



Bull's Run Newsletter Spring 2026

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.



Renewing the Landscape

In 2025, Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum was generously awarded a Conservation Stewardship Program grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Services division of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. At Bull's Run, this assistance is targeting the continuation and acceleration of the removal of invasive species such as bush honeysuckle in order to improve wildlife habitat and protect native plant species. This is a five year contract focusing on different sections of the 11 acres each year. Conservation Contracting, LLC has been hired to help execute this conservation contract. We are so excited that Phase 1 has been completed, with invasive removal focused on the 2.5 acres east of the red trail and towards the front of the arboretum on the Rosedale Rd. side. Our volunteer force will then focus on maintaining this cleared area and planting native species to populate the open space!



Board Member Spotlight

The Board of Directors at Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum is so excited to introduce the newest Board Member Will Parsons! Here is an introductory message from Will:

“Hi, my name is Will Parsons, and I am honored to be the newest board member for Bulls Run. I grew up walking the trails, which has led to a continued passion for hiking. The arboretum was also very important to my wife in her formative years, and together it is special for both of us as it is where we got engaged.

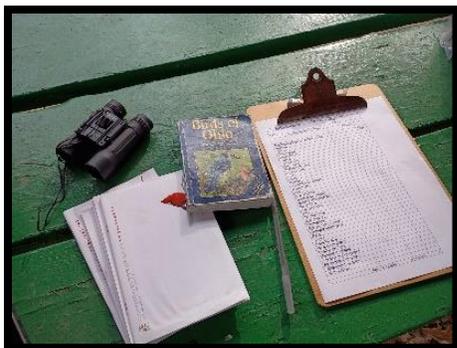
Professionally, I am the Community Relations Manager for the City of Germantown and have a background in public administration. Most of my free time is spent playing with my 2 year old son, Tommy. I also greatly enjoy reading, playing board games, walking/hiking, and am involved with different ministries at Breiel Church. I am honored to get to be a member of the board and am looking forward to getting involved in Nature TOTS with my family.”



Thank you for joining us Will and we look forward to all the good work we will do together!

2026 Great Backyard Bird Count

Each year Bull’s Run Arboretum hosts a Great Backyard Bird Count program for community members. This national citizen science project encourages participants to observe and record what bird species are present in a select area during a designated weekend each February. This data is then compiled to track bird migrations across the area. It is a wonderful way to get out into the winter woods while contributing to real conservation. This year we observed 37 individual birds representing 16 species, including northern cardinals, Carolina chickadees, various woodpeckers, and we even picked up the vocalizations of an Eastern screech owl!



2026 Memberships & Contributions

THANK YOU to our 2026 Members!

Memberships

Loren Ackerman
Donna Beauregard
Chris & Tom Buchert
Shirley Butts
Daryl and Nancy
Clark
Cissi Glickfield
Debbie Grant
Nathan and Krissy
Grant
Steve & Nannette
Hess
Jeff McMullen &
Barbara
Ballard
George & Stephanie
Nenni
Will Parsons
Greg & Patty Pratt
Aaron Quick
Teresa Reeves
Tom Ritter
Jack and Linda
Schaeter
Lynnette Schluter

Cindy Schmitt
Tom Scott & Julie
Thomas
Melanie Shannon
Glen & Joan Shivers
Dr. Gregory and
Jeanne Siewny
John Whittington &
Beth & Camerson
Everage
Joyce Williams
Miranda Wilson
Robert Wise

Additional Contributions

Loren Ackerman
Chris & Tom Buchert
Jeff McMullen &
Barbara
Ballard
George & Stephanie
Nenni
Glen & Joan Shivers

Memorials

*In memory of Forest
Grant &
Gibbie Wise
Debbie Grant
Robert Wise*

*In memory of Pamela
Pearson
Loring J. Pearson*

*In memory of Joe
Thomas &
Bonnie Scott
Tom Scott & Julie
Thomas*

Honorariums

*For my children and
grandchildren
Peggy Bosch*

These memberships were received between 12/21/25 and 3/1/26. 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!

