

A close-up photograph of a bee on a white flower. The bee is positioned on the right side of the flower, facing left. The flower has many small, white petals. In the foreground, there is a blurred blue flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Cover photo by Cierra Strawser



Foundation Park Conservancy 2019 Board Members

Kim Rose, President
Michael Percy, Vice President
Melanie Bolender, Secretary
David Stuller, Treasurer
Sam Barone
David Carpenter
Susan Kahrl
Jennifer Odenweller
Matt Starr

Ariel-Foundation Park Leadership Team

Mark Fritz, Operations
Jody Holland, Nature Programs
Carrie Haver, Marketing
Megan Evans, Reservations
Jeff Boucher, Food/Beverage
Skip Trask, Sound/Lights Tech

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kim Rose, Board President

The Foundation Park Conservancy Board meets annually to reflect on the past and plan for the future. As part of this process we review our Vision and Mission statements for compliance and to determine if they remain appropriate.

Our Vision

To be a world class example of adaptive reuse that honors its industrial heritage and is the focal point for recreation, entertainment, and social interaction in Knox County.

Our Mission

To lead and support the economic stability, preservation, development, programming, and promotion of Ariel-Foundation Park in collaboration with the City of Mount Vernon.

In 2019, the Conservancy was presented with a number of changes that caused the Board to reflect on these statements. The Board believed the CA&C Depot needed more use and exposure. Working with the Knox County/Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and the City of Mount Vernon, we were able to work through issues so the Chamber could occupy this building for their office space. This allowed for establishment of a critically needed front door to our community to become occupied on a full-time basis, greeting guests to our community.

The Conservancy, with the assistance of the Ariel Foundation, also had an opportunity to expand its footprint to the new Riverview Parking area. This gift to the City of Mount Vernon has now come under the management of the Conservancy. A collaboration between the City of Mount Vernon and the Mount Vernon Rotary Club will provide a new entrance to Ariel-Foundation Park, while serving as an important link between the Kokosing Gap Trail, the Heart of Ohio Trail, and the businesses of downtown Mount Vernon.

It has been the Board's dream to expand the use of west Ariel-Foundation Park. Last spring, we took a chance and planted the wildflower/pollinator garden. With ample rain, these 16 acres developed beautifully. With this success, the garden will be expanded for 2020. Please plan on strolling through the flowers this summer and fall.

Adding doors to the Schnormeier Event Center was a delicate balance of preserving the park's industrial heritage and supporting programming and economic development. Our Facilities Committee Chair, Michael Percy, spent many hours working with the State of Ohio, our architects and planners, the City engineer and City administration to complete this project. The addition of the doors has expanded the use of this wonderful facility.

When Ariel-Foundation Park was in its planning stages, Ted Schnormeier used the Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, Alabama, as the model of historical heritage. The Sloss Furnaces are often featured in bridal magazines. Ted saw something we missed. Last year, as the facility became more secure and reliable as a venue, the park hosted 16 weddings. Ariel-Foundation Park is rapidly becoming regionally known as a wedding venue.

The 4th of July celebration is embraced as the community's event, celebrated on the 4th like it is supposed to be. Last year thousands enjoyed a spectacular concert and an even better fireworks display. Our 2020 fifth year anniversary will be even bigger.

We increased the programming in 2019 with the addition of kayak safety courses. Paddles for Heroes, a local nonprofit organization, kindly donated a handicapped accessible launch which assisted this program.

The landscape of Ariel-Foundation Park continues to grow and strengthen, adding to its beauty. The Board has worked diligently to create realistic growth and programming while still dreaming big. It has been an interesting balance of which we are proud. Your support and gifts continue to be greatly appreciated. We look forward to an exciting fifth year anniversary.



