



**FRIENDS OF EATON COUNTY PARKS**

P.O. BOX 522

GRAND Ledge, MI 48837

(517) 731-6025 Friends.ECParks@gmail.com

www.EatonCountyParks.org

Dear Friends of Eaton County Parks:

This is our annual request for you to join or renew your membership with the Friends of Eaton County Parks. Thanks to all of you who have partnered with us as we support our parks during a period when resources for our facilities and services continue to be stretched.

This past year we have continued to support volunteer activities, provide money for educational and recreational programming, as well as participate in a number of fund raising activities. For more details, please review the attached summary.

The big news, however, is the recent addition of our new 432 acre gem, Crandell Park, 160 acres of which is a spring fed lake. This project, given up for dead more than once, is a real live miracle ultimately brought about by the higher new property re-appraisal (partially funded by The Friends) and the generosity of the Crandell family who provided 100% of the 25% match monies required to receive the DNR grant.

Now that the land is officially an Eaton County park, the development process begins and we will keep you informed and encourage your input.

Enclosed are membership cards, a bookmark, and our brochure. Please feel free to pass the brochure on to a friend or neighbor. The back of the renewal form includes a place for suggestions, questions, or to express interest in exploring volunteer opportunities.

For our parks,

Jeff O'Neill, President



**MEMBER'S INFORMATION:**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:**

Family (\$25)     Individual (\$15)     Student (\$5)     Dog (\$5)

Corporate/Organizational (\$40) Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**NATURALIST SCHOLARSHIP FUND:**

Yes, I would like to make an additional contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_.00     No thanks, not at this time.

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Yes, I am interested in exploring volunteer opportunities; please contact me by phone at  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. The best time(s) to reach me is \_\_\_\_\_.
- No thanks, not at this time.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING OUR ORGANIZATION AND/OR PARKS:**



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### **2016 Friends Accomplishments at a glance**

- 1. Continue providing hundreds of volunteer hours in monitoring and maintaining our park trail system;**
- 2. Again co-sponsored the Ledges Classic Car/Craft Show;**
- 3. Sponsored the Annual Dinner Cruise fund raiser.**
- 4. Advocated for the purchase of Crandell Park including providing financing for the re-appraisal of the property which was instrumental to the ultimate purchase.**
- 5. Provided naturalist educational programs (via Annie's Big Nature Lesson) by providing money to assist local schools transport children to the parks;**
- 6. Provided scholarships for students who need help participating in park educational and recreational programming.**

### **2017 Initiatives**

- 1. Continue to support the Annie's Big Nature program.**
- 2. Continue supporting the student scholarship program. This year we are adding \$400 to this line item and have a total of \$1200 reserved for scholarships.**
- 3. Actively participate in the development of Crandell Park.**
- 4. Continue to improve communication with our members regarding park news and ways for members to participate.**
- 5. Continue our commitment to a county park millage. It is anticipated that the need for a millage will become clearer as park needs are more clearly documented through a capital improvement plan and completion of the Crandell Park envisioning process.**
- 6. And, of course, we will continue to look for ways to expand volunteer experiences in our parks and with our organization.**

**Reminder: Don't forget to visit the park's website at [www.EatonCountyParks.org](http://www.EatonCountyParks.org) and their link to The Friends. And please make sure we are in your address book!**