

WELCOME TO WOOSTER MEMORIAL PARK! Known for its wooded, steep ravines and scenic Rathburn Run, this park has been designated by the City of Wooster as an area that will remain natural. Rathburn Run, a tributary of the Little Killbuck, bisects the park, and over five miles of earthen foot trails wind up and down throughout the park. Native woodland wildflowers are abundant in April and May, and the many trees provide picturesque autumn colors.

Mr. Paul Spangler (1900-1986), a Wooster native and high school teacher, long dreamed of this area becoming a park. In 1961, he began a series of land donations to the City of Wooster and requested that the area be named Wooster Memorial Park. Today, the park consists of 254 acres, of which 121 acres (Becker Farm) were purchased by the City in 1968 through local foundations.

THE FOUR PARK TRAILS CAN BE HIKED AS LOOPS. It is 0.2 mile from either parking (P) area to the main trailhead sign. Each loop mileage listed below begins at the main trailhead sign. Note the color of your trail and follow the colored arrows. Some areas are very steep and require careful footing and alertness. Due to periodic flooding, there are no bridges over Rathburn Run. Use caution when crossing as "rock hopping" can be slippery. Since the water level fluctuates, you must decide if it seems safe to cross or whether you should return as you came.

EDUCATION LOOP (yellow) - The Education trail has a gentle grade until it meets the Spangler trail. Since the trail is undefined in the grass areas between the fields and woods, follow the grass edge and walk ahead to the next yellow-arrow post. To complete the loop, continue on the Spangler trail to the ledge, descend into the valley and walk up to the main trailhead. Caution is needed at the ledge, and children should remain with adults. This loop does not cross Rathburn Run. 1.2 MI

TRILLIUM LOOP (green) - This trail follows the southeast valley and a hemlock ridge; it does not cross Rathburn Run. In spring, masses of trillium wildflowers cover the hillside. The Outer Loop shares part of this route. 1.2 MI

SPANGLER LOOP (blue) - Named after park donor, Paul Spangler, this trail follows the valley, ledge, field edge, and crosses Rathburn Run twice (no bridges). Both the Education and Outer trails also follow portions of this route. 1.6 MI

OUTER LOOP (red) - This is the most challenging trail and traverses the ridge, valley, and side ravines of the park's perimeter. To complete the loop, it is necessary to cross Rathburn Run at the west and east ends of the park (no bridges). The Outer Loop follows portions of the Spangler and Trillium trails. 3.6 MI

PLEASE RESPECT AND HELP CARE FOR OUR UNIQUE, NATURE PARK! To retain the naturalness of this park and to be considerate of others, please cooperate with the following:

- **Trails are for foot traffic only.**
- **NO** bicycles, horses, or motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails.
- **NO** alcohol, firearms, or hunting are permitted.
- Dogs should be controlled so they do not disturb people or animals. Please use a leash.
- Carry out trash to trash barrels.
- Stay on trails. Short cuts kill plants and cause erosion.
- Do **NOT** pick wildflowers, remove any plants or cut trees
- Fires are restricted to grills. **Open fires are PROHIBITED!**
- The two shelters may be reserved by contacting the Wooster Community Center at 330-263-5207.
- Camping requires approval and a permit from Wooster Parks and Recreation, 330-263-5207.
- **NO** loitering or soliciting permitted in the park. **VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.**

The Friends of Wooster Memorial Park is a volunteer group of area citizens who is helping the City of Wooster care for and retain the natural character of this park. Contact information for the Friends group can be obtained from Wooster Parks and Recreation at the Community Center, 330-263-5207.