

The Broughton Foundation

Founded 1991 • Marietta, Ohio

What is The Broughton Foundation?

The Broughton Foundation is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization founded in 1991 by Carl and Elizabeth Broughton. Development, maintenance and management of the Broughton Nature and Wildlife Education Area ("The Park") is the primary mission of the Foundation.

The Foundation is managed by Ruth Broughton, Mary Broughton, and George and Nancy Broughton who have the full support of their families and a volunteer board of directors.

The Broughton family views The Park as a work in progress. One of our goals is to become the best-managed privately owned public park in Ohio. Success is thus measured in usage of all Park assets.

Why a nature and wildlife park?

Co-founder Carl Broughton and industrialist Bernard McDonough of Parkersburg were very close friends. Community philanthropy was a common interest. When Mr. McDonough developed an outdoor recreation area on Rosemar Road near the Vienna, WV public park and athletic fields, Carl and Elizabeth Broughton decided to do the same for Marietta, donating land they already owned and launching the Foundation.

The McDonough Preserve is now managed by the City of Vienna, WV, whereas the Broughton Nature and Wildlife Education Area is self-sustaining and is privately managed through The Broughton Foundation.

What is The Park?

The Park is an educational and recreational area available for wildlife and environmental study. Its natural features include three ponds, a stream, a waterfall and several areas of undisturbed habitat. Other features include an extensive hiking and mountain biking trail system, cross country courses used by Marietta City Schools and Marietta College, two disc golf courses, a large shelter and grounds area, two smaller picnic shelters and three entrances with convenient parking, and of course, the Elizabeth Sugden Broughton Community Building.

Maps are available at <https://thebroughtonfoundation.org>. Maps are posted at the shelter located near the main entrance on State Route 821 as well as at each trail head and intersection.

How large is the Park?

In addition to adding 600 acres of Broughton-owned land to The Park over the years, in 2018 the Foundation leased 200 acres from Rudolph Farms in order to connect Broughton trails to the Marietta Trail System. The Foundation also played a role in the development of the Devola Multi-Use Trail which gets a lot of use.

How do Park features come about?

Ongoing collaborations between The Broughton Foundation and various trail committees, cross country coaches, disc golf enthusiasts, hiking and mountain biking groups, naturalists, Eagle Scout candidates and others have been extremely successful in developing the area for additional activities and public enjoyment. Every feature is available for public use.

Principal donors to the Broughton Nature and Wildlife Education Area
Carl L. Broughton Boathouse & Elizabeth Sugden Broughton Community Building

What is the Elizabeth Sugden Broughton Community Building?

The ESB Community Building will be located near the main entrance to The Park on State Route 821 in the activity center of The Park. The building is designed for meetings, presentations, training, and social events. It will have a kitchen for food brought in by users and caterers. It will be ready to host events in July 2019. It will be formally dedicated next September.

Local governments, schools, nonprofit organizations and other community-oriented groups and organizations will be accommodated for a nominal fee for maintenance. Businesses, professionals, families and groups can also rent the building for private or public events.

The ESB Building is the latest and largest building project undertaken by The Broughton Foundation which has been associated with other projects that contribute to economic development and to the quality of life in the community. The Foundation was also the principal contributor to the Carl L. Broughton Boathouse on Gilman Avenue in Marietta.

Through prudent management the Foundation has the resources to launch projects of this size and to make them self-sustaining. Having control of resources and activities allows a private foundation to operate very efficiently.

Why a community building?

Suitable facilities are not always available when needed. Public meetings are often held in spaces that were not designed and equipped for large gatherings, thus the need for a multi-purpose facility that can be used for public and private events year-round. The Foundation also believes that the development of such a facility would be the type of project that Carl and Elizabeth Broughton would endorse.

Does the Foundation accept contributions?

Yes. Several of suppliers, contractors, affiliates, friends, user groups and individuals have made substantial commitments to the Foundation in support of the ESB Building as well as to Park maintenance and future development. Most gifts have been financial, although many gifts of materials and in-kind services also help the Foundation do more for less.

Gifts to the Foundation may be sent to the Marietta Community Foundation:

- Gifts to the Elizabeth Sugden Broughton Community Building should be marked "ESB Building."
- Gifts in support of Park trails, ponds, picnic areas and grounds should be marked "Park Maintenance."

Financial gifts to the Foundation will be used entirely for maintenance and further development. Contributions in kind are also appreciated.

How can the Foundation be contacted?

Contact The Broughton Foundation at 639 State Route 821, Marietta, Ohio, 45750; call 740-374-9396; or visit thebroughtonfoundation.org.