

# 2018 Annual Report





## Focused & Committed

Our primary goal is to educate and inspire people to better their lives by celebrating and protecting the living world around them.

“One way to open your eyes to nature's beauty is to ask yourself, “What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?” ~ Rachel Carson

### Staff

<i>Melinda Carmichael</i>	Executive Director
<i>Paul Carmichael</i>	Associate Director
<i>Nancy Baker-Cazan</i>	Education Coordinator
<i>Kim Brown</i>	Wildlife Specialist
<i>Sarah Carmichael</i>	Visitor Services Manager
<i>Kathy Forsyth</i>	Education Coordinator Assistant
<i>Michael George</i>	Volunteer Coordinator
<i>Beth Karapandzich</i>	Marketing Director
<i>Rose Nero</i>	Butterfly House Supervisor
<i>Mark Staib</i>	Master Craftsman
<i>Tiffany Stephens</i>	Senior Assistant to Directors
<i>Shirley Stephenson</i>	Visitor Services Assistant
<i>Kathy Windham</i>	Head Gardener
<i>Melissa Zucker</i>	Bookkeeper
+ Seasonal Butterfly House & Grounds Attendants	

### Board of Directors

<i>Becky Callahan</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Perry Mann</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Dan Callahan</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Rebecca Lewis</i>	<i>Secretary</i>

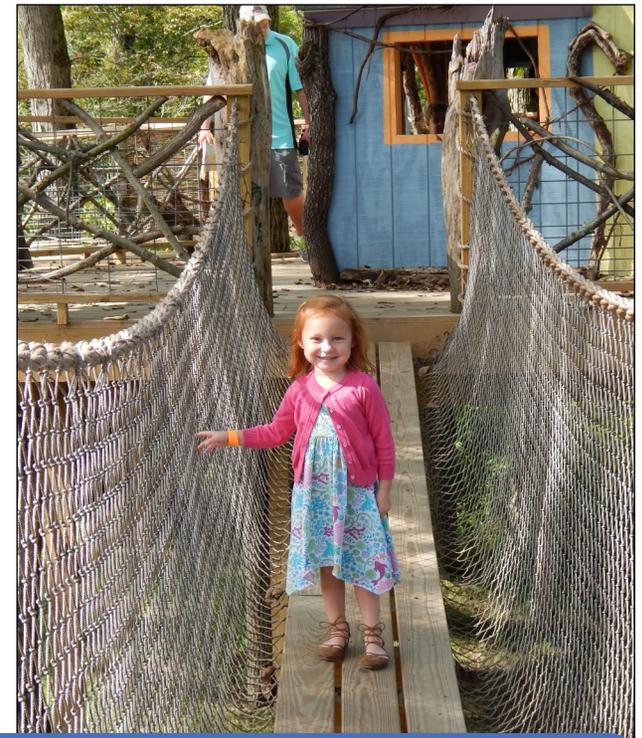
### Trustees

*Allison Allsopp*  
*Paul Carmichael*  
*William Downs*  
*Robert Frato*  
*Diane Johnson Keller*  
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### Our Mission

We believe that quality of life and the health of the environment are interdependent and that an understanding of nature improves the lives of individuals.

We provide educational opportunities and interactive experiences that inspire people to be good stewards of their communities and the world.



~ Thank You ~  
To The Hoover Foundation & Numerous Volunteers, Staff & Anonymous Donors  
For making the new nature playground "Nature Playce" a reality.

## Nature Play

**Being surrounded by nature** and natural items provides infinite benefits to children. Nature instills in everyone a sense of beauty and calmness. It exposes us to things that are alive and growing and promotes curiosity and exploration.

**Research shows** that children who play outside are more physically active, more creative, less aggressive, and show better concentration.

**While playing outside** children use their natural tendencies to become scientists, mathematicians, authors and illustrators, storytellers, artists, inventors, problem solvers, and thinkers.



“Right now, preparing our students to be good environmental citizens is some of the most important work any of us can do. It is for our children, and our children’s children, and generations yet to come.”