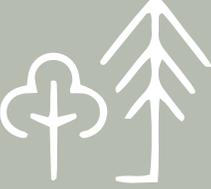
20,000
annual event attendees



16
weddings/receptions



65
individuals trained in the Park's first year of Beginner Kayak Safety Courses



112
trees planted



61 zip codes from
13 states
visited the Clock House/Museum



180
pounds of wildflower seed planted



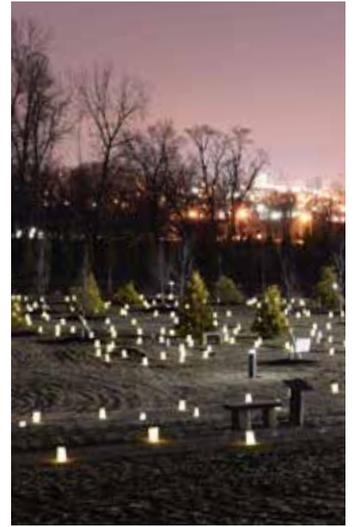
257
event bookings/reservations



400+
fitness program participants



2,000+
volunteer hours



EVENTS/PROGRAMMING

Concert Series

With the tremendous support of local and regional business and organizations, the Park was proud to present its fifth year of free concert programming. The eight events showcased local favorites and regional headliners. The park's goal is to bring a variety of quality, live entertainment to our community; create memorable family experiences; and encourage people to explore their park.

July 4 Independence Day Celebration

It takes a monumental coordinated effort to put together the large July 4 event at the park every year. We are grateful to local law enforcement, fire personnel, City staff and leaders, our event sponsors, food vendors, and dozens of volunteers who make this a successful event year after year. TUSK, the ultimate Fleetwood Mac tribute band, played to an audience of more than 10,000 people while the brilliant fireworks display dazzled park guests as the stunning finish to a wonderful day.

Fitness Activities

Hundreds of community members engage in the park's free fitness programs each year. Our 2019 offerings included Tai Chi, yoga, Zumba, cardio/step, Crossfit, cardio drumming, krav maga/self defense, and a special kids THRIVE program. We are grateful to our partners and sponsors who make this programming possible.

Movie Mondays

This year the park was pleased to present three recently released family friendly movies, one in June, July and August. They continue to be a hit with families looking for affordable entertainment. Through our partnership with Domino's, the park offers one free slice of pizza to children during the movie.

Rastin Challenge

This year brought more than 90 first responders to the park to compete and celebrate camaraderie through the Rastin Challenge. We were excited to award our second scholarships for higher education to local first responders Sgt. Dan Selby with the Knox Co. Sheriff's Office and Matthew Sites with the Central Ohio Joint Fire District. The K9 competition continued to be of special interest to spectators. Through the generosity of local sponsors, the Never Forget 9/11 Memorial traveling exhibit was also part of the day, drawing more than 1,400 guests in the eight hours it was open. We were also privileged to host New York police officer John Lambkin and firefighter Joe Gavitt as they told about their personal 9/11 experiences.

First Day Hike

More than 80 people enjoyed our second annual First Day Hike, held nationally on January 1. Volunteers stoke the bonfire where hikers get warm before and after their walk,

as well as lead hiking groups through the park, telling about history, nature, and park activities. This year, we added a free lunch of chili and cornbread to the delight of park guests. Everyone enjoyed getting outside, learning more about their park on a one-hour walk, and recommitting to a healthier lifestyle for 2019.

Kids to Parks Day

A national initiative to get more children active at their local and state parks, Kids to Parks day grew to become a community day for children at the park, featuring more than 40 Knox County agencies and organizations who serve children and families. Children participated in recycling education, tricycle and bicycle safety courses, planting of milkweed at the park, SPI's ant "citizen science" projects, and more.

Trick-or-Treat Trail

This event saw an estimated 1,500 park guests, enjoying trick-or-treating with more than 50 local businesses and organizations. Children and families could also participated in face painting, games, and dancing to the DJ's selection of thrilling sounds.

Candles & Carols

Held on December 20, this event brought the community together for a seasonal music celebration and walk through more than 600 luminaries. Two local choral ensembles led Christmas carols and event-goers enjoyed free cookies, hot chocolate and coffee thanks to our generous sponsors. The 2019 event was in memory of Ann Schnormeier.

NEW IN 2019

Beginner Kayak Safety Courses

With the addition of Jody Holland, Nature Coordinator, the park was able to offer basic kayaking courses every other Saturday, May through September. Sixty individuals participated from across central Ohio. Jody is a certified kayak/canoe instructor and brings a wealth of personal paddle and water safety expertise to the park. The park also purchased seven kayaks, oars, personal flotation devices, and other safety equipment for these courses. We look forward to hosting more water-based programming in 2020.

