropic funding for projects, programs and conservation efforts directly related to the Centerville-Washington Park District’s mission, vision and values.



This fund is administered by The Dayton Foundation, the region’s leading community foundation.



Connect with us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/foundationforcentervillewashingtonparks](https://facebook.com/foundationforcentervillewashingtonparks)