



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Foundation Park Conservancy 2018 Board Members

Kim Rose, President
Michael Percy, Vice President
Melanie Bolender, Secretary
David Stuller, Treasurer
Sam Barone
David Carpenter
Susan Kahrl
Jan Reynolds/Jennifer Odenweller
Matt Starr

Ariel-Foundation Park Staff

Mark Fritz, Director of Operations
Jody Holland, Nature Programs
Carrie Haver, Marketing
Angie Wild, Reservations
Jeff Boucher, Food/Beverage
Skip Trask, Sound/Lights Tech
Denny Ball, Events
Megan Evans, Events
Paul Highnam, Events
Jennifer Highnam, Cleaning
Zach Broeren, Assistant



Our Mission & Vision

The mission of Foundation Park Conservancy is to be the main source of economic support for the preservation, development, programming, and promotion of Ariel-Foundation Park in collaboration with the City of Mount Vernon.

Ariel-Foundation Park will be a world class example of adaptive reuse that honors its industrial heritage and is the focal point for recreation, entertainment, and social interaction in Knox County.

A Letter from the President

SUCCESS is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and, most of all, love of what you are doing.” -Pelé

In its December board meeting, the Foundation Park Conservancy Board reviewed another busy year.

The Conservancy, along with representatives of the Shade Tree Commission, completed plans for the West Foundation Park gardens. A heritage apple tree from Johnny Appleseed was planted and preparation was made for seeding in the spring.

The Schnormeier Events Center project was nearly completed with the installation of the large garage doors. This will allow for expanded use of the facility and provide a more weather-secure venue for the growing number of concerts, weddings, receptions, and private events.

Ten sunset swings were installed and were quickly discovered with heavy evening use.

The grass planting and fertilization initiative resulted in a more lush walk through the park.

Park safety was improved with the installation of additional lights and cameras.

Thanks to Tom Rastin's generosity, the historic viaduct lighting project was completed with a grand lighting ceremony the night before Thanksgiving. This completes the tower and bridge lighting project. We are very pleased with the beauty of the light and very pleased with the amount of evenings the lights are dedicated.

Nine concerts were staged last year with an emphasis on quality of entertainment. We were very pleased with the result and the satisfaction of our audiences.



The Fourth of July celebration was the largest ever as the community has accepted July 4th as its night to celebrate. The planning for this event is a challenge, but continues to improve each year as the crowds build.

We introduced some new events: Kids to Parks day, a heavily attended Halloween event, and an absolutely beautiful Carols & Candles holiday celebration.

This year, **Jan Reynolds** decided to join her husband Ken in retirement. Jan was a loyal and inspired board member. The Board will miss her inspiration and dedication. We welcomed Jen Odenweller, executive director of the Ariel Foundation, into this position and look forward to her contributions.

Ariel-Foundation Park becomes more beautiful every year and more noticed. Inquiries as far as Russia were received this year asking about how their community might build such a similar facility.

This report will provide the various facts and figures for the year. From the Board's perspective Ariel-Foundation Park continues to become accepted and used by the community which enhances the quality of life for everyone.