WADE: "Music for River and People"

The park was privileged to have Mount Vernon native Aaron Hoke Doenges, an artist residing in Nashville, bring his award-winning WADE interactive sound art installation to the downtown footbridge this summer. Real time data about the Kokosing, the Walhonding, and the Muskingum Rivers' depth and flow was pulled from the United States Geological Survey website and transformed into changing pitches and dynamics of the piece. As the rivers' depths changed, the notes also rose and fell. People walking over the bridge also impacted the "music."



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In support of the mission of the Foundation Park Conservancy, we continue to improve and enhance the facilities at the park. Many of our activities are elective, but sometimes maintenance or upgrades become necessary. We have also continued to focus on enhancing safety and security with added cameras and extended wifi signals throughout the park.

Completed This Year

- Fire alarm and sensor system in the Event Center
- ADA ramp on the Event Center stage
- Remote lighting system for Rastin Tower, downtown footbridge, and historic viaduct
- Repairing roof of elevator shaft
- Asbestos survey
- ADA kayak launch (donated by Paddle for Heroes)
- Parking lot by kayak launch
- Memorial benches
- Water fountain at Schnormeier Event Center
- Wildflower/pollinator garden
- Sunset swing installations

Total Investment: \$194,000+

Partnership Projects

- Harmony Playground at Memorial Park
- Riverview/Heritage Park in downtown Mount Vernon

In Process

Several projects are in various stages of development at the park:

- Continued development of wildflower/pollinator garden
- Building of service garage
- Repairing the dike breach on the west lake/Kokosing River
- Paving of roadway on north side of central lake

The park's desire is to continually improve the beauty, environment, and structures on its 265-acre property. This includes care of the grass, lakes, trees, buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, restrooms, picnic areas, and more. We appreciate our partnership with the City of Mount Vernon which makes much of this possible, along with community support and dedicated staff and volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS

Ariel-Foundation Park is fortunate to have an active body of volunteers who welcome people to the Urton Clock House, assist with concerts at the Schnormeier Event Center, perform grounds maintenance, and assist with special community events like the Trick-or-Treat Trail, Candles & Carols, and the winter hikes. **Together, they donated more than 2,000 hours of service to the park, for a value of \$50,860** (according to the hourly dollar figure established by Independent Sector).

There were many groups who staffed the Urton Clock House/Museum in 2019 including:

- Apple Valley Singers
- Budget Blinds
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Exchange Club
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Gay Street United Methodist Church
- Heritage Singers
- Knox County Career Center/ROTC Program
- Knox County Kayakers
- Knox County Landmarks Foundation
- Mount Vernon Association of Police Chaplains and Half-Units
- Mount Vernon City Council
- Mount Vernon Fire Department
- Mount Vernon Mah Jong Group

- Mount Vernon Municipal Court
- Mount Vernon Players
- Mount Vernon Police Department
- Mount Zion Lodge #9
- Psi Iota Xi
- Signs on the Square
- SubAlpine Hiking Club
- Town and Country Garden Club

Volunteer of the Year

Dan Bockover (shown below, left, with family and friends) was recognized as 2019's Volunteer of the Year at Ariel-Foundation Park. He assisted by staffing the Urton Clock House Museum, often at the last-minute when someone had canceled. He also worked numerous events, always with a cheerful, selfless attitude, willing to help in whatever way he was asked.

Volunteers Needed for 2020

In 2020, we will continue to welcome individual and service organizations to "Adopt a Weekend" at the Clock House Museum from May through September, so we can keep the doors open for local and out-of-town visitors. Also, please consider signing up on the Park website to assist with events/activities all year long or contact Volunteer Coordinator Susan Kahrl at stkahrl@yahoo.com.