2026 Spring Nature TOTS

Nature TOTS had so much over the winter exploring the snow and ice, looking for signs of wildlife, and learning how to properly play in cold temperatures. This spring Nature TOTS will resume on **Sundays in May/June (5/17, 5/24/, 5/31, and 6/7) from 2:00 – 3:30 pm.**

Springtime in the woods always brings lots of new colors and sounds to explore, and we will be working in the Nature TOTS garden beds!



This program is available to all family membership holders with children aged 18 months to 8 years old. For more information and to sign up your TOT(s), please email Naturalist Melissa at brnsaa@gmail.com!



Wildflower Walks

As spring approaches, many ephemeral blooms will be popping along the trails at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum! Because some of these spring blooms are fleeting, offering their beauty for only a short window, wildflower walks take place over multiple **Sunday afternoons from 2:00 – 3:00p** to see all of the different bloom times! Walks begin at the shelter house, and no registration required.

Upcoming Wildflower Walks:

March 22

March 29

April 12 – *Extra walk at Armbruster Preserve
from 4:00 – 5:00p!*

April 26

May 3



Bloodroot

Spring Park Work Days

Park work days will ramp back up as the sun returns! Volunteers are invited to join us on **select Saturdays from 9:30a to 1:00p** this spring to help keep Bull's Run Arboretum looking great and get ready for summer visitors. Come for an hour or stay all morning; we appreciate any time you can offer! Volunteers work in a variety of areas, including planting native trees, mulching trails, removing invasive species, painting, and weeding out the rain garden and native plant gardens. There is always something to do! Bring a water bottle and work gloves. If you have personal tools you want to bring great, but we will also have tools and extra gloves on hand to use.

Upcoming spring park work days:

March 21

April 4

April 25 – Earth Day Clean Up Day!

May 2

May 16



April 11 will be a rain date make up work day if 3/21 or 4/4 get rained out

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

- ❖ Thanks to Conservation Contracting, LLC for invasive removal work
- ❖ Thanks to all of our volunteer bird feeder fillers
- ❖ Thanks to our Nature TOTS families for your participation
- ❖ Thanks to the City of Middletown for all of your support
- ❖ 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 support
- ❖ Thanks to Aaron Grant for maintaining our website
- ❖ Thanks to all Board members for their enduring support!
- ❖ Thanks to **all of our wonderful membership holders**, we truly appreciate your support and could not do any of this without YOU!!



Become a Bull's Run Member Today!
2026 Membership Form can be found on
the website www.bullsrn.org or on pg 7

More Ways To Get Involved with Bull's Run

Become a Board Member! Our volunteer board members are vital to continuing the work of Bull's Run. If you care about our mission, please consider joining us! Interested parties can email brnsaa@gmail.com

Current board openings include:

Member at Large Serve as general board member, offering suggestions for programming and helping to execute the various events held throughout the year.

Contribute time, talent or materials:

Volunteer on a Workday with your own yard tools, or using some of ours, to help prepare the trails for tours, control invasive species or add to the diversity of plants. Individuals and groups welcomed.

Take pictures of your visit to Bull's Run and post them on our Facebook page or your own Instagram account. Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum is still one of Middletown's little-known gems of nature. Help us spread the word!

Kroger Community Rewards Program: Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy...all you must do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! When you enroll, please choose Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum under Community Rewards. This will not affect your fuel rewards in any way. Our organization number is **MX093**.

Local Native Plant Sources

As spring approaches, many of us will be breaking out the garden tools and sinking our hands in the dirt! And we will be in need of native plants and seeds. Luckily, there are various local sources for Ohio native species. Check out these local suppliers!