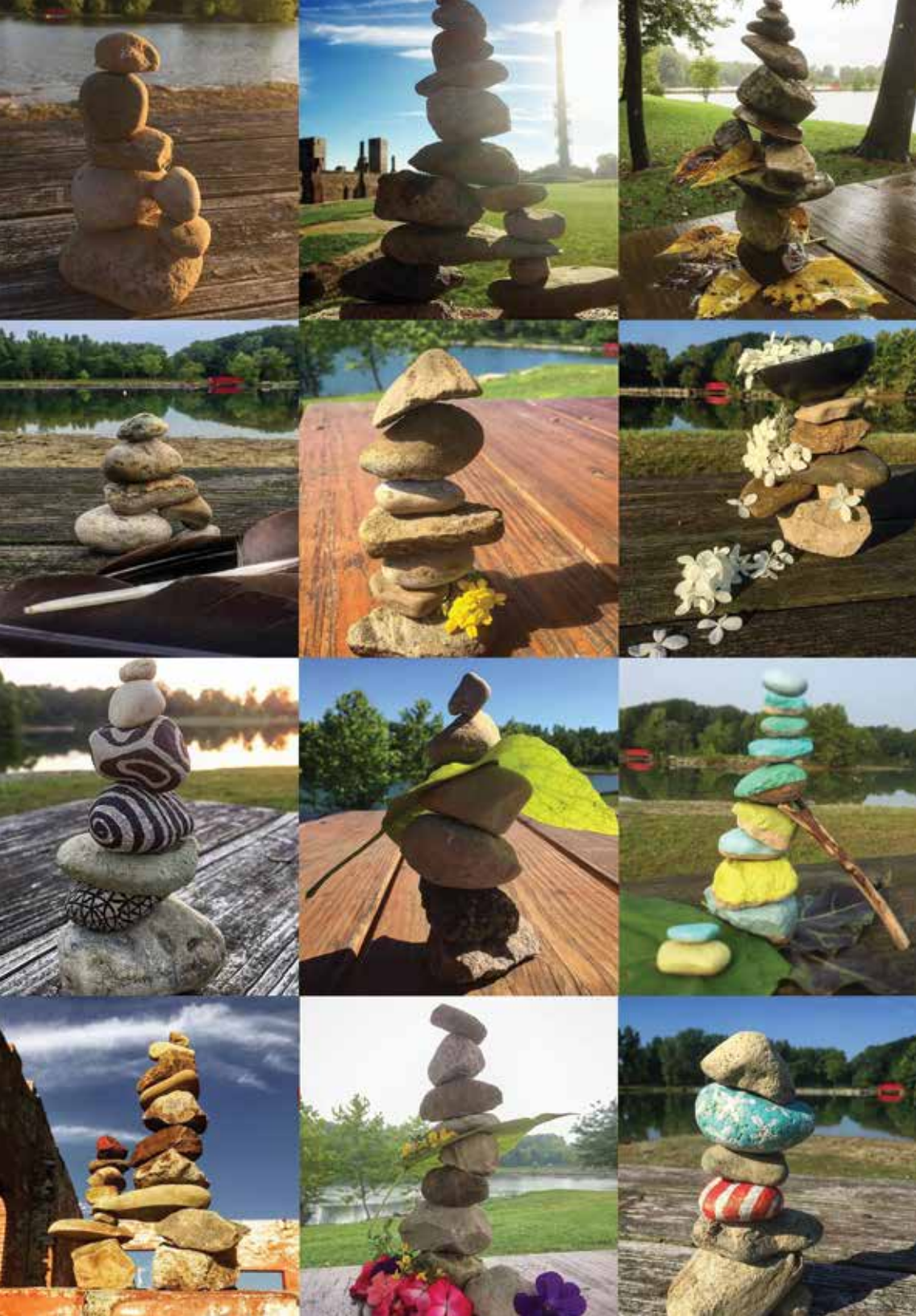
Your continued support of our community's gem is greatly appreciated!

- Kim M. Rose, Foundation Park Conservancy President

By the Numbers Overview

- 2 Properties purchased on Pittsburgh Avenue
- 5 Movie Mondays
- 7 Physical fitness offerings:
 - Aerobic fitness and yoga by Step into Fitness
 - Ballroom dancing by Donna Conley
 - Line dancing by Donna and Jack Martin
 - Tai Chi by Marshall Winkle
 - Yoga by Hot Yoga Escape
 - Yoga by Shakti Fit
 - Zumba® by Amber Hawkins
- 8 5Ks that benefited a variety of community organizations and causes
- 8 Wedding Receptions
- 8 Park tours
- 9 Concerts
- 11 Part-time staff members
- 12 Wedding and reception combos
- 141 Picnic pavilion reservations
- 260+ Park acres maintained
- 468 Total event bookings/reservations
- 8,000+ July 4th event attendees





Community Impact

From the Scottish Gaelic, a “cairn” is a human-made pile or stack of stones. Cairns have been and are used for a broad variety of purposes, from prehistoric times to the present. In modern times, cairns are often erected as landmarks or as memorials or to mark trails. Mount Vernon resident and artist **Laura Tappen** built hundreds of these mini-cairns (seen left) throughout 2018 and we wanted to capture and share her artistry here.