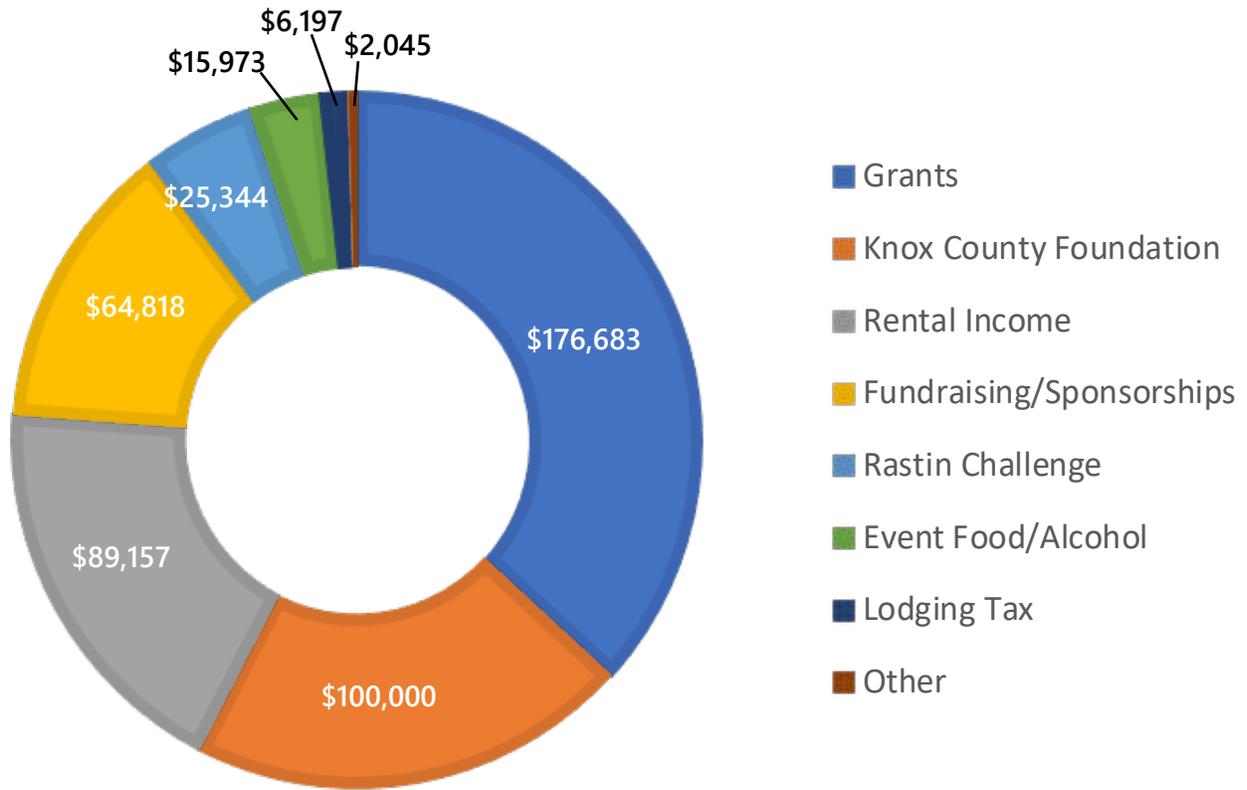


2,000+
volunteer hours

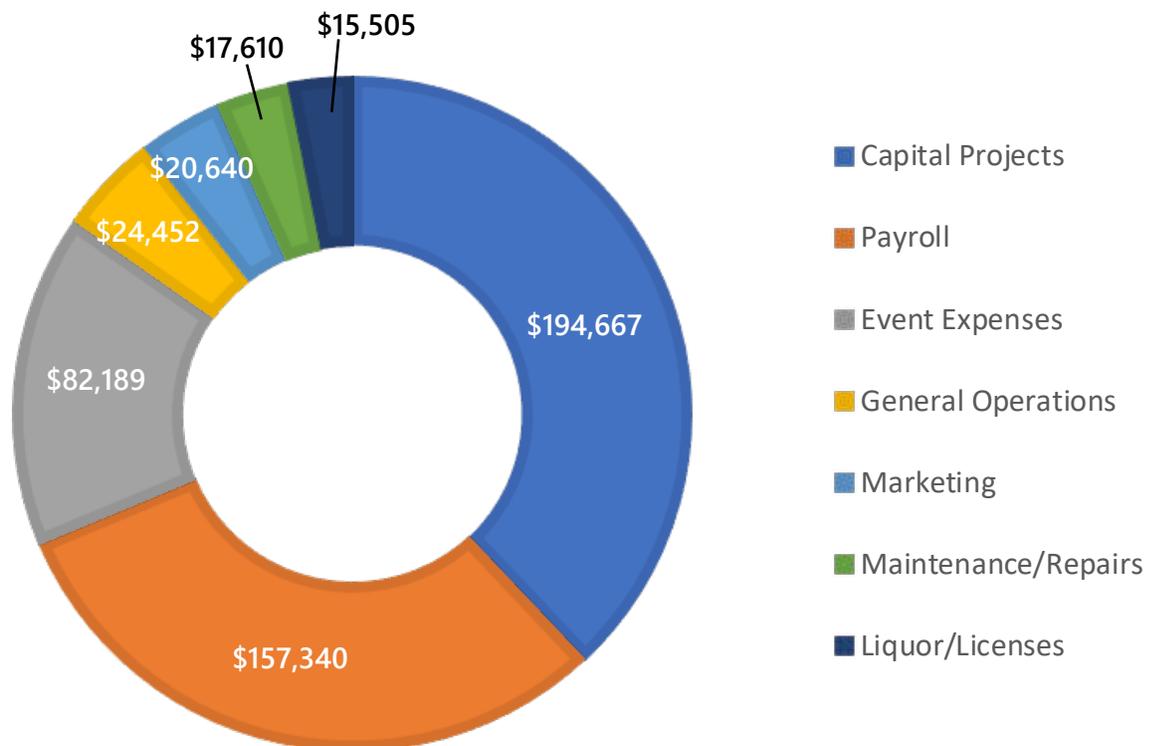
\$50,860
value

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2019 Income: \$480,217



2019 Expenses: \$512,403



DEVELOPMENT

By Melanie Bolender, Development Coordinator

Since the creation of Ariel-Foundation Park nearly five years ago, we have seen a rebirth of Mount Vernon's downtown business district. During 2020, a revitalized riverfront park will be opened, further enhancing the connection between the park and downtown restaurants and businesses. Advocates for Ariel-Foundation Park can take pride in the positive impact the park is having on our community.

The Foundation Park Conservancy strives to be a careful steward of all financial gifts to the park. Numerous individuals, businesses and organizations support the park in a variety of ways. Donations and sponsorships provide the free Summer Concert Series that is enjoyed by many from Knox County and beyond. "Friends of the Park" support the annual maintenance and operating expenses of the park. Program sponsors allow the Conservancy to offer various programs such as Tai Chi and yoga. Several businesses provide "in-kind" gifts such as equipment rental and grass fertilization. The Conservancy has also been awarded grants from local and state funders, and various philanthropic foundations.

