



Bull's Run Newsletter

Winter 2024

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is a non-profit volunteer organization located in NE Butler County and serving the surrounding community. We are dedicated to preserving the natural area of Bull's Run and strive to develop the park as an environmental facility and educational resource for people of all ages.



What a Year! 2024 In Review

The eleven acres of woods, stream, and meadow of Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum provides so many opportunities to connect the community to nature. In 2024, Bull's Run hosted multiple free monthly public programs including our annual Winter Tree Hike, weekly Spring Wildflower Walks, Summer Tree Hike, Prairie Walk, Monarch Migration, Night Hikes, and more! Nature Tots also continued, spanning all four seasons in the woods. New this year, we partnered with Butler SWCD to do a BioBlitz in May through the iNaturalist app, discovering and documenting the different species of flora and fauna present. Multiple local students benefited from using our Education Boxes/Backpacks funded through a grant from the Middletown Community Foundation. We also connected with community members at local events such as Butler County Fair and National Night Out in Middletown. Our Naturalist Melissa visited with other community groups, guest speaking at Kiwanis, Middletown Rotary Club, and for the Youth Philanthropy Council.

Our Park Work Days took place in the spring and fall, and we are so fortunate to have so many volunteers and partner organizations helping us to keep Bull's Run in great ecological shape! We had multiple project days, enlisting help from MetroParks of Butler County staff, and 2 invasive species removal days with staff and volunteers from Butler Soil & Water Conservation District. With this amazing support, we removed hundreds of invasive bush honeysuckle plants, pulled invasive winter creeper, and opened up more suitable habitat space for native wildlife.



At our Annual Meeting we heard from certified arborist and Assistant Natural Resource Manager for MetroParks of Butler County Kalan Jones about oak wilt and evaluating tree health. More can be learned about this topic on MetroParks of Butler County social media or at <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/plpath-tree-02>.

Stay tuned to our website, Facebook and Instagram pages for more information and updates about what's coming in 2025!

New Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Contributions Received since the Fall 2024 Newsletter

Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Melanie Brenner
Cherri Carpenter
Jay and Karen Dillon
Thomas and Peggy Dobrozsi
Larry and Marsha Orcutt
Glen and Joan Shivers
Erin Wallace
Miranda Wilson

Additional Contributions

Loren Ackerman
Jay and Karen Dillon
Thomas and Peggy Dobrozsi
Larry Orcutt
Glen and Joan Shivers

Middletown Community Foundation

Loren Ackerman

Memorials

In loving memory of Ron Conley
Liz and Mike Asher
Mike and Pris Phillips
Margaret and Tom Wilson



Please consider making an end of year donation in support of Bull's Run conservation work!

These memberships were received between 9/1/24 and 11/29/24. If our records do not reflect your records, please notify us and we will be sure to include you in our next newsletter where we list new contributions to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum. Thank you for your support.

Thank You from the Naturalist

2024 has been yet another fantastic year as naturalist for Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum! Looking forward to 2025, we have various projects to get underway to improve accessibility to the trails, and to tackle invasive species in the park. I am so grateful to the community for how much support and enthusiasm for our mission is shown, and I strive to create new and meaningful programs and experiences at Bull's Run. In 2025, we will be continuing with our free environmental programming for the general public and including some special programming for our dedicated members!

I am currently busy preparing for our first programs in the winter season, and I hope to see you all in the woods many times throughout 2025!



Give the Gift of Bull's Run Merch and Support Conservation!

Want to give a great gift and show your support for Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum? Then get one of our logo ball caps or t-shirts! We have a variety of sizes in short sleeve (brown or green color) and long sleeve (green color only) tees. These can make great gift ideas for the nature lover in your household as funds raised through sales go directly to supporting the care and maintenance of the arboretum! T-shirts are \$25 each and hats are \$20 each. Please email brnsaa@gmail.com to place your order today!



Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum is seeking Board Members!

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum has a mission dedicated to preserving the natural area of Bull's Run, and striving to develop the park as an environmental facility and educational resource for people of all ages. As a 501-C3, we are a primarily volunteer based organization with 1 part-time Naturalist. Our Board of Directors is also volunteer based, and is essential to the success of our mission. We are currently seeking to expand our Board of Directors with members at large and a Treasurer!

The duties of the directors are:

1. Attend monthly board meetings (at least 10 of the 12 per year). *Most meetings conducted via ZOOM*
2. Attend at least one event at Bull's Run Arboretum during the year. We provide a minimum of 1 public program per month*
3. Actively participate in at least one fundraising project each year.
4. Offer suggestions on developing future programs and report feedback from past programs.
5. Participate in budget preparation.
6. Participate in voting at board meetings.

HISTORY

Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is located in the headwaters of Bull's Run Creek, the lower portion of which formed a southern border of early Middletown. The rolling terrain made the land difficult to cultivate, so farmers grazed bulls on the property in the 1800s. In 1924, the land was converted into a summer Fresh Air Camp which benefited city youth for almost 50 years. Now the site is owned by the City of Middletown and operated by a non-profit organization, Bull's Run Arboretum, Incorporated, founded in December 1978. The trails were opened to the public in 1979. In the early 1980s the name of the park was changed to Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum to better reflect our mission.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum supports the park both financially through membership fees and donations and by volunteering at fundraisers, educational activities, and workdays. Without the support of our members, we could not achieve our mission!