My family and I love the park. We have been visiting to walk 3-5 times a week for the last 4 months. My husband and I have lost 76 pounds between us, enjoying the beautiful scenery. Thank you so much for the beautiful, peaceful grounds and the great events too!

- Angie Chapman

Beautiful park! There are areas where you can fish, you can climb the tower, there's buildings you can rent, and many places that are photography worthy! I love this park.

- Jessi Tucker

Super cool park. I recommend to anyone to go there. We were there on the 4th of July and even though it's an hour drive, we will be going back next year.

- Jason Teehan

The planners did a fantastic job of conceptualizing what this former industrial park could be for the community. The combination of trails, landscaped green-space, ponds, event center, sculptures, picnic areas, and a viewing platform halfway up an old smokestack are just some of the features that make this park such a worthwhile addition for regional residents.

- Stew Peckham

Off the beaten path while on a recent road trip and it was worth the little detour. Beautiful park with numerous photo opps. Lots of room for kids to run and for the adults to stretch your legs.

- Reviewer from Dunkirk, Indiana

Ariel-Foundation Park has so much to offer. Our family hiked to the top of the tower to see the views and enjoy the spiral staircase. The ponds, geese, ducks, and other birds are quite relaxing.

- Reviewer from Arcadia, Florida

Just happened past this park on the way home. Turned around to see what was in store. Amazing. A beautiful park, lots to see, trails, lakes and beauty. Everyone should stop by here at least once. I will be going back this summer to see all the activity and the park actually in warmer weather. Go check it out and I'm sure you will be pleased with how the community took an old factory and turned into something everyone can be proud of.

- Reviewer from Chillicothe, Ohio

Events/Programming

Concert Series

With the tremendous support of local and regional business and organizations, the park was proud to present its fourth year of free concert programming. The nine events showcased local favorites, regional headliners, and a group supported by the Ohio Arts Council. The park's goal is to bring a variety of quality, live entertainment to our community; create memorable family experiences; and encourage people to explore their park.

Fitness Activities

Hundreds of community members engage in the park's free fitness programs each year. Our 2018 offerings included Tai Chi, yoga, Zumba, cardio/step, ballroom dancing, and line dancing. We are grateful to our partners and sponsors who offer this programming.

Movie Mondays

This year the park was pleased to present five movies instead of three, featuring films for kids and families as well as for "date night" or more mature audiences.

Rastin Challenge

This year brought more than 80 first responders to the park to compete and celebrate camaraderie through the Rastin Challenge. We were excited to award our first scholarships for higher education to local first responders Sgt. Dan Selby with the Knox Co. Sheriff's Office and Lt. Todd Davis with the Mount Vernon Fire Department. Also brand new this year was the K-9 Competition which was of great interest to people of all ages.

- New in 2018 -

First Day Hike

More than 40 people enjoyed our first First Day Hike, held nationally on Jan. 1. Despite 5-degree temperatures, everyone enjoyed getting outside and learning more about their park on a 1-hour walk.

Kids to Parks Day

A national initiative to get more children active at their local and state parks, Kids to Parks day featured a scavenger hunt culminating in a climb to the top of Rastin Tower.

Youth Art Workshop

Local artist/ college student Megan Bell led a youth art workshop for elementary age students. We plan to increase our offerings and participation for 2019.

Hocus Pocus Trick-or-Treat Trail

This event saw an estimated 2,000 park guests, enjoying trick-or-treating with more than 40 local businesses and organizations.

Candles & Carols

Held in mid-December, this event brought the community together for a seasonal music celebration and walk through more than 600 luminaries.



Bostic Images

Hot Yoga Escape

Bostic Images

Kim Rose

Josh Morrison/Mount Vernon News



Capital Improvements & Facilities

In support of the mission of the Foundation Park Conservancy, we continue to improve and enhance the facilities at the park. Many of our activities are elective, but sometimes the maintenance or upgrades become necessary. Due to vandalism at the park, it became necessary to repair window glass at the Community Foundation Pavilion. This was an unexpected expense.