~ US Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Sep 2010



## Environmental Learning

In a world where it is increasingly challenging to get students interested in classroom lessons, outdoor learning experiences offer an enriching way for both students and teachers to learn about environmental science while helping them develop an appreciation of the natural world. Our program offers teachers 7 topics to choose from and all are aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standard requirements for environmental science. Topics include: Soil, Living Things, Changing Surfaces, Native Plants of Ohio, Life Cycles, Hydrology, Fossils - Then & Now, or teachers can also choose a topic of their own. During each field trip, students experience three areas of learning: they are guided at specific learning stations inside the Amazing Garden; they explore, observe and collect data while hiking on our nature trails; and they create an art project which connects all the science learned while on their field trip. All areas of the field trip experience involve “hands-on and inquiry based” learning.

We began this program in 2009 and so far we have taught over 15,000 students. Children from kindergarten through 5th grade come from Stark, Mahoning, Columbiana, Wayne and Portage Counties. This program hits our mission right on-target and we love observing the students being inspired by what they learn!

Thank you ~ for supporting Environmental Education.

## Adult Education

It is said that learning is a lifelong process. Learning as an adult is more than gaining knowledge - it keeps the mind engaged, the body active and the heart happy.

Throughout each year Beech Creek Gardens offers educational adult programs from learning about pollinators, wildlife rehabilitation, water science or healthy soil to hands-on workshops like painting, planting, and creating garden art.

We strive to present content that is relevant for people to better understand their environment. We do our best to offer all of our programs in an engaging, hands-on and interactive way. Our goal is to increase participants environmental knowledge, equip them with the tools needed and to inspire them to help conserve and preserve their environment.

We also offer make and take hands-on workshops. These workshops offer participants an opportunity to learn or improve new skills, relax, have fun and explore their creative side!



## Arts & Culture

Research shows that engaging with some form of culture, whether it be music, literature, art, theater or other, we gain a better understanding of humanity. Our awareness and compassion for others broadens, improving the community we live in.

Creating art allows us to express ourselves and reduces stress levels. Experts say that even just observing art frees and opens up our way of thinking and enhances our abilities to communicate with others.

The healthiest communities all over the world are those rich in arts and culture. Public gardens are uniquely positioned to not only offer creative arts and cultural programs, but also to serve as a great venue for numerous arts and cultural activities within their communities.

From our beautiful gardens to our 'Art in Bloom' spring exhibit, Beech Creek Gardens strives to bring unique arts and culture to the Northeast Ohio area.



## Summer Exploration

Every summer we welcome over a thousand day-campers who come from Stark and surrounding counties to explore and learn. We are so excited to see these young minds being stimulated with outdoor activities. While visiting our botanical garden, these children are away from their screens! Many children become sedentary and sluggish over the summer and spending a day at a place like Beech Creek Gardens provides intellectual stimulation, physical activity, environmental awareness and good old-fashioned outdoor playtime.

Outdoor exploration opportunities at Beech Creek Gardens include: participating in a scavenger hunt while hiking one of our woodland trails, exploring over twenty interactive plant and environmental science stations, practicing art and physics skills stacking rocks at Gravity Glue, experiencing hundreds of beautiful butterflies flying around you, learning about the entire butterfly life cycle while inside the caterpillar nursery, enjoying an outdoor picnic with friends and spending lots of time, creativity and energy (parents' favorite no-doubt) on the Nature Playce playground.

All of these opportunities for our children (our future generation) are central to our mission and primary focus - Connect them to nature, Teach them and Inspire them to Love, Respect and make better choices for our environment.