Many entities work together to maintain, manage and improve the park: Foundation Park Conservancy, the City of Mount Vernon, Knox County Parks, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Shade Tree Commission, the Kokosing Gap Trail and the Heart of Ohio Trail, to name a few. Ariel-Foundation Park appreciates these ongoing partnerships.

Numerous people can take pride in playing a role in the growth and continued improvement of Ariel-Foundation Park. Anyone who contributes time, talent or treasure to the park strengthens the "foundation" for the ongoing success of the park. Gifts to the park are truly an investment in our community. Because of you, Ariel-Foundation Park has become a premiere park which is enjoyed not only by local citizens of all ages and backgrounds but is also attracting visitors from central Ohio and beyond.

We are deeply grateful for your support of Ariel- Foundation Park! Thank you!

Friends of the Park

Tower Friends: \$1,000 or more

James and Maureen Buchwald
Travis Lauritsen
David and Anne McElroy
Marc and Jen Odenweller
Mark and Denise Ramser

Terrace Friends: \$500-999

Lanning's Foods
Amy D. Murnen
Parrish O'Neill & Associates
David and Christy Rigg
United Aggregates
Gordy and Fran Yance

Tree Friends: \$250-499

Sam and Paula Barone
CTS
Robert Drews
Ellis Brothers
Bryan Hayes
Cameron and Christine Keaton
Doug Leonard
Michael Percy and
Nicole Pagano Percy
Gary and Mary Randall
Joe and Kay Randall
Fred and Deb Reeder
Kim and Pam Rose
Keith and Vicki Sant
Kurt and Sandra Schisler
David and Kim Stuller