We have also continued to focus on enhancing safety and security with added cameras and extended wifi signals throughout the park.

Completed This Year

- Viaduct lighting project
- Community Foundation Pavilion window repairs and insulation
- Installation of 10 sunset swings
- Installation of two memorial benches
- Additional lighting for Schnormeier Event Center stage
- Window glazing at the B&O Depot
- Planting of more than 100 trees in West Foundation Park

Total Investment: In excess of \$250,000

In Process

Several projects are in various stages of development at the park:

- Schnormeier Event Center garage doors project
- West Foundation Park wildflower/pollinator gardens
- Property acquisition
- Building of service garage
- Purchase of rental items for weddings and special events
- Repairing the dike breach on the west lake/Kokosing River

Mark Fritz, Operations Director, is also serving as a loaned executive to the accessible playground project at Memorial Park, which will be completed in the spring of 2019.

The park's desire is to continually improve the beauty, environment, and structures on its 265-acre property. This includes care of the grass, lakes, trees, buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, restrooms, picnic areas, and more. We appreciate our partnership with the City of Mount Vernon which makes this possible.



Volunteers

Ariel-Foundation Park is fortunate to have an active body of volunteers who welcome people to the Urton Clock House, assist with concerts at the Schnormeier Event Center, perform grounds maintenance, and assist with special community events like the Trick-or-Treat Trail, Candles & Carols and the winter hikes.

There were many groups who staffed volunteers in 2018 including:

- Apple Valley Singers
- Budget Blinds
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Gay Street United Methodist Church
- Heritage Singers
- Knox County Kayakers
- Knox County Landmarks Foundation
- Mount Vernon Association of Police Chaplains
- Mount Vernon City Council
- Mount Vernon Fire Department
- Mount Vernon High School Key Club
- Mount Vernon Mah Jong Group
- Mount Vernon Municipal Court
- Mount Vernon Players
- Mount Vernon Police Department
- Mount Zion Lodge #9
- Psi Iota Xi
- Signs on the Square
- SubAlpine Hiking Club
- Town and Country Garden Club

Volunteers of the Year

Barry Bowden and **Doug McLarnan** were recognized as our Volunteers of the Year at a September concert for their outstanding efforts during the 4th of July, the winter hikes, and Candles & Carols events.

Volunteers Needed for 2019

In 2019, we will continue to welcome individual and service organizations to "Adopt a Weekend" at the Clock House Museum from May through September, so we can keep the doors open for local and out-of-town visitors. Also, please consider signing up on the Park website to assist with events/activities all year long or contact Volunteer Coordinator Susan Kahrl at stkahrl@yahoo.com.



The National Tour des Trees dedicates a tree at the park.



Knox County Career Center's Construction class built a protective fence for the Johnny Appleseed tree.

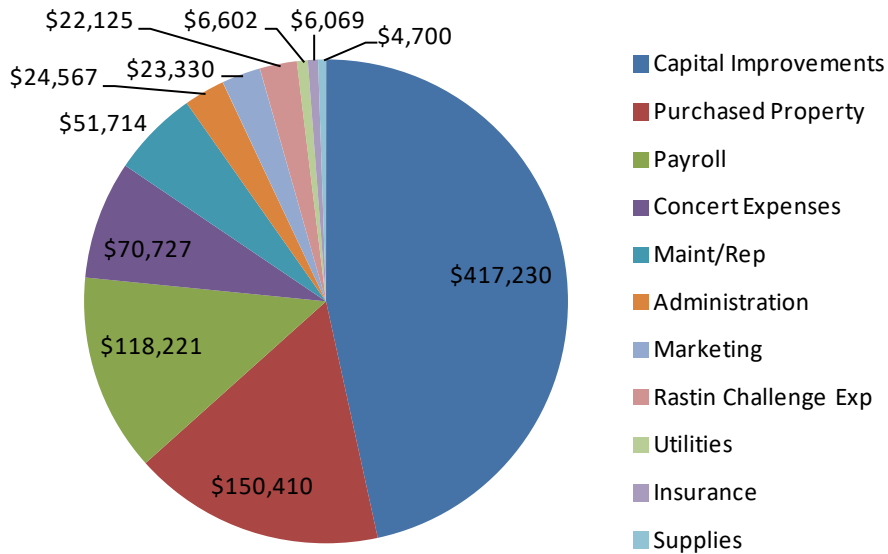


Barry Bowden (L), Volunteer of the Year, with Susan Kahrl, Volunteer Coordinator (not pictured-Doug McLarnan).