# Impact

6,127  
Families explored  
Nature ~ strolling  
through our gardens  
& hiking the trails



47  
Teens grew food  
at our Youth  
Community Gardens

1,700  
School students were  
taught Environmental  
science and inspired  
to help Conserve &  
Preserve



284  
University students  
performed Research  
studies &/or  
Volunteered



3,180  
People had fun  
learning about  
Nature at  
Spooky Science

430  
Assisted Living Seniors  
Enjoyed our beautiful  
gardens, Butterfly House  
& Plant Science Center



171  
People learned to become  
Citizen Scientists through  
adult training programs

# Community Support

Memberships: 1,808      Visitors: 31,734

Grants:  
 Natural Resource Conservation \$ 1,500  
 Greater Alliance Foundation \$15,400

## Event Sponsors

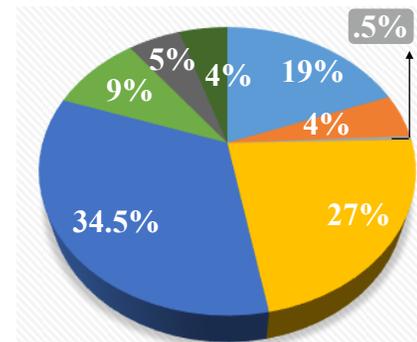
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## Program Donors

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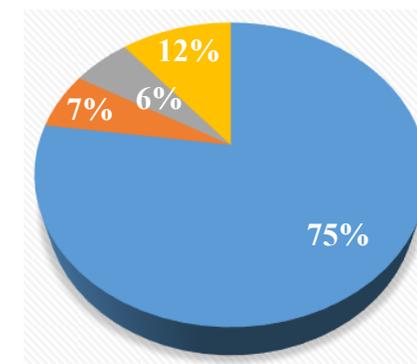
## Income

Memorial Contributions	\$ 1,500.00	.5%
Donations	\$ 16,655.00	4%
Grants (Designated Projects)	\$ 16,900.00	4%
Facility Rental	\$ 18,140.00	5%
Plant & Gift Shop Sales	\$ 31,167.00	9%
Memberships	\$ 64,646.00	19%
Program Support	\$ 75,456.00	27%
Admissions	\$111,650.00	34.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$336,122.00</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Expense

Fundraising	\$ 16,468.00	6%
Administration	\$ 17,794.00	7%
Property Costs	\$ 31,878.00	12%
Program Services	\$223,617.00	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$289,757.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
Grant Projects (60% complete)	\$ 10,184.00	



## How You Can Help

~ Get Involved ~



## Donate

Your generous contributions help fund continued educational programs, facilities upkeep, and preserve this beautiful land for future generations!

## Wish List Contribution

We are always in need of equipment, supplies and building materials. Please check the "Wish List" on our website and keep us in mind if you have items available.

## Volunteer

Volunteers play a very important role here at Beech Creek Gardens and we simply cannot operate without them. From a few hours once a year to ten hours a week - volunteers fill the gap!

## Sponsor Project or Program

If you are a local business owner, Civic Group or Garden Club, consider sponsoring one of our events, programs or mini-projects.



## Connect & Share

Visit the Gardens and Experience the Magic! Share your photos and comments on social media by tagging us, pinning your location and using our hashtags.





“The child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable”.

~ Richard Louv



## Growing in 2019

### Dr. Levi Lamborn Carnation Museum

Set to Open mid-August

This facility will highlight the historic and extraordinary life of Dr. Levi Leslie Lamborn and the history of the scarlet carnation.

### Land Acquisition Purchasing 6-acres

- \* New Admin. Offices
- \* Pond Preservation
- \* Pond Habitat Education
- \* Storage Building
- \* Area to add additional visitor parking

### Music for Nature Playce

Watch for up to 7 new musical areas to be added to our Nature Playground!



11929 Beech St NE  
Alliance, OH 44601

Nonprofit Org  
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Alliance OH  
Permit #301

### New Educational Programs

- \* Pre-K
- \* Water Science
- \* Wildlife
- \* Birthday Parties
- \* Family Adventures
- \* Movie Nights

### Harmonie Garden

Improving Mental Health w/ Nature

With the stream as a focal point - this space is already stunning. Our goal is to enhance what nature has created and make the area accessible for visitors to relax, rest and rejuvenate themselves.

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