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Great Parks of Hamilton County Receives Interpretive Project Grant from the National Association for Interpretation - Region 4

The National Association for Interpretation Region 4 recently announced its Interpretive Project Grant Award Winners, and is pleased to report the Great Parks of Hamilton County is among the 2021 recipients.

The Interpretive Project Grants (IPG) program is designed to provide a source of funding for small projects by Association members within the Great Lakes region including Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario. Projects may include exhibitry, signage, programs, or other ideas that enhance visitors' interpretive experience. Applications are submitted annually, and reviewed by the IPG Committee consisting of members of NAI Region 4 who guide the grant process and make recommendations to the Region 4 Board of Directors.

Great Parks of Hamilton County's project – *Unwrapping the Secret Life of Birds* – will expand their popular bird banding project, in partnership with the University of Cincinnati, titled Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS). According to grant applicant Adam McCoshman of Great Parks of Hamilton County, “[we hope] to continue this bird banding program with some additional offerings with a more interpretive focus. With the expertise of the university's researchers and the skills of the Great Parks' interpreters, visitors will walk away with the experience of seeing both birds and science up close and personal.”

IPG funds will add financial support for the project, including funding for six new banding nets.

“It is always interesting and enlightening for the Committee to see all of the wonderful projects underway in Region 4 - we have very passionate and creative members in our region,” said Victoria Zablocki, Acting Chair of the Interpretive Project Grants Committee. “Congratulations to Great Parks of Hamilton County for evaluating a popular program and finding ways to make it accessible for more visitors.”

Applicants receiving funding this year along with Great Parks of Hamilton County include: Grass River Natural Area (MI) and Sandusky County Park District (OH).

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation, currently serving about 5,000 members in the United States, Canada, and over thirty other nations. Individual members include those who work at parks, museums, nature centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, historical and cultural sites, commercial tour companies, and theme parks. Commercial and institutional members include those who provide services to the heritage interpretation industry.

The Association is divided into ten geographical regions to help members network with others who work near them through periodical newsletters and activities. Region 4, the Great Lakes Region, includes Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario.

NAI's Mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.