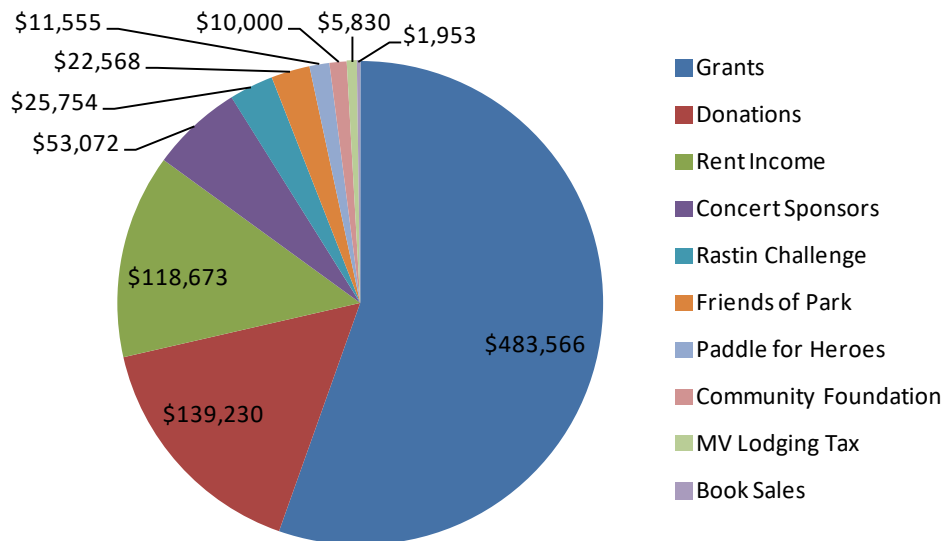


Volunteers staff the Urton Clock House/Museum May through September.

2018 Expenses - \$895,695



2018 Income - \$872,201



Financial Report

The Foundation Park Conservancy strives to be a careful steward of all financial gifts to the park. Donations and sponsorships provide the free Summer Concert Series that is enjoyed by many from Knox County and beyond. "Friends of the Park" support the annual maintenance and operating expenses of the park. Program sponsors allow the Conservancy to offer various programs such as Tai Chi and yoga. Several businesses provide "in-kind" gifts such as equipment rental and grass fertilization. The Conservancy has also been awarded grants from local and state funders, and various philanthropic foundations.

One could say, "It takes a village to create and maintain a park like this." Numerous individuals, businesses and organizations support the park in a variety of ways. Several entities work together to maintain, manage and improve the park: Foundation Park Conservancy, the City of Mount Vernon, Knox County Parks, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Tree Commission, the Kokosing Gap Trail and the Heart of Ohio Trail, to name a few.

Countless people can take pride in having a role—whether large or small—in the creation and growth of Ariel-Foundation Park. Anyone who contributes time, talent or treasure to the park can take joy in knowing your participation is the "foundation" for the ongoing success of the park. Because of you, Ariel-Foundation Park is becoming a premiere park which is enjoyed not only by local citizens of all ages and backgrounds but is also attracting visitors from central Ohio and beyond. Thank you!

