

# Emerald Necklace Endowment Fund

Cleveland Metroparks established the Emerald Necklace Endowment Fund within The Cleveland Foundation to preserve the natural resources of the "Emerald Necklace" and help to provide outdoor education and recreation for generations to come. Contributions to the Emerald Necklace Endowment Fund will remain in the fund and generate annual income. This income will benefit all aspects of Cleveland Metroparks including:

- Conserving natural resources through land and wildlife stewardship
- Providing outdoor education for all ages, ranging from preschool interactive explorations to the nationally acclaimed Institute of the Great Outdoors adventure programs
- Facilitating recreation opportunities to foster personal wellness, health and the enjoyment of natural resources

Cleveland Metroparks also welcomes gifts directed toward specific facilities or programs. All gifts to the Emerald Necklace Endowment Fund will ensure the future of Cleveland Metroparks by helping to maintain, as well as assist in the continued growth of the Park District.

# Cleveland Metroparks

Cleveland Metroparks is Cleveland's "Emerald Necklace," an open space of natural beauty and diversity. The Park District is dedicated to conservation, education and recreation. It offers an array of facilities and opportunities from picnicking, golfing and fishing to water and winter recreation areas, wildlife areas, and outdoor education and recreation programs. Cleveland Metroparks was established on July 23, 1917 to provide open space for the people of Greater Cleveland, as well as to conserve and preserve the natural valleys of the area. Today, Cleveland Metroparks consists of more than 20,000 acres of land in 14 reservations, over 100 miles of parkways, and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Cleveland Metroparks events are featured in the *Emerald Necklace*. This free monthly publication is available to residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township in Medina County. (There is an annual \$10 subscription fee for others.) To be placed on the mailing list, send your name and address to the address below. Cleveland Metroparks does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in employment, services or access to programs or activities. Special assistance for Cleveland Metroparks programs or facilities is available by calling (216) 635-3264 in advance.

In case of accident or emergency, call Ranger Headquarters at (440) 243-0442.

Administrative Offices  
4101 Fulton Parkway  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144-1923  
(216) 351-6300  
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COVER IMAGE: CASEY BATULE

# Nature... a gift to preserve!

Cleveland Metroparks was established July 23, 1917, to provide open green space for the people of greater Cleveland, as well as to preserve the various wonders of the natural landscape. Today, the Park District consists of over 20,000 acres in 14 reservations and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. In all its efforts, Cleveland Metroparks remains focused on its mission of **conservation, education and recreation**.

Cleveland Metroparks is often referred to as Cleveland's "Emerald Necklace," a green space of natural beauty in and around the Greater Cleveland area. Each Cleveland Metroparks reservation focuses on conserving its own unique natural setting and provides education and recreation programs to make the Park District accessible to the greatest number of people possible. In total, Cleveland Metroparks:

- Maintains more than 200 miles of multi-purpose trails, hiking trails and bridle paths
- Provides over 5,000 outdoor education programs annually, for all ages
- Operates six golf courses
- Serves over 56 million people on an annual basis

Cleveland Metroparks is a separate political subdivision of the state of Ohio, governed by the Board of Park Commissioners consisting of three citizens who serve three-year terms without compensation. The Senior Judge of Probate Court of Cuyahoga County, the Honorable John J. Donnelly, appoints the members of the board.

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# Ways to Give

Cleveland Metroparks planned giving program offers a unique way to serve as a steward of the region's natural landscape. By including Cleveland Metroparks in your estate plans, you can help preserve and expand the "Emerald Necklace" while you plan for your own financial future.

A planned gift benefits both you and Cleveland Metroparks. You benefit from the satisfaction of knowing that your gift furthers conservation, education and recreation within Cleveland Metroparks. An additional benefit may be substantial tax savings, proportionate to the size of the gift. Cleveland Metroparks benefits from additional financial resources to continue and expand its high standard of excellence in conservation, education and recreation.

Here are a few examples: A charitable remainder trust earns income for the life of the donor and helps Cleveland Metroparks acquire additional land to preserve wildlife. A bequest to Cleveland Metroparks helps to reduce estate taxes and allows children to experience nature first-hand through the outstanding programs offered at nature centers. A charitable gift annuity provides attractive interest rates to the donor and adds scenic miles to Cleveland Metroparks extensive walking trails.

A gift to Cleveland Metroparks may be given without restrictions or specified for a program or facility that you find personally compelling. Unrestricted funds support ongoing special initiatives within all aspects of Cleveland Metroparks to maintain its high level of quality. All planned gifts provide donors with the opportunity to establish a permanent partnership with Cleveland Metroparks that creates an enduring legacy.

## Outright Gifts

A gift of cash or securities is a simple and effective way of expressing your commitment to Cleveland Metroparks.

## Bequest

A bequest is one of the most forthright ways to support Cleveland Metroparks. Through a bequest, you may donate cash, securities or real estate to further conservation, education and recreation in Cleveland Metroparks.

## IRA or Qualified Plan

Upon death, retirement plans or IRA balances are included for estate and income taxes to your beneficiaries - often up to 85%. Funding a charitable bequest to Cleveland Metroparks with an IRA or retirement plan prevents the bequest from becoming a liability of your estate, and the gift is made with pre-tax dollars.

## Charitable Remainder Trust

A charitable remainder trust offers a gift to Cleveland Metroparks without loss of income to you and provides a current income tax deduction allowed for a future gift. The value of the gift is based on current market value, without triggering a taxable capital gain and offers an income at a desired percentage without regard to current investment return.

## Charitable Lead Trust

Lead trusts allow you to transfer assets to a trust that pays Cleveland Metroparks an income for your lifetime, or specified number of years. At the expiration of the lead trust, remaining assets transfer to the donor's beneficiaries with decreased or eliminated estate and gift taxes

## Charitable Gift Annuity

With a gift of cash or marketable securities, you may purchase a charitable gift annuity that can provide you or a designated beneficiary with annual guaranteed lifetime income payments. Once your income needs are met, the initial gift will benefit Cleveland Metroparks. The amount of guaranteed lifetime payments depends on the age of the beneficiary in the year of donation and the value of the gift. A gift annuity will provide you with tax benefits in the year of donation as well throughout the lifetime of the donor.

## Life Insurance Policy

Life insurance makes it possible for virtually everyone to make a meaningful gift to Cleveland Metroparks. Policies that were never used for their original purpose can make excellent gifts. Tax benefits depend on many factors, including whether the policy is fully paid.

## Emerald Necklace Fellowship

The Emerald Necklace Fellowship recognizes and honors those who serve as stewards of Cleveland Metroparks by including the **Emerald Necklace Endowment Fund** in their estate plan. Members of the Emerald Necklace Fellowship are recognized annually in the *Emerald Necklace* newsletter, as well as at the Stinchcomb Memorial located in Rocky River Reservation. Contributions of \$10,000 or more may also be recognized through mutually agreed opportunities.

If you already included Cleveland Metroparks in your estate plan, we would like to include you as part of the Emerald Necklace Fellowship. Please contact Cleveland Metroparks Manager of Gift and Donor Development at (216) 635-3217 or [kjk@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:kjk@clevelandmetroparks.com) to confidentially discuss giving opportunities.

## Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

To discuss gifts related to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, please contact the Cleveland Zoological Society at 216-635-3323, or [etf@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:etf@clevelandmetroparks.com).