

Become a Sculpture Park Patron

You can help make Ohio history by commissioning an additional life-sized sculpture of other woodland animals or by making a donation to the sculpture park fund. From white-tailed deer to turkeys and geese or even a vulture you can leave a legacy or memorialize a family member or friend and at the same time show your support for the preservation of Ohio's wildlife. Please contact the Fairfield County Parks Commission at 407 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 or phone (740) 681-7249.

The Fairfield County Parks Commission is pleased to be a part of this "Not so Ordinary Park." We invite you to visit our website at www.historicalparks.org to take a virtual tour of our other "Not so Ordinary Parks" including: five covered bridges; Rock Mill - Ohio's oldest and largest gristmill; Lockville Canal Park; Stonewall Cemetery, a

sandstone dodecagon; Cross Mound, a one-of-a-kind-in-the-world Prehistoric Indian Mound; and more than 400 acres of nature preserve.

The Fairfield County Parks Commission wishes to recognize the "Six Old Ladies and a Priest:" Barbara Uhl, Chairman; Jean Fox, Patty Peery, Betty Pierson, Betty Primmer, Margaret Warner, Msgr. James Geiger; and ably assisted by Kathy LeVeck and Clark Dupler.

Special thanks to the following who helped the hawk "land."

**All Crane Rental
Brock's Welding and Fabrication
Mid-Ohio Tree Service
Target Foundations
Frank Uhl**

Fairfield County Parks
407 East Main Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
(740) 681-7249
www.historicalparks.org

"They're Not Ordinary Parks"



Flight of the Hawk

SCULPTURE PARK

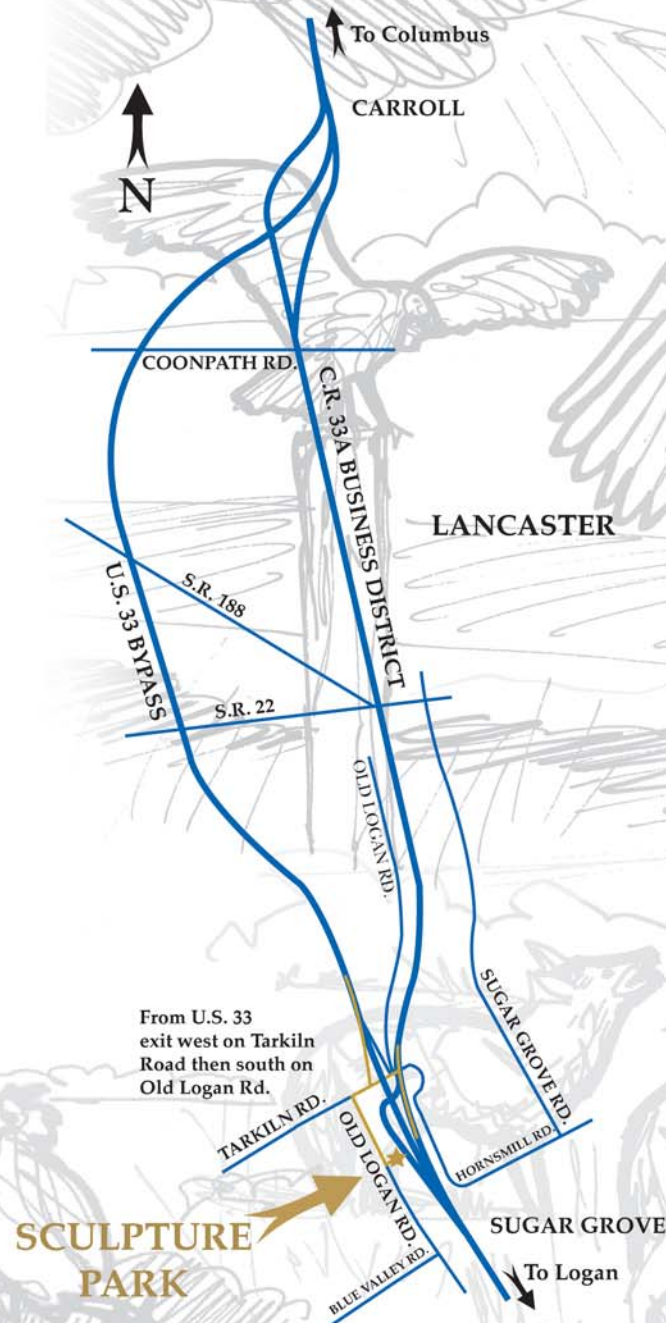


The Beginning

Searching for a way to promote their part of Fairfield County, the Sugar Grove/Berne Township Development Committee, or as they like to refer to themselves, "Six Old Ladies and a Priest," were approached by local metal and stone sculptor Ric Leichter. In a very short time a simple iron "Welcome" sign turned into a complex sculpture of a giant red-tailed hawk. The hawk would be the centerpiece of a new park followed by other life-sized sculptures of Ohio woodland animals. When the new Route 33 bypass was near completion, a six-acre strip of land adjacent to the bypass was donated to the Fairfield County Parks by the City of Lancaster as a site for the park.

About the Artist

Nationally known sculptor Ric Leichter has been a life-long resident of Fairfield County having grown up in Millersport and now



residing not far from the hawk near the Village of Sugar Grove. While most of Ric's work is by commission and can be found in many public spaces as well as private collections, the hawk is by far his largest piece. Ric works in various media but prefers metal and stone.

About the Hawk

From ground level the hawk soars more than 42 feet high. Weighing more than 2,500 pounds and having a wingspan of 14 feet, the hawk is composed of more than 3,000 torch-cut pieces of steel carefully shaped and welded into place. Once completed, the hawk was hot dipped in a galvanizing solution and then painted in the bird's natural colors. A final protective clear coating was added. Funding for the project was provided by many private donations plus a generous grant from the Fairfield County Foundation's Wendel Family Fund.