Grants

- Ariel Corporation
 - Donation of service truck
- Ariel Foundation
 - Purchase of Pittsburgh Avenue lots
 - Schnormeier Event Center garage doors project
- Energy Cooperative Operation Roundup
 - Intelligent stage lights and cable ramps
- Knox County Foundation
 - Summer Concert Series sponsor
- Knox County Foundation - Youth Philanthropy Initiative
 - Movie Monday sponsor
- Ohio Arts Council
 - Summer Concert Series sponsor
 - Ohio Artists on Tour
- Tom Rastin
 - Downtown walking bridge lighting project
 - Viaduct lighting project
- United Way of Knox County - Women United
 - Toward purchase/installation of water bottle fountain

Friends of the Park

Tower Friends (\$1,000+)

James and Maureen Buchwald
Diamond Hill Capital Investments
Ellis Brothers, Inc.
Arline Landers Foundation
David and Anne McElroy
Mark and Denise Ramser
Tom Rastin
Strang Glass
United Aggregates, Inc.
Gordy and Fran Yance

Terrace Friends (\$500-\$999)

Marc and Jennifer Odenweller
Kim and Pam Rose

Tree Friends (\$250-499)

Keith and Katie Burley
Travis Lauritsen
Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club
Mount Vernon Rotary Club
Amy D. Murnen, M.D.
Richard and Susan Murray
Michael Percy and Nicole Pagano Percy
Joe and Kay Randall
Kurt and Sandra Schisler
Steve and Janet Thompson
Perry and Louise Trinkner

Trail Friends (\$100-249)

Bob and Kathy Atwell
Sam and Paula Barone
Philip Bentz
Barry Bowden
Leroy and Juanita Bumpus
Ed and Jan Cosby
Ron and Candy Fox
Jim and Kim Giles
Burt and Lois Hanson
Paul Hothem
Tim and Susan Kahrl
Jerry and Barbara Lindstrom
Richard and Peggy Mavis
Roger McCoy
Elisabeth Meier
Sam Miller
Joe and Krys Mortellaro
Joe and Sally Nelson
Peoples Bank of Gambier
Larry and Sarah Goslee Reed
Robert and Patricia Ronk
Jim and Ana Ronk
Keith and Vicki Sant
Carol Shurlow
Paul and Linda Spurgeon
Susan Sukys
Ian and Charlotte Watson

Additional Friends

Anonymous
Rodney Beckett

Summer Concert Series Sponsors

Platinum - \$5,000

Ariel Corporation
Knox County Foundation
First-Knox National Bank
Friends of Ann Schnormeier
Knox Community Hospital
Mount Vernon News
National Endowment for the Arts
Ohio Arts Council
WQIO/WMVO

Gold - \$2,500

Advantage Ag & Equipment
Energy Cooperative Operation Roundup
Conway's Eastside Pharmacy
Ohio Rental
Gordy and Fran Yance

Silver - \$1,000

Allan Bazzoli, M.D.
Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston
Delta Dental of Ohio, Inc.
Domino's
Donley Ford-Lincoln
Griffin Insurance
Brian Howe DDS Family Dentistry
Kenyon College
KnoxPages.com
LeFurjah Family Fund
Mortellaro McDonald's
Mount Vernon Grand Hotel
R&M's Southside Diner
Velvet Ice Cream
White Castle

Bronze Sponsors - \$500

Brenneman Lumber
Derr Designs
Gary and Carolyn Gray

Movie Monday Sponsors

Domino's
R&M Southside Diner
Velvet Ice Cream
Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Kids to Parks Sponsors

Paragraphs Bookstore
Wendy's

Rastin Challenge Sponsors

\$1,000+

Tom Rastin
Custom Cutters
Donley Ford-Lincoln

\$500

Central Ohio Technical College
CES Credit Union
Custom Wired Solutions
First-Knox National Bank
Galls
Gault Cleaners
Griffin Insurance
Heartland Promotional Products
Knox County Safety Council
IMS
Mount Vernon Nazarene University
StormDog Tactical
TownCenter Market
YMCA of Mount Vernon

\$250

All America Fire Equipment, Inc.
Amtec Less-Lethal Systems
Blubaugh Body & Frame
Bostic Imagery
Jeff and Norma Boucher
Buckeye Auto Care
Crossfit 1808
Fire Safety Services
Get Hosed Apparel
Katie J Photography
Knox Community Hospital
Knox County Health Department
MedFlight
Monster Energy
Mount Vernon Association of
Police Chaplains
Music-2-Go
Snyder Funeral Homes
Tim Hortons
Tri-State Armor Sales
Vasu Communications
Ver-Mac Industries
We Lov Pets