Three Valley Conservation Trust Seed Libraries:

“The wildflower seed library program is designed to bring a wave of natural beauty and ecological health to Butler County, Ohio. With native wildflower seeds provided at our seed libraries, we’re sowing the seeds for a more biodiverse and resilient environment. The initiative is not merely about planting flowers; it’s a commitment to bolster habitats for pollinators, fortify the local ecosystem, and empower our community to engage in conservation firsthand.”

Visiting seed libraries at community hubs like Cherokee Park, VOA Park, Timberman Ridge, and Ruder Preserve, and local Midpointe Library locations, Butler County residents can actively participate in environmental stewardship. Each seed planted is a step towards a greener, more vibrant county, where every wildflower contributes to a collective endeavor of nurturing and preserving the splendor of our local environment. Learn more at <https://3vct.org/what-we-do/community#seed-libraries>

Delhi Flower and Garden Center sells a variety of native plants and is also hosting Nativefest on April 25! They are located at:

Delhi Garden Center
6282 Cincinnati-Dayton Road
Liberty Township, OH 45044

Learn more at <https://delhigardencenters.com/events/nativefest/>

Bowyer Farm is a Cincinnati Zoo property in Mason that sells a wide selection of reasonably priced, well-grown, hard-to-find, and ecologically important native plants. Native plants, including ones found throughout the Bowyer Farm ecosystem, are available on select sale days:

April 18, May 2 and May 16
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

For information visit <https://cincinnati-zoo.org/events/native-plant-sale-at-bowyer-farm/>

Bowyer Farm
2210 Mason-Montgomery Road
Mason, OH 45040





Membership Form 2026

Tax deductible

Our Mission Statement

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.

_____ \$50 Family (printed newsletter)

_____ \$40 Family (e-newsletter)

_____ \$40 Individual (printed newsletter)

_____ \$30 Individual (e-newsletter)

\$_____ Additional Fundraising contribution

\$_____ Contribution to the Endowment Fund with Middletown Community

\$_____ Contribution in Honor/Memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement of memorial donation to:

Name _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

Address _____

(Membership also payable on website)

Name _____

Phone#() _____

Address _____ Email _____

To volunteer, schedule a program, tour, or speaker for your group, Contact Naturalist, Melissa Proffitt at 513-279-8958 or email brnsaa@gmail.com. For event information visit www.bullsrn.org or our Facebook page.

Mail to Bull's Run Arboretum, P.O. Box 425, Middletown, OH 45042-0425



Bull's Run Merchandise Promotes Conservation!

We want YOU to help us let the community know about what an awesome resource Bull's Run Arboretum is! This hidden gem needs to be hidden no longer, and word of mouth (and merch wearing!) is still a tried-and-true method to accomplish that. While funds raised through sales go directly to supporting the care and maintenance of the arboretum, another power of merchandise is spreading the word about this awesome organization!

T-shirts are \$25 each and include green short sleeve, green long sleeve, and brown short sleeve. Hats are \$20 each and can be ordered in tan or dark green! Please email brnsaa@gmail.com to place your order today!





BULL'S RUN
NATURE SANCTUARY
AND ARBORETUM

P.O. Box 425
Middletown, OH 45042



Nature TOTS



Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events

March

- Saturday, March 21, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Sunday, March 22, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
- Sunday, March 29, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

April

- Saturday, April 4, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Sunday, April 12, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm,
***Bonus Wildflower Walk at Armbruster Preserve**, 4:00 -5:00 pm
- Saturday, April 25, **Earth Day Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm,
in partnership with Keep Middletown Beautiful!
- Sunday, April 26, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
- Fri-Sun, April 24-26, **Cincy Nature Challenge on iNaturalist with Metroparks of Butler County**
Learn more at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2026-butler-county-oh/>

May

- Saturday, May 2, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Sunday, May 3, **Wildflower Walk**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
- Saturday, May 16, **Park Work Day**, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Sundays, May 17, 24, 31, and June 7, **Spring Nature TOTS**, 2:00 -3:30 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!