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### **Glen Helen Association takes the keys to the trees, moves to reopen Glen Helen trails**

Yellow Springs, OH (September 4, 2020) – As of today, the Glen Helen Association is the proud owner, steward, and operator of the region’s largest and most visited private nature preserve, Glen Helen. Today’s announcement is the culmination of a lengthy process between Antioch College, which had owned the preserve since 1929, and the Glen Helen Association, an independent nonprofit that has supported the Glen since 1960.

The Association is preparing to reopen Glen Helen trails, which have been closed to the public since March. “We know how important Glen Helen is for the community, and for the region,” said Glen Helen Association board president Bethany Gray. “The long wait is almost over!”

Glen Helen will first open for partial days to ensure that COVID safety procedures are working. From Wednesday, Sept. 9 to Friday Sept. 11, trails, parking, and the Raptor Center will be open from 3-7pm only. Dawn to dusk hours will resume on Saturday, September 12.

According to Glen Helen Ranger Susan Smith, “Visitors are welcome here. They should expect to see some changes to the trail system and our rules to help protect the Glen and keep people safe.” Most trails in the north Glen have been designated for one-way travel only. Visitors can pick up a one-way trail map when they arrive, or download it from [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org). “We’re asking everyone to bring a mask, and wear it when they’re in the parking area, and whenever they can’t stay six or more feet from other visitors,” said Smith.

Parking at 405 Corry St. in Yellow Springs will continue to be free for Glen Helen Association members, \$5 for others. Buildings, including restrooms, remain closed, so please plan accordingly.

The Glen Helen Association has started a \$3,500,000 capital campaign to fund the purchase expense, and to secure the health of the preserve and the future of its educational programs.

Glen Helen director Nick Boutis said, “for all of us who love Glen Helen, this is our chance to ensure the Glen remains open to visitors, that we are able to address urgent trail and building needs, and that we can restart educational programs and ongoing ecological stewardship activities. The Glen is a gem, and this is our moment to see that it shines.”

More information on the Glen, its trails, programs, hours of operation, and its Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen can be found at [glenhelen.org](http://glenhelen.org).

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#### About the Glen Helen Association

The mission of the Glen Helen Association is to steward and strengthen Glen Helen nature preserve for present and future generations, safeguard the ecological, historical, and geological resources within its bounds, and utilize the preserve to offer life-shaping environmental learning to our students and visitors. The Glen Helen Association came together in 1960 to successfully fight a pair of threats to the future of Glen Helen Nature Preserve -- a highway bypass for what is now US 68, and a municipal sewer line for the Village of Yellow Springs. For sixty years, the Association served as a “friends” organization, supporting Glen Helen through fundraising, advocacy, and volunteer efforts. In September 2020, the Association, backed by its 1,700 members and supporters, purchased Glen Helen from longtime owner Antioch College, and assumed full responsibility for operating the preserve and its programs.