Summer Fitness Sponsors

Kahl & Co. Insurance
Knox County Health Department
Ohio Eastern Star Home
Public Library of Mount Vernon and
Knox County

Trick-or-Treat Trail Sponsor

Edward Jones - Sara Mankins, Financial Advisor

Candles & Carols Sponsors

Kim and Pam Rose
Apple Valley Singers
Baker's IGA
Heritage Singers
Knox County Kayakers
Psi Iota Xi
Stonehaven Tree Farm
Tim Hortons
Williams Flowers

Paddle for Heroes/Accessible Kayak Launch Project

\$1,000+

Ariel Corporation
Custom Cutters
The Hive Adult Day Care
QFM 96 Red, White & Q Fund
UPS Freight

\$500-999

James and Maureen Buchwald
Conway's Eastside Pharmacy
CES Credit Union/Knox County
Litter Prevention
Chemtech Systems
Holmes Tire
Stein Brewing
Terry and Lori Totman
Totman Family

\$200-499

William Besalski
Joseph Butts
Trucking Delicious
CES Credit Union
Cindy Higgs
Troy Jones
Knox Coin Exchange
Ian Lehner Realty Solutions
Paul McNeal
Pond Tire
Susan Ramser
ServePro of Delaware
Chris Schiefer Insurance
Holly Trask
Trucking Delicious

\$100-199

A+ Autobrokers
Mellisa Bowshier
Coffee Island Express
David Cordray
CSW Fence
DePolo & Associates
Christopher and Margaret
Devillers
First-Knox National Bank
Kathrine Haire
Harden Bookkeeping LLC
Herald's Appliances &
Electronics
Jacobs Motorsports
Knox Community Hospital
Mid Ohio Auto Brokers, LLC
Kevin and Betty Mishey

Mister Electric
Muskingum Valley Boating
Association
Stephen Nauaman
Ohio Eastern Star Home
Adam Porter
Samuel and Amy Spizer
Teamsters Local Union No. 413
VFW Post 427
Clint Workman

Additional Sponsors

Joyce Bell
Tracy Burnett
Mike and Carole Conway
Kristen Davidson
William Dessert
Robert Fossitt

Carin Frederickson
Giles Law Group
Aaron Grover
Jason Grover
Michelle Harden
Karla Jones
Kristie and Pat Kraisen-Thomas
Cora Mickley
Mount Vernon Middle School
Sunshine Squad
Scott and Susan Milgin
Adam Nalewyko
Hank Poppen
Laura Stevenson
Lynn Wile
Ginny Yost

Tower/Bridge/Viaduct Lighting Partners

Once again, the Foundation Park Conservancy is grateful for Tom Rastin's generosity and ongoing support. Mr. Rastin funded the new Viaduct lighting that complements the Rastin Tower and downtown footbridge lighting he also funded. He has literally "brightened" the connection between Ariel-Foundation Park and downtown Mount Vernon. Thank you for the beautiful lights, Mr. Rastin! The following individuals or organizations sponsored a special lighting of the tower:

Brenda Barkschat
Stephanie Burson
Terianna DiFrancesco
Stephen Fleming
Kaylea Grillo
Sammie Hall
Jolene Hawkins
Hospice of Knox County
Brian Huprich
Lorinda Jones
Betty Kasson
Knox County Department of
Child and Family Services

Knox County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
Mount Vernon Nazarene University
Cody Muncie
New Directions
Maureen Richert
Riverside Recovery Services
Siemens Relay For Life Team
Justin Williams
Margie Williams

Memorial Benches

Edith Jean and Merlin Leon Hubbel
Nathan R. Robinson

Sunset Swings

Knox County Foundation, two swings
Foundation Park Conservancy Board Members
Ann Schnomeier Memorial
Steve & Jacquie Upham Memorial

*Four sunset swings are available for memorial tribute.
Please contact Melanie Bolender or check the park
website for more information.*

PPG Timecards

Chester William Brown
Duane Kenneth Brown
Howard Jesse Stull

PPG tribute timecards can be purchased anytime on the park website.





Foundation Park Conservancy

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