



Contact: Peter Osborne
513-729-9517
peter.osborne@keypointpr.com

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INAUGURAL GREAT PARKS POLLINATOR FESTIVAL AND 5K RACE AT MIAMI WHITEWATER FOREST

Great Parks will celebrate bees, butterflies, bats, birds and all types of pollinators with the inaugural Pollinator Festival and Pollinator 5k race at Miami Whitewater Forest Harbor Saturday, May 18.

“Pollinators make it possible for us to enjoy many of the best things in life, from our favorite fruits to honey and even nuts,” said Mary Anneken, events manager for Great Parks. “The Great Parks Pollinator Festival is a fun way to appreciate our favorite pollinators and some we might not even notice, as part of the nonstop nature all around us.”

According to the USDA, three-fourths of the world’s flowering plants and about one-third of the world’s food crops rely on animal pollinators to reproduce.

At the free Pollinator Festival, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Miami Whitewater Forest Harbor, Great Parks interpreters will share information about these important creatures in our environment. Also on hand will be outside organizations with educational booths to talk about how people can take steps to protect the pollinators in their backyards. Vendors will display homemade products such as fresh honey, fresh cut flowers, nature photography, garden décor, nature-inspired jewelry and more. Children can make their own “bee hotel.” Food and drinks will be available for purchase, and live music from Joey of Ethan and Joey, and Katie Pritchard will fill the air.

The Great Parks family-friendly Pollinator 5k race starts at 2 p.m. and follows the trails through Miami Whitewater Forest. A portion of the race fee will go directly to Miles for Monarchs, the nationwide campaign to support conservation of the monarch butterfly. Participants receive a race medal, stickers, a discount from the Miles for Monarchs online store, and a packet of local native seeds from the Great Parks Shaker Trace Nursery.

(Note to editors: Pictures of pollinators are available in [this Dropbox folder.](#))

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10245 Winton Road • Cincinnati, OH 45231 • greatparks.org