

“Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher.” William Wordsworth



### Miller Ecological Park 2017 Highlights

1. The entryway feature was added to MEP. Note, the quote over the walkway welcomes all, and the entry base gives recognition to major park donors.
2. Lebanon City applied for two grants in 2017.
  - a) An NRAC grant for \$25,000 was approved. It has provided removal of invasive species, converted the “old field” section of the park to Pollinator Habitat, allowed reforestation of the Early Successional Forest, provided enhanced educational opportunities in the park, and improved trail drainage.
  - b) A Nature Works Grant for expansion of the current parking lot was partially approved for \$7,000.
3. Trees were planted throughout the park
  - a. Memorial trees for Jim Larson and Bill and Susan Stalter
  - b. General tree plantings by the city
  - c. 2 Cherry trees for the Japanese Garden (Moore family)
  - d. Kleinger’s Contest Tree
4. MEPs Facebook and Website postings continue to be popular. Facebook “boosting” was initiated to better promote events.
5. Emiko and Mel Moore have moved ahead with plans for a Japanese Garden honoring our friendship with the Matsunami Park in Ishinomaki, Japan.
6. Nature Walk series
  - a. May 13: Wetlands (Dave Woehr)
  - b. June 10: Ecological Concepts (Peggy Logue and Donna Shaw)
  - c. July 8: Wildflowers, trees shrubs and grasses (Bob Henn)
  - d. August 12: Nature Photography (Jim Ludwick)
  - e. September 23: Birds of MEP (Dave Woehr)
  - f. October 14: Critters in MEP (Peggy Logue and Donna Shaw)
  - g. November 11: Plants Preparing for Winter (Bob Henn)
  - h. December 9: Are the Trees Really Staring at Us? (Bill Lindauer)

7. Signage was posted in the back 51 acres.
8. Two Eagle Scout projects were completed this year.
  - a. Nicholas Haselwood created the Wildlife Feeding Station at the bird blind.
  - b. Tommy Brennan completed a boardwalk over a wetland area in the back 51 acres.
9. The roof on Shelter A was replaced.
10. Volunteers
  - Thirty Lebanon High School Key Club members helped to plant new trees beyond the bird blind, and near the shelter, replacing some unsuccessful seedlings.
  - Volunteers from Tennessee, visiting a local church, came to MEP to work on trail repairs.
  - Bob Henn revitalized the small Girl Scout Garden area.
  - Our scouts, committees, nature tour guides and school groups all assisted in making needed improvements and developing great programs.
11. A great deal of invasive honeysuckle was sprayed and removed in the front section of the park.
12. MEP participated in the Northrop Grumman Health Fair (Carol and Janie)
13. Miller Park's first Sunflower Garden was planted east of the parking area.
14. Lebanon Garden Club held their annual release of monarch butterflies on August 12<sup>th</sup>. This event coordinated with the fourth Nature Walk with photographer Jim Ludwick. A full day of fun was completed with a picnic between these events for Steering Committee members and other Friends of MEP.
15. Oktoberfest, Miller Park's, major fund raiser, was held on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> in downtown Lebanon.
16. The Miller Park Steering Committee displayed an informational booth at Oktoberfest.
17. Bob Henn's Wildlife Inventory List has been updated and can be seen at our website at millerecopark.org. <https://www.millerecopark.org/pages/Information/default/7/>
18. MEP Steering Committee attended and promoted MEP at Sue Saari's fall Go Native Now plant sale.
19. Sue Saari has recently joined the MEP Steering Committee.
20. Our Deputy City Manager, Scott Brunka, was named Lebanon City Manager in September. His enthusiasm and support at MEP has been beyond our wildest dreams. Thanks, Scott!



In order to maintain and improve Miller Ecological Park, the Miller Ecological Park Trustees are planning several programs in addition to our annual Oktoberfest. One of these is recognition of major donors on the entry way feature. For those who choose to make contributions of \$1,000 or more, their names will be added to entry way feature. This donation made be made through Warren County Foundation. Donors might consider a Pledged Donation and make payments in regular installments. The Pledge Form can be found on the MEP Website. [www.millerecopark.org](http://www.millerecopark.org)