Trail Friends: \$100-249

Anonymous
Barbara Barry
Keith and Kate Burley
Melanie Bolender
Barry Bowden
Charles and Kelly Brenneman
Mary Elder
Ron and Candy Fox
Morgan and Aly Giles
Phil and Dina Herald
Timothy and Susan Kahrl
Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon Ohio
Gerald and Barbara Lindstrom
Richard and Peggy Mavis
Richard and Susan Murray
Joe and Sally Nelson
Peoples Bank of Gambier
Larry and Sarah Reed
RCI Mechanical/Stafford Plumbing
Robert and Patricia Ronk
Carol Shurlow
Ora Smith
Susan Sukys
Ian and Charlotte Watson
Mary Whitacre

Other Friends:

David and Jeanette Carpenter
Miklos and Patricia Dudevszky
Martha Stuller



Concert Series Sponsors

Platinum: \$5,000 or more

Ariel Corporation
First-Knox National Bank
Knox Community Hospital
Knox County Foundation
KnoxPages.com
Mount Vernon News
WMVO/WQIO

Gold: \$2,500

The Energy Cooperative
Griffin Insurance
Ohio Arts Council/Art Works/National
Endowment for the Arts
Ohio Rental
Gordy and Fran Yance

Silver: \$1,250

Alan Bazzoli, MD
Critchfield Critchfield & Johnston
Delta Dental of Ohio
Brian Howe Family Dentistry
Kenyon College
Kokosing River Productions
LeFurjah Family Fund
Mortellaro's McDonalds
Mount Vernon Grand Hotel
White Castle

Bronze: \$750

Brenneman Lumber
Conway's Eastside Pharmacy
Derr Designs
Donley Ford
Event Setters Party Rental
Gary and Carolyn Gray
Lanning's Foods
Real Estate Showcase

Movie Monday Sponsors

Youth Philanthropy Initiative, Knox County Foundation
Southside Diner
Domino's Pizza

Trick-or-Treat Trail Sponsors

Sara Mankins, Edward Jones Financial Advisor
e-Merge Real Estate
Griffin Insurance
Kim and Pam Rose
Tavaci School of Performing Arts

Summer Fitness Sponsors

Kahrl & Co. Insurance
Knox County Health Department
Ohio Eastern Star Home
Public Library of Mount Vernon &
Knox County

Candles & Carols Sponsors

Ted Schnormeier
Kim and Pam Rose
Coleman Family Gallery
Knox County Kayakers
Lanning's Foods
Psi Iota Xi
Tim Hortons
Williams Flowers

Grants

Ariel Foundation
Knox Community Foundation
Ohio Arts Council/National
Endowment for the Arts

In-kind sponsors are listed in italics.

Rastin Challenge Sponsors

\$1,000 or more

Tom Rastin
CES Credit Union
Donley Ford-Lincoln
Knox County Safety Council

\$500

Central Ohio Technical College
Custom Wired Solutions
Heartland Promotional Products
First-Knox National Bank
Galls
Specialty Outdoor Services
We Lov Pets
YMCA of Mount Vernon

\$250

All-American Fire Equipment, Inc.
Blubaugh Body & Frame
Jeff and Norma Boucher
Complete Care Animal Hospital
Fire Safety Services
Firstnet AT&T
Flapper's Bar & Grille
Flying Cross/Vertx
Gault Plaza Cleaners
Get Healthy Knox Coalition
Good Impressions Printing
Griffin Insurance
Katie J Photography
KIS Dog Training
Knox Community Hospital
Music-2-Go
Ohio Funeral Support Services
Survival Flight
Tim Hortons
Tristate Armor Sales

Tower/Bridge/Viaduct Lighting Partners

Cindy Callahan
Phaedra Fawcett
Karen Gall
Tim Geiger
Knox County 9-1-1*
Knox County Board of Developmental
Disabilities
Knox County Department of Child and
Family Services
Knox County Suicide Prevention
Coalition
Jennifer Meeks
MTVarts

New Directions*
Michael Percy
Riverside Recovery Services
Rotary Club of Mount Vernon
Martha Rowe
Ryan Severance
Jessica Adams Smith*
Crystal Stacey
David Stuller*

Sunset Swing Sponsors

Kim and Pam Rose
Ann Schnomeier Memorial
Ed and Sue Sims
TruCut Landscaping and Lawn Care



The Tunnel to Towers Foundation 9/11 Mobile Exhibit saw more than 1,400 visitors at the Park during the 2019 Rastin Challenge.

**Sponsored more than one lighting.*



ARIEL ~ FOUNDATION PARK

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Back cover photo by Dave Parsons