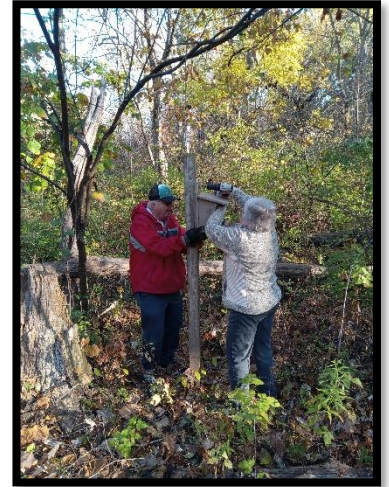
DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD- Treasurer

1. Oversee the accounts of the Corporation and be contact person for Protax Account Services
2. Submit a written report to the Board each month of all sums received and expected, and assets and obligations.
3. Review employee records and write salary check based on paystub generated by Protax Services
4. Be responsible for paying bills from bank account for BRNSA
5. Serve on Executive Committee

So if you have a passion for the outdoors and your community, and are looking to give back through volunteering your time and knowledge, then we want YOU! Interested parties should contact Bull's Run Arboretum President Nancy Clark at brnsaa@gmail.com. Please share with others who may be interested! Learn more about Bull's Run at www.bullsrn.org

Thanks to all who help keep Bull's Run an important asset of the community all year!

- ❖ Thanks to Metroparks of Butler County and Butler SWCD for project assistance
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2024 BioBlitz and attended our various programs
- ❖ Thanks to Josh Proffitt for working on bridge and trail maintenance
- ❖ Thanks to the Quick family for all of your time and assistance with various projects
- ❖ Thanks to Mike Wertz for mowing the prairie
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for your support with park maintenance, and Ed Truster and Buck Simpson for the pathway through the mulch!
- ❖ Thanks to the Children and Youth Ministry at MUMC for your volunteer projects
- ❖ Thanks to Daryl Clark for repairing/painting bird feeders built by Bob Wise
- ❖ Thanks to Nancy Clark and Tom Ritter for putting up bird feeders for winter
- ❖ Thanks to Marge Kochunas for helping with seed pick up, bird feeding, and all the other tasks you do!
- ❖ Thanks to those who shop at Kroger and have enrolled in their community rewards program, listing Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum – organization # MX093.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone who “likes” us on Facebook and shares events
- ❖ Thanks to the Episcopal Church of Ascension for their all-around support
- ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website
- ❖ Thanks to all Board members for their enduring support!
- ❖ Thanks to all our Park Work Day volunteers, including Master Gardeners, Linda Mull and Karen Dillon, for their faithful help on workdays
- ❖ Thanks to all of our wonderful membership holders, we truly appreciate your support!!



Become a 2025 Member!



We invite you to join us! Your membership support is the financial backbone of Bull's Run. Memberships and donations allow us to restore the land with native plants, offer tours and experiential education on site, and present outreach enrichment activities to local schools. Bull's Run is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Join Online

Bull's Run accepts payments online using PayPal. Individual and family memberships can be purchased at <https://bullsrn.org/membership> \$1 is added to the price of online membership purchases to cover PayPal processing fees.

Join by Mail

If you prefer to mail your membership payment instead, simply print and fill out the form found on page 6 of this newsletter

Together we ARE making a difference!

Bull's Run Volunteers at Light Up Middletown

Bull's Run volunteers will be greeters for Light Up Middletown on **December 12-18th**! LUM is celebrating its 25th year as the area's premiere drive -thru fantasy holiday light display. LUM is open every night Thanksgiving Through New Year's Eve from 6:00 PM - 10: 00 PM - Open in all weather & Holidays. Admission by cash donation - you set the price!

Location:

Smith Park
Tytus and Verity Parkway
500 Tytus Avenue
Middletown, Ohio 45042

Directions:

From 75 North or South take EXIT 32 (OHIO 122) and head WEST follow the red Light Up Middletown signs to Smith Park

Want to help greet visitors? Shifts are 2 hours long - 6-8 and 8-10. The shed is heated and the lights are beautiful. Simply smile and wave, and record how many vehicles visit the light display. For more information and to sign up, please go to <https://signup.com/go/MFsEsFA>





BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM

P.O. Box 425
Middletown, OH 45042



Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

December

Thursday, December 12 -Wednesday, December 18, **Light Up Middletown greeters**, 6-8 pm and 8-10pm
Saturday, December 14, **Christmas Bird Count**, 10:00 am

2025

January

Saturday, January 25, **Winter Tree ID**, 10:00-11:30 am, *with certified arborist Dakotah Zimmer from Butler SWCD!*

February

Sundays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, **Winter Nature TOTS**, 2:00 – 3:30p
Saturday, February 15, **Great Backyard Bird Count**, 10:00 – 11:30 am

March

Saturday, March 22, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday, March 23, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

**For more information, please visit our website www.bullsrn.org or Facebook page
Contact Bull's Run at brnsaa@gmail.com, to schedule a tour or service project, or speak to your
organization or for a program at Bull's Run**