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For Immediate Release:

Library and Park District Join Forces for Second Literature Trail

Saturday, September 29

Join Owlexander, the Centerville-Washington Park District mascot, and his friend Wally the Water Drop at Oak Creek South Park, 790 Miamisburg-Centerville Road in Centerville, OH for the grand opening of Owlexander's Wetland Walk on Saturday, September 29 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The event will include a short dedication, refreshments, and door prizes.

Debe Dockins, Community Outreach and Development Coordinator for Washington-Centerville Public Library says, "Our first collaboration, 'Owlexander's Hoot Route' at Grant Park emphasized early literacy skills. This second trail, 'Owlexander's Wetland Walk', focuses on the next age group and blends scientific observations with language arts skills. We're fortunate to have the wetlands at Oak Creek South Park. It's a natural field trip destination for schools and a fun outing for families."

The Wetland Walk is a half-mile, wheelchair and stroller accessible, paved path. Children of all ages with their adult companions can explore the Wetland Walk and learn about watersheds and wetlands, how the water cycle works, and be able to make other scientific observations. The trail is divided into three chapters and each chapter contains activities and ideas for kids to think about and try. Learn about Monarch butterflies and then with a smart phone, track their journey. Look for a flower in the wetland and then come up with a name for it based on your observations. How many different critters can you see in the wetland?

While targeted at upper elementary-aged children, Jen Brandt, Fitness Coordinator at the Centerville-Washington Park District says, "The wetland walk is a fun activity for a family to do together. I think it is important because it marries nature and literature." She went on to say that both children and adults will learn something new during their visit.

Carol Kennard, Director of the Centerville-Washington Park District, states "We hope teachers will use the Wetland Walk in their classroom. Our Naturalist can also be available if they decide to visit the park for a field trip. It is a beautiful outdoor classroom right here in town!"

This permanent trail was made possible through a partnership with the Washington-Centerville Public Library and is fully funded by the William & Dorothy Yeck Family Foundation.

The Centerville-Washington Park District was established in 1959 and currently operates seven community parks, eight nature parks, and 33 neighborhood parks in Centerville and Washington Township. For more information on these, or other programs of the Centerville-Washington Park District, please call (937) 433-5155 or check our website at www.cwpd.org.