

PARK HISTORY

Wooster and Wayne County are extremely fortunate to have this quiet, wooded, 254-acre park. Wooster Memorial Park was created through the vision of Paul S. Spangler (1900-1986). A Wooster native and high school teacher, Mr. Spangler long dreamed of this area becoming a park. In 1961, he began a series of land donations to the City of Wooster and stipulated that the area be named Wooster Memorial Park in memory of his family and his strong faith.

In 1968, through local foundations, the City purchased 121 acres of land (part of the Becker farm) northwest of, and adjacent to, Mr. Spangler's gift. In June 1970, with Mr. Spangler and Mayor Paul Tilford in attendance, Wooster Memorial Park was dedicated. It has been designated by the City as a permanent natural area.

NATURAL HISTORY

Throughout its long history, the land that makes up Wooster Memorial Park has been covered by river systems, shallow seas, swamps, and mile-thick glaciers. The last glacial advance withdrew from this area about 14,000 years ago. Rocks in and along Rathburn Run, including some granite boulders that originated in Canada, provide evidence of this glacial past. The many years of weather and erosion since that time have cut the ever-changing Rathburn Run valley. Today, the soil, rocks, and plants in Wooster Memorial Park reflect its dynamic history.

PURPOSE

Through the years, various civic organizations and volunteers have contributed time and money to benefit Wooster Memorial Park. In 1997, Friends of Wooster Memorial Park was formed. Since its inception, the group has worked to increase understanding and awareness of the park's natural features through public nature walks and hikes, has encouraged natural history inventories and research, assisted park staff with trails and signs, developed a new park map, and worked with other groups to promote and improve the park as a natural area for public use.

In 2002, the Friends became an Ohio non-profit corporation with the following purpose:

"Friends of Wooster Memorial Park recognizes and appreciates Paul S. Spangler's foresight and generous gift of this park to the City of Wooster, as well as the donations from the community that have enhanced this gift. As a volunteer organization that values the natural features of the park, Friends of Wooster Memorial Park shall work with the City as an advocate for the park in the following ways:

** assist in caring for and improving the park while retaining the park's natural character for future generations;*

** expand public awareness and appreciation of the park in ways that are compatible with the natural areas and foot trails;*

** increase knowledge and understanding of the park's natural history;*

** encourage additional gifts and financial support that appropriately benefit the park in accordance with the purpose of this organization."*

Together, we can achieve our purpose and benefit this beautiful park.

PLEASE JOIN US

*in our endeavor to help care for
Wooster Memorial Park!*

Membership is offered to any adult who supports our purpose and pays the annual membership dues. A member will receive information about FWMP activities, may vote at the annual meeting and have the satisfaction of helping support a unique, local natural area.

Yes, I support the purpose of Friends of Wooster Memorial Park and would like to become a member.

Name (1) _____

Name (2) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Information will only be used by FWMP.

\$5.00 - Individual adult (annual membership)

Total memberships ____ @ \$5 each = ____

Additional contributions are very helpful in assisting FWMP to further its purpose.

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of Wooster Memorial Park
P.O. 1776
Wooster, OH 44691

Friends of Wooster Memorial Park is an Ohio non-profit corporation without federal tax-exempt status at this time.